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Men, sex, IVF, miscarriage It's personal

Paloma Faith

Magazine

Starts today

Best places to eat by the coast

Weekend

Gove quits politics as more Tories stand down

- **Exodus of MPs piles pressure on Rishi Sunak**
- **New poll puts Conservatives 22 points behind**

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Oliver Wright, Chris Smyth

Michael Gove has become the most prominent Tory MP to decide to stand down as the number who are quitting surpassed the tally before Labour's victory in 1997.

The levelling-up secretary said he was leaving politics because he believed that after 19 years as an MP, including six different cabinet roles, "a new generation should lead".

Gove's departure at the age of 56 comes amid concern that senior Tories are quitting before the election because they believe the party will lose.

He made his decision yesterday morning, emphasising the toll that high office had taken on him and his family. "No one in politics is a conscript," he said. "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."

Dame Andrea Leadsom, the Tory MP for South Northamptonshire and a former cabinet minister and party leadership contender, also announced last night she would be standing down.

So far 78 Tory MPs have announced they will not contest the election, surpassing the 72 who left in 1997.

A new YouGov poll for The Times, conducted after Rishi Sunak called the election for July 4, indicates that the Tories are 22 points behind Labour and face a big challenge from Reform.

Sunak will use his party's manifesto to make a commitment to new Rwanda-style deportation deals as he seeks to turn around his fortunes with pledges on migration, tax and security. Senior Tories said he would "double-down" on his Rwanda plan, despite being forced to concede that flights would not take off before the election. The manifesto will say that he wants to replicate the deal with other countries. Ministers have been in talks with Armenia, Ivory Coast, Costa Rica and Botswana.

Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, has repeatedly dismissed the Rwanda plan as a "gimmick" and said he will end the policy on his first day in office.

Other developments:

- Starmer said he would introduce VAT on private school fees "straight away" if he won the general election.
- Boris Johnson warned of a "lurch left" and said voters would be "mad" to hand Labour a large majority. Starmer was a "woke lefty lawyer" who wrapped "himself so tightly in the Union Jack that he looks like Ginger Spice's leotard".
- Starmer said he would not do extra TV debates with Sunak because "I know what he's going to say". He is expected to take part in two head-to-heads.

Sunak will begin trailing significant

Continued on page 2

ANDREAS RENTZ/GETTY IMAGES

Purple reign Dame Helen Mirren, star of The Queen, attends the Cannes premiere of The Most Precious of Cargoes, an animated Holocaust tale. The film festival ends today

MAGAZINE

Chukkas away!
The real prince of polo

David Baddiel
My mum's affair: we all knew apart from Dad

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News

Today's highlights

10am **Hugo Rifkind** reviews the week with **Emma Duncan** and the comedian **Alfie Moore**

12pm **Geoffrey Wheatcroft** discusses the current state of the Conservative Party

12.30pm The author **Danny Wallace**, right, talks about lies and propaganda

2.10pm The history professor **Allan Lichtman**, who has correctly predicted nine of the past ten US elections, discusses the latest polling

5.15pm The election guru **Professor Sir John Curtice** on what it's like to be the face of UK elections

TIMES RADIO

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TODAY'S EDITION

Vennells in a 'cloud of denial'

Postmasters' lawyers accused Paula Vennells of a "deliberate, considered and calculated" cover-up. The former chief executive of the Post Office was told she had given a "craven, self-serving account" that showed she lived in a "cloud of denial". Page 13

Halt offensive, UN tells Israel

The United Nations' top court has ordered Israel to halt its offensive on Rafah immediately. Nawaf Salam, president of the International Court of Justice, said the humanitarian situation was now disastrous and called for "unimpeded access" for aid. Page 40

Second-class results arrive

The owner of Royal Mail filed its delayed annual results after the stock market had closed as the regulator began an investigation into its failure to meet postal delivery targets. International Distributions Services said that Royal Mail made a £348 million operating loss. Page 45

423 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia

#FreeEvan

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ART AND POWER
We're enchanted by Sunak, say Gilbert and George
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TOAST OF PARIS
The Left Bank pays tribute to literary past in exhibition
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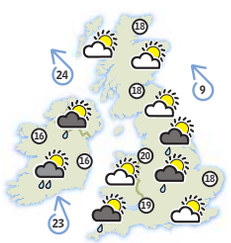
THE WEATHER



Patchy cloud and rain in southern Britain and Ireland, largely dry in the north. **Full forecast, page 73**

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'Dark cloud' of public finances hangs over party leaders' plans

Jack Barnett Economics Correspondent

The fragile public finances will hang over the general election campaign "like a dark cloud", an economics think tank has warned party leaders.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said the economy was facing "the worst of both worlds" with downbeat GDP growth and higher debt spending after interest rates hit a 16-year high.

The IFS said growth was unlikely to improve during the next parliament. Government repayments to investors were likely to remain high, it added. This will constrain any chancellor after the general election on July 4.

Paul Johnson, the IFS director, said Sir Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak had a suite of "promising ideas" to choose from to revive growth but they "must also reckon with the reality of the economic and fiscal context".

The think tank said that when growth was high and interest rates relatively low the government could "run looser fiscal policy — it can borrow more — without pushing debt on to a rising path". The IFS added, however: "Neither of these conditions — high growth or low debt interest payments — are expected to be satisfied in the next parliament. The latest official forecasts [are] that the next government will face lower than average nominal GDP growth (3.6 per cent per year) and higher than average debt interest spending (3.3 per cent of GDP) — the worst of both worlds."

The UK's debt-to-GDP ratio has risen to nearly 100 per cent from about 65 per cent in 2010, pushed up by government borrowing to pay for spending during the pandemic and energy price rises after Russia invaded Ukraine. Taxes as a share of GDP are also on course for a post-Second World War high.

Interest rates climbed to 5.25 per cent which, alongside a sharp rise in inflation — now down to 2.3 per cent from 11.1 per cent — lifted the country's debt interest spending bill. Higher debt interest spending pulls resources away from other public services.

The IFS warning demonstrates the tight fiscal constraints facing Labour or the Conservatives on the first day of a new government. Both parties have broadly committed to the existing fiscal rules, namely reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio in five years and capping annual borrowing at 3 per cent of GDP.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, has lowered national insurance contributions by four percentage points over the past two fiscal events. He was judged by the Office for Budget Responsibility, the spending watchdog, to have only £8.9 billion of "headroom" against the fiscal targets after the budget in March.

Since 2010, chancellors have had an average £27 billion to spend heading into a fiscal event. The erosion of this average spending power illustrates how tight the present fiscal situation is.

National insurance cuts were partly funded by swingeing real-terms budget cuts for unprotected government departments, including local councils and the courts. It is unclear which departments will absorb the cuts, which the IFS criticised for a lack of transparency.

"We could, as a country, decide to charge for services that are free or to means-test things that are provided universally or for the state to stop doing things it does," it said.

"Yet such discussions seem unlikely to feature in the debate."

Issues for next government, pages 46-47
What the election will mean for your finances, page 55

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gove quits politics

policies from the Conservative manifesto next week as he seeks to make a dent in Labour's poll lead. Senior Tories said that there would be further commitments on tax, with new announcements on national security.

Labour is expected to steer clear of new spending commitments in its manifesto but sources said that it would include significant pledges that "don't cost the taxpayer money".

The YouGov survey has Labour on 44 points and the Tories on 22 — a lead three points down since the start of the week. Reform is up two points on 14 per cent despite Nigel Farage's decision to rule himself out of the campaign.

Nearly two thirds of voters say that they have either definitely or probably made up their minds which party to support. About a quarter say they are open to changing their minds.

Labour's huge lead in the polls increases the significance of the Tory manifesto. Oliver Dowden, the deputy prime minister, said in an article for The Times: "In contrast to Labour, we are going to set out bold new ideas throughout this campaign — right across the policy spectrum."

Gove's decision to quit is a blow to Sunak. He previously said he was retiring from frontline politics before Liz Truss's appointment as prime minister only to be encouraged to return as a minister when Sunak succeeded her.

He and his wife, Sarah Vine, a columnist for the Daily Mail, divorced in 2021 after 20 years of marriage. She said that his "only mistress was politics".

Despite an 18,000 majority, Gove faced a strong challenge from the Liberal Democrats in his constituency of Surrey Heath. Gove had a reputation as a reforming minister but will be best remembered for his instrumental role in the Brexit referendum and torpedoing Boris Johnson's leadership ambitions.

He said yesterday he did not regret his decision to campaign to leave the EU. "Fundamentally our country is stronger with politicians in Westminster able to control our laws, our borders and our money," he said.

Sunak paid tribute to Gove yesterday as "one of the most transformative cabinet ministers of recent times", saying: "The government and the country will be poorer without him on the front line of politics and I wish him all the very best for the future."

Other Tories announced yesterday that they were quitting. Craig Mackinlay, who returned to parliament on Wednesday after losing his hands and feet to sepsis, said he would not seek re-election. Although his heart told him to contest South Thanet again "my head knows this to be impossible at this time. It would be difficult for me to sustain 70 to 80-hour working weeks which were the norm prior to my illness."

The former business secretary Greg Clark said he would not be contesting his Tunbridge Wells seat and Sir John Redwood, who served in the cabinet under Sir John Major said he would step down from Wokingham. Both seats are being targeted by the Liberal Democrats.

Grant Shapps, the defence secretary, said there was nothing "unusual" about the number of Tory MPs standing down before the general election.

Shapps told Sky News: "You often get this illusion that there are more standing down from the governing side and of course the good reason for that is there are by definition more MPs on the governing side."

Tim Durrant of the Institute for Government, said: "This level of turnover may well reflect the polls pointing towards a change of government — three quarters of Conservative MPs have never been in opposition and may see this as the right time to leave."

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It's marginal, but I know who I'm voting for, Matthew Parris, page 25
Important bills have been brutally cast aside, leading article, page 29

Labour ill prepared for UK threats

Oliver Dowden
Comment

For the last 18 months, I have overseen the structures that keep us safe in the face of crises. That job has made me acutely aware of the threats facing our country.

In an increasingly uncertain world, we need bold action to give our country the security it needs. But Labour would undermine that security. Whether it's conventional security, economic security or energy security; Labour simply don't have a plan.

Take energy policy. Keir Starmer would bar further exploration in the North Sea; this would not only cost jobs but puts environmental dogma ahead of our energy security.

We Conservatives take a different approach. Rishi Sunak will always put Britain's energy security and your family finances ahead of environmental dogma in our approach to net zero.

It is because Keir Starmer is afraid of scrutiny on issues such as this that he is so keen to avoid debates. But you deserve answers to these questions. The past five years were some of the most testing for the government in a generation: Covid, global conflicts and soaring inflation. And we Conservatives have stepped up to help the British people through these times with furlough and support with their energy bills.

We Conservatives want this election to be about the future we want for our country, about what bold action will deliver the secure future that Britain deserves. And so, in contrast to Labour, we are going to set out bold new ideas throughout this campaign — right across the policy spectrum — to meet the challenges that we face and to take our country forward.

While Rishi Sunak is bringing stability to the economy and to the country, the threats from abroad are increasing. We need a leader who is prepared to act decisively, and has the right priorities for the UK. One who has a fully funded plan to boost our defence spending to 2.5 per cent by 2030. And one whose commitment to Nato has never wavered, unlike Starmer, who backed Jeremy Corbyn, but won't match our defence spending commitment.

Oliver Dowden is deputy prime minister

Bridgerton effect is pulling strings

From classical to covers, the Regency-period romp has set off a musical boom, reports **Jack Malvern**

LIAM DANIEL/NETFLIX; DIA DIPASUPIL/GETTY IMAGES

Bridgerton's success has led to increased demand for the Vitamin String Quartet, featuring Amando Lo, below

The fantasy world portrayed in *Bridgerton* glories in anachronisms. The creators of the Regency-period drama have taken liberties with frocks and dialogue but perhaps its least accurate aspect is its music.

Songs by Ariana Grande, Édith Piaf and Adele are among dozens of pop tracks to appear as classical covers, often played by string quartets.

This mixing of genres is now leaking into the real world, as string quartets report a "*Bridgerton* effect" on the music clients ask them to play.

Dolce Strings, a quartet formed by graduates of the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, is one of numerous classical ensembles to list "*Bridgerton* music" as part of their repertoire in the Encore directory.

Inés Mota, 30, a cellist for the group, said it had become rare to perform a purely classical set at events. Although she and her fellow musicians list Mozart and Handel in their repertoire, clients are more likely to choose covers of songs by Madonna and Taylor Swift.

"We've definitely noticed an increase," she said. "It's one of the things we wanted to do because we noticed that people are requesting *Bridgerton* songs. We started learning all the songs that are in the show.

"It's not just weddings, it's events as well. Some clients don't request songs from the show but want pop music in the style of *Bridgerton*."

She said they always had pop in their repertoire but before the drama's arrival in December 2020 they played a mix of 50 per cent classical, 50 per cent film scores. "Now, some people want only pop, others want 30 minutes of classical at the start then transition into pop. It is about 20 per cent classical, 80 per cent pop.

She said she was pleased because the songs were easier to learn and more fun to play. "We've been growing and growing. This is our eighth year and we do 120 gigs a year. It used to be half that. Everybody is trying to do this."

Bridgerton is now in its third series and produced the spin-off *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*. The stories are based on Julia Quinn's eight novels about siblings in the Bridgerton family, a well-to-do dynasty based in London.

Many performances on the show are by Vitamin String Quartet, a rotating cast of musicians based in Los Angeles. James Curtis, its creative director, said the show had attracted new audiences for its classical covers of pop songs. The quartet's streams increased by 127 per cent year-on-year after their music appeared in the first series. Streams rose from 126 million in 2020 to 286 million in 2021. Its total for last year was 205 million. "This is the bread and butter of what we've been doing for years, even before *Bridgerton*," Curtis said.

He added that there would always be demand for performances of work by composers such as Bach. "But even those people ask for string renditions of pop and rock. Now there's more asking."

Bridgerton has helped to swell their audience so Vitamin can now do full-scale tours of venues of up to 1,500 seats. "It's not like that train is slowing down. There is an increasing number of artists making this music."

Curtis said *Bridgerton* came to them wanting an "interesting juxtaposition of what it was like [in Regency England] using the music of the now, without being obvious". He realised that it would be influential. "But I don't think anyone knew just how big it was going to be. There was this sense that *Bridgerton* was a gigantic piece of pop culture comfort food."

David Giardino, the founder of Giardino Strings, based in London, said a fifth of British clients asked for *Bridgerton*-style pop songs played on classical instruments. "There is definitely more demand ... We asked an arranger to create a bespoke playlist of the *Bridgerton* soundtrack to meet demands."

'Frumpy' remark risks sex harassment case

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A judge has ruled that calling a female colleague "frumpy" could amount to sex harassment.

An employment tribunal concluded that in some circumstances the term could qualify as "unwanted conduct", giving the green light for legal claims under equality legislation.

Paul Singh, the judge, said using "frumpy" in comments to or about female workers was "inherently linked to gender" and had the potential to "violate their dignity".

The ruling came in the case of an investment firm worker who claimed she was humiliated when her boss described her outfit as making her look like a "frumpy grandma".

Yuanyuan Zhang's claim was eventually dismissed because she initiated proceedings after the legal deadline.

The tribunal said her argument was understandable, however, finding that "such a comment was unwanted conduct related to sex". Zhang was a deputy design director at Greenland Investment Management from 2015 to 2021, having moved from China.

The company, founded 11 years ago with offices in London and India, claims to oversee more than $1 billion of investment assets. In 2022, the company became licensed as a qualified foreign investor by the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

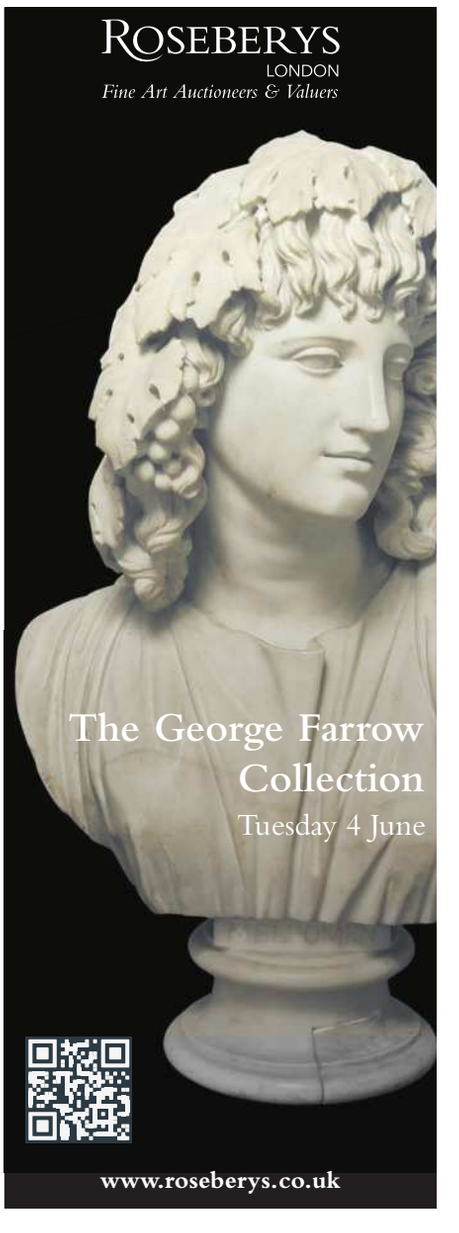
Bosses told Zhang in 2020 that the company would support her application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK. But the tribunal was told that an issue with the application arose, which Zhang claimed forced her to resign. The panel was told she signed a resignation letter after Ling Luan, the company's deputy personnel director, criticised her trousers, suggesting she looked like a "frumpy grandmother" or "auntie".

Renée Zellweger, as Bridget Jones, made a feature out of appearing frumpy

The tribunal noted the conversation was not in English so it accepted "the words may not translate over exactly".

It added, however, that "it was more likely than not that this comment was made". That finding prompted the judge to say "such a comment was unwanted conduct related to sex".

He noted Zhang had said "how humiliated the comment made her feel and we can understand why she says that". But because the claim was brought too late — and as several other allegations were dismissed — the judge rejected the case.



News

MAX WILLCOCK/BNPS

Flight crew Technician James Harrison and Lieutenant Adam Pollock at RNAS Culdrose, Cornwall, where Royal Navy personnel have taken up beekeeping in a quiet spot

Quintagram® No 1951

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Wally, clown (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Frivolous matter (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Trip made at public expense (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Hairstyling foam (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

5 Scented lotion for men (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	E	E	E	E	E	F
F	F	H	I	J	K	L	L
M	N	O	O	O	R	R	S
S	S	T	T	T	U	U	V

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Taking weight-loss drug found to reduce risk of kidney disease death

Eleanor Hayward Health Editor

Weight-loss injections cut deaths from kidney disease by a quarter and offer hope of a new treatment for millions of Britons with the condition, a landmark trial has revealed.

The drug semaglutide, better known by the brand names Ozempic or Wegovy, was found to be an effective treatment for chronic kidney disease regardless of whether or not people lose weight.

The study involved 3,533 patients with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease, a long-term debilitating condition where the kidneys do not work properly, which affects 7.2 million people in the UK. Half the participants were given a weekly injection of semaglutide, with the other half given a placebo. Their progress was followed for three-and-a-half years.

Major complications relating to kidney disease, including kidney failure and death, were 24 per cent lower in the semaglutide group.

The study, presented yesterday at the European Renal Association conference in Stockholm, adds to mounting evidence that the new generation of weight-loss drugs can be used to treat a range of chronic diseases as they cut inflammation in the body. At present, semaglutide is only approved to treat obesity and diabetes.

The new trial involved patients from 28 countries with an average age of 66, who had all been diagnosed with kidney disease. They were randomly assigned to either a placebo or a weekly 1mg dose of semaglutide — lower than the dosage to treat obesity.

Taking the drug led to significant benefits, with deaths from any cause 20 per cent lower in the semaglutide group. Deaths from kidney disease or heart disease were 24 per cent lower.

The drug also significantly slowed progression of kidney disease, meaning patients had a better quality of life and were less likely to need a kidney transplant or dialysis.

The trial, funded by the pharmaceutical firm Novo Nordisk, which manufactures Ozempic, was so successful that it was stopped early.

Vlado Perkovic, a renal physician and researcher who is the provost of the University of New South Wales, Sydney, and the author of the study, said: "The use of semaglutide in people with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease can lower the risk of major kidney outcomes and reduce the risk of cardiovascular events, cardiovascular death and all-cause death. These benefits signify a profound clinical impact, saving kidneys, hearts and lives for patients with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease."

Chronic kidney disease affects more than 7.2 million people in the UK, and is particularly common in those with type 2 diabetes. When the kidneys do not work properly, they do not filter waste and fluid out of the blood, putting strain on the blood vessels and heart.

Symptoms often come on slowly and can include tiredness, swollen ankles and shortness of breath. In severe cases, patients need dialysis treatment to replicate the kidney's functions, or may require a kidney transplant.

People with chronic kidney disease are at a much greater risk of heart disease, heart attack and stroke. There is no medication specifically for kidney disease, but patients are given drugs to help with underlying problems such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

The study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, comes after a separate trial last week, led by University College London, revealed that semaglutide cuts heart disease deaths by 20 per cent, even if people do not lose weight.

Ozempic face and how to avoid it, Weekend

Full-time WFH can make you fat and depressed

Eleanor Hayward

Working from home all week increases the risk of being overweight and depressed, a study has revealed, with hybrid staff the happiest and healthiest.

Analysis of 5,000 employees from several UK businesses found that those who work remotely five days a week took twice as many sick days on average compared with those going into the office. Staff with a hybrid working pattern — splitting their time between home and commuting in — were the happiest, healthiest and had the highest productivity levels at work.

The report, by the health insurer Vitality, found 12 per cent of people who are fully remote suffered depression, compared with 10 per cent of full-time office workers and 8 per cent of hybrid workers. Only 20 per cent of hybrid workers were obese compared with 25 per cent of those working from home full time, and 24 per cent of full-time office staff. People who stayed at home were also more likely to have joint or back pain, which can be caused by hunching over a laptop all day. Some 87 per cent of those working from home had at least one musculoskeletal condition, compared with 80 per cent of hybrid workers and 78 per cent of office workers.

Hybrid employees took the fewest sick days, averaging five a year, compared with ten for those working from home. They also reported the highest productivity, and were less likely to say that health issues including anxiety and depression had an impact on their capacity to work. Experts said this reflected the greater "flexibility and variety" offered by hybrid working, with employees more engaged in their jobs when not dreading the "monotony" of being at the same desk for five days in a row or wasting hours a day commuting.

Neville Koopowitz, chief executive of Vitality, said: "Employers need to strike the balance and there are tangible benefits to spending some time each week in the office."

Protester fights 1978 conviction

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A protester is fighting to have her conviction 46 years ago for assaulting a police officer quashed after it emerged that an undercover team had infiltrated her demonstration.

Barbara White was convicted in 1978 of obstructing the police and assaulting an officer after taking part in a protest with the Communist Party of England the year before to counter a National Front demonstration in east London.

White, who is now 79, was fined £75 at Barking magistrates' court, east London. Yesterday the body that sends possible miscarriages of justice to judges for review said her case should go to the crown court for appeal.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission said one of the eight people arrested during a confrontation at the protest was an undercover police officer who stood trial in the name of Desmond Barry Loader. It said there was evidence to suggest that at the time of White's trial, the magistrates' court was made aware there was an informant among the defendants but it seemed neither the prosecutors nor the court knew one was an undercover officer.

After the commission reviewed the case, which included evidence from the undercover policing inquiry, officials said there was a possibility the conviction would be overturned by the crown court as an abuse of process.

White's appeal will be heard at Southwark crown court in London at a date that has yet to be set. Commission officials appealed for any other people convicted of offences connected with the 1977 protest to come forward so their cases could also be considered.

Film-maker who lived on fast food for Super Size Me dies at 53

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

Morgan Spurlock died this week of complications from cancer

Morgan Spurlock, the Oscar-nominated film-maker whose documentary *Super Size Me* exposed the health dangers of fast food, has died aged 53.

Spurlock died on Thursday in New York from complications of cancer, according to a family statement. "It was a sad day, as we said goodbye to my brother Morgan," said Craig Spurlock, who worked with him on projects. "The world has lost a true creative genius."

Super Size Me was groundbreaking upon its release in 2004 and provoked a national conversation on the damage done to Americans by eating vast amounts of fast food. The documentary featured Spurlock eating food only from McDonald's over a 30-day period while he could also not refuse the "super size" option if it was offered by the cashier. He ate at McDonald's three times a day, sampling every item. By the end Spurlock told viewers he had gained 25lb and experienced various health problems, including depression.

Super Size Me, which was made on a budget of $65,000, grossed more than $22 million at the box office and won an Oscar nomination for best documentary. McDonald's halted the supersize option after the film's release.

The film is still used as an educational tool in some classrooms, but the accuracy of Spurlock's work has been questioned. He was criticised for refusing to publish his diet log from the film.

He later admitted to drinking heavily during the making of the documentary and others have been unable to replicate his results from a fast-food diet.

Spurlock enjoyed further acclaim with his Warrior Poets production company, which released documentaries on subjects including the US war in Afghanistan and immigrant workers.

In 2017 Spurlock released a sequel to *Super Size Me* which examined how the fast-food industry had attempted to rebrand its unhealthy image.

His career fell apart during the Me Too movement. In 2017, when Hollywood was in the midst of a reckoning over sex harassment, Spurlock said he was "part of the problem". He admitted being unfaithful to his partners and revealed he had settled an allegation of sexual harassment from a former assistant. He also said that he had been accused of rape at university.

Obituary, page 75

ALAMY

The festival was accused of hypocrisy by the singer Charlotte Church over its links to Baillie Gifford, which in turn accused activists of painting a misleading picture

Hay Festival cuts ties with sponsor over oil and Israel

David Sanderson Arts Correspondent

An artists' boycott of the Hay Festival has led to the end of a longstanding partnership with Baillie Gifford which has been criticised for its investments in fossil fuels and Israel.

The literary festival said yesterday that it was suspending its sponsorship with the investment management firm "in light of claims raised by campaigners and intense pressure on artists to withdraw".

Charlotte Church and the comedian Nish Kumar had been the latest artists to withdraw from the festival, and the lengthy boycott list also includes the Labour politicians Baroness Chakrabarti and Dawn Butler.

The company, which is a sponsor of ten literary festivals in Britain as well as a renowned book prize, has been under pressure from activists since last year's Edinburgh International Book Festival, from which Greta Thunberg withdrew in protest at its sponsorship.

A letter released this month by the campaign group Fossil Free Books broadened the attack on Baillie Gifford from what is claimed were up to £5 billion investments in the fossil fuel industry to include an alleged £10 billion "in companies linked to Israel's defence, tech and cybersecurity industries".

The letter, whose signatories include the writers George Monbiot, Robert Macfarlane and Sally Rooney, said: "Literary organisations can expect escalation, including the expansion of boycotts, increased author withdrawal of labour and increased disruption until Baillie Gifford divests."

Monbiot did appear at the festival and said at an event on Thursday to promote his new book, *The Invisible Doctrine*, that the festival was a "good cause".

The environmental campaigner said that while he had "signed the statement calling on Baillie Gifford to divest ... I also felt it as a matter of principle to continue to come here and speak at the Hay Festival. Partly because I am a supporter of the Hay Festival. It is one of the causes I support.

"But also because this thing we are protesting against we are deeply embedded in and we can't just point to one instance of this Earth-eating, people-eating system and say that and that alone is the problem."

Church said yesterday that for Hay Festival to "platform leading environmentalist and climate justice campaigners while accepting cash that has been generated by the fossil fuel industry is a rank hypocrisy".

Shortly after the withdrawal of the singer the festival announced an end to its deal with Baillie Gifford, which for many years had its name above the festival's largest stage.

Its chief executive Julie Finch said in a statement: "In light of intense pressure on artists to withdraw, we have taken the decision to suspend our sponsorship from Baillie Gifford. Our first priority is to our audience and our artists. We must preserve the freedom of our stages and spaces for open debate and discussion."

Baillie Gifford, a longstanding supporter of several festivals including Cheltenham, which is sponsored by The Times and The Sunday Times, has previously defended its investments.

Last year its senior partner Nick Thomas said that only 2 per cent of the company's funds were in the fossil fuel sector compared with 11 per cent for the asset management sector as a whole. He said the company did not invest in the arts in an attempt to "launder our reputation".

Baillie Gifford has suggested the £10 billion figure is "seriously misleading" adding that it was not possible to divest in the way campaigners wished.

A spokesman for the company said it was "regrettable our sponsorship with the festival cannot continue" adding that the "suggestion that Baillie Gifford is a large investor in the occupied Palestinian territories is seriously misleading".

He added that the "activists are painting an inaccurate picture and attempting to mislead the public".

At the Hay Festival, which ends next weekend, there has been an increased police presence compared with previous years.

Horowitz: My greatest fear is book without end

David Sanderson, Charlotte Alt

Anthony Horowitz has revealed he keeps an envelope with the ending of the book he is writing behind his desk in case he dies before finishing it.

The English crime fiction writer, 69, said his one fear in life was dying before getting to the last chapter of his book, as he revealed he was just weeks away from finishing the sequel to his bestselling novels *Magpie Murders* and *Moonflower Murders*.

Horowitz spoke at the Hay Festival about his new murder mystery, *Close to Death*, in which an obnoxious hedge fund manager is killed with a crossbow in a gated community.

He said: "The one fear I have in life is dying before I get to the last chapter. Can you imagine how annoyed I would be if I died?" He added that he wouldn't be thinking about "my poor wife and my poor children — I would be [thinking]: 'Nobody will know how it ended.'"

He added: "If you come to my house in London you will always see, behind my desk, when I'm writing one of these books, an envelope which has got a message in it and the message is the end of the book so that somebody else can finish it."

Anthony Horowitz kills off a hedge fund manager with a crossbow in his new novel

Horowitz also discussed the sensitivity row in which Roald Dahl books were edited to remove "offensive" language, as he explained that he refused to adapt his three James Bond continuation novels to suit a modern audience. "I set it in the 1950s as I believe Bond only exists in this world," he said. "I did not give in to anything. He is still a womaniser, a smoker and a killer. There was nothing to change, not even the language — he used the word 'bottom' a lot so I made sure I used it in every book."

Horowitz said he was "pro including a diverse cast of characters" but did not want to be told that was what he had to do. "I don't want to offend my readers; I'm not so stupid that I'm going to write something that is going to offend. But at the same time, when you start burglarising books, when you start chopping out stuff that offends you, then I think you are actually shooting yourself in the foot," the author said.

"Chopping [offensive passages] out doesn't make the book better. What it does is it takes away the memory of how far we've come."

Labour would cut voting age to 16 in one of first acts

Lara Spirit Red Box Editor
Tom Calver Data Editor

Labour is looking to give young people aged 16 and 17 the vote in its first year in government if it wins the election.

The party is closely studying how Scotland and Wales lowered the voting age and believes there is no reason why changing the rules for general elections would need to take longer.

Sir Keir Starmer pledged to extend the franchise to younger voters in September with no indication of how quickly the policy would be implemented should he win the election. Party sources now say that while there is yet no commitment that the policy will be in the King's Speech, it is nonetheless expected to be enacted quickly. "I would be extremely surprised if it wasn't in the King's Speech," one said, describing the legislation needed as "extremely straightforward".

About 1.5 million people under 18 would be given the vote in general elections under plans agreed by Labour in the final draft of its national policy forum. It would be the largest change to the electorate since 1969, when the voting age was reduced from 21 to 18.

The party is looking to Scotland and Wales and believes a similar time frame for enactment is possible. Scotland has already lowered the voting age for local and Scottish parliament elections to 16 and Wales has done so for local and Welsh parliament elections.

The process of lowering the age in both was swift. In Scotland, it took less than six months from Scotland being handed the power to reduce the age to the passage of legislation. Researchers at Sheffield and Edinburgh have found that it made young voters more likely to turn out as they grew older.

In Wales, where the Labour-run government has been consulted by the party in Westminster on how a nationwide extension could work, the two pieces of legislation both passed no more than a year after being introduced.

The policy is likely to benefit Labour. In a recent YouGov poll for The Times, Labour commanded a 25-point lead over the Tories, with the party on 46 per cent of the vote and the Conservatives on 21 per cent. Among those aged 18-24 that gap widened, with 54 per cent planning to vote Labour at the next election compared with 9 per cent for the Tories.

One senior Labour source said: "It [the policy] has the double benefit of not costing very much to do but of helping secure a second Labour term."

It is not clear how strong an electoral advantage the policy would be for Labour. YouGov's latest MRP poll, conducted in March, gave Labour a 154-seat majority with the party winning 403 seats to the Tories' 155.

Yet an analysis by The Times of population data suggested that if the 16-17 age group were allowed to vote — and they voted in a similar way as those aged 18 to 24 — it could result in an additional eight seats flipping from the Conservatives to Labour in England alone. This could increase Labour's majority to 170.

The seats where voters aged 16 and 17 could make a difference are predominantly in southern England, and include Aldershot, Aylesbury, Bridgwater, Frome & East Somerset, Hornchurch & Upminster, North East Hertfordshire and Sittingbourne & Sheppey.

Patrick English, director of political analytics at YouGov, said: "We would generally expect that lowering the voting age would be electorally advantageous to Labour, as younger people are significantly more likely to back them over the Conservatives, or indeed any other party." The typical 18-year-old was almost ten times more likely to back Labour than the Conservatives, he said, and this would be expected to be similar for the 16-17 age group.

"However, we also know that young people are among the most unlikely voter groups to actually turn out. So, any advantage Labour have in terms of raw support among this potential new block of young voters will be significantly reduced at the ballot box by their low participation rates," English added.

Florence Eshalomi, the shadow minister for local government, said: "Our elections are built on the basic principle that those who contribute to our country should have a say in how it is governed. Yet 16 and 17-year-olds are still blocked from voting in English elections. It's time to turn the page and give the next generation a chance to help shape their future."

Speedy action on school VAT

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Private schools will face VAT on fees immediately after a Labour general election victory, Sir Keir Starmer has suggested.

Head teachers said this could swiftly lead to the significant displacement of children and school closures.

Starmer told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "Ending tax breaks for private schools so we can have 6,500 [state school] teachers in subjects like maths, we can do that pretty quickly. They're only the first steps, the real change will take longer. We can make a lot of progress in the first year — we'd have to recruit them and find the money but that will be a day one priority."

A spokeswoman for the Independent Schools Council, which represents 1,400 schools, said that detailed policy was needed from Labour. She said: "Thousands of families are going to be impacted by Labour's tax on parents and they — along with their schools — cannot properly plan based on headlines alone."

Helen Pike, master of Magdalen College School in Oxford, said 6,500 more teachers would not transform education or solve the teacher retention crisis. She said: "We are in for another summer of uncertainty for parents — and for leavers with the higher education funding crisis."

Starmer's comments came the day after Bridget Phillipson, the shadow education secretary, suggested that fees might have to be increased to save universities. When asked if he could revive the pledge to abolish tuition fees in the long term, Starmer replied: "No, we're now looking at alternatives to that."

Rishi Sunak, with his just-in-case buoyancy aid, in the Titanic Quarter of Belfast

PM sails merrily on to defy metaphors of doom

Patrick Kidd
Political Sketch

It is all going very well. Rishi Sunak's plan to take on every calamitous metaphor early in the campaign brought him to Belfast yesterday. After the washout in London and the beer-sup in a brewery in Wales, the prime minister hopped across the Irish Sea to talk about energy prices in a district known as the Titanic Quarter. Perhaps his next stop will be a visit to a Mr and Mrs Hindenburg.

"Prime minister, are you the captain of a sinking ship?" a reporter asked, observing that he was yards from where another disaster was launched in 1912. There was a twitch at the mouth of Chris Heaton-Harris, the Northern Ireland secretary, who has already grabbed a lifejacket by saying he won't stand again, but Captain Sunak saw only clear seas ahead.

"Our plan is working," he said. "Waltzes are up, cocktails are soaring and Chef says that tonight's Timbale de ris de veau Toulousaine will be delicious. While there has been a slight incident with what we might call a floating voter, I have every confidence of reaching our destination. I detect no love for the iceberg on the doorstep."

He paused. "Did someone shout 'a band on ship?' " Captain Sunak asked. "What an excellent idea! Can they play *Nearer, My God, To Thee*?"

It wasn't even clear why he was in Northern Ireland. His party has no electoral base there. Last election it got 5,433 votes in the whole country. I was reminded of a story about the new Northern Ireland secretary who is shown a colour-coded map marking the political strongholds: orange for unionists, green for republicans. "And is this where the Conservatives are?" he asks,

Sunak's legacy bill goes up in smoke

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Rishi Sunak said he was disappointed not to have passed the smoking bill, intended as his legacy, while doctors called for it to be revived by the next government.

Labour is expected to pledge to reintroduce the bill if it wins power but mocked Sunak's claim that it was "evidence of the bold action" he was prepared to take.

A Conservative manifesto pledge to end no-fault evictions was the other casualty of the general election announcement. Labour has promised to "deliver where the Tories have failed".

The government yesterday approved a leasehold reform bill and was forcing through compensation for victims of the infected blood scandal.

Sunak made it a personal priority to introduce legislation that would ban anyone now aged 14 and under from ever buying cigarettes. He said he would ensure the next generation "grows up smoke-free" as he listed his successes in government. The measure has been listed among Tory achievements on election material.

Sunak acknowledged, however, that it would not become law under this government. "But what I'd say is that's evidence of the bold action that I'm prepared to take," he added. "That's the type of prime minister I am." Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary, said Labour remained committed to the policy. He added: "If Rishi Sunak's idea of bold leadership is to crumble before his party ... it's no wonder the country is in such a mess."

Professor Sanjay Agrawal, of the Royal College of Physicians, said he hoped the next government would take the bill forward. He added: "This bill has the potential to save tens of thousands of lives and the NHS billions."

The Renters Reform Bill was also dropped but Matthew Pennycook, the shadow housing minister, said Labour would pass "robust renters' reform".

Important bills were brutally cast aside, leading article, page 29

HENRY NICHOLLS/AFP; ANDREW MILLIGAN/PA

yesterday as Sir Keir Starmer took no chances with a minimalist message to launch Labour's Scottish campaign in Glasgow

pointing at a blue splodge. "Not quite, minister," his official replies. "That's Lough Neagh."

A little earlier, Sir Keir Starmer, who has so far been playing Election '24 on the "easy" setting, was given a working-over on the *Today* programme about his principles. Does he still believe in free university tuition? A long pause. "Well... er... I certainly believe that we've got to change the current arrangements because I don't believe they are fair," he said. "Obviously abolishing tuition fees is one way of achieving it." But not a way he now supports.

What, though, if he met his promise to secure the highest growth in the G7, asked Mishal Husain. Would he abolish them then? "Well... hmm..." he said. "It's about understanding who I am. We only make commitments we know we can fulfil." She moved on. How about scrapping the two-child limit for child benefit? "Er... hmm..." he said. "In an ideal world." Then he added, in case people were worried, that he is "absolutely against child poverty".

He was similarly vague on abolishing the House of Lords. As Starmer floundered, Husain observed: "You are promising change so people will have expectations." Starmer sighed. "Yeeeees," he drew out. Really he just means a change of government. Perhaps he intends to paint the Downing Street front door a different shade of black. He could do that on day one, if Angela gets down to B&Q sharpish.

On Times Radio, Starmer provided a little more light, telling Chloe Tilley that he was "absolutely committed" to economic growth rather than raising taxes that he hadn't already announced, while he would install a "skills strategy" for migration so that those people we needed for, say, infrastructure projects would find it easier to enter Britain. He was less clear on how to prevent those we didn't need.

He also explained why he had refused Sunak's idea of a weekly leaders' debate. In fact, he wants more debates, but not with the PM. "I am keen to debate with *voters*," he said. "I'll debate with voters any day of the week." Perhaps he will give them more details about his plans.

So far he sounds like an empty vessel. Though at least it isn't a vessel that is playing pinball with icebergs.

Meanwhile, in the least surprising press release of the campaign so far, the Beard Liberation Front says that it (or, rather, Keith who runs it) is backing Jeremy Corbyn in Islington North. Starmer will be gutted to lose the endorsement, but beards are one policy area where we know that he prefers cuts over growth.

TIMESRADIO

Andrew Neil joins on June 3

Times Radio has updated its weekday schedule for the election campaign

From June 3 your daytime line-up every Monday to Thursday is:

10am Matt Chorley
1pm Andrew Neil
2pm Jane Garvey and Fi Glover
4pm John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive
7pm Kait Borsay

Listen free of charge on DAB Radio, website, smart speaker and app

Rowling takes aim at Starmer over party's definition of a woman

James Beal Social Affairs Editor

JK Rowling has attacked Sir Keir Starmer and his colleagues over how the party defines a woman after the Labour leader was accused of snubbing one of his gender-critical MPs.

The Harry Potter author claimed that Starmer was not being sincere about his views on transgender issues because of his treatment of Rosie Duffield.

The MP for Canterbury was not invited to Starmer's election launch event in Kent on Thursday, despite being the county's only Labour MP.

Duffield, who has maintained that only women have a cervix and supports having single-sex spaces, is understood to have found out about the event on Twitter/X.

In response to the apparent snub, Rowling, 58, commented above a quote attributed to Starmer in 2021 that said: "The phrase 'only women have a cervix' is something that shouldn't be said. It is not right."

Rowling wrote: "It's hard not to conclude that in spite of recent attempts at backpedalling, Keir Starmer's view on what Rosie Duffield and women in general are allowed to say about their own bodies hasn't changed since 2021."

Last July Starmer clarified that a woman was "an adult female", and said he did not believe that the policy of self-identification was "the right way forward".

Rowling, who believes sex is immutable, also challenged Anneliese Dodds, the shadow women and equalities secretary, over her views.

The author, tweeting Dodds, said: "I'd love to know how Labour defines 'woman' in the context of a general election." The comment above was a quote from Dodds in which she claimed that there were "different definitions" in Labour of what a woman was.

Starmer's party is considering how to make the legally binding gender recognition certificate easier to obtain, while maintaining medical safeguards. Plans include requiring one doctor to be involved in the process, rather than the present panel of doctors and lawyers, but this was criticised by gender-critical campaigners.

Rowling has also backed a plea from feminists to politicians to back single-sex spaces if they wanted women's votes in the election. Maya Forstater, chief executive of Sex Matters, the group behind the campaign, said: "The next government must stand up for single-sex services. It has to know what a woman is, and be willing to say it.

A Labour spokesman said: "As Anneliese has repeatedly said, a woman is an adult female."

JK Rowling said that Labour must protect women's rights if it wanted their votes

Anas Sarwar, the leader of the Scottish Labour Party, said Rowling was a "national treasure" despite her questions over trans rights. He told Times Radio yesterday: "I've had more than one discussion with JK Rowling and they've been positive. I want it [to be] more humane for how trans people can access a gender recognition certificate, [while making] sure we're protecting single-sex spaces based on biological sex."

Johnson lambasts 'lefty in Ginger Spice leotard'

Chris Smyth, Oliver Wright

Boris Johnson has said that Britain is about to "lurch left" as he urged people to vote against Sir Keir Starmer to "save this country from socialism".

He said British people would be "utterly mad" to hand Labour a large majority. In a personal attack, Johnson claimed Starmer would be the "most dangerous and left-wing Labour prime minister since the 1970s".

The former prime minister also renewed his attack on Starmer for failing to prosecute Jimmy Savile while director of public prosecutions, an accusation previously disowned by Rishi Sunak.

But in an article for the Daily Mail Johnson did little to make the case for a fifth successive Tory government, acknowledging "exasperation with recent politics" and not mentioning Sunak at all in a 2,000-word piece.

Instead, he lambasted Starmer as "a woke lefty lawyer from north London", adding that "he doesn't even eat meat, only fish".

He claimed that Labour "will come for your pensions, and your inheritances, and yes, they will come for your incomes — because their stated plans allow for no alternative" and added that "everywhere you look, Starmer's Labour loves to punish aspiration, to expropriate the rewards of effort, and to snatch away opportunity".

Labelling Starmer "a pathetic captive of the woke tyranny", he said: "Today he wraps himself so tightly in the Union Jack that he looks like Ginger Spice's leotard — and yet it wasn't so long ago that Starmer was an avowed republican, who wanted to abolish the Queen."

After controversy over his previous accusation, Johnson said: "He takes responsibility for everything that took place on his watch — except of course for the failure to prosecute the paedophile, necrophiliac and BBC superstar, Jimmy Savile. People treat this point as a taboo, an unmentionable. But let's face it, if others had that kind of failure on their CV (a Tory, for instance) it would be thought at least worthy of comment."

Arguing that "Starmer's biggest achievement, so far, has been to keep the focus off Labour", Johnson said this would change during the campaign.

"This election will be much closer than currently forecast, because when people actually suck their teeth and consider the possibilities, they will hesitate deeply before opening the bilges and pumping parliament full of hundreds and hundreds of unknown left-wing Labour MPs," he said.

Sunak appeared lukewarm about the idea of Johnson helping, saying that "all Conservatives will want to join the campaign because all are united in wanting a Conservative government".

Underdog Tories get ready to show they can bite back

The reverse Ming vase strategy is to break things so people take notice, **Steven Swinford**, **Oliver Wright**, **Chris Smyth** and **Geraldine Scott** write

As a rain-sodden Rishi Sunak stood outside No 10 and announced the July 4 general election date, there was jubilation at Labour headquarters.

Sir Keir Starmer returned to the office in a buoyant mood. He gave an impromptu speech to raise the spirits before turning to Morgan McSweeney, the man in charge of running the campaign, and embracing him.

After months of rumours, shadow boxing and false starts, the contest that Starmer believes will end with him in Downing Street is finally on.

In the broadest sense, Labour was ready. The party had drafted its manifesto in preparation for a May election and Starmer had already boiled down his commitments to six pledges to use on the doorstep. But nobody in the high command had expected July 4. Advisers had recently been told that they could book their summer holidays.

The early scenes at the party's open-plan office in Southwark, south London, were chaotic. "It was absolute mayhem," one of those present said. "There's suddenly so much to do, people are still scrabbling around, it's utterly chaotic."

Another in the room said there was a "festival atmosphere" with cheering and open laughter at Sunak's damp Downing Street speech. McSweeney brought the staff back down to earth, telling them: "This is the moment we've all been working to. Let's go!"

Labour's campaign is, however, settling into a more regular rhythm, although space is becoming an issue. More than 120 staff and volunteers are crammed together, sharing desks.

In the middle of the room is the "top table". Among those calling the shots are McSweeney and Pat McFadden, a Blairite former minister who is national campaign co-ordinator. Also there are McFadden's wife, Marianna, who is McSweeney's deputy, Ellie Reeves, the MP and deputy national campaign co-ordinator, and Hollie Ridley, the executive director of nations and regions.

Unusually a husband and wife team — the McFaddens — are critical to Labour's hopes. "They're spending all day together and then they say they have to go home and find something else to argue about," one source joked.

According to electoral history, Labour has a near insurmountable advantage. Never in the history of polling has a party been as far behind as the Tories and gone on to win.

What matters to Labour is the size of the majority. Starmer knows that the present 25-point lead in the polls is likely to contract and the response at that point will be critical. "There will be a wobble and how we respond to that wobble will define our campaign," a senior Labour source said. "The polls are going to tighten — and the critical thing is not to lose our nerve and change strategy."

Another Starmer ally said: "Everyone's wary because of what's happened in the past, but this one we can win, which is why we are nervous. We've got beaten dog syndrome. You can't lose four in a row and hear the word 'election' and immediately think 'victory'."

Shadow cabinet ministers are being told to visit constituencies where issues aligned with their portfolios are priorities. Those with safe seats are twinned with marginal ones where they will campaign. But in a sign of increasing confidence, this pairing process is being redone, with MPs taken off Tory seats with majorities of under 5,000 — now seen as likely wins — and sent where they are 10,000 or more behind.

One of the biggest priorities is avoiding unforced errors or, as it's known, a "bacon sandwich" moment in reference to the much-ridiculed picture of Ed Miliband in the 2015 general election. On the road Starmer has a full-time minder to ensure there are no unscripted moments and he is not caught unawares by a phone camera. "It's about being competent, getting the optics right and not slipping up," one Labour figure said.

The party's manifesto will include some surprises, but given the fiscal constraints further pledges to cut taxes are unlikely, and there will be no commitment to reverse benefit cuts.

"If you think about Tony Blair's government, some of the most radical things he did like Bank of England independence and the national minimum wage didn't cost the government anything," a source said. "That is the approach that is being taken this time."

A mile and half away across the river at Tory HQ, the mood among the campaign team is less buoyant but equally chaotic. Senior figures knew the election date weeks ago but there was a limit to how much could be done, for fear of a leak.

The secrecy has infuriated Tory MPs who had planned for a November poll. "I think it's mental, I'm very angry about it," one MP said. "We've all been caught cold-footed. He has united the party in being pretty angry." The MP added: "Colleagues feel thrown under the bus. Party members feel thrown under the bus. The feeling is that this is a man storming off because he can't be bothered any more."

McSweeney's opposite number in the Tory campaign is Isaac Levido, the Australian strategist who helped to mastermind Boris Johnson 2019 victory. And he has modelled the 2024 campaign on similar lines. He sits in the centre of an open-plan office in Matthew Parker Street — alongside key Sunak aides. "It's completely cheek by jowl and chaotic," a staff member said.

Each day of the campaign begins with an early call between Sunak, Levido, Liam Booth Smith, his chief of staff, as well as other key figures such as Rupert Yorke, the deputy chief of staff, and James Forsyth, his political secretary. It runs late into the evening, when Levido awards a toy koala to the best campaign performer that day.

One source said the intention was to portray Sunak as the underdog. "It is the exact opposite of the Ming vase strategy. We have got to break things so people sit up and take notice."

In particular the Tories are preparing to announce pledges in their manifesto on tax, migration and benefits. "The manifesto is going to be key," a source said. "We need to change the terms of the debate so people can really see what the choice they are making is."

Alongside Sunak, the key faces of the Tory campaign will be some of the cabinet's younger women, including Claire Coutinho, the energy secretary, and Laura Trott, the chief secretary to the Treasury. Sunak's team are also keen to utilise Kemi Badenoch, despite the business secretary's own leadership ambitions, but are less keen on Penny Mordaunt, the leader of the Commons, who was widely blamed for plotting against Sunak this year.

But others — not least Labour — have questioned whether the Tory campaign machine is already misfiring. After an election announcement in the pouring rain, Sunak was sent to face the media in Belfast's Titanic Quarter.

"We are just yards away from where the Titanic was built. Are you captaining a sinking ship going into the election?" was the brutal opener from the local press. Sunak's response — "if you look at what's happened over the past few weeks alone, you can see that our plan is working" — meant the question got far more attention than the answer.

The prime minister sought to dispel suggestions that his heart was no longer in it, telling reporters that he was "pumped up" and "up for the fight" against Labour. "I love doing this," he said. "I love talking to people, I love having the debate... making sure they know what I'm about and I'm really confident that we're going to have a really good conversation as a country about the future we want."

One Labour figure who has been on the losing side of previous election campaigns said the Tories must not be underestimated, adding: "There is a reason why we have only been in power for 30 of the last 120 years. The Tories won't be dead until they are in their grave six feet under, we've poured concrete on them and the concrete has set."

It's marginal, but I know who I'm voting for, Matthew Parris, page 25
Fourteen years of lost opportunities, Anthony Selden, Weekend Essay, page 32

Ellie Reeves is deputy chief of the Labour campaign

Revealed: what TV choices say about your politics

Tom Calver Data Editor

To understand how drastically the British electorate has changed since 2019, one could do worse than watch the TV show *Clarkson's Farm*. "In my old job I wanted to pave over the countryside," the former *Top Gear* host pleads with the West Oxfordshire District Council planning committee in series two. "Now I don't want to do any such thing."

Viewers of the hit Amazon Prime show, in which Jeremy Clarkson and friends fight to make his Diddly Squat Farm profitable, were also some of the strongest Conservative backers in 2019. Five years later —

Tories attack Labour workers' rights as dangerously French

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

The Conservatives will claim today that Labour's workers' right plan would cost businesses billions of pounds, after Sir Keir Starmer argued the reforms were vital for economic growth.

The Tories are seeking to make a key election issue of what they term "French-style" employment rights, arguing that Labour would harm productivity by allowing all staff to work from home.

Labour dismisses the Tory figures as "absolutely nonsense", and Starmer plans to campaign on the package, seeking it as a key election winner among workers struggling with the cost of living crisis as the policy highlights contrasting visions of the economy.

Labour will go on the offensive today with a highly personal attack on Rishi Sunak, saying that the average family is £6,000 worse off while the prime minister "personally has become richer than the King".

Although Starmer has retreated on a series of radical promises, he has remained committed to a workers' rights package that includes banning

HBO; GUY LEVY/BBC; SHUTTERSTOCK; ALAMY; NETFLIX; AMAZON

according to polling data from the More In Common UK think tank — its fans have experienced a massive 35 point swing to Labour, the most of any TV show viewing group.

Mondeo Man, Waitrose Woman, red wall and blue: in each election psephologists scramble to anoint a particular group who will decide the outcome. For the 2024 general election, step forward *Question Time* man: he may be a bore, but the data, based on a poll of 2,041 people conducted last month, shows that its viewers follow the national trend more closely than viewers of any other TV show.

In 2019 *Question Time* swung 13 per cent to the Conservatives; now it backs Labour by 14 points. The data is enough to send Rishi Sunak hiding behind the sofa. From *Coronation Street* (a "red wall" favourite) to *Planet Earth* (a hit among liberal voters), the data suggests that the Conservatives have lost the viewers of some of Britain's most popular shows.

But Labour's lead is now so big nationally that even traditionally safe constituencies, such as the old faithful *Strictly Come Dancing* demographic, who leant 21 per cent to the Tories, now favours Labour by six points.

"Forget *Newsnight*, forget *Question Time* — the reason Labour are going to win the election is [they] have won *Strictly* and *I'm a Celeb*," said the TV presenter and author Richard Osman on *The Rest Is Entertainment* podcast, which first covered the figures. The Ant and Dec-fronted jungle game show now sits comfortably within Labour territory, and should be an easy gain.

Even viewers of the most Conservative show of them all, the Coronation of King Charles — among which the party had a 25 point lead in 2019 — are now at risk of voting Labour.

The electoral landscape has truly been redrawn. But does any of this actually mean anything beyond yet another way of carving up the populace? "While you might not instinctively think the decision to watch *Happy Valley* or *The Crown* is a political decision, it is undoubtedly the case that the viewing habits of the different tribes of the electorate vary significantly," Luke Tryl, the UK executive director of More in Common, who oversaw the polling, said.

"Looking at how viewers of these different shows have switched in their voting intention provides a different way of showing quite how much the electoral landscape has been upended since the last election."

In other words, while Corbyn's 2019 Labour Party already had the Channel 4 and Netflix vote — namely *Taskmaster* and *Squid Game* — Starmer has since added *Succession* and the Rugby World Cup fans to his electoral coalition.

The size of any Labour majority on July 4 could rest on whether those who backed Boris Johnson in 2019, but are now undecided, return to the Conservatives. These voters tend to be female homeowners, with an average age of 61, and live predominantly in places such as Scarborough or Whitby, according to Tryl, who has named the tribe "Whitby Woman". But what is she watching? The *Martin Lewis Money Show*, *The Great British Bake Off* and the Coronation, the figures suggest.

What of the other parties? While SNP voters are more likely to enjoy the post-apocalyptic world of *The Last of Us*, in which humanity has been ravaged by a pandemic that turns people into zombies, Liberal Democrat voters seem to favour Netflix winner-takes-all horror gameshow *Squid Game* (perhaps a surprising choice for Britain's third-placed party).

Some shows are evidently more capable of bridging political divides than others. Fans of BBC Three's *RuPaul's Drag Race*, in which drag queens compete in epic lip-sync battles, were evenly split between the Conservatives and Labour in 2019; now, after a huge 33-point swing, they are some of the staunchest Starmerites. Yet some 11 per cent of *RuPaul* voters, higher than the countrywide average, at the time of polling, surprisingly favour Reform UK.

The Greens, however, are the most countercultural of them all: their supporters were more likely to claim to not watch any television at all.

zero-hours contracts, giving staff more protection against dismissal from day one, higher sick pay, the repeal of trade union laws, more flexible working, better maternity pay and a higher youth minimum wage. Starmer argued yesterday: "You will never have a strong, functioning economy if you don't treat your workforce properly."

He promised "the biggest act of levelling-up for workers' rights in a generation", promising to ensure "dignity and respect at work and "make work pay".

Labour has yet to set out many details of the reforms, and has alarmed unions by promises of consultation with business, after bosses raised concerns about the potential cost of the package.

Now the Conservatives argue that the package will cost businesses £41 billion by making it more expensive to employ staff, in several ways.

Labour has promised a higher minimum wage for young workers, who at present can legally be paid far less than those over 23, alongside statutory sick pay for all workers. Although they have not fixed figures, businesses believe this would push up costs and the Tories estimate the costs at £1.5 billion and £4 billion. A promised ban on zero-hours contracts would cost £1.6 billion, they claim. Labour disputes all these costings.

Labour also denies that it plans to give all workers family and carers' leave and to allow staff to work from home, which the Tories claim would cost £16.7 billion and £15 billion respectively.

Labour wants to give workers the right to work flexibly unless it is "not reasonably feasible", but insists that this is about helping people to have more family-friendly working patterns, not allowing everyone to work from home.

Business has been reassured after Labour mounted an intensive listening exercise with companies in response to concerns about the costs and unintended consequences of the scheme.

However, business leaders remain worried about how the scheme will be implemented. Shevaun Haviland, director-general of the British Chambers of Commerce, held talks with Labour on the subject this week, saying: "On such important matters it's crucial that the voice of business continues to be heard loud and clear. It's clear that Labour is in listening mode. Our members wholeheartedly recognise that their employees deserve high standards of protection. However, any changes to legislation must be consulted on and must be proportionate. Firms must be given adequate time to prepare for any changes and guard against any unintended consequences."

Labour will argue today that the government has failed on the cost of living, estimating that the average household is £5,833 worse off than in 2019 through a combination of higher energy and grocery bills, tax rises and mortgage increases.

Darren Jones, the shadow secretary to the Treasury, said: "Rishi Sunak's economic failure has meant soaring costs for regular expenses leaving families almost £6,000 worse off since 2019, while he personally has become richer than the King."

How Sunak should turn the tide, Giles Coren, page 26

MPs recommend banning social media for under-16s

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Social media and online apps should be banned for under-16s, MPs have recommended.

The education select committee has concluded that the harms of social media use "significantly outweigh the benefits for young children", after an investigation into the impact on education and wellbeing. After reviewing evidence from experts, it has made a series of recommendations, including raising the digital age of consent from 13 to 16. This would in effect ban young children from social media and apps without parental approval.

The MPs say: "The entire system surrounding the digital age of consent and how it is verified is not fit for purpose. We have heard no evidence to suggest that 13 is an appropriate age for children to understand the implications of allowing platforms access to their personal data online."

It is against the law for children under 13 to be on social media because their data cannot be processed by technology companies. Under the Online Safety Act, Ofcom will enforce tougher age checks to make sure the law is applied.

The report's other recommendations include a consultation on restricting smartphone sales to under-16s and guidance that children should not have access to screens after bedtime. It also encouraged adults to minimise the use of devices when supervising young children and that a statutory school phone ban should be put in place if the present voluntary system failed.

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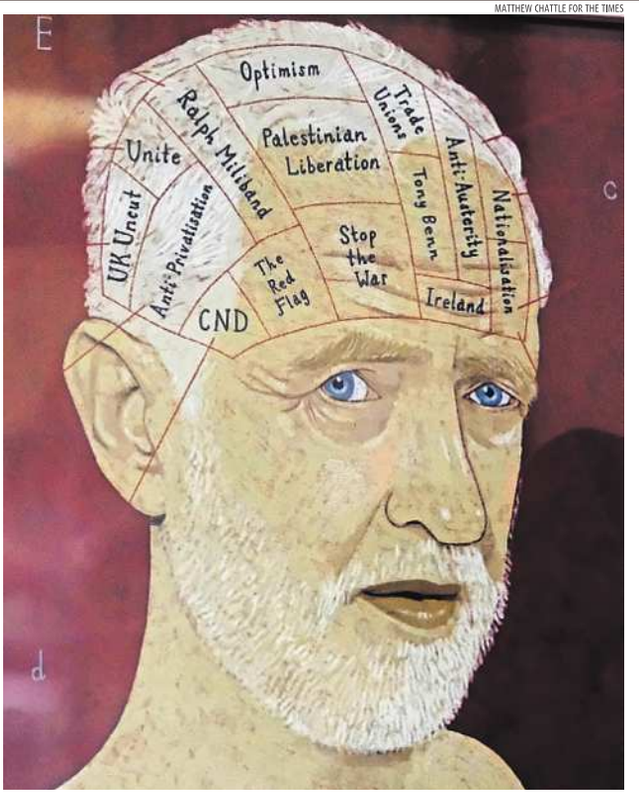
The Gadz Café in Jeremy Corbyn's Islington North constituency has tributes to the ex-Labour leader, while another local café owner, Songul Aksun, below, said that he remained popular locally

MATTHEW CHATTLE FOR THE TIMES



'If Corbyn leapt from 10th floor, we'd follow him'

Fiona Hamilton Chief Reporter

"Welcome, please come in," beams Eddie Geio, ushering me into his café in Finsbury Park, north London. "I'd love to talk about Jeremy. A lovely guy. A beautiful guy. My neighbour! My friend!"

Geio, who happens to live four doors down from Jeremy Corbyn on a quiet street half a mile away, does not care much for politics. "I like people. Jeremy is always popping in, always smiling. I vote for the man himself, not the party.

"Labour? What they have done to him is wrong. I'll say no more, that's enough politics for today."

This is Corbyn's heartland. Where a Corbyn-themed café around the corner has pictures of the left-wing renegade adorned with love hearts on the wall and an owner who declares that if Corbyn jumps from the tenth floor of a building, they will all follow him.

Where Corbyn's son, Tommy, runs National Hemp Service, a hemp shop and café, and a popular pub is dedicated to the Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara.

And where Corbyn's decision to run as an independent after being blocked by his party, announced yesterday in a video message, presents Sir Keir Starmer with a dual dilemma: heightened tensions with the left and the prospect of losing Islington North, the constituency next door to his own that has been a Labour safe seat since 1937.

It is also likely to increase pressure on Labour to re-admit Diane Abbott, Corbyn's long-time ally suspended a year ago, or potentially face another difficult battle with an independent in the Labour stronghold next door in Hackney North & Stoke Newington.

Corbyn, the MP since 1983, led the party to a catastrophic general election defeat in 2019 but won a comfortable majority in Islington North. His supporters hope he can retain his seat as an independent, despite Labour's hold in the polls, by backing policies such as rent controls and the abolition of the two-child benefits cap. The local personality cult is also a key strength and nowhere is its pull greater than in Gadz Café, tucked behind the bus depot in Finsbury Park.

Hussein Jabar has owned the café for 22 years and has dedicated it to Corbyn, a regular visitor, for more than a decade. Pictures of the former Labour leader dot the walls, and his image was on top of the café's tree at Christmas.

"I love him, I respect him. He helps local people, he's not like an ordinary politician," Jabar declares. He acknowledges the controversies that have plagued Corbyn, which have included the alleged failure to tackle antisemitism. But Jabar sees Corbyn as an honest man who sticks to his principles.

"The people here, we love him. He jumps from the tenth floor of a building, we will all follow," Jabar says, gesturing at his customers.

Adam, an Algerian who has lived in London for several years, nods. Just outside, a wall is plastered with posters calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. Corbyn's support on Palestine is applauded by many locals, despite criticism of his stance on Hamas, including an initial failure to describe it as a terrorist group in the wake of the October 7 atrocity.

"He understands geopolitics and what is important to people," Adam says. "Local Muslims will support him over Gaza. He is pro-immigration when other politicians are not. This country, it needs immigrants. Jeremy knows that. People around here, they will all vote for him."

Many business owners and residents do not follow politics closely. Some are not aware that Corbyn has been expelled from Labour after announcing his independent candidacy, but they remain enthusiastic about him.

At the Blue Owl café, another Corbyn haunt, the owner Songul Aksan, 33, knows him as "a very popular man who talks to customers. Someone who pops by, is very friendly. People like him."

On nearby Corbyn Street, which was not named after him, a man walking home with his shopping is less effusive. He does not want to be named because he works for Labour, but is happy to chat about Corbyn, who had the whip removed in 2020 after saying that antisemitism in the party while he was leader had been exaggerated.

"I won't vote for him. The antisemitism issue, it was appalling. It was real. Jeremy has had too many friends in the wrong places. Labour did the right thing blocking him. If you're going to get rid of these problems from the party, you have to be tough," he said.

He is not so sure that Islington North will be a walkover for Corbyn. The surrounding Georgian and Victorian streets, where houses sell for well in excess of £1 million, are a stronghold of middle-class voters who dislike him. Labour will also benefit from an influx of salaried young professionals who did not live there at the last election.

"Anyway, it's a bit of a sideshow. Labour has got London. It needs to focus on getting to the countryside and winning the election," he says.

Max, an IT worker sipping a soy latte in another café, perhaps illustrates the shifting plates in Islington North.

"It's a bit mad that Labour has excised Corbyn and Diane Abbott when it's letting in people like Natalie Elphicke," he says, referring to the right-wing Tory who defected this month and accused Rishi Sunak of failing on immigration.

"But I'll still vote for Labour. This country needs new leadership. And Jeremy is strong in opposition, but I don't think he'll be any good in power."

A local Labour source, who asked not to be named, agrees: "This constituency is the fourth worst place in Britain for elderly poverty, the tenth worst for child poverty. It needs an MP who focuses on it, not someone who wants to go to the Hague to prosecute Israel."

Labour faces a tough battle nonetheless. Yesterday it was criticised for anointing Praful Nargund, a local councillor, as its candidate. A ballot of members had been planned for next week but, given the snap election, Labour's national executive committee stepped in.

Sharon Graham, general secretary of Unite, said blocking Corbyn had been an "error" and an "opportunity missed".

Momentum, the pro-Corbyn campaign group, said it was an "almighty mess" and that voters, served by Corbyn for more than 40 years, had been treated with contempt by Starmer.

Corbyn was not actively campaigning yesterday but focused on local issues in a video announcing his candidacy. He promised 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".

Jeremy Corbyn's last stand, leading article, page 29

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Boos and bodyguards as Vennells ends evidence

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL

The ex-Post Office boss was escorted to and from her car by Met Police officers

Tom Witherow, Mario Ledwith

Postmaster lawyers accused Paula Vennells of a "deliberate, considered, and calculated" cover-up as hundreds of postmasters were acquitted by a historic act of parliament.

The former chief executive of the Post Office was told yesterday that she had given a "craven, self-serving account" that showed she lived in a "cloud of denial and it persists even to today".

She fought tears as she said "I loved the Post Office", and claimed she was "noted within the organisation for caring for sub-postmasters". Sam Stein KC, representing postmasters, said: "That's absolute rubbish, isn't it?"

Jo Hamilton, the postmistress who was played by Monica Dolan in the ITV drama, watched from the front row as the inquiry was shown an email from 2014 when Vennells wrote she "lacked passion and admitted false accounting on TV". Amid booing, Vennells apologised directly to Hamilton: "I'm very sorry ... I regret everything I wrote."

As Vennells left the venue, waiting postmasters shouted "pay your bonuses back", as she was escorted to a car by six Metropolitan Police officers.

Her final day of evidence came as parliament passed into law an act that will automatically quash the convictions of about 850 postmasters, unlocking at least £600,000 compensation for each victim.

The past three days have been the most significant of the Post Office inquiry so far. Vennells, who worked for the company from 2007 to 2019, and ran it from 2010, faced thousands of questions delving deep into her role in the widespread miscarriage of justice.

Between 1999 and 2015, close to 1,000 postmasters were convicted of crimes including theft, fraud and false accounting based on data from the faulty Horizon system. Many victims waited two decades to see justice and 250 have died before the inquiry could report. Vennells denied a conspiracy, blamed her executives for failing to give her the unvarnished truth about Horizon and claimed that key documents never crossed her desk.

Paula Vennells burst into tears four times while giving evidence

She has burst into tears on four occasions and apologised at least 26 times, but barristers asking questions on behalf of postmasters dismissed her contrition as "humbug".

"There were so many forks in the road but you always took the wrong path, didn't you?" Ed Henry KC said, to which she replied: "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."

Henry accused Vennells of exercising "power with no thought of the consequences", despite the "consequences staring you in the face", telling the part-time priest: "You preach compassion but don't practise it."

Vennells was put under pressure over her knowledge of an IT expert witness, Gareth Jenkins, who was stood down for "misleading several trials".

She admitted she was briefed on the situation in July 2013 but claimed she did not appreciate the legal ramifications, and did not purposefully hide the crucial information when she presented a paper about Horizon to the Post Office board a few days later. "This is how you led Ms Vennells: you led through deception, manipulation and word-weaving the reality you wanted in place," Henry said. Vennells denied hiding her team's "dirty laundry".

When the Criminal Cases Review Commission wrote to Vennells asking for documents to investigate potential miscarriages of justice, the body was not sent the documents. "The right and honest thing for the Post Office to have done would be to have let the CCRC know...?" Jason Beer, counsel to the inquiry, said on Thursday. "Yes, it would," she said.

She was accused of living in "la la land" by denying that she and the board knew about "unauthorised tampering" with postmasters' accounts through a backdoor into the Horizon system. "It is extraordinary though, isn't it, that your external lawyers, Cartwright King, knew all about it, and yet you're saying the board didn't, you didn't — I mean this is la la land isn't it?" Henry asked. She replied: "I had no idea Cartwright King knew that while I was chief executive."

Hamilton, speaking after the hearing, said: "She puts this mask on that she's a decent person, and didn't really know what was going on — but at the end of the day she's chief executive. She must have known."

Dominic O'Connell, business, page 49

Judges reject Letby's appeal against murder convictions

Ali Mitib

Britain's most prolific serial killer of children has been denied permission to appeal against her convictions for the murder of seven babies and the attempted murder of six others for the second time.

Lucy Letby, 34, a former neonatal nurse, is serving 14 whole-life prison terms after being found guilty of the offences last year.

An initial application for leave to appeal, shortly after the end of her ten-month trial at Manchester crown court, was refused by a judge in January. Her second application, heard during a two-and-a-half-day hearing last month, has now been dismissed at the Royal Courts of Justice. At a two-minute hearing yesterday, Lady Justice Sharp said that Letby's request had been refused. She said: "Having heard her application, we have decided to refuse leave to appeal on all grounds and refuse all associated applications. A full judgment will be handed down in due course." The decision marks the end of the appeal process.

Lawyers for Letby were challenging her convictions on four grounds, which involve arguments that the trial judge wrongly refused legal applications that she made during the case. For legal reasons, the full details of Letby's appeal cannot be reported at this stage.

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News

A park full of Strava cyclists... and a speed gun

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent
Lara Wildenberg, Joey D'Urso

The speed gun display registered 29mph as the cyclist in Lycra flew past.

"Put that speed gun away," he shouted, with some profanity added — to the bemusement of an elderly gentleman.

It is early evening in Regent's Park, central London, and the Outer Circle road appears like a velodrome.

Men and women in cycling club jerseys whizz past as they complete laps. Some ride in groups, others alone. Some are here for fitness, others are up against the clock — maybe hoping to secure a spot on a Strava leaderboard.

Cyclists and runners on the app can choose to get a notification when they approach a "segment" on their route. The segments compare other users' times on a leaderboard for that particular route, hill or stretch of road.

Records can be achieved by accident, as part of a longer route. The segments attract competition for a Local Legend award, a Strava accolade for the athlete who completes a segment the most over a given period, regardless of speed.

The Outer Circle is one of the most popular segments in the UK — but also the most controversial. The segment for a 2.7-mile lap of the park has been taken down, or "flagged", as hazardous. Some 42,284 Strava users have ridden two laps of the park 2,162,122 times.

Royal Parks, the charity that maintains eight of London's green spaces, wrote to the American company and other timekeeping apps to ask them to remove a segment for the Outer Circle after a fatal accident two years ago.

Hilda Griffiths, 81, a retired teacher, was struck by a cyclist while walking her dog in the park in 2022. The accident prompted a debate over reforming road safety laws.

The cyclist, Brian Fitzgerald, a director at Credit Suisse, was in a group doing timed laps but was not prosecuted because speed limits don't apply to bicycles. Regent's Park Cyclists, a volunteer group that represents more than 35 clubs, said it planned to install signs to educate riders on the rules of the park.

Sean Epstein, its chair, said the club was working with park stakeholders.

"We are in the early stages of putting together some messaging aimed at park cyclists," he said. "Drawing our community's attention to the pedestrian experience and the effect we have on it will ultimately lead to improved safety and reduced tensions for all."

Ministers said they would back redrafted plans to put cyclists under the same legal framework as motorists, with those who injure people while riding dangerously facing jail terms of up to five years. Those plans are stalled until the general election on July 4.

During 90 minutes in the park this week, The Times recorded some cyclists at over the 20mph speed limit for cars, though many were below. One rider said: "You want to see it before 7am [when the park opens to vehicles]. That's when the racing happens."

But Strava segments do not exist only in Regent's Park. The Hampton Court Drag — a stretch along Hampton Court Road in southwest London — is one of the most popular places in the UK for Strava users.

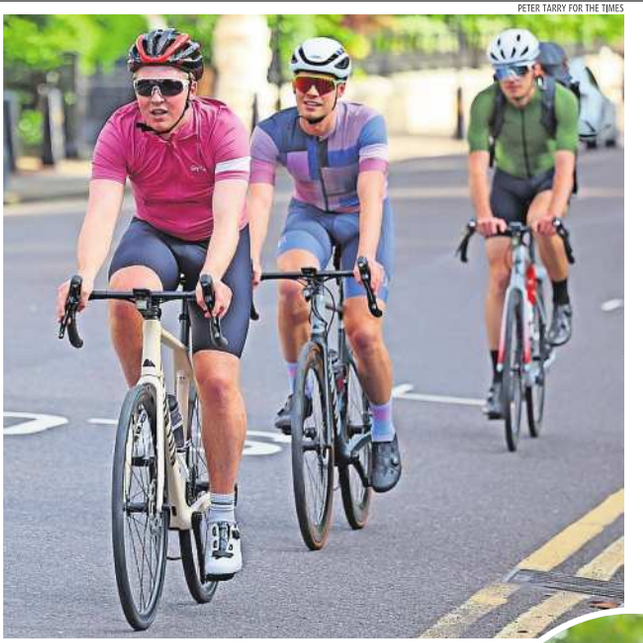
Strava data records 1.4 million rides along the 1.2-mile route by 140,000 people since the app was founded in 2009. The top cyclist on the segment's leaderboard rode the stretch in 1 minute and 48 seconds, at 37.5mph.

A dozen riders from London Dynamo cycling club, which has about 650 members, met last week for a 62-mile loop. They said the Hampton Court Drag was one of the main routes out of the city. One member said they felt safer in groups on rural roads.

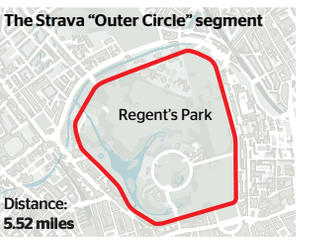
All the cyclists described having abuse hurled at them by impatient drivers. All had been in accidents.

A spokesman for Strava said the app could flag a cycling route as hazardous. He added: "If segments are flagged as hazardous, achievements are not awarded for that segment and leaderboards are disabled."

PETER TARRY FOR THE TIMES



Regent's Park, London, where Ben Clatworthy used his speed gun



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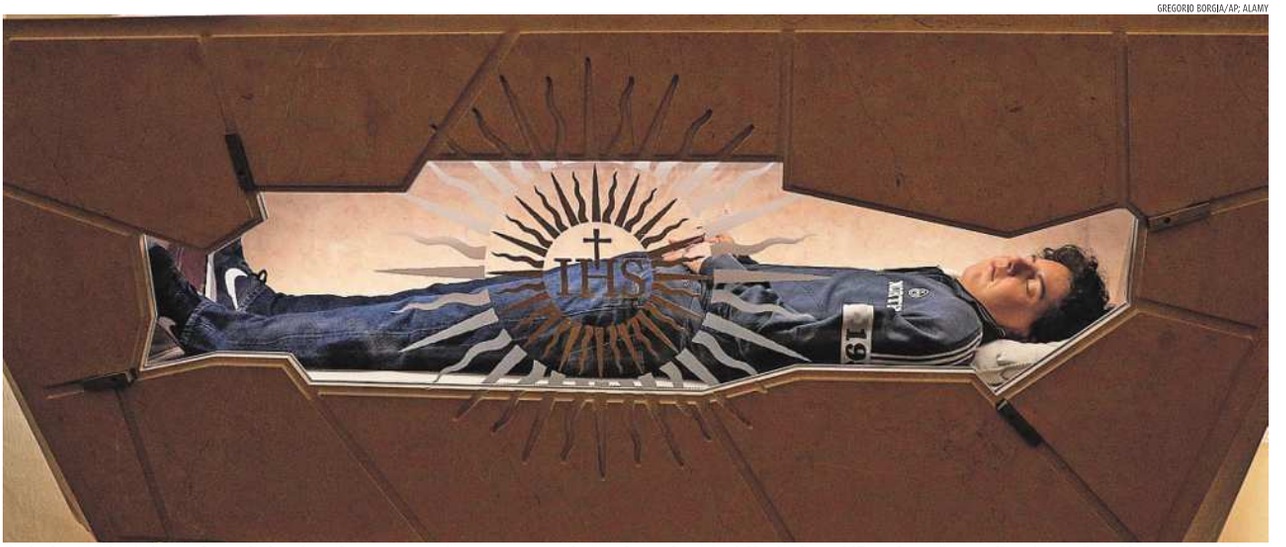
‘Carlo is more alive than we are — surely he is watching from the sky’

Antonia Salzano, the mother of a teenager set to gain sainthood, tells **Kaya Burgess** how special her son was

GREGORIO BORGIA/AP; ALAMY



Carlo Acutis’s body lies in Assisi, Italy, where he was carried in a procession before being beatified. He died aged 15, and was “naturally religious” said his mother, below

All parents hope to bring their child up to be a kind and decent person, but Antonia Salzano and Andrea Acutis quite literally raised a saint.

Carlo Acutis was born in 1991 in London and raised in Milan by his Italian mother and half-English, half-Italian father. Less than 18 years after his sudden death in 2006 from leukaemia aged 15, he is set to be the Catholic Church’s first millennial saint, the Pope has announced.

“I am nothing special,” said Antonia, 57, yesterday at her family’s second home in Assisi, where Carlo’s body lies visible within his tomb as a site of veneration for Catholics. “I was just an instrument. Having a child like Carlo was special for me.”

The Vatican has officially attributed two miracles to Carlo, declaring that a Brazilian boy and a Costa Rican woman owe their lives to miraculous recoveries after their families prayed to him in heaven for healing.

This proves to Antonia that, although her child may have departed the “material world” while still a teenager, he is still present. “Surely he can see from the sky what is happening,” she said. “He is more alive than we are, surely he is happy.”

Asked if Carlo acquired his devout Catholic faith from his parents, his mother said it was the other way round. She “never went to Mass” while growing up and was “more of a Protestant” as she did not believe Jesus was truly present in the bread and wine at Holy Communion.

His father, Andrea, 60, who worked in London as a merchant banker when Carlo was born and now runs his family’s insurance business, was raised a Catholic but his faith was “tepid” at best.

Carlo, however, appeared drawn to faith from a very young age. While still living in London, he said his first word, “Dad”, at the age of three months, his mother said, and was “very advanced”, adding: “From the age of three, when we were out walking he would always want to go into churches and ‘say hello to Jesus’. He seemed naturally religious.”

Carlo started to read the Bible and ask “very profound questions” about faith that Antonia felt “ashamed” at being unable to answer. Shortly before he turned five, Antonia’s father, who worked in publishing, died from a heart attack, prompting her to “start asking myself questions about the afterlife and where my father was — it was a big shock to me”. She added: “Carlo told me he saw my father who asked him for prayers, and he started to pray a lot for dead people. He was only five.” From the age of six, Carlo started to notice things near his home that troubled him. “We lived in the centre of Milan, a town full of beggars, and he would stop and say, ‘I have everything, a bed and meals, and these people are suffering with nothing.’” At nine he said: “‘Mama, can I buy some sleeping bags for them, some blankets?’,” said Antonia, who worked in her family’s publishing business. “He made us save money. If I bought him a pair of shoes, when he already had a pair, he would say, ‘I don’t need new shoes, there are people who are starving, why don’t we save it to give to the poor people?’

“He was older than his age, not a child of nine years old when he was nine, he was very mature.” While at school, he was “very bright and nice” and made a special effort to “defend bullied people” and help “classmates that were shy or reserved and had problems getting on with others,”

He was also troubled by the difficulties faced by Milan’s large migrant population and “made friends” with the porters, waiters and maids in nearby buildings, she said.

Carlo was born in the private Portland hospital in London on May 3, 1991 and was baptised a fortnight later in the Church of Our Lady of Dolours in Chelsea. His parents lived near Knightsbridge, moving back to Milan when Carlo was four months old. On October 2, 2006, Carlo, 15, fell ill with suspected flu. Within days he had deteriorated and was taken to a clinic in Milan where he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. On October 11, he suffered a brain haemorrhage and slipped into a coma. He died the next day.

“During the funeral, the church was so full that a lot of people had to remain outside,” Antonia said. “Many of these people were the migrants and they were all friends of Carlo.”

When he went into hospital, Carlo told his parents that he believed he “would not come out alive”, but told them he was “not scared”, she said. “During his agony, that lasted five or six days, the doctors asked him: ‘Are you suffering?’ He said: ‘There are people suffering much more than I am.’ He was never complaining, even though he had terrible pain.” Antonia was consoled by their faith and said: “We know it is not saying goodbye for ever, but we will see each other true, so I accepted it. I was prepared.”

His devout faith and altruism can sometimes mask the fact that Carlo was just “a normal child”, Antonia said. “He enjoyed sports, he liked basketball and football, though was not a fanatic, and he liked computers, creating websites and programmes.”

He developed a website documenting miracles from around the world, creating an exhibition that has travelled around the world since his death. This love of computing has led his growing army of devotees to call him “God’s influencer” and suggest him as a more modern “patron saint of the internet” than the holder of the title, Saint Isidore of Seville, a scholar who compiled a pioneering encyclopaedia and died in AD636, some 1,300 years before the internet was born.

Asked what advice she would give to parents hoping to raise a saintly child, Antonia said parents must set a good example: “From when they are small, if they want to grow their children in faith, they need to start to speak about God, to pray together, to speak about values, about respect. Sometimes they have to say ‘no’. You can’t say ‘yes’ to everything. Sometimes parents are a little scared to say ‘no’.”

She said this could build resilience in children growing up in a world of “bullies, drugs, alcohol and violence against children” and warned parents not to park their children “in front of the TV or with a smartphone or Facebook” and think “I can relax”.

In 2013, Mattheus, a Brazilian boy, was unable to eat without vomiting due to “annular pancreas”. He weighed 9kg at the age of four and was expected to die when a priest prayed to Carlo. The boy developed a healthy appetite that same day, it was reported, with scans showing his condition had vanished Antonia said.

Carlo’s body was exhumed in 2019 as part of the investigation process leading to a possible canonisation. In 2020, his body went on public display ahead of his beatification, visible through the glass side of his tomb. Worshippers were shocked to see that his body appeared to be “incorrupt”, meaning it had not decayed, but church officials said it had experienced “the normal process of decay” over 14 years and that his face had been “reassembled with art and love” using silicone.

In 2022, Valeria Valverde, 21, a Costa Rican woman studying in Florence, suffered a serious head injury in a bicycle crash. She had to undergo an emergency craniotomy to alleviate pressure on her brain, but remained in a critical condition. Six days later, her mother visited Carlo’s tomb in Assisi to ask for healing. The church said that, on the same day, Valverde began to breathe unaided. She was discharged from intensive care ten days later and scans apparently showed that the brain contusion had disappeared.

“I had the chance to meet [Valeria], she is a very nice girl,” Antonia said. “She was between life and death and if she survived, doctors said she could have tremendous [brain damage]. But her mother had an impulse to go to Assisi and prayed to Carlo.”

One other miracle that Antonia attributes to Carlo is the birth of her twins, Francesca and Michele, at the age of 43. Carlo died an only child. “I tried to have other children, but they never came”, she said.

“I was starting to lose any hope as I was nearly 43, but I dreamt Carlo told me: ‘Don’t worry, you will become a mother again.’ And after one month I became pregnant. And the date of delivery was the [anniversary] of his death. They feel he is like a brother and they address him as one of the family. They are religious too, but a normal young boy and girl. Of course, Carlo was a little special and the mission he had was a special mission.”

Saints and singers, inspiring others to do better, leading article, page 29

FABIO DE PAOLA/PA

Plant pops A Girls Aloud tribute garden by the florist Adi Thomas features at the Manchester Flower Festival this weekend

Security fence at Oxford University after Gaza protest

Will Humphries, Elisabeth Perlman

Receptionists at Oxford University's main office building were working behind a metal security fence after pro-Palestinian students made their way into an office and were arrested.

The university said that 16 protesters jumped over the reception desk of the administrative office in Wellington Square, near the centre of the city.

The students allegedly pushed past staff to confront Irene Tracey, the vice-chancellor, in her office and demand that the university "divest from Israeli genocide, apartheid and occupation" in the Palestinian territories.

Reception staff yesterday had to speak through holes in the metal fence that screened them from visitors, while security guards patrolled the front steps. "We are all OK," one of them said. "For today, we decided to work like this."

Earlier in the week two swastikas were found daubed in the unisex lavatories at Regent's Park College at the university. The member of staff who first saw the Nazi symbols removed them immediately.

Dr Lynn Robson, the college safeguarding lead, wrote in an email on Tuesday: "We do not tolerate any instances of abuse, offensive behaviour, open or covert hostility, directed at others on the grounds of race, religion or belief."

Activists with Oxford Action for Palestine (OA4P) who were involved in the office protest on Thursday had come from two encampments formed in the city in response to the war in Gaza.

Kendall Gardner, 26, a PhD student in political theory at Magdalen College and a lead negotiator for the activists, said the university's accusations were "totally ridiculous".

Gardner, a Jewish student from Indiana, is teaching a feminist theory module to undergraduates from a yurt in the encampment outside Pitt Rivers Museum. She said she was not involved in the office occupation.

She insisted, however, that the students apologised as they jumped the reception desk and one went back to check on the receptionist. All the offices were unlocked "so there was no forcible entry", she added.

"[The students] were surprised it was so easy," Gardner said. She added that the vice-chancellor told the protesters: "This isn't the right way ... there are established lines of communication."

Gardner added: "That was funny to me because we have been trying to use all the established lines of communication and back channels but to no avail."

She said that when the police arrived the protesters were lying on the ground "to emphasise how docile they were." She claimed about 10 per cent of the student population, as many as 2,600 people, and more than 170 faculty and staff, had signed an open letter urging the university to meet their demands.

"This isn't a fringe movement," she said. "This is our university and we have the right to make demands on how the university is run and at the very least get a conversation with them."

Thames Valley police said 16 people were arrested on suspicion of aggravated trespass. One was also arrested on suspicion of common assault.

Oxford University has accused OA4P of spreading lies, defaming the vice-chancellor and lacking transparency about their membership and the interests they represent.

The university said: "This was not a peaceful sit-in but a violent action that included forcibly overpowering the receptionist. This is now a police matter."

The university said Tracey held regular meetings with organisations including the Oxford Palestine Society, the Islamic Society and the Jewish Society.

Jewish students criticised the response to the Regent's Park College swastika incident. Harry Hatwell, 26, who is studying for a masters in civil law at St John's, said the college had not provided a sufficient level of reassurance.

He said: "Their response reeks of 'this happened but let's all move on'. The goal is for everything to just go on as normal And yet the underlying issue isn't dealt with."

Additional reporting by Deborah Linton

Woman who scalded and killed son is jailed for life

George Sandeman

A mother who beat her three-year-old son with a bamboo cane after claiming that the Bible advised the use of the rod, weeks before she murdered him, has been jailed for life.

Christina Robinson, 30, had exposed her son, Dwelaniyah, to cruelty and excruciating pain over several weeks before she shook him to death at the family home in Ushaw Moor, Durham, in November 2022. Robinson was convicted of murder and four child-cruelty charges in March. Yesterday she was sentenced to life in prison with a minimum term of 25 years.

Newcastle crown court was told Robinson had deliberately immersed her son in scalding water 18 days before he died, causing severe burns that left him in agony. Robinson, a member of the Black Hebrew Israelite religion, admitted hitting the boy with a bamboo cane but claimed she was following a Bible scripture that advised the use of the rod for the "correction" of children. She admitted to striking him with a cane an hour before he died.

She said she did not seek medical help for her son's burns because she was ashamed and knew it would "look bad" for her.

The toddler was found with more than 60 injuries, the court was told. Mr Justice Garnham found that Robinson had immersed her son in extremely hot water, causing burns to his lower limbs which affected 20 per cent of his body, after Dwelaniyah had soiled himself.

The judge accepted that when she shook Dwelaniyah, causing fatal brain injuries, she did not intend to kill him. But he said her mistreatment of Dwelaniyah in the last weeks of his life was "appalling in the highest degree".

Robinson represented herself and continues to deny she killed her son.

Additional reporting by Deborah Linton

All hail Aethelflaed, warrior mother of England

Charlie Parker

If a fire broke out at the historian Tom Holland's house, the one item he would rush to rescue is a coin.

The fragile 1,100-year-old piece of silver is more than sentimental; it is Holland's "living link" to one of the most important figures of Britain's past, who he fears has been forgotten.

Scarred with an incision where a Viking may have tested its quality with a sword, it represents the rule of Aethelflaed, the "founding mother of England". A formidable female leader in the Dark Ages and daughter of Alfred the Great, her military triumphs against invading Danes fostered the formation of the country we know now.

Holland, an author and creator of the podcast *The Rest is History*, believes that Aethelflaed has suffered an "injustice" by being overlooked. It is for this reason that Holland has nominated her to be remembered on Celebration Day, a day next week dedicated to celebrating the people of our past.

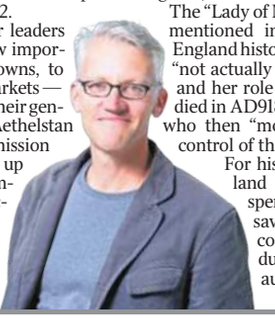
"She is remarkable, an extraordinary figure, and she should have a much higher profile," Holland told The Times. "I think she's up there with Elizabeth I. Aethelflaed is a woman who takes on a martial role but is also a patroness of learning and is a very brilliant figure in very different circumstances. Elizabeth is defending her realm [against the Spanish Armada] and Aethelflaed is in the process of helping to construct it."

Ninth-century England was a patchwork of kingdoms, some inhabited by the Angles and others occupied by Saxons. Over the course of the century most of these lands — Northumbria, Mercia, East Anglia — were conquered by Viking invaders. Only Wessex survived, thanks to the military genius of Alfred the Great, king of the West Saxons, whose reign aimed to unite the fractured domains. Aethelflaed, his eldest child, and her brother Edward the Elder carried on this tradition, leading their own campaigns to bring the realm under a single banner.

"Her great foes were the Vikings," Holland said, explaining that Aethelflaed, after marrying a Mercian aristocrat, took to fortifying strongholds in what would become the Midlands. Her most famous battles in this period included one against a band of Danes outside Chester. She rode north to meet them with a cunning plan: to fight them outside before falling back to draw them into the city. Once within its walls, the gates closed and the enemy forces were slaughtered by her army waiting inside. In other military expeditions her forces dropped beehives on to attacking Vikings, while at a "massive" battle outside the future site of Wolverhampton, her army ambushed a raiding party by "wiping them out with a rain of spears".

A devout woman, she led an expedition deep into Viking-held territory to rescue the bones of St Oswald, a warrior king of Northumbria "hacked to pieces by pagans" in AD642.

"They were great war leaders but also understood how important it was to found towns, to sponsor learning and markets — and in due course, after their generation, Edward's son Aethelstan was able to take this mission northwards to swallow up what had been Northumbria and constitute effectively a united kingdom which becomes England," Holland said.



Tom Holland is fascinated by "the Lady of Mercia"

The "Lady of Mercia" is now rarely mentioned in discussions about England history is because she was "not actually royal", Holland said, and her role is "ambivalent". She died in AD918, before her brother, who then "moved in" and seized control of the whole of Mercia.

For his 50th birthday Holland tracked down and spent his "entire family savings" on the silver coin, minted in Chester during her rule, at an auction in New York.

TMS

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Johnson Sr and his piles

For the first time in 32 years, none of Stanley Johnson's children are standing for parliament, though there is still time. The 83-year-old *paterfamilias* has, however, been encouraged to answer his party's call by his eldest son. "Two hours after the election was called, the phone rang," he said. "It was Boris saying: 'There are 170-odd seats without a candidate, are you interested?'" Stanley feels he is too old but it allowed him to recall his electoral success as an MEP in 1979. At the count, ballots for each candidate had been stacked and Johnson, being pretty green to the whole election malarkey, says he didn't take kindly to the young man who told him: "Oh Mr Johnson, your piles are much bigger than Baroness Seear's." He assumed it was something about the way his trousers were hanging.

ITV has brought forward The Accidental PM, *a thrilling 80-minute account of Theresa May's premiership, to Monday night to sneak in before election TV rules kick in. An insider tells me that the film meets Ofcom requirements to balance May's views with those of her political opponents. "We interviewed Suella Braverman."*

PEER REVIEW

Our Times Radio colleague Ayesha Hazarika made her maiden speech in the Lords yesterday on the last day of this parliament. "As a journalist I've always liked cutting it fine," she explained. Her parents had migrated from Assam in India. "It's an area to the north of the country where it rains a lot and they are fighting for independence," she said. "My parents fancied a change of scene, so they moved to Scotland." They are naturally very proud that she has become a peer. Or fairly proud, anyway. Hazarika, below, recently received a note from her GP father's former receptionist that said: "They still wish you had become a doctor."

DUKE ON THE BOX

One of the reasons for the demise of *Newsnight* is high-profile guests don't want to come on. Peter Snow, who presented it from 1980-97, said it used to stir enthusiasm. "Once we were talking about primogeniture [the aristocratic right of succession] and I thought: 'Get the Duke of Devonshire in,'" Snow told *The Media Show*. "So I rang up his castle and got the duchess on the phone. She turned to her husband and said: '*Newsnight* wants you to go on the air tonight.' And the duke said: 'Ooohh, my time has come!'" Now they're lucky to get Richard Tice.

Michael Crick, another Newsnight *veteran, has recalled a discussion at the Labour conference where Bill Morris, the trade unionist, didn't say a word because Jeremy Paxman, the presenter, couldn't recall his name. Kirsty Wark was better prepared, saying: "If you're in television, I don't care if it's Tony Blair in front of you, you write the name down."*

EROS AND PSYCHE

The classicist Daisy Dunn played havoc with Lackey Jack's blood pressure at the launch of her new book, *The Missing Thread*, a history of the ancient world told through women, when she spoke about the "lioness on the cheesegrater" sexual position mentioned in Aristophanes's play *Lysistrata*. But then Jack is very fond of cheese. Dunn also told him that of all the historical characters in her book, she thinks she would have got on very well with Sappho. Seeing his cheeks turn bright crimson she added: "Maybe not in that kind of way."

PATRICK KIDD

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News

Beatrice the unlikely leading lady steps out of the shadows

Kate Mansey Royal Editor

Standing at the top of the Empire State Building just after dawn, Princess Beatrice was giving her first live television interview.

The New York fog was so bad, however, that ITV's *This Morning* presenters worried that she might disappear from view. "I'm still here," she joked.

She is indeed. Beatrice, 35, may not be an official working member of the royal family but she is increasingly providing crucial back-up support for "The Firm".

As the King returns to public duties after beginning cancer treatment and the Princess of Wales is still taking time away from public duties while receiving hers, Beatrice may be the extra support that the royal family needs.

There is no suggestion that the daughter of the Duke of York and his former wife will take on official duties, or receive public money for doing so, but she is expected to support the King and senior family members more often in the coming months.

On Tuesday Beatrice attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace to support her cousin, the Prince of Wales, alongside her sister, Princess Eugenie, and cousins Zara Tindall and Peter Phillips. At a time when so few younger members of the family are on manoeuvres, it was an interesting choice on William's part. A palace source said: "It was very much that the Prince of Wales wanted to invite his cousins along because [he knew] it would be fun to see all of the young royals there."

The day was rainy but there was a sense of jollity with William calling over to "Mikey", Tindall's husband, the former England rugby player Mike Tindall, to introduce him to a guest.

Beatrice is also likely to join her uncle, the King, at Royal Ascot and at other royal events.

She can handle solo engagements, too. Her trip to New York this month was to promote a charity abseil down the Empire State Building to raise money for the Outward Bound Trust. Beatrice has been a trustee of the young people's charity since 2019 and wants to continue the legacy of the late Duke of Edinburgh, her grandfather, who was a strong supporter of the cause, she told ITV.

Personable and articulate, the princess is what a marketing executive might describe as being "on brand and on message". The encroaching fog, the obtuse questions from television presenters, the 1,250ft drop behind her — none of it seemed to faze her.

The abseil event has raised £500,000 to date and Alan Bolchover, director of marketing and fundraising for Outward Bound, said: "From start to finish Princess Beatrice has been involved and engaged. So much so she came to join us in New York to promote our work and support our brave participants... We are proud to call her one of our own."

The royal family clearly feel the same way and are likely to do so in ten years' time, when they will find themselves thin on the ground. By that time Prince George will probably be at university and the King, Queen, Princess Royal, and Duke and Duchess of Gloucester will be in their eighties. The stalwart Duke of Kent will be edging towards his 100th birthday. With the Duke and Duchess of Sussex out of the picture, the only middle-aged working royals will be William and Kate.

The princess seems to fit this unofficial role well. At 35 she has good commercial and personal experience, and is adept at public appearances. Ingrid Seward, author of *My Mother and I: The Inside Story of the King and our Late Queen*, said that although the King would be hesitant to make her a working royal, "the princess could easily have an informal role if the King wanted her to do so, as her working life does not appear to be too demanding. She would be a great asset as she is brilliant with people and has always had a naturally philanthropic side."

AARON CHOWN/PA

The Duke of York's daughter Princess Beatrice, a non-working royal, read to pupils at West Thornton Primary School in Croydon on Thursday. With her sister Princess Eugenie, left

Duchess of York scolds audience at Cannes

Debbie White

Sarah, Duchess of York, ordered the crowd at the Cannes Film Festival to be quiet and accused them of caring more about "the next party" than the "destruction of the planet".

Prince Andrew's former wife, 64, became visibly irritated while on stage to auction an "exceptional" portrait of Queen Elizabeth II by the artist Chris Levine. Celebrity guests in the audience included Heidi Klum, Kelly Rowland, Demi Moore and Cher, who were attending an American Aids research charity's fundraising gala.

Footage shows the duchess pointing at the audience as she scolded them for not staying quiet during her address. As she struggled to be heard over the rowdy crowd at a villa in Cap d'Antibes near Cannes, she told the crowd to "stop, stop, stop" and insisted they be "quiet". She then spoke about the charity event while pointing to the portrait, saying: "But this is exceptional. And all I want to say is to everyone in this room, stop."

She said: "Did you see I removed the microphone, because all of you are saying 'I want to go, because where is the next party? What are we meant to be doing next?' But what I want to say is why are we here? What is the future and why are we not making our planet better for the youth of tomorrow?" She added: "I'm so sorry! I am so sorry. And I'm so sorry that we have completely and utterly destroyed your planet."

The moment was captured in a video shared on Instagram by Klum, the supermodel. The artwork was sold for more than £405,000. The duchess, however, was not the only one who struggled to be heard over the chattering crowd. Demi Moore, the actress and Cannes contender, was forced to wait for silence before introducing Cher.

The actress, 61, said: "I'm just making sure that you're really, really with me. Because this incredible woman that I'm about to introduce — she's a Grammy winner, an Oscar winner, an Emmy winner." Pausing again, Moore added: "Are you an Emmy winner over there in the back of the room? I f***ing don't think so."

The evening featured a live auction and a fashion show curated by Carine Roitfeld, the former editor-in-chief of Vogue Paris.

Charles accepts role at school he called 'Colditz in kilts'

Jeremy Watson

He reportedly called it "Colditz in kilts", was ordered to put the bins out and was allegedly bullied on the rugby field.

Popular myth has it that the King had an overwhelmingly miserable time as the teenage Prince Charles while at Gordonstoun School in the northeast of Scotland. But if there are any bad memories he has cast them aside. The King has become an ambassador for the school as patron of Gordonstoun's alumni organisation to mark the first anniversary of his coronation.

The Gordonstoun Association exists to strengthen links between the school and its former students and staff. The role was previously held by his father, Prince Philip, a former pupil who loved his time at the school and its ethos so much that he insisted on sending his three sons there. Charles, then Prince of Wales, was the first future British monarch to be educated at the school, near Elgin in Moray. He spent five years there in the 1960s, leaving as house captain and guardian (head boy) with five O-levels and two A-levels, and going on to university in Cambridge.

Although he has made several visits since he left in 1967, the announcement of his royal patronage is the King's first official link with the school, where annual senior school fees top £30,000 a year. He has remained a supporter of Gordonstoun, and last year chose four pipers from the school to welcome him to St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh as part of his coronation celebrations.

The King joins his sister the Princess Royal, who holds the role of "warden" at Gordonstoun, as an official supporter. Princess Anne's most recent visit to the school was to open the Queen Elizabeth II Rooms, a low-carbon classroom hub named after their mother, in February.

Lisa Kerr, the school's principal, said: "We are honoured that His Majesty has accepted patronage of the Gordonstoun Association. As our most prominent former student, His Majesty exemplifies so many of the qualities we seek to instil in our students, notably a lifelong commitment to service."

Heather Woodward, chairwoman of the Gordonstoun Association, added: "There is no person more suited than the King to highlight the unique experience of what it means to be a former student of Gordonstoun. Although it's almost 60 years since His Majesty attended Gordonstoun, his duty to service is an example of how the ethos and values of the school teach students to think about others rather than themselves."

The mythology of a harsh boarding school was fed by an episode of the Netflix drama *The Crown*, which depicted an unhappy Prince Charles struggling with cross-country runs and hostile classmates. The actor portraying Charles repeats the "Colditz in kilts" line.

But Ingrid Seward, the royal commentator and author, whose husband, Ross Benson, was in the same class at Gordonstoun as the future king, said that although Charles had no love of cross-country runs and the cold showers that followed, he enjoyed his Shakespearean acting experiences.

"Prince Charles did have a bit of a miserable time there but it was not as miserable as it has been made out," Seward said. "It's always difficult for children of the royal family because they are such an object of fascination to everyone.

"He told me the school taught him to be independent, which he considered to be one of his greatest assets."

Gordonstoun was founded in 1934 by the German educationalist Kurt Hahn, who believed that young people flourish when their horizons are broadened beyond just their academic potential.

Prince Philip, who joined the school at the age of 13 in 1934, considered its blend of outdoor exercise and academic rigour to be the perfect preparation for life as a royal, and later based his Duke of Edinburgh award on its "skills for life" values.

As well as the King's brothers, Andrew and Edward, the Princess Royal's children, Peter Phillips and Zara Tindall, were schooled at Gordonstoun. Princess Anne was unable to attend because in the 1960s it was boys only. David Bowie and Sir Sean Connery also sent their sons to Gordonstoun.

Private school in fear of pension strike

Staff are determined to fight for their defined benefits scheme, write **Constance Kampfner** and **Nicola Woolcock**

A leading girls' school says that pension rises are putting its future at risk as teachers go on strike.

James Allen's Girls' School teachers have walked out this week as unprecedented numbers of independent schools face strike action over attempted changes to pension schemes.

The school will increase its fees by 8 per cent this autumn to a maximum of £25,000 but says that it cannot afford double-digit salary increases and larger pension contributions.

Parents annoyed by the strike say the teachers at the school are better paid and treated than those at state schools.

New research published today echoes this, suggesting state school teachers are more exhausted than those at private schools.

A growing number of independent school staff are striking over pensions, as fee-charging schools face contributions of almost 29 per cent to the Teacher Pension Scheme (TPS). Some are trying to withdraw from the scheme or seeking to claw back the extra payments from teachers.

Private schools blamed the pension increase for fees rising by an average of 8 per cent this year, on top of 5.5 per cent last year.

James Allen's Girls' School, known as Jags, is the oldest private girls' school in London, founded in 1741. It has asked staff who want to stay in the TPS to take smaller pay rises than those switching to an alternative pension scheme. Teachers went on strike on Wednesday and are threatening five more days of action after the half-term holiday.

Jags, whose alumni include the actress Sally Hawkins and the author Anita Brookner, has written to parents saying demands for a 13.7 per cent pay rise would cost it an £1.5 million extra a year which was unsustainable.

TPS increases would cost a further £500,000 and come from parents' fees, whereas state school pension increases are funded by the government.

Jags said that it offered "fair and competitive" salaries and rewards, adding: "Sadly, despite our best efforts to reach an agreement, some members of the National Education Union [NEU] at Jags decided to move forward with proposed industrial action.

"We greatly value our teaching staff and all that they bring. Our aim is to maintain the highest standards of education whilst ensuring generous compensation and benefits packages.

"In recent years, the spiralling costs of the Teachers' Pension Scheme have been a growing concern in the independent sector. Following the last valuation, the employer's contribution rate leapt from 23.68 per cent to 28.68 per cent and this increase poses a significant financial risk to the school," it said.

"We have offered a generous alternative pension scheme as well as offering teaching staff the opportunity to remain in the TPS if they wish to do so. Regrettably, the dispute with the NEU over pay and pensions remains ongoing, and we continue to work hard to resolve this."

James Allen's Girls' School, whose alumni include the novelist Anita Brookner, left, and the actress Sally Hawkins

The TPS is a defined benefit scheme and Jags, in Dulwich, south London, said the new alternative was a "generous" defined contribution scheme.

Daniel Kebede, general secretary of the NEU, said pay had risen by less than inflation since 2018, and negotiations with the school had lasted more than a year, while it refused to recognise the union.

He said: "Members at James Allen's Girls' School have had enough. Staff have seen their living standards eroded by year after year of increases below the rate of inflation. Their pension is under threat. A petition of over 100 staff called for the employer to recognise the NEU and to negotiate with us. Their pleas have been ignored and staff patience has run out."

One parent told The Times: "I think the general consensus among my friends is that teachers at Jags do a lot better than their state school colleagues and the timing is awful for the girls preparing for their GCSEs and A-levels."

Employers at hundreds of private schools have withdrawn from or are phasing out the TPS, triggering strikes across the country.

In recent months, teachers have taken industrial action at independent schools in Newcastle, Norfolk, Chester, Stockport, Bedford, Cardiff and Cambridge. Strikes have also taken place at St Mary's School, a private boarding school for girls in Ascot, Berkshire, the first in its history.

A report being published today shows state school teachers in England and Wales experience worse job quality than their private school peers.

Private Education Policy Forum (PEPF), a think tank on educational inequality, analysed 14,000 responses to a survey of teachers in both sectors. Sixty per cent of teachers in state schools said they always come home from work exhausted, compared with 37 per cent in highly ranked private schools and 50 per cent in other independent schools.

Teachers in private schools reported greater autonomy in their job and more time to do tasks. However, they also reported that they had been facing more challenging working conditions in recent years, including longer hours.

The report says that 15,000 state school teachers switched to the private school sector between 2014 and last year, describing it as a "between-sector hidden subsidy".

Francis Green, a co-founder of PEPF and a professor at UCL Institute of Education, said: "The government has been warned over and over about the exhausting working conditions faced by all teachers but keeps failing to properly act. Sticking-plaster policies will not cut it."

Rescuer tells of fatal mudslide ordeal

Ali Mitib

A member of the rescue mission after a mudslide that killed a girl aged ten has said that the "very poor" conditions were unlike anything his team had seen.

Gary Clarke, 65, call-out officer for the rescue service, deployed 19 people but increased his team to 30 once the severity of the situation became apparent.

Leah Harrison, a Year 6 pupil at Mount Pleasant Primary School in Darlington, died on Wednesday during a residential trip to Carlton-in-Cleveland, on the edge of the North York Moors National Park.

She was walking back with her group after building shelters in the woods when the mudslide happened close to Carlton Bank, a steep hill that is on Alfred Wainwright's Coast to Coast and Cleveland Way walking routes, at about 1.15pm. There had been heavy rain, and the area was subject to an amber weather warning.

Clarke said: "There was very heavy rain. There was a lot of surface water and in that area there was fairly low cloud and mist...The mudslide was extraordinary. We had never seen anything like it." Clarke was alerted by the ambulance service at 1.23pm, eight minutes after the mudslide. Rescuers used a technical rope system, which attached them to a rope connected to a stake hammered into the ground above the pathway. "It was quite physically demanding and because of the rain and although it wasn't a particularly steep bank of the moor, because there had been a slide we could only deploy when we could kit the rescuers out," he said.

Leah Harrison was a joy to coach, her football club said

"There was a risk of them losing their footing or potentially another mudslide. It was more of a safety and security feature to keep them supported."

On Thursday, Hartlepool borough council, which runs the outdoor education site, suspended activities. North Yorkshire police and the Health and Safety Executive are investigating.

Tributes to Leah, who played for Darlington Football Club's under-11 team, continued to flow in yesterday as dozens of bouquets and balloons were left at the school.

One mother whose child was on the trip with Leah said she did not blame anyone. She said: "Kids have been walking these moors for decades. You never think anything like this is going to happen and you cannot wrap kids up all the time because the weather is bad. That route seemed pretty safe as well."

As a mark of respect, Darlington Football Club postponed its under-11 match this weekend and will hold a minute's silence before other games.

John Woolnough, Leah's coach, said: "We are devastated to hear of the tragic passing of Leah, who only joined our football family this season but had quickly become a popular member. She was a joy to coach — always smiling and trying her best — and had shown big improvements during her time with us. Our thoughts are with her family and friends at this terrible time."

Coroner calls meningitis victim's care lamentable

Katie Gibbons

A student who died from meningitis after doctors failed to spot the symptoms of sepsis was the victim of "lamentable" care, a coroner has concluded.

Mia Ginever, 19, died from meningococcal sepsis after lifesaving antibiotics were delayed by doctors at Frimley Park Hospital in Surrey.

A coroner in Woking said neglect contributed to her death and highlighted a litany of failings. Doctors failed to carry out the appropriate sepsis triage, delayed giving vital antibiotics to Ginever for more than eight hours and there was a complete absence of nursing care, the inquest heard.

Describing her treatment as "lamentable" the coroner, Karen Henderson, also criticised a review carried out by a registrar five hours after she attended A&E for the second time with neck stiffness, a severe headache and rash. Ginever died in intensive care in March 2022. As a healthy 19-year-old the hospital should have immediately referred the case to a coroner.

Mel and Phil Ginever have waited almost two years for their daughter's inquest and have fought for answers with the support of the Meningitis Research Foundation and lawyers at Fieldfisher. They are campaigning to raise awareness of the Meningitis B vaccine, which is not offered on the NHS to anyone born prior to 2005.

Ginever's mother said: "We know words can never describe Mia to a stranger [but] Mia was unique. As Mia's parents and family, we will never be able to accept Mia's death, especially as the serious investigation led by the trust has raised so many red flags into Mia's care path. Mia no longer can fight for herself, but believe us, she would have fought every step ... if she could."

The hospital has accepted its failure to properly follow NHS guidelines for sepsis and administer antibiotics within an hour of her arriving for the second time, which contributed to her death.

News

Road rage driver to go on anger course

Debbie White

A road rage driver who was filmed screaming abuse at a motorist after she honked at him for cutting her up has been ordered by a judge to take an anger-management course.

Peter Abbott left his car and approached Samantha Isaacs's vehicle after a minor incident outside a Tesco petrol station near Bournemouth in August last year.

Isaacs, who runs a TV production company and has worked with the Prince of Wales and Alan Titchmarsh, locked her doors and filmed Abbott as he banged on the windscreen with his fists. He shouted at her "can you f***ing see me you f***ing tart?" He then called her a "slag" and a "whore" and put his head up against the windscreen as he objected to being filmed.

Peter Abbott was filmed screaming and swearing at a lone female driver

Abbott, a 60-year-old translator, was convicted after a trial at Poole magistrates' court of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour against Isaacs.

Yesterday Judge Orla Austin sentenced Abbott to a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 18 months, and disqualified him from driving for 18 months. He was also ordered to carry out 20 rehabilitation days, to complete an anger-management course and pay £300 compensation to Isaacs and £300 for court costs.

Sentencing Abbott, the judge said: "I take the view this was an extremely serious matter. Ms Isaacs was a lone female in her car, this was a sustained incident, your level of anger and aggression was extremely high, the language you used was extremely offensive and you put her in significant fear with an ongoing effect on her life. Bystanders intervened, such was the level of your aggression."

In her victim impact statement, Isaacs said she had rejected work that was further afield as a result of "the man [taking] my job pleasure away from me".

She said: "I don't trust any motorist now. I feel my confidence in driving has taken a huge knock," adding: "I keep my doors always locked, I never drive unless I really must... I am angry that I am scared all the time when I drive."

Abbott denied the offence, saying "it's not against the law to be angry". He told the court he accepted he needed to seek anger-management counselling as he had become "isolated" in recent years, adding: "I have always expressed regret and remorse for my part in the incident and fully hold my hands up to that and realise it was wrong and I am prepared to accept the consequences of that behaviour."

Futuristic features of the fashion landscape

Anna Murphy
FASHION DIRECTOR

Nicolas Ghesquière, the creative director at Louis Vuitton, is often referred to as an architectural designer (Anna Murphy writes).

The term describes his love of volume, his design of clothes that offset the ostentatious with the sleek. The futuristic collection he unveiled in Barcelona this week bore all his hallmarks, with its giant shoulders and disappearing skirts, its dramatic deployment of swags, pleats, folds and fringing. Spanish flourishes came in the form of polka dots, lace and sombreros. The mood was "dressed up", as Ghesquière, 53, put it before the show.

"There is almost nothing casual," he said. "It's about making clothes that people want to cherish. We know that is what our clients want."

The front row included the actresses Jennifer Connelly, Saoirse Ronan and Sophie Turner.

The architectural style also informs the choice of location for Vuitton's annual Cruise show. Other

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MARTA PEREZ/EPA; BORJA B HOJAS/GETTY IMAGES

Nicolas Ghesquière showed a mastery of volume at the Louis Vuitton show, watched by Saoirse Ronan, far left

luxury brands choose cities. Ghesquière chooses buildings. Or in the case of Thursday evening, a park. Antoni Gaudí's celebrated Park Guëll followed venues such as Bob Hope's home in Palm Springs and the TWA terminal at John F Kennedy airport in New York. Not everyone was happy. Opponents protested in the street against the use of a public space for a private event.

Perhaps the most important architecture for Ghesquière comes in the form of his handbags. Leather goods sales more than anything else maintain year after year Vuitton's position as the world's most valuable luxury fashion brand.

The French designer is brilliant at riffing on established styles, such as the trunk, and coming up with new iterations. That's why he has marked a decade in the top job and recently signed a new contract. Fashion and leather goods rose 14 per cent last year at the LVMH Group, a category that includes other brands such as Dior. It's an admirable performance.

"Every season I start with a blank page," Ghesquière said. "But after a decade I have other pages under that one covered with the house codes I have created in the past. I am proud to return to them and celebrate them. I have done ten years. I will do another five."

Airline grows more cautious after man dies in turbulence

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Singapore Airlines is to stop serving meals and order crew members to sit down when the seatbelt sign is switched on after the incident this week in which extreme turbulence left one passenger dead.

The carrier said it was adopting a more cautious policy after the incident, which left more than 100 passengers needing hospital treatment. Meal services will be stopped as soon as the seat belt sign is switched on during turbulence. Previously the crew would continue serving, except for hot drinks.

They will now be told to stow trolleys immediately. The crew will carry out checks of passengers and then take to their jump seats until the sign is turned off.

Geoffrey Kitchen, 73, a musical theatre director from near Bristol, was killed when Singapore Airlines Flight 321 hit "sudden extreme turbulence" on Tuesday. Twenty passengers remain in intensive care. More than 20 have undergone spinal surgery and a further six had brain surgery because of their injuries. Six Britons remain in intensive care.

The flight left Heathrow at just after 10.15pm on Monday, en route to Singapore. Ten hours later, while cruising at 37,000ft over the Irrawaddy Basin in Myanmar, the Boeing 777 hit turbulence, plunging hundreds of feet just seconds after the seat belt sign had been turned on.

Twenty passengers are still in intensive care after the incident

A spokesman for the airline said: "In addition to the suspension of hot beverage service when the seat belt sign is on, the meal service will also be suspended." The policy of crew members securing all loose items and equipment in the cabin during poor weather conditions will continue.

"Crew members will continue to advise passengers to return to their seats and secure their seat belts. They will also monitor customers who may require assistance, including those in the lavatories," the spokesman added. "Singapore Airlines will continue to review our processes, as the safety of our passengers and crew is of utmost importance."

An investigation into the events on SQ321 is under way. Its outcome is likely to determine whether others follow Singapore Airlines in adapting their turbulence policies for crew.

In the immediate wake of the incident the pilots carried out a controlled descent to 31,000ft. On learning of the chaos in the cabin, the pilots then declared a medical emergency and diverted to Bangkok.

More than 100 passengers were taken to three hospitals in the Thai capital for treatment. A spokesman for Samitivej Srinakarin hospital, where most of the 104 people hurt in the incident were treated, said that other local hospitals had been asked to lend their best specialists to assist with the treatments. The youngest patient is two years old. In total 44 passengers and two crew members are still in hospital receiving medical treatment, the airline said yesterday.

It added that 61 passengers remained in Bangkok. The spokesman said: "Singapore Airlines is in contact with all the passengers and crew members from SQ321 who are still in Bangkok. Where requested, we have facilitated travel to Bangkok for their families and loved ones.

"Customer care representatives, who are staff volunteers trained for such situations, have been assigned to provide updates and the necessary support and assistance to each passenger during this difficult time."

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News

Police to start farm dig in hunt for murdered Muriel

Ben Ellery Crime Editor

The police will begin digging at a farm in July where the murderer of Muriel McKay has said he buried her body.

It comes as McKay's family have asked police if her killer can be allowed to be at the site to help with the search when it starts.

Nizamodeen and Arthur Hosein were jailed in 1970 over her death in what was one of the first murder convictions without a body.

McKay, 55, was kidnapped in a case of mistaken identity by the brothers, who had intended to target Rupert Murdoch's wife, Anna.

McKay's family have been in discussions with Nizamodeen in recent years about revealing the burial location, and during a meeting with him in his native Trinidad in January he showed them on a map where he says she is.

As a result, Scotland Yard officers also met him and this month they wrote to the McKay family confirming they will carry out a dig at the farm in Hertfordshire.

This week Detective Superintendent Katherine Goodwin wrote to the family to inform them that it will happen soon. She said: "This week we had our first meeting with Hertfordshire police, who confirmed that they will be supporting the excavation with resources, staff and expertise. Although there is no fixed date to commence the search, we are collectively working towards sometime in July, subject to the plan coming together." She said that the operation will involve specialist search teams, forensic archaeologists, crime scene forensic experts and a structural engineer to assess safety issues involving the barn under where it is thought McKay is buried.

Muriel McKay was kidnapped in a case of mistaken identity

McKay's daughter, Dianne, and grandson, Mark, will be consulted on the parameters of the search and Mark will be invited to the farm.

In response the family wrote: "In addition, Nizam has also indicated that he should be at [the farm] to show us where he hid Muriel after she had died.

"Nizam has a valid passport and the family are happy to arrange flights and accommodation so that he can assist the family and police in finding Muriel. For completeness it makes sense for him to be present as he was the last person to see Muriel alive."

The Met would not comment on their request.

The McKay family have offered Hosein money for his help but he refused, telling them he would help them "to clear my conscience".

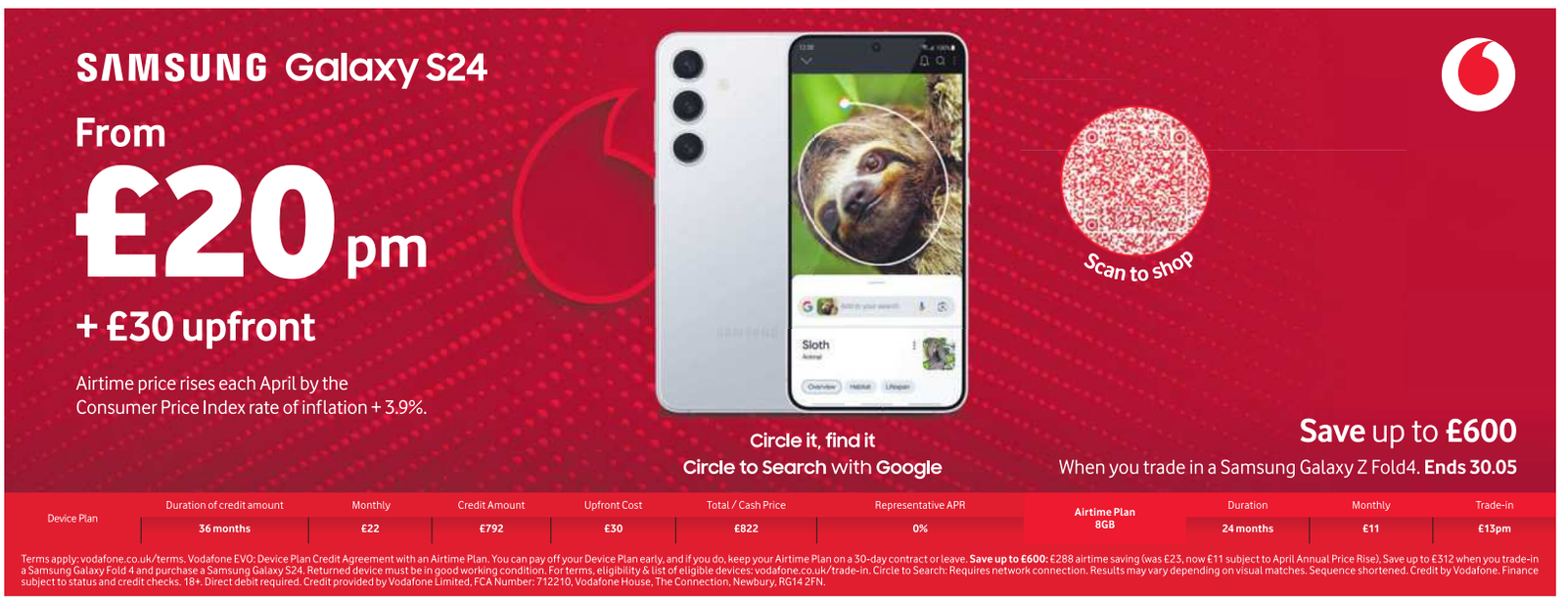
In March 2022 the Metropolitan Police carried out what it called an "extensive search" of the farm with the landowner's permission after information from Hosein but found nothing.

Hosein had been working from an updated map of the property which he did not recognise and claimed that police searched the wrong area.

In December Hosein signed a nine-page affidavit pinpointing where he says she is buried and the family offered the farm owner £40,000 to allow them to dig at the site. The farmer declined.

PHIL WILKINSON

Spring in its step Highland cow calves were given a run in the fields at Kitchen Coos and Ewes, Dumfries and Galloway, a working farm and tourism business



Water staff face abuse and violence over sewage spills

Clean it up
CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

Public anger over water companies' handling of sewage pollution is spilling over into abuse on the streets, the firms have reported, with workers increasingly being threatened with weapons.

There are claims that employees are leaving the water sector because of hostility, and Southern Water has reported a growing litany of abuse directed at staff over the past two years. There has been an increase in workers wearing branded clothing being spat at, said the company, which covers Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

One of the most serious incidents took place this month in Hastings and St Leonards, where tens of thousands of homes were left without water for days after a pipe burst in woodland. At a bottled water station a member of the public drove a van at one of the company's contractors. Sussex police are investigating the incident.

At a park and ride in Winchester last year one employee was intimidated by a person with a pickaxe. The incident was logged with the police.

Other incidents included a Southern Water vehicle being attacked in Southampton while workers were on a lunch break, and a worker in company-branded clothing being shouted at by a man driving past one of the firm's offices. A call-centre worker endured seven minutes of verbal abuse from a customer who phoned purely to vent their anger.

Another water company, which did not want to be named, also said staff were facing abuse more often. "At one site a resident was being verbally abusive to our workers, letting the air out of the tyres of their vans, chucking the fencing and barriers into a ditch and making threats," a member of staff said. The incident was logged with the police but could not be taken further because of a lack of CCTV.

A third company, which also did not want to be named, said frontline teams had taken the odd shouted comment as "part of the job" in the past but such incidents were increasing and becoming more personal.

Anonymous testimony collected by unions includes water workers being attacked with a machete and an employee being assaulted so violently that they were off work for weeks with a broken jaw. A recent survey by the GMB union reported that 45 per cent of water staff had seen an increase in the amount of verbal and physical abuse they had suffered in the past year.

The Environment Agency has said it is concerned about abuse directed to some of its employees, who regulate the water sector. "Some of my staff get threats as well when they're out and about, because they become hate figures," said Philip Duffy, chief executive of the watchdog. He said this week that campaigners were rightly asking questions but asked if they could reconsider their tone.

Southern Water has launched a policy focused on giving advice to staff on how to report abuse more easily. Sally Ford, director of health, safety, security and wellbeing at the company, said: "We understand how angry the public are about the water industry, and there are many ways for people to voice their concerns, for instance by joining one of the protests organised by campaigning groups. But threatening workers who are trying to make a difference through fixing leaks, repairing pipes and working in our communities is not the answer."

British Water, which represents companies in the water supply chain, said people were leaving the sector because of the situation. Lila Thompson, its chief executive, said: "We need to stop talking down the sector. We can challenge. Absolutely. We can be frustrated. Absolutely. We can be angry. But we've got to do it in a way in which we attract people into the sector."

James Wallace, chief executive of the charity River Action UK, said: "While it is wrong that anyone should feel threatened for doing their jobs, it is also wrong that water company bosses have been allowed to pollute rivers for decades, recklessly killing wildlife and risking human health."

Historians will look back on 14 years of lost opportunities
Anthony Seldon, Weekend essay
Pages 32-33

Comment

It's marginal, but I know who I'm voting for

There is comparatively little to choose between the two main parties — we'd do well to focus on the bigger picture

Matthew Parris

A clutch of phrases has become fashionable among us. "Drill down", "deep dive", "focus", "zoom in"... and all convey related thoughts: burrow, scrutinise, magnify. We should, it's suggested, press our eye to the small end of the telescope, narrowing the scope and enlarging the detail.

Between now and July 4, that is what we shall do ad nauseam. Let our planet roll onwards in its orbit while here in Britain we shall not be star-gazing but — heads down and staring at the pavement — examining, critiquing and arguing about our own small patch.

The scrutiny will be furious in its intensity. How Labour blushed to have misspelt "switch" as "swich" in its campaign launch video! How Sunak blushed to have asked some Welsh people about a football tournament that Wales did not qualify for! Is a Euros (football) election a gift to Starmer? Was it sneaky of the Tories to hand Labour the bill for compensating victims of the infected blood scandal? What will Labour do about foxhunting? Will or won't Angela Rayner be charged with a small alleged error in her tax accounting many years ago?

Such storms in teacups range from the secondary to the downright puerile, and I need hardly labour the point. We know they're minor issues and many of us are ashamed when they dominate the headlines. But what about what we call the big issues, the serious ones? Whose spending plan "black hole" yawns the widest? Might a Labour chancellor have to raise income tax? How would Labour pay for its promises on our pinched public services? How might the NHS be reformed? How might more generous social care be underwritten? Can Labour match the Tories' promised increase in defence spending from its present approximate 2.2 per cent of GDP to 2.5 per cent (by 2030)?

I do not say these questions are unimportant, but note, please, what I do say: they are relatively small changes, and mostly at the margins of things. And note what I say next. A country in which, at a general election, debate rages, statistical blows are traded and accusations fly over relatively small changes at the margins of things is either a country living reasonably comfortably or a country fiddling while Rome burns.

Or, of course, both. I'm certain about the first, and worried about the second.

"Living reasonably comfortably".

Labour may try, and Tories may not try, to shrink gap in incomes

Easy for this comfortably-off columnist to say. And you could take me by the hand and lead me through the streets of London (in Ralph McTell's wonderful verse) and show me something that might make me change my mind.

Instead, though, let me take you by the hand and lead you through the slums of Lima, where almost a third of the population live, and show you something that might make you change your mind.

Yes, yes: I know our mothers told us to think of the starving millions if we didn't want to eat our stringy runner beans; and we said Mum was silly. I know Dickens's Mrs Jellyby was so set upon establishing a mission in Africa that she neglected her own children. And I know charity does begin at home. But I'm not talking about the right percentage of our GDP to spend on overseas aid — another debate about the margins. I'm talking about something in a sense more selfish: a national appreciation of our relative prosperity, relative security, relative health, relative stability, relative democracy and relative respect for the rule of law, compared with so much of our planet. I think we lack that appreciation, and never more so than during a general election.

Across the sea there are considerations that aren't at the margins. Consider two gaps: the first between the comfort and security in which the Duke of Devonshire's family live at Chatsworth and the comfort and security in which a lower-middle class family in a terraced house in Derby live. This is little more than a crack when compared with the chasm between English families and their Brazilian equivalent in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. Labour may try, and the Tories might not try, to shrink income differentials between Britain's rich and poor, and we can yell at each other and brandish figures until we're blue in the face but, to quote Kipling, what do they know of England, who only England know?

The choice on July 4 will be between two parties with — by international and historical standards — remarkably similar proposals to make for our governance. Both believe in a substantial safety-net provided by welfare and funded by substantial taxation. Both believe in a liberal free-market economy constrained by some state regulation. Both believe in a universal health service to which poverty must never deny you access. Both believe in decent pension provision for all. Both believe in free state education. Both believe in free speech, freedom of association, and access to justice. Neither believes in open borders for immigrants. Both believe in a similar level of defence spending. Both believe in an independent nuclear deterrent.

Our squabbles are petty compared to the threat posed by of Vladimir Putin

So stop drilling down, deep diving and zooming in. Instead, zoom out. Stand back. Put your eye to the big end of the telescope and see a whole world, and some of the rocks on which our cruise liner could founder as we argue about the curtains, the easy chairs and the cost of our cabins. See China. See Taiwan. See population growth in the poor countries. See unemployment in Africa. See Ukraine. See Russia. See Putin. See Iran. See the Korean peninsula. See Sudan. See Gaza. See Israel. See Trump. See climate change. How small our differences, how parochial our politics, how petty our squabbles would seem if understanding grew that these forces could — probably will — dominate the real news for decades ahead: real news for Britain too, whether we register it now or not, whichever

What do they know of England, who only England know?

house Angela Rayner lived in, and however you spell "switch". We are corks on this ocean.

I shall vote Conservative because I respect Rishi Sunak as a measured and intelligent administrator, see Keir Starmer as a blank slate, and am anyway Tory by habit, disposition and default; but I could easily toss a coin and vote Labour as an evidently sane force, fully deserving their chance after the chaos of May, Johnson and Truss, and offering no mortal threat to anything dear to me.

So it's marginal for me, and marginal (I submit) for Britain. But there's a wide, wide world out there whose issues are not marginal, and some wicked forces to whom we British and our whole way of life are mere disposables. As we shout at each other for the next six weeks, we'd do well to remember that.

RED BOX
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Ann Treneman Notebook

Yellow is the colour as Chelsea hits full bloom

To the Chelsea Flower Show, then, because, well, it's *Chelsea* — the biggest and best flower show in the world, home to extreme gardening. This year, favourite flowers included irises — loads of them — and foxgloves (even more). There was lots of water (some direct from the sky) and, for colour, an awful lot of yellow of every hue: hot and orangey, ethereal nearly white, bruised with even darker undertones.

In recent years, rewilding has been a big theme. No longer. I can report that shade is the new rewilding. Everyone had trees, and lots of them; canopies of all kinds. Almost all the planting was ultra-natural, which, like Capability Brown's landscapes, isn't really natural at all. I did wonder, walking down the main avenue, almost under assault from shady feathery planting, what a traditionalist would make of it all.

Later, watching on TV, I spotted a particularly unusual cultivar: let's call this flower *Chelsea grumparious* "Monty". It's thorny and is especially rare in that it can talk and likes wearing straw hats. This year Monty was disagreeing (again) with the judges. I quite enjoy a good herbaceous debate. But can you be a grumpy old flower? It seems so.

Park life

My favourite of the big gardens was, indeed, a very shady one. The superstar designer Tom Stuart-Smith created a show garden woodland worthy of a film set, so inviting it was hard not to stroll into it. But the most intriguing garden was in the All About Plants category in the Great Pavilion. It is called Planet Good Earth and combines vegetable gardening with skateboarding.

This was Chelsea's "first skateable landscape". The skate ramp ran through garlic and gooseberries and was flanked by tall hydroponic towers for kale and chard. What an excellent idea. Skate parks are so overwhelmingly urban, concrete and plant-free. There is no law against an edible skate park, though, and this one is going to be relocated to Hereford. Monty might even approve.

Blasted Heathrow

Tales of modern life, No 780. I took my sister to Heathrow last Wednesday, dropping her off at Terminal 5. There was a £5 "drop-off" fee. You can only pay online. I noted this but when I got home, I immediately became absorbed in my latest book project. I didn't remember until Saturday but then I wasn't allowed to pay because I was outside the 48-hour payment window. This meant a £40 fine.

Grrrrr. I had not so much parked as alighted, like a butterfly. The entire fluttering event took less than a minute. Forty pounds for one minute of butterfly parking ... I made a phone call. A man named Sam listened and told me that because I had called within seven days and because the time frame was "under review", I would only need to pay £5. Result.

Drowning Street

The prime minister announced the election in a deluge. At first I thought it was insane to send Rishi out in the rain. What was wrong with an umbrella? Or even — shock horror — going inside? Could this "umbrella-phobia" really be traced back to 2007, when the England football manager Steve McClaren was dubbed "a wally with a brolly"? A few days later, I realised it was a masterstroke. The Drowned Rat Election Event was that holy grail of politics: memorable. It has traction. People, including my children, are talking about it. Bonkers, but actually very British.

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Comment

Rishi, this is how you could turn the tide

Ban cycle helmets, slap fees on state schools and make tattoos compulsory for accountants — you know it makes sense

Giles Coren

The prime minister says, "it's the moment for Britain to choose its future". He says, "it's time to be bold". He says he will "fight for every vote". He says he will "do everything in my power to provide you with the strongest protection possible". And he can't just be planning to hand out free Right Guard. No, he is positioning himself as the underdog, the man of vision with nothing to lose, the alternative to boring old politicians like Keir Starmer. He is a lone wolf, he is Rocky, he is Rambo, he is the nerdy Clark Kent we didn't vote for who, now that he wants us to, turns out to be Superman. Either that, or he's Count Binface.

Which means we are about to see the announcement of some major new policies. Policies that, to get the attention of the red wall, the Shy Tories, Mondeo Man and Betty from Doncaster, to blow away voter apathy and push the dullest prime minister we have ever had back into contention from this position of Binfacian no hope at all, are going to be either utterly transformative or madder than Binface himself.

And I can reveal that they are well on the way. Glancing over a senior cabinet minister's shoulder on a busy commuter train yesterday, I couldn't help but catch sight of an email from central office on his laptop laying out a few of the possibilities.

VAT on school fees. Not only will a Conservative government not put VAT on school fees, but we will make private schools free. Free! We will fund this fully costed and very workable policy by making people pay to go to state schools.

The prisons crisis. We will solve overcrowding by releasing all prisoners into chain gangs that will go door-to-door sorting people's recycling. It's like when Vladimir Putin let out all the murderers to fight in Ukraine, except with net zero appeal. Some people may get murdered but that's better than a Pringles tube ending up in the wrong bin.

People who say "haitch" to be barred from customer-facing employment.

The scourge of AI. To save us from rampant AI at this very dangerous time, a time so dangerous that only by voting Conservative can you even hope to live beyond 2025, we will appoint an AI tsar. Unfortunately, we can't afford to pay anyone to do the job so it will have to be an AI-generated chatbot tsar. On the plus side, unlike the human we might have appointed, a chatbot won't get done for looking at tractor porn, giving lucrative government contracts to its mates or groping researchers. On the other hand, it will be a Tory chatbot, so anything's possible.

> You can slip that old chap on the bus a fatal dose with impunity

We will legalise assisted dying. But you won't be allowed to assist anyone you know to die, in case you're doing it just to get their money or because

Count Binface has some mad ideas but the Tories may need to go further

"they have recently become more irritating". So you'll have to keep your hands off your mum, but if you see some old chap looking a bit peaky on the bus, you can slip him a fatal dose of the good stuff with impunity.

The scourge of cyclists. To make these murderous urban peloton bastards slow down we will ban cycling helmets. Possibly also make people cycle in bare feet.

The scourge of potholes/illegal immigration. Illegal immigrants will be made to live in potholes — as many of them per hole as it takes to fill it up to tarmac level — so that honest taxpayers driving along don't get an occasional annoying bump.

Trees. Trees are good. So any Sandbanks billionaire in front of whose property beautiful mature trees "mysteriously die" to improve their view of the ocean will be made, themselves, to "mysteriously die".

Fouling of footpaths by dogs. Dog owners will be made collectively responsible for the state of the pavements by imposing a fine not on the owner of the dog that does the poo (because you can never catch them) but on the registered dog owner living nearest to the site of the found poo. We don't care whose bloody dog it is, we just don't want any more shit on our shoes. It's 2024!

Recorded telephone messages to be barred from saying, "we are currently experiencing a high level of calls" when they aren't, "your call is important to us" when it blatantly isn't, and, "your call will be answered shortly", which is a bare-faced lie.

Drivers of 4x4 vehicles will be compelled to spend two hours a day pedalling bicycle generators in a giant eco-energy farm, creating clean electricity to power small electric cars for poor people.

Walking with ski poles to be made compulsory. You see old people in performative weather gear doing it in the local park, and old people know a thing or two. So make the young do it too. Not least because it's difficult to look at TikTok with a ski pole in each hand, and nigh on impossible to send dick pics.

Test cricket to be given Unesco world heritage status.

The tattoo crisis. To discourage your children from vandalising their bodies and ruling themselves out of any future chance in the job market or polite society, a Tory government will forcibly tattoo all doctors, lawyers, professors, accountants, judges, science teachers and MPs with a massive, badly drawn Amy Winehouse on each calf, two hideous blue "sleeves" and a tramp stamp above the bum that says "dog is great" in Sanskrit, thereby making tattoos go out of fashion overnight.

Ozempic. It's cheating. Under a Tory government, anyone looking all thin and smug due to being on Ozempic will at all times have to wear a T-shirt that says "I'm on Ozempic".

Escalator use to be taught in schools. No one will ever stand on the left again. Much more useful than stupid maths, we know that now.

A glass of red wine a day. Is it good for you or bad for you? We're fed up with guessing! A fully funded, totally transparent, peer-reviewed, national mega study will be commissioned at Cambridge University to establish the truth finally, once and for all. Similar research will be conducted at Oxford on two small squares of dark chocolate.

Tech befuddlement of old people. Over-50s to be made exempt from anything — parking, riding public transport, shopping, scanning some stupid QR code to get a menu — that requires them to understand how their phone works, or how to download an app, or what an app even is, or remember why they picked up their phone in the first place.

Professional dog walkers to be limited to walking 400 dogs at a time.

Peanuts. We will stop importing them and destroy all existing stocks. The whole allergy thing is just too annoying. I mean, am I getting some nuts on this plane to go with my beer or did you have to go to pretzels because of one passenger? Fed up with it. Just end peanuts.

Rwanda. Where?

Miriam Darlington Nature Notebook

Down by the Dart, night works its magic on us

The enviable images of friends silhouetted against the shimmering aurora sent us belatedly searching the night sky of Dartmoor. We threw tent, sleeping bags and the dog into the car and pitched in a vaguely level spot beside the River Dart. Positioning our camping chairs with clear views of the sky and lulled by the summer water, we tipped our heads skyward. A green woodpecker yaffled at our presence, probably because we had placed our accommodation exactly over its own private ant-lawn.

Green woodpeckers probe the ground for invertebrates and larvae, taking mainly the unending supply of ants that scurry to and fro all summer. Commonly known as the nicker-pecker, weather cock or rain-bird, the largest of our woodpecker species was once believed to summon rain. No rain, but the river washed our ears with its gentle tumble and my eyes might have closed for a moment. When I opened them, the river had begun to glisten with a rising moon and one or two wobbling stars. The swallows had dipped back into their nests in the nearby barn. No heavenly colours came but as the light faded our other senses attuned, to the scents of wood smoke, honeysuckle and moss. Our eyes stretched into the dark dome to catch any hint of shimmers from the north. We heard only an owl, hooting from the bushy contours of the trees, and the sky was as dark as the deep centre of a bluebell.

Everything laden with night-dew, we retired to our camp beds, soothed by the ceaseless swoosh of the river. No aurora this time but did it matter? All the natural world had entered us. Through the eyes and nose and ears, the hands and fingers. In our chests, we felt a strange sense of wholeness, as if for once complete.

In the morning, wakened by peel upon peel of tinkling bells that turned out to be many charms of goldfinches, I stepped out into the wet moss. The sickly sweet odour of fox rose from the ground. I was barefoot. Through my soles I felt what the fox feels beneath its paws: a silky cool, wet carpet. The tent was covered in a scattering of lime-green sycamore flowers. They seemed to have all fallen at once, like a spray of confetti. Heading to the riverbank to sit in the sun's early rays, I found an oak stump where somebody had kindly nailed a seat. I'd watch for an otter or two, or a deer, or whatever would choose to pass. I planted my feet in the moss and watched the play of light on leaves and water. The warmth fell on my forehead and face as the goldfinches flurried by again. So many of them, their bouncy trilling flying along with them. Had they already fledged a first brood?

Do there seem to be more goldfinches this year, or are they simply louder, more boisterous? I've asked around and people agree: this seems to be a good year for the goldfinches. Heartening in these difficult times for wildlife.

Sycamore flowers add a confetti-like spray of colour. Left, woodpecker

Earthly delights

Hidden in a bankside meadow of flowering hemlock water-dropwort, bluebells, buttercups and ferns, if an otter had passed, neither of us would have seen the other. The river was lithe and glass-smooth as a mustelid pelt. A mallard couple bustled past, followed by four new ducklings. Buoyant in their speckled little down lifejackets, they were paddling hard. A friend joined me and we swam in the thrill-cold water, dried off, ate warm pasties and dozed. An orange-tip butterfly passed. A baritone hum caught my attention: a yellow and brown hornet darting in and out of the leaves of a sycamore. Bees fed on purple clover. A turquoise-blue damselfly landed on my friend's fingertip. Here were all the colours we had desired from the sky, but earthly instead of from the heavens.

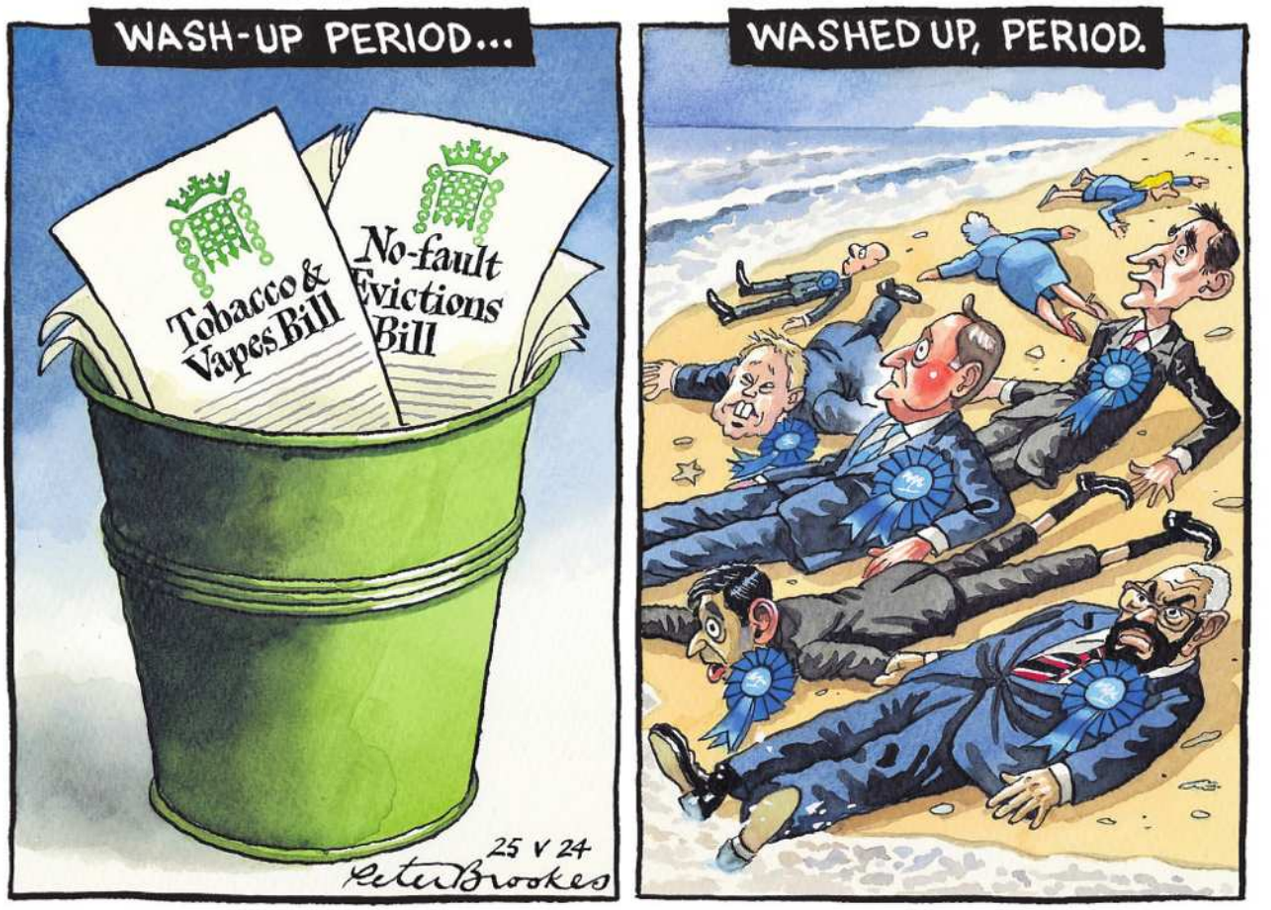
Swallow moment

White, billowy clouds built up and rumbled like juggernauts; more sycamore flowers rained down on us, peppering the water with pollen-film. A family joined us and, spoken to in French, their bare toddler unselfconsciously peed his own golden stream into the river. Back at the farm washrooms, a blue wing flashed past and through the small aperture of an eye-level window I saw a mother swallow sitting two feet away, brooding her nest of eggs. Close enough to see the blood-bright throat patch under her chin, her beady eye and the satiny blue back, I moved on so as not to disturb her.

Above, the twittering of the swallow's family made the whole sky dance and my heart ready to shatter. As the poet Rilke said: "A birdsong can, for a moment, make the whole world into a sky within us."

Miriam Darlington's latest book is Otter Country

@MimDarling



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Starmer should start by rewarding care staff

Prioritising the sector would ease pressure on hospitals, tempt economically inactive back to work and slow migration

Janice Turner

@VICTORIAPECKHAM

So many problems, so little money. Hearing Sir Keir Starmer's stumbling, vacillating *Today* programme performance yesterday it seems his fear of over-promising has stopped him promising anything at all. Labour thinks voters are done with meretricious policies that dissolve on impact with real life and crave sleeves-rolled-up practical change.

Yet where to start? What could, in crude terms, give the most political bang for the buck? There is a policy that is not showy but could shift the dial on three major issues: hospital bed-blocking, high immigration and chronic under-provision for a growing elderly population. Labour should promise to make "care worker" a well-paid, highly respected career with proper qualifications and salary grades linked to seniority and skill. This would address the status of the carer, ensuring it is not some drudge job done by those who can't do anything else but is a calling with meaning and value.

In his last Labour conference speech Starmer noted that his care-worker sister Katherine works "14-hour shifts, often overnight. Unimaginable pressure. And the reward? A struggle every week." Carer salaries have risen in recent years, driven by a higher minimum wage, but so have those of other low-paid jobs. In Doncaster, a nursing home pays around £12.50 an hour but Aldi now offers £12.40 with less antisocial hours and, while supermarket cashiers work hard, they aren't responsible for vulnerable lives. The care sector is known as a "leaky bucket" for its appalling staff retention. A worker at my late mother's home was sad to leave the job she loved after eight years but admitted: "I'm broke, and a local hotel pays more."

Homes need council-funded residents to avoid bankruptcy

With one in ten posts unfilled in 2021-22, the Tories tackled a staffing crisis not by attracting and retaining staff with better pay but by hiring foreign workers prepared to accept a pittance. Almost 51,000 applied for health and care-worker visas in the first four months of 2023, many attracted by the right to bring dependent relatives. Care vacancies went down, immigration figures soared. So after bad headlines, the government in March cancelled the dependants clause — and visa applications fell by 76 per cent. Now care homes are again braced for staff shortages. Such shallow, short-term, rollercoaster thinking — and a political Ponzi scheme.

It is often assumed that care wages are low because private home owners exploit them. In fact, many seek to reward their staff, not least so they will stay, but are hamstrung by the system. In 2023, 63 per cent of residents in English care homes were state-funded. Basically every council haggles with its local homes to agree the price of a place. Given local authorities teeter on bankruptcy, they pay as little as they can, often much less than it actually costs to care for an old person. The homes need council-funded residents to avoid bankruptcy themselves, so make up losses by charging the 37 per cent of "self-funders" hundreds of pounds per week more than the council pays.

So wages are low because for years central government has squeezed local government hard. Even without resolving the overarching problem of how to fund social care, which nearly lost Theresa May the 2017 election and which every government kicks down the road, Labour could still improve matters. Earmark local government funding for care home places on condition it feeds into staff pay. Care England believes the minimum hourly rate should be £15 and that homes should be VAT-exempt. The Treasury would take a hit but this sector is umbilically attached to the NHS given the chief cause of delayed hospital discharge is older people who need care. Homes can only take them if they have enough staff.

Wages are critical but so is career progression. Imagine a job where

Carers want an end to zero-hours contracts and proper training

after five or even ten years you are paid only a few pence per hour more than when you began. It implies that carers acquire no skills or wisdom, that the job is as mindless as monitoring a conveyor belt.

I still think of the women who tended my mum, especially the older ones who'd seen it all; who knew how to calm a querulous old lady; had magic powers to wake a deep-asleep 90-year-old so she didn't miss her visitor; who saw personality in those who could no longer speak; who washed and toileted and knew how everyone took their tea, but also performed complex medical procedures and could read the signs when death was near. Don't tell me this isn't skilled work simply because women historically did it for free.

I also met junior staff straight from school, shiny-eyed at finding a career they loved. There is an affinity between young and old — I know art students who, needing temporary work, became residential carers and bonded with the elderly, who welcomed their visits. Unlike a barista, say, this was a job with that elusive quality in a virtual world: meaning.

The government is trying to tempt our 9.4 million (and rising) economically inactive people aged 16 to 64 back to work with two-week bootcamps including in social care. Far more useful is the charity Skills for Care, commissioned by the Department of Health to look at creating a new advanced care qualification. They have also analysed what will make carers stay: along with an end to zero-hours contracts and proper training, homes that "celebrate their staff's achievements".

That applies more widely. Endless TV shows portray NHS staff as angels. But carers, if depicted at all, are dreary bum-wipers or evil abusers. Japan is solving staff shortages by cutting out humans and training robots. Is that where our fate lies too? Not the humour and warmth of a trained carer but the grip of a mechanical hand.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Growing US dislike of United Nations

Sir, Gerard Baker (comment, May 24) highlights growing US antipathy towards the United Nations. In truth, as the world's leading power the US has never been comfortable with multilateralism, though this was largely camouflaged by the relative paralysis of international organisations during the Cold War. In recent years, the US has withheld UN funding, pulled out of various UN bodies and international agreements and deliberately undermined the World Trade Organisation. Unfortunately, this US hostility to international organisations serves only to help those such as Russia and China who are actively working to break up the rules-based international order (largely conceived by the US and UK after the Second World War) that has underpinned global security and prosperity for the past 80 years, and which remains critical for western democracies.

Incidentally, there is nothing unusual about the reaction at the UN to the death of the president of Iran — a UN member state. I led the UN security council in a similar tribute when Margaret Thatcher died in 2013.
Sir Mark Lyall Grant
British ambassador to the UN 2009-15; London SW7

Terminal diagnosis

Sir, Your report "Euthanasia Briton dies on the beach" (news, May 24) states: "Hickman, who had dual British and New Zealand nationality, had chosen to die under a law that allows competent adults to choose an assisted death if they have a terminal illness and less than six months to live." This line reinforces the myth that oncologists can estimate with any precision that a patient has only six months to live. The problem here is the difference between the mean (average) and the median (the value that dichotomises the outcome). If the median and the mean are the same this does not necessarily describe a bell-shaped curve. Half the patients may die within six months, but the other half may live much longer.

A dear friend of mine died recently from pancreatic cancer and I was present at the time of his diagnosis. The average survival for this terrible disease is ten months but he lived for four years.
Michael Baum
Professor emeritus of surgery and visiting professor of medical humanities, University College London

Corrections and clarifications

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Failure of senior management at Post Office

Sir, The act quashing the convictions of sub-postmasters highlights the need not just for a "Hillsborough law" in relation to candour from organisations but also the need to address the problem of senior executives and managers being complicit in the covering up of problems for the sake of the reputation/financial benefit of the organisation. Registered professionals in England are required to "whistleblow" if they are aware that there are situations such as those with Lucy Letby's murder of seven infants and attempted murder of six others at Chester Hospital. The Francis report in 2015 into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust found a culture of covering up mistakes and bad practice that put patients at risk, and where managers bullied staff not to report such errors.

Senior executives and managers should have to do the same or face public censure and warnings — or being barred from such positions for at least a period of time.
Professor Brian Littlechild
University of Hertfordshire

Sir, When the Post Office Horizon IT inquiry concludes its findings (news and letters, May 24) there will no doubt be several individuals and organisations who will share responsibility for the management failures and missed opportunities to right past wrongs which occurred over several years. One such group not so far under scrutiny are those who served on the boards of either the Post Office or the Royal Mail Group (of which the Post Office was a part until 2012) as independent or non-executive directors. Their role included, or should have included, asking and pursuing those tough questions that senior managers such as Paula Vennells might sometimes have wished to avoid having to answer. That is the vital role of non-executive directors, which Vennells, as one herself on another board, would or should have understood and appreciated.
Jeremy Wagener
Boxford, Suffolk

Sir, It is unfair to lay the blame for the miscarriages suffered by the sub-postmasters on "lawyers, magistrates and judges" (letter, May 24). From 1969 until I retired in 2013 I was a criminal defence solicitor. During that time many serious miscarriages of justice came to light, all with one common factor: non-disclosure to the defence of exculpatory evidence held by the prosecution, which had it been disclosed might have assisted the defendant. A royal commission (Runciman), judicial oversight and major legislation (the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996) sought to address this inequality of arms by imposing a strict code on prosecutors to disclose such material. The CPS strives to ensure that these duties are observed — an increasingly hard task when so much information is stored electronically. Tragically it appears that the vast majority of the sub-postmasters were not prosecuted by the CPS but by the Post Office, whose performance of its disclosure obligations was honoured more in their breach than their observance. Therein lies the cause of injustice.
Christopher Murray
Senior partner, Kingsley Napley, 2007-13; Barford St Michael, Oxon

Sir, I find my memory and recall have deteriorated so badly I have come to the conclusion that I must have held a senior position in the Post Office.
Brian Rudge
Lechlade, Glos

Election campaign

Sir, Patrick Maguire is spot on ("There will be a wobble — can Starmer cope?", May 24). Sir Keir Starmer does not need to be colourful or charismatic to be an effective prime minister. Rather, he needs to be capable and confident and able to lead a diverse cabinet of talented individuals. In that respect, Clement Attlee is a good role model. In 1955, looking back on his 20 years as Labour leader — during which time he was made a Companion of Honour (CH) and a member of the Order of Merit (OM) — Attlee wrote:

Few thought him even a starter;
There were many who thought themselves smarter;
But he ended PM, CH and OM;
An Earl and a Knight of the Garter.
Not a bad epitaph, I would argue.
Alun Evans
Chair, the Attlee Foundation

Sir, In your leading article "Stage Right" (May 24), you discuss the implications of Nigel Farage's decision to campaign for Donald Trump rather than stand for election to parliament. One of its implications is to undermine any further attempts by Farage to associate himself with Enoch Powell, to whom he likes to compare himself. It is hard to think of anything Powell would have disapproved of more than a British politician preferring to engage in US politics — a country with which Powell had little affinity — than seeking election to the House of Commons.
Richard Ritchie
London SW18

Sir, In his letter (May 24) Chris van Hoorn hit the nail on the head. If the One Nation faction of the Conservatives, Labour's right wing and the Liberal Democrats were to coalesce into a new consensus party, they could gather sufficient support from a disillusioned electorate to change the face of British politics.
Mick Ruse
London NW1

Sir, Surely the main motivation for Rishi Sunak's decision to call an early election was the need to forestall any further plots by Tory MPs to replace him. No one is likely to rock the boat so close to election day.
Richard Wellesley
London SW14

VAT on school fees will hit the military

Sir, As a parent with children at private school I am watching Sir Keir Starmer's proposal to impose VAT on school fees with concern. We are a military family and have already moved to four different locations, thousands of miles apart, during our children's schooling. We rely heavily on the continuity of education that boarding schools offer us. Despite the fact that we receive financial assistance from the armed forces to cover a percentage of the cost, another steep increase in fees would be unworkable. Hence we face taking the children out of their schools, and the only stability they have known. Many of my children's contemporaries find themselves in a similar boat, military or not.
Beth Salt
Winterbourne Gunner, Wilts

Letters to the Editor must be exclusive to The Times and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

SAFEGUARDS FOR RURAL BEAUTY

FROM THE TIMES MAY 25, 1924

The Scapa Society may justly congratulate itself on the growth of public opinion in favour of the cause it advocates. Perhaps it owes that progress as much to the selfishness and folly of advertisers as to its own efforts, but whatever the cause, the fact remains. Never since it was founded in 1893 has it attracted so much public attention to its protests, or achieved such results as during the last 12 months. With the almost unanimous support of the Press, the society has called serious attention to the disfigurement of the country by advertisers. Indignation has been aroused, and the beginnings of action taken. The society's most conspicuous success is to be seen in the action of some of the advertisers themselves. First in the Isle of Wight and then in London for the whole country, negotiations were carried on with the leading petrol firms, with the result that they undertook to remove all their roadside advertisements. Their example has been followed by other rural advertisers, and one may hope that it will ultimately be followed by all. There is nothing whatever to be said for a practice which threatened to turn our great roads into mere avenues of ugly hoardings. The promised removal of these, however, cannot be accomplished in a day or a week, and perhaps a more striking demonstration of the strength of public opinion on this subject was afforded by the almost instant success of the protest against the conversion of the Stadium at Wembley into a wilderness of advertisements.

So much has been accomplished by the methods of persuasion. But an effort has also been made to obtain further legal powers for the control of undesirable advertising. A new Bill has already passed the House of Lords and had a second reading in the House of Commons. It is to be hoped that it will become law before the end of the Session. The life of England becomes every day more urban and yet its people never cared more about the country. They want to keep country places which remain pure and undefiled. The motor-car and the charabanc are a temptation to the advertiser. But their occupants do not go into the country to see advertisements, and their refusal to be exploited will grow louder until, either by compulsion or voluntary surrender, they are listened to and obeyed.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Dangers of snoring

Sir, We read Dr Mark Porter's article on snoring and sleep disturbance with interest ("One for the snorers: have you been tested for sleep apnoea?", Times2, May 21). There are more than 3.5 million people who suffer from this in Britain but only about 10 per cent of them are being treated. The potentially severe downstream complications include stroke, heart disease, progressive dementia and death. This results in a huge burden on the NHS and several billion pounds in economic costs. The NHS has utterly failed to address this problem despite mandatory requirements from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Recently, an all-party parliamentary group for sleep apnoea has been formed and we hope that this can help to influence policymakers and persuade the NHS to take this subtle pandemic seriously.
Ram Dhillon FRCS, Tony Narula FRCS; London W1

Non-elitist opera

Sir, That the arts are considered elitist is surely because few state schools offer music (James Marriott, May 23; letters, May 24). To enjoy something one must be exposed to it, whether it be music or football. Whether one sings or plays an instrument or just listens, it can be such a rewarding experience throughout one's life.
Rosemary Keen
Sent by email

Mission possible

Sir, Of course technical facilities and loyal backers get big films to big audiences (Thunderer, May 24), but that is not the starting point: what the production says and to whom is. The most enduring films and TV shows were often staged simply, and the radio versions were just as enjoyable.
David Stevens
Ret'd film writer/director, Woking

Donating old furs

Sir, Janice Turner wonders what can be done with old furs that can no longer be worn in public (Notebook, May 23; letter, May 24). In the 1990s I donated several inherited furs to Oxfam: it sent them to the Balkans, which were at war and cold in winter, and people needed warm clothes. The thing to do is to identify a poor, cold country that does not have qualms about wearing fur (Afghanistan springs to mind), or one that is at war and cold in winter, such as Ukraine.
Caelia Pereira
Watlington, Oxon

Household name

Sir, I have some sympathy for Karen Butler ("Name of shame?", letter, May 23). I was christened Mavis and for 35 years suffered the indignity of being compared unfairly to Mavis Riley of *Coronation Street*. So on being offered a new job I decided to change it to Laura. It did wonders for my self-confidence.
Laura Mavis Lockwood
Seaton, Devon

Sir, As a teacher, many years ago I was handed class lists at the start of the autumn term. When I saw the names Duane, Shane, Charlene, Tracy and Stacey I knew the level at which to pitch my lessons.
Pam Bucknall
Horsham, W Sussex

Daily Universal Register

UK: FA Cup final contested between Manchester City and Manchester United.
Italy: Closing press conference for a meeting of G7 finance ministers.

Birthdays today

Dame Alison Nimmo, *pictured*, chartered surveyor, chief executive of the Crown Estate (2012-19), 60; **Biddy Baxter**, producer and editor, *Blue Peter* (1962-88), 91; **Stuart Chambers**, chairman, Anglo American (mining company), 68; **Said Darwazah**, executive chairman, Hikma Pharmaceuticals, 57; **Eve Ensler**, playwright, *The Vagina Monologues* (1996), 71; **Prof Alice Gast**, chemical engineer, president, Imperial College London (2014-22), 66; **Peter Harrison**, chief executive, Schroders (asset management company), 58; **Jamaica Kincaid**, writer, *A Small Place* (1988), 75; **Sir Ian McKellen**, actor, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The X Men* film series, 85; **Baroness (Zahida) Manzoor**, chairwoman, Financial Ombudsman Service, 66; **Liudmyla Monastyrska**, soprano, 49; **Cillian Murphy**, actor, *Oppenheimer* (2023), 48; **Frank Oz**, puppeteer, *The Muppet Show*, and director, *Little Shop of Horrors* (1986), 80; **Sir Howard Panter**, co-founder, Ambassador Theatre Group, creative director, Trafalgar Entertainment, 75; **Octavia Spencer**, actress, *Hidden Figures* (2016), 54; **Geraint Thomas**, cyclist, double Olympic gold medallist (2008, 2012), and winner of the Tour de France (2018), 38; **Jonny Wilkinson**, rugby union player, England (1998-2011), 45.

Birthdays tomorrow

Lenny Kravitz, *pictured*, soul singer, *Let Love Rule* (1989), 60; **Simon Armitage**, poet, playwright and novelist, poet laureate (since 2019), 61; **Helena Bonham Carter**, actress, *The Crown* (2019-20), 58; **Zola Budd**, world record-breaking athlete, 5,000m (1985), 58; **Paul Collingwood**, cricketer, England (2003-11), 48; **Jeremy Corbyn**, independent (formerly Labour, 1983-20) MP for Islington North, leader of the opposition (2015-20), 75; **Sir Clive Cowdery**, insurance entrepreneur and philanthropist, 61; **Frederik X**, King of Denmark, 56; **Henry Dimbleby**, co-founder of Leon restaurants and food writer, 54; **Pam Grier**, actress, *Jackie Brown* (1997), 75; **Henry Holland**, fashion designer, 41; **Alan Hollinghurst**, writer, *The Line of Beauty* (2004, Booker prize), 70; **Kwasi Kwarteng**, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, chancellor of the Exchequer (2022), 49; **Shantanu Narayen**, chairman and chief executive, Adobe Systems (software company), 61; **Stevie Nicks**, singer-songwriter, Fleetwood Mac, 76; **Mary Nightingale**, newscaster, ITV News, 61; **Michael Portillo**, broadcaster and TV presenter, former Conservative MP and cabinet minister, 71; **Baroness (Fiona) Shackleton of Belgravia**, personal solicitor to the Prince of Wales, 68; **Shi Zhengli**, virologist, known as the "bat woman" of Wuhan, 60; **Philip Treacy**, milliner, 57; **James Wong**, botanist and broadcaster, *Grow Your Own Drugs* (2009-13), 43.

On this day

In **1659** Richard Cromwell, the third son of Oliver and Elizabeth Cromwell, stood down as lord protector of England.

The last word

"You don't get to choose how you're going to die. Or when. You can only decide how you're going to live. Now." Joan Baez, American folk singer and activist, *Daybreak* (1968)

Doing the Dishes

In the rush to pass outstanding legislation before parliament was prorogued yesterday important bills, even a manifesto pledge, were brutally cast aside

Manifesto launches are one of the set pieces of general election campaigns and opposing parties traditionally observe the unwritten rule that their publication dates should not clash. The events are treated with a certain reverence, widely reported by a media desperate to maintain interest in what can rapidly evolve into a repetitive and tedious political beauty contest. Some voters may even take the trouble to read the things, even as word counts expand with each passing contest. But it is only when manifestos contain a poison pill that they become memorable, as in 2017 when the Conservative proposals to make people pay more for social care were strangled at birth after being greeted with fury and branded as a "dementia tax".

The truth is that many manifesto commitments simply melt away in office, victims of unforeseen obstacles, evaporating parliamentary time or changed government priorities. What the electorate will see in the glossy pages to be published next month will not be what they get. Manifestos are not binding contracts and voting a party into power is more an act of faith than an informed choice. This reality is illustrated in the legislative "wash-up" completed yesterday as bills were brutally culled in the rush to conclude business and begin the general election campaign in earnest.

Manifesto status did nothing to save the Renters Reform Bill from the slaughter. After five years in the making the legislation, meant to ban no-fault evictions, was unceremoniously ditched. It was not universally mourned: Tory landlord MPs were among those happy to witness its demise. Another high-profile casualty was, by contrast, a much more recent invention, not even in sight when Boris Johnson entered No 10 in 2019. The Tobacco and Vapes Bill would have progressively banned young people from ever being able to smoke. On Wednesday, Mr Sunak proclaimed it one of the signature achievements in his tenure as prime minister. Two days later it was dead, trampled in the stampede to conclude business.

The tobacco bill was an example of how in four and a half years a government can change out of all recognition. Mr Johnson would have rejected the proposed law as an intolerable violation of personal liberty — and did so explicitly in April when he described it as "nuts". Mr Sunak, schooled in the interventionism of the Covid-19 pandemic, was happy to be associated with a huge shift in public health policy substituting compulsion for education. A majority of voters appeared content with the bill in recent polling but it could in no way be described as a product of popular demand. Such is British democracy, in which MPs are representatives not delegates and the executive, untroubled by a written constitution, is effectively an elected dictatorship during its time in office.

The ditching of so much legislation and the acknowledgement by the prime minister that no flight will take off for Rwanda until after the election means that Mr Sunak's legacy is looking somewhat threadbare as he heads to the country. He will argue that these ghost laws still have meaning, illustrating his aspirations. Should he be returned as prime minister these measures may also be raised from the grave. Labour may well continue with a smoking ban — and resurrect in even more stringent form Mr Sunak's now-paused plan to impose a regulator on English football. The proposal will not be missed by those who believe that the most successful domestic soccer league in the world requires no help from bureaucrats.

Wash-up is a chaotic affair born of a prime minister's unique authority to time a general election. What this process illustrates is that the dishes offered in a manifesto will quite likely not be those thrown into the sink at the end of a parliament. In regard to the coming manifestos therefore, the rule for voters perusing the red and blue brochures should be *caveat lector* — reader beware.

Last Stand

In opposing Labour, Jeremy Corbyn gives Keir Starmer licence to purge the far left

Since entering Downing Street, Rishi Sunak has lost no opportunity to remind voters that Sir Keir Starmer campaigned in two general elections to make Jeremy Corbyn prime minister. Judging by the Tories' opinion poll deficit, the tactic has failed to gain the traction Mr Sunak hoped for. Yet it is a valid point and an important question how far Labour has shifted philosophically since Mr Corbyn led the party to electoral catastrophe in 2019.

Sir Keir has an answer: his predecessor as Labour leader no longer has any connection to the party. Mr Corbyn was stripped of the Labour whip in 2020 after stating, in response to a report by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, that antisemitism within the party had been "dramatically overstated". He has now declared he will stand as an independent in the Islington North constituency. It is a cathartic moment, allowing Labour to purge Mr Corbyn's supporters. It will be fair to judge Sir Keir on how far he tackles that test.

Mr Corbyn was first elected in his north London constituency in 1983. He was typical of the activists, grouped around the former cabinet minister Tony Benn, who had won control of the party's machinery and foisted upon its unwilling MPs a programme of sweeping nationalisation, huge government borrowing, import controls and unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Especially under Sir Tony Blair's leadership, the party eventually jettisoned all trace of this ideological baggage, only to embrace it once more after its unexpected 2015 election defeat. Activists elected Mr Corbyn as leader and the membership was swelled by people whose views were remote from any conception of democratic politics.

There is a vigorous but small part of the electorate which favours full-blooded socialism and pacifism. It has gained ground from the tragic conflict in Gaza, which it calumniously depicts as a genocidal assault by Israel. It includes divisive figures such as George Galloway and, increasingly, the Greens. Mr Corbyn is now part of this inchoate movement outside the mainstream party system.

It has been the fate of all other postwar Labour leaders to have to face down that type of politics. As prime minister, Clement Attlee helped in forming Nato, and expelled four Labour MPs who were fellow travellers of Soviet communism.

It is bewildering Sir Keir did not immediately take the same approach with Mr Corbyn, who was expelled from party membership only yesterday.

Owing to his longevity as a constituency MP, Mr Corbyn may prevail on July 4 against a lesser-known Labour candidate. Yet Mr Corbyn's record as an MP, and not only as titular leader, brought ignominy and disgrace to Labour. Any constitutional party of the moderate left needs to insist on certain commitments from its MPs and members.

Peace requires the western democracies to maintain their solidarity and military preparedness, including their nuclear arsenals, against autocracies including Russia, China and Iran. Terrorist organisations such as Hamas and Hezbollah are not liberation movements but enemies of civilised values. Though there are reasonable differences of opinion on the right mix of public sector and private enterprise, and about taxation, an efficient and free economy rests on market exchange, the price mechanism and open trade.

These are surely Sir Keir's own views. He should state that Labour will expel and forever exile those who subscribe to a very different notion of politics.

Saints and Singers

Honouring the supremely virtuous or talented can inspire others to do better

Whether one interprets the words "saint" and "miracle" either theologically, or in a metaphorical, secular sense, there is no denying that Carlo Acutis, who Pope Francis has decreed can be canonised, was a remarkable young man. Carlo was born in London in 1991 and died just 15 years later, of leukaemia.

Of the 912 people the current Pope has canonised, the most recent birth date was 1926. Carlo's extraordinarily swift elevation to sainthood is a tribute to the many acts of charity, hospitality and solidarity with the oppressed that he performed in his sadly brief life.

Carlo's "fast-track to sainthood" is partially explained by the growing global network of youngsters who see the devout, altruistic teenager as a role model. The Catholic church is correct to recognise and harness the appeal of a modern adolescent, a PlayStation fan, hailed as "the patron saint of the internet." If Carlo's young devotees seek to emulate their hero's courage and selflessness that is indeed a blessing.

Another revered individual, one who left a superb body of work yet also departed far too young was George Harrison, whose humble childhood home in Liverpool is to be marked with a blue plaque, one of only three outside London. Historic England is inviting public nominations for other recipients of the honour and, certainly, this expansion of the scheme beyond the capital is overdue.

Few, if any, of those meriting a plaque will have lived lives of such piety and rectitude as Carlo. Saints, by definition, are few in number. Neither is it likely that many of the countless ordinary folk commemorated on gravestones and park benches were wholly virtuous souls. Yet, thanks in part to the outliers, almost everybody aspires to virtue, just as any musician aspires to be a tiny bit as good as the Beatles. Excellence is exemplary.

Comment

Write to Feedback by emailing feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Patchy plurals: a singular source of annoyance

Rose Wild
Feedback

@TIMESFEEDBACK

Andrew Robertson of East Hanney, Oxon, has a problem about what he calls "numeration". I sympathise.

Andrew points out that in an article on Tuesday about blood pressure, "You say at the outset that 'One in three adults ARE thought to be living with high blood pressure'. One in three adults amounts to a large number, so use of plural seems correct. But then you quote a doctor saying that 'up to 50 per cent of the adult population HAS never had their blood pressure checked'. Given that this amounts to an even larger number, why the singular HAS?"

Why indeed? It's easy to get tied in knots over noun phrases — in this example, "one in three adults" or "50 per cent of the population" — and whether they should be accompanied by a singular or plural verb. The same applies to collective nouns — family, team, the public — or crew.

The same problem occurred in another story this week. This one was about the cargo ship that ran into Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge. In the introduction we said that the crew "HAS been unable to disembark" then, later in the article, that "the crew will remain stuck onboard as THEY navigate a tangle of immigration and legal issues".

Each of these examples should have been treated as a plural. One in three adults and 50 per cent of the population are both very many people, all of whom need their blood pressure checking. The crew of the cargo ship are also several people, and they, not it, are stuck onboard.

There is no strict right or wrong in all this from a grammatical point of view and some cases are tricky. Are you talking about a corporate unit or a collection of individuals? The style guide gives the example of sports clubs, which take the singular verb — "Manchester City Football Club was fined heavily for crowd disturbances" — as opposed to teams, which take the plural — "West Ham United are on outstanding form".

Generally speaking, the rule is to choose what sounds sensible and, whether singular or plural, always to be consistent within a story. Fowler has harsh words for offenders: "Failure to abide by the choice when made, and plunging about between 'it' and 'they', 'have' and 'has', 'its' and 'their' and the like, can only be called insults to the reader. A waiter might as well serve one a dirty plate as a journalist offer one such untidy stuff as 'The Times also gives some interesting comments by their special correspondent'."

Ten in grey suits

Wednesday's front page carried the headline "No 10 neglecting PM's more popular colleagues, laments minister" — the lamenter being Johnny Mercer, the veterans minister, who was spotted barefoot in a first-class train carriage composing a memo about everything he thinks is going wrong in Downing Street.

Keith Frayn from Oxford says he's confused. "Who or what is 'No 10'? I have previously assumed that it refers to the prime minister's office or spokesperson, but in this case it looks like someone (or something) different. It's shorthand for something, but I'm not sure what."

According to the story, Mercer's beef is with "the team in No 10", "No 10 staff", "the Downing Street operation" and, most significantly, special advisers with "poor political judgments", taking decisions outside their remit. Mr Frayn might well be puzzled about exactly which strategists, spads, advisers and so on are currently running the prime minister's ship but, for better or worse, it is now standard for political commentators to refer to them as "No 10" — whoever they are.

The boff get going

Have boffins had their day? James Logan wrote in asking if I knew the origins of the word and, in trying to find out, I realised that it has more or less disappeared, at least from the pages of The Times. It used to be, as Mr Logan pointed out, ubiquitous in journalism when some scientific breakthrough was in the news, but now you hardly see it.

No one has ever laid claim to inventing the word. *Green's Dictionary of Slang* says its etymology is unknown, though "according to Robert Watson-Watt (1892–1973), the inventor of radar, the term 'has something to do with an obsolete type of aircraft called the Baffin and something to do with that odd bird, the puffin'".

The wartime Ministry of Aircraft Production apparently had a special telecommunications research unit based at Malvern College and the consensus among historians is that its scientists and radio engineers came up with the nickname for themselves. A senior officer later defined it as "a bird of astonishingly queer appearance, bursting with weird and sometimes inopportune ideas, but possessed of staggering inventiveness, analytical powers and persistence".

After the war, science was sexy and boffin became a household word. Scientists, mad or otherwise, were a fixture in children's comics and there were exhibitions for "junior boffins", attended, no doubt, by a generation of future hacks.

A few years ago we were accused of being patronising or disrespectful when we called men and women of science boffins, but I don't think that explains why the word has gone out of favour. It's more likely that those hacks have long since retired.

Rotten Apple

Apple launched its new iPad with an advertisement featuring pianos being smashed which, we said, had "gone down like a lead balloon".

This was something of a gift to the literal-minded. Peter Robinson of Wakefield wrote: "Lead balloons go down very well, so you should have said either, 'It went over like a lead balloon' or, my favourite, 'It went down like a cup of cold sick'."

Each to his own.

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THE CHAMPIONSHIPS WIMBLEDON

The magical moments still to come after sorry Sunak's mix-up in a brewery

Matt Chorley

TIMESRADIO
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It took only 19 hours and 22 minutes. But confirmation even an election that looks like a foregone conclusion will deliver magical moments came at 12.42pm on Thursday, less than a day after our pocket Gene Kelly did his rendition of *(Re)Signing in the Rain*. The sadists running the Tory campaign tour took Rishi Sunak to a Welsh brewery. A venue that makes total sense when you are lauded for your organisational skills over the past 14 years.

The besuited prime minister, who appeared to have dried his suit jacket on the helicopter windscreen heaters, awkwardly asked the brewery staff: "So are you looking forward to all the football?" The one small problem being that Wales haven't qualified for Euro 2024. Cheers! Then the next day they took him to the Titanic shipyard. Genuinely. And so we're off and flying — start collecting your Campaign 2024 memories now. Here is what to look out for:

Starmer's arms You are going to be seeing a lot of them. Sleeves rolled up. No tie. Like a dad who has just come in from work and is looking forward to that low-alcohol IPA he's been saving. As polling day approaches and the weather improves, there is a real risk that he goes full "sun's out, tops off".

An oeuf is enough Someone will get egged. And everyone will smile at a harmless old tradition. Then someone will say we should frown upon such acts "in the current climate", maybe worried the sun might cook it into an omelette. Then a vegan will say we should really think about using a non-animal-based protest and we'll all lose interest.

The cookie crumbles In 1892, Gladstone was campaigning in Chester when he was hit in the eye by what turned out to be a ginger biscuit. A letter to The Times later revealed that it was thrown by a fan who was merely expressing her "frenzied admiration". Candidates, be careful: you thought getting a ginger nut in the eye was only an occupational hazard for Meghan.

Cunning stunts Sleep-deprived Lib Dem press officers will be so exhausted and high on spray glue they'll convince themselves it's fine to suspend a naked Ed Davey on a swinging papier-mâché pendulum, like Miley Cyrus, while yelling incomprehensibly about "taking a wrecking ball to this Tory government". The fire brigade will have to rescue him. And then the Lib Dems will put out a press release about how there has been a shocking spike in time-wasting 999 calls.

Farage for court After the surprise news that Nigel Farage didn't sit by the phone waiting for Donald Trump to call, a US number eventually does flash up. It is a lawyer asking Farage to do time in prison as a substitute. He accepts, insisting this is *exactly* what he had in mind.

History repeating Someone will forget their pledges/spending plans/candidate's name/own name. Someone will say there is 24 hours to save the NHS. Someone will say they know how Captain Tom would vote. Someone will give a speech during which they are obscured by an autocue/flag/a more important news event happening elsewhere. And we will laugh and roll our eyes and then realise that one of this lot is going to be running the country soon. Good luck.

'Failed German coup' just the latest plot

From the Kaiser to Simeon Saxe-Coburg, Europe's ousted Germanic royalty have long tried to launch comebacks

Dominic Sandbrook

BORIS ROESSLER/AP; ALAMY

Heinrich XIII Prince Reuss was arrested in December 2022. Below, Kaiser Wilhelm II with his second wife Hermine in 1922

For me, the outstanding story of the week wasn't Rishi Sunak's election gamble, but the extraordinary drama unfolding in a Frankfurt courtroom, where the unlikely figure of Heinrich XIII Prince Reuss stands accused of plotting a coup to overthrow the German government and install himself at the head of a Fourth Reich.

According to the prosecutors, Prince Reuss, 72, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Mr Toad, planned to storm Berlin, capture Olaf Scholz's ministers and parade them on television. In the longer term, he proposed to launch an expansionist campaign to restore Germany's borders before the First World War, which would presumably involve declaring war on France and Poland, among others.

It sounds like the stuff of a comic opera. Yet as the German interior minister has claimed, the plotters were not "nutcases but dangerous terror suspects". Having allegedly stockpiled almost 400 guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition, if they had stormed the Reichstag they could easily have killed dozens of people. No laughing matter, then.

What makes all this so bizarre is that we usually think of the Federal Republic as a bastion of bland managerialism. Yet although it's more than a century since Kaiser Wilhelm II fled into exile in the Netherlands, recent surveys have found that almost a tenth of Germans would like to see the monarchy return, rising to 14 per cent of far-right voters and almost a fifth under those under 34.

Is that so surprising, though? After all, it's not so long since almost every corner of Germany had its own monarchical court.

When the Kaiser's regime crumbled in 1918, the collateral damage swept away a little army of junior monarchs, including Ludwig III of Bavaria, Frederick Augustus III of Saxony and Wilhelm II of Württemberg, as well as a host of grand dukes, dukes and princes.

Among them was Prince Reuss's grandfather, Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mecklenburg, who had been lined up to rule the proposed United Baltic Duchy, a German client state in modern-day Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Perhaps, if events on the Western Front had played out differently, Prince Reuss might be presiding over a glittering court in Riga instead of sitting in the dock in Frankfurt. Such are the vicissitudes of history.

Many Germans remained loyal to the monarchy for longer than we think. Paul von Hindenburg, the walrus-moustached war hero who served as president after 1925, remained a monarchist to the end of his life and made a point of asking the exiled Kaiser's permission before he ran for the highest office. Indeed, in his last meeting with Hitler before his death in 1934, the aged Hindenburg mistook the Nazi leader for the Kaiser and addressed him as "Majesty" — a telling sign of his true allegiance.

As for Wilhelm II himself, he never gave up hope of being recalled from his Dutch exile by a repentant people. As late as 1940 he sent Hitler a telegram of congratulation on his conquests, adding that he hoped that "under your marvellous leadership the German monarchy will be restored completely". Even by Wilhelm's own standards this was a very foolish thing to say. As Hitler remarked to his valet: "What an idiot!"

For all Wilhelm's follies, at least he never tried to regain his throne by force. Alas, his fellow emperor Karl I, the last monarch of Austria-Hungary, showed less restraint.

When the youthful Karl renounced the throne and fled into Swiss exile on November 11, 1918, he deliberately refused to use the word "abdicate". As he later told the Archbishop of Vienna, his renunciation was merely the "equivalent of a cheque which a street thug has forced me to issue at gunpoint", and he had every intention of returning to reclaim his Habsburg inheritance.

The tragedy is that in most other respects Karl was a pretty decent and sensible fellow. But on this issue he was completely blind to reality. In March 1921, having shaved off his moustache and equipped himself with a false passport, he strolled into his old palace in Budapest, where the Hungarian regent, Admiral Miklos Horthy, was sitting down to an Easter dinner with his wife.

When Karl walked in and invited him to surrender the throne, Horthy could barely believe his eyes. Although he was nominally a monarchist, he described the ensuing conversation as one of the most awkward in his life. For as he reminded his unexpected guest, there was no way Hungary's neighbours would accept the return of the Habsburgs.

Eventually, after a great deal of weeping and wailing, Karl agreed to leave the country. But he had not given up hope. In October he made a second attempt, landing a hired monoplane in a field in western Hungary. Although hardly the most decorous way for an emperor to return to his adoring people, it was certainly dramatic.

But although Karl soon gathered a ragtag band of supporters, most of them students, Horthy had run out of patience. After a brief skirmish outside Budapest, in which more than 30 people were killed, the former emperor was driven off for good. Exhausted and depressed, he died just six months later in Madeira, the last of the Habsburgs.

The good news for fans of Germanic monarchs, however, is that comebacks are not impossible.

In 1996 Simeon made a spectacular return, greeted by big crowds

The house of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha held the throne of Bulgaria from 1887 until 1946, when the last tsar, the nine-year-old Simeon II, was kicked out by the communists. For the next half-century Simeon lived in relative obscurity as a well-heeled Madrid businessman. Then communism collapsed — and he saw his chance.

In 1996 he made a spectacular return to Bulgaria, greeted by enthusiastic crowds. Then he formed his own party — the National Movement Simeon II, naturally — and won a crushing victory at the next election. And so, remarkably, "Simeon Sakskoburggotski" became prime minister of his own country, which he governed for the next four years.

There's a lesson there, surely, for other frustrated monarchs. Nothing beats the power of the ballot box. Why didn't Heinrich XIII Prince Reuss think of that?

Comment

WEEKEND ESSAY

Historians will look back on 14 years of lost opportunities

Since 2010, five Conservative prime ministers have notched up some modest successes. But measured against four other periods of one-party dominance, the record is distinctly underwhelming, argues **Anthony Seldon**

The election on July 4 will be fought not just on the record of the 21-month Rishi Sunak premiership, nor of the 55 months since the December 2019 general election, but on the whole 14 years since the fall of Gordon Brown in May 2010.

How does the Conservative record weigh against the earlier four periods of one-party dominance? The Conservatives were in office for 13 years from 1951 to 1964 under four prime ministers — Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden, Harold Macmillan and Alec Douglas-Home. Labour after 1964 were in power for 11 years under two prime ministers, Harold Wilson and James Callaghan (embracing the nearly four years of the Tories under Ted Heath). The Conservatives were back in office under Margaret Thatcher and John Major for 18 years from 1979 to 1997. Finally, Labour held power under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown for 13 years from 1997 to 2010.

Several years in office is vital if governments are to make a difference. The 14 years since 2010 is a prolonged period to embed enduring change, far outstripping the length of two of the great reforming administrations of the last century, the Liberals in 1905-15 and Labour in 1945-51, the benchmarks against which all other governments can be judged on changing the agenda.

The two best comparators, though, for gaining a perspective on these past 14 years are the two previous periods of Conservative rule. The years after 1951 were labelled "13 wasted years" by Labour: even if unfair, the party failed to modernise the economy and improve productivity in step with competitors abroad. Dubbed "the stagnant society" by the author Michael Shanks, Britain under the Tories was seen as backward looking with polarised labour relations, which Wilson promised to blitz away with his "white heat of technology" revolution. From 1979, Britain's economy, self-confidence and place in the world were transformed under Thatcher, with her legacy embedded by John Major, whose achievement for years remained under-recognised.

The Conservatives since 2010 clearly achieved less than under Thatcher/Major: but did they outshine the performance of 1951-64? And if not, do these years deserve the moniker "14 wasted years?" One obvious difference is that, compared with the handsome majorities of both earlier periods, the Conservatives since 2010 had a much tougher time with their parliamentary arithmetic. In coalition with the Lib Dems for five years to 2015, they then lost their effective majority between 2017-19. Only in the past five years from 2019 were they in possession of a working majority.

Let's see how they performed in key policy areas. It's hard to see the economic record since 2010 as anything but unimpressive, not least in comparison with the immediate Labour predecessor of 1997–2010.

Inconsistent policy under seven chancellors (compared to only two under Labour, Brown and Alistair Darling) didn't help. Nor did fraught relations between the prime minister and chancellor from 2016–22 (Theresa May with Philip Hammond, then Boris Johnson with Sajid Javid and Rishi Sunak). Other countries of course experienced sluggish growth after the global financial crisis of 2007–08. But the Cameron/Osborne policy of austerity from 2010, with its largest and longest-enduring cuts in public spending since 1945, acted as a suppressant. By the time Liz Truss became prime minister in 2022, Britain was plagued by astronomic levels of debt, the highest taxes since the Second World War and steeply rising interest rates on top of the inflation. Jeremy Hunt steadied the ship as chancellor from October 2022 after the Truss/Kwarteng growth plan blew up, and the economic outlook has recently been more promising, with inflation falling this week to 2.3 per cent. But the economy is a pale shadow of the strength that Major and Ken Clarke bequeathed Labour in 1997.

"Levelling up" was one of several economic initiatives that came to little. The northern branches of HS2, after 13 years of legislation and infrastructure development, were summarily scrapped by Sunak in October 2023. Health, and arguably income, inequality grew during the 14 years while public services became weaker, life expectancy improvement stalled and mental health problems, not least for the least well off, rose alarmingly. The public sphere, including libraries, playing fields and green spaces, declined. The public felt less safe from crime while the backlog of severe criminal cases waiting to be heard did nothing to reassure them. Immigration policy consistently failed to meet its objectives, the stalled Rwanda policy emblematic of a total policy failure. The party that has always prided itself on law and order, and had a series of hardline home secretaries in May, Priti Patel and Suella Braverman, struggled to uphold that reputation.

The record on social policy is better, if uneven. Education is the one highlight, with the early running made by Michael Gove in 2010–14. Exam results improved, the curriculum was refined, synthetic phonics championed by the minister of state Nick Gibb, and Britain's international position in maths and reading improved, though further and higher education, and preparation of the young for work, fared less well. In contrast, the Conservatives leave the NHS in 2024 in a perilous state amid strikes, loss of confidence and low morale, a sharp contrast to the institution it inherited in 2010. Social care, despite several attempts to provide lasting solutions, was left unresolved. Housing was one of several areas where there was an urgent need for strong and consistent policy, in this case new home building, which was not sustained.

In foreign and domestic policy, it is difficult to argue that Britain is in a stronger position in the world in 2024 than it had been in 2010. The centrepoint of course is Brexit: David Cameron was unable to silence the fervent clamour from Ukip and other anti-EU voices. The narrow victory for Brexit in the June 2016 referendum put paid to him, and years of debilitating civil war followed, chewing up vast amounts of energy and time. After January 2020 when the UK formally left the EU, its closest trading partner for nearly 50 years, the shift to "global Britain" barely translated from aspiration into substance. Having made Brexit happen, the Conservatives conspicuously failed to drive home the economic and diplomatic benefits of standing alone in the world. Britain's staple ally for 70 years, the United States, edged away after Brexit, new trading arrangements failed to materialise, while Britain's standing in Europe, and its economy, suffered. The Conservatives' main stand in the post-Brexit years was in the Russo-Ukrainian war from February 2022. Two years on, Britain is a minor player, as it is in the war in Gaza, for all the lustre that Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton has brought to the job of foreign secretary from last November.

Nor is it easy to argue that the Union is stronger in 2024 than it had been in 2010, despite the defeat of the Scottish National Party in the independence referendum in 2014, and its collapse as a party in the past few years. Brexit caused great strains to one of Blair's signature achievements, the Good Friday agreement, which built on Major's work in bringing peace to Northern Ireland, and taking terrorism off the streets of mainland Britain. Sunak's Windsor Accord in February 2023 went some way to tackle the difficulties that Johnson had bequeathed in his Northern Ireland protocol. But the Union still hangs together on a perilous thread, not helped by the loss during these years of its greatest force for cohesion, Elizabeth II in September 2022.

There have been successes since 2010: aside from education, the national living wage, universal credit (as a policy if not implementation), the vaccine programme and rollout during the Covid pandemic, climate change policy not least at Cop26 in 2021, and a host of science innovations including the Advanced

The long road to the July election: 2010, the coalition love-in, followed by George Osborne's austerity. 2016: the Brexit battle bus. 2017: Theresa May's party conference coughing fit. 2019: Boris Johnson promised to Get Brexit Done. 2020: Covid emergency measures. 2022: the Truss-Kwarteng disaster. 2023: Suella Braverman in Rwanda

Research and Invention Agency and AI initiatives in education beyond. But the pot is not large, and is eclipsed by disappointments.

What then might explain the relatively underwhelming record? We must start by appreciating the factors that historically have made for the most effective periods of one-party domination — above all a clear strategic direction driven by strong leadership from the top, a party willing to unite behind that leadership, and consistent policy execution across Whitehall departments. These were almost wholly lacking, despite the Conservatives benefiting from a weak and divided Labour Party, especially under Jeremy Corbyn (2015-20). Sir Keir Starmer has provided an increasingly strong challenge since, but he has not been a patch on the leadership and damage inflicted on the Tories by Wilson from 1963 or Blair from 1994.

Strategic direction was lacking after 2010. True, the earlier periods saw ideological inconsistencies, from the laissez faire of Churchill to the paternalism of Macmillan, the small state of Thatcher to the limited intervention of Major. But nothing approached the crazy salad of these 14 years, from Cameron's hopes for a "big society", May's war on "burning injustices", Johnson's "levelling up", to Truss's gang-buster growth revolution and Sunak's managerialism. General election manifestos, which might have provided some coherence, were often quietly (or noisily) discarded. The 2010 "coalition agreement" between Cameron and Nick Clegg overtook many of the Tories' manifesto commitments. The 2015 manifesto offered a clear direction but was shelved when May took over a year later after Cameron's fall. Her own hopes for her tightly-guarded 2017 manifesto were sidelined after the loss of the majority and succession of Johnson.

The 2019 manifesto deliberately avoided all detail and failed to provide any kind of roadmap for the zigzag years ahead. The watering down of manifesto content from 2017 revealed a pivot to tribal rather than governmental thinking.

The five prime ministers all had qualities. Cameron was the best equipped, and was just getting going, free at last of the coalition with his own majority won in 2015 when he fell on his sword in summer 2016. May had integrity to her fingertips, but could not master a party fixated on putting ideology above consensus over Brexit. Johnson in No 10 forgot the qualities that made him a good mayor of London and squandered needlessly the Conservatives' most promising moment, the 2019 general election victory with a majority of 80 when the country craved strong leadership. This was the biggest single missed opportunity of these 14 years. Truss had many of the right ideas on growth and all the wrong ideas about how to implement them, while Sunak, the youngest prime minister for 200 years, had brains and integrity in abundance but needed more experience and wisdom if he was to negotiate the frothing waters of late one-party rule. One can only ponder if those who never made it to No 10 might have been better: Osborne, Gove, Hunt and Ben Wallace, to say nothing of the ever-popular Penny Mordaunt, who came within five MPs' votes of beating Truss to the final stage of the leadership contest in July 2022, where she would surely have trounced Sunak in the vote of party members and become prime minister.

Party division, not helped by some terrible party management and shockingly entitled — even by tail-end Tory government standards — individual conduct by Conservative MPs damaged strategic clarity. Not since the party was founded in the early 19th century have the Conservatives been as divided as they have been since 2010. Do they believe in the free market or interventionism? In a big or small state? Welcoming or deploring immigration? Celebrating or trashing national institutions? Playing a full part in a multilateral world or acting alone, as it did in the 19th century? Protecting the environment and green belt or letting the economy rip? If Sunak does win on July 4, he will surely be engulfed by these contradictions, which only a prolonged period in opposition is likely to resolve.

> “Party division, not helped by some terrible management and shockingly entitled conduct by MPs, damaged strategic clarity

Ministerial quality was not a patch on the 1979–97 Tories, with departmental titans like Peter Carrington, Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson, Norman Tebbit, Michael Heseltine, Chris Patten and Ken Clarke. Several stood out in their departments after 2010, including Hague, Osborne, Hammond, Gove, Hunt and Amber Rudd. But most ministers had never run anything before taking over giant departments: frankly, it showed.

All ministers from the PM downwards require time in office to prove themselves. Yet these years saw churn at unprecedented levels. Five prime ministers served on average less than three years each. There were seven transport, nine business, nine work and pensions, ten education, and 12 media/digital secretaries. This is nonsense, and inconsistent and incomplete policy-making was the inevitable result.

Furious Tories turned their sights on the blob, as it was termed, to blame for the poor performance. Never have the Conservatives attacked in such a consistent way the civil service, the judiciary, the Bank of England, the BBC and universities. Denunciation without reform generates poor morale and confusion, which is what happened. The centre of government was in need of dramatic reform for sure, and grievously missed the departure of cabinet secretary Jeremy Heywood who died in 2018, aged 56. The office of the prime minister, and its relations with the Treasury, need attention, and the centre of government needs slimming down and strengthening, as the Institute for Government report *Power with Purpose* argued this year. It didn't deserve aimless trashing.

External shocks did not help any of the five prime ministers, including the legacy of the global financial crisis, Covid and the invasion of Ukraine with its devastating impact on fuel prices. But the earlier governments had shocks too, including the Suez crisis of 1956, adroitly calmed by the incoming prime minister Harold Macmillan. Thatcher's handling of the Falklands conflict and end of the Cold War and Major's resetting of economic policy with the chancellor Norman Lamont after Black Wednesday in 1992, when Britain was ejected from the European exchange rate mechanism, were confidently handled. The biggest shock of all in 2010-24 was entirely self-imposed: Brexit. The criticism of historians is likely to focus less on the decisions that led to it than on the lack of leadership that followed and the failure to capitalise on the opportunities that Brexit presented. Every disruption, as every great leader knows, creates unprecedented opportunities. The Conservatives had not only Brexit but also Covid, but such moments have to be channelled, and they conspicuously were not.

The 14 years of Conservative rule have not been altogether wasted. There were plenty of examples of effective and high-quality leadership, rarely more so than at the Queen's funeral, masterminded indicatively not by the nation's politicians but by its much-criticised civil servants. But with the long lens of history, these 14 years will be seen as a time when opportunities for national renewal, cohesion and purpose were lost. So not wasted, but prodigal. Whether Labour, if they win, will be able to provide the quality of leadership demanded is the question. The country still has not found a settled place domestically or in the world at large this century. Starmer will need to emulate the ambition and achievement of Attlee — or of Wilson, Blair and Brown at their best — if he is to provide the strategic leadership needed.

Anthony Seldon and Tom Egerton have edited The Conservative Effect 2010–24, which will be published by Cambridge University Press on June 27

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The British Sauna Society held its first summit this week in Hackney, east London

Saunas such as this one in Sweden are popping up acroos the UK, including plans for the first floating one, in Liverpool

Sauna craze hots up as Britons learn joy of sweat

Jack Malvern

A novelty that began six years ago with a converted horsebox has turned into a movement with more than 100 venues for followers keen to experience the joy of sweat.

Such is the popularity of authentic Nordic saunas in Britain that the British Sauna Society held its first summit this week to exchange tips on nudity, whisking and how to convince a local authority to let you build on its beach.

There are now 104 public saunas in Britain that follow Finnish principles, with wooden walls, hot stones and cold plunge pools. The number has risen from 90 at the beginning of the year and 45 in February 2023. The society expects the number to double again so that there are more than 200 by 2025.

Katie Bracher, co-founder of the society, opened the conference on the roof of an old office building in Hackney, east London. She said that when she gave a speech at the international sauna congress in 2018 about the "new UK sauna wave" she was "in fake-it-till-you-make-it mode". There is no longer any need to bluff.

Bracher, who founded Beach Box in East Sussex in 2018 after setting up a sauna in a converted horsebox at the Brighton Fringe festival, said her favourite trick to entice new sauna-goers was to tell them they were immersing themselves in a foreign culture.

"You put something as a cultural experience and people are much more interested — even nudity. It's easier to sell it if you say it's a German cultural experience."

She has tried regular nudity evenings but British people seem unsure of how to behave. "It's causing problems. Some people are taking up too much space. I'm used to it but I can find it uncomfortable. I don't have creepy people but we're nervous about it."

Jake Newport, whose business Finnmark builds about 100 private and public saunas a year, said that Brits were embracing rituals such as whisking or its Russian variant venik. "Whisking is something between massage and a scrub," Newport said. "Your skin will feel softer than it ever has been."

He started building saunas ten years ago after injuring his back in India. "I broke my back and slipped three discs. I jumped off a cliff and landed badly. I had treatment, but if you've ever had a spinal injury, it's always with you. If I go to a sauna two or three times a week, I don't need other pain management."

Newport said that studies in Finland showed that people who visit saunas more than three times a week have reduced risk of dementia, diabetes and heart disease. "We don't know causation, but I think it's because if you go to a sauna and have a cold plunge, you will sleep like you haven't slept since you were a teenager. People who sleep well live longer."

Charlie Duckworth, director of the not-for-profit Community Sauna Baths CIC, has had his saunas prescribed for NHS patients. He offers 15 free sessions to patients who can get sauna treatments socially prescribed.

Newham primary care trust in east London uses social prescribing for patients who would not benefit from conventional medicine. "They're quite progressive. For people with chronic illnesses of anxiety, they can refer to a social prescriber in the NHS." They have accepted almost 100 patients. "The feedback has been really positive. The alternative may be to stick you on anti-depressants."

Jon Miller is one of several sauna builders vying to launch the first floating sauna in Britain with his Wyld Sauna at Princes Dock in Liverpool. He is about to secure planning consent ahead of a public opening in mid-September. The £500,000 project is being built in Essex and will be driven to Liverpool at night on three lorries before assembly. Miller tried 15 insurers before finding one that would take it on.

Jamie MacLean, a builder who decided to get into sauna building while setting a speed record for rowing across the Atlantic with his brothers Lachlan and Ewan in 2020, hopes to launch his floating sauna in July. "We've been prefabbing a lot of it on land and secured an old fisherman's platform that we'll repair and float it out on to the loch."

He believes he will not need planning consent because "it is essentially a boat" to be moored in Loch Nedd, on the northwest coast of Scotland. MacLean, who began his sauna-building career by adapting a horsebox, said the design was "a simple rectangular shape with a large window in one side".

Robin Bartlett, who told the summit about his lengthy negotiations with local councils to establish his Sea Scrub Saunas in Whitstable and Margate, Kent, said he was sceptical about social media influencers' ability to attract customers. But the artist Tracey Emin, who comes from Margate, had given the business a boost when she posted a selfie in February showing her leaving the sauna. Other well-known customers included the actor Rami Malek.

Bartlett was less enthusiastic about messages from Instagrammers who offered to post images to their 20,000 followers for a free session. "First, I thought: yes, please. But now I'm not convinced about the value. People want referrals from people they know."

Tory donor jailed for company leaks

David Brown

A Tory donor who planned to help fill election coffers has received a jail sentence for revealing company secrets.

Christen Ager-Hanssen, 61, boasted of meeting Rishi Sunak last June and at an event attended by Suella Braverman when she was home secretary.

The internet entrepreneur proposed a "True Blue" app for Conservative supporters with the aim of raising tens of millions of pounds for the party. Senior officials considered handing over membership data to allow advertisers to target supporters.

Leaked documents show that a party official asked the entrepreneur if it would be possible to merge the existing Tory membership schemes — the Disraeli, Churchill and Thatcher "clubs" — into the proposed app.

The party was to receive 75 per cent of the profits, with the remainder going to AddReax, Ager-Hanssen's marketing technology company.

The Conservative Party has said the proposed app "did not progress beyond the pitch stage". It had already received a £70,000 donation from nChain, a cryptocurrency and software company of which Ager-Hanssen was chief executive. The company later claimed the donation was made without its board's permission.

nChain, based in the City of London, was founded by Craig Wright, 54, an Australian computer scientist who claimed to be the mysterious Satoshi Nakamoto, the inventor of Bitcoin. Last year Ager-Hanssen switched sides in the legal dispute over the identity of Satoshi and said he did not believe Wright's claims. A High Court judge ruled in March that Wright was not Satoshi.

Ager-Hanssen left nChain last October and posted confidential company documents on social media, including information related to Wright's claims to be Satoshi. The company obtained court orders requiring Ager-Hanssen to remove the documents and hand over computers. At the High Court in London Mr Justice Jacobs sentenced him to ten months in jail for contempt of court for failing to comply with the orders. He was given 21 days to appeal.

Army admits mistake over recruit's cancer-gene snub

Larissa Brown Defence Editor

The army has been forced into a U-turn after initially rejecting a potential recruit because two members of her family had breast cancer.

Carys Holmes, from Derbyshire, had been told she had a 50-50 chance of inheriting the "Angelina Jolie gene fault" from her mother, although she had not been tested for it.

Jolie, 48, the Hollywood actress, underwent a preventive double mastectomy in 2013 due to her inheritance of the BRCA1 gene fault, which increases a woman's risk of breast cancer.

Holmes, 17, passed the fitness and cognitive tasks during a three-day selection process but was then told she was being rejected because of an "extensive" history of breast cancer in her family. A lawyer argued the army's actions could have been discriminatory.

Hours after the case was made public the army said there had been a "process mistake" and Holmes had been passed as medically fit to join.

Grant Shapps, the defence secretary, previously described the medical rules as "ludicrous" and in need of reform at a time when the army is shrinking to its lowest level since the Napoleonic era.

‘I went to a segregation unit. It looked

The chief inspector of prisons fears overcrowding is a threat to society but he tells **Rachel Sylvester** that a spell behind bars can be transformative

I think if we stop being shocked then we shouldn’t be doing the job, says Charlie Taylor, the chief inspector of prisons. Every week he tours the country making unannounced visits and he is frequently horrified by the conditions he finds. “If you walked into some of the cells that we’ve seen and you just shrugged then I think it would be time to go. It would show that your radar was becoming detuned.”

With the prison population now at 87,500 in an estate built for 79,500, the crisis in Britain’s jails is escalating. This week, an emergency measure was enacted to release some prisoners up to 70 days early in an attempt to create space for new arrivals. The National Police Chiefs’ Council has sent an operational note to chief constables suggesting that their forces should arrest fewer people to avoid piling more pressure on the system.

Many jails “are really struggling under the strain”, he says. “These are places that are already overcrowded. They’ve already got men sharing cells that were originally designed by the Victorians for one person, very cramped, an unscreened toilet in the corner in many cases. There isn’t enough space for people to do activities during the day so very often we find prisoners locked up for 20 or even 23 hours a day.”

His recent inspection reports have been excoriating. At HMP Bedford, Taylor went into the basement to visit the segregation unit. “It looked like a First World War re-enactment, because there were sandbags everywhere. Water was coming out through the floor when it rained hard and staff were having to walk round in Wellington boots. There was raw sewage coming up. It was really disgusting.” In one cell “the smell of mould was overpowering”.

At HMP Wandsworth, where an inmate escaped last year, “the regime was so chaotic that the staff didn’t know when they [were] going to be unlocking prisoners and prisoners didn’t know when they were going to be unlocked or get access to any fresh air. They were sometimes going days without seeing any sunlight.”

There have been seven suicides at the jail in the past year. “That’s really worrying,” he says. “Usually you go to prisons and people are doing their time and they’re not happy to be there but they’re getting through it. At Wandsworth, we found that people weren’t making eye contact much. The whole place was flat. Staff were working really hard but exhausted and also very inexperienced.”

The drugs were out of control. “Everywhere you went you smelt cannabis and if cannabis is getting in, you can be fairly sure there’s a menu of other drugs available as well. What you’ve got is a population, many of whom are addicted to drugs anyway, many of whom are using drugs to self-medicate for their mental health problems, but on top of that you’ve also got people who are so bored that they start taking drugs because they’ve got nothing else to do. It ‘kills the bird’ [jail term] as prisoners say.

> **“This is a home from home. I get given methadone, I have a shower. I’m getting fed.**

“Then you’ve got people from organised crime gangs who are very keen to get drugs in and sell them. So you have a perfect ecosystem for drug dealing to flourish. And of course, where you have drug dealing, you have debt and where you have debt, you have violence.”

At HMP Hindley “more than half — 52 per cent — were testing positive for drugs”, Taylor says. “Even the substance-free living wing, which is an initiative to create wings where people can stay off drugs, had drugs pouring into it as well.” Criminal gangs are constantly finding new ways to get drugs into prisons. “One jail I went to had a pair of underpants that had been infused with spice [synthetic cannabinoid]. They chop them into little bits and smoke it.”

He thinks the public would be as appalled as him by the state of many jails. “You sometimes see headlines about prisons being like holiday camps but I defy anybody to walk around Wandsworth and not be moved and worried about what they see there. If you went to your local pub and asked what kind of conditions prisoners should be kept in I think a lot of people would say, ‘I don’t really care if it’s pretty horrible, maybe they’ll learn from their mistake.’ But if you posed the question differently and said, ‘These people are coming out sometime, what do you want them to be like when they come out? Do you want them to be drug addicted, thieving in the neighbourhood, failing to look after their kids? Or do you want them working hard, taking care of their family, paying their taxes?’ Then I think you potentially get a slightly different answer. It’s costing the taxpayer £50,000 a year to keep someone in prison. Locking someone up behind the cell door for 22 hours a day as they begin to develop a drug habit that they didn’t have when they went in is a huge waste of money.”

The prison population has more than doubled since the inspectorate was set up in the 1980s. England, Wales and Scotland now have the highest incarceration rates in western Europe, driven by the ratcheting up of sentences as politicians compete to sound tough. “There are too many people in prison for the number of spaces that we’ve got in prisons, and I don’t think anybody would disagree with that,” the chief inspector says.

The early release scheme was in his view unavoidable. “Ministers have had

Charlie Taylor says prisoners are a jigsaw

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like a First World War re-enactment'

JUDE EDGINTON FOR THE TIMES

with missing pieces: the idea is to send them out "more complete than they went in"

Charlie Taylor

Curriculum vitae

Born 1965

Education Eton then English and drama at Cambridge

Career Taught in primary and secondary schools from 1989 to 2006. Head of The Willows School, which caters for children with complex difficulties from 2006 to 2011. Became an expert adviser on children's behaviour to the Department for Education in 2011. Appointed chief executive of the National College for Teaching and Leadership in 2012. Moved to the Ministry of Justice in 2015 to conduct a review of the youth justice system before becoming chair of the Youth Justice Board in 2017. In 2020, was appointed as chief inspector of prisons. His contract was renewed in 2023 for three years.

Family Lives in west London with his wife, a teacher; three children

Quick fire

Euros or Wimbledon? Euros

Glastonbury or Hay Festival? Glasto

Eton or Mossbourne? The new secure school, Oasis Restore

Prison Break or Orange is the New Black? Prison Break

Cluedo or Monopoly? Monopoly

Cornwall or the Caribbean? Cornwall

to do something about the population pressures otherwise there simply wouldn't have been enough beds for the people coming in." But he worries that the changes have been introduced so quickly that there has not been enough time to prepare. "Often we'll find that someone will get released on day one of our inspection and they will be back by the Thursday, within a couple of days. If someone's going out homeless, if they're very dysregulated, if they're a drug user, if they've got mental health problems, they'll miss their probation appointments, they'll breach their licence conditions and then the police will pick them up and they'll be recalled."

In some prisons, "you've got 30 per cent of people leaving homeless," he says. "I met a guy at Bedford — he said, 'This is a home from home for me. I get given methadone, I have a shower every day. I'm in a bed, and I'm fed.' For some it becomes a place of safety. I remember inspecting Styal in Cheshire. Women were leaving their property in the jail when they left, they said: 'It'll be there for next time.'"

There are also public safety concerns about the early release scheme. At HMP Lewes, inspectors found a prisoner who had their release date brought forward despite being deemed a "risk to children" and "having a history of stalking, domestic abuse, and being subject to a restraining order". Taylor thinks some of this may be "teething troubles" with a new and rapidly evolving policy but he warns: "If the preparation isn't done properly that's where public safety is potentially put at risk. We've been critical about some of the releasing arrangements for years and this to some extent can compound that."

There can also be problems for the victims who were expecting an offender to come out on a particular day. "You may have made plans about what you're going to do when the abuser comes out. And of course, if they come out earlier than you predicted, those plans are disrupted."

Taylor, who used to be a head teacher in a school for problem children, thinks that a mindset shift is required away from retribution and towards rehabilitation. "The quality of education in prisons is often shockingly poor," he says. "Work sometimes equals pushing a mop around a wing for a couple of hours in the morning and an hour in the afternoon. That's not preparing people for life on the outside."

More than half of adults in prison have literacy levels below those expected of an 11-year-old, about a quarter of male prisoners grew up in care and 42 per cent were expelled from school. "Prisoners are like a jigsaw with lots of missing pieces and what you're trying to do is to find what those pieces are and fit them in so that the person leaves and they're more complete than they went in. Prisons have got a responsibility to protect the public by keeping people locked up, but they also have a responsibility to protect the public by making people less likely to reoffend when they come out."

He sees too many people with serious mental health problems in jail. "We came across a guy who was trying to remove his own teeth, someone who was exposing their intestines. They're being looked after by staff who are doing their best, but they're not trained."

As head of The Willows School in northwest London, Taylor dealt with some of the most difficult and damaged children. The joint of his finger is still bent from a fracture he sustained when he had to grab a ten-year boy who tried to throw himself out of a window. The children would spit and scratch so much that he wore a nylon drip-dry suit but he also introduced hugs and toast for breakfast and helped change lives.

Recently he discovered that one of his former pupils was in prison for a serious violent offence. "We've been in touch. I've got a picture of him singing his heart out aged 11 at his leaving ceremony. That's the boy that we sent on. Sometimes things go wrong, but he's a bright guy with loads of potential and I think he can go on and make a success of his life."

Even though he is often horrified by what he finds on his inspections, Taylor is an optimist. "When people do get to prison, I don't think we should be despairing. People can still turn their lives around. We come across prisoners who say, 'This has changed me. I've learned a huge amount. I've found a niche for myself.' Prison can be transformative for people when the environment is right."

Rachel Sylvester is chair of The Times Crime and Justice Commission, a year-long inquiry that will gather evidence from across the criminal justice system and draw up a blueprint for far-reaching reforms

T TIMES Travel Offers

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LED BY JILL DAWSON

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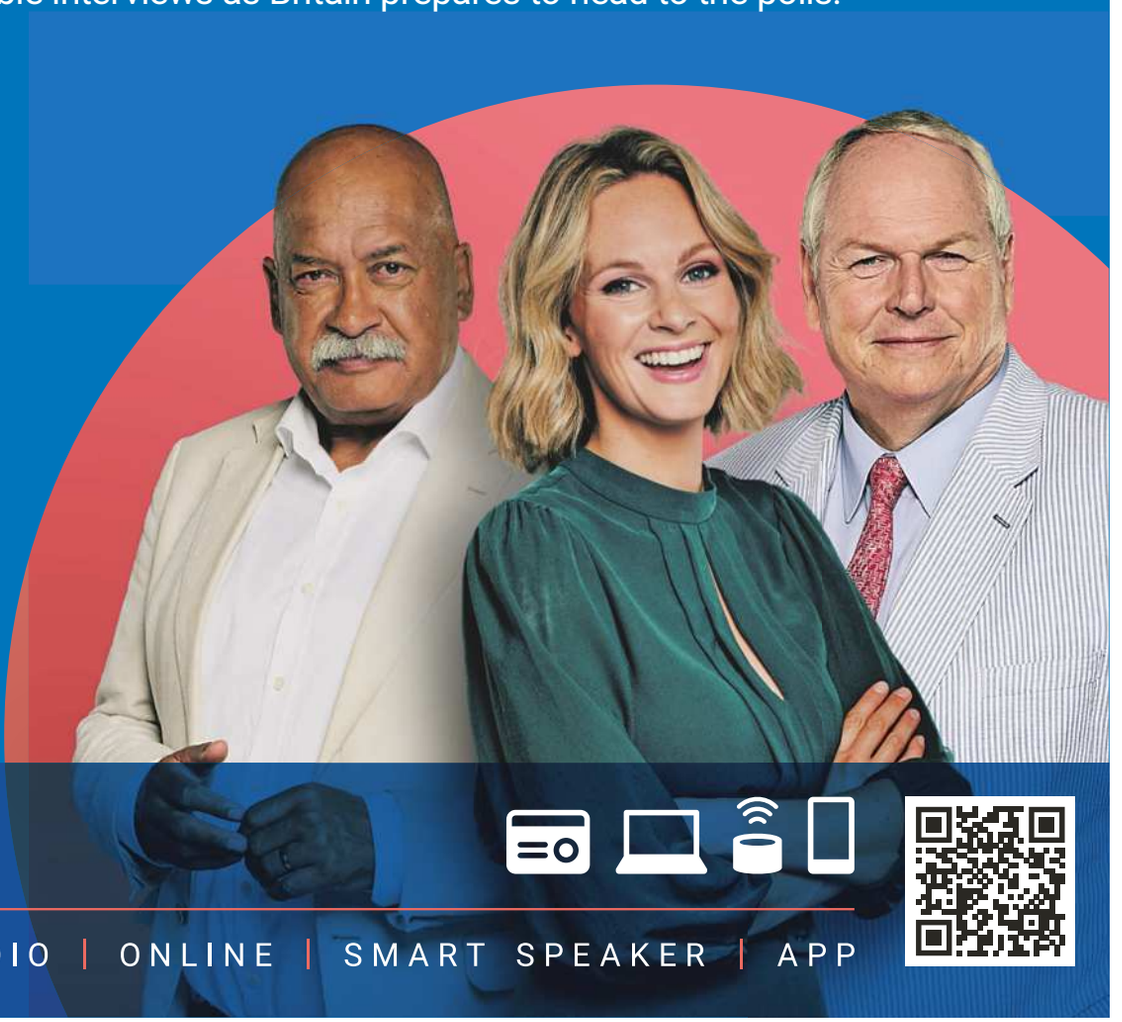

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Our Week Everybody*

Monday
Johnny Mercer Bad news. The Times has obtained a photograph of me on a train, writing a memo in which I say that Rishi Sunak is useless. So I call him, to apologise.
"Although my main concern," I tell him, "is that this makes me a dead cert to be the target for Hugo Rifkind's parody Saturday column."
"I wouldn't bet on it," says Rishi. "Now put some shoes on, and go away."
Rishi Sunak I'm asking cabinet whether anybody is going abroad for the Whitsun break. A few are. So I'm gently suggesting that might be a bad idea.
"But why?" says Gillian Keegan.
"Border chaos," says James Cleverly.
"Strikes," says Mark Harper.
"The cost of living," says Kemi Badenoch.
"There could be another reason," I hint.
"There could be shitloads of other reasons," says Michael Gove.
Oliver Dowden I've advised Britain to stockpile food. Everybody is laughing at me. But maybe not for long.

Tuesday
Mark Harper "Oh wow!" I say to Rishi. "Did you see that story about the aeroplane that nearly fell out of the sky?"
"Yet another reason to stay home for Whitsun!" says Rishi.
He's being very weird about this.
Sir Keir Starmer
Apparently I was repeatedly emailed by the stalker from *Baby Reindeer*.
"Wow!" says Angela Rayner. "I can't believe you could be the target of obsessive hatred from a weird, irrational person who was actually craving your approval!"
"Seriously?" I say. "Haven't you read the Guardian?"

Wednesday
King Charles III The prime minister has requested an urgent audience.
"I think you can guess what this is about," he says.
"Yes," I say. "It's about you being higher up the Rich List than I am."
"No," says the PM.
"Well it should be," I say.
Lord Cameron Just got to Albania. Rishi calls and says I need to come home.
"But I'm only six months into my gap year," I whine.
"Still, though," he says.
Rishi Sunak Emergency cabinet meeting. And I tell them I am going to the country.
"Ah!" says Gillian Keegan. "This is why you've been banging on about our holidays!"
"Yes," I say.
"But which bit of the country?" she says.
"Devon's nice," says Mel Stride.
"OK," I say. "Let me start again."
Isaac Levido "It makes you look tiny," I say, peering at the PM.
"The kids have a smaller one," says Akshata Murty, "but it's covered in pictures of unicorns."
"Also," says James Forsyth, "you shouldn't have put it up inside. Because that's bad luck."
"I'll do without," decides the PM. "It'll be fine."
Sir Keir Starmer Tony Blair calls, and says I should do my press conference indoors.
"See?" I tell my team. "That man is a genius."

Thursday
Jacob-Rees Mogg I have telegrammed the PM to say how important it is that the electorate doesn't think of us as wets. Still no reply, for some reason.
Rishi Sunak Held a rally last night for Tory MPs.
"Look," I said to them all. "I know I've just told you all to cancel your holidays. And imperilled your jobs. And, on a pleasant summer's evening just before a bank holiday, forced you to get the DLR to London ExCel. But the important thing is that you now get out there and tell everyone I'm brilliant!"
Weird mood in the room. Don't really understand it.
Mel Stride On Monday, I said we should send the jobless to bootcamps. Sort of regret that now.
Isaac Levido Our comms team is going through pictures of Rishi in the rain.

They're trying to figure out which one makes him look the most dogged and determined.
"Stage one," says my assistant, "is a bit spattered. Stage three, weirdly shiny, like those coats sometimes worn by Hassidic Jews. Or stage four, when it starts to look like black leather, and you can imagine him being in The Commitments and also wearing a cowboy bootlace tie?"
I'm actually not sure I want to work here anymore.
Douglas Ross Rishi is in Inverness. And I'm telling him it's not ideal that the election date clashes with the Scottish school holidays.
"Although I suppose," I say, "that other MPs have had to cancel holidays, too?"
"Whitsun?" says Rishi.
"I was taught to say 'pardon'," I tell him. "And I'm not your son. And your comedy Scottish accent is actually quite offensive."
Steve Baker On TV, and in the lobby of the House of Commons, I'm asked what I'll do if I lose my seat.
"Sky-diving, motorcycling, fast catamaran sailing," I say ...
And then I karate-kick, backflip, and rollerblade away.
Nigel Farage I have decided not to stand as an MP, entirely because of my ego.
Jeremy Corbyn Whereas I have decided the opposite, entirely because of mine.
Sir Ed Davey Not actually sure how we'll launch our election campaign yet. But we're bound to think of something totally mental.

Friday
Paula Vennells I have sent the PM a box of chocolates.
Nigel Farage "Great news!" I say, over the phone. "Now I'll be able to concentrate on the fight that really matters!"
"Who is this?" says Donald Trump.
Sir Keir Starmer I'm in Scotland, where we're all joking about the PM's gaffe in Wales, where he asked if they were looking forward to Euro 24, seemingly unaware they hadn't qualified.
"And I won't make that mistake up here" I say.
"But we did qualify," says somebody.
"You're kidding?" I say.
James Cleverly Worried about Rwanda.
"Look Rishi," I say. "I think we need to admit that there will be no flights before the election."
"Are you kidding?" says the PM. "I've been on eight since yesterday."
Rishi Sunak And now I'm in Northern Ireland, holding an event at the place where they built the Titanic.
All political journalists Is this man literally insane?
Liz Truss Hey, be fair. There's no shame in a PM being sunk by an iceberg.
**according to Hugo Rifkind*

World

Mothers take on gangs in murder mile of Cape Town

As South Africa prepares to go to the polls next week, police have all but abandoned an area of the country's tourist hotspot to armed criminals, **Jane Flanagan** writes

Audrey Herbert's son is a long-term drug user who is now banned from the family home. Today, she gets up before dawn to shepherd children to school, past thieves and foot soldiers for the gangs who have brought turf wars to her door in the lawless Cape Flats.

After dark she sets out again as part of a neighbourhood watch patrol — a group of volunteers, not vigilantes, who have no authority to question or search. Hi-vis jackets, torches and a defiant community spirit are their only defence.

Like everyone in the group, Herbert, 69, has lost a loved one to the bullets and drugs that dominate the vast sprawl of settlements inland of Cape Town. Here, only 40 minutes' drive from South Africa's best restaurants and beaches, in the absence of visible policing, security and first response has fallen to volunteers like the Rocklands neighbourhood watch.

For the people in the Cape Flats, the situation is an indictment of promises from successive governments to slow the murder rate. In the last three months of 2023, one person was murdered on average every 20 minutes across the country.

In their election manifestos before next week's vote, during which the ruling African National Congress is at risk of losing its parliamentary majority for the first time since the end of apartheid, the main parties have pledged to finally get a grip on crime.

"Over the next five years we will intensify the war on crime towards ensuring safer communities," President Ramaphosa said on the campaign trail. "A lot of work is being done to increase the number of police and strengthen our community policing forums."

Herbert's biggest fear is that when she responds to an emergency, she will know the victim. She often does: a neighbour's daughter hit by a stray bullet, or a friend's boy overdosing on drugs. "My prayer is always that I don't find one of mine."

If a child is mugged, for their backpack or phone for example, she can usually get the items returned. "The gang leaders call me 'aunty'. They know me, I've watched them grow up," she says, her patrol torch picking up retreating silhouettes, piles of rubbish and open drains. "Being out here every day is an interruption to their business."

Rocklands is a tiny patch of Mitchells Plain in the vast Cape Flats sprawl of low-cost housing and shacks that sprang up in the 1960s as the apartheid regime's dumping ground for the "coloureds" they moved from central Cape Town. Today, gunfire is the soundtrack to a life in which most children grow up without fathers. Unemployment, poverty and drugs are endemic.

"If we don't try and keep our streets safe for our children then who will do it for us?" asks Amanda February, 54. "We come outside after dark to demonstrate that this is still our community, not theirs," a reference to the gangs that front vast mafia-like networks protected by corrupt politicians and police.

Over a single recent weekend in Rocklands 14 people were shot, three of them killed, in the latest turf war between two established gangs, the "Americans" and the "Fancy Boys". Street gangs existed before forced removals a generation ago, but over the past half century they have become entrenched and more deadly with the influx of drugs and high-calibre weapons.

When the night patrol arrives at an established drug house, three undernourished youngsters stand around a bin fire in the front yard, gazing vacantly into the flames. The toothless property owner cackles as she welcomes the patrol to inspect the cramped quarters used by dealers, drug users and runaways. The fittings have gone, the power and water have been cut. Torchlight reveals a ceiling covered in flies.

An elderly neighbour peers out from her fortified home. Relieved to see the patrol, she ventures out for the first time that day. "At least I know I am safe when I spot glowing jackets coming down the street. We are blessed to have them," she says, wrapped in a dressing gown at her front gate.

Abie Isaacs, from the Cape Flats Safety Forum, has called for the return of the army to the Cape Flats. It had a months-long deployment in 2019 to quell the worst period of violence in the area's history. "I worry the community won't make it to the voting booths because of the lack of safety," he says.

Worsening crime is one of the main reasons for a predicted drop in support for the ANC. The World Bank estimates that violent crime costs the country £32 billion — at least 10 per cent of its GDP — every year. South Africa's murder rate (27,500 people a year in the most recent figures) is up by 50 per cent from a decade ago and now higher than Honduras. The national police service is flailing under an average of 200 cases per investigator — in Britain it is closer to ten.

Rocklands residents feel as trapped by politics as by crime. The Democratic Alliance (DA), the main opposition party which runs Cape Town and the Western Cape province it sits in, claims that the ANC deliberately starves its authorities of police resources.

In response to the shortfall, Cape Town has hired and trained community officers, who have fewer powers than the state-run force but a greater community presence. The move has been called anti-constitutional by Bheki Cele, the police minister.

In any event, the emergency services are never first to a shooting or stabbing in Rocklands. Volunteers use their own cars to get the injured to hospital while other residents secure the crime scene for when the police eventually turn up.

"We have had no training, we have just seen a lot," says Gavin October, who attended a recent drive-by shooting at a tavern a few doors from his home. Two of the three killed were teenagers with no loyalty to gangs.

High-powered weapons claim a lot of unintended victims. Volunteers know the risks. "We can't show we are scared, only that we are united," October says.

NIC BOTHMA/REUTERS

Taxi strikes in Masiphumelele. There is little evidence of police in the townships

Police in Jerusalem broke up a protest by ultra-orthodox Jews angered by a High Court r

Israel denounces United Nati

Israel

Gabrielle Weiniger

The United Nations' top court has ordered Israel to halt its offensive on Rafah immediately in the latest of several diplomatic and legal moves against the country.

Nawaf Salam, president of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), said: "The humanitarian situation is now to be characterised as disastrous." He called for "unimpeded access" for aid and further commissions of inquiry to investigate allegations of genocide.

The court, a judicial organ of the UN based in the Hague, has no means to enforce the ruling — but it prompted a furious reaction in Israel. Yair Lapid, the opposition leader, said the court's failure to link a demand for an end to fighting with a demand to return Israeli hostages in Gaza was "a moral collapse and a moral disaster".

Benny Gantz, a former army chief and defence minister, said the military operation in Rafah would continue despite the ruling. "Israel is committed to continue fighting to return its hostages and promise the security of its citizens, including in Rafah," he said. "We will continue operating in accordance with international law wherever we might operate, while safeguarding to the best extent possible the civilian population. Not because of the ICJ, but because of who we are and the values we stand for."

Basem Naim, a Hamas spokesman, backed the decision and called on the UN security council to "immediately implement this demand".

According to the UN, 810,000 people have fled Rafah, the city that has hosted more than 1.2 million Gazan civilians displaced by the war; half the population. They have fled, many by foot, to war-ravaged cities further north or the "humanitarian safe zone" of al-Mawasi on the Mediterranean coast, where conditions are dire.

Josep Borell, the European Union's top diplomat, said the bloc now faced a big decision: "We will have to choose between our support to international institutions of the rule of law or our support to Israel."

The Israeli military said yesterday that it had destroyed weapon storage

Scandal leaves a cloud over Churchill's holiday island
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Bonsai trees become target as thieves branch out
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MOSTAFA ALKHAROUF/ANADOLU/GETTY IMAGES

uling last month that the government should no longer exempt Haredi men from mandatory service with the Israel Defence Forces

ions court order to halt assault on Rafah

Earlier in the day Israel said that it had recovered the bodies of three of the hostages seized in the October 7 Hamas assault.

They were named as Chanan Yablonka, an Israeli, Michel Nisenbaum, a Brazilian-Israeli, and Orion Hernandez Radoux, a French-Mexican. Military officials said the three had been murdered and their bodies taken into Gaza during the terrorist attacks in which at least 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 abducted. Last week the bodies of four of the hostages, including Radoux's girlfriend, Shani Louk, were recovered.

The court ruling comes just days after the request by the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to issue arrest warrants against Israel's prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, and the defence minister, Yoav Gallant, as well as Yahya Sinwar and other Hamas figures.

US 'cash for anti-Israel group'

David Charter Washington

Republicans have accused the Biden administration of earmarking millions of dollars from the environmental budget for a climate justice group that campaigns against Israel and which wants to "decolonise Palestine".

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to give $50 million from the $40 billion set aside in the Inflation Reduction Act for improving the climate to the "antisemitic" Climate Justice Alliance, said Shelley Moore Capito, a senator from West Virginia.

Climate Justice Alliance (CJA) says in a video on its website: "We call on all our communities fighting for climate justice ... to demand that we cut military funding to Israel and begin the process of demilitarisation so that we can all be free." It claims that climate change "began with settler colonialism, imperialism and extractivism. Similarly with Palestine, if you start the clock of history and settler colonialism and the British Empire, a new set of liberatory solutions appear. The path to climate justice travels through a free Palestine."

Moore Capito accused the Biden administration of not caring about where its huge climate funding resources were deployed.

A spokesman for the EPA said that the grant money had yet to be awarded. "EPA has selected the 11 grantmakers and is in the process of awarding funding. As such, no grant has been awarded and no subgrants have been issued through the grantmakers programme by CJA or any other grantmaker."

Meloni sets sights on becoming queen of Europe's rightwingers

Italy

Tom Kington Rome

As Europe's right-wing parties rise in the polls in the run-up to next month's European elections, Giorgia Meloni has a clear plan: unite them and take the bloc in a radical new direction.

The Italian prime minister pointed out this week that she had already put together a right-wing coalition in Rome that combines her Brothers of Italy Party with Matteo Salvini's League and Forza Italia, the party once led by Silvio Berlusconi.

Now, she said, she aims to "do the same thing in Europe: ally parties that are compatible with each other in terms of vision, even with completely different nuances". She added: "It's a tough challenge but I think we can do it."

For right-wingers on the edge of power across Europe, Meloni has the credentials to lead. Two years after taking office, her party is expected to boost its seats in the European parliament from six to 22 on June 9.

Railing against the EU's soft approach to migration, outreach to gay people and green measures, Meloni won plaudits from Marine Le Pen, head of France's right-wing National Rally, who said: "We have a lot in common."

Meloni has calmed the initial fears of left-wingers and centrists in Brussels with her strong pro-Ukraine stance and good relationship with Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president. But, in a balancing act, she still denounces Brussels and recently drew applause from supporters at a Vox party rally in Spain, where she described Europe as "tired, submissive and lazy" thanks to the "crazy policies of the left".

This week Meloni repeated her claim that the EU favours the use of insects in cooking; an argument she often deploys when she wants to drop her pro-EU tone and knock Brussels. "The paradox is that in Europe we know we must cook insects but we don't have a foreign policy, defence policy or a policy to control the supply chain for essential goods," she said.

On Tuesday Le Pen finally ended her alliance with Germany's increasingly extremist AfD party, making her more acceptable as a partner to Meloni and offering the prospect of an EU driven by a Meloni-Le Pen alliance. The partnership would help Meloni to foster unity in her government, since her coalition ally Salvini is part of Le Pen's Identity and Democracy group of parties in the EU parliament, a rival to Meloni's European Conservatives and Reformists group.

An expert in betraying allies, Salvini has been pulling out the stops to steal Meloni's hardcore right-wing voters, claiming the EU favours male pregnancy and is run by freemasons, while promoting an army general who believes homosexuality is "not normal".

Francesco Galietti, an analyst at the Policy Sonar consultancy in Rome, said: "By throwing AfD overboard, Le Pen can join Meloni, which will in turn allow Meloni to keep Salvini in check. There is less chance he will pull the plug on her."

But Meloni can expect trouble if she tries to unite the right as well as backing von der Leyen for a second term as commission president.

Von der Leyen sent Meloni clear encouragement on Thursday, saying in a TV debate that she was "working very well with Giorgia Meloni" and hailing her as pro-EU and anti-Putin. Yet she ruled out working with Le Pen, calling her "a friend of Putin" who wants to "destroy our EU".

In Rome, Antonio Tajani, the head of Forza Italia, a member of von der Leyen's centre-right EPP group in Europe, said: "Le Pen wants to leave Nato. You cannot think of governing Europe if you are against Europe. Le Pen is definitely not pro-European."

Tajani's and von der Leyen's condemnation of Le Pen highlighted how sneaking sympathy for Putin will continue to create rifts on Europe's right.

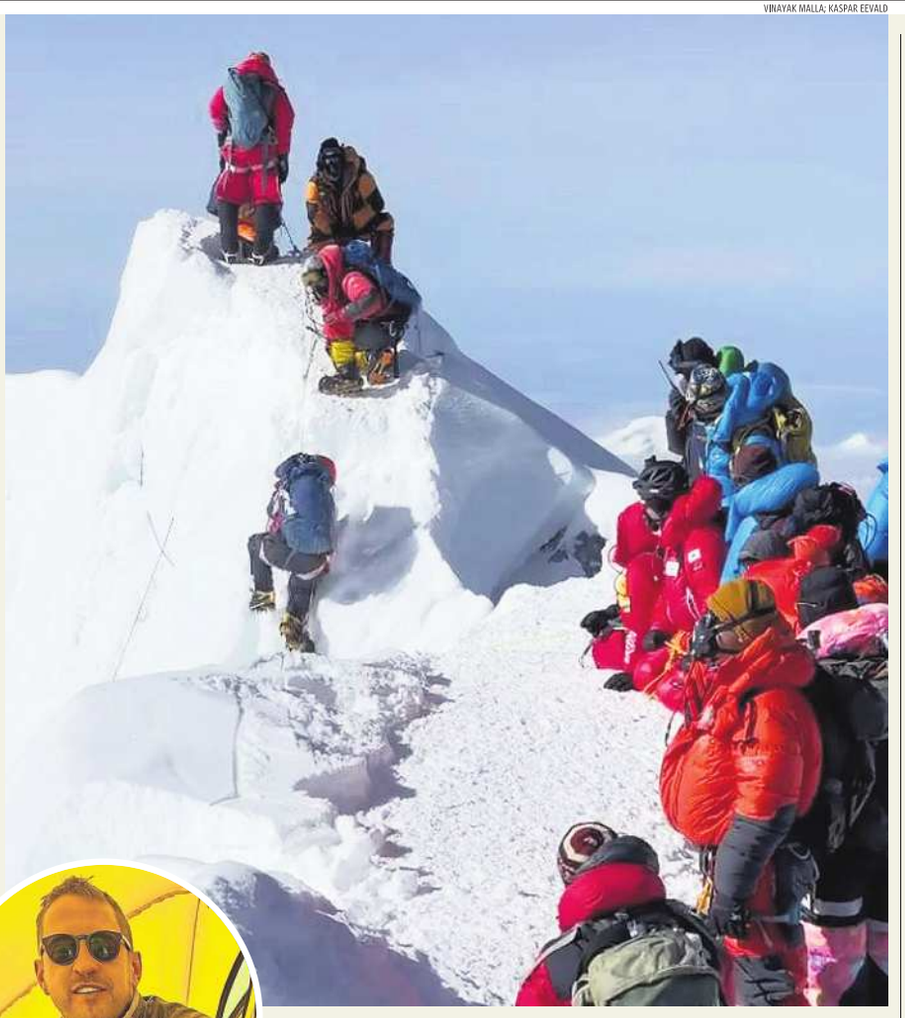
Salvini, who once wore a Putin T-shirt for a selfie in Red Square, said he would not back von der Leyen for another term because she had done significant damage to the EU.

Riding in Meloni's slipstream in the polls, Tajani and Salvini, both on about 8 per cent, have been needling each other for months, making cabinet meetings uncomfortable for Meloni. With the prime minister, Tajani and Salvini hailing from different EU groups, the faultlines running through the right pass directly through Rome. Although Meloni has emerged as a leading light on the European right, the ground beneath her is less than solid.

"Meloni has made her coalition work in Italy because voters here accept the parties' differences, but it is going to be a lot harder to pull off the same thing in Europe," Lorenzo Pregliasco, director of the polling firm YouTrend, said.

Giorgia Meloni, centre, leads Europe's right with Matteo Salvini, left, and Marine Le Pen

VINAYAK MALLA; KASPAR EEVALD



About 200 climbers were close to the summit when ice gave way. Daniel Paul Paterson, below, is missing

Everest queues cost British climber his life

There were just too many people. Everest was jammed at 8,700m above sea level (Tom Whipple and Dewan Rai write).

Climbers queued to go up the final 149m, others queued to go down. With each breath, their oxygen tanks lightened. With each step, the snow creaked. And then, without warning, that snow and ice gave way.

With it went the British climber Daniel Paul Paterson, 40, and his guide, Pas Tenji Sherpa, 23, believed to be among six mountaineers dead or missing on the peak this season. It was the start of a deadly week at the top of the world.

On Tuesday, the busiest day of the Everest season, an estimated 200 climbers pushed on to the summit — taking advantage of a window of good weather. A century after George Mallory and Andrew Irvine had seen the same summit against a deep blue sky, several teams sought to follow fixed ropes to the top at 8,849m. This was their best chance, before the monsoon arrived.

But everyone had the same thought and just below the summit they hit a bottleneck. There, on a thin trail at 8.40am they waited.

Ngaa Tenji Sherpa, a guide involved in rescue efforts, said: "Climbers jammed the route. People were moving on their line ... but the route was jam-packed with climbers."

He said the massed weight was too much for the packed snow in the lee of the crest. "The collapsing ice swept down some climbers," he added. "Some of the climbers were hanging by the safety line."

As the climbers who saw the collapse return to base camp, their accounts can be pieced together. Vinayak Malla, a guide, told Explorersweb, the climbers' site, he had been uneasy about the conditions. "The Everest summit ridge felt different," he said. "There was soft snow, many cornices, and rocky sections covered in snow."

He was descending when he saw the accident. "Traffic was moving slowly," he said. "Then suddenly, a cornice collapsed a few metres ahead of us." Six climbers fell. He said four pulled themselves back but two did not.

Those two, Paterson and Pas Tenji, were swept down the Tibetan side of the mountain and are missing, presumed dead. Pemba Sherpa, executive director of 8K Expeditions, of which Paterson was a client, said their search attempt had failed.

The news that the rescue was being called off came amid reports of more deaths. Joshua Cheruiyot Kirui, 40, a Kenyan, and his guide, Nawang Sherpa, 44, were found 19m below the summit after going missing on Wednesday. Binod Babu Bastakoti, 37, of Nepal, died of an illness while descending.

Malla said that the toll from the accident could have been higher. When the cornice collapsed, the descent route was shattered and few knew how to bridge the gap. Malla took charge.

He said: "I was able to start breaking a new route for the descending traffic to begin moving slowly once again."

Scientists held in Putin's 'spy mania'

Russia

Marc Bennetts

When President Putin unveiled the Kremlin's arsenal of hypersonic missiles during a speech in 2018 he boasted that the weapons were "invincible".

He told members of the Moscow elite that the nuclear-capable Avangard, Kinzhal and Zircon missiles were "without global equivalents" and would render Nato armaments useless. He illustrated his comments with an animated video showing nuclear warheads raining down on Florida.

"[The Avangard] flies towards its target like a meteorite, like a fireball," Putin said, prompting applause from generals and ministers. His claims were exaggerated but there was no mistaking his enthusiasm for the technology that allows the missiles to travel at many times the speed of sound.

Rather than gratitude, however, at least a dozen scientists whose theoretical research underpinned the development of the weapons have since been arrested on treason charges. They are victims of a purge of academics, unprecedented in Russia since the Soviet era. Critics say the arrests are proof of Putin's "spy mania".

A court in St Petersburg this week sentenced a 77-year-old scientist to 14 years in a penal colony in a trial that was held behind closed doors. Anatoly Maslov, a physicist at the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics research centre in Novosibirsk, Siberia, had been in pre-trial custody for almost two years. He was accused of sharing data related to the hypersonic missile programme with Germany.

Like other scientists caught up in the purge, Maslov had not worked on the hypersonic weapons project. Neither Maslov nor most of the other charged academics are believed to have had access to state secrets.

Yevgeny Smirnov, a lawyer with Pervy Otdel, which translates as Department One, a legal group that helps Russians accused of treason, said: "These are scientists who study fundamental physical processes. They are not developing weapons, they are researching how, for example, a certain metal behaves at a certain temperature, at a certain speed. Their research can be used in the construction of trains, ships and airplanes, as well as missiles."

Maslov had a heart attack earlier this year and his supporters say the prison term is essentially a death sentence.

He denied the charges, even though a guilty plea would probably be rewarded with a shorter sentence. Two scientists at the same institute have also been charged with treason and are awaiting trial. Their colleagues said they had dedicated their lives to Russian science and rejected offers to work in the West.

"The [Kremlin's] security services are trying to show that every other country in the world wants to steal Russia's weapon secrets," Smirnov said. He suggested that the arrests could be aimed at intimidating other scientists from communicating with westerners.

The accusations are all believed to relate to the participation of Russian scientists in international conferences or projects approved by Moscow before the collapse of its relations with the West. All the information that scientists shared with foreign counterparts was vetted in advance to ensure that it did not contain classified research.

Vasily Fomin, the scientific director of the Novosibirsk research institute where Maslov worked, told Russian media: "At one time, on instructions from the government, everyone was forced to co-operate with our foreign colleagues. So Maslov worked with America's Boeing and with the Chinese, and with the Germans. And now the scientists, it turns out, are guilty [of treason]."

The arrests were carried out by the FSB state security service in a manner reminiscent of Stalin's secret police, who were ordered by the paranoid Soviet dictator to arrest set numbers of "enemies of the people" every month.

"When the FSB is given the task of finding traitors, they go to scientific institutes and look for them there," Smirnov said. "It's not that they have found out before that a scientist has committed some kind of crime. They arrive at the institute, seize documents and look for someone to imprison."

In one case, Dmitry Kolker, a laser specialist at Novosibirsk State Technical University, was arrested by FSB officers while receiving treatment for late-stage pancreatic cancer.

He was charged with disclosing state secrets during a series of lectures in China in 2018 and flown to Moscow. The lectures had all been cleared in advance by Russian officials, however, and he was accompanied by FSB officers throughout his trip to China.

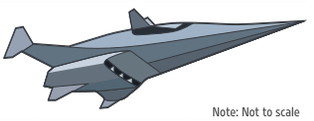
He died two days after his arrest in the notorious Lefortovo remand prison in Moscow. "They didn't even let our family say goodbye," his son, Maxim, wrote on social media.

The crackdown has had a chilling effect on scientific research in Russia. "We simply don't understand how to continue our work," Maslov's colleagues in Siberia wrote in an open letter. "Any article or report could become grounds for treason charges."

Russia's hypersonic missiles

Objekt 4202 Avangard

Length	5.4m
Range	4,000+ miles
Speed	Mach 20

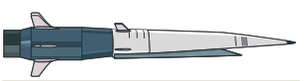


Note: Not to scale

Kh-47M2 Kinzhal

Length	8m
Range	1,200 miles
Speed	Mach 10

3m22 Zircon



Length	9m
Range	540+ miles
Speed	Mach 9

Withering slight to Brontë sisters put right after 180 years

Belgium

Bruno Waterfield Brussels

Charlotte and Emily Brontë are to give their names to a new square in Brussels to mark the time the sisters lived in the Belgian capital 180 years ago.

Their stay had a marked influence on Charlotte, in particular, and may even have provided the inspiration for the romantic hero Mr Rochester in her most famous work, *Jane Eyre*.

"The link has never been as widely known as it should be and until now there's never been a Brontë street or Brontë square," said Helen MacEwan, author of *The Brontës in Brussels*.

Rebecca Yorke, director of the Brontë Society and Parsonage Museum in Haworth, said: "This is a really exciting development. Charlotte and Emily's time in Brussels is an important part of the Brontë story and it's totally fitting that their legacy will be commemorated in the city in this way."

Brussels had a very different effect on the sisters from Haworth. Both were in their twenties when they arrived to learn French from 1842 to 1843, because it was cheaper than Paris. They studied at a small school boarding house run by the teachers Constantin Héger and his wife, Zoe.

Many believe that Charlotte fell in love with Héger, although he failed to return her affections.

Emily left the city as soon as she had the chance. In contrast Charlotte returned for another year to teach English and music at the boarding house.

The plan is to make part of Rue des Braves in the Koekelberg district into a square, Place des soeurs Brontë, designed by the Suede 36 consultancy, to be inaugurated next year. The square, which is near a library and a school, will feature trees, a garden with benches and reading areas around a statue of the sisters, and quotations from *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*, chosen by locals and carved in stone.

Tom Frantzen, a popular sculptor whose playful statues are dotted around Brussels, has worked on a maquette of Charlotte and Emily walking on the windswept Yorkshire moors.

Charlotte's darkly romantic novel *Villette*, published in 1853 at a bleak time in her life, was set in a fictional European city where both people and places were painted in an unflattering light. "Charlotte's wonderful, dark novel *Villette* is closely based on her years in Belgium," MacEwan said.

When it had been translated into French, the fictitious city name Villette was changed to "Bruxelles" in the text, upsetting many who felt wronged after seeing themselves in her story.

Such was the bad blood that her friend Elizabeth Gaskell, whose *Life of Charlotte Brontë* was published in 1857, vowed never to write another biography because she faced so many complaints and threats of legal action.

Scandal leaves cloud hanging over Churchill's holiday island

Portugal

Isambard Wilkinson Madeira

Winston Churchill's painting holiday on Madeira in 1950 put the Portuguese sub-tropical island back on the tourist map after the Second World War.

Its islanders remain faithful to his memory. None more so than Miguel Albuquerque, the head of Madeira's regional government, who wrote a book honouring the statesman's visit.

A small bust of Churchill sits next to a copy of the book in his office, where the politician praised the Conservative leader's "physical and mental courage".

Albuquerque is in need of similar attributes as he and the island face a crisis. A corruption scandal surrounding him has paralysed Madeira's politics, prompting a snap election to be held tomorrow, and its tourism industry is in danger of overheating, with record numbers clogging attractions.

Nothing quite prepared Albuquerque for the events of January, however, when two air force planes carrying 270 criminal investigators, including two judges and six magistrates, swooped on its capital, Funchal, from Lisbon to target him. "It was extraordinary," he said. "My enemies have used this false case as a political weapon against me."

A court has placed him under investigation for eight crimes, including corruption, abuse of power and influence peddling. Albuquerque escaped arrest due to the immunity of his position. However, the police detained Pedro Calado, the mayor of Funchal, also a member of Portugal's governing centre-right Social Democratic Party, and two of the island's construction magnates, Avelino Farinha and Carlos Custódio. They were released after three weeks and no charges have been brought.

Polls show that generally Madeira's voters crave stability. For many, Albuquerque represents that: his party has been in power on the island for 48 years. Alberto João Jardim, his predecessor, governed the island from 1978 to 2015, "like an African dictator", one foreign observer said. Credited with Madeira's lauded development over the past four decades, it will be hard for the opposition to dislodge the party.

Albuquerque has proved as resilient as the roses he is fond of growing at the grand 17th-century Quinta Vigia, his official residence. But tongues are wagging about the multimillion-euro sale of his own country estate and the rental of his rose garden to a hotelier. Portuguese officials are investigating whether the country estate and other property projects worth hundreds of millions of euros since 2015 were tainted by illegal deals involving him.

"It is a media circus, a dangerous one, as anybody can make accusations and destroy a political career," he said. "This is all fodder for the populists who are feeding on unfounded scandals," he added, referring to the populist right-wing Chega party, which quadrupled its parliamentary representation in the general election in March.

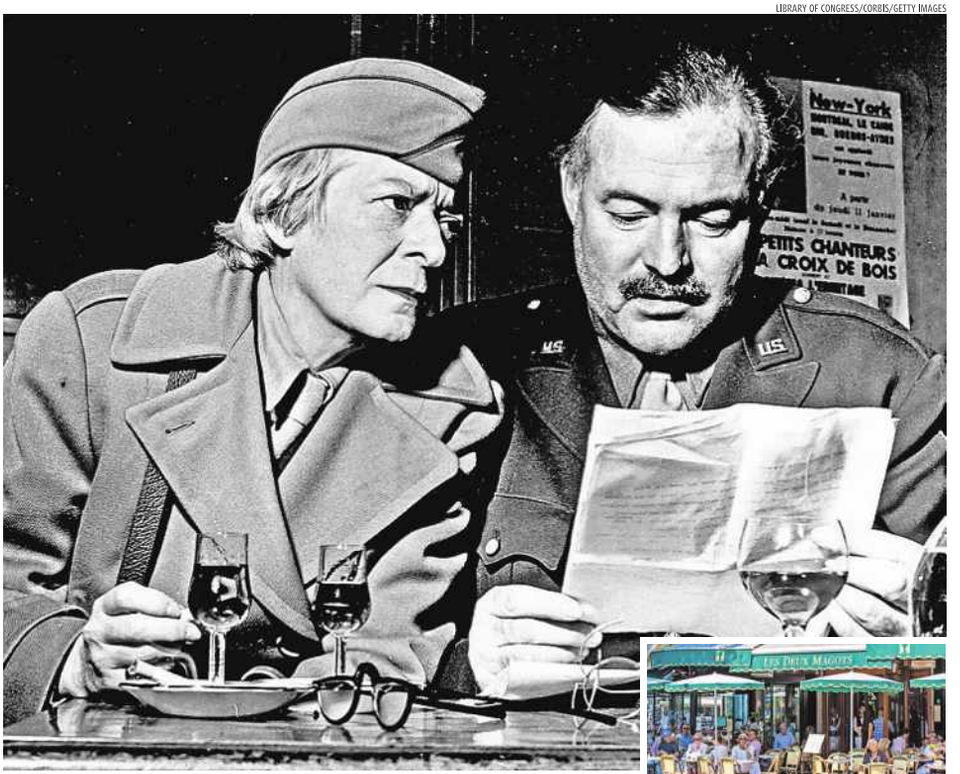
Chega, which campaigns on an anti-corruption ticket, looks set to dent Albuquerque's support. Polls suggest he may have to form a minority government or go into an alliance with Chega, a possibility he does not discount.

There is also the spectre of "over-tourism". Madeira retains its wild charm but long gone are the quiet days of Churchill's visit. Last year more than 2.3 million tourists visited Madeira, which has a population of about 250,000, and "any property on the island that comes on the market is snapped up by foreigners", one hotelier said.

Albuquerque welcomes the economic benefits of the influx, adding that measures are being put in place to organise the hordes better and that a house-building programme would help priced-out young locals. "We have plans for all this but we have been paralysed since January because of the corruption case," he said. With the scandal frozen in a glacial justice system and the possibility of the election not delivering a stable government, uncertainty hangs over Madeira like the clouds that wreath its peaks.

Claims of political corruption have upset the quiet charm of Madeira

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES



Les Deux Magots is as popular today as ever, with visitors drawn by its links to the likes of Ernest Hemingway, seen in 1944 with the journalist Janet Flanner

Left Bank landmark toasts literary past

Adam Sage

FRANCE CONFIDENTIAL

PARIS

In the 1930s, Aldous Huxley would head to Les Deux Magots for a drink and a debate with Georges Neveux, the dramatist who was his brother-in-law.

Pablo Picasso went to the Parisian café too, although he was more interested in the female patrons, in particular Dora Maar, a painter and poet who became his muse and lover after he spotted her sitting at a nearby table.

Now the establishment in the Saint-Germain-des-Prés area is celebrating its 140th anniversary with an exhibition of photos of some of the celebrities who have frequented it over the decades. There is Ernest Hemingway, in 1944 with Janet Flanner, who was Paris correspondent for The New Yorker for 50 years; Audrey Hepburn, posing for a fashion shoot in 1979, and Miles Davis with Jeanne Moreau, the French actress with whom he is said to have had a liaison, in 1957.

The exhibition is both a testimony to Les Deux Magots's illustrious intellectual history and a reminder of how the Left Bank has changed.

These days, the neighbourhood is frequented by wealthy visitors who go to Les Deux Magots for dishes that include a €38 monkfish with ratatouille and pistou or a €32 Charolais beefburger with grilled bacon, comté cheese cream and candied tomatoes.

Catherine Mathivat, the owner, says that half of the customers are tourists and half are French, although she insists that there are still writers and thinkers among them. "Look at her," said Mathivat, 55, pointing at a young woman tapping away at a laptop opposite a photograph of Simone de Beauvoir, the feminist philosopher, working in the café in 1944. "People can sit and work here as long as they like. We never hurry them."

Les Deux Magots has become a brand that is expanding abroad. There are branches in Tokyo, Sao Paulo and even in Riyadh, though it serves alcohol-free wine. There could soon be one in London too. "It is a dream, but it could become a project," Mathivat said.

For part of the 20th century, Saint-Germain-des-Prés was pretty much the world's intellectual capital — full of writers, philosophers, artists, musicians and actors seeking a glass of wine, a cigarette and an inspirational idea.

There was Vladimir Nabokov, who would hang out in the café while writing *Lolita*, Francis Bacon, who would go for tea, and Jean-Paul Sartre, the French existentialist. Jackie Kennedy would often drop in when she was studying in France and known by her maiden name, Jacqueline Lee Bouvier.

Mathivat concedes that things have changed in the 110 years that her family has owned the business, which now has a staff of about 100 and annual turnover of €15 million. For one thing, food has become more important than alcohol. "It's the drink-drive laws," she said, screwing up her face in disapproval. "People are more likely to have a decaffeinated coffee than a digestif at the end of the meal nowadays."

In 1933, a group of intellectuals sitting at a table in Les Deux Magots decided to contribute 100 francs each to create a literary prize for the best book of the year. The Deux Magots prize is now one of the most prestigious in the French calendar.

PATTAMAKIJSAKUL/SOLENT NEWS

Catch of the night **Fishermen working by torchlight sort their catch on Inle Lake, Shan Hills, in Myanmar. The traditional method of fishing is still practised on its waters by the Intha, who catch their haul in the shallows and are renowned for their unusual leg-rowing techniques. The lake is surrounded by villages on stilts**

Treasured bonsai trees under threat as thieves branch out

Japan

Richard Lloyd Parry Kumamoto

The thieves in the night were masked and silent, and knew exactly what they were after. One man climbed over a fence and removed the treasures from a shelf in the garden; he passed them to his accomplice who placed them in the waiting car. They were in and out in half an hour with 33 precious pieces worth more than £50,000 in total.

"I was shocked when I saw what had happened," said Yusei Sasaki, who was sleeping in the family house a few feet away. "I was speechless at first and then I felt very angry."

The loot was not cash or jewellery or precious art, but potted plants: the painstakingly cultivated, exquisitely shaped and very expensive Japanese miniature trees known as bonsai.

The theft at the Gashou-en nursery near the city of Kumamoto is the latest to hit the normally serene world of bonsai cultivation. Growers such as Sasaki, who might spend decades training and pruning an individual plant, are being forced to install security equipment and GPS technology. The crimes appear to be the work of gangs catering to a growing demand for bonsai outside Japan, particularly in China.

Bonsai translates as "tray planting". Cultivators prune, clip, trim and train with wire to produce creations that can be anything from a few inches to a few feet high. Connoisseurs prize individual trees for elegance of outline, the intricate interweaving of branches and great age.

Gashou-en, the biggest nursery on the large southern island of Kyushu, was founded by Sasaki's grandfather 47 years ago and has 500 plants, the oldest of them more than a century old.

Demand for bonsai trees has spread far beyond Japan, driving up prices and attracting the attention of criminal gangs

The cheapest cost less than £50, the most valuable tens of thousands of pounds, and prices are rising, mostly in response to foreign demand. According to the Nippon Bonsai Growers Co-operative, as many as 60 per cent of buyers of Japanese bonsai are overseas, and 80 per cent of those are Chinese.

"The upward trend in the bonsai market has been in these past ten years," Kazuhiro Takebe, from the co-operative, said. "Just as Japanese people are losing interest in traditional pastimes such as bonsai, demand in other countries is increasing. About 15 years ago we started seeing Chinese buyers, and that led to other Asian buyers. When Japan's economy was stagnant, the Chinese economy started booming."

From China, demand for bonsai has spread to Vietnam, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore, as well as established but smaller markets in Europe, the United States and Russia.

With the growing demand have come the thefts. According to the co-operative there have been as many as 40 large-scale bonsai heists since 2016, of trees worth a total of £1 million. Twenty of those took place in December and January alone. Takebe's nursery was robbed three times last year.

The recent theft from Gashou-en was typically efficient and well planned. The thieves took their loot in full view of a security camera but avoided areas of the nursery where there are movement-triggered sensors, suggesting that they were well informed about its layout.

They took smaller and therefore more portable plants but displayed an ignorance about the delicacies of bonsai. Sasaki was outraged to see on the CCTV images that one of them picked up a plant by its delicate branches, rather than by the pot. "They touched the tree in a way that we never would," he said. "That is not the Japanese way."

The assumption among many growers is that the thieves must be foreigners. That was backed last month when the police made a rare breakthrough after the theft of seven trees worth £26,000 from a nursery in eastern Japan. The owner had the foresight to bury a GPS tracking device in the soil of one of the pots, which revealed the plant's location 200 miles away.

Police raided the property and recovered the bonsai, arresting two Vietnamese men: one a 20-year-old language school student and the other a 33-year-old construction worker.

Bonsai cultivators across Japan are now weighing the economics of GPS trackers, which are too expensive to place in every pot, against more traditional precautions such as guard dogs and alarms. Either way, innocent assumptions about security have gone for ever.

"We cherished these plants for many years," one nursery owner told Japanese television. "They are unique and irreplaceable. Rather than just being stolen, I feel as if they were abducted."

Nicaraguan president locks up his little brother

Nicaragua

Stephen Gibbs
Latin America Correspondent

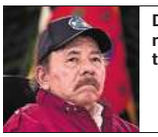
They were once viewed as dashing brothers-in-arms, joint leaders of a revolution that inspired the world's left in 1979 when it toppled the despised Somoza family dictatorship in Nicaragua.

Now, however, relations between President Ortega, 78, and his younger brother have deteriorated to such an extent that opposition sources say General Humberto Ortega has been put under house arrest in the capital, Managua.

The final straw, it seems, for the erratic president and his powerful wife, Rosario Murillo, who is also the vice-president, was an interview the retired general gave in which he was blunt in his description of the administration.

"His dictatorial power has no successors. After his death there must be elections," Humberto, 77, told the Argentinian website Infobae. If all political sides in Nicaragua did not negotiate, he added, "the country is heading for disaster".

Within hours the police are believed to have entered his home and seized mobile phones and computers. The police said a "specialised medical care unit has been installed [at the home] to care for the ailments that have afflicted and continue to afflict General Ortega" — widely seen as code for house arrest.



Daniel Ortega got rid of presidential term limits

Critics of the dictatorship called the move a blatant attempt to gag a trenchant opponent. "This siege against Humberto — the same as against thousands of Nicaraguans — is to silence him," Dora María Téllez, a former commander in the revolutionary Sandinista movement who was jailed in 2021 and then forced into exile, told the newspaper El País.

Memorably described by President Reagan as "the dictator in designer glasses", Daniel Ortega led the revolution that overthrew Anastasio Somoza Debayle, whose family had ruled and looted Nicaragua since the 1930s. His brother was put in charge of the army, which fought the Contras counter-revolutionary movement. Daniel Ortega led the ruling junta and in 1985 became president.

After losing an election in 1990 he reinvented himself as a conventional politician, regaining the presidency in 2007. He has since removed term limits and banned rivals from politics. At the last election, in 2021, he arrested seven presidential candidates before the vote.

Eight of the president's nine children serve as his advisers. His son Laureano Facundo Ortega Murillo, a part-time opera singer who officially oversees foreign investment, is widely seen as being groomed to take over from his father.

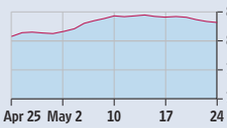
"Not even Somoza could install his son," Humberto said, pointedly.

Humberto, always seen as the more charismatic of the two, has become a prominent critic of his brother's excesses — and is aware of the risks. "There have been some who even thought of eliminating me," he said. "I have never heard it from Daniel but I have heard it from people who are with him."

Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
8,317.59 (-21.64)

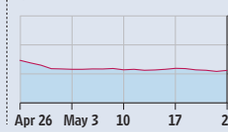


Dow Jones (midday)
39,163.64 (+98.38)

COMMODITIES

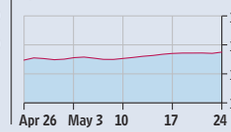
Gold
$2,336.60 (-7.58)

Brent crude (6pm)
$82.24 (+0.68)

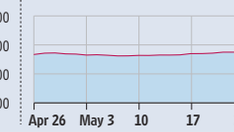


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2745 (+0.0029)



£/€
€1.1744 (-0.0002)



Stephen Bird is heading for the door as Abrdn seeks a new boss

Ben Martin

The chief executive of Abrdn is leaving after a turbulent period of less than four years in charge in which the £508 billion fund management group courted controversy and its share price plunged.

The FTSE 250 company said its board and Stephen Bird had "together agreed that it is the right time" for him to leave the business.

Jason Windsor, the group's finance chief, has taken over as interim chief executive and Bird, 57, will stay on until the end of next month to help with the handover. The board will conduct a formal search for a permanent appointment that will consider external candidates, although Windsor, 51, is seen as the favourite to take the top job.

It is an abrupt end of Bird's time in charge, a tenure that has encompassed widespread mockery over a "disemvowelling" of the company's name from Standard Life Aberdeen to Abrdn three years ago.

A former banker at Citigroup with little experience of the fund management industry, he was considered by the City as an unusual choice to run the business when his appointment was announced.

Bird was given the task of reviving the fortunes of the group, which had struggled with its investment performance and client withdrawals since its creation through the £11 billion merger of Aberdeen Asset Management and Standard Life in 2017.

However, none of Bird's initiatives have galvanised the share price, which has tumbled by a third since he took charge in September 2020. The decline in its stock market value resulted in Abrdn being demoted from the FTSE 100 index of Britain's biggest listed companies to the mid-cap FTSE 250. Its shares rose by 2½p, or 1.6 per cent, to 158½p yesterday.

Bird's main gambit since setting out his strategy in 2021 has been to push the company into the DIY investment platform industry through the £1.5 billion takeover of Interactive Investor two years ago, although some shareholders worried that Abrdn had overpaid for the business. A fifth of Abrdn investors who voted on the deal opposed it.

Bird will be paid his £875,000 annual salary and £158,000 pension allowance for his 12-month notice period and will be eligible for a pro-rated annual bonus for this year. He is being treated as a "good leaver", meaning that his unvested share awards will continue to vest. He was handed a combined £7.7 million in salary, bonuses, share awards and benefits between 2020 and last year, according to Abrdn's annual report.

Ambitions a distant dream, pages 48–49

Royal Mail's second-class results arrive

Ofcom investigation after postal targets missed

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The owner of Royal Mail filed its delayed annual results last night after the stock market had closed as the regulator launched an investigation into its failure to meet postal delivery targets.

International Distributions Services, which had been due to file its full-year results at 7am on Thursday, said that Royal Mail made a £348 million operating loss for the year to the end of March, with the company blaming "challenging macroeconomic conditions".

The loss was partially offset by a £320 million operating profit at GLS, its European and American courier company, although that figure was 8 per cent worse than the previous year.

At the bottom line, International Distributions Services reported a group loss before tax of £75 million. It is paying a 2p dividend for the year, which it said it was entitled to do because of the profits at GLS.

There had been fears that the delay to the publication of the results was linked with the £3.5 billion, 370p-a-share takeover offer by Daniel Kretinsky, the Czech energy tycoon. Ministers who would have been expected to rule on any deal linked to Royal Mail are now campaigning in the general election. This month Kemi Badenoch, the business secretary, said Royal Mail's universal service obligation would need to be protected in any sale of the company.

The Royal Mail owner gave no update on the potential deal, saying only that no firm offer had been made. It reiterated that it was "minded" to accept a proposed bid worth about £3.5 billion put forward on May 15.

International Distributions Services said of the delay that KPMG, the group's auditor, had had requested "additional time to complete the usual standard procedures after their internal reviews were late in the audit timetable, thereby delaying their final audit process".

Ofcom said that Royal Mail had failed to meet its delivery targets for 2023-24 by a considerable margin. Against a target for the company to deliver at least 93 per cent of first-class post the next day, in the financial year to the end of March Royal Mail delivered only 74.5 per cent. Despite a target to deliver 98.5 per cent of second-class mail within three working days, it did so 92.4 per cent of the time.

Ofcom said: "We will consider if there were any exceptional events — beyond the company's control — that may have explained why it missed its [delivery] targets. If it does not provide a satisfactory explanation and we determine that Royal Mail has failed to comply with its obligations, we will consider whether to impose a financial penalty." Last year Ofcom fined the business £5.6 million for failing to meet its first and second-class delivery targets in 2022-23.

Martin Seidenberg, chief executive of International Distributions Services, said: "We have improved quality, won back customers lost during industrial action, controlled costs and delivered Christmas for our customers. Positive momentum is building, although there is hard work in front of us to get back to profitability."

ALAMY

The month-long Euro 2024 football championship, which starts on June 14, is expected to boost Greene King's fortunes

Inflation saps profit at Greene King

Dominic Walsh

Soaring inflation and the impact of "global macroeconomic headwinds" on food, labour and utility costs took an £82 million bite out of Greene King's profit last year.

The brewer and pubs operator, which was taken private by a Hong Kong-based conglomerate in 2019, said that the cocktail of external factors had increased cost pressures and affected consumer confidence.

Nick Mackenzie, the chief executive, said the absence of a big football tournament last year and the impact of regular rail strikes also had hit the group's performance, although its prospects would be improved by the Euro 2024 football championship this summer. In the year to the end of December, group revenue was up by 9.1 per cent at £2.38 billion, with all four of its divisions continuing to recover from the pandemic. Statutory operating profit fell by 32.9 per cent to £167.2 million, but on an adjusted basis profit was down by only 3.4 per cent at £186.1 million. Adjusted pre-tax profit was off by 4.6 per cent at £63.8 million.

Its estate of more than 2,600 pubs benefited from a £150 million investment programme. Hickory's, a smokehouse restaurant chain acquired at the end of 2022, expanded from 17 outlets to 21 after conversions and has half a dozen more in the pipeline for this year.

Last year Greene King was said to be among potential suitors approached by Whitbread over a package of almost 300 uneconomic or otherwise non-core Beefeater and Brewers Fayre pub-restaurants. The company, which has 40,000 staff, is understood to have run the rule over the Whitbread pubs, but did not take things further. Mitchells & Butlers, too, was thought to have been approached by Whitbread, while The Restaurant Group's Brunning & Price pubs chain is being tipped as a possible target for Greene King and M&B.

Mackenzie, 55, said he was not averse to making acquisitions but it made sense to focus on the assets the company had. "We're focusing internally on how we drive the business, then we'll look at opportunities if they support that strategy. Never say never. We look at everything, as you would expect."

The Manifesto, page 53

Need to know

1 Britain's fragile public finances will loom over the general election campaign "like a dark cloud", the Institute for Fiscal Studies economics think tank has warned Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer. Page 2

2 An analysis by Vitality, a health insurer, of 5,000 employees from several businesses found that those who worked remotely five days a week took twice as many sick days on average as those going into the office. Staff with a hybrid working pattern had the highest productivity levels at work. Page 4

3 The owner of Royal Mail filed its delayed annual results last night after the stock market had closed as the regulator launched an investigation into its failure to meet postal delivery targets. International Distributions Services said Royal Mail had made a £348 million operating loss for the 53 weeks to March 31. Page 45

4 Stephen Bird, the boss of Abrdn, is leaving after a turbulent period of less than four years in which the fund management group's share price plunged. Pages 45, 48-49

5 Soaring inflation and the impact of "global macroeconomic headwinds" on food, labour and utility costs took an £82 million bite out of the profit last year of Greene King, the brewer and pubs operator. Page 45, The Manifesto, page 53

6 Britain's privately owned train operating companies could begin handing back the keys to their networks as early as July 5 if Labour wins the election. Boris Johnson's vision of a Great British Railways to replace the privatised franchise system of the past three decades has fallen victim to next week's dissolution of parliament.

7 Energy bills will fall to their lowest levels in two years this summer with power prices set to become a battleground before the general election. Ofgem, the energy regulator, has lowered the price cap to an average of £1,568 from July 1, a £122 fall from the present level.

8 Figures published by the Office for National Statistics show that retail sales volumes contracted by 2.3 per cent in April, worse than the downwardly revised 0.2 per cent fall registered in the previous month. It was the steepest decline this year. Page 48

9 The founder of AJ Bell has sold shares in the investment platform worth £28.1 million, a day after the stock rose by 11 per cent on the back of an upbeat earnings report. Andy Bell, who co-founded the broker in 1995 with Nicholas Littlefair in Manchester, has reduced his stake from 20.5 per cent to 18.7 per cent. Page 50

10 Elon Musk has said he is against tariffs imposed on Chinese electric cars, a week after Washington hit them with 100 per cent taxes. Musk said at the VivaTech conference in Paris that Tesla, his electric car company, "competes quite well ... in China with no tariffs and no deferential support". Page 51

Five business issues the

Whoever gets to No 10 will have momentous decisions to take, **Alex Ralph**, **Lauren Almeida** and **Ben Martin** write

With Rishi Sunak having fired the starting gun for a snap general election on July 4, business is moving quickly to lobby the political parties on key reforms that boardrooms want from the next government.

During the next six weeks leading business groups will promote their own manifestos, having consulted with member companies, including some of the country's biggest employers. The British Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses, UK Finance and Make UK are all due to publish blueprints. They will follow those of the CBI and Institute of Directors.

Meanwhile, plans are under way to invite the likes of Kemi Badenoch, the business and trade secretary, and Jonathan Reynolds, her Labour shadow, to a debate including a studio audience and a business leaders panel. UK plc also will make its case to the other parties, including the Liberal Democrats and Greens.

Unlike the last general election, both the Conservatives and Labour, which has a commanding lead in the polls, are keen to win over the corporate community amid signs of a tentative economic recovery and are likely to seek endorsements from big, well-known names.

With boardrooms anxious for the next government to hit the ground running and for continuity and stability in policymaking after years of upheaval, there are five key policy demands and battlegrounds shaping up.

A formal industrial strategy

Among the most prominent reforms that have long been called for from parts of the business world is a formal industrial strategy. This is at the top of the wishlist of both Make UK, which has campaigned on the issue for some time, and the Institute of Directors.

It is likely to form part of the Labour manifesto. A new industrial strategy was included in the party's *Business Partnership for Growth* published in February, which coincided with an event it hosted for corporate leaders at the Oval cricket ground in south London. In the document, the party has vowed to work in partnership with business through a statutory industrial strategy council "to maximise Britain's strengths in the life sciences, digital, creative, financial services, clean power, automotive, aerospace and defence sectors".

In its manifesto published in March, the Institute of Directors called on the next government to develop an industrial strategy that provided a more "stable and predictable framework for business investment" and that embedded a vision for "innovation, planning reform, net-zero strategy, transport, infrastructure and energy security". But not one that "backs winners" or offered large-scale industrial subsidies.

For Make UK, which represents about 20,000 companies spanning sectors including aerospace, automotive, food and drink and chemicals, a long-term industrial strategy should underpin all economic policymaking and overseas trade negotiations and should provide businesses with a "stable policy environment to inform investment decisions".

Unlocking post-Brexit trade

Since Brexit, the UK has greater sovereignty over its international trading relationships but companies are struggling to drive exports, with recent border import checks adding to costs. Revitalising trade is another significant demand of boardrooms.

Underlining the frustrations with the post-Brexit trading regime, the chairman of one of the country's biggest supermarkets, speaking confidentially, dismissed last month's new border target operating model, which governs imports of animal-based products and plants, as a "hidden regulatory tax on the UK people with no benefit".

The government has sought to broaden Britain's trading relationship by pivoting to the Asia-Pacific region through the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership and by striking bilateral deals.

A prized free trade agreement with India, which has been complicated by elections in both countries and is important to the likes of the Scotch Whisky Association and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, will fall to the next government to agree and sign.

A key issue for business is improving trading relations with the European Union, the country's biggest export market. The post-Brexit Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU, signed in January 2021, is due to be reviewed by both sides in 2026. The institute wants it to be extended into new areas, such as a veterinary agreement and mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

The CBI, whose members include heavyweights such as Airbus, BAE Systems and IBM, wants a "No10-driven" trade and investment strategy "looking collectively at exports, imports, inward and outward investment and geared toward growth in markets with a focus on the goods, services and technologies that the UK needs to compete and win globally".

Rishi Sunak and Jeremy Hunt and their Labour foes, Sir Keir Starmer and Rachel

Lower bills amid a power play over energy prices

Emma Powell

Energy bills will fall to their lowest levels in two years this summer with power prices set to become a battleground before the general election.

Ofgem, the energy regulator, has lowered the price cap to an average £1,568 from July 1, a £122 fall from the present level, after a sustained drop in wholesale gas prices from the highs reached after the war in Ukraine began in February 2022.

The 7 per cent decline in the price cap from £1,690 will bring household energy bills down to their lowest since March 2022 and represents a saving of about £10 a month. It also leaves bills at an average of £500 below last summer's level.

The government has sought to distinguish its stance on energy bills from Labour by accusing the opposition party of failing to be honest about the "significant costs" of its net zero policies.

Labour said that bills were £400 higher than before the energy crisis sparked by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and had risen by more than the average for other European countries. Britain had been left "overexposed" to energy imports, a spokesman said.

A sharp rise in wholesale gas and power prices since late 2021 led to sustained increases in the energy price cap. European gas prices have fallen by about 80 per cent from an August 2022 peak and have remained subdued despite the conflict between Israel and Hamas prompting fresh concerns about disrupted energy supplies.

Millions of British households have struggled to pay their bills as energy costs have soared and bad debts, which are unlikely to be recovered, have risen to a record £3.1 billion, according to the latest figures from the energy watchdog.

Emily Fry, a senior economist at the Resolution Foundation, the think tank, said the energy market shock had left people paying more for less energy, with more than six in ten households still worried about paying their bills. "And with the majority of gas consumption taking place in winter, it's the winter price cap that matters most for living standards," she said.

Ofgem announced a review of the cap this year that would make significant changes to the way it is calculated, in particular to the daily standing charge, which costs a typical consumer several hundred pounds a year even before any energy is used.

The price cap was introduced by the government in 2019 and limits the prices that suppliers can charge households for each unit of gas and electricity on standard tariffs. It was designed to prevent customers being exploited.

next government must address

STEFAN ROUSSEAU/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES; JEFF MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

Reeves, face a host of demands from groups such as the whisky industry

Boosting the UK stock market and investment

Amid much doom-mongering about the health of the London stock market, many in the City of London are looking to the next government to do more to bolster Britain's capital markets.

Steps have been taken already in recent years under the Tories, including moves to revamp listings rules to attract more companies to the London Stock Exchange and measures to push pension funds to invest more in UK equities.

The idea of a £5,000 British Isa to encourage more investors to back British equities was proposed at the last budget in March, but it will fall to the next government to decide on the initiative. Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, and Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, have been on a charm offensive with business and in January they released the party's plan for the sector, which reassured the Square Mile that Labour would "champion the UK's role as a global leader in financial services".

Ruth Leas, who runs the main banking business of Investec, the FTSE 250 wealth manager, said "that would be what is needed to restore London to its former glory".

Unburdening small businesses

Small businesses, especially those in retail, have long pushed for changes to the business rates system. The tax is charged on most commercial, non-domestic properties, including shops, offices, clubs and warehouses.

Craig Beaumont, of the Federation of Small Businesses, said his group would push the new government for a small business bill, focused on issues such as business rates and other "pre-profit taxes". The federation also will call on the next government to tackle late payments, the "No1" issue that affects small businesses, through reforms that would make it much tougher for big companies to pay small firms late. "We would like there to be audit committees in big companies who have oversight over payment practices and deliver an annual report each year," he said.

Steve Hare, chief executive of Sage, the FTSE 100, Newcastle-based accounting software group, said that the next government could help small businesses to become more productive by laying out a "road map" for the transition to a digital economy.

Tackling skills and labour shortages

This month one in five companies with at least ten employees reported that they were experiencing worker shortages, according to official data.

At the end of April there were 898,000 job vacancies nationwide, 160,000 of which were in the health and social work sector.

The strain comes after new rules announced in March that stop immigrant social care workers from including dependants on their visas. In April there was a 58 per cent fall in health and care dependants applying compared with the same month last year.

In contrast, applications for "skilled worker" visas rose by 41 per cent. The government increased the minimum salary for the skilled worker visa from £26,200 to £38,700 in April.

The CBI has called on the government to create a strategy to address labour shortages, with a focus on skills and immigration. The body, which represents 190,000 businesses, argues that the strategy should include a review of the immigration system, including the competitiveness of visa costs and service standards.

The Institute of Directors is pushing for an independent agency to assess the skills shortage in the UK. Its proposals include a tax credit for company costs incurred in training staff in areas of skills shortages.

Analysis

The general election offers a chance to fortify the economy after years of turmoil (Jack Barnett writes). Labour wants voters to believe that a change in economic management is required; the Conservatives want to see through a recovery that has just begun after four years of upheaval from the pandemic, war in Ukraine and rising energy prices. Yet despite falling inflation, possible interest rate cuts and early signs of growth, fragile fundamentals will constrain any administration that wants to drastically alter Britain's economic structure.

In 2010 Liam Byrne, the outgoing Labour chief secretary to the Treasury, left a note for his successor that read: "I'm afraid there is no money." If Labour were to win the election on July 4, Laura Trott, the present chief secretary, would need only one word to describe the fiscal situation: tight. When Labour left office 14 years ago, the debt-to-GDP ratio was 65 per cent; today it is at nearly 100 per cent, driven up by borrowing to fund spending during the pandemic and on cost-of-living support.

There is agreement among Westminster analysts that Rishi Sunak opted for an early election because the economy was taking longer to normalise than he had hoped. Inflation is higher than had been anticipated, despite easing to 2.3 per cent, and the City expects fewer future interest rate cuts. That made another cut in national insurance at a budget before a potential autumn election implausible. Markets now think that interest rates, at present at 5.25 per cent, may not be cut until as late as November.

In his last budget in March, Jeremy Hunt lowered national insurance contributions by two percentage points, having cut them in November's autumn statement by the same degree. That would leave £8.9 billion of wiggle-room against his fiscal rules, namely reducing the debt burden in five years and capping annual borrowing at 3 per cent of GDP. This leftover "headroom" was well below the £27 billion average endowed to chancellors since 2010.

Paul Johnson, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the economics think tank, says: "The public finances look so tight that both parties are hemmed in by their very clear pledges to get debt on a downwards path. Even avoiding cuts in key public services is likely to mean increasing taxes above their current record levels. Promising tax cuts would mean even sharper cuts in spending on struggling public services."

Labour has signalled that it will tweak the present fiscal rules to free up some cash.

Hunt also scheduled swingeing real-terms cuts in budgets for unprotected government departments, which the Resolution Foundation has called a "fiscal fiction". James Smith, research director of the think tank, said the cuts "look very difficult to deliver. In fact, they actually look undeliverable."

Top of the agenda on July 5, for a Labour or Conservative chancellor, will be holding a spending review, which economists expect to involve a partial reversal of these cuts.

Since the 2008 global financial crisis, growth has deteriorated markedly, afflicting much of the rich world. This malaise has been driven by an unprecedented drop in workers' productivity growth, generating the worst squeeze on living standards on record.

Alongside a sharp increase in global interest rates and a higher debt burden, this has made it tougher for governments in Westminster to meaningfully raise spending or to cut taxes without heaping unsustainable pressure on the public finances.

Inflation hasn't helped. Usually during times of rising prices, governments enjoy an increase in the cash size of the economy, which reduces a nation's debt burden. This time Britain has not had such a boost, mainly because it has an unusually large share of debt tied to the retail prices index, an old measure of inflation. As inflation raced to a 42-year high of 11.1 per cent and then gradually fell, debt repayments increased incrementally, further straining the public finances.

Reviving economic growth will be at the heart of Labour's and the Conservatives' pitch to voters. Achieving such a feat will take more innovative policymaking from the next government, rather than posturing about tax cuts, to fix Britain's economic ills.

Labour could terminate private train contracts early if it wins election

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

Britain's privately owned train operating companies could begin handing back the keys to their networks as early as July 5 if Labour wins the election.

Boris Johnson's vision of a new Great British Railways to replace the privatised franchise system of the past three decades has fallen victim to next week's dissolution of parliament.

With a snap general election called this week, the Rail Reform Bill, which was undergoing committee scrutiny, has been scrapped. If the Labour Party is elected and stands by its own planned reforms of the railways, the future of the private sector on the national network could be uncertain.

"It is now beyond doubt that the present National Rail passenger contracts in England will be terminated at the first available 'break point' and earlier than that if an operator 'fails to deliver'," according to Railnews, the industry publication, which considered the possible implications of a Labour win. "There will be no chance of continuing because the train operators still in the private sector on election day are destined to be 'folded into' [the new integrated rail body]. Behind closed doors, even before Sir Keir [Starmer] has reached the Palace, some transport group executives are discussing at hastily called meetings whether it would be better to surrender the doomed contracts sooner rather than later."

Labour has committed to the creation of a new arm's-length integrated rail body. While that is not so far away from the "guiding mind" institution envisaged by the Conservatives, Labour plans for that body to be a more overarching "directing" institution. Moreover, while the Tory plan had been for regional train operations to be let out as concessions on managed contracts to private companies, the Labour proposal is for the train networks to be managed directly by the body.

Rather than wholesale "renationalisation" of the legacy franchises, it has been suggested that Labour would take them back under state control as and when their existing contractual arrangements expire.

However, with no apparent long-term future role to play, it may be that rather than train companies waiting for a new policy to unfold, they unilaterally terminate the arrangements and hand the keys to the Department for Transport. That has happened in recent years on failing operations and has led to the likes of LNER, Southeastern, TransPennine and Northern reverting to the ownership of the government's OLR Holdings, the operator of last resort.

Meanwhile, there are suggestions that Huw Merriman, the rail minister, may have a part to play in Labour's plans. Merriman, formerly a widely respected chairman of the cross-party transport select committee, has quit as a Tory MP, opening up the prospect of him playing a senior role in a new integrated rail body.

Huw Merriman, the Tory rail minister, may play a part in Labour's plans

Business

Abrdn seeks boss with its ambitions a distant dream

Stephen Bird was hired to revive the company's fortunes but leaves a disappointing legacy, writes **Ben Martin**

When Aberdeen Asset Management and Standard Life unveiled their £11 billion merger in March 2017, it was hailed by Keith Skeoch, the boss of the latter, as creating "a formidable player in the active asset management industry globally". Seven painful years later and the combined business appears further away than ever from realising those lofty ambitions.

Yesterday Stephen Bird, the former Citigroup banker brought in less than four years ago to revive the group, abruptly stood down. In his wake the Scotsman leaves a faltering share price, a widely mocked name change, persistent outflows of client funds and overall assets under management that, at about £508 billion, are significantly lower than they were immediately after the merger.

Yet Bird, 57, was meant to be the man who revived Abrdn's fortunes. When he was hired in 2020, he was described by the business, then called Standard Life Aberdeen, as having "an established track record of delivering exceptional value to clients and customers" and of boasting "deep experience of business transformation during periods of technological disruption and competitive change". Just what the company needed, then.

The merger three years previously had been orchestrated by Skeoch and by Martin Gilbert, the City veteran who was the Aberdeen boss, with the aim of creating a group that could withstand mounting competitive pressure being exerted on so-called active managers, which select investments, by the rise of cheaper passive funds.

Despite the merger, the group was hammered by outflows, exacerbated by the weak investment performance of some of its funds. Assets that had stood at £670 billion when the tie-up was finalised in 2017 had shrunk to £490 billion just before Bird was appointed. The company's cumbersome co-chief executive structure, with Skeoch and Gilbert jointly running the business until the latter stood back in 2019, had further irked some investors.

Bird, who took charge in September 2020, sought to revamp the business by cutting costs, including painful job losses, buying Interactive Investor, the DIY platform, for £1.5 billion in 2022 and reshaping the group around three "vectors": its investment division overseeing £374.3 billion; its £75.2 billion adviser-focused business; and Interactive Investor, which administers £69.6 billion.

Some of Abrdn's shareholders balked at the price Abrdn paid for Interactive Investor, however, and Bird's tendency to use jargon irritated City analysts. A somewhat eclectic approach to small acquisitions, including a deal for Finimize, which is behind a personal finance newsletter, the purchase of a controlling stake in Tritax Big Box, which focuses on logistics assets such as warehouses, and an investment in Archax, a crypto firm, also puzzled some.

Stephen Bird denied that his management style was aggressive

In October 2022, Bird faced accusations of having an aggressive management style, allegations he said he didn't recognise, though he conceded that he could be "direct". Nevertheless, it has been Bird's inability to staunch the customer withdrawals and the consequent slide in Abrdn's share price that have caused most concern among investors and analysts.

He has not been helped by the turbulent backdrop facing the asset management industry. He took charge during the pandemic and his tenure has encompassed the war in Ukraine, which roiled markets, and the surge in interest rates, which has deterred people from investing. Even so, net outflows at Abrdn amounted to £17.6 billion last year and £37.9 billion in 2022.

Furthermore, despite £102 million of cost-cutting last year, the company's cost-income ratio stood at 82 per cent at the end of December, well above the target of about 70 per cent that Bird had set for the business. Adjusted operating profits fell by 5 per cent year-on-year to £249 million in 2023.

It will fall to his successor to try to revive Abrdn's fortunes and to put the troubled legacy of the merger behind the business. Sir Douglas Flint, Abrdn's chairman, who oversaw the hiring of Bird, will steer the process to find his replacement.

Analysts at RBC Capital Markets said they viewed a change of chief executive "as an opportunity for someone to take a fresh look at the best strategy to take Abrdn forward", but cautioned that "options are limited".

There has been speculation in recent years that the company could create more value for its shareholders if it is broken up. This included rumours last autumn that Bird had proposed a radical sale of its core investment management division but that this idea had been opposed by the board. While Abrdn has denied this, analysts at Citi said yesterday that they thought Bird's departure "may be due to differences in strategic vision" with the board.

In any case, a deal to offload the division is unlikely to be straightforward. The RBC analysts identified "challenges in selling the investment business, which has struggled following the demise of its Gars fund and the execution of the integration" of Aberdeen and Standard Life.

Assuming that the next boss of Abrdn retains this division, a revamp of the group will require a return to growth in the investment business, which "will require the support of the market environment, where higher rates have resulted in a risk-off sentiment among investors and therefore weak flows across the industry", according to RBC.

Jason Windsor, 51, who has been appointed as Abrdn's interim chief executive, is considered the leading candidate to take the top job on a permanent basis and to make another attempt at turning the group around. Richard Wilson, 58, the head of Interactive Investor who joined Abrdn as part of the acquisition of that business, is seen as another possible candidate.

Windsor, who arrived at Abrdn last October as its finance chief, is well-known in the City after his 15-year

Retail sales sink by more than expected during a wet April

Jack Barnett

Retail sales have contracted sharply in a sign that the economy is being held back by weak consumer spending.

According to figures published by the Office for National Statistics, retail sales volumes contracted by 2.3 per cent in April, worse than the downwardly revised 0.2 per cent drop in the previous month. It was the steepest decline this year and was well below expectations of a 0.4 per cent drop.

Downbeat household consumption suggests that high interest rates and the lingering effects of the cost of living crisis still hang over the economy. Rishi Sunak is expected to make its recovery a focal point of the Conservatives' election campaign. This week the prime minister announced that the general election would take place on July 4, citing the Conservatives' record of economic management during a series of crises over recent years as part of his early pitch to voters.

The economy exited recession when it grew by 0.6 per cent in the first three months of this year. The International Monetary Fund also has raised its GDP growth forecast this year to 0.7 per cent, from 0.5 per cent.

However, recent figures have suggested that some pockets of the economy remain sluggish. The latest composite purchasing managers' index fell to its lowest level in two months, suggesting that GDP will expand by 0.3 per cent in the second quarter of this year.

Sales were weak across a range of sectors, but demand was down sharply for clothing, games and sports equipment, the ONS said. The volume of retail sales is 3.8 per cent below its pre-pandemic level, indicating that the cost of living crisis has prompted people to be much more cautious with their finances.

"April's retail sales were more disappointing than expected, once again being dampened by wet weather, deterring shoppers from the high street and affecting the sale of seasonal items," Oliver Vernon-Harcourt, head of retail at Deloitte, the professional services group, said. "Though consumer confidence continues to rise, many [people] remain apprehensive and are not yet loosening their purse-strings."

Retailers were hurt by wet weather

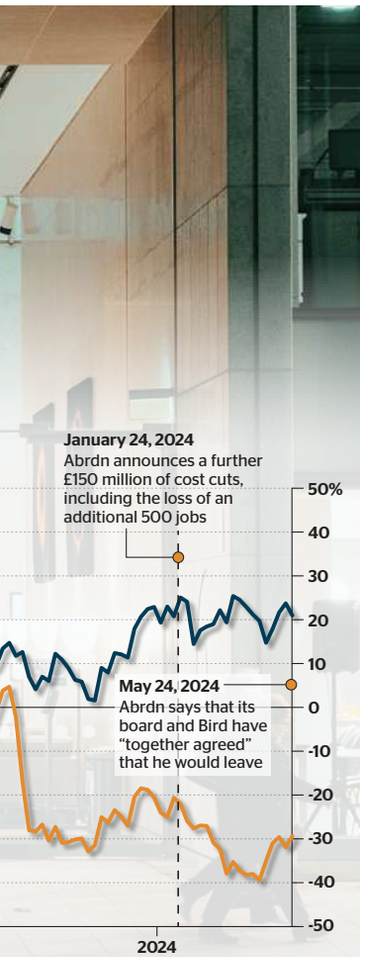
Although inflation has fallen from a high of 11.1 per cent to 2.3 per cent, a near-three-year low, household living standards remain under pressure. The Bank of England has raised interest rates to 5.25 per cent, a 16-year peak.

Separate figures show that consumer confidence has risen to its highest level since October 2021, boosting hopes that retail sales will grow. The Bank is also expected to cut interest rates soon.

Figures published by Asda and the Centre for Business and Economic Research, a consultancy, show that the level of household spending power has reached its highest level in nearly three years. The reduction in inflation alongside strong nominal wage growth have pushed up average household disposable income to £239 per week, the highest level since September 2021.

Dominic O'Connell

If push comes to shove, would you pass the Paula Vennells test?



career as an investment banker at Morgan Stanley and more recent stints as the finance chief of Persimmon, the housebuilder, and of Aviva, the insurer.

Crucially, he also has experience of the asset management industry. In his first job at Aviva as its chief strategy and development officer, he had executive oversight of its huge Aviva Investors fund management business. Later he was the group's chief capital and investments officer.

Should Windsor clinch the top job at Abrdn permanently, a voluntary move by him to break up the business is unlikely, given that he recently dismissed the idea at a conference hosted by Citi.

There is speculation, however, that the abrupt exit of Bird and the uncertainty over Abrdn's strategy while a new chief executive is appointed could leave the company, with its struggling share price, vulnerable to a takeover bid.

One City dealmaker, who follows the asset management industry closely, said: "If someone's going to make a move, this is the right time."

Which bits of you do you take to work? Do your beliefs, values and feelings travel with you? Or do you leave them at home and become a different version of yourself, someone who cares only about what will secure you the next promotion or will make you or your company the most money?

You might reply "all of me, of course", but is that true? One of the revelations of the recent Post Office hearings has been how many people were prepared to overlook what was right because it did not suit the company and, when the truth became apparent, how they went to great lengths to paper over what they had done and to minimise the damage to them and to the organisation.

There is more evidence in the tainted blood scandal. The report of the official inquiry, published this week, is painful to read; you find yourself mentally exclaiming "what?" as the awful chain of individual actions and decisions unfolds. The aggregate result of those decisions, the inquiry concludes, was the deaths of an estimated 3,000 people.

Coverage of the inquiry has focused on the public sector, on NHS doctors and managers, civil servants and elected politicians. It also reveals, however, the crucial role played by the private sector. A group of pharmaceuticals companies, including Cutter Laboratories, an American drugs business bought in 1974 by Bayer, of Germany, and Armour Pharmaceutical, now part of the New York-listed Abbvie, manufactured and sold blood products that they knew could be contaminated. The blood taken to make the products came from groups that had a greater risk of having illnesses that could be passed on, such as HIV and hepatitis. While there was uncertainty about the nature of the threat early on, they continued to sell the products after the true risk became apparent in the 1980s. The report also reveals how they won business in Britain by providing personal incentives to senior doctors, in particular the directors of haemophilia centres, who had the power to direct which products were bought.

"Sometimes gifts were provided. Sometimes ... companies provided sponsorship or monies for research.

More commonly, funding was provided to cover the costs of attendance at international conferences," the report says.

Edward Tuddenham, the eminent haematologist, told the inquiry that the hospitality was "overwhelmingly lavish ... There would be the very best restaurants, the river cruises." Asked why the companies were spending the money, he replied: "Because they could gain influence with it."

By the early 1980s, health authorities in the United States were increasingly worried about the dangers of contamination. In March 1983 the US Food and Drug Administration recommended that companies should no longer use blood collected from certain at-risk groups, including those with a higher incidence of hepatitis and HIV. This left companies with useless stocks, so-called pre-March product.

At first Britain's authorities showed a reluctance to import it, but a mix-up on the interpretation of a key piece of guidance led to this changing. "Within five months the approach had changed from, in effect, 'there shall be no dumping here' to 'there shall be no restriction on dumping here'," the report says. An additional factor was the lack of UK-manufactured supplies. "The grounds were simply that supply would be insufficient without reliance on the riskier product. The inquiry has found no convincing evidence that this was the case."

The report notes that the Haemophilia Society, a charity for those afflicted by the condition, opposed a ban on imports. "The executive committee [of the society] appears to have accepted without serious question that any form of haemophilia was more dangerous than Aids."

The failings by institutions and individuals are historic, dating from the 1970s and 1980s. As the report itself notes, most of the companies have disappeared in industry mergers and many of the senior doctors — the ones who accepted the lavish hospitality — and the managers — the ones who offered it, and who continued to sell tainted blood — have since died. Standards also have changed, with the NHS now providing guidance on hospitality from suppliers and what needs to be declared.

As the blood inquiry shows, murky practices usually stay hidden and become accepted as normal, unless they lead to scandal and investigation. Also, as the Post Office hearings showed this week, they look ridiculous and indefensible when examined by outsiders.

One of the most telling moments in the questioning of Paula Vennells, the former Post Office chief executive, came late on Tuesday. Sir Wyn Williams, the inquiry's chairman, was drawing proceedings to a close and paused to ask Vennells about a briefing document prepared for her ahead of a select committee hearing.

"You were being advised to be very precise, very circumspect and very guarded?" he asked.

Vennells agreed.

"Why?" Williams asked.

Vennells sat staring and silent for several seconds, her mouth moving occasionally as she tried to frame a reply. The trap had been sprung. Why be circumspect if you have nothing to hide?

Is this disconnect between what happens at work and wider moral standards a rare thing? Probably not. After the financial crisis in 2008, the government set up a banking commission to look into industry standards. The Church of England's submission hit the nail on the head: "There is evidence that in many professions, but notably in finance and banking, practitioners who have a strong moral sense in their private lives believe, rightly or wrongly, that such standards and ethics are impossible to apply in the corporate world.

"The culture of their working environment does little or nothing to encourage virtues such as truth-telling, loyalty and prioritising what is right over what may be expedient."

Banks and the wider business community have since done much to try to encourage better behaviour, but I suspect, depressingly, that the Church of England's assessment is still accurate.

Perhaps we should all occasionally apply the Vennells test. Would what we do at work always stand up to Williams' simple question? Or would we be left wriggling and unable to answer?

Dominic O'Connell is business presenter for Times Radio

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Andy Bell says he remains committed to the "fantastic" investment platform

AJ Bell co-founder backs board as he sells stake

Lauren Almeida

The founder of AJ Bell has sold shares in the investment platform worth £28.1 million, a day after the stock had jumped by 11 per cent on the back of an upbeat earnings report.

Andy Bell, who co-founded the broker with Nicholas Littlefair in Manchester in 1995, has reduced his stake from 20.5 per cent to 18.7 per cent. He remains the largest single shareholder in the company, with a holding worth almost twice that of the next largest investor, Liontrust, the asset manager.

Half-year results on Thursday showed that net fund flows into AJ Bell were 45 per cent higher at £2.9 billion, taking its total assets under administration to a record £80.3 billion.

Bell, 58, sold 7.5 million ordinary shares at 375p through an accelerated bookbuild, worth 1.8 per cent of the total share count. He cannot sell any more shares in the business for 90 days from May 29.

"I remain fully supportive of the management team and the board and am committed to remaining a long-term shareholder in what is a fantastic business," he said.

A separate filing showed that William Mackay, 55, AJ Bell's advised managing director, and a person closely associated with Mohamed Tagari, the chief technology officer, also recently cashed in. Mackay sold stock worth about £200,000, while Amber Tagari sold £20,000-worth.

Shares in AJ Bell eased by 18½p, or 4.6 per cent, to 384½p yesterday. Previously, they had risen by 27 per cent this year, with customer numbers rising by 27,000 in the first six months of its financial year to surpass the 500,000 mark.

The company said this week that its pre-tax profits had grown by 47 per cent to £61.4 million in the first half and it announced a 21 per cent rise in its interim dividend to 4¼p per share.

The recent rally in AJ Bell shares comes as Hargreaves Lansdown, its largest rival, begins to attract takeover interest. A consortium including CVC, the private equity firm, and a subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority revealed this week that it was considering a possible offer for the company and that Hargreaves' board had rebuffed an initial approach that valued it at 985p per share on April 26. Hargreaves' shares closed down by 30p, or 2.7 per cent, at £10.90.

Peter Hargreaves, 77, its co-founder who owns about a fifth of the Bristol-based company, said he was "watching with interest" but refused to comment on whether he supported the decision made by the board to reject the initial approach. Stephen Lansdown, 71, the other co-founder, said the proposal was "interesting" and that he awaited developments.

Andy Bell stepped down as chief executive of his eponymous firm in 2022, 27 years after co-founding the business, handing over to Michael Summersgill, 40, who had been the chief financial officer.

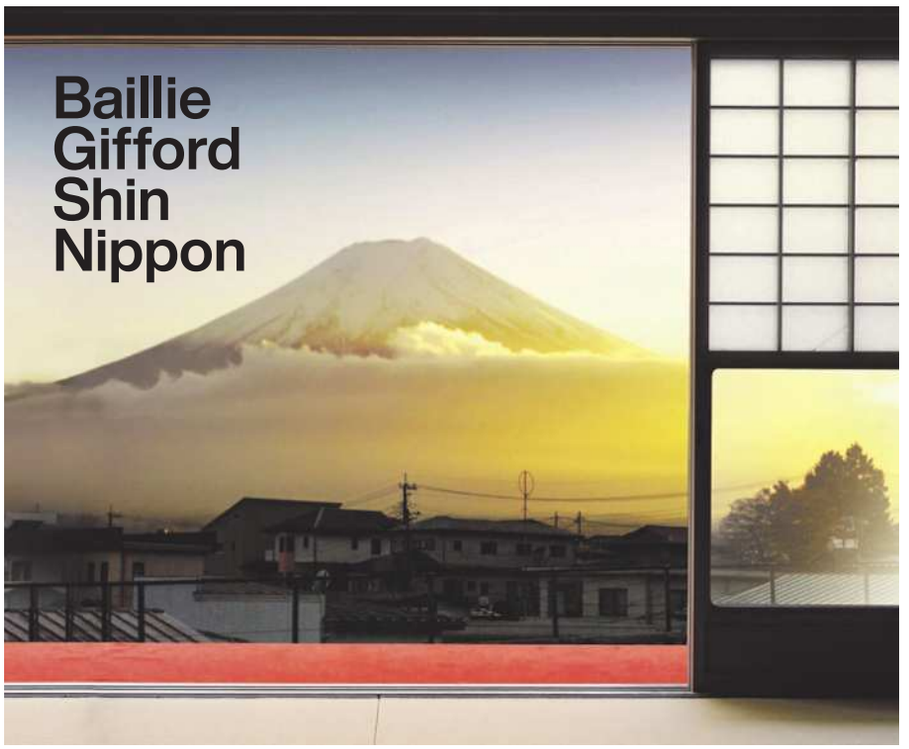
Bell, then an actuary, and Littlefair set up the business in 1995 to process self-invested personal pensions and small self-administered scheme pensions. It has grown to be a £1.6 billion business, running investment platforms for private investors and financial advisers.

AJ Bell declined to comment.

Partners of FRP Advisory have sold £26 million worth of shares in the restructuring group (Lauren Almeida writes).

Directors and partners of the company sold more than 20 million shares as part of a wider share placing yesterday, including Geoff Rowley, 52, the chief executive, and Jeremy French, 65, the chief operating officer. The executives cashed in stock worth £2.4 million and £1.9 million, respectively. Rowley now owns a 2.24 per cent stake in the business. French's holding stands at 1.79 per cent.

Rowley said the reception to the placing among investors had been strong and was testament to the "continued execution of its growth strategy", which has doubled its sales and profits since its stock market listing in 2020. The restructuring firm said this month that it expected to report a 23 per cent rise in sales to £128 million for its latest financial year. Its shares fell 4½p, or 3.3 per cent, to 131p.



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KPMG partners vote for merger with Swiss business

Helen Cahill

KPMG is set to merge its operations in Switzerland and Britain to create an audit and advisory business with gross revenues of $4.4 billion.

Partners at the Big Four firm in both countries have voted in favour of the combination. Jon Holt, the chief executive and senior partner of KPMG UK, will become head of the combined group.

The firm's enlarged operation will employ about 20,600 people and will create a new limited liability partnership comprising the partners in both markets. Stefan Pfister, 57, the chief executive of KPMG Switzerland, will become deputy chief executive of the group, which will be the second largest unit in the accounting powerhouse's wider franchise.

Holt, 51, said: "This marks a historic moment for both firms. We will be stronger as one combined firm and together we will have the scale to significantly enhance our ability to deliver great outcomes for our clients both internationally and within our domestic markets. The UK's services sector is in great health and this merger is a vote of confidence in the strength of our professional and financial services sectors."

KPMG's move follows in the footsteps of peers that have completed similar cross-border mergers of their operations. PwC's Middle Eastern division is now part of its British business, while Deloitte merged its UK division with its Swiss unit in 2006.

Holt joined KPMG three years ago after the resignation of Bill Michael, his predecessor, who had been criticised for telling employees to "stop moaning" during the pandemic. Holt has been seeking to increase profits at KPMG and to address the reputational fallout from the collapse of Carillion, the construction group, in 2018.

KPMG was criticised this month for its role in the demise of Carillion in a report published by the accountancy regulator. In response, Holt acknowledged that KPMG's work had been "very bad, over an extended period".

No need for electric car tariffs, says Musk

Elon Musk has said he is against tariffs being imposed on Chinese electric cars, a week after Washington hit them with 100 per cent taxes (Katie Prescott writes).

Speaking for the second year in a row at the VivaTech conference in Paris, the billionaire said that Tesla, his electric car company, "competes quite well in the market in China with no tariffs and no deferential support. I'm in favour of no tariffs.

"I was surprised when they were announced. Things that inhibit freedom of exchange or distort the market are not good."

President Biden introduced the higher duty rate on electric vehicles and solar panels, rising to 50 per cent, in order to stem a flow of Chinese goods into the United States and to protect America's clean energy industries and supply chains. Duties on some steel and aluminium products are also rising. There are fears, too, that Chinese cars could pose a threat to national security because of their "connected" technology. The US commerce department opened an investigation in February, saying that vehicles "collect large amounts of sensitive data on their drivers and passengers [and] regularly use their cameras and sensors to record detailed information on US infrastructure".

China has spoken out against the tariffs, with its trade ministry saying they would "severely affect the atmosphere for bilateral co-operation". Chinese car companies are mainly shipping electric vehicles to Asia, the Middle East and Europe, with few going to America. Tesla has been vying with BYD, its Chinese rival, to be the world's biggest electric vehicle maker. Musk, 52, is back on top, having lost the title last year.

The trade war between America and China that began under President Trump has continued under Biden, with bans on exports of high-tech semiconductor equipment.

Musk's statement appears to be a *volte-face* from one he made at the start of the year that Chinese vehicles would "demolish" global rivals. However, he has increased ties with the country in the past month, even visiting Beijing, where Tesla was given a green light for data security. Tesla also announced a tie-up with Baidu, the Chinese technology group, to integrate its navigation systems. The news of this deal sent Tesla's share price up 15 per cent on the day.

SPLASH NEWS

BYD electric vehicles at Lianyungang, China. Elon Musk hit out at the US for putting 100 per cent taxes on Chinese electric cars

Third offer from Dubai rival still falls short, insists Wood Group

Greig Cameron
Scottish Business Editor

John Wood Group has spurned a third takeover approach in less than a month, arguing that the enhanced £1.5 billion bid from a Dubai-based rival still undervalues the company.

Sidara sweetened its offer to 220p a share yesterday, having made previous bids of 205p and 212p. Wood confirmed that its board had unanimously rejected the latest approach, but a subtle change in language from "fundamentally" to "significantly" undervaluing the company appeared to indicate a slight softening in its stance.

"The board, together with its financial advisers, carefully considered the third proposal, in particular in the context of the board's view of the fundamental prospects of Wood, and concluded that it continued to significantly undervalue the group and its prospects," the engineering consultancy said. The bid represented a near-50 per cent premium to Wood's pre-offer price. Its shares have risen towards the offer price in recent weeks without having reached it and were up another 9¼p, or 5.2 per cent, at 189¼p last night.

Last year the FTSE 250 company rebuffed five approaches from Apollo Global Management, which eventually reached 240p per share before the New York-based private equity firm gave up and walked away.

Analysts have calculated that Sidara's bid is worth about £2.8 billion on an enterprise value level, which takes into account net debt. Using that measure, it could be seen as being at a similar level to Apollo's proposal, given that Wood's net debt was lower last May.

Ashley Kelty, at Panmure Gordon, the broker, said he did not see why Sidara was "lowballing', bearing in mind the improvement in Wood's performance since last year, and he expected further proposals to be put forward. "We suspect this will rumble on for some time," he said.

A note from Jefferies, the investment bank, also said that Sidara "was not going away" and appeared to be following a similar strategy to Apollo by incrementally increasing the sums involved.

Wood has its headquarters in Aberdeen and employs about 35,000 people worldwide. It is best known for providing oilfield services, but has been shifting into areas such as chemicals, life sciences, minerals and infrastructure.

Its suitor was founded in 1956 as Dar al-Handasah and was rebranded as Sidara last year. Its pursuit of Wood began a few days after it had sold its long-held 19 per cent stake in Worley, an Australian rival also working in energy, chemicals and resources.

Ken Gilmartin, 52, took over as chief executive of Wood in 2022 and has been seeking to move the company into higher-margin areas while trimming costs. He expects to return to levels of "significant" free cashflow next year, which would accelerate the potential for the reinstatement of a dividend that has been suspended since the pandemic.

Sidara is thought to see opportunities to significantly extend its presence in the United States, where Wood derives a third of its revenues. It has until 5pm on June 5 to make a firm offer.

Cut down to size

Coventry Building Society to buy Co-op Bank

Emma Powell

Coventry Building Society has reached agreement on a £780 million takeover of The Co-operative Bank in the second buyout of a high street lender by a customer-owned mutual this year.

The deal, which is subject to approval by both the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulatory Authority, will return the Co-op Bank to the mutual fold after it was bailed out seven years ago.

David Thorburn, 66, the chairman of Coventry Building Society, said the acquisition was a "transformational moment".

The combination will create a company with aggregate assets of £89 billion and will expand Coventry's operations significantly, adding current accounts and business accounts to its existing focus on savings and mortgages. The deal is not subject to a vote by Coventry members and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of next year.

Takeovers of banks by mutuals are rare, but the buyout of the Co-op Bank is the second deal in the sector this year. Nationwide, Britain's biggest building society, is buying Virgin Money for £2.9 billion.

The Co-op Bank previously was part of The Co-operative Group, but its ties to the food-to-funerals business were severed by two bailouts in 2013 and 2017 that rescued it from a financial crisis but handed control to hedge funds. JC Flowers and Bain Capital, the private equity firms, took stakes in 2021.

Nick Slape, 61, the chief executive of the Co-op Bank, said: "We have successfully transformed and simplified the Bank into one that is now sustainably profitable, with a strong capital and liquidity position. This transaction is a natural next step and presents an exciting opportunity."

Coventry is funding the deal from its existing cash resources, but about £125 million of the agreed price is being deferred for three years, subject to the performance of the bank. Coventry is the eighth largest lender in Britain, with a mortgage book of £50.3 billion. It has two million members. The Co-op Bank has 2.5 million retail customers, along with 94,000 small and medium-sized businesses.

Sixfold rise in safety fears at Boeing

Boeing received a sixfold increase in submissions from its employees with concerns related to the safety of its products and services in the first two months of 2024, compared with the same period last year.

The dramatic rise in such reports occurred after an incident on January 5 involving a mid-air cabin panel blowout on a new Alaska Airlines 737 Max 9 jet, Boeing said in its annual safety report.

In February an expert panel reviewing Boeing's safety management processes had found a "disconnect" between the manufacturer's senior management and employees involved in its safety culture.

"Our actions are focused on making further improvements to ensure safety, compliance and conformance of our products and services, without compromise," Mike Delaney, Boeing's chief aerospace safety officer, said.

The mid-air January blowout put Boeing under heightened scrutiny and led aviation regulators to curb production levels of the company's bestselling 737 Max jets until it starts to address safety issues.

Brian West, Boeing's finance chief, said on Thursday that Boeing would burn rather than generate cash in 2024 and deliveries would not increase in the second quarter. He told the Wolfe Research Global Transportation and Industrials Conference that he expected Boeing's full-year free cashflow to be negative, due partly to the delays in deliveries, compared with March's outlook for positive cash generation in the low-single-digit billions.

The comments add to the company's problems as production challenges and delayed deliveries to China have weakened a modest 2024 outlook upheld by Boeing only weeks earlier.

DS Smith hit by fears that its big takeover deal might yet unravel

Tom Saunders ***Market report***

If investors had been hoping for a calm day before the long bank holiday weekend, their optimism was crushed by fears that a deal between two of the biggest players in the paper business might be about to get pulped.

DS Smith, the packaging company, is set to be taken over by International Paper in an all-share deal worth £5.8 billion. It comes after a bidding war between the American company, the world's biggest paper business by sales, and **Mondi**, the rival London-listed packaging specialist.

But then again, perhaps it isn't. According to Bloomberg, Suzano, the world's largest producer of pulp, is now in talks about a potential bid for International Paper, pushing the pre-agreed DS Smith deal on to considerably less firm ground. Why? If International Paper does manage to buy DS Smith, it likely would make the combined entity too big for Suzano to swallow.

This pushed DS Smith shares down by 6¾p, or 1.8 per cent, to 370p, although the market did turn its gaze to Mondi, which now might get another opportunity to bid. Its stock rose by 14p, or 0.9 per cent, to £15.89.

Those looking for some added lustre at **Fresnillo** were disappointed. The goldminer fell by 13½p, or 2.2 per cent, to 496p as prices of the precious metal headed for their worst week in five and a half months.

Overall, the FTSE 100 index declined by 21.64 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 8,317.59, its fourth consecutive fall and its longest losing streak in more than three months as strong economic data from the United States dampened the case for early interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. Over the course of the week, the FTSE 100 was down by 102.67 points, or 1.2 per cent.

Persimmon, the housebuilder, closed up marginally by 9½p, or 0.7 per cent, at £14.81 after it was upgraded by Investec from "hold" to "buy". The bank's analysts pointed to the wider economic recovery, which would encourage people into the housing market, and the developer's continued success in buying up land as reasons for the upgrade.

Ocado, while not the subject of an upgrade, did benefit from a price target increase by analysts at JP Morgan from 350p to 450p, prompting shares in the online grocer and technology group to rise by 21¾p, or 6.2 per cent, to 373¾p and to the top of the Footsie leaderboard.

The more UK-focused FTSE 250 ended the session up slightly by 139.63 points, or 0.7 per cent, at 20,770.93. On the week, the mid-cap index was ahead by 21.03 points, or 0.1 per cent.

John Wood Group, the engineering consultancy, rose by 9¼p, or 5.2 per cent, to 189¼p after it rejected the latest takeover approach by the Dubai-based Sidara. At the other end of the index, **AJ Bell** fell by 18½p, or 4.6 per cent, to 384½p after Andy Bell, its founder, sold 7.5 million shares, about 1.8 per cent of the total stock on the market, at a price of 375p, worth approximately £28.1 million. Bell still owns 18.7 per cent of the DIY investor platform.

Wall Street report

Indices were positive in light trading before Monday's Memorial Day holiday as data showed a bigger jump in consumer confidence than expected. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 98.38 points, or 0.3 per cent, at 39,163.64.

Babcock steps up support in Ukraine

Babcock International has increased its support for Ukraine's armed forces by establishing an in-country engineering facility, including repair and overhaul for the country's military vehicles. In partnership with Ukraine Defence Industries, the state-owned defence holding company, the London-listed defence group said the new facility would "ensure that critical military assets are available when and where they are needed most". It established Babcock Ukraine in 2023 and is supporting Ukrainian naval assets and the training of the next generation of Ukrainian air force fighter pilots. In Britain Babcock provides maintenance, repair and asset management for the majority of the army's vehicles and equipment. Shares in Babcock closed down 2p, or 0.4 per cent, at 555p last night.

Ofwat presses 'pause' on water bills ruling

A review of water bills has been delayed because of the election. Ofwat, the water regulator, said the date for its consultation on draft pricing decisions for the sector would now be published on July 11. It had been scheduled for June 12. In the consultation, Ofwat will give its initial verdict on water companies' business plans until the end of the decade. The future of Thames Water, Britain's biggest operator, could hinge on the decision. Thames faces potential nationalisation after investors rowed back on a promise to provide extra funding, putting its finances in the balance. The company has debt of roughly £15 billion and has become embroiled in a scandal over water pollution. It has asked Ofwat to allow it to increase customer bills by an average of 44 per cent over the next five years.

Intertek reveals appetising figures

Higher demand for its food protection services has driven a 7 per cent rise in revenue in the first four months of 2024 at Intertek. The FTSE 100 company, a world leader in the provision of testing, inspection, certification and assurance services, said its revenue to the end of April had reached £1.1 billion. Intertek's consumer products division, which accounts for more than a quarter of group revenue, recorded a 6 per cent rise in sales to £297.6 million. Revenue in its health and safety segment rose at the fastest rate, by 9.9 per cent, to £105.2 million, led by its AgriWorld grain and cereal business and its food unit, with the latter benefiting from higher demand for food safety testing and hygiene and safety audits in factories. Shares in Intertek rose by 71p, or 1.4 per cent, to close at £50.25 last night.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Ocado JP Morgan increases price target	6.2%
John Wood Rejects bid	5.2%
Plus500 Advances share buyback programme	3.3%
Intertek Organic growth beats expectations	1.4%
Mondi Rival bid on uncertain ground	0.9%
Fresnillo Gold prices fall	-2.2%
Qinetiq Profit-taking	-2.5%
Hargreaves Lansdown Profit-taking	-2.7%
National Grid Discounted rights issue	-3.7%
AJ Bell Founder sells shares	-4.6%

T STUDENTS

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Is brewing dead and buried? You bet it isn't, says Bury St Edmunds' finest

Greene King has no plans to call time on its East Anglian links and be a pubs company, its boss tells **Dominic Walsh**

When Nick Mackenzie was appointed chief executive of Greene King in 2019, he immediately faced questions over the future of the 220-year-old brewery in Bury St Edmunds. A few months earlier Fuller, Smith & Turner, its London-based rival, had shocked the beerage by selling its historic brewing business to Asahi, of Japan, and now the rumour mill was suggesting that the new Greene King boss would follow suit.

Five years on, we now know what Mackenzie, 55, has planned for the site. Yes, he is aiming to divest the company of its Westgate Brewery in the centre of Bury; but no, he is not selling the beer business to focus on pubs. His grand plan is to build a £40 million brewery next to its new distribution depot just outside Bury St Edmunds and to close its town centre site for redevelopment.

Inevitably, the sceptics wonder whether the mooted state-of-the-art facility, which still requires planning consent, will ever happen. Not so Mackenzie. "Yes it will. We own the site about two miles outside Bury. Subject to planning, we will absolutely be going ahead with it. I wouldn't tell my teams if it wasn't the case."

Although the Westgate plant has been in the heart of Bury St Edmunds "for a very long time", the new plans apparently have elicited a positive reaction from locals. "I think people understand that it's very difficult to carry on brewing sustainably in the town centre. It's a very old brewery and a difficult site to get to, whereas the new site is right next to a new distribution depot, which is currently being fitted out. The plot is connected to the new depot site, so it makes a lot of sense. It'll be a much more sustainable and efficient brewery."

So what happens to the old brewery site, some of which is listed? "We don't know yet. Genuinely, we haven't decided. It's going to be 2027 before we open the new brewery, so we've got a couple of years to work it out." The company would like to see "a continuation of the heritage element of brewing on that site", which throws up the possibility of retaining the microbrewery it opened on the main site in 2013 to foster innovation.

Inevitably, switching to a smaller, more modern and efficient out-of-town brewery will mean job cuts, but Mackenzie argues that the project is "more about protecting jobs than cutting them. The starting point was that this was protecting jobs in Bury, because we're investing for the future."

Greene King already sells about 117 million pints a year of its own beers through its pubs, including famous names such as Old Speckled Hen, Greene King and Abbot Ale, and it is stepping up the pace on new craft beers such as Level Head and Flint Eye. It also has invested £9 million in the Belhaven Brewery in Dunbar, East Lothian.

The new brewery proposal caps a tumultuous five years for the company under the stewardship of Mackenzie. Less than four months after he stepped into the shoes of Rooney Anand, Greene King accepted a £4.6 billion takeover from CK Asset Holdings, the Hong Kong-based conglomerate controlled by the billionaire investor Li Ka-shing. Little more than six months later Mackenzie had to turn the lights out at its 2,600-plus pubs as the country was swept into lockdown by Covid.

As the pandemic eased, so the country was faced with a cost of living crisis and rampant inflation. On top of that, the group found itself embroiled in a racism brouhaha after it emerged that Benjamin Greene, the brewery's co-founder, had run his sugar plantation in the West Indies using slaves. A small number of pubs with offensive names such as the Black Boy have been changed.

When he joined the group, Mackenzie had no idea it was being stalked by CK, but he has no complaints over the level of support he has received. "I'm really pleased at how the relationship has gone and the support they've given us over a very, very difficult period. I wasn't aware of it, I wasn't expecting it, but I've been fine with it."

Was coping with Covid easier as a private company? "It's really difficult to say. All I know is that they've been incredibly supportive over that period and they have backed us to invest behind a long-term, sustainable business." So how long will CK continue to own the business? "We don't have that conversation. They're long-term investors. They don't have a time horizon." What about a partial sale or float? "It's certainly not in our plans. Our plan is absolutely focused on creating the best business that we can for the long term."

As chairman of the British Beer and Pub Association, Mackenzie, a father of two, also has become used to dealing with the government, while acknowledging that there is a danger of being seen as constantly holding out the begging bowl. He makes an exception for taxation, taking a leaf out of Sir Tim Martin's book at JD Wetherspoon in calling for a level playing field. "The percentage of revenue we pay in rates is way higher than the national average for other industries. Sales have come back, but the cost of doing business is hurting a lot of businesses."

For him, the big plus that came out of Covid was that the government seemed to grasp the importance of the pubs sector, and not only regarding the 960,000 people it employs. "I think they understood the importance of pubs to community. During Covid, people went out delivering food and drink. They ran community events and raised money for charity. The pub industry raises about £100 million a year for charity. These are the things that happen in pubs."

One thing that is happening less in pubs is alcohol consumption, particularly among young people, although Mackenzie remains sanguine. "Our focus is about how you drive the best possible customer experience for a wide variety of society. That's why we have a broad portfolio of brands, including low and no-alcohol, and are developing our brands to make sure they're relevant. People still want to go to the pub for the atmosphere."

Mackenzie, formerly a divisional managing director at Merlin Entertainments, went to a comprehensive school in Stoke, then studied property at what is now Nottingham Trent University before joining Bass. His father was an engineer and went on to start his own engineering company. "He came from the rougher end of Stoke, so he did well. He was quite aspirational, and I think he instilled that quality in me."

Although best-known for its so-called destination brands — Hungry Horse, Chef & Brewer, Farmhouse Inns and Flaming Grill — the biggest pubs division, with revenue last year of £938.4 million and 900 sites, is the newly formed Greene King Pubs, which also serves as the company's biggest brand. At its heart is the handful of core cask ale brands that will be produced at the new brewery.

"We still sell a very significant amount of traditional cask ale. We are the No 1 cask ale group in the UK, with just shy of a 14 per cent share of cask. A big part of why we're continuing with brewing is our commitment to those beers that are synonymous with Greene King."

It may have been a turbulent five years but Mackenzie insists his plans are on target. "My job was always to create the next chapter of Greene King, and that's what I'm now doing.

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL

Nick Mackenzie says Greene King has had a few turbulent years but remains the biggest brewer of cask ales in the country

Q&A

Who is your mentor? I have been lucky to have a number of bosses who have taken a chance on me at important points in my career. John Longden introduced me to a career in property and pubs at Bass in the Nineties and Nick Varney from Merlin gave me the chance to move from property into being an MD of a big business

Does money motivate you? It's all about how we create the next chapter of Greene King and fulfilling our purpose to pour happiness into lives

What was the most important event in your working life? Taking the step to become the chief executive of Greene King after being at an amazing business like Merlin for so long. I could take what I had learnt over 25 years and put it all into practice

What is your favourite television programme? Pretty much all I watch on TV is sport

What does leadership mean to you? The best piece of advice I had from one of my former chief executives was to be yourself and do it your way. Authenticity, being humble but having a clear sense of what you want to achieve are really important as a leader. I also think that having a brilliant team around you is absolutely critical

How do you relax? I recently got back into running as I am doing the Great North Run with my son to raise money for Greene King's charity partner, Macmillan Cancer Support. I find running really helps to gain some perspective

CV

Age: 55

Education: Clayton High School, Newcastle Under Lyme; Nottingham Trent University

Career: 1999: property roles, Bass and Allied Domecq; development director, Burger King UK & Eire; **2002:** property and business services director, Tussauds; **2007:** managing director, property and development; managing director, resort theme parks; managing director, Midway attractions, Merlin Entertainments; **2019:** chief executive, Greene King; **other:** vice-chairman/chairman, British Beer and Pub Association; advisory board member, WiHTL; non-executive director, Workspace

Family: Married, two sons

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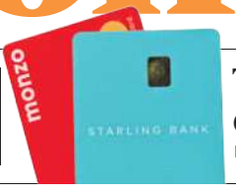
Money

That 50p bag for life is clearly a rip-off
Holly Mead, page 56

Should drivers pay by the mile?
The big question, page 56



Ten years of the challenger banks
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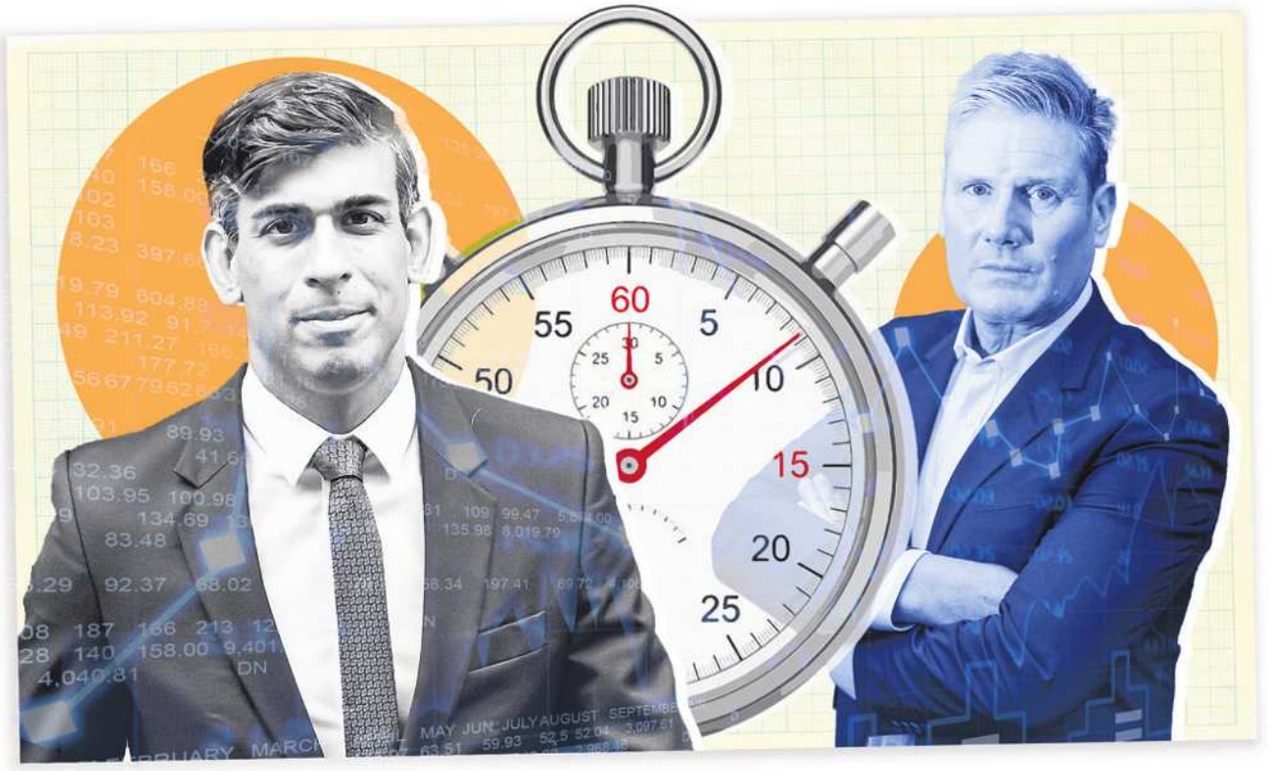

What the election will mean for your finances

With the nation heading to the polls, the **Money team** looks at how the result could affect high and low earners, and how you should prepare

There is less than six weeks until the general election on July 4, so it is time to get your finances in order. If Labour win, it could mean big changes to pensions and private school fees. If the Conservatives keep control, expect more changes to tax as it considers phasing out national insurance altogether.

We look at how you can prepare:

Tax

What could happen

The amount of tax we pay has increased under the Conservatives as basic and higher rate income tax thresholds have been frozen since 2022. Analysts say that the freeze has more than offset the benefit of the cuts in national insurance, which has gone from 12 per cent last year to 8 per cent now.

Laura Suter from the wealth manager AJ Bell said that tax was likely to be a "key battleground". "The Conservatives will surely point to cuts to national insurance as evidence of their commitment to reducing the tax burden, while Labour will argue that frozen tax thresholds mean we're paying more tax via stealth," she said.

The Conservatives have pledged to introduce a new £5,000 Isa allowance for UK shares.

Labour has vowed not to raise income tax or corporation tax rates on company profits. It also plans to tax the overseas income of British residents who claim non-dom status.

What to do

Take advantage of tax breaks in case they change. If you usually wait until the end of the tax year to use up your £20,000 Isa allowance, consider using it now instead.

You can make £500 of dividend income from shares before you pay tax (down from £5,000 six years ago), while the capital gains tax allowance which you pay on profits from investments outside an Isa or on a second property is £3,000 (down from £12,300 in 2022-23).

Pensions

What could happen

The government has abolished the lifetime allowance — the £1.073 million limit on how much money you could save into a pension over your lifetime before being hit by hefty tax charges. However, Labour previously said it would reintroduce the limit if it were elected.

But experts say this should not put you off from saving into your pension. "Labour made a knee-jerk pledge to reintroduce the lifetime allowance the day after it was abolished. It remains to be seen whether they stick to that," said Jason Hollands from the wealth management firm Evelyn Partners.

In the past, transitional arrangements were made to protect savers caught out by changes to the lifetime allowance. In 2016 it fell from £1.25 million to £1 million and savers who were likely to be affected could apply to keep the higher limit.

The state pension could be a bargaining chip for either party. Both have pledged to protect the triple lock, which guarantees that the payment will increase by average wage growth, inflation, or 2.5 per cent a year — whichever is highest.

What to do

Make the most of your annual pension allowance, experts say. You can pay up to £60,000 a year into a pension tax-free, but cannot pay in more than you earn and very high earners can lose some of that allowance.

You can carry forward unused allowances from the previous three tax years. "Allowances are on a use it or lose it basis. Making the most of them while they are there is always a good idea," said Tom Selby from AJ Bell.

School fees

What could happen

Labour's plans to apply 20 per cent VAT to private school fees could add thousands of pounds to parents' bills. Schools could be legally required to put VAT on fees, but may decide to cut bills for parents in other ways, by reclaiming VAT on other costs, or by cutting fees.

Average fees for day schools are £6,021 a term, but could rise to £7,225 with VAT. Boarding fees are an average of £14,153 a term, and would be £16,983 with VAT on top.

What to do

It's possible to pay for school fees in advance, but there are risks. Many schools offer a discount on fees for future years if you pay a lump sum upfront. However, refunds are only given in exceptional circumstances, so you'd be likely to lose money if you needed to switch schools.

Even so, there is no guarantee you will avoid VAT if Labour allows HMRC to apply the tax retrospectively. Check your contract to see if you are liable for VAT with pay-in-advance deals.

Grandparents can help to shoulder additional costs and mitigate a future inheritance tax bill at the same time. You can gift up to £3,000 a year tax-free, and larger financial gifts are exempt as long as you live for seven years after making them.

Investing

What could happen

In the hours after the election announcement, the FTSE 100, which hit multiple record highs in recent months, dropped 0.5 per cent. The FTSE 250, which is generally seen as more focused on domestic UK stocks, dipped 0.2 per cent.

The election is unlikely to rock the stock market much in the coming weeks. Markets hate uncertainty more than anything and for now the result of the vote seems pretty certain.

Historically, the UK stock market has performed better under a Conservative government. The FTSE all-share has returned 4.9 per cent a year on average under the Tories and 3.9 per cent a year under Labour, according to analysis by Bowmore Asset Management.

What to do:

Investors should not panic and should not try to guess the market. The best thing is to stick to your long-term plan and keep investing small, regular amounts.

Ben Conway from the wealth manager Hawksmoor expects the UK market to rise regardless of the election because, at the moment, several cheap British businesses are the target of takeover bids from overseas bidders.

The UK-listed miner Anglo American has rejected multiple bids from Australian rival BHP, while on Thursday shares in the investment platform Hargreaves Lansdown rose 10 per cent after it rejected a bid from a group of private equity firms.

Small and medium British businesses could be best placed to profit, said Conway. His investment picks are the Artemis UK Select fund for larger firms, Aberforth Smaller Companies and Odyssean investment trust.

Money

The big question

Should drivers pay road tax per mile?

A new system could cut traffic and ensure that electric cars are charged as well as petrol and diesel. We seek opposing views

No

Steve Tuckwell, MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip

Most drivers don't go out and about just for fun. We have to take our children to school, get to work or run our errands. Many of us need to drive grandparents or parents who cannot get out and about on public transport. Sometimes, we might have to drive to A&E late at night.

Of course we all know the roads we use every day need to be maintained, but it should be done fairly. That means not treating drivers as cash machines. Bringing in a pay-per-mile tax would do just that, increasing costs for millions who rely on their vehicles daily.

For many people, driving is a necessity. They have no choice but to use their cars. Public transport is virtually non-existent in many rural areas, and even in outer London train or Underground stations are few and far between, and are principally designed to ferry commuters in and out of the city.

Penalising motorists for making unavoidable journeys is simply unfair and would hit the lowest-income families the hardest. For them, driving isn't a luxury, it is a necessity to stay employed and access essential services. Adding an extra tax per mile could force some people to choose between driving to work or saving money by staying at home.

Some of the most vocal supporters of a pay-per-mile charge claim it would be good for the environment, reducing emissions by discouraging driving, but this does not address the root causes of pollution.

Instead of taxing motorists simply for leaving their driveway, investing in cleaner technologies and improving public transport, such as greener buses, would be a fairer way to achieve environmental goals without punishing those who can't afford the extra cost.

Not only does pay per mile fail to fix the problem it is seemingly trying to tackle, it would hit the pockets of low-income drivers for whom driving is a need, not a luxury. Sounds like a tax grab to me.

LAST WEEK'S BIG QUESTION POLL

Should gazumping be made illegal?

82% YES

18% NO

Yes

Dillon Smith from the Centre for Policy Studies, a think tank

Let's start with some simple truths. If you drive a petrol or diesel car, in effect you already pay per mile — the more you drive, the more fuel you consume, and thus the more fuel duty you pay. The trouble is, the same doesn't apply to electric vehicle (EV) drivers. While EVs will be liable for vehicle excise duty (road tax) from next year, there is no equivalent to fuel duty for zero-emission vehicles. So right now, EV drivers are not paying their fair share.

Of course from an environmental perspective we want to encourage the take-up of EVs, and their cheaper running costs is a great argument for making your next car an electric one. However, as EVs become more common, this will blow an increasing hole in the government's budget.

We believe the solution lies in per-mile charging; we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build a much better and fairer system of road taxation. In addition to being eye-wateringly high, fuel duty is inherently regressive and unfair. Why should rural residents who have no choice but to drive pay the same duty as urbanites who have a plethora of public transport options?

We propose that EV drivers pay a flat per-mile rate, and that there would be an allocation of "free" miles that would vary by factors such as where you live. The rate should be set at a level that still ensures that EVs are cheaper to run, while also not kicking in until later this decade.

To ensure there are no concerns about privacy, you should be able to submit mileage readings however you like, from mileometer read-outs to an automatic system with GPS. This would not require location tracking — only the raw miles would matter. Petrol or diesel drivers would also pay fuel duty as they do now.

Per-mile charging isn't about fleecing the motorist further. Rather, the transition to EVs gives us a rare opportunity to replace a regressive and outdated system with one that is smarter, and built for the 21st century.

Someone is making a profit from your 50p bag for life

Holly Mead
Deputy Money Editor

When I was a teenager there was a trend for using a designer carrier bag for your school books rather than lugging around an ugly rucksack. Nothing too fancy. If you could get a Kookai or Jane Norman bag you were golden. If a relative had gone to the US and brought you back a Little Brown Bag from Bloomingdale's you were practically royalty. So widespread was this trend that a stall at my local market sold just carrier bags. No need to go to the shop and buy a top or pair of jeans to get one, just give the guy in the van 50p.

I'm still shelling out for carrier bags, but not for fashion purposes — and I am finding it very annoying. The plastic carrier bag fee came into effect in England in October 2015 (Wales was first, in 2011, with Northern Ireland in 2013 and Scotland in 2014). The 5p charge was supposed to nudge us into remembering to bring bags to the supermarket, to reduce waste, litter and the reliance on environmentally unfriendly plastic.

It worked. The number of single-use plastic bags handed out by the seven leading supermarkets dropped from 7.6 billion in 2014, before the tax was introduced, to 133 million last year. According to the government, this means the average person buys two single-use plastic bags a year, down from 140. But schemes such as this, which start off with noble intentions, have a habit of evolving into a cash cow, don't they?

In April 2021 the charge was doubled to 10p and extended to all shops. Since then the number of single-use bags sold has fallen from 2.12 billion to 406 million.

But the 10p charge is a minimum. Retailers can charge over and above this however they like, which is how I came to be charged 50p for a carrier bag in a clothes shop last week that my teenage self would not have been caught dead carrying her school books in. Flimsy, ugly and destined for the bin as this bag was, it won't be counted as a single-use bag purchase because it was more than 70 microns thick. The usage figures don't tell that part of the story.

And they don't tell the story in which you struggle home from an impromptu stop at the supermarket balancing 15 items in your aching arms in your desperation to avoid buying another bag. Because most of us aren't trying to pollute the planet and add to plastic waste. The truth is you don't always know when you are going to buy something. I try to keep a cotton tote in my handbag, but I don't always have a handbag on me.

Interestingly, the government makes no money directly from the carrier bag charge (although it does expect a £331 million overall benefit to the UK economy in the decade from 2021 through reduced emissions and waste management costs, for example). Instead, it expects retailers to give the proceeds from bag sales to good causes. Since the start of the scheme more than £190 million has been raised for good causes. However, this is not compulsory, and companies can deduct "reasonable costs".

> "The 10p fee is a minimum — shops can charge what they like above that"

Crucially, this expectation applies only to single-use bags — not to the paper bags or bags for life that are now the only options in many shops. Firms do not have to report on how many of these bags they sell and are not expected to donate the proceeds (though some do). I smell a loophole.

So who is really winning here? Well, the environment is doing well out of it, for sure (not financially, of course). Let's not overlook the scheme's screaming success in cutting our reliance on single-use bags. Plus it's great that millions of pounds are being donated.

But if a shop can charge 30p, £1 or more for a bag and is under no obligation to report those figures or give that cash to charities, clearly there are other winners too.

Look, I don't mind buying a bag to help the environment — it's my fault, I should have brought my own. But at a time when many customers are struggling with the rising cost of groceries and everything else besides, it doesn't seem right that shops can pocket any profits from bag sales. Give the proceeds to charity and look at ways of cutting costs for customers.

Some shops let you trade a tatty old bag for life for a new one at no cost, but what if there were a scheme like the old bottle banks where you got 10p for every bag you returned? My Jane Norman carrier bag was fashionable and used to last an entire school term. That's what I'm looking for in a bag for life.

Why lower inflation is not good for your mortgage – yet

100,000

mortgage holders will come to the end of a fixed deal in June

Prices are still rising faster than the Bank of England's target, so interest rates are now unlikely to fall next month, says **George Nixon**

Inflation is at its lowest level in almost three years, but any homeowners thinking that this might be good news for their mortgage payments could be in for a shock.

The consumer prices index (CPI) measure of inflation came in at 2.3 per cent for the year to April, it was announced this week. But, crucially, while it is edging its way closer to the Bank of England's 2 per cent target, inflation is still higher than had been forecast. Analysts say that this means the chance of the Bank cutting its base rate of interest from 5.25 per cent next month has plummeted.

It's a blow to households that had been hoping for a cut to help ease the family finances. In June almost 100,000 borrowers will come to the end of a mortgage fixed when rates were low two, three or even five years ago, and their monthly payments are likely to soar when they find a new deal. A cut to the Bank rate could have eased some of that pain because mortgage rates tend to follow its patterns.

5.25%

what the Bank of England base rate has been held at since August last year

Thousands of homeowners whose deal has already ended have taken variable rate mortgages — about 7 per cent of borrowers, 14,420, in the first three months of the year, according to the trade association UK Finance. Many did it as a short-term move while they wait for rates to fall. Tracker and variable rate deals are typically pegged to the Bank rate, so if that stays high, so do their payments. The advantage is that you are not tied in for a fixed term and can switch to a fix or a better tracker at any time.

What next for mortgage rates?

Coventry Building Society, Halifax, HSBC, Santander and TSB have all cut fixed rate deals by up to 0.45 percentage points in the past week, but analysts now fear that may be it for reductions. Barclays raised its rate on May 17 then cut it again yesterday.

David Hollingworth from the mortgage broker L&C said: "Mortgage rates had eased back, but the latest inflation figures may well hold back the chance for that to become a stronger trend. A big fall in inflation was already expected and therefore already priced in."

The announcement of a July general election could add more uncertainty into the mix. Some had expected the Bank of England to cut its rate in June and to make a total of three rate cuts this year. Experts now say the first rate cut is not likely to happen until August or September.

What should you do?

The cheapest tracker is a two-year deal from Barclays at 0.15 percentage points over Bank rate (5.4 per cent) with a £999 fee available at up to 60 per cent loan-to-value (LTV).

The lowest two-year fixed rate is 4.74 per cent from Leeds Building Society, at up to 75 per cent LTV with a £1,499 fee. On a £200,000 25-year loan, monthly payments would be £1,216 on the tracker and £1,140 on the fix. Every month you wait for the tracker rates to fall you are paying £77 more than you could be.

Borrowers need to be confident that mortgage rates will drop far enough to compensate for this. Depending on the size of your mortgage and how long you plan to stay on a tracker, you could be better off taking a higher rate with no fee.

For example, Hanley Economic Building Society offers a fee-free tracker deal at 0.45 percentage points over Bank rate (5.7 per cent) available at up to 90 per cent LTV. On a £200,000 mortgage, monthly payments would be £1,252. While this is £36 more a month than the Barclays deal, once you factor in the Barclays fee, you are better off. If you paid the £999 Barclays fee upfront, you would be £135 better off over two years with the Hanley deal.

However, if your mortgage is bigger than £235,000 you would be better off with the Barclays deal.

Martin Stewart from the mortgage broker London Money said: "If the predictions that there could be as many as three Bank rate cuts this year are correct, then a tracker mortgage could start to look like a good choice for borrowers.

"However, given the number of 2024 predictions around inflation and interest rates that have fallen by the wayside, they may only be suitable for the strong-hearted or those who can afford to be wrong."

If you have a deal finishing this year, secure a new one as soon as you can. You can usually lock in a new deal up to six months before yours ends, and still switch if a cheaper rate comes up in the meantime.

Do not end up on your lender's standard variable rate — the one you are automatically moved to when your deal ends. They are at about 9 per cent or more at the moment.

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Money

Ten years on: the rise and rise of the challenger banks

Monzo and Starling have won millions of customers — is it time to give them a go, asks **George Nixon**

It is ten years since the arrival of the digital banks Monzo and Starling. Their aim: to take on the big four of Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds and NatWest.

These newcomers had no branches or cash machines, they were phone-only, offering intuitive apps and colourful debit cards, and promising superior service. Customers flocked, but profits proved harder to come by. Monzo has never posted a profit and reported a £116.3 million pre-tax loss in the year to February 2023. Starling's first full year of profit was in the year to March 2022, when it reported a £32 million pre-tax profit.

Things are looking up, though. Starling followed up with another year of profit in 2023 and Monzo expects to be fully profitable this year, with annual results for both due in the next few weeks.

So, after a decade, it seems as though these challenger banks are here to stay. We look at how they have shaken up an industry.

Winning customers

In 2018 digital challenger banks held 1 per cent of all current accounts. By 2021 this had increased to 8 per cent, according to the City regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The big four banks still dominate but their share of the market has fallen from 68 per cent in 2018 to 64 per cent in 2021.

In February 2023 Monzo had 7.4 million UK customers, while Starling had 3.6 million in March that year. Lloyds, the biggest of the traditional banks, had 27 million customers at the end of 2023.

A main attraction of the digital banks is how easy they make it to open an account — you can generally do it quickly using just your phone. All you have to do is take a selfie, provide a photo of your identity document, fill in some personal details and the account can be verified and opened within hours. It's all a lot faster than the old days of form-filling at your high street branch and has given the more traditional big banks a much-needed wake-up call. Some now allow you to open an account via their app.

4.48%
The one-year savings rate you can get from Starling. Its current account pays 3.25%

Starling and Monzo will not charge you fees for withdrawing money abroad and offer competitive exchange rates on your holiday spending. About 23 per cent of 2,000 people surveyed by the comparison site Finder UK said they had opened a digital bank account to move their money more easily, and 17 per cent because it was free or cheaper to make overseas transactions.

In February, 80 per cent of the Monzo customers surveyed by Ipsos Mori for the Competition and Markets Authority said that they would recommend their bank to friends and family. For Starling customers it was 78 per cent — both way ahead of the traditional competition. Among the high street banks Nationwide Building Society scored highest at 69 per cent and Halifax at 66 per cent. But despite that, many people still use these digital banks solely as a place to hold secondary accounts, which they may use to track everyday spending or for

Get the right advice when the forecast is uncertain

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Buy now, pay later for your

Lucy Alderson

You might have used buy now, pay later to buy clothes, furniture or electronics online, but now you can use it to pay for solar panels and electric car chargers.

Octopus Energy is launching a buy now, pay later service for customers who want to make energy-efficient upgrades to their home.

Octopus customers can spread the cost of buying and installing solar panels and EV chargers over a maximum of seven years across 84 monthly instalments. The scheme will be financed by Zopa, a digital bank.

Buy now, pay later schemes are usually interest-free, but Octopus Energy customers will pay interest on their loans at a fixed rate of 9.9 per cent APR.

The cost will vary depending on how many panels and the size of battery you need. Octopus says its most popular system, ten panels and a 5kWh battery, costs £9,199 to install. EV chargers start at £899 for a basic model. Customers will need to pass credit and affordability checks.

Buy now, pay later schemes have been criticised for allowing customers to take on too much debt.

One in five buy now, pay later customers had missed or made a late payment in the year to November 2023, according to the charity Citizens Advice. One in ten had

11m
The total number of Starling and Monzo customers last March

when on holiday. Most people still have their salary paid into an account with one of the big four and only 25 per cent of Monzo and Starling customers used either as their main current account, the FCA said in 2021.

Tom Merry from the consultancy Accenture said: "Their unique selling point — how easy it is to move money to and spend with them — has made it very easy to only use them as a secondary account."

Raising deposits

The average Starling customer holds £2,931 with the bank, up from £995 in 2020. At Monzo the average balance is £804, up from £348 in 2020. By comparison, the average Lloyds Bank customer holds about £17,370. Lloyds holds £469 billion in total deposits, compared with £5.95 billion for Monzo and £10.6 billion for Starling.

John Cronin, a banking industry analyst, said that Starling had attracted more business customers, who tend to have higher deposits, but said both banks needed more savings accounts with top rates to attract more cash.

Starling released its first savings account in December 2022, a one-year fixed-rate bond that now pays 4.48 per cent interest. This beats one-year bonds from Lloyds (4.15 per cent), HSBC (4.3 per cent) and NatWest, (4.4 per cent). Barclays had a one-year bond with 4.65 per cent interest.

Monzo began offering its own savings accounts last year — up until then its customers could only get savings accounts through third-party banks such as Paragon and OakNorth. Monzo's new easy-access accounts (Isa and non-Isa) both pay up to 4.6 per cent.

The big four pay between 1.4 per cent and 2 per cent on their easy-access accounts.

Starling pays interest of 3.25 per cent on current account balances up to £5,000, which is better than any free account with the big four. Lloyds pays 1.5 per cent on up to £4,000 with its Club Lloyds account (which has a £3 monthly fee if you don't pay in at least £2,000 a month) then 3 per cent on between £4,000 and £5,000.

Cronin said that new banks such as Starling and Monzo were "likely to have to increasingly orientate towards these higher-paying savings accounts" so that they could continue growing their balance sheets.

Leading the way in tech

Ten years ago the idea of getting live spending updates on your phone was unheard of, as was freezing a debit card yourself the moment you realised it was lost. Challenger banks have made it easy for customers to take control of their finances.

But while Monzo and Starling created easy-to-use features, flashy tech and fashion friendly cards, the traditional banks are starting to catch up. Separate savings pots, the ability to check your credit score, and features such as savings "round-ups", when the app tots up your spending to the nearest pound and puts the change into a savings pot, are now commonplace in most banking apps, said Kate Steere from Finder UK.

"The gap between the high street and digital banks in terms of how satisfied customers are with mobile banking has definitely narrowed," Steere said. Between 2015, the year Monzo was founded, and 2021, the FCA said customer satisfaction with the big four banks' mobile banking apps increased from 74 per cent to 79 per cent — on a par with Monzo and Starling. While overall customer satisfaction with the challenger banks is high, however, their fraud data is less promising. Starling and Monzo ranked 11th and 12th out of 14 banks for reimbursing customer fraud losses, according to the Payment Systems Regulator. Starling repaid 37 per cent of losses and Monzo 22 per cent. TSB, which has the best reputation, repaid 91 per cent.

Lending more

> "80% of Monzo customers would recommend it to friends

But being a successful bank is not about having the best app; the real challenge for the challengers has been profits. The Bank of England base rate has risen from 0.1 per cent in December 2021 to 5.25 per cent, which has helped to boost profits. This is because Monzo and Starling deposit their customers' money at the Bank, and earn Bank rate on those deposits. Their profit comes from the difference between Bank rate and the rate they pay their customers — the higher the Bank rate, the greater scope they have for profit.

Traditional banks have tended to make most of their money through loans — the difference between the rates they pay out on savings accounts and the interest they earn from loans and mortgages is known as the net interest margin and is key to profitability.

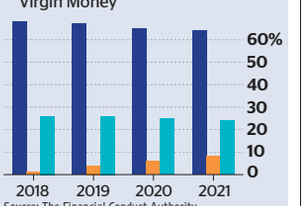
For Monzo and Starling, loans are still relatively new territory. Starling offered loans through the government's scheme to help businesses during the pandemic, but has since turned its attention to mortgages. It bought the buy-to-let lender Fleet Mortgages for £50 million in 2021 and the bank's total mortgage lending is now £3.44 billion. Mortgages make up 71 per cent of Starling's loan book and contributed £194.5 million in pre-tax profit in 2023. Monzo started offering personal loans of up to £25,000 in 2019 and in 2021 launched the Monzo Flex credit card. It charges no interest if you repay within three months and was used by more than 400,000 customers, according to the annual report last May. If you don't clear the balance within three months, you pay 29 per cent interest, which is higher than NatWest's 12.9 per cent and Barclays, HSBC and Lloyds, which all charge 24.9 per cent.

Monzo made £89.6 million from interest on its loans and credit card in the year to February 2023, but £127.4 million from transaction fees on its cards, paid by retailers when customers use them. The bank charges 25.4 per cent APR on unsecured loans of up to £10,000, and 14.8 per cent on loans of between £10,000 and £25,000 — way higher than the 6.1 per cent you can get from the bigger banks.

Traditional banks aim for a loan-to-deposit ratio of 80 to 90 per cent. A ratio of 100 per cent would indicate that the bank lent £1 for every £1 it took in deposits. Starling's ratio is 46 per cent and Monzo's 11 per cent; Lloyds' is 95.3 per cent.

Where our money is

Current account market share



Source: The Financial Conduct Authority

What next?

Lloyds Bank was founded in 1765 and took 153 years to become Britain's biggest bank, so the challengers could have a long journey ahead. They have been good at persuading us to open accounts, now they need to persuade us to do more. Competitive savings and lending products will help.

The fact that Monzo and Starling are posting profits shows that they are on the up, but banking customers are notoriously sticky. About 54 per cent have never switched their bank, according to the comparison site Go Compare. Last year the FCA asked the big four to explain how their savings accounts offered good value after it found that, despite rising interest rates across the industry, some were still paying as little as 1.4 per cent. Even that did not spark a mass migration to the challengers.

But Monzo and Starling are building a base of customers, and that base is loyal and happy with the services at their shiny new bank. With better rates and a wider range of products, the next step may not be far off. Merry from Accenture said: "They are rightly very proud of having made a profit, that's a great achievement, but there is still a long way to go before they record billions of pounds' profit in a year. The focus will be on getting into more deposits, more lending and more returns."

EV charger

subsequently been visited by enforcement agencies or bailiffs.

Other energy suppliers offer similar finance schemes for solar panels.

Scottish Power lets customers spread payments over three to ten years, charging 7.9 per cent APR. Eon lets you spread payments over three years with no interest charged.

More than 163,300 households had solar panels installed in 2023, up from 112,000 the year before, according to MCS, a quality assurance body for renewable energy installations.

Households who have solar panels installed can take advantage of the government's smart export guarantee, which lets you sell excess energy back to the national grid.

Octopus offers loans for car chargers

Investors more wary of risky business

David Brenchley

Fewer people are putting their money into risky, tax-efficient schemes aimed at backing fledgling British companies.

Private investors poured £2 billion into the Enterprise Investment Scheme in 2022-23, a 15 per cent fall from the record £2.3 billion invested in 2021-22, according to HM Revenue & Customs. Money invested through the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme dropped 24 per cent to £157 million and venture capital trusts raised £1 billion, a 10 per cent fall.

All these schemes are aimed at backing small and growing British firms. You can get up to 30 per cent income tax relief by investing in venture capital trusts as long as you hold the investment for at least five years, as well as tax-free dividends and capital growth.

With the enterprise investment scheme you get up to 30 per cent income tax relief if you hold shares for at least three years, and tax-free growth and inheritance tax relief if you hold them for two years.

Investing in the seed enterprise investment scheme gets you up to 50 per cent income tax relief if you hold shares for at least three years, and tax-free growth and inheritance tax relief if you hold them for two.

Some 4,205 companies were supported by the Enterprise Investment Scheme in 2022-23, down 5.6 per cent from the year before. The Seed scheme enabled 1,815 companies to raise cash, a drop of 21 per cent.

Daniel Hough from the wealth manager RBC Brewin Dolphin said rising interest rates had made it tougher for these firms to raise funds because investors are able to get a good return with less risk.

Alex Davies from the investment firm Wealth Club said: "Interest rates look like they are on the way down and while both Labour and the Conservatives talk about prioritising growth, they will either keep taxes high or put them up further and that makes investing in start-ups more attractive."

Money

Investment Eye David Brenchley

Why I'm taking my cut of these family fortunes

Founding fathers who still run their firms can be a good bet for investors

In 1948, 30 years after founding the shoemaker Geda, the brothers Adolf and Rudolf Dassler fell out, shuttered the firm and set up their own competing businesses, Adidas and Puma. More than 70 years on the bitter rivalry between the two giants of the sportswear market continues. But both have delivered impressive returns for their shareholders.

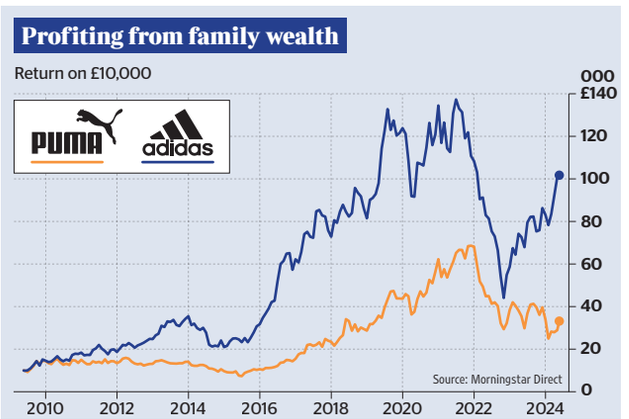
The Dassler feud highlights the risks of investing in family-owned businesses, yet many fund managers believe they can be some of the best investments. A family-owned company may have a founder as chief executive or chairman, and the largest shareholder, such as Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, who is the chief executive and largest individual shareholder of its parent company Meta Platforms.

If it's an old company it's likely that either the founder's descendants or a family foundation will be one of the biggest shareholders. The weight-loss drugmaker Novo-Nordisk has been owned by the Novo Nordisk Foundation, a charity, since it was founded in 1923.

The Credit Suisse Family index tracks the performance of companies controlled by a family and has returned 12 per cent a year over the past 21 years, versus a gain of about 9 per cent a year for the MSCI All Country World index. I can see good reasons for owning shares in family-controlled firms, which is why I hold several in my pension portfolio.

Profiting from family wealth

Return on £10,000



These include the luxury goods conglomerate **LVMH**, founded in 1987 by its chairman and chief executive Bernard Arnault, and the Swiss drugmaker **Roche**, founded in 1896 by Fritz Hoffmann-La Roche whose great-grandson is its vice-chairman. The Hoffmann family own about two thirds of Roche's shares.

Other examples that I've looked at recently include the luxury handbag maker **Hermès**, the beauty firm **L'Oréal** and the sportswear maker **Nike**. Many of these companies have been passed down through generations, and for an investor that is compelling.

It means that the management is more likely to make sensible long-term business decisions, rather than thinking ahead only to the next quarter's results.

The idea when investing is to think and act like the owner of a business, who will own that business forever, said Gerrit Smit from the fund group Stonehage Fleming. "Family firm owners tend to be looking to preserve and grow their personal wealth, brand and legacy for future generations," Smit said. "This translates into the long-term safeguarding of a business. They are more likely to be patient and withstand any strategic challenges the company may face."

Of course, as an investor you want to see evidence that it's not just "family first" to the detriment of the business. The beermaker Anheuser-Busch InBev has a "no nepotism" rule for management roles.

"Keeping unqualified or inexperienced family members away from day-to-day management responsibilities goes a long way to prevent family disputes," Smit said.

One worry that I had about investing in LVMH was that Arnault's children have key roles at the organisation. However, I was heartened by the fact that they have good experience and many have worked at the company for decades. Delphine Arnault, the chief executive of Dior, started her career at the financial consultancy McKinsey before joining LVMH in 2000.

12%

The average annual return since 2003 from firms run by familes, according to the Credit Suisse Family Index

Family-owned businesses might be attractive investments, but there are some potential downsides. Often these firms perform well early on but their returns can decline over time, said Ben Laidler from the investment platform eToro. "There's a saying that the first generation builds, the second generation expands and the third generation squanders," he said.

Steer clear of family-controlled businesses that pay very high dividends, Smit said. This could indicate that they prioritise family owners over other shareholders. Other red flags include poor acquisitions of competitor businesses, not selling off failing parts of their business or giving important roles to unqualified family members.

Try to find out if the family also own or have a stake in other businesses; this can highlight any conflicts of interest, Kimball Brooker from First Eagle Investments said. Ideally the company you're considering investing in should be the family's largest investment because they're likely to devote more time to it than others.

Gucci was founded by Guccio Gucci in 1921 as a luggage maker before the firm went on to become a luxury fashion brand under Guccio's son, Aldo. However, a family feud sparked by the third generation of the Gucci family during the 1980s led to financial troubles. The Gucci family were forced out and it was bought by the retail conglomerate Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, later renamed Kering, which has revived the brand.

Still, family ownership should, more often than not, be a reason to invest in a company. Smit's fund has about 25 per cent of its portfolio in this kind of firm. He highlighted Hermès as a good example of a business with multigenerational family management.

Another to consider is the insurance firm **AJ Gallagher,** which has been owned by the Gallagher family for almost a century. Many family members work for the business and as they have been raised in the world of insurance broking, they can be considered safe pairs of hands.

UK-listed companies include the brewer **Young & Co** and the Vimto maker **Nichols**, said Chris McVey from Octopus Investments. Both have been around for more than a century and continue to thrive, he said.

The Dasslers' feud may have been a bad thing for investors in Geda because it ultimately led to the failure of the firm — and it certainly highlights the clear risks of family ownership. However, the businesses the pair ended up founding on their own are good examples of enduring family-owned companies. If the shoe fits . .

Ask the experts Tom Selby from the investment platform AJ Bell

I'm 54 and have £500,000 in cash. Can I retire?

Q I have built up a large cash savings pot of £500,000 and have no mortgage and a second property generating income. I am 54 and have just been made redundant. Can I retire? How should I invest the cash? I have an Isa and premium bonds but only £200,000 of pension as I have just returned to the UK after living abroad for 20 years.

A There are a few different issues to unpick here, but let's start with that fundamental question of whether you can retire. This is something I'm asked regularly, often with the hope of a "yes" or "no" answer, but it's a complicated question and depends on a variety of things personal to you.

For example, someone who is young and healthy will probably need a bigger fund than someone who is older or has limited life expectancy due to a health condition. Equally, someone who lives a frugal lifestyle and doesn't want holidays abroad will have much lower spending than someone who plans to travel the world and eats at fancy restaurants.

Passing money on to loved ones will be an important consideration for many people, which in turn will affect how and when they plan to stop working. In short: you might be able to retire today, but you may have to restrain your spending to be confident that your funds will last. You can access your pension from 55 — this is due to rise to 57 in 2028 — with a quarter usually available tax-free and the rest taxed as income. Your Isa and cash assets should be accessible whenever you choose.

As a rough guide, the Pensions and Lifetime Savings Association (PLSA), an industry trade body, has calculated how much someone will need in retirement. It reckons a "moderate" retirement living standard for a single person would cost about £31,300 a year after tax, while a "comfortable" living standard would cost about £43,100 a year. These estimates do not include housing costs, although if you are living mortgage-free that wouldn't be a problem.

Based on someone getting the full state pension of £11,502 a year, the PLSA suggests a fund worth £300,000 to £500,000 would be needed to buy an annuity (a guaranteed income for life from an insurance company) delivering the moderate living standard at age 66 (state pension age), and £490,000 to £790,000 would be required to deliver the comfortable living standard. For those choosing to take a flexible income through drawdown (where you keep your pension invested and take income to suit your needs), the numbers are broadly similar but depend on your fund's investment returns.

These figures assume retirement at the current state pension age of 66. As you are in your mid-fifties you would need to deliver that income for an extra decade or more, which would require a significantly larger fund — particularly as your generation will have to wait until age 67 to get your state pension. The state pension age is due to rise from 66 to 67 between 2026 and 2028.

It is possible your assets and income could sustain you for the rest of your life, but it may not be at a standard of living you are happy to accept. The danger, of course, is that you run out of money early in retirement. Make sure you get the best possible savings rate on your £500,000. Over the longer term, you may want to consider investing the money, as holding it in cash will mean its value is eroded by inflation. You should think about your goals and how comfortable you are with investment risk. Generally, provided you don't want to touch your money for at least five years, you should be in a position to take at least some risk.

It is vital you diversify your investments, so you don't have all your eggs in one basket, and keep your costs as low as possible. If you aren't confident picking your own investments, lots of firms offer simple "multi-asset" funds aimed at different risk levels.

You should also be aware that any interest you earn on your cash could be subject to tax if you have used up your allowances. Given the size of your cash fund, this is likely to be an issue for you. Isas and pensions are worth considering as any returns are tax-free. The maximum you can pay into an Isa each tax year is £20,000, while for a pension the annual limit is £60,000.

I'd strongly suggest you consider speaking to a regulated adviser, who can make specific recommendations based on a full review of your financial and lifestyle goals.

Troubleshooter Katherine Denham

Dad died, but HMRC is still fining him

My brother and I became the executors of my father's estate after he died in 2020, but HM Revenue & Customs keeps saying that we owe late payment penalties despite filing the tax return on time. My dad died by suicide so I'm finding this situation really distressing.

In 2022 our solicitor confirmed that any taxes from the estate had been paid to HMRC and that there was nothing else outstanding. I filed a tax return for his estate in May that year.

HMRC then sent a letter saying it would fine me £100 for not submitting a tax return. In June last year our solicitor wrote to HMRC explaining that I had already sent a tax return and asking it to amend its records. HMRC admitted that it had made a mistake and said that I didn't need to pay the late payment penalty.

Then in February I had another letter from HMRC saying I must pay a £100 fine. A second letter arrived a few weeks later giving me a deadline to pay the penalty. I fail to see why I should waste my time trying to speak to the tax office when I have done nothing wrong and am being erroneously charged again.

I have written to HMRC, but I would really appreciate your help.
NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Troubleshooter says

I was very sorry to hear of your loss and how difficult the past four years have been for you — made worse by the tactless approach of HMRC. Getting a fine is distressing enough in normal circumstances, so it's absolutely understandable that you were upset to get these letters years after your father's death.

HMRC had two self-assessment tax records for your father, one for tax affairs in his lifetime and another created after his death for income generated from his estate after he died. Income from an estate usually needs to be reported to HMRC if it is more than £500.

His lifetime self-assessment tax return for 2019-20 was due by the end of January 2021 but HMRC didn't get it before the deadline, so it automatically issued a late payment penalty of £100. You were dealing with your father's estate when you got this letter so it sounds like there was confusion about the two records, although it doesn't sound like HMRC did enough to explain it to you.

I thought it was unacceptable for you to get late payment penalties for the year your father died. HMRC insisted it hadn't made a mistake by issuing the fine but I was pleased that it eventually waived the fee.

Your father had some investments that generated income after he died so you needed to file a tax return for his estate which you sent in May 2022, well before the 2021-22 tax year deadline of January 31, 2023.

So why did you get another late payment penalty this year? HMRC said it hadn't been told that your father's estate had been settled so it remained open in its records. This meant that it was expecting a tax return for the 2022-23 tax year and when it didn't get that by the end of January this year, it sent another late payment penalty of £100.

Your solicitor had written to HMRC to say that your father's estate had been settled, but hadn't quoted the taxpayer reference number, so it hadn't been linked to the estate record. I could see there was a section for adding the reference but your solicitor had missed it out, and while the letter included your father's name and national insurance number, that wasn't enough to link it to the estate.

The tax office has now been in touch with you to confirm the date when the estate was settled so that it can close the account. It has also agreed to waive the second late payment fee. HMRC said it aims to take a supportive approach and takes individual circumstances into account.

£936,206

How much Troubleshooter has saved readers this year

THE TIMES
Money Mentor
Find the best deals
thetimes.co.uk/moneymentor

My daughter just wanted to sell a few vases on Etsy. Then she was scammed

In January my daughter wanted to try to make a bit of money by selling small vases on Etsy. A buyer came back almost immediately after she posted on the site, offering to buy one. An order appeared within the app and she had a message saying that she needed to validate her account by providing her card details using a link. She was selling the vases for £15 each so she didn't think there was much risk involved.

She was so excited and clicked on the link and entered her NatWest card details. This didn't work so she entered her Revolut card details instead, but when she checked her Revolut account a while later £300 had been taken. We searched online and realised this is a common scam designed to catch out new sellers on Etsy.

She's very upset that she lost her holiday savings. She contacted Revolut and was told that she couldn't get her money back.

We think Etsy should be doing more to prevent scams like this happening.
NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Troubleshooter says

The link your daughter clicked on took her to a website that looked like Etsy's, but was actually a phishing website designed to trick her into handing over her bank information.

When I asked Etsy whether it was doing enough to keep its users safe, it told me that addressing these types of scams was a priority and that it works with sellers to protect its community. It also told me that genuine messages from Etsy always appear in a special "from Etsy" inbox in your account.

The fraudster used your daughter's card details and Revolut said she had approved the £300 payment using her app, which is why it had refused to refund her.

There is no denying that fraudsters have clever ways of tricking people into handing over their money, but responsibility also rests with us to make sure we are doing what we can to protect our cash from criminals. I do think your daughter should have been more vigilant, but in the end Revolut agreed to refund the £300 as a gesture of goodwill.

Revolut said: "While we are fully determined to protect our customers as best we can through our fraud prevention technologies, scams like these also need to be tackled at source by online marketplaces. Banks and financial institutions should be the last line of defence, not the only line of defence."

T AUDIO

How to call an election!

It's happened. Rishi Sunak has announced the General Election for July 4. The political masterminds Peter Mandelson, Polly Mackenzie and Daniel Finkelstein join Matt for an emergency episode to discuss the announcement.

Listen for free via the QR code, on the Times Radio app or wherever you find your podcasts

★★★★★
"You've heard the rest, now hear the best!"
Apple Podcast listener review

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Money Unit trust

Unit trust and open-ended investment company prices

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	-0.62	...
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	130.78	...	-1.46	2.61
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.77	...
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	+49.77	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	335.05	...	-4.23	5.06
UK Gwth A ‡@	8498.49	...	-72.41	3.26
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-10.08	...
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-172.31	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Global Income R Acc ‡@	197.09	...	-3.01	3.18
Global Income R Inc ‡@	119.40	...	-1.82	3.16
Global Select R Acc ‡@	175.38	...	-2.01	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	64.38	...	-0.32	5.85
Income R Acc ‡@	588.50	...	-6.74	3.56
Income R Inc ‡@	243.01	...	-2.78	3.67
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	70.15	...	-0.71	4.70
SmartGARP European Equity R Acc ‡@	517.32	...	-0.05	2.03
SmartGARP Global Equity R Acc ‡@	403.92	...	-3.22	...
SmartGARP UK Equity R Acc ‡@	2502.30	...	-13.18	2.64
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	91.21	...	+0.16	0.88
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	102.07	...	-0.71	4.08
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	50.90	...	-0.35	4.19
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	101.89	...	-0.71	4.08
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	50.81	...	-0.35	4.17
UK Select R Acc ‡@	893.80	...	-4.79	1.64
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	2136.99	...	+37.32	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	824.22	...	-0.83	1.49

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.10	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	-1.50	...
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-1.00	...
Health Acc ‡@	3247.00	...	-39.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.93	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	-0.70	...
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	219.50	...	-1.10	4.39
UK Growth Inc ‡@	224.50	...	+1.60	0.94
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1964.00	...	-1.00	1.51
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	293.50	...	+2.60	0.18

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	-53.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-32.00	...

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	+0.10	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	-1.81	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+1.20	...
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+0.90	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-18.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	235.00	...	-1.00	1.61
Sus Leaders ‡@	870.40	...	-9.60	1.44
UK Growth ‡@	688.90	...	-4.10	2.13
UK Income ‡@	217.20	...	-2.60	4.68

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.45	...

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	4130.87	...	-22.89	1.15

COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.58	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-8.20	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1457.00	...	+1.00	0.08
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	45.07	...	+0.04	1.83
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	461.40	...	-4.80	2.09
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	367.80	...	-0.60	...
High Inc Trst @	11.57	12.14	...	5.22
Max Inc Bond ‡@	44.28	...	+0.02	4.40
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	+0.79	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	+0.45	3.37
North Amer ‡@	1055.00	...	-14.00	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	477.40	...	+7.30	0.04
Strategic Bd ‡@	201.20	...	-0.70	1.58
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+34.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	+2.90	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	+1.00	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1119.00	...	+12.00	1.52

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	86.36	...	-0.57	...
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	372.50	...	-2.50	2.33
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	375.60	...	-1.30	...
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	124.60	...	-1.70	4.58
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	223.40	...	-2.30	1.55
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	305.00	...	+2.70	1.54

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2580.00	...	-28.00	...
American ‡@	6518.00	...	+15.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	647.00	...	-6.00	0.36
European ‡@	3981.00	...	-40.00	0.61
Extra Income ‡@	22.75	...	-0.11	6.33
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	6483.00	...	-41.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	3324.00	...	-4.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+1.10	0.08
Japan ‡@	640.40	...	-7.00	0.46
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	43.96	...	-0.48	4.17
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-1.90	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	+0.20	...
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	29.14	...	-0.24	5.13
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	147.47	...	-0.78	3.22
Special Sits ‡@	5236.00	...	-33.00	2.49
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	-0.11	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	34.31	...	-0.29	...
Ethical ‡@	134.70	...	-1.20	0.17
European ‡@	130.60	...	-1.00	1.85
Far Eastern ‡	126.90	...	-2.30	2.02
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	152.70	...	-2.00	0.69
Intl Gwth ‡	151.40	...	-2.00	0.70
Japanese ‡	83.53	...	-0.87	1.15
North Amer ‡	185.70	...	-2.10	0.07
Smaller Cos ‡@	118.10	...	+0.60	1.55
Special Sits ‡@	51.58	...	-0.55	1.04
UK Equity Inc ‡@	104.00	...	-1.00	3.76
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	79.70	...	-0.90	2.35
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	89.46	...	-0.88	2.37
UK Growth ‡@	95.48	...	-0.64	2.42

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	1160.91	...	-12.87	1.07
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	910.25	...	-10.09	2.12
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1393.34	...	-14.98	2.36
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	846.52	...	-9.10	2.42
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	315.90	...	-5.48	2.98
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	136.55	...	-2.38	3.05
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	320.86	...	-0.56	3.30
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	185.67	...	-0.32	2.79
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	802.43	...	-8.27	3.06
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	385.58	...	-3.97	3.14
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	164.76	...	-2.36	1.67
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	123.91	...	-1.77	1.70
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	555.70	...	-7.35	3.15
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	328.04	...	-4.33	3.27

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	270.98	...	-2.48	...
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	+3.09	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	285.76	...	-2.34	3.90
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	105.43	...	-0.86	4.00
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+7.06	1.19
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+1.05	1.58
Income Acc ‡@	813.18	...	-7.89	3.84
Income Inc ‡@	319.50	...	-3.10	3.96
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	-1.33	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	136.06	...	-1.24	4.02
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	164.92	...	-1.18	3.67
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	69.85	...	-0.51	3.78
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	164.92	...	-1.18	3.67
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	69.85	...	-0.51	3.78

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	1160.91	...	-12.87	1.07
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	910.25	...	-10.09	2.12
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.67	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.59	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	-13.85	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	-11.72	0.34
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	-10.00	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	-8.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	+1.71	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-1.59	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-2.40	...
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-1.17	...
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-1.19	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-1.47	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	+2.16	0.12
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	+0.86	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	+2.83	...
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-2.35	0.94
Managed @	130.89	138.15	+0.95	...
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+1.59	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	+0.63	...
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-0.26	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	-8.40	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	-6.93	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	+0.24	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.32	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-2.78	...

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	532.43	...	-7.97	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	214.15	...	-1.84	3.18
High Income Inc ‡@	338.83	...	-7.14	2.23
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	443.30	...	-7.90	1.70
Income Inc ‡@	1334.56	...	-23.80	2.00
Money Acc ‡@	97.95	...	+0.07	3.73
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	94.15	...	-0.63	5.93
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	+0.90	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	1013.87	...	-13.95	...
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1439.48	...	+48.09	1.42
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	-1.65	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	830.94	...	-2.01	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	755.88	...	-3.31	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	+8.50	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	393.48	...	-2.32	2.38
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	240.98	...	-1.41	2.30
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	132.40	...	-0.06	0.49
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	139.51	...	-0.06	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	333.88	...	-1.47	3.25
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.10	...	-0.30	4.71
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	121.31	...	-0.55	4.15
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.06	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	65.37	...	-0.29	5.88
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	167.94	...	-0.30	1.24
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	189.13	...	-2.07	4.44
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	69.09	...	-0.51	6.29
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-1.26	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-4.54	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+5.98	0.82
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+4.52	0.82

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+46.14	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+6.88	...
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-4.81	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	272.48	...	+0.47	...
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	347.95	...	+2.04	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1502.49	...	+0.89	...
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	210.94	...	-1.83	0.30
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	397.30	...	-8.51	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	309.68	...	-4.13	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	281.18	...	-1.50	1.16
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+2.02	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.42	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	172.86	...	-0.02	0.90
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.50	1.96
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.23	3.32
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.39	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	-0.07	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2933.62	...	+5.96	1.30
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+5.67	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	5238.65	...	+179.57	0.52
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4672.89	...	+167.90	0.53
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1850.09	...	-3.57	1.24
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	653.05	...	-1.26	1.26

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	114.30	...	-1.10	3.47
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	79.82	...	-1.37	4.76
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	304.50	...	-2.80	3.59
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	142.90	...	-1.30	3.68
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1019.00	...	-48.00	0.56
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	205.50	...	-5.50	0.04
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	350.20	...	-1.00	0.66
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2737.00	...	-6.00	0.75
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	29.37	...	-0.20	4.35
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	5269.00	...	-32.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	71.36	...	-1.00	3.05
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	4444.00	...	+9.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	129.72	...	-1.31	2.89
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	170.50	...	-2.00	1.37
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	282.30	...	-2.20	1.13
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	149.80	...	-2.10	3.62
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	201.50	...	-1.30	3.49
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	212.40	...	-2.00	3.14
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	55.84	...	-0.53	3.20
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	96.77	...	-1.12	3.43
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	182.50	...	+0.20	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	159.60	...	+0.60	1.47
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	+6.60	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.38	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	+0.15	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	2324.00	...	-7.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Equity Core E Net Acc ‡@	506.00	...	-3.90	3.39

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.60	...	-0.09	...
Distribution and Growth ‡@	103.95	...	-0.71	2.65
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-72.04	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	502.01	...	-2.17	...
European ‡@	3330.03	...	-1.53	...
Financial Opps ‡@	840.22	...	-8.53	1.27
Income Trust ‡@	545.50	...	-7.99	4.39
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	253.74	...	-1.64	2.52
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	614.32	...	-4.64	0.32
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	367.16	...	-1.54	3.15
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	435.87	...	-4.37	...
UK Growth ‡@	273.44	...	-0.80	0.77
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	226.64	...	-2.50	2.48

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	+17.00	...
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	+5.60	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	613.60	...	-5.20	2.12
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	392.70	...	-3.30	2.16
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	138.40	...	-1.20	3.16
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	62.47	...	-0.51	3.21
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	+0.60	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	117.60	...	-0.90	...
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	141.40	...	+1.50	0.03
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-2.10	...
High Inc Acc ‡@	135.70	...	-0.20	6.10
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	79.80	...	-1.11	...
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	221.20	...	-3.30	...
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+7.60	...
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	+1.80	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	391.80	...	-4.10	3.06
UK Index Dist ‡@	180.00	...	-1.90	3.14
US Ind Acc ‡@	1024.00	...	-6.00	0.70
Worldwide Acc ‡@	376.10	...	-3.10	0.68

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1527.57	...	-22.86	5.67

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	+6.31	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	+5.55	0.69

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	704.86	...	-9.32	5.53
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	72.36	...	-0.76	4.32
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	40.03	...	-0.08	6.12
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	110.98	...	-1.83	0.09
Index Trckr Inc ‡	82.97	...	-0.87	3.65
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	25.29	...	-0.03	4.92
UK Select A Inc ‡	3015.22	...	+23.41	2.59

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	33.91	...	-0.28	4.70
Dividend Inc ‡	53.60	...	-0.83	6.13
Recovery A Inc ‡	112.38	...	-1.65	3.57
Sml Cos Inc ‡	372.33	...	+7.00	2.92

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	145.71	...	-1.44	3.63

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
High Income	87.00	87.00	-0.67	3.74
High Income Acc	260.70	260.70	-2.10	3.61
UK 100 Comp Acc @	520.10	520.10	-6.10	0.99
UK 100 Cos @	247.30	247.30	-2.90	3.03
UK Select Pflo @	374.90	374.90	-2.90	2.87
UK Selection Port Acc @	800.90	800.90	-6.10	3.18
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	1048.00	1048.00	-6.00	...
Wwide Mgd @	602.10	602.10	-3.50	...

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	863.56	...	-25.77	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	856.98	...	-25.61	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	1029.03	...	-13.46	1.66
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	924.74	...	-12.09	1.70
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	1026.49	...	-13.44	1.60
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	922.87	...	-12.08	1.63
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	1012.29	...	-11.76	1.94
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	971.14	...	-11.29	1.97
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	1010.04	...	-11.75	1.87
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	970.78	...	-11.29	1.90
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1324.92	...	-13.69	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1915.09	...	-19.90	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1411.73	...	-14.66	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	14981.06	...	-196.87	0.66
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1762.10	...	-14.42	0.66
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	4073.02	...	-53.52	...
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1670.37	...	-13.70	0.67
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	640.34	...	-12.54	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	640.34	...	-12.54	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	635.44	...	-12.48	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	635.46	...	-12.48	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1385.28	...	-6.64	0.43
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1445.92	...	-14.18	0.43
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1470.44	...	-14.47	0.30
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1380.11	...	-6.67	0.30
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1481.02	...	-14.53	0.43
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	129.61	...	-0.88	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	97.18	...	-0.66	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2751.00	...	-18.88	3.66
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1381.70	...	-9.49	3.76
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	984.23	...	-1.75	3.95
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	899.25	...	-1.60	4.05
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	977.48	...	-1.78	3.77
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	898.84	...	-1.64	3.86
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1687.09	...	-47.16	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	971.86	...	-21.84	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1788.18	...	-50.09	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	1013.39	...	-22.83	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	...	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	253.60	...	-2.10	...
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	222.60	...	+0.20	4.49
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+6.00	...
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	297.50	297.50	-3.50	1.64
UK Growth Acc ‡@	555.50	...	+0.60	2.93
UK Growth Inc ‡@	283.20	...	+0.40	3.00

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+12.14	...
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	+3.79	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	-0.13	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.57	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-73.67	...
Mutual Far Eastern	921.79	972.87	-21.55	1.14
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+19.24	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-5.79	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	+29.21	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	-8.90	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	-0.10	...
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	...
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	...
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	-0.70	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	-0.50	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3894.00	...	-18.00	1.68

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	443.80	...	-2.50	2.71
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	213.30	...	-1.20	2.77

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	299.50	...	-3.20	2.59
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	106.80	...	-1.10	2.65
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	387.50	...	-3.70	2.23
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	254.20	...	-0.60	5.54
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	69.81	...	-0.18	5.75
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	429.10	...	-4.70	3.84
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	127.60	...	-1.40	3.94
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	-0.14	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	204.10	...	-1.30	...
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	85.12	...	-0.55	3.76
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	229.10	...	-1.90	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2427.00	...	-33.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	490.60	...	-2.80	2.80
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	212.00	...	-1.20	2.86

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.40	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.10	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.60	...
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	+8.00	...

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	143.40	...	-1.30	3.21
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	+8.00	...

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	91.36	...	-0.50	1.79
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	50.30	...	-0.28	1.81
AAA Income Acc ‡@	99.99	...	-0.51	2.18
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	217.40	...	-3.60	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	165.90	...	-1.40	3.79
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	52.91	...	-0.45	3.88
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	...	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	163.20	...	-1.70	...
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	215.40	...	-2.20	...
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	204.80	...	-2.20	0.04
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	159.30	...	+0.10	...
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	46.58	...	+0.03	...
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	-0.30	...
Managed Acc ‡@	393.40	...	-10.70	1.72
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	-0.06	2.21
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.29	2.21
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	-0.20	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	-0.10	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	247.90	...	-3.70	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	65.11	...	-0.95	...
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	229.10	...	+2.10	2.75
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	-1.90	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	-1.70	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	840.80	...	+18.10	1.52

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	150.38	...	-0.48	1.15
Balanced A Inc ‡@	131.65	...	-0.42	1.22
Cautious A Acc ‡@	117.49	...	-0.51	2.01
Cautious A Inc ‡@	98.57	...	-0.43	2.05
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	380.86	...	-1.22	0.84
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	338.73	...	-1.08	0.84
Growth A Acc ‡@	385.15	...	-1.08	0.96
Income A Acc ‡@	267.85	...	-0.94	1.65
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	+1.39	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	+0.54	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	132.22	...	+0.06	1.66

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	38.32	...	+0.03	...
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	85.57	...	-0.67	...
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	54.66	...	-0.45	...
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	54.55	...	-0.46	3.08
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	41.79	...	-0.44	4.07
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	41.83	...	-0.22	4.09
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	105.83	...	-0.73	3.98
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	100.39	...	-1.10	3.10
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	201.44	...	-1.13	1.74
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	73.00	...	-0.70	4.16
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	147.68	...	-0.65	1.67
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	388.06	...	+3.14	0.32

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
British	1028.00	1028.00	-5.00	0.93
European	210.70	219.40	+3.90	...

This list contains unit trusts and Oeics widely held by private investors. The weekly price change is based on a Friday-to-Thursday trading period.* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

MORNINGSTAR Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Best buys

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE TIMES money mentor

DATA SUPPLIED BY defaqto Smarter financial decisions

Savings

Easy access (without introductory bonus)

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Monument Bank	via app	Easy Access Savings	£25,000	5.01%
Raisin UK	via website	HoistSavings - Easy Access	£1,000	5.00%
Close Brothers	via website	Easy Access	£10,000	5.00%
Kent Reliance	via website	Easy Access Account	£1,000	4.96%
Oxbury	via website	Easy Access Saver	£1,000	4.94%

Long-term fixed rates

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Shawbrook Bank	via website	5 Year Fixed Rate Bond	£1,000	4.57%
Hodge Bank	via website	5 Year Fixed Rate Account	£1,000	4.56%
Raisin UK	via website	GB Bank - 5 Year Fixed Term	£1,000	4.55%
Close Brothers	via website	5 Year Fixed Rate Bond	£10,000	4.55%
UBL UK	via website	5 Year Fixed Term Deposit	£2,000	4.52%

Easy-access cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Charter Savings Bank	via website	Easy Access Cash Isa	£5,000	4.97%
The Family BS	via website	Market Tracker Cash Isa	£500	4.86%
Kent Reliance	via website	Easy Access Cash Isa	£1,000	4.86%
Tipton & Coseley	via app	Limited Edition Isa	£1,000	4.85%
Cynergy Bank	via website	Online Isa	£1	4.82%

Fixed cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
OakNorth Bank	via website	12 Mth Fixed Rate Cash Isa	£1	4.75%
TSB	via website	18 Mth Fixed Rate Cash Isa	£1	4.50%
State Bank of India	branch only	2 Yr Cash Isa Fixed Desposit	£1,000	4.65%
Shawbrook Bank	via website	3 Yr Fixed Rate Cash Isa	£1,000	4.41%
State Bank of India	branch only	5 Yr Cash Isa Fixed Desposit	£1,000	4.15%

Lifetime cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Moneybox	via app	Cash Lifetime Isa	£1	4.40% A
Tembo	via app	Cash Lifetime Isa	£1	4.30%
Paragon	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa	£1	3.51%
Beehive Money	via website or app	Online Lifetime Isa	£1	3.50%
Skipton BS	via website	Online Lifetime Isa	£1	3.25%

Regular savings accounts

Provider	Contact	Account	Min Mntly	AER
First Direct	via website	Regular Saver CF	£25	7.00%
Skipton BS	via website	Member Regular Saver CF	£1	7.00%
The Co-operative Bank	via website	Regular Saver CV	£1	7.00%
Nationwide BS	via website	Flex Regular Saver CV	£1	6.50%
Lloyds Bank	via website	Club Lloyds Monthly Saver CF	£25	6.25%

Pension annuities

Single life

Provider	Contact	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Standard Life	0808 164 0164	£5,968.27	£6,582.67	£7,266.86
Canada Life	0345 606 0708	£5,925.55	£6,626.53	£7,322.05
Legal & General	0808 304 9447	£5,988.48	£6,545.16	£7,365.72
Scottish Widows	0345 757 3494	£6,149.81	£6,825.74	£7,583.50
Aviva	0800 051 4094	£5,976.48	£6,538.67	£7,224

Joint life

Provider	Contact	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Standard Life	0808 164 0164	£5,594.34	£6,066.45	£6,585.67
Canada Life	0345 606 0708	£5,630.51	£6,177.95	£6,759.89
Legal & General	0808 304 9447	£5,551.44	£6,101.52	£6,764.28
Scottish Widows	0345 757 3494	£5,759.33	£6,296.44	£6,966.57
Aviva	0800 051 4094	£5,643.07	£6,063	£6,583.59

Based on a £100k pension pot. **Data supplied by Kellands, a chartered financial planner**

Mortgages

First-time buyer mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Hanley BS	01782 255000	5.59% D	for 2 years	95%	£0	1st 2 years
First Direct	0800 482448	5.78% F	for 2 years	95%	£0	1st 2 years
West Bromwich BS	0800 298 0008	5.64% F	to 30.09.27	95%	£499	To 30.09.27
Vernon	0161 429 6262	5.24% F	to 31.08.29	95%	£0	To 31.08.29
Melton BS	01664 414141	5.29% F	to 31.10.29	95%	£0	To 31.10.29

2-year fixed rates

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
MPowered Mortgages	0800 260 5949	4.89%	for 2 years	60%	£0	1st 2 years
MPowered Mortgages	0800 260 5949	4.99%	for 2 years	75%	£0	1st 2 years
First Direct	0800 482448	5.08%	for 2 years	80%	£490	1st 2 years
MPowered Mortgages	0800 260 5949	4.94%	for 2 years	85%	£999	1st 2 years
First Direct	0800 482448	5.23%	for 2 years	90%	£490	1st 2 years

5-year fixed rates

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn Charge Until
Barclays	0333 202 7580	4.32%	to 30.09.29	60%	£999	To 30.09.29
Barclays	0333 202 7580	4.44%	to 30.09.29	75%	£899	To 30.09.29
Vernon	0161 429 6262	4.69%	to 31.08.29	80%	£0	To 31.08.29
First Direct	0800 48 24 48	4.73%	for 5 years	85%	£0	for 5 years
First Direct	0800 48 24 48	4.78%	for 5 years	90%	£490	for 5 years

Long-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn Charge Until
First Direct	0800 48 24 48	4.64%	for 10 years	60%	£490	1st 10 yrs
First Direct	0800 48 24 48	4.64%	for 10 years	75%	£490	1st 10 yrs
First Direct	0800 48 24 48	4.79%	for 10 years	80%	£490	1st 10 yrs
Nationwide BS	0333 060 90 28	5.04%	for 10 years	85%	£999	1st 10 yrs
Nationwide BS	0333 060 90 28	5.40%	for 10 years	90%	£999	1st 10 yrs

Discounted variable-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn Charge Until
Nationwide BS	0330 060 9028	5.39% V	for 2 years	60%	£999	None
Leek BS	0808 169 6680	4.99% D	for 2 years	75%	£0	1st 2 yrs
Leek BS	0808 169 6680	4.99% D	for 2 years	80%	£995	1st 2 yrs
Tipton & Coseley	0121 557 2551	5.69% D	to 31.07.27	85%	£0	To 31.07.27
Hanley BS	01782 255000	5.00% D	for 2 years	90%	£750	1st 2 yrs

Buy-to-let mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn Charge Until
The Mortgage Works	0345 607 3021	4.99% F	to 31.07.26	75%	£1,495	To 31.07.26
The Mortgage Works	0345 607 3021	5.39% F	to 31.07.26	75%	£0	To 31.07.26
HSBC	0800 494 999	4.33% F	to 31.07.29	75%	£3,999	To 31.07.29
Natwest	0345 026 0008	4.64% F	to 30.09.29	75%	£995	To 30.09.29
HSBC	0800 494 999	4.58% F	to 31.07.29	75%	£1,999	To 31.07.29

The selections above are based on a combination of initial rate, fee and incentive available.

National Savings & investments

	Notice or Term	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Accounts and bonds				
Guaranteed Growth Bond	1 Yr Bnd	£500	4.50% F	Maturity
Direct Saver	None	£1	4.00%	Yearly
Income Bonds	None	£500	4.00%	Monthly
Tax-free products				
Junior Isa	Age 18	£1	4.00%	Yearly
Direct Isa	None	£1	3.00%	Yearly

Personal loans

Fixed monthly repayment on £10,000 for 5 years

Provider	Contact	Rep APR	Amount per month	Total repaid
TSB	via website	5.9%	£192.15	£11,529.00
M&S Bank	via website	6.2%	£193.47	£11,608.20
Santander	via website	6.2%	£193.47	£11,608.20
Sainsbury's Bank	via website	6.4%	£194.35	£11,661.00
Tesco Bank	via website	6.5%	£194.79	£11,687.40

Borrowing rates and availability of products are subject to individual credit ratings.

Credit cards

Introductory rate for balance transfers

Provider	Contact	Product name	Bal trans Transfer	Bal trans fee	Purch APR
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Platinum BT	0% 1st 28 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Virgin Money	0800 328 3579	BT	0% 1st 27 mths	3.00%	24.9%
Lloyds Bank	0345 606 2172	Long 0% BT	0% 1st 27 mths	3.20%	24.9%
MBNA Ltd	0345 606 2062	Long BT	0% 1st 27 mths	3.49%	24.9%
Halifax	0345 944 4555	Long 0% BT	0% 1st 27 mths	3.49%	24.9%

Introductory rate for purchases

Provider	Contact	Product name	Introductory Term	Purch APR
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Platinum BT	0% 1st 21 mths	24.9%
MBNA Ltd	0345 606 2062	Dual 0% Transfer and Purc	0% 1st 21 mths	24.94%
Sainsbury's Bank	0800 030 4429	Dual Offer	0% 1st 20 mths	23.95%
Lloyds Bank	0345 606 2172	0% Purc and BT	0% 1st 20 mths	24.94%
Natwest	0345 788 8444	Purc & BT	0% 1st 19 mths	24.9%

Cashback credit card

Provider	Contact	Product name	Purchase APR	Cashback
American Express	0800 917 8047	Cashback Everyday	31.0% Intro	0.50% - 1.00% standard 5%/3mth (max £100)
MBNA Ltd	0345 606 2062	Platinum	13.94%	Standard 0.25% on spend in first 36 mths
Halifax	0345 944 4555	Cashback	22.94%	Standard 0.25% on spend over £1 a year
Lloyds Bank	0345 602 1997	Cashback	22.94%	Standard 0.25% on spend over £1 a year
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Rewards	28.9%	Standard 0.25% on spend over £1 a year

Borrowing rates are subject to credit ratings. Terms apply to all cashback.

Current accounts

Credit interest

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	AER
Nationwide BS	0800 30 20 10	FlexDirect	None	5.00% A
Kroo Bank Ltd	via app	Current Account	None	4.35%
Santander	0330 9 123 123	Santander Edge Up	£5pm	3.50%
Starling Bank	0207 930 4450	Current Account	None	3.25%
Bank of Scotland	0345 721 3141	Vantage Classic Account	None	3.00% B

Authorised overdrafts

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	EAR	Usage Fee
Starling Bank	0207 930 4450	Current Account	None	15.0%	£0
Triodos Bank	0330 3550 355	Triodos Current Account	£3pm	18%	£0
First Direct	0345 600 2424	1st Account	None	39.9%	£250
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	M Plus Account	None	19.9%	£0
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	Club M Account	£12.50pm	19.9%	£0

Interest rates paid up to a specified level, terms may apply to qualify for rates shown.

A = Introductory rate B = Certain balance needed for high interest. C = Existing customer D = Discounted variable rate. F = Fixed rate. V = Variable rate. All savings rates are AER variable unless stated. Methods of opening and operating accounts vary. Rates and terms subject to change. No liability accepted for any loss arising from use of this information. Readers who are not financial professionals should seek expert advice. Rates correct at 11am 23 May 2024

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Money Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note dividend yields are supplied by Morningstar. The yield is the sum of a company's trailing 12-month dividend payments divided by the last day's closing share price.
12-month high and low High/low prices for UK equities are based on closing prices. Investment trust high and low prices are based on intra-day figures.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
395⅜	⅝	Aston Martin Lag	135	-⅞		-3.6

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236⅝	136⅛	Abrdn	158½	+2½	9.3	...
720	3⅜	Acuity RM♦	4¼	...		-0.5
2837	2029	**Admiral‡**	2725	+20	2.7	24.5
23½	10½	ADVFN♦	17	+1		-4.2
384½	249	AJ Bell	384½	-18½	2.6	23.2
27156½	22024⅞	Aon Corpn	22048¾	+123¼	...	22.4
1105	87	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	940	+2½	4.9	4.2
9	4	Argo Group♦	4½	...		2.0
233¾	166¼	Ashmore	205⅜	+4½	8.4	14.1
1553¾	1182⅛	Aus New Z	1462⅞	-14	...	12.5
497	369⅛	**Aviva**	488	+5⅛	6.9	13.1
414	260½	Banco Santander	403	-2½	3.7	7.1
5380	87¾	Bank of Georgia	4015	+50	6.7	3.5
217½	129⅛	**Barclays**	216⅛	+1⅛	3.7	8.0
⅛	...	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...		-0.2
512½	324	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	463	...	1.4	12.7
202	4¼	Braveheart Inv♦	5	...		2.0
...	...	Brewin Dolphin	515	+1	...	28.1
1403	166⅞	Bridgepoint	236	+1⅛	3.7	26.2
130	24½	Cenkos Secs♦	29	...	...	5.9
286	248	Chesnara‡	249	+2½	9.7	-7.3
...	...	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+1	...	-0.6
442½	301	City Lon Inv Gp	364	-2	9.0	12.6
976½	157½	Close Bros	463⅛	+6⅛	9.8	4.9
280½	89⅛	CMC Markets	280½	+7	1.7	75.8
1333¾	777½	Commerzbk	1333¾	+8	...	9.4
1418⅞	773½	Deutsche Bk	1338¾	+15⅛	...	5.5
225¾	133⅞	Direct Line Ins	210⅜	+9¾	1.9	13.4
66¾	39¼	EFG-Hermes Hldg	47	...		5.4
187	145	EPE Special Opps♦	177½	-1½		...
1171	941⅛	FBD‡	1102½	...	7.7	6.7
82½	33	Fiske♦	75	-2½	0.3	15.0
70	47	Frenkel Topping♦	51	...	2.0	26.8
1374	804	Georgia Capital	1000	-6		2.3
1120	670	Gresham House♦	1100	-20	...	30.5
490	335	H&T Group♦	392	-3	4.1	12.5
55½	39½	Hansard Global	49	-1¼	8.8	10.2
1090	690⅜	Hargreaves Lansdown	1090	-30	3.7	19.4
182½	115	Helios Under♦	165	...	1.8	32.2
720¾	575¾	**HSBC‡**	693⅜	+2	7.0	7.7
800	611	IG Group	797	+11	5.7	10.8
789	1¼	Impax♦	515	+4	5.4	17.2
2322	1255½	**Intermed Capital**	2320	...	3.3	29.9
131	100½	IPF	114½	+1	9.0	5.6
140⅛	115⅜	International Public P'ship‡	121	-1		82.8
558½	406	Investec	539½	+13½	6.2	7.3
351	283	Investment Co	350	-1		43.4
61⅜	43½	IP Group	52	+½	2.4	1.9
160½	46½	Jarvis Securities♦‡	63	-½	14.1	7.0
412	73¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	86½	+1⅛	8.0	...
107¾	3	Just Group	107⅛	+2½	1.9	9.5
...	...	Lancashire Holdings‡	621	+7	2.5	6.0
256¼	205¾	**Legal & Gen‡**	247⅞	+2⅝	8.3	34.0
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	-2⅝	...	...
836	523½	Liontrust	836	+18	8.8	10.4
38½	27	Livermore Invs♦	35¼	-¾		...
56⅜	39¾	**Lloyds Banking Gp**	54¾	-⅞	4.9	7.3
24½	1⅞	LMS Capital	18¾	...		-4.0
9424	232	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	9324	-4	1.2	67.5
238¾	183	**M&G**	201⅝	+⅜	9.7	16.2
277¾	202	Man	261	+7⅛	5.1	17.1
26	15	Manx Fin♦‡	20	...	2.2	5.7
2⅛	1	Marechale Cap♦	1⅜	...		-3.5
798	490	Mattioli Woods♦	788	...	3.4	41.0
...	...	Metal Tiger♦	9	+¾	...	-2.0
125½	30½	Metro Bank	38¾	+⅝		2.9
1830⅛	1311⅜	Nat Aust Bk	1767⅜	-22⅞	...	14.3
326⅜	13½	**NatWest**	307½	+¼	5.5	6.2
343	332	Numis♦	343	...	...	...
536½	280¾	Onesavings Bank	474⅛	+6	6.8	7.3
576	377½	PayPoint	547	+3	3.4	12.8
...	...	PCF Group♦	⅞	+¼	...	-0.4
567	441½	**Phoenix**	503	+7	10.6	...
1153	608	**Prudential**	765¾	-3	2.1	15.7
3	¾	Quantum Blockchain♦	1	...		-3.2
119	71¼	Quilter‡	119	+2⅜	4.4	38.4
60½	1⅜	Randall & Quilter♦	1½	-¼		...
2005	...	Rathbone Grp	1782	+32	4.9	35.0
⅝	⅛	RiverFort Global Opps♦#	⅛	...	1.6	-1.8
274	162½	Rockwood Strategic	274	+1½		7.0
2570	1800	S & U	2010	-10	6.4	7.4
110½	⅜	Sancus Lending Grp♦	⅜	...		-0.1
46⅜	39½	Schroder REIT	42⅜	-¾		-3.8
464½	347⅛	**Schroders**	395	+4	5.5	16.3
1183	402	**St James Place‡**	490¾	+2¾	4.8	...
785¾	7⅜	**Stand Chart**	777¾	+2⅜	2.7	9.3
65½	4½	Starvest♦	11⅝	+⅛	...	-1.9
60	24½	STM Group♦	57½	...	1.0	59.2
4279⅞	3563⅛	Sun Life Can	4003¼	+34⅜	4.4	12.7
7½	3¾	Tavistock Inv♦	4⅛	...	1.6	...
3460	4⅜	TBC Bank Group	2660	-60	6.2	4.4
8½	1⅝	Tern♦	3	-⅛		-1.0
51½	43	Thames Ventures VCT	44	...		-5.6
44¼	⅛	Time Finance♦	41¾	-¼		9.8
230	46⅛	Vanquis‡	59⅛	-1½	9.8	...
1475	1060	Volvere♦	1475	...		19.3
23	3½	WH Ireland♦	4	...		-0.5
26½	20½	Walker Crips Grp	24	+½	2.1	19.0
4904⅛	3042⅛	Wells Fargo	4707¾	+22¾	...	12.4
1453¾	1044	Westpac	1382¼	-16⅛	...	13.3
978⅛	24⅞	Worsley Investors Ltd	26	+⅛		9.8
42027⅜	34897⅞	Zurich Fincl	40343¼	-145⅞	...	17.3

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
2995	1837½	**3I Group**	2950	+23	2.8	40.6
349	276⅝	3i Infrastructure	330½	+½	3.3	-7.9
1543	1126	Aberforth Smlr	1540	+8	3.2	-12.8
1264	977½	Alliance	1234	-2	1.9	-3.4
417⅞	323	Asia Dragon Tr	404	+4	1.5	-16.1
210	160	Athelney Trust	180	...	5.0	-6.5
250½	185	AVI Global Trust	242	+1	1.4	-10.2
243	175	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	217	-1	0.8	-10.8
101¾	75⅜	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	100½	+1⅛	2.3	-14.6
802	633	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	728	+4	1.1	-12.7
150¾	107¾	Baillie Gifford SN	109	...	...	-16.3
177½	141⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	176	+1½	1.9	-15.1
84½	60	Bal Comm Prop	79¾	+1¼	4.6	-27.7
117⅛	91½	Bankers Inv Trst	113⅜	+⅛	2.0	-10.8
419½	325⅜	BH Macro	360	+½	...	-13.5
1048	715	Biotech Growth	948	-11	...	-5.2
127	104	BlckRck Com Inc	122	-1½	3.4	-10.8
159⅞	131¼	BlckRck Fro Inv	149	-2½	3.8	-8.1
653	457½	BlckRck Grt Euro	630	+13	1.0	-5.6
207	170	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	202	-2	3.5	-12.2
1506	1146	BlckRck Smlr	1490	...	2.7	-11.7
207	172½	BlckRck Sustain Amer	201	-1	3.5	-10.1
637	503	BlckRck Throgmorton	637	+6	2.2	-10.3
644	490	BlckRck Wld Min	590	-8	5.9	-6.3
1360	1065	Brown Adv US sm	1315	-5	...	-11.9
1365½	964	Brunner	1330	-15	1.6	-4.9
3700	2593½	Caledonia Inv	3410	+10	1.2	-35.4
429½	371½	City of Lon IT	423	-1½	4.9	-2.2
91	60	Crystal Amber Fd♦	83½	+1½	22.6	-31.2
516	406	CT Priv Eq Ord	462	-6	3.9	-35.8
96	72	CT Property	73½	-1¼	4.1	-14.5
340	266½	CT UK Cap&Inc	337	+2	3.6	-3.5
92	75	CT UK HIT B	87½	...	...	-8.7
95½	71	CT UK HIT	95	-½	5.9	-4.9
590	448⅝	Dunedin Entp	493	...	5.7	-22.3
742⅝	612⅝	Edinburgh IT	735	+1	3.6	-9.5
157¾	120¾	Edin Wwide	143⅜	-⅜	...	-11.7
329	273⅛	EP Global Opp	310	+1	1.3	-21.6
93⅞	73	European Assets	90⅜	+⅛	5.6	-11.7
915	740⅞	European Opp Trust	905	-3	0.3	-10.6
1058	825⅝	**F&C Invest Tr**	1026	+2	1.3	-10.8
549¾	473⅝	Fidlty Asian Val	526	-2	2.6	-9.6
246	181⅛	Fidelity China Sp	228½	-1½	2.7	-10.9
740¼	568	FdltyEmrgMkt	702⅜	-2¾	2.0	-11.9
412½	311½	Fidelity European Trust	402½	+½	2.0	-4.9
187	151	Fidlty Jap Tru	172	+½	...	-10.5
311½	252	Fidlty Spec Val	308	+½	2.8	-9.5
920	788⅝	Fins Gwth & Inc	856	...	2.0	-7.4
85¾	59½	GCP Infrastructure	73¾	+1½	6.3	-35.8
38¼	22½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	35⅞	...	...	-18.7
153¼	127¼	Greencoat UK Wind	137	+⅜	6.3	-16.9
230¾	161	Hansa Investment	219	...	0.8	-43.2
221	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	211	-4	0.8	-45.9
2450	2015	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2285	+20	...	-42.8
195¾	149	Hend Euro Foc	191	-1½	2.1	-11.7
177	136	Hend High Inc	165	...	6.0	-8.2
889	626	Hend Smlr	889	+14	2.9	-14.4
2225	1590	Herald	2205	+5	...	-12.4
504	348½	HgCapital Trust	491½	+9	1.3	-4.6
150½	111	HICL Infra	122⅜	+1½	5.2	-22.6
i ...	...	Highbridge Tactical	...	...	...	61.1
1276	1046	ICG Ent Tr	1214	+8	1.6	-38.7
421½	331⅛	Impax Env Mkts	396	-2½	1.0	-11.0
349	283	Invesco Asia Tr	328	...	4.2	-12.3
174½	154½	Invesco Bond Inc	171	...	6.9	2.1
148	112	IPST Bal#	142½	...	2.5	-9.4
286	222	IPST Gbl Eq	272	-10	2.3	-9.8
106	88	IPST Managed#	106	...	0.9	-6.6
176⅛	144½	IPST UK Eq#	165	+4½	3.7	-13.3
996	715	JPM American	976	-1	0.7	1.7
378	309¼	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	369	-1	3.9	-9.3
291	189	JPM China	236½	-4½	5.2	-10.6
748	622⅞	JPM Claverhs	732	-4	4.8	-4.7
804	514	JPMorgan Emerg E & ME & Africa	648	-1¾	1.0	158.6
109¼	96	JPM Em Mkts	105⅜	-⅛	1.4	-11.7
485	352⅝	JPM Euro disc	482½	+½	2.0	-10.4
142½	116	JPM GEMI	136	-1	3.5	-11.2
568	451	JPM GG&I	560	+1	3.2	1.3
973	798	JPM Indian	962	+14	...	-19.4
337	283⅝	JPM Jap Sml Co	290	+2	3.8	-12.8
553	435	JPM Japan	516	+2	1.1	-8.7
1430	995	JPM Mid Cap#	1220	-1⅜	2.9	-14.6
107	90¾	JPM Multi-asset G&I#	101¾	-⅜	5.7	...
339	229	JPM Smllr Co	334	-2	3.3	-13.4
234	182	Keystone Positive Change Inv plc	223	-1	0.1	-11.5
899	718	Law Debenture	881	+1	3.9	-1.0
131½	103¼	Lowland	129	-½	3.5	-12.5
254	179	Majedie	242	...	2.6	-9.0
399	294⅝	M Currie Port	376	-3	1.0	-1.7
97⅞	76	Marwyn Val In	97	...	4.9	-52.2
248	177⅛	Mercantile IT	248	+4½	3.0	-12.1
593	476	Merchants	579	-3	5.3	-0.2
790	665	Mid Wynd	777	-5	1.2	-1.6
1218	880	Monks Inv Tst	1186	+4	0.2	-11.1
145¼	106	Montanaro Eur Sml	143½	-1	0.6	-13.9
904	766½	Murray Income Trust	874	-1	4.3	-9.7
269⅝	218½	Murray Int	252	...	4.1	-10.8
i 79	50	Nb Global Floating	61⅛	-2¾	5.4	-9.6
390	338	Pacific Assets	374	-2	0.5	-12.6
336	245	Pantheon Int	326½	...	...	-32.6
4224	2678	**Pershing Sq**	4110	-4	0.5	-26.7
492½	457	Personal Assets	485½	-2	1.5	-0.7
3100	2040	Polar Cap Tech	3080	+10	...	-9.8
149	87	Prem Glb & Inf	106	...	6.7	-14.9
123⅛	95½	Renewables Inf	98¾	...	5.7	-24.0
2030	1696	RIT Cap Ptnr	1840	-10	...	-28.0
1045	510	Riverstone	904	-4	...	-26.9
464	382	Schroder TotRt	451	-3	2.3	-7.8
535	456	Schrd Asia Pac	519	-2	2.1	-12.3
310	247	Schrod Inc Gwth	285	-5	4.5	-10.9
263	217	Schrod Jap Gwth	256	...	1.8	-9.9
621	482	Schrod UKMid	614	+4	3.1	-14.8
15⅞	11⅝	Schroder UK PP Tr	11¾	-½	...	-47.6
540	450	Scot American	511	-1	2.7	-4.8
946	632⅛	**Scot Mtge**	901	+1	0.4	-9.1
227	207	Secs Tst Scot	219	-1	3.0	-0.4
88¼	71	Sequoia Eco	78½	+⅛	7.4	-13.5
276	211½	Temple Bar	270	+1	3.6	-7.9
167⅜	140⅜	Tplton Emg Mkt	161⅜	-½	2.7	-15.2
168⅛	128⅛	The Glbl Smaller	165⅛	-½	1.3	-9.8
¼	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	122.2
345	252⅞	TR Property	330½	+1½	4.4	-6.1
87	74⅛	Troy Inc&Gth#	79¾	+¾	3.7	-0.3
150	99	Utilico Ord	104½	-½	3.2	-42.5
241	203¼	Utilico Emerging Mkt	230	+2	3.1	-18.5
660	508	Vietnam Ent Inv	596	-6	...	-16.9
270	209	Witan	263½	+1	2.2	-8.4
355½	286	Ww Health	347½	...	0.8	-9.5

Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	137½	Alumasc♦	178½	...	5.8	8.1
298⅞	6¼	Aseana Props	9	+2¼		-2.2
50⅜	39⅜	Assura	40½	+¼	8.1	-7.2
15½	¾	Aukett Swanke♦	1⅝	...		41.2
386⅛	295⅜	Balfour Beatty‡	373	+5⅛	3.1	8.9
566⅜	392¼	**Barratt Devs**	509¾	+3	5.5	22.6
2860	1921	Bellway‡	2736	+22	4.0	15.1
5320	3773	**Berkeley**	5260	+25	1.7	12.4
1244	910	Big Yellow Group	1244	+24	3.7	12.2
590	290	Billington Hldgs♦	575	+3	2.7	10.2
242	170	Boot (Henry)‡	210	+4	3.5	14.3
403	304½	BREEDON	396½	+1½	3.4	12.7
418½	291¾	Br Land	409⅜	+10⅜	5.8	-3.5
160	100	Caledonian Tst♦	100	...		...
60¾	49⅛	Cap & Regnl‡	59¾	-1⅛	9.3	...
2450	55½	Cardiff Prop‡	2300	...	0.9	21.9
1286	1¾	Carecapital♦#	1⅞	...	...	-0.2
163¼	118½	Clarke T‡	158½	+½	3.7	11.5
...	...	Countryside Partner	229¾	+14	...	16.7
17⅝	11⅜	Craven House♦	15⅝	...		-0.1
2402	1779	Derwent London‡	2286	+68	3.5	-5.3
4⅞	3¾	Dolphin Capital♦	4½	...		-4.8
27½	15½	First Prop♦	19	+¼		...
47½	33	Fletcher King♦	47½	...	1.5	21.7
70½	34¼	Foxtons Group‡	69¾	...	1.2	41.0
1008	177	Galliford Try	273	-2	4.1	19.7
474½	261½	Genuit Group‡	474½	+7½	2.6	30.8
570	350	Gleeson (MJ)	570	+8	2.3	19.5
1023	751	Grafton	1023	+14⅜	3.7	11.8
274¾	217½	Grainger‡	245½	+1½	2.8	70.1
504	356⅛	Great Portland	420	+3	3.0	-3.2
29¾	20⅞	Hammerson	27⅜	...	5.4	...
140	95⅜	Harworth Gp‡	136½	-2½	1.0	11.8
425	275	Heath (Samuel)♦	275	...	4.3	8.1
281½	185	Helical	220	-11	5.0	-1.5
890	587½	Highcroft Invs	587½	-12½	...	-2.5
171½	120⅞	Ibstock‡	171½	+6	4.2	32.3
225	188	James Halstead♦‡	195	-1	4.2	18.2
1376	668	Keller	1362	-8	2.8	11.3
6475	2⅞	Kingspan Group	6214⅛	-221⅞	0.5	20.5
725⅛	559⅜	**Land Sec**	649½	+4	6.1	-7.8
77	34⅛	Life Science Reit	34⅛	-1		-5.5
15½	8½	Lon & Assoc	12	+1		-3.4
210⅛	17¼	Londonmetric Property	201⅜	+⅜	4.8	...
62	31⅜	Macau Prop Op	40	...		-2.0
329½	198	Marshalls	325	+6½	3.9	44.5
105½	4⅜	Michelmersh♦	101½	-½	4.3	10.0
2	⅜	Mindflair PLC♦	⅜	...		-0.4
2530	1706	Morgan Sindall	2530	+30	4.5	10.1
11500	9500	Mountview	9775	-100	5.0	14.3
90¾	58	NewRiver REIT	72¼	-¾	9.0	-9.6
260	146¾	Palace Capital	246	+4	6.2	-4.6
315	255	Panther Securities♦	305	...	3.9	3.7
1485	960⅜	**Persimmon**	1481	+9½	5.4	18.6
50	30	Plaza Cent	50	...		-1.4
106¼	85½	Primary Health Properties	92¼	+⅝	7.4	46.1
35	27½	Real Estate Invs♦	35	...	7.1	-6.4
739	427⅜	Redrow	727½	+10½	3.4	11.3
985	373	Safestore	883½	+5	3.4	9.6
1178	763½	Savills	1154	+26	1.8	40.0
6	3¾	Secure Property♦	4	...		...
940	679⅛	**Segro**	897⅛	+¾	3.1	...
42	26⅛	SIG	28¾	+⅛		-7.5
70⅜	45	SigmaRoc♦	68	+3⅞		35.8
99¼	78½	Sirius Real Estate	96⅝	...	5.3	32.0
168½	117½	Smart (J)‡	125	...	2.5	...
38½	17	Steppe Cement♦	20	+1		7.0
149¼	99⅝	**Taylor Wimpey**	148⅞	+1	6.4	15.0
159	110	Town Centre‡	155½	...	3.2	6.1
914½	692⅛	Travis Perkins	858	+26	2.1	48.2
170¼	1¾	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	155⅜	+1¾		41.7
63⅜	44	Tritax Eurobox‡	55¾	-1		...
3872	236	Tyman‡	374	-½	3.6	19.1
1057	847	**Unite‡**	922½	...	3.8	37.5
1310	380	Vistry Group	1310	+20	2.4	20.5
105	69⅝	Warehouse REIT	81	-¾		-3.0
604	454⅜	Workspace Grp	546	+4	4.8	-4.7
730	660	Wynnstay Props♦	685	...	3.5	15.7

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1¼	⅝	Agriterra♦	¾	...		-0.2
34½	22	Airea♦	31½	+2⅞	1.9	15.8
862	652	Anglo-Eastern	684	-12	4.6	7.3
244	168½	Animalcare♦	244	...	1.8	...
2738	1825½	**AB Foods**	2722	+8	1.7	20.2
137	81	Bakkavor Group‡	137	+2½	5.4	14.8
597	82⅛	Barr (AG)‡	597	-1	2.5	19.8
1⅞	⅛	Bidstack Group♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.3
36	20½	Brand Architekts♦	27½	...		-1.3
2736½	2267	**Brit Amer Tob**	2390	-34	9.5	-3.7
1018	52	Britvic	1005	+20	3.1	20.9
2289	1035½	**Burberry**	1035½	-15½	5.9	8.6
176½	123⅜	C&C Grp	173	+2	2.8	...
5½	1	Capital Metals♦	4⅝	-⅜		...
149¾	93¾	Carr's Grp‡	135	-5	5.3	...
340	238	Character Grp♦	330	-2	5.7	18.3
1495	1000	Churchill China♦‡	1100	+15	3.3	14.7
2804	2065	**Coca Cola HBC**	2782	+14	2.4	18.5
825	655	Colefax♦	825	+15	0.6	9.6
4460	3170	Cranswick	4460	+60	1.8	18.9
...	...	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3498	2685½	**Diageo**	2693	-16½	3.0	18.3
¾	⅜	Distil♦	⅜	...		-5.6
874	670	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	870	+2	5.1	11.4
110	89	Finsbury Food♦	110	+½	...	13.1
11700	9125	Games Workshop	9710	+95	4.3	22.9
45992¼	1114	Glanbia	1575⅛	+34⅞	1.9	15.6
2354	68¾	Greencore	167½	+5½		23.2
275	157	Headlam‡	163	...	6.1	16.9
942	623	Hilton Food	938	+1	3.3	76.2
38½	14½	Hornby♦	28	...		-5.3
1994	1580	**Imperial Brands‡**	1936	-4	7.6	7.7
1⅜	1	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	+¼	...	7.9
8027¼	6106¾	Kerry Gp	6756	+55¼	1.4	19.0
123	25⅜	McBride	121	+1		11.9
898	100	Mulberry Group♦	122½	+5	0.8	39.6
1200	58	Nichols♦	1030	-10	2.7	20.4
228	135½	Norcros	228	+7	4.6	13.6
327⅞	234⅛	Origin Ents♦	264¾	+13½	5.5	8.3
5⅜	4¼	Pittards♦#	5⅜	+1	...	2.5
488½	219	Portmeirion♦‡	235	...	2.3	-3.8
1¾	⅜	Provexis♦	½	...		...
195¾	82⅞	PZ Cussons	111	+1⅜	4.7	...
95¾	49⅛	REA	87½	-2½		...
34⅞	⅞	Real Gd Fd♦#	1⅜	...	...	-0.1
250	115	Tandem♦	177½	...	3.7	-7.8
724	370	Treatt	514	+3	1.5	28.7
3	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	3	...		25.0
5044	4314	Unilever (NV)	5044	-20	3.3	22.7
4316	3694	**Unilever‡**	4296	-16	3.4	19.3
722	187⅜	Victoria♦	226	+17		-1.6

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...		-5.1
1378	593	Avon Rubber	1356	+24	1.7	...
555	269	Babcock	555	-2	0.3	88.1
1394	888⅛	**BAE**	1386	-11	2.1	22.9
1475	950	Braime A N/V♦‡	1100	+200	1.5	5.0
2200	½	Braime Group♦‡	2200	...	0.6	10.1
580	450	Caffyns	500	...	4.0	10.6
2¼	...	Cap XX Ld♦	...	...		-0.1
419	326	Castings	384	...	4.5	10.8
3¼	1⅛	Chamberlin♦#	1⅛	...		5.0
30½	18½	Checkit♦	26	...		-2.7
830	443	Cohort♦	830	-8	1.6	25.4
...	...	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1200	710	Dewhurst♦	1185	-10	1.3	18.9
237	144	Dialight	177	...		...
1158⅝	632⅜	Electrolux 'B'	703⅛	-5	...	-4.6
300	67½	Feedback♦	68½	+6		-2.6
670	450	Gooch Hsego♦	590	+10	2.2	36.8
7020	105	Goodwin	6000	-260	1.8	28.7
2479	1810½	**Halma**	2315	+6	0.9	36.8
2100	1366	Hill & Smith	2100	+5	1.7	24.7
72½	38½	Holders Tech♦	50½	...	...	-3.9
2¼	1	Image Scan♦	1¾	...		20.0
1901	¾	**IMI**	1874	-6	1.5	20.5
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...		-2.0
12250	723½	Judges Scientific♦	11500	+200	0.7	80.1
101½	61½	LPA♦	65	...	1.5	...
...	...	Meggitt	798¾	+⅛	...	...
677½	446¾	**Melrose**	624	+2⅛	0.8	...
331	218½	Morgan Advanced	319	+3½	3.8	19.5
530	187½	Mpac♦	530	+2		40.4
1005	446	MS Intl♦	980	+30	1.6	23.5
2790	347	Oxford Inst	2425	+50	0.8	23.5
2203¼	1472¼	Philips El nv	2126	+22⅞	...	...
13	5½	PipeHawk♦	8¼	...		-2.0
42	24	Pressure Tech♦	42	...		...
4370	2950	Renishaw	4065	+35	1.8	30.4
58½	27⅛	Renold♦	58½	+⅛		8.6
444¾	143¼	**Rolls-Royce**	444¾	+4⅜		15.5
¾	⅝	Ross Gp#	⅝	...		-1.6
343¾	281	Rotork‡	343¾	+2½	2.1	26.0
156	52	SDI Group♦	69	...		44.5
180⅜	8¼	Senior‡	171⅜	+1	1.3	23.4
75	50	Severfield	73	+1½	4.9	10.7
8	2⅜	Six Hundred♦#	2⅝	...	...	15.5
1751⅛	1242½	SKF B	1714½	-17⅝	...	16.9
300	50⅜	Slingsby (HC)♦	250	...		4.1
1766½	1526	**Smiths**	1742	+9	2.4	26.2
1530	1025	Solid State♦	1495	-15	1.3	22.7
378	257	Somero Enter♦	365	+5	6.8	10.0
3807	2935	Spectris‡	3298	+28	2.4	23.6
11415	172	**Spirax-Sarco‡**	9205	+75	1.7	36.9
38⅜	1	Surface Trsfms♦	1¼	...		-0.4
4¼	2⅝	Tanfield♦	3⅞	+⅛		...
646	329	Thorpe FW♦	368	-6½	1.7	19.5
...	...	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
127½	86	Transense Tech♦	127½	...		11.9
...	...	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+6	...	37.4
504	390¾	Vesuvius‡	493	+13	4.7	11.3
354	263	Volex♦	354	-½	1.1	20.8
2200	1675½	**Weir‡**	2154	+20	1.8	24.4
2440	776	XP Power	1598	+32	1.1	...
102½	55	Zytronic♦	57½	...		-3.7

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Abcam♦	1226	+123	...	...
258	177⅛	AdvancedMedical♦	213	+2	1.0	23.8
3⅝	⅜	Allergy Therap♦	3⅝	+¼		-0.6
31⅜	9¼	Angle♦	19¼	-¼		-2.2
275	178½	Anpario♦	265	+10	4.1	23.2
12364	2¾	**AstraZeneca**	12296	-108	1.8	41.1
293⅜	196⅛	**Convatec**	251	-½	1.9	50.7
37	18	Creighton	23	...		14.6
3902	3102	Dechra Pharma	3866	+2	...	57.7
78	...	Deltex Medical♦	...	...		-1.0
23	8⅛	e-Therapeutics♦	9	-⅝	...	-5.0
120	82	Eco Animal Hlth♦	118	...		...
37	23½	EKF Diagnostics♦	33	...	3.6	...
65	25½	Futura Medical♦	38¾	+⅜		...
2544	1637	Genus	1846	+16	1.7	36.4
1812½	4	**GSK‡**	1774½	-3½	3.3	14.8
⅜	...	Gunsynd♦	⅛	...		-0.3
341	308½	**Haleon**	323	-5⅞	1.8	28.5
2205	1722	**Hikma Pharms**	1958	-1	2.9	29.3
352	173½	Hutchmed China♦	296	-8		31.4
3⅜	1½	ImmuPharma♦	2⅛	...		-2.3
1885	1135	Indivior	1357	+29		...
56	15¾	Inspiration Health♦	16¼	...	3.7	...
20¼	7	IXICO♦	7	...		-2.8

Equity prices Money

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
501	500½	Mediclinic	501	+ ½	...	31.3
181⅞	⅝	N4 Pharma♦	⅝	...		-1.7
75⅛	54	NIOX Group♦‡	70	- 1⅜	1.4	33.1
94.52	79.21	Novartis	CHF91.74	- 1.03	...	24.4
2⅞	2	Omega Diags♦	2⅛	...		-1.6
335	½	Ovoca Bio♦	¾	...		-0.3
470	166¾	Oxford Biomedica	327	- 7½		-5.1
15⅞	⅞	Physiomics♦	1¼	...		-3.2
8½	2⅞	Proteome Scies♦	3⅜	- ⅛		16.3
6416	4110	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	4412	- 29	4.3	14.2
44	8¾	RUA Life Sciences♦	13⅜	+ ⅞		-1.5
135	10¼	Sareum Hldgs♦	35	+ 1½		-5.6
1268	896⅛	**Smith & Neph**	978¾	- 3¾	3.0	41.4
266	207	Spire Hcare‡	255	- ½	1.0	38.6
9¾	4⅞	Synairgen♦	6⅝	...		-1.3
71½	49	Tissue Regenix♦	62	...		...
20¾	4	Totally♦	6¾	...	1.8	...
485	327½	Tristel♦	422½	- 5	3.0	33.7
14⅛	1⅞	ValiRx♦	2⅞	- ⅛		-1.1

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
107	50¼	Accsys Tech♦	58⅜	...		-2.5
4677½	3456⅝	BASF	4105½	- 18⅝	...	...
4633¼	2203¼	Bayer DM50	2352½	+ 3¾	...	-9.0
175	72½	Biome Tech♦	85	...		-2.9
2¼	...	Byotrol♦	...	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
88⅝	64	Coats Grp‡	88	+ ⅛	2.5	21.8
6240	4076	**Croda**‡	4629	+ 35	2.3	37.8
880	230	Cropper (James)♦	335	- 20	1.9	9.8
149¾	97⅞	Elementis‡	146½	+ ¾	1.1	39.7
15½	4¾	Hardide♦	7¼	...		-3.8
1870	1446½	Johnson Math	1784	- 2	4.3	18.4
1706	1298	**Mondi**	1589	+ 14	3.9	16.1
112½	87½	Robinson♦	112½	...	4.8	...
413	263⅝	**DS Smith**	369½	- 6¾	4.7	11.0
716¼	493⅛	Swire Pacific	691⅝	- 12	...	3.4
9¼	2	Symph Environ♦	2⅞	...		-2.1
786⅝	122½	Synthomer	306	+ 14½		-2.5
2435	1968½	Takeda Pharm	2067⅜	...	...	33.0
2⅜	⅛	Velocys♦	¼	...	...	-0.2
1606	1226	Victrex	1296	...	4.6	18.3
507	91⅛	Wynnstay Group♦	382½	...	4.5	12.6
526	276	Zotefoams‡	518	- 10	1.3	31.1

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
130	69	888 Hldgs	85⅜	- 1		-6.7
819	507	Accesso Tech♦	750	+ 2		57.2
595	520	Best of the Best♦	530	...	...	5.9
1377	743⅛	Carnival	1066	- 4½		42.1
137½	116	Celtic♦	137½	...		18.5
2½	¼	Cineworld#	⅜	...	...	...
424½	275⅛	Domino's Pizza	332⅜	+ 6¾	3.2	11.9
1417½	707⅛	**Entain**	707⅛	- 9	2.4	-5.0
17475	12155	**Flutter Ent**	15990	+ 135		...
41¾	28½	Gaming Realms♦	39	+ ¾		24.6
290	150	Heavitree♦	265	...	2.0	8.5
160	135	Heavitree A♦	160	...	3.4	5.1
125	45	Hermes Pacific♦	52½	+ 5		...
8752	5210	**InterContinental Hotels**	7936	+ 34	1.5	22.9
42	⅝	Minoan Gp♦	⅝	...		-5.1
301	199¼	Mitch & Butlers	301	+ 4		...
178	82¾	On The Beach	139⅜	+ 3		22.0
103⅜	62½	Rank Grp	86⅛	- 1		-4.2
68	36½	Restaurant Gp	64¾	...	...	...
63	42	Rotala♦	63	...	...	...
175	...	Sportech♦	84	+ 9	...	...
281⅛	178⅜	SSP	178⅜	+ 1½	1.4	...
3	⅞	Tasty♦	1⅛	...		-0.1
130	32½	Tintra♦#	32½	- 5	...	-1.7
677	401	Tui	549	+ 13½		4.5
2114	1	Webis Holdings♦	1⅛	...		-6.0
820	402	Wetherspoon JD	794	+ 5½		24.5
3678	1⅜	**Whitbread**‡	2925	- 31	3.2	...
1240	946	Young & Co - A♦	988	+ 2	2.1	20.6
892	592	Young & Co - N/V♦	648	+ 18		13.5

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
107½	54½	Aeorema Comms♦	59½	+ 1	5.1	20.6
52	27½	Altitude Group♦	39½	...		54.8
112	63½	Arcontech Grp♦	100	...	3.5	11.6
548	320	Ascential‡	341½	+ 10		...
755¾	587	**Auto Trader**	747¾	- 1¾	1.1	29.5
608	381	Bloomsbury Pub	540	- 20	2.5	20.8
6	⅜	Bonhill Group♦	⅝	- ⅛	...	-1.5
157½	65	Catalyst Media♦	70	...	38.5	4.7
¾	½	Catenae♦	½	...		-0.2
...	...	DCD Media♦#	100	- 30	...	5.0
48½	31	Ebiquity♦	43½	...		...
1041	27	Future	1041	+ 27	0.3	11.0
243	132	GlobalData♦	228	...	2.0	60.0
120½	¼	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
216	107½	IG Design Grp♦	214	+ 6		-9.5
852⅛	685¾	**Informa**	844½	+ 5½	1.5	...
79⅛	55¾	ITV	77⅛	+ 1½	6.6	14.8
5	2¼	Jaywing♦	2¼	...		-0.1
886	⅜	Live Company Gp♦	⅝	+ ⅛		-0.1
172¾	124⅜	ME Group	165¾	+ 2	4.5	12.4
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...		-1.6
71	42½	Merit Grp♦	70½	...		-6.0
4	1½	Mirada♦	1½	- 1⅜	...	...
50½	¾	Mission Group♦	23⅝	...	7.0	-1.8
283¾	208	Moneysupermarket	227⅜	- 3⅛	5.2	16.8
2114½	1433¼	News Corp A	2083¾	+ 52⅛	...	66.4
2201⅞	1441⅛	News Corp B	2145	+ 49¾	...	68.3
1028	⅛	Next 15 Group♦	1028	+ 32	1.4	40.0
1025	42	**Pearson**	946⅜	+ 1	2.4	17.9
4⅞	2⅜	Primorus Inv♦	3¾	...		-4.5
198	107½	Quarto	140	+ 15	...	5.3
85¼	59	Reach‡	79¼	+ 1⅞	9.4	11.6
85	62½	REACT Grp♦	76	...		...
3520	2442	**Relx**‡	3520	+ 30	1.6	37.4
594¾	462⅞	**Rightmove**‡	545	- 5¾	1.6	22.3
100	58½	SpaceandPeople♦	87½	...		-0.9
274	176½	STV Group‡	270	- 4	4.1	28.7
500	152½	System1 Group♦	450	+ 5		45.9
2747⅞	2235¾	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2621⅛	+ 32⅞	...	19.5
2585¾	2037½	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2431⅞	+ 25⅞	...	18.1
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...		5.5
390	257	Wilmington	390	+ 6	2.6	19.2
886½	681⅛	**WPP**	823⅜	+ 1⅜	4.7	81.5
112½	75	Zinc Media♦	80	+ 2½		-8.5

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	¼	ADM Energy♦	¼	...		-0.5
...	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...		-0.1
465	11¼	AFC Energy♦	22½	...		-9.5
60⅛	23¾	Afentra PLC♦	60⅛	+ 3		...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...		10.5
⅜	...	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...		-5.1
95⅛	35⅞	Alumina	90½	- 1¼	...	...
1⅝	⅝	Aminex	1⅝	...		...
1¾	...	Amur Mins Corp♦#	...	...		-0.5
488444⅜	3088⅛	Anglo Amer Plat	3088⅛	+ 2	...	14.5
2773½	1670⅛	**Anglo American**	2615	- 30½	2.9	...
109	42	Anglo Asian Mng♦	64	+ 2½	5.1	93.5
2410	1293	**Antofagasta**	2246	- 13	1.2	33.8
3⅞	1½	Arc Minerals♦	1⅞	...		-7.7
3	1⅝	Ariana Res♦	2⅞	- ⅛		19.4
½	¼	Arkle Resources♦	¼	...		-2.9
1¼	½	Armadale Cap♦	¾	...		18.7
1½	½	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1½	+ ⅛		-6.4
485½	286	Atalaya Mine	427	+ 9	1.6	18.3
...	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...		-5.9
2½	½	Beowulf Mining♦	⅝	...		-2.4
...	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...		1.1
2700	2175	BHP Group	2329	+ 14	5.2	20.3
3	1⅞	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2½	...		...
41⅝	15⅝	Bougainville	30⅞	+ ¾	...	...
57	⅛	BowLeven♦	⅛	...		-0.4
558	444¼	**BP**‡	483	+ ⅜	4.7	7.1
9⅞	3¼	Cadence Min♦	4⅛	...		-3.0
2¾	1⅛	Cadogan Petrol	2¼	...		...
1095	720	Caledonia Mining♦	850	...	5.2	...
6½	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	3½	+ ⅛		...
130¼	78⅛	Centamin	123⅜	...	2.9	20.1
229½	152¾	Cent Asia Metals♦	221	+ 1½	8.2	...
11½	2¾	Chaarat Gold♦	3¾	...		-2.6
17½	6⅝	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	8⅞	+ 1⅛		-5.7
1¾	⅜	China Nonferr Gold♦#	1¼	...		...
⅛	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...		0.5
35	14	Condor Gld♦	28	+ ½		...
5092	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...		-2.3
9698	68⅞	DRD Gold	68⅞	+ ½	...	8.1
½	⅛	ECR Minerals♦	¼	...		-1.7
1	¼	Empyrean Energy♦	⅜	...		1.0
2180	1250	Endeavour	1681	- 6	3.8	...
18⅜	12	EnQuest	15	...		-1.3
3⅜	1⅛	Eurasia Mining♦	1⅜	...		-2.7
1¾	¾	Europa Oil&Gas♦	⅞	...		...
155	44	Ferrexpo	47½	+ 2½		0.3
691¾	3	**Fresnillo**‡	596	- 13½	0.7	25.4
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...		-2.6
19¼	8	Galantas Gold♦	11	...		-1.0
76⅜	⅞	GCM Resources♦	5¾	...		-9.5
23¾	7⅞	Gem Diamonds	12½	...		...
14¼	5	Getech♦	9⅜	- ¼		-1.3
501½	⅞	**Glencore**	483⅞	+ ½	4.7	18.1
⅛	...	Global Petrol♦	...	...		-0.9
152331¼	1253¾	Gold Fields	1253¾	+ 17	...	20.2
8¼	2¼	Goldplat♦	7¾	...		5.8
3⅛	1	Goldstone Res♦#	1	- 1⅛		-4.6
11½	5½	Greatld Gld♦	7¼	...		...
164	77	Griffin Mining♦	163	- 1		39.4
143⅝	84¾	Gulf Keystone	137½	+ 2⅛		3.9
109¼	9⅛	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	10	+ ¼		-0.2
173⅛	68⅜	Hochschild	172½	+ 1		...
172	¼	Horizonte Minrls♦#	¼	...		-0.1
446	197⅜	Hunting	424½	+ 4	1.9	7.7
...	...	Independ Res♦	...	...		...
202½	7½	Indus Gas♦	13⅛	- ½		0.9
145½	...	Ironveld♦	...	...		-7.5
98½	45	ITM Power♦	52	+ ¾		-5.0
9	4⅝	Jubilee Metals♦	8	...		16.6
5⅛	½	Karel Diamd Res♦	2¾	...		...
⅞	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅝	...		-3.8
460	294	Kenmare Res	360	...	12.4	3.3
...	...	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
12⅛	1⅞	Landore Res♦	3	...		-1.4
⅛	...	Lansdowne O&G♦#	...	...		...
13½	½	Leeds Group♦	10	- ½		-3.0
8⅛	3½	Lexington Gold♦	4⅝	- ⅛		...
9½	6⅝	MC Mining♦	7½	+ ½		-3.9
120⅜	1½	Metals Explorn♦	4	- ⅛		2.4
⅛	...	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...		-4.6
14½	5	Nostrum O&G	5	...		...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	- 5⅜	...	60.3
...	...	Oilex♦#	⅛	...		0.1
⅜	...	Oriole Resources♦	¼	...		-4.8
10	¾	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.4
5¼	2	Orosur Mining♦	4½	...		-6.5
26¼	12	Pan African Res♦	24⅞	- ⅛	3.0	8.1
40¾	10½	Pantheon Res♦	30⅝	+ ⅝		...
128	12½	Parkmead Grp♦	14¾	...		-0.5
⅜	⅛	Pathfinder Mins♦#	¼	...		-3.4
76½	37	Petra Diamonds	43	...		-1.1
3⅛	⅞	Petrel Resources♦	1⅜	...		-8.5
5⅝	2½	Petro Matad♦	2⅞	...		...
87½	10½	Petrofac#	10½	- 4⅛		-0.1
...	...	Petroneft Res♦#	...	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	- ⅛	...	1.6
...	...	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+ ¼	...	-1.6
28½	2½	Plexus Holdings♦	15½	...		62.0
220	150	Polymetal Intl#	215	+ 50	...	2.4
680	524	Porvair‡	650	- 24	0.8	18.6
8¾	4¾	Prospex Energy♦	6	+ ¼		18.3
10¼	1⅞	Proton Motor Power S♦	1⅞	...		-1.7
...	...	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
3	⅝	Quadrise♦	1⅜	...		-7.8
...	...	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅛	...	Reabold Resources♦	...	...		-7.2
¼	...	Red Rock Res♦	...	...		-0.3
7118¾	5402¾	Rio Tinto Ltd	6895⅝	- 52	...	14.2
5860	10¼	**Rio Tinto**	5655	- 25	6.0	11.6
29	12½	San Leon Energy♦#	16½	+ 1½		6.1
12	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	¼	...		-1.3
70⅜	21½	Serabi Gold♦	62	+ 1		12.7
268	109½	Serica Energy♦	176½	- 4⅞	12.6	2.4
33⅜	9	Shanta Gold♦	14¾	...	1.6	14.6
2937	12⅞	**Shell**‡	2772	- ½	3.8	12.4
15	5½	Shuka Minerals♦	10	...		-1.4
12¾	⅝	Sound Energy♦	⅞	...		-1.3
16	7⅜	Star Energy♦	9½	- ¼		-0.3
...	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...		-6.3
⅛	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...		-4.1
2¾	¾	Thor Mining♦	⅞	...		-0.8
5927⅞	4318½	Total Eng SE	5615⅛	+ 17	4.5	8.0
...	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...		-0.6
39	4⅛	Tullow Oil	35⅞	...		-6.0
⅝	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...		-0.1
150	42½	URU Metals♦	50	...		-1.0
⅝	...	Vast Res♦	⅛	...		-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
2½	1⅜	Westmount Engy♦	1⅜	...		-0.3
200½	125⅝	Wood Grp (J)	189¼	+ 9¼		...
⅞	⅛	Woodbois♦	½	...		2.2
1¾	¾	Xtract Resources♦	1	...		-6.8
5½	2	Zephyr Energy♦	5½	+ ⅛		...

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
6540	4255	4imprint Grp‡	6180	+ 160	2.7	27.6
742½	537½	Andrews Sykes♦‡	607½	- 15	4.2	14.1
6104	326½	**Ashtead**	5714	- 2	1.3	19.7
1	1	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
53	31	AssetCo♦	35½	...		-3.9
76	45½	Avisen♦	76	...		...
136	102½	Begbies Traynor♦	107½	- 1	3.5	...
226	154½	Blancco Tech♦	225	+ 3	...	80.6
3223	292	**Bunzl**‡	3022	...	2.2	19.3
34⅞	12½	Capita	14⅞	...		-1.4
41	17½	CEPS♦	18½	- ½		6.0
160	67½	Christie Group♦	105	...	2.8	70.9
2321	8	**Compass**	2221	- 10	1.9	29.5
196	122½	CPPGroup♦	173	+ 3		-1.7
82	43	Croma Security♦	73½	...	2.9	3.3
6035	4171	**DCC**‡	5710	+ 40	3.4	18.8
225¾	30	De La Rue	100½	+ 2½		-4.5
4252	9¼	**Diploma**‡	4176	- 50	1.3	46.1
938	593	Discoverie	757	+ 2	1.5	33.6
33	22	Driver Group♦	22	...	6.8	...
190	143½	Essentra‡	166⅜	- 8½	2.0	83.2
3752	2390	**Experian**	3711	- 12	1.1	40.3
17685	11530	Ferguson	16385	- 40	1.4	24.2
274	205	FIH Group♦	260	...	2.5	16.2
580	383	Hargeaves Serv♦	542	...	4.4	14.2
890	100½	Impellam Grp♦	875	+ 35	...	25.0
...	...	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
5025	3755	**Intertek**	5025	+ 71	2.2	27.4
206⅜	127⅜	IWG‡	205⅛	+ ½	0.4	...
171⅛	101	Johnson Srvce♦	166½	+ 2½	1.7	26.0
277½	146½	Journeo♦	269½	...		15.0
148½	74½	Kier Gp‡	148½	+ 1⅛	1.1	16.5
1300	955	Latham (J)♦	1235	...	2.3	8.4
1125	628	Lok'n Store♦	1110	- 5	1.7	70.9
9674	2850	Lon Security♦	3050	...	4.0	17.1
318	216	LSL Prop Services‡	318	...	3.5	-4.9
145	9¾	Macfarlane‡	125	...	2.8	13.3
278	110	Maintel Hldgs♦	250	...		-5.2
29	16½	Malvern Intl♦	20	+ ½		...
393	240	Mears Group	393	+ 5	2.8	15.1
124⅛	88⅞	Mitie Gp	121⅛	+ 1¾	2.6	17.5
9¼	4	MobilityOne♦	4¾	...		...
102½	47½	Newmark Sec♦	95	- 2½		...
10½	5	Norm Broadbent♦	9⅛	...		23.4
64	44½	Northern Bear♦	61	- ½	6.5	6.6
275	173½	NWF Grp♦	201½	- 6½	3.7	7.6
498⅜	2½	PageGroup‡	485	+ 1½	3.3	19.9
3030	39½	PCI-PAL♦	63½	- 1½		...
8¼	3⅜	Petards♦	7¾	...		36.9
26	12½	PHSC♦	24	...	7.2	10.9
657	¼	PowerHouse Egy♦	1¾	...		-1.5
98	58	Record	68	+ ⅛	6.7	13.3
1072	675	Renew Hldgs♦	1072	+ 12	1.7	18.0
734	173	Renewi	640	+ 2		13.4
655⅛	392½	**Rentokil**	408	- ⅛	2.1	27.0
4370	125	Restore♦	273	- 11	2.3	...
610	3½	Ricardo	489	+ 2	2.5	...
480	353	Robert Walters‡	407	+ 1	5.7	21.4
15½	11	Roebuck Food Grp♦	12¾	...		-7.4
...	...	RPS Group	221	- 1	...	...
839⅜	660⅜	**RS Group**	740½	- 19½	2.8	14.8
95	17	RTC Group♦	95	...	1.0	7.4
271½	162⅛	RWS Hldgs♦	176⅜	- 3½	6.7	...
468	373	Science Group♦	462	...	1.0	21.2
187½	22½	Serco	182	+ 1	1.8	10.1
65½	40⅝	Smiths News	64¾	+ ¾	6.4	6.4
3882	26½	**Smurfit Kappa**	3882	+ 52	3.4	15.3
1282	8¼	Software Circle plc♦	18	...		-8.6
37⅝	22⅜	Staffline Gp♦	33⅞	...		-6.4
439½	332	SThree‡	438½	+ 3	3.8	10.5
193½	97½	Synectics♦	190	+ 5	1.6	14.8
31	15½	Thruvision Group♦	15½	...		...
71⅝	37⅞	Tribal♦	59	+ 2	1.1	24.5
379	63½	Vianet♦	111	- ½	0.4	...
3½	1	Westminster♦	2⅝	...		-5.5
...	...	ZIGUP plc	435	+ 5½	5.7	7.6

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
144¼	102½	Shaftesbury Cap‡	141⅞	+ 2⅞	2.2	3.1

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
110	63¾	AO World	110	+ 1⅜		22.7
612⅜	34	**B&M European**	548½	- 2	2.6	15.8
28	13⅞	Brown (N)♦	14⅞	...		-1.1
137	85½	Card Factory	102¾	+ 2¾		6.8
2188	922	CVS Group♦	1076	+ 14	0.7	21.7
135	99½	DFS Furn‡	113	- 2	3.5	14.8
1191	967	Dunelm	1091	+ 26	4.0	14.7
938	440¼	**Frasers Group**	829½	+ 1½		7.3
2878	2282	Greggs‡	2872	+ 10	2.1	20.6
234	146¾	Halfords	154	+ 2	6.5	10.4
930½	118	**Howden Joinery**‡	919	- 1	2.2	19.8
847	624½	Inchcape‡	822½	+ 2	4.1	12.6
5⅝	1¼	IQ-AI	1⅜	...		-5.3
12000	115½	**JD Sports**	121⅜	...	0.8	31.7
269	201⅛	**Kingfisher**‡	262	+ 3⅜	4.7	14.5
129¾	80⅝	Lookers	129¾	+ ⅛	...	7.9
299⅛	178½	**Marks & Spencer**	299⅛	+ 6½	0.3	...
8	3¾	Mothercare♦	4¾	...		26.1
175	28½	Naked Wines♦	61½	- 1½		-1.5
9426	6346	**Next**	9366	+ 58	2.2	14.2
976⅜	342	**Ocado**	373¾	+ 21⅝		-9.7
36¼	15½	Pendragon	35½	...		11.3
397½	254⅜	Pets at Home	274¾	- 1⅜	4.6	16.3
156	104⅜	Saga	131	+ 5		-1.6
310⅜	245¾	**Sainsbury's**	277⅛	- ⅛	4.7	23.2
1646	1083	WH Smith	1100	- 8	2.6	18.3
26	11¼	Sosandar♦	12	...		...
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	- 2½		2.4
315	245⅜	**Tesco**‡	315	+ 2⅝	3.8	16.0
56⅜	40½	Topps Tiles	44	+ 1	8.3	27.3

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
18	6½	Aferian plc♦	6½	+ ¼		-0.2
196½	140	Alfa Financial‡	177¾	+ ¾	0.6	22.5
...	...	Allied Minds	13¾	+ 3⅛	...	-1.2
360	230	Aptitude Software‡	350	+ 10	1.5	49.3
214	100	Bango♦	131½	+ 2		...
29½	18	BATM Adv Coms	18½	+ ¼		...
38	13½	Berkeley Res	20⅜	...		...
13	4¾	Blackbird♦	4⅞	...		-7.2
255	155	Celebrus Tech PLC♦	217½	...	1.4	23.6
1⅛	¼	CloudCoCo Group♦	¼	...		-0.7
2944	2026	Computacenter	2842	+ 32	2.4	16.4
104	55½	Concurrent Tech♦	101½	- ½		47.4
14¾	2⅜	Corero♦	14	...		...
2380	1320	Craneware♦	2230	- 20	1.2	...
290	135	Crimson Tide♦	162½	+ 9½		...
17½	7⅝	CyanConn Hldgs♦	8	...		-9.9
19½	9	Dillistone Group♦	10½	...		...
20	1	EQTEC♦	1⅝	- ⅛		-2.2
1340	324½	FDM Group	441½	...	8.1	11.8
60	12¾	Filtronic♦	55	- 1		...
2165	812	First Derivts♦	1352	- 38		...
350¾	208⅜	GB Group♦	350¾	+ 7¾	1.1	-5.0
163	114	GreshamTech‡	161	...	0.4	55.1
48¾	27⅜	Ilika♦	28	...		-7.7
191	92	Ingenta♦	147	+ 1	2.5	9.1
112½	41½	Intercede♦	109	+ 2½		40.3
189⅜	125	Iomart♦	137	+ ½	3.9	23.6
452	13⅝	IQE♦	34	+ ¼		-3.1
126	8½	K3 Business Tch♦	95	...		-8.9
1652	1062	LG Electronics	1177½	- 78½	2.0	9.7
1937500	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	- 134⅛		...
49½	31	MTI Wireless♦	46	...	5.3	12.8
23⅜	15½	Nanoco Gp	17¾	+ ⅛		3.9
116½	71½	Netcall♦	85½	- ½	0.9	27.1
50½	35	Northamber♦	43	+ 1	1.4	...
17¼	9¼	Online Blockchain♦#	15½	+ 2½	...	-2.0
119	78	Oxford Metrics♦	109½	...	2.5	25.3
127½	¾	Parity♦	⅞	...		-0.3
40½	25½	Pennant Intl♦	26½	- 2½		...
625	370	Playtech	480½	+ 10½		...
78½	53	Pulsar Group♦	73½	- 4		...
413½	292¾	QinetiQ	413½	- 10¾	1.8	32.3
103½	47⅞	RM	100¾	- ½		-1.9
1282	844⅜	**Sage**	1059½	- 19	1.7	51.8
6	4	Seeing Machines♦	4⅞	...		-9.5
3726	35	Shearwater Grp♦	43	- 1½		-1.3
954	33½	Smartspace S'ware♦	90	...	...	-9.4
1715	1212	Softcat	1715	...	1.4	30.6
200	90	Spirent Comms	182⅝	- 2⅞	1.1	54.6
68	21½	SRT Marine♦	21½	...		-5.9
470⅞	358¼	Tele. Ericsson	467⅜	- 1¼	...	-7.5
112½	87½	Touchstar♦	98	...	1.0	12.5
960	695	Tracsis♦‡	930	...	0.2	60.9
17¼	8¾	Trakm8♦	8¾	- ½		3.9
295	105	Triad Grp	277	...	2.1	...
402½	49	Wandisco♦	63½	+ ½		-1.9
447½	½	Water Intel♦	380	+ 2½		21.8
190	91⅛	Xaar	125½	- 1½		...
½	⅛	Yourgene♦	½	...	...	-0.3
135	21¾	Zoo Digital♦	54½	- 1		...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
240	154	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
133⅝	90⅝	**Airtel Africa**	121	+ 1⅝	3.7	17.7
149⅜	102¼	**BT Group**	127	- ⅛	6.0	6.7
71¾	43⅝	Currys plc	71¾	+ 1½		3.3
1496	994	Gamma Comms♦	1496	+ 30	1.0	28.5
126⅛	59	Helios Towers	118	+ 1⅜		...
1467	914	Just Eat T'away	1066	- 42		-1.4
⅛	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...		-0.5
2⅞	¾	Mobile Tornado♦	1¾	...		-5.8
1830	1362	Telecom Plus	1816	+ 32	4.6	46.5
83⅜	62⅞	**Vodafone**	73½	- ⅝	10.4	2.2

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
310	224	Braemar Ship	301½	+ 1½	4.0	...
577¾	359⅞	**EasyJet**	457½	+ ⅞	0.9	10.7
190	...	Esken Limited#	...	...		...
187⅝	113	FirstGroup	169⅜	+ ⅝	2.6	...
425	245½	Fisher (James)	305	+ 1		72.6
186⅜	138	**International Airlines**	172¾	+ ¾		3.9
402½	196⅛	IDS	319¾	+ 5		-3.0
474	366	Irish Cont Uts‡	474	- 14	2.6	15.3
1519	475½	Jet2♦	1350	- 1	0.8	7.3
117½	52¾	Mobico Group	57¼	- ¾	11.5	-1.1
1455	⅛	Ocean Wilson‡	1280	- 50	5.0	8.6
20½	8½	Sutton Harbour♦	10¾	...		-5.9
630	218½	Wincanton	605	+ 2	...	28.8
2960	1546½	Wizz Air	2166	- 2		-4.9

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
172½	79	**Centrica**	141⅛	- 2¾	2.3	2.0
...	...	ContourGlobal	251	+ ½	...	28.3
619¾	401½	Drax Group	499⅛	- 8¼	4.5	3.5
483	405	Jersey Electricity	465	+ 3	4.2	12.6
1142½	889⅜	**National Grid**	889⅜	- 115½	5.6	12.0
28½	7¾	OPG Power♦	11¼	...		4.1
794	551	Pennon	608	- 10	7.0	...
¾	¼	Rurelec♦#	⅜	...		42.5
2791	2265	**Severn Trent**	2449	- 54	4.4	58.8
1900	1508	**SSE**	1740½	- 29	4.9	32.6
1125	900¾	**United Utilities**	1007½	- 16½	4.5	...

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Money

Wall Street

	May 24 midday	wkly +/-
3M	99.81	-5.46
Abbott Labs	104.22	+0.13
AbbVie	157.44	-8.98
Accenture	302.91	-0.68
Activision Blizzard	94.42	+0.18
Adobe Sys	485.28	+1.85
Aflac	87.10	-1.27
Agilent Tech	149.72	-4.51
Air Prods & Chm	266.16	+3.46
Alexion Pharmas	182.50	
Allergan	193.02	
Allstate	164.53	-4.99
Altria	45.52	-0.57
Amazon	182.33	-2.38
Amer Elec Pwr	89.14	-3.53
Amer Express	239.44	-3.38
Amer Tower	185.79	-8.72
Ameren Corp	70.88	-3.86
American Int	77.89	-2.65
American Wtr W	127.74	-6.03
Ameriprise	438.85	+4.73
AmerisrceBerg	179.98	+2.02
Ametek	173.60	+6.80
Amgen	307.37	-5.10
Amphenol	137.67	+5.76
Anadarko Petrlm	72.77	
Analog Devices	235.58	+21.50
Aon Corp	280.87	-11.58
Apple	190.18	+0.31
Applied Mats	222.68	+10.60
Archer Daniels	60.63	-0.99
Arthur J. Gallagher	251.93	-5.75
AT&T	17.48	+0.08
Auto Data Proc	249.78	-2.55
Autodesk	214.89	-6.32
Autozone	2789.42	-128.09
AvalonBay	195.22	-3.68
Avery Dennison	227.04	+0.74
Baker Hughes	57.68	
Ball Corp	69.49	-11.15
Bank NY Mellon	58.91	-0.59
Bank of America	39.55	+0.26
Bard (CR)	331.24	
BB&T	54.24	-0.48
Becton Dickinsn	228.86	-7.45
Berkshire Hath	406.83	-10.11
Biogen Idec	218.56	-12.01
Blackrock	785.90	-26.32
Boeing	173.01	-11.95
Boston Sci	75.65	+1.00
Bristol-Myrs Sq	41.39	-2.64
Broadcom Ord	1411.00	+15.71
Capital One Fin	138.55	-3.26
Cardinal Health	95.77	-3.31
Caterpillar	349.03	-7.24
Celgene	108.24	
Centene	76.27	-1.79
CenterPoint Egy	29.41	-0.67
Cerner	94.92	+0.07
Chevron	157.99	-4.68
Chipotle Mex Grill	3160.27	-53.16
Church & Dwight	106.18	-0.21
Cigna Corp	333.08	-5.63
Cincinnati Fin	117.38	-2.68
Cintas	686.44	-5.70
Cisco Systems	46.68	-1.49
Citigroup	63.58	-0.49
CME	213.98	+0.84
CMS Energy	60.79	-2.45
Coca-Cola	62.20	-0.83
Cognizant Tech	68.82	+0.06
Colgate-Palm	93.38	-0.75
Comcast	38.42	-0.86
ConocoPhillips	117.68	-4.03
Consd Edison	93.84	-3.27
Constellation Brs	249.64	-5.79
Corning	36.37	+1.02
Costco Whole	815.99	+20.18
Crown Castle Int	97.47	-5.42
CSX	33.73	+0.21
Cummins	284.76	-0.80
CVS Caremark	56.04	-1.64
Danaher	261.79	-4.01
Darden Rest	148.03	-5.97
Deere&Co	375.05	-21.97
Delta Air Lines	51.54	-1.17
Devon Energy	48.48	-1.14
Digital Realty Tr.	142.05	-1.78
Discover Financial	123.27	-2.15
Dollar General	143.60	+1.47
Dollar Tree	115.29	-2.02
Dominion Res	52.58	-0.92
Dover	183.93	-0.16
Dow Chemical	57.64	-1.56
D.R. Horton	144.43	-7.07
DTE Energy	112.07	-4.53
Duke Energy	101.82	-2.07
Eaton	345.06	+14.82
eBay	54.00	+2.52
Ecolab	233.95	+0.29

	May 24 midday	wkly +/-
Edison Intl	74.44	-1.86
Edwards Life	88.01	-1.13
Electronic Arts	135.30	+7.55
Eli Lilly	808.44	+38.44
Emerson Elec	113.28	+0.40
Entergy	109.34	-3.69
EOG Res	124.05	-5.89
EQT	40.48	-0.70
Equifax	239.45	-9.30
Equinix	767.22	-32.61
Equity Res	65.57	-1.56
Estee Lauder	126.83	-7.92
Evrsurce Engy	57.69	-3.27
Exelon	36.80	-1.79
Express Scripts	92.33	
Extra Space Stor	142.86	-9.03
Exxon Mobil	113.60	-6.04
Facebook	196.64	+8.00
Fastenal	66.08	-0.34
Fedex	248.18	-9.07
Fifth Third	37.04	-1.52
First Solar	274.01	+76.42
FirstEnergy	39.10	-0.94
FIS	77.31	-1.05
Ford Motor	12.11	-0.18
Freeport-Mcm	51.47	-2.76
Garmin	162.59	-8.36
Gen Dynamics	299.46	+0.44
Gen Electric	168.63	+8.74
General Mills	68.70	-2.54
General Mtrs	44.23	-1.53
Genuine Parts	145.52	-7.37
Gilead Sciences	65.31	-2.41
Global Payments	103.15	-6.01
Goldman Sachs	462.52	-5.20
Google Class A	175.15	-0.91
Google Class C CS	176.60	-0.69
Grainger (WW)	966.61	+20.95
Halliburton	36.14	-1.77
Harris	189.13	-8.09
Hartford Financial	101.22	-1.95
HCA Hldngs	318.29	-4.57
Hershey	199.49	-7.55
Hess	151.65	-6.46
Home Depot	326.38	-17.83
Honeywell Intl	200.34	-5.63
Hormel Foods	35.10	-1.21
HP Ent	18.54	+0.68
HP Inc	32.73	+1.54
Humana	349.52	-6.68
Huntington	13.63	-0.59
IBM	170.37	+1.34
ICE Group	136.04	-2.37
IFF	96.22	-3.47
Illinois Tool	239.83	-10.77
Ingersoll-Rand	95.73	+3.08
Intel	30.83	-1.00
Intuit	609.66	-51.52
Intuitive Surg	405.42	+6.60
Iron Muntn	79.97	-1.82
Johnsn & Johnsn	147.95	-6.69
Johnson Controls	73.83	+4.81
JP Morgan Chase	199.41	-5.38
Kansas City	293.59	
Kellogg	61.12	-0.45
Keurig Dr Pepper	34.35	+0.60
Kimberly-Clark	131.56	-2.73
Kinder Morgan	19.08	-0.62
KLA-Tencor	780.80	+33.12
Kroger	53.12	-1.09
Lam Research	979.07	+67.00
Lennar	156.31	-9.58
Level 3 Coms	53.63	+0.43
Lockheed Martin	465.92	-0.28
Lowes Cos	216.87	-14.24
LyondellBasell	98.06	-2.86
Marathon Petrol	177.37	-2.30
Marriott Intl	235.77	-1.96
Marsh & McLenn	207.54	-2.43
MartinMarietta	575.67	-5.08
MasterCard	452.18	-8.09
McCormick	72.05	-1.96
McDonald's	258.85	-13.53
McKesson	558.81	-5.72
Medtronic	81.86	-4.06
Merck & Co	129.71	-1.48
Metlife	72.33	-1.89
Microchip	99.99	+5.66
Micron	130.01	+4.72
Microsoft	429.78	+9.57
Mondelez	68.61	-2.62
Monster Bvrge	53.01	-1.11
Moodys	410.26	-3.66
Morgan Stanley	99.42	-0.81
Motorola Sols	365.06	-2.74
M&T Bank Corp	149.58	-4.21
Nasdaq OMX	62.29	-0.47
Netapp	115.74	+5.27
Netflix	649.88	+28.78
Newmont Mining	41.89	-1.86

	May 24 midday	wkly +/-
NextEra Energy	76.28	+0.19
Nike	91.89	-0.29
Norfolk Sthn	226.04	-5.43
Northrop Grum	465.65	-4.57
NRG Energy	86.23	+3.93
Nucor	170.17	-1.95
Nvidia	1044.01	+119.22
Occidental Petr	62.34	-1.07
Omnicom	94.13	-2.00
ONEOK	80.71	-1.92
Oracle	122.80	-0.70
O'Reilly	990.54	-21.52
Paccar	109.90	+3.90
Parker-Hannifin	530.25	-14.86
Paychex	124.96	-0.69
Paypal Hldngs	61.86	-2.62
PepsiCo	179.01	-3.18
Pfizer	28.57	-0.08
PG&E	18.45	-0.16
Philip Morris Intl	99.75	-0.08
Phillips66	142.53	-4.55
Pioneer Ntrl Rscs	269.62	+0.75
PNC Finl	152.80	-7.55
PPG Inds	131.51	-2.93
PPL	28.71	-0.88
Price T Rowe	117.77	+1.01
Priceline.com	1905.64	+20.64
Principal Fin	82.00	-3.13
Procter & Gmbl	165.49	-2.15
Progressive Cp	204.61	-4.61
Prologis	105.09	-6.41
Prudential Finl	118.55	-2.76
Public Serv Ent	74.49	-0.05
Public Storage	273.16	-15.51
PulteGroup	114.30	-4.77
Qualcomm	208.97	+15.11
Quanta Services	284.90	+20.50
Realty Income	52.27	-2.87
Regeneron Pharm	992.00	+9.71
Regions Financial	18.97	-1.21
Republic Serv	186.50	-1.66
Rockwell Auto	264.79	-4.98
Rockwell Collins	141.04	
Roper Inds	547.48	+5.59
Ross Stores	144.84	+12.51
RylCaribbean	148.77	+6.85
Salesforce.com	273.59	-12.03
Schlumberger	46.32	-2.28
Schwab (Charles)	72.81	-5.97
Seagate Tech	93.45	-1.82
Sempra Energy	75.90	-2.27
Sherwin-Williams	307.10	-5.30
Simon Prop	147.63	-1.16
Southern Co	77.55	-1.99
S&P Global	437.09	-4.79
Spectra Engy	71.97	-1.79
Starbucks	78.44	+0.59
State Street	75.22	-2.79
Stryker	335.81	+1.13
Synchrony Fin	43.47	-0.48
Sysco	72.72	-3.19
Target	145.12	-15.01
TE Connectivity	151.53	+0.52
Texas Insts	198.89	+3.87
TheKraftHeinz	36.03	+0.03
Thermo Fisher	582.21	-13.09
TJX	102.26	+1.97
Tractor Supply Co	282.12	-3.56
Transdigm Group	1345.46	+53.51
Travelers	213.86	-5.86
Ulta Salon	379.17	-20.39
Union Pacific	232.36	-12.61
Untd Rentls	673.30	-12.49
UPS	138.44	-10.80
US Bancorp	40.16	-1.27
Utd Health	513.87	-10.76
Utd Tech	86.01	-18.63
Valero Energy	162.40	-3.66
Ventas	47.73	-1.18
Verisk Analyt CS	251.65	+0.03
Verizon Comm	39.67	-0.39
Vertex Pharma	455.39	+10.18
Visa	274.39	-5.72
Vulcan Mats	259.39	+0.29
Wal-Mart	65.29	+0.64
Walt Disney	101.88	-1.37
Waste Mgt	209.14	-1.31
Waters	335.53	-20.42
WEC Engy	80.46	-5.04
Wells Fargo	59.97	-1.11
Welltower	52.22	-2.58
Western Digital	74.69	+2.59
Weyerhaeuser	30.21	-0.96
Williams Cos	40.01	-1.26
Xcel Energy	53.93	-1.59
Xilinx	194.92	
Xylem	144.86	+1.54
Yum Brands	137.54	-4.12
Zimmer	115.65	-4.53
Zoetis	170.78	-3.28

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 24	96.820	96.910	96.430	96.730	593521	569941
	SEP 24	96.960	97.090	96.600	96.910	404657	163669
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 24						
	Mar 25						
	Jun 25						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 24	96.245	96.255	96.230	96.240	164443	742260
	Sep 24	96.440	96.450	96.400	96.430	206894	500789
	Dec 24	96.620	96.625	96.560	96.600	214633	525007
	Mar 25	96.770	96.780	96.700	96.745	183868	409041
	Jun 25	96.900	96.920	96.830	96.885	165822	373583
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
	Dec 24						
	Mar 25						
FTSE100	Jun 24	8301.0	8343.5	8261.0	8333.5	64286	548034
	Sep 24	8340.5	8340.5	8340.5	8377.0	4	223
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 24				6735.5		
	Sep 24				6788.5		

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Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	39069.59 (+4.33)
Nasdaq Composite	16920.79 (+184.76)
S&P 500	5304.72 (+36.88)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	38646.11 (-457.11)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18608.94 (-259.77)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	915.21 (+0.94)
Sydney	
AO	7999.20 (-83.90)
Frankfurt	
DAX	18693.37 (+2.05)
Singapore	
Straits	3316.56 (-6.06)
Brussels	
BEL20	3969.92 (-5.82)
Paris	
CAC-40	8094.97 (-7.36)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11931.70 (-35.05)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	5035.41 (-2.19)
London	
FTSE 100	8317.59 (-21.64)
FTSE 250	20770.93 (+139.63)
FTSE 350	4583.52 (-5.98)
FTSE Eurotop 100	4095.88 (-10.90)
FTSE All-Shares	4538.02 (-5.82)
FTSE Non Financials	5468.22 n/a
techMARK 100	7046.02 (+1.80)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2748 (+0.0055)
Euro	1.1742 (+0.0006)
:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	83.27 (-0.04)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	133.47 Apr (2015 = 100)
RPI	385.00 Apr (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	380.10 Apr (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 6.00pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	79.94	+0.89
BFOE(Jul)	82.26	+0.85
BFOE(Aug)	82.05	+0.76
WTI(Jul)	77.83	+0.84
WTI(Aug)	77.35	+0.76

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	889.00	893.00	-1.00
Gasoil EEC	745.50	746.50	-7.00
3.5 Fuel Oil	452.00	452.00	+5.00
Naphtha	636.00	649.00	+3.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	743.75-743.50	Sep	750.50-750.00
Jul	746.00-745.75	Oct	752.50-752.25
Aug	748.25-748.00		Volume: 642171

Brent (6.00pm)

Jul	82.18-82.17	Oct	81.00-80.98
Aug	81.91-81.89	Nov	80.49-80.46
Sep	81.47-81.46		Volume: 2011209

LIFFE

Cocoa

Jul	6804-6784	Sep	4448-4100
Sep	6378-6355	Dec	4446-3975
Dec	5608-5587	Mar	5084-4033
Mar	4997-4974		
May	4769-4751		
Jul	4646-4590		Volume: 84882

RobustaCoffee

May	4166-3250	Jan	3631-3621
Jul	3905-3902	Mar	3673-3214
Sep	3819-3818		
Nov	3724-3716		Volume: 12637

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	515.10-514.50
		May	516.80-513.80
Aug	546.90-546.60	Aug	521.90-515.20
Oct	525.00-524.50	Oct	524.50-515.20
Dec	514.10-513.60		Volume: 71078

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Jul	172.00	Nov	220.00	Jan	unq
Mar	unq	May	229.00	Volume: 741	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
10256.0-10256.5	10365.0-10367.0	10415.0-10425.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2248.0-2248.5	2295.0-2297.0	2353.0-2358.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
3012.0-3012.5	3061.0-3063.0	3023.0-3028.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2598.0-2599.0	2649.0-2650.0	2768.0-2773.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
19950.0-19955.0	20225.0-20250.0	21265.0-21315.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
33675.0-33725.0	33750.0-33850.0	33540.0-33590.0

Eurotop 100

	Close	+/-	12mthhigh	12mthlow	Yield	P/E
RWE AG	37.50	-1.40	43.98	34.57		19.53
Swatch Group AG	191.55	-0.80	291.50	188.00	3.38	10.53
AP Moller-Maersk A Dn Kr	11640.00	+540.00	14140.00	8300.00		7.46
AP Moller-Maersk B Dn Kr	12100.00	+585.00	14430.00	8412.00		7.75
ABB Ltd S SF	49.32	+0.35	49.32	29.13	1.78	26.72
Air Liquide Fr	182.24	+0.52	197.42	151.36	1.76	30.50
Airbus Fr	159.12	-2.16	172.78	120.28	1.12	32.57
Allianz G	264.90	+0.90	280.00	198.60		12.29
Anglo American UK p	2615.00	-30.50	2813.00	1630.00		144.94
Anheuser-Busch InBev B	60.02	+0.14	62.16	49.17	1.37	25.06
Arcelor Mittal	23.83	+0.09	26.95	19.91	1.83	23.73
ASML Holding Nl	880.50	+4.10	958.40	534.40	0.70	43.45
AstraZeneca UK p	12296.00	-108.00	12488.00	9461.00		41.14
Atlas Copco A Sw Kr	204.00	-1.50	206.40	136.40		34.53
Atlas Copco B Sw Kr	175.85	-2.00	178.40	119.10		29.77
AXA Fr	33.60	+0.22	35.19	25.21	5.93	11.58
Banco Santander Es	4.75	-0.03	4.93	3.01	3.68	7.17
BBVA Es	9.96	-0.07	11.28	6.06	5.48	7.59
Barclays UK p	216.15	+1.15	218.90	128.12		8.04
BASF G	48.22	-0.22	54.93	40.25		189.52
Bayer G	27.63	+0.05	54.95	24.96		
BHP Group UK p	2328.07	+13.07	2707.50	2157.00		20.38
BMW G	92.84	+0.12	115.35	86.80		5.16
BNP Paribas Fr	67.21	+0.12	73.08	52.82	6.86	10.79
BP UK p	483.00	+0.45	562.30	441.05		
British Am Tob UK p	2390.00	-34.00	2751.00	2233.00		
BT Group UK p	127.10	-0.20	150.68	101.70		6.72
Centrica UK p	141.15	-2.75	173.70	112.25		2.03
Christian Dior Fr	712.00	-6.00	839.50	618.50	1.81	20.03
Compagnie de Saint-Gobain	81.70	+0.40	83.16	47.00		15.22
CS Group S SF	0.82	+0.01	5.86	0.66		
Mercedes-Benz Group AG	66.03	+0.32	77.45	55.08		4.82
Danone Fr	59.18	-0.06	63.80	50.59	3.54	42.76
Deutsche Bank G	15.72	+0.18	17.01	8.90		5.58
Deutsche Telekom G	21.76	-0.01	23.33	18.50		26.07
Diageo UK p	2693.00	-16.50	3527.00	27.11		18.36
EON G	12.35	+0.02	13.48	10.43		67.41
EDF Fr	12.00		12.05	7.27		
Enel It	6.56	-0.05	6.87	5.47	6.28	11.70
Engie (FR)	15.46	-0.02	16.64	13.61	9.24	17.46
ENI It	14.38	-0.10	15.83	12.45	6.49	13.39
Fresenius Medical Care Ag & Co	73.67	-0.85	83.15	63.51		39.38
GlaxoSmKline UK p	1774.50	-3.50	1823.50	1302.60		14.80
Glencre Xstrata	483.95	+0.50	506.72	365.31		18.15
Heineken NV Nl	94.60	+0.14	100.30	81.54	1.83	22.73
Henkel KGaA G	74.25		75.50	58.36		23.31
Henkel KGaA Pref G	83.54	-0.02	84.90	65.88		26.22
Hermes Intl SCA Fr	2180.00	-8.00	2436.00	1641.00	0.69	52.09
HSBC UK p	693.40	+2.00	725.20	572.90		7.75
Iberdrola Es	12.02	-0.10	12.43	9.88	4.28	16.47
Imperial Tobacco UK p	1942.05	+2.05	2006.00	1553.50		7.72
Inditex Es	44.30	-0.03	47.02	30.44	2.18	25.62
ING Nl	16.35	-0.09	16.66	11.43	6.73	7.88
Intesa Sanpaolo It	3.55	+0.01	3.77	2.13	8.35	8.30
Linde G	401.60	+0.60	437.60	319.00		34.62
Lloyds Bkg Gp UK p	54.80	-0.98	57.39	39.42		7.31
L'Oreal Fr	447.35	-3.60	460.60	372.00	1.46	38.16
LVMH Fr	750.00	-2.80	892.70	644.00	1.73	24.30
Munich Re G	462.10	+7.00	464.60	321.20		13.40
Natl Grid UK p	889.40	-115.60	1145.50	889.40		12.05
Nestle S SF	92.90	-0.66	113.14	90.30		20.23
Novartis S SF	91.74	-1.03	94.52	79.21	3.56	24.48
Orange	10.68	+0.07	11.62	9.98	6.60	
Pernod Ricard NV Fr	141.00	-1.20	211.50	138.70	3.31	17.24
Philips Elect Nl	24.97	+0.27	29.10	16.48		
Prudential UK p	765.80	-3.00	1161.51	684.73		15.77
Reckitt Benckiser UK p	6498.00	+6.00	8020.00	5782.00		21.00
Richemont S SF	143.35	+1.10	154.00	102.95	1.76	20.59
Rio Tinto UK p	5661.54	-18.46	5910.00	4509.50		11.69
Roche Hldgs S SF	252.00	-2.80	317.20	229.40	3.77	16.22
Rolls-Royce UK p	444.80	+4.40	446.70	142.48		15.50
Royal Bank Scot UK p	120.90	-0.45	265.00	100.34		2.47
Shell	2772.00	-0.50	2961.00	2214.00		12.40
Sanofi-Aventis Fr	89.52	-0.64	104.32	80.60	4.17	20.46
SAP G	180.06	-1.30	184.48	118.52		57.44
Schneider Electric Fr	238.20	+2.45	239.00	134.38	1.34	33.10
Siemens G	177.30	+0.12	188.88	119.48		15.82
Standard Chartered UK p	773.25	-2.15	796.00	571.00		9.34
Swatch Gp BR S SF	191.55	-0.80	291.50	188.00	3.38	10.53
Swiss Re AG S SF	112.05	+0.85	117.20	83.10	5.57	11.69
Telefonica Es	4.16	-0.01	4.31	3.49	7.20	
Tenaris SA It	15.55	-0.06	18.72	11.63	3.54	5.14
Tesco UK p	315.00	+2.70	316.10	217.53		16.04
TotalEnergies	39.69	+0.87	42.19	24.51		4.88
UBS AG S SF	28.16	+0.22	28.62	17.17	2.28	3.23
Unilever NV Nl	50.44	-0.20	51.18	42.97	3.37	22.74
Vinci Fr	114.15	-0.50	120.62	98.49	3.92	13.71
Vivendi Fr	10.08	-0.05	10.49	7.99	2.47	23.58
Vodafone Group UK p	73.90	-0.28	83.95	62.71		2.23
Volkswagen G	139.40	+1.40	162.65	105.95		4.62
Volvo B Sw Kr	286.40		321.10	198.60		11.37
Zurich Fin S SF	470.00	-1.70	492.90	401.70	5.51	17.30

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5.25 ECB Refi 4.50 US Fed Fund 5.25-5.50

Halifax Mortgage Rate (SVR) 8.74

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.7423-8.7651	8.7609-8.7622	141ds	419ds
Euro	1.1750-1.1721	1.1743-1.1742	10pr	32pr
Montreal	1.7399-1.7452	1.7405-1.7407	7ds	23ds
New York	1.2681-1.2751	1.2748-1.2748	2pr	6pr
Oslo	13.437-13.555	13.471-13.477	89ds	252ds
Stockholm	13.556-13.651	13.572-13.575	209ds	629ds
Tokyo	199.13-200.08	199.92-199.93	88ds	266ds
Zurich	1.1604-1.1654	1.1644-1.1645	38ds	116ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

FTSE volumes

(000s)

3i	770	JD Sports	6,414
Admiral	312	Kingfisher	3,160
Airtel Africa	2,078	Land Sec	1,311
Ang Am	5,060	Legal & Gen	11,430
Antofagasta	978	Lloyds Bkg Gp	210,581
Ashtead	446	Lond Stk Ex Gp	462
AB Foods	671	M&G	4,879
AstraZeneca	917	Marks & Spencer	12,903
Auto Trader	1,471	Melrose	3,182
Aviva	8,633	Mondi	3,071
B&M European	1,835	Natl Grid	25,451
BAE Sys	3,996	NatWest Gr	24,403
Barclays	42,854	Next	171
Barratt Devs	1,539	Ocado	6,639
BHP Group	1,670	Pearson	1,341
Berkeley	194	Pershing Sq	104
BP	30,727	Persimmon	614
Brit Amer Tob	3,034	Phoenix Gp	2,329
BT Group	16,311	Prudential	4,324
Bunzl	566	Reckitt Benck	1,630
Burberry Grp	2,111	Relx	2,199
Centrica	18,303	Rentokil Itl	4,025
Coca Cola HBC	400	Rightmove	1,913
Compass	1,538	Rio Tinto	1,688
Convatec	3,137	Rolls-Royce	25,754
Croda	707	RS Group	1,496
DCC	121	Sage Gp	2,267
Diageo	3,584	Sainsbury J	3,940
Diploma	373	Schroders	2,209
EasyJet	3,195	Scot Mtge	1,792
Entain	2,222	Segro	971
Experian	569	Severn Trent	974
F&C Investment Tr	306	Shell	5,142
Flutter Ent	258	Smith & Neph	2,950
Frasers Group	196	Smith (DS)	8,883
Fresnillo	1,079	Smiths	384
Glencore	10,285	Smurfit Kappa	245
GlaxoSmKline	4,163	Spirax-Sarco	123
Haleon	14,185	SSE	2,837
Halma	336	St James Place	2,422
Hikma Pharms	159	Stand Chart	4,483
Howden Joinery	1,182	Taylor Wimpey	6,249
HSBC	15,148	Tesco	34,561
IMI	335	Unilever	4,168
Imperial Brands	3,563	Unite Group	699
Informa	1,823	Utd Utilities	2,215
Intercont Htls	378	Vodafone Gp	100,417
Intermed Capital	715	Weir	527
Intl Cons Air	7,847	Whitbread	1,518
Intertek	717	WPP	941

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	5.30	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Gold/precious metals

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Thursday.

Bullion: Open $2331.82
Close $2336.42-2336.77 High $2346.40
Low $2325.67
AM $2361.80 **PM** $2357.35
Platinum $ (£)
Silver $30.35 (£23.81)
Palladium $ (£)

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5070-1.5071
Canada	1.3653-1.3655
Denmark	6.8724-6.8729
Euro	0.9211-0.9211
Hong Kong	7.8130-7.8132
Japan	156.85-156.86
Malaysia	4.7090-4.7140
Norway	10.566-10.570
Singapore	1.3492-1.3493
Sweden	10.645-10.648
Switzerland	0.9135-0.9136

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	1135.6-1135.6
Australia dollar	1.9211-1.9212
Bahrain dinar	0.4768-0.4838
Brazil real	6.5600-6.5638
Euro	1.1742-1.1743
Hong Kong dollar	9.9600-9.9611
India rupee	105.89-105.89
Indonesia rupiah	20434-20440
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3901-0.3924
Malaysia ringgit	5.9887-5.9950
New Zealand dollar	2.0810-2.0815
Singapore dollar	1.7199-1.7202
S Africa rand	23.435-23.447
U A E dirham	4.6739-4.6741

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.921	
Canada $	1.741	
Denmark Kr	8.763	
Euro	1.174	
Hong Kong $	9.953	+0.03
Hungary	451.709	-2.73
Indonesia	20372.092	+43.25
Israel Shk	4.661	-0.01
Japan Yen	199.963	+0.37
New Zealand $	2.082	
Norway Kr	13.463	-0.08
Poland	5.001	
Russia	113.755	-1.13
S Africa Rd	23.469	
Sweden Kr	13.572	-0.07
Switzerland Fr	1.165	
Turkey Lira	41.036	+0.09
USA $	1.274	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Unit-linked insurance investments

ABBEY LIFE
01202 292373
80 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Ser 4	4599.80	4841.90	-40.70	...
Custodian S4	590.20	621.20	-4.90	...
Equity Ser 4	884.10	930.60	-6.90	...
Ethical S4	439.70	462.80	-4.40	...
European S4	1099.30	1157.20	-5.70	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	788.50	830.00	-9.80	...
High Inc Ser 4	2869.30	3020.40	-34.50	...
International S4	934.80	984.00	-7.20	...
Japan Ser 4	604.80	636.60	-1.90	...
Man Ser 4	2508.00	2640.00	-19.20	...
Money Ser 4	551.00	580.00	+0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	944.90	994.60	-2.80	...
Protected Gth S4	213.80	225.00	...	...

Fomerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fund	3382.30	3579.20	-20.30	...
European Fund	5764.80	6100.30	-15.40	...
Fixed Intl	878.90	930.00	-7.10	...
Income Fund	3458.40	3659.60	-33.20	...
International	2531.00	2678.30	-15.60	...
Managed Series A	2355.90	2493.00	-14.10	...
Managed Units	4310.20	4537.00	-25.60	...
Money Series A	501.60	530.80	+0.20	...
Money Units	710.10	747.50	+0.30	...
Property Series A	1307.20	1383.30	-4.50	...
Property Units	2425.50	2553.10	-8.10	...
Smaller Cos	2988.40	3162.40	+42.30	...

Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	371.10	390.70	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	295.20	310.70	-3.10	...
Fixed Interest	584.70	615.40	-7.30	...
Managed	2298.70	2419.70	-17.90	...
Mngd Growth	918.20	966.50	-7.60	...
Property	769.70	810.20	-2.30	...
TSB Intl	1787.00	1881.00	-13.80	...

AEGON SCOTTISH EQUITABLE
08456 100010
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	2526.46	2659.44	-15.22	...
Cash	288.83	304.03	+0.38	...
Distribution	98.57	103.76	-2.31	...
Ethical	752.78	792.40	-2.78	...
European	1534.23	1614.97	-8.93	...
Fixed Interest	482.59	507.99	-3.25	...
Global	432.01	454.75	-2.65	...
International	1296.49	1364.73	-7.35	...
Japan	501.17	527.54	-6.09	...
Mixed	1034.68	1089.13	-4.98	...
Pacific	1657.16	1744.37	-20.01	...
Technology	6988.68	7356.51	+21.19	...
UK Equity	1018.95	1072.58	+1.05	...

ALBA LIFE
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR
0141 248 2000
Formerly Britannia Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European	1844.80	1941.90	-10.10	...
Far East	653.30	687.70	-4.20	...
Fixed Interest	792.10	833.70	-7.00	...
International	1619.20	1704.40	-9.70	...
Japan	796.20	838.10	-3.30	...
Managed Fund	1630.40	1716.20	-7.10	...
Money Market	418.70	440.80	+0.20	...
North America	1719.20	1809.70	-8.80	...
Property	944.50	994.20	+0.60	...
UK Equity	3011.70	3170.20	-12.30	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	2146.70	2259.70	-10.50	...
European	2371.60	2496.40	-17.00	...
Far Eastern	530.70	558.60	-4.10	...
Fixed Interest	809.30	851.80	-9.00	...
International	1424.50	1499.40	-10.30	...
Japan	393.00	413.60	-1.80	...
Managed	1173.50	1235.20	-6.50	...
Money Market	501.90	528.30	+0.40	...
North America	2611.30	2748.70	-15.50	...
Property	869.80	915.60	+0.70	...

AXA SUN LIFE
PO Box 1810, Bristol BS99 5SN
AXA Assurance - 02476 235500
Sun Life - 0117 989 3000
AXA Equity & Law - 02476 235400
Life Assnce - AXA Equity & Law Series 6. 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balced Ser 6	2834.20	2983.40	-14.80	...
Europe Ser 6	2347.80	2471.40	-16.40	...
UK Equities Ser 6	4493.30	4729.80	-32.20	...

Life Funds - Sun Life (inc Birmingham Midshires)& AXA Assurance 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Acc	495.00	521.10	+0.20	...
Deffrd Dist	746.90	786.20	-4.30	...
Distribution Fund	350.10	368.60	-2.10	...
Equity Acc	6571.20	6917.00	-47.00	...
European	1108.80	1167.20	-7.70	...
Far Eastern Acc	2338.10	2461.20	-8.50	...
Fixed Int Acc	938.60	988.00	-8.80	...
Global Eqty Acc	3084.60	3246.90	-3.50	...
Japan Acc	375.00	394.80	-4.80	...
Managed Acc	3255.90	3427.20	-32.20	...
North Amer Acc	3870.30	4074.00	+8.30	...
Pacific Acc	1776.60	1870.10	+1.20	...
Property Acc	1135.30	1195.00	-0.30	...

BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
0845 603 5000
Level 12, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
500 Accum	1650.05	1736.89	-7.27	...
America Acc	3410.69	3590.20	-16.36	...
Comb Inc Acc	2990.30	3147.68	-15.97	...
Equity Acc	4409.51	4641.59	-19.10	...
Far East Gwth	1393.76	1467.12	+8.50	...
Gilt 2 Init	199.98	210.50	-2.18	...
Gilt Edged Acc	843.52	887.92	-8.63	...
Inter 2 Init	535.36	563.53	-2.77	...
International Acc	2256.66	2375.43	-10.15	...
Japan Acc	510.87	537.76	-4.16	...
Managed 2 Init	587.96	618.90	-3.53	...
Managed Acc	2469.99	2599.99	-13.19	...
Managed Alpha	1886.34	1985.62	-8.32	...
Money Acc	453.45	477.31	+0.14	...
Prop 2 Init	207.01	217.91	+0.02	...
Property Acc	867.78	913.45	+0.66	...
UK Growth Acc	1393.31	1466.64	-6.04	...
Univ Tech Acc	985.05	1036.89	-4.43	...

& AXA Assurance 1% AM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity 2 Init	1043.24	1098.14	-5.22	...

CANADA LIFE
01707 651122
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	320.20	337.00	-0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	1684.00	1772.00	-44.00	...
CLife Intl Fd	1662.00	1749.00	-16.00	...
Deposit Fund	542.60	571.10	+0.30	...
Equity	1174.00	1235.00	-17.00	...
Equity Fund	3442.00	3623.00	-14.00	...
European	2152.00	2265.00	-12.00	...
Fixed Interest	940.10	989.50	-9.90	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	631.20	664.40	+5.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	1113.00	1171.00	+3.00	...
International	3049.00	3209.00	-10.00	...
Intl Mgd	4104.00	4319.00	-12.00	...
Investment Fd	1466.00	1539.00	-25.00	...
Japanese	429.30	451.80	-3.90	...
Managed	1291.00	1358.00	-9.00	...
Managed Fund	2981.00	3137.00	-12.00	...
ML Intl Fxd Int	697.00	733.60	-0.30	...
Money	557.90	587.20	+0.30	...
Multiple Inv	3782.00	3981.00	-18.00	...
North Amer	2796.00	2943.00	-4.00	...
Property	1020.00	1073.00	+2.00	...
Property Fund	1789.00	1883.00	+1.00	...
UK Equity	5252.00	5528.00	-27.00	...
UK Property	1265.00	1331.00	+1.00	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290566
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	308.04	324.25	+0.19	...
Dist Acc S2	214.38	214.38	-1.31	...
Fidelity Bal	1267.79	1334.52	-6.99	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	498.97	525.23	-3.92	...
Non Eqty	403.64	424.88	-2.33	...
Nth American	3631.91	3823.07	-29.23	...
Property	669.23	704.45	-0.71	...
UK Gwth	1509.59	1589.04	-3.47	...
With Prof Bd S2	123.60	123.60	...	...
With Profits Flex	130.30	130.30	...	...
With Profits Reg	414.00	435.80	+0.20	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	355.09	373.78	+0.29	...
European	2449.47	2578.39	-18.33	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	565.34	595.09	-5.55	...
Halifax	142.88	150.40	...	...
Nth American	5721.64	6022.78	-36.88	...
PP Bal Pens	1287.62	1355.39	-8.32	...
PP Caut Pens	405.31	426.64	-2.95	...
PP UK Gth Pens	1342.71	1413.38	-3.82	...
PP UK Prop Pens	733.18	771.77	-0.61	...
With Profits Reg	767.20	807.60	+0.60	...
With Profits Spec	760.00	800.00	+0.60	...

COUNTRYWIDE ASSURED
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR
CA Funds 0800 262536

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Life	231.00	243.10	+0.20	...
Deposit Pen	326.60	343.70	+0.20	...
Intl Life	1197.90	1260.90	+2.70	...
Intl Pen	1684.50	1773.10	+3.10	...
Mgd Life	881.50	927.80	-1.90	...
Mgd Pen	1314.10	1383.20	-2.80	...
UK Eqty Life	928.60	977.40	-1.90	...
UK Eqty Pen	1203.60	1266.90	-4.20	...

CWA Series Funds 0870 600 0014

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd	1974.30	2078.20	-0.40	...
Glob Cash	379.20	399.20	+0.30	...
Glob Eqty	4147.10	4365.40	+9.20	...
Glob Fxd Int	1307.60	1376.40	-2.80	...
Glob Mgd	2627.40	2765.70	-1.90	...
Glob Prop	741.40	780.40	-0.10	...
Managed Fd	3283.30	3456.10	-2.40	...
Property Fd	609.50	641.60	-0.10	...

FRIENDS PROVIDENT
01722 413366
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	337.40	355.20	+0.20	...
European	1659.80	1747.20	-18.90	...
Fixed Inter Life	673.50	708.90	-6.20	...
Index Linked	560.20	589.70	-7.00	...
Managed	1240.80	1306.10	+0.70	...
North American	1533.70	1614.40	+3.00	...
Overseas Equity	2137.40	2249.90	-2.30	...
Pacific Basin	599.90	631.40	-1.90	...
Property	673.10	708.50	-0.30	...
Stewardship	1889.00	1988.40	-10.60	...
UK Equity	1965.10	2068.50	-3.80	...

Formerly London & Manchester Assurance

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-1.10	...
Equity Life ‡	...	...	-4.10	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-6.60	...
Fxd Int Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-1.30	...
Gtd Dep Ex Cap ‡	...	...	...	...
Guaranteed Deposit ‡	...	...	+0.40	...
Inter Life ‡	...	...	-2.30	...
Intl Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.70	...
Prop Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.10	...
Prop Life ‡	...	...	-0.30	...

FP Life Assurance ex NM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	4101.80	4317.70	+7.70	...
Deposit	563.10	592.70	+0.30	...
European	4027.60	4239.60	-46.40	...
Fixed Interest	1401.00	1474.70	-13.10	...
Income Acc	4626.20	4869.60	-14.80	...
Income Dist	747.20	786.50	-2.30	...
International	2111.80	2222.90	-2.40	...
Managed	2765.20	2910.70	+1.30	...
Mixed	1776.00	1869.50	-17.90	...
Property	1889.50	1988.90	-0.90	...
Singapore & Mal	1335.00	1405.20	+1.30	...
Tokyo Fund	1155.20	1216.00	-14.20	...
UK Equity	2709.10	2851.70	-5.30	...

Friends Prov (London & Manchester) Ass Ltd Fd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital Gth Acc ‡	...	...	+10.90	...
Flexible Acc ‡	...	...	+0.80	...
Flexible Cap ‡	...	...	-0.20	...
Inv Trust Acc ‡	...	...	-11.70	...
Inv Trust Cap ‡	...	...	-2.80	...
Moneymaker Acc ‡	...	...	+3.00	...

GUARDIAN
01253 733151
Ballam Rd, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 4JZ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	460.50	484.80	+0.20	...
Equity Life	5248.90	5525.20	-47.70	...
European	824.50	867.90	-6.30	...
Fixed Interest	1670.40	1758.40	-14.30	...
Index Linked	631.10	664.30	-5.40	...
Inter Life	3294.90	3468.30	-25.30	...
Managed Life	3020.10	3179.00	-23.90	...
North American	1693.00	1782.20	-13.10	...
Pacific	1022.10	1075.90	-7.90	...
Prop Life	1147.40	1207.80	-9.10	...

HALIFAX LIFE LTD
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	107.42	113.08	-0.58	...
Deposit	36.08	37.98	...	...
Foundation	112.52	118.44	-0.52	...
Opportunity	135.95	143.10	-0.64	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced S2	112.18	118.08	-0.71	...
Deposit S2	41.68	43.87	...	...
Foundation S2	114.70	120.74	-0.61	...
Opportunity S2	139.77	147.13	-0.74	...

INVESCO FUNDS MGMT LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS 020 7710 4567
Formerly GT Global Fund Mgmt Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Plan Far East	554.30	583.40	...	...
Plan Wwide	924.50	973.20	-0.10	...

LEGAL & GENERAL INVESTMENT MGMT
0203 1243000
One Coleman Street, EC2R 5AA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
B Soc Lnkd Init	136.20	143.40	...	...
Brit Opps Int	221.20	232.80	-3.70	...
British Opp	913.20	961.20	-10.70	...
Building Soc Linked	283.40	298.30	...	...
Cash	457.70	481.80	+0.30	...
Cash Initial	119.10	125.40	-0.30	...
Equity	5276.10	5553.80	-1.20	...
Equity Initial	1073.10	1129.60	-14.50	...
Fixed Initial	463.80	488.20	+3.70	...
Fixed Interest	1344.20	1414.90	-15.20	...
Index Linked Gilt	621.70	654.40	-10.80	...
Index Lkd	270.30	284.50	+0.60	...
International	2855.70	3006.00	-19.80	...
Intl Initial	537.00	565.30	-6.40	...
Life Property	1393.50	1466.90	+0.70	...
Managed	3343.60	3519.60	-22.20	...
Managed Initial	770.70	811.30	-3.70	...
Property Initial	349.80	368.20	-0.60	...

LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP
Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RZ
01452 371371 For further prices 0800 7315139
Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	719.00	756.80	-2.20	...
Balanced Mgd 3	1748.50	1840.50	-14.60	...
Cautious Mgd 2	490.90	516.70	-1.90	...
European	918.50	966.80	-3.00	...
Far Eastern	1831.40	1927.70	-12.10	...
Framlington	215.60	227.00	+0.40	...
Green	727.50	765.70	+0.20	...
International	699.90	736.70	-4.00	...
Japan	308.70	324.90	-7.00	...
North Amer	4988.70	5251.20	+10.50	...
Perpetual	468.00	492.60	-1.30	...
Schroders	1479.10	1556.90	+14.40	...
Select Mgd	147.80	155.60	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Inc	1540.30	1621.30	-39.50	...
UK Equity Gwth	2401.60	2528.00	-27.20	...
UK Fxd Int	510.80	537.60	-7.90	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	1003.20	1055.90	-3.70	...
Balanced Mgd 3	4036.20	4248.60	-36.40	...
Cautious Mgd 2	815.90	858.80	-3.90	...
European	1463.00	1539.90	-5.80	...
Far Eastern	2930.30	3084.50	-22.20	...
Framlington	258.10	271.70	+0.80	...
Green	1206.60	1270.10	+0.20	...
International	1058.80	1114.50	-6.50	...
Japan	390.00	410.50	-9.30	...
North Amer	15091.70	15886.00	+46.50	...
Perpetual	566.20	595.90	-1.90	...
Schroders	2846.70	2996.50	+33.90	...
Select Mgd	158.90	167.30	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Gwth	4323.80	4551.30	-59.20	...
UK Eqty Inc	2512.60	2644.80	-64.20	...
UK Fxd Int	1096.00	1153.60	-16.80	...

LLOYDS TSB LIFE LTD
01634 834000
Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1872.70	1971.30	-11.40	...
Managed	4029.40	4029.40	-20.30	...
Income	3875.80	4079.80	-16.20	...
Managed Inv	2079.20	2188.60	-10.70	...

Life Funds-Series Two-Current Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3994.20	4204.40	-19.10	...
Balanced	2886.10	3038.00	-9.00	...
Cash	429.80	452.40	+0.30	...
European Gth	1017.50	1071.10	-13.10	...
Fixed Interest	728.10	766.40	-8.00	...
German Growth	1876.20	1975.00	-12.30	...
Income	3569.20	3757.10	-15.10	...
Japan Growth	378.30	398.20	-2.00	...
Managed Inv	2268.70	2388.10	-11.50	...
Pacific Basin	1544.70	1626.00	-12.90	...
Property	1573.50	1656.30	-1.70	...
Smllr Cos Recov	5366.30	5648.80	+16.30	...
Worldwide Gth	2390.40	2516.20	-20.40	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Pens	2505.80	2637.70	-13.40	...
Cash Pen	328.20	345.40	+0.30	...
European Pen	1933.30	2035.10	-29.00	...
Far East Pen	664.10	699.00	-6.50	...
Fixed Int Pen	514.00	541.10	-7.10	...
FTSE 100	451.60	475.40	-3.10	...
Managed Pen	1126.50	1185.80	-6.80	...
Property Pen	968.00	1018.90	-0.80	...
UK Equity Pen	913.60	961.70	-3.40	...

LONDON LIFE
0117 984 7777
Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	534.30	534.30	+0.40	...
Deposit A	305.80	321.90	+0.20	...
Deposit P	731.50	731.50	+0.80	...
Equity	4627.80	4627.80	-9.70	...
Equity A	1027.10	1081.20	-2.20	...
Equity P	4100.40	4100.40	-10.70	...
Fixed Int A	480.00	505.30	-4.40	...
Fixed Int P	1729.30	1729.30	-20.20	...
Fixed Interest	1130.80	1130.80	-10.50	...
Index Stock A	512.30	539.30	-6.10	...
Index Stock P	856.80	856.80	-12.80	...
Indexed Stock	683.90	683.90	-8.10	...
International	1709.80	1709.80	-9.40	...
International A	1022.00	1075.80	-5.60	...
International P	2303.50	2303.50	-15.20	...
Mixed	2614.30	2614.30	-14.90	...
Mixed A	822.00	865.30	-4.70	...
Mixed P	2619.60	2619.60	-19.40	...
Property	817.10	817.10	+0.50	...
Property A	349.90	368.40	+0.20	...
Property P	671.90	671.90	+0.70	...

MERCHANT INVESTORS ASSURANCE CO LTD
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead
Bristol BS1 2NH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Far East	797.90	839.90	-9.30	...
Gilt Edged	1280.50	1347.90	-17.50	...
Interest Fund	580.30	610.80	+0.30	...
Intl Equity	2410.90	2537.80	-18.50	...
Managed Fd	1304.20	1372.80	-10.60	...
North American	1004.50	1057.40	-2.80	...
Property	1421.40	1496.20	+17.00	...
UK Equity	1304.10	1372.70	+11.70	...

MGM ASSURANCE
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing
BN11 2DY 01903 836000

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	114.48	120.50	-0.08	...
Deposit Acc	390.45	411.00	+0.28	...
Fixed Interest	387.54	407.93	-3.32	...
Fixed Interest Acc	1170.19	1231.78	-7.83	...
Managed	483.36	508.80	-9.19	...
Managed Acc	1716.95	1807.32	-12.53	...
Property	250.17	263.34	-0.42	...
Property Acc	805.05	847.42	-0.30	...

NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD
PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Growth Mgd Pens	633.13	666.46	-4.03	...

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP
01603 622200

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	640.17	673.87	+0.51	...
Eqity Fund	18003.13	18950.67	-127.41	...
Fixed Int Fd	1608.22	1692.86	-17.13	...
Higher Inc Plus	232.34	244.57	-1.00	...
Intl Fund	1497.35	1576.16	-9.11	...
Managed Fund	6980.08	7347.46	-36.59	...
Property Fd	2398.94	2525.20	+1.24	...

Formerly Commercial Union

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	322.30	339.30	+0.20	...
Fxd Int	505.90	532.60	-5.50	...
Index-Lnkd	509.60	536.40	-8.50	...
Int Equity	1637.00	1723.20	-10.20	...
Managed	1582.80	1666.10	-8.50	...
Property	810.00	852.70	+0.30	...
UK Equity	2165.20	2279.10	-15.60	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	...	...	+1.00	...
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	...	...	+23.90	...

Formerly General Accident

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1821.10	1917.00	-10.10	...
Cash Deposit	273.20	287.60	+0.20	...
Conv Life	431.60	454.20	...	...
European	1301.00	1369.40	+3.60	...
Fixed Int	424.90	447.30	-4.60	...
Index-Linked	494.80	520.80	-8.20	...
International	1039.60	1094.30	-5.50	...
Japan	445.30	468.80	-4.30	...
Japan Smllr Cos	455.60	479.50	-4.40	...
Managed	799.90	842.00	-4.30	...
Pacific Fund	1108.00	1166.30	+1.20	...
Property	588.10	619.10	+0.20	...
UK Equity	1239.60	1304.80	-8.90	...
Unitised Profit	426.70	449.20	+0.30	...

Formerly Provident Mutual

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Initial	87.40	92.00	...	...
Deposit Ord	337.00	354.70	+0.30	...
Equity Init	827.80	871.40	-6.50	...
Equity Ord	3240.50	3411.00	-23.20	...
Fixed Int Init	167.00	175.80	-1.90	...
Fixed Int Ord	642.40	676.20	-6.80	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	177.50	186.90	-3.10	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	623.30	656.10	-10.40	...
Managed Initial	487.70	513.40	-2.90	...
Managed Ord	1888.80	1988.20	-10.00	...
Oseas Equity Init	521.70	549.10	-3.50	...
Oseas Equity Ord	2138.50	2251.00	-13.20	...
Property Init	245.50	258.40	...	...
Property Ord	944.40	994.20	+0.40	...

NPI
020 7477 5567
55 Moorgate, London EC2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Americas	3087.10	3249.60	-11.20	...
Deposit	377.00	396.90	+0.20	...
Far East	1836.50	1933.20	-17.80	...
Fixed Interest	923.00	971.60	-8.60	...
Indexed Gilt	655.40	689.90	-7.80	...
Managed	1829.70	1926.00	-10.80	...
Overseas Equity	2740.80	2885.10	-14.70	...
UK Equity	2755.90	2901.00	-5.90	...

PEARL
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY 01733 470 470

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Inv Equity	6559.20	6904.50	-18.70	...
Inv Managed	4198.00	4419.00	-24.80	...
Inv Prop Ac Grs	916.00	964.30	+0.80	...
Inv Prop Dist	289.90	305.20	+0.30	...
Ret Managed	5008.70	5272.40	-36.80	...

PHOENIX LIFE LTD
Edward Pavilion, Liverpool L3 4SL 0151 239 3000
For further fund prices please ring: 0800 731 2031
For further fund prices please ring 0800 731 2031
Broker Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Moneyhill Grth	510.43	537.29	+2.58	...

Lifestyle Bond Funds (Post 29/1/01)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cautious Mgd	271.00	271.00	-2.10	...
Deposit	160.40	160.40	+0.10	...
Equity	308.50	308.50	-2.40	...
Equity Inc	333.50	333.50	-4.30	...
European	411.90	411.90	-2.00	...
Eurotech	90.10	90.10	-0.20	...
Far East	441.10	441.10	-4.00	...
Fixed Int	199.50	199.50	-2.40	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	329.70	329.70	-1.50	...
Income Dist I	115.50	115.50	-3.20	...
Income Dist II	115.60	115.60	-1.20	...
International	361.50	361.50	-3.00	...
Japan Grth	234.70	234.70	-0.70	...
Managed	308.30	308.30	-2.20	...
North America	575.10	575.10	-4.50	...
Pacific Grth	656.10	656.10	-7.50	...
Property	358.50	358.50	+0.30	...
UK Leader	316.40	316.40	-1.50	...
UK Smlr Cos	326.50	326.50	+4.50	...
With Profits	163.62	163.62	+0.15	...

Other Life & Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Pens Unit W Prof	261.07	274.81	+0.31	...
With Profits Bd	200.16	200.16	+0.19	...

Pensions Solution Funds (Post 6/4/2001)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Grth	307.80	307.80	-2.90	...
Cash Deposit	173.00	173.00	+0.20	...
Equity	321.90	321.90	-3.10	...
Equity Inc	346.50	346.50	-5.10	...
European	496.30	496.30	-3.20	...
Eurotech	173.80	173.80	+4.40	...
Far East	533.70	533.70	-5.90	...
Fixed Int	223.20	223.20	-3.30	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	376.20	376.20	-1.90	...
Index Linked	268.40	268.40	-6.00	...
International	444.90	444.90	-4.50	...
Managed Grth	343.90	343.90	-3.00	...
Pens Protector	206.20	206.20	-5.80	...
Property	466.00	466.00	+0.50	...
UK Leader	349.60	349.60	-1.90	...
Unitised W Prof	221.50	221.50	+0.27	...

PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS
0345 601601
55 King's Road, Reading, RG1 3AH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Fund ‡	...	...	-1.20	...
N American Fd ‡	...	...	-4.60	...
Strategic Fund	644.30	678.20	-11.00	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund ‡	...	...	+0.10	...
Equity Fund ‡	...	...	-20.90	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-12.80	...
Intl Fund ‡	...	...	-17.70	...
Managed Fund ‡	...	...	-20.40	...
Property Fund ‡	...	...	+1.20	...

PRUDENTIAL LIFE FUNDS
01786 448844
PO Box 14962, Craigforth, Stirling, FK9 4ZD
Others

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
BonusBond	286.90	286.90	-1.60	...
Cap Gteed Bd	390.40	410.90	+1.20	...
Prud Inher Bd (Cap) ‡	...	...	-1.00	...
Prud Inher Bd (Inc) ‡	...	...	...	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	386.20	406.60	+0.20	...
Equity ‡	...	...	-8.00	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-9.40	...
Index-Linked	556.50	556.50	-7.90	...
International ‡	...	...	-12.50	...
Managed ‡	...	...	-12.40	...
Property	964.90	964.90	+0.80	...

The M & G Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Bond Acc	1351.10	1418.80	-21.40	...
Deposit Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+0.20	...
Equity Bond Acc	5765.40	5765.40	-18.70	...
Euro Smlr Cos	209.30	219.90	-21.90	...
European Bd Acc	2498.50	2498.50	+8.50	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	4754.80	4754.80	-31.10	...
Gbl Basics Bd Acc	1161.30	1219.40	+16.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc ‡	...	...	-10.20	...
High Yield Bond	465.30	465.30	-3.60	...
Index-Lnkd Gt Bd	375.60	394.40	-6.10	...
International Bd	6758.90	6758.90	+32.40	...
Japan Bond Acc	552.40	552.40	-5.80	...
Japan Sm Cos Acc	235.80	247.70	-3.80	...
Managed Bond Acc	3965.00	3965.00	-23.00	...
Prop Bond Acc	1347.60	1347.60	+1.00	...
Rec Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+38.30	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	1300.20	1365.30	-20.40	...

PRUDENTIAL PENSION FUNDS
Scottish Amicable Non Series A

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
100% Safeguard	155.80	164.00	...	...
95% Safeguard	171.90	180.90	+1.80	...

SAVE & PROSPER INSURANCE AND PENSIONS
St James's House, 27-43 Eastern Rd, Romford RM1 3NH
Customer Helpline: 0845 3000144

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Inv Fund	391.20	411.80	-0.90	...
Deposit Fund (2)	673.80	709.30	+0.30	...
Gilt Fund	1431.30	1506.60	-8.00	...
Global Equity Fd	1954.00	2056.80	+4.40	...
Property Fund (46)	270.80	285.10	+0.10	...

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
0131 225 2211
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	2162.20	2276.10	-13.60	...
Deposit	327.10	344.40	+0.20	...
European	3246.00	3416.90	-10.50	...
Fixed Interest	685.20	721.30	-5.50	...
Global Mgd	1705.60	1795.40	-10.00	...
Index Linked	674.60	710.20	-9.00	...
Managed	1479.00	1556.90	-2.20	...
Pacific	1266.40	1333.10	-9.10	...
Pen Worldwide	613.40	645.70	-5.10	...
Property	915.50	963.70	+0.10	...
UK Equity	1895.90	1995.70	-13.20	...
Worldwide	527.70	555.50	-3.10	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE
0141 248 6321
301 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	296.10	311.70	+0.20	...
European Fund	2447.30	2576.10	-13.50	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	511.50	538.40	-5.00	...
Growth Fund	935.80	985.10	-4.80	...
International Fd	1442.70	1518.70	-8.00	...
North American	2753.10	2898.00	-14.40	...
Opportunity Fd	951.50	1001.60	-4.40	...
Safety Fund	630.20	663.40	-3.40	...
UK Equity	1095.60	1153.20	-5.40	...

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
0131 556 9181
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	313.90	330.40	+0.20	...
Equity	1011.90	1065.20	+0.60	...
Fixed Interest	682.50	718.40	-5.80	...
Index Linked	492.60	518.50	-5.90	...
International	1207.50	1271.10	-6.70	...
Managed	965.90	1016.70	-4.60	...
Property	558.60	588.00	-0.10	...

Formerly Prolific

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Adventurous Mg	961.10	1011.70	-4.50	...
Bal Gwth Mngd	2930.50	3084.80	-13.90	...
Cash Fund	568.70	598.70	+0.30	...
Cautious Mngd	392.70	413.40	-2.00	...
Equity Fund	4223.30	4445.60	-23.30	...
Equity Inc Dist	163.90	172.60	-0.80	...
European	955.40	1005.70	-5.20	...
Extra Income Fd	1529.20	1609.70	-7.90	...
Far East	2227.50	2344.80	-14.30	...
Fxd Interest Fund	1108.60	1167.00	-10.90	...
High Income	3359.20	3536.00	-14.50	...
International	1449.80	1526.20	-8.70	...
Managed Dist	138.80	146.20	-0.60	...
North American	4541.90	4781.00	-23.50	...
Property Fund	842.50	886.90	+0.80	...
Technology	9659.50	10167.90	+14.90	...
UK Mid Cap	3747.00	3944.30	+6.90	...

Henderson Investment Bonds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	386.00	406.40	+0.20	...
European Fund	1567.20	1649.70	-8.50	...
Far East Fund	2188.80	2304.00	-14.00	...
Fixed Interest	53.90	56.80	-0.50	...
Global Managed	1695.40	1784.70	-8.00	...
North America	2034.60	2141.70	-10.50	...
UK Equity Fd	1094.80	1152.50	-6.20	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS GROUP
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	377.70	397.50	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	2778.50	2924.70	-8.40	...
Fixed Interest Fd	900.10	947.50	-9.90	...
Indexed Stock Fd	625.10	658.00	-7.90	...
International Fd	2793.00	2940.00	-17.80	...
Inv Cash	576.90	607.30	+0.40	...
Inv Pol 1	6224.40	6224.40	+49.80	...
Inv Pol 2	5255.10	5531.60	+41.80	...
Inv Pol 3	4309.20	4536.00	+33.80	...
Mixed Fund	2154.80	2268.20	-10.10	...
Property Fund	932.20	981.30	-0.90	...

SKANDIA LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
01703 334411
Skandia House, Portland Terrace
Southampton SO9 7BX

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc	947.70	997.50	+4.90	...
Equity Acc	2295.30	2416.10	+0.80	...
Global Acc	812.50	855.20	-1.20	...
Property	580.30	610.80	+0.40	...

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	451.20	...	+0.20	...
Equity ‡	5101.50	...	-16.90	...
European ‡	1102.90	...	-10.70	...
Far East ‡	570.70	...	-1.50	...
Fixed Interest ‡	1014.70	...	-10.10	...
Index Linked ‡	592.40	...	-7.20	...
International ‡	3223.50	...	-4.60	...
Managed ‡	3305.90	...	-4.60	...
Nth American ‡	1277.50	...	+5.10	...
Property ‡	783.20	...	-0.20	...

Pensions (Series 4)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	141.60	...	+0.10	...
Equity ‡	280.00	...	+0.80	...
European ‡	344.00	...	-2.00	...
Far East ‡	311.90	...	+1.70	...
Fixed Interest ‡	223.70	...	+0.40	...
Index Linked ‡	218.60	...	-3.30	...
International ‡	416.70	...	+1.10	...
Managed ‡	312.90	...	+1.00	...
Nth American ‡	502.70	...	+4.40	...
Property ‡	259.10	...	-0.90	...
Stock Exchange ‡	419.80	...	+1.30	...

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ
Dealing: 01256 841414

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Account	8148.90	8148.90	-92.20	...
Equity Fund Acc	3054.00	3214.70	-34.90	...
Equity II	7015.00	7384.20	-81.20	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	762.60	802.70	-11.70	...
Growth Acc	9672.80	9672.80	-109.50	...
Indx-Lnkd Scs Acc	517.90	545.10	-10.30	...
Managed Account ‡	...	...	-37.40	...
Managed IV	4116.20	4332.80	-34.40	...
Mngd Fund Acc	1818.70	1914.40	-14.90	...
Money Fund Acc	352.70	371.20	+0.20	...
Pens Equity	2020.10	2126.40	-27.80	...
Pens Fixed Int	974.40	1025.60	-15.00	...
Pens Guarantee	1602.30	1686.60	+1.50	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	658.70	693.30	-13.20	...
Pens Intl	1522.50	1602.60	-7.30	...
Pens Mngd Acct	4794.90	5047.20	-43.40	...
Pens Money	458.60	482.70	+0.30	...
Pens Property	1693.60	1782.70	+1.80	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	...	...	-93.60	...
Prop Fund Acc	1308.90	1377.70	+1.20	...

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCIAL LIFE LTD
0845 845 5555
PO Box 23042, Edinburgh EH3 8YG

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	321.60	321.60	-2.10	...
Intl Growth	531.90	531.90	-3.20	...
UK Growth	319.40	319.40	-1.80	...

WINDSOR LIFE ASSUR CO LTD
01952 292929
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire
Formerly AEtna
1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Deposit	347.10	365.40	+0.10	...
Far East Equity	1866.40	1964.60	-13.30	...
Fixed	656.80	691.30	-8.20	...
Index-Linked Fd	623.00	655.70	-11.00	...
Managed	1651.70	1738.70	-13.20	...
N Amer Equity	2841.20	2990.70	-23.00	...
Property	480.10	505.40	+0.30	...
Special Opp	2321.30	2443.40	-14.70	...
UK Equity	1830.40	1926.80	-17.00	...

Formerly AEGON Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	2303.30	2437.30	-18.30	...
Fixed Interest	609.10	644.50	-7.60	...
International	2832.80	2997.70	-22.90	...
Money	418.60	442.90	+0.20	...
Property	1209.40	1279.80	+0.90	...
UK Equity	3028.60	3204.80	-28.00	...

Formerly Crown

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Life Equity Acc	4628.80	4872.50	-42.70	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	765.50	805.80	-9.60	...
Life High Inc Acc	3765.40	3963.60	-37.50	...
Life Intl Acc	3448.00	3629.40	-27.60	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	4034.20	4246.50	-32.10	...
Life Managed Acc	2908.70	3061.80	-23.30	...
Life Money Acc	500.20	526.50	+0.20	...
Life Property Acc	707.10	744.30	+0.50	...

Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	67.57	71.13	-0.76	...
Bull	83.57	87.97	-0.68	...
Deposit	22.92	24.12	+0.01	...
Gilt Edged	35.95	37.84	-0.45	...
Owl	101.80	107.10	-0.90	...
Squirrel	30.30	31.90	+0.01	...
Stag	104.70	110.20	-0.70	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	115.20	121.30	-1.60	...
Bull	132.40	139.40	-1.30	...
Deposit	36.96	38.90	+0.01	...
Gilt Edged	56.97	59.96	-0.89	...
Owl	156.20	164.40	-1.70	...
Squirrel	49.40	52.00	+0.01	...
Stag	173.70	182.90	-1.30	...

Pre 1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
3-Way Fund	3354.70	3354.70	-26.50	...

Gresham

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American & Genrl	5686.50	5985.80	-45.80	...
Capital Fund	2865.00	3015.80	-26.60	...
Equity Fund	3263.80	3435.60	-30.20	...
Fixed Interest	617.30	649.80	-7.80	...
Income	1123.50	1182.60	-10.40	...
International Gth	4569.60	4810.10	-36.80	...
Japan & General	697.50	734.20	-3.60	...
Managed Bond	3694.60	3889.00	-29.40	...
Money Fund	538.10	566.40	+0.30	...
Property Fund	1126.90	1186.20	+0.90	...
Recovery Fund	3070.20	3231.80	-19.40	...

WINTERTHUR LIFE UK LIMITED
01256 470707
Winterthur Way, Basingstoke RG21 6SZ
Formerly Colonial

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	285.70	...	...	...
Cash Inv Pens ‡	532.70	...	-0.10	...
Cash Pens ‡	146.40	...	-0.10	...
Equity ‡	1403.90	...	-0.30	...
Equity Inv Pens	10423.60	10972.20	-75.00	...
Equity Pens Cap	2530.90	2664.10	-19.80	...
Fxd Int ‡	1003.90	...	-7.20	...
Fxd Int Inv Pens ‡	2451.20	...	-12.30	...
Fxd Int Pens Cap ‡	677.60	...	-3.30	...
Idx Lk Inv Pens ‡	1479.60	...	...	...
Idx Lk Pens Cap ‡	408.40	...	-0.40	...
Key ‡	...	...	-2.40	...
Managed	1452.80	1529.30	-6.50	...
Mngd Inv Pens	4026.10	4238.00	-20.00	...
Mngd Pens Cap	979.80	1031.40	-5.50	...
Pacemaker ‡	...	...	-4.60	...

ZURICH ASSURANCE LTD
0845 300 2332
UK Life Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	12534.50	13194.20	-59.30	...
Managed (1)	1199.70	1262.80	-5.20	...
Managed (2)	911.50	959.50	-4.00	...
Managed (3) ‡	719.30	...	-2.90	...
Mangd Gen 4	170.80	179.80	-0.70	...
Property	1869.90	1968.30	+1.30	...
Property (1)	391.20	411.80	+0.20	...
Property (2) ‡	430.60	...	+0.30	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (1)	1729.70	1820.70	-7.90	...
Equity Acc	36170.00	38073.70	-211.50	...
Managed Acc	18870.50	19863.70	-100.30	...
Property (1)	745.00	784.20	+0.50	...
Property (2) ‡	800.60	...	+0.70	...
Property Acc	8905.90	9374.70	+6.10	...
With Profs (5) ‡	248.80	...	+0.20	...
With Profs (6) ‡	218.50	...	+0.10	...

Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (2) ‡	913.50	...	-4.00	...

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
102.04	94.31	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	98.94	− .15	...	0.27
97.51	86.94	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	92.53	− .30	...	0.75
109.59	97.89	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	103.70	− .36	1.14	0.83
93.64	82.06	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	88.00	− .39	...	1.00
100.48	87.85	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	93.98	− .45	...	1.04
91.62	78.66	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	85.09	− .46	...	1.08
99.02	84.97	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	91.54	− .51	0.68	1.13
87.90	73.97	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	80.31	− .53	...	1.25
85.79	71.18	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	77.67	− .56	...	1.30
98.17	81.61	Tr IL 0¾% 47	88.86	− .67	0.86	1.30
84.12	68.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	75.11	− .65	...	1.33
111.37	102.81	Tr IL 1¼% 32	107.03	− .20	1.17	0.41
105.97	96.67	Tr IL 0¾% 34	101.47	− .22	...	0.60
255.16	232.58	Tr IL 2% 35 *	246.05	− .49	0.99	0.74
91.83	74.48	Tr IL 0½% 50	81.33	− .73	...	1.36
79.61	60.17	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	67.84	− .82	...	1.30
87.64	65.01	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	72.93	− .94	...	1.28
80.58	56.59	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	64.03	− .93	...	1.24
80.56	55.84	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	62.98	− .98	...	1.22
85.48	57.30	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	65.19	−1.13	...	1.04
105.68	99.63	Tr IL 1¼% 27	103.42	− .10	1.32	0.26
101.48	94.64	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	99.53	− .11	...	0.24
101.18	94.22	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	98.87	− .12	...	0.36
352.15	327.00	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	342.67	− .44	1.88	0.45
99.88	95.63	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	99.16	− .01	...	0.59
384.89	373.57	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	384.89	+ .10	1.41	2.18
85.27	67.57	Tr IL 0¼% 52	74.57	− .70	...	1.35
111.88	89.61	Tr IL 1¼% 55	97.68	− .95	1.41	1.34
80.36	61.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	68.97	− .81	...	1.30

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
65.96	55.47	Tr 1¼% 41	60.38	+ .01	...	4.58
103.20	88.06	Tr 4¼% 46	93.99	− .05	4.52	4.68
54.50	44.13	Tr 0⅞% 46	48.79	− .01	...	4.65
61.84	50.63	Tr 1½% 47	55.40	− .03	...	4.67
64.47	52.73	Tr 1¾% 49	57.54	− .03	...	4.67
103.39	87.41	Tr 4¼% 49	93.42	− .05	4.55	4.69
45.18	35.01	Tr 0⅝% 50	39.39	− .03	...	4.62
110.65	97.75	Tr 4¾% 38	102.76	+ .06	4.62	4.49
68.96	58.95	Tr 1⅛% 39	63.95	+ .02	...	4.51
104.41	91.74	Tr 4¼% 39	96.88	+ .01	4.39	4.53
104.06	90.94	Tr 4¼% 40	96.24	− .02	...	4.58
82.46	65.49	Tr 0⅛% 51	72.24	− .70	...	1.36
54.44	43.31	Tr 1¼% 51	47.81	− .03	...	4.65
89.38	76.53	Tr 3¼% 44	81.97	− .03	...	4.66
106.98	92.93	Tr 4½% 42	98.47	− .02	4.57	4.62
92.46	78.97	Tr 3½% 45	84.54	− .03	...	4.68
95.61	79.70	Tr 3¾% 52	85.50	− .06	...	4.68
59.81	47.33	Tr 1¾% 57	51.86	− .06	...	4.59
101.27	83.11	Tr 4% 60	89.12	− .09	...	4.63
35.11	25.35	Tr 0½% 61	29.19	− .05	...	4.35
71.88	57.02	Tr 2½% 65	62.08	− .07	...	4.55
92.27	74.17	Tr 3½% 68	80.21	− .11	...	4.54
53.52	40.77	Tr 1⅝% 71	44.95	− .07	...	4.40
43.26	31.56	Tr 1⅛% 73	35.57	− .06	...	4.26
95.12	79.19	Tr 3¾% 53	85.00	− .06	...	4.70
56.99	45.42	Tr 1½% 53	49.89	− .04	...	4.66
58.53	46.56	Tr 1⅝% 54	51.10	− .04	...	4.64
104.47	87.03	Tr 4¼% 55	92.98	− .07	4.57	4.68

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
87.89	80.26	Tr 0⅛% 28	86.15	+ .06	...	4.23
87.00	78.59	Tr 0½% 29	84.57	+ .05	...	4.17
87.56	79.16	Tr 0⅞% 29	84.49	+ .05	...	4.11
82.30	73.68	Tr 0⅜% 30	79.24	+ .08	...	4.09
108.84	100.56	Tr 4¾% 30	103.60	+ .05	4.58	4.12
79.41	70.82	Tr 0¼% 31	76.22	+ .07	...	4.11
83.29	74.53	Tr 1% 32	79.46	+ .05	...	4.15
106.47	97.27	Tr 4¼% 32	100.87	+ .04	4.21	4.12
98.51	88.88	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	93.18	+ .06	...	4.20
92.76	84.91	Tr 1⅝% 28	89.96	+ .04	...	4.14
112.12	104.85	Tr 6% 28	107.47	+ .01	5.58	4.17
78.94	69.76	Tr 0⅞% 33	74.78	+ .07	...	4.22
106.09	94.63	Tr 4¼% 36	99.03	+ .05	4.29	4.36
78.76	68.31	Tr 1¾% 37	73.40	+ .07	...	4.42
92.93	86.03	Tr 1¼% 27	91.11	+ .05	...	4.30
103.26	96.63	Tr 4¼% 27	99.88	+ .03	4.25	4.29
101.63	95.72	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	99.00	+ .02	...	4.52
91.67	85.12	Tr 0⅜% 26	90.81	+ .07	...	4.45
95.10	89.51	Tr 1½% 26	94.02	+ .05	...	4.44
99.47	87.49	Tr 3¼% 38	92.76	+ .05	...	4.46
108.46	97.71	Tr 4½% 34	101.76	+ .05	4.42	4.29
71.97	62.36	Tr 0⅝% 35	67.56	+ .07	...	4.31

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
95.98	91.28	Tr 0⅝% 25	95.85	+ .05	...	4.81
96.99	92.80	Tr 2% 25	96.57	+ .05	...	4.80
99.21	95.02	Tr 3½% 25	98.16	+ .03	...	4.87
93.31	87.71	Tr 0⅛% 26	93.05	+ .06	...	4.48
99.42	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	99.42	+ .02	...	4.69
100.89	99.24	Tr 5% 25	100.03	+ .01	5.00	4.99
97.11	92.14	Tr 0¼% 25	97.08	+ .06	...	4.68

* maturities as having a 3-month indexation lag and which trade on a real clean price basis, excluding inflation adjustment charge

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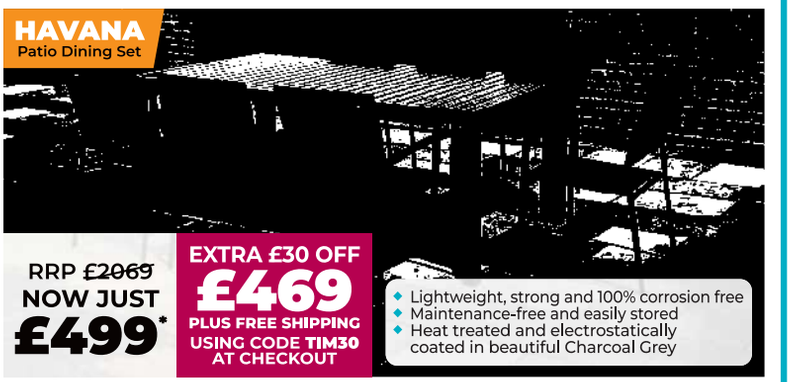

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Wed 23	**Embark *Spirit of Discovery* and depart Portsmouth**
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Mon 28	**Santa Cruz, La Palma** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Tue 29	**Las Palmas, Gran Canaria**
Wed 30	**Santa Cruz, Tenerife** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Thu 31	**Arrecife, Lanzarote**

NOVEMBER 2024

Sat 2	**Lisbon, Portugal** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Mon 5	**Arrive in Portsmouth**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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NOVEMBER 2024

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Wed 27	**Las Palmas, Gran Canaria**
Thu 28	**Santa Cruz, Tenerife** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Fri 29	**San Sebastian, La Gomera**
Sat 30	**Santa Cruz, La Palma** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★

DECEMBER 2024

Sun 1	**Funchal, Madeira**
Tue 3	**Lisbon, Portugal** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Fri 6	**Arrive in Portsmouth**

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Sat 9	**La Coruña, Spain**
Tue 12	**Arrecife, Lanzarote** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Wed 13	**Puerto del Rosario, Fuerteventura**
Thu 14	**Las Palmas, Gran Canaria** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Fri 15	**Santa Cruz, Tenerife**
Sat 16	**Santa Cruz, La Palma** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Sun 17	**Funchal, Madeira** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Thu 21	**Arrive in Portsmouth**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 5TH DECEMBER 2024

DECEMBER 2024

Thu 5	**Embark *Spirit of Discovery* and depart Portsmouth**
Sat 7	**Ferrol, Spain**
Tue 10	**Arrecife, Lanzarote** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Wed 11	**Las Palmas, Gran Canaria**
Thu 12	**Santa Cruz, Tenerife** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Fri 13	**Santa Cruz, La Palma** ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Sat 14 - Sun 15	**Funchal, Madeira** (arrive midday – overnight – depart early pm) ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion×★
Thu 19	**Arrive in Portsmouth**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Today Patchy cloud and rain across southern Britain and Ireland, largely dry in the north. Max 21C (70F), min 7C (45F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	12	D	3.8	0.0
Aberporth	11	C	0.0	0.0
Anglesey	11	D	0.8	0.0
Aviemore	12	C	1.4	0.0
Barnstaple	14	PC	0.0	**
Bedford	14	B	0.0	**
Belfast	12	R	1.4	0.0
Birmingham	12	C	0.0	**
Bournemouth	15	C	0.0	4.7
Bridlington	15	C	0.0	**
Bristol	13	R	0.0	0.0
Camborne	13	R	0.0	3.5
Cardiff	13	R	0.0	0.2
Edinburgh	14	C	37.8	0.0
Eskdalemuir	13	D	2.4	0.0
Glasgow	14	C	20.4	0.0
Hereford	13	C	0.0	**
Herstmonceux	16	C	0.0	10.2
Ipswich	15	B	0.0	4.4
Isle of Man	12	C	0.8	0.2
Isle of Wight	16	PC	0.0	**
Jersey	15	PC	0.0	9.3
Keswick	14	D	2.8	**
Kinloss	13	D	4.4	0.0
Leeds	11	C	0.2	**
Lerwick	12	FG	7.2	0.0
Leuchars	14	C	7.4	0.0
Lincoln	13	R	0.0	2.8
Liverpool	14	C	0.4	**
London	15	C	0.0	4.1
Lyneham	11	C	1.0	0.4
Manchester	12	R	1.8	0.0
Margate	14	D	0.0	6.3
Milford Haven	15	C	0.0	**
Newcastle	15	R	3.8	**
Nottingham	13	D	0.0	0.6
Orkney	14	**	0.2	0.0
Oxford	14	**	0.0	**
Plymouth	14	C	0.0	**
Portland	14	C	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	14	C	0.0	**
Shoreham	16	C	0.0	7.4
Shrewsbury	12	C	0.0	0.0
Snowdonia	10	D	1.8	**
Southend	17	S	0.0	7.8
South Uist	12	R	0.0	**
Stornoway	12	C	2.2	0.0
Tiree	12	C	0.0	**
Whitehaven	11	M	0.2	0.1
Wick	13	PC	1.2	**
Yeovilton	15	C	0.0	0.7

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	23	PC	Madeira	21	PC
Amsterdam	19	R	Madrid	24	PC
Athens	26	PC	Malaga	23	S
Auckland	16	PC	Mallorca	28	PC
Bahrain	36	S	Malta	24	PC
Bangkok	30	PC	Melbourne	13	B
Barbados	31	B	Mexico City	30	PC
Barcelona	20	PC	Miami	32	PC
Beijing	20	R	Milan	18	PC
Beirut	25	PC	Mombasa	30	B
Belgrade	18	PC	Montreal	23	B
Berlin	24	S	Moscow	18	S
Bermuda	25	B	Mumbai	33	**
Bordeaux	19	S	Munich	17	PC
Brussels	14	R	Nairobi	23	B
Bucharest	27	S	Naples	24	PC
Budapest	18	SH	New Orleans	31	B
Buenos Aires	14	S	New York	26	PC
Cairo	29	S	Nice	19	SH
Calcutta	35	**	Nicosia	29	PC
Canberra	14	S	Oslo	20	SH
Cape Town	24	S	Paris	19	PC
Chicago	26	PC	Perth	26	S
Copenhagen	18	B	Prague	18	PC
Corfu	28	S	Reykjavik	10	R
Delhi	38	**	Riga	27	S
Dubai	36	S	Rio de Janeiro	30	PC
Dublin	11	R	Riyadh	39	S
Faro	23	S	Rome	24	S
Florence	23	PC	San Francisco	18	PC
Frankfurt	18	R	Santiago	10	PC
Geneva	17	PC	São Paulo	26	S
Gibraltar	21	PC	Seoul	17	M
Helsinki	24	S	Seychelles	31	PC
Hong Kong	26	SH	Singapore	29	B
Honolulu	29	PC	St Petersburg	26	S
Istanbul	21	B	Stockholm	20	S
Jerusalem	27	PC	Sydney	18	B
Johannesburg	20	S	Tel Aviv	27	PC
Kuala Lumpur	33	PC	Tenerife	24	B
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	25	S
Lanzarote	23	PC	Vancouver	15	PC
Las Palmas	23	PC	Venice	20	PC
Lima	16	M	Vienna	19	B
Lisbon	25	S	Warsaw	27	PC
Los Angeles	18	C	Washington	28	B
Luxor	42	S	Zurich	19	B

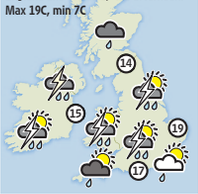
Five days ahead

An unsettled period with bright intervals and frequent outbreaks of rain and showers

Tomorrow

A day of bright intervals and scattered showers, heaviest and perhaps turning thundery across southern Ireland, England and Wales by the afternoon.

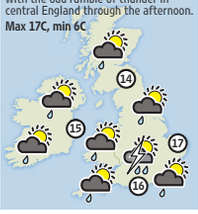
Max 19C, min 7C



Monday

Bright spells and showery outbreaks of rain, heaviest across southern Britain with the odd rumble of thunder in central England through the afternoon.

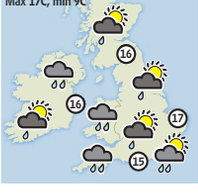
Max 17C, min 6C



Tuesday

Patchy cloud and outbreaks of rain, heaviest across Northern Ireland through the morning and southwest Britain by the afternoon.

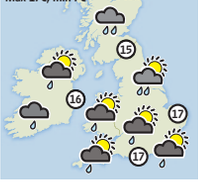
Max 17C, min 9C



Wednesday

An unsettled day for most with bright periods and spells of rain and showers, heaviest and most widespread across northern Britain through the morning.

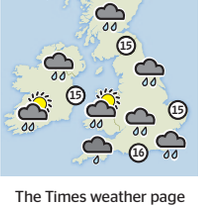
Max 17C, min 7C



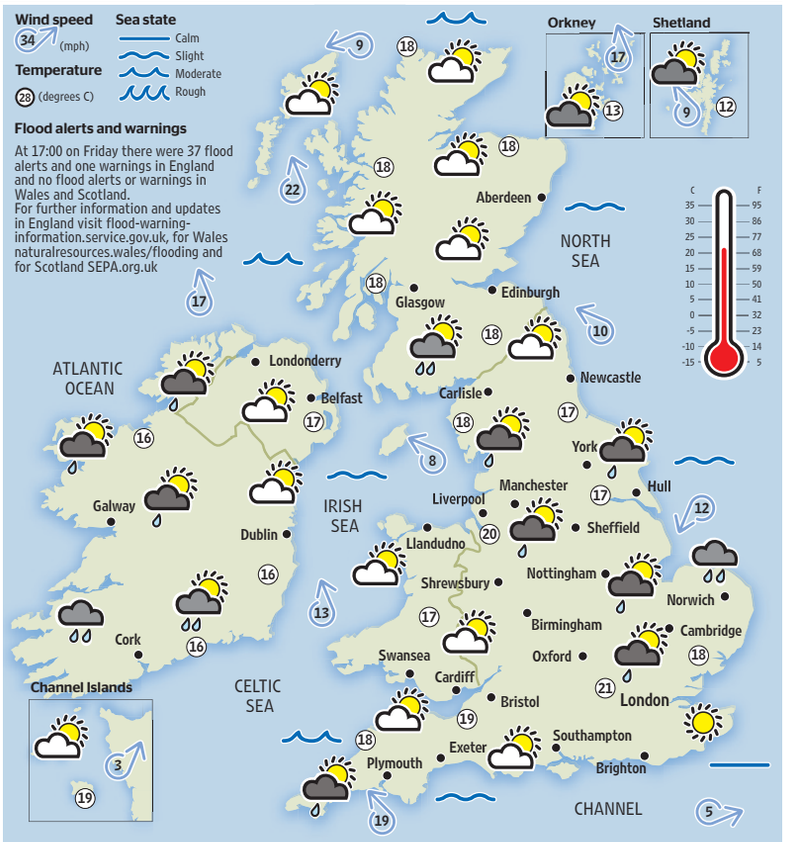
Thursday

A day of thick cloud and showery rain, heaviest across Scotland in the morning and eastern Britain through the afternoon.

Max 16C, min 7C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

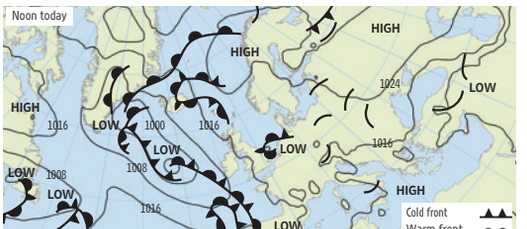


General situation: Bright periods and spells of rain and showers in southern areas, mainly dry in northern Scotland. **Edinburgh and Dundee, Cen Highland, NW Scotland, NE Scotland, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Argyll, N Isles:** Early mist and fog clearing to leave a largely dry day with sunny spells and one or two showers. Light to moderate south to southeasterly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 7C (45F). **Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** A mainly dry morning with the odd isolated shower in places. Patchy cloud and spells of rain by the afternoon, heaviest in the south. Light to moderate south to southeasterly winds, fresh over the hills. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 8C (46F). **Glasgow, SW Scotland, Lake District, Borders, NE Eng, NW Eng, IoM:** Bright intervals and scattered showers for most, heaviest across southwest Scotland later. Light to moderate east to southeasterly winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 9C (48F). **Wales, W Mids, SE Eng, Cen S Eng, SW Eng, Channel Is:** A mostly dry day with sunny intervals and a few patches of rain at times. Light to moderate southeasterly winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 8C (46F). **London, E Anglia, E Mids, Cen N Eng, E Eng:** Thick cloud and showery outbreaks of rain, heaviest and most widespread through the morning. Light and variable winds, perhaps moderate along the coast at times. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 9C (48F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	03:03	4.0	15:30	3.9
Avonmouth	09:08	12.2	21:25	12.3
Belfast	--:--	--	13:01	3.3
Cardiff	08:55	11.5	21:11	11.7
Devonport	07:46	5.1	19:59	5.2
Dover	--:--	--	12:53	6.3
Dublin	00:56	3.9	13:31	3.7
Falmouth	07:10	4.7	19:23	4.9
Greenock	02:16	3.3	14:24	3.2
Harwich	01:25	3.8	13:41	3.8
Holyhead	--:--	--	12:17	5.2
Hull	08:08	7.1	20:33	6.8
Leith	04:24	5.2	16:50	5.2
Liverpool	--:--	--	13:03	8.6
London Bridge	03:38	6.9	15:57	6.6
Lowestoft	11:24	2.4	23:47	2.3
Milford Haven	08:03	6.5	20:22	6.6
Morecambe	--:--	--	13:13	8.6
Newhaven	--:--	--	13:04	6.3
Newquay	06:53	6.4	19:12	6.5
Oban	07:28	3.6	19:49	3.7
Penzance	06:26	5.1	18:47	5.3
Portsmouth	01:06	4.5	13:32	4.5
Shoreham	--:--	--	13:10	5.9
Southampton	03:03	4.1	13:01	4.4
Swansea	08:12	8.8	20:30	8.9
Tees	05:23	5.2	17:47	5.1
Weymouth	08:36	1.9	20:57	2.0



Synoptic situation

An occluded front associated with a low-pressure system over Belgium will bring thick cloud and showery outbreaks of rain to eastern England throughout the day, most widespread in the morning. Another occluded front will bring bright periods and spells of rain to much of Ireland and parts of southwest Britain, heaviest by the afternoon.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Heathrow, 19.4C
Coldest: Cairngorm, 3.1C
Wettest: Edinburgh, Lothian, 46.2mm
Sunniest: Herstmonceux, East Sussex, 10.2hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 04.54
Sun sets: 20.59
Moon rises: 23.55
Moon sets: 06.27 Sun
Third Quarter: May 30

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:10-03:58
Belfast	22:09-04:30
Birmingham	21:42-04:26
Cardiff	21:42-04:36
Exeter	21:40-04:41
Glasgow	22:10-04:16
Liverpool	21:51-04:25
London	21:30-04:23
Manchester	21:48-04:22
Newcastle	21:54-04:11
Norwich	21:30-04:12
Penzance	21:45-04:51
Sheffield	21:44-04:19

Weather Eye

Paul Simons

The spectacular auroras on May 10 and 11 lit up the night sky in the UK and across much of Europe and North America, and even reached as far as north Africa. The phenomena were driven by massive solar storms which resulted in the expulsion of a huge number of charged particles that battered the Earth's magnetic field and triggered one of the biggest geomagnetic events in decades.

Not only did the skies light up, but powerful electric currents also surged through the ground in what are called geoelectric fields, which are measured in volts per km (V/km). Under normal conditions the Earth's crust has very small electric fields, which consist of about 0.01 V/km, but during geomagnetic storms of the scale experienced two weeks ago the strength of the fields skyrocket. On May 10-11 the geoelectric fields measured in Virginia were more than 10 V/km.

This measurement pales when compared with the giant magnetic storm of March 1989, where the geoelectric field reached almost 22 V/km in Virginia, and caused a giant power blackout in the Canadian province of Quebec.

Rock type plays a key role in the ground current unleashed as a result of a geomagnetic storm. For example, igneous rocks are dense and extremely resistant to electric currents. The events of 1989 occurred because Quebec city is particularly vulnerable to the effects of geoelectricity, as the urban area sits on a large expanse of igneous rocks. When the geomagnetic storm struck, the current took the path of least resistance, flowing over the ground and through power lines and causing immense damage.

In contrast, sedimentary rocks tend to be porous and contain water, which makes them much better conductors. The north of Scotland has plenty of electrically resistant rocks, so power grids are more at risk from strong geoelectric fields. In contrast, the south of England has more electrically conductive sedimentary rocks, so the risk of a power blackout is far less.

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Register

Obituaries

Her Honour Suzanne Norwood

Highly respected if sharp-tongued circuit judge in a male-dominated era

Few barristers relished the prospect of defending their clients before Her Honour Judge Suzanne Norwood and the huge handbag and vase of flowers that invariably sat beside her on the crown court bench. One of the last of a now extinct breed of judge, she repeatedly upset counsel by being openly critical of anyone who failed to meet her demanding standards.

Fiercely intelligent, Norwood could also be brutally honest. If, for example, she didn't like a particular line of inquiry, she wouldn't hesitate to tell counsel: "That is the most stupid question I've ever heard." A proud pedant, she would regularly interrupt barristers to insist that drinking establishments be called "public houses" rather than "pubs" and would happily query a barrister's use of the epithet "gentleman" for anyone who, in her estimation, did not merit the term.

Such were Norwood's powers of provocation that even senior counsel struggled to control their emotions. One silk fell out so badly with her that he quit a case mid-trial, leaving his junior counsel to pick up the pieces. After a particularly difficult exchange with Norwood, another barrister tried to take the heat out of the situation by asking her to rise for a short time. When she refused, the barrister walked out of the court.

Norwood also angered some defence lawyers through what was perceived as her failure to remain impartial. When she saw fit, Norwood had no compunction about steering juries in the direction she wanted them to go — a trait acknowledged and strongly criticised by the Court of Appeal in several cases.

Even defendants without any convictions were not safe from Norwood's censure. While acknowledging that the jury should take the lack of a prior criminal record into account, she might also point out that the defendant's unblemished history could simply be the result of his not having been caught before.

"Some people say I had a reputation for being formidable," Norwood later acknowledged. "I don't know about that, but I don't suffer fools and I dislike people who do not do their work properly."

Norwood's own intellectual abilities were never in any doubt. In 1978, for example, she was praised by Lord Justice Roskill when he delivered the Court of Appeal's judgment in the appeal of one of three men convicted of hire purchase fraud after a protracted trial at Inner London crown court. Roskill declared: "This court would, at the outset of this judgment, pay tribute to the quality and clarity of the learned judge's summing-up ... It is, if we may be allowed to say so, a model of its kind in a highly complicated case full of difficulties."

Norwood, who had been appointed a circuit judge in 1973, would not have risen so far if she had relied solely on her legal skills. Having started her career at a time when the Bar and the Bench were little more welcoming to women than a Pall Mall gentlemen's club, she had been forced to fight her way up every step of the ladder. That experience — and the early loss of her husband to cancer — clearly left its mark.

Norwood's stern mask sometimes slipped. At Isleworth crown court in 1987 she wept openly when sentencing a teenager who had stabbed a schoolboy four times. Noting that the victim had only survived because the attack had taken place near a hospital, she told the defendant: "If it had not been for that miraculously prompt attention, that boy would be dead and you would be facing a murder charge with very little defence."

When the mood took her, Norwood displayed a lively sense of humour. In one of her favourite anecdotes, she would recall how she had once presided over the trial of a man charged with burglary. When the defendant claimed that he'd been drunk at the time, Norwood declared with an almost Wildean flourish: "If I found a stranger in my bedroom in the middle of the night, I'd rather he were sober."

The only child of Frederic and Marianne (née Thomas), Suzanne Freda Norwood was born on March 24, 1926. Raised in Lancashire, she was educated at Lowther College, a public school for

Norwood was called to the Bar in 1951

girls in the village of Bodelwyddan, near Rhyl. She then read English and history at the University of St Andrews, achieving a master's degree in both subjects.

At 23, she decided to read for the Bar, even though this was anything but an easy choice of career for a woman at that time. "I come from a very long line of people who believe in women's rights," she later explained, "and no one was keener than my father. It was never assumed I would have a 'little job' to keep me going until I married."

After she was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1951, Norwood found the going every bit as tough as she had feared. Getting a tenancy at a set of chambers was a massive challenge, not least because barristers' clerks (sets' managers and administrators) were extremely sceptical of any woman's chances of making it at the Bar.

"The system was male-dominated," she remembered, "and there was much prejudice against females who were trying to get into a set of chambers. I had to fight hard for my career in those early days." As she became more established, however, solicitors proved extremely loyal, briefing her time and again.

In 1954, Norwood married her fellow barrister John Stewart. Seven years later, at the age of 35, she gave birth to a son, David, who survives her along with a grandchild, Johnny. She returned to work three months after the birth.

Having focused primarily on civil work, Norwood switched to criminal law in 1962. She practised on the south-eastern circuit, which stretches from Norwich in the north to Canterbury and Lewes in the south and from Reading in the west to Ipswich in the east.

In 1972, Norwood's husband died suddenly of cancer at the age of 48, a loss she later described as a terrible blow. She chose to continue working, partly for financial reasons and partly because her work gave her such satisfaction. She also began sitting as a part-time crown court judge.

The following year, Norwood was appointed to the Bench. "When I was first called to the Bar," she said, "judges didn't even have female ushers. I never thought I'd see the day of women judges, let alone that I would become one."

In 1986 Norwood was appointed the resident (senior) judge at Isleworth crown court, where she quickly gained the respect of the court staff for her organisational skills. She later became the

Her mask slipped as she wept in a sentencing for a schoolboy's stabbing

resident judge at Middlesex Guildhall crown court, which was then housed in the building in Parliament Square, and is now occupied by the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

Norwood was also a member of the Parole Board from 1976 to 1978. Beginning in 1983, she served for 15 years on the mental health review tribunal and also served on various health authorities in Greenwich and Bexley, south-east London. In addition, she was president of the Medico-Legal Society for two years from 1990.

A year after her retirement from the Bench in 1995, Norwood was awarded an honorary law degree by her alma mater, the University of St Andrews. She filled her later years by going to concerts, gardening and travelling. As well as touring much of Europe, she made a trip to India with the Royal Society for Asian Affairs and visited Vietnam, South Africa, China, Burma and Russia, sometimes travelling with companions, sometimes alone.

Small in stature, Norwood always sat on a large cushion and used a foot stool when presiding in court. On one occasion, when an immigration officer fainted while giving evidence, she peered over into the witness box, before declaring, "I never knew I had that effect on people!"

Her Honour Suzanne Norwood, circuit judge, was born on March 24, 1926. She died on April 15, 2024, aged 98

Marisa Pavan, right, with her twin sister Anna Maria in Los Angeles in 1955

Marisa Pavan

One-half of Italian acting sisters, who worked with some of the Hollywood greats in its golden age

"My twin sister and my mother were survivors," reflected the Italian actress Marisa Pavan, "and I feel I am too. I'm grateful for my past, for what I went through during the war ... I'd say we were strong, definitely not weak."

Although by nature an understated observer, that inner steel, which she found American girls her age did not have, stood her in good stead in the 1950s as she made her name in Hollywood films such as *The Rose Tattoo*.

It later enabled her to stand up to studio executives and to overcome the death of her fraternal twin, Anna Maria. Under the stage name Pier Angeli, she had become much the bigger star of the two, not least as the girlfriend of James Dean.

The sisters grew up in Rome, where during the latter stages of the war the family hid a former Italian general who was Jewish in their basement. Marisa was close to him and took his surname when she became an actress.

"There were times when we were bombed," she remembered in an interview with Film Talk, "but we also saw children getting killed in the streets, and at times we didn't have any food ... Those experiences build a character and a personality."

One day in 1948, when they were 16, she and her sister were sent home because their teacher was ill. Walking along the Via Veneto, they passed the actor-director Vittorio De Sica. He was struck by Anna Maria's beauty, and in short order she found fame first in Italy and then America, making her debut there in *Teresa* (1951).

After their father died, the family settled in Los Angeles. Marisa recalled she spoke no English and to create the im-

'We kept coming back to each other'
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EARL LEAF/MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

pression that she did would drop into conversation phrases she had learnt, such as "How maudlin!" or "So gregarious!" Cubby Broccoli, then an agent, knew the family. Marisa had no ambitions to act, but he organised a surprise audition for her when she visited the set of a John Ford film, *What Price Glory* (1952).

Marisa was required to sing a song in French. Another young actress was there trying out for the role, whom she later discovered was Anne Bancroft. Pavan was chosen for the part, however, as the love interest of an American marine, played by Robert Wagner.

Her sister tended to play wide-eyed ingénues, but Pavan's style, wrote Angeli's husband, the singer Vic Damone, was "quieter and more underplayed". After appearing opposite Alan Ladd in *Drum Beat* (1954), she was cast in *The Rose Tattoo* (1955).

Tennessee Williams had written his play for Pavan's fellow Italian, Anna Magnani, to star in on Broadway, but she protested that she spoke no English.

By the time it was adapted for the screen, she claimed she did. In fact, Pavan revealed, she learnt her lines phonetically. Nevertheless, Magnani's performance as a widow whose passions are reawakened by Burt Lancaster's truck driver brought her an Oscar.

Since she was in Italy at the time of the ceremony, Pavan accepted it on her behalf. She herself had been nominated for best supporting actress for playing the character's daughter, Rosa, although she lost out to Jo Van Fleet in *East of Eden*. Pavan did, however, win the Golden Globe.

She found Williams, who cooked for her and taught her "to listen", *simpatico*. Yet she was also witness on set to Magnani's clashes with the director Daniel Mann. The volcanic diva took Pavan to task for following his instructions rather than hers.

Pavan next appeared as Catherine de Medici in *Diane* (1956). It was scripted by Christopher Isherwood, with Roger Moore as Catherine's errant husband, Henri II of France, and Lana Turner in the titular role as his mistress.

Other roles followed in *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit* (1956), with Pavan as Gregory Peck's wartime lover, and opposite Tony Curtis investigating the murder of a priest in *The Midnight Story* (1957).

Her time in Hollywood came to an abrupt halt when cast as Abishag the Shunammite, biblical bedwarmer to the ageing King David, in King Vidor's *Solomon and Sheba* (1959). Much to Pavan's distress, Tyrone Power, its star, died with most of the shooting having been done. He was replaced by Yul Brynner and many of her scenes were cut.

Pavan was told that if she made a fuss, she would never work again. She was determined, however, not to be "a product". "They did change my sister," she said, "they made her up like a pin-up girl. I could wear a wig to play a certain part, but they could not change me in life."

"I finished the film, and that was it. My film career was over." She was comforted that the same thing had happened to another actress she admired, Luise Rainer. "She had been an individual like me — you know, they wanted to

'I could wear a wig to play a part, but they could not change me'

change my nose, they wanted to do this and that, and I said, 'Either you take me as I am, or you don't take me at all, all right?'"

She was born Maria Luisa Pierangeli in Cagliari in 1932. Anna Maria was by a few minutes the elder of the two. Sixteen years later, they would be joined by another sister, Patrizia, who also became an actress.

Their parents had met as children growing up in the Marche region, south of Urbino. Enrichetta was rather obsessed by showbusiness, while Luigi trained as an engineer. When the twins were born, the family was living in Sardinia, where he was working on a scheme to drain malarial swamps.

They moved to Rome in 1935. Marisa remembered her father as a martinet, although her sister was his favourite. They were educated at the Torquato Tasso high school, but Marisa was petite and dreamt of being a ballerina.

In 1956 she married the French actor Jean-Pierre Aumont. His first wife, the actress Maria Montez, had died young, and he had been dating Grace Kelly when she met Prince Rainier of Monaco. Pavan and Aumont subsequently appeared together in *John Paul Jones* (1959), about the founder of America's navy.

They had two sons, Jean-Claude, a cinematographer, and Patrick, now an art dealer. She and Aumont were divorced for a time in the 1960s, but then remarried. He died in 2001.

Her sister, who perhaps never got over her romance with Dean, was found dead from an overdose of barbiturates in 1971. She was 39. At the time she was in contention for a part in *The Godfather*.

Meanwhile, Pavan did find work in television, appearing in shows such as *Hawaii Five-O*. In a mini-series adapted from Arthur Hailey's *The Moneychangers* (1975), she played the wife of the character portrayed by another of her sister's former lovers, Kirk Douglas. Thereafter, Pavan largely lived in Provence.

Looking back on her years in Hollywood, she was most fond of her performance as Catherine de Medici, as it let her show that she had real dramatic range. "What was important to me was the struggle to get the part," she said. "When you get a part, and finally you are recognised, it is the most joyful moment you can have as an actress."

Marisa Pavan, actress, was born on June 19, 1932. She died on December 6, 2023, aged 91

Morgan Spurlock

Film-maker whose documentary Super Size Me took on the fast-food chain McDonald's

Morgan Spurlock owed his career to a Big Mac.

Watching the news one day he learnt about two teenage girls who were suing McDonald's, holding the ubiquitous fast-food chain responsible for their obesity. It gave him the idea of eating nothing but three McDonald's meals a day for 30 days, an effort that would amount to 5,000 calories each day. The only other rule was that he would not refuse the "super-size" option whenever it was offered to him, which effectively meant the vast majority of the time.

"Let's find out. I'm ready," he said smiling at the start of his Oscar-nominated documentary *Super Size Me* (2004). A month later, Spurlock wasn't smiling anymore. He was 11kg (25lb) heavier, his body fat percentage had increased by about a third, his cholesterol had soared and he was told that he was twice as likely to suffer from heart failure. His face was puffy, his liver was malfunctioning and he felt depressed. Despite being "grossed out" he also felt constant cravings for a McDonald's and if he didn't have one he started getting bad headaches. His sex drive had disappeared and it took him 14 months to return to his normal weight.

Like a carton of freshly salted French fries, the viewer was served plenty of facts to chew on throughout the film: one in four Americans visits a fast-food restaurant every day and McDonald's accounts for 43 per cent of the fast-food market.

Along with Michael Moore's popular film documentary *Fahrenheit 9/11*, which concerned President George W Bush and the Iraq War, *Super Size Me* hit a zeitgeist in American culture of encouraging people to be less gullible, whether about politics or corporate marketing.

Spurlock was good looking and engaging with red hair and a sculpted walrus moustache, but perceptions of a perceived patronising left-leaning superiority led to a backlash. He was criticised for not publishing a log of what he was eating during filming and others claimed that his calorie and fat counts didn't add up. His assertion that his liver began failing was also undermined when it emerged that he often consumed large amounts of alcohol.

Yet the film that cost $1 million to make was nominated for an Oscar and grossed $30 million. Even though the lawsuit against McDonald's was dismissed on the grounds that the two girls failed to prove that eating its food caused their obesity-related illnesses, the film succeeded in wiping the smile off Ronald McDonald's face. It was shown in schools around America as an educational aide and McDonald's withdrew the super size option from its menus.

Morgan Valentine Spurlock was born in 1970, in Parkersburg, West Virginia, to Ben and Phyllis Spurlock, who were Methodists. He grew up hunting. "The first thing I ever hunted was a squirrel with my grandmother," he recalled. "Then we cooked it up and ate it." Despite developing liberal attitudes in later years, he continued to own guns.

He attended Woodrow Wilson High School in Beckley, West Virginia and graduated in film from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in 1993. After working as a production assistant on *Leon: The Professional* and *Bullets over Broadway*, his break came when he won an award at the New York International Fringe Festival in 1999 for his play *The Phoenix*.

After *Super Size Me*, he capitalised on his brand by releasing a series of documentaries called *30 Days*, in which he would live for a month on the minimum wage and, in another episode, live in a prison. A later full-length documentary film *Where in the World is Osama bin Laden?* was panned by critics.

Being of Scottish-Irish and English descent and growing up watching repeats of *Fawlty Towers*, *Blackadder* and *Monty Python*, Spurlock had an abiding affection for the UK. In 2012 he launched a documentary series on Sky Atlantic called *New Britannia* in which he travelled around Britain to discover the extent to which stereotyped American perceptions were true, from the class system to cuisine and Britain's attitude to foreigners.

Spurlock's first marriage to Mary Sommer ended in divorce. His second marriage, to Alexandra Jamieson, ended in the same manner. He is survived by their son, Laken. His third and final marriage to Sarah Bernstein also ended in divorce. He is survived by their son, Kallen. In December 2017, at the height of the MeToo movement, he owned up to a history of sexual misconduct and admitted that he was "part of the problem". He promptly stepped down from his Warrior Poets production company.

In 2017 he made a final attempt to repeat the success of *Super Size Me* when he released *Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken!*, which targeted claims that fast-food restaurants were now serving healthier meals. The film flopped, but at least he could reflect that the "Super Size" slogan was nowhere to be seen or heard.

Morgan Spurlock, film-maker, was born on November 7, 1970. He died of cancer on May 23, 2024, aged 53

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Readers' Lives

Marriages and engagements

'We kept coming back to each other'

Alicia Allen, 33, who works in sales for Boodles, the luxury jeweller, and Jesse Atiase, 34, who owns a sports coaching agency, were married on December 15, 2023, at Bingham Riverhouse hotel, in Richmond upon Thames

TIMELESSPICTURES.CO.UK

Alicia and Jess wanted an intimate but glamorous wedding. Alicia borrowed a pair of Boodles vintage Ashoka earrings

Alicia always knew that she wanted to be with Jesse for the long term, but their path was not always straightforward and they broke up three times in 13 years. "So, when we finally got there it felt even better," she says.

They first met by chance in a pub in Richmond upon Thames in 2011. She was with a friend on Easter break from her drama degree course at the University of Bath. He was a lifeguard at a local swimming pool and later worked as a sports coach.

"I thought she was way out of my league," he says. But he dared to approach her and they had a brief conversation. He gave her his mobile number. She waited a few days to appear cool before messaging him, and it took him three weeks to reply.

It turned out that Jesse had been seeing someone else. By then single, he invited Alicia to his family home in Hampton where they watched a film. She grew up in Syon Park, the London seat of the Duke of Northumberland, in Hounslow, where her father managed the grounds and fishery.

They continued to meet up, then broke up for three months. "We had a great connection and we loved being around each other but Alicia being in Bath and me back in London just didn't work," he says. They got back together, broke up again, had other relationships, and then reunited. "We just kept coming back to each other," she says.

On graduating, Alicia went into paid work rather than wait for acting jobs and now works in sales for Boodles, the luxury jeweller. She was at a Spice Girls concert in 2019 when she spontaneously messaged Jesse after a year and a half without contact.

"It definitely caught me off guard," he says. "It was an easy decision as I never lost my feelings for Alicia. I love how caring and thoughtful she is. She makes everyone around her happy with her calming personality. I love how she makes me feel like I can be myself."

They initially met up in secret to avoid frowns from family and friends. "He eventually grew up and had his life on the right track," says Alicia. He now owns a sports coaching agency, which sends coaches into schools.

After only a few weeks together again, Jesse moved into her flat. Alicia likens him to a Jack Russell puppy. "He is excited," she says. "He can't sit down for long and is always on the go. He is the joker. I am much calmer and more patient. He drives me to do things I want to do but am scared to do. I bring him back to reality and calm him down."

They wanted to have children and get married, and had designed Alicia's engagement ring together when they discovered that she was pregnant. A few weeks later they went to stay with her parents, who have retired to Wiltshire. Jesse proposed on one knee by the river at the bottom of their garden with *Glasgow Love Theme* from the film *Love Actually* playing on a hidden speaker.

Their son, Louis, was born in May 2022. The notion of a wedding did not arise again until they started to think about having another child. "We thought if we don't get married now, we're never going to get round to doing it," she says. They wanted Louis to feel part of a family unit.

They wanted an intimate wedding with a glamorous vibe and booked Bingham Riverhouse hotel just along the Thames from where they first met. "We have a close-knit family and group of friends," says Alicia. "We wanted it to be more of a party to celebrate our turbulent relationship over 13 years on and off."

The bridal party and Louis stayed at the hotel the night before. Grandmothers took charge of him the next day. Alicia borrowed a pair of Boodles vintage Ashoka earrings. Forty-five guests arrived for the 2.30pm ceremony in the garden room.

Alicia was nervous beforehand. Her father cried on seeing her in her wedding dress and then she cried as they walked in to *Glasgow Love Theme*. Her older brother read *She's Not Perfect*, attributed to Bob Marley. Her younger sister was maid of honour. Jesse's ten-year-old niece read an extract from *Winnie-the-Pooh*. The newlyweds exited to Marley's *Is This Love*.

After champagne and canapés outside, the wedding breakfast was inside with tables named after their favourite places they have been with Louis. A live band played the couple's first dance, which was a slow version of *Is This Love*. "Jesse is so selfless and giving," says Alicia. "He gives anyone and everyone his time. He is my best supporter. And he is the most amazing dad."

If you would like to feature a wedding or engagement or the birth of a child on these pages, call 020 7782 5583, Mon-Fri, to discuss the content and cost, or email: readerslives@thetimes.co.uk

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New readers

Phoevos Michael Mendelson Couris was born on July 26, 2023, at University College Hospital in London to **Ariadne Couri**, 34, and **Alexander Mendelson**, 35

In July last year, on the night before Phoevos was born via a planned caesarean section, his father Alexander checked himself into A&E at University College Hospital with a very high temperature.

The following morning Ariadne's father, Stelios, who had flown over from Greece, drove his daughter to the same hospital. Alexander checked himself out and travelled a few floors up to catch the birth.

"He was white as a sheet," Ariadne says, and kept falling asleep in the chair. As she was being prepped for surgery, Stelios, who was having a smoke outside, rushed inside and stayed with his daughter throughout the operation. He didn't even have time to scrub in.

"The whole thing was so exciting and stressful that I didn't have time to worry about the birth," says Ariadne.

Alexander wasn't able to see Ariadne and Phoevos until he was released from the emergency ward several days later.

Despite the rocky start, Phoevos (Feev for short) has grown into a relaxed and playful little boy. He loves being thrown in the air with his dad, who is from Sheffield. "He likes to eat broccoli," says Ariadne, "as well as his dad's arm".

In February they flew to Greece for a month to escape the dreary British weather. Phoevos was fawned over by Ariadne's many Greek relatives — he now has a devout following who request new video and photographic material every few days — and enjoyed charming strangers. "He has a knack for making friends with older gentlemen at neighbouring tables", says Ariadne.

Phoevos's name is the epithet for the Greek god Apollo and it means "bright and brilliant". "It is fitting," says Ariadne, "because he is our golden summer boy."

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'He'll be shouting for Ireland in the rugby but England in the cricket'

CILLIAN FRANCIS DUNKLEY WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO KATE WALSH AND JAMIE DUNKLEY

THE TIMES

Births, Marriages and Deaths

To book a Birth, Marriage or Death announcement in the Register, visit: **newsukadvertising.co.uk** for help, please call 020 7782 7553 or email BMDs@thetimes.co.uk

ONE OF the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, 'Of all the commandments, which is the most important?' 'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength."' Mark 12.28-30 (NIV)

Births

FROST on 23rd April 2024 to Anne (née Sutherland) and Samuel, a daughter, Georgia Sutherland, born in Tampa, Florida.

HEATH on 14th April 2024 to Ella (née Sandars) and James, twins, Frederick George Arthur and Oliver Charles Rupert.

PRATT on 21st December 2023 to Philippa Morfitt and Christopher Pratt, a son, Kit Edward Nelson Morfitt, a brother for Cosima.

VAUGHAN on 21st May 2024 to Avarina and Freddie, a son, Rafe William Joseph, brother to Felix.

WEST on 15th May 2024 to Georgia (née Lacey) and Joshua, a son, William Oliver Theodore.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR L. GILBERTSON AND MISS C. BRIERWOOD
The engagement is announced between Christina, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Brierwood of Chelsea, London, and Luke, son of Mr and Mrs David Gilbertson of Hampstead, London.

MR F. J. J. CRONE AND MISS A. V. COOMBES
The engagement is announced between Frederick, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Crone of Birtley, Northumberland, and Amy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Coombes of Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

MR J. HEENEY AND MISS T. LEEMING
The engagement is announced between Jack, son of Mr David Heeney of Hatfield, Hertfordshire, and Mrs Carole Heeney of Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, and Teresa, daughter of Mr Antony and Lady Elizabeth Leeming of Penrith, Cumbria.

MR R. J. DUNN AND MISS L. K. A. SANDARS
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of the late Mr Raymond Dunn and of Mrs Shelagh Dunn of the Lizard, Cornwall, and Laura, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs George Sandars of Wimbledon, London.

Deaths

FAWCUS Major General Graham Ben CB MA MInstRE died peacefully on 21st May 2024, aged 86. Beloved husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Flowton, IP8 4LG, on 15th June 2024 at 2.30pm.

FERRER John Christopher (Sam) of Ashton, Bishops Waltham, passed away peacefully in Winchester Hospital, Hampshire, on 19 May 2024, aged 87. Beloved husband of Joan, much-loved father to Fiona, Mark and James and proud grandfather to William, Tilly, Barney, Florence and Frederick. A service of thanksgiving will be held at St Peter's Catholic Church, Winchester, on 28 June 2024 at 2.30pm. Donations, if desired, to andovermind.org.uk

FERRIER Eelin Ailsa (née Campbell) died on 7th May 2024 at The Martins care home, Bury St Edmunds, aged nearly 101, after a long and eventful life. Much-loved mother of Richard and Michael, grannie to Louisa, Victoria and Giles and great-grannie to Arabella, Sam and Hugo. Funeral at West Suffolk Crematorium, IP28 6RR, on 4th June 2024 at 1.30pm. Flowers or donations to RNLI. Inquiries to L Fulcher Funeral Directors: 01284 754049

GOWLLAND Robin Anthony Blantyre on 21st May 2024. Born 5th September 1932. Died 21st May 2024. Inquiries adrian.cb23@gmail.com

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HOWARD Captain Jeremy John MBE Royal Navy on 16th May 2024, aged 79, after a short illness. Dearly loved and very loving husband of Sarah. Dearest and proud father of Lucy and Tom, father-in-law to David and Yumiko, much-loved Grumpypa to Ned, Bea and Oscar. Private cremation. Thanksgiving service on Tuesday 18th June at 2.30pm at St Barnabas Church, Queen Camel — a small splash of colour please! Donations for St Margaret's Hospice via Harold F Miles, South Cadbury.

KING Thomas Robertson BL (Tom) (Gullane), peacefully on 14th May 2024, at home. Beloved husband of Sheila, adored father of Fiona and Karen, father-in-law to Rob and Richard and much-loved grandfather to Catriona and Fraser. Service at Mortonhall Crematorium Main Chapel on Tuesday 28th May at 11am. Family flowers only please.

MADELEY
Richard died peacefully on 19th May 2024, aged 67. Dearly beloved and missed everyday by his wife Carol, children Victoria, Alexandra, Robert, and his four grandchildren. Funeral for family and close friends at St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Checkendon. Please contact the family directly for attendance.

MALLINSON
Sandy, born 5th January 1932, died 13th May 2024, aged 92, peacefully at home after a short illness. Widow to Bill and dearly loved mother to Matthew.
Memorial service to be held at 12pm on Tuesday 18th June 2024 at Clandon Wood Natural Burial Ground, Epsom Road, West Clandon, Guildford GU4 7FN. No black ties or dark suits please. Any donations to the charity Sandy founded, Dogs in Need, Charity No. 1098870, c/o Lodge Brothers Addlestone or online at https://l2d.live/sqis

MANNERS Jane Elizabeth Mary, peacefully on 21st May 2024, aged 95. Darling wife of Sherard, beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St John the Evangelist, West Meon, at 2pm on Friday 31st May. No flowers please but donations to Muscular Dystrophy UK.

MCDOUGALL Elisabeth Jane died peacefully at home on Wednesday 8th May 2024. The funeral service will be held at 2.30pm on Friday 21st June at St John the Baptist Church, Stiffkey, Norfolk, NR23 1QJ. Family flowers only but if desired, donations to either Songbird Survival or The CCG Trust c/o Fakenham & District Funeral Services, Weasenham Manor, Fakenham Road, Weasenham, Kings Lynn, PE32 2TF.

PALMER
Jillean Monica (née Sherston) on 18th May 2024, reunited at long last with her beloved Michael. Proud Yorkshirewoman, creative and energetic working wife and mother a generation ahead of her time and an inspirational regimental wife. Macmillan Dorset County Chairman for many years. Vibrant and devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Loved and admired by us all: she made a difference to so many lives. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Sixpenny Handley, SP5 5ND, on Friday 14th June at noon. Kindly contact deborahhodgesforjilly@gmail.com if you are able to attend.

PARRY Gareth died on 20th May 2024, aged 86. Journalist and war correspondent. Husband of Brenda, father of Angharad and Victoria, and Grandad to Erin and Orla, Olivia and Daniel. Donations to Salisbury Hospice. Inquiries to funeral directors Chris White, 01722 411919.

RODERICK Desiree (Dizzy) (née Houghton), peacefully at home on 14th May 2024, aged 103. Widow of Richard Broome (KIA 1943) and of Dr John Roderick MC. Much-loved mother of Angela, Sophie, Joe and Fiona. Mother-in-law to Rupert, Angus, Lindsay and Crispin. Loving and adored Na of 12, great-grandmother of 25 and great-great grandmother of one. Funeral at noon at St Mary's Church, Liss, on Tuesday 11th June. Flowers from immediate family only. For details and donations please visit petersfield@michaelmiller.co.uk or telephone 01730 233244.

STUBBS Peter died peacefully on 16th May 2024, aged 100. A funeral Mass will be held at St Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, London W8 on 13th June at 12.30pm.

In Memoriam - Private

BUBB Audrey Frances Bubb (née Dolan), born 25th May 1924. Married to John 1948. Mum left us aged 78. We miss you Mum, forever in our hearts.

TIMESRADIO
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Court Circular

St James's Palace
24th May, 2024
The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regina Rifles, this morning received Mr Ralph Goodale (Canadian High Commissioner in London), Lieutenant Colonel Michael MacKillop (Commanding Officer, The Royal Regina Rifles) and Lieutenant Colonel Jason Quilliam (Saskatchewan Chief of Protocol).

Her Royal Highness, President, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, received Vice Admiral Peter Hudson (Vice Chairman) and Ms Claire Horton (Director General).

The Princess Royal later opened the Admiral Lord Cochrane Room at the Royal United Services Institute, 61 Whitehall, London SW1, and was received by Mr Stuart Shilson (Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Royal Alfred Seafarers' Society, this afternoon attended the Annual General Meeting at Trinity House, Trinity Square, Tower Hill, London EC3.

Kensington Palace
24th May, 2024
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, this evening attended a Centenary Convention Dinner at the Grim's Dyke Hotel, Old Redding, Harrow Weald, Middlesex.

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Paula Vennells deserves censure, but also mercy

Credo
Natalie Williams

Is there any apology convincing enough for Paula Vennells to be forgiven? At the end of her evidence to the inquiry into the Post Office scandal, I'm not sure the former chief executive could say anything that would have made the slightest atonement for the suffering of more than 900 sub-postmasters, prosecuted for stealing money based on the evidence of the faulty Horizon IT system. Many were imprisoned and financially ruined. Four died by suicide, and all faced social isolation and shame.

So, as we watch a tearful Vennells being grilled by the inquiry about cover-ups and missed opportunities to halt prosecutions, we may feel justified in thinking of this as payback time. Vennells has repeatedly admitted her failure, but public opinion has made up its mind: her apologies are fake, she's weeping crocodile tears and she should suffer the same misery as the victims of her negligence. The idea of mercy is laughable. Why offer mercy to someone so undeserving? Isn't condemning her a victory for justice?

The concept of mercy is deeply unpopular in our society, perhaps because we don't understand what it means. We have mistakenly come to believe that mercy allows people to "get away" with crime or wrongdoing without facing justice, able to deny the pain they have caused. In a culture where we are rightly trying to advocate better for victims, we have come to see rehabilitation for wrongdoers as an endorsement of their actions. As a result, we have created a world where those who transgress have less hope of redemption or contributing to society again than a corpse has of drawing breath.

Here's the truth though: nobody wants to live in a society without mercy. Nobody truly wants a world devoid of forgiveness, because there may come a time when our own failures (even if they aren't on the scale of Vennells's) find the spotlight, and we will want mercy then. Our own personal standards of justice fluctuate. We want justice when we are wronged but mercy when we are in the wrong. Likewise, we plead the case of those we love even when they are clearly at fault but refuse all excuses when someone we dislike hurts a friend or family member.

Despite our modern opinion that justice and mercy are mutually exclusive, we see a very different view in the Bible. In scripture, a just God who knows all of the facts (and even our motives) establishes a perfect system of justice, where the ultimate goal is not retribution, but redemption. If our human instinct is to consign perpetrators to a dark pit for ever, God's view of justice is infinitely more hopeful, powerful and redemptive. God instructs us to call out injustice and hold wrongdoers to account, and emphasises that anger at the oppression of the vulnerable is holy and righteous. Those who commit crimes should face the legal consequences, which may include prison. However, God's intention is ultimately to redeem, to draw people back from their wickedness and evil, into holiness and love (Ezekiel xviii, 23). Whether or not we have a religious faith, if we want a better society, we must make space for rehabilitation. Without it, our culture will never improve, but remain stuck, stagnating in the same pools of pain, generation after generation.

When referring to Vennells earlier, I asked: why offer mercy to someone so undeserving? But that's the point about mercy — it isn't fair. Mercy is only mercy when it's offered to someone who is guilty and has caused harm. Even beyond that, mercy is actively generous. It believes Paula Vennells when she says she is sorry, it assumes that her tears are real, and it says that a person's whole life shouldn't be summed up in one snapshot, no matter how awful. Mercy knows that we are all far more complex than the rigid moral binaries we impose — we can be heroes and villains and everything in between, all at the same time.

Much has been made of the fact that Vennells is an Anglican priest, with the media pitting this against her role in one of the worst miscarriages of justice in British history. One Observer headline refers explicitly to Vennells's "fall from grace" as an ordained priest. But in the Christian tradition to which Vennells's priesthood belongs, grace means "unmerited love and favour", a free gift offered to those who have done wrong, which — if they repent of their wrongdoing — restores them, through forgiveness, back into relationship with God and people.

When it comes to injustice, our instinct tends to be to demand the exact measure of suffering from wrongdoers that they have inflicted on us. We want our pound of flesh, our sacrificial lamb. But no ordinary human being could absorb the full force of payment for injustice without being utterly crushed. It is only in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, that justice is satisfied, and both victim and perpetrator come to live in the light of God's mercy.

Natalie Williams is the chief executive of the Christian charity Jubilee+ and the author of Tis Mercy All: The Power of Mercy in a Polarised World (SPCK, June 2024)

Readers' Lives

Model and producer who travelled to the North Pole

GABY BEDFORD, WHO DIED AGED 76, FEATURED IN THE TIMES ON NOVEMBER, 23, 2019

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The Times Saturday Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 Dentures derive their name from the French for which body part?

2 Which leaf appears on the tail fin of Air Canada aeroplanes?

3 Singapore's four official languages are Malay, Mandarin, Tamil and what?

4 Which galaxy has major arms called Scutum-Centaurus and Perseus and minor arms named Norma and Sagittarius?

5 Which Irish playwright (1854-1900) named Robbie Ross as the literary executor of his estate?

6 Who played DI William "Jack" Frost in the ITV crime drama *A Touch of Frost*?

7 Nicole Scherzinger won a 2024 Olivier award for playing Norma Desmond in which musical?

8 Douglas Wain-Hobson's *Grim and Havelock* statue stood in which Lincolnshire town from 1973 until 2006?

9 Issued on May 25, 1521 by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, the Edict of Worms outlawed which German monk?

10 What happens to an MP who accepts the stewardship of the Manor of Northstead?

11 In 1907, Alain Locke became the first African-American to be awarded which scholarship?

12 What name links Amazon's cloud-based voice service and a website ranking service that shut down in 2022?

13 The name of which tiny brown bird is repeated in the title of a 2023 novel by Anne Enright?

14 The box set *Divine Symmetry* (2022) focuses on which studio album by David Bowie?

15 What is the southernmost Shetland island?

16 Which type of caviar derives its name from the Russian for "little salt"?

17 Which British archaeologist (1890-1976) oversaw excavations at Verulamium, Maiden Castle and Harappa?

18 Liang Wenbo and Li Hang have been hit with lifetime bans from which cue sport?

19 Which Welshman was Petter Solberg's co-driver when he won the 2003 World Rally Championship?

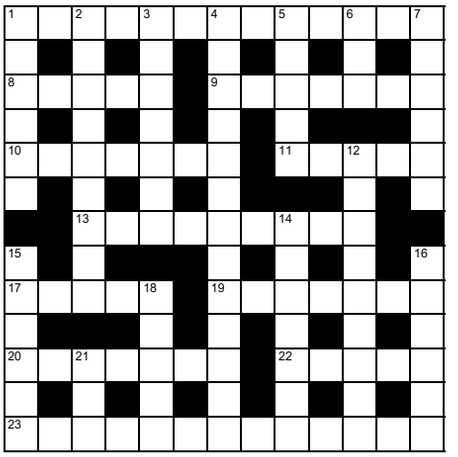
20 Which Italian carmaker's Revuelto sports car is this?

Answers below right

Last week's O Tempora! solution

O Tempora! Crossword CDLI by Auctor

A weekly crossword for the classically minded



Clues, which may be straight or mildly cryptic, always lead to answers in Latin

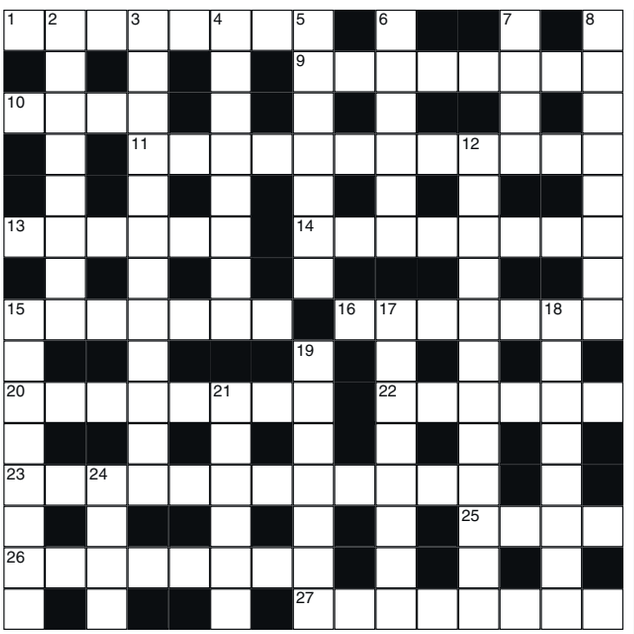
Across

1 If sanguis is wine, bread is ___ (6,7)
8 Concede ___ paullulum: shove over that way a bit, Ter. Eun. 706 (5)
9 The last laugh: cachinnus ___ (7)
10 Rent: non quod te decet expendere sed "abreptum" (7)
11 Adv. and prep. with acc., over, above, before (opp. infra) (5)
13 It's split: eg, incertum vulgus, Aen. 2.39 (9)
17 Worn out, like Phyllis, Ovid Remedia Amoris 596 (5)
19 Lit. to surround and metaph. to crown, girdle (7)
20 Fairer: rectior neque flavior neque albior (7)
22 Safe houses (acc.): domus "securas" (5)
23 You would shore up (confirmo, 1st conj. imperf. subj. sing.) (13)

Down

1 ___ venisse puellae: to have come to a certain girl, Ovid AA 3.245 (6)
2 Adv. turned the opposite way, eg Aen. 3.690 (9)
3 To avenge and punish (deponent): vindicare, punire (7)
4 A puzzle for doctors (subs. + gen. pl) (4,9)
5 "Trabs" quae ab Huckleberrio gubernabatur (5)
6 Je suis: ___ quia cogito (3)
7 A horse, the image of a mountain: ___ montis equum, Aen. 2.15 (6)
12 He knows full well (verb with intensifier): sic Aeneas, Aen. 4.448 (9)
14 It is held, as a boar by a not big dog, Ovid Remedia Amoris 422 (7)
15 Adv. from that place, cf. hinc, istinc (6)
16 Tables (acc.): cave ne scripseris "months" (6)
18 Aliter, in loco alio — Anglice desiderandum furi (5)
21 Adversative conjunction, but if, if on the other hand (3)

Times Crossword No 28,926



A £20 Waterstones gift voucher will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened on Thursday. Enter by post to: Times Crossword No 28,926, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or by email to: prize@thetimes.co.uk, with "Crossword 28926" in the subject line. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. Winners and solutions will appear on Monday week.

Name/Address.....

.....

.....

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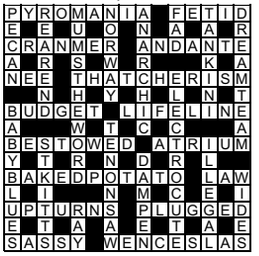
Across

1 Essential island's maintained by Arctic supply line (8)
9 Still popular, musical show returning to tour clubs (8)
10 Page, back to front — the cause of head-scratching for setter? (4)
11 What's completely empty, completely full and sealed for freshness? (6-6)
13 Assembly of steel bridges very sophisticated (6)
14 Figure out position after boat loses power, initially (8)
15 Did crow start to become dishevelled? (7)
16 Last of notable resistance overcome by Scots Guards (7)
20 Relative beginning to laugh? Get boxing glove (8)
22 Football people stuck in a tree for unofficial match? (6)
23 One caught by flying leap sadly departs pitch (7,5)
25 Weakling takes swim in river? On the contrary (4)
26 Article in French publication something refreshing? (8)
27 Vote in America overturned twice following intense anger (8)

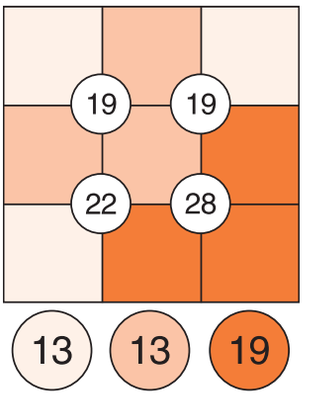
Down

2 Wave around old Kalashnikov, ultimately bringing about surrender (4,4)
3 One that organises trips in LA can get very busy (6,6)
4 Cold on island, to be specific (8)
5 In the middle of ballroom, I wait in line, briefly, for drink (7)
6 Swimmer regularly beat runner, say (6)
7 Attach large sign (4)
8 Initially sent inside, taunts without warrant (8)
12 Expendable personnel beaten and forced to accept French decision? (6,6)
15 Description of cooker in US city, colloquially? (3,5)
17 Get rid of small fish, rotten on the underside (5,3)
18 Philosophy failing to sum up Henry VIII latterly? (8)
19 Suppresses ego — it's on the rise (7)
21 Passenger vehicle available in manual and automatic (6)
24 Inverted commas used endlessly in magazine content (4)

Solution No 28,925



Suko No 4125



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct.

Solution MindGames in Saturday Review

Quiz answers 1 Tooth 2 Red maple leaf 3 English 4 Milky Way 5 Oscar Wilde 6 David Jason 7 *Sunset Boulevard* 8 Grimsby 9 Martin Luther 10 They resign from the House of Commons 11 Rhodes scholarship, he was admitted to Hertford College, Oxford 12 Alexa. The company was Alexa Internet, also owned by Amazon 13 Wren, as in *The Wren, The Wren* 14 *Hunky Dory* 15 Fair Isle 16 Malossol caviar 17 Sir Mortimer Wheeler 18 Snooker, for their involvement in match-fixing 19 Phil Mills 20 Lamborghini.

Concise Quintagram answers 1 Fool 2 Trifle 3 Junket 4 Mousse 5 Aftershave.

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#Precision

THE TIMES

Saturday May 25 2024

Ozempic face and how to avoid it

Plus Sir Ranulph and Joseph Fiennes on Parkinson's

Weekend

Travel starts on page 39

Best places to eat on the coast

Chosen by local experts

Starts today: Cornwall

25 best châteaux

Great places to book in France

Joe Swift

Bank holiday jobs to do in your garden

Ripped teen craze Is TikTok

Inspired by social media, boys are heading to the gym to 'beef up'. But is it doing more harm than good? Bridget Harrison reports

During lockdown, when my son was 12, it was a daily fight to get him off his PlayStation to exercise. Now he's a strapping 16-year-old who works out every night with heavy weights in his bedroom and I am worrying that he is doing too much. Over the past few months he has become quite beefy, and some of his friends look as though they could be contenders on *Love Island*. One gets up at 5am every day to go to the gym for two hours before school; another is constantly whipping out his phone to show clips of himself bench pressing 75kg (which would be a lot for a grown man).

Asking other parents, it turns out that their sons have developed serious gym habits too, and lifestyles to go with it. One says her 17-year-old prepares his own meals to make sure he eats 150g of protein a day, 25g of which is protein powder. Another's 14-year-old son has started to use the muscle supplement creatine. A father describes how his 16-year-old has spent the winter "bulking" on 3,000 calories a day and is now "cutting" on 2,000 calories, essentially trying to lose body fat to enhance his muscle definition.

"Going to the gym is about proving you have focus and motivation. It's a flex," my son's friend Jack, 16, says. "Everyone wants to be big now."

It's easy to be pleased about my son's new-found interest in fitness after all the years we've spent arguing about his gaming habit. But when I watched a group of teenagers in my local gym egging each other on to heave up a loaded barbell, their backs bent and with no supervision, I began to wonder how healthy it all is. Should teenagers be taking supplements and going on extreme diets? Is doing weights four to five times a week good for you, whatever your age?

> Boys can easily begin to feel that their body is a project and that it needs to be fixed

While gym culture among young men has been growing for some time now, younger and younger boys are being sucked in. Even though most gyms have a minimum age of 16, many younger boys say they sneak in with fake ID. Others use their school gym.

Dearbhla McCullough, a sports psychologist and the mother of a 15-year-old boy, says she has seen a huge rise in teenagers trying to bulk up, with one school having to remind parents that children should not be taking creatine. As boys go through puberty and are able to lay down muscle they'll suddenly be a lot more aware of their body image, she says. "Some kids who weren't particularly sporty before might suddenly start embracing muscle gain because it gives them confidence."

One look at my son's Instagram and TikTok feeds is enough to explain why boys feel a pressure to beef up. They contain hoards of muscle-popping gym influencers. Among them is Sam Sulek, a hugely popular, 22-year-old, 240lb bodybuilding giant from Ohio, who looks like the Incredible Hulk and has seven million followers across the platforms. Then there is Noel Deyzel, a 39-year-old bodybuilder from South Africa with seven million followers, who is open about his steroid use and who in his most recent post smashes through a wall to promote a pre-workout drink. There is the pouty Brodie "Brodieshredz" Falgoust, a 26-year-old from Louisiana with a million followers on Instagram, who posts skits about hating "rest days" while flexing his humongous pecs. And Joey Swoll, the 40-year-old bodybuilder with seven million followers whose TikTok posts call out bad gym etiquette.

My son says these characters turned up in his feed because he watches football videos. "The algorithm means you can't avoid them," he says. Even if he says most are "funny" and "good guys", it's easy to see how the norms of what a male body should look like — and how to achieve it — would become skewed.

"From cinema to social media to advertising, teenage boys — who are at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives — are being fed images of men who are impossibly muscular," says Charlotte Markey, a professor of psychology at Rutgers University in New Jersey, who has spent 27 years researching body image in boys and girls. "Boys can easily begin to feel that their body is a project and needs to be fixed." While parents have long been versed in the pressure put on girls by marketing and social media, she says, we are only just waking up to how boys are being affected.

A survey of UK adolescents by the Mental Health Foundation in 2019 found that 35 per cent said their body image causes them to "often" or "always" worry. Some 10 per cent of secondary school boys said they would consider taking steroids to achieve their goals. That is why teenagers taking supposedly "safe" supplements such as creatine can be a worry, says Dr Stefano Montanari, a lecturer in sports nutrition at Manchester Metropolitan University. He says that anyone under the age of 18 should not be thinking about supplements but instead focusing on a healthy balanced diet and better sleep. But, he adds, the real danger with creatine is that "the gym can be an environment where one supplement leads to another, and before long you're going to meet someone who is going to offer you something illegal". There are a million anabolic steroid users in the UK, according to UK Anti-Doping.

Joey Swoll

Brodie 'Brodieshredz' Falgoust

Meanwhile Montanari warns that pre-workout drinks that promise to boost performance may contain unhealthy amounts of caffeine for teenagers. "The workout boost is due to the caffeine. This can cause nausea, make them jittery and have heart palpitations and, most seriously, can impact sleep."

When it comes to what teenagers are doing in the gym, all experts say the same thing. Working out with heavy weights, unattended or without having been properly assessed as to what to lift or taught how to do it properly, is a sure-fire way to become injured — even if they don't feel it at the time.

Dr Mandy Johnson is a senior lecturer in physiotherapy at Manchester Metropolitan University who worked with Alex Ferguson at Manchester United's youth academy. She says teenagers should not be lifting weights in the gym more than twice a week because their muscles need to recover. And, she says, cardio is just as important — it helps to build the systems, such as the heart and lungs, that enable teenagers to do strength training properly. She warns that younger teenagers going through growth spurts will be especially susceptible to injury.

When I try to nag my son about the importance of "form" he rolls his eyes and says he feels fine after a heavy workout. However, many injuries may not manifest until people are much older, says Dr Richard Ulm, a chiropractor who specialises in strength training and rehabilitation, and who works with athletes young and old.

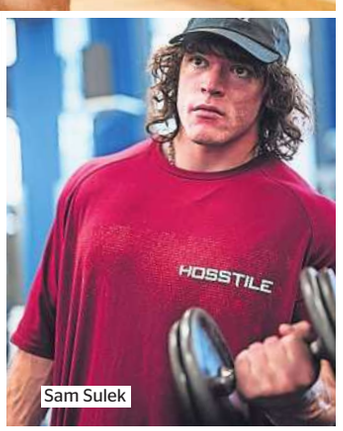
Although he is all for strength training and some healthy competition among teenagers in the gym, he sees "kids doing stupid things in the gym every day, fuelled by a soup of testosterone and hormones". That includes using far too heavy weights without being taught properly how to do so. Using routines and gym advice posted by unqualified TikTokkers who have never worked with athletes doesn't help, he says.

"Lifting unsuitable weights incorrectly risks damaging not so much muscles that heal easily but the passive tissues in the body, including the cartilage in joints, intervertebral discs, ligaments, the meniscus in the knee, the labrum in the shoulders, all of which have less blood flow to them and take a long time to heal." But, he says, teenagers may notice this as only a bit of an ache or stiffness. "Teenagers are made from rubber and magic, so a lot of the injuries they might sustain will only start expressing themselves when they are in their late twenties and early thirties, when the joints begin to lose their elasticity."

Injury risk aside, there is a more concerning aspect to boys becoming fanatical about working out. One of my son's friends told me that going to the gym five days a week had initially helped to boost his confidence, but soon he was worrying about his progress. "I had to take

to blame?

TEMPURA/GETTY IMAGES; INSTAGRAM



Sam Sulek

the mirror out of my bedroom because I felt bad about myself every time I looked in it," he says. "I have a friend who has the best physique of all of us, but he's always saying: 'Oh, I am so tiny, I am so weak.' He says it like he is joking but you kind of know he isn't. He is injured a lot because he pushes it too far, then he gets stressed out that he can't train."

Another 15-year-old concedes: "It is easy for the gym to become all you think about. It's all over your social media, then when you get home you are doing research on how to improve and prep your meals so you can hit your PB."

Still, many parents may not identify a problem since their sons' activities look like a welcome health kick. As one said to me recently, "Yes, it has taken over his life, but his sister at his age was getting drunk and smoking weed, so in comparison this doesn't seem so bad."

Undoubtedly for some boys an extreme gym hobby will be a phase, but for others it could be the start of something more serious. The Body Dysmorphic Disorder Foundation (bddfoundation.org), which helps 400,000 people with body image issues every year, says there has been a significant rise in teachers and parents expressing concern about teenage boys. This week the foundation is launching a pilot project with the Maudsley NHS Mental Health Trust to train teachers in south London schools to spot the signs and symptoms of body dysmorphic disorder (BDD) and muscle dysmorphia.

"If you have muscle dysmorphia you are preoccupied by the idea that you don't have enough lean muscle, which will occupy your mind for several hours a day," says Dr Rob Willson, the foundation chairman. "Boys start to feel ashamed and depressed. It can suck all the joy from life and interfere with their ability to study, see friends and other important activities." He warns that BDD has one of the highest suicide rates of all mental health conditions.

Markey says parents should ask these questions about their teenager to identify whether they have a problem: is the gym preventing them from spending time with their friends and family? Are they spending excessive amounts of time exercising or exercising when injured, or do they feel distressed if they can't make it to the gym? How strict is their gym diet? Does it cause distress if they have to deviate from it? Another red flag is how quickly a child's gym habit grows. "If you have a child who didn't do much exercise and all of a sudden is going to the gym five days a week, that is a concern."

Charlie King, 36, a former star of *The Only Way Is Essex*, had BDD when he was younger and is now a mental health campaigner on the issue as well as being a fitness coach. He says it's easy to see how a gym obsession can turn unhealthy. "When I began going to the gym at 14 I loved the feeling that it was giving me, but soon it felt like my entire life was based around it," he says. "I was researching supplements, overtraining and feeling guilty if I didn't train. I didn't want to join family meals because I felt it would take me off of routine. I'd look in the mirror and think: 'OMG, I don't look like David Beckham yet.' Then I'd try to do a hundred press-ups every night before bed. It spirals quite quickly because it feels as if what you do is never enough. My parents just thought I was being healthy, but actually I was struggling and really unhappy with who I was."

So what can a parent do? Markey, who is publishing a book for parents and teenagers in August called *Adultish: The Body Image Book for Life*, says approaching boys can be hard because they tend to be less communicative than girls. "You can begin by asking questions about how they feel. What are their concerns? Ask, what is your goal, do you see any downsides? Can they recognise there is a problem? If so, are they open to talking to an expert who can help?" It is important to have these conversations because the longer a condition is left the more dangerous it can be, she says. "One thing we know is boys and men get treatment later because people aren't recognising their symptoms as problematic."

GCSEs seem to have put a hold on a lot of my son and his friends' gym activity — and hopefully the beefy TikTokkers who go with it. For now I suspect they are glad to have the excuse to take a break.

'My clients are freaking out about Ozempic face'

The nutritionist Rose Ferguson is seeing more and more women trying to get off the weight-loss jab, she tells Charlotte Lytton

Over the past two months the celebrity nutritionist Rose Ferguson has seen a stream of clients with the same conundrum: not how to get hold of the weight-loss drug Ozempic amid global supply shortages, but how to get off it.

"There was a lot of negativity about Ozempic a few months ago, and so now quite a lot of people are freaking out," she says. Low mood? Low libido? In Ferguson's circles it seems the concerns are more aesthetic. "Ozempic face [where the skin begins to sag as a result of rapid weight loss] hasn't gone down very well."

Ferguson is discussing this over matcha balls at Surrenne in Knightsbridge. This week the £10,000-per-year luxury spa, which bills itself as a wellbeing and longevity members' club, announced her as the latest addition to its board, alongside the celebrity fitness trainer Tracy Anderson, and David Sinclair, a Harvard professor of genetics, and Andrew Huberman, an associate professor of neurobiology at the Stanford School of Medicine, both of whom have cult-like followings.

It's hard to imagine Ferguson relying on a quick health fix. The glossy-haired 49-year-old was scouted at 15 in McDonald's on Oxford Street, became Miu Miu's first campaign model and walked for Alexander McQueen. She trained as a nutritionist and functional medicine practitioner after 15 years on the catwalk, becoming known as the Queen of the Reset owing to her "eliminate-and-start-again" method for clients' diets. The radio and TV presenter Nick Grimshaw, one of her celebrity pals, said that he "had a lightbulb moment at the end [of her plan], like, 'Ohhh, I get it now. This is how to eat.' "

Teaching people the basics of eating well has been Ferguson's mainstay for the past 20 years, but the arrival of weight-loss "wonder drugs" has certainly shaken things up. "My main concern is around people using it when they don't really need it," she says. "I don't know a single person who has what you'd call a perfect relationship with food. It's a complex relationship for many people, and I'm not necessarily sure that Ozempic is helpful in that department."

She insists that all clients grappling with weight-loss drugs seek a doctor's advice as well as her own, although she says she has no big qualms about Ozempic, having read "quite positive" things about "microdosing" it (taking it in smaller quantities).

So what does she advise those clients — and there are a fair few of them — who have rushed to take the jab to slim down for an occasion, seen horror shots of "Ozempic face" doing the rounds on social media, and then come to Ferguson for help? She starts with a simple diet plan — three high-fibre, nutrient-dense meals a day — plus lots of movement. Or, as she puts it: "It's not rocket science: eat good protein, eat good fat, eat lots of vegetables, drink lots of water, smoke less, drink less, take fewer drugs."

She aims to "support people's thyroid and support people's gut if they come off it [both can become affected by lifestyle factors, leading to lethargy and weight gain], so there's not this yo-yoing of being on Ozempic and then off it". The worst-case scenario is the drug's sudden absence "triggering a rebound; putting on weight and then the binge-purge cycle". In one 2022 study, participants had regained two-thirds of the weight they had lost within a year of stopping the medication.

Ferguson's own health regime is somewhat different from the one she had as a model 30 years ago, although her friends are the same. "All my friends are my friends from those days," she says. There's Kate Moss (the eldest two of her three daughters are signed to Moss's eponymous model agency), plus the A-listers and aristos from the Notting Hill and Chipping Norton sets (she lives in the Cotswolds with her husband, the artist Jake Chapman). Also on the list are the Beckhams; Victoria's 50th last month was the "best night out everrrrrr", according to Ferguson's Instagram post from the occasion. Her middle daughter, Bliss, once dated Cruz Beckham.

Rose Ferguson

> "Stopping the fat jabs can trigger a rebound — putting on weight and then a binge-purge cycle

She has an uber-healthy schedule: cold showers first thing, a plant and legume-heavy diet, fasting for about 12 hours a day and going to bed at the same time (minus her phone) every night. Sugar and alcohol are consumed in moderation, although she is partial to a martini, not least because they come with olives: "Very good for you." She takes a handful of supplements, including urolithin A, which is believed to boost mitochondria, the power generators within cells and is a favourite among the longevity crowd.

While weight loss is a perennial concern, longevity is now a focus for her clients, who are keen on "future-proofing" themselves.

Still, while we want to live longer in good health, there is little new to be unearthed about how to do it. Ferguson says she "can't believe I'm still saying the same things" when it comes to giving dietary advice (which mostly hinges on the principles of the 5,000-year-old Mediterranean diet).

"Nothing has changed from the 'what you should eat' point of view. It's what you do eat that's changing," she says of our ultra-processed diets. "Our life expectancies are going down and it's not because the advice is wrong." So she'll keep giving it and following it too. Weight-loss drugs are tempting, she says, but "the quick fix is never a quick fix".

surrenne.com

Great British Summer

Best places to eat by the coast

Where to nab a table in Cornwall

Week 1 We kick off our summer special with Cornwall. Local foodie Caroline Boucher picks 30 of the best restaurants, alfresco spots and beachside cafés

Kynance Cove, on the Lizard peninsula

Eat like a local

Sam's on the Beach Polkerris

Housed in an old lifeboat station on the tiny beach, this is the quirkiest of several Sam's outlets in Cornwall. Pizzas from the wood-fired oven cost from £13.95, and fresh fish is delivered daily. The signature bouillabaisse costs £26. Dogs are welcome, and there's parking in the roomy car park up the hill. Menabilly, where Daphne du Maurier lived and which was the inspiration for Manderly in her 1938 novel *Rebecca*, is up the lane.
Details samscornwall.co.uk

Idle Rocks St Mawes

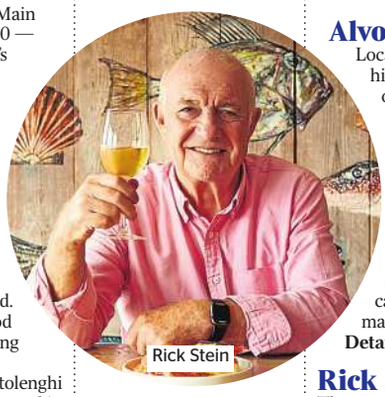
On a fine day the terrace here is hard to beat. It's perched right over the water, with a panoramic view of the sea and the comings and goings of the busy local ferry. The food is locally sourced, and might include pan-fried fillet of black Cornish bream and beef brisket. Main courses can be steep — £30 to £40 — and you can't book the terrace, it's first come first served, but the hotel has an unhurried, chic vibe and the staff are lovely.
Details idlerocks.com

The Old Coastguard Hotel Mousehole

This 14-bedroom hotel in one of Cornwall's prettiest villages has a high standard of comfort and food. There's an outside terrace for good weather, and a log fire in the dining room for bad. The chef Danny Garland trained under Yotam Ottolenghi and Theo Randall, and this is reflected in his menu. A two-course Sunday lunch costs £35, and could be smoked Fowey mussels followed by lamb shoulder with all the trimmings.
Details oldcoastguardhotel.co.uk

Appleton's Fowey

Andy Appleton was the head chef at Jamie Oliver's 15 before starting this excellent restaurant with his wife, Lyndsey. Dishes reflect his love of Italian food, given an inventive twist and prepared right in front of you in the intimate space. Brunch might include Cornish lobster, prawn and potato chowder (£14) or Old Cornish sausage, potato waffle, fried eggs and beans (£16).
Details Tuesday to Saturday; appletonsrestaurant.com



Rick Stein

Thomas Daniell Truro

At the top of the hill overlooking the city, this grade II listed inn has been garnering well-deserved praise for its classy pub food. There's a welcoming bar and a long, low-ceilinged dining area with a wood-burning stove. The prices are reasonable and the portions generous, from wild mushrooms on toast with rocket and walnut pesto for £12 to the Newlyn fish pie, at £23.
Details tdtruro.com

Alvorada Mevagissey

Locals are justifiably proud of this hidden gem that seats 12 and is open only in the summer. Antonio, its Portuguese owner, gets up at 4am to fish for the daily menu, which he'll then chalk up on the blackboard outside this little cottage — monkfish, scallops and prawns feature. Prices are reasonable, starting at about £28 for a main course of seafood and bean casserole, or, if you're lucky, there may be grilled local sardines.
Details 01726 842055

Rick Stein's Café Padstow

The man (and his family) who put Cornish restaurants on the map more than 50 years ago has created an extensive food empire, including an online fishmonger and cookery school. The original Seafood Restaurant is excellent but pricey, so you might want the more relaxed atmosphere of the café, where dogs are allowed in the courtyard area and they open for an early breakfast too. There are some excellent curries and if you opt for the Pondicherry Cod Curry (£21.95) the café donates a meal to a child in poverty in India.
Details rickstein.com

Kota Porthleven

You may have seen the half-Maori, half-Chinese Malay chef Jude Kereama on *Great British Menu*, and he has been instrumental in setting up the successful Porthleven Food Festival. There's a nod to his heritage here — Kota means "shellfish" in Maori — and his innovative food reflects this and his Malay heritage with dishes such as smoked mackerel doughnuts with horseradish and herring roe (£8 for four). He also runs the less formal Kota Kai.
Details kotarestaurant.co.uk

The Pig Harlyn Bay

The Pig hotels excel at subtle comfort, and this one is no exception, in a beautiful old manor house close to some of the best surfing beaches in the county. Most of the vegetables come from the 1831 slate-walled kitchen garden — the sort gardeners dream about — and not only does it have its own hens and bees, salmon is smoked in the smokehouse. Dishes include middle white pork loin with spiced carrot puree for £27 and Cornish monkfish tail for £28.
Details thepighotel.com

Indidog Falmouth

On the harbour wall of the old Fish Strand, this buzzing restaurant has amazing views and a great menu. Brunch is served 10am to 3pm and is excellent value, the dishes ranging from a stack of blueberry pancakes (£14.25) to a smoked haddock rarebit (£13). Parking can be a problem, but you could get the ferry across from St Mawes.
Details indidogeatery.com

New Yard Trelowarren The Lizard peninsula

This estate is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and the restaurant is in the old stable yard. Its three-course Sunday lunch is a pretty generous spread for £50, and you can walk through the extensive grounds afterwards to the highest point on the Lizard. It has recently opened the more relaxed Café Flora, which has a wood-fired oven, and an art gallery is part of the complex.
Details trelowarren.com

St Enodoc Hotel Rock

The chef Guy Owen has brought a relaxed vibe to the brasserie here, things preferably kicked off with cocktails on the terrace with views over Rock. The hotel is supplied by its farm in Hatherleigh, Devon, and its beef and lamb are legendary. During the summer there are events on and collaborations with Sharp's Brewery. There is an indoor barbecue for bad weather. The St Enodoc beefburger with cheese and fries costs £18.
Details enodoc-hotel.co.uk

Fat Apples Café Porthallow

The chic way to get here would be by boat then a climb up the hill, but there's

COVER: THE PICTURE PANTRY/STOCKFOOD; BELOW: MANFRED GOTTSCHALK/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN HERSEY; FRANKIE THOMAS

Outdoor dining at St Enodoc Hotel, Rock

The King of Prussia, Fowey

limited parking as well. This cheery little café is open for breakfast, lunch and tea, and choices range from an enormous traditional breakfast for £12.95 to homemade burgers and sandwiches from £8.95. There are 30 covers inside, and lots of picnic benches and deckchairs scattered about outside. On a fine day it takes some beating.
Details Wednesday to Sunday; fatapplescafe.uk

Coombeshead Farm Lewannick

This is very much a farm-to-table destination, and aims to source the bulk of the menu from the farm, so if you're big on fish this is not the place for you. Its speciality is its air-dried ham from its mangalitza pigs (available online; £12.50 for 60g). It has its own bakery, using locally grown and ground flour. The three-course set menu costs £45.
Details Dinner Wednesday to Sunday, lunch only on Sunday; coombesheadfarm.co.uk

The King of Prussia Fowey

The new owners of this town stalwart have been getting justifiably excellent reviews for their revamp, which includes six bedrooms. The food is interesting and sensibly priced (main courses for lunch come in at under £20), and there are sharing plates, local Porthilly oysters and proper Sunday lunch.
Details Wednesday to Sunday; thekingfowey.co.uk

Driftwood Hotel Portscatho

This family-run boutique hotel is one of the prettiest places in the county thanks to its interior designer owner Fiona Robinson. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming, and the grounds extend down to a tiny private beach. There's a terrace with far-reaching sea views and a cosy log fire inside if it's cold. The food is sourced locally, and there are Cornish cream teas from £12. Dishes might include Newlyn cod with hispi cabbage and lobster sauce for £28 or spiced roasted cauliflower for £24. Booking is essential.
Details dinner daily and lunch on Saturday and Sunday; driftwoodhotel.co.uk

Barley Sheaf Gorran

The chef Tim Kendall trained under Michel Roux and Marcus Wareing before returning to Cornwall and taking on this traditional village pub. Locals will love him for ever for fish and chips Friday, which he ran during lockdown and still runs today, now to eat in and to take away. It's a proper pub with a log fire and a good bar, and the menu is firmly seasonal. The two-course set dinner menu for £40 might feature West Country venison followed by apple panna cotta. Dogs are welcome, and it's a good destination if you've spent the day at the Lost Gardens of Heligan.
Details Wednesday to Sunday thebarleysheafgorran.co.uk

The Old Coastguard Hotel, Mousehole

The Greenhouse St Keverne

This small restaurant run by a husband and wife team has been a well-kept local secret for some time. The room seats 20, so booking is essential. The dishes are a clever combination of flavours, the ingredients carefully sourced to be as free of pesticides as possible. The menu changes frequently, but might include chargrilled Cornish lamb rump for £29 or pumpkin and smoked gouda souffle for £18. The wines are biodynamic and organic (although you can bring your own and pay corkage). Its suppliers are listed at the bottom of the menu.
Details Dinner Thursday to Saturday; thegreenhousecornwall.co.uk

Edie's Carlyon Bay

Now in its third year, this restaurant has been a constant favourite with locals. The chef Nigel Brown trained with Raymond Blanc at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, and his wife, Kelly, runs front of house. Don't expect a picturesque beach walk after your meal, but do go for the food. There are several menus that change monthly, and the prices are reasonable: dishes include free-range chicken with butter beans and feta for £22 and hake with golden beetroot and herb yoghurt for £24.
Details Wednesday to Saturday; edies.restaurant

St Kew Inn St Kew

A perfect place for lunch for you and your dog after a long walk on the moor. The inn dates from 1460, and the tables are in four separate areas, which works well. The whole parish has a historic feel — the village church has some of the finest medieval stained glass in Cornwall. There's an extensive garden for fine days, and the food, such as baked whole Cornish sole with fried potatoes for £23, is local and excellent.
Details stkewinn.co.uk

The Fish House Fistral Beach

A restaurant on the edge of one of Cornwall's premier surfing beaches is bound to have a pretty fish-heavy menu, and there are stunning choices at good prices; a lunchtime seafood sharing board comes in at £24.95. Dogs are welcome at lunchtime, and the restaurant is linked to Fins Surf School, offering a 10 per cent discount on lessons. The perfect spot to enjoy lunch and watch the kids fall off their boards.
Details thefishhousefistral.com

Duchy of Cornwall Nursery Lostwithiel

There's not a weed in sight or a pebble out of place here. The café and the Orangery are packed year-round, and justifiably so. In the summer street food is served on the Woodland Terrace and there's a casual menu from the Shepherd Hut — think sausage rolls and carrot cake. The breakfasts, until 11am, are

Continues next page

EMMA POTTER

Sunday lunch at the Standard Inn, Gerrans

▶ legendary (the vegetarian garden breakfast with portobello mushroom, local asparagus and thyme-roasted potatoes costs £13) and so is the shop. And, of course, there are the plants too.
Details Closed in the evening; duchyofcornwallnursery.co.uk

The Longstore Charlestown

This first-floor restaurant overlooks the ancient harbour lock, where there's usually an old tall ship tied up or a film company busy (Aidan Turner was often to be seen around the village filming *Poldark*). The dining area is big, but warmed on cold days by a log-burner, and the food is plentiful and varied, with naturally aged Cornish steaks from £31. Brunch from 10am to 3pm includes donburi bowls of coconut rice, kimchi, vegetables and toppings from £16. There is a branch in Truro.
Details thelongstore.co.uk

Crocadon Farm St Mellion

Dan Cox worked long and hard for the much deserved Michelin star his restaurant was awarded this year. His aim is to serve field-to-plate dishes from this 120-acre farm with zero waste. The menus reflect what's out there in the fields, so right now you'll be offered wild garlic, fat hen of the woods and medlar. Cheap it isn't — dinner costs £125, the tasting menu £75 and Sunday lunch £50 — but it is popular, and tables are hard to come by. Nevertheless, it's relaxed — you eat in a converted barn and dogs are welcome.
Details Thursday to Sunday; crocadon.farm

Gurnard's Head Zennor

In Cornwall's more austere landscape, this welcoming hotel produces delicious and thoughtful food at reasonable prices (a two-course supper costs £40, and could be mussels followed by pork belly with mash). An outside bar, the Cow Shed, has just been opened, serving drinks and mussels and chips.
Details gurnardshead.co.uk

The Standard Inn Gerrans

When the team behind the Hidden Hut (just along the coast on the beach) took over this old pub a reservation became a hot ticket. Other than some dangerously low beams the atmosphere is relaxed, with a good clutter of mismatched furniture and cosy corners. Menus change weekly, but a Sunday roast with seasonal vegetables and "lashings of proper gravy" will cost about £25. Opening hours vary so check first, and booking is essential. Dogs are welcome.
Details standardinn.co.uk

Sunset Beach Café Gwithian

You can book surfing lessons at this cheery café set back above the dunes of the huge beach and work up an appetite for the Surfers Special, a gargantuan full English breakfast served from 10am until closing time at 4pm, and featuring beans and black pudding along with eggs and sausage, all for £12.50. It has a drinks licence and is open seven days a week but it's first come, first served.
Details Closed in the evening; sunset-surf.com

Fine dining at Crocadon Farm, St Mellion

Watering Hole Perranporth

This bar claims to be the only one in the UK to actually be on the beach and so far in its 50-year history, it hasn't been washed away. It's an unpretentious place with a solid, simple menu — fish and chips at £16, a burger made using local steak for £11.50. Look online for its summer events evenings, with a range of live music performances.
Details Closes at 7pm; thewateringhole.co.uk

Hidden Hut Porthcurnick

This once little-known beachside shack has become a destination restaurant for foodies in recent years, meaning there can be a long queue, but the cooking and quality of the produce is excellent. A simple daily menu is chalked up on the board — there was a fish stew at £13.50 recently. Its Feast Nights are legendary and sell out immediately. Booking starts at midday on June 1.
Details Lunch only; hiddenhut.co.uk

Porthminster Beach Café St Ives

The chef Mike Smith has run this reliable and popular restaurant for over 20 years and never lets you down. Food is sourced locally — a starter of Fowey mussels comes in at £14, a main course of linguine with Newlyn crab, mussels and prawn, £29. It has its own kitchen garden and you can often find the chefs foraging up on the cliff path. Parking in St Ives is a nightmare, so canny souls park at St Erth station and catch the little coastal train for the short hop.
Details porthminstercafe.co.uk

Next week Suffolk

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More and more women are running ultramarathons. Hannah Evans, 29, is one of them

Hannah Evans

Hannah with her friend Ellie

Why I took on this brutal 84km run

When did it dawn on me that running an 84km race across Gran Canaria might be one of the craziest things I have done? Perhaps it was during the flight, when I looked out of my window and realised that the next time I crossed the island it would be on foot.

Or maybe it was at 7am on the morning of the race when, as the sun rose, I saw for the first time the enormous mountains I was going to have to run up. They made Box Hill in Surrey, the largest hill near where I live in south London, look like a speed bump.

In reality, the moment that clinched it for me was 60km in, just after sunset. I'd been running for about 11 hours when my water intake got the better of me and I had to pee. Only then did I realise, when I looked down at my feet with my headtorch, that I was squatting on the edge of a cliff high above a ravine. A shuffle to the right and I would have fallen down the long drop.

I had signed up to take part in the North Face Transgrancanaria, a brutal annual ultramarathon (an ultra is any distance longer than a marathon). It takes place over a weekend in late February and draws in thousands of runners.

Hundreds of ultramarathons like this take place every year, from South Africa to South America — ultra-running is one of the world's fastest-growing sports. The most famous race is in France: the 170km-long Ultra Trail du Mont Blanc (UTMB), which has been described as the Super Bowl of ultramarathons. It makes a marathon look like a stroll in the park.

The people who take on these challenges have become celebrities among runners. When the American Courtney Dauwalter, widely considered the world's best trail runner, arrived at this year's Transgrancanaria Expo to collect her bib, a swarm gathered round her asking for pictures. It was as though Kim Kardashian had walked in.

However, in the past few years, a new crowd has started to take on these extreme physical challenges. In 2022 Strava — the app used by fitness obsessives to track exercise, from running to cycling — saw a surge in the number of users logging "trail" activities off-road. Last year the number of runners uploading trail runs to the app increased by 16 per cent, and the biggest year-on-year increase is among women aged 18-29. Women like me.

Why on earth would anyone want to put themselves through that, you might ask, when you can just, you know, go and lie on the beach like most people who visit Gran Canaria do? Having run three road marathons, I wanted to try something different. And the handful of times I'd tried running off-road — admittedly in Surrey, not Spain — I had enjoyed it, so when my friend Ellie asked if I wanted to run the Transgrancanaria with her, I naively thought, why not?

"It's like you've told me you are going to eat a car," a colleague said to me when I announced my intention to run. "I just can't comprehend that you are going to do it." To be honest, lining up at the start at 7am with almost 600 other runners, neither could I. There are five distances that participants can choose to run during the weekend, ranging from a 5km route to a race that is 126km long — that's three marathons back to back. I had chosen the Advanced route, an 84km race from the top of the island to the bottom. It was raining, but the clouds had cleared enough for me to see the enormous mountains surrounding us for the first time.

> At 7pm, with the sun just about to set, I had been running for 11 hours

I'm used to running with as little on me as possible — keys, phone, that's it. But on my back I carried a pack filled with two litres of water, some snacks, a first-aid kit, and clothes and accessories for every kind of weather — thermals, gloves, a sun cap, SPF, a balaclava. It might have been chilly at the start but Gran Canaria is like a small continent, with a kaleidoscope of weather.

The race began in Agaete, on the wetter, northeastern side of the island, which is covered in woodland and shrubbery. The route snakes its way through the middle of the island, climbing up vast rocky mountains and down into moonscape valleys, along dried up riverbeds and muddy slopes, before finishing in the southern seaside town of Maspalomas. There is a time cap of 22 hours; the winner usually comes in in just under nine hours. I was expecting to finish somewhere in between.

I spent the night before carb loading. Aptly, one of the national dishes of Gran Canaria is papas arrugadas, boiled potatoes served with red and green mojo sauce. I ate three plates of the stuff, desperately trying to distract myself from thoughts of what lay ahead. "It's about wanting to know what your limits are and pushing them," Elsley Davis, a professional trail runner sponsored by the North Face, told me. Not only has she run Transgrancanaria before but last year she won a 100km UTMB race in France.

There is nothing that tests your limits like rain, two steep hills and a howling wind — all of which I encountered from the moment we set off. "Isn't Gran Canaria where you go for the good weather?" I muttered, pulling on my raincoat.

The climbs in the first half of the race are so steep and enduring that there is no point running up them. Not even the pros do. Instead I speed-walked, using two walking poles to pull myself up.

The dirt tracks, which run along the edges of the hills, are so thin at points that my stomach lurched with every whoosh of wind. Every time I glanced up, all I could see was a never-ending line of people winding their way up the mountain. It felt like walking up an escalator and never getting to the top.

"This is tough, isn't it?" I half laughed, half sobbed to a man next to me. I got no reply. Perhaps he was in even more of a pain cave than I was.

Moments of respite were provided by the aid stations — checkpoints where you could restock on energy drinks and water, and fill your boots with snacks: Pepsi, sugary sweets, chocolate, crisps, dried fruit, even potatoes and paella. Sugar and carbohydrates are your saviours.

We stayed at each station for about 10 to 15 minutes. I could have stayed much longer, but there were all those hills and mountains to tackle. At least it was sunny for the second half of the race; off came the raincoat, on went the cap and sun cream. There were bursts of flat terrain too, which meant I could finally run.

Preparing for an ultramarathon such as the Transgrancanaria takes months, not just because of the distance but also because of the hills — all 4,800m of them. To put that into context, the summit of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the UK, is 1,345m above sea level. Over the course of my route, I did the equivalent of running up it three and a half times.

Consequently, for months beforehand, I had to build strength in my glutes, calves and hamstrings to carry me up them, and my quads to help me down. I started working out with Omni Wellness (@omniwellness_group), a collective of personal trainers and nutritionists. I met the co-founder and personal trainer Josh Davies once a week, and he put me through my paces with squats, deadlifts, hamstring curls and calf raises. Friday nights were spent stretching and doing Pilates with his partner and co-founder Aimee Long, to strengthen my core. I even joined a gym in Soho called Third Space which had an altitude chamber, which restricts oxygen in the air, in hope of improving my fitness. Training was like having another job; my social life began to fade away. At weekends I would do my long runs — the longest more than 50km. In January I ran a marathon every weekend. The ultra took over my life, but as I snaked up those mountains, through the woods and into the clouds, I knew I wouldn't be there if it hadn't done it.

At 7pm, with the sun just about to set, we had been running for 11 hours. As the hills turned golden in the light, I forgot the pain in my quads (from throwing myself down hills) and in my glutes (from pulling myself up them). The last 10km of the run were a blur. Not just because my head torch ran out of battery so I had to navigate a dried-up, rocky riverbed by moonlight, but because by that point I was drained. Out of energy. Out of snacks. Out of optimistic things to say to my friend. It wasn't just my toes that hurt but all that running downhill had taken its toll on my thighs. Even shuffling on the flat felt like hell.

I can't describe what it's like to see a finish line when you have been running for more than 17 hours. Crossing the line, dusty and sweaty, felt like arriving in paradise, even though it was the middle of the night, in a car park, and most of the spectators had gone home. All I remember is sitting down and realising, thankfully, incredulously, that I wasn't moving. I'd finished in just shy of 18 hours, a time I didn't really care about. This being my first ultramarathon, I was just happy I'd been able to finish.

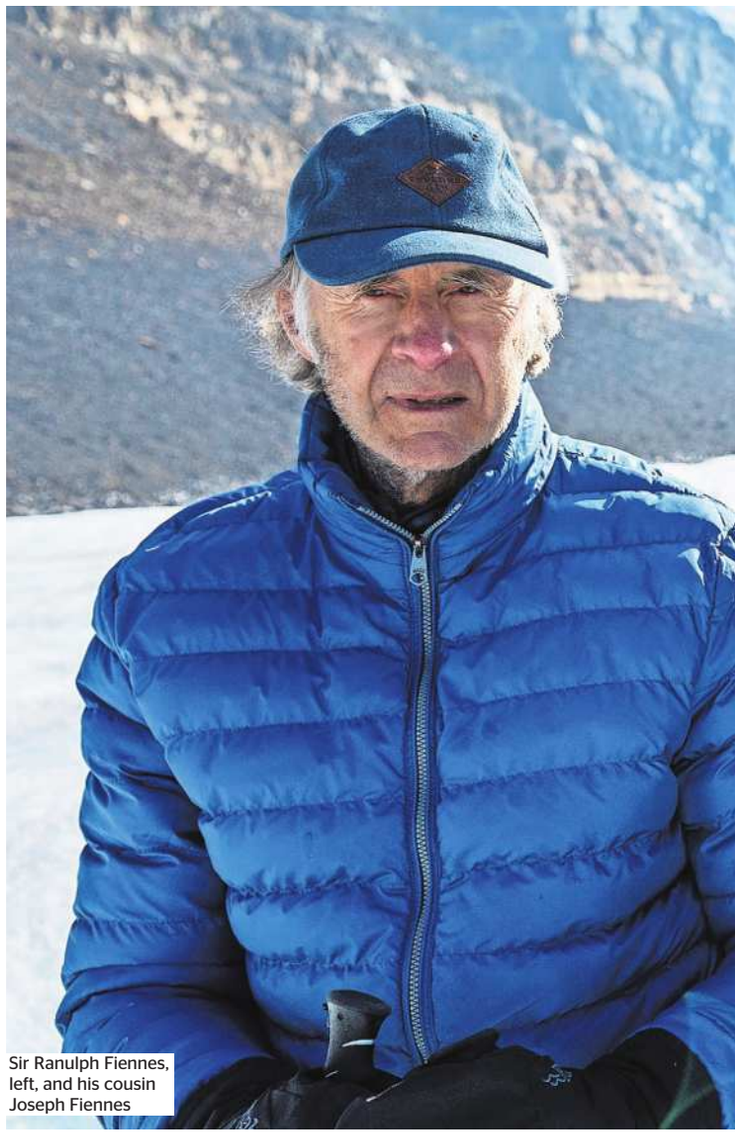
Will I be signing up for next year's race? Ask me in a month or so, when I'm bored with Battersea Park again.

transgrancanaria.net

The adventurous family Fiennes

‘I got to know my cousin Ran’

The actor Joseph Fiennes, 53, and Sir Ranulph Fiennes, 80, tell Michael Odell about facing the explorer’s Parkinson’s disease on an epic expedition across Canada



Sir Ranulph Fiennes, left, and his cousin Joseph Fiennes

In the 1980s, when the actor Joseph Fiennes was at secondary school, he used to hear rumours about his glamorous Old Etonian cousin, the explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes. The pair hadn’t yet met. Joseph wasn’t sure he wanted to.

“There I am at my south London state school and all I hear about is Ran and his Eton friends getting arrested by the police, so I was thinking, ‘Maybe private school isn’t all it’s cracked up to be’,” he recalls.

Joseph, now 53, was a teenager when he first heard how “Ran”, his third cousin once removed (Sir Ranulph and Joseph’s father, Mark, shared a great-great-grandfather), had once plotted a bomb attack on the set of the 1967 film *Dr Dolittle*, starring Rex Harrison. An Old Etonian friend of Ranulph’s was furious that the film’s set had spoilt the Cotswolds village (Castle Combe in Wiltshire) where he lived. Ranulph, then serving with the SAS, offered to blow it up.

“Stupid, because we were caught and I received six months’ probation and a big fine. However, it had just won the award for the prettiest village in England,” Ranulph, 80, explains.

“In a sense you were an early eco-warrior?” Joseph asks.

“Perhaps, but they didn’t call us that. They called us idiots.”

There was another story that impressed Joseph, star of *Shakespeare in Love*, who is fresh from playing the football manager Gareth Southgate in the Olivier-winning play *Dear England*. This one was about his cousin scaling Lupton’s Tower, a building at Eton College dating from Tudor times.

“Mine was the first ascent by night from the eastern side,” Ranulph confirms proudly. “Later, Bear [Grylls, the explorer and fellow Old Etonian] did it, claiming it was harder because the school had erected barbed wire defences. But, of course, that made it easier because barbed wire gives you something to grab hold of.”

Welcome to the extraordinary world of the Fienneses. Despite not meeting until a family gathering in 2000, they are now firm friends. Today, we meet on the 14th floor of their publicist’s London office to discuss an extraordinary journey they have made together, recreating a 2,400km river expedition from British Columbia’s northern border to Vancouver, which Ranulph originally undertook in 1971 — a four-month odyssey by rubber dinghy involving perilous rapids that had never previously been completed.

> “Parkinson’s means he faces challenges. I feel he is perhaps understanding what drove him to these incredible feats

This time he and his cousin took it a bit easier: travelling by foot, road, boat and air for three weeks, all of it filmed for a two-part National Geographic documentary called *Return to the Wild*. That’s because, having been diagnosed with Parkinson’s roughly five years ago, the world’s greatest living explorer (according to Guinness World Records) isn’t as mobile as he once was. Despite this, he remains a commanding presence, cutting off his cousin’s memory prompts with a “yes, that’s quite enough, I’ve got it now”.

A toned, smiley Joseph is undeterred. During a poignant scene in the documentary, he calls Ranulph his “hero” as they look at photos taken on the original 1971 expedition.

Sir Ranulph Fiennes with his late wife, Ginny, on the 1971 Canadian trip

“I think of that bloke — me, back then — as someone totally different, because I’m now deaf, not blind but getting that way, and into an age where my runs become shuffles,” Ranulph says. “When I see these, it reminds me that, in those days, we thought we could do anything.”

The pair first travelled together in 2018 when they recreated Ranulph’s 1968 expedition to Egypt (he travelled the River Nile by hovercraft). “The only way to really know this extraordinary man is to journey with him,” Joseph says. There was a deeper emotional reason for Ranulph wanting to return to Canada. “My wife, Ginny [who died of stomach cancer in 2004], drove a support Land Rover full of petrol and whisky,” he recalls.

“I don’t think my wife would drive a Land Rover full of whisky solely for my benefit,” says Joseph, who is married to the Swiss-Spanish actress and model María Dolores Diéguez.

On screen, it’s clear the actor’s “dad” jokes are as much of a challenge to the grizzled explorer — who famously sawed off his frostbitten fingertips after a trip to the Arctic — as the threat of a black bear attack or falling down a ravine. “Do you do this just for the krill of it?” he wisecracks, as Ranulph tries to catch a fish.

“Overall, Joe’s comedy made it all very jolly,” says Ranulph today, staring straight ahead, bushy eyebrows twitching.

But Parkinson’s disease means the Canadian adventure is also tinged by sadness. He is clearly not the man who circumnavigated the world on its polar axis by land or who, in 2003, ran seven marathons on seven continents in seven days, four months after suffering a heart attack (he required a double heart bypass operation). These days, he has to take seven pills a day and concentrate carefully when walking. “My concentration is bad,” he admits. “You desperately want to say a word like ‘suicide’ or ‘love’, a feeling, and the word just goes.”

Has he been thinking about suicide?

“I haven’t considered suicide in terms of doing it myself, but when asked my opinion on it, I found I hadn’t really got one,” he says.

In Canada, on medical advice, it is Joseph who does all the rowing and climbing. He even abseils into a crevasse.

“Nothing like Ran’s exploits,” he says. “It was all very safe. For me the most moving part of the experience was having a chance to know the man who was mythical to me growing up. Yes, Parkinson’s means he faces challenges. I feel he is looking back and perhaps understanding what drove him to these incredible feats.”

There is a moving scene where First Nation people conduct a ceremony to ensure safe travel for the pair. They talk about communicating with their ancestors before Ranulph describes how he draws on the voice of his father (also called Ranulph) in adversity.

On his 97-day journey across Antarctica in the 1990s, for example — during which temperatures dropped to minus 90C (contemporaneous reports described him as emerging “more dead than alive”) — it was the voice of his father that drove him on. Ranulph Sr died during the Second World War, four months before his son was born.

“But because of all the stories my mother told me, he is in me,” Ranulph says. “I only ever wanted to make him proud and not give up.”

DISNEY/NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC; ALAMY; ANTHONY HARVEY/BAFTA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Joseph Fiennes and his wife, María Dolores Diéguez

Given that he never met his father, strictly speaking the voice in Ranulph's head is his own?

"It's what I imagine my dad would say," he says. "A voice that tells me, 'Don't give in, don't be weak.' "

It seems an odd question to ask a man now stroking his chin with sawn-off finger stumps, but has Ranulph actually enjoyed his expeditions?

"Perhaps I did focus too much on being first and getting from one place to another," he muses. "But the thing with expeditions is the sponsors want you to be first. That's how you get the money: be first. And I didn't want to let my father down, to think he might be ashamed."

There is something poignant about Ranulph's drive compared with Joseph's ease. In 2009 Ranulph became the oldest British person to climb Everest (at 65) despite suffering from vertigo. "The best cure for vertigo is heights," he says. "To be honest, I thought I'd conquered it but when I was climbing a ladder at home to clear leaves from the gutter recently, it came back."

He has raised more than £19 million for various charities over the course of his career but the self-sacrifice seems to be part of the point. When I visited his home on Exmoor ten years ago, where he lives with his second wife, Louise, and their 18-year-old daughter, Elizabeth, he was annoyed that one of his sawn-off fingertips, kept in a drawer in his office, had gone missing. Did it ever turn up? "Joyce, my PA, and I agree that a mouse probably ate it," he says.

Men have changed and so too has exploration. Ranulph used to navigate using his wristwatch and the position of the sun. Now, we have geolocation and Google maps, but he is having none of it.

"This is the most modern bit of tech I own," he asserts, handing me a battered brick phone with his mobile number sellotaped to the back.

"That's great, Ran," Joseph says. "I fear the smartphone has robbed us of our intuitive smartness."

Maybe wildlife programmes have had an effect too. When they encounter a black bear, Joseph has to remind himself he's not in a Disney film.

"It was a very cute looking bear," he says, shrugging. "And you have to remember, we have consumed hours and hours of wildlife on TV. But when you see one in the wilderness for real, you have to balance a sense of wonder with danger."

"When I went to the Arctic, the Canadian government warned me that 10 per cent of polar bears eat humans," Ranulph recalls. "I said, 'How do I tell which ones? Do I have to bloody ask them?' "

Of course, that wilderness is under threat, as we see when Joseph abseils down a crevasse on the fast-disappearing Athabasca glacier. Would either of them ever endorse eco-activists such as Just Stop Oil?

"I'm glad a lot more people are trying to stop the destruction of forests and the climate," Ranulph says. "I would be vocal but probably not stop traffic."

"The Athabasca glacier will probably be gone in my lifetime," Joseph says. "We are at a tipping point so we do need to be conscious but also active. So, yeah, I would stop traffic. I should stop traffic, although what we need is change at governmental level."

The pair are clearly fond of each other. Joseph is adapting Ranulph's 1997 thriller *The Sett* (where an accountant takes on the mafia, the CIA and the gangland underworld after the murder of his family) for the big screen. But will there be another joint adventure?

"Can we tell him?" Joseph asks.

"No, or the Norwegians might do it first," Ranulph says, referring to his toughest adversaries over the decades. In fact, when I visited him ten years ago, he had a radio mast erected in the garden to eavesdrop on their expedition plans.

"If you come second, nobody cares," he says, sharply. "Norwegians are a nuisance in that respect."

Back in Canada at the end of their trip, fishing for sturgeon, which can live for upwards of 150 years, Joseph asks his cousin if he'd like to live that long. Yes, Ranulph says, he'd like to see how certain things pan out.

Like what, for example?

"The end of Putin and all the autocrats like him. I want to see everyone agree that peace, democracy and love will get you through life."

"That's so beautiful," Joseph says. "And if anyone can make it to 200, it's you."

***Fiennes: Return to the Wild* starts on National Geographic tomorrow at 8pm**

Meet Ula Maria, the Chelsea 'underdog'

Alice Vincent talks to the youngest designer to win the show's top prize (to Monty Don's dismay)

The Chelsea Flower Show's most coveted gong, best in show, can be a hard one to call. During the BBC's coverage, even Monty Don got it wrong, expressing open (some have said uncharitable) surprise that this year's winner was Ula Maria, a 31-year-old Lithuanian designer and landscape architect who filled her Forest Bathing Garden with 55 trees and wheelchair-friendly paths, creating a shady and understated oasis of calm.

More remarkably, this was Maria's Chelsea debut; she is the youngest person to win best in show, and only the third woman in its history to take the prize as a solo designer.

"Honestly, it's the weirdest thing," Maria told me, hours after she learnt she had won — but before the Monty furore kicked off — still fielding a stream of congratulatory WhatsApp messages. "I feel so much love; really, it's so nice."

For Maria's generation of garden designers, the feeling is mutual. Since winning RHS young designer of the year in 2017 when she was only 24, she has been gaining recognition for her thoughtful, wilderness-inspired designs. After two award-winning Hampton Court Palace Festival gardens, a gold medal at Shenzhen Flower Show in China and the publication of *Green*, a book dedicated to small and urban gardens, her Chelsea debut felt like a moment for millennial designers on Main Avenue.

Ula Maria

I speak a little from personal experience: I first interviewed Maria in 2017, after being struck by her award-winning design for RHS Flower Show Tatton Park. Drought-tolerant gardens are now de rigueur, but it felt a bold move seven years ago. Studio Unwired, as the garden was called, blended the hot, bleached Baltic landscapes of Maria's childhood with a hotdesking space beneath a pergola. Three years before the pandemic, here was a garden that predicted the desire for tranquil outdoor workspaces.

When we met, she was living in a typical twentysomething flatshare on a busy road in south London — with no outside space.

"I feel a bit of a fraud, designing all these spaces without a plot of my own," she told me. "I'm desperate for a garden."

She grew up surrounded by the great outdoors. Her great-grandparents ran a tulip nursery back in Lithuania, everything on the dinner table was homegrown, and she "used to swim in the nearby river every single day." She moved to the UK as a teenager with "very broken English" to study landscape architecture at Birmingham City University. "The dream was always there, to set up my own garden design practice, but it was always a very distant future," she told me. "I didn't think it was going to happen until I was at least 45."

Since then, we've kept in touch and when I finally got a garden of my own she kindly popped round to take a look (suggesting that I fell an ailing plum tree and build a studio; I took her advice). Stepping on to her maiden Chelsea garden felt like a real moment for young women in garden design.

It also felt immediately peaceful. Dappled shade from hundreds of thousands of birch leaves, the calm white of peeling bark and, beneath, a stunningly subtle planting scheme of grasses, umbellifers, aquilegias, irises, ferns and the arching fronds of *Tellima grandiflora* and *Dicentra formosa*. As someone commented to me during the media day: "Once you're in there, you won't want to come out." It really was the garden everyone was talking about.

After exhibiting at Hampton Court in 2018, she formed a tightknit friendship with fellow thirtysomething female designers Alexandra Noble, Lilly Gomm and Anca Panait, who helped to form the pluckiest build team on Main Avenue. "We were all saying that we're the underdogs, the young garden designers, first time at Chelsea," she says.

> "Monty expressed open (some said uncharitable) surprise that she was this year's winner

When embarking on her career in 2017, Maria approached the garden design heavyweight Tom Stuart-Smith for advice and he took her under his wing. He returned to Chelsea this year for the first time since 2010, with their two gardens appearing side by side.

"We actually ended up using each other, swapping some plants in each other's gardens," Maria says. They also ended up with an accidental duplication: putting the yellow-petalled *Saruma henryi*, a kind of wild ginger, in a focal container. Interest in it has skyrocketed to the extent that the rare plants nursery Crug has reported being inundated with emails and calls to get hold of it.

Don't expect to see Maria returning to Chelsea any time soon. "I could never imagine myself going back year after year," she says. Right now, she's after a break. "I would love to learn how to relax a little more." First on the list? Planting up the garden she now shares with her fiancé in south London; it's been somewhat neglected of late.

My adult kids are cramping my sex life

Dr Suzi Godson
Sex counsel

Q I've been divorced for more than a decade. When my kids were smaller, they were at their dad's every other weekend so they didn't need to know about any casual flings. Now that they're both back from uni and living with me, it's trickier to manage. I don't want to introduce them to every man I "see". How do I navigate having a sex life in my own home?

After divorce, a lot of women throw everything into being the best parent in the world. Actually, you could probably leave the last three words of that sentence out, because although few would admit it, there is often a competitive element to post-divorce parenting. It sounds as though, having spent the past ten years prioritising your children's needs over your own, some part of you is afraid that they will judge you for enjoying yourself.

It's understandable but a bit naive. The reality is that most young adults are intrinsically self-interested. That's not a bad thing — it's what allows them to cut the umbilical cord — but it means that if you can pluck up the courage to discuss the fact that you have a love life, you may find that they are relieved. They will say that they are happy for you but they will actually be happy for themselves. As adult children become more involved in their own lives, the idea that their parents have interests beyond them has increasing appeal.

You are, of course, right not to introduce them to every man you meet. There's no need to subject casual sexual partners to unnecessary filial scrutiny, and this is a time-limited restriction on your freedom. Your children will be out of the nest for good before you know it, and you can run naked from room to room as much as you like once they are gone. In the meantime, why not sleep over at a partner's place? It's easier to say you'll be out for the night than to deal with awkward exchanges in the kitchen and a post-mortem every time a date scurries home in the morning.

It can be difficult for young adults to understand why their fiftysomething mother may not be looking for a permanent relationship. Many women who come out of long-term relationships, whether through divorce or bereavement, find that once they get over the shock, they are happy on their own. Women tend to be much more self-reliant than men. They have stronger social connections and are more engaged with their family, friends and community. They may want male company for sex, dinner dates and holidays, but as for commitment, they've been there and washed the T-shirt.

The rising number of older women who are enjoying their independence, and who see sexual connection as something that enhances their life rather than completing it, is great, but it is why there has been an exponential rise in sexually transmitted infections in this age group. When women no longer need to worry about the risk of pregnancy, they seem to deprioritise sexual protection, but 2022 data from the chief medical officer shows that, among people aged 50-70 in the UK, rates of sexually transmitted infections have increased by one-third, and there has been a notable increase in HIV diagnoses.

It's not particularly romantic, but do get yourself tested and practise safe sex.

Send your questions to weekendsex@thetimes.co.uk

> "Having spent the past decade prioritising your children, part of you is afraid they will judge you

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Tara Nash

‘I lost both parents by 21. It took me 10 years to grieve’

The British don’t always deal well with loss. The grief coach Tara Nash tells Helen Carroll how she aims to change that

Tara Nash was nine years old when her father, in his forties, suffered a fatal heart attack. She was 18 when her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, from which she died three years later. Although Nash was an orphan by the age of 21, it would be a long time before she felt able to grieve either of her parents’ deaths.

For years she kept her emotions tightly under control. As a child she didn’t show her feelings, seeking solace only from her pet pony, Piccolo. After her mother’s death she threw herself into work, in production and sales for the handbag designer Anya Hindmarch, distracting herself from the trauma of this double bereavement and numbing herself with food, alcohol, cocaine and Ecstasy.

It wasn’t until she was 32, when she was studying for a master’s degree in spiritual psychology at the University of Santa Monica, that she realised the effect the losses had had on her life. Writing a paper about child bereavement, she finally understood that she needed to grieve properly to move on — and she developed a burning desire to help others to do the same.

Now 43, Nash has helped hundreds of bereaved clients to connect with and process their emotions, and has just published a book, *Conscious Grief*, to teach the rest of us how to do it too.

“I realised that I hadn’t grieved my parents at all and started to unpack memories of them from a compartmentalised box in my mind, integrating them back into my life,” Nash says. “I allowed myself to fully feel the pain of their loss for the first time, which was hard. But releasing the pain left me so much lighter. I wanted to help others reach this point too.”

Nash, who is divorced and lives in west London, believes that we have lost the art of grieving that was instinctive to our ancestors. “Historically we would have worn black for a year after somebody we loved died, and it would be helpful if we still did in some ways,” she says. Through her coaching business, also called Conscious Grief (consciousgrief.co.uk) — a term she coined after recognising the significant benefits of really feeling, rather than suppressing, emotions — Nash works with the newly bereaved and those processing historic losses.

“Grief is unpredictable,” she says. “We don’t know how long it’s going to last, it’s messy, it’s uncontrollable. And in our fast-paced society it’s easy to take the view that it’s more efficient to bypass it and not feel. We distract ourselves with all kinds of things — work, alcohol, drugs, food, sex, overexercising.

“Repressed grief and pain will always come out, often in the form of mental and physical illness. So many of my clients tell me they had no idea how hard it was until they lost a loved one themselves.”

So, how do we learn to grieve consciously — and, if the bereavement happened some time ago, is it even possible to go back and do it better this time? Nash believes there are steps we can take to process the intense and painful feelings that come with a significant loss. Here’s what she tells her clients.

Allow yourself to have ‘grief bursts’

While the early days of grief may pass in a numbed-out haze — the brain’s way of protecting us from the intensity of the shock — once the feelings come flooding in, Nash advises “dosing” to avoid becoming overwhelmed.

This involves spending periods of time actively feeling our emotions — which can include sadness, anger, regret, guilt, panic and blame — and then allowing ourselves to do something distracting, such as bingeing on Netflix, reading, exercising or even mindlessly scrolling through our phones.

Succumbing to “grief bursts” — moments when something triggers the tears to suddenly flow — is also important for healing. “Tears are nature’s way of helping you release pain and feelings. They’re detoxifying, so just go with it,” Nash says. “Writing down thoughts and feelings, which may be myriad and complicated, is another great release. No one else need ever read your words, so get it all out.”

Grief is exhausting — it’s fine to do nothing

Feeling like a victim can be entirely justified, Nash says, so wallow in it for a while: “I gave myself permission to feel self-pity, acknowledging that what I’d been through was really shitty. That self-compassion helped me so much.

“I tell my clients, ‘Give yourself permission to feel the heartbreak of losing someone you love,’ and remind them that whatever they’re feeling is allowed, and there’s no rush to ‘get over it’ and return to normal life.”

> “Give yourself permission to feel the heartbreak of losing someone you love

If you need to, lie in bed or on the sofa, either doing nothing or watching TV, for as long as work or family commitments allow. “Grief is exhausting,” Nash says.

Just make sure you set yourself a time limit for rejoining the world, to avoid the risk of slipping into depression. “Self-care is the No 1 priority, but that includes moving our bodies, talking to ourselves in a kind and compassionate way, and eating more whole foods, fruits and vegetables rather than ordering in pizzas and burgers,” she says.

Connection with other bereaved people is vital

One thing Nash wishes she could have had, she now realises, is a grief support group — somewhere where others would not try to “fix” her, or tell her to “keep busy” or “stay strong”, but instead allow her to experience the pain of loss. She now runs grief support groups online, connecting bereaved people countrywide, and also recommends the charity Sue Ryder’s Grief Kind Spaces, which are drop-in sessions run by trained volunteers.

These groups “are places where people can really express themselves without worrying about upsetting others”, she says. “Sometimes grief leads those left behind to say they feel like killing themselves, which can be alarming for loved ones to hear. Very few have any intention of doing so, but being able to say it, in a group of people who won’t jump in and tell you to ‘stop talking like that’, can be cathartic.”

As little as ten minutes a day of meditation or yoga can help

As the shock of grief is likely to put our nervous systems on high alert, Nash is a big believer in meditation and yoga practice — even for just ten minutes a day, if it’s all we can manage.

“Focusing on breathing helps to calm the mind and body, and lower the threat response, reducing levels of adrenaline and cortisol,” she says.

Kids may find it helpful to make a memory box or plant a tree

“Our love doesn’t die when we lose someone,” Nash says. Baking a cake on their birthday or setting a place at the dinner table for them on special occasions can help to keep our connection with them alive. Likewise, dotting around little reminders of them can be soothing, particularly for children. Nash suggests framing handwritten letters or cards, making a pillowcase or patchwork blanket from their favourite clothes, planting a tree in their memory, or simply filling a shoebox with small mementoes, including their passport and driving licence.

***Conscious Grief* by Tara Nash (Manuscripts LLC, £11.99)**

Chilli ice cream? Spicy cocktails? How hot got cool

Hannah Evans talks to the Dishoom founders Shamil and Kavi Thakrar about Britain's love affair with spice

Hot sauce, spicy mayonnaise, "hot" honey — is there anything in this country that we don't now insist on covering with chilli flakes or infusing with spice? I'm not quite at Nigella's level — she's known for carrying mini bottles of Tabasco around in her handbag — but the pinch pot of chilli flakes on my counter is now almost as crucial to my cooking as the salt.

Just this week this year's *MasterChef* champion, Brin Pirathapan, made a mango, lime and chilli sorbet in his winning dessert. "Britain's relationship with spice is centuries old, ever since this country started trading spices with India in the 17th century," says Shamil Thakrar, who founded the restaurant group Dishoom with his cousin Kavi, inspired by the comfort food and home cooking of Mumbai.

Spicy guava frosé

Over the past decade, our love affair with heat has extended far beyond curries to spicing up everything from chips to drinks. Spicy margaritas are so popular that Tajin, the Mexican seasoning, is now sold in a clever gadget that rims your glasses for you — perfect for cocktail parties.

If you're hosting friends for drinks this bank holiday weekend, the Thakrars have other ideas to raise the temperature, even if the weather doesn't play ball. Last year they opened Permit Room in Brighton, a bar specialising in drinks and sharing snacks. This month they will open two new branches in Oxford and Cambridge. On the menu alongside cocktails such as a chilli-infused paloma and a spicy guava frosé are an array of delicious fiery snacks, from spicy broccoli salads to Indo-Chinese chicken "pick-me-ups" (deep-fried chicken with red chilli chutney) and masala spiced peanuts. "Everything is designed for spreading out on the table and sharing and to be eaten over drinks," Kavi says.

His favourite on the menu is the chilli chips; twice-cooked and topped with a sultry, spicy sauce (recipe below). For those making them at home, you can use frozen chips or chunks of chopped up potatoes and cook them in an air fryer or oven. "They are incredibly moreish and worth the effort. You can't stop eating them if you have a beer in your hand," Shamil says.

As for dessert, they recommend another classic Mumbai snack: chopped mango (green and unripe for extra crunch, tang and tartness) dressed with salt and chilli powder. If you can't find mango, Kavi recommends green crunchy apples.

One of the cousins' favourite spots in Mumbai is the K Rustom & Co ice-cream parlour, famed for its ice-cream sandwiches that come with a dash of spice on the wafers.

To recreate at home, choose a fruity, tropical ice cream such as mango, guava or papaya and top it with a sprinkle of sea salt and a light dusting of chilli flakes or powder. "That salty, savoury, spicy and sourness works perfectly together," Kavi says. "It's addictive."

permitroom.co.uk

Mango and chilli sorbet

Chilli chips sauce

Serves 2

Ingredients

- 2-3 tbsp sunflower oil
- 1 tbsp fresh garlic, finely chopped
- 2-3 large red onions, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp fresh ginger, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp dark soy sauce
- Fresh green chillies, to taste
- ½ tsp cracked black pepper
- Salt, to taste
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1½ tbsp rice vinegar
- 120ml water

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1 tbsp cornflour
1 spring onion, finely chopped, to serve
A few sprigs of coriander, roughly chopped, to serve

Method

1 Heat the oil in a heavy-bottom pan. Cook the garlic until light golden brown. Add the onions and ginger and cook until translucent. Add the dark soy sauce and cook for a couple of minutes. Then add the remaining ingredients, except for the water and cornflour. Cook for a few more minutes.

2 When your chips are ready to serve, add half the water to the sauce, and bring to a boil. Mix the cornflour with the remaining water, then add to the sauce to thicken. Add your chips into the sauce and toss until nicely coated.

3 Finish with the chopped spring onions and coriander and serve immediately.

Masala spiced peanuts

Ingredients

100g roasted salted peanuts
1 small red onion, finely chopped
1 tomato, deseeded and finely chopped
Green chillies to taste, finely chopped
A few leaves of fresh coriander, finely chopped
Juice of 1 lime
Salt, to taste
½ tsp chaat masala powder

Method

Combine all the ingredients in a bowl.

Chilli broccoli salad

Serves 2

Ingredients

For the salad

1 small broccoli head
75g roasted pistachio nuts
¾ fresh red chilli
A few sprigs of coriander
4-5 mint leaves
25g Medjool dates
25g roasted pumpkin seeds
Salt, to taste
1 lime wedge

For the lime and chilli dressing

25ml lime juice
4-5 thin slices of ginger
1¼ small green chillies
½ tsp fine sea salt
20g granulated sugar
10ml rice vinegar
75ml mild olive oil or vegetable oil
A small handful of mint leaves

Method

1 Chop the broccoli into small pieces. Crush the pistachios lightly. Finely chop the chilli and tear the herb leaves, then combine everything in a large bowl. Pull the dates in half and remove the stones. Slice into quarters and add to the bowl.

2 Make the dressing by mixing all of the ingredients together and blitzing until smooth. Pour over the salad, toss, and scatter with the roasted pumpkin seeds and salt. Garnish with the lime wedge.

Spicy guava frosé

Makes four cocktails

Ingredients

375ml rosé wine
50ml lemon juice
75ml simple syrup (2 parts white sugar, 1 part boiling water, stir until dissolved and allow to cool)
150ml guava juice, from a carton
1 (or more) fresh red chilli, and extra sliced for garnish

Method

Add the wine, syrup, juices and chilli to a blender with a large handful of ice and blend until it's a slushy consistency. Pour into a glass and garnish with chilli slices.

Drink pink: the best rosés to buy now Jane MacQuitty

Stuffy drinkers may hope that we have reached peak pink, but the tidal wave of rosé crashing onto our shelves continues, boosted by sales year-round, not just in the summer months. Last year a 12 million-case sea of pink washed up here, ten million of which came from Provence. Pale, tasteless "swimming pool rosé" doesn't float my boat, as it doesn't the snobs', but lots of people seem to like it. Rosé haters need reminding that it's one of the few wines that can cope with garlicky, spicy and chargrilled spreads. And there's something magical about its jewel-like hue, ranging from palest rose petal to darkest cherry pink.

It is tricky to make a decent, flavoursome pink. Marcel Orford-Williams, the Wine Society's rosé buyer, says making good rosé "is pretty technical, requiring a steady hand and a focused mind". Now that the top winemakers are taking it seriously the quality has risen dramatically. Setting out to make rosé through direct pressing, where the juice is run off quickly, is a big step up. The maceration method, where crushed grapes are left in contact with the skins for hours to a few days, is popular too, as is the saignée route, where some of the just-stained pink juice is run off as a by-product from a red wine tank and a rosé made from that. Blending red and white wines to create a pink is the least lovely method.

> "Now the top winemakers are taking it seriously, quality has risen dramatically

Most rosé is best drunk young, but the finest French pinks do age. I have found a terrific Tavel, 2022 Domaine Maby Prima Donna, from the Rhône, that with a year under its belt is still a bold, bright, zingy, dark rosé with a 14.5 per cent cranberry wallop but a silky aged finish (thewinesociety.com, £14.50). Equally punchy but sweeter is the juicy, red berry-fruited, cabernet franc-led 2023 Champteloup Rose d'Anjou, from the Loire (Waitrose, £8.99). Branch out from Provence with a lovely Languedoc pink from the Côtes de Thongue — 2023 Domaine de Montrose, made from grenache and syrah. It's a dry, gentle, herby, smoky glug (justerinis.com, £13.30). If it has to be a pale, dry Provençal pink, my favourite, the 2023 Miraval Sainte Victoire (Majestic, £26.99) has just landed, and it's bursting with dry, complex, savoury, tobacco leaf and garrigue charm.

Asconi Moscato Rosé, Moldova
9 per cent *Asda, £6.50*
Don't be sniffy about this sweet pudding pink — it's a surprisingly delicious crystallised rose-petal mouthful.

Perfect pinks

2023 Specially Selected Pinot Nero Rosato, Italy
12 per cent *Aldi, £8.99*
Pinot nero, aka pinot noir, makes brilliant pinks, and this elegant, floral, lemon-tangy rosado gets my thumbs-up.

2023 Agapi by Kintonis Greek Rosé 12.5 per cent
Majestic, £12.99
Greek pinks are the summer of 2024 swig, and this roditis grape-led, bold, citrus-zest Kintonis is a winner.

2023 Abacus, Côtes de Provence, France
13.5 per cent
armitwines.co.uk, £27.30
Domaine des Mapliers' Abacus is a pale salmon pink — a celery and grapefruit-licked charmer.

This week's best buys

2022 Taste the Difference Lisboa Red, Portugal 13.5 per cent
Sainsbury's, £6.75 down from £7.50 Classy syrah-enhanced, French and American oak-aged, dusky red, with masses of mocha and vanilla.

2022 Taste the Difference Rheinhessen Pinot Noir, Germany
12.5 per cent *Sainsbury's, £7.25, down from £8.75*
Delightful burgundy-aping pinot noir, with bold, leafy, gamey fruit and a dab of oak ageing.

2023 Anna's Way Nelson Albariño, New Zealand
13.5 per cent
thewinesociety.com, £11.50 Surprisingly, New Zealand makes awesome albariño, and this ripe, apple and lemon-laden 2023 is one of them.

2023 Pouilly-Fumé Masson-Blondelet, France 13 per cent
Waitrose, £16.99
Tip-top, vegan-friendly Loire sauvignon blanc, with dashing, verdant, floral, flinty, lemon-twist charm.

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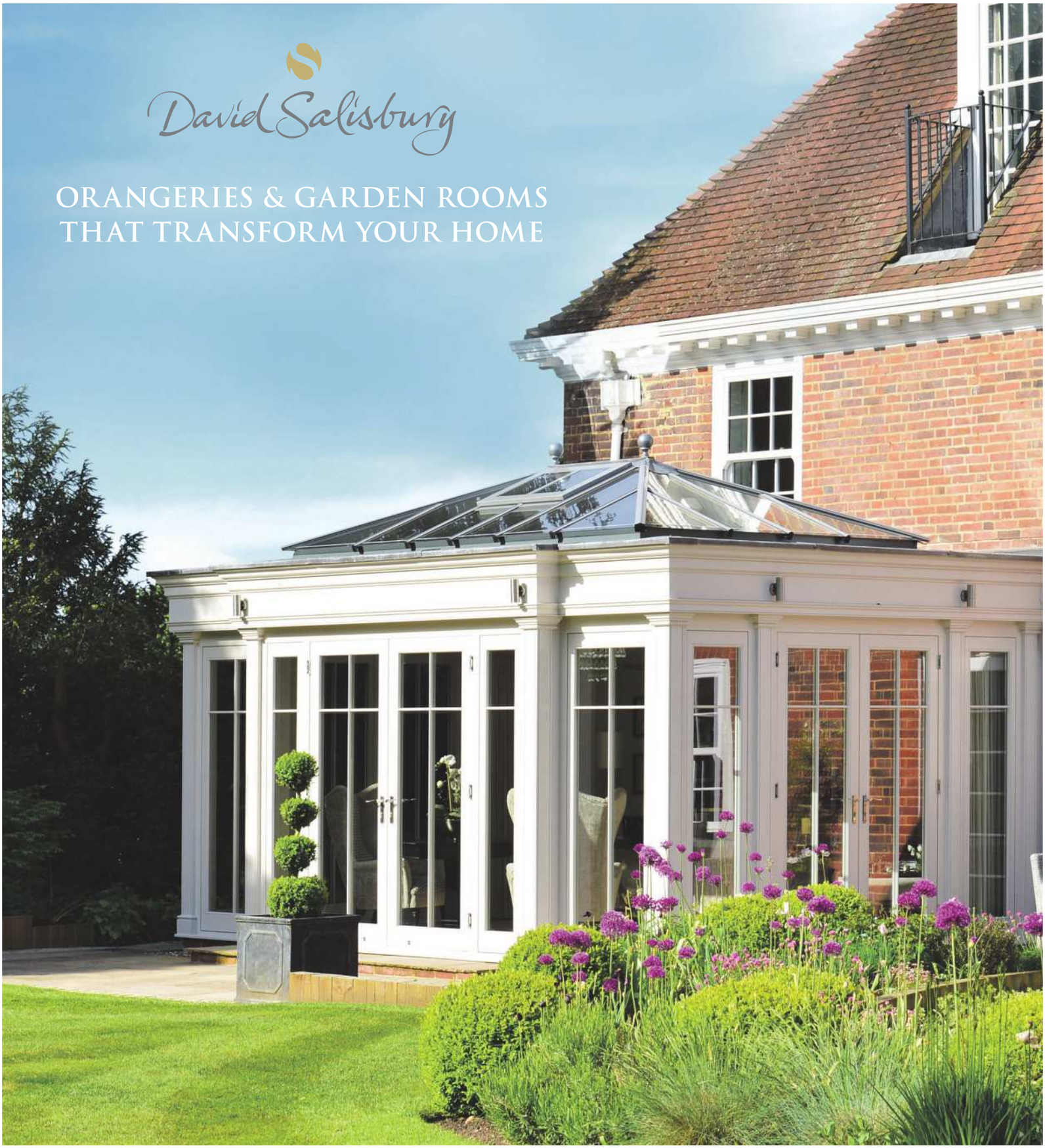

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Outside

Don't relax this bank holiday! 9 jobs to do in your garden

Come rain or shine, it's time to turn our attention to our own plots, plants and furniture, says Joe Swift

Feed and mulch your beds

It's my birthday this weekend and it happens to coincide with the last day of the Chelsea Flower Show (I'm always working on my birthday, but there are many worse places to be), and after all the jazzy horticultural stuff it's time to turn our attention to some *real* gardening.

This bank holiday weekend is a fine time to get out there, do a few jobs and think about how the summer ahead might look — particularly if we are lucky with the weather.

There are practical jobs to do, but it's also time to think about how you can enjoy the space. If you are planning to spend a lot of time outdoors this summer then consider investing in some comfy garden furniture and other equipment that will allow you to make good use of the garden into the evening, such as a fire pit or barbecue.

Here are some other areas that will need your attention.

Tend to your lawn

If you observed No Mow May — and I hope you did — it may change the way you feel about your lawn. Consider leaving some of it longer, which is much better for wildlife and the environment. If it's large enough perhaps keep some of it short and manicured near the house and further away just mow a path through it; make it straight or meandering, whatever works. Place a pot or bench at the end and you now have a focal point — see? All that garden-design chat at Chelsea has rubbed off on me. You could mow a picnic area to throw a rug on. If you have delineated beds, then mow a path round the edge too to help to separate them. Edge the lawn properly using a half-moon tool to define where to weed up to and it'll give a crisp contrast between the manicured and wild areas — a good look.

Mulch beds and borders

This not only benefits your soil and

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CLIVE NICHOLS/GAP PHOTOS; PURPLE MARBLES GARDEN, H, MARK WEIDMAN PHOTOGRAPHY /ALAMY

Page 19

‘There were kingcups in the brook, and campion as pink as nail polish in the field margins’

Christopher Somerville’s good walk

Stain wooden fences

plants by increasing fertility and moisture retention, and reducing maintenance, but also smartens up the look of the garden. Use any organic matter you can get or buy bulk bags of coarse peat-free compost or chipped bark. Apply about 50mm after rain or a good soaking but don’t smother small plants and leave a gap round woody stems so they don’t soften.

Feed your plants

A boost at this time of year will help your plants to sing out. Do this first if you are mulching. Pelleted chicken manure is a good choice, albeit a little smelly for a day or two. Chuck it round as recommended at the base of shrubs, hedges and clumps of perennials. Use a liquid feed in pots and containers such as tomato feed or seaweed.

Plant out herbs and increase your collection

Annual herbs like basil, coriander and dill can be planted out into containers or well-prepared areas in the ground in a sunny spot. While you’re at it you could increase your herb collection by adding in shrubby herbs like rosemary, sage — there are interesting varieties like pineapple sage and purple sage — and thyme, which also has many varieties, some of which are great for softening path edges.

Add height to borders

Many young borders lack height. A simple way to introduce it is by building a structure like a wigwam out of bamboo canes or hazel poles pushed into the ground, which can be a great kids’ project. Then plant in some annual climbers like sweet peas, morning glory or black-eyed Susan, or some climbing French beans, mangetout or borlotti beans, which are ornamental and edible. Plant them inside the poles to stop you cutting the plants by mistake with a spade or hoe.

Paint walls and fences

Some areas can look fabulous with colour setting off the planting, or it might be a way to disguise an ugly breeze-block wall. Use masonry paint for stone and cement or stain for wood, which is easier to reapply. Consider painting rendered walls, wooden furniture, sheds, pergolas, arches and terracotta pots. Try out some sample pots before going for it. I like earthy colours such as taupes and ochres rather than anything too garish — that Moroccan blue doesn’t look the same in our light. Lighter tones can lift shady spaces.

> “Think about how the summer ahead might look — how you can enjoy the space

Build a wigwam in your borders

Put up bird feeders

I love my bird feeders, which bring in a huge range of species — their song is the soundtrack to my time spent in the garden. Once the birds start coming keep them filled up — the feeders that is, oh and the birds, I guess. Leave some shallow water as a bird bath too as they need to preen (don’t we all) their feathers to keep in shape.

Pressure wash your surfaces

It’s not really gardening but if your slippery paving or terrace, or your dirty garden furniture and large pots, need a good clean, hire or buy a pressure washer for a once-over. Be careful of blasting out weak points in paving.

Don’t forget about lighting

Subtle lighting — not petrol station forecourt — can work well, making the garden inviting and safer in the evenings too. There’s a huge range of solar products out there — some of those fake candlelights on a table and a few small spots to light up key shrubs and wash across steps will do it. Remember to turn them off when you go to bed for wildlife and your neighbours’ sake.

Weeder’s digest

Now they have flowered, it’s time to divide your old clumps of primroses and polyanthus. Lift the clumps and pull them apart into smaller pieces, cutting back the larger leaves and ganglier roots. Throw away the woodiest, leafless bits of the crown. Set the new plantlets in fresh soil, or soil refreshed with garden compost, and water them in.

It’s also time to cut lawns that have been left uncut during No Mow May. If your mower is not up to cutting such long, thick grass, strim it and rake it off first. Let it dry for a couple of days before using the mower set high. You could let it grow long again, with close-mown paths through it, allowing a range of low plants to flower, before taking the whole lot down again a few weeks later. No need to make May the only month for longer grass.

When those early-flowering, darker blue ceanothus have flowered (‘Puget Blue’, for example), that’s the time to prune, especially when they are grown as wall shrubs, to keep them dense and under control. Shorten the leading shoots by 20cm all over; new growth will fill out in no time. To prevent top-heaviness a similar pruning can be given again, no later than August.

If bracken is sneaking its way into your boundary hedges, this is a good time to fight back. Having let it use its energy making that great frond, deny it its benefit by pulling it out vertically right from the root. It’s a good deterrent.

Watch out for those dreaded caterpillars on tall grey mulleins, and lilies need checking over for scarlet lily beetles.

Stephen Anderton

How to make the most of your clematis

Stephen Anderton shares his top tips to show off this Chelsea favourite

This year I saw almost no "traditional" flowers in the Chelsea gardens; no roses, no big peonies, no clematis. Too unfashionable, and too unpredictable for display purposes. But if you went into the show's Great Marquee there they were, looking gorgeous. Although it didn't win plant of the year (that went to Prunus 'Starlight', an ornamental flowering cherry), people do still love lematis.

The breeder Raymond Evison had new varieties to launch at the show, as usual: 'Lindsay', a deep blue, and 'Guernsey Flute', a clear white holding its flowers upwards half-open, like champagne flutes. Both reach only waist high, so they work in pots.

Clematis 'Guernsey Flute'

But what to do with large-flowered clematis in a garden? Walls were always the traditional home for clematis because old varieties were taller. A fine example is that great curving wall of 'Perle d'Azur' at Sissinghurst. Some old varieties such as 'Nelly Moser', given a tidy-up in spring rather than cutting down, would already be flowering up high in May/June.

Trellis, not too finely crossed or close to the wall, suits them well, so you can tuck the leaders behind it when they curl round their leaflets to get a hold. Bright light but not baking hot, with plenty of food and moisture at the root, is what they like.

What else can you do with large-flowered clematis? Some of the old varieties can be 4m tall and more. The best way to use summer clematis is not as a feature in themselves (because they have no form), but as a sumptuous lick of paint to be laid over something else, adding colour, or colour contrast or an extended season of interest.

Here's what I suggest when planting up your summer clematis.

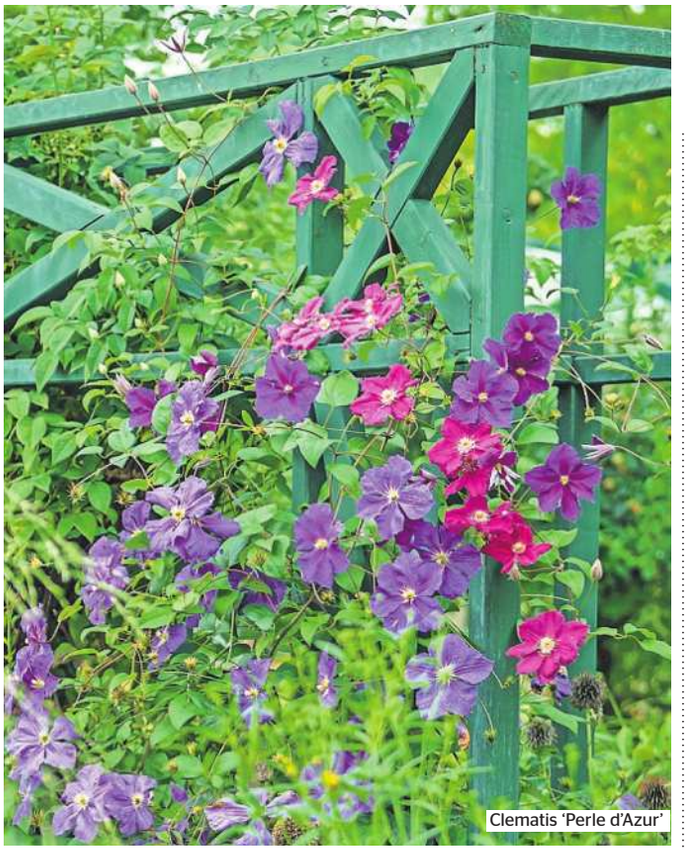
Grow with shrubs and in borders

So many flowering shrubs perform in early summer, then coast through the rest of the year, perhaps with some attractive foliage and autumn colour to follow. A draping of clematis is never going to come amiss, unless it becomes a heavy smothering that will kill foliage and weaken the shrub.

There are many possibilities. Those winey-purple varieties look wonderful growing through the glowing foliage of an autumn smoke bush (*Cotinus*), and the shrub is vigorous enough for the competition. In the front of a border, you might plant one of the modern small blue clematis to throw a few brotherly arms over the shoulder of a yellow-leaved shrub, such as golden privet or *Choisya* 'Sundance'.

Roses and clematis are a classic combination. There's a chance to make all kinds of luscious mixtures, and the sophistication of both flowers goes so well together. Also, those roses that flower only once in June will get a second life by having a light infiltration from neighbouring clematis for the rest of the summer.

ALAMY; GUERNSEY-CLEMATIS.COM


Clematis 'Perle d'Azur'

Combine with other climbers

There's no reason why you can't grow clematis among the stems of other climbers. I have one rambling about in the arms of my wisteria to add late summer colour under a bedroom window. That could just as well be two clematis in complementary colours for a more interesting show, or one up high and a smaller one underneath it.

You could grow that big, ancient, tough old purple variety 'Jackmanii' that you still see for sale dirt cheap, and which flowers so late into the autumn, entwined in the arms of *Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea', the grapevine whose leaves turn screaming scarlet in the autumn.

Wrap it around trees

Some people can't resist planting into trees. With a decent planting hole, 80cm from the trunk, and some canes or chicken-wire to lead the stems across, it can be ridiculously pretty to take a vigorous large-flowered clematis into an old apple tree.

It will want the odd can of water, no doubt, but in a moist season, and if the canopy is not too dense, that coolish dappled position might be perfect for some varieties.

Plant in pyramids and pots

The joy of modern varieties — 'Corinne', 'Nubia', 'Diana's Delight' — is that they flower for a long time and are small enough to be successful in large containers or tubs, growing either on trellis or, better still, on a pyramid of supports. Exposed in a pot, the roots can potentially become baked, so it is important to grow them somewhere not too hot. West-facing is good, or in light shade. Slightly taller ones (five to six footers, such as 'Samaritan Jo') could also go on pyramids in the ground.

Five other plants I loved at Chelsea

Saruma henryi (upright wild ginger)
A low perennial for cool shade. Its carpet of heart-shaped leaves is dotted with pale yellow three-petalled flowers.

Geum (avens)
Everywhere. Frilly, pale, muddly soft colours like the variety 'Mai Tai', and absolutely not the popular old hard oranges and yellows.

Boehmeria platanifolia (sycamore-leaved false nettle)
Sure to be very fashionable. A tall perennial with white, late summer tassels from a clump of rising, mega-nettle, stingless foliage.

Valeriana officinalis (common valerian)
A cottage favourite back again; chest high, airy, palest pink or white, with delicate platform flowers and a sweet old lady perfume.

Iris sibirica (Siberian iris)
The huge-headed modern varieties are out and the more elegant, small-flowered, old varieties and hybrids are back.

Question time

Q I can't get my mint to grow. It's in a dry-ish herb garden. Any ideas?
S Rumens

A Wrong place, I'm afraid. Mint likes moist soil, though it must still be well drained and open-textured for those running roots to penetrate. It will take light shade in preference to the baking sun of the typical herb garden. Gravelly desiccated soil is no use at all.

Q I'm looking for a nice tree in a pot to put in the middle of the garden, or I may decide to move it. What would you recommend that will give me the most joy throughout the year? I've been thinking about a magnolia but it doesn't flower for very long.
L Tucker

A Nor do magnolias do anything else outside their flowering season, unless you mean evergreen *Magnolia grandiflora*, but that's a large tree. You need something with autumn interest or good form, and not so large that you can't move it around. The classic is *amelanchier* (white blossom, summer berries, autumn colour), single or multi-stemmed. *Cornus kousa* or *cercis canadensis* are large shrubs that can be grown on trunks and would do nicely if the spot is not too hot. Or you could always grow a standard wisteria, developing a rigid, V-shaped shrub with dangling flowers.

Q I've tried everything to get rid of the slugs and snails in my border, but nothing works and my irises are looking terrible. Should I move them or grow something more resistant?
J Newsham

A If you have a desperately sluggy garden they'll find them wherever you put them. You might protect them more easily in a raised bed, but is it worth it? Probably not. You won't miss the irises after a year or two.

Send your questions to stephen.anderton@thetimes.co.uk

JANE SOMERVILLE; ALAMY

A good walk Peatling Parva, Peatling Magna and Bruntingthorpe, Leicestershire

How hard is it?

6 miles; easy; field paths

A sunlit late spring day in Leicestershire, the lush grass shin-high in the pastures, enough dandelion clocks in the uncut meadows to teach the time to every child in Peatling Parva. Young cattle blew and sighed as they followed us timidly among floods of buttercups.

There were kingcups in the little trickling slip of a brook, and campion as pink as nail polish in the field margins. The hawthorns along the Leicestershire Round path were so laden with May flowers it looked as though a giant had shaken a nine-league flour dredger over the gentle dip and roll of the landscape.

With a flutter of wings a skylark flew down to perch for a moment on a fence post, dull gold breast streaked with chocolate, crest flattened to its crown like a wonky toupee.

Ahead the steeple of All Saints' Church at Peatling Magna rode the ridge of a cornfield. The heavy 19th-century slate gravestones of the Wayte family formed a guard of honour to the south door. Inside were the magnificently etched alabaster tombs of the Jervis family, husbands and wives lying on top in Tudor and Stuart dress, their many children ranged round the sides.

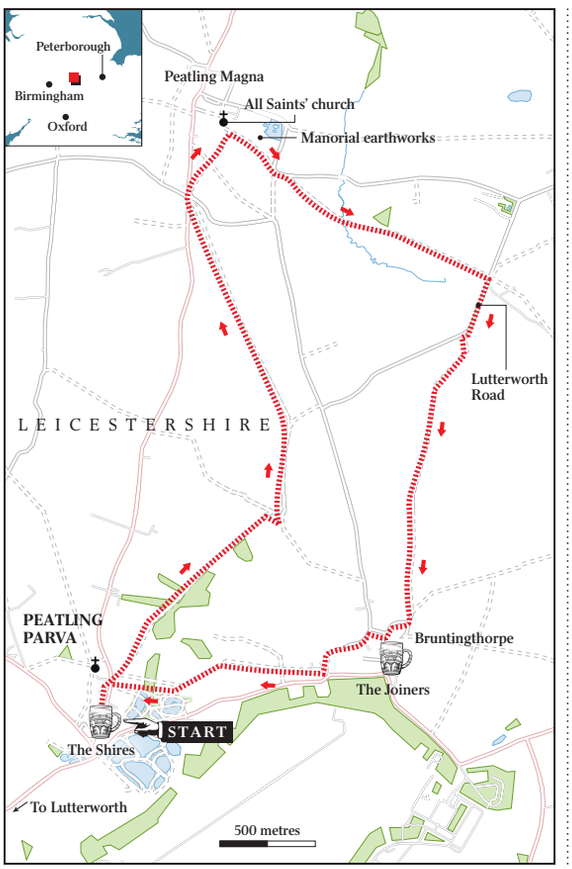
From the church we headed east across old green earthworks, the remains of the manorial fishponds and gardens. Medieval ridge and furrow striped the fields beyond in green and gold, deep grassy furrows interspersed with ridges carpeted with buttercups.

On Lutterworth Road we met a procession of men in outsize handlebar moustaches and formal attire astride ancient motorbikes — participants in the annual Distinguished Gentleman's Ride to raise awareness and money for prostate cancer research. A thoroughly splendid cavalcade, whose roaring and growling formed a gradually fading soundtrack to our trudge across ploughland to Bruntingthorpe.

We were sorely tempted to take tea outside the Joiners pub, but with the afternoon sun having brought out a fine hatch of butterflies — orange-tips, tortoiseshells and peacocks — the prospect of Sunday roasts at the Shires Inn in Peatling Parva won the battle.

Start The Shires Inn, Peatling Parva, Lutterworth LE17 5PU (OS ref SP 589894)

> With a flutter of wings a skylark flew down to perch for a moment on a fence post



A brook near Peatling Parva. Top right: red campion. Above right: an orange-tip butterfly

Getting there Bruntingthorpe, then Peatling Parva, signed from A5199 (Leicester-Husbands Bosworth)
Walk (OS Explorer 233): Right along road; just before church, right (590896, fingerpost/FP). Stile into field; fork left (FP) to double gate by pond (591897). Cross field to kissing gate/KG (yellow-topped post/YTP). Follow path (YTPs, KGs, stiles, yellow arrows) for ½ mile to path T-junction (598904). Right; cross stream (footbridge, YTP). Left along hedge on Leicestershire Round path (YTP) for 1 mile to road junction (594920). Right up bank (FP); aim for stile/KG on right of Peatling Magna church (596924). Right on path (YTPs) to road bend (598921). Cross grass triangle, KG/YTP into field, and on for ¾ mile to Lutterworth Road (609916). Right, in 300m on right bend, left (608914, "Bruntingthorpe") across fields for 1 mile to Bruntingthorpe (NB some YTPs are obscured by hedge growth. GPS is helpful hereabouts). At Bruntingthorpe ahead on concrete roadway to road (604898); right; left down Church Walk. Follow YAs and YTPs past church (601897) and on (YTPs) for ¾ mile to Peatling Parva.
Lunch The Shires, Peatling Parva LE17 5PU (0116 2478271, theshiresinn.co.uk)
Accommodation Greyhound Inn, Market St, Lutterworth LE17 4EJ (01455 553307, greyhoundinn.co.uk)
More information Leicester TIC (01162 994444, gentlemansride.com)
Christopher Somerville

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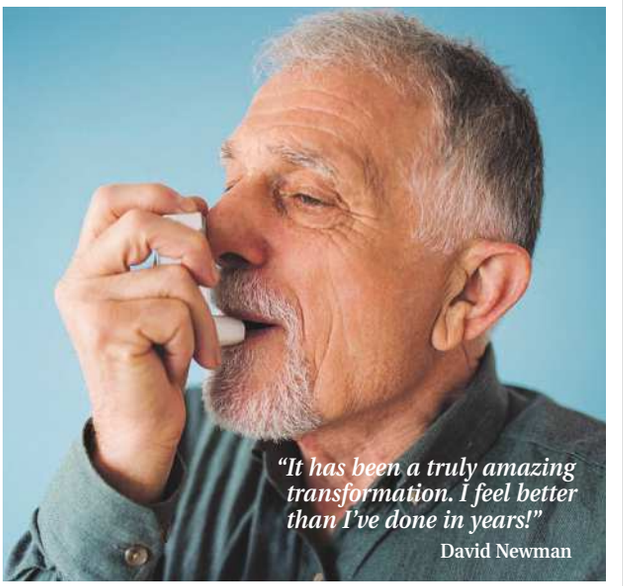
"It was so frustrating, I'd never smoked, yet I was constantly out of breath with a chesty cough that kept me and my wife Anna, awake almost every night. When we retired, we bought a mobile-home and planned to do lots of trips around the UK, exploring all the places we'd never had chance to visit, but on the few trips we managed, I barely left the vehicle, and the last time we went, I ended up with a chest infection. Sadly, we reluctantly put it up for sale.

"It seemed our dream retirement was exactly that, just a dream! I was living in a nightmare and despite all the medication I was on, there was no change in sight.

"God bless, Anna, she'd read about a device that could help COPD sufferers called ***Breathe-Clear***, so she ordered one for me. She said it was scientifically proven to strengthen the breathing muscles. I was sceptical to say the least, it looked a bit like an inhaler, but without the Ventolin! What use was that? I thought, what a waste of money. Anna handed me the instructions, and said, "give it a go, just for a few minutes a day, if not for you, then for me." How could I refuse, my health was having a huge impact on her life too.

"It was actually very simple to use, **all I had to do was blow into the device** hard enough to lift a ball bearing. It took a few attempts, but you know when you've done it as you feel a small vibration. I thought it was just a gimmick, but to keep Anna happy I tried it for a few days, and then something very unexpected happened. After 2 days of using it, I had a full night's sleep and after a week I found that I was **coughing and wheezing less and less.** I was struggling to believe this little device could make such a difference, but after just two more weeks my breathing was almost back to normal. It really was a dramatic change.

"That was three months ago and now I feel better than I've done in years, all thanks to the ***Breathe-Clear***. I've since had my routine check-up at the hospital and they are amazed at my improvement.



"It has been a truly amazing transformation, I am now much more active, and have even lost half a stone that I'd put on whilst sitting at home. Thanks to Anna's smart purchase and persistence I feel like we've been given a second chance in life. And I am going to grab it!

"We had another blessing, our mobile home didn't sell so we've taken it off the market. I feel so happy that we are planning a trip to the Lake District in a few weeks. There is no stopping me now."

■ **The *Breathe-Clear* is available on a 90-day Risk-Free Trial from Branshaws – to order call FREEPHONE 0800 138 4900. They are running a special offer: BUY TWO AND GET ONE FREE.**

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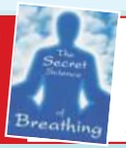

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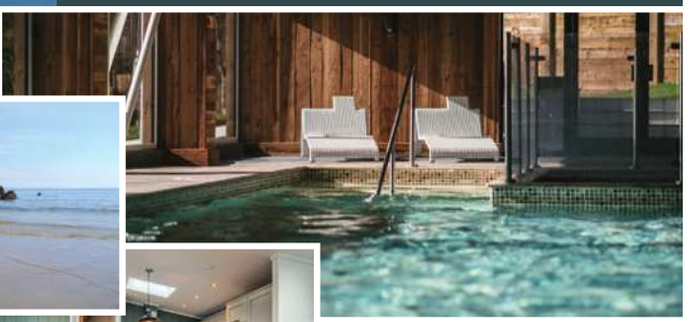

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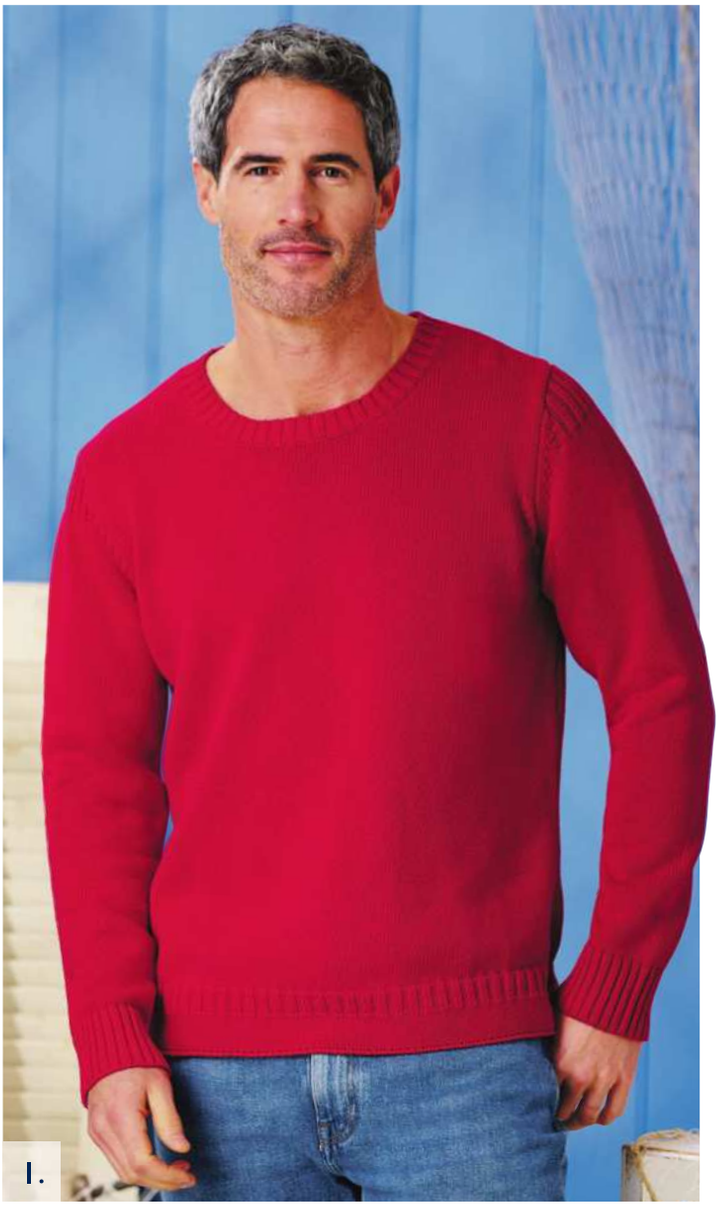

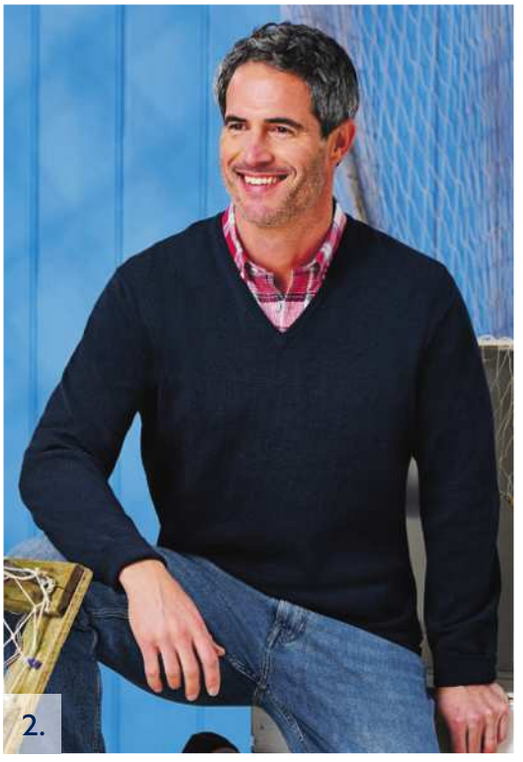

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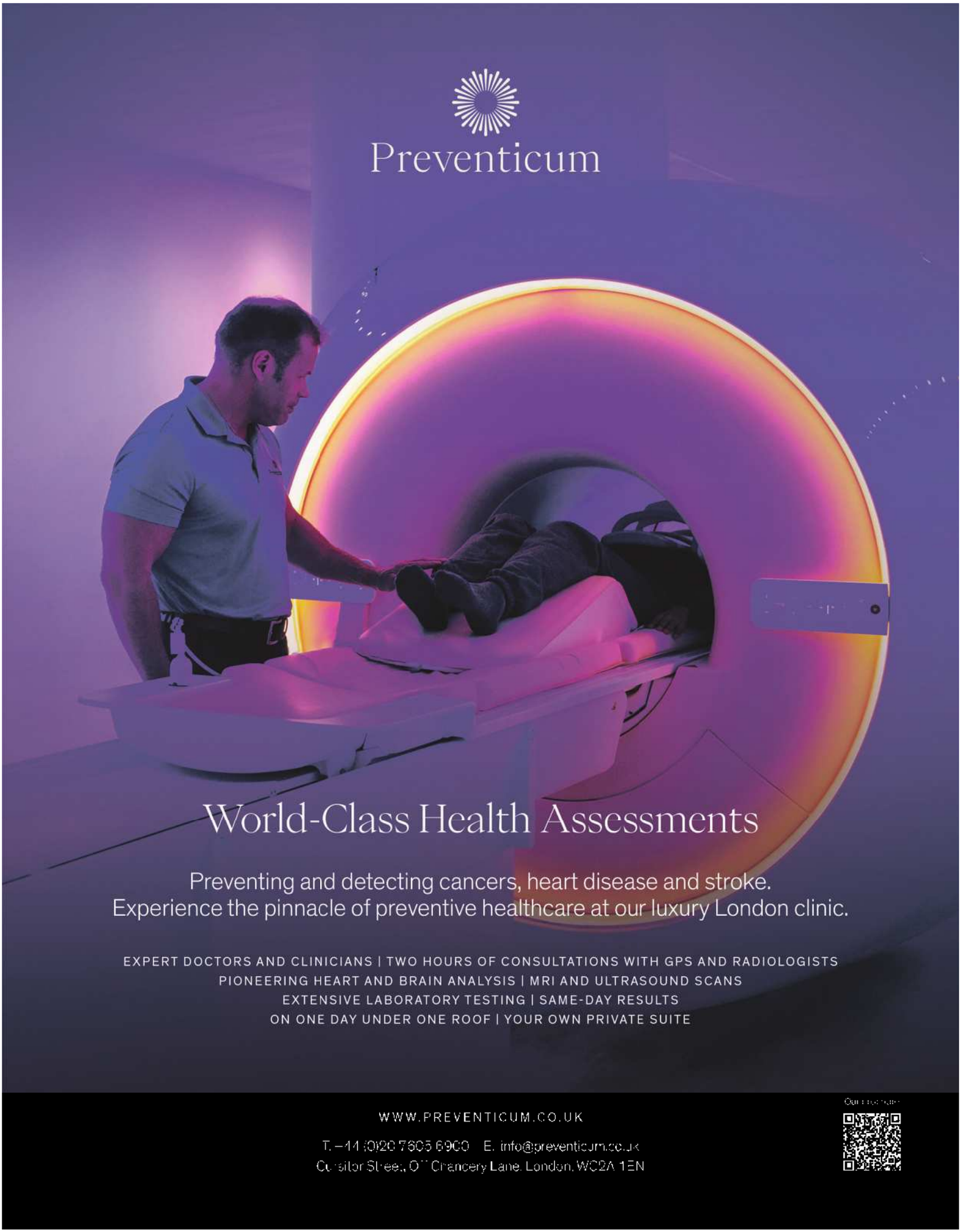
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Best of Homes & Gardens

Create your dream living space – whether you're investing in solar panels to make your home greener or putting the final touches to your grand design, here are some of the best ways to improve your home

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Rimmer Bros – the British car specialists – are currently offering fantastic savings to owners of classic British cars! Sales are now on for Triumph Spitfire, GT6, Herald, Vitesse, MGF and MG TF vehicles.

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By sustainably drawing upon nature's abundant energy sources, HUF homes implement the latest technology in energy efficient systems, to minimise carbon footprints and future-proof family homes.

Their award-winning architecture and abundant triple glazing create the perfect observatories to enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. Behold the ever-changing seasons and exhibitions of nature from the comfort of your own home.

Wild or manicured – your garden is an extension of your living space, a personal sanctuary, but a welcome refuge for more than just yourself. Many shrubs and perennials are a great source of food for birds, just as flowers are for bees and other insects. While creating your ecstatically pleasing garden, you are also creating a suitable and sustainable kitchen and pantry for nature, and for the future.

HUF HAUS

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Crocodile PRODUCTS

How Instagram has influenced home designs – Pritpal Chana Architects

Instagram has had a significant impact on the field of architecture, transforming the way architects showcase their work, connect with audiences, and draw inspiration from others in the industry. With its visual nature and widespread reach, Instagram has become a powerful platform for architects to share their projects, ideas and design processes with a global audience.

Architects can now easily share their work online and reach a wider audience than ever before. This has allowed emerging architects and smaller practices to gain visibility and recognition, levelling the playing field in the industry.

Pritpal Chana Architects was established in 2018 by architect Pritpal Chana at the youthful age of 28 after leaving a leading commercial London practice. The Birmingham practice specialise in designing luxury homes for their clients.

Why did Pritpal Chana move into the home sector?

Pritpal Chana, said: "*I have always been passionate about making an impact on people's lives. What is more personal than someone's home? We find Instagram has broken the design barrier with clients. No longer are clients restricted by using local architects who do not suit their ambition or design style. Every briefing with our clients includes a sketching session to understand the flow of the home alongside a scroll through Instagram to gauge the external design style.*"

How has Instagram influenced Pritpal Chana Architects?

Pritpal Chana, said: "*Our Instagram account has allowed us to attract clients from not just Birmingham but the North and London. We are a young diverse practice with the team made up of numerous backgrounds, which reflects in our varied design style. If you are looking for a designed-led extension or new-build home, we would be happy to help and discuss further.*"

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If you've ever thought about equity release, now could be a great time to talk

Nowadays, many think about different ways to fund their retirement, and equity release is an option. It allows access to cash tied up in your home, whether it be additional funds for retirement, home improvements, to pay off debts, to help family, or to simply just treat yourself. Many people think this means having to sell your home, but this isn't the case.

Being 'asset rich, cash poor' is increasingly common in later life, so it's no surprise that the equity release market is growing. Equity release was seen as the less reputable end of the mortgage market, but its rise in popularity means more plans on the market, and they are safer than ever before. Providers are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Equity Release Council have put safeguards in place.

Phillip Bovis

Of course you'll have questions, and it's important you understand the advice received, without pressure to commit. If Lakes Mortgages think Equity Release isn't right for you, they will say.

Established in 2013, Lakes Mortgages are an independent mortgage broker with an established reputation for a personal service to those seeking Equity Release. Phillip Bovis has over 25 years' experience in equity release and mortgages, and as a member of the Equity Release Council, they are well placed to provide advice you can trust. Take a fresh look at equity release.

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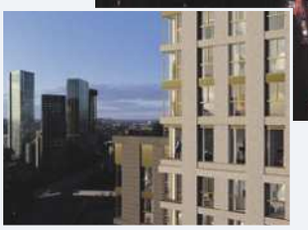
Zephyr X – leading the way with visionary developments

Cheetham Hill

As residential and commercial property developers, Zephyr X create beautiful environments that blend cutting-edge technology with innovative design to create inviting environments where residents truly feel at home. Their portfolio extends from build-to-rent developments to healthcare spaces, specialising in building award-winning, senior-living care homes around the UK.

Recognised for excellence in the prestigious Knight Frank Top 100 Luxury Care Home Guide 2024, Zephyr X are swiftly establishing themselves in the industry.



What sets Zephyr X apart is their unwavering commitment to ethical and sustainable development practices. Through meticulous site selection and a focus on community integration, Zephyr X transform spaces into vibrant hubs that enrich the local area while safeguarding the environment.

With eight projects currently underway and a pipeline of exciting developments on the horizon, Zephyr X's influence extends nationwide. For example, Cheetham Hill, nestled on the outskirts of Manchester's vibrant city centre, is a build-to-rent development that will encompass over 250 luxury apartments, setting a new standard in urban living.

Zephyr X

Visit *zephyrx.co.uk* to explore Zephyr X's visionary approach to property development and discover their current and future projects. Follow their journey at *@zephyrxdevelopments*

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With energy costs fluctuating so significantly over the last few years, millions of UK homeowners are making the smart switch to solar power. With a solar panel and battery storage system, homeowners can generate their own renewable energy. This can not only save them thousands on electricity costs, but also contribute to a greener future.

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1. What is the average energy bill in Great Britain? (British Gas, 2024) – based on the average cost for a five-bedroom home housing four to five people.

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Farani Taylor's mission is to make property transfers as hassle-free as possible. They handle everything from simple purchases to complex disputes, always aiming for the best outcomes. Their comprehensive knowledge also extends to commercial properties, providing expert advice across various real estate needs.

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CYBER ESSENTIALS CERTIFIED

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Travel

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‘We signify our brotherly love with food — and Japan truly excites the taste buds’

Min Sett Hein is reunited with his brother in Tokyo

ADAM LYNK

Château du Grand-Lucé, Sarthe

France’s 25 best château stays

Soak in a hot tub with vineyard views, live like a king in Versailles or take over a hunting lodge in Brittany. By Nina Caplan

One great advantage of the French château is its versatility. An English castle really needs to have a portcullis and draughty passages to be worthy of the name, but in France a château can be anything from an extremely nice house with grounds to a grandiose structure with moats and centuries of history. And, of course, many of them also have vineyards, which is hardly cause for complaint. This means that when they get converted into hotels or villas, as so many of them have, there is something for everyone.

Heated swimming pools and Michelin-starred restaurants are on offer, but so are simple places available for an exclusive-use rental, so that an extended family or a group of friends can holiday in comfortable privacy.

There are some, such as Château Lignol in Brittany, amid vast parks, and others, like Château de Maubreuil outside Nantes, on the edge of cities. It can be even better to stay beyond the château walls than within them, so that the beauty of the old structure is on view from a bedroom window or over an evening drink before dinner. The Château de Chambord in the Loirse, for instance, wouldn’t be a terribly comfortable stay: it was built of unforgiving stone in the 16th century and warmed, then, by open fires and hanging tapestries that were burnt during the revolution to get at the threads, which were real gold and silver. It also features 73 staircases. But it is absolutely exquisite, and to sleep in a room (or better yet, on a boat) just opposite is one of the greatest privileges any château-lover can experience.

Château Asturias, Languedoc

Others offer the experience of living like a lord or lady, with sumptuous furnishings, terraces from which to catch the sun or get a whiff of aristocratic privilege, surveying an exquisitely tended

Great hotels next page

A king room at the Château du Grand-Lucé, Sarthe

The pool at the Château Troplong Mondot, Gironde

▶ domain. Who of us, after all, hasn't at some moment wanted to live in a castle?

Here, dotted around France, are 25 of the best.

Château de Versailles, Le Grand Contrôle Paris

For those who want more from their château holiday than the chance to live like the high life, here is the opportunity to experience life as a king. This luxury hotel within the grounds of the 17th-century palace was once home to French royalty, and the 13 rooms (one formerly the private apartments of Louis XVI's finance minister) are plush enough for a princess: the architect took inspiration from Marie Antoinette's style. As well as giving access to Michelin-starred dishes by Alain Ducasse and a sumptuous Valmont spa, a stay here includes a personal butler, access to the vast grounds and private tours of the ill-fated queen's château, Petit Trianon, and of the palace of Versailles itself.

Details B&B doubles from £1,990 (airelles.com). Fly or take the train to Paris

Château Lignol Brittany

This 14th-century hunting lodge, quirkily decorated by the owners and set deep in the Breton countryside, has four bedrooms, four bathrooms and a trampoline and heated pool. There are acres of grounds, but it isn't so rural that finding supplies for the capacious kitchen is a nuisance: the village of Guémené-sur-Scorff is just five minutes' drive away and has three boulangeries and a weekly food market. There is walking and fishing, plus a couple of good beaches about 40 minutes away by car. Brittany has always been popular, but as France's south becomes ever hotter, these cool, green northern regions become increasingly sought-after.

Château de Maubreuil, Loire-Atlantique

Details Seven nights' self-catering for ten from £2,150 (oliverstravels.com). Fly to Dinard or Brest, take the ferry to Saint-Malo or Roscoff, or take the train via Paris to Lorient

Château de Sacy Champagne

For a region known for one of the greatest wine styles in the world, Champagne is oddly under-served with top-tier accommodation, but there are a few lovely places and this elegantly symmetrical château less than ten miles southeast Reims is one of them. There are 11 smartly decorated rooms and suites and an excellent restaurant with superb views over the vineyards; the wine list, both here and in the spacious bar, offers an opportunity to discover the different styles and areas of Champagne, from the Montagne de Reims just beyond the windows to the Côte des Blancs further south. Massages are available and while there is no pool, a sauna and two Nordic hot tubs also overlook the vines. And for anyone who has longed to see inside Champagne Pol Roger, which is not open to the public, this château offers that opportunity as part of an overnight package.

Details Room-only doubles from £260 (chateaudesacy-reims.fr). Take the ferry to Calais or the train via Paris to Champagne-Ardenne

Château d'Audrieu Normandy

An impressive stone building, listed as a historical monument, Château d'Audrieu is 30 minutes' drive from the beaches where the D-Day landings took place in 1944 and an even shorter distance from Bayeux, where the 11th-century tapestry records a very different invasion, in 1066. For those who prefer sport to history, there's a golf club at Omaha beach too. Back at the hotel, there are 29 rooms and suites enlivened by just enough pattern on wallpaper and curtains, an outdoor heated pool in summer, a spa and a bistro. The last is overseen by Samuel Gaspar, who takes full advantage of the kitchen garden, including offering picnics in the park, which presumably makes the two resident donkeys very envious. Between some of the park's tall trees also is a one-bedroom luxury treehouse, for couples who want to be truly surrounded by nature.

Details Room-only doubles from £230 (châteaudaudrieu.com). Take the ferry or the train via Paris to Caen

Le Relais de Chambord Loir-et-Cher

When night falls on the Château de Chambord and the gates of the 1,100-acre estate close, only the deer and the inhabitants of this hotel remain. King François I, whose hunting domain this once was, might envy the levels of service on offer there. Decorative touches in what was the king's stable and is now the hotel echo those in the exquisite 16th-century castle, serving as reminders for anyone who isn't gazing out of the window or relaxing in the spa's outdoor hot tub, which also has castle views. There's a brasserie and a fine-dining restaurant, a wine shop offering tastings and selling local wines, magnificent walking and cycling in the grounds, and, of course, the château to tour. And for honeymooners, a traditional Loire riverboat is now a secluded suite on the Cosson River with an unmatchable view of the château from its deck.

Details Room-only doubles from £118 (relaisdechambord.com). Take the ferry to Caen, the train via Paris to Blois or fly to Tours

Château du Grand-Lucé Sarthe

A grand, 18th-century château in 80 acres of grounds, this was once the country home of a noble family who hosted Voltaire and Mozart. Grand-Lucé, half an hour southeast of Le Mans, reopened a few years ago as a 19-room hotel after a painstaking refurbishment in neoclassical style, including wood-panelling, traditional fabrics and design contributions from fashion royalty, including Christian Lacroix and Jean Paul Gaultier. The nobles' dining room is now the gastronomic restaurant, which benefits from the magnificent kitchen garden; the chapel has been transformed into a bar. There is bistro dining wherever in the building guests start to feel peckish, and one of the many outbuildings has become a spa. Bicycles are available to explore the grounds, which include formal gardens in the style of Versailles, and the Loire vineyards are nearby.

Details Room-only doubles from £560 (châteaugrandluce.com). Take the ferry to Caen or fly to Tours

Château de la Resle Yonne

Johan Bouman and Pieter Franssens moved from the Netherlands to this stately house in Montigny-la-Resle in 2005, renovating tastefully, preserving the vestiges of the 16th-century château but stylishly reviving the neglected parts. So the original tower-sized dovecote remains, but there's nothing fusty or old-fashioned here: the decor is smart but understated, a foil for the many works of modern art, from photographs in the breakfast room to the pretty ceramic bugs looking onto the staircase and the aeroplane sculpture in the grounds. The stables have become suites and a spa around a heated saltwater pool (summer only); the restaurant is open on request (minimum six diners) but takes full advantage of the kitchen garden. There is also an excellent wine list, and the real thing is just beyond the walls: Chablis is 20 minutes' drive away.

Details B&B doubles from £235 (chateaudelaresle.com). Take the train via Paris to Auxerre

A sitting room at the Château Lignol, Brittany

Château de Longecourt Côte d'Or

Less than ten miles southwest of Dijon, and 15 minutes' drive from the gorgeous Burgundy vineyards, Château de Longecourt, which once hosted King François I and Catherine de Medici, is still privately owned. Despite its impressive appearance — turrets, moat, the baroque glamour of the Grand Salon — this is no place to stand on ceremony. Rooms are comfortable, the atmosphere is welcoming and the owner, Roland de Saint Seine, is full of stories that range from the castle's founding to the American GIs who graffitied the stables during the Second World War. Ask to see the cheeky 15th-century stone infant,

MICHAEL SPENGLER; ROMAIN RICARD; GLYN RIDGERS PHOTOGRAPHY

The bathroom of the Necker suite at the Château de Versailles

baring its bottom among the carvings in the kitchen.
Details B&B doubles from £166 (airbnb.co.uk). Take the train via Paris to Dijon

Château de Maubreuil Loire-Atlantique

This 17-room hotel, just outside Nantes, a few minutes' drive to the Loire River and only an hour from the Atlantic coast, has an early 19th-century exterior that belies the contemporary luxury within. Each bedroom pays tribute to a location, from Babylon to Rajasthan to London (there's a Prince of Wales suite too), and the eclectic artworks spill from the interiors into the expansive gardens. There is a spa and a superb restaurant, under the direction of Clément Vincent, who trained with Scott Pickett, one of Melbourne's most creative chefs.
Details Room-only doubles from £215 (chateaudemaubreuil.com). Fly to Nantes

Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey Gironde

This sumptuous hotel, 45 minutes' drive southeast from Bordeaux, lies within the Lafaurie-Peyraguey wine château in Sauternes, the region that is home to the world's greatest sweet wines. It is owned by the crystal company Lalique, and several of the many beautiful objects that populate the hotel's ten bedrooms and three suites are inspired by the vines beyond the windows. The interiors may be influenced by art deco, the 1920s style that René Lalique helped to make great, but the vines have been cultivated since 1618, and the Disney splendour of the building is closer to the 17th century than the 20th. The two Michelin-starred restaurant has an exceptional cellar with 350,000 bottles, and there's also a more casual outdoor restaurant in summer, and tours and tastings by appointment.
Details B&B doubles from £215 (lafauriepeyragueylalique.com). Fly to Bordeaux

Château Troplong Mondot Gironde

It isn't far from this elegant château to the white-walled, Unesco-listed medieval town of Saint-Émilion: a 25-minute walk through the château's vineyards. This is Bordeaux's Right Bank, famous for merlot-led wines. Troplong Mondot is one of its most highly regarded wineries, so staying in the Keys, alongside the main château, solves any need to drive after a tasting or dinner at David Charrier's Michelin-starred Les Belles Perdrix restaurant. The Keys has four spacious rooms (two as part of a suite) and a shared living area; among the vines sits a more secluded option, the Vineyard House, an adorable luxury cottage.
Details B&B doubles from £215 (troplong-mondot.com). Fly to Bordeaux

Château Lafaurie-Peyraguey, Gironde

Château Adoménil Meurthe-et-Moselle

The east of France, looking towards Germany, gets less attention than the coastal parts. Remedy that with a stay at this four-turreted 18th-century château in Lorraine, in a peaceful 20-acre park, with pool. The 14 bedrooms and public areas have been lovingly refurbished with parquet floors, open fireplaces and swags of beautiful materials; in the restaurant the local chef Cyril Leclerc makes creative enough use of the contents of the kitchen garden to have gained his establishment a Michelin star. It is less than two miles to Lunéville, which Voltaire called "the Versailles of the Lorraine", and the city of Nancy, with its art deco heritage, is only 20 miles away.
Details Room-only doubles from £207 (adomenil.com). Fly to Nancy

Château des Avenières Haute-Savoie

An early 20th-century manor house with some decidedly medieval touches — carved wooden panelling, open fires — Château des Avenières, in Cruseilles, was built by a wealthy American woman who fell in love with the surrounding landscape. These days, it's a charming hotel just 30 minutes' drive of Geneva and its lake — and with Annecy and its lake only 40 minutes in the other direction. Both cities are well supplied with fine-dining establishments, so at Avenières, Anthony Laboubé has wisely opted for bistronomy: simple yet well-made dishes using ingredients from the estate's gardens, greenhouses, hives and henhouse. The 150-acre park offers activities for every season, from tennis to yoga to snowshoeing, and there is a sauna and steam room. Some of the suites in the Maison des Cureuils (Squirrel House) have a private sauna or a hot tub with views of Mont Blanc.
Details Room-only doubles from £138 (chateau-des-avenieres.com). Fly to Geneva

Château de L'Ile Bas-Rhin

Alsace is one of the most beautiful and interesting regions in France — a land of steep vineyards and tiny, Disney-pretty villages. Its location has been historically problematic as it borders Germany — and was sometimes German. This sprawling château sits amid a ten-acre park a couple of miles from Strasbourg. Its peaceful views of the River Ill and the village of Ostwald belie its location near one of Europe's key cities. There are 62 attractive bedrooms and suites, some with mansard roofs or wooden balconies, as well as a spa with pool and a winstub, the traditional bistro of the region — although this is a rather smarter version of what was originally a very rustic eating place, operated by vignerons as a way to offload their excess wine.
Details Room-only doubles from £91 (chateau-de-lile.com). Take the train via Paris or fly to Strasbourg

Château de Bagnols Rhône

The moat, now dry, is witness to this castle's origins as a 13th-century fortress; the vast stone fireplace in the restaurant still bears the date 1217. Today, however, Bagnols is a 26-room hotel overlooking the vineyards of the Beaujolais region, and both restaurants (there's a café in the inner courtyard as well) benefit from this area's rich gastronomic history. Lyons, one of France's greatest food cities, is 20 miles away. There's a spa on the property and an opportunity to taste local wines, many of them far better than beaujolais nouveau's reputation might lead you to expect. And there is wonderful hiking through the vineyards those wines come from too.
Details Room-only doubles from £281 (chateaudebagnols.com). Fly to Lyons

Château Capitoul Languedoc

Near Narbonne and overlooking the vineyards of La Clape and a Mediterranean lagoon, Karl O'Hanlon and his wife, Anita, have transformed an old château into a gracious hotel, spa and Mediterranean-influenced restaurant at the heart of a holiday complex within 220 acres of woodland, vines and olive groves. For families or couples seeking privacy, there are airy villas, several with their own pool, with the vines beyond the terrace seemingly close enough to pluck a grape. The landscaping is designed around drought-resistant vegetation. There's a bistro restaurant with wood-fired grill on the terrace, a communal pool and for those who prefer wilder swimming, bikes to borrow and Gruissan beach just a 25-minute pedal away. There is also a tasting room and shop from the owners'

More stays next page

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Château de Montcaud, Gard

▶ winemaking partner, Vignobles Bonfils, on site.
Details Room-only doubles from £188 (chateaucapitoul.com). Fly to Béziers

Château Asturias
Languedoc

Asturias may be in northern Spain but this lovely château, which retains traces of its original 12th-century silhouette, is near Carcassonne in the Languedoc. Now an exclusive-use holiday home with six bedrooms and a small, raised pool and barbecue in the gardens, it is decorated in a cooling wicker and teak style that speaks more of southeast Asia than the Franco-Spanish border. There are delightful quirks: an interior garden, 800-year-old gargoyles in the original wall. And despite the rural peace, there is a good restaurant within walking distance.
Details Seven nights' self-catering for 12 from £2,968 (oliverstravels.com). Fly to Béziers

Château Léognan
Gironde

Unusually, the château here is far older than the vines: the former was built in the 1600s, while the latter were only planted a century ago. Still, its owners, Philippe and Chantal Miecaze, are focused on both. They have turned the building into a hotel with 17 luxurious, airy bedrooms and added three treehouses and two lodges in the grounds. Philippe is the winemaker. Tours and tastings (with or without charcuterie and cheese) are offered and the wines are in good company on the list at Le Manège, the fine-dining restaurant, whose chef Gael Derrien, formerly of the George V and Shangri-La hotels in Paris, sources ingredients locally, including herbs from his own garden. There is a spa, and more rooms and a heated pool are planned in the former stables, but not until 2026.
Details Room-only doubles from £185 (châteauleognan.com). Fly to Bordeaux

Château de la Forge
Dordogne

This elegantly proportioned château with the steep roofs typical of the region was built in the 17th century and lovingly restored in this one, with wooden floors, antique furnishings and original fireplaces. There are six en suite bedrooms, a drawing room, library and billiard room, and a fully equipped kitchen for exclusive-use bookings (B&B is also possible; £155). Beyond the walls sit a heated pool on one side and a formal garden on the other; both with terraces perfect for a morning coffee, evening drinks or a barbecue. And beyond that are 32 acres of grounds in one of the best-loved regions of France. The village of Pont St Mamet is walking distance away.
Details Seven nights' self-catering for 12 from £5,395 (simpsontravel.com). Fly to Bergerac

The Farmhouse, Château Bauduc
Gironde

The château is occupied by an English family, the Quinneys: Gavin and Angela have been making wine here since 1999. Guests stay in the lovely 18th-century farmhouse, with its four bedrooms, pool, open kitchen, living area with wooden beams and working fireplace. The 14th-century town of Créon is an easy walk away and has a weekly food market; Bordeaux is 40 minutes' drive northwest. Alfresco eating under the vines is made even more enjoyable by access to the estate's delicious wines, which are on the list at restaurants including those of Rick Stein and Gordon Ramsay.
Details Seven nights' self-catering for eight from £1,575 (bauduc.com). Fly to Bordeaux

Château Sauvage
Rhône-Alpes

The Ardèche, to the west of the Rhône, is a wildly beautiful part of France, dotted with rivers for wild swimming and prehistoric caves to explore. With 11 bedrooms and nine bathrooms, this palatial château comfortably sleeps 14, and while it dates from the 12th century the upgrade has been exceptionally sympathetic. The indoor living areas are large, airy yet cool and stylish, including a well-equipped kitchen; outside, there's a shaded courtyard, south-facing terraces and pool with a view of a dramatic rockface amid the greenery. The local town, Privas, has a twice-weekly food market, and the vineyards of the Rhône, the nougat of Montélimar or the lovely city of Valence are all under an hour's drive away.
Details Seven nights' self-catering for 14 from £5,560 (oliverstravels.com). Fly to Marseilles

Château de Sauvage, Rhône-Alpes

Château de Fonscolombe
Bouches-du-Rhône

The symmetrical silhouette of Château de Fonscolombe sits amid a park and vineyard less than ten miles northeast of the gorgeous town of Aix-en-Provence. Before opening as a hotel, it was thoughtfully refurbished in Genoa leather and Chinese silk wallpaper from the 18th century, the era of its construction by a distinguished family of local aristocrats. They were still there in 1953, when the Queen Mother came for lunch; she is believed to have planted one of the cedar trees in the grounds. The château has 50 bedrooms, many with balconies or views over the greenery, as well as a heated pool and restaurant, but also a billiards room, library and that vineyard.
Details Room-only doubles from £255 (fonscolombe.com). Fly to Marseilles

Château de Montcaud
Gard

Between Avignon, Uzès and Orange, this is a dream location for anyone who loves Roman history (the magnificent Pont du Gard is a half-hour's drive), great wine (Châteauneuf-du-Pape is nearby too), wonderful food or simply the unique romance of Provence. Built in the 19th century by a wealthy silk manufacturer and now a 29-room hotel, Montcaud is decorated with understated elegance yet retains the convivial feel of a family home (duplex suites and a standalone guesthouse mean it is suitable for families). There is a five-acre park, yoga and bicycles, a pool accessorised by a Citroën truck converted to a snack bar, a bistro and a Michelin-starred restaurant. And beyond the walls, delights such as Avignon's Popes' Palace and the miraculously preserved Roman theatre in Orange, still in use today.
Details Room-only doubles from £225 (chateaudemontcaud.com). Fly to Nîmes

Château de Saint Paterne
Normandy

This beautiful Norman castle in pale stone sits 75 miles east of Chartres on the edge of a regional park. There are ten bedrooms with eccentric names (the Duck Room, the Room of Mysteries) and a dacha (a standalone house in the park with private sauna and Jacuzzi). The château is an heirloom, owned and run by the de Valbrays, and decorated by them in an understated boho-chic style. There is a pool, sauna and hot tub, yoga and massages on demand and a 25-acre park with badminton and pétanque; indoors, Charles-Henry de Valbray is a talented (self-taught) chef. And history fans will enjoy staying in a place that was once honoured with a visit by Henry IV.
Details Room-only doubles from £158 (chateau-saintpaterne.com). Take the ferry or the train via Paris to Caen

Château Saint-Jean
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

The Auvergne, right in the centre of France, gets unfairly overlooked by tourists — although that does at least preserve its loveliness for those who do make it here. This château, on the outskirts of the medieval city of Montluçon, has proper turrets, a three-hectare park and a gourmet restaurant with a Michelin star in a dramatic space carved out of the 12th-century chapel, the last vestige of the original castle. The 19 tranquil rooms have been decorated with a judicious touch of autumnal colour and there is a spa with indoor pool, sauna and hammam, for those who don't feel like the hour's drive to the spa town of Vichy.
Details Room-only doubles from £190 (chateau-saint-jean.net). Fly to Lyons

Luxury Cape Town

Great view, cool bars: my stay on the waterfront

The Cape Grace has had a facelift and it's the perfect spot from which to explore the city, says Sidonie Wilson

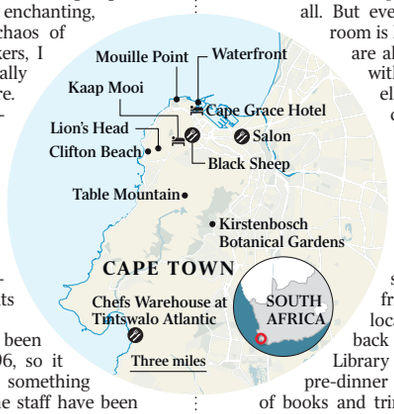
A suite at the Cape Grace

As we pull up to the glistening harbour, a chorus of staff cheer, "Welcome home!" It sets the tone for our stay at the Cape Grace hotel.

I know Cape Town well — my dad grew up in the southern suburbs and we've been visiting family there for more than 20 years — but I'm used to bunking in family friends' spare rooms in the leafy suburbs of Constantia or crashing at my cousin's pad in trendy Sea Point. This newly refurbished five-star hotel in the Victoria and Albert Waterfront, one of Cape Town's most touristy spots, is a different scene altogether.

When I was growing up, the waterfront is where I'd come with Dad to shop for souvenirs, meet an auntie for lunch, get the ferry to Robben Island to visit the site where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned during the apartheid era or just mooch around the bay, basking in the sun. It has one of the best views of Table Mountain. I'd have a bright green cream soda (my childhood favourite) and Dad would enjoy a crisp chenin blanc at one of the restaurants overlooking the boats, beneath the mountain's shadow. We'd wait eagerly for its "tablecloth" to appear — the wispy clouds that creep over its sharp, flat edge.

There's always so much going on and, while it's enchanting, even amid the chaos of tourists and buskers, I wouldn't normally think to stay here. However, the location is pretty much perfect — 20 minutes from the airport, a short drive to the rest of the city and a bridge walk from the waterfront's restaurants and shops.



The hotel has been around since 1996, so it must be doing something right. Many of the staff have been there since the beginning — we meet Laetitia van Rooyen and Janene Isaacs, who have worked in the restaurants for more than 20 years — and are eager to show off all the fancy changes. It's just reopened after a big refurbishment under new management with Fairmont. The interiors, by 1508 London — the design firm that transformed the old War Office in London into a jazzy new Raffles hotel, OWO — are a big improvement. Now it has a modern aesthetic, while keeping original features, including the porthole windows in the pool changing rooms. The grand entrance is filled with polished herringbone floors contrasting with vibrant, African rugs and green velvet armchairs.

With 112 rooms, including 25 suites, and long corridors, it does feel like a ship, which is fitting given the location, concealed from the crowds, between a private yacht basin and a working shipyard. Most rooms have views — there's something spectacular to see at every angle, be it the marina, Table Mountain or Signal Hill. If you're feeling flush, the Cape Grace Suite on the fourth floor has a panorama of them all. But even an entry-level room is luxurious — they are all bright and airy, with elegant panelled walls, slick chocolate-brown floors, oversized concrete lamps and bespoke geometric rugs.

After a quick whizz around the waterfront to show my boyfriend, Jonny, the location, we head back to the hotel's Library Lounge for a pre-dinner negroni. It's full of books and trinkets — such as Mandela's autobiography and books on southern Africa's extensive bird life, as well as chess sets and antique compasses — that pay homage to the Cape region's history. The large French-door-like windows that run along the bar and restaurant wall (where there used to be a

GETTY IMAGES

Clifton Beach

The Library Lounge

corridor) are the most striking change. As we sip and gaze out at the spectacular view of the marina, the bartender tells us proudly how much it has opened up the room.

Dinner in the Heirloom Restaurant next door is led by the renowned chef Gregory Czarnecki, and is an array of fancy amuse-bouches, homemade breads, buttery gratins, fresh fish and creamy lobster dishes. The kingklip with grapefruit emulsion main is a standout. The food is rich and heavy in an old-school French bistro kind of way, but utterly delicious. The Bascule whisky bar isn't due to reopen until next month, so we take the sensible option of an early night.

We're here for three nights and there's plenty to pack in, so we make good use of the hotel's complimentary chauffeur, who will take guests anywhere within six miles of the hotel — perfect for nipping about town and ticking off our sightseeing list. First up is a 7am kayak — rumour has it that two orcas are chilling in the bay.

Unfortunately, the weather has other ideas. "They say Cape Town is like a baby, you never know whether the winds are coming or going," one of the staff informs us at our early wake-up call. The locals are used to it. The hotel concierge is a marvel when it comes to chopping and changing our plans owing to temperamental weather. We ditch the squally sea and decide to make the most of the morning by walking up Table Mountain.

After four hours of hiking — there are at least five routes to walk up the mountain and my outdoorsy boyfriend and his Garmin watch take us up Skeleton Gorge, one of the more challenging — we're eager to get the cable car back down and check out the hotel breakfast. It does not disappoint. The staff guide us to our favourite table overlooking the harbour as the sun streams into the Library room. Here, we are brought plate after plate of delicious, fresh food. I devour a well-earned omelette and Jonny goes for the poached eggs and avo on toast, flecked with bonito flakes.

With full bellies and sore legs, we decide to chill by the pool and wait for the skies to clear. The outdoor area has also been given a facelift — the pool has a nautical vibe, with zippy orange-and-white striped sunbeds. Set behind the twinkling turquoise water is the impressive outdoor bar, clad in rattan and with a hint of art deco. The hotel's refreshed Fairmont Spa above the pool area, with gym downstairs, is due to reopen in June, offering treatments including the Tranquillity Signature Massage (75 minutes; £90).

The wind hasn't died down, so we swap a windy-looking surf at Muizenberg for a refreshing swim at Clifton Beach on the other side of the mountain. A short amble to Saunders Rock (frequented by locals for a cold morning dip or seriously good sunset) brings us to the best spot to have our dinner picnic of takeaway sushi from Willoughby's at the waterfront — don't be put off by it being in a shopping centre, it does some of the best sushi in town (dishes from £3; willoughbyandco.co.za).

We have yet another leisurely breakfast the next day on our balcony (the water is again too rough for kayaking). Sipping coffee in the balmy morning sunshine with just the clinking of boats and the sounds of seals frolicking below is not a bad swap. Our day continues in a similarly relaxed vein with a long, lazy lunch at one of the Cape's most striking wine farms, Klein Constantia, a 25-minute drive from the hotel. It produces wine from some of the oldest vineyards in South Africa and, after a thorough tour through the cellars, it feels only polite to work our way through the wine list beneath the jacarandas on the Bistro's terrace (two courses for £17, wine pairing £12; kleinconstantia.com/the-bistro).

We manage to squeeze in a two-hour sunset hike up Lion's Head — avoid the chains and ladders route unless you're confident — before retiring to Cape Grace. The small (669m), distinctive peak is a straightforward climb and busy with locals at sunrise and sunset, who come for panoramic views of the city, Table Mountain and the Atlantic.

For the third and final time we rise before the sun in hope of a paddle out to sea. At last, we're on and our trusty chauffeur Eddie delivers us to Mouille Point, where Sue from Cape Kayak Adventures is waiting for us, eager to get out on the water. Good things do come to those who wait (for bad weather to pass). Although we don't spot Port and Starboard, the names the locals have given to the orcas, a school of dolphins swim beside us for at least 15 minutes — a truly magical finale.

Need to know

Sidonie Wilson was a guest of the Cape Grace hotel, which has B&B doubles from £756 (capegrace.com). Fly to Cape Town

What to do and where to eat in Cape Town

WHERE TO EAT

Salon, Woodstock

The chef Luke Dale Roberts has brought excitement for foodies with his recently opened restaurant, Salon. In the Old Biscuit Mill in Woodstock, one floor below the super-popular Pot Luck Club restaurant, it does dishes themed by countries Roberts has worked in — duck suzette represents France while dumpling with mushroom dashi gives a taste of Japan — all amid chic decor. Choose from the nine-course Journey dinner (£70pp) or seven-course Explorer lunch (£35pp). Delicious cocktails too (salonct.co.za).

Black Sheep, City Bowl

On buzzy Kloof Street, in the heart of the City Bowl area, this little place has a lively atmosphere and laid-back approach to food. Signature dishes include the grilled kudu and south Indian coconut fish curry. In the daytime, the bistro-style windows open wide for an airy lunch. At night, it buzzes with life, letting you experience Cape Town's more lively and less pretentious foodie scene (mains from £6; blacksheeprestaurant.co.za).

Chefs Warehouse at Tintswalo Atlantic

Dine on a deck overlooking the Atlantic, at the base of Chapman's Peak and within the Table Mountain nature reserve area. The view is spectacular but the food demands equal attention. In keeping with its seafront location, delicious fish and seafood dishes, such as togarashi squid and barbecued line fish, are on the menu. It's popular — the kind of place where people get engaged — so book in advance and arrive in time for a sundowner of local rosé (set menu options from £30; chefswarehouse.co.za).

WHAT TO DO

Check out a market

Many areas — including Hout Bay and Kalk Bay — have exciting weekly food markets. Just beyond the V&A Waterfront is a great local hangout, the Oranjezicht City Farm Market, with street food and local artisans. It's organised by a woman called Sheryl Ozinsky, who's bringing a farming community to an area where there has been a lot of crime (ozcf.co.za). Neighbourgoods market takes over the Old Biscuit Mill in Woodstock every Saturday and Sunday (theoldbiscuitmill.co.za). Browse local cuisine, fashion and culture — ostrich burgers, biltong and proteas — to the backdrop of live music.

Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden

At the foot of Table Mountain is this botanical paradise. Learn about the Cape's flora, unique fynbos species and rich South African heritage. There's lots to explore and as you get higher, it offers great views. In the summer months, it hosts concerts and outdoor events, so it's worth looking at what's on. Tickets from £9.50 (sanbi.org).

Drive around the Cape Peninsula

It's a beautiful, 40-mile drive to the most southerly spot in Cape Town: Cape Point. Head out via Kalk Bay (the sun rises on that side) and stop in Simon's Town to see the penguins at Boulders Beach. At Cape Point, catch the funicular to the lighthouse, or hike for views of mountainous bays and beaches. You might spot baboons and mountain zebras (capepoint.co.za).

WHERE TO STAY

Kaap Mooi, Tamboerskloof

In the quiet neighbourhood of Tamboerskloof, this guesthouse is about taking it easy. The rooms are small but fine when you're mainly out exploring the city. There's a small courtyard with a pool surrounded by greenery and the option of breakfast on the bougainvillea-draped balcony. **Details** B&B doubles from £70 (kaapmooi.com)

Sidonie Wilson

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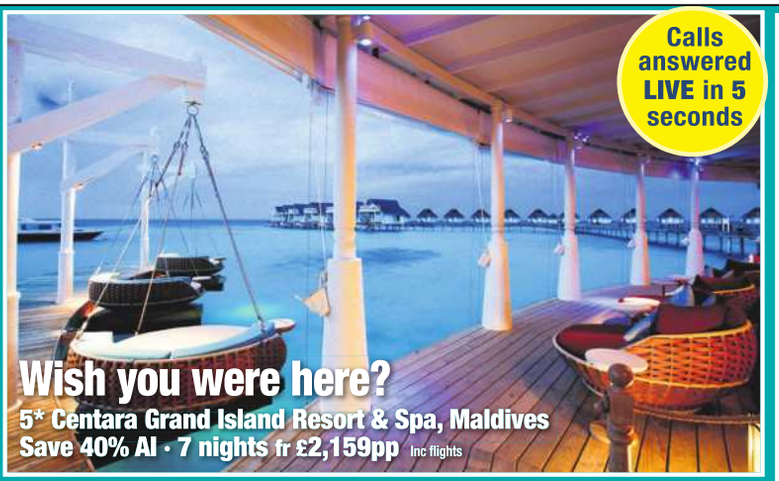

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Located on the picturesque island of Krabey, it is only a short boat ride to the 30-acre island from the mainland, your idyllic Hideaway Villa awaits and includes a private plunge pool and al fresco dining, plus a host of water activities and outdoor cinema.

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Virgin Hotels Las Vegas, Curio Collection by Hilton is one of the coolest resorts in Vegas. A playground of entertainment with everything you could possibly need. The pool is heated to 100°F, the spa has a stunning indoor pool and Elia Beach is an adults-only Mykonos-inspired beach club paradise, plus every kind of food available that you could dream of.

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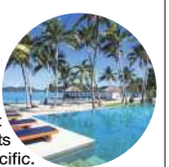

4* Tropica Island Resort consistently ranks among the best adults only resorts in the South Pacific. Stay in a lovely sanctuary suite with open-plan bedroom and living area, plus a private plunge pool.

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Grenada

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Enjoying a great spot on the exotic Pink Gin beach, 5* Sandals Grenada Resort & Spa is an award-winning hideaway. Its premium all inclusive includes 10 dining options and watersports.

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A tropical island escape high on privacy and intimacy, the 5* SAii Lagoon Maldives offers fine dining, upscale shopping and spa treatments adding to the simply gorgeous location.

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For a perfect escape, the 5* Dreams Riviera Cancun Resort & Spa is the perfect choice. Everything is included with Unlimited-Luxury, from gourmet dining at 15 restaurants and bars to endless activities.

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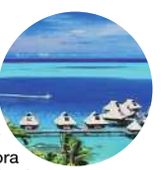

Located on Motu Toopua, a private islet south west of Bora Bora, the luxurious 5* Conrad Bora Bora Nui offers stunning luxury accommodation, breathtaking views, and an outstanding Hina Spa.

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CASH in on one of these exclusive offers to the cool Caribbean with bargain stays at some of the top hotels on the sun-drenched islands.

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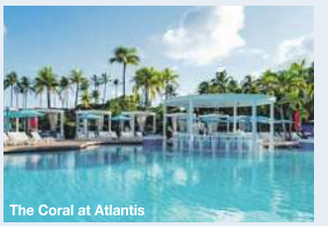
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Dubai, make my day

Desert excursions, floodlit golf, the world's highest 360-degree infinity pool... **Hazel Plush** shares insider tips for 24 or 48-hour stopovers in this dazzling emirate

24 hours in Dubai

Your long-haul journey isn't just something to be endured. With a stopover in Dubai, you can make it something to be truly enjoyed. Thanks to global connections and attractions that are as appealing as they are easy to reach, this UAE city is the ideal destination for resetting between flights.

Its clear, linear layout means navigation is effortless, with the airport only a 10 to 40-minute drive from key areas like Dubai Creek, Downtown and Dubai Marina.

Even with just a day or two to spare, you can relax on first-rate beaches, revel in award-winning restaurants and bask in the magic of Dubai's heritage quarter. With thrilling theme parks, families will find exciting ways to blow off steam, while the city remains stress-free for solo travellers too.

So if you are flying east, here's how to plan a mini stopover with maximum wow factor.

1. SAVOUR A SKY-HIGH SUPPER

Time is of the essence, so combine dining with delighting at the views from Burj Khalifa by booking a table at At.Mosphere on the 122nd floor. This decadent restaurant is just two storeys lower than the observation area, which means you'll enjoy all the incredible views with none of the crowds. And with cuisine described by the Michelin Guide as "top drawer", it's sure to be a breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea or dinner you'll never forget.

2. KICK BACK AT THE BEACH

Steal a little sunshine on the white sands of Kite Beach, with its views of another icon of Dubai's skyline: the sail-shaped Burj Al Arab. The beach is free to visit but a day pass (AED120/£26) grants you umbrellas, sunbeds and towels, plus access to showers, toilets and changing rooms at the Sole Mio club.

Order lunch from one of the food trucks and settle down with a book from the free library kiosks. Alternatively, dial up the adrenaline over at Kitesurf School Dubai, which offers kitesurfing lessons, paddleboarding, kayak rental and more.

3. DISCOVER OLD DUBAI

As the call to prayer echoes over the sleepy back streets and elegant wind towers of Al Fahidi Historical Neighbourhood, it may well feel like you've wandered into ancient Arabia. This heritage quarter is the place to sip cardamom coffee in courtyard cafés, explore tiny art galleries in 18th-century houses and lose yourself in the many winding and inviting alleys.

The area sits on the shores of Dubai Creek, just a ten-minute drive from the airport. Cross the inlet in an *abra* (traditional wooden taxi boat) for just AED1 (20p) to visit the Gold and Spice Souks of Deira.

4. SWIM ABOVE THE CITY

Combine sightseeing with a refreshing swim at Aura Skypool, which offers 360-degree views from 50 floors up. From here, the Palm's shape becomes clear and the sea sparkles in the sunshine – as will you, flitting between your lounger and the edge of the infinity pool.

In addition to its daytime sessions, Aura Skypool hosts sunrise swims and early morning yoga, as well as night bookings until 11pm – perfect for those flying at unsociable hours.

5. SCOUT FOR NEW DESIGNERS

For leading high street brands, head to Dubai Mall or Mall of the Emirates. For something a little different, though, make your way to Dubai Design District. Also known as D3, this avant-garde quarter showcases the sharpest ateliers and curators, covering everything from fashion and art to homeware and jewellery.

Make room in your suitcase for Emirati dresses from Pearla, Japanese stationery from Frame and ceramics from The Lighthouse, which also serves a mean brûléed cappuccino and cake.

6. THINK BIG AT BRUNCH

From filet mignon and fresh lobster to zesty Peruvian ceviche, Dubai does all-day brunch like nowhere else. On the Palm, the Social Sunday brunch at Michelin-recommended Akira Back pairs Asian-inspired fine dining with front row views of the marina. Arcadia at Jumeirah Zabeel Saray champions sustainability with a farm-to-plate ethos, and features a chef's table set in an organic herb garden.

Infinity and beyond
Take it all in at Aura Skypool

GETTING AROUND

Taxis and transfers from Dubai International Airport to the marina, at the other end of the city, take about 40 minutes, while the trouble-free Metro will whisk you there in an hour.

Getting around town is a breeze too: metered taxis are cheap and easy to hail, while ride apps include Uber and Careem. Or you can hire a Careem Bike from one of its many rental stations.

ILLUSTRATION BY TOM FROESE/MAKING PICTURES

Top spots See the desert come to life; At.Mosphere's fine views; Orfali Bros, the region's No 1 restaurant

48 hours in Dubai

7. SNAP THAT SKYLINE

From the "Vertical Forest" being built in Downtown to the seaside spires of Dubai Marina, this is a city that excels at leading architecture. But how best to capture the many breathtaking rooftop vistas it has to offer? That would be a job for Aperture Photos Tours.

On the company's Dubai Skyline Photo Tour, a local photographer will guide you to locations with peerless views, including private residences and rooftop terraces, for a series of creative adventures in composition, perspective and lighting. The tours are private; all you need is a camera and a head for heights.

If all that altitude is too much for you, consider the Dubai Street Photo Tour, which ushers shutterbugs around the city's alleys and souks.

8. MAKE IT A FEAST

Dubai is the region's culinary superstar: from Michelin marvels to humble bistros, the city dominated the 2024 Middle East and North Africa 50 Best Restaurants awards.

Low-key Jumeirah restaurant Orfali Bros won first place: order its tapas-style "Come with me to Aleppo", a tender wagyu beef kebab with sour cherry and cinnamon.

Also in the top five, Trèsind Studio serves elegant Indian dishes like cinnamon and black pepper-spiced crab curry; Ossiano features artful seafood in a glass floor-to-ceiling aquarium setting; and Moonrise's daring third culture cuisine – local chef Solemann Haddad's Middle Eastern, European and Japanese fusions – has made it the hottest ticket in town.

9. LOOK FOR INSPIRATION

With its independent galleries, fashion boutiques and artisans crafting everything from jewellery to leather shoes, Alserkal Avenue is the region's contemporary design epicentre. Set in a former marble factory, its studios and shops are packed with one-off creations.

Workshops give visitors the opportunity to learn skills from the pros, whether that's perfume blending at Oo La Lab, meditation and breathwork at The Chi Room or life drawing and ceramics at The Jam Jar. Browsing the unique souvenirs and soaking up the local creativity here is a rewarding way to spend any afternoon.

10. VENTURE INTO THE DESERT

There's much more to Dubai than its extraordinary city of glass and steel. The wider emirate is a sea of ochre sands populated by bewitching animals in soul-stirring settings.

Even if you only have half a day or an evening to spare, Sand Sherpa can escort you via hardy 4x4 trucks to a desert nature reserve where Arabian oryx and gazelles can be spotted among the dunes.

Meanwhile, chic Sonara Camp offers dinner, traditional music and falconry displays under the stars, as well as sleepovers in its cosy, glamping-style Nests.

Unbeatable backdrops Sheikh Zayed Road; paddleboarding off the Palm

11. GO FAST OR GO HOME

Blow away those long-haul flight cobwebs with an exhilarating day at one of Dubai's theme parks. The Atlantis Aquaventure Waterpark is home to 50 waterslides (more than any other park in the world), plus a private beach and the Surf's Up wave rider, while Dubai Parks and Resorts has 2km of rollercoasters across multiple unique settings.

Located in the south of the city, the latter is an adrenaline utopia for all ages. You'll find more than 100 rides between the family-friendly Legoland Dubai, football-inspired Real Madrid World (brand new this summer) and Motiongate, which is made up of worlds from different Hollywood studios.

12. TEE OFF IN STYLE

Golf fans may want to ensure their stopover coincides with the Hero Dubai Desert Classic in January or the DP World Tour Championship in November – just two of the city's many annual sporting highlights.

At Dubai Creek Golf Club and The Els Club, experienced golfers can put their skills to the test, while the Topgolf Dubai driving range is great for families and beginners. Adjusting to a new time zone? Book an after-dark round on the Faldo Course at Emirates Golf Club, the only floodlit 18 holes in the city.

DUBAI

Voted the world's No 1 destination in the Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Awards for the third year running, Dubai is an ideal year-round destination. The welcoming coastal city, set between desert and mountains, offers a wide range of accommodation and activities for all budgets. Fly direct from Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Manchester and Newcastle.

Discover more at visitdubai.com

Paella, playful pigs and a pool —

With animals galore, great food and a vast toybox, Caserio del Mirador is a winner for children, says Jenny Coad

Mrs Large can't manage five minutes' peace in Jill Murphy's classic children's book about a family of five — five! — elephants. She should have taken her rabble to Caserio del Mirador in southeast Spain.

The thoroughly family-friendly hotel, near the town of Xalo, between Valencia and Alicante — with mountain views of the Sierra de Bernia in front and the Serra del Ferrer behind — was opened more than 20 years ago by expats Sarah and Johnny Robinson. Their youngest son, Charlie, was tiny at the time, which informed the decision to make it all about the children. Their three are now grown up and working in Barcelona, but Sarah and Johnny are still welcoming little ones and their parents to their unique rural stay, which feels like a home from home.

I'm here with extended family — my sister, Flick, and I were lucky enough to have our two-year-old girls within weeks of one another so I feel as if I have two daughters and, happily, they adore each other. We've started an annual holiday tradition that provides the opportunity for Lycra wearing (the cycling-mad husbands, Rob and Andrew), unbroken conversation (us sisters) and, these days, anything that will wear out the daughters.

Part of Caserio del Mirador's winning formula on that front is its menagerie of animals. Each morning and evening we feed leftovers to the pigs, Peppa and Daisy, and the girls collect eggs from the chickens with enthusiasm (amazingly none get broken). There's a donkey, Josep, who "eey-oores" in reply when they call to him across the fields; a Shetland pony; two little goats; a tolerant cat, Lola; and — joy of joys — a

The main house and pool at Caserio del Mirador

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JULIA LAVRINENKO/GETTY IMAGES

Altea

hutch full of snow-white baby bunnies. When Lyra is distraught to be parted from her cousin at bedtime, we take her on an evening *paseo* to say goodnight to them all.

There are also lots of toys — at least two of most things (thankfully), including a couple of toy prams, which the girls immediately take ownership of and rattle around the patio in matching dressing-gowns while we have breakfast. The morning mist before the sun burns across the Bernia is magic, and the evening brings with it a blustery wind as well as sunset drama. Sarah delivers a basket of hot croissants and warm rolls to the door for £4pp and we help ourselves to eggs from the chickens. Weetabix, muesli and other essentials, such as tea, coffee and biscuits, are provided in the rooms.

The hotel — in 15 green acres peppered with palm trees and pink pig's-foot flowers — is split into three suites, two apartments and a *casita*, down the road from the main house. Each has a small kitchen, though there are only two hob rings in the one-bedroom apartments and no ovens, so we're talking modest meals. Interiors are simple and some could do with a spruce-up, but it's all about the outdoor living here. And the outsourcing of chores. If you don't want to cook — and who does, on holiday? — then for £13pp children's tea is served at 5.30pm with a side of Aperol spritzes included for the grown-ups (I don't care if they're naff, they still say holiday to me). So we watch the girls wolf down croquetas, sausages and pasta, and mostly reject broccoli, safe in the knowledge that we don't have to clean up the mess. Dinner for the adults is later, when the children are asleep. Monitors are provided.

Sarah is an excellent cook. She doesn't have a catering background but loved entertaining friends in the couple's former London life, including hosting what amounted to a mini festival in Cornwall each summer. During our week's stay, we eat artichoke four ways, all sorts of home-made croquetas, paella, pulled lamb, a stew of chorizo criollo and lentils, and melting chocolate puds — all delicious and accompanied by Johnny's selection of wines and local vermouths. One of my favourite meals is the tortilla jamon picnic delivered to the apartment. The food is restaurant quality but informal. I don't think Sarah and Johnny would mind if we'd turned up scruffy from a day's exploration or with pool-wet hair, for example. The only downside is that prices vary from £26 to £51, so you're not sure until the end of the week how much you've spent.

Fun on Fustera beach

We don't have much pool time — it's unheated and chilly on our stay — but we make up for it (well, some of us do) in the sandpit, on the trampoline, swings, slide and old-fashioned red tractor. The girls (and I) are thrilled to spot slender red squirrels scampering up a palm tree — I don't think I've ever seen one in the wild.

There's also plenty to explore from the door. The boys hike up the 889m-high Serra del Ferrer with Johnny on a crisp early morning, which, though terrifying at the top, turns out to be a highlight of the week. My sister has a rare sighting of an ibex on a run, and she and I escape for hikes in the pine-scented surrounding hills — at least 60 minutes of peace. We meet the rest of the gang in Xalo for lunch in the bar Casa Aleluya. The men rate the pork loin baguette, the children rate the patatas bravas and meatballs (tapas from £4; Avinguda Rei Juan Carlos I). Rob and Andrew go cycling on roads they describe as "silky", following routes pounded by their heroes — the Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar trains here. It's far less green than most springs, not least because the area has already suffered a fire.

The coast is about 35 minutes' drive away and we make two visits to Cala de la Fustera, a sheltered, curving bay with an open-air seafront restaurant, Mandala Beach Bar, which does fish-and-chip Fridays (mains from £8; mandalabeach.es). The sea is nip-in nip-out temperature but lovely nonetheless, and we watch cormorants dip and dive. The girls can't resist the temptation of the stairs on a walking trail leading south to further beaches.

Moraira is another winner for young families, with its playground and volleyball net on the sand, and the name of the town spelt out in giant letters on the seafront (they're perfect for dashing around). We also have lunch on the seafront at Altea, a slightly uninspiring sandy strip with a vast pavement, but its hilltop old town, overseen by the Virgen del Consuelo parish church with its gorgeously blue and white glazed domes, has more character — and award-winning ice cream. Be warned, the incline to get there is quite a workout with a pram. On the way back to Caserio, we stop off at the coast near Mascarat gorge and wonder how the two couples on the beach, surrounded by steep cliffs, got down there.

We visit Javea on the only rainy day and seek shelter in the old town's indoor market, which turns out to be the perfect racetrack for two-year-olds. Fortunately, the market is quiet and the Spanish are immensely tolerant of children. But we are all relieved to get back to Caserio for scalding-hot showers and tea with those mountain views. It's immensely restful, even with toddlers.

Need to know

Jenny Coad was a guest of Caserio del Mirador, which has seven nights' self-catering for three in a one-bedroom apartment from £1,277 (caseriodelmirador.com). Fly to Alicante or Valencia

More places to stay in the Valencia region

Hotel La Escondida
A sherbet-lemon retreat enfolded within rolling lawns and perfumed pines, this hotel is surrounded by velvety hills about an hour inland from Alicante. A restored 17th-century farmhouse with just 12 rooms, it's the perfect base for exploring the countryside by bike or on foot, following trails through olive and almond groves. There's a vast outdoor pool, another indoors, plus a tennis court and a rustic-chic restaurant specialising in grilled meats.
Details B&B doubles from £92 (hotelescondida.com). Fly to Alicante

MasQi The Energy House
On the fringes of the Sierra de Mariola Natural Park, this revamped 19th-century farmhouse is an understated wellness retreat with just eight crisp white rooms with mountain views, a geodesic dome for yoga and meditation, a "massage house" and a restaurant serving an organic, macrobiotic menu. Themed retreats are on offer, ranging from anti-stress to deep-clean detox. Dine on the sun-dappled terrace, relax by the pool or head out for a hike.
Details Full-board doubles from £317, minimum two-night stay (masqi.es). Fly to Alicante

Abbi Suites
Wedged between mountain ranges to the south of the Valencia region, Bocairent seems to be carved from rock, with ice caves and an underground monastery. In the heart of the village, this historic house has been thoughtfully converted into a six-bedroom hotel with flagstone floors, wooden beams and honeyed stone smoothed with age. Hiking routes fan out from Bocairent among the hills, then back at the hotel you can ease aching muscles with a massage or by soaking in the hot tub.
Details B&B doubles from £112 (abbisuites.com). Fly to Alicante or Valencia

Finca Calderon Enoresort
About an hour inland from Valencia, the Utiel-Requena wine region has been attracting attention for its whitewashed towns and award-winning vintages. Among the vines, just outside Utiel, a wine cellar from 1901 has been turned into a boutique hotel with eight contemporary suites. Soak up vineyard views from your private terrace, and dine on local produce at the elegant restaurant, accompanied by wines and cavas from the vineyard. Nearby, you can hike the hills, visit vineyards and explore the caves used as medieval wine cellars.
Details B&B doubles from £136 (fincacalderon.com). Fly to Valencia

Sarah Gordon

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Fri 28 **Funchal, Madeira**
Sat 29 **Santa Cruz, Tenerife**
Sun 30 **Las Palmas, Gran Canaria**
Mon 31 **Arrecife, Lanzarote**

APRIL 2025

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Fri 6 **Helsinki, Finland**
Sat 7 **Tallinn, Estonia**
Sun 8 **Stockholm, Sweden**
Mon 9 **Visby, Sweden**
Wed 11 **Kristiansand, Norway**
Fri 13 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Deluxe Balcony	~~£3,049~~	**£2,579**
Mini Suite	~~£3,549~~	**£2,649**
Suite	~~£5,449~~	**£4,199**

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14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 30TH AUGUST 2025

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AUGUST 2025

Sat 30 **Embark *Sky Princess*® and depart Southampton**

SEPTEMBER 2025

Mon 1 **Vigo, Spain**
Wed 3 **Seville (from Cádiz), Spain**
Thu 4 **Málaga, Spain**
Sat 6 **Ajaccio, Corsica, France**
Sun 7 **Marseille (for Provence), France**
Tue 9 **Gibraltar**
Wed 10 **Lisbon, Portugal**
Sat 13 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Inside	~~£2,299~~	**£1,989**
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MARCH 2026

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Tue 24	Relaxing at sea
Wed 25	**La Coruña, Spain**
Thu 26	**Bilbao, Spain**
Fri 27	**Bordeaux (from Le Verdon), France**
Sat 28	Relaxing at sea
Sun 29	**Cherbourg, France**
Mon 30	**Arrive in Southampton**

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Balcony	~~£1,249~~	**£1,219**
Deluxe Balcony	~~£1,299~~	**£1,259**
Mini Suite	~~£1,399~~	**£1,359**
Suite	~~£1,999~~	**£1,939**

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14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 25TH APRIL, 30TH MAY & 12TH SEPTEMBER 2026

JUST LAUNCHED

Day 1	**Embark *Sky Princess®* and depart Southampton**
Day 3	**Skagen, Denmark**
Day 4	**Copenhagen, Denmark**
Day 5	**Berlin (from Warnemünde), Germany**
Day 7 - Day 8	**Stockholm, Sweden** (overnight)
Day 9	**Helsinki, Finland**
Day 10	**Tallinn, Estonia**
Day 11	**Visby, Sweden**
Day 13	**Kristiansand, Norway**
Day 15	**Arrive in Southampton**

Days not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea

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Ocean View	~~£2,649~~	**£2,599**
*EXCLUSIVE FREE UPGRADE TO A BALCONY^*		
Deluxe Balcony	~~£2,799~~	**£2,699**
Mini Suite	~~£2,949~~	**£2,859**
Suite	~~£4,649~~	**£4,499**

Solo fares are available on request

Itinerary, fares & availability are based on 30th May 2026 departure date

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14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 13TH JUNE 2026

JUNE 2026

JUST LAUNCHED

Sat 13	**Embark *Sky Princess®* and depart Southampton**
Mon 15	**Stavanger, Norway**
Tue 16	**Haugesund, Norway**
Wed 17	**Skjolden/Sognefjord, Norway**
Thu 18	**Olden, Norway**
Fri 19	**Trondheim, Norway**
Sun 21	**Honningsvåg (for North Cape), Norway**
Mon 22	**Tromsø, Norway**
Thu 25	**Edinburgh (from South Queensferry), Scotland**
Sat 27	**Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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DAY 3: BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
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This morning, take a guided tour to see the best highlights of Buenos Aires. This evening, enjoy a dazzling tango show and a delicious dinner.

DAY 4: FLY BUENOS AIRES TO IGUAZU, ARGENTINA
This morning, transfer to the airport for your flight to Iguazu. On arrival, check into your 5★ hotel for 2 night stays.

DAY 5: IGUAZU FALLS, ARGENTINA
Included: Iguazu Falls Tour, Argentinian Side
Today enjoy a guided tour of the Argentinian side of the impressive Iguazu falls. Admire the captivating Iguazu Falls, one of the world's most magnificent natural wonders.

DAY 6: FLY IGUAZU FALLS TO RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
Included: Iguazu Falls Tour, Brazilian Side
Enjoy a guided tour of the majestic Iguazu falls on the Brazilian side. Marvel at these awe inspiring waterfalls' sheer power and grandeur as they plunge into a lush tropical rainforest. After, transfer to the airport for your flight to Rio De Janeiro. On arrival, check into your 5★ hotel for 2 nights stay.

DAY 7: RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
Included: Rio De Janeiro Day Tour
Head towards the Urca neighbourhood, home of Sugarloaf Mountain. Ride the iconic cable car all the way up to the summit and admire the jaw-dropping vistas. Stopping at Urca Hill mid-way you can take advantage of the spectacular vantage point overlooking Guanabara Bay.

DAY 7 CONTINUED:
Enjoy a lunch at a barbecue house before you head over to the base of Corcovado Mountain via the Cosme Velho Train. Ride through the lush and dense Tijuca rainforest to the towering Christ Redeemer statue crowning the Corcovado summit.

DAY 8: EMBARK 6★ SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR, RIO DE JANEIRO
This morning, transfer to the port to embark your 6★ ship.

DAY 9: BUZIOS, BRAZIL
Buzios, a hidden gem on the coast of Brazil, offers a perfect blend of natural beauty and cultural charm.

DAY 11: SALVADOR, BRAZIL
Salvador, the capital of Brazil's Bahia state, is known for its Afro-Brazilian heritage, colonial architecture, and toe-tapping music scene.

DAY 12: MACEIO, BRAZIL
Welcome to Maceio, a tropical haven on the northeastern coast of Brazil. With its powdery white sand beaches, crystal-clear turquoise waters, and palm fringed coastlines.

DAY 13: RECIFE, BRAZIL
With a rich history and cultural heritage, Recife boasts colonial-era buildings, cool street art, and a bustling creative scene.

DAY 18: MINDELO (PORTO GRANDE), CAPE VERDE
Nestled along the coast of Cape Verde, Porto Grande invites you to discover its hidden treasures. From pristine beaches to lively markets brimming with local flavours.

DAY 21: TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS
From the stunning beaches of Playa de las Americas to the lunar-like landscapes of Mount Teide, the island boasts a diverse range of scenery.

DAY 22: LANZAROTE, CANARY ISLANDS
Lanzarote ranges from lava fields, volcanoes and rolling mountains to golden beaches and lush palm groves.

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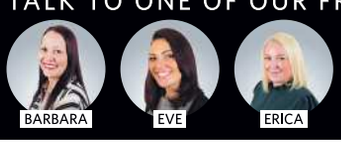

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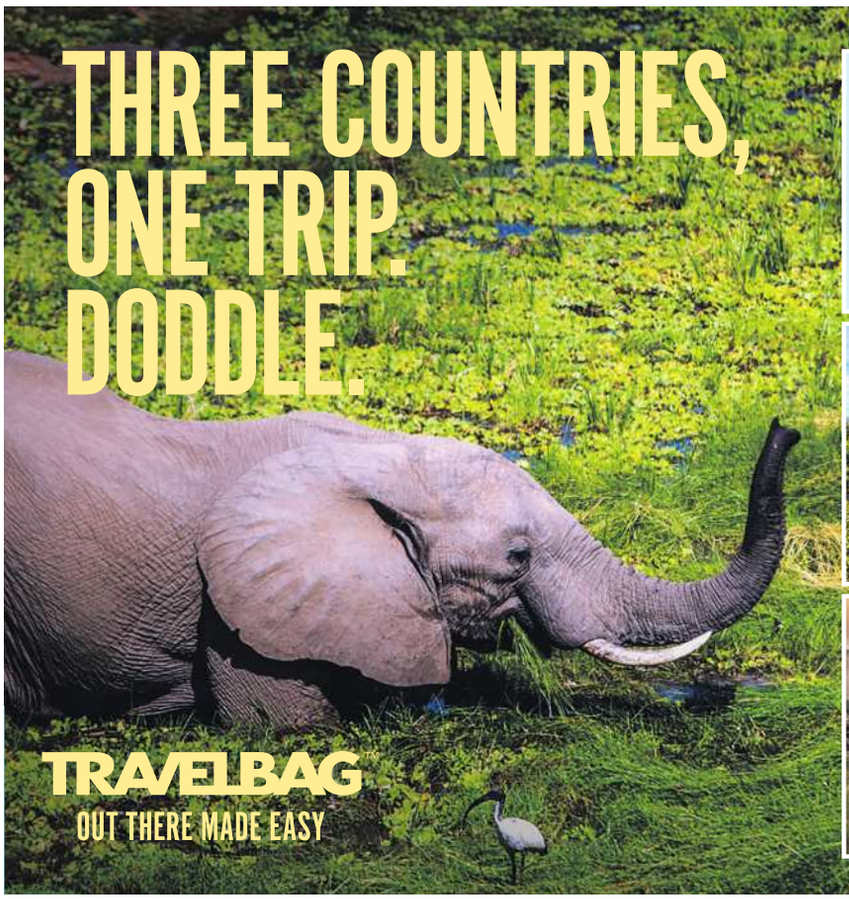

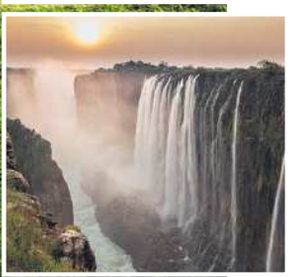

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Reunited with my brother in vibrant Tokyo

Min Sett Hein visits cool local restaurants, vintage shops and a new Samurai museum with his sibling as guide

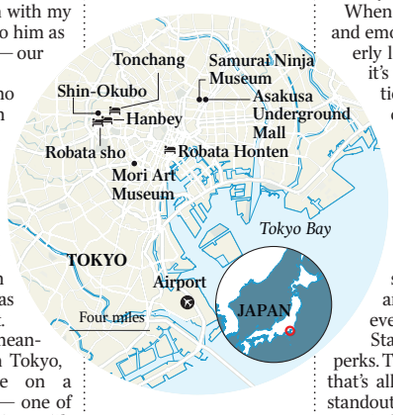
Shimokitazawa district, Tokyo

Min Sett Hein, left, and his brother, Paing

As I step out into the rainy streets of Shin-Okubo, Tokyo's vibrant Koreatown, just one stop from Shinjuku, a sense of anticipation fills the damp air. This bustling neighbourhood, shaped by the Korean community since the 1980s, is the backdrop for a long-awaited reunion with my younger brother, Paing. I wave to him as he approaches and we embrace — our first hug in six years.

As Burmese brothers, we're no strangers to the plot twists life can throw at you. Political upheaval in our homeland sent us packing to opposite corners of the globe — me to the UK in 2010, aged 17, and Paing to the US for college a few years later. We had a quick reunion in London for my graduation in 2017, but since then life (and a global pandemic) has thwarted our plans to reconnect.

Now, six years after our last meaningful encounter, he is living in Tokyo, pursuing his master's degree on a scholarship at Keio University — one of Japan's oldest private universities, with distinguished alumni including the author Haruki Murakami. And here I am, in this little Seoul of Tokyo, ready to reconnect with my brother.



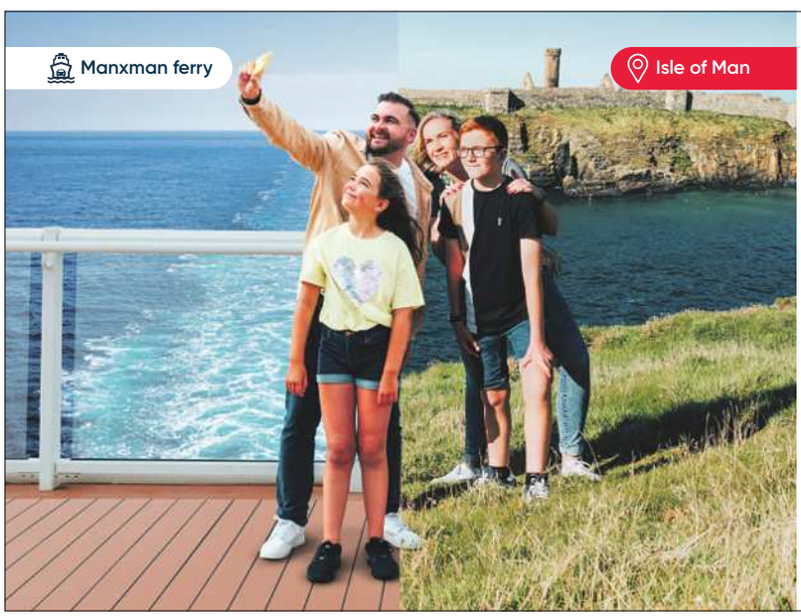
With a week-long stay ahead of us, including my brother's birthday, I couldn't ask for a better local guide to show me around, even if his Japanese isn't quite fluent yet.

When we meet we don't get all mushy and emotional. No, we signify our brotherly love through food. In our culture it's the ultimate expression of affection. Our mother, like countless other Asian mums, always greeted us with "Have you eaten?" rather than "How are you?" Who needs feelings when you have a full stomach? And there's nowhere better than Japan to excite your taste buds. From hole-in-the-wall ramen joints to swanky sushi bars, it has it all — and the Japanese seem to treat every dish like a masterpiece.

Staying in Koreatown had foodie perks. Tonchang, a Korean barbecue joint that's all about grilled pork belly, was a standout. The man behind the restaurant's recent glow-up is Jae Won Koo, a young gun who traded in his London College of Fashion menswear studies for a chance to revamp the family business. As he sliced up succulent pork belly wearing a Gucci suit, he regaled me with tales of his UK stint, which clearly left a mark. The restaurant's new look is a cheeky tribute to a Brick Lane bagel shop that captured his heart ... and stomach (mains from £9; instagram.com/tonchang_okubo).

Another excellent dining experience is at Robata Honten, a century-old izakaya (a bar with food) in the swanky Ginza neighbourhood. Despite its posh surroundings, the bar is full of artistic charm, with a handwritten note from the renowned poet Octavio Paz proudly displayed on the wall. No English menu? No problem. The staff are pros at deciphering what we are getting at and we simply nod along to their suggestions (mains from £5).

One evening Kinga Ciupak, a Japanese studies graduate from Poland who works as a guide here, takes us on a tour of her favourite Shinjuku watering holes. First up is Hanbey, a cheap, casual izakaya chain



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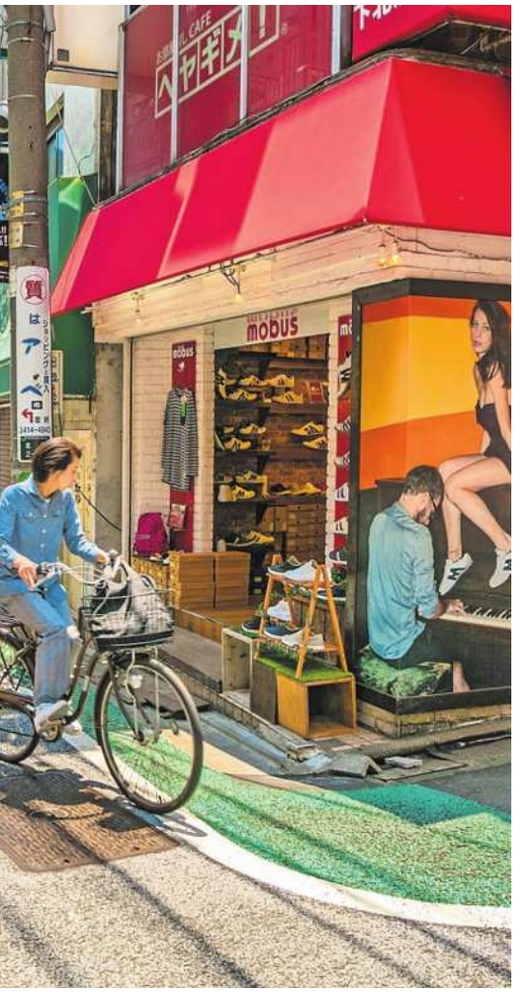

Shinjuku

Takoyaki (battered octopus)

decked out in vintage Japanese posters and memorabilia. While I'm not entirely sold on the raw cabbage snack served with salt and soy sauce, it's a refreshing change from the usual salted peanuts (snacks from 50p; hanbey.com).

Takoyaki, on the other hand, is a snack I can get behind. These savoury balls of battered octopus are the perfect complement to a cold beer or, in my case, a highball. The highball, a simple yet satisfying blend of whisky and soda, has become my go-to drink in Japan. It's light, refreshing and pairs well with just about any meal you can throw at it.

Next we hit up Robata sho, an izakaya specialising in fireside robatayaki cooking, where meat, seafood, and veggies are grilled over hot charcoal. The Japanese tend to prefer their chicken on the pinker side, so you might want to stick to the seafood and veggie options. I really enjoyed the yaki onigiri, a grilled rice ball topped with butter that's dramatically scorched with a piece of hot charcoal right at your table (small plates from £1.50; robata-sho-shinjuku.com).

If you end up sampling the pink chicken, it might be wise to offer a prayer for your wellbeing at the nearby Hanazono Shrine. Despite its proximity to Shinjuku's neon-lit streets, it exudes tranquillity and serenity. One intriguing feature, common to most shrines, is the strategically angled mirror in the main hall, which allows worshippers to see their own reflections as they pray, symbolising the divine within.

Having grown up in a Buddhist household in Myanmar, my brother and I are familiar with the peaceful atmosphere of shrines and temples. We even briefly traded our worldly possessions, aged 14, to live in a monastery for a month as monks. I can't help but think of our parents' reaction to seeing us now, reconnecting in Tokyo. They might shake their heads at some of our antics, but I'm sure they'd be pleased to know we're strengthening our bond, if wistful at not being here to share in the moment.

If you're planning on visiting some of Tokyo's more famous shrines and temples, such as the ever-popular Sensoji, go early. After 9.30am you'll be battling hordes of tourists, many decked out in rented kimonos and wielding selfie sticks like samurai swords. It's like seeking spiritual solace amid a frenzied carnival — futile. Instead we go to the Samurai Ninja Museum Tokyo, in Asakusa, a trove of Edo-period armour and weapons just a shuriken's throw from Sensoji (£15.50; mai-ko.com).

Our group tour guide is a charming gent decked out in full ninja regalia, as seen on TV. However, he lets us in on a little secret: real ninjas actually rocked the farmer look, not the get-up we've come to expect. The entry fee grants us access to a shuriken (throwing star) showdown, so at the end of the tour we channel our inner samurai by getting kitted up in not-so-authentic armour for a photo op. Not to toot my own horn, but I nail a bullseye on my first shuriken chuck — looks like all those hours playing *Fruit Ninja* weren't a waste of time after all.

A two-minute walk from Asakusa station is the Asakusa Underground Mall. Built in 1955, it's Japan's oldest subterranean shopping street and provides a glimpse of the post-Second World War Showa era, which marked Japan's economic rise. This strip, with its barbershop, psychic parlour and vintage shops, captures the essence of that transformative period. The (occasionally leaking) bare pipes on the ceiling only add to the nostalgia.

On my brother's birthday we treat ourselves to a visit to the Mori Art Museum, a contemporary art haven in Roppongi's entertainment district, which not only hosts cutting-edge international exhibitions but also has a jaw-dropping panoramic view of the city (¥7.70; mori.art.museum). It doesn't have a permanent collection, instead hosting temporary exhibitions of works by artists with a focus on Japan.

The exhibition we see, *Our Ecology: Toward a Planetary Living*, is a response to the environmental crisis. The Berlin-based Swedish artist Nina Canell's *Muscle Memory*, an immersive installation with seven tonnes of crushed seashells blanketing the gallery floor, strikes a chord with me. Encouraged by the museum staff to interact with the piece, we leap and bound through the shells. As they crunch beneath our feet, I can't help but think about my own family's scattered state.

An izakaya in Shimokitazawa

With my folks back in Myanmar, me in the UK and my brother carving out a life in Japan, it has been more than a decade since we were all together. As the shells crumble with each step, I catch myself wondering if we'll ever find our way back to each other, or if we are destined to remain adrift, connected only by the threads of memory and shared history.

Silently grappling with these thoughts, we arrive at our next destination. I welcome the change of pace as we explore Shimokitazawa, the hipster neighbourhood known for its vintage clothing shops, ranging from the delightfully affordable to the incredibly overpriced. Among the racks of retro threads we find all sorts of quirky shops, selling everything from cute hand-crafted ceramic cats to toe socks.

We manage to snag my brother a trench coat for less than £20 that strikes a balance between detective chic and mysterious stranger. As we navigate the neon-lit streets of Shimokitazawa in search of our next meal, I can't help but feel that everything is right in the world. Sure, our family might be scattered across the globe and the future might be uncertain, but in that moment the two of us are together, and that's enough.

Need to know

Min Sett Hein travelled independently but was a guest, for one night, of Inside Japan, which has 13 nights' B&B on a Gastronomic Adventure from £3,580pp, including transport, some private guiding and food experiences (insidejapantours.com). Fly to Tokyo

Where to stay in Tokyo

ONE@Tokyo
A few minutes' walk from the Tokyo Skytree observation tower, and across the river from the historic Asakusa district, this 142-room hotel was designed by the superstar architect Kengo Kuma in 2017 — he even had a hand in the staff uniform. Like most hotels in Tokyo, the rooms are compact, but the well-considered layouts and minimalist decor stop them feeling cramped. Some of the larger rooms and suites have Skytree views, as does the roof terrace bar.
Details Room-only doubles from £65 (onetokyo.com)

OMO3 Tokyo Akasaka
A fresh, modern take on the budget-friendly business hotel, OMO opened in 2022. Rooms are small, but the use of space and light make them feel much larger. The neighbourhood is full of izakaya bars and restaurants, and close to sites such as Hie Shrine and the National Diet (government) building. OMO's friendly staff can give you tips on where to go, and lead casual walking tours of the area.
Details Room-only doubles from £75 (hoshinoresorts.com)

Muji Hotel Ginza
Living up to its name, the Muji Hotel, which opened in 2019, is kitted out floor to ceiling with products from the Japanese brand. The rooms feel homely, with none of those usual hotel frustrations like poorly located plug sockets or nowhere to open your suitcase. The attached restaurant and café/bar are worth visiting even in the midst of glitzy Ginza, and the brand's huge flagship store is below the hotel.
Details Room-only doubles from £240 (hotel.muji.com)

The Strings by InterContinental Tokyo
A luxurious hotel right by the transport hub of Shinagawa, the Strings gives you easy access to Haneda airport and the bullet train line. Atop one of the bustling district's skyscrapers, it has glorious views of bayside Tokyo from picture windows. The muted lighting and restrained decor are chic without feeling cold, and service is attentive but never overbearing. The food is good, but the hotel's Kazane teppanyaki restaurant is something special.
Details Room-only doubles from £265 (intercontinental-strings.jp)

Trunk(Hotel) Yoyogi Park
Somewhat miraculously, given its busy Shibuya location, the 20-room Trunk(Hotel), which opened in 2023, more than delivers on its "urban recharge" ethos. The decor leans towards earthy concrete and natural fibres, and from the infinity pool to the pizzeria the facilities are all about laid-back luxury. The service is never stiff or formal, but is unwaveringly helpful. For the full effect, book a room overlooking Yoyogi Park.
Details Room-only doubles from £340 (yoyogipark.trunk-hotel.com)
Rebecca Hallett

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TERMS & CONDITIONS: *Offers and Fares expire 30 June 2024. Flash Sale offer is valid from 22 May 2024 until 29 May 2024, is available on select categories and select sailings, and is capacity controlled. Mention code FS. All fares are per person in Pounds Sterling, valid for residents of the United Kingdom, based on double occupancy – except fares for Solo category are for a single traveller, and subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Complete Terms and Conditions may be found at OceaniaCruises.com/terms.

Late deals

Sunseekers – the trips to book now

ALAMY

The Avani Kalutara resort, Sri Lanka. Below: Myrina harbour, Lemnos, Greece

UK

Cornish self-catering

The Lookout is a new, dog-friendly quintet of open-plan, contemporary four-bedroom holiday properties lining sandy Widemouth Bay in northeast Cornwall. Three of them opened for bookings yesterday, with stays until June 30 subject to 15 per cent discounts. The houses have sea-view balconies, hot tubs and games rooms. Guests receive a fifth off at the Black Rock Café and can borrow its surf gear without charge. Bude, with its 1930s sea pool, is five minutes' drive away. Seven nights' self-catering for eight costs from £1,624 (beachretreats.co.uk).

Leeds hotel for a shopping and cultural break

Discounts are available through an Accor summer sale that knocks 25 per cent off flexible rate stays of three nights on more than 1,700 of its hotels across Europe and North Africa. One is the funky Ibis Styles Leeds City Centre Arena, a convenient base from which to embrace the city's great shopping and nightlife, or visit the Cistercian splendour of Kirkstall Abbey. If booked before June 4, three nights' room only between July 5 and September 8 starts from £214pp (all.accor.com).

Welsh country house

Look out from the grounds and windows of the 17th-century Bodysgallen Hall hotel and you'll be gazing towards, by turns, Anglesey, Llandudno's Victorian pier, Conwy Castle and, finally, the mountains of Eryri National Park (Snowdonia). With so many wonderful sights on the doorstep, it's tempting to head straight out, but equally camera-worthy are this grade I listed, National Trust-owned hotel's extensive gardens, surrounded by wooded parkland. As well as the medieval tower, there's a spa, a pool and an acclaimed restaurant serving seasonal, staunchly local fare. If you commit to dining there twice, every third night is free, meaning three nights' room-only starts from £275pp, including two breakfasts (bodysgallen.com).

EUROPE

The unsung Greek island of Lemnos

The Greece specialist Sunvil is offering savings if you can travel in June to selected hotels, villas or apartments. While some are in classic spots, others introduce unsung islands, such as butterfly-shaped Lemnos. There, close to tavernas and sandy beaches, you can stay in the attractive little capital Myrina at its harbourside Lemnos Hotel. Recently refurbished, all 29 rooms are air-conditioned and some have sea-view balconies. Saving £290, seven nights' room-only starting on June 8 costs from £959pp, including direct flights and transfers (sunvil.co.uk).

Apartments near Portugal's coast

Available at reduced rates if you book by May 30, courtesy of British Airways' ongoing sale, Vale d'Oliveiras Quinta Resort & Spa is a collection of elegant serviced self-catering apartments in low, Moorish-inspired buildings with a pool, close to Ferragudo on the Algarve coast. Superb beaches — not least, little Raia dos Carneiros — are close by. In June, seven nights' B&B costs from £680pp, including flights (britishairways.com).

Turkey's quieter coastal resort

Ever heard of Turunc? This old fishing town is only 30 minutes' drive south along Turkey's coast from lively Marmaris, yet is several sleepy worlds apart, with a glorious, blue flag-certified beach and picturesque Taurus Mountains backdrop. Just inland, its 164-room Loryma Resort Hotel has a spa and pool, and tennis and rock-climbing on site. With a 38 per cent discount, seven nights' self-catering for two in June costs from £327pp, including flights and transfers (firstchoice.co.uk).

See the northern lights in Iceland

If the UK's recent northern lights sightings have whetted your appetite, here's an idea: Discover the World has £100 savings on any northern lights holiday to the Nordics next winter, when the current solar cycle should still be at its peak. Try a short break on Iceland's rural south coast at the ranch-style Hotel Ranga, which has a glass-roof observatory. Three nights' B&B costs from £274pp, including car hire. Book by June 3 (discover-the-world.com). Fly to Reykjavik.

LONG HAUL

Costa Rica family adventure

Families Worldwide is discounting 11 small-group tours this summer. One, in trip-of-a-lifetime territory, is an active exploration of Costa Rica. Raft down the Corobici River, wobble across hanging bridges, zipline over rainforest, bathe in hot springs, and spot monkeys and toucans on extinct volcanoes. Departing on July 7 or August 12, eight nights' B&B now costs from £2,295 (reduced by £200) per adult and £795 per child (aged 8-12), including transport and activities (familiesworldwide.co.uk). Fly to San José.

Sri Lankan bliss

Between the Kalu Ganga river estuary, a sandy shore and the coconut-palm groves just south of Colombo, the Avani Kalutara resort offers tons to do. Perks include a riverside cocktail bar, pool, a zip line and a rock-climbing tower, while the neighbouring hotel's spa and water sports centre may also be used. Excursions showcase more of Sri Lanka's west coast. Reduced by 20 per cent if you book this month, seven nights' half-board in airily chic rooms during June costs from £989pp, including flights (awayholidays.co.uk).

Richard Mellor

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Day 3 Kristiansund – Rørvik, Norway

Day 4 Brønnøysund – Svolvær, Norway ★*Cross the Arctic Circle*★
Cross the Arctic Circle and mark the moment with a traditional ceremony. Later, call into Bodø, overlooked by the Børvass peaks and home of fabulous street art. This afternoon, the ship enters the Lofoten archipelago. The 1,000 metre-high Lofoten Wall is a stunning sight that seems to stretch for miles on the horizon

Day 5 Stokmarknes – Skjervøy, Norway
Sail into Tromsø, Gateway to the Arctic. Along the waterfront you'll find Polaria, a centre exhibiting environmental research in the Arctic with a small aquarium. Across the fjord, see the iconic Arctic Cathedral with its beautiful stained-glass mosaic

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
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My cultural weekend in Dublin

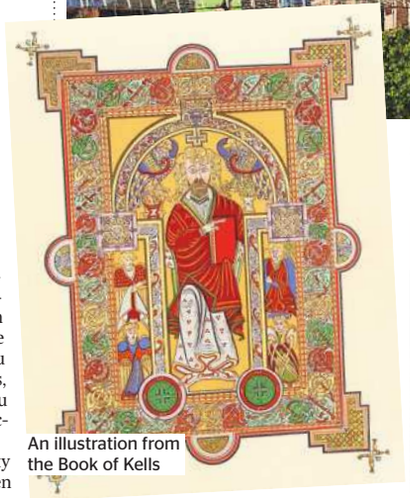
Melissa Denes explores museums, galleries and a new immersive Book of Kells exhibition

DAVID SOANES/GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY

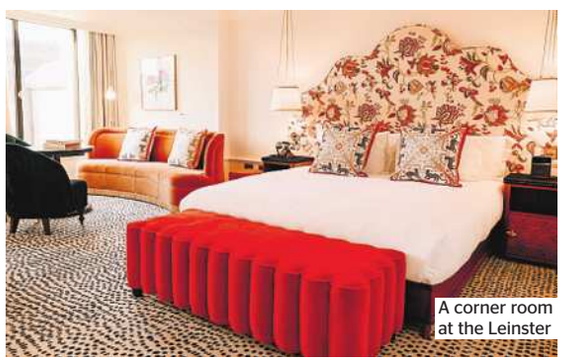
The Ha'penny Bridge over the River Liffey

Three boats climb steep waves on a stormy sea, making their way south from the island of Iona to the coast of Ireland. It is AD806 and they carry a precious cargo: a copy of the gospels, lavishly illustrated by monks. Once on shore the book travels inland to a settlement, where it takes pride of place in a primitive church, is stolen, buried and recovered.

This is the origin story of The Book of Kells, as told in Dublin's new immersive experience during an eight-minute film that takes its audience flying over Ireland's green hills and valleys, as figures from the manuscript rear up from the landscape: ornate winged beasts, Christ children, saints (from £21pp; visittrinity.ie). It is a dizzying watch and one that brings one of the world's earliest books vividly to life. I remember visiting it on an interrailing trip as a teenager and feeling (sorry, 9th-century scribes) underwhelmed. Conservation rules mean only two pages can be seen at a time in a darkened room, which means you might get lucky (peacocks, lizards, medieval Ryan Gosling!) and you might not. Now you have virtual access to the whole thing.



An illustration from the Book of Kells



A corner room at the Leinster

The book was presented to Trinity College Dublin in 1661, and has been housed since the 19th century in the Old Library, a soaring building with arched alcoves more than 20 shelves high, reached by spindly wooden ladders on runners. White busts run the 65m length of the room, all of them male until 2023, when they were joined by the chemist Rosalind Franklin, the mathematician Ada Lovelace, the writer Mary Wollstonecraft and Augusta Gregory, the dramatist and founder of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin. In late 2025 the library will close for a decade to allow for restoration, making now a great time to visit the city; already most of the shelves have been cleared and large projector screens show a team of videogenic conservationists hoovering centuries of dust from the books.

In the meantime the immersive experience will reanimate the library and its collection. Here you can listen to those library busts in conversation, their lips spookily moving and eyes blinking — Isaac Newton asking Franklin if his discoveries were any help; Wollstonecraft chewing the fat with Shakespeare. Tropical fish and Brazilian rainforests, as illustrated in the library's encyclopedia, swim and grow across the walls, and its collection of musical instruments play a symphony with the playwright JM Synge's typewriter. For children, teens and anyone who has overdosed on objects in glass cases, it is more fun than two minutes with two pages (though the original artefact and its accompanying exhibit shouldn't be missed).

My £28 ticket also included a 45-minute tour of Trinity College from a student — a whistlestop romp through the university's history, from Protestant-only outpost of Elizabeth I to the international powerhouse it is today, via alumni including Oscar Wilde, Bram Stoker and Sally Rooney. The Museum Building is a highlight: the extraordinary green Connemara marble on its exterior and grand staircase is no longer mined; its domed ceilings are Byzantine, where the rest of the campus is Georgian, neogothic and elegant 1960s brutalist. Today the museum is a busy teaching department; a poster in one window reads "Without geography we'd be nowhere".

Dublin's geography is easily managed on foot, and I stayed ten minutes' walk away at the Leinster, a chic new base for a long weekend or a week of culture: the National Gallery, Merrion Square and the Museum of Literature are all within striking distance. The hotel has 55 rooms with fun flowery headboards, tasselled lamps, dotty carpets and lots of red velvet, plus a gym and thermal suite.

There's also a handsome cocktail bar, the Collins Club (high ceilings, pink velvet banquettes, guest DJs), but the star attraction is a sceney rooftop restaurant headed by the French chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten, whose name is also on the door at the Connaught in London. In the golden light of evening the room buzzed with dressed-up Dubliners on double dates and family birthdays, ordering from a menu that blends European and Asian flavours with Irish ingredients: my crispy baby artichokes with saffron aioli, turbot in white wine jus and citrus pavlova were all sublime (mains from £20). Service is expert and friendly; the maitre d' had begun a project of filming every Irish castle by drone but gave up once he realised there were more than 30,000.

Other nearby eating and drinking options include Note, a hip wine bar with a great restaurant — try the monkfish with white asparagus (mains from £25; notedublin.com) — and the Ginger Man, a pub full of satisfying nooks, crannies and wooden booths that bills itself as "Dublin's most festive" and goes all out at Christmas; it was doing just fine in May.

What to see, apart from the Book? The National Gallery is free and home to an exceptional 20th-century art collection (nationalgallery.ie). A long skylit room features not only Picasso, Bonnard and Alexander Calder, but also great lesser-known paintings by Alice Neel, Gabriele Münter and Hannah Höch. Across the River Liffey (a half-hour walk; quicker by bus or tram), the Hugh Lane Gallery on Parnell Square houses 20th-century Irish paintings and sculpture, including works by WB Yeats and Mary Swanzy, and a permanent reconstruction of the Dublin-born Francis Bacon's Kensington studio (free; hughlane.ie). I loved the 1985 film screened here, in which Bacon impishly deflects a young Melvyn Bragg's questions (What do his paintings mean? He has no idea) and the reconstructed chaos of his studio: brushes, shoes, old newspapers, boxes of junk glued together with layers of oil paint and original dust.

Also free is the new Dublin-New York Portal, a giant two-way webcam on the corner of O'Connell Street and North Earl Street, which pulled a large teenage crowd, cheering and singing: excitement was thinner on the New York end, where a couple passed by in anoraks in the rain. A few days later the Portal closed and then reopened with a 9pm curfew after reports of egg-throwing and nudity. Like the Kells, you might get lucky and you might not.

A 30-minute train ride from Pearse Street station takes you south to Dun Laoghaire (£3). On a hot weekend teenagers carried speakers in their backpacks and the clear green sea was dotted with swimmers and, further out, dozens of sailing boats. The first phase of Dun Laoghaire's new seafront baths opened in late 2022 — a sleek concrete promenade, tiered seating area, bathing jetty and changing shelter. Under a strong sun it could have been Bondi without the tans. If the queue for Teddy's ice cream (teddys.ie) is too long, iced coffee and cakes from Bibi's next door are recommended (bibis.ie).

A 15-minute walk around the bay takes you to the twin beaches of Sandycove and the small but perfect James Joyce Tower and Museum, in the Martello tower where the author holed up for six drunken days and set the first chapter of *Ulysses* (free; joycetower.ie). A table on the first floor recreates Stephen Dedalus's breakfast with "stately plump Buck Mulligan", and downstairs there are annotated manuscripts, love letters, first editions, Joyce's waistcoat and guitar.

The building alone is worth the trip. Two boys who wandered in had never heard of Joyce but were gobsmacked by the 8ft-thick stone walls and 360-degree views from the roof. If you squinted hard you could see boats sailing from the north horizon, just as they would have over a thousand years ago, bearing their gold-leafed gospel south, away from the Viking hordes.

Need to know

Melissa Denes was a guest of the Leinster, which has B&B doubles from £259 (theleinster.ie), and Trinity College. Fly or take a ferry to Dublin

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Departing

December 27, 2024

Cruise Itinerary

Bali • Lombok • Celukan Bawang • Kuala Lumpur • Penang (overnight in port) • Langkawi Island • Phuket (overnight in port) • Singapore

Price Includes

- ✓12 night all-inclusive cruise on board Celebrity Millennium®
- ✓**Complimentary Classic Drinks Package and Wi-Fi**
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The Times hotel guide Knipoch House Oban

Rooms and suites 8/10
Food and drink 8/10
What else is there? 7/10
Where is it? 8/10
Overall 8/10

JOHN PAUL PHOTOGRAPHY

A loch-view room

A fireplace in the bar

A year ago, this 15th-century hunting lodge just outside Oban, with its stately architecture and views of Loch Feochan, was a bit of a timewarp with orange bathroom suites and dark wood panelling. In stepped the family-run Sonas boutique hotel group, adding it to Anne Gracie-Gunn's portfolio of three luxury bolt holes on Skye. More than £1 million of investment later, Knipoch House Hotel reopened its doors in March, showing off a fresher look. The oppressive floor-to-ceiling brown wood in reception has been brightened with a pale paint job and they've swapped out chintzy lampshades and shiny floral curtains in favour of more modern textures and patterns.

Rooms and suites

The recent glow-up included an expansion, with attic rooms turned into extra guest rooms, bumping up the count from 22 to 26. The rooms at the front have knockout views of the loch. The decor strikes a soothing aesthetic with glossy white subway tiles in the bathrooms and bedrooms painted in soft mushroom and pale greys, offset by crushed velvet divans, soft wool throws and Regency-style furniture. En suite walk-in showers are standard; deluxe rooms come with deep bathtubs and sofas that can be converted into double beds for families.

Food and drink

There are three dining rooms, all with panoramic views of Loch Feochan. Lunch can be a laid-back burger and frites or a sustainable steelhead trout kedgeree from Kames, Scotland's oldest fish farm, while dinner is an utter delight. Local crab comes served in a wonderful and very unlocal mango and black bean salad, or there is Argyll venison in a liver and kidney ragu with celeriac. The chef Andrew Engledow hasn't forgotten vegans either; there's a cassoulet of Jerusalem artichoke, jackfruit and beans followed by sticky toffee pudding and lemon sorbet.

Claire Sawers was a guest of Knipoch House Hotel, which has room-only doubles from £129; mains from £19 (sonascollection.com)

What else is there?

Many lovely walks start from the hotel's doorstep and guests can soothe tired muscles in the newly installed hot tub, which looks over a steep bank of ferns and towering rhododendrons.

Where is it?

Oban harbour is a popular starting point for exploring the Inner and Outer Hebrides — Mull, Coll, Colonsay and Tiree are all on Calmac ferry routes — or the Isle of Seil, six miles south, is connected to the mainland by the tiny Clachan stone Bridge Over the Atlantic.
Claire Sawers

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SAIL UNDER MAGICAL SKIES

Whether cruising the fjords under summer's midnight sun or the dancing aurora borealis, a trip with Norwegian cruise line Hurtigruten is illuminating

Bergen on Norway's southwest coast, flanked by mountains and fjords, boasts the picturesque Unesco world heritage site Bryggen

A trip to Norway that doesn't include a visit to its gorgeous crenelated coast is not only a mistake, it's virtually impossible: this slender nation has the longest coastline of any European country. The major cities face the sea, but there are also pretty villages, diminutive islands and dramatic ice-carved fjords to explore.

Sailing is simply the best way to get around. Just ask the locals, who regularly hop on Hurtigruten ships to commute to work or visit family. Hurtigruten is more than just a cruise line – it's been carrying freight and passengers since the 19th century. So it not only offers a fuss-free scenic journey along the coast, but also a friendly immersion into day-to-day Norwegian life.

Booking a Hurtigruten cruise through Trailfinders brings a host of benefits. Experts from the award-winning travel firm can tailor holidays around each cruise, and provide round-the-clock support before and during the trip.

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Over the 12-day, 2,500 nautical mile journey between Bergen and Kirkenes on the Coastal Express voyage, Hurtigruten's ships call at 34 ports, from tiny villages to major cities. Guests can hop off and explore, then board again to view glorious landscapes of mountains, fjords and islands sliding by. Shorter voyages and extensions south to Oslo are also on offer and, between May and September, ships also cruise in Svalbard, the Norwegian Arctic archipelago, home to glaciers, whales and polar bears.

LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD

Hurtigruten's onboard restaurants serve delicious cuisine that's proudly Norwegian. Ships take deliveries from 50 local producers along the route, from king crab and wild game to cheeses, jams, beers and spirits. Try a glass of Bivrost single malt, from the world's northernmost whisky distillery, made with glacier meltwater.

SUSTAINABLE SIGHTSEEING

With a 130-year history of sailing the fjords, Hurtigruten is committed to protecting the environment. As well as providing essential community links, banning single-use plastics and converting food waste into fertiliser, by next year, Hurtigruten is set to have cut NOx emissions by 80 per cent and CO2 by 25 per cent, through minimising energy use. By 2030, it aims to have developed a zero-emission ship.

Whether you choose a Norwegian coastal discovery or a Svalbard adventure, Trailfinders' experts can tailor your Hurtigruten cruise to your exact holiday requirements. For information and inspiration, visit trailfinders.com/hurtigruten-coastal or call 020 7938 0209

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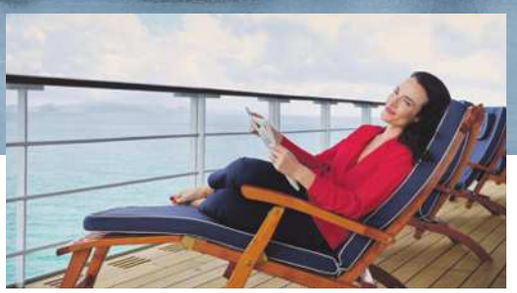
Literature Festival at Sea 2024

Departure | November 13, 2024



Queen Mary 2's Literature Festival at Sea brings together authors, journalists and critics for a week-long celebration of the written word

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Ruth Jones is best known for her outstanding and award-winning television writing, most notably BBC One's *Gavin and Stacey*, which she co-wrote with James Corden and in which she played the incorrigible Nessa Jenkins.

Louise Minchin

Louise Minchin is most famous for her twenty-year stint on BBC Breakfast, but has also been the main news anchor on the BBC News Channel and written non-fiction titles including Dare to Tri and Fearless.

Rory Stewart

Rory Stewart served in the UK Cabinet as Secretary of State for International Development, and before that as Prisons Minister, Minister for Africa, Minister for Development, Environment Minister and Chair of the Defence Committee.

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Mark Billingham

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Tracy Borman

Tracy Borman is joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces and Chief Executive of the Heritage Education Trust. Tracy is the author of a number of highly acclaimed books including *Crown & Sceptre, Henry VIII and the Men Who Made Him.*

Mike Gayle

Mike Gayle has written for a variety of publications including *The Sunday Times, The Guardian* and *Cosmopolitan*. Mike became a full-time novelist in 1997 following the publication of his *Sunday Times* top ten bestseller *My Legendary Girlfriend.*

Denise Mina

Denise Mina is the author of the Garnethill trilogy, the Paddy Meehan series and the Alex Morrow series. She has won the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year Award twice and was inducted into the Crime Writers' Association Hall of Fame in 2014.

Patrick Gale

In addition to his latest, *Mother's Boy*, his seventeen novels include *Take Nothing With You* (2018), which was his fourth *Sunday Times* bestseller, *Rough Music* (2000), *Notes From an Exhibition* (2007), *A Perfectly Good Man* (2012) and *A Place Called Winter* (2015).

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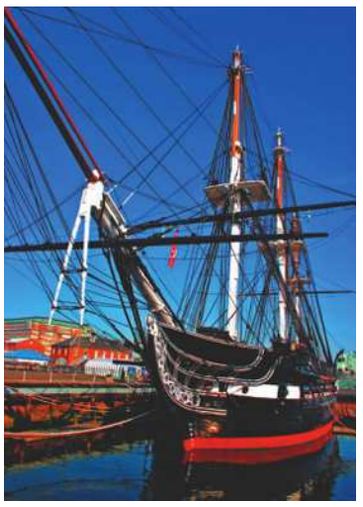

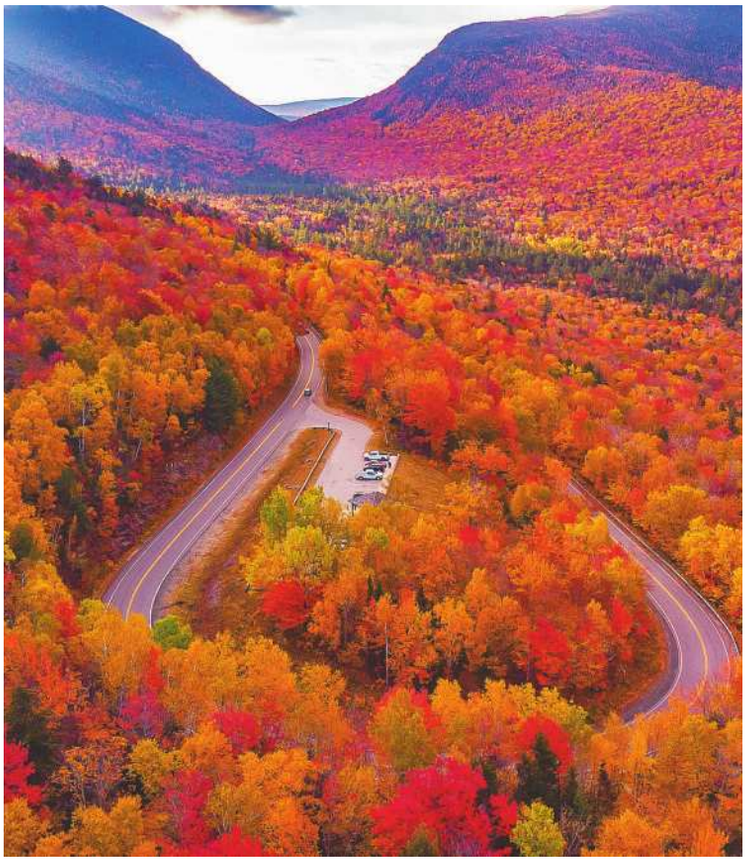

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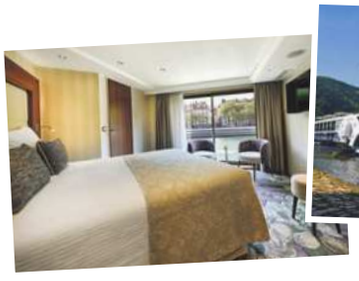

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Day Three - Chalon and Beaune
Day Four - Lyon
Day Five - Ardèche Gorges

Day Six - Avignon, Pont du Gard and Uzès

Day Seven - Arles and Les Baux-de-Provence

Day Eight - Camargue, Ornithological Park and Saintes-Marie-de-la-Mer

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Day Ten - Lyon
Day 11 - Return home

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Travel doctor Solving your holiday dilemmas

Julia Brookes
Consumer expert

GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY

Q My 90-year-old Dad worked in Bavaria in the 1970s and would love to go back. Are there any (not too long) trips to visit the main sights and in particular the fairytale castle with the gold swan that he and Mum took me to when I was a little girl?
Debby Clark

A The fairytale castle with the gold swan you remember is King Ludwig II's outlandish Neuschwanstein, inspiration for the castle in Disney's *Cinderella* and so popular you'll want to avoid visiting in July or August. It's on the itinerary for Rail Discoveries' seven-night, all-inclusive Bavaria's Romantic Road tour from London St Pancras, which also includes medieval towns such as Rothenburg, as well as Lake Constance, and costs £999pp in September (£1,049pp in a single room; raildiscoveries.com). Or stay in Munich and take day trips. The Hotel Admiral is a comfortable bolt hole within easy walking distance of the main sights; it's just across the river from the Deutsches Museum and near the Konigsquelle restaurant, which serves superlative schnitzel (B&B doubles from £175; hotel-admiral.de). A small-group coach trip to Neuschwanstein, Linderhof Palace and the idyllic village of Oberammergau costs £154pp (munichdaytrips.com).

Rothenburg in Bavaria, Germany. Below: Loch Lomond, Scotland

Q My wife and I want to take our son away for his 30th birthday for three or four nights in late August. He doesn't like sunny holidays and has spoken about going to a lochside in Scotland. We don't mind cooking some meals but I'd also like to treat him to a nice restaurant on his birthday. There will be five of us, so we'll need three bedrooms. We have cars, so getting there won't be a problem. Any ideas?
Bill McMeekin

A Clarinnes Cottage, on the eastern shore of Loch Lomond at Rowardennan, ticks your son's boxes (although lack of sun can't be guaranteed) and as it's in the middle of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park there are tracks and trails from the door. Rowardennan is also the start point for the most popular route up Ben Lomond, Scotland's most southerly munro. The cottage has three bedrooms plus a hot tub, and three nights in late August would cost £1,109 (cottages.com). Book dinner at the Oak Tree Inn, also lochside, in Balmaha (theoaktreeinn.co.uk) or the Clachan, a cosy 18th-century pub in Drymen (clachaninndrymen.co.uk). Or fire up the wood-burner at remote three-bedroom Upper Sonachan Farmhouse, with shore access to fabulous Loch Awe, near Dalmally, in Argyll. Three nights in August cost £1,495 (unique-cottages.co.uk). Dine nearby at the award-winning Ben Cruachan Inn (bencruachaninn.com). Sun or no sun, in August you'll need protection against midges.

Q I booked a holiday cottage for four nights for £1,362 through Sykes Cottages so that four generations of the family could spend time together over part of the Easter school holidays. When we arrived we drove the length of the long residential road to find it cordoned off from one end to the other with heavy-duty plastic fencing and traffic bollards to enable a road resurface scheme. The road was quiet with few workmen when we arrived but we soon found that, come the evening, work would continue into the early hours of the morning, on one occasion stopping at 4am. It was impossible to sleep. Huge lorries arrived to strip the remains of the old surface, re-lay and flatten and then roll the new one, all with vehicles with loud reversing alarms. The thumping and banging noises directly outside the house were tremendous, and flattening and roller work literally caused the house to shake. On complaining to the owner we were offered a free visit in the future, which is of no use to us. I tried to complain to Sykes but have yet to be able to talk to an actual person and have had no written reply. I think the rental fee was taken under false pretences. Can you help?
Jill Shackleton

A This was hardly the peaceful Easter break you and your family were looking for but getting a refund in this sort of situation can be tricky. Your contract was with the owner rather than Sykes and, despite a prod from the agency, they won't budge — the best they'll offer is another stay. Sykes, while sorry to hear about your experience, maintains it was only told about the problem after your holiday. Had you made contact at the time, it could have helped with finding somewhere quieter to stay.

Q We're looking for a house with a pool in the south of France for two weeks next July for our family of five. Ideally, it would be within walking distance of Montpellier, Pézenas or Aigues-Mortes and we can pay about £5,000. What can you suggest?
Katherine Aiken

A Villa Picasso is an easy 15-minute stroll from Pézenas, one of the medieval glories of Occitanie, with its winding alleys, brocante shops and cafés, plus a fabulous Saturday market. In a quiet residential area, the traditionally decorated house has three smart bedrooms and a great pool and costs £5,400 for two weeks next July (vintagetravel.co.uk).

Contact us

If you have a gripe, suggestion or question relating to your holidays, please email **traveldoctor@thetimes.co.uk**

Don't put up with this

BA's late cancellation left us out of pocket

We've been left thousands of pounds out of pocket due to British Airways cancelling our flights to San Francisco just a few hours before we were due to take off. It said there were no available options for rescheduling. We needed to travel that day and eventually, via the BA call centre, we ended up paying another £2,567 to get a flight to San Diego and then one on United to San Francisco. We had to pay because San Diego is more than 300 miles away from our original destination. We were subsequently told by various BA staff members and crew that we should have been rebooked free of charge, and we met another family at San Diego airport who'd also been rebooked on this route at no cost. So we assumed this flight would be reimbursed, or at the very least that our original flights would be refunded; we also hoped for compensation for the hassle and delay. Yet more than three months on we haven't had a penny. We've even had to borrow money to pay our credit card bill. Can you help?
Helena Jones

As you discovered, BA policy is that when a customer changes their flight to somewhere more than 300 miles away from the original destination, they're liable to pay for the new booking. But this was completely unfair in your circumstances, given the last-minute nature of the cancellation and the fact that the airline couldn't get you to San Francisco the same day. After I got involved, BA decided to issue a refund as a gesture of goodwill.

At your own pace experience the beauty of Porto – a Unesco world heritage site. The city is named after the famous port, and you will find distilleries all around. Across this friendly small city you can feel the importance of port to the locals, and the wider Douro region. After a few days in Porto you will embark on a scenic train to the Douro valley – regarded as one of the world's most scenic rail routes, and spend two nights enjoying the beauty of the Douro valley with its many quintas.

*Prices correct at time of print. Advertised price is based on based on two adults travelling the July 1, 2024 from London Gatwick. Flights include hold luggage per person and small hand luggage. All holidays are subject to availability. Images used in conjunction with Tripse. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Tripse, PTS 5573, ATOL 12299, a company wholly independent of News UK. Discount applies to selected holidays. New bookings only. Visit website for full terms & conditions.

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Fri 14 **Belize City, Belize**

Sat 15 **Roatan Island, Honduras**

Mon 17 **Port Royal, Jamaica**
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THE TIMES

Saturday May 25 2024

saturday review

7-DAY TV & RADIO GUIDE page 19

Clive Myrie
From the Caribbean to fronting the BBC's election coverage?

'Starmer won't get our vote. Sunak is enchanting'

Gilbert and George on art and politics

★★★★★ ALL THAT DAZZLES

‘FAWLTLESS’

★★★★★ MAIL ON SUNDAY

★★★★★ ARTS DESK

★★★★ DAILY EXPRESS

‘THE FUNNIEST SHOW IN TOWN’

★★★★ SUNDAY TIMES

‘AS GOOD AS COMEDY GETS’

THE WEST END PREMIERE OF

JOHN CLEESE’S

FAWLTY TOWERS

THE PLAY

★★★★ SUNDAY TIMES

★★★★ MAIL ON SUNDAY

★★★★ DAILY MAIL

★★★★ THE TIMES

★★★★ DAILY MIRROR

★★★★ THE SUN

★★★★ DAILY EXPRESS

★★★★ INEWS

★★★★ CHORTLE

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Hugo Rifkind on TV

ZOE MCCONNELL

Daniel Daggers (centre) and his team in Buying London

It's Made in Chelsea — but for estate agents

I wanted to hate Mr Super Prime and his team flogging marble mansions for millions, but I pitied them

Buying London
Netflix

Mysteries of the Pyramids with Dara Ó Briain
Channel 5

Buying London is like an *Apprentice* candidate's wet dream. It's a British spin on the hit US real estate drama *Selling Sunset*, packed to the gunwales with foul, soulless, marble-clad homes that nobody wants to buy, many of them in that particular bit of westish central London that could be taken out with a meteor strike without anybody remotely normal minding at all.

Don't kid yourself, though, that it is about property. Actually, it's *Made in Chelsea*, but for estate agents. Indeed, one of the agents here, Rosi, was actually in *Made in Chelsea* too, and the internet tells me that she was involved in a storyline in which she admitted to Verity that she had hooked up with Jamie behind Habbo's back, or maybe vice versa, or maybe who cares?

She's croaky-voiced and clearly destined to end up ditching all of this nonsense for a cheerful life in Breton tops in the Cotswolds, probably in exactly the sort of home that neither she nor any of her colleagues seem able to sell, and I actually don't hate her at all. In fact, I don't hate anyone here. I thought I would, but that's not the sensation I feel at all. It's all too needy and desperate for that. This is worse. This is pity. The big boss here is Daniel Daggers, the founder and overlord of the estate agency DDRE. He's an eager man with Homer Simpson stubble, and I felt his name rang a bell. Looking him up, I see he made the news for abruptly departing the behemoth Knight Frank in 2020 after he started calling himself "Mr Super Prime" on Instagram and sharing photos of incredibly rich clients' homes without asking them. All his new staff worship him. It's quite hard to see why.

Ah, the staff. The queen bee of the agency, probably, is Lauren, a relentlessly flirtatious South African whose clothes — actually like everybody's clothes — often seem to be a cruel joke that the wearer isn't quite in on. Look out, in a later episode, for a hat. Her rival is Rasa, who is perpetually furious and used to work in a casino. She hates Lauren, sort of as a hobby, but also clearly because the script has told her to.

Then there's Juliana — brunette, pouting — whom they invite in to spruce up properties. She declares herself "the hottest interior designer in London". I had already sat through an onslaught of shameless estate agent boasts, but this one enraged me enough to make me switch journalistic genres and check out her firm's latest accounts with Companies House. And I don't want to be overly mean, but I'm not sure the owner of, say, the hottest burger van in London is necessarily going to be pondering a career change.

The ease of doing this actually highlights a big problem with this show, which is that top-end property leaves a big footprint, and not just physically. So you can fact-check almost everything. In the first episode, for example, Daggers scouts out the vast Mayfair necropolis owned by the Phones 4U billionaire John Caudwell, a home I recognised because I remember Brian Cox visiting it in some other piece of masturbatory TV in 2022. According to Cox back then, Caudwell had spent £60 million doing it up. According to Daggers, he's spent £80 million. We can trust these guys, right? Maybe he's added another gold-plated helipad since then.

Later on, Lauren scopes out a house called Kenwood in Hertfordshire, which she confidently values at £20 million. You can still find that one on Rightmove, but now for £17 million. Good work, Lauren. Although what's a mere £3 million between friends?

Before long I began to realise that there are really only two sorts of property that exist in this godawful world, with one of them being full of the marble, for ever as cosy as an empty swimming pool, and the other being a particular style of mock-Tudor-beamed wankery that makes me wish you could send woodworm in the post. Anyway, round these stupid places these people skip, in their mad clothes and with their too-long hair, at least once calling the canopy on a four-poster bed a "canapé" and forever saying things like "I'm so proud to be a part of this" when they are clearly not remotely part of it, and their actual clients probably hold them in less regard than they do the staff who provide manicures to their dogs.

That's assuming, of course, that the clients exist. Speaking to Caudwell, Daggers is told that his ideal buyer would be an Elon Musk or a Jeff Bezos. "Our client base is at those levels," Daggers says, blithely. Really? It's at the level of two of the three richest men in the world? Are we sure? As Bruce Willis might have said to the kid in *The Sixth Sense*: "Are these clients in the room with us right now?" And if not, do they actually know they are your clients? Dear God, what is all this nonsense actually *for*? So much rivalry and ambition. So many house prices scrolling across the screen in millions, and potential commissions scrolling alongside them in tens or hundreds of thousands. So much networking and schmoozing, and passive aggression, and outfits and spa days and yoga and restaurants, and why even bother? God forgive me, but I watched all seven episodes of *Buying London* to write this. And you know what? None of them seems to have actually bought or sold even one damn thing.

Daggers says his client base is 'at Elon Musk level'. Are we sure?

I like Dara Ó Briain and I like pyramids, but I must admit it had never previously occurred to me that I might one day be called on to like them both at once. Yet now, with *Mysteries of the Pyramids with Dara Ó Briain*, that day has come.

"Why him?" I thought, but only for the first few seconds, which was the time he took to tell me that there were over 5,000 pyramids on the planet. Seriously? I'd have guessed about, what, 17? So I swiftly realised I had a lot to learn.

Inevitably, the first episode took us to Egypt. I've been in the Great Pyramid of Giza, and it was perhaps the most claustrophobic experience of my life. But Ó Briain was well up for it. "Imagine being the first to come in here," he said, entering the burial chamber. "And then finding ... nothing." For it was, of course, empty. Probably it was burgled. Maybe, though, the real burial chamber is somewhere else.

In fact, Ó Briain was the perfect host because he was interested in the maddest Egyptian theories while never for a moment suggesting that he thought they were anything other than preposterous. "Wurble, burble Atlantis," one paranormal researcher said, and while he didn't exactly treat her like Bart and Lisa treat Grandpa Simpson, it wasn't far off. He also tried to figure out whether the pyramids of Giza might correspond to the stars, which was hard because Cairo was just next door, and there were 22 million people there, all with their lights on. Conclusion: probably not.

Others expounded theories about how they were built and whether it would have required aliens, or at the very least electricity and diamond-tipped power tools. Ó Briain pondered this, then learnt from a gang of modern-day workers how to split rocks with chisels, hammers and wooden pegs. "People ask 'How did they do it?'" he said, unimprovably. "But here's six guys doing it."

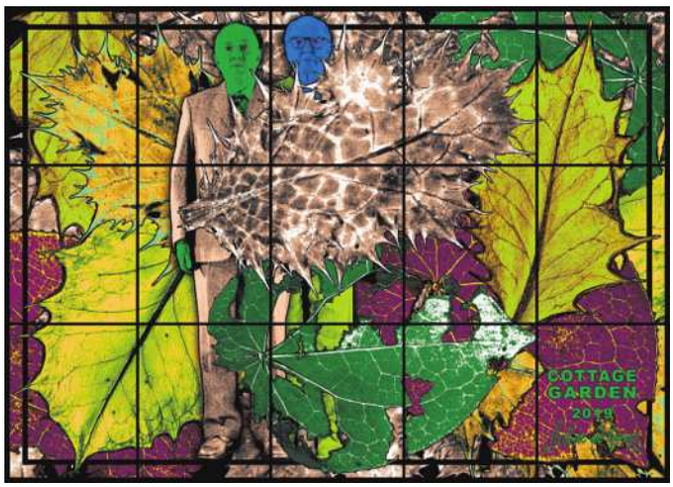
More headscratchy was how the blocks were raised. A ramp was obviously one possibility, but it would have had to have been insanely long — maybe a kilometre — and made of mud. Another was that the grand gallery once housed a funicular with weights and pulleys. This is exactly the sort of theory we want, being mind-boggling without being insane.

Ó Briain was also content to accept there could still be chambers in the Great Pyramid nobody has found yet. "Egyptology loves a hidden chamber," a nearby expert said. "This is why the show isn't called 'Stuff We Know About the Pyramids'," Ó Briain said. More of this, please. I missed it, but I see now that he did another series last year about the moon. Why the hell not?

cover story

‘We were two clean boys — with

Gilbert and George talk to Laura Freeman about the election, the new portrait of the King — and what happens when one of them dies



COVER: CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES, BELOW: SKY UK LIMITED; © GILBERT & GEORGE/COURTESY THE GILBERT & GEORGE CENTRE

Gilbert and George in their art centre (also right). Above left: Cottage Garden (2019)

Usually, I wouldn’t tell you an artist’s address. If they had a distinctive front door, I’d disguise it. But Gilbert and George don’t mind who knows or who comes knocking. “We have not been invaded,” Gilbert says.

“It’s rather like the telephone,” George says. “Most of our artist friends are very keen on being ex-directory because they don’t want to be troubled, but we’ve never been ex-directory. Nobody phones anyway.”

“We want them to phone,” Gilbert says earnestly. “We want them to phone. We are waiting.”

We are sitting in one of two huge studios at the back of No 12 Fournier Street in Spitalfields, east London on a sodden wet Wednesday morning. They don’t do weather chat. “It’s all God’s will,” as George’s grandmother used to say.

Later that day Rishi Sunak will call a general election. They met the prime minister recently at a Downing Street reception for artists. “He was absolutely enchanting,” George says. “And he obviously knew how to speak to artists. Normally, if you meet an MP, within 30 seconds they say, ‘My sister paints, you know.’”

And what about Keir Starmer? “He’s fine,” Gilbert says. George is more decided: “He’s not going to get my vote.” Whoever wins, George says, “party politics is a huge bore”. Neither believes the governing party has much effect on the arts. “Whether it’s Labour or the Conservatives that get in, they’re not going to put up different pictures or take down different pictures.”

Some artists seem to begrudge giving interviews. The intrusion, the nosiness, the press. “Oh, we don’t believe in that,” George says.

“We want them to know about us,” Gilbert says.

“It’s part of our job,” George says. They speak seamlessly, one picking up the thread where the other has left off, sometimes answering in tandem, but never interrupting when the other is in full swing.

The pot-stirrers and near national treasures met as art students at Saint Martin’s School of Art in 1967 and formed a partnership: two men, one artist. They made their names as “singing sculptures”, performing *Underneath the Arches*, a Depression-era ditty, to enthralled gallery-goers in London and New York. Later, their *The Dirty Words Pictures*, vast photographic montages of graffiti, anarchy and urban aggression, first shown in 1977, brought them new notoriety. They insist they don’t swear, only quote words — “Queer”, “Shit”, “C***”, “Bastard”, “Scum” — they find elsewhere.

During the Aids crisis of the late Seventies and Eighties Gilbert and George made art explicitly about a disease that many still felt was unspeakable. They put their own “blood, tears, spunk and piss” under the microscope and blew the images up on

‘The whole idea of Conservative England was fine for us. Making money’

gallery walls. For every critic who found their brand of smutty scatology and unflinching urbanism hard to stomach, there were others who took the tweedy troublemakers to their hearts. Today they are represented by the gallerist Jay Jopling; last year, a Gilbert and George silver gelatine print sold for $228,600 at Sotheby’s.

We are meeting to talk about their new Sky Arts documentary *The Pilgrimage of Gilbert & George*, which airs next Tuesday night. (If you don’t have Sky, you can catch it on Freeview.) It restores your faith in the high-minded, low-humoured, long-form arts film. Not everything that gets commissioned is *Rob and Rylan’s Grand Tour*.

Gilbert and George watched the final cut the day before. I’m dying to know what they wear to watch telly. Are they always immaculate or do they ever kick back in tracksuits? George looks perplexed. “Tracksuit?” he asks in his best high-court judge voice. Today, they are wearing flecked tweeds, green for Gilbert, russet for George, each with a silver pen in the breast pocket. Gilbert’s tie is floral, George’s patterned with whales. They entered into a civil partnership in 2008, but neither wears a ring. In photos they contrive to look waxy — like their “living sculpture” days — and I’m surprised by how warm they are in person. They both affect a flattered flutter when I tell them they’re due to be our cover boys.

George is the ringleader, taller, more forthcoming, more provoking. He’s the one who sets the cat among the pigeons. On opera and ballet reviews: “Nobody who’s not actually involved in opera or ballet would be able to follow the text. It’s so inbred.” On the Van Gogh immersive experience round the corner: “Just some populist nonsense.” On the incredible privilege enjoyed by most of the western world: “We are all spoilt brats.” Gilbert is quieter, but impish in his own way. He says their “Sunday Best” image was important from the beginning: “Two clean boys. With funny ideas behind the scenes.”

Spitalfields has changed utterly in the 50 years since they moved here. Does Brick Lane still feel exciting or has gentrification meant sanitisation? Two noses wrinkle together. “We dislike the

funny ideas behind the scenes'

term 'gentrified'," George says. "We never say ladyfied, do we? And it's the ladies who put up the curtains." Gilbert chuckles. The film rings with George's dirty jokes and Gilbert's smutty laugh.

"We've lived through probably 50 years of taking taxis from the West End to come home," George says. "And when you said 'Fournier Street', the driver would invariably say, 'What you want to go there for?'"

"It was a dangerous district," Gilbert says. "And then: 'Gentrified!'" He throws up his hands in mock horror.

"We were only here because we heard it was cheaper than anywhere else. Coming from darkest Devon, I'd never heard of Hampstead or Kensington," George says. He was born in Plymouth — "a war baby" — and was evacuated to Totnes. George speaks in perfect RP — his single mother, intent on "betterment", paid for elocution lessons — while Gilbert, who was born in the Italian Dolomites, still speaks with a softly guttural accent.

When they met at Saint Martin's, their head of department was Antony Caro and the creed of the day was formalism: form, colour, shape stripped of all meaning. Gilbert and George were keen on meaning: "Death, fear, sex, money, race, religion." The curriculum might not have been to their liking, but the location was. "St Martin's was amazing because being two country bumpkins and ending up on the top floor of the Charing Cross Road with police sirens every two minutes ... And you'd look down at the city filled with prostitutes and rent boys and whatever you wanted ... We thought we'd arrived in heaven."

One of their earliest battle-cries was "Art for all". In the documentary they say they want taxi drivers and drug addicts to come to their exhibitions. "We do," Gilbert insists. "At least the drug addicts come. I don't know about the taxi drivers."

They have no time for "the elite" and "the so-called liberal left". I suggest that if the art world really wanted to support the marginalised, it would give exhibitions to Thatcherite Brexiteers. "They did." Gilbert says. "To us."

"The whole idea of Conservative England was fine for us," Gilbert adds. "Making money." The best bit of having money is not having to think about it; to be free to do whatever they want. "It's not nice to be poor," George says.

Sweetness isn't a word that instantly comes to mind with Gilbert and George, so I tell them that the sequence from the documentary that has stayed with me shows the two of them holding hands, laughing and helping each other down the sloping steps of the Great Wall of China. It was nice to see two such typically composed figures larking around. "It's not larking!" they chorus in outraged unison. "We were frightened of falling over," George says. "It was very steep." Nevertheless, do they make each other laugh? Is it good to have a giggle?

"We know how to misbehave, if that's what you mean," George says.

Gilbert gives a more sincerely affectionate answer. "George is the biggest entertainer of all time."

"Entirely untrue," George scoffs.

I hate to be gloomy, but there's a whiff of retrospective about the documentary. In the film, they say that it's far too early to think of mortality, but I have to ask if they've given any thought to what they would still like to achieve and what they will leave behind? "What do you think we are?" George asks. "Old or something?" Gilbert is 80 and George 82. Last year, they opened the Gilbert & George Centre, on the other side of Brick Lane, to host rotating exhibitions of their work.

Their assistant suggests that Gilbert and George are entering their "mature period". This is said with a certain knowingness. Schoolboy humour, grot, bums, poos and pants have always been part of the Gilbert and George stock-in-trade.

Their only concession to age is giving up their nightly walk to Mangal I, the Turkish restaurant in Dalston where they have dinner each night. Their assistant arranges a car there and back. They order abstemiously. "Only a starter and half a main course," Gilbert says. "We are keeping slim." They say that their friends spend half the evening deciding which restaurant to go to and the other half worrying over the menu. "We keep our brains free," George says.

Do the former singing sculptures listen to music while they work? "Music is the enemy", George says. "The first thing we do when we get into the cab in the evening is say, 'No music, thank you.'"

I press them on this mortality business. What happens if one day there's a Gilbert, but no George, or a George, but no Gilbert? Gilbert sighs. "They all ask us, even the gallery." I know it's morbid, but ... "I don't think it's morbid," George says. "We just don't think like that."

Gilbert speculates that he'd have to do something drastic. "I'd move to the Isle of Wight. To get away from everything."

In the documentary, they touch on the afterlife. George says in the film: "It would be daft to ignore it." So what happens when we're gone? To our souls, brains, hearts? "Let it rot," Gilbert says.

George is more expansive. "Artists and writers know that they have a certain immortality anyway. Take Agatha Christie — Christ almighty. Translated into 37 languages. One daft old bat from Devon. Genius."

Art critics get short shrift in the film. Reviewers have sometimes been hostile and they say they have "had a lot of help from their enemies" over the years. They don't take criticism too much to heart. "We once had a horrible review," George says. "And we left the house for breakfast. A complete stranger came along and they said, 'They don't look, do they? They don't look!' And then another time we had enormous unpleasant coverage and someone came over and said, 'Marvellous coverage.'"

They are fans of King Charles, but not sold on Jonathan Yeo's recent portrait. "It's certainly pink," George says, before adding, "It's a very good likeness." "Charles in the pink," Gilbert says, evidently pleased with the idiom.

"How lucky we are," George says, "to have such a fantastic head of state. If you think of all those wretched countries in the world with murderers looking after them, the army running the country, crooks running the country." They don't agree that the world has never been more divided. "There is an enormous, educated, civilised world out there."

Later, I think about something George said about Van Gogh and why it's good for an artist to go against the grain. "He did it all wrong — but he won."

***The Pilgrimage of Gilbert & George* will be on Sky Arts, Freeview and Now on Tuesday at 9pm. LONDON PICTURES is on view at the Gilbert & George Centre, London E1 (gilbertandgeorgecentre.org)**

How artists vote — in their own words

Tracey Emin
A one-time supporter of David Cameron, on Keir Starmer, 2023: "The wildest thing that's ever happened to him is living above a Thai massage parlour. He has no edge."

Maggi Hambling
On Brexit, 2017: "I did vote Leave, more as a protest vote than anything ... When the results came in, my reaction was one of fear, horror and disbelief."

Maggi Hambling and David Hockney. Right: Grayson Perry

David Hockney
Outlining his politics, 2012: "A sort of anarchism that took from both the left and the right ... Ultimately, I'm about liberty."

Grayson Perry
A Keir Starmer supporter, on party politics, 2020: "The left is more venal and has more antipathy to the opposition than the other way round. I would say the right on average are friendlier and more open."

Damien Hirst
Backing Keir Starmer, 2024: "Art is for everyone by everyone ... When I grew up in Leeds, I had free school dinners. I had a good art teacher and luckily, a government grant to go to art school, which changed my life."

cannes

STEPHANE CARDINALE, DANIELE VENTURELLI/CORBIS/GETTY IMAGES; THE MEGA AGENCY

Never count on Costner's canapés — 13 things we learnt at Cannes

Kevin Maher and Ed Potton report on the flops, frocks and shocks — and who deserves to win prizes

1 The movies have been loopy
Perhaps emboldened by recent Cannes successes such as *The Zone of Interest*, the most radical of Holocaust films, and *Titane*, a movie about a love affair between a woman and a car, film-makers have really swung for the fences in 2024. In addition to Francis Ford Coppola's grand folly, *Megalopolis*, and Margaret Qualley's body-horror party trick in *The Substance*, we've had *Emilia Pérez*, a Mexico-set gangster musical featuring gender-reassignment surgery; *Anora*, the funniest lap-dancing Russian oligarch comedy you're likely to see; and *The Girl with the Needle*, in which — well, that would be telling. Overall? It's not always been pretty, but it's seldom been boring.

2 People will give any old rubbish a standing ovation
The black tie crowd at the gala premieres were unhinged this year, delivering prolonged standing ovations to even the worst movies. Coppola's stinker *Megalopolis* received seven sustained minutes and the puerile horror *The Substance* got nine. This ovation overkill is an insidious expression of grinning Gallic disingenuousness that makes visiting Hollywood nitwits imagine that they've created, despite the evidence on screen, a masterpiece for the ages. They continue deluding themselves for the rest of the Cannes press tour, and as a result...

3 The Megalopolis press conference was even worse than the movie
Flushed from their seven-minute ovation, Team *Megalopolis* arrived in the press hall choked with emotion, and convinced that their three-hour dystopian dirge was the cure for cancer and the solution to climate change and global conflict. Stars such as Adam Driver, Jon Voight and Laurence Fishburne announced solemnly that they were so proud to be part of a film this important. And then Coppola finally admitted that, yes, it was going to be actors, really, who would "save the world". And no one laughed.

4 People should stop talking about Barry Keoghan's penis
The first question asked of every film-maker arriving in Cannes is: "Where do you get your inspiration?" *The Substance* director Coralie Fargeat said that she was inspired by media representations of women. Yorgos Lanthimos, the director of The *Kinds of Kindness*, revealed that, for him, it was a biography of Caligula. And the British director Andrea Arnold? What inspired her new movie, *Bird*, starring *Saltburn*'s Barry Keoghan? She hesitated, coyly shrugged, and then finally admitted: "I had a vision of a very tall, thin man with a long penis standing on a roof." OK.

Catherine Deneuve; Emma Stone, Willem Dafoe and Margaret Qualley; Greta Gerwig and Kevin Costner. Right: Demi Moore

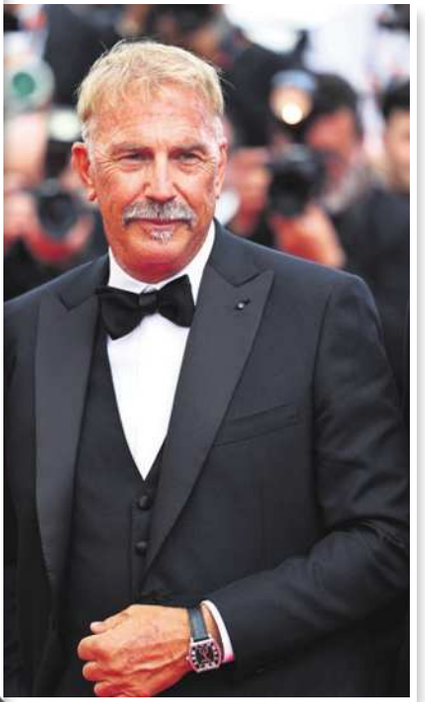
The ovation overkill makes Hollywood nitwits think they've made a masterpiece

5 Kevin Costner does not serve good canapés
You are always hungry in Cannes. Always. You skip meals for movies and by evening you're ravenous. Hence the parties. It transpires, however, that there is no correlation between starry parties and good food. We went to Kevin Costner's *Horizon: An American Saga* party and the grub was basically a handful of dry vol-au-vents. We also went to a quiet, unfussy Golden Globes party at the Carlton hotel. And the food? Bounteous platters of gorgeous pastry parcels, spicy meats and salty fish sliders. Readers, we stuffed our faces.

6 Finally we found out whether Emma Stone was a feminist or not
After spending an entire awards season exhaustively pushing back against the suggestion from a cohort of angry critics that her movie *Poor Things* was "antifeminist" and objectified women, Emma Stone finally set the record straight about her work in *Poor Things* and the new *Kinds of Kindness*. "I am a feminist, and I like working with Yorgos Lanthimos," she said. "And I guess that's feminism." Case closed.

7 Margaret Qualley rules
This was the year of Margaret Qualley. The 29-year-old actress and daughter of Andie MacDowell defined the first week of the festival with two wildly different, but equally controversial, competition movies. The first was the bleak and brilliant *Kinds of Kindness*, in which she plays, among multiple roles, a kindly veterinarian with the power to raise the dead. In her second film, *The Substance*, she plays a mutant Hollywood actress who bursts, fully grown and naked, through the spinal column of Demi Moore. Well, someone had to do it.

8 The fashion houses are coming
Yves Saint Laurent has produced three films in competition for the Palme d'Or this year — *Emilia Pérez*, *The Shrouds* and *Parthenope* — all of which look suitably gorgeous. Sure, Vincent Cassel's sharp suits in *The Shrouds* and Celeste Dalla Porta's strappy frocks in *Parthenope* didn't stop those films being rubbish, but at least they were chic turkeys.



9 The #MeToo revolution fizzled out ... again

Every year we hear how Cannes is making strides in combating sexual assault and harassment. The festival did kick off with Judith Godrèche's #MeToo-themed short film, *Moi Aussi*, but a rumoured list of high-profile offenders has yet to materialise. And some male directors, if they did get the #MeToo memo, seemed to have torn it up, such is the unreconstructed lasciviousness with which, say, David Cronenberg depicts Diane Kruger in *The Shrouds* and Paolo Sorrentino shows Dalla Porta in *Parthenope*. Maybe next year.

10 The Brits ruled — but only on the soundtracks

Andrea Arnold aside, British talent was thin on the ground at Cannes this year — but film-makers do love our tunes, whether it's Eurythmics' *Sweet Dreams*, which featured in *Kinds of Kindness*, the Cure's *A Forest*, deployed in *Beating Hearts*, or Take That's *Greatest Day* in *Anora*. *Vive le pop britannique*!

11 Sometimes Moore is less

Demi Moore startled audiences with tons of nudity, latex make-up and gore in *The Substance*. The film was schlocky and empty but contained so much third-act blood and guts that it was immediately labelled a thrillingly "transgressive" statement about how patriarchal beauty norms are turning women into, like, exploding gore bombs. When interviewed, however, 61-year-old Moore said that the film was really about how women need to stop fighting each other and how "we really have to look within, not without". Which was nice but, for many fans, frustratingly off-message.

12 Gary Oldman bet the house and lost

Gary Oldman is one of the most mercurial of actors and his performance as the American writer John Cheever in *Parthenope* could politely be termed as risky. In this case that risk didn't pay off — he's like one of the roulette players on the Riviera who put all their money on red and it comes up black. The absurd chestnut wig and cartoonish air of literary tragedy are bad enough, but when he starts spouting faux-profound nonsense like, "Beauty is like war — it opens doors," all you want to do is run.

Demi Moore, 61, gave us tons of nudity, latex, make-up and gore

13 And the winner of the Palme d'Or is ...

Which film will Greta Gerwig and her jury go for? It's been a pungently divisive Cannes, with films such as *Megalopolis*, *The Substance* and *Grand Tour* eliciting wildly varied reactions. There has been more unified praise for *The Apprentice*, in which Sebastian Stan plays a young and surprisingly sympathetic Donald Trump; *Emilia Pérez*, Jacques Audiard's virtuosic transgender crime musical; and *Anora*, in which the director Sean Baker makes beautifully light-footed shifts between comedy, drama and thriller. All of those are in with a chance, and the bookies also favour the Indian drama *All We Imagine as Light*, and *The Seed of the Sacred Fig*, which centres on an investigating judge in the revolutionary court in Tehran. Predicting the winner is a mug's game in this polarising year, but the gut says it will be *Anora*.

My virtual reality date with Cate

Best film at Cannes? It's 45 minutes long, narrated by the star and utterly amazing, says Kevin Maher

The best movie at this year's Cannes Film Festival? Easy. The Cate Blanchett one. No, not her goofy political satire *Rumours*, but the other one. It's called *Evolver* and it played at the festival's virtual reality sidebar section, 40 minutes up the coast from the main Croisette site. And there, in a darkened room, the atmosphere hushed and church-like, and after a compulsory ten-minute guided meditation (instead of, say, buying popcorn and nachos), did the greatest screen experience of Cannes 2024 unfold.

No, really. This is no novelty joke or technical gimmick. And yes, a clunky, heavy VR headset is required. But the talents behind *Evolver* are, as they say in *Succession*, serious people. The executive producer is Terrence Malick, Radiohead's Jonny Greenwood and Johann Johannsson provide the music, and Blanchett soothingly narrates the dreamlike poetry of Daisy Lafarge.

The film? It's conceptually simple yet sublime in execution and for 45 minutes follows the progress of a human breath on a subatomic level in a woozy, ever-flowing environment that at times seems more outer than inner space. It speaks, thematically, of that great interpenetration of the scientific, the quantum and the quasi-spiritual.

It was four years in the making and is based on cutting-edge scientific analysis and data sets taken from electron microscopes. One of the producers submitted themselves to three full days of MRI scans, just for structural reference points. It's all part of an attempt to describe, as Blanchett says midway, purring through Lafarge's poetry, "a tangle of essences streaming beneath your skin, blurring the outline of where you end and begin".

Yet even that doesn't come close to articulating the strange, transcendent and often profoundly moving reality of the *Evolver* experience as you look and listen, spin around and wonder, and feel slowly unencumbered by the body, floating free inside something greater. I found myself frequently beaming and returning, in my head at least, to a safe and liberated womblike state, surrounded by the energetic flow between earthly, cosmic, God-shaped particles. This is, according to the film's director, Barnaby Steel, the correct response. *Evolver*, he says, amplifies the idea that "the deep essence revealed through science is speaking to us on a spiritual level".

Steel, who is east London-based and the creative director of the VR art collective Marshmallow Laser Feast, concedes that even discussing *Evolver* is difficult. "It's like trying to explain what an orange tastes like with words," he says. "The scaffolding of language doesn't reach the sensation." However, there is a point to the film and that is to

I found myself returning to a safe and liberated womblike state

reveal, in a world of increasingly pronounced divisions, the interrelationship of all existence on a cellular level. Steel says: "We are entering this territory where maybe the best way to have an intuitive understanding about the complexity of the web of life is the experience versus the language that describes it."

The "right now" of it all, of course, is key. This is the year of the Apple Vision Pro, a VR headset that has yet to launch worldwide, but is likely to be a game-changer for the industry. Films such as *Evolver* could soon be consumed in every home. Steel is not convinced. "It's early days," he says. "Think of the first iPhone. Where we're at now, Apple have just made the worst headset they're ever going to make. But it's going to iterate and get better. For now, we're happy with films like *Evolver* being passion projects and seeds that, at some point, are going to flower. Maybe in five years they will reach millions of people."

Cate Blanchett

Steel adds that the nightmare scenario of entire populations locked away inside their headsets, gormlessly playing video games or consuming immersive action movies, is not the future he wants to embrace. "The point is that the technology is being pushed by the tech giants, so it's happening," he says. "But we want to be a voice in that space for reconnection, not disconnection." He wants, in short, films such as *Evolver* to change the way we view cinema, science, nature, even life itself. Consider me, for one, changed.

For details go to marshmallowlaserfeast.com

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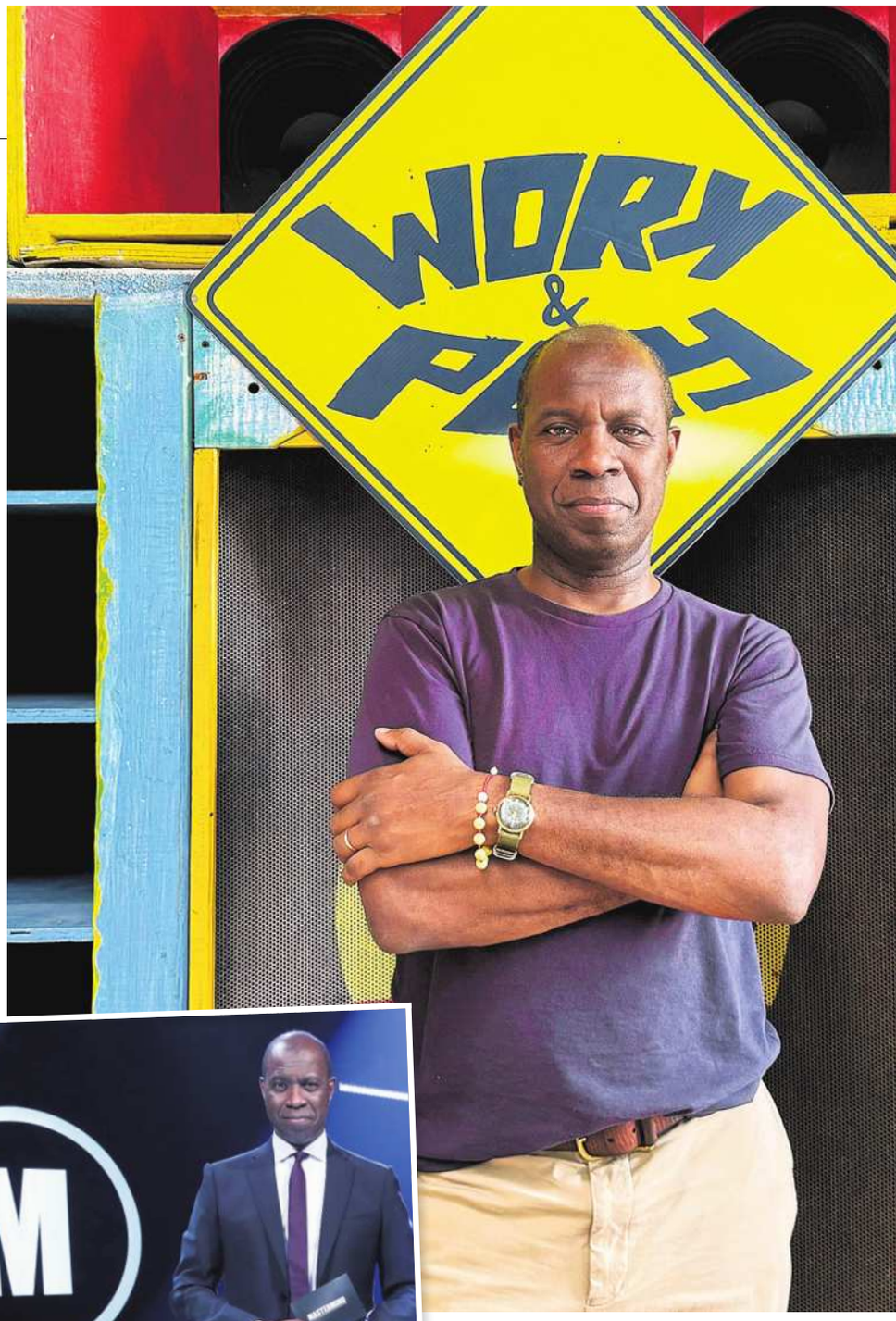

television

‘If more viewers know the real me, the more they might say, I can trust him’

Justin Webb quizzes Clive Myrie about his new travel show, Mastermind and if he will take over from Huw Edwards on election night

Personally, I don’t trust Clive Myrie. He’s a bad man. A few years ago, when he was still on his way to stardom, I sent him a rude note teasing him about his new-found love of classical music and that he appeared to be single-handedly hosting that year’s Proms.

Days later he was promoting the Proms in the *Today* studio. His was the last item and he was talking to Mishal Husain. At 08.59.45 (he timed it by the studio clock) he said: “And the funny thing is that Justin keeps harassing me, asking for tickets.”

There was nothing I could do. I spluttered impotently off mike. Then it was the pips. He winked: he had had the last word.

The best broadcasters are mischievous by nature. They don’t take themselves or their “art” too seriously. Clive is light, fun and unencumbered by a need to hector. The reporter turned newscaster turned TV everyman wears his genuine fame with an easy calm.

‘The image of Jamaica, overrun with drugs and death, is a legacy of the past’

On a post-lunch stroll through London with him the other day I was struck by the number of people who recognised him and just said “Hi”. He is approachable, but there is no expectation of a conversation on world events or a treatise on broadcasting. Indeed, it is entirely possible that those greeting him have no idea he has presented the news.

Clive is all things to all audiences. Strict on *Mastermind*. Culturally classy on the Proms. And just as jolly as Judith Chalmers ever was in travel shows from the world’s nicer places. The latest, on Jamaica, has a serious twist too because this is where Clive’s parents were from. It is also where his family lived and where his sister has returned to from Britain. It is — kind of — home territory.

And he is here to sell us a vision of the place that is very much in keeping with the sunny side of Clive. “The image of Jamaica, overrun with crime and drugs and death, is a legacy of the past,” he tells me. When he reported from there in 1996 he had to have a military escort. Now, he says, there are “parts of downtown Kingston that I would rather be in than parts of the East End of London. Images of places live with them for far too long even when the reality has completely changed.”

This is passionate Clive and I’m in no position to argue, although I do have a go at him over his featuring a young gay woman with an unspoken suggestion that she is representative of another area of a changed Jamaica. Yes, he has a line about gay sex still being illegal for men, but does he not rather gloss over a cultural approach to an issue that jars with much of the wider western world?

No, he says: “We reflect a talking point. It’s a macho culture — we discuss it.” Well, all right. But if this were a news show we would have heard a bit more. One of the problems some might have with this kind of format is that the seriousness of purpose you expect from a serious journalist (and Clive certainly is that) just isn’t on offer.

We agree to differ on gay rights in Jamaica (for all I know he is right) and he makes the point that travel shows are not documentaries, but just an effort to show that nice places can be more than, as he puts it, “beaches and mangos and fruit juice”.

So how does “news Clive” fit in with “fun Clive”, and “quizmaster Clive”, and “cultural Clive” and indeed all the other Clives still to come? He makes the case (he would, wouldn’t he?) that in the modern broadcasting world they are complementary, not competing. “All those Clives are the same person. A viewer can say, ‘I have a sense of how he feels about public service. I know his mum was a teacher in Jamaica. I see him in all these other guises so, you know what, I think I might trust him more.’”

In my memoir of the 1970s I wrote about the father I never knew, the newsreader Peter Woods, popping up at nine o’clock looking lugubrious. I remember my mother — who was left a single mother, with me, after an office affair — saying he had once appeared on a programme called (aptly) *I’ve Got a Secret*.

But that was it. In those days — the days before Angela Rippon’s legs became a thing — newsreaders were not personalities. Clive says that the change has come not simply because society is looser and boundaries are less harshly policed, but because the consumption of news in the modern age has changed, indeed must change. “Your father operated in an age when it was the record of the day.”

In other words there was a simple faith in that age that you were being told things by a person qualified to do it. Now the qualification needed has changed. So Clive says: “If you have seen me laugh at something, or maybe not laugh at something, in a situation where I have had to react at a personal level, that might allow you to think, ‘I might trust him more, because I might know a little bit more about him as an individual.’”

Clive Myrie in Jamaica. Left: as the host of Mastermind. Below left: with his wife, Catherine

It's an interesting idea: only whole people (as revealed in various guises) can be fully trusted. So will he do *Strictly*? I remind Clive that our mutual friend Jeremy Bowen, the BBC's international editor, was banned from a tinsel-tinged outing years ago by a previous BBC news management nervous about the lack of seriousness involved.

Clive doubts Jeremy would be stopped now (he's in a foxhole in Ukraine so the issue is moot), although he does reveal that he is still turning his *Strictly* invitation down, "for the time being". Give it a couple of years, I reckon. There's a dance scene in the Jamaica programme that looks to me like an audition.

And let us all see what happens to serious news in the meantime. Deborah Turness, the chief executive of news and current affairs at the BBC (and my boss and Clive's), said recently that she was worried that audiences are less receptive to balanced coverage because they spend so much time in partisan echo chambers. "When they actually do come up for air and meet impartial news, they feel that it is an attack on their values. And that's what we've got to really worry about."

She's dead right. I feel it in audience reaction to *Today*; Clive says he noticed it years ago when he was covering the

'I don't think we've pointed out just how abnormal Donald Trump is'

2019 election. "We were attacked on the right," he says. "But I was really struck by criticism on the left. So while there has long been a hankering on the right for a Fox News echo chamber, there are now plenty on the left who'd like [the left-wing station] MSNBC in Britain."

So is Clive the last of the impartial trusted newsreaders — the last hurrah for Peter Woods et al? He sounds unsure. "I hope not. Regulation helps ... but the public has to buy into the idea that it's more meaningful to have discussion rather than simply be in your own silo."

And here is a prime topic for that discussion: the coming re-election campaign of Donald Trump. Do we, I ask Clive, treat him normally or do we need to flag up the difference between Trump and other modern candidates?

"It does worry me," Clive admits. "He is a candidate, but not a conventional candidate ... Have we put it out there enough that he lost all the 2020 court cases — that Republican judges have thrown out all his arguments? I don't think we have. I don't think we have pointed out just how abnormal he is."

But wait. There is an election coming closer to home. And a vacancy in the hot seat for the BBC coverage on July 4. I ask him straight: are you taking over from Huw Edwards for the election night marathon? Clive has been waiting for this one. "I have no idea," he says with a smile. So would he do it? "You can read that into my answer, I suppose."

Other news bods are available, folks, but none as smooth as Clive, or as mischievous in those seconds before the sounding of the pips.

***Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure* is on BBC2 from Monday, at 6.30pm, and all episodes will be available to watch on iPlayer. Justin Webb's memoir, *The Gift of a Radio*, is out in paperback (Penguin £10.99). Order a copy from timesbookshop.co.uk**

my culture fix

Brian Cox

The actor on walking out of Pulp Fiction, his love of Dickens and why Phoebe is his favourite Friends character

My favourite film
The Court Jester. If I want to cheer myself up I will put it on. I've probably seen it 20 times. I first watched it when I was six — I spent my childhood in the cinema. Also *The Quiet Man*: John Ford is probably my favourite film director. My passion is Turner Classic Movies, I watch it all the time — it's a great channel. I love old movies. There was a lovely one on the other day called *Sweet November* with Sandy Dennis.

The film I walked out of
Pulp Fiction. I found it distressing. There was this incident where there's a young man sitting in the back of the car and he gets his head blown off and there's blood all over. I just thought, "I've got to get out, I can't be doing this." I'm not very good with violence.

My favourite author or book
I like Dickens. I identify with the little boy in *David Copperfield* and *Great Expectations*. Thomas Hardy's *Mayor of Casterbridge* is probably my favourite book of all. It's about an action you do wrong that you have to live with for the rest of your life and then it comes back and bites you on the bottom. That really means a lot to me in terms of drama, but also in terms of the foolishness of human beings — that when we lock on to something, it can mark us throughout our destiny. And then I go back to the first book I ever read: *Wuthering Heights*. I never read a book until I was 17 because I was virtually an orphan — my mother was in an institution because she had a series of nervous breakdowns and my father died when I was eight — so I didn't have any of the normal things children had. I didn't have access to books. [The comic books] *Classics Illustrated* led me on to literature. For me, reading is about finding out who we are. That's why one of my other favourites is Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*.

The book I'm reading
Poor Things. I knew Alasdair Gray well, but I'm ashamed to say I never read any of his books. Now I'm catching up. He's an amazing writer. The movie is great, but the book is so much better.

SNAP/ALAMY

Danny Kaye and Glynis Johns in The Court Jester (1955). Below: Lisa Kudrow

The book I wish I had written
Of Mice and Men. It's a wonderful tragedy of existence.

The book I'm ashamed I haven't read
Lanark by Alasdair Gray.

My favourite TV series
That's hard. I'm an avid watcher of television. When my dad died, I didn't go to his funeral, I was put in front of a television for the first time and it was a source of great comfort for me, so I've seen a lot of stuff. *Frasier* and *Friends* are great, especially if you come home late at night and want a laugh. Phoebe is my favourite in *Friends* because she's so scatty and also kind of a genius — she comes up with truths. I think Lisa Kudrow is absolutely superb.

The box set I'm hooked on
Shoulder to Shoulder. It was made in 1974 about the Pankhursts and the suffragette movement. What those women went through to achieve what they achieved is quite astonishing. And this series was radical for its time. It's early television, but it's very powerful stuff.

My favourite play
Titus Andronicus because it's got all the ideas for all the plays Shakespeare wrote after it. *Long Day's Journey* is rapidly becoming one of my favourites. *In Celebration* too, which is about getting on. I want the story of existence: how do we deal with our day-to-day life? That's what appeals to me.

The last play that made me laugh
Ulster American with Woody Harrelson. I laughed like a drain.

Overrated
I remember when I saw the film *Moulin Rouge*. Everybody in the audience was loving it and I thought, "Why am I not loving it?" But I didn't. I felt really alone. I was a bit embarrassed because I wasn't enjoying it nearly enough. I thought there was something wrong with me. But I just didn't get it.

Underrated
I think people should watch *Shoulder to Shoulder*. It's wonderful, teaches you a lot about things we've forgotten and also it's produced by women. *O Lucky Man* by Lindsay Anderson is an underrated film.

My guiltiest cultural pleasure
Homes Under the Hammer. What people do with so little money. It's an example to us all.

The poem that saved me
I love anything by Burns. But John Clare's *I Am* is my favourite — it's an existential poem. That always brings a lump to my throat.

My favourite piece of music
I love the Beatles, the Beach Boys, the Mamas and the Papas. I'm very much a creature of my period. But my favourite album of all is Johnny Cash's last one, *American IV*. He sings *We'll Meet Again* and it breaks your heart because you know this is a dying man.

The instrument I play
None. It's the biggest regret of my life.

The instrument I wish I'd learnt
Piano. I had lessons as a child, but I stupidly didn't practise.

If I could own one painting it would be
One of Van Gogh's last works — *Wheatfield With Crows*.

The place I feel happiest
My bed.

I'm having a fantasy dinner party, I'll invite these artists and authors
Nelson Mandela, Carl Jung, Spencer Tracy, Katharine Hepburn, Lindsay Anderson, Fulton Mackay.

And I'll put on this music
Louis Prima.

Brian Cox stars in *Long Day's Journey Into Night* at Wyndham's Theatre, WC2 to June 8, wyndhamstheatre.co.uk; he is speaking at Leicester Square Theatre, London WC2, on June 2

books

THE AIRBORNE ASSAULT MUSEUM

Get in, get out and go home: the perfect raid

Above: Troops securing the beach during Operation Biting in 1942. Right: Lord Louis Mountbatten, 1943. Below left: Major-General Frederick Browning

Book of the week

This daring, heroic assault on a German radar installation is a rare tale of military success. By Gerard DeGroot

Operation Biting
The 1942 Parachute Assault to Capture Hitler's Radar
by Max Hastings

William Collins, 384pp; £25

As the men of 2 Para approached Bruneval, they sang songs like *The Rose of Tralee*. German anti-aircraft fire provided an unwelcome backbeat. A water bottle, filled with rum, was passed round. The date was February 27, 1942, the target a German radar post on the Normandy coast. The plan was to get in, get out and go home, with breakfast waiting in Portsmouth. A mere 120 men took part in this operation, yet the stakes were enormous. "This was no grand armada," Major John Frost, the commander, reflected. "We were so very much by ourselves."

"I felt as though I was acting in a play," another soldier wrote. There was indeed something weirdly theatrical about Operation Biting, a dissonant blend of action and farce. The stage was a square mile of the French coast, the principal actors larger than life. Or perhaps that's just the way that Max Hastings has chosen to tell this story. He's a master of drama, a writer intimately familiar with the mind of the soldier — "All my books aspire to tell 'people' stories, because these are what history is about." Yes indeed. There are few things in life more dependable than a war story told by Hastings.

Operation Biting was the brainchild of RV Jones, a brilliant physicist with a talent for communication. Hastings calls him "an authentic wartime star"; soldiers and politicians alike loved him. Having access to top secret German intercepts, Jones became intrigued by references to something called Freya. In Nordic mythology the goddess Freya had a fling with Heimdall, who had the power to see, in darkness or light, objects far distant. To Jones that suggested radar, but surely the Germans wouldn't be so obvious. Never underestimate a British boffin with a classical education.

It took Jones about a year to piece together the puzzle of German radar. He eventually pinpointed an installation at Bruneval, just 90 miles from the English coast. Wouldn't it be nice, he thought, if British commandos could attack and steal some of the equipment? That idea appealed to Winston Churchill, who had a childlike attraction to adventure. Early 1942 was a time of unremitting gloom, when the prime minister needed a dramatic victory, no matter how small. Bruneval seemed the perfect target for his newly formed airborne battalion. With typical grandiosity Churchill demanded that "specially trained troops of the hunter class" should unleash "a reign of terror".

Churchill needed a dramatic victory. Bruneval was the perfect target

Hastings unfolds this little drama at a delightfully leisurely pace. The first seven chapters focus on the principal characters, whose bizarre stories he gleefully shares. The Bruneval operation fell into the lap of Lord Louis Mountbatten, the newly appointed commodore of Combined Operations. Hastings, never one to suffer fools, is wonderfully acerbic, calling Mountbatten an "extreme narcissist" who was attracted to the glory that a successful raid might bring. "If he lacked depth of intellect, he compensated with a driving enthusiasm that bore him far towards the greatness he craved," he writes. Churchill, who shared Mountbatten's best qualities and his worst, adored his new commodore.

We also meet Frederick "Boy" Browning, commander of the airborne battalion, another dangerously impetuous individual. He craved glory, but was forever overshadowed by his famous wife, the novelist Daphne du Maurier. Notoriously lascivious, she was instantly attracted to this soldier hero and keen to offer him "the joys of a bohemian romance". He, however, was old-fashioned when it came to matters sexual and insisted on marriage first. She relented, but did not get the studmuffin she sought. In public Browning was the picture of a dashing warrior, but in private he was a nervous wreck suffering from PTSD. His tendency to whimper helplessly while resting his head on her lap rather annoyed the hard-bitten du Maurier. None of this is perhaps relevant to Operation Biting, but it's fascinating nonetheless. Hastings is a superb military historian with a delightful talent for gossip.

The success of Biting owed much to the efforts of Gilbert Renault, aka

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Colonel Rémy. Before 1939 he was an inveterate loser successful only at fathering children. Then came the war and a chance to act upon his extreme French patriotism by spying on the Germans. Espionage also offered the opportunity to indulge his passion for luxury — fine wines, good food and plush hotel rooms. Two of Rémy's recruits managed to blag a tour of the Bruneval complex by telling an accommodating guard that they were desperate to see the view from the cliffs. He kindly informed them that there were no mines on the beach. The Germans in this story seem straight out of *'Allo 'Allo!*

The 120 men who took part in the operation mainly consisted of dour Scots, already accustomed to a tough life. "Many of them," Hastings writes, "were physically smallish men, a legacy of the slums from which their families came, but they were also iron hard." They were not the sort "to make docile household pets". In peacetime, a fair few might have indulged in petty violence, but this was wartime and Britain had need of their

The raid 'defied all the probabilities of disaster.' Bullets flew but few hit flesh

innate thuggery. They were not, in truth, well trained for the task at hand, having completed only a dozen practice jumps, none at night. Their toughness was, however, complemented by a naive belief in their invincibility.

The shooting in this book doesn't start until well over halfway through and is over rather quickly. That's appropriate, the raid itself took only a few hours. One third of the force was dropped hopelessly off target and did not contribute to the fighting until the very end. That proved an advantage since it confused the Germans as to what the British were attempting to do. The enemy, on this occasion, contributed greatly to the success of the operation by being uncharacteristically incompetent.

"Airborne assault always has been, and always will be, a chancy business," Hastings writes. So much can go wrong, and so much usually does. Part of the appeal of this story, however, is that "Biting ... defied all the probabilities of disaster". It produced the kind of success that only the deluded (men like Mountbatten) would have predicted.

There were no injuries when paratroopers hit the ground. Bullets flew everywhere, but few hit flesh. Casualties on both sides were minuscule. With remarkable efficiency, the British purloined all the important components of the German radar installation. The troops then neutralised a single German machine gun unit that blocked their escape. There followed a tense moment when it appeared that the landing craft would not arrive to take them away, but rescue came in the nick of time. The operation unfolded like something out of a comic book. If Hollywood were to produce a film based on this book, critics would dismiss it as unrealistic.

Operation Biting is not a typical war story. War histories are usually studies in failure. So many catastrophic mistakes. So many needless deaths. What a relief then, joy even, to be able to read about a battle with a happy ending and genuine heroes — a day that went well. The plan was to get in, get out and go home, and that's precisely what happened.

When liberal America went bonkers

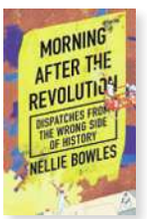
A renegade journalist reports from the front line of 2020's toxic culture wars. By Sarah Ditum

Nellie Bowles used to be on the right side of history. In 2020 she was a New York Times journalist, covering the San Francisco tech scene. She was also a true believer in the progressive cause. She and her colleagues went to work, not to "tell dry news factoids", but to "wield the pen for justice".

Utopia was within grasp. "It was a new era. Liberals — those weak, wishy-washy compromisers, the hemmers and hawers — were out. Washing them away was the New Progressive. They came with politics built on the idea that people are profoundly good, denatured only by capitalism, by colonialism and whiteness and heteronormativity. It was a heady, beautiful philosophy."

When the pandemic brought anxiety and isolation in early 2020, the New Progressives' fervour started to curdle into something closer to religious zealotry. Then, in May that year, George Floyd, a black man, was murdered in Minneapolis by a white police officer. At which point things started to go really crazy. "Liberal intelligentsia, in particular, became wild, wild with rage and optimism, and fresh ideas from academia that began to reshape every part of society," Bowles writes. "The ideology that came shrieking in would go on to reshape America in some ways that are interesting and even good, and in other ways that are appalling, but mostly in ways that are — I hate to say it — funny."

Morning After the Revolution is a chronicle of those demented years. It might seem odd to write a history of something that happened basically two minutes ago, but then this was an exceedingly odd time, one that left a lot of people permanently changed. Including Bowles: by the end of the pandemic, she wasn't working at the NYT and she wasn't a New Progressive.



Morning After the Revolution
Dispatches from the Wrong Side of History
by Nellie Bowles
Swift, 304pp; £20

'To do a cancellation is a very warm, social thing'

It's a lazy cliché that a conservative is just a leftwinger who has been mugged by reality, and in any case Bowles isn't really a conservative. She accepts that many of the New Progressives' causes had at least an element of political merit. But in the Great Crack-Up of 2020, politics went out of the window.

Instead, there was faith. Like the true children of the Mayflower's Puritans, America's New Progressives sought out the doctrines and rituals that would sanctify their souls. The new bible was short, but catchy: "black lives matter", "trans women are women", "Police abolition now". You said your pronouns the way you once said your prayers.

Priests were replaced with DEI (diversity, equality and inclusion) trainers. In an anti-racism seminar, Bowles was almost overcome by the spirit as the course leader had the white crowd chanting: "All white bodies cause racialised stress and wounding to bodies of culture." ("Bodies of culture" is one of many florid New Progressive ways of saying "everyone who isn't white".)

The problem was reality, which routinely fell short of the New Progressives' faith. In summer 2020 protesters built barricades round the Capitol Hill district in Seattle to keep the cops out and create an "autonomous zone" (known as CHAZ). This would be "a place without the old world's racism and the old ways of talking and thinking". Seattle's liberal mayor even sent barbed wire and Porta-Potties to support the secession.

Unsurprisingly, CHAZ rapidly became a lawless hellhole. When business owners complained that their premises were being ransacked, protesters accused them of being KKK sympathisers. Two teenagers were killed in the autonomous zone before the city finally moved to shut it down. Yet for the New Progressives this violence was unspeakable — hence the CNN broadcast, described by Bowles, in which the caption "FIERY BUT MOSTLY PEACEFUL PROTESTS" sat underneath footage of a city set ablaze by Antifa.

A similar attitude to inconvenient truths led to the egregious misreporting of the Wi Spa incident in Los Angeles. When women complained of a naked man in the female-only area, liberal media dismissed it as transphobic hysteria. Trans activists protested outside the spa. But the penis was real, and belonged to the convicted sex offender Darren Merager.

Merager's trial over these allegations has not concluded, but Bowles reports on one of the early hearings. She speaks to Merager, and he tells her that he had actually visited the picket at the spa, watching it from his car. Not that the people allegedly supporting him even knew who he was. "Protesters even came to yell at him, accusing him of being a white supremacist."

It's these details that make *Morning After the Revolution*. Bowles goes out and gets the story rather than theorising from the comfort of her desk. In fact, I could have read a great deal more of the reportage. The snapshots built a transfixing collage of lunacy, but I ended every chapter longing to know more.

Her strength as a guide is that the New Progressives were her tribe, and she still feels sympathy for them even if she has turned heretic (she now writes for the Free Press, the heterodox outfit set up by her wife and fellow NYT exile, Bari Weiss). She writes frankly about the pleasure of a witch-hunt: "To do a cancellation is a very warm, social thing. It has the energy of a potluck." That is, until you become the dish of the day. Once Bowles had fallen in love with the cheerfully non-doctrinaire Weiss, her card was marked.

But that background also means she's focused on liberal madness, when the right had plenty of its own loopiness. The January 6 takeover of the Capitol by Trump supporters is a mirror image of CHAZ's anarchy. For several years, standing up to stifling liberal orthodoxies has given writers such as Bowles (and me) a living, as well as a cause. This book is part of what is now a thriving market in woke-critical literature, which strongly suggests the New Progressives have lost their hold. If this is the morning after the revolution, maybe it's time to ask what's coming next.

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Come to the (Soho) cabaret, old chum

The author Ruth Ivo performing as Ruby in 2009

The show director of a high-end burlesque club reveals all. By Rowan Pelling

I was editing the Erotic Review in the late Nineties when I first noted the UK's sweeping revival of burlesque, or cabaret-style striptease, with its roots in the 1860s. I signed up Immodesty Blaize for the magazine's front cover, a performer lauded for disrobing down to nipple tassels while cavorting on a giant rocking horse. Blaize's audiences were thronged with women and gay men, making a glad change from the burgeoning chains of lap-dancing clubs packed out with sweaty suits. As we rolled into the new millennium, burlesque acts became ever more circus-orientated and gothic, involving fire-eating, contortionism, glass-eating and fake blood.

The apogee of all this titillating spectacle came in 2011 when Simon Hammerstein (grandson of the lyricist Oscar Hammerstein) opened the Box in Soho, London, a sister club for his wildly successful New York City establishment. It operated from the former premises of Raymond Revuebar, and celebs and financiers flocked to pay thousands for a show-side VIP table — while young clubbers snaked round the block hoping the doorman would select them for entry. One saucer-eyed account cited "men dressed as pigs licking food off strippers' stomachs". Hammerstein said in one interview: "Everyone at the Box should feel like it's a constant bath of Dionysian debauchery."

One person with a ringside view was Ruth Ivo, a former outré burlesque artist known in those days as Ruby. She joined the Box's staff in 2012 as show director, lasting barely a year. *Performance*, Ivo's novelised memoir of that episode, is an enthralling volume with shades of Christopher Isherwood's *Goodbye to Berlin* (adapted later as *Cabaret*).

A note at the start announces: "Some names in this book have been changed and some dialogue and certain incidents are dramatic composites based on real experience." You can see why the disclaimer is needed: this is a world rife with sex, drugs and scenarios that teeter on exploitation.

We're thrust centre-stage into "the Club's" (the word Box never appears) auditorium, circa 2012, "its velvet seats slightly soiled".

Performance
by Ruth Ivo
Coronet, 250pp; £18.99

If Ruby is the tale's Sally Bowles, then Gabriel Grosse is the Club's ringmaster — a tireless orchestrator of depravity. The duo meet when Ruby attends a charged breakfast interview for the role

One act involves a Barbie who blows her brains out from sexual frustration

of artistic overseer of the Club's shows. None of her vivid ideas ("a trapeze artist in a cage like human ribs") is weird enough for Grosse, but he likes her general class and "f***ability". The dice are rolled: "He started telling me about the show at the Club, growing animated. He mentioned the words 'Art' and 'Feminism' while I gave my best impression of someone who liked him. It's possible I did."

Once installed within the rivalrous confines of the Club, where showgirls and management alike watch their backs, Ruby strives to track down the outré acts Grosse demands. One involves a performer playing a Barbie who discovers that a vibrator does nothing for her smooth plastic genitals, so in the end she "blows her brains out" from sexual frustration. When Rose, a transgender performance artist, is over from NYC things go full grand guignol: one show involves a seeming live castration, where the severed meat is thrust into an unmentionable orifice before the whimpering victim is mercifully dispatched.

The drink-and-drug-fuelled carnival increasingly means Ruby crawls home as others set out for work. Home being an "old military boat on the Thames at the ropier end of Chelsea", which Ruby shares with other escapees from nine-to-five lifestyles, a bunch of props and the occasional semi-feral lover. Ruby knows she's only as good as last evening's show, which becomes an increasingly joyless quest to sate jaded palates.

She's never one to flinch from self-knowledge. When Ruby mocks a City boy at the Club for admiring the prime minister, he responds witheringly, "You people. You don't even know what the G8 is", and she's forced to admit he's right. Anyone who's been dazzled and spat out by a raffish mise en scène will find shades of themselves in *Performance*. Take the showgirl Rose's analysis of the Club's privileged clientele: "All the sedatives of life are right at their fingertips so they can insulate themselves from being actual human beings."

Life is a cabaret, old chum, come to the cabaret.

It's the Wild West — now with drunken Irish rogues

Kevin Barry is back to his best with a violent, extravagant adventure set in 1890s Montana. By James Walton

Self-restraint is important in the work of the Irish writer Kevin Barry. But only as something to be avoided. "We should always remember," he has said, "that being innovative and wild and not afraid to go completely f***ing nuts on the page is what built [Ireland's] reputation in the first half of the 20th century." Not that he's often seemed in danger of forgetting this himself.

Certainly, his first novel, *City of Bohane* (2011), could scarcely have been more innovative, wild or indeed nuts. It was a violent saga of gang warfare in a futuristic west of Ireland whose endlessly startling sentences mixed the tough, the lyrical and the (sometimes comically) grandiose with esoteric slang. Its out-of-nowhere brilliance deservedly won Barry the International Dublin Literary Award, worth €100,000. The obvious question, then, was how could he follow that? Not entirely satisfactorily, as it turned out.

The Heart in Winter
by Kevin Barry
Canongate, 224pp; £16.99

His second novel, *Beatlebone*, featured John Lennon paying a fictional visit in 1978 to the real-life Irish island he had bought in 1967. His third, *Night Boat to Tangier*, starred two ageing west of Ireland gangsters looking back on the good old days before people started "buying their drugs on the f***ing internet". Both books still fizzed with heterogeneous sentences that corroborated Barry's description of his prose as a "hysterical step-dancing gingerhaired child leppin' up and down ... looking for attention". There was, though, also a sense that, unlike in *City of Bohane*, these sentences were increasingly there for their own sake.

Happily, in *The Heart in Winter* (epigraph: "I do not see any beauty in self-restraint"), Barry's distinctly strange mix of styles is back at the service of the storytelling. Perhaps this may be because, like his debut, it's set in a distinctly strange world: Butte, Montana in 1891, a frontier town that at that time hadn't been around for long (or, as Barry, *below*, characteristically puts it, "was only this short while confected").

He has not, however, abandoned the people of the west of Ireland, since the place is full of them. With the closure of the Cork copper mines, the men have come en masse to the copper mines of Butte, not always decorously. "They had unbelievable throats on them, if it's the drink we're talking about," we are told. "All the slurs cast against them were Bible true."

Some also of course pine for the old country — although the main character, Tom Rourke, is not among them. "He hated the sentimental bastards singing through the streets of the small hours about the hellholes that had vomited them out." When we first see him, Tom is vowing to have a quiet night in. Several hours, countless drinks and a fair amount of opium later, he's crawling along on all fours. To some women, this might not make him seem like a keeper. But for Polly Gillespie, a mail-order bride from Chicago, he's far preferable to her dull and pious new husband.

Recognising each other as rebellious but romantic kindred spirits, the two elope on horseback, heading for the nearest (ie quite far) railroad town. Except that Polly's husband sends in pursuit of them the frankly gothic figure of Jago, a huge, psychotic Cornishman.

What happens next is properly exciting, complete with cliff-hanging chapter endings. It also combines unsparing, often violent realism with the extravagantly hallucinatory — the boundary between them not always clear. Which is where that leppin' prose comes into its own, simultaneously reflecting and helping to create the disorientation felt by reader and main characters alike.

Without quoting reams of the book (tempting but impractical), it's impossible to show just how well this works: the blend of hard-boiled American with Irish phrasing ("A Sunday morning, white and acheful, and a Saturday night head on every poor motherless buck"), the occasional address to the reader ("one day you too might ride through such a place"), the sudden moments of formality ("It would be accurate to remark that he was not entirely gathered in himself") — all of it, and much more besides, is at every turn both wholly unpredictable and exactly what it had to be. Kevin Barry, it would be accurate to remark, is back to his thrilling best.

BRIAN COOKE/GETTY IMAGES

Dexys wasn't a band, it was a one-man dictatorship

The 'Come On Eileen' kids looked like carefree rebels, but they were not a happy bunch. By Will Hodgkinson

When Dexys Midnight Runners stormed on to *Top of the Pops* in 1980 with the soul-stomper *Geno*, looking like a bunch of dockers from *On the Waterfront*, they seemed like the last gang in town. Led by Kevin Rowland, a sinewy, intense figure with a pencil moustache, a woollen cap and a voice that suggested he might burst into tears at any minute, Dexys were incredibly exciting, borderline threatening and oddly glamorous. A vision of utmost seriousness amid the brightly coloured nonsense dominating the charts.

There were lots of them, they played brass instruments, they infused soul music with everything from celebrations of Irish literature to accounts of crushing depression. Then they returned a couple of years later, dressed like sociology students pretending to be raggle-taggle gypsies and leaping about in dungarees and neckerchiefs to the future wedding perennial *Come On Eileen*. Who were these odd people and why did they keep changing everything about themselves?

Nige Tassell's *Searching for Dexys Midnight Runners* answers this question by attempting to track down every former member. This approach has become a bit of a music biography formula for portraying mercurial figures or significant moments: Dave Simpson's *The Fallen* sought out former members of the Fall, the band led by the brilliant but demonic Mark E Smith.

Dexys Midnight Runners in 1982: Billy Adams, Steve Shaw, Helen O'Hara, Kevin Rowland and Seb Shelton

Searching for Dexys Midnight Runners
by Nige Tassell

Nine Eight, 352pp; £22

Now Tassell lifts the veil on Dexys, which turns out not to have been a gang at all, but one man's dictatorship, backed by a not entirely happy revolving cast of supporting players.

Tassell is an Eighties kid who grew up in rural Sussex without a gang of his own, so he looked to Dexys as the ultimate symbol of belonging. He ate up the stories of the band bunking the train fare from their native Birmingham to perform on *Top of the Pops*, marvelled at Rowland's band-wide ban on drink and drugs, and trotted off to school in a donkey jacket and carrying a leather holdall, just like his heroes. More than 40 years later, his tireless hunt for the many people who passed through feels like a reckoning with his teenage fantasy. Accordingly, the book has a nagging sense of melancholy.

He finds out that musicians are just people, dealing with the vagaries of life like the rest of us. Tassell finds "Big" Jim Paterson, trombonist for Dexys, as a sixtysomething living in his parents' old house near Inverness, where his ambitions have been reduced to spending time with his wife and dog and watching daytime *Neighbours*.

When Tassell visits Simon Walker, violinist during the chart-topping heights of *Come On Eileen* in 1982, he is in the midst of closing down the recording studio he has been running in Brighton for the past three decades. What will he do next? "I'll happily gather trolleys in the Asda car park," comes the reply.

Most of the people Tassell talks to are still in the music game in one way or another, and able to look back on their Dexys years — which few of them made any money out of — with fondness, but also clear-sightedness. The band's original bassist, Pete Williams, hatched a plan to steal the master tapes of their debut album, *Searching for the Young Soul Rebels*, from EMI and hold them as collateral until a better royalty deal was negotiated. It seemed like a fantastic, all-for-one gesture until Williams discovered that only Rowland, the guitarist Al Archer and the saxophonist Geoff Blythe were actually signed to EMI, which meant that when the record came out Williams's name was left off the writing credits. Before long Rowland and Archer were taking flights while the rest were crammed into a minibus, wondering when appearing on a hit single was going to change their lives.

'I'll happily gather trolleys in the Asda car park,' the band's violinist says today

Others never bought the whole gang schtick in the first place. Mick Talbot, soon to find huge success with Paul Weller in the 1980s smooth soul duo the Style Council, went up to Birmingham for an audition. On being told he would be charged not only with playing keyboards but also with bunking trains and wearing woolly hats, he said: "I won't be doing any of that. I'm not 12 or 13." He told Tassell: "They made too much of a song and dance about it. I just thought: *ooh, how rebellious*."

Tassell's book does retain some mythology around Dexys, not least because its two chief architects refused to talk to him. Archer left when his partner became increasingly dictatorial; after *Geno* went to No 1, Rowland sent an assistant to tell Archer he was no longer allowed to wear a certain red hat on stage. Archer told him to get lost and duly left to form a string-led folk band called the Blue Ox Babes, but made the mistake of telling Rowland about it. Rowland took the formula and ran all the way to No 1 with *Come On Eileen*.

After reaching those heights, Rowland lost his footing. A nadir came in the late Eighties when, all the money gone after the usual sinking into drugs, he signed on at the unemployment office, only for his fellow jobseekers to break out in a spontaneous rendition of *Come On Eileen*. But he never gave up. He continues Dexys, with varying levels of commercial success but unwavering critical acclaim, to this day.

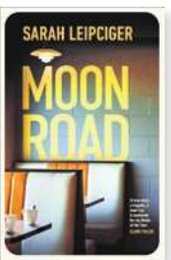
Unsurprisingly, the ever-enigmatic Rowland, now 70, proves resistant to being pinned down. Tassell is reduced to standing at the stage door after a Dexys gig with a bunch of other ageing fans hoping for a glimpse of their hero. Naturally, Rowland never appears. "They're still searching," he says. "And so am I." It makes for a poignant conclusion to a compelling, moving book about a childhood dream of the ultimate gang, who turned out to be quite the opposite.

If Elizabeth Strout drove a pick-up truck

Two exes hit the road in this novel for grown-ups. By Johanna Thomas-Corr

The heroes of antiquity tended to take their odysseys by boat. Medieval knights travelled on horseback. In the modern era we have our cars. The road trip movie has become a rich cinematic genre — think *Thelma & Louise*, *Drive My Car* and *Little Miss Sunshine*. Sarah Leipciger's third book, *Moon Road*, joins the still longer tradition of road trip novels in which two or more characters go on a quest across a dramatic landscape, revealing over the course of the novel the various peaks and valleys in their own emotional panoramas. There's something about a vehicle speeding through unfamiliar landscape that puts every thought, feeling and interaction under unique pressure, provoking confessions and discoveries.

Moon Road reads like a darker, gruffer blue-collar version of Elizabeth Strout's 2021 novel, *Oh, William!*, in which a long-separated couple embark on a road trip across Maine to solve a family mystery. In Leipciger's similarly character-led story, set in her homeland of Canada, Kathleen, 65, a chain-smoking flower farmer, and her estranged ex-husband, the genial painter-decorator Yannick, 73, meet after 19 silent years with the intention of finally finding their missing daughter, Una, dead or alive. They have received a disturbing message from the coroner's office on the other side of the country that prompts them to make a 2,000-mile journey in Yannick's pick-up truck through tall-pine forests, round lakes and across the Rocky Mountains.



Moon Road
by Sarah Leipciger

Transworld, 368pp; £16.99

Yannick is a frightened flyer who hasn't been on an aircraft for 22 years, since Una vanished at the age of 23. Twelve months beforehand she had left small-town Ontario and moved "way the hell out to the west coast of Vancouver Island". Although neither of her parents, who divorced amicably when she was two years old, had visited her there, they had believed from her emails and phone calls that she was happy and finally gainfully employed. However, flighty Una was living in a tree under tarpaulin and continuing to quit every job.

Her parents are no less stubborn and unpredictable. "Gentle" Yannick has children by multiple mothers and has served 18 months in prison for GBH. Kathleen, meanwhile, is an antisocial battleaxe who still insists on throwing an awkward party every year to commemorate her only child.

The novel is told in the third person from Kathleen and Yannick's perspectives, interspersed with short chapters revealing to the reader what happened in the 24 hours leading up to Una's disappearance. Flashbacks depict the weeks afterwards when her parents travelled west to follow every last lead, questioning eccentric flatmates, locals and Una's besotted childhood boyfriend. Their road trip 22 years on lays bare the resentments that festered between them.

Underlying what seems like a meandering structure is a tight web of motifs (the moon, dust and, most crucially, teeth) suggesting a novelist who is attentive to every detail. A story that initially feels tougher and terser

than any Strout novel ends up more lyrical and hopeful than you get from the American writer.

Leipciger, *above*, renders Kathleen and Yannick's heartache subtly and convincingly, although never quite rising to a pitch that left me moved. There are scenes that might have made more impact had they been crisper and less repetitive. But her short, curt sentences can be really potent, reflecting the toughness of the working people in small-town Ontario.

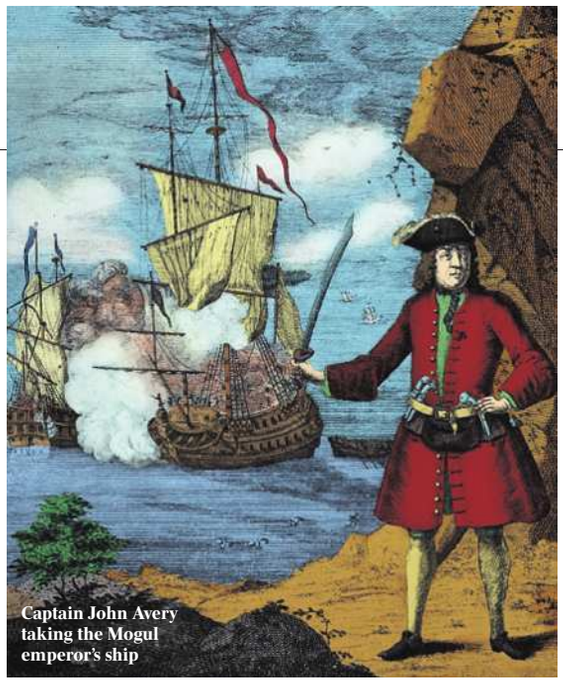
Moon Road is a slow-burn story about people who are learning to live with the unthinkable and the unknowable. Leipciger has written an intelligent, nuanced book that doesn't let off fireworks or rely on catchy concepts. Instead, she places her faith in quiet observations about the contradictory elements that make up our relationship with ourselves and those we love. It is, refreshingly, a novel for grown-ups.

books

What happened to the Pirate King who vanished?

Henry Avery stole £100 million in jewels and bullion. Then he disappeared. By Alice Loxton

GETTY IMAGES



Captain John Avery taking the Mogul emperor's ship

At 10pm on May 7, 1694, Henry Avery set out on an audacious mission. For days he had been stirring up discord among his fellow English sailors on board the Charles II, a frigate in the service of the Spanish king. On that night, as the ship bobbed in the Spanish port of La Coruña and the ship's captain — a man "mightly addicted to Punch" — slept soundly, Avery and his accomplices got to work. Silently, by the light of the moon, they bolted hatches, cut cables, loosened sails and weighed anchor, "and so put to Sea without any Disorder or Confusion". The Charles II was renamed the Fancy, and a course to Madagascar plotted. From that moment, Avery's life changed: he became a pirate.

Although he was new to the game, no prize was too great for Avery's ambition. In September 1695 he captured the Fateh Muhammed, owned by Abdul Ghafur of Surat, India's wealthiest merchant. Next, he hijacked the Mogul emperor's Ganj-i Sawai, and raided its "bottomless Sea of Riches" — rubies, sapphires, emeralds, diamonds and gold ingots. Valued at more than £100 million today, it was the most valuable pirate hoard in history. Overnight, Avery was lauded as the Pirate King.

As Avery and his crew scarpered to New Providence in the Bahamas, turmoil erupted in their wake. The Moguls were incensed, and the East India Company — terrified that trade options were in the lurch — scrambled desperately to disassociate from the attacks. British authorities put a bounty on Avery's head — roughly £120,000 today — sparking the world's first global manhunt.

Within months Avery's pirates had been scattered. One went mad, "having lost all his jewells upon a wager". Another was eaten by a shark. Some relocated to Carolina, others to Pennsylvania. Five were hanged at Execution Dock in Wapping. Avery was last recorded in June 1696, in Dunfanaghy, Ireland. After this — just two years after turning to piracy — he vanished, never to be heard of again. For more than 300 years it has been "the most puzzling cold case in pirate history", Avery's post-1696 story lost in the mists of time.

The Pirate King
The Strange Adventures of Henry Avery and the Birth of the Golden Age of Piracy
by Sean Kingsley and Rex Cowan

Pegasus, 288pp; £22

Until now. Batten down the hatches because the super-sleuth authors of *The Pirate King* claim to have solved the mystery. Rex Cowan, a shipwreck hunter, and Sean Kingsley, a marine archaeologist, have new evidence and a daring theory.

The key document is a letter, which was discovered by chance in 1978 by Cowan's late wife, Zélide. It was sent by "Avery the Pirate" from Falmouth and addressed to the Rev James Richardson in London. Thrillingly, it is dated December 27, 1700 — four years after Avery was last recorded. What's more, it is embedded with secret code: "I am not the least concerned for Tank 29 f B26 being out of the T9211597."

This evidence, Cowan and Kingsley argue, proves an extraordinary new theory. After buying a royal pardon, Avery began a second career in espionage, counting Daniel Defoe and the Archbishop of Canterbury as his fellow spies.

With this startling thesis, *The Pirate King* presents a double biography, tracing the parallel lives of Avery and Defoe with alternating chapters. Both were born in about 1660 and both lost their mothers at a young age. Both were victims of injustice. Avery, growing up in Devon, inherited a "competent Estate" and much "Grandeur and Wealth". Yet after a period spent working at sea, he returned to find his birthright vanished, his inheritance stolen and his beloved run off with an innkeeper.

Avery hijacked the Mogul emperor's ship, seizing sapphires, emeralds and rubies

Meanwhile, Defoe grew up in London (he was born Foe, but added the "De" for extra aristo sparkle). Growing up a Dissenter, he felt the sting of religious intolerance and bore the brunt of life as an outsider. Being wronged in youth, the authors argue, drove both men to seek revenge: "Rage burnt in both their souls. Each yearned to make their mark on the world." As Avery caused havoc on the seas, angsty young Defoe was tormented by what he described as "legions of strong lusts within" and nights plagued by visions of "fine beautiful ladies in bed with him".

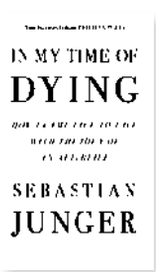
We follow his wheeler-dealer merchant career: failed investments, dodging debt collectors and being sued for fraud by his mother-in-law. We join him behind bars at Newgate prison. "My very Blood chills at the mention of its Name," he wrote, with "the hellish Noise, the Roaring, Swearing and Clamour, the

My journey to the afterlife — and back again

A war correspondent ponders his near-death experience — do we ever really die? By Janice Turner

Death has filled the books of Sebastian Junger. Dramatic, romantic, epic and even glamorous death. The loss of combatants in foreign conflicts, the Boston Strangler's victims, the Massachusetts fishermen drowned in *The Perfect Storm*, his photojournalist friend and collaborator Tim Hetherington killed while reporting from Libya. Death has often flirted with Junger himself: bullets have flicked by his head, guerrillas have threatened his execution, he has ascended high trees holding chainsaws and nearly drowned in titanic surf.

Yet his near-death experience was banally medical: a grumbly, ignored, middle-age stomach ache that erupted into a burst pancreatic artery. Agony, ambulance, hospital, baffled then battling doctors, massive blood loss, Junger's trembling body shutting down ... then, as he felt himself hover over a terrifying black pit, "I became aware of something else: my father". Eight years dead, this physicist and atheist reassured his dying son. "It's OK, there's nothing to be scared of," he seemed to be saying. "Don't fight it. I'll take care of you."



In My Time of Dying
How I Came Face to Face with the Idea of an Afterlife
by Sebastian Junger

4th Estate, 176pp; £16.99

But like an adventurer from an uncharted land, Junger returned to the living and tried to make sense of his encounter. It sounds cruel to say this, given that Junger was 58 with two young daughters, but I'm glad it happened to him. Few other writers have such passion for granular detail, intellectual heft and boundless curiosity that if they delve into the semi-supernatural, woo-woo world of near-death experience, you will follow them eagerly and trust what they find.

As always, Junger is hungry to know everything about everything. Unsatisfied with understanding how his pancreas worked — then spectacularly didn't — or the second-by-second procedures surgeons followed to save him, he scrolls back through history to note the first doctor to insert a catheter into a heart. Junger owes his life to these long-dead pioneers, along with tiny freaks of fate: for example, he had just cleared the hedgerow on the narrow lane to his rural Massachusetts home, which meant paramedics could reach him.

Previous close calls had filled him with adrenaline and relief, then later plummeted him into depression, but here he is confronting death for the first time on its terms, not his own. Even when well again, this insouciant reporter who plunged into Afghan battlefields suddenly became scared to take a flight or a hike for fear he would be too far from aid.

To recover, he needed to look more deeply at what he had seen. But how can a man who revels in knowable, measurable disciplines — navigation, oceanography, medicine, warcraft — address the unknowable? Junger, *right*, scoured research on near-death experiences to find that throughout history and across cultures, from hunter-gatherers to western city dwellers, people who "die" see much the same thing.

They report floating over their own bodies, feeling incorporeally part of the universe; they resist the pull towards the light in a tunnel; they are reassured by dead relatives; some even wake with knowledge they couldn't possibly have, like details of conversations conducted in other rooms or where a nurse put an unconscious man's dentures. Most feel permeated by love, peace and calm.

We learn of a man hit on the head by a tree who needed a hole cut in his skull to ease pressure. This also allowed doctors to see the electrical activity of his dying brain: gamma waves associated with memory retrieval, intense concentration and dreaming.

Impending death also causes the hippocampus to release a substance like ketamine to calm us through our possibly traumatic final moments.

But knowing that oxygen starvation produces euphoric hallucinations still does not explain why so many people see a loved one or even whole family reunions. Stretching now far beyond science's furthest boundaries, Junger can only speculate whether there is a floating, subatomic God particle that could be responsible for consciousness or, he asks, "given that existence itself is almost infinitely unlikely, what if there was some kind of post-death existence?" It is fascinating to read a clear-eyed rationalist's case for an afterlife.

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Stench and Nastiness." It was in his later years that Defoe became entangled in espionage, alongside Avery, in a blur of coded letters and invisible ink.

A remarkable story, but is it true? The 1700 letter is an interesting piece of evidence. Yet from this, Cowan and Kingsley spin out a detailed narrative of Avery's later life: that he stood in the crowd in Wapping in 1696, watching his fellow pirates hanged; that he observed Defoe in the stocks at Cornhill in 1703. How they know this is unclear apart from a nod to other "unpublished research notes". Without a thorough and forensic interrogation of sources, it's difficult for readers to give the theory a chance. As the authors claim: "Past scammers went to great lengths to fake and sell documents." How — without reassurance from the authors — can we be sure this is an exception?

What's more, *The Pirate King* reads like an olden day story told by an old salt in a dingy pub corner. It is peppered with phrases such as "the meanest pirate ship on the high seas" or "the bad folk of New Providence were as rotten as a shipwrecked barrel of apples". Chapter 1 might as well have started: "Are you sitting comfortably?" Some readers will find this endearing. For others, it is a distraction from the detective work at hand.

Nonetheless, Cowan and Kingsley's account of pirate history, woven within a broader narrative of religious tensions, international trade and Anglo-Scottish relations during the Stuart era, is a worthy tale to tell. Avery's story sizzles with drama, and to consider his possible interaction with Defoe is tantalising. Our understanding of the past is written in the sand, and for those who dive deep enough, there are treasures lurking, and sparkling jewels waiting to be uncovered.

Alice Loxton is the author of *Eighteen: A History of Britain in 18 Young Lives*

Although this is a slim book, Junger packs its pages with war memoir and accounts of his father's Jewish forebears in intellectual Vienna; he flashes from Einstein's relativity to the Saharan desert. All the while you glory in the snap and sweep of his muscular prose. His near-death experience has left Junger not, as per the cliché, with a greater appreciation of life, but a respect for how death's shadow enhances human experience: without it, there would be no need for "focus or courage or choice". I'm reminded of Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*, filled with torpor and despair on discovering he cannot die.

His dead father reassured him: 'It's OK, there's nothing to be scared of'

For all Junger's firework display of ideas, this is an oddly reassuring book, especially for those lacking the consolation of religious belief. His father, although a scientist, still believed in souls "and that each soul briefly exists as its own entity, like a wave on the ocean, and that when we die our souls are subsumed back into the soulmatter of the universe like waves are subsumed back into the ocean". I'll buy that, especially if our final moments — whether precipitated by shrapnel or old age — are attended by a loved one guiding us back to that eternal sea.

Swashbucklers, monsters and death by pancake

This month's batch of new paperbacks features stylish literary fiction, rugby heroes and Richard Osman

Fiction

The Bee Sting by Paul Murray *Penguin £9.99*
"One of the finest — and funniest — novels of 2023" said our chief critic Johanna Thomas-Corr of this Booker-shortlisted tale of a troubled Irish family. With his car dealership on the brink of collapse, Dickie Barnes runs away to the woods to build an apocalypse-proof bunker, while his wife Imelda manically eBays the family possessions. *The Bee Sting* has much in common with the American family sagas of Jonathan Franzen, in which misfortune is piled on misfortune. As Imelda observes: "Life just came at you like a gang of lads getting out of a van."

Prophet Song by Paul Lynch *Oneworld £9.99*
Last year's Booker winner imagines a near-future Ireland as it is gradually transformed into a police state, then descends into civil war. There are moments of beauty and some brilliantly fast-paced scenes, but ultimately it reads more like a polemic than a novel, "an exercise", according to reviewer Laura Hackett, "in totalitarianism-by-numbers".

Yellowface by Rebecca F Kuang *Borough £9.99*
The hotshot young author Rebecca Kuang, with a couple of fantasy bestsellers under her belt, killed herself off (or rather, a fictional stand-in) in the first 20 pages of her debut literary novel. When the beautiful Chinese-American novelist Athena Liu chokes to death on a pancake, her dowdy friend June Hayward decides to nick Liu's latest fiction manuscript and pass it off as her own. Will she get away with it? This is a wicked little satire of publishing, racial politics and internet culture.

Above: Maud Ventura and Rebecca F Kuang with Sean Bean as Sharpe. Below: Jason Robinson lifting the 2003 World Cup trophy

Sharpe's Command by Bernard Cornwell *HarperCollins £9.99*
It is the Peninsular War, 1812, and Major Richard Sharpe is sent into hostile territory. He hatches a plan with a flashy Spaniard to blow up a strategic bridge, but begins to suspect that his ally has secret dealings with the French. This is Bernard Cornwell's 23rd Sharpe novel and his "ability to breathe life into military history is never in doubt," our reviewer Antonia Senior wrote.

The Last Devil to Die by Richard Osman *Penguin £9.99*
It's business as usual for the Thursday Murder Club ("*The Famous Five* with older people", as our reviewer Jenny Colgan memorably put it) in this fourth instalment of the tall telly man Richard Osman's popular retirement village-set detective series. This time Elizabeth, Ibrahim, Joyce and Ron must crack the murder of an antiques dealer and try to track down a missing package of dope. "The real strength of these books is that they are genuinely funny," Colgan wrote.

Wolves of Winter by Dan Jones *Head of Zeus £9.99*
This is the sequel to the medieval historian Dan Jones's debut novel, *Essex Dogs*, set in the early part of the Hundred Years' War. "Lively, usually violent action and punchy dialogue are underpinned by the author's knowledge of the period as his band of warriors is plunged into the 11-month siege of Calais, where they have plenty of time to question the meaning of the war," Nick Rennison wrote.

My Husband by Maud Ventura *Penguin £9.99*
This unsettling novel is narrated by a 40-year-old Frenchwoman who is obsessed with her husband. Over a week her efforts to appear nonchalant, and to punish him for minor indiscretions, become more neurotic and unnerving. "Ventura's breathless prose transforms a mundane week into gripping reading," Laura Hackett said.

Non-fiction

Ultra-Processed People: Why Do We All Eat Stuff That Isn't Food ... and Why Can't We Stop? by Chris van Tulleken *Cornerstone £10.99*
Chris van Tulleken made ultra-processed food a household term with his powerful and controversial investigation into the way our food is made. UPF is loosely defined as food that cannot be made outside a factory. Van Tulleken, a television presenter, scientist and doctor specialising in infectious diseases, believes such food is a key driver of the obesity crisis. This forcefully argued book will make you rethink what you are putting on your plate.

Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art and Life & Sudden Death by Laura Cumming *Vintage £12.99*
One morning in October 1654, a gunpowder explosion shook the Dutch city of Delft. Among the fatalities was the painter Carel Fabritius, 32, who left behind his beguiling masterpiece *The Goldfinch* and a life more mysterious than understood. Laura Cumming, the Observer's art critic, twists Fabritius's story with that of her own father, a painter who also died young, and the splashier canvas of the golden age of Dutch painting. It's beautifully done.

Monsters: What Do We Do with Great Art by Bad People? by Claire Dederer *Sceptre £10.99*
This is a book about a very modern dilemma: can you love the films of Roman Polanski or the paintings of Picasso, art created by bad men? Perhaps you're already cringing at the moral superiority but stop: American critic Claire Dederer is no virtue-signaller. Instead, in witty and conversational style, she probes her own inconsistent passions. "We can't seem to turn off the love," she says.

This Is Not America: Why We Need a British Conversation About Race by Tomiwa Owolade *Atlantic £10.99*
The young writer and occasional Times contributor Tomiwa Owolade is a voice of sanity and wisdom in the furious storms of our battles over race. In this thoughtful polemic he argues that the dominance of American culture wars has distorted British views on race. Why, for instance, do British students protest in favour of "Bipoc" — black, indigenous people of colour?

The Boys of Winter by Lawrence Dallaglio and Owen Slot *Blink, £10.99*
The Times chief sports writer, Owen Slot, and the former England international Lawrence Dallaglio track down the men who won the Rugby World Cup in 2003. Some, like Dallaglio, are still in the public eye. Others, gratefully in most cases, have shunned the limelight since their triumph. Fans will relish catching up with them.

books

Lovers on the run in Shanghai

The latest Joseph Kanon, plus a kidnap plot in 1990s Athens. By James Owen

Book of the month

Shanghai by Joseph Kanon *Simon & Schuster, 304pp; £20*

Berlin, 1938. As the Nazis close in on his resistance group, and on Jews like him, Daniel Lohr takes a ship for China. In his pocket is a package for his uncle, who runs a nightclub in Shanghai, now under Japan's control. On board, Daniel's eye is caught by another refugee, Leah Auerbach, and the two embark on an affair. But someone else has noticed the pair: Colonel Yamada of the Kempeitai, the Japanese secret police.

Leah is realistic about what she will have to do to survive in Shanghai. Daniel finds his feet quickly amid the taxi dancers, White Russians, gamblers and gangs with whom his uncle is embroiled, but the city is on the verge of catastrophe. He hopes to finesse a way out for himself and Leah, but Yamada is waiting for them all in the shadows.

Joseph Kanon's novels of wartime crime and espionage inhabit a perfectly evoked intersection between noir and Greeneland. *Shanghai* is spiced with his customary characters living on the edge and *Casablanca*-like dialogue — "You can do anything you want here. Except leave" — although the tone of elegiac melancholy undercuts the urgency necessary for real tension. Even so, Kanon's cabaret is always a pleasure.

Second Skin by Dugald Bruce-Lockhart *Muswell, 320pp; £16.99*

Second Skin picks up the story five years on from Dugald Bruce-Lockhart's debut, *The Lizard* (2020), in which a callow British student, Alistair Haston, stumbles on a murder cult in Greece. It's now the 1990s and Alistair hotfoots it to Athens after being told his old flame Amara has been in a car crash with her son, Max, who may be his.

He discovers he has been hoaxed, but is approached by MI6 — Bruce-Lockhart's family have a long connection with the intelligence services — to infiltrate a mafia plot to kidnap Max and steal Amara's vast inheritance. Her husband, Xander, a feckless musician, may be involved. Alistair is increasingly unsure, however, who is pulling the strings and who can be trusted, not least because there is an old adversary lurking in wait. Alistair's dithering means the plot takes time to cut to the chase, but once it does there is a pleasingly brutal denouement at a remote villa in the mountains of Cyprus. Break out the retsina.

thrillers

To order copies go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935

The Venus of Salò by Ben Pastor *Bitter Lemon, 416pp; £9.99*

In the latest of Ben Pastor's series of cases for the Wehrmacht officer Martin Bora, a Titian painting of Venus goes missing in 1944 as the reckoning nears for the Germans in Italy. Bora is called to the headquarters of Mussolini's rump regime at Salò, on Lake Garda. He is charged with finding the painting and flushing out a partisan leader in the area.

The first complication is a spate of deaths locally of beautiful women with a possible link to the *Venus*: murders staged as suicides. The second is Bora's growing attraction to the daughter of the picture's owner, and the third a Gestapo investigation into Bora's knowledge of the July attempt on Hitler's life. Pastor's plots burn slow, but satisfaction comes from psychological acuity and a refusal to tie ends up too neatly.

They Thought I Was Dead by Peter James *Macmillan, 482pp; £22*

Dedicated readers of Peter James's wildly successful Roy Grace novels will know about the mysterious disappearance of his hero's first wife, Sandy. The resolution of the clues scattered by James about what happened to her has been told before from the policeman's point of view. This time, the events leading up to Sandy's disappearance are recounted by the devious woman herself.

In hock to an Albanian debt collector, she does a flit from her and Roy's home in Brighton. She then hooks up with a Greek cop who may not be who he says, then has to worry about her son. More twists are in store. Fast and nefarious, this will keep fans of the series happy.

The Stolen Coast by Dwyer Murphy *Bedford Square, 256pp; £9.99*

If F Scott Fitzgerald wrote a thriller, it would be damned near to *The Stolen Coast*. In the salty Massachusetts settlement of Onset, Jack Betancourt runs a dodgy family business, hiding those out on the lam. Then back into his life comes an old flame. She needs someone to help her to steal a fortune in rough diamonds from Frank Paulson, a partner at the New York law firm where she works. Paulson has a holiday home near Cape Cod, and the novel's appeal is its spare evocation of the region, all windblown dunes and the right kind of deck shoe. Inevitably, the plan goes awry, there's no honour among thieves and Jack's at risk of becoming his own client.

Dwight Murphy knows his onions — he heads up the popular CrimeReads website — but the novel is rather too knowing to catch fiercely alight.

Rereading Earthly Powers by Anthony Burgess

Forget A Clockwork Orange: Burgess's brainy bonkbuster is his masterpiece. By Mark Sanderson

"It was the afternoon of my eighty-first birthday, and I was in bed with my catamite when Ali announced that the archbishop had come to see me." The memorable opening line of *Earthly Powers* by Anthony Burgess, published in 1980, immediately announces its stock in trade: gay sex and religion.

The unreliable narrator of this bonkbuster with brains is Kenneth Marchal Toomey, a bad but enormously successful novelist — "I have lost none of my old cunning in the contrivance of what is known as *an arresting opening*." No prizes for guessing which opening interests him and his friends the most. An evening spent among drunken sailors in Monaco ends — gladly, badly and sadly — in a back alley.

> "The thin moon emerged to show Dick, sober and vigorous, holding the doubled-up sailor up with strong clasping arms round his middle. The sailor's trousers were right down, hobbling his ankles. Dick was buggering away deep and cheerfully in brutal Norman Douglas style..."

I first read *Earthly Powers* in 1981, a closeted gay teenager soon to read English at the University of Manchester (Burgess's alma mater). There weren't many novels narrated by openly gay men at the fag end of the 1970s so *Earthly Powers* proved to be an education in more ways than one: how could an octogenarian be getting so much sex when I wasn't getting any?

It was said that Toomey's story was based on the colourful life of W Somerset Maugham. Forty years on, the sexual antics no longer make me blush, but are still highly amusing. Camp humour never goes out of style. The way the heterosexual Burgess describes man-on-man rumpy-pumpy with gusto, accuracy and lack of condemnation is remarkable.

Earthly Powers is really about the man who wrote it. A Roman Catholic like his protagonist, Burgess wrestles with the concepts of faith, duty, home and truth. Toomey and Burgess have travelled a lot and written a lot. Toomey, like his creator, will turn his hand to any literary form anywhere: novels, stories, plays, libretti and film scripts. The result is a globe-trotting history of the 20th century — up to 1971 — and a name-dropping guide to its literature. Everyone is here: Henry James, Rainer Maria Rilke, Eden Phillpotts, Edward Thomas, James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway. Pastiche and parody play a key role in the performance. Here's a limerick, supposedly by the bitchy writer Norman Douglas, about the lovelorn Kenneth:

A notorious bugger called Toomey
Has a heart that's excessively roomy.
For shagging and shoving
He substitutes loving.
Prognosis: exceedingly gloomy.

The unflattering portrayal of Toomey's gold-digging lovers — including drunken Geoffrey, who wants to write his biography, and ranting Ralph, who becomes a leading exponent of black studies — might raise eyebrows today, but there is no denying *Earthly Powers* was a trail-blazing work. Perhaps this explains why William Golding's tale of sodomy on the high seas, *Rites of Passage*, was awarded the 1980 Booker prize instead. Burgess, *right*, didn't help his cause by saying he would attend the ceremony only if the judges told him beforehand that he had won. Geoffrey: "Oh Jesus bloody Belial Beelzebub, Lord of the Open Flies. Where's your bloody sense of bloody humour?"

The plot is difficult to describe without spoilers. Toomey's life story explores the effect that fate or divine intervention may have on history. In Nazi Berlin, for example, Toomey unthinkingly saves the life of Heinrich Himmler. The identity of the would-be assassin is a shock. The grand set pieces include an exorcism in Malaya — "from the boy's body came a succession of frightful odours — rotting meat, overripe durian, stopped-up drains" — a requiem mass in Chicago, a possible miracle in New York and a martyrdom in Africa. And, of course, many confessions.

Forty years on, the sexual antics no longer make me blush, but are still highly amusing

Burgess seems to know everything about everything. Polyglottal puns and pedantry jostle with scabrous wit, hard-won wisdom and flash-bulb brilliance: "I approached the tree, and it at once broke and flashed and whirred into a hundredfold of galah birds, whitebellied, orangecrested, their wings the hue of the tearose." Deeply impressed, I sent a fan letter to Burgess. There was no reply.

It would be a pity if he were to be remembered only as the author of *A Clockwork Orange* (the only one of his 33 novels likely to be in Waterstones), the sporter of an outrageous comb-over or the hack who reviewed his own novel, *Inside Mr Enderby*, for The Yorkshire Post (as "Joseph Kell").

Toomey suggests that art is creation, sin destruction and writing a labour of love. *Earthly Powers*, both sacred and profane, represents Burgess at his finest. It may not achieve divine perfection — old men, apart from the Good Lord, do tend to go on a bit — but it is his one true masterpiece.

bestsellers

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Rain-lashed Rishi Sunak might have been modelling the drowned rat look this week, but the books desk is having summery thoughts. We're thinking about which novel will be the beach read of 2024.

Could it be the era-hopping rom-com, *The Ministry of Time*? ("I loved its combination of extreme whimsy, high seriousness and cool understatement," our reviewer wrote.) Amor Towles's short stories, *Table for Two*? ("If you could take only one book on holiday this summer, you couldn't ask for a better literary capsule wardrobe.") And *You Are Here* captures beautifully the season's spirit: "David Nicholls is superb at evoking crap British holidays: clingfilmed sandwiches, bleachy pubs, no-fly-tipping signs in areas of outstanding natural beauty."

Paperback Fiction

1 (1) **The Bee Sting** Paul Murray *Penguin £9.99*
2 (3) **The Housekeepers** Alex Hay *Headline £9.99*
3 (2) **The Last Devil to Die** Richard Osman *Penguin £9.99*
4 (4) **Yellowface** Rebecca F Kuang *Borough £9.99*
5 (6) **Butter** Asako Yuzuki *4th Estate £14.99*
6 (5) **The Ferryman** Justin Cronin *Orion £9.99*
7 (7) **Prophet Song** Paul Lynch *Oneworld £9.99*
8 (8) **Someone Else's Shoes** Jojo Moyes *Penguin £9.99*
9 (10) **A Court of Thorns and Roses** Sarah J Maas *Bloomsbury £8.99*
10 (9) **Fourth Wing** Rebecca Yarros *Piatkus £9.99*

Hardback Fiction

1 (new) **The Ministry of Time** Kaliane Bradley *Sceptre £16.99*
2 (1) **You Are Here** David Nicholls *Hodder & Stoughton £20*
3 (new) **Table for Two** Amor Towles *Hutchinson Heinemann £18.99*
4 (7) **Funny Story** Emily Henry *Viking £18.99*
5 (new) **All Fours** Miranda July *Canongate £20*
6 (9) **Iron Flame** Rebecca Yarros *Piatkus £22*
7 (5) **They Thought I Was Dead: Sandy's Story** Peter James *Macmillan £22*
8 (–) **Dragon Rider** Taran Matharu *HarperVoyager £16.99*
9 (6) **The Instruments of Darkness** John Connolly *Hodder & Stoughton £22*
10 (4) **The Puzzle Wood** Rosie Andrews *Raven £16.99*

Paperback Non-fiction

1 (1) **Ultra-Processed People** Chris van Tulleken *Cornerstone £10.99*
2 (2) **Abroad in Japan** Chris Broad *Transworld £10.99*
3 (3) **How They Broke Britain** James O'Brien *WH Allen £10.99*
4 (6) **Murdle** GT Karber *Souvenir £14.99*
5 (4) **Great-Uncle Harry: A Tale of War and Empire** Michael Palin *Penguin £10.99*
6 (5) **BBC Proms 2024** *BBC Proms £9.99*
7 (9) **The Wager** David Grann *Simon & Schuster £10.99*
8 (8) **How Westminster Works ... and Why It Doesn't** Ian Dunt *Weidenfeld & Nicolson £10.99*
9 (new) **The Full English** Stuart Maconie *HarperNorth £10.99*
10 (7) **Murdle: Even More Killer Puzzles** GT Karber *Souvenir £14.99*

Hardback Non-fiction

1 (2) **How to Eat 30 Plants a Week** Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall *Bloomsbury £25*
2 (new) **Down with the System** Serj Tankian *Headline £25*
3 (new) **The Invisible Doctrine: The Secret History of Neoliberalism** George Monbiot & Peter Hutchison *Allen Lane £12.99*
4 (4) **Bored of Lunch Healthy Air Fryer: 30 Minute Meals** Nathan Anthony *Ebury £20*
5 (7) **The Garden Against Time** Olivia Laing *Picador £20*
6 (1) **So Good** Emily English *Seven Dials £25*
7 (new) **Rebel Girl: My Life as a Feminist Punk** Kathleen Hanna *William Collins £20*
8 (5) **Knife** Salman Rushdie *Jonathan Cape £20*
9 (3) **Less: Stop Buying So Much Rubbish** Patrick Grant *William Collins £22*
10 (–) **Nuclear War: A Scenario** Annie Jacobsen *Torva £20*

Waterstones

THE NUMBER IN PARENTHESES REPRESENTS CHART POSITIONS LAST WEEK. DATA SUPPLIED BY AND COPYRIGHT TO NIELSEN BOOKSCAN FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 18

children's book of the week

Night-time seen through a cat's eyes. by Lucy Bannerman

"I have long felt that a child raised without art is as surely deprived as a child raised without love." Dahlov Ipcar was raised with lots of both. The American artist and illustrator has been described as her parents' "greatest creative experiment".

She was the daughter of William and Marguerite Zorach, who were a big deal in the American modernist art scene in the early 20th century. She had no formal training and did not go to art school, but was exposed from an early age to avant-garde movements such as cubism and fauvism by hanging around the bohemian studios of her parents and their friends. She became the first woman to have a solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, in 1939, when she was 21. She went on to write and illustrate more than 30 children's books and was still painting in her farmhouse in Maine, in the studio overlooking the cowbarn, until her nineties. She died in 2017, aged 99.

The Cat at Night is one of her best-loved books and a gorgeous new

The Cat at Night
by Dahlov Ipcar (1+)
Pushkin, 52pp; £12.99

hardback edition is now available. The story follows a farm cat on his night adventures, taking a simple idea and using it to very clever effect.

The scene opens in full colour, with the farmer putting out the cat and going to bed, before we're plunged into darkness, seeing only the dark silhouettes of the farm at night-time. However, flip the page and the same scene is flicked back into vivid, folksy colour. The reader can now see what the cat sees.

"The cat can see at night. The sky is dark and full of stars but everything else is like day to him." Suddenly, we can see the dog sleeping in the dog house and the doves in the dovecote and the flowers in the border. Every page turn feels like flicking on a light switch.

With each scene alternating from dark to light, the book develops a delightful rhythm, inviting children to guess what the cat is seeing, as he explores the nearby fields and joins the other cats prowling around town. "Sometimes they fight with each other, and sometimes they sing cat songs together — mournful, sweet, wailing songs — the kind only cats like." An underappreciated classic.

T AUDIO

How to call an election!

It's happened. Rishi Sunak has announced the General Election for July 4. The political masterminds Peter Mandelson, Polly Mackenzie and Daniel Finkelstein join Matt for an emergency episode to discuss the announcement.

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Apple Podcast listener review

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, FUNDAYS

ANGELA SCANLON SATURDAY & SUNDAY 7AM-10AM
LEIGH FRANCIS SATURDAY 10AM-1PM
TOM ALLEN SUNDAY 10AM-1PM
DICK & DOM SATURDAY & SUNDAY 1PM-4PM

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Critic's choice

The Outlaws

Thu, BBC1, 9pm

This crime caper thriller wasn't a surprise hit in 2021 for nothing. As series three arrives — continuing to follow the motley group of small-time offenders doing community service — there is still the quality of the cast. Back in supporting roles are Richard E Grant, Claes Bang and eventually Christopher Walken, no less. Meanwhile, if it's not Darren Boyd stealing scenes as the (newly Zen) blowhard John, it's the wannabe police officer played by Jessica Gunning, who is currently hitting new levels of fame for her Martha in *Baby Reindeer*.

There is also the sharpness of Stephen Merchant's jokes ("it's about as convincing as a Melania Trump orgasm") — in fact, every scene featuring Merchant, as the hapless loser Greg, provides laughs. Which tends to come as a relief given the way things keep swinging into darker gangster territory.

There's an edge of rudeness here, too, which series three doesn't take long to get to: Eleanor Tomlinson's influencer Gabby is enjoying her newly rampant libido in what we'll call scenes of a risqué nature.

James Jackson

The cast of The Outlaws

Best of the rest

D-Day at 80
Sat/Mon, various channels
Among many D-Day programmes in the fortnight ahead, tonight's are a repeat of *The Last Heroes* from 2013 (BBC4, 8pm) and *D-Day: Secrets of the Frontline Heroes* (C4, 8.20pm), honouring the film-makers who risked their lives. On Monday, *D-Day 80: We Were There* (BBC2, 9pm) hears from surviving veterans.

Fiennes: Return to the Wild
Sun, Nat Geographic, 8pm
Joseph Fiennes and his cousin Ranulph journey through the wilds of Canada, Ran's reflections about age and his recollections of previous trips being the main draw.

Theresa May: The Accidental Prime Minister
Mon, ITV1, 10.25pm
From Brexit negotiations to an ill-fated election to a tearful resignation: the inside story of May's three years as prime minister, with May herself being interviewed hoping to set the record straight.

Springwatch
Mon-Wed, BBC2, 8pm
Once again it's based at RSPB Arne in Dorset, with Iolo Williams roving wider to look for dormice and nightjars.

Eric
Thu, Netflix
Drama of the week is a gripping, original six-parter in which Benedict Cumberbatch, *left*, plays an acerbic New York puppeteer reeling in torment after his nine-year-old son goes missing. The question of what happened keeps you guessing, while deeper themes emerge amid the emotional wreckage. JJ

The best films

Close (12)
Today, BBC4, 9pm
Two boys are best friends in a blissful Belgian countryside, until they enter the brutality of the playground. A heart-wrenching drama ensues.

Jack Reacher (15)
Today, Film4, 9pm
If Tom Cruise seems miscast as the hulking tough guy, this is still an entertaining ride, helped by Werner Herzog's villain.

Saving Private Ryan (15)
Today, C4, 9.25pm
A way to mark the upcoming 80th anniversary of D-Day is to revisit Steven Spielberg's war epic, starring Tom Hanks, *below*, and opening with that harrowing depiction of the beach landings.

Tenet (12)
Sun, BBC2, 10pm
Some see Christopher Nolan's time-bending CIA action thriller as a superbly inventive spectacle; others as a head-scramble too far. JJ

Radio choice

Flixborough 74

Tue, Radio 4, 2.15pm

Saturday June 1, 1974 was an ordinary day in the Lincolnshire village of Flixborough. As one woman recalls, children were out playing in the summer sun and the wrestling was on the telly. The peace was shattered by the sound of an enormous explosion, so loud our witness remembers instantly dropping the bottle of milk she was holding. The "cosmic boom" sounded like it came "from another dimension".

Helen Cross's drama documentary takes us right to the heart of the terrible events at the Nypro chemical plant, where fires burnt for ten days, fields were scorched, 200 homes were destroyed and 28 people were killed. As well as giving a detailed run-down of what happened and why, dramatic reconstructions allow us to eavesdrop imaginatively on happy, normal lives which were changed for ever.

Much of it is heartbreaking, such as the story of the man who only worked at the plant so the more flexible working hours would allow him to bathe his young children. It was fortunate that the explosion occurred on a Saturday, when there were comparatively few workers at the plant. But as mercies go, that is a pretty small one.

Ben Dowell

Podcast choice

Past Present Future: The History of Bad Ideas
The idea of this new series from the Cambridge politics professor David Runciman (and it is a very good idea) is to take bad ideas seriously. Each episode takes on one bad idea with the help of a guest: the historian Christopher Clark on antisemitism, the geneticist Adam Rutherford on eugenics. It's gripping. James Marriott

T NEWSLETTERS

Photographer: Tim Verhallen

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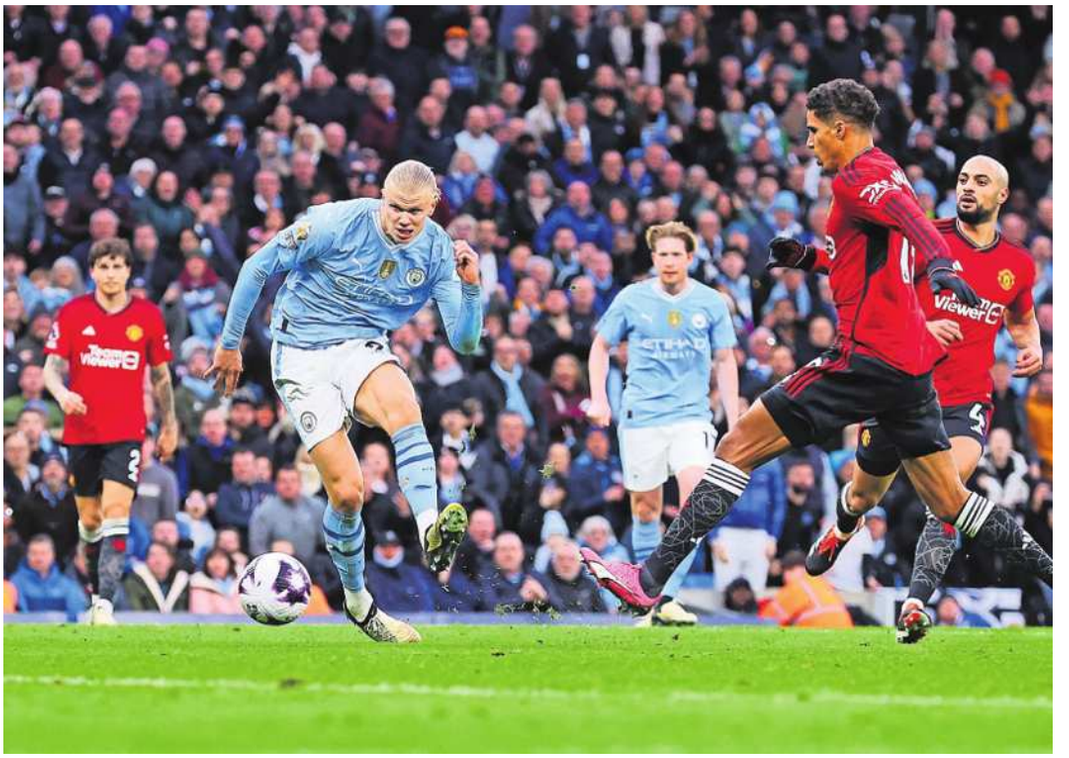
Saturday 25 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
FA Cup Final

ITV1, 1.45pm/BBC1, 1.50pm

The FA Cup doesn't do replays from the first round proper any more, but this final is one of sorts — a rematch of the climax to last season as Manchester City again take on Manchester United. City fans may feel that the term "arch-rivals" is slightly pushing it these days. Pep Guardiola's men have been unstoppable in domestic football, recording their fourth Premier League title in a row last weekend and targeting a back-to-back double. City dominated the final last year and the 2-1 result flattered United. The men in red have been struggling under various managers lately and Erik ten Hag will know that their eighth-place finish in the Premier League this season is not good enough for the club's supporters or new co-owner, Jim Ratcliffe. But if the Dutchman's side defy form and cause an upset against City today, they would at least qualify for the 2024-25 Europa League. This is a one-off game, after all, and anything can happen, with United hoping for the return of some of their injured players and expectations high that their patchwork defence will be reinforced by Raphael Varane. As always, viewers have a choice of channels on which to watch the match — on BBC1, Gary Lineker hosts proceedings, with Wayne Rooney and Micah Richards on punditry detail and commentary from Guy Mowbray and Alan Shearer, while Mark Pougatch is the master of ceremonies on ITV1, with analysis from Roy Keane, Joleon Lescott and Ian Wright and commentary from Sam Matterface, Lee Dixon and Ally McCoist. Ben Dowell



Doctor Who

BBC1, 6.50pm

Russell T Davies, a proud Swansea man, delivers a Welsh folk horror episode this week, with the Tardis landing in the principality for *73 Yards*, the fourth episode of the new series. As Ncuti Gatwa's Time Lord arrives on the coast he looks at the waves below and says: "It never ends, the war between the land and the sea." There are more ominous warnings in the local village from Siân Phillips's wise woman as she speaks of the "Spiteful One" who "walks through the gaps". A scroll in the village bearing the words "Rest In Peace, Mad Jack" doesn't help the mood either. **BD**

D-Day: Secrets of the Frontline Heroes

Channel 4, 8.20pm

Thanks to the thousands of photos and hundreds of hours of footage that made it out of Normandy, the actions of the D-Day troops are known to the world. But what, one can't help but wonder, became of the film-makers who were able to show the world the scale and nature of the heroism they witnessed? As part of Channel 4's contribution to a raft of broadcasting marking the 80th anniversary of the landings, this programme aims to remedy that with a tribute to their work. **BD**

The 1970s: Those Were The Days

Channel 5, 8.30pm

You don't have to be in your late fifties to get a slight feeling of déjà vu from this programme. Yes, the 1970s is an oft-trawled era for production companies, and there is little in this look back at Choppers and the Space Hopper — or tales of how the populace embraced the credit boom and bought new goods such as the duvet and waterbeds (did we really?) — that won't be familiar. The talking heads include Shaun Ryder, Anneka Rice, Anthea Turner, Wayne Sleep, Courtney Pine, Charlie Higson, Zoe Lyons and Samira Ahmed. **BD**

Rebus

BBC1, 9.25pm

Richard Rankin is proving a dynamic successor to John Hannah and Ken Stott in what continues to be a sharply realised and rather grim telling of the stories and characters created by Ian Rankin (no relation). The whole series is available as a box set, but if you prefer your viewing in instalments this is another involving episode that opens with Rebus talking to his psychotherapist about his feelings towards his ex-wife's wealthy new man. He believes that his daughter may be better off away from him, and given what we have already seen of his world you know what he means. **BD**

Films of the day

Laura (U, 1944)
BBC2, 1.45pm

Featuring the exquisite Gene Tierney, a cocky Vincent Price and a delicious switcheroo halfway through, Otto Preminger's American breakthrough is an immaculate film noir. The Austrian-Hungarian cooks with familiar ingredients in this tale of the murder of Tierney's New York It girl, but adds unexpected seasoning. Dana Andrews seems to be a detective from central casting, yet there's something rum about his fascination with his suspects' amorous adventures. The star is Clifton Webb as a supercilious journalist and creepy suitor of Laura who hogs the film's best lines. "Laura considered me the wisest, wittiest, most interesting man she'd ever met," he drawls. "I was in complete accord with her on that point." (88min) **Ed Potton**

Close (12, 2022)
BBC4, 9pm

This beautiful, deeply moving Belgian melodrama is structured around a brutal event that occurs 42 minutes in. To reveal its nature would be to neutralise its impact, but it's enough to say that this is a film about the end of boyhood and the tragedy of the hormone-addled era, when play-fighting, wild imaginings and easy physical intimacy is replaced with mobile phones, macho posturing and casual homophobia. Léo (Eden Dambrine) and Rémi (Gustav De Waele), *above*, play besties whose pre-teen bliss is halted when they start high school. They are pilloried for their closeness and Léo reacts by pushing Rémi away and hanging with the school jocks. The 42-minute mark strikes and the film is from then on suffused with unutterable sadness. (104min) **Kevin Maher**

Catch up

99
Prime Video

What does the three-part docuseries bring to the well-told story of Manchester United's treble-winning season of 1998-99? For starters there are interviews with most of the key players — Andy Cole, Peter Schmeichel, Teddy Sheringham, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and, yes, David Beckham, *right with Sheringham*, among them — along with Alex Ferguson. Nothing that new there, though. It also gives the context of, as Gary Neville puts it, "the history of the club, what we stood for". Or, rather, how the 1999 team exhibited the United spirit that goes back to the Matt Busby era. But what is fresh is how the "personal stories will give more depth than just a retrospective documentary about a good football team". That team really did have something about it, and the dramas of those victories still thrill. **James Jackson**

Regional programmes

● **BBC One Wales As BBC One except: 4.00pm** Escape to the Country (r) **4.30-5.00** Weatherman Walking (r) **10.20** Bang **11.10 FILM The Full Monty (1997) 12.35am FILM Having You (2013) 2.10-2.15** Weather for the Week Ahead

● **BBC Two Wales As BBC Two except: 5.00pm** A to Z of TV Gardening (r) **5.10** The Yorkshire Dales (r) **5.40** Wynne at the Deep End (r) **6.10** Carol Vorderman: Flying Engineer. The presenter meets the Airbus workforce at Broughton, Flintshire (r) **7.00-7.30** Iolo: Saving the Land of the Wild. Iolo Williams investigates the decline of wildlife in Wales (r)

● **BBC Two N Ireland As BBC Two except: 5.00pm** Weather Watchers with Barra Best (r) **5.15** Saving Lives at Sea (r) **5.45-8.00** Live The Championship

● **BBC One Scotland As BBC One except: 12.15pm** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **1.15** Money for Nothing (r) **2.00** Live Sportscene Live **5.15-5.45** Bargain Hunt (r) **10.20** Sportscene **11.00 FILM The Full Monty (1997) 12.25am FILM Having You (2013) 2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.05-6.00** BBC News

● **STV As ITV except: 12.50am** Long Lost Family (r) **1.40-6.00** ITV Nightscreen

● **UTV As ITV except: 12.50am-3.00** Nightscreen. Text-based information

● **BBC Scotland Midday-7.00pm** As I Two **7.00** The Seven **7.15** Seven Days **8.00** The Generation Frame (r) **9.00** Your Cheatin' Heart (r) **9.45** Th High Life (r) **10.15** Chewin' the Fat (r) **10.45** Scotland Unsolved **10.55** Rewi 1990s (r) **11.25** Rewind 1990s (r) **11.55-Midnight** Beginning (r)

● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **10.00** Fferm Ffa (r) **10.30** Fferm Ffactor (r) **11.00** Gwl Moc (r) **11.30** Adre (r) **12.00** Ffermio **12.30pm** Garddio a Mwy (r) **1.00** Ar (r) **1.30** Y Sioe Fwyd (r) **2.00** Live Sei Giro d'Italia **4.25** Dros Gymru: Cen Williams, Sir Fôn (r) **4.35** Ras yn Erby Amser (r) **5.05** News a Chwaraeon **5.** C'mon Midffild (r) **6.00** 3 Lle: Georgi Ruth Williams (r) **6.30** Y Siambr (r) **7.** Croeso I Eisteddfod yr Urdd **8.00** Or Men Aloud: Y Sioe (r) **9.00** Seiclo: Gi d'Italia. Highlights of the 14th stage Grand Tour race **9.35** Clwb Rygbi: Ff y PRO14. Highlights of the PRO14 fin Celtic Park **11.25-Midnight** Caryl. Sio Grug fulfils her dream (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Saturday 25

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. With chefs Anna Haugh and Max Halley, and special guest Jack Savoretti **11.30** Simply Nigella (r) **12.00** Football Focus. Alex Scott and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches **1.00pm** BBC News; Weather **1.15** FA Cup: Road To Wembley (r) **1.50** Live Match of the Day: The FA Cup — Manchester City v Manchester United (Kick-off **3.00**). Action from the final at Wembley Stadium, as the rivals meet in the showpiece match for the second successive season. **See Viewing Guide 5.45** Garden Rescue. Transforming an awkward shaped plot (r) **6.30** BBC News **6.40** BBC Regional News; Weather **6.50** Doctor Who. The regulars of a Welsh pub fear that ancient legends are coming to life. **See Viewing Guide**

Doctor Who (6.50pm)

7.35 Michael McIntyre's The Wheel The comedian hosts the game show with guests Michael Ball, Tom Allen, Lulu, Joe Marler, Maisie Smith, Anita Rani and Raj Bisram on hand to help the contestants (r)

8.35 Casualty Teddy and Michael end up besieged in an old house by a man with a crossbow. Facing the crisis head-on seems to help Teddy move forward — but his anger later gets the better of him

9.25 Rebus Under pressure to close their investigation quickly, John and Siobhan manage to track down a witness to the assault on Jimmy McJagger. **See Viewing Guide** (2/6)

10.15 BBC News The latest headlines

10.30 Weather The latest forecast

10.35 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights Manchester City v Manchester United. Jason Mohammad presents action from the final

11.10 RAYE: Radio 1's Big Weekend The Big Weekend festival comes from Stockwood Park in Luton this year for three days of live music, with RAYE taking the Saturday night headline slot on the Main Stage

12.10am Doctor Who: Unleashed. Stefan Powell chats to Millie Gibson and guest star Aneurin Barnard (r) **12.40** Superman & Lois. Clark finds himself in uncharted territory, and Lois makes a new friend **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.25** BBC News

BBC2

6.15am Hey Duggee (r) **6.25** Go Jetters (r) **6.35** Grizzy and the Lemmings (r) **6.45** Boy Girl Dog Cat Mouse Cheese (r) **6.55** Monster Loving Maniacs (r) **7.05** Shaun the Sheep (r) **7.15** Pokémon Horizons (r) **7.35** The Next Step (r) **8.20** Blue Peter (r) **8.50** Newsround **9.00** James Wong and the Malaysian Garden (r) **10.00** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr (r) **11.00** Jay's Yorkshire Workshop (r) **12.00** Nadiya's Summer Feasts (r) **1.00pm** Our Food, Our Family (r) **1.30** The Hairy Bikers (r) **1.45** FILM **Laura (U, 1944)** Mystery with Gene Tierney. **See Film Choice** (b/w) **3.10** Yellowstone (r) **4.10** The Great British Sewing Bee (r) **5.10** Flog It! (r) **6.10** The Morecambe & Wise Show 1970: The Lost Tape (r) **6.55** The Perfect Morecambe & Wise (r)

Gladys Knight at the BBC (9.25pm)

7.25 International T20 Cricket England v Pakistan. All the action from the second match of the four-game series, taking place at Edgbaston

8.25 RHS Chelsea Flower Show Monty Don and Joe Swift look back at the highlights of their week at the horticultural event

9.25 Gladys Knight at the BBC Archive performances by the singer known as the Empress of Soul, featuring *Baby Don't Change Your Mind*, *The Way We Were* and *Help Me Make It Through the Night*

10.25 Later... with Jools Holland The host welcomes Mark Knopfler, Paul Weller, Nadine Shah, Bob Vylan, Katherine Priddy and Rachel Chinouriri (2/6)

11.10 Gladys Knight and the Pips in Concert The first of two concerts recorded at the New London Theatre in 1981 (r)

11.45 Gladys Knight and the Pips in Concert A concert from 1981 (r)

12.20-2.15am FILM **Do the Right Thing (15, 1989)** A pizza parlour is the focus of simmering racial tensions on the hottest day of the summer in a Brooklyn neighbourhood. Drama directed by and starring Spike Lee, with Danny Aiello and Rosie Perez

ITV1

6.00am Love Your Garden (r) **6.30** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh (r) **8.25** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show **9.25** ITV News **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. With guests Jenni Falconer and John McGuinness **11.40** Ainsley's National Trust Cook Off. Chefs Georgina Hayden and Joseph Denison Carey compete at Blickling Hall in Norfolk **12.35pm** ITV News; Weather **12.40** Ninja Warrior UK: Race for Glory (r) **1.45** Live FA Cup Final: Manchester City v Manchester United (Kick-off **3.00**). All the action from the showpiece final, as the rivals meet at Wembley Stadium for the second successive season. **See Viewing Guide 5.45** Deal or No Deal Celebrity Special (r) **6.35** ITV News; Weather **6.45** Regional News; Weather

Reynolds and Jackson (10.15pm)

7.00 In for a Penny Stephen Mulhern sets unusual challenges to members of the public (6/7)

7.30 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host as more performers take to the stage to try to impress judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon and secure their place in the live semi-finals

8.55 The 1% Club Quiz game show hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense, with 100 contestants in every show having a chance of winning up to £100,000

9.55 ITV News

10.15 FILM **The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard (15, 2021)** A therapist convinces suspended bodyguard Michael Bryce to take a sabbatical from the protection business on a recuperative break in sun-kissed Capri. Naturally though, things don't quite go to plan, and Bryce ends up joining forces with hitman Darius Kincaid and his wife, Sonia, to prevent a terror attack on European soil. Crime comedy sequel starring Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L Jackson

12.15am Shop on TV **3.00** Next Level Chef USA. The participants are challenged to take the classic hamburger to the next level and impress discerning palates (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Deal or No Deal. Stephen Mulhern hosts (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Cheers (r) **6.30** Cheers (r) **6.55** Cheers (r) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **7.50** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.10** The Simpsons (r) **8.40** The Simpsons (r) **9.10** The Simpsons (r) **9.40** The Simpsons (r) **10.10** The Simpsons (r) **10.40** The Simpsons (r) **11.10** The Simpsons (r) **11.35** The Simpsons (r) **12.05pm** The Simpsons (r) **12.35** FILM **The Karate Kid Part III (PG, 1989)** The teenage martial arts expert falls under the influence of a crooked teacher. Adventure sequel starring Ralph Macchio and Pat Morita **2.50** A Place in the Sun. A couple search for their perfect property in Paralimni, eastern Cyprus (r) **3.50** Four in a Bed (r) **4.20** Four in a Bed (r) **4.50** Four in a Bed (r) **5.20** Four in a Bed (r) **5.50** Four in a Bed (r) **6.20** Channel 4 News

D-Day secrets revealed (8.20pm)

6.50 Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights Action from the battle for pole in the eighth round of the season, held at the Circuit de Monaco. Steve Jones presents, with analysis from David Coulthard, Mark Webber, Jamie Chadwick and Lawrence Barretto

8.20 D-Day: Secrets Of The Frontline Heroes 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. **See Viewing Guide**

9.25 FILM **Saving Private Ryan (15, 1998)** In the aftermath of the Normandy landings, a group of American soldiers scours the battlefields of France in search of a missing infantryman, who has been given compassionate leave to return home because his brothers have been killed in the conflict. Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning Second World War drama starring Tom Hanks, Tom Sizemore, Edward Burns, Matt Damon and Vin Diesel

12.40am FILM **The Mechanic (15, 2011)** Action thriller remake starring Jason Statham and Ben Foster **2.10** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (SL) **3.00** Imposter: The Man Who Came Back from the Dead (r) **3.55** Hollyoaks Omnibus (r) (SL)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **8.50** SpongeBob SquarePants (r) **9.00** Entertainment News on 5 **9.10** 22 Kids & Counting (r) **10.05** 22 Kids & Counting (r) **11.05** 22 Kids & Counting (r) **12.05pm** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (r) **1.05** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (r) **2.05** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (r) **3.05** Our Yorkshire Farm. Amanda and the children prepare for the challenging demands of breeding season in autumn (r) **4.05** Our Yorkshire Farm. All nine children return home for Christmas (r) **5.05** Our Yorkshire Farm. Edith and Violet search the barn for evidence of previous occupants (r) **6.05** 5 News Weekend **6.10** Royal Servants: In Their Own Words. Stories from the royal household's staff, with a cook revealing the Queen's surprisingly simple favourite treat (r)

A look back at the 1970s (8.30pm)

7.30 Inside Windsor Castle: A Royal Residence Xand Van Tulleken, JJ Chalmers and Raksha Dave look at Elizabeth II's time in the castle, when it needed a full makeover to become the perfect family escape to the country

8.30 The 1970s: Those Were the Days First of a two-part documentary looking back at what it was like living through the early 1970s in Britain, featuring news stories, fads, fashions and essential items of the decade. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 TV's 30 Most Controversial Moments Documentary charting the programmes that attracted the highest number of complaints in British television history, as well as a few surprises that did not make the Top 30 list. From talent contests to reality shows, soap operas and even the news, this show sets out to explore why viewers complain in huge numbers when they're offended, upset or irritated (r)

11.55 Harry Styles: The Story of His Life Exploring the global success of the pop star (r)

1.15am Live Casino Show **3.15** 10 Years Younger in 10 Days (r) **4.05** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.45** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

Saturday 25 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat

South Pacific
Rossano Brazzi plays a plantation owner in the 1958 musical drama
Sky Arts, 6pm

BBC3

FV 23, FS 107, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Ryan Tricks on the Streets Ryan gives back to a group of young people (3/6)
7.05 EastEnders Elaine tells Linda, Gina and Anna to butt out of her relationship
7.35 Doctor Who: Unleashed With Millie Gibson and guest star Aneurin Barnard (4/8)
8.05 Becoming the Doctor Ncuti Gatwa reveals all about taking over the Tardis
8.30 EastEnders Bianca argues with Vinny in the cafe
9.00 Live Athletics: Diamond League: Eugene The Prefontaine Classic. Coverage of the fifth meeting of the season, held at Hayward Field in Oregon
11.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Donna tries to please her mother (1/6)
11.30 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Louise gets stretch marks (2/6)
12.00-12.45am I Kissed a Girl (5/10)

BBC4

FV 9/24, FS 108, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Simon King's Shetland Adventure The wildlife cameraman films gannets diving for fish, observes a pod of killer whales, and follows an otter family's separation (3/3)
8.00 D-Day: The Last Heroes Part one of two. Dan Snow examines how meticulous planning, espionage and 3D aerial photos helped the Allied forces on D-Day
9.00 FILM Close (12, 2022) The intense friendship between two 13-year old boy suddenly gets disrupted. Coming-of-age drama with Eden Dambrine. In French and Dutch. **See Film Choice**
10.40-12.05am Parkinson with Kenneth Williams, Maggie Smith and John Betjeman A 1973 edition of the talk show which sees Michael Parkinson joined by the actors and poet laureate

More 4

FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.50pm Four in a Bed The second visit is to Treberthan B&B in Par, Cornwall
7.20 Four in a Bed The next visit is to SugarBeat Eating House in Swainsthorpe
7.55 Four in a Bed The final visit is to the pet-friendly Fritton Arms in Norfolk
8.25 Four in a Bed The owners reunite to find out what they have been paid and settle some scores
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A young man is treated after coming off his motorbike and colliding with two cars, and doctors rush to send him for a full body CT scan (3/12)
10.00 24 Hours in A&E An 18-year-old breaks his leg while playing football (5/12)
11.05-12.10am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Sean Lock and Rob Beckett take on Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman (4/8)

Sky Arts

FV 36, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

6.00pm FILM South Pacific (PG, 1958) A naval nurse embarks on a tempestuous romance with a French plantation owner on an American-held island during the Second World War. Musical starring Mitzi Gaynor and Rossano Brazzi
8.50 ELO Live at Wembley 1978 The band perform a selection of hits, including *Mr Blue Sky* and *Sweet Talkin' Woman*, in a 1978 concert at Wembley Arena
10.10 Genesis: When in Rome The rock band perform in front of 500,000 fans at Rome's Circus Maximus during their Turn It On Again concert tour of Europe and North America in 2007
12.05-1.45am Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender Profile of the Queen frontman, exploring his time away from the band

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108, EE 342

6.45pm Billions Chuck wrestles with his demons and picks a new path, and Wendy takes the lead as Axe Camp faces a new threat (2/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Sansa tries to talk to Theon, and Jaime tries to reconnect with his family (7/10) (R)
9.00 Game of Thrones Arya makes progress in her training, Sansa confronts an old friend, Cersei faces a struggle and Jon embarks on a journey (8/10) (R)
10.05 Game of Thrones In Braavos, Arya runs into a familiar face and Mace Tyrell visits the Iron Bank, while in Meereen, Daenerys hosts a traditional Meereenese celebration of athleticism (9/10) (R)
11.10-12.15am Game of Thrones Cersei finds herself seeking forgiveness, and Jon is challenged (10/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries

SKY 121, VIRGIN 188, EE 352

6.00pm FILM The Beatles: Eight Days a Week — The Touring Years (12, 2016) Director Ron Howard's documentary charting the band's time on the road
8.00 The Jinx Part Two Kathie Durst's family hopes a conviction will bring closure (5/6) (R)
9.00 On the Line: The Richard Williams Story Featuring newly uncovered interviews spanning the 1980s to now, Richard Williams — the father of tennis stars Venus and Serena — retraces his family's journey (R)
10.50-12.40am Fatboy Slim: Right Here, Right Now Documentary about the Big Beach Boutique II free event held in 2002, when an estimated quarter of a million people turned up to the concert on Brighton beach (R)

ITV2

FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm FILM Legally Blonde 2: Red, White and Blonde (PG, 2003) Comedy sequel starring Reese Witherspoon and Sally Field
9.00 FILM We're the Millers (15, 2013) A drug dealer recruits a fake family to give him a cover for moving a shipment of marijuana over the Mexican border. Comedy starring Jason Sudeikis
11.15 Family Guy Peter runs his father-in-law's company
11.45-12.10am Family Guy Peter learns about his past life

ITV3

FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Midsomer Murders Barnaby and Nelson discover dark secrets in the world of stunt pilots and military heroes after an airfield owner falls from a plane
9.00 Grantchester A man covered in blood confesses to attacking and killing his landlord (3/6)
10.00 Grantchester A man is convinced that his dead wife is haunting his home (4/6)
11.00-1.00am Endeavour Prequel to *Inspector Morse* set in 1965 starring Shaun Evans

ITV4

FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.50pm FILM Flash Gordon (12, 1980) An American quarterback is rocketed through space to save Earth. Sci-fi adventure starring Sam J Jones and Max von Sydow
9.00 FILM The Man with the Golden Gun (PG, 1974) James Bond investigates the death of a world-renowned scientist and is drawn into a battle of wits with a wily assassin. Spy adventure with Roger Moore and Christopher Lee
11.40-12.50am Auf Wiedersehen, Pet Work on the site finally ends

E4

FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

6.45pm FILM How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days (12, 2003) A journalist sets out to prove her theory of how women deter men from proposing. Romantic comedy with Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox *Big Brother: Best Shows Ever*, *Scarface* and *First Dates* are appraised (3/7)
10.00 Gogglebox Reviews include *The Traitors*, *Gino's Cooking up Love* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
11.05-12.10am Gogglebox Views on *Starstruck*, *The Piano* and *You*

Dave

FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Would I Lie to You?
7.40 My Family Two men each make plans to propose to Janey
8.20 My Family Ben forms a union to protest about timecards at work
9.00 Not Going Out Geoffrey and Wendy offer to pay for Charlie to go to private school
9.40 Not Going Out Lee worries he is losing his memory
10.20 Not Going Out
11.00 QI XL With Jason Manford
12.00-1.00am Have I Got a Bit More News for You Quiz show

Drama

FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

5.20pm The Brokenwood Mysteries Mike's favourite country musician is found electrocuted
7.20 Judge John Deed John accuses Everard of corruption, and Monty pressures Jo
9.20 The Bletchley Circle (1/2) The women reunite when a former colleague is accused of murder
10.20 A Small Light Drama about the couple who risked their lives to hide Anne Frank and her family
11.30-1.20am The Lady Vanishes Mystery with Tuppence Middleton

Yesterday

FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo travels through Spain (1/6)
8.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo travels from Turin to Venice (2/6)
9.00 Great Continental Railway Journeys Michael Portillo travels through Germany (3/6)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave
10.40 One Foot in the Grave
11.20 One Foot in the Grave
12.00-1.00am Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (2/6)

PBS America

FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

5.10pm The Endurance The story of Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition to Antarctica
7.15 Shackleton: The Greatest Story of Survival The story of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton
9.15 Great Forts of the Mediterranean The architecture and history of the greatest fortresses in the Mediterranean
10.25 Beautiful Serengeti (4/12)
10.55 Mafia's Greatest Hits (8/13)
12.00-1.10am Great Forts of the Mediterranean Documentary

5Select

FV 46, FS 133, SKY 153, VIRGIN 138

7.00pm The Dambusters (2/3)
8.00 The Dambusters Dan Snow concludes with the story of the raid on Germany's dams (3/3)
9.00 D-Day: The Soldiers' Story The men who formed the spearhead of the Allied liberation of Western Europe in 1944 (1/4)
10.00 D-Day: The Soldiers' Story Personal testimony (2/4)
11.00 Sunken Warships: Secrets from the Deep *Scharnhorst*
12.00-1.10am World War II in Colour The D-Day landings (9/13)

Sky History

SKY 123, VIRGIN 131, EE 353

7.00pm Truth & Lies How money plays a decisive role in the battle between truth and lies (3/6)
8.00 Truth & Lies Examining the history of scandals (4/6)
9.00 Hitler's Mega Plane A Messerschmidt "Gigant", the biggest aircraft to fly in the Second World War
10.00 History of the Tank The changing face of tank warfare over the past 100 years
11.15-12.15am The Guilty Innocent with Christopher Eccleston (2/2)

Sky Max

SKY 113, VIRGIN 111, EE 346

7.00pm Flintoff: From Lord's to the Ring Andrew Flintoff meets boxing legend Mike Tyson (2/3)
8.00 A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip The gang set off on an adventure around Mexico
9.00 Ted Blaire asks Matty and Susan to be their therapists, and Susan pursues a past career (6/8)
9.50 Resident Alien Harry hits rock bottom, and Mike helps Liv face her biggest fear (6/8)
10.50 Hold the Front Page (5/6)
11.55-1.00am Banshee (7/10)

Nat Geographic

SKY 129, VIRGIN 183

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A turboprop nearly crashes after being struck by lightning
8.00 Air Crash Investigation A massive explosion tears a hole in a 747 over Hawaii
9.00 Air Crash Investigation The case of a flight that disappeared from radar while headed for Angola
10.00 Drain Alcatraz Cutting-edge visuals drain water around Alcatraz
11.00 No Man Left Behind The race is on to find pilot Dale Zelko (4/6)
12.00-1.00am Rewind the 90s

Discovery

SKY 125, VIRGIN 177, EE 320

7.00pm Border Control Poland
8.00 Border Control Poland
9.00 Naked and Afraid A former member of the Amish and an Australian fitness coach head into the Colombian jungle
10.00 Bear Grylls: Escape from Hell
11.00 Moonshiners
12.00-1.00am Blowing Up History

Sky Comedy

SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, EE 347

7.00pm The Office (US)
7.30 The Office (US)
8.00 The Office (US) (1/6)
8.30 The Office (US) (2/6)
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm (4/10)
9.40 Curb Your Enthusiasm (5/10)
10.20 Curb Your Enthusiasm (6/10)
11.00-12.15am Saturday Night Live With Jake Gyllenhaal hosting

Comedy Central

SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, EE 345

6.35pm Friends American sitcom
9.00 FILM This Is the End (15, 2013) A group of movie stars gather for a housewarming party, only to be faced with the Biblical apocalypse. Fantasy comedy with James Franco and Seth Rogen
11.05-12.45am FILM Kung Pow! Enter the Fist (12, 2002)

Gold

SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, EE 344

6.50pm Only Fools and Horses
9.00 Ghosts A documentary team comes to film at Button House
9.40 Ghosts A mysterious visitor arrives with a revelation
10.15 Ghosts Alison and Mike set up camp in the grounds
10.55 Billy Connolly Does...
11.55-12.30am Ghosts

W

FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Miranda The joke-shop owner vows to get fit
7.40 Miranda Tilly and Penny plan a charity wine-tasting event
8.20 Miranda Things start to look up for Miranda's love life
9.00 The Catherine Tate Show
11.00 Wife Swap USA
12.00-1.00am Wife Swap USA

Alibi

SKY 109, VIRGIN 114, EE 343

7.00pm Hudson & Rex
8.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators A threat is made at a tennis club (9/10)
9.00 Death in Paradise (4/8)
10.00 Death in Paradise (5/8)
11.00 Death in Paradise (6/8)
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators

Sky Main Event

SKY 401, VIRGIN 501, EE 439

8.30-10.30am Live NRL: Cronulla-Sutherland Sharks v Penrith Panthers (Kick-off **8.30**)
11.15 Live Formula 1
1.10pm Live Formula 2 Championship The Monaco Grand Prix sprint race (Start-time **1.15**)
2.15 Live Formula 1 The Monaco Grand Prix qualifying session (Start-time **3.00**)
4.30 Live International T20 Cricket: England v Pakistan
6.30-11.00pm Live PGA Tour Golf The Charles Schwab Challenge

Sky Premier League

SKY 402, VIRGIN 502, EE 440

7.00pm PL Review A look back at recent fixtures in the top flight
8.00 Premier League Stories A look behind the scenes
9.00 FILM Gascoigne (15, 2015) Documentary about Paul Gascoigne, featuring an extensive interview with the troubled former footballing superstar
10.45 Class of '92: Full Time Nicky Butt succeeds Gary Neville as CEO
11.45-12.45am Class of '92: Full Time Salford's owners look to bring in new faces

England's Mark Wood could face Pakistan in the second T20 of the series (Sky Sports Cricket, 2pm)

Sky Cricket

SKY 404, VIRGIN 504, EE 442

2.00pm Live International T20 Cricket: England v Pakistan Coverage of the second T20 in the four-match series from Edgbaston, Birmingham
6.30 Dreams of a Nation This documentary takes a look back at the 2023 Cricket World Cup, which promised to be a special event
7.30-12.00m't International T20 Cricket England v Pakistan. Action from the second T20 in the four-match series taking place at Edgbaston, Birmingham

TNT Sports 1

SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, EE 430

7.30am Live AFL: Geelong Cats v GWS Giants (Bounce-up **7.35**)
10.30 Live AFL: Richmond Tigers v Essendon Bombers (Bounce-up **10.40**). Coverage of the match
1.30pm Live: Investec Champions Cup: Leinster v Toulouse (Kick-off **2.45**). Coverage of the final
5.30-7.30 Live Hockey: Ireland v Argentina (Push-back **5.30**)
7.45-11.45 Live T20 Cricket: West Indies v South Africa
1.30-4.00am Live NBA Coverage of a play-off match (Tip-off TBA)

TNT Sports 2

SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, EE 431

7.30am Live MotoGP
11.00 Live MotoE
11.45 Live MotoGP
1.30pm Live MotoGP The Grand Prix of Catalunya MotoGP sprint race (Start-time **2.00**)
3.00-3.45 Live MotoE The Grand Prix of Catalunya MotoE second race (Start-time **3.10**)
4.45-7.30 Live Uefa Women's Champions League: Barcelona Women v Lyon Women
12.00-3.15am Live MLB
4.00-7.00am Live AFL

Saturday 25

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Dora and the Lost City of Gold (PG, 2019) Live-action family adventure starring Isabela Merced
1.05pm Kung Fu Panda (PG, 2008) Animated comedy with the voice of Jack Black
2.50 Stormbreaker (PG, 2006) Adventure with Alex Pettyfer and Mickey Rourke
4.35 Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse (PG, 2018) Animated adventure with the voice of Shameik Moore
6.50 I, Robot (12, 2004) A detective is convinced a robot has killed its creator, even though it has been programmed never to harm humans. Sci-fi thriller, with Will Smith and Alan Tudyk
9.00 Jack Reacher (15, 2012) A former military police investigator takes on the case of a random shooting for which an army sniper has been framed. Action thriller starring Tom Cruise
11.40 Candyman (18, 1992) Horror starring Virginia Madsen and Tony Todd
1.45-3.35am Bitch Ass (15, 2022) Premiere. Horror with Teon Kelly and Tunde Laleye

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am What's On Tonight?
6.20 Stranger from Venus (U, 1954) Drama starring Helmut Dantine and Patricia Neal
7.55 The Beverly Hillbillies
8.30 Runaround
9.00 River of Steel
9.15 The Adventures of Robin Hood Adventure series
9.50 Child's Play (PG, 1954) Children's sci-fi comedy starring Christopher Beeny
11.10 William at the Circus
11.30 The Buccaneers
12.00 Hawkeye & the Last of the Mohicans
12.30pm Colonel March of Scotland Yard
1.00 4D Man (PG, 1959) Sci-fi drama with Lee Meriwether and Robert Lansing
2.45 Look at Life
3.00 Stingray
3.35 The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men (U, 1952) The heroic outlaw of Sherwood Forest battles to bring justice to the over-taxed poor and avenge the murder of his father. Adventure starring Richard Todd
5.20 A Hole Lot of Trouble (PG, 1971) Three workmen digging a hole in the street clash with local officials and a prissy fashion designer. Short comedy starring Arthur Lowe and Victor Maddern
6.00 In Suspicious Circumstances
7.00 Dixon of Dock Green
8.00 Budgie
9.00 The Edgar Wallace Mystery Theatre
10.10-12.15am Hot Money

Daryl Hannah stars in Splash (GREAT! Movies, 6.45pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Lost Letter Mysteries: One in a Million (PG, 2016) Drama starring Eric Mabius and Kristin Booth
10.55 Lost Letter Mysteries: From the Heart (PG, 2016) Drama starring Eric Mabius
12.50pm Lost Letter Mysteries: Lost Without You (PG, 2016) Mystery starring Eric Mabius and Kristin Booth
2.45 And So It Goes (12, 2014) Comedy drama with Michael Douglas and Diane Keaton
4.35 Arachnophobia (PG, 1990) Comedy horror starring Jeff Daniels
6.45 Splash (PG, 1984) A mermaid falls for a New Yorker she saved from drowning and assumes human form so she can follow him onto dry land. Romantic fantasy comedy starring Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah
9.00 Runaway Jury (12, 2003) A woman sues the company that made the gun used to kill her husband, but the manufacturer tries to meddle with the jury. Thriller with John Cusack
11.40-1.55am The Whistleblower (15, 2010) Fact-based drama with Rachel Weisz and Vanessa Redgrave

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.05pm Blue Beetle (12, 2023) Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Mariduena
2.15 Boonie Bears: Guardian Code (PG, 2023) Animated adventure with the voice of Joseph S Lambert
4.05 Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (15, 2024) Thriller starring Eric Bana and Anna Torv
6.05 The Equalizer 3 (15, 2023) Former government assassin Robert McCall takes on the mafia in Italy. Thriller starring Denzel Washington
8.00 Blue Beetle (12, 2023) An ancient relic of alien biotechnology chooses a graduate as its symbiotic host. Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Mariduena
10.10-11.55pm The Blackening (15, 2023) Comedy horror starring Grace Byers

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Hugo Rifkind **1.00pm** Alexis Conran **4.00** Times Radio Drive **7.00** The Best of Times Podcasts **8.00** The Story **8.30** Highlights from Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00am** The Story **1.30** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

5.00am Radio 2 in Concert (r) **6.00** Sounds of the 60s with Tony Blackburn **8.00** Dermot O'Leary **10.00** Romesh Ranganathan **1.00pm** 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 **12.00** Radio 2 Stories **1.00am** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **2.00** Status Quo at the BBC (r) **3.00** Radio 2 in the Park: The Highlights (r)

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast
9.00 Saturday Morning With violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter
12.00 Earlier... with Jools Holland With author Ben Okri
1.00pm Music Matters: 25 Years of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra Clemency Burton-Hill traces the first steps of the musical adventure, discovering how the players were recruited and trained and exploring the challenges the musicians faced. **See Choice**
2.00 Record Review Joanna MacGregor chooses her favourite recording of Bach's Keyboard Partitas BWV 825-83 in Building a Library
4.00 Sound of Cinema Matthew Sweet is joined by Agnes Poirier to examine the hottest film releases at the Cannes Film Festival
5.00 This Classical Life Jess Gillam is joined by conductor Chloé van Soeterstède, with the pair sharing music by Schubert, Khachaturian, CPE Bach, Dani Howard, Mulatu Astatke and Mitski
6.00 Opera on 3 Andrew McGregor presents a Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, production of Bizet's *Carmen*, starring Aigul Akhmetshina in the title role, with Piotr Beczala as Don José and Antonello Manacorda conducting
9.30 Music Planet Lopa Kothari chats to gospel blues group the Staples Jr Singers
10.30 New Music Show A performance of Alwynne Pritchard's *Institutions of the Flesh*, recorded last week at Canterbury's Free Range
12.30am Through the Night

Today's pick

Music Matters: 25 Years of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra — How to Bring a Dream to Life
Radio 3, 1pm

Clemency Burton-Hill, *right*, who toured in the violin section of the West Eastern Divan Orchestra (comprising young Arab and Israeli musicians), presents the second of six episodes tracing its history. We hear how the players were found, recruited and trained, and the challenges they faced. There are interviews with

Daniel Barenboim, Mariam Said, Tabaré Perlas (the Divan's general manager), Matthias Glander (the clarinettist and woodwind coach) and the writer Elena Cheah. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Just One Thing with Michael Mosley (r)
6.00 News and Papers
6.07 Open Country (r)
6.30 Farming Today This Week Agricultural issues
7.00 Today News headlines
9.00 Saturday Live
10.00 Your Place or Mine Siobhán McSweeney chooses Camino de Santiago, Spain
10.30 The Kitchen Cabinet Panel show from Aberystwyth
11.00 The Week in Westminster Political news
11.30 From Our Own Correspondent
12.04pm Money Box
12.30 Dead Ringers (r)
1.00 News
1.10 Any Questions? (r)
2.00 Any Answers? Phone-in
2.45 The Archers (r)
3.00 Drama: Electric Decade — Clash Ellen Wilkinson's political romance (1/2) (r)
4.00 Weekend Woman's Hour
5.00 Saturday PM
5.30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson Interviews
5.54 Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Loose Ends
7.00 Profile Insights
7.15 This Cultural Life (r)
8.00 Archive on 4: Watching Us, Watching You
9.00 Shadow War: China and the West Gordon Corera looks at points of friction between China and the West (r)
10.00 News
10.15 The Food Programme (r)
11.00 Michael Spicer: No Room How politics and food can both cause indigestion
11.15 Michael Spicer: No Room Satirical comedy sketches dealing with cars and the secret to being a winner in life
11.30 Round Britain Quiz Frankie Fanko and Stephen Maddock face Paul Sinha and Marcus Berkmann (r)
12.00 Midnight News
12.15am Open Book (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am 5 Live Boxing **6.00** Saturday Breakfast **9.00** Patrick Kielty **11.00** TBA **12.00** 5 Live Sport **3.00pm** 5 Live Sport: Manchester City v Manchester United (Kick-off 3.00) **6.00** 6-0-6. Phone-in **8.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** Stephen Nolan **12.00** TBA **1.00am** Lisa McCormick

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am GameDay Breakfast **10.00** GameDay Warm Up **11.00** Box Park from Wembley Way **1.00pm** GameDay Live: Manchester City v Manchester United (Kick-off 3.00) **6.00** The GameDay Phone-In **9.00** Fight Night **12.00** A talkSPORT Special **1.00am** Extra Time

Talk
Digital only

5.00am Cristo Foufas **7.00** David Bull **10.00** Peter Cardwell **1.00pm** Alex Phillips **4.00** Trisha Goddard **7.00** James Whale Unleashed **10.00** Late Night Phone-In **1.00am** Martin Kelner

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

7.30am The Bells of Old Tokyo **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 **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 **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** Sarah Millican's Support Group **11.00** "Whatever Next?" with Miles Jupp **11.30** The Masterson Inheritance. Improvised comedy **12.00** Rendezvous with Rama

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am News **9.06** BBC OS Conversations **9.30** Pick of the World **9.50** Over to You **10.00** News **10.06** Sports Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Unspun World with John Simpson **12.00** News **12.06pm** The Forum **1.00** Newshour **2.00** Sportsworld **6.00** The Newsroom **6.30** Dear Daughter **6.50** Sporting Witness **7.00** News **7.06** The Documentary: Shadow War: China and the West **8.00** News **8.06** The Arts Hour **9.00** Newshour **10.06** The Documentary: Denmark's E-Sports Revolution **10.30** This Is Africa **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Assignment **12.00** News **12.06am** BBC OS Conversations **12.30** Dear Daughter **12.50** Sporting Witness **1.00** News **1.06** The Inquiry **1.30** The Documentary: Things Fell Apart **2.00** Newsroom **2.30** Health Check **3.00** News **3.06** The Forum **4.00** News **4.06** From Our Own Correspondent **4.30** Trending. The world of social media **4.50** Sporting Witness

6 Music
Digital only

6.00am Amy Lamé **8.00** Stuart Maconie **10.00** The Huey Show **1.00pm** 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 **1.00am** 6 Music's Rave Forever **2.00** The Morning After Mix

Virgin Radio
Digital only

7.00am Angela Scanlon **10.00** Leigh Francis **1.00pm** Dick & Dom **4.00** Graeme Smith **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Stu Elmore **1.00am** Harpz Kaur **4.00** Rich Williams

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

7.00am Tim Lihoreau **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00pm** Alexander Armstrong **4.00** Alan Titchmarsh **7.00** Classic FM at the Movies **9.00** Classic Parent Power with Myleene Klass **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

Sunday 26 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice

Fiennes: Return to the Wild

National Geographic, 8pm

The actor Joseph Fiennes is joining forces with his third cousin once removed, the explorer Ranulph Fiennes, *right*, for a Canadian adventure. This is not the first time they have teamed up for TV — in 2019 they made *Fiennes: Return to the Nile*, in which they followed the course of an expedition that Ranulph made along it in 1969. The pair formed a close bond and have reunited to retrace the steps of Ranulph's 1971 expedition through the Canadian wilderness. According to *Guinness World Records*, Ranulph is the "greatest living explorer" and this two-part series is billed as a "heartfelt love letter from Joseph to Sir Ranulph", who is now 80. In 1971 Ranulph, just out of active army service, led a small team on the first recorded expedition to trans-navigate the rugged terrain of British Columbia by river, a journey of 1,500 miles, and there is plenty of footage of this perilous adventure and Ranulph's past triumphs. The cousins' journey is rather more modest — understandably — but they still face some challenges, including canoeing to within sight of the edge of Victoria Falls, a spot of rock climbing (for Joseph) and a brisk stroll along the Athabasca Glacier. While the vistas are stunning and the archive footage of those past daring deeds is undeniably thrilling, the real reason to watch is for the open and honest dialogue between Joseph and Ranulph in which they address male ageing, frailty and love, while Ranulph discusses his Parkinson's diagnosis. There are also a few of Ranulph's gruesome "war" stories, including how he cut off his frostbitten fingertips with a saw. Joe Clay

Inside Classical: Music Night from Alexandra Palace

BBC4, 7.30pm

After 70 years on the BBC Light Programme and Radio 2, *Friday Night Is Music Night* moved to Radio 3 in April. For the inaugural concert on the new station, Katie Derham presented an evening recorded at Alexandra Palace in London. Anna-Maria Helsing conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra, with guests including the violinist Aleksey Semenenko and the celebrity tenor Wynne "Go Compare" Evans, and *Nessun Dorma* and the theme from *The Magnificent Seven* among many highlights. **JC**

Britain's Got Talent

ITV1, 8pm

It's the final round of auditions tonight, with the last collection of the nation's fame-hungriest performers trying to impress Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and Bruno Tonioli. There is a £250,000 cash prize up for grabs and a spot on the bill of the Royal Variety Performance at the Albert Hall in November for the winner. The latest run has not been without controversy, including the revelation that a blind opera singer was a finalist in Channel 4's 2003 reality contest *Operatunity*. The semi-finals start tomorrow night at 8pm and run all week, with the ten successful acts reaching the live final next Sunday. **JC**

Shetland: Scotland's Wondrous Isles

Channel 5, 9pm

Shetland is one of the furthest British outposts, closer to the Arctic Circle than to London. "Lovely views, lovely scenery ... it's a nice place to call home," one islander says. And even when the winds shift and storms batter the coastline, it's still "an untamed paradise". This series, narrated by Mark Bonnar, combines footage of the islands and the wildlife with vignettes featuring insights into the lives of islanders, including a woman who breeds Shetland ponies, a Canadian expat working on a fishing boat and an artist creating paintings of the wild seas. **JC**

Maya Angelou at the BBC

BBC4, 9pm

The BBC is devoting a night to the poet and civil rights activist, who died in 2014. The highlight is *Maya Angelou at the BBC*, in which Bonnie Greer looks back on her life through BBC archives, demonstrating how her "unique combination of storytelling skills and unstoppable charisma made her a television natural". This is followed by *Angelou on Burns* (10pm), the 1996 film in which Angelou went on a pilgrimage to Scotland, and the 2017 edition of *Imagine* (10.50pm) that celebrated her life using film shot shortly before her death. **JC**

Films of the day

D-Day the Sixth of June (PG, 1956)

BBC2, 11.45am

Henry Koster's film, based on a novel by the Canadian war correspondent Lionel Shapiro, is as much a romance as it is an account of the D-Day landings. Robert Taylor and Richard Todd play two army officers — an American and a Brit respectively. They have one thing in common, aside from being hours away from fighting shoulder to shoulder on the beaches of Normandy; her name is Valerie Russell, played by Dana Wynter. Todd, an Irish-born British actor, was a parachutist and took part in the invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944. He later played his former commanding officer, Major John Howard, in *The Longest Day* (1962), another dramatisation of the Normandy landings. (106min) **Wendy Ide**

Tenet (12, 2020)

BBC2, 10pm

In Christopher Nolan's jaw-dropping, delightfully convoluted spy thriller, John David Washington plays the Protagonist, recruited into a shadowy organisation to avert a third world war. Kenneth Branagh is an evil Russian oligarch, Robert Pattinson, *above with Washington*, is a John le Carré-influenced operative and Michael Caine has a winning role as a veteran spymaster. The real joy, though, is the spectacle. Nolan — famously averse to computer effects — throws everything at the screen. A Boeing 747 crashes into a warehouse and there's a breakneck motorway heist involving three juggernauts, car smashes and a shoot-out. The climactic battle is so structurally audacious that to reveal anything about it would spoil the film. (150min) **Kevin Maher**

Catch up

Bridgerton
Netflix

The period drama based on Julia Quinn's *Bridgerton* book series returns for a third series, which is primarily about the third son, Colin (Luke Newton) and his relationship with Penelope Featherington (Nicola Coughlan, *right*). Penelope, lest we forget, is the 'Ton's prolific scandal sheet publisher, under the name Lady Whistledown (voiced by Julie Andrews), and when her best friend, Eloise (Claudia Jessie), found this out in the finale of the second series the pair had a terrible falling out. Meanwhile, Penelope also overheard Colin telling a group of young men: "Are you mad? I would never dream of courting Penelope Featherington. Not in your wildest dreams." Dearest gentle reader, the course of true love is unlikely to run smoothly. The first four episodes are available now; the final four arrive on June 13. **Joe Clay**

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.00-10.30am** Politics Wales. The latest political news and debate, presented by Teleri Glyn Jones **4.35pm** Our Food, Our Family with Michela Chiappa (r) **5.05-5.35pm** Weatherman Walking (r)
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.00-10.30am** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland. The latest political news and debate
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 10.00am** The Sunday Show. The main issues from the world of politics **10.30-11.00** Landward (r) **1.50pm** Lifeline **2.00** Live Women's Scottish Cup Final. Rangers v Hearts (Kick-off **2.30**). Jane Lewis presents all the action from the showpiece match at Hampden Park **4.50** Points of View. Viewers' comments **5.05-5.35pm** Animal Park (r)
● **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 7.00pm** Backstage. Nest Jenkins is joined by Bollywood star Banita Sandhu **7.30-8.00pm** Fishlock's Choice (r)
● **STV As ITV1 except: 6.45-6.59pm** STV News **12.15-3.00am** Shop on TV **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** Rewind 1980s (r) **7.30** Sportscene: Premiership Play-off Final Highlights. The second leg **8.00** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **8.30** General Assembly **9.00** Paramedics on Scene. An Oban woman experiences a severe allergic reaction **10.00** Still Game (r) **10.30** Icons of Football. New series. The story of Frank McAvennie **11.00** Life on the Bay (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** The Scotts (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Caru Canu (r) **6.05** Fferm Fach (r) **6.20** Cymylaubychain (r) **6.30** Ahoi! (r) **6.50** Ein Byd Bach (r) **7.00** Shwshaswyn (r) **7.10** Awyr Iach (r) **7.25** Patrol Pawennau (r) **7.40** Sigldigwt (r) **7.55** Sam Tan (r) **8.05** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **8.20** Odo (r) **8.25** Cacamwnci (r) **8.40** Pablo (r) **8.50** Penblwyddi Cyw **9.00** Nôl i'r Gwersyll (r) **10.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **11.00** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd (r) **11.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (r) **12.00** Y Sîn (r) **12.30pm** Y Fets (r) **1.30** Stori'r Iaith (r) **2.30** Dan Do (r) **3.00** Ffasiwn Drefn (r) **3.30** Pum Merch, Tri Chopa, Un Cwch (r) **4.05** Yr Anialwch (r) **5.05** Cysgu O Gwmpas (r) **5.35** Ffermio (r) **6.10** Pobol y Cwm Omnibws (r) **7.15** News **7.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol. Rhodri Gomer follows a spiritual journey through the Tywi valley **8.00** Cynefin. The team explores Port Talbot **9.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. New series. A look ahead to the arts festival **10.00** Hen Dy Newydd (r) **11.00-11.35** Cymry ar Gynfas (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Sunday 26

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **8.25** MOTD: FA Cup Highlights (r) **9.00** Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg **10.00** Politics England **10.30** Animal Park (r) **11.00** Live Great Manchester Run. Coverage of the annual event, featuring 10km and half-marathon races, as elite runners and amateurs compete **1.00pm** BBC News; Weather **1.15** Songs of Praise. A behind-the-scenes tour of the National Gallery **1.50** Points of View **2.05** Lifeline **2.15** Escape to the Country (r) **3.15** FILM **A Shaun the Sheep Movie: Farmageddon (U, 2019)** Animated comedy with the voice of Justin Fletcher **4.35** The Green Planet (r) **5.35** BBC News **5.50** BBC Regional News; Weather **6.00** RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Sophie Raworth and Joe Swift look back on the highlights of the week

The Responder continues (9pm)

7.00 Countryfile Adam Henson and Charlotte Smith explore the Camel Trail in North Cornwall, encountering the wildlife of this diverse habitat and the people that live and work along its route

8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce and the team head to Windermere Jetty Museum in the Lake District, where items assessed include a collection of silver trophies awarded to a pioneering female sailor (r)

9.00 The Responder Chris has a choice to make when he obtains Franny's encrypted phone — hand it in to the drugs squad, or return it to the dealer in the hope of placating him. Sunetra Sarker guest stars (4/5)

10.00 BBC News; Weather

10.25 BBC Regional News

10.30 Coldplay: Radio 1's Big Weekend Coldplay close Radio 1's Big Weekend at Stockwood Park in Luton, returning to the festival for the fourth time for a concert that will kick off their European tour (2/2)

11.30 FILM **47 Meters Down: Uncaged (15, 2019)** Two sisters diving in a ruined underwater city quickly learn they have entered the territory of the deadliest shark species in the claustrophobic labyrinth of submerged caves. Thriller sequel with Sophie Nélisse

12.50am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.55** BBC News. The latest updates

BBC2

6.30am Countryfile (r) **7.25** Our Coast (r) **8.25** Breakfast **9.00** Beechgrove Garden (r) **9.30** Landward. Dougie Vipond visits Skye **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. With archive clips **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers (r) **11.45** FILM **D-Day the Sixth of June (PG, 1956)** Second World War drama starring Robert Taylor, Richard Todd and Dana Wynter. **See Film Choice** **1.30pm** Live Rowing World Cup. Coverage of the third and final day of the second regatta of the season, held at Lucerne, Switzerland **3.00** Live Cycling: Ride London. Coverage as elite professionals and enthusiastic amateurs alike take part in the capital's annual community cycling event **6.00** This Farming Life. In North Uist, a herd is being prepared for an epic journey across a tidal sandbar (r)

Rylan Clark and Rob Rinder (9pm)

7.00 Race Across the World The teams navigate their way through the Indonesian island of Sumatra, tackling limited accommodation options, ad-hoc transport and almost no English spoken (7/9) (r)

8.00 The Americas with Simon Reeve Simon reaches the United States, travelling down the Rocky Mountains from the wide-open prairies of Montana to a Colorado town that depends almost entirely on 11 prisons (2/5) (r)

9.00 Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour Rob Rinder and Rylan Clark go on a cultural tour of Rome, turning themselves into a painting by Caravaggio and trying to get the classic Grand Tourist look. Last in the series

10.00 FILM **Tenet (12, 2020)** A troubleshooter is hired for a high-stakes mission to prevent armageddon. As he navigates through a world of espionage, Protagonist uncovers a shadowy organisation with the ability to manipulate time. Racing against the clock, he must master the concept of "inversion" to thwart the catastrophic future. Action thriller starring John David Washington and Kenneth Branagh. **See Film Choice**

12.20am FILM **Memento (15, 2000)** A man searches for his wife's killer in spite of the short-term memory loss he sustained during the same attack. Thriller with Guy Pearce, Carrie-Anne Moss and Joe Pantoliano **2.10-3.10** Sign Zone: Blue Lights (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am James Martin's Great British Adventure (r) **6.30** James Martin's Spanish Adventure (r) **7.25** Ainsley's National Trust Cook Off (r) **8.25** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show **9.25** ITV News **9.30** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh **11.25** Alan Titchmarsh's Gardening Club (r) **12.30pm** ITV News; Weather **12.40** Britain's Got Talent (r) **2.00** In for a Penny (r) **2.30** FILM **Dr Seuss' The Lorax (U, 2012)** Animated fantasy with the voices of Danny DeVito and Zac Efron **4.15** FILM **From Russia with Love (PG, 1963)** James Bond is sent to steal a top-secret Soviet decoding machine — but the mission is a trap set by crime syndicate Spectre. Spy thriller starring Sean Connery, Robert Shaw and Lotte Lenya **6.30** ITV News; Weather **6.45** Regional News; Weather

The finale of Red Eye (9pm)

7.00 Deal or No Deal Stephen Mulhern hosts as a contestant tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order, taking on the Banker for the chance to win a life-changing cash prize (r)

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host as more performers take to the stage in the final batch of auditions, trying to impress the judges and secure their place in the live semi-finals. **See Viewing Guide**

9.00 Red Eye A flashback to the night of the crash puts events at the conference centre and nightclub in a new perspective as the truth about the conspiracy is revealed (6/6)

10.00 ITV News

10.20 Ellie Simmonds: Finding My Secret Family The Paralympian swimmer attempts to find her birth mother, and gain a wider understanding about why children from diverse backgrounds are more likely to be placed for adoption (r)

11.20 English Football League Championship Final Highlights Action from the lucrative match at Wembley Stadium, as one of the teams secured their place in next season's Premier League

12.15am Teleshopping **3.00** Motorsport UK. Richard John Neil presents action from Donington Park, with racing from the Vertu Motors Mini Challenge and the Porsche Carrera Cup GB (r) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Ainsley's National Trust Cook Off (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.00am The King of Queens (r) **6.20** The King of Queens (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.15** Cheers (r) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.30** The Simpsons (r) **9.00** The Simpsons (r) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. With Danny O'Donoghue, Bradley Riches, Rafe Spall and Anthony Horowitz **12.30pm** The Simpsons (r) **1.00** The Simpsons. Moe refurbishes the bar (r) **1.30** The Simpsons. Homer is hypnotised (r) **2.00** The Simpsons. Mr Burns opens a casino (r) **2.30** The Simpsons. A cat burglar puts Springfield in a panic (r) **3.00** FILM **Clueless (12, 1995)** Comedy starring Alicia Silverstone **4.55** Our Dream Farm with Matt Baker. The remaining three hopefuls face Giles and Sally for the final time. Last in the series **6.00** Channel 4 News

Classic comedy Clueless (3pm)

6.30 Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix Highlights Steve Jones presents action from the eighth round of the season, held at the Circuit de Monaco. Max Verstappen of Red Bull produced a dominant display here last year to claim victory, with Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso finishing second and Esteban Ocon of Alpine taking third place. With analysis from David Coulthard, Mark Webber, Jamie Chadwick and Lawrence Barretto

9.00 The Piano Claudia Winkleman, Mika and Lang Lang's search for the last pianist in the final brings them to Liverpool Lime Street Station, where they join in a station sing-a-long (5/7)

10.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their reactions (r)

10.55 Gogglebox An edition from October 2022, with opinions on *I Can See Your Voice*, *Emmerdale*, *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Unbreakable*, *The Ex-Wife* and *Bargain Hunt* (r)

12.00 FILM **Saturday Night Fever (18, 1977)** A streetwise teenager escapes a mundane existence through the disco scene. Drama starring John Travolta **2.05am** The Gathering (r) (SL) **2.55** The Gathering (r) **3.45** Come Dine with Me (r) (r) **5.50** Countdown (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **8.50** SpongeBob SquarePants (r) **9.05** Entertainment News on 5 **9.10** The Yorkshire Vet (r) **9.35** Cruising with Jane McDonald (r) **10.35** Cruising with Jane McDonald (r) **11.35** Cruising with Jane McDonald (r) **12.35pm** Cruising with Jane McDonald (r) **1.30** FILM **The Dam Busters (U, 1955)** An engineer designs an ingenious bouncing bomb to destroy major dams in Germany's industrial heartland. Fact-based Second World War drama with Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd (b/w) **4.00** Dad's Army: Secret Lives & Scandals. The behind-the-scenes story of the beloved sitcom (r) **5.30** 5 News Weekend **5.35** Shoplifters: Catch Me If You Can (r) **6.30** The Bailiffs. Documentary following the work of High Court enforcement agents (r)

Life on the Shetland Islands (9pm)

7.30 Secrets of Your Favourite Chocolate Bars Documentary exploring the history of chocolate and looking at how the nation's favourite confectionery is made, taking illuminating tours of some of the factories

9.00 Shetland: Scotland's Wondrous Isles New series. Life on the archipelago, beginning on the tiny island of Noss with two wardens who are the only residents and live a truly off-grid existence. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 Morecambe & Wise: 30 Funniest Moments A countdown of the comedy duo's most memorable sketches, along with recollections and comments from Eric and Ernie's friends, co-stars and famous fans. Featuring the pair making breakfast, Angela Rippon's dazzling dance performance, Glenda Jackson in Ernie's version of *Antony and Cleopatra*, and their homage to *Singin' in the Rain* (r)

12.00 World's Funniest TV Ads (r) **1.00am** Live Casino Show **3.00** 10 Years Younger in 10 Days (r) **3.50** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) **5.30** Entertainment News **5.35** Thomas (r) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

Sunday 26 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat

Maya Angelou
A night devoted to the poet and activist includes a compilation from the BBC
BBC4, 9pm

BBC3

FV 23, FS 107, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Doctor Who The regulars of a Welsh pub fear that ancient legends are coming to life (4/8)
7.50 Doctor Who: Unleashed With Millie Gibson and guest star Aneurin Barnard (4/8)
8.20 Shark Tank An online tool to help off-duty firefighters make additional income
9.00 I Kissed a Girl Emotions run high as the girls return from their dates (7/10)
9.45 FILM Late Night (15, 2019) A talk show host fears she is set to lose her long-running series, so takes steps to freshen up her programme. Comedy drama starring Emma Thompson
11.20 Bad Education Class K and Stephen give Mitchell a makeover (5/6)
11.50-12.20am Bad Education Stephen tries to use the school play as a means of impressing an agent (6/6)

BBC4

FV 9/24, FS 108, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm A Branch Line Railway with John Betjeman The poet looks at the Evercreech Junction to Burnham-on-Sea railway line in Somerset
7.30 Inside Classical: Music Night from Alexandra Palace The BBC Concert Orchestra perform classics, including *Nessun Dorma* and the theme from *The Magnificent Seven*. **See Viewing Guide**
9.00 Maya Angelou at the BBC Cultural critic Bonnie Greer takes a look back at the American writer, poet and activist's life and work. **See Viewing Guide**
10.00 Angelou on Burns US writer Maya Angelou goes on a pilgrimage to Burns Country in Scotland
10.50-12.25am Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise: Imagine A portrait of the trail-blazing activist, poet and writer

More 4

FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Come Dine with Me A business support manager hosts the second night
7.25 Come Dine with Me A PR whizz hosts the third dinner party in Derby
7.55 Come Dine with Me The fourth dinner party in Derby features a Greek holiday-inspired menu
8.30 Come Dine with Me It is the final day of the dinner party contest in Derby and the turn of a triathlete to host
9.00 999: On the Front Line A driver has collided with another car, and there is concern that he may be bleeding internally (4/8)
10.00 24 Hours in A&E A boy is rushed in after being crushed by falling bricks
11.05-12.10am Emergency Helicopter Medics: Mountain Emergencies Air ambulance crews race to incidents in the Lake District

Sky Arts

FV 36, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

6.00pm My Favorite Things: The Rodgers & Hammerstein 80th Anniversary Concert A celebration of the partnership of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, with songs from *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *Cinderella* and *The Sound of Music*
8.40 FILM The Great Dictator (PG, 1940) Dictator Adenoid Hynkel tries to expand his empire while a poor Jewish barber tries to avoid persecution from the repressive regime. Comedy starring Charlie Chaplin
11.05-12.05am Comedy Legends Barry Cryer pays tribute to Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise, one of British TV's best-loved comedy duos, whose Christmas Day shows became a national institution (8/8)

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108, EE 342

6.45pm Billions Chuck wages war on a new front (6/12) (R)
7.55 Billions Axe makes big plays with an unconventional source of inspiration. Meanwhile, Chuck goes to desperate lengths for family, and tensions rise in Wendy's relationships (7/12) (R)
9.00 The Tattooist of Auschwitz Gita grows worried over the whereabouts of Lali and once she learns of his fate, she stops at nothing to help him. Starring Jonah Hauer-King (4/6) (R)
10.10 The White Lotus Albie asks Dominic for a karmic payment to help Lucia, Tanya grows wary of Quentin's motives, Ethan confronts Cam, and Valentina gives Mia a chance (7/7) (R)
11.40-12.55am Euphoria Rue pursues a new business venture (3/8) (R)

Sky Documentaries

SKY 121, VIRGIN 188, EE 352

7.00pm FILM Spitfire (PG, 2018) The story of the British single-seat fighter plane the Supermarine Spitfire, designed by RJ Mitchell and famous for its role in the Battle of Britain. Archive footage, new film of the aircraft in flight and interviews with the last surviving veterans who flew the plane in combat combine to tell its story
9.00 Hatton A profile of former boxer Ricky Hatton, charting his journey from the Hattersley estate near Manchester to headlining on the strip in Las Vegas (R)
11.00-1.00am Jackie Stewart Documentary about Formula 1 great Jackie Stewart, from his humble beginnings outside Glasgow to winning three World Drivers' Championships (R)

ITV2

FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.15pm FILM Liar Liar (12, 1997) Comedy starring Jim Carrey, Maura Tierney and Justin Cooper
9.00 Family Guy Peter bangs his head and develops amnesia
9.30 Family Guy Brian discovers Meg has a secret boyfriend
10.00 Family Guy Chris develops a crush on a girl at school
10.30 Family Guy Brian and Stewie visit alternative universes
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3

FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Agatha Christie's Marple The spinster sleuth receives instructions from a recently deceased friend to investigate an unspecified possible crime (4/4)
9.00 Long Lost Family The story of a woman who was put in a children's home at two weeks old
10.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot A businessman is murdered on board the *Orient Express*
11.55-12.55am Agatha Christie's Poirot Part one of two. Poirot meets an accident-prone woman

ITV4

FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm Mr Bean Comedy (2/14)
7.25 FILM The Train Robbers (U, 1973) A thief's widow persuades a gunslinger to help her find a cache of her husband's stolen gold and return it to the rightful owners. Western starring John Wayne
9.30 River Monsters Jeremy Wade hunts for the goliath tigerfish
10.00 English Football League Championship Final Highlights
11.05-12.50am FILM Lucy (15, 2014) Sci-fi thriller starring Scarlett Johansson and Morgan Freeman

E4

FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

6.35pm The Big Bang Theory
7.05 FILM Skyscraper (12, 2018) A security expert must infiltrate a burning skyscraper, 225 storeys above ground, when his family is trapped inside by criminals. Action thriller starring Dwayne Johnson
9.00 FILM Logan (15, 2017) Wolverine and an ailing Professor X find their worlds turned upside down by a young mutant pursued by bounty hunters. Fantasy adventure starring Hugh Jackman
11.45-12.15am The Inbetweeners

Dave

FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Storage Hunters UK
7.30 Storage Hunters UK
8.00 World's Most Dangerous Roads A saunter in South Africa
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Alexander Armstrong hosts with guests Jon Richardson and Nicky Morgan
9.55 QI XL Stephen Fry hosts with guests Cariad Lloyd, Dermot O'Leary and Phill Jupitus
10.35 Mock the Week
11.15 Mock the Week
11.55-12.55am Live at the Apollo

Drama

FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

7.00pm Call the Midwife Nonnatus House awaits the arrival of four new pupil midwives
8.00 Call the Midwife Sister Julienne is concerned when a toddler displays troubling symptoms
9.00 Silent Witness Nikki sees a girl being knocked over by a car, leading to a case that takes the team into the world of sex grooming and teenage prostitution
11.15-1.00am Taggart A woman's body is discovered in woodland

Yesterday

FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Find It, Fix It, Flog It (9/10)
8.00 'Allo 'Allo! Edith continues to search for a new husband
8.40 'Allo 'Allo! The British send their finest French-speaking agent to say 'good moaning' to Rene and his colleagues
9.20 'Allo 'Allo! Rene and Captain Geering are ambushed
10.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics The VW Beetle
11.00 How To Build A Motor Car
12.00-1.00am Bangers & Cash A Lancia Fulvia 1.3 Sport (8/8)

PBS America

FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.05pm Auschwitz in 33 Objects A little shoe and suitcase (4/5)
7.15 Auschwitz in 33 Objects (5/5)
8.20 The Long Road to War Part one of an examination of the events that led to the First World War (1/2)
9.35 The Long Road to War Part two of the analysis of the events that led to the First World War (2/2)
10.50 Heroes on Deck: World War Two on Lake Michigan
12.00-1.10am Ruthless: Monopoly's Secret History

5Select

FV 46, FS 133, SKY 153, VIRGIN 138

5.35pm Columbo Crime drama starring Peter Falk (8/14)
7.30 Princess Margaret: Duty Over Desire A profile of Elizabeth II's younger sister, who was intent on living her life exactly as she wanted
9.00 Meghan: Famous But Friendless? Documentary examining what the future holds for the Duchess of Sussex
10.00 Dodi: Last Days of a Playboy Exploring the life of Dodi Al-Fayed, revealing an untold story
11.30-12.30am Conspiracy (2/12)

Sky History

SKY 123, VIRGIN 131, EE 353

7.00pm Dunkirk The evacuation of Allied troops in 1940
8.00 Lost Worlds The Knights Templar and Jerusalem's Temple Mount (8/12)
9.00 The Rise and Fall of El Chapo The life and career of Mexican drug-cartel kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman
11.00 The Witches of Salem How the trials were suddenly halted when the Massachusetts elite were accused of witchcraft (4/4)
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max

SKY 113, VIRGIN 111, EE 346

7.00pm The Walking Dead Daryl is injured, leaving him open to attack from walkers (5/13)
8.00 The Walking Dead The survivors discover walkers in Hershel's barn (6/13)
9.00 S.W.A.T The squad scrambles to track down a sniper terrorising Los Angeles (10/13)
10.00 A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip
11.00 Brassic (1/8)
12.00-1.00am A Discovery of Witches (4/10)

Nat Geographic

SKY 129, VIRGIN 183

7.00pm Car S.O.S.: Ultimate Countdown Favourite moments
8.00 Fiennes: Return to the Wild Ranulph and Joseph Fiennes travel through British Columbia. **See Viewing Guide** (1/2)
9.00 Apocalypse: The Rise of Hitler Documentary charting the dictator's rise to power (1/2)
10.00 Apocalypse: The Rise of Hitler Documentary (2/2)
11.00 To Catch a Smuggler
12.00-1.00am Trafficked: Underworlds The trade in hash

Discovery

SKY 125, VIRGIN 177, EE 320

7.00pm Buying Alaska
7.30 Buying Alaska
8.00 Alaskan Bush People The Browns are reeling from the death of their patriarch, Billy Brown
9.00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
10.00 Wheeler Dealers World Tour
11.00 Roadworthy Rescues
12.00-1.00am Diesel Brothers

Sky Comedy

SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, EE 347

7.00pm The Office (US) (4/6)
7.30 The Office (US) (5/6)
8.00 The Office (US) (6/6)
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 And Just Like That (1/10)
9.45 And Just Like That (2/10)
10.35 Divorce (1 & 2/8)
11.50-12.55am Jerrod Carmichael: Love At The Store

Comedy Central

SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, EE 345

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends The pals recall previous Thanksgivings
8.30 Friends
9.00 FILM Last Vegas (12, 2013) Comedy starring Michael Douglas
11.05-12.35am Lee Evans Live from the West End

Gold

SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, EE 344

6.55pm Only Fools and Horses
8.45 Dad's Army Captain Mainwaring organises a dance
9.25 Ghosts Alison invites Lucy to stay, but begins to worry about her real motivations
10.00 Ghosts
10.35 Ghosts
11.10-12.10am Billy Connolly Does

W

FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Operating Theatre Double bill
9.00 Red Flag
10.00 Trial in the Outback: The Lindy Chamberlain Story
11.00 Gemma and Gorka: Life Behind the Lens
12.00-1.00am One Born Every Minute Documentary

Alibi

SKY 109, VIRGIN 114, EE 343

7.00pm Hudson & Rex A murder in a local park points to someone dressed as a television superhero
8.00 Hudson & Rex Charlie and Rex investigate the murder of a wealthy man
9.00 Death in Paradise (1/8)
10.00 Annika (6/6)
11.05-12.05am The Red King (5/6)

Sky Main Event

SKY 401, VIRGIN 501, EE 439

10.30am Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Pakistan
12.30pm Live Formula 1 Build-up
1.55 Live Formula 1 The Monaco Grand Prix (Start-time **2.00**)
2.45 Live EFL: Leeds United v Southampton The Championship play-off final (Kick-off **3.00**)
6.30 Live Indycar The 108th Indianapolis 500 (Start-time **6.00**)
9.00 Live PGA Tour Golf The Charles Schwab Challenge
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News

Sky Premier League

SKY 402, VIRGIN 502, EE 440

11.30am-3.00pm Live SPFL: Ross County v Raith Rovers The second leg of this year's relegation play-off final (Kick-off **12.00**)
7.00 PL Review A look back at recent fixtures in the top flight
8.00 Premier League Stories
9.00 Hurst: The First and Only Former England striker Geoff Hurst discusses his life and career
10.45 Class of '92: Full Time Nicky Butt succeeds Gary Neville as CEO
11.45-12.45am Class of '92: Full Time The transfer window opens

Crysencio Summerville of Leeds United is set to face Southampton (Sky Main Event, 2.45pm)

Sky Cricket

SKY 404, VIRGIN 504, EE 442

10.30am Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Pakistan The second ODI in the three-match series
7.00pm Live Indian Premier League This year's final from MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai
7.30 Dreams of a Nation
8.30 Pushing Boundaries
9.00 Women's International One-Day Cricket Highlights
10.00 IPL Action from the final
11.00-12.00m't Women's International One-Day Cricket

TNT Sports 1

SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, EE 430

6.00-9.00am Live AFL: Melbourne Demons v St Kilda Saints (Bounce-up **6.20**)
10.45-12.45pm Live Hockey: Argentina v India
1.00-3.00 Live Hockey: United States v Belgium (Push-back **1.00**)
3.15-5.15 Live Hockey: Belgium v Ireland (Push-back **3.15**)
6.30-9.45 Live MLB: Cincinnati Reds v Los Angeles Dodgers
9.45 Tom Aspinall's Fight Lab
10.15-10.30 Around the Block
1.00-3.30am Live NBA

TNT Sports 2

SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, EE 431

8.30am Live MotoGP
9.00 Live MotoGP
11.00 Live MotoGP The Grand Prix of Catalunya Moto2 race
12.15-2.00pm Live MotoGP The Grand Prix of Catalunya MotoGP race (Start-time 1.00)
3.00-5.30 Live PSA Squash The Manchester Open
8.00 MotoGP Chequered Flag
9.00 WWE SmackDown Highlights
10.00-11.00 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Highlights
12.00-3.15am Live MLB

Sunday 26

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (PG, 2004) Comedy adventure starring Jim Carrey
1.05pm Kung Fu Panda 2 (PG, 2011) Animated comedy sequel with the voices of Jack Black and Gary Oldman
2.50 Dragonball Evolution (PG, 2009) Fantasy adventure starring Justin Chatwin
4.30 The Golden Child (PG, 1986) Comedy fantasy adventure starring Eddie Murphy and Charles Dance
6.15 Catch Me If You Can (12, 2002) A conman lies his way across America, posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, while outwitting the FBI at every turn. Fact-based drama starring Leonardo DiCaprio
9.00 Men in Black: International (12, 2019) The intergalactic law enforcers tackle their biggest threat — a mole in the Men in Black organisation. Fantasy sequel starring Chris Hemsworth
11.15 Rams (12, 2020) Comedy drama starring Sam Neill
1.35-3.50am Night School (15, 2018) Comedy starring Kevin Hart and Tiffany Haddish

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Courageous Mr Penn (PG, 1940) Fact-based drama starring Clifford Evans
7.35 There Is Another Sun (PG, 1951) Drama starring Maxwell Reed, Laurence Harvey and Susan Shaw
9.30 Four Star Theatre
10.00 One Step Beyond
10.35 The Sea Shall Not Have Them (U, 1955) Drama starring Dirk Bogarde
12.25pm Forty Guns (PG, 1957) Western with Barbara Stanwyck and Dean Jagger
2.00 The Adventures of Robin Hood Adventure series
2.35 The 39 Steps (U, 1959) Spy thriller starring Kenneth More and Taina Elg
4.25 Scotland Yard
5.00 The Footage Detectives
6.00 Look at Life
6.10 Shipwrecked (U, 1990) A young deckhand is forced to fight a horde of pirates searching for hidden treasure. Adventure starring Gabriel Byrne and Stian Smestad
8.00 Miss MacTaggart Won't Lie Down Short comedy
8.30 A Lifetime Ago with The Baim Collection
9.00 Crime Story
10.05 What A Crazy World (12, 1963) An unemployed Londoner desperate to get away from his family finds his fortunes changing when a song he writes becomes a success. Drama starring Joe Brown and Susan Maughan
11.50-1.40am Timeslip (12, 1955) Sci-fi thriller with Gene Nelson and Faith Domergue

It Could Happen to You (GREAT! Movies, 6.50pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am The Perfect Stalker (12, 2016) Thriller with Krista Morin and Danielle Savre
10.50 Fatal Acquittal (12, 2014) Thriller starring Joely Fisher and Patrick Muldoon
12.40pm Murder 101: If Wishes Were Horses (PG, 2007) Mystery starring Dick Van Dyke and Barry Van Dyke
2.35 Street Fighter (12, 1994) Action adventure starring Jean-Claude Van Damme
4.40 Volcano (12, 1997) Disaster thriller with Tommy Lee Jones and Anne Heche
6.50 It Could Happen to You (PG, 1994) A cop shares his lottery ticket with a waitress, but his wife is unhappy with the arrangement when their numbers come up. Romantic comedy starring Nicolas Cage
9.00 Patriots Day (15, 2016) A police sergeant joins the hunt for the perpetrators in the aftermath of the 2013 Boston marathon bombing. Drama with Mark Wahlberg
11.45-1.35am The Shallows (15, 2016) Thriller with Blake Lively and Oscar Jaenada

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.35pm Blue Beetle (12, 2023) Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Mariduena
2.45 My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (12, 2023) Romantic comedy with Nia Vardalos and John Corbett
4.25 Turtles All the Way Down (12, 2024) Romantic drama with Isabela Merced
6.20 Boonie Bears: Guardian Code (PG, 2023) Two bears are determined to find out the truth about their missing mother's fate. Animated adventure with the voice of Joseph S Lambert
8.00 Blue Beetle (12, 2023) An ancient relic of alien biotechnology chooses a graduate as its symbiotic host. Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Mariduena
10.10 Out of Darkness (15, 2022) Horror with Iola Evans
11.45-1.45am The Equalizer 3 (15, 2023) Thriller starring Denzel Washington

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Sunday Morning with Kate McCann and Adam Boulton **1.00pm** Alexis Conran **4.00** Times Radio Drive **7.00** The Best of Times Podcasts **8.00** The Story **8.30** Highlights from Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00am** The Story **1.30** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

5.00am Tracks of My Years (r) **6.00** Good Morning Sunday **9.00** Sunday Love Songs **11.00** The Michael Ball Show **1.00pm** 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 **12.00** Phil Williams **3.00am** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary **4.00** Oliver Hides

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast
9.00 Sunday Morning
12.00 Private Passions Michael Berkeley is joined by the poet Imtiaz Dharker
1.30pm Music Map Exploring the history of Beethoven's *Song of Thanksgiving*
3.00 Choral Evensong From St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, with music by Stanford, Wood and Matthew Martin (r)
4.00 Jazz Record Requests Alyn Shipton marks Marshall Allen's 100th birthday
5.00 The Early Music Show Highlights of a concert by Nuria Rial and Ensemble 1700 at Schwetzingen Festival
6.00 Words and Music Poetry, prose and music featuring butterflies and moths (r)
7.15 Sunday Feature: Everything Stops When I Play Gavin Higgins considers how his Tourette's syndrome and obsessive compulsive disorder have informed his music. **See Choice**
8.00 Drama on 3: Antigone Pauline Harris's adaptation of the play by Jean Anouilh. Determined to bury her brother, Antigone faces death for defying her uncle
9.30 New Generation Artists Accordionist Ryan Corbett performs Victor Vlasov's *The Holiday in Moldovanka*
10.00 Night Tracks A mix of music for late-night listening
11.30 Unclassified John Francis Flynn is in the Listening Chair to recommend a piece of music that transports him
12.30am Through the Night (r)

Today's pick

Sunday Feature: Everything Stops When I Play
Radio 3, 7.15pm
As part of the BBC's Mental Wellbeing season, the composer Gavin Higgins, *right*, considers how his Tourette's syndrome and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) have informed his music. At school he developed a tic that made his face repeatedly contort. He also had intrusive thoughts that urged him to phone his family each morning and

check they were still alive. This programme follows his work and includes meetings with other musicians who have Tourette's and OCD.
Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Bells on Sunday
5.45 In Touch (r)
6.00 News Headlines
6.05 Thinking Allowed (r)
6.35 On Your Farm
7.00 News and Papers
7.10 Sunday
7.54 Radio 4 Appeal
8.00 News and Papers
8.10 Sunday Worship
8.48 A Point of View (r)
8.58 Tweet of the Day
9.00 Broadcasting House
10.00 Desert Island Discs With the writer John Boyne
11.00 The Archers
12.15pm Profile (r)
12.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue With Rachel Parris (r)
1.00 The World This Weekend
1.30 Stoppage Time for Scunthorpe Jack Fenwick on Scunthorpe United's history
2.00 Gardeners' Question Time Listeners' queries (r)
2.45 Opening Lines John Yorke explores *The Raiders*, by SR Crockett (1/2)
3.00 Drama: The Raiders By SR Crockett (1/2)
4.00 Open Book Reviews
4.30 Round Britain Quiz
5.00 Witness History Recalling the Hindenburg airship disaster of 1937
5.10 The Tourist Trap (r)
5.54 Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.15 Pick of the Week
7.00 The Archers Harrison has some making up to do
7.15 The Beauty of Everyday Things With Ian McMillan
7.45 Why Do We Do That? (r)
8.00 Word of Mouth (r)
8.30 Last Word (r)
9.00 Money Box (r)
9.25 Radio 4 Appeal (r)
9.30 From Our Own Correspondent (r)
10.00 The Westminster Hour
11.00 In Our Time (r)
11.45 Short Works (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.15am Crossing Continents Current affairs reports (r)
12.45 Bells on Sunday (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Newscast **6.00** 5 Live Science **7.00** Breakfast **10.00** Colin Murray **12.00** 5 Live Sport **2.00pm** Formula 1: Monaco Grand Prix (Start-time **2.00**) **4.00** Tennis. French Open **6.00** 6-0-6 **8.00** Gordon Smart **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am Weekend Sports Breakfast **9.00** Sunday Edition **11.00** The Warm Up **1.30pm** GameDay Live. The Championship play-off final (Kick-off **3.00**) **6.00** Final Word **9.00** Trans Europe Express **12.00** A talkSPORT Special **1.00am** Extra Time

Talk
Digital only

5.00am Cristo Foufas **7.00** David Bull **10.00** Peter Cardwell **1.00pm** Alex Phillips **4.00** Trisha Goddard **7.00** The Sunday Night Club. With Mark Saggers **10.00** Plank of the Week **11.00** What Just Happened? **12.00** Plank of the Week **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

7.30am 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 **12.00** Poetry Extra **12.30pm** 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. With dancer Karen Hauer **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** I've Never Seen Star Wars **11.00** Romance and Adventure **11.30** Liam Williams: Ladhood **12.00** Before the Screaming Begins **12.30am** The Darker Side of the Border

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am News **9.06** From Our Own Correspondent **9.30** The Food Chain **10.00** News **10.06** People Fixing the World **10.30** The Fifth Floor **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Trending **11.50** More or Less **12.00** News **12.06pm** The Documentary: Shadow War: China and the West **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.06** The Climate Question **2.30** Happy News **3.00** News **3.06** Sportsworld **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** In the Studio **8.00** News **8.06** Unexpected Elements **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** The Climate Question **10.30** Pick of the World **10.50** Over to You **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Fifth Floor **12.00** News **12.06am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.30** Trending **12.50** More or Less **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newsroom **2.30** CrowdScience **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** Pick of the World **3.50** Over to You **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Conversation

6 Music
Digital only

6.00am Amy Lamé **8.00** Stuart Maconie **10.00** Cerys Matthews **1.00pm** 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 **12.00** Guy Garvey's Finest Hour **3.00am** 6 Music's Jukebox **4.00** The BBC Introducing Mixtape

Virgin Radio
Digital only

7.00am Angela Scanlon **10.00** Tom Allen **1.00pm** Dick & Dom. Music and chat **4.00** Graeme Smith **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** My 80s Playlist **2.00** Sean Goldsmith

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

7.00am Tim Lihoreau **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00pm** Joanna Gosling **4.00** Stephen Mangan **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Bank Holiday Monday | Viewing guide

Critic's choice Theresa May: The Accidental Prime Minister

ITV1, 10.25pm

"When the public think about prime ministers they tend to remember one thing. And for Theresa it's going to be she couldn't get Brexit through." The summary by May loyalist Gavin — now Lord — Barwell seems pretty fair. As is Sam Collyns's documentary, which tells the story of her three years in No 10 with a few flashes of insight. We all know about her "fields of wheat" gaffe, her dance to the podium, her coughing fit, her interminable struggles with Brexit rebels such as Boris Johnson, her stiff response to the Grenfell disaster and her role in the Windrush scandal. This is clearly an attempt to set the record straight and show the human side of the shy, well-meaning clergyman's daughter, buffeted by forces and egos beyond her control. It would be wrong to say that her human side is absent when we see her sitting at home at her kitchen table and talking about her love for cooking. But the stiffness that earned her the nickname "Maybot" is also still discernible. She does seem very angry under the surface, but characteristically declines to let rip. When asked if she felt that she was personally betrayed by her colleagues she says she doesn't "use terms like that". There are accounts from party adversaries such as Sajid Javid and Suella Braverman, with the latter offering a slightly patronising assessment of her shortcomings. Other supporters, such as Barwell and Amber Rudd, have a decent say, with the latter suggesting May's reputation has been enhanced by events that followed her time in office. This film will probably confirm rather than alter perceptions. Ben Dowell

Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure

BBC2, 6.30pm

Viewers are getting weary of celebrity travel trips. And while I would love to say that this is a wildly different experience — a proper investigative dive into the Caribbean islands rather than a nice excuse for a holiday — that wouldn't be strictly true. Still, Clive Myrie is an engaging and lively presence, and there is a personal touch in the first episode when he visits Jamaica, his parents' home before they emigrated to the UK. It's the usual mix of swimming, eating and stage-managed jolly encounters. **BD**

Springwatch

BBC2 8pm

The lambs are frisking, the leaves are on the trees and the watchers are back with three weeks of live programming, a theme of "little things make a big difference" encouraging viewers to do their bit. Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan are at the familiar RSPB Arne Nature Reserve in Dorset, on the lookout for life in woodlands, farmland, reed beds, mudflats, scrub, wet woodland and acid grassland. Iolo Williams will be exploring the lives of Dorset creatures from snoozing dormice to nesting little terns. Every programme also features the *Mindful Moment*, a short film of "pure nature". **BD**

D-Day 80: We Were There

BBC2, 9pm

Marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, this is a collection of accounts from D-Day veterans, some of them centenarians. Rachel Burden traces the stories in Normandy and hears memories of the largest amphibious landing in military history. These include those of Pat Owtram, a member of the Women's Royal Naval Service who bumped into Churchill and Eisenhower on the cliffs of Dover as they sought to deceive Germany into thinking that an invasion force would leave from Kent for Calais. It is a story that instils awe and gratitude. **BD**

The Sympathizer

Sky Atlantic/Now, 9pm

This lavish adaptation of Viet Thanh Nguyen's sprawling novel begins after the fall of Saigon, with our half-French, half-Vietnamese narrator (Hoa Xuande) in a re-education camp writing about his work as a communist embedded in the Vietnamese secret police. Before long he is in Los Angeles, where he continues his spy work despite the attentions of his CIA handler, Claude (Robert Downey Jr). Part thriller, part cross-cultural satire, it's an inviting if complex watch that forces you to reconsider Hollywood's depictions of the conflict that is known in Vietnam as the American War. **BD**

Films of the day

Hope and Glory (15, 1987)
BBC2, 10pm

John Boorman's wartime drama is a loosely autobiographical take on life in London during the Blitz. To nine-year-old Bill (Sebastian Rice-Edwards) the bomb craters around his suburb are an adventure playground. That's when he's not at home with his mum (Sarah Miles), dad (David Hayman) and grandfather (Ian Bannen). Even his sister (Sammi Davis) is given to exclaiming, "Come and see the fireworks!" during an air raid. With its nostalgic tone, this was some way from Boorman's earlier films (*Point Blank*, *Excalibur*), yet it finds room for flashes of magic realism, such as when a barrage balloon breaks free over the roofs. Boorman earned Oscar nods for directing and screenplay, while the film received a best picture nomination. (108min) **James Jackson**

The Road Dance (15, 2021)
BBC2, 11.50pm

The title designer Richie Adams has created some of the biggest opening sequences in the business, from *Mr & Mrs Smith* to *The Hunger Games*. Here he turns director, adapting the 2002 novel by John MacKay about secrets and violence in the Outer Hebrides. The drama, inspired by real life, is set in a crofting community in 1916 and follows the misfortunes of the teenage villager Kirsty (Hermione Corfield, *above*), who is raped after a local dance and carries the subsequent pregnancy to full term, in secret, to avoid any opprobrium from this oppressive and patriarchal society. Despite the subject matter, the film is bizarrely tasteful and borderline bland, defined by striking cinematography from Petra Korner but little intensity. (117min) **Kevin Maher**

Catch up

The Lost Scrolls of Pompeii: The New Revelations
My5

Almost 2,000 years after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius, the town in southern Italy that was buried under a blanket of volcanic ash gives up yet more secrets. Alongside frescoes, mosaics, statues and the remains of Pompeiians, a collection of ancient papyrus scrolls were entombed — the only library from the ancient world surviving in its entirety. Most attempts to open and read the scrolls have reduced them to dust, but this fascinating documentary, which is presented by Professor Alice Roberts, *below*, follows the groundbreaking work of the computer scientist Brent Seales and his team. Using infrared technology they are unwrapping the scrolls virtually to reveal the secrets that are contained within. **Joe Clay**

Regional programmes

● BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.30pm Paranormal: The Girl, the Ghost and the Gravestone (r) **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **11.45** I Kissed a Girl. Emotions run high as the girls return from their dates **12.30-1.20am** I Kissed a Girl. The aftermath of a dramatic kiss-off rocks the masseria to its core

● BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.30pm The Emerald Isles. New series. Ardal O'Hanlon explores the islands off the coast of Ireland **11.20** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **12.05am** I Kissed a Girl (r) **12.50-6.00am** BBC News

● BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00pm Bog Amach (r) **10.30** The Chronicles of Armagh. Taking a look at autumn (r) **10.50-11.50pm** Hidden Treasures of the National Trust (r)

● BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 7.15-7.45pm Scotland's Home of the Year. The judges pay a visit to three houses in the south **10.30** EastEnders. Suki and Eve are rattled when Nish turns up on the doorstep of No 41 **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Amol Rajan hosts an extended edition of the quiz (r) **11.45** I Kissed a Girl. Emotions run high as the girls return from their dates (r) **12.30am** I Kissed a Girl (r) **1.20** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.25-6.00am** BBC News

● STV As ITV1 except: 12.30-3.00am Shop on TV **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision

● BBC Scotland 2.00pm Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Landward. Dougie Vipond visits Skye (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: This Farming Life (r) **7.00** The Seven **7.30** Icons of Football (r) **8.00** Scotland: The New Wild. The wildlife of the Highlands. Last in the series (r) **9.00** Scotland's Big Night Out (r) **10.00** Scotland's Biggest Families (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** Inside Central Station (r)

● S4C 6.00am Cyw (r) **10.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. Heledd Cynwal and Trystan Ellis-Morris present live from the Maldwyn Urdd Eisteddfod 2024. We herald the start of the competitions on the first morning of the festival **12.00** News S4C **12.05pm** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. Coverage of the competitions for the primary school younger children **2.25** News S4C **2.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. Live broadcast of the day's main ceremony **3.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. The rest of the secondary school pupils' competitions **6.30** Y Coridor **6.50** News Ni **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.45** News **8.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **9.30** Ffermio **10.00** Gerddi Cymru (r) **10.30** Iaith ar Daith (r) **11.30-1.05** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Bank Holiday Monday

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.30** Rip Off Britain. Investigating the energy industry **10.15** The Moment of Proof (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.20** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.30** Doctors. An invite to meet Paige's parents leaves Sid on the fence **2.00** The Famous Five. The children protect a circus magician from an unscrupulous doctor **3.30** Escape to the Country. A Manchester couple look for a home in West Yorkshire (r) **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene **5.15** Pointless. Alexander Armstrong is joined by co-host Josh Widdicombe **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.20** BBC Regional News; Weather **6.30** The One Show. Topical stories

Eve and Suki are rattled (7.15pm)

7.15 EastEnders Suki and Eve are rattled when Nish turns up on the doorstep of No 41

7.45 FILM Spider-Man: No Way Home (12, 2021) With Spider-Man's identity now revealed to the world, Peter Parker asks Doctor Strange for magical help to undo the damage. However, a spell gone wrong unleashes dangerous foes from parallel universes on the world, forcing Peter to discover what it truly means to be Spider-Man. Comic-book adventure sequel starring Tom Holland, Zendaya and Benedict Cumberbatch, with Willem Dafoe and Alfred Molina among the stars of past *Spider-Man* movies reprising their roles

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.20 BBC Regional News

10.30 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Amol Rajan hosts the quiz, with panellists Ruth Davidson and Richard Osman (8/10) (r)

11.15 I Kissed a Girl Emotions run high as the girls return from their dates. One wonders if she missed her shot, while another struggles with the partner swapping, and a secret crush gets exposed (7/10) (r)

12.00 I Kissed a Girl. The aftermath of a dramatic kiss-off rocks the masseria to its core. Some girls question their choices, while one couple judges the decision made by their friend (r) **12.50am** Weather for the Week Ahead **12.55** BBC News. The latest headlines

BBC2

6.45am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.30** Marcus Wareing Simply Provence (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: MasterChef (r) (SL) **9.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Mastermind (r) **2.15** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **2.45** The Farmers' Country Showdown. At the farmers' market in historic Stokesley (r) **3.30** Five Bedrooms. Ben launches himself as a B&B accommodation provider (r) **4.15** Cornwall: This Fishing Life. The Cornish fishing village of Mevagissey (r) **5.15** Flog It! (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Stephen Bailey, Charlie Brooks, Ria Lina and John Thomson (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure. New series. The newsreader goes on a trip to reconnect with family, explore his heritage. **See Viewing Guide**

The 1987 film Hope and Glory (10pm)

7.00 Thief at the British Museum How BBC News reported on the theft from the British Museum

7.30 Saving Lives at Sea A crew race to the rescue of a diver off the coast, while a swimmer is swept out to sea (7/10) (r)

8.00 Springwatch New series. Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan return to their base at RSPB Arne in Dorset, while Iolo Williams is at Corfe Castle and Megan McCubbin is at a spectacular location on the Isle of Bute. **See Viewing Guide**

9.00 D-Day 80: We Were There Rachel Burden traces the stories of the UK's D-Day veterans in Normandy and hears memories of the massive beach invasion and the battles that led to the defeat of Germany. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 FILM Hope and Glory (15, 1987) London is in upheaval during the Blitz, but for a young boy the devastation presents a fabulous adventure. He is later sent to live with his grandfather, in whom he discovers a wonderfully eccentric and playful friend. John Boorman's semi-autobiographical drama starring Sebastian Rice-Edwards, Sarah Miles and Susan Wooldridge. **See Film Choice**

11.50 FILM The Road Dance (15, 2021) Drama with Hermione Corfield. **See Film Choice**

1.45am Sign Zone: Question Time. Fiona Bruce chairs the topical debate, inviting politicians and other guests in Coventry to answer questions from an invited audience (r) (SL) **2.45-3.40** Countryfile. Stories from the north Northumberland coast (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning. Chat and lifestyle features **12.30pm** Loose Women. Studio discussion from a female perspective **1.45** ITV News; Weather **1.50** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and his team assess items in Middlesbrough (r) **3.00 FILM Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (U, 2010)** A woman struggling to look after her children and the family farm receives a helping hand from the magical nanny. Fantasy comedy starring Emma Thompson and Maggie Gyllenhaal **5.00** Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals. Compilation of some of the most dramatic endgames (r) **5.30** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **6.30** Regional News; Weather **6.40** ITV News; Weather

Britain's Got Talent: Ant & Dec (8pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Tom is frustrated, Ethan overhears a conversation, and Leyla is suspicious of Ella

7.30 Coronation Street Sarah plans to implicate Nathan in Lauren's murder by planting false evidence, but Kit catches her

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant McPartlin and Dec Donnelly host the first live semi-final of the talent contest, welcoming back acts that impressed judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon during the auditions and who now try to land a spot in the grand final

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.25 Theresa May: The Accidental Prime Minister The inside story of Theresa May's tumultuous premiership, based on exclusive access to the former Prime Minister herself, with contributions from friends and critics. **See Viewing Guide**

11.45 For the Love of Dogs with Alison Hammond (r)

12.15am Teleshopping **3.00** My Mum, Your Dad. Dating show with Davina McCall (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Gino's Italy: Like Mamma Used to Make. In Emilia Romagna (r) (SL) **5.35** Gino's Italy: Secrets of the South. Exploring Cisternino (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.30am 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **6.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **7.20** 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.40** Frasier (r) **10.10** Frasier (r) **10.40 FILM Annie (U, 1982)** John Huston's musical with Aileen Quinn and Albert Finney **1.05pm** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **2.10** Countdown. Levi Roots is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. A holiday home on the Balearic Island of Menorca **5.00** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals. Three professional chefs in Oxfordshire battle it out **6.00** Four in a Bed. The competition begins at Home Farm B&B in Milton Keynes **6.30** Channel 4 News

Aileen Quinn in Annie (10.40am)

7.00 The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer Deborah Meaden, Jay Blades, Judi Love and Mike Wozniak take part in the culinary challenge, presented by Matt Lucas and Noel Fielding. Last in the series (r)

8.00 Our Welsh Chapel Dream With the chapel being unliveable for many more months, Keith and Marj have come up with a radical idea to sleep in a shipping container in their car park. Last in the series

9.00 Kill Zone: Inside Gaza — Dispatches Examining the toll of Israel's military campaign on Gaza as vital services break down. Told through the testimony of doctors, children and journalists at the centre of it all

10.15 24 Hours in Police Custody The inside story of an armed siege in a tower block, and including unprecedented access to the command suite during a live siege. A man rings 999 to report that he has seen a man with a weapon that looks like an AK-47 rifle. The call has come from a block of flats where two men have already blockaded themselves in a flat (r)

11.55 Kingpins Ben Zand travels to Lebanon and encounters a high-level arms dealer (2/3)

12.50am Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (SL) **1.40** The Simpsons (r) **2.05** The Simpsons (r) **2.30 FILM The Road To Kuthriyar (12, 2021)** Drama starring Dhruv Athreye **4.30** Grand Designs (r) (SL) **5.25** Beat the Chef (r) **5.50** Countdown (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points **12.45pm** Friends. Chandler plays racquetball with Monica's father (r) **1.10** Friends. Rachel wrestles with a dilemma (r) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Mali gets in Rose's way (r) **2.15 FILM A View to Kill For (PG, TVM, 2023)** Molly's family relocate when she inherits her estranged father's mansion, but a stranger breaks in and leaves a warning. Thriller starring Tiffany Montgomery **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Cousins head to Fuengirola market (r) **5.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Cousins make the most of a day off (r) **5.55** 5 News Update **6.00** Police Interceptors. The officers chase two separate runaways (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

Presenter Dara O Briain (9pm)

7.00 Traffic Cops A scooter is driven the wrong way down a dual carriageway, while a chase nearly ends in serious injury for an officer when he is almost dragged along by a car (r)

7.55 5 News Update Round-up

8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders A PC stakes out a suspected drug driver at a fast-food outlet, while officers discover a crack pipe when they pull over a driver (7/10)

9.00 Mysteries of the Pyramids with Dara O Briain Dara teams up with Egyptologist Chris Naunton and archaeologist Raksha Dave to learn how the pyramids' very existence came from the battle between tomb raiders and tomb builders (2/2)

10.00 Inside the Force Officers at Middlesbrough police station must deal with the realities of drug abuse, including a man who crashes a car into a wall and flees, but once arrested, there is suspicion he might be under the influence of drugs

11.05 Police: Suspect No 1 Detectives are tasked with bringing down the Norfolk-based Lewis drugs gang and in particular the man overseeing the selling and dealing of crack cocaine and heroin at street level (5/6) (r)

12.35am Traffic Cops. Rounding up wanted criminals (r) **1.25** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.25** 10 Years Younger in 10 Days (r) **3.50** Police Interceptors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5

Bank Holiday Monday | Digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

The Sympathizer
Drama with Hoa Xuande as a communist spy in the South Vietnamese army
Sky Atlantic, 9pm

BBC3

FV 23, FS 107, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm The Next Step Internationals begin
7.20 The Next Step A surprise guest changes everything
7.45 The Next Step A-Troupe face off. Last in the series
8.05 Shark Tank Featuring a product designed to keep holiday ornaments safe
8.45 Quiet Life Comedy short
9.00 I Kissed a Girl The aftermath of a dramatic kiss-off rocks the masseria (8/10)
9.50 Dave's Games Animated short film about a video-game shop owner
10.05 Juice Jamma tries to keep Winnie and Guy from talking to each other in hopes of covering up his lie (5/6)
10.30 Juice Jamma finally tackles his shaking boxes (6/6)
11.00 Dubai Hustle Luxury high-end property in Dubai (1/8)
11.30 Dubai Hustle (2/8)
12.00-12.30am Charlotte in Sunderland (6/10)

BBC4

FV 9/24, FS 108, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys From Hampstead to Islington (8/15)
7.30 War Walks Professor Richard Holmes visits the battlefield at Hastings (1/6)
8.00 Britain's Lost Masterpieces Experts visit Haddo House in Aberdeenshire (2/3)
9.00 Cumbria's Red Squirrels Following Cumbria's red squirrels throughout the seasons. **See Viewing Guide**
10.00 Civilisation: A Personal View by Kenneth Clark The presenter takes a look at the artists of the Romantic movement (12/13)
10.50 Civilisation: A Personal View by Kenneth Clark Charting the rise of engineers and reformers of the 19th-century (13/13)
11.40-12.40am Inside the Mind of Robert Burns Alan Bissett explores the complex views held by the poet

More 4

FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Car S.O.S Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend restore a VW Wizard (3/11)
7.55 Grand Designs Following the building of a radical, self-heating family home — the first of its kind in the UK
9.00 PopMaster TV Music lovers from London, Banbury, Doncaster, Southport and Newcastle-under-Lyme compete in this third heat round to secure a place in the grand final
10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Kevin Bridges and Rebecca Front join team captains Jon Richardson and Sean Lock for another round of light-hearted words-and-numbers fun, with guest Joe Lycett in Dictionary Corner (4/5)
11.05-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E A 58-year-old woman is brought in after being run over by a lorry (6/12)

Sky Arts

FV 36, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

6.00pm FILM Oklahoma! (U, 1955) Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical western starring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones
8.40 André Rieu: Time of Our Lives The violinist is invited to perform in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and also plays at the Netherlands Grand Prix, while Emma Kok stuns the audience
9.40 42nd Street A performance of the Broadway song and dance musical extravaganza, featuring the songs *We're in the Money*, *Lullaby of Broadway* and *Dames*
11.55-1.10am The Barry White Story: Let the Music Play ADocumentary charting the singer's life and career, looking at his childhood, his time in prison and his life-changing decision to go into music

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108, EE 342

6.50pm House of the Dragon Alicent enlists help to track down Aegon (9/10) (R)
7.55 House of the Dragon While mourning a tragic loss, Rhaenyra tries desperately to hold the realm together and Daemon prepares for war. Starring Matt Smith and Emma D'Arcy. (10/10) (R)
9.00 The Sympathizer New series. A communist spy juggles his loyalties to the party, the South Vietnamese army and his CIA handler. Black comedy starring Hoa Xuande. **See Viewing Guide** (1/4)
10.10 Succession As Logan works to finalise a deal, an unexpected threat emerges. Meanwhile, Greg has to break some distressing news to Tom (6/10) (R)
11.20-12.20am The King Bruno asks Gloria to investigate Mancuso (3/8) (R)

Sky Documentaries

SKY 121, VIRGIN 188, EE 352

7.00pm Murder in Boston: Roots, Rampage and Reckoning Examining the 1989 murder of Carol Stuart (1/3) (R)
8.00 Lockerbie An investigation into the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in December 1988, examining unanswered questions and exploring the truth behind the atrocity (1/4)
9.00 The Jinx Part Two Robert Durst is found guilty of Susan's murder and sentenced to life, but dies in jail a few months later, while Kathie's family files a suit against his estate. Last in the series
10.10-12.10am Tell Them You Love Me Documentary exploring the story of esteemed university professor Anna Stubblefield's controversial affair with Derrick Johnson, a non-verbal man with cerebral palsy (R)

ITV2

FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Family Fortunes
8.00 Bob's Burgers Bob becomes a substitute teacher
8.30 Bob's Burgers The Belchers go off in search of a Christmas tree
9.00 Family Guy Stewie auditions in drag for a television show
9.30 Family Guy Peter falls out with his boss at the brewery
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3

FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Vera The detective investigates the death of a school teacher. Brenda Blethyn stars
9.00 Mr Bates vs the Post Office Fact-based drama starring Toby Jones and Monica Dolan (1/4)
10.00 The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe John Darwin decides to fake his own death. Fact-based drama starring Eddie Marsan (1/4)
11.00 Wycliffe Thieves target an archaeological dig (7/8)
11.55-12.45am The Royal A new GP has a tough first day (3/14)

ITV4

FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.00pm The Grand Fishing Adventure Ali Hamidi and Bobby Zamora visit northern France (3/4)
8.00 MotoGP Highlights Action from the Catalan Grand Prix
9.00 No Room For Error New series. The road racing crop await a TT like none before (1/4)
10.00-12.15am FILM Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome (15, 1985) The nomadic warrior ends up protecting a band of feral children. Sci-fi adventure sequel starring Mel Gibson and Tina Turner

E4

FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks For one resident, the best night of her life takes a devastating turn
7.30 Modern Family On the first day of school, Jay and Gloria argue over what Manny should wear
8.00 Teen First Dates An apprentice builder goes on a date with a student (1/10)
9.00 Made in Chelsea Tristan is reeling from the chaos (8/10)
10.05 Gogglebox The households' opinions on recent television
11.05-12.10am First Dates

Dave

FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Would I Lie to You?
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Gemma Cairney
8.20 Richard Osman's House of Games With Ruby Bhogal, Ed Byrne, Ingrid Oliver and Matthew Pinsent
9.00 QI XL Extended edition. With Lloyd Langford, Victoria Coren Mitchell and Jack Whitehall
10.00 Mad Dogs New series. Drama based on the UK series of the same name
11.10-12.15am QI XL

Drama

FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Foggy shows off his orienteering skills. Comedy starring Brian Wilde
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine The pensioners encounter a prophet of doom. Comedy starring Peter Sallis
8.00 The Brokenwood Mysteries Crime author Jack Rudd visits Brokenwood to give a reading, but ends up dead
10.00 New Tricks New evidence sheds light on the death of a criminal who was killed in 1996
11.20-12.30am Soldier, Soldier

Yesterday

FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Canal Boat Diaries (4/5)
7.30 Canal Boat Diaries (5/5)
8.00 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Henry and Simon explore Wiltshire and Oxfordshire, meeting animal enthusiast Susan. Last in the series
9.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics A 90s Alfa with electrical issues lives up to its stereotype
10.00 Bangers & Cash A 1970 Excalibur Roadstar (1/8)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys

PBS America

FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

7.00pm Edwardian Britain in Colour (1/2)
8.00 Edwardian Britain in Colour Film of people celebrating the arrival of a new tram in Wigan (2/2)
9.00 Thirties in Colour: Countdown to War (1/5)
10.00 Thirties in Colour: Countdown to War (2/3)
11.00 Thirties in Colour: Countdown to War (3/5)
12.00-1.35am Victorian Britain on Film The invention of the motion picture camera

5Select

FV 46, FS 133, SKY 153, VIRGIN 138

7.00pm Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown In Liverpool, the auctioneers are tempted by a Georgian side server
8.00 Churchill Winston Churchill's 1941 visit to Washington DC (4/6)
9.00 Churchill Winston Churchill calls a general election (5/6)
10.00 Churchill A look at the final years of Winston Churchill (6/6)
11.00 WWII Battles in Colour A look at the Battle of Kursk (4/6)
12.00-1.00am WWII Battles in Colour Battle of the Bulge (5/6)

Sky History

SKY 123, VIRGIN 131, EE 353

6.00pm UFO Conspiracy: Hunt for the Truth Documentary
8.00 American Pickers Mike crashes into the godfather of Italian scooters
9.00 Lost U-Boats of WWII The team makes a discovery far older than they expected
10.00 Secrets of the Lost Liners
11.00 The UnXplained with William Shatner Strange stories of US presidents
12.00-1.00am The Guilty Innocent with Christopher Eccleston (2/2)

Sky Max

SKY 113, VIRGIN 111, EE 346

7.00pm The Walking Dead Dale fears the survivors are losing their humanity (11/13)
8.00 The Walking Dead Shane refuses to tolerate Rick's leadership any longer (12/13)
9.00 The Walking Dead The scouting party returns to find the farm overrun by walkers (13/13)
10.00 FILM Game of Death (18, 1978) Martial arts thriller starring Bruce Lee and Gig Young
12.00-1.00am Hold the Front Page Bradford's *Telegraph & Argus* (5/6)

Nat Geographic

SKY 129, VIRGIN 183

6.00pm Nazi Megastructures (7/7)
8.00 Erased: WWII Heroes of Colour The stories of people of colour during the Second World War (3/4)
9.00 To Catch a Smuggler A shipment of cocaine is hidden in gardening pots
10.00 Trafficked: Underworlds with Mariana Van Zeller Report on the illegal gambling underworld
11.00 Air Crash Investigation
12.00-1.00am To Catch a Smuggler (1/8)

Discovery

SKY 125, VIRGIN 177, EE 320

7.00pm Wheeler Dealers: Dream Car A classic Fiesta RS Turbo
8.00 Supertruckers
9.00 Wheeler Dealers World Tour Mike and Elvis engage in the ultimate Aussie showdown
10.00 Roadworthy Rescues
11.00 Combat Dealers
12.00-1.00am Gold Divers

Sky Comedy

SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, EE 347

7.00pm The Conners
7.30 The Conners
8.00 Will & Grace
8.30 Will & Grace
9.00 Sex and the City Charlotte looks for love (1/8)
9.40 Sex and the City (2/8)
10.15 Ricky Gervais Live: Animals
11.45-12.25am Silicon Valley (1/8)

Comedy Central

SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, EE 345

7.00pm Friends
9.00 Rhod Gilbert's Growing Pains With Kerry Godliman (12/12)
10.00 Impractical Jokers: The Inspired Unemployed
10.30 Lee Evans Live from the West End Stand-up comedy
12.00-1.00am Alan Carr: Yap, Yap, Yap! Stand-up show

Gold

SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, EE 344

6.40pm Dad's Army
8.00 Open All Hours
8.40 Blackadder II
9.15 dinnerladies
9.55 The Royle Family
10.35 Harry Enfield and Chums
11.15 Knowing Me, Knowing You: With Alan Partridge
11.55-12.30am Open All Hours

W

FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Tipping Point: Lucky Stars
8.00 Gemma and Gorka: Life Behind the Lens
9.00 Big House Clearout
10.00 Trial in the Outback: The Lindy Chamberlain Story
11.00 Red Flag
12.00-1.15am Stacey Dooley: Locked Up with the Lifers

Alibi

SKY 109, VIRGIN 114, EE 343

7.00pm Father Brown (7/10)
8.00 Death in Paradise The president of the local cricket club is found dead (4/8)
9.00 Death in Paradise (5/8)
10.00 Murdoch Mysteries
11.00-12.20am Death in Paradise The detectives are left with two murders to solve (6/8)

Sky Main Event

SKY 401, VIRGIN 501, EE 439

7.00pm Sky Sports News
7.30 Live Bundesliga Coverage of second leg of the relegation play-off (Kick-off **TBA**), as the team that finished 15th in the Bundesliga faces the third-placed team in Bundesliga 2 for the right to play in next season's German top flight
9.30 Sky Sports News
10.00 Sky Sports News at Ten
10.30 Back Pages Tonight A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News

Sky Premier League

SKY 402, VIRGIN 502, EE 440

7.00pm PL Review A look back at recent fixtures in the top flight
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox Gary sits down with former Manchester United and England teammate Paul Scholes
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The presenter talks to Robbie Fowler
9.00 PL Review A look back at recent fixtures in the top flight
10.00 Premier League Icons A profile of Dennis Bergkamp
10.30-12.30am PL Retro Arsenal v Manchester United from 1997

Bruce Lee stars in the martial arts thriller Game of Death (Sky Max, 10pm)

Sky Cricket

SKY 404, VIRGIN 504, EE 442

6.00am IPL Another chance to see Kolkata Knight Riders v Sunrisers Hyderabad in the first qualifier
10.10 IPL Another chance to see Rajasthan Royals v Royal Challengers Bengaluru
2.10pm IPL Another chance to see the second qualifier match from M. A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai
6.30 IPL This year's final from MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai
11.20 Best of the Women's World T20 The 2018 final
11.30-12.30am IPL Highlights

TNT Sports 1

SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, EE 430

7.00pm TNT Sports Goals Reload
7.15 Tom Aspinall's Fight Lab
7.45 Live T20 Cricket: West Indies v South Africa Coverage of the third and final T20 in the series from Sabina Park in Kingston
11.45pm-12.00m't TNT Sports Goals Reload The best goals from the 2023/24 French Ligue 1 season
1.00-4.15am Live WWE Monday Night Raw Watch CM Punk, Drew McIntyre, Seth Rollins, Rhea Ripley, Becky Lynch and more of your favourite WWE Superstars face-off

TNT Sports 2

SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, EE 431

6.00pm Live MLB: Baltimore Orioles v Boston Red Sox (Start-time **6.05**). Coverage of the American League East match from Camden Yards
9.15 Fishing: On the Bank Angling magazine show, featuring action from the Airflow Classic
10.15 Fight Week Taking a look ahead to UFC 302
11.00pm-12.00m't WWE Raw Highlights Wrestling action
1.30-4.00am Live NBA Coverage of a play-off match (Tip-off **TBA**)

Bank Holiday Monday

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Ferdinand (U, 2017) Animated comedy with the voice of John Cena **1.10pm Bridge to Terabithia (PG, 2007)** Fantasy drama starring Josh Hutcherson **3.00 Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (PG, 2010)** Adventure starring Logan Lerman and Pierce Brosnan **5.20 Babe: Pig in the City (U, 1998)** Family comedy sequel with Elizabeth Daily **7.10 10 Things I Hate About You (12, 1999)** A teenager is banned from dating until her man-hating sister gets a boyfriend — but a quirky loner might be just the man for the job. Comedy starring Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles **9.00 Flight (15, 2012)** A pilot is hailed as a hero for bringing a malfunctioning plane down safely — until it emerges he was drunk at the controls. Drama, with Denzel Washington and Don Cheadle **11.45 Valkyrie (12, 2008)** The story of the 1944 plot by a conspiracy of rebel German officers to assassinate Adolf Hitler using a briefcase bomb. Fact-based thriller with Tom Cruise and Kenneth Branagh **2.05-3.55am The Guilty (15, 2018)** Crime drama starring Jakob Cedergren

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Stagecoach West **7.00 Blood on the Sun (PG, 1945)** Drama starring James Cagney and Sylvia Sidney **8.55 Four Star Theatre** **9.25 Come Back Peter (U, 1952)** Comedy starring Patrick Holt and Peter Hammond **11.00 Time to Remember** **11.35 The Outer Limits** **12.40pm Three Young Texans (U, 1954)** Western with Mitzi Gaynor and Keefe Brasselle **2.15 Scotland Yard** **3.00 The Saint** **4.05 The Smart Aleck (PG, 1951)** A man hatches a foolproof plan to kill his wealthy uncle, using an untraceable weapon and a police commissioner as an alibi. Comedy mystery starring Peter Reynolds **5.20 Her Favourite Husband (PG, 1950)** A bank robber tries to frame a man who is his exact double for a heist — but reckons without the interference of the man's wife. Crime comedy starring Jean Kent and Robert Beatty **7.00 The Footage Detectives** **8.00 Enemy at the Door** **9.05 Hot Money** **11.10-12.25am Wide Boy (PG, 1952)** A purse snatcher finds an incriminating letter in a stolen bag, and blackmails his victim — a plan with murderous results. Crime drama with Sydney Tafler

Tom Cruise in the thriller Valkyrie (Film4, 11.45pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am The Threat Next Door (PG, 2023) Thriller starring Shiva Negar and Kimberly-Sue Murray **10.45 Bicentennial Man (PG, 1999)** Sci-fi drama starring Robin Williams and Sam Neill **1.25pm Look Who's Talking Too (12, 1990)** Comedy sequel starring John Travolta **3.20 Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves (PG, 1991)** Action adventure starring Kevin Costner and Alan Rickman **6.20 Runaway Jury (12, 2003)** A woman sues the company that made the gun used to kill her husband, but the manufacturer tries to meddle with the jury. Courtroom thriller with John Cusack and Gene Hackman **9.00-12.25am Heat (15, 1995)** A detective becomes obsessed with capturing a highly intelligent career criminal who is planning one last robbery before his retirement. Thriller with Al Pacino and Robert De Niro

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.00am Blue Beetle (12, 2023) Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Mariduena **2.15pm The Equalizer 3 (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Denzel Washington, David Denman and Dakota Fanning **4.15 Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (15, 2024)** Thriller starring Eric Bana and Anna Torv **6.15 The Blackening (15, 2023)** Seven friends go away for the weekend and end up trapped in a cabin with a killer who has a vendetta. Comedy horror starring Grace Byers and Jermaine Fowler **8.00 Blue Beetle (12, 2023)** An ancient relic of alien biotechnology chooses a graduate as its symbiotic host. Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Mariduena and Bruna Marquezine **10.10-12.05am The Equalizer 3 (15, 2023)** Former government assassin Robert McCall takes on the mafia in southern Italy. Thriller starring Denzel Washington

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ed Vaizey **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** The Story **1.30** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am Gaby Roslin **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Tony Blackburn's Sounds of Soul **2.00pm** The Girls Aloud Takeover **4.00** Jane McDonald's Picky Tea **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg. Music and chat **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg **3.00** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.30 Essential Classics** **1.00pm Classical Live** Elizabeth Alker showcases the best performances by BBC orchestras, choirs and ensembles from Europe and around the globe. Haydn (String Quartet in D minor, Op 42); Dvorak (String Quartet in E flat, Op 51); Respighi (*Trittico Botticelliano* for small orchestra); Fauré (Ballade in F sharp, Op 19); Piazzolla arr. Sergio Assad (*The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires — Spring*); Weckmann (*Zion spricht*) and Saint-Saëns (*Les Cloches de Las Palmas*) **4.00 Composer of the Week: Vivaldi** Donald Macleod explores the life of the Baroque master, beginning with his early years in Venice (r) **5.00 In Tune** Sean Rafferty is joined by Paul Agnew **7.00 Classical Mixtape** **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** The London Symphony Orchestra and conductor Antonio Pappano are joined by violinist Patricia Kopatchinskaja at the Barbican Hall for a concert recorded last October. Ravel (*La valse*); Fazil Say (Violin Concerto — *1001 Nights in the Harem*) and Rachmaninov (*Symphonic Dances*) **9.45 The Essay: A Different Way to Listen** The first of five talks exploring the dichotomy of being a deaf professional working with music, with the flautist Ruth Montgomery detailing her experiences **10.00 Night Tracks** **11.30 'Round Midnight** **12.30am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

D-Day: The Last Voices
Radio 4, 11.45am

Commissioned as a collaboration with BBC2's *D-Day: The Unheard Tapes*, Paddy O'Connell, *right*, tells the story through the voices of those who lived it. Marking 80 years after the Normandy landings, the programme brings together a rich collection of audio testimonies alongside new interviews with the last surviving veterans. Each episode charts a distinct chapter of the invasion,

beginning with the planning for the largest amphibious landing in military history. It is a story that continues to throw up surprises, as well as inspire profound admiration and gratitude. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing **5.43 Prayer for the Day** **5.45 Farming Today** **6.00 Today** News headlines **9.00 Start the Week** Kirsty Wark discusses Bible stories **9.45 Cafe Hope** (9/9) **10.00 Woman's Hour** **11.00 The Tourist Trap** **11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices** Paddy O'Connell tells the story of D-Day using rediscovered testimonies. **See Choice** **12.04pm You and Yours** **1.00 The World at One** **1.45 Thief at the British Museum** New series. Katie Razzall investigates how thousands of items went missing from the museum **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 John Finnemore's Souvenir Programme** John returns for another annual one-off sketch show **3.00 Great Lives** Mary Portas chooses the founder of The Body Shop, Anita Roddick (9/9) **3.30 History's Secret Heroes** How Britain's top female codebreaker played a crucial role in the allied victory **4.00 Stoppage Time for Scunthorpe** Insights (r) **4.30 The Kitchen Cabinet** (r) **5.00 PM** With Evan Davis **6.00 Six O'Clock News** **6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue** **7.00 The Archers** There is a crisis at Casey Meats, and Lilian treads carefully **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 The Briefing Room** (r) **8.30 BBC Inside Science** (r) **9.00 Start the Week** (r) **9.45 Cafe Hope** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: Long Island** Colm Toibin's sequel to his novel *Brooklyn* (1/10) **11.00 Harland** Supernatural thriller, by Lucy Catherine (r) **11.30 Lights Out** Investigating the ethics of buying and selling true stories (r) **12.00 News and Weather** **12.30am D-Day: The Last Voices** Documentary (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast** **1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** Tennis **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Jeff Stelling **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Monday GameNight **10.00** Sports Bar. Analysis **1.00am** Extra Time

Talk
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Mike Graham **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00pm** David Bull **4.00** Peter Cardwell **7.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am 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 **12.00** The Alan Davies Show **12.30pm** 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. Mark visits Stratford-upon-Avon **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** Goodness Gracious Me **11.00** Dead Ringers **11.30** Dave Podmore's Cricket Night

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** CrowdScience **10.00** News **10.06** The History Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Conversation **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.06** From Our Own Correspondent **8.30** Discovery **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** The Conversation **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The History Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Assignment **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** In the Studio

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Chris Hawkins **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** 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 **12.00** Christine and the Queens at the BBC **1.00am** Christine and the Queens Festive Takeover

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.00am Dick & Dom **10.00** Andy Goldstein **1.00pm** Suzi Ruffell **4.00** Steve Denyer **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.30am Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Stephen Mangan **1.00pm** 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. Music for flowers and plants **9.00** Classic Gardens with Charlotte Hawkins **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Tuesday 28 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice

My Sexual Abuse: The Sitcom

Channel 4, 10pm

As a child the writer and comedian Mark O'Sullivan was sexually abused by a close family friend, testifying in adult life against the man, who was imprisoned and is now dead. The impact on O'Sullivan was naturally deep and profound, but could comedy help? If you have seen *Lee and Dean*, which he made with his best mate, Miles Chapman, you will know that O'Sullivan has funny bones. However, will turning his trauma into a shiny 1980s-style sitcom (which can be streamed after the broadcast of this documentary) work? There is, he tells Chapman in a heart-to-heart, never a day when he doesn't think about what happened to him. O'Sullivan, *right in a scene from the sitcom*, hopes that this project will restore a sense of power and turn him from "victim to victor". Along the way there are many other soul-searching moments, including one with his wife as they speak with almost unbearable honesty about his experiences and the toll it took on his life and their relationship. When the sitcom recreates a shiny, colourful, almost dream-like version of his family home and the scenes of these terrible events, it is a tough watch, as he reflects on being "used for sexual gratification at a time when your body and mind just aren't ready for it". While nothing can change what happened to this lovely, clever, brave man, this programme conveys a genuinely life-affirming sense of the power of creativity in bringing light to the darkest places. "It is probably the most honest thing I have ever done," he says after filming. "That was direct, from my gut." It certainly is. Ben Dowell

Cheap Flights: What They Really Mean for You

BBC1, 8pm

As many of us look forward to our summer holidays, the BBC climate editor Justin Rowlatt pops up to remind us of the cost to the planet. Despite an element of finger-wagging, this documentary is pleasingly journalistic, with a proper scrutiny of the government's net-zero plans and a look at efforts to reduce carbon emissions. This includes a Bristol factory manufacturing an electric plane-helicopter that Rowlatt says looks a bit "*Batman*". But can it take off in every sense of the term? **BD**

Blood on the Dance Floor

BBC2, 9pm

On May 9, 1997, just over a week after Tony Blair's New Labour came to power, a Protestant officer in the Royal Ulster Constabulary named Darren Bradshaw was shot dead by Republican gunmen in a Belfast gay bar. Jordan Dunbar has already told this story in an excellent podcast series and deploys his expertise with this meticulous film. It shows how the killing shattered the sense that the gay scene was an area where the whole community could come together, with rumours swirling about who may have betrayed Bradshaw. **BD**

The Pilgrimage of Gilbert & George

Sky Arts/Now, 9pm

Two people, one artist. Whatever you think of the work of George Passmore and Gilbert Proesch, there is no denying their singular vision. Since meeting at art school in the 1960s, they have dressed alike and worked together. As they near the end of their lives, this sprightly and engaging film draws together fresh interviews and archive material, and allows us to consider their likely legacy. They are, Passmore says, not stupid enough to believe in an afterlife. However, they firmly believe in the timeless power of culture and creativity. **BD**

Dalton's Dream — Storyville

BBC4, 10pm

Much softer than most *Storyville* documentaries, this film opens with Dalton Harris, a young Jamaican singer, making his debut on the ITV talent show *The X Factor*, impressing the judges before winning the competition. However, life has not been easy for him. Born to a large family he had to look after himself from his mid-teens. Also, coming from Jamaica and identifying as "pansexual" isn't a walk in the park. Throughout this film you just wish this talented, thoughtful person all the best as he builds on his success. **BD**

Films of the day

The Vanishing (15, 2019)

Film4, 11.50pm

The Flannan Isles mystery — surrounding the disappearance of three lighthouse keepers in the Outer Hebrides in 1900 — is the inspiration for this gutsy period noir. It stars Gerard Butler, Peter Mullan and Connor Swindells, *below*, as the central trio, and imagines the violent fallout and internecine struggles that result from a washed-up treasure box, a half-dead sailor and the arrival of some ruthless Scandinavian criminals. The ending is savage, but the real surprise is in the performance of Butler — confined so often in recent years to the hardman straitjacket, here he delivers a mesmerising turn, for a change using his great bulk for softness and sympathy as his character, James, descends into guilt and self-loathing. (107min) **Kevin Maher**

Moffie (18, 2019)

Channel 4, 1.55am

An extraordinary, brutal military drama based on the autobiography of André Carl van der Merwe. It is set in 1980s South Africa, where a young army recruit called Nicholas (Kai Luke Brümmer) questions his sexuality (being gay is a punishable offence) and is put through the mill by the fearsome Sergeant Brand (Hilton Pelser). When Nicholas falls over on the training ground, Brand kicks him in the face (there is blood). When a fellow recruit vomits with exhaustion, Brand pushes him into the dirt and yells: "Put that puke back into your f***ing mouth!" However, when a connection grows between Nicholas and another recruit, Dylan (Ryan de Villiers), their relationship is as much of a danger as the impending front line. (104min) **KM**

Catch up

Lark Rise to Candleford
UKTV Play

First shown in 2008, this ten-part adaptation of Flora Thompson's memoir of her Oxfordshire childhood (published in 1945) is described by the BBC as a "heartwarming" love letter to a vanished corner of rural England. Set at the end of the 19th century, the action shifts between the hamlet of Lark Rise and the wealthier market town of Candleford, with events seen through the eyes of the country girl Laura Timmins (Olivia Hallinan, *left*), who begins a new life working in the post office with her mother's cousin, the independent and effervescent Dorcas Lane (Julia Sawalha). This is a world where the sun shines, the corn is golden, the squire is kindly and the poor are happy. It is shamelessly gratifying Horlicks TV. **Joe Clay**

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Slammed: The Eighties (r) **11.40** Tokyo Vice. Sato and Hayama strategise a way forward **12.35-1.35am** Tokyo Vice. Chihara-kai attempt to regroup after a devastating shootout
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Spotlight. Social and political issues **11.10** Tokyo Vice **12.10am** Tokyo Vice **1.10-6.00am** BBC News
● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40-11.09** Scotland Tonight. Current affairs show **11.10** On Assignment. Emma Murphy meets the widows being abandoned by their families in India **11.45** Murder in the Family (r) **12.35-3.00am** Shop on TV **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
● **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** View from Stormont. Political developments in Belfast, London and Dublin **11.45** On Assignment **12.15-12.35am** Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai (r)
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** This Farming Life. Carianne searches for the mother of an abandoned newborn calf (r) **8.00** Paramedics on Scene. The crew rush to the home of an Oban woman experiencing a severe allergic reaction (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Murder Trial: The Killing of Dr Brenda Page (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** The Mack: A Tale of Two Fires (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Guto Gwningen (r) **6.20** Gwdihw (r) **6.35** Sam Tan (r) **6.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **7.00** Y Tralalas **7.05** Twt (r) **7.20** Ein Byd Bach **7.30** Sion y Chef (r) **7.45** Ne-wff-ion (r) **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **8.20** Jen a Jim a'r Cywiadur (r) **8.35** Ben a Mali a'u Byd Bach O Hud (r) **8.45** Cacamwnci (r) **9.00** Shwshaswyn (r) **9.10** Abadas (r) **9.25** Sblij a Sbloj (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Dal Dy Ddannedd (r) **10.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **10.05** Ein Byd Bach (r) **10.15** Ne-wff-ion (r) **10.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **12.00** News S4C **12.05pm** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. Competitions for the primary school older children **2.25** News S4C **2.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. The latest performances and competitions from the arts festival **3.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. The latest performances and competitions from the arts festival **6.30** Y Coridor. Cassie explains why she and her boyfriend split up with Daniel **6.45** Y Coridor. Erin is determined to find out what happened to Willow **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. Highlights from the day **9.25** News **9.30** Y Llinell Las **10.30** Pum Merch, Tri Chopa, Un Cwch (r) **11.00** Codi Hwyl (r) **11.30-1.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Tuesday 28

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.30** Rip Off Britain **10.15** The Moment of Proof (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Sid meets Paige's parents **2.15** Money for Nothing. Carwyn Owen thinks a tired table has potential, and Sarah Moore upcycles a quirky dining set **3.00** Escape to the Country. Alistair Appleton is on a property-hunting mission in the Cotswolds **3.45** Garden Rescue. Lee and Chris help a family in Derby (r) **4.30** The Finish Line. Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene host the quiz **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Josh Widdicombe **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

Tokyo Vice continues (10.40pm)

7.00 The One Show Lauren Laverne and Jermaine Jenas present topical reports and live chat

7.30 EastEnders Ravi orders Nish to stay away from the family, while Lauren agrees to spend the evening with Peter

8.00 Cheap Flights: What They Really Mean For You Michelle Ackerley finds out what the government's net zero targets means for holidaymakers. **See Viewing Guide**

9.00 The Great British Sewing Bee Judges Patrick Grant and Esme Young set the sewers three challenges inspired by the wide world of sport in which they make a half-zip fleece and an outfit from cricket whites (2/10)

10.00 BBC News; Weather

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Tokyo Vice Sato and Hayama strategise a way forward after their disastrous setback, while Jake and Katagiri pursue their target and try not to land in his crosshairs (5/10)

11.40 Tokyo Vice Chihara-kai attempt to regroup after a devastating shootout and Jake, Katagiri and Nagata pursue a tip from Samantha. Thriller starring Ansel Elgort, Ken Watanabe and Rachel Keller (6/10)

12.35am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.40** BBC News. The latest updates

BBC2

6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Money for Nothing (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: MasterChef (r) (SL) **9.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Mastermind (r) **2.15** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **2.45** Five Bedrooms (r) **3.30** The Farmers' Country Showdown. Two farming families gear up for the horse carriage marathon (r) **4.15** Cornwall: This Fishing Life. Competition is fierce as the ring-netters of Newlyn go on the hunt for sardines (r) **5.15** Flog It! From Margam Country Park in south Wales (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Previous winners Stephen Bailey, Charlie Brooks, Ria Lina and John Thomson compete (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure. Clive discovers a new talent for Dancehall dancing in Jamaica's capital city

Blood on the Dance Floor (9pm)

7.00 Hairy Bikers: Route 66 Dave and Si cross the state of Arizona in search of the Wild West and make a small detour from Route 66, starting in Monument Valley, to learn more about this striking place (5/6) (r)

8.00 Springwatch Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan introduce a medley of live nests at RSPB Arne, Iolo Williams heads to Hengistbury Head, and Megan McCubbin continues her Scottish adventure

9.00 Blood on the Dance Floor: Spotlight The unsolved murder of Darren Bradshaw, a police officer shot in a gay bar. Jordan Dunbar investigates how DJs, drag queens and dancers fought back against hate. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 Meet the Richardsons Jon is given career advice from his comedy hero, Jack Dee (2/6) (r)

10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis, with Victoria Derbyshire

11.05 International T20 Cricket England v Pakistan. Action from the third T20 in the four-match series, held at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff

12.05am Sign Zone: Secrets and Spies: A Nuclear Game (r) (SL) **1.05** Hidden Treasures of the National Trust (r) (SL) **2.05** Great British Railway Journeys. Presented by Michael Portillo (r) (SL) **2.35-3.05** The Crime Bosses who Terrorised a City: Panorama (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. More interviews and debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team travel to Bridlington, East Yorkshire, assessing items brought in by members of the public (r) **3.00** Lingo. A Manchester mother and daughter, a Stoke-on-Trent couple, and Leeds-based sisters compete (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) **5.00** The Chase. Four contestants take on a quiz genius (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Corrie's Roy Cropper in jail (7.30pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Ethan collapses, Charles is terrified, and Dawn becomes concerned

7.30 Coronation Street After failing to get the truth out of Carla, DS Swain pays Roy a visit in prison

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host as more semi-finalists perform for judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and Bruno Tonioli and compete for a place in the grand final

10.00 ITV News at Ten; followed by Weather

10.30 Regional News; Weather

10.45 On Assignment Emma Murphy meets the widows being abandoned by their families and communities in India

11.20 Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai Documentary (1/6) (r)

11.45 Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai Ryan, Adam and Scott Thomas attempt to find their hidden zen at a huge meditation hall (2/6) (r)

12.10am ITV Studio Sessions. With Sekou (r) **12.35** Teleshopping **3.00** My Mum, Your Dad (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. From Murcia (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.30am 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **6.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **7.20** 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.40** Frasier (r) **10.10** Frasier (r) **10.40** Frasier (r) **11.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **12.05pm** Channel 4 News Summary **12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **1.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **2.10** Countdown **3.00** A Place in the Sun (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Jean Johansson helps two sailing fans find a new home in Aude, France **5.00** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals **6.00** Four in a Bed. The second visit of the week is to The Vale Hotel in Cricklade, Wiltshire **6.30** The Simpsons (r)

South African drama Moffie (1.55am)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 Emergency Helicopter Medics Air ambulance crews respond to a headteacher who has collapsed after a cardiac arrest in Essex and a warehouse employee who is trapped under a pallet of granite in Ipswich

9.00 The Gathering Kelly is heartbroken to discover that Bazi has ghosted her but with a promise to help his sister get to the UK safely, Bazi must decide how close he's willing to get to Charlie (5/6)

10.00 My Sexual Abuse: The Sitcom Following comedian Mark O'Sullivan's journey as he creates a sitcom about the sexual abuse he survived as a child. **See Viewing Guide**

10.55 Sky Coppers The Drone Unit follows a passenger fleeing from a hit and run, leaving the driver to face the music, while two high risk football matches are put under drone surveillance (5/6) (r)

11.55 Taskmaster (9/10) (r) (SL)

12.55am Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back. From Mississippi (r) (SL) **1.55 FILM Moffie (18, 2019)** Drama. **See Film Choice 3.35** Unreported World (r) **4.00** Dispatches (r) (SL) **4.30** Location, Location, Location (r) **5.25** Beat the Chef (r) **5.50** Countdown (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.45pm** Friends. Joey takes Tag out on the town (r) **1.10** Friends. Monica struggles to choose a maid of honour (r) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Irene asks Dana what's going on with Harper (r) **2.20 FILM Secrets By the Shore (PG, TVM, 2022)** After her sister goes missing, a woman returns to her hometown to help pick up the pieces, where she discovers a sinister secret. Thriller starring Christina DeRosa and Alec Nevin **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A barbecue caterer is looking to expand his business, The Saucy Pig (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Police Interceptors. Officers go in pursuit of a drunk driver (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

Robson Green on the Amazon (9pm)

7.00 30 Tips to Cut Your Bills Household energy saving tips and advice on cutting bills with ingenious hacks, including those offered up by social media stars and bloggers (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet An emaciated sheep is rushed to the Huddersfield hospital after being abandoned outside a local rescue centre. Matt Smith scans the ewe, suspecting she could be pregnant

9.00 Into the Amazon with Robson Green Robson Green pedals out on a water bike to see the meeting of the waters, two rivers running side by side that refuse to come together (2/3)

10.00 Stormy Following the story of the unlikely American icon Stormy Daniels, who reflects on receiving a secret payment as incentive to stay quiet about a certain encounter with the former US President, Donald Trump. She shares her experience of the fallout she has faced over the years and the ways she's reinvented herself, while still grappling with the bombshell that went off in her life

12.05am Ultimate Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Live Casino Show **3.00** 10 Years Younger in 10 Days (r) **3.50** Police Interceptors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News **5.35** Thomas (r) (SL) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

Tuesday 28 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

The Warhol Effect
Documentary exploring the final decade of the life of the artist Andy Warhol
Sky Arts, 7pm

BBC3

FV 23, FS 107, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Phoenix Rise New series. Coming-of-age drama (1/10)
7.30 Phoenix Rise Everything goes wrong for Billy (2/10)
8.00 Shark Tank Investment opportunities include a tool for cleaning easily and a stylish men's apparel line
8.40 The Catch Up News
8.45 Zen Motoring Ogmios tests out his prototype "gentle beep", to take to a different realm (3/6)
9.00 Freddie Flintoff's Field of Dreams The team face a race against time to renovate the club house, and prepare to take on an elite private school (3/3)
10.00-12.20am FILM **Tenet (12, 2020)** Fighting for the survival of the world, a troubleshooter journeys through a twilight world of international espionage. Action thriller starring John David Washington

BBC4

FV 9/24, FS 108, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo tracks the River Thames from east to west (9/15)
7.30 War Walks Exploring the site of the 1485 Battle of Bosworth Field (2/6)
8.00 Yes, Prime Minister Comedy with Paul Eddington (6/8)
8.30 The Perfect Morecambe and Wise Eric and Ernie travel back to ancient Egypt. Last in the series
9.00 Eric Morecambe: My Comedy Hero by Miranda Hart The actress pays tribute to Eric Morecambe, visiting the places he appeared with double act partner Ernie Wise (1/3)
10.00 Dalton's Dream: Storyville A profile of Dalton Harris, the 2018 winner of *X Factor UK*. **See Viewing Guide**
11.30-12.30am Coming Oot! A Fabulous History of Gay Scotland Documentary

More 4

FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz are off to Southampton to take on a 1969 Jensen Interceptor (4/11)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud visits a couple building a home that looks like a work of art in south Devon, with big zinc shards jutting out in all directions
9.00 PopMaster TV Music lovers from Abington, Leeds, Newtownabbey, Stevenage and London compete to recall facts and stats about their favourite chart toppers
10.00 Do You Remember... 1994? A look at the songs, stories and trends of the year when Blur and Oasis divided the country and Liz Hurley wore a dress that shook the country (3/4)
11.05-12.10am 24 Hours in A&E A 36-year-old man is involved in a high-speed road traffic collision (7/12)

Sky Arts

FV 36, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm The Warhol Effect Documentary lifting the lid on the fascinating last decade of Andy Warhol's life and the artistic legacy he left, featuring previously unseen footage and interviews with insiders
9.00 The Pilgrimage of Gilbert & George A profile of the art duo, weaving together interviews with historic and rare archive to create a reflection on their journey. **See Viewing Guide**
11.00 Johnson & Knopfler's Music Legends Brian Johnson and Mark Knopfler visit guitarist Carlos Santana, discussing his incredible journey in music from the early days through to his resurgence in the late-1990s (5/6)
12.00-1.00am Grand Ole Opry Performances from Brad Paisley, Dustin Lynch, Parmalee and Kevin Nealon

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108, EE 342

6.45pm Billions Axe plots to secure his deposits by poaching from Prince (11/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Tommen confronts the High Sparrow, and Arya continues with her training (3/10) (R)
9.00 The Tattooist of Auschwitz Gita grows worried over the whereabouts of Lali and once she learns of his fate, she stops at nothing to help him. Starring Jonah Hauer-King and Anna Prochniak (4/6) (R)
10.05 House of the Dragon As the families descend on Driftmark for a funeral, King Viserys calls for an end to fighting between members of the Great Houses. Paddy Considine stars (7/10) (R)
11.15-12.25am Band of Brothers After a string of casualties, a group of inexperienced paratroopers joins Easy Company (4/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries

SKY 121, VIRGIN 188, EE 352

7.00pm Murder in Boston: Roots, Rampage and Reckoning After evidence against their first suspect falls apart, the Boston Police Department continues its aggressive targeting of black neighbourhoods (2/3) (R)
8.00 Lockerbie Investigators uncover a piece of forensic evidence in the form of a fragment of a Toshiba radio that points to a Palestinian terror cell (2/4) (R)
9.00 FILM **Love to Love You, Donna Summer (12, 2023)** Profile of the iconic artist, following her career from the avant-garde music scene in Germany, to the bright lights of New York
11.00-1.00am Hatton A profile of former boxer Ricky Hatton, charting his journey from the Hattersley estate near Manchester to headlining on the strip in Las Vegas (R)

ITV2

FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Family Fortunes With clans from Wales and Newcastle
8.00 Bob's Burgers Linda invites some of Louise's classmates over
8.30 Bob's Burgers Tina becomes a magician's assistant
9.00 Hell's Kitchen The final three face one more challenge
10.00 Plebs Comedy series (5/9)
10.30 Plebs The boys begin an archaeological dig in their bar (6/9)
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 Family Guy
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3

FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat A saboteur strikes in Aidensfield
7.55 Heartbeat A seemingly simple burglary investigation takes an unexpected turn
9.00 Mr Bates vs the Post Office Bob Rutherford writes a report that rattles Paula Vennells (2/4)
10.00 The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe John applies for a passport to create a new identity (2/4)
11.00 Wycliffe A surfer's near-fatal accident arouses suspicion (8/8)
12.00-12.50am The Royal (4/14)

ITV4

FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.00pm The Grand Fishing Adventure Ali and Bobby fish in France for sturgeon carp (4/4)
8.00 Monaco Historique Grand Prix Highlights A look at iconic racing moments across the years
9.00 No Room For Error The three wheelers are moving heaven and earth to achieve their dreams (2/4)
10.00-12.25am FILM **Hellboy II: The Golden Army (12, 2008)** The demon hero battles renegade elf Prince Nuada. Action fantasy sequel starring Ron Perlman

E4

FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Cleo continues to challenge Abe about his abuse
7.30 Modern Family Phil tries to find out if Luke has any talents
8.00 Teen First Dates A fashion student is set up with an apprentice plumber (2/10)
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* and *Sexy Beasts* are appraised (8/10)
10.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics review *Coronation Street* and *Married at First Sight UK*
11.05-12.10am First Dates

Dave

FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Would I Lie to You? With Dermot O'Leary and Mel Giedroyc
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Matthew Pinsent
8.20 Richard Osman's House of Games With Gemma Cairney, Tim Key, Gabby Logan and Jeff Stelling
9.00 QI XL With Josh Widdicombe, Sue Perkins and Frank Skinner
10.00 Mad Dogs The guys scramble to find the missing yacht
11.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Alexander Armstrong hosts
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama

FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Compo makes a bet with Foggy
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine The trio volunteer to investigate something sinister in the woods
8.00 Dalziel & Pascoe A series of suspicious deaths raise fears a serial killer is at large in a hospital
10.00 New Tricks A former Irish dissident sheds light on the abduction of a woman in 1983
11.20-12.30am Soldier, Soldier Marsha manages to lose some of the nursery fund's money

Yesterday

FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Canal Boat Diaries (1/4)
7.30 Canal Boat Diaries (2/4)
8.00 Simon Reeve's South America The last leg of Simon's journey through South America takes him from Chile's Atacama Desert to Tierra Del Fuego (5/5)
9.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics The VW Beetle
10.00 Bangers & Cash Five iconic cars arrive at Thornton le Dale (3/8)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys

PBS America

FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.35pm Italy's Invisible Cities (1/3)
7.55 The Six Queens of Henry VIII A look at the lives of Katherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn (1/4)
8.50 Berlin: Stories of the City The history of the city of Berlin (1/2)
9.50 Secret Battle for the Ho Chi Minh Trail: The Misty Experiment Documentary. US Air Force pilots recount the details of top secret Operation Commando Sabre
11.00 The Six Queens of Henry VIII
12.00-1.00am Berlin: Stories of the City As 8.50pm (1/2)

5Select

FV 46, FS 133, SKY 153, VIRGIN 138

7.00pm Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown Items include an omega watch, some antique golf clubs and some Chinese vases
8.00 D-Day: Secret Raids That Won the War Examining the legendary RAF 617 squadron
9.30 Attack on Pearl Harbor: Caught By Surprise An account of the Japanese attacks (1/3)
10.30 Attack on Pearl Harbor: 30 Minutes of Hell (2/3)
11.30-12.35am Attack on Pearl Harbor: Declaration of War (3/3)

Sky History

SKY 123, VIRGIN 131, EE 353

7.00pm Forged in Fire Two smiths recreate a 16th-century Naga sword
8.00 What on Earth? Documentary series exploring anomalies appearing on satellite images
9.00 Hitler's Handmaidens New series. A look at the 'Nazi Woman' through a contemporary lens (1/4)
10.00 Medieval Murder Mysteries The death of Juan Borgia (6/6)
11.00 Paranormal: Caught on Camera: Top 100 A collection of standout videos from season one
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max

SKY 113, VIRGIN 111, EE 346

7.00pm Stargate SG-1
8.00 Rob & Romesh vs Cricket: The Test Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan follow England on their Test tour of South Africa (4/4)
9.00 A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip Mo Gilligan, Jill Scott, Jamie Redknapp and Micah Richards get to take part in the Day of the Dead parade
10.00 Hold the Front Page (5/6)
11.00 S.W.A.T (10/13)
12.00-1.10am The Walking Dead Sophia is missing (1/13)

Nat Geographic

SKY 129, VIRGIN 183

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A plane that nosedived into the runway at Russia's Rostov airport
8.00 Hitler: The Lost Tapes of the Third Reich A look at Adolf Hitler's dramatic ascent to power (2/6)
9.00 World War II: Secrets from Above Operation Avalanche (5/6)
10.00 Erased: WWII Heroes of Colour The stories of people soldiers who fought on D-Day (3/4)
11.00 Air Crash Investigation
12.00-1.00am To Catch a Smuggler Documentary (6/8)

Discovery

SKY 125, VIRGIN 177, EE 320

7.00pm Wheeler Dealers: Dream Car A classic Nissan Patrol
8.00 Supertruckers
9.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail New series. Parker uncovers lost footage from seven years of prospecting
10.00 Gold Divers (1/2)
11.00 Gold Divers (2/2)
12.00-1.00am Gold Divers

Sky Comedy

SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, EE 347

7.00pm The Conners
7.30 The Conners
8.00 Will & Grace
8.30 Will & Grace
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm (4/10)
9.40 Curb Your Enthusiasm (5/10)
10.20 Curb Your Enthusiasm (6/10)
11.00 Divorce (1/8)
11.40-12.15am Divorce (2/8)

Comedy Central

SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, EE 345

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 FILM **This Is the End (15, 2013)** Fantasy comedy starring James Franco and Jonah Hill
11.05 The Ricky Gervais Show
11.35-12.05am Ricky Gervais Show

Gold

SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, EE 344

6.40pm Dad's Army
8.00 Open All Hours
8.40 Blackadder the Third
9.20 dinnerladies
10.00 The Royle Family
10.35 Harry Enfield and Chums
11.15 Knowing Me, Knowing You: With Alan Partridge Comedy
11.55-12.35am Open All Hours

W

FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Tipping Point: Lucky Stars
8.00 DIY SOS: Bigger Build Ireland
9.00 Gemma and Gorka: Life Behind the Lens Reality series
10.00 Trial in the Outback: The Lindy Chamberlain Story
11.00 Cold Case
12.00-1.00am One Born Every Minute Documentary series

Alibi

SKY 109, VIRGIN 114, EE 343

7.00pm Elementary
8.00 Death in Paradise Dwayne's favourite singer is murdered (7/8)
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators (2/9)
10.00 My Life Is Murder A crime novelist is found dead (2/10)
11.00 Elementary
12.00-1.00am Deception (5/13)

Sky Main Event

SKY 401, VIRGIN 501, EE 439

6.00pm Live International T20 Cricket: England v Pakistan The third T20 in the four-match series from Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. The teams last met here in this format in 2019 when England claimed a seven-wicket triumph with the help of a knock of 57 not out from then captain Eoin Morgan
10.30 Back Pages Tonight A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News Round-up of the latest stories

Sky Premier League

SKY 402, VIRGIN 502, EE 440

7.00pm PL Review
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The presenter is joined by guest Jamie Carragher (1/6)
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox Gary sits down with his brother Phil to relive some of their most memorable matches (2/6)
9.00 PL Review A look back at recent fixtures in the top flight
10.00 Premier League Icons A profile of Eric Cantona
10.30-12.30am PL Retro Chelsea v Liverpool from 2002/03

Rowan Atkinson and Tony Robinson star in Blackadder the Third (Gold, 8.40pm)

Sky Cricket

SKY 404, VIRGIN 504, EE 442

6.00pm Live International T20 Cricket: England v Pakistan Coverage of the third T20 in the four-match series from Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. The teams last met here in this format in 2019 when England were victorious
10.30 ICC Men's T20 World Cup: The Preview A look ahead to the 2024 staging of the tournament
11.30-12.30am Dreams of a Nation This documentary looks back at the 2023 Cricket World Cup, which promised to be a special event

TNT Sports 1

SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, EE 430

7.00pm PL Review A look at the best goals of the 2023/24 season
8.00 Premier League Stories A round-up of the latest news
9.00 WWE Monday Night Raw The latest wrestling action
11.30 T20 Cricket Highlights West Indies v South Africa. Action from the third and final T20 in the series from Sabina Park in Kingston
12.30am NBA Tip-Off A look ahead to tonight's NBA matches
1.30-4.00am Live NBA Coverage of a play-off match (Tip-off TBA)

TNT Sports 2

SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, EE 431

6.00pm Badminton Action from the finals of the Malaysia Masters
8.00 PSA Squash The Manchester Open. All the action from the women's and men's finals
9.00 MotoGP Rewind The MotoGP Grand Prix of Catalunya
9.15 Hexagone MMA A look at the latest action in Reims
10.45 Fight Week UFC 302
11.30 MLB Lead Off A look ahead
12.00-3.00am Live MLB: New York Mets v Los Angeles Dodgers (Start-time **12.10**)

Tuesday 28

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Jason and the Argonauts (U, 1963) Fantasy adventure starring Todd Armstrong and Nancy Kovack **1.10pm The Last Hurrah (U, 1958)** Drama starring Spencer Tracy and Jeffrey Hunter **3.35 Reach for the Sky (U, 1956)** Biopic of Second World War pilot Douglas Bader starring Kenneth More **6.20 First Knight (PG, 1995)** A wandering swordsman is made a knight at King Arthur's court, where he falls in love with the monarch's queen. Adventure starring Richard Gere, Sean Connery and Julia Ormond **9.00 Born on the Fourth of July (18, 1989)** Chronicling the life of Vietnam veteran Ron Kovic, from Marine Corps recruit to disabled anti-war activist. Fact-based drama starring Tom Cruise, Willem Dafoe and Kyra Sedgwick **11.50 The Vanishing (15, 2019)** Three lighthouse keepers get caught in a web of greed, paranoia and murder Thriller starring Gerard Butler and Peter Mullan. **See Film Choice 2.00-4.00am Sauvage (18, 2018)** Drama starring Félix Maritaud and Eric Bernard

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Life in Emergency Ward 10 (U, 1959) Hospital drama starring Michael Craig **7.45 What's On TPTV** **8.00 Sherlock Holmes** **8.35 The Gentleman Bandit (PG, 1981)** Fact-based drama starring Ralph Waite **10.35 Bombay Waterfront (U, 1952)** Mystery starring John Bentley and Patricia Dainton **12.00 Worzel Gummidge** **12.35pm A Child Is Waiting (PG, 1963)** Drama with Burt Lancaster and Judy Garland **2.40 Echo of Diana (U, 1963)** A widow tries to discover the identity of a mystery woman who apparently knew her husband. Thriller with Betty McDowall and Vincent Ball **3.55 The Day the Earth Caught Fire (PG, 1961)** A series of nuclear tests knocks the world off its axis and sets it on a collision course with the sun. Thriller with Edward Judd and Janet Munro **5.55 The Beverly Hillbillies** **6.30 Scotland Yard** **7.05 Four Star Theatre** **7.35 Dangerous Assignment** **8.05 Manhunt** **9.05 Maigret** **10.55 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro** **11.00-12.50am The Revenge of Frankenstein (15, 1957)** The scientist escapes execution and begins work on resurrecting his dead assistant. Hammer horror starring Peter Cushing

The Revenge of Frankenstein (Talking Pictures TV, 11pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Island of Shadows **9.56 GREAT! Movie News** **10.07 Island of Shadows** **10.50 GREAT! Movie News** **11.00 The Nurse (PG, 2014)** Drama starring Willa Ford **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News** **1.00 Off the Rails (PG, 2017)** Drama with Hannah Barefoot **2.55 Forgotten Abduction (PG, 2020)** Thriller starring Heather McComb **4.50 GREAT! Movie News** **5.00 Secrets That Kill (12, 2020)** Thriller starring Jillian Murray and Lisa Thornhill **6.50 GREAT! Movie News** **7.00 Hours (12, 2013)** A new father desperately tries to keep his premature baby alive in a New Orleans hospital during Hurricane Katrina. Drama with Paul Walker **9.00 Predestination (15, 2014)** A time travelling secret agent pursues a bomber through time, while also ensuring the events of his own past take place. Sci-fi thriller with Ethan Hawke **11.05-1.10am The Expatriate (15, 2012)** Action thriller starring Aaron Eckhart

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.55pm My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 (12, 2023) Comedy with Nia Vardalos **2.35 Boonie Bears: Guardian Code (PG, 2023)** Animated adventure with the voice of Joseph S Lambert **4.15 The Inseparables (U, 2023)** Animated adventure with the voices of Monica Young and Danny Fehsenfeld **5.50 Blue Beetle (12, 2023)** Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Maridueña **8.00 The Blackening (15, 2023)** Seven friends go away for the weekend and end up trapped in a cabin with a killer. Horror starring Grace Byers **9.45 Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (15, 2024)** Two federal agents investigate the disappearance of a hiker. Thriller starring Eric Bana **11.40-1.15am Some Other Woman (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Ashley Greene

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ed Vaizey **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** The Story **1.30** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** DJ Spoony **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 Jazz Show with Jamie Cullum **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.30 Essential Classics** Ian Skelly plays a mix of music **1.00pm Classical Live** Mahler (Piano Quartet movement in A minor); Kapralova (*Suita rustica for orchestra*); Bach (*Ach dass ich Wassers gnug hatte*); Paganini (Cantabile in D, Op 17); Koussevitzky (Double Bass Concerto in F sharp minor, Op 3) and Dvorak (Symphony No 8 in G, Op 88) **4.00 Composer of the Week: Vivaldi** Donald Macleod explores the busy summer in the life and career of the Baroque master and the world of the Venetian carnival (r) **5.00 In Tune** Sean Rafferty is joined by pianist Anthony Hewitt, who plays live **7.00 Classical Mixtape** A sequence of music **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** Daniele Rustioni conducts the Ulster Orchestra at the Ulster Hall in Belfast. Webern (*Passacaglia for Orchestra*, Op 1); Shostakovich (Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op 77) and Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor, Op 68) **9.45 The Essay: A Different Way to Listen** Horn player Nigel Braithwaite takes a look at how music has helped him through progressive deafness and a brain injury. **See Choice** **10.00 Night Tracks** Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents music for late-night listening **11.30 'Round Midnight** Soweto Kinch presents the best in jazz, with a particular focus on the British scene **12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

The Essay: A Different Way to Listen
Radio 3, 9.45pm

This five-part series exploring the reality and challenges of being a deaf person working in music continues with the story of the tuba player Nigel Braithwaite, who examines how music has helped him through progressive deafness and traumatic brain injury. How did he continue to play when mitochondrial disease robbed him of his ability to hear the very low notes in which he specialised as a player? Tomorrow, Chisato Minamimura, *above*, a deaf performance artist, explains how she deconstructs sounds and music in powerful ways.
Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing **5.43 Prayer for the Day** **5.45 Farming Today** **6.00 Today** News headlines **9.00 Being Roman with Mary Beard** Pompeii's pub culture **9.30 All in the Mind** **10.00 Woman's Hour** **11.00 Add to Playlist** (r) **11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices** Exploring the story of D-Day **12.04pm Call You and Yours** **1.00 The World at One** **1.45 Thief at the British Museum** **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: Flixborough 74** By Helen Cross. Real-life stories and drama marking 50 years since the Nypro disaster in the small village of Flixborough in Lincolnshire **3.00 Short Cuts** Short documentaries about things in danger of becoming lost **3.30 Thinking Allowed** **4.00 Michael Sheen Gets into Character** Michael examines Strasberg's Method (3/3) **4.30 When It Hits the Fan** **5.00 PM** With Evan Davis **6.00 Six O'Clock News** **6.30 Joe Lycett's Obsessions** With Carol Kirkwood (r) **7.00 The Archers** Jakob has bad news to impart, and Lynda launches her latest scheme **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 File on 4** New series. Issues of major concern **8.40 In Touch** **9.00 The Law Show** (r) **9.30 The Bottom Line: The Decisions That Made Me A Leader** Evan Davis talks to another business leader **10.00 The World Tonight** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: Long Island** By Colm Toibin. Eilis feels herself being called back to Ireland when her mother-in-law threatens to adopt Tony's illegitimate baby (2/10) **11.00 Uncanny USA** **11.30 Lights Out** (r) **12.00 News and Weather** **12.30am D-Day: The Last Voices** (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast** **1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** Tennis **10.30** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Jeff Stelling **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **12.00** Extra Time

Talk
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Mike Graham **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Jeremy Kyle **7.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am 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 **12.00** Semi Circles **12.30pm** 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. Jonathan Swift creates his masterpiece with the aid of the secret society

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** Think the Unthinkable. The team works for the Ministry of Defence **11.00** Rubbish. Martin goes on a sponsored walk **11.30** Helen Keen's It Is Rocket Science **11.45** Hearing with Hegley

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Assignment **10.00** News **10.06** The Arts Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** In the Studio **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** Assignment **8.30** Tech Life **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** People Fixing the World **10.30** In the Studio. The rehearsals for Constanza Hola Chamy's new play, *Mad Women* **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Arts Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Climate Question **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Documentary

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Chris Hawkins **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** 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. Another selection of themed tracks by members of the Leeds band **12.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever **1.00am** Mark Lamarr

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Ryan Tubridy **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.30am Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Stephen Mangan **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings. Presented by Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Wednesday 29 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Camden

Disney+

The London borough of Camden has played a pivotal role in the British music scene for decades. It is widely regarded as the place where punk started, with the music venue Dingwalls hosting the first UK concert by Blondie, as well as gigs by bands such as the Sex Pistols, the Clash and the Ramones. Madness were a band born out of the pubs and clubs of Camden Town; it was the epicentre of the Britpop scene, with the local boozer the Good Mixer frequented by members of Blur and Oasis; and it is also synonymous with Amy Winehouse. The area may have lost its edge in these gentrified times, but with such a rich and vibrant history it is the perfect subject for a four-part docuseries from a team of directors that includes Asif Kapadia (*Amy*, *Senna*) and a host of high-profile talking heads, including Noel Gallagher, Nile Rodgers, Little Simz, Jazzie B, Boy George and Pete Doherty. "It's got a heartbeat, it's got a vibe, it's got an energy to it," Gallagher says. His involvement is trailed as a big coup by Disney, but anyone who watches music docs will know that he is ubiquitous and most of his anecdotes, much like the narrative thrust of the series, will be familiar to rock doc veterans. However, later episodes have a more unusual focus, with one on US hip-hop stars such as Public Enemy's Chuck D and their relationship with the borough, and another exploring Camden's role in shaping club culture. First up, we hear how it set Dua Lipa, *right*, and Coldplay's Chris Martin on the path to stardom, while the second episode explores Camden through the eyes of the rock'n'roll rebels. Joe Clay

Race Across the World: The Final

BBC1, 9pm

It's the final leg of the competition and it's set up to be a thriller. The lead held by Alfie and Owen is 12 minutes, with Eugenie and Isabel making up about 24 hours on the previous stage. The women also possess a financial advantage, with £404.71 of their budget left, compared with the men's £305.79. The final destination is Lombok, which they can only reach from neighbouring Bali. To follow, at 10.40pm, the five teams are reunited in London six months on to look back at their 51-day adventure, with lots of unseen footage. **JC**

The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan

BBC2, 9pm

A fourth run of the series in which Romesh Ranganathan achieves the impossible — a celebrity travelogue devoid of smugness. First up, Uganda, which for many is still synonymous with Idi Amin's brutal dictatorship. Ranganathan starts his odyssey in Kampala, the hectic capital city, where he meets his cheerful guide, Alex, a Ugandan princess. They enjoy Uganda's stunning vistas and wildlife, while addressing the country's troubled past and recent introduction of antigay laws. **JC**

Inside No 9

BBC2, 10pm

An escape room is such a perfect setting for an episode of *Inside No 9* that it's a surprise it has taken nine series for it to crop up. In an episode titled *CTRL/ALT/ESC*, Jason (Steve Pemberton), his wife, Lynne (Katherine Kelly), and their teenage daughters are in Room 9, which is also known — rather ominously — as "The Killer's Lair". Before the doors are locked their guide (Reece Shearsmith) regales them with a tale about a serial killer called Dr Death "who likes to experiment on his victims". You can see where this is going, but that doesn't make it any less creepy. **JC**

Boys from the Blackstuff

BBC4, from 10pm

Bernard Hill, who died this month aged 79, made his name playing Yosser Hughes in Alan Bleasdale's bleak 1982 drama, all repeated tonight as a tribute, prefaced by Hill's 2022 recollections of working on the drama. Set in Liverpool, it follows five unemployed tarmac layers, with each episode focused on one of them. The British Film Institute said that it was "TV's most complete dramatic response to the Thatcher era", and Hughes's catchphrases — "Gizza job!" and "I can do that!" — became part of popular consciousness in the 1980s. **JC**

Films of the day

Fresh (18, 2022)
Film4, 9pm

Daisy Edgar-Jones made her name as Marianne in the adaptation of Sally Rooney's *Normal People*, and here she is playing Noa, another wry woman in a relationship with a complex man who doesn't always treat her well. There the similarities end. *Fresh* is a gruesome American satirical horror that co-stars Sebastian Stan, *below with Edgar-Jones*, as the charming older dude who chats up Noa in a supermarket. Lurid yet stylish, it has shades of *American Psycho* and *Promising Young Woman*, both directed by women, as was this — by the debutant Mimi Cave. She often settles into genre convention, but has engaging things to say about dating, abusive males, female commodification and meat eating. To say more would spoil the transgressive twist. You'll be sitting uneasily in your seat, though not as uneasily as Noa. (114min) **Ed Potton**

The Prestige (12, 2006)
BBC1, 11.40pm

Christopher Nolan's adaptation of Christopher Priest's novel casts us into the middle of a monumental battle of wills between two warring Victorian stage magicians. Christian Bale plays Alfred Borden, the visionary whose inventiveness is not matched by his stage presence. His archrival is Robert Angier (Hugh Jackman), a consummate showman who is torn apart by the fact that Borden is the better conjuror. Support comes from Michael Caine as Angier's stage engineer, while Scarlett Johansson is the magician's assistant Olivia. David Bowie is perfectly cast as Nikola Tesla, the Serbian-American who helped to invent the modern electricity supply system. (130min) **Wendy Ide**

Catch up

The Jennings vs Alzheimer's
BBC iPlayer

In the mid-1980s an extraordinary woman named Carol Jennings, *below with her family*, helped to change the destiny of medical science. She had noticed that many members of her immediate family had been blighted by the horrors of Alzheimer's in middle age and, wondering if there could be a genetic link, wrote to a researcher called John Hardy. His findings in 1991 about how a protein called amyloid builds up in the brain led to one of the biggest breakthroughs in our understanding of the disease — but, sadly, still no cure. Niamh Kennedy's exquisitely made film tells Carol's story. In 2023 she is mute and bedridden, but the care shown by her family is equally uplifting. Some doctors think that we might be close to a cure. And if one does come, we will know who to thank. **Ben Dowell**

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Nolan Live. Lively debate on issues affecting Northern Ireland, with Stephen Nolan **11.40** Race Across the World: The Reunion. Six months after finishing their race, the five teams reunite in London. Last in the series **12.40am** I Kissed a Girl (r) **1.30-6.00am** BBC News

● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 10.00-10.30pm** Spotlight (r) **11.05** Inside No 9. A family try out their local escape room, The Killer's Lair **11.35** Unspun World with John Simpson. The week's major global news stories **12.00midnight-12.30am** BBC News

● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 2.15-3.00pm** Politics Scotland. A round-up of political news **11.40** Debate Night. Topical debate on the big issues affecting Scotland and beyond **12.40am FILM The Prestige (2006) 2.45** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.50-6.00am** BBC News

● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40-11.09** Scotland Tonight. Current affairs show **11.10** The 1% Club (r) **12.05am** ITV Studio Sessions (r) **12.30-3.00** Shop on TV **4.15-5.30am** Night Vision

● **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** Beat the Chasers (r) **11.45** Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai (r) **12.10-12.35am** Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai (r)

● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** This Farming Life (r) **8.00** Life on the Bay. The team puts its most expensive caravans ever on the market **8.30** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Two Doors Down (r) **10.30** Debate Night **11.30pm-Midnight** Icons of Football (r)

● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Olobobs (r) **6.05** Digbi Draig (r) **6.20** Cymylaubychain (r) **6.30** Patrol Pawennau (r) **6.45** Dathlu 'Da Dona (r) **7.00** Brethyn a Fflwff **7.05** Pablo (r) **7.20** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **7.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **7.45** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **8.00** Timpo (r) **8.10** Amser Maith Maith yn Ôl (r) **8.25** Halibalw (r) **8.35** Octonots (r) **8.45** Fferm Fach (r) **9.00** Odo (r) **9.10** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **9.20** Bendibwmbwls (r) **9.30** Pentre Papur Pop (r) **9.40** Deian a Loli (r) **10.00** Brethyn a Fflwff (r) **10.05** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **10.15** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **10.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. Heledd Cynwall and Trystan Ellis-Morris begin the third day of the festival **12.00** News S4C **12.05pm** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **2.25** News S4C **2.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **6.30** Y Coridor **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **9.25** News **9.30** 30 Stôn: Brwydr Fawr Geth a Monty (r) **10.30** Yr Anialwch (r) **11.30-1.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Wednesday 29

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.30** Rip Off Britain. A harsh exclusion on their phone-theft-cover **10.15** The Moment of Proof (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Sid's decision backfires **2.15** Money for Nothing. Zoe Murphy tries to save a dated dining table **3.00** Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah helps a couple to find a new home in Argyll and Bute (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie and Flo go head-to-head to design a Victorian garden (r) **4.30** The Finish Line. Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene host the quiz **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Ria Lina (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

Race Across the World (9pm)

7.00 The One Show With Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders The Panesars vote on whether to let Nish back into their lives or not

8.00 The Repair Shop Jay Blades hosts as members of the public bring in a 40-year-old armchair, a silver bangle, the remains of a model carousel and a bodhran drum for experts to restore

9.00 Race Across the World: The Final As they embark on the final leg of their journey and race from Jakarta to the final checkpoint in Lombok, the first two teams become separated by just 12 minutes. **See Viewing Guide** (8/9)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Race Across the World: The Reunion Six months after finishing their race, the five teams reunite in London to look back on their 15,000 kilometre adventure. **See Viewing Guide**

11.40 FILM The Prestige (12, 2006) Two Victorian magicians become bitter rivals as one becomes obsessed with the secret to the other's greatest illusion. Mystery thriller starring Hugh Jackman and Christian Bale. **See Film Choice**

1.45am Weather for the Week Ahead **1.50** BBC News. The latest headlines

BBC2

6.30am Money for Nothing (r) **7.15** Escape to the Country (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: MasterChef (r) (SL) **9.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible (r) **1.45** Mastermind (r) **2.15** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **2.45** Five Bedrooms. Heather's world is blown apart when she learns of Ben's betrayal (r) **3.30** The Farmers' Country Showdown. Two sets of farmers head to a market in Ludlow (r) **4.15** Cornwall: This Fishing Life. A brother and sister oyster fishing team trade in their sailing boat for a trawler (r) **5.15** Flog It! Interesting finds (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Stephen Bailey, Charlie Brooks, Ria Lina and John Thomson compete (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure. Clive is in the markets of Downtown Kingston

Romesh Ranganathan (9pm)

7.00 Hairy Bikers: Route 66 Dave Myers and Si King ride from Las Vegas to California, making the "best mashed potato in the world", cooking with marijuana and visiting a taco festival. Last in the series (r)

8.00 Springwatch Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan commentate on the drama from the live nests, Iolo peers into some cliffside pools and Megan McCubbin searches for seals on Bute's sandy shores (3/12)

9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan New series. The presenter visits Uganda, where is he hosted by a princess who tries to expand his knowledge of the country, beyond the brutal dictatorship of Idi Amin. **See Viewing Guide** (1/3)

10.00 Inside No 9 A family try out their local escape room. **See Viewing Guide** (4/6)

10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis with Victoria Derbyshire

11.05 Unspun World with John Simpson The week's major global news stories

11.30 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust A missing masterpiece returns to its stately home (3/6) (r)

12.30am Sign Zone: Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour. Rob Rinder and Rylan Clark go on a cultural tour of Europe. Last in the series (r) (SL) **1.30** The Great British Sewing Bee (r) (SL) **2.30-3.00** David & Jay's Touring Toolshed (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Topical studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson sets up shop in Blackpool, with dealers Henry Nicholls, Jan Keyne, Matt Taylor and Helen Gardiner (r) **3.00** Lingo. Professional entertainers, best friends from Leeds, and a Salford-based couple compete. Adil Ray hosts (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

A visit to Emmerdale (7pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Leyla is determined, Belle feels guilty, and Tom's plan is working

7.30 Coronation Street Roy unwittingly allows himself to be lured from the sanctuary of his cell to the prison library

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host as more acts compete in the semi-finals in front of judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and Bruno Tonioli

10.00 ITV News at Ten; followed by Weather

10.30 Regional News; Weather

10.45 The 1% Club Quiz game show hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense, with 100 contestants in every show having a chance of winning up to £100,000 (r)

11.45 Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai Brothers are on the trail of a special cousin (3/6) (r)

12.10am Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai. A brutal yoga session (r) **12.35** Teleshopping **3.00** How Broke Is Your Council? Tonight (r) (SL) **3.25** My Mum, Your Dad (r) (SL) **4.15** Unwind with ITV **5.30** For the Love of Dogs with Alison Hammond (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.30am 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **6.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **7.20** 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.40** Frasier (r) **10.10** Frasier (r) **10.40** Frasier (r) **11.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **12.05pm** Channel 4 News Summary **12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **1.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **2.10** Countdown **3.00** A Place in the Sun (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun **5.00** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals. Chefs from Honky Tonk, The Bear and Blacksmith and Twenty Seven compete in Devon **6.00** Four in a Bed. The third visit of the week is to Cottage Lodge Hotel in Brockenhurst **6.30** The Simpsons (r)

The Gathering concludes (9pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 Location, Location, Location Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer scour the south coast between Southampton and Bognor Regis, where both the tide and the pressure to find properties are running high

9.00 The Gathering Drugs, alcohol and simmering emotions explode into multiple showdowns and a violent assault at the beach rave and Kelly is rushed into hospital. Last in the series

10.00 Britain's Most Expensive Houses Sales broker John has a vast family home to sell in the stunning New Forest, while managing director Guy and Aoife work on one of their smallest properties in central London (r)

11.05 The Piano Claudia Winkleman, Mika and Lang Lang's search for the last pianist in the final brings them to Liverpool Lime Street Station, where they join in a station sing-a-long. They have one place left for the final concert (5/7) (r) (SL)

12.10am 24 Hours in A&E (r) **1.05** Imposter: The Man Who Came Back from the Dead (r) **2.00** Dispatches (r) (SL) **3.05 FILM Sequin in a Blue Room (18, 2021)** Drama **4.30** Grand Designs Australia (r) (SL) **5.30** Kirstie's House of Craft (r) **5.50** Countdown (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.45pm** Friends. Janice gets a wedding invitation (r) **1.10** Friends. Tag visits for Thanksgiving (r) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. On Justin and Leah's big day, Theo and Valerie cut it close (r) **2.15 FILM Rear-View Mirror (15, TVM, 2023)** A young mother tries to escape her abusive husband and start a new life. She later discovers that he has been pronounced dead. Thriller starring Kayla Fields **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Andrea has been single for almost 10 years, but wants to start dating again (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Police Interceptors. Officers have their hands full with a driver who is over the limit (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

The docuseries Casualty 24/7 (9pm)

7.00 Poundland: Are You Being Conned? Behind the scenes of the chain of retail stores, looking at how its warehouses operate, putting core products to the test (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 The Motorway A four-car crash in Manchester's rush hour puts the patrollers under pressure and a family are left stranded at the side of the motorway when their vehicle conks out

9.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts A sister is assisted by sisters for the hottest day of the year so far, with both walk-in and ambulance patients queuing up rapidly

10.00 Trauma Room One A man is taken into theatre with agonising back pain and doctors suspect a cancerous tumour is compressing his spinal cord. He needs an operation using a hi-tech robot to remove it (3/8) (r)

11.05 999: Emergency Call Out A paramedic and a special sergeant respond to a car that has crashed into a wall and ended up on its roof and a convenience store where a heated argument is taking place (7/10) (r)

12.05am Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (r) **1.00** Casino **3.00** The World's Biggest Murder Trial: Nuremberg (r) **4.15** Great Artists (r) (SL) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News **5.35** Milkshake!

Wednesday 29 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

Bernard Hill
The late actor stars in a repeat showing of Boys from the Black Stuff
BBC4, from 10pm

BBC3

FV 23, FS 107, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Phoenix Rise There's chaos at the Year 11 parents' evening (3/10)
7.30 Phoenix Rise Caleb is struck with some bad luck (4/10)
8.00 Shark Tank Demonstrations include an innovative cleaning alternative for every household
8.40 The Catch Up A round-up
8.45 Zen Motoring Ogmios navigates his way through nature (6/6)
9.00 FILM Spider-Man: Far from Home (12, 2019) The webslinger's European vacation leads to a battle with elemental monsters from another dimension. Superhero adventure sequel starring Tom Holland
11.00 Back to Life Comedy starring Daisy Haggard (1/6)
11.25 Back to Life Miri starts work at a fish and chip shop (2/6)
11.50-12.40am I Kissed a Girl Emotions run high (7/10)

BBC4

FV 9/24, FS 108, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys The London Underground map (10/15)
7.30 War Walks The site of the Battle of Naseby (3/6)
8.00 Full Circle with Michael Palin The explorer reaches China (3/10)
8.50 Michael Palin: The Art of Travel Michael looks back at the publicity campaigns of the Great Western Railway
9.00 Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies Ben Macintyre brings his book to the small screen
10.00 Bernard Hill Remembers... Boys from the Black Stuff A looks back on the series. **See Viewing Guide**
10.10 Boys from the Blackstuff Alan Bleasdale's drama. **See Viewing Guide** (1/5)
11.05-12.05am Boys from the Blackstuff Dixie moonlights as a security guard. **See Viewing Guide** (2/5)

More 4

FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz work on a 1929 Rolls-Royce Doctors Coupe (5/11)
7.55 The Dog House A bassett hound seeks approval from childhood sweethearts (6/8)
9.00 To Catch a Copper Documentary following Avon and Somerset Police's Professional Standards department, focusing on cases where police officers are accused of institutional racism and bias (2/3)
10.00 999: On the Front Line A driver has collided with another car outside a school, and there is concern that he may be bleeding internally. Chemotherapy takes a toll on a patient who can't stop being sick (4/8)
11.05-12.10am 24 Hours in A&E A headteacher arrives having been involved in a collision with a bus while cycling home from her school (9/12)

Sky Arts

FV 36, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Alfred Hitchcock Presents A frustrated ceramics teacher grows jealous of a student's success
7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents A unstable secretary catches up with her cruel ex-boss — at gunpoint
8.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2022 The contestants paint sitters Jim Carter, Benjamin Zephaniah and Ellie Simmonds (6/12)
9.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir The couple head to north Wales in search of the black grouse, meeting bird experts, and paint alongside the comedian Joe Pasquale
10.00 The Eighties A look at the evolution of television throughout the 1980s (2/8)
11.00-12.30am Greatest Albums Live Stereophonics play *Just Enough Education to Perform*, the 2001 album

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108, EE 342

6.45pm Billions Mike Prince takes his place on the Axe Capital throne. Chuck Rhoades questions how much wealth and power someone should have (1/12) (R)
7.50 House of the Dragon King Viserys Targaryen hosts a tournament to celebrate the impending birth of his second child. *Game of Thrones* prequel starring Paddy Considine (1/10) (R)
9.00 The Sympathizer With the fall of Saigon imminent in 1975, a communist spy juggles his loyalties to the party, the South Vietnamese army and his CIA handler. Black comedy starring Hoa Xuande and Robert Downey Jr (1/4) (R)
10.10 The King Bruno gains Mancuso's trust (5/8)
11.10-12.10am The King Bruno and Gloria work on getting Mancuso to testify (6/8)

Sky Documentaries

SKY 121, VIRGIN 188, EE 352

7.00pm Murder in Boston: Roots, Rampage and Reckoning In a shocking twist two months after the murder, Chuck Stuart commits suicide and surprising revelations emerge from his brother Matthew (3/3) (R)
8.00 Lockerbie A Libyan double agent provides the evidence that is needed to bring the two suspects to court, but as the trial gets under way a key witness changes his story (3/4) (R)
9.00 FILM Spitfire (PG, 2018) The story of the British single-seat fighter plane the *Supermarine Spitfire*, designed by RJ Mitchell and famous for its role in the Battle of Britain
11.00-12.10am The Jinx Part Two Robert Durst is found guilty of Susan's murder and sentenced to life, but dies a few months later (6/6) (R)

ITV2

FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Family Fortunes
8.00 Bob's Burgers Bob creates a Bob's Burgers commercial to air during the Super Bowl
8.30 Bob's Burgers Mr Frond speaks to Bob and Linda about their children's stories
9.00 Hell's Kitchen The final two contestants battle for the crown
10.00 Plebs (7/9)
10.30 Plebs (8/9)
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 Family Guy
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3

FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat A new policeman arrives in Aidensfield
7.55 Heartbeat Aidensfield is terrorised by a blackmailer
9.00 Mr Bates vs the Post Office The duo set up a mediation scheme for subpostmasters to receive compensation (3/4)
10.00 The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe John returns to declare he is suffering from amnesia (3/4)
11.00 Wycliffe Five bodies are found on an abandoned lorry (1/8)
12.00-12.50am Heartbeat

ITV4

FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.20pm FILM The Man with the Golden Gun (PG, 1974) James Bond adventure starring Roger Moore and Christopher Lee
9.00 No Room For Error The elite band of brothers continue to push their physical limits (3/4)
10.00 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage Hard-hitting wrestling action
11.10-12.55am FILM Lucy (15, 2014) A kidnapped courier seeks revenge after a drug gives her superhuman abilities. Sci-fi thriller with Scarlett Johansson and Morgan Freeman

E4

FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Freddie seems to be losing his nerve
7.30 Modern Family Mitchell and Cam's girl friend Sal comes to visit
8.00 Teen First Dates Featuring 17-year-old political prodigy (3/10)
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox Shows appraised include *Changing Rooms, Skin A&E* and *Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins* (9/10)
10.00 Gogglebox Opinions on *Planet Earth III* and *Mamma Mia! I Have a Dream* and *Uncanny*
11.05-12.10am First Dates

Dave

FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Would I Lie to You?
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Ruby Bhogal, Matthew Pinsent, Ed Byrne and Ingrid Oliver
8.20 Richard Osman's House of Games With Gemma Cairney, Tim Key, Gabby Logan and Jeff Stelling
9.00 QI XL With Josh Widdicombe, Jo Brand and Phill Jupitus
10.00 Mad Dogs The guys struggle to stay on top of complications
11.10-12.10am World's Most Dangerous Roads Darren Harriott and Ria Lina travel in South Africa

Drama

FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Compo takes Nora for a ride
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Compo volunteers to test Wesley's heavy-duty sucker and blower
8.00 The Bletchley Circle Part two of two. The friends seek to prove Alice's innocence (2/4)
9.00 New Tricks The team reinvestigates the death of a boxer
10.00 New Tricks The detectives reinvestigate a 30-year-old heist
11.20-12.30am Soldier, Soldier Romance blossoms

Yesterday

FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Canal Boat Diaries (3/4)
7.30 Canal Boat Diaries (4/4)
8.00 Great Coastal Railway Journeys Stirling to East Neuk
8.30 Great Coastal Railway Journeys Visiting Leuchars
9.00 Bangers & Cash Derek inspects a brace of old cop cars including a Rover P6 (10/15)
10.00 Bangers & Cash Bagging a Sierra Cosworth in Wales (5/8)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys

PBS America

FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.25pm Italy's Invisible Cities (2/3)
7.40 The Six Queens of Henry VIII The events leading to the king's marriage to Anne Boleyn (2/4)
8.35 Berlin: Stories of the City In 1945, Berlin is divided at the Potsdam Conference (2/2)
9.45 Icons of Conquest A look at how many famous icons of conquest were removed
11.00 The Six Queens of Henry VIII The king and Anne Boleyn (2/4)
12.00-1.05am Berlin: Stories of the City Berlin is divided (2/2)

5Select

FV 46, FS 133, SKY 153, VIRGIN 138

7.00pm Paul Martin's Antiques Showdown Paul Martin is in and around Sheffield as he takes on Jessica Forrester. Items include an writing desk and a typewriter
8.00 The D-Day Invasion: Battle on the Beaches A look at the events of D-Day in 1944
9.55 Tyrant: The Rise of Evil A radical re-telling of the events that lead to the Second World War
12.00-1.00am Battle of Midway: The True Story How the battle made victory in the Pacific possible

Sky History

SKY 123, VIRGIN 131, EE 353

7.00pm Forged in Fire
8.00 Mysteries from Above A look at a massive head carving in the Alberta badlands
9.00 The Curse of Oak Island A clue is found beneath a Nolan's Cross boulder may offer answers the team has been desperate for
10.00 Deadman's Curse Slumach's lost gold mine
11.00 Paranormal: Caught on Camera A creature appears near Ireland's Killarney Lakes
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max

SKY 113, VIRGIN 111, EE 346

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 Daniel enters an alternative reality
8.00 A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip Taking part in the Day of the Dead parade
9.00 Hold the Front Page Nish Kumar and Josh Widdicombe work for the South Wales Argus (6/6)
10.00 Resident Alien Ben grows suspicious of Mike and Liv's investigation (7/8)
11.00 Ted Matty's unorthodox Christmas wish is granted (7/8)
12.00-1.00am Brassic (1/8)

Nat Geographic

SKY 129, VIRGIN 183

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation A Martinair flight crashes in Portugal
8.00 Car S.O.S A modified 1955 Ford Poplar has a host of problems
9.00 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz restore a Datsun 240k Skyline
10.00 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz restore an iconic BMW E30 Alpina
11.00 Air Crash Investigation US Airways Flight 1549's crash-landing in the Hudson River in 2009
12.00-1.00am To Catch a Smuggler A passenger has a suspicious story and new suitcase

Discovery

SKY 125, VIRGIN 177, EE 320

7.00pm Wheeler Dealers: Dream Car Hunting a classic VW Golf GTI
8.00 Supertruckers Sergeant Major transports a British Army vehicle from Seville to Wales
9.00 Border Control Poland
10.00 Border Control Poland
11.00 Combat Dealers: Reloaded
12.00-1.00am Gold Divers

Sky Comedy

SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, EE 347

7.00pm The Conners
8.00 Will & Grace
8.30 Will & Grace
9.00 Barry (5/8)
9.35 Barry (6/8)
10.15 And Just Like That (1/10)
11.10 And Just Like That (2/10)
12.00-12.40am Sex and the City Charlotte looks for love (1/8)

Comedy Central

SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, EE 345

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show
10.00 Lee Evans Live at Her Majesty's Theatre In London
11.20-12.40am Jen Brister: Meaningless A stand-up show

Gold

SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, EE 344

6.40pm Dad's Army
8.00 Open All Hours
8.40 Blackadder the Third
9.20 dinnerladies
10.00 The Royle Family
10.40 Harry Enfield and Chums
11.20 Knowing Me, Knowing You: With Alan Partridge
12.00-12.40am Open All Hours

W

FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Tipping Point: Lucky Stars
8.00 DIY SOS: The Bigger Build Ireland Baz Ashmawy meets a family in Ennis in County Clare
9.00 Nick Knowles' Big House Clearout A cluttered Bolton semi
10.00 Red Flag Paula can't see the
11.00-12.25am Louis Theroux's Altered States A look at adoption

Alibi

SKY 109, VIRGIN 114, EE 343

7.00pm Elementary
8.00 Death in Paradise John Thomson guest stars (8/8)
9.00 The Red King With Cai's killer caught, the True Way takes control of St. Jory. Last in the series
10.15 Death in Paradise The owner of a sugar plantation is killed (1/8)
11.20-12.20am Elementary

Sky Main Event

SKY 401, VIRGIN 501, EE 439

12.30pm Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Pakistan Coverage of the third and final ODI in the series from The Cloud County Ground, Chelmsford
9.00 Sky Sports News Round-up of the sports news, with live analysis and comment
10.00 Sky Sports News at Ten
10.30 Back Pages Tonight A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News

Sky Premier League

SKY 402, VIRGIN 502, EE 440

7.00pm Premier League Stories A look behind the scenes of the Premier League
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox With John Barnes (3/6)
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox With Matt Le Tissier (4/6)
9.00 Premier League Stories A look behind the scenes of the Premier League
10.00 Premier League Icons A profile of Carlos Tevez
10.30-12.30am PL Retro Arsenal v Wigan Athletic from 2006

England's Sophie Eccelstone is set to face Pakistan in the ODI (Sky Main Event, 12.30pm)

Sky Cricket

SKY 404, VIRGIN 504, EE 442

12.30pm Live Women's International One-Day Cricket: England v Pakistan Coverage of the third and final ODI in the series from The Cloud County Ground, Chelmsford
9.00 ICC Men's T20 World Cup: The Preview A look ahead to the 2024 staging of the tournament
10.00 Dreams of a Nation A look back at the 2023 Cricket World Cup
11.00-12.00m't Women's International One-Day Cricket Action from England v Pakistan

TNT Sports 1

SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, EE 430

10.45am-12.45pm Live Hockey: China v Argentina (Push-back **10.45**). Women's FIH Pro League
1.00-3.00 Live Hockey: Spain v Argentina (Push-back **1.00**). The Men's FIH Pro League match
3.30-5.30 Live Hockey: Belgium v Australia (Push-back **3.30**). The Women's FIH Pro League match
7.30-10.45 Live Uefa Europa Conference League: Olympiacos v Fiorentina (Kick-off **8.00**)
1.00am-3.30 Live NBA Coverage of a play-off match

TNT Sports 2

SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, EE 431

6.00pm Live Hockey: Belgium v Australia (Push-back **6.00**). The Men's FIH Hockey Pro League match from Wilrijkse Plein Antwerp
8.00 MotoGP Highlights
9.00 WWE Raw Highlights
10.00 Serie A: Full Impact
10.30 Hockey China v Argentina
11.30-12.30am Hockey Women's Belgium v Australia
3.00am-1.30pm Live Badminton: The Singapore Open Coverage from the Round of 16 matches at Singapore Indoor Stadium

Wednesday 29

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Mandy (PG, 1952) Drama starring Phyllis Calvert
12.55pm 40 Guns to Apache Pass (PG, 1967) Western starring Audie Murphy
2.50 The Guns of Fort Petticoat (PG, 1957) Western starring Audie Murphy
4.30 The Golden Voyage of Sinbad (U, 1974) Fantasy adventure starring John Phillip Law and Tom Baker
6.40 Lion (PG, 2016) An Indian man adopted by an Australian couple as a youngster attempts to find his biological family. Biopic with Dev Patel and Nicole Kidman
9.00 Fresh (18, 2022) A young woman battles to survive her new boyfriend's unusual appetites. Comedy horror starring Daisy Edgar-Jones. **See Film Choice**
11.15 Red Sparrow (15, 2018) A ballerina is recruited to a Russian intelligence service, where she is forced to use her body as a weapon. Spy thriller starring Jennifer Lawrence and Joel Edgerton
2.00-4.00am Venus (15, 2006) Comedy starring Peter O'Toole and Leslie Phillips

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Burke's Law
7.00 Emergency (PG, 1962) Drama starring Glyn Houston
8.15 The Other Love (PG, 1947) Drama starring Barbara Stanwyck and David Niven
10.00 Together
10.30 The Buccaneers
11.05 The Quiet Woman (PG, 1951) Crime drama starring Derek Bond and Jane Hylton
12.35pm Bulldog Drummond Comes Back (U, 1937) Vengeful crooks disrupt the sleuth's wedding plans by kidnapping his bride-to-be, and taunting him with clues to her whereabouts. Adventure sequel with John Howard and John Barrymore
1.45 Witness In The Dark (U, 1959) A blind woman passes a murderer fleeing the scene of the crime, and uses her other senses to help the police identify him. Thriller starring Patricia Dainton
3.00 Saddle Up
3.05 Return of the Texan (U, 1952) A widower brings his family back to his old home town in Texas, hoping to make a success of the family farm. Drama starring Dale Robertson and Joanne Dru
4.50 Saddle Up
4.55 Johnny Ringo
5.30 Bonanza
6.30 Dick Powell's Zane Grey Theatre Western anthology
7.00 Dixon of Dock Green
8.00 The Human Jungle
9.05 Gideon's Way
10.10-12.15am Brides in the Bath Period serial killer drama

Jennifer Lawrence stars in Red Sparrow (Film4, 11.15pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Shattered Memories (PG, 2018) Thriller with Sarah Lind and Elizabeth Bogush
10.50 GREAT! Movie News
11.00 Accusations and Lies (PG, 2019) Thriller starring AnnaLynne McCord
12.50pm GREAT! Movie News
1.00 Death By Friendship (12, 2020) Thriller starring Natalie Brown and Sarah Fisher
2.55 Killing Your Daughter (PG, 2019) Thriller with Allison Paige and Sarah Aldrich
4.50 GREAT! Movie News
5.00 Deadly Hope (12, 2012) Thriller starring Alana De La Garza and Sandrine Holt
6.55 GREAT! Movie News
7.05 Enemy Within (12, 2007) An escaped convict hides out in a remote cabin owned by a blind woman, who is unaware of his presence. Thriller starring Mae Whitman
9.00 Born to Raise Hell (18, 2010) An Interpol agent swears vengeance on the Russian gun smugglers responsible for the death of his partner. Action thriller starring Steven Seagal
11.05-1.20am Son of a Gun (15, 2015) Drama starring Brenton Thwaites and Ewan McGregor

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.15pm Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (15, 2024) Thriller with Eric Bana and Anna Torv
2.15 The Inseparables (U, 2023) Animated adventure with the voices of Monica Young and Danny Fehsenfeld
4.00 Boonie Bears: Guardian Code (PG, 2023) Animated adventure with the voice of Joseph S Lambert
5.45 Blue Beetle (12, 2023) Fantasy with Xolo Maridueña
8.00 Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (15, 2024) Two federal agents investigate the disappearance of a hiker. Thriller starring Eric Bana
10.00-11.55pm The Equalizer 3 (15, 2023) Former government assassin Robert McCall takes on the mafia in southern Italy. Thriller starring Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning and David Denman

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ayesha Hazarika **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** The Story **1.30** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** DJ Spoony **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 **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast
9.30 Essential Classics
1.00pm Classical Live Delibes (*Sylvia — Les Chasseresses*); Poulenc (Cello Sonata, FP 143); Weckmann (*Wenn der Herr die Gefangenen zu Zion erlosen wird*); Finzi (5 Bagatelles, Op 23); Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor, Op 16) and Chevalier de Saint-Georges (Quartet concertante in G minor Op 15)
3.00 Live Choral Evensong Live from St David's Cathedral, with music by Bairstow, Britten and Meirion Wynn Jones
4.00 Composer of the Week: Vivaldi Donald Macleod explores Vivaldi's successes outside his native Venice, across Italy and throughout Europe, where the financial rewards could be much higher than on home soil (r)
5.00 In Tune The pianist Kirill Gerstein joins Sean Rafferty to play live in the studio
7.00 Classical Mixtape Music by Beethoven and Billy Joel (r)
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert The BBC National Orchestra of Wales perform at the BBC Hoddinott Hall. Caroline Shaw (*The Observatory*); Ravel (Piano Concerto in G, M 83) and Bartók (Concerto for Orchestra, BB 123)
9.45 The Essay: A Different Way to Listen Hearing from Chisato Minamimura, a deaf performance artist
10.00 Night Tracks Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents music for late-night listening
11.30 'Round Midnight
12.30am Through the Night

Today's pick

Athena's Cancel Culture
Radio 4, 11pm
Radio 4 comedy at its best showcases funny and original fresh voices with something to say about the pressing issues of our age. The stand-up comedian Athena Kugblenu, *right*, is one such voice: a nuanced, sharp and wise guide to the modern world. In this welcome repeat of a series that was first broadcast in 2021, Kugblenu takes a lively and balanced view of cancel culture, taking us beyond the usual entrenched positions on censorship or privilege. She also takes an unsparing look at her own social media history.
Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
6.00 Today News headlines
9.00 More or Less
9.30 To Catch a Scorpion The BBC team watch as smugglers arrange a crossing at night
10.00 Woman's Hour
11.00 File on 4 (r)
11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices
12.04pm You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Thief at the British Museum
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: The Interrogation By Roy Williams (3/5) (r)
3.00 The Law Show
3.30 The Artificial Human New series. A look at how AI will impact the world of care
4.00 The Media Show
5.00 PM With Evan Davis
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Robin Ince's Reality Tunnel The comedian talks about his love of books (r)
7.00 The Archers Ben fails to say no and Jolene makes an interesting discovery
7.15 Front Row Arts news
8.00 AntiSocial (r)
8.45 Uncharted with Hannah Fry The mysterious realm of artificial intelligence (r)
9.00 Being Roman with Mary Beard Pompeii's pub culture (r)
9.30 All in the Mind (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Long Island By Colm Toibin. Eilis's return home to Ireland shocks both her best friend Nancy and Jim, her old love (3/10)
11.00 Athena's Cancel Culture Athena Kugblenu explores the world of offence in modern times. **See Choice** (r)
11.15 Tom Mayhew Is Benefit Scum The comedian shares stories from his life growing up working class and his time on benefits (r)
11.30 Lights Out (r)
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am D-Day: The Last Voices (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** Tennis **10.30** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

Talk
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Mike Graham **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Jeremy Kyle **7.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Hazelbeach **8.30** The Nature of Spring **8.45** Curious Under the Stars **9.00** Tudur 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 **12.00** Never Too Late **12.30pm** 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. By Alan Harris **8.00** Dilemma. With Josie Long, Andrew Maxwell, Owen Jones and Clare Grogan **8.30** Hidden Treasures: The Slaves of Solitude **10.00** Comedy Club: Tudur Owen: United Nations of Anglesey **10.30** I Think I've Got a Problem. Tom disrupts a funeral **11.00** Chain Reaction. Comedian Al Murray interviews satirist Ian Hislop **11.30** Big Booth Too

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** The Climate Question **10.00** News **10.06** The Forum **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Documentary: Things Fell Apart **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Climate Question **8.30** Health Check **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** The Documentary: Things Fell Apart. A family schism is co-opted by powerful culture warriors **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Forum **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Documentary **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Food Chain

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Chris Hawkins **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** 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. Another selection of themed tracks by members of the Leeds band **12.00** Freak Zone Playlist **1.00am** The Story of Pop

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Ryan Tubridy **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.30am Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Stephen Mangan **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Thursday 30 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice

Eric

Netflix

This six-part psychological thriller by Abi Morgan (*The Hour*, *The Split*) stars Benedict Cumberbatch in his first (non-Marvel) small-screen role since playing Dominic Cummings in *Brexit: The Uncivil War* in 2019. And boy, does Cumberbatch throw every ounce of his talent into the role of Vincent Sullivan, a puppeteer in 1980s New York whose son, Edgar (Ivan Morris Howe, *right with Cumberbatch*) goes missing. Vincent is a genius of children's TV, the man who created "Good Day Sunshine", which is *Sesame Street* in all but name and so well realised in the glimpses of it we see that Netflix should commission a series. After an opening scene set at the press conference 48 hours on from Edgar's disappearance, the action rewinds those 48 hours and we see Vincent at work, with Edgar looking on. We get an early glimpse at Vincent's intensity during an after-show meeting: the show has been going for ten years and the pressure is on to attract "the cool kids" and bridge the gap between pre-school and elementary pupils with a new puppet, much to Vincent's disgust. He loves his son, but is obsessed and tyrannical, prone to blazing rows with his wife, Cassie (Gaby Hoffmann), and an alcoholic. When Edgar disappears on the way to school, Vincent spirals out of control, losing himself in drink and drugs, hallucinating a puppet called Eric (based on Edgar's drawings) as the line between reality and fantasy starts to blur. The combination of Morgan's punchy script, a depiction of the urban decay of 1980s New York and Cumberbatch in full savant/sociopath mode (think *Patrick Melrose* or *Sherlock*) makes Eric an exceptional piece of television. Joe Clay

Pyramid Game

Paramount+

A new South Korean series with "Game" in the title, *Pyramid Game* is a psychological thriller set in Baekyeon Girls' High School, where popularity polls are used to rank the students. Those at the bottom of the ladder (called "outcasts") are subjected to bullying and violence, as Seong Soo-ji (the K-pop star Kim Ji-yeon) finds out when she transfers to the school. But rather than accepting her status, she decides to lead an uprising. Like *Squid Game*, this is a fight for survival in which relationships and alliances crumble as quickly as they are formed. **JC**

The Outlaws

BBC1, 9pm

The darkly comic crime thriller from Stephen Merchant and Elgin James — about seven strangers who come together on a community scheme in Bristol — returns for a third series. The second series ended with the arrest of the crime boss the Dean (Claes Bang), and six months on he is still in prison awaiting trial. However, our gang of misfits must join forces again when one of them turns up with a deadly secret. All of the cast return — including Jessica Gunning from *Baby Reindeer* and Christopher Walken — for another madcap ride shot through with awkwardness and filthy jokes. **JC**

We Are Lady Parts

Channel 4, 10pm/10.35pm

A welcome return for Nida Manzoor's anarchic sitcom about the Muslim punk band. The first series was a riot, poking fun at stereotypes as it told the story of how the band came together through the eyes of the PhD microbiology student-lead guitarist Amina Hussain (Anjana Vasan). Manzoor has promised to "turn everything up to 11", as well as explore the characters' lives in more depth. A flashback brings us up to speed, with Lady Parts returning from a triumphant tour and ready to record their debut album — provided that they can raise the funds to work with the producer Dirty Mahmood (Anil Desai). **JC**

Music Legends

Sky Arts/Now, 10pm

Brian Johnson and Mark Knopfler are in Nashville to meet "the reigning queen of country rock" Emmylou Harris. Over five decades she has pushed the boundaries of country music with her innovative songwriting, selling more than 15 million records. Knopfler and Harris are old friends, having collaborated on the 2006 album *All the Roadrunning*, so it's a relaxed chat about her career and music in general. The country giant Vince Gill joins them to play guitar on a cover of the Everly Brothers' song *Love Hurts*, with Harris showing off her Southern-belle soprano. **JC**

Catch up

The Gathering
Channel 4

This Liverpool-set drama opens in dramatic fashion, with a young woman being pushed under the sea near an illegal beach rave. News reports later confirm that she has been found unresponsive, before we embark on a series of flashbacks that will unpeel the truth. The victim of the attack is Kelly (Eva Morgan, *below*), who is a bright working-class teenager and an excellent gymnast. Kelly's mother is dead and she is looked after by her father, Paul (Warren Brown). Each episode focuses on a suspect in Kelly's murder, with the possible motives fleshed out. Someone who may have a beef with Kelly is her frenemy Jessica (Sadie Soverall), a rival gymnast with a pushy, posh mother (Vinette Robinson's Natalie). It is a crowded but sharply realised world with a central mystery that should keep you watching. **Ben Dowell**

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 8.00pm** Wales' Home of the Year. The north-east (r) **8.30-9.00pm** The Crash Detectives (r) ● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** The View. News, comment and analysis from Stormont and Westminster **11.20** Question Time. Fiona Bruce presents topical debate from Epsom **12.20am** Newscast. Light-hearted discussion **12.50-6.00am** BBC News ● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.15am** Bargain Hunt. Two teams go head to head in Newark, Nottinghamshire (r) **Midday-1.00pm** First Minister's Questions. Questions in the Scottish Parliament ● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30-10.49pm** STV News **10.50** Mel Giedroyc and Martin Clunes Explore Britain by the Book. The duo explore locations made famous by books and films (r) **11.45** Made in Britain. A look at how cricket bats and shortbread are made (r) **12.10-3.00am** Shop on TV **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision ● **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** Up Close **11.45-12.45am** The 1% Club (r) ● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Scotland's Biggest Families (r) **8.00** Beechgrove Garden. Carole Baxter looks at bedding plants **8.30** Landward. Dougie finds out about the importance of salt marsh habitats **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Scot Squad (r) **10.30** The Firm (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** David Wilson's Crime Files: Cold Cases (r) ● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Blociau Rhif (r) **6.05** Guto Gwningen (r) **6.20** Gwdihw (r) **6.35** Sam Tan (r) **6.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **7.00** Nos Da Cyw (r) **7.05** Twt (r) **7.20** Ein Byd Bach **7.30** Sion y Chef (r) **7.45** Sbarc (r) **8.00** Bing (r) **8.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **8.20** Jen a Jim Pob Dim (r) **8.35** Ben a Mali a'u Byd Bach O Hud (r) **8.45** Cacamwnci (r) **9.00** Shwshaswyn (r) **9.10** Abadas (r) **9.25** Sblij a Sbloj (r) **9.35** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **9.45** Dal Dy Ddannedd (r) **10.00** Nos Da Cyw (r) **10.05** Sam Tan (r) **10.15** Sbarc (r) **10.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. The start of today's competitions **12.00** News S4C **12.05pm** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. The secondary school pupil competitions from the red, white and green pavilions **2.25** News S4C **2.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. A live broadcast of the main ceremony of the day — the Chairing Ceremony **3.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. The rest of the secondary school pupils' competitions **6.30** Y Coridor **6.45** Y Coridor **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd. Highlights from today's events **9.25** News **9.30** Pawb a'i Farn **10.30** Y Llinell Las (r) **11.30** Grid **11.45-1.15** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

Cast Away (12, 2000)
Film4, 6pm

Tom Hanks, *below*, reunited with the *Forrest Gump* director Robert Zemeckis for this tale of man versus the wilderness. Hanks plays Chuck Noland, a FedEx employee who spends much of his life on an aircraft, rushing to deal with packaging crises around the world. However, his plan to marry his long-suffering girlfriend (Helen Hunt) is placed on ice when he crashes on a deserted island and is left to fend for himself, with nothing but a volleyball for company. There's something mesmeric in watching Hanks try to solve the problems on which his survival hinges, such as lighting a fire and opening a coconut. Filming began in Fiji in 1998, then production was shut down for a year so Hanks could lose 50lb and grow a beard. (143min) **Wendy Ide**

The Art of Racing in the Rain (PG, 2019)
Channel 4, 1.55am

This bonkers tearjerker rolls faithful dog, cute child, cancer tragedy and fast cars into one emotionally manipulative package. This is a film that has as a narrator a canine with philosophical leanings (Kevin Costner is on vocal duties), who delivers paeans to the wet weather-driving skills of the Brazilian racing driver Ayrton Senna alongside the schmaltz and whose antagonist is a toy zebra. Milo Ventimiglia is Denny, a racing driver in Seattle who, like Senna, is exceptional at driving in the rain. He buys a golden retriever puppy, which he names Enzo, after the founder of Ferrari. While Ventimiglia mainly smoulders and frowns, the canine acting seems impressively nuanced, and there's a solid turn from Amanda Seyfried as Denny's wife, Eve. (109min) **Ed Potton**

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thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Thursday 30

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.30** Rip Off Britain **10.15** The Moment of Proof (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Zara and Michelle look forward to some rest and relaxation **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore saves an old boot stretcher. Last in the series **3.00** Escape to the Country. A buyer from Surrey seeks a property in south-west Wales (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie Dimmock and Flo Headlam build a sensory, Scandi-themed garden in Leeds (r) **4.30** The Finish Line. Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene host **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

The Outlaws returns (9pm)

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 EastEnders Ravi struggles to stand firm against Nish, and Junior tries to make peace between Cindy and the girls

8.00 Dragons' Den Two sisters from the north-east hope that the Dragons will be attracted to their maternity-wear business, while the purveyors of a brand-new type of fizzy cocktail hope their product will be to the would-be investors' taste (r)

9.00 The Outlaws New series. Everyone is moving on with their lives, but then Rani shows up with a terrible secret and needs their help. Return of the comedy drama starring Rhianne Barreto and Darren Boyd. **See Viewing Guide** (1/5)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Question Time Fiona Bruce presents the topical debate from Epsom, with a panel of politicians and guests facing questions from the audience

11.40 Newscast Light-hearted discussion of the week's political events in Westminster

12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.15** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer (r) **7.15** Money for Nothing (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Food Stories (r) (SL) **8.30** Great British Railway Journeys (r) (SL) **9.00** BBC News **1.00pm** Impossible. Quiz show, hosted by Rick Edwards (r) **1.45** Mastermind. Specialist subjects include *Line of Duty* and gin (r) **2.15** Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo's adventure reaches the west coast of Scotland (r) **2.45** Five Bedrooms. Liz is wooed by a law firm whose former boss heartlessly fired her (r) **3.30** The Farmers' Country Showdown. Two couples prepare for Exeter's Farmers' Market (r) **4.15** Cornwall: This Fishing Life. A look at how small fishing boats are coming under increasing threat from industrialisation (r) **5.15** Flog It!. From Culzean Castle, Ayrshire (r)

England's Jos Buttler (6.15pm)

6.15 Live International T20 Cricket: England v Pakistan Coverage of the fourth and final T20 match of the series, staged at the Oval. Jos Buttler's side will be hoping to warm up in style for their upcoming World Cup campaign, which gets under way in just five days' time against Scotland in the West Indies. England had won the previous three T20 meetings between the two sides before this series, including a five-wicket victory in the 2022 World Cup Final in Melbourne, as Ben Stokes was the hero yet again

10.00 Mock the Week With guests Jen Brister, Rhys James, Laura Lexx and Glenn Moore (3/7) (r)

10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis

11.05 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan Comedian Romesh Ranganathan visits Uganda, where is he hosted by a princess who attempts to expand his knowledge of the country, beyond the brutal dictatorship of Idi Amin (1/3) (r)

12.05am Sign Zone: Saving Lives at Sea. The Minehead crew head out to rescue walkers cut off by the tide (r) (SL) **1.05** Doctor Who. The Doctor and Ruby arrive at a pub (r) (SL) **1.50-2.50** Cold Case Investigators: Solving Britain's Sex Crimes (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment and fashion news **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. The women put the world to rights once more and invite a celebrity guest to chat about what they are up to **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson is joined in Cosford by dealers Mark Stevens, Tracy Thackray-Howitt, Laurie Scully and Simon Schneider (r) **3.00** Lingo. Quiz show hosted by Adil Ray (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

From Russia with Love (10.45pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Manpreet confesses, Liam is jolted into action and Ruby breaks down

7.30 Coronation Street Joel's betrayal angers Dee-Dee, and Griff relies on deadly threats to force a confession from Roy

8.00 Britain's Got Talent As the semi-finals continue, acts compete against one another to land themselves a valuable place in the grand final at the end of the week. Judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and Bruno Tonioli join hosts Ant and Dec in the search for Britain's next talented superstar, who will ultimately win a life-changing cash prize and a spot on the bill of the Royal Variety Performance

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 FILM From Russia with Love (PG, 1963) Agent 007 is sent to steal a top-secret Soviet decoding machine and ends up helping its operator defect to the West. However, he discovers the mission is really a trap set by Spectre, and struggles to evade his would-be assassins. James Bond spy thriller starring Sean Connery and Robert Shaw

12.45am Teleshopping **3.00** My Mum, Your Dad. Sparks begin to fly between one of the couples, with one person becoming emotional when she sees a different side to her mum (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show. Chat show (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.30am 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.40** Frasier (r) **11.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **12.05pm** Channel 4 News Summary **12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **1.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Henry Cole and Simon O'Brien visit a military vehicle enthusiast (r) **2.10** Countdown. Levi Roots is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Help for a couple who wish to buy a holiday home together in Kefalonia (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Laura Hamilton helps a couple to find a holiday home on Portugal's Algarve coast **5.00** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals. Professional chefs from Essex compete **6.00** Four in a Bed. The final visit of the week is to Beach Sun Retreat **6.30** The Simpsons (r)

Comedy We Are Lady Parts (10pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 The Truth About Temu: Dispatches Ellie Flynn looks into the legitimacy of Temu

8.30 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It: Brilliant Builds Kirstie and Phil review their time helping a couple in Waterbeach (r)

9.00 Taskmaster Sophie Willan impresses on keyboards, Steve Pemberton is surprised in a field, John Robins refuses a biscuit, Joanne McNally struggles with an anagram and Nick Mohammed makes a magical prediction (10/10)

10.00 We Are Lady Parts New series. Comedy about a Muslim punk band. **See Viewing Guide** (1/6)

10.35 We Are Lady Parts Saira faces eviction from the bedsit, leaving the band with no rehearsal space. **See Viewing Guide** (2/6)

11.10 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching on TV during the week, with cameras capturing their reactions (r) (SL)

12.10am First Dates (r) (SL) **1.05** 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (SL) **1.55 FILM The Art of Racing in the Rain (PG, 2019) See Film Choice** (SL) **3.45** Our Welsh Chapel Dream (r) (SL) **4.40** Location, Location, Location (r) **5.30** House of Craft **5.50** Countdown

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points **12.45pm** Friends. Rachel gets a dressing-down for dating Tag (r) **1.10** Friends. Phoebe plans to return to her flat (r) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Theo is confronted with lying to Justin the whole time (r) **2.15 FILM Twelve Desperate Hours (12, TVM, 2023)** A woman finds herself and her children held hostage by a man who forces his way into her home after committing a murder. Thriller starring Samantha Mathis **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Cameras follow the owners of a British village store (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Amazing Railway Journeys with Nick Knowles. The presenter explores Norway (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

The Hotel Inspector (9pm)

7.00 Escape to the Farm with Kate Humble Kate embraces treehouse accommodation and an intriguing business model and has a treat for her ducks and hens (4/8)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Reuben: Life in the Dales It's winter, and a plumbing project turns into a disaster when rainwater lifts the septic tank out of a hole. The biggest job of the season is preparing a Victorian village school for renovation. Last in the series

9.00 The Hotel Inspector Alex Polizzi is back on the Kent coast to revisit the Westward Ho! in Folkestone, where five years ago she came to the rescue of a hotelier struggling with terrible reviews and plummeting profits

10.00 Rose West: Making of a Monster Documentary unlocking the serial killer's childhood, investigating what turned a 17 year old into one of the most sadistic, sexually motivated, serial killers Britain has ever witnessed (r)

11.35 5 Clues That Caught the Killer Documentary examining the investigation into the murder of Rhys Jones in Liverpool (r)

12.35am Criminals: Caught on Camera (r) **1.00** Casino **3.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (r) **3.50** Police Interceptors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

Thursday 30 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat

Blazing Saddles
Cleavon Little and Gene Wilder star in Mel Brooks's 1974 comedy western
BBC4, 10pm

BBC3

FV 23, FS 107, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Live Athletics: Diamond League Oslo Coverage of the Bislett Games, the sixth meeting of the season, held at Bislett Stadium, Norway
9.00 Shark Tank An innovative fitness system with on-the-go simplicity is showcased
9.40 Spud Comedy drama, written by and starring Siobhan McSweeney
10.00 The Young Offenders Conor is becoming an increasing nuisance in Healy and Mairéad's house (3/6)
10.30 High: Surviving a Dubai Drugs Bust Karl and his friends are taken to Port Rashid, where he faces death by firing squad (3/5)
11.00 Becoming the Doctor Ncuti Gatwa reveals all about taking over the Tardis
11.20-12.05am I Kissed a Girl Emotions start to run high as the girls return from their dates (7/10)

BBC4

FV 9/24, FS 108, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys Michael Portillo takes a trip through Britain's industrial heartland (1/15)
7.30 War Walks Richard Holmes visits the site of the Battle of the Boyne (4/6)
8.00 A House Through Time A trip back to 1913 when No. 5 was home to Frederick and Louisa Pryce Lewis (3/4)
9.00 Bloody Omaha: Timewatch Richard Hammond tells the story of the D-Day landings at Omaha beach (2/5)
10.00 FILM Blazing Saddles (12, 1974) A crooked railway tycoon appoints a black sheriff to a racist town, but the clever lawman plots to foil his schemes. Mel Brooks' Western spoof, with Cleavon Little and Gene Wilder
11.30-12.40am Mel Brooks: Unwrapped: Imagine Alan Yentob interviews the comedy actor and director

More 4

FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Car S.O.S. Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend restore a Peugeot 106 Rallye (7/11)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud meets a couple building a house on a sheer cliff on Scotland's west coast
9.00 GPs: Treating Rural Britain Dr Kieran sees a patient who is experiencing severe abdominal pain, and a woman struggling with discomfort and restricted movement in her wrists. Last in the series
10.00 24 Hours in A&E A 79-year-old man arrives in hospital after collapsing in the street whilst walking his dog, and a young boy is treated after pushing a plastic toy down his ear (10/12)
11.05-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E A 64-year-old man is brought to St George's in an induced coma, having been thrown from his bicycle (11/12)

Sky Arts

FV 36, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Alfred Hitchcock Presents A mysterious man plans to go out with a bang
7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents A drunken former athlete fails to earn enough money to pay for his lifestyle
8.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir The couple head to north Wales in search of the black grouse, meeting bird experts, learning the art of lino printing and paint alongside comedian Joe Pasquale
9.00 Discovering: Gary Oldman A look at the life of the actor, which includes an Academy Award-winning performance as Winston Churchill in *Darkest Hour*
10.00 Johnson & Knopfler's Music Legends Brian and Mark meet Emmylou Harris. **See Viewing Guide** (6/6)
11.00-12.15am AC/DC: Forever Young

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108, EE 342

6.50pm Billions Taylor weighs a different kind of cost when old friends get caught in a business crossfire (3/12) (R)
7.55 House of the Dragon Rhaenyra oversteps at the Small Council, and Viserys is urged to secure the succession through a new marriage (2/10) (R)
9.00 The Tattooist of Auschwitz Gita helps a young woman give birth and conceal the baby, but this leads to the sacrifice of someone that Gita holds dear to her (5/6)
10.05 Band of Brothers Winters is promoted to a desk job, but finds the change of pace hard to accept, while news arrives of a planned Axis raid on the Allied lines (5/10) (R)
11.10-12.20am Succession As Logan works to finalise a deal, an unexpected threat emerges, and Tom receives distressing news (6/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries

SKY 121, VIRGIN 188, EE 352

7.00pm Urban Secrets Alan Cumming explores the culture of Newcastle, and gets insights into the city from Peter Beardsley and Sarah Millican (6/8) (R)
8.00 Lockerbie The verdict leaves the families unsatisfied, but doubt is cast on the court's decision and 34 years after the bombing, a new suspect is taken into custody (4/4)
9.00 Dublin Narcos Shockwaves are sent across the country as crime reporter Veronica Guerin is shot in during the day by drug lords (3/3) (R)
10.00 Zuckerberg: King of the Metaverse Documentary chronicling the life and career of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg (R)
12.00-1.10am The Jinx Part Two Robert Durst is found guilty of Susan's murder and sentenced to life — but dies a few months later (6/6) (R)

ITV2

FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Family Fortunes Game show hosted by Gino D'Acampo
8.00 Bob's Burgers A mishap leaves Tina the centre of attention at a classmate's bat mitzvah
8.30 Bob's Burgers Bob and Linda ask Teddy to babysit the kids
9.00 Family Guy
9.30 Family Guy
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3

FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Oscar finds himself in an awkward position
7.55 Heartbeat Merton investigates a suspicious death with the CID
9.00 Mr Bates vs the Post Office At the Royal Courts of Justice, Alan and his friends give evidence (4/4)
10.00 The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe The truth emerges as Anne and John are interviewed by the police, and the case goes to trial where Anne pleads not guilty (4/4)
11.05 Wycliffe Drama (2/8)
12.00-12.50am Heartbeat

ITV4

FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.30pm British Touring Car Championship Highlights Steve Rider presents highlights of the third meeting of the campaign, which is staged at Snetterton
8.00 Monaco Historique Grand Prix Highlights A look at the grandiose event, including a heartwarming tribute to motoring great Ayrton Senna
9.00 No Room for Error The stakes are high for the Senior TT (4/4)
10.00-12.10am All Elite Wrestling: Collision Hard-hitting action

E4

FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Marie offers guidance in a devastating time
7.30 Modern Family Luke's birthday party goes badly
8.00 Teen First Dates Patrick from Portsmouth, who is 17, is set up on a date with Olly (4/10)
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox Shows appraised include Platinum Party at the Palace, *Bargain hunt* and *Celebrity Karaoke Club* (1/6)
10.00 Gogglebox Omnibus of the two part-special for SU2C
11.05-12.10am First Dates

Dave

FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Would I Lie to You?
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Ruby Bhogal, Matthew Pinsent, Ed Byrne and Ingrid Oliver
8.20 Richard Osman's House of Games With Gemma Cairney, Tim Key, Gabby Logan and Jeff Stelling
9.00 QI XL Extended edition. With the Rev Richard Coles, Sara Pascoe and Bill Bailey
10.00 Mad Dogs The guys hunker down in the villa overnight
11.10-12.10am Have I Got a Bit More News for You

Drama

FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Nora gets her hands on Compo
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Compo is given rescue training
8.00 Father Brown The mayor dies suddenly at the village fete
9.00 A Small Light Miep's Jewish dentist asks for help hiding
10.10 New Tricks The team reopens the case of a palaeontologist's murder
11.30-12.45am Soldier, Soldier Colonel Hammond's love life arouses suspicion

Yesterday

FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Canal Boat Diaries (1/4)
7.30 Canal Boat Diaries (2/4)
8.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics The team opt to buy one of the most affordable sports cars on the road — the Mazda MX-5
9.00 Bangers & Cash Derek picks up a 1965 Ford Anglia with just 33,000 miles on the clock (11/15)
10.00 Bangers & Cash Dave collects a 1926 Dodge bus (7/8)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys

PBS America

FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.20pm Italy's Invisible Cities (3/3)
7.35 The Six Queens of Henry VIII The focus turns to the king's third and fourth wives, Jane Seymour and Anne of Cleves (3/4)
8.35 Dive WWII: Our Secret History Searching for shipwrecks from the Battle of the Atlantic (1/2)
9.55 Vietnam: The Girl in the Picture Documentary
11.00 The Six Queens of Henry VIII Documentary (3/4)
12.00-1.15am Dive WWII: Our Secret History (1/2)

5Select

FV 46, FS 133, SKY 153, VIRGIN 138

7.00pm Antiques Showdown
8.00 D-Day: The Unseen Footage Archive film captures the 85-day struggle to liberate Europe
9.00 The Great Escape: A Daring Plan The story of the audacious WWII prison break (1/3)
10.00 The Great Escape: Breakout The X Committee's tunnel is discovered by the Nazis (2/3)
11.00 The Great Escape: Capture Documentary series (3/3)
12.00-1.00am Hitler: Could He Have Been Stopped? (1/2)

Sky History

SKY 123, VIRGIN 131, EE 353

7.00pm Forged in Fire In a five-hour face-off, smiths must make a blade out of scrap steel
8.00 Swamp People Gator season enters its final week
9.00 Royal Kill List Drama-documentary following Charles II's hunt for his father's killers (1/3)
10.00 Royal Kill List Charles II faces a backlash for his treatment of the regicides so he cracks down on dissenters (2/3)
11.00 Royal Kill List (3/3)
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max

SKY 113, VIRGIN 111, EE 346

7.00pm Stargate SG-1
8.00 A Discovery of Witches Matthew and Diana arrive in France on their journey to face Philippe (5/10)
9.00 A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip Jamie, Mo, Jill and Micah take part in the Day of the Dead parade
10.00 The Walking Dead (5/13)
11.00 The Walking Dead (6/13)
11.55-12.55am Hold the Front Page Nish and Josh work for the *South Wales Argus* (6/6)

Nat Geographic

SKY 129, VIRGIN 183

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation
8.00 Car S.O.S.: Ultimate Countdown Fuzz Townshend and Tim Shaw count down some of their favourite moments
9.00 Brawn: The Impossible Formula 1 Story Keanu Reeves shares the story of Brawn GP (4/4)
10.10 Alaska: The Next Generation The Browns protect their farm as signs of wolves become dangerously clear
11.05-12.05am Air Crash Investigation

Discovery

SKY 125, VIRGIN 177, EE 320

7.00pm Wheeler Dealers: Dream Car A Porsche Cayman
8.00 Supertruckers
9.00 Expedition From Hell: The Lost Tapes New series. Mickey Grosman leads amateur explorers deep into the Amazon
10.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am Gold Divers

Sky Comedy

SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, EE 347

7.00pm The Conners
8.00 Will & Grace
9.00 Insecure Drama, starring Issa Rae and Yvonne Orji (7/10)
9.40 Insecure (8/10)
10.15 Jerrod Carmichael Reality Show Double bill
11.20 Sex and the City (3/8)
11.55-12.35am Sex and the City

Comedy Central

SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, EE 345

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 FILM Last Vegas (12, 2013)
11.05 Impractical Jokers: The Inspired Unemployed
11.40-12.35am Alan Carr: Yap, Yap, Yap! Stand up comedy show

Gold

SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, EE 344

6.40pm Dad's Army
8.00 Open All Hours
8.40 Blackadder the Third
9.20 dinnerladies
10.00 The Royle Family
10.40 Harry Enfield and Chums
11.20 Knowing Me, Knowing You: With Alan Partridge
12.00-12.40am Open All Hours

W

FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Tipping Point: Lucky Stars
8.00 Gemma and Gorka: Life Behind the Lens A half-term holiday to Madrid gives the family a break
9.00 Big House Clearout
10.00 Inside the Ambulance
11.00-12.15am Louis Theroux: Extreme Love — Autism

Alibi

SKY 109, VIRGIN 114, EE 343

7.00pm Elementary
8.00 Death in Paradise (1/8)
9.00 Murdoch Mysteries After a noxious smell is noted at the new women's hospital, a young nurse drops dead
10.00 Death in Paradise (2/8)
11.00 Elementary
12.00-1.00am Deception (7/13)

Sky Main Event

SKY 401, VIRGIN 501, EE 439

12.00 Live DP World Tour Golf Coverage of the opening round of the European Open from Green Eagle Golf North Course, Hamburg
5.00pm Live US Women's Open Golf The opening round of the Major at Lancaster Country Club
6.00 Live International T20 Cricket: England v Pakistan Coverage of the final T20 in the series from The Kia Oval, London
10.30-1.00am Live US Women's Open Golf Coverage of day one from The Lancaster Country Club

Sky Premier League

SKY 402, VIRGIN 502, EE 440

7.00pm Premier League Stories Behind the scenes of the league
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox Gary sits down with Sol Campbell as they relive some of their most compelling matches (5/6)
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The presenter talks to Robert Pires
9.00 Premier League Stories Behind the scenes of the league
10.00 Premier League Icons A profile of Duncan Ferguson
10.30-12.30am PL Retro Liverpool v Chelsea from the 2013/14 season

Allisen Corpuz defends the title at the US Women's Open Golf (Sky Main Event, 5pm/10.30pm)

Sky Cricket

SKY 404, VIRGIN 504, EE 442

6.00pm Live International T20 Cricket: England v Pakistan Coverage of the fourth and final T20 in the series from The Kia Oval, London. This is the first international in this format to be played here since 2014, when England lost to Sri Lanka for their third straight T20 defeat here. However, they did prevail by 48 runs when they last faced Pakistan here in a 20-over match
10.30 Dreams of a Nation
11.30-12.30am IPL Recent action

TNT Sports 1

SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, EE 430

10.30-1.30pm Live AFL: Port Adelaide Power v Carlton Blues
7.00pm Premier League Stories
8.00 Live Uefa Champions League
9.00 TNT Sports Reload
9.30 Uefa Champions League Magazine News and updates
10.00 Uefa Europa League & Conference League Magazine
11.00 Europa Conference League
12.30am NBA Tip-Off A look ahead to tonight's NBA matches
1.30-4.00am Live NBA Coverage of a play-off match (Tip-off TBA)

TNT Sports 2

SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, EE 431

6.15pm Ligue 1 Highlights A look back at all the recent action from the top flight of French football
7.15 Live Ligue 1 Coverage of the relegation play-off first-leg tie
9.30 TNT Sports Reload
9.45 Badminton Unlimited Round-up of the news and highlights
10.15 Hockey Action from Australia v Argentina in the Women's FIH Hockey Pro League
11.15-12.15am Hockey Action from Belgium v China in the Women's FIH Hockey Pro League

Thursday 30

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am A Lawless Street (U, 1955) Western with Randolph Scott and Angela Lansbury **12.40pm Oliver! (U, 1968)** Musical starring Ron Moody **3.40 The Sound Barrier (U, 1952)** Drama starring Ralph Richardson and Ann Todd **6.00 Cast Away (12, 2000)** A courier service manager is forced to fend for himself when a plane crash leaves him stranded alone for years on a desert island. Adventure drama with Tom Hanks and Helen Hunt. **See Film Choice 9.00 Men in Black: International (12, 2019)** The intergalactic law enforcers tackle their biggest threat — a mole in the Men in Black organisation. Fantasy sequel starring Chris Hemsworth **11.15 The Iceman (15, 2012)** A contract killer leads a seemingly normal life, with his family unaware of his deadly profession. Fact-based crime drama starring Michael Shannon and Winona Ryder **1.25-3.55am Neds (18, 2010)** Drama starring Conor McCarron and Gregg Forrest

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Life in Danger (PG, 1959) Crime melodrama starring Derren Nesbitt **7.15 Marilyn (PG, 1953)** Crime drama starring Sandra Dorne and Maxwell Reed **8.40 The Man from Tangier (U, 1957)** Thriller with Robert Hutton and Martin Benson **10.00 And the Same to You (PG, 1960)** Comedy with Brian Rix and William Hartnell **11.25 The Lone Wolf Strikes (U, 1940)** Comedy adventure starring Warren William **12.45pm Love is a Ball (U, 1963)** A professional matchmaker decides to train up a few helpers in his art, but soon has cause to regret it. Romantic comedy starring Glenn Ford and Charles Boyer **3.00 Crown Court** **4.30 Danger UXB** **5.35 Lost in the Desert (U, 1969)** An eight-year-old boy and his dog are left to fend for themselves after surviving a plane crash in the Kalahari Desert. Adventure starring Wynand Uys and Jamie Uys **7.15 Rhubarb (U, 1968)** Every trick of gamesmanship or blatant cheating occurs in a round of golf. Comedy short starring Eric Sykes **8.00 The Brothers** **9.05 Van der Valk** **10.10-12.20am Bagdad Cafe (15, 1988)** A Bavarian woman abandoned by her husband wanders into a roadside cafe and has a dramatic effect on the lives of its regular customers. Comedy with Marianne Sagebrecht

The comedy Bagdad Cafe (Talking Pictures, 10.10pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Murder-in-Law (12, 2019) Thriller starring Kristen Dalton and Mark Collier **10.50 GREAT! Movie News** **11.00 Stranger in the House (PG, 2016)** Thriller starring Emmanuelle Vaugier **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News** **1.00 Hidden Truth (2016)** Thriller starring Sarah Lind **2.55 Killer Ending (PG, 2018)** Thriller starring Emmanuelle Vaugier and Chelsea Hobbs **4.50 GREAT! Movie News** **5.00 Pregnant and Alone (PG, 2020)** Drama starring Emmanuelle Vaugier **6.55 Street Fighter (12, 1994)** A military officer recruits a mismatched band of martial artists to rescue hostages being held by an insane general. Action adventure with Jean-Claude Van Damme **9.00 Rambo: Last Blood (18, 2019)** John Rambo must confront his past and unearth his ruthless combat skills to exact revenge in one final mission. Action thriller sequel starring Sylvester Stallone **10.50-12.45am Escape Plan: The Extractors (15, 2019)** Action thriller sequel starring Sylvester Stallone

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.00am Turtles All the Way Down (12, 2024) Romantic drama with Isabela Merced **2.00pm Boonie Bears: Guardian Code (PG, 2023)** Animated adventure with the voice of Joseph S Lambert **3.50 Blue Beetle (12, 2023)** Fantasy with Xolo Mariduena **6.00 Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (15, 2024)** Two federal agents investigate the disappearance of a hiker. Thriller starring Eric Bana **8.00 The Equalizer 3 (15, 2023)** Former government assassin Robert McCall takes on the mafia in Italy. Thriller starring Denzel Washington **10.00 The Blackening (15, 2023)** Horror starring Grace Byers and Jermaine Fowler **11.40-1.20am Monolith (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Lily Sullivan and Ansuya Nathan

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Luke Jones with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ayesha Hazarika **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** The Story **1.30** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** DJ Spoony **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 Country Show with Bob Harris **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg. Music and chat **3.00am** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.30 Essential Classics** **1.00pm News** **1.02 Classical Live** Poulenc (Sextet for Piano and Winds); Rossini (Duo for Cello and Double Bass in D); JC Bach (*Ach dass ich Wassers gnug hätte*); Gershwin (Second Rhapsody for piano and orchestra); Chopin (Cello Sonata in G minor, op. 65) and Berlioz (*Harold in Italy*) **4.00 Composer of the Week: Vivaldi** Donald Macleod finds Vivaldi embroiled in scandal, accused of an inappropriate relationship with his pupil and protégé, Anna Giró (r) **5.00 In Tune** Sean Rafferty is joined by Stevens and Pound **7.00 Classical Mixtape** A sequence of music **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** Kaleidoscope Collective perform at Wigmore Hall. Beethoven (String Quintet in C Op. 29); Alma Mahler (*Die stille Stadt*); Zemlinsky (*Maiblumen blühten überall*) and Schoenberg (*Verklärte Nacht*) **9.45 The Essay: A Different Way to Listen** Professional music sign language performer Paul Whittaker OBE explains how he has carved out a unique space in the classical musical world **10.00 Night Tracks** Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents an adventurous soundtrack **11.30 'Round Midnight** Saxophonist Soweto Kinch presents the best in jazz **12.30am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

In Our Time
Radio 4, 9am
The Italian scholar Marsilius of Padua (c1270–1342) was an important political figure whose *Defensor Pacis* (The Defender of Peace) challenged papal power and is seen by some scholars as a forerunner of the Reformation, not least because Marin Luther King adopted many of his beliefs; it also shaped thinking on the modern European state. Discussing his work and life with Melvyn Bragg, *right*, are the historians Annabel Brett of the University of Cambridge, Serena Ferente of the University of Amsterdam and George Garnett of the University of Oxford. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing **5.43 Prayer for the Day** **5.45 Farming Today** **6.00 Today** News headlines **9.00 In Our Time** A profile of Marsilius of Padua. **See Choice** **9.45 Just One Thing with Michael Mosley** The presenter reveals how volunteering work can lower cholesterol and help people stay healthy for longer **10.00 Woman's Hour** **11.00 This Cultural Life** **11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices** **12.04pm You and Yours** **12.32 Sliced Bread** **1.00 The World at One** **1.45 Thief at the British Museum** **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: Nearly Light** By Kit Withington. Drama inspired by real stories about children struggling to return to normality after the pandemic **3.00 Open Country** Martha Kearney uncovers the history of the Shivering Sands sea forts **3.27 Radio 4 Appeal** (r) **3.30 Word of Mouth** Joshua Reno talks to Michael Rosen about language and communication with his non-verbal child **4.00 The Briefing Room** **4.30 BBC Inside Science** **5.00 PM** With Evan Davis **6.00 Six O'Clock News** **6.30 Rhysearch** (1/3) (r) **7.00 The Archers** Oliver has a number of concerns **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 The Media Show** (r) **9.00 Loose Ends** (r) **9.45 Why Do We Do That?** Examining clearing up in shared households (r) **10.00 The World Tonight** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: Long Island** By Colm Toibin. Jim can't help thinking about Eilis, but Nancy is forging ahead with wedding plans (4/10) **11.00 The Today Podcast** **11.30 Lights Out** (r) **12.00 News and Weather** **12.30am D-Day: The Last Voices** (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast** **1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** Tennis **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

Talk
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Mike Graham **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Jeremy Kyle **7.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **10.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am 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 **12.30pm** 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. Alan Ayckbourn's relationship comedy about three couples meeting on three separate Christmas Eves in their respective kitchens **10.00** Comedy Club: Unspeakable **10.30** Detective Sergeant Nick Mohammed **11.00** Clare in the Community **11.30** And the Winner Is

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** The Documentary **10.00** News **10.06** The Media Show **10.30** Happy News **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History. A change of water supply that endangered residents of a Michigan city in 2014 **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Food Chain **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** The Inquiry **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Documentary **8.30** Science in Action **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** The Inquiry **10.30** The Food Chain **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Media Show **12.30** Unspun World with John Simpson **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Tech Life **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Heart and Soul

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Chris Hawkins **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** 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 **1.00am** New Album Fix

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Ryan Tubridy **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.30am Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Stephen Mangan **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

Friday 31 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice

Kafka

Channel 4 streaming

The centenary of the death of the author Franz Kafka falls next month. "Kafkaesque" is still used to describe being trapped in a dystopian labyrinth of bureaucracy. A relief, then, that this handsomely mounted six-part mini-series is anything but nightmarish. It starts with the swiftest biography of Kafka. "The life of the Jewish insurance official, factory owner and writer from Prague lasted 40 years and 11 months ..." it begins, and one minute later has filled us in on most of the key points of his character. It's the first clue to the irreverent edge running through the series, written by the Austrian-German author Daniel Kehlmann. As it jumps about non-chronologically the series is a bit of an oddity. At its heart are the remarkable love affairs that Kafka (Joel Basman) had with Felice Bauer, Milena Jesenska and Dora Diamant, and his difficult relationship with his tyrannical father. The first episode is more about his relationship with his close friend Max Brod (David Kross, *right with Basman, Felix Weltsch as Robert Stadlober and Tobias Bamborschke as Oskar Baum*), also a writer and an incorrigible womaniser. Brod is something of a live wire, and when he and Kafka are young men a recognised writer — just not a very good one. Brod wants to help his pal to achieve fame and believes in his talent so strongly that he is already calling him "the greatest writer in the world". If only Kafka would make it easy for him. Brod eventually comes to betray his terminally ill friend, yet he assured Kafka's fame in the process. How? You'll have to watch to find out. James Jackson

Jim Henson: Idea Man

Disney+

What kind of mind comes up with the Muppets? Jim Henson was clearly a creative visionary, and as Frank Oz (the voice of Miss Piggy, among other characters) says in Ron Howard's feature-length profile, "He had so many ideas and so many things he wanted to do, his inner life must have been sparkling." We hear how from an early age Henson felt that he was here to bring joy and love through his creations. He seemed something of a perpetual innocent, Kermit being almost his alter ego — even if Kermit could "say things I hold back". **JJ**

The Hoover Dam: Building the Impossible

Channel 5, 9pm

It's always incredible to learn how the construction workers of yesteryear realised vast projects. Take the Hoover Dam in Colorado — at that time the biggest dam built. To divert the Colorado River from the construction site four 50ft-wide diversion tunnels had to be driven through canyon walls. New techniques had to be invented (the "jumbo drill"), and work on the dam required "high-scalers" dicing with death on canyon walls, with jackhammers and dynamite in the desert heat. **JJ**

The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live

Sky Max/Now, 9pm

The world's biggest zombie franchise ran (or shuffled) for 177 episodes until 2022. But you can't keep a good army of the undead down, and now, rising from the TV grave, here is a spin-off set after the events of the original series, with the return of Andrew Lincoln as the former sheriff Rick Grimes and Danai Gurira as Michonne. They are "kept apart by distance and an unstoppable power", so must embark on an "epic love story". This could get grisly, but fans will need no convincing. **JJ**

Hidden Treasures of the National Trust

BBC2, 9.30pm

After inheriting a fortune from his grandfather the oil tycoon Urban Huttleston Rogers Broughton bought run-down Anglesey Abbey in 1926 and spent years transforming it. What's remarkable is that the 15,000 objects within it were amassed during his lifetime. The crowning glory is a tiered pagoda clock — it is in need of care, so we witness the delicate work of a restorer as he navigates its cogs. The other property tonight is a contrast: a modest Edwardian semi in Nottinghamshire. **JJ**

Films of the day

Dunkirk (12, 2017)

BBC1, 10.40pm

Christopher Nolan's nerve-shredding masterpiece largely does away with dialogue in favour of an assault of sound and vision (*Dunkirk* won Oscars for film and sound editing and sound mixing). The evacuation features stirring performances by Mark Rylance, Kenneth Branagh, Tom Hardy and Fionn Whitehead, and a monumental, clock-ticking, Elgar-sampling score by Hans Zimmer. Immersive experiences are in vogue, but *Dunkirk* sucks you into its world without 3D, CGI, virtual reality or other jiggery-pokery. From the opening scene, in which Allied soldiers fight through Dunkirk streets to emerge onto a yawning beach, to the exquisite finale, involving a train carriage and birdsong, this is vivid film-making. (102min) **Ed Potton**

Team America: World Police (15, 2004)

Channel 4, 11.05pm

Thunderbirds went geopolitical in the splendidly puerile punk puppet comedy-musical from the *South Park* creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker about a team of trigger-happy troubleshooters fighting for freedom, *above*. Even if the jokes occasionally misfire, the scatological satire hits multiple targets, propelled by punchy songs ridiculing Jerry Bruckheimer, Matt Damon, Kim Jong-il, Islamic terrorists and Hollywood liberals. It's jaw-droppingly offensive and wildly funny. It has the courage to pause for obtuse moments such as Kim's lament *I'm So Ronery*, and includes a sex scene featuring a gymnastic repertoire of positions, water sports and worse — had the participants been human it would never have made it to the big screen. (91min) **Kevin Maher**

Catch up

Orphan Black: Echoes
ITVX

Orphan Black, which ran for five series on the BBC and Netflix between 2013 and 2017, starred Tatiana Maslany as Sarah Manning, a young British woman who was involved in a scientific cloning conspiracy. This spin-off is set in the same universe, the events taking place in 2052.

Keeley Hawes plays Sarah's daughter, Dr Kira Manning, a scientist who is involved in "the exploration of the scientific manipulation of human existence" that has produced Lucy (*Breaking Bad*'s Krysten Ritter, *below*). Lucy is suffering from amnesia, but when she meets a 16-year-old girl who looks just like a younger version of her she starts to uncover troubling secrets about her origins. The watching experience will be richer if you saw the original series, but it's not essential to have done so to enjoy this complex sci-fi thriller. **Joe Clay**

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 7.00pm** Live Match of the Day Wales. Wales v Ukraine (Kick-off **7.15**). Catrin Heledd presents all the action from the Women's Euro 2025 Group B4 qualifier at Parc y Scarlets **9.15** Weatherman Walking (r) **9.30-10.00** Have I Got News for You. Chris McCausland and Sophy Ridge are the guest panellists **10.40** The Young Offenders. Fake Billy Murphy steals Conor's most prized possession **11.10 FILM Dunkirk (2017) 12.45-1.35am** Rebus (r)

● **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 7.00-7.30pm** The One Show

● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 7.30-8.00pm** Suzie Lee: Home Cook Hero. Suzie creates soup and a delicious calorie-busting dish with potatoes and cheese (r) **10.40** Keepin' 'Er Country at Home: Derek Ryan. The singer looks back on his career from his new home in Fermanagh (r) **11.10 FILM Dunkirk (2017) 12.50am** Rebus (r) **1.40-6.00am** BBC News

● **STV As ITV1 except: 1.30-5.00pm** Live STV Racing Live: The Oaks **10.30-10.45** STV News **12.20-3.00am** Shop on TV **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision

● **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** UTV Life **11.20** ITV Studio Sessions. Vocalist Becky Hill joins Clara Amfo **11.50-12.20am** Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai (r)

● **BBC Scotland 6.30pm** The Seven **6.45** Live Sportscene: Women's Euro Qualifier. Scotland v Israel (Kick-off **7.05**). All the action from the Euro 2025 Group A2 qualifier **9.15** Rebus. John discovers a connection between McJagger and an old colleague **10.00** Still Game (r) **10.30** Two Doors Down (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** Scotland's Big Night Out (r)

● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Olobobs (r) **6.05** Digbi Draig (r) **6.20** Cymylaubychain (r) **6.30** Patrol Pawennau (r) **6.45** Y Diwrnod Mawr (r) **7.00** Brethyn a Fflwff **7.05** Pablo (r) **7.20** Da 'Di Dona (r) **7.30** Crawc a'i Ffrindiau (r) **7.45** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **8.00** Timpo (r) **8.10** Ysbyty Cyw Bach (r) **8.25** Jamborî (r) **8.35** Octonots (r) **8.45** Ahoi! (r) **9.05** Odo (r) **9.10** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **9.20** Dreigiau Cadi (r) **9.30** Pentre Papur Pop (r) **9.45** Awyr Iach (r) **10.00** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **10.10** Pablo (r) **10.20** Patrol Pawennau (r) **10.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **12.00** News S4C **12.05pm** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **2.25** News S4C **2.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **6.30** Y Coridor **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd **9.25** News **9.30** Welsh Whisperer: Ni'n Teithio Nawr! (r) **10.00** Pêl-Droed Rhyngwladol **11.00** Ni Yw'r Cymry (r) **12.00-1.30** Eisteddfod Yr Urdd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

TV newsletter

Sign up to our TV bulletin offering the best TV and film tips, direct to your inbox every Friday. The newsletter covers the TV Editor's pick of box sets to stream, along with tips on the best programmes and films around. To start receiving it, digital subscribers can go to thetimes.co.uk/bulletins and tick the box next to "Television".

Friday 31

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.30** Rip Off Britain **10.15** The Moment of Proof (r) **10.45** Expert Witness (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Hope Street. Louise's son turns up in Port Devine with a gun **2.30** Money for Nothing. Jay Blades transforms two tables (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. A couple search for a home in the Herefordshire countryside (r) **3.45** Garden Rescue. Charlie Dimmock revisits a formal garden she designed and built five years ago **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz show, hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene **5.15** Pointless. Alexander Armstrong is joined by co-host Ria Lina (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

War drama Dunkirk (10.40pm)

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 Make It at Market Dom Chinea helps an artist and potter make their passions into money-making businesses (r)

8.00 Would I Lie to You? With guests Sara Pascoe, Dan Walker and Nicola Coughlan (6/11) (r)

8.30 Outnumbered Ben becomes fascinated by the world of psychology and Jake gives his mum and dad advice (2/7) (r)

9.00 Have I Got News for You Chris McCausland and Sophy Ridge are the guest panellists (9/10)

9.30 The Young Offenders There's a new Fake Billy Murphy in town, and he steals Conor's most prized possession (4/6)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 FILM Dunkirk (12, 2017) Allied soldiers from Belgium, the British Empire and France are surrounded by the German army, and face a tense wait for evacuation during a fierce battle in northern France during the Second World War. Christopher Nolan's drama starring Kenneth Branagh and Tom Hardy. **See Film Choice**

12.20am Rebus. Under pressure to close their investigation quickly, John and Siobhan track down a witness to the assault on Jimmy McJagger, and Michael attempts to share his newfound wealth (r) **1.05** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.10** BBC News

BBC2

6.45am Money for Nothing (r) **7.30** Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow (r) (SL) **9.00** BBC News **12.50pm** Lifeline (r) **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Mastermind (r) **2.15** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) **2.45** Five Bedrooms. Simmo's impulsive move could be a step too far for uncertain Ainsley (r) **3.30** The Farmers' Country Showdown. Two sets of farmers head to a Moseley Farmers' Market (r) **4.15** Cornwall: This Fishing Life. The largest boats in the fishing fleet head out to sea (r) **5.15** Flog It!. Highlights (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Stephen Bailey, Charlie Brooks, Ria Lina and John Thomson take part (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure. The newsreader explores his heritage and the region

Inside Anglesey Abbey (9.30pm)

7.00 Beechgrove Garden Carole looks at bedding plants now the risk of frost is hopefully gone

7.30 Springwatch Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan are joined by Iolo Williams at RSPB Arne to review the week, and on Bute, Megan McCubbin heads to the town's port, where the wildlife is making use of the man-made structures (4/12)

8.30 Gardeners' World With summer feasts in mind, Monty Don reveals a new outdoor eating area he has been working on and gets started by planting up a pot of herbs. Meanwhile, Carol Klein visits a spectacular garden in Oxfordshire

9.30 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust A look at some of the treasures at Cambridgeshire mansion Anglesey Abbey, a collection that was once owned by Urban Huttleston Rogers Broughton. **See Viewing Guide** (4/6)

10.30 Newsnight Headline analysis, with Victoria Derbyshire

11.05 Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour Rob Rinder and Rylan Clark go on a cultural tour of Rome, turning themselves into a painting by Caravaggio and discovering the shocking story of the singers known as castrati. Last in the series (r)

12.05am Sign Zone: Panorama. Investigating the Probation Service and asking if it's doing enough to manage high-risk prisoners (r) (SL) **1.05** Andi Oliver's Fabulous Feasts (r) (SL) **2.05-2.35** David & Jay's Touring Toolshed. In Malvern (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and topical debate **1.00** ITV News; Weather **1.20** Regional News; Weather **1.30** Live ITV Racing: The Oaks. Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of the opening day of the Derby Festival from Epsom, which is headlined by the **4.30** Betfred Oaks, with races also taking place at **2.00**, **2.35**, **3.10** and **3.45**. With analysis from Adele Mulrennan and Jason Weaver, reports by Rishi Persad, Matt Chapman, Oli Bell and Mick Fitzgerald, betting news from Brian Gleeson, and commentary by Richard Hoiles **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Becky Hill in session (10.45pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Cain considers a change, Charity worries for him, and Manpreet feels betrayed

7.30 Coronation Street Nathan is suspicious of Sarah, and Bethany and Daniel set off on the trail of evidence against him

8.00 Britain's Got Talent Ant and Dec host another semi-final as acts compete to land themselves a valuable place in the grand final. Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and Bruno Tonioli give their verdicts

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 ITV Studio Sessions Powerhouse vocalist Becky Hill chats to Clara Amfo about her life and career (5/6)

11.20 When English Football Ruled Europe Examining English clubs' dominance of the European Cup from 1977-1984. This edition looks at Liverpool and Nottingham Forest (1/2) (r)

12.20am Teleshopping **3.00** The Larkins. Pop is in denial, and Ma issues him some tough love while also playing Cupid between Primrose and Rev Candy (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show. Chat show (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.30am 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **9.40** Frasier (r) **11.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **12.05pm** Channel 4 News Summary **12.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **1.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. Max McMurdo and Henry Cole visit a motorbike fan (r) **2.10** Countdown. Levi Roots is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Danni Menzies helps a couple to find a home in Lot-et-Garonne, south-west France (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Lee Juggurnauth heads to Dénia in Spain **5.00** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals. The second series climaxes with a round of dinners in Edinburgh. Last in the series **6.00** Four in a Bed. It's payment day, and the B&Bers take each other to task **6.30** The Simpsons (r)

Save Yourselves! (12.55am)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 Double the Money Challenge game, hosted by Sue Perkins. The remaining teams gather for the semi-final, where they must turn £4000 into £8000 in just three weeks. Tensions run high as they find out who's made it into the final (5/6)

9.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching on TV during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions

10.00 The Nevermets Documentary following online couples as they meet in person for the first time. A law graduate met their Dubai-based boyfriend on Instagram — but the pair have never met in person despite repeated suggestions they should (2/6)

11.05 FILM Team America: World Police (15, 2004) A global counter-terrorism squad travels around the world creating as much destruction as its intended targets. Comedy, with the voices of Trey Parker and Matt Stone. **See Film Choice**

12.55am FILM Save Yourselves! (15, 2020) Sci-fi comedy starring Sunita Mani, John Reynolds and Ben Sinclair **2.25** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (SL) **3.15** The Simpsons (r) **3.35** Come Dine with Me (r) **5.45-5.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points **12.45pm** Friends. Monica turns up uninvited at her cousin's wedding (r) **1.10** Friends. Ross and Joey get trapped on the roof (r) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Tane faces reality with Mali and Harper, returning to the police station (r) **2.20 FILM The Stepsister (PG, TVM, 2022)** A family have their lives turned upside down when a girl turns up at their door claiming to be the father's long-lost daughter. Thriller starring Annika Foster **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Documentary following Brits who moved to Spain (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Police Interceptors. A gang of burglars flee in three stolen vehicles (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

Building the Impossible (9pm)

7.00 Smart Motorways: The Shocking Truth How drivers have been affected by the installation of smart motorways over the past decade

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Motorway: Hell on the Highway New series. Drivers and experts return to assess dramatic traffic incidents from the UK motorways and roads across the globe, beginning with a look at what can happen when tyres and wheels fail

9.00 The Hoover Dam: Building the Impossible From stormy seas to the land-locked Mojave Desert, Rob Bell discovers the story of how the mighty Colorado river was tamed and how the Hoover Dam was built. **See Viewing Guide** (3/6)

10.00 Only Fools and Horses: Britain's Favourite Sitcom Recognisable fans including Jonathan Ross, Theo Paphitis, John Thompson, Paul Whitehouse, Nina Wadia, and Martin and Shirlie Kemp, talk about why they love classic sitcom *Only Fools and Horses*. There are also contributions from the crew and insight into iconic comedy moments (r)

11.30 Bob Monkhouse: Master of Laughter A celebration of the comedian and quiz show host, featuring archive clips (r)

1.20am Casino **3.20** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. An ex-banker living in Spain (r) **4.10** Divine Designs (r) (SL) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam (r) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

Friday 31 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat

Madonna at the BBC
A compilation of performances
BBC4, 10.30pm

BBC3

FV 23, FS 107, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Phoenix Rise Billy is the target of sabotage at the Phoenix Rise open day when someone ruins his cooking (5/10)
7.30 Phoenix Rise Darcy tells a lie that has devastating repercussions for someone he cares about (6/10)
8.00 Shark Tank Demonstrations include a fun tool that takes snacking to the next level
8.40 The Catch Up Headlines
8.45 FILM Spider-Man: No Way Home (12, 2021) Comic-book adventure sequel, starring Tom Holland
11.00 Dinosaur The bridal party heads to Rothesay for the hen do (4/6)
11.25 Dinosaur Nina promises to keep the events of the hen do a secret (5/6)
11.55-12.25am Dinosaur The wedding is left in jeopardy as the truth comes out. Last in the series

BBC4

FV 9/24, FS 108, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm TOTP: 1996 Featuring Terrorvision and Gusto
7.30 TOTP: 1996 With Bon Jovi, Eternal and Gat Decor
8.00 TOTP: 1980 Featuring Elton John and Thin Lizzy
8.30 TOTP: 1976 With JJ Barrie, and the Rolling Stones
9.00 TOTP: 1984 With Thomson Twins and the Bluebells
9.30 TOTP: 1984 Featuring Black Lace and Paul Young
10.00 Cyndi Lauper at the BBC A selection of performances from the BBC archives by the American singer
10.30 Madonna at the BBC A look back at a selection of the singer's appearances on a range of BBC shows — from her first *Top of the Pops* appearance with *Holiday* through to recent years
11.30-12.30am Phil Collins at the BBC Archive footage of the singer's performances on BBC programmes

More 4

FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm PopMaster TV Music lovers from London, Banbury, Doncaster, Southport and Newcastle-under-Lyme compete in this third heat round to secure a place in the grand final
7.55 PopMaster TV With contestants from Abington, Leeds, Newtownabbey, Stevenage and London. Hosted by Ken Bruce
9.00 The Twelve: Cinderella Murder New testimonies come from Marianne's accountant Pix (4/8)
10.10 24 Hours in A&E A man is admitted to hospital after being involved in a high-speed collision with multiple cyclists during a race, and an elderly lady becomes unwell at home (12/12)
11.15-12.15am 24 Hours in A&E Medics treat three women who have been stabbed in a Surrey car park (3/9)

Sky Arts

FV 36, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Alfred Hitchcock Presents A man visits a family friend in a bid to get a job and solve his money problems
7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents A talented young actress falls under the spell of her unscrupulous husband
8.00 Buddy Holly: Music Icons A closer look at the brilliant career and tragically short life of Buddy Holly, who produced some of the most influential music in rock (1/13)
8.25 Elvis Presley: Aloha from Hawaii A 1973 concert featuring Elvis Presley singing 25 of his greatest hits, including *Blue Suede Shoes*, *Hound Dog* and *Suspicious Minds*
10.00 Grand Ole Opry With CeCe Winans and Suzy Bogguss
11.00-1.00am Jeff Beck Live at Ronnie Scott's The guitarist performs at the famous jazz venue

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108, EE 342

6.45pm Billions Chuck tries to bring home a worthy case but has an unexpected challenge (5/12) (R)
7.50 Game of Thrones Tyrion strikes a deal, Jorah and Daario undertake a difficult task, while Jaime and Cersei attempt to improve their situation (4/10) (R)
9.00 Game of Thrones Tyrion seeks a new, strange ally, Brienne goes on a mission and Arya is given a chance to prove herself (5/10) (R)
10.00 The Pacific Sledge has a harrowing first experience of combat when he arrives in the South Pacific to join the assault on Peleliu (5/10) (R)
11.00-12.05am The Tattooist of Auschwitz Gita helps a young woman give birth in their block and conceal the baby, but this leads to the sacrifice of someone Gita holds dear (5/6) (R)

Sky Documentaries

SKY 121, VIRGIN 188, EE 352

6.00pm The Sixties A look at America's changing morality, from attitudes towards sex and the use of drugs to a newfound expressiveness in music (R)
7.00 Jackie Stewart Documentary about Formula 1 great Jackie Stewart, from his humble beginnings outside Glasgow to winning three World Drivers' Championships (R)
9.00 Hatton A profile of former boxer Ricky Hatton, charting his journey from the Hattersley estate near Manchester to headlining on the strip in Las Vegas (R)
11.00-1.00am Fatboy Slim: Right Here, Right Now Documentary about the Big Beach Boutique II free event held in 2002, when an estimated quarter of a million people turned up to the Brighton concert (R)

ITV2

FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Family Fortunes Game show hosted by Gino D'Acampo
8.00 Bob's Burgers The family goes on a train journey
8.30 Bob's Burgers Everyone thinks Linda is psychic
9.00 FILM We're the Millers (15, 2013) A drug dealer recruits a fake family to give him a cover for moving a shipment of marijuana over the Mexican border. Comedy, starring Jason Sudeikis, Jennifer Aniston and Emma Roberts
11.15-12.15am Family Guy

ITV3

FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Vernon takes an interest in the flower show
8.00 Doc Martin PC Penhale is delighted by his older brother Sam's arrival in the village (3/8)
9.00 Shetland Perez must reassess the investigation after Jo's attack, the MIT sets its sights on Malone, and Tosh grows sceptical (5/6)
10.20 Shetland Perez's judgment is called into question (6/6)
11.35-1.10am Lewis An elderly mafia don is killed on the night of his release from prison

ITV4

FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.10pm BattleBots Shock giant-slayer Rotator tries to go for a third win of the series
7.15 Live Uefa Euro 2025 Qualifier: England v France (Kick-off **8.00**). Katie Shanahan presents coverage of the Group A3 match at St James' Park. With analysis from Siobhan Chamberlain and Eni Aluko
10.25 Isle of Man TT Action from qualifying for the TT races
11.20-1.35am All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling

E4

FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Sienna goes head-to-head with James
7.30 Modern Family Claire and Phil threaten to cancel their festivities
8.00 Teen First Dates A boy tries to impress his date (5/10)
9.00 FILM Logan (15, 2017) Wolverine and an ailing Professor X find their worlds turned upside down by a young mutant pursued by bounty hunters. Fantasy adventure starring Hugh Jackman, Patrick Stewart and Dafne Keen
11.45-12.50am Naked Attraction

Dave

FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Would I Lie to You? With Greg Rutherford and Kirsty Young
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Ruby Bhogal, Ed Byrne and Matthew Pinsent
8.20 Richard Osman's House of Games With Gemma Cairney, Tim Key, Gabby Logan and Jeff Stelling
9.00 QI XL With Ross Noble, Dara O Briain and Jeremy Clarkson
10.00 Mad Dogs The guys attempt to escape Belize with an eager and go-getting US Embassy employee
11.10-12.10am Taskmaster

Drama

FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Wesley creates a bed on wheels
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Compo bags a jumble sale bargain
8.00 Father Brown The priest's priceless Blue Cross is targeted
9.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries Stranded on a train, the nun is confronted by the theft of a cursed jewel and an impossible murder
10.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries The sleuthing nun tries to identify the killer before the big freeze bites
11.00-12.10am Soldier, Soldier

Yesterday

FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Canal Boat Diaries (3/4)
7.30 Canal Boat Diaries (4/4)
8.00 Hornby: A Model World The iconic Locomotive Flying Scotsman is scaled down (1/11)
9.00 Hornby: A Model World Young designer Prad has just 30 days to reinvent the model railway starter kit (2/11)
10.00 Bangers & Cash Derek picks up a Morgan sports car (1/15)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys

PBS America

FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 187

6.35pm Jurassic Cash Investigating fossil sales
7.50 The Six Queens of Henry VIII The stories of Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr (4/4)
8.45 Dive WWII: Our Secret History (2/2) The divers uncover submarines sunk as part of the German surrender (2/2)
10.00 Mafia's Greatest Hits The financier Alan Dorfman (9/13)
11.05 The Six Queens of Henry VIII
12.00-1.15am Dive WWII: Our Secret History (2/2)

5Select

FV 46, FS 133, SKY 153, VIRGIN 138

7.00pm Antiques Showdown
8.00 Mysteries of the Pyramids with Dara O Briain The comedian explores mysteries surrounding the world's pyramids (1/2)
9.00 Mysteries of the Pyramids with Dara O Briain A look at the constant battle between tomb raiders and tomb builders (2/2)
10.00-12.05am Cleopatra: Seductress, Goddess, Murderer, Queen Dramatised documentary delving behind the myth of the iconic Egyptian ruler

Sky History

SKY 123, VIRGIN 131, EE 353

7.00pm Forged in Fire Three smiths who suffered broken blades get a chance at redemption
8.00 Secret Societies: In the Shadows A look at the truth about the Knights Templar (1/6)
9.00 Mafia Killers Profile of Vincent Gigante, the former Genovese crime family boss (5/6)
10.00 Kings of Pain An American centipede produces an extremely painful bite on Adam Thorn
11.00 Ultimate Mysteries
12.00-1.00am Pawn Stars

Sky Max

SKY 113, VIRGIN 111, EE 346

7.00pm Stargate SG-1
8.00 A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip Jamie Redknapp, Mo Gilligan, Jill Scott and Micah Richards take part in the Day of the Dead parade
9.00 The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live New series. Horror spin-off starring Andrew Lincoln. **See Viewing Guide** (1/6)
10.15 Never Mind the Buzzcocks With guest Ella Henderson (4/7)
11.00 The Walking Dead (7/13)
12.00-1.00am Hold the Front Page

Nat Geographic

SKY 129, VIRGIN 183

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation American Airlines 1572 suffers double-engine failure in a storm
8.00 Air Crash Investigation The plane that targeted the Pentagon during the 2001 terrorist attack
9.00 Drug Lords: The Takedown Thousands of drug bosses try to claim Escobar's narco empire (4/10)
10.00 To Catch a Smuggler
11.00 Air Crash Investigation
12.00-1.00am Trafficked: Underworlds with Mariana Van Zeller Illegal gambling underworld

Discovery

SKY 125, VIRGIN 177, EE 320

7.00pm Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up Selling a Ford Escort
8.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
9.00 Moonshiners The Arkansas double cousins bootleg by boat
10.00 Blowing Up History One of Rome's most enigmatic emperors
11.00 Combat Dealers: Reloaded
12.00-1.00am Gold Divers

Sky Comedy

SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, EE 347

7.00pm The Conners
8.00 Will & Grace
8.30 Will & Grace
9.00 Young Rock (3/11)
9.30 Young Rock (4/11)
10.00 Jerrod Carmichael Reality Show Double bill.
11.20-12.25am Jerrod Carmichael: Rothaniel Stand-up special

Comedy Central

SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, EE 345

7.00pm Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 Lee Evans Live at Her Majesty's Theatre The comedian performs in London
10.20 Alan Carr: Yap, Yap, Yap!
11.20-12.55am FILM Kung Pow! Enter the Fist (12, 2002) Spoof

Gold

SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, EE 344

6.40pm Dad's Army
8.00 Open All Hours
8.40 Blackadder the Third
9.15 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.00 The Fast Show
10.35 Harry Enfield and Chums
11.15 Knowing Me, Knowing You: With Alan Partridge
11.55-12.35am Open All Hours

W

FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Tipping Point: Lucky Stars
8.00 Inside the Ambulance Lee and Kath blue light to a man who's collapsed after playing bingo
9.00 Inside the Ambulance
10.00 999 Rescue Squad
11.00 999 Rescue Squad
12.00-1.00am One Born Every Minute Documentary

Alibi

SKY 109, VIRGIN 114, EE 343

7.00pm Elementary
8.00 Death in Paradise A nun is found dead in a smoke-filled bedroom in her convent (2/8)
9.00 Death in Paradise A murder uncovers money-laundering and a case of secret identity (8/8)
10.00 The Red King (6/6)
11.15-12.15am Elementary

Sky Main Event

SKY 401, VIRGIN 501, EE 439

12.00 Live DP World Tour Golf Coverage of the second round of the European Open from Green Eagle Golf North Course, Hamburg
5.00pm Live US Women's Open Golf Coverage of the second round from The Lancaster Country Club
7.30 Live Betfred Super League: St Helens v Catalans Dragons (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage from the Totally Wicked Stadium
10.15-1.00am Live US Women's Open Golf The second round from The Lancaster Country Club

Sky Premier League

SKY 402, VIRGIN 502, EE 440

7.00pm Premier League Stories Behind the scenes of the league
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The ex Manchester-United and England defender talks to former Liverpool, United and Three Lions striker Michael Owen about the some of the matches they have played in
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox The presenter talks to Dimitar Berbatov
9.00 Premier League Stories Behind the scenes of the league
10.00 Premier League Icons
10.30-12.30am PL Retro

Somerset's Lewis Gregory is set to face Essex in the T20 Blast (Sky Sports Cricket, 6pm)

Sky Cricket

SKY 404, VIRGIN 504, EE 442

6.00pm Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket: Somerset v Essex Coverage of the South Group match from The Cooper Associates County Ground, Taunton
9.45 ICC Men's T20 World Cup: The Experts View Evaluating each team's tournament chances
10.45 Best of T20 Blast Finals Day
11.00 Secrets of Success: Emma Hayes Nasser Hussain interviews the football manager
11.30-12.00m't Secrets of Success: Jurgen Klopp

TNT Sports 1

SKY 410, VIRGIN 527, EE 430

10.45am Live HSBC SVNS Coverage of the Madrid SVNS
7.00pm Live Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union Coverage of a semi-final
10.00 Tom Aspinall's Fight Lab
10.30 UFC Countdown
11.30pm-12.00m't World Rally Championship Recent action
1.00am Live: WWE Friday Night SmackDown Wrestling action
3.00-6.15am Live MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers v Colorado Rockies (Start-time **3.10**)

TNT Sports 2

SKY 411, VIRGIN 528, EE 431

8.00-10.45am Live MotoGP
12.15-3.15pm Live MotoGP
3.45-4.45 Live MotoE
5.30 Live World Rally Championship The Rally Italy
7.30 Uefa Champions League
8.45 PL Review Recent action
9.45 Uefa Europa League & Conference League Magazine
10.45 Ref: Stories From the Weekend The world of referees
11.45-12.15am Serie A: Full Impact
1.00-3.30am Live NBA
4.30-7.30am Live AFL

Friday 31

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am The Nevadan (U, 1950) Western with Randolph Scott and Dorothy Malone **12.40pm Outcast of the Islands (PG, 1951)** Drama starring Ralph Richardson **2.45 The Desert Rats (U, 1953)** Second World War adventure starring Richard Burton **4.30 The Moonraker (U, 1958)** Adventure with George Baker **6.15 Catch Me If You Can (12, 2002)** A conman lies his way across America, posing as a pilot, a doctor and a lawyer, while outwitting the FBI at every turn. Fact-based drama starring Leonardo DiCaprio **9.00 Jack Reacher (15, 2012)** A former military police investigator takes on the case of a shooting for which an army sniper has been framed. Thriller with Tom Cruise **11.40 Hancock (12, 2008)** A PR executive decides to transform the image of a drunken superhero whose careless crime-fighting often does more harm than good. Comedy starring Will Smith **1.30-3.25am The First Purge (15, 2018)** Thriller starring Y'lan Noel and Lex Scott Davis

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am House Broken (12, 1936) Comedy starring Mary Lawson and Jack Lambert **7.25 The Frightened Man (PG, 1952)** Drama starring Dermot Walsh and Charles Victor **8.45 Strictly for the Birds (PG, 1964)** Comedy starring Tony Tanner and Joan Sims **10.00 What's On TPTV** **10.10 Thunder Rock (PG, 1942)** Drama starring Michael Redgrave and Barbara Mullen **12.15pm Look at Life** **12.30 The Four Just Men** **1.00 Melvyn's Talking Pictures** Previews **1.10 Blossom Time (PG, 1934)** Musical with Richard Tauber **2.55 Melvyn's Talking Pictures** Previews **3.05 The Story of Robin Hood and His Merrie Men (U, 1952)** Adventure with Richard Todd **4.50 A Little of What You Fancy (U, 1968)** Documentary **6.00 Worzel Gummidge** **6.30 Fireball XL5** **7.05 Cinebox Memories** **7.10 Shipwrecked (U, 1990)** A young deckhand is forced to fight a horde of pirates searching for hidden treasure. Adventure with Gabriel Byrne **9.00 Cellar Club** Previews **9.05 The Cabinet of Caligari (18, 1962)** A stranded motorist seeks shelter in a remote house, but the sinister owner refuses to let her leave. Horror starring Glynis Johns **11.15 Cellar Club** Previews **11.20-1.05am Mortuary (18, 1982)** Horror with Mary Beth McDonough and Bill Paxton

The adventure Shipwrecked (Talking Pictures, 7.10pm)

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Evil Nanny (12, 2016) Thriller starring Lindsay Elston and Nicole Sterling **10.50 GREAT! Movie News** **11.00 Nightmare Nurse (PG, 2016)** Thriller starring Sarah Butler and Steven Good **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News** **1.00 I Do, Or Die: A Killer Arrangement (2020)** Thriller starring Ana Golja **2.55 Fatal Reunion (12, 2005)** Thriller starring Erika Eleniak **4.50 GREAT! Movie News** **5.00 A Woman's Nightmare (2018)** Thriller starring Gina Holden and Johnny Jay Lee **6.55 Tracker (12, 2010)** A Boer War veteran hunts a Maori fugitive accused of murder, but begins to believe his target is innocent. Action adventure with Ray Winstone **9.00 Olympus Has Fallen (15, 2013)** A disgraced secret service agent tries to redeem himself when terrorists take control of the White House. Action thriller starring Gerard Butler and Aaron Eckhart **11.25-1.30am The Shanghai Job (15, 2017)** Action thriller with Orlando Bloom

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.10pm The Exorcist: Believer (15, 2023) Premiere. Horror sequel starring Leslie Odom Jr. and Ellen Burstyn **2.05 Cult Killer (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Alice Eve **4.05 The Blackening (15, 2023)** Horror starring Grace Byers and Jermaine Fowler **5.50 Blue Beetle (12, 2023)** Fantasy with Xolo Mariduena **8.00 The Exorcist: Believer (15, 2023)** Single parent Victor Fielding battles to save the soul of his daughter Angela, 13 years after the death of his wife. Horror sequel starring Leslie Odom Jr **10.00 Out of Darkness (15, 2022)** In the Stone Age, a gang of early humans face a mystical being hellbent on hunting them down. Horror starring Iola Evans. **11.35-1.15am Monolith (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Lily Sullivan and Ansuya Nathan

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ayesha Hazarika **4.00** Cathy Newman with Times Radio Drive. Headlines **7.00** Ed Vaizey **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** The Story **1.30** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** DJ Spoony **3.30** DJ Spoony'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 Spoony **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop (r) **1.00am** Sounds of the 80s with Gary Davies (r) **3.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin (r) **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.30 Essential Classics** **1.00pm News** **1.02 Classical Live** Mauro Giuliani (*Le Rossiniane I*); Ravel (Le tombeau de Couperin); Beethoven (Piano Sonata No. 30 in E, Op. 109) and Schmidt (Symphony No 3 in A major) **4.00 Composer of the Week: Vivaldi** Donald Macleod tries to piece together the last days of Vivaldi from the limited trail left to us by history (r) **5.00 In Tune** Live music by the Scottish jazz pianist Fergus McCreadie and his Trio **7.00 Classical Mixtape** A sequence of music **7.30 Live Friday Night Is Music Night** Anna-Maria Helsing conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra, the soprano Ilona Domnich and glass harmonica player Alasdair Malloy in music of spring, live from BBC Maida Vale studios. Monckton (*The Arcadians Overture*); Grieg (*Våren*); Delius (*On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*); Montague Phillips (*A Spring Rondo*); Coates (*Springtime Suite*) and Alexander Alyabyev (*The Nightingale*) **9.45 The Essay: A Different Way to Listen** Elizabeth Elliott tells her story of being affected by hearing loss and how she found solace in teaching, before concentrating on bringing up her young family **10.00 Late Junction** An eclectic selection of music **11.30 'Round Midnight** **12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

Crowd Science
World Service, 8.30pm

Another question that many of us would be keen to know the answer to: why does wine taste better over time? It comes from Jeremy, a listener and oenophile who is lucky enough to own a cellar full of dust-covered bottles. Is the range of flavour of wine down to chemistry, and why do some bottles turn to vinegar if you leave them too long? The presenter Marnie Chesterton heads to Bordeaux in search

of answers and learns, among other things, about the importance of sandy soil in producing wine and why the warming climate is making better booze.
Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing **5.43 Prayer for the Day** **5.45 Farming Today** **6.00 Today** News headlines **9.00 Desert Island Discs** (r) **10.00 Woman's Hour** **11.00 The Food Programme** **11.45 D-Day: The Last Voices** The story of D-Day (5/5) **12.04pm AntiSocial** (9/9) **1.00 The World at One** **1.45 Thief at the British Museum** **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: The Specialist** New series. By Matthew Broughton. Doctor Anna Diaz is sent to deal with the strange medical cases breaking out in a remote village (1/5) **2.45 Child** India Rakusen considers the lullaby **3.00 Gardeners' Question Time** Listeners' queries **3.45 Short Works** *The Day He Met Jesus*, by Lucy Caldwell **4.00 Last Word** **4.30 More or Less** (r) **5.00 PM** With Anita Anand **6.00 Six O'Clock News** **6.30 Dead Ringers** (6/6) **7.00 The Archers** Vince issues a warning, and a new era dawns for Tracy **7.15 Add to Playlist** A musical journey of discovery **8.00 Any Questions?** A debate **8.50 A Point of View** A reflection on a topical issue **9.00 Free Thinking** Ideas shaping modern life **10.00 The World Tonight** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: Long Island** By Colm Toibin. Feeling stifled, Eilis goes to stay at Cush. There on the stand, a figures approaches. Read by Niamh Cusack and abridged by Richard Hamilton (5/10) **11.00 Americast** Exploring the cultural stories that define political debate in the US **11.30 Lights Out** The links between cosmology and the lives of queer communities (r) **12.00 News and Weather** **12.30am D-Day: The Last Voices** (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast** **1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** Elis James and John Robins **2.00** Colin Murray **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport: England v France (Kick-off **8.00**). The Women's Uefa Euro 2025 Group A3 qualifier **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Lisa McCormick

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive **7.00** Thank Friday It's Football **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

Talk
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Mike Graham **10.00** Alex Phillips **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Peter Cardwell **7.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **10.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Martin Kelner

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Says on the Tin **8.30** The Nature of Spring **8.45** Curious Under the Stars **9.00** 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 **12.00** The Older Woman **12.30pm** 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 **10.30** Laura Solon: Talking and Not Talking. Sketches and character monologues **11.00** Absolute Power **11.30** Tez Talks **11.45** Irish Micks and Legends

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Science in Action **10.00** News **10.06** Unexpected Elements **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Heart and Soul **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** BBC OS Conversations **8.30** CrowdScience. The science behind the process of wine ageing. **See Choice** **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** Heart and Soul **11.00** Newsroom **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** Unexpected Elements **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Stumped **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** News **4.06** Unexpected Elements

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Chris Hawkins **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Emily Pilbeam **7.00** The People's Party with Afrodeutsche **9.00** 6 Music's Indie Forever **11.00** Ravers Hour **1.00am** 6 Music's Emo Forever

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Ryan Tubridy **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Stu Elmore **1.00am** Harpz Kaur **4.00** Rich Williams

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.30am Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour **10.00** Stephen Mangan **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Classic FM at the Movies. Jonathan Ross chooses iconic film music to begin the weekend, including scores from *Frozen*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Lincoln*, *Chicken Run* and *Up* **9.00** TBA **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

MindGames

Samurai Sudoku No 925 — Hard

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

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Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku

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

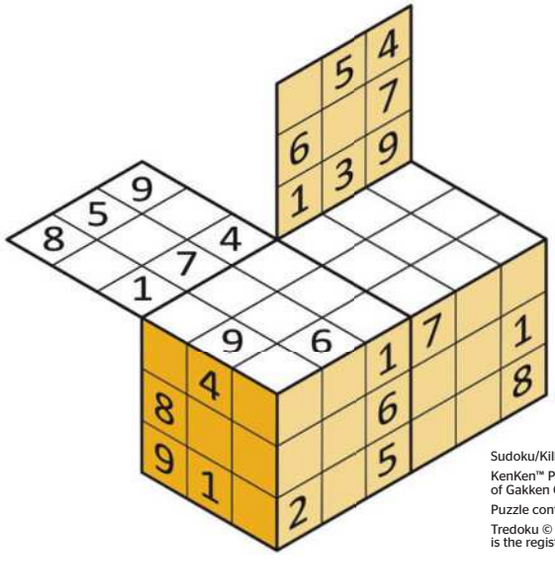
Our five-grid Sudoku will test your powers of logic and deduction.

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length. The interlocking nature of the grid gives you more clues — and more complexity.

Remember — don't try to solve each Sudoku grid in turn; the puzzle has to be tackled as a whole.

Stuck? Call 0901 293 6263 to receive four clues for today's Samurai Sudoku. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm)

Tredoku No 1839 — Medium



Tredoku is similar to Sudoku: the digits 1 to 9 must appear once only in each 3x3 box and in each line of nine consecutive cells. However, since the puzzle is three-dimensional, the lines may be straight or bent around angles. Follow each line's direction in search of clues.

Sudoku/Killer © Puzzler Media

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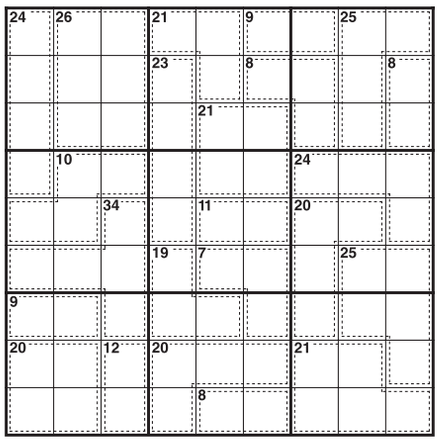
Sudoku No 14,942 — Fiendish

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

How to solve Sudoku. Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?
Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.
SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Killer No 9487 — Deadly



Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.
For solutions to KenKen, Sudoku & Killer see Times2 on Monday

KenKen No 6216 — Medium

1−		3−	4−	11+
2÷	5−	2−		
		2−	2÷	
13+	10×		3−	1
		3÷	2−	5+
4−			2−	

All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

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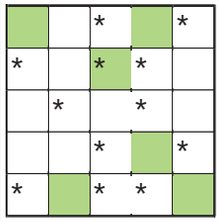
Square Routes® No 272 — Easy
Ian Simpson & Richard Heald



ANIMAL
BEAKER
CAMILLA
FOZZIE
KERMIT
RIZZO
ROBIN

Put one letter in each cell so that each word on the right can be spelt out by moving from cell to cell without using diagonal moves. You can use a cell more than once in a word (including backtracking into a cell you've just used), but double letters (eg, the LL in ALL) must use two adjacent cells. The words start in the coloured cells and the vowels are shown by asterisks.

Solution on Monday

Answers

Friday's solutions

KenKen No 6215

3− 4	30× 6	5	2÷ 1	3× 2	3 3
1	1− 4	3	2	6	15+ 5
6× 6	1	30× 2	5	3	4
9+ 2	5	10+ 4	3× 3	1	6
2− 3	2	6	2− 4	1− 5	3+ 1
5	3÷ 3	1	6	4	2

Sudoku No 14,937

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

Sudoku No 14,938

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

Sudoku No 14,939

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

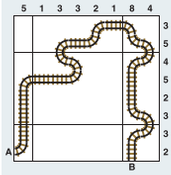
Killer No 9484

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

Killer No 9485

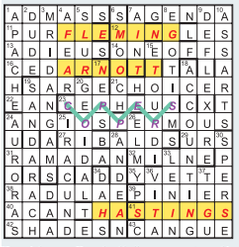
7	9	1	5	4	2	6	3	8
5	4	3	6	7	8	1	2	9
6	2	8	1	3	9	5	7	4
2	6	5	8	1	7	9	4	3
9	3	7	2	6	4	8	1	5
8	1	4	9	5	3	2	6	7
1	7	6	3	9	5	4	8	2
3	5	2	4	8	1	7	9	6
4	8	9	7	2	6	3	5	1

Train Tracks No 2252



Codeword 5223

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



The Listener 4814 Business Tax Service by Puffin

Extra words' first letters spelt "Gates, Denton, Cottan, Huntley, Corbett, Davidson, Buckells", corrupt police officers in the TV series *Line of Duty*. Of the three highlighted investigating officers, Hastings often described the villains as "bent coppers". More details at listenercrossword.com. The winners are AF Mylward of Weymouth, Dorset; Trevor Burford-Reade of Harrow, Greater London; Bryan and Heather Conner of Burntwood, Staffordshire.

More Sudoku, Killer and other puzzles online
Go to thetimes.co.uk

Cryptic Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Following Twitter, these days, in Web (4)

2 Copy part from La Bohème roughly (5)

3 Part of Hamlet, Act I, calling for manoeuvre (6)

4 G-man, pocketing change, moved unsteadily (8)

5 Heartless girl, passionate and alluring (9)

A	A	A	C	C	C	D	E
E	E	F	G	I	I	I	L
L	M	M	M	N	O	O	R
R	S	T	T	T	T	U	X

Answers below

Word Watch
David Parfitt

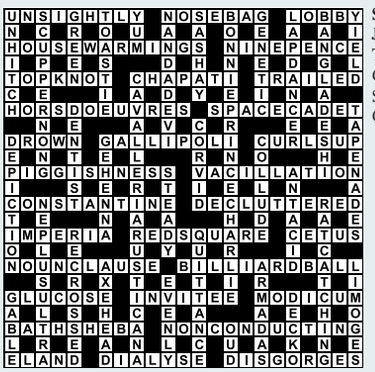
Dornick
a. A crane or hoist
b. A small pebble
c. A flying beetle

Benjamin
a. A button
b. A Scottish mountain
c. A youngest son

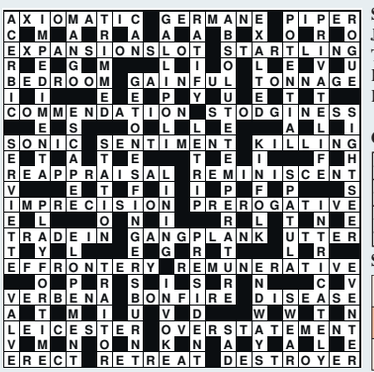
Gaud
a. To praise or extol
b. A painted ceramic tile
c. A rosary bead

Quoddity
a. Strangeness
b. The state of numbering four
c. A subtlety

Answers below



Solution to Cryptic Jumbo 1673
The winner is G Tzilivakis of Shavington, Cheshire



Solution to times2 Jumbo 1673
The winner is Karen Ellis of Elstree, Herts

Cell Blocks 5106

Suko 4125

Mindset
1. a is {ET}, b is {ADL}, c is {NOR}. Answers are: (a) TEE, (b) LAD, (c) RON, (a+b) DELTA, (a+c) TORRENT, (b+c) LANDLORD, (a+b+c) TEN DOLLAR.
2. It is true; two is greater than one.
3. FLYING. This can precede SAUCER — the others can precede CUP.

Word Watch
Dornick (b) A small pebble (*Collins*)
Benjamin (c) A youngest son (*Chambers*)
Gaud (c) A rosary bead (*OED*)
Quoddity (c) A subtlety (*OED*)

Polygon
airfoil, arco, aril, caloric, **calorific**, carl, carol, circa, coir, coral, corf, craic, fair, farl, faro, flair, flor, flora, foliar, frail, frolic, lair, lari, liar, lira, lorica, oral, orca, rail, rial, roil.

Scrabble
REBRANDS (H1d) — 158 points.

Literary quiz
1 Christopher Isherwood
2 Hans Fallada
3 John le Carré
4 Len Deighton.

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Next
2 Mimic
3 Tactic
4 Faltered
5 Glamorous.

Scrabble® Paul Gallen

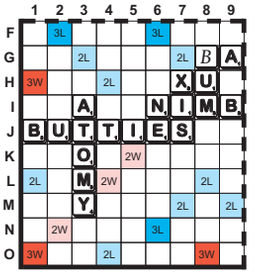
The term "nine-timer" (or "triple-triple") refers to a play covering two triple-word score squares. This means that the score is multiplied by nine. The most common occurrence of this type of play is when an eight-letter word is deployed using all seven tiles on the rack, meaning that the 50-point bonus is also achieved. Therefore, this type of move often has a decisive impact on the outcome of a game. For this reason, players are particularly alert when a floating letter appears between two triple-word score squares. This week's column focuses on the decision to block or ignore such areas.

The choice often depends on the game situation and the player's risk appetite. The former world champion Joel Sherman is renowned for neutralising potential nine-timer opportunities as soon as possible, even if potentially better moves are available. Other players are less risk averse and are happy to leave such areas open. However, one must accept that this will backfire on occasion. Here are two recent tournament games in which the players elected not to impede areas for nine-timers.

In the first position, from a game between Kevin McMahon and Ryan Wee at a tournament in Milton Keynes earlier this month, Wee elected to leave the B of BUTTIES open and play elsewhere. Unfortunately for Wee, McMahon held the perfect rack to take advantage of the opportunity:

A D E N R R S

Can you find McMahon's nine-timer, which ultimately resulted in a final winning score of 588 points?



In a recent tournament in Melbourne, the current world champion, David Eldar, needed to win by more than 250 points in the final round to claim victory. Incredibly, he achieved this via a nine-timer play of SDAYN*I*NG (O8a) for 117 points through an existing AY, which his opponent critically had elected to leave open. The board position immediately before Eldar's spectacular move is shown below.

Collins Official Scrabble Words is the word authority used.
Word positions use the grid reference plus (a)cross or (d)own.

2L double letter square (dl) 3L triple letter square (tl) 2W double word square (dw) 3W triple word square (tw)

Letter values
1 point: A E I O U L N R S T
2 points: D G
3 points: B C M P
4 points: F H V W Y
K = 5
J X = 8
Q Z = 10

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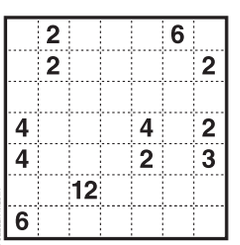
Polygon Roger Phillips

Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.
How you rate: 19 words average; 26, good; 33, very good; 41, excellent.

Answers to Friday's Polygon are to the left. Today's answers are printed in MindGames on Monday

Cell Blocks 5107



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Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Yesterday's solution, left

Chess David Howell

Challenge accepted

You come at the king, you best not miss.

Magnus Carlsen once quoted those famous words on social media. While partly a homage to actor Michael K. Williams, there is no doubt that Carlsen also meant to provoke the new generation of chess players in his trademark mischievous style.

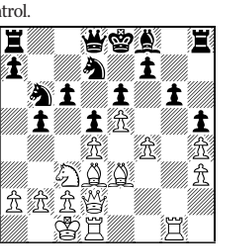
Carlsen's first encounter with Dommaraju Gukesh since the 17-year-old Indian grandmaster sensationally qualified as the World Championship challenger was much hyped — and their games did not disappoint. The pair faced off three times at the latest leg of the Grand Chess Tour. A first rapid game was drawn; Carlsen mishandled a promising attack and Gukesh defended resourcefully. Two days later, a hard-fought blitz game went Carlsen's way after a gritty endgame grind. Thus began an impressive ten-game winning streak as Carlsen moved through the gears to clinch tournament victory. The run ended the same way as it started: another blitz win against Gukesh.

The final episode of the trilogy initially showed brilliance from the young pretender, who uncorked a sparkling sacrifice against Carlsen's kingside. However, the world number one showed his usual resilience, landing a counterblow that outwitted and overwhelmed Gukesh.

Chess fans can only hope there will be many more future clashes between these two unique talents.

White: Dommaraju Gukesh
Black: Magnus Carlsen
Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz, Warsaw 2024
Modern Defence

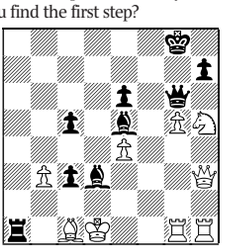
1 e4 g6 2 d4 d6 3 Nc3 c6 "Anti-young player chess" was Carlsen's own description of this opening set-up. Black aims to stay as compact and flexible as possible, postponing any direct confrontation. **4 Be3 Nf6 5 Qd2 Nbd7 6 f3 b5 7 h4 Nb6 8 Bd3 h5 9 0-0-0 Bg7 10 Nh3 Bxh3 11 gxh3** A highly committal decision. The g-file is opened at the cost of a permanently damaged pawn structure. **11...e6 12 f4 d5** Having exchanged his light-squared bishop, Carlsen strategically covers this colour complex with pawns. **13 e5 Nfd7 14 Rhg1** White prepares to break open the kingside. Carlsen's reaction is careless. **14...Bf8?** Inaccurate. 14...Nc4! would remove a white bishop: 15 Bxc4 (15 Qf2 Nxe3 16 Qxe3 Qxh4 is a safe pawn grab) 15...bxc4. Perhaps Carlsen feared 16 f5 exf5 17 e6, but the calm 17...Nf8! maintains control.



White must act quickly before Black is able to complete development. Gukesh seizes the moment. **15 Rxg6!** A bold sacrifice to expose the enemy king. Accepting the gift would now lead to terrible trouble: 15...fxg6 16 Bxg6+ Ke7 17 f5! with 18 Bg5+ to follow. **15...Nc4** An attempt to muddy the waters. **16 Qg2?** An impractical decision, especially considering the blitz time control. Calculation is Gukesh's main strength, but here he gets carried away. White has already done the hard work, so it was time to keep things simple: 16 Bxc4! fxg6 (or 16...bxc4 17 Rg3 Qxh4 18 Rdg1) 17 Bd3 with a strong attack. **16...Ndxe5!** Punishment arrives swiftly. This zwischenzug vacates d7, allowing the king to perform an escapology act. 16...Nxe3 17 Rxe6+! fxe6 18 Bg6+ Ke7 19 Qg5+ would have been far more messy. **17 Rg3** A sad retreat. **17...Nxd3+ 18 cxd3 Nxe3 19 Rxe3 Qxh4** The smoke has cleared. Black is a safe pawn up and White's structure lies in ruins. **20 Rf1 Bd6 21 Kb1 0-0-0 22 Qc2 Kb7 23 Ne2 Rhg8 24 f5 exf5 25 Ref3 Rd7 26 a4 a6 27 Rxf5 Qxh3 28 Rxf7 Rc8 29 Nc1 Rxf7 30 Rxf7+ Rc7 31 Rf6 Be7 32 Rf2 Qe3 33 Nb3 bxa4** The pawns fall like dominos. **34 Re2 Qg1+ 35 Nc1 Qxd4 36 Rh2 h4 37 Ne2 Qb4 38 Nc3 a3 39 Qd1 Bd6 40 Rc2 h3 41 Ka2 h2 42 bxa3 Qxa3+ 43 Kb1 Ka7 White resigns** 44...Rb7+ is a deadly threat.

Winning Move

Black to play. Fedoseev-Salem, Sharjah 2024. A long and forcing variation must be calculated to find Black's path to victory. Can you find the first step?



The first correct entry drawn on Thursday wins *The Times Mindset Puzzles Book 1* and *The Sunday Times Teasers Book 2*. Two runners-up will receive a book prize. Answers on a postcard to: The Times Winning Move, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or email to: winningmove@thetimes.co.uk. Open to 18+, UK and ROI residents only. The answer will be published next Saturday.

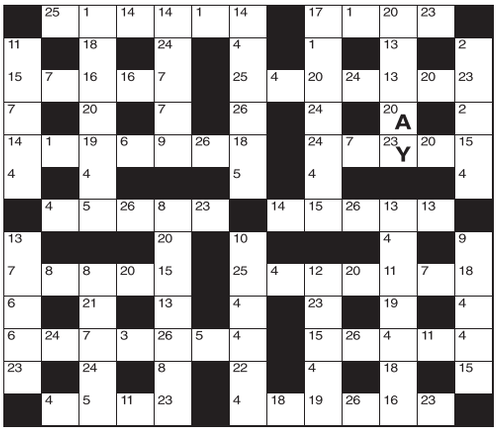
Solution to last week's puzzle: 1 Ne7+! wins: **1...Nxe7** (1...Kh8 2 Nxc6) **2 Qxa5.**

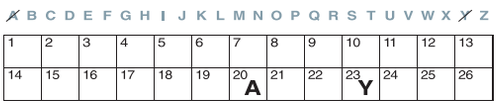
The winner is Michael Jones of West Parley, Dorset. The runners-up are Gareth Anthony of Forest Row, East Sussex, and Mark Robertson of Bexleyheath, Kent.

MindGames

The Times Crossword, Latin Crossword, Saturday Quiz and Suko are in the back of the main paper

Codeword No 5224

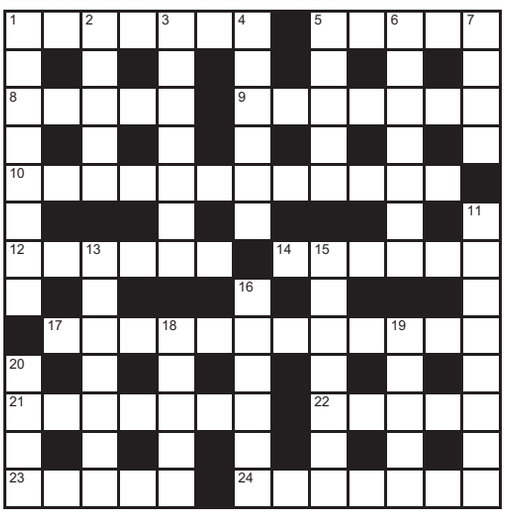




Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid. *Yesterday's solution on page 48*

Stuck on Codeword? To receive four random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

times2 Crossword No 9540



Across

1 Unconventional (7)
5 Distance below the surface (5)
8 Fern leaf (5)
9 Culinary ingredient obtained from crocuses (7)
10 Set given a placebo in a medical trial (7,5)
12 Astounded (6)
14 11th letter of the Greek alphabet (6)
17 Person accepting the payment of levies (3,9)
21 Enclosed space or room (7)
22 Developed, expanded (5)
23 Tin or titanium, eg (5)
24 Legal term for theft (7)

Down

1 Formally confirmed (8)
2 Unhappy expression (5)
3 Approve, sanction (7)
4 Fight, scuffle (6)
5 Yield to one with greater experience or status (5)
6 Worry, unnerve (7)
7 Tip; subtle indication (4)
11 Consumer protection document (8)
13 Absolutely insistent (7)
15 Agent of retribution (7)
16 Pertaining to blooms and blossom (6)
18 Secret clique (5)
19 Cut of steak (1-4)
20 Swindle, con (4)

Solution to Crossword 9539

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

Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

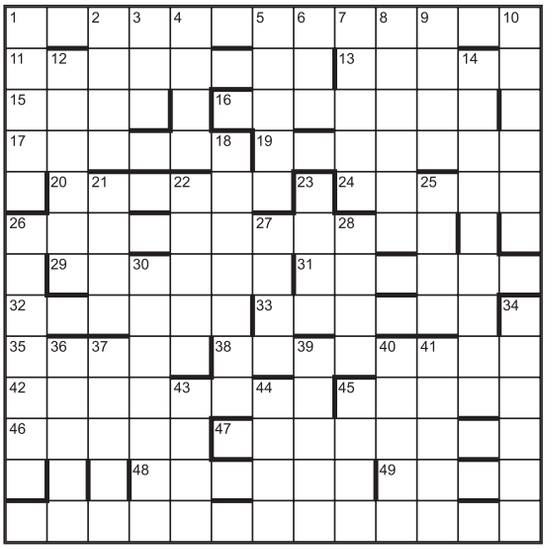
The Listener Crossword No 4817 Playing with Fire by Lath

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4817, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by June 6.

Listener 4814 solution on page 48

Prize options and more at listenercrossword.com

More information about Chambers books can be found at chambers.co.uk



Name.....

Address.....

Postcode..... **Phone/email**.....

Each across clue needs a word removed to enable solving; the words' initials spell a five-word instruction that solvers must follow at the end. Answers to 11 across clues must be entered jumbled; their extra words' last letters can form the two-word theme. One down "clue" is really an anagram of a title that can be traced in contiguous cells forming the shape of the thematic item. The shape and three other letters (C, S, G) must be highlighted to illustrate its operation. In the other down clues the wordplay leads to the answer (entered normally) with an extra letter; these letters say how solvers must replace the two titles initially appearing in the top and bottom rows, to make new words or names. *The Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is the primary reference.

Across

11 More important info worried convent (8)
13 No president died before US physicians (5)
15 Lugs are rigged square sheets (4)
16 Boat fuel out according to West Indian (7)
17 Refused old, contrary dean dropping in (6)
19 Glory, a practice no longer eliciting cheer (7)
20 Lovely drug, possibly hallucinatory (6)
24 Queen's regularly seen great-niece drunk (5)
26 Random explanation cautious about heroin in bone rich in compounds (11, *two words*)
29 Worry about abuse over profession (6)
31 Ed's mean to tease a wasted naked dude (6)
32 Metric wooden TV case's exterior repair (6)
33 Hordes of mice from waste on Malta (6)
35 Bos'n at helm shows ensign this handle (5)
38 Titanic vessel sent back has grandeur (8)
42 Worst gallery stops check for roach bugs (8)
45 I'll blag impromptu part in *Evita*: Kermit (5)
46 Leading international amateur golfer taken aback, ball almost lips (5)
47 Using more words, boxer Joe coming across grandiose to some (8)
48 Girl enters farming commune in America (6)
49 Spinning yarn revives trading centre (4)

Down

1 In the lead climbing sandy ridge, tip over (5)
2 Tight Scotsman, Mark Lambert (4)
3 Be deprived of reputation long ago (3)
4 Circling Royal Navy, spot bird of prey (4)
5 Explain old-style Listener each day (5)
6 Nothing to paint once retired (3)
7 Local second person's united in sad irony (5)
8 Primers cease working below tar (6)
9 Toucan nearly pulverised pancake (4)
10 El Salvador welcomes potato consumers (6)
12 Beginner's point in Siberian peninsula (6)
14 Dance sickness, fever and seizure (9)
18 Drink in private room and note relaxation (7)
21 Ian's plant remoulded tyre tread finally (4)
22 Gentleman rises to hug mostly top birds (5)
23 Dun disused coin with crown embedded (4)
25 Dawn's antiquated gambling game curse (4)
26 Reds score — Chelsea skinned twice (7)
27 Incarnation ready to explode in artist (4)
28 Reach her dry torch (4)
30 Money torn free out of loose mortice and tenon (7)
34 Wrong automatic station tuning board (6)
36 Embarrass crackpot wearing a hat at first (5)
37 Long coil in the way to follow restraint (5)
39 Country laggard upset star doctor (5)
40 Match cheers supporting rivals (5)
41 Take chances returning to search in Ayr (5)
43 Australian marsupial dry around island (4)
44 Eight to 12 pints after outsize cut of beef (4)
45 Run and punch Rob (4)

Mindset by 700

1. a, b and c are sets of letters with no letter in more than one set. Using ALL of the letters in the sets indicated (possibly with repetition), and no other letters, words or names can be made with the following definitions. **Identify all of the answers.**
(a) Letter (b) Boy (c) Boy's name
(a+b) Greek letter (a+c) Stream (b+c) Letter
(a+b+c) Bill featuring Alexander Hamilton (two words)

2. True or false: there are more hydrogen atoms in a single molecule of water than there are stars in our entire solar system?

3. Which is the odd word out:
D, EGG, FLYING, PAPER, WALKER, WORLD

Answers on page 49

Literary Quiz
The Times Literary Desk

Ich bin ein Berliner
This week Jenny Erpenbeck's *Kairos* won the International Booker. Name the authors of these four other Berlin-set novels
1. *Goodbye to Berlin*, 1939
2. *Alone in Berlin*, 1947
3. *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold*, 1963
4. *Berlin Game*, 1983

Answers on page 49

Bridge Andrew Robson

Some experts pooh-pooh the gambling 3NT opener, showing a long, solid minor and no outside ace or king. Personally, I love it.

Any bid that tells partner your precise hand and allows you to sit back in your chair and let the other players make their own arrangements is a good bid by me. It certainly worked well on this deal from the World Mind Sports Games Open Trials, held last month to determine which team would represent England in Buenos Aires later in the year.

Dealer North E-W Vul

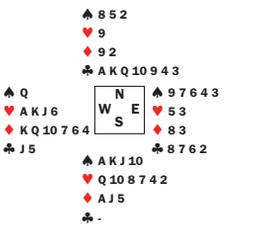


Table One

S	W	N	E
		3NT(1)	Pass(2)
5♣(3)	end		

(1) Long, solid seven/eight card minor (AKQ10xxx is good enough, although probably not AKQxxxx).
(2) Doffing his cap to Lord Yarborough.
(3) Eleven tricks are not guaranteed but 7321 is a much more probable shape than 7222, and partner's most likely singleton is hearts. Assuming clubs are solid, game is probably at worst on the spade finesse.

West cashed the ace of hearts and switched to the king of diamonds. Declarer won the ace, ruffed a heart and drew trumps in four rounds, throwing two diamonds and two hearts. He led a spade to his ace to see whether anything interesting happened — and it did. Her majesty was felled and 12 tricks claimed shortly thereafter.

Table Two

S	W	N	E
		3NT	Pass
5♣	5♦(1)	Pass	Pass
Dbl	end		

(1) Maybe they are stealing. Give partner, say, ♠xxxx, ♥109xx, ♦Axxx, ♣x, and 5♦ is probably making — 5♣ may well be too.

I won't run through the gory details. Suffice it to say that 5♦ doubled went five down: N-S +1,400. The incredible thing, though, was that E-W actually picked up points for losing 1,400. For their teammates had doubled 4♥ (3NT-P-4♣-4♥-P-P-Dbl-end) for +1,700.

Table Three

S	W	N	E
		1♣	Pass
1♥	2♦	Pass	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3NT	end		

Ironically, the only table at which North chose not to open a gambling 3NT was the one table in which the contract ended up being 3NT.

With dummy scoring precisely zero tricks, declarer did well to escape for one down — but the only N-S minus score.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

For more crosswords including Quick Cryptic go to thetimes.co.uk

Jumbo crossword No 1675

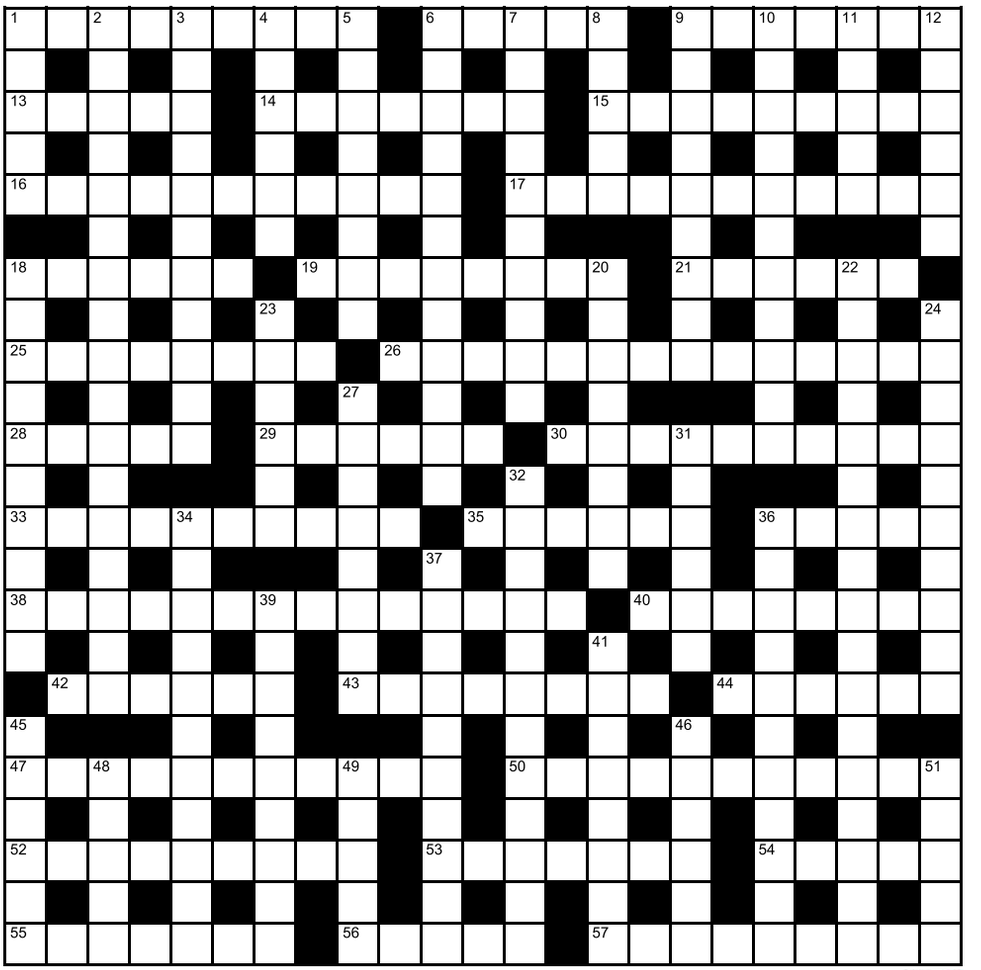
Cryptic clues

Across

1 Toast last drink (7,2)
6 "The Greatest" wingers from Goodison stand in a row (5)
9 Stay twenty four hours in Paris, very new surroundings (7)
13 Iceberg rolls, killing one Cape diver (5)
14 Vivid chart recalled Channel Islands (7)
15 Wandering in pursuit of black bird (9)
16 Cheap accommodation ultimately dodgy; the loo shut off (5,6)
17 Bar nicely renovated hosting European male hip hop act (6,5)
18 Republican lodged in a bogus religious retreat (6)
19 Subjects against abandoning senses of rights and wrongs? (8)
21 Senior churchman once a reformed character (3,3)
25 Brilliant *Independent* covering church feature (8)
26 Somehow thinks wife cheated, invoking puzzled query (4,3,7)
28 Some Rt Hon gentleman getting minimal coverage down under (5)
29 Empty beer jug for tea maker (6)
30 Book of verse, indeed, just opened by idiot (6,4)
33 Cover tip of finger in fresh guacamole (10)
35 Cave reached when crossing river (6)
36 I must visit doctor, working somewhere in the field (3-2)
38 Strangle Will in chaotic hand-to-hand combat (3-2,9)
40 Blood sport, day one: endless avarice (8)
42 Walked daintily around ground (6)
43 Greek god sat for artist, covering one leg (8)
44 Formal accessory page Henry wears fitting perfectly (3,3)
47 Inspirational sister moved priest with task (11)
50 Teller of tellers? (4,7)
52 Four opening large uniform chest producing a lot of money (9)
53 Under control, remove phosphorous and boron from copper zinc alloy (2,5)
54 Idiot stealing article from continental port (5)
55 Continue film franchise (5,2)
56 Element of technical language judge dismissed (5)
57 Deeply troubled auditor men tediously cut down to size (9)

Down

1 Loose goods stored in compartment (5)
2 Treating Sheffield chums to a classic performance at The Crucible? (3,7,2,5)
3 Maybe sweaty husband enters having too much on his plate? (11)
4 In America, civilians perhaps turning up to register for the dole (4,2)
5 Complain about neckwear Charlie's wearing in rehearsal (8)
6 Vulnerable area which mother didn't bathe? (8,4)
7 Legal disqualification of secretary in Machu Picchu? (10)
8 Arrest former pupil, a rich and powerful man (5)
9 Said to include one working in position (9)
10 A wry BBC joke turned out to be a bit of nonsense (11)
11 Join a trade union (5)
12 City of Northern Aragon's premier painter? (6)
18 Helen's lover to box out of bounds nobleman (10)
20 Quiet whiskies reportedly bringing on sentimentality (8)
22 Old king wildly threatened with large axe briefly (9,3,5)
23 Coarse abuse upset labour clergyman (6)
24 Sharp alpha male, whimsical Australian mostly on the inside (10)
27 Considers sounding out routes to the summit (6,2)
31 In my opinion, low-down character of Shakespeare's work (6)
32 African on CBS rubbished English philosopher (7,5)
34 Wasteful convent initially failing to collect tax by first of April (11)
36 Met Estonian's renovated split-level home (11)
37 Penny and Heather admitting Daisy is laying it on a bit thick, perhaps (10)
39 Cut sauce which has been thickened (9)
41 Dismal signal from conductor (8)
45 Style of writing with a tendency to lean to the right? (6)
46 One likes to drag small donkey over river (6)
48 Competitive driver, one in fancy car (5)
49 Last character used to symbolise the resistance? (5)
51 Quick police operation featuring Robocop finally (5)



Name.....

Address.....

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..... Postcode.....

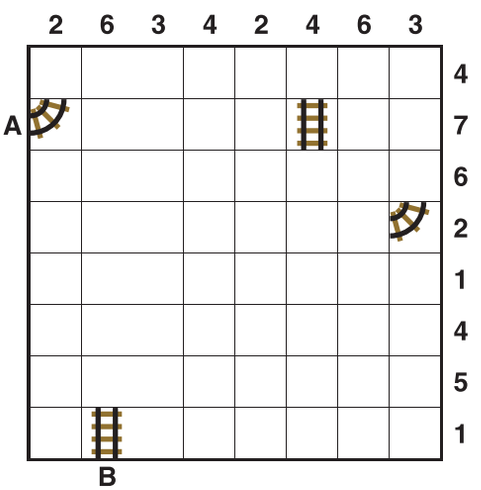
Phone number.....

Prizes

The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books — including *The Times Reference Atlas of the World, Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus*, and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1675, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ; or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1675" or "times2 1675" in the subject line, to arrive by June 6. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on June 8.

Train Tracks No 2253

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself. *Solution on Monday*



times2 clues

Across

1 Delighted; under a spell (9)
6 Evil spirit or devil (5)
9 Play by Shakespeare (7)
13 Bowler's approach (3-2)
14 Prescribed course of treatment (7)
15 Something giving essential strength and vitality (9)
16 Having hidden dangers (11)
17 Hiding (11)
18 Send (goods) abroad (6)
19 Lineage, ancestry (8)
21 Number puzzle (6)
25 Indian city, site of the Golden Temple (8)
26 Dairy product usually grated (8,6)
28 Dance (5)
29 Protective charm (6)
30 Building feature containing an air space (6,4)
33 Form of revolutionary Communism (10)
35 Buff; language (6)
36 Like, eg, brazils (5)
38 Disillusionment (14)
40 Obstruction (8)
42 Colouring (fabrics) (6)
43 Dead end (3-2-3)
44 Chewy sweet (6)
47 Situation as it currently stands (5,2,4)
50 Fossil flying reptile (11)
52 Morally justifiable (9)
53 Serial instalment (7)
54 Assertion (5)
55 — Monroe, actress (7)
56 Group of eight players (5)
57 Infamy, disrepute (9)

Down

1 White heron (5)
2 Simultaneously (17)
3 Proportion of width to height of a screen image (6,5)
4 Small castle tower (6)
5 Well-meaning but interfering person (2-6)
6 (Of an animal) tamed (12)
7 Black-and-white (10)
8 Synthetic fabric (5)
9 Time of year when business is quiet (3-6)
10 Clumsy or awkward youth (11)
11 Not tightly fixed (5)
12 Strange person or thing (6)
18 Precision (10)
20 Blissfully happy (8)
22 Refrain from smiling (4,1,8,4)
23 Disease, ailment (6)
24 The moving of troops into position (10)
27 Below the speed of sound (8)
31 Breathe in (6)
32 Melody played in conjunction with another (12)
34 Loving, soft-hearted (11)
36 Sorcerer (11)
37 Work, profession (10)
39 Florid, extravagant (4-5)
41 Legislative capital of South Africa (4,4)
45 Place of religious retreat (6)
46 Having great power (6)
48 Ire (5)
49 Cowboy's rope (5)
51 Knobbly; clotted (5)

THE STAGE IS SET

TRAFALGAR SQ × 22–23 JUNE

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Sport

Wawrinka on Murray

'It was a big four; Andy is in different league to me'

INTERVIEW, PAGES 14-15

CATHERINE IVILL/AMA/GETTY IMAGES

TEN HAG'S FINAL FAREWELL?

Manchester United manager expects FA Cup final against City to be his last match in charge. The club have history in sacking the winning manager, write Paul Hirst and Charlotte Duncker, pages 2-3

McKenna waits on United offer

Charlotte Duncker, Paul Hirst

Kieran McKenna will wait on Manchester United before making a decision on his next move, with Erik ten Hag expecting to be sacked after the FA Cup final.

The Ipswich Town manager is on a four-man shortlist that has been drawn up in case United decide to end Ten Hag's two-year tenure after today's match against Manchester City.

The Times revealed on Thursday that United had reached out to representatives of their preferred candidates before the cup final. Chelsea's decision to part ways with Mauricio Pochettino on Tuesday accelerated their plans because both clubs are looking to hire from the same pool of managers.

McKenna is also wanted by Brighton & Hove Albion and Chelsea. It is understood Brighton interviewed him on Wednesday but his preference would be to return to Old Trafford. McKenna — who earned promotion to the Premier League this season with Ipswich Town — is a boyhood United fan and left the club in 2021 having spent five years there, initially working with the under-18s before José Mourinho promoted him to the first team, where he stayed as a coach under Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Ralf Rangnick.

United insist that no decision has been made on Ten Hag's future and that it will not depend on Saturday's cup final result. However, it is looking increasingly likely he will leave, with the 54-year-old anticipating his dismissal.

He would be in line for a multi-million-pound compensation package if he is sacked but that figure is still to be determined because it would increase or decrease depending on whether United qualify for Europe or not. They must win the FA Cup final to secure Europa League football next season.

United insist they will not be distracted by speculation and will review the season, and Ten Hag's position, after Saturday.

Pep Guardiola, meanwhile, has said that Ten Hag is not solely to blame for United's poor season. The club recorded their lowest-ever Premier League finish of eighth and while Guardiola accepts that wins are vital for a manager's security, he spoke of his sympathy for Ten Hag over the huge number of injuries his squad have endured during the campaign.

"In big clubs like United, City, when you don't win always you are in

Continued on page 2

Verstappen: My Red Bull is bouncing like a kangaroo

Molly Hudson
Motor Racing Reporter

Max Verstappen issued a bleak warning about his chances of winning this weekend after he was outpaced by drivers from three different teams in practice yesterday at the Monaco Grand Prix.

The reigning world champion and drivers' championship leader said his Red Bull was "bouncing like a kangaroo". He had to settle for fourth, behind Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes and Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso.

Verstappen, 26, dominated the early part of the season but was beaten in Miami by Lando Norris, who then finished less than a second behind him at Imola last weekend. He leads the championship by 48 points.

He clipped the barriers in yesterday's session and complained that his car was struggling to deal with the Monte Carlo track. It is a difficult circuit for overtaking, so a below-par performance in qualifying could be seriously damaging.

"It's at the higher end of the worst possible outcome of the weekend," Verstappen said. "A lot of bumps, kerbs, and camber changes on the track. For us, it is impossible to take. Every time we go over it, we lose a lot of lap time, because the car doesn't ride well. There is no clear direction or solution for the weekend to be able to solve something like that. [Ferrari are] miles ahead. We will try, but I don't expect miracles."

'Lando's win was extra special', page 13

Ten Hag beware: FA Cup could

Manchester United manager fears end could be near, evoking memories of another Dutchman, write **Paul Hirst** and **Charlotte Duncker**

On the night of May 21, 2016, a few hours after he had climbed the Wembley steps and triumphantly hoisted the FA Cup above his head, Louis van Gaal was having an argument with his wife, Truus, in their hotel suite.

The Manchester United manager was angry with his wife after she told him that several media outlets were reporting that he would be replaced by José Mourinho. "Why do you have to spoil my party?" he raged. "Stop all this negative nonsense!"

But Truus, an indomitable woman, would not be told otherwise. She had noticed that some United board members, usually so warm towards them both, did not congratulate Van Gaal personally at the party that followed their victory in extra time over Crystal Palace.

"They just waved from afar," she recalled in the 2022 documentary *Van Gaal*. "I knew something was wrong, call it feminine intuition. I said: 'Louis, you're going to be fired. Get wise to it,' and I slammed the door shut."

She was right. The next morning Ed Woodward, the executive vice-chairman, called Van Gaal just before he was due to board a train at Euston railway station, and said he wanted to meet that evening.

Van Gaal batted away questions from a reporter who followed him across the car park at Stockport railway station and drove home, where he was given the bad news by Woodward. "You were right," a tearful Van Gaal said to his wife.

To soften the blow, Woodward paid for a private jet to fly the couple to the Algarve, where the Van Gaals have a villa.

The day after his second FA Cup final, the Dutchman now in charge of United, Erik ten Hag, will also be boarding a flight to sunnier climes. "I'm going on holiday on Sunday. I think I deserve it," he said.

As is customary, a party has been planned in London for tonight, but whether it goes ahead or not is likely to depend on whether United can upset the odds — they are 7-1 on Betfair — and beat a Manchester City side looking to win the Premier League and FA Cup in successive seasons.

Will Ten Hag be back in Manchester again after this weekend? He thinks so. There will certainly be no post-season debrief with the Ineos hierarchy next week. "We already did [it]," Ten Hag said earlier this week.

Was he assured that he would be allowed to see out the final year of his contract? "It was not necessary," he added. "We will go for next season."

Either Ten Hag was bluffing and knows that today's match at Wembley will be his final game, or he has not been directly told that he will be fired.

The smart money is on the latter. Unlike some managers, Ten Hag does not lie when speaking to the press. He does not massage the truth either. He is a straight talker. He was clear to staff from day one that is his approach when speaking to the media, which is admirable.

Rather than make up an excuse, he told the truth when asked why Jadon Sancho had been dropped for the Arsenal game in September, even though his claim that the winger had trained poorly caused a huge row.

Plus, if Ten Hag knew he was going to be fired, why did he not take the manager's job at Bayern Munich, a club he admires and holds close to his heart, having managed the B team there a few years ago?

Behind the scenes, United were insisting on Friday that no decision has been made on Ten Hag's future. Again, that claim is believable because, unlike in 2016, when Mourinho was hot property, there is no outstanding candidate for the job,

That talks have taken place with representatives of the four candidates, revealed by The Times on Thursday, should be of concern to Ten Hag, who has privately told friends that he fears the end could be near, especially if his team are hammered by City.

Thomas Tuchel, Mauricio Pochettino, Thomas Frank and Kieran McKenna all have their plus points, but question marks hang over them too.

Tuchel, rightly or wrongly, is viewed in the football world as a short-term manager, Pochettino is regularly criticised for his lack of silverware and Frank and McKenna lack the experience of the other two candidates.

Despite his side finishing eighth in the Premier League, there is a cogent argument for keeping Ten Hag, who has been hindered by an injury crisis for much of the season. Under his leadership, he has developed a strong nucleus of young talented players such as Kobbie Mainoo, Rasmus Højlund and Alejandro Garnacho. Get the likes of Luke Shaw, Lisandro Martínez and Mason Mount fit next season, add a few good signings, remove the troublesome deadwood and he has a solid base to work from.

"We can definitely compete for the top four," Ten Hag said of his ambitions for next season. "The competition means there are many teams in this moment that battle for the top four, but we are definitely in there. We would have been there this season if players had been available. That is the biggest thing that has to change — that the players are, over the course of the season, available."

Only Shaw, Tyrell Malacia and Harry Maguire are out of the cup final, though, so there will be no excuse for Ten Hag if his team are easily beaten by City, a club whom Ten Hag said he "admires" for their record since the Abu Dhabi takeover of 2008.

Ten Hag was at pains to remind his critics that this will be his third final in two years at United, having also won the Carabao Cup last season. "I am sure that many forget this, yes, absolutely," he said. Before United departed for London yesterday, Ten Hag was asked if he had received a good luck message from the Ineos chairman, Sir Jim Ratcliffe.

"Of course, we are together," he said. "Since January they have been part of this club and they want us to win trophies. As I said, this club didn't win many trophies in the past ten years, so now we have the second opportunity in two years and it is a big opportunity to win another trophy."

The question is: even if Ten Hag emulates the achievement of Van Gaal, will it be enough to prevent him from suffering the same fate as his compatriot?

Potential replacements

THOMAS TUCHEL **Age** 50
Club Unattached
Major trophies 9 (Champions League 2020-21, Fifa Club World Cup 2021; Bundesliga 2022-23; German Cup 2016-17; Ligue 1 2018-19 and 2019-20; French Cup, French League Cup 2019-20)

MAURICIO POCHETTINO **Age** 52
Club Unattached
Major trophies 2 (Ligue 1 2021-22; French Cup 2020-21)

THOMAS FRANK **Age** 50
Club Brentford
Major trophies 0

KIERAN MCKENNA **Age** 38
Club Ipswich Town
Major trophies 0

Man City v Man United

Man City v Man United
Today, 3pm
TV BBC1, ITV
Radio BBC 5 Live

He's done a good job at United – Pep

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

trouble," Guardiola said. "I would be in trouble if we didn't win. He has done many good things, I have huge respect for his job in the past and now at United I completely agree when he says they

not save Van Gaal

MICHAEL REGAN/THE FA/GETTY IMAGES

Van Gaal was sacked by United the morning after he won the FA Cup in 2016 — when Lingard scored the winner, top left — despite being in positive spirits the evening of their victory, right. Ten Hag, who addressed Old Trafford after United's last home game of the season, left, may find himself in a similar situation after tonight's FA Cup final at Wembley against their rivals, City

have not had a full squad this season and had a lot of injuries.

"I think this [injuries] is the most important thing they [managers] have to think about. I am always focused that we have to be fit, fit, fit — otherwise we cannot use the players. They [United] had a lot of problems and when that happens the manager suffers a lot. The squad is really good but the problem is when you cannot use them. This is a big disadvantage."

One person who has moved to end talk linking him with a move away from the club is Bruno Fernandes. The club captain had been tipped to leave this summer and in a post-match interview after the final home game of the season said he would only stay at Old Trafford if he was wanted.

But in a piece for The Players' Tribune he committed himself to the club he joined in 2020, writing: "I love to step out at Old Trafford more than anything in the world. I don't want to leave. This has always been my ultimate dream.

"I just want my expectations to fit with the expectations of the club. If you go talk to any fan, they will tell you the same thing. We want to compete for the league. We want to be playing Champions League football. We want to be in cup finals. That is the standard. That is what I want. That is what you all deserve. I just want to keep fighting. I want to be here. My family wants to be here."

McKenna is on United's shortlist of four potential replacements for Ten Hag

Walker: Kids here wear blue now – not red

Charlotte Duncker

Manchester City can start to be considered among the great Premier League teams, according to Kyle Walker, their captain, as they push to create more history at Wembley.

Pep Guardiola's side are aiming to become the first English team to win back-to-back domestic Doubles to wrap up another impressive season in which they became the first club to win four successive Premier League titles.

Five months is a long time in football and Walker, who in December said that City were not in the same class as Sir Alex Ferguson's Manchester United side, has conceded that they may now be in that bracket.

"Of course we are now; with each trophy we win we're going to be closer. Pep is now the manager who has won the most [Premier League titles] except Sir Alex Ferguson, so we're building this dynasty and legacy [so] that people will look on this team for generations to come," Walker said.

"When I first came here [to Manchester] you saw a lot of United shirts and now you see a lot of kids wearing City shirts. We're swinging the pendulum but we need to keep going because the United and Liverpool teams did it for years and years. We're doing that now — long may it continue."

For Walker, who is looking to lift his fourth trophy as captain this season after wins in the Uefa Super Cup, the Club World Cup and the league, it is a campaign that could have been very different. In the summer he discovered that he had fathered a second child with a woman who is not his wife and he considered a move to Bayern Munich to escape from the problems in his personal life.

"It would have been a lot different because I'd have been at a different club, but that was a moment in my personal life that I felt I wanted to move away from England. It was nothing to do with footballing reasons, it was something personal to me where I thought that taking a break from England might have been right," he said.

"But first and foremost I have to think about football. It's what I love doing and I felt that come the end of it I would be a lot happier at Manchester City than I would at Bayern Munich."

Given City have won the Premier League, he has already acquired more trophies than he would have done at Bayern — who ended their season without silverware for the first time since 2012 — and today City have the chance to make history again at Wembley in a repeat of last season's FA Cup final.

"The motivation speaks for itself. To be the first team to do the double Double, the first team to win four 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," he said.

"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. To go on the run that we went on, when Arsenal were as they were, is great credit to us and shows the enthusiasm and the work ethic are still there.

"We're still coming into training now and wanting to graft and work hard to put the icing on the cake for the season."

After the disappointment of missing out on a starting spot in last season's Champions League final victory against Inter Milan, Walker has backed up his importance to Guardiola's squad this campaign, starting 30 times in the Premier League and making 46 appearances across all competitions.

15

Major trophies won by Walker since joining City. In that time, United have won one

And he has no plans to give up any time soon. While his immediate focus is on adding another trophy to the bursting cabinet, Walker has already got one eye on next season. The full back has a contract until 2026, which would take him to the age of 35, but has not ruled out extending his stay at the Etihad.

"I'll go as long as I can go," he said. "This is a job that I love; I never wake up and think, 'I don't want to go in.' I love playing football, it makes me happy. It's my happy place. I've got two years and I still think I can give more to the team.

"I might not play as much as I really want to but as long as I put in the performances that I feel I've done this season and [have] the work ethic in training, that's down to who the manager wants to play in that position. I feel great, so I'll go for as long as possible."

OFFICIAL MANCHESTER CITY PHOTO LIBRARY/SMARTFRAME

Walker has lifted the Super Cup, Club World Cup and league title, above, this season

Starstruck academy kid to England starter in four years

As he prepares to play in his first FA Cup final, Kobbie Mainoo talks to **Paul Hirst** about his whirlwind breakout season at Old Trafford and his Euro ambitions

Kobbie Mainoo's attitude to life is refreshingly carefree. You will not find him moaning about fixture congestion — "Playing three games in seven days, I love it," he beams — nor turning down selfie requests from fans, or the youngsters in the Manchester United academy who idolise him.

After all, only a few years ago he was in their position. He still remembers his jaw dropping when he first saw Wayne Rooney emerge from the first-team building, which is across the car park from the academy at Carrington.

He also recalls being in the audience to listen to the pep talks given by senior professionals at the club, as is customary. "I remember when I was 14 or 15, Jesse [Lingard] and Rashy [Marcus Rashford] came to speak to us," Mainoo says. "It was about digs and whatnot when I was coming to the scholarship programme.

"Rooney was my favourite. When I was younger we used to see people here like Rooney, [Paul] Pogba... Rashy. To play with some of these players is crazy."

Mainoo would be too polite to say it himself, but he is not just playing alongside Rashford, he is outshining him. The 19-year-old has been one of United's most consistent players this season and that is why his phone buzzed with a message from the FA on Tuesday morning, and Rashford's did not.

"I just got a text to say I was in the provisional squad and then saw the team come out," Mainoo said of his call-up to England's 33-man squad, which will be cut to 26 for the European Championship finals in Germany.

"I was buzzing. I'm not trying to think about it too much because we've got the FA Cup final coming up [today against Manchester City] so all my focus is on the club right now, but obviously I'm going to the pre-camp and if I get selected for the Euros it will be amazing," he said.

As United come to the end of the latest gruelling and unfulfilling campaign of the post-Ferguson era, their fans have reason to believe that better times lie ahead purely because of talents such as Mainoo, Rasmus Hojlund, 21, and Alejandro Garnacho, 19, the three amigos who celebrated Garnacho's goal against West Ham United in February by parking their backsides on the advertising hoardings.

It may prove to be an iconic image in years to come if the trio fulfil their potential. The celebration looked planned, but it was not.

"I always ask Garna before the game, what's the celebration gonna be if he scores," Mainoo says. "He was like, 'I'm not telling you, I'm not telling you.'

"Then I saw him jump up on the advertising board when he scored. He wanted to do it himself but me and Rasmus just jumped up there with him. It was a nice picture.

"With Amad [Diallo] as well, we have a lot of fun together and we've definitely grown close this season."

Since Mainoo made his full Premier League debut against Everton in November, he has played another 30 games for his boyhood club, scored four goals, earned his first two caps for England and now stands a pretty good chance of being on the plane to Germany this summer.

You would not believe that was the case, though, if you spent any amount of time in Mainoo's company.

There is a fine line between self-assuredness and cockiness, which he treads well. He is so confident in his own ability that he is not overawed by sharing a dressing room with Champions League winners, but you get the impression that he is humble and professional enough to listen to the likes of Casemiro and Bruno Fernandes because he knows it will improve his game.

This theory is backed up by those who work with him every day. They describe him as humble yet fearless. By the end of his first interview with the national media — one that covers the pressure of being a United star in the making, his England hopes, and the delicate situation of his manager Erik ten Hag's position — he has barely broken sweat.

1,939
Premier League minutes for Mainoo this season. Only two teenagers had more: Alejandro Garnacho and Wilson Odobert

When asked if anything fazes him, he chuckles and shrugs his shoulders. "I just try to take it all in my stride," he says. "The only time I was nervous was before the Everton match, when I first started [a match].

"I was nervous for that, but once I got my head around the fact that I was playing I just tried to do my thing, play my way. I've played my way through the academy and I've not changed for the occasion. "I try to stay true to who I am. Because I feel if I do get nervous and stuff, you start to change."

He still lives with his parents and continues to park in the academy car park even though he has been a member of the first-team squad for almost a year and a half.

So what has changed about his life in the past year or so? "When I try to go to the corner shop I get a bit more attention ... but, other than that, nothing," he says with a smile.

"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."

The calmness in possession, and the way in which he shuffled the ball from his left foot to right in the build-up to the beautiful goal he scored against Wolverhampton Wanderers (in the 97th minute to secure a 4-3 victory at Molineux) came because of the skills he learnt at the academy and in games of futsal, a five-a-side indoor game played with a smaller football.

"I always liked time on the ball when I was younger and I played futsal and stuff, so it was always one v one," he says.

"I always liked the ball at my feet and dribbling, so yeah, I think I got comfortable from doing that and I started to take joy from running at players or shielding the ball from players."

This season could have been even better for Mainoo had he not suffered an ankle injury when colliding with Rodrygo in a pre-season friendly

MATTHEW PETERS; SHAUN BOTTERILL/MANCHESTER UNITED/GETTY IMAGES

Over a fantastic breakout season Mainoo has earned the adoration of the United fans, left, scored a brilliant goal against Liverpool, top, been given his senior England debut by Gareth Southgate, above, and vindicated Ten Hag's faith in him, right

against Real Madrid in Houston last summer.

Before that match, Mainoo, who joined United's academy aged eight, appeared to be ahead of Casemiro in the pecking order after starting the first two matches of the tour. His rehabilitation period that followed was tough, but he kept himself busy. "I started Spanish lessons on Zoom just to pass the time a bit," he says.

"It's tough to keep doing them now with the schedule being so busy, but now it's into summer I'll try to pick it up again because I enjoyed it."

How much of the language did he master? "*Un poco*," he says, laughing. Perhaps if he has a bit of downtime in Germany, he can fit in a few lessons in between matches.

But Mainoo has one important task to fulfil before he joins the England squad: to help restore some pride to United's season by winning the FA Cup.

> **"When I go to the shop I get a bit more attention… but that's it"**

United most recently lifted the trophy under Louis van Gaal in 2016, when Mainoo watched the match at home.

"The one where Jesse scored, right?" Mainoo said. "The one where we're wearing white kits."

Mainoo chuckles when he is reminded of another takeaway memory from that match — Alan Pardew dancing on the touchline after Palace had taken the lead.

Mainoo got his first taste of Wembley last year when he watched from the stands as United lifted the Carabao Cup after beating Newcastle United.

Ten Hag made a beeline for Mainoo after the match, telling him that he would be on the pitch next season if he kept on developing, and here we are a year later, ready to witness exactly that.

Who knows what the outcome will be, but one thing is for sure — the prospect of playing in front of 90,000 fans will not perturb Mainoo, who grew up in the City stronghold of Stockport.

"It's a dream come true as a boyhood fan of United," he says. "City are one of, if not the best team in the world at the moment, but we are not coming to take part, we are coming to win."

United teenagers to play in FA Cup final

1957 Aston Villa 2, Man Utd 1
Bobby Charlton, 19 years, 6 months
It was a young United team but most of the Busby Babes had edged into their twenties. Charlton could not help United overcome the loss of their injured goalkeeper Ray Wood after six minutes (in an era before substitutions).

1958 Bolton 2, Man Utd 0
Alex Dawson, 18y, 2m
The Scottish forward was promoted to the team after the Munich air disaster in February and scored a hat-trick against Fulham in the semi-finals. But Bolton's Nat Lofthouse scored twice in a deserved win.

1977 Man Utd 2, Liverpool 1
Arthur Albiston, 19y, 10m
The Scottish left back was making his first FA Cup appearance of the season and owed his place to the fact that Stewart Houston had broken his ankle two weeks earlier.

1983 Man Utd 2, Brighton 2
(Man Utd won replay 4-0)
Norman Whiteside, 18y, 0m
The Northern Irishman had played at the 1982 World Cup and scored in the League Cup final two months before this final, so was hardly at risk of stage fright. He got one of United's goals in the replay, and also scored the winner in the 1985 final 11 days after turning 20.

1996 Man Utd 1, Liverpool 0
Phil Neville, 19y, 3m
His brother Gary had played in the previous year's final against Everton at the age of 20, but Phil was a teenager when, as a left back, he helped his team to complete a league and FA Cup double.

2004 Man Utd 3, Millwall 0
Cristiano Ronaldo, 19y, 3m
Ronaldo, two years older than the Millwall substitute Curtis Weston (who became the youngest FA Cup finalist), headed home a Gary Neville cross to open the scoring against second-tier opponents.

2005 Arsenal 0, Man Utd 0
(Arsenal won 5-4 on pens)
Wayne Rooney, 19y, 6m
Rooney was superb in a hugely one-sided match in United's favour, hitting the post and going close several other times. He also scored his penalty in the shoot-out.

2016 Man Utd 2, Crystal Palace 1
Marcus Rashford, 18y, 6m
Rashford, who had made his United debut three months earlier, put in a decent display before he came off with an injury in the 72nd minute.

Why Bayern hope Kompany can be the new Guardiola

Constantin Eckner

After weeks of failed talks and unlikely candidates, Bayern Munich's fraught pursuit of a new manager looks set to finally come to an end — in Burnley.

In recent days, Vincent Kompany has emerged as the frontrunner to replace the departing Thomas Tuchel, who leaves Bayern after their first trophyless season for 12 years. But how did one of Europe's heavyweights end up picking a coach whose top-level experience amounts to one relegation from the Premier League?

Kompany is anything but Bayern's first choice, given the Bundesliga side have previously held talks with several other potential candidates, including Julian Nagelsmann, Ralf Rangnick and Oliver Glasner.

When the decision was made in February that Tuchel would leave the club at the end of the season, Bayern's preferred choice was Xabi Alonso. But once the Spaniard chose to stay at Bayer Leverkusen, whom he guided to the Bundesliga title and an unbeaten league season, Bayern turned their attention to Nagelsmann, a manager they sacked in March last year before appointing Tuchel.

During the talks with Nagelsmann, now the Germany coach, he did not have the feeling that he would enjoy the backing of the entire Bayern board, and so subsequently chose to extend his contract with the German FA.

The next candidate was Rangnick, and at some point in late April it seemed as if the 65-year-old former Manchester United interim manager would give up his job with the Austria national team and join Bayern, only to then reject the opportunity and put them back to square one.

Around the same time, Bayern approached Glasner in light of his success with Crystal Palace, but the south London club demanded an astronomical fee for the 49-year-old, who they only appointed in February — essentially pricing Bayern out of a move for the Austrian.

Bayern also approached Erik ten Hag's representatives and Roberto De Zerbi, and held talks with another former manager, Hansi Flick, without any fruitful results.

A while ago, the club's hierarchy — most importantly Max Eberl, the recently appointed board member in charge of transfer business — started drawing up a list of potential candidates, focusing primarily on coaches from the Premier League. At some point, Kompany's name was added.

It is unusual that the manager of a recently relegated team could take over a European powerhouse such as Bayern, but it is understood they are attracted to the 38-year-old former Manchester City captain for several reasons. Bayern know Kompany from his time as a player for Hamburg, between 2006 and 2008, and are also aware that he played three years under the former Bayern boss, Pep Guardiola, during the latter stages of his career at City.

The Belgian is seen as a manager who has internalised a lot of Guardiola's ideas, which, to some extent, he was able to implement at Anderlecht in his first managerial role and then during his first year at Burnley, when they surged to promotion from the Sky Bet Championship with 101 points while playing exciting, attacking football.

Bayern acknowledge that Kompany remained committed to his footballing principles in the Premier League, even though it ultimately ended in relegation. Burnley accrued 24 points in finishing second-bottom, winning only five of their 38 games.

Bayern are the epitome of a possession-based team, and the belief is that Kompany's idea of football will be more effective with a high-quality squad. It also should be noted that, even eight years after his departure, Guardiola is still highly thought of at Bayern. They have not since had a head coach as influential and captivating as the Catalan.

While Kompany does not have Guardiola's CV by any stretch, he has a calm temperament and does not often appear irritated in public, a tendency displayed by Tuchel and Nagelsmann, the previous two Bayern managers.

What also works in favour of Kompany is his willingness to give young talent a chance and his proficiency in the German language. Tuchel was criticised by Uli Hoeness, Bayern's former president who remains influential behind the scenes, for not promoting enough players from the academy.

While Kompany must accept that he would not be in the running for the job had it not been for other candidates rejecting the club, he can feel honoured that Bayern acknowledge his potential and would be willing to hand him the task of restoring their Bundesliga dominance — and finally guiding Harry Kane to that elusive piece of silverware.

Palace owner eyes Everton

The American businessman John Textor is reportedly selling his 40 per cent stake in Crystal Palace with a view to buying Everton.

Farhad Moshiri, the Everton owner, is tied into a period of exclusivity with the troubled US investment group 777 Partners until May 31 and cannot enter into alternative discussions. But with the takeover seemingly on the verge of collapse, Moshiri confirmed this week to Everton's Fan Advisory Board that he had received unsolicited approaches from interested parties.

Textor and his multi-club network, Eagle Football Holdings, appears to be one of those. Asked if he had held talks about buying Everton, he told The Athletic: "Yes. With the existing constituents — different groups, different lenders, different equity holders.

"I've asked, 'Is there a way to solve all this confusion and address everyone's problems?' I'm very open-minded to it but I don't want to come into a situation where I'm not really welcome. I'm watching it but 777 still has a contract."

Textor, a tech entrepreneur, bought into Palace for £90 million in 2021. Eagle Football Holdings includes the French club Lyon, Botafogo in Brazil and RWD Molenbeek in Belgium. He is unable to secure a majority shareholding in Palace and therefore believes the club isn't compatible with the company's long-term goals. Raine Group has been instructed to find a buyer for his stake.

Sport Sky Bet Championship, play-off final

These sides can produce classic that befits prize

Gregor Robertson

For all its hype and billing as the richest game in football, the Sky Bet Championship play-off final has a habit of being a right old slog-fest. Rarely does the quality of the action come close to matching the scale of the occasion, or the size of the prize: a place in the Premier League.

Ten of the past 20 Championship play-off finals have been decided by the scoreline 1-0. Four stretched into extra time; two had to be decided by penalty kicks. Only three were won by a two-goal margin. Only once — look away now Leeds United fans — was the margin of victory three goals: Watford's 3-0 win against Kevin Blackwell's side in 2006.

Yet something about this year's final, Leeds versus Southampton at Wembley tomorrow, flickers with promise. Perhaps it is the number of points each team accrued during a relentless race for automatic promotion: 90 and 87 respectively, hauls matched or bettered by third and fourth-place teams only once (1997-98) in the play-off era.

Perhaps it is the way they swept aside Norwich City and West Bromwich Albion so emphatically in their respective play-off semi-final second legs, propelling both Leeds and Southampton into the final with renewed vigour.

Leeds United v Southampton

Wembley
Tomorrow, 3pm
TV Sky Sports Main Event. **Radio** talkSPORT

Perhaps it is the calibre of attacking players who will be on show at Wembley, among them the Championship's player of the year, Leeds' Crysencio Summerville, and the player with more goals and assists (36) than anyone in the top four tiers of English football, Southampton's Adam Armstrong.

As it happens, the past time two teams this unfortunate to miss out on automatic promotion met in a play-off final — the 1998 edition between Sunderland, who finished third on 90 points, and Charlton Athletic, who finished fourth on 88 points — we were treated to an absolute classic: 3-3 at the end of 90 minutes, 4-4 after extra time, and 7-6 to Charlton in a penalty shoot-out.

Famous last words? Quite possibly. Yet neither Daniel Farke nor Russell Martin have given us much reason to believe they will take a backward step now and so this is a final that is poised as evenly, and intriguingly, as any in recent memory.

"We want to be dominant, bring our strengths into this game and be ourselves at Wembley," Farke, the Leeds manager, said. Martin, the Southampton manager, echoed those sentiments: "We'll try and be the team we want to be, and leave nothing out there," he said. "If we do that there'll be no regrets."

Farke won two Championship titles in three seasons with Norwich and, back in March, after 13 wins from 15 unbeaten games, it appeared as though a third might be on the way. Yet one win from their final six games resulted in Leeds stumbling into the play-offs, before that invigorating 4-0 win against Norwich transformed the mood at Elland Road eight days ago.

Farke's patient, possession-based football took some getting used to — for players and supporters alike — after the wild-eyed intensity Leeds became used to, particularly under Marcelo Bielsa. Two wins from their opening seven games prompted some early rumblings of discontent. Yet Farke's cool head has been a welcome tonic whenever the raw emotion Elland Road induces had to be tempered with some perspective.

"His level-headedness to calm us down in moments is big," said Ethan Ampadu, who has enjoyed a fine campaign in midfield and defence since arriving from Chelsea for a bargain £7 million last summer, and will wear the captain's armband at Wembley.

Martin endured four straight defeats early in his tenure — which included a 5-0 thrashing by Sunderland and a 4-1 defeat against Leicester City, the eventual champions — before a club-record 22-game unbeaten run changed opinions at St Mary's. "At the start of the season, it was a bit of a mess," Jack Stephens, the Southampton captain, admits. "Players coming and going. The transfer window didn't close until the fifth or sixth game of the season. Then the manager's style of play was completely different to what any of us as players had done before. Some of the lads we signed hadn't played a lot of football.

"But I always think back to the first meeting we had in pre-season. I remember coming out thinking, 'This guy is good, I'm going to enjoy working for him.' It was just his intent: he was clear about how he wanted to play, he was clear about his expectations of us as players and human beings. And I think the confidence he has in his game plan, and in us as players, filters through to us on the pitch."

The history between the managers adds another layer of intrigue too, given that Farke in effect ended Martin's Norwich career in 2017-18. Martin, who made more than 300 appearances for the club and twice won promotion to the Premier League, including as captain at Wembley in 2015, was made to train with the club's under-23s before a January loan move to Rangers. Yet both insist the episode neither caused nor left any ill feeling.

In truth, Southampton's two wins against Leeds this season — including a 2-1 win at Elland Road on the final day of the regular season — are more likely to have some bearing. Three of Armstrong's 23 goals this season came against Leeds and, in both of those games, Martin's side found a way to exploit Leeds' press with their commitment to passing through the thirds and runners in behind.

Che Adams, who has 16 league goals this season but missed both legs of the play-off semi-final through injury, is facing a race to be fit but David Brooks, the on-loan Bournemouth forward, was outstanding in the 3-1 win against West Brom on Friday, as were two more loanees, Taylor Harwood-Bellis and Flynn Downes, whose moves from Manchester City and West Ham United respectively can only be made permanent with victory on Sunday.

Patrick Bamford is set to be unavailable for Leeds after being sidelined for the past month with a patellar tendon injury, but Farke has Georginio Rutter and Joël Piroe ready to lead the line and the outstanding Summerville and Wilfried Gnonto on the left and right of Leeds' dynamic forward line.

The 18-year-old Archie Gray — whose grandfather Frank and great-uncle Eddie were part of the Don Revie dynasty in the Sixties and Seventies — will almost certainly supplant his father, Andy, who played for the club in the 1996 League Cup final, as the youngest Leeds player to play at Wembley, in his 52nd appearance of the season. With the vultures circling, his future too may well be shaped by this game's outcome.

Leeds have reached the play-offs five times, reached three finals and failed to win promotion in any. Their most recent Wembley appearance was a 1-0 defeat against Doncaster Rovers in the 2008 League One play-off final. Southampton's record at Wembley does not inspire much confidence either — they have lost eight of their ten previous matches at the national stadium, including each of their past five — but they do have one survivor from the most recent visit, the 2017 EFL Cup final against Manchester United.

"I think about that game a lot to be honest, because of what could have been," Stephens, 30, says of a game in which Manolo Gabbiadini's double hauled Southampton level before Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored an 87th-minute winner. "We hit the post at 2-2, and then got sucker-punched at the end. It was tough to take at the time. And I'll be honest, it's still tough to take now.

"I walked up the Wembley steps as a loser, and it's the lowest I've felt as a footballer. So of course I've thought about walking up there as a winner, and lifting the play-off trophy. I'll be doing absolutely everything I can to make sure we're on the right side on Sunday."

Promotion? I just want to see a Wembley win

All that matters is a trip to the national stadium not ending in agony for my club, writes Leeds fan **Rick Broadbent**

The only time I went to Wembley to watch Leeds United came after placing a small ad in the Birmingham Post. I drove to Corley services, handed a brown envelope stuffed with cash to a Peaky Bounder and got my ticket in the wrong end, where I had to pretend I liked Savo Milosevic. Different times but it was the only way. Obviously, Leeds lost some cup to Aston Villa.

The only time Leeds have been there since that day in 1996, this time to the "new" Wembley, was to lose to Doncaster Rovers in the League One play-off final in 2008. I was working in Beijing at the time and watched on an iffy stream. It was hard to discern the buffering from the team's economy of movement, but the truth was finally revealed when the picture briefly cut out and returned with a jubilant Doncaster pile-on. Obviously, Leeds lost again.

The night before that game, Kaiser Chiefs played their homecoming gig at Elland Road and started with the prescient *Everything Is Average Nowadays*. They then performed *Every Day I Love You Less and Less*. Frankly, I think they were taking the piss. The next day the Doncaster goalkeeper was flawless, but two years earlier he was with Leeds and scored an own goal in the Championship play-off final, against Watford in Cardiff. Funny, capricious, pathetic, emotionally disembowelling (copyright Howard Wilkinson after being booed off, Wembley, 1996) old game.

The point is that Wembley is such a rare thing that it still matters to football fans. For Leeds there was the Charity Shield win over Liverpool at the stadium in 1992, but only two competitive matches in the half-century since Billy Bremner's goading of Kevin Keegan in the 1974 edition. Tomorrow's game with Southampton in the Championship play-off final is belated proof that good things can happen — for a bit.

The likes of Kim Wilde, Busted and Desmond Tutu have comparable Wembley records. Blackpool and Grimsby Town have been to the new Wembley five times each. The corporate monoliths of the Premier League go every year and Tottenham Hotspur once got to play their home games there. For these clubs Wembley must be as magical as putting the bins out.

So it's not the carrot of the Premier League that counts tomorrow, but the novelty of Wembley. I don't have nearly as much enthusiasm for the being promoted bit, because the thrill of being second last on *Match of the Day* wears off pretty quickly. It's all weighted against you up there and you will have to listen to pundits call your manager crap and Manchester City's "Pep" because four syllables are too much.

Broadbent, left, with his brothers before the 2006 Championship play-off final

Wembley, though, has always been a romantic notion. You played Wembley in the park. Then you played the Wembley board game. I knew where Wembley was because, miraculously, my dad got us tickets for the 1978 FA Cup final. That was a time when someone could score a goal (Ipswich Town's Roger Osborne) and be so giddy that he needed substituting. How it mattered. All the time we had Leeds season tickets but they never got there. A year after my dad died, Leeds lost in the 1986-87 FA Cup semi-finals to Coventry City at Hillsborough. I've never got over it.

It's a godawful record that has made it hard to be optimistic and for a long time the club seemed to sum up a city. Recently I wrote a book about Yorkshire and stood in the graveyard atop Beeston Hill. It looks down over Elland Road. I was there to find the tomb of Tony Harrison's parents. Harrison's work *V*, published in 1985, was a sweary sensation. It had 50 of our foulest words in it and caused outrage but, beyond the Mary Whitehouse bat phone, it was about the desecration of a family grave by a Leeds fan, racial riptides, the subjugation of opportunity and the alienation of the working class. Searingly relevant then, and now, it had the towering Leeds floodlights on the cover.

It was ugly for much of the time after that too. There have been some good moments, even a Champions League semi-final, but no wins in a meaningful match at Wembley since Sniffer Clarke, T. Rex and '72. If it happens tomorrow, fans should savour the moment rather than talking of rebuilds. Days to remember top seasons to forget.

I like this Leeds team and while I can't work out how they went from being promotion shoo-ins to so average, I am glad they did.

I can't get tickets this time. But to be honest, it is my goddaughter's 18th birthday party and I want to watch this one with my mum, who is 83 and listens to every game on the club app. I'll think about Tony Currie, John Sheridan and my dad, and how we never got to do this. I live on the south coast, so there will be Southampton fans too, but at least there will be no Brummie kissing me and telling me to give Leeds the Vs. To borrow from the Wembley legend Freddie Mercury (three appearances), we've paid our dues.

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Unhurried Kroos neatly embodies game's ideal

James Gheerbrant

In the aftermath of Real Madrid's first goal in the Champions League semi-final first leg last month, there was a hilarious vignette captured by a particular camera angle. The goal itself, you'll remember, was a thing of beauty, scored by Vinícius Júnior, made by Toni Kroos: wandering off the right wing into a pocket of space by the centre circle; pointing like a white-gloved traffic conductor into the space behind Kim Min-jae; delivering, with a crisp sweep of his right foot, a subtle dagger to the unprotected heart of the Bayern Munich defence.

Anyway, fast-forward about a second and a half and the camera captures the contrasting reactions of two old stagers. As Kroos turns away in satisfaction, Thomas Müller comes into view in a state of wrathful anguish, legs splayed, forearms bent upward in recrimination, looking like one of those mechanical dinosaurs you see outside American diners or mini-golf courses. Behind him, Kroos does a stylish half-kneeling fist pump and is then carried off into the sunset by a phalanx of adoring team-mates, leaving Müller to rage on.

And so it is. On Tuesday, Kroos, 34, announced that this season will be his last. Eighteen years after he and Müller first played together for Bayern Munich's under-19 team, ten years after they won the World Cup together for Germany, Kroos has ensured that they will play together for the last time at this summer's European Championship. "It's one of my best seasons and a good moment to leave," he said. "If in a few years' time you talk about Toni Kroos, I always wanted you to remember how I was. I always wanted to be at the level I am at now."

For the man from Greifswald on the Baltic coast, football has always been a game of decisions, not energy; of judgment, not attrition; of moments chosen rather than choices forced on him. As with so many of his actions, in his parting from the sport Kroos leaves us lingering not on the fact of it, but on the timing, the execution, the cojones, the clairvoyance.

His has been one of the great football careers. Nineteen players have won the European Cup five times and Paco Gento at present stands alone on six. Kroos can join him if Real beat Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League final next weekend; in any case, he is the only one of those 20 to have also won the World Cup.

He played in every one of those finals bar the first, with Bayern in 2013, when he was injured. He will likely finish seventh on Germany's all-time list of most-capped players and first among those born in the former East Germany, a record which will never be beaten. He won the Golden Ball at the Uefa Under-17 Championship in 2006 and he ought to be in contention for the Ballon d'Or this year. He was the best player at the start and he may still be the best player at the end.

Whatever happens with Germany this summer, Kroos can look back with a feeling very few retiring athletes are ever afforded: a sense of absolute closure, the certainty that he could have done no more in the sport and wrung no more from himself, that he played at all times with total clarity and fidelity to who he was, that there is nothing wasted or misplaced to regret.

This is the thing with Kroos. His career coincided with a reshaping, and a reconceptualising, of the sport. Data exploded from a tiny kernel to a vast universe of numbers. Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo built their claims to greatness on monumental goal and assist totals. Pressing was the great tactical revolution of his era. Everything became about output.

PABLO MORANO/BSR AGENCY/GETTY

The German is the only player to have won five European Cups and a World Cup

Kroos stood apart from that. With him, it was never about how many, always how. The former Real Madrid general manager Jorge Valdano described his game aptly. "Silent, so much so that there are people who don't see it. What a joy it is to see intelligence owning the game," were his words. "With no need for haste or muscle." Kroos was always the signal, not the noise.

It's easy to forget now, in the shower of bouquets at the curtain call, that this style did not always win him appreciation. In Germany, in the disappointing years after the World Cup triumph, he was pilloried as *Querpass-Toni*, or "Sideways Pass Toni". "I don't agree with the way he plays," Lothar Matthäus said after the 2-0 loss against England in the Euros of 2021. "When he passes the ball, there is hardly any gain in space and the pace is taken off." Uli Hoeness, the Bayern honorary president, went further, declaring: "He doesn't fit in the modern game. Even when we were 1-0 down, he didn't cross the halfway line. His way of playing is completely finished."

In reality, Kroos was always the rock around which torrents raged. Tactical fashions ebb and flow, and the yen for quick transitions and vertical football, which was at its height then, has given way in the past couple of seasons to a renewed appreciation of patience and control.

Kroos, of course, was never just a sideways passer — this season, he ranks in the 99th percentile among all midfielders for progressive passes — but what annoyed Matthäus and Hoeness was his headstrongness, his refusal to be carried by the currents of the game. He was the most tactically intelligent of footballers and yet in an era when players are drilled in positional rotations and pressing triggers he seemed at all moments to be making his own decisions out there.

In life, as on the pitch. One corollary of Kroos's retirement announcement is that he will see out his career without a sinecure in the Saudi Pro League or anywhere else. This is in keeping with a professional existence which, to an extent that seems remarkable in hindsight, has evaded the tidal pull of Gulf oil wealth. Not many footballers of this era will have a career almost entirely unentangled with the influence of that region. Messi and Ronaldo certainly haven't. Nor anyone who has played for Manchester City or Paris Saint-Germain. Nor indeed anyone who played at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Kroos, however, missed that tournament, which happened to coincide with his temporary recusal from the national team and was for Germany in particular the most miserable and morally labyrinthine of errands. And while he has played with "Fly Emirates" across his chest during his ten seasons at Real and in the three Riyadh-based Spanish Super Cups — no one can remain entirely uncompromised — he took the latter opportunity to strongly criticise Saudi Arabia for its failings on human rights.

For this, his every touch was of course lustily booed by the crowd. But that apart, Kroos ends his career as a beloved player of his generation, the subject of rare consensus. I have often thought that he is the closest thing football has to Roger Federer. People are drawn to him not because of his nationality, personality or really any sense of kinship with him, but because in the way he plays his sport and moves through its atmosphere he embodies an ideal which is untouchable, yet aspirational: some rarefied blend of class, ease and poise, of graceful comportment and independent thought.

He operates at the point where the balletic and cerebral planes of his sport meet, where the gap between an athlete's intention and execution is so thin as to be almost translucent. And with Kroos, as with Federer, what will survive is not a number, not a bombastic quote, not the queasy aftertaste of an ill-chosen endorsement, but the memory of a body in flow, a model of unruffled elegance, a figure whose regal purity of movement somehow left undisturbed the crispness of his plain white shirt.

Xavi fired as Barcelona head coach despite resignation U-turn

La Liga

Barcelona have sacked Xavi a month after the head coach said he wanted to go back on his decision to leave the club.

In January the former Barcelona midfielder, who led the club to the Spanish league title last season, said that he wanted to leave this summer rather than complete the final year of his contract. Last month the 44-year-old changed his mind after his players showed him they believed in the team's potential and subsequently improved their performances.

But after an ultimately disappointing season in which they are set to finish a distant second in La Liga behind Real Madrid, the club told Xavi that they did not want him back.

Barcelona made the announcement yesterday after a meeting between the club president Joan Laporta, Xavi and other senior figures at the team's training ground.

During the interlude when it seemed Xavi was the one who wanted out, Deco, the Barcelona sporting director, said the club were not looking for a new head coach. When Xavi said he was going to stay, an emotional Laporta gave a news conference with his coach to tell Barcelona fans they must be proud to have Xavi in charge.

However, Laporta was reportedly unhappy with Xavi's recent comments that Barcelona's poor financial situation would make it nearly impossible to compete against Real Madrid and Europe's other top clubs.

After rumours started in local media that Laporta was considering firing him, Xavi said he was motivated to continue coaching his boyhood team and believed he could help them win titles. As recently as last weekend he claimed to have the backing of club officials.

Xavi bade farewell to Barcelona fans on his Instagram page. He did not criticise Laporta and thanked the executive, players and staff for their support.

"Beyond being a player and coach, first and foremost I am a Barça supporter and I only want the best for the club," he wrote. "This season has not gone the way we would have liked, but we gave it our all and helped foster a new generation of players from La Masia [the club's training academy] that have thrilled our fans."

Spanish and German media have said the former Bayern Munich coach Hansi Flick could be the replacement for Xavi.

SPORT NOTEBOOK

SPORTS JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Martyn Ziegler
Chief Sports Reporter

Early Euros exit could be bad news for Sunak at the polls

Rishi Sunak will be hoping that England do well at Euro 2024 because an early exit could be the final nail in the coffin of his dying government.

A general election will take place during a major tournament for the first time since 1970 and research carried out by the political scientists has suggested that incumbents get a lift from positive feelings provided by a sporting triumph — and suffer from sporting defeats.

Election day is on July 4, before the quarter-finals. Gareth Southgate and Sunak, inset, may both be desperately hoping England are still in the hunt when the country goes to the polls. Research published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* journal in 2010 suggested happy fans gave incumbents in elections up to 2.4 per cent more votes after a win. In 1970 the Labour prime minister, Harold Wilson, asked his Cabinet to "consider whether the government would suffer if the England footballers were defeated on the eve of polling day".

As it turned out, England suffered a shock 3-2 defeat by West Germany in the World Cup quarter-finals and four days later Wilson was out of office.

Should England still be in the Euros on July 4, Sir Keir Starmer could point out, however, that they have only ever won a major tournament when Labour were in government: they won power four months before England triumphed at the 1966 World Cup.

The FA will take steps to ensure England players have made preparations for postal or proxy votes before they head to Germany.

The Brandenburg Gate, in your home

The Brandenburg Gate in Berlin will provide the backdrop for the BBC and ITV's coverage of Euro 2024 — as it did for the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

The broadcasters like to find a studio that will help TV viewers feel immersed in the country — in South Africa for the 2010 World Cup the BBC had Table Mountain in the background, while both ITV and BBC were around Moscow's Red Square in 2018. That did not really happen in Qatar 2022 as the matches were usually covered from studios in the stadiums.

Tailgating joins back of the queue

It is not just the bill for the independent football regulator that has bitten the dust after the election was called. A private member's bill by the Cardiff West MP, Kevin Brennan, to make tailgating — where a ticketless person follows someone through a turnstile — a criminal offence has also been timed out.

The 64-year-old's bill had been backed by the FA, Premier League and EFL and followed the chaos at the Euro 2020 final, when several thousand supporters got into Wembley without a ticket to watch England lose to Italy.

Players wanted for refereeing course

Professional footballers and former players are being invited to apply for a three-year refereeing scholarship as part of a fast-tracking scheme being run between the PFA and Professional Game Match Officials Ltd (PGMOL).

The programme is looking for 12 present or former players — a central contract will pay successful applicants about £40,000 per year, the kind of money a top Premier League player earns a day.

Controversial vote by FA

The FA was bold enough to give the only red card to Uefa's change of term limits this year but unlike the Norwegian FA it voted in favour of Fifa's controversial package of statute changes last week.

Fifa now no longer needs to have 50 per cent of its finance committee made up of independent members, and the number of committees will rise from seven to 35, which critics have called "a form of institutionalised vote-buying" as football officials can be rewarded for political support with places on those bodies.

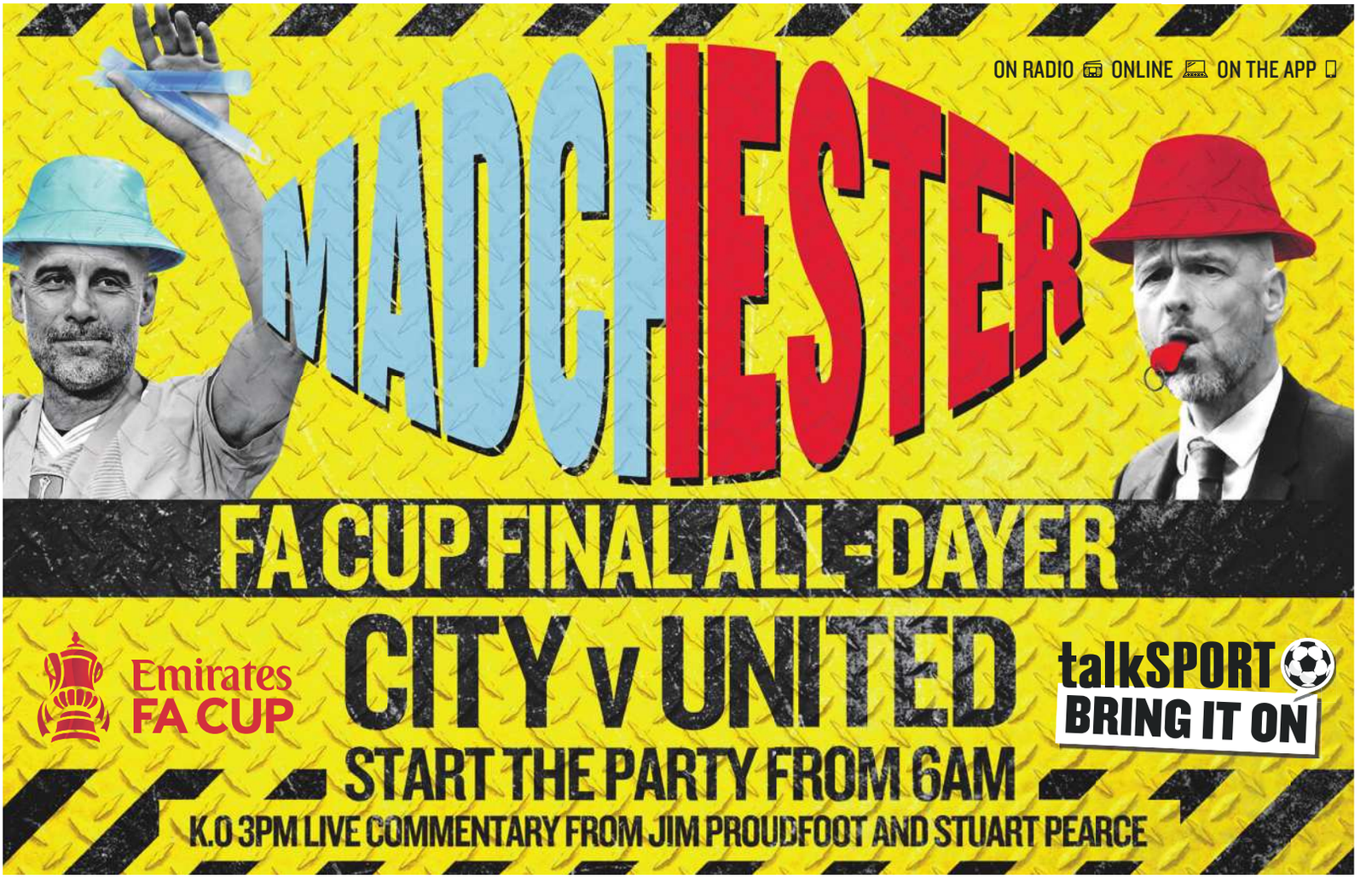
Williamson will leave her role next spring after five years at the RFU

Divisive RFU figure on way out

The RFU communications director, Kathryn Williamson, who it is fair to say does not see eye to eye with many rugby journalists, has announced she is leaving her position for a "career break".

The headhunters Spencer Stuart have been appointed to find a replacement.

Williamson, who joined the RFU in 2020, will stay for the best part of a year, saying she will remain until the spring of 2025.



Toulouse tablecloth philosophy still an unmatched formula

Alex Lowe talks to those in the know about how the five-times Champions Cup winners developed their attacking flair

Toulousains refer to their city as La Ville Rose after the distinctive pink terracotta buildings of the old town, which dates back to the 12th century and was built along the east bank of the Garonne River. One Thursday night in the summer of 1981, this picturesque setting echoed to the incongruous sound of the Toulouse rugby team singing the *Dwarf Chorus* in their usual post-training restaurant near the Place du Capitole.

"Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's off to work we go," the players bellowed as they tried to coordinate the passing of table mats, with beer forfeits for those who messed up. Quite happy being fined, the forwards embraced the game rather more readily than the backs. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.*

The idea for the game came from Lynn Evans, the Oxford University coach who had essentially invited himself to spend a week with Toulouse and their innovative coach, Pierre Villepreux. "I felt I should make a contribution," he recalls, having witnessed during his trip a style of coaching different to anything he had experienced in the UK.

When the food was eaten and the singing had subsided, conversation between Evans and Villepreux turned to rugby. The restaurant emptied around them as they talked. Two hours later Evans walked out with "the Bayeux Tapestry of rugby" rolled up and tucked under his arm. Scrawled on ten metres of white paper tablecloth was Villepreux's coaching and rugby philosophy; a vision that would become the soul of Toulouse rugby.

Toulouse describe the 1980s as a period of "renewal" for a club that had won the Bouclier de Brennus, the French title, only once in half a century. By the end of the decade, under Villepreux and Jean-Claude Skrela, Toulouse had won three championships in five years and a new culture had been embedded in the club; a style of rugby based on movement and skill and keeping the ball alive. *Le plaisir du mouvement*, they call it.

The philosophy illustrated to Evans on that paper tablecloth remains the Toulouse identity today. The thread runs unbroken from Villepreux through to the side who will take the field against Leinster, vying for a record sixth Investec Champions Cup title. Didier Lacroix, who played under Villepreux in the 1980s, is the club president. Émile Ntamack, a star of the 1990s, is team manager. Guy Novès, who played in two title-winning campaigns, was head coach for 22 years before handing over the reins to Ugo Mola, one of his former players, in 2015. Jérôme Cazalbou, Jerome Kaino and Clément Poitrenaud have graduated from player to management. The team now features Ntamack's son, Romain, and Paul Costes, the outstanding young centre, whose father and uncle both played for Toulouse.

Players are raised through the academy on the same attacking principles. There is little talk of shape or structure or winning the gainline. Phase play is not preordained. The coaching methodology is to empower players to read the game and react accordingly, rather than drop into a proscribed rugby league-style shape. Every training action therefore starts with a loose ball, never from a ruck or set piece. "These things are handed down," Evans says. "It is in the DNA of the club. That is why I call them the Barcelona of rugby. It starts at a very young age in the club and in the surrounding area. When you watch Toulouse in their full flow, it's poetic as well as physical."

Wayne Smith and Brian Ashton, two of the sharpest attacking brains of the modern game, are disciples of Villepreux, who is known as the "godfather of French flair". In the late 1990s his philosophy for total rugby helped France to win successive Five Nations grand slams and defeat the All Blacks in an epic World Cup semi-final at Twickenham. Ben Pegna, a global coaching consultant, has visited Villepreux in Toulouse almost every summer for the past ten years. "It is art over science," he says.

The Toulouse approach will make for a fascinating clash of styles against Leinster, an intelligent, efficient and supremely organised team who are comfortable playing the phases and keeping possession. The eye test will tell you that Toulouse are the opposite. The numbers reinforce it.

Leinster keep hold of the ball for longer but are less penetrative. The key metric for Toulouse is tackle evasion because it illustrates their greater desire to keep the ball alive and to attack space. They execute twice as many offloads as Leinster, gain more metres and make more line breaks from fewer passes and marginally fewer carries; all resulting in more tries.

At the risk of simplifying ten metres of tablecloth, *le plaisir du mouvement* is a straightforward concept: go forward, either by beating the defender through physicality or by transferring the ball to a team-mate who is in a better position to go forward. There is no template. Players are empowered to identify the opportunities on the field and to keep the ball alive.

"One thing I have learnt playing for Toulouse is that you can't expect where a game is going to go, you can't predict it," Jack Willis, the England flanker, told *The Times*. "That's what makes it so exciting. You've got to be ready for anything and having that open mindset has been positive for me.

"We have a mindset of playing what you see and keeping yourselves free, not just sticking in a structure. Playing for Toulouse you have to add to the attack. I always go through the games with my dad and we laugh about how much more I pass the ball playing for Toulouse. I pass the ball more in one game for Toulouse than I did in a whole season for Wasps."

Pegna, who has worked as a consultant for England, Argentina and the WRU, is delivering a presentation on the Villepreux principles to the Bulls in South Africa during the off-season. Together, we watched back Toulouse's semi-final victory over Harlequins. The first five minutes encapsulated in three parts the whole philosophy.

First, the centre Costes won a turnover with a counterruck and Toulouse immediately moved the ball to the space on the opposite wing. Emmanuel Meafou, the 23-stone lock, drew two defenders and lifted a one-handed pass out of the tackle to Thibaud Flament. The near-vertical support line Flament ran is integral to the methodology.

"Pierre calls it 'winning the duel'," Pegna says. "Can I beat the man? If I do, then I know I have support coming up from that deep position. In the main, players in England want the comfort of order, structure and shape, and coaches want to play what is considered higher-percentage rugby. But this invariably means more contact, less evasion and the player going to ground, which allows the defending team to get more organised."

The attack broke down because of a Harlequins knock-on but Toulouse had manufactured a five-on-two overlap. Then, from a central scrum, Toulouse flooded right with a first phase strike move. Antoine Dupont had four different passing options, forcing Harlequins to stay narrow, but used none of them. The scrum half had identified the space and a different opportunity, aiming a cross-kick to Juan Cruz Mallía that bounced unkindly into touch. "As a defending team you are dealing with so many threats," Pegna says. "It is less structured so it is harder for a defence to analyse."

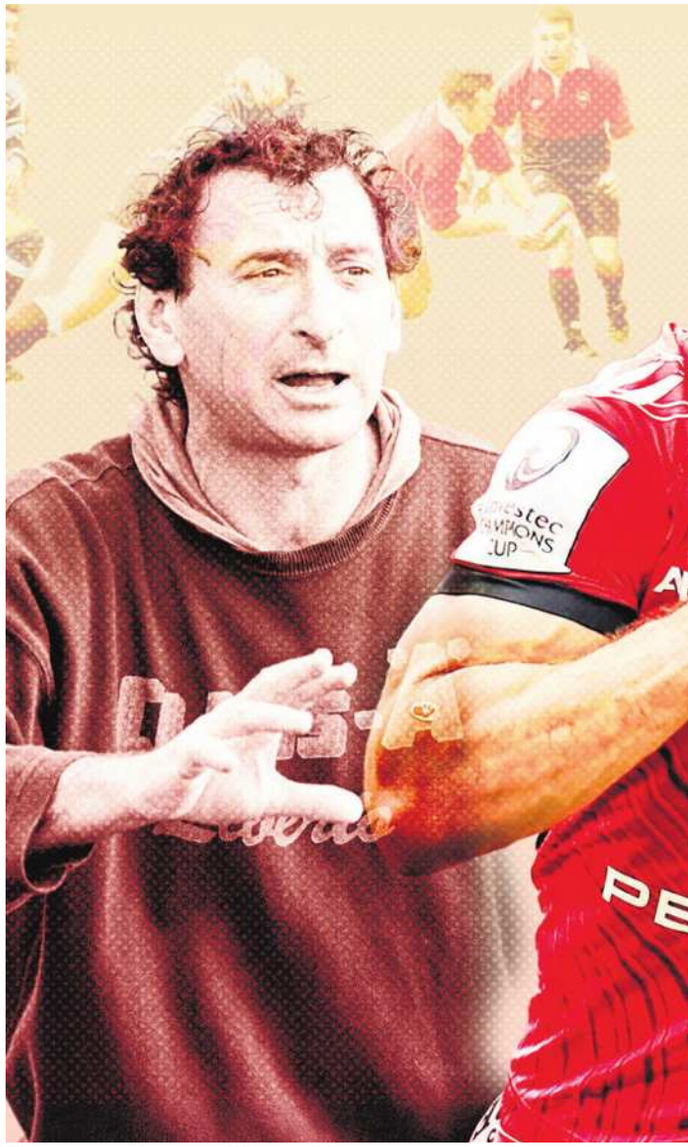
Toulouse stole the lineout that followed and reacted fast. Cyrille Baille's penetrative carry tied up three defenders. Meafou drove up the

How they line up

Toulouse		Leinster
B Kinghorn Scotland	15	**H Keenan** Ireland
JC Mallia Argentina	14	**J Larmour** Ireland
P Costes France	13	**R Henshaw** Ireland
P Ahki Tonga	12	**J Osborne** Ireland
M Lebel France	11	**J Lowe** Ireland
R Ntamack France	10	**R Byrne** Ireland
A Dupont (c) France	9	**J Gibson-Park** Ireland
C Baille France	1	**A Porter** Ireland
P Mauvaka France	2	**D Sheehan** Ireland
D Aldegheri France	3	**T Furlong** Ireland
T Flament France	4	**J McCarthy** Ireland
E Meafou France	5	**J Jenkins** South Africa
F Cros France	6	**R Baird** Ireland
J Willis England	7	**W Connors** Ireland
A Roumat France	8	**C Doris (c)** Ireland

Replacements		Replacements
J Marchand France		**R Kelleher** Ireland
R Neti France		**C Healy** Ireland
J Merkler Spain		**M Ala'alatoa** Samoa
R Arnold Australia		**J Ryan** Ireland
J Brennan France		**J Conan** Ireland
P Graou France		**L McGrath** Ireland
S Chocobares Argentina		**C Frawley** Ireland
T Ramos France		**J van der Flier** Ireland

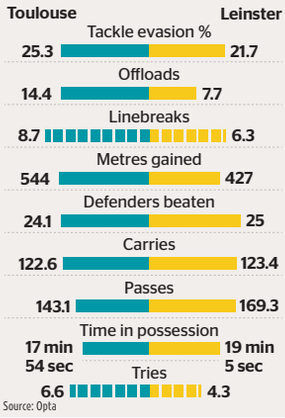
Referee Matthew Carley (England)
Assistants Karl Dickson (England) and Andrea Piardi (Italy)
TMO Ian Tempest (England)



The influence in Toulouse of Villepreux, left, has been seen down the years from

How they compare

The Toulouse approach will make for a fascinating clash of styles against Leinster



Source: Opta

How Nienaber helped Leinster embrace chaos

Émile Ntamack, top right, to Dupont, centre, the modern-day standard-bearer

Peter O'Reilly

There is a theory that, over time, a sports team will take on the personality traits of its head coach. Leinster fans will go along with this, given the evidence of their previous successes in Europe.

In 2009 a brash, aggressive Australian called Michael Cheika gave his side the physical edge they needed to conquer Europe for the first time. After Cheika came Joe Schmidt, the relentlessly effective Kiwi, whose relentlessly effective sides were virtually unplayable in 2011 and 2012.

Since then Leinster's collective "personality" became harder to identify, partly because the responsibility for the team's direction has been shared.

Leo Cullen's official title is head coach but he is a "director of rugby" type, more commonly seen in a suit than a tracksuit. Up until last season, the senior coach Stuart Lancaster had the greatest say in technical preparation. Between them, this pair delivered one Champions Cup in 2018 and Leinster were consistently top dogs in the United Rugby Championship. But to whom did the team belong? And what was its identity?

Since the arrival of Jacques Nienaber after the World Cup, that question has become a little easier to answer. Cullen is still the head coach and public face of the organisation, but Leinster's soul has been stirred by the 51-year-old defence specialist from Kimberley.

Having lost the past two deciders to La Rochelle by narrow margins, Leinster are now hoping that Nienaber's experience of helping the Springboks to win two World Cup finals will be the difference.

"We can draw on Jacques' experience," says Ross Byrne, the fly half who started last year's final in Dublin and was on the field at the end of the game in Marseille the previous year. "He has gone to the highest level twice, so it is great to be able to draw on that experience. In terms of what he has brought, everyone can see how our defence has changed this year."

That change is visible in cold statistics. Leinster have conceded an average of only 15 points on their route to the final, with their highest concession — 27, against Sale Sharks — coming only a few weeks after Nienaber's arrival. We can see it in the team's dramatically increased line speed. We can also hear it in the language that they use. Polite, well-spoken young men such as Hugo Keenan and Caelan Doris are now describing their intention to turn the breakdown into a "shit-fight" and to "create chaos" at the ruck. You sense that Leinster's new emphasis on defence has had a unifying effect. It has given them a cause.

Can you measure line speed? One indicator of progress is what the video analysts call "passes per defensive action" (PPDA), a metric for the number of passes that a defensive line allows the attacking side to make pre-tackle. Leinster pre-Nienaber ranked 69th among all URC, Top 14, Gallagher Premiership and Super Rugby sides. They now rank third.

HARRY MURPHY/GETTY IMAGES

Nienaber has stirred the soul of Leinster since his arrival after the World Cup

With line speed there is risk, of course, and that is what makes this final so enticing. Toulouse are averaging more than 44 points a game in the Champions Cup this season. In Antoine Dupont and Romain Ntamack, they have the footballers to chip, grubber, miss-pass and kick-pass their way over and around the Nienaber blitz, but those skills will be put under intense pressure.

Seeing as Leinster conceded three tries in both the 2022 and 2023 finals, Nienaber seems an obvious fit. They found him almost by accident, however. In the course of hunting for a replacement for the Racing 92-bound Lancaster, a chance conversation with an agent threw up the South African's name. It turned out that Nienaber was keen to return to Ireland. He and his family had enjoyed their 18-month spell with Munster in 2016-17.

The only drawback was the World Cup, which meant that he would arrive in Dublin mid-season and be forced to implement a new defence system on the run. With typical candour, he let it be known that it would take 14 games/weeks to get right. As it turned out, his 14th game was the Champions Cup quarter-final against Leinster's nemesis, La Rochelle. Over the teams' three previous meetings, a narrative had taken shape: Leinster were too strong for most opponents in Europe but could not handle La Rochelle's extra beef, in the monstrous size of Will Skelton and Uini Atonio. It was hardly accidental that that Nienaber was put on media duty the week before the game, evidently to challenge that narrative with some carefully chosen stats from the World Cup.

"Yes, there will be a narrative that La Rochelle are bigger, they are heavier, they are bigger bullies," he said. "But if you look at the reality and just look at the size of Irish players compared to other national sides around the world, in the Tier One nations there isn't a bigger, heavier side than Ireland."

La Rochelle looked jaded after travelling from South Africa that week but there was no arguing with a 40-13 scoreline and a 5-1 try count. Nienaber's influence was also evident in the 6-2 bench split and the choice of the chop-tackle specialist Will Connors to start ahead of Josh van der Flier, specifically to reduce the threat of Skelton and Atonio.

Connors starts again today, and Leinster have gone with a 6-2 split once more. This means established internationals such as Van der Flier and James Ryan have been kept in reserve, but Nienaber's philosophy is that you need your strongest team on the field for the endgame in contests of this magnitude.

It was interesting that Nienaber acted as water carrier for Leinster in their URC game in Belfast last weekend. The original "tracksuit coach", he is happiest at ground level, where he can communicate directly with the players mid-match. According to EPCR regulations, a coach of his stature is not allowed to "run water" in a Champions Cup game and must therefore remain off the pitch. His voice will still be in the players' heads.

"I love Jacques' passion for the game and for the team," Connors said recently. "He has this raw energy about him. You really want to go to the well for him. So far, we've all really loved the journey." To win in Tottenham would be the perfect ending.

The Nienaber effect

Leinster concede more line breaks and miss more tackles in their risky new approach — but in the key metrics their defence is better than ever

	2022-23	2023-24
Tries conceded	2	1.6
Points conceded	15.3	15
Tackle success (%)	86.5	83.3
Dominant tackle (%)	7	9.9
Tackles completed	119	126
Dominant tackles	8.25	12.43
Opposition line breaks	2.8	4.4
Gainline denial (%)	31.5	33.6
Opposition passes completed	129	125
PPDA	1.09	0.99
Opposition avg. ruck speed (s)	4.1	4.2
Turnover-winning tackles	2.8	3.1

*Champions Cup games only. Source: Opta

Leinster v Toulouse

Tottenham Hotspur Stadium
Today, 2.45pm
TV: ITV4, TNT Sports 1

middle and Toulouse turned the situation into a maul, forcing more defenders to honeypot around the ball. Meafou then dumped an unconventional offload over the top to Dupont.

"The emphasis is not on winning collisions but on *la vie de la ballon*, keeping the ball alive," Pegna says. "The pass doesn't have to be textbook, the key thing is to transfer the ball and keep it off the ground."

Toulouse players train an understanding around two axes of attack so it becomes instinctual: if the narrow, direct approach has succeeded in contracting the defence, then find the space that will exist out wide. As Meafou offloaded, his Toulouse team-mates had recognised that opportunity and held their support positions.

Dupont fired a pass to Peato Mauvaka, who flipped the ball vertically backwards to Ntamack. "A coach would always say 'never turn your back'," Pegna says. "But the priority was to transfer the ball quickly." From two unusual passes, Toulouse had engineered a five-on-three overlap and Matthis Lebel scored in the corner.

Intelligent recruitment has also been a hallmark of Toulouse's sustained success (bar the past few years under Novès). They often target the underappreciated over the established superstars, players with the potential to thrive in the environment. Meafou is a great example. So too Pita Ahki. Cheslin Kolbe in years gone by.

Toulouse may focus on their attack first but they will be ready for a physical battle against Leinster. Their scrum is enormous. In Willis, Mauvaka, François Cros, and Julien Marchand they boast immensely effective breakdown operators who will look to put pressure on Leinster ball.

When Toulouse are in possession, Leinster and their blitz defence will seek to chop their ball carriers and attack the breakdown hard in the hope of disrupting scrum half Dupont. It is the only way of shutting down the little genius. But Toulouse will be looking to stay out of that bear trap. That will be the game.

"We feel a responsibility to the history of the club," Willis says. "We know what others have achieved. What I love about Toulouse is the ambition to win trophies."

Regrettably, Evans no longer has the tablecloth from that raucous night in 1981 but it lives on as *le plaisir du mouvement*; it lives on in the soul of Toulouse rugby.

Sport

Gloucester's difficult season ends with savaging by Sharks

Gloucester	22
Sharks	36

European Challenge Cup final

Alex Lowe
Rugby Correspondent

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND

Buthelezi goes over for Sharks' first try despite pressure from Englefield and from then on the result was never in doubt

Ox Nché and Vincent Koch delivered another destructive scrummaging performance against English opposition as the Sharks took a bite of history by becoming the first South African team to win one of the old European trophies. The Challenge Cup will now head to Durban after Gloucester's hopes of salvaging something positive from a dismal season were extinguished at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The inquest into Gloucester's season will be ugly. Their league campaign ended with a run of nine straight defeats through to January, prompting them to prioritise this competition with its promise of silverware and qualification for the Investec Champions Cup. That led to a grim 90-0 defeat by Northampton Saints, which was only remotely justifiable if they had won the Challenge Cup.

It was always going to be a tall order against a Sharks side packed with Springboks. Last October, Nché and Koch came off the bench in the World Cup semi-final and turned the tide against England. Last night, with fellow prop Trevor Nyakane roaring encouragement from the stands, they savaged the Gloucester scrum from the outset.

That set piece dominance underpinned a commanding performance from the Sharks, although Koch, the former Saracens prop, had more highlights than just splitting Jamal Ford-Robinson from his hooker. It was Koch's running line and offload that sent Phepsi Buthelezi on his way for a first-half try, the No 8 charging through two defenders before selling Santiago Carreras a pitiless dummy.

Koch also executed a 50-22 for good measure. The man is 34 but would have no problem surviving in World Rugby's future vision of the game, which will reduce the influence and impact of the scrum. For now, the old adage still holds true: no scrum, no win.

The Sharks forwards were exceptional, with Eben Etzebeth deserving a mention, but this was more than an eight-man performance. They repelled ten minutes of early pressure from Gloucester without conceding a point before then seizing control with the superior kicking game of Grant Williams and some merciless scrummaging.

The Sharks were more clinical in attack when it mattered, with Aphelele Fassi and Makazole Mapimpi scoring second-half tries that put the game beyond doubt, but they were also more pragmatic. In those first ten minutes, with Zach Mercer involved repeatedly as he attempts to win an England recall, Gloucester had the Sharks under immense pressure.

The South African side conceded four consecutive penalties in that period, leading to Fassi going to the sin-bin. But Gloucester consistently went for touch instead of kicking the points and could not break down the Sharks maul defence.

Jonny May came close to a try after a grubber kick from Carreras and Chris Harris was inches short as he stretched for the line amid Etzebeth's harrying. The first Sharks scrum penalty from a seismic shove relieved the pressure and from there the writing was on the wall.

Caolan Englefield landed a 59-metre penalty for Gloucester but Koch's pop pass sent Buthelezi on the charge and the Sharks were 10-3 ahead.

The next three scrums all resulted in penalties to the Sharks, leading Mathieu Raynal, the referee, to warn Gloucester to find a solution or receive a yellow card. Both props were changed at half-time.

Siya Masuku landed four penalties to extend their lead as the Sharks took the points on offer before Fassi scored under the posts, having started the move with a chip over the top.

Gloucester finally got their maul working and Albert Tuisue touched down but the Sharks replied immediately after Carreras dropped the kick-off. Masuku aimed a cross kick for Mapimpi, who scored in acres of space.

Santiago Socino and Freddie Clarke had consolation scores for Gloucester and Stephen Varney had one chalked off for offside but the game had long been over as a contest.

Scorers: Gloucester: Tries: Tuisue 58min, Socino 75, Clarke 78. **Cons** Hastings 2. **Pen** Englefield. **Sharks: Tries:** Buthelezi 25, Fassi 55, Mapimpi 59. **Cons** Masuku 3. **Pens** Masuku 5.

GLOUCESTER
S Carreras; J May (J Hathaway 76), C Harris, S Atkinson (M Llewellyn 57), O Thorley; A Hastings, C Englefield (S Varney 57); J Ford-Robinson (S Socino 41), S Blake (M Vivas 41), F Balmain (K Gotovtsev 41), F Clarke, A Clark (A Tuisue 57), R Ackermann (J Clement 66), L Ludlow, Z Mercer.

SHARKS
A Fassi (sin-bin 6-16, C Bosch 74); W Kok, E Hooker, F Venter (L Labuschagne 77), M Mapimpi; S Masuku, G Williams; O Nche, B Mbonambi (N Mchunu 69), V Koch (F Mbatha 69), E Etzebeth, G Grobler, J Venter, V Tshituka, P Buthelezi.

Referee M Raynal (France) **Attendance:** 37,000

Usyk camp fights to keep 'undisputed' champion tag

Boxing

Rick Broadbent

Oleksandr Usyk still does not know if he will be stripped of the IBF belt and lose his "undisputed" mantle only days after he humbled Tyson Fury in their epic heavyweight duel.

The Ukrainian's split-decision victory means he is the first heavyweight to hold the IBF, WBC, WBA and WBO belts. It was widely expected that he would be stripped of the IBF title because the sanctioning body wanted him to face its mandatory challenger before an October rematch with Fury.

Usyk said he was ready for a rematch while still in Saudi Arabia and Fury has since told his promoter, Frank Warren, he wants another tilt. The IBF scenario may sound daft, but is part and parcel of having so many belts and the reason why "undisputed" fights are so rare.

The situation raises the prospect of Filip Hrgovic, the IBF mandatory challenger, taking on Britain's Daniel Dubois, controversially beaten by Usyk in August, for the title next week, back in Saudi Arabia. Then there is the carrot of taking on Anthony Joshua for it in September. Now Alex Krassyuk, Usyk's promoter, has confirmed he plans to ask the IBF for an exception so that any mandatory fight can be delayed until after the rematch.

The IBF president, Daryl Peoples, has reiterated that champions cannot have rematch clauses that interfere with mandatory bouts, but the possibility of an exception is a loophole. This gets muddier when you consider that Terence Crawford was stripped of his IBF belt last year because of his rematch clause with Errol Spence. Crawford had become the undisputed welterweight champion, but the IBF belt was handed to Jaron Ennis.

Meanwhile, another former undisputed champion, Josh Taylor, has his long-awaited rematch with Jack Catterall in Leeds tonight. Their fight for Taylor's undisputed light-welterweight mantle in 2022 was a controversial win on points for the champion.

Brown: Risk I took made Lando's win one to savour

CLIVE ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

Monaco Grand Prix
Qualifying Today, 3pm
Race Tomorrow, 2pm
TV Sky Sports F1

Brown says that Norris, who finished second for McLaren in Imola last weekend, inset, has "been awesome from day one"

Formula One
Molly Hudson
Motor Racing Reporter

At times during this Formula 1 season, it has been easier not to speak. Almost every press conference has been littered with various off-track issues, from the investigation into Christian Horner's conduct towards a female employee to whistleblower allegations against Mohammed Ben Sulayem, the FIA president.

Several drivers and team principals have decided not to comment. Not Zak Brown. The McLaren chief executive, who has been with the team since 2016, is one of the biggest characters in motorsport.

"I think it is very important to be a voice for the sport on key issues," he tells The Times. "We all have a responsibility to protect our brand, the brand of Formula 1. We need to hold each other to the highest standards and what F1 stands for.

"What transpired there was not good for his [Horner] brand and team but his brand and team are a big part of the sport, so I felt it was right to vocalise our concern that the matter was dealt with swiftly, appropriately and transparently."

It is fair to say that Horner and Brown do not consider each other friends, and the 52-year-old was quick to point out that McLaren had seen an increase in job enquiries from Red Bull staff after the recent turmoil at the team. He believes the "ruthless" nature of F1 is one of the reasons it has proved so popular with Netflix's *Drive to Survive* series.

The verbal jousting is not new but Brown now does so from the position of a genuine threat to Red Bull's dominance before this weekend's Monaco Grand Prix. Lando Norris's maiden victory, in Miami — made particularly memorable for Brown given he was in his home country — provided the good news story the sport was desperate for. Norris's second place in Imola, pushing Verstappen all the way to the chequered flag, proved it was not a one-off, which comes as no surprise to Brown.

"He's been awesome from day one, he's been capable of winning for quite some time, we just needed to give him a car and get him in a position to win," Brown says. "He's been a race-winning-calibre driver for many years now but unfortunately only one guy [Verstappen] has been winning most of the races.

"I've known Lando, been working with Lando, since he was 14 or 15 years old. We have a special relationship, and that dates back pre-McLaren. I ultimately took a bit of a risk putting him in as early as we did. I don't feel it was a huge risk or we wouldn't have done it, but to come into McLaren somewhat together and then win together is definitely [more special]."

Norris has benefited from a remarkable turnaround of fortunes for McLaren, who began last season openly admitting that their initial car would not be competitive. In March last year they announced an organisational restructure. James Key, the executive technical director, left the team, as did Tony Salter, the director of aerodynamics. Andrea Stella had taken over as team principal from Andreas Seidl a few months earlier.

"We have about 1,300 people at McLaren Racing, in the F1 team about 850, and it's about teamwork but we made three very senior changes," Brown explains. "So 847 of the same people that gave us the car at the start of the year have given us, 12 months later, a car that has gone from being the worst car in Miami to the best car in Miami.

"Credit to all of them but the captain [Stella], the orchestrator of the orchestra, has made a significant difference. Not he alone but how he has been able to get the whole team working well together. He has just brought a leadership that got the most out of all of the people on our racing team." While other leading teams, including Red Bull and Mercedes, are yet to finalise their driver line-up for next season, both Norris and Oscar Piastri have secured their futures with McLaren. Norris had interest from several teams but announced that he was staying at McLaren on an "extended multi-year contract" in January. Brown wants to provide the entire team with stability and prevent them "looking over their shoulders".

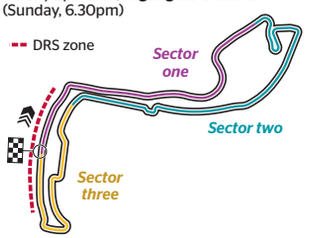
"A lot of people said, 'You responded to [Charles] Leclerc getting signed' or 'You just did it in the nick of time' but we actually had Lando done before Christmas, we just wanted to make a proper announcement and he goes away for the off season," he says.

The competitive streak of Brown, the former professional racing driver, is apparent in almost everything he says and does. When asked about the reaction to Norris's win, comfortably the most popular in recent memory, he points out that McLaren are the second-most-popular team, behind Ferrari, from a recent fan survey. "That one percentage point kills me! Maybe this will help us become the most popular again," he says with a smile.

The next target for Brown and McLaren is to overhaul Verstappen's dominance on a more regular basis. Brown's "ultimate ambition" is to compete for world titles, and given the Red Bull driver admitted Norris was "in the mix" on Thursday, that could materialise sooner rather than later.

RACE 7 Monaco

Qualifying Saturday 3pm, **Race** Sunday 2pm
TV Sky Sports F1, **Highlights** Channel 4 (Sunday, 6.30pm)



CIRCUIT DE MONACO

Laps	78
Circuit length	3.337km
Race distance	260.286km
Lap record	1min 12.909sec Lewis Hamilton (2021)

	Drivers	Team	Points
1	M Verstappen	Red Bull	161
2	C Leclerc	Ferrari	113
3	S Pérez	Red Bull	107
4	L Norris	McLaren	101
5	C Sainz	Ferrari	93
6	O Piastri	McLaren	53
7	G Russell	Mercedes	44
8	L Hamilton	Mercedes	35
9	F Alonso	Aston Martin	33
10	Y Tsunoda	RB	15

	Constructors	Points
1	Red Bull	268
2	Ferrari	212
3	McLaren	154
4	Mercedes	79
5	Aston Martin	44

Kerr will go the extra mile in clash of barbs and bragging rights

Athletics
Rick Broadbent

Josh Kerr was talking "superpowers" before his much-anticipated mile duel with Jakob Ingebrigtsen. The pair, who have been tossing barbs at each other for months, will finally meet on the track at the Diamond League in Eugene in the USA tonight with ego, pride, bragging rights and early pointers to Paris all on the line.

"I don't want to be defined as Ingebrigtsen's rival," Kerr says.

Their to-and-fro started in earnest when Kerr won the 1,500m world title last year in Budapest, repeating the way Jake Wightman had torn past the Olympic champion to win that crown the previous summer. The Norwegian is undeniably blunt, but he genuinely believes he is a class above. In terms of their best times he is close to two seconds faster than Kerr over 1,500m, but racing is about much more than that and the Scot is nurturing a winning habit. Ingebrigtsen's most outlandish statement was that he could beat Kerr blindfolded. In fairness, he was referring to a specific two-mile race, albeit an indoor world record, and he told The Times he made the remark almost flippantly to satisfy a persistent journalist.

However, he also said Kerr was an attention-seeker who was "missing something in himself that he is searching for in others". Kerr has countered by saying Ingebrigtsen is blind to "major weaknesses" because of his "ego" and "yes-men". In the very polite world of athletics, it is a rivalry with a welcome edge.

Kerr, who won the world indoor title in March with Ingebrigtsen missing, says his consistency is the key. "I haven't missed training days and that's what makes me really good. It's one of my superpowers. It's no secret that Jakob has had the best of me a lot in my career, but I'm getting to the point where I feel confident in what I'm doing. I'm ready to be the athlete I've always wanted to be. I can't change what's going to happen in the future, but I can change what happens today. That's how good I think I am."

Ingebrigtsen has been working his way back from an achilles-related injury, but the field at the Prefontaine Classic has other stories that could gazump the riling milers.

Most welcome is the return to the big stage of Wightman. A former Edinburgh AC team-mate of Kerr, he was unable to defend his 1,500m world title last year as injuries piled up, but has provided cause for optimism with his early-season runs. When it was put to Kerr that no one is talking about Wightman, he said: "He doesn't really like to be involved with any back and forth. He's an awesome person, I love spending time with Jake and I think he'll be massively involved [at the Olympics].

Kerr now feels he has the "superpower" to succeed

"I don't think this is going to be a one-v-one situation in Paris. Regardless of who makes the final, I'm going to be overanalysing every single one of them and I'll figure out the best way to win."

If none of them thrive tonight then the USA's Yared Nuguse, faster than the two Britons over 1,500m, could poop all parties. Ingebrigtsen and Nuguse are the third and fourth fastest mile runners in history respectively.

It is a stellar field across the board in Oregon, with Dina Asher-Smith taking on compatriot Daryll Neita and five-times Olympic champion Elaine Thompson-Herah over 100m, and Olympic silver medallist Laura Muir running the 1,500m. Another of Britain's strongest gold-medal hopes, Keely Hodgkinson, runs her first 800m in eight months and has it tough with world champion Mary Moraa, of Kenya, strutting her stuff, while the in-form Jemma Reekie is also involved.

‘Andy belongs in big four – he’s a

STAN WAWRINKA THE BIG INTERVIEW

Before one final battle at Roland Garros, the Swiss tells **Stuart Fraser** that Andy Murray was ‘unlucky’ not to win more grand-slam titles

Of the 66 matches that Stan Wawrinka has contested at the French Open during his 22-year professional career, there is one in particular that still has him shaking his head with a touch of incredulity. “It was a crazy, crazy crazy, crazy match,” he says.

The 39-year-old Swiss is referring to the semi-final against Andy Murray in 2017, considered a significant point in the lives of both veterans. Over the course of four hours and 34 minutes, Wawrinka and Murray battered their bodies almost into submission, with the former prevailing 6-7 (6-8), 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (7-3), 6-1. Murray’s right hip was never the same again — the Scot required a metal implant 19 months later — while Wawrinka underwent knee surgery that year.

“I remember the challenge of that semi-final,” Wawrinka recalls. “It was a tough one for him directly because of that match. I had some trouble with my knee in the past six months before that, so I knew I was already at the limit. But at the end it was something really special to beat Andy in the semi-finals of a grand-slam in five sets at that level.”

Seven years on, they meet again here on the clay of Paris tomorrow, a little slower and a little more grizzled. Remarkably for Murray, 37, it will be a third consecutive French Open match in which his opponent is Wawrinka because of a spate of absences before and after the forgettable first-round reunion in 2020 when the Swiss needed only 97 minutes to win 6-1, 6-3, 6-2.

There is understandable frustration for both of these three-times grand-slam champions in being pitted against each other at the first hurdle, yet there is also something quite poignant for those of us who will observe. In the twilight phase of their respective careers, it feels pleasing that Murray and Wawrinka can have at least one last battle with each other before riding off into the sunset.

The pair have common ground. Both would be entitled to feel a little aggrieved about their years of birth — Wawrinka was born in 1985, Murray in 1987 — given that they played tennis in a golden era that was largely dominated by the “big three” of Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. Had the pair come into the world a little earlier or later, both would surely have finished with a higher grand-slam title count.

For Wawrinka, this is where the comparison ends. Modestly, he has long insisted that Murray was a far more accomplished player. While many insist that the Briton cannot sit on the same pedestal as Djokovic (24 grand slams), Nadal (22) and Federer (20) because he won only three major titles, Wawrinka still considers there to be a “big four” because of Murray’s consistency in going deep at the biggest tournaments.

“Andy was clearly there,” Wawrinka says. “I think maybe people sometimes focus a little bit too much on the amount of grand-slams but they forget the amount of finals he made [11], semi-finals [21] and Masters 1000 titles [14], and the amount of time he was always up there with them. I remember some years in which the semi-finals were the big four in every tournament. OK, he’s been a little bit unlucky by not winning more slams but he’s clearly in a completely different league than me.”

This is an honourably humble take but it should not diminish what Wawrinka has achieved. Pushed to work harder and reach new heights, he made his breakthrough in 2014 by defeating Nadal to win the Australian Open, before seeing off Federer and Djokovic en route to the 2015 French Open title and Djokovic again in the 2016 US Open final. He sees only positives in contending with this illustrious group.

“I had no choice,” Wawrinka says. “The only choice to not play against them was to not play tennis. To have the chance to play against the three biggest champions ever to play the sport is something amazing. It was always something so challenging to find a way to beat them, and it pushed me to be the best player I could. I don’t see it as negative.”

His triumph here in Paris nine years ago is particularly memorable for a tale from the night before the final. While most grand-slam champions would settle for some room service and an hour or two of swotting up on their tactics, the story is that Wawrinka stayed up into the early hours enjoying a few beverages with his friends at the hotel bar.

Did he have a beer? “No,” he quickly replies. Maybe a glass or two of wine? “Probably,” he admits with a look on his face that suggests there were more.

An unconventional method of preparation, yes, but one that ultimately worked. Showing no signs of any ill effects, Wawrinka walked out on Court Philippe-Chatrier about 14 hours later and stunned Djokovic — on a 28-match win streak and bidding to complete the career grand slam — in four sets, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4.

“I was just relaxed and happy to have this opportunity to be in the final of the French Open,” Wawrinka says. “I enjoyed a good dinner with my team and talked about everything, not necessarily about the match.

“For me it’s always been the same: I am more relaxed when I get further into the tournament because it’s only positive. The night before is not the night to stress about it. I have enough time on the day of the match to get stressed and get focused. I wanted to enjoy the night before as much as possible.”

Wawrinka receives a guard of honour, right, after his 2015 success at Roland Garros, left. The Swiss, with the one-handed backhand, main, beat Murray — his opponent in the first round of this year’s French Open — in the 2017 semi-finals, far right

Wawrinka is a throwback to a different age in tennis when players would not completely compromise on their social activities during tournaments. Perhaps he could have been fitter at times during his career but it is hard to preach to a man who not only won multiple slams but an Olympic gold medal with Roger Federer, his compatriot, in the doubles at Beijing 2008 and close to £30 million in prize money.

And still he goes on. With a ranking of No 97, Wawrinka has the notable honour of being the oldest singles player in the world’s top 600. He also still packs a punch at times with his one-handed backhand, once described by John McEnroe as the most powerful in tennis history.

“Being a tennis player on the professional tour is still an amazing life,” Wawrinka says. “For me it’s still enjoyable. I’ve always been someone who looks for the positive side of the life we have. If I still do what I do at my age it is because I love it.

“There are many things different now of course. With age everything takes a bit more time. You need to practise a little bit more, you need to do more physio and you need to have more recoveries. You don’t necessarily have more time in the day or the week before tournaments, so sometimes it’s a little bit challenging to find it.

“Also when you are now in my position and don’t win as much, you don’t get the same confidence. But I’m quite happy with where I am right now and hopefully I can keep pushing a little bit.”

This season has been rough for Wawrinka with only three wins in 12 matches and the end, while not quite specified with a date, is clearly approaching. He will rightly leave tennis with no remorse.

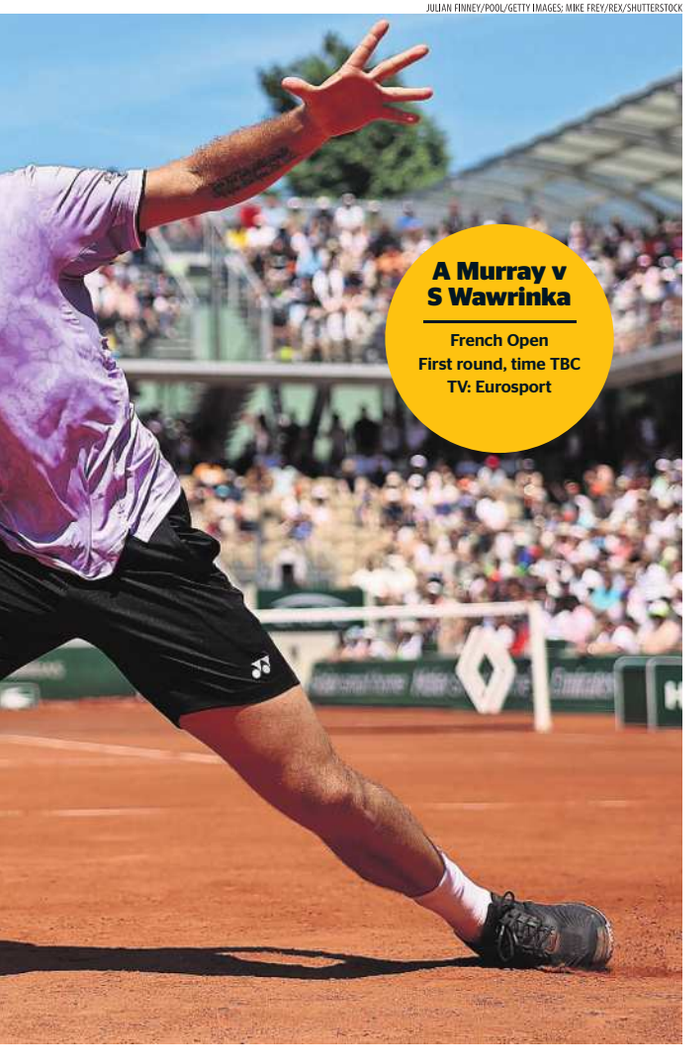
“My goal was always that on the day I stop I don’t want any regrets,” Wawrinka says. “I won my first grand slam at 29 years old, so it took me time to get my best level. That’s also why I never compare myself to Andy because from 21 years old he was playing in the finals of grand slams.

“I pushed everything I could to reach my best tennis and by doing that I won three grand-slams. I’m quite proud and happy I had this chance.”

Sport

level way above me'

JULIAN FINNEY/POOL/GETTY IMAGES; MIKE FREY/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



Wawrinka on big four

Novak Djokovic Novak is the cleanest technically on the court. He was like a model of the perfect player. Everything is clean and everything was nice. When he was on, everything was too fast.

Rafael Nadal Rafa was physically a beast on the court. It was tough to find a solution, even if he was doing the same in constantly pushing you back behind the baseline. It was difficult to keep up with him.

Roger Federer Roger had the ability to make you uncomfortable on the court: to change the game, to play fast, to play slow. To mix it up. Even if you thought you knew what to expect from him, it was always something different.

Andy Murray Even if it didn't look like it, Andy would always find a way. He would find a way to win the point and find a way out of defence. When you think he is not going to reach the ball, he would find a passing shot.

Murray changed racket 'to avoid regrets'

Stuart Fraser
Tennis Correspondent, Paris

Andy Murray has admitted that fears over having regrets in retirement led him to change his racket before the French Open.

The 37-year-old former world No1 caused some surprise in tennis circles two weeks ago when it emerged that he is now using a Yonex Ezone 100 racket. For more than 20 years he had been one of the most high-profile users of the Head range.

"Tennis is a strange sport like that," Murray said. "There are very few players that really make significant changes to their equipment. I think in most industries things move on and change a little bit. I didn't want to finish my career thinking if should I have given it a go or see whether or not it's something that could have helped me."

On a technical level, Murray's decision has been made to extract some more power out of the racket on his shots at a time when his movement is not quite as sharp as it was in his younger years. His new weapon is more forgiving, with a larger head, although he will have to be more careful in ensuring he does not lose control of his groundstrokes. During his recent rehabilitation from an ankle injury he purchased ten different rackets from a sports shop and tested them all before deciding to switch. "I really enjoyed going through that process," he said. "I tried lots of different rackets myself, which I enjoyed as it was something that kept me occupied during some of the rehab.

Meanwhile, Novak Djokovic bowed out of his final warm-up tournament before Roland Garros with a semi-final defeat at the Geneva Open. However, not much should be read into a 6-4, 0-6, 6-1 loss to the Czech Republic's Tomas Machac given that the world No1 can now travel to Paris to begin his preparations on site on Saturday.

THE TAILENDER

Patrick Kidd

Daley or Dod? It's exhausting

My suggestion last week that Gilbert Jessop, born 150 years ago, was England's greatest all-round sportsman, excelling at cricket, hockey, rugby, golf, sprinting and billiards, drew the inevitable cry of "What about CB Fry?" It is true that even if he had only played rugby for Blackheath, Fry would be among the sporting immortals.

The Edwardian also averaged 50 in first-class cricket, held the world long-jump record, and played in the FA Cup final. When he told a journalist that he was thinking about going into racing, he replied: "What as, Charles? Trainer, jockey or horse?"

Andrew Hignell suggested that Britain's greatest all-rounder was Maurice Turnbull, as did Bill Williams, who is researching a book on him. Turnbull played nine Tests for the England cricket team in the 1930s and was also a rugby, hockey and squash international for Wales. He was killed in Normandy 80 years ago.

"Daley Thompson?" asked D Nolan. The face of Lucozade in the 1980s competed in ten events to win his two Olympic golds. Looking at his personal best in each discipline of the decathlon, and comparing it with the result needed to represent Britain at the 1984 Olympics, Thompson would have been good enough to have competed solo in the 100m, sprint hurdles, pole vault and long jump.

Adrian Coles offered William Grenfell, Lord Desborough to his chums, who climbed the Matterhorn by three different routes, rowed in the Boat Race, won the Amateur Punting Championship, was a medal-winning international fencer, and twice swum the pool at Niagara Falls. He later organised the 1908 Olympic Games and served as president of the LTA, MCC, AAA and assorted other initials.

All good suggestions. Let me add one more. Lottie Dod won Wimbledon five times, was British Amateur golf champion in 1904, Olympic silver medal-winner in archery, a hockey international and a champion in figure skating, who also climbed mountains and did the Cresta Run. Is she the greatest all-rounder? It makes me exhausted just writing about them.

PIC OF THE WEEK
Diego Schwartzman shows why he did not come through qualifying for the French Open. Hold the other end, Diego! The Argentinian, 31, was the world No 8 in 2020 and has reached five grand-slam quarter-finals, but has now fallen to No 141 in the rankings.

FRANCO ARLAND/GETTY IMAGES

Only the smart won Smarties

Sad news from Colchester where my old headmaster, Stewart Francis, has died. The friend who told me, Paul Garwood, mentioned that he had informed his father of the news as they knew each other when young.

"Ah, yes," Keith replied, nostalgically if somewhat unemotionally. "I once hit him for six at Frinton …" And so our lives, decades later, are reduced to what really matters.

Stewart had an unusual approach to teaching Latin and English based on rewarding correct answers with Smarties, which may explain both my good grades in those subjects and my waistline.

It was from him that I also learnt about Mike Gatting's rebel cricket tour to South Africa in 1990, when he suddenly asked the class if anyone knew why Matthew Maynard wasn't playing for England.

One boy's answer of "Is it because he's rubbish, sir?" did not earn him a Smartie.

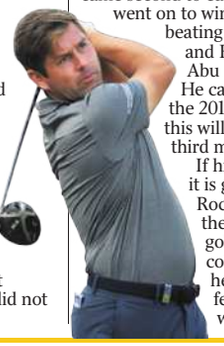
Rock has best locks in golf

There was a heartening moment at Walton Heath Golf Club this week when Robert Rock, aged 47, had a round of 66 to qualify for the US Open.

The world No 2,035 last played on the European Tour 18 months ago. I've always had a soft spot for Rock since I covered the Tour's Qualifying School in 2005 and saw he was carrying his own bag.

The entry fee of £1,250 plus accommodation costs meant he couldn't afford a caddie. Rock came second to earn his card and went on to win two titles, beating Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy in Abu Dhabi in 2012. He came seventh at the 2010 Open, but this will be only his third major in 12 years.

If his game faded, it is good to see Rock, left, still has the best hairdo in golf. Perhaps, coincidentally, he's one of the few who never wears a cap.



Ali happy to be Buttler's clockwatcher

Simon Wilde

England's series with Pakistan, which should get under way at Edgbaston today after the washout in the scheduled opener in Leeds on Wednesday, will be an opportunity for the players to get accustomed to the stop-clock that is now mandatory in T20 cricket.

The stop-clock rule puts a premium on swift, accurate decision-making by a fielding side and is potentially a bigger challenge for England at the T20 World Cup starting next weekend than most teams given that Jos Buttler, the captain, keeps wicket and is not always best placed to speedily fine-tune his field settings.

The rule requires fielding teams to be ready to start a new over within 60 seconds of the previous one ending — with three infringements leading to a five-run penalty, which in such a short format could be highly significant. Almost one in seven of all England's completed T20 internationals have been decided by margins of five runs or fewer.

England are one of only three teams at the tournament whose captain also keeps wicket; the others are Scott Edwards of the Netherlands and Monank Patel of United States.

England were involved in the trial phase of the stop-clock, which ran for several months, when they played five T20s and three ODIs in West Indies late last year, and the International Cricket Council stated that around 20 minutes were saved in each ODI.

There has been growing disquiet about how T20 matches have expanded beyond four hours.

Buttler has long relied on Moeen Ali, his vice-captain, to help marshal his men in the field, with Ali stationed at mid-on or mid-off, and England will need their close relationship to ensure they do not incur penalty runs. Ali has been deputy since Buttler took over the captaincy two years ago, and has played more international white-ball matches under him — 57 out of 70 — than anyone else.

Ali describes his role in the field as helping to "get the angles right" and: "Moving players and not worrying about Jos saying yes or no. He trusts me in terms of that. Sometimes at mid-off things can change and [I'm] a different set of eyes. It is making sure when I speak to the bowlers I'm making them real clear about what they want to do."

GARETH COPLEY/GETTY IMAGES

Buttler, left, has long relied on vice-captain Ali to help marshal players in the field

England v Pakistan

Second T20, Edgbaston
Today, 2.30pm
TV Sky Sports Cricket. Radio BBC 5 Live Sports Extra

Of his part in keeping the team ahead of the stop-clock, he added: "Obviously it is going to be strict and we can't take these things lightly. There is a lot of trust within the group and I think bowlers enjoy having me at mid-off talking to them, so hopefully that can work."

Ali, who has captained England in 12 T20s and one ODI, including guiding them to a 4-3 series win over Pakistan in the lead-up to the last T20 World Cup in 2022, is also standing by to lead the side should Buttler be called away to attend the birth of his third child.

Ali said: "Obviously if it happens, then it's a great honour, as it always is. I'll be fine. Nothing will change too much, it's just taking over from what he [Buttler] is doing… hopefully, the baby comes at the right time.

"I feel I've captained enough. I've done quite a few games when I've been vice-captain. I'm pretty cool with that. We talk tactics and all that kind of stuff. We're on the same page."

The oldest man in the squad, Ali will turn 37 during the World Cup. He says he has no thoughts of international retirement. "If I'm playing well, my body's good and I'm fit, then I want to be playing as long as I can. I love and enjoy playing for England."

THE ACTION DOESN'T STOP THIS SUMMER sky sports

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Stokes gets four wickets – and a duck

LV= County Championship Division One

Paul Edwards, Mark Baldwin

Ben Stokes took a while to find his rhythm against Lancashire's batsmen at Blackpool last week but he required no such gentle easing against Somerset at Chester-le-Street.

The England Test captain removed Matt Renshaw in his first over and finished with four for 54 from 15.1 overs, made up of two meaty spells, as the visitors were bowled out for 171. That is now 11 wickets across three County Championship innings for a man who did not bowl for nine months, a period that included knee surgery. Now, he looks ready for England's Test summer.

Migael Pretorius held up the Durham seamers with 53 but was hit on the head during his innings and will take no further part in the game. Jake Ball replaced him and took three wickets — dismissing Ollie Robinson for 46 and then trapping Stokes leg-before for a six-ball nought — as Durham finished on 177 for six with David Bedingham 100 not out, his fifth century of the season.

At the Utilita Bowl, Liam Dawson took the first three wickets and Kyle Abbott grabbed five for 25 in 11 overs as Hampshire dismissed title favourites Surrey for 127. Rather than hit back immediately, as they did when in a similar hole against Worcestershire last week, Rory Burns' bowlers took only one wicket as the home side finished on 102 for one. Play was delayed by rain and finally curtailed by bad light at Emirates Old Trafford but Tom Bailey made the most of the intervening period. The Lancashire seamer, who was omitted from the side for last week's game against Durham, took three for 25 in 13 overs as Warwickshire struggled to 89 for three.

No play was possible between Worcestershire and Nottinghamshire, where the bowlers' run-ups could not recover from 15 hours of rain in midweek.

Essex's Jordan Cox was off the mark with a straight six but otherwise remained determinedly circumspect in an unbeaten 51 on a first return to Canterbury since his winter move. Cox will be aiming to rub further salt into Kentish wounds to help Essex, in a dominant position at 287 for four, take full advantage of an injury-ravaged home attack.

Kent were already without six players through injury or unavailability, including five fast bowlers, when they saw Wes Agar leave the field minutes before lunch after damaging his shoulder. Essex were 102 without loss at lunch on a sluggish surface and it was a major surprise when in the 46th over Dean Elgar, having eased to 77, gave Matt Parkinson's leg spin the charge and was stumped.

Nick Browne's 65 was ended by a fine inswinger from Joey Evison, who later pinned Matt Critchley leg-before after Arafat Bhuiyan, who also bowled with good control, had Tom Westley caught at slip. Michael Pepper, however, stayed with Cox until stumps.

MI NEWS/NURPHOTO/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Stokes bowled two long spells as he continues to build fitness for the Test summer

Pujara shows his enduring class as Sussex take control

Middlesex v Sussex

Lord's (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Sussex have scored 295 for four wickets

LV= County Championship Division Two

Elizabeth Ammon

Cheteshwar Pujara hit an unbeaten 91 to give Sussex the upper hand against Middlesex in a top-of-the-table clash in Division Two.

The India batsman now averages over 73 for Sussex and is so often the glue that holds their innings together. This was a typical "Pujaran" innings — as a colleague described it. There was little flair but it was also chanceless, giving the Middlesex bowling attack a lot to ponder on a slow deck offering little.

This may be the 36-year-old's last match for Sussex, as this is the end of his present deal and it may even be his last game at Lord's. He has another nine runs to get today to clock up his tenth century for the county.

Having been stuck in to bat by Middlesex, Sussex had got off to a flying start thanks to Tom Haines, who took Ethan Bamber for 20 off one over before the Middlesex seamer got his own back by removing Haines's off stump for 40. The other opener, Tom Clark, made a more circumspect 32 before falling to Ryan Higgins while the third Tom in the line-up, Alsop, was dismissed by Henry Brookes in the 28th over leaving the visiting side 92 for three and needing a decent partnership to rebuild the innings.

Step forward John Simpson in his first return to his old county having left them at the end of last season. He's a popular figure with Middlesex members and received a warm round of applause as he came to the crease. The experience of Pujara and Simpson was at the fore as the pair put together a partnership of 131 in 47.5 overs before the light intervened just after 6pm.

Simpson's innings was also quite "Pujaran" as the 35-year-old wicketkeeper made an unbeaten 71 from 154 balls. He was given a couple of lifelines, being caught at deep mid-wicket off a chesthigh no-ball and also dropped at gully on 53, but he is a cricketer who is unfazed by such things and ploughed on through to stumps.

Elsewhere in Division Two, Adam Lyth made 109 as a Yorkshire side still looking for their first win of 2024 made 312 for seven against Northamptonshire at Wantage Road.

It was also a good day for Derbyshire's Matt Lamb, who made a first century for his new county and finished unbeaten on 186 in his side's 434 for five against Gloucestershire.

Glamorgan moved to 352 for eight at Grace Road as Sam Northeast finished on an unbeaten 61. Leicestershire were largely luckless but benefited from one bizarre dismissal as a Ben Mike delivery looped into the air and spun back into the stumps amid an appeal for a leg-before decision against Zain-ul-Hassan.

RESULTS

Football

European Under-17 Championship Group D

Portugal (1) **4** — **England** (1) **1**

Mora 34, 48
Silva 64, Patrão 68

Moore 43

Other result France 1 Spain 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Portugal	2	2	0	0	6	2	4	6
England	2	1	0	1	5	4	1	3
France	2	1	0	1	1	4	-3	3
Spain	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0

Group C Italy 2 Slovakia 0; Sweden 2 Poland 2.

Cricket

Vitality County Championship Division One: Durham v Somerset

Chester-le-Street (first day of four; Durham won toss): Durham, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are six runs ahead of Somerset

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
T Banton c Lees b Raine	36
†J E K Rew lbw b Raine	13
*L Gregory c Robinson b Siddle	0
C Overton b Siddle	0
M Pretorius c Ackermann b Stokes	53
J H Davey lbw b Stokes	10
M J Leach not out	5
Extras (b 4, lb 2, nb 8)	14
Total (52.1 overs)	**171**

Fall of wickets 1-4, 2-29, 3-44, 4-46, 5-76, 6-84, 7-84, 8-119, 9-154.

Bowling Raine 15-5-41-3; Coughlin 9-1-30-0; Siddle 10-2-27-3; Stokes 15.1-4-54-4; 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 (lb 5, nb 4)	9
Total (6 wkts, 43 overs)	**177**

P Coughlin, B A Raine and P M Siddle to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-3, 2-12, 3-19, 4-133, 5-145, 6-161.

Bowling Overton 15-4-52-2; Davey 7-1-26-0; Ball 13-1-41-3; Gregory 4-0-33-0; Leach 4-0-20-0.

Umpires J Shantry and P J Hartley.

Hampshire v Surrey

Utilita Bowl (first day of four; Surrey won toss): Hampshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 25 runs behind Surrey

Surrey First Innings

*R J Burns c Middleton b Dawson	33
D P Sibley c and 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
A A P Atkinson b Abbott	2
Extras (b 3, lb 6, nb 2)	11
Total (46.3 overs)	**127**

D J Worrall to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-36, 2-64, 3-67, 4-89, 5-99, 6-104, 7-106, 8-118, 9-120.

Bowling Barker 11-3-28-0; Neser 8.3-1-39-2; Dawson 14-5-21-3; Abbott 11-5-25-5; 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 (b 4, nb 2)	6
Total (1 wkt, 47 overs)	**102**

*J M Vince, F S Organ, L A Dawson, †B C Brown, J K Fuller, M G Neser, K H D Barker and K J Abbott to bat.

Fall of wicket 1-51.

Bowling Worrall 10-4-11-0; Clark 11-3-23-0; Lawrence 10-0-27-1; Abbott 5-1-9-0; Atkinson 4-0-10-0; Steel 7-0-18-0.

Umpires J D Middlebrook and D J Millns.

Kent v Essex

Canterbury (first day of four; Essex won toss): Essex have scored 287 for four wickets against Kent

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 Critchley lbw b Evison	13
†M S Pepper not out	35
Extras (b 9, lb 4, w 2, nb 10)	25
Total (4 wkts, 96 overs)	**287**

S R Harmer, A P Beard, S Snater, S J Cook and J A Porter to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-146, 2-170, 3-194, 4-225.

Bowling Agar 7-1-21-0; Stewart 20-2-60-0; Bhuiyan 16-4-38-1; Evison 19-4-38-2; O'Riordan 10-3-28-0; Parkinson 22-0-81-1; Denly 2-0-8-0.

Kent B G Compton, Z Crawley, *D J Bell-Drummond, M K O'Riordan, J L Denly, †H Z Finch, J D M Evison, G Stewart, W A Agar, M W Parkinson, A Bhuiyan.

Umpires M Newell and T Lungley.

Lancashire v Warwickshire

Emirates Old Trafford (first day of four; Warwickshire won toss): Warwickshire have scored 89 for three wickets against Lancashire

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 G Barnard c Hurst b Bailey	2
D R Mousley not out	1
Extras (lb 2, nb 4)	6
Total (3 wkts, 39 overs)	**89**

J G Bethell, †M G K Burgess, M D Rae, O J Hannon-Dalby, H Ali and J B Lintott to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-38, 2-74, 3-82.

Bowling Bailey 13-7-25-3; Balderson 9-1-30-0; Lyon 13-5-21-0; Aspinwall 4-2-11-0.

Lancashire *K K Jennings, L W P Wells, J J Bohannon, T C Bruce, G J Bell, G P Balderson, †M F Hurst, T H Aspinwall, T E Bailey, J P Morley, N M Lyon.

Umpires I D Blackwell and R A White.

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire

Worcester (first day of four): No play, rain

Division Two

Gloucestershire v Derbyshire

Bristol (first day of four; Derbyshire won toss): Derbyshire have scored 434 for five wickets against Gloucestershire

Derbyshire First Innings

*D L Lloyd c Bancroft b Webster	28
L M Reece c Charlesworth b Webster	27
†B D Guest c Bancroft b De Lange	95
W L Madsen c Bracey b De Lange	0
M J Lamb not out	186
A H T Donald c Van Buuren b Webster	67
A K Dal not out	9
Extras (b 2, lb 10, nb 10)	22
Total (5 wkts, 96 overs)	**434**

A T Thomson, Z J Chappell, S Conners and D M Dupavillon to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-51, 2-60, 3-69, 4-296, 5-409.

Bowling Taylor 15-3-72-0; Singh-Dale 16-3-69-0; Webster 19-2-82-3; De Lange 22-2-80-2; Middleton 10-0-45-0; Price 10-0-49-0; Van Buuren 4-0-25-0.

Gloucestershire C T Bancroft, B G Charlesworth, O J Price, M A H Hammond, †J R Bracey, *G L van Buuren, B J Webster, E W O Middleton, M D Taylor, M de Lange, A Singh-Dale.

Umpires P R Pollard and N Ashraf.

Leicestershire v Glamorgan

Leicester (first day of four; Leicestershire won toss): Glamorgan have scored 352 for eight wickets against Leicestershire

Glamorgan First Innings

E J Byrom b Salisbury	86
W T Root c Patel b Mike	40
M Labuschagne b Currie	8
K S Carlson c sub b Kimber	80
*S A Northeast not out	61
†C B Cooke b Currie	2
Z Ul-Hassan b Mike	1
M S Crane lbw b Currie	14
T van der Gugten lbw b Currie	32
J A R Harris not out	8
Extras (b 3, lb 3, nb 14)	20
Total (8 wkts, 96 overs)	**352**

M Hamza to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-90, 2-107, 3-190, 4-246, 5-251, 6-254, 7-277, 8-339.

Bowling Salisbury 21-3-98-1; Holland 21-4-64-0; Scriven 4-0-17-0; Currie 22-5-53-4; Mike 21-2-93-2; Kimber 7-1-21-1.

Leicestershire R K Patel, M S Harris, L Kimber, *L J Hill, P S P Handscomb, I G Holland, †O B Cox, B W M Mike, T A R Scriven, S W Currie, M E T Salisbury.

Umpires N L Bainton and M H A Syed.

Middlesex v Sussex

Lord's (first day of four; Middlesex won toss): Sussex have scored 295 for four wickets against Middlesex

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	33
*†J A Simpson not out	71
Extras (b 2, lb 1, nb 14)	17
Total (4 wkts, 90 overs)	**295**

F J Hudson-Prentice, D J Lamb, J J Carson, O E Robinson and J N T Seales to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-66, 2-80, 3-92, 4-164.

Bowling Bamber 20-3-82-2; Helm 20-3-61-0; Higgins 20-3-44-1; Brookes 18-1-69-1; Fernandes 3-0-5-0; Hollman 9-0-31-0.

Middlesex S D Robson, M D Stoneman, M D E Holden, *J L du Plooy, R F Higgins, N Fernandes, †J L B Davies, L B K Hollman, T G Helm, H J H Brookes, E R Bamber.

Umpires N Pratt and C M Watts.

Northamptonshire v Yorkshire

Northampton (first day of four; Northamptonshire won toss): Yorkshire have scored 312 for seven wickets against Northamptonshire

Yorkshire First Innings

A Lyth c and b Procter	109
F J Bean b Broad	18
*S M Khan c Gay b Kaul	60
J H Wharton b Keogh	21
G C H Hill lbw b Kaul	8
W A Luxton c Gay b Procter	12
†J A Tattersall c Gay b Procter	14
M L Revis not out	18
J A Thompson not out	14
Extras (b 15, lb 15, nb 8)	38
Total (7 wkts, 96 overs)	**312**

D J Leech and M V T Fernando to bat.

Fall of wickets 1-86, 2-202, 3-229, 4-239, 5-249, 6-268, 7-281.

Bowling Sanderson 20-9-34-0; White 19-8-38-0; Kaul 16-1-81-2; Procter 21-5-63-3; Broad 11-0-38-1; Keogh 9-0-28-1.

Northamptonshire R S Vasconcelos, E N Gay, *L A Procter, K K Nair, G A Bartlett, R I Keogh, †L D McManus, J Broad, S Kaul, B W Sanderson, C J White.

Umpires A C Harris and P K Baldwin.

T20 tri-nations series

The Hague Ireland 161-6 (20 overs: G H Dockrell 53 not out); Netherlands 158-5 (20 overs: M P O'Dowd 60). Ireland (2pts) won by three runs.

Charlotte Edwards Cup

Beckenham Thunder 139-7 (20 overs: F Morris 41); South East Stars 140-5 (16 overs: P Scholfield 73 not out, A Davidson-Richards 43). South East Stars won by five wickets. **Chelmsford** Southern Vipers 171-2 (20 overs: Georgia Elwiss 73 not out, F Kemp 55 not out); Sunrisers 152-5 (20 overs: J Gardner 79 not out, M Villiers 44). Vipers won by 19 runs.

Indian Premier League

Chennai Sunrisers Hyderabad 175-9 (20 overs: H Klaasen 50); Rajasthan Royals 139-7 (20 overs: D Jurel 56 not out, Y Jaiswal 42). Sunrisers Hyderabad (2pts) won by 36 runs.

Cycling

Giro d'Italia

Leading positions: 19th stage (Mortegliano to Sappada, 157km): 1, A Vendrame (It, Decathlon AG2R La Mondiale) 3hr 51min 5sec; 2, P Sánchez (Sp, Movistar) at 54sec behind; 3, G Steinhauser (Ger, EF Education-EasyPost) 1min 7sec; 4, J Narváez (Ec, INEOS Grenadiers) 2:27; 5, L Plapp (Aus, Jayco-AIUla) same time. **British** 32, G Thomas (INEOS Grenadiers) 15:56; 45, B Swift (INEOS Grenadiers) 16:23; 60, H Wood (Cofidis) 18:36 63, C Swift (INEOS Grenadiers) same time; 116, L Askew (Groupama-FDJ) 29:44. **Overall** 1, T Pgacar (Slove, UAE Team Emirates) 71:24:03; 2, D Martínez (Col, BORA-hansgrohe) at 7:42; 3, Thomas 8:04; 4, B O'Connor (Aus, Decathlon AG2R La Mondiale) 9:47; 5, A Tiberi (It, Bahrain Victorious) 10:29. **Other British** 54, B Swift 2:24:00; 66, Wood 2:53:50; 84, C Swift 3:33:15; 91, Askew 3:40:44.

Golf

DP World Tour Soudal Open

Antwerp: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland 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; Sebastian Garcia (Sp) 70, 64.

US PGA Tour Charles Schwab Challenge

Fort Worth, Texas: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): **65** C Hoffman. **66** T Finau, B Harman, Kim Seonghyeon (S Kor), M Laird (Scot), D Riley. **67** H Buckley, P Coody, R Shelton, C Tarren (Eng). **68** C Bezuidenhout (SA), K Bradley, R Fox (NZ), Z Johnson, M Kuchar, C Morikawa, G Murray, J T Poston, S Straka (Austria), B Todd.

Women's European Tour Jabra Open

Evian-les-Bains: Leaders after two rounds (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **139** M Folke (Swe) 70, 69; J Melichova (Cz) 67, 72. **141** I Laklalech (Mor) 66, 75. **142** P Delacour (Fr) 72, 70. **143** K Spilkova (Cz) 73, 70; M Kobori (NZ) 72, 71; M Haddioui (Mor) 72, 71. **144** T Cheenglab (Tha) 71, 73; L Pettersson (Swe) 72, 72; S Kibsgaard Nielsen (Den) 74, 70; A Fuller 71, 73; A Uehara (Japan) 71, 73; L Wessberg (Swe) 73, 71.

Rugby league

Betfred Super League: Men Castleford 30 Hull 22; Huddersfield 10 Leigh 16; St Helens 40 Leeds 10. **Women** St Helens 12 Leeds 6.

Betfred Championship Sheffield 36 Dewsbury 13.

Rugby union

European Challenge Cup final Gloucester 22 Sharks 36 (at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium).

RFU Championship Nottingham 28 Caldy 8.

Tennis

ATP Gonet Geneva Open

Semi-final T Machac (Cz) bt N Djokovic (Ser) 6-4, 0-6, 6-1.

ATP Open Parc Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Lyon: Semi-finals T Etcheverry (Arg) bt L Darderi (It) 6-2, 6-4; G Mpetshi Perricard (Fr) bt A Bublik (Kaz) 6-4, 7-5.

WTA Grand Prix De Son Altesse Royale La Princesse Lalla Meryem

Rabat: Semi-finals P Stearns (US) V Tomova (Bul) 6-7 (6-8), 7-5, 7-6 (7-4); M Sherif (Egy) bt K Rakhimova (Russ) 6-0, 6-1.

WTA Internationaux de Strasbourg

Quarter-final A Kalinina (Ukr) bt M Vondrousova (Cz) 5-7, 6-3, 6-2. **Semi-finals** M Keys (US) bt L Samsonova (Russ) 6-1, 6-3; D Collins (US) bt Kalinina 7-6 (7-3), 6-2.

FIXTURES

Today

Football

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA Cup final Manchester City v Manchester Utd (at Wembley Stadium).

Scottish Gas Cup final Celtic v Rangers (at Hampden Park).

Women's Champions League final Barcelona v Lyon (5.0, at San Mamés, Bilbao).

Cricket

Second T20 international: Edgbaston England v Pakistan (2.30).

Rugby league

Betfred Super League Catalans Dragons v Warrington Wolves (5.30).

Betfred Championship Toulouse v Widnes Vikings (5.0).

Betfred Women's Super League Warrington Wolves v Wigan Warriors (1.0).

Rugby union

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Investec Champions Cup final Leinster v Toulouse (2.45, Tottenham Hotspur Stadium).

RFU Championship Cambridge v Ampthill; Ealing Trailfinders v Bedford; Hartpury v Doncaster (2.30); London Scottish v Cornish Pirates.

Women's Allianz Premiership Ealing Trailfinders v Loughborough Lightning (12.30); Harlequins v Bristol Bears; Leicester Tigers v Sale Sharks; Saracens v Gloucester-Hartpury (midday).

Tomorrow

Football

Sky Bet Championship play-off final Leeds v Southampton (3.0, at Wembley Stadium).

Cinch Scottish Premiership play-off final, second leg Ross County (0) v Raith (0) (midday).

Women's Scottish Gas Cup final Rangers v Hearts (2.30, at Hampden Park)).

Cricket

Second women's one-day international: Taunton England v Pakistan (11.0).

Rugby league

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Betfred Super League London Broncos v Hull Kingston Rovers; Salford Red Devils v Wigan Warriors.

Betfred Championship Barrow Raiders v Featherstone Rovers; Batley Bulldogs v Bradford Bulls; Halifax Panthers v Doncaster; Swinton Lions v York Knights; Whitehaven v Wakefield Trinity. **League One** Hunslet v Cornwall (1.0); Keighley Cougars v Oldham; Midlands Hurricanes v North Wales Crusaders (2.0); Newcastle Thunder v Rochdale Hornets.

Betfred Women's Super League Barrow Raiders v Featherstone Rovers (midday); Huddersfield Giants v York Valkyrie (2.0).

Sport Racing

Rosallion looks primed to claim Irish 2,000 Guineas for Hannon

Rob Wright Racing Editor

Rosallion ran a cracker on his reappearance when second to Notable Speech in the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket and he can go one better in the Tattersalls Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Curragh (3.40) today.

Richard Hannon's charge was beaten only once in four starts as a juvenile last year, racing too keenly for his own good early on when third in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster in September. Rosallion showed his true worth when signing off for the campaign with a length defeat of Aidan O'Brien's Unquestionable in group one company at Longchamp in October.

Rosallion stepped up on that when chasing home the exciting Notable Speech at Newmarket and is likely to be sharper with that run under his belt. This looks a weaker race and he can again prove too good for Unquestionable, who looks the pick of O'Brien's three runners,

Francophone makes plenty of appeal in the William Hill Height Of Fashion Stakes (2.05) at Goodwood. She showed that she handles this track when a close second here last August and found only the classy Secret Satire too good in the Musidora Stakes at York last time. Francophone can make the most of a drop in grade here.

Cerulean Bay can take the Betfred Silver Bowl Handicap (1.15) at Haydock Park. He caught the eye when third over this course and distance last time, finding his path blocked as the first two kicked for home but staying on strongly in the final furlong to be beaten just over a length. A useful juvenile last season, he remains open to plenty of improvement and looks well weighted.

Rachael Blackmore is best-known for her exploits as a record-breaking jockey over jumps but she can claim a group-race success on the Flat with **Term Of Endearment** in the William Hill Bronte Cup (3.20) at York. Term Of Endearment has progressed well over the past two seasons and gained an easy success at this level at Cork. She was out of her depth on Champions Day at Ascot in October but this is a more suitable test and she can return to form.

Curragh
Rob Wright

3.40 Rosallion
Going: good, good to firm in places — **Racing TV**
Draw: no advantage

3.40 Tattersalls Irish 2,000 Guineas — ITV
(Group I: 3-Y-O: £290,000: 1m) (8)

1	(4)	131-0	**ATLANTIC COAST** 48 (T,BF,C) J P O'Brien 9-2	**D McMonagle**
2	(3)	12-01	**BRIGHT STRIPES** 19 (P,CD) A Oliver 9-2	**W J Lee**
3	(7)	55-13	**HAATEM** 21 (D) R Hannon (UK) 9-2	**J P Spencer**
4	(8)	4412-	**MOUNTAIN BEAR** 204 (C) A P O'Brien 9-2	**D McDonogh**
5	(5)	1133-	**RIVER TIBER** 238 A P O'Brien 9-2	**R L Moore**
6	(6)	131-2	**ROSALLION** 21 R Hannon (UK) 9-2	**S M Levey**
7	(1)	1-114	**TAKE ME TO CHURCH** 48 (BF) J Davison 9-2	**R Whelan**
8	(2)	2421-	**UNQUESTIONABLE** 204 (C,D) A P O'Brien 9-2	**W M Lordan**

11-10 Rosallion, 11-4 River Tiber, 5-1 Unquestionable, Haatem, 16-1 others.

ROB WRIGHT'S WEEKEND GUIDE

Big-race trends
Irish 2,000 Guineas
(3.40 Curragh)
Aidan O'Brien has saddled a record twelfth winner of this classic with Paddington 12 months ago. That was his first win since 2017, though, and his three entries this time all have something to prove

Banker or bust?
Vandeek
(2.25 Haydock Park)
A top-class juvenile last year when unbeaten in four starts, including two at group one level. He looks set to develop into a top-class sprinter this season and can defy a 3lb penalty on his return to action. BANKER

Red-hot trainer
James Fanshawe
The Newmarket handler has had seven winners from 23 runners in the past fortnight. He has Pietro (6.05) and Enpassant (7.30) at Windsor today

Repeat performance?
River Of Stars
(3.20 York)
She won this group three race on her first start of the season last year and, while she failed to strike in three subsequent outings, they were all at a higher level. Lack of a recent run is not a worry and she should go close

What's in a name
Newsreader
(1.30 Goodwood)
A son of the stallion, Prince Of Lir, this gelding owes his name to his dam, Kaplinsky. Natasha Kaplinsky has enjoyed a long career on television, working for Sky News, BBC News, ITV News and Channel 5

Bet of the day
Francophone
(2.05 Goodwood)
She has a progressive profile and followed success at Southwell on her return with a second in the Musidora Stakes at York. This is easier

Haydock Park
Rob Wright

1.15 Cerulean Bay (nb)
1.50 Vadream
2.25 Vandeek
3.00 English Oak
3.30 Nothing To Sea
4.10 The Amazon
4.45 Powerful Response

Going: soft, heavy in places
Draw: 7f-1m, low numbers best — **Racing TV**

1.15 Betfred Silver Bowl Heritage Handicap — ITV3
(3-Y-O: £51,540: 1m) (13 runners)

1	(6)	130-62	**BLUE LEMONS** 29 R Hannon 9-9	**J Doyle**	♦101
2	(5)	1035-	**SON OF MAN** 190 J Chapple-Hyam 9-5	**P Cosgrave**	94
3	(2)	1144-1	**NELLIE LEYLAX** 28 (CD) T Dascombe 9-2	**P-L Jamin**	92
4	(11)	431-1	**VOLTERRA** 22 (D) K Ryan 9-1	**T Eaves**	95
5	(10)	12-3	**INVOLVEMENT** 32 S & E Crisford 9-0	**C Shepherd**	91
6	(13)	4241-5	**APIARIST** 39 K Ryan 8-12	**C Lee**	88
7	(12)	31-1	**SIR LES PATTERSON** 38 Harry Eustace 8-12	**O Murphy**	93
8	(3)	116-43	**CERULEAN BAY** 14 D O'Meara 8-11	**R Kingscote**	97
9	(4)	3312-	**MAGSOOD** 267 (BF) R Varian 8-11	**R Dawson**	86
10	(8)	1-56	**YOKOHAMA** 22 J Butler 8-10	**A Mullen**	76
11	(7)	30-215	**CELTIC WARRIOR** 16 A Balding 8-6	**K O'Neill**	79
12	(9)	235-1	**CANDONOMORE** 28 (CD) T Easterby 8-5	**D Fentiman**	81
13	(1)	512-51	**SILENT MOVE** 14 (CD) R Fahey 8-5	**S Osborne**	81

4-1 Volterra, 9-2 Blue Lemons, 6-1 Nellie Leylax, 7-1 Candonomore, 10-1 Cerulean Bay, Sir Les Patterson, Involvement, 12-1 Magsood.

Rob Wright's choice: Cerulean Bay did not get the rub of the green when a staying-on third here last time **Dangers:** Volterra, Involvement

1.50 Betfred Temple Stakes — ITV3
(Group 2: £70,888: 5f) (10)

1	(7)	10-204	**ASFOORA** 63 (D) Henry Dwyer (AUS) 5-9-6	**M Aitken**	--
2	(1)	30-001	**EQUALITY** 34 (H,CD) C Hills 6-9-6	**S Osborne**	108
3	(2)	510-05	**KERDOS** 21 (C,D) C Cox 4-9-6	**R Kingscote**	113
4	(3)	34144-	**LIVE IN THE DREAM** 203 (D) A West 5-9-6	**S B Kirrane**	♦118
5	(10)	01115-	**ROGUE LIGHTNING** 237 (H,D) Tom Clover 4-9-6	**J Doyle**	111
6	(4)	466-02	**MAKAROVA** 13 (P,T,D) E Walker 5-9-3	**P Mulrennan**	100
7	(8)	050-32	**VADREAM** 21 (P,D) C Fellowes 6-9-3	**D Tudhope**	114
8	(6)	3-3001	**SEVEN QUESTIONS** 21 (P,D) G Scott 3-8-12	**C Shepherd**	116
9	(9)	1351-3	**BEAUTIFUL DIAMOND** 21 (BF,D) K R Burke 3-8-9	**C Lee**	113
10	(5)	61024-	**FLORA OF BERMUDA** 225 (BF,D) A Balding 3-8-9	**O Murphy**	101

100-30 Vadream, 4-1 Live In The Dream, 9-2 Asfoora, 5-1 Rogue Lightning, 7-1 Beautiful Diamond, 14-1 Seven Questions, Equality, 16-1 Makarova, Kerdos, 20-1 Flora Of Bermuda.

Wright choice: Vadream loves the mud and can reverse Newmarket form with Seven Questions **Dangers:** Seven Questions, Beautiful Diamond

2.25 Betfred Supports Jack Berry House Sandy Lane Stakes — ITV3
(Group 2: 3-Y-O: £70,888: 6f) (8)

1	(5)	1111-	**VANDEEK** 238 (D) S & E Crisford 9-5	**J Doyle**	♦113
2	(2)	1-1	**AIRMAN** 20 R Fahey 9-2	**Oisin Orr**	99
3	(6)	102-54	**ALASKAN GOLD** 22 (D) K R Burke 9-2	**C Lee**	103
4	(1)	126-1	**ESQUIRE** 35 (D) D O'Meara 9-2	**D Tudhope**	107
5	(3)	2-16	**INISHERIN** 21 K Ryan 9-2	**T Eaves**	107
6	(7)	-23320	**ORNE** 13 (B) J & T Gosden 9-2	**K O'Neill**	99
7	(4)	2221-3	**PUROSANGUE** 24 (C,D) A Balding 9-2	**O Murphy**	109
8	(8)	21-111	**PANDORA'S GIFT** 23 (D) S C Williams 8-13	**R Kingscote**	97

4-6 Vandeek, 5-1 Inisherin, 8-1 Esquire, Purosangue, 14-1 Pandora's Gift, 25-1 Orne, Airman, 33-1 Alaskan Gold.

Wright choice: Vandeek ended last season with success in the group one Middle Park Stakes; he can defy a penalty **Dangers:** Inisherin, Purosangue

3.00 Betfred Hat-Trick Heaven New Boston Handicap — ITV3
(£16,200: 7f) (7)

1	(1)	640321	**BALDOMERO** 22 (V,D) M Appleby 6-9-10	**F Larson (3)**	91
2	(2)	1302-2	**ENGLISH OAK** 22 (BF) E Walker 4-9-9	**O Murphy**	91
3	(3)	135-30	**STERLING KNIGHT** 21 (P,C,D) E Dunlop 5-9-8	**Morgan Cole (5)**	86
4	(5)	421-00	**ABDUCTION** 14 (D) J Goldie 6-9-7	**P Mulrennan**	85
5	(4)	120-06	**PERSUASION** 22 (CD) D & N Barron 7-9-7	**S Osborne**	♦92
6	(6)	556422	**ZIP** 13 (V,CD) R Fahey 8-9-6	**Oisin Orr**	89
7	(7)	0636-4	**METABOLT** 17 (BF,CD) D Loughnane 5-9-1	**J Doyle**	80

9-4 English Oak, 7-2 Zip, 5-1 Metabolt, 6-1 Persuasion, Baldomero, 8-1 Sterling Knight, 20-1 Abduction.

Wright choice: English Oak was second in a better race at Newmarket on his reappearance; he can go one better **Danger:** Baldomero

3.30 Betfred Nifty 50 Hell Nook Handicap — ITV3
(£25,770: 2m) (14)

1	(11)	2/311-	**NOTHING TO SEA** 303 R Beckett 4-9-9	**J Doyle**	96
2	(1)	4220-0	**GREYSFUL STORM** 32 (P) Darryll Holland 4-9-7	**C Lee**	♦97
3	(7)	020-02	**EMIYN** 15 (V) D Carroll 7-9-7	**Z Wheatley (5)**	94
4	(12)	0400-3	**LAW OF THE SEA** 15 (P,T) I Williams 6-9-3	**R Kingscote**	82
5	(6)	43-000	**SOLENT GATEWAY** 15 (P,T,CD) H Palmer 6-9-2	**O Murphy**	92
6	(5)	40-002	**EUCHEN GLEN** 20 (C,D) J Goldie 11-9-2	**P Mulrennan**	91
7	(2)	45-501	**EVALUATION** 32 (T,D) L Russell 6-9-1	**Oisin Orr**	85
8	(10)	1313-3	**DIVINE COMEDY** 28 (C) Harry Eustace 6-9-1	**Kaiya Fraser (5)**	91
9	(8)	210-00	**FORZA ORTA** 15 (D) K Ryan 6-9-1	**R Scott**	89
10	(14)	106-60	**LEGENDARY DAY** 13 (P,T,D) A Keatley 6-8-12	**S Osborne**	88
11	(4)	45/1-4	**GOOBINATOR** 53 (H,CD) D McCain 8-8-12	**A Mullen**	88
12	(3)	3114-4	**YORKINDNESS** 15 (D) C Johnston 5-8-10	**C Shepherd**	84
13	(13)	453-10	**CINNODIN** 21 (P,D) R Hughes 4-8-8	**R Dawson**	76
14	(9)	4133-4	**ZIMMERMAN** 28 (CD) T Easterby 5-8-6	**D Fentiman**	79

7-2 Law Of The Sea, 9-2 Nothing To Sea, 7-1 Divine Comedy, 8-1 Zimmerman, Emiyn, 10-1 Forza Orta, Yorkindness, 12-1 Cinnodin.

Wright choice: Nothing To Sea stayed on strongly when winning at Sandown Park; this stiff test will suit **Dangers:** Divine Comedy, Zimmerman

4.10 Betfred Double Delight Edge Green Handicap
(3-Y-O: £10,468: 6f) (15)

1	(3)	00-1	**CLOSE CONNECTION** 53 (D) M Dods 9-10	**P Mulrennan**	78
2	(9)	3540-1	**BIOGRAPHER** 131 (T,D) M & D Easterby 9-9	**T Eaves**	♦88
3	(1)	451	**RESTLESS PRINCE** 31 K R Burke 9-9	**C Lee**	67
4	(5)	3-61	**KODI LION** 25 (D) C Fellowes 9-9	**C Shepherd**	75
5	(11)	01	**THE AMAZON** 26 (D) J Tate 9-9	**J Doyle**	85
6	(15)	631-3	**PALS BATTALION** 24 D O'Meara 9-8	**D Tudhope**	83
7	(4)	001-21	**BRUMMELL** 19 (D) J Camacho 9-6	**R Sexton**	72
8	(10)	00-325	**OBLIGATORY** 22 T Easterby 9-6	**S B Kirrane**	69
9	(12)	51-444	**NARIKO** 14 (D) H Palmer 9-5	**O Murphy**	69
10	(8)	430-41	**CHARLIE MASON** 19 (D) A Carroll 9-4	**R Kingscote**	70
11	(13)	40-5	**BANDELLO** 20 J & S Quinn 9-4	**R Scott**	57
12	(14)	0-2613	**MOYOLA** 31 (W,T,D) L Russell 9-3	**S Osborne**	66
13	(2)	3000-0	**BEECHWOOD STAR** 46 (B) R Fahey 9-0	**Oisin Orr**	57
14	(7)	4-1146	**BADOSA** 24 (D) P Morris 8-6	**Morgan Cole (5)**	50
15	(6)	262-26	**LADY BOUQUET** 12 P Kirby 8-5	**A Mullen**	44

4-1 The Amazon, 6-1 Brummell, 7-1 Kodi Lion, 8-1 Close Connection, Charlie Mason, 10-1 Restless Prince, 12-1 Pals Battalion, 14-1 Moyola, Biographer, Nariko.

4.45 Costello Florida Handicap
(£10,468: 1m 4f) (11)

1	(10)	23-003	**WESTERN STARS** 8 (C) J Boyle 5-9-9	**R Kingscote**	70
2	(6)	5622-0	**STORY HORSE** 29 W Knight 4-9-9	**C Shepherd**	♦89
3	(8)	0-1200	**BUSTAAM** 10 D O'Meara 4-9-9	**D Tudhope**	75
4	(9)	3/13-0	**EYETRAP** 125 J Chapple-Hyam 4-9-8	**P Cosgrave**	85
5	(5)	03016-	**SUTUE ALSHAMS** 234 (B,T,D) I Jardine 4-9-7	**Doubtful**	71
6	(4)	/4542-	**ALSHADHIAN** 260 A King 4-9-6	**J Doyle**	71
7	(11)	6122-0	**SQUEEZEBOX** 27 (H,BF) M Appleby 5-9-6	**F Larson (3)**	73
8	(7)	0-4140	**POWERFUL RESPONSE** 10 G Harker 4-9-4	**R Scott**	79
9	(2)	450-04	**MOLINARI** 13 (D) M Todhunter 7-9-3	**P Mulrennan**	72
10	(3)	00-006	**NATCHEZ TRACE** J4 (D) D Carroll 7-9-0	**Z Wheatley (5)**	52
11	(1)	604114	**CORSICAN CAPER** 20 (D) K Frost 4-8-8	**S Osborne**	59

9-2 Western Stars, 5-1 Bustaam, 6-1 Alshadhian, Squeezebox, 7-1 Corsican Caper, 8-1 Eyetrap, Powerful Response, 10-1 Story Horse.

Goodwood
Rob Wright

1.30 So Quiet
2.05 Francophone (nap)
2.35 Jewel Of London
3.10 Vaguely Royal
3.45 Meydaan
4.20 Crystal Flyer
4.55 Cloud King

Going: good
Draw: 5f-6f, high numbers best — **Racing TV**

1.30 William Hill Harroways Handicap — ITV3
(3-Y-O: £51,540: 7f) (17)

1	(15)	116-0	**NATIVE AMERICAN** 38 R Fahey 9-9	**Doubtful**	93
2	(17)	140-4	**STARLORE** 39 (D) Sir M Stoute 9-6	**P Dobbs**	96
3	(11)	1121-3	**DRAGON LEADER** 15 (BF) C Cox 9-4	**L Morris**	♦101
4	(13)	3-11	**BALMACARA** 29 (D) E J-Houghton 9-2	**C Bishop**	94
5	(5)	3120-0	**GUSHING GOLD** 38 (D) A Balding 9-2	**C Hutchinson (3)**	90
6	(16)	2210-1	**MISSION TO MOON** 21 (CD) R Varian 9-0	**A Keeley (3)**	92
7	(4)	214-62	**AL SHABAB STORM** 17 (BF,C) A Balding 8-12	**H Davies**	91
8	(6)	323003	**BLUE PRINCE** 10 (H) P Evans 8-12	**T Marquand**	91
9	(1)	052-23	**THE CAMDEN COLT** 22 R Hannon 8-11	**A Voikhansky (3)**	87
10	(8)	2150-3	**KINGDOM OF RICHES** 21 (D) R Beckett 8-10	**T Heard (3)**	86
11	(9)	312-	**QIRAT** 233 (BF,D) R Beckett 8-10	**H Crouch**	92
12	(2)	0-11	**NEWSREADER** 108 (D) K P De Foy 8-9	**B Sayette**	87
13	(3)	0223-1	**ROBBO** 37 (D) C Hills 8-7	**J Fanning**	78
14	(14)	60-611	**BRUNEL NATION** 39 (D) R Hughes 8-5	**G Rooke**	83
15	(7)	22-1	**MONFRID** 12 (T,D) W Haggas 8-4	**A Farragher**	82
16	(12)	3250-1	**VALIDATED** 16 (D) J Parr 8-4	**J Haynes**	82
17	(10)	410	**SO QUIET** 29 (D) Harry Charlton 8-2	**H Turner**	98

9-2 Al Shabab Storm, 5-1 Qirat, 8-1 Blue Prince, 10-1 Balmacara, Monfrid, Dragon Leader, Mission To Moon, 12-1 Newsreader.

Wright choice: So Quiet failed to cope with soft ground at Doncaster; she is unexposed and can spring a surprise **Dangers:** The Camden Colt, Qirat

2.05 William Hill Height Of Fashion Stakes (Fillies' Listed) — ITV3
(3-Y-O: £34,026: 1m 2f) (10)

1	(7)	011-20	**REGAL JUBILEE** 20 J & T Gosden 9-5	**R Havlin**	♦104
2	(3)	2110-0	**AMBIENTE AMIGO** 38 James Owen 9-2	**P Dobbs**	84
3	(5)	2-25	**BEELEY** 17 (P) J & T Gosden 9-2	**B Sayette**	86
4	(8)	125-12	**FRANCOPHONE** 10 C Johnston 9-2	**J Fanning**	103
5	(1)	213	**KITTERIDGE** 20 (D) H Palmer 9-2	**H Davies**	71
6	(6)	4051-1	**LAVA STREAM** 23 (H) D O'Meara 9-2	**C Bishop**	79
7	(4)	414-	**LOCAL ARMS** 241 (BF) K R Burke 9-2	**T Marquand**	73
8	(9)	13-45	**MOLTEN ROCK** 14 K R Burke 9-2	**L Morris**	88
9	(2)	01-114	**QUEEN OF ATLANTIS** 29 (D) P Chapple-Hyam 9-2	**C Hutchinson**	79
10	(10)	41-	**WHERE I WANNA BE** 242 R Beckett 9-2	**H Crouch**	69

3-1 Francophone, 7-2 Regal Jubilee, 6-1 Beeley, 7-1 Molten Rock, 8-1 Where I Wanna Be, Local Arms, 12-1 Kitteridge, 16-1 Queen Of Atlantis, Lava Stream, 20-1 Ambiente Amigo.

Wright choice: Francophone was unsuited by a slow early pace when second to Secret Satire at York **Dangers:** Regal Jubilee, Kitteridge

2.35 British Stallion Studs EBF Maiden Fillies' Stakes
(2-Y-O: £10,468: 6f) (13)

1	(12)		**ALERTA MAXIMA** M Tregoning 9-2	**H Turner**	--
2	(6)		**CELANDINE** E Walker 9-2	**T Marquand**	--
3	(9)		**COUNTESS CIARA** A Watson 9-2	**L Morris**	--
4	(10)		**GHOST RUN** A Balding 9-2	**C Hutchinson (3)**	--
5	(4)		**HAVANA DANCE** J Portman 9-2	**G Rooke**	--
6	(3)	0	**JAKARTA** 20 P & O Cole 9-2	**B Sayette**	63
7	(5)		**JEWEL OF LONDON** R Hannon 9-2	**P Dobbs**	--
8	(8)		**KOKABAH** R Varian 9-2	**A Keeley (3)**	--
9	(1)		**NIGHTBIRD** S & E Crisford 9-2	**H Davies**	--
10	(7)		**PENELOPE VALENTINE** Alice Haynes 9-2	**R Havlin**	--
11	(11)		**RAVEENA** J Channon 9-2	**C Bishop**	--
12	(2)	4	**ROYAL EQUERRY** 20 R Beckett 9-2	**H Crouch**	49
13	(13)	6	**STAGE EFFECT** 24 E Walker 9-2	**A Farragher**	♦78

3-1 Royal Equerry, 6-1 Nightbird, Jewel Of London, 7-1 Kokabah, 8-1 Jakarta, Countess Ciara, 12-1 Ghost Run, Penelope Valentine.

3.10 William Hill Epic Value Handicap
(£23,193: 1m 6f) (8)

1	(7)	42443/	**RANCH HAND** 556 (D) A Balding 8-9-9	**C Hutchinson (3)**	--
2	(6)	1-5352	**VAGUELY ROYAL** 20 (P) J & T Gosden 4-9-5	**R Havlin**	94
3	(8)	5200-0	**ADJUVANT** 20 (D) M Bell 5-9-3	**H Crouch**	♦97
4	(5)	50-044	**THERE'S THE DOOR** 21 (C) P Evans 4-9-3	**T Marquand**	91
5	(1)	005-53	**GET SHIRTY** 8 (D) D O'Meara 8-9-2	**C Bishop**	97
6	(2)	2025-2	**TRUE LEGEND** 14 Sir M Prescott 4-8-13	**L Morris**	88
7	(3)	53-000	**TIDES OF WAR** 106 (H) D M Simcock 6-8-9	**H Turner**	69
8	(4)	20-003	**CRESCENT LAKE** 15 (CD) G & J Moore 7-8-6	**G Rooke**	83

11-4 Vaguely Royal, 4-1 True Legend, 5-1 Crescent Lake, 6-1 Get Shirty, 7-1 There's The Door, 8-1 Adjuvant, 12-1 Ranch Hand, Tides Of War.

3.45 British Stallion Studs EBF Cocked Hat Stakes (Listed)
(3-Y-O: £34,026: 1m 3f) (7)

1	(4)	4-1133	**ALRAZEEN** 7 (D) G Kelleway 9-2	**H Turner**	71
2	(5)	-13301	**LAVENDER HILL MOB** 22 (C) M Bell 9-2	**H Crouch**	79
3	(2)	2-1	**LYRIC** 26 J & T Gosden 9-2	**R Havlin**	79
4	(6)	1-53	**MEYDAAN** 14 S & E Crisford 9-2	**H Davies**	♦91
5	(7)	3-16	**PAPPANO** 17 J & T Gosden 9-2	**B Sayette**	78
6	(3)	51-	**ROYAL POWER** 201 C Appleby 9-2	**P Dobbs**	85
7	(1)	2-1	**SPACE LEGEND** 28 W Haggas 9-2	**T Marquand**	81

7-4 Meydaan, 3-1 Space Legend, 4-1 Royal Power, 9-2 Lyric, 12-1 Pappano, 20-1 Lavender Hill Mob, 33-1 Alrazeen.

4.20 Darley British EBF Fillies' Restricted Novice Stakes
(£25,770: 1m 2f) (10)

1	(7)	2	**CANDLE OF DUBAI** 23 C Johnston 3-9-2	**J Fanning**	♦88
2	(10)	3-4	**CRYSTAL FLYER** 29 T Ward 3-9-2	**P Dobbs**	84
3	(6)	0-0	**HOPE RISING** 36 C Hills 3-9-2	**C Bishop**	48
4	(9)		**LOVES LOVING** J & T Gosden 3-9-2	**R Havlin**	--
5	(4)	32	**LOVING LOOK** 12 H Morrison 3-9-2	**H Davies**	56
6	(8)	5-	**SPRINGBECAMESUMMER** 161 M Bell 3-9-2	**H Crouch**	81
7	(1)		**UMBRIA** E Walker 3-9-0	**T Marquand**	--
8	(3)	2	**ASSURED** 24 M Tregoning 3-8-12	**J Haynes**	78
9	(2)	664-2	**NINI STAR** 56 D Menuisier 3-8-12	**B Sayette**	43
10	(5)	60	**THUNDER SPARKS** 16 D Menuisier 3-8-12	**H Turner**	--

3-1 Candle Of Dubai, 9-2 Crystal Flyer, 5-1 Nini Star, Loves Loving, 6-1 Loving Look, 8-1 Assured, 14-1 Springbecamesummer, 16-1 Umbria.

4.55 William Hill Epic Boost Handicap
(3-Y-O: £10,643: 5f) (7)

1	(2)	101-40	**BOANN** 23 (B,T,D) Ollie Sangster 9-9	**A Keeley (3)**	74
2	(4)	241-	**RAINYNITEINGEORGIA** 262 (D) Alice Haynes 9-7	**R Havlin**	92
3	(7)	400-36	**DAPPERLING** 24 (D) R Hannon 9-7	**P Dobbs**	72
4	(3)	060-12	**CLOUD KING** 26 (BF,D) R Cowell 9-6	**T Marquand**	92
5	(6)	241	**GRANDLAD** 28 (D) James Horton 9-6	**A Farragher**	♦93
6	(5)	560-00	**BAILEYS POLKA DOT** 25 (D) Miss A Murphy 9-5	**L Morris**	82
7	(1)	513-22	**KISS AND RUN** 19 R Cook & J Bridger 8-10	**H Davies**	87

11-4 Grandlad, 3-1 Kiss And Run, 7-2 Cloud King, 5-1 Rainyniteingeorgia, 8-1 Dapperling, 10-1 Boann, 20-1 Baileys Polka Dot.

Course specialists: Cartmel: Trainer B Haslam, 12 winners from 55 runners, 21.8%. **Jockey** Charlotte Jones, 24 winners from 82 rides, 29.3%. **Chester: Trainer** D Ffrench Davis, 3 from 9, 33.3%. **Jockey** F Norton, 19 from 148, 12.8%. **Goodwood: Trainer** C Appleby, 14 from 53, 26.4%. **Jockey** A Farragher, 3 from 9, 33.3%. **Haydock Park: Trainer** Darryll Holland, 4 from 9, 44.4%. **Jockey** C Shepherd, 7 from 26, 26.9%. **Salisbury: Trainer** H Palmer, 8 from 17, 47.1%. **Jockey** R Clutterbuck, 7 from 39, 17.9%. **Windsor: Trainer** O Burrows, 6 from 8, 75%. **Jockey** L Catton, 3 from 15, 20%. **York: Trainer** J & T Gosden, 15 from 74, 20.3%. **Jockey** J Crowley, 13 from 84, 15.5%.

Chester
Rob Wright

1.45 Hiya Honey
2.20 Flicka's Girl
2.55 Dreams Adozen
3.35 Chillhi
4.05 Prince Of Zenda
4.40 Nighteyes
5.15 The Hun

Going: soft, heavy in places
Draw: low numbers best
Sky Sports Racing

1.45 Fillies' Stakes (£7,644: 7f) (4)

1	(2)	-2500	**COLOUR CODE** 57 (H) Miss L Perratt 3-9-2	**D Muscutt**
2	(1)	32-2	**FAIR POINT** 14 R Beckett 3-9-2	**M Ghiani**
3	(3)	02-	**HIYA HONEY** 246 K R Burke 3-9-2	**S James**
4	(4)	232	**MOSTAR DREAMS** 11 I Jardine 3-9-2	**F Norton**

6-4 Fair Point, 2-1 Hiya Honey, 3-1 Mostar Dreams, 8-1 Colour Code.

2.20 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £15,288: 6f) (8)

1	(4)	142	**FLICKA'S GIRL** 17 (BF) D Loughnane 9-7	**D Muscutt**
2	(2)		**CABELLEROSO** H Palmer 9-6	**B Loughnane**
3	(1)		**COLUMNIST** R Fahey 9-6	**J Garritty**
4	(7)	4	**KING OF ANGELS** 16 H Palmer 9-6	**J Watson**
5	(5)		**ONE MORE GUINNESS** J Candlish 9-6	**G Wood**
6	(3)		**STAPLEFORD PARK** C Fellowes 9-6	**M Ghiani**
7	(6)	660	**BORO QUEEN** 5 P Evans 9-1	**S D Bowen**
8	(8)	35	**WASHINGTON DANCER** 36 P Evans 9-1	**S James**

15-8 Flicka's Girl, 7-2 King Of Angels, Columnist, 13-2 Cabelleroso, 10-1 Stapleford Park, 12-1 Washington Dancer, 20-1 others.

2.55 Handicap (£7,644: 2m) (12)

1	(10)	511-0	**LUSAKA** 33 (P) J & R Flint 6-9-13	**T Fisher (3)**
2	(5)	155-3	**PERCY JONES** 15 M Loughnane 5-9-13	**B Loughnane**
3	(4)	440-0	**RICH BELIEF** 28 (B,T) K Thornton (Ire) 7-9-13	**S D Bowen (5)**
4	(1)	363-0	**DREAMS ADOZEN** 15 (V,C) C Johnston 4-9-13	**F Norton**
5	(2)	1222-	**CAPONE** 267 (BF,CD) D F Davis 9-9-12	**D Muscutt**
6	(12)	230-4	**SHARP DISTINCTION** 27 (T) Miss A Murphy 5-9-12	**M Ghiani**
7	(9)	54321	**ANIMATO** 12 (T,V,D) D O'Meara 5-9-9	**J Watson**
8	(6)	423-3	**GIFTED ANGEL** J62 (P) T Dascombe 4-9-7	**S James**
9	(11)	04-15	**CLEAR WHITE LIGHT** J14 (T) A Keatley 8-9-5	**G Wood**
10	(7)	640/0	**SOBEGRAND** 27 (B) J & R Flint 5-9-0	**E Jones (7)**
11	(3)	400-0	**SOPHAR SOGOOD** 3 (P,C,D) J Butler 7-8-9	**K S McHugh (7)**
12	(8)	3-063	**TIGERTEN** 3 (P,T,D) K Frost 7-8-7	**C Planas (3)**

4-1 Animato, 9-2 Capone, 6-1 Dreams Adozen, 8-1 Rich Belief, Percy Jones, Clear White Light, 10-1 Sharp Distinction, Gifted Angel.

3.35 Handicap (£7,644: 1m 4f) (6)

1	(6)	-2140	**YOKKELL** 57 (D) J McConnell (Ire) 5-9-10	**Siobhan Rutledge (3)**
2	(2)	0-001	**CHASE THE DOLLAR** 15 (CD) D Loughnane 6-9-8	**C Planas (3)**
3	(4)	206-6	**MASO BASTIE** 14 (B) M Bell 4-9-7	**D Muscutt**
4	(1)	0-003	**CAVERN CLUB** 66 (P,D) James Owen 4-9-4	**F Norton**
5	(5)	06-62	**CHILLHI** 15 B Ellison 4-9-4	**B Robinson**
6	(3)	560-1	**OMAN** 15 (B,CD) A Carroll 6-8-7	**J F Egan**

5-2 Chase The Dollar, 7-2 Chillhi, Oman, 5-1 Cavern Club, 7-1 Maso Bastie, 15-2 Yokkell.

4.05 Handicap (£25,480: 7f) (9)

1	(1)	10-54	**BARADAR** 35 (P,T,D) G Boughey 6-9-12	**B Loughnane**
2	(9)	0-540	**RHOSCOLYN** 14 (T,D) D O'Meara 6-9-6	**J Watson**
3	(8)	00-60	**BOARDMAN** 15 (C,D) T Easterby 8-9-1	**B Robinson**
4	(7)	-1102	**PRINCE OF ZENDA** 13 (V,C) H Palmer 4-9-1	**D Muscutt**
5	(3)	0-115	**LIAMARTY DREAMS** 15 (C,D) K R Burke 5-9-1	**S James**
6	(6)	000-3	**PAWS FOR THOUGHT** 27 (CD) D McCain 6-8-12	**F Norton**
7	(5)	1/00-	**YANIFER** 420 (CD) H Bethell 6-8-11	**C Planas (3)**
8	(4)	0-601	**SPIRIT GENIE** 14 (P,T,D) J Candlish 4-8-9	**G Wood**
9	(2)	2-050	**WAY TO DUBAI** 17 (P) C Fellowes 5-8-9	**M Ghiani**

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.

4.40 Handicap (3-Y-O: £7,644: 6f) (5)

1	(4)	221-6	**NIGHTEYES** 25 (D) D O'Meara 9-9	**B Robinson**
2	(1)	233-1	**ALL AGLEAM** 142 A Balding 9-4	**J Watson**
3	(2)	100	**COURT DRIVE** 23 G Kelleway 9-1	**G Wood**
4	(3)	16-06	**LAST APPLAUSE** 29 (P) B Ellison 8-12	**F Norton**
5	(5)	503-4	**ALFA MOONSTONE** 12 Craig Lidster 8-11	**S James**

13-8 All Agleam, 11-4 Nighteyes, 3-1 Alfa Moonstone, 15-2 Court Drive, 10-1 Last Applause.

5.15 Handicap (3-Y-O: £7,644: 1m 2f) (6)

1	(1)	25-11	**FOURONEOHFEVER** 16 (C) G Boughey 9-9	**B Loughnane**
2	(6)	2-222	**CASTLE IN THE SAND** 17 A Balding 9-8	**J Watson**
3	(4)	534-1	**TRAVOLTA** 53 (B) J Ferguson 9-7	**D Muscutt**
4	(3)	1-0	**PRINCE RASAM** 29 (D) M Bell 9-5	**G Wood**
5	(2)	234-6	**THE HUN** 24 (B) K R Burke 9-1	**S James**
6	(5)	120	**SWORDSTICK** 57 H Palmer 8-12	**C Planas (3)**

6-4 Fouroneohfever, 3-1 Travolta, 9-2 Castle In The Sand, 6-1 Prince Rasam, 10-1 Swordstick, 14-1 The Hun.

York

Rob Wright

1.35 Champagne Sarah
2.10 Ardeur
2.45 Vintage Clarets
3.20 Term Of Endearment
3.55 Old Chums
4.30 Colorada Dancer
5.05 Extrication

Going: good to soft, soft in places

Draw: no advantage **Racing TV**

1.35 William Hill Keep Your Raceday Positive Handicap (£10,468: 6f) (22)

1	(5)	00-002	**ROUNDHAY PARK** 15 (CD) N Tinkler 9-9-9	**F McManoman**	79
2	(6)	043-33	**CHAMPAGNE SARAH** 14 (P,D) M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-9	**Rossa Ryan**	82
3	(7)	5-6000	**ZAMAN JEMIL** 21 (D) J & S Quinn 4-9-9	**P Mathers**	◆90
4	(21)	6000-4	**ROYAL PLEASURE** 21 (P,T,D) M & D Easterby 6-9-9	**Joanna Mason**	77
5	(16)	262-63	**STRONG JOHNSON** 63 (D) P Midgley 8-9-9	**C Beasley**	84
6	(18)	233-02	**HOLKHAM BAY** 14 (D) W Knight 4-9-8	**B Wilkie (5)**	78
7	(8)	051-21	**MATTICE** 15 (P,D) T Easterby 5-9-8	**C Murtagh**	79
8	(15)	35-631	**TIRIAC** 19 (P,D) J Channon 4-9-7	**K Shoemark**	78
9	(2)	040431	**GULLIVER** 35 (P,CD) D O'Meara 10-9-7	**M Winn (3)**	78
10	(14)	30-243	**JENEVER** 73 (D) Jessica Macey 5-9-7	**L Edmunds**	68
11	(19)	540000	**MONDAMMEJ** 9 (D) A Brittain 7-9-7	**C Hardie**	78
12	(4)	-04550	**REMARKABLE FORCE** 17 (P) J & S Quinn 4-9-6	**J Hart**	81
13	(20)	0-5101	**CLIFFCAKE** 58 (D) S Bowring 6-9-5	**H Shaw**	46
14	(10)	0405-5	**TOLSTOY** 27 (D) B Ellison 5-9-5	**D Nolan**	81
15	(3)	6-4560	**SHALAA ASKER** 9 (T,V,D) A Keatley 6-9-5	**C Fallon**	79
16	(1)	3-1510	**TRILBY** 15 (D) S England 4-9-4	**S Gray**	75
17	(12)	6-3232	**SLAINTE MHATH** 11 (D) K Scott 6-9-4	**P Dennis**	75
18	(11)	515-63	**RAMBUSO CREEK** 30 K Ryan 5-9-4	**J Crowley**	75
19	(22)	200201	**DARK KESTREL** 12 (T,D) A Brittain 4-9-2	**H Russell**	82
20	(17)	-13500	**BEELZEBUB** 14 (H,T,D) Alice Haynes 4-9-2	**A Rawlinson**	77
21	(9)	1400-1	**RAY VONN** 15 (H,T,D) B Brookhouse 4-9-1	**K Stott**	72
22	(13)	200-34	**LITTLE MUDDY** 31 (D) S Spencer 8-9-1	**T Jakes (5)**	72

15-2 Royal Pleasure, 8-1 Holkham Bay, 10-1 Gulliver, Champagne Sarah, Mattice, Tiriac, 12-1 Ray Vonn, Strong Johnson.

Blinkered first time: Chester 2.55 Sobegrand. 5.15 The Hun. **Haydock Park** 2.25 Orne. 4.10 Beechwood Star. **Windsor** 5.35 Umming N' Ahing. 8.15 Kinetic.

2.10 Reg Bond 'Always And Forever' EBF Restricted Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £10,800: 6f) (14)

1	(5)	2	**ARABIE** 46 K R Burke 9-7	**J Crowley**	◆67
2	(12)		**DARK CLOUD RISING** D O'Meara 9-7	**D Nolan**	--
3	(3)		**EPICURIAN LAD** R Fahey 9-5	**H Russell**	--
4	(6)		**SANBONA** M Dods 9-5	**C Beasley**	--
5	(13)		**SHAZANI** C Johnston 9-5	**J Hart**	--
6	(1)		**STRATUSNINE** H Palmer 9-5	**K Shoemark**	--
7	(4)		**ATOMIC MASS** M & D Easterby 9-3	**Joanna Mason**	--
8	(14)		**HARRY PALMER** K Ryan 9-3	**C Fallon**	--
9	(10)		**LESLEY'S BOY** R Fahey 9-3	**C Murtagh**	--
10	(9)		**TERRITORIAL KNIGHT** K Ryan 9-3	**S Gray**	--
11	(2)		**ARDEUR** R Beckett 9-2	**Rossa Ryan**	--
12	(7)		**BLUE EMPRESS** A Watson 9-2	**Laura Coughlan (3)**	--
13	(8)		**SIMMERING** Ollie Sangster 9-2	**K Stott**	--
14	(11)		**BAYLANDO** M Murphy & M Keady 9-1	**Sorcha Woods (7)**	--

4-1 Arabie, 9-2 Ardeur, 7-1 Blue Empress, 8-1 Shazani, 10-1 Stratusnine, Simmering, Epicurian Lad, 12-1 Lesley's Boy, Territorial Knight, Harry Palmer.

2.45 William Hill Extra Place Races Daily Handicap (£25,770: 5f) (13) ITV3

1	(10)	121-04	**KORKER** 9 (BF,CD) K R Burke 5-10-0	**S Gray**	◆105
2	(3)	10-005	**THUNDERBEAR** 48 (V,D) J Davison (Ire) 4-9-8	**J J Ryan (3)**	104
3	(8)	51-301	**DEMOCRACY DILEMMA** 16 (D) R Cowell 4-9-7	**Doubtful**	100
4	(1)	53-236	**STARLUST** 24 R Beckett 3-9-4	**Rossa Ryan**	104
5	(2)	13-003	**VINTAGE CLARETS** 16 (CD) R Fahey 5-9-4	**D Nolan**	98
6	(12)	1155-0	**RABAAH** 21 C Hills 4-9-2	**J Crowley**	97
7	(7)	215-00	**SPOOF** 16 (D) K Frost 9-8-11	**C Fallon**	92
8	(13)	221-05	**HIYA MAITE** 53 (D) S Bowring 6-8-10	**L Edmunds**	83
9	(6)	-03050	**LETHAL NYMPH** 10 P Midgley 5-8-3	**A Brookes (5)**	81
10	(5)	44-260	**MANILA SCOUSE** 10 (T,D) T Easterby 5-8-3	**C Hardie**	99
11	(9)	01500-	**NEVER DARK** 184 (D) I Jardine 7-8-3	**A Jary (5)**	84
12	(11)	2046-4	**BROOKLYN NINE NINE** 7 (P,BF) R Fahey 4-8-2	**R Da Silva**	87
13	(4)	56-020	**COPPER KNIGHT** 9 (T,CD) T Easterby 10-8-2	**Amie Waugh (5)**	78

4-1 Rabaah, 9-2 Korker, 5-1 Vintage Clarets, 7-1 Brooklyn Nine Nine, 8-1 Starlust, 10-1 Copper Knight, Manila Scouse, 12-1 Lethal Nymph.

Wright choice: Vintage Clarets shaped better than the result suggests when third at Chester **Dangers:** Manila Scouse, Brooklyn Nine Nine

3.20 William Hill Bronte Cup Fillies' Stakes (Group 3: £56,710: 1m 6f) (10) ITV3

1	(9)	6333-6	**ERMESINDE** 48 K P De Foy 4-9-2	**J Hart**	82
2	(5)	014-51	**GATHER YE ROSEBUDS** 21 J Channon 4-9-2	**C Beasley**	102
3	(8)	04534-	**LMAY** 232 (H) J & T Gosden 4-9-2	**K Shoemark**	102
4	(4)		**MARIE'S ROCK** J44 (T) N Henderson 9-9-2	**J Crowley**	--
5	(10)	/1110-	**NIGHT SPARKLE** 254 (BF,D) A Balding 5-9-2	**K Stott**	99
6	(6)	/1224-	**RIVER OF STARS** 274 (CD) R Beckett 5-9-2	**Rossa Ryan**	100
7	(7)	0/211-	**SAFETY CATCH** 200 W Haggas 4-9-2	**C Fallon**	94
8	(1)	1242-4	**SHAGPYLE** 28 W Muir & C Grassick 4-9-2	**L Edmunds**	84
9	(2)	/5210-	**TERM OF ENDEARMENT** 217 (H) H De Bromhead (Ire) 5-9-2	**Rachael Blackmore**	◆104
10	(3)	32-653	**TREVAUNANCE** 29 J Harrington (Ire) 5-9-2	**S McCullagh**	95

11-4 Gather Ye Rosebuds, 3-1 River Of Stars, 7-1 Safety Catch, Trevaunance, 8-1 Term Of Endearment, Lmay, 10-1 Night Sparkle, 14-1 Marie's Rock.

Wright choice: Term Of Endearment was impressive when winning in this grade at Cork last August **Dangers:** Marie's Rock, River Of Stars

3.55 William Hill Epic Boost Handicap (3-Y-O: £10,468: 7f) (20)

1	(2)	043-31	**JUANTORENA** 24 (D) A Balding 9-9	**K Stott**	80
2	(3)	0210-0	**ANGEL OF ENGLAND** 15 (P) E Bethell 9-8	**C Fallon**	74
3	(14)	333-15	**SEA THE DREAM** 30 (D) E Bethell 9-7	**Rossa Ryan**	78
4	(9)	5-5211	**MR IRRELEVANT** 23 G Tuer 9-6	**B Wilkie (5)**	77
5	(12)	3-3135	**QUIET RESOLVE** 10 (D) R Fahey 9-6	**Rachael Blackmore**	75
6	(8)	543-10	**SMART VISION** 65 (D) Jessica Macey 9-6	**L Edmunds**	◆93
7	(7)	010-5	**MIDNITE RUNNER** 19 (D) M Dods 9-5	**C Beasley**	78
8	(13)	512-63	**BURDETT** 29 (D) J Channon 9-5	**K Shoemark**	77
9	(4)	024-11	**DIDDY MAN** 28 (D) H Bethell 9-4	**C Hardie**	75
10	(18)	0523-3	**RATING** 39 B Meehan 9-3	**J Crowley**	73
11	(11)	131223	**OLD CHUMS** 17 (P) T Dascombe 9-2	**A Rawlinson**	84
12	(20)	02606-	**COUNT PALATINE** 229 M Dods 9-2	**P Dennis**	77
13	(10)	1200-0	**MISEMERALD** 10 (D) P Kirby 9-2	**J Hart**	76
14	(15)	551-30	**INDIVAR** 21 D O'Meara 9-2	**D Nolan**	73
15	(5)	34-222	**ALREET CHA** 113 Craig Lidster 9-1	**W Pyle (5)**	87
16	(17)	2401-	**PROJECT GEOFIN** 296 G Oldroyd 9-0	**H Russell**	91
17	(6)	-60162	**EAST BANK** 22 (D) Craig Lidster 8-13	**S Gray**	70
18	(16)	1020-3	**UP THE JAZZ** 37 (D) R Fahey 8-12	**C Murtagh**	71
19	(19)	6040-4	**BULMER BANK** 13 (H) M & D Easterby 8-8	**Joanna Mason**	80
20	(1)	065-	**TRIPLE FORCE** 188 Mrs A Duffield 8-8	**P Mathers**	76

7-1 Quiet Resolve, 8-1 Mr Irrelevant, Diddy Man, 10-1 Old Chums, Rating, 12-1 Midnite Runner, Alreet Cha, Sea The Dream, Juantorena.

4.30 Royal Yorkshire Regiment Handicap (3-Y-O: £12,885: 1m 2f) (7)

1	(3)	115-1	**PER CONTRA** 47 Ollie Sangster 9-9	**K Stott**	78
2	(7)	422-23	**MIDNITE STORM** 14 K Ryan 8-13	**S Gray**	◆81
3	(2)	42-01	**PRIMO LARA** 16 (D) J Chapple-Hyam 8-13	**J Peate (3)**	80
4	(1)	5-212	**JAYYASH** 24 (BF) J & T Gosden 8-12	**K Shoemark**	47
5	(6)	2241-	**COLORADA DANCER** 224 (C) R Fahey 8-9	**C Beasley**	78
6	(5)	3-3301	**FLICKERING HALO** 11 (D) T Easterby 8-9	**J Hart**	78
7	(4)	350-01	**TERRORISE** 23 (D) B Ellison 8-6	**C Hardie**	75

3-1 Jayyash, 7-2 Primo Lara, 4-1 Per Contra, 6-1 Terrorise, 7-1 Midnite Storm, 8-1 Colorada Dancer, 10-1 Flickering Halo.

5.05 Alf Duffield Memorial Handicap (£10,468: 7f) (20)

1	(13)	330401	**RIOT** 8 (T,V,CD) D O'Meara 7-10-0	**M Winn (3)**	79
2	(6)	00005-	**CARNIVAL ZAIN** 288 (D) M Hammond 7-9-9	**A Brookes (5)**	69
3	(14)	6-32	**EXTRICATION** 27 R Teal 5-9-9	**K Stott**	◆80
4	(5)	-11060	**GRANT WOOD** 21 (D) P Midgley 5-9-8	**D Nolan**	67
5	(17)	032-56	**DECEIVER** 14 (D) D & C Kubler 4-9-8	**J Crowley**	78
6	(16)	06000-	**BILLYB** 273 (D) Craig Lidster 5-9-6	**S Gray**	62
7	(9)	66-000	**OSO RAPIDO** 17 (D) R Fell & S Murray 7-9-6	**B Wilkie (5)**	68
8	(15)	240-03	**CRAVEN** 8 (V,D) R Fahey 4-9-5	**H Russell**	78
9	(3)	6510-0	**NO NAY NICKI** 27 (D) R Fahey 5-9-5	**C Murtagh**	77
10	(4)	64-330	**DANZAN** 8 (P,D) T Easterby 9-9-5	**P Dennis**	77
11	(7)	621-61	**MERESIDE DIVA** 14 (D) D & N Barron 4-9-5	**Rossa Ryan**	76
12	(18)	060-06	**CAROLUS MAGNUS** 8 (T,D) M & D Easterby 6-9-5	**Joanna Mason**	77
13	(20)	50-044	**BROKEN SPEAR** 28 (P,C,D) Tony Coyle & Kaine Wood 8-9-4	**C Fallon**	75
14	(8)	05-562	**FEEL THE NEED** 22 (D) M Herrington 4-9-3	**L Edmunds**	73
15	(2)	143311	**NORTHCLIFF** 14 (P,D) M Murphy & M Keady 4-9-3	**Sorcha Woods (7)**	74
16	(12)	0-5440	**KALGANOV** 26 (P,D) M Dods 5-9-3	**C Beasley**	78
17	(1)	60250-	**MAGICAL MAX** 148 (T,C,D) I Furtado 7-9-2	**J Hart**	70
18	(19)	422005	**LEAP DAY** 7 (P) T Easterby 4-9-1	**C Hardie**	72
19	(10)	3-4654	**HELTER SKELTER** 26 (BF) R Menzies 4-9-0	**A Rawlinson**	70
20	(11)	610-0	**DREAMROCKER** 25 (D) E Walker 4-9-0	**K Shoemark**	72

6-1 Riot, 7-1 Northcliff, 8-1 Extrication, 10-1 Mereside Diva, 12-1 Carolus Magnus, Helter Skelter, Danzan, Craven, Feel The Need.

Cartmel

Rob Wright

4.00 Shantwopointfive
4.35 Salsada
5.10 Our Laura B
5.40 Charlie Uberalles
6.15 Playful Saint
6.50 Shillanavogy
7.20 My Gift To You

Going: soft, good to soft in places **Racing TV**

4.00 Maiden Hurdle (£4,955: 2m 6f) (8)

1	53-	**DUNBULCAN BAY** 33 D Skelton 5-11-4	**H Skelton**
2	204-2	**JIMMY CHOU PECOS AA** 19 Ian Donoghue (Ire) 8-11-4	**K Donoghue**
3	21-12	**WISE MOVE** 4 G Bewley 6-11-4	**J Bewley**
4	05-P	**BELLADINOTTE** 21 M Walford 5-10-11	**J Hamilton**
5	452/	**MASKED ARTIST** 776 R Bevis 7-10-11	**J Hogan (3)**
6	022/	**SHANTOU CHAMPAGNE** 1006 (BF) P & M Bowen 7-10-11	**S Bowen**
7	12-2	**SHANTWOPOINTFIVE** 9 W Greatrex 6-10-11	**J Bowen**
8	2523-	**VROOMOZ EILE** 42 J Moffatt 5-10-11	**Charlotte Jones (3)**

15-8 Jimmy Chou Pecos Aa, 5-2 Shantwopointfive, 11-2 Wise Move, 6-1 Dunbulcan Bay, 13-2 Shantou Champagne, 16-1 others.

4.35 Handicap Hurdle (£7,102: 2m 1f) (7)

1	2122/	**SHE'S A SAINT** 448 (BF) D Skelton 7-12-0	**H Skelton**
2	1121-	**CARRIGEEN KAMPALA** 266 (D) F O'Brien 6-11-12	**L Harrison**
3	330-U	**SALSADA** 8 (P,D) B Ellison 7-11-12	**H Brooke**
4	PU10-	**PARVOS** 50 (T,D) A M Thomson 7-11-3	**R Mania**
5	30-11	**MERMAIDS CAVE** 9 James Owen 5-10-8	**C P O'Shea (7)**
6	422-1	**TOUR OVALIE** 16 E Williams 5-10-8	**Isabel Williams (3)**
7	254-0	**SPOT ON SOPH** 15 (T) S England 8-10-6	**J England**

3-1 Carrigeen Kampala, 7-2 Mermaids Cave, 4-1 She's A Saint, 5-1 Tour Ovalie, 7-1 Salsada, 15-2 Parvos, 12-1 Spot On Soph.

5.10 Handicap Hurdle (£6,946: 3m 1f) (5)

1	5341-	**FORTUNA LIGNA** 30 (P,T) A Honeyball 7-12-0	**B Godfrey**
2	/43-5	**FAUTINETTE** 16 V Williams 6-11-12	**Miss L M Turner (5)**
3	1350-	**SINNDARELLA** 50 (C) Sarah Hollinshead 8-11-10	**C Ward (3)**
4	44P-4	**OUR LAURA B** 15 B Haslam 6-11-10	**R McLernon**
5	/532-	**LADY MENDOZA** 177 (P) R Menzies 7-11-1	**N Moscrop**

6-4 Fortuna Ligna, 7-2 Lady Mendoza, 4-1 Our Laura B, 9-2 Fautinette, 8-1 Sinndarella.

5.40 Handicap Chase (£7,605: 3m 1f 107yd) (6)

1	6P10-	**COURTLAND** 28 P & M Bowen 9-12-0	**S Bowen**
2	123P-	**TOMMIE BEAU** 35 Seamus Mullins 9-11-11	**M G Nolan**
3	P454-	**COQOLINO** 62 (T) B Haslam 9-11-3	**R McLernon**
4	PP3P-	**PUNITIVE** 15 (V) P & M Bowen 10-11-3	**J Bowen**
5	60P-4	**FLIC OU VOYOU** 8 (P) H Hogarth 10-10-11	**D McMenamin**
6	P3P6-	**CHARLIE UBERALLES** 40 D Sayer 8-10-10	**H Brooke**

11-4 Courtland, 3-1 Tommie Beau, 100-30 Coqolino, 9-2 Charlie Uberalles, 6-1 Punitive, 14-1 Flic Ou Voyou.

6.15 Handicap Chase (£7,605: 2m 1f) (5)

1	260-1	**PLAYFUL SAINT** 21 (T) D Skelton 9-11-10	**H Skelton**
2	2211-	**TEDTWO** 33 B Haslam 5-11-2	**R McLernon**
3	2312-	**SALAMANCA BAY** 36 (H,D) L Russell 8-11-1	**D R Fox**
4	1140-	**DOYEN DU BAR** 36 (H) Miss P Robson 8-10-11	**C Nichol**
5	3313-	**EL MUCHACHO** 43 (T,BF,D) H Dickin 7-10-6	**B Harris (3)**

9-4 Playful Saint, 11-4 Salamanca Bay, 3-1 Tedtwo, 11-2 El Muchacho, 13-2 Doyen Du Bar.

6.50 Handicap Chase (£4,321: 3m 1f 107yd) (7)

1	412-1	**O'FAOLAINS GLORY** 15 (P) Ian Donoghue (Ire) 7-12-0	**K Donoghue**
2	312-1	**BIG BEE HIVE** 11 (P,T) S England 7-11-11	**J England**
3	601-4	**SHILLANAVOGY** 18 W Greatrex 6-11-8	**J Bowen**
4	/050-	**JUDICIAL REVIEW** 133 (W,P,T) J Moffatt 6-10-6	**Charlotte Jones (3)**
5	031-2	**FAST DEAL** 18 M Chapman 7-10-5	**P Armson (3)**
6	3/P4-	**VETONCALL** 65 (P) A Jones 12-10-3	**S Bowen**
7	2P2P-	**OLD PAGE** 60 (P) D Thompson 7-10-2	**S Quinlan**

5-2 O'Faolains Glory, 3-1 Big Bee Hive, 4-1 Shillanavogy, 7-1 Vetoncall, 8-1 Fast Deal, 10-1 Judicial Review, Old Page.

7.20 Handicap Chase (£4,040: 2m 5f) (10)

1	164P-	**ROLL WITH IT** 184 P & M Bowen 8-12-0	**S Bowen**
2	P/43-	**ZUMBI** 330 (P,BF) J Moffatt 7-12-0	**Charlotte Jones (3)**
3	121-2	**MY GIFT TO YOU** 17 (T,BF,D) James Owen 6-11-13	**Mr A Chadwick (5)**
4	U15U/	**AGENT VALDEZ** 496 (D) D Brooke 11-11-12	**Miss P Brown (7)**
5	2323-	**TOM CREEN** 32 (T,D) S England 9-11-12	**Mr T Broughton (5)**
6	54P1-	**BROWNSTONE** 33 (P) Ian Donoghue (Ire) 8-11-11	**K Donoghue**
7	011-1	**VILLAGE MASTER** 16 (D) W Greatrex 5-11-10	**J Bowen**
8	241P-	**COOLKILL** 48 A M Thomson 10-11-3	**R Mania**
9	P045-	**DR SANDERSON** 134 (CD) B Haslam 10-11-2	**R McLernon**
10	4PP-4	**MISS FEDORA** 9 Seamus Mullins 5-10-9	**M G Nolan**

3-1 Village Master, 4-1 Brownstone, 5-1 My Gift To You, 13-2 Tom Creen, 7-1 Zumbi, 10-1 Dr Sanderson, 12-1 Coolkill, 14-1 Miss Fedora.

Salisbury

Rob Wright

4.49 Sun Petal
5.20 Boadicia
5.55 Noel Fox
6.30 Sakheer
7.00 Hilltop
7.30 Test Of Love
8.00 Rosenzoo
8.30 Warranty

Going: good to soft, good in places

Draw: no advantage **Racing TV**

4.49 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £5,400: 5f) (8)

1	(4)	431	**MISS COLLADA** 12 (D) R Hannon 9-7	**J Leavy (5)**
2	(3)		**MISTER MCGREGOR** A Balding 9-5	**J Bryan**
3	(6)	04	**ROYSDELIGHT** 47 P Evans 9-5	**D Hogan**
4	(5)		**ZOULU WARRIOR** H Main 9-5	**R Clutterbuck**
5	(8)		**LIRICIST** A Newcombe 9-3	**W Cox**
6	(2)	4	**LOVESTRUCK ROMEO** 24 Ollie Sangster 9-3	**N Currie**
7	(1)		**ENOLA HOLMES** Ollie Sangster 9-0	**T Whelan**
8	(7)	5	**SUN PETAL** 15 C Johnston 9-0	**S De Sousa**

6-5 Miss Collada, 7-2 Lovestruck Romeo, 6-1 Mister Mcgregor, 13-2 Enola Holmes, 12-1 Sun Petal, 14-1 Roysdelight, 16-1 Zoulu Warrior, 50-1 Liricist.

5.20 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,580: 5f) (7)

1	(1)	433-0	**TANGLED UP IN BLUE** 14 A West 9-8	**N Currie**
2	(4)	5-33	**BOADICIA** 26 Harry Eustace 9-8	**T Whelan**
3	(6)	42006	**HOT FRONT** 53 (D) P Evans 9-7	**G Downing**
4	(2)	0-312	**HORSE WHISPERER** 17 (D) C Dwyer 9-7	**S De Sousa**
5	(7)	-2U10	**VIA BLANCA** 14 (D) D Loughnane 9-6	**Laura Pearson**
6	(5)	-4011	**SUB THIRTEEN** 20 (CD) A Carroll 9-5	**W Carson**
7	(3)	45-53	**JUNGLE JIM** 27 (T) P Evans 9-4	**D Hogan**

9-4 Sub Thirteen, 3-1 Horse Whisperer, 4-1 Boadicia, 7-1 Jungle Jim, 8-1 Via Blanca, 12-1 Tangled Up In Blue, Hot Front.

5.55 Maiden Stakes (£4,860: 6f) (8)

1	(6)		**CAPITAL LOVE** R G Hawker 3-9-7	**N Currie**
2	(5)	2-6	**MIDNIGHT'S DREAM** 29 R Varian 3-9-7	**S De Sousa**
3	(1)	50	**NEVERNAY** 15 R Hannon 3-9-7	**J Leavy (5)**
4	(4)	4-43	**NORTHFIELD LAKE** 12 R J Smith 3-9-7	**S W Kelly**
5	(3)	0-0	**ALABAMA ANNA** 25 (H) Harry Charlton 3-9-2	**Millie Wonnacott (5)**
6	(7)		**DANCING SAPPHIRE** A Balding 3-9-2	**J Bryan**
7	(2)	4-4	**LITTLE MISS MAGIC** 42 C Hills 3-9-2	**W Cox**
8	(8)	6	**NOEL FOX** 36 (BF) R Beckett 3-9-2	**R Clutterbuck**

5-2 Noel Fox, 100-30 Little Miss Magic, 4-1 Dancing Sapphire, 6-1 Midnight's Dream, 7-1 Northfield Lake, 12-1 Nevernay, Alabama Anna, 33-1 Capital Love.

6.30 Stakes (Listed) (£28,355: 6f) (6)

1	(2)	105-0	**EQUILATERAL** 120 (D) C Hills 9-9-7	**W Cox**
2	(5)	1106/	**HARRY THREE** 630 (D) C Cox 5-9-7	**J Fahy**
3	(6)	1/00-	**SAKHEER** 337 (D) R Varian 4-9-7	**S De Sousa**
4	(1)	201-2	**FUNNY STORY** 21 (D) R Beckett 4-9-5	**R Clutterbuck**
5	(4)	12-60	**MISTER SKETCH** 7 (P,CD) E J-Houghton 3-8-12	**S W Kelly**
6	(3)	4115-	**RAQIYA** 245 (BF,CD) Owen Burrows 3-8-7	**T Whelan**

15-8 Sakheer, 3-1 Funny Story, 5-1 Harry Three, 6-1 Raqiya, 8-1 Mister Sketch, Equilateral.

7.00 Handicap (Div I: 3-Y-O: £4,580: 7f) (10)

1	(10)	024-0	**FLAVOUR MAKER** 15 R Varian 9-11	**S De Sousa**
2	(7)	6534	**TRAVIS** 28 G Boughey 9-10	**Doubtful**
3	(6)	-4115	**SILVER TRUMPET** 45 (D) E J-Houghton 9-8	**G Downing**
4	(4)	13-45	**MASTER FRANCA** 63 (P,BF,D) H Palmer 9-8	**J Leavy (5)**
5	(2)	066-4	**YELLOW PAGES** 40 (B) A Watson 9-6	**J Bryan**
6	(9)	6043	**HILLTOP** 24 D & C Kubler 9-6	**D Hogan**
7	(3)	3340	**DUKE WELLINGTON** 29 (P) A Watson 9-5	**N Currie**
8	(5)	56-0	**BLUE AKOYA** 38 (H) T Ward 9-4	**T Whelan**
9	(1)	560	**ARNAZ** 38 E Walker 9-2	**R Clutterbuck**
10	(8)	226-0	**MULLINS BEACH** 58 B Millman 8-13	**W Carson**

7-2 Hilltop, 4-1 Flavour Maker, 6-1 Silver Trumpet, 7-1 Blue Akoya, 8-1 Yellow Pages, Arnaz, Master Franca, 10-1 Mullins Beach.

7.30 Handicap (Div II: 3-Y-O: £4,580: 7f) (10)

1	(10)	624-	**GLITTERELLA** 261 (W) C Cox 9-11	**J Fahy**
2	(8)	3-264	**ENPASSANT** 24 (P) J Fanshawe 9-9	**S De Sousa**
3	(5)	36-12	**TAYALA** 17 (D) E Walker 9-8	**G Downing**
4	(1)	1600-	**LOADED QUIVER** 193 (P,D) A Watson 9-6	**J Bryan**
5	(2)	50-20	**TEST OF LOVE** 22 (BF) Sir M Prescott 9-6	**S W Kelly**
6	(6)	023-0	**WONDER SMILE** 40 (T,BF) H Palmer 9-5	**J Leavy (5)**
7	(9)	20-33	**JOHNNY JOHNSON** 19 B Millman 9-4	**W Carson**
8	(4)	0405-	**ZINCHENKO** 206 J Portman 9-3	**T Whelan**
9	(3)	P310-	**CHERRY HILL** 212 (BF,D) D F Davis 9-0	**W Cox**
10	(7)	3-066	**INVINCIBLE NAVY** 26 (P) R Cook & J Bridger 8-11	**R Clutterbuck**

5-1 Tayala, 11-2 Enpassant, 6-1 Test Of Love, Glitterella, 7-1 Loaded Quiver, Johnny Johnson, Wonder Smile, 10-1 Zinchenko.

8.00 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,580: 1m 2f) (8)

1	(3)	163-0	**ROSENZOO** 22 C Johnston 9-9	**R Ffrench**
2	(6)	004-4	**MIDNIGHT RUMBLE** 16 A King 9-9	**D Hogan**
3	(4)	50-00	**SPANISH POET** 28 S Hosie 9-9	**W Carson**
4	(2)	034-4	**NOTHING TO FEAR** 40 Harry Eustace 9-8	**T Whelan**
5	(5)	030-	**BATTLE OF OMDURMAN** 172 Ollie Sangster 9-5	**N Currie**
6	(1)	3-366	**RICH HARRY** 14 (P) Alice Haynes 9-5	**S De Sousa**
7	(8)	64-05	**RAVENSWELL** 12 (P) R J Smith 9-3	**S W Kelly**
8	(7)	50-6	**GELICEAUX** 19 (H) E Walker 9-2	**G Downing**

7-2 Nothing To Fear, 9-2 Rosenzoo, 5-1 Ravenswell, 6-1 Midnight Rumble, Battle Of Omdurman, 8-1 Spanish Poet, Geliceaux, 10-1 Rich Harry.

8.30 Handicap (£4,580: 1m 6f) (9)

1	604-0	**CLAN CHIEFTAIN** 28 R Beckett 4-9-11	**S De Sousa**
2	300-2	**IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU** 23 J Candlish 4-9-9	**J Fahy**
3	0433/	**PETRASTAR** J29 (T) D J Jeffreys 9-9-6	**S W Kelly**
4	160/5	**VIN ROUGE** 27 (T) Seamus Mullins 6-9-2	**G Downing**
5	333/1	**WARRANTY** 20 (CD) Miss S West 7-9-2	**T Whelan**
6	613-0	**BUG BOY** 72 A Newcombe 8-9-1	**Doubtful**
7	3100-	**MASTERDREAM** J41 (P,T) N Mulholland 7-9-1	**D Hogan**
8	00-00	**EAGLE COURT** 27 (P,C,D) M Blake 7-9-1	**W Carson**
9	0000/	**ASTROMAN** J17 S Hosie 7-8-4	**R Ffrench**

2-1 Warranty, 100-30 It's All About You, 4-1 Clan Chieftain, 6-1 Masterdream, 12-1 Petrastar, 14-1 Vin Rouge, 16-1 Eagle Court, Astroman.

Windsor

Rob Wright

5.35 Pop Star
6.05 Afentiko
6.40 Ezra Cee
7.15 Navello
7.45 Tarjeeh
8.15 Al Khawaneej River
8.45 Great Acclaim

Going: good to soft, good in places

Draw: 5f-6f, low numbers best **Sky Sports Racing**

5.35 Handicap (£5,653: 6f) (14)

1	(12)	3016-	**ORMOLULU** 265 (H,D) J Osborne 4-9-10	**W Carver (3)**
2	(7)	0-001	**CRAZY LUCK** 14 (D) B Millman 6-9-10	**O Searle (7)**
3	(5)	0135-	**VINCE LOMBARDI** 346 (BF,D) D & C Kubler 5-9-9	**J Mitchell**
4	(2)	0-032	**WHENTHEDEALINSDONE** 44 (P,C,D) R Teal 6-9-7	**F Marsh**
5	(9)	562-3	**COUP DE FORCE** 12 (D) W Kittow 5-9-6	**D Costello**
6	(11)	-0410	**ANTIPHON** 14 (CD) M Murphy & M Keady 5-9-6	**D Keenan**
7	(6)	000-6	**COCO BEAR** 40 (P,CD) P Chamings 6-9-5	**Josephine Gordon**
8	(8)	3-150	**BRIGHT** 92 (D) M Loughnane 4-9-5	**R Coakley**
9	(3)	40-40	**POP STAR** 15 (T,V,D) Alice Haynes 4-9-5	**C Howarth (3)**
10	(1)	5560-	**HELLO ZABEEL** 220 (D) M Blake 6-9-2	**L Catton (5)**
11	(10)	00-05	**UMMING N' AHING** 20 (B) W G M Turner 4-9-1	**L Keniry**
12	(4)	10-22	**ON EDGE** 19 (P,BF,CD) C Mason 6-9-1	**Gina Mangan (3)**
13	(14)	3360-	**BETWEENTHESTICKS** 155 J Channon 4-9-1	**Rose Dawes (5)**
14	(13)	-5123	**SIXTIES CHIC** 76 (D) J Channon 4-9-0	**E Greatrex**

5-1 Coup De Force, 6-1 Crazy Luck, 13-2 Whenthedealinsdone, On Edge, 10-1 Bright, Coco Bear, 12-1 Sixties Chic, Vince Lombardi, Pop Star.

6.05 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,672: 6f) (12)

1	(4)	2	**AFENTIKO** 9 P & O Cole 9-7	**F Marsh**
2	(12)	6	**ARABIAN COBRA** 17 H Palmer 9-7	**D Costello**
3	(2)		**PIETRO** J Fanshawe 9-7	**R Coakley**
4	(9)		**SENSORIUM** D Cunha 9-7	**T P Queally**
5	(5)		**BREAKOUT STAR** Tom Clover 9-5	**J Mitchell**
6	(3)		**ARLECCHINO'S REX** M Usher 9-3	**G Bass (3)**
7	(11)		**BEAR ROUTE** E Dunlop 9-3	**D Keenan**
8	(8)		**CAPTAIN CESS** A Wintle 9-3	**Grace McEntee (3)**
9	(10)		**CAMDEN FLYER** A Balding 9-2	**W Carver (3)**
10	(6)		**MAUI BREEZE** C Fellowes 9-2	**Georgia Dobie (3)**
11	(1)		**SWEET SONATA** B Millman 9-2	**J Gilligan**
12	(7)		**MANILA THRILLER** J Channon 8-12	**E Greatrex**

5-2 Afentiko, 5-1 Camden Flyer, 6-1 Arabian Cobra, 7-1 Breakout Star, 10-1 Pietro, Manila Thriller, Sensorium, 12-1 Maui Breeze.

6.40 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 6f) (8)

1	(8)	6	**FLYING STAR** 21 J Berry 4-9-11	**Josephine Gordon**
2	(3)	0-	**PEARL'S EDGE** 364 C Mason 4-9-11	**Gina Mangan (3)**
3	(2)		**ACCRUAL** D & C Kubler 3-9-7	**J Mitchell**
4	(4)	5-	**ARKHALIA FLYNN** 309 J Channon 3-9-7	**E Greatrex**
5	(1)	4-304	**ETHANDUN** 16 (P) E J-Houghton 3-9-7	**Georgia Dobie (3)**
6	(6)	325-	**EZRA CEE** 187 (BF) K P De Foy 3-9-7	**R Coakley**
7	(5)		**STATE OF MADNESS** D F Davis 3-9-5	**G Bass (3)**
8	(7)		**FAMILY MATTERS** R Guest 3-9-2	**D Keenan**

4-5 Ezra Cee, 5-2 Ethandun, 6-1 Arkhalia Flynn, 16-1 State Of Madness, Accrual, 25-1 Family Matters, 50-1 Flying Star, 150-1 Pearl's Edge.

7.15 Handicap (£16,200: 5f) (8)

1	(6)	1-301	**DEMOCRACY DILEMMA** 16 (D) R Cowell 4-9-9	**J Mitchell**
2	(1)	0-105	**TEES SPIRIT** 9 (D) Adrian Nicholls 6-9-7	**Mia Nicholls (5)**
3	(4)	0-110	**THUNDER MOOR** 6 (P,T,D) G Boughey 4-9-3	**Josephine Gordon**
4	(2)	10-61	**DESPERATE HERO** 22 (P,CD) J Channon 4-9-0	**E Greatrex**
5	(7)	02200	**INTERVENTION** 10 M Appleby 7-8-12	**F Marsh**
6	(3)	60-12	**NAVELLO** 39 (T,D) G Boughey 5-8-11	**Grace McEntee (3)**
7	(8)	325-3	**JUMBEAU** 14 (P,D) Tom Clover 4-8-7	**J Doughty (7)**
8	(5)	42215	**NIGHT ON EARTH** 16 (T,CD) I Williams 6-8-5	**Rose Dawes (5)**

11-4 Democracy Dilemma, 9-2 Desperate Hero, 5-1 Navello, 6-1 Tees Spirit, 7-1 Night On Earth, 8-1 Jumbeau, 10-1 Intervention, 12-1 Thunder Moor.

7.45 Handicap (£9,936: 1m 2f) (11)

1	(1)	100-0	**CHASING APHRODITE** 77 (P) Harry Eustace 5-9-11	**J Enright (7)**
2	(3)	000-0	**MYSTERIOUS LOVE** 49 D Menuisier 4-9-11	**K Strydom**
3	(7)	003-1	**TONY MONTANA** 16 (D) M Bell 4-9-10	**F Marsh**
4	(10)	41/1-	**TARJEEH** 217 Owen Burrows 4-9-9	**R Coakley**
5	(8)	11-	**AL ANOUD** 253 (D) R Beckett 4-9-7	**E Greatrex**
6	(5)	205-2	**WISPER** 25 (CD) M Tregoning 6-9-4	**D Costello**
7	(2)	600-0	**LIEBER POWER** 54 A Balding 4-9-3	**W Carver (3)**
8	(6)	1333-	**ISLAND STAR** 337 (BF) R Varian 4-9-1	**J Mitchell**
9	(9)	3-523	**FAST STEPS** 26 (BF,CD) B Millman 6-8-11	**J Gilligan**
10	(4)	002-3	**MORCAR** 14 (CD) R Hannon 4-8-9	**S Hitchcott**
11	(11)	32-00	**WARNING SIGN** 24 (D) G & J Moore 5-8-6	**Anna Gibson (7)**

7-2 Al Anoud, 5-1 Tarjeeh, 6-1 Tony Montana, Island Star, 7-1 Wisper, 8-1 Fast Steps, 10-1 Morcar, 12-1 Lieber Power, Mysterious Love.

8.15 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,768: 1m 3f) (14)

1	(13)	56-03	**AL KHAWANEEJ RIVER** 22 M Tregoning 9-11	**D Costello**
2	(14)	506-0	**QUICKFIRE** 33 M Loughnane 9-11	**W Carver (3)**
3	(9)	5-001	**THRILLING DREAM** 10 E Dunlop 9-11	**J Mitchell**
4	(2)	0000	**SCOTTISH BREEZE** 19 M Bell 9-11	**F Marsh**
5	(1)	000-2	**YARBOROUGH** 16 G & J Moore 9-10	**T P Queally**
6	(11)	-3615	**ELFORLEATHER** 16 (P,BF) J Channon 9-9	**E Greatrex**
7	(12)	00-0	**ARDARA ROSE** 36 R Hannon 9-8	**S Hitchcott**
8	(8)	-5442	**COMPTON BAY** 47 (H) M Madgwick 9-7	**L Keniry**
9	(3)	06250	**VENUS SLIPPER** 26 M Murphy & M Keady 9-7	**D Keenan**
10	(10)	6-434	**KINETIC** 23 (B) O Greenall & J Guerriero 9-6	**Doubtful**
11	(6)	00-0	**POST MISTRESS** 19 H Morrison 9-6	**G Bass (3)**
12	(4)	-4154	**DIBBLE DABBLE** 24 J Ferguson 9-6	**Doubtful**
13	(5)	060-	**WHITE COCO** 186 D M Simcock 9-5	**Georgia Dobie (3)**
14	(7)	0-005	**POTTERS DIAMOND** 33 M Crawley 8-11	**Doubtful**

4-1 Thrilling Dream, 9-2 Al Khawaneej River, 5-1 Yarborough, 13-2 Elforleather, 15-2 Compton Bay, 10-1 Post Mistress, 12-1 others.

8.45 Handicap (3-Y-O: £4,397: 1m) (11)

1	(5)	410-0	**TREASURE STORM** 24 D F Davis 9-11	**O Lewis (7)**
2	(2)	0-420	**LET'S GET EM** 12 (T) P & O Cole 9-10	**F Marsh**
3	(7)	24331	**AMANCIO** 28 (D) J Channon 9-9	**Rose Dawes (5)**
4	(3)	230-3	**TOO MUCH TREVOR** 23 (P) Alice Haynes 9-8	**C Howarth**
5	(1)	40-33	**GREAT ACCLAIM** 12 E J-Houghton 9-7	**Georgia Dobie (3)**
6	(11)	350-5	**FRIGHTENING** 28 Jack Jones 9-7	**D Keenan**
7	(9)	041-0	**SUGARLOAF LENNY** 21 (D) W Knight 9-7	**J Mitchell**
8	(6)	640-0	**DELICACY** 53 (BF) R Hannon 9-6	**R Coakley**
9	(8)	6-405	**MAGNA VEGA** 40 (P) Mrs N Evans 9-5	**Gina Mangan (3)**
10	(10)	33-30	**JUAN SOLO** 19 S Kirk 9-3	**S Mohd (7)**
11	(4)	00-21	**CALM WATERS** 19 (CD) B Millman 9-0	**J Gilligan**

5-2 Amancio, 7-2 Calm Waters, 6-1 Great Acclaim, 10-1 Let's Get Em, 12-1 Magna Vega, Frightening, Delicacy, Too Much Trevor, Sugarloaf Lenny.

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Bath

Going: good (good to soft in places)

2.15 (5f 160yd) 1, **Revenue** (Georgia Dobie, 9-2); 2, Call Time (11-1); 3, Gogo Yubari (9-2). 8 ran. NR: Ten Club. 1¼l, nk. E Johnson Houghton.

2.50 (5f 10yd) 1, **Aesterius** (J Doyle, 10-11 fav); 2, Bolo Neighs (7-2); 3, Emporess (10-1). 8 ran. NR: Binadham, Mukaber, Subsonictoshannon. 2¾l, 2¼l. A Watson.

3.25 (5f 160yd) 1, **Symbol of Hope** (E Jones, 100-30); 2, Media Guest (4-1); 3, We're Reunited (16-1). 11 ran. 1¼l, nk. J L Flint.

4.00 (5f 160yd) 1, **Malham Tarn Cove** (D C Costello, 13-8 fav); 2, Diamond Cottage (14-1); 3, Bama Lama (11-1). 10 ran. 1½l, ½l. Steph Hollinshead.

4.30 (5f 160yd) 1, **Sarah's Verse** (M Ghiani, 11-4 fav); 2, Connie's Rose (17-2); 3, Jax Edge (17-2). 10 ran. 3¼l, 1l. R Harris.

5.00 (1m 2f 37yd) 1, **Love You Darling** (A Rawlinson, 11-2); 2, Divine Presence (9-4); 3, Catch The Light (5-1). 7 ran. Hd, ½l. B Brookhouse.

5.30 (1m 2f 37yd) 1, **Pink Lily** (A Voikhansky, 5-1); 2, Sisterandbrother (9-1); 3, Jimmy Mark (8-1). 13 ran. NR: Roman Tempest. Nk, 2¾l. R Hannon.

6.10 (1m) 1, **Racing Demon** (G Rooke, 4-1); 2, Lunario (4-1); 3, Ower Starlight (25-1). 13 ran. ns, 3¼l. E De Giles.

Placepot: £31.40. Quadpot: £9.60.

Goodwood

Going: good

1.50 (6f) 1, **Red Sand** (Saffie Osborne, 7-2); 2, Arabian Sun (12-1); 3, Berkshire Kameo (4-1). 10 ran. 2½l, nk. E Walker.

2.25 (2m) 1, **Pledgeofallegiance** (L Morris, 11-2); 2, Temporize (12-1); 3, Manxman (9-2). 7 ran. NR: Hurtle Wallop, Plus Point, Yorkindness. 1¼l, ns. Sir Mark Prescott.

3.00 (1m 3f 218yd) 1, **Ayyab** (R Havlin, 9-1); 2, Entrancement (10-1); 3, Divina Grace (16-1). 11 ran. ns, 1½l. S Woods.

3.35 (1m 1f 197yd) 1, **Isle Of Jura** (C Shepherd, 6-1); 2, Mujtaba (5-2); 3, Passion And Glory (6-1). 6 ran. NR: Elegancia, Royal Rhyme. ½l, 1¾l. George Scott.

4.10 (7f) 1, **Wild Tiger** (Oisin Murphy, 7-4 fav); 2, Toimy Son (14-1); 3, Be Frank (4-1). 12 ran. 2½l, 1½l. S bin Suroor.

4.40 (1m) 1, **Queen's Reign** (Saffie Osborne, 17-2); 2, Aragon Castle (7-2 fav); 3, Boyfriend (18-1). 11 ran. Nk, nk. E Walker.

5.10 (5f) 1, **Fair Wind** (P J Dobbs, 13-2); 2, Dream Composer (11-2); 3, Angle Land (16-1). 10 ran. Nk, 1¾l. O Burrows.

Placepot: £533.90.

Quadpot: £31.70.

Haydock Park

Going: soft (heavy in places)

2.05 (7f 212yd) 1, **Miaswell** (D Tudhope, 25-1); 2, Questionable (12-1); 3, Mysteryofthesands (10-3). 10 ran. Sh hd, 3¾l. D O'Meara.

2.40 (7f 212yd) 1, **Thewind Cries Mary** (C Rodriguez, 6-5 fav); 2, Shemozzle (13-8); 3, Song Of Appin (14-1). 4 ran. NR: D Flawless, Desert Time, Fossdale. Nk, 3¼l. E Bethell.

3.15 (6f 212yd) 1, **Yaroogh** (T Marquand, 11-8 fav); 2, Seagulls Eleven (16-5); 3, Green Storm (8-1). 6 ran. NR: Cavallo Bay, Chelsea Embankment. 1l, 3½l. W J Haggas.

3.50 (6f) 1, **Stage Effect** (T Marquand, 10-1); 2, Enigmatic Princess (9-1); 3, Far Above Mary (17-2). 8 ran. NR: Biniorella Bay, Earthy, Khutulun, Make Love, Pure Artistry. 1½l, 1¼l. E Walker.

4.20 (6f) 1, **Electric Storm** (D Tudhope, 9-4); 2, Sophia's Starlight (5-1); 3, Midream (7-1). 6 ran. NR: Gutsy Girl, Queen Of Zafeen, Raqiya, Thelma's Angel. 1l, 2¼l. J Tate.

4.55 (1m 2f 42yd) 1, **Never Ending** (D Tudhope, 9-1); 2, Doha (8-13 fav); 3, Golspie (40-1). 5 ran. NR: Bashful, Bodorgan, Light Speed, Tessy Lad. Nk, 2l. D O'Meara.

5.25 (1m 2f 42yd) 1, **Extra Beat** (J Crowley, 3-1); 2, Amancio (11-10 fav); 3, Takes Time (15-2). 5 ran. NR: Campaign Medal, Geliceaux, Rich Harry, Rogue Raider, Sovereign Nation. 1½l, 23l. J Horton.

Placepot: £354.30. Quadpot: £35.40.

Hereford

Going: good

5.20 (2m 53yd hdle) 1, **Time Interval** (T Bellamy, 15-2); 2, Global Esteem (11-8 fav); 3, Kentucky Bluegrass (25-1). 14 ran. ¾l, 1l. D Dennis.

5.55 (3m 1f 119yd hdle) 1, **Behind The Curtain** (J Tudor, 5-1); 2, Charles St (10-1); 3, Halifax (3-1). 6 ran. 1½l, 1½l. D Pipe.

6.30 (2m 8yd ch) 1, **Tonto Foley** (J Tudor, 9-2); 2, Famoso (3-1 fav); 3, Ben Buie (20-1). 9 ran. NR: Man Of Light. 3¾l, 10l. C Williams.

7.00 (2m 3f 147yd hdle) 1, **Al Sayah** (B Carver, 6-4 fav); 2, Triple Nickle (4-1); 3, Only Fools (9-2). 6 ran. NR: Cher Tara, Seasmoke. 9l, 1¼l. N P Mulholland.

7.30 (2m 4f 194yd ch) 1, **Riskintheground** (H Skelton, Evens fav); 2, Kauto The King (12-1); 3, Hardy Boy (6-4). 4 ran. NR: Mulberry Hill. 2½l, 10l. D Skelton.

8.00 (2m 53yd hdle) 1, **Symbolic Spirit** (H Skelton, 9-2); 2, Captain Attridge (11-4 jt-fav); 3, Colonel Lesley (11-4 jt-fav). 10 ran. Hd, 3½l. D Skelton.

Placepot: £64.90. Quadpot: £4.80.

Pontefract

Going: good

6.15 (1m 6yd) 1, **Million Thanks** (O J Orr, 13-2); 2, Hostelry (6-1); 3, Running Star (9-4 fav). 11 ran. NR: Shimmering Sands. 2¾l, ½l. R Menzies.

6.45 (5f 3yd) 1, **Enchanted Life** (Hollie Doyle, 4-6 fav); 2, Esprit Queen (9-2); 3, Bare Elegance (33-1). 6 ran. 1¾l, 1l. C Appleby.

7.15 (1m 4f 5yd) 1, **Gordon Grey** (J Gilligan, 9-4 fav); 2, Swinging London (9-2); 3, My Harrison George (5-1). 9 ran. ½l, 2¾l. B Brookhouse.

7.45 (6f) 1, **Regal Gem** (D Nolan, 11-2); 2, Expensive Rose (5-1); 3, Praetorian (100-30 fav). 16 ran. 1½l, ns. T Coyle & K Wood.

8.15 (1m 2f 5yd) 1, **Yippee** (F Norton, 11-2); 2, Minstrel Knight (4-1); 3, Glistening Nights (10-1). 10 ran. 2¾l, sh hd. C Johnston.

8.45 (5f 3yd) 1, **Ventura Express** (D Nolan, 5-2 fav); 2, Zarzyni (5-1); 3, Princess Karine (7-2). 6 ran. NR: Moulin Booj. Hd, 2¼l. P T Midgley.

Placepot: £28.10.

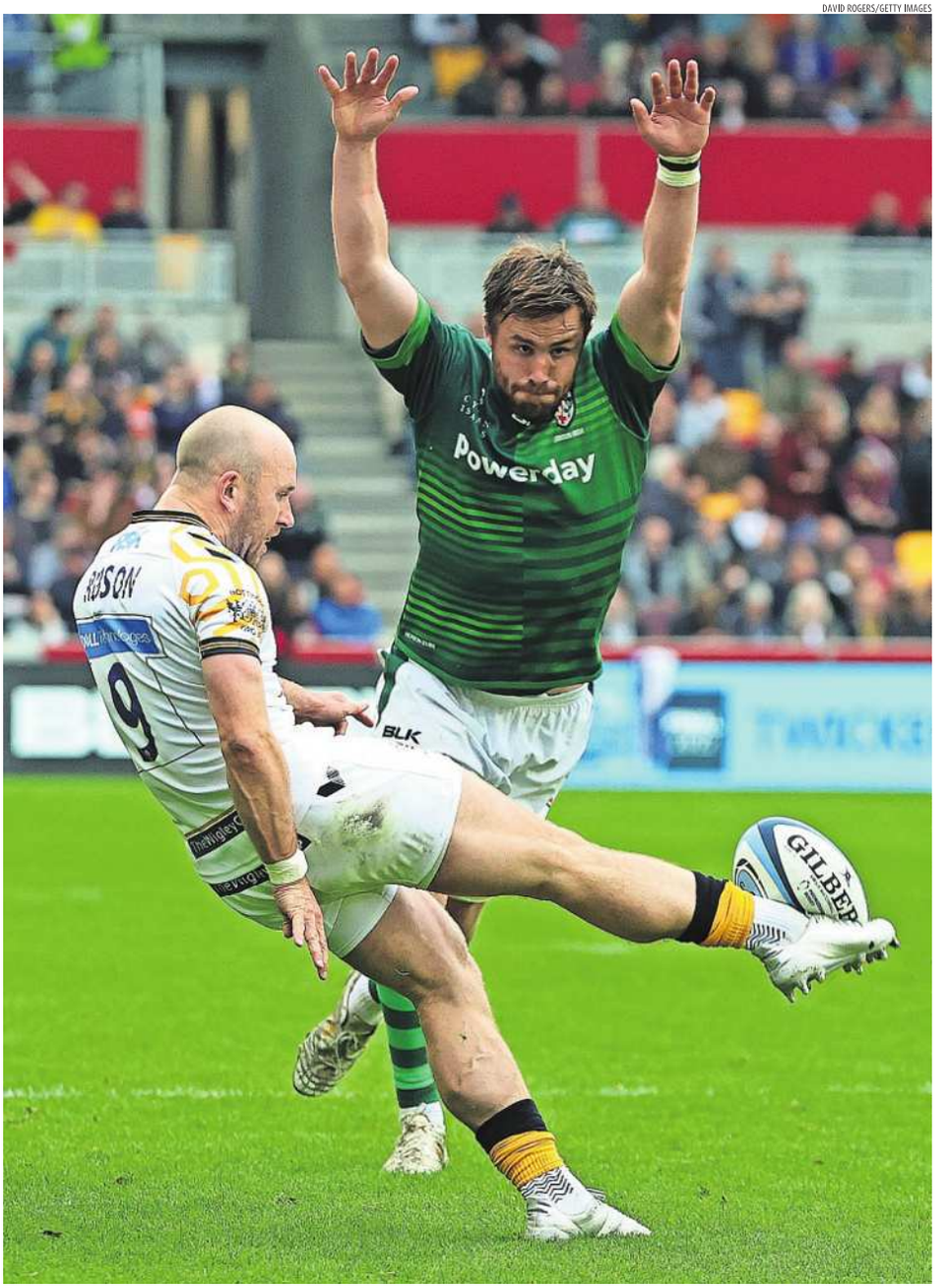
Quadpot: £10.40.

Sport

I was wrong – CVC is sucking life out of rugby

Owen Slot
Chief Sports Writer

DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES



Despite being keen to invest in the game, CVC did not want to get involved in the financial woes of Wasps and London Irish

It is now more than five years since CVC, the private equity group, bought into the English Premiership rugby clubs and therefore a reasonable time to ask: well what was the point of that?

A year ago, which was the season when three English Premiership clubs were wiped off the map, I was persuaded by CVC that actually the good times were just around the corner. Many in the English club game were getting pretty crabby with the fact that they had sold off 27 per cent of their income stream to CVC and that rather than helping to grow the pot, CVC seemed to have just taken to extracting more than a quarter of their income. CVC, however, said to me: hold off any judgment, the uplift is coming, wait until the next TV deal is done, that will win back hearts and minds.

I apologise to readers because I bought it, I drank it all in. I actually wrote that "a smart guestimate is that the Premiership's TV value will go up by between 30 and 50 per cent". I could hardly have been more wrong because the numbers actually went the other way. They didn't go up by a single percentage point; they actually went down by ten.

The numbers look like this: before CVC, the clubs were getting £40 million in TV money per season; soon they will be on £33 million and giving 27 per cent away. So the pot is only just over half what it was seven years ago.

This downturn could be exacerbated because, as reported by Will Kelleher in these pages two weeks ago, there is still no broadcast deal in place for next season's Investec Champions Cup. In other words, income could take a further hit.

Kelleher was on the same cheerful theme last week. The RFU has not yet managed to sell the TV rights to the England game against Japan next month; that would be the first England game in decades not to be broadcast on television. That's not exactly CVC's fault, but it is certainly demonstrative of the flawed uplift theory.

Meanwhile the French club game has been doing very well, thank you, and without the help of CVC. While the English clubs' TV deal went down by 10 per cent, the French announced this week a deal that went up by 14.

When CVC bought into rugby, many doubters pointed to the record of private equity and declared that this was bad for rugby: they'll milk it, they won't respect it, they'll smash it into little pieces and flog it. I never really bought that; rugby wasn't a business you could break up and sell. And the crucial detail was that CVC owned only 27 per cent, so if its investment was to grow, then the other 73 per cent would go up accordingly. So they're all in it together. If CVC wins, everyone wins.

There were — and are — clear concerns. CVC also has a deal with the Six Nations and it could push to take the Six Nations Championship away from free-to-air. That would be the most heinous of crimes; but that isn't their decision either. They just have a one-seventh say in the debate.

My doubt was always that I didn't quite get it. What was the masterplan? Where were the big business opportunities that everyone else had missed? Plenty of people have been asking that same question for five years, waiting for the smart guys to show their hand. The conclusion now is that there isn't a stroke of genius to be played. There isn't a masterplan. They probably just misread their hand.

CVC gambled that by amalgamating the TV rights of different rugby properties, values would soar. And it was wrong. It was unlucky to straddle Covid, but thus far it is still wrong. The latest Premiership deal comes sufficient years beyond the reaches of Covid; Covid has barely anything to do with it. And this latest TV deal hasn't amalgamated the Premiership rights with any others. Maybe that is to come, but the clubs are sick of hearing that.

CVC also surmised that by putting a lot of competing rugby properties on to the same platform and under the same management, then operating costs would go down and data collection would go up. Both are correct but CVC seriously overestimated its ability to get the notoriously dysfunctional Premiership clubs to work together. But even if they are moving in that direction, we are talking small percentage gains here, not doubling or tripling which is the game private equity likes to play.

Indeed, there is a sense of downward spiral here. When CVC first invested, the Premiership could compete for the biggest names in the world game. The likes of Semi Radradra and Faf de Klerk brought a sense of glitz and glamour. Now, however, England falls behind France, Japan and even Ireland as a destination for international superstars; it struggles even to hold on to the best of its own English players. This isn't growth; if anything, it is the opposite.

And then last season, disaster struck. First Worcester Warriors were declared bankrupt, followed quickly by Wasps and then, at the end of the season, London Irish. Three famous clubs with decades of history were suddenly wiped off the map and with each of them, you wondered what CVC will do. Would it come to the aid of one, all or any of its partner clubs? The answer: it just stood by and watched.

I spoke to one of the club senior executives. Yes, they reached out to CVC and, no, CVC did not want to get involved.

"That hasn't gone unnoticed by everyone else," Tony Rowe, the chief executive of Exeter Chiefs, says.

There are some club chairmen who are underwhelmed but remain hopeful that CVC will come through. Rowe's patience has been exhausted.

He remembers the meetings in the Park Lane Hilton five-plus years ago, when CVC were wooing the clubs, and "how we were told this lovely story of what they were going to do for the game and how they were going to increase our revenue. But I've not seen it".

There have been some missteps, the most obvious of which was the new Premiership chief executive whom CVC installed soon after its investment and who was a disaster. Yet what seems strange about going to a Premiership game is that so little has changed. The match experience isn't notably different, there is not exactly a feeling of "new CVC era". There was an Amazon Prime docuseries from last season but that fell so flat that there was no second series forthcoming.

This sadly is the case at a time when the product on the field is as good as it has ever been. What the Premiership needs is a big marketing surge. CVC could argue that there was a £25 million marketing pot in the original deal that was soaked up by the clubs to keep them alive during Covid — which is true. I would urge CVC, then, to replenish that pot and make another £25 million available but the clubs would say: no, no way, that'll just turn their 27 per cent into something greater. In other words, this isn't really about investment, it's about ownership.

The reality is that you have the clubs, which are forever struggling financially, and their No 1 investor, which is not. The remaining Premiership clubs are still struggling to pay back the £88 million loaned to them by the taxpayer to get through Covid. Yet, last month, CVC's IPO in Amsterdam raised what is expected to be between €2 billion and €2.3 billion (£1.7 billion to £1.95 billion).

The Premiership is just a tiny part of the empire that made CVC's IPO so successful, but it is getting no return. Is it even ethical for an investor, flush with a €2 billion windfall, to have its investments deferring repayment of loans from the state?

However, this isn't a case of private equity callously profiteering. It is about an investment that hasn't worked. Yet. "Yet" is the word some still cling to. Five years in, though, instead of pumping life into the Premiership, CVC has been sucking its blood.

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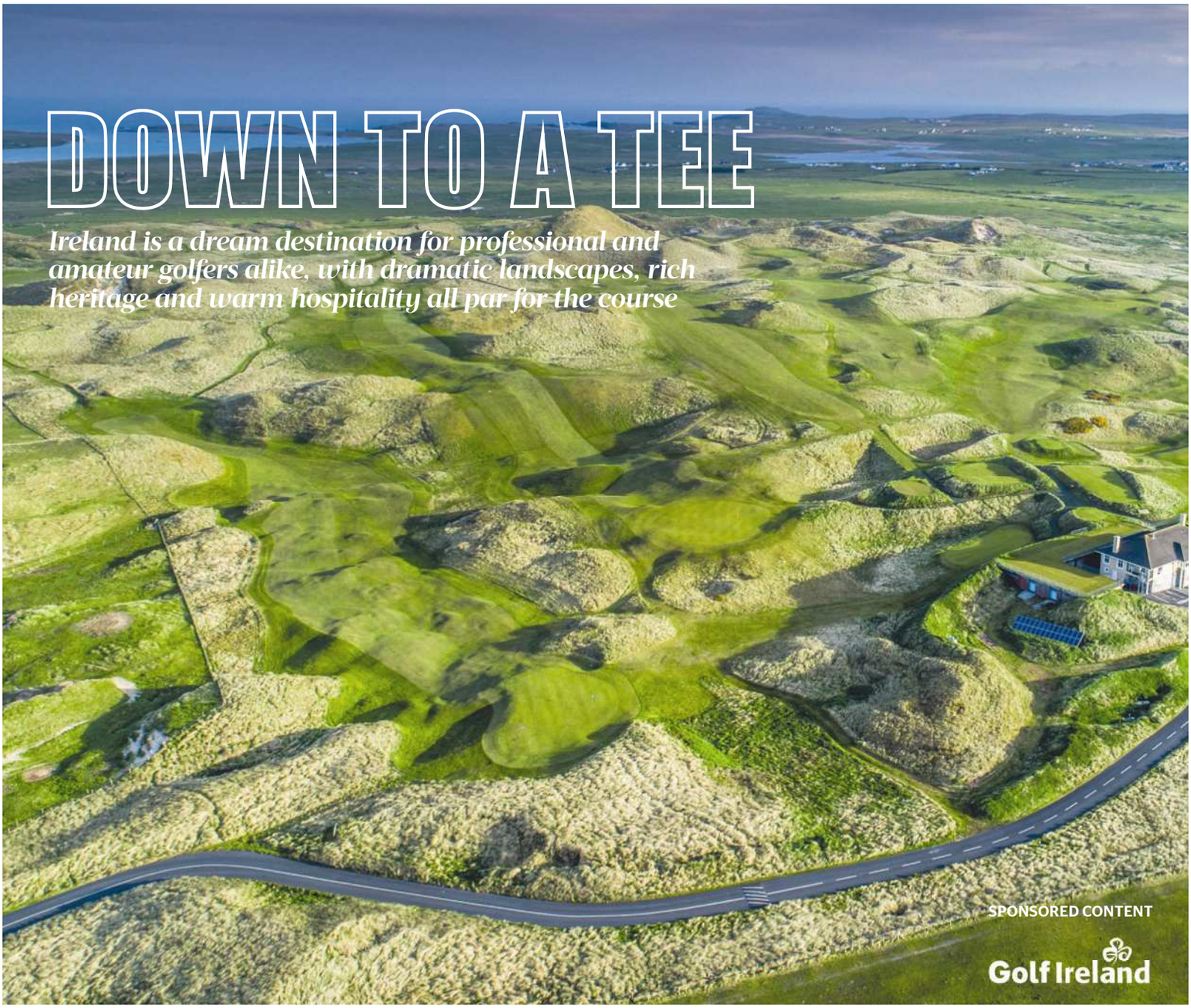


DOWN TO A TEE

Ireland is a dream destination for professional and amateur golfers alike, with dramatic landscapes, rich heritage and warm hospitality all par for the course

SPONSORED CONTENT
Golf Ireland

As the celebrated Irish saying goes, visitors to Ireland enjoy a hundred thousand welcomes. And that's certainly true for the many golfers who cross the Irish Sea to play on its 300 or so courses.

Quite apart from some of the finest links and parkland courses anywhere, there's world-class food, entertainment, accommodation and attractions away from the fairways – together with astonishingly beautiful landscapes, cosmopolitan cities and friendly communities where visitors are made to feel very much at home.

The next few years are set to be huge for golf on the island of Ireland, with the Ryder Cup returning after 21 years, when Adare Manor hosts the centenary edition of the biennial contest between the USA and Europe in 2027.

Before that, Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland will next year host the 153rd Open Championship – its third time. Meanwhile, this year will see the DP World Tour's Amgen Irish Open staged at Royal County Down, the KPMG Women's Irish Open at Carton House, the Challenge Tour's Irish Challenge at the K Club (the 2006 Ryder Cup venue), and the Legends Tour's OFX Irish Legends at Seapoint Golf Links.

These are exciting times for golf on the island of Ireland, according to Gerry Maguire, chairman of Carne Golf Links in Co Mayo, and chairman of the area's tourist office, Visit Erris.

"People in Ireland are just mad about their golf and when you get prestigious tournaments like the Ryder Cup coming, with the likes of Rory McIlroy and Shane Lowry, who are probable players on the Europe team for Adare Manor, then it raises the whole thing to an enormous level for our sport. It's a phenomenal event to have for the destination."

Ireland, he says, is "an extra special place" that is gaining interest from golfers around the world. At Carne, which is not a members' club and is open to all, the number of visitor golf rounds went up from 3,000 in 2018 to 12,500 in 2023, and is projected to reach 15,000 this year.

Back to nature
Carne Golf Links has a wild and raw appeal

What makes Ireland so special for golf? Maguire highlights the quality of its courses, which encompass both links and parkland – "two very different animals", as he puts it.

"Ireland has a fantastic array of links courses, especially when you consider that there are only 153 links courses in the world and we have about 45 or 50 of them. They are just phenomenal. With the topography here, they are just so natural. Carne is very raw and people love that. It's like playing golf 50 years ago. Our dunes go 150 metres in the air."

He describes other west-coast links offerings, from *(continued)*

(continued from page 1) Waterville up to Ballyliffin, as "absolutely incredible". In the east, highlights include Portmarnock, Jameson Golf Links and Baltray.

"You have fantastic parkland golf courses all over the island of Ireland," Maguire adds. "Mount Juliet, the K Club and Adare Manor are three of the better known ones. But there are a lot of hidden ones you wouldn't even know about, too. The fact of the matter is, if you come to play golf in Ireland, you'll have a great round whichever course you choose."

While Ireland is a nirvana for golfers, it's also wonderful for their non-golfing partners. It is renowned for its hospitality, from welcoming pubs to traditional music, but it also has magnificent scenery, as Maguire points out.

"We talk about the green of Ireland – it's just wonderful. And then you have the Wild Atlantic Way, which has brought millions of tourists. You can go to great cities like Cork, Limerick and Dublin, which have wonderful heritage and museums. You won't be disappointed. And then there are courses such as Portsalon, Donegal, Strandhill, Enniscrone, Connemara, Lahinch, Ballybunion and Tralee – all absolutely stunning.

"When people come to the island of Ireland, they shouldn't just focus on one area, because it is a small enough place to get about easily. Adare Manor is only about three hours away from us at Carne on the northwest coast, on good roads, and three-and-a-half hours from Dublin. Of course some guests may prefer to stop and focus on one area they've discovered. If they really like it, they can relax and enjoy a night or two to really get a feel for the place."

It helps that getting there is easy, and the Common Travel Area simplifies trips between Great Britain and the island of Ireland. There are regular ferry services from England, Wales and Scotland to Dublin, Rosslare, and Northern Ireland's Belfast and Larne, while flights serve more than half a dozen points from airports across Britain.

As for Ireland's legendary welcome, Maguire adds: "We just love looking after people. That's our hallmark and I think that's what people experience here – good food, good accommodation, good golf and good places to go."

Ready to take a drive?

Whichever region you choose, a golf tour in Ireland is an endless round of delights – both on course and off

The main course
Clockwise from top: Slieve Russell, Birr Castle, Mount Juliet, the Newgrange Neolithic tomb

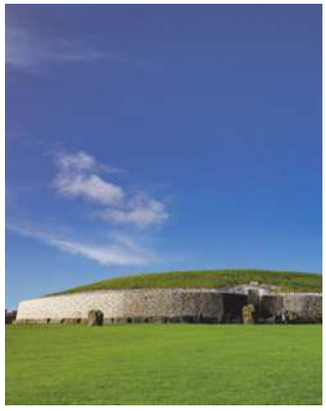
IRELAND'S ANCIENT EAST

Lush landscapes of rolling hills and valleys flanked by a beguiling coastline provide idyllic settings for the region's top-drawer parkland and links golf, all steeped in 5,000 years of history.

At Mount Wolseley Hotel, Spa & Golf Resort, the championship course – designed by the late Irish Ryder Cup hero Christy O'Connor Jr – opened in 1996 and plays through stands of mature trees against a backdrop of the East Carlow and Wicklow mountains, with demanding approaches to greens, and water on 11 holes.

Its grand Italianate house, now a four-star hotel, was built in 1864 by Sir Thomas Wolseley, of the family whose company later produced the first British car. The building replaced a previous incarnation that dated back to the 1700s.

Affectionately known as Baltray, after the neighbouring village, the links course at County Louth Golf Club was redesigned in 1938 by



renowned architect Tom Simpson almost 50 years after the club was founded. Bordering a six-mile Irish Sea beach, with every hole running in a different direction, this is where Shane Lowry won the Irish Open in 2009 as an amateur, which was a precursor to his Open Championship victory ten years later at Royal Portrush.

Founded in 1885, Royal Dublin Golf Club's links course was designed by the legendary Harry Colt and has hosted many championships, including the Irish Open in the mid-1980s, won twice by Seve Ballesteros and once by Bernhard Langer.

South Wicklow's Arklow Golf Links, created in 1927 by Fred Hawtree and John Taylor, is one of Ireland's hidden gems, its fairways meandering through rugged dunes.

The duo also designed the extended 18-hole Rosslare Golf Links Old Course, on a narrow peninsula overlooking Wexford Harbour, a year earlier.

The parkland course at Woodenbridge Golf Club, tucked in Wicklow's Vale of Avoca, is acclaimed for its scenic beauty, and opened for play with 18 holes in 1995, a century after its first nine holes.

Carlow Golf Club's storied Deerpark Course, a favourite of Grand Slam champion Gene Sarazen, is little changed since a 1937 Tom Simpson redesign.

Additions in the past 25 years include the course co-designed by Christy O'Connor Sr and Jr at Concra Wood Golf Club, beside Lough Muckno, and Bunclody Golf and Fishing Club's layout in 300 acres of former estate land on the banks of the River Slaney.

DON'T MISS: 20TH HOLE ATTRACTIONS

The **Wicklow Mountains** form the largest of Ireland's national parks, an ancient wilderness of rugged uplands, rushing streams, valleys and lakes.

Explore history predating Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Giza at **Newgrange, Knowth** and **Dowth** – huge, circular Neolithic stone tombs together designated a World Heritage Site.

Kilkenny Castle has been lived in for 800 years. It is largely a Victorian remodelling of the 13th-century castle, with a formal garden and wooded parkland.

A compact, walkable area in the heart of the city, the **Waterford Viking Triangle**'s attractions include the House of Waterford Crystal, the award-winning Medieval Museum, the Bishop's Palace and Reginald's Tower.

IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

Discover great-quality – and great-value – golf in Ireland's tranquil heartlands region, comprising 11 counties that straddle the River Shannon and its associated loughs.

This beautiful area of inland waterways, rolling hills, expanses of woodland and emerald pastures is home to more than three dozen parkland courses, all less than two hours' drive from major cities.

Glasson Golf Club is a Christy O'Connor Jr design that forms part of the four-star Glasson Lakehouse spa resort on the serene shores of Lough Ree. The wow factor starts from the first hole and continues as the par-71 course weaves its way through mature trees, with water hazards liberally sprinkled throughout. It reaches a climax at the signature par-three 17th, where tee boxes jutting into the lough demand precision and courage to fly past the swaying reeds and on to the rock-edged green.

Slieve Russell Golf & Country Club in Co Cavan is also part of a spa resort. The picturesque 300-acre estate incorporates the 243-room, four-star Slieve Russell Hotel, providing the option

of staying on site – and in style.

The PGA National Ireland Slieve Russell course, rated among Ireland's top parkland destinations, is one of just eight PGA National designated courses in the world, and has hosted key tournaments including two European Tour events and the Irish PGA Championship. It nestles between two lakes that edge several holes, including the 528-yard par-five 13th, called Watergate, which doglegs sharply around Lough Rud.

Elsewhere, an inland links-type design by Christy O'Connor Jr, Esker Hills Golf Club in Co Offaly, is known for its sand-based greens, all-year playability and being the home club of Ireland's most recent Open champion, Shane Lowry.

1. Carne Golf Club
2. Enniscrone Golf Club
3. Strandhill Golf Club
4. County Sligo Golf Club
5. Donegal Golf Club
6. Cruit Island
7. Rosapenna Golf Club
8. Ballyliffin Golf Club
9. Portsalon Golf Club
10. Slieve Russell Golf & Country Club
11. Concra Wood Golf Club
12. County Louth Golf Club
13. Killeen Castle
14. The Island Golf Club
15. Portmarnock Golf Club
16. The Royal Dublin Golf Club
17. Luttrellstown Castle
18. Carton House
19. The K Club
20. Druids Glen
21. The European Club
22. Arklow Links Golf Club
23. Woodenbridge Golf Club
24. Carlow Golf Club
25. Mount Wolseley
26. Bunclody Golf & Fishing Club
27. Mount Juliet
28. Rosslare Golf Links
29. Old Head of Kinsale
30. Waterville Golf Links
31. Killarney Golf & Fishing Club
32. Ballybunion Golf Club
33. Adare Manor
34. Lahinch Golf Club
35. Portumna Golf Club
36. Esker Hills Golf Club
37. Glasson Golf Club

ILLUSTRATION: ELEN WINATA FOR NEWS UK

Surf and turf
Above, Carne Golf Links in Co Mayo is open to all; below, Old Head is perched on 300ft cliffs

WILD ATLANTIC WAY

A stunning 1,600-mile stretch of Ireland's windswept western coastline, the Wild Atlantic Way is a fitting moniker for this striking landscape, where crashing storm-driven waves meet soaring cliffs and rocky shores.

It's also where you'll find some of the world's most challenging links courses: they'll take your breath away, even if the wind isn't up.

Relative newcomer Ballyliffin Golf Club boasts two must-play links courses that are set amid uncompromising dunes on Ireland's northernmost tip,

The Glashedy Links opened in 1995 and has hosted leading tournaments, including the Irish Open in 2018 and the Women's Irish Open in 1998. The Old Links has staged the Irish Seniors Open, among other events, and has seen improvements by designers including Sir Nick Faldo since it opened in 1973.

With gargantuan dunes towering over its fairways, Carne Golf Links is perhaps the most dramatic of the island's courses. Its Hackett course was the last design by the late Eddie Hackett. Nine new holes, based on his drawings, integrated with the Hackett back nine, have created a spectacular 18-hole course called the Wild Atlantic Dunes. Play alternates between that and the original 18 on consecutive days.

County Sligo Golf Club's Colt Championship Links course is named after Harry Colt, the master architect who revamped the original 1894 design in 1927. Laid out on the cliffs of Rosses Point peninsula, its holes provide glorious views of Sligo Bay, flat-topped Benbulben Mountain and Drumcliffe Church, in the cemetery of which Sligo's favourite son – celebrated poet WB Yeats – is buried.

The Dunes, Enniscrone Golf Club's championship links course, is aptly named for the brooding sandy humps cloaked in thick marram grass that guard its sinuous fairways. Enniscrone has 27 holes of golf on 400 acres of a peninsula in the Moy Estuary.

Play three remarkable links courses at Rosapenna Golf Club. The newest addition is the St Patrick's Links on Sheephaven Bay, previously home to 36 holes and reworked by Tom Doak into a sprawling 18-hole masterpiece, dominated by huge dunes, that opened to great acclaim in 2021.

Its other options are no slouches. The Old Tom Morris Links was created back in 1891 by the father of modern golf and later extended by another golfing great, Harry Vardon, while Sandy Hills is an impressive Pat Ruddy design that opened in 2003.

Among a slew of other magical links on this coastline are *(continued)*

DON'T MISS: 20TH HOLE ATTRACTIONS

Birr Castle is the home of the Leviathan – the largest telescope in the world when it was constructed in the 1840s, and still working today. Originally a Norman structure, the castle has been lived in by generations of the same family since the 1620s. It has a science centre and award-winning formal gardens.

Enjoy magnificent scenery and tales of epic history on a guided **Killaloe River Cruises** boat trip of the River Shannon and Lough Derg.

The social history of Ireland is powerfully brought to life through compelling stories and interactive exhibits in the new National Famine Museum at **Strokestown Park House & Gardens**. Visitors can also tour the house and its walled gardens – a preserved Palladian time capsule.

(continued from page 3) Cruit Island Golf Club, with nine holes in a magnificent clifftop setting; Donegal Golf Club, a Hackett design on a promontory enhanced by Ruddy and where 2011 Open Champion Darren Clarke is a member; and Portsalon Golf Club, an 1891 veteran extended in 2000 with nine new holes and further enhanced in 2010 by 2014 Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinley.

The string of top courses continues, with Strandhill Golf Club, a par-70 course of undulating fairways and unforgiving shortcuts; Waterville Golf Links, a wild and remote scenic sensation with top-quality links golf; and Old Head in Kinsale, perhaps the most exhilarating course of all, set atop cliffs 300ft high.

DON'T MISS: 20TH HOLE ATTRACTIONS

One of the highest sea cliffs in Europe, **Slieve League** rises almost 2,000ft, providing sweeping views across Donegal Bay to the Sligo Mountains from its clifftop path.

Experience great craic in the quaint town of **Westport** in Co Mayo, full of 18th-century architecture and surrounded by magnificent nature. A heartland of traditional Irish music, you can enjoy toe-tapping tunes at pubs including Matt Molloy's, MJ Hobans and McGing's.

Co Sligo inspired Ireland's great poet WB Yeats, and you can get a flavour of this beautiful region on the **Taste of Sligo** tour, savouring local culinary creations and craft beers. Then relax with a seaweed bath in heated seawater pumped from the Atlantic to a bathhouse in Strandhill.

In full swing
Top: Ballyliffin Golf Club in Co Donegal; inset: Adare Manor

PARKLAND COURSES

The best players from either side of the Atlantic will gather in 2027 at Adare Manor to do battle in the Ryder Cup. The course was one of the last designs by Robert Trent Jones Sr and has undergone a complete revamp by fellow American architect Tom Fazio ahead of the contest's centenary. The approach shot over the River Maigue to the 18th green, adjacent to the magnificent, turreted 19th-century manor house itself, makes for a heart-pumping finish.

The K Club hosted the 2006 Ryder Cup on its Palmer North course – one of its two layouts designed by the great Arnold – and hosts the Irish Open in 2025 and 2027. The River Liffey is an ever-present danger on Palmer North, and the closing holes are memorable, notably for the tight fairways and risk-reward temptation of the 16th and 18th.

Former Irish Open venue Druids Glen has a druids' altar behind the 12th green and a Celtic cross flowerbed by the tee.

Nicknamed the "Augusta of Europe", Mount Juliet's American-style Jack Nicklaus course is lined by mature trees and is a three-time Irish Open host. The manor house is now a luxury hotel.

Another former stately home turned upscale hotel, Carton House, has two designer-label courses by Mark O'Meara and Colin Montgomerie, set in 1,100 acres of parkland.

You can also play alongside historic sites. Killeen Castle's Jack Nicklaus Signature Course hosted the 2011 Solheim Cup and surrounds the picturesque citadel. Meanwhile, the course at Luttrellstown Castle Resort winds through its mature parklands and has an alpine lodge-style clubhouse.

Killarney Golf & Fishing Club is a six-time Irish Open host venue with two 18-hole courses.

LINKS COURSES

Portmarnock Golf Club, on a tongue of shallow dunes near Dublin, has seen many famous golfers tread its fairways over the years, in events including the 1991 Walker Cup and no fewer than 19 Irish Opens. It hosts the 2024 Women's Amateur Championship in June.

Its neighbour, and part of the Portmarnock Resort, Jameson Golf Links reopened with its new name in late 2023 after a multimillion-euro revamp of Bernhard Langer's original 1995 design.

Created and owned by Pat Ruddy, The European Club has 20 holes, with two extra par-threes. Its 12th green is the world's longest, measuring more than 120 yards from front to back.

The Island Golf Club – which is conveniently close to Dublin airport – is a classic links course woven through the east coast's highest dunes, with the sea on three sides.

Ballybunion Golf Club's Old Course is a venerable treasure, the 1893 layout winding through monstrous sand dunes on the shores of the Shannon estuary. Its Cashen Course was added by Robert Trent Jones Sr in 1984.

Often called the "St Andrews of Ireland", Lahinch Golf Club's Old Course, on the west coast in Co Clare, could have been sculpted by nature itself – but it is the handiwork of Old Tom Morris, and subsequently Alister MacKenzie, of Augusta National fame. It is set to host the Walker Cup in September 2026.

To find great Ireland offers, including courses and packages along the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East, visit Golfbreaks (golfbreaks.com/ireland), Your Golf Travel (yourgolftravel.com/ireland) and Golf Escapes (golf-escapes.com/ireland)

A hole new world
From top: Mount Juliet, Co Kilkenny; the European Club, Brittas, Co Wicklow; the K Club, Co Kildare

REACH IRELAND'S FAIRWAYS THE EASY WAY

The island of Ireland benefits from quick and easy access from Great Britain, with plenty of air and sea routes to choose from.

What's more, the continuation of the Common Travel Area means British and Irish citizens can travel between the two islands without a passport or visa restrictions, subject to ID requirements from the travel provider. See ireland.com for more details.

Find out more at ireland.com/golf

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