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**Upbeat Chancellor says 'economy is growing and you'll notice difference'**

# THAT'S POSITIVE! UK WILL SOON BE BACK TO 'FULL STRENGTH'

**EXCLUSIVE**

By **Martyn Brown**  
Deputy Political Editor

**UPBEAT** Jeremy Hunt today tells Britons they "will soon feel the difference in their pockets" as the UK economy sprints ahead of rivals.

Buoyed by the best growth figures for two years, the Chancellor says Britain will soon be back to "full strength".

Writing exclusively for the Express, he says it is no accident we're outperforming the US, France, Germany and Italy. "This is the result of sticking

**TURN TO PAGE 4**



**Kate 'doing well' in cancer treatment**  
SEE PAGES 10&11

**PREPARE FOR WEEKEND**

# Sun, sea,



Scorching... sunbathers and rowers out in Richmond, London. Below, smelling blooms in Teignmouth, Devon



By **Chris Riches**

BRITAIN baked in glorious sunshine yesterday but faces a Jekyll and Hyde weekend.

A scorcher today will be followed by a sizzling 27C tomorrow – yet with that will come thunderstorms.

Forecasters revealed the UK recorded its highest temperature of the year on Thursday, with a peak of 24.6C in London's St James's Park. And it is set to get even hotter.

Yesterday, Britons flocked to parks, beauty spots and the coast to soak up the 25C rays after months of miserable spring storms and showers – with clear skies last night enabling stargazers to see the Northern Lights.

For today, the Met Office forecasts potential 26C temperatures across England, especially the south, with even Glasgow primed to have 22C. Tomorrow could be warmer with the mercury set to hit 27C – the hottest so far this year.

### Downpours

But along with heat comes dreaded thunderstorms as the sunshine and blue skies give way to dark clouds, winds and heavy showers.

Met Office spokesman Stephen Dixon confirmed: "There is a change on the way.

"Sunday could well be the warmest day, despite a more unsettled period."

Two yellow weather warnings are in place for thunderstorms tomorrow – one for western parts of Northern Ireland, from 11am until 7pm, and the other covering a large part of England and Wales, from noon until 10pm.

Mr Dixon added: "There is the potential for travel disruption and rainfall events as part of the thundery systems.

"Some intense downpours are possible with the potential for up to 30mm of rain in less than an hour or 40mm to 50mm over a couple of hours, which could lead to surface water issues.

"As we move into next week, it's looking like a return to an unsettled period of weather for



the UK with frequent rain through the early part of next week."

This welcome warm weather is thanks to a block of high pressure that has been hovering over the UK for much of this week.

However, alongside it, the country has had to contend with increased levels of UV and pollen and even two wildfire warnings.

Fire services for Dorset and Wiltshire as well as Hampshire and the Isle of Wight issued the alerts for the weekend.

Taking a look into next week, Met Office deputy chief meteorologist Tony Wisson said: "On Monday, we're likely to see more widespread and longer-lived spells of rain, some of which will be heavy and thundery.

"This will also lead to a much cooler feel to the day."

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**OF WEATHER MADNESS**

# sand.. and storms!

Pictures: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER, OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA, IDPOR/ALAMY, WILL WALKER / NNP

**Yellow splendour...**  
Northumberland's rapeseed oil fields brighten up the area; left, Weymouth, Dorset



**Splish splash**  
...children play in the North Sea at Tynemouth

## Strawberry yields well worth wait

By **Josie Clarke**

THE wet, dark winter has delayed the British strawberry season by a fortnight – but they will be big, juicy and “fantastic” as a result, producers say.

The first big harvests of the season are not due until the end of the month.

But the more gradual flowering and ripening of the fruit will create larger and tastier strawberries.

Crops are now grown in polytunnels, to avoid damage by bad weather, while the slower growth has led to stronger plants to support larger berries.

This winter was the eighth wettest on record for Britain while 95.2 hours of sunshine, 87% of the long-term average, were recorded in March.

British Berry Growers chair Nick Marston, who revealed that total sales of berries within the UK are £1.87billion yearly, said: “It will be a fantastic year for our strawberries.”

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**Sainsbury's**  
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Quip...Stormy Daniels

## Stormy's taunts for Trump to take stand

By **Christopher Bucktin**

PORN star Stormy Daniels has taunted Donald Trump after her bombshell testimony in his hush-money trial.

The actress posted a jibe over whether or not he will testify as the former US president's lawyers sought a change in his gag order to allow him to talk publicly about her evidence.

But trial judge Juan Merchan rejected the request to amend the order, imposed to stop Trump from intimidating witnesses and jurors.

And Stormy quipped on X: "Real men respond to testimony by being sworn in and taking the stand in court. Oh... wait. Nevermind."

Last month, before jury selection began, Trump insisted he would take to the witness box.

He said: "I would testify, absolutely."

But since then Trump, who denies all charges against him and is under no obligation to testify, has said he would testify "if necessary" and would "probably" take the stand, adding that he "would like to".

## Football court order

By **Jess Glass**

A SENIOR Premier League figure has been granted anonymity by a High Court judge as he faces an allegation of sexually abusing a teenage girl.

According to the BBC, he is being sued for damages by a woman who claims she was sexually abused by him when she was 15.

In a court order last month, judge Amanda Stevens said his anonymity in the civil proceedings was "necessary to secure the proper administration of justice" and that "there is no sufficient countervailing public interest in disclosure".

### FROM PAGE ONE

to the plan. It's a plan for pensioners, working parents and families right across the country."

Rishi Sunak declared "things are starting to feel better" as he hailed the country's economic bounceback. The PM said confidence was returning as data showed the economy grew by 0.6% in the first three months of the year – the strongest rate of quarterly growth for Gross Domestic Product since the end of 2021.

Britons were also becoming better off over the latest period, with GDP per head up 0.4%. It is a much-needed tonic for Mr Sunak after bruising local election results plus another Tory MP defecting to Labour.

A surging economy and falling inflation gives him a strong message to sell to voters that his plan really is working and things are on the up.

Speaking at a health business in Eynsham, Oxon, the PM said: "After undoubtedly a difficult couple of years that the country has had, actually now things are starting to feel better. Confidence is returning to the economy and the country, and I hope that you're starting to feel that too."

Mr Sunak was joined by the Chancellor and local Tory MP Robert Courts as he was shown around the Siemens Healthineers factory, which makes magnets for MRI scanners.

His visit came as the Treasury announced more than £2billion of investment by world-leading tech companies has been secured in the

**'This is the best place to start and grow a business'**

UK. Siemens Healthineers is investing £250million in a facility which will support more than 1,300 skilled jobs once it is fully operational.

Mr Sunak said at a PM Connect event the company was the latest to invest in the UK – he referred to Jaguar Land Rover, Microsoft and Google "expanding their footprint".

He added: "We have managed to make the case to the world that this is the best place to start a business, to grow a business and to invest in a business."

Mr Hunt said: "Businesses are making a safe bet in Britain. We have attracted the third-highest amount of greenfield foreign direct investment since 2010 and the UK accounts for around half of all AI private capital investment in Europe. We really are turning a corner, and the businesses of the future agree."

Faster-than-expected growth figures mean the UK has rebounded out of a mini-recession.

The performance was particularly driven by improvements in the services and production sectors, which grew by 0.7% and 0.8% respectively.

The ONS yesterday confirmed the quarterly performance after 0.4% economic growth in March, again boosted by the service industry.

There was notable growth for the health and social services sector, administrative and support services, as

Visit...PM at Siemens Healthineers facility



# 'Things are starting to feel better!' Economy grows faster than rivals

IT may seem hard to believe. Many will refuse to believe it's possible.

Others won't want to believe it, especially those hoping for a Labour victory in the upcoming general election. But the facts are in. Things really are getting better.

Yesterday, we learned that the economy grew by 0.4% in March. Markets had forecast growth of just 0.1% so it's a very positive surprise.

Remember, this isn't an annual figure, but a monthly jump.

In the first three months of 2024, UK GDP grew by 0.6%, the fastest in two years. Many thought we'd still be in a recession, but that's no longer the case.

The recession is now officially over. We're growing across almost every front, especially the all-important services sector, which jumped 0.7% in March.

The only area lagging is construction – which is

well as for wholesale and retail firms.

Grant Fitzner, ONS chief economist, noted that almost every part of the services industry is growing while trade also contributed to the rebound. Ben Jones,

### ANALYSIS

HARVEY JONES

Personal Finance Editor



hardly surprising, given today's high interest rates, while working from home hits offices. That's a problem everywhere, not just in the UK.

But we may be the first to break out of that slump, given the surprisingly optimistic messages coming out of the Bank of England yesterday.

While the BoE may have held interest rates at 5.25% for the sixth meeting in a row, its governor Andrew Bailey was full of unexpected cheer.

He said its monetary policy committee is ready to cut bank rates "possibly more so than currently priced into market rates".

Central bankers choose their words carefully, as they have the power to move markets, so this was a bit of a bombshell.

Certainly not what we expected from the cautious Bailey.

Although he said the first rate cut in June was "neither ruled out nor a fait accompli", markets are getting excited.

By next year, interest rates could be down to 3%, massively easing the pressure on mortgage borrowers.

The cost-of-living crisis is finally drawing to a close, as Bailey declared his "optimism" that inflation will carry on falling in the current months.

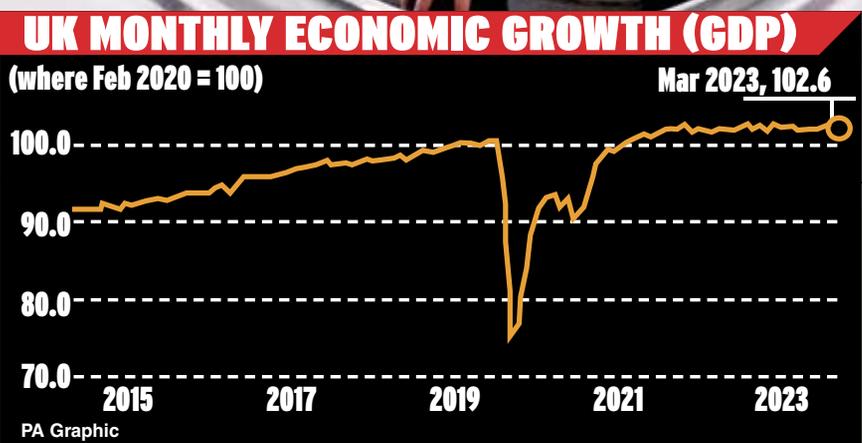
In March, consumer price inflation fell to 3.2%. Analysts expect it to hit 1.9% in April.

That's below the BoE's target of 2%, which is the green light to start cutting rates at its next meeting on

without more determined action to tackle the long-standing problem of weak productivity growth, which ultimately sets the UK's economic speed limit". Compared with other major economies, Britain is a star performer with a growth rate topping the G7.

The US, considered to be booming, grew by 0.4% in the first quarter; France and Germany managed 0.2%.

Britain has moved from sixth place in the G7 at the end of 2023, to first.



June 20. The April CPI figure will be published on May 21, so we'll know soon enough if it's true.

Two, three or four rate cuts this year would be fantastic news for mortgage borrowers, consumers, businesses and the overall economy. Something else is happening. Just a few weeks ago, investors were writing off the UK stock market, after years of underperformance.

Not any more. The FTSE 100 has suddenly rocketed to an all-time high. It jumped again on the back of the good news yesterday, to trade at

8,424 at time of writing. The FTSE 100 has jumped a staggering 5.75% in the last month alone.

Over the same period, the US benchmark S&P 500 Index edged up just 1.04%.

UK investors have been abandoning their own stock market in recent years. Now they may be having second thoughts.

Stock markets typically boom before a recovery, rather than afterwards. That's because investors are forward-looking, gauging how things will stand in six or even nine months,

Julian Jessop of the Institute of Economic Affairs think-tank said the bounce in GDP will prompt 2024 economic forecasts to be revised up.

He added: "Growth should continue over the rest of the year, albeit at a slower pace."

Yael Selfin, chief economist at KPMG accountants, said: "Falling inflation and real pay increases should help repay some of the damage to household incomes." The boost came

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**THE British economy is gaining momentum.**  
It will soon return to full strength. The facts speak for themselves.

After a difficult few years following the pandemic and Putin's invasion of Ukraine, official figures, published yesterday, are proof that things are looking up.

Not only is our economy growing this year, with the fastest quarterly growth for over two years, but that growth was faster than any other G7 country.

Faster than France, Germany and Italy.

Yes – even faster than the United States.

That has not happened by accident.

**Action**

It's because of the tough action we have taken to bring down inflation from highs of over 11% to 3.2%, with a return to the 2% target expected in just a matter of months.

It's because we've taken the long-term decisions needed to fire up the economy, including a huge expansion of government-funded free childcare to bring more parents into the workforce and tax cuts for working people and businesses who invest.

World-leading companies are taking notice, investing £2billion in our country over the last week

**COMMENT**

**JEREMY HUNT**

Chancellor of the Exchequer

alone to build new facilities here in the UK and support thousands of skilled jobs.

And with energy prices falling, inflation going down, the state pension increasing by £900 this year, and a tax cut worth £900 for the average worker hitting bank accounts, Express readers will start to feel this difference in their pockets.

The strong economy we're building also means more money for the services we rely on, like our NHS – which I prioritised with an extra £6billion of funding at Spring Budget.

And because we've done all of this responsibly, we can put more money into defending the country to meet the challenges of a more dangerous world – raising the defence budget to 2.5% of GDP by 2030, the largest in Europe.

This is the result of sticking to the plan.

A growing economy, inflation falling, taxes cut and more money for the things that really matter.

It's a plan for pensioners, working parents and families right across the country.

By sticking to our plan and taking the tough decisions, we will build a better future for everyone.

Looking positive... Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt check scanner on Oxfordshire visit yesterday

rather than today. And they're clearly optimistic.

They know the UK may be the first country to cut interest rates – ahead of the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank – as inflation falls faster over here.

Apologies for all the optimism. I know people aren't used to it.

They are still plenty of risks, given the war in Ukraine and the Middle East, as well as the US-China stand-off. If the oil price takes off, the cost-of-living crisis could return with a vengeance.

Yet things are pointing the right way today.

The big question is whether that is enough to save the ailing Conservative Party and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

It will be a close call. Living standards haven't improved in the last two years.

People are understandably bitter. But if the good news filters through before voters go to the polls, Sunak might have a better story to tell.

**Demand for interest rates to be slashed in wake of bounceback**

By **Martyn Brown** Deputy Political Editor

CLAMOUR for the Bank of England to cut interest rates next month intensified yesterday, following a surge in economic growth.

The fastest increase in GDP for two years has been recorded, while inflation is already down to 3.2% and expected to tumble further when the figures for April are published.

Tory MP John Redwood has consistently called for cuts to interest rates – currently at 5.25% – to turbo-charge economic growth.

Bank governor Andrew Bailey this week offered hope to mortgage borrowers that rates will soon be reduced and that inflation might be at its 2% target already.

But the Bank's chief economist yesterday warned Britain must not be "seduced" by data. Huw Pill, who voted on Thursday to freeze interest rates, said the Bank must crunch inflation "on a lasting and sustainable basis".

Mr Pill told a web event: "We shouldn't be seduced into drawing too much comfort from developments in inflation that are largely driven by factors that are external to us."

He added that the "persistent components" of inflation were only falling because interest rates are at a "restrictive level".

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt has also warned the Bank it will be a delicate balance to cut rates while bringing inflation to heel.

The tug of war over what happens next could have a huge impact on the general election, expected later this year.

Financial traders are currently betting that there is a 60% chance of a rate cut in June.



Hope...the Bank of England boss Bailey

a day after the Bank of England held interest rates steady at 5.25% and slightly upgraded its growth forecasts.

Labour's Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves said: "This is no time for Conservative ministers to be doing a victory lap and telling the British people that they have never had it so good."



Accused...Joynes, 30

## Teacher 'had sex with boy 30 times'

By **Pat Hurst**

A TEACHER seduced a 16-year-old boy and became pregnant with his child, a court heard.

The youngster was nervous as it was his first time, but "pretty, smart, funny" Rebecca Joynes reassured him "it was great", jurors were told.

Joynes, 30, was already suspended from her school and on bail for alleged sexual activity with a 15-year-old boy, Manchester Crown Court heard.

Yesterday, jurors saw a police interview video in which the 16-year-old, known as Boy B, said he had told his parents he was going to watch Manchester United.

Instead, Joynes picked him up and drove him to her flat in the city's Salford Quays district.

### Tears

Boy B claimed he and Joynes had sex about 30 times before she was arrested, following an anonymous tip-off.

He said Joynes told him she could not have a baby and they had unprotected sex, but she found she was pregnant.

Boy B told police the day before Joynes was arrested for alleged sexual contact with him, she planned a "date night" at her flat. He said there was a baby grow that "said something like, 'Best Dad'. I was like, 'What the \*\*\*\*'"

He added: "I also thought, I can't hide a kid. I had hid the relationship for 18 months from my parents."

Joynes, with a pink baby bonnet tucked in her trousers, wiped away tears as the boy said: "I have also thought about the future of my child. I want the best for my child as well."

She denies six counts of engaging in sexual activity with a child, including two while being a person in a position of trust.

The trial continues on Monday.

By **Michael Knowles**  
Home Affairs Editor

SIR Keir Starmer will create a haven for people smuggling gangs if he wins power at the general election, the Home Secretary has warned.

James Cleverly said the Labour leader will make Britain the "asylum capital of the world".

Sir Keir yesterday unveiled his plan to end the Channel migrant crisis by increasing MI5's role in hunting criminal gangs and creating a new border security command.

He also confirmed the Rwanda deportation scheme, a key tactic to deter migrants from attempting to reach the UK, would be scrapped "straight away" if he becomes Prime Minister.

The pledge comes despite the Government revealing the first flight could take off in the week of June 24 – as first reported by the Daily Express – and some migrants admitting the threat of being sent to Kigali had led to them to flee the UK.

Mr Cleverly said: "Labour have no plan to stop the boats. Labour have an illegal immigration amnesty, Labour blocked the deportation of violent sexual offenders and Labour voted over 130 times against tougher legislation to stop the boats."

"They will create a haven for criminal gangs, not stop them. Even Labour MPs are saying Labour can't

**DAILY EXPRESS VOTE**

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# Starmer will make Britain 'the asylum capital of the World'



## Labour to scrap Rwanda plan 'straight

be trusted to stop the boats, which shows you nothing will change.

"If people can apply for asylum from outside the UK, then unlimited claims can be made, many of which will have to be accepted under the law and, even then, many of those declined will then get on a small boat anyway."

"Labour's announcement would make the UK the asylum capital of the world."

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak also criticised his rival's plan. He said:

"If you look at the reality of it, Keir Starmer's idea on migration is to scrap our Rwanda plan and to offer an amnesty to illegal migrants."

**Gangs alert... James Cleverly**

And as far as I can tell, all the things that they are talking about today are all things that we're already doing.

"Crunching through the backlog, having more law enforcement officers do more. That's all happening already. We've announced all of that more than a year ago."

"I think the question for Keir Starmer then is if he cares so much, why did he vote against the new laws that we passed to give our law enforcement officers new powers?"

They've now used those to arrest a thousand people connected with illegal migration, sentenced them to hundreds of years in prison.

"And if it was up to him, all those would be out on our

**AS presenter Jonny Dymond said on BBC Radio 4's World At One, Sir Keir Starmer "parked his tanks firmly on the Tories' lawn. Or maybe his boats on their shore".**

**The Labour leader certainly tried to talk tough on the Channel migrant crisis.**

**Drafting in more MI5 intelligence officers with advanced capabilities and bolstering National Crime Agency investigating teams will, in theory, alarm smuggling gangs.**

**Expanding terror laws to allow them to be used to catch organised crime gangs is a bold declaration of intent. But there are significant questions still to be answered.**

**I asked the Labour leader about one of the central unanswered**

streets. I think that's the rank hypocrisy of his position.

"And when it comes to illegal migration, it's very simple, he's just going to scrap the Rwanda plan and open up our borders. We've got a plan and we're going to get planes off."

The illegal migration minister Michael Tomlinson said: "Labour would do a mass amnesty to let thou-

### ANALYSIS

**MICHAEL KNOWLES**  
Home Affairs Editor



**questions. Where will a potential Labour government send failed asylum seekers?**

**Sir Keir's answer was unclear. He said many migrants can be returned to their home countries because they are safe.**

**But what about those from unsafe countries like Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan and Iran? Sir Keir conceded there are particular**

sands of illegal migrants stay in this country. Labour would scrap the Rwanda scheme even though it is working, leaving nowhere to send people whose home country is unsafe.

"Labour would simply rebrand our Small Boats Operational Command, a dedicated unit of Border Force officers working closely with the military to stop the boats...expand our asylum

## FOR MIGRANTS UNDER SIR KEIR

Picture: GARETH FULLER/PA



Dover visit...Sir Keir with new Labour MP Natalie Elphicke

# away' and fund smuggling unit if it wins election

challenges around Afghanistan and Syria.

What deterrence is there, if Labour does scrap the Rwanda scheme, to anyone from these countries crossing the Channel?

Conservative sources believe he has ruled out the only place he could have to "return them".

How will a Labour-led government deter migrants from attempting the crossing?

Going after gangs won't reduce the "demand" to come to the UK.

The threat of being sent to Rwanda has changed the equation for many asylum seekers on where they choose to go.

Sources told the Daily Express there is evidence migrants are

changing their destinations. Sir Keir Starmer has outlined a law enforcement response.

But he will also have to outline his deterrence plan and what he will do with failed asylum seekers with nowhere to be returned to.

This crisis requires work on many different facets – law enforcement, international agreements and deterrence to end it.

The Government has insisted it is intensifying efforts in all of these areas.

The battle lines have now been drawn on the small boats crisis.

For everyone's sake, the small boats phenomenon must be ended.

system to accept claims from outside the UK, meaning tens of thousands more claims. Labour won't stop the boats. They want to stop the planes. They'll take us back to square one."

Sir Keir was joined by new Labour MP Natalie Elphicke during a visit to Dover yesterday, where he set out his party's plans to tackle the small boats crisis. He is facing growing

questions about where he would send failed asylum seekers if he scrapped the Rwanda scheme.

The Government is unable to send migrants to many of the countries where the largest cohorts of small boat arrivals come from due to fears they could be killed, tortured or falsely imprisoned. Sir Keir branded the Rwanda plan a "gimmick" and

claimed only 1% of small boat arrivals would be sent to Kigali. He said: "We will cancel the scheme. We don't think the policy is going to work and we think it costs a fortune."

"So, of course, that means we won't operate the scheme at all. I am not interested. It is a gimmick. I am not going to flog a dead horse. We are going to get rid of the policy straight away. I am not going to continue a policy I don't think is going to work."

He added: "There will be no flights scheduled or taking off after the general election if Labour wins."

Sir Keir admitted the Home Office would have nowhere to send thousands of migrants arriving from Afghanistan and Syria, due to the lack of a returns arrangement with the two war-torn countries. Sir Keir also conceded he would seek a new returns

agreement with the EU, but ruled out joining the bloc's migrant sharing deal. He told the Daily Express: "We don't need a returns agreement

to send people back to a safe country. Afghanistan is different, I accept that, as is Syria. But for many of these...you don't need a returns agreement."

Figures show 9,000 migrants have arrived in the UK so far this year after crossing the Channel.

A source close to Mr Cleverly said: "Labour talk about sending people home with returns agreements, but can't name a single country. Starmer's 'new plan' is his old plan, which is no plan."

Labour hopes intelligence officers will treat people smugglers like terrorists, tracing their movements, sources suggested.

OPINION: PAGE 14



Changes...John Swinney and deputy Kate Forbes

## Scotland ditches gender self-ID

By **Martyn Brown**  
Deputy Political Editor

JOHN Swinney has abandoned Nicola Sturgeon's gender self-ID plans after admitting they could not be implemented.

Scotland's new First Minister said he would not try to revive the Gender Recognition Reform Bill because the courts had ruled against it.

He also ditched a plan by his predecessor, Humza Yousaf, to work with an incoming UK Labour government to make the changes.

Mr Swinney dumped the proposals after the SNP ended its power-sharing agreement with the Scottish Greens, who backed self-ID.

The Bill would have allowed Scots to change their legal gender by signing a statutory declaration, dropping the requirement for a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria.

### Petition

Scottish Secretary Alister Jack made an order under Section 35 of the Scotland Act to prevent the legislation getting Royal Assent.

After succeeding Ms Sturgeon as First Minister, Mr Yousaf pressed ahead with a petition for a judicial review of the decision.

The Court of Session in Edinburgh ruled that the decision was lawful.

Mr Swinney told Sky News: "The reality of the situation we face is that the Supreme Court has said we can't legislate in that area."

"I accept the rule of law. We cannot proceed with that legislation."

He said he had not discussed abandoning the Bill with devout Christian Kate Forbes when appointing her as Deputy First Minister.

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# Strictly Come Dancing...on ice!



Dance diversity...Horwood

## We can have ballet stars, insists Craig

By **Mark Jefferies**

CRAIG Revel Horwood says Strictly can still break new ground with different types of performers.

He said leading fashion designers and prima ballerinas could be next.

Craig, 59, said: "There's a lot of people that we can still invest in. Dance isn't just for inverted commas normal people, it's for everybody."

"That's the beauty about Strictly, that it crosses all different communities."

Craig is promoting a touring theatre production of Wizard Of Oz in which he plays the Wicked Witch of the West. The show kicked off in Woking this week.

He had an op to remove bunions and "flatten his toes". He said of his outfit: "I'm in a lower heel this week. I intend to go up an inch a week! I'm just waiting for my toes to solidify."

● *Craig appears in Wizard Of Oz until the end of July. The next run of dates are in Belfast, May 21-26. Tickets at [wizarโดfozmusical.com](http://wizarโดfozmusical.com)*



Big night... Angelas Rippon and Scanlon. Right, Karen

STRICTLY'S Karen Hauer looks set for the dance thaw as she plunges into an ice bath, below, after the first London show of the BBC series's professionals tour.

Dancer Karen posted a picture of her standing in a bin full of icy water, used by athletes to reduce muscle inflammation, after the show at the London Palladium on Thursday night.

Watching from the audience was former contestant Angela Rippon, 79, who was later spotted leaving the famous theatre in a cab, left.

The newsreader was arm in arm with another former Strictly contestant in TV presenter Angela Scanlon, 40.

Angela Rippon looked to be in

By **Robert Kellaway**

great health after suffering a serious asthma attack and "major medical meltdown" during the Strictly Come Dancing live tour in February.

The attack was triggered by a chest infection and gave her dance partner Kai Widdrington a scare.

Angela said of the incident: "When I was about to go on and dance the cha-cha-cha, I'm afraid the infection triggered a serious asthma attack and when I started to dance, I stopped breathing basically."

She made a full recovery and returned to the tour in Manchester after a period of rest.



By **Richard Wheeler**

CAT flaps should be banned to help preserve garden bird numbers, a Conservative former minister has urged.

Lord Blencathra said there is "no justification whatsoever" for owners to take a "laissez-faire attitude" by letting their pet "go in and out when it pleases".

He also backed outdoor felines being required to wear collars and bells, pointing to research suggesting this cuts birds killed.

Lord Blencathra's cat flap ban suggestion came as peers supported a law change that would mean cat and dog thieves could be jailed for up to five years.

He told peers: "All independent studies suggest that cats allowed out to wander at will kill about 260 million mammals per annum in the UK and 60 million garden birds. Of course there are other predators... but the contribution from cats is massive and unnecessary."

"I would make collars and bells compulsory for cats let outside. But I would go further, my Lords, and I'd ban cat flaps completely."

Lord Blencathra, right, said animal welfare organisations



# Lord in a flap over feline bird killers

## Call for compulsory bells and collars

had suggested cats should only be let out during daylight to avoid them targeting feeding birds.

He added: "Don't call yourself a cat lover if you have no idea where your cat goes at night, where it can be attacked, run over, catch fleas, diseases and kills precious wildlife."

Shadow environment spokeswoman Baroness Hayman of Ullock said she wanted to "stand up" for her own cat, joking he is "not a very prolific killer" and he is "rather fright-

ened" of birds following an "encounter" with a hen.

Environment minister Lord Douglas-Miller said his officials recently met the SongBird Survival charity.

### Hunting

He said: "They heard about research by the University of Exeter which showed that owners can reduce their cat's hunting by adjusting their cat's diet or by spending short periods playing with them."

And Daniel Warren-Cummings, behaviour expert at the Cats

Protection charity, rejected claims that "a cat flap increases a cat's hunting habits".

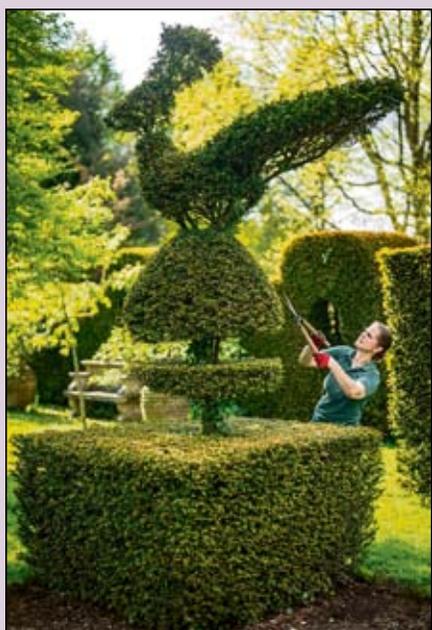
He added: "On the contrary, owners who have cat flap installed are being responsive to their pet's needs and may well be more likely to engage in activities with their cat - like regular play - which will reduce hunting habits."

"The reasons for songbird decline are intricate and complex, including climate change, habitat loss and changes in agricultural practices. In addition, recent evidence suggests that bells have limited to zero impact on reducing predation."



Escape...peer called for ban on cat flaps

# Harry: It's great to



Shaping up well...bird topiary at Highgrove

## Hedges are a cut above at King's estate

By Robert Kellaway

GARDENERS at the King and Queen's private residence Highgrove have been putting the final touches to its hedges in time for World Topiary Day tomorrow.

The Gloucestershire estate, bought by Charles from ex-PM Harold Macmillan's son Maurice in 1980, opens its gardens to the public from April until October.

It comes as Charles faces a demand to allow an archaeological dig to take place at his Sandringham Estate in Norfolk as part of plans to build a huge solar farm.

The King wants to place 2,000 panels in a field to create electricity for the estate and the grid but was told the area must be excavated so "archaeological features" can be protected.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council said there was a possibility of finding "buried archaeological remains" under the horse paddock because both the prehistoric Ickniel Way and a possible Roman settlement are located nearby.

The new panels, over 2.3 hectares, will provide a combined total of 1.9MW of energy per year with an expected "operational lifespan of 40 years".

The field would then be returned to its current function of horse grazing.

Solar panels were placed on the roof of Sandringham House two years ago.

## Charles to head RAF Museum

By Ted Hennessey

THE King has become patron of the Royal Air Force Museum.

The exhibition hub, based in London and the Midlands, said it was "thrilled" that Charles had accepted the role, saying his "unwavering support" make him a "fitting ambassador".

Charles' father, the late Duke of Edinburgh, was patron from 1968 until his death in 2021.

It comes after a review of more than 1,000 royal patronages following the late Queen's death in 2022.

Charles's have risen from 441 to 669, Queen Camilla has 15 more and heads 115 bodies. Elizabeth II headed 492.

By Emily Ferguson  
Royal Editor

PRINCE Harry said it was "great to be back in the UK" before flying to Nigeria with Meghan for a quasi-royal tour.

The Duchess, who did not accompany her husband on the British leg of his trip, arrived in London but only to meet Harry at Heathrow Airport and leave straight away.

Yesterday, in scenes similar to the couple's last royal overseas tour to South Africa in 2019, they received rock-star welcomes as they visited a school and met top officials.

This time, though, they were not working royals and their visit was a private one at the invitation of the country's chief of defence staff Christopher Musa.

Before leaving Britain, Harry was asked what it was like to be back. "It's great, it's amazing," he told a BBC reporter.

He had just been at a party held by Scotty's Little Soldiers, a charity that supports bereaved children of military personnel.

The Duke threw himself into the fun, playing games with the youngsters and letting them pelt him with plastic balls.

It was his last engagement in his three-day trip to his homeland, during which he failed to see his father, who is receiving cancer treatment. On Tuesday Harry's spokesman



Having fun...at Scotty's Little Soldiers party

said this was due to the monarch's "full programme". But yesterday a royal insider claimed Charles said no because he did not want the "drama".

Harry did not meet his brother William either. But he saw Princess Diana's brother Earl Spencer and sister Lady Jane Fellowes at a St Paul's Cathedral service celebrating the Duke's Invictus Games.

The trip to Nigeria is also about promoting the Games and comes after Meghan revealed she is 43% Nigerian.

It started early yesterday morning in the capital Abuja with a visit to Lightway Academy, a primary and secondary school that gets support from the Sussexes' Archewell Foundation.

The couple were greeted by traditional dancers before they launched a local mental health summit.

Meghan, 42, said: "We've got to acknowledge those amazing dance moves. My husband was excited to jump up."

She also revealed that dancing was the favourite activity of their two-year-old daughter Lilibet. "Maybe it's all the jumping around," she said.

Later, while meeting a class of students who had made robots, she told them son Archie, five, liked "construction" too.

Harry, 39, spoke to pupils about the importance of mental health, saying it was "OK" to have a bad day.

"The more you talk about it, the more you can kick it in the long grass," he said.

He made them promise not to be scared of talking about their mental health and ended

Traditional welcome  
...Meghan and Harry are greeted by dancers in Abuja yesterday



his speech with: "It's OK not to be OK." Then he handed the microphone to Meghan, who joked: "Do you see why I married him? He's so smart."

The Duchess, who took selfies with the pupils, encouraged them to be open and honest with one another, revealing that Lili had recently told her: "Mama, I see me in you."

Meghan said the words had stayed with her. She said she sees herself in her daughter,

but also "all of you as well", adding: "I believe in you."

Later on Harry met injured soldiers at a military hospital. Today Meghan is co-hosting a Women in Leadership event with Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, director-general of the World Trade Organisation.

The Sussexes' visit will also include a basketball camp with Giants of Africa, a cultural reception and a polo fundraiser.

## NIGERIA ON THREE-DAY TRIP

# have been back in UK

Pictures: KOLA SULAIMON/AFP, BEN BIRCHALL/PA



Enjoy the weather...The Prince of Wales talks to children at St Mary's harbour yesterday

## Kate is doing well, William reveals on sunny island visit

By **Emily Ferguson**

THE Princess of Wales is "doing well" with her treatment for cancer, her husband revealed yesterday.

Prince William gave the brief update on Kate's progress during a visit to a hospital in the Isles of Scilly.

Tracy Smith, administrator at St Mary's Community Hospital in Hugh Town, the islands' largest settlement, said: "I asked William about Kate and he said, 'She's doing well, thanks'."

Matron Lynda McHale, 68, who has worked for the NHS for 50 years, gave him a card for his father the King, also a cancer patient, saying that it was from her granddaughter.

On a two-day trip to Cornwall, the prince arrived on St Mary's by boat after visiting the smaller island of Treco.

He told tourists who greeted him at the harbour that he wished he could stay on the islands longer, but joked: "My family are very upset I'm here without them. The children will kill me if I don't go home later."

Hailing the "glorious" spring weather, William could not resist popping into the nearby On The Quay cafe to buy five traditional pasties for his entourage.

He told staff Joely Dearman, 22, and Zachariah Fox, 28, that the treats smelled "delicious", provoking laughter when he added: "They're not all for me!"

He said: "I can't believe the islands when you've got weather like this - it's just beautiful." He added that he wore a



I'll have five...William purchases pasties. Left...In sunglasses

wetsuit to enjoy a swim in the sea yesterday, "which was good". The Waleses are known to holiday in Treco, following a tradition that William enjoyed during his own childhood.

His two-day trip marks the first time he has been away from his family since his wife's diagnosis for an undisclosed form of cancer was revealed in March.

He met representatives from local businesses on the harbour front on St Mary's, the largest of the Scilly islands.

The harbour is run by the Duchy of Cornwall and plays a vital role in the community, which relies on tourism.

William also met a local team of rowers from the gig boat Zelda who came third at the World Pilot Gig Championships last weekend.



'I believe in you'...the Duchess lets pupils take selfies with her at Lightway Academy, while Harry, far left, speaks of mental health

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Well done... William meets members of the Zelda gig boat team on St Mary's





Pictures: JUST STOP OIL

**Crack team...pair used tools to try to smash case**

## Hit on Magna Carta by duo in 80s

By **David Pilditch**

**ELDERLY** climate activists were filmed attempting a smash-and-grab raid on the Magna Carta before being arrested yesterday. The Rev Sue Parfitt, 82, and retired teacher Judy Bruce, 85, targeted the priceless scroll, made in 1215, at the British Library. They were filmed using a chisel and hammer to try to shatter its thick glass case at the London site. As security guards stepped in they held up



Demo...Ms Bruce and Rev Parfitt

**Just Stop Oil signs and glued themselves together. The library - which evacuated visitors**

**- said the case sustained minor damage. The pair urged the Government to end fossil fuel extraction and burning by 2030.**

Rev Parfitt, of Bristol, said: "As a Christian, I am compelled to do all I can to alleviate suffering."

Ms Bruce, of Swansea, said: "Magna Carta is about the rule of law and standing up against abuse of power. Our government is breaking its own laws."

The Metropolitan Police said two people were in custody.

# Woman fatally stabbed as she fought mugger

By **Paul Jeeves** Crime Editor

A 66-YEAR-OLD woman was stabbed to death as she tried to stop a mugger making off with her handbag, a witness has claimed.

Members of the public desperately tried to carry out first aid to keep her alive as emergency crews were called.

But land and air ambulance medics, who treated her for stab injuries, were unable to save her and she was pronounced dead at the scene in Edgware, North London, on Thursday morning.

Metropolitan Police officers arrested a 22-year-old man in the nearby Colindale area on Thursday afternoon on suspicion of murder and last night he remained in custody.

Jess Bloom, who was working at a hair salon opposite the scene, claimed that the attack began at a bus stop.

"The guy was trying to get her handbag, but she said 'no' and fought back. I saw her pull the handbag twice," she said. "He pulled her into the road and

stabbed her three times. He let go of her and she dropped to the ground, covered in blood. He ran off and everyone ran to the woman to help her."

Salah Ahmed, 35, who lives locally, was in a shop opposite the bus stop when he heard the woman screaming. He said he went outside and chased the attacker, who fled.

When he returned to the bus stop, people from nearby shops were trying to help the woman and had brought out towels to try to stop the bleeding.

Det Chief Insp Alex Gammampila said: "A man is in custody and we are not looking for any other suspects. We are working to establish the full circumstances and motive for this offence. We believe it to be an isolated incident."

The Met's Supt Tony Bellis said his thoughts were with the victim's family "at this unimaginably difficult time".



Floral tribute... left at scene

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## EUROVISION CONTROVERSY

Pictures: TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AFP

# Fans cry foul as Israeli entry hit by sting claims

**Protest target...**  
Israel's entrant Edén Golan has faced a backlash. Inset, the UK's Olly Alexander and a pro-Palestine demo in Malmo



By **Nicola Methven**  
TV Editor

THE Eurovision Song Contest is shaping up to be the most political in its history after Israel became one of the favourites to win this evening following allegations of a phone-vote sting.

The 68th staging of the musical extravaganza at Malmo in Sweden has been plagued by rows over Israel's participation amid the country's ongoing military campaign against Hamas in Gaza.

In Thursday's second semi-final, Israel's Edén Golan scored a whopping 39% of the Italian phone vote, which was revealed when the results from the 16 countries taking part were "accidentally" shown to viewers on screen.

It led to cries of skulduggery from fans. Bookies have since dropped Israel's odds of winning from 50-1 to 8-1.

The leaked results led to frantic speculation pro-Israeli groups had infiltrated the voting system around Europe to ensure Edén, 20, wins.

During her rehearsal earlier this week, there were boos from the audience and the singer has 24-hour protection ahead of her performance in today's final.

Israel's involvement in the annual contest divided politicians, celebrities and fans. Generally, non-European nations can take part if they are a member of



## NORTON PROMISES A CLASSIC NIGHT OF DRAMA THAT WE ALL 'KNOW AND LOVE'

By **Kerri-Ann Roper**

**GRAHAM** Norton insists viewers will still see "the Eurovision they know and love" when they tune into tonight's grand final.

The Irish presenter, 61, will host coverage of the event live on BBC One and BBC iPlayer.

The veteran heads a team that also includes Scott Mills and Rylan Clark, who covered the semi-finals for TV and switch to BBC Radio 2 tonight.

Former *Strictly* star Richie Anderson has been reporting on the behind-the-scenes gossip for Radio 2, while professional dancer Amy

Dowden, below, has been doing likewise for ITV's *Lorraine*.

Graham arrived in Malmo on Thursday just as the inclusion of Israel's act Edén Golan sparked



All set... Graham, second right, with, from left, Richie, Scott and Rylan

protests. Asked on ITV's *Good Morning Britain* if it will be a "very different experience for fans this year", the chat show host replied: "I just got here. So I'm not really aware of that."

"But coming home last night, the town didn't seem to be a big

street party. But in the arena, it was very much business as usual. The crowds were going wild, songs, big reactions, very much like any other Eurovision."

"When people tune into that grand final, they will see the Eurovision they know and love."

the European Broadcasting Union, which organises it.

The UK's act Olly Alexander was caught up in an antisemitism row after signing a letter calling Israel an "apartheid regime" and condemning "Zionist propaganda". He has since refused to speak about it.

The EBU is supposed to have systems in place to ensure any dodgy tele-voting is rooted out.

And last week it said it would ban Palestinian flags and symbols at the show, reinforcing that it

should be a non-political event. However, Ireland's Bambie Thug had to remove pro-Palestine messages she had drawn on to herself ahead of her performance at the first semi-final. And Swedish singer Eric Saade, whose father is Palestinian, performed his 2011 Eurovision hit at the start of the same semi wearing a keffiyeh, a middle eastern headdress.

Yesterday, Netherlands' act Joost Klein, whose song *Europapa* is a tribute to his

**Palestinian support...**  
Sweden's Eric Saade

late dad, was stopped from rehearsing by organisers over an "incident". The EBU said: "He will not be rehearsing until further notice. We have no further comment at this time."

It follows Joost's testy interjection at Thursday's press conference after he and Israel qualified. Edén was asked if her participation poses a "risk and danger for other participants".

After being told by organisers she did not have to answer, Joost

The UK's Olly Alexander, who was the lead singer of pop band Years & Years and starred in Channel 4 drama *It's A Sin*, hopes to impress with his song *Dizzy*. Bookies have the 33-year-old as a 125/1 outsider.

But earlier this week Olly declared: "My odds are low but don't count me out just yet."

And Graham said he cannot wait to see Olly's performance, which features upside-down locker room staging and cameras rotating to create a spinning feel. The Irishman said: "It's like watching a music video or something."

Seven-time winners Sweden are hosting after Loreen's victory in Liverpool last year. It's also the 50-year anniversary of Abba securing the first Swede taste of success with *Waterloo*.

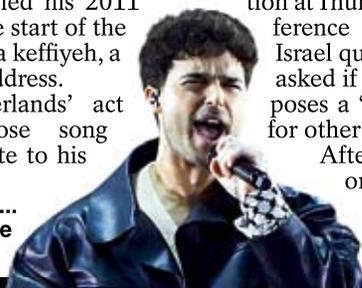
Ireland's entry Bambie Thug was voted into the final for the first time since 2018 with *Doomsday Blue*. Graham said: "It's like they've won already."

shouted: "Why not?" He then sat through Edén's answer with his arms crossed and eyes closed.

Some feel the EBU's apolitical stance rings hollow. Edén will sing *Hurricane*, which was originally called *October Rain* and is widely understood to be about the Hamas attack of October 7.

And the song from Ukraine, who won in 2022 after the country was invaded by Russian troops, has a section where singer Jerry Heil is being showered by fireworks, representing missiles raining down.

● *The Eurovision Grand Final* is on BBC One tonight from 8pm.





**DAILY EXPRESS**

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## Growth figures should be springboard for tax cuts

**B**RITAIN has escaped recession but more needs to be done so that people can look to the future with confidence. We hope Chancellor Jeremy Hunt is right when he says: "We really are turning a corner, and the businesses of the future agree."

He claims "momentum" is returning to the economy, because the UK has stuck to a plan that is delivering for "pensioners, working parents and families right across the country". Mr Hunt should turn his attention to the tax burden that is limiting the life chances of children and denying workers the chance to invest in their future.

Britons – in stark contrast with their European neighbours – understand that low taxes fuel prosperity, which generates even greater income for public services.

We cannot wait until the election for tax cuts – families need and deserve a boost to personal prosperity. Economic growth of 0.6 per cent in 2024's first quarter is welcome.

Tax cuts will accelerate this process and boost the entrepreneurship upon which growth depends.

Caution should not always trump ambition. Conservatives should restore the UK's reputation as one of the world's great low tax economies and unleash a feel-good factor that may well reap electoral rewards.

## Pledge won't stop boats

**S**IR Keir Starmer's pledge to scrap the Rwanda scheme "straight away" if he wins the election will be welcomed by people smugglers. The plan to send migrants who come to the UK illegally to the African state will not stop small boat crossings overnight but it is a vital deterrent.

Everyone who is thinking of handing their family's life savings to a criminal in exchange for a place on a dangerous dinghy needs to know that if you have no right to be here, you will not remain here.

Other European countries with migration crises of their own are watching the progress of the scheme with keen interest.

If Britain can establish a humane and efficient system for processing asylum claims offshore, then other nations will follow. To abandon the scheme in its infancy would be a colossal waste of precious cash that will leave taxpayers unimpressed. Sir Keir has pirouetted on his policy positions many times since arriving in Westminster. We hope he U-turns again.

## Hop on sunshine Express

**T**HE glorious weather has lifted the nation's spirits and gardens will fill with the aroma of barbecues. We recommend everyone enjoys the sunshine while it lasts by unfolding a deckchair and sitting down with a glass of something cool. The perfect addition to an iced beverage is not a slice of lime or miniature parasol, but a fresh copy of the Express. Have a wonderful weekend.

# Britain thrillingly feels like a country bouncing back

**I**T'S relatively rare to find much about Britain to be genuinely optimistic about. For years it seems we have grappled with the global pandemic, a flatlining economy, underfunded and increasingly overstretched public services, and a wave of immigration that has not delivered the prosperity it promised. The future seemed bleak. Until now.

Alongside the glorious weather, the sunshine has also brought a ray of hope. The latest GDP figures showed the economy grew by 0.6 per cent in the first three months of the year – taking the UK out of recession.

This is the fastest growth in two years and more than analysts were expecting, with many speculating that the worst is now behind us. Even the Bank of England boss Andrew Bailey admitted that the UK economy is finally "turning a corner".

Will this be enough for a victory lap from Rishi Sunak? Of course not.

But many households will take comfort in the fact we are no longer in a "technical recession" – as Chancellor Jeremy Hunt put it. Growth provides hope for the extra funding many of our public services so desperately need.

A growing economy means we can finally stop the UK from circling the drain. The Chancellor also highlighted the fact that energy costs are falling, with unit prices for gas and electricity falling by 19 per cent and 14 per cent respectively.

**F**OR struggling households who have had to choose between heating and eating, this news will be music to their ears. British businesses too, saddled with some of the highest energy costs in the world, will appreciate this.

ONS data revealed that about 25 per cent of firms cited energy prices as the main reason for price increases. Lower energy bills for them should



**CALMER WATERS:** Warm weather has coincided with great news on Britain's GDP



## Esther Krakue

Daily Express columnist

hopefully lead to more competitive pricing – a win for everyone.

Even the usual naysayers and party poopers admit that this is nothing to scoff at.

Moreover, inflation has fallen to its lowest level in two and a half years, driven largely by slowing food price rises.

This has fuelled hope the Bank of England will cut interest rates this summer, thus reducing pressure on people's mortgages.

While Andrew Bailey says the Bank needs to "see more evidence" that price rises have slowed further, the current direction of travel is an optimistic one. If inflation continues to fall as expected, cuts in August or September appear to be the most likely scenario.

Wages, too, have risen faster than inflation by the most for two years, with average earnings (excluding bonuses) growing by 6.1 per cent, compared

to inflation at 4 per cent. For the first time in years, people will feel less of the pinch for every pound they earn and this, hopefully, will feed into a more dynamic economy, boosting consumer spending, which reached its lowest levels since 2018 at the end of last year.

The Chancellor conveniently slipped in a reminder that the tax cuts announced this year are "worth about £900" for the average full-time earner. A rather optimistic estimate – especially when you factor in other tax changes.

I'm sure many Britons would prefer a rise in tax thresholds which for years have dragged many pensioners and low earners into higher tax brackets. But beggars can't be choosers.

And to top off the feel-good spirit, Britain finally has a sunny weekend to look forward to. After what seems like months of gloomy, overcast skies, low temperatures and

record rainfall, this weekend promises to be a sunny one almost all over the UK. So bring out the barbecues.

Even abroad, Britain is predicted to have a great summer ahead.

**T**EAM GB has been tipped to bring home 66 medals at the Paris Olympics, with a long list of serious contenders.

Among the promising athletes are Dina Asher-Smith, Keely Hodgkinson, Tom Pidcock, Katarina Johnson-Thompson, Katie Archibald, Tom Daley, and Zharnel Hughes – with the latter predicted to win the Men's 100m race by no less a star than Usain Bolt. If that shining endorsement is not enough to excite the country, I don't know what is.

Finally, Britain feels thrillingly like a country bouncing back.

Is now the time to be complacent? No, not yet, but every once in a while, it's important to let our hair down and smell the roses.

Britain is on the mend. The weather is great, and we have the Olympics to look forward to – so cheer up and enjoy your weekend.

**'Growth provides hope of extra funding for our public services'**

# Carole Malone

FUN, FEISTY AND FEARLESS

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## Ban pavement louts now!

**IF PRINCE Harry is upset the King couldn't abort his busy schedule on the two days he'd chosen to fly into Britain for his Invictus Games commitments, why hasn't he bothered to come and see him in the last three months when the King wasn't working?**

**He last saw his dad in February when he'd just been diagnosed with cancer.**

**He spent half an hour with him. In the three months since, he could have jumped on a plane and spent some quality time with his father.**

**But he didn't.**

**He could also have come to London a few days ahead of the Invictus Games anniversary celebrations – he didn't. Is this really a son worried about his dad and desperate to build bridges?**

**RUSSELL Brand, who has denied allegations of rape and sexual assault, has had himself christened in the Thames. Brand said it was "an opportunity to leave the past behind", and "leave behind the sins".**

**Someone needs to tell Barmy Brand that's not quite how it works with sex allegations. And I'm sure police – who have questioned the comic turned conspiracy theorist twice – would agree.**

**If chucking yourself around in water and saying a few prayers absolved people of their sins, every villain in Britain would be diving head first into deep water to escape prosecution.**

**BOYS FROM The Blackstuff – the famous 80s TV series about a raggedy band of men desperately searching for work – has been revived in the form of a stage play. But the series would never work today – not when Britain now has nearly 10 million people actively NOT looking for work. Yosser's famous catchphrase would have to be: "Don't gizza a job."**

**WHY IS Baby Spice crowdfunding for £600,000 to invest in her eco baby brand Kit and Kim? The woman's worth £24million for God's sake, so why does she need to go cap in hand on Crowdfunder for investment cash? Surely if she had faith in her own company she'd invest more of her own multi-million pound fortune and not ask others to chance theirs?**



**I**F EVER there was a reason to throw the book at cyclists who ride on the pavements, the death of 77-year-old Celia Ward and the year-long incarceration of disabled Auriol Grey is it. Ms Grey, 50, who is partially blind and has cerebral palsy which affects her mobility, was jailed for three years last year for unlawful manslaughter. She told the court Mrs Ward, 77, had been travelling at speed towards her on the pavement and she panicked and shouted at her to get off it. Tragically, Mrs Ward drove into the path of an oncoming car and died.

Mrs Ward's family are understandably devastated and I don't wish to add to their grief, but Auriol Grey should never have been jailed or even charged. And this week, the Court of Appeal DID overturn her conviction.

The fact remains that cycling on the pavement is an offence in this country and for very good reason. They're used by the elderly, the disabled, the partially sighted, women with babies and small children – none of whom would be able to jump out of the way of a speeding cyclist.

Ditto footpaths in parks. Yet cyclists speed along both, terrifying kids, dogs and old people, believing they are not obliged to worry about anyone but themselves.

And there's an arrogance about cyclists who believe they can terrify people in places they have every right to feel safe because somehow they're saving the planet.

They're not, obviously. Yet still they treat drivers and pedestrians with utter contempt – like we're all in THEIR way and should get out of it.

People are entitled to feel safe on pavements and not to have to worry about people coming at them at speed on bikes (especially electric ones) that could kill or maim them (the number of people maimed by cyclists goes up every year).

It's why councils everywhere have spent multi-millions of taxpayers' cash on cycle lanes – often creating congestion hell for drivers, which is another story – yet many cyclists seem to have an aversion to using them. They prefer instead (and I'm not talking about Celia Ward here) to terrorise people on pavements.

Well to hell with that. Pavements and walkways are used by some of society's most vulnerable people and cyclists who don't get that are heartless, as well as dangerous. As for those who use the pavements because they don't have the cojones to be on the road – dump the bike because you're a danger to yourselves and everyone else.

It's about time police started treating pavement cyclists as the law-breakers they are, yet few are ever fined. In 2011, there were 11,577 fines. By 2018, that had plummeted by 96 per cent to a piddling 443. Today I'm guessing there's hardly any. Like many others, the police have basically decriminalised an offence they find "pesky".

Which is ludicrous, because many cyclists are travelling at the speed of most cars in towns and cities – often faster – and when they do that on a pavement, tragedy is bound to follow. When Auriol Grey saw the cyclist coming at her, she was understandably scared because of her partial blindness and physical impairment so she panicked and shouted at Ms Ward, who also panicked.

This was a tragedy that should never have happened.

Yet, still, it should serve as a warning to police forces who really need to get tough on cyclists and enforce the laws we have – even pass new ones – to avoid the kind of grief that has devastated the families of Celia Ward and Auriol Grey.

*IN THE unlikely event you need reminding what an unprincipled, unethical, immoral lot Labour are, the execrable David Lammy – who, in the recent past slated Donald Trump as "a woman-hating, neo-Nazi sympathising sociopath" – now says he WOULD be able to work with him if Labour get into power.*

*What a two-faced, screaming hypocrite this*

*bloke is. He smells power, he knows Trump is likely to get elected, and as foreign secretary he'd be working with him, so he's furiously backpedalling on all the insults.*

*But he's also terminally stupid if he doesn't realise Trump (who on a bad day is 100 times smarter than Lammy) will know exactly what this bozo has said about him and will make*

*him pay. This is the problem with Lammy – he never has been and never will be fit to hold power and he's about to learn that shooting off his vicious, flappy mouth at Tories he knows won't fight back is one thing. Doing it to the unpredictable man who's likely to be the next leader of the Free World is quite another – and will have consequences!*

Picture: STEVE GRANITZ/FILMMAGIC



### I can't figure out Melissa drug row

**WHY did people savage Barbra Streisand for asking Melissa McCarthy whether her dramatic weight loss was down to Ozempic? McCarthy's Twitter followers slated the star, inset, for being "cruel and insensitive".**

**She was neither. It's perfectly normal to ask pals how they've lost weight, because most of us are desperate to know how others do it.**

**So why all the snottiness because the actress might have taken Ozempic? Is it because people are jealous and convince themselves it's somehow cheating? As someone who's just lost four stone on Ozempic/Wegovy (and have never felt better), I can tell you it's not a miracle fix, there are some side-effects and you still have to work at losing weight.**

**But it DOES work, as long as you use a reputable provider (mine's called Juniper). Ozempic just makes it easier. And what the hell's wrong with that?**

**Look at the Hollywood celebs who've used it to give them a helping hand – Rebel Wilson, Oprah Winfrey, Elon Musk, Robbie Williams. All have lost tons of weight and all look fabulous.**

**The NHS is buckling under the cost of obesity-related diseases and has called Ozempic a game-changer. As 60 per cent of Brits are overweight or obese, it needs to be – because people are dying before their time. So less of the snottiness, please!**

**POSH London's Men's Club The Garrick has dispensed with 200 years of tradition and voted to allow women in. Some members are furious, but others – such as Sting and Stephen Fry – have welcomed the move. All I'd say to the furious ones is, don't worry, there aren't many women – at least not smart, self-respecting intelligent ones – who want to join the fossilised ranks of their fusty, old club.**

### LABOUR'S LAMMY FORGETS TRUMP HAS LONG MEMORY FOR ENEMIES

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# Billie's Madge of honour at Bafta bash

By Chris Riches

**EVERYTHING'S** coming up roses for Billie Piper after getting into the fashion groove to echo Madonna's 1990 Blonde Ambition tour look.

With red dyed hair and clutching white blooms, Scoop actress Billie, 41, donned a similar Jean-Paul Gaultier conical dress to Madge at the British Vogue and Netflix celebration for the upcoming Bafta Television Awards in London's Mayfair.

Her ensemble featured a corset top with a large zip down the centre.

She teamed it with matching heels and a gold necklace at Thursday's star-studded event.

Billie played BBC journalist Sam McAlister in Scoop, the story behind Prince Andrew's car-crash 2019 Newsnight interview.

## Bodysuit

She will start filming the second series of Netflix's Addams Family reboot Wednesday.

Billie was among the new cast members announced this week, along with Dame Joanna Lumley and Steve Buscemi.

Meanwhile, actress Eiza Gonzalez, 34, wowed celebration onlookers in a sheer lace bodysuit.

London-based R&B singer Mabel, 28, also turned heads in a textured short-sleeve gown with midriff cut-outs.

Match Of The Day host and ex-England Lioness Alex Scott, 39, sported a rust-coloured shirt tucked into matching flared trousers.

She appeared without her girlfriend, pop singer Jess Glynne, 34.



**Fashion match... former Lioness Alex**



**Material girl... Billie echoes Madonna, left. Right, Eiza, and Mabel, above, on the red carpet**



**Club coup...Dench**

## 'Dame Judi first female for Garrick'

By Allister Hagger

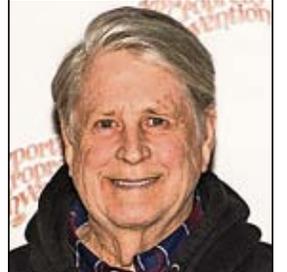
DAME Judi Dench is to become the first female member of the Garrick Club just days after it voted to admit women, according to reports.

The private club was said to be to deciding last night about the actress, 89, whose portrait is on its wall.

Named after the 18th century actor David Garrick, the Covent Garden club was founded in 1831 as a place for performers and arts patrons to meet.

This week, it voted by around 60% for female members. Previously women could only come in with a man.

Dame Judi often visited as a guest of her late husband, the actor Michael Williams.



**Dementia...Brian Wilson**

## Sick Beach Boy legally supervised

By Christopher Bucktin US Editor

BEACH Boys star Brian Wilson has been placed in a conservatorship by a court as a result of a "major neurocognitive disorder".

The petition was filed by his family after his wife Melinda died in January at age 77.

Wilson, 81, consents and is unable to make health decisions due to his dementia, a judge in Los Angeles concluded.

Long-time publicist Jean Sievers and manager LeeAnn Hard are his conservators. Two of his seven children, Carnie and Wendy Wilson, will be consulted by them.

Singer Britney Spears was famously in a court conservatorship for more than 13 years until 2021.

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# Dirty Don's reputation shot to hell

**J**I WAS 15 when President Kennedy was shot. I still remember hearing the news in our corner shop in Manchester, where I had been dispatched to buy cigarettes for my mother. I ran all the way home to tell my parents that JFK was on his way to hospital. They turned on our little black-and-white television just in time for what was probably the most shocking newflash of the second half of the 20th century.

"President Kennedy is dead." When I look back to that time these days, and the four, even five, decades that followed, it's with an almost wistful memory of what the American presidency seemed to stand for.

I say "seemed to" because despite JFK's glamorous yet dignified projection of power, we all know now that his private life was a sham and a shambles.

He was a serial love rat, cheating constantly on his beautiful First Lady, Jackie, and dependent on drugs (which he popped like sweeties to help control his chronic back pain).

But image was every-

thing. And despite the later scandals of Nixon's Watergate lies and Clinton's Lewinsky gropes, a certain dignity and authority lingered over the White House.

Reagan, whatever you thought of his policies and, in his second term, increasingly bumbling demeanour, did much to restore and possibly even embellish respect for the Oval Office.

Just look at it now.

Former President Trump – very possibly the next president – may well be behind bars by the time you read this: the judge in his criminal trial – a trial so sordid that some of the more explicit bedroom details have been censored by him – is virtually out of patience with Trump's contempt-of-court online rants.

The Donald is on a final warning. Trump doesn't even pretend to do dignity.

He's a ghastly, reality show cliché, puffed up by endless, graceless self-promotion and absurd ego. They say America always gets the president that it deserves. God knows what the good people of America have done to deserve Trump.



**R**PITY none of last week's Conservative candidates had a pithy one-liner to deliver in their speeches conceding defeat. Unlike crushed California Republican candidate Dick Tuck when he lost back in 1966. "The people have spoken," he acknowledged, before adding: "The bastards!"

I love a crisp one-liner. Properly constructed and delivered, a punchy epigram can last a lifetime. Tuck's outlived him. As did President Truman's bull's-eye sniper shot at a corrupt opponent: "His clear conscience is a clear sign of a bad memory."

One-liners don't have to be funny. Sometimes they're just wonderfully direct and effective. Churchill had one that he regularly used to scrawl in fountain pen at the bottom of wartime memos to civil servants or ministers. "ACTION THIS DAY!" He meant it too. (God knows we could do with some "action this day" mentality in government now. I interviewed a minister last week who was completely unable to explain why owners of horrific so-called "zombie knives" have been given six months to dispose of them before they become illegal).

But my favourite political quote came from Ronald Reagan, countering accusations he was too old to run for president.

"I will not make age an issue in this campaign. I will not exploit, for political gain, my opponent's youth and inexperience."  
Perfection.

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# Richard & Judy

BRITAIN'S BEST-LOVED HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM REFLECT ON THE WEEK'S EVENTS EVERY SATURDAY IN YOUR DAILY EXPRESS

Pictures: GETTY; CHANNEL 4

## Left saddled with selfish cyclists

**R**IT'S become the standard preface to any comment criticising cyclists, hasn't it? "I am not anti-cyclist." A bit like explaining you fully and genuinely support and respect trans people in their choices, before noting that sex is, as the NHS ruled last week, biological.

If anything, cyclists are even more touchy as a group than almost any other I can think of. And I'm a cyclist myself – I have two bikes, one for road use and a chunkier one for off-road.

But when I'm on the King's highway I ride like I drive – according to the law. I don't jump lights. I don't swerve up onto the pavement and weave through startled pedestrians when I arrive at a queue of traffic. I stop at pedestrian crossings; I don't sneak past people using them.

I have bright lights fitted, front and back, and I turn them on at night.

And I don't speed. The only limit I'm physically capable of breaking on my bike is the 20mph one.

True, I don't have a speedometer mounted on the handlebars but come on! It's pretty easy to judge one's speed on a bike. Just don't pedal flat out when you're in a 20 zone. Cruise a bit more calmly along in a middle gear and you know for sure you're safely below the limit.

One thing I DON'T do as a cyclist, because there's no provision for it. I don't fit registration plates. But you know what? I think all of us saddle-freaks SHOULD. We should be



**BRAKE THE CYCLE:** We owe it to Hilda Griffiths to change attitudes forever

compelled to, by law. And to have third party insurance. By law.

The tragic events that surfaced in court last week bear testimony to the near-lawless state that is much of modern-day cycling.

Eighty-one-year-old Hilda Griffiths was knocked down by a cyclist while walking her dog in 2022. The rider – banker Brian Fitzgerald – was travelling at speeds of up to 29mph in a 20mph zone of Regents Park. I know that road well. It's rigorously policed by traffic officers using hand-held speed cameras. It's really easy to pick up a ticket.

My daughter has received two fines there for drifting up to between 23 and 24mph. Fitzgerald was nudging 30 but speed limits do not

apply to cyclists. It's beyond obvious that they should do. Bikes can kill, just as can cars or vans. Ask Hilda Griffiths's family.

Fitzgerald was riding in a packed peloton doing timed laps of Regents Park's flat, circular road. Knowingly speeding, but knowingly breaking no laws.

It's mad.

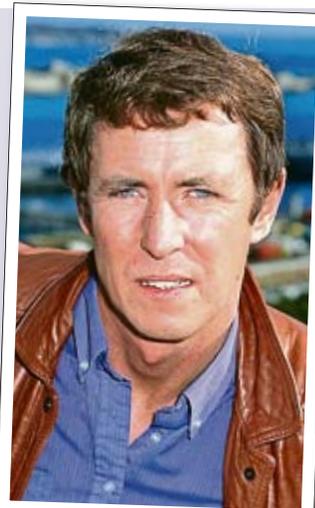
And even when cyclists DO break the law – riding without lights, for example (I almost killed one such idiot when driving in, yes, Regents Park last winter; he was in black clothing and all but invisible. I only saw him in the nick of time) they are rarely prosecuted.

Time for a fundamental change in attitude. We owe it to Hilda Griffiths.

**J** JOHN Nettles WAS detective Jim Bergerac. And with the return of the eponymous crime series set in Jersey, it's natural to ask Nettles who he thinks might play his character today.

After all, he is 80 now – though looking years younger – so with the best will in the world he's a bit long in the tooth to go charging around the Channel Islands chasing down killers.

"I have no idea," Nettles said this week. "To be honest, I can't imagine anyone playing him but me." Neither can I, John. Neither can I.



## Brain cells crack a nut

**R**I LOVED the story this week of the "floppy-haired" Oxbridge graduates who have been enrolling as prison officers and cracking the toughest nuts inside.

In one example, a hard-case regarded as the most dangerous on the landing began ranting at one graduate, screaming explicit details about the sundry ways he would hurt him on release.

The 20-something flipped the cell's observation flap open, looked in, and calmly said: "Firstly, brilliant creative ideas. Secondly, lots of people would pay for that sort of thing."

Apparently the whole wing started laughing and the tension was completely defused.

Brains versus brawn. Still works.

**R**MY friend Susie Dent has revealed that her favourite bathtime reading is the Oxford English Dictionary. She says she also uses it for her bedtime reading. I can see why. I just had a look at the Thesaurus definition of sleep. "Dormancy, doze, forty winks, repose, rest, shuteye, siesta, snooze, slumber, catnap, doze, drop off, out like a light..." Zzzzzzzzzzz... excuse me, I'm just going for a nap!

## SINGLE-SEX PUBLIC LAVATORIES SHOULD BE THE BOG STANDARD

**J**SINGLE-sex lavatories will soon become a legal requirement in all new restaurants, bars, shopping centres and offices. Good. It's about time. So-called "gender neutral" lavatories are an affront to basic dignity, safety and privacy.

Why? I'll tell you why – starting with another question: why do humans the world over retreat to privacy when they need to empty their bladders or bowels? The answer is simple: because, in evolutionary terms, these are the moments when we are at our most vulnerable to attack.

The expression: "Caught with their trousers

down" isn't just a jokey euphemism. It actually describes the reality of being especially open to assault at an unprotected moment.

Women, for obvious reasons, feel particularly vulnerable. Which is why we've been instinctively uneasy using mixed toilets ever since they were mistakenly introduced.

Frankly, we don't want men in the next cubicle. Or standing next to us while we wash our hands or re-apply make-up in the mirror.

We need our privacy and our sense of security. So three cheers for this new law. A welcome, if belated, return to common sense.

# 'The threat Russia poses is very urgent...we must be ready now'

BRITISH troops are leading Nato war games on Estonia's border with Russia in the alliance's largest military drill since the Cold War.

The Army has deployed its latest Apache AH-64E attack helicopters to spearhead the exercise, which also saw nearly 200 soldiers take part in a ground assault yesterday.

It is the first time on Nato drills for the newly serviced chopper.

The battlefield practice comes as tensions flare between the alliance and Russia after undeclared Kremlin spies were found in the UK, Estonia, Poland and Germany.

Brigadier Giles Harris, commander of the UK contribution to Nato's enhanced Forward Presence mission in Estonia and Poland, said after the exercise: "The threat Russia poses is very urgent.

"I'm not going to second guess what may or may not happen but as military personnel, our job is to be ready. There's no point waiting to get ready, we must be ready now.

"What is playing out in Ukraine

By **Tara Fair** in Estonia

provides us with the lessons we need to learn."

Brigadier Berry added: "Our mindset is, whether this threat is today, next year or in 10 years' time, we must make ourselves as ready as we can be right now."

Britons made up the lion's share of the Nato forces involved in yesterday's Apache helicopter and ground assault operation.

## Landmark

Some 130 out of 190 troops were from B Company 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment with the other 60 hailing from the US's 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, which operates out of its North Carolina HQ.

British Lieutenant Colonel David Lambert said: "This is a landmark moment. The training is genuinely as realistic as it gets.

"There is no artificiality in this,

it's just good training from the lowest level all the way to the top. We are ready to fight today."

In total, the 16 Air Assault Brigade Combat Team – the Army's global response unit – is leading a force of more than 2,300 soldiers, sailors and air crew from four countries who are working together in the Baltic republic.

The unit falls under "very high readiness" status, which means it can be deployed to anywhere in the world within five days.

Lt Col Lambert continued yesterday: "One of the greatest challenges is fighting through [inhospitable weather] conditions. We have to be ready to fly and fight in poor conditions, day or night and Apache is ready to do that."

The training is aimed at Nato's airborne forces building their ability to respond together to crises.

Exercise Swift Response includes 13,000 troops from 17 nations carrying out six co-ordinated airborne operations over the space of one



Combined op...Apache, airborne troops and patrol dog Oscar, inset

week in Estonia, Moldova, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Hungary and Italy.

Armed forces personnel told the Daily Express that a decades-long focus on counter-guerrilla insurgencies was now shifting to countering emerging threats such as Russia.

The show of force comes less than 24 hours after Russian President Vladimir Putin accused

the so-called "arrogant" West of risking a global conflict.

In a speech in Moscow's Red Square to mark the Soviet Union's part in defeating Nazi Germany in the Second World War, the tyrant warned that the nuclear power's "strategic forces" were combat ready and he accused the West of stoking tensions.

Brigadier Charles Harris told



Devastation...a destroyed cottage blazes in Kharkiv after a Russian missile strike

## Kharkiv pounded amid all

RUSSIA pounded Kharkiv with missiles, kamikaze drones and artillery yesterday amid signs that it will try to capture Ukraine's second city.

"We fear this is the start of a Kharkiv assault and that we will all perish here," said resident Olena Kurylo, who became known as the "face of the war" after her home was destroyed in the first moments of the conflict unleashed by Vladimir Putin.

Ms Kurylo, 54, said repeated overnight attacks meant residents were unable to sleep and that "we are at

By **Will Stewart**

the end of our tether from tiredness", adding: "This is their aim – to exhaust us and make us leave the city so they can take it."

## Maniac

But the defiant teacher – who was treated in Britain for damage to her eye in the first 2022 strikes – said: "We won't leave. This is our land. This is home."

Calling Putin a "deranged maniac", she added: "We've

got to stand up to him... even if the walls of my bathroom where I've been spending so many nights are the last thing I'll see."

A girl, 11, and woman, 72, were wounded overnight in Kharkiv and dozens of houses in residential areas were damaged.

Ukraine detained a suspected Russian spy for allegedly helping Moscow's armed forces locate targets.

Russia claimed it had struck ammunition stores and Ukrainian military personnel. The onslaught comes as

# WAR GAMES IN ESTONIA

Pictures: HUMPHREY NEMAR



**Frontline force...  
Nato troops in  
Estonia exercise**

reporters in Estonia: "Our aim here, very simply, is to defend every inch of this country's soil if required. And we're doing this with Estonia, on behalf of Nato, to protect our entire eastern flank."

"Living here with my family, I have come to understand what Nato and Estonia mean to each other, and we are a very, very powerful team."



**Teaching jobs...Berry**

## China spy rap duo told of trial

By **Helen William**

AN ex-parliamentary researcher and a teacher are to be tried next year accused of spying for China.

Christopher Cash, 29, from Whitechapel, East London, and Christopher Berry, 32, of Witney in Oxfordshire, face charges under the Official Secrets Act.

They appeared at the Old Bailey yesterday where Mr Justice Jeremy Baker told them their trial is "likely to be in the spring or summer of next year".

Cash and Berry spoke only to confirm their personal details. No pleas were given.

They were both given



**Tory links...Cash**

conditional bail to appear at the Old Bailey for a further hearing on October 4.

Cash worked as a researcher and was linked to senior Tories.

Berry had various teaching posts in China from 2015 and was arrested while on holiday in the UK.

Between January 2022 and February 2023, Cash is alleged to have "obtained, collected, recorded, published or communicated... information which were calculated to be, might be, or were intended to be, directly or indirectly, useful to an enemy".

Berry is accused of the same offence from December 2021 to February last year.

## out assault fears

Ukraine destroyed another oil refinery in Russia in a kamikaze drone attack.

Video footage showed an inferno at the First Plant facility in the Kaluga region.

A day earlier, Ukraine flew an attack drone across almost 950 miles of Russian territory to hit the giant Salavat plant in Bashkortostan.

The repeated attacks on oil installations reveal failures in Russian air defences and are damaging the economy and military fuel supplies.

In Kaluga, three huge tanks of diesel exploded after the

second attack on this refinery in two months.

Regional governor Vladislav Shapsha said: "The extent of damage to the enterprise is being assessed."

Ukraine also targeted the Bryansk, Kursk, Moscow and Belgorod regions, the Russians reported.

The fighting came as Putin reappointed low-key technocrat Mikhail Mishustin as his prime minister.

The career bureaucrat would become acting president if Putin were incapacitated.



**Aftermath...emergency services staff survey the damage in a Kharkiv suburb yesterday**



Facing jail...Chris Green

## Fake cop stopped woman in lane

By Robert Kellaway

A MOTORIST has been convicted of impersonating a police officer after he pulled over a woman on a country road.

Chris Green, 32, fitted blue lights to the inside of his Ford Fiesta and told her he worked for "law enforcement" when he stopped her in Box, Wiltshire. He fled when he saw she had a child in her car.

Green was found by police two days later when officers discovered he had a blue flashing dash light, a baseball bat and handcuffs.

He admitted impersonating an officer days after his arrest in May last year but then later changed his plea to not guilty.

Green, a security guard who was working at the Badminton Horse Trials, denied he had intentionally caused the woman to think he was an officer.

He was convicted at Swindon Magistrates' Court this week and now faces the prospect of a prison term. Green, from Peterborough, was freed on bail and will be sentenced next month.

# 'She deteriorated so quickly'...devastation over baby's death from whooping cough

Pictures: ITV

By Allister Hagger

THE shattered parents of a newborn girl who died of whooping cough last week have described her final days as "unreal".

Evie-Grace was just 15 days old when she succumbed to the illness, which has claimed five babies' lives amid a resurgence this year.

The mum and dad shared their story in the hope it will help others to recognise the symptoms of the bacterial infection.

Reece Lewis, sitting next to his girlfriend Caitlin, told how their baby's condition "deteriorated so quickly" just a week after she was born.

He said she was "perfectly fine" for her first few days but went rapidly downhill after becoming infected with whooping cough, which is also known as pertussis.

Infections are cyclical, peaking every three to five years, and in the first four months of 2024 there have been three times more cases than in the whole of last year.

Reece told ITV: "It was around day seven when we really started to worry. The worrying sign is when they are coughing, going bright red and going silent."

The infection typically starts with cold-like symptoms, before progressing into nasty coughing bouts, characterised by a distinctive whooping sound sufferers often make as they gasp for breath between coughs.

Reece said of his daughter: "The



Grief-stricken...Caitlin and Reece talk about their daughter Evie-Grace, inset, who died on May 3



first cough would be a normal cough and then she would go silent and you could hear that she's so blocked up that she couldn't get the cough out, she's struggling to breathe and going bright red.

"In the last two to three days of her life, it was when it really went bad and she just deteriorated so quickly - it was unreal." She died on May 3.

Before she was born, her mum had taken the whooping cough vaccina-

tion offered to all pregnant women. Babies are also routinely vaccinated as part of their six-in-one injections at eight, 12 and 16 weeks.

The jab reduces the risk of illness considerably - but sadly for Caitlin and her daughter it wasn't enough.

### Dangerous

Since 2012, some 26 infants in the UK have died from the illness - with 21 of these being born to unvaccinated mothers. Evie-Grace's parents said they were unaware of how dan-

gerous whooping cough could be. So far this year more than 2,700 cases have been reported with 1,319 in March alone, according to the UK Health Security Agency.

There were 858 cases during the whole of 2023.

The first signs are similar to a cold, with a runny nose and sore throat.

After about a week, the infection can develop into coughing bouts that last a few minutes and are typically worse at night. The NHS website urges parents to seek advice from their GP or to call 111.



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# MURDER OF ROOKIE POLICEWOMAN

Pictures: ANDY STENNING; SWNS

## TIMELINE OF PC KILLING

**NOVEMBER 18, 2005:** PC Sharon Beshenivsky was killed and her colleague PC Teresa Milburn was seriously injured after they were shot during an armed robbery at Universal Express, Bradford.

**NOVEMBER 25:** Police name brothers Mustaf Jama, 25, and Yusuf Jama, 19, and Muzzaker Shah, 24, as suspects.

**DECEMBER 12:** Shah arrested in Newport, South Wales.

**DECEMBER 13:** Yusuf Jama arrested in Birmingham.

**DECEMBER 18, 2006:** Yusuf Jama and Muzzaker Shah sentenced to life with a minimum term of 35 years. A third man, Faisal Razzaq, 25, is cleared of murder but found guilty of manslaughter. He is sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of 11 years.

**MARCH 2, 2007:** Hassan Razzaq, 26, brother of Faisal, convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison. Raza Ul-Haq Aslam sentenced to eight years in prison for robbery.

**NOVEMBER 1:** Mustaf Jama extradited from Somalia after a Home Office probe.

**NOVEMBER 2:** Mustaf Jama was charged with PC Beshenivsky's murder. Hewan Gordon jailed for 18 months for helping Shah evade capture

**JULY 22, 2009:** Mustaf Jama was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life in prison with a minimum term of 35 years behind bars.

**2014:** Police offer £20,000 reward for Piran Ditta Khan.

**JANUARY 14, 2020:** Police arrest Khan in Pakistan after an investigation by the National Crime Agency.

**APRIL 12, 2023:** Khan extradited to UK.

**APRIL 4, 2024:** Khan convicted of murder at Leeds Crown Court.

**MAY 10:** Khan is jailed for life with a minimum term of 40 years.



Shot dead...PC Sharon Beshenivsky

By **Paul Jeeves**  
Crime Editor

THE man who masterminded the bungled armed robbery on a travel agency that ended in the fatal shooting of PC Sharon Beshenivsky will die behind bars.

Grandfather Piran Ditta Khan, 75, evaded justice for almost two decades but yesterday was jailed for at least 40 years for her murder.

The officer's youngest child Lydia was celebrating her fourth birthday on November 18, 2005, when her mother was killed.

Now 22, she told Leeds Crown Court she recalls asking when her mum was coming home.

Addressing Khan, she said: "There will always be a void in my life – a void that should have been filled with my mum's presence.

"Every birthday is a reminder of what happened that day."

Her father Paul said telling the

## 'Every birthday is a reminder of what happened that day'

children was "the hardest thing I have ever had to do".

He added: "She never came home due to the organisation of one person – Piran Ditta Khan."

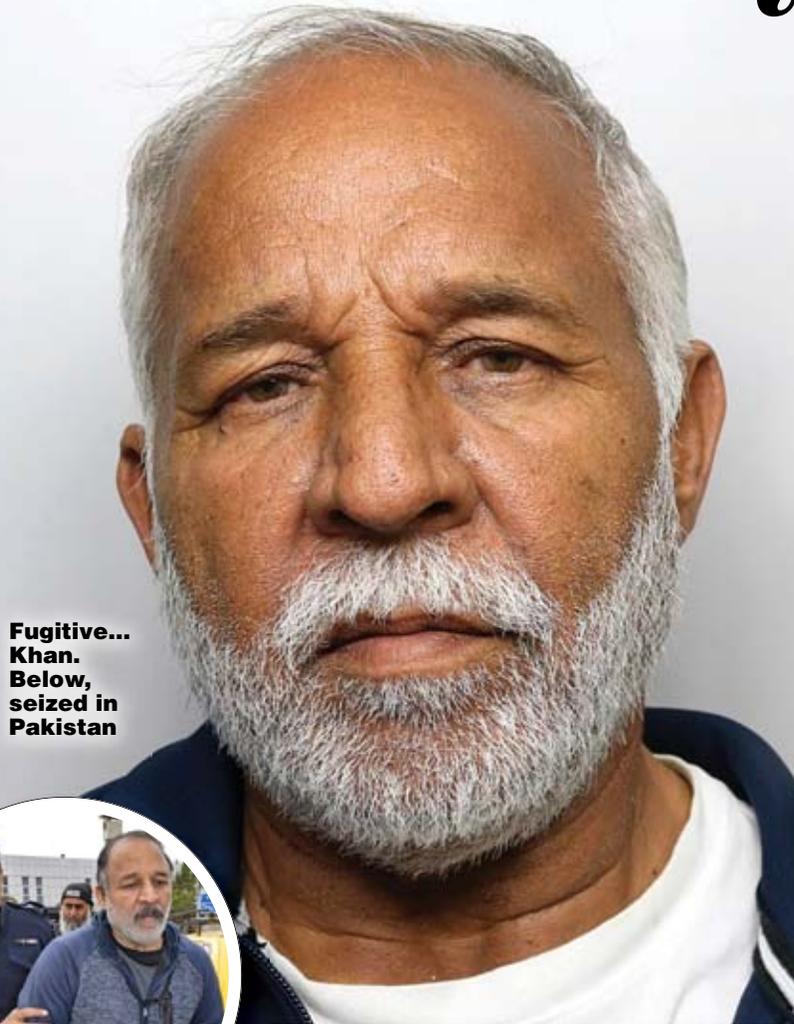
The curry house boss recruited six North London gangsters to target the Universal Express travel agency in Bradford.

Detectives arrested the other robbers but he fled the UK in January 2006 days before being linked by mobile phone records.

The father of two abandoned his family in Ilford, East London, for his native Pakistan where investigators believe he had a "life of misery" avoiding extradition.

A trial last month was told how Khan plotted the raid that ended with PC Beshenivsky, 38, being gunned down at point-blank

# PC Sharon's killer jailed for at least 40 years



Fugitive... Khan. Below, seized in Pakistan



range and PC Teresa Milburn, 37, badly injured.

The gang had believed they would grab £100,000 but pocketed just £5,400.

Killers Muzzaker Shah and brothers Yusuf and Mustaf Jama came face-to-face with the two unarmed officers. One fired as they fled.

The ex-childminder was shot through the heart and died on the pavement. Khan meanwhile did not leave his lookout car. He remained a

free man until his arrest in Pakistan in 2020. But it took a further three-year battle to get him extradited to stand trial, the final member of the gang to face justice.

The others were convicted of offences including murder, manslaughter and robbery.

Jailing him yesterday, Mr Justice Hilliard said there would be "an inevitable consequence of someone his age committing an act like this".

He told him despite his failing health he would spend the rest of his life in a prison cell.



Lays memorial flowers...Lydia

## 'Mum never returned for my birthday'

By **Paul Jeeves**

SHARON Beshenivsky had set off to work in her new role as a police officer with a spring in her step.

She had found happiness with second husband Paul and spent the previous evening preparing for her youngest daughter Lydia's fourth birthday the next day.

Sharon, who had three children and two stepchildren aged from four to 16, including Lydia and son Paul junior by her husband, was planning the Friday night party at their farmhouse in Keighley.

Her last words to her husband were: "Make sure you're home early." He was, but she never arrived.

## Photos

Daughter Lydia, now 22 and a keen equestrian, is working at a stables but friends say she wants to join the police, possibly the mounted section.

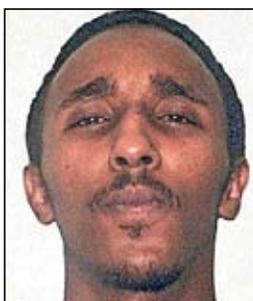
Lydia says memories of her mum are scant. She said: "There's just a hole where she used to be and no memories to fill it."

Every year Lydia marks her birthday by laying flowers at her mother's police memorial in Bradford.

Paul Jr, who was seven, said: "I look at photos and recall some things but there's not much else."

Their dad married Michelle Sherbourne, the childminder who cared for his young family after Sharon's death.

## Persistence paid off with final jigsaw piece



Snatched...Jama

GANG boss Piran Ditta Khan was the second to be convicted of the officer's murder following an extradition.

Gun-toting killer Mustaf Jama wore a burkha and veil and used his sister's passport to fly out of Heathrow in the 2005 Christmas holidays.

But armed Somalis in 2007 were paid by Britain to snatch him near the Somaliland village where his father was a warlord. He was jailed in 2009 for a minimum of 35 years.

Andy Brennan's West Yorkshire Police

By **Paul Jeeves**

team then set about capturing the final piece in the jigsaw – Khan.

Det Supt Brennan said: "The murder of a UK police officer is a really rare occurrence but sadly in Pakistan it's far too common. So when we were badgering they would say, 'Yeah, we understand it's important but we had 12 police officers killed just last week'."

He added: "Eventually they understood we were never going to go away."

# Mad cow disease case found on UK farm after tests

By Sarah Ward

A CASE of BSE has been confirmed on a farm following routine testing.

A halt on cattle movements has been imposed at the site in Ayrshire, where the case of classical bovine spongiform encephalopathy – known as mad cow disease – was identified.

The infected animal's offspring have been quarantined and will be culled as a precaution.

Officials say the animals did not enter the human food chain and the owners were praised for their quick response.

Three other farms with connections to the case also imposed restrictions. Chief veterinary officer Sheila Voas said the risk to the public was "minimal".

Cattle over four years of age that die on a farm are routinely tested for BSE.

Millions were culled in the 1990s during an epidemic. Strict controls were introduced after it was linked to a fatal human brain condition called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

The last case of an atypical BSE was in Cornwall in March last year.

Ian McWatt, Food Standards Scotland deputy chief executive, said: "There are strict controls in place to protect consumers from the risk of BSE.

"Consumers can be reassured that these important protection measures remain in place and that Food Standards Scotland veterinarians and meat hygiene inspectors working in all abattoirs will continue to ensure the safety of consumers remains a priority."



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# rest of their and daylight'



Controversy...the gentoo penguin facility at Sea Life London Aquarium

## Campaigners call for colony to be removed from 'basement'

AQUARIUM bosses should use the "enormous revenue" earned by exhibiting gentoo penguins to rehome them into a sanctuary, campaigners have demanded.

Freedom for Animals wants Sea Life London Aquarium and its parent firm Merlin Entertainments to release a colony of 15 penguins living in an enclosure it claims has no natural light.

The animal welfare organisation has also claimed the "basement" enclosure allows them to dive to only 7ft – a far cry from the 600ft in the wild.

Dr Andrew Kelly, director of Freedom for Animals, said: "The penguins currently held captive in Sea Life Aquariums deserve to live their full lives in the wild where they belong.

"This is sadly not a possibility for these animals as captive breeding makes them unsuitable for wild release.

"We believe there is no conservation or educational justification breeding and exhibiting these or any other penguins. The next best option for the Sea Life penguins is rehoming to a genuine sanctuary, preferably a Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries accredited organisation where they can experience fresh air and daylight.

"It is the responsibility of Sea Life and Merlin Entertainments, as businesses with enormous revenue gained by exhibiting animals, to use

**EXCLUSIVE**

By **Steph Spyro** Environment Editor

that revenue to create that sanctuary space and repair the problem."

The campaigners, who have launched a petition demanding the penguins' release, said Sea Life already uses its resources to move penguins all around the world to "breed the next generation of exhibits".

Dr Andrew said: "Freedom for Animals is requesting one last move for these penguins – out of small dark basements and into a suitable environment where they can live out the rest of their lives."

The Undertones star Feargal Sharkey and environmental activist Dr Mya-Rose Craig are among campaigners backing the quest to free the penguins.

A Sea Life spokesman said: "The welfare of all the animals in our care is of paramount importance to us and we are committed to delivering the highest levels of care.

"The gentoo penguin habitat was designed with advice from specialist vets. It provides an excellent balance of water and land for the penguins, which enables them to express their normal behaviours and there is space to ensure sufficient privacy."

● To sign the petition to free the gentoo penguins, visit [tinyurl.com/jfa-penguins](http://tinyurl.com/jfa-penguins)



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# Sailor 'hurt by captain's table' sues MoD

By Paul Keogh

A FORMER sailor is suing the Ministry of Defence for £500,000 after a captain's table "fell" on her.

Joleen Williams, 38, says her naval career was ended by the incident, which caused "neck pain, headaches, low mood and spinal instability".

It allegedly happened when HMS St Albans made an unplanned 180-degree turn in rough seas off the south coast in October 2014.

Ms Williams, a leading medical assistant (LMA) from Poole in Dorset, was medically discharged due to back problems in December 2017. She now works in finance and told Central



Travelling in rough seas...HMS St Albans

London County Court she had been ordered to eat at the table of her commanding officer Catherine Jordan.

"After we had finished the last course, but the table had still to be cleared, the ship rolled unexpectedly to starboard," she said. "I was thrown

backwards with my back against the filing cabinet. The table tipped over on to me, pinning me against the drawers.

"The plates and cutlery on the table came crashing down on me. I remember the commanding officer calling up to the bridge and telling them, 'What the hell are you doing up there? You just took out our LMA'."

Barrister Richard Seabrook, for the MoD, denied liability for the injuries and said a warning "pipe" had been sounded to alert sailors to the turn – something Ms Williams disputes – and the table was "adequately secured".

He claimed she was at fault for not doing enough to stabilise herself after the pipe. The case continues.



Claim... Joleen Williams outside court

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# Robber just out of prison killed busker Thomas, 87

By Emily Pennink and Owen Scott

A HUNGER Games-obsessed former prisoner has been locked up indefinitely for killing a mobility scooter user five days after his release.

Lee Byer was psychotic when he stabbed busker Thomas O'Halloran, 87, in the neck and chest in West London, in August 2022.

He had recently been released from Wormwood Scrubs, having served 12 years for robbery.

Byer later wrote repeatedly about a Hunger Games scenario in which he had to fight "contestants", the Old Bailey heard.

Prosecutor Gareth Patterson KC had told the court: "From accounts from his mother and brother, there was odd behaviour but at that stage the full nature and degree of his mental illness had not been diagnosed."

Byer, 45, of no fixed address, had denied murder. But he admitted manslaughter by diminished responsibility, and having an offensive weapon. Reports said he was psychotic, heard voices and suffered from paranoid delusions and paranoid schizophrenia.

Imposing a hospital order with restrictions, Judge Mark Lucraft KC said yesterday this was a "savagely" killing of a "much-loved" man. He noted concerns over Byer's mental health were raised in 2020 when there were reports he was hearing voices and tried to take his own life.

Mr O'Halloran's grandson Dennis Lintern said he was a "gentle, loving, man who spent his life working and helping everyone he could". He



Knife victim..Thomas O'Halloran and psychotic killer Lee Byer, left



added: "He was minding his own business doing what he loved, playing his accordion to make people smile and enjoy his music, which he had done for many years."

The ex-maintenance man, originally from Ireland, was well known in Greenford where he busked to raise charity funds for Ukraine. On the afternoon of August 16, 2022 he was seen on CCTV heading home with his accordion and collection box.

Prosecutor Mr Patterson said: "His path took him past this defendant, who was walking the streets in possession of a large knife. He in no way posed any kind of threat to anyone."

"Yet Tom O'Halloran was attacked and stabbed repeatedly."

Pictures: SWNS



'Good fun'...Frank Barker

## Motorbike fan's £80k for crash air medics

By Chris Riches

A RETIRED undertaker has stunned paramedics at an air ambulance charity by leaving it £80,000 in his will.

Motorcycle fan Frank Barker was grateful to the local helicopter crews for rushing to the aid of bikers injured in road accidents.

His cousin's son Bryan Ingall said: "He was always keen on the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) because it's quite close to a lot of motorcyclists' hearts."

Bryan's mum Sally added: "It's nice to know Frank's contribution will help GNAAS continue to operate. If the money saves anybody's lives that's wonderful." Frank,



Gift...Bryan, left, &amp; Sally

who died aged 92 in 2022, had his own joinery and undertaker business and spent most of his life in Calderbridge, Cumbria, apart from two years' national service.

Bryan said: "His passion was motorbikes and always had been since he was a young man, after he came back from the RAF.

"He built a few classic race bikes which were used by a number of people and he used to go to the Manx Grand Prix and TT races in the Isle of Man."

He kept several motorbikes at his home, added Sally, who visited GNAAS's base in Langwathby, Penrith, to hand over the cheque.

She said: "Frank was a lovely fella, good fun and good for the craic because his age meant he could remember really far back."

# Snooker world champ loses in local pool league



Hero...Kyren welcomed home to the Argyll Club. Below, the champ at 13. Right, with sons Finley and Bailey

By Ed Chatterton

KYREN Wilson turned out to play for his local pool team less than 48 hours after winning the Snooker World Championship – and he lost.

The player dubbed The Warrior was given a hero's welcome when he returned to the Argyll Club on the backstreets of his hometown of Kettering, Northants.

Members greeted Kyren with a guard of honour as he paraded the famous 98-year-old Silver Lady trophy.

But the 32-year-old could not repeat the heroics of beating Welshman Jak Jones 18-14 and crashed to defeat in a local pool league match.

Kyren admitted he had not had much sleep since celebrating his first Triple Crown tournament win on Monday at The Crucible in Sheffield.

## Crashed

He said: "It's amazing, seeing some of the videos of the guys watching the final, it's the least I could do bringing them the Silver Lady.

"I went to the after-party about midnight, that saw me through to breakfast. I stole my best mate's bed. I just crashed at about 8 o'clock in the morning. I could have fallen asleep on the floor."

Kyren has kept such a firm grip on the trophy that his cue arm is suffering, with him saying: "I've got shooting pains in my right arm."

His brother Taylor proudly had a new tattoo in his brother's honour reading "World Champion 2024" with a crown and sword. Kyren is to get a matching design, adding: "It's a part of history that no one can take away from me."



# Dealer threw £285k of heroin onto motorway

A DRUG dealer who threw £285,000 worth of heroin on to a busy motorway during a police chase has been jailed.

Neil Corrigan, 42, dangerously weaved through traffic before driving the wrong way around a roundabout and smashing through a barrier at an airport.

Dramatic video footage showed Corrigan throwing a large bag of the class A drug out of the truck he was driving. Police later discovered the substance to be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

After crashing through the parking barrier at Manchester Airport, he comes to a dead end

By Chris Riches

before racing away on foot. Footage from a police helicopter shows Corrigan, pictured, running through the grounds of the airport before an officer catches up to him.

Corrigan, of Scarborough, North Yorks, turns to confront the officer, who arrests him.

He was sentenced to five years in prison at Chester Crown Court. He has also been banned from driving for five years.

Cheshire Police said he had earlier pleaded guilty to being concerned in the supply of class A drugs, dangerous driving, failing to stop and driving

without insurance. The court heard that on March 5, officers attempted to stop a white Mercedes van driven by Corrigan on the M56, near Warrington.

He failed to stop and threw a large package out of the window before making off at speed.

Officers subsequently returned to the M56 where they recovered two brown packages, each containing 1kg of heroin.

Another two brown bags were also recovered, containing the remnants of a large amount of heroin which had spilt over the carriageway.

Chief Inspector John Forshaw said: "This is another fantastic result which has led to the removal of a large quantity of illegal drugs from the streets."



Shock...drug bag was thrown into road

Pictures: JONATHAN BRADY/PA

## EXCLUSIVE By Nick McGrath

**W**ITH his understated Glaswegian brogue and jocular delivery, Ken Bruce was a central part of the BBC's fabric from the day he joined Radio 4 Scotland as a staff announcer in 1977, to the moment he was unceremoniously ushered out of Broadcasting House for the final time on March 3, 2023.

Despite attracting 8.7 million listeners with his genial mid-morning show – 1.2 million more than his more celebrated Radio 2 colleague Zoe Ball attracted to her breakfast show and, at that time, the largest audience on British radio – BBC bosses opted not to renew the amiable septuagenarian's contract. It left him with little alternative but to nurse his bruised ego and jump ship to rival commercial station, Greatest Hits Radio.

His departure ended on a slightly sour note after he was asked to leave before the end of his contract, reportedly because bosses feared he was using his time on air as “free advertising” for his new rival show.

But a year later, with nearly two million of his loyal listeners having followed him and his trademarked PopMaster contest to his new home – and the second series of the television version of his legendary music quiz due to return to More4 on Monday – it's clear he couldn't be happier.

So, 13 months on, how does the buoyant 73-year-old, who took over from Terry Wogan on the Radio 2 Breakfast Show in 1985, before assuming his customary mid-morning slot on the station in 1990, reflect on his much-debated exit?

“Well, all in all, I was at the BBC for 46 years, mostly doing the same thing and, yes, you do become institutionalised, but I'm a great believer in the BBC,” he says, gamely. “I think it's a terrific organisation and we would be much poorer culturally in this country without it, but nobody needs to stay in the same place for 40-odd years.”

Bruce, it emerges, remains remarkably sanguine about his exit, even if it left fans gnashing their teeth in frustration at the corporation. “I was always really happy there, but when I got towards the end of those years, I was starting to think I'd been there too long,” he continues.

“I didn't want to become embittered, or a little bit sour about the place and feel out of place and I was just getting that feeling in the back of my mind that I wasn't as comfortable as I had been, say, five years before.

“So, I thought, ‘Maybe before any of that sourness or bitterness creeps in, get out, move on to something else’. I just didn't want to go away from the place under a cloud or think, ‘You know what, my last years were not happy ones’. I wanted to remember everything as being a happy time, which it was, but I wanted to try something new.”

**D**ESPITE having the same employers for nearly half a century, the twice-divorced father-of-six, who lives in Oxfordshire with his third wife Kerith Coldham, has taken his new role in his stride. “I've been at Greatest Hits Radio just over a year and it's gone really, really, quickly and it actually feels like I've been here for years and years.

“It's very comfortable. I seem to fit in with the rest of the station nicely and it just feels right to be here. It's become a new home already. A home from home.

“And I have to say, I've surprised myself how easily I've slotted into a different station, but I suppose I'm doing much the same kind of programme. It's in a different place, with a different audience and a slightly dif-

ferent style but it's gone really well.” Bruce's Radio 2 successor, Vernon Kay, a former male model and wooden panel cutter, and Mr Tess Daly, hasn't quite found his feet in the mid-morning slot, losing 1.3 million listeners, with some disgruntled listeners labelling him, “bland”, “irritating”, and “lacking any discernible talent”. While Bruce, ever the diplomat, refuses to denigrate Kay, he does admit that he hasn't listened to his show.

“I've not heard his programme as we're on at the same time,” he says. “But he's a lovely guy. Of course, he's a lovely guy.” So, what

# I'm still a great believer in the BBC... even though they axed me after 46 years

Ken Bruce's remarkable sanguinity towards his former employer might have something to do with the two million loyal listeners who've followed him to his new berth at Greatest Hits Radio. The broadcasting legend talks avoiding bitterness, being a perennial outsider and why an MBE has afforded some long-awaited recognition



**SURPRISED:** With his MBE at Buckingham Palace last October

advice would Bruce, whose Greatest Hits Radio show gained 1.6 million listeners in the final quarter of 2023 to reach a daily audience of 3.8 million, give his younger radio pretender?

“I wouldn't dare give advice to anybody, young or old,” he chuckles. “Nobody needs advice really, apart from just do the best you can. Vernon is an experienced broadcaster, and I certainly wouldn't give any advice to any broadcaster, because they're all doing what they do. Good broadcasting is all about being yourself.” Bruce may not listen to

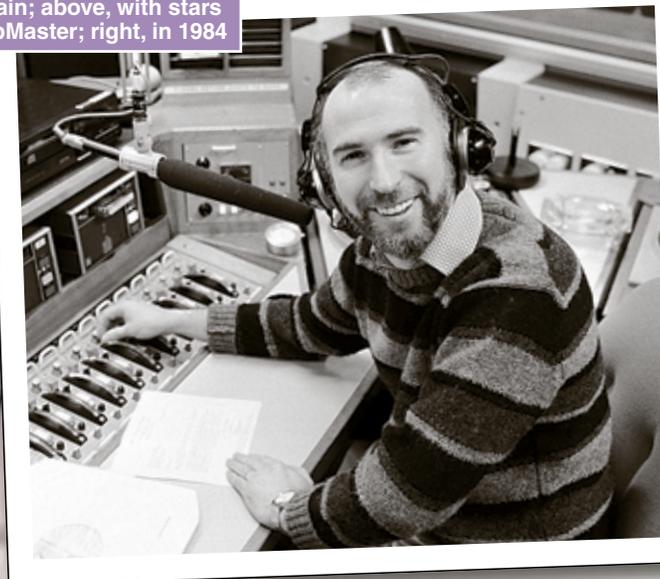
Vernon Kay's show, but he does cross paths with him in person on a regular basis.

“I actually bump into Vernon quite often, because he gets the same train as I do in the morning. I see him on the platform in London and we have a quick chat – we chew the fat – and wish each other farewell then go off to our respective studios.”

One of Bruce's bugbears, when his BBC adventure stuttered to a premature halt, was that the station's bosses hadn't fully acknowledged the scale of his success. Speaking earlier this year, he said: “I didn't want any



**DULCET TONES:** Glaswegian DJ Ken Bruce, main; above, with stars on TV quiz PopMaster; right, in 1984



**'When my show became the biggest on radio, I didn't want to say anything, but I kind of thought the BBC should'**

hoo-ha, so when my show became the biggest show on radio, I didn't want to say anything about it, but I kind of thought the BBC should. I wasn't expecting to be carried on a litter with people strewing palms in front of me, but I thought, 'Surely that's worth a mention?'

Public acknowledgement came in October last year when he was awarded an MBE for services to broadcasting and charity, a day he'll treasure forever.

"It's very nice to have a little recognition," says Bruce, of his day at Buckingham Palace,

where he received his honour from the Princess Royal. "It was so great to meet Princess Anne, who did the investiture, and it was lovely because it came totally out of the blue, although my wife knew about it for a few weeks beforehand.

"I've always been a bit under the radar so it was a total surprise and there was a moment where I thought, 'Should I accept this?' but it was only a fleeting moment and I immediately said yes. And what was so impressive on the day was that the Princess knew all about me, all about PopMaster and

me going to Greatest Hits Radio and all about my work with autism charities.

"She'd clearly been doing her homework on me, and on all the other people being honoured that day, and I thought it was really admirable."

And as a fully-fledged national treasure, does Bruce now feel very much part of the establishment? "Not at all. I've always considered myself to be an outsider, and that hasn't changed," he smiles. "I always think about Groucho Marx's quote about not wanting to be part of any club that would

have him as a member and I feel that the best work I can do is from being slightly outside of everything and not part of any establishment. I like to be just a little on the outside of things."

Away from broadcasting, Bruce is an active campaigner for autism charities, inspired by his 20-year-old son Murray, who has the condition. The pair appeared in a 2023 BBC documentary, *Inside Our Autistic Minds*, with wildlife presenter Chris Packham.

**B**RUCE works tirelessly to raise awareness about the debilitating condition. He says: "Yesterday I hosted an awards ceremony for a charity called Dimensions, for people with disabilities – either learning disabilities or any kind of disability – who are going out in the community and doing inspirational things for other disabled people and helping them, but also demonstrating that it's possible to do great things even though you have some disadvantages and also possible to still make a useful contribution to society.

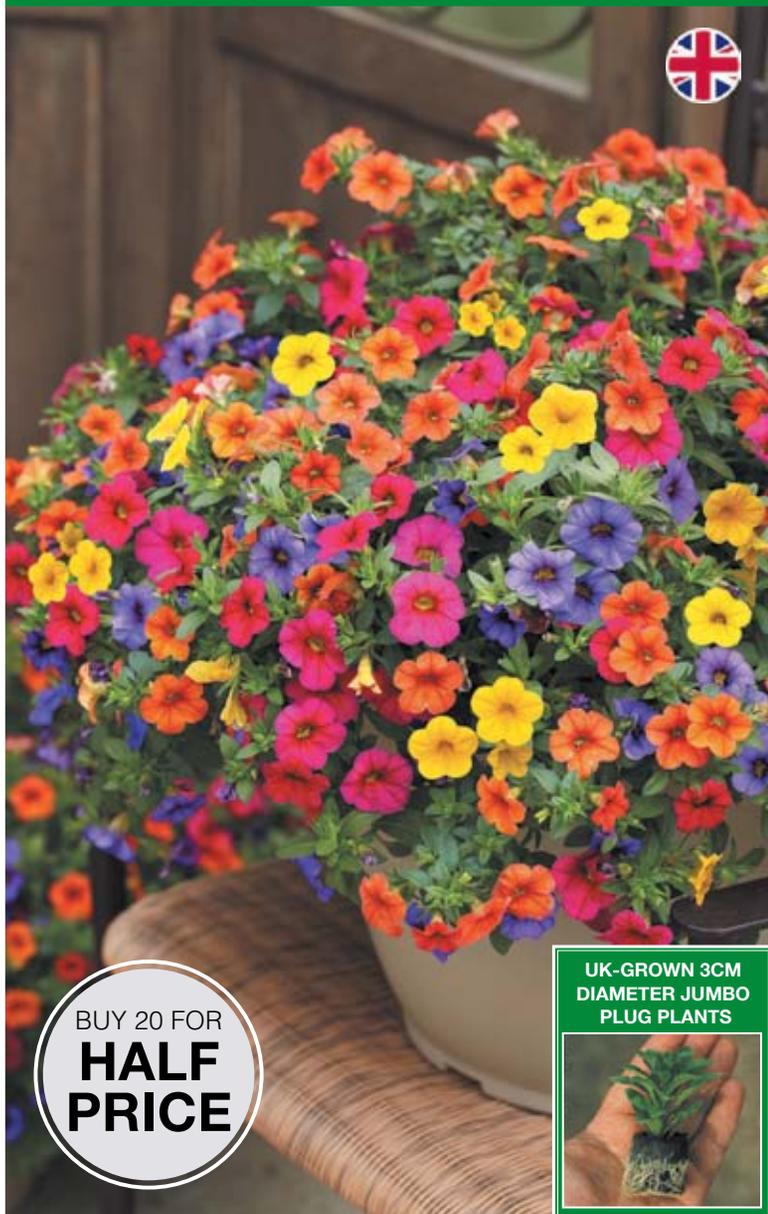
"It's really a heartwarming thing to be able to do and they are fantastic people. Everybody is so impressive, and it's a privilege to be part of the community."

The future for Bruce promises, perhaps unsurprisingly, more of the same. "People ask me how I've kept going so long and the truth is, I have no idea why. And no idea why what I do has remained in some way useful or popular. I don't really know what I do or how I do it. I just know it seems to work.

"So, my aim is to stay in broadcasting as long as I can and not change a thing."

● *PopMaster TV!* is live on More4 at 9pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and streaming from Monday

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**Bloomin' tasty...  
Mediterranean  
spur-thighed  
tortoise Edgar, by  
Jonathan Casey  
of Wymondham  
in Norfolk**

# Snap, cackle,



**Off down  
the Nag's  
Head...  
David  
Kertzman  
of Rio de  
Janeiro  
turns in a  
mysterious  
entry**



**Let's face it, you're not a cat...Sarah Haskell from Baldock,  
Herts, found her dogged spaniel Hector in a bit of a flap**



**Tee hee-haw...Charlotte Kitchen of  
Kent took this as Benji the donkey  
seemed to find something funny**

## COMEDY PHOTO AWARDS



**Ninja cat...**  
Kazutoshi Ono captured this Tarzan impression in Miyagi Sendai, Japan

**Eye spy...**  
Bernard Sim snapped his golden doodle catching a treat in Singapore



**Paw Freddie...**Alina Vogel of Gifhorn, Germany, entered this picture of her late golden hamster as 'the last honour I want to pay my little friend'

# popular: top fun pet pics

By **Robert Kellaway**

**NEVER** mind watch the birdie – it's cats, horses and dogs that have caught the eye of judges in this year's Comedy Pet photo awards.

The final shortlist of 30 entries will be whittled down to one who will receive the £500 prize when the winner is announced on June 6.

The judges include TV presenters Kate Humble and Mel Giedroyc, TV vet Emma Milne plus professional pet photographer and former competition winner Elke Vogelsang.

Our selection of the finalists includes a cat seemingly stuck in a wall, a kung fu dog, an apparently headless horse...and what looks like a very happy donkey.

Photographers Paul Joynson-Hicks and Tom Sullam created the competition to celebrate the role that pets have in our lives and to encourage good animal welfare.

The images, picked out for photographic quality as well as comedic value, are now undergoing some serious scrutiny from the judging panel.

All 30 finalists will also be eligible for the People's Choice category, where the public get to vote for their favourite funny pet photo.

The vote at [comedypetphoto.com](http://comedypetphoto.com) closes on June 2. One voter, chosen at random, will win a £100 cash prize.



**Ginger ninja...**this magical moggy appeared to be doing a vanishing trick when spotted by Kenichi Morinaga in Fukuoka, Japan



**Fur flies...**Sylvia Michel's white Swiss shepherd dog takes to the air in Toggenburg, Switzerland



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● ... fit all this around you and your lifestyle

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To find your nearest Slimming World group, visit [slimmingworld.co.uk](http://slimmingworld.co.uk) or [slimmingworld.ie](http://slimmingworld.ie), or call 0344 897 8000 or 01 656 9696.

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Consultant code: ..... Group code: .....

Please sign to confirm that the member has joined:

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# Chill out with your glass of red...literally

IS THERE anything more refreshing than a cool glass of white or rosé on a warm day? Well, yes - how about a glass of cool red? Because not all reds benefit from being served at room temperature or slightly above. Some come to life in a delightful way after a gentle chilling, making them ideal spring and summer wines.

The operative word is chilled, not cold. Half an hour or so in the fridge is generally enough to freshen the flavours. And, of course, not all reds are suitable. Chilling emphasises acidity and tannins while muting aroma and flavour. So avoid big wines like cabernet sauvignon, shiraz and malbec - as they'll taste bitter and acidic - and expensive complex wines, as the subtle flavours may be lost. Reds to chill with are typically lower in alcohol, fruity and lighter-bodied, not too tannic, and with a fresh acidity that serving cool brings out.

Light-bodied gamays and pinot noirs respond well to chilling. The former tends to have a fruity, fresh taste with red fruit flavours and is traditionally drunk chilled. Pinot noir is similar but can have more earthy tones, so go for less expensive Burgundies and New World examples.

Inexpensive Italian wines like Valpolicella are bright and tangy with red fruit flavours and are much better cool than warm. And grapes like frappato from Sicily or dornfelder from Germany are also best served cool.

Chilled red wine goes well with lighter meats like chicken, duck or cold poached salmon and charcuterie. It pairs well with most pasta dishes, cheeses and picnic food. So try chilling out with some cool reds as the weather improves.

## COOL REDS FOR YOUR FRIDGE

**1 Vin Nature à Butiner Beaujolais-Villages 2021 (from £10.68, 13.5%)**

This charming French gamay wine delivers a fabulous floral bouquet (violets to the fore), oodles of red fruits on the palate and a smooth finish with delicate tannins. Available from Eden Fine Wines, Terroir Vines, Ellies Cellar and Stroud Wine Co.

**2 Co-op Irresistible Carménère 2021/2 (£8, 13.5%)**

Deep red with lashings of blackcurrant, cherry and just a hint of vanilla, this Chilean Carménère is another wine that responds to chilling. Subtle and spicy. Available from The Co-op.

**3 Veramonte Merlot 2018 (£10, 14%)**

Another Chilean red, this time majoring on blackberry and raspberry on the palate, spicy notes with a hint of currant on the nose and a long finish, with a touch of oak. Currently reduced from £12.50. Available from Ocado.

**4 Geyerhof StockWerk Zweigelt, Kremstal 2021 (£13.50, 12%)**

A juicy Austrian red with notes of plum, cherry, raspberry and just a hint of rose petal that goes down smoothly with a fresh finish. Quite delicious. Available from The Wine Society.

**5 Kokotos Three Hills Agiorgitiko 2021 (£14, 12.5%)**

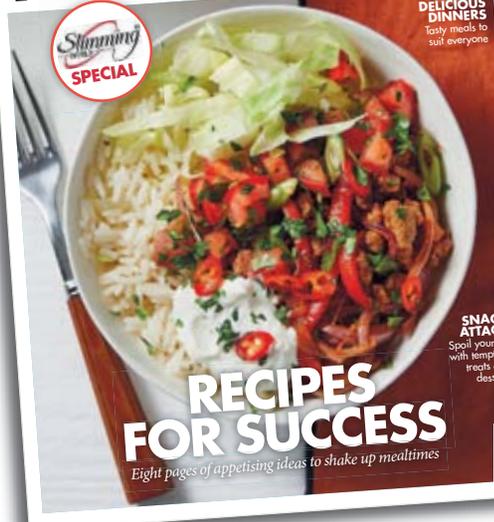
There's no tragedy in this elegant, light Greek red, just subtle aromas of strawberry and rose petals and a dry, lip-smacking finish with the merest hint of oak. A handful of cabernet sauvignon grapes add to the blend. Available from Maltby & Greek.

**6 Wakefield Estate Label Merlot 2020 (£14, 14%)**

Black cherries, strawberries and a hint of chocolate on the nose make this medium-bodied merlot worth a try. And it really comes into its own with a long, fruit-filled finish - think plum and cherries. Available from Sandhams Wine, Vivino and Click N Drink.



## HEALTHY EATING



## SLIM FOR SUMMER

**5 DAY EATING PLAN INSIDE TOMORROW'S**

**SUNDAY EXPRESS**



Founder...Dan Neidle

## Fine wine hidden in small print is claimed

By **David Pilditch**

A BOTTLE of fine wine has finally been claimed three months after it was hidden as a prize in a website's small print.

It was a test to see if anyone reads it.

The eagle-eyed winner was rewarded with a 10-year-old bottle of Chateau de Sales Pomerol, worth £35, for trawling through the terms and conditions.

Tax Policy Associates, a think-tank dedicated to improving understanding of tax issues, added the clause to its privacy policy as an experiment.

Buried in a paragraph of legalese, it said: "We will send a bottle of good wine to the first person who reads this."

Founder Dan Neidle said the person who spotted it, three months after it was posted, was trying to write their own policy and had been looking at examples.

### Protest

They emailed in the belief the wine had gone but found they were in luck and will now be receiving a bottle of the distinctive red Bordeaux.

Mr Neidle said he wrote the clause as "a childish protest" against all businesses having to have such a policy that "no one reads".

He said: "Every tiny coffee shop has to have a privacy policy on their website, it's crazy."

Mr Neidle said the experiment was inspired by rock band Van Halen, who would ask for a bowl of M&Ms with all the brown ones removed as part of their tour rider.

It was a test to make sure promoters were paying attention to their requests.

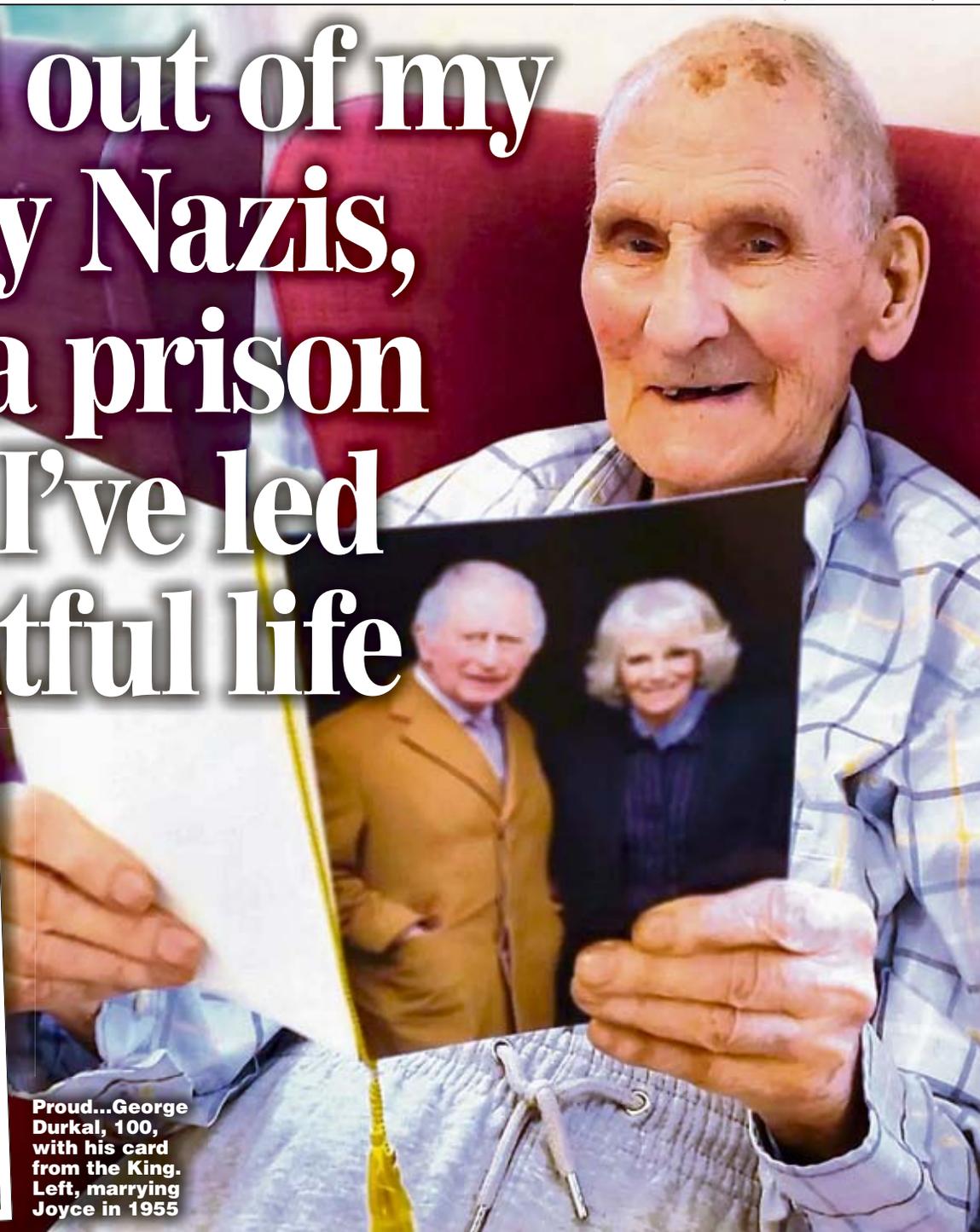
Prize... bottle of Bordeaux



# Burned out of my home by Nazis, sent to a prison camp... I've led an eventful life



Proud...George Durkal, 100, with his card from the King. Left, marrying Joyce in 1955



## George celebrates 100th birthday with King's best wishes

By **Lauren Beavis**

A MAN who survived Nazi occupation and camps as a teenager has reflected on his harrowing start in life as he turns 100.

George Durkal, held captive in an internment camp in Germany during the Second World War marked his milestone with a celebration at his care home.

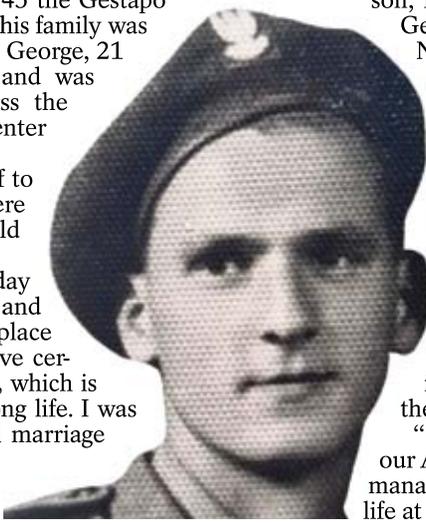
He was born as one of six siblings in Poland in 1925 but emigrated to the UK after the conflict.

Speaking from the Argentum Lodge home at Nailsea in Somerset, he revealed how Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 had shattered his happy childhood.

Aged 15, he returned from school one day to find his house burnt to the ground and surrounded by Nazis. Living in occupied Poland was extremely tough and in 1945 the Gestapo demanded one member of his family was to go to work in Germany. George, 21 at the time, volunteered and was sent by cattle truck across the border to work as a carpenter fixing farmers' carts.

Later he was packed off to an internment camp where he was forced to build underground bunkers.

George, whose birthday card from King Charles and the Queen took pride of place during his party, said: "I've certainly led an eventful life, which is perhaps the secret to a long life. I was blessed with a wonderful marriage



Soldier...George during his Polish army days

of over 68 years to my soulmate Joyce, which brought me great joy.

"I had a really lovely birthday and the staff at Argentum Lodge have gone out of their way to help me celebrate my century."

Following the war, George joined the Polish Army and was stationed in Italy for two years.

As Poland was now under Russian occupation, George emigrated to England where he swiftly learnt English and used his carpentry skills to find jobs making furniture.

He later worked for British Cellophane in Bridgwater, Somerset, for many years.

George married Joyce in 1955 and they had a son, Neil. After Joyce's death last year, George moved to the care home in Nailsea to be near to his great nieces and nephews.

Jessica Hawker, manager at Argentum Lodge, said: "It has been a privilege for us to join George in marking this incredible milestone.

"As the country marks the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings this year, the remarkable first-hand stories of people like George, who lived through that terrible conflict, become increasingly rare and, therefore, all the more important to hear.

"George is a much-loved member of our Argentum Lodge family and he still manages to take a full and active part in life at the home."

### SELF DRIVE



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6 NTS DB&B  
**£652**  
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# 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30

seconds for the BEGINNER task.

For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found on page 47

YOUR ANSWERS

Beginner	21	-12	x5	+41	REVERSE THE DIGITS	50% OF THIS	-9	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	+37	
Intermediate	288	-147	2/3 OF THIS	+249	4/7 OF THIS	+134	80% OF THIS	+87	7/9 OF THIS	
Advanced	651	5/7 OF THIS	+87	7/12 OF THIS	-66	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	+274	INCREASE BY 80%	-49	

## THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

FRIDAY, MAY 10  
**EUROMILLIONS**  
13 28 29 44 48 4 12  
**THUNDERBALL**  
2 4 23 32 33 1

THURSDAY, MAY 9  
**SET FOR LIFE** 1 14 17 27 35 9  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8  
**LOTTERY** 4 13 34 38 43 52 36  
**THUNDERBALL** 15 21 22 23 35 10

## THE HEALTH LOTTERY

FRIDAY, MAY 10  
4 22 23 42 48 2

THURSDAY, MAY 9  
11 13 16 22 31 18  
The society benefiting from all draws in the month ending May 31, 2024, is EWA Health CIC T/A HL Wales

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**INSIDE MONDAY'S DAILY EXPRESS**

Terms and conditions apply. See Monday's paper for details.

## PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Thursday:  
**Should MPs who switch parties have to fight a fresh election?**

**YES: 98%**  
**NO: 2%**

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY OR A PHOTO?

If you have a story:  
**020 8612 7077**  
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[expressnews@reachplc.com](mailto:expressnews@reachplc.com)

If you have a photo:  
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or email:  
[expresspix@express.co.uk](mailto:expresspix@express.co.uk)

For general inquiries:  
**020 8612 7000**  
[WWW.EXPRESS.CO.UK](http://WWW.EXPRESS.CO.UK)  
FOR GREAT READER OFFERS

## SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

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

This is the Quick Sudoku for the solver in a hurry.

For today's solution call:

**09071 812 571**

(Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge)

For extra clues call:

**09013 225 602**

(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)

**MORE PUZZLES - PAGE 46**

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

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

Pictures: JOSH JONES / SWNS

## First home cost just £15k and is in a garage

By Ben Barry

A MAN struggling to get on the property ladder spent just £15k on his first home – by building it in his parents' garage.

Josh Jones convinced his parents to let him convert the garage attached to their four-bed home in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, into an apartment.

After saving £4,000, Josh, 21, decided to spend it on transforming the place.

He started in January 2023 and took eight months to finish the job.

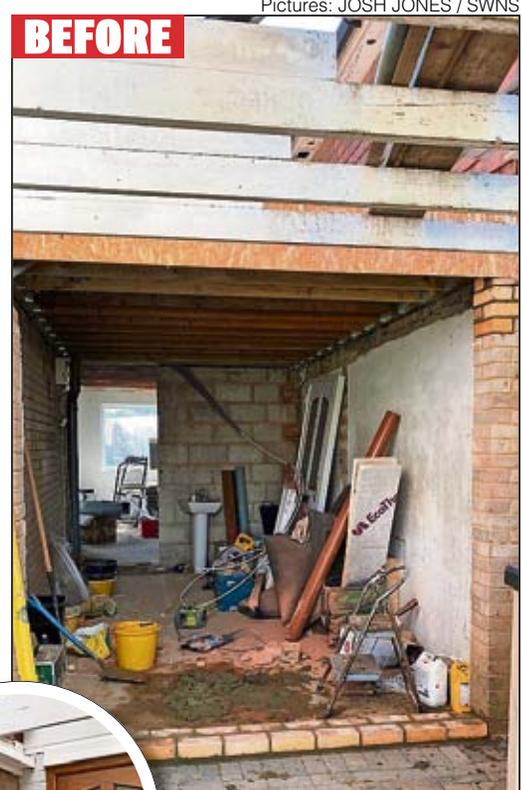
Josh said: "I learned to do it all on YouTube. I had to strip the garage roof, repair it and then insulate it."

"I levelled out the garage floor, we damp-proofed it and added drainage. I added walls, a kitchen, bathroom and living room."

The landscaper spent £14,700 on materials and moved into it with his girlfriend this month.

"Renting is ridiculously expensive and never an option for me. I can see myself living here for the next 10 years," he added.

He now wants to work with his brother and dad to do garage conversions and development.



Transformed...Josh, inset, spent around £15,000 on his new home



Pictures: NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT

## Old farm's perilous cliff-top vigil ends



Doomed... levelled due to landslips, below

By **Faye Mayern**

A DEMOLITION crew has moved in to flatten this 18th-century farmhouse just as it was in danger of crashing down on the beach below.

The three-bedroom home was bought five years ago for £132,000 but landslips last month left it hanging perilously over the edge.

North Norfolk Council yesterday demolished the evacuated Cliff Farm in Trimmingham.

Councillor Harry Blathwayt said the owner is "very upset", having hoped "to see out a happy retirement in a beautiful position".

He added that it was a "dynamic coastline" with a "number of challenges".

Winter rain has left soft cliffs saturated and vulnerable at Trimmingham.



# Value Vilnius for bargain breaks

## Lithuanian capital most affordable getaway

By **Vicky Shaw**

HOLIDAYMAKERS looking for value for money on a city getaway should make a beeline for Vilnius, a study has suggested.

Lithuania's capital overtook Lisbon, last year's best bargain break, the Post Office said.

It compiles a barometer of costs, with typical expenses in 37 European cities analysed.

The strengthening of the pound over the past year helped to keep the cost of long weekends down in many of the countries the Post Office looked at.

Its study is based on April exchange rates and it calculated the typical cost of two nights' three-star weekend accommodation, an evening meal for two, a range of drinks, sightseeing charges and city transport. Vilnius cost £237, while Amsterdam was the most expensive city in the research, with a typical bill of £669.

The Post Office also found other locations where tourists



Taking off...hot air balloons over the picturesque city of Vilnius

### CHEAPEST

Vilnius	£237
Lisbon	£264
Lille	£278
Krakow	£279
Athens	£289

### DEAREST

Amsterdam	£669
Belfast	£629
Edinburgh	£602
Helsinki	£587
Venice	£582

may be able to pick up a bargain. Laura Plunkett, its head of travel money, said: "It's important to remember that the cost of meals and drinks need to be added to the budget.

"Over the course of two or three days, these can make a big difference to holiday costs and

the low prices we found for meals and drinks in Lisbon and Athens make these cities strong contenders for a bargain break."

For people looking for a trip closer to home, Cardiff topped the UK capitals at £409. Belfast was £629, making it more expensive than Dublin at £579.

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The chair is upholstered in a soft yet durable bonded leather with some faux leather used on the lower stress areas,

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our white glove, two man delivery service and delivered within 5 to 10 working days from the point of order. You will be contacted to arrange the delivery date and the chair will be brought into your room of choice and assembled.

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**EXCLUSIVE**

By Matt Nixon

**R**OY Grace author Peter James has revealed his earliest books are being re-edited to ensure they remain acceptable to modern readers. The bestselling author of the Brighton-set detective series – adapted by ITV as Grace, starring John Simm as the dogged cop – has also written 23 standalones since his 1981 debut, spy thriller Dead Letter Drop.

Talking about his backlist undergoing a “sensitivity read” as it is known, Peter insisted it was “pragmatic” to keep abreast of current views, but conceded it could be a tricky issue, as novels naturally reflect the times in which they are written.

“Some of my very early standalone books are being completely re-edited,” he explained. “They’ve been withdrawn to be revised. If you’re a dead writer, everything can stand still, but if you’re a living writer the public expects you to be continually responsible for everything you’ve written in the past as well as what you’re writing now.”

“It’s not altogether outrageous. I have two views: the first is that books are of their time and language and content reflect that.”

“For instance, it’s interesting to look back at a book written in the 1980s and see how different attitudes to something like male chauvinism are now. If you update them too much, you risk losing that sense of the period. But we’ve rightly moved on when it comes to many social issues and it’s entirely reasonable that some of the language of 40 years ago might not now be acceptable today. So there’s a balance to be struck, it’s pragmatic to keep an open mind.”

Along with the introduction of so-called “trigger warnings” on film, TV and books – used to denote potentially distressing material – the issue of editing to remove content that could be deemed offensive has proved highly controversial in recent years.

There was an angry backlash last year and claims of censorship after it emerged that hundreds of changes had been made to the beloved children’s books of Roald Dahl, who died in 1990 aged 74.

Among others, the “Cloud-Men” in James and the Giant Peach had become “Cloud-People”; “You’ve gone white as a sheet!” in The BFG had been changed to “You’ve gone still as a statue!”; and the word “fat” had been entirely exorcised from every book.

The revelations sparked an outcry from, among others, the Prime Minister, Steven Spielberg and Queen Camilla, of whom more later, who told a gathering of authors at her book club: “Please remain true to your calling, unimpeded by those who may wish to curb the freedom of your expression or impose limits on your imagination.”

**P**ETER, 75, condemns such “posthumous editing” entirely. “The fact people read means they’re intelligent and intelligent people don’t like to be patronised,” he says. “If you pick up a Roald Dahl book, you expect to read the language of the time. It’s dangerous to edit history.”

“They used to joke about the Soviet Union being the only country where the past was less predictable than the future, but we’re getting that way too if we’re going to start editing every book. It’s dangerous.”

“And who’s not to say that in another 20 years things will be different again? But there’s a difference between making the odd tweak so someone reading a Roy Grace book isn’t offended, and a major re-edit as happened with Dahl where, in some cases, they were radically changing the books and inserting new lines.”

“My favourite author is Graham Greene and some of the language in his books would make people cringe, but that’s how it was.” I wonder if, given all this, Peter has

# I can't expect my books to remain in a state of Grace forever

Novels should reflect their times, but that doesn't mean they shouldn't be updated to account for our changing tastes, insists crime author Peter James, as he finally reveals the truth about what became of his legendary Brighton cop's missing wife...

given much thought to his own legacy? He has, by my count, published 43 novels, and at least two non-fiction books, since 1981 – an incredible output of slightly more than one a year. “Not really,” he chuckles. “If you look back at writers who’ve stood the test of time like Charles Dickens, he was very much a chronicler of his era but he also wrote great characters. I think it’s great characters that will endure the longest.”

“In the crime genre, you’ve got Arthur Conan Doyle and Agatha Christie who are still read widely, and loads of others have fallen off the radar despite being really good. It would be lovely to think I’d still be read in 100 years’ time.”

“But we’re very much a neophilic society – we like new things all the time. And you’ve got to wonder if people will even be reading

in 100 years’ time?” One can only hope so. And the fabulously prolific author – “If I retired, I’d only write a book,” he jokes – certainly deserves to endure.

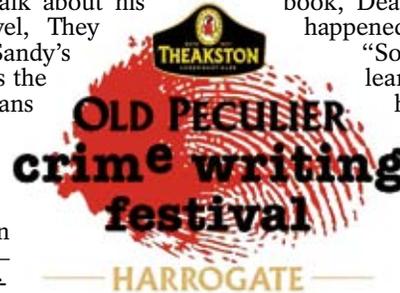
Today we’ve met in a stunning restaurant, Perch, on the end of Worthing Pier, in the West Sussex seaside town where the author has a flat, to talk about his astonishing 44th novel, *They Thought I Was Dead: Sandy’s Story*. It’s fair to say it’s the book many of Peter’s fans have been waiting nearly two decades for, since it wraps up a plotline begun in the very first Grace book in 2005, *Dead Simple* – the mystery of the mur-

der detective’s long-lost wife. “I wanted to create a detective who had a personal puzzle he was unable to solve,” explains Peter.

“Roy Grace is a very effective homicide detective, great at solving other people’s puzzles, but he can’t solve his own. I thought I’d set the mystery up in the first book, *Dead Simple*, then reveal what happened in the second book.”

“So when we first meet Roy, we learn that his wife Sandy, who he loved, adored and worshipped, vanished on his 30th birthday. When he came home, she was gone.”

“And for nine years he’s been looking for her. He doesn’t know if she was murdered, ran off with



**THRILLER KING:**  
Peter James  
pictured in  
Worthing this  
week for the  
Daily Express



**GOOD COPS:** John Simm as Roy and Richie Campbell as DS Glenn Branson in ITV's *Grace*



**ROYAL READER:** Camilla with bookshelves behind her in famous 'shelfie' pic

another person, took her own life, suffered an accident..."

In fact, it is as if she disappeared off the face of the earth. But when *Dead Simple* was published, Peter, who also has a home in Jersey with wife, Lara, and a menagerie of animals, was inundated with emails and letters from readers speculating on what might have happened to the missing Sandy.

"I thought, 'We can keep this going,'" he smiles. "I think as a writer you can have fun with your readers as long as ultimately you're honest with them. I seeded a little bit of information up until book 14, when I gave the big reveal that she was in Germany.

"They even passed on a moving walkway at one point. Roy bends down and she's gone and they didn't see each other. I kept getting emails from readers saying, 'Why

don't you tell us the real story'. So with this book, I've written the real story."

Typically, *They Thought I Was Dead* is a brilliantly fast-paced thriller with more twists and turns than a Tour de France descent. No doubt it'll be eagerly read by fans, including perhaps his most famous.

Peter, whose research involves frequent patrols with the police and meetings with criminal justice professionals, got a pleasant surprise during lockdown when the then Duchess of Cornwall was photographed working from her delightfully cluttered, homely study at Birkhall in Aberdeenshire.

Mementoes, photographs and letters jostled for space with a jumble of pens, papers and cards. But it was Camilla's "shelfie" – the image of her packed book shelves – that attracted most attention. Among the hard-

backs on display were several of Peter's distinctive thrillers.

Having first met when he chaired the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate in 2016, the author and the Queen have remained in touch, sharing warm letters.

"When she started her online book club in 2021, now called The Queen's Reading Room, I was one of the early guests on it," says Peter. "She came down to interview me on the set of *Grace*. Jokingly, I said, 'Maybe you'd like to be an extra', and she replied, 'I could be a dead body'. What's amazing is so often you get high-profile people fawning

over movie stars or rock stars. Camilla is one of the first really high-profile people in the world who is championing authors. I always send her an early copy and she inevitably replies with a warm, chatty letter."

Her Majesty's backing of authors and reading is clearly important.

"The Queen's Reading Room recently commissioned a survey on brain activity. If you just read for five minutes a day, there are huge benefits," says Peter. "Yet the mass of humans have really only been reading for the last 100 years since the invention of the paperback. I do worry that young people are replacing reading with things like TikTok and we really don't know what the impact will be long-term."

Although he is not involved, Peter's family firm makes handmade gloves for royalty, a business founded by his late mother Cornelia and now run by his sister, Genevieve. Having met the late Queen Elizabeth II at a reception in 2012 for the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth, he was pleased to see her wearing a pair.

"There were loads of writers there but by sheer luck I found myself face to face with the Queen on our own," he recalls. "I asked her what she liked to read. She said, 'I don't have time because I have all these red boxes. If I get a moment, I like [Rudyard] Kipling'."

**T**ALKING of anniversaries, next year will be Roy Grace's 20th birthday – and the 21st book, not including the latest, is due in the autumn, titled *One Of Us Is Dead*. It opens with a funeral, says Peter, to whet our appetite, where a man is shocked to see a bloke at whose funeral he gave the eulogy. Meanwhile, ITV has just started shooting series five of its critically acclaimed *Grace* adaptation covering books 12 to 16, with a fourth due this autumn.

"They're catching up. I'm going to have to write faster," says Peter. Does he envision a time when the series will be overtaking the books, then? "That's exactly what I think is going to happen, which I'm delighted about.

"I'll work closely with them – that's the plan if the series continues."

In the meantime, Peter is due to return as a special guest to the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival in the North Yorkshire spa town of Harrogate in July, chaired this year by crime writer Ruth Ware and supported by the Express. He can't wait.

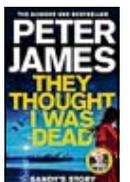
"It feels like the spiritual heart of British crime writing. The epicentre is the Old Swan Hotel where Agatha Christie famously disappeared to and it's a festival of real passion," he says. "The Hay Festival took root because it's such a nice place to visit and Harrogate is the same. It's a human-sized town. Also, unlike most festivals, Harrogate only has one event at a time so it's much fairer to writers and visitors. You don't have to miss anyone."

Before we leave, we return once again to *Sandy's Story* and I wonder aloud if Peter ever considered revealing that Roy himself bumped off Sandy. Unlikely as it might sound, it would've provided a shocking twist. Never for a moment, he insists.

"I always joke that if I was unlucky enough to have a murder in my family, I'd want Roy Grace to investigate it," he adds. "I always wanted him to be the good guy."

"There's a great Raymond Chandler quote I love to paraphrase, 'A true hero is a man who walks down mean streets who is not himself mean'. That's Roy Grace."

● *They Thought I Was Dead: Sandy's Story*, by Peter James (Macmillan, £22) is out now. Visit [expressbookshop.com](http://expressbookshop.com) or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on orders over £25. For bookings and details on the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival, call 01423 562 303 or visit [harrogateinternationalfestivals.com](http://harrogateinternationalfestivals.com)



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<sup>^</sup>£320 additional on board spending money

<sup>^^</sup>Fly Cruise | Britannia

### Norwegian Fjords

7 nights | 22 June 2024

**Itinerary:** Southampton, Stavanger, Olden, Nordfjord\*\*, Hellesylt, Storfjorden\*\*, Haugesund, Southampton

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<sup>^</sup>£150 additional on board spending money

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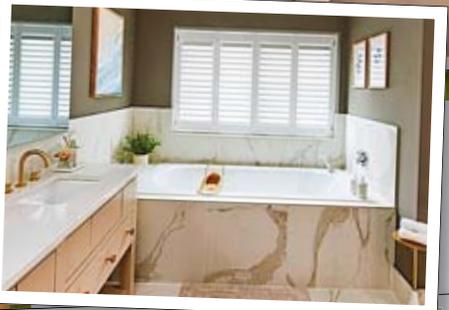
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Luxury living... Man City fan Kevin, 53, and his new home in Prestbury



## Footballer's life! Fan wins £3.5m house with Premier League stars for neighbours

A FOOTBALL fan is living alongside stars from his Premier League team after winning a £3.5million retreat. Man City supporter Kevin Bryant, 53, scooped the five-bed home in the Cheshire Golden Triangle after paying £25 to enter the Omaze Million Pound House Draw. Kevin, who works for an IT

By **Lauren Beavis**

support firm, said he "hopes to bump into Jack Grealish when he pops out for a pint of milk". He added: "I'd been manifesting this win for ages, telling anyone who'd listen that the house was already mine. "But when I came home from work to see the Omaze team, I

still couldn't believe my eyes." Kevin and his NHS worker wife have lived in a three-bed terraced home in Plymouth for the past 19 years. As well as the new house in Prestbury, which boasts a "night kitchen" in the main bedroom, they won £100,000 in the draw, which raised £3m for the Bowelbabe Fund for

Cancer Research UK. Kevin is considering early retirement, saying: "I've had some health issues recently, so I feel lucky to be here at all." However his wife says she is keeping her 11-year-old Skoda Roomster. Kevin said: "We'll definitely stand out at the local supermarket parked next to all the Lamborghinis."

By **Nev Ayling**

A TV builder who salvaged "cowboy" jobs for the BBC has won a £500,000 court fight after his own company was accused of shoddy work.

Paul Shanahan played a key role during nine episodes of BBC show *Cowboy Trap*, in which he was called in to save botched jobs performed by rogue operators.

But he ended up in court himself after his firm was accused by Dr Zohor Aylwin of leaving multiple defects behind following a £113,000 revamp at her £1.2million home in 2019.

African studies academic Dr Aylwin, *right*, had alleged the workers left several faults at the home in Watford, including a shower too small to get under, a toilet that did not flush properly and a boot print in paintwork.

After a trial at Mayor's and City County Court, in London, Judge Nicholas Parfitt KC threw out Dr Aylwin's claim and ordered her to stump up £36,760 to cover the costs of the work.

But she could end up paying

# TV's Cowboy Trap builder wins court case after client alleged he bodged £113k job

considerably more, with a decision on what proportion of the £460,000 lawyers' bills each side will pay to be made at a later date.

The judge said there was no evidence the toilet did not work, the shower fitting had been provided by Dr Aylwin, and the boot print would have easily been solved in snagging.

Judge Parfitt said many of the alleged "defects" would have been picked up at the end of the work,

but said Dr Aylwin had not engaged in a "sensible snagging process" after the parties fell out.

Mr Shanahan, managing director of Greystoke Builders Ltd, had described his TV gig as "working with BBC as the good guys on the *Cowboy Trap*, going in and rectifying the disasters previous builders have left".

The case began when Mr Shanahan's company sued Dr Aylwin for unpaid invoices totalling about £44,000. She then sued the company in return over an alleged series of defects in the work. Judge

Parfitt rejected Dr Aylwin's counterclaim, saying many of her criticisms would have been solved if she had engaged in snagging.

Taken overall, the building work was of "the standard of a reasonable contractor," although a slight reduction in the bill was made for issues that would have been picked up by snagging.

Greystoke's barrister Paul Fisher labelled the case a "relatively simple debt claim which has spiralled out of control" into a three-day court action with total legal costs projected at around £460,000.



Court victory...for Paul Shanahan

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# The Saturday briefing

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER by KAY HARRISON

Pictures: GETTY

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Is there anything you are desperately yearning to know? Are there any pressing factual disputes you would like us to help resolve? This is the page where we shall do our best to answer any questions you throw at us, whatever the subject.

**Q** We have a wall plate commemorating the D-Day landings. Apart from the five commonly known beaches: Band, Jig, King, Mike, Nan and Queen are also named. Why have these been sidelined?

Bryan Briggs, Byfleet, Surrey

**A** The Allied code names for the beaches along the 50-mile stretch of Normandy coast targeted for landing on June 6, 1944, were American beaches Utah and Omaha, and British Commonwealth beaches Gold, Juno and Sword.

Jig and King were sections of Gold Beach, Mike and Nan were zones of Juno Beach and the Queen zone was on Sword Beach.

Band has almost faded into obscurity but this beach featured in the preliminary planning and would have been the location of two commando operations.

Operation Frog and Operation Deer would have seen 860 commandos come ashore to eliminate German heavy gun batteries to help protect Sword Beach to the west.

But they were called off as the guns there were silenced by Naval shore bombardment vessels, HMS Roberts and HMS Ramillies.

Originally, the British beaches were named after fish:

Goldfish, Jellyfish, Swordfish and Bandfish. But the Canadians objected to landing on a beach codenamed Jelly, so it was altered to Juno, after a Wing Commander's wife, and the goddess mother of Mars.



SEABORNE INVASION: US troops land at Omaha beach in Normandy on June 6, 1944, and, below, a milkman

**Q** How many people still have a milkman?

Mrs S Simpson, Worthing, West Sussex

**A** There were about 40,000 milkmen in the early Seventies but today there are only about 4,000.

They still provide a vital daily service to hundreds of thousands of homes, whether it's older customers or those

wanting to support local business and the planet, with reusable glass bottles.

Doorstep deliveries have fallen from 45 per cent in 1995 to around three per cent of the retail milk market. There were

increases during lockdown – the number of customers rose to 670,000 in July 2020 from a low point of 503,000 pre-pandemic.

Many milkmen and women have diversified. Inspired by TV's Blue Planet, Modern Milkman was set up in Lancashire in 2018. It delivers milk, eggs and other goods, connecting families to local farmers and suppliers.

It was the UK's highest-placed business in the Financial Times FT 1000, which ranks Europe's fast-growing companies.

**Q** My daughter has recently moved to "Regency Mews". What does "mews" mean?

C Bennett, Haywards Heath, West Sussex

**A** A mews is a type of street that is often cobbled and traffic-free, with homes built around an open space or behind a row of 18th and 19th century mansions.

It can be dated from the original Royal Mews in London, where the National Gallery now stands.

Richard II kept his falcons here when they were shedding their feathers as they couldn't be used for hunting – "mew" comes from the French "muer", to moult.

The Royal Mews was destroyed in a fire and rebuilt as stables, but kept the name, and "mews" became generally known as a group of stables or homes built around an open space.

**PLEASE SEND US YOUR INTRIGUING QUESTIONS ON ANY SUBJECT:**

- **By email:** put "questions" in the subject line and send to [kay.harrison@reachplc.com](mailto:kay.harrison@reachplc.com)
- **By post:** to Any Questions, Daily Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP
- **Unfortunately we cannot reply individually, but we will feature the best questions on this page.**



Marion Richards from Caerphilly would like to read a poem she learnt in school in the 1950s, which started with the line: "New shoes, red and pink and blue shoes", about a child going shoe shopping.

## CHOOSING SHOES Frida Wolfe

New shoes, new shoes,  
Red and pink and blue shoes.  
Tell me, what would you  
choose,  
If they'd let us buy?

Buckle shoes, bow shoes,  
Pretty pointy-toe shoes,  
Strappy, cappy low shoes;  
Let's have some to try.

Bright shoes, white shoes,  
Dandy-dance-by-night shoes,  
Perhaps-a-little-tight shoes,  
Like some? So would I.

BUT

Flat shoes, fat shoes,  
Stump-along-like-that shoes,  
Wipe-them-on-the-mat shoes,  
That's the sort they'll buy.

Do you have a half-remembered poem from your childhood that you would like to see again? Just send us details of what you can remember and we shall bring as many as possible to our Forgotten Verse Corner



## BEACHCOMBER 107 YEARS OLD AND STILL PUNCTILIOUSLY PUNCTUATED...

THE SECOND Thursday in every month is Apostrophe Thursday, when the Apostropher Royal supervises the delivery of apostrophes to greengrocers in market towns. This tradition goes back to 1586 when Queen Elizabeth I gave greengrocers the right to use apostrophes "whensoever and wheresoever they pleased".

This decree was a reward by a grateful monarch when a greengrocer saved the Queen from humiliation by pointing out a potentially catastrophic apostrophic error in an imminently forthcoming proclamation.

Today's the far less common Apostrophe Count Saturday, held on the second Saturday after the first Thursday in May in

even-numbered years to check the Law of Apostrophic Conservation is operating properly. The common formulation of this law, that "Apostrophes can be neither created nor destroyed" is a over-simplification of the idea first promulgated around 1690 by Sir Isaac Newton in his Principia Grammatica. As a result of his observations, Newton concluded that "Every it's that should be ai, its is balanced by an equal and opposite its that should be an it's."

That was contested by rival Robert Hooke



who showed apostrophic conservation was not confined to it's and its but a general property of all misplaced apostrophes. Hooke's proposed correction was "Every

apostrophe omitted from a word should have one is balanced by an equal and opposite incorrect insertion where one should not be". This soured the relationship between Hooke and Newton, and Newton even

petitioned William III to have Hooke arrested. Newton suggested that Hooke's version brought the concept of

Royal Apostrophes into disrepute, as green-grocers would put them where they should not be, when they'd have to be balanced by more apostrophes being wrongly omitted. As Hooke noticed, however, the monarch's approval overruled mere grammar. It was not until 1793 when the Apostrophic Conservation Act was passed that Hooke's reputation was posthumously rehabilitated.

We do not understand how omitted apostrophes reappear inserted in other words, or whether reappearance occurs instantaneously, but progress is being made at the Small Colon Collider at Cerne Abbas that may improve understanding. We shall return to this matter at a later date.



# Blackstuff boy turned into a king

**D**ECADES before a new generation discovered Bernard Hill in three of Hollywood's biggest films – Titanic and two movies in The Lord Of The Rings trilogy – the British actor had made his mark in Alan Bleasdale's acclaimed television drama Boys From The Blackstuff.

In the era-defining 1982 series about the misery and despair of long-term unemployment, Hill drew plaudits and pity as the out-of-work, head-butting Liverpoolian labourer Yosser Hughes, who loses his Tarmac-laying job and his wife.

Watched by five million viewers, Yosser was seen roaming the city's streets for work with his three children in tow, badgering anyone who would listen with "Gizza job. Go on, gizza job. I can do that."

The line became a national catchphrase, with Hill's ink hair and moustache matching the black attire he wore for dramatic effect. He won a Bafta nomination but admitted he struggled to shake off the part.

A Mancunian by birth, Hill developed a niche playing Scousers. In 1974, he began a two-year residency at Liverpool's Everyman Theatre as John Lennon in Willy

## Bernard Hill

Actor

BORN DECEMBER 17, 1944  
- DIED MAY 5, 2024, AGED 79

Russell's John, Paul, George, Ringo... And Bert. When Russell's play Shirley Valentine transferred to the big screen in 1989, with Pauline Collins in the title role, he played her chauvinistic husband.

Hill's final part was as Martin Freeman's father in the second series of BBC drama The Responder.

But it was as doomed Captain Edward Smith, in the Oscar-winning 1997 film Titanic, where he first made an international impression, endowing his resolute character with enough arrogance and weary resignation to garner sympathy.

In 2002, The Lord Of The Rings film The Two Towers, he played Théoden, King of Rohan, who dies a battlefield hero in 2003's The Return Of The King.

Bernard Hill was born in Blackley, Manchester. His father was a miner who served in the Royal Navy and his mother worked at Blackley's ICI

Pictures: REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; GETTY



ROYAL SHOW: Hill excelled in The Lord Of The Rings films

plant. Educated at Xaverian College, he trained to become a quantity surveyor and teacher but then met Mike Leigh, who persuaded him to pursue acting, and he gained a diploma at the Manchester Polytechnic School of Drama in 1970.

Leigh gave Hill his TV debut in Hard Labour in 1974 and he had a

small role as Sergeant Putnam in Gandhi in 1982.

He notched up 130 screen credits, including the role of Duke of Norfolk in 2015's TV adaptation of Hilary Mantel's Wolf Hall.

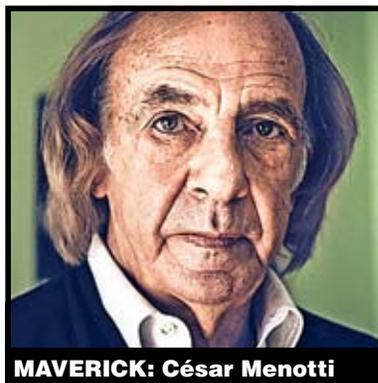
Hill's cause of death has not been revealed. He is survived by a son, Gabriel, and daughter, Jay, by different relationships.

# Set the footballing world alight

## César Menotti

Football manager

BORN OCTOBER 22, 1938  
- DIED MAY 5, 2024, AGED 85



MAVERICK: César Menotti

César Luis Menotti was born in Rosario, Argentina, the only child of Antonio and Olga. He made his breakthrough as a striker for Rosario Central in 1960, moved to

Racing in 1964 and Boca a year later where he won the title in 1965. He moved to New York Generals in the North American Soccer League in 1967 and then became a team-mate of Pelé at Santos in Brazil.

Menotti was inspired to coach after travelling to Mexico to see his friend Pelé and Brazil take football to a new level when they stormed to the 1970 World Cup.

He won his first title with Huracán in 1973 and a year later became Argentina's head coach. A year after the World Cup win he led a Maradona-inspired under-20 side to the World Youth Championship.

Menotti moved to Barcelona in 1983, where he was reunited with Maradona and won three trophies, but his final game was marred by the mass brawl at the end of the 1984 Copa del Rey final in Madrid.

He spent the next two decades at a host of South America's top clubs and ended his career as the director of Argentina's national teams.

Menotti died after spending a month in hospital with anaemia.

## Peter Oosterhuis

Golfer

BORN MAY 3, 1948  
- DIED MAY 2, 2024, AGED 75

PETER Oosterhuis kept British hopes alive in the Seventies as the nation's leading golfer but victory on the circuit always seemed to elude him at major tournaments.

The former European No.1 was twice runner-up at The Open in 1974 and 1982, and tied third in the 1974 US Masters. He still managed to win 20 tournaments across three decades, notably the Order of Merit from 1971 to 1974 and the Canadian Open in 1981.

A tall player, at 6ft 5in, he was astute and well-liked by his peers. After just losing out on The Masters, he spent the next decade touring US championships, which was almost unheard of at that time.

Peter Oosterhuis was born in London to an English mother, Josie and Dutch father, Hans, who



ASTUTE: Oosterhuis

had fled fearing for his life during the Nazi occupation of his homeland for Britain during the Second World War.

He discovered his talent for golf, aged 12, when he went to pick blackberries on Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Club and soon started playing.

Oosterhuis became a proficient amateur during his education at Dulwich College, representing Great Britain and Ireland at the Walker Cup in 1967 while still at school. He turned professional at 20.

Following his retirement, he became a respected television commentator for Sky Sports, the Golf Channel and later CBS, after relocating to North Carolina.

In 2015 he revealed he had been diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's. He died from complications of the disease.

Married twice, he is survived by his second wife Ruth Ann, and her two children, and by two sons from his first marriage to Anne Cony.

Written by KAT HOPPS and MIKE GARDNER

## Kris Hallenga

Cancer campaigner

BORN NOVEMBER 11, 1985  
- DIED MAY 6, 2024, AGED 38

KRIS Hallenga was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer at the age of 23 after it took three doctors to correctly identify her symptoms over eight months.

She dedicated the rest of her life to educating young women to check their breasts and be alert to signs of cancer, after founding her charity CoppaFeel!

As its chief executive she worked with celebrities and politicians to promote her cause, and later wrote a newspaper column and a memoir, Glittering A Turd.

She was working for a travel company in Beijing when she received her diagnosis.

Born in Germany to a German father and English mother, Hallenga, her sisters and mother moved to England after her parents divorced.

She is survived by her mother and siblings.

CHAIN-smoking World Cup winning coach César Menotti was a long-haired maverick who delivered football's greatest prize to troubled host nation Argentina as the ticker tape rained down from the stands.

In the lead up to the 1978 tournament, he faced thunderous criticism in Argentina for leaving a young Diego Maradona out of the squad. Menotti insisted the 17-year-old was too young to cope with the pressure.

Argentina ran out 3-1 winners over the Netherlands in the final of a tournament dogged by controversy and allegations of match-fixing by the military government, as the host nation benefited from a raft of favourable refereeing decisions to lift the trophy for the first time.

In a nomadic coaching career that spanned decades, "the thin one" led high-profile clubs including Barcelona and Atletico Madrid in Spain, Huracán, Boca Juniors, Independiente, and River Plate in Argentina and Italy's Sampdoria. He also led the Mexico national side.

# THE TRAITORS

**EXCLUSIVE**

By Robert Verkaik



**L**IEUTENANT General Brian Horrocks cannot have known how deeply prophetic his words were when he told his tank commanders, “This is a story you’ll tell your children”, while he briefed them on the eve of what remains the biggest combined ground and airborne operation ever undertaken.

If successful, Operation Market Garden promised to end the Second World War by Christmas and allow British and American troops to enter Berlin while the Red Army was still hundreds of miles to the east.

On the afternoon of September 17, 1944, the British armoured divisions of XXX (30) Corps, commanded by Horrocks, punched a hole through the German defences on the Belgian-Dutch border and “drove like hell” along highway 69 towards Arnhem and the last bridge across the Rhine – the final major obstacle to Berlin.

At the same time, the first of 40,000 Allied paratroopers and glider troops began landing behind enemy lines.

Col John Frost’s 2 Para managed to reach and secure the north end of the main Arnhem Bridge. Frost had orders to hold the bridge until the arrival of XXX Corps.

But Horrocks and his tanks, held up by surprisingly stiff German resistance, never arrived and Frost was forced to fight on until his men were out of ammunition and water.

Thus Market Garden, brainchild of General Bernard Montgomery, ended in heroic failure, almost wiping out an entire British airborne division, and with it Allied dreams of ending the war before Christmas. The Allies were left wondering how it was possible the largest airborne force ever assembled, supported by overwhelming air power and ground armour, could have been defeated by an enemy supposedly on its last legs.

The defeat has been blamed on a reckless plan, bad luck and poor weather. But the Dutch have another explanation – betrayal. Go to any bar from Eindhoven to Arnhem and you will find someone who will happily retell the story that has spawned the legend of “King Kong” – a superhero resistance fighter turned traitor. During the first years of the war, Christiaan Lindemans, a brooding 6ft 2in hulk of a man who walked with a simian gait, hence his nickname, built a reputation as a fearless commander of the Dutch and Belgian resistance.

**H**E EVEN claimed to be a personal friend of Prince Bernhard, the head of the Dutch army in Europe. But the truth was he was a treacherous psychopath who had betrayed the lives of 267 resistance fighters, couriers, cut-outs and love rivals. After D-Day, he was recruited by British special forces and, on the eve of Operation Market Garden, was sent to help prepare the Dutch resistance for the coming attack.

However, as soon as Lindemans reached enemy territory, he warned the Germans of the forthcoming operation. Whether the betrayal made a difference to the outcome of Operation Market Garden is still hotly contested by historians. In my new book *The*



**THE BETRAYERS:** Dutch Resistance traitor Christiaan Lindemans, below, and Sir Anthony Blunt, bottom



Traitor of Arnhem, I have explored files in the British and Dutch archives that reveal Lindemans was a Russian agent working towards Stalin’s long-term war aim and against his Western Allies. The German victory at Arnhem allowed the Russians to enter Berlin first and commence the Soviet occupation of eastern Europe.

But that was not all. In a separate file, there was a reference to another warning that the Germans had received about Market Garden before the air landings had started. This was sent to Berlin on September 16, 1944, the day before the start of Market Garden, by a German spy codenamed “Josephine”.

The message began: “The Allied Supreme Command intends airborne operations in the environments of Arnhem, Tilburg and Eindhoven. Aim of the operation is to enforce the crossing of the Rhine. The Allied units consist of the 1st British, 82nd and 101st US Airborne Divisions, all of them will start from

England. The operation will be carried through between Sunday [September 17] and Thursday.” The accuracy was far greater and far more alarming than the general warning Lindemans passed on. But who was Josephine?

Allied commanders were extremely worried about the intelligence leak, which raised the suspicion the Germans had a well-informed spy at the heart of the British establishment.

Bletchley Park, the secret decryption station in Buckinghamshire, had been monitoring Agent Josephine and her intelligence reports since 1943. One analyst described her reports as “the best illicit intelligence derived by the enemy from this country which I have seen”.

Fears of a Nazi spy in Westminster were heightened a few weeks after Arnhem when Josephine warned Berlin of the American landings in the Philippines and, the following year, obtained intelligence of the Allies’ crossing of the Rhine. Josephine was either very lucky or being fed military top secrets by a trusted source.

When I pulled the MI5 files on this agent, I

discovered that months before the debacle at Arnhem, British intelligence had already ascertained the identity of the German spy-master running Josephine.

Karl-Heinz Kraemer, a lawyer operating out of the German embassy in Stockholm, had worked for the Nazi spy machine in London before the war and his reports were so trusted they were read by Adolf Hitler.

Kraemer had stubbornly refused to disclose to Berlin the true identity of his Josephine source and told the German high command she was both a London high society hostess and the code-name for a British air vice marshal.

But in May 1945, the war in Europe was over and a few months later MI5 closed down its investigation into Josephine. It seemed the identity of Josephine would never be known. It wasn’t until 2003 when

**‘After defeat of Arnhem, British intelligence had already ascertained the identity of the German spy-master running Josephine.’**

# S OF ARNHEM

Pictures: KEYSTONE/GETTY

Did Soviet spy Anthony Blunt also betray Britain to the Nazis? That's the sensational claim in a new book that also reveals how the Russians leaked details of Operation Market Garden to the Nazis... costing tens of thousands of extra lives and prolonging the Second World War



**READY TO ROLL:** Allied tanks and troop carriers prepare for battle. Right, Horrocks, Montgomery and Prince Bernhard on day of Market Garden operation



MI5 quietly released into the National Archives a 1970s report concerning the Josephine affair that any further light was shed on the case.

This partly redacted report presented in great detail how MI5 and MI6 had mounted a forlorn hunt to establish Josephine's identity.

It noted that the two agencies had bitterly disagreed over the provenance of the intelligence – MI6 believing Josephine was an agent working out of London and MI5 claiming Kraemer had invented her to hide from Berlin the fact he didn't have any real agents.

For the Market Garden, the wanted to Blunt lighted were'

At the end of a 300-page report, the reader was left with the only possible conclusion – the case of Josephine was impossible to solve. Yet there is something, or rather someone, named in the report who was present at the heart of the Josephine inquiry,

whose inclusion raises questions that the report simply doesn't answer.

That name should be a red flag in any report on intelligence matters in the Second World War, for the MI5 officer leading the Josephine inquiry was Major Anthony Blunt, now known as a notorious Soviet agent and member of the so-called Cambridge spy ring.

Blunt's name frequently crops up as the controlling hand in the joint MI5 and MI6 investigation and yet no mention is ever made of his being at the time an agent working for the NKVD, the powerful People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs and precursor of the KGB.

By the time of the 1970s MI5 report, Blunt had admitted his treachery.

So why wasn't his double-agent status taken into account during the investigation of how vital operational intelligence came to be passed to Britain's enemies?

Why was Blunt being treated like a bona fide intelligence officer? What could have been his real role in the Josephine case?

I felt sure the answers to these questions

would be hiding in the thousands of pages that comprise the Kraemer files gathering dust on the shelves of the archives in Kew and in the personal history of the traitor who after the war went on to become the trusted surveyor of the King's pictures.

Blunt, the gay son of a well-connected Hampshire vicar and a third cousin of Queen Mary, attended Trinity College and became a leading member of the Apostles, the self-selecting secret society of Cambridge University. He stayed on to continue his studies after graduation before taking up a position as a Cambridge don.

It didn't take long for the Russians to find him and recruit him.

He was ascribed the rather unimaginative code name "Tony" and began working for the Russians in 1934, shortly after or during his visit to the USSR in the same year.

Blunt became a pivotal member of the gang of like-minded Cambridge students, including Kim Philby, Donald Maclean, Guy Burgess and John Cairncross, now known as the

Cambridge Five. By 1944, Blunt had risen from captain to major in MI5 and was a close and trusted friend of Guy Liddell, the head of counterintelligence. He was also the chosen conduit for intelligence sharing between MI5 and MI6 and in charge of monitoring so-called Blue Jacket or Triplex material – the secret communications sent and received by embassies operating out of London. He was even in charge of briefing Churchill about MI5's work.

Blunt makes an appearance in the Josephine files as one of the MI5 officers tasked with investigating the alleged spy in late 1943.

Soon afterwards, Blunt informs Liddell he has made a breakthrough in the case and he is able to link the Josephine leaks to two military attachés in the Swedish embassy in London. But after D-Day, this theory fell away as it became apparent Josephine was leaking sensitive military secrets to which the attachés could not possibly have been privy.

When it emerged that Kraemer was sent the Arnhem intelligence only five days after the Allies supreme commander Dwight D Eisenhower had given the final go-ahead for Market Garden, it became clear Josephine could not be another foreign diplomat.

On September 15, 1944, Blunt attended a meeting with his Soviet handlers in London. According to NKVD files, the British agent told the Russians he wanted to leave MI5 and stop spying for the Russians. Why Blunt chose to end his work for the NKVD at this critical point in the war, when the Russians and British were in touching distance of a famous and hard-fought victory, the file does not say.

**W**E DO know that after the defeat of Market Garden at the end of September 1944, Blunt met his Soviet handler Boris Kreshin in London. The Russians wanted to pass on to Blunt how delighted they were with their English spy and Kreshin took great pride in reading out a commendation sent from the Kremlin. It was accompanied by a £100 payment, worth about £6,000 today.

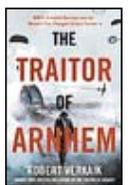
Until then, Blunt had always been careful not to accept money from the Russians as he maintained his treachery was motivated by political ideology. This time he gratefully accepted the cash. On November 2, 1944, having overcome his wobble of September 15, he wrote effusively thanking his Moscow spymasters. "Dear Comrade," began Blunt. "Once again how to thank you for your most generous premium which is not only gratitude in itself, but is above all valuable as an encouragement to me to think that my work has been of use to the cause."

After the war, Blunt went on to live a privileged and charmed life and was eventually knighted for services to this country.

He was only publicly exposed as a traitor in 1979, yet after making a deal, he was allowed to die peacefully in his bed four years later aged 75. I spent several years sifting the Josephine files for clues to "her" identity.

To quote Sherlock Holmes: "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." And I believe the truth is that Anthony Blunt was Josephine.

● *The Traitor of Arnhem: WWII's Greatest Betrayal and the Moment That Changed History Forever*, by Robert Verkaik (Headline, £20) is out now. Visit [expressbookshop.com](http://expressbookshop.com) or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on orders over £25



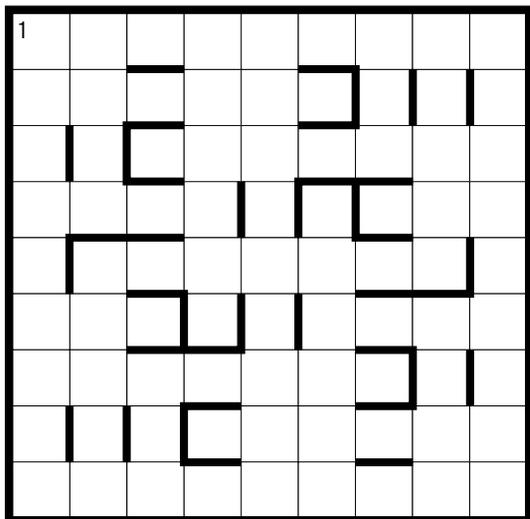
# Puzzled?

# PROBLEMS TO TEST YOUR BRAIN POWER

## MAKE YOU VERY CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Showed (9)
- Folded fabric edge (3)
- Calculations (4)
- Canine (3)
- Invent (6)
- Wicker containers (7)
- Put into words (7)
- Rouse (4)
- Journeyed (9)
- Amidst (7)
- Baby's toy (6)



For today's solution call:  
**0907 181 2581**

*\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

### LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

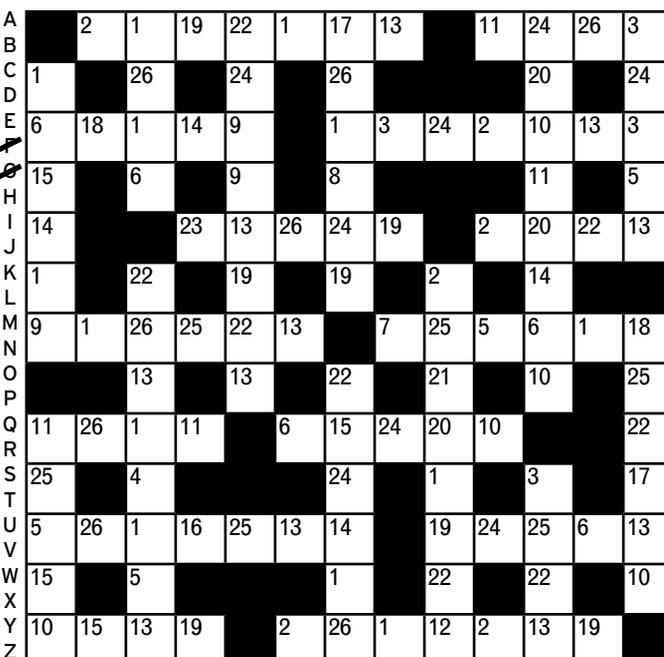
**ACROSS** Abhorrent, Mambas, Declare, Tiny, Asa, Grenade, Rot, Inch, Duchess, Suitor, Maternity.  
**DOWN** Amsterdam, Bali, Obeyed, Raconteur, Era, Nurse, Treachery, Raisin, Gouda, Clot, Cat.

*\*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390*

### DOWN

- 1 Head of a republic (9)
- Sent away (9)
- Were heels (anag.) (9)
- Pugilist (5)
- Buddy (4)
- Form into a knot (3)
- Podded vegetable (3)
- Begins (6)
- Ship or large boat (6)
- Consumed (5)
- Tirade (4)

## ALPHAPUZZLE®



**Alphapuzzle®** tests logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. **Solution next Saturday.**  
**Difficulty:** 8/10 **Target:** 27 mins  
**Clue:** Expression of regret for a girl, say.  
**THINKING SPACE**

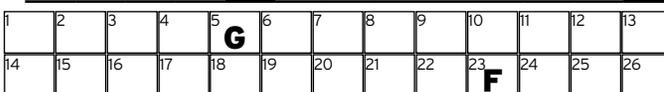
For up to six Extra Letter clues:  
**0907 181 2567\***

(deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard)  
Today's full solution: **0907 181 2566\***  
*\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DSXALPHA** to **64343**. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

### Last Saturday's solution:

**Across:** Wearily, Comb, Crab, Uniquely, Rescue, Denote, Deters, Boyish, Stargaze, Face, Envy, Prevai.  
**Down:** Swerve, Extent, Jamb, Clearly, Misuse, Snappy, Myriad (clue), Brewer, Chutney, Feat, Amulet, Sickly.



Alphapuzzle® ©2024 Acorn Editorial Ltd. All words appear in Chambers Dictionary.

**CAN YOU TACKLE THE EXTRA TOUGH ULTRA ALPHAPUZZLE® IN THE SUNDAY EXPRESS EVERY WEEK?**

## PENTALETTA



Can you find 25 or more words containing only the five letters shown on the left? Each word must include the letter in the centre, in this case R, and must contain at least four letters, but there is no limit on the number of times you can use a letter in any word. Your list should include an plummy nine-letter word.

**Average mark:** 26 words • **Good:** 35 words  
**Excellent:** 40 words • **Incredible:** 44 words

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION** belie, belied, bellied, bibb, bibbed, bible, bide, bided, bile, bill, billed, deli, dibble, dibbled, diddle, diddled, died, dill, eddied, edible, elide, elided, idle, idled, libel, libellee, lidded, lied.

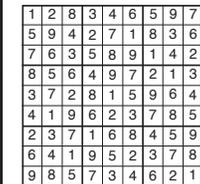
The clued word was: **LIBELLED**

## SUDOKU



Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all the digits from 1 to 9.  
**Level:** Moderate  
**Target:** 24 mins

### LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION



For extra clues call:  
**0901 322 5603**

*\*Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

For today's full solution call: **0907 181 2575**

*\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

## FAITH, HOPE AND SUE Lisa Wild



## RUPERT AND THE CAPRICORN No 46

To order the New Rupert Bear Soft Toy (30cm - Rainbow Designs) at £14.99 please call 01872 562315; or order on [www.classicrupertbearshop.com](http://www.classicrupertbearshop.com). UK P & P £4.95.



As the craft is borne along on the current, the pirates wave and Rupert waves back until they are out of sight. In the next bay he is relieved to see the faithful Capricorn waiting beside the sea. When he calls, the giant creature plunges into the water and swims to him. "This raft was built for me by the pirates. Could you push it across the sea?" The Capricorn understands what is wanted and replies, "Of course, I can, just as soon as you are ready to start."



Then on the current Rupert's borne, Round to the waiting Capricorn.

© Express Newspapers 2024

"Why, Rupert, that's a good idea! Yes, I can push you, never fear."



# WIN A NINJA BUNDLE THIS MONTH!

**ENDS 31/05/2024**



**TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING:**

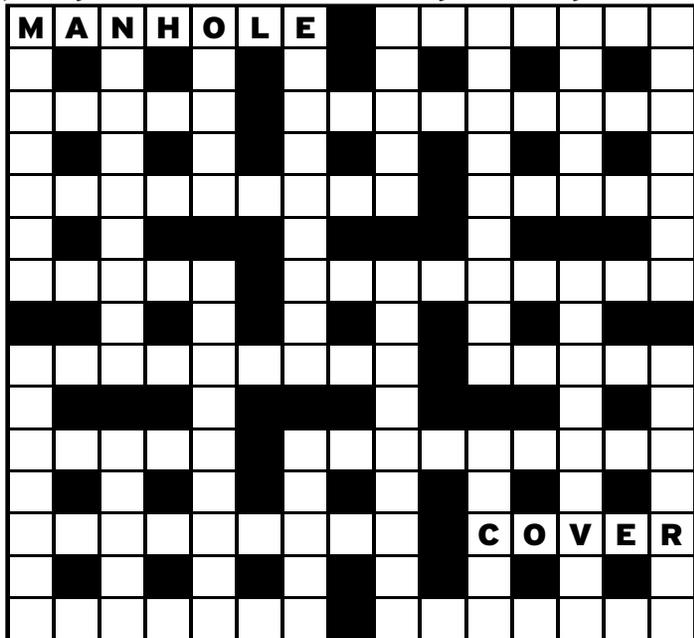
TEXT	CALL	POST	ENTER ONLINE
<b>NINJA1 to 61011</b> Texts cost £2.00 + 1 standard network rate message	<b>0903 681 6810</b> Calls cost £2.00 + network access charge	<b>NINJA1 + your name and phone number</b> Express Win, PO Box 6162, Derby, DE1 9GU	<b>at <a href="http://express.win">express.win</a></b> SCAN ME

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** To receive marketing messages, send SMS with NO IN. SP: NI Telecom Ltd. Helpline: 0333 681 6810. Min age 18+. All entries are free. Entries close at midnight on the last day of the month and may still be charged. Postal entries close at midnight on 31st of the following month. One winner will be selected at random from all correct entries after the closing date and will be contacted by phone. Full Terms and Conditions apply. Name and address of the winner will be published. If you object to your information being made available please see our privacy notice on line at [www.expresswin.com](http://www.expresswin.com)'s privacy policy. This prize draw is syndicated across other Reach titles. For a full list of our brands see [www.reach.com/our-brands](http://www.reach.com/our-brands).

# THE SUNSHINE PUZZLE

The Sunshine Puzzle has been a firm favourite with readers of the Express for many years. All you need to do is find the correct home for the listed words. We have helped you by placing two. Here are the words that go into the grid:

- AGENT
- CLUBS
- COVER
- DARED
- EATEN
- EXTRA
- OCEAN
- STIRS
- STUNT
- TAILS
- THREE
- UNCLE
- DESERTS
- DESIGNS
- DRESSED
- DRESSES
- EXTINCT
- MANHOLE
- MOTIONS
- STORAGE
- ASSEMBLED
- COMPUTERS
- DISTRICTS
- ENERGETIC
- EQUIPMENT
- NURSERIES
- OPPRESSED
- OURSELVES
- OVERNIGHT
- SPIRITUAL
- SPREADING
- TRANSPORT



For today's solution call: **0907 181 2584**

*\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

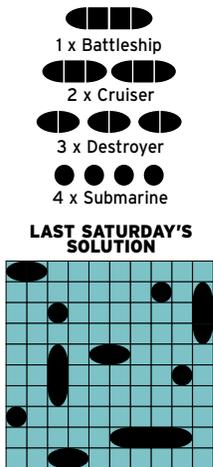
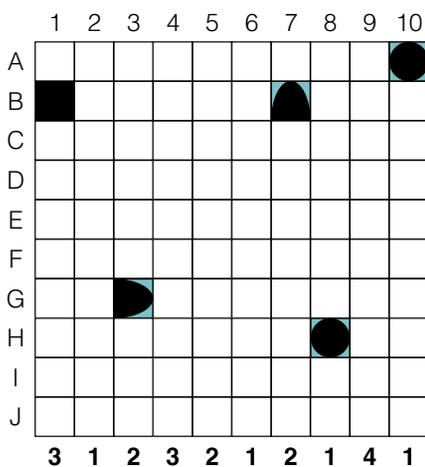
### LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION

**ACROSS** Cardiac, Cup ties, Think, Shrinkage, Aged, Hiker, Jilt, Shale, Re-examine, Stalemate, Adept, Slop, Dazed, Tank, Imitative, Imago, Elevate, Thereof. **DOWN** Cutlass, Raise, Icky, Cashier, Cortège, Pink, Italicise, Sceptre, Peter, Pagan, Anatomise, Eat, Sessile, Avarice, Element, Takeoff, Agate, Lava, Pile.

# THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

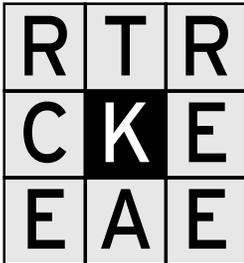
TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 42; INTERMEDIATE = 273; ADVANCED = 473.

# BATTLESHIPS



FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

# TARGET



HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in "s" permitted.

**TODAY'S TARGET**  
Good 9; very good 14; excellent 18 (or more).  
Solution next Saturday.

**LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION**  
acne akin cane fain fine **JACKKNIFE** jink kanji kink knack knife naif neck nice nick

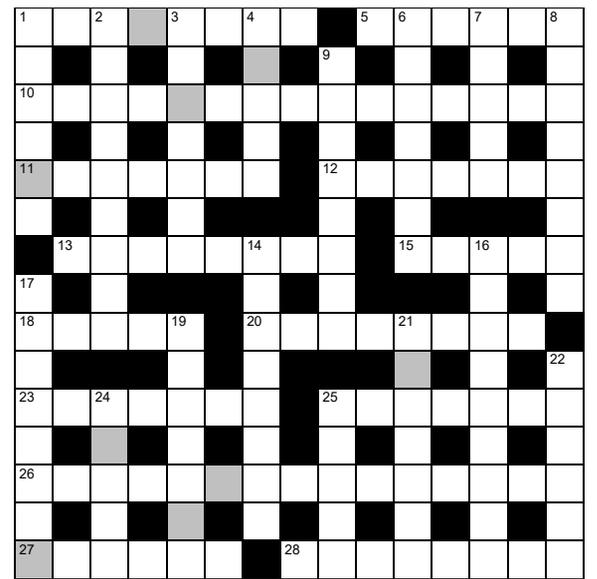
Call **0907 181 2586** for today's Target solution  
*\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. All puzzles use The Chambers Dictionary*

# CRUSADER CROSSWORD

WIN £100

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN £100 CASH read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word

- ACROSS**
- 1 Become very angry before failure to find sandal (4-4)
  - 5 Bobby's coin (6)
  - 10 Healthy popular guy initially not returning trunks and footwear (10,5)
  - 11 Novel he's torn and cut (7)
  - 12 Old-fashioned commanding officer with me reveals result (7)
  - 13 Bird with celebrity left in the capital of Germany (8)
  - 15 First public appearance of woman, extremely unfit (5)
  - 18 Father, mostly friendly, using alarm (5)
  - 20 Dance making supporter and man leave (8)
  - 23 First to order drink after a month shows proper behaviour (7)
  - 25 Demo involving professional before trial (7)
  - 26 Getting fresh meat in pie, our old dog (9,6)
  - 27 Conservative with phone embracing youth leader in tears (6)
  - 28 I'd see Don unexpectedly being unfair (3-5)



**TO ENTER:** Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight tonight. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, May 11, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by May 13 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays. SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390.

● **One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight tonight. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.**

**NEED HELP?** Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues!  
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Weekly Crusader Crossword Winner**  
**21 - 27 April:** D Hunter, Bearsden, Glasgow.  
Please allow 30 days for prizes to arrive

**LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION**  
**ACROSS** 1 Tenderly, 5 Placid, 10 For the time being, 11 Evacuee, 12 Outpace, 13 District, 15 Rogue, 18 Owned, 20 Eldorado, 23 Tempest, 25 Remnant, 26 Birds of a feather, 27 Entire, 28 Deterred.  
**DOWN** 1 Toffee, 2 Narration, 3 Exhaust, 4 Lithe, 6 Lobster, 7 China, 8 Doggerel, 9 Imported, 14 Identify, 16 Godfather, 17 Portable, 19 Dresser, 21 Rampage, 22 Stared, 24 Merit, 25 Rifle. **Prizeword:** Extradited.

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# THE ALPHABEATER

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? It's a tough twist on our popular Alphapuzzle, designed to stretch your mental muscles to the limit. Each grid number below represents a letter or a black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But now you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and the given black squares below the main grid to start.

To add to the fiendish fun, Alphabeater is 'rotationally symmetrical'. In other words the grid is the same if you turn the page upside down.

So, for example if there is a six-letter word Across which starts in the top left corner, there will be a corresponding six-letter word Across which ends in the bottom right corner square.

Every black square has a symmetrical 'twin' but the 'twin' may not always share the same number. This can help identify other black squares. Of course if the centre square is black it has no corresponding 'twin'. Solution next Saturday.

A	11	25	12	4	3	31	28	26	1	25	35	23	37
B	31	1	15	25	10	14	31	19	13	12	20	6	14
C	36	35	22	4	39	31	28	26	29	20	27	31	10
D	23	18	30	38	32	19	2	27	9	16	31	40	23
E	29	38	15	40	15	2	4	36	5	22	21	5	22
F	40	31	25	31	7	30	27	17	1	36	17	38	7
G	8	40	5	23	1	28	8	25	15	30	24	30	5
H	3	7	4	40	14	6	35	4	18	25	12	40	36
I	35	10	39	37	27	17	7	9	29	9	32	36	32
J	3	16	7	11	3	24	39	37	8	4	2	4	38
K	14	17	24	31	37	34	30	7	7	38	10	8	30
L	8	40	4	33	7	29	13	19	22	6	24	19	28
M	15	28	32	33	5	13	7	20	31	23	31	21	7
N													
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T													
U													
V													
W													
X													
Y													
Z													

Target Time: 36 minutes

Today's full solution  
**0907 181 2557**  
Extra letter clues  
**0907 181 2559**

Call for up to six extra letter clues. (Deduct three minutes for each extra letter heard.) Callers will also be given two black square numbers free of any target time penalty.

*\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DSXBEAT** to **64343**.

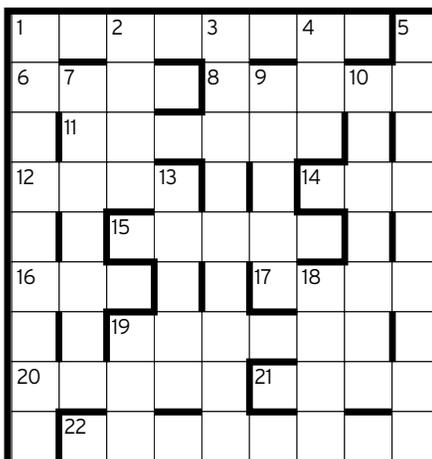
Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

**LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION**  
**Black squares:** 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 17, 19, 24, 25, 30, 31, 40.

**Across:** Equivalent, Weight, Earwax, Outgrow, Jumbo, Krona, Unfit, Hiker, Tobacco, Gaping, Mousse, Daydreamer.  
**Down:** Swoop, Thigh, Evictor, Obesity, Usher, Okay, Agar, Axed, Judo, Bloom, Earmuff, Incisor, Axiom, Zones.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	J																		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

# SMALL CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Good-looking (8)
  - 6 Do as ordered (4)
  - 8 Stop briefly (5)
  - 11 Hurrying (6)
  - 12 Takes a seat (4)
  - 14 Sports trophy (3)
  - 15 Knock over a drink (5)
  - 16 Large (3)
  - 17 Merit (4)
  - 19 Twice as much (6)
  - 20 Porcelain (5)
  - 21 If not, then (4)
  - 22 Having a job (8)

- DOWN**
- 1 Devils-on-, bacon-wrapped prunes (9)
  - 2 Tidy (4)
  - 3 Metaphysical (9)
  - 4 Vessel for hot drinks (3)
  - 5 Dense drop (anag.) (9)
  - 7 From England, Scotland or Wales (7)
  - 9 Leg joint (5)
  - 10 Four-sided shapes (7)
  - 13 Cutlery item (5)
  - 18 Wartime partner (4)
  - 19 Not bright (3)

For today's solution call: **0907 181 2583**  
*\*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

**LAST SATURDAY'S SOLUTION**  
**ACROSS** 1 Slippers, 6 Pens, 8 Rains, 11 Attend, 12 Crop, 14 Air, 15 Quiet, 16 Act, 17 Ruin, 19 Clause, 20 Least, 21 Term, 22 Friendly.  
**DOWN** 1 Specially, 2 Into, 3 Predicate, 4 Rid, 5 Astronomy, 7 Earache, 9 Anger, 10 Noisier, 13 Pulls, 18 Used, 19 Car.

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## Straight to beds...



Give your beds and borders a shot of colour this weekend

Planning a trip to the garden centre for some summer bedding? You won't be alone as now is the perfect time to invest in petunias, tobacco plants, French marigolds and, well, just about everything.

But be selective. Buy bushy plants – not tall, spindly ones that are plastered in flowers.

And choose plants with a few open blooms so that you can see the colour of the flowers, but with masses of buds that will open and give their all in the garden rather than the nursery or the garden centre. Avoid any pots and trays that have dried out – you'll be

able to tell because the compost will have shrunk away from the sides of the pot and the plants may look a bit sad.

When you get the plants home give them a good soak before planting – dry root balls are very difficult to re-wet once they are under the soil.

Prepare the soil by dusting it with blood, bone and fishmeal, and then lightly fork it over to remove any weeds and loosen up the surface.

You can be quite cruel when it comes to prising the trays of plants apart, but make sure that each plant has a good clump of roots and compost attached to it. Plant bedding with a trowel, setting plants at the same level they were growing in the tray.

When it comes to planting distance, a lot depends on the ultimate size of the plant, but as a rule of thumb, set them between 6in and 9in apart so that they have room to expand, but will not spend

their lives surrounded by grey dust.

Water the plants in with a watering can fitted with a sprinkler head. A good soaking will settle them in, but don't think you can then leave the plants to get on with it.

In dry spells they will need further watering until their roots have travelled far enough to locate their own supply.

In the North of England and in Scotland I'd wait another week or two before putting bedding out, to be on the safe side. But we're nearly there – ready for a summer of bright flowers and high spirits. Happy gardening!

**A soaking will settle them in, but don't leave them to get on with it**



### GARDENER'S DIARY

#### Your weekly gardening to-do list...

- Plant dormant dahlia tubers in the garden – put them in 4-6in deep. Don't worry about frost damage as the young shoots won't emerge above the soil before the weather has warmed up.
- If the weather is fairly mild, start hardening off home-grown annual bedding plants. Stand them in a cold frame, opening the lid on fine days and closing it at night. Alternatively, stand plants outside on fine days and bring them back in at night.
- Earth up any potato shoots that are showing through the soil, scraping up surrounding soil to build up ridges along the rows of plants.

## PLANT of the week

### Ornamental onion (allium)

If there's one plant that has Chelsea Flower Show visitors going, "Ooh, what's that?", it's the ornamental onion. Its large, showy purple globes are suspended above bare, straight stalks, standing out above borders packed with a tapestry of perennials. And unlike a lot of flower show special effects, this is easy to copy at home.



Alliums flower naturally in May and June. Look for dormant bulbs in autumn or spring from garden centres or mail order firms, and plant in well-drained soil in full sun. It's quite in order to tuck alliums between clumps of other plants, singly or in groups.

Being hardy, they can then be left in place and will spread slowly into bigger clumps with some self-seeding. They will look stunning wandering naturally through a border.

## SPOTLIGHT ON... planting

Bedding plants and frost-tender veg are prone to teething troubles in their early stages, and it doesn't pay to skimp on soil preparation or to rush your planting technique.

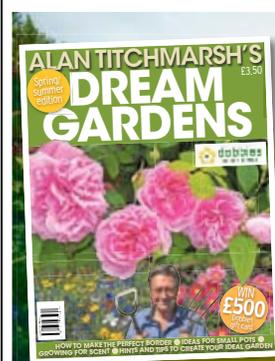


First, fork the soil over. Remove every scrap of weed, roots and debris and work in some well-rotted organic matter (home-made garden compost, second-hand compost tipped out of seed trays, last year's used grow bags, or a bag of soil improver bought from the garden centre).

Then dust the soil with general fertiliser (blood, fish and bone or an organic equivalent) and work it in with a rake, smoothing out the soil. Now you're ready for plants. Water well then take them gently out of their containers to avoid tearing off roots. Plants growing in trays need prising carefully apart with your fingers.

Lay the young plants roughly in place so they are evenly distributed over the space, then plant each one with a trowel, making sure each hole is deep enough for all the roots without scrunching them up. When planted, water them in. Use a can or a slow-running hose to trickle water round the base of each plant.

Finish off by using an organic slug and snail remedy all around newly planted areas but don't leave it at that. It's vital to visit new plants frequently in the first few weeks in case they need more attention.



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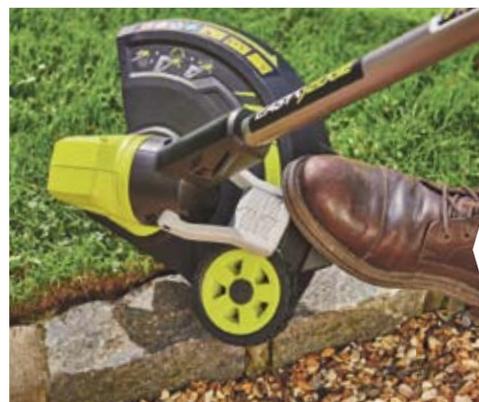
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BOURNEMOUTH	01202 411 600	01202 411 644	WINCHESTER	01962 798 500	01962 798 444
BRIGHTON	01273 715 500	01273 715 544	WORCESTER	01905 349 555	01905 349 600
BRISTOL	0117 929 9000	0117 929 1036	YORK	01904 942 900	01904 942 899
CAMBRIDGE	01223 461 600	01223 448 188			
CANTERBURY	01227 865 700	01227 865 744			
CARDIFF	02920 726 600	02920 726 644			
CARLISLE	01228 471 100	01228 471 044			
CHELMSFORD	01245 961 400	01245 961 361			
CHELTENHAM	01242 437 372	01242 437 384			
CHESTER	01244 888 777	01244 888 744			
EDINBURGH	0131 243 2800	0131 243 2844			
EXETER	01392 458 200	01392 458 244			
GLASGOW	0141 353 2224	0141 353 2400			
GUILDFORD	01483 478 400	01483 478 444			
LEEDS	0113 246 2200	0113 246 2244			
LIVERPOOL	0151 221 9500	0151 221 9544			
MANCHESTER	0161 839 6969	0161 839 3434			
MILTON KEYNES	01908 348 400	01908 348 348			

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	Economy	Business
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New York	£476#	£1,725^
Delhi	£488†	£1,852†
Mauritius	£490†	£2,154†
Bangkok	£584^	£2,136#
Maldives	£637#	£2,317
Colombo	£652^	£2,594†
Sydney	£820†	£3,611^
Brisbane	£875#	£4,532^
Perth	£977#	£3,371^

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# TRAVEL



Edited by  
**NIGEL  
THOMPSON**  
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SEEN  
AND  
HERD  
Elephants  
at sunset

# From tusk till dawn

Safaris, rainforest, wife tests... Kenya is intriguing 24/7, says **Nigel Thompson**



**STICK AT IT**  
Nigel leaps at the  
chance to do a wife test

**G**rasping the “welcome” stick, swaying vaguely (OK, so not at all) in time with the music and chanting, I readied myself for the “wife test”.

A Masai tribal dancer demonstrated what I had to do – jump on the spot as high as I could four times. The higher the better.

Inevitably he was better, springing high into the clammy night air at the Amboseli Safari Lodge in southern Kenya.

My turn.

Terrible. I soared like an anvil.

According to the local Masai tribe providing the evening entertainment at the resort in Amboseli National Park, under the watchful gaze of mighty Mount Kilimanjaro across the border in Tanzania, I qualified for just one wife. For the record, the position is taken.

In Masai culture the higher a man jumps, the more wives he can

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

## BIG DEAL

Corsica from £393pp: Depart from Gatwick on June 4 for a four-night Mediterranean island getaway with room-only accommodation at the three-star Chez Walter hotel, near Bastia. Comes with 23kg baggage and transfers. [easyjet.com/en/holidays](http://easyjet.com/en/holidays)

## Cruise news

BY MILO BOYD

Boy George will be spinning the discs aboard Virgin Voyages' cruise ships this summer, alongside a team of astronauts.

The Culture Club star will be DJing on the company's annual Virgin Celebration Voyage, which will see founder Sir Richard Branson and freshly back-to-Earth Virgin

astronauts bopping along. The cruise has a whole host of other fun activities for passengers (known as “sailors”) to take part in including fitness classes, interactive workshops, fireside chats and daily happy hours.

Virgin Voyages chief Nirmal Saverimuttu said: “Once a year, our sailors have unprecedented access to immerse themselves in the magic of both Virgin Voyages and the Virgin brand. They'll be rubbing elbows with visionary leaders from across the

Virgin family and this year's very special guests.”

The special five-night sailing is on August 30 from Miami to Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic and the line's Beach Club at Bimini, The Bahamas. From £1,047 per person.

From August, Virgin Voyages will return to Portsmouth, sailing to ports such as Amsterdam, Bilbao, Bordeaux, Zeebrugge (for Bruges), Barcelona, La Coruna, Lisbon, Casablanca, Malaga and Ibiza. [virginvoyages.com](http://virginvoyages.com)

## BIG DEAL

Saint Lucia from £899pp: Jet away from Heathrow on selected dates in November for a seven-night room-only Caribbean getaway at three-star Bay Gardens Inn, Rodney Bay. Book by May 31, includes lounge access. [virginholidays.co.uk](http://virginholidays.co.uk)

## Going green

PLANET-FRIENDLY TRAVEL NEWS  
BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Eurostar has pledged to power its high-speed cross-Channel trains with 100% renewable energy by 2030. In its first sustainability report, it says it will focus on three key areas to achieve its goal of 30 million low-carbon journeys a year:

- Sourcing renewable energies including studying the installation of solar power.
- Minimising waste and using resources more efficiently, such as further curation of sustainably sourced and environmentally friendly on-board food.



■ Attracting more passengers via open hubs to connect Eurostar to domestic networks or long-haul flights, like its air-rail partnership with Dutch carrier KLM.

"Eurostar wants to use its brand and commitment to accelerate change across the sector," Eurostar chief Gwendoline Cazenave said.

In the Netherlands, Eurostar trains have run on 100% wind power since 2017, and at 40% in the UK since 2023. eurostar.com

## Buy of the week

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Always forgetting the combination on your suitcase padlock? Problem solved with this robust shackle that opens at the touch of a fingerprint.



Up to 10 prints can be stored, it's IP67 waterproof and dustproof, works between -10C and 45C, and has a battery life of 12 months.

■ Groov-e My Lock biometric padlock, £24.99, groov-e.co.uk

# TRAVEL

TOP JOB  
Nigel with  
guide Omar



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

have – height earns status as the man can see further to spot the family's cattle on the savannah.

My losing leap was at the end of an introduction to TUI's new flexible Kenya coast and safari packages, which offer a wildlife experience then a stay at an Indian Ocean resort.

Here's what you can expect...

### A flying start

You'll travel to Mombasa via capital Nairobi and it's worth noting you need to collect your hold baggage, clear immigration and then walk outside the international to the domestic terminal. TUI aims to have staff on hand to assist, or provide a pre-trip briefing, as signage is poor.

### Beaches and screeches

TUI has a selection of 14 hotels along Kenya's Indian Ocean coast, offering half-board and all-inclusive.

I stayed at two – Baobab Beach Resort and Serena Beach Resort – and also visited Southern Palms.

All are good with nice pools, fine restaurants and friendly service, though expect persistent vendors if you venture on to the beach. Also expect lots of monkeys. They wander around as if they own the place (they probably do) and are quite happy to visit your balcony and screech at humans. If a big male wants to cross the path in front of you, it's his right of way!

My favourite was the Serena, a lush site in the spirit of a Swahili village, but you'd be fine at any of them.

### Tree huggers

From Baobab I took an enjoyable excursion to UNESCO-listed Kaya Kinondo, at 30 acres the last patch of Kenyan tropical rainforest.

It's a sacred, eco site for locals with beliefs pre-dating the arrival of western

Christians and Arab Muslims and has 187 species of tree, 45 species of butterfly, and 48 types of bat.

Guide Salim showed our group "killer" fig trees that strangle other trees, and suggested we all hug a tree believed to give off positive vibes. That's all the hugging allowed – sex is banned in the forest!

### Mombasa matatus

The matatu 14-seat public buses are everywhere in Kenya's second largest city and decorated with eye-catching artwork. On another excursion from Baobab, we saw hundreds. They make great photo opps and there is some real creativity from the art students who do the paint jobs.

I thoroughly enjoyed Mombasa, taking in the symbolic Elephant Tusk arch, two Hindu temples, the narrow streets of the old town, the main square and mighty Fort Jesus, built in 1593 by the Portuguese, taken over by Omani Arabs and finally seized by the British.

It was a huge centre for slave trading by the Arabs and Portuguese but was ended by the British in 1898.

For a great lunch stop try Tamarind restaurant, perched on a cliff terrace overlooking the old harbour. Fab food, service and views.

### THE SAFARI Mothers' pride

The two sisters ambled along the dusty track, with their nine boisterous offspring following behind.

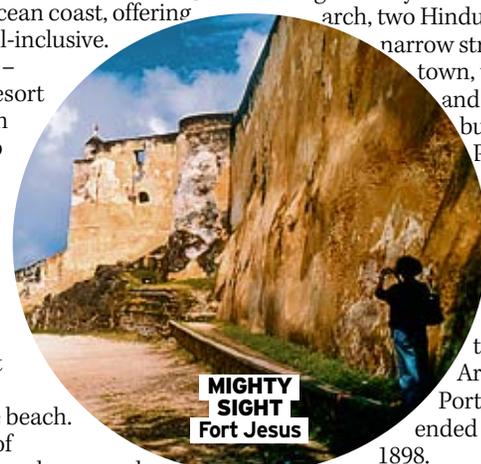
Magnificent lionesses; gorgeous, playful cubs. Our expert driver Omar inched us

closer.

Just feet away from our specially adapted seven-passenger 4x4 Toyota Land Cruiser, we could hear the little ones mewling and their mothers



LUSH LIFE  
Serena resort



MIGHTY SIGHT  
Fort Jesus

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# Kenya believe it?

**MONKEY BUSINESS**  
Baobab Beach Resort

growing in response. We gasped, we snapped away, we smiled, some said they could feel a tear coming on. This is peak safari.

It was the first day of our wildlife sector and already we'd struck animal gold twice in the Tsavo East National Park, the largest in Kenya at 5,300 square miles.

En route to our accommodation at the Ashnil Aruba Lodge, Omar had already found a herd of around 50 elephants at a watering hole.

Some of the babies were just two months old, he explained, but like the rest they already had red-tinted skin from the iron-rich ochre soil they wallow in.

While it was hard to leave this magnificent sight, an early start meant lunch at the lodge beckoned.

Next day, after an early morning trip to see if those mother lions had made a kill in the night, we stopped at Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa for lunch and a tour of its small World War One museum with ranger Brian.

From the resort we moved on to the showstopper accommodation of the safari.

Salt Lick Safari Lodge is one of the finest in Kenya and is perched on stilts above a watering hole in the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

It oozes quality and has a healthy population of (grey!) elephants, with outstanding views and hospitality.

TUI packages include a stay here and it's worth the journey alone for a

**PRIDE AND JOY**  
Lion family



**WIN BY A NECK**  
Giraffes

**BEAKY BLINDER**  
Salt Lick birdlife



night here. Like the rest of the parks, it's rich in spectacular bird life and there's a terrific hilltop spot at Kudu Point for sundowners and snacks by a firepit, accompanied by tribal dancers.

On to Tsavo West park, a more volcanic area with swathes of old flows, and crossing two forded rivers, we stopped at Mzima Springs for a walking tour with (armed) ranger Alex. The waters are frequented by hippos and crocodiles.

Hippo spotted, cros AWOL, we drove on to Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge in Amboseli park via cratered dirt roads hit by flooding last winter.

I will never complain

about the UK's potholes again. Mount Kilimanjaro – overlooking the park at a brooding 19,340ft – had clouds hiding the snow-capped summit until they cleared for a moment to allow enough time for a snatched photo.

The next day we had to depart for Nairobi airport but not before a 6.30am game drive that concluded with thousands of pink flamingos on a mirror-calm lake, with a Kilimanjaro backdrop.

Right up there with the lionesses and their cubs and the herd of red elephants, this was a wildlife sight to make your heart sing.

## THE ESSENTIALS

### Food and drink

I'd not been to Kenya and was pleasantly surprised. The salads in particular were fresh and full of flavour, with a variety of curries – from a history of Indian immigrants – both meat and vegetable proving a regular delight. Check out the feisty lime pickle with samosas.

I tried ugali, the national staple made from maize, and it's certainly hearty. Spinach in various guises seems ubiquitous and it's a tasty side for a beef stew with rice or ugali.

The community-run Pallet Cafe, near the Baobab, is a short taxi

“Magnificent lionesses; gorgeous, playful cubs... it was peak safari”

## BOOK IT

TUI offers a 14 night Kenya safari and stay package with a full-board five-night national parks safari tour then a half-board stay at the Serena Beach Resort & Spa, near Mombasa, from £3,169pp. Departs from Heathrow via Nairobi on October 4 with 23kg luggage and transfers.

■ A seven night safari and stay package on October 4 costs from £2,949pp, with post-safari accommodation at the Southern Palms Beach Resort, near Mombasa, on full-board. [tui.co.uk](http://tui.co.uk)

**MORE INFO**  
[magicalkenya.com](http://magicalkenya.com)

ride for lunch and is a lovely beach-side spot.

I had heard of Kenya's Tusker lager and it's a fine brew, as is White Cap. Tusker cider is also decent and I tried a sip of Kenyan wine, which was perfectly drinkable.

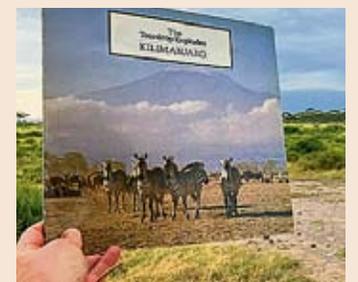
If you're on all-inclusive, the spirits will be local versions of whisky, gin and vodka etc. Good luck. There is an option to pay for premium brands.

## Well driven

TUI has partnered with Pollman's, Kenya's leading tour firm, for the packages and it supplies transfers, excursions and the safaris.

To drive for Pollman's our driver, 20-year veteran Omar, had to do a five-month wildlife course, a practical exam and three types of driving tests in varying conditions.

He told me we would rack up 870 miles on our safari, much of it on those weather-battered dirt roads



## Reward with the best view

In 1980, Liverpool post-punk band Teardrop Explodes released Top 10 single Reward.

Sold on that, I bought the quartet's album Kilimanjaro, which had two covers: the band or the mountain with zebras.

I chose the latter for the magnificent photo and wistfully hoped one day of seeing it. So, just 44 years after a junior newspaper reporter had that dream, it's been fulfilled and I brought the LP sleeve with me for a photo.

The zebras had not come out to play, the peak was cloudy but I learned to accept my reward.

where his skills would be tested.

In Tsavo West park I asked him for his favourite Kenyan animal; like me he'd opt for a famously elusive leopard.

“Does your work ever get boring?” I added.

He laughed and swept his arm towards the lush mountains and a grazing giraffe.

“No! Look at all this! I like my job!”

# TRAVEL

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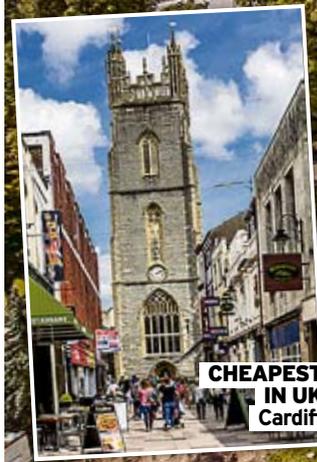


**RIGHT TRACK**  
Tram ride in Lisbon

# It's got vil power



**TOP SPOT**  
Cathedral Square in Vilnius



**CHEAPEST IN UK**  
Cardiff

Lithuania's capital is your best bet for a bargain break in Europe, reports **Vicky Lissaman**

**E**ast beats west when it comes to bagging a bargain city break this year. Seven Eastern European cities landed a place in the top 10 best value destinations, according to the Post Office Travel Money City Costs Barometer, with Lithuanian capital Vilnius regaining its title as the cheapest of all to visit.

Runner-up Lisbon is one of two Western European cities to reach the top five in the table, as Lille leaps to third place.

Closer to home, Cardiff is again the cheapest of our four UK capital cities.

Vilnius, which boasts a vast medieval old town, overtook last year's winner, Lisbon, to top the list for the fourth time, out of 37 cities surveyed for the 17th annual cost comparison.

It comes as Post Office, the UK's leading foreign currency provider, reports that sterling is stronger than a year ago against every European currency except the Polish zloty, helping to shrink city-break costs in many countries.

Despite registering a 4.8 per cent price increase since last year, Vilnius was still the cheapest city with the cost of 12 typical items, including drinks, meal for two with wine, two nights' three-star weekend accommodation, sightseeing and city transport totalling around £237.

This was more than 10 per cent lower than in runner-up Lisbon and less than half the price of 18 other cities including Amsterdam, the most expensive at £669.

A 26 per cent rise in the average cost of three-star accommodation in Lisbon – £152 for two nights, compared with £121 in June 2023 –

accounts for a higher barometer cost of £264.

However, when it comes to expenses, it remains good value making the Portuguese capital the cheapest city in Western Europe. It serves the cheapest drinks – wine £1.95, coffee £1.06, beer £1.86 – and the best-value three-course dinner for two with wine (£36.60). A 30 per cent fall in accommodation costs from £186 to £131 also helped Lille in France jump seven places into third.

Less than one-and-a-half hours from London via Eurostar, and host of the basketball and handball events at this summer's Olympics, Lille saw an overall price fall of 16.5 per cent to £278.

Another European capital and past winner, Athens, took fifth at £289.

British tourists can snap up city-break bargains choosing from six other Eastern European cities including Krakow (fourth, £279), Riga (sixth, £297) and Warsaw (10th, £319).

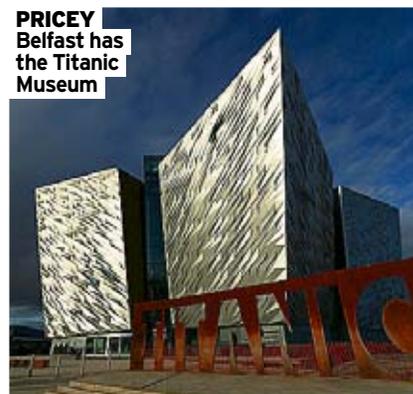
Boosted by sterling's strength against the Hungarian forint, Budapest (£311) has moved up one place to seventh on the back of a six per cent fall in barometer costs, while price reductions in Bratislava (£316, -5.7 per cent) and Prague (£318, -12.5 per cent) have helped push them into eighth and ninth places.

They displace Zagreb (11th, £325, prices down 1.7 per cent) and Porto (13th, £361 – prices up 10.5 per

**TOP THREE**  
Grand Place square, Lille



**PRICEY**  
Belfast has the Titanic Museum



cent), although Portugal's second largest city continues to offer value when you get there, with the second cheapest coffee at £1.33 and the third cheapest beer at £2.65.

As more than two-in-five Britons planning a trip abroad say they will opt for a city break, they really are spoilt for choice with prices down in

60 per cent of the 37 cities surveyed.

Prices have also dropped in traditional favourites including Venice (33rd at £582, prices down 15.4 per cent), Paris (24th at £515, down 15.1 per cent), and Madrid (19th at £463, down 13.1 per cent).

Laura Plunkett, head of travel money at Post Office, which accounts

for one-in-four UK foreign exchange transactions, said: "The cost of meals and drinks needs to be added to the spending budget as city breaks rarely include these. They can make a big difference to holiday costs and the low prices we found in Lisbon and Athens make these strong contenders for a bargain break."

"Generally, it's a win-win situation for British holidaymakers this year because prices are down in many of the European cities we surveyed."

"However, prices vary significantly across Europe, so it will make sense to do some holiday homework before booking."

For those planning city breaks on home turf, Cardiff (£409, 16th) again offers the best value of UK capitals, coming in at 35 per cent cheaper than Belfast (£629, 36th), the most expensive UK city this year.

In 35th place with a barometer of £602, Edinburgh is almost as pricey.

Both cities saw year-on-year price rises of 12 per cent.

Conversely, prices have fallen by 6.5 per cent in London to £524, thanks to lower accommodation charges, pushing it into 25th.

For the first time Belfast was more expensive than Dublin, which is now cheapest for cultural sightseeing. Entry to its leading museum and gallery is free, while its top heritage attraction, Kilmainham Gaol, is just £7.07.

By comparison, entry to Vienna's cultural attractions costs eight times as much at £57.38.

## POST OFFICE EUROPEAN CITY COSTS BAROMETER 2024

ITEMS	Vilnius	Lisbon	Lille	Krakow	Athens	Cardiff	London	Dublin	Belfast	Amsterdam
Cup of coffee	£1.82	£1.06	£2.77	£2.76	£3.09	£2.40	£3.25	£2.74	£3.90	£3.09
Bottle of beer in cafe/bar	£2.77	£1.86	£5.30	£4.24	£4.86	£4.95	£5.40	£5.75	£5.10	£4.86
Coca-Cola in cafe/bar	£2.17	£2.03	£3.71	£2.76	£2.65	£3.20	£3.60	£1.95	£2.70	£3.36
Glass of wine in cafe/bar	£3.42	£1.95	£5.50	£5.51	£5.75	£5.30	£6.75	£6.41	£6.85	£5.75
3 course meal for 2	£59.70	£36.60	£77.89	£79.30	£49.95	£74.00	£81.80	£83.10	£109.45	£88.85
Return airport bus or train	£1.15	£3.62	£14.13	£2.54	£9.73	£14.80	£12.60	£7.96	£4.70	£10.43
48-hour travel card	£7.07	£12.47	£7.47	£7.42	£17.68	£8.80	£31.80	£14.15	£12.00	£13.26
Sightseeing city bus tour	£9.73	£24.75	£14.59	£21.20	£17.68	£15.00	£42.00	£25.64	£20.00	£24.31
Top heritage attraction	£0.00	£10.61	£0.00	£7.42	£17.68	£14.50	£34.80	£7.07	£24.95	£14.15
Top museum	£10.61	£7.07	£6.19	£5.94	£13.26	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£19.45
Top art gallery	£7.07	£9.73	£9.73	£6.78	£7.07	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£19.89
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>£105.51</b>	<b>£111.75</b>	<b>£147.28</b>	<b>£145.87</b>	<b>£149.40</b>	<b>£142.95</b>	<b>£222.00</b>	<b>£154.77</b>	<b>£189.65</b>	<b>£207.40</b>
2 nights' 3 star accom.	£131.00	£152.00	£131.00	£133.00	£140.00	£266.00	£302.00	£424.00	£439.00	£462.00
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b>£236.51</b>	<b>£263.75</b>	<b>£278.28</b>	<b>£278.87</b>	<b>£289.40</b>	<b>£408.95</b>	<b>£524.00</b>	<b>£578.77</b>	<b>£628.65</b>	<b>£669.40</b>

**“**  
**The cost of meals and drinks can make a big difference to your outlay**

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### JANUARY 2025

- Sun 5 **Embark *Ambience* and depart London Tilbury**
- Fri 10 **Funchal, Madeira**
- Fri 17 **King's Wharf, Bermuda**  
With its unique pink sand beaches and azure waters, its not surprising that Bermuda is a highly sought-after destination. As well as tropical landscapes like no other, expect to experience some of the best seafood around
- Mon 20 **Philipsburg, Saint Maarten**
- Tue 21 **Road Town, Tortola**
- Thu 23 - **Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (overnight)**  
Fri 24
- Mon 27 - **Cozumel, Mexico (overnight)**  
Tue 28
- Wed 29 **Costa Maya, Mexico**  
Costa Maya offers a pristine waterfront away from the tourist trail. Its lagoons, hidden archaeological sites and sunny climate give you a taste of this vibrant country

### Fri 31 **George Town, Cayman Islands**

George Town offers plenty of things to see and do against the backdrop of sandy beaches and turquoise seas. Not only is it a tropical paradise, but this colourful city also hosts a variety of beautiful art galleries, rum distilleries and eateries for you to enjoy

### FEBRUARY 2025

- Sat 1 **Montego Bay, Jamaica**  
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## Spain, Portugal & Canary Islands

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Sailing from Southampton

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£350 on board spending money per cabin

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## Norwegian Fjords

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Sailing from Southampton

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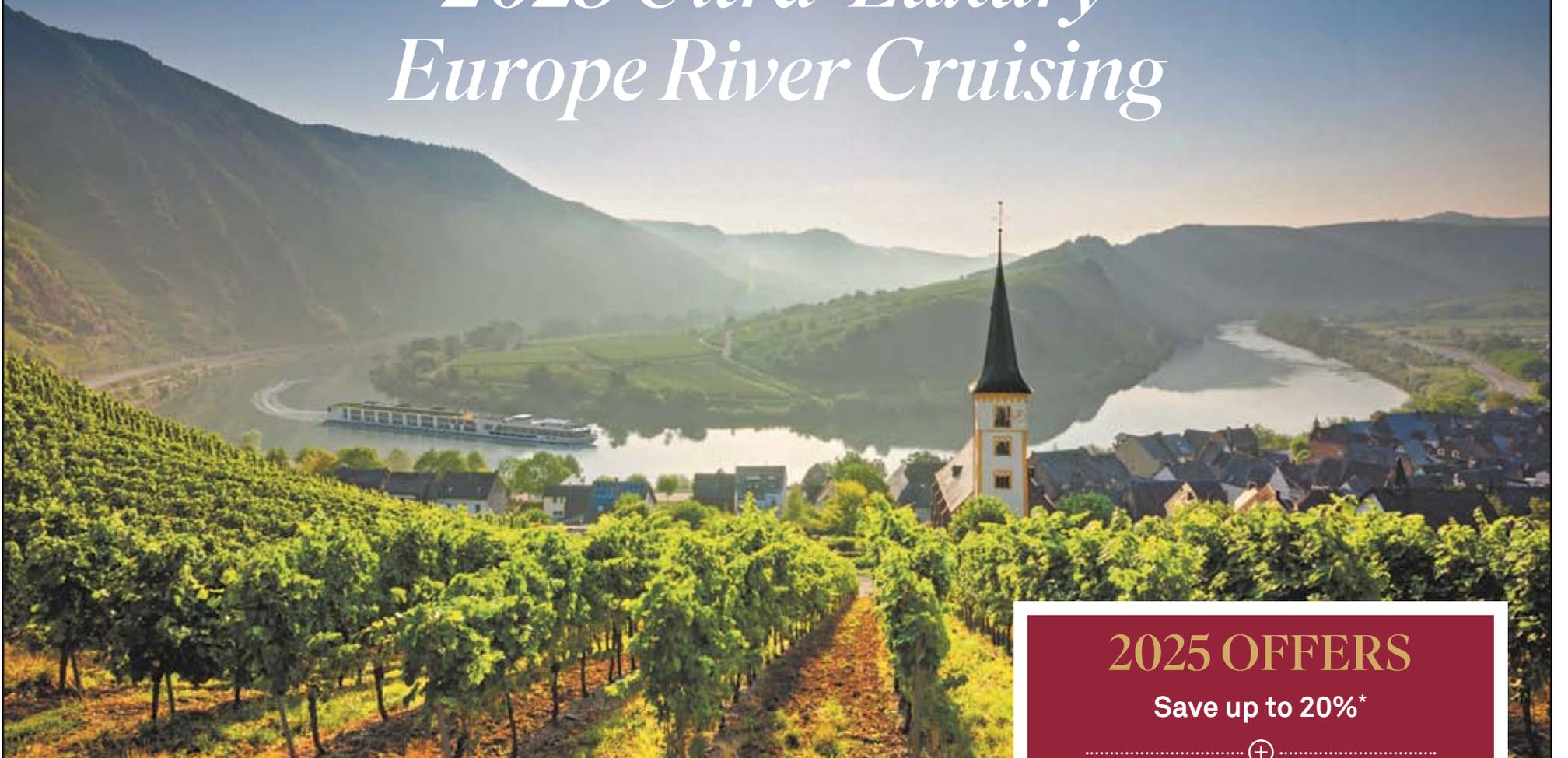


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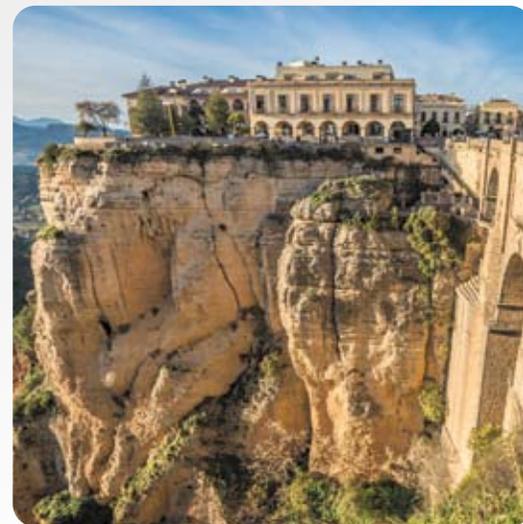
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# MOTORING



Edited by  
**COLIN GOODWIN**

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Oh, no. This was one where I had to make the call of shame. That's when you have to phone a car company to explain to them that something has gone a bit wrong during a test drive.

I've had to make a few over the years. The worst was when I drove a Porsche 911 into the back of a Ferrari and had to phone *both* companies to apologise.

Today's faux pas was a little less dramatic. While testing the newly revised Volkswagen Tiguan at an event in the Cotswolds, I decided to not follow the official route and do my own thing. This I often do without any problem – other than getting myself lost.

This time I managed to get myself down a single lane paved farm road that after about a mile suddenly ended. A U-turn being required, I nosed into a field. Bad mistake. While the Tiguan is available with four-wheel drive, our test 1.5 eTSI Elegance is only front-wheel drive.

After several futile attempts to reverse out over the sodden mud I ended up well and truly stuck in the field and had to ring VW for help. The car might well still be there. All £41,700 of it.

The Tiguan has been a huge success for Volkswagen with around 7.5 million sold around the world since it was launched.



## THE FACTS

**Volkswagen Tiguan Elegance five-door crossover**

**Price:** £41,700  
**Engine:** 1.5-litre four-cylinder, 148bhp  
**0-62mph:** 9.1sec  
**Fuel consumption:** 43.2mpg  
**Co2:** 149g/km

## TWEAKED TIGUAN IS A WORTHY UPGRADE

Unsurprisingly, for this facelift the designers and engineers haven't messed too much with the mix. You also get plenty of choice when configuring a Tiguan. You can have a diesel engine, 129bhp or 148bhp versions of a 1.5-litre petrol engine, and later in the year a couple of plug-in hybrid powertrains, plus more powerful 2.0-litre petrol engines. Four or two-wheel drive

are also available and there are plenty of trim levels to choose from plus several option packs that can be added.

Exterior changes to the Tiguan are just a tweak here or there to the lights but the more substantial changes have been made to the car's interior.

As you go up through the trim levels, the prices get quite fruity and you're facing some stiff opposition

from BMW and its XI, so the quality needs to match the price tag. The big change is a new free standing infotainment screen that measures 12.9in, unless you order the Infotainment Package Plus in which case you get a 15in screen.

The latter looks a bit too big so I probably wouldn't bother.

More important than screen size is the software that drives it and the

facelifted Tiguan gets the latest version of VW's operating system. It's much improved with quicker responses and sharper graphics.

It's easy to get comfortable in this car and the ride quality is excellent, even if you haven't ticked the box for the optional variable damper suspension.

The engine is smooth and quiet, and the automatic gearbox is seamless in its changes.

Elegance trim brings with it massaging seats which is something one used to find only in top-end luxury motors.

Space is excellent and the boot holds an impressive 652 litres of luggage. The rear seats are more versatile than those of several rivals because they fold 40/20/40 rather than 60/40. There's no new seven-seat option – which used to be called the Tiguan Allspace – but Volkswagen is planning to launch a new seven-seat SUV next year to satisfy those customers.

The revamped Tiguan is full of small improvements, all of which add up to a incrementally better car. Existing Tiguan owners will find nothing to stop them moving onto this facelifted model.

Perhaps just don't try doing any impromptu off-roading in a wet and muddy farmer's field if you are behind the wheel of a two-drive version!

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# City & Business

## BA profits soar as demand for holidays goes sky-high

PROFITS for the owner of British Airways have soared amid a bounce back in holidaymakers after the Covid crisis.

International Airlines Group benefited from higher sales and lower fuel costs with the first three months of the year showing an operating profit of £58.5million, up from £7.7million the same time last year.

Revenues rose to £5.5billion, up from £5.1billion last year.

IAG said the improved profits and sales were driven by stronger demand across its airlines, which also includes Aer Lingus, Iberia, and Vueling.

It highlighted travel between major European cities, particularly for leisure, while business travel has recovered more slowly.

But conflict in the Middle East affected flying there for most of its airlines.

Fuel costs were 5% lower than the previous year due to lower average prices and more efficient aircraft deliveries.

But IAG still spent more on operating the business over the latest quarter because of the higher volume of flights.

Employee costs jumped by more than 14% year on year due to staff wages being pushed up and hiring more staff for

By **Graham Hiscott**

a busy summer schedule. Luis Gallego, IAG's chief executive, said: "Our transformation initiatives and increased demand, including over the Easter holidays, have delivered another very good set of results with improvements to both revenue and operating profit."

"Our group benefits from the strength of our core markets – North Atlantic, South Atlantic and intra-Europe – and the performance of our brands. We are well-positioned for the summer. The high demand for travel is a continuing trend."

Derren Nathan, head of equity research at Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "The group has maintained altitude."

"The timing of the Easter break no doubt helped but, even so, it's an impressive start to the year."

But Russ Mould, from City firm AJ Bell, also warned the earlier than normal Easter should not be overlooked.

He added: "If that didn't feature, it seems inevitable results might not have been so good. It needs more bums on those extra seats. There is scope to do better."



IMPROVED: BA profit lift

### LIDL STAFF PAY IS ON THE UP AGAIN



ON THE RISE: Lidl will up staff pay for a third time in eight months

DISCOUNT supermarket Lidl is upping staff pay for the third time in less than a year.

Hourly paid workers will get a rise from a minimum £12 to £12.40 from next month.

In London, the entry level rate will increase to £13.65.

For longer serving staff, pay will rise to £13 an hour nationally and £14 in London. It takes the total invested in

pay to almost £50million since September and follows record trading this spring.

Ryan McDonnell, CEO at Lidl's British arm, said: "We are welcoming more customers and attracting more colleagues into the business every day."

"It's absolutely right that we continue to offer industry-leading pay."

### AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	8433.8	▲	+52.4
FTSE 250	20645.4	▲	+114.1
FTSE ALL SHARE	4588.9	▲	+30.5
Shares Traded	4876.2 million		

### POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE

Abrdn	158¼	+4¾
AstraZeneca	12370	+38
Aviva	490¼	+1¾
BAE Systems	1394	+2
Barclays	214	+¾
BP	506¼	+2
Centrica	137½	+1½
Convatec Group	262	+¼
GSK	1799½	+19
HSBC Holdings	696	+5
Lloyds Banking Group	54¼	+¼
Marks & Spencer Group	272½	+2
National Grid	1117	+4½
NatWest Group	319¼	+1½
Sainsbury (J)	276	+1¾
Shell	2946	+37½
Tesco	311¾	+1½
Unilever	4288	+22
Vodafone Group	69½	+1¼
Whitbread	3069	+6

### POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE

BT Group	105½	-½
Haleon	327¾	-¼
Int Consolidated Airlines	181¼	-1½
Rolls-Royce Holdings	423½	-10¼
Saga	112½	-1

### WORLD MARKETS

TOKYO	38229.1	▲	+155.1
HONG KONG	18963.7	▲	+425.9
GERMANY	18756.9	▲	+70.3
FRANCE	8219.1	▲	+31.5

### STERLING VALUE

Dollar	1.252	▼	-0.001
Yen	195.095	▲	+0.390
Euro	1.162	▲	+0.001

### DOLLAR VALUE

Dollar/Yen	155.879	▲	+0.4135
Dollar/Euro	0.929	▲	+0.0012

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GOLD(\$)	▲2363.10
KRUGERRAND(£)	▲1889.63
SILVER(pence)	▲2258.83
BRENT CRUDE(\$)	▲83.93

### OTHER INDICATORS

Base rate	5.25%
Halifax mortgage rate	5.98%
Retail Price Index	+4.3% (CPI +3.2%)
House price Index	-0.6%
Unemployment	1,440,000

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### TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.85 dollar
Canada	1.66 dollar
China	8.39 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.97 koruna
Denmark	8.24 krone
Eurozone	1.14 euro
Hong Kong	9.21 dollar
Hungary	419.37 forint
Israel	4.38 shekel
Japan	187.22 yen
Jordan	0.83 dinar
Mexico	19.83 peso
New Zealand	2.00 dollar
Norway	13.01 krone
Poland	4.70 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.45 riyal
South Africa	22.19 rand
Sweden	12.95 krona
Switzerland	1.10 franc
Thailand	44.14 baht
Turkey	37.65 lira
United States	1.23 dollar

### Rightmove's good housekeeping

RIGHTMOVE cut its annual average advertising revenue forecast as high mortgage rates weigh on home sales.

Shares in the property website, which charges estate agents and homebuilders a fee to list houses, fell as it also said the rental market remained tight. Finance chief Alison

Dolan said lettings agents "have needed us less for quite a long time as there is a shortage of properties".

She added higher mortgage costs continue to impact affordability for homebuyers but there were positive signs. However, annual revenue and profit expectations are unchanged.

### Ad slump hits S4Capital sales

S4Capital has revealed sales fell by a fifth after its boss sounded a warning over an advertising decline.

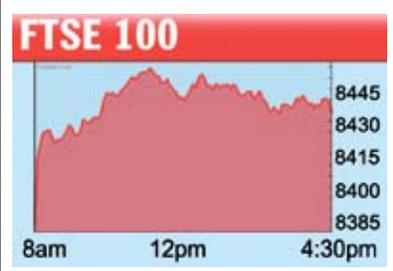
Yet shares in the digital marketing firm jumped despite the update.

It reported revenues totalling £210million for the first three months of 2024, down 20% on this

time last year. One of the biggest drags on sales was its technology services, which fell by 30% plus.

Executive chairman Sir Martin Sorrell stated the slump reflects "volatile global macroeconomic conditions" and "general client caution" particularly among tech clients.

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++														
COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK		COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK		COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK	
			HIGH	LOW				HIGH	LOW				HIGH	LOW
3i Group	2851	+31	2974	1798½	Glencore	476#	+12½	485¾	369	National Grid	1117	+4½	1162	932
A.B. Foods	2702	+16	2731	1825½	Haleon	327¾#	-¼	346½	308½	NatWest Group	319¼	+1½	320½	176¼
Admiral Group	2750#	+2	2837	2029	Halma	2328	+24	2498	1810½	Next	9294	+90	9306	6346
Airtel Africa	119	+1½	133¾	90¼	Hikma	1994	+13	2205	1722	Ocado	348¼	-5½	348¼	343
Anglo American	2773½	+37½	2799½	1670¼	HSBC Holdings	696#	+5	720¼	575¼	Pearson	997½	-2½	1042	798¼
Antofagasta	2255#	+25	2287	1293	IMI	1881#	+30	1884	1445	Pershing Square Hold	4186	+12	4218	2688
Ashted Group	5926	+54	6104	4667	Imperial Brands	1868	+1½	1934	1580	Persimmon	1424½	+18	1485	960½
AstraZeneca	12370	+38	12442	9501	Infoma	850¼	-2	855½	685¼	Phoenix Group	520½#	+4½	582¼	441½
Auto Trader	748¼		763¼	587	InterContinental Htl	7890#	+98	8752	5210	Prudential	801¾#	+14	1183	687½
Aviva	490¼#	+1¾	496½	369¼	Intermediate Cap.Grp	2178	+24	2186	1255½	Reckitt Benckiser	4597#	+1	6570	4110
B&M Europ Value Ret	548¼	+13¼	612½	460¼	Intertek Group	5000	-55	5080	3755	RELX	3459#	+8	3504	2442
BAE Systems	1394#	+2	1406½	888¼	Intl Consolidated Airlines	181¼	-1½	186	138	Rentokil Initial	425#	+4½	655¼	392½
Barclays	214	+¾	215¼	129¼	JD Sports	122	+1¾	175¼	104	Rightmove	541¼#	-31½	594¼	463
Barratt Development	493¾#	+2½	566½	392¼	Kingfisher	261½	+3¾	264¼	201¼	Rio Tinto	5605	+21	5891	4559
Beazley Group	672½	+6	689	503	Land Securities	668½	-1½	725¼	559½	Rolls-Royce Group	423½	-10¼	440½	143¼
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5245	+80	5290½	3773	Legal & General	248½#	-¼	256¼	205¼	RS Group	830	+7½	866	660½
BP	506¼	+2	558	444¼	Lloyds Banking Grp	54¼#	+¼	54¾	39¼	Sage Group	1198	-8	1282	812½
British Amer.Tob	2433	+32	2738½	2267	London Stock Ex	9128#	-34	9674	7986	Sainsbury (J)	276	+1¾	310½	245¼
BT Group	105½	-½	153¾	102¼	M&G	205½	-1	238¼	183	Schroders	373	+5	469	347¼
Bunzl	3184	+10	3306	2687	Marks & Spencer	272½	+2	290½	161½	Scottish Mortgage	884½	-9½	899¼	621
Burberry Group	1175	+14	2537	1122	Melrose	601¼	+5½	677½	446¼	SEGRO	880¼	-8½	907¾	679¼
Centrica	137½	+1½	172½	113½	Mondi	1575½#	-10½	1592½	1179¼	Seyn Trent	2587	-19	2935	2265
Coca-Cola HBC	2716	-14	2748	2065						Shell	2946	+37½	2949	2220½
Compass Group	2308	+26	2323	1945½						Smith & Nephew	1004½#	+3	1301½	896¼
Convatec Group	262#	+¼	293½	196¼						Smiths Group	1727#	+25	1766½	1526
CRH	6780	+336	6898	3806						Smurfit Kappa	3758#	-8	3778	2554
Croda International	4865#	-12	6852	4076						Spirax-Sarco	9350#	+265	11415	8058
DCC	5850	+65	5860	4171						SSE	1812	+12½	1900	1508
Diageo	2850	+13	3619½	2685½						Standard Chartered	775#	+20¼	777½	573¼
Diploma	3902	+54	3918	2804						Taylor Wimpey	144¼#	+1	148¾	99¼
DS Smith	363	+3	413	263¼						Tesco	311¾	+1½	313¼	245½
EasyJet	525	+2¼	577¼	360						Unilever	4288	+22	4353½	3694
Entain	778¼	-3¼	1486½	734¼						Unite Group	963#	-15½	1057	847
Experian Group	3453	+55	3502	2390						United Utilities	1094½	-7½	1125	900¼
F&C Inv Tst	1040	+8	1058	831						Vodafone Group	69½	+1¼	91	63
Flutter Entert	16245	+200	17475	12155						Weir Group	2112#	-2	2126	1675½
Fraser's Group	832	-3½	938	672						Whitbread	3069	+6	3678	2996
Fresnillo	577½#	-2½	691¾	441½						WPP Group	845½	+14½	897½	681¼
GlaxoSmithKline	1799½	+19	1799½	1316										



### MARKET REPORT

WITH the sun (finally) coming out, it seems a warm feeling came over investors too yesterday.

Confirmation that the UK's short, shallow recession is over gave shares an added boost.

The FTSE 100 closed at another all-time high – 8,433.76 – despite many of the index's constituents deriving the bulk of their trade from abroad.

Among them is mining giant Anglo American, up 1.37%, or 37.5p, to 2,773.5p after the Financial Times reported its key South African shareholders were open to a sweetened takeover offer from rival BHP. Glencore, another whose name has been mentioned as a possible suitor, rose 2.68%, or 12.45p, to 476p.

Elsewhere, Vodafone closed up 1.9%, or 1.32p, at 69.4p a day after the Government made a final order to conditionally approve the proposed merger of its UK arm and Three UK, following a national security assessment of the deal.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber	1260	-26	1296	593
Balbock International	521½	+4	533	269
BAE Systems	1394#	+2	1406½	888½
Chemring Group	385½	-1	390½	255½
QinetiQ Group	368½	+1¾	379½	292½
Rolls-Royce Group	423½	-10¼	440½	143¼
Senior	171#	+2	181¼	154¼
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	614#	+6	680	524
Banks				
Barclays	214	+¾	215¼	129¼
Bco Santander	414	+6	421	260½
Close Brothers	508	+13¼	976½	299¼
CYBG	215½	+½	216¼	142
HSBC Holdings	696#	+5	720¼	575¼
Investec	547	+3	549	406
Lloyds Banking Grp	54¼#	+¼	54¼	39¼
Metro Bank	34¼	+½	125½	28¼
NatWest Group	319¼	+1½	320½	176¼
Standard Chartered	775#	+20¼	777½	573¼
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	585#	+5	590	451½
Britvic	912	+9½	935	785½
Coca-Cola HBC	2716	-14	2748	2065
Diageo	2850	+13	3619½	2685½
Chemicals				
Cardo	12½	+¾	14½	6¼
Croda International	4865#	-12	6852	4076
Elementis	147¾#	+2	148¼	98
Johnson Matthey	1870	+4	1942	1446½
Synthomer	281	-6	826½	122½
Treant	470	-11	724	370
Victrex	1284	-6	1606	1226
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	386	+1½	393½	295½
Clarke T.	163	+½	167½	118½
CRH	6780	+336	6898	3806
Dialight	170½	+7½	237	144
Galliford Try	259	-2	273	176
Gleeson (IUI)	517	+1	540	350
Keller Group	1144	+12	1172	635
Kier Group	144¼#	+1	146	74½
Marshalls	310	+17½	314½	198
Morgan Sindall	2420#	-5	2470	1706
Severfield-Rowen	70	-¾	75	50
Smart (J) & Co.	125#	168½	117½	
Tyman	382#	-1	396½	236
Electricity				
Drax Group	553#	+3	635	401½
SSE	1812	+12½	1900	1508
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	737	-12	938	593
Halma	2328	+24	2498	1810½
Morgan Crucible	326½#	+3½	331	218½
Oxford Instruments	2425	+30	2845	1712
Renishaw	4085	+110	4370	2950
Spectris	3330	+16	3840	2935
TT Electronics	159#	-11	185	135¼
XP Power	1190	+30	2440	776
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	283	286	242½	
Aberforth Sml.Co.	1468	+6	1480	1126
Acom Income				
Albion Tech & Gen. VCT	69	74	66½	
Albion VCT	43¼	47½	43¼	
Alliance Trust	1258	+8	1258	984
Artemis Alpha	357	362	263½	
Aurora Inv.Tst.	246#	-3½	252	198
AVI Global Tst.	245	+1	246	185
Baillie Gifford Japan	734	796	641	
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	115¼#	-½	115¼	92¼
Bankers Inv.Tst.	115¼#	+1¼	115¼	92¼
Baronsmead VCT2	53	56	50¼	
BH Macro GBP	355	-2	419	328
Biotech Growth Trust	1008	-8	1028	718
BlackRock Mining	620#	+13	633	492½
Bluehone AIM VCT2	30½	33	29½	
British Assets Tst	80	88	71¼	
Brunner Inv.Tst.	1345	-5	1365	966
Caledonia Inv.	3510	-60	3660	3110
City Natural Res.Vid.	192½#	+1½	194	152
City Of London	425#	+2	429	371½
Dunedin Ent.IT.	489½	+½	565	480
Dunedin Income	292#	+1	307	249
Edin Wvide Inv	144	-1½	157	122½
Edin.Drgn.Tst.	409	-2	414	325
Edin.Inv.Tst.	742#	+10	742	615
Edin.US Tracker	294	+3	295	258½
Elderstreet VCT	45	49	45	
European Ass Tst.	89	-½	94	73
F&C Cap&Inc.	338	+2	340	271

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
F&C Inv Tst	1040	+8	1058	831
F&C Smaller Cos	167	+1	167¼	129
F&C US Smaller Companies	1337½		1360	1065
Fidelity Asian	536	-1	544	476
Fidelity European	406½#	+4	408¼	311½
Fidelity Japanese	177½		186	152½
Fidelity Special	309#	+4½	309½	252½
Finsbury Gwth&In	856#	+1	914	792
Foresight Tech.VCT	79	80½	72½	
Gartmore Euro	189	+1½	189½	150
Genesis E.M.F.	709	+6½	709½	569
Graphite Ent	1196	+10	1262	1046
Hansa Tst 'A'	217#	+2	218¼	160
Hansa Tst Plc	221#	-2	224	163
Henderson Euro.Tst.	159	+1	159½	124¼
Henderson Far Est	235½#	+2½	252½	197¼
Henderson High Inc	165	+½	175	140½
Henderson Opp Tst.	223½	-½	227	171½
Herald Inv.Tst.	2170	+20	2175	1596
HGCapital Tst.	494#	+1	495¼	353½
HSBC Infrastructure	126	-½	154½	117¼
Impax Env.Mkt.	401	+½	420	334½
Int.Biotech.Tst.	632	-5	694	548
International Public	129¼#	-¾	144¼	115½
Invesco Asia	327	+4	348	286
Invesco Perp UK	417#	-3	441	379
JPM American	988#	+2	994	708
JPM Asian	366#	-1	368¼	313
JPM Claverhouse	746#	-8	746	630
JPM Emerg Mkt.	107	-½	108½	96½
JPM Euro Sml Co	480	+1½	480½	354½
JPM Global Emerging	137	+½	139½	117
JPM Indian	956	-2	971	794
JPM Japanese	517	-1	553	438½
JPM Overseas IT	565	+4	566	454
JPM Smaller Co	325	+3	329	230
JPM US Sml Co.	405#	-½	412	317
Jupiter Euro	900	+2	905	743
JZ Capital Partners	215		220	149
Keystone Inv.Tst.	221	-¾	231	183¼
Law Debenture	886	+5	891	721
Lowland Invest Co.	127½	+1	129	104½
Majedie Inv.	245	-1	252	181
Manchester&Lon.	630	-5	686	400
Martin Currie Prftlo Tst.	376	+2	397	299
Matrix Inc & Gwth 4	68	74½	67	
Maven Income And Growth VCT	38	41	38	
Mercantile Inv Tst	237#	+1	239	177¼
Merchants Tst.	585#	+4	588	477½
Mid Wynd Int.	783	+4	786	670
Monks Inv.Tst.	1178	-2	1186	890
Montanaro Euro Tst.	142½	+2	143	107¼
Montanaro UK	107	109½	84¼	
Murray Inc.Tst.	898	+5	900	770
Murray Int.Tst.	254½#		268½	219
New India	754	+6	768	524
New Star Inv.Tst.	114	-2	123	109½
North Atl.Sml.Tst.	4070	+120	4130	3420
Northern 2 VCT	54½	56½	54	
Northern Venture	57½	60	54	
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	11	22	11	
Pacific Assets	373	+1½	389	340
Pacific Horizon	655	-2	666	512
Pantheon Int.	330½	334	245½	
Pershing Square Hold	4186	+12	4218	2688
Polar Cap.Tech	3015	+15	3030	2005
RCM Technology Trust	359	+4	360	230
RIT Capital Partners	1968	2010	1718	
Ruffer Investment	273	+1	298½	261
Schroder Asia	523	+2	526	456
Schroder Inc.	289	312	249	
Schroder Japan	260	+2	263	213
Schroder UK	171½	+1½	173½	141¼
Schroder UK M&S	592	600	482	
Scottish American	513	542	452	
Scottish Mortgage	884½	-9½	899¼	621
Shires Inc.	240½	+2	263½	209½
Small Comp Div.Tst.	148	+1	172	131
SPARK VCT	19½	20½	19½	
Standard Life Equity	317	+2	334½	260
Standard Life UK Sml	490	+5	491	370
SVM UK Emerging	65½	+½	67½	61½
Temple Bar	271	+2½	272½	212
Templeton Emrg.	162¼	+2¼	162¼	141
The European Inv.Tst	99	+1¼	99½	75½
Throgmorton Tst.	606	+4	620	507
TR Euro.Growth	183½	+¾	184	136
TR Prop. IT	329	+1	345	255
Value & Income	189½	-½	214	163
Witan Inv Trust	265½	+2½	267	210½
Witan Pacific	220	+3	243	176
Wvide Healthcare	351	+½	355½	288
Financial Services				
3i Group	2851	+31	2974	1798½
3i Infrastructure	341½	-4½	348½	278½
Abdn.	158¼	+4¼	236¼	136¼

# SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Ashmore Group	199¼	+3	238½	166¼
Guinness Peat Group	86¼#	+1	87	64
Hargreaves Lansdown	862	+26½	927	690½
IG Group	779½	+1	783½	611
Intermediate Cap.Grp.	2188	+24	2186	1255½
International Pers Fin	110½#	+2	131	100½
IP Group	50½	+1½	61½	43½
Jupiter Fund Man.	716	+2	125¼	73½
Liontrust Asset Man	815	+7	816	523½
London Stock Ex.	9128#	-34	9674	7986
Lonfin.	45½		55	32
M&G	205½	-1	238¼	183
Man Group	257½#	+2	277¼	202
Paragon Group	731	+16	739	443½
Provident Financial	52#	+3	230	46¼
Rathbone Brothers	1792#	+16	2005	1458
S & U	2030	+40	2570	1800
Schroders	373	+5	469	347¼
St James's Place	484¼#	+14¼	1183	402
Tullett Prebon	222#	-1	227½	141
Walker Crips Group	22½		26½	20½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	119	+1½	133¼	90¼

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Next	9294	+90	9306	6346
Pendragon	331	-2	795	310½
Pets At Home	301½	+5	397½	254½
RM Group	79½	-3¼	92	48
Toppis Tiles	42½	-1	56½	40½
WH Smith	1107	+17	1665	1083
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	262#	+¼	293½	196¼
Flying Brands	1¼		5¼	1¼
Smith & Nephew	1004¼#	+3	1301½	896¼
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	493¼#	+2½	566½	392¼
Bellway	2728	+62	2860	1921
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5245	+80	5290½	3773
Bovis Homes	1295	+20	1304	636
Colefax Group	800		805	655
Headlam Group	178#	-4	287	172
Mcbride	111		123	25½
Persimmon	1424¼	+18	1485	960½
Reckitt Benckiser	4597#	+1	6570	4110
Redrow	697	+5½	704¼	427½
Taylor Wimpey	144¼#	+1	148¼	99¼
Mining				
Anglo American	2773½	+37½	2799½	1670¼
Anglo Pacific	83½#	-1¼	123½	70¼
Antofagasta	2255#	+25	2287	1293
BHP Billiton	2297	+26	2700	2175
Centamin Egypt	125½	+1	130¼	78¼
Endeavour Mining	1723	+17	2180	1250
Fresnillo	577½#	-2½	691¼	441½
Gem Diamonds	13	+½	25½	8
Glencore	476#	+12½	485¼	369
Hochschild Mining	162¼	-½	168½	68½
Kenmare Res.	331#	-1	460	294
London & Ass.Prop	11	15½	8½	
Petra Diamonds	42		76½	37
Rio Tinto	5605	+21	5891	4559
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	69½	+1¼	91	63
Non-equity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth.	1300	+40	1375	1020
Rights & Iss.Inc	2270	+20	2320	1805
Non-life Insurance				
Admiral Group	2750#	+2	2837	2029
Beazley Group	672½	+6	689	503
Direct Line Insurance	198½#	+2½	225¼	134
Lincoc	1181#	+15	1240	938
Hanshire	638#	+14	689	538
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	506¼	+2	558	444¼
Cain Energy	176¼	+5½	325¼	111¼
Enquest	16¼		18½	12
Gulf Keystone Pet.	119¼	+¼	148¼	84¼
Harbour Energy	300#	-1	317	218¼
Regal Petroleum	19½	+½	31	12¼
Shell	2946			

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## Amazing Evergreen Winter Flowering Scented Shrub

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### Coronilla glauca 'Citrina'

1 x 9cm potted plant ~~£13.99~~

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2 x 9cm potted plants ~~£27.98~~ £12.99

- Flowering from December to April
- Ideal for small gardens
- Contrasting blue-green foliage
- Strong sweet lemon fragrance

### Coronilla glauca 'Citrina'

**Coronilla 'Citrina' will light up the garden in winter with an abundance of lemon-yellow pea-like blooms that just keep coming.**

We've had reports of this easy to grow shrub flowering for 9 months or more, making it a hard-working addition to the garden scene. Hardy Coronilla 'Citrina' shows off its sweet-scented blooms against unusual blue-green foliage. A versatile shrub for almost any garden situation, performing particularly well in exposed locations and coastal areas.

A compact, rounded habit makes this tough little performer ideal for patio containers where you really get to appreciate the scent and pretty petite blooms. Alternatively train it as a wall shrub for a spectacular upright display.

Height and spread: 100cm (39").

Despatching from June onwards.

Hurry offer ends May 25th.

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A dwarf version of a cottage garden favourite! Compact and floriferous, Lavatera 'Barnsley Baby' is perfect for patio containers and small gardens. The well branched habit and racemes of saucer-shaped, soft pink blooms will certainly draw the attention of your neighbours - as well as the bees and butterflies in your garden! Height: 75cm (30"). Spread: 60cm (24").

1 x 9cm pot ~~£13.99~~ £9.99



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KF8814	Jasminum Nudiflorum 1 x 14cm Pot <del>£14.99</del>	£9.99		
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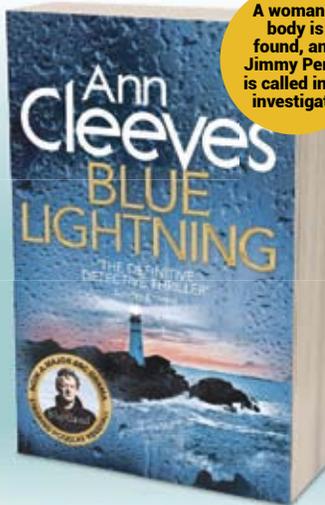
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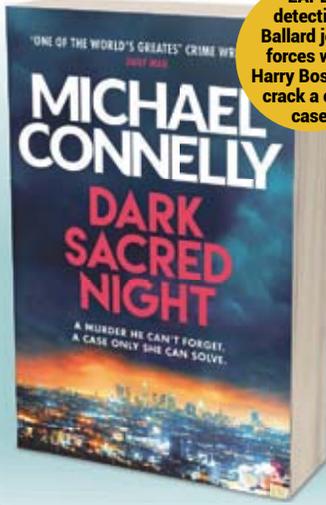
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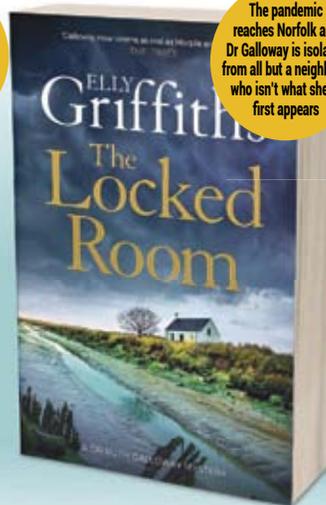
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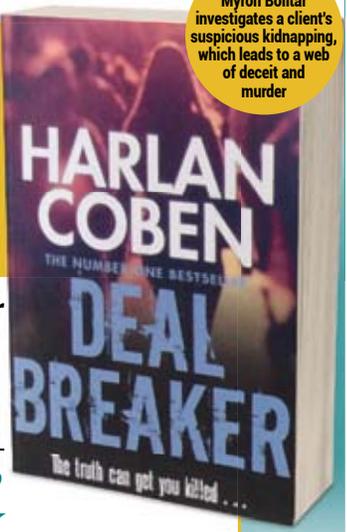
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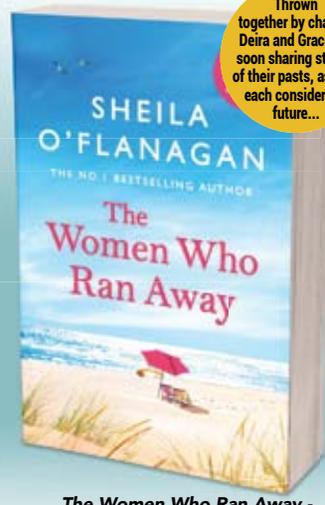
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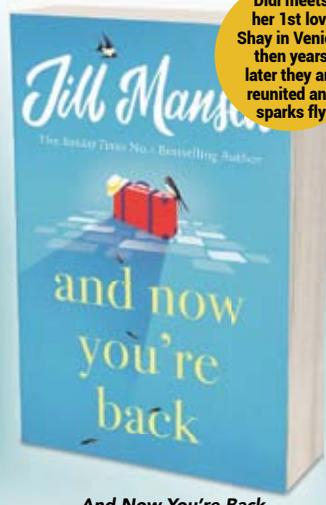
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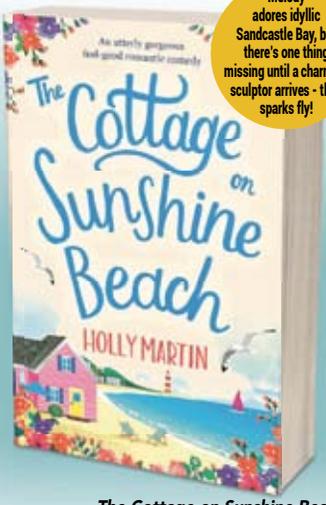
Thrown together by chance, Deira and Grace are soon sharing stories of their pasts, as they each consider the future...

**The Women Who Ran Away** - ★★★★★  
**Sheila O'Flanagan** - Sunday Times bestselling fiction author and winner of Irish Tatler writer of the year award.



Didi meets her 1st love Shay in Venice, then years later they are reunited and sparks fly

**And Now You're Back** - ★★★★★  
**Jill Mansell** - author of light romance, she is a top 20 female writer with sales of over 13 million books.



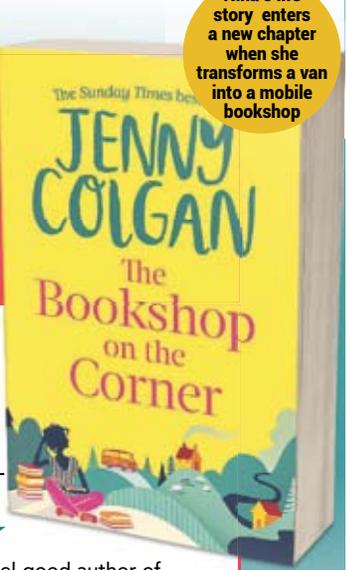
Melody adores idyllic Sandcastle Bay, but there's one thing missing until a charming sculptor arrives - then sparks fly!

**The Cottage on Sunshine Beach** - ★★★★★  
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Just fill the SpotWash Home Pet-Design with water and solution and it's ready to go. A trigger on the handle allows you to target the solution on the spill or stain, and SpotWash Home Pet-Design will do the rest; cleaning and extracting the mess into the dirty water tank, which is simply lifted out and poured away - leaving the area looking and smelling clean.

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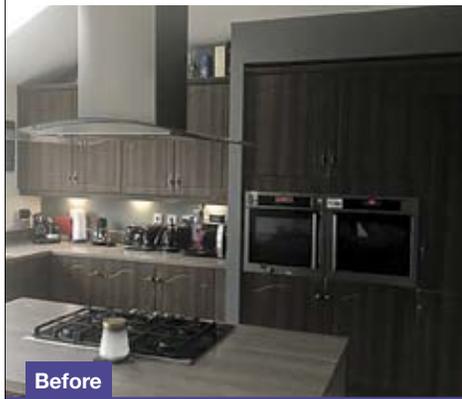
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# Racing



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## Owen enjoys some Cup glory with Zoff

**FOOTBALL legend Michael Owen celebrated a home win via a thrilling late strike from Zoffee in the Chester Cup.**

**Trained at his local Manor House Stables, the 9-1 chance and jockey Harry Davies hit the front with 100 yards to race.**

**Owen's successful pair dashed past well-backed favourite Aztec Empire to prevail from Emiyn (28-1) and fast finisher Zannadab (11-1).**

**The England and Liverpool striker was delighted with the result, as Hugo Palmer's trainee suffered a narrow defeat 12**

**By Melissa Jones**

months ago. "It is pretty much a lifelong dream to win that race and he came second last year," said Owen, whose yard has been in business since 2007. "I said earlier in the week I think we'd win the big one."

Returning to the Flat after a spell hurdling for Olly Murphy, Zoffee gave former top apprentice Davies a huge career boost. The 19-year-old went freelance when he lost his weight allowance and had to re-establish himself in Newmarket.

## LINGFIELD SKYSPORTSRACING



### 1.15 WILLIAM HILL RACING HANDICAP

1 (9) 1117-60	CITY OF YORK (21) (D) M Simcock 4 9-10	C Shepherd	88
2 (2) 351L2-1	FIRST OFFICER (12) (D,F) J Chapple-Hyam 5 9-9	Sorin Moldoveanu(7)	87
3 (10) 111-2L	ROXANNE (14) E Dunlop 4 9-9	C Lee	89
4 (5) 17315-2	BORN RULER (9) (D) Sir M Prescott 4 9-8	Doubtful	89
5 (8) 17219-4	YEOMAN (37) J Fanshawe 4 9-6	D Muscett	89
6 (7) 3213-4	ESMERAY (19) (D) R Beckett 4 9-6	Rossa Ryan	90
7 (6) 159-504	TARBAAN (26) (D) Miss A Murphy 5 9-5	K Shoemark	87
8 (1) 841L72	MORCAR (247) (D) R Hamon 4 9-5	James Doyle	91
9 (4) 267-8L8	DANCING IN PARIS (26) J Williams 4 9-4	D Probert	78
10 (3) 7-86771	PARTY ISLAND (9) (D) D Coakley 7 8-11	G Bass(3)	86

**BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP; No. 11 HOOD: No. 1.**  
**SP FORECAST:** 4 Yeoman, 9-2 First Officer, 5 Tarbaan, 13-2 Party Island, Roxanne, 7 Esmeray, 10 City Of York, Morcar, 14 Others.  
**2023: No corresponding race.**

### 1.50 WILLIAM HILL EPIC VALUE HCAP

1 8/1127-	KOLOSSAL (209) (D) 6 9-13	C Shepherd	105
(1) Runs: 16	Wins: 5(S,G)	Places: 3	£115,408
Trainer: J Osborne Owner: Barratt Racing			
2 17473-L	PEKING OPERA (21) 4 9-10	K Shoemark	108
(8) Runs: 8	Wins: 2(S)	Places: 2	£98,367
T: G & J Moore O: S Packham, A Austin And B Austin			
3 10/181L	AIMERIC (252) (D) 5 9-9	James Doyle	108
(6) Runs: 10	Wins: 4(F,G)	Places: 1	£45,669
T: R Varian O: Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum			
4 1/315L-	IF NOT NOW (240) 4 9-9	Rossa Ryan	102
(9) Runs: 5	Wins: 2(GS)	Places: 1	£33,700
Trainer: R Beckett Owner: Quantum Leap Racing I & Partner			
5 1621-45	TRACK OF TIME (120) 4 9-9	D Muscett	107
(5) Runs: 8	Wins: 3(A,G)	Places: 2	£64,665
Trainer: I Williams Owner: Mrs Fitri Hay			
6 132-570	BASE NOTE (43) (D) 5 9-4	H Davies	111
(3) Runs: 21	Wins: 5(A)	Places: 7	£121,403
Trainer: S & E Crisford Owner: Mr Mohammed Al Nabouda			
7 555L-95	GLOBAL HEAT (92) (D) 8 9-4	H Crouch	113
(2) Runs: 34	Wins: 3(A,G)	Places: 9	£150,585
Trainer: S bin Surour Owner: Godolphin			
8 3118-1	FLASH BARDOT (14) (D,F) 4 9-0	D Probert	108
(7) Runs: 16	Wins: 5(F,S,A)	Places: 6	£66,042
Trainer: J Channon Owner: Six Or Sticks (sixties)			
9 512825-	TRUE LEGEND (226) (D,F) 4 8 9-1	L Morris	112
(4) Runs: 12	Wins: 3(A,G)	Places: 2	£46,075
Trainer: Sir M Prescott Owner: Tim Bunting - Osborne House Iv			

**BLINKERS: No. 2 CHEEK PIECES; No. 7, 9.**  
**SP FORECAST:** 9-4 Aimeric, 7-2 Flash Bardot, 9-2 True Legend, 7 If Not Now, 10 Track Of Time, 12 Kolossal, Base Note, 14 Global Heat, 25 Peking Opera.  
**2023: No corresponding race.**

**GUIDE:** A winner on the back of a break at the beginning of last season, AIMERIC is proven fresh and looks just the type to improve at five, having scored comfortably at Beverley (Im4f, gd) on his latest start. A 6lb rise for that success looks manageable and he is preferred to Flash Bardot, who impressed on his return at Doncaster (Im4f, sft) last month. A respectable fifth in the German Derby at Hamburg (Im4f, gd-sft) last July, If Not Now is one to consider on the back of a gelding operation, as well as the capable True Legend.

### 2.25 FILLIES' STKS (LISTED) 3YO

1 0412-	BIGTIME BRIDGET (147) 9 2-2	D Muscett	83
(2) Runs: 4	Wins: 1(A)	Places: 1	£5,744
Trainer: M Bell Owner: Mr Jim Biggane And Partner			
2 9-31	CHERRY BURTON (15) (D) 9 2-2	James Doyle	84
(1) Runs: 3	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£5,766
Trainer: S Woods Owner: Mrs C Campbell			

**SP FORECAST:** 5-2 Illinois, 11-4 Defiance, 4 The Euphrates, 7 Arabic Legend, 10 Meydaan, 12 Ambiente Friendly, 14 Imperial Sovereign, 16 Salamanca, 66 At Vimeiro.  
**2023: Military Order 9-2, William Buick Evens Fav (C Appleby), drawn (5), 8 ran.**  
**GUIDE:** DEFIANCÉ caught the eye when finishing well to take second in the Blue Riband Trial at Epsom (Im2f, gd) a couple of weeks ago and, with the benefit of that outing, the son of Camelot could go one better here. The Euphrates (second) finished in front of Illinois (third) in the Ballysax (Im2f, hvy) but is not certain to confirm that form. The latter was Group 1 placed as a juvenile in France (Im2f, hvy) and may improve for this step up in trip. Arabic Legend was behind the selection at Epsom but should not be written off just yet.

### 3.00 STAKES (LISTED) 3YO

1 13-4	AMBIENTE FRIENDLY (24) 9 2-2	C Shepherd	110
(3) Runs: 3	Wins: 1(GS)	Places: 1	£17,504
Trainer: J Fanshawe Owner: The Gredley Family			
2 126-4	ARABIC LEGEND (18) (T) 9 2-2	D Probert	106
(8) Runs: 4	Wins: 1(GS)	Places: 1	£20,190
T: K R Burke O: Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum			
3 579-5	AT VIMEIRO (11) 9 2-2	Laura Pearson	107
(6) Runs: 4	Wins: 1	Places: 1	£1,510
Trainer: J Chapple-Hyam Owner: Mr P W Harris			
4 16-2	DEFIANCE (18) (F) 9 2-2	James Doyle	109
(5) Runs: 3	Wins: 1(GS)	Places: 1	£17,838
T: R Varian O: Highclere Thoroughbred Racing - Monet			
5 13-3	ILLINOIS (34) 9 2-2	R L Moore	112
(1) Runs: 3	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£38,570
T: A P O'Brien (IRE) O: Mr D Smith, Mrs J Magnier, Mr M Tab			
6 1-2	IMPERIAL SOVEREIGN (59) (T) 9 2-2	C Lee	100
(4) Runs: 2	Wins: 1(A)	Places: 1	£5,339
Trainer: K R Burke Owner: Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum			
7 1-5	MEYDAAN (23) 9 2-2	H Davies	98
(7) Runs: 2	Wins: 1(A)	Places: 1	£5,977
Trainer: S & E Crisford Owner: Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum			
8 2-2	SALAMANCA (23) 9 2-2	Rossa Ryan	97
(2) Runs: 2	Wins: 1	Places: 2	£6,862
Trainer: J Chapple-Hyam Owner: Mr P W Harris			
9 31-2	THE EUPHRATES (34) (T) 9 2D	McDonough	106
(9) Runs: 3	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£18,746
T: A P O'Brien (IRE) O: Brant/magnier/tabor/westerberg/smith			

**SP FORECAST:** 5-2 Illinois, 11-4 Defiance, 4 The Euphrates, 7 Arabic Legend, 10 Meydaan, 12 Ambiente Friendly, 14 Imperial Sovereign, 16 Salamanca, 66 At Vimeiro.  
**2023: Military Order 9-2, William Buick Evens Fav (C Appleby), drawn (5), 8 ran.**  
**GUIDE:** DEFIANCÉ caught the eye when finishing well to take second in the Blue Riband Trial at Epsom (Im2f, gd) a couple of weeks ago and, with the benefit of that outing, the son of Camelot could go one better here. The Euphrates (second) finished in front of Illinois (third) in the Ballysax (Im2f, hvy) but is not certain to confirm that form. The latter was Group 1 placed as a juvenile in France (Im2f, hvy) and may improve for this step up in trip. Arabic Legend was behind the selection at Epsom but should not be written off just yet.

### THE SCOUT'S SCOOP SIX HINTS

- Leg 1 KING OF THE PLAINS (No 9)** (1.30 Ascot)
- Leg 2 IF NOT NOW (No 4)** (1.50 Lingfield)
- Leg 3 ZOZZANNA (No 4)** (2.05 Ascot)
- Leg 4 MERLIN THE WIZARD (No 12)** (2.40 Ascot)
- Leg 5 DEFIANCE (No 4)** (3.00 Lingfield)
- Leg 6 LARK IN THE MORNING (No 13)** (3.15 Haydock)

## THE SCOUT

1.15 Party Island	3.35 Remarquee
1.50 If Not Now	4.10 Madame De Sevigne
2.25 Danielle	4.45 Southbank
3.00 Defiance	

3 3-21	DANIELLE (13) (F) 9 2-2	K Shoemark	103
(7) Runs: 3	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 2	£8,841
Trainer: J & T Golden Owner: Mr A E Oppenheimer			
4 13-4	MOLTEN ROCK (34) 9 2-2	C Lee	100
(5) Runs: 3	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£16,661
Trainer: K R Burke Owner: Newtown Anner Stud Farm			
5 3-2	RUBIES ARE RED (31) 9 2-2	R L Moore	91
(6) Runs: 2	Wins: 1	Places: 2	£4,025
T: A P O'Brien (IRE) O: D Smith, Mrs J Magnier, M Tabor, westerbe			
6 1-	TREASURE (206) 9 2-2	Rossa Ryan	92
(3) Runs: 1	Wins: 1(S)	Places: 1	£3,780
Trainer: R Beckett Owner: HM The King & HM The Queen			
7 15-	YOU GOT TO ME (189) 9 2-2	H Crouch	95
(4) Runs: 2	Wins: 1(A)	Places: 1	£4,748
T: R Beckett O: Valmont & Newsells Park Stud Bldst 24			

**SP FORECAST:** 11-10 Danielle, 9-2 Treasure, 5 Rubies Are Red, 6 You Got To Me, 8 Molten Rock, 25 Cherry Burton, 33 Bigtime Bridget.  
**2023: Eternal Hope 9-2, William Buick 9-4 (C Appleby), drawn (4), 9 ran.**  
**GUIDE:** It is difficult to look past DANIELLE, who made quite the impression when bounding clear from her rivals at Wetherby (Im2f, sft) last month to get off the mark at the third time of asking. Closely related to the stable's Ascot Gold Cup winner Courage Mon Ami, this talented three-year-old can enhance her Oaks claims at the main expense of Treasure, who has her first outing since a taking debut success at Nottingham (Im, hvy) last Autumn. Trainer Aidan O'Brien hasn't won since 2016 but he looks to have a strong contender in the maiden Rubies Are Red.

### 4.10 WILLIAM HILL LINGFIELD HANDICAP 3YO

1 (7) 33-11	INNER TEMPLE (51) (D,F) A Watson 9-10	L Morris	86
2 (4) 41-7	SKY WARRIOR (35) C Cox 9-9	Rossa Ryan	82
3 (1) 421-L	SECRET BID (25) (D) A Watson 9-9	K Shoemark	79
4 (5) 75511-5	NEVER FEAR (32) (D) T Johnston 9-8	F Norton	82
5 (3) 672-4	MADAME DE SEVIGNE (10) R Eddery 9-6	C Lee	84
6 (6) 35511-5	THE BITTER MOOSE (25) (D) T H Palmer 9-5	H Davies	83
7 (8) 51325-	SOUTH KENSINGTON (170) (T) H Palmer 9-4	D Muscett	87
8 (9) 713L-54	SOMMARG (23) S Woods 9-2	D Probert	87
9 (2) 804-	DIMSONS (184) J Osborne 9-2	C Shepherd	84

**BLINKERS: No. 8 CHEEK PIECES; No. 7.**  
**SP FORECAST:** 15-8 Inner Temple, 4 Sky Warrior, 7 Never Fear, 8 Madame De Sevigne, 10 Sommarg, Secret Bid, South Kensington, 14 Others.  
**2023: No corresponding race.**

### 4.45 WILLIAM HILL EPIC BOOST HANDICAP 3YO

1 (6) 25-521	MISS ANYA (10) (D,F) R Hughes 9-12	Taryn Langley(7)	76
2 (9) 256433-	TANGLED UP IN BLUE (173) A West 9-9	D Probert	73
3 (2) 41311	GOGO YUBARI (10) (D) D Cunha 9-9	D Muscett	75
4 (4) 417-426	SCOOPS AHOY (8) (D) O'Meara 9-8	B Robinson	82
5 (5) 412523	SPLIT THE PROFIT (112) M Murphy & M Keady 9-8	C Shepherd	79
6 (7) 223541	SOLDIERS DESIGN (11) (D) J Ryan 9-8	Doubtful	78
7 (1) 324-2	FIDELIUS (10) R Cowell 9-7	L Morris	77
8 (13) 42-13	QUERCINE (21) (D) C Fellows 9-6	K Shoemark	75
9 (3) 77-6641	WRESTLING REVENUE (10) (D) A Carroll 9-6	W Carson	76
10 (8) 221-2U1	VIA BLANCA (58) (D) D Loughnane 9-5	Laura Pearson	78
11 (12) 7L81L-2	LAW OF AVERAGE (36) (D) C Banham 9-5	J Haynes	78
12 (11) 615311	SOUTHBANK (23) (F) S C Williams 9-3	Rossa Ryan	77
13 (10) 373236	MUSICAL DIVA (18) (D) (T) D O'Meara 9-1	H Crouch	79

**VISOR: Nos. 5, 13 TONGUE STRAP; Nos. 4, 12 CHEEK PIECES; Nos. 1, 6.**  
**SP FORECAST:** 4 Southbank, 5 Gogo Yubari, 6 Miss Anya, 7 Fidelius, 8 Via Blanca, 10 Wrestling Revenue, Soldiers Design, 12 Law Of Average, 14 Others.  
**2023: No corresponding race.**

**TRACK FACTS:** Going: Good to Soft. Left Hand. **TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24):** David Probert 14% Strike rate. **TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24):** G & J Moore 15% Strike rate. **FIRST TIME:** 115 Morcar (wind surging), 150 Peking Opera (blinkers), 335 Remarquee (wind surging), 410 South Kensington (cheek pieces), **BATEN FAVOURITES:** 115 Esmeray(hcp), Roxanne(hcp), 150 Kolossal, 225 Bigtime Bridget, Molten Rock, Rubies Are Red, You Got To Me, 300 Illinois, 335 Remarquee, 445 Fidelius(hcp), 538 Delicatessen (A/hcp). **DRAW:** Little effect. **LONGEST TRAVELLER:** Rubies Are Red (2.25). **The Euphrates (3.00), Illinois (3.00) Ireland; Molten Rock (2.25), Imperial Sovereign (3.00), Arabic Legend (3.00) 271 miles. STABLE SWITCH:** 150 Kolossal from Carmen Bocskai to J Osborne, Track Of Time from F Graffard in France to I Williams, 335 Sirona from C Johnston to D Meneiser.

### VITAL STATISTICS

**IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days)** H Bethell 100% (2 wins and 3 places from 5 runners), Patrick Turley 100% (4/0/4), P Nicholls 80% (3/1/5), A Keatley 75% (4/2/8), T H Weston 75% (1/2/4), E Walker 60% (6/6/20), L Morgan 60% (2/1/5), K P De Foy 58% (1/6/12), M Harrington 57% (1/3/7), M Murphy & M Keady 57% (2/2/7), A P O'Brien 56% (5/5/18), T Lacey 55% (4/2/11).  
**IN-FORM JOCKEYS** Adam Wedge 75% (1 wins and 2 places from 4 runners), J A Anderson 67% (1/3/6), Jack Garrity 67% (2/2/6), William Maggs 62% (1/4/8), James Bowen 60% (3/3/10), Jonjo O'Neill Jr 60% (3/3/10), Josephine Gordon 60% (1/2/5), Sean Levey 60% (1/8/15), Ben Robinson 56% (2/3/9).

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### ASCOT: Straight: good; round: good to soft-good in places

**1.50-ARCTIC THUNDER** (D Probert, 10-1); Accumulate (11-4); Dragon Leader (2-1) fav 3. H'cap 5 ran. shd. 3/4. (A Balding). 21/1fav American Bay). Tote: £11.00. pl £3.20. £17.0. exacta: £24.20. trifecta: £86.10. CSF: £34.97. Non-runner: Respectful.

**2.20-MISS RASCAL** (T Marquand, 5-6 fav); Naana's Diamond (4-1) 2nd fav; Dolce Vitta (9-2) 3. 6 ran. 3l. 3l. (P & O Cole). Tote: £18.4. pl £12.0. £17.0. exacta: £41.0. trifecta: £10.20. CSF: £4.28. Non-runner: Life Lady.

**2.55-NAKHEEL** (P Dobbs, 7-1); Queen Of Soldiers (3-1) 2nd fav; Hillbridge (5-2) 3. 6 ran. hd. 2/4. (Owen Burrows). 11-4 fav Pure Of Heart). Tote: £8.00. pl £2.90. £1.90. exacta: £28.80. trifecta: £122.60. CSF: £26.13.

**3.30-GLENFINNAN** (C Beasley, 8-1); Billyjoh (10-3) fav; Russet Gold (4-1) 2nd fav 3. H'cap 9 ran. nk. hd. (M Dods). Tote: £9.00. pl £2.40. £1.70. £1.90. exacta: £40.00. trifecta: £124.93. trifecta: £27.20. CSF: £35.00. Non-runners: Bernard O'Reilly, Kiwano.

**4.00-JIMMY SPEAKING** (L Edmunds, 10-1) fav; Mashadi (4-1) 2nd fav; Imperial Guard (5-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. nk. 2/4. (C Dwyer). Tote: £4.34. pl £1.80. £1.90. exacta: £17.30. trifecta: £66.92. trifecta: £73.10. CSF: £16.28. Non-runner: Pen Portrait.

**4.35-THE ICE PHOENIX** (Billy Loughnane, 4-1) 2nd fav; Zain Blue (5-2); Crown Estate (13-2) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 2/4. hd. (C Hills). 11-4 fav Teraabob). Tote: £5.10. pl £1.70. £2.40. exacta: £35.00. trifecta: £190.49. trifecta: £243.30. CSF: £32.52. Non-runners: Commander Crouch, Rey De La Batalla, Suspicion.

**5.10-BAILEYS KHELSTAR** (Archie Young, 11-10) fav; Heonista (11-2); Crescent Lake (15-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. hd. 1/4. (C Johnston). Tote: £2.00. pl £1.30. £2.00. exacta: £6.30. trifecta: £27.59. trifecta: £28.05. CSF: £6.95. Non-runners: Clansman, Yakhabar.

**Placepot: £113.70**  
**(Race 1) 5, 2; (2) 2, 6; (3) 3, 5; (4) 4, 7, 3; (5) 7, 4, 1; (6) 8, 7, 2.**  
**Quadpot: £23.40**

### AFTERNOON RESULTS

**CHESTER:**  
**Good to firm-good in places**  
**1.30-PERCY'S LAD** (R Kingscote, 16-5 2nd fav); Dancing Magic (3-1) fav; Documenting (28-1) 3. H'cap 13 ran. 1/4. 1/4. (A & C Kubler). Tote: £4.20. pl £1.50. £1.60. exacta: £15.50. trifecta: £236.69. trifecta: £222.10. CSF: £12.59.

**2.05-MINA RASHID** (O Murphy, 17-2); Ephesus (11-10) fav; Mr Hampstead (7-4) 2nd fav 3. 5 ran. 1/4. 1/4. (A Balding). Tote: £9.50. pl £2.60. £1.20. exacta: £18.20. trifecta: £32.60. CSF: £17.41. Non-runners: Enzo Maresca, Tryfan.

**2.35-CITY STREAK** (O Murphy, 9-4 fav); Box To Box (7-2) 2nd fav; Woodstock City (28-1) 3. H'cap 7 ran. ns. 1/4. (A Balding). Tote: £3.25. pl £1.70. £2.00. exacta: £10.20. trifecta: £161.99. trifecta: £115.30. CSF: £10.12. Non-runners: Bolster, Botanical.

**3.05-PASSINGER** (R Kingscote, 7-4 2nd fav); Israr (13-8) fav; Regal Reality (11-1) 3. 6 ran. 1/4. 5/4. (Sir M Stoute). Tote: £2.75. pl £1.50. £1.40. exacta: £4.90. trifecta: £18.41. trifecta: £20.80. CSF: £4.82. Non-runners: Certain Lad, Royal Rhyme, Sunchar.

**3.40-ZOFFEE** (H Davies, 9-1); Emiyn (28-1) 2; Zannadab (11-1) 3; Aztec Empire (4-1) fav 4. H'cap 16 ran. 1/4. nk. 1/4. (H Palmer). Tote: £12.60. pl £3.10. £4.90. £2.80. exacta: £235.90. trifecta: £2830.46. trifecta: £3424.20. CSF: £253.89. Non-runner: The Shunter.

**4.15-ALPHONSE LE GRANDE** (W Buick, 17-2); Hamsiyah (5-1) 2nd fav; Law Of The Sea (5-1) 3. 2nd fav 3; Yorkinness (11-1) 4. H'cap 16 ran. 2/4. 1/4. 3/4. (A J Martin (IRE)); 4-1 fav Prince Alex). Tote: £9.50. pl £2.00. £1.80. £2.70. exacta: £41.70. trifecta: £245.58. trifecta: £382.10. CSF: £47.81. Non-runner: Havala.

**4.50-OMAN** (Z Wheatley, 22-1); Chillihi (5-2) 2nd fav

ASCOT SKYSPORTSRACING

THE SCOUT

- 1.30 King Of The Plains
- 2.05 Zouzanna
- 2.40 Merlin The Wizard
- 3.10 Xanthe
- 3.45 City Burglar
- 4.20 Ciara Pearl
- 4.55 King Cabo

JACKPOT: www.totepoolliveinfo.com

1.30 HANDICAP £13,500 (3) 1m 3f 211yds (14 dec) ITV4

- 559LL-2 THINK FIRST (18) 4 9 10 N Callan 99 (12) Runs: 11 Wins: 2(A) Places: 1 £23,183 Trainer: N Mulholland Owner: Mr R Flower
- 6-53455 YOUTHFUL KING (7) 5 9 8 C Bishop 100 (6) Runs: 25 Wins: 5(F,A) Places: 5 £70,403 Trainer: L Dace Owner: Mr Richard L Page & Mr Luke Dace
- 51-2712 HAKU (56) (D) 5 9 5 Billy Loughnane 101 (2) Runs: 23 Wins: 5(A) Places: 7 £41,479 Trainer: M Loughnane Owner: Level Par Racing
- 42-2232 WAY OF LIFE (19) (D,F) 6 9 4 J Leavy(5) 99 (4) Runs: 34 Wins: 5(A,G) Places: 14 £48,680 Trainer: J Portman Owner: Berkeley Racing
- 31/1-127 PALACE BOY (43) 7 9 4 G Rooke 98 (3) Runs: 9 Wins: 3(A,G) Places: 3 £18,852 Trainer: R J Smith Owner: Mr Rupert Lowe
- 139206 MASO BASTIE (187) 4 9 3 T Marquand 100 (9) Runs: 8 Wins: 2(S,A) Places: 1 £13,247 Trainer: M Bell Owner: East 11 Limited And Mr Darren Gill
- 315406 APPIER (184) (D) 5 9 2 Brandon Wilkie(5) 100 (8) Runs: 21 Wins: 7(F,A,G) Places: 1 £35,969 Trainer: S Woods Owner: Ignited
- 13/17-61 GREAT BEDWYN (323) (D) 4 9 1 P Dobbs 96 (13) Runs: 6 Wins: 2(A,G) Places: 1 £13,247 Trainer: R Hannon Owner: Denford Stud
- 322P41 KING OF THE PLAINS (225) (D) 4 9 1 0 Murphy 98 (10) Runs: 6 Wins: 1(A) Places: 2 £18,443 T: James Horton O: D Howden, J Hornby & D Redvers
- 10 L22/6-11 KOTARI (6) 5 9 1 Jason Watson \*103 (11) Runs: 9 Wins: 2(S,G) Places: 4 £11,245 Trainer: G & J Moore Owner: Heart Of The South Racing 134
- 62-683L RHYTHMIC INTENT (62) (D) 8 9 0 S De Sousa 99 (1) Runs: 41 Wins: 4(S,G,S,G) Places: 12 £128,244 Trainer: S C Williams Owner: Proceed Nominees Pty Ltd
- 10 L0/303 ENTHUSED (13) (D) 7 9 0 S D Bowen(5) 97 (5) Runs: 14 Wins: 3(S,F) Places: 2 £18,154 Trainer: James Owen Owner: M B Clarke & Partners
- 12241-0 GRAHAM (21) (D) 4 8 11 H Doyle 97 (7) Runs: 12 Wins: 2(F,G) Places: 2 £16,875 Trainer: R Hannon Owner: Gillian, Lady Howard de Walden
- 523L6-1 OBSIDIAN KNIGHT (16) (D,F) 6 8 7 D Egan 98 (14) Runs: 21 Wins: 4(A) Places: 7 £48,797 Trainer: T Kent Owner: The Property Investor Partnership Ltd

BLINKERS: No. 6 CHEEK PIECES: No. 12 HOOD: No. 1. SP FORECAST: 7-2 Kotari, 13-2 King Of The Plains, Great Bedwyn, Think First, 8 Way Of Life, 10 Palace Boy, Obsidian Knight, 12 Youthful King, 14 Others. 2023: Sheer Rocks 4-9-2, Charles Bishop 11-1 (E J-Houghton), drawn (9), 8 ran. GUIDE: Kotari has to be of interest having won twice in recent weeks, but a 5lb penalty for the most recent of those victories at Salisbury (1m2f, hvy) will make life tougher for him here. With that in mind, preference is for YOUTHFUL KING, who caught the eye when not getting much luck in running at Newmarket (1m4f, gd) a week ago and he is now 3lb lower than when third over C&D (gd-sft) at the Shergar Cup meeting last August. Others to note are King Of The Plains, Great Bedwyn and Think First.

2.05 EBF FILLIES' HANDICAP (STR) £23,193 (2) 1m (10) ITV4

- 213-646 MYSTIC PEARL (35) (D) 4 9 12 T Marquand 97 (7) Runs: 13 Wins: 2(G) Places: 4 £67,581 Trainer: W Haggas Owner: Sheikh Juma Dalmok Al Maktoum
  - 46/457-3 ROSE PRICK (35) 4 9 7 O Murphy 100 (2) Runs: 11 Wins: 1(G) Places: 3 £23,780 Trainer: E Walker Owner: David Ward
  - 1033-00 FARHH TO SHY (23) (C&D) J & T P Quayle 101 (3) Runs: 26 Wins: 6(S,F,G,S,G) Places: 5 £94,855 Trainer: G Margaron Owner: Mr F Butler
  - 10136- ● ZOUZANNA (199) (C,D) 4 8 13 W Buick 102 (5) Runs: 8 Wins: 2(F,G) Places: 3 £19,655 T: Harry Charlton O: Brooker-rankin, Frost, Hues, Inglett
  - 10323-8 MOTHER MARY (35) 4 8 11 S Osborne 103 (6) Runs: 5 Wins: 1(S) Places: 2 £8,836 Trainer: J Ferguson Owner: Mr Michael Williams
  - 5/2221-4 STRONG IMPACT (35) 4 8 10 S De Sousa \*104 (1) Runs: 6 Wins: 1(G) Places: 3 £25,011 T: R Varian O: Ed Babington, James Barnett & Partner
- TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good. Right Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24): Jim Crowley 15% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24): J & T Gosden 15% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 130 Think First (hood), 205 Mystic Pearl (wound strap), 345 Midair (cheek pieces), 420 Moogie (hood), 455 Starproof (tongue surgery). BEATEN FAVOURITES: 2.05 Strong Impact(hcp), 2.40 Caragio(hcp), Good Karma(hcp), 3.10 Hallasan, 3.45 Midair, Sindoriyno, 4.55 Abbey Heights(hcp), One More Wave(hcp). DRAW: No significant advantage. LONGEST TRAVELLER: Londeron (2.40) & Abduction (2.40) 406 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 130 King Of The Plains from C Johnston to James Horton, 2.05 Zouzanna from H & R Charlton to Harry Charlton, 2.40 Merlin The Wizard from H & R Charlton to Harry Charlton, The Wizard Of Eye from J S Moore to C Fellos.

TOPANGA (21) (F) 3 8 4 H Turner 92

- 25-120 KING'S VANITY (83) (D) 4 8 2 H Turner 108 (2) Runs: 4 Wins: 1(A) Places: 1 £5,717 Trainer: A Balding Owner: Mrs M E Wates
- 25L-312 BELLARCHI (16) (T) 3 8 3 S D Bowen(5) 101 (9) Runs: 17 Wins: 4(F,A,G,S,G) Places: 7 £47,549 Trainer: G Tuer Owner: Nick Bradley Racing 19 And Partner
- 163-11 MY MARGIE (29) (D) 3 8 2 G Rooke 94 (4) Runs: 5 Wins: 2(A) Places: 1 £11,279 Trainer: R Hughes Owner: Exors Of The Late Mr R A Gander
- 27-211 FLYING FINN (15) (D,F,T) 3 8 2 H Doyle 95 (8) Runs: 5 Wins: 2(S) Places: 2 £12,605 Trainer: A Keatley Owner: Keatley Owners Group & A Finneran

2.40 VICTORIA CUP (HERITAGE HCAP) £51,540 (2) 7f (23) ITV4

- 02212-6 POPMASTER (23) (C,D) 6 9 12 Brandon Wilkie(5) 112 (17) Runs: 33 Wins: 6(S,F,A,G,S) Places: 10 £215,376 Trainer: E Walker Owner: Laurence Bellman
- 129L9-9 JUMBY (77) (C&D) 6 9 10 W Buick 102 (5) Runs: 27 Wins: 6(F,G) Places: 6 £225,437 T: E J-Houghton O: Anthony Pye-jeary And David Ian
- 19122-2 RAMAZAN (21) (D,T) 4 9 8 J Leavy(5) 114 (18) Runs: 15 Wins: 4(S,F,G,S) Places: 6 £265,856 Trainer: R Fahey Owner: KHK Racing
- 633L5- STREETS OF GOLD (23) (D) 4 9 8 Georgia Dobie(3) 110 (23) Runs: 11 Wins: 5(S,F,G,S,G) Places: 2 £263,852 Trainer: E J-Houghton Owner: J Allison & G C Stevens
- 16475-3 MOSTABSHIR (45) (F) 4 9 6 J Crowley 113 (19) Runs: 8 Wins: 2(F,A) Places: 1 £41,917 Trainer: J & T Gosden Owner: Shadwell Estate Company Ltd
- 33266-9 CARRYTHEONE (23) (D) 7 9 4 K Stott 112 (7) Runs: 21 Wins: 3(G) Places: 4 £61,404 Trainer: M Bell Owner: Mr Stuart Mizon
- 201062- ROPEY GUEST (203) (D) 7 9 4 T P Quayle 112 (16) Runs: 42 Wins: 4(F,A,G,S,G) Places: 7 £299,244 Trainer: G Margaron Owner: John Guest Racing
- L9L65L- THE WIZARD OF EYE (232) 5 9 2 T Marquand 111 (12) Runs: 21 Wins: 2(A,G,S) Places: 3 £95,557 Trainer: C Fellos Owner: R Humphrey O Humphrey & A Favell
- 114-313 FANTASTIC FOX (43) 6 9 1 A Keeley(3) 111 (20) Runs: 25 Wins: 5(S,F,A) Places: 6 £102,597 Trainer: R Varian Owner: King Power Racing Co Ltd
- 540750- BLESS HIM (217) (C,D) 10 9 1 P Cosgrave 111 (13) Runs: 50 Wins: 7(A,F) Places: 7 £322,273 Trainer: D M Simcock Owner: Tony Perkins & Partners
- 7150-L4 RHOSCOLYN (14) (D,T) 6 9 1 Jason Watson 113 (8) Runs: 46 Wins: 7(F,S,G,S) Places: 6 £237,378 Trainer: D O'Meara Owner: The Horse Watchers
- 511510- ● MERLIN THE WIZARD (224) (D) 4 8 13 H Doyle 111 (9) Runs: 7 Wins: 3(A,G) Places: 1 £24,594 Trainer: Harry Charlton Owner: Mr Imad Alsagar
- 2193-5 ARABIAN STORM (45) (D) 4 8 10 O Murphy 101 (13) Runs: 5 Wins: 1(A) Places: 2 £14,826 Trainer: A Balding Owner: Mr J C Smith
- 10745-1 MUSTAJAAB (30) (D) 4 8 10 L Edmunds 115 (4) Runs: 10 Wins: 3(A,G,S) Places: 5 £17,592 Trainer: W Muir & C Grassick Owner: Mr Khalifa Dasmal
- 0352-OL LONDONER (20) (T) 4 8 9 B Loughnane \*118 (10) Runs: 11 Wins: 1(A) Places: 1 £29,191 Trainer: J Goldie Owner: Mr J Fyffe
- 105-001 WOBWOB (7) (D,T) 6 8 8 David Egan 114 (22) Runs: 36 Wins: 6(S,G,S,G) Places: 8 £114,685 Trainer: A Keatley Owner: Ontoawinner, Andy Finneran Racing
- 21313-0 PEARLE D'OR (23) (C&D,F,T) 5 8 7 S De Sousa 112 (14) Runs: 14 Wins: 3(S,G,S) Places: 4 £71,565 Trainer: D O'Meara Owner: Mr J C G Chua
- 2L230-2 HICKORY (38) (D) 6 8 6 S Osborne 115 (6) Runs: 11 Wins: 3(A,G,S) Places: 4 £73,772 Trainer: J Fanshawe Owner: Fred Archer Racing - Galliard
- 60421-0 ABDUCTION (20) (D,T) 6 8 6 E Jones(7) 115 (15) Runs: 41 Wins: 7(F,A,G,S,G) Places: 10 £91,452 Trainer: J Goldie Owner: Dab Hand Racing
- 1010-9 GOOD KARMA (28) (D) 4 8 5 Doubtful 108 (1) Runs: 5 Wins: 2(A,G) Places: 1 £11,853 T: J Ferguson O: Mr Michael Buckley & China Horse Club
- 16187-4 CARAGIO (38) (D) 4 8 3 J F Egan 111 (11) Runs: 11 Wins: 1(A) Places: 1 £17,715 Trainer: R Teal Owner: Mrs Anne Cowley
- 2281254-1 ZERO CARBON (38) (D) 5 8 3 G Rooke 116 (3) Runs: 19 Wins: 6(S,A) Places: 3 £53,776 Trainer: R Hughes Owner: Cognition Land And Water & M Clarke

235-120 KING'S VANITY (83) (D) 4 8 2 H Turner 108

- 235-120 KING'S VANITY (83) (D) 4 8 2 H Turner 108 (2) Runs: 4 Wins: 1(A) Places: 1 £5,717 Trainer: A Balding Owner: Mrs M E Wates
- BLINKERS: No. 5 VISOR: Nos. 3, 7, 16, 18 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 6, 11 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 8, 21, 22 HOOD: Nos. 10, 17. SP FORECAST: 11-2 Mostabshir, 6 Pearle D'or, 10 The Wizard Of Eye, Ramazan, Merlin The Wizard, Hickory, Popmaster, 14 Fantastic Fox, Streets Of Gold, Jumby, 16 Others. 2023: Rebel Territory 5-9-1, Jim Crowley 11-1 (A Perrett), drawn (2), 22 ran. GUIDE: In a wide-open renewal of this valuable contest marginal preference is for HICKORY, who was twice placed in similar events over C&D last season. The six-year-old confirmed his well-being when second at Kempton (7f, pol) last month and that effort should have put him spot on for this. Popmaster was not disgraced in Group 3 company at Newmarket (6f, gd) on his seasonal return and is only 3lb higher than when a nose second in the Challenge Cup over C&D (gd) in October. Pearle D'or and Ropey Guest are others with solid course form, while Mostabshir and The Wizard Of Eye complete the shortlist.

3.10 NOVICE STAKES 2YO £10,800 (3) 5f (11)

- 1 (6) AYSGARTH C Cox 9-7 J Crowley -
  - 2 (5) BOW STREET K P De Foy 9-7 S Sayette -
  - 3 (7) CHASING GOLD R Cowell 9-7 H Doyle -
  - 4 (3) HALLASAN (25) C Appleby 9-7 W Buick \*85 -
  - 5 (11) MONOMYTH Ollie Sangster 9-7 K Stott -
  - 6 (8) ORIGINAL OUTLAW R Beckett 9-7 Doubtful -
  - 7 (10) PIVOTAL DAYS E Walker 9-7 T Marquand -
  - 8 (4) 7 REPOSADO (22) D F Davis 9-7 David Egan 64 -
  - 9 (1) ROKUNI E J-Houghton 9-7 C Bishop -
  - 10 (9) SPIRIT OF LEROS M Botti 9-7 N Callan -
  - 11 (2) ● XANTHE R Hannon 9-2 P Dobbs -
- SP FORECAST: 6-4 Hallasan, 9-2 Aysgarth, 8 Xanthe, Reposado, Monomith, 10 Pivotal Days, Bow Street, 20 Spirit Of Lerros, Rokuni, 50 Others. 2023: Natural Force 9-4, Neil Callan 10-1 (J Tate), drawn (3), 5 ran.

3.45 CAREY GROUP HANDICAP 3YO £13,500 (3) 1m 1f 212yds (8)

- 1 (8) 52319- ● CITY BURGLAR (142) R Beckett 9-9 S De Sousa \*89 -
  - 2 (6) 43127-3 GLOBAL SKIES (16) B Brookhouse 9-7 J Gilligan \*84 -
  - 3 (2) 5311- MAGICO (185) M Botti 9-7 H Doyle 91 -
  - 4 (3) 522-2 MIDAIR (18) Harry Charlton 9-5 W Buick 92 -
  - 5 (7) 14 SINDORIYNO (14) (T) C Johnston 9-2 O Murphy 89 -
  - 6 (1) 4422-2 MIDNITE STORM (33) (T) K Ryan 9-1 N Callan 93 -
  - 7 (5) 68-3 TOO BOSSY FOR US (59) K P De Foy 8-11 B Sayette 92 -
  - 8 (4) 571-4 THE FERRET (128) R Hannon 8-9 J Leavy(5) 91 -
- TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 CHEEK PIECES: No. 4 HOOD: No. 2. SP FORECAST: 3 Midair, 9-2 Magicco, City Burglar, 5 Midnite Storm, 7 Sindoriyno, 15-2 Global Skies, 10 Too Bossy For Us, 16 The Ferret. 2023: Maasai Mara 9-4, Cieren Fallon 13-2 (J & T Gosden), drawn (7), 8 ran.

4.20 MARINER SYSTEMS FILLIES' HANDICAP £10,808 (4) 1m 1f 212yds (10)

- 1 (7) 41335-7 PRENUP (25) J Chapple-Hyam 5 10-2 David Egan 82 -
  - 2 (4) 79111-5 MOOGIE (35) (D) J Fanshawe 4 10-1 R Coakley 82 -
  - 3 (5) 43-4211 AVON LIGHT (35) (D) W Muir & C Grassick 4 10-1 L Edmunds 83 -
  - 4 (3) 212-11 ● CIARA PEARL (13) (D,F) D & C Kubler 4 9-13 J Crowley 80 -
  - 5 (8) 42471-9 MELERI (33) (D) J Boyle 5 9-2 S Cosgrave \*84 -
  - 6 (6) 41-6 WARDIA JAMILA (22) A Balding 3 9-0 O Murphy 77 -
  - 7 (10) L-42 TURN UP THE HEAT (34) R Beckett 3 8-13 W Buick 78 -
  - 8 (1) 364 MISS ALPINES (22) E Walker 3 8-9 S Osborne 76 -
  - 9 (9) 10194-1 LIV MY LIFE (185) R Hannon 3 8-9 J Leavy(5) 73 -
  - 10 (2) 68148-3 UNREAL CONNECTION (26) A Perrett 3 8-3 J F Egan 73 -
- TONGUE STRAP: No. 3 HOOD: No. 2. SP FORECAST: 7-2 Ciara Pearl, 5 Wardia JAMILA, 11-2 Turn Up The Heat, 7 Miss Alpines, 15-2 Avon Light, 10 Unreal Connection, Prenup, Moogie, Meleri, 16 Liv My Life. 2023: Double March 3-8-13, Harry Davies(3) 11-1 (S Woods), drawn (9), 8 ran.

4.55 HANDICAP £10,808 (4) 6f (27)

- 1 (3) 12483-2 BUCCABAY (10) (C&D) E J-Houghton 4 10-0 C Bishop 88 -
  - 2 (13) 22043-3 CHAMPAGNE SARAH (26) (D) M Murphy & M Keady 4 9-9 K Stott 81 -
  - 3 (1) 21296-2 CAPOTE'S DREAM (26) (D) T Ward 7 9-9 T Marquand 88 -
  - 4 (7) 1829-11 KUWAIT CITY (10) J Butler 4 9-8 J Crowley 90 -
  - 5 (22) 7-52496 WILDFELL (43) R Fell & S Murray 4 9-8 J F Egan 90 -
  - 6 (11) 3L7L7-4 MISTER BLUEBIRD (10) (C&D) H Main 6 9-8 E Jones(7) 87 -
  - 7 (25) 70094-3 BRAVE NATION (10) M Bell 4 9-8 W Buick 85 -
  - 8 (15) 674/4-57 TADREEB (36) M Allwater 4 9-7 Jason Watson 92 -
  - 9 (14) 7040-81 TEMPLE BRUER (9) (D) M Murphy & M Keady 6 9-6 H Doyle 89 -
  - 10 (18) 71233-8 HOLKHAM BAY (22) (D) W Knight 4 9-6 B Wilkie(5) 89 -
  - 11 (2) 210416/ ABBEY HEIGHTS (518) (D) D & C Kubler 6 9-6 S Osborne 81 -
  - 12 (2) 155-351 DARK SIDE THUNDER (58) (D) Jessica Macey 5 9-4 S De Sousa 88 -
  - 13 (6) L-55805 EXPERT AGENT (26) (D) S C Williams 4 9-5 N Callan 88 -
  - 14 (5) 829-L41 ANTIPHON (12) (D) M Murphy & M Keady 5 9-4 S D Bowen(5) 89 -
  - 15 (8) 8-62L90 ZU RUN (43) M Loughnane 4 9-4 Billy Loughnane 94 -
  - 16 (19) 243-760 FANTASY MASTER (14) (D) Darryll Holland 6 9-4 David Egan 92 -
  - 17 (23) 69-1357 BEELZEBUB (24) (D) Alice Haynes 4 9-3 B Sayette 81 -
  - 18 (24) 1L17L-3 ALCAZAN (26) (D) R Teal 6 9-3 J Leavy(5) 90 -
  - 19 (4) 26-2142 ONE MORE WAVE (24) (D) J Portman 4 9-3 G Rooke 90 -
  - 20 (12) 1-37L73 ● KING CABO (31) L Dace 5 9-3 T P Quayle 90 -
  - 21 (9) 2/127-55 AL AMEEN (14) (D) J Fanshawe 5 9-2 R Coakley \*85 -
  - 22 (10) 1L3824- STARPROOF (175) (D) W Muir & C Grassick 4 9-2 L Edmunds 88 -
  - 23 (16) 21-2432 HABOOBA (33) (D) T Kent 4 9-1 O Murphy 91 -
  - 24 (27) 714331 NORTHCLIFF (9) (D) M Murphy & M Keady 4 8-13 Sorcha Woodley(3) 89 -
  - 25 (26) 211311 BURABACK (14) (D) (T) D Shaw 5 8-11 A Keeley(7) 89 -
  - 26 (20) 45-5414 SARAH'S VERSE (13) (D) R Harris 7 8-8 R Da Silva 81 -
  - 27 (17) 43117-5 THE COLA KID (19) (D) G Harris 7 8-4 H Turner 91 -
- BLINKERS: Nos. 9, 27 VISOR: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 9, 17, 21, 27 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 6, 12, 13, 15, 16, 21, 23, 24, 25 HOOD: Nos. 7, 17. SP FORECAST: 8 Buccabay, 10 Capote's Dream, Brave Nation, 12 Champagne Sarah, Temple Bruer, 14 Others. 2023: Coco Bear 5-9-5, Saffie Osborne 9-4 Fav (P Chamings), drawn (7), 9 ran.

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NOTTINGHAM: Good

- 5.27-MIDNIGHT GUN (K Stott, 15-2): Condor Pasa (7-2 2nd fav); Redhot Whisper (5-4 fav) 3. 11 ran. 2/1. (E Walker). Tote: £9.90; pl £1.10, £2.10, £11.00. exacta: £29.20. trifecta: £54.20. CSF: £26.19. Non-runner: Pipes And Drums. Pines And Drums! Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 10p in the pound.
- 5.59-SOI DAO (Gina Mangan, 15-2): Lunario (7-1) 2. The Spotlight Kid (10-3 fav) 3. H'cap 11 ran. 3/4. (A Wintle). Tote: £9.20; pl £2.60, £2.30, £17.00. exacta: £65.80. trifecta: £212.23. trifecta: £360.80. CSF: £58.28. Non-runner: Love Your Work.
- 6.34-THEORY OF TIDES (J Mitchell, 13-2): Dramatic Star (8-1) 2. Padesha (10-3 2nd fav) 3. 11 ran. 1/4. 1/4. (J & T Gosden; 11-4 fav Inner Peace). Tote: £7.10; pl £2.30, £2.20, £1.60. exacta: £54.40. trifecta: £225.20. CSF: £57.61. Non-runner: Ghost Story.
- 7.09-CLEAR STORM (C Fallon, 11-2): Fougere (7-2 2nd fav); Pink Lily (10-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. hd. 3/1. (W Haggas; 5-4 fav Golden Myrrh). Tote: £6.50; pl £1.90, £1.30, £2.00. exacta: £22.50. trifecta: £187.77. trifecta: £102.00. CSF: £25.32.
- 7.44-RAY VONN (J Gilligan, 8-1): Enderman (9-2) 2. Lotus Rose (6-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. hd. 1/4. (B Brookhouse; 10-3 fav Harry's Halo). Tote: £9.00; pl £2.50, £1.80, £2.30. exacta: £43.30. trifecta: £238.11. trifecta: £206.80. CSF: £42.46. Non-runners: Daisy Mazy, Hallowed Time.
- 8.18-YAZAMAN (Mark Winn, 9-2 j 2nd fav) 1. Spanish Angel (15-2) 2. Showalong (5-2 fav) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 2/1. (P Midgley). Tote: £5.60; pl £1.50, £2.50, £1.50. exacta: £44.80. trifecta: £105.70. trifecta: £185.60. CSF: £37.26. Non-runners: Captain Bentley, Enchanted Night, Loco Lobo. Placepot: £34.40 (Race 1) 5, 4, 9; (2) 4, 2, 6; (3) 10, 3, 8; (4) 8, 5, 4; (5) 4, 12, 11; (6) 11, 5, 1. Quadpot: £17.10

SEDGFIELD: Good

- 5.18-CAMARRATE (T Gillard, 2-1 fav) 1. Byron Hill (9-2) 2. Vanilla Dancer (15-2) 3. 11 ran. 1/4. 13/1. (D McMain). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.30, £2.00, £2.30. exacta: £11.80. trifecta: £63.40. CSF: £11.40. Non-runner: Away She Goes.
- 5.48-TROPICAL TALENT (H Brooke, 5-2 fav) 1. Augharue (10-1) 2. Libby (12-1) 3. H'cap 11 ran. shd. 4/4. (O Greenall & J Guerrero). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.60, £3.20, £3.40. exacta: £23.90. trifecta: £256.76. trifecta: £224.70. CSF: £28.13.
- 6.20-BARRONS LAND (T Gillard, 12-1): Mrs Tabitha (6-4 fav) 2. Caitlin Dearg (10-1) 3. H'cap 14 ran. 3/4. hd. (D McMain). Tote: £15.80; pl £3.70, £1.30, £2.90. exacta: £45.00. trifecta: £202.02. trifecta: £278.60. CSF: £30.76.
- 6.55-LEADING FORCE (R Mania, 9-2 2nd fav) 1. Sean Og (5-1) 2. Ashington (5-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 5/4. 1/4. (A M Thomson; 7-2 fav Gandhi Maker). Tote: £6.10; pl £2.00, £1.80, £2.00. exacta: £29.60. trifecta: £116.36. trifecta: £160.00. CSF: £27.80. Non-runner: Hauraki Gulf.
- 7.30-FOR THREE (J England, 9-2 2nd fav) 1. Penpal (18-1) 2. Huil Reflets (7-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 1/4. 1/4. (S England; 5-2 fav Heart Above). Tote: £5.50; pl £1.90, £4.00, £2.50. exacta: £93.40. trifecta: £568.83. trifecta: £874.30. CSF: £79.58.
- 8.05-FOSTER'S FORTUNE (D McMenamin, 18-1) 1. Sattam (7-2 2nd fav) 2. Brian's Jet (5-1) 3. H'cap 12 ran. 3/4. shd. (C Grant; 3-1 fav Lucky Lover Boy). Tote: £23.40; pl £4.60, £2.00, £1.80. exacta: £117.80. trifecta: £376.63. trifecta: £597.00. CSF: £82.73.
- 8.40-LEADER WING (H Brooke, 9-2) 1. Wiltshire Wonder (11-4 fav) 2. Masterkey (4-1 2nd fav) 3. 10 ran. 3/4. 2/1. (H Weston). Tote: £5.50; pl £1.60, £1.50, £1.80. exacta: £19.70. trifecta: £73.20. CSF: £17.30. Non-runner: Saxon Star. Placepot: £59.70 (Race 1) 1, 2, 12; (2) 9, 6, 2; (3) 8, 9, 7; (4) 7, 10, 5; (5) 5, 9, 6; (6) 2, 3, 5. Quadpot: £16.20

Evs is ready for York run

SPRINTING sensation Big Evs is "99 per cent certain" to launch his three-year-old campaign next week. Trainer Mick Appleby has given his Breeders' Cup hero an entry in Thursday's Listed British Stallion Studs EBF Westow Stakes. Run over five furlongs at York, a local track for owner Paul Teasdale, it is restricted to horses in the colt's age group. Big Evs was last seen in action at Santa Anita in November, when he helped Appleby, above, make a top level breakthrough. By Melissa Jones "I'm 99 per cent certain Big Evs will run at York's Dante meeting," the Rutland-based horseman said. "It's a nice starting point for three-year-olds. Tom Marquand will ride and we'd like some good ground, so hopefully there won't be much rain." Ancient Wisdom, 8-1 in William Hill's Derby betting, heads 12 possible Dante Stakes runners on the same day.



# DEFIANCE

By The Scout (Melissa Jones)

DEFIANCE (3.00) is fancied to play by the rules in Lingfield's William Hill Lingfield Derby Trial today. The son of 2012 Epsom hero Camelot was an eyecatcher at the Surrey venue last month. Settled in rear by James Doyle, Roger Varian's colt was doing good work at the finish over ten furlongs. A steadily run race was not ideal for a horse expected to relish 1m 3f, from a stable which sent out last year's Derby runner-up King Of Steel. Well-bred filly DANIELLE (2.25) is the one to beat in the Oaks Trial, representing John Gosden, Kieran Shoemark and owner Anthony Oppenheimer.

# Varian colt will relish trip

A patient approach to turf racing was rewarded at Wetherby, when Cracksman's offspring won by 12 lengths. Although the form is nothing special, her manner of victory puts Gosden's Classic candidate in pole position to make the grade here. Ralph Beckett's **REMARQUEE** (3.35) has a class edge over eight others going for the William Hill Chartwell Fillies' Stakes. Twice a runner-up in Group One company, Wathnan Racing's purchase is fancied to concede weight to smart three-year-old Great Generation.

My selection's handler also saddles William Hill Epic Value Handicap pick **IF NOT NOW** (1.50), who has the size to do well as a four-year-old. A total of 23 runners go to post for Ascot's Lavazza & Ascot 10 Year Anniversary Victoria Cup. Early favourite Mostabshir contested last year's St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot but he seems to have his own ideas about the game. From a lengthy shortlist, unexposed handicapper **MERLIN THE WIZARD** (2.40) fits the bill, with eight of the last ten winners rated 93 or above and a double-figure price. Progressive throughout 2023, Hollie Doyle's mount was off colour when fancied for the Cambridgeshire and a strongly run seven furlongs is a catalyst for further improvement. Fellow Harry Charlton trainee **ZOUZANNA** (2.05) is one of very few course scorers in the Peroni Nastro Azzurro 0.0% British EBF Fillies' Handicap. Peroni Nastro Azzurro 0.0% Handicap entrant **KING OF THE PLAINS** (1.30) has more to give off a mark of 82, under the guidance of James Horton. At Haydock, easy Cheltenham Festival winner **LARK IN THE MORNIN** (3.15) is a worthy favourite for the Pertemps Network Swinton Handicap Hurdle.



TRIAL VERDICT Defiance has all the right credentials to win the Lingfield Derby Trial

### THE SCOUT

1.35 Zestful	3.50 POET MASTER
2.10 Winterfair	4.25 Sayva
2.45 Justcallmepete	5.00 Cambria Legend
3.15 Lark In The Mornin	

### 1.35 HANDICAP HURDLE

£20,812 (Class 2) 3m 58yds (17 dec)

1	640- BOLD ENDEAVOUR (28) N Henderson 8 12 0..... J Bowen
2	346- GOWEL ROAD (58) N Twiston-Davies 8 11 12..... Doubtful
3	310- FLIGHT DECK (58) D Deborah Cole 10 11 12..... C Ward(3)
4	306- MIGHT I (29)(T) H Fry 8 11 9..... L Murtagh
5	294- PULL AGAIN GREEN (4) O'Brien 8 11 4..... L Harrison
6	405- PARTY BUSINESS (24) J Williams 8 11 3..... C J Todd
7	858- JUDICIAL LAW (42) Jonjo & A O'Neill 7 11 2..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr
8	791- KNOWLES ROAD (30) D P Nicholls 7 11 2..... H Cobden
9	457- WINDTOTHELIGHTNING (24) O Greenall & J Guerriero 6 11 1..... H Brooke
10	494- ZESTFUL (24) M Keighley 5 11 0..... A Wedge
11	152- HARBOUR LAKE (24) A King & C Kubler 9 11 0..... T Cannon
12	311- SABRINA (20) D P Nicholls 9 11 0..... F Gingell(3)
13	232- LORD SNOOTIE (28) Christian Williams 7 10 12..... J Tudor
14	531- CZECH HER OUT (21) D T Russell 10 10 11..... P W Wadde(3)
15	396- BARBADOS BUCK'S (62) D O Bourke 9 10 11..... Craig Nichol
16	411- ZAIN NIGHTS (24) D L Wadhwa 5 10 10..... G Sheehan
17	827- MY BOBBY DAZZLER (42) Mrs M Rowley 9 10 6..... C Deutsch

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 5, 12  
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7, 12, 15, 16 HOOD: No. 10  
W-Factor: Flight Deck (149); My Bobby Dazzler (146); Bold Endeavour (145).

SP FORECAST: 6 Zain Nights, 7 Harbour Lake, Knowles Road, 8 Sabrina, 10 Czech Her Out, Lord Snootie, 12 Zestful, Bold Endeavour, 14 Others.

### 2.10 PERTEMPS NETWORK HANDICAP 3YO

£8,640 (4) 7f 212yds (9)

1	(1) 1L-4 CERULEAN BAY (16) D O'Meara 9 9..... D Tudhope
2	(4) 1-10 BRAVO ZULU (25) D King & C Kubler 9 7..... R Kingscote
3	(9) 21-3 JONNY RINGO (20)(T) L Russell 9 6..... P Mulrennan
4	(7) 32-2 SUNNY STREET (121) J Tate 9 5..... S James
5	(5) 127- SENNOCKIAN (10) (D) C Johnston 9 5..... J Fanning
6	(3) 51-3 WINTERFAIR (33) W Haggas 9 2..... A Farragher
7	(8) 122- CHESHIRE DANCER (194) H Palmer 9 1..... S M Levey
8	(6) 12-5 SILENT MOVIE (20) R Fahey 9 0..... C Murtagh
9	(2) 46-4 KING'S FOUNTAIN (44) A Balding 9 0..... C Rodriguez

TONGUE STRAP: No. 3  
W-Factor: Silent Movie (92); Sunny Street (91); Sennockian (90).  
SP FORECAST: 11-4 Sunny Street, 7-2 Winterfair, 6 King's Fountain, 13-2 Cheshire Dancer, 7 Cerulean Bay, 10 Jonny Ringo, 12 Sennockian, 14 Bravo Zulu, Silent Movie.

### 2.45 PERTEMPS HANDICAP

£8,374 (4) 6f 212yds (12)

1	(6) 7-0 JUSTCALLMEPETE (22) H Evans 5 9 10..... J Bryan
2	(3) 032- MAGICAL MERLIN (231) Harry Charlton 4 9 8..... R Kingscote
3	(4) 141- RED MAIDS (217) (C&D) M Rimell 4 9 7..... S M Levey
4	(7) 933- ZOZIMUS (7) (F) D O'Meara 4 9 7..... D Tudhope
5	(5) 24L- CRAVEN (168) (D) R Fahey 4 9 6..... A Farragher
6	(1) 91-2 LIANGEL HOPE (11) (C&D) C Mason 5 9 4..... Gina Mangan(3)
7	(8) 413- BEAUTY CHOICE (70) (D) M & D Easterby 7 9 3..... S James
8	(1) 539- EAGLE DAY (42) P Evans 4 9 3..... J Fanning
9	(9) 826- ROGUE THUNDER (70) (D) P Morris 4 9 3..... C Murtagh
10	(2) 21-6 MERESIDE DIVA (214) D N Barron 4 9 2..... C Rodriguez
11	(10) 769- ROSERING RALPH (20) D M Dods 4 9 1..... P Mulrennan
12	(12) 4-32 WRECK IT RYLEY (17) (D) A Brown 4 8 10..... R Clutterbuck

BLINKERS: No. 1 VISOR: Nos. 4, 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 8  
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 6, 11  
W-Factor: Beauty Choice (92); Justcallmepete (91); Magical Merlin (90).  
SP FORECAST: 4 Zozimus, 11-2 Beauty Choice, 6 Wreck It Ryley, Liangel Hope, 7 Magical Merlin, 12 Mereside Diva, Eagle Day, Justcallmepete, Craven, 14 Others.

### GOSSIP FROM THE GALLOPS

Lambourn: SHARTASH (3.50 Haydock)  
Newmarket: WALEEFY (7.25 Leicester)  
North: FLYING FINN (2.05 Ascot)  
South: REMARQUEE 3.35 Lingfield)

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Good to Soft. Left Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2019-24): Richard Kingscote 12% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24): W Haggas 25% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 3.15 Clear White Light (tongue strap), 4.25 El Battle Bus (hood). BEATEN FAVOURITES: 2.10 Cheshire Dancer, Sunny Street(hcp), 2.45 Eagle Day(hcp), 5.00 Minstrel Knight(hcp). LONGEST TRAVELLER: Lark In The Mornin (3.15), Nibiru (3.15), Eagle's Quest (4.25). Auriigny Mill (3.15) 264 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 2.45 Magical Merlin from H & R Charlton to Harry Charlton, Rogue Thunder from Tom Clover to P Morris, 5.00 Rogue Raider from Tom Clover to P Chapple-Hyam.

### HAYDOCK RTV

#### 3.15 HCAP HURDLE (PREMIER HCAP)

£45,560 (1) 1m 7f 144yds (17) ITV4

1	102- BALLEE (29) (D) P Hobbs & J White 5 12 0..... M G Nolan
2	104- GIN COCO (41) (D,T) H Fry 8 11 12..... L Murtagh
3	114- AURIGNY MILL (15) (D,T) V Dartnall 7 11 7..... A Johns
4	534- AFADIL (21) (D) P Nicholls 5 11 7..... F Gingell(3)
5	647- TEDDY BLUE (41) (D,T) G & J Moore 6 11 6..... C Quinn(3)
6	11/0- N'GULO (70) (C&D) P Neville 9 11 6..... G Sheehan
7	237- LUTTRELL LAD (29) (D) T Lacey 8 11 5..... S Sheppard
8	511- TINTINTIN (24) (D) F O'Brien 5 11 5..... J J Burke
9	/RO- NIBIRU (F78) (D) A J Martin (IRE) 9 11 4..... D King(3)
10	102- MR FREEDOM (41) (D, L) Miss S West 5 11 4..... M Goldstein
11	145- CLEAR WHITE LIGHT (F15) (D) A Keatley 8 11 2..... H Brooke
12	152- RARE MIDDLETON (24) (D) P Nicholls 5 11 2..... H Cobden
13	631- LARK IN THE MORNIN (60) (D) J P O'Brien (IRE) 4 11 1..... J J Slevin
14	251- ALL THE GLORY (49) (D) Jonjo & A O'Neill 7 11 0..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr

15 496- CASTEL GANDOLFO (24) (D) F O'Brien 7 11 0..... J Hogan(3)  
16 131- PICKANUMBER (16) (D) O Murphy 6 10 12..... D Johnston(5)  
17 134- TAPLEY (24) (D), T Miss Suzanne Smith 7 10 12..... Elizabeth Gate(7)

BLINKERS: Nos. 6, 15 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15  
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 4, 7, 9, 14 HOOD: No. 1.  
W-Factor: Auriigny Mill (143); Lark In The Mornin (142); Afadil (141).  
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Lark In The Mornin, 7 Afadil, 10 Tintintin, Ballee, Rare Middleton, 12 Gin Coco, 14 All The Glory, 16 Others.  
GUIDE: The steadily progressive BALLEE showed a likeable attitude when finishing a game second after racing up in the vanguard for most of the way at Aintree (2m, stf) last month and, nudged up just 2lb, he gets the vote to make this trip to Merseyside even more fruitful than his last. Lark In The Mornin can give the selection most to think about on the back of a cosy victory in the Boodles at Cheltenham (2m, hvy), though an 8lb rise asks a question of Joseph O'Brien's four-year-old. Afadil has been running consistently well this season and is another to consider.

### 3.50 SPRING TROPHY STAKES (LISTED)

£28,355 (1) 6f 212yds (6)

1	(4) 81-1 POET MASTER (23) (C&D) K R Burke 4 9 10..... S James
2	(1) 04-4 POGO (15) (C&D) C Hills 8 9 10..... R Kingscote
3	(5) 16-1 SHARTASH (21) (D) A Watson 4 9 10..... J Bryan
4	(2) 152- SILVER SWOOD (210) D Cunha 4 9 10..... R Clutterbuck
5	(6) 11-5 WITCH HUNTER (15) (D,F) R Hannon 5 9 10..... S M Levey
6	(3) 11L- INDIAN RUN (210) (D) E J Houghton 3 8 12..... D Tudhope

CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.  
W-Factor: Witch Hunter (115); Pogo (113); Shartash (112).  
SP FORECAST: 5-2 Shartash, 3 Poet Master, Witch Hunter, 5 Pogo, 10 Silver Sword, 12 Indian Run.

### 4.25 'JUNIOR' OPEN NH FLAT RACE 4YO

£5,446 (3) 1m 7f 144yds (13)

1	DOCTOR MIDAS (F) N Henderson 11 0..... J Bowen
2	4- EAGLE'S QUEST (111) Maqs Mullins (IRE) 11 0..... J J Burke
3	42- FRENCH SHIP (30) P Hobbs & J White 11 0..... M G Nolan
4	GLENVILLE Ewan Whillans 11 0..... Craig Nichol
5	KASHCHEI S Drinkwater 11 0..... A Wedge
6	POUGIET(C) H Honour 11 0..... H Cobden
7	SAYVA Jonjo & A O'Neill 11 0..... Jonjo O'Neill Jr
8	STEP AHEAD (Cantillon) 11 0..... G Sheehan
9	TREASURE COVE (29) I Williams 11 0..... C J Todd
10	5- TWIN EARTH (44) A Watson 11 0..... Miss B Hampson(3)
11	34- LETTERSTON LILY (30)(T) P & M Bowen 10 10..... B R Jones
12	0- LARSON LILY (30)(T) P & M Bowen 10 10..... B R Jones
13	0- MISOURA (23) P Kirby 10 7..... J Williamson(3)

HOOD: No. 3.  
W-Factor: Letterston Lily (114); Eagle's Quest (110); French Ship (105).  
SP FORECAST: 9-2 Doctor Midas, 5 Letterston Lily, 11-2 French Ship, 7 Step Ahead, Eagle's Quest, Sayva, 8 Twin Earth, 10 Others.

### 5.00 PERTEMPS NEWTON HANDICAP 3YO

£6,281 (5) 1m 2f 42yds (7)

1	(6) 365- ROGUE RAIDER (70) P Chapple-Hyam 9 9..... D Tudhope
2	(7) 7-52 CAMBRIA LEGEND (18) (F) J Fanshawe 9 7..... R Kingscote
3	(5) 3-33 MINSTREL KNIGHT (14) E Bethell 9 6..... C Rodriguez
4	(3) 22L- AMASAR (194) C Johnston 9 5..... J Fanning
5	(4) 3-36 RICH HARRY (14) Alice Hynes 9 5..... S James
6	(1) 0-54 YIPPEE (117) C Johnston 9 4..... A Mullen
7	(2) 35-4 CONTINUANCE (19) M Keighley 9 1..... P Mulrennan

CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.  
W-Factor: Cambria Legend (78); Continuanace (77); Rogue Raider (76).  
SP FORECAST: 13-8 Cambria Legend, 9-2 Minstrel Knight, 5 Rogue Raider, 11-2 Yippee, 10 Rich Harry, Amasar, Continuanace.

### HOOF PRINT

success and seems likely to remain at five furlongs for the time being to take a shot at the Queen Mary Stakes at the showpiece meeting. "She's a very, very good filly," said Oliver Cole. "She hung slightly in that last furlong, but I believe they did the last furlong in 11-something seconds and she hit nearly 41 miles per hour. She's very quick. "We thought it was a good opportunity to go to Ascot and for her to see it. "I think she's exceptional and the Queen Mary will definitely be next, touch wood. Tom thought she was really smart."

### NOTTINGHAM RTV

#### 1.45 THE SCOUT

1.45 Scylla	4.05 I Still Have Faith
2.20 See You Tonight	4.40 Classy Boy
2.55 Emily Post	5.15 Yiengaa
3.30 HAYMAKER (nap)	

### 1.45 APPRENTICE HANDICAP

£4,187 (Class 5) 1m 6f (7 dec)

1	(5) 6L-6 CLEVER RELATION (15) H Morrison 4 9 12..... Jack Dougty
2	(1) 984- RUSSIAN RUMOUR (220) (D) P Portman 7 9 8..... Olivia Tubb
3	(4) 7-15 EASTER ICON (J15) (D) G Brown 5 9 5..... Archie Young
4	(3) 664 SYCAMORE GAP (9) (F) R Menzies 4 9 4..... S Feilden
5	(7) 631 LIBERATED LAD (79) (C,D,F) B Brookhouse 6 9 0..... R Kavanagh(5)
6	(2) 774- SCYLLA (159) C Follows 4 8 13..... Mikkel Mortensen
7	(6) 727 CAN CAN GIRL (14) C Lidster 6 8 8..... Jack Enright(5)

W-Factor: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5  
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 2, 5.  
W-Factor: Liberated Lad (76); Sycamore Gap (75); Easter Icon (74).  
SP FORECAST: 13-8 Liberated Lad, 4 Scylla, 5 Sycamore Gap, 6 Easter Icon, 10 Russian Rumour, Clever Relation, 12 Can Can Girl.

### 2.20 NOVICE STAKES

£3,780 (5) 6f 18yds (12)

1	(10) 21-1 CALL TO ACTION (107) M & D Easterby 3 9 11..... S Gray
2	(4) 4-1 SEE YOU TONIGHT (83) (D) J Fanshawe 3 9 6..... R Scott
3	(6) 8- ARAMRAM (245) R Hannon 3 9 4..... S Hitchcock
4	(1) DURAN (348) N Tinkler 3 9 4..... A Jary(5)
5	(11) FINE GOLD TOM Clover 3 9 4..... F McManoman
6	(9) 6L GRECIAN GOD (14) M Usher 3 9 4..... F Marsh
7	(5)- INVINCIBLE ROYALE (338) D Loughnane 3 9 4..... C Planas(3)
8	(3) 09 JUST TYPICAL (29) I Williams 3 9 4..... T Whelan
9	(8) 6-7 LOCOMOTIVE (29) M Walford 3 9 4..... J Garrity
10	(2) 7 OSCAR MIKE (22) E Walker 3 9 4..... C Hutchinson(3)
11	(5) 7 TITANIUM (9) G Tuer 3 9 4..... C Hardie

TONGUE STRAP: No. 2 HOOD: No. 9  
W-Factor: Call To Action (80); See You Tonight (79); Locomotive (75).  
SP FORECAST: 11-4 Call To Action, 10 See You Tonight, 6 Fine Gold, 7 Aramram, 8 Invincible Royale, 10 Locomotive, 12 Oscar Mike, 14 Titanium, 16 Others.

### HEXHAM SSR

#### 4.00 HANDICAP CHASE

£5,888 (4) 3m 41yds (11 dec)

1	PLU- DEE STAR (24) G Hamner 11 12 0..... Mr Murray Dodd(7)
2	51P- DEEP CHARM (34) (C&D) Coltherd 10 11 13..... S Coltherd
3	424- COURT DREAMING (146) (D) N Richards 11 11 11..... Mr Joe Wright(3)
4	611- WHOSMYDADDY (64) (D) A M Thomson 6 11 8..... R Mania
5	P39- ZWICKY (26) P Kirby 7 11 5..... Thomas Dawson
6	541- BALLYLYNCH (57) (D,F) M Hammond 7 10 13..... B Hughes
7	32U- POETRY MAN (49) G Bewley 6 10 12..... J Bewley
8	P2L- RIBEYE (58) (C,D) P Atkinson 9 10 10..... Doubtful
9	/F3- MORZOV COCKTAIL (58) (D) T Easterby 8 10 8..... Mr William Easterby(3)
10	112- DR SHIROCCO (83) (C) S Forster 9 10 5..... C O'Farrell
11	193- WEST LAWN (99) J Walton 8 10 2..... H Reed

BLINKERS: No. 9 TONGUE STRAP: No. 1  
CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7.  
W-Factor: West Lawn (118); Dr Shirocco (115); RIBEYE (114).  
SP FORECAST: 7-4 Whosmydaddy, 5 Ballylynch, 6 Deep Charm, 8 Court Dreaming, 10 Morzov Cocktail, 12 Others.

### 4.35 HANDICAP CHASE

£5,888 (4) 1m 7f 133yds (7)

1	IPL- AUBIS WALK (17) (F) N Richards 8 12 0..... Sean Quinlan
2	15- HOME FREE (33)(T) D Skelton 6 11 6..... F Gillard
3	135- CHASE A FORTUNE (34) (D) C Grant 6 11 2..... T Midgley(3)
4	F34- CHAPEL GREEN (62) (C&D) L Russell 7 11 2..... D R Fox
5	2P1- FIVE DOLLAR FINE (19) (C&D) A Hamilton 9 11 1..... D McMenamin
6	833- BACKBYJET (62) B Ellison 6 10 7..... S Twiston-Davies
7	12L- TAKE CENTRE STAGE (56) (D) R Menzies 7 10 6..... B Hughes

VISOR: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 4.  
W-Factor: Chase A Fortune (127); Take Centre Stage (124); Aubis Walk (123).  
SP FORECAST: 11-4 Five Dollar Fine, 4 Home Free, 9-2 Aubis Walk, 5 Take Centre Stage, 6 Chapel Green, 7 Others.

### 2.55 FILLIES' HANDICAP

£5,496 (4) 6f 18yds (9)

1	(9) 101 STAR OF LADY M (7) (D,F) D O'Meara 4 10 4..... Mark Winn(3)
2	(6) 38-8 MAY BLOSSOM (23) (C) J Camacho 5 9 11..... Tom Kiely-Marshall(7)
3	(4) 20-5 GEMINI STAR (32) Alice Haynes 4 9 9..... K O'Neill
4	(8) 23-2 TIGER BAY (26) H Candy 4 9 8..... T Whelan
5	(2) 142- EMILY POST (226) (D) M Dods 5 9 7..... S B Kirrane
6	(1) 8-97 CRAZY LUCK (26) (D,T) B Millman 6 9 5..... D Searle(7)
7	(7) LL5 MISS BELLA BRAND (21) (D) Mrs I G'Leveque 6 9 1..... Kayla Fraser(5)
8	(3) 1-44 NARIKO (12) (D) H Palmer 3 8 7..... R Scott
9	(5) 4-06 OAKLAND PRINCESS (8) K R Burke 3 8 2..... C Hardie

VISOR: Nos. 1, 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2 HOOD: No. 5.  
W-Factor: Crazy Luck (90); Gemini Star (89); May Blossom (87).  
SP FORECAST: 11-4 Star Of Lady M, 4 Tiger Bay, 5 Emily Post, 7 Gemini Star, 8 Oakland Princess, 10 Others.

### 3.30 HANDICAP

£5,496 (4) 5f 8yds (8)

1	(4) 325- JUMBEAU (247) (D) Tom Clover 4 9 9..... C Planas(3)
2	(8) 0L-2 HAYMAKER (21) H Morrison 5 9 6..... D Allan
3	(3) 2L-6 DICKIEBURD (116) (D) Craig Lidster 4 9 6..... W Pyle(5)
4	(5) 8-86 GRACE ANGEL (37) (D) D Holland 4 9 6..... S B Kirrane
5	(7) 27L- CELSIUS (172) (D) Tom Clover 8 9 6..... J Mitchell
6	(6) 48-4 ANCIENT TIMES (28) (D,F) Harry Eustace 6 9 3..... Kayla Fraser(5)
7	(1) L70- EEH BAH GUM (217) (D) M Appleby 9 8 10..... F Larson(3)
8	(2) 25L- BEAUZON (33) (D) I Williams 5 8 8..... T Whelan

BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 CHEEK PIECES: No. 8.  
W-Factor: Beauzon (98); Haymaker (96); Ancient Times (95).  
SP FORECAST: 9-4 Haymaker, 7-2 Ancient Times, 4 Jumbleau, 8 Dickieburd, 10 Grace Angel, Celsius, 12 Beauzon, 14 Eeh Bah Gum.

### 4.05 HANDICAP

£5,496 (4) 1m 75yds (8)

1	(5) 13-7 TWIRLING (112) (D) S & E Crisford 4 9 11..... J Mitchell
2	(6) 9-60 SPIRIT GENIE (21) J Candlish 4 9 7..... K O'Neill
3	(4) 512- ON THE RIVER (101) (D) H Bethell 5 9 6..... C Hardie
4	(7) 112- I STILL HAVE FAITH (J175) (C,D,F) B Brookhouse 4 9 5 5 T Whelan
5	(2) 0-43 SPIORADALTA (14) (C&D,F) M Walford 4 9 4..... J Garrity
6	(3) 32-5 DECEIVER (43) D & C Kubler 4 9 4..... C Hutchinson(3)
7	(1) 04-4 LEBER ANGEL (49) (D) S Corbett 6 9 3..... H Russell
8	(8) 21-0 RIBBLE ROUSER (131) (D) T Easterby 4 8 10..... D Allan

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 4, 7 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2  
HOOD: No. 3, 8, 7  
W-Factor: Spirit Genie (96); I Still Have Faith (94); On The River (93).  
SP FORECAST: 11-4 I Still Have Faith, 9-2 On The River, 5 Twirling, 6 Deceiver, 7 Spioradalta, 8 Clear Angel, 10 Others.

### 5.10 MAIDEN HUNTERS' CHASE

£3,593 (4) 3m 41yds (8)

1	54-4 AMMA LORD (114) Mrs K Lynn 8 12 0..... Miss Lucy Brown(7)
2	33-2 COOL DESIRE (16) Mrs Dawson 9 12 0..... Mr John Dawson
3	P/4-4 DRESSED TO IMPRESS (14) Miss Joanne Murphy 8 12 0..... Mr Paddy Barlow(5)
4	PPI- LUCKY LUCARNO (21) Tom Sowerby 12 12 0..... Mr Joe Wright(3)
5	524- SLANEY OPERA (21) J Cookson 6 12 0..... N Cookson(7)
6	531- SPONTHUS (28) (F) W Easterby 9 12 0..... Mr T Easterby(7)
7	63-3 TOUCAN SAM (14) A B Hamilton 6 12 0..... Mr N Orpwood(3)
8	33-3 TURNTHELIGHTSOFF (14) Miss R Hayton 8 12 0..... Mr William Easterby(3)

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 4, 7.  
CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.  
W-Factor: Amma Lord (79); Toucan Sam (78).  
SP FORECAST: 13-8 Sponthus, 7-2 Cool Desire, 6 Lucky Lucarno, 7 Toucan Sam, 10 Slaney Opera, 12 Others.

### 5.45 HANDICAP HURDLE

£5,413 (4) 2m 4f 28yds (11)

1	133- CAPTAIN ZEBU (310) (C,D) R Menzies 7 11 13..... Mr John Dixon(7)
2	111- IMPERIAL DATA (202) (D,F) R Menzies 7 11 13..... R Chapman
3	11- I AM MAX (75) A M Thomson 6 11 12..... R Mania
4	5L/4- SNOOKERED (468) (D) H Burns 10 11 9..... Thomas Dawson
5	028- LER'S LEGACY (26) (C) S Corbett 7 11 4..... N Moscrop
6	53

LEICESTER RTV

5.20 RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES 2YO £3,664 (Class 5) 5f (15 declared)
1 (1) 6 ANT COLONY (22) E J-Houghton 9 7... E Greatrex
2 (15) 227 BOB THE BANDIT (21) W G M Turner 9 7... F Daly(7)

5.55 NUCLEUSHR HANDICAP £3,140 (6) 6f (16)
1 (7) 611 CATHERINE CHROI (6) (D,F,T) Jardine 6 10 3(5ex)
2 (1) 3-96 RWENEARLYTHEREDAD (32) (D) D Carroll 4 9 11

6.25 SIGNFAB (UK) HANDICAP £3,664 (5) 1m 3f 179yds (9)
1 (4) 123 ROGUE TORNADO (226) (D) James Owen 4 9 11... R Havlin
2 (7) 563-D DAY ARVALENREEVA (185) (C&D,F) K P De Foy 4 9 9

6.55 TONY TOACH & SON HANDICAP £3,664 (5) 7f (11)
1 (9) 21-8 MUSICAL MYSTERY (31) (D) E Dunlop 5 9 11... R Havlin
2 (11) 163 AL MUQDAD (12) (D,F) D O'Meara 4 9 11... D Nolan

THE SCOUT

5.20 Ant Colony 7.25 Fair Point
5.55 Gherkin 7.55 Nikovo
6.25 Fiddlers Green 8.25 High Court Judge
6.55 Aiseytherere

7.25 EBF MAIDEN STAKES £5,234 (4) 7f (16)
1 (4) 6 CAVALRY CALL (23) S & E Crisford 3 9 4... C Beasley
2 (8) 08-CRAFTY SPIRIT (199) C Cox 3 9 4... J Hart

7.55 HANDICAP £3,664 (5) 1m 53yds (10)
1 (3) L-11 NIKOVO (9) (D) D O'Meara 5 10 0... D Nolan
2 (5) L91 LAW SUPREME (13) (D) I Williams 5 9 12... Josephine Gordon

8.25 HANDICAP £3,140 (6) 1m 2f (15)
1 (6) 452 ISLE OF WOLVES (10) (D) H Bethell 8 9 13... Joanna Mason
2 (2) 751 CRAZY CRACKERS (8) (D) I Furtado 4 9 11

7.05 HANDICAP HURDLE £7,922 (3) 2m 5f (13)
1 L35-IMPULSIVE ONE (189) B Ellison 6 12 0... S Bowen
2 9LF-WAR LORD (31) J Tizzard 9 11 12... B J Powell

7.35 HANDICAP HURDLE £5,281 (4) 3m 1f (9)
1 35P-NICKELSONTHEMIE (20) (C&D) K Woolacott 10 12 2... B Godfrey
2 /P2-ONE MORE FLEURIE (134) I Williams 10 12 0... S Bowen

8.05 BEGINNERS' CHASE £7,922 (3) 2m 4f (6)
1 3F4-AUTHORISED SPEED (14) G & J Moore 7 11 2... D Noonan
2 /10-BOOMBAWN (29) D Skelton 7 11 2... H Skelton

8.35 OPEN NH FLAT RACE £2,178 (5) 2m (9)
1 /121-KINGSTON PRIDE (22) (F) N Henderson 5 11 9... N De Boineville
2 NOBLE PARK N Henderson 5 11 2... Paul O'Brien

Huddersfield v Wigan 3PM, SKY

By Dave Craven

FIT-AGAIN Sam Hewitt has timed his run to perfection as Huddersfield bid to fire on two fronts.

The second-row has missed seven games due to a freak training ground incident.

But he returns against champions Wigan today. And Hewitt, who this week signed a new three-year deal, plans to show he is back up to speed for next Sunday's Challenge Cup semi-final against Warrington.

He said: "I'm buzzing. I've been itching to get back for a week or two. "I was gutted with the injury, especially the way it happened. It was in training and there was no one around me.

"I just turned to get back outside and wasn't touched by anyone. But I ended up snapping my ankle ligaments and needing surgery.

"It was tough to take as I'd been playing every week and felt like I was doing a good job. "These two games you want to play in."

Huddersfield were showing signs of challenging for top spot in the league before back-to-back defeats against St Helens and Salford.

Hewitt, 25, said: "Wigan are an aggressive pack and on the edges they're pretty silky - but I'm sure we'll rise to it."

His career has been a slow-burner. He had loans at Workington and Halifax in his formative years, and even last season he had a short spell with Wakefield.

But he was rewarded with the No.12 jersey by Huddersfield coach Ian Watson this term and



YOU CAN'T STOP ME: Fit-again Hewitt has Wigan in his sights

I'm buzzing to return to Giants' fold

HEWITT'S BACK AFTER INJURY

started their opening five games before his injury.

The Yorkshireman admitted: "It's been about being patient. The last couple of years I had Chris McQueen in front of me, who is a great professional.

"I did have some hard conversations with Watto but I trusted him.

"I had a lot to learn coming through and feel I'm starting to get there.

"Now I need to make the most of my chance - and I'm absolutely thrilled with the contract."

CATS SEEK SPARK

CATALANS v LEEDS 5.30PM, SKY SPORTS

JORDAN ABDULL admits Catalan Dragons' mis-firing half-backs must redeem themselves against Leeds.

Dragons were early Super League leaders but are now desperately hoping to avoid three successive defeats after going down to Leigh and Wigan.

Steve McNamara's side scored just one try those games, heaping pressure on his creative hub.

England stand-off Abdull said: "It's our job to get better, get more points on the board and as a group improve our mentality when things aren't going well.

"We're disappointed with how we played against Wigan and Leigh but don't need long for a chance to redeem ourselves."

Rhinos are seeking a double against the French side after winning 18-10 at Headingley in March.

DAVE CRAVEN

WARWICK RTV

THE SCOUT

5.35 Time For A Pint 7.35 CHATTY CHIC (nb)
6.05 El Curamach 8.05 Boombawn
6.35 Hurlerontheditch 8.35 Kingston Pride
7.05 Bhaloo

5.35 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HCAP CHASE £4,489 (Class 5) 3m (10 declared)
1 L08-HARLEM SOUL (30) S Hosie 6 12 0... Beau Morgan
2 350-PHIL DE PAUL (22) O Greenall & J Guerrero 7 12 0... T Wynne(3)

6.05 'NATIONAL HUNT' MAIDEN HURDLE £4,084 (4) 2m (11)
1 54-EL CURAMACH (46) R Potter 6 11 4... S Bowen
2 419-GASMANI (21) David Dennis 5 11 4... T Bellamy

6.35 NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE £5,545 (4) 2m 4f (6)
1 23L-UKANTANGO (41) O Murphy 7 12 0... S Bowen
2 335-GLN CANNEL (22) L Morgan 6 11 10... R McLernon

7.35 HANDICAP HURDLE £5,281 (4) 3m 1f (9)
1 35P-NICKELSONTHEMIE (20) (C&D) K Woolacott 10 12 2... B Godfrey
2 /P2-ONE MORE FLEURIE (134) I Williams 10 12 0... S Bowen

8.05 BEGINNERS' CHASE £7,922 (3) 2m 4f (6)
1 3F4-AUTHORISED SPEED (14) G & J Moore 7 11 2... D Noonan
2 /10-BOOMBAWN (29) D Skelton 7 11 2... H Skelton

CRICKET County Championship - Division One (Day 1 of 4)

Hampshire v Durham
THE ROSE BOWL: Hampshire have scored 336 for four wickets against Durham
HAMPSHIRE: First Inns
A Orr c Clark b Siddle.....126

Kent v Worcestershire
CANTERBURY: Worcestershire have scored 308 for five wickets against Kent
WORCESTERSHIRE: First Inns
G Roderick b Evison.....117

LANCASHIRE: First Inns

L Wells c Harrison b Paterson.....17
K Jennings c Moores b Harrison.....91
J Bohannon lbw James.....35

Surrey v Warwickshire
THE OVAL: Warwickshire have scored 318 for eight wickets against Surrey
WARWICKSHIRE: First Inns
R Yates lbw Abbott.....32

Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire

(Northampton): Gloucestershire . 338-8 (96.0 overs); M A H Hammond 112, C T Bancroft 53, S Kaul 4-58) Northamptonshire.
1st T20I - Ireland v Pakistan (Dublin): Pakistan 182-6 (20.0 overs); M B Azam 57; Ireland 183-5 (19.5 overs); A Baitimie 77. Ireland win by 5 wickets

4TH T20I - Bangladesh v Zimbabwe (Mirpur): Bangladesh 143-10 (19.5 overs); T H Tamim 52; L M Jongwe 3-20; Zimbabwe 138-10 (19.4 overs); S Al Hasan 4-35; M M Rahman 3-19. Bangladesh win by 5 runs.
IPL - (Ahmedabad) Gujarat Titans 231-3 (20.0 overs); S Gill 104; B S Sudharsan 103; Chennai Super Kings 196-8 (20.0 overs); D J Mitchell 63; M M Ali 56; M M Sharma 3-31. Gujarat Titans win by 35 runs.
Today Kolkata Knight Riders v Mumbai Indians (Kolkata, 3pm)

Zverev (Ger) bt A Vukic (Aus) 6-0 6-4; T Fritz (USA) bt F Fognini (Ita) 6-3 6-4; M Kecmanovic (Ser) bt C Rudd (Nor) 0-6 6-4 6-4. Selected Women's: S Kenin (USA) bt O Jabeur (Tun) 7-5 2-6 6-4; J Ostapenko (Lat) bt A Potapova (Rus) 6-4 6-2; I Begu (Rom) bt O Dodin (Fra) 5-2 ret 6-1 Kailinskaya (Rus) bt C Tauson (Den) 6-1 6-2; D Yastremska (Ukr) bt L Siegemund (Ger) 4-6 7-5 6-2; V Azarenka (Blr) bt M Linette (Pol) 6-7 (5-7) 6-4 6-3; C Garcia (Fra) bt E Cocciaretto (Ita) 6-2 7-6 (7-5) E Svitolina (Ukr) bt S Errani (Ita) 6-0 6-2.

TODAY'S DIARY

CRICKET County Championship - Division One - Day 2 of 4 (11am Start)
1st T20I: England v Pakistan (Edgbaston, 2.30pm).
NETBALL Vitality Superleague: Manchester Thunder v Cardiff Dragons, Sirens v Severn Stars.
RUGBY LEAGUE Betfred Super League: Catalans Dragons v Leeds (5.30), Huddersfield v Wigan (3pm).
RUGBY UNION Gallagher Premiership: Bristol v Saracens (3.05), Exeter v Harlequins (5.30), Northampton v Gloucester (3pm).
United Championship: Blue Bulls v Glasgow (1pm), Leinster v Ospreys (7.35), Lions v Cardiff Rugby (5.15), Munster v Connacht (5.15), Scarlets v Ulster (3.05), Sharks v Benetton Treviso (3.05).

**WORLD OF SPORT**

**Rory denies 'strain' with Tiger over LIV**

RORY MCILROY admitted he and Tiger Woods have differing views on the direction of men's golf but denied suggestions of a rift with the 15-time Major champion.

**GOLF**

rejoin the PGA Tour policy board after the prospect of his return reopened "old wounds".



**McILROY**

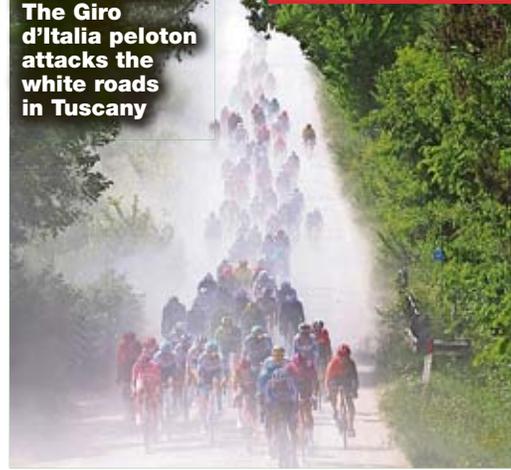
The pair are part of a new seven-person group formed by the PGA Tour to hold negotiations with the Saudi Arabia-backed LIV Golf.

It comes after McIlroy, who has been one of the arch critics of the breakaway tour, revealed he would not

Reports have claimed Woods, Patrick Cantlay and Jordan Spieth vetoed the possibility, but McIlroy bears no grudges towards Woods. He said: "We might see the future of golf a little bit differently, but I don't think that should place any strain on a relationship."

**DUST MIGHT:** The Giro d'Italia peloton attacks the white roads in Tuscany

**THE BIG PICTURE**



ANDY MURRAY will make his return to action at a second-tier Challenger event in Bordeaux next week.

And the Scot has confirmed he will play doubles at the French Open with Dan Evans as preparation for his potential farewell at the Olympics.

The three-time Grand Slam event winner, who turns 37 next week, had feared his season – and maybe his career – was over after rupturing ankle

**TENNIS**

ligaments at the Miami Open in March.

But he did not require surgery and will get ready for a return to the ATP Tour by playing the BNP Paribas Primrose in Bordeaux.

Murray has not played at the French Open since 2020, but intends to play singles and doubles at Roland Garros, which will also host the Olympic event from July 27.

**NEIL MCLEMAN**

**MAX POWER**

**Buoyant Bears set up to attack**

**BRISTOL V SARACENS**

3.05PM, TNT SPORTS

By Adam Hathaway

MAX MALINS has described the lightning bolt moment that turned Bristol into the great entertainers and play-off contenders.

The Bears full-back was part of a side beaten 27-10 by Connacht in the Champions Cup in January.

That led to billionaire club owner Steve Lansdown telling director of rugby Pat Lam he wanted to see more exciting rugby.

How Bristol have followed orders – averaging seven tries a game in their last five, including a 13-try, 85-14 rout of Newcastle.

Today they face Malins' old club, Saracens, at Ashton Gate with a semi-final in sight.

Malins, 27, said: "It has been a change in mindset. We have been a lot more attacking.

"We had quite a large kicking strategy and it came to a point, the Connacht game, when we made a deliberate change.

"We got a red card, Josh Caulfield, in the first half, which made it difficult, and went into our shell. So we made a conscious change.

"It suits our squad far better and is a lot more exciting for us and the fans. It was also driven by Steve Lansdown himself."

Malins warmed up for today's clash by playing padel, a sport he experienced at the World Cup in France, in a Bristol pro-am tournament.

That was a welcome distraction from the pressure of the tightest Premiership play-off race for years with two rounds left.

Malins said: "It is crazy how close it is and it is going to go down to the last weekend. Maybe that is the beauty of having only 10 teams in the league and so many competing.

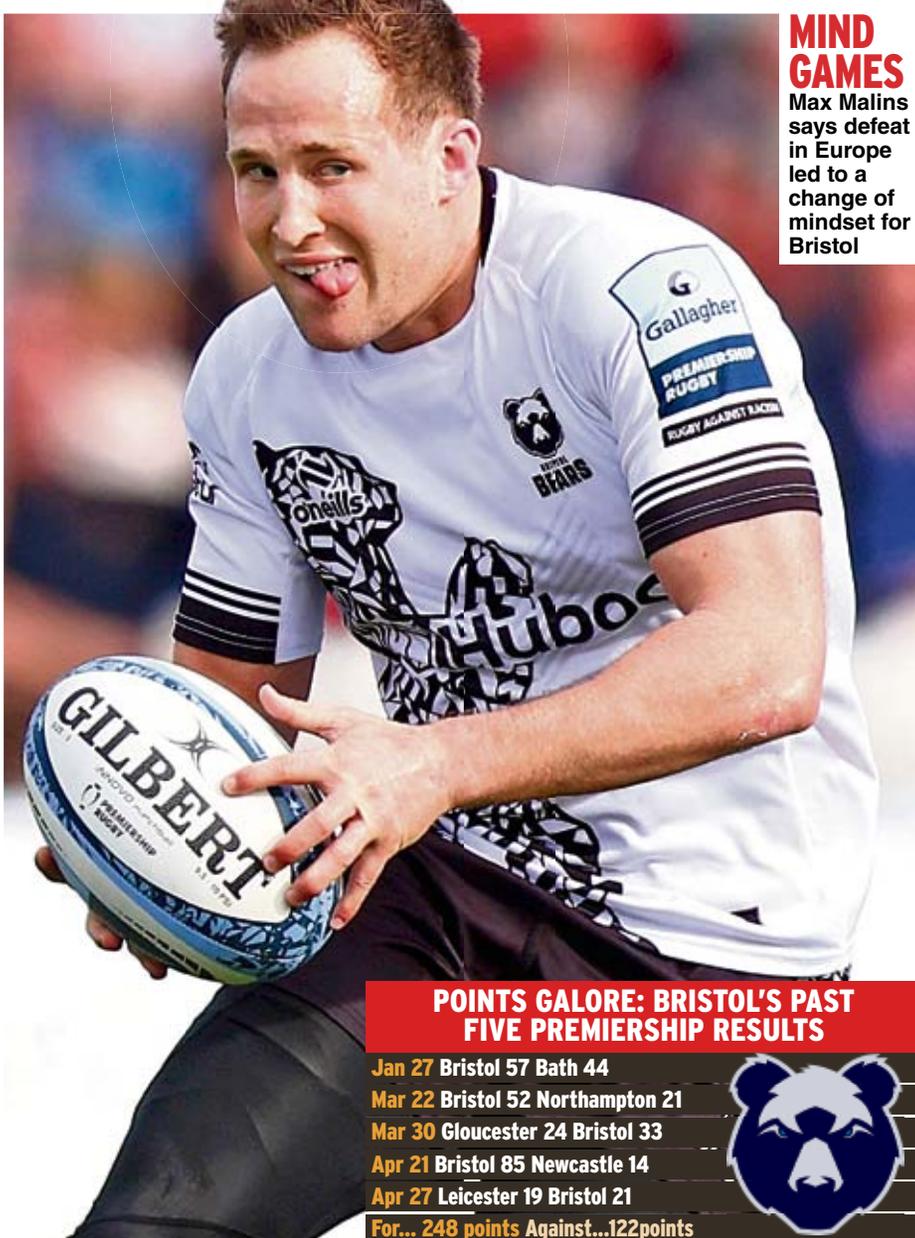
"There have been times, when I was at Saracens, when you had qualified already by now so you rest people."

Malins starts for Bristol after missing the win at Leicester with hamstring trouble.

Billy Vunipola is on the bench for Saracens after his disciplinary let-off in the week. Owen Farrell, Jamie George, Ben Earl, Maro Itoje and Mako Vunipola start with Samoan lock Theo McFarland fit for the replacements.

A win would leave Sarries in pole position to land a home semi-final with the visit of Sale to come in the final round.

● Pro Am Padel Tour 2024 continues in London (July) followed by Manchester (September) and Derby (November). Follow @proampadeltour for info.



**MIND GAMES** Max Malins says defeat in Europe led to a change of mindset for Bristol

**POINTS GALORE: BRISTOL'S PAST FIVE PREMIERSHIP RESULTS**

Jan 27	Bristol 57	Bath 44
Mar 22	Bristol 52	Northampton 21
Mar 30	Gloucester 24	Bristol 33
Apr 21	Bristol 85	Newcastle 14
Apr 27	Leicester 19	Bristol 21
For...	248 points	Against...122points



**'Lethal' Quins a worry for Baxter**

ROB BAXTER has warned his Exeter side to keep their eye on the ball in their crucial clash with Harlequins.

Defeat would probably be terminal for seventh-placed Chiefs' play-off hopes, with only one game left after today.

Quins nearly stunned Toulouse in last week's Champions Cup semi-final

EXETER V HARLEQUINS 5.30PM, TNT

and Baxter, below, is wary. The Chiefs director of rugby said: "Against Harlequins you have to be good, but you have to stay good. "The minute you think you can manage the scoreboard or the clock then they're absolutely

lethal." Baxter has named an unchanged side, with Henry Slade, Immanuel Feyi-Waboso and Ethan Roots all included.

Quins restore prop Joe Marler to the XV and have Will Porter in at scrum-half for Danny Care, who is benched. Luke Northmore switches to inside centre for the injured Andre Esterhuizen.

ADAM HATHAWAY



**Surrey are thwarted by Barnard**

**CRICKET**

ED BARNARD sparked the lower-order Warwickshire resistance with an unbeaten 96 after Surrey's seam attack looked to have put the Vitality County Championship holders in control.

Jordan Clark took 4-50 to reduce Warwickshire to 167-6, but Barnard shared stands of 55 with Michael Burgess (22) and Aamer Jamal (26), before an unbroken partnership of 41 with Craig Miles helped his side close on 318-8. Ali Orr hit a maiden

Josh Baker, the Worcs player who died last week aged 20.

Dillon Pennington helped Nottinghamshire peg back Lancashire after the visitors had opted to bat at Trent Bridge.

Lancashire captain Keaton Jennings made 91 and Tom Bruce added 73 but they let a good position slip by sliding from 190-2 to 306-8.

Pennington (3-46) inflicted the most damage while seamer Dane Paterson took 2-64.



**BARNARD:** Saved the day for Warwickshire

**10 to tackle RATINGS**  
0-3 Oh dear  
4-6 Small beer  
7-9 So near  
10 Sporting Seer

1. Who won both men's omnium elimination and points races for GB at the UCI Track Cycling Nations Cup in Canada last month?
2. Which English darts player won the 2024 PDC Players Championship PC7 in Leicester?
3. Who beat former winner Ken Doherty in qualifying for this year's World Snooker Championship?
4. Who is England's most-capped footballer?
5. What number is normally worn by a full-back in rugby league?
6. Which county won cricket's Twenty20 Cup in 2004 and 2006?
7. Which Australian won the women's 400m at the Seoul Olympics in 1988?
8. Who is the most successful Cheltenham Gold Cup horse, winning the race in five consecutive years, from 1932 to 1936?
9. Which international golf competition was first officially held at Southampton, Long Island in 1922?
10. What wood was traditionally used for bows used in archery?

**ANSWERS:** 1 Ethan Hayter, 2 Chris Doherty, 3 Marco Fu, 4 Peter Shilton, 5 One, 6 Leicestershire, 7 Debbie Flintoff-King, 8 Golden Miller, 9 Walker Cup, 10 Yew.

**DOUBLE DELIGHT** Hudson-Odoi celebrates one of his two goals against Sheffield United



# Callum can leave his old Chelsea team even more blue

## HUDSON-ODOI SHOWS HE IS BARGAIN OF SEASON

## POCH'S WARNING

**MAURICIO POCHETTINO** could call time on his Chelsea career at the end of the season.

The Blues manager is growing tired of the speculation surrounding his position, despite not yet being halfway through his two-year deal.

His future remains uncertain amid claims the club are eyeing possible replacements.

Pochettino said: "It is not only if the owners are happy or the sporting directors are happy.

"You also need to ask if we are happy. Maybe we are not happy with certain situations and maybe we need to split. It is not

going to be the first time that a coaching staff decided at the end of the season not to keep going.

"There are two parties who can take a decision.

"It is not only because Chelsea are not happy, the owners and sporting directors are not happy.

"Maybe we are not happy because we arrived here with a job to do, but what we expected has not happened.

"I don't say that I am not happy but always it is lacking one side.

"Maybe the other side say, 'OK, maybe until here' and we split. It is not a problem. It is not going to be the end of the world."

**CALLUM HUDSON-ODOI** has been backed to show Chelsea what they are missing – as Nottingham Forest bid to seal safety today.

Forest sit three points clear of the drop zone in 17th place after failing in their appeal against a four-point deduction for breaching Premier League PSR rules.

Hudson-Odoi's two goals in last Saturday's 3-1 win at Sheffield United helped hand Forest the advantage in their survival scrap heading into the final two games.

It also provided more evidence Hudson-Odoi, 23, is one of the bargain buys of the season after Chelsea let the Champions League winner join Forest for £3million last summer.

He has seven Premier League goals this season, showing the winger is recapturing his old form.

Manager Nuno Espirito Santo, right, said: "There is a lot more to come. He is showing a lot of

**NOTTM FOREST V CHELSEA** 5.30PM, SKY SPORTS

By **Brendan McLoughlin**

improvement but the most difficult part is to sustain the level of performance he's produced.

"That's the big challenge he has and the team have."

Forest will be safe by the time they kick off, if Luton lose and Burnley fail to win.

Nuno said: "That [kicking off first] is better because it is like a penalty shoot-out. You always choose to go first. It can add pressure on your opponent.

"Let's just focus on ourselves. We are ready to go. Normally we have a television on in the dressing room but we will just try to keep the preparations normal."

One boost for Forest has been the return of last season's leading

scorer Taiwo Awoniyi after an injury-hit season.

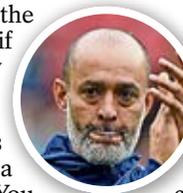
Nuno said: "We have to manage the situation carefully. If he can give us a hand, it's good for us as he has quality."

Owner Evangelis Marinakis has predicted great things for Forest but took a sideswipe at the Premier League.

The Greek, buoyant after his other club, Olympiakos, beat Aston Villa to reach the Europa Conference League final, said: "I am confident we will stay up and you will see in years to come where Forest will be.

"It's a great club and we want to do more, but it is not fair what has happened.

"Referees' decisions have cost us points and this is something that has been repeated and repeated. What we expect for the Premier League and referees is to correct these mistakes."



MARTIN: Team bonding

## MARTIN HAPPY AFTER WARNOCK LEAVES TIP

**RUSSELL MARTIN** acted on the advice offered to him by serial promotion winner Neil Warnock to fire up Southampton's play-off push.

Warnock was working as a TV pundit when Saints suffered a 5-0 defeat by Leicester last month and said Martin should take his players "out for a Chinese".

The Saints manager took Warnock's words on board and spent some downtime with his side. It helped them wrap up the

**WBA V SOUTHAMPTON** 2.15PM, TOM regular campaign with a win at Leeds, to gain a huge boost before tomorrow's semi-final first leg at West Brom.

Martin said: "I thank him for that advice. "He was right that the players, after such an intense schedule, just needed it.

"West Brom is a tough game but if you get in the play-offs you can't expect anything else."

IAN WINROW

## POOLS GUIDE

### TODAY

(3pm unless stated)

#### Premier League

- 1 AFC Bournemouth v Brentford
- 2 Everton v Sheff Utd
- 3 Fulham v Man City (12.30pm)
- 4 Newcastle v Brighton
- 5 Nottingham Forest v Chelsea (5.30pm)
- 6 Tottenham Hotspur v Burnley
- 7 West Ham v Luton
- 8 Wolves v Crystal Palace

#### Sky Bet League Two Play-Offs Semi-Final Second Leg

MK Dons (0) v Crawley Tn (3) (7.45pm)

#### cinch Scottish Premiership

Celtic v Rangers (12.30pm)

(Live on Sky Sports Football)

9 Hearts v Dundee

11 Livingston v St Johnstone

12 Ross County v Motherwell

13 St Mirren v Kilmarnock

#### cinch Scottish Championship Play-off Semi-final Second Leg

Hamilton (2) v Alloa (2)

Inverness CT (0) v Montrose (0)

#### cinch Scottish League One Play-off Semi-final Second Leg

Peterhead (1) v Spartans (2)

Stirling (1) v Dumbarton (2)

#### cinch Scottish League Two Play-Off Final First Leg

East Kilbride v Stranraer

#### FA Trophy Final

Gateshead v Solihull M (4.15pm)

(Live on TNT Sports 1)

#### FA Vase Final

G Woking Rvrs v Romford (12.15pm)

(Live on TNT Sports 3)

#### Spanish League

14 Athletic Bilbao v Osasuna (8pm)

17 Granada v Real Madrid (5.30pm)

Mallorca v Las Palmas (1pm)

20 Villarreal v Sevilla (3.15pm)

#### Italian League

21 AC Milan v Cagliari (7.45pm)

26 Napoli v Bologna (5pm)

#### German League

29 B M'gladbach v E Frankfurt (2.30pm)

32 Cologne v Union Berlin (2.30pm)

33 Freiburg v Heidenheim (2.30pm)

34 Mainz v B Dortmund (5.30pm)

35 RB Leipzig v W Bremen (2.30pm)

#### Portuguese Liga Nos

Estoril v Sporting (6pm)

Guimaraes v Braga (8.30pm)

Portimonense v Rio Ave (3.30pm)

Vizela v Estrela (3.30pm)

### TOMORROW

#### Premier League

3 Manchester Utd v Arsenal (4.30pm)

#### Sky Bet Championship Play-Offs Semi-Final First Leg

Norwich v Leeds (12noon)

(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

West Brom v Southampton (2.15pm)

(Live on Sky Sports Football)

#### cinch Scottish Premiership

10 Hibernian v Aberdeen

#### Spanish League

15 At Madrid v Celta Vigo (3.15pm)

16 Cadiz v Getafe (1pm)

18 Real Betis v Almeria (8pm)

19 Valencia v Rayo Vallecano (5.30pm)

#### Italian League

22 Atalanta v Roma (7.45pm)

23 Genoa v Sassuolo (2pm)

24 Juventus v Salernitana (5pm)

25 Lazio v Empoli (11.30pm)

27 Verona v Torino (2pm)

#### German League

28 B Munch v Wolfsburg (4.30pm)

30 VfL Bochum v B Leverkusen (6.30pm)

31 Darmstadt v Hoffenheim (2.30pm)

#### French League

36 Clermont Foot v Lyon (8pm)

37 Marseille v Lorient (8pm)

38 Montpellier v Monaco (8pm)

39 Nantes v Lille (8pm)

40 PSG v Toulouse (8pm)

Rennes v Lens (8pm)

Strasbourg v Metz (8pm)

#### Dutch League

41 Ajax v Almere City FC (1.30pm)

42 Excelsior v Heracles (1.30pm)

43 Fortuna Sittard v PSV (1.30pm)

44 Go Ahead Eagles v AZ (1.30pm)

45 Heerenveen v Vitesse (1.30pm)

46 NEC v Feyenoord (1.30pm)

47 Twente v Volendam (1.30pm)

48 Utrecht v Sparta (1.30pm)

49 RKC v PEC Zwolle (1.30pm)

#### Portuguese Liga Nos

Benfica v Arouca (6pm)

Casa Pia v Moreirense (6pm)

FC Porto v Boavista (8.30pm)

Gil Vicente v Farense (3.30pm)

#### Women's FA Cup Final

Man Utd v Tottenham (2.30pm)

(Wembley, Live on BBC 1)

### MONDAY

#### Premier League

Aston Villa v Liverpool (8pm)

(Live on Sky Sports Main Event)

#### Spanish League

Barcelona v Real Sociedad (8pm)

#### Italian League

Florentina v Monza

Lecce v Udinese (5.30pm)

## Farke eyes Hollywood ending

**DANIEL FARKE** has welcomed Will Ferrell on board at Leeds – but admits the Anghor man star cannot help them sink Norwich.

Ferrell, below, is buying into Leeds' owners, the 49ers Enterprises, and Farke is delighted the actor is joining Russell Crowe in having a stake in the club.

But the head coach knows it does not guarantee a Hollywood

**NORWICH V LEEDS** 12PM, TOM ending to their push for promotion via the play-offs.

Ahead of the first leg of their semi-final at Norwich tomorrow, German Farke said: "It

says a lot about the calibre of this club that we have many well-known and popular supporters.

"But it's also up to the players in order to bring the success we

want." Leeds lost four of their last six Championship games to miss out on automatic promotion, and have failed in all five of their play-off campaigns. But Farke insists they are a team for the big occasion.

He said: "The feeling is, especially in spotlight games, this team is spot on. We have two spotlight games against Norwich and I'm optimistic we can show this winning mentality again."



## TOFFEES SCRAP POINTS APPEAL

EVERTON have withdrawn their appeal against a second points deduction this season.

The Toffees were deducted two points last month for a second breach of the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules.

It came after they were initially docked 10 points – reduced to six on appeal – for an earlier breach.

Everton immediately appealed the second deduction but have now decided against it.

PSR permits clubs to lose £105million over three years and an independent

EVERTON V SHEFFIELD UTD 3PM

commission found Everton breached that by £16.6m in the three-year spell to 2023.

The issue no longer has an impact on the relegation battle because Everton are now safe.

But there is a threat of administration, with the takeover by 777 Partners hanging in the balance.

Everton owe the potential buyers £200m in loans, and they also have debts of around £150m on stadium

loans. The club may yet face another points deduction next season over interest costs linked with the building of the new stadium at Bramley-Moore Dock.

Ahead of today's game with relegated Sheffield United, manager Sean

Dyche, left, said: "It's been difficult.

"Not many press conferences have I spoken about football.

"There was never a joyful feeling winning a game."

CHRIS MCKENNA



# Kompany glad he didn't sign pact with Devil

## 'NO SPLASHING CASH HERE'

VINCENT KOMPANY says he was never tempted to "sign a pact with the Devil" to help Burnley survive.

The Clarets will go down after just one year in the Premier League if they fail to beat Tottenham today.

But manager Kompany says he was not prepared to gamble the club's future by signing expensive stars on big contracts.

He spent more than £90million to overhaul his squad with younger players and feels they have added value to the team.

"It's not like we didn't know the options we had," said Kompany.

"You enter a restaurant, look at the menu and you know what you're going to get.

"You get more experience, pay more money, they're higher risk in case we get relegated, higher risk in case they get injured, higher risk in terms of contracts where players don't want to lower their wages if we go into the Championship.

"All these kind of things where you sign a pact with the Devil almost just to get you through one season.

"The other option was to try and find the right balance where you have some sort of experience in the squad that helps the young ones come through.

"These young players are the ones who hopefully in the future pay for the next crop coming through.

"That way you can gradually increase your spending. The cost of that is at

TOTTENHAM V BURNLEY 3PM  
By David Anderson

times we've not been as competitive as we'd like. But the benefit is they've made a lot of strides forward.

"The fact they've played in the Premier League makes them so much more valuable, but not just valuable financially, I'm talking valuable in terms of the output they will have for us very soon."

Meanwhile, Ange Postecoglou has vowed to ruin King Charles' weekend, just days after he was invited to Buckingham Palace.

The Tottenham manager was a guest of the monarch and Queen Camilla at a sun-soaked summer garden party on Wednesday.

But relegation-threatened Burnley are the club closest to the King's heart.

Postecoglou said: "I would be happy to disappoint him on that front."

The Australian said his invitation came from his own government.

Big Ange posed for pictures with fellow attendees but admitted he didn't get to within "10 feet" of the king.

Which is just as well because the Greece-born Postecoglou might have said too much about ancient artefacts in the British Museum.

The Spurs supremo said:

"If I had got closer I probably would have asked him about the Parthenon marbles.

"And probably I would then have got thrown out!"



NO WAY: Kompany did not want any big-money signings

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Are you ready for another massive weekend of footy? We've teamed up with William Hill to give you a £2 free bet, which you can stake today in any of their shops. In the lunchtime kick-off from the Premier League, champions Man City can leap above Arsenal and into top spot for at least 24 hours with a win at Fulham.

Then, at 3pm, Burnley will go down unless they win at Spurs. And Luton need a result at West Ham to keep the pressure on Nottingham Forest, who host Chelsea at 5.30pm. It's also a huge day in Scotland where Celtic can all but wrap up another Premiership title by beating Rangers in the Old Firm Derby from Parkhead at 12.30pm.

Don't forget to keep an eye out for William Hill's other great promos when you go to place your free bet. Like Goalscorer Giveaway - Chelsea's Cole Palmer is the star this weekend. And free bet offers for the Old Firm Derby and tomorrow's big game between Man Utd and Arsenal.

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TAKE TIME TO THINK BeGambleAware.org

## OLIVER'S ARMY HERE TO STAY

OLIVER GLASNER knows the 4-0 win over Manchester United on Monday has not made Crystal Palace the "best side in the world" and he wants to maintain their strong finish to the campaign.

Palace, who are unbeaten in five matches, head to Wolves today with the manager expecting a fully-focused performance.

"I've already forgotten the Man Utd game," said Glasner, right. "Of course we enjoyed the night but on Tuesday we were still critical of us because we could do some things better. It

WOLVES V CRYSTAL PALACE 3PM

is important to take the positive things from Man Utd but not now say, 'Wow, we are the best side in the world because we beat them'.

"It is just a very short period of time where we were successful - we are still 14th in the league."

Palace have announced contract extensions for Will Hughes, Jeffrey Schlupp and Joel Ward. But James Tomkins and Jairo Riedewald will leave at the end of their current deals.





**THIRST AIDER**  
Erling Haaland says his thirst for winning will never be quenched

# TROPHY HAAL

**FULHAM V MAN CITY**  
12.30PM, TNT SPORTS  
By Jeremy Cross

**ERLING HAALAND** has warned his rivals he will never be satisfied with his trophy haul.

Haaland landed a Treble in his first season at Manchester City after a £52million move from Borussia Dortmund and is on course to win a Premier League and FA Cup Double this year.

But the Norway star has told City's challengers his thirst for silverware will never be quenched.

The striker told the Men in Blazers podcast: "I want more. Right now my only focus is winning the Premier League and, after that, the FA Cup."

"But I want to win more of these big trophies because the Treble feeling was unreal. It's about trying to be successful and develop."

Haaland told Roy Keane he is talking rubbish by labelling him a spoilt brat after appearing to have a row with Pep Guardiola when hauled off during last Saturday's 5-1 thrashing of

## Erling will never rest on his laurels when it comes to winning silverware

Wolves. Haaland said his anger was not aimed at the City manager and they were fine.

He said: "I wasn't mad because of that [being subbed]. I was mad for something completely different."

"I was super happy because Julian [Alvarez] came on and scored. I'd love to score more goals, but I wasn't mad about getting subbed off."

Haaland told his critics he does not care how much he touches the ball as long as he scores.

He came under fire for having just 32 touches in the Wolves, win, despite scoring four times to take his tally to 25 league goals this season.

He said: "There has always been this discussion. When I score nobody talks about this, but when I don't people start to mention my touches. This is a

part of my life and I can't control what people say.

"My job isn't to be like Rodri, to control a game, it's being in the box and finishing attacks."

"That's my focus and I don't care about what people say. It's about focusing on helping the team win."

Marco Silva has a score to settle after a 5-1 mauling by City at the Etihad in September left the Fulham manager furious.

VAR deemed an offside Manuel Akanji did not interfere with a goal by Nathan Ake in that game.

An incensed Silva was booked for his protests.

He said: "It was one of the biggest mistakes this season. We were going into half-time at 1-1 and it had a huge impact."

● To listen to the interview, go to [youtube.com/@meninblazers](https://youtube.com/@meninblazers)

## PEP IN PITCH BATTLE

PEP GUARDIOLA is leaving nothing to chance as Manchester City travel to Craven Cottage

A win will take City above Arsenal at the top of the table.

If Arsenal then lose, City would have the chance to seal a

record fourth straight title at Tottenham on Tuesday.

City manager Guardiola, above, complained about the Craven Cottage pitch last season, and was not impressed by the Nottingham Forest surface 13 days ago.

He said: "On Thursday we trained part of the session on a dry pitch and after on a normal pitch."

"It's a massive [difference]. You have to adapt. The passes must be stronger, faster, quicker."

Guardiola has no doubt Fulham will "do everything" to beat City, despite fan fears they may have their minds elsewhere after videos showed the squad flying kites in training.

JEREMY CROSS

## Just hopes his future's Oranje

JUSTIN KLUIVERT has obvious inspiration to play for his country at Euro 2024 given his father Patrick famously starred for Holland.

But his eyes light up when he thinks about a film he would often watch as the Bournemouth forward speaks about hoping to find a way into Ronald Koeman's squad.

'In Oranje' is the story of a Dutch boy who overcomes tragedy to make it to the top of the game.

Kluivert said: "It was so beautiful. There are some struggles that he's going through. The ups and downs that come into football also."

"I see a bit of myself in that now. All those difficult moments I've been through, I cherish them."

Now Kluivert is looking to continue his own story. Being the

**BOURNEMOUTH V BRENTFORD 3PM**

son of a Dutch footballing legend was always going to be Kluivert jnr's life.

After some hiccups along the way, particularly in a spell with Roma, the 25-year-old is now making a name for himself at Bournemouth.

The Cherries, who face Brentford today, have secured their record Premier League points tally.

Kluivert has become the first player to score in six major European leagues as he attempts to catch Koeman's eye for a ticket to Germany this summer.

He said: "Imagine scoring a few goals for your country in a tournament? It would be beautiful, so let's hope."

CHRIS McKENNA



**CHERRY ON TOP: Kluivert has settled at Bournemouth**



## MATCH GUIDE

### FULHAM V MANCHESTER CITY

- Fulham have won just one of their 15 Premier League home games against Manchester City (D5 L9).
- City striker Erling Haaland has scored a penalty in each of his three PL matches against Fulham.

**KICK-OFF: 12.30pm, TNT Sports**

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**FULHAM** (4-2-3-1): Leno; Castagne, Diop, Basse, Robinson; Palhinha, Cairney; Iwobi, Pereira, Willian; Muniz.  
**MAN CITY** (4-1-4-1): Ederson; Walker, Stones, Dias, Ake; Rodri; Bernardo, De Bruyne, Foden; Grealish; Haaland.

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**BOURNEMOUTH** (4-4-2): Neto; Smith, Zabarnyi, Senesi, Kelly; Semeyo, Christie, Cook, Tavernier; Unal, Solanke.  
**BRENTFORD** (4-3-3): Flekken; Ajer, Collins, Pinnock, Reguilon; Janelt, Norgaard, Damsgaard; Mbeumo, Toney, Wissa.

### BOURNEMOUTH V BRENTFORD

- Bournemouth's Dominic Solanke has opened the scoring in nine different PL games this season, more than any other player.
- Brentford have won their final away league game in each of the past three seasons.

**KICK-OFF: 3pm**

### EVERTON V SHEFFIELD UNITED

- Jordan Pickford has kept 12 PL clean sheets for Everton this season, only keeping more in 2018-19 (14).
- Sheffield United have conceded 100 PL goals this term, just the second side to do so after Swindon in 1993-94.

**KICK-OFF: 3pm**

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**EVERTON** (4-2-3-1): Pickford; Godfrey, Branthwaite, Tarkowski, Young; Garner, Gueye; Harrison, Doucoure, McNeil; Calvert-Lewin.  
**SHEFF UTD** (5-3-2): Foderingham; Osborn, Robinson, Holgate, Trusty, Bogle; Brooks, Hamer, Arblaster; Archer, Brereton Diaz.

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**NEWCASTLE** (4-4-2): Dubravka; Livramento, Krafth, Burn, Hall; Murphy, Longstaff, Guimaraes, Gordon; Isak, Wilson.  
**BRIGHTON** (4-3-3): Verbruggen; Veltman, Webster, Dunk, Igor; Gross, Gilmore, Baleba; Buonanotte, Welbeck, Adingra.

### NEWCASTLE V BRIGHTON

- Newcastle striker Alexander Isak's next game will be his 50th in the PL. He has 10 goals in his past nine league games.
- Joao Pedro needs one goal to become the fourth Brighton player to score 10 in a single PL campaign.

**KICK-OFF: 3pm**

### TOTTENHAM V BURNLEY

- Tottenham's Heung-Min Son has been directly involved in eight goals in his past six PL games against Burnley (five goals, three assists).
- Burnley have not won at Spurs in the league since October 1974.

**KICK-OFF: 3pm**

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**TOTTENHAM** (4-3-3): Vicario; Porro, Romero, Van de Ven, Skipp; Bissouma, Sarr, Maddison; Johnson, Richarlison, Son.  
**BURNLEY** (4-3-3): Muric; Assignon, Esteve, O'Shea, Vitorino; Brownhill, Cullen, Berge; Odober, Foster, Bruun Larsen.



HWANG

### HEAD TO HEAD

Jean-Phillippe Mateta is on a roll with in-form Crystal Palace, but Hwang Hee-Chan needs one goal to equal a club record for hosts Wolves today



MATETA

### WEST HAM V LUTON

- No one has scored more headed goals in the PL this season than West Ham forward Jarrod Bowen (5).
- Since beating Brighton 4-0 in January, Luton have won just one of their past 15 PL games (D4, L10).

**KICK-OFF: 3pm**

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**WEST HAM** (4-2-3-1): Areola; Coufal, Souma, Ogborn, Emerson; Alvarez, Soucek; Bowen, Paqueta, Kudus; Antonio.  
**LUTON** (3-4-2-1): Kaminski; Burke, Osho, Mengi; Onyedimma, Barkley, Lokonga, Doughty; Chong, Morris; Adebayo.

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**WOLVES** (3-5-2): Sa; S Bueno, Toti, Kilman; Semedo, Traore, Gomes, Bellegarde, Ait-Nouri; Hwang, Cunha.  
**C PALACE** (3-4-3): Henderson; Clyne, Richards, Andersen; Munoz, Hughes, Wharton, Mitchell; Olise, Mateta, Eze.

### WOLVES V CRYSTAL PALACE

- Hee-Chan Hwang has 12 league goals this season, with only Raul Jimenez (13) scoring more in a single PL campaign for Wolves.
- Palace's Jean-Phillippe Mateta has six goals in his past six PL matches.

**KICK-OFF: 3pm**

### NOTTM FOREST V CHELSEA

- Forest could complete their first league double over Chelsea since 1978-79, when they were reigning top-flight champions.
- Chelsea are winless in their past five PL away matches (D4, L1).

**KICK-OFF: 5.30pm, Sky Sports**

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**NOTTM FOREST** (4-2-3-1): Sels; Montiel, Boly, Murillo, Aina; Danilo, Yates; Elanga, Gibbs-White, Hudson-Odoi; Wood.  
**CHELSEA** (4-5-1): Petrovic; Gusto, Silva, Badiashile, Cucurella; Caicedo, Gallagher, Madueke, Palmer, Mudryk; Jackson.

### HOW THEY LINE UP

**MAN UTD** (4-2-3-1): Onana; Dalot, McTominay, Evans, Wan-Bissaka; Mainoo, Casemiro; Garnacho, Fernandes, Rashford; Hojlund.  
**ARSENAL** (4-3-3): Raya; White, Saliba, Gabriel, Tomiyasu; Odegaard, Jorginho, Rice; Saka, Havertz, Trossard.

### MANCHESTER UTD V ARSENAL

- United have conceded 81 goals in all competitions this season, the most since 1970-71 (82).
- Only Thierry Henry (12) has been involved in more PL goals for Arsenal against United than Bukayo Saka (5).

**KICK-OFF: 4.30pm tom, Sky Sports**

## Moyes relaxed to end Hammer time

DAVID MOYES insists he bears no grudge over the manner in which his West Ham departure has been confirmed.

And the Scot says expectations have risen to such an extent in east London over the past four years that he believes it is the correct time for him to move on.

Former Wolves manager Julen Lopetegui will be unveiled as the Hammers' new head coach when the season concludes.

Moyes, below, had consistently said a decision would be made after their last game but his imminent departure was announced on Monday evening, 24 hours after a 5-0 defeat by Chelsea.

It was done so swiftly that he did not speak to all his players.

But Moyes, who last season guided the club to a first major trophy in 43 years, said: "It's right for me because I think there's been moments where I've felt maybe there's more expected."

"I get it. You always want more when you're a football supporter. I have no problems with that at all."

"It may be right for me as well. For different

### WEST HAM V LUTON 3PM

reasons, unfortunately. But I've got no bad feelings."

Moyes was offered a new contract in January but says "there were things which weren't right" within that deal.

Having inherited a team that was fighting relegation, he said: "I'm leaving the club in a better place than when I came here."

And while the Scot is looking to take a break having been left "pretty beaten up" by three seasons of competing in Europe, he expects to return to management soon.

Moyes will work for the BBC during next month's Euros and spend time at home with his wife before deciding on a next job.

He does not expect to deliver a major farewell speech after this afternoon's London Stadium finale against Luton because "it's not my style".

And he added: "I don't mean that in a bad way."

"I think I'm quite shy actually behind all this and because of that I'm not into [fist bumps in the air]. I'm not that type of manager."

"Sometimes I really wish I was."

**ALAN SMITH**

## HOWE'S PLEDGE

ALEXANDER ISAK and Bruno Guimaraes will be Newcastle players next season.

Head coach Eddie Howe dismissed talk the £220million pair will be sold this summer.

Isak, below, has scored 20 top-flight goals this season and is an Arsenal target. He is rated at £120m.

Guimaraes has a £100m release clause that goes live in June for a month.

But Howe says it would set Newcastle back into rebuild mode if they lost either.

Howe said: "All my planning is with them in the squad. We don't

### NEWCASTLE V BRIGHTON 3PM

want to sell our best players. It would knock us back considerably.

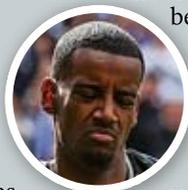
"There is no weakness in the club to say we are going to sell anyone. There is no desire from anyone at the club to sell our best players."

The Isak camp will seek summer talks over a deal which pays the striker as much

as Champions League clubs would, but Howe said: "It is not my decision."

"I give my views on the player and how important he is to us and what I see for the team. The club will do the rest."

**SIMON BIRD**



# We used to laugh at Arsenal celebrating fourth place... now we can't even get that

**MAN UNITED V ARSENAL**  
4.30PM TOM, SKY SPORTS  
By David McDonnell

MANCHESTER UNITED used to laugh at Arsenal when their rivals celebrated a top-four finish as if it was a trophy.

But now the joke is on United, who cannot even secure a place in the Champions League these days.

Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole, heroes of the historic 1999 Treble triumph, are shocked at the depths to which their old club have plummeted.

And as United prepare to meet title-chasing Arsenal tomorrow, the irony of the respective positions of the two clubs is not lost on the former strike partners.

Cole said: "Arsenal used to finish fourth and celebrate like they'd won the league. We used to laugh at them, but that's where we are."

"It's hard because I never saw United being in this position."

"The team I was involved in, we left a legacy for players who want to come to the club, try to emulate us. Sometimes I look at the team now – and the teams

**HEROES OF 1999 CANNOT BELIEVE HOW FAR UNITED HAVE PLUMMETED**



previously – and you scratch your head because you've got to understand what United is all about.

"It's about winning, it's about competing, it's about being involved in, and pushing for, major honours."

"We're so far away. We keep saying, 'Oh, another couple of years', but it's been longer than a couple of years."

"When are United going to be involved in the title race again? Who knows?" Yorke, who scored a

**THE WINNERS TAKE IT ALL:**  
Prize-winning pair Yorke and Ferguson in season 1998-99

## Jorginho tipping 'incredible' Arteta to build

JORGINHO believes manager Mikel Arteta wants to stay at Arsenal beyond next season and build a dynasty.

"I honestly don't see him going," said the midfielder, who this week signed a new 12-month deal with the club.

The Italy star had four different managers during the four-and-a-half turbulent years at Chelsea before signing for the Gunners in January 2023.

Arteta enters the final year of his contract this summer and

By Neil McLeman

could take his pick of jobs at home and across Europe.

But Jorginho said: "He could stay way longer – I feel that he feels good here."

"It is really important for him to stay because with sporting director Edu and the board, the whole club, they've created something special."

Arteta, 42, won the FA Cup in his first season and then imposed his authority by

moving out Mesut Ozil and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

Jorginho, who has taken all his coaching badges, added: "You go in that direction or you are not part of the project."

"It is very clear. Everyone who is here wants to be in the same direction."

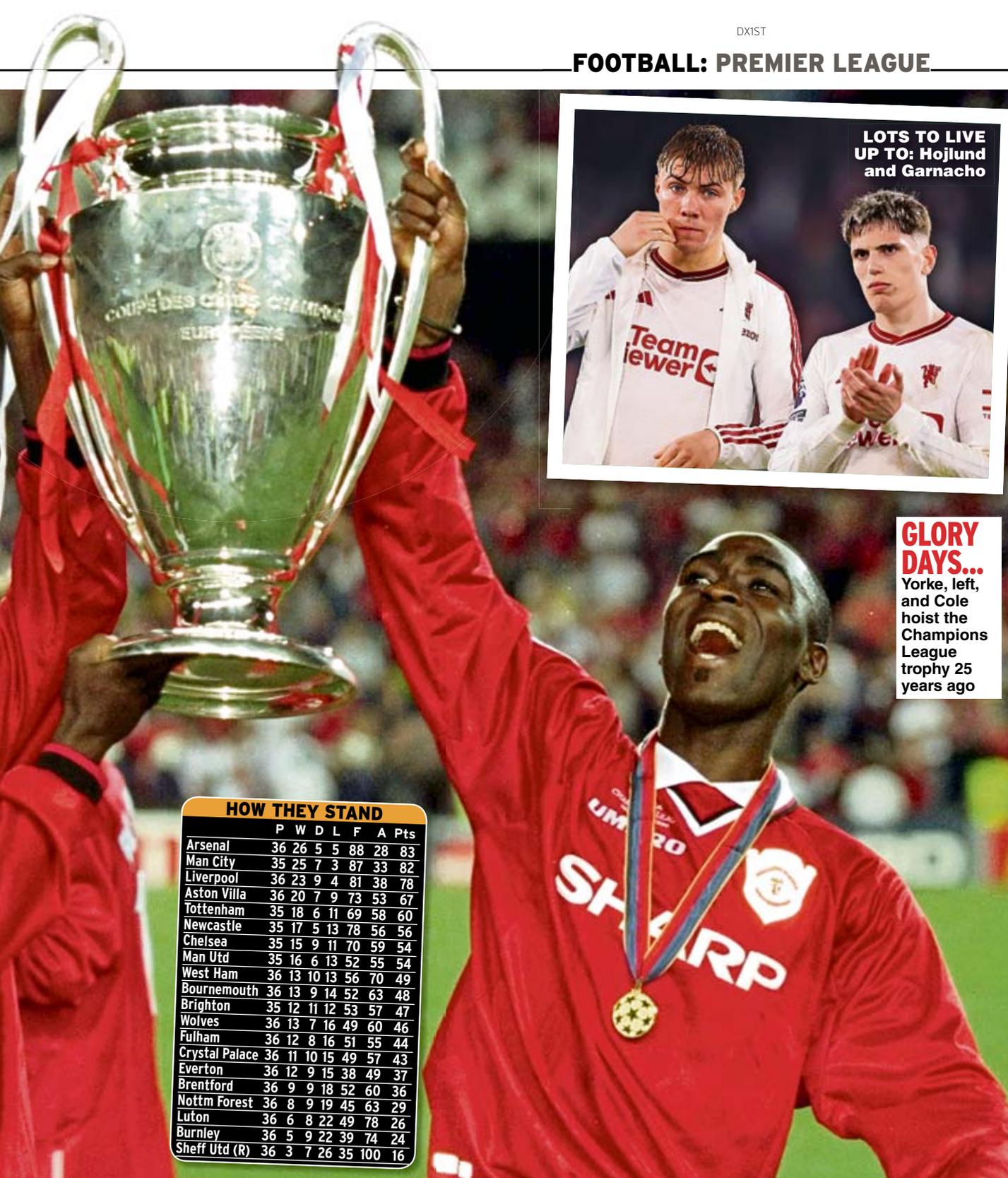
Arsenal have won four consecutive Premier League games since their Champions League exit to equal the number of victories in the Invincibles season of 2003-04.

Another win at Manchester United tomorrow will set a club record of 27 in a 38-game season.

They have also scored a club-high 88 Premier League goals in a campaign.

Jorginho, 32, who captured the 2021 Champions League with Chelsea and was part of Italy's Euro 2020 side, said: "I don't think we are missing much. What he [Arteta] has been doing here since he joined has been incredible. It is





**LOTS TO LIVE UP TO:** Hojlund and Garnacho

**GLORY DAYS...**  
Yorke, left, and Cole hoist the Champions League trophy 25 years ago

#### HOW THEY STAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	36	26	5	5	88	28	83
Man City	35	25	7	3	87	33	82
Liverpool	36	23	9	4	81	38	78
Aston Villa	36	20	7	9	73	53	67
Tottenham	35	18	6	11	69	58	60
Newcastle	35	17	5	13	78	56	56
Chelsea	35	15	9	11	70	59	54
Man Utd	35	16	6	13	52	55	54
West Ham	36	13	10	13	56	70	49
Bournemouth	36	13	9	14	52	63	48
Brighton	35	12	11	12	53	57	47
Wolves	36	13	7	16	49	60	46
Fulham	36	12	8	16	51	55	44
Crystal Palace	36	11	10	15	49	57	43
Everton	36	12	9	15	38	49	37
Brentford	36	9	9	18	52	60	36
Nottm Forest	36	8	9	19	45	63	29
Luton	36	6	8	22	49	78	26
Burnley	36	5	9	22	39	74	24
Sheff Utd (R)	36	3	7	26	35	100	16

combined 53 goals with Cole in the 1998-99 season, said.

"It's so far apart [from that team] it's not even close.

"What's more painful is that we can't even qualify for the Champions League – for me, that's the minimum.

"But that's where we are, that's the brutal thing. We should never even be thinking of fourth place.

"It's crazy how the mindset has changed now and to hear me even get into that sort of conversation – we aren't even qualifying for this, we're out of that."

With the team sliding deeper into crisis, Yorke admitted United are no

longer a top draw for the best players in the world.

He said: "Is it losing the X Factor? Maybe a little bit.

"If you are a player and you have got the likes of Liverpool and Manchester City after you, then United are in the second tier.

"I think that people now are second-guessing whether they want to join United.

"It never used to be a club you contemplated coming to. United are in for you? You don't think about it.

"Now players are thinking, 'I'm not so sure', and that's not a good sign."

One of the most damning indictments

of the current United team is the negative goal difference in the Premier League, which stands at minus three, a statistic Cole cannot fathom.

"It's not United, is it?" said Cole. "For me, that's an upsetting thing as well.

"Playing for Sir Alex Ferguson, you might concede a few but we played the way United should play, and that's attacking teams home and away.

"This counter-attacking football? No, there was none of that.

"You go for the jugular from minute one, home or away."

●'99' is available exclusively on Prime Video on May 17, when all three parts will drop globally.

## TEN HAG PUTS ONUS ON SIR JIM

FROM BACK PAGE

FA Cup final and we're still there. It can be a highlight of the season but we know why we are underperforming.

"I'm a realistic person. I see this, I analyse and no team would perform with these injuries."

Despite the silence from Ratcliffe, Ten Hag says he is not worried about his future.

"This question you have to ask the owners, not me," he replied when asked if it would help if Ratcliffe publicly backed him, and confirmed he would remain in charge next season.

"This is my job. I take responsibility for that to speak to you.

"That is why I am the manager – to give the answers.

"I don't care if they do or they don't [back me].

"I'm working on improving and developing my team, that is my job here."

Ten Hag revealed that skipper Bruno Fernandes and striker Marcus Rashford were back in training and available to face Arsenal at Old Trafford tomorrow.

But left-back Luke Shaw and midfielder Mason Mount have both had setbacks in their recovery from injury.

Shaw is now a major doubt for England's European Championship squad, while summer signing Mount had only just returned from a long-term injury.

Ten Hag said: "We have some doubts, players are fighting to be available and they all try.

"Licha [Lisandro Martinez] came to me and wants to play on Sunday against Arsenal.

"But he's not ready, he needs more time.

"I will never gamble with a player, never. It's about them, their futures.

"The most important thing is that the safety and health of the player is high level.

"It's very unfortunate for Mason, very unlucky.

"We have so many injuries, it's difficult for all of us, particularly the fans.

"They show unity and when things are going bad, you stick together."



## Jurgen: I won't get the red mist

ASTON VILLA V LIVERPOOL  
8PM MON, SKY SPORTS

JURGEN KLOPP has vowed to be on his best behaviour on Monday – to avoid the booking that would land him with a touchline ban for his Anfield farewell.

A third yellow card of the season would banish him from the dugout for his last Liverpool game against Wolves on May 19.

Klopp, above, said: "We could turn it around and say I only got two yellow cards while some colleagues got suspended, right?"

"I'll try everything not to get involved in any discussions."

Klopp also defended Darwin Nunez and dismissed any chance his misfiring striker could join Barcelona.

Nunez sparked debate over his future by deleting all Liverpool-related pictures from his Instagram account, after he was criticised by fans for missing a good chance against Tottenham last Sunday.

He was then pictured visiting his Uruguay and Barcelona pal Ronald Araujo in the Catalan city, fuelling reports he wanted to join the Spanish giants.

Klopp said: "That must be external speculation because I don't know about it.

"He's unlucky in so many situations when he's doing everything right and the ball still doesn't go in.

"That's really tough for a young man."

Meanwhile, Julian Ward has returned to Liverpool's ownership group just 12 months after quitting the club.

He has been named as the technical director at Fenway Sports Group, while Pedro Marques has been appointed as director of football development after arriving from Benfica.

DAVID ANDERSON

## a dynasty

not just a coincidence where we are now. It is such a long process that he has been doing really well with the club."

The destiny of the title is in Manchester City's hands, with Pep Guardiola's side having a game in hand.

But Jorginho said Arsenal have to make them win it by forcing City to take a maximum nine points from their final three matches, including the visit to Tottenham on Tuesday.



**JORGIE'S BEST:**  
Italy star shares a hug with Arteta

## HIGH HOPES FOR GUNNERS

FROM BACK PAGE

manager Marco Silva denies his players were taking things easy despite the kite-flying antics, which were captured on videos shown on social media.

Silva said: "Everyone who understands football and how important the job is don't expect that was something that happened during training.

"It's not even something to talk about. We prepared

ourselves well for the match.

"We are going to do our maximum to get the points for ourselves, we are not going to do favours for anyone."

Arsenal go into the weekend on top of the Premier League table before their visit to Old Trafford tomorrow.

City trail by a point with a game in hand but will go to the summit with a win at

Craven Cottage this lunchtime.

However, Arteta said: "My brain tells me, when talking to the players, that we are lifting the Premier League.

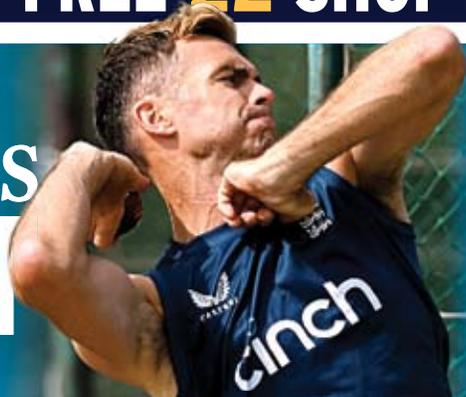
"That's what my brain is doing at the moment and I want to follow my brain and my gut.

"This is the way I want everybody to think as well. Hopefully, we can achieve it."

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**DAILY EXPRESS SPORT**

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**ANDERSON TO DRAW STUMPS**

**JAMES ANDERSON** looks set to bring the curtain down on his England career by announcing his retirement from international cricket this summer.

Anderson, 42 in July, is the highest wicket-taking seamer in Test history, with 700 victims in a storied international career that

By **Matthew Cooper**

has lasted more than 20 years. However, he has taken just 15 wickets in his past eight Tests at an average of 50.8.

Anderson, left, reportedly met Brendon McCullum after the Test coach flew to the UK to tell him

England would start 'looking to the future'. Anderson will be 43 by the time of the 2025-26 Ashes tour.

He said in March his place was "not a given", though he felt "in the best shape I've ever been in".

He could call it a day after a home Test against Sri Lanka at Old Trafford in August.



**HIGH JINKS:** But Arteta, right, is not worried by Fulham's kite-flying antics in training, left

**Premier League**  
**FULHAM**  
**v**  
**MAN CITY**  
**TODAY 12.30PM**

By **Neil McLeman**

**MIKEL ARTETA** is not flying a kite when he says Fulham can take down Manchester City today.

The Cottagers were pictured flying kites at their Motspur Park training ground before their final home game of the season.

Arsenal need their London rivals to take points off City, who will retain the Premier League title by winning their final three games.

But Gunners manager Arteta said: "The power of team bonding, nobody knows what it is. But sometimes you get amazing results with it."

"I've been in teams struggling to win a game and we go out for dinner and then you go on an unbelievable run."

"I'm positive that that's what is going to happen to Fulham [today]." Cottagers

**TURN TO PAGE 87, COLUMN 3**

**HIGH HOPES**

**ARTETA INSISTS FULHAM'S KITE FLIERS CAN BRING CITY BACK DOWN TO EARTH**



**Premier League**  
**MAN UTD**  
**v**  
**ARSENAL**  
**TOMORROW 4.30PM**

**ERIK SAYS REDS KNOW THE SCORE**

By **David McDonnell**

**ERIK TEN HAG** says "common sense" dictates he should stay at Manchester United next season.

But Ten Hag has been given no assurances by new co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe that he will remain in charge at Old Trafford.

United have suffered a chronic injury crisis this season, which has seen them slump to eighth in the table and on course for their worst finish in the Premier League era.

Louis van Gaal was sacked by United in 2016, despite winning the FA Cup.

Ten Hag, below, was asked if he fears the same fate as his Dutch compatriot - even if he beats Manchester City at Wembley on May 25.

He said: "No. I think they have common sense. They have seen when you have 32 different backlines, when you lose eight centre-backs, when we don't have a left full-back."

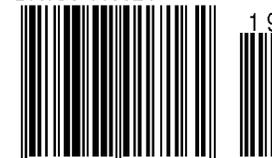
"They know that will have a negative impact on results. But we're still fighting and it's a huge

**TURN TO P87, COL 4**



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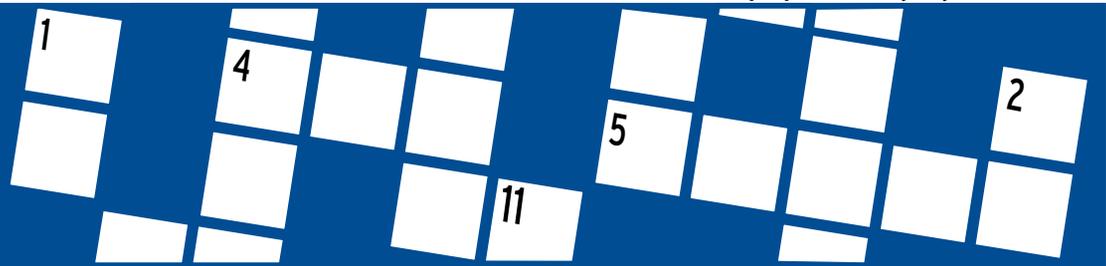


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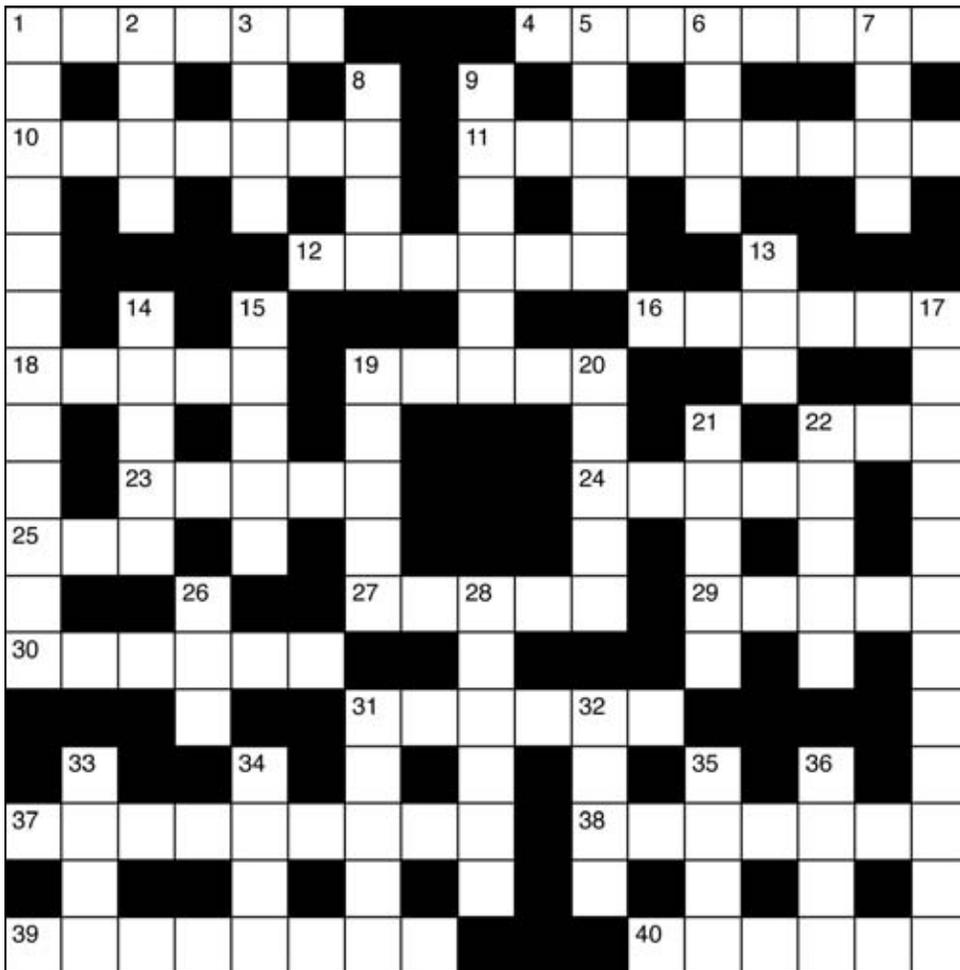
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# DAILY EXPRESS Puzzles EXTRA



Welcome to your brilliant Saturday Express eight-page puzzles pullout. We've got plenty here to keep you busy, from your favourite crosswords to brain-teasing sudokus and more. Enjoy!

## ENTERTAINMENT CROSSWORD



### ACROSS

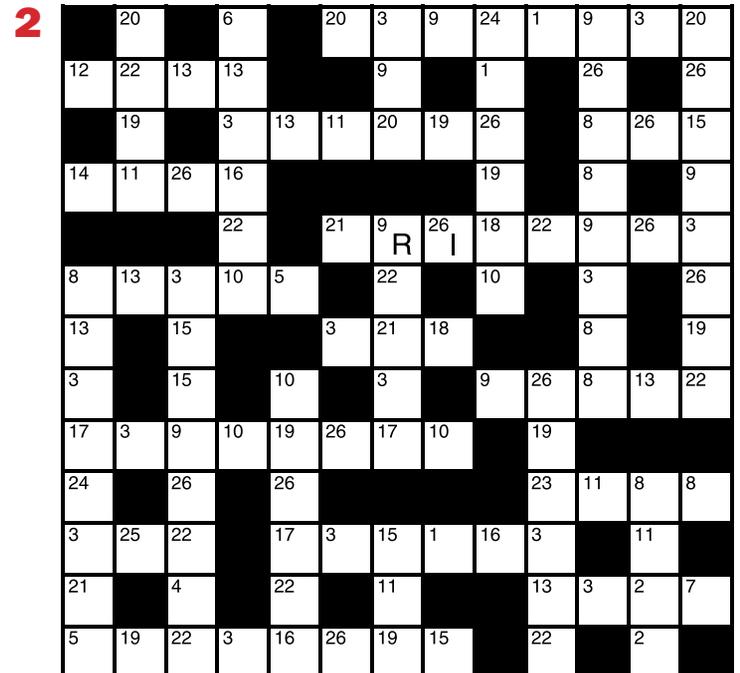
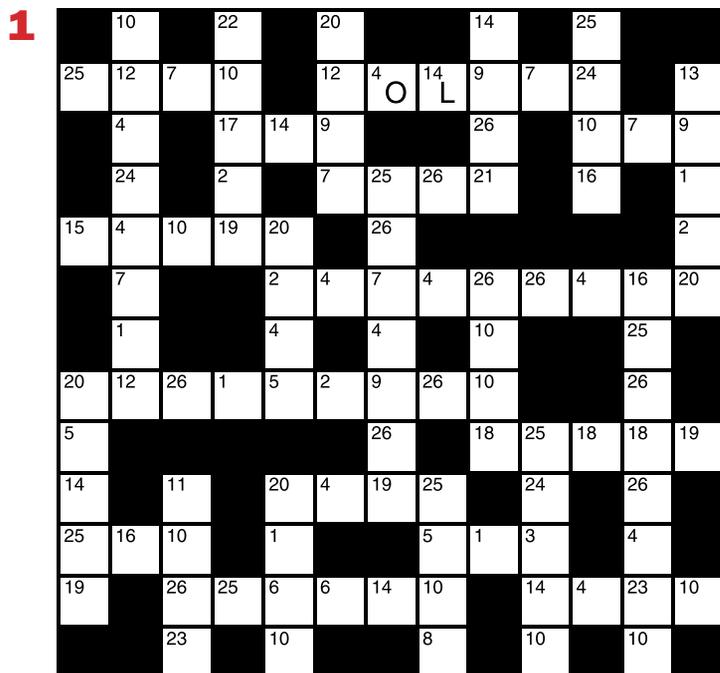
- 1 Mark Durden-Smith's mum and TV colleague, \_ Chalmers (6)
- 4 90210 star who had her own series, Tori \_ (8)
- 10 Princess who is eleventh in line to the throne (7)
- 11 Dancer briefly married to Britney Spears, Kevin \_ (9)
- 12 \_ Costa, one quarter of Blue (6)
- 16 Canadian singer, Justin \_ (6)
- 18 \_ Francis, comedian behind Avid Merrion and Keith Lemon (5)
- 19 Cheryl \_, 80s pop star and runner-up to 1 Down (5)
- 22 Veteran English TV personality, \_ O'Connor (3)
- 23 Horticulture expert, \_ Don (5)
- 24 \_ Pemberton, The League of Gentlemen, Benidorm and Psychoville actor (5)
- 25 Billy \_ Cyrus, country singer and father of Miley (3)
- 27 Surreal comedian and marathon runner, \_ Izzard (5)
- 29 Sam \_, New Zealand-born actor who starred in Jurassic Park (5)
- 30 First name of Simon le Bon's model wife (6)
- 31 US singer and actress Demi \_ (6)
- 37 Newsreader and former Eggheads question master, Dermot \_ (9)
- 38 Recording artist whose debut album was Music of the Sun (7)
- 39 Stephen \_, Bristol-born comedian and actor (8)
- 40 Actors Bathurst or Redford (6)

### DOWN

- 1 He won Popstar to Operastar and the X-Factor (3,9)
- 2 Snoop \_, rapper (4)
- 3 Former British Prime Minister, \_ Blair (4)
- 5 Comedian and presenter, \_ McGuinness (5)
- 6 Record-breaking West Indian batsman, Brian \_ (4)
- 7 \_ Wadia, actress famed for playing Zainab in EastEnders (4)
- 8 French fashion designer, \_ Paul Gaultier (4)
- 9 See 33 Down
- 13 Comedian and TV Host, \_ Mack (3)
- 14 The youngest member of the performing Osmond family (5)
- 15 The Hour and Green Wing actor, Julian \_ Tutt (5)
- 17 Astrologer and TV personality (7,5)
- 19 Frankie \_, Glaswegian comedian (5)
- 20 \_ Jones, comedian and actress (5)
- 21 Property developer and TV presenter, Sarah \_ (5)
- 22 \_ Smith, TV cook and presenter (5)
- 26 Scottish singer, \_ MacDonald (3)
- 28 \_ McCall, co-presenter of Long Lost Family (6)
- 31 Actress and singer, Lindsay \_ (5)
- 32 American actress and model, \_ Reid (4)
- 33 and 9 Down Title of 10 Across's father (4,2,4)
- 34 Mr Galifianakis, star of The Hangover (4)
- 35 Former Dragon's Den entrepreneur, \_ Paphitis (4)
- 36 \_ Hathaway, American actress (4)

## CODEWORD

The number in each square corresponds to a letter. Work out the words in the grid using the letters provided. Fill in these known letters first, then use skill and judgement to work out the others.



A  
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Z



## EASY SUDOKU 2

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

## HARD SUDOKU 2

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

## ALPHADOKU 2

A 9 x 9 sudoku with the letters R to Z.

				R				V
Z	S							Y
	W			T		S		
S		W			X	Z		U
	R							T
					U	R		Y
		X		W				Z
		U	Z					W

## FUTOSHIKI 1

Insert the numbers one to five in each row and each column, making sure that no number is repeated.  
The only symbols to guide you are the "greater than" (>) and "less than" (<) signs.

	2			<	
			∨		
	<				
			∧		
∧				∧	
					>
	<	<			∨

## FUTOSHIKI 2

					>	
3		<				
∧						∧
				<		2
				∨		
	>					

## KILLER SUDOKU 1

Each row and column hold the numbers 1 to 9 and the numbers in the cages must add to the given total.  
No number can be repeated in a cage.

15		16	17	9	5	9	12	
	5						14	
12			8	13		23		18
	10			9				
		17	11		23		13	
10							3	
18				14		13		15
12	12	6	21	7				
							15	

## KILLER SUDOKU 2

16		7	10		10		10	
	19		14	15		11	14	
4				20			9	
					25			6
7	16	11		9	18		6	
		10						11
12		21		9	8			
12			16		12			26
	8			3				

## KAKURO 1

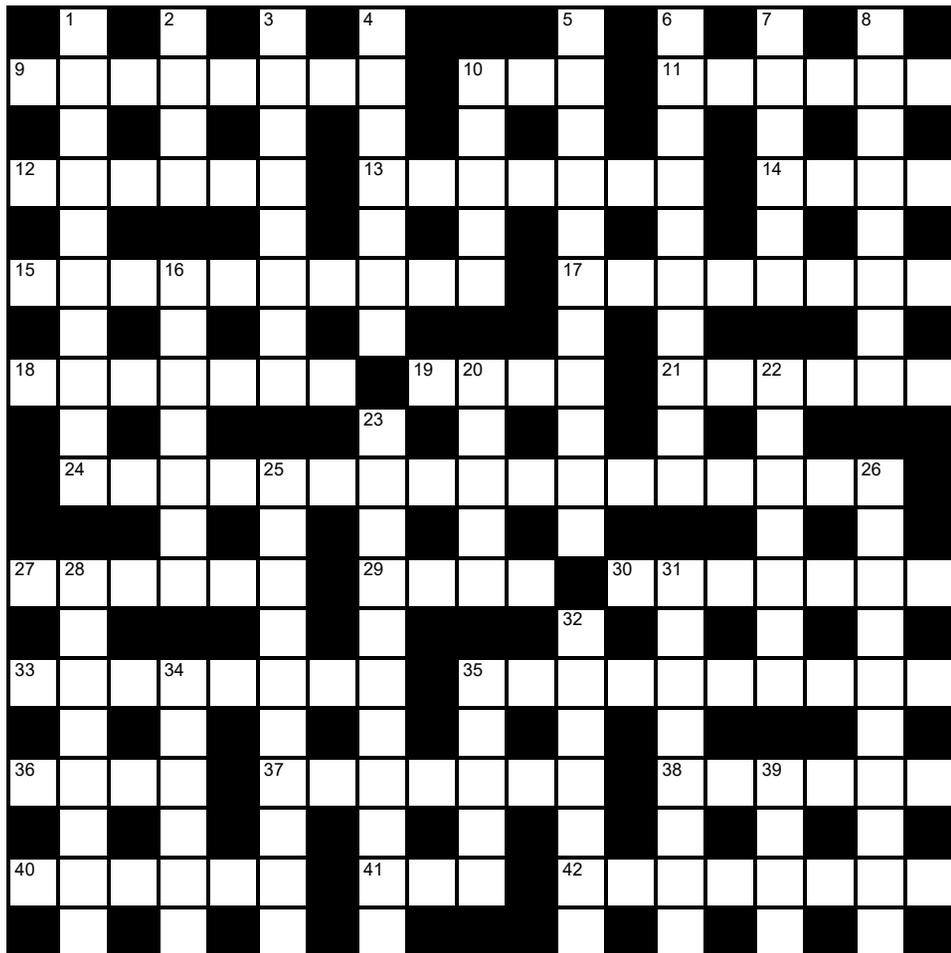
Fill in each series of blank squares using the numbers 1 to 9. Each series – across and down – must add up to the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of the series. A number may be repeated in each line but not in a series.

			14	16			15	18	
		13				16			
		12				23			
	20				16				12
13	12			14	8			6	
	7			24	3		13		
	18					7			
		35				21			
	26								
10						23		22	7
12				10			8		
	3			14			14		
		10	4			20	16		
		3				10			

## KAKURO 2

			7	12			10	29	
		13				8			
		15				21			
	11				14				7
8	11			8				9	
	11			12				11	
		14	18				6		
	19					11			
		20				24			
	13								
20	16						13		10
		13						10	14
20				8				9	
11				4				11	
		9						12	
	6					17			
		15				9			

# BIG CROSSWORD 1



**ACROSS**

- 9 Candle-maker (8)
- 10 Expression of contempt (3)
- 11 Neglect (6)
- 12 Weaken (6)
- 13 Worried (7)
- 14 Curved structure (4)
- 15 Harsh (10)
- 17 Vendor (8)
- 18 Church dignitary (7)
- 19 Resound (4)
- 21 Fluid (6)
- 24 Immediately (7,10)
- 27 Needy (4,2)
- 29 Church recess (4)
- 30 French coin (7)
- 33 Stocky (8)
- 35 Sickening (10)
- 36 Liberate (4)

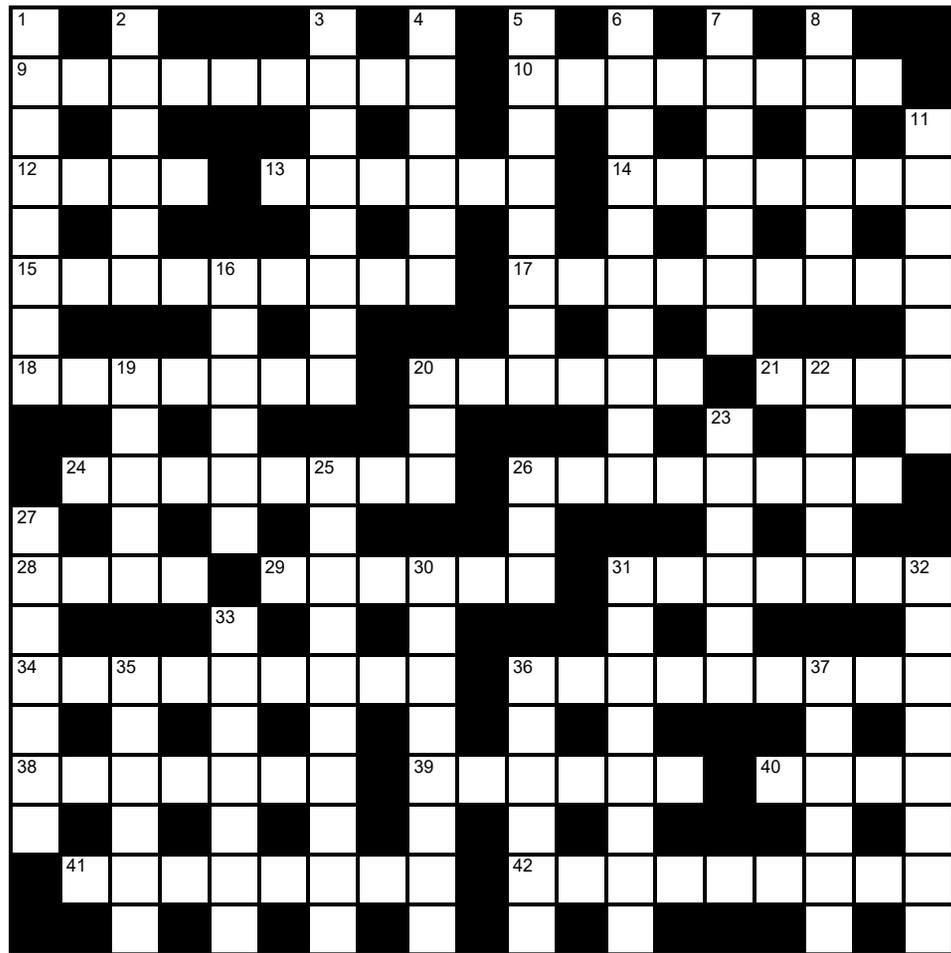
**DOWN**

- 1 Instrument of torture (10)
- 2 Ancient Peruvian king (4)
- 3 Musical instrument (8)
- 4 Worked hard (7)
- 5 Fearful of light (11)
- 6 Pantomime character (10)
- 7 Congenital (6)
- 8 Vegetable (8)
- 10 Sheep's cry (5)
- 16 Of the same family (7)
- 20 Board game (5)
- 22 Five-piece band (7)

**ACROSS**

- 37 Hunter (7)
- 38 Sailing vessels (6)
- 40 Shade of blue (6)
- 41 Finish (3)
- 42 Purpose (8)
- 23 Prudish (6-5)
- 25 Hostility (10)
- 26 Naming (10)
- 28 Supporter (8)
- 31 All people (8)
- 32 Decompose (7)
- 34 Commendation (6)
- 35 Bare (5)
- 39 Quote (4)

# BIG CROSSWORD 2



**ACROSS**

- 9 Infamous (9)
- 10 Oily medicated preparation (8)
- 12 Merely (4)
- 13 Concur (6)
- 14 Trap (7)
- 15 Miniature representation (9)
- 17 Subordinate (9)
- 18 Elementary particle (7)
- 20 Acutely difficult position (6)
- 21 Largest continent (4)
- 24 Medieval weapon (8)
- 26 Insecticide (5-3)
- 28 Mountain range (4)
- 29 Principal element (6)
- 31 Flying craft (7)
- 34 Former British coin (4-5)
- 36 Bad dream (9)

**DOWN**

- 1 Rare (8)
- 2 Style of handwriting (6)
- 3 Breed of cattle (8)
- 4 High regard (6)
- 5 Contemplate (8)
- 6 Undertaking (10)
- 7 Pleasantly diverting (7)
- 8 Employ (6)
- 11 Most important (7)
- 16 Female giant (6)
- 19 Tear open (5)
- 20 Female pig (3)

**DOWN**

- 22 Rustle (5)
- 23 Liveliness (6)
- 25 Inexhaustible (10)
- 26 Understand (3)
- 27 Diffident (7)
- 30 Highest point (8)
- 31 Candied stems (8)
- 32 Affectation (8)
- 33 Imputed guilt (7)
- 35 Evergreen tree (6)
- 36 Closer to (6)
- 37 Collection of bees (6)

# TWO-SPEED CROSSWORD

This two-speed crossword has two sets of clues, but just one grid

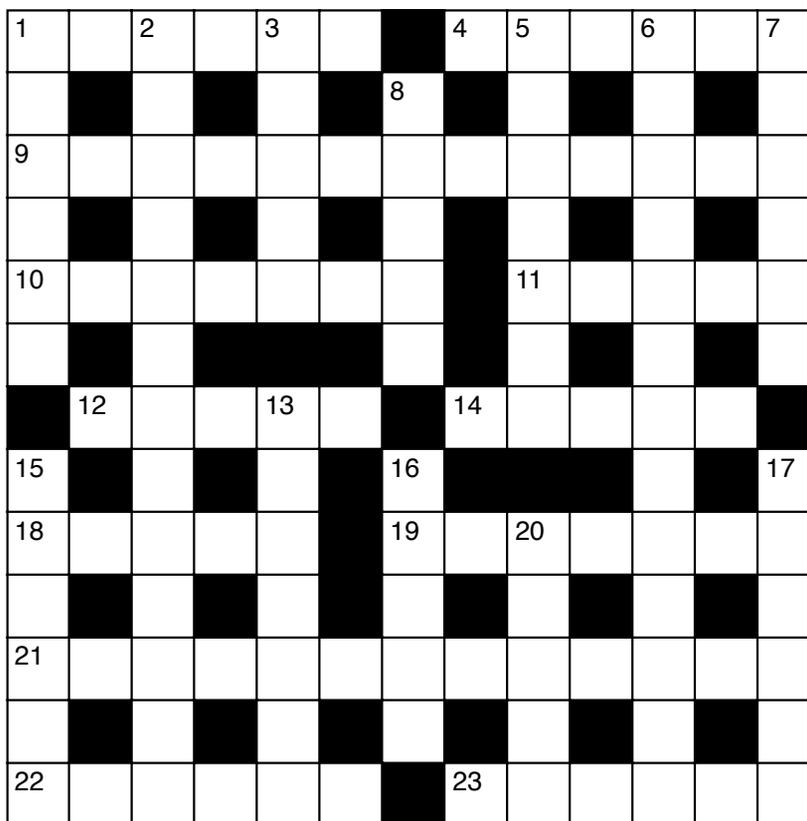
## CRYPTIC CLUES

**ACROSS**

- 1. Pierce to produce receipt (6)
- 4. Vaunts by snakey ways (6)
- 9. From movies to diagram - the old silents? (13)
- 10. Dry point in a number (7)
- 11. Pins down with fingertips? (5)
- 12. Fleshy insect for your starters? (5)
- 14. Cares about land measures (5)
- 18. Depart on holiday (5)
- 19. Ardent listener gets egg holder (7)
- 21. Regally speaking, it's his wife who wears the trousers! (6,7)
- 22. Disappear with 500, not five, it's national (6)
- 23. Tinny sounding grit (6)

**DOWN**

- 1. Move position, we hear, in verse? (6)
- 2. Study with lateral allowance? (13)
- 3. Slippers raise water (5)
- 5. Bargain, cor! But no drinks counter - could be vital! (7)
- 6. Raises red toes while on holiday here? (7,6)
- 7. Separation of half the school over doctrine (6)
- 8. The bone foundation remains (5)
- 13. Strips - by wool pulled over the eyes? (7)
- 15. Behold! Ran round with inclination (6)
- 16. Protect receiver (5)
- 17. Astute posing for this? (6)
- 20. Cook's extent? (5)



## QUICK CLUES

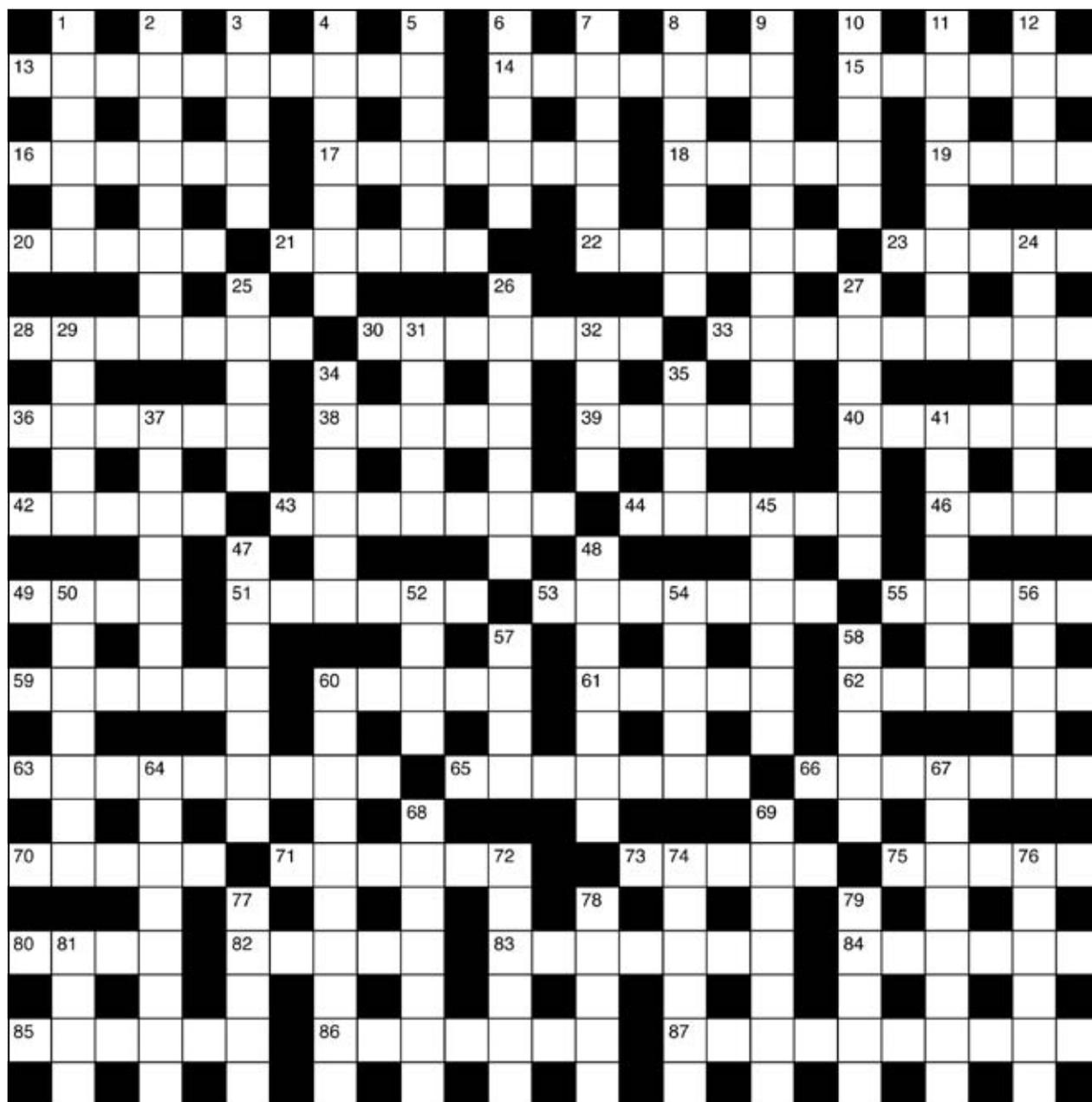
**ACROSS**

- 1. Method (6)
- 4. Brags (6)
- 9. Film camera/projector (13)
- 10. Arid (7)
- 11. Fasteners (5)
- 12. Muscular (5)
- 14. Units of area (5)
- 18. Go (5)
- 19. Serious (7)
- 21. Queen's husband (6,7)
- 22. European nationality (6)
- 23. Spirit (6)

**DOWN**

- 1. Repeat aloud (6)
- 2. Deliberation (13)
- 3. Questions (5)
- 5. Living (7)
- 6. Holiday destination (7,6)
- 7. Division (6)
- 8. Remains (5)
- 13. Woollen coats (7)
- 15. Slanting (6)
- 16. Boundary (5)
- 17. Sculpture (6)
- 20. Scope (5)

# JUMBO CROSSWORD



## DOWN

- 1. Face (6)
- 2. Memento (8)
- 3. Blustery (5)
- 4. Lost affection for (4,3)
- 5. Route (6)
- 6. Dart (5)
- 7. Criticised (6)
- 8. Saying (7)
- 9. Reverie (5,5)
- 10. Lean (5)
- 11. Not surprising (2,6)
- 12. Beak (4)
- 24. Told (7)
- 25. Strange (5)
- 26. Stay silent (4,3)
- 27. Excited (7)
- 29. Rested (5)
- 31. Picture (5)
- 32. Evangelist (4)
- 34. Hit (6)
- 35. Table (4)
- 37. Hiding (5,2)
- 41. Silly (3-4)
- 45. Forbidden (6)
- 47. Vegetable (7)
- 48. Confounded (7)
- 50. Burnt (7)
- 52. Golf shot (4)
- 54. Business (5)
- 56. Riddle (5)
- 57. Raise (4)
- 58. Gape (5)
- 60. Retracting (6,4)
- 64. Quickly (2,1,5)
- 67. Perverse (8)
- 68. Post (7)
- 69. Agrees (7)
- 72. Gave (6)
- 74. Entertained (6)
- 76. Refinement (6)
- 77. Gleam (5)
- 78. Paces (5)
- 79. Clever (5)
- 81. Pocket billiards (4)

## ACROSS

- 13. Bring about (4,4,2)
- 33. Insect (9)
- 59. Moisten (6)
- 83. Undecided (3,4)
- 14. Gun case (7)
- 36. Understand (6)
- 60. Yours (5)
- 84. Evergreen shrub (6)
- 15. Gain (6)
- 38. Vagrant (5)
- 61. Pre-meal prayer (5)
- 85. Relation (6)
- 16. Drank (6)
- 39. Wet (5)
- 62. Cashier (6)
- 86. Photo (5-2)
- 17. Evict (4,3)
- 40. Turn (6)
- 63. Bakery product (5,4)
- 87. Initiative (10)
- 18. Building (5)
- 42. Nevertheless (5)
- 65. Admitted (7)
- 66. Broke (7)
- 19. Just (4)
- 43. Horrible (7)
- 70. Perfect (5)
- 20. Started (5)
- 44. Outhouse (6)
- 71. Grab (6)
- 21. Following (5)
- 46. Manufactured (4)
- 73. Lariat (5)
- 22. Language (6)
- 49. Decorated (4)
- 75. Cuts (5)
- 23. Love (5)
- 51. Lecture (6)
- 80. Gem (4)
- 28. Modified (7)
- 53. Luck (7)
- 82. Custom (5)
- 30. Problem (7)
- 55. Rodent (5)

## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the six differences between these two pictures?



# NUMBERCRUNCH

Follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row

BEGINNER	2	x41	+28	7/10 of this	-35	÷6	+63	x2	-91	4/7 of this	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE	32	+94	5/6 of this	-71	50% of this	+41	x3	-57	÷3	+82	ANSWER
ADVANCED	54	x7	-294	x3	-197	x5	+138	÷7	+284	5/7 of this	ANSWER

# GIANT SUDOKU

Every row, every column and every 5 x 5 box must contain every digit from 1 to 9 and every letter from K to Z.

X	Z	6	8				M							3		Y	O				
3			N	L				Z	1	R					Y	4					
2				S		Z	6			7					T	W	5	X	P		
9	1		K	W				R		P		X	S	M							
		Y	M				3		4	6	T	9		K	R	U	S	2			
M	V					N			4		1	S	R	2	7		9		6		
S	6	Z				9	W		O		R	Q	M	U				V			
	3	L				T	K	7		2	6			W					R		
			2			5	8		3			7	1	S	4	9		Z	M		
	4	X	Q		M	L					U	P	N		T		1	8			
			R	X		4	T	V			5	Q	P	1	9				W		
		5				9					M	U	3	R		2	X	T	8		
O						U		N	Y						W	Q	1	Z	M	K	
	U		M	R	Z	8			7				V	K			L				
T	L	K			1	S	P				8	6			Z	5		V	U	2	
	9				7		1							K	Z	O				S	
7			8	6			P		9			2				W	L	3			
K	S		6	P	2	9	M	5			U	8	Z	O		X				N	
			Z	O		K	Y			R	N		3		X	V	5	Q	9	U	
1	X				8				P				W		6	R	T				
N	8	9				U	3	7					K		Q	Y	S	2		L	Z
U		1	7	Y			L	9		S	3	W	Z			O			K		
						W	2			N	1					P		5	Y		
	P		Z				O			M		2	7	L	9	8			R		1
W	M							Y		R	L	8		T	6	X	N		P	U	3

# MEDIUM SUDOKU 1

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

# VERY HARD SUDOKU 1

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

# CROSS OUT 1

# CROSS OUT 2

Cross out one of the two letters in each divided square to reveal a completed crossword grid.

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

S	W	S	E	R
L	I	V	X	T
U		A		A
I		O		O
S	Y	R	O	C
N	N	L	P	N
A		T		L
O		V		K
R	E	S	W	S
L	A	E	D	E

# IMPOSSUDOKU 1

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



