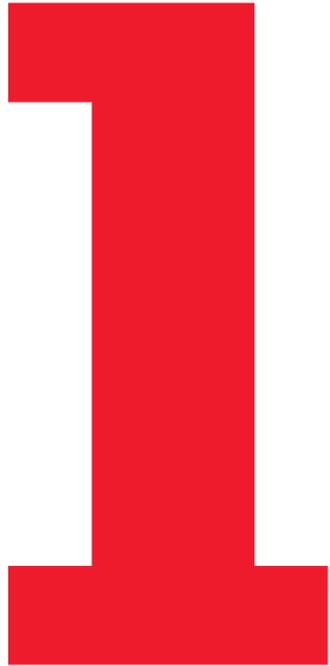
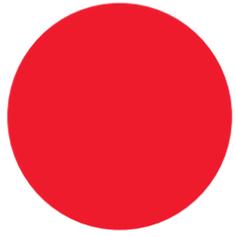


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Slip



Summer gardening special

P41



Secret Portugal

P75

# Weekend

Number 4,214

SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
25 - 26 MAY 2024

2024 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



## Gove quits as Sunak hit by record exodus of Tory MPs

Minister deals major blow to PM as he calls for 'new generation'

- » Michael Gove becomes 77th Tory MP to abandon Parliament before the general election on 4 July - as mass departures set new post-war record for Conservatives
- » Levelling Up Secretary bows out after nearly 20 years as an MP, with emotional resignation letter saying 'it is time to leave' after politics takes toll on personal life
- » Tories fear wipeout as 'bionic MP' Craig Mackinlay and Andrea Leadsom also quit

P6

EXCLUSIVE

### Water firms dumping raw sewage at 'clean' Blue Flag beaches

P4

### Smoking ban will become law after election, Tories and Labour pledge

P7

#### Katy Balls

No 10 deploys fresh faces to quell leadership threat

#### David Blunkett

I underestimated my own party

#### Isabel Hardman

Starmer is struggling to sound like a prime minister

#### Adam Boulton

Election TV debates are a farce



Man City go in search of first-ever double double P112



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UN court orders Israel to halt Rafah assault



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The oldest chip shop in Benidorm

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Brilliant biennials

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'Buying London' is an insult to renters

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How affordable luxe camping won over a canvas cynic

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Even an FA Cup win cannot save Ten Hag now

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Puzzles	p53	Sport	p99



The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2018 was 68.2%

# The News Matrix

## The day at a glance



Which industry has named Kodi one of its top dogs? See p.34

### JUSTICE

#### Prion officers' union eyes legal action

The prison officers' union has said it could take the Government to court if the overcrowding "crisis" in jails gets worse. They fear prisons could be full by June and said it may launch a legal challenge under health and safety laws if safe capacity levels are breached. Union bosses were set to meet the Justice Secretary, Alex Chalk, and prisons minister, Edward Argar, yesterday.

### UTILITIES

#### New price cap set to ease energy bills

The average household energy bill is to fall by seven per cent from July after Ofgem lowered its price cap in response to wholesale prices. The regulator announced that it is dropping its price cap from the current £1,690 for a typical dual fuel household in England, Scotland and Wales to £1,568, a drop of £122 over a year. This is £500 less than the cap in July last year, when it was £2,074.

### GERMANY

#### Men accused of plot to attack synagogue

German authorities have arrested two men suspected of plotting a knife attack on worshippers at a synagogue in the south-western city of Heidelberg. The suspects, who are 18 and 24 years old, were detained in Baden-Wuerttemberg earlier this month. The pair discussed "the killing of one or more visitors" followed by death as "martyrs" in a shooting by police.

### INQUEST

#### Boy died in fall from kitchen window

A five-year-old boy died when he fell from his kitchen window on the 15th storey of an east London tower block, Walthamstow Coroner's Court heard yesterday. Aalim Ahmed's body was identified by his family and his cause of death has been listed as multiple injuries due to trauma from a "fall from height". His father discovered his body shortly before 6am on 16 May.

### MUSIC

#### Eilish scores third No 1 album in UK

Billie Eilish has secured a hat-trick in the UK album charts as her third studio album, *Hit Me Hard and Soft*, soared to No 1. The 22-year-old US singer-songwriter claimed the chart top spot with her debut *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?* in 2019 and in 2021 with her follow-up record *Happier Than Ever*. Her latest release has garnered 67,100 chart units in the past week.

### PEOPLE

#### Wrexham owners donate £10,000

Wrexham AFC owners Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney have donated £10,000 to support intensive care units that helped a Wrexham player's premature baby. GoFundMe said the donation was made yesterday under the name "Rob and Ryan Wrexham". It was set up by midfielder James Jones and his partner Chloe after she went into premature labour during a match in November 2022.

### NATURE

#### Walkers warned as cows trample man

Walkers have been advised not to approach livestock after a man in his fifties received serious injuries when he was trampled by cows in Derbyshire. Officers were called to reports of an injured man in Shirland, near Alfreton, at about 7.40am yesterday. The victim was taken to hospital with "significant serious injuries" which were not believed to be life-threatening. The cows were moved from the area.

### MUSIC

#### Del Rey's 'Bond' theme was rejected

Lana Del Rey says she wrote a *Bond* theme in 2015 – but that it was rejected by producers. According to the BBC, the American singer was asked whether she would consider writing a *James Bond* theme while she was backstage at the Ivor Novello Awards on Thursday. She sang the chorus of her song "24", from the album *Honeymoon*, before adding: "I wrote that for them."

### RETAIL

#### Ready-made mash a supermarket smash

Mashed potato sales have soared at Tesco, with a new multi-million-pound mash factory opening to help meet demand. The supermarket's shoppers bought one million more packs of fresh ready-made mash in 2023 than in 2022. Fresh mash demand had started to rise before the pandemic, but whole potatoes were more popular in lockdown as many people had more time to cook.



## iQuiz

BY JOHN CLARKE

- Which former regular member of the cast of the Australian soap *Neighbours* is to return to the programme at the age of 85?
- Which European capital sits on the coastal islands of Zealand and Amager?
- For a healthy lifestyle, the American Gut Project recommends eating at least how many different plants a week?
- Which silent film comedian starred in *Steamboat Bill, Jr* and *The General*?
- Which ravine in the south of France, popular with canoeists and kayakers, has been dubbed Europe's Grand Canyon?
- Which bird is the largest member of the crow family?
- Which major US sports league has recently opened a flagship store in London?
- Which is the highest point in England outside the Lake District?
- What tree could be returning to the English landscape after a devastating disease meant it all but vanished in the 1970s?
- What type of jazz-influenced country music was performed by artists such as Bob Wills, Milton Brown and Spade Cooley?

Answers on page 28

**ThePage3Profile**

CHRIS ANDERSON, BIG CHEESE ON A ROLL

**A vintage year?**

Chris Anderson is the undisputed champion of cheese rolling. Mr Anderson, who has three children, has tumbled to victory in Gloucestershire's world-famous event a record 23 times since he was 16. And on Monday, he will compete for his 24th title.

Each year, near the village of Brockworth, runners hit speeds of up to 70mph as they hurtle down the 180m-long Coopers Hill in pursuit of a 3kg wheel of Double Gloucester. The first person over the finish line at the bottom wins the cheese.

**Any Gouda tips?**

As he prepares for his latest run at

the title, Chris has shared his top three tips for downhill success. The first is to remember that the sport is not for the faint-hearted. "Make sure you know what you are getting into – it is dangerous," he told the BBC.

His second tip is to keep moving at all costs: "If you fall over, get to your feet as quickly as possible."

And given that the hill is near vertical, his third pointer is crucial: "Lean backwards when you are running down."

Injuries are common – throughout his decades of competing, Chris

has had his fair few: "The first time I won, I broke my ankle and had to get stretched away."

**An extra-mature race.**

The Spring Bank Holiday event goes back centuries, though its exact origins are uncertain. One theory is that it could be linked to a belief that throwing cheese downhill before a harvest would bring good luck. "No one knows for sure," Chris said. "There were lots of stories – and no one knows how throwing cheese turned into running after it."

**Euan O'Byrne Mulligan**

**CHARITY****'Carry On' star sings to tackle dementia**

The *Carry On* star Anita Harris has released a tribute song for her late husband in support of Alzheimer's research. Mike Margolis, who worked as her record producer and manager in the 1960s, died aged 84 last May after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2015. The profits from "Never Lose Hope" will go to Alzheimer's Research UK.

**PEOPLE****'Super Size Me' film creator dies aged 53**

Morgan Spurlock, who directed the groundbreaking documentary *Super Size Me*, has died at the age of 53. His family said he "passed away peacefully in New York surrounded by family and friends" on Thursday. He is understood to have been receiving treatment for cancer. In *Super Size Me*, Spurlock ate only McDonald's for a month.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

**"The more you know, the less you need"**

Aboriginal saying

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**Friday 25 May 2007**

The 1960s pop star Wayne Fontana is remanded in custody after admitting pouring petrol over a bailiff's car and setting fire to it. The judge criticised the former lead singer of The Mindbenders for arriving at Derby Crown Court dressed as the Lady of Justice. He had to hand a sword and scales to guards but still wore a crown, cape and dark glasses, claiming "justice is blind".

**BIRTHDAYS**

**Frank Oz**, puppeteer, 80  
**Anthea Turner**, TV presenter, 64  
**Paul Weller**, musician, 66  
**Esmé Bianco**, actress, 42  
**Mike Myers**, comedian, 61  
**Cillian Murphy**, actor, 48

Letter from the Political Editor  
**Hugo Gye**  
i@inews.co.uk

**Bidding goodbye to the green benches**

Elections are about the future – but they also involve a look at the past. In the Commons yesterday, in the dying hours of the 2019-to-2024 Parliament, the green benches heard from some of the great figures of British politics who are making their final bow.

Well over 70 Conservative MPs are not standing for re-election and they will be joined by prominent figures from Labour and the smaller parties.

The latest are Michael Gove, who yesterday evening said that he would be standing down after nearly 20 years – and shortly after, Dame Andrea Leadsom.

Earlier in the day, some of those stepping down used the final debate before the general election to bid farewell to the chamber. A handful of them are truly great figures whose contribution to public life has been immense.

It opened with Harriet Harman, a pioneer of women's equality when she joined Parliament more than four decades ago. She joked: "When you discover the Prime Minister was only two years old when you were first elected, you realise it is time to move on."

Next was Lady Theresa May, a survivor whose stature has grown since she left No 10. She joked that politics "has its frustrations when you're in government and people don't vote on your own side for your legislation – three times – but there we are, we get over these things".

The next few weeks will see politics at its worst: mud-slinging and dodgy promises galore. But the big goodbye was a reminder that most MPs are decent and committed people, who deserve thanks for their public service.

@HugoGye

**FINAL DAY!**

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## ENVIRONMENT

# Sewage discharged at half of Blue Flag beaches

**Exclusive**  
By Tom Bawden

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

Raw sewage was discharged at nearly half of England's 72 Blue Flag beaches last year, analysis by **i** has revealed.

Blue Flag status indicates that beaches are "clean" and "no industrial, waste-water or sewage-related discharges should affect the beach area". But water companies released waste into the sea near Blue Flag areas on at least 2,101 occasions over a total of 14,834 hours in 2023.

Water companies are allowed to release sewage through storm overflows during periods of heavy rain, but campaigners have criticised the dumping of waste at sites designated as safe for swimming.

Meadfoot beach near Torquay, Devon, had the longest period of sewage discharge: 140 occasions totalling 2,003 hours, according to the sewage monitoring website Top of the Poops, based on data obtained from water companies.

Exmouth beach, which has been awarded Blue Flag status six years in a row, came next, with 214 sewage dumps over 1,983 hours, followed by Torre Abbey Sands in Torquay, with 190 dumps over 1,682 hours.

Feargal Sharkey, the former pop star turned environmental activist, said that **i**'s analysis was "yet another illustration of the utter devastation and contempt water companies are showing towards their customers and society".

He added: "Blue Flags are awarded on the basis that here's a guide that you can take your family in the knowledge that your kids will be safe.

"But hidden behind the presentation of a Blue Flag beach, your children are potentially actually paddling and swimming in waste. And it is only because of the recent ruckus and all of this receiving public scrutiny that people are now becoming aware of it."

He called on Labour and the Tories to set out plans for a "root and branch review" into the water industry, including the dumping of sewage

at beaches and bathing spots. Water companies are allowed to use "storm overflows" to discharge waste during periods of heavy rain to stop their systems from getting overwhelmed and sewage backing up into people's homes.

But people are becoming increasingly angry about the number of times that sewage is being dumped into the sea and want to see the sewerage system upgraded.

A total of 20 of the 33 Blue Flag sites where sewage was released had 30 discharges or more last year. Nine Blue Flag beaches had more than 100 sewage discharges.

Jo Bateman, a keen open water swimmer, is so frustrated by the pollution around Exmouth beach that she is taking South West Water to court. The retired physiotherapist, 62, is claiming compensation, saying that she was unable to swim at Exmouth Beach for 10 days last year because of raw sewage being pumped into the sea.

"It is unacceptable," she said. "They need to be held to account and made to take full responsibility for the harm they're causing - not just to me but to all water users, to the environment, and to the tourism industry.

"I hope to set a legal precedent that will open the floodgates for the many people like me."

John Halsall, the chief operating officer at South West Water, said: "Like all our customers, including Ms Bateman, we care deeply about

**2,003**

Number of hours that sewage was discharged at Meadfoot beach near Torquay last year

## Dishing the dirt Beaches with most sewage released

<b>Meadfoot Beach, Devon</b>	140 sewage dumps over 2,003 hours.
<b>Exmouth beach, Devon</b>	214 over 1,983 hours.
<b>Torre Abbey Sands, Devon</b>	190 over 1,682 hours.
<b>Sidmouth beach, Devon</b>	114 over 1,680 hours.
<b>Avon Beach, Dorset</b>	165 over 1,657 hours.
<b>Beachlands Central, Hampshire</b>	163 over 1,286 hours.
<b>Seaton beach, Devon</b>	112 over 1,223 hours.
<b>Sheerness beach, Kent</b>	118 over 624 hours.



Raw sewage was dumped in the sea near Seaton beach in Devon 112 times and for 1,223 hours last year

THOMAS FAULL/GETTY

the quality of our region's bathing waters. Exmouth beach has maintained an 'excellent' bathing water quality status since 2016."

The Blue Flag scheme is an international quality mark which is run in England by Keep Britain Tidy and tests the quality of bathing water at least every 30 days.

A spokesman for Keep Britain Tidy said the Blue Flag accolade was awarded on the basis of water quality testing carried out independently by the Environment Agency at all designated bathing beaches during the bathing season.

It added: "The Environment Agency advises us which beaches have met the international Blue Flag standard for bathing water quality, based on the EU Bathing Water Directive, at the beach," it said.

Analysis of raw data for Blue Flag beaches in Scotland and Wales is

less comprehensive and up to date than for England. Scotland does not have a Blue Flag scheme but it does operate its own award, known as the Scottish Beach awards. Analysis by the Scottish Liberal Democrats, based on data for 2022, found that sewage was dumped on to those beaches at least 411 times that year.

Peterhead Lido, north of Aberdeen, experienced the most releases, with 337 discharges over 483 hours in 2022. And last year, sewage was dumped on 205 occasions, the longest of which lasted 28 hours, according to Scottish Water.

In Wales, a pumping station about a mile downstream of Poppit Sands beach, where the River Teifi enters the sea in northern Pembrokeshire, discharged sewage 130 times over 2,592 hours in 2023, according to data from Welsh Water.

A spokesman for Water UK said: "The quality of our bathing waters has been transformed in recent years. There are nearly seven times as many beaches classed as 'excellent' since 1990 and 90 per cent of bathing waters are now rated as 'good' or 'excellent'.

"We recognise however that the current levels of sewage spills are still unacceptable. Companies want to invest £11bn - a tripling on current levels - to reduce spills in bathing waters by nearly two-thirds by 2030."

The Environment Agency said that 96 per cent of bathing sites now met minimum water quality standards, up from 76 per cent in 2010.

Natural Resources Wales said: "We continue to push water companies to improve their performance."

## ENVIRONMENT

## Swimmer contracts Weil's disease

A child contracted the rare infection Weil's disease from swimming in a river, a council revealed yesterday.

Dedham Parish Council in Essex said that the student "suffered a severe infection after swimming in the River Stour at Dedham and had been very poorly". It confirmed that the infection was Weil's disease, also known as leptospirosis.

The disease is spread in the urine of infected animals, most commonly rats, mice, cows, pigs and dogs. People can contract Weil's disease if contaminated soil or fresh water gets in their mouth, eyes or a cut.

## LEGAL

## Government wins river pollution case

The Government has won a High Court challenge over the condition of a major river.

Environmental charity River Action brought legal action against the Environment Agency (EA), arguing it is allowing destructive levels of nutrients from chicken manure to enter the River Wye, which runs for 130 miles from central Wales to the Severn Estuary in south-west England.

Mr Justice Dove dismissed River Action's claim. Following the ruling, River Action said it was considering an appeal.



Tankerton beach, Kent 93 over 126 hours.  
Southwold beach (above), Suffolk 118 over 19 hours.

SOURCE: TOP OF THE POOPS SEWAGE MONITORING SITE BASED ON WATER COMPANY DATA



## LEISURE

## Wild swimming sites suffer 40,000 hours of spills

By Caolan Magee

Newly designated “wild swimming sites” suffered more than 40,000 hours of sewage spills last year.

The 27 bathing sites across England were announced earlier this month by the water minister, Robbie Moore.

He said: “Improving water quality at our coast, rivers and lakes is incredibly important, especially as more and more people like to enjoy an outdoor swim.”

However, **i** can reveal that almost every site had sewage dumped there last year. The combined 40,000 hours equates to an average of almost 62 days of non-stop sewage discharge at each site last year.

Northumbrian Water pumped 7,287 hours of sewage into the lower

section of the River Tyne, which feeds directly into the newly designated bathing water site of Littlehaven Beach in South Shields.

Coastguards Beach, at the mouth of the River Erme in Devon, had 5,207 hours of discharges from sewage overflows by South West Water.

Other designated sites that had more than 1,000 hours of raw sewage in 2023 included the River Avon at Fordingbridge in Hampshire, the River Cam at Sheep's Green in Cambridge, the River Severn at Shrewsbury in Shropshire, and the River Ribble at Edisford Bridge, in Lancashire.

Wallingford Beach on the River Thames in Oxfordshire and the River Tone at French Weir Park, Somerset, also had sewage dumped for more than 1,000 hours in 2023.



Raw sewage was pumped in to the River Avon – a designated wild swimming spot at Fordingbridge in Hampshire – for more than 1,000 hours of in 2023

## WEATHER

## Warm, dry respite from rain unlikely to last long

By Euan O'Byrne Mulligan

The bank holiday weekend is set to kick off with traffic jams as millions of people in England and Wales set off for half-term breaks.

But those staying in the UK and pinning their hopes on bright sun and blue skies may be disappointed.

While temperatures are likely to rise today, heavy rain and thunderstorms are forecast in some areas.

Those embarking on trips are likely to face significant traffic, as 20 million journeys are expected over the three-day period, the most since the pandemic, according to the RAC and transport data company Inrix.

Traffic is expected to peak today from 3-6pm. Drivers are advised to start their journeys as early as possible, with routes from cities to coasts likely to be worst affected.

The M5 southbound is expected to suffer major hold-ups, with journeys on a 45-mile stretch between J16 north of Bristol and J25 for Taunton in Somerset projected to take over an hour longer than usual.

Delays are also anticipated this afternoon on the M25 anticlockwise towards the M23, the A14 eastbound towards the east coast, as well as on the M3 and A34, which both lead to resorts on the south coast.

A dry start to the weekend is likely to turn to rain, with the Met Office warning that some downpours will be so heavy roads could be flooded.

Dan Harris, the deputy chief meteorologist at the Met Office, said: “Sunday will have a mixture of sunny

spells but also scattered, heavy and, in places, thundery downpours.

“Not everywhere will see them but where they do occur there is a small chance of some temporary issues such as flooded roads.

“Scotland will be cloudier with rain, while Northern Ireland will also be cloudy but with a chance that heavy showers could break out later too, bringing similar conditions to England and Wales.

“The outlook for Bank Holiday Monday is for brighter, cooler and breezier conditions with scattered showers for England and Wales at first, but a steady drying trend from the west is likely.

“Northern Ireland could well start

off fine but cool, and remain settled whilst feeling pleasantly warm in longer sunny spells.

“The focus for heavier showers is expected to transfer to Scotland and possibly north-east England, where again these could be slow moving, the heaviest of which could cause some temporary, localised issues such as flooded roads.”

The outlook after Monday continues to look changeable, with showers and more persistent rain likely in the west and north-west of Great Britain, while the east and south-east are more likely to have drier weather and warmer temperatures.

Forecast, page 97



Dobcross Silver Band parades on a wet day yesterday for a ‘Whit Friday Walk’ from the village of Dobcross to neighbouring Uppermill, near Oldham AFP

## SPORT

## Euro 2024 song aims to counter racist abuse England players faced

By Laura Harding

A new song for the Euro 2024 football tournament, launched by former England striker Emile Heskey, aims to combat the “vile” racist abuse suffered by England players after the last European championship.

“It’s OUR Team,” by up-and-coming stars CreezOn and Ke4T and producer Toddla T, calls on the England squad to “bring home the silverware and send racism packing”.

Launched by Heskey, who has 62 England caps, the song addresses the racism suffered by Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho after England lost to Italy in the Euro 2020 final, and demands that it never happens again.

Heskey (*inset*) said yesterday: “I am backing this song because it’s catchy, positive and the people involved want to bring the

### Prince William to watch City vs United match

The Prince of Wales will watch Manchester City and Manchester United compete in the FA Cup final at Wembley today.

His appearance in the royal box is likely to be one of only a handful made by the Royal Family in the coming weeks, after the monarchy postponed engagements “which may appear to divert attention or distract from the general election campaign”.

William sometimes takes his son, George, to Aston Villa matches and he could give the young royal the experience of a Wembley final.

Today’s match is a repeat of the 2023 final when the same teams faced each other. Manchester City won 2-1 and received their medals from the Prince.

nation together and bring the trophy home.

“England is our team, all of us, no matter our race. We cannot let the vile racists win; so let us all get behind our England team. Come on, England.”

Toddla T, CreezOn and Ke4T added: “We all grew up in a diverse England – black, brown and white people playing footy together on beat-up pitches, jumping on each other as goals went in and suffering the misery of too many losses.

“England is our team. We hope the message of this track brings people together and helps drive the racists away from our beautiful game. Come on, England.”

Delroy Corinaldi, the executive director of the Black Footballers Partnership, which devised the idea for the song, added: “This banger of a track aims to help deliver on Gareth Southgate’s 2020 words: this united, ethnically diverse and talented England squad leads the way in bringing people together.”



## COVER STORY

# Gove stands down as MP and joins record Tory election exodus

By Arj Singh

DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

Michael Gove has announced that he is quitting as an MP and a Cabinet minister at the election in a blow for Rishi Sunak amid an exodus of Conservatives from the Commons.

The Housing Secretary's decision to stand down, along with the news that Dame Andrea Leadsom is also departing, takes the number of Tory MPs quitting to 78, a post-war record, exceeding the 72 in the run-up to the 1997 election when Tony Blair's Labour took power in a landslide victory.

The exodus – leaving many Tories fearing a virtual wipeout of the Tory backbenches – has already proven damaging for Mr Sunak, but Mr Gove's loss will be seen as an especially bitter blow, as he is regarded as one of the party's biggest reformers and policy brains.

Mr Gove said that he was standing down as MP for Surrey Heath after one of the key pieces of legislation he was piloting through Parliament – the Renters Reform Bill, delayed by internal Tory rows over its ban on “no fault” evictions in England – was ditched after Mr Sunak called a snap election.

Mr Gove, alongside Boris Johnson, did at least see his Leasehold and Freehold Reform Bill make the statute book, but proposals to effectively end ground rents for



Dame Andrea Leadsom has joined the exodus of Tory MPs stepping down

homeowners were watered down. In his resignation letter, posted on X, Mr Gove wrote that it was time for a “new generation” of MPs, while highlighting the “toll office can take” after 19 years in Parliament.

He wrote: “I know the toll office can take... We are volunteers who willingly choose our fate. And the chance to serve is wonderful.

“But there comes a moment when you know that it is time to leave. That a new generation should lead.”

In his letter, addressed to the chairman of Surrey Heath Conservatives, Mr Gove conceded that he “undoubtedly made mistakes” throughout his political career but said that he had always “tried to be a voice for those who have been overlooked and undervalued”.

In a show of support for Mr Sunak, he added: “We have a Prime Minister who I know exemplifies the patriotism, hard work, sense of selfless

service and clarity of purpose which are the very best virtues of our party. “He also has the policies which will guarantee a brighter, more prosperous future.”

Dame Andrea, who previously ran against Theresa May to be leader of the party, said she had decided to leave after “careful reflection” but did not go into detail about her reasons for quitting.

Craig Mackinlay, who returned to the Commons this week as the self-styled “bionic MP” – after losing his hands and feet to a battle with sepsis and replacing them with prosthetics – also announced yesterday he would quit as it was too early in his recovery to “withstand the rigours of an all-out election campaign”.

Former Cabinet minister Greg Clark and veteran Eurosceptic Sir John Redwood were among other Tory MPs who announced yesterday that they would stand down.

Other big names who have previously said they were leaving include ex-prime minister Theresa May and former chancellor Nadhim Zahawi.

**i** The exodus comes after several Tory MPs privately expressed deep concerns about Mr Sunak's decision to call a snap election with the party trailing Labour by around 20 points in opinion polls.

## Analysis

## Loved and reviled, Gove's departure is a big blow for the Prime Minister

Richard Vaughan

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT



It is no exaggeration to suggest that the departure of Michael Gove from frontline politics is totemic for the Conservatives.

Both loved and reviled by those in his own party (and the wider country), the 56-year-old is one of the few in the Tory party who is able to point to a significant political legacy.

Mr Gove (*inset*) is regarded across Westminster as one of the great reformers over the past 14 years of a Conservative-led administration, ushering in major changes to England's school system, leading the highly contentious Brexit vote and sabotaging Boris Johnson's first attempt at becoming prime minister.

Having been tasked by his once closest friend, and fellow member of the so-called “Notting Hill set”, Lord Cameron to overhaul the country's schools, Mr Gove set about the task with a near evangelical zeal.

He oversaw the mass removal of secondary schools from local authority control, converting more than half into academy status, while tearing up the curriculum and assessment system to try and bring England's standards closer to the highest performing countries in Europe and East Asia.

After waging a war with the teaching unions, he was eventually sacked by Lord Cameron and later stabbed him in the back by choosing to campaign to leave the European Union,

destroying his relationship with the then prime minister.

He then betrayed Mr Johnson, his great campaigning partner, declaring him unfit to hold the office of prime minister.

That decision has stayed with him since, casting him as the enemy within among many Tory MPs. But his talent for grappling with the thorniest of policy problems meant he was rarely out of the Cabinet for long.

Having spent nearly a decade sitting at the top table under four separate prime ministers and nearly 20 years in Parliament, the MP for Surrey Heath has decided to call time on his political career.

Whether he would have been able to hold his constituency will never be known, but his exit is a big blow for Rishi Sunak.



## LABOUR

## Corbyn expelled for standing as an independent

By Sophie Wingate and Alan Jones

Jeremy Corbyn has been expelled from the Labour Party after announcing he is standing as an independent candidate in the general election.

The former Labour leader, who was blocked from standing again for his old party, said he will seek election in the Islington North constituency he has represented for 40 years.

Sir Keir Starmer said his predecessor's move was “a matter for Jeremy”, as he defended his decision to ban Mr Corbyn from standing for Labour as part of his efforts to “tear antisemitism out of our party”.

Mr Corbyn has been suspended by Labour since 2020 after he refused to fully accept the Equality and

Human Rights Commission's findings that the party broke equality law when he was in charge and said antisemitism had been “dramatically overstated for political reasons”.

Shortly after the veteran MP announced his intention to stand as an independent, a source said he had been informed he is no longer a Labour Party member.

Mr Corbyn vowed to be “an independent voice for equality, democracy and peace”.

Left-wing pressure group Momentum hit out at Sir Keir for treating the people of Islington “with contempt” by blocking Mr Corbyn and accused him of “driving out the socialist politics he represented, in favour of elite interests”.

Reacting to his predecessor's move, Sir Keir told Sky News: “I'm





Michael Gove said he had always 'tried to be a voice for those who have been undervalued'  
PETER NICHOLLS/GETTY

HEALTH

# Smoking ban to become law despite bill's failure

By Hugo Gye

A ban on young people ever being able to smoke will become law after the election even though the bill enacting it is set to fail, the Conservatives and Labour have promised.

Rishi Sunak said he was "disappointed" that the Tobacco and Vapes Bill would not reach the statute book as a result of his decision to call a general election earlier than expected.

At least 10 bills, including an ambitious overhaul of renters' rights, failed to complete their passage through the Commons and Lords before Parliament was prorogued last night.

Downing Street insiders insisted the anti-smoking bill would return to Parliament after the election if the Conservatives win.

A source said of the bills which had to be postponed: "All this legislation was important, we would obviously look to bring it back."

Labour has said it is committed to the principle of the bill, which would make it illegal for anyone born after 2008 to buy tobacco as well as banning disposable vapes.

The party will put the ban in its election manifesto, it understands, promising to introduce a law along the same lines as the Tobacco and Vapes Bill.

The Prime Minister said in Belfast that he was "of course disappointed not to be able to get that through at the end of the session given the time available". He added: "But what I'd say is that's evidence of the bold action that I'm prepared to take. I stepped up to do something that is



The Tobacco and Vapes Bill was due to go through Parliament this summer

bold, that will make an enormous difference in the future of our country."

Wes Streeting, the shadow Health Secretary, responded: "If Rishi Sunak's idea of bold leadership is to crumble before his party and surrender his landmark smoking bill, it's no wonder the country is in such a mess.

"Labour remains committed to the policy. We will make sure that young people today are even less likely to smoke than they are to vote Tory."

The policy, which was first announced at last year's Tory party conference, was one of the measures Mr Sunak mentioned in his Downing Street speech calling the election on Wednesday. It passed through the Commons easily when it was first voted on last month, despite a sizeable rebellion from Conservative MPs including the Business Secretary, Kemi Badenoch.

Yesterday was Parliament's final sitting before the general election, with prorogation late last night. Parliament will be dissolved next Thursday when all current MPs officially lose their position.

The Commons and Lords spent their final two days pushing to complete progress on six pieces of Government legislation, leaving another 10 bills unfinished – including the Renters Reform Bill, which was intended to fulfil a Conservative manifesto promise from the last election to make no-fault evictions illegal.

Labour's Matthew Pennycook said: "The Tories' decision to cave in to vested interests and abandon their already weakened Renters Reform Bill leaves in tatters the promises they made to private tenants five years ago."

The party has also pledged to ban no-fault evictions but would come up with its own legislation.

Analysis

## Corbyn's very presence is a headache for Labour leader

Jane Merrick



The announcement by Jeremy Corbyn that he will stand as an independent candidate in Islington North is not exactly a surprise – but it will remind the Labour leader of the potential headache his predecessor could cause.

As Labour leader in 2019



In 2019, Jeremy Corbyn led Labour to its worst election defeat in decades

Corbyn led the party to its worst defeat in decades.

But Corbyn could still hope to win in Islington North due to his personal popularity there.

There is also speculation that some members of the grassroots campaign group Momentum, which was created under his leadership, could quit Labour to support Corbyn in the race.

Yet the former leader will be coming up against the Labour Party machine, which will be making strenuous efforts not to lose the seat to the man whom Starmer has spent four years distancing himself from.

The greater danger for Starmer, however, may not be in a Corbyn victory in Islington North on 4 July overshadowing the election of a Labour government, but the former leader's presence in the campaign over the next six weeks – which could remind voters of how Starmer backed Corbyn five years ago.

CONSTITUENCIES

## Parties in late scramble to select final candidates

By Kyriakos Petrakos

The Conservative and Labour parties have been scrambling for candidates since the election was called.

Even some of the constituencies likely to be at the top of their target lists still have no candidate in place.

An email circulated by Conservative HQ yesterday suggested that the Tories are seeking candidates in 93 constituencies.

And Labour is estimated to be missing candidates in 98 constituencies. This excludes 18 Northern Ireland constituencies which neither party will contest.

Among the seats where Labour still has to install a candidate is East Lothian.

Although Labour won this seat in the 2017 general election, the SNP's Kenny MacAskill beat Labour candidate Martin Whitfield in the 2019 election to secure it. To win back the constituency, Labour will need a swing of 2.17 per cent.

Tipton and Wednesbury is a new constituency but incorporates much

of the West Bromwich West seat held by Tory Shaun Bailey. Labour are likely to view it as vulnerable but has no candidate in place. Labour will need to bring about a swing of 6.14 per cent to win the seat from the Conservatives.

If the Tories hope to take Labour seats, Doncaster Central is likely to be on its list. It was held last time by Labour's Dame Rosie Winterton, the deputy speaker, who is stepping down. Labour's new candidate is Sally Jameson.

To win this seat, the Conservatives will need to achieve a voting swing of 1.38 per cent.

The second most important target seat where Tories are missing a candidate is Rawmarsh and Conisbrough.

This is the first time the seat will be contested following the redrawing of constituency borders.

The shadow Defence Secretary, John Healey, who was elected in Wentworth and Dearne in 2010, will be running again as the Labour candidate.

very clear, the first thing I said as leader is that I would tear antisemitism out of our party by the roots.

"That was my first solemn promise, and I followed through on that, and that is why I took the decision that Jeremy Corbyn would not stand as a Labour candidate at this election. Now what's happened with Jeremy standing as an independent, that's a matter for him."

Jewish Labour former minister Dame Margaret Hodge was more blunt, telling the BBC's *World at One* programme: "I tended to be in the camp that said, 'he's such a tribally loyal person to the party, he won't stand'. So I'm shocked that he's doing that."

"The Labour Party has given him massive opportunities in his life. I think he abused them in relation to antisemitism."

Mr Corbyn told the *Islington Tribune* newspaper that he would fight to retain a seat he has represented for 40 years, adding: "We have to stand up and defend our rights."

He appealed to lifelong Labour voters, saying: "I am here to represent the people of Islington North on exactly the same principles that I've stood by my whole life: social justice, human rights and peace."

## Election in brief

## EDUCATION

## MPs seek to ban phones in schools

The next government should consider a statutory ban on mobile phones in schools and a total ban on phones for under-16s, a report from MPs says.

The House of Commons Education Committee said tougher guidance on mobile phones in schools and how to manage children's screen time at home is needed to better protect young people.

It argued that screen time was harmful to children's mental and physical health, and schools and parents needed guidance from the Government on the issue.



## SOCIETY

## 'Children should have own debate'

Party leaders should hold a children's debate before the election so young people do not feel "invisible" in the campaign, the Children's Commissioner has said.

Dame Rachel de Souza (above) said that each manifesto should consider how it affects children.

Her call comes after her research this year found that only about a fifth of children felt politicians were listening to them.

The commissioner has concluded that young people are "talked about, rather than to – they are not truly heard".

## PROPERTY

## Election may hit housing market

The general election could adversely affect the property market, experts say.

Paula Higgins, chief executive of the HomeOwners Alliance, said people think about buying a home when they feel confident about their future finances and there is stability in the market, which "can be lacking in the lead-up to a general election."

Richard Donnell, of the Zoopla website, said the election was likely to stall the pace at which new sales were agreed, but that this would also coincide with the start of the summer slowdown for the property market.

## SPOTLIGHT

## Labour smells blood as battle lines are drawn

Sunak's snap election strategy is ultimately about drawing out Starmer on policy while Labour beats the time-for-change drum

Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer have begun to draw their election battle lines after the Prime Minister's decision to call a snap election.

Labour believes that Mr Sunak called the poll only to "stop the bleeding" for a party "haemorrhaging" support, and plan to show "zero mercy".

The Conservatives, on the other hand, insist that the Prime Minister's gambit opens the way for him to expose Sir Keir's "small target" strategy to the harsh spotlight of an election campaign. The Labour leader may be finally forced to abandon a cautious approach designed to protect his party's 20-point poll lead.

To that end, senior Tory sources say that Mr Sunak plans to be as visible as possible during the campaign. He is spending the first few days explaining why he called the election.

"There are some big important things we need to do to take the country forward; we need a mandate," a senior Tory source said. "If we had another couple of months, we wouldn't have been able to deliver big changes to restore fairness in welfare, significant reform on immigration and a range of other areas."

After that, as the party prepares his election battle bus, Mr Sunak

will pivot to "big picture" issues in an effort to draw dividing lines with Labour based on policies he has already adopted on migration, such as the beleaguered Rwanda scheme, a tougher approach to welfare, a controversial "pragmatic" handling of net zero and a boost in defence spending.

The senior source explained: "The Labour tactic will inevitably be: shrink down, don't make yourself a target, don't say anything. You can do that in opposition but you cannot do that in a general election campaign; they will have to give a view."

Mr Sunak is also expected to argue that Labour is complacent about its chances of victory, given the state of the polls. He ended his opening campaign rally in London's ExCel Centre on Wednesday night by saying: "Let's show Labour that the British people will never be taken for granted."

An aide said that the tactic had been inspired by signs of growing confidence among shadow

ministers in recent months, adding: "You can see Labour people on the morning broadcast round, saying 'When we're in government...' Then they catch themselves and remember their briefing line and say, 'If we're given the opportunity, if we're lucky enough'."

The elections expert Lord Hayward, a Tory peer, believes that his party's strategy will be to catch out Labour in areas in which it has not had time to work up fully formed policies, suggesting that there were gaps in the six "first steps" set out by Sir Keir last week. "They just haven't had time to flesh it out," he added.

Labour, meanwhile, will continue pushing the message that it is "time for change", while also pressing on Tory bruises after years of "chaos" at the top of the party.

Attacks have already begun based around the very short terms that Tory leaders have served in recent years and Labour's belief that voters are turned off by the prospect of the likes of Suella Braverman or Robert Jenrick being installed as prime minister.

A senior Shadow Cabinet minister said: "Even if you think Mr Sunak will win the next election, do you believe he's going to still be around in five months? Who is going to be the chancellor, because it's not going to be [Jeremy] Hunt? Vote Rishi, get who?"



**For us to win would require a Labour collapse so colossal, it is hard to see it coming**

## Comment

## Unlike Johnson, the PM just doesn't get football

Paul Waugh



Rishi Sunak and small talk are uneasy bedfellows at the best of times. So it was no surprise that he came a cropper this week when he asked Welsh brewery workers if they were "looking forward to the football" – only to be told that Wales had not actually qualified for Euro 2024.

The Prime Minister claims that he is "a massive football fan" and that watching his team

Southampton was his "No 1 love" as a boy. To be fair to him, he does get animated when talking about the club's glory days, and has done so to reporters on the back of the No 10 plane on trips abroad.

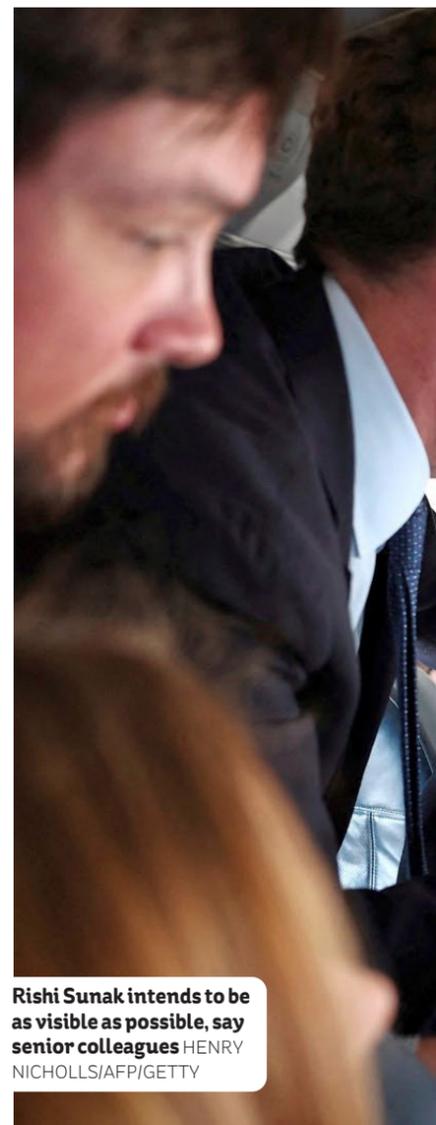
Boris Johnson never pretended to be a football fan. Yet the former prime minister did at least grasp just how important it was to the country, even if not to himself personally.

Johnson's advisers knew that he owed his 2019 election triumph to winning over small towns that were home to lower league teams like Port Vale, Ipswich, Crewe, Lincoln,

Bury, Blackpool and Accrington. When the European Super League idea suddenly looked like a real threat in 2021, Johnson was quick to stamp on it.

He recognised fans' outrage at the idea of the richest clubs breaking forever the link between the elites and the rest of the game.

Having killed off the proposal, he shrewdly accelerated the Tory MP Tracey Crouch's fan-led review of all aspects of the game's governance, including an independent football regulator to oversee the ownership rules and financial viability of clubs outside the mega-riches of the



Rishi Sunak intends to be as visible as possible, say senior colleagues HENRY NICHOLLS/AFP/GETTY

Labour insiders have expressed full confidence in the work of their national campaign co-ordinator Pat McFadden, a veteran of several elections, including during the Blair years.

Reflecting on the party's election preparations before Mr Sunak called the snap poll, an insider said: "It feels like there will be absolutely zero mercy. They won't take their foot off the gas at all. McFadden is what you get if you cross a local councillor, an accountant and the literal Terminator."

"Totally and completely focused and ruthless. No emotion there. Not a cruel or unpleasant person at all. Just laser-focused."

Premier League. Unfortunately, like many things Johnson promised, the new dawn never came.

Clearly not a priority for Sunak either, the Football Governance Bill was only introduced to the Commons this March and has now been paused for the dissolution of Parliament.

The Prime Minister's abject failure to deliver on this long hoped-for reform of English football is pretty telling. The public don't care if Sunak is a real or fake football fan, but they really do care if clubs in their town go bust.

As a lifelong fan of Rochdale



Some in Labour dismiss the suggestion that Mr Sunak has had an advantage by springing a surprise with the timing. One senior shadow minister said that the Prime Minister was likely to have been forced to go early as the Tories “were haemorrhaging and he had to stop the bleeding”.

“I think he probably saw focus groups which showed that people are seriously hacked off and want it now – they might have data showing that waiting [until autumn] could take 5-10 per cent off the vote,” they added.

This bleak picture is being reflected by many Tories, who believe that the party is on course

for defeat. Amid the pessimism, there are already hints that some MPs are getting ready for post-defeat leadership campaigns, with one MP close to the front-runner, Kemi Badenoch, saying that, “Things are in hand.”

Meanwhile, Mr Sunak and No 10 continue to attract the ire of colleagues.

After watching the Prime Minister’s Downing Street speech to call the election, in which he was drenched by rain and drowned out by a protester playing Labour’s 1997 election anthem “Things Can Only Get Better”, by D:Ream, one minister said: “People around him have serious questions to answer.”

As the party prepares to face the voters, one Tory source simply said: “For us to win would require a Labour collapse that would need to be so colossal, it is hard to see how it could happen.”

But, in a further illustration of Conservative disunity, one Tory veteran backed Mr Sunak’s decision to call a snap election, saying: “I think he’s actually very sensible for all sorts of reasons – the main one being that he ran out of patience with his MPs.”

Reporting by Arj Singh, Hugo Gye, Eleanor Langford, Richard Vaughan and Jane Merrick

AFC, I feel this as keenly as anyone. In February, the cash-strapped club faced the threat of liquidation within weeks unless a £2m injection of funds could be found.

Thankfully, a Rochdale-born entrepreneur and philanthropist, Sir Peter Ogden, rode to the rescue and agreed that any future profit made out of his family’s shares will be held for the sole benefit of the club’s community trust.

They have also pledged to give fans a “golden share”, an effective veto over the club’s badge, ground and history. This idea was a key part of Crouch’s fan-led review but was not adopted by the Government.

Still, some Premier League footballers earn more in one month than the total amount of money needed to keep small clubs in existence. And there is a priceless value in the sheer local pride and



**Boris Johnson stamped out the idea of a European Super League**

identity encapsulated in a football club badge.

That’s why there is a bigger job still to be done by any future regulator – to force the wealthy clubs to give their smaller counterparts a fairer share of the riches at the top of the football “pyramid”. Tory trickle-down

economics has proved as much of a failure in football as it has in our national politics.

Most football fans are walking lie-detector machines, inherently distrustful of any attempt to co-opt their beloved game for party politics. That unerring ability to sniff out fakery will be shared by all the voters in coming weeks as polling day approaches.

But there may be an electoral payback for whichever party manages to make good on their promises to protect the grassroots of our national sport. The bigger prize is allowing local communities to thrive, not just survive, through the magic of football.

Paul Waugh resigned as *i*’s chief political commentator in January to stand as the Labour candidate for Rochdale, a contest won by Azhar Ali

## Analysis

# Sunak unwilling to let supporting cast take centre stage

Katy Balls



**I**t is 29 November 2019. In a studio in Cardiff, the BBC’s Nick Robinson stands before seven politicians each from different parties. While the smaller parties are each represented by their leader, both Labour and the Tories have opted to mix things up.

In Jeremy Corbyn’s absence, his trusted colleague Rebecca Long-Bailey has stepped up. For the Tories, it is Rishi Sunak – then the chief secretary to the Treasury – filling in for Boris Johnson.

That night, Sunak made a name for himself as “one to watch” – though few would have predicted then that he would be leading the party into the next election.

But his presence also shows the importance in a campaign of having a team of media performers who can be relied on. Sunak was picked not because of his seniority – there were plenty of higher ranked ministers they could have asked.

Instead, they decided he was the best communicator for the voters they wanted to reach.

This week, the Tory election strategist Isaac Levido told the Cabinet that the election campaign would be presidential. That led to some internal sniping – with ministers complaining that Sunak’s approval ratings were not high enough for such a strategy to work.

It comes after Sunak suffered the embarrassment early this week of having the contents of a message from Johnny Mercer made public. It accused No 10 of trying to “placate” Sunak by over-promoting him over the likes of more popular colleagues like Kemi Badenoch and Penny Mordaunt.

Tory strategists do want as many head-to-head debates as possible on the grounds they believe their strongest attack is to paint Starmer as a man with no beliefs or principles in contrast to Sunak. But they also know they need back-up.

Names already touted among Sunak’s inner circle as key communicators include the Energy Secretary, Claire Coutinho (*inset*), the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Laura Trott, the Work and Pensions Secretary, Mel Stride, and even Mercer – the MP for Plymouth

Moor View who wrote the poison pen letter.

Coutinho, 38, has long been a rising star under Sunak – serving as his special adviser and then once she became MP for East Surrey, as his parliamentary private secretary.

She had a fast-track promotion to the Cabinet last year from a junior ministerial role to Energy Secretary and has slowly but surely increased her media profile. “Claire is smart and comes across as reasonable,” says one party figure.

Then there is Trott, 39, who is viewed as key player for her ability to tell a positive story about the economy. “Laura is down to earth and her brief is very important for us,” says a colleague.

What Trott and Coutinho have in their favour is relative youth – both were elected in 2019 so help to suggest that the Conservative Party has some life in it yet.

A potentially more controversial pick is Mercer, 42, after his note to the Prime Minister found its way into the papers on Wednesday.

Mercer refused to apologise over it – instead taking to social media to say “shoot me now or grow up” over the unauthorised snap of his laptop. But this no-nonsense style is exactly why those in Downing Street like Mercer so much.

Then there is the ever-reliable Stride. The Work and Pensions Secretary has been a regular sight in television studios recent weeks.

When No 10 was braced for a potential coup against the Prime Minister in the wake of the local election results, it was Stride who was sent to sit in the BBC’s *Politics Live* studio for hours and field the difficult questions.

And what about those – such as Mordaunt, Badenoch and Tom Tugendhat – who tend to sit at the top of the *Conservative Home* blog’s Cabinet league table?

The official No 10 line is that all ministers will be given air time. But as Mercer’s note suggested, there is concern that Mordaunt and Badenoch are not put out enough. “The worry is that they are keeping them off the airwaves because they don’t want the story to be about Rishi’s successors,” says a minister. “We cannot afford for these concerns. Look at the polls. Frankly, we need all the help we can get.”

Katy Balls is the political editor at ‘The Spectator’ magazine

## UTILITIES

# Labour comes under pressure over Thames Water rescue plan

By Lucie Heath  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

The fate of the heavily indebted utility company Thames Water could be an early headache for a future Labour government if Sir Keir Starmer wins the keys to No 10.

The Labour leader is under pressure to set out how he will ensure the survival of the UK's biggest water company after previously ruling out renationalisation of the industry.

Thames Water has asked the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) for permission to raise bills by up to 44 per cent from next year to shore up its finances and invest in infrastructure.

But a draft decision by Ofwat on the company's business plan, which was originally due to be published on 12 June, has now been delayed until after the general election.

Thames Water's parent company, Kemble, is saddled with £16bn in debts and recently defaulted on a £400m loan.

Shareholders have refused to inject more funding into the business, arguing that Ofwat had not given it enough "regulatory support" and had made the firm "uninvestable".

Amid fears of a potential collapse, the Conservative Government has drawn up emergency plans which include taking Thames Water back into public ownership.

During his bid for the Labour leadership in 2020, Sir Keir pledged to bring water companies back into "common ownership".

But the party has since retreated from promises of renationalisation. According to the shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, such pledges do not "stack up" against Labour's fiscal rules.

Industry experts said that the

party needed to offer its own plan for keeping Thames Water going.

David Hall, a visiting professor at the public services international research unit at the University of Greenwich, said Labour had "made it very clear that it is making no commitments whatsoever about the water and sewage sector in England".

"However, the combination of public disgust and resentment and anger at the current system... is huge. I would

## Review into water bills put on ice until July

A hotly anticipated review of how expensive water bills could be over the coming years has been delayed because of the general election.

The regulator Ofwat has pushed back the date for its consultation on draft pricing decisions for the sector from 12 June to 11 July.

Ofwat will give its initial verdict on water companies' business plans until the end of the decade, which it does every five years. The future of Britain's biggest water firm, Thames Water, could hinge on the decision.

Thames has asked Ofwat to allow it to raise customers' bills by an average of 44 per cent over the next five years to help it invest in its infrastructure and balance the books.

Proposed bills hikes across the rest of the industry range from 14 per cent for Northumbrian Water to 73 per cent at Southern Water.

That is despite sewage spills into England's rivers and seas more than doubling in 2023.

Alex Daniel

think that during the campaign it becomes an even bigger issue."

A group of Labour MPs, including the former shadow chancellor John McDonnell, Kate Osamor and Clive Lewis, has publicly called on the party's leadership to consider nationalising water companies.

Thames Water says that it has enough cash to survive until next summer, but its financial crisis appears to be growing. Last week, the firm's biggest shareholder Omers revealed that it had written off its entire 31 per cent stake in the business.

The announcement came a day after it withdrew its representative from Thames Water's board with immediate effect.

Ofwat has said that it is "minded" to take action against the company over a £37.5m dividend payout that was made to shareholders last October despite poor performance.

Eleanor Shearer, a senior research fellow at Common Wealth, a think-tank that advocates for utilities to be taken into public or collective ownership, said that all parties should set out their plans for the future of the water industry in their manifestos before Ofwat announces its decision on firms' business plans.

"Your hands might be forced quite quickly if it turns out Ofwat doesn't allow Thames Water to raise bills by the amount it's asking for and that leads to its complete collapse," Ms Shearer said.

"You can't just kick the can down the road indefinitely," she said, adding that it would be better for any future government to go in with a "clear plan". Thames Water declined to comment.

44%

The amount by which Thames Water is seeking to increase bills starting next year

## POLICY

## Scrap 'toothless' regulator, say Lib Dems

By Richard Vaughan  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The water regulator Ofwat should be scrapped because of its failure to hold major water companies to account over sewage spills, the Liberal Democrats said yesterday.

The party highlighted that water company bosses had paid themselves bonuses of £54m since the 2019 general election, as it called for a new watchdog to be created to tackle the pollution in the UK's rivers and seas.

Sewage spills in waterways have become a major political battleground, with thousands of residents in Devon still being advised to boil their tap water to avoid contract-

ing a virus. The Lib Dems said that – if elected – they would introduce a new "stronger" regulator, insisting that the entire water industry needed to be "ripped up and started again".

The party's leader, Sir Ed Davey, said: "It is time to get rid of this toothless and weak regulator that is sitting idly by while water firms destroy our rivers and beaches with filthy sewage."

"This is a national scandal which has got far worse under the Conservatives' watch. Their record is one of rising sewage levels and water firms stuffing their pock-

ets with cash." Under the Lib Dems' proposals, the new regulator would have the power to ban all water company executive bonuses, fine water companies for sewage pollution and ensure the industry is fully transparent with the public over their polluting habits.

Officials said the policy would be included in the party's election manifesto.

Sir Ed aims to make the state of the rivers and seas a key dividing line between his party and the Tories in key target seats. He believes the Lib Dems can make inroads on the issue in certain parts of the country.

£54m

The amount water firm bosses have paid themselves in bonuses since the 2019 general election



## Comment

## I underestimated Starmer's ability to change the party

David Blunkett



Like so many people, I was completely wrong-footed by Rishi Sunak's decision to call a general election on 4 July. He didn't get off to a great start. Someone in his team might have said, "Could we have this launch inside because it's raining and someone at the end of Downing Street is playing very loud music and the music is 'Things Can Only Get Better', Labour's theme tune from 1997?"

But if they did, Sunak did not listen. Nor did they seem to think that those of us interested in politics might notice what Sunak actually said. I say "those interested in politics" because as you read, I'm attending the wedding of my wife's niece, Juliet, in the North of England and politics is the last thing on anyone's mind.

But for those who did take notice, the words "restore confidence and pride in Britain" might have caught their eye. "Restore" – really? Who has been in power for the past 14 long years? Which party was responsible for the Brexit referendum fiasco, and importantly, its aftermath?

There are going to be challenges to the major parties during the election campaign, some of which I will return to in coming weeks

in this column. It's not hard to see how unpleasant the campaign might get and how caricatures of opponents will miss the point of the whole thing: the change we need for Britain. Sunak kicked this off a few days ago by trying to pretend that the Labour Party would somehow be a "threat" to national security. That bombed, as it was inevitably going to, because – like the attacks on Tony Blair leading up to 1997 – it was not only clumsy and inept, but also self-evidently untrue.

Other than the date of the general election, another thing I've been wrong about in politics over the last few years is the astonishing feat pulled off by Keir Starmer in making the Labour Party electable again.

I thought, back in 2020, that it would take two Parliaments before Labour would have a chance of winning. I was wrong. The Labour Party has dramatically changed. Starmer not only deserves credit for this, but also recognition that in changing the Labour Party, he can change the country.

The speed of momentum towards the general election means that there will be a very real challenge to get the public to register. Whatever your politics, we need people to take part in this critical democratic process. We need people to vote.

Lord Blunkett is a Labour peer who served as a minister in Tony Blair's government between 1997 and 2005



Sir Keir Starmer joins the Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar at the party's campaign launch in Glasgow yesterday  
ANDY BUCHANAN/AFP/GETTY

## SCOTLAND

# Debt-laden SNP fears it will struggle to fund campaign

Exclusive  
By Adam Forrest

SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

The Scottish National Party fears that it will struggle to afford its general election campaign because of its financial woes.

Some candidates have already resorted to crowdfunding to raise money to pay for basic election material such as posters.

"There's no money," one SNP source said. "The party isn't in a good financial position."

Scotland's First Minister, John Swinney, has acknowledged the SNP's lack of resources – but insisted the party would "find the money" for its campaign from supporters.

Accounts published last year revealed that the SNP was in the red, making a loss of just over £800,000. It followed a loss of more than £730,000 the previous year.

SNP candidates have crowdfunded in recent months in an attempt to pay for window posters, leaflets, letters and events in their local areas.

But several senior SNP politicians have so far struggled to meet their own crowdfunding goals.

The Westminster leader Stephen Flynn has raised only £1,000 of his £2,000 target for his campaign in Aberdeen South, according to the SNP's Crowdfunder hub. In Glasgow South, Stewart McDonald has raised only £365. In Glasgow North, Alison Thewliss has only £548.

The party is expected to be hugely outspent by Labour and the Conservatives in Scotland when it comes to online advertising campaigns.

"The candidates will be able to cover a lot of the stuff you need to do at a local level," said the SNP source. "We'll have to see if any large donations come in," they added.

"But the party won't come anywhere near matching Labour and the Tories in national spending. We don't have the resources."

Party sources previously admitted that donations had "dried up", having received only £77,000 from backers during Humza Yousaf's year in charge. They said that



Alison Thewliss, the SNP candidate for Glasgow North, has raised only £548

fundraising efforts were damaged by a Police Scotland investigation into party finances.

Asked about the SNP's financial difficulties on Thursday, Mr Swinney told the BBC: "Don't you worry about the money – we'll find the money to fight the election campaign."

Yesterday, Sir Keir Starmer challenged the SNP's election pitch at Scottish Labour's campaign launch in Glasgow.

He said: "Send a message – that is the height of the SNP ambition. I don't want Scotland to send a message. I want Scotland to send a government, a Labour government."

The SNP's Ms Thewliss said in response: "Sir Keir Starmer's Labour Party is prioritising no change at all and offering nothing to the people of Scotland beyond more of the same."

Mr Swinney was accused of a major campaign "blunder" over his refusal to back the punishment of Michael Matheson, after the then-SNP minister racked up an £11,000 data roaming bill on his parliamentary iPad.

The First Minister claimed that the process was "prejudiced" by public criticism of Mr Matheson by Annie Wells, a Tory MSP and member of the committee.

Some in his party are frustrated that the issue has become an unnecessary distraction in the first days of the campaign. "It will go down like a lead balloon with the public," a source said.

## MEDIA

## Debates should shed light on policy, not be an occasion for a row

Adam Boulton



Cock-a-doodle-doo! The dust is being blown off dressing-up boxes and any minute now a Tory worker dressed in a chicken suit will probably be strutting behind Sir Keir Starmer.

Rishi Sunak has gone public with a challenge to face-off in six TV debates, one a week, between now and the general election. The Labour leader retorts that he's agreed to only two, on the BBC and ITV, just like in 2019.

The Tory big guns have opened with the party chairman Richard Holden making headlines with charges that "Spineless Sir Keir" needs to "grow a backbone".

TV debates may be a routine feature of campaigning in dozens of countries, from Iran to the US, but they have only taken place properly in one general election here: in 2010, when debates left the electorate better informed about the policies and the personal style under pressure of their would-be leaders.

To declare an interest I was part of the Sky News team which brought about the 2010 leaders' debates between Gordon Brown, David Cameron and Nick Clegg as a public service for all broadcasters. It took tough tactics including the threat to "empty chair" any leader who wouldn't take part.

Crucially, Sky fixed it all long before an election was likely to take place. That prevented the question of debates becoming a political football between self-interested parties and TV channels, as is happening once again this year.

We have been here before. With no established framework to make election debates automatic in this country, it is usually the underdog who challenges the frontrunner – who of course has more to lose. For 2024 that is the struggling Tory Prime Minister Sunak.

In 1997, it was struggling Conservative prime minister John Major who demanded a debate with a rising Labour opposition leader. Tony Blair turned him down. Enter the chickens, or people in chicken suits, mocking Blair's alleged

cowardice. They did him no harm in the long run.

Sunak's six-pack challenge feels a bit like a desperate last throw, upping the ante of confrontation. As Starmer's team says, the parties had already reached a private agreement on two head-to-head debates, with the first scheduled to take place on 4 June.

Whether that goes ahead at all must now be open to question since it might be seen as Sunak acquiescing to Starmer's terms.

I think debates are important because if done calmly and fairly they generate more light than heat.

To have that kind of constructive impact, debates need to be major set-piece events in the campaign beyond the control of the participants or TV channels. That is why the political leaders and "public service" TV channels don't like them.

David Cameron, who underperformed expectations in 2010, claimed the debates sucked the life out of the campaign. He turned down debates in the 2015 election and during the 2016 EU referendum, even though he had appointed himself the leader of the Remain campaign.

Theresa May (*inset*) now admits it was a mistake not to turn up to debate Jeremy Corbyn in 2017. She sent in Amber Rudd as a substitute instead.

That was one of those multi-headed debates, with representatives of seven parties taking place.

It's a crowded format which may make great TV entertainment but which cannot genuinely inform or educate viewers.

By the time the 2019 general election campaign came round, the British TV debate model was well and truly battered. There was a rushed head-to-head between Boris Johnson and Jeremy Corbyn on ITV and a BBC multi-header without them featuring Rishi Sunak and Rebecca Long-Bailey.

The public is being short-changed. It seems there is more interest in whether they should take place and who takes part than what might be said in discussions about the grave issues facing the country.

It is already too late for debates to matter in this campaign as anything other than something to quarrel about. It says something unflattering about our culture that we seem incapable of getting serious.

Adam Boulton presents 'Sunday Morning' on Times Radio

## LABOUR

# Spending battle looms for Reeves if party secures election win

By Richard Vaughan  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

With Labour more than 20 points ahead in the polls and the prospect of a hefty majority looming into view, questions are already beginning to arise about how the party will handle the reality of government.

Insiders insist that nothing is being taken for granted. Nevertheless, attention is already shifting to how Sir Keir Starmer and his shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, might handle being in government and managing a potential flood of eager new MPs wanting to deliver the “change” that the party is campaigning on but under an unfeasibly tight public spending regime.

Ms Reeves has signed up to Chancellor Jeremy Hunt’s fiscal rule to have debt falling as a share of national income by the end of the next parliament, which implies that she would either raise taxes or usher



Rachel Reeves has been clear about the need for her ‘iron discipline’

in swingeing cuts to public services outside the NHS, education and defence.

The MP for Leeds West has been clear about the need for her “iron discipline”. She says that it must underpin everything a government does, that without it change cannot be achieved. So far that discipline has held, with Sir Keir fully on board. But now there are warnings about

the pressure that it could face if and when it comes into contact with an ambitious new Labour intake.

There are already murmurs within Westminster that Ms Reeves may have succumbed to an orthodoxy being described as “Treasury brain” and that any hopes of Labour bringing about the transformational change they have promised may quickly founder if the purse strings are kept tight and spending cuts have to be delivered.

One former Treasury civil servant who has worked under both Labour and Conservative ministers said: “She absolutely does have Treasury brain. She has been schooled in the Bank of England, and then HBOS [the merged lenders Halifax and Bank of Scotland].”

“So her entire formative experiences in finance have been very orthodox: sound money, pro business, competition, etc.”

“That said, what is totally underappreciated is that regardless of what she and Keir Starmer think, they just can’t ignore their backbenchers.”

The civil servant added: “If you’ve spent your pre-parliamentary career working for Save the Children, and you can see you’re not on the fast track to ministerial office, and you have at least one eye on defending your seat, are you really going to troop through the lobbies for years allocating no more money to alleviating child poverty? Are you f\*\*k.”

One of the difficulties that Sir Keir’s top team will face will be party management, particularly if Labour secures a landslide victory of 100 or more seats that some pollsters believe is possible.

Just as Tony Blair found after his 179-seat majority in 1997, keeping so many MPs happy with only so many jobs to go around can bring its own specific challenges.

“Any Prime Minister has to flex on this stuff, no matter what majority you’re sitting on,” the source added. “It may only be at the margins, but the Leader of the Opposition is cuckoo if it thinks it can hold the line on fiscal prudence all through the first term – it will need to give up something, hopefully funded by economic growth.”

When submitting policy ideas for the party’s election manifesto in case of a snap election in May, Labour MPs were told by the leadership that certain policies were simply unaffordable in the near term at least.

**i** One veteran Labour MP said: **‘Many of us have our own pet projects that we want to see brought in, but the answer that comes back is we will do it when the finances allow it. But the question is when will that be?’**

## LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

## Davey encouraged by Redwood’s departure

By Anahita Hossein-Pour

Sir Ed Davey claimed that the Conservatives were “running scared” of the Liberal Democrats as he hit the campaign trail yesterday.

The party leader said during a visit to Eastbourne, East Sussex, that Sir John Redwood’s decision to stand down as the Tory MP for Wokingham was a sign that the Tories “know we’re going to win”.

Sir Ed added: “The thing is, the Conservatives are running scared of us with the news today that John Redwood isn’t prepared to stand and be held accountable in Wokingham.”

“I think it’s a sign that he and the Conservatives know that

we’re going to win in Wokingham, just as we’re gonna win here in Eastbourne, so we’re very, very excited about this election.”

Sir John, who was first elected in Wokingham in 1987, wrote a blog post on his decision saying: “I have other things I wish to do.”

Eastbourne is one of the target “Blue Wall” seats that the Liberal Democrats are targeting. In 2019, the party finished second behind Conservative MP Caroline Ansell by more than 4,000 votes.

Sir Ed was joined by supporters at Eastbourne Pier before he made, and ate, ice cream strolling down the promenade with Josh Babarinde, the Liberal Democrat candidate for the coastal constituency.

Sir Ed said that – if elected – his party would first recruit 8,000 GPs, adding: “That would take the next parliament to do that, you can’t do [that] overnight especially to train more people and encourage people to stay, retain, persuading people to come back and make the GP life the one that people want to be involved in.”

“And if we do that, we’d be able to say to people and get a legal right, that people could see a GP within seven days or within 24 hours if it was an emergency.”

“That will transform healthcare for many people in many communities.”



Sir Ed Davey (left) eats ice cream with Josh Babarinde, the Liberal Democrat candidate for Eastbourne, yesterday

## Rail fans get all steamed up

A newly built steam locomotive will be used for passenger services for the first time this weekend. Hundreds of steam enthusiasts will experience No 6880 Betton Grange at the Cotswold Festival of Steam held at the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway.

Construction of the engine, using parts from other scrapped locomotives, was completed at Tyseley works in Birmingham last month.

The £1.3m project was led by the Betton Grange Society, which formed in 1998 with the sole aim of building an 81st Grange.

Production of the locomotives ceased in 1939 at the outbreak of the Second World War.

MILE LANNING/GLOUCESTERSHIRE WARWICKSHIRE STEAM RAILWAY/PA



## MEDIA

## GB News loses its leading presenters during campaign

By Adam Sherwin  
ARTS AND MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

It says that it wants to be “Britain’s election channel” but GB News has an unusual problem: a shortage of presenters.

This week it emerged that the channel was losing its biggest ratings draw, Nigel Farage, for the six weeks of the campaign.

Despite choosing not to run as an MP, Mr Farage said he wanted to spend the time campaigning for Reform UK.

Even before Mr Farage’s announcement, the election starting gun had already fired holes through the channel’s schedule. Under Ofcom rules, the Conservative MPs Jacob Rees-Mogg and Esther

McVey, as well as Reform UK candidate Lee Anderson, are unable to continue in their presenting roles while they seek re-election.

Camilla Tominey (*inset*), the political journalist who presents a Sunday morning show, is expected to take over Mr Farage’s weekday evening slot.

But it is not clear how the other gaps will be filled, with remaining presenters reportedly being “asked to pull double duty”.

“Everyone expected Nigel to be the star attraction at the election so it’s a massive blow,” a channel insider said. “Now there’s an exodus of presenters and the channel is short-staffed”.

Some within the channel question whether Mr Farage, who has said





he wants to spend more time in the US campaigning for Donald Trump ahead of November's presidential election, will return to GB News.

Hopes are also fading that Boris Johnson will ride to the rescue.

In October, GB News said that the former prime minister would be "joining in the new year" to provide commentary on the UK and US elections. But Mr Johnson is yet to take up his role, and the channel could not give a start date.

The shortage of presenters comes at a difficult time for the three-year-old channel, which is facing financial challenges and a battle with the media regulator over impartiality.

Bosses are cutting 40 roles in a bid to stem losses of £42.4m last year.

One member of staff said: "Morale is terrible. Ratings are struggling and lots of people jumped at the redundancy offer. But now the bosses need people to stay on and work during the election."

The channel's plans for the general election include a series of "people's forums", giving viewers the chance to quiz politicians.

But negotiations with Labour over Sir Keir Starmer's participation were put on hold earlier this year following complaints over a previous question-and-answer pro-

gramme with Rishi Sunak. Ofcom, which has launched 20 investigations into GB News since the channel was launched in 2021, said that programme breached impartiality rules by failing to sufficiently challenge the Prime Minister.

On Thursday, the channel said that it was taking legal action against the regulator, which it accused of unfair treatment.

A spokesman said: "Ofcom is also obliged to apply its rules fairly and lawfully. We believe that, for some time now, Ofcom has been operating in the opposite manner."

Some inside GB News believe the channel must decide whether it should try to placate Ofcom or move its content online-only, where it would be free from regulation.

However, others said it had been a challenge to attract advertisers because of some of the right-wing views expressed on the channel.

Executives argue that critics of GB News are missing the bigger picture. "GB News has been the fastest-growing news website in the UK for six consecutive months and GB News Radio is now the fastest-growing news station," said one figure.

"Polling shows that our audience is exactly the Red Wall swing voters who will decide this election."

## ECONOMY

# Snap poll kills off hopes of interest rate cut next month

By Callum Mason

MONEY AND BUSINESS REPORTER

The chance of a cut in interest rates next month has been effectively killed off by the snap election – in a fresh blow to homeowners.

Hopes had already gone down from 50:50 to one in six after a higher than expected inflation figure on Wednesday, but the chances are now just one in 17.

Experts now expect the Bank of England's monetary policy committee (MPC) to cut rates in August.

And they have said that a likely cut in August or the autumn will provide an easy boost to the next government, as the reduction will filter into some households' mortgage rates.

Michael Saunders, a former member of the MPC, and now a senior advisor at Oxford Economics, said that the election campaign would "reinforce the MPC's desire not to surprise markets with an unexpected rate decision".

He added: "They already have had a desire not to surprise markets, but it will be stronger now."

Asked if an election made a June cut go from unlikely to killing off all hope, Charles Goodhart, another former member of the MPC, said: "Yes, there will be no change now."

Chris Martin, a professor of economics at Bath University, added: "I wouldn't rule out a cut in June, but I would be pretty surprised if there



The Bank of England is independent of the Government in terms of how it handles its responsibilities

was one. I think the inflation data will nudge the MPC to delay its cuts to the base rate.

"If there hadn't been an election, I suspect that it would have come under pressure, via comments by Conservative MPs in the media. So an early election probably works well for the MPC."

The Bank of England has independence from the Government in terms of how it handles responsibilities, so the general election should have no direct effect on whether or not it cuts rates.

But former members of the MPC have said that election periods did pose challenges to decision-making.

Martin Weale, who served on the MPC between 2010 and 2016, said:

"The Bank produces its analysis taking government policy as given. That does of course create practical uncertainty since they know less than usual about what policy will be after 4 July."

He said, however, that members of the MPC who wanted a rate cut would "not feel inhibited" by the campaign period.

Other economists also said that with a June cut delayed, the party that wins the election was likely to enjoy the good news story of a rate cut early in its tenure.

Most forecasters now suggest that a first cut in August, September or November is most likely.

"We're getting close to winning that battle with inflation but they wouldn't have cut in June anyway."

"The next government will have rate cuts early in their term, but it'll be nothing to do with what they've done," said Edward Jones, a professor in economics at Bangor University.

**i** An interest rate cut will immediately filter into the **monthly payments of those with tracker mortgages**, and it would probably mean that those with fixed mortgages – the most common type – have cheaper options than they would have done otherwise if they renew.

## SECURITY

# Russia and China ready to 'sow division and chaos' at election

By Jane Merrick and Richard Holmes

Russia, China, North Korea and Iran could try to disrupt the UK general election with cyber hacks and deepfakes, MPs have been warned.

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (Post) has issued "rapid response" guidance to warn politicians, electoral registration officers and the voting public of the threat, including a potential hack of their identities and the online electoral registration system, as well as the possible creation of deepfakes of prominent MPs.

An influential committee of MPs and peers has also written to the Prime Minister to warn him that the UK "must be prepared for the possibility of foreign interference" during the general election, including from China, Russia, North Korea and Iran, which is designed to "sow division and cause chaos".

The joint committee on the national security strategy, chaired by the former foreign secretary Dame Margaret Beckett, said that the UK was not prepared for a large-scale cyber hack and that new powers to



Dame Margaret Beckett's committee said that the UK was not prepared for a large-scale cyber hack

crack down on security would not be implemented before the election.

The committee said that, besides the threat from hostile states, existing UK national security laws did not prevent an ordinary person "sitting in their bedroom" and using generative artificial intelligence to sow disinformation and "deepfake" content on social media.

Members of the joint committee called on the Electoral Commission – which itself was targeted three years ago by a cyber attack that was blamed on China – urgently to issue guidance to the public on how to spot

deepfakes to stop the election being undermined. Dame Margaret also warned Rishi Sunak that her committee was concerned that major social media companies were taking different approaches to tackling deepfake images, rather than a co-ordinated plan of attack.

The warnings follow an assessment British security services that it was almost a certainty that Russia attempted to disrupt the 2019 general election.

Two intelligence sources told **i** that malign foreign interference in British elections was "something we have to accept" in the current geopolitical climate.

MPs and their staff were vulnerable to attacks or influence from foreign adversaries and warned that the risk was almost too complex to protect against, they added.

The cyber attack on the Electoral Commission, which accessed the personal details of millions of voters, took place in August 2021 but was revealed only last year.

Earlier this month, it emerged that the Ministry of Defence's payroll system was hacked by a "malign" state suspected to be China.

## JUSTICE

## Letby denied application for leave to appeal

By Steve Robson

The serial child killer Lucy Letby had her application for leave to appeal rejected yesterday.

The former neonatal nurse (*inset*) was convicted of murdering seven babies while working at the Countess of Chester hospital in Cheshire in 2015 and 2016.

She was also convicted of attempting to murder a further six

babies after a trial at Manchester Crown Court.

Letby, 34, of Hereford, denied the offences and last month a panel of three judges heard an application for her to challenge the convictions at the Court of Appeal. The full detail of her grounds for appeal cannot be reported for legal reasons.



Dame Victoria Sharp, one of three judges assessing the application, said: "We have decided to refuse leave to appeal on all grounds and refuse all associated applications."

It is the end of Letby's appeal process, but she faces a retrial for an allegation of attempted murder.

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## INQUIRY

## Former boss Vennells accepts blame for Post Office scandal

By Josh Payne and Ellie Ng

The ex-Post Office boss Paula Vennells has admitted she has "no one to blame" but herself for what happened during the Horizon scandal.

Giving evidence for a third day at the Horizon IT inquiry yesterday, she told the hearing there are "no words" that will make the "sorrow and what people have gone through any better".

Under questioning from Edward Henry KC, a lawyer representing a number of sub-postmasters, she said she "didn't always take the right path".

She added: "I did my best through this. And it wasn't good enough, and that is a regret I carry with me."

Beginning his questioning, Mr Henry said: "There were so many forks in the road but you always took the wrong path, didn't you?"

Ms Vennells (*inset*) said: "It was an extraordinarily complex undertaking and the Post Office and I didn't always take the right path, I'm very clear about that."



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 quashed are eligible for £600,000 payouts.

The inquiry also heard that Ms Vennells told colleagues she was "more bored than outraged" at a 2014 BBC programme featuring campaigning sub-postmasters.

The public gallery at the inquiry booed as they saw the 2014 email from Ms Vennells which de-

**{i}** Ms Vennells told the hearing **she lost all employment** since the Court of Appeal passed a judgment that ultimately led to a number of sub-postmaster convictions being overturned.



## Display honours Westwood

Terri Heatlie and Karen Thornton admire a floral tribute to the fashion designer Dame Vivienne Westwood at the Manchester Flower Festival, a free event organised by the Manchester City Centre Business Improvement District.

Now in its seventh year, the event - which is running all weekend - includes a "Mancunian icons" floral trail which goes through the city's shopping streets and features 10 professionally designed pop-up gardens and displays.

FABIO DE PAOLA/PA

## POLICE

### Death of ex-Marine not being treated as suspicious

By William Warnes

The death of an ex-Royal Marine accused of assisting the Hong Kong intelligence service is not being treated as suspicious, police said.

Matthew Trickett, 37, an immigration enforcement officer and private investigator from Maidenhead, Berkshire, was also accused of foreign interference and had appeared at Westminster magis-

trates' court with two other people last week.

Thames Valley Police said Mr Trickett was found dead in Grenfell Park, Maidenhead, at around 5.15pm on Sunday.

The force confirmed yesterday that, following a Home Office post-mortem completed on Wednesday, the death is not being treated as suspicious.

Mr Trickett appeared at West-

minster magistrates' court alongside co-defendants Chi (Peter) Leung Wai and Chung Biu Yuen on 13 May.

At that hearing, the prosecution had asked for Mr Trickett to be remanded in custody for his own welfare ahead of his next hearing at the Old Bailey.

However, he was granted bail and on 19 May he was found dead in Grenfell Park.

## JUSTICE

### 'Joy' as Parliament backs law to quash Horizon convictions

By Jordan Reynolds

A former sub-postmaster has spoken of his "joy" after Parliament backed legislation to exonerate those caught up in the Horizon scandal and his "disgust" at those who did not "stand up and do the right thing" at the time.

The Horizon scandal, which has been described as the most widespread miscarriage of justice in UK history, led to more than 700 Post Office branch managers receiving criminal convictions after faulty Fujitsu accounting software made it appear as though money was missing.

The Post Office (Horizon System) Offences Bill will receive Royal Assent on the final sitting day of Parliament before it halts its business ahead of the election on 4 July. The bill will quash convictions of theft, fraud, false accounting and other offences



for sub-postmasters who have suffered as a consequence of the Horizon scandal, and relevant cautions will be deleted from records. The law will apply in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, while the Scottish Parliament will pass its own law to a similar effect.

Lee Williamson, 49, from Castlederg, Co Tyrone, said: "It's been a difficult 12 years, I'm very grateful that it's through. I'm still coming to terms with it. My overriding emotion is joy and gratefulness."

He said he was especially grateful to the ITV drama *Mr Bates vs the Post Office*, which he said "turned the tide for us".

Mr Williamson (*inset*) ran the Post Office in Portstewart, Co Londonderry, and was given a suspended prison sentence after pleading guilty to fraud by false representation. He has been going through the Court of Appeal process since 2022.

scribed former sub-postmistress Jo Hamilton as someone who "lacked passion".

Ms Vennells told the inquiry: "I regret everything I said. The pressure we were under at the time to try to manage the, what we genuinely felt, was an imbalance of media coverage and representation about what was happening in the Post Office.

"I have no excuse for what I wrote, other than... I was under pressure and I was relieved that the programme hadn't been perhaps as bad or as hard-hitting as I expected it to be. And I'm just hugely sorry."

Ms Hamilton was falsely accused of stealing £36,000 from the Post Office branch she ran in South Warnborough, Hampshire.

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PEOPLE

### Five-year-old becomes youngest person to receive 'superhero' arm

By Sam Russell

A five-year-old boy who was born without a left hand has become the youngest in the world to be given a bionic "Hero Arm", making him "feel like a superhero".

Jordan Marotta's mother, Ashley Marotta, from Long

Island in the state of New York, said the Iron Man-style arm was an "instant confidence boost" for her son and he had rushed back to school to show his friends.

The custom-made, 3D-printed prosthetic is produced by Bristol-based Open Bionics, which was founded in 2014. It launched four clinics in the US in the past year.



Jordan Marotta gained an 'instant confidence boost' from his Hero Arm PA

The prosthetic uses special sensors which detect muscular contractions and turn them into bionic hand movements.

Most children with Hero Arms are aged seven or older, but the firm said Jordan's size for his age and his high IQ – meaning he was easy to teach how to use the arm – meant he could have one sooner.

The previous youngest Hero Arm user was a six-year-old from Los Angeles.

Several children in the UK have received a Hero Arm, including, last year, Louie Morgan-Kemp, of Swavesey, Cambridgeshire.

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SCIENCE

## Genetic cause of baby immune disorder found

By Ella Pickover

The identification of the genetic cause of rare childhood immune disorders could help "defenceless" babies get quicker access to life-saving treatment, scientists have said.

A small number of children are born with little to no immune defence against infection. When a person is born without a functional immune system, day-to-day infections can be life-threatening.

Researchers studied a small number of children affected by severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) and Omenn syndrome. As a result they were able to pinpoint the genetic changes which links certain gene mutations to these conditions.

Eleven children were studied by researchers from Newcastle University, the Wellcome Sanger Institute and the Great North Children's Hospital.

Scientists were able to link the conditions to mutations in the NUDCD3 gene, according to a new paper published in the journal *Science Immunology*.

All 11 children had inherited mutations that disrupted the function of this NUDCD3 protein, which had not previously been linked to

the immune system. Researchers said these mutations prevented the normal development of "diverse immune cells" which the body needs to fight off different pathogens.

Academics said that the finding could lead to early diagnosis and interventions for these conditions.

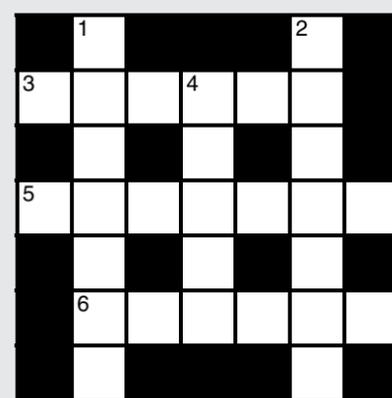
Dr Gosia Trynka, author of the study at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, said: "For babies born with high-risk immunodeficiencies, early detection can mean the difference between life and death."

Professor Sophie Hambleton, senior author of the study at Newcastle University and practising paediatric immunologist at the Great North Children's Hospital, said: "SCID and Omenn syndrome are devastating disorders.

"The more we can understand about the underlying causes, the better we can look after affected babies."

**i** Children born with these disorders need urgent treatment, which can include a stem cell transplant to replace their faulty immune system. Without treatment, many will not live to see their first birthday.

### The Five-Clue Cryptic Crossword No 4214



- Across**
- 3/5 Old blood-letter ordering orange rubbers (6-7)
  - 6 Ridiculous bendy bus blocking a road (6)
- Down**
- 1 Note of birth around old city (7)
  - 2 Artist turned up with silk fabric for cabinet (7)
  - 4 Travel over in vehicle that's not genuine (5)

Solution, page 60

## FOCUS

# Payouts for potholes hit £25.6m

The taxpayer-funded compensation bill for damage to vehicles and injuries to drivers rises by 57 per cent in one year. By **Alexa Phillips**

The taxpayers' bill from compensation cases related to unrepaired potholes in roads has shot up by 57 per cent in a single year, data analysis shared with *i* reveals.

Authorities in England and Wales spent £25.6m on the payouts to drivers, and associated costs, in 2023-24, compared with £16.3m the previous year. They covered injuries and damages to vehicles.

The average number of road-user compensation claims received per local authority has also increased to 421, compared with 234 the previous year. And of those claims, 89 per cent related to potholes in 2023-24, compared with 72 per cent the year before, according to the data from a survey of local authorities by the Asphalt Industry Alliance.

Simon Williams, head of policy at the RAC motoring group warned that the amount local authorities are currently paying in compensation "will pale in comparison to the eventual bill if our pothole plague is allowed to continue".

The money used for the pay-outs could have filled more than 350,000 potholes, *i* analysis has found. The average cost of fixing a pothole is £72.26 but payouts average around £405 per claim.

Councils in England and Wales

did spend an estimated £143.5m fixing potholes in 2023-24, a rise from £93.7m in 2022-23.

But Jack Cousens (*inset*), head of road policy at the AA motoring group, said he was "worried about budget cuts to road maintenance".

He told *i*: "It's not just fixing potholes. It's other things such as painting worn outlines, cutting back overgrown hedges that are covering signs, cutting back sight lines where the grass has got

long on roundabouts and key junctions – all of those things form part of their transport budget."

Potholes have also been responsible for a series of deaths in recent years, prompting coroners to urge repairs.

*i* has found seven occasions when coroners in England and Wales have sent councils or National Highways official warnings over the risk of further deaths because of potholes.

They come in future deaths reports, which are sent after inquests when a coroner thinks action is needed to protect lives.



**Pothole-related injuries are entirely preventable if roads are looked after better**



The average pothole (main and below) costs £72 to fix – but claims average £405 GETTY

The most recent was in October when Lancashire County Council was accused of failing to fix a large crack in the road that led to the death of a cyclist.

Harry Colledge, 84, was flung from his bike in Winmarleigh after it hit the pothole. He suffered a fatal head injury and died in January 2023.

Kate Bisset, the coroner, wrote that the council had been notified of the crack in September 2022 but failed to identify it in inspections. "There is a risk of future deaths to road users if the surfacing of this road is not adequately maintained," she warned.

Last year in April a coroner wrote to National Highways, urging them to repair a Northamptonshire A road on which a collision occurred in 2021, which killed Benjamin James Teague, 26.

Mr Teague's death was not blamed on the pothole – he drove on the wrong side of the road when overtaking and crashed into an oncoming car – but evidence was given at his inquest that the road on

which the collision occurred is "in a very poor state with potholes".

Coroner Anne Pember said the scene of the crash – the A5 between Pottersbury and Paulesbury – was repaired shortly after the crash but had since deteriorated.

There were more warnings in 2022 from coroners about the risk of further deaths from potholes after cyclists were killed. Mr Williams said the reports are a "stark reminder of the true consequence of Britain's crumbling roads".



"Pothole-related injuries are entirely preventable if the roads were looked after better," he added. "So the fact councils are shelling out such large sums of money in compensation for sub-standard road surfaces is both ridiculous and totally unsustainable."

The Government has put £8.3bn in funds from the cancelled parts of HS2 towards resurfacing roads, but the RAC said this would cover just 3 per cent of all council-managed roads in England.

Councils partly pay for pothole repairs out of their main budgets.

National Highways regional director Victoria Lazenby said: "We regard every single death on our roads as one too many... Therefore, we take very seriously any comments or concerns raised by coroners in relation to our roads and take action where possible to further improve the way we work and help prevent any more people coming to harm."

Lancashire Council did not respond to a request for comment.

## TECHNOLOGY

## Transpennine Express trials first battery-powered train

By Neil Lancefield

The UK's first intercity battery train is being trialled to reduce emissions and fuel costs.

Manufacturer Hitachi Rail said one of three diesel engines on the TransPennine Express Nova 1 train has been replaced with a battery.

Testing of the modified train started on Friday, with trial runs on TransPennine



The battery engine is expected to cut emissions by up to 30 per cent

Express routes due to take place this summer.

Hitachi Rail expects the battery to deliver the same levels of acceleration and performance as the diesel engine, while adding no additional weight.

The company believes that emissions and fuel costs will be reduced by up to 30 per cent.

It is hoped that battery technology could reduce infrastructure costs by limiting the need for overhead electric wires to be installed in tunnels and over complex junctions.

The UK Government has set a target of phasing out diesel-only trains by 2040.

## TRANSPORT

## Cable theft adds to railway delays

By Neil Lancefield

Bank holiday getaway journeys on a major train route were disrupted due to an attempted theft of signalling cables.

National Rail Enquiries said trains were running at reduced speeds between Birmingham New Street and Wolverhampton until the damaged cables were repaired.

Meanwhile, a points failure prevented trains from calling at stations between those locations.

The problems affected passengers travelling with Avanti West Coast,

CrossCountry, London Northwestern Railway, Transport for Wales and West Midlands Railway.

Many train services will also be affected this weekend as Network Rail carries out engineering projects.

Services on the West Coast Main Line will be reduced due to work around Crewe and Carlisle.

Trains will also be affected by track renewals between Carstairs and Lanark in Scotland, while there will be changes to services on the Great Eastern Main Line because of work building a new station at Beaulieu Park near Chelmsford.

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## RUSSIA

# Putin attacks Ukrainian leader's 'legitimacy'

By Jim Heintz

Vladimir Putin visited his Belarusian counterpart and close ally, Alexander Lukashenko, for talks in Minsk yesterday, after which he questioned whether Ukraine's President, Volodymyr Zelensky, has the legitimacy to negotiate on Ukraine's behalf.

Russia was willing to hold talks about the war in Ukraine, Mr Putin said, but Mr Zelensky's five-year term in office was supposed to have ended on 20 May.

However, Mr Zelensky has ruled out holding new presidential elections while his country is at war.

Ukrainian legislation bans elections during martial law, which has been in place since Russia launched its invasion in February 2022. The country would have to amend the law to hold elections during a war.

Russian officials have repeatedly called attention to the question of Mr Zelensky's term in office during the past week. "Of course we are aware that the legitimacy of the current head of state has ended," Mr Putin said at a news conference in Minsk after talks with Mr Lukashenko.

"We must be completely sure that we are dealing with legitimate authorities," said Mr Putin, who has re-



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (left) welcomes his close ally Vladimir Putin to Minsk yesterday GETTY

peatedly stated that Russia is ready for talks with Ukraine.

However, Mr Zelensky has rejected the preconditions that Russia has put forth for talks, including allowing

Russia to retain the territory that Kremlin's forces have taken since the February 2022 invasion.

An international peace conference on Ukraine is to be held in Switzer-

land in June, but Russia has not been invited and Mr Putin has dismissed the conference's importance.

The two-day visit to Belarus is one of several foreign tours Mr Putin has

**i** Russia and Belarus have increasingly close relations and foresee eventually forming a "union state".

used to kick off his fifth term in office. Since his inauguration on 7 May, he also has visited China and is expected in Uzbekistan on Sunday.

Mr Putin's comments come after four high-level Russian sources told Reuters that Mr Putin was ready to negotiate a ceasefire based on current lines – something Ukraine has repeatedly ruled out.

The Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba said on X, formerly Twitter, that the Russian leader was trying to derail the upcoming peace summit in Switzerland by using his entourage to send out "phony signals" about his alleged readiness to halt the war.

"Putin currently has no desire to end his aggression against Ukraine. Only the principled and united voice of the global majority can force him to choose peace over war," he said.

Mykhailo Podolyak, a Ukrainian presidential adviser, said Mr Putin wanted Western democracies to accept defeat. AP

## DEFENCE

## Russian military bases and airfields among Kyiv's potential targets

By Victoria Crow

Military bases containing tens of thousands of personnel, communications facilities and airfields inside Russia are among the key targets Ukraine would seek to destroy if given the green light to use US-supplied weapons to strike inside Russian territory, experts have said.

The US insists Ukraine confine the use of US-supplied weapons to within Ukraine's borders, but this position is coming under pressure in light of Russia's recent offensive against Kharkiv.

Officials in the US Department of State are reportedly urging President Joe Biden to reconsider the "red line" on weapon use following a recent visit to Kyiv.

"Ukraine has to make decisions for itself about how it's going to conduct this war," the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, said following a visit to Ukraine this month.

Lord Cameron, the Foreign Secretary, has already said Ukraine can use British-supplied weapons to defend itself, leading Russia to threaten retaliation.

The US restrictions have allowed Russia to amass an estimated 50,000 personnel in the Belgorod, Kursk,

and Bryansk oblasts across the border from Kharkiv, according to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW).

This 1,750 sq km area – larger than the size of London – contains hundreds of critical military targets such as ammunition and fuel depots, warehouses, command posts, repair sites, radar bases, communication posts and at least 15 air bases, said George Barros, of the ISW Russia Intelligence team.

Christopher Morris, a teaching fellow at the University of Portsmouth who specialises in international relations and military strategy, told **i** that using US weapons to strike behind enemy lines would "relieve a lot of pressure that has been building in the past few months".

"Russia has the luxury of amassing troops behind the border," he said. "It can basically put together an assault in its own territory and it won't be contested by Ukrainian forces."

Mr Morris said allowing Ukraine to use US weaponry to strike inside Russia would have the secondary benefit of changing Russian psychology to a more defensive footing, reducing pressure on Ukraine.

The Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, said yesterday Ukraine



had already used US weapons to strike targets outside what he called "the conflict zone". Mr Lavrov did not identify the target locations or reference evidence to back that up.

Keir Giles, senior consulting fellow at Chatham House's Russia

and Eurasia programme, said the fact that Ukraine has been able to use Western-supplied weapons in Crimea and the Black Sea to great effect "demonstrates what could have been achieved had the US ban not been in place".

## RUSSIA

## Prison population falls by 58,000

The number of people held in Russian prisons dropped by 58,000 last year, Russian independent media reported yesterday, continuing a steady fall spurred in part by the recruitment of convicts to fight in Ukraine.

In total, about 105,000 prisoners were released between 2022-2023, media reported.

Russia has one of the highest rates of incarceration in the world and a vast network of prisons and labour camps stretching across its 11 time zones.

Russia has been recruiting prisoners to fight in Ukraine since 2022. REUTERS

## UKRAINE

## Zelensky in Kharkiv amid air strikes

President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Ukraine's north-eastern city of Kharkiv yesterday as it faces intensified Russian air attacks amid an offensive push by Moscow.

The Ukrainian leader met military leaders in the city and travelled to the site of a printing house a day after it was destroyed in a Russian missile attack that killed at least seven people.

Russian forces launched a cross-border assault on 10 May, driving towards the border town of Vovchansk on one line of attack and pushing towards the village of Lyptsi on the other. REUTERS

## MIDDLE EAST

# UN court orders Israel to halt Rafah offensive

By Taz Ali

SENIOR WORLD REPORTER

Israel reacted with anger while Palestinian officials welcomed the decision after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordered Israel to halt its military operations in the southern Gazan city of Rafah, citing "immense risk" to the Palestinian population.

The president of the UN's high-

est court, Judge Nawaf Salam, said yesterday that provisional measures ordered by the ICJ in March did not fully address the situation in the besieged Palestinian enclave, and that conditions had been met for a new emergency order.

He added that the Israeli evacuation orders in the area were not "sufficient to alleviate the immense risk to which the Palestinian population

is exposed as a result of the military operation in Rafah".

"Israel must immediately halt its military offensive," Judge Salam (*inset*) said, adding that the country should cease any actions in the city that could inflict on Palestinians "conditions that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part".

The court backed South Africa's

request to order a halt to Israel's Rafah offensive in Gaza after the nation formally accused Israel of committing genocide against Palestinians. Israel vehemently denies the allegations.

The ICJ, or World Court, also ordered Israel to keep the Rafah crossing into Egypt open "for unhindered provision at scale of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance".

The order was adopted by the panel of 15 international judges in a 13-2 vote, opposed only by judges from Uganda and Israel.

Israel's national security council and foreign ministry issued a joint statement calling the ruling "false, outrageous and disgusting".



A protest in support of Palestinians outside the court in The Hague

"Israel does this in accordance with its right to defend its territory and its citizens, while maintaining its moral values and adhering to international law," *The Times of Israel* reported.



Israel's far-right finance minister Bezalel Smotrich said that those demanding Israel stop the war were also demanding that it cease to exist.

The Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid called the order "a moral collapse and a moral disaster"

for failing to link the demand to halt fighting to a demand for Hamas to free hostages.

The internationally recognised Palestinian Authority said the order represented a global consensus that the war must end, but presidential spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeineh said it did not go far enough because it did not address fighting in other parts of Gaza.

Basem Naim, a senior Hamas official, said: "We call upon the UN Security Council to immediately implement this demand by the World Court into practical measures to compel the Zionist enemy to implement the decision."

Israel is unlikely to comply with the ruling.

## Analysis

### International criticism is hitting home

Michael Day

CHIEF FOREIGN COMMENTATOR



The International Court of Justice's (ICJ) demand that Israel halt its ground assault on the southern Gaza city of Rafah is another blow to the country's reputation, just days after its Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, learned that the ICJ's sister court planned to arrest him for crimes against humanity.

Mr Netanyahu is not in imminent danger of arrest by the International Criminal Court (ICC). And Israel is unlikely to comply with the ICJ ruling. And the court has no means of enforcing its order. Even Yair Lapid, the leader of the opposition, derided the decision.

"The fact that the ICJ did not even directly connect the end of the military operation in Rafah to the release of the hostages and to Israel's right to defend itself against terror is an abject moral failure," he said.

But the significance of the court's demand for a partial ceasefire will not be lost on Israel. The Jewish state faces increasing international isolation and new sanctions if it ignores it. Criticism of Israel's brutal war on Gaza has

been growing. Even its closest ally, the US, has warned against an invasion of Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter from fighting.

This week, three European countries – Spain, Ireland and Norway – said they would recognise a Palestinian state, and the ICC chief prosecutor court sought arrest warrants for Mr Netanyahu, his defence minister Yoav Gallant and three Hamas leaders.

The growing international criticism of Israel's actions was reflected by the fact 13 of the 15 ICJ judges from around the world backed the order for Israel to halt its operations in Rafah. They cited the "disastrous" humanitarian situation there. The only opposing voices were from Uganda and Israel itself.

Fault lines over Israel are now emerging between its traditional allies. The US is expected to support Israel over the ICJ. And both Democrat and Republican politicians have attacked the ICC prosecutor's bid to arrest Mr Netanyahu. Many Western governments are likely to stand by the court's decision, however, and some may even impose sanctions.

Israel's national security minister Itamar Ben-Gvir dismissed the ICJ's demand. "Our future does not depend on what the gentiles will say," he declared. But very many, including some of Israel's traditional friends, and not a few Israelis themselves, fear that Mr Ben-Gvir's – and Mr Netanyahu's – vision of the future will mean their country reduced to a pariah state.

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A food vendor works against the backdrop of buildings destroyed in Israeli strikes in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. EVAD BABA/AFP



The bodies of Hanan Yablonka, Michel Nisenbaum and Orion Hernandez Radoux have been recovered. HOSTAGES FAMILIES FORUM HEADQUARTERS/AP

## GAZA

# Air strikes stepped up as bodies of hostages recovered

By Nidal al-Mughrabi

Israeli forces stepped up military strikes on Gaza yesterday, residents and medics said, with aircraft bombing targets in the southern city of Rafah even as the UN's highest court ordered Israel to halt its offensive there.

Heavy fighting was also reported in Jabalia, in the north, where Israel's military said it had recovered the bodies of three hostages killed during the Hamas-led attacks on 7 October that triggered the war.

In Rafah, where an escalating Israeli assault has sent hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from what was one of the few remaining places of refuge, residents reported intensifying aerial and ground bombardment in the south and centre of the city that borders Egypt.

Residents and Palestinian media reported a series of strikes hitting roads and houses in the Shaboura neighbourhood in central Rafah shortly after the International Court of Justice ruling was read out in The Hague.

Israel launched its assault on Gaza

following a Hamas-led attack on southern Israeli communities on 7 October in which 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 taken hostage, according to Israeli tallies.

Since then, Israel's incursion has killed more than 35,000 people, according to Gaza health authorities.

In northern Gaza, medics said at least five Palestinians were killed when houses were hit in Jabalia and more were believed to be trapped under rubble, but that the area could not be reached due to the intensity of the bombardment.

The Israeli military said it had recovered the bodies of three hostages overnight in a joint operation by the

army and the intelligence services in Jabalia.

Hanan Yablonka, Michel Nisenbaum and Orion Hernandez Radoux had been taken into Gaza after they were killed on 7 October.

Israel says its twin goals in Gaza are bringing back the remaining hostages and destroying Hamas.

"We will not stop fighting for their freedom," said military spokesperson Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari (inset)

in a televised statement announcing the recovery of the bodies.

Simultaneous Israeli assaults on the northern and southern edges of Gaza this month have caused a new exodus of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fleeing their homes and have cut off the main access routes for aid, raising the risk of famine.

Israel had said its forces cleared Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps, months earlier in the war.

But it returned there this month saying it needed to prevent Islamist militants regrouping.



**i** Tanks also advanced close to the nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital, where medics said **Israeli fire had caused the suspension of operations** at the last functioning medical facility in the northern Gaza Strip.



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# opinion

GUEST COLUMNIST - CLOVER STROUD

## I've moved to the big city – but I miss the small talk



**N**othing makes you feel more closely connected to other people than a good chat – something I've been especially aware of recently.

Last August, I moved with my three younger children, leaving our elder two at university in England, to join my husband in Washington, DC.

His work was the thing that took us there, of course. Nobody moves to DC for the weather; as I learned, stepping off the plane, blinking and stunned, into sweltering heat which instantly sent sweat dripping into my eyes, as I swatted my first mosquito away.

Making the decision to leave our home in cool, green south Oxfordshire, in a house we had made our own, within a community we loved, was a wrench.

I grew up in a nearby corner of Wiltshire, so felt like I was going home when we moved there from Oxford. The landscape of the Ridgeway and the ancient path that runs across the chalk downs is what drew us there.

My children spent their childhoods being forced by me off their screens and into that landscape, while they complained bitterly about how cruel it was of me to make them walk anywhere, and that the standing stones I wanted them to appreciate were just very, very old, very boring stones.

Having had five children, I know this is a pretty standard reaction, but I like to think that some of the magic of that extraordinary landscape has seeped into their unappreciative little souls.

And I've learned that feeling truly at home in a place can't be rushed. Finding home is about creating meaningful human relationships, which takes time.



Since moving to the US, what I miss most about our old home is not, in fact, the ancient standing stones of nearby Avebury, where I'd go for reassurance of my own insignificance; the hill fort at Liddington Castle, where I walked to calm my pounding heart; or the Bronze Age chalk horse at Uffington. It is the chat. Because while I am now living in a capital city, surrounded by people, there were many more people to chat to when I lived in the much-emptier English countryside.

I miss walking into the village shop for a pint of milk and leaving 45 minutes later with a full update on who has bought the big house in the next village or whether that horrendous potential planning application for a static caravan site on the hill was true.

I miss knowing the driver of almost every car on the road outside my house and stopping for a quick chat with many of them. I miss chatting to the lady who sells eggs in the village, the blacksmith who shoes my ponies, the plumber fixing our drains, again, and the postman who knows the names of all my kids – and our dogs', too.

Those apparently meaningless little conversations remind us that we are connected to one another. It is another reason, beyond being exceptionally irritating to use, why automated supermarket check-outs are both sinister and dehumanising.

Living in Washington, DC has reminded me that incidental chat with total strangers is something people in Britain are very good at.

Personally, I think the reputation we have, as a nation, for being buttoned-up is something of the past. On a recent trip home, I had rich and rewarding chats both in the local village shop, where I'd popped in (to catch up on local gossip, of course), but also on the street with a lady who'd lost an earring, with a girl on a check-out who told me about her childhood, with a woman in a charity shop who recommended her favourite books from a stack that had come in that morning, and with a cabbie, who fully indulged my need for a long chat about the state of the nation.

Of course I am slowly building a new community in DC, and I truly value the new friendships I am making there – with other parents at school, with the karate teacher making such a difference to my sons' lives, with the friendly people in the bookshop coffee shop. But it's much harder to strike up random conversations in the street.

Conversations are much more transactional, and always start with "What do you do?" – something I've never been asked in my local village at home. Travel out to rural Virginia, or Pennsylvania, and this changes, since I've had long, colourful conversations with people there about the best Amish market for cinnamon buns, where to find an apple festival and which honky-tonk to go to for bluegrass music. Perhaps it's simply the difference between city living and village life.

So next time someone asks you about the weather, don't dismiss it as a waste of time: they might actually be wanting to remind themselves, and you, that we are all in this crazy world together.

**I miss leaving the village shop with a full update on who's bought the big house**

✉ @cloverstroud

## This week I have been...

### Smothering...

my food in the delicious, delectable Chilli Crunch, made in Oxfordshire by Bashbites. Over the past year I've tried to eat less bread, pasta and biscuits, and more protein and a lot more vegetables. Giving up buttery carbs is painful, and I need something to make my scrambled eggs more appealing. It's sweet and salty, spicy and soothing, and contains magical things like hibiscus, Szechwan pepper, coriander and cardamom seeds. I eat it straight

from the jar, and it elevates a slice of chicken breast or even a lettuce leaf to an absolute feast.

### Playing...

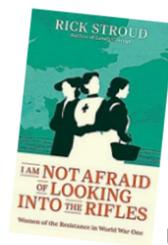
with my youngest sons, who are seven and 10. They are both obsessed with Lego and I am doing my utmost to be with them while they still want to play with me. My older kids are 11, 20 and 23, so I've been a mum for a long time. It



seems extraordinary my eldest son is graduating this summer. Dropping him off at university three years ago was an incredibly emotional process, which hit me harder than I'd anticipated. I'm fascinated by the way the painful yet beautiful way the shape of a family changes over time. I don't love Lego but trying to inhabit my youngest sons' worlds is wonderful and reminds me how much play matters to creativity.

### Reading...

my dad, Rick Stroud's, latest book, *I Am Not Afraid of Looking into the Rifles*. It's about the lives of a group of incredibly brave women during the First World War, some as young as 21, who showed outstanding bravery behind enemy lines, carrying out sabotage attacks, transmitting code information and repatriating Allied soldiers. I'm so proud of the way my dad writes about the lives of women, as his



last book, *Lonely Courage*, was about women of the Special Operations Executive who helped liberate Nazi France. He keeps the names of women like Gabrielle Petit and Edith Cavell alive, and their bravery, and willingness to speak up against atrocities, is so relevant today. Their stories are inspiring.

Clover Stroud is a writer and journalist. Her latest book, *The Giant on the Skyline*, is published by Doubleday, at £18.99

## The Opinion Matrix

COMMENT FROM HOME AND ABROAD

### SUNAK'S BIG GAMBLE



PM plans presidential style vote

**The Daily Telegraph** Ministers learnt that this is to be a presidential campaign, so Sunak vs Starmer rather than Tory vs Labour. It's not clear what role (if any) the rest of the Cabinet will play.

Lord Cameron was promised a seat next to Sunak at the main launch event, but ended up next to the activists. He might have mused that Sunak's decision to run a presidential campaign is "bold". A popular leader may run a personal campaign, but Sunak's ratings are worse than almost any prime minister in post-war history. "His last campaign was so bad he lost to Liz Truss," says one cabinet member. "If he can't win amongst Tories, how does he expect to win nationally?" (Fraser Nelson)

### LABOUR'S CAMPAIGN



Poll lead can't be taken for granted

**The Guardian** As the experience of Theresa May reminds Labour, a lot can happen, as she blew her lead and her majority in the 2017 election. Labour dwells on that, drumming warnings into every candidate and special adviser that complacency is the real enemy. Never for a moment do any of them forget to preface "what we will do" with "if we win".

Starmer chased every possible supporter in a fundraiser campaign launched within hours of the announcement, followed by another from Angela Rayner. Inside the camp, they sound a bit hyper, "buzzy". Starmer's "six first steps" announced last week seemed timed as if they'd had some election timetable leak. (Polly Toynbee)

### FARAGE WILL NOT STAND



Disrupter dare not even try this time

**Politico** Nigel Farage has failed to win election to the UK Parliament on seven separate occasions. This time, he can't even bring himself to try.

The man who successfully led Britain out of Europe ruled himself out of the running for the UK general election on Thursday, less than 24 hours after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak surprised the nation by announcing a summer poll.

Farage, the former Ukip and Brexit Party leader, is now honorary president of start-up party Reform UK, which has eaten into Tory poll ratings. Conservative MPs, who feared a Farage comeback would send Reform's poll ratings stratospheric, can barely contain their glee. (Esther Webber)

### VET BILLS ON THE RISE



Why is the cost of care sky high?

**The Independent** Millions of pet owners have experienced sky-high prices at the vet and just wondered, "Why?" Even before my dog Muggles' cancer scare, I knew something was amiss.

I'd buy a 100ml bottle of Metacam – a strong pain-killer for dogs – from the vet, costing around £103, until I discovered that I could pay the vet £26.80 for a prescription and buy the exact same medication online for £16.98.

It's shocking! Thank goodness the Competition and Markets Authority has announced a full market investigation into the UK's £5bn vet sector due to concerns that pet owners are paying too much on bills and are not given proper information about treatment options. (Charlotte Cripps)

### SITCOMS IN DECLINE



Writers should not fear new sensitivities

**The Times** The death of the traditional sitcom would be no laughing matter. As with most formats of truly broad appeal, they are deceptively hard to do well. In the case of the greatest sitcoms, their lack of sophistication belied an ability to artfully channel themes in the national subconscious in a way that amused rather than alienated the viewer.

However tempting it may be to attribute the decline of sitcoms to a rise in political sensitivity on the part of audiences, or the dwindling market for mass family entertainment, the problem is partly one of supply rather than demand.

Writers should be unafraid of courting the broad appeal of sitcom. If they take the risk, they may have the last laugh. (Editorial)

### 'ROMEO AND JULIET'



Hard to know what the point of it all is

**The Stage** We expect the unexpected from a Jamie Lloyd production, and true to form, the director's take on Shakespeare's tragedy of doomed teenage love disrupts and repossesses the familiar story.

Some of the techniques that Lloyd employed in his recent, stunning staging of *Sunset Boulevard* are here: there's a starry lead performance, in this case from *Spider-Man's* Tom Holland as Romeo; a dark, stark aesthetic; and extensive use of live video.

This time, though, the intention is sometimes unclear, and while at its best it heightens the rush of hormonal emotion that drives the drama, elsewhere it has a distancing effect. Still, it's certainly never boring. (Sam Marlow)

### QUOTE OF THE DAY



Age becomes part of the yawning abyss that is beside us all

**Jane Asher**  
At 78, the actress thinks about her mortality more and more

## Life In Brief

### GU DRUN URE 'SUPER GRAN' ACTRESS

Gudrun Ure, the Scottish actress best known for her portrayal of Super Gran, has died. She was 98.

Ure was the titular Super Gran – a woman with superpowers – in the children's fantasy series based on the books by Forrest Wilson. It was broadcast on ITV from 1985 to 1987; only 27 episodes were made but it had broad and long-lasting appeal. It was exported to 60 countries and won an International Emmy in 1985, as well as becoming a huge hit in China.

Her character, Granny Smith, was always dressed in a tartan skirt and a comically large Tam O'Shanter. After being struck by a stray beam from a magic-ray machine, Granny Smith gained superpowers which she used to protect the residents of Chisleton from various villains including arch-enemy Scunner Campbell, played by Iain Cuthbertson.

She loved being in the show, which was filmed in and around Whitley Bay and Tynemouth in North Tyneside, and said in a 1987 interview: "Once I put on that Tam O'Shanter the magic starts to work"

Remarkably, the diminutive Ure performed many of her own stunts, some involving her character's flying contraption, the "Flycycle". Once she was five feet off the ground, she said, the rest was easy: "It doesn't matter if you are 100 or 150 feet up... you are going to break your neck anyway."

Billy Connolly was one of the many celebrities who made guest appearances on the show, playing an eccentric, bagpipe-playing millionaire who fell in love with Super Gran. He also wrote and performed the theme tune, which ended with the line: "Is there nothing that she cannae do?"

Ure's acting career began in her

teens when she performed on BBC Radio Scotland's *Children's Hour*, but after leaving school she trained to be a teacher before joining Glasgow's Citizens Theatre, and later Perth Rep and Bristol Old Vic.

Her first major acting role was starring as Desdemona opposite Orson Welles in his 1951 stage production of *Othello* in London's West End. She also appeared in his 1953 film noir *36 Hours* under the name Ann Gudrun – due, it was said, to the director's inability to pronounce her surname correctly.

"He drank a bottle of brandy a day, he had a massage in between shows and he drank champagne during the intervals," Ure said of Welles. "When he came on stage he would click his fingers at you and talk at you. He was very frightening."

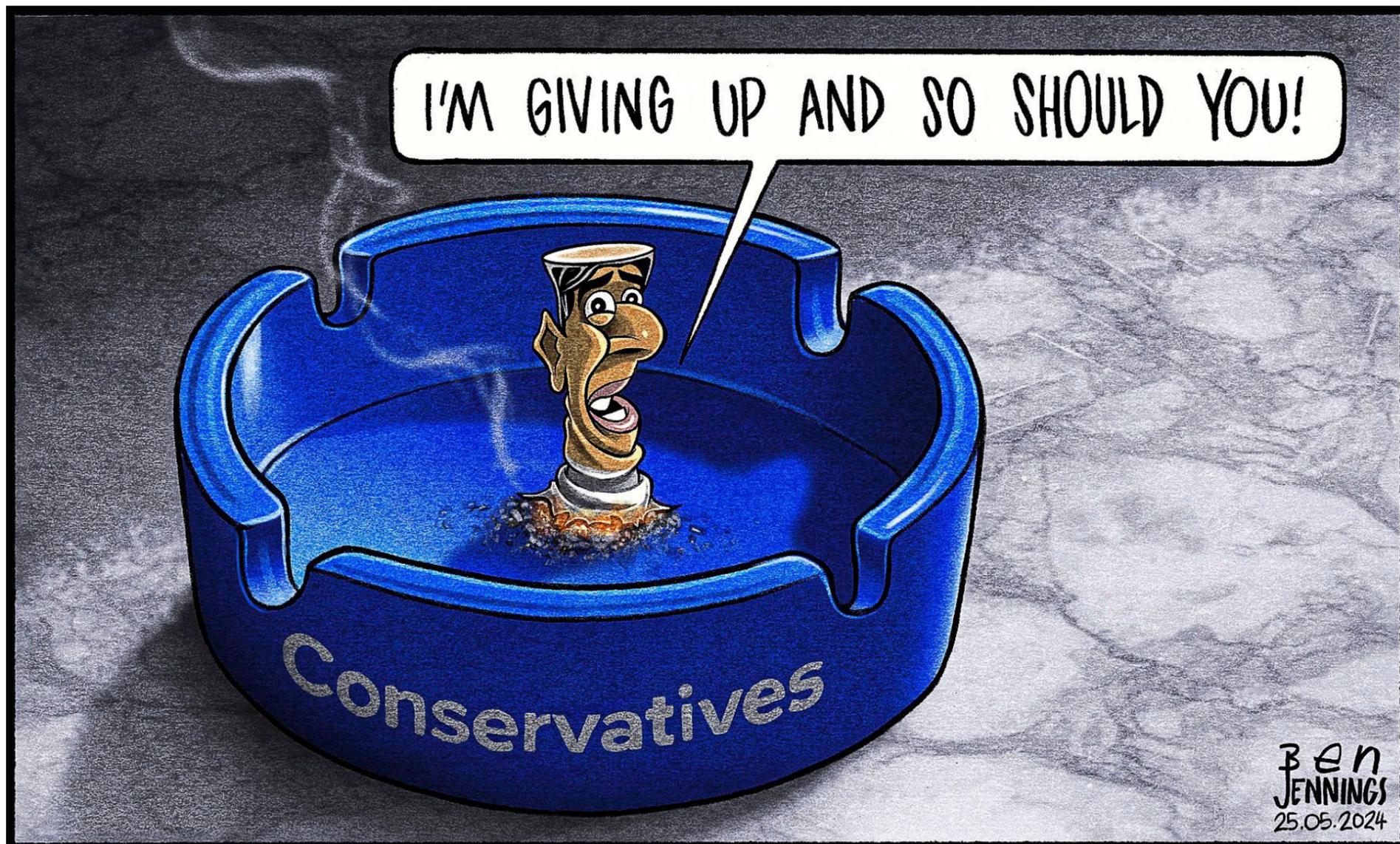
Ure continued to work until 2010,



and appeared in dozens of radio and television roles, including *The Crow Road*, *Midsomer Murders* and *Casualty*.

Gudrun Henderson Ure was born in Milton of Campsie, Stirlingshire, the eldest of three children of Allan Forbes Ure, an iron founder, and his wife Lily. In 1964 she married garage owner John Ramsay, who predeceased her. She is survived by her stepson.

**Born** 12 March 1926  
**Died** 14 May 2024  
**Veronica Lee**



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## Starmmer beware: caution not a risk-free plan

### My View

Isabel  
Hardman



Unless something goes really wrong, Keir Starmer will be the prime minister in just a few weeks. Labour is miles ahead of the Conservatives in the polls, and despite choosing to go early, Rishi Sunak's party is expressing the same levels of happiness about having an election as most people radiate at a funeral.

The first couple of days have manifestly been better – and drier – for Labour. But does Starmer actually look prime ministerial yet? In his broadcast interviews yesterday, he sounded oddly lacking in confidence and low on energy.

He spent a lot of time saying “um” and “er”, and struggling to explain why he had dropped many of the pledges he had made during the Labour leadership contest, and why “priorities” like Lords reform had been pushed back.

Given the public are only just now

starting to pay any attention to politics and who to vote for, Starmer does not want the first impression that many voters have of him to be of a man squirming as he struggles to answer questions on why he dropped promises he made to get elected.

It is the image that the Conservatives want to project: they have long picked up from focus groups that voters either think Starmer stands for nothing or he will say one thing and then do the opposite. It is going to be one of Sunak's key attack lines in this campaign.

There are real answers to the questions about U-turns: it's just that they won't go down well with voters.

The first is that to get elected in a Corbynite Labour Party, Starmer had to sound more left-wing than he was, and he ruthlessly masqueraded as being more palatable to the Corbynites to get elected so that he could chuck them all out. Most people who want Labour to be a party of government rather than a think-tank accept that, but it still doesn't look good or make much sense to voters.

The second is that Starmer – like Sunak, for that matter – has had to work out what he thinks about a lot of things on the job because he has not spent years in politics as most party leaders have done. “I'd not really thought it through” is not a good answer, even if you have eventually ended up in a

more considered place. The idea that Lords reform was the thing to expend your political capital on rather than, say, social care, is absurd. Incidentally, Starmer still hasn't committed to full-scale reform of social care, but perhaps that will be something he changes his mind on in time for the manifesto.

Senior figures want him to be more confident in interviews. “He shouldn't hold back from batting away damn fool questions from daft interviewers,” says one, arguing that Starmer shouldn't have politely entertained the questions about dropping his tuition fee pledge, for instance, and should instead have been much more forceful in pointing out that to abolish tuition fees now would force the collapse of the higher education sector.

Starmer's allies point out that given Sunak's election announcement was basically a re-enactment of the shower scene from *Psycho*, Starmer doesn't have to do that much work to be better than the Tory leader. But it isn't so much about polish (or even just the ability to hold an umbrella or turn up for a launch wearing some kind of centrist dad cagoule) as it is about confidence and conviction.

One of the things holding Starmer back is his instinctive caution. The opener to this column “unless something goes really wrong” is probably also

the phrase echoing in the Labour leader's mind the most. He has spent years warning his front bench against complacency, with regular presentations to the Shadow Cabinet on how big the swing is that Labour needs to win, and how easily it could fall short during an election campaign.

Some of his colleagues have likened his approach to the way Tony Blair campaigned like “a man carrying a priceless Ming vase across a highly polished floor”. His chief strategist Morgan McSweeney is concerned that big bold election promises could end up falling apart in the campaign and becoming the story, rather than Labour continuing to promise change and competence in contrast to a Tory meltdown. The problem with being too cautious, though, is that like a cricketer who is nervous about messing up their first appearance for England, you can end up barely scoring any runs at all.

Caution is not a risk-free strategy. This election is Labour's to lose, and the question in many heads around Starmer is “How might we mess this up?” The answer might end up being by worrying too much and saying too little.

Isabel Hardman is assistant editor of *The Spectator* magazine

[@IsabelHardman](https://twitter.com/IsabelHardman)

**The idea  
Lords reform  
was the thing  
to expend  
your capital  
on rather  
than social  
care is absurd**

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## Your View

Tweets, emails and letters to: The Editor, **i**, 9 Derry Street, London W8 5HY

### The world is not more dangerous

I agreed with much of Julie Cook's article ("Pay children to help and get them off the sofa," Opinion, 24 May), however my view and hers diverge greatly when she asserts that the world today is too dangerous to allow children to venture out alone.

While there is certainly more traffic

today than there was when my generation (so-called baby boomers) were allowed to play outside all day, I do not see the world today as more dangerous.

It is important that as children grow, they should be encouraged to, little by little, go into the world alone and learn to cope with day-to-day life. Surely that is what helps to build confidence, resilience and the ability

to thrive in the world.  
**ELIZABETH WILSON**  
PENWORTHAM,  
LANCASHIRE

### Dental care an election issue

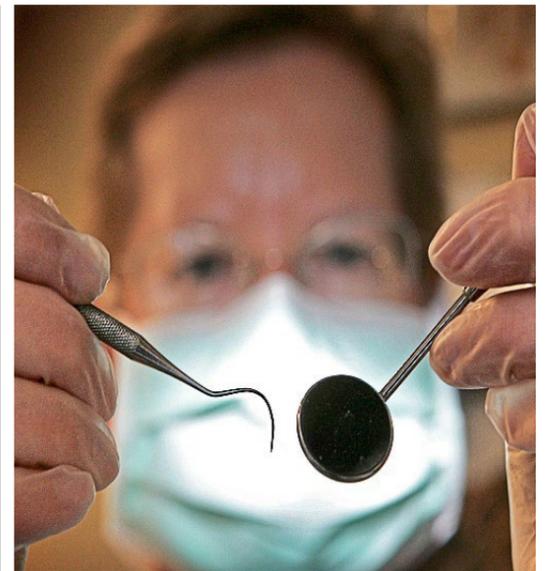
With reference to the editor's letter on Thursday regarding "any questions" about the general election, I have one that should be put to all of the party leaders: "What are you going to

do about the dire state of NHS dental care?"

It is now impossible for people to find any NHS dentists and those who do usually have to travel miles. I have read of people pulling their own teeth, sometimes resulting in infection.

The Government has promised to address the issue and we have heard about mobile NHS dental units. This will not solve the problem. It should be a main election issue.

**TIM SIMMONITE**  
STREET, SOMERSET



One **i** reader's vote could depend on how each political party tackles the 'dire state' of NHS dental care GETTY

### Residents need right to vote

While I do not begrudge Britons living overseas having a vote in the general election, I am angry that my Italian son-in-law, who has lived, worked and paid tax in the UK for over 20 years, is still denied that right.

**ANNE WATSON**  
MELROSE,  
SCOTTISH BORDERS

### Getting your fill of fairness

So we're getting short measures ("Customers have had their fill of short measures," **i**, 24 May). For us beer drinkers there is an easy solution: get rid of pints that measure to the rim and introduce oversized glasses with a pint line.

**GEOFF WHITE**  
NEATH,  
WEST GLAMORGAN

### Help politicians boost economy

I have a plan to boost

the economy before the general election: every time an MP says "well, look", "robust", or "deliver" in an interview, they should put a fiver in a box to be sent to the Treasury. They'll be quids in.

**GILL LOVATT**  
BIRMINGHAM

### 'Rishi in the rain' was for real

Rishi Sunak and the Tories are not my favourite people. But I can't share the feeling some journalists report, that "Rishi in the rain" was a disaster as an election announcement.

Why not? Because, unlike the carefully manicured, airbrushed presentations we are becoming used to from all parties in this digital age, Rishi in the rain was real. The rain was real. The fact that his suit was

getting wetter and wetter was real. So was the noise from the protest music.

It was real life – and I for one think it was the better for it.

**REV SUE HOPE**  
DURHAM

Watching Sunak dripping in Downing Street, I couldn't help wondering what that multimillion-pound indoor press room was actually for.

**STEVE CALLAGHAN**  
DUNFERMLINE, FIFE

I think if I was trying to persuade the country that I was the most sensible person to run the country, whilst standing in the pouring rain, I would have taken the precaution of wearing a raincoat or carry an umbrella.

**STUART ACKLAND**  
MILTON KEYNES,  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



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### iQuiz answers (from p2)

1. Ian Smith (Harold Bishop)
2. Copenhagen
3. 30
4. Buster Keaton
5. Gorge du Verdon
6. Raven
7. National Basketball Association (NBA)
8. Cross Fell in the Northern Pennines
9. The English elm
10. Western swing

**i**  
IN MONDAY'S



ARTS

**Cut to the quick...**

No time to read? Anna Bonet comes up with the perfect fix – 15 of the best short books

CHARLENE WHITE

# School marks the end of an era – and I'm already grieving



I've been experiencing a weird sort of parenting grief the past couple of weeks, one which hit me totally unexpectedly – my daughter Florence finally starts school in September. I say finally because she has the attitude of a 16-year-old in a four-year-old's body.

Until recently, my mind has been busy counting down to the day I am no longer paying nursery fees, after shelling out huge sums every month for the past six years. The joy of knowing we will have a bit of breathing room in our finances without a bill the size of a second mortgage is the most amazing feeling.

But last week, the realisation of what Florence heading off to school actually means for me hit me like a juggernaut, and I've been in a bit of an emotional spiral ever since.

I have been fortunate enough to have at least one weekday off to be with the kids ever since I returned to work after having my son Alfie almost seven years ago. We have always made good use of that time by going on lots of exciting adventures together, making new friends and hanging out with old ones, travelling to see family, screaming on rollercoasters in adventure parks, watching movies, baking and cooking together – the list of activities is endless.

Then, two weeks ago, an email arrived in my inbox detailing Florence's settling in plan for school. As I read through the



**I'm sitting writing this in a coffee shop... trying really hard not to break down in tears**

various dates while adding everything to my diary, a wave of sickness came over me. My heart just dropped.

The realisation that things were about to change hit me hard. For the past seven years, I've had one of my little besties by my side, one-on-one, at least one day a week. That is about to come to an end. As each week passes, we're getting closer to September and the door closing on that stage of my life. I'm struggling to find the words to describe just how painful that is for me.

In fact, I'm sitting writing this in a

coffee shop, having just finished the school and nursery drop-off, trying really hard not to break down in tears.

That's how hard and confusing this new chapter is to me. It's not as though I won't hang out every weekend with my children, but it has been incredibly special for me to spend one-on-one time with each of them, individually.

The first time round with Alfie was mostly me trying to find my feet as a working parent: balancing the late-night shifts in the office with the need to dig deep and find the energy to make those

**One-to-one time with children before they start school can be a precious part of parenting** GETTY

days off fun for him. It was also about learning to make and cultivate new friendships with other parents.

The second time round with Florence was different, as things tend to be when you become a veteran in the parenting game, but equally as fun. During that time, both of us were developing friendships with other families who also have a parent off on a Wednesday. Those mornings together brought us both so much joy. It doesn't matter how heavy and busy work is, those Wednesdays were a moment to pause and spend a day full of fun and laughter. As a parent, I love them with all my heart.

But everything has to come an end, I suppose, and as parents way deeper in the kid game tell me, there are plenty more stages that I'll find heartbreaking to close the door on as my children grow up. It's the part of parenting nothing can prepare you for. You spend so long worrying about the getting pregnant bit, and the taking them home and keeping them alive bit, that it's easy to forget that there are more moments to come that will squeeze at your heart, and that those moments will keep coming for the rest of your life.

I know I'm not having any more kids because of my age, and I'm guessing my reaction to Florence heading off to school is me coming to terms with the fact that the small child stage of my life really is over. As much as the little children stole my sleep, sent me slightly mad, and at times made me feel like I'd never make it out, I'll miss having a little person by my side during the week.

Charlene White is a presenter for ITV News and 'Loose Women'

[@CharleneWhite](#)



## A good friendship won't break when you need to take a break

**Emma Gannon**



I used to think friendship meant being in each other's pockets the whole time, constantly checking in, knowing all the little corners of your life. But some of my friendships have faded slightly because, just like with any relationship, sometimes you need a break from each other in order to save it.

Last year, I went away with an old friend. We tried to recreate a trip we'd done five years prior, staying in a lovely little cabin with deer

munching on grass outside the door, with cups of tea in bed and a log fire burning. We were excited to arrive, having done an indulgent food shop full of different cheeses, chocolate, bread and pastries, ready to nestle down and enjoy some time together.

Except this time the energy felt different. We were both a bit stressed with life, she had personal things going on that she didn't want to disclose and I was going through my own transitions.

We felt a bit snappy with each other, the type of squabbling sisters do. We weren't in the right place to just relax with each other and the weekend ended up feeling tense. After we got back home, we both felt relieved, and our WhatsApp chat grew quieter. I broached it with

her a few weeks later, saying that I needed a bit of space. She agreed, saying she also needed to take a step back from socialising, needed more down-time.

We made a little joke about it too – there was no hard feelings. It wasn't the end. We just didn't have the same amount of bandwidth for each other at that moment. We both knew we weren't going anywhere; it didn't feel like a break-up, it just felt



**Sometimes we need to leave each other alone for a bit... and send love from afar**

like we were saying "see you on the other side".

This was a few months ago now, and we are still peppering each other with messages here and there. If anything, it takes the pressure off from both sides and lets the friendship breathe and even take on a new form. I think friendships in your thirties and forties only last if you have high hopes and low expectations and let each other have the space you need.

My friendships have certainly changed shape in my thirties. I am no longer necessarily super-close to my old school or university friends, even though we have a lot of love for each other. The people I spend most of my time with are people with whom I have more in common

day-to-day. It doesn't feel like a break-up, just a break.

I'm sure in our forties, when things have quietened down, when work is less stressful and children have grown up a bit, we'll be back to feeling physically closer again. It's just how things work.

Sometimes, we just need to leave each other alone for a bit, give each other room to grow, know we are always on the other end of the phone in case of emergencies and continue sending love from afar.

'A Year of Nothing', a two-book special by Emma Gannon, is out on limited release until 4 June through the Pound Project for £12.99

[@emmagannon](#)

**PATRICK COCKBURN**

# Politics is littered with gaffes like Sunak's snap shower



**H**ow do you tell the difference between Rishi Sunak and Inspector Clouseau in a rainstorm? Clouseau is the one in the raincoat and hat.

Sunak's premiership is criticised as divisive, but by getting drenched while announcing the general election he gave almost universal satisfaction, as most people enjoy seeing a public figure make a fool of themselves.

There was also something absurdly contradictory about Sunak, lauding his own good sense and competence in stabilising the country at the exact moment that he was most likely capsizing his party and his career.

Always a political weathervane, its direction determined by short-term tactical advantage, Sunak is criticised by commentators for being "not very good at politics".

This may be true, but his record is rather of a man with poor and wavering judgement about everything from the "Eat Out to Help Out" scheme in 2020 to giving priority to the deportation of asylum seekers to Rwanda, magically declared safe by an Act of Parliament contrary to the unanimous view of the Supreme Court.

Overall, it is difficult to take seriously a man like Sunak who believed that Brexit would be good for the British economy and imagines that people who have trekked from the Hindu Kush mountains or crossed the Sahara will be deterred from crossing the Channel by a minuscule chance of being put on a plane to Kigali.

I have always been intrigued as to why politicians, who devote such efforts to gaining power, should then cavalierly commit crass blunders that throw it all away? At the top end of the scale, these unforced errors cause terrible misery for millions of people.

Why did Saddam Hussein, who was no fool, launch predictably disastrous invasions of Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990? Why did Vladimir Putin send the Russian army into Ukraine in 2022 under the ludicrous impression that it would face no resistance?

The best explanation here is that dictators come to believe that they possess semi-divine powers of judgement and only tolerate advisers who are courtiers and sycophants.

"If you are in the Iraqi leadership, the only safe course is to be 10 per cent tougher than the boss," a Soviet diplomat, who knew the set-up well, once explained to me.

Saddam Hussein and Putin made mistakes on a gargantuan scale, but many other political leaders have an inner Clouseau struggling to get out. Sunak is scarcely alone in this. When Senator Joe Biden first aspired to enter the White House during the 1988 presidential election, his candidacy self-



**A drenched Rishi Sunak heads inside No 10 after calling a snap election on Wednesday** PETER NICHOLLS/GETTY

deconstructed abruptly when he was caught plagiarising a speech by the then UK Labour leader Neil Kinnock.

Twenty years passed and Biden once again became a candidate for the presidency, his main Democratic rival being Barack Obama. On the first day of his campaign, Biden described Obama as "the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and clean and nice-looking" to run for the presidency. This bit of patronising racial condescension went down so badly with voters of any colour that Biden's presidential hopes were blasted. Portents about Biden's poor judgement should be better remembered.

Hubris has doomed other political careers just as they were taking off, something to which US senators are especially prone. Gary Hart was leading the race to be Democratic presidential candidate in 1988 when he sought to rebut a rumour that he was having an extra-marital affair. "Follow me round," he challenged the press. "I don't care. I'm serious. If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead. They'll be very bored."

Reporters did just that and were not bored since they swiftly discovered that Hart appeared to be having an

ill-concealed affair with a campaign worker and model/actress called Donna Rice. Denounced for lying about it, Hart saw his candidacy quickly expire.

If Sunak appears curiously unprepared when answering inevitable questions as to why he is calling the election early, it may simply be that, like many vastly rich and powerful people, he is distanced from the real world. For all his glibness and frantic energy, he looks a bit baffled by it all.

His failure to explain why he is calling an election reminds me of Senator Ted Kennedy, brother of JFK and born into a life of privilege and wealth, who might have been the Democratic candidate for the presidency in 1980, had he not botched an obvious question in an interview. Asked on live television why he wanted to be president he waffled for two embarrassing minutes, unable to think of a convincing answer.

Some blunders are survivable and others are not for reasons that may appear arbitrary but have a rationale. The public are tough on hypocrites, often even more so than they are on proven liars. Boris Johnson's alleged mendacity was legendary, but it was Partygate that brought him down. To

the dismay of their critics, Bill Clinton and Donald Trump have been able to get away with philandering because it came as no surprise to voters.

Acting in radically different ways from their perceived public character may be a lesser evil than hypocrisy, but is often severely punished by voters. When Gordon Brown became prime minister in 2007, he was seen as determined and reliable. But his equivocation over calling an election did lasting damage to his reputation for stolidity.

In the famous jibe of acting Lib Dem leader Vince Cable, Brown had transformed remarkably "in the past few weeks - from Stalin to Mr Bean".

I am not sure the Tory election team quite understand that for verbal darts like Cable's to really penetrate, they must not stray too far from the truth.

I doubt if attacks on Sir Keir Starmer as a power-hungry leader with a hidden agenda who is at the same time a stick-in-the-mud with no ideas and no plan will really strike home. Such attacks have the downside of perhaps portraying Starmer as a more exciting character than he really is.

Many gaffes, though probably not the most important, are wished on politicians by overactive aides who dream up some cunning plot or gimmick to boost their boss. They fail to understand that a ploy, if it goes well, will do their candidate only limited good, but if it goes badly, he or she will receive a damaging amount of mud in the face.

A textbook example of this kind of boob was the "staged" question asked of Sunak this week by a Tory councillor posing as a worker in a warehouse.

People generally have a fairly acute instinct as to what blunders and gaffes are a true symptom of phoniness and incompetence.

Sunak ceaselessly speaks of his great plan, but people may suspect that a leader who does not put on a raincoat in stormy weather is not one to be trusted any longer with the future of the nation.

**For all his glibness and frantic energy, he looks a bit baffled by it all**

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Tom Holland (Romeo) and Francesca Amewudah-Rivers (Juliet) MARC BRENNER

## First Night

# Wherefore art thou speaking to a mic stand, Spider-Man?

## Romeo and Juliet

DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE, LONDON  
★★★★★

Spider-Man does Shakespeare: this is the sizzling hot ticket of this year's West End. Tom Holland, known to millions for his big-screen exploits in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, created a box-office stampede when it was announced that he would be appearing as one half of the star-cross'd lovers, with tickets going for upwards of £275. Yet I suspect that only the most ardent Holland fans are going to consider that money well spent; everyone else would be sensible to sit this one out.

This radically stripped-back production is directed by auteur-director Jamie Lloyd, who enjoyed a huge hit last year with his Nicole Scherzinger-starring *Sunset Boulevard*. Much of the aesthetic for that is replayed here, to markedly diminishing returns: the black costumes, bare playing space and omnipresence of on-stage videographers to film the action, which is relayed on a giant screen.

Once more, there is abundant use of the theatre's backstage and outside spaces – but what seemed exciting for *Sunset* loses lustre when repeated so soon and so similarly.

Our first sighting of Holland is a filmed one, in a backstage corridor: we glimpse the back of Romeo's head, black hoodie up, cigarette smoke trailing.

"1597" is projected at the start and heavy black letters announcing "Verona" loom high, yet the production gives us no establishing sense of time or place, and even less of a city riven by an "ancient grudge" between its two pre-eminent families.

A peculiar mode of speaking pervades the cast: softened, dulled and deadpan, the delivery bleaches the lines of too much of their sense and sentiment.

Francesca Amewudah-Rivers is a radiant Juliet with a luminous stage presence, whose performance single-handedly elevates the entire show; no wonder Romeo is shaken from his self-indulgent solipsism and Holland comes vividly and convincingly alive to display the rawness of fresh emotion.

When the pair meet at the Capulets' ball (another mighty peculiar decision of Lloyd's, especially for a play not over-endowed with women, is to do away with Lady C altogether), erotic and romantic tension crackles instantly between them.

It is a terrifically convincing portrayal of love – and lust – at first sight, a feeling that carries over into the pulsing passion of the balcony scene. Not, of course, that there is any hint of a balcony; instead, the pair sit side by side at the front of the stage and speak into the ether. Holland handles this moment of quiet intimacy, his finest in the play, with delicacy.

It all goes downhill after this, and not just from a plot perspective. The use of cameras and microphone stands prevails, to the detriment of the sense of the text: even the most intense dialogue is conducted without the two actors looking at each other.

Come the denouement in the Capulet family monument, the strange speaking style, portentous soundscape and lack of eye contact left me feeling increasingly soporific – which really isn't the ideal emotion for the climax of this mighty drama.

Fiona Mountford

## AUCTION

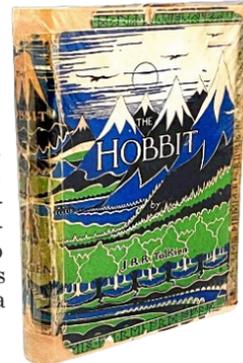
## First edition 'Hobbit' triples estimate to sell for £31,200

By Ed Chatterton

A rare first edition copy of JRR Tolkien's *The Hobbit* has tripled its estimate at auction to sell for more than £31,000 after being found gathering dust in a drawer.

The copy was one of 1,500 first edition, first impressions published on 21 September 1937.

The fantasy novel – which includes black and white illustrations by Tolkien himself – was found in a chest of drawers at a house in Berkshire. Its owner had no idea of its value or rarity as she had inherited it from a family member.



The book, which follows the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, was expected to fetch between £7,000 to £10,000 when it went under the hammer yesterday.

But it sold for £31,200 at Cotswold-based Kinghams Auctioneers, in Moreton-in-Marsh.

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## FOCUS

# How to stop your fears from casting a shadow over your life

Fear of what might happen regularly gets the better of three-fifths of adults. But there are ways to dampen its effects and strengthen your resolve. **Joanna Whitehead** reports

There has been a lot to be fearful about in the world over the past few years. A global pandemic, international warfare, eco-anxiety and a cost of living crisis have led to record numbers of people reporting feelings of anxiety and fear. A 2023 report by the Mental Health Foundation found that 60 per cent of UK adults had experienced anxiety that interfered with their daily lives in the previous two weeks.

Feelings of fear don't always exist on such a macro scale, either. The fear of the unknown – be it the decision to leave a job or relationship, initiating a difficult conversation with a loved one or jumping back in to the dating pool – can immobilise us and prevent us from having new experiences.

Kristen Ulmer, a former mogul specialist on the US ski team, was known for being the world's best female big-mountain extreme skier. With an intimate understanding of fear, she spent 15 years studying Zen and is now a fear and anxiety expert who challenges norms around this emotion.

"Most people think fear means 'scared' or 'afraid', which are adjectives," she tells *i*. "But fear is more of a noun – a thing – that flows through our bodies, that feels uncomfortable, and inspires intuitive fight, flight or freeze action, all without thought.

"A common misapprehension about fear is that it's a bad thing. It's not. I see it only as a good thing. So long as we know how to be in flow with it – feel it, have intimacy with it – it's one of the best parts of life," she says.

"One of the most important things I wish people knew about fear is that it doesn't hold anyone back from doing anything. It is our unwillingness to feel it that holds us back.

"What feels so bad – the feeling that we hate – isn't fear itself. The thing that feels so bad is our resistance to feeling fear. That's what people feel when they have anxiety or an anxiety disorder."

A hypnotherapist and a life coach offer their tips on harnessing this tricky emotion...

## Identify the root cause of your fear

"The first step to consider in conquering fear is to identify what you are really afraid of. Take some time to reflect on your thoughts and emotions and be honest with yourself about what's really holding you back. While it might be our initial instinct – and more comfortable – to stay as far away from it as possible, if the fear remains a big, overwhelming emotion, it can take oversized and unnecessary proportions. But if you

break down the fear and explore what's really behind it – see it, say it and name it – you can decrease its power, allow yourself to start challenging it and come up with strategies to overcome it." *Cecile Hemery, Life Coach Directory member*

## Challenge limiting beliefs

"Fear often stems from limiting beliefs that we have internalised over time, such as 'I'm not good enough', 'I'll never succeed', or 'I don't deserve happiness'. These beliefs can hold us back and



Talking through your worries with a family member can offer a fresh perspective GETTY

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prevent us from pursuing our goals and dreams. To conquer fear, it is essential to challenge these limiting beliefs and replace them with more empowering ones. Ask yourself what proof you have that they are true, or if they are based on assumptions or past experiences. By consciously choosing to adopt more positive and kind beliefs, you can shift your mindset and build the courage to face your fears." *Cecile Hemery*

#### Let go of perfection

"Letting go of perfection is a powerful antidote to the paralysing grip of fear. When we strive for perfection, we set impossibly high standards, fuelling a cycle of anxiety and self-doubt. This relentless pursuit of flawlessness often leaves us feeling trapped in a state of paralysis – a phenomenon known as 'freeze' in the context of the fight-flight-freeze response.

"To break free from this suffocating grip, it is essential to embrace imperfection as a natural and inevitable part of the human experience. Instead of striving for flawless outcomes, focus on progress over perfection.

"Celebrate your efforts and achievements no matter how small, recognising that growth often arises from mistakes and set-backs.

"Remember how many failures some of the world's most celebrated people had before they were successful. As an inventor, Edison made 1,000

unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. Any action you take will ultimately take you where you want to go. The only way that you can fail is if you give up." *Soraya Mansour, Hypnotherapy Directory member*

#### Remind yourself of a time when you faced and overcame a fear

"Take a moment to recall a time when you felt fearful and convinced that you were unable to overcome a situation that felt too scary, risky or impossible. Remember those anxieties – and focus on the fact that you faced those fears and came out the other side stronger and wiser. Hold on to that feeling.

"What enabled you to face your fear? And what can you take from that experience to support you in what you are facing today? And just because something bad happened in the past, it doesn't mean it will happen again. Chances are you learned from it and the circumstances are different. Don't let negative past experiences paralyse you." *Cecile Hemery*

#### Don't catastrophise

"When under the influence of fear, it is easy to catastrophise: 'What if I ask for this promotion and they say no, and I lose my job, my spouse and my home? What if I can't support my kids and I end up on the street?' It might sound over the top, but my clients frequently reveal that they believe such extreme



outcomes are a possibility. In this instance, we explore the likelihood of their worst-case scenario and consider what other scenarios might exist. Fear tends to focus on the most extreme scenarios while, in reality, these are often not the most likely." *Cecile Hemery*

#### Focus on your strengths

"When you are facing fear, it is easy to focus on your weaknesses and

Treat yourself with compassion if ever you fall short of your expectations  
GETTY



**It is OK to be vulnerable. It is OK to be afraid. It is OK to not know everything, to not have it all figured out**

shortcomings. However, it is essential to balance that perspective by acknowledging your strengths and accomplishments. Take some time to reflect on the challenges you have overcome, the skills you have developed, and the qualities that make you unique and valuable. By acknowledging and appreciating your strengths, you can build the confidence and resilience needed to conquer your fears. It is easier to do more of what you are good at." *Cecile Hemery*

#### Reframe your fear

"Consider the sensation of butterflies fluttering in your stomach before embarking on something new. Rather than interpreting it as a sign of weakness or trepidation, reframe it as a surge of adrenaline – an exhilarating rush of anticipation.

"This shift in perspective aligns with the experiences of musicians who describe a similar sensation before stepping on to the stage. For them, that fluttering sensation isn't fear; it's excitement, the fuel that ignites their creativity and performance.

"Embracing this reframing empowers us to confront our fears head-on, transforming them from barriers into opportunities for growth and self-discovery. It is a subtle yet profound shift in mindset and one that emboldens us to step outside our comfort zones." *Soraya Mansour*

#### Practise self-compassion

"Fear can be harsh and unforgiving, often accompanied by self-criticism and negative self-talk. To conquer fear, it is essential to treat yourself with kindness and understanding. When you stumble or fall short of your expectations, remind yourself that you are human, and that everyone makes mistakes. By extending the same compassion to yourself that you would to a beloved friend, you can build resilience and maintain a positive mindset in the face of fear." *Cecile Hemery*

#### Talk about it

"You don't have to face and overcome your fears all on your own. Whether it is a trusted friend, a family member, a mentor or a professional, there are people around you who can offer you guidance, encouragement and a fresh perspective. Talking about it out loud with someone else will help you to verbalise what remains hidden from your view in your thoughts. Talking about with another person can also help you to explore other angles from which to look at a situation. Asking for help, asking for support or simply sharing is an act of strength and wisdom." *Cecile Hemery*

#### Accept your vulnerability

"It is OK to be vulnerable. It is OK to be afraid. It is to not know everything, to not have it all figured out. Embrace those feelings – they are what make you strong. It is when you acknowledge all of these feelings that you can be seen and heard, and create authentic opportunities. Vulnerability is what enables courage, authenticity and connection." *Cecile Hemery*

## SINGAPORE

## Change to seat belt rules after turbulence death

By Lisa Barrington

Singapore Airlines has changed its in-flight seat belt rules and altered at least one flight route after a man died during a turbulence incident this week which also left dozens critically injured, according to the airline and flight data.

The airline is adopting a more cautious approach to turbulence, including not serving hot drinks or

meals when the seat belt sign is on, it said in a statement to Singapore broadcaster Channel News Asia.

"SIA will continue to review our processes, as the safety of our passengers and crew is of utmost importance," it said.

The SQ321 London-Singapore flight on a Boeing 777-300ER plane carrying 211 passengers and 18 crew diverted to Bangkok for an emergency landing on Tuesday

after the plane was buffeted by turbulence that flung passengers and crew around the cabin, slamming some into the ceiling.

Singapore investigators have started examining data obtained from the cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder.

The daily London to Singapore route SQ321 has completed two flights since the incident using a slightly altered route. REUTERS



Kodi has the lead role in 'Le Proces du Chien' SARAH MEYSSONNIER/REUTERS

## FRANCE

## Kodi named top canine at Cannes

By Louise Dixon

The verdict is in: the canine defendant in *Dog on Trial* has been declared this year's Palm Dog winner in Cannes.

Kodi the griffon mix, who plays Cosmos in the Swiss comedy-drama, *Le Proces du Chien*, narrowly beat Xin, a sighthound who instead wagged away with the Grand Jury Prize for the Chinese drama *Black Dog*.

The Palm Dog awards are not

officially a part of the Cannes Film Festival, but do honour the canines who appear in the festival's films.

Perhaps reflecting the growth of the contest's popularity, both dogs were in Cannes to pick up their prizes - in this case dog collars.

Historically, many honoured hounds have not attended: Last year's winner, Messi, was awarded in absentia for his role as Snoop in *Anatomy of a Fall*.

## UNITED STATES

## Lawyers argue over Hunter Biden's laptop

By Claudia Lauer and Lindsay Whitehurst

Hunter Biden was due to appear in court yesterday for the final hearing before he is expected to stand trial on federal firearms charges in Delaware as his father's re-election campaign unfolds.

President Joe Biden's son (*inset*) is charged with lying about his drug use in October 2018 on a form to buy a gun that he kept for about 11 days in Delaware.

Hunter Biden has acknowledged an addiction to crack cocaine during that period, but his lawyers have said he did not break the law and the case is politically motivated.

The two sides have been arguing in court documents about evidence in the case, including contents from

a laptop that he allegedly dropped off at a Delaware repair shop.

Defence attorneys question the authenticity of the laptop's data in court documents, but prosecutors say there is no evidence the data have been compromised and that a drawn-out fight over it at trial would be a waste of time.

The laptop has been the source of controversy for years.

Prosecutors also plan to show jurors portions of his 2021 memoir *Beautiful Things*, in which he detailed his struggle with alcoholism and drug abuse following the 2015 death of his older brother, Beau, who succumbed to brain cancer aged 46.

Defence attorneys say prosecutors are cherry-picking evidence from the book and have pushed to have the cases dismissed. AP



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Share Price						
NAV	2.1	4.7	60.7	111.8	286.5	997.6
FTSE All-Share Index	3.9	0.6	25.2	27.7	63.0	227.1

Discrete performance (%)	29/02/24	28/02/23	28/02/22	28/02/21	29/02/20
Annual Total Return					
Share Price	13.4	(1.6)	25.5	31.1	(2.8)
NAV	4.7	11.1	38.1	17.5	12.2
FTSE All-Share Index	0.6	7.3	16.0	3.5	(1.4)

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## SPAIN

# Overcrowding may have caused bar collapse

By Brendan McFadden  
and Christian Oliver

Spain's national police force gave details yesterday about four people killed when a building housing a bar and restaurant collapsed near a beach on the island of Mallorca.

Two German women, aged 20 and 30, died, along with a 33-year-old Spanish woman and a 44-year-old Senegalese man. The Spanish woman worked in the club in the town of Palma de Mallorca.

Palma de Mallorca mayor Jaime Martínez and chief of Palma de Mallorca's fire department Eder García told reporters that excess weight on a first-floor terrace may have caused the roof to collapse around 8.30pm on Thursday. The area was packed with tourists at the time.

Mr García said "everything points to a combination of an outdated structure and overweight".

Earlier yesterday, a search was carried out in an effort to find anyone trapped beneath the rubble.

Firefighters, police and psychologists were at the scene sifting through debris in the popular tourist resort and asked for silence around the area to listen for survivors.

The Senegalese man was reportedly a resident on the island who



Firefighters in Mallorca search for survivors yesterday after a building collapsed, killing four people JAIME REINA/AFP

worked as a nightclub doorman at another venue.

All the 16 reported injured were Dutch tourists, said the council spokesman for the Balearic island's capital city. Of the injured, seven people are said to be in a "very serious" condition, emergency services said. They are being treated at various local hospitals.

The UK Foreign Office confirmed it was "aware" of the incident on the Spanish island and said there were "currently no reports of British nationals having been involved".

A regional emergency response co-ordination centre spokesperson said: "We have activated an emergency response as a result of the collapse of the ceiling of a two-

storey building in Avenida Cartago in Playa de Palma, where people are trapped."

"I am closely following the consequences of the terrible collapse that occurred on the beach of Palma," Spain's Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, said on X/Twitter.

Mr Sanchez said he had spoken to local and regional authorities, add-

**i** Palma de Mallorca declared three days of mourning, and a minute of silence was observed yesterday.

ing the government is ready to help "with all the means and troops that are necessary".

Mr Martínez and his deputy mayor, Javier Bonet, arrived at the scene on Thursday night and were helping co-ordinate rescue efforts and provide support to families.

Spanish TV broadcast footage of firefighters clearing the area and paramedics carrying injured people.

Tourism authorities in Mallorca have tried to reassure tourists that the island is safe following the building collapse.

"We want to reaffirm that Playa de Palma remains a safe destination, and this incident does not reflect the usual safety and quality of our tourist services," a spokesperson for the island's Association of Bars and Restaurants, Restauración CAEB, told the *Mallorca Daily Bulletin*.

It also expressed "deepest sorrow" for the event, but said it could not comment further as the club where the incident occurred was not a member.

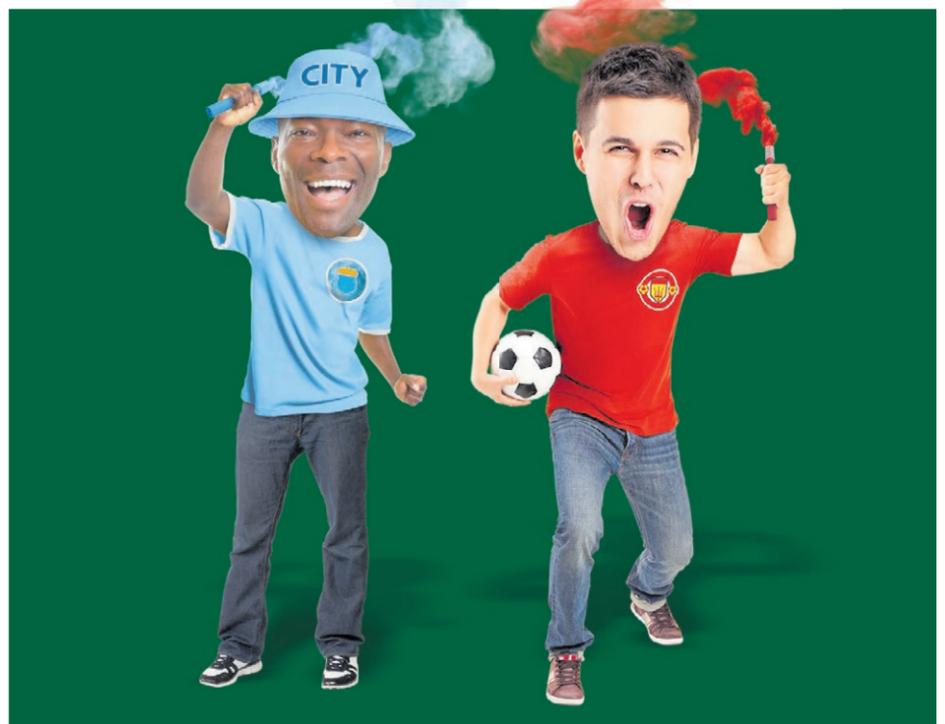
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# Panorama

Around the world in 10 stories



## THAILAND

### Town out to trick wild monkeys

A Thai town, run ragged by its ever-growing population of marauding wild monkeys, launched an offensive yesterday using trickery and ripe tropical fruit.

Several high-profile cases of monkey-human conflict recently convinced authorities in Lopburi in central Thailand that they had to reduce the animals' numbers.

Most will end up behind bars, before starting a new life elsewhere. The first stage is to bait cages with the animals' favourite food. AP

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### Early-hours landslide kills hundreds

By Lewis Jackson  
IN SYDNEY

Hundreds are feared dead after a massive landslide flattened dozens of homes and buried people alive in a remote village in northern Papua New Guinea, a resident said.

More than 50 homes, many

## NEW CALEDONIA

### Macron reform plans paused

Police removed around 100 roadblocks across New Caledonia yesterday after what authorities described as a "relatively calm" night following President Emmanuel Macron's visit to the French Pacific island after over a week of riots.

Around 3,000 police officers and gendarmes are present on the island, the French High Commission in New Caledonia said, adding that 350 people had been arrested so far.

Mr Macron paused plans for a contested electoral reform that had sparked the deadly riots, pledging to seek a wider political agreement on the island's future. REUTERS

with people still asleep inside, were buried when the landslide hit Kaokalam village around 3am yesterday, said villager Ninga Role.

The death toll was nearly 300, among them Mr Role's brother and cousin, he said.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation and other local media reported more than 100 people had been killed.

One man who turned back to try to save his two children was buried along with his family, Mr Role added. REUTERS

## Postcard From... Bulgaria

Bulgarian farmers were busy harvesting rose petals for their renowned oil this week, about a month earlier than the norm due to climate change that has ushered in warmer and more humid springs.

Bulgaria, an EU member country in the south-eastern Balkans, is one of the top global producers of fragrant rose oil that is also used in the cosmetics industry.

The best rose oil is produced in its central Rose Valley where, it is believed, the flowers have been cultivated as crops since the ancient kingdom of Thrace in the fifth

to third centuries BC. The first oil factory was opened in 1820 in the nearby town of Kazanlak.

The process of making the two to 3.5 tons of rose oil produced in Bulgaria annually is not easy. For one gram of rose oil, more than 1,000 rose petals must be plucked by hand in the early morning as essential oil content is highest around 7am.

"Condensation forms each evening and clings to the rose, allowing the oil in the blossom to be at its best," said Miroslav Terziev, a rose farmer in the village of Cherganovo.

Petals are also used in rose water, rose jam, rose tea and even rose brandy. Scientists say climate change has caused plants to start blooming weeks earlier than they previously had. REUTERS

Stoyan Nenov

## CHINA

# Mock attacks on Taiwan used jets with live missiles

By Bernard Orr and Yimou Lee  
IN BEIJING/TAIPEI

China staged mock missile strikes and dispatched fighter jets carrying live missiles and bombers yesterday, state television CCTV said, as part of two-day exercises Beijing has said were launched to punish Taiwan's new president, Lai Ching-te.

The bombers set up several attack formations in waters east of Taiwan, carrying out mock attacks in co-ordination with naval vessels, it added, as China tested its ability to "seize power" and control key areas of Taiwan.

The two days of drills in the Taiwan



A Chinese vessel close to Green Island off the eastern coast of Taiwan GETTY

Strait and around groups of Taiwan-controlled islands near the Chinese coast, which a Taiwanese official said also included the mock bomb-

ing of foreign vessels, started just three days after Mr Lai took office on Monday. Taiwan has condemned China's actions.

China views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory and denounces Mr Lai as a "separatist". It strongly criticised his inauguration speech, in which he urged Beijing to stop its threats and said the two sides of the strait were "not subordinate to each other".

The Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army said the exercises, dubbed "Joint Sword - 2024A", were to "test the ability to jointly seize power, launch joint attacks and occupy key areas." REUTERS



## Setting sail for Sydney

'Lighting of the Sails: Echo' (2024), an animated display by Julia Gutman, is projected on to the Sydney Opera House during Vivid Sydney 2024 yesterday. The annual festival of light, music and ideas runs until 15 June

DON ARNOLD/WIREIMAGE

## MEXICO

### State payouts for injured after stage collapse

By Natalia Siniawski

The northern Mexican state of Nuevo Leon will compensate the victims of a stage collapse that killed nine people and injured scores at an election campaign event on Wednesday, the governor said.

Samuel Garcia said that 144 patients had been discharged and

36 remain hospitalised. The state government plans to compensate the relatives of the deceased, eight adults and one child, with 400,000 pesos (£18,883).

Hospitalised victims would receive 100,000 pesos (£4,700) each "until their recovery or discharge", Mr Garcia said. He did not elaborate.

Jorge Alvarez Maynez, the presi-

dential candidate for the centrist Citizens' Movement party, said on X that all the injured were stable.

Mr Maynez had attributed the stage collapse at the event in the city of San Pedro Garza Garcia, near Monterrey, to high winds.

Video showed the structure suddenly falling forward into the crowd, sending attendees running. REUTERS

## VIETNAM

### Fire in Hanoi flats kills 14 people

An overnight fire in an apartment building on a narrow alley in Vietnam's capital killed 14 people and injured six others, state media said yesterday.

The apartment building in central Hanoi could only be accessed through an alley just 6.5ft wide, preventing fire engines from reaching it, and firefighters eventually contained the fire by using hoses, state media said. The fire started around 12:30am. AP

## NORTH KOREA

### Spy satellite launch planned

North Korea appears to be preparing to launch its second military spy satellite into space, South Korea's military said yesterday, as animosities remain high over the North's continued weapons tests.

Last November, North Korea placed its first military reconnaissance satellite into orbit. Leader Kim Jong-un later told a key governing party meeting that his country would launch three additional military spy satellites in 2024. AP

## SOUTH AFRICA

### IFP considers forming coalition

South Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) will try to form a governing coalition that excludes the African National Congress (ANC) should the ruling party lose its parliamentary majority in national elections next week, the IFP leader said.

Polls suggest the ANC could win between 40-50 per cent of the vote on 29 May, which would compel it to seek partnerships to continue governing. REUTERS

## WORLD FOCUS

Sole mates:  
a chip shop  
love story

The marriage behind Benidorm's oldest chippy began as an Anglo-Spanish teen romance in 1974. By **Graham Keeley**

**F**ish and chips are not the usual food of love, but this is a story of romance among the cod and deep fryers. And Ray's – thought to be oldest fish and chip restaurant in Spain – was where the love affair played out.

Teresa Gunn was just 15 when she went on holiday to Benidorm in 1974 with her family. She fell in love, not just with the sun and sea, but also with a young Spaniard named Juan Angel Poveda Thumillas, who worked in the hotel where she was staying.

It was the pre-internet age so when she went home, the young sweethearts kept in touch by letters and telephone calls between the Costa Blanca city and the distinctly chillier climes of Nottingham.

"I came on holiday with my family, met my future husband and we used to write to each other and ring each other up. By the time I finished school and college, I finished my studies as a hairdresser, I just gave it up and came out here," she told **i** in the restaurant where the two worked years later.

She started working in Ray's, a chippy which had been opened in

1979 by another Briton who moved out to Spain in 1974. In a resort like Benidorm, which is perennially popular with Britons, fish and chips are always in demand. Today there are three chippies in the city named after Ray and the original is now known as Ray's 1.

However, in 1980 the Spanish police caught up with Teresa and expelled her for working without a permit. At the time, Spain was not part of the European Union, so Britons had to have work permits – a little like the post-Brexit world.

This forced the hand of Juan Angel, but he was unable to leave the country because he had to complete compulsory military service.

He wrote to the Spanish Ministry of Defence which gave him special permission to fly to Britain to marry Teresa so the couple could return to Spain as a happy couple.

"He was given special permission to leave Spain and come to the UK. We got married then moved back to Spain," said Teresa, who is now 64 but has lost nothing of her Nottinghamshire accent despite over four decades in Spain.

Times have changed dramatically



Teresa Gunn (inset below with her daughter) and her husband Juan Angel Poveda Thumillas at work in the restaurant

since she arrived. "I first came to live in Spain in September 1979. We were actually here when [the dictator General] Franco passed away in 1975. It was different from seeing the Civil Guard walking with their machine guns over their shoulders to how it is now.

"With Franco there was good and bad like everything else. You have to go with the flow."

Under her married name she was now Teresa Poveda and after working in a number of fish and chip restaurants in the city she eventually took over Ray's 1 with her husband in the mid-1980s.

The couple now own Ray's, which

is a throwback to the years when they first fell in love. The décor has not changed since the 1970s, with menus beneath the glass table tops with green-and-white chequered cloths underneath. It feels like a delightful step back in time. Fish and chips come with a side dish of mushy peas – a nod perhaps to Teresa's Midlands roots – and there is a slice of white buttered bread for a chip butty if you have any chips spare afterwards. The fresh fish is, needless to say, delicious.

The menu also features liver and onion and chips, sausage roll and chips and – in a gesture to Spain – squid and chips.

At the counter, there is a chart showing you how prices have changed over the years. In 1999, a cod and chips cost €4.57. The price had nearly doubled by 2022 to €8.50.

But underneath there is a note that shows that this restaurant, like everywhere else in Spain, lived through hard times after the 2008 financial crisis: "Due to the crisis

and the value of the pound, the prices have not increased between 2008 and 2015."

Teresa works with her daughter – also called Teresa – in the restaurant. Her husband now looks after his elderly mother.

Most customers are tourists on holiday who seek out Ray's in a tiny side street in Benidorm's Old Town.

However, when an article recently appeared in the Spanish newspaper *El País*, it brought a fresh crop of Spanish customers.

Teresa Poveda Gunn (junior) says every summer customers plead with the family not to change the place. "A lot of the time my mum and dad want to change it and the customers say they have known it like this all their lives and have been coming with their families and they don't want it to change," she told **i**.

Thankfully, Teresa (senior) is not about to change anything, saying: "It is a quaint, cosy little fish and chip shop. Everyone says they like it like this so why change things?"



**He was given special permission to leave Spain and come to the UK to get married**

## IRAN

## No evidence of foul play found in helicopter crash

By Conrad Smith

A preliminary report by Iran's military said no evidence of foul play or attack had been found so far during investigations into the helicopter crash that killed President Ebrahim Raisi, state media reported yesterday.

Mr Raisi, a hardliner who had been seen as a potential successor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed when his helicopter came down in poor weather in mountains near the Azerbaijan border on Sunday.

"Signs of gunshot or similar were not observed in the wreckage of the helicopter [which] crashed in an area in high altitude and burst into flames," the



A rescue team works at the site of the crash of a helicopter that was carrying Ebrahim Raisi, in Varzaqan, Iran. REUTERS

report issued by the armed forces general staff said. "Nothing suspicious has been observed in the control tower's conversations with the flight crew."

More details would be released as the investigation

advanced, the report said.

Mr Raisi (inset) was buried in the Shia Muslim holy city of Mashhad on Thursday, four days



after the crash that also killed the foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and six others.

Experts say Iran has a poor air safety record, with repeated crashes, many involving US-built aircraft bought before the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Tehran says US sanctions have long prevented it from buying new aircraft or spare parts from the West to update its creaking fleets.

Iran proclaimed five days of mourning for Mr Raisi, who enacted Ayatollah Khamenei's policies, cracked down on dissent and adopted a tough line on foreign policy issues. REUTERS

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# 7 days

The stories that shaped the news



## What we learned this week

**Celebrity clone** A waxwork of Hollywood actor Timothée Chalamet, whose recent films have included 'Wonka' and 'Dune 2', has been unveiled at Madame Tussauds in London (main).

**In danger** More than half the world's mangrove ecosystems are at risk of collapse by 2050 amid rising sea levels and worsening coastal storms, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature warned.

**Losing their religion** For the first time, the majority of people in Scotland do not have any religion, according to a report by the National Records of Scotland. It revealed that 51.1 per cent of those taking part in Scotland's Census 2022 responded 'no religion' - up from 36.7 per cent in 2011. The Church of Scotland remains the largest religious group, but the number of people describing themselves as followers has

continued to drop from 42 per cent in 2001 to 32.4 per cent in 2011 and just 20 per cent in 2022.

**Diabetes rise** Cases of type 2 diabetes among those aged under 40 have soared by more than 47,000 since 2016-17, an increase of 39 per cent, according to Diabetes UK. Colette Marshall, the charity's chief executive, said: 'It's a damning indictment of the barriers that many of us face to living a healthy life.'

**New gig** Former One Direction singer Zayn Malik made his debut on the CBeebies 'Bedtime Story' slot (below), reading 'Music is in Everything' by Ziggy Marley. He followed in the footsteps of other musicians including Dolly Parton, Sir Elton John and Ed Sheeran.

**Repeat offenders** Foreign diplomats owe Transport for London more than £143m in unpaid congestion charges, it emerged. The US Embassy is the single biggest offender, owing almost £14m in unpaid fees and fines it has accrued since the launch of the congestion charge in 2003.



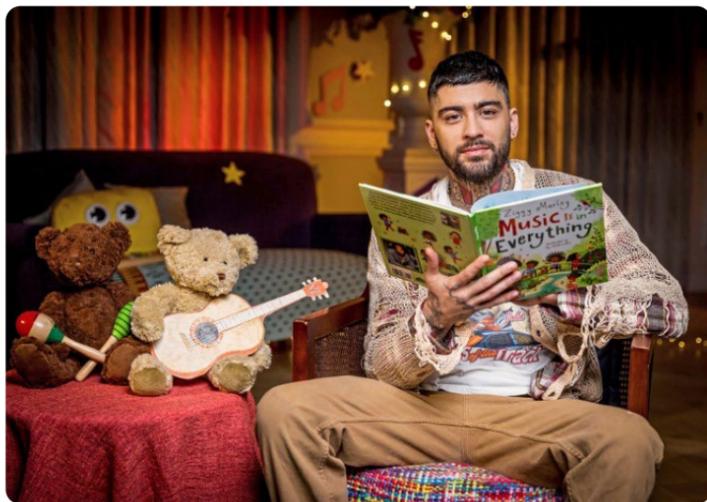
**Top flight** A single feather of the extinct New Zealand huia bird (inset), which is sacred to the Māori people, sold at auction for £22,409, making it the world's most expensive feather.

### Childhood idyll

A Leicestershire park that inspired a young Sir David Attenborough has been given protected status. Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood has been designated a National Nature Reserve by Natural England. The naturalist has previously described Bradgate Park as 'a vision of what the English countryside could be like - which has stayed with me for ever'. James Dymond, director of Bradgate Park Trust, said: "This is a landmark moment for Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood. They are home to some of the oldest fossils and rocks in England and to have the site's conservation value recognised in this way is a fantastic achievement."

### D-Day commemoration

The Royal Mint has produced a commemorative 50p coin to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. It shows Allied soldiers landing on the beaches of Normandy with aircraft in the sky above.



## it's been a good week for...

### LITERATURE

Kairos, a novel about a love affair in 80s East Berlin, by Jenny Erpenbeck won the International Booker Prize.

### TRAVEL

Ryanair declared a 34 per cent rise in profits after tax - making €1.92bn (£1.64bn) in the year to the end of March.

### TELEVISION

Filming has begun on a new BBC Alan Partridge series that follows his return to Norfolk after a year in Saudi Arabia.

### FOOTBALL

Kieran McKenna, who took Ipswich Town back to the Premier League, was named boss of the year by his fellow managers.

### SPORT

The Spanish Riding School, famed for its synchronised routines, is to perform in England and Scotland in October.

### GARDENING

A forest garden designed for those with muscular dystrophy won the Best Show Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show.

### FILM

Celia Imrie has joined the film adaptation of *The Thursday Murder Club*, as the lead, former nurse Joyce Meadowcroft.

**iNewsQuiz answers** 1. Quavers. 2. Mount Fuji. 3. The Covid outbreak in Wuhan. 4. Hollywoods. 5. The corner - because it's 90 degrees. 6. Five. 7. Ireland, Norway and Spain. 8. 2.3 per cent. 9. Dexter. 10. 30.

7 days COMPILED BY JONATHAN OWEN

## iNewsQuiz

- 1 A homeowner found a 49-year-old packet of what brand of crisps buried in his back garden in Dorset?
- 2 Which stratovolcano will tourists have to pay £10 to ascend this summer?
- 3 Released from jail in China after four years, citizen journalist Zhang Zhan had been imprisoned for reporting on what?
- 4 Which soap is linking up with the Home Office for a storyline about coercive control?
- 5 The winner of a joke competition in *The Beano* asked: "What's the hottest area in the classroom?" What is the answer?
- 6 With the departure of Mauricio Pochettino, how many managers has Chelsea FC parted ways with over the past two years?
- 7 Which three nations announced their intention to recognise a Palestinian state?
- 8 UK inflation fell to its lowest level in almost three years to what?
- 9 Christian Slater is to star in a TV prequel about which serial killer?
- 10 How many times has record-breaking Sherpa Kami Rita reached the summit of Everest?

Answers below

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life



## Summer gardens special

Inspired by this week's RHS Chelsea Flower Show? The RHS's chief gardener **Guy Barter** shares his top tips to make the most of your outdoor space

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we'll feed  
the lawn



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# Ten May bank holiday tasks



**1** Seeds develop quickly now in the warm, moist ground. Successional sowings can go on all summer for herbs and salads – chard, coriander, lettuce, radish, rocket, spinach, for example – typically involving a sowing every three weeks until mid-August. Later crops of beetroot, carrots and salad onions can also be sown now. This is almost the last chance to sow courgettes, cucumbers, French beans, squash, pumpkins, runner beans and sweetcorn. If the ground is not quite ready – if you are waiting to finish harvesting overwintered broad beans, for example – raise plants in cell trays or pots to put out when your crops are cleared.

**2** Planting should be ongoing as summer approaches. Outdoor tender crops such as courgettes and tomatoes can be set out now, while slower-growing hardy crops including celery, celeriac and Brussels sprouts should be planted as soon as possible. Flowers raised indoors from seed, cuttings or bought in plugs – cosmos, sunflowers and zinnia, for example – will soon



be ready to thicken outdoor beds, borders and containers. Soft, sappy plants can be "hardened" by covering with fleece for a week before planting rather than exposing them to full sun and wind immediately when they leave the greenhouse or window sill. Wind and sun suck the moisture out of them, so water well before planting and, in the absence of rain, water the ground the day before planting, and again after planting.

**3** Hoeing suppresses weeds and slugs. Move the soil lightly and shallowly. Some weeds that grow very close to desirable plants will have to be extracted with gloved hands later. Moving the soil in dry weather in summer kills many young slugs and snails by drying them out, too, protecting the next batches of seedlings.

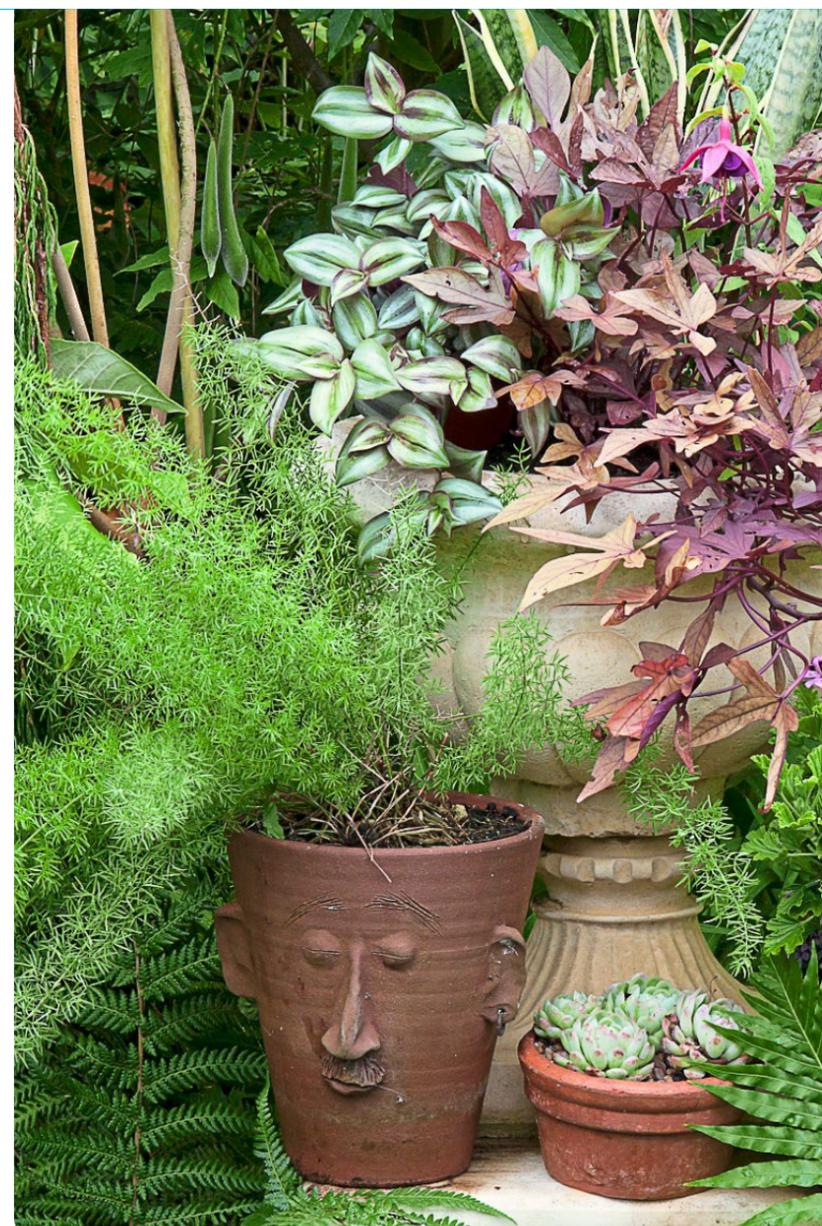
**4** Stake and support fast-growing plants now – delphiniums, Phlox and Heleniums are notably speedy. Metal frames are a good investment, lasting for years and being less troublesome than stakes and string, though bushy pea sticks cut in winter are a renewable natural support.

**5** The Chelsea chop, so-called because it is done around the time of the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in late May – simply means shortening some perennials such as *Echinacea purpurea*, Helenium, *Hylotelephium* and Phlox by about a third. This delays flowering, makes shorter plants that are easier to stake and can increase the number of flowering shoots.



**6** Feed young plants – their nutrient needs increase rapidly as they grow in the long bright days, and fall away as they mature. Feed transplants in cell trays and small pots with a liquid fertiliser such as seaweed liquid. By feeding the evening before planting out, you can ensure the new plants are full of nutrients that help them to grow roots to find the moisture and fertility in their destination beds or borders.

**7** Grass growth will soon start slowing down after the spring surge. Edges trimmed now will stay smart for weeks. Be



ready to raise the mowing height on your mower if hot, dry weather occurs. Mow paths through meadow areas, but otherwise leave these unmown, so you can enjoy the wildflowers and wildlife.

**8** "Strike" softwood cuttings from fresh new stems of shrubs and climbers – clematis, honeysuckles and flowering currants, for example – rooting them in a propagator or under a plastic bag. The shoots must be firm but not woody nor too sappy – hydrangea, for example, will be about right in June. Houseplant cuttings can be taken now, too – coleus (*Solenostemon*), for example.

Trimnings from tender plants such as fuchsias and marguerites (*Argyranthemum*) also root readily, making useful plants by late summer.

**9** Give houseplants a summer holiday. Light and humidity indoors are usually too low for best plant growth, but outdoors in summer the conditions are less stressed. Without frosts, houseplants can now go outside to get better conditions. They need acclimatising to the bright outdoor light, so keep them in shade to start with and gradually move to light shade, or in the case of sun-lovers such as citrus, full light. Feed every fortnight and keep an eye on slugs.

# Tree health



**T**rees and shrubs, once established, are robust and long-lived, taking little harm from summer droughts or winter waterlogging. However, newly planted trees and shrubs and even established plants in particularly wet positions are potentially at risk of damage.

Plants have limited ways in which they can show distress, which complicates diagnosis of problems. But unless the gardener has an inkling of what might be amiss, they are risking treatments that won't help and may even cause harm.

A tree might show browning leaves, for example, which could indicate drought stress or disease

such as pythium, induced by winter waterlogging. If irrigated, the disease would be exacerbated.

When warm weather arrives in early summer, some trees and shrubs planted in the past two years are vulnerable to drying out, as their roots have not yet explored the soil sufficiently to find all the moisture they need. Most new plants have no problems, especially if watered for their first two summers, but it is galling when a new plant fails.

Smaller plants are less vulnerable than larger, more expensive ones. They show their distress with yellowing or browning leaves and shoots dying back from the tip. The risk of establishment damage is

greatest if competing vegetation is allowed to grow within 1m of the newly planted tree or shrub as it intercepts rain. Grass is especially pernicious, but ranker weeds, such as sowthistle and nettles, are also a serious issue.

After two or three years, trees can compete with vegetation at their base. Once competing vegetation has been removed, mulching with woodchip or other organic materials or a sheet of wool prevents unwanted vegetation.

Planting too deeply is, unfortunately, easy to do and can cause rots of the stem and root failure. Potted trees and shrubs are often too deep in their pot, and surplus potting compost has to be removed before planting, so the "flare" of the root is just below soil level. When an ailing newly planted tree is set too deep, it can be saved by lifting, soaking the rootball in a tub of water for an hour and then replanting at the correct depth.



**When warm weather arrives, some trees are vulnerable to drying out**

Usually, careful watering to wet the rootball will be enough to help the plant recover. This can take up to four watering cans per square metre. Ideally check the rootball is soaked on the first watering by exploring with a trowel to find the volume of water needed in future. Watering bags that allow seepage to keep the rootball moist save work.

Older plants that show signs of failure might be suffering from root rot diseases. Honey fungus is the commonest of these and weakened trees show symptoms when dry summer weather arrives. Check the base of the tree for rotted areas beneath the bark, with fans of white fungal sheets with a mushroom smell and soft rotted underlying wood. Unfortunately, replacement is necessary – replant elsewhere, ideally followed by removal of infected roots and the stump.

The RHS has a list of less vulnerable trees on its website that will be safer replanting choices.



Staking (top left), hoeing (above left), potting (above) and growing in cell trays (far left) are all key tasks

**10** Earth up potatoes – drawing up soil around them to form a ridge – before the foliage meets across the rows. This helps ensure plenty of soil to keep light from the developing tuber. If exposed to light, they go green and are unfit to eat. Pot-grown potatoes need an extra layer of potting compost (and some liquid fertiliser). No-dig potatoes should be grown beneath a thick layer of compost – add more if the stolons (underground stems bearing the tubers) are getting near the surface.

## Time-saving



**C**ome August, gardeners can take it a lot easier – but in early summer the list of things to do can be daunting. Letting nature take its course can save the trouble, at least, of dealing with unwanted insects.

If no insecticides are used, natural foes of aphids and caterpillars are more able to control populations of potentially harmful creatures. As a bonus, both the helpful insects and their prey feed birds, which also take a heavy toll on food insects to succour fledglings. A garden crammed with insects, most of them benign, is ideal.

Sometimes unwanted insects outperform their enemies – black bean and rose aphids, for example. Just washing many of them off with a jet of water can set them back enough for natural measures to take over.

In greenhouses and outdoors, red spider mites and whitefly can crop up. Companion planting with Tagetes (marigolds) can suppress them with no need for laborious spraying, while, if populations do increase, introducing biological controls of predatory mites and parasitic wasps for red spider mite and whitefly respectively is a low-effort remedy.

Investing in a netting-covered cage to prevent birds from damaging fruit and veg makes their cultivation much more pleasant compared to lifting nets on and off.

If netting must be used, consider using insect-proof mesh instead. It is more costly than netting but is safer for birds, lifts on and off easily and does not need lengthy and frustrating untangling as nets do.

Weeding can take a long time in early summer, but mulching prevents annual weeds – bark, woodchips and composted

materials are effective. They also feed the plants and conserve water. Potting compost is a less effective mulch, best used only for potting.

Perennial weeds can potentially grow through mulch, but a thicker 8cm layer over several thicknesses of cardboard can smother them by summer's end, while leaving the underlying soil much enriched.

Time-saving when it comes to troublesome insects and weeds works best when the gardener is vigilant; regular scouting expeditions around the garden is a small amount of time well spent.

A light hand with fertiliser also saves work and money, while making little change to results. Feeding lawns now, for example, just means more mowing, while feeding well-established borders risks disease and vigorous weeds – a mulch will often feed them sufficiently and prevent weeds.

Established trees and shrubs have such wide-questing roots, they can usually get along without feeding.

Vegetable gardens and containers often do need some fertiliser for best results even if well manured or mulched, as they should be. In these cases, organic-based slow-release fertilisers last about three months,



so will see plants through to the end of summer. Controlled release fertiliser, where the nutrients are coated in waxes and resin, are a labour-saving alternative to liquid feeding for containers, releasing nutrients as needed. Slow- and controlled-release materials avoid the chore of regular liquid feeding

(below) and "top dressing" (regularly adding solid fertiliser).

Similarly vegetables, strawberries, raspberries and containers repay careful watering. Vegetables, however, can be watered only at key development stages, saving work and water while retaining much of the benefits of regular watering.

Peas and beans give the best value from watering only after they come into flower; tomatoes and courgettes when the fruits begin to swell; potatoes once now, while the tubers are marble-sized, and strawberries, raspberries once the fruits swell, mainly in June.

Frequent light watering makes work, favours weeds and wastes water – a thorough watering (above) every 10 days in dry periods to wet the root zone (20cm) saves work.



Continued on p45 >>



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## Nature's survivors



per plant. These seeds can persist for years in the soil. Fat hen seeds can lie inactive but alive in the soil, in small and decreasing numbers, for decades. Daylight and the fluctuating temperatures found near the soil surface trigger weed seeds to germinate. Most buried weed seeds, however, survive only a few years.

The best weed control is not to have any weeds. This opportunity occurs when making a new garden, where great care should be taken not to import infested manure or soil. Unfortunately, plant nurseries are potent sources of weeds – oxalis, for example – so removing and discarding the surface-growing medium before replanting is wise.

Digging buries weeds and is a highly effective means of weed control, particularly as it offers an opportunity to pick out pernicious perennial roots. However, dormant weed seeds can be brought to the surface to germinate later. No-dig gardening leaves weed seeds on

the surface, where they can be picked off by insects and birds, while those buried remain undisturbed and dormant.

Mulches (above) are a particularly good way of preventing weeds, not least after digging, when any weed seedlings will be unable to reach the light, but even more so in no-dig gardening, where the surface mulch remains permanently topped-up from time to time, suppressing annual weeds.

Although weedkillers are offered for weed control, most gardeners will prefer to use non-chemical means of control.

Paving and gravel can be challenging to keep free of weeds and, in some cases, may need to be replaced by better-quality materials that offer no spaces for weeds – resin coatings that incorporate gravel are a good option.

On a small scale, heat is effective – hot water, ideally left over from cooking, eliminates weeds very effectively. Flame guns and electric hot air weeders are also sold and are effective, although slow.

Annual weeds are killed outright by heat, but perennial weeds are just burnt back to ground level. Repeated applications are needed, over a number of weeks, for good control.

The RHS is a charity inspiring everyone to grow via its research, advisory, outreach, shows and gardens. For more information, visit: [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk)

**Jobs for the weekend, p72**

◀ Continued from p43

**W**eeds – that is, plants undesired by the gardener – are brilliantly adapted to seizing territory unoccupied by other plants. Before planting and sowing in spring, weeds – shepherd's purse and chickweed, for example – tend to grow on bare soil over winter. This is actually quite good, as their roots suck up nutrients that might otherwise be lost and they shelter wildlife and contribute to soil health.

However, a better option might be to sow a cover crop of inexpensive hardy plants such as rye or crimson clover in the preceding August or September to deny space for weeds, giving more wildlife cover and a valuable boost to soil health.

Successful weeds cleverly mimic the life cycles of the plants grown in gardens, so that bedding borders and vegetable gardens full of short-term annual plants are infested with annual weeds such as nettles and fat hen with similarly brief life cycles.

Perennial borders, asparagus, rhubarb and fruit gardens – where plantings last for many years – are vulnerable to perennial weeds such as couch grass and bindweed.

Lawn weeds originated in pastures closely cropped by grazing animals avoid mower blades by pressing themselves close to the soil – daisies and speedwells, for example.

Annual weeds have peak seasons for germination. In spring, fat hen and groundsel emerge and grow quickly. They need light for germination, so can be especially numerous where the soil has been tilled. This can be used against them by lightly cultivating the soil six weeks before sowing and then removing the germinating weeds by hoeing. Few weeds will subsequently germinate.

Inevitably a few weeds survive the initial control measures and these must be carefully managed. Annual ones grow amazingly fast. Some have two or three generations per summer – annual meadow grass and hairy bittercress, for example. The price they pay for their speedy ways is that they produce relatively few seeds and they economise on roots, so are easily dislodged by hoeing.

Weeds must not be allowed to set seed. Hoeing and hand-weeding are highly effective in good weather at controlling low weed populations.

Weeds can be harder to control in wet conditions, and gloved hands to pick out the weeds can be the only option – wise gardeners use every opportunity of dry conditions to hoe.

Other weeds take a little more time to produce vast quantities of seeds that drift on the wind – groundsel, for example, produces 1,200 seeds

**Plant nurseries are potent sources of weeds such as oxalis**



## Early summer pruning



**W**inter pruning can dominate the gardening year, as there is more time during that season and, for deciduous plants at least, the shape of plants is more discernible, thus aiding pruning to shape. However, this risks losing spring flowers and inducing vigorous regrowth.

Deciduous plants transfer their food reserves to their roots for winter before relocating them to the canopy in spring. Plants trimmed in winter have much more resources for regrowth than ones pruned in summer and can rebound quite dramatically. This leads to large, handsome leaves, which is desirable in many cases – Sambucus, for example – but the vigorous shoots can take several years to come back into flower.

Winter pruning makes plants smaller, although it sometimes does not seem like it, but summer pruning greatly reduces regrowth and plant size by removing foliage whose photosynthesis drives plant growth.

Another important factor is that in summer, wounds heal much more quickly, limiting exposure to diseases such as silverleaf that infect through wounds.

Excessive summer pruning, however, can weaken plants by starvation if insufficient foliage remains to sustain the roots. Staging heavy pruning over several years avoids this danger. Typically, pruning need only begin three years after planting.

Spring-flowering shrubs do not always need pruning. If there is enough space for them, they remain full of flowers and they are not trained to walls and fences, they can be allowed to spread.

Plants that flower in late summer – Buddleja, Caryopteris and deciduous Ceanothus – would lose all their flowers if pruned now.

However, plants that have flowered since winter – Deutzia, Ribes (flowering currants, below) Weigela and winter jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*), for example – can benefit from pruning now.

Where needed, they can be kept to size by judicious reduction without loss of flowering next spring. This might involve removing some shoots, typically one in three or four, to near-ground level. The sooner they are pruned after flowering, the better, as this maximises the time for new flowering shoots to develop.

As with any pruning, remove damaged, dead and diseased shoots entirely. Focus on congested areas to promote uncrowded and therefore less disease-prone flowering shoots. Cut out the thinnest, weakest shoots, as these are unlikely to contribute to flowering and just deplete plant resources otherwise available for flower production.

Spiraea that flower in early spring (bridal wreath *Spiraea arguta*, *S thunbergii*) respond well to removing one stem in three to near the base. Forsythia, another very early-flowering plant, is also treated in this way. Sometimes Forsythia is clipped to make a ball, or a hedge or trained against a wall. These can be clipped after flowering and usually flower well enough. If any remain unpruned, treat as soon as possible.

On the other hand, later-flowering shrubs such as Diervilla and Philadelphus won't be ready to prune until later in June.

Spring-flowering evergreens should be pruned in early summer as soon as they have finished flowering. Choisya, for example, can be shortened after flowering to restrict its size, with removal of a third of the oldest branches at near-ground level to check its spread.



# Diet secrets of the world's healthiest societies

From Nordic to Atlantic, Japanese to Costa Rican, certain cuisines are known for promoting health and longevity. Nutritionists share their key principles with **Anna Bonet**

## THE NORDIC DIET

According to research published in the *Food & Nutrition Journal*, Nordic food contains twice as much fibre and seafood as the average Western diet, as well as less sugar and fat. It is perhaps not a surprise, then, that this diet comes with a number of health benefits. Eaten across Scandinavia, Finland and Iceland, studies consistently link the Nordic diet with improved heart health and weight management, as well as a lower risk of chronic diseases, type 2 diabetes and cancer.

Here, nutritionist Beanie Robinson of The Health Space, shares some simple ways to follow it...

### Eat locally sourced fruit - and lots of root vegetables

"Eating both locally and seasonally is key in the Nordic diet, particularly with fruit. Nordic berries such as lingonberries are a big part of this, although obviously that would need to be adapted for other parts of the world, where you might not be able to find them. Replace with blueberries and other locally sourced berries if you need to.

The Nordic diet is also big on root veggies, such as beetroots, turnips and carrots, all of which are brilliant for our health because they are packed with fibre, antioxidants and vitamins."

### Complex carbs

"Complex carbohydrates such as rye, barley and oats are a big part of this cuisine. Whole grains tend to be much

better for our health than refined products such as white bread, white rice, and white pasta, because they are higher in fibre. Our bodies also digest them more slowly, meaning we don't get the big spikes and crashes in blood-sugar levels."

### Low-fat dairy products

"Skyr, an Icelandic-style yogurt, is a big thing across Nordic countries. It is good for us as it is fat-free, low in sugar and high in protein. Most UK supermarkets stock it now; just try to make sure it is in its pure form when you buy it - as long as it hasn't been flavoured with artificial sweeteners or had any fruit purées or juices added, it is great."

### Game meats

"Rather than red meat, which doesn't feature much in this cuisine, the Nordic diet involves a healthy amount of game meat such as deer, venison and elk. This is a great source of lean protein and also healthy fats, which are key for the brain, joints and hormonal health. But the key thing is that the meat doesn't tend to be the main feature of the dishes: it is on the plate, but is not necessarily the centrepiece. You get the flavour and protein content of the meat, while filling up on the grains and plants it is served with."

## THE KOREAN DIET

Typically consisting of lots of fresh, unprocessed foods such as rice, vegetables and fish, the Korean diet is highly regarded and, given that



South Korea has the lowest rates of heart disease in the world, its people are certainly enjoying the health benefits.

Robbie Puddick, nutritionist at NHS-backed healthy eating plan Second Nature, shares three ways to embrace it...

### Eat lots of kimchi

"Kimchi is a traditional Korean side dish consisting of fermented vegetables (most often cabbage or radish). Kimchi, and other fermented foods such as kefir, kombucha and sauerkraut, contains probiotics. Probiotics are live microorganisms that promote the healthy diversity of our gut bacteria, or gut microbiota. Emerging research suggests that a greater diversity of gut bacteria could help to promote our health through several functions, including supporting the immune system."

### Stay balanced

"Bibimbap, another typical Korean dish, is the perfect illustration of a healthy, balanced meal. It contains complex carbohydrates (rice), vegetables (fibre), fat (oil and egg or meat) and protein (egg or beef). It essentially provides

everything the body needs from an individual meal. This isn't to suggest we can live on this one dish, but it is a great example of how to build a balanced meal and provide the body with the nourishment it needs to thrive."

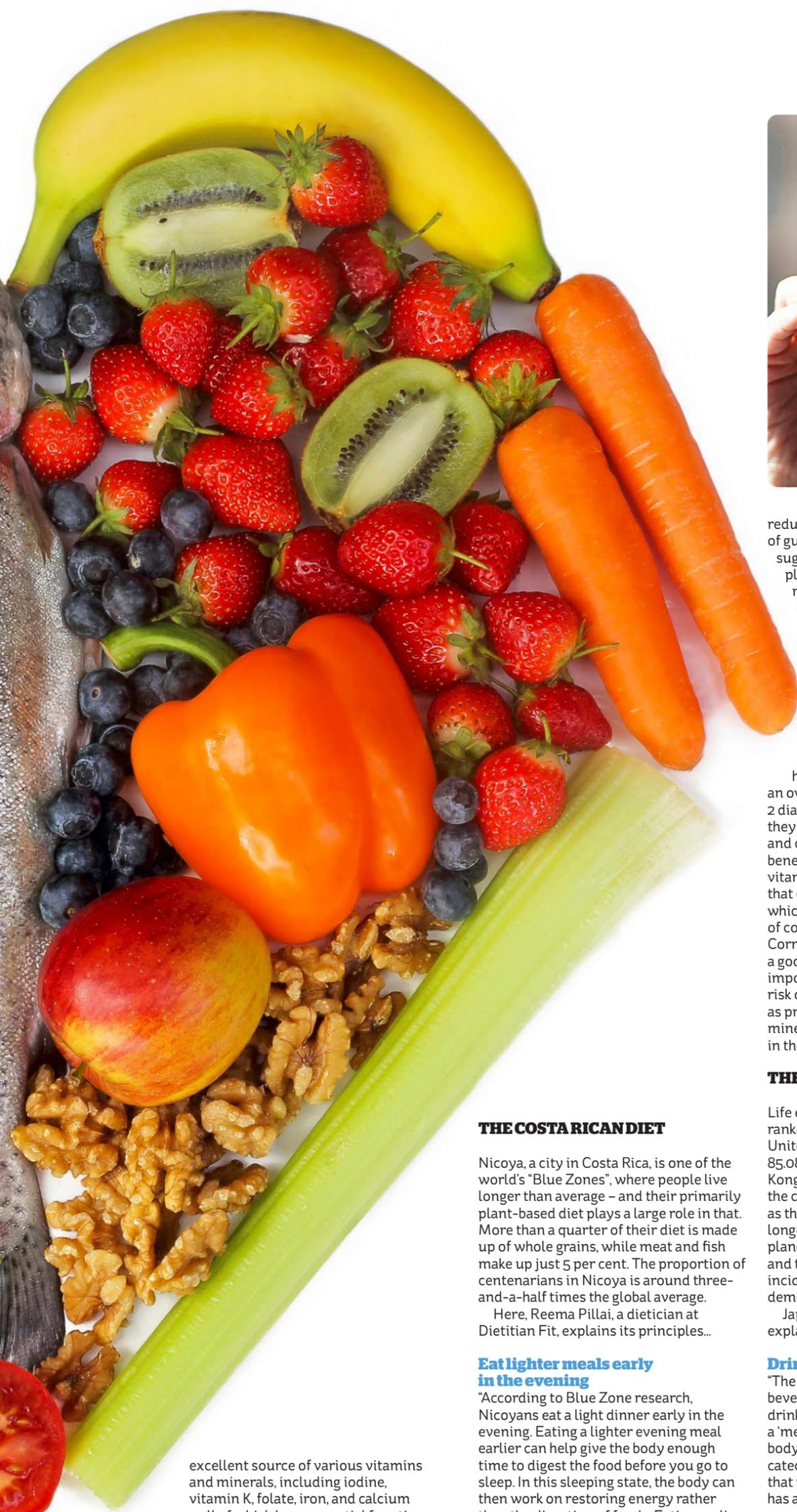
### Embrace seaweed

"Much as it is in Japan, seaweed is eaten widely in Korea. It is an

Embrace antioxidant-rich seaweed like the Japanese and Koreans; top right, fruit and veg are a great source of fibre

GETTY





excellent source of various vitamins and minerals, including iodine, vitamin K, folate, iron, and calcium – all of which have essential functions in the body to help reach optimum health. Many types of seaweed, such as wakame and kombu, are rich in antioxidants such as fucoxanthin, which can help to protect our cells from the damage of daily life.”

### THE COSTA RICAN DIET

Nicoya, a city in Costa Rica, is one of the world’s “Blue Zones”, where people live longer than average – and their primarily plant-based diet plays a large role in that. More than a quarter of their diet is made up of whole grains, while meat and fish make up just 5 per cent. The proportion of centenarians in Nicoya is around three-and-a-half times the global average.

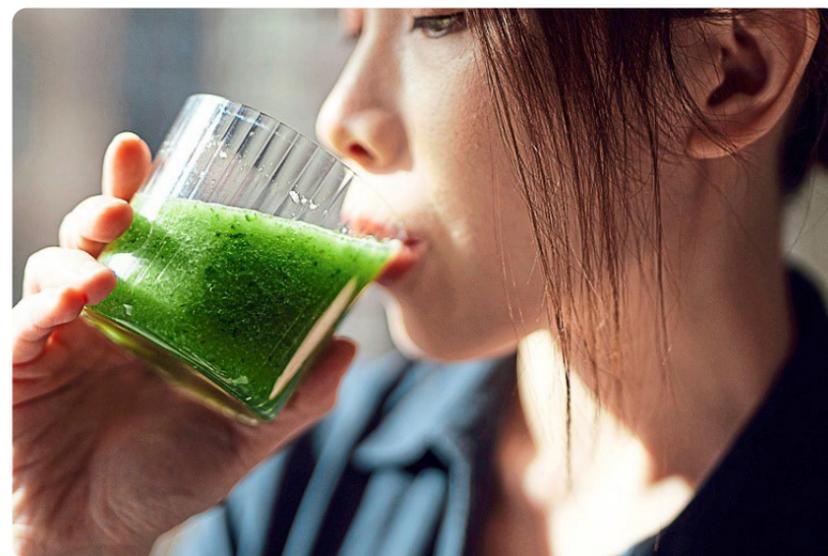
Here, Reema Pillai, a dietician at Dietitian Fit, explains its principles...

#### Eat lighter meals early in the evening

“According to Blue Zone research, Nicoyans eat a light dinner early in the evening. Eating a lighter evening meal earlier can help give the body enough time to digest the food before you go to sleep. In this sleeping state, the body can then work on restoring energy rather than the digestion of foods. Eating earlier can also support healthier blood pressure, which supports heart health.”

#### Consume lots of beans

“Beans are a fantastic source of fibre, which has been linked to helping to



reduce cholesterol, improve the range of gut bacteria, and also improve blood-sugar management. Beans also provide plant-based protein, to support muscle tissue growth, as well as a mix of vitamins and minerals such as iron, which is important for red blood cell and energy transport, as well as copper, which is essential for many enzymes that aid digestion and support tissue growth.”

#### Enjoy squash and corn

“Costa Ricans don’t tend to eat a huge amount of meat, which means an overall reduced risk of developing type 2 diabetes and high cholesterol. Instead, they eat lots of plants such as squash and corn, which are packed full of health benefits. Squash, for example, is rich in vitamin E, which is a type of antioxidant that can protect against free radicals, which can damage cells and increase risk of conditions such as Alzheimer’s disease. Corn – specifically whole-grain corn – is a good source of magnesium, which is important for heart health and can reduce risk of certain chronic diseases, as well as providing a source of phosphorus, a mineral that supports growth of tissues in the body.”

### THE JAPANESE DIET

Life expectancy in Japan is consistently ranked as one of the highest in the world; United Nations data estimates it to be 85.08 years – behind only Monaco, Hong Kong and Macau. Okinawa, in the south of the country, has historically been known as the “land of immortals”: women live longer there than anywhere else on the planet, according to Blue Zone research, and there is a significantly lower incidence of cancer, heart disease and dementia than most developed countries.

Japanese nutritionist Michiko Tomioka explains the fundamentals of their diet...

#### Drink green tea

“The Japanese rarely drink sugary beverages. Instead, one of our favourite drinks is green tea, which we view as a ‘medicine’, helping to cleanse our body. It contains phytonutrients like catechin, which is a type of antioxidant that prevents cell damage. Research has also found that those who drink five cups a day have a lower chance of death from all causes than those drinking one cup or less.”

#### Enjoy soy

“Soy products which aren’t processed, such as soy beans, edamame, tofu, natto,

kinako and black soy, are a big part of Japanese cuisine. Studies prove that the consumption of natural soy products is very beneficial to our health, lowering the risk of cancer, inflammation and heart disease. This is because it is an essential amino acid, rich in plant-based protein, vitamins B and E, as well as fibre.”

#### Eat smaller, more varied portions

“In Japan, we tend to eat relatively small portions, which are well-balanced. Even ‘Westernised’ Japanese food and convenience foods are still healthier because they contain less processed meat and dairy, and therefore fewer calories and saturated fats. For instance, a typical Seven-Eleven take-out bento box comes with at least five types of items; usually grilled fish, eggs, cooked vegetables, salad and pickles. These provide balanced nutrients while satisfying your appetite.”

### THE MEDITERRANEAN DIET

This diet is one that needs little introduction. Mediterranean cuisine has long been regarded as one of the healthiest in the world, ever since the now-famous “Seven Countries Study” in the 50s found that those who lived in Mediterranean countries had lower rates of cardiovascular disease. Their diet, rich in wholegrains, fruit, vegetables and healthy fats such as olive oil, have since been associated with a number of well-studied health benefits, including lower cholesterol and blood pressure.

Here, Jenna Hope, nutritionist and author of *How to Stay Healthy*, explains its simple rules...

#### Swap red meat for fish and poultry

“Fish and poultry are great sources of protein, which plays an important role in supporting hormone production and muscle health. Focusing on fish and poultry over red meat is a great way to lower your saturated fat intake, too. Where possible, incorporate both white fish as a source of iodine and oily fish to increase omega-3 intakes.”

#### Aim for a savoury protein-rich breakfast

“The Mediterranean diet encourages a savoury, protein-rich breakfast, which can really help to set you up for the day and help to stabilise blood-sugar levels throughout the morning. Switching out your typical high-sugar cereal or croissant for eggs on wholegrain toast

◀ Continued from p47

with avocado is also an excellent way to increase fibre, micronutrients and reduce your sugar intake."

**Opt for olive oil**

"Olive oil has been shown to support heart health and, unlike many other oils, does not cause inflammation in the body. Try adding it to salads and roasted vegetables to help support satiety levels."

**THE SWISS DIET**

Switzerland might be famed for its cheese and chocolate – two foods far from being associated with the epitome of health – but the life expectancy in this country, along with its tiny next-door neighbour Liechtenstein, consistently ranks as the highest in Europe. According to the latest data from the United Nations' World Population review, the Swiss can expect to live to the ripe old age of 84.52, a full two years longer than the UK's expectancy of 82.45.

Here, Sandra Mikhail, Switzerland-based nutritionist and author of *The Gut Chronicles*, explains why the diet plays a part in this longevity...

**Fresh produce**

"The food production model in Switzerland places a heavy emphasis on farm-to-table produce. Simply put, this promotes seasonal eating and dietary diversity. By consuming locally sourced, seasonal foods, we benefit from reduced chemical exposure and minimal processing, which are known to contribute to better overall health. Seasonal eating encourages a varied diet rich in diverse flavours and nutrients, and this approach to eating also inspires many – myself included – to grow produce at home, regardless of the size of our living space."

**Lots of muesli**

"Muesli was invented by the Swiss: Maximilian Bircher-Benner, a physician, developed it for his hospital patients in the 1900s. It typically consists of rolled oats, nuts, seeds and dried fruits, providing a rich source of fibre, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. We know that fibre is essential for digestive health, promoting regular bowel movements and preventing constipation. Muesli also provides a great energy boost, making it an ideal choice for breakfast. However, nowadays, some varieties can be loaded with added sugars and artificial ingredients, so to ensure you are making the most balanced choice when selecting muesli; look for labels indicating a low sugar content (5-10g per 100g of sugar) and high fibre content (more than 5g of fibre per 100g)."

**Dark, good-quality chocolate**

"Switzerland is famous for its high-quality chocolate. Dark chocolate is rich in antioxidants, particularly flavonoids, which have been associated with various health benefits, including improved heart health and cognitive function. Other compounds in dark chocolate such as phenylethylamine and serotonin precursors, can act as mood-enhancers. Of course, consuming excessive amounts of any chocolate can lead to weight gain and other health issues due to its calorie and sugar content. Opting for high-quality chocolate with a cocoa content of 70 per cent or higher and enjoying it as part of a balanced diet is the best way to reap its potential benefits."



**Make food social (top) to benefit your emotional wellbeing; fresh veg is a big part of the Mediterranean diet (above); muesli (above right) is great for digestive health** GETTY

**Eating a meal earlier helps the body work on restoring energy while sleeping**

**Eat little and often**

"There are five daily mealtimes in Switzerland: Zmorge (breakfast), Znüni (at nine), Zmittag (at noon), Zvieri (at four), and Znacht (at night). This way of eating provides numerous benefits compared with fewer, larger meals. First, it helps to maintain steady energy levels throughout the day, prevents energy crashes, and keeps individuals feeling more alert and focused. It also aids digestion, as smaller meals are easier for the body to process, reducing the likelihood of discomfort and bloating. By regulating appetite and preventing overeating, frequent meals can contribute to weight management."

**THE ATLANTIC DIET**

A close cousin of the more famous Mediterranean diet, the Atlantic diet is based on the eating habits of people from north-western Spain and Portugal. It

has become much-admired after several recent studies highlighted its numerous health benefits, including the reduced risk of heart disease, diabetes and other chronic diseases, which scientists believe is due to its emphasis on simple, unprocessed food such as fish and veg.

Here, Rob Hobson, nutritionist and author of *Unprocess Your Life*, explains its key principles...

**Plenty of fish and seafood**

"Fish and seafood is central to the Atlantic diet because it is abundant in the coastal regions of Portugal and Spain. As well as being rich in vitamin B12, iodine, selenium and zinc, a key nutrient in this diet is omega-3, which comes from oily fish such as sardines. These essential fatty acids have been shown to benefit heart health by lowering triglyceride levels, blood pressure and LDL cholesterol, as

well as reducing inflammation in the body. Fish and seafood are also high in good-quality protein, while oily fish such as mackerel are one of the few dietary sources of vitamin D, which is important for bone health."

**Eat vegetables and legumes every day**

"This diet has a big emphasis on vegetables and legumes, such as beans, kale, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. These provide a key source of vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, while also being rich in fibre – one nutrient many people fail to get enough of in their diet. Fibre has been shown to help reduce the risk of heart disease, type 2 diabetes and colorectal cancer, as well as promoting good digestive health and a richly diverse gut microbiome. These foods also have a high-water count, which can be useful for maintaining a healthy weight, while legumes are a source of plant protein, which is essential for maintaining muscle mass, bone density and other key functions in the body."

**Make food social**

"Eating with family and friends is one of the more holistic elements of this diet, which is deeply rooted in the cultural and social traditions of Atlantic communities. This practice benefits our emotional, mental and physical wellbeing. Sharing meals strengthens relationships, fostering a sense of belonging and support, while regular family meals provide routine and structure, which are especially beneficial for children. Making time to eat wholesome meals together also helps to reinforce good practices such as mindful eating, and encourages you to develop a better relationship with food."

# culture

## The five best this weekend



**FILM**  
**FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA**  
Anya Taylor-Joy is ferocious in this origin story of the character played by Charlize Theron in *Fury Road*. It's a similarly brutal, breathtaking thrill-ride of a film.



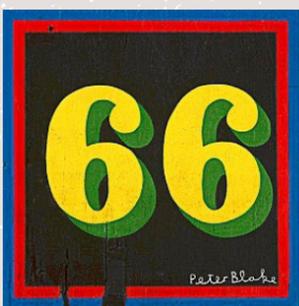
**TV**  
**THE BEACH BOYS**  
**Disney+**  
Documentary celebrating the band that personified the Californian dream and revolutionised pop music, with never-before-seen archive footage and interviews.



**PODCAST**  
**BROOMGATE: A CURLING SCANDAL**  
**CBC**  
The most unlikely sporting scandal of all time is engagingly told by semi-professional curler and (fully) professional comic John Cullen.



**RADIO**  
**TO CATCH A SCORPION**  
**Radio 4/BBC Sounds**  
The dramatic hunt for one of Europe's most-wanted people smugglers is recorded as it unfolds by journalist Sue Mitchell and former soldier Rob Lawrie.



**ALBUM**  
**66**  
**Paul Weller**  
As he leans in to late middle age (he turns 66 today), the former Modfather sings with warmth on a sentimental album that swings from jazz-pop to psychedelic rock.



## 'Buying London' is an insult to a city in a housing crisis

The estate agency-meets-reality-TV format so popular in the US doesn't play well in the UK's capital, where people can't afford to live. By [Emily Baker](#)

Hot off the Christian Louboutin-ed heels of *Selling Sunset*, *Selling the OC*, *Selling Tampa* and (it's not all "sell, sell, sell") *Buying Beverly Hills* comes Netflix's latest contribution to the TV sub genre of "hot people selling mansions": *Buying London*.

The premise is tiresome and familiar: attractive women (who may or may not have become estate agents just to get on TV) sell huge houses to the uber-rich under the guidance/iron fist of a serious boss who still knows how to have fun.

The agents fight over who gets to sell which house. The agents fight over who is getting special treatment from the boss. The agents pound down the street to inane pop music with lyrics along the lines of: "I'm a boss babe who can do anything I want to and I'm sexy".

The difference is that when it's on home turf, this kind of mindless escapism turns into something crass, cognitively dissonant and tone-deaf for a country gripped by a housing crisis.

Swapping the glass-fronted hilltop new-builds of LA for the chic townhouses of Holland Park promises to offer *Buying London* a touch of class its American cousins lack. Instead, it – and its unseen, often-overseas clients – reminds us the capital has been bought up by absent billionaires who price ordinary people out of their homes.

According to Rightmove, the average house price in central London is £1,453,887 – more than double that of a decade ago. With owning a house coming at such a high cost, more people rent than own. Rent costs in the capital are currently at a record high – an average of £2,121 per month, according to Zoopla – accounting for 85 per cent of renters' income. Couple that with the ongoing cost of living crisis and you get an untenable, depressing situation

On home turf, this kind of mindless escapism turns into something crass

that is forcing millions of young professionals – myself included – out.

After six years of spending thousands on renting cramped, damp flats, hours from work and shared with strangers, I left London and moved home to Manchester. Now in my thirties I'm living with my parents. Watching *Buying London* isn't just painful because it's bad television, it's insulting.

Watching glam estate agents giggle as they pile into an enormous clawfoot bath feels dispassionate, but it is even worse to have personal storylines thrust into the mix. Who cares if agent Oli (who is married, by the way) fancies

his colleague Juliana? That something as monumental as buying a house is put on the same level as this flippant reality TV nonsense shows exactly how deplorable *Buying London* really is.

Boss Daniel Dagggers (pictured, yes, that's his real name, though he also goes by "Mr Super Prime"), spends much of his time on screen relating his past. Having grown up in a council house, at 17 he started selling "normal houses to normal people" and went on to become one of the country's most successful agents (reportedly responsible for London's most expensive sale, at £95m).

That the price of houses has gone through the roof is not mentioned in Dagggers' success story. I doubt that first property he sold for £110,000 in 1997 was anywhere near as cheap in today's money for its current occupants. *Buying London* exalts a man who actively benefited from the capital's property crisis, expecting the victims of it to take him and his business as an example of simple tenacity and smarts. Gross.

By normalising astronomical wealth, *Buying London* makes us comparative peasants feel bad about what we do or do not have (namely, a house).

It's hypocritical, as I do enjoy *Selling Sunset* – but when the format is closer to home, the brazen vulgarity of all these reality property series is laid bare.

*Buying London* is streaming on Netflix.

# Saturday television & radio

## CRITIC'S CHOICE



**Erling Haaland and Man City look to take home the FA Cup, 1.45pm, ITV1 & 1.50pm, BBC One**

**FA Cup Final 1.45pm, ITV1 & 1.50pm, BBC One**  
Manchester City vs Manchester United (kick-off 3pm). Football fans have a choice this afternoon between Gary Lineker (with analysis from Wayne Rooney, Alan Shearer and Micah Richards) and Mark Pougatch (assisted by Roy Keane, Joleon Lescott and Ian Wright) as BBC One and ITV1 go head-to-head with this afternoon's showpiece match taking place at Wembley Stadium. And for the second year running it's the two Manchester teams who are facing off against each other – City won 2-1 last year and if their current form is anything to go by, it would be a real shock if they didn't lift the trophy once again today.

**Doctor Who 6.50pm, BBC One**  
Siân Phillips and Aneurin Barnard are among the guest stars in this week's episode of the sci-fi drama, which is a strong hint that we are in Wales. On a rain-lashed Welsh coast, to be slightly more precise, where the Doctor and Ruby (Ncuti Gatwa and Millie Gibson) arrive at a pub where regulars live in fear of ancient legends coming to life. With good reason, no doubt.

**D-Day: The Last Heroes 8pm, BBC Four**  
The wartime documentaries commemorating the 80th anniversary of the Allied landings in France are coming thick and fast this week, starting with

the stories of film-makers who documented the D-Day landings, creating the thousands of photos and hundreds of hours of footage that made it out of Normandy, ensuring the heroic actions of the soldiers would be immortalised. At 8.20pm, Channel 4 has *D-Day: Secrets of the Frontline Heroes*, in which Dan Snow takes a look at the planning and execution of Operation Overlord.

**Rebus 9.25pm, BBC One**  
This well-executed reboot of the Ian Rankin detective stories continues with Rebus and Siobhan Clarke (Richard Rankin and Lucie Shorthouse) under pressure to get a quick result in their investigation

and track down a witness to the assault on Jimmy McJagger (the Edinburgh hoodlum sensitive about anyone mentioning the Rolling Stones). As their investigation deepens, so it moves closer to Rebus's brother Michael's involvement in criminality.

**Later... with Jools Holland 10.25pm, BBC Two**  
BBC Two is dedicating most of its evening schedules to Gladys Knight on the occasion of the soul legend's 80th birthday. *Later...* also includes its own tribute, with a snippet from 2009 when Jools Holland and Knight performed her hit "If I Were Your Woman" together at the piano. Performing in the here and now at Alexandra

	BBC ONE	BBC TWO	itv1	4	5	BBC FOUR	FILM	itv2	
DAYTIME	6.00 Breakfast (S). 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live (S). 11.30 Simply Nigella (R) (S). 12.00 Football Focus (S). 1.00 BBC News; Weather (S). 1.15 FA Cup: Road To Wembley (R) (S). 1.50 Match Of The Day Live: The FA Cup Manchester City vs Manchester United. Kick-off is at 3pm (S). 5.45 Garden Rescue (R) (S).	7.05 Shaun The Sheep (R) (S). 7.15 Pokémon Horizons (R) (S). 7.35 The Next Step (R) (S). 8.00 The Next Step (R) (S). 8.20 Blue Peter (R) (S). 8.50 Newsround (S). 9.00 James Wong And The Malaysian Garden (R) (S). 10.00 Interior Design Masters With Alan Carr (R) (S). 11.00 Jay's Yorkshire Workshop (R) (S). 12.00 Nadiya's Summer Feasts (R) (S). 1.00 Our Food, Our Family With Michela Chiappa (R) (S). 1.30 The Hairys Bikers (R) (S). 1.45 FILM: Laura (Otto Preminger 1944) (S). 3.10 Yellowstone (R) (S). 4.10 The Great British Sewing Bee (R) (S). 5.10 Flog It! (R) (S).	6.00 Love Your Garden (R) (S). 6.30 Love Your Weekend With Alan Titchmarsh (R) (S). 8.25 Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (S). 9.25 ITV News (S). 9.30 James Martin's Saturday Morning (S). 11.40 Ainsley's National Trust Cook Off (S). 12.35 ITV News; Weather (S). 12.40 Ninja Warrior UK: Race For Glory (R) (S). 1.45 FA Cup Final Manchester City vs Manchester United. Kick-off is at 3pm (S). 5.45 Deal Or No Deal Celebrity Special (R) (S).	6.05 Cheers (R) (S). 6.30 Cheers (R) (S). 6.55 Cheers (R) (S). 7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.10 The Simpsons (R) (S). 9.10 The Simpsons (R) (S). 9.40 The Simpsons (R) (S). 10.10 The Simpsons (R) (S). 10.40 The Simpsons (R) (S). 11.10 The Simpsons (R) (S). 11.35 The Simpsons (R) (S). 12.05 The Simpsons (R) (S). 12.35 FILM: The Karate Kid Part III (John G Avildsen 1989) (S). 2.50 A Place In The Sun (R) (S). 3.50 Four In A Bed (R) (S). 4.20 Four In A Bed (R) (S). 4.50 Four In A Bed (R) (S). 5.20 Four In A Bed (R) (S). 5.50 Four In A Bed (R) (S).	6.00 Milkshake! 8.50 SpongeBob SquarePants (R) (S). 9.00 Entertainment News On 5 (S). 9.10 22 Kids & Counting (R) (S). 10.05 22 Kids & Counting (R) (S). 11.05 22 Kids & Counting (R) (S). 12.05 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (R) (S). 1.05 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (R) (S). 2.05 Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (R) (S). 3.05 Our Yorkshire Farm (R) (S). 4.05 Our Yorkshire Farm (R) (S). 5.05 Our Yorkshire Farm (R) (S).	6.00 CITV. 9.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S). 9.25 Secret Crush (S). 10.20 Dress To Impress (S). 11.20 Dress To Impress (S). 12.20 Dress To Impress (S). 1.20 Celebrity Catchphrase (S). 2.20 In For A Penny (S). 2.50 FILM: Around The World In 80 Days (Frank Coraci 2004) Comedy adventure, starring Steve Coogan and Jackie Chan (S). 5.10 FILM: Turbo (David Soren 2013) Animated adventure, with the voice of Ryan Reynolds (S).	 John Rebus tracks down a new witness 9.25pm, BBC One	 Millie Gibson's Ruby faces up to some ancient legends on the rainy Welsh coast 6.50pm, BBC One	 Singer Nadine Shah is in the 'Later...' studio 10.25pm, BBC Two
6PM	6.30 BBC News (S). 6.40 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 6.50 Doctor Who (S).	6.10 The Morecambe & Wise Show 1970 - The Lost Tape (R) (S). 6.55 The Perfect Morecambe & Wise (R) (S).	6.35 ITV News; Weather (S). 6.45 ITV Regional News; Weather (S).	6.20 Channel 4 News (S). 6.50 Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights The eighth round (S).	6.05 5 News Weekend (S). 6.10 Royal Servants: In Their Own Words (R) (S).				
7PM	7.35 Michael McIntyre's The Wheel With Michael Ball, Tom Allen and Lulu, Joe Marler (R) (S).	7.25 International T20 Cricket England vs Pakistan. Coverage of the match from Edgbaston (S).	7.00 In For A Penny (S). 7.30 Britain's Got Talent More performers take to the stage (S).		7.30 Inside Windsor Castle: A Royal Residence A look at Elizabeth II's time in the castle (S).	7.00 Simon King's Shetland Adventure Last in series (S).	6.50 FILM: I, Robot (Alex Proyas 2004) Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith (S).	7.00 FILM: Legally Blonde 2: Red, White And Blonde (Charles Herman-Wurmfeld 2003) (S).	
8PM	8.35 Casualty Teddy and Michael end up besieged in an old house by a man with a crossbow (S).	8.25 RHS Chelsea Flower Show Highlights of their week at the horticultural event (S).	8.55 The 1% Club Quiz game show hosted by Lee Mack (S).	8.20 D-Day: Secrets Of The Frontline Heroes (S).	8.30 The 1970s: Those Were The Days A look at what it was like living through the early 1970s in Britain (S).	8.00 D-Day: The Last Heroes Part one of two. How meticulous planning helped the Allied forces on D-Day (S).			
9PM	9.25 Rebus John and Siobhan track down a witness to the assault on Jimmy McJagger (S).	9.25 Gladys Knight At The BBC Archive performances by the singer known as the Empress of Soul (S).	9.55 ITV News; Weather (S).	9.25 FILM: Saving Private Ryan (Steven Spielberg 1998) Second World War drama, with Tom Hanks (S).		9.00 FILM: Close (Lukas Dhont 2022) Premiere. Coming-of-age drama, starring Eden Dambrine (S).	9.00 FILM: Jack Reacher (Christopher McQuarrie 2012) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise (S).	9.00 FILM: We're The Millers (Rawson Marshall Thurber 2013) Comedy, starring Jason Sudeikis (S).	
10PM	10.15 BBC News; Weather (S). 10.35 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights Manchester City vs Manchester United (S).	10.25 Later... With Jools Holland With Mark Knopfler, Paul Weller, Nadine Shah and Bob Vylan (S).	10.15 FILM: The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard (Patrick Hughes 2021) Premiere. Crime comedy sequel (S).		10.00 TV's 30 Most Controversial Moments Documentary (R) (S).	10.40 Parkinson With Kenneth Williams, Maggie Smith And John Betjeman (S).			
11PM	11.10 RAYE: Radio 1's Big Weekend RAYE performs in the headline slot on the main stage (S).	11.10 Gladys Knight And The Pips In Concert (R) (S). 11.45 Gladys Knight And The Pips In Concert (R) (S).			11.55 Harry Styles: The Story Of His Life (R) (S).		11.40 FILM: Candyman (Bernard Rose 1992) Horror, starring Virginia Madsen (S).	11.15 Family Guy Peter runs his father-in-law's company (S). 11.45 Family Guy (S).	
LATE	12.10 Doctor Who: Unleashed (R) (S). 12.40 Superman & Lois (S). 1.25 BBC News (S).	12.20 FILM: Do The Right Thing (Spike Lee 1989) Drama, directed by and starring Spike Lee (S). 2.15 This Is BBC Two (S).	12.15 Shop On TV 3.00 Next Level Chef USA (R) (S). 3.50 Unwind With ITV (S). 5.05 Deal Or No Deal (R) (S).	12.40 FILM: The Mechanic (Simon West 2011) (S). 2.10 Ramsay's 24 Hours To Hell And Back (R) (S). 3.00 Imposter: The Man Who Came Back From The Dead (R) (S). 3.55 Hollyoaks Omnibus (R) (S).	1.15 PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S). 3.15 10 Years Younger In 10 Days (R) (S). 4.05 10 Years Younger In 10 Days (R) (S). 4.40 Wildlife SOS (R) (S). 5.05 House Doctor (R) (S).	12.05 Betjeman And Larkin: Monitor (S). 12.25 Yes, Prime Minister (S). 1.00 No Place Like Home (S). 1.30 Simon King's Shetland Adventure (S). 2.30 D-Day: The Last Heroes (S). 3.30 Close	1.45 FILM: Bitch Ass (Bill Posley 2022) Premiere. Horror, starring Tunde Laleye (S). 3.35 Close	12.10 American Dad! (S). 12.40 American Dad! (S). 1.10 Iain Stirling's CelebAbility (S). 1.55 All American (S). 2.50 Unwind With ITV (S). 3.00 Teleshopping	

Palace Theatre is Paul Weller, with a couple of songs from his latest album 66. Plus, there's Nadine Shah, Bob Vylan, Katherine Priddy and Rachel Chinouriri.

**Raye: Radio 1's Big Weekend 11.10pm, BBC One**

This year's Big Weekend music festival comes from Stockwood Park in Luton for three days of live music, with Raye taking the Saturday night headline slot on the Main Stage. The south London singer-songwriter has had a momentous year, including winning a record-breaking six Brit awards for her debut album *My 21st-Century Blues*. Expect to hear hits such as "Hard Out Here".

Gerard Gilbert

**FILM CHOICE**



Jack Black voices the inimitable Po in animated comedy 'Kung Fu Panda', 1.05pm, Film4

**The Great Dictator 1pm, Sky Arts**

(Charlie Chaplin, 1940) In his first talkie, Chaplin plays both Adolf Hitler – or rather, the insane antisemitic demagogue Adenoid Hynkel – and an amnesiac Jewish barber who is mistaken for him. A very daring comedy to have made at the time, and from this distance it is, if anything, even more poignant, and its playing of fascism as a farce even more potent than ever.

**Kung Fu Panda 1.05pm, Film4**

(Mark Osborne, John Stevenson, 2008) There obviously isn't the same spectacle of human athleticism,

but the animators of this homage to chop-socky movies compensate with swooping camera moves, the tactile look of the lead characters' fur and the beauty and detail of the background scenery. Jack Black voices the likeable hero.

**Runaway Jury 9pm, Great! movies**

(Gary Fleder, 2003) In this legal thriller adapted from a John Grisham potboiler, Dustin Hoffman's idealistic lawyer wants to prosecute a gun manufacturer for indirectly killing his client's husband: Gene Hackman is the fixer attempting to rig the jury, and John Cusack is a manipulative jury member with his own agenda.

Laurence Phelan

**On Demand**

**Mbappé** BBC iPlayer  
A documentary profile of the uber-gifted French footballer and World Cup winner.

**Lolla: The Story of Lollapalooza** Paramount+  
Taking a look at how an underground rock tour grew into the global music phenomenon it is today.

**Act Your Age** Netflix  
Comedy series about three house-sharing women in the prime of their lives.

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<p><b>6.00 Bless This House</b> (S) <b>6.30 Bless This House</b> (S) <b>7.00 Agatha Christie's Marple</b> (S) <b>9.05 FILM: Carry On Cleo</b> (Gerald Thomas 1964) Comedy, starring Sid James and Amanda Barrie (S) <b>11.00 Endeavour</b> (S) <b>1.00 ITV Racing: Live From Haydock</b> Coverage from Haydock Park, York, Goodwood and The Curragh (S) <b>4.00 Doc Martin</b> (S) <b>5.00 Midsomer Murders</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>6.00 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts</b> (S) <b>6.15 Lego Masters Australia</b> (S) <b>7.15 Made In Chelsea</b> (S) <b>8.20 FILM: Aliens In The Attic</b> (John Schultz 2009) (S) <b>10.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</b> (S) <b>11.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</b> (S) <b>12.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>1.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>1.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>2.30 Modern Family</b> (S) <b>3.25 Modern Family</b> (S) <b>4.25 Modern Family</b> (S) <b>4.55 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S) <b>5.25 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S) <b>5.50 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>8.55 Food Unwrapped</b> (S) <b>9.30 A Place In The Sun</b> (S) <b>10.25 A Place In The Sun</b> (S) <b>11.25 A Place In The Sun</b> (S) <b>12.30 Location, Location, Location</b> (S) <b>1.35 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>2.05 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>2.35 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>3.10 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>3.40 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>4.10 PopMaster TV</b> (S) <b>5.15 PopMaster TV</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>6.00 The Flash</b> (R) (S) <b>7.00 The Flash</b> (R) (S) <b>8.00 The Flash</b> (R) (S) <b>9.00 The Flash</b> (R) (S) <b>10.00 Grimm</b> (R) (S) <b>11.00 Grimm</b> (R) (S) <b>12.00 Grimm</b> (R) (S) <b>1.00 Grimm</b> (R) (S) <b>2.00 Hawaii Five-o</b> (R) (S) <b>3.00 Hawaii Five-o</b> (R) (S) <b>4.00 Hawaii Five-o</b> (R) (S) <b>5.00 Hawaii Five-o</b> (R) (S)</p>	<p><b>6.00 The Guest Wing</b> (R) (S) <b>7.00 The Guest Wing</b> (R) (S) <b>8.00 The Guest Wing</b> (R) (S) <b>9.00 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>10.05 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>11.10 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>12.15 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>1.20 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>2.25 Billions</b> (R) (S) <b>3.30 Billions</b> (R) (S) <b>4.35 Billions</b> (R) (S) <b>5.40 Billions</b> (R) (S)</p>
<p><b>7.00 Midsomer Murders</b> An airfield owner falls to his death from a plane (S).</p>	<p><b>6.20 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S) <b>6.45 FILM: How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days</b> (Donald Petrie 2003) (S)</p>	<p><b>6.20 Four In A Bed</b> The contest begins at Bove Town House in Glastonbury (S). <b>6.50 Four In A Bed</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>6.00 Hawaii Five-o</b> A bomb-disposal squad is attacked (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>6.45 Billions</b> Chuck wrestles with his demons and chooses a new path (R) (S).</p>
<p><b>9.00 Grantchester</b> A man confesses to attacking and killing his landlord (S).</p>	<p><b>9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox</b> Shows including <i>Big Brother: Best Shows Ever</i> is appraised (S).</p>	<p><b>7.20 Four In A Bed</b> (S) <b>7.55 Four In A Bed</b> The final visit is to the pet-friendly Fritton Arms in Norfolk (S).</p>	<p><b>7.00 Flintoff: From Lord's To The Ring</b> Andrew Flintoff meets boxing legend Mike Tyson (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>7.55 Game Of Thrones</b> Jon prepares for conflict, and Sansa tries to talk to Theon (R) (S).</p>
<p><b>10.00 Grantchester</b> Sidney and Georgie find themselves at odds (S).</p>	<p><b>10.00 Gogglebox</b> Reviews include <i>The Traitors</i> and <i>Gino's Cooking Up Love</i> (S).</p>	<p><b>8.25 Four In A Bed</b> The owners reunite to find out what they have been paid and settle some scores (S).</p>	<p><b>8.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip</b> (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>6.30am BBC Radio 3</b> <b>6.30am Breakfast</b> <b>9.00 Saturday Morning</b> <b>12noon Earlier...</b> With Jools Holland <b>1.00 Music Matters: 25 Years Of The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra</b> <b>2.00 Record Review</b> <b>4.00 Sound Of Cinema</b> <b>5.00 This Classical Life</b> <b>6.00 Opera On 3</b> <b>9.30 Music Planet</b> <b>10.30 New Music Show</b> <b>12.30am Through The Night</b></p>
<p><b>11.00 Endeavour</b> Prequel to <i>Inspector Morse</i> set in 1965, starring Shaun Evans (S).</p>	<p><b>11.05 Gogglebox</b> Views on <i>Starstruck</i>, <i>The Piano</i>, <i>You and Rick Stein's Cornwall</i> (S).</p>	<p><b>9.00 24 Hours In A&amp;E</b> A young man is treated after coming off his motorbike and colliding with two cars (S).</p>	<p><b>9.00 Ted</b> Blaire asks Matty and Susan to be their marriage therapist (R) (S). <b>9.50 Resident Alien</b> (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>9.00 Game Of Thrones</b> Arya makes progress in her training. Sansa confronts an old friend (R) (S).</p>
<p><b>1.00 Bless This House</b> (S) <b>1.30 Bless This House</b> (S) <b>2.00 Unwind With ITV</b> (S) <b>2.30 Teleshopping</b></p>	<p><b>12.10 First Dates</b> (S) <b>2.20 Gogglebox</b> (S) <b>3.15 Gogglebox</b> (S) <b>4.10 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>4.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>5.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>5.25 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>10.00 24 Hours In A&amp;E</b> An 18-year-old breaks his leg while playing football (S).</p>	<p><b>10.50 Hold The Front Page</b> The presenters work for Bradford's Telegraph &amp; Argus (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>10.05 Game Of Thrones</b> Arya runs into a familiar face and Mace Tyrell visits the Iron Bank (R) (S).</p>
<p><b>1.00 Road Wars</b> (R) (S) <b>2.00 S.W.A.T</b> <b>3.00 Brit Cops: Frontline Crime UK</b> (R) <b>4.00 Sun, Sea And A&amp;E</b> (R) (S) <b>5.00 Sun, Sea And A&amp;E</b> (R) (S)</p>	<p><b>12.15 Game Of Thrones</b> (R) (S) <b>1.15 Domina</b> (R) (S) <b>2.20 The Deuce</b> (R) (S) <b>3.30 In Treatment</b> (R) (S) <b>4.00 The Guest Wing</b> (R) (S) <b>5.00 The Guest Wing</b> (R) (S)</p>	<p><b>11.05 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown</b> (S).</p>	<p><b>11.55 Banshee</b> A grocery store robbery spirals into a hostage situation at the school (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>11.10 Game Of Thrones</b> Cersei finds herself seeking forgiveness (R) (S).</p>

**Radio listings**

**BBC Radio 1**  
**6am** Radio 1 Happy **7.00** Conor Knight **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Radio 1 Anthems **11.02** Radio 1's Big Weekend **1pm** Radio 1's Big Weekend **2.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **3.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **4.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **5.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **6.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **7.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **8.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **9.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets **10.05** Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets **11.00** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Show **12midn't** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix-DNB60 **1.00** Radio 1's Classic Essential Mix **3.00** Radio 1's Dance Anthems **4.00** Radio 1's Workout Anthems

**BBC Radio 1Xtra**  
**6am** 1Xtra's Throwback Party **7.00** Saturday Breakfast **10.00** Nick Bright **1pm** Joelah Noble **4.00** Sian Anderson And Manga Saint Hilare **7.00** 1Xtra's Pre-Party Show With DJ Target **9.00** 1Xtra's R&B Show With DJ Target **10.00** 1Xtra's R&B Show With DJ Target **12.30am** 1Xtra's R&B Slow Jamz Mix With Chuckie **1.00** 1Xtra's Throwback Party **2.00** Battle Of The Mixes **2.30** Battle Of The Mixes **3.00** Top Boy **4.00** David Rodigan

**BBC Radio 2**  
**6am** Sounds Of The 60s With Tony Blackburn **8.00** Dermot O'Leary **10.00** Romesh Ranganathan **1pm** Pick Of The Pops **2.00** Pick Of The Pops **3.00** Rylan On Saturday **6.00** Liza Tarbuck **8.00** Sounds Of The 80s With Gary Davies **10.00** Sounds Of The 90s With Fearne Cotton **11.00** Sounds Of The 90s With Fearne Cotton **12midn't** Black And Country **1.00** Dance Sounds Of The 90s With Vernon Kay **2.00** Status Quo At The BBC **3.00** Radio 2 In The Park - The Highlights **5.00** Tracks Of My Years

**BBC Radio 3**  
**6.30am** Breakfast **9.00** Saturday Morning **12noon** Earlier... With Jools Holland **1.00** Music Matters: 25 Years Of The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra **2.00** Record Review **4.00** Sound Of Cinema **5.00** This Classical Life **6.00** Opera On 3 **9.30** Music Planet **10.30** New Music Show **12.30am** Through The Night

**BBC Radio 4**  
**6am** News And Papers **6.07** Open Country **6.30** Farming Today This Week **6.57** Weather **7.00** Today **9.00** Saturday Live **10.00** Your Place Or Mine **10.30** The Kitchen Cabinet **11.00** The Week In Westminster **11.30** From Our Own Correspondent **12noon** News **12.04** Money Box **12.30** Dead Ringers **12.57** Weather **1.00** News **1.10** Any Questions? **2.00** Any Answers? **2.45** The Archers **3.00** Drama: Electric Decade: Clash **4.00** Weekend Woman's Hour **5.00** Saturday PM **5.30** Political Thinking With Nick Robinson **5.54** Shipping Forecast **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.15** Loose Ends **7.00** Profile **7.15** This Cultural Life **8.00** Archive On 4: Watching Us, Watching You **9.00** Shadow War: China And The West **10.00** News **10.15** The Food Programme **11.00** Michael Spicer: No Room **11.15** Michael Spicer: No Room **11.30** Round Britain Quiz **12midn't** Midnight News **12.15** Open Book **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Bells On Sunday

**BBC Radio 4 Extra**  
**6am** Elephants Can Remember **7.30** The Bells Of Old Tokyo Omnibus **8.40** Inheritance Tracks **8.45** Marriott's Monologues **9.00** England, Their England **9.30** The Arthur Haynes Show **10.00** Dr Hannah Fry: Codebreaker **11.00** Elephants Can Remember **12.30pm** The Bells Of Old Tokyo Omnibus **1.40** Inheritance Tracks

**1.45** Marriott's Monologues **2.00** England, Their England **2.30** The Arthur Haynes Show **3.00** Dr Hannah Fry: Codebreaker **4.00** Rendezvous With Rama **5.00** Elephants Can Remember **6.30** The Bells Of Old Tokyo Omnibus **7.40** Inheritance Tracks **7.45** Marriott's Monologues **8.00** England, Their England **8.30** The Arthur Haynes Show **9.00** Dr Hannah Fry: Codebreaker **10.00** Comedy Club: Paul Sinha's General Knowledge **10.30** Comedy Club: Sarah Millican's Support Group **11.00** Comedy Club: "Whatever Next?" With Miles Jupp **11.30** Comedy Club: The Masterson Inheritance **12midn't** Rendezvous With Rama **1.00** Elephants Can Remember **2.30** The Bells Of Old Tokyo Omnibus **3.40** Inheritance Tracks **3.45** Marriott's Monologues **4.00** England, Their England **4.30** The Arthur Haynes Show **5.00** Dr Hannah Fry: Codebreaker

**BBC 5 Live**  
**6am** Saturday Breakfast **9.00** Patrick Kielty **11.00** Fighting Talk **12noon** 5 Live Sport **3.00** 5 Live Sport **5.00** 5 Live Sport **6.00** 6-0-6 **8.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** Stephen Nolan **12midn't** TBA **1.00** Lisa McCormick **5.00** Newscast

**BBC 6 Music**  
**6am** Amy Lamé **8.00** Stuart Macdonie **10.00** The Huey Show **1pm** Jamz Supernova On 6 **3.00** Gilles Peterson **6.00** The Craig Charles Funk And Soul Show **9.00** Don Letts' Culture Clash Radio **11.00** Sherelle **1am** 6 Music's Rave Forever **2.00** The Morning After Mix

**Classic FM**  
**7am** Classic FM's More Music Breakfast With Tim Lihoreau **10.00** Aled Jones **1pm** Alexander Armstrong **4.00** Alan Titchmarsh **7.00** Classic FM At The Movies With Jonathan Ross **9.00** Classic Parent Power With Myleene Klass **10.00** Calm Classics **1am** Katie Breathwick

**Absolute Radio**  
**8am** Frank Skinner **11.00** Sarah Champion **2pm** Emil Franchi **5.00** Andy Bush's Indie Disco **7.00** Absolute Classic Rock Party With Claire Sturges **10.00** Sophie K **4am** Emil Franchi

**Heart**  
**9am** Heart's Feel Good Weekend With JK&Kelly Brook **12noon** Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin **4.00** Mark Wright **7.00** Heart's Club Classics With Pandora Christie **11.00** Rezza Ghadjar **1am** Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Katrina Ridley

**TalkSPORT**  
**6am** GameDay Breakfast **9.00** GameDay Warm Up **11.00** Box Park From Wembley Way **1pm** GameDay Live **6.00** The GameDay Phone-In **9.00** Fight Night **12midn't** A TalkSPORT Special **1.00** Extra Time With Martin Kelner

**RADIO PICK**

**Music Matters: 25 Years of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra 1pm, BBC Radio 3**



Clemency Burton-Hill (left) traces the first steps of the musical adventure that comprises both Arab and Israeli members, discovering how the musicians were found and recruited, and exploring the challenges they faced. The programme includes interviews with the likes of Daniel Barenboim and Mariam Said.

# Sunday television & radio

## CRITIC'S CHOICE



Rylan Clark and Rob Rinder are in Rome to finish up their 'Grand Tour', 9pm, BBC Two

### Our Dream Farm with Matt Baker

**4.55pm, Channel 4**  
This competition to see which couple wins the tenancy of a National Trust-owned farm in Northumberland has been bumped from Saturday evening to this Sunday afternoon slot – slightly oddly, since this is the final. Among the tasks is gathering the ewe lambs from the rotational grazing system, so they can be protected against a parasite called liver fluke.

### The Responder

**9pm, BBC One**  
"Square your statements off," advises the desk sergeant as Chris and Rachel (Martin Freeman and Adelayo Adedayo) bring in Rachel's

abusive ex Steve – claiming he assaulted Rachel when the opposite occurred. Meanwhile, Chris is just desperate for a kip – which leads him to his dad's house and a final, cathartic scene with the late, great Bernard Hill.

### Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour

**9pm, BBC Two**  
"I know that the Pope lives here and that it wasn't built in a day," quips Rylan Clark as he and Rob Rinder arrive in Rome – the final stop on their own mini grand tour. As they dive in to the glories of the Baroque – dressing as figures from a Caravaggio painting and listening to a pair of operatic counter-tenors (the nearest modern equivalent to the

"castrati") – Rylan is once again in confessional mode, dissing his allotted role as the X Factor joke act. "There's more to me than that... I'm not thick," he says.

### The Piano

**9pm, Channel 4**  
There is only one place left in the final concert, Claudia Winkleman, Mika and Lang Lang heading to Liverpool's Lime Street Station to see whether they can find that pianist on the concourse. Among those tickling the ivories is a call centre manager who raps, while the presenters meet local legend Billy the Hat (an 87-year-old piano player from Anfield named for his flamboyant headgear) and join together for a station sing-a-long.

### Shetland: Scotland's Wondrous Isles

**9pm, Channel 5**  
A new documentary series about life on the archipelago, beginning on the tiny island of Noss with wardens Jen and Sally, who are the only residents and live a truly off-grid existence. Meanwhile, on Shetland's mainland, the islands' eponymous hardy breed of pony takes centre stage.

### Red Eye

**9.05pm, ITV1**  
The final episode of this airborne thriller begins with a flashback to the night of the car crash, the events at the Beijing conference centre and nightclub being seen

	ONE	TWO	itv1	4	5	FOUR	FILM	itv2	
DAYTIME	<b>6.00 Breakfast</b> (S). <b>8.25 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights</b> (R) (S). <b>9.00 Sunday With Laura Kuennsberg</b> (S). <b>10.00 Politics England</b> (S). <b>10.30 Animal Park</b> (R) (S). <b>11.00 Great Manchester Run</b> Coverage of the annual event (S). <b>1.00 BBC News</b> ; Weather (S). <b>1.15 Songs Of Praise</b> (S). <b>1.50 Points Of View</b> (S). <b>2.05 Lifetime</b> (S). <b>2.15 Escape To The Country</b> (R) (S). <b>3.15 FILM: A Shaun The Sheep Movie: Farmageddon</b> (Will Becher, Richard Phelan 2019) Animated comedy (S). <b>4.35 The Green Planet</b> (R) (S). <b>5.35 BBC News</b> (S). <b>5.50 BBC Regional News</b> ; Weather (S).	<b>6.30 Countryfile</b> (R) (S). <b>7.25 Our Coast</b> (R) (S). <b>8.25 Breakfast</b> (S). <b>9.00 Beechgrove Garden</b> (R) (S). <b>9.30 Landward</b> (S). <b>10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites</b> (S). <b>11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers</b> (R) (S). <b>11.45 FILM: D-Day The Sixth Of June</b> (Henry Koster 1956) Second World War drama, starring Robert Taylor and Richard Todd (S). <b>1.30 Live Rowing World Cup</b> Coverage from Lucerne, Switzerland (S). <b>3.00 Cycling: Ride London</b> Coverage of the event from the capital (S).	<b>6.00 James Martin's Great British Adventure</b> (R) (S). <b>6.30 James Martin's Spanish Adventure</b> (R) (S). <b>7.25 Ainsley's National Trust Cook Off</b> (R) (S). <b>8.25 Katie Piper's Breakfast Show</b> (S). <b>9.25 ITV News</b> (S). <b>9.30 Love Your Weekend With Alan Titchmarsh</b> (S). <b>11.25 Alan Titchmarsh's Gardening Club</b> (R) (S). <b>12.30 ITV News</b> ; Weather (S). <b>12.40 Britain's Got Talent</b> (R) (S). <b>2.00 In For A Penny</b> (R) (S). <b>2.30 FILM: Dr Seuss' The Lorax</b> (Chris Renaud, Kyle Balda 2012) Animated fantasy (S). <b>4.15 FILM: From Russia With Love</b> (Terence Young 1963) James Bond thriller, starring Sean Connery (S).	<b>6.00 The King Of Queens</b> (R) (S). <b>6.20 The King Of Queens</b> (R) (S). <b>6.45 Cheers</b> (R) (S). <b>7.15 Cheers</b> (R) (S). <b>7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond</b> (R) (S). <b>8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond</b> (R) (S). <b>8.30 The Simpsons</b> (R) (S). <b>9.00 The Simpsons</b> (R) (S). <b>9.30 Sunday Brunch</b> (S). <b>12.30 The Simpsons</b> (R) (S). <b>1.00 The Simpsons</b> (R) (S). <b>1.30 The Simpsons</b> (R) (S). <b>2.00 The Simpsons</b> (R) (S). <b>2.30 The Simpsons</b> (R) (S). <b>3.00 FILM: Clueless</b> (Amy Heckerling 1995) Comedy, starring Alicia Silverstone (S). <b>4.55 Our Dream Farm With Matt Baker</b> (S).	<b>6.00 Milkshake!</b> <b>8.50 SpongeBob SquarePants</b> (R) (S). <b>9.05 Entertainment News On 5</b> (S). <b>9.10 The Yorkshire Vet</b> (R) (S). <b>9.35 Cruising With Jane McDonald</b> (R) (S). <b>10.35 Cruising With Jane McDonald</b> (R) (S). <b>11.35 Cruising With Jane McDonald</b> (R) (S). <b>12.35 Cruising With Jane McDonald</b> (R) (S). <b>1.30 FILM: The Dam Busters</b> (Michael Anderson 1955) Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Michael Redgrave (S). <b>4.00 Dad's Army: Secret Lives &amp; Scandals</b> (R) (S). <b>5.30 5 News Weekend</b> (S). <b>5.35 Shoplifters: Catch Me If You Can</b> (R) (S).	 <p><b>Claudia Winkleman joins Mika and Lang Lang as they search for one last pianist</b> 9pm, Channel 4</p>	 <p><b>Chris wavers over a difficult decision</b> 9pm, BBC One</p>	 <p><b>Richard Armitage stars in 'Red Eye'</b> 9.05pm, ITV1</p>	<b>6.00 CITV</b> . <b>9.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records</b> (S). <b>9.10 Secret Crush</b> (S). <b>10.05 Dress To Impress</b> (S). <b>11.10 Dress To Impress</b> (S). <b>12.10 In For A Penny</b> (S). <b>12.40 Family Fortunes: Gino's Best Bits</b> (S). <b>1.05 Celebrity Catchphrase</b> (S). <b>2.05 FILM: Cats &amp; Dogs: The Revenge Of Kitty Galore</b> (Brad Peyton 2010) Comedy sequel, starring Chris O'Donnell (S). <b>3.50 Britain's Got Talent</b> (S). <b>5.15 FILM: Johnny English Reborn</b> (Oliver Parker 2011) Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson (S).
6PM	<b>6.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show</b> Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift look back on the highlights of the week (S).	<b>6.00 This Farming Life</b> Robert's cattle get their fresh grass in the Cairngorms (R) (S).	<b>6.30 ITV News</b> ; Weather (S). <b>6.45 ITV Regional News</b> ; Weather (S).	<b>6.00 Channel 4 News</b> (S). <b>6.30 Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Highlights</b> Action from the eighth round (S).	<b>6.30 The Bailiffs</b> Following the work of High Court enforcement agents. Last in the series (R) (S).	 <p><b>Claudia Winkleman joins Mika and Lang Lang as they search for one last pianist</b> 9pm, Channel 4</p>	 <p><b>Richard Armitage stars in 'Red Eye'</b> 9.05pm, ITV1</p>	<b>6.15 FILM: Catch Me If You Can</b> (Steven Spielberg 2002) Fact-based drama (S).	<b>7.15 FILM: Liar Liar</b> (Tom Shadyac 1997) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey (S).
7PM	<b>7.00 Countryfile</b> Adam Henson and Charlotte Smith explore the Camel Trail in North Cornwall (S).	<b>7.00 Race Across The World</b> The teams gets their way through the Indonesian island of Sumatra (R) (S).	<b>7.00 Deal Or No Deal</b> Game show, hosted by Stephen Mulhern (R) (S).	<b>7.00 Secrets Of Your Favourite Chocolate Bars</b> How the nation's favourite confectionery is made (S).	<b>7.00 Britain's Got Talent</b> Performers take to the stage in the final batch of auditions (S).	<b>7.00 A Branch Line Railway With John Betjeman</b> <b>7.30 Inside Classical: Music Night From Alexandra Palace</b> (S).	<b>7.00 FILM: Men In Black: International</b> (F Gary Gray 2019) Fantasy sequel, starring Chris Hemsworth (S).	<b>7.15 FILM: Liar Liar</b> (Tom Shadyac 1997) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey (S).	
8PM	<b>8.00 Antiques Roadshow</b> Fiona Bruce and the team head to Windermere Jetty Museum (R) (S).	<b>8.00 The Americas With Simon Reeve</b> Simon travels down the Rocky Mountains (R) (S).	<b>8.00 Britain's Got Talent</b> Performers take to the stage in the final batch of auditions (S).	<b>8.00 Gogglebox</b> The households' opinions on recent television (R) (S). <b>10.55 Gogglebox</b> (R) (S).	<b>9.00 The Piano</b> Claudia Winkleman hosts from Liverpool Lime Street Station (S).	<b>9.00 Maya Angelou At The BBC</b> Bonnie Greer looks back on the life and work of Maya Angelou (S).	<b>9.00 FILM: Men In Black: International</b> (F Gary Gray 2019) Fantasy sequel, starring Chris Hemsworth (S).	<b>9.00 Family Guy</b> Peter bangs his head and develops amnesia (S). <b>9.30 Family Guy</b> (S).	
9PM	<b>9.00 The Responder</b> Chris has a choice to make when he obtains Franny's encrypted phone (S).	<b>9.00 Rob And Rylan's Grand Tour</b> Rob Rinder and Rylan Clark go on a cultural tour of Rome. Last in series (S).	<b>9.05 Red Eye</b> The truth about the conspiracy is revealed. Last in series (S).	<b>9.05 The Piano</b> Claudia Winkleman hosts from Liverpool Lime Street Station (S).	<b>9.00 Shetland: Scotland's Wondrous Isles</b> New series. Life on the archipelago (S).	<b>9.00 Maya Angelou At The BBC</b> Bonnie Greer looks back on the life and work of Maya Angelou (S).	<b>9.00 FILM: Men In Black: International</b> (F Gary Gray 2019) Fantasy sequel, starring Chris Hemsworth (S).	<b>9.00 Family Guy</b> Peter bangs his head and develops amnesia (S). <b>9.30 Family Guy</b> (S).	
10PM	<b>10.00 BBC News</b> ; Weather (S). <b>10.25 BBC Regional News</b> (S). <b>10.30 Coldplay: Radio 1's Big Weekend</b> (S).	<b>10.00 FILM: Tenet</b> (Christopher Nolan 2020) Premiere. Action thriller, starring John David Washington (S).	<b>10.05 ITV News</b> ; Weather (S). <b>10.25 Ellie Simmonds: Finding My Secret Family</b> (R) (S).	<b>10.00 Gogglebox</b> The households' opinions on recent television (R) (S). <b>10.55 Gogglebox</b> (R) (S).	<b>10.00 Morecambe &amp; Wise: 30 Funniest Moments</b> The comedy duo's memorable sketches (R) (S).	<b>10.00 Angelou On Burns</b> (S). <b>10.50 Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise - Imagine</b> (S).	<b>10.00 FILM: Men In Black: International</b> (F Gary Gray 2019) Fantasy sequel, starring Chris Hemsworth (S).	<b>10.00 Family Guy</b> Peter and Lois visit a psychic (S). <b>10.30 Family Guy</b> (S).	
11PM	<b>11.30 FILM: 47 Meters Down: Uncaged</b> (Johannes Roberts 2019) Thriller sequel, starring Sophie Nélisse (S).	<b>11.20 English Football League Championship Final Highlights</b> Action from the lucrative match (S).	<b>11.20 English Football League Championship Final Highlights</b> Action from the lucrative match (S).	<b>11.20 English Football League Championship Final Highlights</b> Action from the lucrative match (S).	<b>11.15 FILM: Rams</b> (Jeremy Sims 2020) Comedy drama, starring Sam Neill (S).	<b>11.15 FILM: Rams</b> (Jeremy Sims 2020) Comedy drama, starring Sam Neill (S).	<b>11.15 FILM: Rams</b> (Jeremy Sims 2020) Comedy drama, starring Sam Neill (S).	<b>11.00 Family Guy</b> Lois discovers she is Jewish (S). <b>11.30 American Dad!</b> Stan's pranks land him in jail (S).	
LATE	<b>12.55 BBC News</b> (S).	<b>12.20 FILM: Memento</b> (Christopher Nolan 2000) Thriller, starring Guy Pearce (S). <b>2.10 Sign Zone: Blue Lights</b> (R) (S). <b>3.10 This Is BBC Two</b> (S).	<b>12.15 Shop On TV</b> <b>3.00 Motorsport UK</b> (R) (S). <b>3.50 Unwind With ITV</b> (S). <b>5.05 Ainsley's National Trust Cook Off</b> (R) (S).	<b>12.00 FILM: Saturday Night Fever</b> (John Badham 1977) Drama, starring John Travolta (S). <b>2.05 The Gathering</b> (R) (S). <b>2.55 The Gathering</b> (R) (S). <b>3.45 Come Dine With Me</b> (R) (S). <b>5.50 Countdown</b> (R) (S).	<b>12.00 World's Funniest TV Ads With Jason Manford</b> (R) (S). <b>1.00 PlayOJO Live Casino Show</b> (S). <b>3.00 FILM: Santa Who?</b> (William Dear 2000) (S). <b>4.35 Entertainment News On 5</b> (S).	<b>12.25 The Secret History Of Writing</b> (S). <b>1.25 Inside Classical: Music Night From Alexandra Palace</b> (S). <b>2.55 Maya Angelou At The BBC</b> (S). <b>3.55 Close</b>	<b>1.35 FILM: Night School</b> (Malcolm D Lee 2018) Comedy, starring Kevin Hart (S). <b>3.50 Close</b>	<b>12.00 American Dad!</b> (S). <b>12.30 CelebAbility</b> (S). <b>1.15 All American</b> (S). <b>2.15 Unwind With ITV</b> (S). <b>3.00 Teleshopping</b>	

# games & puzzles

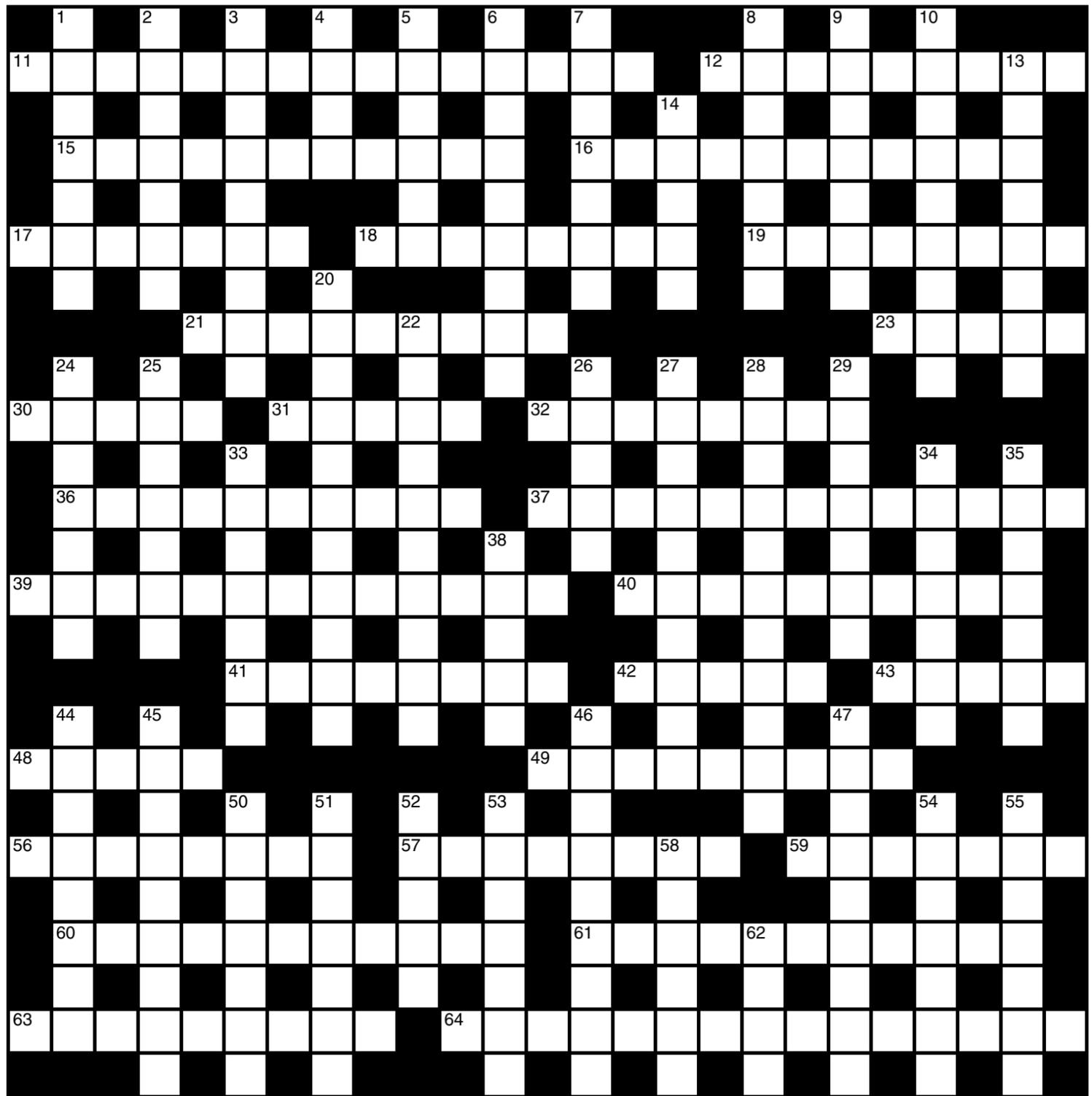
Give your wits a workout with the weekend's best puzzling package

8-page  
pull-out

## Jumbo General Knowledge Crossword

### ACROSS

- 11** The killer of John F Kennedy, according to three government investigations (3,6,6)
- 12** Radio host and TV personality who finished third on *I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here!* in 2019 (5,4)
- 15** English actor best known for playing Jimmy McNulty in the TV series *The Wire* (7,4)
- 16** Winner of the 2024 World Snooker Championship (5,6)
- 17** The point in its orbit when the moon is nearest the earth (7)
- 18** Element of the alkali metal group named from the two red lines in its spectrum (8)
- 19** Poisonous evergreen shrub also called rosebay (8)
- 21** James Bond film featuring the character Hugo Drax (9)
- 23** 2nd-century Greek physician who codified existing medical knowledge (5)
- 30/31** American rapper and actor who made his film debut with his father Will in the 2006 film *The Pursuit of Happyness* (5,5)
- 32** Region of southern Italy at the "toe" of the Italian Peninsula (8)
- 36** 2024 film starring Ryan Gosling and Emily Blunt, loosely based on a 1980s TV series (3,4,3)
- 37** Venomous American snake also called a cottonmouth (5,8)
- 39** Another name for an avocado (9,4)
- 40** Form of free climbing performed without ropes or harnesses (10)
- 41** British writer best known for his Shardlake series of historical crime novels (1,1,6)
- 42** Horse that Pat Taaffe rode to victory in three successive Cheltenham Gold Cups in the 1960s (5)
- 43** A dark reddish-brown pigment obtained from the inky secretion of the cuttlefish (5)
- 48/49** Former US Secretary of State who shared the 1973 Nobel peace prize (5,9)
- 56** Another name for graphite (8)
- 57** Asian ornamental shrub named after a Jesuit missionary who introduced it to Europe (8)
- 59** Actress who played Sally in the 1989 film *When Harry Met Sally...* (3,4)
- 60** Song written by Mac Davis, originally called *The Vicious Circle*, that gave Elvis Presley a big hit in 1969 (2,3,6)
- 61** The new First Minister of Scotland (4,7)
- 63** The popular tropical fish *Paracheirodon innesi* (4,5)
- 64** British dramatist whose works include *The Winslow Boy*, *The Browning Version* and *Separate Tables* (7,8)



### DOWN

- 1** The animal *Cervus elaphus* (3,4)
- 2** A soft suede leather formerly made from the hide of the goat antelope *Rupicapra rupicapra* (7)
- 3** Municipality in New Jersey best known for its private Ivy League research university (9)
- 4** Spice Girl nicknamed Sporty Spice (3,1)
- 5** Spanish international footballer, formerly at Stoke City, whose two late goals against Bayern Munich sent Real Madrid to this year's Champions League final (6)
- 6** The second of Frankie Goes to Hollywood's trio of number one singles in 1984 (3,6)

- 7** 1963 number one single by Gerry & the Pacemakers (1,4,2)
- 8** In the US, an anonymous party, typically the plaintiff, in a legal action (4,3)
- 9/34** Scientist after whom Pisa International Airport is named (7,7)
- 10** BBC winter sports programme launched in 1978 (3,6)
- 13** City in California that was the capital of Spain's Pacific empire from 1774 to 1825 (8)
- 14** Town in the Mendip district of Somerset approximately 13 miles south of Bath (5)
- 20** 1978 John Landis film set at Faber College (6,5)

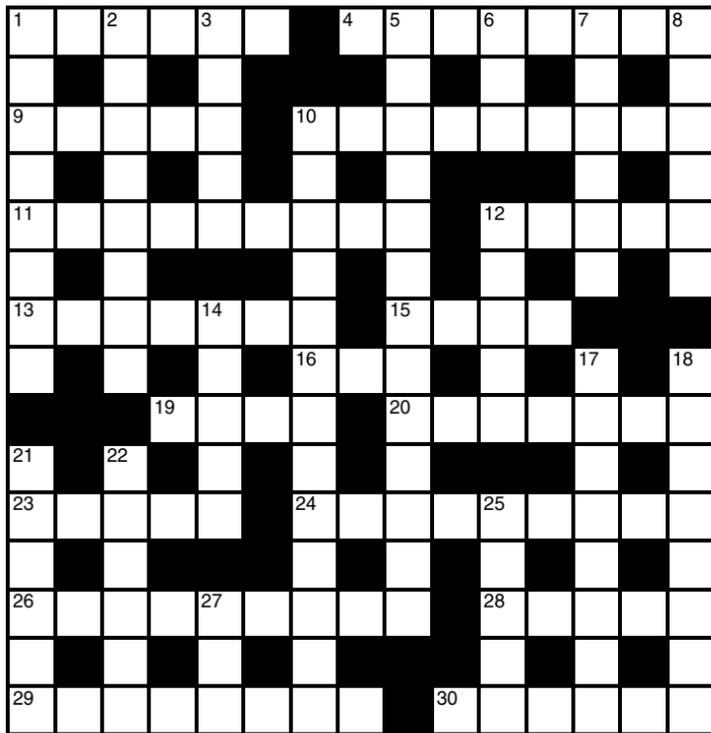
- 22** American director whose films include *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Little Big Man* (6,4)
- 24** Former kingdom comprising most of modern Spain (7)
- 25** The first book of the Old Testament (7)
- 26** Country that hosted the 2022 FIFA World Cup (5)
- 27** English artists' model who embodied the Pre-Raphaelite ideal of beauty (4,6)
- 28** Home of Sheffield United FC (7,4)
- 29** Chairmen of the Board song best known as the Grammy-winning 1970 hit version recorded by Clarence Carter (7)
- 33** Country whose capital is Kingston (7)

- 34** See 9
- 35** See 52
- 38** African country whose capital is Libreville (5)
- 44** Title shared by albums by Simple Minds, Joan as Police Woman and Emeli Sandé (4,4)
- 45** Obsolete name for sulphur (9)
- 46** American singer-songwriter whose hits include *Just the Way You Are*, *She's Always a Woman* and *Uptown Girl* (5,4)
- 47** Small Mediterranean tree that yields turpentine (9)
- 50** River which forms a boundary between Suffolk and Norfolk (7)
- 51** Goalkeeper who won 75 caps for England between 2008 and 2017 (3,4)

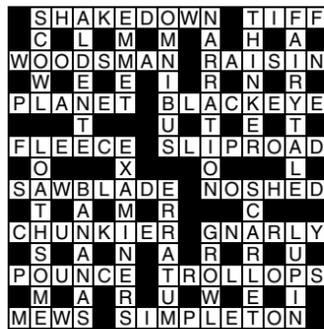
- 52/35** Hero of a series of stories by Bryan Lee O'Malley (5,7)
- 53** Egyptian physician and architect worshipped as a god after his death (7)
- 54** German consumer electronics manufacturer established in Nuremberg in 1945 (7)
- 55** Nickname given to Billie Holiday by Lester Young (4,3)
- 58** Smallest of the Ionian islands, regarded as the home of Odysseus (6)
- 62** Island in the Channel Islands ruled by a hereditary seigneur or dame (4)

Solutions, page 60

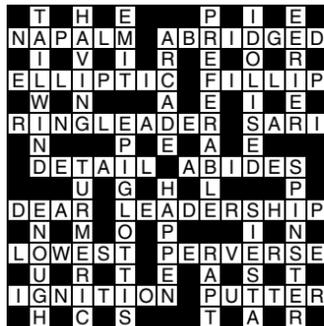
# CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No 4150 BY MAIZE



### Solution to yesterday's Cryptic



### Solution to last Saturday's Cryptic



#### ACROSS

- 1 Soldier from America infiltrating Soviet Union to the east of Hungary (6)
- 4 Poetic lines penned by oddly absent royals – in Canada perhaps? (8)
- 9 Permit enormous current to turn into river (5)
- 10 Clobber funny guys in film (9)
- 11 Place to go to rejected by taxi navigator (4,5)
- 12 Charming river flowing west around German isle (5)
- 13 See 19
- 15 With hindsight 10 out of 10 then (4)
- 16 Traffic light acrostic for newspaper (3)
- 19/13 Chimaera of tiger, salmon and lizard (4,7)
- 20 Captain who's drawn from harbour by drunk (7)
- 23 Simple brick home with retro interior (5)

- 24 Rival of S Coe ran and ran desperately (9)
- 26 Long-haul flyers go and see new centre of Hiroshima rebuilt (4,5)
- 28 Russian ballet's cocktail of sound (5)
- 29 Spooner's journey from hive to flower causes minor irritation (4,4)
- 30 Communist subject turned marketeer (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 On a trip before spring event (4,4)
- 2 *Breaking Bad*? Anything but! (8)
- 3 Ancient civilization originally capturing unknown tribespeople for evisceration (5)
- 5 19th nervous breakdown? Get over it! (8,5)

- 6 Tear shed first from sappy individual (3)
- 7 Go halves in teen beer orgy (6)
- 8 Gimmick which Connery uses to beat his enemy? (6)
- 10 Setter put up with jiggling man breasts, right to show self-consciousness (13)
- 12 Roman square in Mediterranean complex (5)
- 14  $\frac{1}{2} 12 \div (1+100) \times 2$  (5)
- 17 Detained, being held up in Federal lockdown (8)
- 18 Kids involved with very dangerous job? (8)
- 21 Service provided for Highland area (6)
- 22 Laugh-a-minute Mourinho's entertaining company (6)
- 25 Artisan beer we drink extra warm – bottoms up! (5)
- 27 Cryptically praise British rock (3)

## Minesweeper

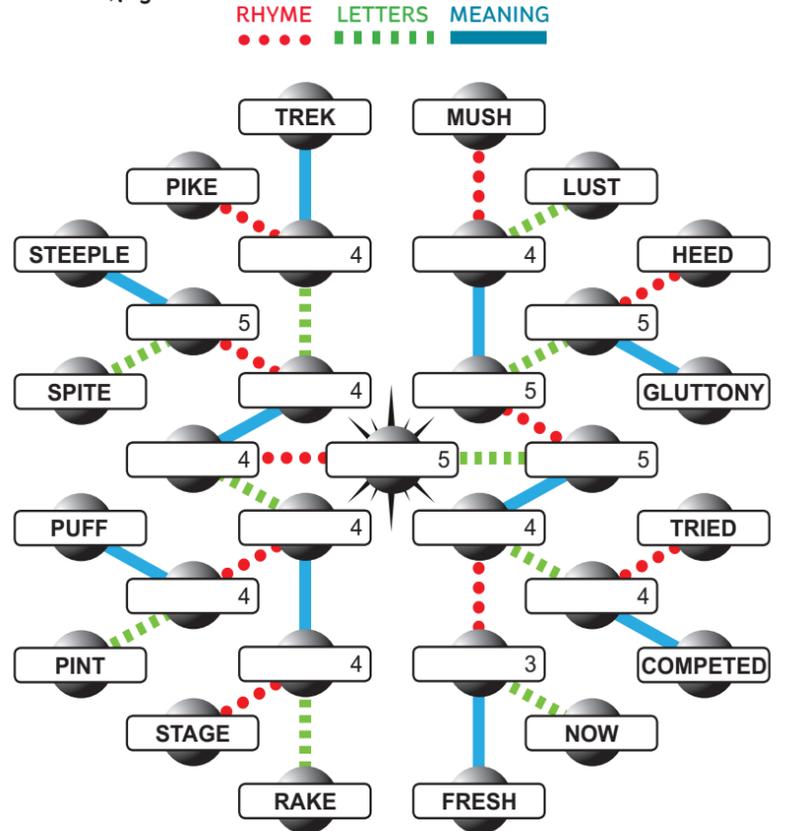
**How to play** Find all the mines in the grid. Numbers in certain squares indicate how many mines there are in the neighbouring squares, including diagonally touching squares. Mines cannot be placed in squares with numbers.

1		2		2				1	0	0	
1			4			2	3		1		
2	2	3		2		2	2	1			
		2		2	1				3	2	1
						1	1	1	2		
4	4	1		1					2	1	
		3						1			
	2		2	1		2	2	2	1		
			1	1						2	3
	1			1		3			2	3	
	2		0	2		2	2		2	3	
1							1		2	1	1

## Zygolex®

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

Solutions, page 60



## Mensa® Brain Teasers

● What letter and number should appear next in this sequence?

D 21 H 17 L 13 P 9 T 5 ? ?

● At a buffet, there are three times as many cheese sandwiches as tuna sandwiches. There are 80 more ham sandwiches than tuna sandwiches and 40 fewer egg sandwiches than ham sandwiches. There are 85 egg sandwiches at the buffet. How many cheese sandwiches are there?

● Clock A was correct at midnight. From that moment, it began to lose four minutes per hour. The clock stopped three hours ago showing clock B. The clock runs for less than 24 hours. What is the correct time now?

CLOCK A

00:00

CLOCK B

14:56

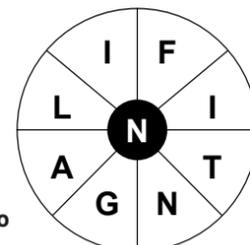
Solutions, page 60

Take the workout at [mensa.org.uk](http://mensa.org.uk)

## Word Wheel

**How to play** This is an open-ended puzzle. How many words of three or more letters, each including the letter at centre of the wheel, can you make from this diagram? We've found 38, including one nine-letter word.

Solutions, page 60



## Number Square

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

### Easier

2	+		-		0
÷		x		x	
1	-		x		-36
-		-		x	
	x		-		17
-1		12		378	

### Harder

	+		x		40
x		x		-	
	-		x		2
+		-		x	
	-	9	+		1
9		11		42	



Solutions [minURL.co.uk/i](http://minURL.co.uk/i)

### A to Z

**How to play** Each letter of the alphabet from A-Z must be placed once into the gaps to complete a filled crossword grid.

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

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

### Knight's Tour

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

				10	81	100	55	12		
94		90								
89		71			74		52	63		
	95			98	57	66	49			
87			68	79	84	47				44
	7					58				
						61	36	43		
	5		77	24		42		16		
29	26							18	33	
4	1			22		32		38		

### Rectangles

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

			3							2
				6			6			
	12		3		6					12
10										
6			2	4						2
					3					3
				16						
2	2									

### Word Fit

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

- 3 letters**
- Bit
- Box
- Dub
- Gym
- Map
- May
- Owl
- Rim
- Tux
- 4 letters**
- Blur
- Josh
- 5 letters**
- Dumps
- Hilly
- Pairs
- Right
- Weave
- 6 letters**
- Prayer
- Schist
- 7 letters**
- Muddier
- Noticed
- Shelves
- Vertigo
- 8 letters**
- Snoozing
- Stopping

### Bridges

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

### Word Search

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

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

- BAKER STREET
- BASIL RATHBONE
- BOHEMIAN
- CONAN DOYLE
- DETECTIVE
- DR WATSON
- FORENSIC
- HIS LAST BOW
- IRENE ADLER
- LOGIC
- LONDON
- MORIARTY
- MRS HUDSON
- MYCROFT
- PIPE
- SCOTLAND YARD
- SHORT STORIES
- SIDNEY PAGET
- THE VALLEY OF FEAR
- VIOLIN

### Word Square

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

				Single article
				Garment of ancient Rome
				Chickens lay these
				Pulp

### Calculatedoku

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

8+	9+		48x		18x
	10x				
	180x		1-		
			10+		
1-		2-	2÷	3÷	5x
6x					

### Hexalex

**How to play** Place each of the letters below once into the empty hexagons, crossing them off as you do so. Enter the letters in such a way that it is possible to find all the words listed alongside the grid by moving from hexagon to adjacent hexagon to spell out each word.

- AWN
- CAPER
- DRIFTS
- FLY
- JOB
- MOB
- MUG
- NAPE
- SHOCK
- WAX
- ZAP

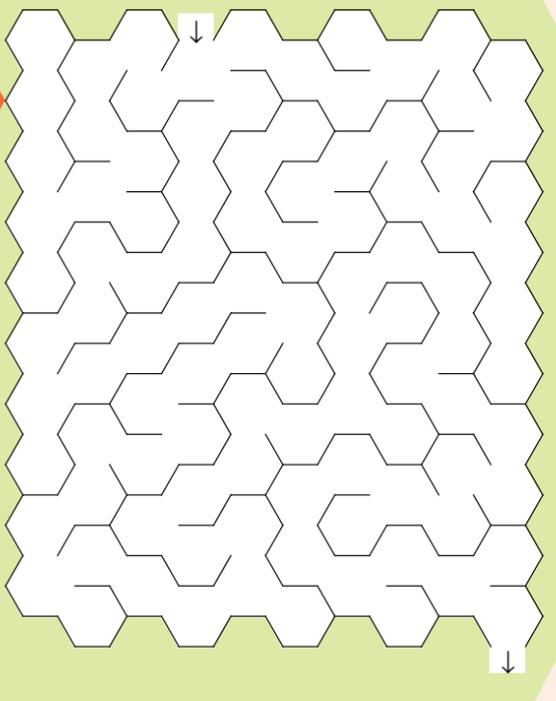
A C G H I J K L M O P R T W X Y

# CHILDREN'S PUZZLES

Solutions  
minURL.co.uk/puzzles

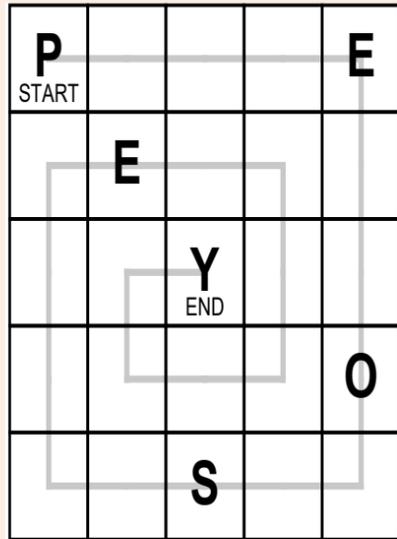
Two pages of brain teasers for young minds

## HEX MAZE



**How to play**  
Find your way out of the grid, entering at the entrance arrow. You must follow only one path which does not cut corners, jump walls or repeat itself

## ROUTE WORD



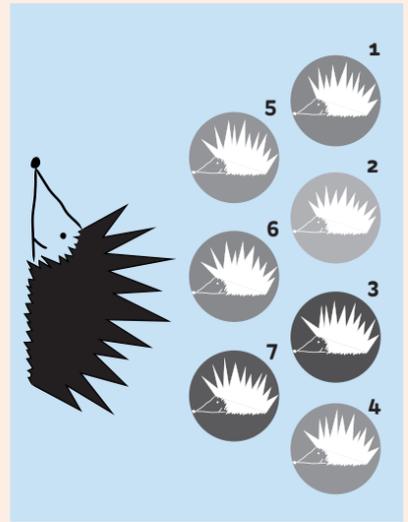
**How to play**  
Solve the crossword-style clues below to fill the grid, writing one letter per square. The last letter of each answer is the first letter of the next answer. These have been written in for you, along with the first and last letter of the whole puzzle

**CLUES**

- What you eat food off (5)
- Currency in France and Spain (4)
- Trees that grow from acorns (4)
- Eg, biology or chemistry (7)
- Very (9)

## MATCHING HEDGEHOG

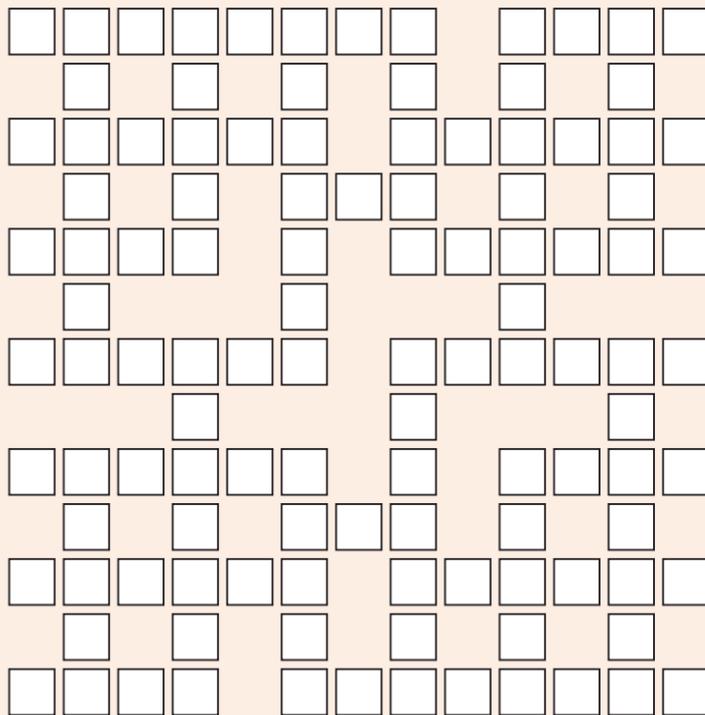
**How to play**  
Can you find the matching hedgehog?



## NUMBER CROSS

**How to play** Fill the grid with the numbers given in the list. Each number only has one position and must fit exactly in the given squares

<b>3 numbers</b>	<b>6 numbers</b>	<b>8 numbers</b>
149	271836	23472832
814	313274	45462785
	457792	
<b>4 numbers</b>	472904	
1235	701125	
2760	719793	
6274	772039	
9561	915931	
<b>5 numbers</b>	<b>7 numbers</b>	
17547	1817133	
18202	3764744	
37293	5976241	
54792	7163333	
63934	7441823	
95242	7892760	



## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

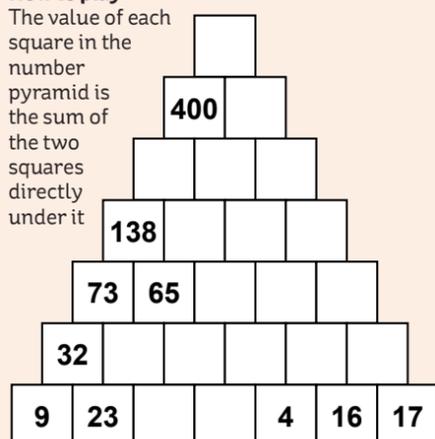
**How to play** Can you spot the 6 differences between the two pictures?



More children's puzzles, page 54 >>

## NUMBER PYRAMID

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



## WORD SEARCH

**How to play**  
Can you find the words in the grid? They may be written horizontally, vertically or diagonally, and either forwards or backwards.



BOOT  
BROGUE  
CLOG  
FLIP-FLOPS  
KITTEN HEEL  
MULES  
PLIMSOLLS  
SANDALS  
SLIPPERS  
WEDGE

# CHILDREN'S PUZZLES

## TOWER OF WORDS

**How to play**

The aim is to get from the start to the end of the puzzle, using the clues that appear alongside each step of the pyramid to help you, together with the knowledge that the next answer is an anagram of the previous clue plus one new letter

**Feline pet**

**Vehicle pulled by a horse**

**Respond to**

**Loud noise**

**One of these marks ()**

## NUMBER SQUARE

**How to play**

Enter the numbers from 1 - 9 once each into the puzzle grid, so as to complete the maths sums that read across and down the puzzle grid. Perform sums from left to right and top to bottom

	x	5	x	6	240
+		+		x	
	+	3	x		24
+		÷		x	
	-		x	1	3
24		2		12	

## LETTER FIT

**How to play** Fill the grid with the words given in the list.

Each word only has one position and must fit exactly in the given squares

**3 letters**  
Son

**4 letters**  
Aunt  
Twin  
Wife

**5 letters**  
Child  
Niece  
Uncle

**6 letters**  
Cousin  
Father  
Mother  
Nephew  
Parent  
Sister

**7 letters**  
Brother  
Grandad  
Grandma  
Sibling

**8 letters**  
Daughter



## LET'S GO SHOPPING

**How to play** Circle the coins below to show how much you will need to buy the sweets. Then you must work out how much change will be left over from your funds.

## SUM FINDER+

**How to play** Three of the numbers in the box below add up to 100. But can you work out what those three numbers are?

25	13	14	17
		37	33
26			22
		24	
	12	39	16

## ★ SHAPE MATCH ★



**How to play** Can you find three matching shapes that are identical in colour and size? Shapes can be rotated

## WORD BUILDER

**How to play** Answers to every clue contain only the letters in the grid, are five letters long and include the central letter

- Empty of liquid
- Sacked
- Broader
- Friend of Snow White

E	W	A
I	D	Q
N	F	R

## BALLOON MATHS

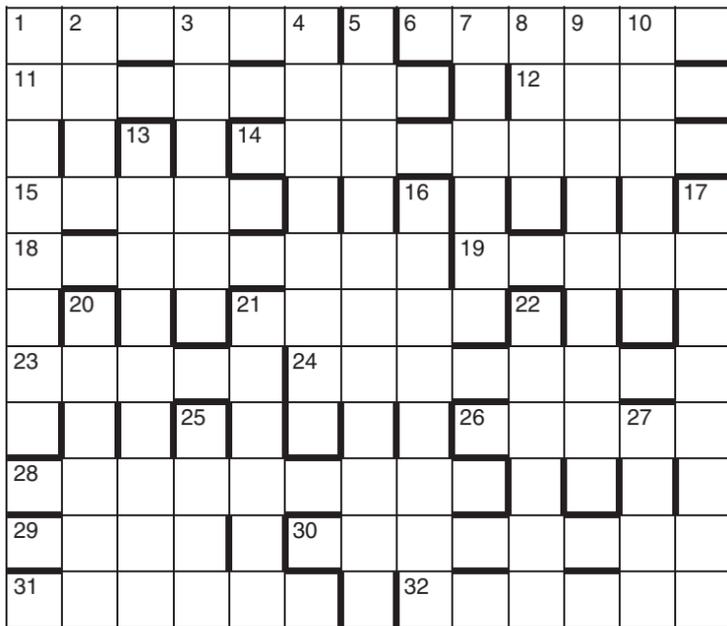
**How to play** Solve the sums from "Start" to "End" to complete the equation







**Mixed Doubles by eXtent**  
Six thematic entries are clued by wordplay only. All but one of the remaining clues contains an extra word that must be removed before solving. The first and last letters of these words in clue order spell two thematic messages, each derived in a different way from the letters. Solvers must highlight two entries produced by the message from the down clues.



**ACROSS**

- 1 Emetic hormone found in unripe cactus (6)
- 6 Fish thrive in extremes of weather and stormy seas (6)
- 11 Perfect ratio models work in standard answer (8)
- 12 Club beginning to make excellent pizza (4)
- 14 Dramatic production plays clubs regularly (9)
- 15 Perhaps critic's brief summary of work enraged theatre (5)
- 18 Man admits story misrepresented means of reducing heat radiation (8)

- 19 Tedious additional job taking back old paint (5)
- 21 Litter of shitzu puppies woke finally and played (5)
- 23 Briefly aim to exert influence and establish principle in law (5)
- 24 Reason reproof is changing minds (8)
- 26 Trojan epic about one having trouble returning (5)
- 28 Greek character left round noon (9)
- 29 Me and you condensed list of umpteen options (4)
- 30 Grande dame lives next door to drama queen in Hackney? (8)

**DOWN**

- 1 Altered photorealistic, striking art too jarringly (8)
- 2 Mate's brilliant charisma on radio (4)
- 3 Group of players with gold on arms (6)
- 4 Aristo considers help to box contents of desk (8)

- 5 In Idaho, dealer with man ignoring end of needle within skin (11)
- 7 I can't wait for oral type of deodorant (6)
- 8 Radical I'm surprised gets involved in the national French uprising (4)
- 9 Sweetener of one hundred Euro in pouch almost tearing (9)
- 10 Son and dog on track hasten briskly (6)
- 13 Ambushing off and on both church leaders disregarded (9)
- 16 Supporting dons endure university hardware (8)
- 17 High explosive topped people believed to be wise (8)

- 20 Part of plant important inspector hereby restricts (6)
- 21 Sat scrubbing organism acting on shower, type of bacterium (6)
- 22 Unionist interrupting two votes (6)
- 25 Auditor's niece sounded depressed (4)
- 27 Monkey hiding employs special recess (4)

Solvers may e-mail queries and comments to [nimrod1@jetdoc.co.uk](mailto:nimrod1@jetdoc.co.uk) at any time. Twitter @enigmatistelgar

You can comment about today's puzzle after 10am on 4 June at [fifteensquared.net](http://fifteensquared.net), which hosts a weekly blog.

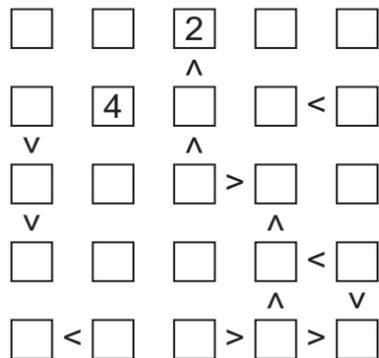


**Solution to 1855**  
**Virtue Rewarded?** by Arcadia  
In Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, the young woman knight BRITOMART seeks to SAVE FAIR AMORET, while REDCROSSE VIES AFAR, tasked by GLORIANA (symbolically Elizabeth) with defeating a dragon, while DUESSA seeks to lead him astray. Themed across answers are changed to *Faerie Queene* spellings.

**Give Me a Clue**  
Answers to March and April's finest: "Where the younger person goes out to lunch?" (POTTY); "Woolf's title, everything over with inside 24 hours" (MRS DALLOWAY); "The Terminator for most is the best Arnie film" (TWIN); "Keep going with the flow" (SANDCASTLE); "Musical tenor quits old form of Islam" (CAT STEVENS); and the crown jewel, Filbert's "Even in prison, Donald's heading for president" (CLEVELAND). Now that's what I call a Grand Slammer.  
**John Henderson (Nimrod), @enigmatistelgar**

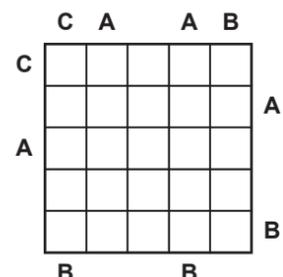
**Futoshiki**

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



**ABC Logic**

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



**Puzzle solutions**

**WORD WHEEL**

**Nine-letter word** inflating  
**Other words** ailing, align, ant, failing, faint, fainting, fan, fang, filing, fin, final, finial, fining, flan, fling, flint, gain, giant, gin, glint, gnat, infant, inn, lain, lifting, lining, lint, nag, nail, nailing, nil, nit, tailing, tan, tang, tiling, tin

**MENSA BRAIN TEASERS**

- 1. X and 1. The letters are every fourth letter of the alphabet. The numbers decrease by four
- 2. 135 (tuna = 45 and ham = 125)
- 3. 19:00 or 7pm

**5-CLUE CROSSWORD**

**Across:** 3/5 Barber-surgeon\*, 6 A-bsu\*-Rd. **Down:** 1 Nat-Ur-al, 2 AR<-moire, 4 B-og<-us

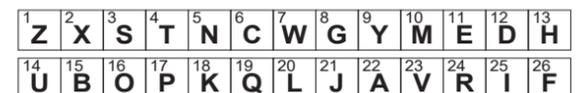
**ZYGOLEX**

**LEFT TO RIGHT:** hike; lush; spire; greed; hire; green; rent; **scents:** scene; rant; view; pant; vied; rage; new

**JUMBO CROSSWORD**

**Across** 11 Lee Harvey Oswald, 12 Roman Kemp, 15 Dominic West, 16 Kyren Wilson, 17 Perigee, 18 Rubidium, 19 Oleander, 21 Moonraker, 23 Galen, 30/31 Jaden Smith, 32 Calabria, 36 The Fall Guy, 37 Water moccasin, 39 Alligator pear, 40 Bouldering, 41 C J Sansom, 42 Arkle, 43 Sepia, 48/49 Henry Kissinger, 56 Plumbago, 57 Camellia, 59 Meg Ryan, 60 In the Ghetto, 61 John Swinney, 63 Neon tetra, 64 Terence Rattigan  
**Down** 1 Red Deer, 2 Chamois, 3 Princeton, 4 Mel C, 5 Joselu, 6 Two Tribes, 7 I Like It, 8 John Doe, 9/34 Galileo Galilei, 10 Ski Sunday, 13 Monterey, 14 Frome, 20 Animal House, 22 Arthur Penn, 24 Castile, 25 Genesis, 26 Qatar, 27 Jane Morris, 28 Bramall Lane, 29 Patches, 33 Jamaica, 38 Gabon, 44 Real Life, 45 Brimstone, 46 Billy Joel, 47 Terebinth, 50 Waveney, 51 Joe Hart, 52/35 Scott Pilgrim, 53 Imhotep, 54 Grundig, 55 Lady Day, 58 Ithaca, 62 Sark

**FRIDAY'S CODEWORD 3891**



**More solutions:** [minURL.co.uk/i](http://minURL.co.uk/i)

In Monday's **i**  
**Bumper Bank Holiday Puzzles**



For more puzzles, see [www.clarity-media.co.uk](http://www.clarity-media.co.uk)

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from a whole new perspective as the truth about the conspiracy is finally revealed.

**Ellie Simmonds: Finding My Secret Family**  
10.25pm, ITV1

Another chance to catch this intensely moving and deservedly Bafta-winning documentary following Paralympic swimmer Ellie Simmonds as she goes in search of her birth mother. Ten days after she was born, Simmonds was placed for adoption, and the swimmer has often wondered whether this decision was taken after her parents were told that she had a disability.

Gerard Gilbert

**FILM CHOICE**



Alicia Silverstone stars as air-headed Cher in teen comedy 'Clueless', 3pm, Channel 4

**Clueless**

**3pm, Channel 4**  
(Amy Heckerling, 1995)  
As with her first film, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, Amy Heckerling's comedy *Clueless* was a hugely influential teen film in the 90s. Transposing Jane Austen's *Emma* to an LA high school, it helped to popularise a whole new lexicon – Valley Speak – and features a winning performance by Alicia Silverstone as the air-headed Cher.

**Saturday Night Fever**

**12midn't, Channel 4**  
(John Badham, 1977)  
A portrait of a brash, none-too-bright but charismatic working-class Brooklyn teenager (John Travolta) who lives for the

weekend, when he can escape the limited horizons of his day-to-day life by peacocking on an illuminated dance floor. This is the film that turned disco into a faddish global phenomenon.

**Memento**

**12.20am, BBC Two**  
(Christopher Nolan, 2000)  
A neo-noir thriller about a man (Guy Pearce) with anterograde amnesia, who tattoos notes on to his body to remind himself he is on a mission to avenge the killing of his wife. It takes multiple viewings to make sense of the reverse-chronology plotting; after that you can begin to appreciate the full tragedy of his madness.

Laurence Phelan

**On Demand**

**Evil** Paramount+  
A psychologist and a priest investigate supernatural happenings in the Church.

**Bay of Fires** ITVX  
Aussie drama series in which a woman in witness protection hides out in a small town full of secrets.

**Burnt** Netflix  
Foodie drama in which Bradley Cooper plays a shouty chef seeking the keys to redemption.

**itv3**



**6.00 Bless This House** (S) **6.30 Inspector Morse** (S) **8.50 Inspector Morse** (S) **11.00 FILM: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head** (Gerald Thomas 1966) Comedy, starring Sid James and Jim Dale (S). **1.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** (S) **3.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** (S) **5.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** (S)

**6.00 Hollyoaks Omnibus** (S) **8.25 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts** (S) **8.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (S) **9.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (S) **10.35 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** (S) **11.35 FILM: Playing With Fire** (Andy Fickman 2019) Comedy, starring John Cena (S). **1.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (S) **2.05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (S) **2.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (S) **3.05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (S) **3.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine** (S) **4.05 The Big Bang Theory** (S) **4.35 The Big Bang Theory** (S) **5.05 The Big Bang Theory** (S) **5.35 The Big Bang Theory** (S)

**8.55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (S) **9.55 Ugly House To Lovely House With George Clarke** (S) **11.00 George Clarke's Old House, New Home** (S) **12.00 Location, Location, Location** (S) **1.05 Come Dine With Me** (S) **1.35 Come Dine With Me** (S) **2.10 Come Dine With Me** (S) **2.40 Come Dine With Me** (S) **3.10 Come Dine With Me** (S) **3.40 Four In A Bed** (S) **4.15 Four In A Bed** (S) **4.50 Four In A Bed** (S) **5.20 Four In A Bed** (S) **5.50 Four In A Bed** (S)

**6.00 NCIS: Los Angeles** (R) (S) **7.00 NCIS: Los Angeles** (R) (S) **8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles** (R) (S) **9.00 NCIS: Los Angeles** (R) (S) **10.00 NCIS: Los Angeles** (R) (S) **11.00 Grimm** (R) (S) **12.00 Grimm** (R) (S) **1.00 Grimm** (R) (S) **2.00 Grimm** (R) (S) **3.00 The Walking Dead** (S) **4.10 The Walking Dead** (S) **5.00 The Walking Dead** (S)

**6.00 The Guest Wing** (R) (S) **7.00 Fish Town** (R) (S) **8.00 Fish Town** (R) (S) **9.00 Fish Town** (R) (S) **10.00 True Blood** (R) (S) **11.05 True Blood** (R) (S) **12.10 True Blood** (R) (S) **1.15 True Blood** (R) (S) **2.20 True Blood** (R) (S) **3.25 Billions** (R) (S) **4.30 Billions** (R) (S) **5.40 Billions** (R) (S)

**6.05 The Big Bang Theory** An old VHS tape inspires Sheldon not to give up (S). **6.35 The Big Bang Theory** (S)

**6.20 Come Dine With Me** (S). **6.55 Come Dine With Me** Jo-Anna hosts the second dinner party in Derby (S).

**6.00 The Walking Dead** The group refocuses on finding Sophia (S).

**6.45 Billions** Axe's plans are threatened. Meanwhile, Chuck wages war on a new front (R) (S).

**7.00 Agatha Christie's Marple** The spinster sleuth is sent on a mysterious mission (S).

**7.05 FILM: Skyscraper** (Rawson Marshall Thurber 2018) Action thriller (S).

**7.25 Come Dine With Me** (S). **7.55 Come Dine With Me** Ondine Shardlow hosts the fourth dinner party (S).

**7.00 The Walking Dead** Daryl is injured, leaving him open to attack from walkers (S).

**7.55 Billions** Axe makes big plays with an unconventional source of inspiration (R) (S).

**8.30 Come Dine With Me** The final day of the contest in Derby (S).

**8.00 The Walking Dead** The survivors discover walkers in Hershel's barn (S).

**9.00 Long Lost Family** A woman put in a children's home at two weeks old (S).

**9.00 FILM: Logan** (James Mangold 2017) Fantasy adventure, starring Hugh Jackman (S).

**9.00 999: On The Front Line** A driver has collided with another car outside a school (S).

**9.00 S.W.A.T** The squad scrambles to track down a sniper terrorising Los Angeles.

**9.00 The Tattooist Of Auschwitz** Gita grows worried over the whereabouts of Lali (R) (S).

**10.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot** A businessman is murdered on board the Orient Express (S).

**10.00 24 Hours In A&E** An eight-year-old is rushed in after being crushed by falling bricks (S).

**10.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip** The gang set out on an adventure trip (R) (S).

**10.10 The White Lotus** Albie asks Dominic for a karmic payment to help Lucia (R) (S).

**10.10 The White Lotus** Albie asks Dominic for a karmic payment to help Lucia (R) (S).

**11.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot** Part one of two. Poirot meets an accident-prone woman (S).

**11.45 The Inbetweeners** The lads visit a Caravan Club meeting (S).

**11.05 Emergency Helicopter Medics: Mountain Emergencies** (S).

**11.00 Brassic** The gang heads to Wales for Ringo and Babs' wedding (R) (S).

**11.40 Euphoria** Rue pursues a new business venture (R) (S).

**12.55 Scott & Bailey** (S). **1.50 Bless This House** (S). **2.15 Unwind With ITV** (S). **2.30 Teleshopping**

**12.15 The Inbetweeners** (S). **12.50 Gogglebox** (S). **1.55 First Dates** (S) **2.55 The Inbetweeners** (S) **3.25 The Inbetweeners** (S) **3.50 Hollyoaks Omnibus** (S).

**12.10 999: On The Front Line** (S). **1.15 24 Hours In A&E** (S) **2.15 Emergency Helicopter Medics: Mountain Emergencies** (S). **3.20 A Place In The Sun** (S). **4.00 Close**

**12.00 A Discovery Of Witches** (R) (S). **1.00 Hold The Front Page** (R) (S) **2.00 There's Something About Movies** (R) (S) **3.00 Road Wars** (R) (S) **4.00 Sun, Sea And A&E** (R) (S) **5.00 Sun, Sea And A&E** (R) (S).

**12.55 House Of The Dragon** (R) (S). **2.05 The Sympathizer** (S) **3.15 Ray Donovan** (R) (S) **4.15 The Guest Wing** (R) (S) **5.05 The Guest Wing** (R) (S).

**Radio listings**

**BBC Radio 1**

**6am** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems **7.00** Conor Knight **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Radio 1 Anthems **11.02** Radio 1's Big Weekend **1pm** Radio 1's Big Weekend **2.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **3.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **4.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **5.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **6.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **7.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **8.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend **8.55** Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets **10.05** Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets **11.00** Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets **11.30** Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets **12midn't** Radio 1's Future Soul With Victoria Jane **1.30** Radio 1's UK R&B Mix **2.00** Radio 1's Decompression Session

**BBC Radio 1Xtra**

**6am** 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix **7.00** Fee Mak **11.00** Trevor Nelson **12.32pm** 1Xtra's Hall Of Fame With Trevor Nelson **1.00** David Rodigan **3.00** The Official UK Afrobeats Chart Show With Eddie Kadi **4.00** Rampage **7.00** Heartless Crew **9.00** 1Xtra Talks **10.00** 1Xtra Introducing Show **12midn't** 1Xtra's Rap List **2.00** 1Xtra's Most Played **4.00** 1Xtra Salutes.

**BBC Radio 2**

**6am** Good Morning Sunday **9.00** Sunday Love Songs **11.00** The Michael Ball Show **1pm** Elaine Paige On Sunday **3.00** Sounds Of The 70s With Johnnie Walker **5.00** Rob Beckett **7.00** Tony Blackburn's Golden Hour **8.00** The Paul Gambaccini Collection **10.00** Radio 2 Unwinds With Angela Griffin **11.00** Radio 2 Unwinds With Angela Griffin **12midn't** Phil Williams

**BBC Radio 3**

**6.30am** Breakfast **9.00** Sunday Morning **12noon** Private Passions **1.30** Music Map **3.00** Choral Evensong **4.00** Jazz Record Requests **5.00** The Early Music Show **6.00** Words And Music **7.15** Sunday Feature: Everything Stops When I Play **8.00** Drama On 3: Antigone **9.30** New Generation Artists **10.00** Night Tracks **11.30** Unclassified **12.30am** Through The Night

**BBC Radio 4**

**6am** News Headlines **6.05** Thinking Allowed **6.35** On Your Farm **6.57** Weather **7.00** News; Sunday Papers **7.10** Sunday **7.54** Radio 4 Appeal **7.57** Weather **8.00** News; Sunday Papers **8.10** Sunday Worship **8.48** A Point Of View **8.58** Tweet Of The Day **9.00** Broadcasting House **10.00** Desert Island Discs **11.00** The Archers **12.15pm** Profile **12.30** I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World This Weekend **1.30** Stoppage Time For Scunthorpe **2.00** Gardeners' Question Time **2.45** Opening Lines **3.00** Drama: The Raiders **4.00** Open Book **4.30** Round Britain Quiz **5.00** Witness History **5.10** The Tourist Trap **5.54** Shipping Forecast **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.15** Pick Of The Week **7.00** The Archers **7.15** The Beauty Of Everyday Things **7.45** Why Do We Do That? **8.00** Word Of Mouth **8.30** Last Word **9.00** Money Box **9.25** Radio 4 Appeal **9.30** From Our Own Correspondent **10.00** The Westminster Hour **11.00** In Our Time **11.45** Short Works **12midn't** News And Weather **12.15** Crossing Continents **12.45** Bells On Sunday **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As BBC World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast

**BBC Radio 4 Extra**

**6am** Desert Island Discs Revisited **6.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **7.00** Poetry Extra **7.30** Brooklyn Omnibus **8.40** Inheritance Tracks **8.50** The Mill On The Floss **10.00** Tony's **10.30** Much Binding In The Marsh **11.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **11.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **12noon** Poetry Extra **12.30**

Brooklyn Omnibus **1.40** Inheritance Tracks **1.50** The Mill On The Floss **3.00** Tony's **3.30** Much Binding In The Marsh **4.00** Before The Screaming Begins **4.30** The Darker Side Of The Border **5.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **5.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **6.00** Poetry Extra **6.30** Brooklyn Omnibus **7.40** Inheritance Tracks **7.50** The Mill On The Floss **9.00** Tony's **9.30** Much Binding In The Marsh **10.00** Comedy Club: Craig Brown's Lost Diaries **10.30** Comedy Club: I've Never Seen Star Wars **11.00** Comedy Club: Romance And Adventure **11.30** Comedy Club: Liam Williams - Ladhoo **12midn't** Before The Screaming Begins **12.30** The Darker Side Of The Border **1.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **1.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **2.00** Poetry Extra **2.30** Brooklyn Omnibus **3.40** Inheritance Tracks **3.50** The Mill On The Floss

**BBC 5 Live**

**6am** 5 Live Science **7.00** Sunday Breakfast **10.00** Colin Murray **12noon** 5 Live Sport **2.00** 5 Live Formula **4.00** Tennis **6.00** 6-0-6 **8.00** Gordon Smart **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00** Wake Up To Money

**BBC 6 Music**

**6am** Amy Lamé **8.00** Stuart Maconie **10.00** Cerys Matthews **1pm** Guy Garvey's Finest Hour **4.00** Iggy Pop **6.00** Now Playing @6Music **8.00** Stuart Maconie's Freak Zone **10.00** Lose Yourself With Nabihah Iqbal **11.00** Lose Yourself With Laura Groves **12midn't** Guy Garvey's Finest Hour **3.00** 6 Music's Jukebox **4.00** The BBC Introducing Mixtape

**Classic FM**

**7am** Classic FM's More Music Breakfast With Tim Lihoreau **10.00** Aled Jones **1pm** Joanna Gosling **4.00** Stephen Mangan **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

**Absolute Radio**

**8am** Jason Manford **11.00** Sarah Champion **2pm** Jay Lawrence **6.00** Request Show With Claire Sturges **8.00** Sunday Night Music Club **12midn't** Dan Noble

**Heart**

**6am** Rob Howard **9.00** Zoe Hardman **12noon** Pandora Christie **4.00** The Official Big Top 40 **7.00** Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Emma Bunton **10.00** Anna Whitehouse **12midn't** Anna Whitehouse **1.00** Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Jonny Meah

**TalkSPORT**

**6am** Weekend Sports Breakfast **9.00** Sunday Edition **11.00** The Warm Up **1.30pm** GameDay Live **6.00** Final Word **9.00** Trans Europe Express **12midn't** A TalkSPORT Special **1.00** Extra Time **5.00** Early Breakfast

**RADIO PICK**

**Drama on 3: Antigone**  
8pm, BBC Radio 3



Pauline Harris's adaptation of the play by Jean Anouilh, starring Rosy McEwen and Sean Bean (left).

Determined to bury her brother, Antigone faces death for defying her uncle, who has ordered that the corpse be left to rot under the sun. With an introduction by Professor Emma Smith of Hertford College, Oxford.

# Bank Holiday Monday television & radio

## CRITIC'S CHOICE



Examining the toll of war in 'Kill Zone: Inside Gaza - Dispatches', 9pm, Channel 4

### Springwatch 8pm, BBC Two

Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan return to their base at RSPB Arne in Dorset, where for the next two weeks nest cameras are ready to capture "all the drama of the season". Iolo Williams is splitting his time between Arne and the wider Dorset area and begins at Corfe Castle, where he has a live nest to launch. And Megan McCubbin is on the spectacular Isle of Bute, hoping to catch a glimpse of osprey.

### Britain's Got Talent 8pm, ITV1

Ant and Dec host the first live semi-final of the talent contest, as they welcome back the acts

that impressed judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon during the audition rounds and who are now attempting to land an all-important spot in the grand final in a bid for the ultimate prize.

### D-Day 80: We Were There 9pm, BBC Two

Eighty years on, the BBC has been gathering first-hand accounts from the UK's D-Day veterans - some of whom are now more than 100 years of age. Rachel Burden traces their stories in Normandy and hears their memories of the massive beach invasion and the battles that led to the defeat of Germany and the end of the Second World War in Europe.

### Kill Zone: Inside Gaza - Dispatches 9pm, Channel 4

Filmed over 200 days by a team of Palestinian journalists and film-makers across Gaza, this documentary is a raw and unflinching look at how the lives of millions have been uprooted since Hamas's attack on Israel last October. It hears heartbreaking testimony: from children, as they recount inconceivable horrors; from doctors at work in overcrowded hospitals; and from civilians as they are forcibly displaced from north to south Gaza. As vital services break down in Gaza and food is scarce, this film examines the toll of Israel's military campaign.

### Mysteries of the Pyramids with Dara Ó Briain 9pm, Channel 5

"I'm going to call this episode 'Pyramids... You had one job,' quips Dara Ó Briain - that job, of course, being to protect the body of the entombed pharaoh. But then, as Egyptologist Chris Norton remarks as he and Ó Briain navigate the Saqqara necropolis, "The only thing as old as tomb construction in Egypt is tomb robbing." Archaeologist Raksha Dave, meanwhile, shows how the pyramids' very existence came from the constant battle between tomb raiders and tomb builders, with labyrinthine passages, dummy corridors and increasingly larger and more complex designs.

	ONE	TWO	itv1	4	5	FOUR	FILM	itv2
DAYTIME	<p>6.00 Breakfast (S). 9.30 Rip Off Britain (S). 10.15 The Moment Of Proof (R) (S). 10.45 Expert Witness (R) (S). 11.15 Homes Under The Hammer (R) (S). 12.15 Bargain Hunt (S). 1.00 BBC News At One; Weather (S). 1.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 1.30 Doctors (S). 2.00 The Famous Five (S). 3.30 Escape To The Country (R) (S). 4.30 The Finish Line (S). 5.15 Pointless (S).</p>	<p>6.45 Bargain Hunt (R) (S). 7.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence (R) (S). 8.00 Sign Zone: MasterChef (R) (S). 9.00 BBC News (S). 1.00 Impossible (R) (S). 1.45 Mastermind (R) (S). 2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (R) (S). 2.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R) (S). 3.30 Five Bedrooms (R) (S). 4.15 Cornwall: This Fishing Life (R) (S). 5.15 Flog It! (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Good Morning Britain (S). 9.00 Lorraine (S). 10.00 This Morning (S). 12.30 Loose Women (S). 1.45 ITV News; Weather (S). 1.50 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (R) (S). 3.00 FILM: Nanny McPhee And The Big Bang (Susanna White 2010) Fantasy comedy, starring Emma Thompson (S). 5.00 Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals (R) (S). 5.30 The Chase (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.30 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S). 6.55 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S). 7.20 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S). 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 9.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 9.40 Frasier (R) (S). 10.10 Frasier (R) (S). 10.40 FILM: Annie (John Huston 1982) musical, with Aileen Quinn (S). 1.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) (S). 2.10 Countdown (S). 3.00 A Place In The Sun (R) (S). 4.00 A Place In The Sun (S). 5.00 Come Dine With Me: The Professionals (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (S). 11.15 Storm Huntley (S). 12.45 Friends (R) (S). 1.10 Friends (R) (S). 1.40 5 News At Lunchtime (S). 1.45 Home And Away (R) (S). 2.15 FILM: A View To Kill For (Brittany Underwood 2023) Thriller, starring Tiffany Montgomery (S). 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S). 5.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S). 5.55 5 News Update (S).</p>	<p>Chris Packham joins Michaela Strachan at RSPB Arne in Dorset as 'Springwatch' returns 8pm, BBC Two</p>	<p>Hoa Xuande stars in 'The Sympathizer' 9pm, Sky Atlantic</p>	<p>6.00 CITV. 9.00 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S). 9.10 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S). 10.00 Veronica Mars (S). 11.00 Dawson's Creek (S). 12.00 Secret Crush (S). 1.00 Dress To Impress (S). 2.00 Family Fortunes (S). 3.00 Veronica Mars (S). 4.00 Deal Or No Deal Celebrity Special (S). 5.00 Britain's Got Talent (S).</p>
6PM	<p>6.00 BBC News At Six; Weather (S). 6.20 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 6.30 The One Show (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Richard Osman's House Of Games (R) (S). 6.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure New series (S).</p>	<p>6.30 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 6.40 ITV News; Weather (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Four In A Bed (S). 6.30 Channel 4 News (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Police Interceptors (R) (S). 6.55 5 News Update (S).</p>	<p>Chris Packham joins Michaela Strachan at RSPB Arne in Dorset as 'Springwatch' returns 8pm, BBC Two</p>	<p>Dara Ó Briain learns about tomb raiders 9pm, Channel 5</p>	<p>6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Katie Piper, Kiell Smith-Bynoe and Shaun Williamson (S).</p>
7PM	<p>7.15 EastEnders (S). 7.45 FILM: Spider-Man: No Way Home (Jon Watts 2021) Premiere (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Thief At The British Museum (S). 7.30 Saving Lives At Sea (R) (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Emmerdale Leyla is suspicious of Ella (S). 7.30 Coronation Street (S).</p>	<p>7.00 The Great Celebrity Bake Off For Stand Up To Cancer Last in the series (R) (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Traffic Cops (R) (S). 7.55 5 News Update (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 7.30 War Walks The battlefield at Hastings (S).</p>	<p>7.10 FILM: 10 Things I Hate About You (Gil Junger 1999) Comedy, starring Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Family Fortunes The Lloyds go up against the Cheek family (S).</p>
8PM		<p>8.00 Springwatch New series. The team returns to RSPB Arne in Dorset (S).</p>	<p>8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host the first live semi-final (S).</p>	<p>8.00 Our Welsh Chapel Dream Last in the series (S).</p>	<p>8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (S).</p>	<p>8.00 Britain's Lost Masterpieces (S).</p>		<p>8.00 Bob's Burgers Teddy learns to dance (S). 8.30 Bob's Burgers (S).</p>
9PM		<p>9.00 D-Day 80: We Were There Rachel Burden traces the stories of the UK's D-Day veterans (S).</p>		<p>9.00 Kill Zone: Inside Gaza - Dispatches (S).</p>	<p>9.00 Mysteries Of The Pyramids With Dara Ó Briain (S).</p>	<p>9.00 Cumbria's Red Squirrels A look at Cumbria's red squirrels and those dedicated to protecting them (S).</p>	<p>9.00 FILM: Flight (Robert Zemeckis 2012) Drama, starring Denzel Washington (S).</p>	<p>9.00 Family Guy Stewie auditions in drag for a television show (S). 9.30 Family Guy (S).</p>
10PM	<p>10.00 BBC News At Ten (S). 10.20 BBC Regional News (S). 10.30 Have I Got A Bit More News For You (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.00 FILM: Hope And Glory (John Boorman 1987) British Second World War drama (S).</p>	<p>10.00 ITV News (S). 10.24 ITV Regional Weather (S). 10.25 FILM: The Invisible Man (Leigh Whannell 2020) Thriller (S).</p>	<p>10.15 24 Hours In Police Custody The inside story of an armed siege in a tower block (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.00 Inside The Force A man crashes a car into a garden wall and flees (S).</p>	<p>10.00 Civilisation: A Personal View By Kenneth Clark (S).</p>		<p>10.00 Family Guy Lois encourages Brian to submit a script for a television pilot (S). 10.30 Family Guy (S).</p>
11PM	<p>11.15 I Kissed A Girl Emotions run high as the girls return from their dates (R) (S).</p>	<p>11.50 FILM: The Road Dance (Richie Adams 2021) Period drama, starring Hermione Corfield (S).</p>		<p>11.55 Kingpins Ben Zand travels to Lebanon and encounters a high-level arms dealer (S).</p>	<p>11.05 Police: Suspect No 1 Detectives try to bring down the Norfolk-based Lewis drugs gang (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.50 Civilisation: A Personal View By Kenneth Clark (S). 11.40 Inside The Mind Of Robert Burns (S).</p>	<p>11.45 FILM: Valkyrie (Bryan Singer 2008) Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Cruise (S).</p>	<p>11.00 Family Guy Brian begins dating an older woman (S). 11.30 American Dad! (S).</p>
LATE	<p>12.00 I Kissed A Girl (R) (S). 12.55 BBC News (S).</p>	<p>1.45 Sign Zone: Question Time (R) (S). 2.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile (R) (S). 3.40 This Is BBC Two (S).</p>	<p>12.30 Shop On TV 3.00 My Mum, Your Dad (R) (S). 3.50 Unwind With ITV (S). 5.05 Gino's Italy: Like Mamma Used To Make (R) (S). 5.35 Gino's Italy: Secrets Of The South (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.50 Ramsay's 24 Hours To Hell And Back (R) (S). 1.40 The Simpsons (R) (S). 2.05 The Simpsons (R) (S). 2.30 FILM: The Road To Kuthriyar (Bharat Mirle 2021) Drama (S). 4.30 Grand Designs (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.35 Traffic Cops (R) (S). 1.25 PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S). 3.25 10 Years Younger In 10 Days (R) (S). 4.15 Great Mountain Railway Journeys (R) (S). 4.40 Wildlife SOS (R) (S). 5.05 House Doctor (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.40 Angelou On Burns (S). 1.30 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 2.00 War Walks (S). 2.30 Britain's Lost Masterpieces (S). 3.30 Close</p>	<p>2.05 FILM: The Guilty (Gustav Moller 2018) Crime drama, starring Jakob Cederger (S). 3.55 Close</p>	<p>12.00 American Dad! (S). 12.30 Bob's Burgers (S). 1.00 Bob's Burgers (S). 1.30 Hey Tracey! (S). 2.25 Unwind With ITV (S). 3.00 Teleshopping</p>

**The Sympathizer**  
9pm, Sky Atlantic

"In America, it's called the Vietnam War. In Vietnam it's called the American War," reads a caption at the start of this stylish adaptation of Viet Thanh Nguyen's Pulitzer-winning novel – part espionage thriller, part war memoir and part cross-cultural satire. Australian actor Hoa Xuande excels as a half-French, half-Vietnamese communist spy, "the Captain". Evacuated to the US against his will during the final days of the Vietnam/American War, he arrives in Los Angeles, only to discover his spying days are not over. The cast includes Robert Downey Jr, David Duchovny and Sandra Oh.

Gerard Gilbert

**FILM CHOICE**



Zendaya takes flight with Tom Holland in 'Spider-Man: No Way Home', 7.45pm, BBC One

**Spider-Man: No Way Home**  
7.45pm, BBC One

(Jon Watts, 2021)  
Thanks to Doctor Strange's spellcasting, characters from the five Spider-Man films Sony made between 2002 and 2014 come tumbling in to the MCU. Notionally that's bad in a spacetime-will-collapse sense, but it allows an appealing bromance to develop between three different Spideys.

**Flight**  
9pm, Film4

(Robert Zemeckis, 2012)  
Denzel Washington stars as an alcoholic commercial pilot who heroically crash-lands a plane with minimum loss of life... but faces manslaughter charges after

his toxicology report comes back. The sequences in which we see Washington at work are fascinating, and full of the clammy thrill of an impending disaster.

**Hope and Glory**  
10pm, BBC Two

(John Boorman, 1987)  
London, during the Blitz. For nine-year-old Bill – whose father is away at war and whose mother (Sarah Miles) is coping as best she can – the surrounding rubble is one big adventure playground. John Boorman's autobiographical film is full of subtle dramatic ironies, but maintains its distinctive, optimistic, child's-eye view of the world throughout.

Laurence Phelan

**On Demand**

**Imposter: The Man who Came Back from the Dead**

Channel4.com  
A look at how an American fugitive ended up comatose in a Scottish hospital.

**Changing Ends** ITVX  
Alan Carr's charming and nostalgic sitcom reimagines his 80s childhood.

**The Blue Angels** Prime Video  
A year in the lives of the US Navy's answer to the Red Arrows.

itv3	ITV	More	sky max	sky atlantic
<p>6.00 Classic Emmerdale (S) 6.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (S) 7.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 8.05 Endeavour (S) 10.15 The Royal (S) 11.20 Heartbeat (S) 12.25 Heartbeat (S) 1.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.05 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.10 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.45 Agatha Christie's Marple (S) 5.55 Heartbeat (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 9.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 9.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 10.00 Young Sheldon (S) 10.30 Young Sheldon (S) 11.00 Modern Family (S) 11.30 Modern Family (S) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 3.00 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Modern Family (S) 4.00 Young Sheldon (S) 4.30 Young Sheldon (S) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 5.30 The Big Bang Theory (S).</p>	<p>8.55 A Place In The Sun (S) 9.40 A Place In The Sun (S) 10.35 A New Life In The Sun (S) 11.35 Come Dine With Me (S) 12.10 Come Dine With Me (S) 12.40 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.10 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.40 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.10 Four In A Bed (S) 2.40 Four In A Bed (S) 3.15 Four In A Bed (S) 3.50 Four In A Bed (S) 4.20 Four In A Bed (S) 4.50 FILM: The Italian Job (Peter Collinson 1969) Crime comedy, starring Michael Caine (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Highway Patrol (R) (S) 6.30 Highway Patrol (R) (S) 7.00 Highway Patrol (R) (S) 7.30 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 8.20 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 9.10 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 10.00 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 10.50 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 11.40 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 12.30 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 1.20 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 2.10 Never Mind The Buzzcocks (R) (S) 3.00 The Walking Dead (S) 4.00 The Walking Dead (S) 5.00 The Walking Dead (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 7.00 The Guest Wing (R) (S) 7.55 True Blood (R) (S) 8.50 True Blood (R) (S) 9.45 House Of The Dragon (R) (S) 10.55 House Of The Dragon (R) (S) 11.55 House Of The Dragon (R) (S) 1.05 House Of The Dragon (R) (S) 2.15 House Of The Dragon (R) (S) 3.20 House Of The Dragon (R) (S) 4.35 House Of The Dragon (R) (S) 5.40 House Of The Dragon (R) (S).</p>
	<p>6.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory (S).</p>	<p>6.55 Car S.O.S Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend restore a VW Wizard (S).</p>	<p>6.00 The Walking Dead Rick and Shane argue over how to deal with Randall (S).</p>	<p>6.50 House Of The Dragon Alicent enlists help to track down Aegon (R) (S).</p>
<p>7.00 Vera The detective investigates the death of a school teacher (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.30 Modern Family The first day of school arrives (S).</p>	<p>7.55 Grand Designs Building a radical, self-heating family home (S).</p>	<p>7.00 The Walking Dead Dale fears the survivors are losing their humanity (S).</p>	<p>7.55 House Of The Dragon Rhaenyra tries desperately to hold the realm together (R) (S).</p>
	<p>8.00 Teen First Dates Apprentice builder Adam goes on a date with special effects make-up student Amy (S).</p>		<p>8.00 The Walking Dead Shane refuses to tolerate Rick's leadership any longer (S).</p>	
<p>9.00 Mr Bates vs The Post Office Fact-based drama, starring Toby Jones (S).</p>	<p>9.00 Made In Chelsea Tristan is reeling from the chaos of Mauritius (S).</p>	<p>9.00 PopMaster TV (S).</p>	<p>9.00 The Walking Dead The farm becomes overrun by walkers (S).</p>	<p>9.00 The Sympathizer Black comedy, starring Hoa Xuande and Robert Downey Jr (S).</p>
<p>10.00 The Thief, His Wife And The Canoe Fact-based drama, starring Eddie Marsan (S).</p>	<p>10.05 Gogglebox The households' opinions on recent television (S).</p>	<p>10.00 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown With Kevin Bridges, Rebecca Front and Joe Lycett (S).</p>	<p>10.00 FILM: Game Of Death (Robert Clouse 1978) Martial arts thriller, starring Bruce Lee (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.10 Succession As Logan works to finalise a deal, an unexpected threat emerges (R) (S).</p>
<p>11.00 Wycliffe Thieves target an archaeological dig (S). 11.55 The Royal A new GP has a tough first day (S).</p>	<p>11.05 First Dates A self-confessed failure in life and love meets a child psychology student (S).</p>	<p>11.05 24 Hours In A&amp;E A woman is brought in after being run over by a lorry (S).</p>		<p>11.20 The King Bruno asks Gloria to investigate Mancuso (R) (S).</p>
<p>12.45 Upstairs, Downstairs (S) 1.45 Bless This House (S) 2.10 Unwind With ITV (S) 2.30 Teleshopping</p>	<p>12.10 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.10 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.10 Modern Family (S) 3.00 Made In Chelsea (S) 3.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 4.45 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S).</p>	<p>12.05 PopMaster TV (S) 1.10 999: On The Front Line (S) 2.15 24 Hours In A&amp;E (S) 3.20 A Place In The Sun (S) 4.00 Close</p>	<p>12.00 Hold The Front Page (R) (S) 1.00 Flintoff: From Lord's To The Ring (R) (S) 2.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip 3.00 There's Something About Movies (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.20 The King (R) (S) 1.20 The Deuce (R) (S) 2.30 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 3.35 In Treatment (R) (S) 4.05 The Guest Wing (R) (S) 5.00 The Guest Wing (R) (S).</p>

**Radio listings**

**BBC Radio 1**  
6am Radio 1's Chillout Anthems 7.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend 10.30 Newsbeat 10.32 Radio 1's Big Weekend 1pm Radio 1's Big Weekend 3.30 Newsbeat 3.32 Radio 1's Big Weekend 6.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend 7.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 8.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend 9.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 10.00 Radio 1's Power Down Playlist With Sian Eleri 11.00 Rock Show With Daniel P Carter 1am BBC Introducing Rock On Radio 1 With Alyx Holcombe 2.00 Radio 1's Future Alternative 3.00 Radio 1 Relax In Love 4.00 Radio 1 Dance 5.00 Radio 1 Early Breakfast With Arielle Free

**BBC Radio 1Xtra**  
6am 1Xtra's Throwback Party 7.00 Nadia Jae 10.00 DJ Day Day 1pm Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 DJ Target 9.00 Sian Anderson 11.00 Snoochie Shy 1am 1Xtra's Throwback Party 2.00 1Xtra Introducing Show 4.00 1Xtra Salutes... 5.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix

**BBC Radio 2**  
6.30am The Gaby Roslin Breakfast Show 9.30 Gary Davies 12noon Tony Blackburn's Sounds Of Soul 2.00 The Girls Aloud Takeover With Rylan 4.00 Jane McDonald's Picky Tea 7.00 Jo Whaley's Shiny Happy Playlist 9.00 The Blues Show With Cerys Matthews 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Rhythms Nation 12midn't OJ Borg 2.30 One Hit Wonders With OJ Borg 3.00 Pick Of The Pops 4.00 Owain Wyn Evans

**BBC Radio 3**  
6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm Classical Live 4.00 Composer Of The Week: Vivaldi 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Radio 3 In Concert 9.45 The Essay: A Different Way To Listen 10.00 Night Tracks 11.30 'Round Midnight 12.30am Through The Night

**BBC Radio 4**  
6am Today 9.00 Start The Week 9.45 Cafe Hope 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 The Tourist Trap 11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices 12noon News 12.04 You And Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At One 1.45 Thief At The British Museum 2.00 The Archers 2.15 John Finnemore's Souvenir Programme 3.00 Great Lives 3.30 History's Secret Heroes 4.00 Stoppage Time For Scunthorpe 4.30 The Kitchen Cabinet 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row 8.00 The Briefing Room 8.30 BBC Inside Science 9.00 Start The Week 9.45 Cafe Hope 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book At Bedtime: Long Island 11.00 Harland 11.30 Lights Out 12midn't News And Weather 12.30 D-Day: The Last Voices 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.30 News Briefing 5.43 Prayer For The Day

**BBC Radio 4 Extra**  
6am London Particulars 6.45 Beggars Banquet 7.00 The Alan Davies Show 7.30 Steptoe And Son 8.00 Mark Steel's In Town 8.30 The Nature Of Spring 8.45 Curious Under The Stars 9.00 I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue 9.30 A British History In Weather 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 The Moth Radio Hour 10.55 Inheritance Tracks 11.00 London Particulars 11.45 Beggars Banquet 12noon The Alan Davies Show 12.30 Steptoe And Son 1.00 Mark Steel's In Town 1.30 The Nature Of Spring 1.45 Curious Under The Stars 2.00 Just A Minute 2.30 Hidden Treasures: An Ideal Husband 4.00 The Moth Radio Hour 4.55 Inheritance Tracks 5.00 London Particulars 5.45 Beggars Banquet 6.00 The Alan Davies Show 6.30 Steptoe And Son 7.00 Mark Steel's In Town 7.30 The Nature

Of Spring 7.45 Curious Under The Stars 8.00 Just A Minute 8.30 Hidden Treasures: An Ideal Husband 10.00 Comedy Club: I'm Sorry I Haven't A Clue 10.30 Comedy Club: Goodness Gracious Me 11.00 Comedy Club: Dead Ringers Night 12midn't The Moth Radio Hour 12.55 Inheritance Tracks 1.00 London Particulars 1.45 Beggars Banquet 2.00 The Alan Davies Show 2.30 Steptoe And Son 3.00 Mark Steel's In Town 3.30 The Nature Of Spring 3.45 Curious Under The Stars 4.00 Just A Minute 4.30 Hidden Treasures: An Ideal Husband

**BBC 5 Live**  
6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1pm Nihal Arthanayake 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 9.00 Tennis 10.00 Gordon Smart 1am Dotun Adebayo 5.00 Wake Up To Money

**BBC 6 Music**  
7.30am Chris Hawkins 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1pm Craig Charles 4.00 Emily Pilbeam 7.00 New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 6 Music Artist In Residence: Yard Act 12midn't Christine And The Queens At The BBC 1.00 Christine And The Queens Festive Takeover 3.00 Christine And The Queens Live 4.00 The Christine And The Queens Playlist

**Classic FM**  
6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Aled Jones 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour With Aled Jones 10.00 Stephen Mangan 1pm Margherita Taylor 4.00 Alan Titchmarsh's Top 20 Gardening Classics 6.00 The Glorious Garden With Alan Titchmarsh 7.00 Growing Classics With Zeb Soanes 9.00 Classic Gardens With Charlotte Hawkins 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Bill Overton 4.00 Early Breakfast

**Absolute Radio**  
6am Ben Burrell 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Jay Lawrence 4.00 Bush 7.00 Danielle Perry 10.00 Claire Sturgess 1am Dan Noble

**Heart**  
6am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Katrina Ridley 9.00 Pandora Christie 12noon Rob Howard 4.00 Ben Atkinson 7.00 Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin 10.00 Fia Tarrant 1am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Jonny Meah 4.00 Early Breakfast With Lindsey Russell

**TalkSPORT**  
6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Jeff Stelling 10.00 Jim White And Simon Jordan 1pm Hawksbee And Jacobs 4.00 TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent 7.00 Monday GameNight 10.00 Sports Bar 1am Extra Time 5.00 Early Breakfast

**RADIO PICK**

**Book at Bedtime: Long Island**  
10.45pm, BBC Radio 4

In Colm Tóibín's sequel to his novel Brooklyn, Eilis and Tony have built a happy and secure life 20 years on – until one day a stranger knocks on the door and everything changes. Eilis starts to question her life – those questions leading her back to Ireland, and to those people she left behind. Read by Niamh Cusack (above).

# Tuesday television & radio

## CRITIC'S CHOICE



Writer and comedian Mark O'Sullivan in 'My Sexual Abuse: The Sitcom', 10pm, Channel 4

**Cheap Flights: What They Really Mean For You**  
8pm, BBC One  
Michelle Ackerley finds out what the Government's net-zero targets mean for holidaymakers and asks whether it is possible to make an environmentally responsible decision on a budget. Science reporter Fran Scott, meanwhile, wonders whether new technology could be the answer and finds out how the next generation of jet engines could be more efficient.

**The Great British Sewing Bee**  
9pm, BBC One  
Judges Patrick Grant and Esme Young set the sewers three challenges inspired by the world

of sport. In the first challenge, the contestants are presented with a pattern for a winter sportswear staple, a half-zip fleece. The "Transformation Challenge" sees the sewers making a whole new outfit from cricket whites, and in the "Made to Measure" challenge, they must nominate a country and make an outfit for a specific sport fit for an international event.

**Blood on the Dance Floor - Spotlight**  
9pm, BBC Two  
A documentary about the still-unsolved 1997 murder of Darren Bradshaw, a gay RUC police officer shot in Belfast's only openly gay bar. Jordan Dunbar investigates how DJs, drag queens and

dancers fought back against the homophobic attitudes prevalent in Northern Irish society at the time – the killing coming at a pivotal time for both the gay scene in Ulster and the peace process.

**The Pilgrimage of Gilbert & George**  
9pm, Sky Arts  
A fascinating insight into the world and thought processes of the joined-at-the-hip artists Gilbert Prousch and George Passmore, better known as Gilbert & George. Filmed in their iconic house and studio just off the now-trendy Brick Lane (but a rough and seedy corner of London's East End when they moved there in the 70s), the film explores their journey from

perennial art-world outsiders to international acclaim.

**My Sexual Abuse: The Sitcom**  
10pm, Channel 4  
Following writer and comedian Mark O'Sullivan as he creates a sitcom about the sexual abuse he survived as a child and the court case that led to the conviction of his abuser. Charting the writing, rehearsals and eventual filming of an episode of the 80s-style family sitcom in front of a studio audience, the documentary explores why O'Sullivan has chosen to deal with his abuse in this way, and asks whether comedy can help deal with trauma. And as the sitcom begins to take shape

	BBC ONE	BBC TWO	itv1	4	5	BBC FOUR	FILM	itv2	
DAYTIME	6.00 <i>Breakfast</i> (S). 9.30 <i>Rip Off Britain</i> (S). 10.15 <i>The Moment Of Proof</i> (R) (S). 10.45 <i>Expert Witness</i> (R) (S). 11.15 <i>Homes Under The Hammer</i> (S). 12.15 <i>Bargain Hunt</i> (R) (S). 1.00 <i>BBC News At One</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 1.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 1.45 <i>Doctors</i> (S). 2.15 <i>Money For Nothing</i> (S). 3.00 <i>Escape To The Country</i> (S). 3.45 <i>Garden Rescue</i> (R) (S). 4.30 <i>The Finish Line</i> (S). 5.15 <i>Pointless</i> (S).	6.30 <i>Bargain Hunt</i> (R) (S). 7.15 <i>Money For Nothing</i> (R) (S). 8.00 <i>Sign Zone: MasterChef</i> (R) (S). 9.00 <i>BBC News</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Impossible</i> (R) (S). 1.45 <i>Mastermind</i> (R) (S). 2.15 <i>Great Coastal Railway Journeys</i> (R) (S). 2.45 <i>Five Bedrooms</i> (R) (S). 3.30 <i>The Farmers' Country Showdown</i> (R) (S). 4.15 <i>Cornwall: This Fishing Life</i> (R) (S). 5.15 <i>Flog It!</i> (R) (S).	6.00 <i>Good Morning Britain</i> (S). 9.00 <i>Lorraine</i> (S). 10.00 <i>This Morning</i> (S). 12.30 <i>Loose Women</i> (S). 1.30 <i>ITV News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 1.55 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 2.00 <i>Dickinson's Real Deal</i> (R) (S). 3.00 <i>Lingo</i> (R) (S). 3.59 <i>ITV Regional Weather</i> (S). 4.00 <i>Tipping Point</i> (R) (S). 5.00 <i>The Chase</i> (R) (S).	6.30 <i>3rd Rock From The Sun</i> (R) (S). 7.45 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 8.10 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 8.40 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 9.10 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 9.40 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 10.10 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 11.10 <i>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</i> (R) (S). 12.05 <i>Channel 4 News Summary</i> (S). 12.10 <i>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</i> (R) (S). 1.05 <i>Find It, Fix It, Flog It</i> (R) (S). 2.10 <i>Countdown</i> (S). 3.00 <i>A Place In The Sun</i> (R) (S). 4.00 <i>A Place In The Sun</i> (S). 5.00 <i>Come Dine With Me: The Professionals</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Milkshake!</i> 9.15 <i>Jeremy Vine</i> (S). 11.15 <i>Storm Huntley</i> (S). 12.45 <i>Friends</i> (R) (S). 1.10 <i>Friends</i> (R) (S). 1.40 <i>5 News At Lunchtime</i> (S). 1.45 <i>Home And Away</i> (R) (S). 2.20 <i>FILM: Secrets By The Shore</i> (Jacob Cooney 2022) Thriller, starring Christina DeRosa (S). 4.00 <i>Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun</i> (R) (S). 5.00 <i>5 News At 5</i> (S).				
6PM	6.00 <i>BBC News At Six</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 6.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Richard Osman's House Of Games</i> (R) (S). 6.30 <i>Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure</i> (S).	6.00 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 6.30 <i>ITV News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S).	6.00 <i>Four In A Bed</i> (S). 6.30 <i>The Simpsons</i> The family relocates to a farm (R) (S).	6.00 <i>Police Interceptors</i> (R) (S). 6.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).	 Esme Young joins Patrick Grant to set the sewers three sports themed challenges 9pm, BBC One	 Michelle Ackerley investigates flights 8pm, BBC One	6.00 <i>CITV 9.00 World's Funniest Videos</i> (S). 9.25 <i>Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records</i> (S). 9.35 <i>Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records</i> (S). 10.00 <i>Veronica Mars</i> (S). 11.00 <i>Celebrity Catchphrase</i> (S). 12.00 <i>Secret Crush</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Dress To Impress</i> (S). 2.00 <i>Family Fortunes</i> (S). 3.00 <i>Veronica Mars</i> (S). 4.00 <i>Britain's Got Talent</i> (S).	
7PM	7.00 <i>The One Show</i> (S). 7.30 <i>EastEnders</i> Ravi orders Nish to stay away from the family (S).	7.00 <i>Hairy Bikers: Route 66</i> Dave and Si cross the state of Arizona in search of the Wild West (R) (S).	7.00 <i>Emmerdale</i> Ethan collapses (S). 7.30 <i>Coronation Street</i> (S).	7.00 <i>Channel 4 News</i> (S).	7.00 <i>30 Tips To Cut Your Bills</i> (R) (S). 7.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).	7.00 <i>Great British Railway Journeys</i> (S). 7.30 <i>War Walks</i> The site of the Battle of Bosworth Field (S).	6.20 <i>FILM: First Knight</i> (Jerry Zucker 1995) Arthurian adventure, starring Richard Gere (S).	7.00 <i>Family Fortunes</i> The James family compete against the Weatherley family (S).	
8PM	8.00 <i>Cheap Flights: What They Really Mean For You</i> (S).	8.00 <i>Springwatch</i> Iolo Williams heads to Hengistbury Head (S).	8.00 <i>Britain's Got Talent</i> More semi-finalists compete for a place in the grand final (S).	8.00 <i>Emergency Helicopter Medics</i> The team helps a man trapped under a pallet of granite (S).	8.00 <i>The Yorkshire Vet</i> An emaciated sheep is rushed to the Huddersfield hospital (S).	8.00 <i>Yes, Prime Minister</i> (S). 8.30 <i>The Perfect Morecambe And Wise</i> (S).		8.00 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> Linda invites some of Louise's classmates for a sleepover (S). 8.30 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> (S).	
9PM	9.00 <i>The Great British Sewing Bee</i> The sewers face challenges inspired by the world of sport (S).	9.00 <i>Blood On The Dance Floor - Spotlight</i> (S).	9.00 <i>The Gathering</i> Promise of getting his sister to the UK safely leaves Bazi with a decision to make (S).	9.00 <i>The Gathering</i> Promise of getting his sister to the UK safely leaves Bazi with a decision to make (S).	9.00 <i>Into The Amazon With Robson Green</i> (S).	9.00 <i>Eric Morecambe: My Comedy Hero By Miranda Hart</i> (S).	9.00 <i>FILM: Born On The Fourth Of July</i> (Oliver Stone 1989) Fact-based Vietnam War drama (S).	9.00 <i>Hell's Kitchen</i> The pressure is on as the final three face one more challenge (S).	
10PM	10.00 <i>BBC News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 10.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 10.40 <i>Tokyo Vice</i> (S).	10.00 <i>Meet The Richardsons</i> Jon is given career advice from his comedy hero, Jack Dee (R) (S). 10.30 <i>Newsnight</i> (S).	10.00 <i>ITV News At Ten</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 10.30 <i>ITV Regional News</i> ; <i>Weather</i> (S). 10.45 <i>On Assignment</i> (S).	10.00 <i>My Sexual Abuse: The Sitcom</i> (S). 10.55 <i>Sky Coppers</i> (R) (S).	10.00 <i>Stormy</i> Following the story of the unlikely American icon Stormy Daniels (S).	10.00 <i>Dalton's Dream: Storyville A</i> profile of Dalton Harris, the 2018 winner of <i>X Factor</i> UK (S).		10.00 <i>Plebs</i> The boys attempt to infiltrate a local firm of chariot hooligans (S). 10.30 <i>Plebs</i> (S).	
11PM	11.40 <i>Tokyo Vice</i> Chihara-kai attempt to regroup after a devastating shootout (S).	11.05 <i>International T20 Cricket</i> England vs Pakistan (S).	11.20 <i>Absolutely India: Mancs In Mumbai</i> (R) (S). 11.45 <i>Absolutely India: Mancs In Mumbai</i> (R) (S).	11.55 <i>Taskmaster</i> Sophie Willan is baffled by mirror writing (R) (S).		11.30 <i>Coming Out! A Fabulous History Of Gay Scotland</i> The post-war history of Scotland's gay community (S).	11.50 <i>FILM: The Vanishing</i> (Kristoffer Nyholm 2019) Thriller, starring Gerard Butler (S).	11.00 <i>Family Guy</i> Quahog's local news station announces the end of the world (S). 11.30 <i>Family Guy</i> (S).	
LATE	12.40 <i>BBC News</i> (S).	12.05 <i>Sign Zone: Secrets And Spies: A Nuclear Game</i> (R) (S). 1.05 <i>Sign Zone: Hidden Treasures Of The National Trust</i> (R) (S). 2.05 <i>Sign Zone: Great British Railway Journeys</i> (R) (S).	12.10 <i>ITV Studio Sessions</i> (R) (S). 12.35 <i>Shop On TV</i> (S). 3.00 <i>My Mum, Your Dad</i> (R) (S). 3.50 <i>Unwind With ITV</i> (S). 5.05 <i>James Martin's Spanish Adventure</i> (R) (S).	12.55 <i>Ramsay's 24 Hours To Hell And Back</i> (R) (S). 1.55 <i>FILM: Maffie</i> (Oliver Hermanus 2019) Romantic drama (S). 3.35 <i>Unreported World</i> (R) (S). 4.00 <i>The War On Britain's Motorists: Dispatches</i> (R) (S).	12.05 <i>Ultimate Police Interceptors</i> (R) (S). 1.00 <i>PlayOJO Live Casino Show</i> (S). 3.00 <i>10 Years Younger In 10 Days</i> (R) (S). 3.50 <i>World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys</i> (R) (S). 4.40 <i>Wildlife SOS</i> (R) (S).	12.30 <i>Parkinson With Kenneth Williams, Maggie Smith And John Betjeman</i> (S). 1.55 <i>Great British Railway Journeys</i> (S). 2.25 <i>Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise - Imagine</i> (S). 4.00 <i>Close</i>	2.00 <i>FILM: Sauvage</i> (Camille Vidal-Naquet 2018) Drama, starring Félix Maritaud (S). 4.00 <i>Close</i>	12.00 <i>American Dad!</i> (S). 12.30 <i>American Dad!</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> (S). 1.30 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> (S). 1.55 <i>Hey Tracey!</i> (S). 2.50 <i>Unwind With ITV</i> (S). 3.00 <i>Teleshopping</i>	

with a cast including Cariad Lloyd and Rufus Jones, O'Sullivan reveals his decision to play a 12-year-old version of himself.

**Dalton's Dream: Storyville**  
10pm, BBC Four

In 2018, Jamaican national Dalton Harris became the first non-British black singer to win *The X Factor*. Shot over four years (and beginning with this supremely gifted singer wowing Simon Cowell and fellow judges), this documentary follows his subsequent struggles to build on his success. The film also follows the pansexual Harris back to his Jamaican homeland, where he faced homophobic abuse.

Gerard Gilbert

**FILM CHOICE**



John David Washington in Christopher Nolan's action thriller 'Tenet', 10pm, BBC Three

**Born on the Fourth of July**  
9pm, Film4

(Oliver Stone, 1989)  
Tom Cruise, in that moment when it looked like he might be a great actor instead of just an action hero, starred in this biopic of Ron Kovic, an all-American college athlete who signed up to fight in Vietnam, and returned home a disillusioned paraplegic who won his battle against depression and addiction in order to become a spokesman for the anti-war movement.

**This is the End**  
9pm, Comedy Central

(Evan Goldberg, Seth Rogen, 2013)  
This underwritten but hilarious meta-comedy opens with a party at James Franco's house in

Hollywood, attended by almost anyone who has ever been in a Seth Rogen or Judd Apatow film. Then the Earth swallows up most of the guests, and the remaining few barricade themselves in to wait out the coming apocalypse.

**Tenet**  
10pm, BBC Three

(Christopher Nolan, 2020)  
This action movie is unfortunately the least successful of Christopher Nolan's experiments in narratively adventurous blockbusters, though the time-bending story structure is clever. John David Washington stars as a secret agent rushing to prevent an apocalypse.

Laurence Phelan

**On Demand**

**Dancing with the Devil: The 7M TikTok Cult** Netflix  
How an LA-based talent company-cum-church snared its young members.

**The Gullspång Miracle** BBC iPlayer  
A true story from Sweden about long-lost siblings.

**Sue Perkins: Lost in Thailand** My5  
The comedian takes a three-part tour of the popular backpacker destination.

itv3	ITV4	More 4	sky max	sky atlantic
<p>6.00 Classic Emmerdale (S) 6.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (S) 7.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 8.05 Endeavour (S) 10.15 The Royal (S) 11.20 Heartbeat (S) 12.25 Heartbeat (S) 1.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.05 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.10 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.45 Agatha Christie's Marple (S) 5.55 Heartbeat (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 9.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 9.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 10.00 Young Sheldon (S) 10.30 Young Sheldon (S) 11.00 Modern Family (S) 11.30 Modern Family (S) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 3.00 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Modern Family (S) 4.00 Young Sheldon (S) 4.30 Young Sheldon (S) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 5.30 The Big Bang Theory (S).</p>	<p>8.55 A Place In The Sun (S) 9.30 A Place In The Sun (S) 10.25 A New Life In The Sun (S) 11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (S) 12.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.00 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.05 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.35 Come Dine With Me (S) 3.10 Four In A Bed (S) 3.40 Four In A Bed (S) 4.15 Four In A Bed (S) 4.50 Four In A Bed (S) 5.20 Four In A Bed (S) 5.50 Chateau DIY (S).</p>	<p>6.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 7.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S) 8.00 The Flash (R) (S) 9.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 10.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 12.00 The Flash (R) (S) 1.00 MacGyver (R) (S) 2.00 MacGyver (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T. (R) (S) 5.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 7.00 The Guest Wing (R) (S) 7.55 True Blood (R) (S) 9.00 True Blood (R) (S) 10.05 Billions (R) (S) 11.10 Billions (R) (S) 12.15 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 1.20 Ray Donovan (R) (S) 2.25 Ray Donovan (R) (S) 3.30 True Blood (R) (S) 4.35 True Blood (R) (S) 5.40 Billions (R) (S).</p>
<p>6.55 Heartbeat A saboteur strikes in Aidsfield (S).</p>	<p>6.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory (S).</p>	<p>6.55 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz are off to Southampton to take on a 1969 Jensen Interceptor (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Stargate SG-1 The team rescues a group of aliens (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.45 Billions Axe plots to secure his deposits by poaching from Prince (R) (S).</p>
<p>7.55 Heartbeat A burglary has unexpected repercussions (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Hollyoaks Cleo continues to challenge Abe about his abuse (S). 7.30 Modern Family (S).</p>	<p>7.55 Grand Designs A couple building a home that looks like a work of art in south Devon (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Stargate SG-1 O'Neill is stranded on an unknown planet (R) (S).</p>	<p>7.55 Game Of Thrones Tommen confronts the High Sparrow (R) (S).</p>
<p>9.00 Mr Bates vs The Post Office (S).</p>	<p>9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? and Naked And Afraid are appraised (S).</p>	<p>9.00 PopMaster TV (S).</p>	<p>9.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip (S).</p>	<p>9.00 The Tattooist Of Auschwitz Gita grows worried over the whereabouts of Lali (R) (S).</p>
<p>10.00 The Thief, His Wife And The Canoe (S).</p>	<p>10.00 Gogglebox The critics review Coronation Street and Married At First Sight UK (S).</p>	<p>10.00 Do You Remember... 1994? (S).</p>	<p>10.00 Hold The Front Page (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.05 House Of The Dragon (R) (S).</p>
<p>11.00 Wycliffe A surfer's near-fatal accident arouses suspicion (S).</p>	<p>11.05 First Dates A hairdresser sits down for a meal with a sales manager (S).</p>	<p>11.05 24 Hours In A&amp;E A 36-year-old man is involved in a high-speed road traffic collision (S).</p>	<p>11.00 S.W.A.T The squad scrambles to track down a sniper terrorising Los Angeles (R).</p>	<p>11.15 Band Of Brothers A group of inexperienced paratroopers joins Easy Company (R) (S).</p>
<p>12.00 The Royal (S) 12.50 Upstairs, Downstairs (S) 1.50 Bless This House (S) 2.15 Unwind With ITV (S) 2.30 Teleshopping</p>	<p>12.10 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.10 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.10 Modern Family (S) 3.00 Celebrity Gogglebox (S) 3.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 4.45 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S)</p>	<p>12.10 PopMaster TV (S) 1.15 Do You Remember... 1994? (S) 2.20 24 Hours In A&amp;E (S) 3.25 A Place In The Sun (S) 3.55 Close</p>	<p>12.00 The Walking Dead (R) (S) 1.10 The Walking Dead (R) (S) 2.00 Hold The Front Page 3.00 Resident Alien (R) (S) 4.00 Peacemaker (R) (S) 5.00 S.W.A.T. (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.25 Domina (R) (S) 1.35 The Newsroom (R) (S) 2.35 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 3.35 In Treatment (R) (S) 4.05 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 5.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S).</p>

**Radio listings**

**BBC Radio 1**  
6.57am Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 1 Breakfast With Greg James 10.30 Newsbeat 10.32 Rickie, Melvin And Charlie 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Vicky And Nat 3.30 Newsbeat 3.32 Going Home With Vick, Katie And Jamie On Radio 1 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1's New Music Show With Jack Saunders 8.00 Radio 1's Future Artists With Sian Eleri 10.00 Radio 1's Power Down Playlist With Sian Eleri 11.00 Martha 1am Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix 1.30 Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix 2.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 2.30 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 3.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 4.00 Radio 1 Dance 5.00 Radio 1 Early Breakfast With Arielle Free

**BBC Radio 1Xtra**  
6am 1Xtra Playlists 7.00 Nadia Jae 10.00 DJ Day Day 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 DJ Target 9.00 1Xtra's Alternative Selection With CassKidd 11.00 Sir Spyro 1am 1Xtra's Throwback Party 2.00 1Xtra's Rap List 4.00 1Xtra Salutes: The Wireless Collection, Nicki Minaj 5.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix

**BBC Radio 2**  
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Gary Davies 12noon Jeremy Vine 2.00 DJ Spooky 4.00 Sara Cox 6.30 Sara Cox's Half Wower 7.00 Jo Whaley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whaley 9.00 The Jazz Show With Jamie Cullum 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 12midn't OJ Borg 3.00 Pick Of The Pops 4.00 Owain Wyn Evans

**BBC Radio 3**  
6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm Classical Live 4.00 Composer Of The Week: Vivaldi 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Radio 3 In Concert 9.45 The Essay: A Different Way To Listen 10.00 Night Tracks 11.30 Round Midnight 12.30am Through The Night

**BBC Radio 4**  
6am Today 9.00 Being Roman With Mary Beard 9.30 All In The Mind 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Add To Playlist 11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices 12noon News 12.04 Call You And Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At One 1.45 Thief At The British Museum 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: Flixborough 74 3.00 Short Cuts 3.30 Thinking Allowed 4.00 Michael Sheen Gets Into Character 4.30 When It Hits The Fan 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Joe Lycett's Obsessions 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row 8.00 File On 4 8.40 In Touch 9.00 The Law Show 9.30 The Bottom Line: The Decisions That Made Me A Leader 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book At Bedtime: Long Island 11.00 Uncanny USA 11.30 Lights Out 12midn't News And Weather 12.30 D-Day: The Last Voices 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.30 News Briefing 5.43 Prayer For The Day 5.45 Farming Today

**BBC Radio 4 Extra**  
6am London Particulars 6.45 Beggars Banquet 7.00 Semi Circles 7.30 The Goon Show 8.00 The Fair Intellectual Club 8.30 The Nature Of Spring 8.45 Curious Under The Stars 9.00 Thanks A Lot, Milton Jones! 9.30 A British History In Weather 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 A Good Read 10.30 Sounds Natural 11.00 London Particulars 11.45 Beggars Banquet 12noon Semi Circles 12.30 The Goon Show 1.00 The Fair Intellectual Club 1.30 The Nature Of Spring 1.45 Curious Under The Stars 2.00 The Personality Test 2.30 Hidden Treasures:

Dear Octopus 4.00 A Good Read 4.30 Sounds Natural 5.00 London Particulars 5.45 Beggars Banquet 6.00 Semi Circles 6.30 The Goon Show 7.00 The Fair Intellectual Club 7.30 The Nature Of Spring 7.45 Curious Under The Stars 8.00 The Personality Test 8.30 Hidden Treasures: Dear Octopus 10.00 Comedy Club: Thanks A Lot, Milton Jones! 10.30 Comedy Club: Think The Unthinkable 11.00 Comedy Club: Rubbish 11.30 Comedy Club: Helen Keen's It Is Rocket Science 11.45 Comedy Club: Hearing With Hegley 12midn't A Good Read 12.30 Sounds Natural 1.00 London Particulars 1.45 Beggars Banquet 2.00 Semi Circles 2.30 The Goon Show 3.00 The Fair Intellectual Club 3.30 The Nature Of Spring 3.45 Curious Under The Stars 4.00 The Personality Test 4.30 Hidden Treasures: Dear Octopus

**BBC 5 Live**  
6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1pm Nihal Arthanayake 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 8.00 Tennis 10.30 Gordon Smart 1am Dotun Adebayo 5.00 Wake Up To Money

**BBC 6 Music**  
7.30am Chris Hawkins 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1pm Craig Charles 4.00 Emily Pilbeam 7.00 New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 6 Music Artist In Residence: Yard Act 12midn't 6 Music's Indie Forever 1.00 Mark Lamarr 3.00 6 Music Live Hour 4.00 The 6 Music Playlist 5.00 Nathan Shepherd

**Classic FM**  
6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Aled Jones 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour With Aled Jones 10.00 Stephen Mangan 1pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Bill Overton 4.00 Early Breakfast

**Absolute Radio**  
6am Ben Burrell 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Jay Lawrence 4.00 Bush 7.00 Danielle Perry 10.00 Claire Sturges 1am Dan Noble

**Heart**  
6.30am Heart Breakfast With Jamie Theakston And Amanda Holden 10.00 Pandora Christie 1pm Matt Wilkinson 4.00 JK And Kelly Brook 7.00 Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin 10.00 Fia Tarrant 1am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Jonny Meah 4.00 Early Breakfast With Lindsey Russell

**TalkSPORT**  
6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Jeff Stelling 10.00 Jim White And Simon Jordan 1pm Hawksbee And Jacobs 4.00 TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent 7.00 Kick Off 10.00 Sports Bar 12midn't Extra Time

**RADIO PICK**

**Drama: Flixborough 74**  
2.15pm, BBC Radio 4



Fact-based drama marking 50 years since the Nypro disaster in the small village of Flixborough in North Lincolnshire, which stands as one of the UK's worst chemical explosions. The events of that day unfold from the point of view of two workers trying to restart the reactor and people at a local gala. John Godber (above) stars.

# Wednesday television & radio

## CRITIC'S CHOICE



Owen and Alfie start the final leg of the journey in 'Race Across the World', 9pm, BBC One

### The Repair Shop 8pm, BBC One

Sad news that Jay Blades is to "step back" from the show following the break-up of his marriage, but the presenter is still with us in these already filmed episodes. He meets Leigh, who brings in a 40-year-old armchair that he bought with his partner Greg before the latter died during the Aids crisis. And Sian from Northampton brings in a bangle given to her by her parents that fell under the wheels of a taxi.

### Location, Location, Location 8pm, Channel 4

Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer scour the south coast between Southampton and Bognor Regis. Kirstie's couple, Antoinette

and Matt, have been renting in Southampton for three years, paying more than £30,000 in the process, while Phil is searching in and around Chichester with Catherine, who wants a fresh start following the end of her marriage.

### Race Across the World: The Final 9pm, BBC One

After racing nearly 14,000km over seven weeks, through seven countries, it's all come down to... 12 minutes. That is all that separates the first two teams as they embark on the final leg from Jakarta to Lombok, where a prize of £20,000 awaits the winners. The four couples can reach Lombok only from the neighbouring island

of Bali. But to get there, they will need to navigate the length of the most populous island in the world, Java. *Race Across the World: The Reunion* at 10.40pm meets the contestants six months after completing the odyssey.

### The Gathering 9pm, Channel 4

Having shone the spotlight on each of the likely suspects, Helen Walsh's sort-of-whodunnit finally reaches that illegal rave, where drugs, alcohol and simmering emotions explode into multiple showdowns and a violent assault. Kelly (played by the excellent Eva Morgan) is rushed to hospital in critical condition, but will her attacker evade justice?

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

"They're very militaristic... You can imagine them strutting around to a brass band," says Jim Moir, referring to the black grouse that he and wife Nancy are spotting in North Wales, where fellow comic Joe Pasquale joins them.

### Inside No 9 10pm, BBC Two

An escape room is such a perfect, confined setting for these tales of the unexpected that it's a surprise that Steve Pemberton and Reece Shearsmith have left it so late to use one. Anyway, Jason (Pemberton), wife Lynne (Katherine Kelly) and their two

	BBC ONE	BBC TWO	itv1	4	5	BBC FOUR	FILM	itv2
DAYTIME	<p>6.00 <i>Breakfast</i> (S). 9.30 <i>Rip Off Britain</i> (S). 10.15 <i>The Moment Of Proof</i> (R) (S). 10.45 <i>Expert Witness</i> (R) (S). 11.15 <i>Homes Under The Hammer</i> (R) (S). 12.15 <i>Bargain Hunt</i> (R) (S). 1.00 <i>BBC News At One</i>; Weather (S). 1.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i>; Weather (S). 1.45 <i>Doctors</i> (S). 2.15 <i>Money For Nothing</i> (S). 3.00 <i>Escape To The Country</i> (R) (S). 3.45 <i>Garden Rescue</i> (R) (S). 4.30 <i>The Finish Line</i> (S). 5.15 <i>Pointless</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.30 <i>Money For Nothing</i> (R) (S). 7.15 <i>Escape To The Country</i> (R) (S). 8.00 <i>Sign Zone: MasterChef</i> (R) (S). 9.00 <i>BBC News</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Impossible</i> (R) (S). 1.45 <i>Mastermind</i> (R) (S). 2.15 <i>Great Coastal Railway Journeys</i> (R) (S). 2.45 <i>Five Bedrooms</i> (R) (S). 3.30 <i>The Farmers' Country Showdown</i> (R) (S). 4.15 <i>Cornwall: This Fishing Life</i> (R) (S). 5.15 <i>Flog It!</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.00 <i>Good Morning Britain</i> (S). 9.00 <i>Lorraine</i> (S). 10.00 <i>This Morning</i> (S). 12.30 <i>Loose Women</i> (S). 1.30 <i>ITV News</i>; Weather (S). 1.55 <i>ITV Regional News</i>; Weather (S). 2.00 <i>Dickinson's Real Deal</i> (R) (S). 3.00 <i>Lingo</i> (R) (S). 3.59 <i>ITV Regional Weather</i> (S). 4.00 <i>Tipping Point</i> (R) (S). 5.00 <i>The Chase</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.30 <i>3rd Rock From The Sun</i> (R) (S). 6.55 <i>3rd Rock From The Sun</i> (R) (S). 7.20 <i>3rd Rock From The Sun</i> (R) (S). 7.45 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 8.40 <i>Everybody Loves Raymond</i> (R) (S). 9.40 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 10.10 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 10.40 <i>Frasier</i> (R) (S). 11.10 <i>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</i> (R) (S). 12.05 <i>Channel 4 News Summary</i> (S). 12.10 <i>Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</i> (R) (S). 1.05 <i>Find It, Fix It, Flog It</i> (R) (S). 2.10 <i>Countdown</i> (S). 3.00 <i>A Place In The Sun</i> (R) (S). 4.00 <i>A Place In The Sun</i> (S). 5.00 <i>Come Dine With Me: The Professionals</i> (S).</p>	<p>6.00 <i>Milkshake!</i> 9.15 <i>Jeremy Vine</i> (S). 11.15 <i>Storm Huntley</i> (S). 12.45 <i>Friends</i> (R) (S). 1.10 <i>Friends</i> (R) (S). 1.40 <i>5 News At Lunchtime</i> (S). 1.45 <i>Home And Away</i> (R) (S). 2.15 <i>FILM: Rear-View Mirror</i> (John Murlowski 2023) Premiere. Thriller, starring Kayla Fields (S). 4.00 <i>Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun</i> (R) (S). 5.00 <i>5 News At 5</i> (S).</p>	<p>Leigh's old armchair needs a makeover 8pm, BBC One</p> <p>Host Phil Spencer joins Kirstie Allsopp to scour the south coast for suitable properties 8pm, Channel 4</p>	<p>Leigh's old armchair needs a makeover 8pm, BBC One</p> <p>Steve Pemberton is in an escape room 10pm, BBC Two</p>	<p>6.00 <i>CITV</i>. 9.00 <i>World's Funniest Videos</i> (S). 9.25 <i>Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records</i> (S). 9.35 <i>Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records</i> (S). 10.00 <i>Veronica Mars</i> (S). 11.00 <i>Celebrity Catchphrase</i> (S). 12.00 <i>Secret Crush</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Dress To Impress</i> (S). 2.00 <i>Family Fortunes</i> (S). 3.00 <i>Veronica Mars</i> (S). 4.00 <i>Britain's Got Talent</i> (S).</p>
6PM	<p>6.00 <i>BBC News At Six</i>; Weather (S). 6.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i>; Weather (S).</p>	<p>6.00 <i>Richard Osman's House Of Games</i> (R) (S). 6.30 <i>Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure</i> (S).</p>	<p>6.00 <i>ITV Regional News</i>; Weather (S). 6.30 <i>ITV News</i>; Weather (S).</p>	<p>6.00 <i>Four In A Bed</i> (S). 6.30 <i>The Simpsons</i> Homer becomes a celebrity (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.00 <i>Police Interceptors</i> (R) (S). 6.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).</p>			<p>6.00 <i>Celebrity Catchphrase</i> With Antony Cotton, Matt Dawson and Stacey Dooley (S).</p>
7PM	<p>7.00 <i>The One Show</i> With Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas (S). 7.30 <i>EastEnders</i> (S).</p>	<p>7.00 <i>Hairy Bikers: Route 66</i> The duo cook with marijuana and visit a taco festival. Last in the series (R) (S).</p>	<p>7.00 <i>Emmerdale</i> Belle feels guilty. Tom's plan is working (S). 7.30 <i>Coronation Street</i> (S).</p>	<p>7.00 <i>Channel 4 News</i> (S).</p>	<p>7.00 <i>Poundland: Can You Get It Cheaper?</i> (S). 7.55 <i>5 News Update</i> (S).</p>	<p>7.00 <i>Great British Railway Journeys</i> (S). 7.30 <i>War Walks</i> (S).</p>	<p>6.40 <i>FILM: Lion</i> (Garth Davis 2016) Drama, starring Dev Patel (S).</p>	<p>7.00 <i>Family Fortunes</i> The Gills go up against the Havelins (S).</p>
8PM	<p>8.00 <i>The Repair Shop</i> Experts restore an armchair, a model carousel and a bodhran drum (S).</p>	<p>8.00 <i>Springwatch</i> Chris and Michaela commentate on the drama from the live nests (S).</p>	<p>8.00 <i>Britain's Got Talent</i> Ant and Dec host as more acts compete in the semi-finals (S).</p>	<p>8.00 <i>Location, Location, Location</i> Kirstie and Phil help house hunters along the south coast (S).</p>	<p>8.00 <i>The Motorway</i> A four-car crash in Manchester's rush hour puts the patrollers under pressure (S).</p>	<p>8.00 <i>Full Circle With Michael Palin</i> (S). 8.50 <i>Michael Palin: The Art Of Travel</i> (S).</p>		<p>8.00 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> Bob creates a commercial to air during the Super Bowl (S). 8.30 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> (S).</p>
9PM	<p>9.00 <i>Race Across The World: The Final</i> The teams head to Lombok where a prize of £20,000 awaits the winners (S).</p>	<p>9.00 <i>The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan</i> New series (S).</p>	<p>9.00 <i>The Gathering</i> Last in the series (S).</p>	<p>9.00 <i>The Gathering</i> Last in the series (S).</p>	<p>9.00 <i>Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts</i> (S).</p>	<p>9.00 <i>Double Cross: The True Story Of The D-Day Spies</i> (S).</p>	<p>9.00 <i>FILM: Fresh</i> (Mimi Cave 2022) Premiere. Comedy horror, starring Daisy Edgar-Jones (S).</p>	<p>9.00 <i>Hell's Kitchen</i> The final two contestants battle for the crown (S).</p>
10PM	<p>10.00 <i>BBC News At Ten</i> (S). 10.30 <i>BBC Regional News</i>. 10.40 <i>Race Across The World: The Reunion</i> (S).</p>	<p>10.00 <i>Inside No 9</i> A family try out their local escape room, The Killer's Lair (S). 10.30 <i>Newsnight</i> (S).</p>	<p>10.00 <i>ITV News At Ten</i>; Weather (S). 10.30 <i>ITV Regional News</i>; Weather (S). 10.45 <i>The 1% Club Quiz</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.00 <i>Britain's Most Expensive Houses</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.00 <i>Trauma Room One</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.00 <i>Bernard Hill Remembers Boys From The Black Stuff</i> (S). 10.10 <i>Boys From The Blackstuff</i> (S).</p>		<p>10.00 <i>Plebs</i> The boys are evicted from their flat (S). 10.30 <i>Plebs</i> Jason's brother Darius is getting married (S).</p>
11PM	<p>11.40 <i>FILM: The Prestige</i> (Christopher Nolan 2006) Period mystery thriller (S).</p>	<p>11.05 <i>Unspun World With John Simpson</i> (S). 11.30 <i>Hidden Treasures Of The National Trust</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>11.45 <i>Absolutely India: Mancs In Mumbai</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>11.05 <i>The Piano</i> Claudia Winkleman hosts from Liverpool Lime Street Station (R) (S).</p>	<p>11.05 <i>999: Emergency Call Out</i> A car has crashed into a wall and ended up on its roof (R) (S).</p>	<p>11.05 <i>Boys From The Blackstuff</i> Dixie moonlights as a night-time security guard (S).</p>	<p>11.15 <i>FILM: Red Sparrow</i> (Francis Lawrence 2018) Spy thriller, starring Jennifer Lawrence (S).</p>	<p>11.00 <i>Family Guy</i> Brian and Stewie are locked in a bank vault (S). 11.30 <i>Family Guy</i> (S).</p>
LATE	<p>1.50 <i>BBC News</i> (S).</p>	<p>12.30 <i>Sign Zone: Rob And Rylan's Grand Tour</i> (R) (S). 1.30 <i>Sign Zone: The Great British Sewing Bee</i> (R) (S). 2.30 <i>Sign Zone: David &amp; Jay's Touring Toolshed</i> (R) (S). 3.00 <i>This Is BBC Two</i> (S).</p>	<p>12.10 <i>Absolutely India: Mancs In Mumbai</i> (R) (S). 12.35 <i>Shop On TV</i> 3.00 <i>How Broke Is Your Council? Tonight</i> (R) (S). 3.25 <i>My Mum, Your Dad</i> (R) (S). 4.15 <i>Unwind With ITV</i> (S).</p>	<p>12.10 <i>24 Hours In A&amp;E</i> (R) (S). 1.05 <i>Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back</i> (R) (S). 1.55 <i>Imposter: The Man Who Came Back From The Dead</i> (R) (S). 2.50 <i>FILM: Sequin In A Blue Room</i> (Samuel Van Grinsven 2021) (S).</p>	<p>12.05 <i>Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders</i> (R) (S). 1.00 <i>PlayOJO Live Casino Show</i> (S). 3.00 <i>The World's Biggest Murder Trial: Nuremberg</i> (R) (S). 4.15 <i>Great Artists</i> (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.05 <i>Boys From The Blackstuff</i> (S). 1.05 <i>Boys From The Blackstuff</i> (S). 2.15 <i>Boys From The Blackstuff</i> (S). 3.20 <i>Great British Railway Journeys</i> (S). 3.50 <i>Close</i></p>	<p>2.00 <i>FILM: Venus</i> (Roger Michell 2006) Comedy, starring Peter O'Toole and Jodie Whittaker (S). 4.00 <i>Close</i></p>	<p>12.00 <i>American Dad!</i> (S). 1.00 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> (S). 1.30 <i>Bob's Burgers</i> (S). 1.55 <i>Shopping With Keith Lemon</i> (S). 2.20 <i>Shopping With Keith Lemon</i> (S). 2.50 <i>Unwind With ITV</i> (S). 3.00 <i>Teleshopping</i></p>

teenage daughters are trying out a local escape room called "The Killer's Lair". It's not really the girls' idea of fun, but they love their dad and he loves solving puzzles...

**Bernard Hill Remembers Boys from the Black Stuff**  
10pm, BBC Four

A re-run of Alan Bleasdale's classic 1982 drama about unemployed tarmac layers in Thatcher-era Liverpool is introduced by the late Bernard Hill, who played the drama's most memorable character, Yosser Hughes. Hill looks back on his role, why it struck such a chord and what he hopes contemporary audiences will take away from the series.

Gerard Gilbert

**FILM CHOICE**



Daisy Edgar-Jones and Sebastian Stan star in seductive horror movie 'Fresh', 9pm, Film4

**Fresh**  
9pm, Film4  
(Mimi Cave, 2022)  
Partly set on the US dating scene and partly in an exceptionally stylish mid-century-modern death lair, this seductive horror offers a biting commentary on gender relationships. A strong stomach and nerves of steel are required. Daisy Edgar-Jones stars.

**The Way of the Dragon**  
9.40pm, Sky Cinema Greats  
(Bruce Lee, 1973)  
For some purists, this is the best film Bruce Lee ever made. In truth, there is a lot of pedestrian plotting and corny slapstick, but being the only complete film he directed himself, it is presumed to be the

least compromised expression of his vision for the genre. And certainly the showdown against Chuck Norris is mesmerising.

**The Prestige**  
11.40pm, BBC One  
(Christopher Nolan, 2006)  
Nothing is as it seems in this enjoyable tricky period hokum. Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman star as magicians in Victorian London whose professional and romantic rivalry leads them to attempt ever more impressive and dangerous illusions. The film is impressively staged, too, even if it is just a chamber piece by comparison with director Christopher Nolan's later films.

Laurence Phelan

**On Demand**

**The Veil** Disney+  
Elisabeth Moss stars in this spy thriller ranging from Istanbul to Paris and London.

**Patrick Melrose** Netflix  
Benedict Cumberbatch excels as a drug addict in Edward St Aubyn's autobiographical tale.

**Secrets and Spies: The Nuclear Game** BBC iPlayer  
Taking a look at how spycraft helped to avert Armageddon during the 80s Cold War.

itv3	ITV	More	sky max	sky atlantic
<p>6.00 Classic Emmerdale (S) 6.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (S) 7.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 8.05 Endeavour (S) 10.15 Heartbeat (S) 11.20 Heartbeat (S) 12.25 Heartbeat (S) 1.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.05 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.10 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.45 Agatha Christie's Marple (S) 5.55 Heartbeat (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 8.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 9.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 9.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 10.00 Young Sheldon (S) 10.30 Young Sheldon (S) 11.00 Modern Family (S) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 3.00 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Modern Family (S) 4.00 Young Sheldon (S) 4.30 Young Sheldon (S) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 5.30 The Big Bang Theory (S)</p>	<p>8.55 A Place In The Sun (S) 9.30 A Place In The Sun (S) 10.25 A New Life In The Sun (S) 11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (S) 12.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.00 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.05 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.35 Come Dine With Me (S) 3.10 Four In A Bed (S) 3.40 Four In A Bed (S) 4.15 Four In A Bed (S) 4.50 Four In A Bed (S) 5.20 Four In A Bed (S) 5.50 Chateau DIY (S)</p>	<p>6.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 7.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S) 8.00 The Flash (R) (S) 9.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 10.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 12.00 The Flash (R) (S) 1.00 SEAL Team (R) (S) 2.00 SEAL Team (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S) 5.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 7.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 7.55 True Blood (R) (S) 9.00 True Blood (R) (S) 10.05 Billions (R) (S) 11.10 Billions (R) (S) 12.15 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 1.20 Ray Donovan (R) (S) 2.25 Ray Donovan (R) (S) 3.30 True Blood (R) (S) 4.35 True Blood (R) (S) 5.40 Billions (R) (S)</p>
<p>6.55 Heartbeat A new policeman arrives in Aidsfield (S)</p>	<p>6.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory Sheldon lends Penny money to pay her rent (S)</p>	<p>6.55 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz work on a 1929 Rolls-Royce Doctors Coupe (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Stargate SG-1 The minds of the team are implanted into robotic bodies (R) (S)</p>	<p>6.45 Billions Mike Prince takes his place on the Axe Capital throne (R) (S)</p>
<p>7.55 Heartbeat A blackmailer strikes (S)</p>	<p>7.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.30 Modern Family Mitchell and Cam's party girl friend Sal comes to visit (S)</p>	<p>7.55 The Dog House A basset hound seeks approval from two childhood sweethearts (S)</p>	<p>7.00 Stargate SG-1 Daniel enters an alternative reality (R) (S)</p>	<p>7.50 House Of The Dragon Game of Thrones prequel, starring Paddy Considine (R) (S)</p>
	<p>8.00 Teen First Dates Political prodigy Connor heads into the restaurant (S)</p>		<p>8.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip (R) (S)</p>	
<p>9.00 Mr Bates vs The Post Office (S)</p>	<p>9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox (S)</p>	<p>9.00 To Catch A Copper (S)</p>	<p>9.00 Hold The Front Page Last in the series (S)</p>	<p>9.00 The Sympathizer Black comedy, starring Hoa Xuande and Robert Downey Jr (R) (S)</p>
<p>10.00 The Thief, His Wife And The Canoe (S)</p>	<p>10.00 Gogglebox The households' opinions on Planet Earth III and Mamma Mia! I Have A Dream (S)</p>	<p>10.00 999: On The Front Line A driver has collided with another car outside a school (S)</p>	<p>10.00 Resident Alien Ben grows suspicious of Mike and Liv's investigation (S)</p>	<p>10.10 The King Bruno gains Mancuso's trust (S)</p>
<p>11.00 Wycliffe Five bodies are found on an abandoned lorry (S)</p>	<p>11.05 First Dates A man in the drainage business has a date with a receptionist (S)</p>	<p>11.05 24 Hours In A&amp;E A headteacher arrives having been involved in a collision with a bus (S)</p>	<p>11.00 Ted Matty's unorthodox Christmas wish is granted (R) (S)</p>	<p>11.10 The King Bruno and Gloria work on getting Mancuso to testify (S)</p>
<p>12.00 Heartbeat (S) 12.50 Upstairs, Downstairs (S) 1.45 Bless This House (S) 2.10 Unwind With ITV (S) 2.30 Teleshopping</p>	<p>12.10 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.10 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.10 Modern Family (S) 3.00 Celebrity Gogglebox (S) 3.55 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 4.45 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S)</p>	<p>12.10 Emergency Helicopter Medics: Coast &amp; River Emergencies (S) 1.15 999: On The Front Line (S) 2.15 24 Hours In A&amp;E (S) 3.20 A Place In The Sun (S) 3.50 Close</p>	<p>12.00 Brassic (R) (S) 1.00 The Walking Dead (R) (S) 2.00 The Walking Dead (R) (S) 3.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S) 4.00 Banshee (R) (S) 5.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S)</p>	<p>12.10 The Pacific (R) (S) 1.15 The Deuce (R) (S) 2.20 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 3.30 In Treatment (R) (S) 4.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S) 5.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (R) (S)</p>

**Radio listings**

**BBC Radio 1**  
6.57am Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 1 Breakfast With Greg James 10.30 Newsbeat 10.32 Rickie, Melvin And Charlie 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Vicky And Nat 3.30 Newsbeat 3.32 Going Home With Vick, Katie And Jamie On Radio 1 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1's New Music Show With Jack Saunders 8.00 Radio 1's Future Pop With Mollie King 10.00 Radio 1's Power Down Playlist With Sian Eleri 11.00 Benji B 1am Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 1.30 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 2.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 2.30 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 3.00 Radio 1 Relax 4.00 Radio 1 Dance 5.00 Radio 1 Early Breakfast With Arielle Free

**BBC Radio 1Xtra**  
6am 1Xtra Playlists 7.00 Nadia Jae 10.00 DJ Day Day 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 DJ Target 9.00 1Xtra's AfroSounds Show With DJ Edu-The AfroSounds Mix 10.30 1Xtra's AfroSounds Show With DJ Edu-The AfroSounds Mix 11.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix 12mdn't Throwback Thursday 1.00 1Xtra's Throwback Party 2.00 1Xtra's R&B Slow Jamz Mix With Chuckie 2.30 1Xtra's R&B Slow Jamz Mix With Chuckie 3.00 Battle Of The Mixes 3.30 Battle Of The Mixes 4.00 1Xtra Salutes 5.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix

**BBC Radio 2**  
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Gary Davies 12noon Jeremy Vine 2.00 DJ Spooky 4.00 Sara Cox 6.30 Sara Cox's Half Wower 7.00 Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whiley 9.00 The Folk Show With Shaun Keaveny 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 12mdn't OJ Borg 3.00 Sounds Of The 90s With Feame Cotton 4.00 Owain Wyn Evans

**BBC Radio 3**  
6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm Classical Live 3.00 Choral Evensong 4.00 Composer Of The Week: Vivaldi 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Radio 3 In Concert 9.45 The Essay: A Different Way To Listen 10.00 Night Tracks 11.30 Round Midnight 12.30am Through The Night

**BBC Radio 4**  
6am Today 9.00 More Or Less 9.30 To Catch A Scorpion 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 File On 4 11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices 12noon News 12.04 You And Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At One 1.45 Thief At The British Museum 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: The Interrogation 3.00 The Law Show 3.30 The Artificial Human 4.00 The Media Show 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Robin Ince's Reality Tunnel 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row 8.00 AntiSocial 8.45 Uncharted With Hannah Fry 9.00 Being Roman With Mary Beard 9.30 All In The Mind 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book At Bedtime: Long Island 11.00 Athena's Cancel Culture 11.15 Tom Mayhew Is Benefit Scum 11.30 Lights Out 12mdn't News And Weather 12.30 D-Day: The Last Voices 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast

**BBC Radio 4 Extra**  
6am Father Brown - The Secret Garden 6.45 Beggars Banquet 7.00 Never Too Late 7.30 Hancock's Half Hour 8.00 Hazelbeach 8.30 The Nature Of Spring 8.45 Curious Under The Stars 9.00 Tudor Owen: United Nations Of Anglesey 9.30 A British History In Weather 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 Please Leave A Message After The Tone 11.00 Father Brown - The Secret

Garden 11.45 Beggars Banquet 12noon Never Too Late 12.30 Hancock's Half Hour 1.00 Hazelbeach 1.30 The Nature Of Spring 1.45 Curious Under The Stars 2.00 Dilemma 2.30 Hidden Treasures: The Slaves Of Solitude 4.00 Please Leave A Message After The Tone 5.00 Father Brown - The Secret Garden 5.45 Beggars Banquet 6.00 Never Too Late 6.30 Hancock's Half Hour 7.00 Hazelbeach 7.30 The Nature Of Spring 7.45 Curious Under The Stars 8.00 Dilemma 8.30 Hidden Treasures: The Slaves Of Solitude 10.00 Comedy Club: Tudor Owen: United Nations Of Anglesey 10.30 Comedy Club: I Think I've Got A Problem 11.00 Comedy Club: Chain Reaction 11.30 Comedy Club: Big Booth Too 12mdn't Please Leave A Message After The Tone 1.00 Father Brown - The Secret Garden 1.45 Beggars Banquet

**BBC 5 Live**  
6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1pm Nihal Arthanayake 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 8.00 Tennis 10.30 Gordon Smart 1am Dotun Adebayo

**BBC 6 Music**  
7.30am Chris Hawkins 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1pm Craig Charles 4.00 Emily Pilbeam 7.00 New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 6 Music Artist In Residence: Yard Act 12mdn't Freak Zone Playlist 1.00 The Story Of Pop 2.00 The Story Of Pop 3.00 6 Music Live Hour 4.00 6 Music's Jukebox 5.00 Nathan Shepherd

**Classic FM**  
6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Aled Jones 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour With Aled Jones 10.00 Stephen Mangan 1pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Bill Overton 4.00 Early Breakfast

**Absolute Radio**  
6am Ben Burrell 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Jay Lawrence 4.00 Bush 7.00 Danielle Perry 10.00 Claire Sturgess 1am Dan Noble

**Heart**  
6.30am Heart Breakfast With Jamie Theakston And Amanda Holden 10.00 Pandora Christie 1pm Matt Wilkinson 4.00 JK And Kelly Brook 7.00 Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin 10.00 Fia Tarrant 1am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Jonny Meah 4.00 Early Breakfast With Lindsey Russell

**TalkSPORT**  
6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Alan Brazil 10.00 Jim White And Simon Jordan 1pm Hawksbee And Baker 4.00 TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent 7.00 Kick Off 10.00 Sports Bar 1am Extra Time 5.00 Early Breakfast

**RADIO PICK**

**The Artificial Human**  
3.30pm, BBC Radio 4



As AI becomes a greater part of our lives, and the hype around it grows to the point where we are not sure what is true and what isn't, listener Val wants to know whether artificial intelligence will be able to look after her in old age. Aleks Krotoski (above) and Kevin Fong speak to the experts to find out how AI will change care.

# Thursday television & radio

## CRITIC'S CHOICE



Stephen Merchant returns as solicitor Greg in the comedy drama 'The Outlaws', 9pm, BBC One

### The Truth About Temu: Dispatches

8pm, Channel 4  
Ellie Flynn investigates Temu, the Chinese shopping app with prices too good to be true. She finds out whether some of their products are made with high levels of harmful materials and if they are accurately advertised as holding recognised safety certificates. The Dispatches journalist also travels across the UK to discover how addictive the app can be.

### The Outlaws

9pm, BBC One  
The enjoyable comedy caper about an assorted bunch of Bristolians doing community service returns for a third outing, with the cast

largely intact (albeit no sign as yet of Christopher Walken) and with Jessica Gunning's star on the rise thanks to Netflix's *Baby Reindeer*. Gunning's supervisor Diane is now a fully-fledged PCSO, while solicitor Greg (series co-creator Stephen Merchant), right-wing blowhard John (Darren Boyd) activist Myrna (Clare Perkins), Ben (Gamba Cole) and influencer Lady Gabby (Eleanor Tomlinson) are set to work on a city farm. With drug baron The Dean (Claes Bang) awaiting trial, their troubles seem to be over. Not so, needless to add.

### Taskmaster

9pm, Channel 4  
It's the grand final, with Greg Davies and contestants wearing

their best bib and tucker while Alex Horne dons some slightly alarming fake bushy eyebrows. The last team task of the series is a classic, as they are asked to invent a new American TV game show in just half an hour (don't expect Steve Pemberton's scatological concept to find any takers). Pemberton and "Taskmaster nerd" John Robins are hot favourites to carry off Davies' golden noggin, but Sophie Willan upends the host's low opinion of her abilities while Nick Mohammed comes up with a magical prediction.

### A Small Light

9pm, Drama  
Continuing the Emmy-nominated Second World War drama with its

fresh take on the familiar story of Anne Frank's diary. And with the Frank family secure in the secret annexe, Miep Gies (Bel Powley) is asked by her Jewish dentist whether she knows a place where he can hide. The courageous young secretary has to find new and more dangerous ways to evade the occupying Nazis' attentions.

### Bloody Omaha: Timewatch

9pm, BBC Four  
Historians are still arguing about why Omaha Beach was the hardest beach to capture during the D-Day landings in June 1944. In this 2007 documentary, presenter Richard Hammond revealed how a small group of men, ending up in the wrong place at the right time,

	BBC ONE	BBC TWO	itv1	4	5	BBC FOUR	FILM	itv2	
DAYTIME	<p>6.00 Breakfast (S). 9.30 Rip Off Britain (S). 10.15 The Moment Of Proof (R) (S). 10.45 Expert Witness (R) (S). 11.15 Homes Under The Hammer (R) (S). 12.15 Bargain Hunt (R) (S). 1.00 BBC News At One; Weather (S). 1.30 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 1.45 Doctors (S). 2.15 Money For Nothing (S). 3.00 Escape To The Country (R) (S). 3.45 Garden Rescue (R) (S). 4.30 The Finish Line (S). 5.15 Pointless (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.15 Homes Under The Hammer (R) (S). 7.15 Money For Nothing (R) (S). 8.00 Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Food Stories (R) (S). 8.30 Sign Zone: Great British Railway Journeys (R) (S). 9.00 BBC News (S). 1.00 Impossible (R) (S). 1.45 Mastermind (R) (S). 2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (R) (S). 2.45 Five Bedrooms (R) (S). 3.30 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R) (S). 4.15 Cornwall: This Fishing Life (R) (S). 5.15 Flog It! (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Good Morning Britain (S). 9.00 Lorraine (S). 10.00 This Morning (S). 12.30 Loose Women (S). 1.30 ITV News; Weather (S). 1.55 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (R) (S). 3.00 Lingo (R) (S). 3.59 ITV Regional Weather (S). 4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S). 5.00 The Chase (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.30 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S). 6.55 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S). 7.20 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S). 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 9.40 Frasier (R) (S). 10.10 Frasier (R) (S). 10.40 Frasier (R) (S). 11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S). 12.05 Channel 4 News Summary (S). 12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S). 1.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) (S). 2.10 Countdown (S). 3.00 A Place In The Sun (R) (S). 4.00 A Place In The Sun (S). 5.00 Come Dine With Me: The Professionals (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (S). 11.15 Storm Huntley (S). 12.45 Friends (R) (S). 1.10 Friends (R) (S). 1.40 5 News At Lunchtime (S). 1.45 Home And Away (R) (S). 2.15 FILM: Twelve Desperate Hours (Gina Gershon 2023) Thriller, starring Samantha Mathis (S). 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S). 5.00 5 News At 5 (S).</p>	<p>Greg Davies sets more challenges in the grand 'Taskmaster' final, with the help of Alex Horne 9pm, Channel 4</p>	<p>Saira decides it's time to record an album 10pm, Channel 4</p>	<p>Miep's Jewish dentist asks for her help 9pm, Drama</p>	<p>6.00 CITV 9.00 World's Funniest Videos (S). 9.25 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S). 9.35 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S). 10.00 Veronica Mars (S). 11.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (S). 12.00 Secret Crush (S). 1.00 Dress To Impress (S). 2.00 Family Fortunes (S). 3.00 Veronica Mars (S). 4.00 Britain's Got Talent (S).</p>
6PM	<p>6.00 BBC News At Six; Weather (S). 6.30 BBC Regional News; Weather (S).</p>	<p>6.15 Live International T20 Cricket England vs Pakistan (S).</p>	<p>6.00 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 6.30 ITV News; Weather (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Four In A Bed (S). 6.30 The Simpsons Apu's wife has octuplets (R) (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Amazing Railway Journeys With Nick Knowles (R) (S). 6.55 5 News Update (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 7.30 War Walks (S).</p>	<p>6.00 FILM: Cast Away (Robert Zemeckis 2000) Drama, starring Tom Hanks (S).</p>	<p>6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Alex Brooker, Vicky Pattison and Max Whitlock (S).</p>	
7PM	<p>7.00 The One Show Live magazine show (S). 7.30 EastEnders Ravi struggles to stand firm against Nish (S).</p>		<p>7.00 Emmerdale Manpreet confesses (S). 7.30 Coronation Street (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Channel 4 News (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Escape To The Farm With Kate Humble (S). 7.55 5 News Update (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 7.30 War Walks (S).</p>	<p>6.00 FILM: Cast Away (Robert Zemeckis 2000) Drama, starring Tom Hanks (S).</p>	<p>7.00 Family Fortunes The James family go up against the Middletons (S).</p>	
8PM	<p>8.00 Dragons' Den Two sisters hope the Dragons will be attracted to their maternity-wear business (R) (S).</p>		<p>8.00 Britain's Got Talent The semi-finals continue (S).</p>	<p>8.00 The Truth About Temu: Dispatches (S). 8.30 Kirstie And Phil's Love It Or List It: Brilliant Builds (S).</p>	<p>8.00 Reuben: Life In The Dales A plumbing project turns into a disaster. Last in the series (S).</p>	<p>8.00 A House Through Time (S).</p>		<p>8.00 Bob's Burgers (S). 8.30 Bob's Burgers (S).</p>	
9PM	<p>9.00 The Outlaws New series. Return of the comedy drama, starring Rianne Barreto (S).</p>			<p>9.00 Taskmaster Last in the series (S).</p>	<p>9.00 The Hotel Inspector Alex Polizzi revisits a Folkestone hostelry (S).</p>	<p>9.00 Bloody Omaha: Timewatch The true story of the D-Day landings (S).</p>	<p>9.00 FILM: Men In Black: International (F Gary Gray 2019) Fantasy sequel, starring Chris Hemsworth (S).</p>	<p>9.00 Family Guy Part one of two. Peter presents his own version of The Empire Strikes Back (S). 9.30 Family Guy (S).</p>	
10PM	<p>10.00 BBC News At Ten (S). 10.30 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 10.40 Question Time (S).</p>	<p>10.00 Mock The Week With Jen Brister, Rhys James, Glenn Moore and Ahir Shah (R) (S). 10.30 Newsnight (S).</p>	<p>10.00 ITV News 10.30 ITV Regional News 10.45 FILM: From Russia With Love (Terence Young 1963) (S).</p>	<p>10.00 We Are Lady Parts New series. Comedy about a Muslim punk band (S). 10.35 We Are Lady Parts (S).</p>	<p>10.00 Rose West: Making Of A Monster Unlocking the serial killer's childhood (R) (S).</p>	<p>10.00 FILM: Blazing Saddles (Mel Brooks 1974) Western spoof, starring Cleavon Little and Gene Wilder (S).</p>		<p>10.00 Family Guy Brian tries to get his friends to care more about the lives of dogs (S). 10.30 Family Guy (S).</p>	
11PM	<p>11.40 Newscast; Weather (S).</p>	<p>11.05 The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan (R) (S).</p>		<p>11.10 Gogglebox The households' opinions on recent television (R) (S).</p>	<p>11.35 5 Clues That Caught The Killer (R) (S).</p>	<p>11.30 Mel Brooks: Unwrapped - Imagine (S).</p>	<p>11.15 FILM: The Iceman (Ariel Vromen 2012) Fact-based crime drama, starring Michael Shannon (S).</p>	<p>11.00 Family Guy Peter bangs his head and develops amnesia (S). 11.30 American Dad! (S).</p>	
LATE	<p>12.15 BBC News (S).</p>	<p>12.05 Sign Zone: Saving Lives At Sea (R) (S). 1.05 Sign Zone: Doctor Who (R) (S). 1.50 Sign Zone: Cold Case Investigators: Solving Britain's Sex Crimes (R) (S). 2.50 This Is BBC Two (S).</p>	<p>12.45 Shop On TV 3.00 My Mum, Your Dad (R) (S). 3.50 Unwind With ITV (S). 5.05 Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.10 First Dates (R) (S). 1.05 FILM: The Art Of Racing In The Rain (Simon Curtis 2019) (S). 2.55 Kill Zone: Inside Gaza - Dispatches (R) (S). 4.00 Our Welsh Chapel Dream (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.35 Criminals: Caught On Camera (R) (S). 1.00 PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S). 3.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S). 3.50 Great Luxury Railway Journeys (R) (S). 4.40 Wildlife SOS (R) (S).</p>	<p>12.40 Cumbria's Red Squirrels (S). 1.40 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 2.10 War Walks (S). 2.40 A House Through Time (S). 3.40 Close</p>	<p>1.25 FILM: Neds (Peter Mullan 2010) Drama, starring Conor McCarron (S). 3.55 Close</p>	<p>12.00 American Dad! (S). 12.30 Bob's Burgers (S). 1.00 Bob's Burgers (S). 1.30 Don't Hate The Playaz (S). 2.10 Unwind With ITV (S). 3.00 Teleshopping</p>	

helped to turn a potential tragedy into one of victory.

**We Are Lady Parts**  
10pm, Channel 4

A well-deserved second series for Nida Manzoor's spunky, stereotype-dismantling comedy about an all-female Muslim punk band. As the band returns home from a summer of gigs, frontwoman Saira (Sarah Kameela Impey) announces that it is time to record their debut album – but first, they must raise enough money to pay for the studio time. Meanwhile, they are stunned to find that they have a rival Muslim band, Second Wife, who go viral with a cover of a Lady Parts song.

Gerard Gilbert

**FILM CHOICE**



Cleavon Little as the Sheriff in Mel Brooks's spoof 'Blazing Saddles', 10pm, BBC Four

**Cast Away**  
6pm, Film4

(Robert Zemeckis, 2000)  
After the success of *Forrest Gump*, Zemeckis gave another film to Tom Hanks to carry, this time stranding him on a desert island for almost all of its 140-minute runtime, with only a volleyball for company. Hanks makes a totally compelling Crusoe character, and any clunky philosophising or sentimental bookending can't spoil it.

**Blazing Saddles**  
10pm, BBC Four

(Mel Brooks, 1974)  
Brooks's third film, a gag-stuffed, deliriously silly spoof Western co-written with Richard Pryor, is in really quite bad taste – and

all the funnier for it. Cleavon Little plays a black sheriff who is appointed as a patsy by a corrupt railroader attempting to shock the residents of a small town into abandoning their homes.

**Brooklyn's Finest**  
10.20pm, Sky Cinema Action

(Antoine Fuqua, 2009)  
Richard Gere plays a cop with seven days left until his retirement; Don Cheadle is an undercover cop no longer sure which side he is on; Ethan Hawke is a cop wrestling with Catholic guilt and money troubles. There isn't an original plot development to share among the three of them, but this is still a solid genre film.

Laurence Phelan

**On Demand**

**Die Hart 2: Die Harter**

Prime Video  
Kevin Hart is the would-be action hero in a sequel to his Emmy-nominated comedy.

**Eric** Netflix

Thriller starring Benedict Cumberbatch as a puppeteer looking for his missing son.

**Lost Treasures of Rome**

Disney+  
Archaeologists unearth lost Roman treasures in this immersive series.

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<p><b>6.00 Classic Emmerdale</b> (S) <b>6.30 Classic Emmerdale</b> (S) <b>7.00 Classic Coronation Street</b> (S) <b>7.35 Classic Coronation Street</b> (S) <b>8.10 Endeavour</b> (S) <b>10.15 Heartbeat</b> (S) <b>11.20 Heartbeat</b> (S) <b>12.25 Heartbeat</b> (S) <b>1.30 Classic Emmerdale</b> (S) <b>2.05 Classic Emmerdale</b> (S) <b>2.35 Classic Coronation Street</b> (S) <b>3.10 Classic Coronation Street</b> (S) <b>3.45 Agatha Christie's Marple</b> (S) <b>5.55 Heartbeat</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>6.00 Hollyoaks</b> (S) <b>6.30 Hollyoaks</b> (S) <b>7.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA</b> (S) <b>9.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>9.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>10.00 Young Sheldon</b> (S) <b>10.30 Young Sheldon</b> (S) <b>11.00 Modern Family</b> (S) <b>11.30 Modern Family</b> (S) <b>12.00 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S) <b>12.30 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S) <b>1.00 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S) <b>1.30 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S) <b>2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</b> (S) <b>3.00 Modern Family</b> (S) <b>3.30 Modern Family</b> (S) <b>4.00 Young Sheldon</b> (S) <b>4.30 Young Sheldon</b> (S) <b>5.00 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>8.55 A Place In The Sun</b> (S) <b>9.30 A Place In The Sun</b> (S) <b>10.25 A New Life In The Sun</b> (S) <b>11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It</b> (S) <b>12.30 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>1.00 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>1.30 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>2.05 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>2.35 Come Dine With Me</b> (S) <b>3.10 Four In A Bed</b> (S) <b>3.40 Four In A Bed</b> (S) <b>4.15 Four In A Bed</b> (S) <b>4.50 Four In A Bed</b> (S) <b>5.20 Four In A Bed</b> (S) <b>5.50 Chateau DIY</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>6.00 NCIS: Los Angeles</b> (R) (S) <b>7.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow</b> (R) (S) <b>8.00 The Flash</b> (R) (S) <b>9.00 Stargate SG-1</b> (R) (S) <b>10.00 Stargate SG-1</b> (R) (S) <b>11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles</b> (R) (S) <b>12.00 The Flash</b> (R) (S) <b>1.00 SEAL Team</b> (R) (S) <b>2.00 SEAL Team</b> (R) (S) <b>3.00 Hawaii Five-0</b> (R) (S) <b>4.00 S.W.A.T</b> (R) (S) <b>5.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow</b> (R) (S)</p>	<p><b>6.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets</b> (R) (S) <b>7.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets</b> (R) (S) <b>7.55 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>9.00 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>10.05 Billions</b> (R) (S) <b>11.10 Billions</b> (R) (S) <b>12.15 Game Of Thrones</b> (R) (S) <b>1.20 Ray Donovan</b> (R) (S) <b>2.25 The Sopranos</b> (R) (S) <b>3.35 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>4.40 True Blood</b> (R) (S) <b>5.45 Billions</b> (R) (S)</p>
<p><b>6.55 Heartbeat</b> Oscar is put in an awkward position (S).</p>	<p><b>6.00 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S) <b>6.30 The Big Bang Theory</b> (S)</p>	<p><b>6.55 Car S.O.S</b> Tim and Fuzz restore a 1997 Peugeot 106 Rallye (S).</p>	<p><b>6.00 Stargate SG-1</b> Part one of three. The project faces closure (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>6.50 Billions</b> (R) (S).</p>
<p><b>7.55 Heartbeat</b> Merton investigates a suspicious death (S).</p>	<p><b>7.00 Hollyoaks</b> Marie offers guidance during a devastating time (S). <b>7.30 Modern Family</b> (S).</p>	<p><b>7.55 Grand Designs</b> A couple building a house on a sheer cliff on the west coast of Scotland (S).</p>	<p><b>7.00 Stargate SG-1</b> Part two of three. The team takes an unauthorised trip through the gate (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>7.55 House Of The Dragon</b> Rhaenyra oversteps at the Small Council (R) (S).</p>
<p><b>9.00 Mr Bates vs The Post Office</b> At the Royal Courts of Justice, Alan and his friends give evidence (S).</p>	<p><b>8.00 Teen First Dates</b> Patrick from Portsmouth, who is 17, is set up on a date with Olly (S).</p>	<p><b>9.00 GPs: Treating Rural Britain</b> Last in the series (S).</p>	<p><b>8.00 A Discovery Of Witches</b> Matthew and Diana arrive in France on their journey to face Philippe (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>9.00 The Tattooist Of Auschwitz</b> Gita helps a young woman give birth (S).</p>
<p><b>10.00 The Thief, His Wife And The Canoe</b> The truth emerges as Anne and John are interviewed by the police (S).</p>	<p><b>9.00 Gogglebox</b> Shows appraised <i>Platinum Party At The Palace</i> (S).</p>	<p><b>10.00 24 Hours In A&amp;E</b> A man arrives after collapsing in the street whilst walking his dog (S).</p>	<p><b>9.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip</b> (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>10.00 The Walking Dead</b> Daryl is injured, leaving him open to attack from walkers (R) (S).</p>
<p><b>11.05 Wycliffe</b> Unexplained killings rock the Bodmin community (S).</p>	<p><b>10.00 Gogglebox</b> Omnibus of the two part-special for <i>Stand Up To Cancer</i> (S).</p>	<p><b>10.00 24 Hours In A&amp;E</b> A 64-year-old man is brought to St George's in an induced coma (S).</p>	<p><b>10.00 The Walking Dead</b> (R) (S). <b>11.55 Hold The Front Page</b> (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>10.05 Band Of Brothers</b> Winters is promoted to a desk job (R) (S).</p>
<p><b>12.00 Heartbeat</b> (S) <b>12.50 Upstairs, Downstairs</b> (S) <b>1.45 Bless This House</b> (S) <b>2.15 Unwind With ITV</b> (S) <b>2.30 Teleshopping</b></p>	<p><b>11.05 First Dates</b> A Savile Row tailor returns to the dating game after losing a lot of weight (S).</p>	<p><b>12.05 Emergency Helicopter Medics: Late Night Emergencies</b> (S) <b>1.10 24 Hours In A&amp;E</b> (S) <b>2.15 24 Hours In A&amp;E</b> (S) <b>3.20 A Place In The Sun</b> (S) <b>3.50 Close</b></p>	<p><b>11.10 Succession</b> As Logan works to finalise a deal, an unexpected threat emerges (R) (S).</p>	<p><b>12.20 House Of The Dragon</b> (R) (S) <b>1.40 Game Of Thrones</b> (R) (S) <b>2.50 Game Of Thrones</b> (R) (S) <b>4.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets</b> (R) (S) <b>5.00 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets</b> (R) (S)</p>

**Radio listings**

**BBC Radio 1**  
6.57am Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 1 Breakfast With Greg James 10.30 Newsbeat 10.32 Rickie, Melvin And Charlie 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Vicky And Nat 3.00 Radio 1's Pop Anthems 3.30 Newsbeat 3.32 Going Home With Vick, Katie And Jamie On Radio 1 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1's New Music Show With Jack Saunders 8.00 Radio 1's Rave-Up With Arielle Free 10.00 BBC Introducing Dance 11.00 Radio 1's Residency 11.30 Radio 1's Big Weekend 12.30 Radio 1's Big Weekend 12.30 Radio 1's Big Weekend 1.00 Radio 1's Chillout Anthems 2.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 2.30 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 3.00 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 3.30 Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets 4.00 Radio 1 Dance 5.00 Radio 1 Early Breakfast With SMASHBengali

**BBC Radio 1Xtra**  
6am 1Xtra Playlists 7.00 Nadia Jae 10.00 DJ Day Day 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 DJ Target 9.00 Seani B 10.30 Seani B 11.00 1Xtra's Throwback Party 12.00 1Xtra's Rap List 4.00 1Xtra Salutes 5.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix

**BBC Radio 2**  
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Gary Davies 12.00pm Jeremy Vine 2.00 DJ Spooky 4.00 Sara Cox 6.30 Sara Cox's Half Wower 7.00 Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whitley 9.00 The Country Show With Bob Harris 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 12.00 OJ Borg 3.00 Alternative Sounds Of The 90s With Dermot O'Leary 4.00 Owain Wyn Evans

**BBC Radio 3**  
6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm News 1.02 Classical Live 4.00 Composer Of The Week: Vivaldi 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Radio 3 In Concert 9.45 The Essay: A Different Way To Listen 10.00 Night Tracks 11.30 Round Midnight 12.30am Through The Night

**BBC Radio 4**  
6am Today 9.00 In Our Time 9.45 Just One Thing With Michael Mosley 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 This Cultural Life 11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices 12.00pm News 12.04 You And Yours 12.32 Sliced Bread 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At One 1.45 Thief At The British Museum 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: Nearly Light 3.00 Open Country 3.27 Radio 4 Appeal 3.30 Word Of Mouth 4.00 The Briefing Room 4.30 BBC Inside Science 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Rhysearch 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row 8.00 The Media Show 9.00 Loose Ends 9.45 Why Do We Do That? 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book At Bedtime: Long Island 11.00 The Today Podcast 11.30 Lights Out 12.00 News And Weather 12.30 D-Day: The Last Voices 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service

**BBC Radio 4 Extra**  
6am Red Earth, Red Sky 6.45 Beggars Banquet 7.00 Patterson 7.30 Dad's Army 8.00 The Break 8.30 The Nature Of Spring 8.45 Curious Under The Stars 9.00 Unspeakable 9.30 A British History In Weather 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 Great Lives 10.30 Soul Self Satisfaction: The Story Of Northern Soul 11.00 Red Earth, Red Sky 11.45 Beggars Banquet 12.00 Patterson 12.30 Dad's Army 1.00 The Break 1.30 The Nature Of Spring 1.45 Curious Under The Stars 2.00 The Unbelievable Truth 2.30 Hidden Treasures: Absurd Person Singular 4.00 Great

Lives 4.30 Soul Self Satisfaction: The Story Of Northern Soul 5.00 Red Earth, Red Sky 5.45 Beggars Banquet 6.00 Patterson 6.30 Dad's Army 7.00 The Break 7.30 The Nature Of Spring 7.45 Curious Under The Stars 8.00 The Unbelievable Truth 8.30 Hidden Treasures: Absurd Person Singular 10.00 Comedy Club: Unspeakable 10.30 Comedy Club: Detective Sergeant Nick Mohammed 11.00 Comedy Club: Clare In The Community 11.30 Comedy Club: And The Winner Is 12.00 Great Lives 12.30 Soul Self Satisfaction: The Story Of Northern Soul 1.00 Red Earth, Red Sky 1.45 Beggars Banquet 2.00 Patterson 2.30 Dad's Army 3.00 The Break 3.30 The Nature Of Spring 3.45 Curious Under The Stars 4.00 The Unbelievable Truth 4.30 Hidden Treasures: Absurd Person Singular

**BBC 5 Live**  
6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Adrian Chiles 1pm Nihal Arthanayake 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 8.00 Tennis 10.00 Gordon Smart 1am Dotun Adebayo 5.00 Wake Up To Money

**BBC 6 Music**  
7.30am Chris Hawkins 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1pm Craig Charles 4.00 Emily Pilbeam 6.00 Emily Pilbeam's Roundtable 7.00 New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 6 Music Artist In Residence: Yard Act 12.00 New Music Fix Playlist 1.00 New Album Fix 2.00 6 Music's Jukebox 3.00 6 Music's Jukebox 4.00 6 Music's Jukebox 5.00 The Remix With Chris Hawkins

**Classic FM**  
6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Aled Jones 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour With Aled Jones 10.00 Stephen Mangan 1pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Bill Overton 4.00 Early Breakfast

**Absolute Radio**  
6am Ben Burrell 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Jay Lawrence 4.00 Bush 7.00 Danielle Perry 10.00 Claire Sturges 1am Dan Noble

**Heart**  
6.30am Heart Breakfast With Jamie Theakston And Amanda Holden 10.00 Pandora Christie 1pm Matt Wilkinson 4.00 JK And Kelly Brook 7.00 Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin 10.00 Fia Tarrant 1am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Jonny Meah

**TalkSPORT**  
6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Alan Brazil 10.00 Jim White And Simon Jordan 1pm Hawksbee And Baker 4.00 TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent 7.00 Kick Off 10.00 Sports Bar 1am Extra Time

**RADIO PICK**

**Hidden Treasures: Absurd Person Singular**  
8.30pm, BBC Radio 4 Extra



British playwright Alan Ayckbourn's (left) relationship comedy is about three couples meeting on three separate Christmas Eves in their respective kitchens. First broadcast in 1977, it is a wicked observational play that stars Judy Parfitt as Marion, Stephen Murray as Ronald and Christopher Godwin as Sidney.

# Friday television & radio

## CRITIC'S CHOICE



**Clock conservator Matthew Read explores 'Hidden Treasures', 9.30pm, BBC Two**

### ITV Racing Live: The Oaks 1.30pm, ITV1

The flat season's most famous race meeting begins as Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of the opening day of the Derby Festival from Epsom.

### Smart Motorways: The Shocking Truth 7pm, Channel 5

They were meant to be the answer to Britain's grid-locked roads by removing the hard shoulder, allowing for more traffic and reducing congestion. But the results have been catastrophic. Despite campaigns, successive governments have maintained that smart motorways are safe. This programme features people

who have lost loved ones or been seriously injured themselves.

### Double the Money 8pm, Channel 4

The remaining teams gather for the semi-final, where they must turn £4,000 into £8,000 in just three weeks. One team hosts party bus tours, another pair trade in liquidated stock, while others put on food, drink and music festivals and wellness social networks. Anyone with four grand to spare fancy emulating the successful contestants?

### Gardeners' World 8.30pm, BBC Two

With summer feasts in mind, Monty Don reveals a new outdoor

eating area he has been working on and gets started on planting up a pot of herbs. Carol Klein, meanwhile, visits a spectacular garden in Oxfordshire, where the borders are filled to the brim with colourful annuals, and Adam Frost explains the concept behind his forthcoming show garden at Gardeners' World Live.

### Hidden Treasures of the National Trust 9.30pm, BBC Two

Not all the properties owned by the National Trust are stately homes. Mr Straw's House in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, is a modest, Edwardian middle-class home that once belonged to the eponymous grocer. What makes this terraced

house so extraordinary is that it has remained virtually unchanged since the 20s – a time capsule kept intact by the original owner's son until he died in 1990 (among the 30,000 objects is a manky-looking bottle of salad cream). Elsewhere, Killerton House in Devon is home to the trust's largest fashion collection, with more than 20,000 items of historic clothing and accessories.

### The Young Offenders 9.30pm, BBC One

There is still no sign of Jock, who's banged up in the Colombian prison (presumably Chris Walley, who plays him, has been otherwise engaged). There is, however, a new "Fake Billy" in town and when he

	ONE	TWO	itv1	4	5	FOUR	FILM	itv2
DAYTIME	<p>6.00 Breakfast (S) 9.30 Rip Off Britain (S) 10.15 The Moment Of Proof (R) (S) 10.45 Expert Witness (R) (S) 11.15 Homes Under The Hammer (R) (S) 12.15 Bargain Hunt (S) 1.00 BBC News At One; Weather (S) 1.30 BBC Regional News; Weather (S) 1.45 Hope Street (S) 2.30 Money For Nothing (S) 3.00 Escape To The Country (R) (S) 3.45 Garden Rescue (S) 4.30 The Finish Line (S) 5.15 Pointless (R) (S)</p>	<p>6.35 Money For Nothing (R) (S) 7.20 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (R) (S) 7.50 Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow (R) (S) 8.50 Lifeline (R) (S) 9.00 BBC News (S) 12.15 Politics UK (S) 1.00 Impossible (R) (S) 1.45 Mastermind (R) (S) 2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (R) (S) 2.45 Five Bedrooms (R) (S) 3.30 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R) (S) 4.15 Cornwall: This Fishing Life (R) (S) 5.15 Flog It! (R) (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Good Morning Britain (S) 9.00 Lorraine (S) 10.00 This Morning (S) 12.30 Loose Women (S) 1.00 ITV News; Weather (S) 1.20 ITV Regional News; Weather (S) 1.30 ITV Racing Live: The Oaks The opening day of the Derby Festival from Epsom (S) 5.00 The Chase (R) (S)</p>	<p>6.30 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S) 6.55 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S) 7.20 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S) 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S) 9.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S) 9.40 Frasier (R) (S) 11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S) 12.05 Channel 4 News Summary (S) 12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S) 1.05 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (R) (S) 2.10 Countdown (S) 3.00 A Place In The Sun (R) (S) 4.00 A Place In The Sun (S) 5.00 Come Dine With Me: The Professionals (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (S) 11.15 Storm Huntley (S) 12.45 Friends (R) (S) 1.10 Friends (R) (S) 1.40 5 News At Lunchtime (S) 1.45 Home And Away (R) (S) 2.20 FILM: The Stepsister (John Murlowski 2022) Thriller, starring Annika Foster (S) 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S) 5.00 5 News At 5 (S)</p>	<p>Adam Frost explains the concept behind his show garden for Gardeners' World Live 8.30pm, BBC Two</p>	<p>Sue Perkins hosts 'Double the Money' 8pm, Channel 4</p>	<p>6.00 CITV 9.00 World's Funniest Videos (S) 9.25 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S) 9.35 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S) 10.00 Veronica Mars (S) 11.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (S) 12.00 Love Bites (S) 1.00 Dress To Impress (S) 2.00 Family Fortunes (S) 3.00 Veronica Mars (S) 4.00 Britain's Got Talent (S)</p>
6PM	<p>6.00 BBC News At Six; Weather (S) 6.30 BBC Regional News; Weather (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Richard Osman's House Of Games (R) (S) 6.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (S)</p>	<p>6.00 ITV Regional News; Weather (S) 6.30 ITV News; Weather (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Four In A Bed (S) 6.30 The Simpsons Homer tackles a biker gang (R) (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Police Interceptors (R) (S) 6.55 5 News Update (S)</p>	<p>7.00 TOTP: 1996 (S) 7.30 TOTP: 1996 Louise Wener presents the pop chart programme (S)</p>	<p>6.15 FILM: Catch Me If You Can (Steven Spielberg 2002) Drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio (S)</p>	<p>6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Tony Audenshaw, Tamzin Outhwaite and Phil Tufnell (S)</p>
7PM	<p>7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, hosted by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp (S) 7.30 Make It At Market (R) (S)</p>	<p>7.00 Beechgrove Garden (S) 7.30 Springwatch (S)</p>	<p>7.00 Emmerdale (S) 7.30 Coronation Street Nathan voices suspicions about Sarah (S)</p>	<p>7.00 Channel 4 News (S)</p>	<p>7.00 Smart Motorways: The Shocking Truth (S) 7.55 5 News Update (S)</p>	<p>7.00 TOTP: 1980 (S) 8.30 TOTP: 1976 With JJ Barrie, Dolly Parton, Thin Lizzy and the Rolling Stones (S)</p>	<p>9.00 TOTP: 1984 (S) 9.30 TOTP: 1984 Steve Wright and Peter Powell present the pop chart programme (S)</p>	<p>7.00 Family Fortunes The McKenzies go up against the Fredericks (S)</p>
8PM	<p>8.00 Would I Lie To You? (R) (S) 8.30 Outnumbered (R) (S)</p>	<p>8.30 Gardeners' World Monty Don reveals a new outdoor eating area he has been working on (S)</p>	<p>8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host another semi-final (S)</p>	<p>8.00 Double The Money The remaining teams gather for the semi-final (S)</p>	<p>8.00 Motorway: Hell On The Highway New series (S)</p>	<p>8.00 TOTP: 1976 (S) 8.30 TOTP: 1976 With JJ Barrie, Dolly Parton, Thin Lizzy and the Rolling Stones (S)</p>	<p>8.00 TOTP: 1980 (S) 8.30 TOTP: 1976 With JJ Barrie, Dolly Parton, Thin Lizzy and the Rolling Stones (S)</p>	<p>8.00 Bob's Burgers The family goes on a train journey (S) 8.30 Bob's Burgers (S)</p>
9PM	<p>9.00 Have I Got News For You (S) 9.30 The Young Offenders (S)</p>	<p>9.30 Hidden Treasures Of The National Trust A showstopping clock needs restarting (S)</p>	<p>9.00 Gogglebox The critics' takes on the best television shows of the latest series (S)</p>	<p>9.00 The Hoover Dam: Building The Impossible Rob Bell discovers how the Hoover Dam was built (S)</p>	<p>9.00 The Hoover Dam: Building The Impossible Rob Bell discovers how the Hoover Dam was built (S)</p>	<p>9.00 TOTP: 1984 (S) 9.30 TOTP: 1984 Steve Wright and Peter Powell present the pop chart programme (S)</p>	<p>9.00 TOTP: 1984 (S) 9.30 TOTP: 1984 Steve Wright and Peter Powell present the pop chart programme (S)</p>	<p>9.00 FILM: Jack Reacher (Christopher McQuarrie 2012) Action thriller, starring Tom Cruise (S)</p>
10PM	<p>10.00 BBC News At Ten (S) 10.30 BBC Regional News (S) 10.40 FILM: Dunkirk (Christopher Nolan 2017) (S)</p>	<p>10.30 Newsnight (S)</p>	<p>10.00 ITV News At Ten; Weather (S) 10.30 ITV Regional News; Weather (S) 10.45 ITV Studio Sessions (S)</p>	<p>10.00 The Nevermets life (S)</p>	<p>10.00 Only Fools And Horses: Britain's Favourite Sitcom (R) (S)</p>	<p>10.00 Cyndi Lauper At The BBC (S) 10.30 Madonna At The BBC A selection of appearances on a range of BBC shows (S)</p>	<p>10.00 Cyndi Lauper At The BBC (S) 10.30 Madonna At The BBC A selection of appearances on a range of BBC shows (S)</p>	<p>9.00 FILM: We're The Millers (Rawson Marshall Thurber 2013) Comedy, with Jason Sudeikis (S)</p>
11PM		<p>11.05 Rob And Rylan's Grand Tour (R) (S)</p>	<p>11.20 When English Football Ruled Europe Part one of two. (R) (S)</p>	<p>11.05 FILM: Team America: World Police (Trey Parker 2004) Satirical puppet comedy (S)</p>	<p>11.30 Bob Monkhouse: Master Of Laughter A celebration of the comedian and quiz show host (R) (S)</p>	<p>11.30 Phil Collins At The BBC Archive footage of the singer's performances on BBC programmes (S)</p>	<p>11.40 FILM: Hancock (Peter Berg 2008) Superhero comedy, starring Will Smith (S)</p>	<p>11.15 Family Guy Quagmire's father visits Quahog (S) 11.45 Family Guy (S)</p>
LATE	<p>12.20 Rebus (R) (S) 1.10 BBC News (S)</p>	<p>12.05 Sign Zone: Undercover: Can Probation Keep Us Safe? (R) (S) 1.05 Sign Zone: Andi Oliver's Fabulous Feasts (R) (S) 2.05 Sign Zone: David &amp; Jay's Touring Toolshed (R) (S)</p>	<p>12.20 Shop On TV 3.00 The Larkins (R) (S) 3.50 Unwind With ITV (S) 5.05 Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (R) (S)</p>	<p>12.55 FILM: Save Yourselves! (Alex Huston Fischer, Eleanor Wilson 2020) (S) 2.25 Ramsay's 24 Hours To Hell And Back (R) (S) 3.15 The Simpsons (R) (S) 3.35 Come Dine With Me (R) (S)</p>	<p>1.20 PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S) 3.20 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S) 4.10 Divine Designs (R) (S) 4.40 Wildlife SOS (R) (S) 5.05 House Doctor (R) (S) 5.30 Entertainment News On 5 (S)</p>	<p>12.30 Killing Me Softly: The Roberta Flack Story (S) 1.30 TOTP: 1996 (S) 2.00 TOTP: 1996 (S) 2.30 TOTP: 1980 (S) 3.00 TOTP: 1976 (S) 3.30 Close</p>	<p>1.30 FILM: The First Purge (Gerard McMurray 2018) Thriller prequel, starring Ylan Noel (S) 3.25 Close</p>	<p>12.15 American Dad! (S) 12.45 American Dad! (S) 1.10 Bob's Burgers (S) 1.40 Bob's Burgers (S) 2.05 Don't Hate The Playaz (S) 2.45 Unwind With ITV (S) 3.00 Teleshopping</p>

steals Conor's beloved lighter, a vendetta ensues. Could the real Billy Murphy (Shane Casey) be Conor's new partner in crime?

**The Nevermets**  
10pm, Channel 4

I wish them well, but I'm not sure about the real-life prospects for Somerset A Level student Jay now that he has turned up in Kerala to meet his long-term internet date and first-ever girlfriend Veena. More than geographically, it is their relative experience and ambition that make them seem worlds apart, but perhaps love will conquer all. Also featured is law graduate Dumebi, who met Dubai-based Mazi through Instagram.

Gerard Gilbert

**FILM CHOICE**



'Team America: World Police' do battle with terrorists and liberals, 11.05pm, Channel 4

**Jack Reacher**  
9pm, Film4

(Christopher McQuarrie, 2012) Forget the Amazon TV series; this Tom Cruise star vehicle is still the best screen version of one of Lee Child's novels about the itinerant righter of wrongs and all-around super-cool badass Jack Reacher. It's a highly enjoyable pulp thriller in which a man's got to do what a man's got to do, preferably with good hair and his shirt off.

**Team America: World Police**  
11.05pm, Channel 4

(Trey Parker, 2004) In this cheerfully offensive marionette parody of Hollywood action movies from the makers of South Park, the titular band of

square-jawed heroes do battle with terrorists and a coalition of useful-idiot liberal actors (Matt Damon, Susan Sarandon, Alec Baldwin et al) who are being manipulated by Kim Jong-il.

**Hancock**

11.40pm, Film4 (Peter Berg, 2008) Not since the Man of Steel was turned bad in Superman 3 was there such a drunken and petulant superhero as John Hancock (Will Smith), who is rarely thanked by the people of LA, whose lives he is occasionally roused to save. A witty, down-to-earth blockbuster, marred only by its conventional all-action third act.

Laurence Phelan

**On Demand**

**Blue Lights**

BBC iPlayer Series two of the acclaimed Belfast-set police procedural.

**Jim Henson Idea Man**

Disney+ Ron Howard documentary about the Sesame Street and Muppets legend.

**A Part of You**

Netflix Singer Zara Larsson makes her acting debut in this Swedish coming-of-age drama.

**itv3**

6.00 Classic Emmerdale (S) 6.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (S) 7.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 8.05 Endeavour (S) 10.15 Heartbeat (S) 11.20 Heartbeat (S) 12.25 Heartbeat (S) 1.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.05 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.10 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.45 Agatha Christie's Marple (S) 5.55 Heartbeat (S)

**ITV**

6.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 8.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 9.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 9.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 10.00 Young Sheldon (S) 11.00 Modern Family (S) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 3.00 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Modern Family (S) 4.00 Young Sheldon (S) 4.30 Young Sheldon (S) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 5.30 The Big Bang Theory (S)

**More**

8.55 A Place In The Sun (S) 9.30 A Place In The Sun (S) 10.25 A New Life In The Sun (S) 11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (S) 12.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.00 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.05 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.35 Come Dine With Me (S) 3.10 Four In A Bed (S) 3.40 Four In A Bed (S) 4.15 Four In A Bed (S) 4.50 Four In A Bed (S) 5.20 Four In A Bed (S) 5.50 Chateau DIY (S)

**sky max**

6.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 7.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S) 8.00 The Flash (R) (S) 9.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 10.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 12.00 The Flash (R) (S) 1.00 SEAL Team (R) (S) 2.00 SEAL Team (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S) 5.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S)

**sky atlantic**

6.00 Urban Secrets (R) (S) 7.00 Urban Secrets (R) (S) 7.55 True Blood (R) (S) 9.00 True Blood (R) (S) 10.05 Billions (R) (S) 11.10 Billions (R) (S) 12.15 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 1.20 The Sopranos (R) (S) 2.25 The Sopranos (R) (S) 3.30 True Blood (R) (S) 4.35 True Blood (R) (S) 5.40 Billions (R) (S)

6.55 Heartbeat David enters a flower show (S) 7.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory Penny makes a surprising revelation (S) 7.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.30 Modern Family Claire and Phil threaten to cancel their festive celebrations (S) 8.00 Doc Martin PC Penhale's older brother arrives in the village (S) 9.00 Shetland Perez must reassess the investigation following Jo's attack (S) 10.20 Shetland Perez's judgement is called into question (S) 11.35 Lewis Feature-length episode. An elderly don is killed after his release from prison (S) 1.10 Heartbeat (S) 2.00 Unwind With ITV (S) 2.30 Teleshopping

6.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory Penny makes a surprising revelation (S) 7.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.30 Modern Family Claire and Phil threaten to cancel their festive celebrations (S) 8.00 Teen First Dates Patrick pulls out all the stops to impress his date Millie (S) 9.00 FILM: Logan (James Mangold 2017) Fantasy adventure, starring Hugh Jackman (S) 11.45 Naked Attraction (S) 12.50 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.15 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.45 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.15 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.40 Modern Family (S) 3.05 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Naked Attraction (S)

6.55 PopMaster TV (S) 7.55 PopMaster TV (S) 8.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip (R) (S) 9.00 Astrid: Murder in Paris (S) 10.05 24 Hours In A&E A man is admitted to hospital after a serious bicycle collision (S) 11.10 24 Hours In A&E Medics treat three women who have been stabbed in a Surrey car park (S) 12.15 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (S) 1.15 The Twelve: Cinderella Murder (S) 2.25 24 Hours In A&E (S) 3.30 A Place In The Sun (S) 3.55 Close

6.00 Stargate SG-1 Part three of three. Earth is threatened with destruction (R) (S) 7.00 Stargate SG-1 Carter's body is taken over by a parasitic alien (R) (S) 8.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip (R) (S) 9.00 The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live Horror spin-off, starring Andrew Lincoln (S) 10.15 Never Mind The Buzzcocks With Mike Wozniak, Jax Jones and Ella Henderson (R) (S) 11.00 The Walking Dead Shane plans to destroy all the walkers in Hershel's barn (R) (S) 12.00 Hold The Front Page (R) (S) 1.00 Resident Alien (R) (S) 2.00 SEAL Team (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S) 5.00 Highway Patrol (R) (S) 5.30 Highway Patrol (R) (S)

6.45 Billions Chuck tries to bring home a worthy case but encounters an unexpected challenge (R) (S) 7.50 Game Of Thrones Jorah and Daario undertake a difficult task (R) (S) 9.00 Game Of Thrones Tyrion seeks a strange ally (R) (S) 10.00 The Pacific Sledge has a harrowing first experience of combat (R) 11.00 The Tattooist Of Auschwitz Gita helps a young woman give birth (R) (S) 12.05 The Time Traveler's Wife (R) (S) 1.05 Euphoria (R) (S) 2.15 House Of The Dragon (R) (S) 3.30 In Treatment (R) (S) 4.00 Urban Secrets (R) (S) 5.00 Urban Secrets (R) (S)

**Radio listings**

**BBC Radio 1**

6.33am Radio 1's Best New Pop 6.57 Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 1 Breakfast With Greg James 10.00 Radio 1 Anthems 10.30 Newsbeat 10.32 Radio 1 Anthems 11.02 James Cusack 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Summer On Radio 1 3.00 Radio 1's Party Anthems 4.00 The Official Chart On Radio 1 With Jack Saunders 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1's Dance Party With Danny Howard 8.00 Radio 1's Future Dance With Sarah Story 10.00 Pete Tong 12midn't Radio 1's Essential Mix 2.00 Radio 1 Dance Presents 3.00 Danny Howard Club Mix 4.00 Radio 1 Anthems

**BBC Radio 1Xtra**

6am 1Xtra Playlists 7.00 Fee Mak 10.00 DJ Day Day 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 1Xtra's Rave Show With Jeremiah Asiamah 8.30 Jeremiah Asiamah's Get Lit Mix 9.00 Tiffany Calver 10.30 Tiffany Calver 11.00 1Xtra Rap Show With Kenny Allstar 12.30am 1Xtra's Legacy Mix With Kenny Allstar 1.00 1Xtra's Rap List 3.00 1Xtra Comedy Gala With Eddie Kadi And Friends 5.00 1Xtra Salutes

**BBC Radio 2**

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Gary Davies 12noon Jeremy Vine 2.00 DJ Spooky 3.30 DJ Spooky's Wonder Years 4.00 Sara Cox 7.00 Michelle Visage 8.30 Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits 9.00 The Good Groove With DJ Spooky 11.00 The Rock Show With Johnnie Walker 12midn't Romesh Ranganathan: For The Love Of Hip-Hop 1.00 Sounds Of The 80s With Gary Davies 3.00 Sounds Of The 40s Playlist - With Dermot O'Leary 4.00 Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco 5.00 Radio 2 In Concert

**BBC Radio 3**

6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm News 1.02 Classical Live 4.00 Composer Of The Week: Vivaldi 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical Mixtape 7.30 Friday Night Is Music Night 9.45 The Essay: A Different Way To Listen 10.00 Late Junction 11.30 Round Midnight 12.30am Through The Night

**BBC Radio 4**

6am Today 9.00 Desert Island Discs 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 The Food Programme 11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices 12noon News 12.04 AntiSocial 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At One 1.45 Thief At The British Museum 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: The Specialist 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 Six O'Clock 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: Long Island 11.00 Americast 11.30 Lights Out 12midn't News And Weather 12.30 D-Day: The Last Voices 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.30 News Briefing 5.43 Prayer For The Day

**BBC Radio 4 Extra**

6am Cat And Mouse Game 6.45 Beggars Banquet 7.00 The Older Woman 7.30 The Burkiss Way 8.00 Says On The Tin 8.30 The Nature Of Spring 8.45 Curious Under The Stars 9.00 Michael Spicer: No Room 9.15 Michael Spicer: No Room 9.30 A British History In Weather 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 Soul Music 10.30 Great Aunt Mary's Tune 11.00 Cat And Mouse Game 11.45 Beggars Banquet 12noon The Older Woman 12.30 The Burkiss Way 1.00 Says On The Tin 1.30 The Nature Of Spring 1.45 Curious Under The Stars 2.00 The 3rd Degree 2.30 Hidden Treasures: The Scapegoat 4.00

Soul Music 4.30 Great Aunt Mary's Tune 5.00 Cat And Mouse Game 5.45 Beggars Banquet 6.00 The Older Woman 6.30 The Burkiss Way 7.00 Says On The Tin 7.30 The Nature Of Spring 7.45 Curious Under The Stars 8.00 The 3rd Degree 8.30 Hidden Treasures: The Scapegoat 10.00 Comedy Club: Michael Spicer: No Room 10.15 Comedy Club: Michael Spicer: No Room 10.30 Comedy Club: Laura Solon: Talking And Not Talking 11.00 Comedy Club: Absolute Power 11.30 Comedy Club: Tez Talks 11.45 Comedy Club: Irish Micks And Legends 12midn't Soul Music 12.30 Great Aunt Mary's Tune 1.00 Cat And Mouse Game 1.45 Beggars Banquet 2.00 The Older Woman 2.30 The Burkiss Way 3.00 Says On The Tin 3.30 The Nature Of Spring

**BBC 5 Live**

6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Chiles On Friday 1pm Elis James And John Robins 2.00 Colin Murray 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 8.00 5 Live Sport 10.00 Stephen Nolan 1am Lisa McCormick

**BBC 6 Music**

7.30am Chris Hawkins 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1pm Craig Charles 4.00 Emily Pilbeam 7.00 The People's Party With Afrodeutsche 9.00 6 Music's Indie Forever 10.00 6 Music's Indie Forever 11.00 The Ravers Hour 12midn't 6 Music's Rave Forever 1.00 6 Music's Emo Forever 2.00 Focus Beats 4.00 Ambient Focus

**Classic FM**

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Aled Jones 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour With Aled Jones 10.00 Stephen Mangan 1pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Classic FM At The Movies With Jonathan Ross 9.00 Traditional Tunes 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Katie Breathwick 4.00 Sam Pittis

**Absolute Radio**

6am Ben Burrell 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Jay Lawrence 4.00 Bush 7.00 Absolute 80s Greatest Hits With Claire Sturges 10.00 Sophie K 4am Emil Franchi

**Heart**

6.30am Heart Breakfast With Jamie Theakston And Amanda Holden 10.00 Pandora Christie 1pm Matt Wilkinson 4.00 JK And Kelly Brook 7.00 Heart's Club Classics With Toby Anstis 11.00 Rezzzy Ghadjar 1am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Katrina Ridley

**TalkSPORT**

6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Alan Brazil 10.00 Jim White And Simon Jordan 1pm Hawksbee And Jacobs 4.00 TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent 7.00 Thank Friday It's Football 10.00 Sports Bar 1am Extra Time With Martin Kelner

**RADIO PICK**

**Friday Night is Music Night**  
7.30pm, BBC Radio 3



Katie Derham (left) presents another entertaining evening of classical music, live from the BBC's Maida

Vale Studios, as Anna-Maria Helsing conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra, soprano Ilona Domnich and glass harmonica player Alasdair Malloy in music fit for spring, including Monckton's "The Arcadians Overture".

# gardening



**GUY BARTER**  
is the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) chief horticulturalist

## Jobs for the weekend ...biennials & perennials

**S**owing flowers for next year in May or June is a very cost-effective way of boosting flower numbers and reducing the expense of buying plants next year. With nearly a full summer to grow, sturdy plants with vigorous root systems develop, to be planted out in autumn for a spring and early summer display next year. Some biennials can be bought as plug plants in late summer, which saves time and space.

Plants sown now can be true biennials that grow one year and flower the next, typically being discarded after flowering. Some are actually short-lived perennials – foxgloves and hollyhocks are typical examples. Other very tempting subjects include *Campanula pyramidalis*, Canterbury bells, *Eryngium*

*giganteum*, Iceland poppies, Siberian wallflower (*Cheiranthus allionii*), stocks (*Matthiola incana*) and sweet Williams. Some highly ornamental wildflowers are worth considering; Scotch cotton thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*) and weld (*Reseda luteola*), for example.

Wallflowers (*pictured*) are also technically biennials – although often considered bedding plants – as, unlike pansies or viola, they don't flower until spring. The same goes for bedding daisies (*Bellis*), *Rudbeckia hirta* and forget-me-nots, but the last of these gets tangled and mildewed if sown before July.



**Plants sown now can be true biennials that grow one year, flower the next**



If you fancy raising pansies, polyanthus, primulas and viola, sow in a slightly shaded spot.

Other plants are true perennials, such as delphiniums and lupins. These are both so susceptible to intractable mildew – and, for lupins, aphids – that there is a good case in many gardens to discard them after their first flowering. Seed is not expensive. However, in other cases – once you have good

plants – softwood cuttings can be taken of the best individuals so that many years of plants can be obtained for the cost of a packet of seed. Popular favourites include *Angelica archangelica*, aquilegia and oriental poppies.

Alpine or rock garden plants such as aubretias, alyssum and spreading dwarf campanulas can also be grown as biennials. In fact, it is worth trying any perennial

seed you have now – most are likely to succeed even if not classically sown in mid-summer.

Many perennials can be sown in early spring to flower the same summer, but this needs greenhouse space and is less reliable than overwintering. Annuals sown now are likely to flower rather poorly and prematurely, so await September before sowing these.

Ideally sow in a seed bed of bare but reasonably sunny ground, perhaps in a corner of the vegetable garden. However, sometimes there is space in borders to sow where they are to grow next year.

Alternatively, biennials can be sown in cell trays and overwintered in these or potted up in summer. These are easier to defend against slugs than open ground, but overwatering must be avoided.

@GuyBarter

The RHS is a charity inspiring everyone to grow via its research, advisory, outreach, shows and gardens. For more information, visit: rhs.org.uk

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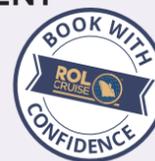
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## Secret Portugal

From thermal retreats and villages awash with history to volcanic vineyards and the country's only national park, these are the holiday hangouts beloved by locals. By **Joana Taborda**



From an endless string of beaches to lush forests and even subtropical islands, there is a reason British holidaymakers love Portugal (and are its top inbound market). Forever proud of our small country, we Portuguese take whatever chance we get to explore our homeland.

As soon as the temperature rises, many flock south to sunbathe along the Alentejo coast, while others venture north for a dip in the lagoons of Gerês, the country's only national park. Whether you are chasing the sun, planning a road trip or taking off to the mountains, here are some holiday spots in Portugal where you're sure to run into locals...

### PARQUE NACIONAL DA PENEDA-GERÊS NORTE

With its hidden lagoons and waterfalls, the Parque Nacional da Peneda-Gerês attracts Portuguese visitors looking to escape the heat. Summer is the busiest season, but come in the spring or early autumn, and you will likely be one of the few foreigners here.

This national park, in the far north of the country, is embroidered with walking trails, some of which follow the well-preserved Roman road of Geira Romana, which linked Braga with Astorga.

The village of Caldas do Gerês is renowned for its thermal baths, but nearby Campo do Gerês is also a great base for exploring places such as the Mata da Albergaria, a protected forest with century-old oak trees and giant sequoias.

**Where to stay** Parque Cerdeira near Campo do Gerês offers a mix of bungalows, family rooms and a campsite. The friendly staff provides guided tours of the surrounding forest. Prices from €21 (£18, camping), €45 (£38, rooms), minimum two-night stay, [parquecerdeira.com](https://www.parquecerdeira.com).

**A culinary highlight** Enjoy a traditional Portuguese meal at Cantinho do Antigaente, a few miles from the village of Covide. Call two days ahead to reserve dishes such as roast kid, from goats that graze around Gerês.

**How to get there** Braga is around an hour's drive. Autoridade Intermunicipal de Transportes do Cávado runs a bus

**Cávado River in Peneda-Gerês National Park; Poço da Broca in Serra da Estrela Natural Park (below)** GETTY

from Braga to Caldas do Gerês, taking around 90 minutes.

### SERRA DA ESTRELA CENTRO

Freezing temperatures are not necessarily associated with Portugal, but head to this range in winter, and you might well find some snow. Serra da Estrela is home to the highest

mountain in mainland Portugal, but outside winter, this region has a lot to offer – nature trails, lakes, scenic villages such as Covilhã, Folgoso and Manteigas, to name a few.

It is also a lovely retreat in the heat of summer, with nearby river beaches to cool off in, such as Unhais da Serra and Vale do Rossim.

Manteigas is home to the Burel Factory, one of the last remaining wool manufacturers in Portugal. Much of the process is still done by hand, and you can book a factory tour to see it first hand.

**Where to stay** Wake up amid the mountains at Casa Das Penhas Douradas, a B&B with spacious rooms and a swimming pool facing a sea of pine trees. Doubles from €200 (£171), [casadaspenhasdouradas.pt](https://www.casadaspenhasdouradas.pt).

**A culinary highlight** Set in a former community oven building, Lenda Viriato in Unhais da Serra offers a variety of game dishes and the region's namesake creamy cheese.

**How to get there** Serra da Estrela is a two-and-a-half-hour drive from 



◀ Continued from p75

Porto and three-and-a-half hours from Lisbon. You can reach many towns such as Covilhã by train or bus from Lisbon.

### MÉRTOLA ALENTEJO

Unlike Spain, Portugal lost much of its Islamic heritage. But you can still find traces of it in Mértola, a picturesque, whitewashed village deep in the Alentejo, close to the Spanish border.

Nicknamed the “Vila Museu” (museum village), Mértola may be small, but it packs in 14 exhibits that include the remains of an Islamic citadel, a Roman house and a medieval castle. The biannual Islamic Festival is a great way to immerse yourself in its history.

As you walk through the village’s cobbled streets, you will hear a mix of Portuguese and Spanish, and probably see archaeology students at work.

To extend a visit in this part of the Alentejo, take a dip in the *praia fluvial* (river beach) of Azenhas do Guadiana nearby, or explore the Guadiana Valley Natural Park to the north or Chança River to the east, on the border with Spain, where you will find an idyllic, rustic guest house on the Ilha da Tartaruga.

**Where to stay** Overlooking the Guadiana river, the Hotel Museu comes with its own museum and a swimming pool. Boat trips and kayaks can be booked at reception. Doubles from €60 (£51), [hotelmuseu.com](http://hotelmuseu.com).

**A culinary highlight** Blending Portuguese and Arabic flavours, Espaço Vila Velha offers a seasonal menu focused on local ingredients. Highlights include the shakshuka and the burger with carne Mertolenga (Mértola beef). Vegan options are also available.

**How to get there** Mértola is about an hour from Beja, which you can reach via train or bus from Lisbon. Rodoviária do Alentejo offers a bus connection between Beja and Mértola on weekdays.

### CHAVES NORTE

Chaves has been a holiday retreat ever since the Romans found its therapeutic, thermal waters. That legacy is still visible in the city’s Roman baths museum. Many Portuguese still take advantage of these healing waters at the modern spa of Termas de Chaves.

More recently, the city has become a popular stop off for the N2, a national road that crosses Portugal from north to south. Before you hit the road, it is worth climbing up to the castle’s keep, crossing the Roman bridge and looking out for the colourful balconies on Rua Direita. You should also seek out Pastelaria Maria to



order a pastel de Chaves, a flaky pastry stuffed with minced veal.

**Where to stay** Castelo Hotel is right next to the castle and offers modern rooms with a view. There is also a wellness centre with a heated pool. Doubles from €70 (£60), [castelohotel.pt](http://castelohotel.pt)

**A culinary highlight** Come hungry to Pensão Flávia and enjoy the parade of dishes, from shrimp to roasted veal, that make up the €20 (£17) tasting menu.

**How to get there** Chaves is about 90 minutes’ drive from Porto. Rede Expressos and FlixBus both offer bus connections between the cities that take two hours.

### VILA NOVA DE MILFONTES ALENTEJO

Many Portuguese (and foreigners) spend their summer holidays in the Algarve. Others prefer the quieter beaches of the



Alentejo. I spent my childhood camping around Vila Nova de Milfontes, a small seaside town about two hours south of Lisbon, and it remains one of my favourite destinations.

From the town, you can walk along the dunes to reach beaches such as Praia do Farol. This area is part of the Rota Vicentina, a pretty coastal trail that takes hikers along wild beaches and through small fishing villages. I like to hang out around Praia do Malhão and explore the coves near Porto Covo.

**Where to stay** Sea-facing HS Milfontes Beach provides the perfect base to explore the surrounding beaches. The outdoor pool and the on-site restaurant are a bonus. Doubles from €150 (£128), [hsmilfontesbeach.com](http://hsmilfontesbeach.com).

**A culinary highlight** Tasca do Celso is somewhat of an institution in Vila



The coast near Vila Nova de Milfontes (left); ancient Roman stepping stones in Chaves (above); Pico, the Azores (below); Costa Nova, near Aveiro (bottom) GETTY

Nova de Milfontes. It serves traditional Alentejo dishes such as Iberian black pig, clams and prawns.

**How to get there** You can easily reach Vila Nova de Milfontes from Lisbon or the Algarve by bus. The journey takes around two hours. From Lagos, you can drive here in about 90 minutes.

### AVEIRO CENTRO

Sometimes called the Portuguese Venice, Aveiro stands out with its narrow canals, bridges and gondola-style boats known as *moliceiros*. This, and its delicious *ovos moles* (egg yolk sugar sweets), make it a popular alternative city break.

It is worth exploring the whole district, which includes coastal towns such as Costa Nova, with its colourful striped houses; the Vista Alegre ceramic museum; and the Paiva Walkways, a five-mile scenic trail along the margins of the Paiva River.

**Where to stay** Open since 1937, Hotel Aveiro Palace was the city’s first hotel. The rooms have been remodelled, but the facade remains pretty much the same. Doubles from €140 (£120), [hotelaveiropalace.com](http://hotelaveiropalace.com).

**A culinary highlight** Oysters and other regional delicacies make an appearance at Sal Poente, a modern restaurant housed in a former salt factory.

**How to get there** From Porto, you can reach Aveiro in less than an hour by car or train.

### THE AZORES

These Portuguese islands are still a relatively well-kept secret. The Atlantic archipelago is a collection of nine volcanic islands, but most visitors aim for São Miguel and Terceira and their thermal baths, fertile fields and one of Europe’s oldest tea plantations.

But there is much more to explore beyond these two islands. Head to Pico to climb the tallest peak in Portugal and sample wine from the Unesco-listed vineyards of Criação Velha; or venture west to find Flores, one of the greenest of the Azores, where waterfalls gush down emerald-green mountainsides.

**Where to stay** Aldeia da Cuada has one-to six-bedroom villas in traditional stone houses on the island of Flores. From €170 (£145), [aldeiadacuada.com](http://aldeiadacuada.com).

**A culinary highlight** Tuna and limpets are among the Azores’ top delicacies, which you can sample all over the archipelago, including at Taberna Açor in São Miguel.

**How to get there** There are direct flights to São Miguel and Terceira. Azores-based airline Azores Airlines (Sata) and the Atlântico line ferry join the dots.



## Affordable luxury camping? I could get used to this...

How flower-meadow pitches and an on-site restaurant changed the mind of canvas refusenik

Emma Henderson



Camping in North Wales on a spring bank holiday weekend. Brave or foolish, I wondered, as I looked at the forecast: rain, every day.

The last time I went camping was on a Girl Guides weekend. This involved staying a few miles from home in ancient forest-green canvas tents with lots of out-of-tune singing. Never again, I vowed (outside of festivals, anyway).

But, rather than spend a small fortune on flights and a hotel in Europe, this year I opted for a long weekend at a campsite costing less than £100 for two. (I'm not the only one looking for a more affordable holiday. Compared with five years ago, bookings are up 144 per cent on the portal Pitchup.com.)

To persuade myself to go back to canvas, it couldn't be just any campsite. It needed to have an edge – not just a hot tub or a string of bell tents – and that place was Bert's Kitchen Garden.

It is located on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales's far north-west, with its long sandy bays, rolling fields and winding lanes that cascade and fall.

### Natural setting

Bert's sits within the historic quarry village of Trefor, on an old farm beneath the six Yr Eifl peaks and next to a pebbly beach. Its setting sealed the deal for owners Ali and Ian Paice, who had scoured the entire UK coastline to find a site that included sea and mountains.

Their appreciation of nature forms the backbone of the site, which they opened in 2017. Dotted with bushes and plenty of willow, there are 40 crop circle-shaped pitches mowed into long grassy meadows that buzz with life.

Across 13 acres, the mostly off-grid site has hot showers with green

toiletries, composting toilets, recycling bins, tree swings and an old tractor to play on. For those who don't want to camp, there is a cottage in the old piggery and shepherd's huts.

The highlight is the kitchen garden, which is full of fruit, veg, herbs and flowers, and the rustic restaurant (and bar) uses much of its produce for its homemade pizzas. There is also a pantry with free tea and coffee and even fridges.

We were camping in the meadow in a newly purchased, half-price A-frame tent, but the other areas (by the river, in the woods and by the beach, which also has a converted shipping container café known as Beachside) are so well hidden that I barely knew they were there.

The site is on the edge of Eryri National Park, an International Dark Sky Reserve, so stargazing is excellent here – as long as the weather behaves. And fortunately for me, the bank holiday sun gods took pity on my trip.

For the rest of the day, we explored Trefor beach, then headed south to the lovely Ty Coch Inn, which faces the sea and is reachable only on foot.

Come evening, the campfire comes into play. There is something wholesome and primal about making a fire and sitting around it chatting, without interruption from phones or TVs. It took me back to the campfire at Guide camp – though this time without the dance routine to Backstreet Boys.

Finally, I'd learned the joys of proper camping – though I'm not sure I'm ready for stripped-back basics just yet.

Bert's Kitchen Garden has pitches from £24pp per night (£10 per child, under-threes free); The Piggery (sleeping two) from £175; or the Huts (sleeping two/four), from £175, bertskg.com



The Yr Eifl peaks and Trefor beach (left) provide the background to the campsite (main), where the Beachside café offers a new dining space (inset below)

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## Day 6 Øksfjord – Berlevåg, Norway

## Day 7 Båtsfjord – Berlevåg, Norway

## Day 8 Mehamn – Tromsø, Norway

## Day 9 Tromsø – Stamsund, Norway

Sailing along Raftsund, the Captain may choose to take the ship into tiny Trollfjord if the weather allows. The mountain walls will look so close you'll think you can reach out and brush them! To exit the fjord, the ship will rotate 180 degrees on the spot. Remember to look out for sea eagles here

## Day 10 Bodø – Rørvik, Norway

Admire the stunning landscape of the Seven Sisters mountain range, with peaks up to 1,100m high. You'll also not want to miss views of Torghatten Mountain, with the distinctive hole in it

## Day 11 Trondheim – Ålesund, Norway

## Day 12 Ålesund – Bergen, Norway

Disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight to London



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# Spring break

## Macclesfield

The market town revels in its glory days, from its medieval roots to its silk-weaving tradition and its musical heritage. By **David Atkinson**

Situated in the far east of Cheshire, on the fringe of the Peak District, Macclesfield was referenced in the *Domesday Book* and was once home to a thriving medieval market, receiving its charter from Edward I in 1261.

The town's halcyon days came with industrialisation. While cotton turned nearby Manchester into an Industrial Revolution powerhouse, Macclesfield took to weaving silk after the industrialist Charles Roe opened the town's first silk-throwing (hand-twisting) mill in 1743. Macclesfield had 71 mill factories at its peak, notably along the River Bollin, earning it the moniker of "Silk Town".

The town is built around the market square, where St Michael & All Angels Church is worth a visit. The church has 13th-century origins, modified by a Victorian Gothic makeover.

These days, street art lives alongside industrial heritage, with much of the town centre a designated conservation area and strong musical pilgrimage draw.

The town hosts Macc Powl ([maccpow.co.uk](http://maccpow.co.uk)), a comic-art festival, running from 20-23 June this year, and the 1261 Festival, a celebration of local community, over the weekend of 28-30 June. For more: [visitcheshire.com](http://visitcheshire.com).

### Getting there and around

Train services from London with Avanti West Coast take less than two hours, while regional rail connections run from Liverpool and Manchester via CrossCountry and Northern trains. It's easy to get around the cobbled and meandering narrow lanes of the centre on foot, but there's also a good bus network – the Macclesfield PlusBus ticket (£3) offers unlimited travel on participating operators' services in and around the town. A car is useful, however, for exploring the east Cheshire countryside.

### Drop your bags

BoHotel is the town's first boutique hotel, a seven-room property with a boudoir vibe and vintage-style furniture. It's a hands-off affair, with room-only accommodation and DIY check-in. Doubles from £85 ([bohotel.co.uk](http://bohotel.co.uk)).

For a budget option and convenient transport links, the Premier Inn Macclesfield South West has comfortable rooms – including accessible options – in the leafy suburb of Gawsworth. It's handily located next to The Rising Sun for classic pub food. Doubles from £70.

### Browse the shops

You can't go to Macclesfield and not indulge in some crate-digging. Basement Traxx (Tues-Sat, [facebook.com/scottacdc1](https://facebook.com/scottacdc1)) is an independent record shop with rare and vintage vinyl.



A local landmark with Italianate styling is the independent interiors design store Arighi Bianchi, which traces its Macclesfield history back to 1883.

Recreating the buzz of a medieval fair, the Treacle Market, hosted on the final Sunday of each month, sprawls food and craft stalls across the Market Place and the Old Butter Market. The name comes from an old folktale of an overturned cart, spilling its treacly load onto the cobbled streets.

### Lunch break

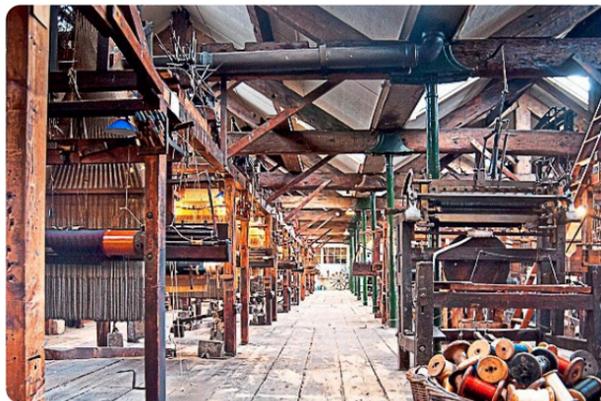
Bakery-café Flour Water Salt (Weds to Sat) is a great little place for coffee, pastries and freshly baked sourdough with a cool Scandinavian vibe.

Suburban Green is an all-day dining spot with brunches, cocktails and local ales. It's on the ground floor under BoHotel.

### Rainy day refuges

Formerly a school of art where designers were trained for the silk trade, the Silk Museum (Weds-Sat, free) tells the story of Macclesfield's textile story. Adjoining Paradise Mill, a Grade II listed weaving mill from 1862, recently reopened as a heritage attraction and offers guided tours (£11.50, under-16s free, [thesilkmuseum.co.uk](http://thesilkmuseum.co.uk)).

It is a short drive to the Jodrell Bank Observatory (Tues-Sun), where the First



**From top: the cobbled lanes are an enjoyable place to meander; the Silk Museum; Jodrell Bank**

TOM HOLMES, DANIEL HEARN, GETTY

Light Pavilion houses the permanent exhibition "The Story of Jodrell Bank" and the Planetarium Dome show.

### An evening drink

Community pub The Castle is a popular spot with a good range of local ales and plenty of events, from book clubs to quiz nights.

The former Cat and Fiddle pub, located on a high-altitude pass above the town, has been reborn as Britain's highest distillery, with the gin and whisky stills monitored carefully by new owner Karl Bond of the Forest Gin Distillery ([theforestdistillery.com](http://theforestdistillery.com)). The company supplies its spirits across the world and hosts regular tours and tastings at weekends (£25pp) and there is also a bar.

### Dinner time

Picturedrome, the town's former Art Deco cinema, is an all-day food hall with street food, coffee and craft ales. Choose from nine independent kitchens and bars, including roasts from Tender Cow and Honest Crust pizzas (Tues-Sun).

Tapas restaurant Tempranillo brings a taste of Madrid to Cheshire, with a good range of small plates and platters, plus a wine list full of Spanish favourites.

### Springtime strolls

Macclesfield has become a pilgrimage for music fans and the mural of Joy Division singer Ian Curtis, painted by the Manchester-based artist

Akse, has firmly put Macclesfield on the tourism map. Curtis lived on Barton Street until his death in 1980. Local independent tourist guide, Trevor Stokes (07446 771752, [trevor.stokes65@btinternet.com](mailto:trevor.stokes65@btinternet.com)) runs a tour of sites associated with him.

You could also follow the Macclesfield Art Trail Map (available from the tourist information centre on Market Place) to trace 20 public art installations around town, including two swifs by Peachzz at the train station and a mural by Becca Smith in the Churchill Way Car Park which juxtaposes the Cheshire Cat with the cover of the Joy Division album *Unknown Pleasures*.

To stretch your legs further, there are trails through Macclesfield Forest – with its timber plantations, reservoirs and red deer – on the edge of the Peak District. One of the reservoirs, Trentabank, is a nature reserve managed by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and contains a large heronry.

The Gritstone Trail, a 56km hike from Disley to Kids Grove, skirts the town, with fine views across the Cheshire Plain and Tegg's Nose, its best-known viewpoint.



## THREE THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT MACCLESFIELD

**1)** Hovis, the bread company, was founded in Macclesfield in 1886; you can see a collection of vintage posters at the Silk Museum.

**2)** Macclesfield Town FC's stadium incorporates the once-infamous Silklands nightclub, where Deborah Curtis, widow of Joy Division's Ian, worked the bar in the late 70s.

**3)** People from Macclesfield are called Maxonians, a reference to alumni of King's School, Macclesfield, at Oxford University.



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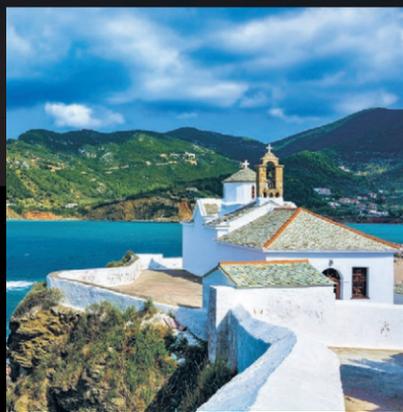
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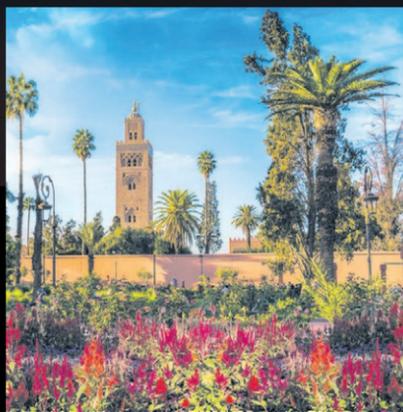
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8. Palma de Mallorca (Spain)
9. Barcelona, Spain
10. Valencia, Spain
11. Leisure at sea (Cascais), Portugal
12. Lisbon
13. Leisure at sea
14. Leisure at sea
15. Southampton



\*Itinerary based on 13 & 27 July 2024

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27 JUL 24	£1,299	£1,449	£1,499	£1,999	£5,599
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\*Itinerary based on 22 June 2024

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## ACQUISITIONS

### Coventry confirms Co-op Bank merger

Coventry Building Society and The Co-operative Bank have agreed to merge, with members not set to get a vote. Coventry will buy Co-op Bank for £780m under the agreement, creating a group with an £89bn balance sheet, the pair said in a statement. Set to complete in early 2025, they said legal advice was that a members' vote was not required.

## PHARMA

### GSK wins US injury case over Zantac

Drug group GSK has won a potentially expensive injury case in the US over its heartburn medicine Zantac. Angela Valadez, 89, from Illinois, claimed prolonged use of Zantac caused her to develop colon cancer. A jury decided the medication was not responsible, and the judge rejected her request for \$640m (£503m) in damages.

## COURTS

### Autonomy founder Lynch denies fraud

Mike Lynch, the tech founder once hailed as Britain's answer to Steve Jobs, has denied wrongdoing at his fraud trial in connection with Hewlett-Packard's \$11bn acquisition of his software firm in 2011. He denied being involved in transactions prosecutors say amounted to massive fraud at Autonomy, the firm he co-founded.

## PEOPLE

### Abrdn boss Bird to step down

The boss of investment group Abrdn is stepping down after nearly four years in the role, having led the group through its controversial vowel-free rebrand, the company said. Stephen Bird will step aside after agreeing with its board it is the right time for a refreshed leadership. Abrdn will start the search for his successor following a "significant strategic repositioning" of the firm.

## PROPERTY

# Homeowners are struggling to climb ladder as prices rise

Figures suggest only affluent households can now afford to 'trade up' to bigger properties in mid-life as their family grows. By **Callum Mason**

**C**limbing the property ladder is becoming "confined to affluent households", analysis for **i** shows, as the number of home sales coming from existing mortgage holders buying new properties has fallen to the lowest level in at least two decades.

The term "property ladder" is widely used in the UK to refer to a household's lifetime journey through different homes as their income and financial circumstances improve – but research by a leading estate agency suggests the phrase may no longer be applicable to the experience of many families.

In the 2003 and 2004 tax year, there were 2.4 households getting a mortgage on a new property for every first-time buyer getting a mortgage on their first property, but this ratio has plummeted and dropped to 0.9 in the last tax year, according to analysis by Savills.

The figures demonstrate that fewer existing homeowners are trading up their properties for bigger houses or flats as they progress in their working lives.

### Rising costs

The estate agency has said the reasons behind the change are partly because of a focus on first-time buyers from politicians – through policies like stamp duty cuts and Help to Buy – and partly down to the cost of houses, with more people having to rely on family money to buy homes.

Another key factor is that fewer older homeowners are downsiz-



Fewer existing homeowners are moving up the property ladder as prices rise GETTY

ing, and are staying in large family homes for longer, meaning fewer properties are available for middle-aged families to buy.

The research shows that the number of middle-aged home buyers is falling. Over the past 20

years, the estate agency's analysis of HMRC, English Housing Survey and UK Finance figures suggests that those aged 35-44 used to make up 30 per cent of all sales 20 years ago, but now this number is just 25 per cent.

The proportion of sales made up by under-35s and over-65s meanwhile has risen.

### Beyond the first-time buyers

Lucian Cook, director of residential research at Savills said: "We hear a lot about the difficulties in getting a foot on the housing ladder, but we have seen people taking fewer steps up it.

"People's buying power typically hits a peak in their forties, which is when you see the most activity in higher price brackets.

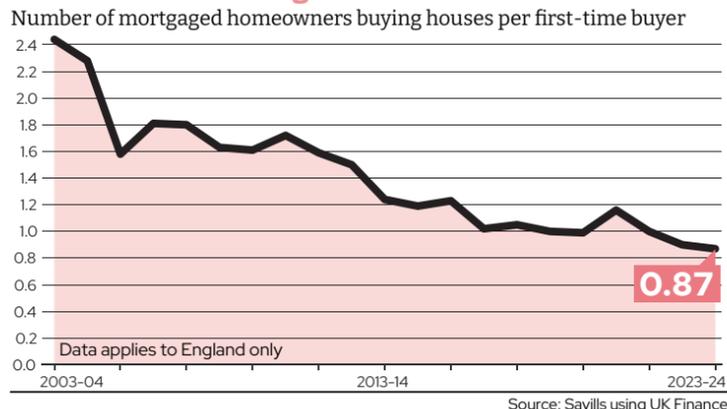
"But upsizing is becoming more challenging and increasingly confined to more affluent households, especially with more older home-

## Size up Cost down

Upsizing home can be difficult, because of the financial challenges. But according to Jonathan Rolande of the The National Association of Property Buyers, there are some steps you can take to try and cut costs:

- When negotiating, be as flexible on the moving date as you can. For some sellers, timing is more important than every last pound.
- Get things included for free. Often these homes are being sold by downsizers who may be happy to leave behind things they no longer need such as garden furniture, the trampoline, large lawnmowers or kitchen appliances. If it saves them the job of moving it and helps you, it's a win-win.
- Shop around early for moving quotes. Friday is busy and more expensive, aim for Monday to save some cash.
- Consider purchasing moving insurance. If the sale falls through, at least it won't cost you too.

## Home movers falling



## EMPLOYMENT

# The best student jobs to bag this summer

What to do and where to find short-term work. By **Marc Shoffman**

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University is an expensive time for students and the summer months can be a great way to generate some much-needed cash to fund your studies and evenings in the student bar.

A report by the Centre for Research in Social Policy (CRSP) at Loughborough University found that students need an average of £18,600 per year and £21,774 in London – on top of tuition fees – to fund a minimum living standard to cover costs such as rent, food and going out.

However, the maximum maintenance loan, if you are eligible, is £13,022 – leaving students with a shortfall to pay the bills.

The end of the academic year provides a great opportunity to fill the financial gap by finding a summer job, with plenty of employers seeking to fill temporary roles before the new term starts.

Student jobs website Unitemps is currently listing more than 150 temporary vacancies, with more expected at the end of this month, while Employment for Students (E4S) has around 2,800 vacant holiday roles listed.

We asked experts in the student sector and jobs market for their recommendations on where to find summer work.

#### RETAIL AND BARS

Retail, catering and bar work may be obvious places to look for summer jobs but Chris Rea, of careers guidance website Prospects, says they can be particularly useful if you are interested in a career in those areas.

Dan Roberts, managing director of [mystudenthalls.com](http://mystudenthalls.com), suggests bar work can be a great summer or ongoing part-time job for students, especially if you're highly sociable, while it can also build confidence.

"Depending on the bar, it's likely no former experience will be needed, however, it will help if you have experience in customer-facing roles, not to mention the ability to deal with tipsy and sometimes difficult customers," adds Roberts.

You could earn up to £60 a night, not including tips, depending where you work.

#### SUMMER FESTIVALS

The summer is a great time to enjoy music festivals as well as comedy and cultural events such as the Edinburgh Fringe.

But you could also get some earnings out of your enjoyment.

"Festivals and events take place during summer across the UK and they need temporary staff," adds

From working at a festival (main) to pet-sitting (below), top up your income this summer GETTY

Rea. "Checking tickets, selling merchandise or working as part of the crew building sets are just some of the options. Some events take applications direct, others you need to go through agencies.

"If you want a career in event management or sound engineering, this experience is spot on. Ask about payment as some roles are in exchange for an entry ticket."

Research by flexible job ad platform Indeed Flex suggests staff could earn £12.62 per hour from temporary bar jobs in Edinburgh during the Fringe, which could even help if you are planning your own show. Fringe performers who work just four, four-hour shifts per week could earn £800 in August, helping them off-set their living expenses throughout the month.

#### PET-SITTER

Pet ownership has been on the rise since the pandemic and that means plenty of families will need someone to look after their furry friend if they are going on holiday this summer.

Roberts explains that you can set your own hours and fees and even take your laptop with you to do any university prep work.

You can set up a profile on websites such as Pawshake, Rover and BorrowMyDoggy. Earnings could hit up to £40 per day.

You don't need any formal



qualifications to become a pet-sitter although you will need a licence and insurance if you are looking after a dog in your own home overnight and providing boarding services.

#### AU PAIR

It is not just dogs that families need help with over the summer. You could become a summer au pair and help parents seeking childcare support when schools are closed.

A summer au pair provides short-term childcare services to families either in the UK or abroad. Families from Spain, Italy and France are particularly interested in hiring a summer au pair at the moment, according to Aupair World.

Similar to a full-time au pair role, you would be helping to look after children and doing some light housework, plus you get to travel and spend time on your studies.

Your accommodation and bills are usually covered and au pairs are typically paid a set rate of "pocket money" per week, usually defined in law to ensure people are treated fairly. For example, au pairs in Spain have to receive a minimum of €70 per week.



#### TUTORING

Charlotte Davies, career expert for LinkedIn, suggests turning your skills into paid opportunities.

One route could be using the knowledge you are gaining at university or learned at school to provide tutoring services.

"Conventional student job opportunities might have more competition and the level of flexibility varies so consider other opportunities which play to your strength," she says.

"If you're gifted in a specific subject area, consider tutoring."

The average rate for a private tutor is £30-£42 per hour but can be lower if you are just starting out.

You can sign up on websites such as First Tutors and Tutorful.

#### LOOKING FOR WORK

Student job websites such as Unitemps and 34S regularly display flexible and temporary job listings.

The busy period for vacancies is typically the end of this month when exam season has finished.

"Applying early can help," says Rea. "Hand out CVs; look at the websites and social media of companies that you're interested in, phone them to introduce yourself."

Davies suggests some students may want to use the opportunity to find roles that give them relevant experience in their desired field while others may simply be looking to make some extra money – but whatever the case, she says it's important to consider your own schedule, what is feasible and to ensure your studies take priority.

"Take advantage of the career-based support on campus by utilising university career centres and societies, but also consider how you can network off-campus," she says. "For example, try making a list of relevant companies and reach out to hiring managers on LinkedIn."

#### WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS

Fraudsters may try to take advantage of those looking for work by setting up fake job ads that ask for payment for interviews or your bank details before you have even secured a role. You can report concerns about job scams and find out about others at [jobsaware.co.uk](http://jobsaware.co.uk).

"Fake job ads are not always obvious, but there are red flags such as unusually high salaries or promises of easy or quick returns," adds Rea. "Genuine companies put effort into their ads, so look out for spelling mistakes, poor grammar or vague company information."

"Check out potential employers online – if you can't find basic information, look elsewhere."

## Top Savings Accounts

### EASY ACCESS

Provider	Account	Notice or Term	Deposit	AER
cahoot	Sunny Day Saver (1)	None	£1	5.20%
Ulster Bank	Loyalty Saver	None	£5,000	5.20%
Monument Bank	Easy Access Savings	None	£25,000	5.01%
Close Brothers Savings	Easy Access 3	None	£10,000	5.00%
Kent Reliance	Easy Access - 70	None	£1,000	4.96%

### SHORT-TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Notice or Term	Deposit	AER
Al Rayan Bank (A)	Fixed Term Deposit	12-mth bond	£5,000	5.20% (F)
Close Brothers Savings	Fixed Rate Bond	1-yr bond	£10,000	5.16% (F)
Ziraat Bank	Raisin UK - Fixed Deposit	1-yr bond	£1,000	5.15% (F)
Tandem Bank	1 Year Fixed Saver	1-yr bond	£1	5.12% (F)
SmartSave	Fixed Rate Saver	1-yr bond	£10,000	5.11% (F)

### LONG-TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Notice or Term	Deposit	AER
Shawbrook Bank	Fixed Rate Bond 49	5-yr bond	£1,000	4.57% (F)
Hodge Bank	Fixed Rate Bond	5-yr-bond	£1,000	4.56% (F)
Al Rayan Bank (A)	Raisin UK - Fixed Deposit	5-yr bond	£1,000	4.55% (F)
GB Bank	Raisin UK - Fixed Deposit	5-yr bond	£1,000	4.55% (F)
Close Brothers Savings	Fixed Rate Bond	5-yr bond	£10,000	4.55% (F)

### VARIABLE ISAS

Provider	Account	Notice or Term	Deposit	AER
Plum	Plum Cash ISA	None	£100	5.17% (B)
Chip	Cash ISA (by ClearBank)	None	£1	5.10%
West Brom BS	WebSave Notice ISA (2)	60 Day	£1	5.10%
Zopa	Smart ISA - Access pot	None	£1	5.08% (B)
Newcastle BS	Single Access ISA (1)	None	£1	5.00%

### CREDIT INTEREST PAYING CURRENT ACCOUNTS

Provider	Account	Min Funding (pm)	Account fee	Reward
Halifax	Reward Current	£1,500	Nil	£5.00pm (C)
TSB	Spend & Save Plus	None	£3pm	£5.00pm
Nationwide BS	FlexDirect	£1,000	Nil	5.00% (B)
Kroo Bank Ltd	Current Account	None	Nil	4.35%
Santander	Santander Edge Up	£1,500	£5pm	3.50%

(A) = Provider operates under Islamic finance principles, rate shown is expected profit rate. (B) = Introductory rate for a limited period. (C) = Paid net of income tax. (F) = Fixed rate.

All rates are shown as AER variable unless otherwise stated. Methods of opening and operating accounts will vary. Current account interest rates paid up to a specified level, terms may apply to qualify for rates shown.

## Top Borrowing Accounts

### FIXED-RATE MORTGAGES

Provider	Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee
first direct	4.83%	for 2 years	60%	£490
first direct	5.23%	for 2 years	90%	£490
The Co-operative Bank	4.63%	to 30.9.27	60%	£999
Barclays Mortgage	4.44%	to 30.9.29	75%	£899
first direct	4.78%	for 5 years	90%	£490

### VARIABLE RATE MORTGAGES

Provider	Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee
Nationwide BS	5.39%	for 2 years	60%	£999
Nationwide BS	5.44%	for 2 years	75%	£999
HSBC	5.64%	for 2 years	80%	£999
Hanley Economic BS	5.70%	for 2 years	90%	Nil
Principality BS	6.00%	to 31.8.26	85%	Nil

### CURRENT ACCOUNT OVERDRAFT SELECTION

Provider	Account	ArrEAR	UnarrEAR	0% overdraft limit
Starling Bank	Current Account	15.0%	0.0%	Nil
first direct	1st Account	39.9%	39.9%	£250
Virgin Money	M Plus Account	19.9%	19.9%	Nil
Lloyds Bank	Club Lloyds	27.5%	0.0%	£50
TSB	Spend & Save Plus	39.9%	39.9%	£100

### CREDIT CARDS STANDARD RATE

Provider	Card Type	Rate PM	APR	Min income
Bank of Scotland	Credit Card Mastercard	0.869%	10.9%	-
Halifax	Credit Card Mastercard	0.869%	10.9%	-
Tesco Bank	Low APR Credit Card MC	0.869%	10.9%	£5,000
TSB	Advance Credit Card MC	1.020%	12.9%	-
NatWest	Credit Card Mastercard	1.016%	12.9%	£10,000

All borrowing rates and availability of products are subject to individual credit ratings.

All rates and terms subject to change without notice and should be checked before finalising any arrangement. This information is provided by [Moneyfactscompare.co.uk](http://Moneyfactscompare.co.uk) at 8.00am on 23rd May 2024 in good faith.

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## The Business Matrix

The day at a glance

### TRANSPORT

#### Safety concerns over Waymo cars

A US safety watchdog said it learned of nine additional incidents that raise concerns about the performance of Alphabet's Waymo self-driving vehicles. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration opened an investigation after 22 reports of Waymo's robotaxis driving in a way that potentially violated safety laws.



### ECONOMY

#### UK consumer confidence grows

UK consumer confidence rose in May to its highest in nearly two-and-a-half years, helped by households' optimism about their personal finances, according to a survey before the election announcement. "Consumers are clearly sensing that conditions are improving. This anticipates further growth in confidence," Joe Staton, of GfK, said.

### TECHNOLOGY

#### OpenAI's efforts not enough for EU

The European Union's privacy watchdog said OpenAI's efforts to mitigate the risk of its famous chatbot producing factually false output were not enough to ensure compliance with EU data rules. The joint investigations by the national EU privacy watchdogs are still ongoing, the report said, adding that a full description of the results was not yet possible.

### AUTOMOTIVE

#### Musk opposes US tariffs on China

Elon Musk says he opposes US tariffs on Chinese-built electric vehicles (EVs), after President Joe Biden quadrupled levies on EVs imported from China. "Neither Tesla nor I asked for these tariffs," he said. Mr Musk's comments are at odds with his earlier warning that Chinese car makers would "demolish" competitors if there were no trade barriers.

### TRADE

#### Sanctions hurt Russian firms

Expanded sanctions on Russia and enhanced pressure on countries that Moscow considers friendly are hurting Russian firms' export revenues and creating oil payment issues, the Bank of Russia said. "The widening of sanctions and pressure on friendly countries leads to companies' reduced export revenue," it said.

### RETAIL

# Sales figures fall as wet weather proves a washout for shoppers

By David Connett

Retail sales plunged 2.3 per cent last month, a steeper fall than forecast, as wet weather proved a washout for shoppers, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

The ONS said consumers may have spent more on leisure and entertainment, but experts also highlighted the continuing cost of living squeeze.

"Sales volumes fell across most sectors, with clothing retailers, sports equipment, games and toys stores, and furniture stores doing badly as poor weather reduced footfall," the ONS said.

April's fall follows a 0.2 per cent decline on March and is much worse than the forecasted 0.4 per cent drop.

It marks the biggest decrease in retail sales in four months, with sales volumes declining across most sectors.

Non-food sales fell 4.1 per cent, including clothing retailers, sports equipment, games and toy stores, and furniture stores.

Car fuel sales showed their largest monthly fall since October 2021. Shoppers are paying about 20 per cent more than in early 2021 to buy the same basket of goods.

Rob Wood, of Pantheon Macroeconomics, said "relentlessly" bad weather in February, March and April had hit high streets but hopes of rain returning to seasonal norms should result in less disruption and more consumer spending.

"With households already saving a larger fraction of their incomes than usual and reporting in ONS surveys that they have rebuilt their rainy day savings, we expect further increases in disposable income to feed through strongly to overall spending," he said.

Kris Hamer, of the British Retail Consortium, said struggling customers resisted buying "big ticket

items last month. "Sales volumes saw significant decline in April, falling for the third time in five months as the gloomy, wet weather combined with the cost of living squeeze dampened spending," he said.

Oliver Vernon-Harcourt, retail expert at Deloitte, said that although consumer confidence was on the rise "many remain apprehensive and are not yet loosening their purse strings, especially on non-essential items and goods such as clothing and footwear".

He said: "Consumers are focused on value, with the likes of own-label food remaining resilient.

"Overall, this is a clear sign that, despite inflation easing, retailers' road to recovery will require them to continue to invest into product ranges that target consumers of all budgets."

The spending slump showed that "cost of living pressures" are far from over, said the TUC general secretary, Paul Nowak (inset).

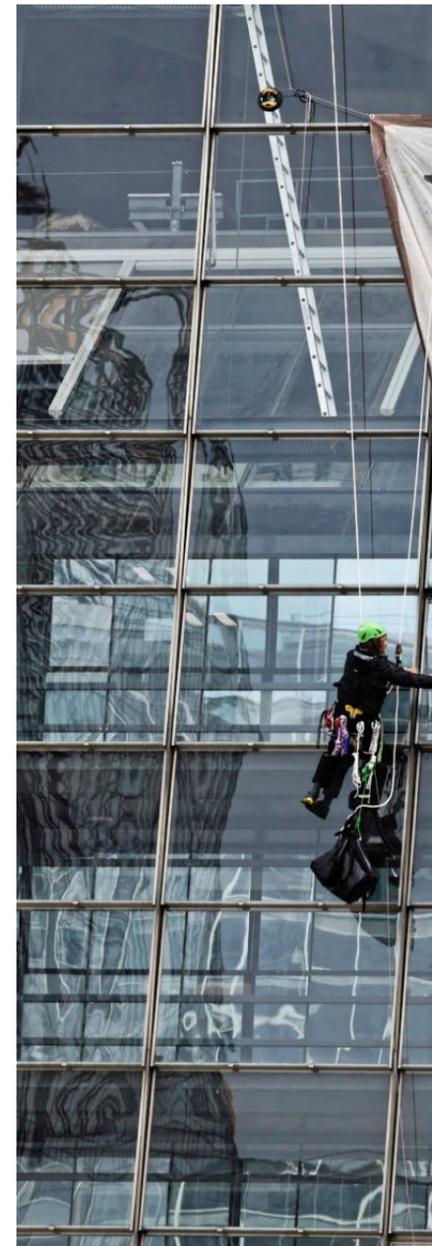
He said: "We need people to be able to spend in their local economies to boost growth and businesses. That's the only way we'll be able to achieve a sustainable recovery.

"The slump in retail sales shows that families are still struggling with the cost of living crisis - with millions having to cut back.

"The huge pressure on household budgets is far from over. A toxic combination of soaring prices - and 14 years of flatlining wages - has shredded incomes."



**[i]** Lisa Hooker of accountants PwC said that retailers will be hoping "a summer of sport with the Euros, Wimbledon and the Olympics will provide a fillip for trading after a highly disappointing start to 2024".



Sales of clothing were among those hit by months of relentless rain

### STERLING THIS WEEK



### KEY COMMODITIES





## Activists scale oil company's Paris office

Climate activists climbed up a building near TotalEnergies' Paris headquarters yesterday to protest against the oil group's climate strategy, while others stormed the offices of Total investor Amundi, denouncing its holding in the company.

The actions came ahead of annual general meetings being held at both companies, as climate groups condemn ongoing investment in oil and gas production.

Barriers had already been erected around the entrances of Total's offices in the French capital's La Defense business district, with employees told to work from home. Shareholders are set to vote on whether to approve the progress the firm has made on its sustainability and climate goals for 2030.

A vote to whether to re-approve chief executive and chairman Patrick Pouyanne for another three-year mandate is also on the agenda, with some investors urging opposition to protest against what they perceive to be insufficient attention to climate concerns. Greenpeace activists unfurled a banner near Total's headquarters carrying a large photo of Mr Pouyanne under a 'Wanted' heading.

STEPHANIE LECOQ/REUTERS

## Friday's FTSE 100 down 0.26% at 8,317.6

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
3i Group	2950.0	+0.79%	2995.0	1837.5
Admiral	2725.0	+0.74%	2870.0	2010.0
Airtel Africa	121.0	+1.43%	135.8	90.2
Anglo Amer	2615.0	-1.15%	2813.0	1630.0
Antofagasta	2246.0	-0.58%	2425.0	1280.0
AB Foods	2722.0	+0.29%	2765.0	1804.5
Ashtead Group	5714.0	-0.04%	6180.0	4437.0
AstraZeneca	12296.0	-0.87%	12488.0	9461.0
Auto Trader Group	747.8	-0.24%	768.4	580.2
Aviva	488.1	+1.08%	501.4	366.0
BAE Systems	1386.0	-0.79%	1406.5	883.4
Barclays	216.2	+0.53%	218.9	128.1
Barratt Dev	509.8	+0.59%	582.6	384.1
BAT	2390.0	-1.40%	2751.0	2233.0
Beazley	672.5	+0.90%	699.5	485.8
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5260.0	+0.48%	5360.0	3634.0
B&MEurValRtl	548.6	-0.36%	618.2	454.0
BP	483.0	+0.09%	562.3	441.1
BT	127.1	-0.16%	150.7	101.7
Bunzl	3022.0	-	3306.0	2680.0
Burberry	1035.5	-1.47%	2289.0	1031.0
Centrica	141.2	-1.91%	173.7	112.2
Coca-Cola HBC	2782.0	+0.51%	2830.0	2065.0
Compass	2221.0	-0.45%	2332.0	1940.5
Convatec	251.0	-0.24%	295.2	195.1
Croda Intl	4629.0	+0.76%	6286.0	4018.0
DCC	5710.0	+0.71%	6075.0	4145.0
Diageo	2693.0	-0.61%	3527.0	2673.5
Diploma	4176.0	-1.18%	4340.0	2772.9
easyJet	457.5	+0.20%	591.1	350.0
Entain	707.2	-1.26%	1457.5	698.2
Experian	3711.0	-0.32%	3796.0	2366.0
F&C Inv Trust	1026.0	+0.20%	1058.0	825.7
Flutter Entrtmnt	15990.0	+0.85%	17980.0	10202.0
Fraser's Group	829.5	+0.18%	949.5	661.0
Fresnillo	596.0	-2.21%	697.6	435.2
Glencore	483.9	+0.10%	506.7	365.3
GSK	1774.5	-0.20%	1823.5	1302.6
Haleon	323.0	-1.79%	371.2	306.8
Halma	2315.0	+0.26%	2500.0	1802.0
Hikma Pharma	1958.0	-0.05%	2222.0	1711.0
Howden Joinery	919.0	-0.11%	937.0	605.0
HSBC Hldgs	693.4	+0.29%	725.2	572.9
IAG	172.8	+0.44%	187.7	137.0
IMI	1874.0	-0.32%	1911.0	1429.0
Imperial Brands	1936.0	-0.21%	2006.0	1553.5
Informa	844.6	+0.67%	865.2	682.4
IntCont Htlis	7936.0	+0.43%	8790.0	5178.0
Intermediate Cap	2320.0	-	2346.0	1244.9
Intertek	5025.0	+1.43%	5145.0	3746.0
JD Sports Fashion	121.5	-0.04%	177.8	103.0
Kingfisher	262.1	+1.31%	274.0	198.3
Land Secs	649.5	+0.62%	729.4	551.2
Legal & Gen	247.9	+1.10%	259.0	203.1
Lloyds Bk Grp	54.8	-1.76%	57.4	39.4
Lon Stock Ex	9324.0	-0.04%	9696.0	7784.0
M&G	201.7	+0.20%	241.1	181.6
M&S	299.2	+2.26%	300.0	173.6
Melrose Ind	624.0	+0.35%	681.2	445.4
Mondi	1589.0	+0.89%	1719.8	1290.9
National Grid	889.4	-3.71%	1052.8	843.7
NatWest Group	307.5	+0.10%	329.8	168.0
Next	9366.0	+0.62%	9466.0	6334.0
Ocado Group	373.8	+6.16%	1017.0	332.7
Pearson	946.4	+0.11%	1046.5	793.2
Pershing Square	4110.0	-0.10%	4224.0	2678.0
Persimmon	1481.0	+0.65%	1501.0	925.0
Phoenix	503.0	+1.41%	581.8	436.4
Prudential	765.8	-0.39%	1161.5	684.7
Reckitt Ben	4412.0	-0.65%	6424.0	4102.6
RELX	3520.0	+0.86%	3531.8	2430.7
Rentokil Initial	408.1	-0.05%	663.8	387.8
Rightmove	545.0	-1.05%	603.0	457.7
Rio Tinto	5655.0	-0.44%	5910.0	4509.5
Rolls-Royce	444.8	+1.00%	446.7	142.5
RS Group	740.5	-2.57%	852.6	551.2
Sage	1059.5	-1.76%	1285.0	839.2
Sainsbury(J)	277.2	-0.07%	311.2	243.8
Schroders	395.0	+1.02%	470.0	346.2
Scot Mort Inv Tst	901.0	+0.11%	946.1	632.2
Segro	897.2	+0.09%	944.8	675.0
Severn Trent	2449.0	-2.16%	2812.0	2243.0
Shell	2772.0	-0.02%	2961.0	2214.0
Smith&Neph	978.8	-0.39%	1269.0	887.0
Smith (DS)	369.6	-1.81%	415.0	260.5
Smiths Grp	1742.0	+0.52%	1776.5	1517.5
Smurfit Kappa Grp	3882.0	+1.36%	3882.0	2528.0
Spirax-Sarco Eng	9205.0	+0.82%	11480.0	7900.0
SSE	1740.5	-1.64%	1932.5	1485.0
Stan Chart	777.8	+0.31%	796.0	571.0
St. James's Place	490.8	+0.57%	1185.5	393.6
Taylor Wimpey	148.9	+0.74%	150.8	98.9
Tesco	315.0	+0.86%	316.1	217.5
Unilever	4296.0	-0.37%	4357.0	3680.5
Unite Group	922.5	-	1069.0	834.3
United Utilities	1007.5	-1.61%	1139.5	896.8
Vodafone	73.5	-0.92%	84.0	62.7
Weir Group	2154.0	+0.94%	2210.2	1652.5
Whitbread	2925.0	-1.05%	3714.0	2914.0
WPP	823.4	+0.17%	901.6	656.0

## ECONOMY

# G7 chair predicts global minimum tax deal will fail

By Giuseppe Fonte  
IN STRESA

A deal over a global minimum tax on multinationals will not be finalised by June as previously planned, Italy's economy minister Giancarlo Giorgetti said ahead of a G7 finance summit this weekend.

Mr Giorgetti, who chairs the summit, said the US, India and China all have reservations over the terms of the deal.

The tax is aimed mainly at US-based digital groups, with a so-called

"first pillar" aimed at reallocating taxing rights on about \$200bn (£157bn) of corporate profits to the countries where the companies do business.

Mr Giorgetti said the deal would not be ratified by all countries that were due to participate next month. "That work will not be completed, this is not a good thing," he said.

Italy said last week it would pro-

vide last-ditch talks to prevent the failure of plans.

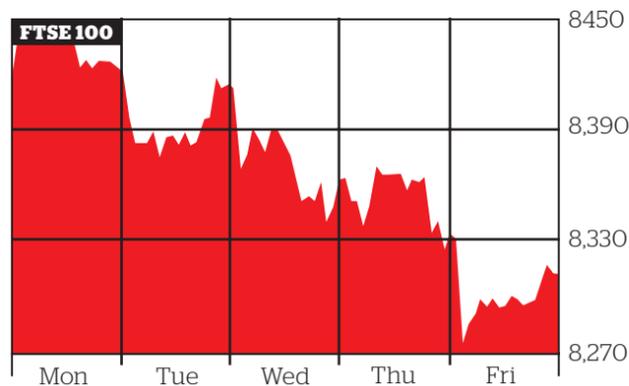
The first pillar would make it possible to overcome a dispute in which Washington is threatening retaliatory tariffs against European countries which have announced or adopted domestic digital taxes.

US trade officials have threatened 25 per cent tariffs on more than \$2bn worth of imports from Italy, Austria, Britain,

25%

Threatened US tariffs on \$2bn worth of imports from Italy, Austria, Britain, France, Spain and Turkey

## MARKETS THIS WEEK



<b>Dow*</b>	39127.5	-2.19%
<b>Nasdaq*</b>	16908.7	+1.33%
<b>S&amp;P500*</b>	5302.4	-0.02%
<b>Nikkei</b>	38646.1	-0.36%
<b>CAC40</b>	8095.0	-0.89%
<b>DAX</b>	18693.4	-0.06%

\* value at 6pm

## GOOD WEEK... BAD WEEK



**STUART MACHIN**

The M&S boss revealed the chain made a pre-tax profit of £716m.



**MICHAEL RAPINO**

The Live Nation promoter faced a US Justice department case to break up firm.

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# RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year 2024 Runner-Up

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Receiving 2nd place at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2024 plant of the year competition, these sumptuous and velvety flowers will lure you in with their chocolatey smell, as well as luring a wealth of butterflies and other pollinators.

This highly sought after cosmos commences flowering in June and often continues for up to 4 months, extending the garden display into September. The blooms float on long stems above neat clumps of narrow foliage and are suitable for cutting. This half-hardy perennial makes a long-lasting display for a patio container where you can enjoy its chocolate aroma up close. It is also an excellent choice for a wildlife-friendly garden.

Second place in the Plant of the Year at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2024 Cosmos atrosanguineus CHERRY CHOCOLATE, exhibited by Stonebarn Landscapes & Gardeners Question Time, bred by Valin Genetics and introduced by Whetman Plants. Hurry offer ends June 8th.

Jumbo plug plants despatched from June onwards.

<sup>PBR</sup> Intellectual property rights over plant varieties in the UK are known as plant breeders' rights.

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KF8938	Cosmos 'Cherry Chocolate' <sup>PBR</sup> 6 Jumbo Plugs	<del>£59.94</del>	£22.99		£20.69
40844	Alstroemeria 'Indian Summer' 1 Jumbo Plug Plant		£11.99		
KB7784	Alstroemeria 'Indian Summer' 3 Jumbo Plug Plants	<del>£35.97</del>	£16.99		
KA2524	Maxicrop Plant Treatment		£1.00		
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Offer subject to availability. We reserve the right to substitute varieties if necessary. \*Please note that savings are based on the equivalent of multiples of the cheapest pack size. © 2024 Thompson & Morgan. For full T & C's, please visit www.thompson-morgan.com. Regrettably we are unable to ship live plants to the following postcode areas: HS, W41-W56, KW15-KW17, PA34, PA41-48, PA60-PA78, PA80, PH40-PH44, TR21-TR24, ZE1-ZE3. We are also unable to ship seeds or plants to EU countries and Northern Ireland. By placing an order with us, you become a T&M customer, so we would like to continue sending our catalogue to you, giving you first sight of our new varieties. Please tick the box if you do not want to receive them . As a T&M customer we would like to send you new variety previews, newsletters & exclusive special offers & discounts via email. Please tick the box if you do not want to receive them . We would like to send you gardening-related offers by SMS. Tick here if you do not want to receive them . If you do not want us to share your data with other carefully selected companies in the collectables, food & wine, gardening, gadgets & entertainment, health & beauty, household goods, travel, financial services, charities and home interiors categories who will contact you by post, please tick this box . By sharing your email address and mobile with us, you can track the progress of your order online and receive progress updates on your orders. Please note that we may print your telephone number on the despatch label which will ensure the carrier can contact you if they need to. We will not pass on email or phone numbers to any other 3rd parties. Thompson & Morgan take your privacy very seriously. You can change your communications preferences with us at any time by calling our customer service team on 0333 400 0033 or emailing us at [ccare@thompson-morgan.com](mailto:ccare@thompson-morgan.com). To find out exactly how we store and use the data you give us please visit [www.thompson-morgan.com/privacy](http://www.thompson-morgan.com/privacy).

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Wild Bird Seed Value Mix - 20kg	<del>£29.00</del>	1	£23.20
Insect Suet Fat Balls - Box of 150	<del>£34.00</del>	1	£27.20
Premium No Wheat, Seasonal Mix 12.75kg	<del>£36.00</del>	1	£28.80
Suet Fat Pellets - 12.55kg	<del>£34.00</del>	1	£27.20
Dried Mealworms - 1kg	<del>£19.00</del>	1	£15.00
Dried Mealworms - 2kg <b>SAVE £13</b>	<del>£38.00</del>	1	£25.00
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- Day 7 **Regensburg, Germany**  
Explore the world heritage listed Regensburg city centre or perhaps get active and take a guided bike ride to the Walhalla memorial (B, L, D)
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Journey through Nuremberg's World War II sites. Or, focus on Nuremberg's medieval history (B, L, D)

- Day 9 **Bamberg, Germany**  
Join an exploration with a local expert to uncover everything this World Heritage-listed city has to offer (B, L, D)
- Day 10 **Wurzburg, Germany**  
Embark on a walk to Wurzburg Residence. Perhaps travel to the fairytale town of Rothenburg. Or join a hike to Marienberg Fortress (B, L, D)
- Day 11 **Miltenberg, Germany**  
Set out on a guided exploration, wander through cobblestone streets and admire the town's enchanting half-timbered houses before time at leisure to explore on your own (B, L, D)
- Day 12 **Rudesheim – Andernach, Germany**  
Take a gondola ride or a visit to Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum. Later, cruise through the Rhine Valley to Andernach where your ship will dock overnight (B, L, D)
- Day 13 **Andernach, Germany**  
**★Signature Experience<sup>\*</sup>**: Visit Namedy Castle for a morning tea and piano recital in the ballroom (B, L, D)
- Day 14 **Amsterdam, Netherlands**  
Cruise the canals on a glass-top boat or visit Zaanse Schans. Tonight, enjoy the Captain's farewell dinner (B, L, D)
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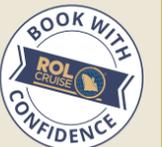
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8:30AM – 8PM

Trustpilot  
★★★★★  
June 2024



Full balance required on selected dates. Please note, flight supplement may be required. Fares are per person based on two adults sharing a suite, except single suites, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. <sup>\*</sup>Will incur supplementary costs and may require an additional overnight stay. <sup>±</sup>Savings are based on two adults sharing. Savings are based on full fare on the E grade stateroom departing 22nd November 2024. 5★ relates to the cruise element only. <sup>++</sup>Subject to the cruise line's T&Cs. <sup>\*\*</sup>Private Transfer is based on two adults sharing, up to 75 miles each way. <sup>\*</sup>Tours are subject to change. Please note, itinerary is subject to change due to water levels or other uncontrollable factors. <sup>††</sup>Cruise Miles<sup>®</sup> T&Cs apply. APT T&Cs apply. E&OE

# Today's Weather

Mainly dry with sunny spells but there will be a few showers around, mostly in the north and east. Clouds will thicken from the west later.

Today's high <b>21°</b>	Today's low <b>6°</b>	Moon Phase 	Sunrise 04:55	Sunset 21:00
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## Around Britain

City	Temp (Midday yesterday)	Rain (mm)	Sun (hrs)
Aberdeen	13	SH	1.4
Aberporth	11	C	0.0
Aberystwyth	13	C	0.2
Aviemore	13	SH	0.6
Belfast	12	C	0.4
Birmingham	14	C	0.1
Bournemouth	15	C	0.0
Bridlington	16	C	0.0
Bristol	14	C	0.1
Cardiff	14	F	0.0
Cromer	15	C	0.0
Durham	16	SH	0.1
Eastbourne	15	F	0.0
Edinburgh	14	SH	2.2
Eskdalemuir	13	R	0.0
Glasgow	14	SH	0.5
Holyhead	11	C	0.8
Hove	15	F	0.0
Hull	15	C	0.0
Huntingdon	15	C	0.0
Ipswich	16	C	0.0
Isle of Man	12	C	0.0
Isle of Wight	14	S	0.0
Kinlochewe	15	C	2.6
Kirkwall	14	F	0.2
Leeds	15	C	0.0
Lerwick	12	C	0.0
Leuchars	14	SH	0.0
Lincoln	14	C	0.0
Liverpool	14	C	0.2
London	17	C	0.0
Manchester	13	C	0.4
Margate	16	F	0.0
Milford Haven	13	C	0.0
Morecambe	13	SH	0.6
Newcastle	16	SH	2.3
Norwich	16	C	0.0
Nottingham	13	C	0.0
Okehampton	14	C	0.2
Oxford	15	C	0.1
Plymouth	15	SH	0.1
Portland	14	S	0.0
Portsmouth	15	F	0.0
Prestwick	14	C	0.2
Rhyl	12	C	0.5
Sheffield	14	C	0.0
Shrewsbury	13	C	0.1
Skegness	15	C	0.0
Southend	17	F	0.0
Stoke	12	C	0.1
Stornoway	13	C	0.0
Swansea	13	F	0.8
Tiree	12	C	0.0

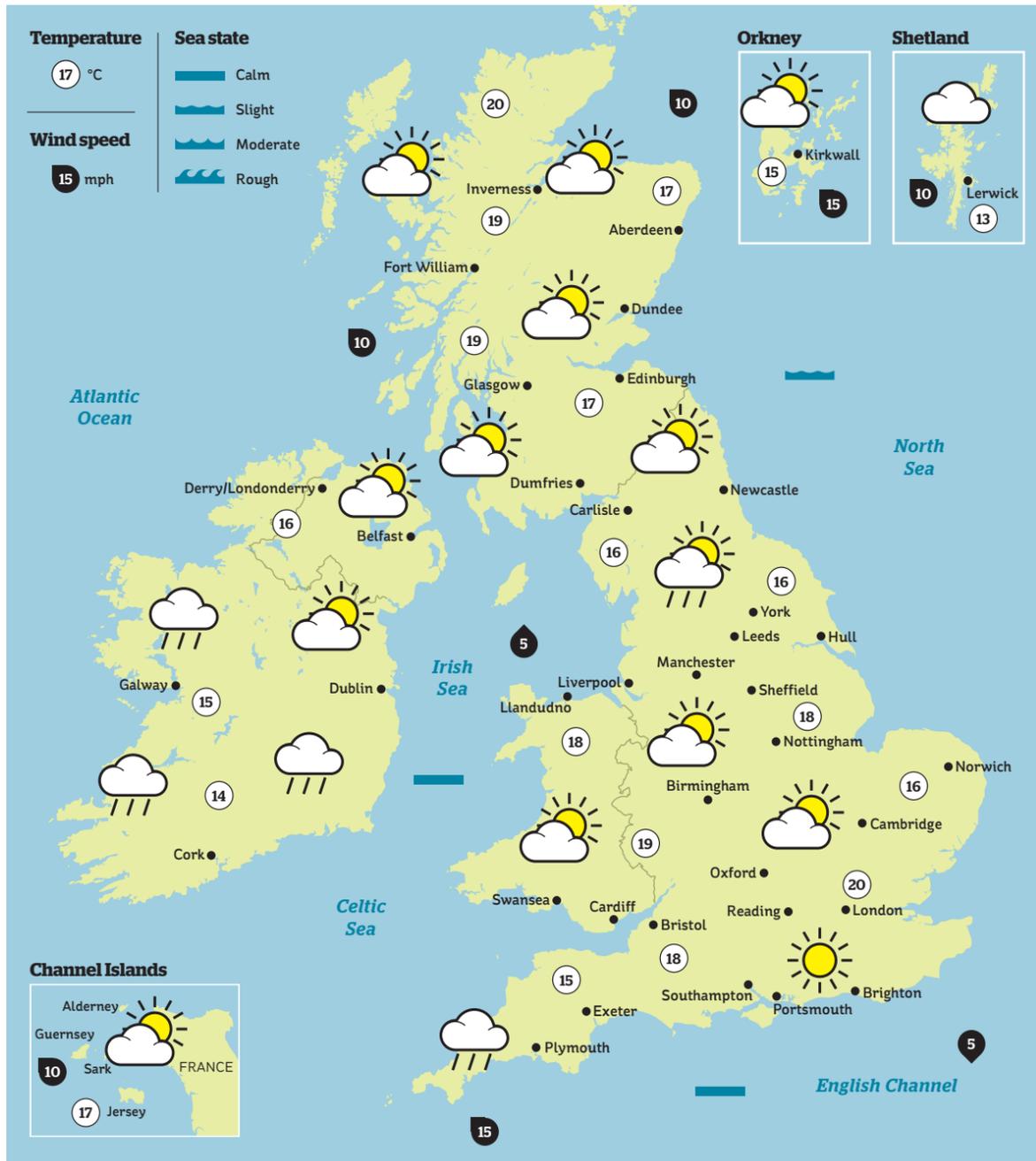
## Global

City	Temp (in °C)	Cond	City	Temp (in °C)	Cond
Abu Dhabi	39	S	Miami	31	S
Abuja	32	F	Milan	19	SH
Alicante	23	S	Moscow	18	S
Amsterdam	19	TH	Mumbai	34	S
Athens	27	S	Munich	16	F
Bangkok	30	TH	New York	24	TH
Barcelona	20	F	Nice	20	F
Beijing	19	SH	Palma	26	S
Berlin	24	F	Paris	19	SH
Brussels	14	TH	Prague	18	TH
Budapest	18	TH	Reykjavik	9	R
Chicago	25	S	Rio	30	S
Delhi	39	S	Rome	24	S
Dubai	36	S	Stockholm	22	S
Dublin	11	C	Strasbourg	18	TH
Frankfurt	17	SH	Sydney	18	F
Geneva	16	SH	Tenerife	24	S
Helsinki	24	S	Tokyo	27	S
Hong Kong	26	R	Toronto	25	S
Istanbul	20	F	Vancouver	15	F
Johannesburg	20	S	Vienna	19	SH
Lisbon	24	S	Warsaw	27	S
Los Angeles	18	F	Washington	27	F
Madrid	23	S	Wellington	11	DR

Key: C=Cloudy, DR=Drizzle, F=Fair, FG=Fog, H=Hail, M=Mist, R=Rain, S=Sunny, SH=Showers, SL=Sleet, SN=Snow, SS=Sandstorm, TH=Thunderstorm

## Air Pollution Index

Region	Today	Tomorrow
Highlands	3	3
North East Scotland	3	3
Central Scotland	3	3
Scottish Borders	3	3
Northern Ireland	3	3
North West & Mersey	3	3
North East	3	3
Yorkshire & Humber	3	3
North Wales	3	3
West Midlands	3	3
East Midlands	3	3
South Wales	3	3
South West	3	3
South East	3	3
Eastern	3	3
Greater London	3	3



**GENERAL SITUATION** High pressure centred over mainland Europe will extend across the UK today and dominate the weather. A dry day for most areas with periods of sunshine and variable amounts of patchy cloud cover. There is a threat of showers developing which will be mostly across northern and eastern areas and may merge into longer spells of rain across East Anglia. Clouds will thicken from the west later bringing rain to the south-west.

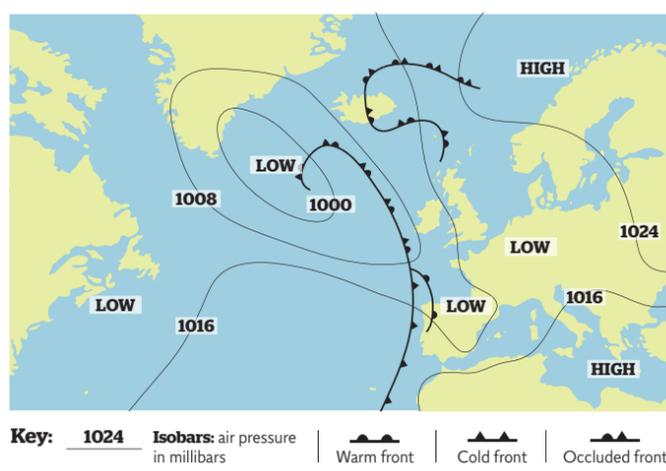
**E Anglia:** Early bright spells however clouds will thicken during the morning and outbreaks of rain will spread in from the east which may be heavy at times. Brighter during the afternoon with periods of sunshine breaking through and there will also be showers. There will be gentle north-easterly winds. Max temp: 16C. Tonight, spells of rain. Min temp: 8C.

**SE England, London, E England, Midlands, NE England, NW England, SE Scotland, SW Scotland, W Isles, NW Scotland, NE Scotland, Cen S England, N Isles:** A largely dry and bright start to the day with early spells of sunshine. It will continue to be bright during the day with spells of sunshine, variable amounts of patchy cloud cover and a threat of showers developing, mostly light. There will be light to gentle southerly and south-easterly winds. Max temp: 21C. Tonight, showery rain. Min temp: 6C.

**N Wales, S Wales, N Ireland, IoM:** A dry and bright start to the day with early spells of sunshine. It will remain generally dry with periods of sunshine but clouds will thicken from the west during the afternoon bringing outbreaks of rain and drizzle to the south-west during the evening. There will be gentle south-easterly winds. Max temp: 17C. Tonight, showery rain. Min temp: 6C.

**SW England, Channel Is:** A bright start with early periods of sunshine however variable amounts of cloud will build during the morning bringing a threat of showers or spots of light rain. Clouds will thicken during the afternoon with rain expected during the evening. There will be gentle to moderate south-easterly winds. Max temp: 16C. Tonight, showery rain. Min temp: 9C.

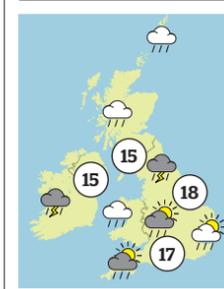
**Republic of Ireland:** Clouds will soon thicken during the morning and a band of rain will spread into southern areas bringing some heavy bursts. Rain will continue to push northwards and eastwards during the afternoon to become widespread during the evening. There will be gentle to moderate south-easterly winds. Max temp: 16C. Tonight, spells of rain. Min temp: 7C.



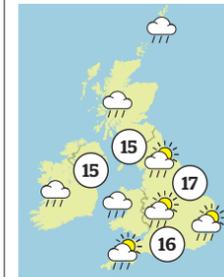
**SYNOPTIC PRESSURE** An area of high pressure centred over northern Italy will extend across much of western Europe and the United Kingdom today. It will dominate the weather, and the central pressure will increase and the high will intensify. An area of low pressure to the west of the UK out in the Atlantic will fill and track northwards.

HIGHS AND LOWS (Yesterday, up to 2pm)	HOURS OF DARKNESS
<b>Warmest:</b> Southampton oceanography centre, Hampshire, 18C	Aberdeen 21.43-04.29
<b>Colest:</b> Santon Downham, Suffolk, 4C	Birmingham 21.12-04.56
<b>Wettest:</b> Edinburgh, Royal Botanic Garden, N/A, 52.0mm	Bristol 21.10-05.04
<b>Sunniest:</b> Shoeburyness, Essex, 13.6hrs	Cardiff 21.12-05.06
	Glasgow 21.41-04.46
	Hull 21.12-04.43
	Inverness 21.53-04.32
	Liverpool 21.21-04.55
	London 21.00-04.54
	Manchester 21.19-04.52
	Stornoway 22.07-04.38
	Swansea 21.16-05.08
	York 21.17-04.45

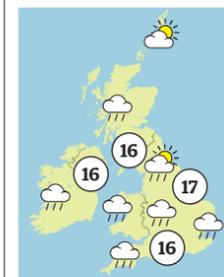
## Five-day outlook



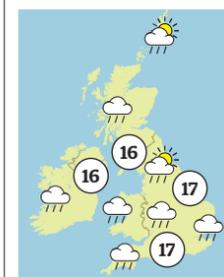
**SUNDAY** An unsettled day with a widespread threat of showers which will be locally heavy and thundery. Brighter periods will develop later.



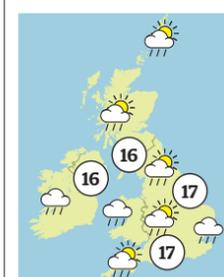
**MONDAY** Another day of showers and these will be most frequent across northern areas and will be locally heavy and thundery in nature.



**TUESDAY** A cloudy day with scattered showers or longer spells of rain spreading into western areas which will be heavy for a time.



**WEDNESDAY** A generally dull and grey day with cloudy skies and scattered showers which will merge into longer spells of heavy rain in the south.



**THURSDAY** A bright day with spells of sunshine and a threat of showers, some will be heavy. Largely dry during the evening with long sunny spells.

# BECAUSE YOU WANTED A BREAK NOT A BREAKDOWN



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40% off breakdown cover packages is only available when you take out a new Membership with At Home, National Recovery or Onward Travel on theAA.com. The sale starts on 22 May 2024 and ends at 11.59 pm on 3 June 2024. This introductory offer: (1) is only available online at theAA.com; (2) is for new AA breakdown customers only who are UK residents, and not existing AA breakdown members or at renewal; (3) only applies to the first year of your membership; (4) does not apply when only Roadside Assistance is purchased, or to Parts & Garage Cover; (5) is not available in conjunction with any other offer, discount or promotion or in a breakdown situation; and (6) is not valid and prices are subject to change if you hold your Breakdown membership in relation to a vehicle used to carry items or people for money, or if you are in material breach of any other terms of your Roadside Assistance policy. You can choose how your policy renews when you set up your cover. You'll receive notice beforehand of the price of membership after the first 12 months, so you'll have plenty of time to change or cancel your cover. There's no cash alternative. The AA reserves the right to withdraw or alter this promotion without prior notice at any time. All information correct at time of print May 2024.

# iweekend Sport

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## iSportsQuiz

### Championship play-off final

- Who were the last side, pre-Luton, to go straight down after winning the play-offs?
- When was the play-off final last held away from Wembley?
- When did Crysenicio Summerville last score a goal in London?
- Leeds United have won how many of their last eight matches?

- Which side hold the record (four) for most Championship play-off promotions?
- Who beat Southampton in the 2007 semis - their only previous play-off campaign?
- Which side beat Leeds 3-0 in Cardiff in 2006, their last second-tier play-off final?
- Which side won both of this season's league meetings?
- Which two players both scored in each of those matches?
- Who are the only side since 2015 to win the final by more than one goal?

Answers: 1 Fulham, 2 2006, 3 November 2022, 4 Two, 5 Crystal Palace, 6 Derby County, 7 Watford, 8 Southampton, 9 Adam Armstrong and Will Smallbone, 10 Brentford.



What to watch from getting up on Saturday to bedtime on Sunday

## SATURDAY

### 10.30AM EUROSPORT 1

#### Cycling Giro d'Italia

The penultimate stage of the Giro features not one but two schleps up Monte Grappa, a stunning and historically significant hill in the north of Italy. It is where *i partigiani* sought refuge in both world wars, only to be massacred by Austrians and Nazis.

### 1.15PM BBC IPLAYER

#### Cycling Ride London

The second stage of this Classique has a gastronomic flavour to it.

It starts and finishes in Maldon - home of the eponymous crystalline sea salt - and goes through Tiptree, famous for jams.

### 1.45PM BBC ONE/ITV1

#### Football FA Cup final

It is difficult to pick a side in this. Manchester United, under Erik ten Hag, who has the man-management skills of a bison? Or City, whose relentless success inspires the same level of emotion as an AI-composed country and western song?

### 1.45PM BBC ONE SCOTLAND

#### Football Scottish Cup final

This Glasgow derby is notable for many things, one of which is that it is Celtic and former England goalkeeper Joe Hart's final game.

### 2PM ITV4

#### Rugby union Champions Cup

This game at Spurs' stadium is between two of Europe's heavyweights, Leinster and Toulouse. The former side is full of Ireland internationals, while the latter have Antoine Dupont.

### 2PM SKY SPORTS CRICKET

#### Cricket England v Pakistan

England's truncated build-up to the T20 World Cup continues at Edgbaston. Here's hoping they

actually get to play, unlike Wednesday's washout in Leeds.

### 5PM SKY SPORTS ACTION

#### Rugby I Catalans v Warrington

Crikey, it's tighter at the top of Super League than my favourite Motörhead t-shirt (right) when I was deep into my doughnut diet. No fewer than four sides began this round level on 16 points, including these two clubs.

### 9PM BBC THREE

#### Athletics Diamond League

It is the Prefontaine Classic from Eugene, home of Nike. British

middle-distance stars Gemma Reekie, Laura Muir and Keely Hodgkinson are all there sharpening their tactics before the Olympics, which begins precisely two months after this meeting. Josh Kerr (below), the 1500m world champion, is going old-school by racing a mile.

## SUNDAY

### 10AM EUROSPORT 1

#### Tennis French Open

Alors, mangeons les cacahuètes, it's the second grand slam of the year already. And from a British perspective, it won't last long.

### 11AM SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

#### Football Ross v Raith

Spooky. The Premiership play-off is made up of two teams whose names do not point to their location. So whoever wins, there will be no dancing in the streets of Raith, nor Ross.

### 1PM SKY SPORTS F1

#### Formula One Monaco GP

Lewis Hamilton and Lando Norris's home Grand Prix, how nice. Every year, the camera focuses on some poor soul trying to have a quiet moment by their pool as a parade of Formula One cars whizz past. You'd think they'd have learned by now.



### 2PM SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

#### Football Leeds v Southampton

There's a couple of hundred million pounds at stake here as these two teams try to claw their way back to the Premier League.

### 2.55PM SKY SPORTS

#### Rugby league Super League

You have a choice here. Salford v Wigan, or London v Hull KR.

### 5PM SKY SPORTS F1

#### Motorsport Indy 500

This is 200 laps around the third oldest purpose-built racetrack in the world. Incidentally, the oldest - Brooklands - now has a Tesco bisecting one of its iconic banked turns. Be careful of what you wish for, capitalists.

Matt Butler

## RESULTS SERVICE

### CRICKET

#### COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - DIVISION ONE

Durham v Somerset: Riverside: Durham are leading Somerset by 6 runs with 4 first-innings wickets in hand

Durham won toss

Somerset - First Innings

T B Abell b Raine.....4

M T Renshaw c Robinson b Stokes.....5

T A Lammonby c Robinson b Stokes.....22

A R I Umeed c Ackermann b Siddle.....9

M J Leach not out.....5

T Banton c Lees b Raine.....36

T J E K Rew b Raine.....13

L Gregory c Robinson b Siddle.....0

C Overton b Siddle.....0

M Prevey lbw b Stokes.....53

J H Davey lbw b Stokes.....10

M J Leach not out.....5

Extras (lb2 nb8).....14

Total (52.1 overs).....174

Fall: 1-4, 2-29, 3-44, 4-46, 5-76, 6-84, 7-84, 8-119, 9-154

Bowling: B A Raine 15-5-41-3, P Coughlin 9-1-30-0, P M Siddle 10-2-27-3, B A Stokes 15-1-4-54-4, C F Parkinson 3-0-13-0

Durham - First Innings

A Z Lees run out.....3

\*S G Borthwick lbw b Overton.....9

C N Ackermann c Lammonby b Overton.....1

D G Bedingham not out.....100

†O G Robinson c Rew b Ball.....46

B A Stokes lbw b Ball.....0

G Clark lbw b Ball.....1

C F Parkinson not out.....8

Extras (lb5 nb4).....9

Total (for 6, 43 overs).....177

Fall: 1-3, 2-12, 3-19, 4-133, 5-145, 6-161

Bowling: C Overton 15-4-52-2, J H Davey 7-1-26-0, J T Ball 13-1-41-3, L Gregory 4-0-33-0, M J Leach 4-0-20-0

Umpires: J Shantry and P J Hartley

Hampshire v Surrey: The Rose Bowl: Hampshire are trailing Surrey by 25 runs with 9 first-innings wickets in hand

Surrey won toss

Surrey - First Innings

\*R J Burns c Middleton b Dawson.....33

D P Sibley c & b Dawson.....11

O J D Pope c Barker b Dawson.....15

J L Smith b Neser.....18

†B T Foakes b Abbott.....14

D W Lawrence c Organ b Abbott.....4

C T Steel b Neser.....5

J Clark c Brown b Abbott.....0

S A Abbott c Brown b Abbott.....10

G A P Atkinson b Abbott.....2

D J Worrall not out.....4

Extras (b3 lb6 nb2).....11

Total (46.3 overs).....127

Fall: 1-36, 2-64, 3-67, 4-89, 5-99, 6-104, 7-106, 8-117, 9-119

Bowling: K H D Barker 11-3-28-0, M G Neser 8-3-1-39-2, L A Dawson 14-5-21-3, K J Abbott 11-5-24-5, F S Organ 2-0-5-0

Hampshire - First Innings

T E Albert not out.....34

F S Middleton c Smith b Lawrence.....35

N R T Gubbins not out.....27

Extras (b4 nb2).....6

Total (for 1, 47 overs).....102

Fall: 1-51

Bowling: D J Worrall 10-4-11-0, J Clark 11-3-23-0, D W Lawrence 10-0-27-1, S A Abbott 5-1-9-0, G A P Atkinson 7-0-18-0, C T Steel 4-0-10-0

Umpires: J D Middlebrook and D J Millins

Kent v Essex: Canterbury: Essex have scored 287 for 4 wickets against Kent

Essex won toss

Essex - First Innings

N L J Browne b Evison.....65

D Elgar st Finch b Parkinson.....77

\*T Westley c Crawley b Bhuiyan.....21

J M Cox not out.....51

M J J Critchley lbw b Evison.....13

†M K S Pepper not out.....35

Extras (b9 lb4 w2 nb10).....25

Total (for 4, 96 overs).....287

Fall: 1-146, 2-170, 3-194, 4-225

Bowling: W A Agar 7-1-21-0, G Stewart 20-2-60-0, A Bhuiyan 16-4-38-1, J D M Evison 19-4-38-2, M K O'Riordan 10-3-28-0, M W Parkinson 22-0-81-1, J L Denly 2-0-8-0

Umpires: T Lungley and M Newell

Lancashire v Warwickshire: Old Trafford: Warwickshire have scored 89 for 3 wickets against Lancashire

Warwickshire won toss

Warwickshire - First Innings

R M Yates b Bailey.....19

\*A L Davies not out.....47

W M H Rhodes c Hurst b Bailey.....14

E Barnard c Hurst b Bailey.....2

D R Mousley not out.....1

Extras (lb2 nb4).....8

Total (for 3, 39 overs).....89

Fall: 1-38, 2-74, 3-82

Bowling: T E Bailey 13-7-25-3, G P Balderson 4-2-11-0

Umpires: R A White and I D Blackwell

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire: New Road: No Play Yesterday due to a wet outfield

### DIVISION TWO

Middlesex v Sussex: Lord's: Sussex have scored 295 for 4 wickets against Middlesex

Middlesex won toss

Sussex - First Innings

T G R Clark c Davies b Higgins.....32

T J Haines b Bamber.....40

T P Alsop c Higgins b Brookes.....11

C A Pujara not out.....91

J M Coles c Davies b Bamber.....71

\*†J A Simpson not out.....33

Extras (b2 lb1 nb14).....71

Total (for 4, 90 overs).....295

Fall: 1-66, 2-80, 3-92, 4-164

Bowling: E Bamber 20-3-82-2, T G Helm 20-3-61-0, R F Higgins 20-3-44-1, H J H Brookes 18-1-69-1, N Fernandes 3-0-5-0, L B K Hollman 9-0-31-0

Umpires: N Pratt and C M Watts

Northamptonshire v Yorkshire: Northampton: Yorkshire have scored 312 for 7 wickets against Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire won toss

Yorkshire - First Innings

A Lyth c & b Procter.....109

F J Bean b Broad.....18

\*Shan Masood c Gay b Kaul.....60

J H Wharton b Keogh.....21

G C H Hill lbw b Kaul.....12

W A Luxton c Gay b Procter.....8

†J A Tattersall c Gay b Procter.....14

M L Revis not out.....18

Extras (b15 lb15 nb8).....38

Total (for 7, 96 overs).....312

Fall: 1-86, 2-202, 3-229, 4-239, 5-249, 6-268, 7-281

Bowling: B W Sanderson 20-9-34-0, C J White 19-8-38-0, S Kaul 16-1-81-2, L Procter 21-5-63-3, J Broad 11-0-38-1, R I Keogh 9-0-28-1

Umpires: A C Harris and P K Baldwin

Derbyshire v Gloucestershire, Bristol: Derbyshire 434-5 (96.0 overs; M Lamb 186no, B D Guest 95, A H T Donald 67)

Glamorgan v Leicestershire, Leicester: Glamorgan 352-8 (96.0 overs; E J Byrom 86, K S Carlsson 80, S A Northeast 61no, S W Currie 4-53)

CYCLING

UCI WORLD TOUR, GIRO D'ITALIA, ITALY, Stage 19 (Mortigliano - Sappada, 155km), 1 A Vendrame (It) Decathlon AG2R La Mondiale 3hrs 51mins 5secs, 2 P Sanchez (Sp) Movistar Team +54secs, 3 G Steinhilber (Ger) EF Education-EasyPost +1min 7secs, 32 G Thomas (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +15mins

56secs. Overall: 1 T Pgarar (Sloven) UAE Team Emirates 71hrs 224mins 3secs, 2 D Martinez (Col) BORA-hansgrohe +7mins 42secs, 3 G Thomas (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +8.04.

### GOLF

SOUDAL OPEN, ANTWERP, BELGIUM, SECOND ROUND (GB & Irl unless stated): 128 I Elvira (Sp) 64, 64; 129 R Fisher 66 63; 131 R Langasque (Fr) 64, 67; 132 A Cockerill (Can) 66 66; N Noergaard Moeller (Den) 64, 68; S Jones (NZ) 62 70; A Wilson 64, 68; 133 M Baldwin 66 67; T Pieters (Bel) 67 66; J Dean 68 65; 134 M Jordan 64, 70; A Fitzpatrick 66 68; P Waring 68 66; M Lorenzo-Vera (Fr) 69 65; F Lacroix (Fr) 68 66; S Garcia (Sp) 70 64; 135 R Mansell 67 68; A Hidalgo 66-1, 66-1; L Nemezc (Aut) 70 65; G Wiebe (US) 72 63; T Vaillant (Fr) 68 67; N von Dellingshausen (Ger) 66 69.

### HORSE RACING RESULTS

Goodwood - Good

1.50 1. RED SAND (S Osborne) 7-2. 2. Arabian Sun 12-1. 3. Berkshire Kameo 4-1. 10 ran. 3-1 fav The Flying Seagull (6th), 2½/1, nk (E Walker).

2.25 1. PLEDGE OF FEALTY (L Morris) 11-2. 2. Tempozize 12-1. 3. Manxman 9-2. 7 ran. 5-2 fav Havala (7th), 1½/1, ns. (Sir M Prescott).

3.00 1. AVYAB (R Havlin) 9-1. 2. Entrancement 10-1. 3. Divina Grace 16-1. 11 ran. 7-2 fav True Wisdom (7th), ns. 1½/1 (S Woods).

3.35 1. ISLE OF JURA (C Shepherd) 6-1. 2. Mujtaba 5-2. 3. Passion And Glory 6-1. 6 ran. 85-40 fav Sea Of Roses (5th), ½/1, 1½/1 (G Scott).

4.10 1. WILD TIGER (O Murphy) 7-4. 2. Toimy Son 14-1. 3. Be Frank 4-1. 12 ran. 2½/1, 1½/1 (S bin Suroor).

4.40 1. QUEEN'S REIGN (S Osborne) 17-2. 2. Aragon Castle 7-2. 3. Boyfriend 18-1. 11 ran. nk, nk (E Walker).

5.10 1. FAIR WIND (P Dobbs) 13-2. 2. Dream Composer 11-2. 3. Angle Land 16-1. 10 ran. 7-2 fav Bishop's Crown (5th), nk. 1½/1 (Owen Burrows).

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £12,600.45 carried over to Haydock.

Placepot: £533.90. Quadpot: £31.70.

Place 6: £1,717.58. Place 5: £867.38.

### RUGBY UNION

EUROPEAN CHALLENGE CUP FINAL

Gloucester (3).....22

Sharks (16).....36

Gloucester: Tries: Tuisue, Socino, Clarke.

Conversions: Hastings (2). Penalties:

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## TENNIS

Defeat for Djokovic as Machac fights back

Novak Djokovic suffered a setback before the French Open by losing to Tomas Machac in the Geneva Open semi-finals.

The Czech captured the biggest win of his career, making his first final after a 6-4, 0-6, 6-1 success.

The world No 1 appeared out of sorts and received a medical timeout at the end of the first set, which he led 4-1 before fading.

Djokovic broke for a 3-1 lead and seemed in command but Machac then won five in a row.

The Serb produced several superb forehand winners to level the match and also won the opening game of the decider but it was downhill after that as Machac surged again.

## CYCLING

Vendrame wins after Thomas hits the deck

Andrea Vendrame soloed to victory from a breakaway on stage 19 of the Giro d'Italia in Sappada before a late crash gave Geraint Thomas a scare in his bid for a place on the overall podium. Vendrame (left)

triumphed out of a 19-man breakaway on the 157km stage from Mortegliano as the main favourites pedalled home 16 minutes later. Thomas touched

wheels with Antonio Tiberi and hit the deck six kilometres from the finish.

The Welshman needed a quick bike change but race leader Tadej Pogacar and the other top contenders had knocked off the pace and waited for Thomas to recover, ensuring he did not lose his hold on third place overall.

Pogacar continues to lead by seven minutes 42 seconds.

## PARA ATHLETICS

Cockroft wins 16th world gold in Kobe

Hannah Cockroft was victorious in the T34 800m final to seal her 16th Para Athletics world title in Kobe, Japan.

After triumphing in the 100m on Tuesday, the 31-year-old set a championship record time of one minute 52.79 seconds, adding to her seven Paralympic golds.

She later helped GB to their 10th medal of the championships, a silver in the Universal 4x100m relay alongside Kevin Santos, Zac Shaw and Ali Smith, finishing in second place behind China.

"To do what I did in the 800m, and then come back and get a silver in the relay is what I hoped for, but I don't know if I believed I could do it," admitted Cockroft.

## BASKETBALL

# 'Bring ya ass!'

Every bar in downtown Minneapolis was doing brisk trade on Wednesday, as well they should, given the announcement by Minnesota governor Tim Walz that it was officially "Wolves Back Day".

The Minnesota Timberwolves, an NBA team widely accepted as a byword for incompetence over the whole of their 35-year existence, were opening the Western Conference Finals. The city was in the throes of the sort of love affair normally reserved for European football teams.

Masterminding the Wolves' best-of-seven series against the Dallas Mavericks is Chris Finch, a 54-year-old American who spent the first decade of his playing and then coaching career with the Sheffield Sharks around the turn of the century, returned to coach Britain at the 2012 Olympics. He proudly displays on his desk a photograph of his meeting with the Queen at the London Games.

"Minneapolis is a city with more of an agricultural than an industrial past, but it's similar to Sheffield in a lot of other ways," Finch (*below*) tells *i*. "People are super-proud of their city, proud of their region, and they like their sports a lot, even though they might not have had a ton of success. It's a great sports town - like Sheffield.

"When you are hired to these jobs, oftentimes they're not good; the circumstances surrounding them aren't good, the challenge is to improve everything along the way. It's a step-by-step process so we take pride in the fact that it's getting a little bit better all the time."

Perhaps true to their history, the Wolves lost Wednesday's Game One against Dallas, although that narrow 108-105 defeat could not dampen civic pride, as downtown was transformed into a "party zone". Minnesota - "the land of 10,000 lakes" as it calls itself - is used to basketball frustrations; in 1960 their original NBA team relocated to the west coast to become the LA Lakers, now the greatest name in the sport's history.

After 20 years of abject failure since their one and only other Conference Finals appearance - they lost to the Lakers - the team's star player Anthony Edwards has become an internet sensation, sparring with TV pundit Charles



The Timberwolves were an NBA backwater until former Sheffield coach Finch and 'the next Jordan' shook things up. By **Ian Whittell**

Barkley who joked he had not been to Minneapolis in two decades.

"Bring ya ass!" Edwards (*above*) instantly retorted, live on national TV, spawning a catchphrase that was latched onto by the state's tourism board, who set it up as an alternative web address.

Governor Walz's press release declaring "Wolves Back Day" also featured a 10-point proclamation, the first letters of which spelled out "Bring ya ass".

"It's pretty cool how people have taken to Anthony," says Finch. "Since I got here, he's been extremely popular with the media and it's his genuine personality that people are drawn to. Something like this catches on and it's fun to watch people embrace it."

The city, and beyond, has certainly embraced Edwards and his team, particularly in the wake of a historic come-from-behind series win over the champions Denver Nuggets in the last round.

Minneapolis has been in obvious economic and public-image distress, the legacy of the murder of George Floyd - four miles from the Timberwolves' Target Center stadium - in 2020, then ravaging riots and Covid lockdown.

"The combination of George Floyd and Covid killed interest in downtown in different ways," says Britt Robson, doyen of Minnesota

basketball writers who has covered the team for their entire history.

"The stain of racial fear and animosity out of George Floyd, and the social cleavage between anti-vaxxers and people scared to go there because they didn't want to die - between those two things happening, plus the fact that for three to six months of the year the weather makes it hard to commute, downtown took the hit.

"But Chris Finch always says he wants to have a team that people like to watch, and that is this team. "We have this great mix of people. You have the people who are diehards, the people who want to remember the bad times and the semi-good times. For some, it's this cool, temporary thing; for others, it's the pot at the end of the rainbow of seeing the Timberwolves in the NBA Finals."

Not that sport has offered much gold in recent decades. The Twins, the city's baseball team, won the 1991 World Series but the 33-year wait for another trophy in any sport is the longest barren streak of any US city. "Minnesota sports fans, in general, are great martyrs," jokes Robson.

Now, one round from the NBA Finals, it appears that misery may have been lifted by the hiring of Finch three years ago and the squad brilliantly assembled by his general manager Tim Connelly.

It has helped that Edwards, who arrived in Minneapolis a few months ahead of his coach, has

developed into arguably the best young talent in the world, and while comparisons with Michael Jordan are obscenely premature, they are being made. Edwards is only 22 and in his fourth NBA season, while Jordan did not even make his debut until the age of 21.

"Stylistically, I can see why people make that comparison," says Finch. "Success as a young player, hunger as a young player, fast development as a young player - all those things I can see.

"He has a long, long ways to go to match up the résumés but Anthony is certainly a very exciting player."

The Timberwolves will need all of Edwards's precocious brilliance if they are to bounce back against Dallas and reach their first NBA Finals, where either the Boston Celtics or Indiana Pacers await.

For Finch, years of the hard grind in British, German and Belgian basketball are finally paying off. Last week Edwards called him the NBA's best coach, praising his willingness to crack the whip when appropriate, no matter the level of the star player.

To add to Finch's lustre, he is currently on crutches after a freak in-game collision with one of his players left him with a torn patella tendon. Less than 24 hours later, he was back taking practice and refusing to take prescription painkillers for fear it would cloud his thinking.

It was the sort of no-nonsense approach his old friends in Yorkshire would have appreciated, and explains why his public dressing-down of his players after the Game One loss has carried so much impact.

"The Western Conference Finals started," said Finch. "I'm not sure if they got the memo. But they got it this afternoon."

RACING

Botti targets Irish St Leger for Giavellotto

By Chris Phillips

Marco Botti could look towards Newmarket's July meeting before pointing Giavellotto at the Irish St Leger...

The 7-2 shot shook off the challenge of Vauban and Tower Of London in the hands of Oisín Murphy to come home a victor by four and three-quarter lengths...

Botti is reluctant to step him up in trip and believes the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot is too far for the son of Mastercraftsman.

Instead his primary target will be the Irish St Leger at the Curragh over his favoured trip of one mile and six furlongs in September...

Prior to that he will target a run in



Royal Ascot is next for Isle Of Jura after the Bahrain Triple Crown winner made a triumphant return to Britain in the William Hill Festival Stakes at Goodwood.

the Princess of Wales's Stakes on 11 July at Newmarket to keep on track.

Botti said: "He's good. He's taken the race well.

"He seems in good form obviously. We'll keep him ticking over for a

week to 10 days, then we'll see where he is. He's definitely taken the race quite well.

"We won't go to Ascot. The Irish St Leger is very much the race we would like to run in, if the ground

is not going to be too soft. Between the St Leger and now we were thinking that we don't want to run over two miles.

"I will have to finalise with the owners, but we want to stay at a mile and six.

"There isn't very much at the moment but we're thinking about the Princess of Wales's, which is a Group Two at Newmarket in July Cup week. That could be just the race to keep him fresh for the Irish St Leger."

The Newmarket handler has not ruled out taking the five-year-old back for an attempt to complete a hat-trick in the Yorkshire Cup next season.

Botti added: "It would be nice (to go for the Yorkshire Cup hat-trick).

"Obviously it's a long time to think about the next season, but I think it would be wonderful for the horse to go back and win it for a third time."

TOP TIPS

BEST BET

Vadream (1.50pm, Haydock) Recent heavy rain will tip the scales in his favour. Has three wins from seven starts when the ground is soft or heavy.

NEXT BEST

Vandeek (2.25pm, Haydock) One of last season's leading juveniles; has four wins from four over this six-furlong trip.

SUNDAY BEST

Malaita (3.35pm, Uttoxeter) Won last two outings and has shown good form on a variety of ground, which could be important with a slightly unsettled weather forecast.

HAYDOCK SOFT

Table of race results for Haydock Soft, including race 1.15: Betfred Silver Bowl Handicap (Heritage Handicap) and race 1.50: Betfred Temple Stakes (Group 2).

BETTING: 4-1 Volterra, 9-2 Blue Lemons, 6-1 Nellie Leylax, 7-1 Candonomero, 10-1 Cerulean Bay, Sir Les Patterson, Involvement, 12-1 Magsood, 14-1 others.

Table of race results for Haydock Soft, including race 2.25: Betfred Sandy Lane Stakes (Group 2) and race 3.00: Betfred Hat-Trick Heaven New Boston Handicap (Class 3).

BETTING: 4-6 Vandeek, 5-1 Inisherin, 8-1 Esquire, Purosangue, 14-1 Pandora's Gift, 25-1 Orne, Airmann, 33-1 Alaskan Gold.

Table of race results for Haydock Soft, including race 3.30: Betfred Nifty 50 Hell Nook Handicap (Class 2) and race 4.20: Darley British EBF Fillies' Restricted Novice Stakes (GBB Race) (Class 2).

BETTING: 7-2 Law Of The Sea, 9-2 Nothing To Sea, 7-1 Divine Comedy, 8-1 Zimmerman, Emiyn, 10-1 Forza Orta, Yorkkindness, 12-1 Cinnodin, 14-1 others.

GOODWOOD GOOD

Table of race results for Goodwood Good, including race 1.30: William Hill Harrowsay Handicap (Class 2) and race 2.05: William Hill Stakes (Fillies' Listed) (Class 1).

BETTING: 9-2 Al Shabab Storm, 5-1 Qirat, 8-1 Blue Prince, 10-1 Balmacara, Monfrid, Dragon Leader, Mission To Moon, 12-1 Newsreader, 14-1 others.

Table of race results for Goodwood Good, including race 3.10: William Hill Epic Value Handicap (Class 2) and race 3.45: British Stallion Studs EBF Cocker Hat Stakes (Listed) (Class 1).

BETTING: 11-4 Vaguely Royal, 4-1 True Legend, 5-1 Crescent Lake, 6-1 Get Shirty, 7-1 There's The Door, 8-1 Alvan, 12-1 Ranch Hand, Tides Of War.

Table of race results for Goodwood Good, including race 4.20: Darley British EBF Fillies' Restricted Novice Stakes (GBB Race) (Class 2) and race 5.00: Darley British EBF Fillies' Restricted Novice Stakes (GBB Race) (Class 2).

BETTING: 7-4 Meydaan, 3-1 Space Legend, 4-1 Royal Power, 9-2 Lyric, 12-1 Pappano, 20-1 Lavender Hill Mob, 33-1 Alrazaen.

YORK GOOD TO SOFT

Table of race results for York Good To Soft, including race 2.45: William Hill Extra Place Races Daily Handicap (Class 2) and race 3.20: William Hill Bronte Cup Fillies' Stakes (Group 3).

BETTING: 4-1 Rabaah, 9-2 Korkeo, 5-1 Vintage Claret, 7-1 Brooklyn Nine Nine, 8-1 Startust, 10-1 Copper Knight, Manila Scouse, 12-1 Lethal Nymph, 14-1 others.

Table of race results for York Good To Soft, including race 4.30: Royal Yorkshire Regiment Handicap (Class 3) and race 5.00: Weatherbys Ireland Greenlands Stakes (Group 2).

BETTING: 11-8 Arizona Blaze, 12-1 Monotone, 14-1 The Parthenon, 50-1 Local Lad.

Table of race results for York Good To Soft, including race 5.00: Weatherbys Ireland Greenlands Stakes (Group 2) and race 5.30: Weatherbys Ireland Greenlands Stakes (Group 2).

BETTING: 7-2 Art Power, 4-1 Shouldvebeenaring, 5-1 Moss Tucker, 6-1 Regional, 7-1 Matilda Picotte, 10-1 Ocean Quest, 12-1 Unequal Love, Mitbaahy, 14-1 others.

3.40 TATTERSALLS IRISH 2,000 GUINEAS (GROUP 1)

Table of race results for Tattersalls Irish 2,000 Guineas (Group 1), including race 1: Atlantic Coast (C/BF) and race 2: Bright Stripes (CD).

BETTING: 10-11 Rosallion, 3-1 River Tiber, 6-1 Haatem, 13-2 Unquestionable, 14-1 Mountain Bear, 33-1 Atlantic Coast, Bright Stripes, 50-1 Take Me To Church.

Table of race results for Tattersalls Irish 2,000 Guineas (Group 1), including race 3: Prince of Zenda (C) and race 4: Liamarty Dreams (CD).

BETTING: 7-2 Prince of Zenda, 9-2 Spirit Genie, Baradar, 5-1 Liamarty Dreams, 6-1 Paws For Thought, 8-1 Rhoscolyn, 12-1 Way To Dubai, Boardman, 33-1 Yanifer.

Table of race results for Tattersalls Irish 2,000 Guineas (Group 1), including race 5: Girl Racer (J) and race 6: Goldana (C/D/BF).

BETTING: 6-4 Rogue Millennium, 7-2 Orchid Bloom, 9-2 Ocean Jewel, 10-1 You Send Me, Villanova Queen, 12-1 Goldana, 14-1 Gregarina, 33-1 Mammams Girl, Girl Racer.

3.10 TATTERSALLS GOLD CUP (GROUP 1)

Table of race results for Tattersalls Gold Cup (Group 1), including race 1: Auguste Rodin (C/D) and race 2: Crypto Force (C).

BETTING: 4-7 Auguste Rodin, 11-2 White Birch, Elegant Man, 8-1 Lumiere Rock, 20-1 Mashhoor, 33-1 Lord Massusus, Hans Andersen, Crypto Force.

3.45 TATTERSALLS IRISH 1,000 GUINEAS (FILLIES' GROUP 1)

Table of race results for Tattersalls Irish 1,000 Guineas (Fillies' Group 1), including race 1: Lilac Rolla (C) and race 2: Alpheratz (D).

BETTING: 15-8 Opera Singer, 5-1 Vespertilio, Fallen Angel, 8-1 Purple Lily, Buttons, 10-1 A Lilac Rolla, 14-1 Azada, 16-1 Skellet, 20-1 others.

CHESTER SOFT

Table of race results for Chester Soft, including race 4.05: Camden Stout Handicap (Class 2) and race 5.00: Paws For Thought (CD).

BETTING: 7-2 Prince of Zenda, 9-2 Spirit Genie, Baradar, 5-1 Liamarty Dreams, 6-1 Paws For Thought, 8-1 Rhoscolyn, 12-1 Way To Dubai, Boardman, 33-1 Yanifer.

SUNDAY

CURRAGH GOOD

Table of race results for Curragh Good, including race 2.35: Lanwades Stud Stakes (Fillies' and Mares' Group 1) and race 3.10: Tattersalls Gold Cup (Group 1).

BETTING: 6-4 Rogue Millennium, 7-2 Orchid Bloom, 9-2 Ocean Jewel, 10-1 You Send Me, Villanova Queen, 12-1 Goldana, 14-1 Gregarina, 33-1 Mammams Girl, Girl Racer.

3.10 TATTERSALLS GOLD CUP (GROUP 1)

Table of race results for Tattersalls Gold Cup (Group 1), including race 1: Auguste Rodin (C/D) and race 2: Crypto Force (C).

BETTING: 4-7 Auguste Rodin, 11-2 White Birch, Elegant Man, 8-1 Lumiere Rock, 20-1 Mashhoor, 33-1 Lord Massusus, Hans Andersen, Crypto Force.

3.45 TATTERSALLS IRISH 1,000 GUINEAS (FILLIES' GROUP 1)

Table of race results for Tattersalls Irish 1,000 Guineas (Fillies' Group 1), including race 1: Lilac Rolla (C) and race 2: Alpheratz (D).

BETTING: 15-8 Opera Singer, 5-1 Vespertilio, Fallen Angel, 8-1 Purple Lily, Buttons, 10-1 A Lilac Rolla, 14-1 Azada, 16-1 Skellet, 20-1 others.

## CRICKET

## Revitalised Stokes takes four to put Somerset on back foot

By Andrew Tong

Ben Stokes showed fine form with the ball once again as in-form Somerset were bundled out for 171 on the first day of the Division One match at Chester-le-Street.

The England Test captain is testing his bowling stamina and he sent back two early victims in figures of 4 for 54 to add to his five-fer in the last match against Lancashire.

He was then out for a duck as second-placed Somerset came back at the hosts but David Bedingham hit his fourth century in a row, an unbeaten 100 off 109 balls, and Durham replied with 177 for 6.

Leaders Surrey suffered a setback in their bid for a third straight Championship crown as Hampshire's Kyle Abbott snatched 5 for 25 to bowl them out for just 127 at Southampton.

The South African paceman demolished the tail, the last seven wickets falling for 38. But it was slow left-arm veteran Liam Dawson who did the early damage, capturing the top three.

Essex made a statement early on at Canterbury, openers Dean Elgar (77) and Nick Browne (65) putting on 146 for the first wicket against Kent.

They were clawed back to 224 for 4 but the home attack, weakened by injuries, made no further inroads as third-placed Essex posted 287 for 4 with Jordan Cox unbeaten on 51.

Tom Bailey took all the wickets as Lancashire restricted Warwickshire to 89 for 3 on a curtailed day at Old Trafford.

Worcestershire's return to New Road after eight floods over the winter ended in a frustration as there was no play against Nottinghamshire.



Kyle Abbott of Hampshire laid waste to Surrey's lower order

## ENGLAND

# Resurgent Reece is on top of the world at last

Left-arm paceman is finally ready take T20 showpiece by storm, writes **Chris Stocks**

There have been times over the past decade when Reece Topley could have been forgiven for wondering whether the cricket gods were conspiring against him.

Now, with the T20 World Cup round the corner, his left-arm angle of attack could mean he is finally the right man in the right place for the defending champions.

Topley's list of injuries is as lengthy as the roll call of false starts that have impacted his career since he made his England bow against Australia in a T20 international at Cardiff back in August 2015.

He missed out on the last T20 World Cup in 2022 when he ruptured ankle ligaments after stepping on a boundary sponge during a fielding drill. His 50-over World Cup in India last year was cut similarly short when he broke a finger fielding off his own bowling in England's group stage massacre by South Africa in Mumbai.

Now, fresh from a second stint in the Indian Premier League (IPL) – his first was cut short when he dislocated his shoulder while fielding in his opening appearance in the competition in 2023 – the 30-year-old finds himself at the start of a potentially career-defining summer.

And far from cursing his luck, he's increasingly confident – despite being unsure as to what the future will bring, not just for himself, but for the sport as a whole.

"These injuries come along, what can you do?" he tells *i*. "It was pretty unfortunate to get an injury like that [at the IPL], they happen – and they seem to keep happening to me, but it's not through any wrongdoing on my part."

"The injury at the IPL and at the two World Cups, they're just things that can't be helped. There's no point wondering why, it's not through a lack of effort or preparation. People get calf injuries or hamstring injuries, but these are impact accidents that could really happen to anyone."

Topley returned from IPL duty with the Royal Challengers Bangalore in time for England's current series against Pakistan – the first match was abandoned on Wednesday – which is serving as their build-up to the World Cup.

With England's white-ball stars in high demand at the world's richest short-format competition, Topley witnessed first hand the passion generated by a tournament that has turned the cricket world on its head since 2008. And created more

than its fair share of headaches for governing bodies across the globe.

"It's incredible," he says. "You never want to get to the point when it's English cricket or the IPL, because there's only winner – one is going to steamroll the other. It's not anything to hide from, that's just the stark reality. You can see what's happening in South Africa, where they've worked with the board to create a tournament that pretty much cast aside the Test team back in January. It happens, whether you like it or not, and it's better to have a seat at the table, because it's going to happen anyway."

Topley (*right*) has also suffered five stress fractures and it seemed likely that he might be lost to the sport completely but his fortunes have been transformed. Now he's an invaluable part of an England white-ball side looking to defend their T20 crown and banish memories of their 50-over World Cup humbling last winter.

"Obviously if injuries hadn't hampered me I might have been in this place a few years sooner," he says, "but I just like going out there to contribute to the national side and I'm hungry for so much more."

"I'm looking forward to this World Cup and then hopefully I'll be able to play a part in a couple more global events. With the landscape as it is currently I can 100 per cent say that I want to play for England for as long as I can."

"But this is a sport that's ever-changing. Right now, I want to play in the Champions Trophy next year and then the World Cup. There's a lot more to come."

Topley's mind is made up, for the moment at least. Whether those who follow him have a similar desire to put country before cash remains to be seen.

"I think year-round franchise contracts will definitely happen," he says. "I've played with players in various teams that are effectively contracted year-round to certain franchises. There's some criteria to be ironed out, particularly when it comes to drafts and auctions, but I think it will be good for cricket when it does happen."

"It's important that we don't hide away. The fans vote with their feet. The Test arena in various countries: when the West Indies won in Brisbane in the winter there was hardly anyone there."

"I just feel that we need to get to the point where we're giving the fans what they want. That's not to say there isn't a place for Test cricket, but the money generated by franchise cricket keeps the lights on for everyone involved in the sport."



DARTS



# LUKE LIVELY

**B**elieve it or not, there is some debate on the sports desk about whether or not darts is a sport. What cannot be questioned is that Luke Littler is phenomenal at what he does, whatever you want to call it.

There is something messianic about Littler. On Thursday night, the O2 in London was like one of those American televangelist megachurches, only more pure of spirit. Everyone was worshipping Littler, who became Premier League champion at the first time of asking, aged 17.

But there is also something Messi-anic – as in Lionel – about the boy. Having blown away Michael Smith in the semi-final it was nip and tuck in the final against Luke Humphries, the world No 1 on the Professional Darts Corporation's (PDC) order of merit who beat him in the World Championship final in January.

Level at the break, Littler brought out the big guns. A nine-dart finish gave him a 6-5 lead on his way to an 11-7 victory for his first major title. I have not felt such exhilaration at the O2 since Prince played the riff at the start of "Kiss" in 2007. Super Bowls, Cup finals, Champions League; this was up there with them all.

Whether a real sport or not, Littler continues to reshape landscapes, with **Ben Saunders** a signed-up member of the teen's fan club

It was a moment to hug whoever was standing next to you, whether you knew them or not. Beer spilling everywhere, Littler's brilliance elicited pure joy, all too rarely seen in so many sports these days. For this is what we are witnessing with Littler; the early days of sporting greatness.

The comparison to Messi might well be disrespectful – to Littler. You are not going to find kids running round all over the world wearing "Luke The Nuke" shirts, like you do Messi's Inter Miami kits. However, in terms of dominating his sport, he could well surpass the eight-times Ballon d'Or winner.

Darts transformed into an arena sport when Barry Hearn's PDC moved the World Championship to Alexandra Palace in 2007. But it could not have happened without Phil Taylor. By then, "The Power" had won 11 PDC titles. And it was

his dominance, as much as Hearn's marketing nous, that transformed darts into the bacchanalian celebration in large indoor arenas it is now.

Put simply, sports fans love watching great sportspeople. Is Max Verstappen's dominance good for Formula One? You can debate that till the cows come home, but it has not stopped people watching it.

Tom Brady did not put people off the NFL, likewise Michael Jordan with the NBA. And when push comes to shove, this is why Littler is so great for darts.

And the best thing about it? Darts knows this and appreciates it. Seeing Humphries applauding and embracing Littler after the nine-darter was the perfect antidote to a (football) Premier League whose news agenda has been dominated by points deductions, 115 charges, letters to Howard Webb and, this week, spot-fixing allegations.

One of the sport's biggest myths is that you have to be a horrible person to be a winner. When legendary former Green Bay Packers head coach Vince Lombardi said: "show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser," it was about as anti-sport as you can get. Unfortunately, it was exacerbated by Sir Alex Ferguson and Arsène Wenger and perfected by Jose Mourinho.

Taylor was 12 years older than Littler when he won his first of his 16 world titles. He was more than three times his age when he won the last. His records could be obliterated.

Right now, darts is all about Littler and, as Wayne Mardle said on Sky Sports after Thursday's final: "Why wouldn't it be?" More power to darts for appreciating this.

Littler's win this week was a moment to hug whoever was standing next to you, whether you knew them or not

FORMULA ONE

## Hamilton behind only Leclerc as Monaco GP heats up

By Philip Duncan  
IN MONTE CARLO

Lewis Hamilton raised the prospect of challenging at the sharp end of the grid for the Monaco Grand Prix after he finished second in practice.

Hamilton earlier put his Silver Arrows at the top of the order in the first session and later in the day ended up just 0.188 seconds behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc. Fernando Alonso was third for Aston Martin – nearly half-a-second back and one place ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen – with McLaren's Lando Norris fifth.

Hamilton has not won a race since the penultimate round of the campaign in 2021 in Saudi Arabia, but the seven-time world champion enjoyed a rare strong day in his Mercedes.

The out-of-sorts Silver Arrows have arrived for the eighth round of the campaign in the principality with a revised floor. And they can take encouragement from Hamilton's early speed at a venue in which he has won three times previously. Ferrari, too, will be emboldened by Leclerc's pace as he bids to take a first home win. But for Verstappen – just as in Imola a week ago – he endured a scruffy start to his weekend.

The Dutchman complained that his car was jumping around like a kangaroo and he had a number of close shaves with the barriers. Verstappen could count himself fortunate to escape without any serious damage when his left-rear wheel clouted the Armco as he approached Portier.

"I f\*\*king hit the wall there," he said over the radio before heading back to the pits. The triple world champion has won five of the opening seven rounds.



Lewis Hamilton has won the Monaco Grand Prix three times

## TENNIS

# Raducanu making a tactical gamble to prioritise SW19

**James Gray**

AT ROLAND GARROS



Emma Raducanu has a plan, a plan that if it works will reestablish her as the darling of British tennis.

If it fails, she will have skipped one of the slams for nothing. Success, ultimately, would be winning Wimbledon. But a return to the second week would be enough to justify her shunning of the French Open.

Raducanu, 22, pulled out of the clay court major last week. She had requested a wildcard after failing to qualify for the tournament on ranking but missed out – all six available went to French players – and did not choose to play the qualifying event.

“It’s important for me to keep laying on the foundations and I will use the time to do a healthy block before the grass and subsequent hard court seasons to give myself a chance to keep fit for the rest of the year,” she said.

There was no mention of an injury. The suspicion is she was worried about being schooled again as she was by little-known Maria Lourdes Carle in Madrid.

“She was probably hoping that she was just going to get straight into main draw,” Tim Henman, a French Open semi-finalist, tells **i**.

“If she just wants to continue to build fitness, and then get ready for the grass, then that’s her prerogative. I wouldn’t read too much into it.

“She’s played some great tennis on clay, Billie Jean King Cup and Stuttgart. But she’s going to be even better on on grass so I would be focusing on that.”

Raducanu has announced she will play Nottingham, the WTA tournament that starts the day after the French Open on 10 June. She is entered in Birmingham the week after, but will need a wildcard to get in, while Eastbourne the week before Wimbledon is also an option. She is extremely unlikely to play all three, understandably cautious not to overload 12 months on from injuries that required three surgeries. Instead, she will work with coach Nick Cavaday and Britain’s head of women’s tennis Iain Bates to peak at exactly the right time. The intention will be to produce her best tennis at Wimbledon, the tournament where she made her breakthrough three years ago by reaching the fourth round. Raducanu’s days involve double gym sessions and double tennis sessions, having moved from hard-court work to grass this week.

In that sense, there is a kind of logic to skipping three weeks of clay-court tennis, the surface that is the least like the slick grass courts of Wimbledon.

But British No 1 Katie Boulter would not agree. In fact, she believes her work on the red dirt, where she has only played five tour-level matches in her whole career, is making her a better player overall.

“[Clay] is a bit of a leveller. You can’t really get any cheap points here and there,” Boulter said.

“So a lot of my weapons can be equalised and I have to find different ways and more creative ways of actually winning matches.”

Henman too (*above*), whose serve-and-volley style could not have been less suited to

**I will use the time to do a healthy block before the grass and hard court seasons to give myself a chance to keep fit**

clay, relished the challenge of improvement on the surface and insists he never considered skipping Roland Garros

“I knew that if I did play well on clay, then it would make the other surfaces much easier. But just the work, the practice, the matches, the movement... it’s a great foundation and so I always enjoyed the clay court season.

“And inevitably, I think my expectations were a little bit less and so therefore I felt there was kind of nothing to lose and everything to gain.

“When I reflect on making the semis in Monte Carlo or making the semis of the French and some of the people I beat – Albert Costa, French Open champion, Gaston Gaudio, French Open champion – I beat a lot of good players on clay.”

Raducanu has a couple of scalps too on the surface. She won four matches in a row to start her clay season this year, the best against Caroline Garcia, then ranked No 23, before turning up to Madrid, complaining of the “brutal” nature of the tour and heading home for what turned out to be more than a month without a tournament.

It leaves British representation at the French Open, in the women’s draw, fairly meagre.

Jodie Burrage, who did get in on direct entry, is on crutches and in a protective boot, awaiting scan results on an ankle she twisted in practice. Harriet Dart did at least make the start line but will play No 27 Linda Noskova and is a significant underdog. Boulter, seeded, has drawn former world No 2 Paula Badosa.

The inquest may start as soon as Tuesday, when Raducanu’s absence in Paris will be even more keenly felt.

But all will be forgiven if she goes well at Wimbledon. That’s the plan – but plans rarely survive contact with the enemy. Watch every moment from Roland-Garros live across Eurosport and discovery+ from 20 May to 9 June



Emma Raducanu has made a decision to prioritise Wimbledon GETTY

## RUGBY UNION



# ‘Toulouse should win but don’t write off Leinster’

reland legend Brian O’Driscoll has described as “unthinkable” that Leinster will fall at the Champions Cup final hurdle for a fourth time since 2019. But he makes Toulouse “marginal favourites” for what could be “a game for the ages” at

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium today. “Can Leinster get over that final hoodoo of the last two years, and back in 2019 as well?” TNT Sports pundit O’Driscoll tells **i**. “You know, it’s kind of unthinkable to do four finals in six years and not win any.”

O’Driscoll won the Champions Cup three times as a peerless centre with Leinster in 2009, 2011 and 2012, before the boys in blue added a fourth in 2018.

But Leinster were beaten by

**Hugh Godwin**

RUGBY UNION CORRESPONDENT



Saracens in Newcastle in 2019, and had fresh agony in 2022 and 2023, both times losing the final by a whisker to La Rochelle.

Asked if there were parallels with Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund in football’s Champions League final at Wembley next Saturday, O’Driscoll said: “Well, I’ll tell you why comparing Leinster to Dortmund would be doing them a disservice. If you’re looking at an equivalent in European football,



you're probably looking at Real Madrid versus Liverpool. And who wouldn't want to watch that game?

"If you look at the quality of Toulouse and Leinster, the history they have in the competition, the rugby that they play, the excitement levels they bring and the X-factor individuals in each team – there are at least five reasons to watch it.

"It has the potential to be a game for the ages, such is the quality of these two teams and it is very hard to call. Probably just favourites in Toulouse, but it's marginal."

Leinster are chock-full of Ireland's Six Nations winners of the last two seasons, and wing James Lowe jointly leads this season's Champions Cup try charts with Bordeaux Bègles' Louis Bielle-Biarrey, on six, one ahead of Toulouse's wing Matthis Lebel, scrum-half Antoine Dupont and hooker Peato Mauvaka.

Dupont has made 110 carries in this season's Champions Cup – 19 more than any other player.

The 27-year-old captain of the record five-time European champions, missed the Six Nations to try out for his country's Olympic sevens team – but he has been available throughout Toulouse's Champions Cup campaign.

"It's very hard to put your finger on what style of rugby Toulouse play," O'Driscoll says. "They have got an all-court game, they've got the capacity with some of their outside backs to score and create some magnificent eye-catching tries. But then they can stick it up their jumper too, they can maul you over, they can play the power game, they've got a great offloading game. So they're very hard to analyse and put in a particular box.

**Ireland international Jamison Gibson-Park (left) and Toulouse's France talisman Antoine Dupont (right) will clash in Tottenham today. Brian O'Driscoll (below) has tipped his former Dublin club to suffer yet more heartache**

GETTY



"From a Leinster perspective, they don't have the athletes that other teams have had, particularly the French teams, so they have to play with a bit more width, with a bit more deception, less bludgeon – but they are trying to bring that component into their game via their defence, which has worked pretty well thus far. It's got them to another final."

South Africa's double World Cup-winning coach Jacques Nienaber, long-time right-hand man to Rassie Erasmus, joined Leinster this season and has revamped their defence.

Leinster scrum-half Jamison Gibson-Park, another Ireland regular, says: "We've put everything in trying to move forward with the arrival of some new coaches, who have changed a lot of things. Jacques has a great personality and gives off positive energy to the squad.

"We hope that our defensive system will make the difference in the final by disrupting a Toulouse team who like to run with the ball."

And yet O'Driscoll agrees with regular observers in Dublin who say Leinster are not quite at the pitch of the last two seasons.

"Yeah, I definitely feel that," O'Driscoll tells *i*. "If you look at the quality they produced last year, in particular, they were overwhelming favourites going into the final and came unstuck.

"You look at the quality they've produced this year, [it is] still very good. But I don't think the detail in their attack has been there like it was last year, I don't think their quality of passing is as good this year as it was last year.

"You look at a new coach coming in and a new defensive system, that obviously has to have taken a huge amount of time and effort and energy. And so it's very hard to maintain all the other parts to your game, when you're reinventing the defensive system that you've run for a number of years – which wasn't bad, by the way.

"I don't want to give them an out by saying it's a natural thing when you focus on one aspect of the game with so much intensity that something else is going to slip. But I definitely feel as though they're coming into this final a fraction more under the radar than they have done in the last two years.

"On the back of what we've seen thus far, Toulouse are the marginal favourites because of the quality and the scores that they have

built and created. Putting Exeter to the sword the way they did [in the quarter-final], the five tries in the first half against Harlequins... it's just a firepower, it feels like they're a better version of their 2021 selves when they won [against La Rochelle] at Twickenham."

Watch Leinster v Toulouse in the Investec Champions Cup final exclusively live on TNT Sports 1 and discovery+ from 1:30pm today. For more info visit [tntsports.com](http://tntsports.com)

## EPCR CHALLENGE CUP



### Sharks coast to Cup past Gloucester

Sharks fly-half Siya Masuku (above) kicked five penalties and three conversions for a combined 21 points as his side defeated Gloucester 36-22 in the

EPCR Challenge Cup final at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium last night. Pepsi Buthelezi, Aphelele Fassi and Makazole Mapimpi scored their three tries.

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## FOOTBALL

## ITV in talks with Sky to broadcast EFL games next season

**Exclusive**

By James Gray

SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

ITV is in talks with Sky Sports over a £15m deal to show up to 20 games from the Championship and the Carabao Cup next season, *i* has learned.

It is understood that terrestrial broadcasters were approached to discuss a sub-licence after Sky sealed a five-year deal with the Football League (EFL) to show all league and cup fixtures live.

That contract is worth £935m to the EFL and will run until 2029, with Sky promising to broadcast more than half of all EFL games on TV or via their new Sky Sports+ streaming platform. However, *i* understands Sky is now looking to offset some of that cost by agreeing a deal under which at least 19 games are shown by a free-to-air broadcaster.

Preliminary conversations were had with Channel 4 and Channel 5, but ITV is understood to have produced the most attractive financial package, worth around £15m, with talks ongoing. ITV also has an existing relationship with the EFL as a highlights partner.

Subscription broadcasters such as Prime Video, TNT Sports and DAZN were not approached because of Sky's desire to give the Football League greater reach. EFL clubs will be asked to vote on the basic terms of the deal next Thursday, after which – if approved – Sky will enter a formal period of contract negotiations with ITV.

A positive outcome is not guaranteed but insiders say almost everything is on the table, including first choice of matches, although not exclusivity: all games shown on ITV will be also be simulcast on Sky.

In its current form, the deal will include one match from each of the first four rounds with one additional match from the third or fourth, two quarter-finals, one of the semi-finals and the final.

## CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF FINAL

# Russell influence could help Saints into new future

Southampton always prided themselves on selling players, but the ocean that exists between choice and necessity is vast and deep. The four clubs in Europe who sold players for the most money last summer can be categorised as those in the financial elite who wished to fund further spending (PSG and Chelsea) and those who pride themselves on selling high and reinvesting (RB Leipzig and Brighton). Next came a second-tier club on the south coast.

The bleak assessment is that Southampton had been circling the drain of their own incompetence for too long. The plan to buy young, develop and sell high had wholly fallen down after recruitment mistakes and managerial missteps. Ralph Hasenhüttl's first season in charge was an exception: Southampton had finished between 15th and 17th in four of the previous five years.

Then, as so often happens away from the economically mighty clique, errors piled up to create a wave of inevitable decline that washed over the club.

The recent arrival of a new majority owner, Serbian Dragan Solak, exacerbated the problem because he was prepared to

**Daniel Storey**

CHIEF FOOTBALL WRITER



throw money at it. Three managers were sacked in 12 months and more than £50m spent on transfer fees last January. None of it made much difference, other than to make things worse.

The punishment, beyond Championship football for the first time in 12 years, was a loss of the crown jewels: the young (Nathan Tella, Romeo Lavia, Tino Livramento, Mohammed Salisu, the loaned (Carlos Alcaraz, Armel Bella-Kotchap, Duje Caleta-Car, Paul Onuachu) and the dependable (James Ward-Prowse). Southampton had an owner who supporters knew little about, no manager, no captain and the core of the team had been ripped out.

One effective way of establishing a new identity is to appoint a coach whose tactical philosophy is instantly apparent; there was no English manager who fits that bill better than Russell Martin. By the age of 38, and at MK Dons and Swansea City, Martin had



gained a reputation for an emphatic commitment to possession and high pressing. If Southampton supporters were unsure of much else, they at least knew how their team would try to get promoted.

The methodology and results both stood out after an acclimatisation period during which Southampton took 10 points from their first eight league matches. Since then and until the end of the season, no Championship team took more points. It included a 23-game unbeaten league run (half their entire season) that broke a club record.

Southampton recorded an average possession 10 per cent higher than any of the 20 Championship teams who finished below them, but the standout statistic is their number of touches in the attacking third of the pitch. The Championship's average was 6,380 but Southampton had more than 9,500.

There were caveats, for outside of the 23-game run this was rarely plain sailing. Martin's team, largely

because of occasional lapses in their pressing and thus being caught with too many players high up the pitch, conceded only two fewer goals than relegated Birmingham City and more than QPR. They allowed four or more goals on four occasions, more than the rest of the division's top five combined. Results against Ipswich and Leicester, four defeats and 13 conceded goals, suggests that the playoffs was their appropriate end result.

Southampton are fun again – that is worth reflecting upon for a moment for it counts for plenty. During those Premier League water-treading seasons, it's very easy to lose faith as a supporter. For those who spend time, money and effort on the road every other weekend, this had become an emotional emergency: 11 away league wins in three years.

This season, no team in England's top three tiers had been involved in matches with more goals. Winning will always be the king that every supporter kneels before most readily, but after a deep funk it's

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**Southampton pair Adam Armstrong (near left) and Ryan Manning hope to still be celebrating after they take on Leeds United at Wembley tomorrow** GETTY

sometimes enough to witness a little mania and mystery. Martin has brought an identity back and with it, inevitably, great interest.

Which means something or everything until kick off at Wembley tomorrow afternoon, when it then means nothing at all. The first season down in the Championship can allow reality to be temporarily suspended thanks to parachute payments and the growing gap between the top two divisions. Go straight back up and you can ignore all of the cries of crisis.

For Southampton and Leeds, then, an entirely different narrative than a year ago when Coventry City and Luton Town met under the arch. In 2023, Wembley hosted two clubs with dreams of the ultimate completion of a redemption arc. Now it's all about avoiding the worst of what relegation always prescribes eventually: enforced austerity if you stick around.

In March, Southampton

announced an £87m loss for 2022-23, a total surpassed only by Everton and Aston Villa in the Premier League. Spot the difference: neither of those two were forced to forgo full Premier League broadcast revenue this season. Players were sold, but who is feasibly left? Kyle Walker-Peters for sure and then...not enough. Che Adams (far left) may well leave on a free transfer. Kamaldeen Sulemana and Gavin Bazunu are young but were signed for large fees.

Martin (above), his style and his players, have created opportunity for a good news story, the speedy recovery and the chance to atone for five bad years. But that requires victory and only victory will do.

Southampton are certainly marching in somewhere – they stand on the edge of a new era, of that we can at least be sure. What that era entails is far less defined. It may depend entirely upon what happens tomorrow.



## LEEDS UNITED

# If Farke's men go up there will be a riot of emotions

Having heard their classic "I Predict a Riot" become the soundtrack of a night for the ages as Leeds United brushed aside Norwich, the city's favourite musical sons have offered themselves up for an impromptu gig – if Daniel Farke's men do the job tomorrow.

"We'd definitely be up for it," Simon Rix, Kaiser Chiefs bassist, Supporters' Trust board member, season ticket-holder and presenter of popular Leeds podcast *Don't Go to Bed Just Yet* tells **i**.

"Leicester did a big Kasabian gig to celebrate but that was winning the Premier League, I don't know about winning promotion.

"But I'm sure there'd be a bus parade if we did it and if there needs to be Kaiser Chiefs involvement, I'm sure someone has my phone number."

It was an "amazing, surreal" moment for Rix that his band's best-known hit rang around Elland Road after the 4-0 playoff semi-final win over Norwich on 16 May.

Just 20 years ago the club deemed a song that had the word riot in it to be "too racy" for match days but it sums up Elland Road emotions perfectly this season – tension, joy, disbelief and, if they win tomorrow, a sense of thumbing their nose at critics who claimed they were in too much of a mess to bounce right back.

"It's the ultimate tribute to the song because you just can't force it with football crowds. It either feels authentic or it doesn't so I'm just so pleased it's become a bit of an anthem this season," Rix says.

It is certainly better than the alternative often heard around West Yorkshire, a play on Joy Division's "Love Will Tear Us Apart" adapted to goad Leeds about their propensity to wilt under pressure.

It was sung by Leicester's Kieran Dewsbury-Hall at their promotion party and then again by Ipswich players as they toasted pipping Farke's side to second place. But a defiant version of it is in the songbook of Leeds supporters too.

"Leeds fans sing it to have a dig at themselves," Simon Grayson, who managed his boyhood club Leeds between 2008-12, tells **i**.

He knows all about how suffocating the expectation at Elland Road can sometimes prove. In 2009-10 his Leeds side flew out of the

**Mark Douglas**

NORTHERN FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT



blocks in League One, only to stumble in the run-in and leave them requiring a victory against Bristol Rovers in front of a home sell-out to clinch promotion.

They prevailed despite going a man down, then a goal down, and the celebrations were as much driven by relief at not having to endure the playoffs as they were joy at returning to the Championship.

"I think the fans will probably go into this weekend a little bit fearful," Grayson admits. The club have lost five of the six playoff campaigns they have played in, and not prevailed at Wembley since the 1992 Charity Shield.

"I've said quite a bit this week that the only issue with the playoffs is with the supporters, not the playoffs," he says.

"I had this situation with Preston in 2015. We were nine times as a club failing at getting promotion through the playoffs and I just kept saying to the group 'That's got nothing to do with me as a coach, you as a group of players, because we are not mentally scarred with any of that'. I said to them 'We can go down in history – go and use that'.

"If I was in Daniel's position my last words to them in the dressing

room would be 'We're not mentally scarred, go and be history-makers'. The players have no scars. It would be an easy excuse for them."

Bonds were broken between club and the support base during two bruising years in the Premier League, the dismissal of the revered manager Marcelo Bielsa being the final straw for many.

The summer takeover by 49ers Enterprises, already a minority shareholder, ushered in a new era.

"We needed a clean slate. The trust and bond had been broken," Rix says. "These guys came in and what I quite like about them is this isn't about the ownership group. You see it at Chelsea to some extent and we had it with [previous majority shareholder] Andrea Radrizzani – who I quite liked and thought did a decent job – that it was all about him and getting his credit.

"The 49ers want to do the job quietly, be effective, get the right people in the right jobs. With Daniel Farke they did the right thing of identifying someone who would be an expert at the Championship level. Things were a bit of a mess but Daniel did such a good job of guiding us though that, talking honestly with the fans and the press.

"He was honest that it would be tough but we'd get through it. He was strong on [Willy] Gnonto wanting to leave, he got the signings right – [Ethan] Ampadu has turned out to be an amazing signing – and has kept the right players.

"I credit the 49ers because they got Farke. There's been a lot of problems, on and off the pitch, but he's come up with solutions. Whether that's Archie Gray at right-back or whatever. He's managed to get them to raise their game for the playoffs and hopefully he can do it one more time."

If Leeds do go up, Farke – an unfussy, unshowy manager whose messaging and tactics have often been spot-on – deserves plenty of credit. Perhaps his greatest trick has been transforming the mood after Leeds' end-of-season slump. "I had started to look at the teams coming down, thinking 'We can beat them next season'," Rix admits.

"But the way we beat Norwich, the way we turned around our form... I'm starting to get excited about Sunday now, which might not be a good thing."



**Daniel Farke transformed the mood at Elland Road after a late slump**

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## NEWCASTLE UNITED

# Toon to switch focus to keeper as defensive pair near arrival

Newcastle United will step up efforts to bring in a younger goalkeeper to compete with Nick Pope as they wrap up a double deal for Bournemouth's Lloyd Kelly and Fulham's Tosin Adarabioyo.

**I** understands that Newcastle believe a deal for defender Kelly has been clinched – despite late, revived interest from Tottenham Hotspur – while “concrete progress” has been made on a move for highly-rated free agent Adarabioyo this week.

Manchester United have also shown an interest in the 26-year-old but Newcastle have been more proactive and an agreement could come as early as next week. It would represent superb business if Newcastle clinched both free agents and plug gaps created by the serious injuries suffered by Sven Botman and Jamaal Lascelles.

And **i** understands that Newcastle have held talks with Valencia over Giorgi Mamardashvili, the Georgia goalkeeper who has been a long-term target.

Mamardashvili, 23, is rated at £30m by his club, and is understood to be keen on moving to the Premier League but no formal offer has been tabled. The feeling in Spain is one will arrive in coming weeks.

Arsenal's Aaron Ramsdale is also of interest but the club may be wary of arming the Gunners with profit and sustainability rules (PSR) headroom to fund a potential move for Bruno Guimarães, who has a £100m release clause that expires at the end



**Mark Douglas**

NORTHERN FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

of next month. **i** understands Arsenal need to sell fringe players to fund moves but the prospect of spending £100m is unlikely without substantial player trading.

Newcastle fans have been perplexed by the club's interest in a new goalkeeper but, as **i** revealed in January, the department is set for a shake up with Martin Dubravka's future uncertain. The drop off when he replaced Pope was marked and he is likely to move down the pecking order next season, even if his camp are hoping for a contract offer.

Although fourth choice Mark Gillespie has signed for another year, Loris Karius will become a free agent and while Newcastle believe they have an outstanding crop of younger goalkeepers in the academy, most of them – such as Max Thompson, who impressed at Northampton this season – need loans to develop.

Pope, just back from five months out with a serious shoulder injury, is 32 and bringing in a younger, elite keeper would challenge him while also easing the pressure on any new signing to adapt immediately. If Newcastle qualify for the Europa Conference League – which will happen if Manchester United lose

the FA Cup final today – there will be plenty of games for Eddie Howe to rotate his squad.

Newcastle also want a younger, versatile forward and have maintained a watching brief on Rennes' Désiré Doué, 18. His agent Mikaël Silvestre told **i** last year Newcastle had watched the player – valued at £35m.

To continue to recruit, the club will need to sell players but the agent of Miguel Almiron – one of those the Magpies may look to move on – claims Newcastle have turned down offers from Premier League rivals.

“Other clubs have asked about him but Newcastle don't want to sell. The Saudi Arabian market is hovering. There may be news but he is comfortable,” Daniel Campos, Almiron's representative, said.

Newcastle's recruitment efforts are continuing despite the setback of Dougie Freedman rejecting their overtures to succeed Dan Ashworth as director of football.

Freedman was Newcastle's number one choice but informed the club yesterday he would be staying at Crystal Palace. The club are now set to return to the drawing board with plans to appoint by the end of this month now deemed unfeasible.

As **i** reported earlier this month, the priority for the recruitment role is Premier League experience. They are also set to appoint a performance director at a later date.



Defender Lloyd Kelly is close to completing a move to Newcastle

## PREMIER LEAGUE

# New kids on block should stay put

**Michael Hincks** urges McKenna and Maresca to resist big clubs' lure

**T**he merry-go-round does not stop, it just gets wilder, with those on the ride desperate to emulate the stability of clubs nowhere near this carnival of chaos.

The current rulers are the calmest of all. Following Jürgen Klopp's exit, Pep Guardiola is now the Premier League's longest-serving manager, the Catalan having shaken hands with four Manchester United and six Chelsea bosses since taking charge of Manchester City in July 2016.

He will meet new faces in the dugout next season, too. At Chelsea, that is a certainty. The departure of Mauricio Pochettino has the Blues searching again, while at United a change is surely in the offing, a season of record lows expected to prove Erik ten Hag's downfall – FA Cup glory this afternoon or not.

With City expected to collect their 15th major trophy under Guardiola, United will likely watch on from Wembley

with envy, so too Chelsea from a few miles away. This is what they want, a legacy, and where they want to return to: the very top.

That, though, would require patience, and while the barefaced reality is that no other English club will forge a dynasty while Guardiola remains at City, years of volatility have United and Chelsea way back in the pecking order.

Arsenal's faith in Mikel Arteta has the Gunners next in line, while Liverpool will know from their

## SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

# I can't even remember the last time I lost a cup final, says Celtic skipper McGregor

By Gavin McCafferty

Celtic captain Callum McGregor cannot even remember his last cup final defeat but the pain of losing continues to drive him.

McGregor will lift his seventh trophy in three years as skipper if Celtic beat Rangers in today's Scottish Cup final and collect the 22nd major winners' medal in his professional career.

The winning habit was long ingrained. The midfielder won four consecutive Scottish Youth Cup finals for Celtic.

“The way that I've been brought up, the way that my football career has panned out so far, I've tried to maximise every opportunity that I've got and at the start of the season, I want to try and win everything

that we're in,” the 30-year-old said. “When you lose one, then it hurts and that stays with you and throughout my career, I've tried to limit the amount of teams that I felt like that.

“So, come Saturday, I'm going to try and limit the amount of times I feel like that again.



Callum McGregor with Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers

“So that's where I am and that's what I try to get across to the players – that come Saturday afternoon, we obviously want to be the one standing with the trophy.”

McGregor genuinely could not remember when he last suffered a cup final loss.

“I don't know,” he said. “It's been a while and there's obviously been a bit made about that in previous years but when they get to these occasions, I just try and really focus in on the occasion, on the game, what you have got to do to make it a success and focus on the team.

“And, again, that will be the thing that gets us over the line, that selflessness and team ethic and doing all the really nasty bits of the game.”





Enzo Maresca celebrates promotion with his Leicester City players GETTY

persistence with Klopp that the prospect of Arne Slot not winning silverware straight away should be no cause for alarm. Slot outlasting the next Chelsea and United incumbents already seems likely, all because Liverpool know better.

A desire for longevity has led to some snap decisions from Chelsea

and United, as well as left-field thinking, with managers lacking top-flight experience now in line to follow those who have won domestic titles on the continent.

Kieran McKenna is on United's radar, the club meeting his representatives this week, while the Ipswich Town manager is also on a four-man Chelsea shortlist that includes Leicester City's Enzo Maresca.

For both, or either, it would be some leap. Not quite the failing upwards that Vincent Kompany will enjoy from Burnley to Bayern Munich, but rather a reward for their respective successes, one that could lead to big decisions being made before they make their Premier League bows – stick or twist.

Like Kompany, 44-year-old Maresca is another disciple of Guardiola, who he assisted in 2022-23, who is understandably being coveted after steering Leicester to the Championship title.

Squint and you could mistake him for

**Frank Lampard, whose decision to jump from Derby to Chelsea in 2019 at the age of 41 was awfully ill-judged**

the Manchester City manager, more so when the Italian talks inverted full-backs and occupying the right space.

McKenna is more intriguing. Back-to-back promotions whave put the 38-year-old firmly in the spotlight, while his ties with United – a boyhood fan and under-18 coach there from 2016 to 2018 – adds romance to a potential return.

But isn't this all too soon? Has Xabi's Alonso's success at Bayer Leverkusen blinded us all? The fast pace with which football moves has pushed recent failings into the realms of long-forgotten memories.

For one, Frank Lampard, whose decision to jump from Derby County to Chelsea in 2019 at the age of 41 was awfully ill-judged.

There was no real need for Lampard to rush, he could have worked his way up for another decade before returning to the club he loved, but he was blinded by the promise of riches he had achieved there as a player, without realising his inexperience would take his reputation backwards.

Out went Lampard in 2021, in came a highly-regarded coach that delivered the Champions League to Chelsea within months, but after the new owners fell out with Thomas Tuchel, they then did not back their own judgement and find out what direction Graham Potter or Pochettino could steer this project in.

And so we are back where we started. Will Chelsea or United ever be content with their managers while Guardiola remains at City? More to the point, will they stick by their choices – like Arsenal with Arteta – while they wait for this reign to end?

It seems unlikely. There are only two trophies that truly appease boards, and while United and Chelsea are some way off competing for the Premier League, it will be another year at least before they are competing in the Champions League again.

With that in mind, Maresca and McKenna would be wise to ignore the advances of their confused suitors – for now. If they are talented coaches, if they believe that the cream really does rise to the top, then they should also know that rushing the process is futile and could lead to spoiled goods.

Instead, they should see value in experiencing the Premier League away from the pressure-cooker of Stamford Bridge or Old Trafford, and see where it takes them.

Succeed, which in Leicester's or Ipswich's cases would be staying up, then their stock will continue to rise, all before Guardiola vacates the comfier City seat.

Stutter, and hey, maybe they will end up managing Bayern next summer.

## FA CUP FINAL

# I'll take nothing for granted today – I still get nerves, insists Pep

By Richard Tanner

Pep Guardiola insists he is not taking another Manchester City triumph for granted today, even if just about everyone else in the country thinks the FA Cup final is a foregone conclusion.

Just six days after becoming the first club in English history to win four consecutive domestic league titles, City are overwhelming favourites to become the first to win back-to-back doubles.

Their sheer quality and relentless consistency, let alone the stats that show a 35-game unbeaten run in open play in all competitions, stretching back to December, point only one way.

But Guardiola remains wary that despite all their problems this season, Manchester United are still capable of a surprise today.

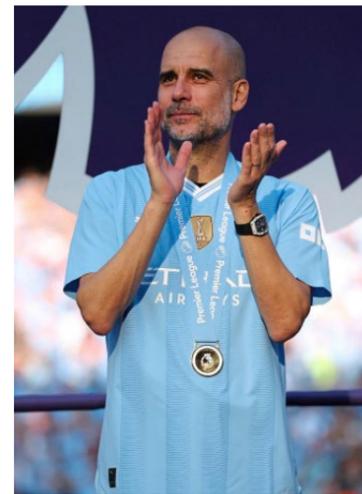
"People think [they know] what will happen because we finished 31 points in front of United," he said. "For long periods we have been better – it is a fact. In the Premier League we were better but this is a different competition and just one game.

"In this type of final against teams like United we know you can lose. Against the top six clubs they always perform well. In the last decade we have been better but in terms of history they are the best team in England so we respect them a lot."

"The players know, they feel it. I only want to be beaten if they are better, not if we are not who we are."

While United have conceded 84 goals in all competitions, Guardiola is wary of their attacking ability, plus the creativity of Bruno Fernandes.

"They have brilliant players – [Alejandro] Garnacho, Fernandes, [Marcus] Rashford, [Rasmus] Hojlund," he added. "The influence of Bruno is



Pep Guardiola is heavily tipped to lead City to retain the FA Cup today

outstanding. His creativity is one of the best I have seen."

Although he sympathises with Erik ten Hag – who was his reserve team coach at Bayern Munich – for the injuries he has endured, he said the only thing that counts is results.

"At big clubs if you don't always win, you are in trouble," he added. "I would be in trouble if we don't win. I have huge respect for his work. I completely agree when he says they did not have a full squad. The squad is really good but if you cannot use the players, the manager suffers a lot."

Guardiola is bidding for his 18th trophy at City, following on from seven at Bayern and 14 at Barcelona, but he insists his motivation to lift silverware is as strong as ever.

"To arrive here is difficult," he said. "People say 'Oh it's City again' but I don't take it for granted. I never have the feeling it doesn't matter. I always feel what a privilege it is. I cannot deny I still get nerves."

## Walker keen to stop United raining on City's parade

By Andy Hampson

Kyle Walker is determined to stop arch-rivals Manchester United raining on Manchester City's parade in today's FA Cup final at Wembley after winning the Premier League.

The England full-back is well aware that United, still smarting after losing last season's final and seeing their 1999 treble emulated by their neighbours, will have a point to prove.

Walker said: "The motivation speaks for itself – to be the first team to do the double double, the first team to win four [league titles] in a row, the first team since Manchester United to do the treble.

"We keep knocking down these hurdles and this is another that we need to knock down.

"But it's against our rivals who

live in the same city and are going to want to rain on our parade.

"We need to make sure that we play the game we have been playing, particularly to the back end of this season.

"We're still coming into training now and wanting to graft and work hard to put the icing on the cake for the season. It's a trophy against your arch-rivals. It's a derby, it's going to be big."

Such is the hunger under inspirational boss Pep Guardiola that Walker, 33, believes their dominance will continue.

He added: "I can assure you, when we come back here for pre-season it might take us a few days to get the cobwebs off, but as soon as that first Premier League game comes, we're straight back into motion and trying to defend our crown. Why can't we do five in a row?"

# NOT EVEN A CUP WIN CAN SAVE TEN HAG

The grand old trophy is now a secondary competition so United coach's insistence on it as a life raft says it all

For Manchester United at least, interest in the FA Cup final is focused not on the outcome so much as what it might mean for coach Erik ten Hag. That might be because the chances of United succeeding against a Manchester City team widely regarded as the finest champions England has ever had, are remote. Or it may reflect the parlous thread by which Ten Hag's reign hangs after a season of deathly regression.

It would help were United to keep City at bay for longer than they managed a year ago when, 12 seconds in, Ilkay Gündogan smashed the quickest goal in FA Cup final history. United actually recovered well, scrambling an equaliser from the spot and appearing plausible for an hour, before City engaged another gear to secure the second leg of their record-equalling treble.

Unless Ten Hag has spent the build-up with his head in the sand he will know in which direction speculation is pointing, namely someone other than he will be rolling out the Ineos vision for United. However, he has an ear for the inner voice, which insists the club remains behind him.

This will be United's 22nd appearance in the final, a record that in another epoch might have

**A second successive FA Cup final has become a life raft on which to cling, not a reflection of upward momentum**

**Kevin Garside**

CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT



reflected the club's status. Today it is merely a token of past eminence, an echo of a time when the world was Fergie-shaped and United bestrode the game with the same hauteur projected today by their imperious neighbours.

That Ten Hag flags the occasion as a significant milestone in this phase of his stewardship tells us more about his faltering grip on reality than the health of the club. He talks about trophies being the ultimate measure, failing to acknowledge that the best way of securing them is by playing the better football. In a data swamp of damning statistics, a second successive FA Cup final has become a life raft on which to cling, not a reflection of upward momentum.

Given the inconclusive signals coming out of Old Trafford, Ten Hag is, perhaps, excused the belief that the club remains invested in him. However, changes elsewhere, including the sudden appearance on the market of Mauricio Pochettino, previously courted by Sir Jim Ratcliffe at his French club Nice, and Roberto De Zerbi have fed into the counter-perception that Ten Hag is cooked. The only question is one of timing. United are caught between the desire to move on and prudence.

In a restrictive financial climate, hanging on to Ten Hag until the next accounting window begins (1 July) would mean any compensation, reported to

be £10m, would fall into next year's accounts. In the new atmosphere of financial rigour and responsibility every million counts, especially with the club needing to sell to finance significant recruitment.

Bookkeeping concerns aside, it is hard to fathom the justifications for keeping Ten Hag in post. A second season of chronically low scoring, failing again to breach 60 goals, a record 14 Premier League defeats, a lowest Premier League finish (eighth), no obvious style or pattern of play. It seems Ten Hag has only excuses to explain all this away, injuries and hierarchical dysfunction being the sum of his argument.

Taking his lead from any headmaster contemplating an end-of-year report as withering as this, you can imagine Ratcliffe rising from his chair to declare: "Sorry boy. This just won't do." For the head of a new regime predicated on data-based, joined-up thinking it would be some departure to retain a manager with Ten Hag's numbers, however compromised he has been by circumstance.

Ten Hag repeatedly refers to the team's spirit, a willingness to fight, of moments of quality. He claims the margins in big games have been small. All of which screams



## MANCHESTER HEADS SOUTH... AGAIN

The 143rd FA Cup final



### ROAD TO WEMBLEY

Manchester City	Round	Manchester United
Huddersfield (h) 5-0	Round 3	2-0 Wigan (a)
Tottenham (a) 1-0	Round 4	4-2 Newport (a)
Luton (a) 6-2	Round 5	1-0 Nott'm Forest (a)
Newcastle (h) 2-0	Quarter-final	4-3* Liverpool (h)
Chelsea (n) 1-0	Semi-final	3-3* Coventry (n)

\*After extra time won 4-2 on pens

### SCORERS EN ROUTE

Manchester City	Manchester United
5 Haaland	3 Fernandes
3 Silva	2 Antony, McTominay
2 Foden	1 Casemiro, Dalot, Diallo, Hojlund, Maguire, Mainoo, Rashford
1 Ake, Alvarez, Doku, Kovacic, og	

### OVERALL TOP SCORERS FA CUP 2023/24

6 E Simms (Coventry), S Szmodics (Blackburn)
5 E Haaland (Man City), J Pedro (Brighton)
4 C O'Hare (Coventry), K Wootton (Stockport)

### MOST FA CUP WINS

14 Arsenal	12 Manchester United
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denial when set against the facts. Over 38 games United finished 31 points behind City in the Premier League having scored 39 goals fewer and let in 24 more. The defeats rise to 19 in all competitions, as opposed to City's four, excluding penalty shootouts.

Wembley promises to be another coruscating appraisal. Of course, United might fashion a positive result. Yet, to speak about United in such reduced terms is itself a grim commentary on the inversion of power in the English game. Twenty-five years ago almost to the day, United authored one of the most memorable endings in the history of the European Cup to claim

Champions League victory against Bayern Munich in Barcelona. Four days later City engineered a similarly epic comeback against Gillingham at Wembley to secure promotion from the third tier.

You could argue that the City team of Goater, Horlock and Dickow were closer to

United then than Ten Hag's ragged ensemble are to City now, such is the canyon-like chasm between the sides. Were he picking on merit, Ten Hag would probably select the majority of City's bench ahead of his own first-choice side.

He teased the finest performance this season from himself with his post-match address after the final home game against Newcastle. He looked and sounded like a man in control. He spoke with authority and vigour about his team, about the energy and fight they would bring to the FA Cup final. But then talking a good game has always been his forte. Delivering one, not so much.

Allegedly under pressure from the FA, who were bidding to host the 2006 World Cup, United were persuaded to contest the inaugural World Club Championship in Brazil in 2000 rather than defend the FA Cup they won in that historic 1999 treble. This was the beginning of the downgrading of the old pot, an acknowledgement that seven years after the launch of the Champions League, priorities lay elsewhere.

Winning it meant more to City in the context of the treble. Since they are at Wembley they will not roll over; after all, a double is still something. But the FA Cup was not the goal in August. City aim higher.

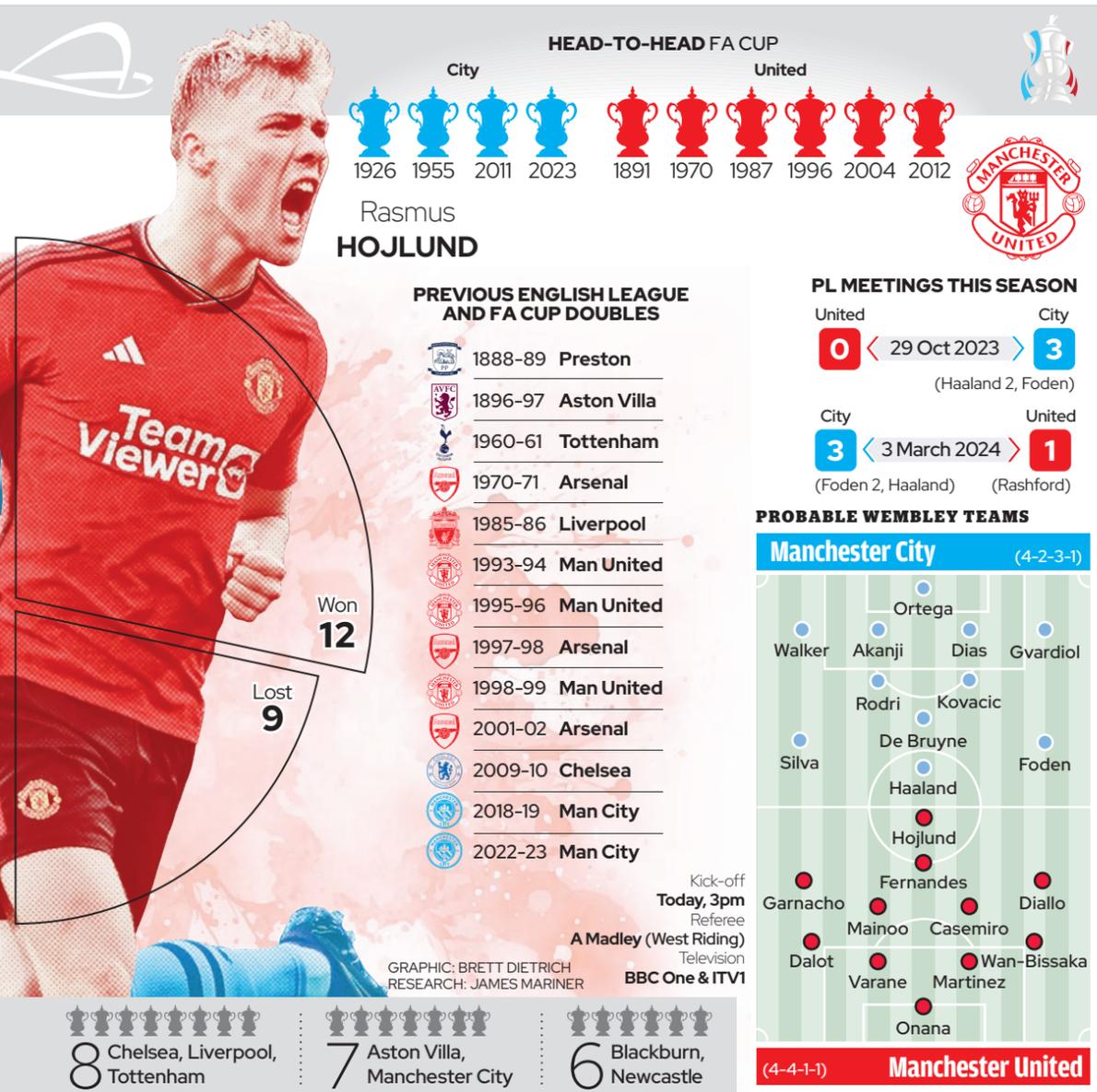
For Ten Hag, victory would be seen as progress. In truth, 25 years after United skipped their defence, the FA Cup is a second-tier trophy clinging to a prestige past.

Phil FODEN

Won 7

RECORD IN FINALS

Lost 5



# Mainoo is picture perfect to lead the United renaissance

Pete Hall



It was a photograph that symbolised hope – something conspicuous by its absence around Old Trafford for the best part of a decade.

Like New York workers having *Lunch atop a Skyscraper*, Kobbie Mainoo joined Rasmus Hojlund and Alejandro Garnacho to perch on the advertising hoardings, celebrating a match-defining goal beaming from ear to ear, blissfully unaware of the potential peril all around.

As Manchester United remained engulfed by their dizzying death spiral of a season, the tender trio were the exemption to the rule, capable of dragging this sleeping giant from its slumber.

It looked perfectly choreographed, at a time when supporters needed it most. But Mainoo says the celebration in the February win over West Ham was spontaneous.

“I always ask Garna before the game what’s the celebration going to be if he scores. And he said he wasn’t going to tell me,” Mainoo tells *i*. “I saw him jump up on the advertising board when he scored and me and Rasmus just jumped up there with him. He wanted it for himself! But yeah, we jumped in there and it was a nice picture.”

“All of us young guys, with Amad [Diallo] as well, we have a lot of fun together and we’ve definitely grown close this season.”

Growing up is something Mainoo has had to do quickly. This time last year, Mainoo was, just a wide-eyed academy kid being told their chance will come, but not being overly confident it ever would.

Now, he is preparing for an FA Cup final. Oh, after also having just been named in England’s provisional Euro 2024 squad despite having just 25 Premier League appearances to his name.

“Yeah I was buzzing [to get the England call],” he says. “I’m not trying to think about it too much because we’ve got a final coming up. But obviously I’m going to the pre-camp and if I get selected for the Euros it’ll be amazing.”

“Obviously on the pitch a lot has changed. A lot more people know my name now. But at home with the family I have around me they very

much keep me grounded and nothing changes at home. When I try to go to the corner shop I get a bit more attention, but other than that life is normal.”

There is something altogether more gratifying about Mainoo. United drag their best talents through their media training regime as soon as they even show a glimpse of promise, so the old tropes about what an honour it is to play for the club are never too far away. But get him talking about the thing he loves most, having the ball at his feet, and the filter fades.

“When I got the ball, I just saw the defender coming out so I just wanted to nutmeg him,” Mainoo says of his first Premier League goal, a sensational 97th-minute winner against Wolves in February. “So once I got the meg, I thought it had opened up.”

“When the ball came to me [in the 2-2 draw against Liverpool in April], I wanted a touch so I could have a lot of options what to do but when it fell the way it did, the shot was on, so I took it.”

“The goal doesn’t move. You know where the goal is, so when the touch went there I knew it was on, there were a lot of players so the keeper couldn’t see a lot.”

A victory today would go a long way to giving the Ineos revival a head start. Those who can lead the team and bring real energy are in place.

Mainoo, already, is United’s present and the future.

All of us young guys, with Amad as well, we have a lot of fun together and we’ve definitely grown close this season

## Old Trafford’s new chiefs wary of missing out on McKenna as rivals circle

>> Continued from back page

Brighton and then Chelsea expressed an interest. Now United have joined the chase.

Ineos wants a young manager who is willing to work within its structure and help it create a new footballing identity at United, with McKenna very much fitting the bill.

As *i* reported last month, Southgate has reservations about taking over at United in their current chaotic guise, but McKenna is more up for the challenge.

Both Chelsea and Brighton are expected to make their move for the 38-year-old in the coming days. A swift exit for Ten Hag after the final could enable United to follow suit.

De Zerbi is another name that both United and Chelsea are looking at, even if neither are totally convinced by the 44-year-old Italian.

*i* understands Chelsea have not put De Zerbi among their top picks, but dialogue continues –

meaning they still retain some interest in him.

The former Brighton manager has a particular way of working, which Chelsea have reservations over. One issue is the large number of coaches he would want to bring with him. Should he drop



Kieran McKenna has rapidly become a target of both Brighton and Chelsea

some of his demands, De Zerbi could come back into the running at Stamford Bridge.

Pochettino’s availability further complicates the issue for United. It is understood the Argentine wants the job, and Ineos are fans of his having already tried to hire him at Nice, another club in their footballing portfolio.

Meanwhile senior figures at Old Trafford have retained their admiration for Pochettino, just two years after Ten Hag beat him to the job.

Ten Hag is planning for next season, however, and has been involved in transfer discussions as well as preparations for the club’s pre-season tour of the United States.

But with Chelsea moving for McKenna, fear of missing out could hit Ineos and United fast. Expect plenty of big moves in the coming days.

When questioned if any talks were planned for next week, Ten Hag added: “No, we already did that and on Sunday I will go on holiday. I deserve that.”



From left, Rasmus Hojlund, Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo GETTY



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MAN CITY v MAN UNITED WEMBLEY, 3PM TODAY



**FA CUP FINAL**  
The derby with a double Double - and a P45 - hanging on it

P109-111

**BATTLE FOR THE PREMIER LEAGUE**  
LEEDS UNITED v SOUTHAMPTON WEMBLEY, 3PM TOMORROW



P106-107



**DARTS**  
*Luke sharp*  
Little's win in Premier League was better than the Super Bowl



P103

# McKenna waits to gauge United interest

**By Pete Hall**

Kieran McKenna has gone from a promising second-tier manager to one of the hottest properties in English football in less than a week. And such interest has persuaded him to delay his final decision on where he will be next season, in case Manchester United come calling.

The Ipswich Town boss appeared destined for Brighton after sources told the south-coast club had made him their No 1 target to replace Roberto De Zerbi. But in the past week McKenna has become a leading candidate for both United and Chelsea.

As a result, i understands the Northern Irishman is to delay taking up any post, as his first choice would be United - where he was an assistant to Jose Mourinho and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer until taking up the Ipswich role in 2021.

Reports yesterday claimed that Erik ten Hag will definitely be sacked after today's FA Cup final, regardless of the result - something club sources have played down, insisting no decision will be made until after the game.

There was, however, no public backing for the Dutchman to remain at the helm for another season. Ten Hag insisted yesterday that he needed no assurances over his job and that "on Sunday I will go on holiday".

But it is understood the representatives of several potential replacements for Ten Hag have already been contacted, with a shortlist drawn up by Ineos in the past few months so they can remain on the front foot.

Chelsea's decision to part ways with Mauricio Pochettino this week has forced United's hand somewhat.

The same figures - McKenna, Brentford boss Thomas Frank and departing Bayern Munich manager Thomas Tuchel - top the both clubs' shortlists, meaning United can't wait around if they want to secure their first pick with the Blues ready to move quickly.

England manager Gareth Southgate has been a frontrunner for the United job for several months, as has former Chelsea manager Graham Potter.

McKenna was very much a long shot for the Old Trafford job until

>> **Continued on P111**

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