



Tragic 'bubbly' girl victim of landslide

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW SEE PAGES 24&25



PM THROWS DOWN GAUNTLET TO 'SPINELESS' SIR KEIR

RISHI LASHES OUT! 'STARMER HASN'T COURAGE TO FACE ME ON TELEVISION'



RISHI Sunak has attacked Keir Starmer for not having the "courage" to face him in a series of televised election debates.

The PM has thrown down the gauntlet to the "spineless" Labour leader by challenging him to debate on TV every single week until election day. The Prime Minister said: "There are big issues at stake in this election.

"I want to debate these issues with Sir Keir Starmer. But he doesn't want to because he doesn't

By **Sam Lister**
Political Editor

have a plan and doesn't have the courage to say what he wants to do."

The Tories believe Sir Keir fears he will sabotage his prospects in front of millions, despite previously telling his rival to "bring it on".

Labour was last night criticised for failing to accept the challenge. Conservative Party chairman Richard Holden told the Daily Express that voters deserve the chance to scrutinise the opposition leader.

Backbone

He said: "It's no surprise spineless Sir Keir Starmer is now chickening out of debates that he publicly promised to do just months ago.

"It's time for Sir Keir to grow a backbone. The public deserve to hear and scrutinise what the man who wants to be our Prime

Minister has to say before he changes his mind, again."

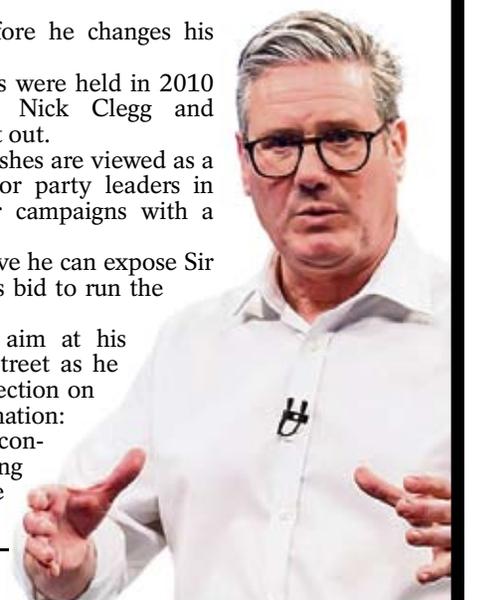
The first head-to-heads were held in 2010 with David Cameron, Nick Clegg and Gordon Brown battling it out.

But the prime-time clashes are viewed as a potential banana skin for party leaders in case they torpedo their campaigns with a poor performance.

Mr Sunak's team believe he can expose Sir Keir's hollow pitch in his bid to run the country.

The PM took direct aim at his opponent in Downing Street as he triggered the General Election on Wednesday, telling the nation:

"If you don't have the conviction to stick to anything you say, if you don't have the courage to tell people



TURN TO PAGE 6

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Pictures: PA; GETTY

Olympic relay fear

AN alleged “woman hater” has been arrested over fears he would attack the Olympic torch relay in France.

Alexandre G, 26, was held in Bordeaux after being linked to the online Incel movement of men who struggle to attract sexual partners.

The suspect admitted to “having considered an act” leading to fears over the Olympic flame as it was due in the south-west city yesterday.



Evidence... Simon Case

‘I regret Covid messages criticising Boris...I didn’t realise how difficult he was finding it’

Cabinet Secretary apologises at inquiry for ‘raw’ language

By **Helen Corbett**

TOP civil servant Simon Case said his WhatsApp messages blasting Boris Johnson and his government during the pandemic were “raw, in-the-moment” expressions and “not the whole story” as he gave evidence at the Covid inquiry yesterday.

The messages emerged in evidence last year and revealed an exasperation with the handling of the crisis.

In July 2020, before Mr Case became Cabinet Secretary, he said: “I’ve never seen a bunch of people less well-equipped to run a country” in a missive to Lord Sedwill, who was the civil service chief at the time.

He also described Mr Johnson and his inner circle as “basically feral” and suggested the then PM’s wife Carrie Johnson was “the real person in charge” at No10.

He told the inquiry: “They are very raw, in-the-moment human expressions – they’re not the whole story but I recognise they’re part of the story.”

“Many of them now require apologies for things that I said and the way I expressed myself.”

Asked by lead counsel Hugo Keith KC about his messages regarding Mr Johnson, Mr Case said: “Those are examples that I obviously now deeply regret of expressing my in-the-

moment frustrations with the former prime minister.

“Each prime minister has their own approach to doing it and, as I say, in my job, I found it very frustrating. I just don’t think I understood how difficult he was finding it personally.”

Mr Case said it was a “fair conclusion” to draw that a message he sent saying “Crisis + pygmies = toxic behaviour” was an observation on the abilities of individuals in the Cabinet Office and at No10.

He added: “Good people were working incredibly hard in impossible circumstances with choices where it seems there was never a right answer.”

There was a duplication of effort, overlapping of meetings and “good people were just being smashed to pieces”, he said.

He also revealed he had “intervened to try to get serious discussions off WhatsApp”.

No10’s first policy on the phone app came in March 2021, but by then it had become “an ingrained way of working”, Mr Case said.

Mr Case’s evidence follows his return to work after he stepped back in October for medical reasons. It also ends the inquiry’s module on core decision-making and governance.



Target... Boris Johnson, who was pandemic PM

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No end to fuel rip-off, claims AA

By **Emily Braeger**

PETROL pump prices may be falling for the first time since January but campaigners say retailers are still failing to pass on wholesale fuel savings.

The cost of petrol has dropped 1p in the past 10 days compared with a 3p to 4p-a-litre decline in wholesale costs since mid-April, according to the AA.

Government tracking of weekly pump prices shows year-on-year average petrol forecourt prices are 5.2p a litre higher, putting a significant drag on efforts to reduce inflation. With petrol

wholesale values not far off where they were a year ago, the spotlight falls again on the markup by the fuel trade.

It is something they will have to justify to the Competition and Markets Authority.

Luke Bosdet, the AA’s spokesman on road fuel prices, said: “When a drop in wholesale costs equivalent to a £2 saving from a tank of fuel barely shows weeks later, it looks very much like the same old story.”

Romeo, Romeo...why art thou bothering, Romeo?



Faltering chemistry...Tom with Francesca on stage; with his famous girlfriend Zendaya, right



A VOGUISH young movie star, onstage cameras, microphones placed conspicuously around a bare stage as well as taped to the actors' cheeks, smoke, blinding flashes of white light, a continuous background hum as of a trapped hornet – how quickly the trademarks of a Jamie Lloyd production have become clichéd and predictable.

Editing the text to suit his vision and cutting “extraneous” characters, Lloyd has fashioned what he imagines to be an adaptation for the era.

But the intelligence and imagination that went into his similarly radical versions of *Cyrano* and *Sunset Blvd* are entirely absent here.

Gestures

Giant close-ups of shiny faces, live feeds from backstage and even scenes shot in the foyer are mere technical gestures, conceptual liggers who bring nothing to the party.

As *Romeo*, Tom Holland is a charisma-free zone, achieving the unlikely feat of being both buff and weedy.

While this may be the right combination for Peter Parker/Spider-Man, *right*, it leaves *Romeo* dangling as a background character.

As *Juliet*, Francesca Amewudah-Rivers has more presence, though Lloyd seems reluctant to pursue the idea of “two houses both alike in dignity” but racially divided; the theme of miscegenation is unexplored, even in the forced intimacy of whispered dialogue and faltering chemistry.

The post-industrial setting suggests an arid, monochrome metropolis in which *Romeo* and

REVIEW

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his associates roam like human rodents, whispering in the gloom. Everything is black, grey and dull, leached of colour both visually and verbally.

Freema Agyeman's flirty Nurse is notable and I liked Joshua-Alexander Williams' swaggering gangsta Mercutio, though his potential is crushed beneath the imposed style of delivery (whisper, whisper, whisper, SHOUT) that neuters the impact of his Queen Mab speech.

As Capulet, Tomiwa Edun is the only actor who carries the emotional weight of a real human being rather than succumbing to Lloyd's directorial tyranny.

I am all for putting old wine in new bottles but I would admire him far more if he chose a new, untested play rather than continually remodelling established texts.

The woman sitting next to me was a Holland fan, judging by her reaction on his entrance.

Having slept through the second half, she joined the herd in a standing ovation. Absolute drivel.



Outnumbered kids back home for Christmas

By Emily Braeger

FAMILY sitcom *Outnumbered* is returning after eight years for a Christmas special – with a new generation to add to the laughs.

The hit comedy about the Brockmans and their three naughty children ran from 2007 to 2014 on BBC One, with its most recent episode being a Christmas special in 2016.

Now all of the original cast members will return for the one-off instalment, including Hugh Dennis, 62, and Claire Skinner, 59, who play parents Pete and Sue Brockman. Their now-adult kids – Jake, Ben and Karen – are no less of a handful today, and one has even had a child of their own.

Yesterday Hugh said he “can’t wait” for the Brockmans to be reunited, adding: “Pete and Sue have downsized, the children are no longer children, but I’m sure family life will prove to be just as chaotic as ever.”

Claire added that she is “really looking



NOW

All grown-up...Ramona, Daniel and Tyger today and as littl'uns with TV 'parents' Claire and Hugh

forward” to filming, as “working on this wonderful comedy doesn’t feel like work and is one of the greatest joys for us all”.

Ramona Marquez, 23, who plays Karen, regularly reunites with on-screen brothers Tyger Drew-Honey, 28, who plays Jake, and



THEN

Daniel Roche, 24, who plays Ben – and they all helped promote Red Nose Day this year.

The BBC's director of comedy Jon Petrie said: “*Outnumbered* is one of the crown jewels of British sitcoms. We are so grateful to Hat Trick Productions and the cast for

dusting it off and putting it back on display.”

Comedy fans were delighted by the news yesterday.

One tweeted: “So excited yes, my favourite sitcom is coming back for an Xmas special.”

Another said: “My real family are coming home for Christmas. I've missed my dad [Pete] so much.”

Outnumbered was watched by 9.4 million viewers at its peak.

Earlier this month it was announced that Gavin and Stacey, starring James Corden and Ruth Jones, will also return to BBC One this Christmas – five years after a festive special in 2019 – for its big finale.

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PM WARNED TO PUT OUT SMOKING BILL

By **Christian Calgie**

MPS have urged Rishi Sunak not to try forcing through his flagship anti-smoking Bill before the election.

Yesterday Penny Mordaunt failed to set out the plan for the divisive legislation.

Craig Whittaker MP said: "It would be unconstitutional to slam it through...so many colleagues voiced concerns."

Ministers are still begging Labour to help them pass the Bill amid "chaos" over the issue, some sources say.

Four MPs step down

By **Martyn Brown**

RISHI Sunak faces a mounting exodus after four more Tory MPs revealed they were quitting politics.

Rail minister Huw Merriman was the most senior Conservative to resign yesterday, becoming the 69th Tory MP to do so.

Earlier in the day, James Grundy, Red Wall MP for Leigh, said he would step down due to "abuse, threats of violence or death threats" now faced by MPs. Dame Eleanor Laing and employment

Going...Huw Merriman

minister Jo Churchill are also going. Dame Eleanor was Deputy Speaker for 11 years, while Ms Churchill has represented Bury St Edmunds since 2015 and cited "family reasons".

More Tories are quitting than at any point since before Labour's 1997 landslide when 75 stood aside. Those on the way out include Dominic Raab, Ben Wallace, Nadhim Zahawi, Sajid Javid and Chris Heaton-Harris.



'Starmmer running scared of TV debates'

Rishi picked date as the economy turned a corner

FROM PAGE ONE

what you want to do and if you don't have a plan, how can you possibly be trusted to lead our country? Especially at this most uncertain of times."

A source close to the PM declared yesterday: "Rishi Sunak is up for debating Keir Starmer as many times as he likes. And if Starmer doesn't want to do it, what is he hiding?"

"If he has all these great plans, why doesn't he come out and say what he wants to do?"

On the first full day of the campaign, Mr Sunak headed to the East Midlands, then South Wales before visiting Inverness.

The PM said he chose to go to the country earlier than expected as "the economy has turned a corner".

Stability

He added: "After a difficult few years, I'm pleased economic stability is returning. We've just seen that inflation has returned to normal, the economy is growing at a healthy rate again and wages have been rising sustainably for several months now."

"And although I know not everyone is feeling the full benefits yet, it's clear we have turned a corner. Now is the moment to look to the future."

"The world is clearly in a more uncertain place than it's been in decades. The question for the country is, who's got the boldest ideas, the clearest plan to provide a secure future for you and your family?"

Mr Sunak insisted his "bold"

SUNAK'S OWN GOAL ON BREWERY TOUR

By **Christopher McKeon**

RISHI Sunak put his boot in it with a football gaffe during a visit to a Welsh brewery yesterday.

The Prime Minister asked staff if they were looking forward to the footie this summer – even though Wales failed to qualify for the Euros.

After an awkward pause, one worker at the Vale of Glamorgan Brewery said: "We're not so invested in it."

But the PM, who describes himself as "a massive football fan" still insisted: "It'll be a good summer of sport."

Rwanda asylum policy was a key dividing line at the General Election, even though he conceded no planes would take off until after polling day.

He said Sir Keir would do "absolutely nothing" to tackle the small boats crisis and would instead "offer an amnesty to illegal migrants".

The PM admitted it was "a bit wet" when he launched the election in pouring rain outside No 10.

But he insisted: "I'm not a fair-weather politician. I believe in the traditions of our country."

"And when you're making a statement of that magnitude as Prime Minister, I believe in doing it in the traditional way, come rain or shine,

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Selfie service...Rishi Sunak poses for a quick photo at a distribution centre in Ilkeston yesterday

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Return of the mic...Keir Starmer hands over to deputy Angela Rayner

Sir Keir: A choice of two different futures

SIR Keir Starmer has claimed the General Election is a vote between “two different countries, two different futures” as he got his campaign up and running.

The Labour leader kicked off his bid to be the next Prime Minister at Gillingham Football Club, flanked by deputy leader Angela Rayner and supporters.

Setting out his pitch to voters, Sir Keir said: “This election is about a choice: Two different countries, two different futures. Decline and chaos continuing under the Tories, or rebuilding our country under Labour.”

“The power of the vote is with you. If you want change, you have to vote for it. And if you vote Labour, it is a vote to stop the chaos, a vote to turn the page and a vote to rebuild our country together.”

The choice of location will be seen as laying down a marker for Labour expectations in the election.

The constituency of Gillingham and Rainham in Kent was created in 2005 and has always voted Tory, though its predecessor seat of

By **Martyn Brown**
Deputy Political Editor

Gillingham was held by Labour. The boundaries of the constituency are changing in this election.

Mr Starmer joked that the last time his party was in power, Gillingham FC had been in the same division as Premier League champions Manchester City.

Conservative Party chairman Richard Holden responded to Sir Keir’s speech by accusing the opposition leader of not having a plan.

Mr Holden said: “Sir Keir Starmer does not have the conviction, courage or plan that Britain needs to secure a brighter future in a more uncertain world.”

“You cannot trust him not to increase your taxes, raid your pension or burden your children with extra borrowing.”

“The choice is clear: stick with the plan by choosing bold action for a safer, more secure and more prosperous future with Rishi Sunak or go back to square one with Keir Starmer and the same old Labour.”

DESPITE the clear advantage of decades spent as a court lawyer, and a probable winning head-to-head record at PMQs as Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer arguably has little to gain from TV debates.

A key factor in this risk is that Rishi Sunak has nothing to lose. His party’s polling numbers and his personal approval ratings are so low that the only way is up. It’s a desperate situation, but one that offers its own kind of freedom.

To use a boxing analogy, Starmer’s Labour leadership has been one big rope-a-dope exercise; his priority is to dodge heavy confrontation and let his opponent toil, so he’ll never go for a knockout blow that might leave his chin exposed. Protecting

ANALYSIS

MARK BORKOWSKI

Founder of Borkowski PR



a healthy points lead before “seconds out”, he’d never deviate from this strategy on TV.

But Sunak is so battered by his tenure in No 10 that he might as well take some big swings of his own. If he does, Starmer has vulnerabilities of both style and substance that could be exposed.

His noncommittal approach to policy and unwillingness to deviate far from the status quo

lest he cede the centre ground could be painted as indecision or cynicism by a wily opponent.

Stylistically, he’s more of a tricky customer than a smooth operator. If PMQs is any indicator, Starmer is a “death by a thousand cuts” ankle-biter, not a charming aphorism dispenser. This is an advantage in the courtroom, but makes him a more awkward proposition for the public than the more gregarious Sunak.

Of course, none of these risks outweigh that of failing to show up. The Tories’ key attack line is that Labour does not have a plan; so if Starmer is seen to shirk the challenge of a TV debate, he’s fed Sunak an attack line that may tip the scales of the whole election.

in front of the steps of Downing Street.” Mr Sunak was given a boost when Reform UK president Nigel Farage announced he would not stand in the election.

But the leading Brexiteer insists he will still play a major part in the party’s campaign and has stepped back from his role at GB News for the next six weeks.

The PM, who posed for photos with staff at the William West distribution centre in Ilkeston, Derbys, after a Q&A, heads out across the UK again today with a promise to keep household bills down.

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Labour’s energy plans branded ‘reckless’

THE Tories have blasted Labour’s “reckless” energy proposals while announcing the price cap will remain in every year of Parliament under the Conservatives.

Energy Secretary Claire Coutinho will seek consumers’ views on the best way to access clear information about energy prices through comparison services.

She also confirmed the cost of energy bill levies would be lower in every year of the next Parliament than they were last year if the Tories stayed in power. She said: “Labour

By **Steph Spyro**
Senior Political Correspondent

does not have a serious approach to Britain’s energy security and they aren’t honest about the costs that their reckless net-zero targets would place on households.

“Thanks to our bold action, energy bills are at their lowest in two years.”

Regulator Ofgem is today expected to announce a drop in household bills for July to September, with typical costs per household

falling from £1,690 a year to £1,574, reports have suggested.

Labour wants to create Great British Energy, a new publicly owned clean energy company using sun, wind and wave energy to save £93 billion for UK households and deliver 100% clean power by 2030.

Slamming the Tories’ energy plans, Labour said: “This is not a plan – this is a call for evidence, a set of options, two consultations, a copy and paste job from an old letter, and lots of wishful thinking.”



Victim...Johanita. Nur, right

Drug addict slash attack killer jailed for 32 years

By **Paul Jeeves**

A KNIFE-wielding maniac who murdered a woman as part of a series of random slasher attacks has been jailed for at least 32 years.

Drug addict Mohamed Nur, 34, ran up behind Johanita Kossiwa Dogbey, 31, and stabbed her three times in the neck as she walked home on May 1, 2023.

Two days earlier, he slashed the faces of two women and a man in more "unprovoked" attacks in Brixton, South London. Nur was living in accommodation for vulnerable adults in Vauxhall at the time.

He admitted murder and having a homemade blade and was found guilty of three charges of unlawful wounding at the Old Bailey.

Nur failed to attend court yesterday but Judge Angela Rafferty said Johanita's murder had been "without mercy" and sentenced him to life in his absence.

She described him as "extremely dangerous" and said if he had not been arrested, he would have struck again.

'Be open on tragedies'

By **Eleanor Barlow**

MINISTERS must go further to avoid a repeat of failures made after tragedies such as the Hillsborough disaster, MPs and peers warn.

A report into calls for a Hillsborough Law has found "institutional defensiveness" continues and recommends the Government considers a statutory "duty of candour" for all public bodies. Ninety-seven Liverpool fans died at the 1989 tragedy.

Joanna Cherry KC, chairwoman of the Joint Committee on Human Rights, said: "We want to see more widespread measures to establish a culture of openness to ensure the truth is not hidden from the public."

'Unpatriotic' Farage Reform in favour of

By **Christian Calgie**
Senior Political Correspondent

NIGEL Farage has announced he will not stand as a candidate for Reform UK at the General Election after allowing months of speculation.

The former Brexit Party leader finally put rumours to bed by releasing a statement yesterday in which he said it was "not the right time" for him to return to frontline politics.

He suggested he was too busy helping Donald Trump's US election campaign.

Former Cabinet minister Nadine Dorries yesterday blasted Mr Farage for being "unpatriotic". But his announcement is likely to have been met with a sigh of relief among Tories.

Mr Farage even claimed that Rishi Sunak had called the snap election over fears Reform UK would spend a further six months eating into their vote share.

He said: "I have thought long and hard as to whether I should stand in the upcoming General Election.

"As honorary president of Reform UK, I am fully supportive of Richard Tice's leadership and urge voters to put their trust in him and Lee Anderson.

"I will do my bit to help in the campaign but it is not the right time for me to go any further than that.

Radical

"Important though the General Election is, the contest in the United States of America on November 5 has huge global significance. A strong America as a close ally is vital for our peace and security. I intend to help with the grassroots campaign in the USA in any way that I can.

"The choice between Labour and the Conservatives is uninspiring – and only Reform have the radical agenda that is needed to end decline in this country."

His statement came 10 days after Mr Farage told TalkTV he had a "very firm job offer" in the States that would enable him to "indirectly" support Trump's election campaign.

But Ms Dorries said: "You have to question the patriotism in a man who has always claimed above all else to be a patriot when he puts another country before his own – Nigel Farage not standing in the General Election because he thinks the elections in the US are more relevant."

However, Mr Farage later announced he would be standing down from his daily GB News show to free up time for campaigning for Reform UK.

And at the party's election launch in Westminster yesterday, Mr Tice said he was "delighted that Nigel Farage is able to help and campaign with us over the next six weeks."

He added: "I'm



Not standing...Nigel Farage in his office yesterday. Above, his announcement

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thrilled about it. He'll be pushing the same message and be helping us get seats elected." Mr Tice accused Rishi Sunak of "bottling it", and claimed the Tories were "terrified of Reform UK, who are going up and up in the polls".

Revealing he will be standing in the ultra-Brexit constituency of Boston and Skegness, he described its MP, Tory centrist Matt Warman, as a "socialist".

Mr Tice also pledged that his right-wing party will put up candidates in all 635 English, Scottish and Welsh seats, "no ifs, no buts". Reform just has

one MP – Mr Anderson, following his defection from the Tories. He was in the audience at yesterday's launch, along with party stalwart Ann Widdecombe.

Data suggests seats including Hartlepool and Doncaster North are vulnerable to being taken by the party. Barnsley North needs only a 4.5% swing for Reform to win.

Mr Tice also blasted new immigration figures that revealed although the net number of migrants coming here had fallen by 10% in a year, a city the size of Manchester had arrived.

He asked voters: "Do you want more of the same from the main two parties? Or do you want change? We

have to change course. We have to reform so many things. We have to reform our economy to make work pay in particular again for young people. We have to reform our health-care system to get to zero waiting lists in two years."

A Conservative spokesman said: "Sir Keir Starmer knows the more people that vote Reform, the more seats he'll win. That would only mean one thing: a Labour majority...higher taxes, uncontrolled immigration and taking us back into the EU. Only the Conservatives will do what's right for this country to deliver a secure future for you and your family."

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Critic... Nadine Dorries



rejects standing for Trump campaign

Pictures: STEVE FINN; LUCY NORTH/PA; GETTY



US candidate...Trump

Trump 'could work with a Labour PM'

EXCLUSIVE

By **Callum Hoare** and **Oli Smith**

DONALD Trump is ready to work with Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer, the Daily Express can reveal.

Mr Trump is running against Joe Biden in November's US presidential election, hoping to win a second term in office.

A source from within the former president's inner circle said he is ready "to work with any duly elected British government".

They told the Daily Express: "We'd prefer if the party that won were patriots that loved their nation, but it's the job of the British people to choose."

"We wouldn't punish the UK if the Tories lost. But it may teach the Conservatives a lesson for being so contemptibly weak on immigration and net zero lunacy."

Last month, one of Mr Trump's key allies praised Shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy as "far preferable to David Cameron".

Elbridge Colby, who is tipped to serve as National Security Advisor under Mr Trump if he wins, said Mr Lammy had a "more compatible vision" with their team than the Foreign Secretary.

He slammed Lord Cameron for "lecturing" the US over aid for Ukraine.

RISHI Sunak's snap election ruse did not find favour with many Tory MPs when he announced it on Wednesday, but it has already paid off for them.

The decision to take political opponents by surprise with an early summer contest is directly responsible for Nigel Farage declaring himself a non-combatant.

Farage yesterday cited alternative commitments in the US presidential campaign as a pretext for not standing or leading Reform. But the reality is that the compressed election timetable left him with too little time to prepare either a personal campaign in a winnable constituency or a national one.

Reform has only a few major donors in place and few ground troops to deliver leaflets or organise local campaign events. Now it must fight the election with its brightest star only making fleeting appearances on its behalf.

Master

With the political superstar Farage at the helm, it could have been confident of blanket coverage, as well as a production line of finely honed messages from a master communicator. Without him, a little-known supporting cast will struggle not to be regarded as just another "also ran" minor party with little chance of winning any seats.

Reform's current 11% average poll rating is therefore highly likely to be squeezed amid a relentless media focus on the "Big Two" parties. And the Tory party stands to be by far the biggest beneficiary of that squeeze. Potentially it could be worth six or even eight points on their poll rating by election day.

Until now, many voters who were flirting with backing Reform have been telling pollsters that they would not bother voting for any other party. But we know they are overwhelmingly right-of-centre and

ANALYSIS

PATRICK O'FLYNN

Political Commentator



therefore likely to be susceptible to a Tory strategy of hyping up the threat a Labour government would pose – especially if it had a landslide majority.

On many issues – taxation, immigration, expensive climate change policies and soft law and order, to name just a few – Reform-inclined voters feel let down by the Conservatives to the point of betrayal. But on each of these issues the Tories have scope to persuade them that Labour would treat them even worse.

A negative campaign against Labour's weak points – its predilection for divisive identity politics, its perceived lack of patriotism, the sway some Islamist hardliners seem to have over it, its history of hammering people with tax rises – would not be pretty to behold but may well be quite effective.

Farage in full flow could have persuaded hundreds of thousands – perhaps millions – of extra voters to lend Reform their votes given the paucity of the offerings from the old establishment parties. To have taken such a powerful chess piece off the board right at the outset of the campaign represents a major strategic advance for Rishi Sunak.

He has so many problems and weaknesses to deal with inside his own party that this advance will very probably not get him within touching distance of a sensational election victory. But it does mean his campaign would have to be peculiarly inept, even by recent Tory standards, to lead to the wipeout that many pundits recently forecast.



Reform launch... Richard Tice, top, and with Lee Anderson and Ann Widdecombe

Exiled Corbyn will stand against his former party



Independent MP...Jeremy Corbyn

FORMER Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is set to reveal he will fight his old party at the election.

Allies of Mr Corbyn believe he can retain Islington North, despite Labour having a 26,188 majority.

It has been reported Mr Corbyn will confirm he will stand as an independent, in an embarrassing blow to Sir Keir Starmer.

The hard Left MP was suspended by Labour in 2020 following his response to a report

By **Christian Calgie**

into antisemitism in the party. Mr Corbyn, who has represented the North London seat since 1983, will hope for a big personal vote of loyalty from his constituents.

Labour announced its shortlist of two – London Assembly member and Hackney councillor Sem Moema will take on Islington councillor Praful Nargund.

Mr Corbyn's ally John

McDonnell voiced support for his campaign, warning Labour he will have "a lot of personal support".

But he hoped Sir Keir will have a "Damascene conversion" and allow the former leader to run as a party candidate.

Last year Labour's National Executive Committee voted to block Mr Corbyn from standing for the party.

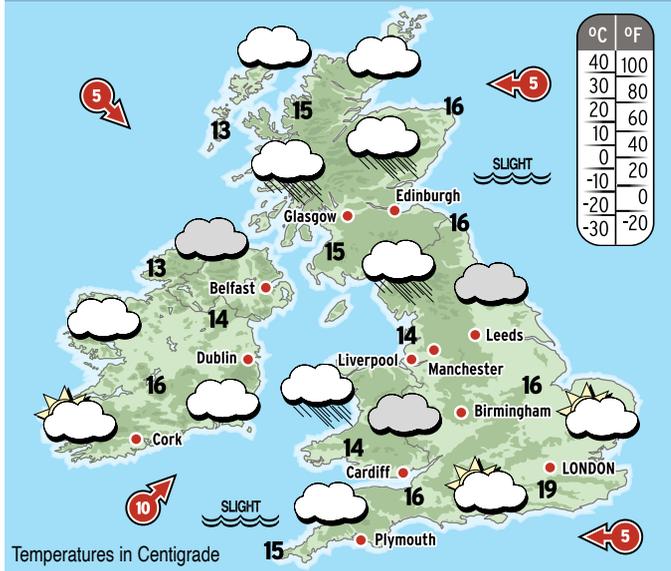
The motion stated that its election chances would be

"significantly diminished should Mr Corbyn be endorsed". Mr Corbyn said it was a "shameful attack on party democracy, party membership and natural justice".

He accused Sir Keir Starmer of having "launched an assault on the rights of his party members".

He added: "I will not be intimidated into silence. I have spent my life fighting for a fairer society and I have no intention of stopping now."

WEATHER FORECAST



Today's summary: A chance of showers

North West: Wet with drizzle or rain at times, mainly light in nature. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 14C (57F).

Northern Ireland: Early rain or showers mostly dying out during the morning. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 14C (57F).

Wales: Mainly dry but cloudy with the threat of a shower breaking out. Light winds. High 16C (61F).

Midlands: Mainly dry but cloudy with the threat of a shower breaking out. Light winds. High 16C (61F).

North East/Yorks: Mostly dry but cloudy with the chance of a shower developing. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 16C (61F).

Scotland: A scattering of showers, some may be heavy later. Light winds for most areas. High 14C (57F).

East Anglia: Cloudy, especially in the morning, but some sunshine too. Gentle south-easterly winds. High 18C (64F).

London/South East: Cloudy, but dry with some sunny periods, especially later. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 19C (66F).

South: A lot of cloud but some sun and remaining largely dry. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

South West: Mainly dry but with the small threat of a shower breaking out. Gentle westerly winds. High 16C (61F).

Channel Isles: Dry with sunshine, and a little cloud through the morning. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 16C (61F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Moderate. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Dry with sunny spells however some light showers are possible and clouds will thicken from the west during the second half of the afternoon.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
	min max					
London	12 21	10 19	10 17	12 18	12 19	12 20
Belfast	10 16	9 16	8 15	10 17	9 17	10 16
Birmingham	11 19	9 18	9 16	11 18	11 19	11 19
Cardiff	11 18	10 17	10 16	12 17	10 18	10 18
Glasgow	10 18	10 17	10 16	12 17	10 17	11 17
Manchester	12 19	10 18	10 16	11 18	11 18	11 19
Newcastle	11 17	10 17	9 17	11 17	10 18	11 18
Norwich	11 17	10 19	10 17	11 17	12 19	12 19
Plymouth	12 16	10 17	10 16	12 17	11 17	11 18

Britain yesterday

City	SUN (hrs)	RAIN (ins)	TEMP (min) (max)
Aberdeen	0.0	0.12	11 13
Aberport	0.2	0.00	10 11
Alnwick	0.0	0.14	11 13
Belfast	0.0	0.00	9 10
Birmingham	0.3	0.09	11 13
B'mouth	4.2	0.00	11 16
Bristol	2.4	0.00	11 14
Cardiff	0.4	0.01	11 14
Durham	0.0	0.07	11 15
Edinburgh	0.0	1.41	12 13

Lighting-up times

City	Start	End
Belfast	9.38pm	5.02am
Birmingham	9.11pm	4.57am
Bristol	9.08pm	5.05am

Moon, sun and tides

MOON rises: 10.51pm, sets: 4.50am
SUN rises London: 4.56am, sets: 8.59pm
 Manchester rises: 4.54am, sets: 9.17pm

High Tide
 London B'ge (3.01am), (3.20pm)
 Liverpool (12.08am), (12.25pm)
 Greenock (1.45am), (1.42pm)
 Dover (12.00am), (12.20pm)

Extremes: Warmest: Frittenden 19C (66F)
 Coldest: Killybegs 7C (45F)
 Wettest: Keswick 3.61in.
 Sunniest: Jersey 11.3hr.

Europe forecast

City	Weather	Temp
Amsterdam	Thunder	19C/66F
Brussels	Thunder	18C/64F
Dublin	Rain	14C/57F
Frankfurt	Rain	18C/64F
Geneva	Showers	19C/66F
Lisbon	Sunny	26C/79F
Madrid	Sunny	28C/82F
Paris	Showers	19C/66F
Rome	Sunny	24C/75F

Tomorrow

City	Weather	Temp
Amsterdam	Rain	19C/66F
Brussels	Rain	19C/66F
Dublin	Drizzle	15C/59F
Frankfurt	Showers	21C/70F
Geneva	Showers	20C/68F
Lisbon	Sunny	24C/75F
Madrid	Sunny	30C/86F
Paris	Cloudy	21C/70F
Rome	Showers	22C/72F

Around the world yesterday

City	Weather	C	F
Amsterdam	Fair	17	63
Athens	Sunny	29	84
Barcelona	Sunny	20	68
Berlin	Fair	22	72
Budapest	Fair	24	75
Cairo	Sunny	36	97
Cape Town	Fair	19	66
Casablanca	Sunny	22	72
Corfu	Sunny	26	79
Dublin	Cloudy	13	55
Dubrovnik	Sunny	22	72
Faro	Sunny	21	70
Florence	Fair	23	73
Gibraltar	Sunny	19	66
Guernsey	Fair	15	59

Hong Kong	Thndr	27	81
Istanbul	Sunny	22	72
Jersey	Rain	16	61
Larnaca	Sunny	30	86
Las Palmas	Fair	24	75
Los Angeles	Sunny	18	64
Luxor	Sunny	41	106
Malaga	Sunny	23	73
Mallorca	Sunny	23	73
Malta	Sunny	27	81
Melbourne	Fair	15	59
Miami	Sunny	31	88
Moscow	Sunny	17	63
Nairobi	Thndr	21	70
New Delhi	Sunny	38	100

New York	Sunny	28	82
Nice	Shwrs	21	70
Nicosia	Sunny	34	93
Perth	Sunny	26	79
Prague	Fair	18	64
Singapore	Thndr	31	88
Stockholm	Sunny	21	70
Sydney	Sunny	18	64
Tel Aviv	Sunny	33	91
Tenerife	Fair	24	75
Toronto	Fair	29	84
Tunis	Sunny	27	81
Venice	Fair	21	70
Vienna	Fair	22	72
Warsaw	Thndr	22	72

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OVERALL

'Immigration

By **Michael Knowles**
 Home Affairs Editor

MINISTERS must cut "catastrophically" high immigration levels and restore control of Britain's borders, Rishi Sunak was told last night.

The Office for National Statistics said net migration hit 685,000 in the year to December, down 10% from a record high of 764,000 in 2022.

Experts said it was set to fall "possibly quite sharply, in the year ahead".

Critics insist net migration must be at a level "the public can support" amid pressure on housing, GP surgeries, schools and roads.

But Home Secretary James Cleverly said the 10% fall and visa applications down 25% this year shows the Tory plan "is working but there is more to do. That is why we must stick to the plan, not go back to square one."

He added: "The choice is clear in this election - sticking with our bold, clear plan to control immigration with Rishi Sunak and the Conservatives or going back to square one with Sir Keir Starmer's Labour Party who don't believe in immigration controls, want an illegal immigration amnesty and have no plan to stop the boats."

Work was the biggest driver of migration in 2023, overtaking study, for the first time since 2019.

Suffering

There was a large rise in those from outside the EU on work visas last year, particularly Indian or Nigerian health and care workers.

And dependants - typically children - outnumbered main applicants on these types of visas.

Immigration remained virtually the same with 1.22 million moving to the UK in the year to December. This is down by 40,000 from 1.26 million.

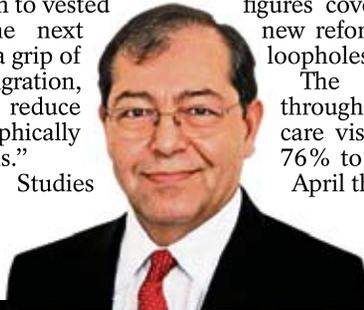
India (250,000), Nigeria (141,000), China (90,000), Pakistan (83,000) and Zimbabwe (36,000) were the top five nationalities of arrivals.

Alp Mehmet, chair of Migration Watch UK, said: "These net migration figures are the latest evidence of a massive, and avoidable, policy mistake. We warned the Government that they would rue the day they introduced the scandalously loose points-based system."

"They chose to listen to vested interests instead. The next government must get a grip of out-of-control immigration, introduce a cap and reduce the present, catastrophically high immigration levels."

Centre for Policy Studies

'Policy mistake'...
 Alp Mehmet



COMMENT

KARL WILLIAMS

Centre for Policy Studies



THE sheer scale of immigration is bound to be one of the central issues of the General Election campaign.

With hundreds of migrants illegally crossing the Channel daily and the promised summer flights to Rwanda nowhere in sight, how could it not be?

Yet the small boats are only a small part of the immigration story.

In the first four years of this parliament, just over 112,000 migrants arrived via the Channel - equivalent to a fair-sized town like Cheltenham or Maidstone in Kent.

But this figure is dwarfed by the number of migrants who have arrived perfectly legally, as revealed in data from the Office for National Statistics - four million in the last four years.

Meanwhile net migration - immigration minus emigration - was just over two million. That is basically Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and Manchester combined. The public has never given its consent for migration on anything close to this scale. In fact they have repeatedly voted for tighter controls.

Migrants may be able to bring knowledge and skills, but they cannot bring GP surgeries, roads or houses.

Failure to get migration under control means we will be forever running up a down escalator trying to catch up.

That is why we need policies like the ones set out by the Centre for Policy Studies in a recent report.

A streamlined Home Office. A "Migration Budget". Abolition of the graduate visa route and other back doors into low wage work. Better pay for social care workers and more places for UK medical students, to wean public services off immigration.

Policies which will get migration under control and down to a level the economy and the public can support.

research director Karl Williams said: "While the Government has taken some welcome action, there is much more that needs to be done. Migrants can bring skills with them but they cannot bring roads, GP surgeries, school places, or housing, and per capita GDP is suffering as a result."

Home Office sources stressed the figures covered a period before new reforms. Mr Cleverly says loopholes are being closed.

The number applying through the health and social care visa route has fallen by 76% to 12,400 in January to April this year.

And students applying to bring family have fallen by 79%

to 8,300. The Home Office has set out fresh plans to prevent the graduate visa route from being exploited.

Universities could lose their visa sponsor licences if students fail to pass checks, enrol or complete courses.

Recruitment agents will also be required to sign up to a "stringent framework" while students will have to prove they have enough cash and can speak English.

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan urged a balance "between controlling immigration and making sure the UK remains the 'go to' place for students around the world".

Marley Morris, at the IPPR think tank, said net migration was high in 2023 but is likely to "fall, possibly quite sharply, in the year ahead".

Picture: GETTY



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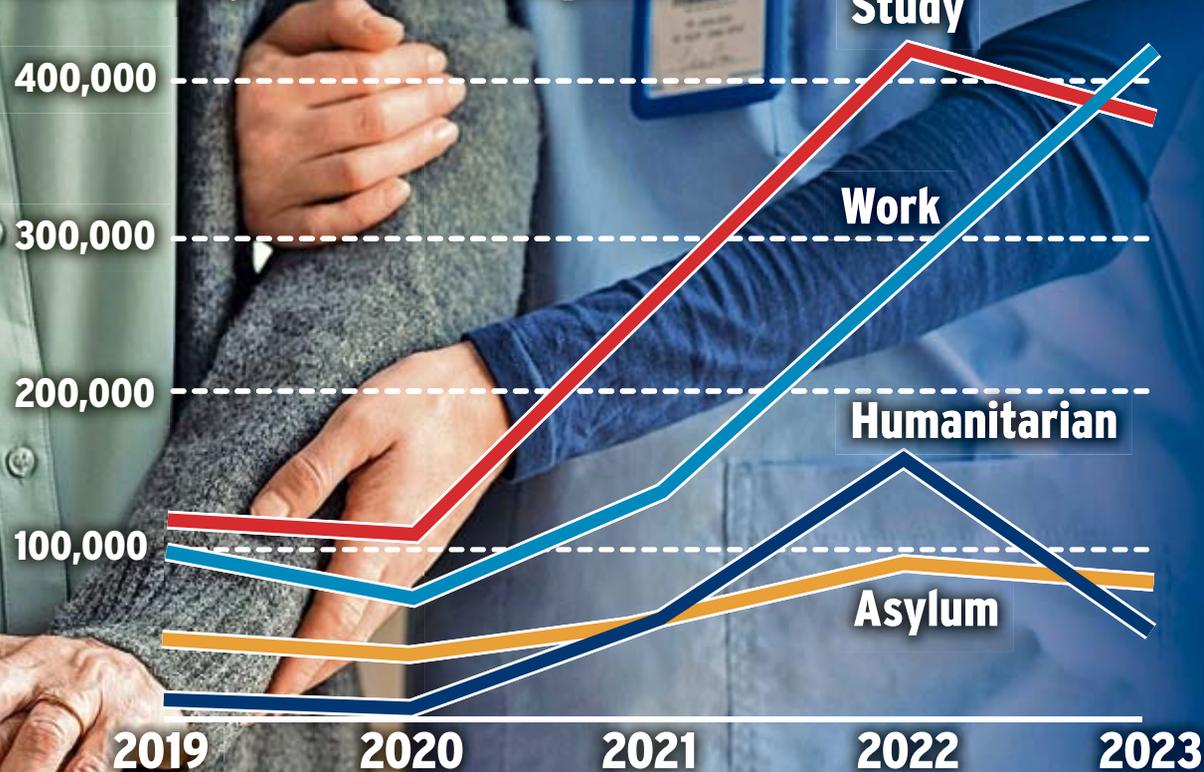
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ARRIVALS DOWN 10% LAST YEAR

must fall more steeply'

Non-EU immigration to the UK, by reason



ESTIMATED LONG-TERM NET MIGRATION TO UK



PA GRAPHICS. SOURCE: ONS

Rwanda still on if Tories triumph

EXCLUSIVE

By Michael Knowles Home Affairs Editor

MIGRANTS will be deported to Rwanda in the first two weeks of July if Rishi Sunak wins the General Election, Tories said yesterday.

The Prime Minister was forced to admit deportation flights to Kigali would not take off until after the vote on July 4.

But he warned the UK would become "a magnet" for thousands of illegal migrants if Labour got into power.

A Tory source has said "flights will go in the first two weeks of July" if the party wins the election, adding: "There is no change in our plans whatsoever. We will get the flights off."

"But Keir Starmer wants to stop the flights and has no plan to tackle illegal migration."

Almost 10,000 people have already crossed the Channel illegally this year and the Rwanda scheme is a crucial part of the Government's efforts to stop the boats.

But Labour's Sir Keir has vowed to scrap the scheme within days if he becomes PM.

Mr Sunak said: "I've got a plan. I'm prepared to take bold action and...multiple other countries across Europe have realised our approach is the right one. So everyone else is starting to agree with my approach."

"The one person that doesn't is Keir Starmer. He thinks we should just offer an amnesty to illegal migrants...It would make us a magnet for thousands of migrants."

Sir Keir hit back at Mr Sunak, saying: "I don't think he's ever believed that plan is going to work, so he has called an election."

● A High Court bid to force Dorset Council to use its planning powers to stop the Bibby Stockholm migrants ship being moored in Portland has failed – after the judge ruled the seabed cannot be viewed as "land" over which the council has control.

THE KEY FIGURES

NET MIGRATION The estimate stood at a provisional 685,000 for 2023, down 10% from 2022.

The figure for 2022 was revised upwards by 19,000 to 764,000 now more complete data is available.

Net migration is the difference between the 1.22 million estimated to have arrived last year and the 532,000 likely to have left.

TRENDS Levels of net migration have varied sharply. It was 93,000 in 2020 amid Covid curbs and then rose to 466,000 in 2021, before jumping to a record 764,000 in 2022. The Office for National Statistics said it was too

early to say if the 685,000 for 2023 "is the start of a downward trend".

BREXIT The number coming long-term was similar in 2023 (1.22 million) to 2022 (1.26 million).

But non-EU nationals were 85% of such immigration last year, while EU made up 10% and Britons 5%.

By contrast, non-EU made up 47% of the total in 2019, with 44% being from the EU. And in 2016, the Brexit vote year, 60% were EU nationals.

DEPENDANTS Work is the main reason for non-EU long-term stays (41%), overtaking study (37%) for the first time since 2019.

There has also been a shift towards

dependants of people on work visas. In 2022, main applicants were 55% of non-EU long-term work immigration, with dependants 45%. In 2023, the figures were 48% and 52%.

The ONS said those most likely to bring dependants come from Nigeria, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Zimbabwe and Ghana. Around 50% of dependants were 17 years or under.

UKRAINE The number arriving for humanitarian reasons stood at 50,000 in 2023, down sharply from 160,000 in 2022. Arrivals from Ukraine fell from 98,000 to 10,000.

EMIGRATION The number leaving long-term rose from 493,000 to

532,000, driven largely by non-EU nationals on a study visa.

For the first time since 2014 non-EU emigration exceeded EU emigration. Non-EU accounted for 44%, up from 33%, while EU nationals were 38%, down from 48%.

The 233,000 non-EU nationals emigrating is the highest since current estimates began in 2012.

Some 133,000 left who arrived on study visas, up from 91,000.

The ONS explained high levels of immigration for study post-pandemic has led to increased emigration "as some complete their studies".

However, many students are likely to seek a graduate visa, introduced in 2021, offering at least two years.

EXPRESS



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TV debates must not be optional for frit Starmer

DURING one of Margaret Thatcher's famous showdowns with hapless Labour leader Michael Foot, the Iron Lady suggested he was frightened of a General Election. She suggested he was "frit" – and that is a word that sums up Sir Keir Starmer. The present Labour leader is running scared from TV debates.

Rishi Sunak wants to face him in a succession of duels that will reveal the true mettle of each man and the flip-flopping barrister does not like that idea.

This election is about whether we want a left-winger with a radical past, who tried to get Jeremy Corbyn elected in Downing Street, or whether we should keep in the top job a PM who saved families from poverty with the furlough scheme and has slain the dragon of inflation.

It is right that they face the nation in a spin-free zone where their ideas and integrity are interrogated.

We know that Mr Sunak stays cool under pressure. He has been tested in multiple crises. We need to see if Sir Keir will melt under the TV lights or whether he can lay out a credible plan for the country.

If he flees from scrutiny, he should not be trusted with the nation's future.

Farage nobly steps aside

CONSERVATIVES will have punched the air when they heard Nigel Farage will not stand for Reform UK on July 4. On his watch, Ukip captured the imagination of voters across the country and it was he who encouraged voters to dare to dream of a future outside the EU.

He will always command respect for his contribution to our democracy. But he has wisely decided not to make a bid to be elected for Reform.

If the party were to stand in every seat in Britain, it would risk letting in a europhile Labour party that would scrap the Rwanda scheme – a disaster for anyone who wants to truly take back control of our nation's borders. Mr Farage should not tarnish his Brexit legacy by making it easier for Sir Keir Starmer to become PM.

Large numbers to tune in

CONFIRMATION that well-loved sitcom *Outnumbered* will return to our screens is an early Christmas present. It will be a joy to see the original cast reunited for a one-off special this December. We are told the Brockman family will be "older, but not necessarily wiser".

Britain loves a comeback, as Lord Cameron demonstrated when he returned to Rishi Sunak's Cabinet. *Outnumbered* ran for five hilarious series until 2014. We look forward to seeing the parents deal with the unique challenges that grown-up children bring. Family gatherings are a guaranteed source of drama and life's richest comedy.

I voted for Blair twice but I can't stomach Starmer

THIS year's General Election campaign, beginning as it does with an enormous poll lead for Labour, will have echoes of 1997 for many people. But not for me. I voted for Tony Blair twice – that year and again in 2001. But, sorry, I can't summon the least enthusiasm for voting for Sir Keir Starmer.

Some might argue this is a clear case of my becoming more conservative in middle age – I was 30 in 1997, and 57 now – but that isn't the case.

I had been eligible to vote in two prior elections and didn't find voting for Labour a remotely attractive proposition either time.

In some ways, I have since become more left-wing – I am more suspicious of big business now and I believe the housing market has desperately failed young people. But I never have voted for a high-tax Labour party in hock to the unions.

Tony Blair, however, promised something very different, and initially stuck to it. He combined the best of Conservative policies – an enterprise economy and, in the early days, fiscal responsibility – with a promise to do as Mrs Thatcher and John Major had often failed to do: ensure that those less fortunate would not be left behind.

Besides the all-important matter of economic management, he inspired me by promising a "right to roam" over moorland and heathland, which had previously been the preserve of grouse moors for the rich.

FAST forward to today and the Conservatives look as mutinous, worn-out and short of ideas as they did in 1997. While Rishi Sunak is a much better Prime Minister than the petulant John Major, the behaviour of some Tory backbenchers is even worse than it was then.

So why then do I find myself



ANCIENT PAST: Labour may not have the appeal to repeat Tony Blair's 1997 victory



Ross Clark
Political commentator

a million miles from voting for Starmer? Firstly, there are the irritating, though perhaps not all that important, things.

I would find it extremely difficult to vote for a politician who thinks a woman can have a penis.

And I found Starmer's "taking the knee" objectionable. I expect political leaders to denounce racism, but Starmer adopted the symbol of a political movement, Black Lives Matter, whose supporters wanted to defund the police and abolish capitalism. They also denounced the "Western-prescribed nuclear family". Did Starmer really share those values, or was he just siding with the political fad of the moment?

Even if I could persuade myself to overlook his opportunism, I certainly can't vote for what promises to be one of the most disastrous policies put before the British electorate in modern times – decarbonising

the electricity grid by 2030, with little indication about how it can be achieved or at what cost. Labour seems to think we can get by mainly on intermittent wind and solar energy – and without the gas power stations currently keeping the lights on. But that would require massive investment for expensive energy storage or an Uber-style surge price solution, making it prohibitively costly to use electrical appliances when the power supply is low.

Even the unions say it can't be done by 2030. GMB has warned him the country doesn't have the engineering capacity. Unite, on the other hand, has launched a campaign to reverse Labour's refusal to issue licences for new oil and gas extraction in the North Sea – which it says, quite correctly, will destroy jobs and make us dependent on imported fuel.

Starmer takes no notice of unions when they talk sense,

yet wants to help more militant ones to hold the country to ransom. He has vowed to abolish a new law requiring train staff, doctors, nurses and others to maintain a minimum level of service on strike days.

I'M afraid I don't believe Rachel Reeves' promise of fiscal discipline, either. That might be partly down to Gordon Brown who, after a few years of paying off government debt, returned to Labour's old ways and left the country with a massive deficit. But it is also because there is a big difference between now and 1997.

Starmer would take over with the nation in a much worse fiscal position, largely due to the pandemic. Yet Reeves will be under massive pressure from unions, quangocrats and others to open the spending floodgates and end "Tory austerity".

Labour doesn't need my vote to triumph, of course. We will probably wake up to a Starmer government on July 5. But if I, as a once-enthusiastic Blair voter, find myself repelled by Starmer, I wonder how many others feel the same?

Maybe this election isn't quite such a forgone conclusion as many make out.

'This election isn't such a foregone conclusion as many make out'

Leo McKinstry

Public services to be this election's elephant in room

OUR essential public services are badly failing to meet the nation's needs. Management is weak, productivity falling, waste endemic. The trade unions are more interested in protecting privileges than in driving improvements.

Only this week, an official inspectorate report painted a disturbing picture of the fire service, where "a rigid" and "outdated structure" created "too much spare capacity".

The inspector's words stated that "in some stations we visited, almost 25 per cent of the day shift was taken up with refreshment breaks and stand-down periods".

Yet, in this election, neither of the main parties dare to talk about public sector reform.

Labour do not want to alienate their union paymasters, while the Tories are permanently on the defensive because of the orchestrated sentimentality about "cuts".

BY FAR the most moving moment

this week in the Commons was the brave return of South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay, right, eight months after he was struck down by sepsis, an attack that cost him his hands, his feet and almost his life.

But he came through this terrible ordeal thanks to his astonishing courage, buttressed by the devotion of his wife and family, the support of his colleagues, and the brilliant care of NHS staff, who fitted him with hi-tech prosthetic limbs after his quadruple amputation.

Now nicknamed the Bionic MP, he made a generous and witty contribution at Prime Minister's Questions. Thanking the Speaker Lindsay Hoyle for his visits to his hospital bedside, Mackinlay joked: "Mind you, when the Speaker turned up in his robes, someone said of me, 'That poor guy must be dreadfully ill. He's had the funeral director in already.'"

MANCHESTER City could do the domestic double this weekend if they win the FA Cup, having already secured their fourth successive Premier League title.

They are undoubtedly one of the greatest-ever sides, yet the vast riches of England's top clubs have made the Premier League boringly uncompetitive.

In 14 seasons between 1959 and 1972, the First Division title was won by 11 different clubs.

In contrast, in the last 14 seasons since 2011, just five different clubs have won the Premiership.

Campaign can alter outcome completely

I WILL never forget the dramatic switch in emotion I felt shortly before the 1992 election, as I plunged from elation to despair. I was then working as an aide to Harriet Harman, one of the key figures in Labour's election campaign, and in that role, I had travelled to Sheffield for the huge rally meant to cement the party's position as the likely victor.

On the afternoon of the Sheffield event, Labour received a massive adrenalin shot when an opinion poll put them seven points ahead of the Tories. In my mood of surging confidence, I was carried away by excitement inside the arena that night, as leader Neil Kinnock and his team were introduced to the hysterically cheering crowd as the next government of Britain.

Kinnock himself, who had previously tried to project an image of statesmanlike gravitas, was caught up in the mood of intoxicating bombast and, like a rock star, yelled repeatedly "Well all right" at the start of his speech.

Back in London, the next morning Harriet brought me down to earth. She told me that, according to overnight private polling, the early public reaction to the Sheffield rally was overwhelmingly negative. The occasion was viewed as repellently triumphalist, Kinnock as a lightweight demagogue. From that moment, I could sense that Labour's campaign was in trouble.

By polling day, I knew the cause was hopeless. It was no surprise to me when John Major secured an overall Commons majority.

There were a host of problems with Labour in 1992, including punitive tax policies and weakness on defence, but Sheffield crystallised the electorate's concerns about the party and Kinnock's leadership. As Rishi Sunak embarks on his own campaign, far behind in the opinion polls, he can take some

Pictures: KEN LENNOX, ALAMY; PA



Airfix artist propelled children's imaginations skywards

LIKE so many boys of my generation, I grew up obsessed with Airfix models. It was a passion that later inspired me to write a number of books about the wartime RAF.

The appeal of Airfix did not just lie in their intricate plastic kits, but also the magnificent artwork on their boxes. During the heyday of Airfix in the 1960s

and 1970s, the company's chief artist was Roy Cross, a magician of the brushstroke who managed to capture drama, excitement and action with the evocative, highly accurate images he created.

Roy Cross has just died after reaching the age of 100, but he leaves behind a richer legacy than many more famous painters.

comfort from Labour's dismal experience then.

Conventional wisdom holds that campaigns make little real difference to the outcome of elections. But that view is too narrow and cynical. In fact, the real lesson of modern history is that a party's fortunes can be transformed for good or ill during several weeks of electioneering.

So when she called the 2017 election, Theresa May looked set for a landslide, only to lose her majority as she presided over a dismal campaign that featured both an explosively unpopular manifesto as well as confirmation of her chronic inability to engage with the public.

Two years earlier, David

Cameron surprised pundits with a decisive victory won by his clear message and energetic style. Similarly, Ted Heath defied all predictions with his 1970 triumph, achieved by hammering away at Labour's economic record, just as Clement Attlee won his unexpected landslide in 1945 by emphasising the Tories' limited commitment to post-war social reform.

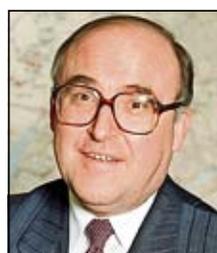
EVEN WITH his party around 20 points behind in the polls, Sunak could still pull himself back into contention. With his command of detail

and verbal dexterity, the Prime Minister is a highly effective performer, whereas Sir Keir Starmer can be awkward and brittle. Moreover, Labour has few clear policies beyond continual expansions of state bureaucracy, further doses of the woke agenda and more powers for their allies in the trade unions.

On the campaign trail, Labour could also be hit by a major scandal, a row over Gaza or a split over the EU. Given their commanding position, it is Labour's campaign to lose. But big upsets have occurred in the past.

The glory of genuine democracy is that nothing is decided until all the votes are counted.

WOULD-BE PM SMITH DIDN'T FIND POWER AT BOTTOM OF GLASS



VICE: John Smith

IF SIR Keir wins, he will become only the seventh Labour prime minister, a remarkable fact given that the party was founded as far back as 1900. It is often said John Smith, who died from a heart attack exactly 30 years ago this month, was the best PM Labour never had.

He was certainly an impressive operator, with his reassuring manner and natural authority. But he was no political Titan. In his fascinating memoirs, former

colleague Jack Straw wrote that Smith "lacked courage", was prone to outbursts of bad temper and was heavily dependent on alcohol. It was a point backed up by Tony Blair, who described Smith as a "tremendous toper. He could drink in a way I have never seen before or since".

In a damning conclusion, Straw said that he privately worried whether Smith "had the character to sustain him as Prime Minister".

TORY strategists breathed a huge sigh of relief when Nigel Farage announced yesterday that he won't be a candidate in this election.

As one of Britain's most influential political campaigners, he could well have doubled the Reform Party's vote. But without his charisma, it is Reform that faces being squeezed.



Pick-me-up...bees' drink

Bee-r that gives you real buzz

By **Richard Jenkins**

A MINIATURE six-pack of "bee-rs" to revive weary bumble bees has been launched by supermarket Lidl.

The tiny bottles, less than an inch high, contain sugar syrup to revive sleepy pollinators.

They have been designed to empower Britons to help struggling bees in need of a cooling drink.

The British Bee Charity has partnered with Lidl to give away the six-packs in a bid to boost the insects.

Lidl is also donating £10,000 to support bee conservation efforts and raise awareness of pollinator health in schools across the UK.

The charity's chairman Greg Bool said: "So much of our flora, fauna and food depends on pollinators.

Spotlight

"We're hugely excited to partner with Lidl to give bees and other pollinators the spotlight and support they need.

"The bee-rs campaign is a great opportunity for nature lovers to give local biodiversity a little helping hand, and Lidl's donation will support funding thousands of pupils getting out and about in nature and learning about the precious ecosystems around them."

Both urban and rural areas are experiencing a decline in flowers and greenery to fuel bee populations.

According to last year's WWF and Buglife report, 40% of bee species in the UK are undergoing "dramatic rates of decline".

To mark World Bee Day on Monday, Lidl stores nationwide are stocking honey-based drinks and selling bee-friendly plants such as French lavender, garden hydrangea, large hanging planters and alstroemeria.



Removed...the Asian hornet nest found at a Kent cafe last week

First nest was found at my roadside cafe

A QUEEN Asian hornet has built the first nest of its kind in the UK at a roadside cafe – as experts warn sightings must be reported immediately.

The invasive pest was found last week at Krusties Cafe off the A260 near Canterbury, Kent.

Owner Paul Jeffries said: "We've reported it to the relevant authorities and we've been told don't even attempt to take it down, which we won't.

"It looks like she's building her nest, waiting for a partner, but we are in a quandary about

By **Emily Braeger**

what to do as we don't want to leave it too long and have a bigger issue.

"We discovered it at the beginning of last week but only over the weekend did we find out it was a queen."

Paul had hired professional pest controllers to take

Owner...Paul alerted experts

down the nest for £150, but has managed to save himself the cash as a Government agency rushed to remove it for free.

He said: "It's quite a big job. Most people would think to smash it with a baseball bat but I can't risk my customers getting hurt.

"I'm just trying to do my bit for the community."

Anyone who sees one of the insects has been urged to

report it through the Asian Hornet app, as Paul did.

The cafe owner said experts from the Animals and Plant Health Agency arrived at the scene within an hour, and told him that a nest at this stage has never been seen in the UK before.

Paul added: "I have put out a plea to everybody to please report it because otherwise our ecosystem is going to completely change and I don't believe for one minute that it is a joke."

Traps fail to catch one invasive Asian hornet

AS experts warned the public to remain vigilant following increasing Asian hornet sightings, it emerged that attempts by a water company to catch them have failed.

Southern Water placed traps at its wastewater treatment sites last year as part of a pilot scheme.

It was the first of its kind to tackle the invasive species, and if it proved successful, it may have been rolled out further.

But data from Freedom of Information requests shared with the Daily Express revealed

EXCLUSIVE
By **Emily Braeger**

that, to date, Southern Water has "not caught any Asian hornets in the traps".

The water company said it had one suspected sighting – but it was identified as a queen wasp.

The Government is under pressure to intervene to prevent the spread of the predatory species.

Liberal Democrat environment spokesman Tim Farron, said: "It is deeply alarming that so

far, these traps have failed to capture Asian hornets. It shouldn't be up to volunteer groups and water companies to be leading this.

"Ministers have to step in and get a proper plan to keep out this harmful species. Britain needs a network of Asian hornet traps to keep them at bay. There is no time to waste."

Asian hornets have dark bodies, an orange stripe on the fourth abdomen section and yellow legs. They can eat up to 50 honey bees a day.

A record number of sightings of the species were reported in the UK last year, which prompted experts to urge people to remain vigilant.

The National Bee Unit said it destroyed 72 nests in 56 locations in 2023 – most of which were in Kent. While the species is not estab-

lished in the UK, early trapping is fundamental to eradication efforts, said the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

There have been 108 sightings of Asian hornets since 2016, of which 56 were in 2023. Eight have been reported in the UK so far this year.

The South-East – and Kent in particular – is on the front line of the battle to tackle the species.

The British Beekeepers Association confirmed an Asian hornet was recently found in a potting shed in Ash, near Sandwich, in March. It was about five miles from a nest destroyed in 2023, near Canterbury.

Another one in Folkestone was recorded in April. Sightings can be reported via the Asian Hornet Watch App.



Harmful species... the Asian hornet

Picture: JONATHAN BRADY/PA



Charge...Howard Phillips

Briton in dock over spy claim

By Paul Jeeves

A BRITISH man has been charged with being a Russian spy.

Howard Phillips, 64, was arrested yesterday by counter-terrorism police in central London.

He is accused of assisting a foreign intelligence service contrary to the National Security Act.

The Metropolitan Police said the charge relates to Russia.

It added: "The arrest is not connected to any other recent charges or investigations linked to NSA offences."

Phillips, of Harlow, Essex, appeared before Westminster magistrates yesterday where he was ordered to appear at the Old Bailey on June 14.



Assets...Clive Standish

Banker's £20m win in divorce

By Jess Glass

A RETIRED banker has won a Court of Appeal challenge to reduce the amount owed to his ex-wife by £20million.

Clive Standish, 71, and Anna Standish, 56, wed in 2005. The marriage ended in 2020.

After legal rows on how to split assets of £132million in 2022, High Court judge Mr Justice Moor awarded Mr Standish £87million and Mrs Standish £45million.

But lawyers for Mr Standish argued most of the assets were as a result of his "pre-marital endeavour" and his ex-wife should only get £25million. Yesterday Lord Justice Moylan ruled in his favour.

Vennells admits she could have prevented 'lost decade' of injustice

Ex-Post Office boss grilled

Under fire... Vennells yesterday

By Robert Kellaway

PAULA Vennells has admitted she could have prevented a "lost decade" of injustice against sub-postmasters but failed to do so.

The ex-Post Office boss claimed she could not remember whether her reason for dropping a review of prosecutions in 2013 was to avoid it becoming "front-page news".

However, she admitted it would have been "grossly improper" to have done so for such a reason.

The Horizon IT inquiry was shown an email to Ms Vennells from the Post Office's communications director Mark Davies in July 2013 discussing a potential review of cases going back five to 10 years.

The email said: "If we say publicly that we will look at past cases whether from recent history or going further back, we will open this up very significantly, into front-page news. In media terms it becomes mainstream, very high profile."

Ms Vennells replied: "You are right to call this out. I will take your steer." Sub-postmasters at the inquiry groaned out loud as Ms Vennells was asked if she took the decision to drop the review on the "advice of the PR guy" and said: "I don't remember".

Counsel to the Horizon inquiry Jason Beer KC pressed her on the



No memory...Vennells at the hearing

long-term effect of the move. He asked: "Do you agree your nascent idea here of a review of all prosecutions of false accounting, if it had been carried into effect, may have avoided a lost decade until miscarriages of justice were discovered?"

Ms Vennells, 65, admitted: "It may well have done."

She added: "I understand how this reads, but I don't recall making any conscious decision not to go back and put in place a review of all past criminal cases."

Ms Vennells claimed she had no

inkling that sub-postmaster convictions were unsafe in 2013, despite a "concerning" email from lead campaigner Alan Bates warning her of this fact.

Asked about a mediation scheme for sub-postmasters, she accepted that an email she sent in August 2013 stated: "The hope of mediation was to avoid or minimise compensation."

She admitted it sounded as if sub-postmasters were only welcome on the mediation scheme if they agreed to receive a "pat on the head and a token payment".

She told the inquiry: "I agree that it sounds like that now. This was not the case at all."

Manipulate

Mr Beer told her: "You wanted everyone to get the bare minimum to forget all of this and move on, didn't you?" Ms Vennells replied: "No."

The former chief executive also admitted attempting to "manipulate" the language relating to "bugs and glitches" in the Horizon system, even asking her husband for "non-emotive" alternatives.

His suggestion that the Post Office refer to "exceptions" and "anomalies" instead was adopted as corporate policy, the inquiry was told.

As she left the Central London

hearing Ms Vennells was accosted by a protester screaming "disgusting", "Beelzebub", and "rot in hell" at her repeatedly as she got into a taxi.

The woman shouting was not a sub-postmaster.

But the sub-postmasters who were leaving the inquiry at the same time were visibly upset by the protester's behaviour.

One shaken member of the group said: "This is about the injustice done to us, it's absolutely nothing to do with her."

Ms Vennells, an ordained priest, was answering questions as part of her second day of evidence to the inquiry after an emotional first day on which she became visibly upset on a number of occasions, twice breaking down in tears.

She is due to continue giving evidence today.

More than 700 sub-postmasters were prosecuted by the Post Office and handed criminal convictions between 1999 and 2015 as Fujitsu's faulty Horizon IT system made it appear as though money was missing at their branches.

Hundreds of sub-postmasters are still awaiting compensation, despite the Government announcing that those who have had convictions for theft and false accounting quashed are eligible for payouts of £600,000.

PAULA Vennells apologised or said "sorry" to the subpostmasters 23 times during her first day's evidence, the inquiry's transcripts have revealed.

The campaigner Alan Bates dismissed these as "just words" and described her evidence in general as "figure skating on the head of a pin".

Nevertheless, Ms Vennells arrived to give her second day's evidence in what appeared to be a much more relaxed frame of mind.

Gone was the bullet-proof, steel-grey look of day one. In its place came a sand-coloured blazer, grey tartan jumper and Hermes-style scarf.

While not exactly dressed-down, she did

COMMENT

ROBERT KELLAWAY

look more approachable and took her seat at the inquiry confidently, smiling even. "Ask me anything," she seemed to be saying.

Counsel to the inquiry Jason Beer KC certainly did.

Did she have any inkling that any evidence had emerged that might undermine the safety of the Post Office convictions? "No."

Was she aware her own legal team feared the Post Office would "open the floodgates" if they properly reviewed cases? "No." And

so it went on, denial on denial, failure of recollection and a general continuation of her "Not me, guv" defence.

Mr Beer did get Ms Vennells to agree that if she had implemented a review of all cases of false accounting she "may well" have avoided a "lost decade".

Asked if she had decided not to do so on the advice of a publicist, her answer "I don't remember" drew groans from the watching subpostmasters and an intervention from the chairman to call them to order.

The majority of one's sympathy naturally lay with the subpostmasters. But a significant share of it went to Mr Beer as he stuck valiantly to his task of nailing jelly to a wall.

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Rise in use of nicotine

By **Hanna Geissler**

NICOTINE use among young adults has risen due to the popularity of vaping.

A University College London study found the proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds who vaped rose from 9% in May 2021 to 29% in May 2023. Smoking declined from 25% to 21% over the same period. Overall nicotine use increased from 28% to 35%.

Dr Harry Tattan-Birch said: "The rapid rise in vaping would be less concerning if smoking rates had come down more rapidly."

The study was published in The Lancet Regional Health – Europe.

Jabs target cancer cells

By **Hanna Geissler**

SCIENTISTS have found a way to kill breast cancer cells which could offer longer protection.

Early findings from The Institute of Cancer Research targeted a protein called RIPK1 which plays a "crucial role" in helping diseased cells survive and hide.

A drug injected into the tumour site wrecked RIPK1 in human cells.

Tests in mice showed this trained the immune system to destroy any cancer cells left.

The study, published in the journal *Immunity*, was funded by Breast Cancer Now. Professor Pascal Meier said: "This could make treatment more effective."

Consumers optimistic

By **Eleanor Barlow**

CONSUMER confidence has continued its "upward momentum" despite the cost-of-living crisis, a survey suggests.

GfK's long-running Consumer Confidence Index rose by two points in May. Confidence in the general economic situation over the next 12 months had a four-point boost to minus 17 – 13 points higher than last May.

Linda Ellett, of accountants KPMG, said: "Increasing confidence levels are yet to translate into a notable uplift in discretionary spending.

"Some people are still having to adjust to higher mortgage costs."

Pictures: NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

'Bubbly with a giddy laugh'... girl, 10, killed in mudslide on school trip

By **Paul Jeeves**

THE heartbroken family of the 10-year-old killed in a mudslide yesterday paid tribute to their "bubbly" little girl with "a giddy laugh".

Tragic Leah Harrison loved football and had dreams of one day playing for the Lionesses national squad.

But she was swept to her death on Wednesday during a school trip to celebrate the end of Sats exams.

The landslip happened shortly after Leah and her classmates had enjoyed lunch at Carlton Adventures, a council-run, outdoor activity centre on the Cleveland Way, on the edge of the North York Moors.

It had been raining heavily but instructors and teachers led the children up the popular walking route.

Dozens of emergency service workers raced to the scene and spent hours battling to save Leah.

But North Yorkshire Police later confirmed the Year 6 pupil, at Mount Pleasant Primary School, in Darlington, had lost her life.

They added no one else had been hurt in the incident.

Describing the poor conditions, Gary Clarke, call-out officer for Cleveland Mountain Rescue, said: "It was very wet all day, quite foggy and misty up there and very cold and it made the conditions very hard going."



Scene...Carlton Bank close to where the tragedy happened

He added 19 rescuers initially turned out to help, but their numbers increased to 30 as the severity of the operation became apparent.

They used a "technical rope rescue system" to recover Leah's body from the dangerous landslip.

Mr Clarke added: "We're not exactly sure what happened, but from what we can gather – what we saw in that scene – it was just something of a freak force of nature accident.

"It's something that we've never seen or experienced before."

In their tribute, Leah's relatives said: "Leah Harrison, the happy, bubbly, go-lucky little girl. The beautiful smile, the giddy laugh, the silly jokes. You

will never ever be forgotten baby girl. You will achieve your dream and become a player for the Lionesses.

"Spread those wings. May you rest in paradise."

The family are being supported by specially trained police officers.

Nick Blackburn, chief executive of the Lingfield Education Trust, which runs Mount Pleasant, also paid tribute, saying: "Leah was a much-loved part of our school." He described the incident as a "freak event" and added: "This isn't a group of kids just walking off into the moors somewhere.

"The walk is risk assessed at the time. They are with trained instructors." The mudslide happened close to

Carlton Bank, a steep hill whose summit is on Wainwright's Coast to Coast and Cleveland Way walking routes.

One local said: "It's a devastating situation. It was pouring with rain, which would have made the area sloppy and the rescue quite difficult. We've been left with a lot of questions about what happened."

Others described the route the children took as "difficult" because "there are a lot of old mines there".

Another local said: "The hillside surface was crumbling away but I don't know if it's still like that. There are always hikers going up there and dog walkers."

Education chiefs and the health and safety executive will now work with police to investigate the tragedy.

Devastated

Denise McGuckin, managing director of Hartlepool Borough Council, which runs Carlton Adventures, confirmed the tragedy happened "during one of the centre's instructor-led outdoor education forest walks".

She added: "We are utterly devastated and heartbroken... We are working closely with our partner agencies to carry out a full investigation and we are temporarily suspending all outdoor activities and residential breaks managed by the council."

Tracy dies on beach after call for new assisted law



Listened to the waves...Tracy

A BRITISH woman had an assisted death "on a beach in the sunshine" after urging the UK to change its laws.

Tracy Hickman, 57, was diagnosed with terminal breast cancer in March 2019.

The dual national was eligible for an assisted death in New Zealand, where she had lived for 20 years.

Before she died, Tracy sent a message to British politicians – who are being urged to amend laws on assisted dying in this country: "Look at what New Zealand has done and do it even better.

"There is a lot of focus on the right to life, but people should have the right to a peaceful, gentle

By **Hanna Geissler** Health Editor

death." New Zealand has allowed assisted dying for terminally ill, mentally competent adults with less than six months to live since 2021. The Daily Express Give Us Our Last Rights crusade backs calls for a similar law here.

Accountant and former ultramarathoner Tracy said assisted dying would allow her to "be in control". She added: "For me, just existing isn't enough. I'm not the person I was, I can't live the life I want to."

Her death was confirmed by close friend and podcaster Dom Harvey in an Instagram post on Wednesday in

which he wrote: "Tracy Hickman passed away peacefully today.

"She was on a beach in the sunshine, surrounded by her loved ones. It was an honour being able to share her story."

Tracy, who returned to the UK in March to say her goodbyes, previously described her plans for her final moments while appearing on Dom's podcast.

She said: "I will hopefully have some chocolate for breakfast because I'm a real chocoholic.

"And then I'm going to go to a beach with the people I really love...and listen to the waves, see the sea, and put the rest of the medicine in."

Drug plea to extend life

By **Hanna Geissler**

A NURSE desperate for more time “to enjoy life with my family and friends” is one of more than 250,000 people who have signed a breast cancer drug petition.

Enhertu can give patients like Tracy Pratt, 52, with low levels of a hormone called HER2, six more months.



Give me hope ...Tracy Pratt

However, in March the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence ruled it was not cost-effective

for NHS England.

Terminally ill Tracy said she was in shock after hearing the news. The drug “would give me more time to travel and continue to work as a nurse”.

She added: “Ultimately it would give me hope.”

£15m AI tool sees disease

By **Martyn Brown**

RISHI Sunak has hailed a £15million “game-changing” AI funding boost for radiotherapy departments in England to help fight cancer.

The Prime Minister said the much-needed investment will help drive down waiting times and modernise the NHS.

The technology locates cancer cells 2.5 times quicker than doctors alone, speeding up treatment.

It comes as a welcome boost to the Daily Express crusade for more radiotherapy funding.

The tech automatically reviews a CT or MRI scan, helping doctors quickly distinguish between cancerous cells and healthy ones.

Better bones pledge a major victory for Express crusade

By **Hanna Geissler**
Health Editor

SPECIALIST units that can spot osteoporosis early will be expanded to cover every area of England by 2030, the Health Secretary says.

The move is a huge victory for the Sunday Express Better Bones crusade, which highlighted how thousands of older people were being denied screening.

Only 57% of patients in England now have access to it – and the preventative care which follows a diagnosis of osteoporosis.

Victoria Atkins paid tribute to the campaign as she pledged action on conditions which “disproportionately affect the female population, like osteoporosis”.

She told the House of Commons: “I listened to the tireless campaigning of the Royal Osteoporosis Society and the campaign of the Express and so I want to confirm that this Government has the ambition to expand the use of fracture liaison services to every integrated care board in England and achieve 100% coverage by 2030.”

Preventable

The Health Secretary added: “Every year in England, some 67,000 fractures are suffered by people of working age, the majority of whom are women and many of them are entirely preventable.”

Osteoporosis weakens bones to the point where they can break easily. Around 3.5 million people are thought to suffer with it, but most are undiagnosed.

A fracture is often the first sign of osteoporosis.

The Sunday Express campaign highlighted how thousands of patients were missing out on access to NHS frac-



Key...access to scans can save lives and money

ture liaison services, which are considered the gold standard for care. They assess whether a break is caused by osteoporosis, using technology such as bone density scans. The clinics can then develop treatment plans to reduce the risk of further injuries.

Craig Jones, chief

executive of the Royal Osteoporosis Society, said: “People with osteoporosis are pleased fracture liaison services – the world standard for diagnosing osteoporosis early – have been enshrined in Government policy. It’s desperately important that whichever party wins the election honours this commitment.”

“Every year we delay the set-up of these life-saving services 8,000 more people die following broken

hips which could have been prevented. So let’s be bolder and get these crucial clinics up and running well before 2030.”

The RPS estimates nationwide access would prevent 74,000 fractures over five years, saving the NHS £665million. The Express campaign also called for £30million extra investment for services in England, Wales and Scotland and a fracture tsar for each UK nation.

COMMENT

DAVID WOODING

Sunday Express Editor



YESTERDAY’S action plan is a stunning victory for a year-long campaign by the Sunday Express.

Our Better Bones crusade highlighted how simple screening for osteoporosis would save up to 1,600 lives a year and cut £665million off NHS outlay for treatment.

In one of the longest campaigns run by a newspaper, we built a powerful case for widening access to preventative scans.

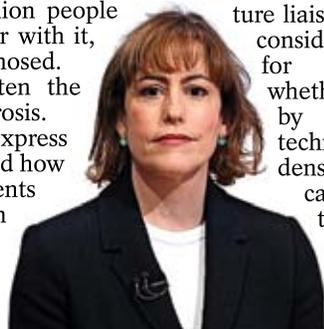
It highlighted the devastating effects of the condition in interviews with celebrity sufferers and grandparents terrified to hug their grandchildren for fear of breaking a bone.

The crusade, run in partnership with the Royal Osteoporosis Society, exposed the myth that people with the condition are all retired, and revealed that since we began 2.6 million sick days have been taken owing to fracture.

We garnered the support of 271 MPs and peers, 43 charities and the leaders of seven Royal Medical Colleges, who speak for 200,000 doctors and 450,000 nurses.

A few weeks ago, a rival newspaper woke up to the issue and launched a copycat campaign. Sadly, since ours was launched, 1,800 people have died early from broken hips, which could have been prevented with bone drugs.

But by taking action, Victoria Atkins will undoubtedly save tens of thousands more from the same fate.



Victoria Atkins

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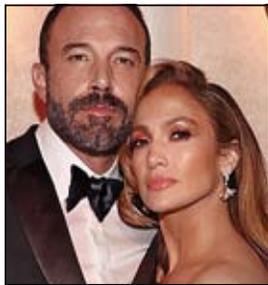


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Divorce...Ben and Jen

Lopez quiz over split rumours

By **Laura Harding**

JENNIFER Lopez batted off a question about her marriage to Ben Affleck amid swirling rumours they will divorce.

The actress and singer was promoting her new Netflix film *Atlas* in Mexico City when she was asked for the truth behind the reports.

Lopez, 54, told the journalist: "You know better than that."

She has been promoting her latest film without Affleck by her side. He was absent from the Met Gala this month – despite Lopez being co-chairwoman.

Lopez and Affleck, 51, who were engaged before a high-profile split in 2004, finally married in July 2022.



Offer...Anthea and Janet

Stars vow to rescue Blue Peter

By **Ashleigh Rainbird**

ANTHEA Turner and Janet Ellis have offered to return to "save" *Blue Peter* as the BBC puts its production out to tender.

Anthea, 63, who hosted in the 1990s, and 1980s presenter Janet, 68, want to help bring it back to its former glory.

At the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this week, Anthea told Janet: "We could save *Blue Peter*. Of course we'd go back."

The CBBC show is now fronted by Shini Muthukrishnan, 22, Joel Mawhinney, 25, and Abby Cook, 21.

The BBC's invitation to tender for *Blue Peter* states: "We are open to suggestions for refreshing presenters on a regular basis."

'Losing Dad made me realise I was stronger'

Finding reserves...main picture and inset, Mollie King's magazine photoshoot

By **Mark Jefferies**
Showbusiness Editor

SINGER and radio DJ Mollie King has spoken about the enormity of losing her dad and becoming a mum within a fortnight – saying she was "stronger" than she realised.

Mollie is engaged to former England cricketer Stuart Broad, 37, who proposed on New

Year's Day 2021.

The former member of girl pop band The Saturdays became pregnant the following year and gave birth to Annabella in

November 2022. But that month of her life was bittersweet as she also lost her father Stephen.

Mollie, 36, recalled: "When I found out I was pregnant, my dad was the healthiest person I knew. He was really athletic.

"He'd run three marathons in his time and was still super strong. And so, to find out halfway through my pregnancy that he had a brain tumour and that we didn't have long with him was such a shock. A shock feels like an



'The best'...with Stephen and Stuart. Left, with Annabella

understatement." She also told *Women's Health* in a cover spread interview: "The

lesson is just be kind to yourself, you never know

what's around the corner.

"That's the hardest I've been pushed, learning to be a mum and my dad passed away 10 days after the birth of Annabella. The big thing I learned is that we are stronger than we think we are."

The Comic Relief cycling fundraiser was very close to her beloved dad, saying he was the "best you could ask for" and has previously spoken about being glad he was alive long enough to hold his granddaughter.

● Full interview on WH app for members or in magazine on May 28.



Drinkers left short in pubs and bars

MORE than two-thirds of pints and wine glass measures in pubs and bars are short, Trading Standards reveals.

Officers visited 77 establishments and were served 96 under-size measures in 137 orders. Nearly a third were short by 5% or more. Beer was the worst with 86% under while 43% of 175ml glasses of wine were wrong.

The biggest short measure was 15% on a £3.20 glass of wine in Walsall, West Midlands. The next worst was a £7.20 glass in Belfast which was

By **Josie Clarke**

under by 13.4%. The survey found that the average beer drinker was losing out by £88.40 a year with £114.40 on wine orders.

John Herriman, of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute, said: "It is the first time that we have been able to build a national picture of how widespread short measuring of drinks is. We are calling on the hospitality sector to ensure consumers get value

for money by making sure they are correctly measuring the drinks they are serving."

The average price of a bottle of red wine rose by 8% in the last year with a pint of lager up by 5.6%.

Nik Antona, chairman of The Campaign for Real Ale, said: "Consumers shouldn't have to feel short changed when they support their favourite pubs, social clubs



and taprooms. The idea that 70% of all beer is being short measured is extremely concerning."

Emma McClarkin, of the British Beer and Pub Association, said: "Industry guidance says the measure of beer served with a head must include a minimum of 95% liquid. Customers who would like less of a head should ask for a top-up and should never be refused."

Picture: AFP, EPA, AP



High alert...Chinese military drill, main. Left, Taiwan's leader Lai, centre, coastguard, right, and jets on standby, top

China launches military drill to 'punish' Taiwan

TAIWAN scrambled jets and put its land, sea and air forces on alert after China surrounded the island in provocative military exercises.

Beijing said its manoeuvres, simulating an invasion, were intended to "punish" the self-ruling nation for its "separatist acts".

The drills, part of surprise two-day military war games by the regime, came days after the island inaugurated its president Lai Ching-te, who China has called a "dangerous troublemaker".

Experts warn the threat against Taiwan is at its highest level yet, with the West distracted by wars in Europe and the Middle East and by UK and US elections.

Former US Admiral Mike Hewitt

EXCLUSIVE
By Callum Hoare and Oli Smith

told the Daily Express: "I think they are weighing Western weakness on the world stage as a chance to continue to flex their muscles in the Pacific. The threat level vis-à-vis Taiwan has never been higher."

MP Tobias Ellwood fears China could seek to exploit these pressure points to "seriously advance their authoritarian agenda". The former chair of the Defence Select Committee said regimes such as China and Russia would time their next moves for when the West is concentrating on other matters.

He said: "Our world is becoming more dangerous as our adversaries

seek to exploit the West's ability to defend our global order. There is no doubt both China and Russia are aware America will be deeply distracted by its own Presidential elections – offering a huge opportunity to seriously advance their authoritarian agendas knowing a US-led Western response is likely to be muted."

Taiwan's military blasted the surprise drills as "irrational provocations" as its missile forces were told to monitor possible targets.

The drills almost completely block-

Fears...MP Tobias Ellwood

aded Taiwan, around the main island as well as Taipei-controlled Kinmen, Matsu, Wuqiu and Dongyin.

Taiwanese media cited military expert Chieh Chung saying they are aimed at "simulating a full-scale armed invasion of Taiwan". Chinese state media have shown People's Liberation Army fighter jets carrying live missiles and firing mock strikes against "high-value military targets".

PLA spokesman Li Xi said the drills would "serve as a strong punishment for the

separatist acts of 'Taiwan independence' forces and a stern warning against the interference and provocation by external forces".

President Lai and predecessor Tsai Ing-wen are from the pro-independence Democratic Progressive party, which China considers to be separatist.

It is feared the drills are only the start of an escalation from Beijing. Analysts said the name of the exercise, suffixed 2024A, suggested more targeting Taiwan could be expected this year.

Wen-ti Sung, a political analyst and China expert at the Australian National University, said: "This feels like a prelude to more and bigger military drills to come."



Poland considering shooting down Russian missiles

By Will Stewart

POLAND is mulling using its air defences to knock out Russian missiles over Ukraine.

The move is in response to an appeal from Kyiv president Volodymyr Zelensky but could inflame Moscow.

Polish foreign ministry spokesperson Pawel Wronski said: "This issue is being considered from a legal and technical point of view, but there are no decisions in this matter."

The Nato state would not transfer its air defences to Ukrainian territory, but is discussing whether to shoot at Russian missiles from Polish territory.

Such an initiative could apply to Russian missiles targeting western Ukraine close to Poland's borders. In at least one case, on



Firepower...Kremlin troops loading missiles

March 24, a Russian missile remained in Polish airspace for 39 seconds as it attacked Ukraine.

Nato war planes were scrambled amid the alarming incursion.

According to Mr Wronski, the ramifications

of shooting down Russian missiles have been considered in the light of this incident.

But he added: "There is no possibility of the Polish air defence system being outside the country's borders."

International law experts need to assess the potential legal implications of this action, as the missiles carry warheads weighing hundreds of kilograms and could cause significant damage upon impact.

Technical experts are evaluating the conditions under which these missiles could be intercepted.

Russia could see such a move as direct Nato involvement in the conflict.

Moscow has threatened that tactical – or battlefield – nuclear weapons could be used in such a situation.

NORWAY TIGHTENS BORDER CONTROL

FEARS of sabotage have prompted Norway to tighten its restrictions on Russian visitors.

Those with tourist visas issued before regulations were tightened in 2022 or issued by another European country would be barred from entering Norway as of next week.

Justice minister Emilie Enger Mehl said the move was a response to "Russia's illegal war against Ukraine". Norway has a 123-mile-long border with Russia in the Arctic.

Pictures: NASA/PA



Ruins...Greenfield in US

Five die as twister destroys US town

By **Mark Reynolds**

TORNADOES killed five and injured at least 35 after tearing through the US state of Iowa.

Four died in the small town of Greenfield where many homes were destroyed.

The US National Weather Service reported winds up to 165mph that were so destructive it took authorities more than a day to account for all residents.

Debris was scattered over 100 miles.

A fifth person, named as Monica Zamarron, 46, was killed about 25 miles from Greenfield. Officials have yet to release the names of the other victims.

Iowa was struck by 21 tornadoes on Tuesday.

Greenfield resident Kimberly Ergish dug through what used to be her home, looking for family photos. She said: "If it weren't for bumps and bruises, I would think it didn't happen."

On Wednesday the city of Temple, Texas, issued an emergency after powerful storms ripped through the area.

All work, no pay...

By **Francesca Tuckey**

WORKERS typically do five and a half hours of unpaid overtime each month – and a quarter did not take their full holiday last year.

The most common reason was to get things done (26%), followed by an unrealistic workload (20%). A culture of unpaid overtime was also a big factor.

As a result, 20% want to find a new job but 14% are too busy to look. Time management firm ProTime, which commissioned the poll, said: "Excessive workloads and unrealistic expectations are burning employees out, killing productivity."



Out of this world...the star-forming Messier 78 and, inset, spiral galaxy NGC 6744

Euclid sends its first snapshots of space

BABY stars and unknown galaxies sparkle and shine in the largest ever images of space.

The photos – the first to be captured by Europe's Euclid telescope a million miles above Earth – capture vast new areas of the sky in unprecedented detail.

Scientists are poring over them in a bid to unravel some of the secrets of the cosmos.

Dr Michelle Collins, of the University of Surrey – who is helping the Euclid team identify new galaxies, said: "These stunning images are just the tip of the iceberg. This telescope can reveal millions of new objects in a

By **Nilima Marshall**

single day. We're only just beginning to realise its potential."

Euclid was launched by the European Space Agency, of

which the UK is a member, and a consortium on July 1 last year.

Five images have been released and reveal a stellar nursery called Messier 78, seen in the main image, two galaxy clusters known

as Abell 2764 and Abell 2390, a group of galaxies named the Dorado and a spiral galaxy dubbed NGC 6744.

Messier 78 is the nearest location at 1,300 light years from Earth, while Abell 2390 – in the constellation of Pegasus – is the furthest at 2.7 billion.

The hope is that data from Euclid will shed light on two of the universe's greatest mysteries: dark energy and dark matter.

The images, taken by a camera, spectrometer and photometer, are at least four times sharper than anything captured on ground-based telescopes.

THE NEAREST 'HABITABLE' PLANET

OUR closest neighbouring planet that could support human life has been discovered – 40 light years away.

Gliese 12b orbits its star every 12.8 days and is slightly smaller than Earth but experts are unsure about any life-giving atmosphere.

Dr Vincent Van Eylen, of University College London, said despite being 15 times closer to its sun than our planet it is "such a small star the temperature may be quite similar to that on Earth".

By **Mark Reynolds**

AN award-winning stamp expert was unfairly fired by an auction house after he accused a member of the world's oldest philatelic society of sexually harassing him.

Owners of the auctioneers "engineered" Ben Palmer's dismissal for gross misconduct in the fallout of his demand not to work with a director of The Royal Philatelic Society, an employment tribunal found.

It was told that Cavendish Philatelic Auctions director Dr Greg Spring and wife Susan "contrived" board minutes.

Sham

And the tribunal heard that a series of emails from Mrs Spring, their daughter and other staff claimed world-renowned specialist Mr Palmer had made them feel "unsafe".

Now, he is in line to receive compensation after an employment judge ruled he was unfairly dismissed in a "sham" process.

The tribunal heard Mr Palmer started working for Derby-based Cavendish – which describes itself as

Stamp expert unfairly fired after his bosses 'engineered' dismissal

"international auctioneers of fine stamps, postal history, related books and ephemera" – in 2016. He became a director and still owns half the shares of the company, but was sacked for gross misconduct in April last year.

The tribunal was told his relationship with the Springs was "largely positive and productive" until the end of 2021. It deteriorated after Mr Palmer, who was based in London, claimed he was sexually harassed by an unnamed

director of The Royal Philatelic Society and did not want the firm to deal with him any more. He was accused of staging a "go-slow" after their "acrimonious" falling out.

But the tribunal ruled in favour of Mr Palmer, concluding Dr Spring was "determined to paint [Mr Palmer] as obstinate, unproductive and deceptive, even in the face of plausible explanations". A hearing to determine his compensation is due at a later date.



'Accusations'...Susan and Greg Spring



Fugitive...Faaris Zaman

Drug boss lurking in family loft

By Paul Jeeves

A MAJOR drug dealer who fled the UK while on bail was found three years later hiding in his parents' loft.

Faaris Zaman, 27, was arrested in July 2020 after officers cracked the encrypted messaging platform EncroChat which he had used to peddle £1.3million of cocaine and heroin in West Yorkshire.

He vanished overseas but a surprise 2023 raid found him in the attic of his parents' Bradford home with £89,000.

NCA operations manager Nigel Coles said: "This was high-level and organised criminality and his messages showed he was a significant operator."



Hair-raising...nit close up

Head lice spray sales hotting up

By Hanna Geissler

SALES of head lice treatment spray have surged by 121% in the warmer weather, said Superdrug.

Niamh McMillan, of the high street chain, said the hair-dwelling critters are most common in four to 12-year-olds.

She added: "During the warmer summer months, there is greater opportunity for head lice to be transmitted from head-to-head as children play outside more." Head lice – or nits – can usually be removed by wet combing with the help of lotions and sprays. If they don't work, then pharmacists can advise on different treatments options.

Rebel president is off his rocker



Taking Mick... Stones fan Milei belts out his anthem

By Emily Braeger

ARGENTINA'S president Javier Milei ignored his country's blues to indulge his rock star fantasies at an arena gig to launch his new book.

Milei, 53, strutted across the stage hollering: "I am the lion, I am the king of a lost world" amid pulsating lights and smoke in capital Buenos Aires.

He then shrugged off his leather jacket to reveal a suit and told his 10,000 supporters: "I wanted to do this because I really wanted to sing."

The economist-turned-politician, who founded a Rolling Stones tribute band at school, used the song Panic Room by hard rockers La Renga during his campaign and won power in December.

Stomp

But Argentina is suffering its worst economic crisis in 20 years with more than half its people in poverty and annual inflation surging towards 300%.

Free marketer Milei has slashed the country's budget and stomped over political convention.

Launching his book Capitalism, Socialism and the Neoclassical Trap, he said: "Market failures do not exist. First, check there is no state intervention."

He had planned to promote it at a book fair but its organisers criticised him for defunding cultural institutions. Milei thanked them on Wednesday night, saying: "With an attempted boycott, you gave us this party."

Palestinians targeted as forces shell school

By Chris Hughes

ISRAELI forces shelled a Gaza school yesterday where thousands of Palestinians had taken shelter as Hamas fighters were feared to be regrouping.

Last night the number of casualties at al-Shawa School in Beit Hanoun in the north of the Strip was unknown.

The attack came as an internal investigation revealed Israeli troops were responsible for the death of a UN worker 10 days before.

The 46-year-old Indian national was in a UN marked car in Rafah in south Gaza when it was shelled then hit with grenades on May 13. A Jordanian colleague was injured.

Torture

It was the first time a foreign UN worker has been killed in the territory and follows the deaths of seven World Central Kitchen aid staff, including three Britons, in early April.

Following that incident, the Israel Defence Forces said it had tightened its guidance on safeguarding humanitarian vehicles and workers.

Its latest probe suggests the UN car was on a prohibited road with no coordination with its soldiers.

Meanwhile, UN expert Alice Jill Edwards called on Israel to investigate allegations of degrading treatment of

KIDNAP FOOTAGE RELEASED 'TO GET LEADERS BACK TO THE TABLE'

Pictures: AP; PA



Horror...footage shows Naama being taken hostage

HARROWING footage showing an Israeli teenager being taken hostage was released by her family to remind world leaders why they must push for her release, her brother says.

Naama Levy, 19, was one of seven young women seized by Hamas gunmen on October 7 at the Nahal Oz military base, where they were monitoring surveillance cameras of the nearby Gaza perimeter fence.

Some 128 hostages remain captive under Hamas control within the

By Mark Reynolds

war-torn strip. Naama's brother Amit said: "We hope that this video will encourage all sides to get back to the table."

In the new footage, her face covered in blood, Naama – previously part of an Israeli-Palestinian peace initiative – tells the kidnapers in English: "I have friends in Palestine."

Amit said she behaved "like the true superhero she is, like a hero fighting for her life".



Palestinian detainees. The special rapporteur on torture said she had received claims of beatings and people blindfolded and handcuffed for long periods.

She added: "I am particularly concerned that this emerging pattern of violations, coupled with an absence of accountability and transparency, is creating a permissive environment for further abusive and humiliating treat-

ment of Palestinians." Yesterday it was revealed that a two-day Israeli operation in the West Bank had killed 12 Palestinians and wounded 25. Two Hezbollah operatives were killed in Lebanon.

On the same day, Israel's war cabinet instructed its negotiators to push for fresh peace talks in a bid to secure the release of 128 hostages still held in Gaza. And a suspected Yemeni

Houthi missile splashed down in the Red Sea near the crucial Bab el-Mandeb Strait but caused no damage to a passing commercial vessel.

Today the UN's top court will decide on whether to impose more requirements on Israel. The International Court of Justice is responding to a fourth request for the UN to impose controls on Israel's military in a bid to rein back the attack on Rafah.

Pictures: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER



More work to do...Brooke

'Kids aged 10 armed for safety'

By Paul Jeeves

BROOKE Kinsella says too many youngsters carry blades in the "blinker belief it will make them safer" as a report found the knife epidemic even affects 10-year-olds.

Ex-EastEnders star Brooke, whose brother Ben, 16, was stabbed to death in 2008, spoke following the findings of the anti-knife crime charity set up in his name.

Myth

The Ben Kinsella Trust said more than a third of youngsters do not feel safe and one in four feel carrying a knife helps protect them. Some 6% of 10 and 11-year-olds have considered it.

A quarter said they knew someone who had carried a knife.

Brooke, 40, said: "Too many are prepared to carry one in the blinkered belief they think it will make them safer. The trust will continue to help schools to inform young people about the dangers of blades and shatter the myth they keep you safe."

Mother of stab victim praised for bleed kit campaign



Stating their case at No10...Leanne, Liz and Carly

A GRIEVING mum has been praised at 10 Downing Street for asking that every secondary pupil be taught to use a bleed kit and about the devastating impact of knife crime.

Leanne Ekland's 16-year-old son Max Dixon and his best friend Mason Rist, 15, were fatally stabbed while out for a pizza in Bristol last January.

She and friend Carly Kingdon, 35, are campaigning for more bleed kits nationally with lessons in the curriculum on using them and the consequences of carrying knives.

In Knife Crime Awareness Week the pair, the Daily Express and their local councillor - Bristol South Tory parliamentary candidate Liz Brennan - visited No 10.

Chief Secretary to the Treasury Laura Trott at her "Inspiring Women" reception told Leanne, 45, and Carly: "I've read all about what you've been doing - it's such great campaign."

Later Ms Trott said: "Both Leanne and Carly are real champions of their community and it was a real pleasure and honour to celebrate their vital work, alongside Liz Brennan.

"We must break the tragic cycle of violence that drives gang-led knife crime, and their work will help to do

EXCLUSIVE By Chris Riches

this." Mum-of-four Leanne said the No10 visit gave her a "real boost and made me more determined".

She said: "We must educate young people more, formally in schools on the curriculum, about exactly what carrying knives can lead to - and how dangerous knives are."

Carly's family help run Park Knowle FC, where Max played from age eight.

She said: "We are fundraising to have our own bleed kits put together

and distributed so they can be easily accessible in communities.

"But on top of that, education is key. We have to do more. The visit to Downing Street was an amazing experience and gives our campaign real energy."

Liz added: "I was so honoured to have accompanied Carly and Leanne - these knife tragedies keep happening and they need to stop."

Knife crime last year soared by 7% to 49,489 offences.

Leanne and Carly, of Knowle West, Bristol, have launched a petition to

"Make bleed kit training part of the secondary school curriculum."

Yesterday it had more than 3,300 signatures but needs 10,000 for the Government to look at the call and 100,000 for a debate in Parliament.

The secondary curriculum says pupils should know about gangs and exploitation as well as laws relating to "abuse, grooming, coercion, harassment, rape and domestic abuse".

And pupils are taught "concepts of basic first aid, for example dealing with common injuries, including head injuries" and how to raise the alarm.

But Liz, Carly and Leanne are calling for compulsory teaching on the danger of carrying knives, how knife crime can affect not just victims but their families and also how to use a bleed kit in case of an emergency.

Schools minister Damian Hinds said schools already "tailor teaching to suit issues their pupils face", including knife crime.

Four teenagers and Anthony Snook, 44, have been charged with Max and Mason's murders. Jamie Ogbourne, 26, and Bailey Westcott, 22, are accused of assisting an offender.

● Sign the petition at petition.parliament.uk/petitions/657196



'Break cycle'...Laura Trott. Inset, victims Max and Mason

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EXCLUSIVE
By Matt Nixon

RICHARD Madeley passionately believes there is a “growing momentum” towards the banning, or at least severely limiting, of smartphones for young children. The veteran broadcaster and Daily Express columnist is convinced we must prevent under-16s being exposed to horrifying online content, before it’s too late.

“I am 68 and I’ve never seen any images of someone being beheaded, on film, television or social media,” he tells me. “Yet up to half of young children have seen actual beheadings on their phones. They’re being passed around in the playgrounds of primary schools. They’re watching actual beheadings and real torture.

“What is that doing to our kids? We’re having a debate now, but I think there are some serious conclusions we’ve got to reach about how we protect children. The obvious one is that they don’t have smartphones until they’re 16.

“Their brains are so vulnerable as they approach puberty and early adolescence – they’re forming, they’re shaping – and we’re allowing this stuff to get in there to pollute and corrupt. We’ve got to do something about it.”

After more than half a century in journalism, primarily spent driving live TV news programmes, Madeley is convinced of the desperate need to limit the ease with which youngsters find and share appalling online content.

While he concedes bans are a “blunt instrument”, and it’d be nigh on impossible to start taking phones away, he insists technology – while at the root of one of the most worrying issues of our age – can also ride to the rescue. Like the Government’s proposed smoking ban, which means people born in or after 2009 will never legally be able to buy cigarettes, he proposes a law gradually phasing in minimum ages for smartphones.

“Everything’s fixable in the end, we’re not stupid as a species,” he continues optimistically.

“America got a man on the Moon in nine years. They built the lunar landing module from scratch. Building uncrackable firewalls into phones sold to teenagers is not like flying to the Moon and back. Of course we can do it, we just need the political will.

“We need to stop talking about the problem and actually take, as Winston Churchill would have said, ‘action this day’ – form a plan and follow it.”

Madeley’s own action plan has come up over lunch at one of the Good Morning Britain host’s favourite restaurants, La Villa Bianca in Hampstead, North London. We’re discussing his brilliant new thriller, *Father’s Day*, and the danger online existence entails.

“For all the benefits the internet and social media has brought us, we all know it’s the source of a great evil as well,” he sighs. “It’s all relatively new and we’re struggling to cope with our response. Everyone is, even the forces of law and order.”

Madeley’s protagonist, Nick, a bestselling author of Roman-era historical fiction and single dad after the tragic death of his wife, is set on a path of revenge after his vulnerable teenage daughter Lucy is coerced online – or “catfished” – into taking her own life.

What follows is not so much a whodunnit?, nor even a whydunnit? – more of a will-he-get-away-with-the-crime-after-having-dunnit?

His fourth novel, a genuine page-turner, raises a host of moral questions, not least of all whether – after the cruel and premeditated encouragement of a healthy young woman to take her life – the ultimate revenge is justified.

“He’s robbed her of her life,” says Madeley. “And it’s not the first time he’s done this, we learn. So does he deserve to

We MUST ban smartphones for under-16s



PROTECTIVE: Richard, his wife Judy Finnigan, and their daughter Chloe, who’s now 36

As Express columnist and broadcaster Richard Madeley tackles the horrors of online ‘catfishing’ in his brilliant new revenge novel, *Father’s Day*, he reveals why only a hardline approach can protect our children from the dangers of the internet

lose his own life? Well, in my fictional world, yeah, he does. And does he deserve to suffer? I think so.”

It’s not a plot spoiler, Madeley assures me, to reveal that Nick’s punishment of the guilty man takes the form of an upside-down crucifixion in a Roman amphitheatre.

“We had the death penalty in this country in my lifetime. It was only abolished when I was a child, so it’s very recently we’ve moved away from that. And I’m glad we have. But the whole point of fiction is that you can fantasise,” he continues. “That’s what I’m inviting my readers to do, to allow themselves to wonder if they think Nick has done something they themselves might do in these circumstances.”

The story had its genesis five years ago when Madeley and his wife, Judy Finnigan, were staying in the Cotswolds. A chance visit to the magnificent former amphitheatre outside Cirencester (formerly Corinium Dobunorum, once a key Roman military garrison) set his imagination whirring.

The stadium, now grassed over but clearly recognisable, was constructed in the 2nd Century AD on the site of a limestone quarry. “I walked around this Roman amphi-

theatre that once held 8,000 people and I could just imagine what it must have been like with the games, the gladiators, maybe the punishments,” he recalls.

“It blew me away and I thought, ‘There’s a story here’. As I was leaving, something clicked: ‘Crucifixion, I’m gonna write about a crucifixion’. And then it clicked again, ‘But it’s going to be in the modern day’.”

HAVING settled into his subconscious, he awoke a few mornings later with pretty much the entire plot of the book in his head.

“Once I’d got the fundamentals, I thought, ‘What’s the story really about?’ And this is what I think it’s about: it’s asking whether some crimes are so disgusting and the perpetrators so unforgivable that we would excuse extrajudicial punishment.”

That’s a question for each individual reader and, while I suspect there will be

plenty of debate over Nick’s actions, there’ll be few tears shed over the fate of his baddie.

Has the father of two ever been tempted to take revenge, I wonder?

After all, his own daughter, Chloe, 36, a personal trainer and reality TV personality, is a perennial target of cruel online trolls.

“No,” he insists firmly, looking me in the eye. “Obviously, I can write about one’s feelings for a teenage daughter because of Chloe. But it’s not based on a fantasy I’ve had about punishing somebody for something they’ve said or done towards any of my children. I’d argue to the death against the death penalty, but we all know that sometimes we watch the news, or read a story in the paper, and think, ‘That guy deserves to be shot’, and we kind of mean it.

“Viscerally, we have a little fantasy we would like that person to suffer. We see it in a less lethal way with Post Office executives [amid the sub-postmasters scandal]. We really want to see them punished, we want them to go to jail and suffer what they inflicted on those poor people.”

So how does Madeley and his family cope with all the online grief inevitably aimed at anyone even vaguely in the public eye?

You can typically tell when he’s on TV because something he’s said will be trending on X, previously Twitter – almost never in a

DON’T MISS RICHARD & JUDY’S BRILLIANT

Picture: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER



TAKING REVENGE: Richard Madeley, photographed in London for the Daily Express, is concerned about smartphone use among young children

positive way. “I don’t read social media because I think it’s become completely devalued,” he explains. “It’s so toxic, it’s so malevolent, people are just vying with each other to be vile and there are dangerous aspects too, so I ignore it.”

“Graham Norton said the response you get as a TV presenter is like hearing people shouting at the television. Until social media,

you might get the odd letter. But in real life people wouldn’t dream of talking to your face the way they now do when they post anonymous tweets. I’m sure it’s a minority but they’ve completely polluted the water and I’m convinced anonymity is the key.”

The solution, Madeley insists, is simply to ignore what’s written.

“I don’t go looking for it, but of course I’m

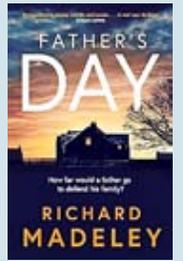
aware of it. [My son] Jack’s 38, Chloe is 36, so they’re grown-up. And I think they probably take their cue from me but, collectively, as a family in the public eye, we’re fine with it because we know how stupid it is.”

It’s hard to think of a better example of the adage, credited to Mark Twain, that a lie can be halfway around the world before the truth gets its boots on.

“It’s true,” he chuckles. “But either you let it bother you or you don’t. And I haven’t lost a friendship or a job or the regard of people

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whose regard matters to me one scintilla, because of toxic social media – it’s in its own bubble.”

Before retiring in 2010, Richard and Judy were Britain’s best-known TV presenters.

Madeley enjoyed the break, yet returned part-time to GMB seven years later with 4am starts driven by three alarm clocks, before going full-time again after the departure of Piers Morgan in 2021.

“I’d been doing live TV every day since 1978 – 31 years – so I was happy to take a breath. And then GMB took me back to my roots,” he says. “I know I’m seen as a TV presenter-cum-celebrity, that’s not how I see myself: I’m a reporter at heart.”

“The catnip for me was breaking news. I love driving to work at 4.30am, listening to LBC and hearing a breaking story. I love the excitement of getting in to be told we’ve got the exclusive interview.”

JUDY, by contrast, doesn’t miss it a bit. “She was one of the best live TV presenters I’ve ever seen, let alone worked with, and I’m not saying that because she’s my wife, but she never really enjoyed it that much. She hated the baggage that came with it as a woman. She still gets lots of offers, but her default setting is no.”

The couple remain madly busy – the reason *Father’s Day* took five years to write, with a huge chunk polished in quarantine before Madeley appeared on *I’m A Celebrity* in 2021. That said, he has the ghost of an idea for the follow-up already, provisionally titled *Mother’s Day*. Unusually, he writes chapters in emails to his editor – and admits he lost an entire final draft of his 2008 non-fiction book, *Fathers & Sons*, to a computer glitch.

Given his distrust of technology, the plot of *Father’s Day*, featuring the dark web and general digital savviness, has amused his GMB co-presenter Susannah Reid.

“She calls me ‘Betamax Man’ because I’m 20 years older than her,” he smiles. “Susannah found the tech in the book funny coming from me, but I had some help from an expert.”

Madeley’s own reading is dominated by the Richard & Judy Book Club, with six books picked every three months from a list of 12. He loves Stephen King, Lee Child and Charles Dickens during rare work breaks.

“The first grown-up thriller I read was *The Day Of The Jackal* by Freddie Forsyth when I was 16. I remember reading late into the night knowing I had to get up early to cover magistrates’ court the next day, but I couldn’t put it down.” Without blowing smoke, I suspect his own book may elicit a similar response among some readers.

● *Father’s Day* by Richard Madeley (Simon & Schuster, £16.99) is out now. Visit expressbookshop.com or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on orders over £25

COLUMN EVERY SATURDAY IN THE DAILY EXPRESS

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 in the puzzles pullout

YOUR ANSWERS

Beginner	25	+17	÷7	+3	x8	REVERSE THE DIGITS	+18	÷5	-5	
Intermediate	249	-67	6/7 OF THIS	+149	60% OF THIS	+153	5/6 OF THIS	-127	2/9 OF THIS	
Advanced	65	x7	+76	7/9 OF THIS	-124	TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT	+167	INCREASE BY 75%	+186	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

THURSDAY, MAY 23
SET FOR LIFE 14 20 31 40 43 9

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22
LOTTERY 6 7 25 31 35 43 12
THUNDERBALL 3 12 25 36 37 9

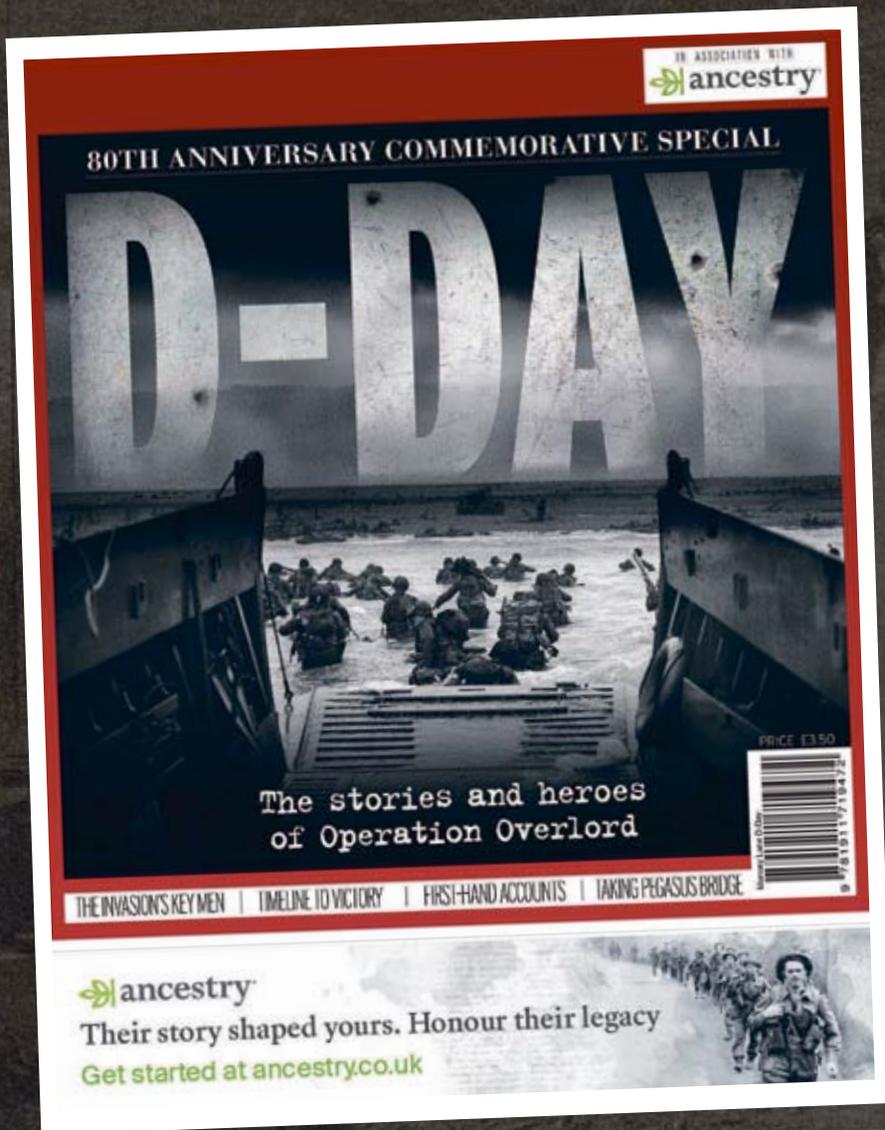
TUESDAY, MAY 21
EUROMILLIONS 11 13 14 34 48 7 9
THUNDERBALL 8 9 26 34 35 8

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

THURSDAY, MAY 23 11 14 15 29 35 24
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 11 24 37 47 50 30

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PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Wednesday:
Do inflation figures prove the Tories are on the right track?

YES: 88%
NO: 12%

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SUDOKU Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

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

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 - PULLOUT YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

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

Picture: ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA

A mast-see for fans of tall ships

YOU'RE not here for the Tall Ships Festival by any chance?

The Phoenix, which featured in Ridley Scott's recent blockbuster Napoleon, sails along the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal to take part in the popular event.

The two-mast brig had a starring role in the BBC's Poldark series, and was also seen in Doctor Who, Outlander and Taboo.

Built in Frederikshavn, Denmark in 1929, she was originally used as an evangelical Mission Schooner.

Since being purchased by Square Sail in 1987, she has been refurbished and converted for different roles.

Other vessels confirmed for the festival include the TS Irene, a former merchant vessel built in Bridgwater, Somerset in 1907, which appeared in the Pirates of the Caribbean films.

The three-masted lugger replica Grayhound

By **Emily Braeger**

will be arriving from the Caribbean with cargo, and Spirit of Falmouth will be sailed to Gloucester by retired Armed Forces veterans.

Tens of thousands of people are expected to visit the festival, which takes place at Gloucester Docks this bank holiday weekend for the first time since 2022.

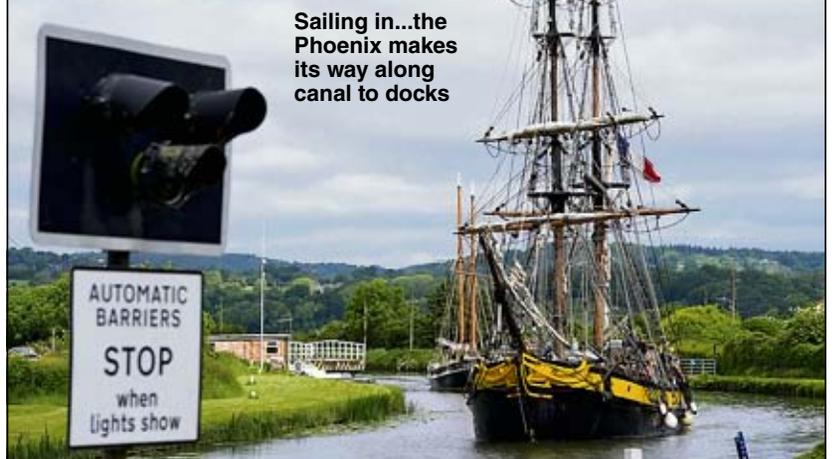
Robin Kemp, creative director of Tall Ships, said this year's show will be the "biggest and best yet".

He added: "The docks have such a rich and extraordinary history that when we started to plan the festival this year, it was

obvious we needed to celebrate the fusion of ideas and cultures who have come through this glorious location over the last 200 years."



Sailing in...the Phoenix makes its way along canal to docks



HICKEY

THE Prime Minister's surprise decision to go to the country on July 4 proves another political blow for comedian and wannabe Labour MP Eddie Izzard, pictured.



Despite having recently failed to be selected as a parliamentary candidate in Brighton and Sheffield, Izzard had remained "very positive" about still finding a constituency in time for the election.

While it was calculated yesterday that Labour were still due to confirm candidates in up to 100 seats, Eddie's otherwise engaged. The star's booked to perform a solo version of Hamlet at London's Riverside Studios between now and June 30...

KEEN to champion his working-class upbringing in London's East End, acclaimed actor Eddie Marsan takes exception to more privileged thespians attempting cockney gangster roles.

"Often you get quite posh blokes who have got this fantasy of being east London gangsters," the Ray Donovan star now complains.

"The privileged middle-class boys...you think, 'You posh boys have got this fantasy idea of what it means to be an East End gangster, but you literally haven't got a clue about how violent and horrible and nasty they are. You have a fantasy, you buy an overcoat with a fur collar and you think you're a f***** gangster. You don't know what you're talking about.'"

Has Mr Marsan ever brought this up with gangster-obsessed director Guy Ritchie during their five films together to date?

Privately educated Ritchie, said to be related to Sir Winston Churchill and the late Princess of Wales, has long been accused of playing down his background.

SINGER and presenter Cerys Matthews credits fellow Welsh star Sir Tom Jones for giving her "the best piece of advice she ever received". Twenty-five years since the pair enjoyed chart success with their version of Baby, It's Cold Outside, Cerys recalls in the New Statesman: "Tom Jones told me: 'Don't drink alcohol before a show. I've followed it religiously.'"

Before taking Tom's advice, Cerys's long-ago boozy days could certainly get out of hand: she reportedly once went on stage in Brighton before "waking up in Marseilles with no knowledge of how she got there".

DISCUSSING her upcoming wedding at St Paul's Cathedral – hairdresser Rory McPhee will be hubby number three – Spice Girl Mel B, pictured, says: "When you've been married twice before, you have to meet the bishop, the dean, and explain why you want to get married now. I explained everything, I can explain eloquently, since my story and my life are in that book [her memoir]."



She adds: "I've been given a few dates, but none we've said yes to yet. Only 30 couples a year get married there, so it's quite a thing." Isn't life grand!

RESPONDING to being mischievously labelled "boring" by former Monty Python colleague John Cleese, Sir Michael Palin cheerfully remarks: "I really enjoy playing boring characters...you go back to Python and I always played the boring character."

He vows: "I'm going to continue to bask in John's compliment. The more boring I can be, the better."



Laid to rest... James, inset, is buried with full honours

Farewell to a long-lost hero



A FOOTBALLER killed while fighting in the First World War has finally been buried with full military honours 110 years after his death.

Second Lt James Arthur Greenhalgh, 25, who played for Bolton Wanderers, was shot while defending trenches in the village of Violaines, France.

The Cheshire Regiment officer, who also worked as a teacher, had been reportedly buried by his comrades after the German raid on October 22, 1914. But after the conflict

By **Douglas Whitbread**

ended, no trace of his remains were found.

In 2020, the bodies of three soldiers were found during house construction. Research and DNA testing revealed that one of the men was James. The others are unidentified.

James was buried at Windy Corner in Quinchy. Relative Joanna Potts said: "Hearing my great uncle had been found was surprisingly emotional."



Husband threatened to kill wife after she asked him to mow wet lawn

By **Chris Riches**

A **HUSBAND** threatened to kill his wife and burn down their house after she asked him to mow their soaking front lawn.

Steven Briscall, 57, told former childhood sweetheart Debbie Briscall, "I will bury you" after her request sparked an explosive row, a court heard.

The dad of two called 999 and twice said he was going to kill his wife or "knock her out".

Prosecutor Joseph Kindley said the couple, from Northwich, Cheshire, had been together for more than 40 years.

Former farmhand Briscall lost his temper at being asked to cut the wet lawn because soggy clippings can clog a mower, Warrington Magistrates' Court heard. Mr Kindley said: "On the



Row...Steven and Debbie Briscall and their house in Northwich



14th of April the defendant himself called 999. Two separate calls were made. He says he will knock his wife out if she does not stop and he said he will kill her.

"He asked the operator to get her out of the house.

"He said he will burn the house down. He says, 'I will bury you' towards his wife. Officers did attend the scene and spoke to the defendant's wife. She said the

defendant said he was going to kill her and she believed him.

"She was upset and crying.

"The officer said she was shaken by the incident.

"The defendant admitted making the calls but he could not remember making them, being intoxicated at the time. The victim is not wishing to proceed with the prosecution. The victim wants to pursue a relationship

with the defendant after proceedings have concluded."

Briscall's wife and daughter were in the public gallery as he admitted making threats to damage or destroy property.

He was sentenced to an 18-month community order and ordered to pay £299.

David Thompson, for Briscall, said his client had been grieving over the loss of his father and nephew, adding: "The complainant has attended court today with their daughter.

"Both are here to lend support to the defendant. It was he who telephoned the police as he knew he was going into a bad place.

"He knew he was having an episode and his temper got the better of him. There was no intention to carry the threats out. It was more a cry for help."



ACTING UP: Chris, far right, also starred in films and on television, including classic US sitcom Friends

EXCLUSIVE
From Peter Sheridan
in Los Angeles

THERE can't be that many rock stars who can draw on a 19th-century German philosopher for inspiration. "Arthur Schopenhauer said we only know we're alive because of the pain," says Chris Isaak. "I guess that's like me. Part of the experience of love is you're going to have some pain with it."

With his Elvis pompadour, rockabilly style and boxer's physique – with a broken nose to prove it – Isaak is best known for songs aching with heartbreak. His honeyed voice haunts lovelorn hits including Wicked Game, Somebody's Crying, Forever Blue and Blue Hotel.

"My personal life has been rough," admits the 6ft-tall hunk, looking decades younger than his 67 years, and who is heading to Britain for a trio of headline shows in August.

"My career kept me from love and marriage, for sure. The toughest part was early in my career, seeing all the people around me getting married, having kids, while I was still making records and out on the road. I still am.

"I just couldn't imagine having kids and leaving them to go touring: 'So long, kids! Pop'll bring you a new toy when he comes back.'"

"You don't know what your career's going to do next, and you think, 'Well, I'd better go and promote this record, this movie, this TV show'. And then suddenly you look around and, 'Hey – I'm the last man standing!' But I've seen a lot of my friends married, and a lot of them got divorced too, so I'm cautious."

He's certainly been busy. In addition to 13 albums and 12 chart-topping singles, Isaak has created music for movie soundtracks including Eyes Wide Shut, True Romance, Wild At Heart and Blue Velvet. As an actor, he has won acclaim for films such as The Silence of the Lambs, That Thing You Do, and Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me, plus sitcom Friends. He wishes he could do more acting, but his busy music schedule makes it hard.

"I still get offered acting roles, but either the timing isn't right, or it's a part I don't want. Unfortunately most of the time I'm offered roles as a cop, a detective, or a bad boyfriend. I don't know why – in real life I don't think I'm mean."

Perhaps he lacks Hollywood's cut-throat narcissism.

Though hired by such great directors as Bernardo Bertolucci, David Lynch and Jonathan Demme, Isaak admits: "Honestly I never felt like I did a performance in a film where I went: 'Wow.' A lot of people could have done what I did."

At heart, Chris Isaak is a lover, not a fighter.

"Despite boxing in my youth, I'm not an aggressive guy," he says. "When trouble comes around, look at that guy running away in the distance – that's me. I've had maybe two fistfights in my entire life, and they were always started by somebody else."

"I'm the most cautious guy. I've ridden a motorcycle maybe 100 yards before saying: 'No, I don't want to be on this thing.' I've always looked ahead and was cautious and maybe that's because I saw how tough it was on my dad with some of the things he went through."

Before Isaak was born, his father Joe was jailed for armed robbery.

"My dad never had a break," the



DEVOTION: Chris hugging his supportive mum Dorothy, who succumbed to Covid in 2022

Chris Isaak's breakthrough ballad put him on the road for decades as he played sold-out shows across the globe. Now 67 and heading to Britain, the singer has no plans to retire, nor any regrets about being too busy for marriage or children...

singer laments. "He worked at a cannery but had to walk four miles to work because he didn't have a car. When other people are broke I understand it, I feel it."

"He turned his life around, and was a sweetheart of a guy, a great dad, but he was always ready to go if trouble called."

HE RECALLS how, at an early gig in a venue decorated with antique tools, a fight threatened to break out.

"My dad took a hammer off the wall, and he was ready to go. That's him."

Isaak recalls bringing home his first gold record: "My dad didn't cry much, but he had tears in his eyes, he was so proud."

The singer's mother Dorothy worked for years in a potato crisp fac-

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IS IT SUCH A WICKED GAME TO PUT MUSIC BEFORE LOVE?



CARRYING A TOON: Apart from making music, Chris Isaak's favourite 'relaxing' hobby is drawing cartoons

tory, but late in life went to university and earned a PhD in psychology. She died in 2022 of Covid.

"It was horrible," says Isaak. "I had to talk to her through a camera, because I couldn't go into her hospital room. It was killing me.

"She took down her mask, pointed at the camera and said: 'Chris, I love you so much.'

"I was lucky that I had a family that supported and encouraged me."

Born and raised in working-class Stockton, central California, Isaak spent a year as a student in Japan, and was approached to join the CIA.

"But I thought: I'm not going to be James Bond; I'll be like an accountant, stuck in a room going through files and making notes. I'd rather work in a pizza kitchen.

"After graduating university, my parents asked me: 'Now what?' I was embarrassed to say it: 'I'd like to sing.' And my mum said: 'Do it!'

My parents gave me the strength to do it."

He now lives in Nashville, Tennessee, when he's not on the road. "I'm excited to play in the UK," he says. "We had a blast there last year. I love British audiences: we kind of speak the same language."

Isaak attributes his youthful good looks and pristine voice to his squeaky-clean lifestyle.

"I don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't do any drugs," he explains. "I don't go out after the gig to nightclubs shouting to be heard.

"I take care of my voice. Luckily I'm still hanging together and I can hit the high notes, and still get up on a surfboard, and I work out every day. I think that helps in the long run."

Boozing never appealed, partly because he couldn't afford liquor.

"When I started out I was so broke, that I'd think: ham sand-

wich: \$2; beer: \$2.50. So I always chose the ham sandwich – no question."

He still watches every penny.

"I don't spend a lot of money on cars, clothing, fancy trips. I have every dime I think I ever made.

"I had enough money to retire a long time ago. I'm doing the same stuff I always did: I stay home and play guitar, draw cartoons to relax, and hang out with friends who play guitar or draw."

BUT HE is not without his vices. "I love drawing cartoons and can't pass by a shop selling pens or pencils without buying something. I'm the same way with guitars. I have maybe 60, and I need every one of them.

"They're all different, and sometimes I'll pick up a guitar and go:

'Oh, there's songs in this!'" Even his love life is improving.

"There's someone special in my life now, but I don't want to jinx it by talking about it," he says. "I'm like Frank Sinatra who, when asked about his love life, said: 'I'm not unhappy.'

"I'm working on new records, writing songs and I'm as excited about doing music as ever.

"I'd like to put out a book of my cartooning, which is somewhere between Addams Family and filth. It's fun and way more relaxing than television will ever be.

"I don't think I'll retire as long as I can sing and play. Life is pretty damn good."

● *Chris Isaak UK tour: August 11, London Palladium; August 12, Bournemouth Pavilion Theatre; and August 13, Birmingham Symphony Hall. He also opens for Billy Joel in Cardiff on August 9*

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Variable rates

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Income Bonds	£500	3.59% gross/3.65% AER	3.93% gross/4.00% AER

Definitions

Gross is the taxable rate of interest payable without the deduction of UK Income Tax.

AER (Annual Equivalent Rate) illustrates what the annual rate of interest would be if the interest was compounded each time it was paid. Where interest is paid annually, the quoted rate and the AER are the same.

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SAVE: 90p
Gillette Fusion 5 Ultra Sensitive Shaving Gel (200ml), Tesco, £3.30, £2.20 with Clubcard
SAVE: £1.10
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SAVE: £17.50
B Men Anti-Ageing Moisturiser SPF 30 (75ml), Superdrug, £7, Member Price (for free) £5
SAVE: £2
Sanex Men Active Fresh Shower Gel (400ml), Morrisons, was £3, now £2.25
SAVE: 75p

HER

Simple Kind to Skin Hydrating Light Moisturiser (125ml), Boots, was £4.50, now £2.25
SAVE: £2.25
Hismile Everyday Teeth Whitening Bundle, Superdrug, was £24.99, now £15.99
SAVE: £9
Baylis & Harding Jojoba, Vanilla and Almond Hand Wash (500ml), Morrisons, was £2.25, now £1.65
SAVE: 60p
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SAVE: £1.80
Bumb & Bumble Hairdresser's Invisible Oil Mask (60ml), Marks & Spencer, was £15, now £10.50
SAVE: £4.50
Original Source Lavender & Rosemary Body Wash (335ml), Tesco, £3.20, £2.50 with Clubcard
SAVE: 70pTake 5
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1 Green Gingham Twist Padded Headband, £5.99, New Look
BEST FOR...hair
2 Lilac Check Outdoor Rug (120cmx180cm), £18, Matalan
BEST FOR...patios
3 Super Soft Large Check Multicoloured Blanket, £36, Dunelm
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Your picnic quick picks

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**All prices correct at time of going to press*

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20 Pork Cocktail Sausages (200g), Sainsbury's, £2, £1.30 with Nectar
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New York Deli Inspired Bites (190g), Co-op, £3, 3 for 2
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18 Pork Sausage Rolls (180g), Asda, £2.15, 2 for £3.50
SAVE: 80p

Higgidy 8 Mini Sunblush Tomato and Cheddar Mini Muffins (160g), Tesco, £3.85, 3 for 2 with Clubcard
SAVE: £3.85



2 Mature Cheddar & Ham Quiches (240g), Iceland, £2.50, 3 for £5
SAVE: £2.50

SWEET



Ripe and Sweet Strawberries (400g), Asda, was £2.50, now £2
SAVE: 50p

Mr Kipling Angel Cakes 6 Pack, Sainsbury's, £2.75, £1.50 with Nectar
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Strawberry Trifle (3 x 135g), Morrisons, £2, 2 for £3
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Pop-Tastic Potato Crisps Sour Cream and Onion (160g), Iceland, was £1.50, now £1.45
SAVE: 5p

Trio of Spanish Olives (280g), Sainsbury's, £4.25, £3.50 with Nectar
SAVE: 75p



Pom Bear Original Multipack Crisps (6x13g), Asda, was £1.50, now £1.35
SAVE: 15p

Cheestrings Twisted Cheese Snacks 4 Pack (80g), Tesco, £1.75, £1.25 with Clubcard
SAVE: 50p



SIPS



Ribena Blackcurrant Squash No Added Sugar (850ml), Morrisons, £2.80, 2 for £3
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Tango Mango Sugar Free Drink (2L), Tesco, £2, 3 for £3 with Clubcard
SAVE: £3



Robinsons Juicy Peach and Raspberry Fruit Creations (1L), Iceland, £2.50, 3 for £5
SAVE: £2.50



Fruit Shoot Orange Kids Juice Drink (8 x 200ml), Asda, was £3.60, now £2.50
SAVE: £1.10

Schweppes Original Lemonade (12x150ml), Sainsbury's, £5.55, £4 with Nectar
SAVE: £1.55



What's new

Brighten up your bathroom for just £1 with Cidal's new pink grapefruit range.

Suitable for all skin types the liquid hand wash (250ml, £1) and soap bars (2 x 100g, £1) have an uplifting fragrance that will leave your hands smelling clean and fresh. Both are available from Amazon, Home Bargains and Savers.



Budget or Bust... Men's Shorts



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Straight Fit Chino Shorts, £14, Matalan



SPEND
Stretch Chino Shorts, £19, Next



SPLURGE
Stretch Chino Shorts, £39, John Lewis

Grab it

Sun-loving shoppers are prepping wardrobes for warmer weather and blokes might feel the need for a pair of on-trend Birkenstocks. But rather than splash the cash, Lidl is here to save the day and purse strings with their Liveryg Men's Sandals for just £6.99 - saving a whopping £73.



Stock up

The much-loved Tesco Baby & Toddler Event is back, with great deals on a range of essentials to help parents and carers keep little ones happy while managing the family budget. Offers include the new Tommee Tippee Infra-Red Thermometer for £29.99 (was £50); Pampers Baby Dry nappies for £5.50 (were £10) and Aveeno Baby Daily Care Hair & Body Wash for Sensitive Skin for £4.30 (was £6.50).





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Theatre

with **NEIL NORMAN**



CORKING ADVENTURE
Siddique and Sheehan

WITHNAIL AND I ★★★★★

Birmingham Rep until tomorrow, then UK tour (TBA). Tickets: 0121 236 4455

Bruce Robinson's cult movie about two bibulous actors staggers on to the stage 37 years late. Written in 1987 but set in 1969, it is an endlessly quotable comedy of bad manners reproduced surprisingly well in Sean Foley's production.

Running out of money and alcohol, the dissolute Withnail (Robert Sheehan) and his roommate Marwood, aka "I" (Adonis Siddique), decide to leave their squalid Camden flat and drive to the Lake District to stay in a remote country cottage owned by Withnail's Uncle Monty (Malcolm Sinclair). Oblivious to Monty's sexuality, Marwood is alarmed by the unexpected arrival of the ageing queen who has designs on him. Withnail is a neo-Restoration dandy gone to seed, spitting epigrams like a low rent Oscar Wilde.

Sheehan looks the part but hasn't quite mastered Richard E. Grant's sneer and needs to dial down the diva gestures. Siddique is a good foil as the bewildered Marwood, narrating their misadventures to the audience. Sinclair repurposes Uncle Monty from the film's grotesque, pathetic predator into a fastidious and camp character of a bygone era, a sort of would-be Gielgud.

The live rock band led by singer/comedian Sooz Kempner blasts out fragments of songs from groups of the era with a pleasing lack of restraint.

And hats off to designer Alice Power whose adaptable sets conjure flats, pubs and a tea room while allowing Akhila Krishnan's video design to simulate streets and motorways as the reprobates head off in Marwood's battered car. It would be impossible to emulate the movie in all its

ragged finery but it's a good attempt at conjuring the spirit of Robinson's hilarious tale of failure, curdled optimism and the finest wines available to humanity. The car is a triumph. (Actually, it's a Jaguar Mk II.)

BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND CRAZY ★★★★★

Hampstead Theatre until June 15
Tickets: 020 7722 9301

An ageing ex-NYPD cop sits in his West Side apartment eating pie and drinking bourbon for breakfast. Oswald, his edgy Hispanic lodger offers him the healthier option of organic almonds.

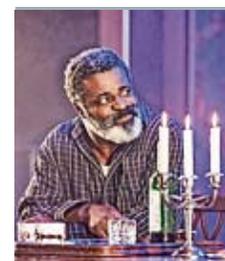
Thus begins Stephen Adly Guirgis' comedy drama that digs deep into the core of the Big Apple to reveal the working class characters beneath.

Having been shot while off duty by a fellow cop, "Pops" Washington (Danny Sapani) has spent eight years in a legal battle for compensation.

The circumstances of the incident are opaque and his friends and son Junior (Martins Imhangbe) try to persuade him to take the deal offered. But for Pops the battle is both personal and political. When his former partner (Judith Roddy) and her slimily ambitious fiancé (Daniel Lapaine) arrive to pile on the pressure, Pops digs in his heels.

Junior's minimally dressed girlfriend Lulu (Tiffany Gray) - "Just 'cos I look the way I look doesn't mean I AM the way I look" - becomes pregnant, tilting the delicate domestic balance.

An eruption of violence from Oswald and the arrival of a Church Lady (Ayesha Antoine) who takes care of Pops in a highly unorthodox manner emphasises the ambiguities on display; nobody is quite what they seem. A fierce and energising comedy with a wounded heart.



BATTLING Sapani as shot ex-NYPD cop Pops

Booking now

HORRIBLE HISTORIES (LIVE ONBOARD) TERRIBLE THAMES

Booking until August 31, terriblethames.com

All aboard for a floating theatre experience as the HH gang sail down the Thames for a fiendishly entertaining history lesson.



PUNCHDRUNK: VIOLA'S ROOM

Booking until August 18, punchdrunk.com

Woolwich-based immersive theatre specialists create a slumber party in which six barefoot participants are led through a labyrinth as a Gothic narrative is delivered through headphones. Ages 14-plus.

Weekend Films

STAR RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent
 ★★★★ Good
 ★★★ Worth a look
 ★★ Poor
 ★ Don't bother



GLOWERING
Rampaging
Taylor-Joy as
warrior Furiosa

Trial & retribution

FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA

Cert 15 ★★★★★
In cinemas now

Split into five chapters with enigmatic titles such as The Pole Of Inaccessibility and Lessons From The Wasteland, director George Miller's turbo-charged prequel to Mad Max: Fury Road bolts together an origin story spanning 15 years for the imperious warrior Imperator Furiosa originally embodied by Charlize Theron.

Portrayed here by Anya Taylor-Joy in womanhood and Alyla Browne as a snarling youngster, Furiosa is anointed "the darkest of angels" as she rampages between the co-dependent strongholds of The Citadel, Bullet Farm and Gas Town to take revenge against self-aggrandising warlord

Dementus (Chris Hemsworth). The title character's "purposeful savagery" is an apt summation of Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga – a brutal tale of self-preservation and retribution punctuated by spectacular stunt-filled action sequences that deliver injections of adrenaline.

Almost 30 minutes longer than the Oscar-winning Fury Road, Miller's prequel trundles on narrative exhaust fumes in a plodding middle act, relying on breathlessly staged, large-scale set pieces of automotive carnage for momentum. The film's timeline guarantees safe passage for half the cast whose characters manifest in Mad Max: Fury Road, and spotlights the most likely casualties in a brutal tug of war for dwindling natural resources. Taylor-Joy is

“ Taylor-Joy copes magnificently with rugged physicality of her role

glowering and wordless for extended periods and copes magnificently with the rugged physicality of her role.

Co-star Browne as adolescent Furiosa is even more impressive in her chapters and deftly tugs at the heart. Embellished with a distracting prosthetic nose and prominent rock 'n' roll codpiece, Hemsworth embraces camp

psychosis as an antagonist who tastes young Furiosa's tears and professes them piquant and zesty.

From a storyline perspective, the prequel is less compelling, particularly once the title character is in her mid-20s. Production design and costumes are jaw-dropping, immersing us in a world where bombastic men reign with cruelty.

They reap what they sow.

THE GARFIELD MOVIE

Cert U ★★
In cinemas now

In an amusing opening sequence, the eponymous tabby (voiced by Chris Pratt) tells us the story of how he "adopted" his long-suffering human owner Jon Arbuckle (Nicholas Hoult).

"You will not be disappointed," grins Garfield as lovable beagle Odie scurries around him.

Alas, Garfield may be the cat who always gets the cream – or rather an endless supply of lasagne conveniently ordered via app – but director Mark Dindal serves us a disappointing computer-animated adventure made from the cold leftovers of better films including Chicken Run and The Secret

Life Of Pets. Based on characters created by Jim Davis for a 1970s comic strip, The Garfield Movie is a victim of an uninspired script that opts for the most obvious punchlines or bypasses them entirely.

Thus, rapper Snoop Dogg's onscreen furball is named Snoop Catt, and when Pratt's gluttonous puss becomes embroiled in a hare-brained Mission: Impossible-style heist, he once again addresses us to camera: "I do my own stunts. Me and Tom Cruise."

Dindal's picture does not self-destruct after five seconds thanks to a spirited vocal performance from Hannah Waddingham as a feline criminal mastermind, who is one swish of a tail shy of caterwauling madness. Meowch.



UNINSPIRED
Hoult voices
Jon and Pratt
is Garfield

HIT MAN

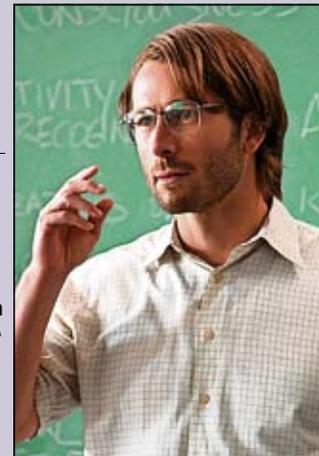
Cert 15 ★★★
In cinemas now and
streaming on Netflix
from June 7

Teasingly billed as "a somewhat true story", Hit Man is a delightfully entertaining black comedy. It centres on a mild-mannered college professor who poses as a hired killer during undercover police stings to extract incriminating evidence from targets to secure an arrest before real bullets fly and blood is spilled.

Top Gun: Maverick bad boy Glen Powell, who flaunted an impressive set of chiselled abs in yesteryear's rom-com Anyone But You, propels his star further into the ascendancy with an irresistibly charming central performance as the self-doubting, bookish academic. He's reborn when personality traits from his sharp-shooting alter egos follow him home to the lonely apartment he shares with two cats named Ego and Id.

"He's like a Caucasian Idris!" gushes one of his gob-smacked police handlers, who can barely believe the shy, unassuming philosophy lecturer responsible for managing the technology in their surveillance operations can metamorphose into a swaggering, cocksure alpha male at the drop of a baseball cap.

Hit Man shoots to kill with snappy dialogue, playful direction and sizzling screen rapport between the romantic leads. A script co-written by director Richard Linklater and Powell gradually cranks up tension as Gary's two lives unspool with toe-curlingly hilarious consequences.



DOUBLE LIFE Glen Powell

GOOEY

Fisher plays
Jen and Kinnear is
husband Eric



THE PRESENT

Cert PG ★★★
In cinemas now

A magical grandfather clock allows three enterprising children to travel back in time and plaster the fissures in their parents' faltering marriage before they formally separate in a family-oriented comedy directed by Christian Ditter.

Adopting the same fantastical conceit as Groundhog Day, The Present replays events from the perspectives of five members of the Diehl family: spin class instructor mother Jen (Isla Fisher), who is flirting with a new student (Ryan Guzman); father Eric (Greg Kinnear), who has already engaged a real estate agent to find him a bachelor pad; teenage daughter Emma (Shay Rudolph), whose crush on a classmate might be better focused on a caring co-star in the school play; and younger brothers Taylor (Easton Rocket Sweda) and Max (Mason Shea Joyce), whose fraternal bonds are visibly frayed.

Screenwriter Jay Martel's unabashedly sentimental masterplan hinges on an heirloom inscribed with enigmatic words ("The clock can help you now and then, but only you can change events") to romp through subtly different outcomes to the same topsy-turvy day.

Fisher and Kinnear lack fizzing screen chemistry – we wholeheartedly believe their marriage has stagnated – but younger co-stars are instantly likeable and sustain interest until a predictably goopy resolution.

Books

To order any of these books, please visit expressbookshop.com or call 020 3176 3832. Free UK p&p for orders over £25

What's in the Sewing Bee judge's wardrobe? It certainly won't be fast fashion, he reveals

Savile Row king, Scottish fashion designer and co-judge of The Great British Sewing Bee, Patrick Grant is exasperated by how fast fashion has adversely affected the industry – and the planet.

The sartorial guru who, with co-judge and fashion designer Esme Young, fronts the BBC One show, is passionately opposed to the shoddy, unethical practices of fast fashion.

His latest book, *Less*, is a call to arms to stop buying so much rubbish and how fewer, better quality things can make us all happier.

"Fashion has become a gigantic, ever-moving machine that is just spewing out insane quantities of, frankly, just garbage," he asserts.

"A lot of the clothes now that are being produced by the fast fashion companies are just being generated by AI. There's no story, there's no love, it's just stuff that we don't need.

"And it's causing so many terrible problems, both environmental and human. At the end of it all, it doesn't make our lives any better. Fashion has now become just grim commerce for the sake of selling more stuff."

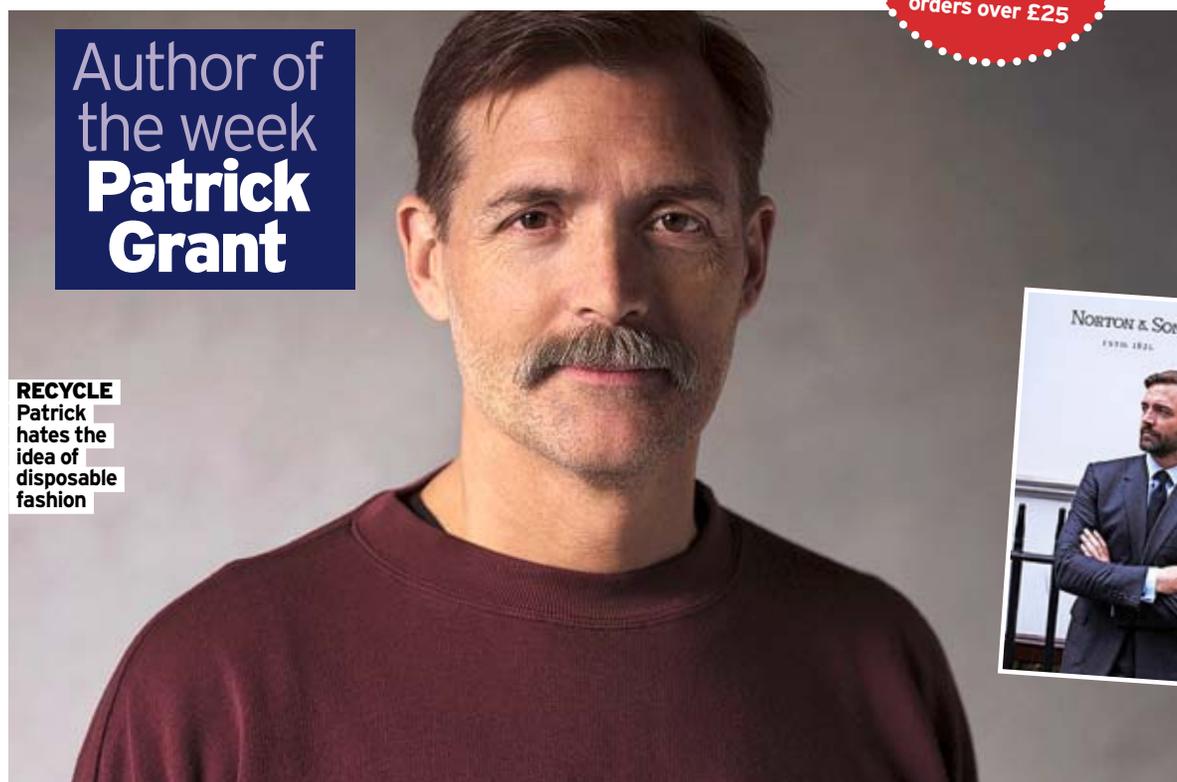
Yet when Patrick lectures and gives talks on fashion design, he gets the feeling things are changing.

"It is becoming cool to say no to buying all of this stuff. It is becoming a badge of honour to say, 'Look, I'm only buying second-hand clothes for a year' or 'I'm just not buying any new clothes altogether'. Sales of second-hand clothes are growing five times faster than the sales of new clothes, which is brilliant. But we need to go beyond that."

Grant, 52, says he hardly buys any clothes these days. He keeps a small wardrobe of clothes at his girlfriend's house in London and a bigger one at

Author of the week Patrick Grant

RECYCLE
Patrick hates the idea of disposable fashion



his house in North Yorkshire, plus boxes of archive clothing from his years of working in the industry.

Today, he's wearing a faded 1980s plum sweatshirt his granny gave him before she died, which she found in the charity shop where she worked.

His everyday wardrobe is small and he says he wears the same things most days – two types of heavy cotton trousers, one which he designed for the men's clothing brand E Tautz and which are now made at Community Clothing, the British clothing brand and community enterprise he founded in 2016, based in Blackburn, Lancs. He has five pairs in three colours.

The second is a more recent design, the "cameraman pant", inspired by a workwear pant worn by one of the camera guys on The Great British Sewing Bee in 2022, he explains. They're heavy canvas, with

a wide tapered leg, patch pockets and a drawstring top. He always wears them with navy-blue crew necks – T-shirts in the summer, sweatshirts when it's colder.

"I buy almost nothing," he reveals. "That plum sweatshirt, I've been wearing for 20 years. I don't feel like I need to wear something different all the time.

"Some of the designers I know are the least 'fashionable' people I know. You develop a personal style that you feel comfortable with and you relax into it."

His new book not only offers a detailed history of the clothes industry, but also examines the workmanship and exacting skills it takes to create lasting garments, skills that he says have been eroded by fast fashion.

"We've chucked away all this brilliant knowhow and all for

nothing," says Patrick, who's the director of bespoke tailors Norton & Sons of Savile Row.

He's also worked with big names such as Alexander McQueen and Christopher Kane, and rubbed shoulders with Vivienne Westwood in the 1990s.

"The creativity and the craftsmanship were out of this world. Those people do things that are extraordinary. They have a talent and a vision.

"It is on the boundary between craftsmanship and fine art."

He admits he used to change what he wore more in his youth, but says he still had a fraction of the amount of clothes compared with a lot of people today.

"We had 20 per cent of the clothes we have today. It's a mindset, working out what things make you happy and actually having fewer

clothes makes your life easier because you don't need such a big wardrobe. You don't have to think as much when you're packing to go on holiday either."

He wears suits occasionally for official engagements and corporate events, but says if you watch Sewing Bee you'll see him in the same jackets a lot of the time.

Patrick has suits that he had 20 years ago and still wears. So he must have to keep himself pretty trim?

"I do. I don't like the idea of letting my trousers out. I feel like once they start to get really tight, it's time to do something about the weight. So I'm careful about what I eat.

"I have a Riverford Organic Veg Box every Monday. I hardly drink at all any more. That keeps me trim, and I cycle and hill walk a lot. I can still fit into trousers that were made for me when I was 30."

Grant is judging as usual in the 10th series of Sewing Bee, which started this week, with Young and new host, Ghosts actor Kiell Smith-Bynoe.

"It's just such a warm and comforting and generous show," he enthuses. "I think, quietly, Sewing Bee has had a very big impact on the way we think about our clothes and about all of the textiles that are around us in our home."

He moved from Lancashire to North Yorkshire this year, and when he's not working he loves renovating his house and pottering in his garden. Simple pleasures clearly make him happy.

"You know, just sitting in the sun up the hill with a flask of tea genuinely makes me happy, and taking ourselves away from the anxiety of the consumptive machine that's always trying to push stuff on to us."

■ *Less* by Patrick Grant is published by William Collins, priced £22. Available now

Four new books to read this week

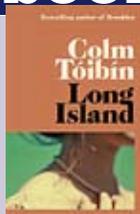
FICTION Long Island

Colm Toibin, hardback, Picador £20 (ebook £9.99)

Toibin's celebrated Brooklyn offered an understated look at the 1950s immigrant experience and what constitutes "belonging". Its sequel maintains the low-key approach but fast-forwards to the 70s.

Now settled into Italian family life in Long Island, a shocking revelation prompts Eilis to reevaluate her suffocating existence as the "Irish outsider", and to reflect on sacrifices made in pursuit of a crumbling American Dream. Running away from America, Eilis tries to reconnect with small-town Irish life.

Long Island hums with the haunting energy of lives un-lived and suppressed passions and packs a sustained emotional punch. Riveting. **10/10**



Evenings And Weekends

Oisín McKenna, hardback, Fourth Estate, £16.99 (ebook £8.99)

It's the hot summer of 2019 in London, there's a whale stranded in the Thames and the characters in McKenna's debut novel are struggling with lives in which they feel trapped and powerless. Maggie is unexpectedly pregnant and living in a damp flat she won't be able to afford with a baby, so is planning a reluctant return to Basildon with partner Ed, who is far from ready to settle down.

Maggie's best friend Phil is besotted with Keith, a housemate, but can't reveal his true feelings. Meanwhile, Phil is so wrapped up in his own life he hasn't noticed his mum has something important to tell him. A painfully realistic tale of how difficult it can be to show our true selves. **7/10**



Black Shield Maiden

Willow Smith and Jess Hendel, hardback, Del Rey, £20 (ebook £11.99)

This is Willow Smith's first foray into fiction – yes, that Willow Smith, daughter of Will and Jada. It's historical fantasy through and through, something you can imagine setting BookTok alight. It breathes new life into typical Viking stories that put white men front and centre.

A young Ghanaian girl is wrested from her family and sent to an alien northern land, where she finds a strange new path in her friendship with an unassuming princess.

The story is imaginative, but the writing is a touch clunky, and has a scene worthy of a Bad Sex in Fiction Award. But there's no denying it's ripe for a sweeping on-screen adaptation. **6/10**



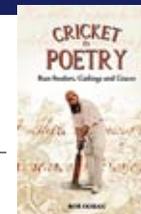
NON-FICTION Cricket In Poetry

Bob Doran, hardback, Pitch Publishing, £18.99 (ebook £9.99)

As the joy of another cricket season dawns, what better time to recall some of the poetry this unparalleled sport has prompted?

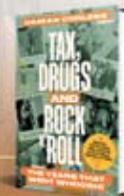
Doran takes a well-researched canter through the history of cricket on these shores through two famous poems – Vitai Lampada by Henry Newbolt and At Lord's by Francis Thompson.

It charts the vastly contrasting fortunes of Newbolt and Thompson, one a well-heeled if unconventional member of literary circles, the other a drug-taking, Jack the Ripper suspect. It also provides an easy-to-consume view of cricket across 300 years, and picks up plenty of other verses and characters along the way. **8/10**



BRITS, HITS AND IRELAND'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

On sale from all good bookshops and Amazon, ebook also available.



Music



ALBUM RELEASES

Lenny finds his spark again



Lenny Kravitz Blue Electric Light

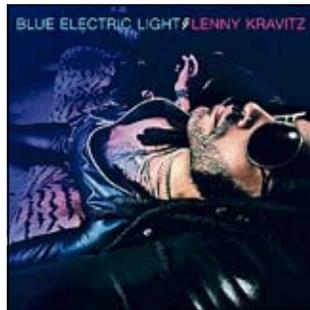
His single TK421 whetted the appetite. Hot, strutting funk-rap with rock guitar and a dance-floor beat, it found Lenny sounding like a more butch Prince - right down to the suggestive lyrics.

"Come on, baby, get on the one," he sings, "Can you feel it, oh, my TK421?"

That might be a reference to the Star Wars stormtrooper TK-421, but I suspect not.

This is Kravitz's 12th full-length album and his first release in five years. The New York-born star recorded it at his home studio, 100 yards from the beach on Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas.

The smooth groove of opener It's Just Another Fine Day (in



This Universe Of Love) must make more sense there than it would do in Manhattan's Lower East Side.

We get 12 tracks ranging from the sunny old-school soul of Honey to Let It Ride's lusty techno-pop via the stomping rock of Paralyzed.

It's deep soul rock'n'roll infused with ecstatic chemistry. Lenny sounds re-energised,

not least on the easy soft rock sweep of Human, which rolls along with a chorus as catchy as cactus spines.

There are spiritual references throughout. TK421 suggests we can "dance our way to the divine", and a trio of other numbers expand on that.

We get the call-and-response rock of Love Is My Religion, the insistent funk of Heaven, and the Stevie Wonder-reminiscent Spirit In My Heart, with its moody minor chords.

Kravitz closes with the hymn-like title track, which builds to a frenzy as he tells us, "I just, I just wanna make love".

He's notched up hits since the early 90s - Fly Away, Are You Gonna Go My Way, It Ain't Over 'Til It's Over etc.

And it ain't over yet.

BRITS, HITS AND IRELAND'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

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Billie Eilish Hit Me Hard And Soft

Just 22, Billie ducks current pop trends with a largely acoustic album that flits between moods, finding space for ballads, chilled dance and well-crafted electronica. She sings about sadness - a doomed affair, bad break-ups - and lesbian lust (she's bisexual), honing heartbreak into songs that are smart, touching and unique.



Paul Weller 66

Weller's 17th solo album is a thing of reflective beauty, enhanced by Hannah Peel's string arrangements, synths and the odd flute. Gems include the soulful mid-paced pop of Flying Fish, Soul Wandering with its driving groove and lyrics by Bobby Gillespie, and the rockier Jumble Queen. Stylish echoes of mid-60s soul abound.



The Mavericks Moon & Stars

The years will not be kind, sings Raul Mayo, but there's no decay here. The Nashville-based country combo, best known for 1998 smash Dance The Night Away, serve up 11 slices of Latin-kissed roots music buoyed by warmth and timeless richness. Guests include Nicole Atkins on the bluesy Live Close By, and Sierra Ferrell.

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19 NIGHTS DEPARTING 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun 7 **Embark the brand new *Queen Anne* and depart Southampton**

Wed 10 **Seville (from Cadiz), Spain**

Sun 14 **Heraklion, Crete, Greece**

Heraklion, the vibrant capital of Crete, is a blend of ancient wonders and modern delights. Home to the legendary Palace of Knossos, a testament to the Minoan civilisation, Heraklion invites visitors to journey through time



Mon 15 **Ephesus (from Kusadasi), Turkey**

Tue 16 **Athens (from Piraeus), Greece**

Wed 17 **Santorini, Greece**

This jewel of the Aegean Sea is renowned for its stunning beauty and captivating allure. Perched atop volcanic cliffs, its whitewashed buildings and breathtaking sunsets create an iconic landscape



Fri 19 **Messina, Sicily**

Transit the Messina Strait

Mon 22 **Granada (from Malaga), Spain**

Malaga, a sun-drenched jewel on Spain's Costa del Sol, beckons with a vibrant blend of history, culture and coastal allure. The birthplace of Picasso enchants with rich architectural heritage, from the Alcazaba fortress to the Renaissance cathedral



Fri 26 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Race against time for Jim

THE moment I spotted **THE CANCELLATION OF JIM DAVIDSON** in tonight's schedules (C5, 10pm), I thought: "Oh, here we go. Another lazy hatchet job. Another easy target. Another unfashionable showbiz name for some witless woke ninnies to pile into."

But I'm pleased to report it's not like that at all. If this didn't sound a tad over-the-top, I might even say it's the bravest programme I've watched in some while.

Why? Because it refuses to do what would have been the safe and obvious thing in today's chillingly censorious climate – namely, to



Mike Ward previews tonight's TV

paint this man, now 70, as simply a sexist, racist, antediluvian ogre.

Instead, as it sets out to tell the story of Jim's 50-odd years in the business, it dares to add perspective, to consider his comedy in context, to appreciate in particular the world in which his act took shape.

That, and to remind us what a

huge star he was in his heyday, hosting such big hitters as *The Generation Game* (taking over from Bruce) and *Big Break*.

It also dares to let Jim tell much of his story himself.

In doing so – in allowing the man to acknowledge his own mistakes (most notably, the booze, the drugs, the money issues and the five divorces), rather than have these thrown in his face – it feels measured and refreshingly grown-up.

And the perennial accusations of racism? It doesn't shy away from those. Jim's act has always been heavy on mimicry, but the West Indian character of Chalky,

brought into his routines in the late Seventies, attracted all kinds of stick.

Journalist and presenter Nana Akua, while grateful that times have changed, is prepared to go only so far, as a black woman, in condemning him.

"The language that was allowed then – which WAS allowed then, by the way – isn't allowed now, and for good reasons on many levels", she agrees.

But she also insists: "He was taking the mickey out of what he saw around him, as a lot of comedians do."

Nana's Ghanian dad, she adds, was a big Jim Davidson fan.

The picture of Jim we're left with by end is one of a man whose regrets seem more personal than professional: "Married five times? It would lead to the fact it's me that's the wrong person..."

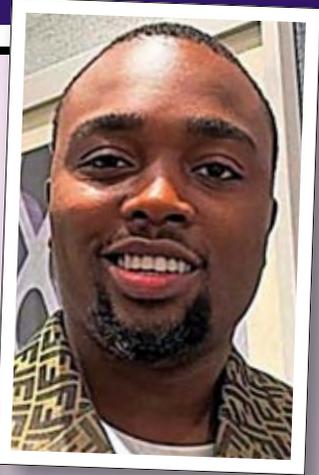
Others, mind, will always have his back. Critic Garry Bushell, who's known him for years, was delighted when, in January 2013, Jim won *Celebrity Big Brother*.

"I jumped up and cheered," he recalls. "All the lot who put him down, they don't know Jim.

They've got this caricature of him, this cartoon in their heads, that he's this sexist, racist dinosaur who doesn't care about anyone.

"He's not like that at all."

PICKS OF THE DAY



Reality: *The Nevernets*, C4, 10pm

Documentary meeting Brits who have fallen in love online and are about to cross international waters to meet their lovers. They spend time on each other's home turf, meet their partner's friends and family, find out about their lover and their lifestyle and observe how they deal with day-to-day life. Participants include Dumebi, who first saw Mazi (both left) in 2019 on Instagram. She messaged him but didn't get a response for over a month. When Mazi finally saw her message and looked at her page, he thought she seemed like his type. Mazi tried calling Dumebi but his ego took a hit when she said she was too busy to talk, but really she was embarrassed it had taken so long for him to respond.



Nature: *RHS Chelsea Flower Show*, BBC1, 7.30pm

Sophie Raworth (left) and Joe Swift reveal the winner of this year's BBC RHS People's Choice Award and they are joined by guest Mary Berry who asks the Pavilion growers how best to create a stunning floral cutting garden. Meanwhile Arit Anderson shows how to add a bit of Chelsea-style glitz to our gardens and Rachel de Thame brings the showstopping flowers from the Great Pavilion. Plus, JJ Chalmers parties on down at a Seventies retro disco-inspired houseplant exhibit.



Entertainment: *Double The Money*, C4, 8pm

The remaining eight teams have two weeks to double their £2,000 stake. Half of them decide to host events and most of the rest attempt food-based ideas. But Nissy and Ben decide to flip cars, even though motoring expert Ben is away on a work trip. Gabrielle and Marissa (above) host a make-up masterclass, but are blocked from social media. Shay and Samina's family fun days risk being a washout.



Film: *Three Thousand Years Of Longing*, Film4, 9pm

In this visually splendid adult fairy tale based on an AS Byatt short story, Tilda Swinton stars as Dr Althea Binnie, a divorced academic. At a conference, she begins seeing visions and soon encounters a life-size Djinn (Idris Elba, above with Swinton), who offers her three wishes. Binnie refuses, but instead listens to his story of imprisonment over three millennia, delivering us to an exotic past of sultans and concubines.

Arts: Jane McDonald: *Lost In Japan*, C5, 7pm

Jane (right) visits Osaka, known as the kitchen of Japan due to its gastronomic reputation. "In most hotels you get a chocolate on your pillow," she says having spotted a table decoration made of sweets, "Here there's a candyfloss bonsai tree!" Jane embraces all her experiences whether that's eating octopus balls, taking the world's highest escalator to get a bird's-eye view of the city or trying her hand at calligraphy. She loves it all but, for once, doesn't break into song about it.



DID YOU KNOW? Idris Elba was DJ at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding reception. The actor, who was asked to DJ by Harry, said the bride "really let go" at the event – the second of their two receptions.



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Today's TV previews are on the previous page

All programmes are listed in British Summer Time (BST).

film ratings

★★★★★ Brilliant
★★★★ Very Good
★★★ Good
★★ Average
★ Bad

(R) Repeat

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Rip Off Britain Investigating issues around the UK.
10.15 The Moment of Proof (R)
10.45 Defenders: Busting the Bad Guys The investigators take on a shameless travel agent. (R)
11.15 Homes Under the Hammer Auction buys in south London, Kent and Stoke-on-Trent. (R)
12.15pm Bargain Hunt Roo Irvine celebrates quirky antiques and collectibles in Glasgow.
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
1.30 Regional News; Weather
1.45 Hope Street Marlene has to work on her wedding day.
2.30 Money for Nothing An old tallboy gets a new lease of life.
3.00 Escape to the Country (R)
3.45 RHS Chelsea Flower Show Rachel De Thame revels in the beauty of wildflowers.
4.30 The Finish Line Quiz show.
5.15 Pointless Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong, with co-host Josh Widdicombe.
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather

BBC Two

6.30am Homes Under the Hammer In Eastbourne, Chesterton and Solihull. (R)
7.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence Marcus cooks for a VIP guest. (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow At Ebrington Square in Derry/Londonderry.
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
1.00pm Impossible Quiz show. (R)
1.45 Mastermind (R)
2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys Michael Portillo visits the Farne Islands. (R)
2.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown Cider-makers Liz and Mike visits the South of England Agricultural Show. (R)
3.15 Yellowstone Summer returns to the national park. (R)
4.15 Who Do You Think You Are? With actor Ralf Little. (R)
5.15 Flog It! From Sandon Hall in Staffordshire. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games Gameshow. (R)
6.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence Marcus learns how to make a local artichoke dish.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.00 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal From Weston-super-Mare. (R)
3.00 Lingo Liverpool sisters Brodie and Terrilea, Derbyshire couple Ian and Jacqui, and mother and daughter Alex and Nicola from Leeds take part. (R)
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Tipping Point Quiz, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
5.00 The Chase Bradley Walsh presents as Harry, Stuart, Sarah and Erica answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on a ruthless Chaser. (R)
6.00 Regional News; Weather

Channel 4

6.30am 3rd Rock from the Sun (R)
7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond Four episodes. (R)
9.40 Frasier Triple bill. (R)
11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Luigi's in Orange County, California. (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA Chef Gordon Ramsay heads to Park's Edge restaurant in Atlanta, Georgia. (R)
1.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Simon O'Brien and Henry Cole head to Surrey and Hampshire. (R)
2.10 Countdown With Pat Nevin.
3.00 A Place in the Sun A holiday home in Mar Menor. (R)
4.00 Narrow Escapes Jack and Gabby make a surprise announcement. Last in series.
5.00 Come Dine with Me: The Professionals Chefs in Northern Ireland battle it out in the kitchen.
6.00 Four in a Bed Payment Day promises to be a fiery affair.
6.30 The Simpsons Homer becomes a food critic. (R)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.15 Storm Huntley Storm carries on the discussion and takes your calls on the big stories.
12.45pm Friends Double bill. Monica celebrates her engagement; Monica starts making wedding plans. (R)
1.40 5 News at Lunchtime
1.45 Home and Away Justin is in disbelief when Kirby tells him the truth about Theo. (R)
2.15 FILM Lies Between Friends (2022, PG) A wealthy family's life is upended when the 18-year-old daughter of a family friend comes to live with them for a few months. Thriller, starring Zibby Allen. ★★★
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun Cameras follow Beckii and Simon on a big day, as the newest member of their family is coming home. (R)
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 Police Interceptors Officers track down a 17-year-old suspected of a serious robbery (R); 5 News Update



9pm, **HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU:** Paul Merton and Ian Hislop



7.30pm, **GRAND TOURS OF SCOTLAND'S RIVERS:** Paul



10.45pm, **ITV STUDIO SESSIONS:** Clara Amfo



10pm, **THE NEVERMETS:** Veena



9pm, **SUE PERKINS: LOST IN THAILAND:** Sue Perkins

7

7.00 The One Show Hosted by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp.
7.30 RHS Chelsea Flower Show Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift reveal the winner of this year's BBC RHS People's Choice Award. Mary Berry learns how to create a stunning garden.

7.00 Beechgrove Garden Kirsty Wilson and Lizzie Schofield plant pumpkins and squash in the polytunnel.
7.30 Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers Paul Murton explores the Oykel in Sutherland. Last in series.

6.30 ITV Evening News A round-up of the latest news headlines; Weather
7.30 Emmerdale Soap drama from the Dales. Ella holds a secret, Ruby is left rattled, and Caleb is delighted to see Chas back from Scotland.

7.00 Channel 4 News Headline analysis, plus sport and weather updates.
7.30 Unreported World Krishnan Guru-Murthy explores South Korea's K-pop dance schools, investigating the hidden cost of becoming the next big idol.

7.00 Jane McDonald: Lost in Japan In Osaka, the singer takes a food tour that includes the best katsu that the region has to offer. She also visits the downtown Dotonbori district. Last in series (R); 5 News Update

8

8.00 Would I Lie to You? With Claudia Winkleman, the Rev Kate Bottley, Sara Barron and Ed Gamble. (R)
8.30 Outnumbered Sue worries when Karen has trouble fitting in at her new school and Jake has a confession to make. (R)

8.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show It's the end of the week at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2024. Monty Don and Joe Swift provide their expert analysis of the winning garden in the BBC RHS People's Choice Award.

8.00 Coronation Street More soap drama from the famous cobbles. Abi accuses Dean of distributing videos of her, Evelyn and Roy start a book club, and Simon shows Carla a photo of Peter with his arms around a woman.

8.00 Double the Money The remaining eight teams are given two weeks to double their £2,000 stake. Half of the teams decide to host events and most of the rest attempt food-based ideas. Hosted by Sue Perkins.

8.00 The Big Steam Adventure: Here We Go Again! John Sergeant, Peter Davison and Paul 'Piglet' Middleton explore the Scottish Highlands, visiting the Cairngorms Mountain range, Aviemore and Loch Ness. Last in series.

9

9.00 Have I Got News for You Phil Wang hosts, with Richard Osman and Ruth Davidson.
9.30 The Young Offenders Healy shares with everyone that he's going on a fishing trip to where he grew up, so Mairead insists he takes Conor with him.

9.00 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust A missing masterpiece returns to its stately home in Wiltshire after two centuries, and a treasured table from Scotney Old Castle in Kent undergoes careful renovation.

9.00 Beat the Chasers Bradley Walsh hosts the quiz in which contestants from across the UK take on a team consisting of Chasers Issa Schultz, Mark Labbett, Shaun Wallace, Jenny Ryan and Darragh Ennis, hoping to win big money. (R)

9.00 Gogglebox The critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions and the lively discussions that are prompted by the week's biggest and best shows.

9.00 Sue Perkins: Lost in Thailand Sue visits the country's heady capital, Bangkok, looking at one of the ways its pollution problem is being addressed. She also examines tiger exploitation. Last in series.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 FILM Spider-Man: Far from Home (2019, 12) In the aftermath of the Avengers' climactic battle for the fate of the universe, the teenage webslinger just wants life to get back to normal. A school trip across Europe seems just the thing – but he ends up recruited by spy agency SHIELD to battle an invasion by elemental monsters from another dimension. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Tom Holland, Jake Gyllenhaal and Samuel L Jackson. ★★★★★

10.00 QI Tom Allen, Ciarad Lloyd and Jamie MacDonald join regular Alan Davies on the comedy panel quiz, with Sandi Toksvig asking questions on the theme of trundling. (R)
10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis presented by Faisal Islam.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 ITV Studio Sessions Clara Amfo is joined by Sekou from Leicester, who performs some of his music and covers of songs by two artists who have inspired him.

10.00 NEW The Nevermets Meeting Brits who have fallen in love online as they make the life-changing decision to cross international waters to meet their long-distance lovers. In the first episode, Veena is waiting for Jay to arrive.

10.00 The Cancellation of Jim Davidson The comedian and presenter offers an in-depth exploration of his life, unique career, and the controversies that have surrounded him. Featuring interviews with his friends and critics.

11

11.05 Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour Rob Rinder and Rylan Clark head to Florence. Their journey begins with a climb up to the spectacular dome of the city's cathedral, before they visit the Uffizi gallery, home of the Venus de Milo sculpture. (R)

11.15 FILM Dr No (1962, PG) James Bond investigates a criminal mastermind in the Caribbean who is plotting to sabotage the US space programme. Spy thriller, with Sean Connery, Ursula Andress and Jack Lord. ★★★★★

1.05am Shop on TV **3.00 The Larkins.** The family hosts a barbecue and everyone is welcome, including the dubious Jerebohms, but a trap is set to bring Pop down. Drama, starring Bradley Walsh and Joanna Scanlan. (R)
3.50 Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (R)

11.05 Joe & Katherine's Bargain Holidays Joe Wilkinson and Katherine Ryan enjoy a budget break in Montenegro. They indulge their cultural sides in the city of Kotor, where Joe has planned a special visit for Katherine to the Cat Museum.

11.30 When 80s TV Goes Horribly Wrong Anita Dobson narrates a look back at some disastrous 1980s TV moments, including a stunt that went wrong for Paul Daniels and Des O'Connor's bite on the nose from a pooch. (R)

12

midnight

12.40am Rebus. Crime drama based on the novels by Ian Rankin, reimagining the character John Rebus as a younger detective sergeant drawn into a violent criminal conflict. (R) **1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead** **1.35-6.00am** BBC News

12.05am Secrets and Spies: A Nuclear Game. Mikhail Gorbachev is instated as the leader of the Soviet Union. (R) **1.05 Sign Zone: Andi Oliver's Fabulous Feasts** (R) **2.05 Sign Zone: Great British Railway Journeys** (R) **2.35 Sign Zone: David & Jay's Touring Toolshed** (R) **3.05-6.15am** This Is BBC Two

1.05am Shop on TV **3.00 The Larkins.** The family hosts a barbecue and everyone is welcome, including the dubious Jerebohms, but a trap is set to bring Pop down. Drama, starring Bradley Walsh and Joanna Scanlan. (R)
3.50 Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (R)

12.10am Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game. The comedian performs to his home crowd at London's Hackney Empire. (R) **1.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (R) **2.20 Come Dine with Me** (R) **4.30 Location, Location, Location** (R) **5.20 Sunday Brunch Best Bits** (R) **5.40-6.05am** Beat the Chef (R)

1.25am PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.25 10 Years Younger in 10 Days** (R) **4.10 Tesco: Panic in the Aisles.** Documentary. (R) **5.00 House Doctor** (R) **5.25 Entertainment News on 5** **5.30 Peppa Pig** (R) **5.35 Thomas & Friends: Big World! Big Adventures!** (R) **5.45-6.00am** Paw Patrol (R)

ITV2 Freeview 6

6.00am CITV **9.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **9.10** Catchphrase Celebrity Special **10.00** Veronica Mars **11.00** Dawson's Creek **12.00noon** Secret Crush **1.00** Dress to Impress **2.00** Family Fortunes **3.00** Veronica Mars **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress. Dating show.

6.00 **Celebrity Catchphrase** A celebrity special of the show, with Toyah Willcox, Nicola Coughlan and Stephen Mangan.

7.00 **Family Fortunes** The Ecclestons go up against the Burns family.

8.00 **Bob's Burgers** Double bill.

9.00 **FILM** **Horrible Bosses 2** (2014, 15) Three men trying to start their own business are swindled by an investor, so respond by kidnapping his son. Comedy, with Jason Bateman. **★★★**

11.15 **Family Guy** Animated double bill.

12.15am American Dad! **1.15** Bob's Burgers **2.10** Don't Hate the Playaz **2.50** Unwind **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

Dave Freeview 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** Secrets of the Supercars **8.00** World's Most Dangerous Roads **9.20** Top Gear Vietnam Special **11.00** Top Gear: Polar Challenge **12.00noon** Storage Hunters UK: four episodes **2.00** Gadget Man **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 **Rick Stein's French Odyssey**

7.00 **QI XL** Jimmy Carr, Aisling Bea and Danny Bhoj compete alongside resident panellist Alan Davies.

7.40 **Richard Osman's House of Games**

9.00 **QI XL** Jenny Eclair, Johnny Vegas and Bill Bailey join regular panellist Alan Davies for an extended edition of the quiz show.

9.40 **Would I Lie to You?** Double bill.

11.00 **Taskmaster** Bob Mortimer champions sausage meat.

12.00m't **Mock the Week** **12.40** Would I Lie to You? **1.20** **QI XL** **2.00** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **2.25** Secrets of the Supercars **3.25** Gadget Man **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 Freeview 13

6.00am Hollyoaks **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **10.00** Young Sheldon **11.00** Modern Family **12.00noon** The Big Bang Theory: four episodes **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **3.00** Modern Family **4.00** Young Sheldon **5.00** The Big Bang Theory: double bill

6.00 **The Big Bang Theory** Double bill.

7.00 **Hollyoaks** Ste pleads for a day off to spend time with his family.

7.30 **Modern Family** Jay switches sides.

8.00 **Teen First Dates** A 16-year-old dance student dates a Derbyshire lad.

9.00 **FILM** **Meet the Parents** (2000, 12) Comedy, starring Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, and Owen Wilson. **★★★★**

11.10 **Naked Attraction** Singletons Cathy and Adam each choose a date.

12.15am The Big Bang Theory **1.15** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.15** Modern Family **3.05** Naked Attraction **4.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **4.50-6.00am** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: **1.30-1.45pm** BBC Wales Today; Weather **6.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **7.00-7.30** Iolo's Valleys. Iolo Williams explores the valleys inland from Port Talbot.

8.00 Our Food, Our Family with Michela Chiappa. The Welsh-Italian cook helps a woman reconnect with the cuisine of her Nigerian roots.

8.30-9.00 Kiri's TV Flashback **10.30** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.40** Rewind: 60 Years of Welsh Pop. With Manic Street Preachers, Tigertailz and Charlotte Church. **11.10** **FILM** Spider-Man: Far from Home (2019, 12) **★★★★**

1.10am Rebus **2.00-6.00am** BBC News

WALES As BBC2 except: **7.00-7.30pm** The One Show. Live magazine show.

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Meridian **6.00-6.30** ITV News Meridian **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Central **6.00-6.30** ITV News Central **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Cymru Wales **6.00-6.30** ITV News Wales at Six **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales

ITVBe Freeview 28

7.00am The Real Housewives of Cheshire **8.00** Masters of Flip **9.00** LittleBe **12.00noon** Sugar Showdown **12.25** The Real Housewives of New Jersey **1.25** The Only Way Is Essex **2.05** Dinner Date **3.05** Million Dollar Listing: LA **4.00** The Real Housewives of Atlanta **5.00** The Real Housewives of New York City

6.00 **Masters of Flip** Kortney and Dave Wilson plan a large addition for a house.

7.00 **Million Dollar Listing: LA** Josh has a heated exchange with a seller.

8.00 **Dinner Date** Rebecca chooses three blind dates from five potential partners.

9.00 **Botched** Double bill. A fitness enthusiast needs help; Dr Paul Nassif helps a man who wants his ears back.

11.00 **Million Dollar Matchmaker** Patti's help is enlisted by two women from the Real Housewives franchise.

11.55 **Be Beautiful** Recreating the look Lady Gaga wore to the 2015 Grammys.

12.05-12.55am Unwind with ITV

Drama Freeview 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.10** All Creatures Great and Small **8.00** Doctors **9.20** Classic Holby City **10.40** Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.45pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** Pie in the Sky **3.00** Lovejoy **4.15** All Creatures Great and Small **5.20** Birds of a Feather

6.00 **Keeping Up Appearances** Hyacinth attends an exclusive auction.

6.40 **Last of the Summer Wine** Double bill.

8.00 **Father Brown** The priest investigates a murder at the Kempleford treasure hunt.

9.00 **Sister Boniface Mysteries** Sam's career is in jeopardy when serial killer 'The Good Samaritan' resurfaces in Great Slaughter. Drama, starring Lorna Watson.

10.00 **New Tricks** The murder of a fashion designer is reinvestigated.

11.20 **Soldier, Soldier** Paddy has to adjust to life on his own when Nancy refuses to join him in Germany.

12.30am Lovejoy **1.40** When the Boat Comes In **2.50** Classic Holby City **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4 Freeview 18

8.55am A Place in the Sun **10.25** A New Life in the Sun **11.25** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **3.10** Four in a Bed: five episodes **5.50** Chateau DIY

6.55 **PopMaster TV** Double bill. The players in the first heat compete over six rounds; more music enthusiasts from across the country are put to the test.

9.00 **The Twelve: Cinderella Murder** Dennis Pycke's recollection of events is filled with pain, and it seems that his relationship with both Marianne and Anton was fraught with complications.

10.05 **24 Hours in A&E** Double bill. Twenty-year-old Antonio is rushed to A&E after a motorcycle accident; an 80-year-old patient is admitted suffering from pain in her chest, arm and jaw.

12.10am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. With Jonathan Ross and Lee Mack. **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** A Place in the Sun

BBC3 Freeview 23

7.00pm **My Mate's a Bad Date** Oloni helps a 24-year-old find a date.

7.25 **FILM** **The Witches** (2020, PG) A young orphan goes to live with his grandmother, only to find himself the prey of witches disguised as glamorous women. Fantasy, starring Anne Hathaway. **★★**

9.00 **Paranormal: The Girl, the Ghost and the Gravestone** Double bill. Multiple witnesses claim to see a hooded figure; Sian Eleri interviews the daughters of the couple that owned the house.

10.00 **FILM** **Late Night** (2019, 15) Drama, starring Emma Thompson and John Lithgow. **★★★★**

11.35 **Dinosaur** Evie's family try to impress Ranesh's father Sachin.

12.05am Dinosaur **12.30** Paranormal: The Girl, the Ghost and the Gravestone **1.30** I Kissed a Girl **3.00-4.00am** Dinosaur

BBC4 Freeview 9

7.00pm **TOTP: 1996** Featuring Ocean Colour Scene, Luniz and Diana Ross.

7.30 **TOTP: 1996** Lisa l'Anson presents the pop chart programme.

8.00 **TOTP: 1988** Featuring Debbie Gibson, Ofra Haza and Aswad.

8.30 **TOTP: 1978** Featuring music from Blondie, Thin Lizzy and Tavares.

9.00 **TOTP: 1984** With performances by Shakatak, Tina Turner and more.

9.30 **TOTP: 1984** Featuring Nik Kershaw, Eurythmics and Slade.

10.10 **Tina Turner at the BBC** Archive footage of the singer's performances on BBC programmes.

11.10 **When Tina Turner Came to Britain** The story of the singer's 50-year relationship with the UK.

12.10am Tina Turner: Simply the Best **12.55** The 80s - Music's Greatest Decade? With Dylan Jones **1.55** TOTP: 1988 **2.25** TOTP: 1984 **2.55-3.35am** TOTP: 1984

GB News F'view 236

6.00am Breakfast with Stephen and Anne **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney. Updates.

6.00 **Dewbs & Co** Plain-speaking, straight-talking - Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 **Lee Anderson's Real World** Topical current affairs programme.

8.00 **Friday Night Live with Mark Dolan** Mark Dolan presents more big stories, big guests and big opinions.

9.00 **Patrick Christys Tonight** Two hours of discussion and debate.

11.00 **Headliners** An all-star comedy cast takes an insightful look at tomorrow's headlines tonight. With Simon Evans and Dominic Frisby.

12.00m't Lee Anderson's Real World Replay **1.00** Friday Night Live with Mark Dolan **2.00** Headliners Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Headliners Replay

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Sky Sports News
12.00noon LIVE Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix first practice session. At the Circuit de Monaco.
2.00 LIVE Formula 2 Championship The Monaco Grand Prix qualifying session (start time 2.10pm).
3.00 Sports Desk. Live analysis and comment.
3.45 LIVE Formula 1 Monaco Grand Prix second practice session. At the Circuit de Monaco.
5.15 LIVE Women's Super League St Helens v Leeds Rhinos (kick-off 5.30pm). Coverage of the match taking place at Totally Wicked Stadium.
7.30 LIVE Betfred Super League St Helens v Leeds Rhinos (kick-off 8.00pm). From the 12th round of fixtures at Totally Wicked Stadium.
10.00 LIVE Fight Night Lukasz Rozanski v Lawrence Okolie. The bout for the WBC World Bridgerweight title from Rzeszow, Poland.
11.30 Fight Night International **12.30-6.00am** Sky Sports News. A round-up of the headlines.

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am IPL **10.35** Best of England v India **10.55** Best of ICC WT20 **11.10** Best of England v Pakistan **11.35** Best of England v Pakistan
12.00noon Women's International One-Day Cricket. England v Pakistan. **1.00** IPL
2.50 LIVE Indian Premier League Sunrisers Hyderabad v Rajasthan Royals. Coverage of the second qualified match from Chennai.
7.00 ICC Men's T20 World Cup - The Experts View **8.00** Best of ICC WT20 **9.00** IPL
10.00 Women's International One-Day Cricket **11.00** IPL **4.10am** Best of ICC WT20 **4.30** Secrets of Success **5.00-6.00am** IPL

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am EFL **7.00** EFL Rivalries **8.30** EFL **9.00** SPFL Highlights **9.15** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** Championship Retro
12.00noon EFL Highlights **1.00** EFL **2.00** EFL Highlights **3.00** EFL Greatest Games **3.45** SPFL Highlights **4.00** EFL Cup Retro
6.00 WSL **7.00** Scottish Premiership Title Race **8.00** EFL **8.30** EFL **9.00** EFL **9.30** EFL Highlights **10.00** EFL Highlights **10.30** Scottish Premiership Title Race **11.30** EFL Greatest Games **1.00am** EFL Cup Highlights **2.00** EFL **5.00-6.00am** Championship Season Review

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00am UEFA Europa League. This year's final.
7.30 Premier League Reload **7.45** Around the Block **8.00** Fishing: On the Bank **9.00** Ultimate Pool **10.30** TNT Sports Reload
10.45 LIVE AFL Fremantle Dockers v Collingwood Magpies (bounce-up 11.10am). Coverage of the match taking place at Optus Stadium in Perth.
2.00pm European Rugby Challenge Cup
7.00 LIVE European Rugby Challenge Cup Gloucester v Sharks (kick-off 8.00pm). This year's final from Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.
10.30 No Filter Boxing **11.00** Premier League Review **12.00m't** Inside Serie A **12.30** NBA Tip-Off. A look ahead to tonight's matches.
1.30 LIVE NBA Minnesota Timberwolves v Dallas Mavericks (tip-off 1.30am). Game two of the Western Conference Finals from Target Centre.
4.00 Inside the NBA. Post-game analysis.
5.00-7.30am LIVE AFL North Melbourne Kangaroos v Port Adelaide Power (bounce-up 4.45am). From Blundstone Arena in Hobart.

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am MotoGP Highlights. Grand Prix action.
8.00 LIVE MotoGP The Grand Prix of Catalunya free practice session. Preparations for the sixth round from Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya.
10.45 MotoGP Rewind. Grand Prix action.
12.15pm LIVE MotoGP The Grand Prix of Catalunya second practice session.
3.15 LIVE MotoGP Coverage of the qualifying session at the Grand Prix of Catalunya.
4.00 Inside Serie A **4.30** Premier League Netbusters **5.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights
6.00 LIVE WWE Friday Night SmackDown Wrestling action, featuring Roman Reigns, Cody Rhodes, Bayley, Randy Orton and Bianca Belair.
8.00 Fight Night Live **10.00** No Filter Boxing **10.30** UEFA Champions League Magazine **11.00** UEFA Europa League & Conference League Magazine **11.30** MLB: Off the Bat
12.00m't LIVE MLB Cincinnati Reds v Los Angeles Dodgers (start time 12.10am).
3.15 MLB Plays of the Week **3.45** MLB: Off the Bat **4.15** Around the Block. With Jack Grealish.
4.30-7.30am LIVE AFL Carlton Blues v Gold Coast Suns (bounce-up 4.45am).

EUROSPORT 1

6.00am Cycling: Giro d'Italia **7.00** Giro d'Italia: The Breakaway **7.30** Roland-Garros **9.00** Mountain Biking **10.00** Cycling: Giro d'Italia
11.30 LIVE Cycling: Giro d'Italia Stage 19, a route of 157km from Montegialano to Sappada.
4.45pm Ride London **5.45** Cycling: Strade Bianche **6.00** Rafael Nadal - King of Paris **7.00** Roland-Garros **7.35** Le Marathon des Sables - 2024 **8.05** Giro d'Italia **9.00** Giro d'Italia: The Breakaway **9.30** Climbing World Cup **11.00** Discovery Golf **11.30** Cycling: Giro d'Italia
12.30am Giro d'Italia: The Breakaway **1.00** Ride London **2.00** Giro d'Italia **3.30** Climbing World Cup **4.50** The Olympians **5.00** The Power of the Olympics **5.30-6.00am** Mountain Biking

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.00** Classic Coronation Street **8.05** Endeavour **10.15** The Royal **11.20** Heartbeat **1.30pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.35** Classic Coronation Street **3.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **5.55** Heartbeat **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Shetland **11.35** Lewis **1.15am** Upstairs, Downstairs **2.10-2.30am** Unwind with ITV

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Derby Through the Years **6.15** Minder **7.15** The Sweeney **8.15** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **9.25** Magnum, PI **10.25** Kojak **11.30** BattleBots **12.30pm** Magnum, PI **2.40** Kojak **3.45** Minder **4.50** The Sweeney **6.00** BattleBots **7.00** The Grand Fishing Adventure **8.00** The Motorbike Show **9.00** FILM Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome (1985/15) **★★★** **11.15** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite **1.25am** The Chase Celebrity Christmas Special **2.20** The Protectors **2.45-3.00am** Unwind with ITV

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain Loving Brits by the Sea **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **2.00pm** Police Interceptors **5.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** GPs: Behind Closed Doors **8.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts **9.00** FILM Godzilla: King of the Monsters (2019/12) **★★★★★** **11.40** FILM The Hangover Part II (2011/15) **★★★** **1.45am** Killer at the Crime Scene **2.35** Evil Up Close: Kids Who Kill **3.20** Car Pound Cops **3.50-4.00am** Entertainment News on 5

REALLY Freeview 17

8.00am Salvage Hunters **10.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **11.00** Antiques Road Trip **12.00noon** Money for Nothing **1.00** The Repair Shop **2.00** My 600lb Life **4.00** Animal Cops Philadelphia **6.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **7.00** Antiques Road Trip **9.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **10.00** Ghost Adventures **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **12.00m't** Unexplained: Caught on Camera **1.00** Paranormal: Caught on Camera **2.00** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Animal Cops Philadelphia

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.05** The Motorway **10.05** Traffic Cops **11.05** Police Interceptors **12.05pm** FILM Walk the Proud Land (1956/U) **★★** **1.55** FILM Winchester '73 (1950/U) **★★★★★** **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Police: Night Shift 999 **10.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **11.00** Sewermen **12.00m't** Police Interceptors **1.00** Criminals Caught on Camera **2.00-3.50am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Darbar Festival 2022 **7.15** Gilbert and Sullivan: A Motley Pair **7.50** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Diane Keaton **12.00noon** The Joy of Painting **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Julie Andrews Forever **3.00** The Big Design Challenge **4.00** Discovering: Morgan Freeman **5.00** The Joy of Painting

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz **6.33am** Best New Pop **6.57** Newsbeat **7.00** Breakfast with Greg James **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Radio 1 Anthems **11.02** Radio 1's Big Weekend **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **11.00** Pete Tong **1.00am** Radio 1's Essential Mix **3.00** Radio 1 Dance Presents **4.00** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems **5.00-6.00am** Radio 1 Relax

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz **6.30am** Zoe Ball **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker **12.00m't** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00** Mica Meets Gladys Knight **3.00** Eagles at the BBC **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco **5.00-6.00am** In Concert: Bruce Hornsby and the Range

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz **6.30am** Breakfast. Petroc Trelawny presents. **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** News **1.02** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Rimsky-Korsakov **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night **9.45** The Essay: Art and Uncertainty **10.00** Late Junction **11.30** 'Round Midnight. Soweto Kinch presents. **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night



Chicago Fire Sky Witness, 9pm
 A hazmat call at a dialysis centre leads to a shocking discovery. Plus, Boden (Eamonn Walker, left) clashes with Paramedic Chief Robinson, and Carver notices a concerning change in Gibson's behaviour.

6.00 Australian Ballet: Cinderella **7.35** Eric Clapton: Concert by the Lake - Band du Lac **10.00** Grand Ole Opry **11.00** Guy Garvey: From the Vaults **12.00m't** Billy Joel Live at Yankee Stadium **1.45** Live from the Artists Den **3.00-4.00am** Classic Albums

GOLD

7.15am Desmond's **8.15** Keeping Up Appearances **9.30** Ever Decreasing Circles **10.10** Are You Being Served? **10.50** Porridge **11.25** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** Keeping Up Appearances **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Porridge **2.40** Dad's Army **3.20** Are You Being Served? **4.00** Last of the Summer Wine **5.20** Porridge **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Dad's Army **8.00** Only Fools and Horses **8.40** Blackadder II **9.20** dinnerladies **10.00** The Fast Show **10.40** Mrs Brown's Boys **12.00m't** Blackadder II **12.40** dinnerladies **1.15** Only Fools and Horses **1.55** The Fast Show **2.40** Billy Connolly Does **3.25-4.00am** The Rebel

YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am The Architecture Reveals the Railways Built **7.10** Hornby: A Model World **8.00** Abandoned Engineering **10.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II **11.00** War Factories **12.00noon** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II **5.00** War Factories **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Canal Boat Diaries **8.00** Secrets of the London Underground **9.00** Abandoned Engineering **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00m't** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00** Railway Murders **2.00-3.00am** Scouting for Toys

ALIBI

7.10am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Miss Scarlet and the Duke **10.00** Elementary **11.00** Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators **12.00noon** Father Brown **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** Elementary **5.00** Father Brown **6.00** Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators **7.00** Elementary **8.00** Death in Paradise **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Red King **11.00** Elementary **12.00m't** Deception **1.00** Unforgettable **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **3.00-4.00am** CSI: Vegas

SKY MAX

6.00am NCIS: Los Angeles **7.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** MacGyver

Radio

CHOICE

Add To Playlist Radio 4, 7.15pm
 With Cerys Matthews taking time off and returning in November, Jeffrey Boakye is joined by a new co-host, violinist and composer Anna Phoebe. To kick off the new six-part series, they are joined in studio by composer and silent film specialist Neil Brand and jazz singer and composer Natalie Duncan.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz **6.00am** Today **9.00** Desert Island Discs **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Food Programme **11.45** Book of the Week: A Body Made of Glass **12.00noon** News **12.04** AntiSocial **1.00** The World at One **1.45** Shadow War: China and the West **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: Money Gone **2.45** Child **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** Short Works **4.00** Last Word **4.30** More or Less **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** Dead Ringers **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Add to Playlist **8.00** Any Questions? **8.50** A Point of View **9.00** Free Thinking **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Making Amends **11.00** Americast **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45-6.00am** Just One Thing with Michael Mosley

3.00 Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **6.00** Stargate SG-1 **8.00** Rob & Romesh vs Cricket: South Africa **9.00** A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip **10.00** The Walking Dead **11.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **11.50** Hold the Front Page **12.55am** Resident Alien **2.00** Peacemaker **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Fish Town **7.00** The Guest Wing **7.55** True Blood **10.05** Billions **12.15pm** Game of Thrones **1.20** Ray Donovan **3.30** True Blood **5.40** Billions **7.55** Game of Thrones **9.00** The Pacific **10.00** The Tattooist of Auschwitz **11.05** The White Lotus **12.35am** House of the Dragon **1.45** Euphoria **2.50** Game of Thrones **4.00-6.00am** The Guest Wing

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Stop, Search, Seize **7.00** Border Patrol **8.00** Caught on Dashcam **9.00** Send in the Dogs **10.00** The Force: Manchester **11.00** Bull **12.00noon** New Amsterdam **1.00** 9-1-1 **2.00** FBI: Most Wanted **3.00** Caught on Dashcam **4.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Caught on Dashcam **8.00** Chicago Med **9.00** Chicago Fire **10.00** Chicago PD **11.00** The Equalizer **12.00m't** The Cleaning Lady **1.00** Blue Bloods **2.00** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit **3.00** FBI: Most Wanted **5.00-6.00am** UK Border Force

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** The Conners **10.00** Mr Mayor **10.30** Veep **11.40** Entourage **12.50pm** How to Make It in America **2.10** Veep **3.20** Entourage **4.30** Mr Mayor **5.00** Will & Grace **6.00** The Office (US) **7.00** The Conners **8.00** Will & Grace **9.00** Young Rock **10.00** Jerrod Carmichael Reality Show **11.15** Jerrod Carmichael: Love At The Store **12.20am** The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon **1.20** Sam Jay: Salute Me or Shoot Me **2.25** Insecure **3.25** Hello Ladies **4.00-5.00am** How to Make It in America

DISCOVERY

6.00am How It's Made **7.00** Gold Divers **8.00** Building Off the Grid **9.00** Combat Dealers **10.00** Demolition Down Under **11.00** Wheeler Dealers **1.00pm** Building Off the Grid **3.00** Gold Rush **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **6.00** Demolition Down Under **7.00** Wheeler Dealers: Dream Car **8.00** Gold Rush: White Water **9.00** Moonshiners **10.00** Blowing Up History **11.00** Combat Dealers **12.00m't** Gold Divers **1.00** Moonshiners **2.00** Blowing Up History **3.00** Gold Rush: Parker's Trail **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Food Factory **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Nazi Megastructures **11.00** History: The Interesting Bits **12.00noon** Car S.O.S **1.00** To Catch a Smuggler **2.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Nazi Megastructures **4.00** Drain the Oceans **5.00** Car S.O.S.: Ultimate Countdown **6.00** Lost Treasures of Egypt **7.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Drug Lords: The Takedown **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Trafficked: Underworlds with Mariana Van Zeller **1.00** Drugs Inc **2.00** Made in a Day **2.30-2.55am** Food Factory

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz **6.00am** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** Elis James and John Robins **2.00** Holly Hamilton **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Friday Football Social **9.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Lisa McCormick **5.00-6.00am** 5 Live Boxing

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz **6.00am** Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.30** All Things Considered **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **12.00noon** The Phone In **2.00** Eleri Sion **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Books That Made Me with Lucy Owen **7.00** Radio Wales Sport **10.00** Friday Night H **12.00m't** The Party Playlist with H **1.00** As Radio 5 Live **5.00-7.00am** Vicki Blight

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz **6.30am** Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Tim Lihoreau **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Classic FM at the Movies with Jonathan Ross **9.00** Traditional Tunes with Iona Stephen **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00-7.00am** Sam Pitts

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Richie 7.00 Absolute 80s Greatest Hits with Claire Sturgess. Hits from the decade. **10.00** Sophie K **4.00-8.00am** Jennie Longdon

Movies

FILM4

11.00am Two Way Stretch (1960/U) Comedy, starring Peter Sellers. **★★★**
12.45pm Payroll (1961/PG) Crime drama, with Michael Craig and Billie Whitelaw. **★★★**
3.00 The Nevedan (1950/U) Western, starring Randolph Scott and Dorothy Malone. **★★★★★**
4.35 The Golden Voyage of Sinbad (1974/U) Fantasy adventure, with John Phillip Law, Tom Baker and Douglas Wilmer. **★★★**
6.50 The Italian Job (2003/12) Crime thriller remake, starring Mark Wahlberg. **★★★**
9.00 Three Thousand Years of Longing (2022/15) Premiere. A scholar on a trip to Istanbul discovers a djinn who offers her three wishes in exchange for his freedom. Fantasy, starring Tilda Swinton and Idris Elba. **★★★★★**
11.10 A Banquet (2021/15) Premiere. A widowed mother is tested when her teenage daughter insists her body is now serving a higher power. Mystery thriller, starring Sienna Guillory and Jessica Alexander. **★★★**
1.05-4.00am The Handmaiden (2016/18) Psychological thriller, with Kim Min-hee and Kim Tae-ri. In Korean and English. **★★★★★**

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

7.10am The Inseparables (2023/U) See 1.05pm for details. **★★★**
8.55 The Starling Girl (2023/15) Drama, with Eliza Scanlen and Lewis Pullman. **★★★**
10.55 Blue Beetle (2023/12) See 8.00pm for details. **★★★**
1.05pm The Inseparables (2023/U) Animated adventure, featuring the voices of Monica Young and Danny Fehsenfeld. **★★★**
2.40 My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (2023/12) Romantic comedy, with Nia Vardalos. **★★★**
4.25 Cult Killer (2023/15) Thriller, starring Alice Eve and Antonio Banderas. **★★★**
6.20 The Blackening (2023/15) Comedy horror, starring Grace Byers. **★★★**
8.00 Blue Beetle (2023/12) Fantasy adventure, with Xolo Mariduena. **★★★**
10.10 The Equalizer 3 (2023/15) Thriller sequel, with Denzel Washington. **★★★★★**
12.00m't Monolith (2023/15) Thriller, starring Lily Sullivan and Ling Cooper Tang. **★★★★★**
1.40am Cult Killer (2023/15) See 4.25pm for details. **★★★**
3.35 The Lesson (2023/15) Thriller, with Daryl McCormack and Richard E Grant. **★★★★★**
5.25-7.00am 10 Lives (2024/U) Animated comedy, with the voice of Mo Gill

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By Deborah Stone

Bridgerton's budding star

BRIDGERTON'S back and with it our enduring fascination with Regency architecture, fitted bodices and luscious wisteria. Yes, the heaving cleavage and tight white trousers are all very well but it's the heavenly waterfall of lilac-blue flowers draped over exquisite door frames and windows that have emerged as the real stars of the popular Netflix drama.

The first four episodes of the third series became available on the streaming channel last week and from the outset it's clear that flowers play a major part – not just wisteria but also roses, clematis and other colourful blooms.

As for the Regency architecture, it's enough to make you swoon – although the current price of Regency houses might also make you faint.

But if it's a wisteria-festooned home you're after, now's the time to go house-hunting because these beautiful climbing shrubs are at their peak from May to early June.

Jackson-Stops has a gorgeous farmhouse in Somerset for sale that will get wisteria fans excited. Although it's in Bridgwater rather than Bridgerton, the five-bedroom, two-bathroom house has a "magnificent established wisteria" trained over the stone mullion windows and old front door under a roof of traditional local red tiles.

Grade-II listed Causeway Farmhouse dates back to the 17th century, but its 1734 date stone indicates it was substantially remodelled during the Georgian era, which ran from 1714 to 1837 and included the short Regency period.

There are also walled gardens, a kitchen

garden, an Aga in the kitchen-breakfast room, a garden room, dining room and two lounges, plus a magnificent barn with a car port and a range of garden buildings such as a wood store, garden tool stores and recently installed lean-to greenhouse.

Causeway Farmhouse is in the Polden Hills near Bridgwater in the village of Woolavington, which has a good-sized store, GPs' surgery and separate pharmacy. There's also a village hall, primary school and recreation grounds, while the church dates back to Saxon times and can be seen from the farmhouse garden.

Burnham-on-Sea with its sandy beach and golf course is nearby, and the village is 16 miles from Taunton and 36 from Bristol, which is easily accessible from the M5 two miles away.



BLOOM WITH A VIEW: Causeway Farmhouse near Bridgwater in the village of Woolavington

THE property is on the market for offers in excess of £800,000 (01823 325144; jackson-stops.co.uk) and has flagstone floors in the central hall, an inglenook fireplace with wood-burning stove in the drawing room, and a garden room with a mature vine growing up the wall and along the glass windows and roof – although it's the wisteria that grabs your attention.

The first wisteria bushes were brought to the UK by John Reeves, chief inspector of tea at Canton in China, back in 1816 at the height of the Regency era, so it's the perfect plant to sum up this flamboyant period.

And the good news is that it's remarkably resilient and easy to grow in a sunny spot against a wall or support structure – so virtually anybody can create their own Bridgerton-themed garden.

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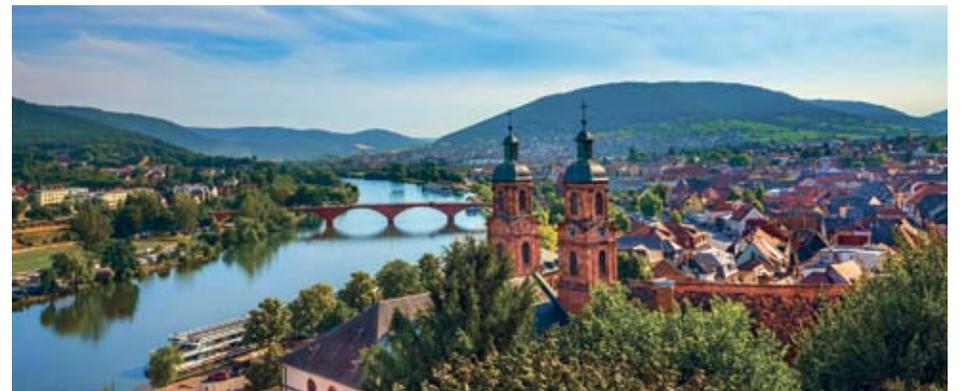
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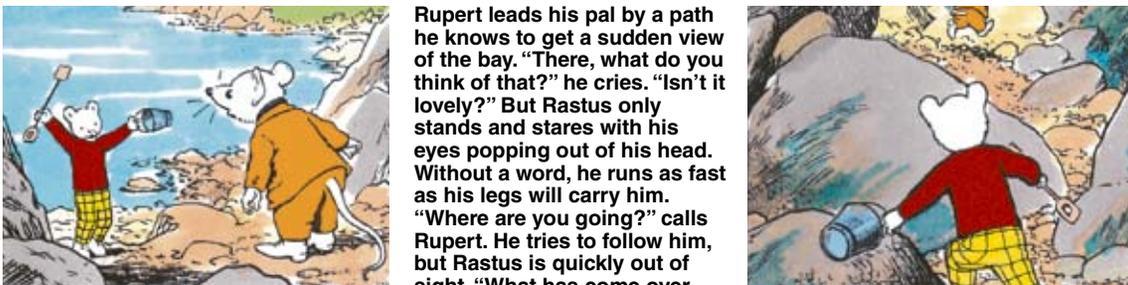
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RUPERT AT ROCKY BAY No 7



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The mouse has never been before, And stands amazed upon the shore.

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Then, suddenly, he turns in fright, And runs away in headlong flight.

Chow mein

The fresh flavours in this dish makes it seem special and yet it is ready in less than 30 minutes. A large frying pan or wok is ideal for cooking this one-pan dish. Serves 2.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tbsp fresh root ginger
- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- 3 tbsp tomato ketchup
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 2 tbsp oyster sauce
- 1 red pepper
- 5 spring onions
- 200g beansprouts
- 3 nests of egg noodles
- 1 tbsp sunflower oil
- 2 chicken breasts, cut into thin strips - or use 200g of prawns if preferred

METHOD

- 1) Prepare the sauce. Remove the skin from the ginger using a potato peeler and grate 1tbsp from the root. Mix in a bowl with the crushed garlic, ketchup, soy sauce, oyster sauce. Add 3tbsp water and stir thoroughly to combine.
- 2) Deseed and slice the peppers, remove the ends from the spring onions and slice into strips.
- 3) Immerse the noodles in a pan of boiling water, then remove from the heat and let soak for 4 minutes before draining.
- 4) Heat the wok until it starts to smoke, then add the oil and chicken strips and keeping them moving with a wooden spoon, cook until lightly sealed. Add the pepper, and stir fry for another minute.
- 5) Add the sauce to the wok and stir with the chicken until bubbling.
- 6) Remove the drained noodles from the colander and add to the wok. Add the beansprouts and spring onions and mix thoroughly, stirring until the beansprouts begin to soften. Serve immediately.



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ALAN'S TIP OF THE DAY: Move patio plants such as cordyline palms outside for the summer, along with any large conservatory shrubs. They'll enjoy the fresh air and it's also a good way to keep them free of pests and diseases, which are a problem under glass in warm weather.

Russell Grant



Britain's celebrity astrologer



Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

The first person who responds to an item advertised for sale will make a tempting offer. Don't be too quick to accept. Whether it's a vehicle or piece of furniture, buyers will flock to your door later and you'll get a far better price than you hoped. **0905 789 3701****



Taurus Apr 21 - May 21

A senior colleague will be ditching a commitment to put more funds into upgrading your workspace. They want to focus on outcomes, not spending, and may need reminding that a drab workplace can have a negative impact on performance. **0905 789 3702****



Gemini May 22 - June 21

Avoid getting into an argument. You're tempted to retaliate when someone makes an upsetting remark. They've waited for the chance to throw something you did back in your face. You always felt they held a grudge and now you know why. **0905 789 3703****



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 23

You could be on the way to spend time with a relative or friend in another part of the country. This is your chance to meet new people and business contacts. You'll soon be introduced to someone who will have a profound effect on your work. **0905 789 3707****



Scorpio Oct 24 - Nov 22

You'll be happy to support a friend or relative who's working on behalf of a local charity. Whether it's a generous donation or volunteering, you'll feel better for it. Are you single? A strong attraction to another volunteer will be hard to ignore. **0905 789 3708****



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21

Take advantage of a quiet spell that allows you to work in peace. This is just a temporary respite before things get busy. Your schedule will soon be packed and if you neglect tasks today they will pile up and threaten to overwhelm you. **0905 789 3709****

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Cancer June 22 - July 23

You have a big challenge ahead. In moments like this you will have to show a lot of strength and self-belief. A partner is supportive. They have seen you at your best and at your worst and they are always here to comfort and support you. **0905 789 3704****



Leo July 24 - Aug 23

Worrying over a strained relationship is affecting your health. The more you dwell on guilt and remorse, the more stressed you feel. It isn't easy to come to terms with the past. Forgiving yourself for the part you played is a start. **0905 789 3705****



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

A challenge will test your resilience. What you are up against will be physically and mentally draining. The fundamental question at the heart of this is how do you solve the problem? Are measures suggested going to be enough? **0905 789 3706****



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 20

It doesn't matter what others might think, you have a right to privacy. An ex-partner seems to think they can still intrude in your life. If they don't get the message that it's over, change the locks. Be sure all online passwords are updated. **0905 789 3710****



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

A community project will seek support in your neighbourhood. If you're interested, let others know about it immediately. Joining forces with like-minded people could start to resolve an issue that is close to your heart. **0905 789 3711****



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

There's no reason why you should be always busy. When things go quiet, take this opportunity to recharge. Someone will suggest you give them a helping hand but you've done plenty for them recently. It's about time they managed on their own. **0905 789 3712****

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Was PM's hand forced by his own party members?

IS THIS a bold gamble by the PM because the economy seems to be improving or a move to disrupt disgruntled MPs threatening to put in more letters of no confidence ("Rumours rained down all day as PM failed to dampen speculation on his bold decision", May 23).

Tony Kirkham,
Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside

Tory leader should follow off-script Boris's example

I WATCHED Rishi Sunak reel off a list of what his Government had done. But through it all there was sadly lacking any signs of any passion, emotion and compassion.

Where were the words of hope for the ordinary people of this country? What made matters worse was that he was obviously reading from a script.

Maybe it's time for Boris Johnson to return... at least he had a certain enthusiasm and passion for the UK and its people and he could speak without a script.

John Brierley,
Todmorden, Lancs

Put Reform in opposition and watch country thrive

NOW THE election has been called I wonder if the British public has the sense to get rid of the useless Labour, LibDem, Green, SNP, nationalists etc and vote in Reform as the official opposition (to give them time to assimilate to Parliamentary ways).

Leave the Conservatives in power for another five years and I expect, with Reform pointing the way, the UK will thrive.

Vote for Labour and see bankruptcy, as well a social disintegration.

Andy Spraggons,
Felixstowe, Suffolk

Let's give Labour exactly what they're asking for

NOT working class? Then vote Conservative.

Replying to the PM's election announcement, Keir Starmer proclaimed that Labour was a party for the "working class".

So come on all you retirees, do as he says - vote Conservative.

Most of us worked from the age of 15 to 65 or more, with many going on to do voluntary work, so with all those years of experience surely we know what not to do!

Denis Durnford,
Bournemouth, Dorset

UK clinging to outdated 'first past post' lottery

A GENERAL election in this country brings the huge regret that, unlike most European countries, our system does not mean 10 per cent of the vote will give a party 10 per cent of the seats.

In the UK, 3 per cent of the vote can give you 10 per cent of the seats and 14 per cent of the vote can give you nothing at all.

It's like a lottery and long past its sell-by date.

Dan Hartley,
Solihull, W Mids

Letter of the day



RISKY BUSINESS: The PM is banking on economic promises

Sunak facing battle to win voters' trust

IT MAY be a gamble for Rishi Sunak to call a general election in July but there is no good time to take the plunge in this election year ("Countdown to July 4 election", May 22).

The PM has called this amid falling inflation and out of recession, with a promise that prices and mortgage rates will follow. An early election means the public must trust Sunak and Jeremy Hunt this will materialise, rather than wait till later when the picture's clearer.

Do the Tories have the trust of the public facing an increasing cost of living and ever depleting NHS or will Keir Starmer set out a clear and costed plan to put things right?

Sunak has a big task on if he is to convince working people he deserves another term.

Diane Silva,
Bournemouth, Dorset

Let the voter beware of big manifesto promises

HERE we go to the polls again - if there is anyone worth voting for.

Remember: there are lies, damned lies, statistics and political party election manifestos.

Dave Austin,
Chalfont St Peter, Bucks

Weeping Vennells does not deserve sympathy

SO PAULA Vennells wept giving evidence to the Post Office inquiry. Boo hoo. It's a pity she didn't think about all those wrongly accused people years ago ("Met Police 'promise justice' as tearful PO boss says sorry", May 23).

As head of the Post Office she could have prevented the heartache.

Common sense should have told her, and alarm bells sounded, when an absurd number of people were having problems with the Horizon IT system.

Hopefully, Vennells and her cohorts will be hauled up in court to answer for their actions.

They ruined lives and caused unspeakable harm, to the falsely accused and their families.

I've no sympathy.

Ruth Peberdy,
Bridgwater, Somerset

Post Office chiefs always content to pass the buck

WE NOW know the system of management and control exercised by the Post Office board was to delegate problem resolving to others and then perform an act of abdication of responsibility.

This inquiry should assist any police and judicial action which appears very likely.

Mervyn Bramwell,
Warrington, Cheshire

Whitewash inquiries give impression justice is done

FABULOUS article from Tim Newark about British institutions in the event of an inquiry ("Institutions all too often choose to protect themselves", May 22).

As he said, what's the point if nobody is brought to justice and once again no lessons are learned - because justice has to be seen to be done?

Mike Rathbone,
Stoke-on-Trent

Over-66s allowance could resolve pension tax trap

TO SOLVE the problem of the frozen personal allowances bringing more pensioners into paying

income tax, the Government should bring in an age-related personal allowance for the over-66s, equalling the annual rise in pensions.

It could be amended by any increase in personal allowances in the future, so that it is always relevant and fair.

Steven Cossins,
Darlington, Co Durham

Why has Southgate picked four keepers for Euros?

Not sure why Gareth Southgate has picked four goalkeepers in his latest England squad ("Old pals axe", May 22).

He only ever uses one, even in meaningless friendlies. Surprised none of them have done a Ben White and quit.

Stuart Turner,
Southborough, Kent

Bloomin' madness to sack Pochettino from Chelsea

Recently announced at the Chelsea Flower Show: a new plant, the Pochettino ("Poch out", May 22).

This species is a slow starter but then does quite well.

Sadly, as with other annuals, it only lasts a year.

Ray Unwin,
Warrington, Cheshire

IS PERSONALITY MORE ATTRACTIVE THAN LOOKS IN A MAN?

Yes I WAS thrilled to see Jeremy Clarkson held on to his well-deserved title of UK's sexiest man (Virginia Blackburn, May 23). I'll admit he's no hunk, but he has a brilliant sense of humour and isn't afraid to speak his mind. In a world of people-

pleasers, I find that refreshing and, to be honest, quite a turn on. He's a real man's man, very self-assured, and that's his secret weapon. We can't all have film star looks and in truth it's a confident personality that makes a man attractive and sexy. **Sally Jackson,**
Preston

No HEAVENS above, who on earth voted Jeremy Clarkson as the "UK's sexiest man"? I can't see the appeal myself, but each to their own I suppose. Sexiness is definitely about looks more than personality though. A man without sex appeal is destined to be "just a

friend". Couldn't the nation have picked someone a little more smouldering or chiselled for the title? A woman might enjoy your company, fellas, but if you've not got the body to back it up you won't be "laughing her into bed" any time soon. **Maggie Johnson,**
Bridgnorth, Salop

ON THIS DAY



79 years ago (1945)

Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited King George VI and Thursday, July 5 was set as the date for the next general election.

We also reported Field Marshal Montgomery's 11th British Division had rounded up the leaders of Germany's Flensburg government led by Admiral Karl Donitz. Naval Commander-in-Chief Admiral Hans-Georg von Friedeburg took his own life rather than face trial for war crimes.

68 years ago (1956)

The inaugural Eurovision Song Contest was staged in Lugano, Switzerland.

Countries taking part were Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands - with Swiss singer Lys Assia winning. The contest will return to Switzerland next year after their win earlier this month.

94 years ago (1930)

English aviation pioneer Amy Johnson, 26, became the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia.

Amy went on to join the Air Transport Auxiliary in 1940, ferrying military aircraft around the country. However, she was presumed dead in 1941 after her plane vanished in bad weather. Her body has never been found.

BIRTHDAYS



Music legend **Bob Dylan** turns 83. He sold his back catalogue for around £217million.



Military Wives actress **Dame Kristin Scott Thomas** is 64. She speaks fluent French. TV presenter **Dermot O'Leary** is 51. He's a big fan of Bruce Springsteen. Elvis's ex-wife **Priscilla Presley** is 79. She starred in Dallas.



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3 nights half board from only
£219 per person

Pakefield Holiday Village Lowestoft



BACK TO THE 60s & 70s

● 21 Jun 2024 from £219 - code PP6

- ABBA Arrival ● Forever Jackson
- Billy Shannon from Showaddywaddy
- Paul Da Vinci's (ex Rubettes) 60s & 70s Explosion ● Gaz Jenkins as Billy Joel
- Chris Nott - 'Stars in Their Eyes' David Essex - Great 70s Songbook
- Joey & The Jivers ● The Graduates
- The Beached Boys ● The GN A Team
- House Band Sounds Imperial

THRU THE DECADES

● 9 Aug 2024 from £229 - code PP8

- The Rolling Clones ● Boy Gorgeous
- Christy Bullen as Ed Sheeran ● The Ragdolls
- The Dreamers ● Keri Whip as Tina Turner
- Rollermania – The Legendaries playing the music of the Bay City Rollers
- Destiny Michelle as Whitney Houston
- James Williams Showband ● The GN A Team
- Soul & Motown with Dominic Uppiah
- House Band Sounds Imperial

OUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Half-price drinks lunch times and evenings from the first night to the last night - house beers, spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers

- 3 nights' en-suite chalet and car parking
- 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners - self service
- Entertainment afternoons and evenings with all *acts stated above

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You cannot book these private events direct with Pakefield. From price is per person based on two people sharing a standard twin or double chalet – upgrade & singles available. GN reserves the right to change *acts performing. Over 40s only.

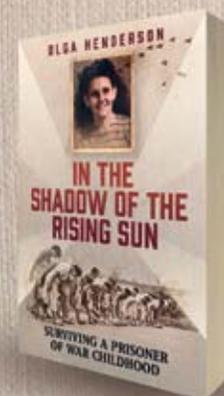


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AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	8339.2	▼	-31.1
FTSE 250	20631.3	▼	-78.8
FTSE ALL SHARE	4543.8	▼	-16.7
Shares Traded	7208.7 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE			
Abrdn	156	▲	+4
AstraZeneca	12404	▲	+44
BAE Systems	1397	▲	+23½
Barclays	215	▲	+3½
BP	482½	▲	+¾
Marks & Spencer Group	292½	▲	+4½
Rolls-Royce Holdings	440½	▲	+12½
Shell	2772½	▲	+12
Tesco	312¼	▲	+¼
Unilever	4312	▲	+37

POPULAR SHARES UNCHANGED			
Saga	126		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE			
Aviva	483	▼	-13¼
BT Group	127¼	▼	-1¾
Centrica	144	▼	-3½
GSK	1778	▼	-10½
HSBC Holdings	691½	▼	-1½
Int Consolidated Airlines	172	▼	-3
Lloyds Banking Group	55¾	▼	-½
National Grid	1005	▼	-122½
NatWest Group	307¼	▼	-6¼
Sainsbury (J)	277½	▼	-6
Vodafone Group	74¼	▼	-1¼
Whitbread	2956	▼	-95

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	39,065.2	▼	-605.7
TOKYO	39103.2	▲	+486.1
HONG KONG	18868.7	▼	-326.9
GERMANY	18691.3	▲	+11.1
FRANCE	8102.3	▲	+10.2

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.270	▼	-0.001
Yen	199.398	▲	+0.014
Euro	1.175	▶	0.000

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	156.978	▲	+0.1875
Dollar/Euro	0.925	▲	+0.0006

COMMODITIES			
GOLD(\$)	▼	2337.60	
KRUGERRAND(E)	▼	1839.78	
SILVER(pence)	▼	2381.19	
BRENT CRUDE(\$)	▼	81.17	

OTHER INDICATORS			
Base rate	5.25%		
Halifax mortgage rate	5.98%		
Retail Price Index	+3.3% (CPI +2.3%)		
House price Index	-0.6%		
Unemployment	1,486,000		

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TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.87 dollar
Canada	1.69 dollar
China	8.54 renminbi
Czech Rep.	27.04 koruna
Denmark	8.33 krona
Eurozone	1.15 euro
Hong Kong	9.34 dollar
Hungary	422.53 forint
Israel	4.39 shekel
Japan	191.32 yen
Jordan	0.84 dinar
Mexico	19.96 peso
New Zealand	2.00 dollar
Norway	13.04 krona
Poland	4.73 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.51 riyal
South Africa	22.42 rand
Sweden	12.98 krona
Switzerland	1.13 franc
Thailand	44.58 baht
Turkey	38.10 lira
United States	1.25 dollar

Billpayers to help fund £30bn electricity network overhaul

HOUSEHOLDS will be forced to help foot the bill for a record £30billion overhaul of the electricity network.

National Grid said the investment was needed to cope with an expected jump in demand for power for electric cars, data centres and artificial intelligence.

Plans include laying thousands of miles of new cables by 2030 to connect wind farms with cities – and will likely lead to even more pylons.

National Grid claimed households would ultimately enjoy lower bills as the UK cuts its reliance on imported energy.

Chief executive John Pettigrew admitted the higher bills will sting but insisted the increases would have a “really small impact”. Around £22 of the average £1,800 annual energy bill covers energy transmission.

The Grid, which owns the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales and is the UK’s largest power distribution business, says the work will help create around 55,000 jobs. It plans to pump almost the same amount into its US arm.

It also announced a £7billion rights issue to help cover some of the cost. And

By **Graham Hiscott**

it will sell its Isle of Grain plant in Kent – Europe’s largest liquefied natural gas terminal and a crucial site for energy imports – plus a US renewables business.

Mr Pettigrew called the scale of the plans “completely unprecedented”. The Government wants a fully decarbonised electricity system by 2035 and has a legal obligation to hit net zero by 2050.

National Grid’s share price dived 9%, wiping £3.7billion off its stock market value, after the announcement and annual results.

The group reported pre-tax profits of just over £3billion, down 15%.

The rights issue will be at 645 pence per share on the basis of seven new shares for every 24 existing shares.

Russ Mould, of AJ Bell, said: “It’s not a good look when a company reports a slump in profits and then goes cap in hand to shareholders, asking them to stump up £7billion.

“Some investors might view this as a bit cheeky, but others will be salivating at the chance to buy shares in a generous dividend payer at a big discount.”



CHARGE POINT: Pylons planned

ROYAL MAIL FAILS TO DELIVER RESULTS



POST NO HASTE: Auditors said they needed more time on figures

THE owner of Royal Mail – the target of a £3.5billion takeover bid – had to delay the release of its annual results yesterday. Accounts for International Distribution Services were due at 7am but the company later revealed that auditors KPMG needed more time.

IDS insisted its profits to the end of March would be “broadly in line with previously published guidance”.

The company, which also owns parcels arm GLS, could not say when the results would be published, only that it would be “as soon as reasonably practicable”.

Last week it was minded to accept a sweetened offer from Czech billionaire Daniel Kretinsky.

Bonanza for Nationwide members

THE Nationwide Building Society has revealed a fall in profits but said it handed out record amounts to its members.

The country’s biggest building society reported a statutory profit of £1.8billion for the year to April 4, down about a fifth from the £2.2bil-

lion this time last year. The lender said the decline was largely due to £344million handed out to members in June last year, as well as passing on interest rate rises to savers.

It also announced yesterday it will pay another bonus to eligible members in June of about £385million.

Book firm’s fantasy figures

BLOOMSBURY revealed record annual sales yesterday on the back of huge demand for fantasy books.

Sales jumped 30% to £343million – the highest in the publisher’s 37-year history – with profits up 63% to £41.5million.

The firm, best known for JK Row-

ling’s Harry Potter books, hailed US author Sarah J. Maas, who wrote the smash hit Throne of Glass series.

Boss Nigel Newton described her as “a publishing phenomenon” adding: “We are very fortunate to have signed her up with her first book 14 years ago.”

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW	COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
3i Group	2927	+29	2977	1848	Glencore	483½#	+½	501½	369	National Grid	1005	-122½	1142½	932
A.B. Foods	2714	+26	2738	1825½	Haleon	329	-2¼	341	308½	NatWest Group	307¼	-6¼	326½	176¼
Admiral Group	2705#	-51	2837	2029	Halma	2309	-4	2479	1810½	Next	9308	+34	9426	6346
Airtel Africa	119¼	-1	133¼	90¼	Hikma	1959	+20	2205	1722	Ocado	352	+8½	976½	332¼
Anglo American	2645½	-53	2773½	1670¼	HSBC Holdings	691½#	-1½	720¼	575¼	Pearson	945½	+5	1042	798¼
Antofagasta	2259	+3	2410	1293	IMI	1880	-12	1901	1445	Pershing Square Hold	4111#	+54	4186	2688
Ashtead Group	5716	-54	6104	4667	Imperial Brands	1940#	-20½	1994	1580	Persimmon	1471½	+37	1485½	960½
AstraZeneca	12404	+44	12450	9501	Informa	839	+1¼	852¼	685¼	Phoenix Group	496	-9	567	441½
Auto Trader	749½	+8¼	763¼	587	InterContinental Htl	7902	+32	8752	5210	Prudential	768¼	-13¼	1153	687½
Aviva	483#	-13¼	500½	369¼	Intermediate Cap.Grp	2320	-2	2346	1255½	Reckitt Benckiser	4441#	-23	6416	4110
B&M Europ Value Ret	550½	-4¼	612½	460¼	Intertek Group	4954	+18	5075	3755	RELX	3490#	+8	3513	2442
BAE Systems	1397#	+23½	1404	888¼	Intl Consolidated Airlines	172	-3	186½	138	Rentokil Initial	408¼	-5	655¼	392½
Barclays	215	+3½	217½	129¼	JD Sports	121½	+½	175¼	104	Rightmove	550¼#	+1	594¼	463
Barratt Development	506¼	+3¼	566½	392¼	Kingfisher	258¼#	-1½	269	201¼	Rio Tinto	5680	-10	5891	4559
Beazley Group	666½	-½	689	503	Land Securities	645½	-15	725¼	559½	Rolls-Royce Group	440½	+12½	446¼	143¼
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5235		5320	3773	Legal & General	245¼#	-3½	256¼	205¼	RS Group	760	-53	839½	660½
BP	482½#	+¾	558	444¼	Lloyds Banking Grp	55¼	-½	56¼	39¼	Sage Group	1078½	+2½	1282	844½
British Amer.Tob	2424	-40	2736½	2267	London Stock Ex	9328	+38	9674	7986	Sainsbury (J)	277½	-6	310½	245¼
BT Group	127¼	-1¼	149½	102¼	M&G	201¼	-¼	238¼	183	Schroders	391	+8½	464½	347¼
Bunzl	3022#	-16	3306	2687	Marks & Spencer	292½	+4½	295¼	178½	Scottish Mortgage	900	+30	900	637½
Burberry Group	1051	+2	2289	1039½	Melrose	621¼	+9½	677½	446¼	SEVEN	896½	-16¼	940	679¼
Centrica	144	-3½	172½	113¼	Mondi	1575	-9½	1604	1179¼	Severn Trent	2503	-136	2791	2265
Coca-Cola HBC	2768	-8	2804	2065						Shell	2772½#	+12	2946	2220½
Compass Group	2231	-29	2323	1945½						Smith & Nephew	982½	-32½	1268	896¼
Convatec Group	251½#	-2½	293½	196¼						Smiths Group	1733	-4	1766½	1526
CRH	6340#	+18	6898	3806						Smurfit Kappa	3830	+24	3851	2554
Croda International	4594#	-109	6240	4076						Spirax-Sarco	9130#	-50	11415	8058
DCC	5670#	-70	6035	4171						SSE	1769½	-47	1900	1508
Diageo	2709½	-36	3498	2685½						St James's Place	488#	+22¼	1183	402
Diploma	4222#	-26	4284	2804						Standard Chartered	775½	+2¼	785¼	573¼
DS Smith	376½	-½	413	263¼						Taylor Wimpey	147¾	+2¼	149¼	99¼
EasyJet	456½	-9	577¼	360						Tesco	312¼#	+¼	314	245½
Entain	716¼	-14½	1417½	706						Unilever	4312#	+37	4357	3694
Experian Group	3723	+52	3752	2390						United Group	922½#	-24	1057	847
F&C Inv Tst	1024		1050	831						Unite Utilities	1024	-53	1125	900¼
Flutter Entert	15855	-445	17475	12155						Vodafone Group	74¼	-1¼	83½	63
Fraser's Group	828	+7	938	672						Weir Group	2134#	-26	2200	1675½
Fresnillo	609½#	-11	691¼	441½						Whitbread	2956#	-95	3678	2956
GlaxoSmithKline	1778#	-10½	1812½	1316						WPP Group	822	+3¼	886½	681¼



MARKET REPORT

THE FTSE 100 slipped yesterday as it was impacted by weaker utilities and banking stocks.

London’s top utility companies took a hit after the National Grid announced a rights issue to pay for infrastructure investment plans.

Shares in the power giant plunged 9%, prompting falls in United Utilities, Severn Trent and Drax as investors worried about the health of the sector.

Danni Hewson, head of financial analysis at AJ Bell, said: “Utility stocks were always likely to come under pressure on the news that National Grid was shaking its tin to fund network upgrades.”

The FTSE 100 finished 31 points, or 0.37%, lower to end the day at 8,339.

Nationwide shares fell 2.1% after it revealed lower earnings over the past year. It said the decline was largely due to £344million handed to members last June, as well as it passing on interest rate rises to savers.

+ 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	1332	-46	1382	593
Balbock International	557	+9½	558	269
BAE Systems	1397#	+23½	1404	888½
Chemring Group	394	+8	394	255½
QinetiQ Group	424½	+50¼	428½	292¼
Rolls-Royce Group	440½	+12½	446¼	143¼
Senior	170½	+2	180½	154¼
Alternative Energy				
Porvair	674#	+38	680	524
Banks				
Barclays	215	+3½	217½	129¼
Bco Santander	405½	-2	414	260½
Close Brothers	457	-1¼	976½	299¼
CYBG	212¼	-½	216¼	142
HSBC Holdings	691½	-1½	720¼	575¼
Investec	526	-28½	566	406
Lloyds Banking Grp	55¼	-½	56¼	39¼
Metro Bank	38¼	+1½	125½	28¼
NatWest Group	307¼	-6¼	326½	176¼
Standard Chartered	775½	+2¼	785¼	573¼
Beverages				
Barr (AG)	598#	+9	599	451½
Britvic	985	-15	1018	785½
Coca-Cola HBC	2768	-8	2804	2065
Diageo	2709½	-36	3498	2685½
Chemicals				
Carclo	14		15	6¼
Croda International	4594#	-109	6240	4076
Elementis	145¼	-1½	149¼	98
Johnson Matthey	1786	-21	1870	1446½
Synthoner	291½	-10½	786¼	122½
Treant	511	+3	724	370
Victrex	1296	-20	1606	1226
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty	367¼	-½	386¼	295½
Clarke T	158#	-½	163¼	118½
CRH	6340#	+18	6898	3806
Dialight	177		237	144
Galliford Try	275	+3	279	177
Gleeson (IUI)	562	-4	566	350
Keller Group	1370	+64	1376	668
Kier Group	147½	+¼	148½	74½
Marshalls	318½	-5½	329½	198
Morgan Sindall	2500	+15	2505	1706
Severfield-Rowen	71½	-1	75	50
Smart (J) & Co.	125#		168½	117½
Tyman	374¼	-½	396½	236
Electricity				
Drax Group	507½	-47½	619¼	401½
SSE	1769½	-47	1900	1508
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal	755	+4	938	593
Halma	2309	-4	2479	1810½
Morgan Crucible	315½	-6	331	218½
Oxford Instruments	2375	-15	2790	1712
Renishaw	4030		4370	2950
Spectris	3270#	-34	3807	2935
TT Electronics	161½	-1	185	135¼
XP Power	1566	-86	2440	776
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml	284#	-1	287	243
Aberforth Sml Co	1532	+12	1534¼	1126
Acom Income				
Albion Tech & Gen VCT	69		74	66½
Albion VCT	43¼		47½	43¼
Alliance Trust	1236	+4	1264	984
Artemis Alpha	374	+7	374	263½
Aurora Inv.Tst	247#	-1	251¼	198
AVI Global Tst	241	-1	248	185
Baillie Gifford Japan	724	-3	796	641
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip	109#	-¼	148¼	108½
Bankers Inv.Tst	113¼	+¼	117	92¼
Baronsmead VCT2	53	-1½	56	50¼
BH Macro GBP	359½		417	328
Biotech Growth Trust	959	-19	1024	718
BlackRock Mining	598	-9	633	492½
Bluehone AIM VCT2	30½		33	30½
British Assets Tst	80¼		87½	71¼
Brunner Inv.Tst	1345	+5	1365	966
Caledonia Inv	3400	-65	3660	3110
City Natural Res.Yld	202#	+5	202	152
City Of London	424¼	-1½	428	371½
Dunedin Ent.IT	493		565	480
Dunedin Income	285#	-3	299½	249
Edin Wwide Inv	143¼	-1½	157	122½
Edin.Drgn.Tst	400	-2	414	325
Edin.Inv.Tst	734#		742	615
Edin.US Tracker	296	-1	297	258½
Elderstreet VCT	45		49	45
European Ass Tst	90¼	+¼	92	73
F&C Cap&Inc	335	-1	340	271

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
F&C Inv Tst	1024		1050	831
F&C Smaller Cos	165¼	-1	167½	129
F&C US Smaller Companies	1320	-17½	1360	1065
Fidelity Asian	528	-2	542	476
Fidelity European	402	-1½	411	311½
Fidelity Japanese	171½	-3½	186	152½
Fidelity Special	307½	-1	311½	252½
Finsbury Gwth&In	856	+11	914	792
Foresight Tech.VCT	79		80½	72½
Gartmore Euro	192½	+1	195¼	150
Genesis E.M.F.	705¼	-4¼	720¼	569
Graphite Ent	1206	-6	1262	1046
Hansa Tst 'A'	215#	+2	217	160
Hansa Tst Plc	219#		224	163
Henderson Euro.Tst	164¼	+2	164¼	124¼
Henderson Far Est	238#	-½	252½	197¼
Henderson High Inc	165		172	140½
Henderson Opp Tst	224¼	-2	226¼	171½
Herald Inv.Tst	2200		2215	1596
HGCapital Tst	482½	-11½	499	353½
HSBC Infrastructure	120¼	-3½	147½	117¼
Impax Env.Mkt.	398½	-1½	420	334½
Int.Biotech.Tst	626	-8	694	548
International Public	122#	-3½	140¼	115½
Invesco Asia	328	-2	348	286
Invesco Perp UK	434#	+8	441	379
JPM American	977#	+3	991	718
JPM Asian	370#	+2	371	313
JPM Claverhouse	736#	-2	746	630
JPM Emerg Mkt.	105¼	+½	108½	96¼
JPM Euro Sml Co	482	+2½	485	354½
JPM Global Emerging	137	-½	140	117
JPM Indian	948		971	798
JPM Japanese	514	+1	553	438½
JPM Overseas IT	559	-1	568	454
JPM Smaller Co	334#	-2	336	230
JPM US Sml Co	399	-3	412	317
Jupiter Euro	908	-2	912	743
JZ Capital Partners	215		220	149
Keystone Inv.Tst	224	+1½	231	183¼
Law Debenture	880	-6	899	721
Lowland Invest Co	129½	-½	131½	104½
Majedie Inv.	242#	-1	252	181
Manchester&Lon.	696	+22	696	413½
Martin Currie Pftllo Tst	379	+5	397	299
Matrix Inc & Gwth 4	68		73½	67
Maven Income And Growth VCT	38		41	37
Mercantile Inv Tst	243½	-1	245½	177¼
Merchants Tst	582	-5	591	477½
Mid Wynd Int.	782		788	670
Monks Inv.Tst	1182	+10	1194	890
Montanaro Euro Tst	144¼	+½	145¼	107¼
Montanaro UK	109½	+1½	111½	84¼
Murray Inc.Tst	875#	-2	898	770
Murray Int.Tst	252	-2	266½	219
New India	752	+6	760	524
New Star Inv.Tst	116		123	109½
North Atl.Smlr.Tst	4100	-70	4230	3420
Northern 2 VCT	54½	-1½	56½	54
Northern Venture	57½		60	54
Oxford Tech 2 VCT	11		22	11
Pacific Assets	376	+2	389	340
Pacific Horizon	639	-4	657	512
Pantheon Int.	326½		334	245½
Pershing Square Hold	4114#	+54	4186	2688
Polar Cap.Tech	3070	+30	3100	2065
RCM Technology Trust	363	+2½	367	238½
RIT Capital Partners	1850	-36	2010	1718
Ruffer Investment	276	-½	289	261
Schroder Asia	521	-1	531	456
Schroder Inc.	290	+2½	306	249
Schroder Japan	256	+2	263	217
Schroder UK	174¼	-½	176½	141¼
Schroder UK M&S	610		616	482
Scottish American	512#	-7	536	452
Scottish Mortgage	900	+30	900	637½
Shires Inc.	243¼		261½	209½
Small Comp Div.Tst	157½	+½	168	131
SPARK VCT	19½		20½	19½
Standard Life Equity	319#	-2	332	260
Standard Life UK Sml	501		503	370
SVM UK Emerging	65½		67½	61½
Temple Bar	269	-2	275½	212
Templeton Emrg	162	-1	167½	141
The European Inv.Tst	99½		101	75½
Throgmorton Tst	631	+5	631	507
TR Euro.Growth	186½	-1	188½	136
TR Prop. IT	329	-3½	345	255
Value & Income	190	+5	214	163
Witan Inv.Trust	262½	-3	270	210½
Witan Pacific	218	-2	243	176
Wwide Healthcare	347½	-1	355½	288
Financial Services				
3i Group	2927	+29	2977	1848
3i Infrastructure	330	-9¼	348	278½
Abdn.	156	+4	236¼	136¼

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Ashmore Group	200¼	+¼	233¼	166¼
Guinness Peat Group	87¼	+¼	88¼	64
Hargreaves Lansdown	1120	+141	1151	690½
IG Group	786	-3	800	611
Intermediate Cap.Grp	2320	-2	2346	1255½
International Pers Fin	113½		131	100½
IP Group	51½	-¼	61½	43½
Jupiter Fund Man	85¼	+1½	115	73½
Liontrust Asset Man	818	+8	827	523½
London Stock Ex.	9328	+38	9674	7986
Lonfin	46		55	32
M&G	201¼	-¼	238¼	183
Man Group	253¼	-1¼	277¼	202
Paragon Group	742½	-5½	760	443½
Provident Financial	60¼	-2	230	46¼
Rathbone Brothers	1750	-14	2005	1458
S & U	2020	+12½	2570	1800
Schroders	391	+8½	464½	347¼
St James's Place	488#	+22¼	1183	402
Tullett Prebon	211#	-½	227½	141
Walker Crips Group	23½	+1	26½	20½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa	119¼	-1	133¼	90¼

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	52 WEEK LOW
Next	9308	+34	9426	6346
Pendragon	336		795	310½
Pets At Home	276¼	-6½	397½	254½
RM Group	101¼	-2¼	106	48
Topps Tiles	43	+¾	56½	40½
WH Smith	1108	-60	1646	1083
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group	251¼	-2½	293½	196¼
Flying Brands	1½		5¼	1¼
Smith & Nephew	982½	-32½	1268	896¼
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development	506¼	+7¼	566½	392¼
Bellway	2714#	+30	2860	1921
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5235		5320	3773
Bovis Homes	1290	+8	1307	636
Colefax Group	810		810	655
Headlam Group	163#	+1½	275	157
Mcbride	120	+3	123	25½
Persimmon	1471½	+37	1485½	960½
Reckitt Benckiser	4441#	-23	6416	4110
Redrow	717	+12½	739	427½
Taylor Wimpey	147¼	+2¼	149¼	99¼
Mining				
Anglo American	2645½	-53	2773½	1670¼
Anglo Pacific	84#	-2¼	123½	70¼
Antofagasta	2259	+3	2410	1293
BHP Billiton	2315	-14	2700	2175
Centamin Egypt	123½	-2½	130¼	78¼
Endeavour Mining	1687	-44	2180	1250
Fresnillo	609½	-11	691¼	441½
Gem Diamonds	12½	-½	23¼	8
Glencore	483½	+½	501½	369
Hochschild Mining	171½	+7	173¼	68½
Kenmare Res.	360	+7½	460	294
London & Ass.Prop	12	+1	15½	8½
Petra Diamonds	43	-2	76½	37
Rio Tinto	5680	-10	5891	4559
Mobile Telecommunications				
Vodafone Group	74¼	-1¼	83½	63
Nonequity Investment Instruments				
Oryx Int.Gwth	1430	+30	1430	1020
Rights &ss.Inc	2340	+20	2380	1805
Nonlife Insurance				
Admiral Group	2705#	-51	2837	2029
Beazley Group	666½	-½	689	503
Direct Line Insurance	200½	-1	225¼	134
Hiscox	1151#	-14	1240	938
Lancashire	614#	-6	689	538
Oil & Gas Producers				
BP	482½	+¾	558	444¼
Cairn Energy	196	+1	298¼	111¼
Enquest	15¼	+¼	18½	12
Gulf Keystone Pet.	135½	+2¼	143¼	84¼
Harbour Energy	309¼	+4¼	322	218¼
Regal Petroleum	19¼		31	12¼
Shell	2772½			

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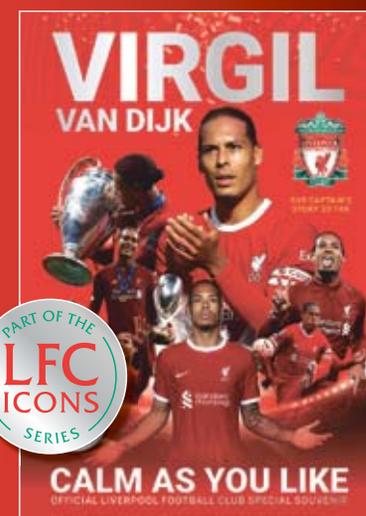
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Racing

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Dickin could make a splash at Bath

By The Scout

SISTERANDBROTHER'S (5.30, Nap) bond with Bath makes him first choice for the How Much Tax Is At Stake Handicap.

From just three runs there, at distances of around 10 furlongs, Harriet Dickin's trainee, right, has a win and two second places on his record.

The gold medal, achieved in May 2022, was gained after a lengthy break and a stable switch - two factors in play this afternoon.

Today's race is wide open, with forecast favourites Flame Of Kodiak (66-1 winner last time out) and Carey Street (new yard) worth taking on.

Oisín Murphy has a 25 per cent strike rate over the past five years for Godolphin trainer Saeed bin Suroor.

The pair combine with lightly-raced gelding WILD



TIGER (4.10, trb), who can defy a 7lb rise for a recent success in Goodwood's William Hill Epic Boost Handicap.

Local handler Matt Sheppard saddles two horses at Hereford, starting with Planet Sportbet Hurdle fancy MACTAVISH (5.55, nb). The handicapper resumed his progress at Ludlow, doing little wrong behind a previous winner - and he receives lumps of weight from all bar one of five opponents.

ECONOMICS NO SHOW

By Melissa Jones

WILLIAM HAGGAS has turned down the chance to run leading prospect Economics in Epsom's showpiece Derby.

The classy colt was as short as 7-4 with bookmakers after he blitzed his Dante Stakes field by six lengths at York.

Eleven horses have followed up in the elite Classic and Economics was a strong contender to go off favourite, with a question mark over juvenile star City Of Troy's current form.

But the June 1 race timing - just over two weeks from his Knavesmire rout - and stamina doubts discouraged Haggas' team. "We have agreed the race

Haggas rules out Derby bid for easy Dante winner

would be a quick enough turnaround for a horse who is still immature," said Jake Warren, racing and bloodstock adviser to owner Sheikh Isa Salman Al Khalifa.

"He's exciting and we will be looking at mile-and-a-quarter options for later in the season."

Haggas, who trained Shaamit to win the 1996 renewal, has not saddled a runner since 2018, when Young Rascal finished seventh to Masar. Before his trial

masterclass with Tom Marquand steering, the Newmarket handler took Economics out of Epsom - and another shot was worth £75,000.

TRAINER Tim Vaughan has been hit with a £1,000 fine and six-month suspended ban after his wide-margin Chester winner, Bells of Peterboro, tested positive for a banned substance - TCA, a synthetic corticosteroid with anti-inflammatory and painkilling properties.



EXCITING: Economics

HAYDOCK RACING TV

2.05 HANDICAP 3YO

1 (9)	8-354	MYSTERYOFTHESANDS (18) T Easterby 9-10	D Allan	73
2 (6)	2165-9L	BETWEEN ME AND U (22) (D) Alice Haynes 9-9	S De Sousa	70
3 (8)	4551-7	KORROOR (18) J Camacho 9-9	C Rodriguez	70
4 (10)	3623-1	LADY AVA (244) E Dunlop 9-9	Rossa Ryan	72
5 (7)	25-1	MIASWELL (25) D O'Meara 9-8	D Tudhope	72
6 (5)	19L6-21	DANDY LICHIOUS (77) T Davidson 9-8	A Mullen	75
7 (1)	654	QUESTIONABLE (19) D & C Kubler 9-6	J Crowley	69
8 (4)	9-53705	REVEAL (21) Miss L Perratt 9-5	Tommie Jakes(5)	77
9 (3)	848-352	MINERS GAMBLE (27) B Ellison 9-4	R Robinson	78
10 (2)	075-472	HELLO COTAI (21) (T) A West 9-4	S B Kirrane	75

BLINKERS: No. 10 VISOR: No. 9 TONGUE STRAP: No. 5 CHEEK PIECES: No. 2. SP FORECAST: 4 Lady Ava, 9-2 Hello Cotal, 5 Mysteryofthesands, 6 Between Me And U, 7 Dandy Lichious, 10 Miners Gamble, Miaswell, Questionable, 12 Others. 2023: Pearl Eye 9-9, David Egan 9-2 (Darryll Holland), drawn (5), 9 ran.

2.40 FILLIES' RESTRICTED NOVICE STAKES 3YO

1 (4)	1-3	SHEMOZZLE (27) (T) R Beckett 9-9	Rossa Ryan	84
2 (3)	2-1	FLAWLESS (15) (D,F) J & T Gosden 9-7	Doubtful	-
3 (2)	1-	MIZUMU (163) (D) M Boffi 9-5	Morgan Cole(5)	72
4 (7)		DESERT TIME H Candy 9-2	Doubtful	-
5 (6)		FOSSDALE E Bethell 9-2	D Tudhope	-
6 (5)		SONG OF APPIN B Meehan 9-2	T Marquand	-
7 (1)	3	THEWIND CRIES MARY (13) E Bethell 9-2	C Rodriguez	80

SP FORECAST: 5-4 Shemozzle, 11-4 Thewind Cries Mary, 7 Mizumu, 8 Song Of Appin, Fossdale. 2023: Zouzanna 9-2, Richard Kingscote 10-11 Fav (H & R Charlton), drawn (8), 14 ran.

3.15 NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) 2YO

1 (7)		CAVALLO BAY C Appleby 9-7	Doubtful	-
2 (8)		CHELSEA EMBANKMENT (T) R Beckett 9-7	Rossa Ryan	-
3 (5)		GREEN STORM (F) C Johnston 9-7	D Muscutt	-
4 (3)		MOON SNIPER W Muir & C Grassick 9-7	L Edmunds	-
5 (2)		SEAGULLS ELEVEN H Palmer 9-7	H Davies	-
6 (1)	L	YARROGH (19) W Haggas 9-7	T Marquand	38
7 (4)		APHRODITES ROCK T Dascombe 9-2	P-L Jamin	-
8 (6)		BAILEYS HONEYMOON Miss A Murphy 9-2	S De Sousa	-

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Green Storm, 3 Chelsea Embankment, 5 Yarrogh, 15-2 Baileys Honeymoon, Seagulls Eleven, 8 Aphrodites Rock, 12 Moon Sniper. 2023: No corresponding race.

THE SCOUT

2.05	Questionable	4.20	Electric Storm
2.40	Shemozzle	4.55	Doha
3.15	Seagulls Eleven	5.25	Corrales
3.50	Toomuchforme		

3.50 EBF RESTRICTED MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES 1YO

1 (2)		BINIRELLA BAY Tom Clover 9-2	Doubtful	-
2 (13)		EARTHY Miss A Murphy 9-2	D Tudhope	-
3 (10)		ENIGMATIC PRINCESS (T) B Millman 9-2	L Edmunds	-
4 (8)	33	GO ON ROSIE (14) N Trinkler 9-2	F McManoman	67
5 (5)	5	KHUTULUN (23) J Ferguson 9-2	Doubtful	-
6 (6)		LOCH LEVEN Ollie Sangster 9-2	Rossa Ryan	-
7 (7)		PURE ARTISTRY M Bell 9-2	Doubtful	-
8 (11)	6	STAGE EFFECT (23) E Walker 9-2	T Marquand	-
9 (9)		TOOMUCHFORME (F) K R Burke 9-2	S James	-
10 (12)	443L	FAR ABOVE MARY (15) H Palmer 9-0	Doubtful	-
11 (3)		MAKE LOVE James Horton 9-0	Doubtful	-
12 (1)		JOHN'S DRAGON T Dascombe 8-12	P-L Jamin	-
13 (4)	L5	LIBERTY BIRD (1) C Johnston 8-12	S De Sousa	65

SP FORECAST: 11-4 Toomuchforme, 7-2 Loch Leven, 4 Far Above Mary, 15-2 Earthy, 10 Stage Effect, 11 John's Dragon, Go On Rosie, 14 Enigmatic Princess, 20 Others. 2023: Sarakana 9-2, Callum Shepherd 40-1 (E De Giles), drawn (11), 11 ran.

4.20 EBF BRITISH STALLION STUDS CECIL FRAIL

1 (5)	11/16-7	AZURE BLUE (9) (D,F) M Dods 5-9-7	P Mulrennan	105
2 (7)	11-2	ELECTRIC STORM (35) (D) J Tate 4-9-7	D Tudhope	101
3 (9)	21-1	MIDREAM (27) (D) E Walker 4-9-7	T Marquand	90
4 (4)	4-1379L	PREMIERE BEAUTY (20) (D) S Williams 4-9-7	Rossa Ryan	85
5 (3)	1902-L4	SOPHIA'S STARLIGHT (35) (D) G Tuer 4-9-7	S De Sousa	102
6 (10)	115-167	GOT TO LOVE A GREY (23) K R Burke 3-9-1	S James	100
7 (1)	41-	CHELSY GIRL (275) (D) C Fellows 3-8-12	Doubtful	-
8 (2)	1123	QUEEN OF ZAFEEEN (21) (F) R Hughes 3-8-12	F Marsh	100
9 (8)	4115-	RAIQYA (244) (C&D) Owen Burrows 3-8-12	Doubtful	-
10 (6)	31	THELMA'S ANGEL (22) (D) G Tutty 3-8-12	Joanna Mason	84

SP FORECAST: 6-5 Azure Blue, 11-2 Queen Of Zafeen, 13-2 Electric Storm, 10 Sophia's Starlight, Midream, Got To Love A Grey, 12 Thelma's Angel, 14, 50 Others. 2023: Get Ahead 4-9-7, Richard Kingscote 7-4 Fav (C Cox), drawn (7), 9 ran.

4.55 HANDICAP

1 (8)	2544-14	PEARL EYE (15) (C,F) Darryll Holland 4-9-11	Jason Watson	91
2 (7)	15518-4	NEVER ENDING (22) (D) D O'Meara 4-9-9	D Tudhope	95
3 (9)	8137-63	ARKENDALE (23) (F) E Bethell 4-9-7	C Rodriguez	94
4 (2)	341-	DOHA (21) (T) R Beckett 4-9-6	Rossa Ryan	91
5 (3)	11L-099	LIGHT SPEED (38) (D) G Tutty 4-9-6	Joanna Mason	91
6 (1)	63L8-60	BODORGAN (20) C Hills 4-9-3	Doubtful	-
7 (5)	62459L	BASHFUL (2) (D) I Jardine 6-9-1	Doubtful	-
8 (6)	71722-L	TESSY LAD (17) (D) S England 5-9-0	D Muscutt	93
9 (4)	46552-6	GOLSPIE (244) P Morris 4-9-0	J Crowley	92

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Doha, 4 Pearl Eye, 11-2 Arkendale, 8 Never Ending, 12 Light Speed, 14 Golspie, 16 Tessa Lad. 2023: Spirit Of The Bay 5-9-6, Richard Kingscote 17-2 (C Cox), drawn (6), 7 ran.

5.25 BETFRED FIFTY 50 HANDICAP 3YO

1 (3)	6573-L5	OVERLOOKED (27) T Dascombe 9-11	P-L Jamin	77
2 (10)	3653	ROGUE RAIDER (13) P Chapple-Hyam 9-10	D Tudhope	75
3 (9)	68-L	EXTRA BEAT (27) James Horton 9-9	J Crowley	72
4 (1)	5-24331	AMANCIO (27) (C,F) J Channon 9-9	Rose Daves(5)	78
5 (2)	792L	TAKES TIME (15) D Loughnane 9-8	Rossa Ryan	72
6 (5)	454	CORRALES (13) J Ferguson 9-7	D Muscutt	72
7 (7)	6-67	CAMPAIGN MEDAL (14) J & T Gosden 9-6	Doubtful	-
8 (6)	353-36L	RICH HARRY (13) Alice Haynes 9-5	Doubtful	-
9 (4)	53-5L6	SOVEREIGN NATION (37) C Johnston 9-4	S De Sousa	76
10 (8)	59-6	GELICEAUX (18) E Walker 9-2	Doubtful	-

SP FORECAST: 11-8 Amancio, 5-2 Rogue Raider, 7-2 Corrales, 6 Extra Beat, 8 Sovereign Nation, 10 Overlooked, 20 Takes Time. 2023: Dog Fox 9-5, Neil Callan 7-4 Fav (E Dunlop), drawn (8), 9 ran.

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Soft. Left Handed. TOP TRACK Jockey (2019-24): Tom Marquand 18% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2019-24): W Haggas 25% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 2:05 Hello Cotal (blinkers), Miaswell (tongue strap), Between Me And U (cheek pieces), 4:55 Never Ending (tongue strap), 5:25 Rogue Raider (cheek pieces), Overlooked (visor), Campaign Medal (tongue strap). BEATEN FAVOURITES: 2:40 Shemozzle, 4:20 Raqya, 4:55 Tessa Lad(hd). DRAW: In 5f & 6f races on soft ground high numbers have an advantage. LONGEST TRAVELLER: Enigmatic Princess (23) 207 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 2:05 Dandy Lichious from P W Flynn in Ireland to T Davidson. 4:55 Golspie from E J-Houghton to P Morris, Light Speed from A Balding to G Tutty.

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CHELMSFORD CITY: Standard

5.10-WANNABE BRAVE (Wesley Joyce, 3-1 fav) 1; Further Measure (7-2 jt 2nd fav) 2; Pringsborg (7-2 jt 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 11/14. (J Fanshawe). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.30, £1.60, £1.70, exacta: £14.20, triffecta: £37.46, trifecta: £50.50. CSF: £13.83. Non-runners: Lilla Cross.

5.42-SUNNY STREET (Jason Watson, 11-2) 1; Star Runner (13-2) 2; Detroit Lion (25-1) 3; Shamran (9-2) 4. 16 ran. 21, 11, 2/14. (J Tate). 2-1 fav Historic City). Tote: £6.80; pl £2.00, £2.40, £7.10, exacta: £41.80, triffecta: £729.10. CSF: £40.08.

6.17-FIDELIUS (M Ghiani, 4-6 fav) 1; Match Anthem (6-1) 2; Dusk Dame (2-1) 3. 7 ran. 2/14, 1/4. (R Cowell). Tote: £1.67; pl £1.10, £3.10, exacta: £5.60, triffecta: £44.20. CSF: £5.12.

6.47-DARK SIDE PRINCE (H Shaw, 5-1) 1; Aces Wild (4-1 fav) 2; Mick's Spirit (12-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1/4, 2/14. (Jessica Macey). Tote: £6.00; pl £1.50, £1.90, £3.00, exacta: £27.40, triffecta: £227.55, trifecta: £237.70. CSF: £25.32.

7.17-EL HIBRI (S Osborne, 5-1) 1; Daytona Lady (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Profit And Loss (5-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (L Williams). 11-4 fav Jungle Run). Tote: £6.00; pl £1.80, £1.60, £1.80, exacta: £21.80, triffecta: £90.58, trifecta: £96.50. CSF: £22.30. Non-runner: Tomshalfbrother.

7.47-AMAYSOM (A Pinna, 4-1 2nd fav) 1; Tonal (2-1 fav) 2; Sea The Buckthorn (20-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (K Frosts). Tote: £5.00; pl £1.70, £1.30, £4.80, exacta: £16.10, triffecta: £141.99, trifecta: £169.10. CSF: £11.89.

8.22-MAGIC GEM (Dylan Hogan, 3-1 jt fav) 1; Heerathetrack (3-1 jt fav) 2; Bluebell's Boy (5-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (M Herrington). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.50, £1.60, £2.00, exacta: £11.70, triffecta: £42.84, trifecta: £50.10. CSF: £11.31.

8.52-ROYAL DREAM (S Osborne, 15-2) 1; Ludo's Landing (5-2 fav) 2; Boasty (6-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. ns. shd. (E Dunlop). Tote: £8.50; pl £2.30, £1.20, £1.80, exacta: £28.50, triffecta: £119.21, trifecta: £103.40. CSF: £25.72.

Placepot: £25.20 (Race 1) 3, 4, 6; (2) 13, 5; (3) 3, 2; (4) 5, 7, 1; (5) 4, 1, 6; (6) 3, 1, 9; Quadpot: £5.40

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Key Look, Sparkle In His Eye, Without Delay. 5.50-MISS CALCULATION (J Hart, 14-1) 1; Langholm (9-4 fav) 2; Mr Strutter (15-2) 3. H'cap 11 ran. hd, 2/14. (M West). 6-5 fav So Sleepy). Tote: £15.00; pl £4.00, £1.80, £2.80, exacta: £60.70, triffecta: £270.56, trifecta: £400.00. CSF: £45.35.

Placepot: £179.60 (Race 1) 1; (2) 5, 8; (3) 7, 1; (4) 3, 4; (5) 6, 9; (6) 1, 5; Quadpot: £33.70

LINGFIELD: Awt: standard; turf: good 2.50-LADY NAGIN (T Whelan, 18-1) 1; Colors Of Freedom (16-1) 2; Wakai Umi (11-2) 3. H'cap 10 ran. 1/4. (M West). 6-5 fav So Sleepy). Tote: £21.40; pl £7.30, £6.20, exacta: £229.60, triffecta: £189.60. CSF: £242.30.

3.20-STATE FLAG (D Muscutt, 7-4 fav) 1; Cervaro Della Sala (7-2) 2; Fenisa (3-1 2nd fav) 3. 9 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (T Ward). Tote: £27.5; pl £1.30, £1.30, £1.30, exacta: £8.40, triffecta: £19.70. CSF: £8.43.

3.50-KATIE G (Billy Loughnane, 7-1) 1; Amroon (10-3 co fav) 2; Forgotten Treasure (12-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1/4. (E Dunlop). Tote: £8.00; pl £1.90, £1.50, £3.10, exacta: £19.90, triffecta: £278.62, trifecta: £282.00. CSF: £30.46.

4.20-TATATO (D Muscutt, 6-1) 1; Mycoloursourys (2-1 2nd fav) 2; Far L'Amore (6-4 fav) 3. 4 ran. 2/14, 1/4. (J Ferguson). Tote: £7.00; exacta: £17.50, triffecta: £26.80. CSF: £17.71. Non-runner: FASTER BE.

4.50-CHARLES MORIN (P Bradley, 5-1) 1; Beach Point (evens fav) 2; Takeover Target (33-1) 3. H'cap 10 ran. nk, 1/4. (P Phelan). Tote: £6.30; pl £1.70, £1.10, £5.80, exacta: £14.30, triffecta: £151.56, trifecta: £167.40. CSF: £10.22.

5.20-PREMIERE LIGNE (H Davies, 5-2 fav) 1; Chips And Rice (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Dartmouth Rose (20-1) 3. 8 ran. 1/4, 2/14. (D Killahena & G McPherson). Tote: £3.25; pl £1.30, £1.10, £13.40, exacta: £9.50, triffecta: £411.70. CSF: £8.70. Non-

runners: Screened, Storming George.

Placepot: £15.10 (Race 1) 1, 4; (2) 2, 10, 7; (3) 6, 2, 1; (4) 1, 4; (5) 1, 6; (6) 3, 6; Quadpot: £4.10

SANDOWN: Soft-heavy in places 6.07-BLAKEL (L Morris, 11-1) 1; Ebt's Guard (5-1) 2; Kindest Nation (10-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. hd, 4/14. (P Chapple-Hyam). 5-2 fav Surveyor). Tote: £12.00; pl £2.90, £1.90, £2.40, exacta: £73.20, triffecta: £574.09, trifecta: £548.30. CSF: £63.90. Non-runners: Berkshire Nugget, Swift Victory.

6.37-ENCHANTING EMPRESS (David Egan, 4-1 2nd fav) 1; Rock Hunter (9-2) 2; Zminiatore (16-1) 3. 6 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (D F Davis). 6-5 fav Hawaiian). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.00, £2.00, exacta: £18.40, triffecta: £92.30. CSF: £20.13. Non-runner: Sonic Blue.

7.07-SWEET WILLIAM (R Havlin, 5-2 2nd fav) 1; Caius Chorister (15-8 2nd) 2; Trueshan (5-1) 3. 6 ran. hd, 6/1. (J & T Gosden). Tote: £3.50; pl £1.60, £1.50, exacta: £7.00, triffecta: £16.70. CSF: £7.00. Non-runner: Prydwen.

7.37-ROYAL RHYME (C Lee, 1-2 fav) 1; Certain Lad (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Miss Cantik (17-2) 3. 4 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (K R Burke). Tote: £15.00; exacta: £22.00, triffecta: £3.60. CSF: £2.50. Non-runner: Isle Of Jura.

8.12-ALMAAQU (W Buick, 7-1) 1; Kikkuli (4-1) 2; Sons And Lovers (9-1) 3. 6 ran. 3/4, 1/4. (E Walker). 13-8 fav Ice Max). Tote: £8.50; pl £3.60, £1.90, exacta: £24.40, triffecta: £245.30. CSF: £34.93. Non-runners: Balmacara, Terre De Vega.

8.42-DUAL IDENTITY (N Callan, 17-2) 1; Magic Memories (9-2 2nd fav) 2; Regheeb (16-1) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (W Knight). 16-5 fav Crack Shot). Tote: £9.50; pl £2.00, £2.00, £3.90, exacta: £52.10, triffecta: £606.73, trifecta: £640.40. CSF: £46.08. Non-runners: Alzahir, Bluelight Bay, Excel Power.

Jackpot: £10,000.00, with £10,615.67 carried over. Placepot: £271.40 (Race 1) 9, 5, 11; (2) 6, 3; (3) 5, 2; (4

BATH SSR

THE SCOUT

2.15 Dark Fandango	4.30 Starproof
2.50 Aesterius	5.00 Bittalemon
3.25 Mujant of Hope	5.30 SISTERANDBROTHER (nap)
4.00 Bama Lama	6.10 Jade Country

2.15 RUHX EXTRAORDINARY HANDICAP 3YO
£3,716 (Class 5) 5f 160yds (9 declared)

1 (2) 116 GOGO YUBARI (13) D Cunha 9 11... R Clutterbuck
 2 (9) 29-4 OTTOMAN FORCE (22) Darryll Holland 9 9... Billy Loughnane
 3 (1) 64-1 CALL TIME (32) S Moore 9 9... L Keniry
 4 (6) 64-1 DARK FANDANGO (18) C Hills 9 8... W Cox
 5 (3) 51L TEN CLUB (23) O Osborne 9 8... W Carver(3)
 6 (7) 01-2 PROFIT STREET (21) P N Timler 9 8... A Jarry(5)
 7 (1) 271 HEARTFORTBOYS (25) D A Carroll 9 7... Jack Doughty(7)
 8 (8) 552 REVENUE (E) J-Houghton 9 3... Georgia Doble(3)
 9 (4) 368 MOE'S LEGACY (35) D R Harris 9 0... C Fallon

BLINKERS: Nos. 2, 9, HOOD: No. 5.
 SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 7, 8, 9.

W-Factor: Heartfortboys (78); Revenue (77); Moe's Legacy (76).
 SP FORECAST: 3 Profit Street, 7-2 Heartfortboys, 6 Gogo Yubari, 7 Revenue, Ten Club, 8 Dark Fandango, 10 Moe's Legacy, 14 Ottoman Force, 16 Call Time.

2.50 NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) 2YO
£3,402 (5) 5f 10yds (11)

1 (9) 1 BINADHAM (31) (D,F) K P De Foy 9 11... B Sayette
 2 (10) AESTERIUS A Watson 9 4... James Doyle
 3 (4) ARDENNES E Walker 9 4... Billy Loughnane
 4 (5) 2 BOLO NEIGHS (20) R Beckett 9 4... R Clutterbuck
 5 (6) 89-6 MORE THAN LIKELY (9) (C&D) Mrs M Evans 8 9 7... N Currie
 6 (9) 2-23 MIDNIGHT FLAME (9) Joe Ponting 4 9 4... K O'Neill
 7 (8) 146 CLOUDY BREEZE (225) G & J Moore 4 9 2... R Clutterbuck
 8 (11) 4-57 WE'RE REUNITED (18) (C&D) M Blake 7 9 0... L Catton(5)
 9 (5) 045 KANGAROO (25) P McEntee 4 9 0... Grace McEntee(3)
 10 (7) 5-34 ESSME (131) R Cook & J Bridger 6 9 0... W Carson
 11 (3) 946 INDEPENDENT BEAUTY (73) (F) L Williamson 6 9 0... A Jarry(5)

W-Factor: Binadham (77); Bittalemon (76); Moe's Legacy (76).
 SP FORECAST: 3 Aesterius, 7-2 Binadham, 5 Bolo Neighs, 7 Mukaber, 8 Redorange, 10 Subsonictoshannon, 14 Ardennes, Sir Palamedes, 16 Others.

3.25 HANDICAP (DIV 1)
£2,983 (6) 5f 160yds (11)

1 (10) 0-74 SYMBOL OF HOPE (18) (C&D) & R Flint 6 9 11... Ethan Jones(7)
 2 (1) 486 SAVANNAH SMILES (10) (D) G Harris 4 9 10... C Hutchinson(3)
 3 (4) 942 MEDIA GUEST (15) (D) M Gillard 6 9 9... L Keniry
 4 (2) 535- ATTY'S EDGE (227) (C) D Mason 8 9 8... W Cox
 5 (6) 89-6 MORE THAN LIKELY (9) (C&D) Mrs M Evans 8 9 7... N Currie
 6 (9) 2-23 MIDNIGHT FLAME (9) Joe Ponting 4 9 4... K O'Neill
 7 (8) 146 CLOUDY BREEZE (225) G & J Moore 4 9 2... R Clutterbuck
 8 (11) 4-57 WE'RE REUNITED (18) (C&D) M Blake 7 9 0... L Catton(5)
 9 (5) 045 KANGAROO (25) P McEntee 4 9 0... Grace McEntee(3)
 10 (7) 5-34 ESSME (131) R Cook & J Bridger 6 9 0... W Carson
 11 (3) 946 INDEPENDENT BEAUTY (73) (F) L Williamson 6 9 0... A Jarry(5)

W-Factor: 3 Aesterius, 7-2 Binadham, 5 Bolo Neighs, 7 Mukaber, 8 Redorange, 10 Subsonictoshannon, 14 Ardennes, Sir Palamedes, 16 Others.
 SP FORECAST: 4 Midnight Flame, 9-2 Media Guest, 5 Symbol of Hope, 7 Atty's Edge, 8 We're Reunited, 10 Cloudy Breeze, Essme, More Than Likely, 12 Others.

4.00 HANDICAP (DIV 2)
£2,983 (6) 5f 160yds (10)

1 (8) 11-4 LIOSSA (25) (D) W Kittow 4 9 10... G Rooke
 2 (3) 08-1 DIAMOND COTTAGE (3) (D) M Saunders 7 9 9... W Carson
 10 (1) 195 VITALINE (39) (D) K Burke 6 9 9... Josephine Gordon
 4 (1) 830 PORT NOIR (10) (C&D) R Stephens 7 9 7... Jack Doughty(7)
 4 (7) 783 BOAMA LAMA (18) (D) B Millman 6 9 9... O Searle(7)
 6 (9) 547 JOSIES KID (31) (F) Alice Haynes 5 9 4... K O'Neill
 7 (7) 694 LIOSSA (25) (D) D Faulkner 8 9 0... Laura Coughlan(3)
 2 (8) 58-2 MALHAM TARN COVE (9) Steph Hollinshead 5 9 0... D Costello
 10 (5) 568 LUPSET FLOSSY POP (15) (D) G Brown 4 9 0... Liam Wright(5)
 10 (6) 78-0 BOASTED (27) K Frost 5 9 0... Alec Volkhansky(3)

BLINKERS: No. 3 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 8, 9.
 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 6, 8, HOOD: No. 7.
 SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6.

W-Factor: Malham Tarn Cove (68); Vitaline (67); Josies Kid (66).
 SP FORECAST: 3 Bama Lama, 7-2 Malham Tarn Cove, 5 Vitaline, 6 LioSSa, 8 Louis Treize, Josies Kid, 14 Port Noir, 16 Diamond Cottage, 20 Others.

4.30 ALIDE HIRE FILLIES' HANDICAP
£3,716 (5) 5f 160yds (10)

1 (8) 111 CINQUE VERDE (8) (D) A Carroll 4 9 10(Sex)
 2 (1) 68-8 REDREDROBIN (16) (C&D) M Saunders 7 9 9... W Carson
 3 (9) 24-5 STARPROOF (13) (D) W Muir & C Grassick 4 9 9... N Currie
 4 (6) 117 SHE'S CENTIMENTAL (15) (D) Alice Haynes 4 9 9... K O'Neill
 5 (10) 822 CONNIE'S ROSE (10) (C,D) G Harris 5 9 4... C Hutchinson(3)
 6 (7) 25-7 JAX EDGE (32) (C&D) C Mason 4 9 3... G Mangon(3)
 7 (4) 6-10 SILENT FLAME (26) (D) B Millman 6 9 3... G Downing
 8 (5) 148 SARAH'S VERSE (13) (C&D) R Harris 7 9 0... M Ghiani
 9 (2) 222 WHITE MIST (37) (D,F) Mrs I G-Leaveque 4 8 8... Jimmy Quinn

W-Factor: Cinque Verde (85); Redredrobin (84); Connie's Rose (83).
 SP FORECAST: 5-2 Cinque Verde, 5 Starproof, 11-2 White Mist, 6 Connie's Rose, 7 Sarah's Verse, 10 Pababella, 12 She's Centimental, 14 Jax Edge, 16 Others.

5.00 FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE)
£3,942 (5) 1m 2f 37yds (7)

1 (7) POPPYDORA W Knight 4 10 2... M Ghiani
 2 (1) 5 ALL TOO WELL (16) J & T Gosden 3 9 2... B Sayette
 3 (6) 6 BITTALEMOM (35) W Haggas 3 9 2... C Fallon
 4 (5) 3-3 CATCH THE LIGHT (25) A Balding 3 9 2... James Doyle
 3 (4) 4-4 DIVINE PRESENCE (21) J & T Gosden 3 9 2... K Shoemaker
 6 (4) 45-2 LOVE YOU DARLING (20) B Brookhouse 3 9 2... A Rawlinson
 7 (2) 5-3 SEA STREAM (4) C Hills 3 9 2... Billy Loughnane

W-Factor: Love You Darling (70); Divine Presence (69); Bittalemon (64).
 SP FORECAST: 9-4 Love You Darling, 3 Bittalemon, 9-2 Catch The Light, 5 Divine Presence, 8 All Too Well, 14 Poppydora, Sea Stream.

5.30 HANDICAP
£2,983 (6) 1m 2f 37yds (14)

1 (10) 79-1 FLAME OF KODIAC (10) J & R Flint 4 9 13(Sex)
 2 (3) 833 PINK LILY (14) (C&D) R Hannon 4 9 9... Ethan Jones(7)
 6 (2) 429 ENZOS ANGEL (36) N Mulholland 5 9 8... M Ghiani
 4 (1) 3-31 CAREY STREET (126) (D) A Carroll 8 9 8... W Carson
 4 (1) 486- CAREY OF FORTUNE (214) B J Llewellyn 5 9 7... S B Owen(5)
 6 (2) 394 DAFFIN (25) K Frost 4 9 7... B Sanderson(3)
 7 (2) 627 GALACTIC GLOW (4) (C&D) J Tickle 7 9 6... T Fisher(3)
 8 (7) 834 CITY ESCAPE (9) (D) M Loughnane 7 9 6... Billy Loughnane
 9 (9) 2/55 SISTERANDBROTHER (31) (C&D) H Dickinson 6 9 5... R Clutterbuck
 10 (11) 74-8 BLUE HERO (26) (C&D) A Wintle 6 9 4... G Rooke
 3 (1) 187 ROMAN TEMPEST (15) (D) S Dow 5 9 0... C Howarth(3)
 12 (5) 900 ZAMBEZI MAGIC (36) (D) B J Llewellyn 7 8 12... W Cox
 13 (4) 45-7 JIMMY MARK (34) (C&D) W Kittow 4 8 10... C Hutchinson(3)
 14 (8) 678 UTHER PENDRAGON (9) (C&D) J S Moore 9 8 9... Sharif Mohd(7)

BLINKERS: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 6, 7, 9.
 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7, 14 EYE COVERS: No. 8 HOOD: Nos. 9, 10.
 SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 8, 11, 12.

W-Factor: Zambezi Magic (74); Daffin (73); Enzos Angel (72).
 SP FORECAST: 3 Carey Street, 7-2 Flame of Kodiac, 6 City Escape, 7 Galactic Glow, 10 Pink Lily, 14 Daffin, Jimmy Mark, 16 Enzos Angel, Uther Pendragon, 20 Others.

6.10 HANDICAP
£2,983 (6) 1m (13)

1 (1) 212 LUNARIO (14) (D,F) Alice Haynes 4 9 11... K O'Neill
 2 (9) 10-1 GERT LUSH (46) R Teal 7 9 9... W Cox
 3 (6) 58-6 MAWADA (18) A Wintle 4 9 10... Billy Loughnane
 4 (11) 3-08 MAWADA (18) A Wintle 4 9 10... B Costello
 5 (5) LL-9 JADE COUNTRY (35) (D) J & R Flint 5 9 4... C Bennett
 6 (7) 091 RACING DEMON (10) (D) E De Giles 4 9 4(Sex)... G Rooke
 7 (12) 826 EYE OF THE WATER (10) (C&D) R Harris 8 9 2... C Fallon
 8 (3) 713 HAVANA GOLDRUSH (26) (C&D) J S Moore 5 9 2... Sharif Mohd(7)
 9 (8) 0-83 RIVAL (26) (D) J & R Flint 6 9 11... Ethan Jones(7)
 10 (13) 0-71 LONG CALL (10) A Carroll 11 8 12... W Carson
 2 (1) 046- RUN CMC (199) P Chamings 4 8 12... A Farragher
 11 (4) 98-1 DYNAMITE KATIE (6) G Harris 4 8 10... C Hutchinson(3)
 13 (10) 574 OWER STARLIGHT (12) (D) Daisy Hitchins 6 8 9... Alec Volkhansky(3)

BLINKERS: No. 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 7, 9, 13 HOOD: Nos. 3, 6, 12.
 SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 6, 7.

W-Factor: Run CMC (78); Gert Lush (77); Jade Country (76).
 SP FORECAST: 11-4 Racing Demon, 9-2 Lunario, 5 Eye of the Water, 6 Havana Goldrush, 13-2 Rival, 12 Run CMC, 16 Ower Starlight, Gert Lush, Night Breeze, 20 Others.

6.10 HANDICAP
£2,983 (6) 1m (13)

1 (1) 212 LUNARIO (14) (D,F) Alice Haynes 4 9 11... K O'Neill
 2 (9) 10-1 GERT LUSH (46) R Teal 7 9 9... W Cox
 3 (6) 58-6 MAWADA (18) A Wintle 4 9 10... Billy Loughnane
 4 (11) 3-08 MAWADA (18) A Wintle 4 9 10... B Costello
 5 (5) LL-9 JADE COUNTRY (35) (D) J & R Flint 5 9 4... C Bennett
 6 (7) 091 RACING DEMON (10) (D) E De Giles 4 9 4(Sex)... G Rooke
 7 (12) 826 EYE OF THE WATER (10) (C&D) R Harris 8 9 2... C Fallon
 8 (3) 713 HAVANA GOLDRUSH (26) (C&D) J S Moore 5 9 2... Sharif Mohd(7)
 9 (8) 0-83 RIVAL (26) (D) J & R Flint 6 9 11... Ethan Jones(7)
 10 (13) 0-71 LONG CALL (10) A Carroll 11 8 12... W Carson
 2 (1) 046- RUN CMC (199) P Chamings 4 8 12... A Farragher
 11 (4) 98-1 DYNAMITE KATIE (6) G Harris 4 8 10... C Hutchinson(3)
 13 (10) 574 OWER STARLIGHT (12) (D) Daisy Hitchins 6 8 9... Alec Volkhansky(3)

BLINKERS: No. 1, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 7, 9, 13 HOOD: Nos. 3, 6, 12.
 SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 6, 7.

W-Factor: Run CMC (78); Gert Lush (77); Jade Country (76).
 SP FORECAST: 11-4 Racing Demon, 9-2 Lunario, 5 Eye of the Water, 6 Havana Goldrush, 13-2 Rival, 12 Run CMC, 16 Ower Starlight, Gert Lush, Night Breeze, 20 Others.

7.15 HANDICAP
£3,664 (5) 1m 4f 5yds (9)

1 (7) 247- UNPLUGGED (226) (C,D) M & D Easterby 8 9 11... Lewis Chalkley(7)
 2 (4) 16-0 WHATACRACKER (9) M Walford 4 9 10... Ryan Sexton
 3 (9) 1/4-2 JOIE DE VIVRE (5) (D,F) M Todhunter 9 8 4... D Nolan
 2 (2) 2-1 MY HARRISON GEORGE (29) R Fahey 4 9 5... Oisin Orr
 5 (6) 222 GORDON GREY (24) B Brookhouse 4 9 4... J Gilligan
 3 (4) 444 SWINGING LONDON (14) J Mackie 6 9 2... A Breslin(3)
 7 (5) 64-0 SEA MASTER (28) J Ward 4 9 2... C Hardie
 8 (1) 45-9 MYTHICAL (28) S Whitaker 7 9 0... R Scott
 10 (5) 215- STORM SPIRIT (36) M Hammond 5 8 10... B Garrity

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 5, 6, CHEEK PIECES: No. 6.
 HOOD: No. 2.
 W-Factor: Swinging London (82); Mythical (81); Gordon Grey (80).

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Joie De Vivre, 5-2 Gordon Grey, 4 My Harrison George, 8 Swinging London, 10 Unplugged, 12 Whatacracker, 16 Storm Spirit, 33 Mythical, 50 Sea Master.

7.45 MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE) 2YO
£16,200 (5) 6f (16)

1 (9) 6 BEAUAHTHER (32) Miss A Murphy 9 7... F Larson
 2 (6) 246 BEAUAHTHER (32) Miss A Murphy 9 7... F Larson
 3 (6) 3 EIGHTEEN FOURTEEN (32) O Pears 9 7... C Hardie
 4 (5) 8 I NEED YOUR LOVE (8) M & D Easterby 9 7... B Garrity
 5 (8) 8 LOVE GAMES (20) K Ryan 9 7... T Eaves
 6 (6) 6 PELLITORY James Owen 9 7... F Norton
 7 (5) PRAETORIAN A Watson 9 7... H Doyle
 8 (2) 2 RAYSHAM D Carroll 9 7... Z Wheatley
 9 (10) REGAL GEM Tony Coyle & Kaine Wood 9 7... D Nolan
 10 (4) TACTICAL PLAN E Dunlop 9 7... J Hart
 11 (13) 3 UNDER THE SEA (21) Alice Haynes 9 7... R Scott
 12 (3) 1 LUGGIE K Frost 9 5... C Murtogh
 13 (1) PERPIDIAT E Easterby 9 5... C Murtogh
 14 (11) VAULT OF HEAVEN (F) C Johnson 9 2... A Pinna
 15 (7) EXPENSIVE ROSE (F) C Johnson 9 2... Oisin Orr
 16 (14) 7 GREEK GIFT (18) K R Burke 9 0... S Gray

TONGUE STRAP: No. 12.
 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12.
 W-Factor: Under The Sea (73); I Need Your Love (72); Eighteen Fourteen (71).

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Eighteen Fourteen, 5 Expensive Rose, 6 Praetorian, 7 Under The Sea, 8 Greek Gift, 10 Pellitory, Tactical Plan, I Need Your Love, 12 Others.

7.55 HANDICAP HURDLE
£4,066 (4) 3m 1f 119yds (6)

1 L6-1 HALIFAX (18) G Harris 7 12 2... C Ring
 2 1P-7 BASFORD (31) J Candlish 7 12 2... Jonjo O'Neill Jr
 3 1LL- CHARLES ST (30) F O'Brien 5 12 2... Mr T Broughton(5)
 4 P5-2 BEHIND THE CURTAIN (11) D Pipe 10 11 12... J Tudor
 5 P4-4 LEPASHE (18) S Allwood 7 11 11... C J Todd
 6 32-2 MACTAVISH (12) (C) M Sheppard 7 10 13... S Sheppard

W-Factor: Lepashe (115); Basford (114); Charles St (112).
 SP FORECAST: 7-4 Halifax, 5-2 Behind The Curtain, 5 Mactavish, 13-2 Basford, 8 Charles St, 12 Lepashe.

7.00 MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 2m 3f 147yds (8)

1 25-6 ONLY FOOLS (8) D Pipe 5 12 0... J Tudor
 2 7L3- RYDER'S ROCK (35) J Tizzard 6 11 13... B J Powell
 3 9-57 CHER TARA (11) A Skelton 5 11 12... H Skelton
 4 P-7 CHINOOK (12) Sheila Lewis 6 11 10... Sean Houlihan
 5 7L-4 SEASMOKE (11) Billy Ahrhamham 6 12 2(Tex)... J Bowen
 6 54-1 AL SAYAH (11) N Mulholland 4 11 5... B Carver
 7 P2-2 TRIPLE NICKLE (17) B J Llewellyn 8 11 3... R Williams(3)
 8 P4P- INCHIOUN SPIRIT (30) A Rapp 7 11 11... Claran Gettings

BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 1, 2, 8.
 CHEEK PIECES: No. 7 HOOD: No. 1.
 W-Factor: Only Fools (90); Triple Nickle (89); Ryder's Rock (88).
 SP FORECAST: 11-4 Al Sayah, 10-3 Cher Tara, 4 Triple Nickle, 6 Ryders.

7.30 HANDICAP CHASE
£4,700 (4) 2m 4f 194yds (5)

1 P5-4 HOME AND DRY (17) D Faulkner 6 12 0... D Bass
 2 P5-1 CAPTAIN ATTRIDGE (17) (C&D) Henry Oliver 6 12 0... L Edwards
 3 L6-0 EAGLE OF THE GLEN (30) (D) C J Gray 5 11 10... M G Nolan
 4 3LL-CREWS PITCH (74) S Drinkwater 8 11 5... D Johnston(5)
 5 26-4 GOOD IMPRESSION (17) (D) B J Llewellyn 9 11 4... B R Jones
 6 43P- SYMBOLIC SPIRIT (53) D Skelton 7 11 4... H Skelton
 7 4-13 JAXONNE (2) Jonjo & A O'Neill 5 11 2(Tex)... Jonjo O'Neill Jr
 8 556- NO MORE BOLERO (64) D Bridgwater 5 11 11... Sean Houlihan
 9 443- MAMBO BEAT (45) B J Llewellyn 5 10 13... B J Powell
 10 2L/0- OUTBACK FRONTIERS (43) (D) A Jones 8 10 13... N Fox(5)
 12 7/76- LINDWALL (294) T Lacey 6 10 4... S Sheppard

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 12 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.
 W-Factor: Jaxonne (106); Colonel Lesley (105); Home And Dry (104).
 SP FORECAST: 10-11 Jaxonne, 13-2 Captain Attridge, 8 Symbolic Spirit, 12 Colonel Lesley, 14 Others.

8.00 HANDICAP HURDLE
£3,248 (5) 2m 53yds (12)

1 P5-4 HOME AND DRY (17) D Faulkner 6 12 0... D Bass
 2 P5-1 CAPTAIN ATTRIDGE (17) (C&D) Henry Oliver 6 12 0... L Edwards
 3 L6-0 EAGLE OF THE GLEN (30) (D) C J Gray 5 11 10... M G Nolan
 4 3LL-CREWS PITCH (74) S Drinkwater 8 11 5... D Johnston(5)
 5 26-4 GOOD IMPRESSION (17) (D) B J Llewellyn 9 11 4... B R Jones
 6 43P- SYMBOLIC SPIRIT (53) D Skelton 7 11 4... H Skelton
 7 4-13 JAXONNE (2) Jonjo & A O'Neill 5 11 2(Tex)... Jonjo O'Neill Jr
 8 556- NO MORE BOLERO (64) D Bridgwater 5 11 11... Sean Houlihan
 9 443- MAMBO BEAT (45) B J Llewellyn 5 10 13... B J Powell
 10 2L/0- OUTBACK FRONTIERS (43) (D) A Jones 8 10 13... N Fox(5)
 12 7/76- LINDWALL (294) T Lacey 6 10 4... S Sheppard

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 4, 12 CHEEK PIECES: No. 5.
 W-Factor: Jaxonne (106); Colonel Lesley (105); Home And Dry (104).
 SP FORECAST: 10-11 Jaxonne, 13-2 Captain Attridge, 8 Symbolic Spirit, 12 Colonel Lesley, 14 Others.

1.50 EBF NOVICE STAKES 2YO
£7,851 (Class 4) 6f (10 dec)

1 (10) ARABIAN SUN C Cox 9 7... C Lee
 2 (5) ASHEN M Trengon 9 7... H Turner
 3 (3) BERKSHIRE KAMEO A Balding 9 7... O Murphy
 4 (7) 19 BOWNDER (39) J Portman 9 7... David Egan
 5 (1) HUCKLESBROOK R Teal 9 7... J Leavy(5)
 6 (8) INCA TRAIL M Trengon 9 7... T Whelan
 7 (9) ORIGINAL OUTLAW R Beckett 9 7... H Crouch
 8 (4) 2 RED SAND (18) E Walker 9 7... S Osborne
 9 (2) 5 SIEGEN (18) R Hannon 9 7... P Dobbs
 10 (6) 3 THE FLYING SEAGULL (15) (T) H Palmer 9 7... W Buick

W-Factor: The Flying Seagull (77); Red Sand (76); Siegen (71).

SP FORECAST: 7-2 Original Outlaw, 9-2 The Flying Seagull, 5 Red Sand, Berkshire Kameo, 6 Arabian Sun, Siegen, 14 Hucklesbrook, 16 Inca Trail, 25 Others.

2.25 HANDICAP
£10,308 (3) 2m (10)

1 (10) 103- TEMPORIZE (212) (C) S Hosie 5 9 12... K Stott
 2 (9) 053- VINO VICTRIX (170) (C&D) H Morrison 6 9 10... O Murphy
 4 (4) 31-3 PLEDGED ALLEGIANCE (26) (D) Sir M Prescott 4 9 8... L Morris
 5 (7) 0-32 ROBERT JOHNSON (35) (D,F,T) P Kirby 6 9 8... C Beasley
 6 (6) 14-4 YORKINDNESS (14) (D,T) J Johnston 5 9 7... J Fanning
 7 (5) 7-23 MAXIDENT (20) D F Davis 4 9 4... David Egan
 8 (11) 2-21 MAXMAN (21) (D,F) S & E Cristof 4 9 3... R Havlin
 9 (1) 4-60 HURTLER WALLOP (8) J Boyle 4 9 1... P Cosgrave
 3 (1) 3-34 PLUS POINT (20) Harry Stanton 4 9 0... G Wood
 10 (2) 44-2 HAVAILA (20) G & J Moore 5 8 13... W Buick

W-Factor: Havaila (95); Maxman (94); VINO VICTRIX (93).
 SP FORECAST: 9-2 Havaila, 5 Maxman, 11-2 Maxident, Robert Johnson, 6 Pledged Allegiance, 8 VINO VICTRIX, Plus Point, 10 Yorkindness, 12 Others.

3.00 EBF FILLIES' HANDICAP
£25,770 (3) 1m 3f 218yds (11)

1 (10) 112- DIVINA GRACE (230) (D) R Guest 4 10 2... D Keenan
 2 (5) 7-62 SWEET FANTASY (27) (D) James Owen 5 10 0... C Shepherd
 3 (4) 7-23 AYAB (48) S Woods 4 9 11... R Havlin
 4 (7) 513- JUANA INES (231) Harry Charlton 4 9 11... W Buick
 5 (2) 8L-4 NO NIKI NO (19) E O'Neill (FR) 8 9 10... K Stott
 6 (9) 72-7 ENTRANCEMENT (34) (C) D Muisier 4 9 8... O Murphy
 7 (8) 113 AVON LIGHT (13) W Muir & C Grassick 4 9 7... S Osborne
 8 (1) 41-2 YA HAFHD (28) R Varian 4 9 4... R Dawson
 9 (3) 1L-2 TRUE WISDOM (44) (F,T) C Johnston 3 8 8... J Fanning
 10 (11) 21-4 STRUTTING (19) J & T Gosden 3 8 6... T Heard(3)
 11 (6) 6-23 MALLAVEY (21) J Chapple-Hyam 3 8 4... H Turner

BLINKERS: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 7 HOOD: No. 4.
 W-Factor: Sweet Fantasy (92); Ayab (91); Entrancement (90).

SP FORECAST: 9-2 Ya Hafhd, 5 Juana Ines, 13-2 Mallyavey, 8 True Wisdom, Sweet Fantasy, Divina Grace, Strutting, 10 Ayab, 12 Others.

4.00 HANDICAP
£2,983 (6) 1m 2f 37yds (14)

1 (10) 79-1 FLAME OF KODIAC (10) J & R Flint 4 9 13(Sex)
 2 (3) 833 PINK LILY (14) (C&D) R Hannon 4 9 9... Ethan Jones(7)
 6 (2) 429 ENZOS ANGEL (36) N Mulholland 5 9 8... M Ghiani
 4 (1) 3-31 CAREY STREET (126) (D) A Carroll 8 9 8... W Carson
 4 (1) 486- CAREY OF FORTUNE (214) B J Llewellyn 5 9 7... S B Owen(5)
 6 (2) 394 DAFFIN (25) K Frost 4 9 7... B Sanderson(3)
 7 (2) 627 GALACTIC GLOW (4) (C&D) J Tickle 7 9 6... T Fisher(3)
 8 (7) 834 CITY ESCAPE (9) (D) M Loughnane 7 9 6... Billy Loughnane
 9 (9) 2/55 SISTERANDBROTHER (31) (C&D) H Dickinson 6 9 5... R Clutterbuck
 10 (11) 74-8 BLUE HERO (26) (C&D) A Wintle 6 9 4... G Rooke
 3 (1) 187 ROMAN TEMPEST (15) (D) S Dow 5 9 0... C Howarth(3)
 12 (5) 900 ZAMBEZI MAGIC (36) (D) B J Llewellyn 7 8 12... W Cox
 13 (4) 45-7 JIMMY MARK (34) (C&D) W Kittow 4 8 10... C Hutchinson(3)
 14 (8) 678 UTHER PENDRAGON (9) (C&D) J S Moore 9 8 9... Sharif Mohd(7)

BLINKERS: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 3, 6, 7, 9.
 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 1, 7, 14 EYE COVERS: No. 8 HOOD: Nos. 9, 10.
 SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1, 8, 11, 12.

W-Factor: Zambezi Magic (74); Daffin (73); Enzos Angel (72).
 SP FORECAST: 3 Carey Street, 7-2 Flame of Kodiac, 6 City Escape, 7 Galactic Glow, 10 Pink Lily, 14 Daffin, Jimmy Mark, 16 Enzos Angel, Uther Pendragon, 20 Others.

4.00 HANDICAP
£2,983 (6) 1m 2f 37yds (14)

1 (10) 79-1 FLAME OF KODIAC (10) J & R Flint 4 9 13(Sex)
 2 (3) 833 PINK LILY (14) (C&D) R Hannon 4 9 9... Ethan Jones(7)
 6 (2) 429 ENZOS ANGEL (36) N Mulholland 5 9 8... M Ghiani
 4 (1) 3-31 CAREY STREET (126) (D) A Carroll 8 9 8... W Carson
 4 (1) 486- CAREY OF FORTUNE (214) B J Llewellyn 5 9 7... S B Owen(5)
 6 (2) 394 DAFFIN (25) K Frost 4 9 7... B Sanderson(3)
 7 (2) 627 GALACTIC GLOW (4) (C&D) J Tickle 7 9 6... T Fisher(3)
 8 (7) 834 CITY ESCAPE (9) (D) M Loughnane 7 9 6... Billy Loughnane
 9 (9) 2/55 SISTERANDBROTHER (31) (C&D) H Dickinson 6 9 5... R Clutterbuck
 10 (11) 74-8 BLUE HERO (26) (C&D) A Wintle 6 9 4... G Rooke
 3 (1) 187 ROMAN TEMPEST (15) (D) S Dow 5 9

SPORT IN BRIEF

cinch Scottish Premiership Play-off Final First Leg
RAITH (0).....1 ROSS CNTY (0).....2
 Stanton 82 Dhanda 53 (pen) Baldwin 71 Att: 6,216

CRICKET WOMEN'S FIRST ODI—England v Pakistan (Derby): England 243-9 (50 overs), Pakistan 206-9 (50 overs). **England win by 37 runs.**

TRI-NATION T20I SERIES—Ireland v Scotland (Amstelveen): **Scotland** 157-8 (20 overs; Adair 3-36; Young 3-31); **Ireland** 158-5 (19.3 overs; A Balbirnie 56; Tucker 55; Sole 3-28). **Ireland win by 5 wks** (Ireland Win Tri Nations Series).

CYCLING GIRO D'ITALIA—Stage 18 (Fiera di Primieroano to Padova 166km): 1 T Merlier (Bel) Soudal Quick-Step 3h 45m 44s, 2 J Milan (Ita) Lidl-Trek at same time. **Overall:** 1 T Pogacar (Slo) UAE Team Emirates 67h 17m 2s, 2 D Martinez (Col) BORA-hansgrohe +7m 42s, 3 G Thomas (Gbr) INEOS Grenadiers +8:04.

DARTS PREMIER LEAGUE FINAL (O2 Arena, London) — **Final:** L Littler (Eng) bt L Humphries (Eng) 11-7. **Semi-finals:** L Littler (Eng) bt M Smith (Eng) 10-5, L Humphries (Eng) bt M van Gerwen (Ned) 10-5

GOLF SOUDAL OPEN (Antwerp)—**1st Rnd** (Gbr & Irl unless stated): **62 S** Jones (Nzl), **64 R** Langasque (Fra), I Elvira (Spa), M Jordan, N Noergaard Moeller (Den), A Wilson, **65 C** Syme, **66 M** Baldwin, A Cockerill (Can), A Fitzpatrick, A Del Rey (Spa), R Fisher, J Blixt (Swe), N von Dellingshausen (Ger).

JABRA LADIES OPEN (Évian-les-Bains, France)—**1st Rnd** (Gbr & Irl unless stated): **66 A** Sauzon (Fra), I Laklalech (Mor), **67 J** Melichova (Cze), M Metraux (Swi), **68 J** Gustavsson (Swe), C Palomar-Herbin (Fra), N Nadaud (Fra), A Belac (Slo).

TENNIS ATP GENEVA OPEN (Switzerland)—**Qtr-finals:** N Djokovic (Ser) bt T Griekspoor (Ned) 7-5 6-1, T Machac (Cze) bt A Michelsen (USA) 6-3 7-6 (7-2), F Cobolli (Ita) bt A Shevchenko (Kaz) 6-4 6-4.

TODAY'S DIARY

Friendly
 A-League All Stars v Newcastle (8.05am)....
U17 European Ch'ship - Group D:
 Portugal v England (6.30).

CRICKET County Championship (day 1 of 4, 11am) - **Division One:** Durham v Somerset (Riverside), Hampshire v Surrey (The Rose Bowl), Kent v Essex (Canterbury), Lancashire v Warwickshire (Old Trafford), Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire (New Road). **Division Two:** Gloucestershire v Yorkshire (Headingley), Leics v Glamorgan (Leicester), Middlesex v Sussex (Lord's), Northamptonshire v Yorkshire (Northampton).

Second T20I: Netherlands v Ireland (Amstelveen, 10am).
IPL Qualifier 2: Sunrisers Hyderabad v Rajasthan Royals (3).

RUGBY LEAGUE Betfred Super League (8pm): Castleford v Hull, Huddersfield v Leigh, St Helens v Leeds.

RUGBY UNION European Challenge Cup Final: Gloucester v Sharks (8pm).



BUBBLY: Verstappen joy after holding off Norris, left, at Imola

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Max is glad Norris can Lando blow

'IT'S GOOD FOR OUR SPORT'

MAX VERSTAPPEN is grateful to finally have competition from Lando Norris after two years of peerless dominance.

Charles Leclerc threatened to challenge in 2022 but Ferrari fell away while Red Bull pressed home their advantage.

They then smashed records last year as Verstappen produced Formula One's most dominant season of all time.

The Dutchman started this campaign well ahead again but McLaren have made a huge leap to put Norris in contention.

Verstappen admits F1 will be a lot more healthy if the Briton can sustain a title challenge against him.

He said: "It's good for the sport more teams are fighting for the win. "For sure, things have closed up which, from our side, makes it important to be at our very best."

Fourth-placed Norris is 60 points behind the Dutchman heading into this weekend's Monaco race, and Verstappen is in no doubt the McLaren driver is a contender for his crown.

He said: "Norris is really in the mix. "He is quite a few points down but if they suddenly start winning, that can turn around quite quickly."

"From our side we just have to focus on ourselves because that

RUSSELL: Would be happy to have teen Antonelli at Mercedes

is the only thing in our control. We need to be on it."

The win in Miami was Norris's first in F1 – at the 110th attempt.

The 24-year-old dreams of becoming champion but insists he has not thought about a title charge this year and he worries the gap to Verstappen may already be too big.

Norris said: "It's a long way to go and our recent results don't change anything."

"We have not thought about the championship. We have just put ourselves in there."

"We lost a lot of points in the first few races of the year and that has hurt us, but we are only a third of the way through the season."

Elsewhere, George Russell voiced his approval of teenager Andrea Kimi Antonelli potentially becoming his new Mercedes team-mate.

Team principal Toto Wolff is a huge fan and last week the departing Lewis Hamilton endorsed the 17-year-old as his preferred heir.

Russell said: "Kimi is a fantastic driver. He's racing in Formula 2 this year, but he's no doubt going to be an F1 driver in the future."

"He's a fellow junior driver as well, coming through the ranks as I did with the team."

"It makes for a great opportunity for Mercedes to build into the future. But I welcome anybody as my team-mate."



GLOUCESTER V SHARKS
8PM, TNT SPORTS
By Adam Hathaway

GLOUCESTER director of rugby George Skivington insists he is not under pressure from upstairs to qualify for the Champions Cup next season.

Skivington's side take on South African outfit, the Sharks, at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in tonight's Challenge Cup final with a place in Europe's top tier on the line.

It follows a calamitous Premiership campaign where Gloucester finished ninth – only ahead of winless Newcastle.

A win against Eben Etzebeth's Sharks would secure

'NO HEAT ON GLOS BOSS'

a Champions Cup place, at Leicester's expense, after Skivington put all his eggs in the European basket.

He was slammed for fielding a second-string side that was walloped 90-0 by Northampton earlier this month, but is adamant a second trophy of the season, after the Premiership Cup, would be enough and that there is no heat on him.

Skivington said: "I haven't had any conversations, and no one has talked to me and said it would be great to win this because we get in the Champions Cup. Winning the trophy is the important thing

for me and getting into the Champions Cup is a nice additional piece to it.

"I am not sure of the financial side of it but I do know the Champions Cup does not guarantee us massive crowds, unless it is Munster or someone like that – we didn't see that last year. You would rather be in the Champions Cup than not, of course, but there is also a balance."

Skivington used to go to White Hart Lane as a youngster with his father but

admits he is now a lapsed Tottenham fan and takes his children to Chelsea.

He has vowed to make more time for his family and ditch rugby for a couple of weeks before surveying the wreckage of the league season.

The 41-year-old added: "I owe my family a bit of time, that is my No.1 priority.

"It has been a bit of a mad year and everyone in this building needs a break from each other. It will be, 'Don't message each other and leave each other alone'.

"This group has stood strong and I am proud of that. We will take a couple of weeks and it will give us a bit of head space."

EURO VISION:
Skivington prioritised Challenge Cup glory



DAY TO FORGET

The Gloucester players in despair after thrashing by Northampton this month

It's not win or bust for Skivington

LAWES ADDS NAME TO AN ILLUSTRIOUS LIST

COURTNEY LAWES has been voted personality of the season by the Rugby Union Writers' Club. The back row, who retired from England duty after last year's World Cup, was honoured at a lunch in London. The 105-cap forward follows stars such as Martin Johnson,

By Adam Hathaway

Jonny Wilkinson and Gareth Edwards in winning the Pat Marshall Trophy, named after the Daily Express's former rugby correspondent.

Lawes said: "The names on the trophy speak for themselves. I'm

incredibly humbled and thankful and I am glad the writers enjoyed my career."

Lawes, right, has at least one match left for Northampton, their Premiership semi-final against Saracens a week today, before moving to

Brive in the French Top 14. Dr James Robson, who retired as Scotland's medic earlier this year and was the doctor on six British and Irish Lions tours, was given the Special Award for lifetime achievement.



NOT AGAIN: Murray during his 2020 loss

Murray faces familiar foe in Paris

ANDY MURRAY will take on old foe Stan Wawrinka in what could be the Briton's final French Open appearance.

Murray, who is expected to retire this summer, will face the 2015 champion in the first round at Roland Garros.

The Scot lost to Swiss star Wawrinka on his past two French Open outings, beaten in the first round in 2020 and in the 2017 semi-finals.

The winner will meet British No.1 Cameron Norrie or Pavel Kotov. Former world No.1

TENNIS
By Yasmin Syed

Rafa Nadal, bidding for his 15th singles title in Paris, has been handed a difficult draw against fourth-seeded German Alexander Zverev.

Dan Evans, who will partner Murray in the doubles, also has a tough opening match against 13th seed Holger Rune.

Jack Draper will open up against a qualifier but could face Carlos Alcaraz in round two. World No.1 Novak

Djokovic will begin his title defence against home favourite Pierre-Hugues Herbert.

British women's No.1 Katie Boulter, who is seeded 26th, will face former world No.2 Paula Badosa, while Harriet Dart takes on 27th seed Linda Noskova.

Reigning champion Iga Swiatek, who has not lost a match at the French Open since 2021, opens up against a qualifier but could face Naomi Osaka in the second round.

WORLD OF SPORT

New Lloyds deal will be 'game-changing'

BRITISH CYCLING has sealed a "landmark" multi-million pound title sponsorship with Lloyds Bank that will help secure the Tour of Britain's future.

Chief executive Jon Dutton hailed the agreement – worth up to £20million over the next five years – as "one of the biggest deals in British sport" since the pandemic.

Lloyds becomes the title sponsor of the GB cycling team at this year's Paris Olympics,

CYCLING

and as well as the Tour of Britain, some of the money will go towards talent ID programmes, and launching new events.

Dutton said: "This is a landmark deal, game-changing. We are very proud to partner with a great British institution."

British Cycling has been without a title sponsor since its £8m-a-year deal with HSBC ended in 2021.

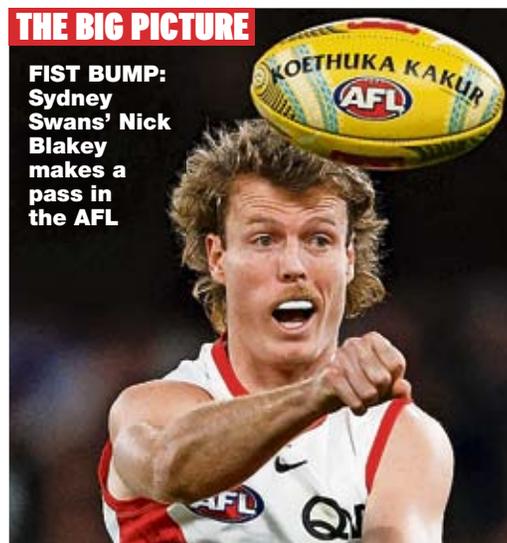
MIKE WALTERS



DUTTON

THE BIG PICTURE

FIST BUMP: Sydney Swans' Nick Blakey makes a pass in the AFL



THE police officer who arrested Scottie Scheffler has received "corrective action" for failing to have his body-worn camera switched on during last week's incident.

The world No.1 was detained ahead of the second round at the US PGA Championship after trying to drive into Valhalla Golf Club.

According to the police report, Detective Bryan Gillis stopped

GOLF

Scheffler's car and "attempted to give instruction".

The report alleges The Masters champion refused to comply and "accelerated forward, dragging Detective Gillis to the ground".

Scheffler faces several charges, including second-degree assault of a police officer, third-degree criminal mischief and reckless driving.

1. Who took 5-80 for Yorkshire in the first innings of the County Championship defeat by Middlesex at Lord's last month?
2. How many Grand Slam singles titles did recently-retired tennis star Garbine Muguruza win?
3. Who scored two tries for France in the 40-0 whitewash of Wales in Cardiff in this year's Women's Six Nations Championship?
4. Which English football team won the European Cup in 1982?
5. Which Kent batsman was the first cricketer to make 100 Test appearances?
6. Which female golfer received an MBE in 1988?
7. Who was BBC Sports Personality of the Year in both 1994 and 1996?
8. Which American runner won the men's 400m hurdles at the 2000 and 2008 Olympics?
9. Which NFL team are named after their first coach?
10. What is the first event in the decathlon?

10 to tackle
RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Jordan Thompson, 2 Two, 3 Joanna Grisez, 4 Aston Villa, 5 Colin Cowdrey, 6 Laura Davies, 7 Damon Hill, 8 Angelo Taylor, 9 Cleveland Browns, 10 100m.

MIXING IT!

Mikael McKenzie gets stuck in...

NEW FACES MUST REPAY SOUTHGATE'S BRAVERY

GARETH SOUTHGATE has shown guts to drop some of his regulars from the provisional England squad for Euro 2024.

It may seem a simple decision from the outside to pick younger, in-form stars.

But Southgate has built close personal relationships with his England squads through the magical moments shared together.

When Southgate, right, has relied on the likes of Jordan Henderson and Marcus Rashford in the past, they have stepped up.

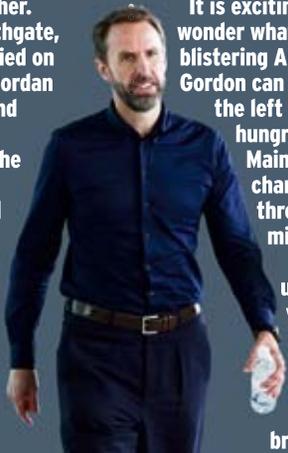
The former has been one of Southgate's main lieutenants in the dressing room and his absence will be felt. But the time is right to freshen it up.

There cannot be many complaints about this squad. Rashford has struggled for form and ought to miss out. Raheem Sterling likewise.

These are the calls Southgate is expected to make but those before him have struggled to do so at tournaments.

It is exciting to wonder what a blistering Anthony Gordon can do down the left wing, or a hungry Kobbie Mainoo charging through the middle.

Now it is up to the young guns to repay their coach's bravery.



By Neil Squires

ENGLAND'S cricketers have called in Manchester City's mind guru to master the art of the title defence.

Coach Matthew Mott believes his side got into a mental muddle last year when their bid to land back-to-back 50-over World Cups backfired badly.

So, City sports psychologist David Young will be loaned to England in the Caribbean next week to try to avoid a repeat in their T20 World Cup defence.

He began work with the squad this week.

Mott said: "One of the more exciting things we've done is get David Young on board.

"He's previously been with the team and he's already been a great ally in making sure my messages are clear.

"It's good to have someone who's a little bit removed from the squad to make sure you're landing your messages.

"I've never told a player how to play the game - these guys are much better than I ever was.

"It's about making sure that if they're veering away from what their strengths are, you can help them get back on track. We feel

City's sports psychologist back on board with England

it's time to get the mojo back and go out and really express ourselves as a team.

"T20, as opposed to ODI, is so much clearer in the way the players can approach it."

Young, below, worked with England in their triumphant

50-over World Cup campaign in 2019 when they prevailed against New Zealand in a thrilling super-over at Lord's.

His return is part of Mott's response to the failure in India that saw an embarrassing group-stage exit.

Mott added: "At the last World Cup we openly said we got a few things wrong.

"You learn from your mistakes. When you've had the kick in the pants we've had you just can't go 'business as usual'. You have to redefine how you go as a team and the really open and robust conversations we've had, I think, will hold us in good stead.

"In India all of us were guilty of being a bit insular and trying to problem-solve ourselves.

"We've made a commitment to open up and be a bit more vulnerable as a group." Former captain Eoin



Morgan suggested the problems lay with internal divisions in the squad - claims Mott strenuously denied. The pair have not spoken since.

Mott said: "He was critical but family and friends got more upset about it than I did.

"Initially, of course you take it a bit personally. But he's there to have an opinion and his opinion is actually none of my business. If he feels strongly about something, that's for him.

"All I'll say is that only the people within the dressing room can fully understand what's going on.

"Once you leave the dressing room, you might hear titbits of stuff but you don't really know how the team's operating."

England take on Pakistan at Edgbaston tomorrow afternoon as their rain-truncated T20 World Cup build-up continues.

MOTT'S MIND GAME



THINK TANK...
Mott says he is excited to have Man City's David Young in the camp for World Cup

KYRGIOS WILL STEAL THE SHOW

THE BBC could not have found many better ways to spend their licence fee money than hiring Nick Kyrgios as part of their Wimbledon punditry team.

John McEnroe is always box office and Tim Henman is a British favourite - but Kyrgios, right, is going to top the bill. The Australian is not just about throwing tantrums and smashing things up, he proved an excellent analyst on Eurosport at the Australian Open. He provided detailed



breakdowns of tactical plays and was not afraid to speak his mind.

There is a chance the 29-year-old could play at the All England Club in the unlikely event he regains fitness.

But being part of the broadcast set-up is not a bad alternative for someone who has a job waiting

for him when he hangs up his racket.

Kyrgios has energy and charisma in spades and will bring younger eyes to the screen, which is exactly what the sport needs.

WE all owe a big thank you to Lando Norris for making Formula One entertaining again.

The snoozefest start to the season is hopefully behind us now Britain's No.1 driver is challenging Max Verstappen. Although saying that, has the Monaco Grand Prix ever been entertaining?

TYSON FURY would be better off having a tune-up fight rather than diving straight into a rematch with Oleksandr Usyk.

The Gypsy King, right, had not had a serious bout in more than two years when he fought the Ukrainian on Saturday - no wonder his unbeaten streak was halted.

A tune-up would do him well before trying to win back his world title.



Hill has Giant motivation after sideline sickness

CHRIS HILL is fed up of sitting around and is now ready to give humiliated Huddersfield a huge lift.

The veteran England prop, 36, returns against Leigh having been injured for more than two months.

He was close to returning in Sunday's 46-10 Challenge Cup

RUGBY LEAGUE HUDDERSFIELD V LEIGH 8PM, SKY SPORTS

semi-final hammering by former club Warrington.

Hill said: "It was frustrating. The physios erred on the side of caution. But I'm back now and still

three weeks ahead of schedule. I'm just ready to help the boys out. I'm sick of sitting on the sidelines."

Desperate to help the Giants avoid a fifth straight loss, Hill, right, said: "Everyone knows

last week wasn't good enough. The lads are looking for a reaction.

Leigh will be tough, but there's no point talking about it. We could be playing an amateur club; we just have to do it."

DAVE CRAVEN



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I want to bring glory days back to Elland Road

IN-DEMAND SUMMERVILLE EYES SUCCESS WITH LEEDS

HE IS being linked with Liverpool and Chelsea, but Crysencio Summerville insists he wants to star in the Premier League with Leeds.

The Dutchman was crowned Championship player of the season after scoring 21 goals and supplying 10 assists in all competitions to fire Leeds into Sunday's play-off final at Wembley against Southampton.

The £35million-rated rising star is ignoring the speculation over his future and says he is just focused on winning.

Summerville has heard all about Leeds reaching the 2001 Champions League semi-finals – six months before he was born – and wants to relive those days under manager Daniel Farke.

The 22-year-old attacker, who has two years left on his Elland Road deal, said: "I don't really know the clubs who are linked with me, I'm just busy with the season."

"It's a big week with the final at Wembley. We can return to the Premier League, so that's my focus."

"I know all about Leeds playing in the Champions League and I wasn't even born then!"

"It's nice to hear all those stories and I want to bring those days back, because we have a lot of potential here. To play in the Champions League would be massive."

"We can do that at Leeds. If you believe, you can achieve everything. The first thing is everyone has to believe on

By David Anderson

Sunday that we can do it, we will do it. Then if we get promoted to the Premier League, we have to have the same belief again."

Summerville, who cost Leeds just £1.3m from Feyenoord as an 18-year-old four years ago, insists he can improve.

"I'm far from perfect," he said. "It's been a good season, very good. I'm happy and proud of what I've done this season, but I feel like there's always room for improvement. I will be better. I'm just rising."

"I've always watched Neymar, Eden Hazard, Ronaldinho, people like this."

"I like the flair in the game, how they take people on. Lately I've watched Vinicius Jr

as well, he's really good. I try to do it first in training and once I've got a trick under my belt, I try it in matches."

Summerville is not bothered by Leeds' miserable play-off record, failing in their five previous attempts.

It did not stop them smashing Norwich 4-0 last Thursday in the semi-final second leg.

Summerville said: "This is us now. We're a new team with a different manager. I hope we can make our own history."

"We went down last season, it was devastating. "The fans deserve it, everyone deserves it."



STYLE ICON: Ronaldinho is a huge inspiration to attacker Summerville

FOCAL POINT Summerville is Leeds' main man and is ready to fire them to promotion at Wembley

Pressure is a privilege for Armstrong

By Alex Crook

against Leeds in the regular season, said: "It is every kid's dream to be at Wembley and we may not get that chance to be there again, so we have got to grab it with both hands."

"It's going to be an unbelievable moment and an unbelievable game. We are going to have our friends and families there and all our fans at one of

the best stadiums in the world, so I am buzzing for it and the other lads are, too."

"We have to take everything in because it is a big occasion and one of the biggest games in England. The attitude we have had all season is to focus on ourselves and the way we play."

"It's very brave and scary at times but that is what we do. "We have to try and play the occasion down."



EXCITED: Armstrong

SOUTHAMPTON striker Adam Armstrong has urged his team-mates to embrace the pressure of a £200million Wembley showdown.

Saints will be roared on by almost 40,000 fans in Sunday's Championship play-off final against Leeds, with both teams bidding for an instant return to the Premier League.

Top-scorer Armstrong, who was on target in both games

Kelly joins Toon and Tosin ready to follow

By Ian Murtagh

BOURNEMOUTH defender Lloyd Kelly will become Newcastle's first summer signing.

Kelly, who will link up again with former manager Eddie Howe, has agreed personal terms and will sign a four-year deal.

Howe also snapped him up from Bristol City five years ago, when in charge of the Cherries.

Kelly, above, made 25 appearances last term but has been blighted by injuries in the past two seasons. The 25-year-old joins the Toon on a free

transfer. Fulham centre-half Tosin Adarabioyo is also set for Newcastle, who are ready to beat Manchester United to the free agent's signature.

With Sven Botman and Jamaal Lascelles sidelined until the new year, Howe made strengthening his defence a priority.

The fact he will land two of his top targets for a minimal outlay will give him a substantial budget to spend in other areas.



BELLAMY IN LINE FOR PROMOTION

FROM BACK PAGE Under-21s coach at Belgian club Anderlecht from 2019, before stepping up to become Kompany's assistant with the first team.

Bayern are trying to agree a compensation package with Burnley for the remaining four years of Kompany's contract.

The Clarets want around £16 million, and rightly see him as one of their biggest assets this summer as they attempt to raise

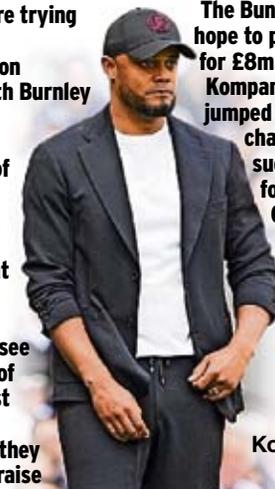
revenue following relegation to the Championship.

Kompany has already verbally agreed terms with Bayern on a three-year deal.

The Bundesliga side hope to pick him up for £8m.

Kompany has jumped at the chance to succeed former Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel at the Allianz Arena.

BAY OF PLENTY: Kompany set for Munich



Canaries Still in the chase for boss Will

By Ian Murtagh

NORWICH have emerged as serious rivals to Sunderland in the race to appoint Will Still as manager.

The Black Cats have been without a permanent head coach since sacking Michael Beale in February.

But they are hopeful of landing Still following talks with the former Reims boss. The Belgian-born Briton, above, is also wanted by Norwich, after they fired David Wagner following their play-off defeat by Leeds.

The Canaries have opened negotiations with Still's camp and

can offer the 31-year-old a more lucrative financial package.

Still stepped down at Ligue 1 side Reims earlier this month.

DARRELL Clarke has vowed to take Barnsley up from League One after quitting relegated Cheltenham to become the Tykes' new head coach.

Clarke, 46, said: "I didn't need to be sold. "The club's got huge potential. I'm excited to get going, get the squad rebuilt and try to push on for a promotion challenge."



HAPPIER TIMES: Paqueta in form for Hammers



Paqueta denies FA allegations over 'deliberate' cards

FROM BACK PAGE

should the Brazil star, 26, be found guilty of spot-fixing by an independent panel he faces a suspension that could range from six months to a lifetime ban.

It is alleged that Paqueta deliberately picked up bookings against Leicester, Aston Villa and Leeds in the 2022-23 campaign and on the opening day of this season against Bournemouth.

Suspicious betting activity was traced to Paqueta Island near Rio de Janeiro, prompting the FA to begin looking into the allegations last August.

On the same day that West Ham finally announced the appointment of Julen Lopetegui as head coach, the FA yesterday confirmed that Paqueta has been charged with four breaches of Rule E5.1.

The FA said he was suspected of seeking to "influence the progress ... [of] matches by intentionally seeking to receive a card from the referee for the improper purpose of affecting the betting

market in order for one or more persons to profit from the booking."

He has also been charged with "two breaches of FA Rule F3 in respect of alleged failures to comply pursuant to FA Rule F2", which relates to providing information and documents.

Paqueta, who signed from Lyon for £51million in August 2022, has until June 3 to respond to the charges.

He said in a statement: "I am extremely surprised and upset that the FA has decided to charge me.

"For nine months, I have co-operated with every

step of their investigation and provided all the information I can. I deny the charges in their entirety and will fight with every breath to clear my name."

A West Ham spokesperson said: "Lucas categorically denies the breach and will continue to robustly defend his position. The club will continue to support the player throughout the process."

I will fight to clear my name

'BIG NOISE' JULEN

JULEN LOPETEGUI is determined to make a "big, big noise" as West Ham's manager after being confirmed as David Moyes' replacement.

The former Wolves and Real Madrid head coach, 57, has taken over after a poor run saw the Irons finish ninth in the Premier League.

Lopetegui, who takes over on July 1, wants to get the club looking upwards again after joining on a two-year deal, with the option for a third.

"We have a fantastic platform," the Spaniard said. "The last few years have been very good to have this base but my ambition is always to be better. We come here with the idea to make a big, big noise."

JOSHUA PECK

WE OWE OUR FANS A SPECIAL DAY OUT

THANKS: Dalot applauds fans after the defeat by Palace

By David McDonnell

DIOGO DALOT believes Manchester United's players owe it to their loyal supporters to lift the FA Cup tomorrow after such a shambolic campaign.

United finished the season eighth in the table, their worst position in the Premier League era, to miss out on automatic European qualification.

Despite such a wretched campaign, which included finishing bottom of their Champions League group, the fans have continued to support the underperforming players, even when they were humiliated 4-0 at Crystal Palace a fortnight ago – and Dalot felt the team did not deserve their backing.

The United defender and his team-mates have the chance to atone by beating local rivals Manchester City in the final and end a

Diogo driven to repay the supporters after misery

dismal season by picking up some silverware.

Dalot said: "I'm going to be really honest with you. After that game against Palace, the way the fans were supporting us it was almost like a feeling we didn't deserve that.

"After conceding four goals against Palace, a 4-0 defeat, they were still there, pushing us, even after the awful game we had.

"This is the type of thing that shows why these fans are special.

"Every time there's a United

TOP AWARD: Players' Player of the Year Dalot

game they're always expecting something special, so we're going into the game to try to give them a special afternoon.

"You can almost get used to it because you know they're always going to be there, so you can take it for granted.

"But you can't have that feeling. You have to realise they make all the effort to go to games, especially away, sometimes travelling at night.

"They make that effort to support you and you cannot just take it for granted because you're playing for a big club."

Portugal defender Dalot, voted United's Players' Player of the Year, described the final as their "game of the season". Not only would victory stop City from

Hojlund feels 'incredible pressure' at United

RASMUS HOJLUND has opened up on the pressure at Manchester United, saying he felt he was under a "curse" waiting for his first Premier League goal.

The striker was signed from Atalanta last summer for £72million, after the club were priced out of a move for Harry Kane, who joined Bayern Munich for £100m. Arriving at United

By David McDonnell

carrying an injury, it took Hojlund 15 games to notch his first league goal.

And leading the attack at just 21 has been a burden for the Dane, right.

"You feel an incredible amount of pressure at United," he said ahead of Saturday's FA Cup final with Manchester City. "It

took some time for me to get going. But I think I've caught up quite well – I feel like I've found my rhythm.

"It was a frustrating time leading up to my first goal in the Premier League because I felt there was a lot of focus on it.

"But I understand it's not impressive to not score a single goal in your first 14 matches. When I scored

against Aston Villa I felt like the curse had lifted a bit."

Hojlund now has 16 United goals in all competitions.

"It's been a fine year," he added. "I've played in the Premier League and the Champions League. That's something I've always dreamed of."



NO DILLY DALOT OVER FEAR FACTOR

DIOGO DALOT says Manchester United do not fear neighbours Manchester City ahead of tomorrow's FA Cup final showdown.

The Portugal defender admits the all-conquering side led by Pep Guardiola may have created a fear factor for other opponents – but not for Erik ten Hag's team.

Dalot believes United will relish being the underdogs at Wembley and that status will make them even more determined to cause a shock.

"City have dominated so much in the last few years they created this fear factor," said Dalot. "But I don't believe they come in with the idea we fear them."

"They know we're going to want to win so they're going to be at their best level – and we have to be at our best level."

"That's the perfect way to approach a game like this but, at the same time, they know we can beat them."

"We've done it before so, on Saturday, we have to do it again."

Asked about the widely-held view that

GUARDIOLA:
All-conquering

City will win easily, given the contrasting seasons of both clubs, Dalot said it can work to United's advantage.

"It gives me more energy," he said. "You shouldn't be the underdog when you're at Manchester United."

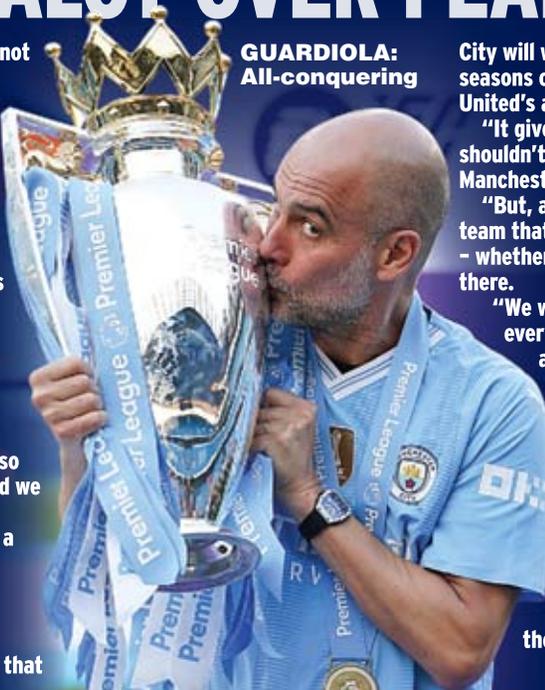
"But, at the same time, we are facing a team that has been dominating English football – whether we like it or not – and we want to be there."

"We want to be the team in the future that everyone thinks is going to win automatically."

"I've been at this club for a while now and I want that feeling of dominance in every game and in every competition we play, everywhere we go."

"The energy here has to be 'OK, if they think they're going to win, let's see if they're going to do it'. That's the kind of push I'm trying to give my team-mates. We're going there with the right mentality."

DAVID McDONNELL



HUNGRY: Bernardo

Bernardo won't get bored of winning

By **David McDonnell**

BERNARDO SILVA says Manchester City's players never tire of winning – and have their sights set on creating more history at Wembley tomorrow.

Pep Guardiola's men became the first side to win four English top-flight titles in a row when they secured the Premier League crown last Sunday.

And victory against local rivals Manchester United in the FA Cup final would make City the first English side to clinch back-to-back Doubles.

Forward Bernardo said: "It's motivation to try and do something that's never been done before. We want to get that record."

"We're going to try and prepare for the game as well as possible and try to be very competitive, because we want this FA Cup."

"We're a group of players and leaders that are so competitive. The feeling of winning is so much better than the feeling of losing – and we love winning."

"If we're here every day working, then why not try and do it again and again as a team?"

"Last season was probably the best season of our lives because of the Treble, which was only done once before by our rivals."

Bernardo knows that an all-Manchester final – a repeat of last year's showpiece – means the game means even more to the two sets of fans.

He said: "Not as much for us but for the fans and the way they live this game."

"A final of the FA Cup against your biggest rivals in the same city? It's very emotional for them and we get that."

AIMING HIGHER

Dalot takes a shot in training ahead of the final as he sets sights on a trophy



doing the Double, it would clinch a Europa League place for Erik ten Hag's side.

Against that backdrop, there is much at stake for United, not least the desire for revenge after losing last year's final 2-1 when Ilkay Gundogan scored twice, either side of a Bruno Fernandes penalty – which proved the second leg of City's Treble triumph.

Dalot, who is set to make his 50th appearance of the season at

Wembley, said: "We finished that game with that feeling of, 'We could have won it'."

"To be so close to winning it and not doing it, this season we have another opportunity."

"So, the message from inside here is that this is our game of the season."

"That's the way we're facing it, that's the way we want to face it as well, and the way that we should face it."

"We're playing a great team but finals are there to win and not to

just play in. The fans are hungry for trophies, the club is hungry for trophies, we're hungry for trophies, so we have an opportunity."

"But if we think City, just because they won the league and everything last year, are going to take their foot off the gas, it's just being delusional."

"They're going to be at their best level."

"We have to expect that and we have to be at our best level if we want to win."

TEN HAG VOWS TO CARRY ON WITH 'PROJECT'

FROM BACK PAGE

do and that is, firstly, win the game and then ... keep going with the project.

"I came here to win trophies. Saturday is the next opportunity we can achieve this and we earned this opportunity as a team. Now we have to go for it."

"Of course after every season you review it and we'll see where we are in the project, the things

we have to change. We spoke lately about it and there are some very good things – players coming up and values coming up."

United's struggles this season have been mirrored by forward Marcus Rashford, who was left out of England's Euro 2024 squad this week.

Ten Hag said: "A career has ups and downs. A down can also

give you fuel and that's what I see in training."

"He will be highly motivated. He's very talented, already has a big career, and I'm sure he will get over this and make even more goals."

United defender Harry Maguire will miss the final after failing to recover from a muscle issue, but is not considered a doubt for England at the Euros

this summer. Ten Hag said: "Harry Maguire is unavailable. We have a final training session and then we have final decisions to make. But, as I oversee it now, it looks good [for the Euros]."

When asked if Maguire had suffered a setback in his recovery process, Ten Hag replied: "I don't think so. It's just he doesn't make it. It didn't heal as we expected."



RASHFORD: Highly motivated



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ERIK VOWS TO CARRY ON

United boss rebuffs talk about future

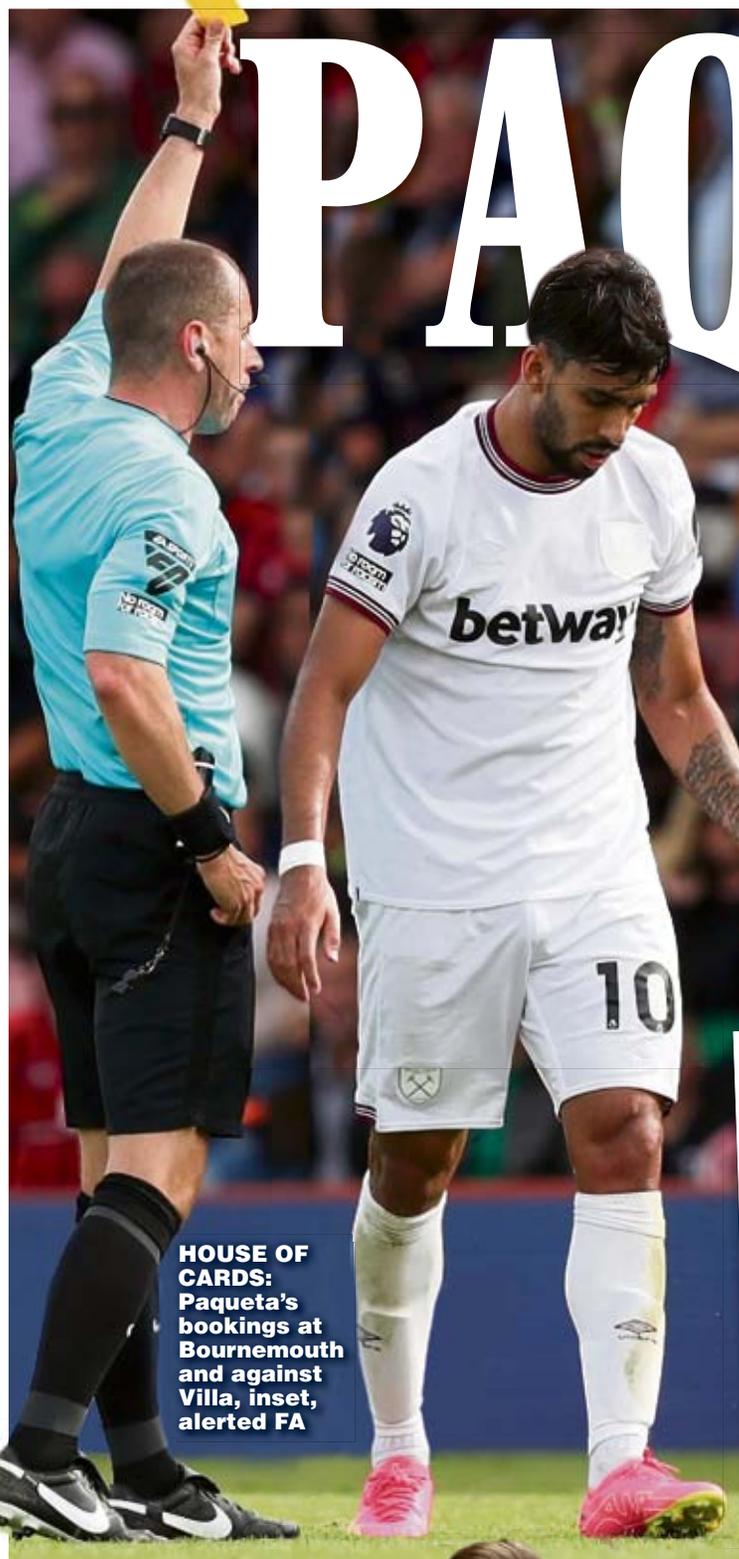
DEFIANT Erik ten Hag vowed to carry on with his Manchester United project as he refused to be drawn on his future ahead of tomorrow's FA Cup final. The United manager, left, has been given no assurances

By David McDonnell
over his job, with the Wembley showdown against Manchester City potentially his last game in charge. Minority shareholder Sir Jim Ratcliffe and his football leadership team are keeping

their options open, with Gareth Southgate, Mauricio Pochettino and Thomas Tuchel potential successors to the Dutchman. Ten Hag said: "I'm just focusing on the job I have to" **TURN TO PAGE 59, COL 1**

MAX PRESSURE: LANDO'S TURNING UP THE HEAT

FORMULA ONE: PAGE 54



HOUSE OF CARDS: Paqueta's bookings at Bournemouth and against Villa, inset, alerted FA

PAQUETA ON BETTING CHARGE



Hammers star faces ban over bookings but denies claims

By Alan Smith

LUCAS PAQUETA is facing a lengthy ban after being charged with serious breaches of the FA's betting rules. The West Ham midfielder strenuously denies the allegations that he deliberately picked up yellow cards in four different Premier League games between November 2022 and August 2023. But **TURN TO PAGE 58, COLUMN 1**

BURNLEY TEMPTED TO GO FOR BELLAMY



CRAIG BELLAMY is a contender to take over at Burnley because he is not following Vincent Kompany to Bayern Munich. The Clarets were last night locked in compensation talks with the German giants - and it is understood former Manchester City

MOVING UP: Bellamy may get the nod at Turf Moor

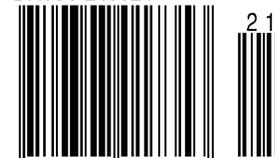
By David Anderson

star Kompany is in Bavaria. Bellamy has remained in Britain and the Belgian's No.2 could replace him at Turf Moor. Burnley chairman and owner Alan Pace has heavily invested in Kompany during his two years at Burnley, and Bellamy would be the continuity candidate to carry on that work. Pace will want a manager with a record for improving younger

players and former Nottingham Forest head coach Steve Cooper could be another option. Bellamy, 44, is responsible for much of the training at Gawthorpe Hall. He deputised for Kompany in matches when the manager was banned or sent to the stands. The former Wales, Liverpool and Newcastle star first linked up with Kompany as a player at City in 2009. He was then his **TURN TO PAGE 57, COLUMN 5**

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Puzzles

ARROW-WORD

Enter your answers as indicated by the arrows, including items connected with our TV star, then read the letters in the shaded squares to spell the East Sussex resort where she was born (8).

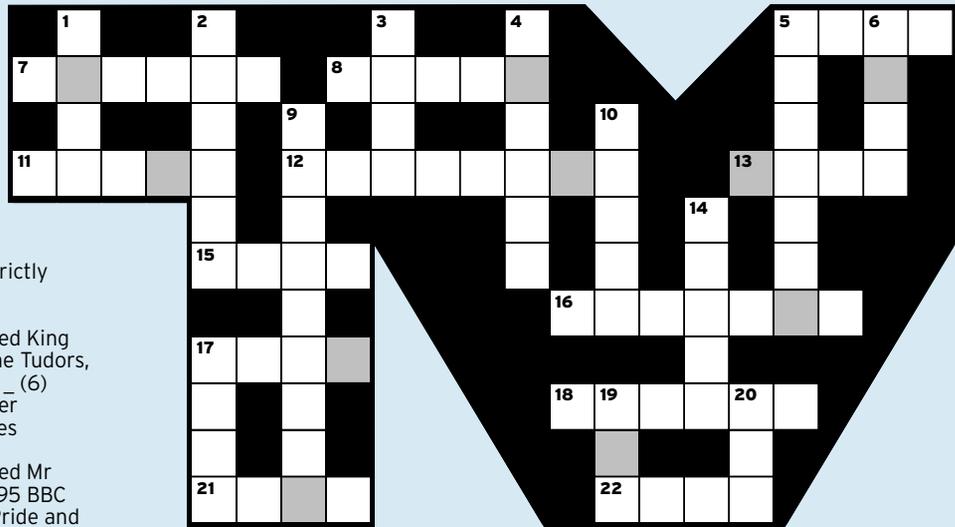
Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

Step US gangster, Al _		Our star's first name		Depend	
Genuinely		In whichever place		Periods of tuition	
Cove	Men Behaving Badly writer, Simon _			Hot beverage	
		Make a movement			
Word of disgust	Sagacious			Kimono sash Show with our star, _ Morning	Show with our star, Dancing On _
		Cereal grasses			Back end
Actress, Portia (2,5)	Dame _ Everage		Occurring one time	In this place DJ, _ Cox	
					Our star's surname
					Crooner, _ King Cole
Lair			Site of Nile dam		
US sport	Elastic Heart singer		Actor, _ Pitt	Author, _ Levin	
				Limb	
					Distant
Milan opera house, La _	Circus funny men		Stephen Merchant sitcom, Hello _	Pixie	Kid's TV show with Chris Tarrant
				Horned mammal Father (informal)	
Got rid of at auction	Append _ Comedian, _ Evans			Illusionist, _ Geller	
			Film director, _ Lee		Mineral source
Strange				In what way	
			Will & Grace star, _ Messing		
Leg joint	Secret agent			Owner Of A Lonely Heart band	



TV CROSSWORD

Solve our crossword, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to reveal the name of a TV show (3,7).



ACROSS

- 5 Tess _ Claudia Winkleman's Strictly Come Dancing co-host (4)
- 7 Actor who played King Henry VIII in The Tudors, Jonathan Rhys _ (6)
- 8 Will _ the winner of the first series of Pop Idol (5)
- 11 Actor who played Mr Darcy in the 1995 BBC adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, Colin _ (5)
- 12 _ Other Details, Disney+ drama with Mandy Patinkin and Violet Beane (5,3)
- 13 Sketch show of the 1990s and 2000s with Sally Phillips, Smack The _ (4)
- 15 Button _ children's show of the 1980s (4)
- 16 Rue McClanahan's character in The Golden Girls, _ Devereaux (7)
- 17 _ Tube, internet clips show which was hosted by Alex Zane (4)
- 18 Actor and singer who

- won the second series of The X Factor, _ Ward (6)
- 21 Going For A _ former BBC antiques game show (4)
- 22 Kit Harington's character in Game Of Thrones, Jon _ (4)

- played by Danielle Harold (4)
- 4 The original presenter of For The Love Of Dogs, Paul _ (6)
- 5 _ Meaden, one of the Dragons' Den dragons (7)
- 6 Classic US sitcom with Lucille Ball, I Love _ (4)
- 9 Adrian _ star of Bottom and The Young Ones (9)
- 10 Dark comedy which starred Johnny Vegas as drug dealer Moz (5)
- 14 BBC comedy written and directed by, and starring,

- Diane Morgan (5)
- 17 Chat show host and former presenter of the Film programme, Jonathan _ (4)
- 19 _ Dark Materials, Philip Pullman adaptation which starred Ruth Wilson (3)
- 20 Police procedural comedy-drama with Amanda Redman, _ Tricks (3)

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

QUIZ OF THE WEEK

- 1 Business magnate and media personality Alan Sugar is a former chairman of which English football club?
- 2 What word follows 'The Sugarhill' to form the name of a US group known for their hit song Rapper's Delight?
- 3 In which Brazilian city is Sugarloaf Mountain situated?
- 4 Born in 1956, Sugar Ray Leonard is a former world champion in which sport?
- 5 What are preserved in and coated with sugar syrup to make marrons glaces?



- 6 Who composed the music for Dance Of The Sugar Plum Fairy - was it Beethoven, Mozart, or Tchaikovsky?
- 7 Siobhan Donaghy, left, a founding member of the girl group Sugababes, was born in which decade?
- 8 Beginning with M, what is the name of the thick, dark brown juice obtained from raw sugar during refining?
- 9 For which variety of pea with an edible pod is sugar pea another name?
- 10 Which group had a UK Number One in 1974 with the song Sugar Baby Love?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

TRIVIA WORDSEARCH

- 1 Who wrote the novel on which 2013 film The Book Thief is based? (6,5)
- 2 In early sailing ships, the whipstaff was connected to which part of the ship? (6)
- 3 What noun completes the title of an early detective story by Edgar Allan Poe: 'The Purloined -----'? (6)
- 4 In equine tack, a double bridle consists of two types of bit: one is called the snaffle, what is the other one called? (4,3)
- 5 What is the name of Pip's best friend in Dickens's Great Expectations? (7,6)
- 6 Who directed the 2000 film Snatch? (3,7)
- 7 Suave amateur sleuths Nick and Nora Charles first appeared in which Dashiell Hammett novel? (3,4,3)
- 8 Who is the school caretaker played by David Bradley in the Harry Potter movies? (5,5)
- 9 'Take a Pair of Sparkling Eyes' is a song from which Gilbert and Sullivan operetta? (3,10)
- 10 In the Royal Navy, sailors with the surname Martin are invariably called by what nickname? (7)

Steal Words. Solve the clues and find the answers in the grid. **Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out**



DITLOIDS

If we asked you what "7 D of the W" stood for, you would soon guess we meant 7 Days of the Week, but what are the rather more tricky ones below?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

- 1) 1 L Y = 5.88 T M
- 2) 1989: F of the B W
- 3) The S D of AM, A 13 3/4
- 4) 1024 B in a K
- 5) 6 is the A N of C
- 6) 20 G S W by RF

MUDDLESOME

We've scrambled up the names of Poets Laureate. Can you work out what they are?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

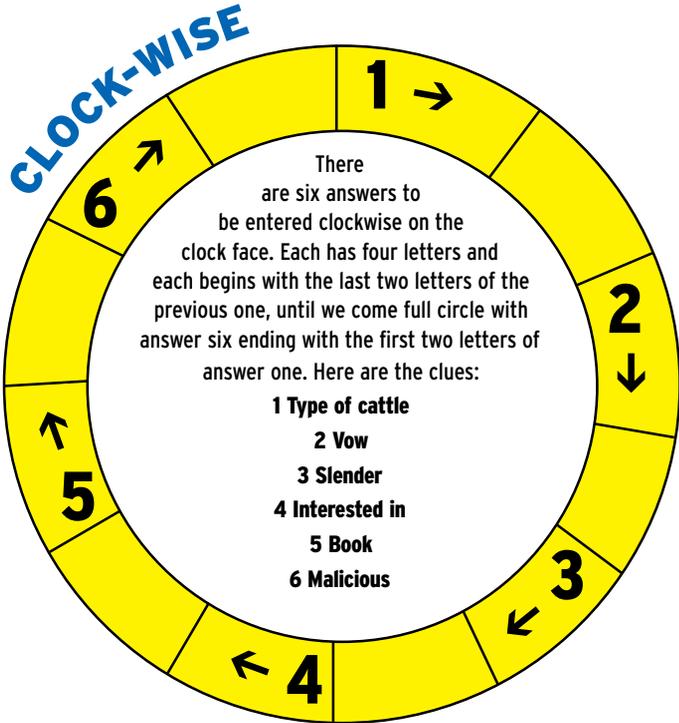
- HOW ACORNS LIE
- FALSE DEMIJOHN
- FLOUNCY AND FAR

WORDS

In the following passage, the numbers 12345 represent different letters:

Any 314521 can hit a 5312, but a 431221 best for any 342 would be to down a 1523. They 312 1312 and in a straight 1342 can 12345 huge speeds leaving you far behind in their 1231. However, 1 5231 that we would 45221 any hunter who might 4312 to build up a 43452 of them until he has 2313452.

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out



SUMTHING

Fit the missing numbers into the grid so that all the sums are correct - reading left to right or on single lines top to bottom. There are 11 squares to fill, with one digit in each, and the 11 digits you must use are listed below. But where do they all go?

Solution in Monday's puzzle pull-out

		x		=	
-			+		+
		x	6	=	
=			=		=
		x		=	

We've given you one digit to get you started. Here are the missing digits to fit in:

1, 2, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 6, 8, 8

THE ULTRA ALPHAPUZZLE®

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

WELCOME to the ULTRA Alphapuzzle™ - the 'extra-tough' version of Britain's favourite wordpower challenge. Each grid number represents a different letter. All 26 letters are used.

TARGET TIME: 30 minutes. **Solution next Friday**

Last Friday's solution
Across: Rephrase, Prior, Pneumonia, Vow, Drub, Garage, Ballot, Joyous, Bleary, Bias, Cur, Grapevine, Those, Sentinel.
Down: Rapid, Boycott, Prequel, Brook, Ramp, Lozenge, Sandal, Ornate, Paradox, Felt, Sieve, Opinion, Prowess, Swell.

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

Alternatively, for 6 extra clues to your mobile, text:

DXALPHAX to 64343

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

For up to six Extra Clue Letters, call: **0907 181 2578***
 (Deduct three minutes from Target Time for each extra letter heard)

Full solution: **0907 181 2579***
 Across only: **0907 181 2576***
 Down only: **0907 181 2577***

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your phone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

Alphapuzzle® © 2024 Acorn Editorial Ltd

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

SAMURAI SUDOKU

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

Puzzles

CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

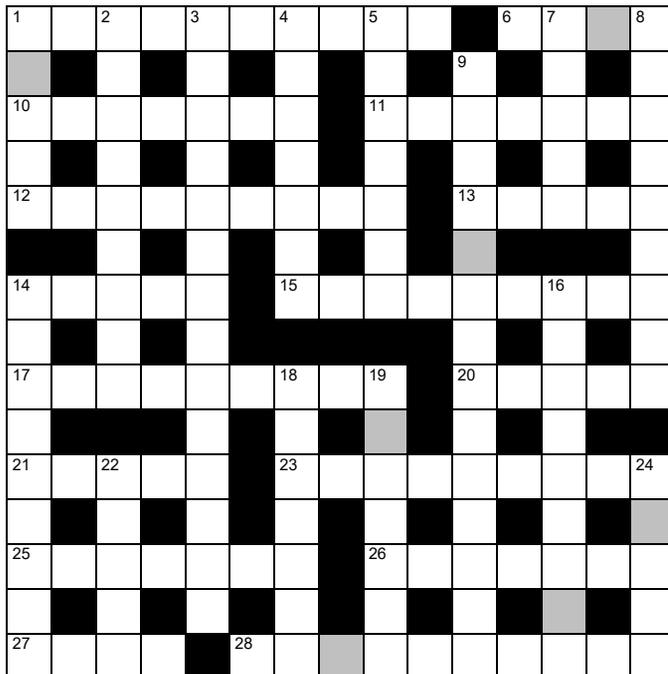
WIN
£100
CASH

ACROSS

- 1 Speak roughly to monster to get flower (10)
- 6 Jump out of visible aperture (4)
- 10 Promised to be put on the payroll (7)
- 11 More expensive rip-off upset Eric (7)
- 12 Abandon useless car first - that's sweet (5,4)
- 13 Character often dropped (5)
- 14 Gun has removed third law (5)
- 15 Article on awards shrivels (9)
- 17 Adamant relative shelter starts at home (9)
- 20 Lay oneself open to trendy dog (5)
- 21 Intrigued elves have to investigate (5)
- 23 Following drama, object to toy (9)
- 25 Methodical, about to get swapped for article that's pointed (7)
- 26 Raining heavily as Peg joins dynasty (7)
- 27 Consumes a set recipe (4)
- 28 Drink gets drunk - that's indisputable (10)

DOWN

- 1 Magic formula takes some time (5)
- 2 Meant rugs to be set out in rows (9)
- 3 Resist, using stilettos? (3,2,4,5)
- 4 Country road, wandering with knight and artist (7)
- 5 Performing daily, in theory (2,5)
- 7 Commandment found in same dictionary (5)
- 8 Shopper turned up, requiring first and second drink (9)
- 9 Woman's date brings regret (14)
- 14 Minding is a minor worry (9)
- 16 Liable to be at an angle (9)
- 18 Mope about air-conditioning in shops (7)
- 19 Drink, that is, and food (7)
- 22 Permissible to run away (5)
- 24 Soldier obtained some lamb (5)



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

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 Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, May 24, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by May 25 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390. An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● **One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.**

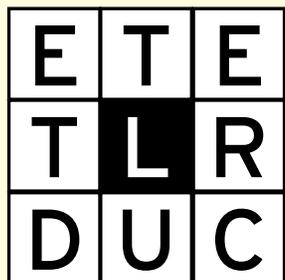
NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Flattop, 5 Macadam, 9 Cut and run, 10 Moves, 11 Arsenal, 12 Split up, 13 Reintegration, 18 Remote control, 20 Deserve, 23 Felt tip, 25 Glove, 26 Eyestrain, 27 Largely, 28 Tannery. **DOWN:** 1 Facial, 2 Antiserum, 3 Tenon, 4 Paralytic, 5 Minus, 6 Camelhair, 7 Divot, 8 Misspent, 14 Interfere, 15 Genuflect, 16 Ill at ease, 17 Prodigal, 19 Openly, 21 Scour, 22 Elegy, 24 Latin. **Prizeword:** Tasteful

TARGET



● The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)

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 17; very good 26; excellent 34 (or more). **Solution on Monday**

Call **0907 181 2585** for today's Target solution

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 32 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter - or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' - in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.

Solution on Monday

Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560
(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)

Full solution
0907 181 2558

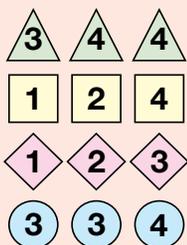
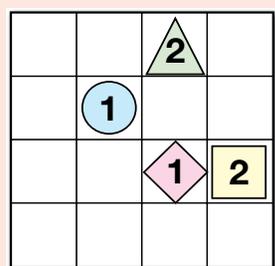
*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

A	33	17	27	27	16	28	21	7	3	8	23	31	19
B	23	27	1	17	7	2	17	8	40	27	36	8	8
C	31	14	40	27	12	38	40	23	1	40	28	32	15
D	20	40	11	3	31	8	10	40	27	18	13	19	16
E	8	30	17	13	10	23	20	27	31	18	1	26	23
F	37	11	32	36	7	24	22	25	9	36	5	19	4
G	40	9	20	30	40	39	27	36	36	13	3	35	39
H	4	39	10	15	3	6	26	5	38	36	7	38	34
I	11	32	31	13	7	6	1	9	19	25	25	6	36
J	12	19	10	19	6	16	8	10	7	26	28	39	32
K	19	22	35	8	11	38	29	22	37	39	6	33	26
L	8	21	17	36	36	14	36	8	35	2	38	10	35
M	29	20	28	25	9	22	37	9	34	40	27	16	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40

● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343**. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO



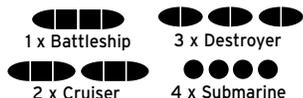
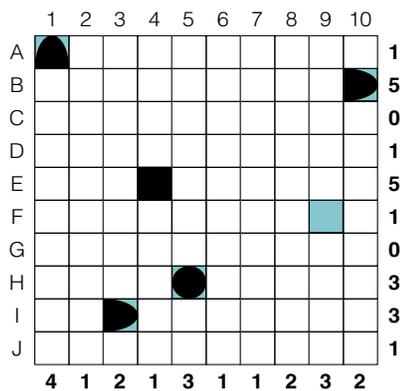
Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.

Solution on Monday

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.

Solution on Monday



THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters - below the main grid - to start. **Solution on Monday.**

DIFFICULTY: 8/10; **TARGET:** 25 mins; **CLUE:** Sing praises of a defunct tax, say.

A	19	24	11	4	26	9	20	1	16	9	7	1
B	9	21	5	6	18	12	20					
C	11	2	24	1	1	8	1	16	17	23	10	12
D	1	14	24	20	25	16	25					
E	14	25	13	1	15	11	24	21	16	9	10	
F	1	9	1	16	1							
G	10	9	13	9	21	14	5	21	24	1	10	16
H	16	21	3	9	17							
I	14	24	5	5	21	1	22	9	11	16	1	
J	1	14	23	16	4	17	20					
K	26	17	9	23	20	11	16	1	20	23	21	1
L	17	12	11	9	20	10	9					
M	25	6	1	20	16	23	14	1	26	1	21	21

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

EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*

Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.

FULL SOLUTION: 0907 181 2565*

ACROSS ONLY: 0907 181 2561* / DOWN ONLY: 0907 181 2562*

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** to **64343**. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

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THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 4; INTERMEDIATE = 34; ADVANCED = 508.

PLAY MORE CROSSWORDS AND GAMES AT EXPRESS.CO.UK/PUZZLES

SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390