

SUNDAY EXPRESS



MAY 26, 2024

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RISHI: I'LL BRING IN NATIONAL SERVICE



Over-18s to be called up for 'civic duty' to restore British pride

EXCLUSIVE

By David Williamson POLITICAL EDITOR

TEENAGERS will be signed up for compulsory National Service under bold new plans unveiled by Rishi Sunak last night.

All 18 year olds will have to take part in some

TURN TO PAGE FOUR



Thrills and spills for Wills and George at Cup final

SEE PAGE 13 AND SPORT

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Daisy drowns out her fear of open water to play Queen of the Waves

Picture: JESSE GRANT/
GETTY/DISNEY



DEEP WATER WOES: Daisy as Trudy in *Young Woman and the Sea*. Inset, the real Gertrude Ederle. Below, Daisy as Rey in *Star Wars: Episode IX*



By **Karen Rockett**

STAR Wars actress Daisy Ridley has admitted she is terrified of open water despite her new role as the first woman to swim the Channel.

The 32-year-old London-born star plays Gertrude (Trudy) Ederle, who in 1926 swam from France to England – and faster than any man.

But Daisy admitted that unlike Trudy, “I couldn’t do front crawl”.

She added: “My thing is to get in the water and flap my hands a bit.”

So the actress, who went from obscurity with a bit part in *Casualty* to starring in the world’s biggest film franchise at 21, was forced to train four times a week for four months to shoot the final Channel swim.

Filming took place over nine days in the Black Sea and was far from plain sailing for Daisy.

“That was intense. I told everyone that I was scared of the open water and they thought I was lying,” she said.

In the film, called *Young Woman and the Sea*, which is released on Friday, she is thrown apples for sustenance to keep her going.

But in another twist of fate, poor Daisy revealed: “I’m allergic to apples.”

“They make my lips bubbly and I can’t breathe.”

The real Gertrude was an American competition swimmer, Olympic champion and world record holder in five events.

On August 6, 1926, she completed her epic swim from France and was nicknamed the “Queen of the Waves”.

She started at Cap Gris-Nez at 7.03am and as she came ashore at Kingsdown, Kent, 14 hours and 34 minutes later a very British immigration officer requested a passport.

Prior to Trudy, only five men had completed the swim across the Channel, with the best time of 16 hours, 33 minutes recorded by Enrique Tirabocchi.

CURRENT OBSESSION: Daisy Ridley trained for months to film epic Channel swim movie



By **Matthew Davis**

THEY say you’re only as old as you feel... and amorous octogenarians have proved it with a record rise in demand for Viagra.

Official figures show that NHS prescriptions for sex pills increased by 68 per cent in the past seven years.

More than 200,000 were issued to men over the age of 80 last year, with more than 7,000 dished out to over-90s.

A man aged 102 was among the elderly Britons prescribed the performance enhancing medication, according to NHS statistics.

They show that every week more than 4,000 prescriptions for the drugs are being handed out to passionate pensioners.

Last year’s figure compares with more than 125,000 over-80s and more than 2,500 to

Oldies are up for it!

Rise in over-80s demand for Viagra

over-90s in 2016. The number of nonagenarians being given the pills has almost trebled during this period.

In total, there were 4.52 million prescriptions of the medication to men of all ages last year, costing the taxpayer £16.4million. This was up from 3.95 million seven years ago. In

England’s 106 Clinical Commissioning Groups around one in every 40 men were prescribed a Viagra-style drug last year.

Frank Furedi, emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Kent, said: “Under the influence of popular culture old age has become increasingly sexualised. There is now

a small army of experts that assert you are never too old to have sex. No wonder many elderly gentleman feel they have to rise to the occasion and rely on pharmaceutical support to show they are still players.”

The statistics from the NHS include all prescriptions handed out by GPs in England to help patients deal with the problems of erectile dysfunction. Most popular is sildenafil, the generic name for the drug sold under the brand name Viagra.

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

Pictures: OLI SCARFF/AFP; JACOB KING/PA; EDWARD MASSEY/CCHQ

Teenagers called up to 'renew pride in country'

FROM PAGE ONE

kind of civic duty by enrolling for a 12-month spell in the Armed Forces.

Or they could opt to join the police, fire service or other body that does work in the community for one weekend every month.

The Prime Minister announced his eye-catching proposal as he drew up the finishing touches to his election manifesto.

He believes it would unite the nation, combat crime and provide youngsters with life-changing skills. And he confirmed the Scandinavian-style programme would begin by September next year if he is returned to No10 on July 4.

Mr Sunak told the Sunday Express it would "create a shared sense of purpose among our young people and a renewed sense of pride in our country".

National Service – abolished 64 years ago – has only been in place in the UK twice in the modern era, once during the First World War, and again from 1939.

Under the 21st-century version, youngsters would be able to compete for a 12-month, full-time military commission with the Armed Forces or UK cyber defence.

There would be 30,000 places for the country's "brightest and best".

Others would have to volunteer for one weekend per month for "civil resilience" – including activities ranging from supporting flood defences and helping during natural disasters to collecting and delivering essential items for the NHS. It is hoped that as well as the police and fire service, young people would work with search and rescue teams and other voluntary groups.

A Royal Commission would decide how the National Service Programme will be rolled out. Mr Sunak said last night: "This is

a great country but generations of young people have not had the opportunities or experience they deserve and there are forces trying to divide our society in this increasingly uncertain world.

"I have a clear plan to address this and secure our future. I will bring in a new version of National Service to create a shared sense of purpose among young people and a renewed sense of pride in our country.

"This will provide life-changing opportunities for our young people, offering them the chance to learn real-world skills, do new things and contribute to their community and our country."

Conservatives hope the initiative will provide "valuable work experience" and "ignite a passion for a future career in healthcare, public service, charity or the Armed Forces".

Those joining the military programme would work in logistics, cyber security, procurement or civil response operations and receive a £10,000 stipend.

Those participating in the 25-days-a-year civilian programme would do so on a volunteer basis with the Government contributing towards training costs.

Penny Mordaunt, a former Defence Secretary, said: "You sometimes hear young people today dismissed as 'snowflakes'. Not in my experience they're not. They have huge potential and care deeply about their communities and the world around them.

"Whenever we give them opportunity they show us they want to do their duty.

"Every 18-year-old should have greater opportunity to develop their character, capabilities and the attitudes that will allow them and the nation to succeed, regardless of their background and where they live."

General Lord David Richards, head of the Armed Forces between 2010 and 2013,

What do you think – SHOULD WE BRING BACK NATIONAL SERVICE?

YES – 0901 133 4431

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HITTING THE TRAIL: Rishi in Northallerton yesterday and Sir Keir's cuppa in Stafford

said: "I think overall this is an excellent idea. Both dimensions, military and civil, would instil in our well-meaning but often confused younger generation the sense of national purpose and cohesion – of belonging to something bigger than themselves.

"But I would need to see more details about how the Armed Forces would have sufficient resources to recruit and train numbers that might be drawn to this option, while keeping their own high standards."

Gen Sir Richard Barrons, former head of Joint Forces Command, added: "If this was properly constructed and the numbers contained, we might get some value from the military option. My real concern is that there is no capacity to absorb anything other than a handful of people at the minute. It would need real funding... from outside the Armed Forces."

More than two million men were con-

scripted into the Army, Royal Navy or Royal Air Force under the original National Service programme from 1949 to 1963.

This time, it is planned that the programme will also recruit volunteers to work with charities that tackle loneliness and support older, isolated people.

The Royal Commission – the first of the century – would work with experts from the Armed Forces and across society to design the programme.

A National Service Act would require every 18-year-old to take part in the programme by the end of the next Parliament.

It is expected to cost £2.5billion a year by 2029-30, with £1billion raised through a crackdown on tax avoidance and evasion. The remaining £1.5billion would come from cash used for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which replaced EU structural funds.

Tories say that while bringing back

Boris won't be in front line

BORIS Johnson will be out of the country for much of the election campaign, scuppering hopes that he will play a leading role in the battle against Labour.

Rishi Sunak's decision to hold an unexpected summer poll means plans to deploy the former PM in "red wall" constituencies across the Midlands and North have been downgraded.

Mr Johnson had already arranged a series of overseas trips, including speaking engagements and holidays, for the next couple of months.

But he will still make some personal appearances, as well as backing the Conservatives via emails, social media and newspaper columns.

Yesterday he used the latter to launch a scathing attack on Sir Keir Starmer, warning he "would be the most dangerous and left-wing Labour prime minister since the 1970s".

Mr Johnson's spokesman said: "Boris is, as always, strongly supporting the Conservatives and he encourages everybody to do the same."

Mr Sunak, *left*, hit the campaign trail yesterday, enjoying breakfast with ex-servicemen at a Wetherspoon's in his Yorkshire constituency, while Sir Keir had a cuppa with residents in Stafford.



National Service would be a "major change in the way our country works" it is "completely essential". A source said: "Only by nurturing our shared culture and fostering a sense of duty can we preserve our nation and our values for decades to come."

Denmark this year announced military conscription would include women for the first time. And in Sweden, young people compete to take part in military service and participants in civil defence programmes help emergency services and protect the national grid.

The move comes as Sir Keir Starmer confirmed a Labour government would give 16 and 17-year-olds the vote.

He said: "If you can work, if you can pay tax, if you can serve in your Armed Forces, then you ought to be able to vote."

Five reasons why Rishi has acted wisely

Why the biggest political gamble in modern times could pay off...

1 FORCES THE COUNTRY TO MAKE A CHOICE

A Conservative insider said: "If you're not getting heard and you're 20 points behind, things are only going to get worse. By calling the election, he's focusing minds on the choice."

2 THINGS MAY NOT GET BETTER

There is scant spare cash at the Treasury for a giveaway Autumn Statement – while there is also still a risk that global events could push inflation up again.

3 IMMIGRATION

Voters, already angry about small-boat crossings, will be furious if arrival numbers keep rising over the summer. If no Rwanda flights take off, Rishi will have failed.

4 IT STOPS REFORM UK HAVING TIME TO GET ORGANISED

The Tories are worried about Reform UK's potential to hand the margin of victory to opposition parties and this early election date forced Nigel Farage to rule out standing as an MP.

5 UNITES THE PARTY AND SHOWS THEM WHO'S BOSS

Nobody can accuse the Prime Minister of being a ditherer who planned to "squat" in Downing Street until he could put off the election no longer. Instead, he has caught Labour by surprise and he can financially out-gun Sir Keir Starmer's party.

Hunt and Reeves battle over economy in bid to secure votes of middle class

JEREMY Hunt has scrambled to secure the support of the middle classes in the looming election as Labour casts itself as the party of economic prudence, writes David Williamson.

The Chancellor said inheritance tax was "profoundly anti-Conservative" and said the cuts to National Insurance were just the beginning, adding: "We made a start, and we will go further."

Meanwhile, Shadow Chancellor Rachel Reeves, in a pledge to voters, said: "I will never play fast and loose with your money."

And she said she believes in "sound

money and public spending that is kept under control".

Mr Hunt said his "first priority" is cutting the "taxes that have the biggest impact on growth".

He said he would also "love to offer more support to people buying a house for the first time".

Ms Reeves signalled taxes for working people could come down. "I do not believe you can tax and spend your way to growth, and I didn't come into politics to raise taxes on working people," she said.

"Indeed, I want them to be lower."



BOOST: Chancellor Jeremy Hunt aims to cut more taxes

PM's key challenges to be financial stability and immigration

RISHI Sunak faces a battle to convince voters they are better off under his party – and that they can trust him on immigration, exclusive polling reveals.

The Prime Minister relies heavily on the fall in inflation, the end of the recession, the drop in the energy price cap and the cutting of National Insurance to earn votes.

But an alarming 45 per cent of voters feel worse off

than this time last year, WeThink's polling found, with just 15 per cent feeling better off.

When it comes to job security, 20 per cent feel more secure than they did 12 months ago – but almost a quarter (23 per cent) feel less secure.

Hope for the future is in short supply as well. Nearly a third (32 per cent) said they were less optimistic

about the financial prospects for themselves and their family, with only 27 per cent more optimistic.

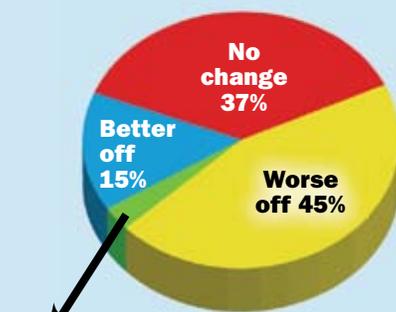
Mr Sunak must also contend with dissatisfaction on immigration, as People Polling's survey for the Centre for Migration Control reveals 49 per cent do not trust Labour or the Tories to reduce net migration.

Some 12 per cent of those surveyed said they would

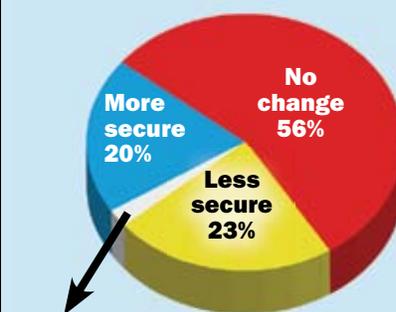
support a Labour government led by Sir Keir Starmer, with nine per cent opting for Tory one led by Rishi Sunak.

And when asked if "Britain should have a five-year freeze on all further immigration that is not essential to supporting the NHS", 32 per cent strongly agreed, 17 per cent tended to agree, 13 per cent tended to disagree, while a further 11 per cent strongly disagreed.

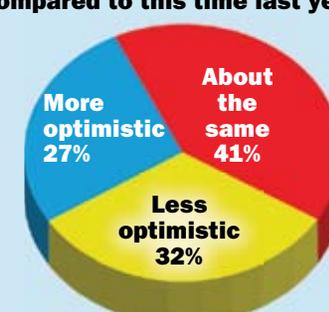
Do you feel better or worse off than this time last year?



Do you feel more secure in your job than this time last year?



How do you feel about your and your family's financial prospects compared to this time last year?



GENERAL ELECTION 2024

Pictures: PA

Labour tells OAPs 'Rishi cannot be trusted with your money'

GOING FOR GREY VOTE:
Shadow Paymaster General Jonathan Ashworth talks tough in bid to woo pensioners



By **David Williamson** POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR has launched an audacious bid for the votes of retirees angry that Tory MPs removed Boris Johnson as Prime Minister.

Britain's two biggest parties are locked in battle for the crucial pensioner vote – and the latest sally shows the ferocity of personal attacks expected in the coming weeks.

Shadow Paymaster General Jonathan Ashworth said older people should not trust Rishi Sunak with their financial futures any more than Mr Johnson should have trusted the man who “stabbed him in the back”.

Mr Ashworth, who worked for Gordon Brown in the last Labour government, doubled down on the claim that Tory ambitions to axe National Insurance would lead to a £46billion black hole and higher borrowing, pensioners paying more tax or NHS cuts.

'Rishi Sunak will stab pensioners in back'

In a highly personal attack, he claimed the PM is “coming for pensioners”.

He said: “I don't think pensioners can trust Rishi Sunak because, let me put it like this, Boris Johnson trusted Rishi Sunak. He plucked him from obscurity, made him the Chancellor, made his career, and then Rishi Sunak stabbed him in the back.”

Mr Sunak quit as Chancellor in July 2022, after then-PM Mr Johnson had apologised for the “bad mistake” of appointing Chris Pincher deputy chief whip, despite being aware of allegations about his conduct. Mr Sunak's resignation letter said “the public rightly expect government to be conducted properly, competently and seriously”.

Mr Ashworth said Mr Sunak then went on to stab his own Conservative MPs in the back last week, leaving them “aghast and

OPTIMISM:
Sophy Ridge is confident Sky News will give the BBC a run for its money



Ratings battle kicks off

THE first shots have been fired in the TV election ratings battle between Sky News and the BBC.

Sky News election presenter Sophy Ridge, 39, has thrown down the gauntlet to the national broadcaster, saying it has Auntie in its sights on July 4. Asked if Sky News is now in direct competition with the BBC, she said: “To be completely honest, yeah, we are.”

“We want people to watch us, as many viewers as possible, because we are pretty confident in our line-up and in our journalism. We wouldn't be in this game otherwise. We don't want to broadcast just to an empty room.”

Sophy will play a lead role in Sky's coverage and will be joined by Beth Rigby, Trevor Phillips, Sam Coates, Kay Burley and Ed Conway. Sophy says it will not be the “po-faced election coverage of years gone by”. Instead, it will be a “dinner-party style election night” show.

She said: “It's almost like you want to be at a dinner party with your best mates, who will happen to know an awful lot about politics.”

“So there will be a slight kind of informality to it but at the same time being able to have a deep dive into the results.”

“What viewers are also used to now is connecting with you as a presenter on-screen, in a more of an intimate way, I would say.”

“We also want to show our own excitement about the election as well. We love this stuff. This is like Christmas for us.”

Sophy believes the actual election campaign could become acrimonious quite quickly. “I think it's going to be nasty. The stakes are so high.”

'We don't want to broadcast to an empty room'

furious” after “he's called this election with no notice for them”.

He added: “He's stabbed his own Tory MPs in the back. I think Rishi Sunak will stab pensioners in the back.”

Pensioners – a traditional stronghold of Tory support – could hold the margin of victory if the polls narrow as July 4 looms.

The most recent WeThink polling shows that 31 per cent of voters aged 65 to 74 intend to vote Conservative, with just 24 per cent supporting Labour. For those aged

75-plus, 51 per cent plan to vote for Mr Sunak's party, with just 26 per cent backing Sir Keir's. Studies show that pensioners are much more likely to take part in elections than the youngest voters.

But a senior Tory source dismissed claims pensioners would be worse off under the Conservatives, saying: “Who brought in the triple lock and have retained it all these years despite heavy criticism for privileging pensioners? The Conservatives.” Tories claim that Gordon Brown's pensions “raid”

– in which the former Labour Chancellor and Prime Minister ended tax relief on pension firms' dividends – has cost workers £118billion since 1997 and hastened the end of final salary schemes.

But Mr Ashworth said Labour would “put economic stability first”.

He added: “Sunday Express readers are now paying more on their mortgage, they are paying more in the shops, they are paying more on their energy bills and are really struggling. The question is: do people want

Big guns who are in the line of fire...



TARGET: Sir Iain Duncan Smith and Claire Coutinho



TOP Tories in danger of losing their seats at the election include the Chancellor and potential leadership candidates.

Both Labour and Conservative politicians insist they expect the final result to be much narrower than current polling predicts.

But if surveys indicating a Labour landslide are close to accurate, it could mean a number of household names face defeat.

They include *Jeremy Hunt*, who is standing in the new Godalming and Ash constituency following boundary changes. He could lose to the Liberal Democrats.

The Tories could struggle to find a replacement for Rishi Sunak if he is forced out of Number 10 should a number of potential leadership replacements lose their seats.

Their numbers include Defence Secretary *Grant Shapps*, who could lose Welwyn Hatfield.

Penny Mordaunt is another potential leader but could lose her seat in Portsmouth North.

And even Business Secretary *Kemi Badenoch*, one of the favourites to



TOUGH CHALLENGE: Penny Mordaunt risks losing seat

replace Mr Sunak, could be in trouble. She was elected with a massive 27,594 majority in 2019 but could face defeat in the new constituency of North West Essex this time if the polls prove to be correct.

Robert Jenrick, the former Immigration Minister who resigned and became a staunch critic of the Prime Minister, is another possible leadership candidate but could lose his Newark seat.

Meanwhile, Energy Secretary *Claire Coutinho* is under threat in Surrey East, as is Culture Secretary *Lucy Frazer* in Ely and East Cambridgeshire.

Justice Secretary *Alex Chalk* won a majority of only

981 in Cheltenham in 2019 and will be trying to stop a Lib Dem takeover this time.

In Wales, Chief Whip *Simon Hart* and Welsh Secretary *David Davies* – standing in the new seats of Caerfyrddin and Monmouthshire, respectively – are also considered vulnerable.

Conservative Deputy Chairman *Jonathan Gullis* could struggle to hold his Stoke North seat.

Other big hitters who could say goodbye once the votes are counted include former Business Secretary *Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg*, former Trade Secretary *Liam Fox* and former Conservative leader *Sir Iain Duncan Smith*, based



RISK: Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg and Kemi Badenoch



on current polls. It means there are plenty of chances for a “Portillo moment” in the early hours of July 5 as votes are counted. This refers to the seismic defeat of then-Defence Secretary *Michael Portillo* in Labour’s 1997 landslide.

A number of Tory big beasts have chosen to step down rather than face the voters.

Levelling-Up Secretary *Michael Gove* announced on Friday evening that he is quitting.

Former Prime Minister *Theresa May* is also going, as is *Liz Truss*’s short-lived Chancellor *Kwasi Quarteng*.

There will be cross-party sadness that sepsis survivor *Craig Mackinlay* will not seek re-election.

Last week he was given a standing ovation as he entered the Commons for the first time since getting prosthetic limbs after the amputation of his hands and feet.

He said that while his heart wanted to fight the contest, “my head knows this to be impossible at this time”.

A remarkable 121 ex-MPs have now announced they are standing down, including 83 Conservatives.

WHAT FLOATS YOUR VOTE?

ELECTION DIARY

● THE Prime Minister’s election announcement caught party officials by surprise and they are scrambling to find candidates in more than 90 seats. But competition is fierce in the small number of winnable constituencies that still have a vacancy – with Tory rising stars battling to be selected.

WILL TANNER, Mr Sunak’s Deputy Chief of Staff at No10, is a contender for Stratford-on-Avon after *Nadhim Zahawi* stood down.

ANDY STREET, the former Mayor of the West Midlands, is considering a comeback by standing in Solihull West. And *Sam Cameron*’s sister **EMILY SHEFFIELD**, *David*’s sister-in-law, has also been looking for a seat.

● Tory **ANDREA JENKYN**S is one of Rishi Sunak’s staunchest critics but she may have gone too far this time.

The football-mad Prime Minister is a Southampton supporter and his club takes on Leeds United today, with the victor earning a place in the Premier League. Ms Jenkyns made her feelings clear by saying: “Come on Leeds, thrash Rishi’s team!”

● Labour MPs are nervous about the likely return of “big beasts”. They include **DOUGLAS ALEXANDER**, a former Transport and Scottish Secretary who was kicked out of Parliament in the 2015 election and has been selected for East Lothian.

MARY CREAGH, a former Shadow Transport Secretary, lost her seat in 2019 but is set to return as MP for Coventry East. One Labour MP said: “They are not going to be content sitting on the back benches and I imagine Keir will want to give them jobs. But which front-benchers will have to make way for them?”

● Rishi Sunak isn’t the only person taking an election gamble. Punters bet more than £2million on the election with Betfair Exchange in just two days. There is no sign of voter apathy when it comes to political betting. Around £100million was wagered in the 2017 election.

● The PM’s announcement didn’t put an end to leadership plotting. As rumours swirled that he was about to announce a poll, one furious Tory wrote to **SIR GRAHAM BRADY**, chairman of the 1922 committee, demanding a no-confidence vote.

Sir Graham is famously discreet over whether the number of MPs wanting such a vote is close to the 15 per cent threshold.

But later this year he will give the inside story with an “explosive, tell-all memoir”. Will we find out just how close Tory malcontents came to triggering a vote on Mr Sunak?

● Parties are also rushing to choose candidates for seats previously held by scandal-hit MPs. Labour suspended Swansea West’s **GERAINT DAVIES** last year following allegations about his behaviour and he has been sitting as an independent.

Anyone who fancies representing this stretch of the beautiful South Wales coast for *Sir Keir*’s party has until 5pm tomorrow to apply.

to continue with the economic chaos and decline or do they want to turn the page?”

In a further bid for the support of older voters, he said: “If you’re waiting in pain and agony and discomfort for an operation, whether it be a hip replacement, a hernia, a cataract removal, you need to know the NHS is there for you when you need it.

“We are going to deliver more appointments every year in the NHS – 40,000 extra a week, two million extra a year – because we are going to start rebuilding the NHS

and cut waiting times.” Mr Ashworth dismissed claims that Deputy Labour Leader *Angela Rayner*’s plans for “fair pay agreements” across the social work sector could result in billions of pounds of extra costs.

“We know lots of people in social care are paid poorly compared to people in many similar roles in the economy,” he said.

“Care workers deserve a fair deal. The Tories’ scaremongering about social care when they have absolutely brutalised it over 14 years absolutely takes the biscuit.”

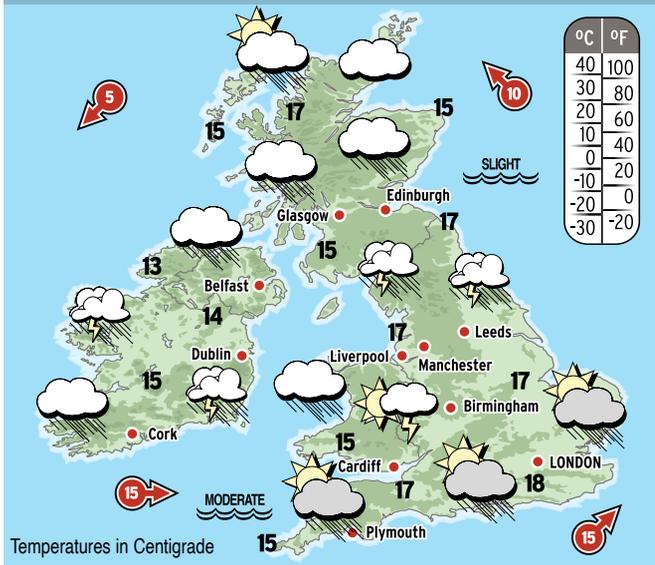
And he added the “dismal state of social care has a huge impact on the NHS”.

During the election campaign, voters will want answers on whether Labour will unfreeze tax thresholds that have seen pensioners forced to pay income tax.

Mr Ashworth acknowledged that “taxation is a matter for our Iron Chancellor, *Rachel Reeves*” but he promised: “Every policy we put forward will be fully costed.”

GREAT ELECTION DEBATE: PAGES 24&25

Weather forecast



Today's summary: Bright spells and showers

North West: Patchy rain clearing to sunshine and thundery showers. Moderate south-easterly winds. High 16C (61F).

Northern Ireland: Overcast and wet with outbreaks of patchy light rain or drizzle. Light winds. High 14C (57F).

Wales: Bright with some sunshine, but also heavy showers. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

Midlands: Bright with some sunshine, but also heavy showers. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

North East/Yorks: Patchy rain clearing to sunshine and thundery showers. Gentle south-easterly winds. High 17C (63F).

Scotland: Wet and cloudy with patchy rain and then thundery showers. Gentle easterly winds. High 16C (61F).

East Anglia: Sunny spells and heavy showers, some will be thundery. Moderate south-easterly winds. High 18C (64F).

London/South East: Bright with sunshine some showers, thundery for a time. Moderate south-westerly winds. High 18C (64F).

South: Bright with sunshine and showers, some heavy and thundery. Brisk south-westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

South West: Bright but showery, some heavy with hail and thunder later. Brisk westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

Channel Isles: A dry and fine day with lengthy periods of sunshine. Fresh westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

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

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Drier and brighter tomorrow with lengthy sunny spells however there will be some patchy cloud and a threat of showers developing.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	min max					
London	10 17	13 17	11 18	11 18	11 17	11 18
Belfast	9 14	10 17	10 16	9 15	9 15	10 16
Birmingham	8 15	12 16	10 18	10 17	10 16	11 17
Cardiff	11 15	13 16	11 17	10 18	10 17	10 18
Glasgow	9 15	12 17	11 16	10 17	10 16	11 16
Manchester	8 14	12 16	11 17	10 17	10 16	11 17
Newcastle	8 16	12 17	11 17	10 16	9 16	10 17
Norwich	8 17	12 17	11 18	11 17	10 16	11 17
Plymouth	12 15	13 16	12 17	10 17	10 17	11 18

Britain yesterday		Moon, sun and tides	
Aberdeen	7.0 0.00 11 16	Glasgow	1.3 0.00 10 18
Aberporth	8.1 0.00 3 17	Hull	0.0 0.01 5 14
Alnwick	11.5 0.00 10 15	Ipswich	2.0 0.06 8 16
Belfast	6.4 0.00 11 16	Leeds	5.0 0.01 6 19
Birmingham	5.7 0.01 7 18	Lincoln	3.9 0.00 7 21
B'mouth	13.3 0.00 6 18	London	8.2 0.00 8 16
Bristol	8.2 0.00 8 19	Manchester	6.8 0.01 7 19
Cardiff	12.2 0.00 8 17	Oxford	9.7 0.00 9 20
Durham	6.7 0.00 11 17	S'hampton	11.7 0.00 10 20
Edinburgh	3.7 0.04 11 17	St Andrews	5.8 0.00 11 15

Today		Europe forecast		Tomorrow	
Amsterdam	Thunder 20C/68F	Amsterdam	Cloudy 18C/64F	Amsterdam	Cloudy 18C/64F
Brussels	Thunder 20C/68F	Brussels	Drizzle 18C/64F	Brussels	Drizzle 18C/64F
Dublin	Thunder 15C/59F	Dublin	Cloudy 16C/61F	Dublin	Cloudy 16C/61F
Frankfurt	Fair 24C/75F	Frankfurt	Showers 22C/72F	Frankfurt	Showers 22C/72F
Geneva	Showers 23C/73F	Geneva	Thunder 18C/64F	Geneva	Thunder 18C/64F
Lisbon	Fair 23C/73F	Lisbon	Sunny 23C/73F	Lisbon	Sunny 23C/73F
Madrid	Sunny 30C/86F	Madrid	Sunny 30C/86F	Madrid	Sunny 30C/86F
Paris	Fair 22C/72F	Paris	Cloudy 18C/64F	Paris	Cloudy 18C/64F
Rome	Sunny 25C/77F	Rome	Sunny 25C/77F	Rome	Sunny 25C/77F

Around the world yesterday	
Amsterdam	Thndr 16 61
Athens	Sunny 28 82
Barcelona	Sunny 21 70
Berlin	Fair 20 68
Budapest	Fair 24 75
Cairo	Sunny 29 84
Cape Town	Sunny 14 57
Casablanca	Sunny 22 72
Corfu	Sunny 26 79
Dublin	Fair 14 57
Dubrovnik	Sunny 24 75
Faro	Sunny 22 72
Florence	Shwrs 24 75
Gibraltar	Sunny 21 70
Guernsey	Fair 16 61
Hong Kong	Thndr 26 79
Istanbul	Sunny 23 73
Jersey	Fair 18 64
Larnaca	Sunny 28 82
Las Palmas	Sunny 24 75
Los Angeles	Cloudy 18 64
Luxor	Sunny 35 95
Malaga	Sunny 23 73
Mallorca	Sunny 24 75
Malta	Sunny 24 75
Melbourne	Fair 16 61
Miami	Sunny 32 90
Moscow	Sunny 20 68
Nairobi	Thndr 22 72
New Delhi	Sunny 41 106
New York	Sunny 27 81
Nice	Sunny 21 70
Nicosia	Sunny 30 86
Perth	Shwrs 22 72
Prague	Thndr 19 66
Singapore	Thndr 31 88
Stockholm	Sunny 24 75
Sydney	Fair 18 64
Tel Aviv	Fair 26 79
Tenerife	Sunny 24 75
Toronto	Sunny 25 77
Tunis	Sunny 29 84
Venice	Sunny 18 64
Vienna	Thndr 20 68
Warsaw	Fair 25 77

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Si's cream pie bullseye for BGT hosts



ANT AND Dec become a double cream act as the hosts are pasted by **Simon Cowell** on **Britain's Got Talent**.
 Head honcho **Simon**, 64, can be seen meting out the sweet retribution to the ITV show's presenters on tonight's show.
Ant, 48 – whose wife **Anne-Marie** has just had a baby boy – and **Dec**, also 48, will be hosting the live semi-finals of the talent contest throughout the week.

Boy, 17, is held over beach knife death

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

A TEENAGER has been arrested on suspicion of murder after a woman was stabbed to death late at night on a beach and another was badly injured.

The 17-year-old boy, from Lancashire, was held yesterday after a double stabbing at 11.42pm on Friday.

A woman aged 34 from Poole was pronounced dead at Durlley Chine beach and a woman aged 38 was hospitalised with "very serious" injuries.

The woman who survived was still receiving care last night, police said.

Bournemouth's popular blue flag beach has become a drug-fuelled "no-go" area after dark, residents say.

One man posted on Facebook: "My girlfriend walked there last week and turned back as she says at night it's become a ghetto full of weed-smokers and dodgy blokes in cars. Where are the beach patrols or police presence?"
 "Do the cameras still work? Are



PROBE: Durlley Chine yesterday

they monitored? The council and the police are a useless embarrassment in this town. Reactive not pro-active."

Another said: "Bournemouth is a no-go zone these days.

"Police have lost the streets to drugs and violent crime."

Much of the beach was closed to sun-seekers due to the forensic examination of the crime scene yesterday.

A Dorset Police spokesman said in a statement: "We received a report that

two people had been stabbed on Durlley Chine beach. Very sadly, a 34-year-old woman from Poole was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Her next of kin have been informed and the coroner notified.

"A 38-year-old woman from Poole was taken to hospital with very serious injuries. Following extensive fast-time inquiries, a 17-year-old boy from Lancashire has been arrested on suspicion of murder."

Superintendent Gavin House, of Dorset Police, said: "We would ask anyone who saw what happened or has any information about the offender and has not yet spoken to officers to please contact us urgently.

Detective Superintendent Richard Dixey said the force has "worked tirelessly" so far, adding: "I am particularly keen to hear from anyone who was in the vicinity of Durlley Chine beach between 10pm on Friday and midnight, and saw anything unusual."

The National Lottery

JACKPOT £3.9 MILLION
6 28 30 40 53 58 BONUS BALL 13

THUNDERBALL
3 5 13 16 36 THUNDERBALL 1

The Health Lottery

SATURDAY MAY 25: BIG DRAW
2 19 28 41 49 BONUS BALL 12

2ND CHANCE DRAW
2 22 42 43 50 (WINNER GETS £100K)

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Pictures: KEN MCKAY/ITV/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

SPLIT: One-time golden couple Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford have announced they are to divorce

'Ruth and Eamonn have confirmed their marriage is over and they are in the process of divorcing...'



OVER: Mark Labbett

Chase star the Beast single again

CHASER Mark Labbett has split with his girlfriend Hayley Palmer a week after celebrating their first year together.

The 58-year-old quizzer, nicknamed "the Beast" on ITV's *The Chase*, admitted earlier this month that there were difficulties as their respective work sent them across the country.

Yesterday Hayley, 42, confirmed the news on her Instagram Stories with a post that read: "It is with regret I announce that myself and Mark have gone our separate ways."

She said they had "the best year together and I truly wish him all the best for the future".

Just last week they shared a photo on Southsea beach as they marked their anniversary.



APPY: Chris Packham

'Phones can help young love nature'

WILDLIFE presenter Chris Packham has come up with an unexpected way to get children outdoors enjoying nature – mobile phones.

And the Springwatch host is urging parents to let them use them even more.

On the eve of a new series on BBC Two, the 63-year-old said: "I use my phone to identify species. There's some good birdsong apps.

"I've also got a device that plugs in and it becomes a bat detector."

He added: "I think it's about retraining young people to make sure they understand how useful those apps can be."

● *Best apps: For birds, Birda. For bats, Echo Meter Touch Bat Detector.*



Eamonn and Ruth split after 14 years

By **Tony Whitfield**

FORMER *This Morning* husband and wife presenters Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford yesterday announced they have split up after nearly 14 years of marriage.

The TV golden couple, both 64, and much loved by viewers, had been together for 13 years before tying the knot but have now started divorce proceedings.

A spokesman for the couple said: "Ruth Langsford and Eamonn Holmes have confirmed their marriage is over and they are in the process of divorcing."

The couple have one son, Jack, 22.

A source said that Eamonn and Ruth are "determined to stay friends and keep things amicable" but their careers had taken them in "different directions" and "it's a very sorry tale".

They first met in 1997 when they were introduced by mutual friend, television presenter Sally Meen. They initially kept their relationship under wraps, out of respect for Eamonn's first wife, Gabrielle Holmes, with whom he has three children.

Eamonn and Gabrielle had married in 1985 but separated in the mid-90s, with the divorce not finalised until 2005.

Ruth and Eamonn married in a lavish ceremony at the grand 19th-century Hampshire hotel, The Elvetham, on June 26, 2010.

Among the guests were TV presenters Phillip Schofield, Holly Willoughby, Gloria Hunniford,



GLAMOUR: Presenting *This Morning* in 2002

Jeremy Kyle, Christine Lampard, Footballers' Wives star Zoe Lucker and then-Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson.

Talking about why the couple initially kept their relationship out of the limelight, Ruth said in 2017: "I thought it spoke volumes about the sort of man he was, the sort of father he was and the integrity he had. It made me love him more, not less."

The pair began presenting ITV's flagship daytime show together on Fridays and during the school holidays in 2006, and for the next 15 years were adored by legions of fans thanks to the chemistry between them on the sofa.

They were also renowned for their bickering, much of which took place in full glare of the cameras during their stint, but the duo had always insisted their disagreements came from a place of affection. Despite their popularity they were axed

from *This Morning* in 2021, and replaced by Dermot O'Leary and Alison Hammond.

Ruth continues to present *Loose Women*, having begun on the show in 1999, while Eamonn went on to become the GB News breakfast anchor. The pair also presented Channel 5 programmes together, including *How The Other Half Lives*, *Do the Right Thing* with Eamonn and Ruth and Eamonn & Ruth's *7 Year Itch*.

They also appeared as one of the pairs on *Celebrity Gogglebox*.

In 2018, Eamonn was made an OBE for services to broadcasting.

But in the past two years he has battled chronic pain and had to use a wheelchair and crutches. In 2022, he revealed that he lost "full mobility" after undergoing spinal surgery in an attempt to address his severe back pain.

He is still recovering from the surgery and an injury to his shoulder, which saw him take four months off work at the end of last year.

Last week Ruth spoke about the impact on their marriage for the first time. Speaking to *Woman's Weekly*, she said: "I don't know how much Eamonn's mobility will improve. We live in hope."

"He does the physio but there might have to be some acceptance that this might never be 100 per cent right."

"With any care situation – and there are millions of carers in this country – it isn't always easy. It's testing but we manage as a family."

The pair, who live in Surrey, have not commented beyond the joint statement.

Striped Pyjamas book 'took two days and defines my life'

THE Boy in the Striped Pyjamas author John Boyne wrote the first draft of his novel, set in a Nazi concentration camp, in just two-and-a-half-days.

The 2006 book about the son of a SS officer who befriends a Jewish boy on the other side of a death camp's fence sold 11 million copies.

It was adapted into a film, musical, opera and ballet, and John, 53, tells today's Desert Island Discs: "I was just fortunate how it happened. It's the defining book of my life."

It has led to him meeting Holocaust survivors around the world, but the

By **Tony Whitfield**

book has faced criticism for trivialising the Nazi regime and damaging Holocaust education.

However, he stressed when he visits schools he tells pupils the boys never existed, it's a fable and not a textbook.

He said: "The one thing I would say absolutely in my defence is there is a whole generation of children that have grown up, read that book, and had some insight into the Holocaust."

● *Desert Island Discs*, BBC Radio 4, today, 10am



BIG HIT: John Boyne

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Sunday Express victory in battle for bone clinics

THOUSANDS of older people will be spared the agony of preventable fractures after the Sunday Express secured a cross-party pledge to provide specialist clinics for all.

Our Better Bones campaign won a landmark victory when the Health Secretary Victoria Atkins announced all over-50s in England will have access to scans for osteoporosis by 2030.

Labour has pledged to match this if it wins power on July 4.

Campaigners say ending the post-code lottery for bone clinics will save 10,000 people from life-threatening hip fractures – and save the NHS £665million – over five years. During this time, a total of 74,000 fractures would be prevented.

Today, around 90,000 people miss out on treatment every year due to the absence of services that would identify early danger signs of conditions such as osteoporosis.

The Health Secretary declared the Government has the "ambition to expand the use of FLS (fracture liaison services) to every integrated care board in England and achieve 100 per cent coverage by 2030".

She said she had listened to the "tireless campaigning" of the Sunday Express and the Royal Osteoporosis Society.

"We are looking to tackle conditions that disproportionately affect the female population, such as osteo-

By **David Williamson** and **Lucy Johnston**

porosis," she said. "Every year in England, some 67,000 fractures are suffered by people of working age, the majority of whom are women, and many of them are entirely preventable."

Labour says it will match the ambition to achieve 100 per cent coverage across England by 2030.

Shadow Health Secretary Wes Streeting said: "Osteoporosis is a debilitating illness that leads millions of people to suffer painful bone breaks and disability."

"The faster patients are diagnosed and the earlier they can be treated, the sooner they can get back to living their lives to the full."

"Labour has listened to this important campaign, and we will make sure the NHS diagnoses and treats osteoporosis patients on time."

Craig Jones, chief executive of the ROS, said: "When the Sunday Express offered to campaign with us, we knew that, for the first time ever, people living with osteoporosis had a powerful voice on the national stage."

"Since then, the paper has built a stunning coalition of medical experts, politicians from all parties, business leaders, trade unions and charities. The Sunday Express has championed people who have long

SUNDAY EXPRESS



Pictures: PA, GETTY

FAMOUS SUPPORTERS THRILLED AT TRIUMPH

'BRILLIANT NEWS':
Gloria
Hunniford
and, inset,
Craig Revel
Horwood

By **Julia Kuttner**

CELEBRITY backers of our campaign have expressed their joy, saying that the victory will save lives.

Gloria Hunniford, 84, said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to hear it's going to help thousands of people who can potentially be affected and saved from disability in the future, and, in some cases, an early death."

The TV presenter learned about the condition when speaking to Queen Camilla for the Royal Osteoporosis Society.

Gloria said: "She explained to me how her mother and grandmother had died from osteoporosis.

"I didn't realise at that stage how many people are affected by it. "Thanks to the ROS

and the Sunday Express campaigning together we could save people and families from suffering in the future – which has been unnecessary for so long."

Strictly judge Craig Revel Horwood, 59, said: "This is brilliant news and will make a huge difference to so many lives.

'I have seen how people suffered'

Congratulations to the Sunday Express for your tireless campaigning on this very important issue, which, for so long was not given the attention it deserved.

"Having a proper diagnosis and treatment could save many from pain and disability, and others from an early death.

"I got involved after seeing how people have suffered – my mother with osteoarthritis – and that took me to the ROS, because there is something you can do about it.

"I've been advocating for good bone health and I'm glad we're being listened to."

Broadcaster and author Iain Dale said: "This is fantastic for everyone. It will help diagnose many people who otherwise would not have found out. They'll be able to get appropriate treatment and it could save lives.

"Congratulations to the Sunday Express for helping bring this about."



PROUD: Craig Jones hailed the success of the campaign

felt ignored and sidelined, because its writers and readers saw massive injustice and wanted to make things better.

"Now universal fracture liaison services is government policy, thanks to the Sunday Express."

He added: "It's crucial that whichever party wins the election honours this pledge and delivers quickly, so we can save and change tens of thousands of lives.

"We knew that, when a paper with the amazing campaigning record of the Sunday Express chose to work with us, we had a true friend who would stand by us, thick or thin. And that's exactly what the paper has done."

Our crusade exposed the myth that people with the condition are all retired, and revealed



that since we began last June 2.6million sick days have been taken owing to fractures.

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

Anna Firth, Conservative MP for Southend West, said: "This commitment from the Health Secretary, after visiting the new FLS at Southend Hospital, is the kick-start needed to make sure that everyone has access to these live-saving services wherever they live. We have the mandate but we now need the transformation fund to make sure every ICS (integrated care system) provides a quality service."

But the Liberal Democrats criticised

the timescale of the provision of FLS across the country, with Deputy Leader Daisy Cooper saying: "Fracture liaison services are crucial to the wellbeing of thousands of elderly and vulnerable people across the country. An ambition to achieve this by as late as 2030 is no ambition at all, and not a promise to take urgent action."

Half of NHS trusts in England have bone clinics that provide scans for detection and treatment.

A shocking £2billion is spent on hip fracture care every year and an estimated 3.5 million people across the country live with debilitating osteoporosis, which is blamed for 500,000 broken bones every year in the UK at a cost of more than £4.5billion.

COMMENT: PAGE 14



We will build a brighter future

COMMENT

By **Victoria Atkins**

HEALTH SECRETARY



I HAVE made it my mission as Secretary for State for Health and Social Care to make our healthcare system faster, simpler and fairer.

Osteoporosis affects both men and women, but women disproportionately. We know that some 67,000 fractures are suffered by people of working age in England every year.

Most of the people experiencing these fractures are women, and most of these fractures are entirely preventable. We also know identifying osteoporosis and taking action after a person experiences their first fracture can greatly help reduce the risk of suffering another fracture in future.

So I want to take this opportunity to thank the Sunday Express and the Royal Osteoporosis Society.

As readers will know, the hugely powerful Better Bones campaign has over the past months championed the case for the expansion of fracture liaison services, so that more people across the country can access vital osteoporosis treatment and reduce the risk of a dangerous fracture.

I believe the Better Bones campaign has set out a clear, compelling case, and that is why I am proud to have announced that this Conservative government has the ambition to build on the services that we already have in place.

And indeed we will go much further and expand the use of fracture liaison services to every single area in the NHS in England.

I want to see 100 per cent coverage by 2030.

These services help people to keep on living healthier and more active lives by reducing the risk of fracture and disability.

They are part of the clear plan that the Conservatives have for our NHS.

At the forthcoming general election, Sunday Express readers will have a stark choice.

It's a choice between the Conservative Government's bold action, which has seen waiting lists fall by around 200,000 since September, with record funding for the NHS and record numbers of doctors and nurses to help patients get the care they need more quickly, or Sir Keir Starmer and the Labour Party – who have no plan and would take us back to square one.

...and in another victory for your campaigning Sunday Express

Our 'cover-up culture' allows injustice to thrive

By **Jonathan Walker** DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN has a "cover-up" culture that makes it too easy for public bodies to avoid taking responsibility for wrongdoing, it was claimed yesterday.

Former Health Secretary Andy Burnham says urgent change is needed to avoid a repeat of the Post Office and infected blood scandals.

"It is too easy to cover up in this country. You can have something go wrong and an official line develops – often with the help of the Treasury, which tries to limit the financial exposure," Greater Manchester's Labour Mayor said.

And he fears the plight of thousands of veterans stricken with cancer and heart problems following nuclear weapons tests will be the next scandal on the scale of the row over tainted blood.

Some of the children of around 20,000 troops who witnessed the testing in Australia and the Pacific between 1952 and 1963, were born with disabilities as a result of exposure to radiation.

Mr Burnham, a leading campaigner for justice for victims of the infected blood scandal, called for Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer to pledge a public inquiry for the nuclear test victims in their election manifestos.

"At the heart of the government machine there is a lack of humanity

and compassion. I am convinced that it is a cover-up on the same scale as infected blood," he said.

"What we now need is for all the political parties to make a commitment to a public inquiry.

"I am calling on them to include a manifesto commitment to a public inquiry into the scandalous treatment of our service personnel who were sent overseas without any protection straight into very harmful radiation.

"They were basically tested on," he said.

Mr Burnham says there is a pattern of cover-ups in the UK that could also be seen in the response to the 1989 Hillsborough tragedy, when 97 Liverpool fans died.

He has also called for those responsible for the infected blood scandal to face prosecution.

"It's too easy for people to say 'I didn't know about it'. Minister after minister, from the 1970s onwards, was told that nobody was knowingly given unsafe blood products. But the public inquiry has found that just wasn't true.

"I don't think you would go after junior civil servants but with senior civil servants who signed off that line, I think there is a very robust case for misconduct in public office."

Son's thanks to paper that backed him



'THE FIGHT IS OVER': Jason Evans and, below, with dad Jonathan, who died in 1993

THE SON of a contaminated blood victim says the Sunday Express's campaign gave him the confidence to fight for the truth and compensation.

Jonathan Evans died from an Aids-related illness in 1993 when Jason was just four. His only memory of his dad is his deathbed, when he was "hooked up to many machines".

Jason, now 34, began unravelling what happened by going to the National Archive Office in Richmond, south-west London, in 2015.

He went on to uncover many of the concealed documents that showed scandalous mistreatment of more than 30,000 people treated with infected blood from the 1970s to the 1990s.

It was the Sunday Express that published his evidence. Jason said: "My core drive was to understand what

By **Lucy Johnston** HEALTH EDITOR

happened to my dad, and the more I found out the more determined I became to get the full truth and full redress for all victims.

"I realised a large part of this was getting evidence into the media.

"The Sunday Express was the first paper that published my evidence, with one of my pictures in 2017. That was an important moment for me. It taught me that I – a kid from Coventry with no GCSEs – could influence the news.

"Thank you Sunday Express. I am very grateful that you covered this story over the years when other papers were not. The fight for truth is over."

His focus now is his daughter Amilie, one: "I no longer just think of myself as a son who lost his dad. I'm now a dad."

COMMENT

By **Caroline Wheeler**

AUTHOR OF 'DEATH IN THE BLOOD'



THE PRIME Minister last week apologised to the victims of the biggest treatment disaster in NHS history, declaring it was a "day of shame for the British state".

It was his response to a damning report by the Infected Blood Inquiry, following more than four decades of cover-up and obfuscation.

NHS doctors almost wiped out a generation of haemophiliac children by using them as guinea pigs for deadly experiments, without their knowledge or consent.

As if this horrifying revelation was not bad enough, the survivors have been ignored and stonewalled by the authorities, whose negligence caused their suffering in the first place.

Tens of thousands of people were treated with disease-ridden blood products from the US in the 1970s and 80s in the deadliest man-made disaster in post-war British history.

More than 3,000 were killed by the NHS. Until last week, no organisation or individual was held to account.

'The report has brought vindication'

A patchwork system of payouts had also failed to compensate for the lives lost or destroyed.

The Sunday Express was one of the first newspapers to report on the use of children in infectivity trials at Lord Mayor Treloar School. When I was its political editor, we mounted a crusade calling for a public inquiry and a full and fair settlement for the victims.

Of the 122 boys with haemophilia who attended the school in the decade after 1975, only 30 are still alive. The shocking story of lethal, institutionalised practices carried out on children by doctors there caused the campaign to snowball.

Lib Dem peer Lynne Featherstone, whose nephew Nick died at 35 after being infected with hepatitis C, told me: "The Government knew the treatments were contaminated. They were warned...But carried on."

When Theresa May announced a public inquiry in July 2017, it was the proudest moment of my career. The report has brought vindication for the campaigners who chose to share their stories. It also brought great sorrow that so many did not live to see their day of truth. Nearly 700 victims of this scandal have died since 2017.

● A revised and updated paperback edition of *Death in the Blood* published by Headline is available for £12.99.

Blood-scandal patients 'had their trust betrayed'

THE NHS and successive governments "betrayed" more than 30,000 patients given blood transfusions or blood-related products that were infected with hepatitis C or HIV, a damning public inquiry found, writes *Jonathan Walker*.

More than 3,000 victims have died and the compensation bill is expected to reach £10 billion.

The scandal was caused partly

by the use of products from the US, where donors were paid for giving blood.

This attracted people willing to sell blood for a few dollars, including convicts and drug addicts who were more likely to have an infectious condition.

Around 1,250 people with haemophilia were infected with HIV, including 380 children, and up to 5,000 people

developed hepatitis C. Victims included pupils at specialist school Treloar, in Hampshire, which had a haemophilia treatment centre.

Others included people who needed blood transfusions after childbirth or surgery.

People were infected from the 1970s to the early 1990s but a full inquiry, chaired by former High Court judge Sir Brian

Langstaff, was not launched until 2017. In his final report Sir Brian said: "This disaster was not an accident.

"People put their faith in doctors and in the Government to keep them safe and their trust was betrayed.

"The NHS and successive governments compounded the agony by refusing to accept that wrong had been done."

Pictures: MARK PAIN/ALAMY; MICHAEL REGAN/GETTY

City's reign comes to an end as Princes crown United champs



LINE-UP: William shakes hands with Rashford

PRINCE George gets involved in all the drama of the FA Cup final as he watches with dad Prince William yesterday.

The 10-year-old Aston Villa fan put his hands to his face and chuckled as FA president William, 41, appeared to share a joke with his eldest son.

The pair were in the royal box at Wembley as Manchester City made a bid for their second cup win in a row.

But Manchester United beat their local rivals and Premier League champions 2-1 to lift the iconic trophy.

George leapt to his feet and cheered each of the three goals as he watched along with the 90,000-strong crowd.

Later he joined his father for the Cup presentation, chatting to City manager Pep Guardiola and shaking hands with United's manager Erik ten Hag. Earlier William shook hands with players including United's Marcus Rashford.



DRAMA: George feels the emotion of the game

OPINION: PAGE 14

By **Tony Whitfield**

VISITORS to favourite royal getaway Balmoral Castle have been left "underwhelmed" – and let down by its catering.

Tickets for the first ever private guided tours of the Highland home – bought for Queen Victoria by husband Prince Albert in the 1850s – sold out in hours, while afternoon teas and tours of the estate have also proved popular.

But those entering the castle from July must contend with security checks, a ban on photography and mobility scooters, and a rule about carrying bags at "low levels" to avoid knocking over priceless heirlooms.

Other visitors can explore the grounds, gardens and an exhibition of King Charles's watercolours and outfits of the King and Queen, the late Queen and the Queen Mother in the ballroom over the summer until August 11.

However, Balmoral's cafe has attracted several negative reviews recently on Tripadvisor.

People have said the cafe had too few staff, long queues, poor service and sparse offerings, while hot drinks came in single-use cups not befitting such pleasant surroundings.

This month one wrote: "I

was really excited for this one and ... I was underwhelmed. Having visited many castles and stately homes, this was probably one of my least favourites.

Ballroom also underwhelming.

"Cafe had a really, really long line so skipped that. Grounds are beautiful and the nature was stunning, but would save the money and go to a free park instead."

An Australian tourist said that they too were "underwhelmed" and had intended to have lunch "until we saw the type of food being served and the amount left on plates...It is Balmoral Castle and I felt the quality and menu options

should have reflected that." Another visitor last month warned others not to "rely on the cafeteria/restaurant if you want effective good service" as it took one girl "20 minutes to serve the four people in front of me in the queue! Unacceptable!"

A fourth critic was more positive, saying staff were "friendly and helpful" and prices "reasonable", but they added: "Coffee served in cardboard cups doesn't do it for me but they were nice cardboard cups...if that makes sense."

A visitor from Teddington, south-west London this month said: "It's not the prettiest castle in Scotland and yes, the queue to the cafe was long, but I had a really enjoyable morning here."

And a happy Israeli visitor commented: "Place is very impressive and unique. Can easily understand why the royals stay here a month every year." Buckingham Palace was invited to comment.



RETREAT: Elizabeth, Philip and their sons at Balmoral in 1979

Scathing reviews of Balmoral mar tours

Harry and Wills 'totally different' says polo pal

FORMER England polo captain Malcolm Borwick has revealed the very different playing styles of his pals Princes William and Harry.

He said: "Harry is an offensive polo player, very positive, whereas William is solid defensively."

Borwick is due to appear in Harry and Meghan's upcoming Netflix show about the glamorous world of the equestrian sport.

Last month he went viral on social media when he kissed the Duchess as he collected his trophy at a polo match in Florida, causing Harry to pull a face.



SUNDAY EXPRESS OPINION

Service role can help ensure our freedoms

RISHI Sunak has unveiled an old idea with a modern twist that will strike a chord with voters of every age.

The return of National Service has the potential to enrich our communities while giving young people confidence, new skills and a sense of purpose and belonging.

Youngsters were isolated during the years of the pandemic and many of them are still coming to terms with the legacy of that wretched time.

There is deep concern that Britain has become a more divided society and that the rise of identity politics has diminished our sense of shared nationhood.

Young adults who spend time at the heart of our armed forces, emergency services and other great organisations will emerge as citizens who understand why older generations feel such deep pride in this great country.

They will have made friends for life and will have put their energy and creativity to superb use.

Unlike past veterans of National Service, they will not be sent to construct bridges in a distant colony and most will not serve in the military.

But if the threat of international conflict worsens and we need to increase the size of our reserve forces radically, this scheme could be expanded.

This policy has been unveiled as we prepare to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landing. It is concerning how many Britons have only a vague idea of what happened on that day of courage and sacrifice.

We must do more than honour the memory of the fallen.

Each generation should hear the stories of how brave warriors assembled to defeat sheer evil and secured the liberty we must never take for granted.

Bones campaign joy

LIVES will be saved and people will be spared horrific suffering as a result of the success of the Sunday Express's Better Bones Campaign.

We were delighted to hear Health Secretary Victoria Atkins announce the goal of providing 100 per cent access to fracture liaison services across England by 2030.

Crucially, Labour also plans to match this ambition.

This means osteoporosis will be spotted at a much earlier stage, people will get the treatment they need and the NHS will save hundreds of millions of pounds.

We thank our readers for their support and are glad that political leaders have grasped this common sense opportunity to save money – and lives.

Royals having a ball

IT was a delight to see two future kings enjoying a day out at the football together.

Prince William and Prince George have a magnificent bond, as they displayed at the FA Cup Final.

After all the trials this family has been through this year, the duo deserved a dad-and-son's trip to Wembley.

Who do you want as your PM? None of the above...

COMMENT

By Matthew Goodwin

PROFESSOR OF POLITICS



IF THE 2024 general election comes to be remembered for anything then it will most likely be remembered as the “None of the Above” election. It's certainly true that Labour holds a commanding, if not overwhelming, lead in the national polls. In all the latest polls, Keir Starmer and his party have averaged an astonishing 20-point lead, more than enough for a majority in their own right.

But look a little closer, look under the bonnet, and you'll soon find that the real story so far is one of alienation and apathy.

Millions of voters are looking at both Left and Right, Labour and the Tories, Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak, and saying “no, thanks”.

Look, for example, at a question pollsters YouGov put to the British people this week. Which party best represents change? While Labour leads the Tories, the most popular answer was “neither of them”.

Look, too, at how the Brits think and feel about the two party leaders, Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak.

In the last few days I asked voters who they think would make the best prime minister and, again, while Starmer leads Sunak, by 34 per cent to Sunak's 19 per cent, the most popular answer among voters was “I don't know”.

Put simply, there is no mass public enthusiasm for either.

And look, too, at the big issues that are facing the country.

In the end, this election will be decided by three big issues: the economy and cost-of-living, the NHS and immigration.

Who do voters trust the most to manage these issues?

Again, when I asked them, while a larger number said Labour over the Tories, even larger numbers ended up saying “I don't know” and “none of them”.

ACROSS the country, in other words, while Labour might be cruising in the national polls there is also a palpable feeling that neither of the big two parties are capturing



APATHY: Sir Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak have failed to fire the public imagination

Picture: STEFAN ROUSSEAU/GETTY

“ Millions of ordinary Britons are completely disillusioned with what the big parties are offering them ”

the mood of the nation or have the answers to the very serious and mounting problems facing Britain.

From stopping the small boats and the illegal migration crisis in the Channel to lowering the cost-of-living crisis and improving the NHS, it's crystal clear that millions of ordinary Britons are not only utterly fed-up with the current direction of travel but are also completely disillusioned with what the big parties are offering them.

And what are they offering? Well, let's be honest. More of the same. More of the same big state, high tax, high debt, low growth, mass immigration consensus that's accepted among the elite class but is alienating everybody else.

Meanwhile, nobody in Westminster, nobody in either of the two big parties, appears able to set out detailed plans for how they will tax and spend, how they will lower the cost of living while improving public services, how they will push Britain out of the low growth era, how they will make us more productive, how they will slash our enormous and very expensive pile of national debt, how they will reform our

collapsing public services, from the NHS to our broken prisons, and how they will not only stop the boats but curb our country's eye-watering level of legal immigration, which only this week was confirmed to still be more than twice what it was at the time of the Brexit referendum.

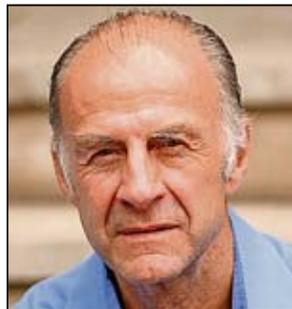
THIS IS why I suspect the 2024 general election will not only be remembered for ushering in a change of government in Westminster, but also for throwing full light on the enormous reservoir of alienation and apathy out there in the country.

Millions of people might be watching the general election campaign unfold but are, so far, unable to tell much of a difference between the two big parties.

Labour might end up being the winning party on July 4.

But I suspect deep down the real winner will be None of the Above.

● Matthew Goodwin is professor of politics at Kent University.



NEW TREK: Sir Ranulph

Health and safety? Not for Fiennes

SIR Ranulph Fiennes, the world's greatest explorer, brushed aside health and safety before his latest adventure in Canada with his actor cousin Joseph.

The global adventurer, 80, has retraced his steps from more than 50 years ago through the rugged terrain of British Columbia for a two-part documentary starting tonight.

Return to the Wild producer Kate Beale Blyth said: "We had done a deep dive into health and safety issues, and I had asked him a couple of questions.

"He phoned me back and said, 'Kate, just to be very clear, I have climbed Everest. We will be OK'."

● *Fiennes: Return to the Wild, National Geographic, tonight, 8pm*



DENIAL: Alec Baldwin

Alec to face trial for gun death on set

ALEC Baldwin will stand trial in July for involuntary manslaughter, after the on-set fatal shooting of a cinematographer in 2021.

The actor, 66, could face 18 months in jail over the death of Halyna Hutchins, 42, on set of the film *Rust*.

The director Joel Souza was also injured.

New Mexico judge Mary Marlowe Summer ordered a trial on Friday – rejecting claims that prosecutors "violated nearly every rule in the book" to ensure he was indicted. Baldwin has pleaded not guilty, denying knowing the gun he fired held live ammunition and denying pulling the trigger.

Rust's armourer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, 26, was given 18 months' jail and is appealing the conviction.

Dame Judi blasts 'woke' changes to Shakespeare

By Marc Baker and Jaymi McCann

DAME Judi Dench has hit out at people changing the works of William Shakespeare to comply with "woke" culture.

The actress, 89, who started her illustrious career performing his plays in the 1950s, says there is no need to modernise classics such as *Macbeth*, *Hamlet* and *Romeo and Juliet*.

She said: "I don't like people changing things in Shakespeare. I don't like people changing the King James Bible.

"It is because I learned so much of it. You don't have to modernise the Bible, do you? You don't have to modernise all those things."

The *As Time Goes By* star added that the Bard also helped her and late husband Michael Williams early in their acting careers.

She said: "Michael and I used to call Shakespeare the man who paid the rent, because he did.

"I was at The Vic for four years from 1957 and then I was at Stratford, and Mikey was at Stratford too, so Shakespeare was the man who paid the rent. Our house was paid for by Clover butter [TV ads]."

The acting legend, who played M in the James Bond franchise alongside Pierce Brosnan and then Daniel Craig as 007, has previously played several of Shakespeare's iconic female leads, including Ophelia in *Hamlet*,

'You don't have to modernise the Bible'

Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*.

She said: "I quite agree that we have to teach Shakespeare in schools and also the fact that it is not a foreign language.

"Some sweet girl about 13 or 14 came to my house recently and said 'I am going for the first time to see Shakespeare? Is it in that funny language?'. So I said 'Don't think of it like that because it is not'. Some of the things that we say every day, expressions we use every day, don't think of it as being foreign.

"It is things we all know about – like love, envy, jealousy, compassion. It is everything we know. We quote him all the time without realising."

Despite having some memory issues, Dame Judi can remember all of Shakespeare's lines: "All I can say is that I cannot remember what I am doing tomorrow. I actually can't.

"I can't remember what I have to do next week but I can remember the whole of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Twelfth Night*. It is something to do with rhythm. Maybe if I wrote it down I would be able to remember."

And Dame Judi, who has age-related macular degeneration, added: "God, I can't see any more now, so I can't see what is in the diary either."



NEVER BORED WITH THE BARD: Dame Judi in *Hamlet*, and top as Elizabeth I, right as Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and, far right, in *A Winter's Tale*



Sycamore seedling brings a tear to tree-lover's eye

DAME Judi welled up as she was presented with a seedling from the felled Sycamore Gap tree at the Chelsea Flower Show.

The popular landmark in a dip next to Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland was chopped down last year.

The 89-year-old wiped a tear from her eye when seven-year-old Charlotte Crowe, of Henshaw Primary School, just a few miles from where the tree stood, gifted her the seedling, which was planted in the Octavia Hill garden at the show.

Dame Judi, who is said to be "passionate" about trees, said: "I'll be naming him Antoninus, the adopted son of the Emperor Hadrian."



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■ **ASTHE** full grisly extent of the state cover-up over the infected blood scandal became plain last week, the appalling behaviour at the inquiry of former health minister Lord Clarke can be seen to be even more obnoxious. Querying why he was even there he answered questions on the avoidable deaths of thousands with diffidence and boredom. Time to strip this vainglorious poltroon of his peerage.

■ **HOW** offensive of Camden People's Theatre to lump together "working class, benefit class, criminal class and/or underclass" in a job ad. Only this ghastly metro elite could put criminals in the same bracket as innocent folk on Struggle Street.

NICK FERRARI

The SNP moan endlessly about Westminster "allowing a vote" – and then bleat like Highland sheep about the timing!

■ **CAN WE** now stop eulogising over Manchester City, who won the Premier League AGAIN last weekend. The club faces 115 charges of breaking fair play rules. Others have lost points for similar offences, so if they're found guilty I imagine this super-rich outfit will as well?

Will Rishi's risk end in early retirement?

Picture: CARL COURT/GETTY

FOR A MAN known for his love of spreadsheets, graphs and economic forecasts, this was one hell of a gamble. Looking like Tom Daley after he'd completed a difficult inward somersault from the 50 metre board, Rishi Sunak decided to adopt the role of the gambler and opted to twist rather than stick.

In so doing, he was reportedly ignoring the advice of a number of cabinet colleagues and even that of his own political strategist, and his actions caused consternation across much of Westminster.

And not least among his own party, which hadn't yet filled all the 65 vacancies left by MPs announcing they're standing down – a number that continues to grow.

But to all those who are scratching their heads and asking why, the answer is pretty straightforward: why not?

Let's be honest, the Conservatives have thrown the kitchen sink as well as the taps,

'Suddenly Sunak's soaking makes sense'

plug and entire draining board at trying to win back their disaffected voters.

They'll crack down on the workshy, cut benefits, reward endeavour, cut taxes where possible, offer enhanced contracts to doctors and teachers and boost spending on defence to keep us safe. All of which, worryingly for them, has had precisely zero effect on their approval ratings.

Then a couple of indicators came along that actually gave them a boost.

Inflation is virtually all but down to the Holy Grail target that is two per cent and migration figures are falling year on year.

Add to that Labour's woeful inability to match the Tory guarantee to boost defence spending and showing how it would be funded – and Labour muttering again about looking down the back of the sofa for spare change once they're in power – which can also be chalked up as a win.

Suddenly Sunak's soaking makes some sense and also demonstrates, to a point, he is in some way master of his own destiny.

Instead of clinging on and being forced to go to the country at virtually the very last moment in November, he can at least present it as a bold move. He could also have been steered by what traditionally



■ **DOES** it make me a bad person that I found it utterly impossible to find an ounce of sympathy for former Post Office boss Paula Vennells as she broke down in tears – repeatedly – at the inquiry into the Horizon scandal? Usually, seeing

anyone in tears would have me urging a cessation to this type of blood sport – but I found myself cheering on the lead counsel, the hugely impressive Jason Beer KC. In my opinion, this dissembling disgrace of a chief executive must

have been among the most inattentive, incompetent bosses this nation has ever seen – and also with the most glaring memory lapses.

If it wasn't so desperately serious she could be considered the Manuel of the Post Office: "I know nothing."

happens when sitting PMs leave it to the last minute or take the electorate for granted – they get a drubbing. He only needs to ask Theresa May about that.

That said, he should perhaps heed the counsel of another former Conservative Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan.

When speaking of gaining the benefit of tax cuts or other financial measures to enthrone the electorate, he cautioned that it always took longer than expected to "fructify," or bear fruit.

In the speech that fired the election starting pistol Mr Sunak said "pressure on prices will ease and mortgage rates will come down." That may well be so – but it's

not going happen in the next 39 days. He will position his party as one offering economic stability, security and confidence.

But the pledge of "Change" offered by Labour will prove an enticing one to an electorate in which no one under the age of 32 has ever voted in a General Election that hasn't returned a Conservative PM!

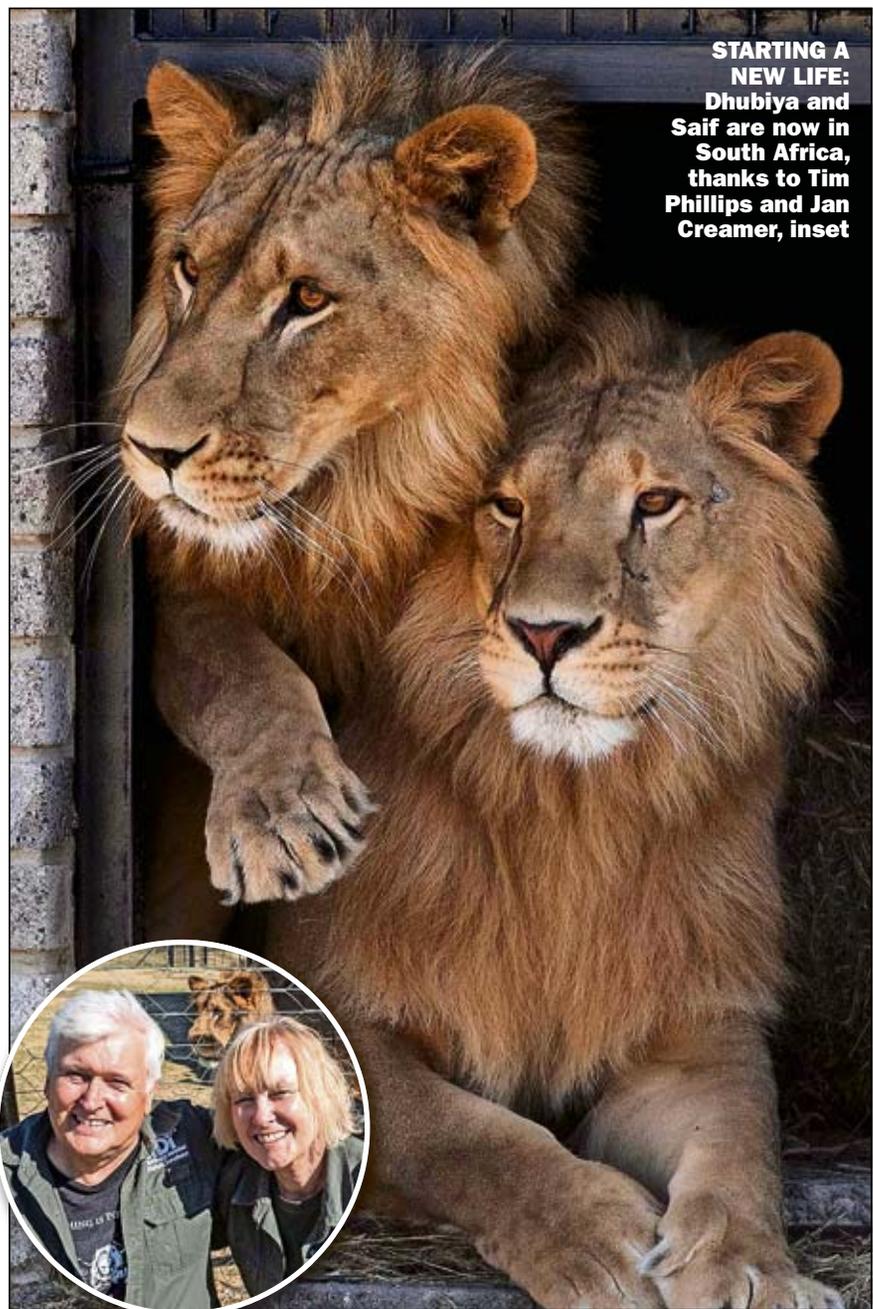
But the dice has been rolled – and the PM must hope he's not taken to the cleaners in the same way his suit must have been "apres le deluge!"

● **ONLY** the BBC could describe Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi (inset below) as leaving behind a "mixed legacy" after his death in that helicopter crash. This was the man who dealt with a huge backlog of trials by finding everyone guilty without trial, leading to multiple executions.

● He terrorised a nation and allowed women to be plucked from the street and beaten for the crime of allowing their hair to be seen. Presumably he had a heat pump fitted to his palace and was an ardent recycler to earn that Beeb approval.



Tune into Nick Ferrari at breakfast every weekday morning from 7am on LBC 97.3FM



STARTING A NEW LIFE: Dhubiya and Saif are now in South Africa, thanks to Tim Phillips and Jan Creamer, inset

The 'fashion' lions rescued from desert

THEY were illegally bought as status symbols to flaunt like fashion accessories and then cruelly dumped in the desert when no longer cute cubs.

Known as the "Kuwait 6", these young lions symbolise a £16billion global trade boosted by irresponsible social media posts featuring people petting and "playing" with big cats.

But having been rescued from starvation they are starting a new life at a South African wild-life sanctuary.

Males Muheeb, Saham, Shujaa, Saif, and females Dhubiya and Aziza were saved by volunteers at Kuwait Zoo.

The two younger cubs, Dhubiya and Saif, were found close to death and had to be nursed back to health at the zoo.

Now Animal Defenders International, which has offices in the UK, has given them a home at its 455-acre ADI Wildlife Sanctuary in Winburg, Free State. A special flight was donated by Qatar Airways Cargo and during the

By **Karen Rockett**

6,200-mile trip the lions were cared for by ADI's Jan Creamer and Tim Phillips and monitored by a vet.

Now the six big cats spend their days basking in the sunshine and playing with catnip punchbags and giant balls.

Ms Creamer, ADI's president, said: "In this cruel business, cubs are taken from their mothers when young and cute, leaving them lonely and dependent on their captor for food and attention.

"They are kept in isolation, including being chained or

caged in basements. "This is great news for these lions but also a warning about a cruel and irresponsible trade. Lions should never be kept as pets – they are wild animals.

"Seeing these lions playing as they start their new lives is magical, but also a reminder of how much work needs to be done to defeat the wildlife traffickers."

'It's cruel and irresponsible'

CAROLYN'S AMAZING JOURNEY

Pictures: JAMES RUDLAND PHOTOGRAPHY; TIM MERRY; APPLE TV



PROVING CRITICS WRONG: Carolyn Radford, one of just two female bosses in English football, has turned around the fortunes of Mansfield Town FC

I loved Lasso, but I'm the real female football boss

By David Stephenson

A REAL-LIFE football boss in the mould of Rebecca Welton in hit TV comedy *Ted Lasso* has defied critics who originally dismissed her as a "blonde bimbo".

As chief executive of Mansfield Town FC, Carolyn Radford is one of just two women in charge of clubs in England, along with Baroness Karren Brady at West Ham.

Carolyn, 42, has not only turned around a £1million deficit at the Nottinghamshire club, owned by her insurance millionaire husband John, 58 – she has now taken it to its recent promotion to League One.

Yet she says she did not get a very warm welcome when she first took over the club.

"There were lots of off-hand comments," she says. "The first teams are all men and there's a lot of men controlling this world. It's a masculine environment and that can get toxic. I think that's why you need women in the mix – that's why it works."

The club, nicknamed The Stags, is managed by Nigel Clough, son of famed Nottingham Forest boss Brian. It was turned around on and off the pitch with "grit and determination", says Carolyn.

She adds: "People are taking me a bit more seriously now. They can see the fruits of our labour, of what we've achieved – not just the promotions but the infrastructure around the place in Mansfield."

"We've got amazing, state-of-the-art training grounds and are building new stands. Our season tickets are at the highest they've ever been."

'People take me more seriously now...they can see what we've achieved'

"We're selling out, week in, week out. It's that grit and determination, not giving up, which is not just vital in football, but in everything."

The comparison with *Ted Lasso's* no-nonsense boss, played by Hannah Waddingham, is not lost on her. "I've watched the first couple of episodes," she says. "I think she's brilliant. Absolutely, I think she's lovely."

Like Welton, Carolyn won over her critics by being true to herself. "By being authentic – we're all human aren't we? And by not being too hard," she says.

"You can show a softer side, which can often be quite compelling and help other people – and with a bit of humour mixed in as well."

Carolyn extends an open invitation to Waddingham to visit The Stags next season, adding that she was impressed by how the actress faced down sexist photographers on the red carpet recently.

But she points out: "I'm lower league, really, compared with her. What I would say is that the snappers do tend to take the wrong angle."

"But no photographers camp outside for me, I'm afraid."

With rival club Wrexham, owned by Hollywood stars Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney, also being promoted to League One next season, Mansfield could appear in the TV documentary *Welcome to Wrexham*, on Disney+.

Carolyn says: "We congratulated Ryan on the promotion. We also went to Wrexham and it hadn't changed much since the last time, so it was a bit nostalgic."

"I've not met him yet, I've not come across him. I think he watches the games from America. I've not seen many episodes of that either."

But she adds: "Their show has lifted the mood of the town. It's been great for lower league football, which doesn't get much broadcasting exposure."

"It shows the different clubs playing together and we've now got another season with them."

Many Wrexham fans did not agree with the Hollywood takeover of their club, mirroring the opposition Carolyn faced with her appointment as CEO, back in 2011, by then-



boyfriend and club owner John Radford. And she concedes there are challenges to their working relationship.

She says: "It's hard work. We've kind of worked it out now. I pick my battles, business-wise and family-wise, but we're very supportive of each other."

"We have very different opinions on things, which is healthy, and I respect him massively. He's a great mentor."

"You know, best friend and everything else, but it's losing games – that's the thing we tend to argue about, really."

"Not fights or anything like that, but when we lose, I think, 'Well that's it for the rest of the night, then?'"

Carolyn now wants to promote the role of women in football, saying: "It's about making sure more women are coming through. We need to be more progressive and need to share our stories, and individual journeys, like the way Karren Brady has done. I haven't spoken to her but it's obvious she's a champion of women in football."

'That grit and determination, not giving up, is not just vital in football, but in everything'

She also fancies her own TV show in the style of *Wrexham* and is involved in talks with TV companies.

"We're looking at a few different things," she says. "It's something that we would consider, definitely."

"It'd be interesting from a footballing side of things, you know, with Nigel and his legacy, and going forward."

"The *Wrexham* documentary is very different. I think I'd like to be able to show people what it's like running a football club, doing it with your husband, having children, and managing other businesses."

Meanwhile, if she could buy one player in the world, who would it be? "My kids would probably say [Kylian] Mbappe, but what about Ronaldo finishing off his career at Mansfield? We know Portugal well and there's a lot of good players out there. But I'd want the right players that get on with Nigel, and would feel happy in Mansfield."

"I don't know if he was a happy man in Manchester – in his last stint in this country – so, maybe not Ronaldo!"

Show in a league of its own for Apple TV

TED Lasso was a breakout hit for Apple TV that put the streaming service on the map in Britain.

The drama is about fictional football club AFC Richmond who, in the first series, are relegated from the Premier League to the Championship.

Owner Rebecca Welton hires Ted Lasso, an American football coach, to make her team perform even more poorly to get revenge over her former partner who had to hand over his beloved football club in a divorce settlement.

But she is shocked when the

folksy, charming Ted wins over the players and staff with his can-do, positive attitude.

West End star and Eurovision Song Contest presenter Hannah

Waddingham, 49, plays Welton, with the show winning seven Emmys, including one each for Waddingham and Jason Sudeikis, 48, who plays Ted.



By **Marco Giannangeli**
DEFENCE EDITOR

Airshow ban on new RAF jets that melt the runways

THE RAF's new fighter jets will not be allowed to make stunning vertical landings at air shows across Britain this summer, in case they melt the runways.

Just like predecessor Harrier Jump jets, retired in 2010, the F-35B Lightning can hover and come straight down to land.

While unable to take off vertically, the new state-of-the-art jet requires only a short runway.

But its pilots can transform the aircraft from a conventional horizontal flyer to a vertical lander with just a push of a button.

This is achieved using vertical thrust and a massive vertical turbofan engine hidden in the fuselage. It makes it possible to land like a helicopter in very tight spaces to wow show crowds.

However senior RAF chiefs say that this manoeuvre will not be possible, for fear that its high temperature exhaust will melt the runway.

The F-35B is usually deployed from the decks of Royal Navy carriers or from RAF Marham in Norfolk, where the 1,855m runway was strengthened as part of a £250million project to welcome the US-made F-35s to the UK in 2018.

Unfortunately, other airfields around the country do not have



this. Group Captain John "Butch" Butcher, who commands the UK's Lightning Force, told Air Forces magazine:

"Special concrete is needed to avoid the dangerous exhaust gases damaging certain runway surfaces. 'This is why we will generally limit F-35B participation to hovering,'" he said.

The two pilots who have been assigned to the F-35B, *pictured above*, for the air show season also intend to fly to events and

then return to RAF Marham every day. Mr Butcher confirmed: "The Lightning Force intends to primarily operate from RAF Marham rather than from the event location.

"However, this may change depending on specific circumstances or requirements."

Despite the vertical landing setback, Mr Butcher has promised that this will be the craft's best air show season.

"This year you will see a noticeable difference in F-35B performances as we aim to deliver a more dynamic and interesting demonstration," he added.

"We want to share the impressive sight of the F-35B to inspire and hopefully attract the next generation of aviators."

Rescue dog puts on film show



RESCUE dog Felicity has gone from a Chinese meat market to the Cannes red carpet.

The Samoyed looked perfect in a gold gown at the premiere of *The Girl With The Needle* at the film festival.

She was found in a "brutal slaughterhouse" by animal welfare campaigners NoToDogMeat, and now lives in London with founder Julia de Cadenet, centre.

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HEROES' 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Pictures: HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY; STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA



COURAGE: Troops from 48th Royal Marines on Juno Beach, Normandy, on D-Day

Full honours for remaining war veterans

By **Jonathan Walker**

CALLS to honour our remaining Second World War veterans have won cross-party support.

When the last First World War "Tommy", Harry Patch, died 15 years ago the now-Queen Camilla, as Duchess of Cornwall, joined 1,000 mourners at his funeral.

And in a show of political consensus as the election campaign kicks off, Labour and the Conservatives have agreed the last survivors of the 1939-45 war must also be honoured with a similarly fitting remembrance.

The King is to attend commemorations for the 80th anniversary next month of D-Day, when Allied forces began the invasion of Nazi-occupied France.

Shadow science minister Chris Evans said: "We are reaching the very end of that World War Two generation; someone who was 21

'We have a dwindling number'

in 1945 would now be 100.

"Those of us who go to the remembrance services watch as they get older, with their walking sticks, their crutches and their wheelchairs, and see their dwindling numbers, but still they come."

He added: "I hope that, just as we honoured Harry Patch when he passed away – the last fighting Tommy of this country, with 1,000 people coming to his funeral and the then Duchess of Cornwall attending – we will afford the same honours to whoever that last veteran of World War Two is."

And Armed forces minister Leo Docherty said: "We have a dwindling number of World War Two veterans and of the World War Two generation.

"So the challenge remains for us to make commemoration relevant and urgent."

Call to teach D-Day sacrifice in schools

By **David Williamson** POLITICAL EDITOR

THE STORIES of heroism and sacrifice which defined D-Day must be passed on to the younger generation, leaders from across the political divide have pledged.

Polling to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day found that just 48 per cent of 18 to 34-year-olds correctly identified it as the day when Allied forces landed in Normandy.

Education Secretary Gillian Keegan told the Sunday Express: "There are few more significant days in our nation's history than June 6, 1944.

"It's so important we make sure that the legacy of those brave men and women who fought to defend our freedom is honoured – and education is absolutely central to making sure their story lives on."

Bridget Phillipson, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary, said change is needed so children grasp the importance of Britain's wartime past.

"As the proud granddaughter of a Second World War veteran, I was saddened at how many children are not aware of the sacrifices made in an operation that ultimately began the liberation of Europe," she said.

"This must change, so our children understand the history that ensured their freedom.

"We cannot grasp the future as a country if we fail to understand our past.

"That's why Labour will make sure that this generation, and future generations, of school children understand the sacrifices that allied soldiers made for our freedom."



MEMORY: Gillian Keegan with Bernard Morgan, 100, on HMS Belfast last week

Tobias Ellwood, a former defence minister who served in the Royal Green Jackets before entering politics, said: "We forget our history at our peril, especially as our world order begins to erode.

"We see unsettling similarities to the 1930s, so we should reflect on the sacrifices and heroism of those who fought in the Second World War to defend the freedoms we enjoy today but are again under threat.

"It's imperative that younger generations are fully educated about the Second World War, particularly the military significance of D-Day as a turning point in standing up to tyranny."

Mark Francois, a former armed forces minister, said: "My late father, Stoker 1st Class Reginald Francois, served on a mine-

sweeper on D-Day. Sadly, he died when I was only 14 but he always impressed upon me that we should never take living in a free country for granted.

"As we approach the 80th anniversary, I believe that wise advice still rings true."

Ms Keegan described the work already under way to introduce the story of D-Day to children.

She said: "It was a privilege to be invited to attend a visit with a group of school children to HMS Belfast last week with the Defence Secretary, where we had the opportunity to hear from two inspirational veterans, George Chandler and Bernard Morgan, about their memories of D-Day.

"This generation is likely the last who will hear from first-hand witnesses, and it was moving to see the children develop an appreciation for the fact that freedom and peace cannot be taken for granted."

Research by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission found nearly six out of 10 people (59 per cent) identified D-Day accurately. Director-General Claire Horton said there is "more work to be done to educate young people about the events and meaning of D-Day".

She said: "We have to engage with people of all generations to ensure that the commemoration of D-Day continues and it resonates for years to come.

"The courage and sacrifice of the fallen, on land, sea and air, must never be forgotten. We were very encouraged to learn that 92 per cent of all adults surveyed said long-term commemoration is important."

SECRET 'D-DAY TWO' PLAN: PAGES 30&31

Extra plane for big Para drop

DEFENCE Secretary Grant Shapps has ordered an additional A400 Atlas transport plane to be available for the Paras to use in a commemorative D-Day drop.

It comes after the Sunday Express last week revealed the elite regiment had to scale back plans due to a lack of aircraft.

The 80th anniversary jump was scheduled to involve 400 troops, but this was cut to just 100.

Thanks to our intervention at least two planes will now be on hand to drop 181 Paras, said Defence Minister James Callaghan.

This is the number of soldiers who landed on Pegasus Bridge using gliders on June 6, 1944.

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Cheryl: I was threatened with sack from Bucks Fizz for having mind of my own

BUCKS Fizz legend Cheryl Baker has claimed the group's management threatened to sack her and told her she was the least valuable member of the Eurovision-winning band.

The singer, 70, part of the foursome that won the song contest for the UK with Making Your Mind Up in 1981, said bosses resented how she would not be told what to do.

"There were a few run-ins," she said. "I was threatened with the sack once and I was told I was the least valuable member of the band by the woman who put us together.

"It was a really strange environment and I'm not sure the people who put us together were happy with the fact I was coping with it so well and that I wasn't as manipulable as the others.

"They would say different things to each of us to keep us apart, to almost cause animosity between us, so that they could control us better, so we weren't a tight unit."

Along with Jay Aston, Mike Nolan and Bobby G, Cheryl became a household name after their



By **Sue Crawford**

narrow victory in Dublin, thanks in part to the now legendary "skirt rip" dance routine.

But Cheryl said it immediately felt like they had lost control of their lives. And she claimed their management even arranged a sham engagement to her then boyfriend to get more publicity.

"It was like your life didn't belong to you anymore," she told Kaye Adams on her How To Be 60 podcast.

"They wanted promotion. I had no intention of getting married to him.

"We didn't control anything. I didn't know how much money we were earning, I didn't know how many singles we were selling."

Cheryl left in 1993 to focus on TV presenting, but returned to singing with the band in 2004.

After a dispute over the group's name, Cheryl, Mike and Jay have performed as The Fizz, while Bobby G, his wife and two others performed as Bucks Fizz.

RUN-INS: Cheryl claims she was told she was least valuable member of Eurovision winners Bucks Fizz, inset in 1981

Officers attend just 60% of all violent cases of shoplifting

POLICE attended just 60 per cent of shoplifting cases involving violence against staff, months after a promise officers would go to every crime scene.

Checks by the National Police Chiefs' Council found most forces still failed to go to every violent incident or where a suspect was detained, although there were significant improvements on previous levels.

The NPCC started looking at the performance of 31 of England and Wales's 44 forces two months after the promise was made under a Retail Crime Action Plan last October.

It discovered only seven hit the target of getting officers to 100 per cent of such incidents.

Chief constables made the pledge in response to retailers warning that staff were no longer reporting crimes as "police would never show up".

Figures at the time showed officers failed to attend 79 per cent of incidents where a suspected shoplifter was detained.

The NPCC looked at 1,514 reported shoplifting crimes

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

where violence was used or a suspect was detained from December 1 to January 24.

It revealed the findings to an inquiry into violence towards retail workers being carried out by MPs on Parliament's Home Affairs Select Committee.

The NPCC looked separately at incidents where a suspect was detained by security staff.

There is also a pledge to go to these, and 76 per cent had been attended, while nine forces hit the target.

Assistant Chief Constable Alex Goss, NPCC lead for retail

Forces attending 100% of incidents

- Cambs. Constabulary
- City of London Police
- Herts. Constabulary
- Norfolk Constabulary
- North Wales Police
- South Wales Police
- Staffordshire Police

crime, said of the action plan: "Police forces have embedded the plan in their operational work and we're already seeing positive results."

The Co-op separately submitted to the inquiry figures that showed that from October 1 to the end of March police attended 65 per cent of incidents where its undercover security staff detained a suspect.

But this was still significantly better than the 22 per cent attendance rate for the same from January 1 to September 30 2023, before the Retail Crime Action Plan's launch.

Paul Gerrard, Co-op director of campaign and public affairs, said: "I am increasingly confident there is now the opportunity and appetite to collaborate further with police forces to build on the green shoots of improvement seen so far."

Katy Bourne, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners lead on retail crime, said: "We welcomed the introduction of the action plan which is beginning to drive positive results."



STILL BUBBLY: Jay Aston, Mike Nolan and Cheryl Baker

PARTIES GO HEAD-TO-HEAD ON ENERGY

EDWARD SCHULDT, 77, living in London, retired, married with one son and two daughters, and eight grandchildren:

What will you do to keep energy prices down without inflicting higher taxes on us all?

CONSERVATIVE: With energy bills at their lowest levels for two years, my number one priority is to keep delivering cheaper bills. I want to see fairer prices with a review of standing charges, off-peak electricity tariffs and our Pumpwatch scheme for motorists.

I'm also bringing cheaper energy to Britain through building record clean energy backed up by nuclear power and British oil and gas where we need it.

LABOUR: Bills have rocketed under the Conservatives because we are so dependent on volatile oil and gas markets. We will invest in cheaper, homegrown, clean energy through Great British Energy.

MATTHEW RYAN, 44, university manager living in London, married with two sons:

I have a heat pump, solar panels and a battery, and my total energy costs for the year are under £1,000. But the up-front costs discourage people from making the change. How will you persuade more people to switch to green energy, such as heat pumps, when it is so expensive?

CONSERVATIVE: I want to give families a helping hand to make the choices that work for them, so I've increased our heat pump installation grant to £7,500, one of the most generous in Europe. However, I know not everyone will be ready so I've also chosen to give people more time – pushing back the boiler ban which was due in 2026 to 2035, saving families from having to spend up to £15,000 in just two years' time.



LABOUR: You are absolutely right – there are huge benefits in lower bills from clean energy. We want to make it affordable for all. That is what Labour's Warm Homes Plan will do.

ANDREW BURKINSHAW 47, deputy headteacher living in London, married with two daughters:

What are your plans to break the reliance on foreign sources of energy, particularly from states which are potentially hostile?

I've increased the heat pump installation grant to £7,500 – one of the most generous in Europe

CLAIRE COUTINHO
Conservative

CONSERVATIVE: We cannot have watched Europe wean itself off Russian oil and gas for us all to then be reliant on China for batteries or critical minerals. That's why I am backing Britain to build what we need – including with a £1 billion GIGA fund.

From advanced nuclear fuel, to batteries, to North Sea oil and gas – we are backing what we need to make sure British energy comes from Britain.

LABOUR: We were exposed to Putin's war due to our over-reliance on fossil fuels. Labour would boost energy independence by investing in homegrown power with Great British Energy, a publicly owned company.

ALISON BRAGG, 51, living in Workington, home-educating mother of three sons and three daughters:

Will every hill need to have a wind turbine to keep Britain's lights on?

CONSERVATIVE: No, it won't – the majority of our wind power comes from offshore turbines, which is the most efficient form of wind energy. However, as even the Climate Change Committee acknowledged, we will also still get a lot of energy from oil, gas and nuclear even in 2050. It's net zero, not absolute zero after all.

LABOUR: No. But we will end the Tories' absurd ban on all onshore wind in England, which is costing families £180 in higher energy bills every year.

Rob Ferguson, 30, sales director living in Minster, Kent, engaged to be married:

Do you plan to get rid of prepayment meters?

CONSERVATIVE: Prepayment meters can help people have more control over their budgets. But we've made sure families with pre-payment meters no longer pay more

What do you think – CAN LABOUR BE TRUSTED TO BOOST HOMEGROWN POWER?

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Keeping the lights on is one of the core duties of any government and the task will get more daunting in the next five years, writes Political Editor DAVID WILLIAMSON.

Reliable energy supplies are threatened by international conflicts, and pressure to tackle climate change will intensify. Whoever wins the next election will have to stop energy bills spiralling while ensuring there is a power network for electric



cars. Today, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero CLAIRE COUTINHO and her Labour opposite number ED MILIBAND answer your questions.

In the weeks ahead Sunday Express readers will put on the spot the men and women who want to lead Britain into the challenges ahead. Your voice will be heard at the heart of the national debate...

To put your questions on any subject please email us at:
questions@express.co.uk

Or write to Great Election Debate, Sunday Express, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP

for our nuclear power plants, and how many small modular reactors would you like to see?

CONSERVATIVE: This is critical for Britain and our allies. I've just set out £300million to make sure Britain can be the first commercial European producer of advanced nuclear fuel outside Russia, supporting high-skilled jobs too.

Small modular reactors can be built more quickly and cheaply in a factory than previous plants. The UK will be one of the first countries to have them up and running and I'd like to see them rolled out far and wide to give us the cheap energy we need.

LABOUR: Nuclear is essential for our future. As Energy Secretary in 2009, I approved 10 new sites but the Tories built none. I want to see new nuclear stations, including small modular reactors.

JULIE FOSTER, retired college lecturer from Burnley, married with one son, one daughter and four grandchildren:

Where are the batteries for electric cars going to be disposed of and will anyone want to buy a second-hand electric car if a new battery is more expensive than the car?

CONSERVATIVE: Modern electric cars now have very similar lifespans to petrol cars, with warranties of 100,000 miles, so families can buy second-hand electric cars as they would second-hand petrol cars now. Prices are also coming down each and every year.

LABOUR: Our mission is to bring down the cost of electric vehicles so they are cheaper than petrol and diesel cars, and ensure that batteries from electric vehicles are recycled.

than direct debit customers, and I stepped in to take firm action against energy companies forcing them on vulnerable customers.

LABOUR: We want to see a reduced role for PPMs. I led the campaign to end the forced installation of PPMs, and am now campaigning for justice for those affected.

SARAH BRACKWELL, 45, disability access consultant living in London with her partner:

Are we going to see more electricity pylons with the switch to clean power?

CONSERVATIVE: Our new community benefits mean families near new infrastructure could get up to £10,000 off their energy bills over 10 years, and communities could get hundreds of thousands of pounds to spend on their local priorities, whether that is a new community centre or GP.

LABOUR: We do need to build more grid so we can connect to clean, cheaper power. I believe we can do so in a way that gives every community grid clear benefits

MATT CRESWELL, 45, teacher living in east London, married with one son and one daughter:

When do you expect petrol pumps to become a thing of the past?

CONSERVATIVE: Not any time soon. New petrol cars will now still be sold until 2035

and you'll still be able to buy and sell second-hand cars after that. We are helping those who do make the switch to electric, and at the same time increasing the number of public charge points available – which have doubled in the past year alone.

LABOUR: We are a long way off that given the petrol and diesel cars in circulation. What's crucial is to ensure that we keep driving down the cost of electric vehicles with a good charging infrastructure, so they're affordable and convenient.

CLAIRE FAYERS, 56, children's author living in Abergavenny with her husband:

Will you insulate older homes to bring down heating bills and stop energy going to waste?

CONSERVATIVE: Yes. In 2010, just 14 per cent of homes were energy efficient – now that figure is almost 50 per cent, including 70 per cent of social homes. And we're spending £6billion to improve insulation.

LABOUR: Yes. Labour's Warm Homes Plan will insulate homes for millions of families and pensioners, saving you money and slashing fuel poverty.

JOHN KANE, 45, local government worker living in Trowbridge, father of three daughters and one son:

How will you ensure Britain has a secure and affordable supply of fuel



We need to keep driving down the cost of electric vehicles with a good charging infrastructure so they're affordable and convenient

ED MILIBAND
Labour



Smugglers creating 'rush' of migrants with vote lies

PEOPLE smugglers are offering small boat Channel crossings at just £500 per person and telling migrants that a Labour government will close the route immediately.

They are also falsely saying that anyone caught after the General Election will face life in prison under new laws. The prices have been cut in a bid to create a rush and send an extra 5,000 people across the Channel in the next six weeks.

A Border Force source said: "Smugglers are offering deals that are being billed as the last chance to flee. It's nonsense but migrants are believing it. This is just a deal to the smugglers but life or death to those trying to make the trip."

In Calais, a prosecution source said: "Lower prices often means we will see more young families try to cross. We fear more tragedies will happen." Around 10,000 migrants have made the crossing this year, with at least 14 deaths.

Albanian 'gang boss' eyes return

A MAN accused of running a gang smuggling drugs and people from Albania to the UK has launched a court bid to overturn his travel ban.

Isuf Dauti, 32, who had lived in the UK since 2012, had his indefinite leave to remain revoked by the Home Office on security grounds three years ago after visiting Albania.

The Home Office alleged at a

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

Special Immigration Appeal Commission hearing this month that Mr Dauti had taken over the UK wing of a major organised crime network after his brother Fation, 38, was banned under the same tactic.

In a victory for press freedom, both brothers can be identified after the Sunday Express successfully challenged orders which granted them anonymity.

Isuf claims he has no involvement in organised crime and poses no security threat, so is seeking to overturn the ban stopping him returning to the UK.

In its appeal response, the Home Office wrote:

"Among the activities, which the respondent assesses (him) to have engaged in is the importation and distribution of class A drugs and facilitation of illegal migration. (He) is assessed to pose a risk of violence in order to pursue criminal aims and launder proceeds of criminal conduct."

The Home Office listed seven "organised criminals", some convicted, who it said he is associated with, including his brother.

Fation was excluded on the same grounds in September 2019 and lost a subsequent appeal in March 2021.

The Home Office added: "Following Fation Dauti's exclusion, the NCA (National Crime Agency)

assessed that (Isuf) 'assumed a position of responsibility in the OCG (organised crime group)'. (He) is personally active within the drugs trade in the UK as a controlling member."

The Home Office said NCA investigators obtained Isuf's bank statements and rental agreements, which were compared to HMRC evidence.

Despite having a joint income with his now-estranged wife of £26,000 to £30,000 a year, in the six years between 2015 and 2021 they spent around £139,000 on rent, including £2,700 a month for a year to rent a Chelsea apartment from July 2019.

There was spending on items from Harrods, Gucci and Dolce & Gabbana.

The Home Office said: "(He) had substantial financial

commitments on property he was renting which are difficult to reconcile with his income."

Mr Dauti denies involvement in crime, drugs or people trafficking and claims he has wrongly been excluded based on the actions of other people he happens to know and he is being singled out just for "being Albanian".

He denies being a security risk and said the exclusion breaches the EU Settlement Scheme and human rights laws, and his main place of residence is the UK.

'He is active in the drugs trade'

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BAN: Isuf Dauti is alleged to have taken over a major crime network's UK wing. Inset, his brother Fation

Pilot dies in Spitfire accident

AN RAF pilot has died after a Spitfire crashed in a field during a Battle of Britain memorial event.

Emergency services were called to RAF Coningsby, Lincolnshire, around 1.20pm yesterday. Lincolnshire Police said the aircraft came down in the field off Langrick Road, which runs alongside the perimeter of the base.

The airfield is the home of the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight.

A Ministry of Defence spokesperson said: "It is with great sadness we must confirm the death of an RAF pilot. The pilot's family have been informed and we ask that their privacy is respected."

Pressure on hospitals in obesity rise

BRITAIN'S blood pressure is soaring as the country faces a growing obesity crisis, NHS figures reveal.

The number of people in hospital with the condition related to their weight has increased by 688 per cent in 10 years.

The data from NHS Digital shows total admissions rose from 564 cases to 4,442.

In children, they were up 140 per cent over the same period.

Other obesity-related conditions which have seen hospital admissions rise steeply include gallstones – from 10,624 in 2014 up to 31,109 in 2023, the most ever recorded in a single year.

'Jerusalem to ignore UN diktat'

ISRAEL plans to ignore Friday's judgment by the UN's highest court for its military to "immediately" cease all activity in Gazan city Rafah, experts say.

Thirteen out of 15 International Court of Justice judges ordered it to stop actions that could cause "physical destruction in whole or in part" of the Palestinian people.

But regional expert Catherine Perez Shakdam said: "There's a profound sense of having been abandoned and betrayed. Israel will do whatever it feels it needs to do to get hostages back...and ensure Hamas can never repeat the October 7 attacks."



INTIMIDATION: Vandals' red message on venue's doors; inset, poster for the Israeli documentary

Cinema targeted over Israeli film

VANDALS defaced a historic cinema after it screened an Israeli documentary about the atrocities carried out by Hamas terrorists on October 7.

The words "say no to artwashing" were daubed in red paint across the front of the charity-funded Phoenix Cinema in East Finchley, London – which the Met Police have said they are investigating as a "potential hate crime".

It followed a private screening of *Supernova: The Music Festival Massacre* – which prompted Left-wing film directors Ken Loach and Mike Leigh to resign as patrons of the venue – as part of the 13th Seret Israeli film festival.

After staff cleaned off the graffiti on Thursday, a pro-Palestine mob, right, staged a protest outside the building. The cinema said: "We believe that an independent cinema should uphold freedom of expression and...show difficult content. We would be equally supportive of a difficult Palestinian film."



Anti-Semitism fears over colleges failing to 'sign-up'

By **David Williamson** POLITICAL EDITOR

UNIVERSITIES that fail to adopt an internationally accepted definition of anti-Semitism risk exposing Jewish students to "despicable hatred", they have been warned.

Some institutions, including London's School of Oriental and African Studies, have not adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition, which is designed to protect lives and prevent prejudice.

A spokesman for the Board of Deputies of British Jews said: "At a time when anti-Semitism has reached record highs, Jewish students and members of staff at universities deserve to know that if they are targeted, the institution they attend can clearly define the bigotry they have faced and will deal with it accordingly.

"The IHRA definition is recommended by all major communal organisations in this country.

"Institutions which avoid signing up to it risk failing to properly support their Jewish students or teachers who might fall victim to this hatred."

A spokesperson for SOAS said the institution "stands firmly against anti-Semitism, as we do all forms of discrimination".

SOAS has its own "Charter on Racism, anti-Semitism and All Forms of Cultural, Ethnic and Religious Chauvinism". It states it "will not toler-

IHRA definition includes...

- Making stereotypical allegations, such as the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions
- Denying the genocide of the Jewish people during World War II (the Holocaust)
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination by claiming the State of Israel is a racist endeavour
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis

ate any form of racism". The spokesperson continued: "Our student community can be assured this charter will be applied rigorously and without fear or favour, so we tackle anti-Semitism, alongside all other forms of racism."

But former security minister Sir John Hayes said organisations who fail to adopt the IHRA definition "should hang their heads in shame".

He said the "ugly spectre of anti-Semitism" has gone from an "undercurrent to a raging tide in

recent times and needs to be quelled by every means or measure".

There is growing concern at the impact of pro-Gaza protests in universities on Jewish students.

Polling for Tory peer Lord Ashcroft found 41 per cent of respondents thought "concern for the plight of the Palestinians" was among the main motivations behind the protests.

They thought other motivations included "joining in with other students regardless of the cause" (31 per cent), "hostility towards Israel" (27 per cent), "protesting against Western governments" (22 per cent) and "hostility towards Jews more generally" (16 per cent).

The University of Buckingham said the issue of adopting the IHRA definition was "under review" but it does "not tolerate anti-Semitism or any other form of racial or religious hatred".

The University for the Creative Arts, which is based on campuses in Surrey and Kent, has not formally adopted the IHRA definition but is in the process of reviewing this.

And a spokesman for Plymouth Marjon University said the definition is "under discussion by our executive leadership team".

Education minister Luke Hall said: "The Government will continue to encourage all to adopt the definition. Adopting this is a signal providers take these issues seriously."

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Talking about brave Bruce's dementia 'will bring hope'

From **Mike Parker** in LOS ANGELES

HOLLYWOOD action hero Bruce Willis's eldest daughter says his family will continue to talk about his dementia to "bring hope" to sufferers.

Actress Rumer Willis, 35, said they have been overwhelmed by support for the *Moonlighting* and *Die Hard* star, 69.

And she added: "My dad is so beloved – that's been so evident. He's doing good."

She vowed that his "blended" family home care team – which includes her two sisters Scout and Tallulah, their mother Demi Moore and Bruce's wife, Emma Heming – will not stay silent about his brave battle.

"In sharing our experience, if that can have an effect and bring any sort of hope or comfort to someone else, that to me is everything," she said.

'If it can bring comfort, that to me is everything'

Rumer, whose movie *My Divorce Party* is now streaming on Prime Video and Apple TV, said her daughter Louetta, 13 months, has already formed a special bond with "Grandpa Bruce".

Louetta, Rumer's first child with musician partner Derek Richard Thomas, is also Bruce's first grandchild and they "love to see each other", as revealed in a string of photos on Instagram.

The family announced in 2022 that Bruce had been diagnosed with aphasia, and then last year they revealed the disease had progressed to frontotemporal dementia.

Frontotemporal dementia is a rare condition that usually shows up earlier than other forms of dementia. Bruce's wife Emma, 45, is set to publish a book about her experience as a carer to her husband later this year.



LOVING FAMILY: Bruce Willis and Rumer in 2015; and left, together in 1988

Cop on drug-fuelled night out hit officer

A POLICE officer who punched a sergeant trying to arrest him after a drug-fuelled night out has lost his job and been given a community sentence.

Oliver Birch was arrested in a hotel room that contained wraps of cocaine and a "large amount of cash".

Birch, 44, from Gravesend, Kent, hired a Lamborghini on March 8 last year and drove it to Brighton, East Sussex, for a night out.

The PC on the Met's Specialist Crime Command, which investigates organised crime gangs, met a group of students, identified himself as a police officer and took cocaine in their presence.

A Sussex Police spokesman said: "The group left the venue but Birch drove to their address and tried to convince them to join him for a drive."

Birch also invited some of them back to his hotel, giving them the room number, but they declined.

The spokesman added: "When leaving, Birch thought that this group took the keys to the Lamborghini so he smashed a window of their property with a baton." He

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

fled when the police were called, but was traced to the hotel room on the sea front.

The spokesman added: "A Sussex Police officer attended to attempt to arrest him but [Birch] resisted and violently assaulted the officer, causing injuries requiring hospital treatment."

An official report on the incident, seen by the Sunday Express, said Police Sergeant

'Repeatedly punched and stamped on him'

Seekings entered Birch's room and the PC pulled away as an arrest was being made.

It added: "PS Seekings drew his taser and red dotted the suspect [who] was instructed to get on his knees."

As Sgt Seekings tried to handcuff Birch, he repeatedly punched then stamped on him before hurling items at the injured officer, who was able to deploy his taser as

back-up arrived. A search of the room found lines of cocaine, a safe containing wraps and a large amount of cash.

A second safe contained a phone, sim cards and Birch's passport. An extendable baton was found in his pocket.

The hired supercar contained a rucksack holding a Met Police laptop and an open "class A" force evidence bag.

The Met held a misconduct hearing in private last November before dismissing him from the force.

At Lewes Crown Court, Birch pleaded guilty to assault causing ABH, criminal damage, possession of a class A drug and possession of an offensive weapon. A drug-driving charge was ordered to lie on file.

At Brighton Crown Court on March 22, Birch was given a two-year community order to include rehabilitation activity and 150 hours of unpaid work. He was also ordered to pay £1,000 to the injured officer.

Sussex Police did not publish details of the case at the time.

In a statement, Detective Sergeant Charles Lawrence said: "Offenders such as Birch have no place in policing."

Met woman in corpse snap case is back on force

A MET Police officer sacked after receiving a photo of a dead man from a colleague has won back her job.

PC Bonnie Murphy asked Jamie Lewis, 35, to send her a shot of a decomposed body to show her family in January 2020.

Six months later, Lewis took pictures of murder victims Nicole Smallman and sister Bibaa Henry after they were stabbed to death by Danyal Hussein in north London.

Lewis and colleague Deniz Jaffer, 50,

'Murphy is currently on restricted duties'

were each jailed for two years and nine months in 2021 after they pleaded guilty to misconduct in public office.

In January last year, Ms Murphy was dismissed without notice from the Met after being found guilty of gross misconduct in connection with the photo.

But she has successfully appealed and will now face a new misconduct hearing over the same allegations in July.

A Met Police spokeswoman said: "She is currently on restricted duties."



GAFFE: Actress Eleanor

Poldark star makes her Mark on set

POLDARK actress Eleanor Tomlinson has admitted to an embarrassing gaffe on a film set involving a major Hollywood star.

The 32-year-old, who played Demelza in the TV period drama, said: "I've never seen Stars Wars.

"On my first day of a recent job, I'm sitting next to this very friendly actor.

"I ask if he has had much experience with motion capture [a method of replicating an actor's live performance with an animated character].

"He says 'Yes'. I say 'Oh, great! What have you worked on?' and he says, 'I'm Mark Hamill.'"

The American actor, 72, was Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars films from A New Hope in 1977 up to 2019's The Rise of Skywalker.



MARVEL: Patti LaBelle

Patti belting out sexy hit song at 80

PATTI LaBelle – whose 1974 hit Lady Marmalade had the lyric "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir?" – has revealed she can still belt it out at 80.

The Godmother of Soul, whose birthday was on Friday, said: "I just got back from Kentucky, St Louis, Detroit and Atlanta.

"I spend at least seven months of the year touring. Sometimes I'm amazed at some of the notes I can still hit and above. And some nights, I might be a little under.

"You know, I'm human but I have no complaints."

Patti, who was to duet with pal Aretha Franklin before she died in 2018, is making a new album and says she has "about 55,000 big hits left in [her]".

REVEALED

Secret plan for 'D-Day Two' if Normandy had failed

It's an incredible secret that has lain hidden behind the heroics of Normandy, but Allied forces had planned to invade the beaches of Brittany if the D-Day landings had failed. JON COATES reports

THE LARGEST mass seaborne invasion in history – at Normandy on June 6, 1944 – began the liberation of France from Nazi occupation. And the heroic success of D-Day will be commemorated with 80th anniversary events on both sides of the Channel next week.

But it can now be revealed that plans were in place for a "D-Day Two", further along the French coast at Brittany.

Author and historian Damien Lewis uncovered the details while researching the story of a remarkable SAS hero, Major Oswald Cary-Elwes, for his new book SAS Great Escapes Three.

He says: "As far as I am aware, the plans for D-Day Two were completely unknown until now.

"The fact there was a second D-Day mooted and a whole SAS squadron sent in prior to D-Day, to put that into action on the ground along with the French resistance, is extraordinary.

"The SAS is very secretive so I think this has been forgotten in the annals of time, but it's a fascinating story."

To pave the way for D-Day Two, 36 French soldiers from 4 SAS, part of the Free French Forces commanded by General Charles de Gaulle in the UK, were parachuted behind enemy lines on the evening of June 5, 1944.

Their mission was to sever German communication lines to stop enemy forces rushing to the beaches of Normandy to drive the Allies back.

After this they were to set up two bases from which they could work with the large number of French resistance fighters, the Maquis, to disrupt German forces until they could link up with Allied troops, breaking free of the beachheads at Normandy.

More SAS began dropping in, including the one-armed commander of 4 SAS, Colonel Pierre-Louis Bourgoin, creating a force of 200 special forces soldiers and 3,000 Maquis in Brittany.

But when one of their bases was discovered by the Nazis, they were forced to scatter into smaller groups and go into hiding, without the means to communicate with London or each other.

Major Cary-Elwes, commander of 2 SAS, a



WARTIME HERO: Major Cary-Elwes with his daughters Rosie, Clare and Cate. Main image, troops on Sword beach on D-Day



READY FOR ACTION: Major Cary-Elwes, left, and General Montgomery in 1944

well that on a whim Cary-Elwes decided they deserved a night out at a local tavern, where they nearly blew their cover by coughing and choking when drinking ultra-strong Calvados.

Mills was not surprised by such antics as several times he had caught the Major strolling down a Breton lane whistling Oh My Darling Clementine, as if he didn't have a care in the world.

The night before their scheduled pick-up Cary-Elwes, Mills and the other two men were to stay at the Maison D'Alphonse near Bonaparte Beach, a farmhouse owned by Jean Gicquel, who lived there with his wife Marie and their baby.

When two drunk White Russians in German uniforms knocked on the door late at night the SAS group hid in the loft of the house, where they were trapped.

BUT THE thoughts of the Russians soon turned to more alcohol, so the farmer took them out into his yard with a bottle of cognac. When the inebriated men started firing wild shots into the shadows around the farm, they hit their German patrol commander as he arrived.

All the men left to get him medical treatment, allowing the Major and his men to get out of the loft and hide in a nearby forest until their pick-up.

Cary-Elwes arrived back in the UK on the morning of July 24 and was rushed to brigade headquarters with the maps and papers.

Two weeks later he parachuted back into Brittany, with Mills at his side, to link up with Colonel Bourgoin and continue the fight.

He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and Legion d'Honneur by the French, and remained in the Army until 1968, when he retired. He died on January 2, 1994, aged 80.

Damien first came across Major Cary-Elwes in the family archives of Colonel Paddy Mayne, who featured in SAS Rogue Heroes with special forces founder David Stirling.

He recalls: "I was looking through some documents from Paddy Mayne's archives and there was a report in there of an SAS rescue mission at a concentration camp in Pisticci in southern Italy,

in September 1943. It is the most extraordinary SAS mission I have ever read about.

"When I read that they had hijacked a steam train to rescue 180 prisoners I thought this could not be true, but it was commanded by Major Cary-Elwes. I found two other reports which corroborated it."

The writer had previously met his daughter Catherine Cary-Elwes, a video artist who writes books about art, so asked her about his wartime exploits and she shared a trove of previously unpublished documents and letters with him.

Damien, 58, says: "Cate has this great archive of records about her father which was all I needed to write a Great Escapes story.

"It did not start out as an escape, it was a search that then became an escape.

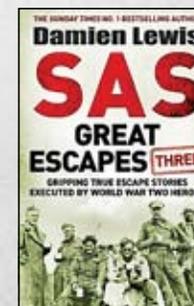
"But I was also interested in this story about plans for D-Day Two, because I had never heard about this before."

He adds: "It was great to write about a character I was already captivated by."

One of Damien's previous books, The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare, has been adapted into a Hollywood blockbuster starring Superman actor Henry Cavill.

While not out in UK cinemas until mid-June, he attended its premiere in New York a few weeks ago and says: "In a bizarre coincidence the actor Ivan Cary-Elwes, a distant relative of Major Cary-Elwes, is in the movie."

In a meeting with the film's producers he told them about the Italy prison camp raid led by Major Cary-Elwes and "they said if we make it into a movie then Ivan has to have a role in it".



● *SAS Great Escapes Three* by Damien Lewis (Quercus Publishing, £22) is available from the Express Bookshop for £19.80 expressbookshop.com or calling 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on online orders over £25.

fluent French speaker, was tasked with finding out what had happened to the missing men.

He parachuted into Brittany under the cover of darkness with six French SAS and his loyal bagman, Corporal Eric Mills, on June 22.

His mission, codenamed Operation Lost, was to find Colonel Bourgoin and recover vital intelligence on port defences and troop strengths in the region, particularly at the heavily fortified port of St Malo, which the Allies coveted.

Cary-Elwes, who was 30 at the time and described as "ramrod straight with a magnificent moustache", was pursued by enemy forces across Brittany.

After finding the Colonel and Maquis leaders, he got his hands on detailed maps showing key naval bases along the Atlantic coast, including a U-boat base at Lorient, so it was time for the Major to escape back to England.

Armed with just handguns, with Mills also having a pocket full of grenades, the daring duo and two of the French SAS dressed as locals to be transported in a horse cart across Brittany to a farmhouse at the coast. Their escape was going so



NUDE SCENES: Jane

Asher will no longer flash flesh

JANE Asher has said she would only appear nude on screen again "with a lot of nice, rosy filters".

The 78-year-old actress and former girlfriend of Sir Paul McCartney, stripped off for the 2006 film *The Maidens' Conspiracy*.

But almost 20 years on, she said: "The nude scene was horrible. They are always unpleasant.

"You worry about how you look. There were no intimacy co-ordinators.

"You just took your dressing gown off and had to trust the director not to show the bits that you didn't want to be shown."

Jane, who first appeared naked in the 1970 film *The Buttercup Chain* when she was 24, added: "I wouldn't do it now, except with a lot of nice, rosy filters."



MESSAGE: Davidson

Jim's clear on mystery over father

COMIC Jim Davidson has revealed how Claude Debussy's classic piano piece Clair de Lune helped him work out that his real father was his uncle.

The 70-year-old told a Channel 5 documentary that Bill Davidson, his father Jock's younger brother, had played the piece throughout his birth while Jock was in the pub.

Speaking on *The Cancellation Of Jim Davidson*, the former *Big Break* host said that in 2022 the piece was played at his mum Mary's funeral.

"I walked into the crematorium and Clair de Lune was playing on the speakers - Mum had left me a message."

● *The Cancellation Of Jim Davidson*, 5 catch-up



'I never asked my father about his time in SAS but now I know more'

CATHERINE, 71, from Oxford, says her father never talked about his time in the SAS when she was growing up. And he did not invite questions about that period of his life, so she feels Damien's research has allowed her to get to know her father as a daring younger man.

She says: "It's as if Damien and this history has introduced us to somebody we didn't really know, because as an old man he was a very different person, he wasn't a devil-may-care character going down a lane whistling.

"That is not the person we knew, so in a

way what Damien has done is introduced us to our father as a young man, what he was then, so I find the whole thing extremely moving."

Catherine adds: "I'm full of regret that I didn't press him for information. After he died of course I wanted to know everything, and it was too late. So I spent a great deal of time running around talking to anybody who had known him.

"I went all the way to the Pacific to find people who had fought with him in the French SAS, to talk to them and I made a film about Operation Lost in the early 1990s."

Pictures: CARY-ELWES FAMILY; GETTY

By **Tony Whitfield**

‘Waspi’ campaign warns Tories as election looms

THE failure to set a deadline to compensate millions of women affected by changes to the state pension age could cost the Tories at the ballot box, campaigners have warned.

Women Against State Pension Inequality – Waspi – has demanded £10,000 pay-outs and called on all parties to commit to fast and fair compensation in their manifestos.

But two months on from a landmark report by the Parliamentary Ombudsman ruling in the favour of the women, the Government stands accused of dodging questions.

Last week, Work and Pensions Secretary Mel Stride refused to tell a cross-party group of MPs if compensation will be paid, or if he even accepts the report’s findings. And he admitted he had not met with the Parliamentary

SUNDAY EXPRESS
CRUSADE
FAIR DEAL FOR PENSIONERS

Ombudsman to discuss it. The report found that successive governments had botched announcing the changes and ruled the women should receive between £1,000 and £2,950 after the pension age was increased from 60 to 66.

MPs had called for Parliament to be allowed a vote on the issue before the summer recess but the snap elec-

tion has stopped all parliamentary business.

Waspi chair Angela Madden, who described Mr Stride’s behaviour as a “kick in the teeth”, said: “Mr Sunak has taken a huge gamble in taking the country to the polls with no plan to compensate Waspi women.

“Waspi has been overwhelmed with support from MPs backing our calls for fair and fast compensation.

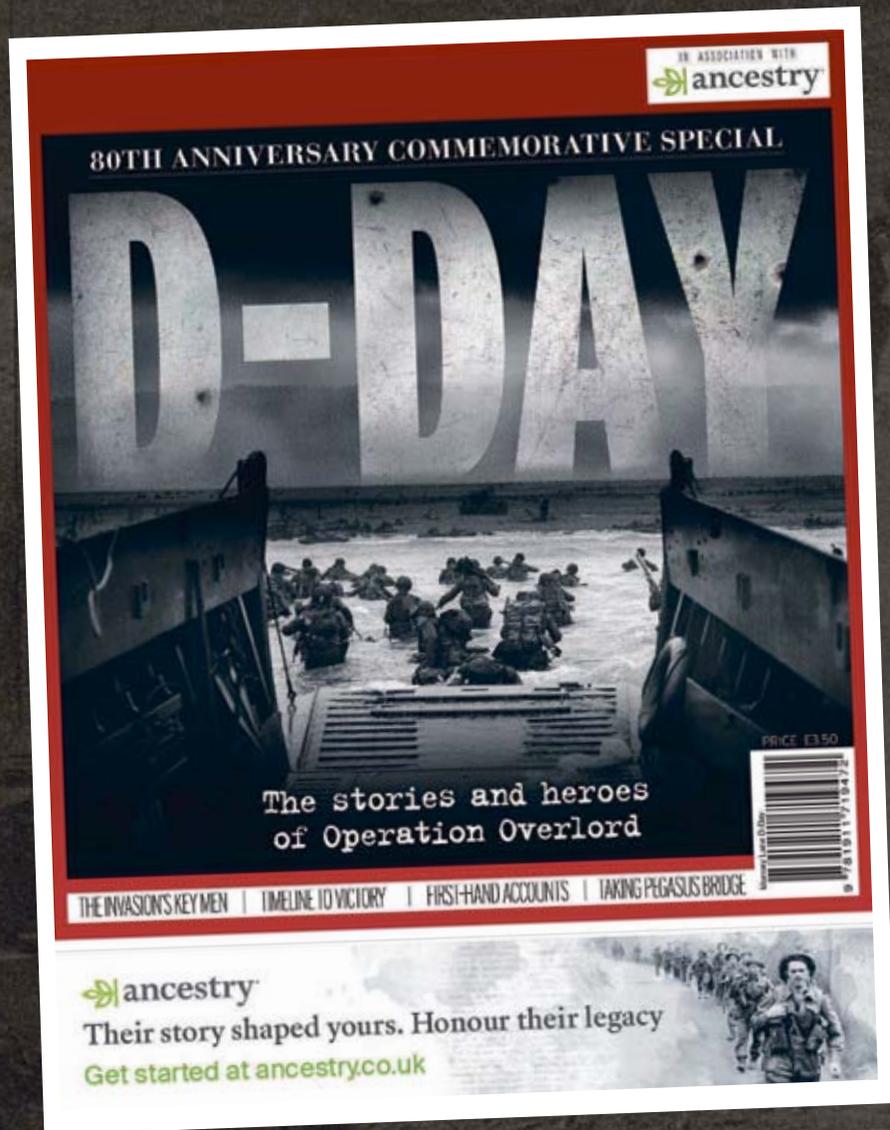
“There is now a clear opportunity for all parties to commit to delivering a fair

remedy as soon as possible. With the numbers of affected women outnumbering the majorities of MPs in nearly 170 constituencies, the votes of Waspi women are vital in this election.”

Since the report’s publication in March, more than 6,500 affected women have died without receiving compensation. In all, around 3.6 million suffered financially because the DWP failed to provide accurate, adequate and timely information.

Picture: ELYSE JANKOWSKI/GETTY

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LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL: Jane Seymour says women over 50 are not taken seriously by doctors in LA

Jane: Hollywood’s golden girls have lost lustre among medics

FILM star Jane Seymour wants women over 50 to be treated with more respect at Hollywood’s hospitals and medical clinics.

The British actress, who lives in Los Angeles, says doctors there are taught to view middle-aged women as a temperamental nuisance.

The 73-year-old former Bond girl, who starred in *Live and Let Die* with Roger Moore in 1973, feels she has been written off and disregarded later in life and in her career because she

By **James Desborough**

is no longer youthful. Jane, who also starred in *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman*, said: “If you go to a doctor and you are 50 or more and a woman, the chances are you’re not going to be taken seriously.

“It is kind of like a sell-by date. And for some reason I think women accept it. And, of course, you are encouraged to look like you’re 20.”

She added: “I’m 73 but inside I feel like I’m 30 or 40.”

CLASS SCANDAL THAT ROCKED BRITAIN

Pictures: ALAMY; REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

A court hearing 100 years ago this week questioned if a new mother could still be a virgin. IAN HERNON looks at the extraordinary case which fed the public's salacious appetite for scandal and class conflict.

Curious case of the 'virgin birth'

IT ALL BEGAN with the marriage of The Honourable John Russell – heir to the Amptill barony – to 23-year-old Christabel Hart in 1918. Russell served in the Royal Navy in the First World War, while Christabel, daughter of an infantry colonel, had worked at the Woolwich Arsenal munitions factory.

Christabel was almost 6ft, bobbed her hair, dressed like a “flapper” and was a regular in London’s nightclubs.

Fond of partying the night away, she had many marriage proposals that she always accepted and then rejected a few days later. But Russell was the exception.

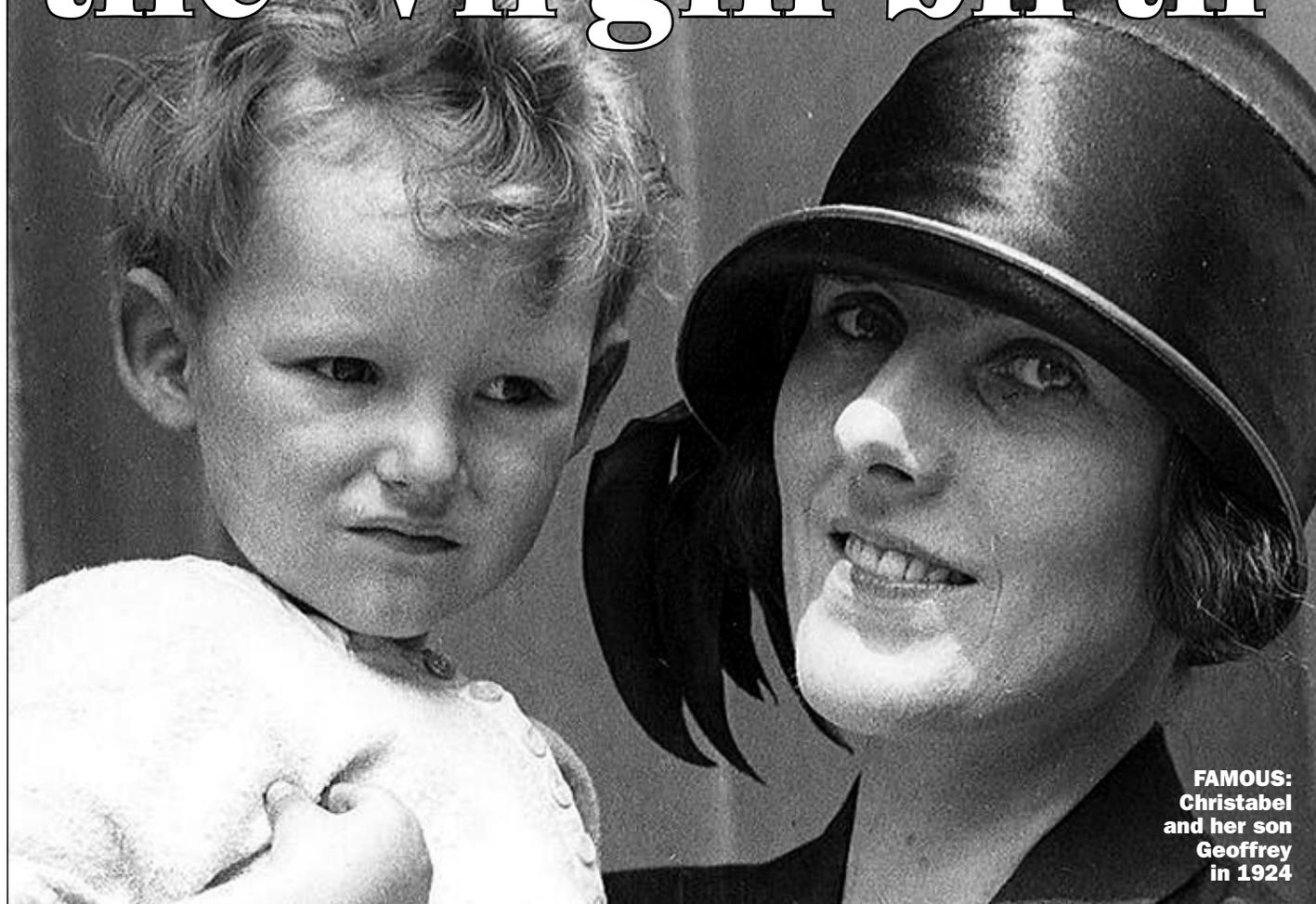
Russell’s mother, Lady Amptill, was scandalised, believing her son had been “ensnared” by a good time girl and was marrying beneath him. Neither of his parents attended the October wedding.

On the eve of the ceremony, Christabel made her groom promise they would not have children “for at least a year or two”, and during this time they would not live as man and wife.

The newlyweds spent part of their honeymoon at Oakley House, a sprawling 17th-century Bedfordshire manor with lawns sweeping down to the River Ouse.

Having learnt to ride at five years old Christabel found the 250-acre parkland estate very much to her taste.

She was seen as a “liberated” woman. She started a successful fashion store in London in 1920, designing the dresses herself, with the business expanding to



FAMOUS:
Christabel
and her son
Geoffrey
in 1924

‘Christabel was a liberated woman’

employ nearly 40 staff. She drove a car, a motorcycle and could also fly an aircraft.

The couple actually needed the money her dress enterprise brought in, as John was not wealthy by aristocratic standards.

He earned £275 a year from the Vickers aviation engineering company plus a £100 annual allowance from his father.

Combined, it was the equivalent of around £16,500 in today’s money.

Christabel drew a salary of £400 from her dress shop on Curzon Street, Mayfair.

The average annual pay of a labourer was £60 and a train driver £120.

When the Russells moved to a small house in Chelsea, John was mostly away on submarine duties, leaving Christabel to resume her extensive socialising.

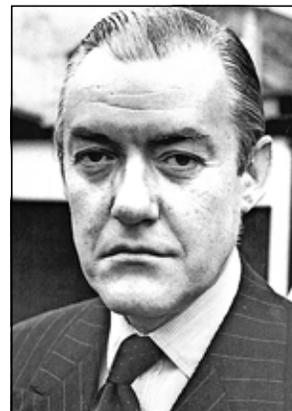
A week before Christmas 1920, the couple shared a bed at Oakley House.

Normally, they had separate bedrooms but this time the priggish Lady Amptill put them in the same chamber to keep up appearances. Later the following year, Christabel was astonished to discover she was five months pregnant.

John disclaimed paternity, insisting conception must have been at one of the flats and hotels where his wife had admitted spending nights with, in her husband’s words, “a string of detestable young men”.

He sued for divorce on grounds of adultery, naming two co-respondents and one unknown person. Yet Christabel claimed that while she had never had full intercourse with her husband, she had not had sex with any other man either.

She insisted she was a virgin and produced medical expert evidence that prior



FAMILY: Christabel as fashion designer, husband John and a grown-up Geoffrey

to the birth of Geoffrey in October 1921 her hymen was only partly perforated.

She also claimed on that pre-Christmas night her husband had undertaken unspecified “Hunnish scenes” – and had tried unsuccessfully to rape her.

She revealed she had used his bathroom sponge to clean herself afterwards and later soaked herself in a bath recently vacated by her husband.

AS A RESULT, Christabel’s baby, Geoffrey, became known as the “Sponge Baby” or “The Baby in the Bath”. Newspaper headlines would focus on the “Virgin Birth”.

In the divorce case John charged that Christabel had “cavorted” across the Continent, writing home about “slim, silky Argentines” and “marcel-waved” Italians who courted her.

Christabel wrote to a female friend: “I

have been so frightfully indiscreet all my life that he (John) has enough evidence to divorce me about once a week.” However, she insisted they had not slept with her and medical experts conceded her story of Geoffrey’s conception might be true.

A 10-month gestation was not unknown, and impregnation without penetration, though rare, was possible. Still, the jury in the second trial found her guilty of adultery with an unnamed man.

Yet despite the number of co-respondents cited, she won sizeable public support, largely as she presented herself as a doting mother to her infant son.

King George V was said to be appalled by the salacious newspaper coverage and in 1926 a law was brought in to restrict reporting of divorce cases.

Christabel lost on appeal but had the verdict overturned at the House of Lords, which ruled that no child born after a marriage could be declared illegitimate merely on the testimony of a parent. The implication was Christabel was no adulter-

ess and her son Geoffrey was the legitimate heir to the Amptill title and wealth.

Christabel’s biographer Bevis Hillier said the sensational news headlines made her Britain’s most famous woman in 1924.

She later designed costumes for several films and in 1941 created Elizabeth Jane Howard’s wedding trousseau using parachute silk because of wartime conditions.

She continued to have “boyfriends”, including a champion fencer, and in 1957 emigrated to County Meath, Ireland, where she became Master of the Ballymacad Hunt, before moving to a castle in County Galway.

SHE TOOK the young Anjelica Huston, five-year-old daughter of Hollywood director John, riding and hunting. Huston recalled: “She spoke in the slow, emphatic English of the Anglo upper class. The way she held herself was something from the 18th century. It led to the idea she was aloof but she wasn’t. She was sweet. She was very welcoming”.

When John, Lord Amptill, died in 1973, he left the vexed question of who should succeed him. In 1950, during his third marriage, he had fathered a son, also John.

A House of Lords committee confirmed Geoffrey as lawful heir and the 4th Lord Amptill. After a career as a theatrical impresario, he became Deputy Speaker of the House of Lords.

However, Christabel never lived to hear the judgment, as she had died of a stroke in Galway aged 80 a week earlier.

Shortly before her death she said she would pass “without one backward look that saddens or distresses me”.

Fear misdiagnosis is driving mental health 'tidal wave'

BRITAIN'S mental health crisis may be "driven by an over-interpretation of the common troughs and peaks of life", a think-tank is warning.

The Centre for Social Justice is concerned that more than a quarter of young people will have a probable disorder by 2030.

Already, around a fifth of children and young people aged between eight and 25 are likely to be struggling with mental health so it affects daily life, according to the CSJ.

It has now launched a major inquiry in a bid to tackle a "tidal wave of misery".

Sophia Worringer, deputy policy director at the CSJ, said that there had been a 25 per cent increase in adults on antidepressants since 2015.

"Everywhere we look we see the mental health of the nation apparently in crisis," she said.

Ms Worringer said it is a "testament" to the success of mental

By **David Williamson**

health awareness campaigning "that we all use pseudo-medical speak in everyday parlance".

But she warned of the risk of mis-diagnosis, saying that an "over-familiarity with serious medical conditions can trivialise the experiences of those who genuinely suffer from life-limiting illnesses".

Alongside the legacy of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, social media, a lack of physical activity in everyday life and "fragmenting social fabric" are blamed for "wearing away people's resilience and making them mentally unwell".

The think-tank believes some of the rise in people coming forward is driven by "decreased stigma".

It credits highly successful awareness campaigns, including those fronted by the Royal Family.

The Heads Together campaign, originally spearheaded by Princes

William and Harry with the Princess of Wales, stated that in the five years since its launch "53 per cent of adults are now talking about their mental health".

It reported 54 per cent of adults say mental health stigma has reduced over the past five years.

Stressing the importance of relationships, Ms Worringer said: "To get to the root causes of mental ill-health, we can't ignore the family. "The Department of Health found the factor with the single biggest impact on our mental health was the stability of our relationships, specifically family relationships."

The think-tank's probe will seek to find the "best way to respond to the growing crisis".

Ms Worringer added: "Awareness of mental ill-health is not the end in itself.

"The aim should be understanding the drivers, to try to slow down the tidal wave of misery coming our way."

No licence for car stunt ace Anya

Pictures: DOUG PETERS & JASIN BOLAND/PA



FAST AND FURIOSA: Anya at Cannes Film Festival and with vehicle in the new Mad Max movie



ANYA Taylor-Joy says she learned how to drive by doing high-speed stunts in supercharged cars for the latest Mad Max film.

The actress, 28, said she spent months in the motors despite having never taken a driving test.

She had no need to, she says, because she grew up in London and took the Tube or walked everywhere.

She admitted: "I don't have a licence. I had never driven a car in my life. When (director) George Miller calls you and asks,

By **James Desborough**

"Do you want to learn how to drive a car to be in Mad Max?", you say yes and then you figure it out as you go along."

Anya, who rose to fame in The Queen's Gambit, added: "I'm a really good driver now. But I have to learn how to parallel park.

"I would really like to have my licence. I also want to get my stunt driver's licence. I think it would be fun."

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga is in cinemas now.

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22 Sep	YEOVIL - WESTLANDS CENTRE	01935 422 884	westlandseyovil.co.uk
26 Sep	CHESTERFIELD - WINDING WHEEL	01246 345 222	chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk
28 Sep	NORTHAMPTON - OLD SAVOY	01604 491 005	theoldsavoy.co.uk
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08 Nov	CAMBERLEY - CAMBERLEY THEATRE	01276 707 600	camberleytheatre.co.uk
17 Nov	CLACTON - WEST CLIFF THEATRE	01255 433 344 (option 1)	westcliffclacton.co.uk
21 Nov	TAUNTON - THE BREWHOUSE	01823 283 244	tauntonbrewhouse.co.uk
23 Nov	MORECAMBE - PLATFORM	01524 582803	lancaster.gov.uk/sites/the-platform
27 Nov	WIMBORNE - TIVOLI THEATRE	01202 885 566	tivoliwimborne.co.uk

■ *THERE'S a triangle of green outside my house which seems to have been designated a rewilding area, because the man-on-a-mower from the council hasn't been near it. I don't mind because it looks lush and juicy, full of waving grasses and wild flowers.*

You could lose a toddler in it if you weren't careful.

It's also a salutary and rather fabulous reminder of how quickly nature would reclaim everything, given the chance.

JENNIFER SELWAY



■ *NO SOONER had Rishi popped back into Number 10 to ask for a towel and a hot toddy (couldn't some lowly spad have held an umbrella over his head?) before SNP leader John Swinney said it was disrespectful to hold a general election during the Scottish school holidays when his supporters would be away.*

Moan, moan, moan. Hasn't he heard of postal votes?

■ **THERESA MAY** doesn't get credit for much, but she deserves praise for setting up the Infected Blood Inquiry in 2017 when she was prime minister.

It began taking evidence in 2019 and was subject to the usual grumbles about inquiries – too long, too expensive etc.

That attitude changed last week when its findings were broadcast to a shocked, but not altogether surprised, nation.

Generally thought to have a tin ear where empathy was concerned, May had grasped the enormity of this medical scandal. The same cannot be said for those urbane Tories – Kenneth Clarke and John Major – who have come very badly out of the inquiry.



Clarke's manner giving evidence was supremely arrogant, while Major wrote off this national tragedy as "bad luck".

There have been prosecutions over infected blood in

France, Canada and Japan, but none here so far. Many of those in authority, either in the NHS or in government, are dead because – let us not forget – this scandal has been known about for 40 years.

Compensation first, for the infected and the affected. But why not press charges and prosecute? The experimentation on children with infected blood sounds like the kind of thing the Third Reich would have endorsed.

■ *SOMEONE once told me that turbulence on a plane was as harmless as going over a bump in the road. That is quite a comforting thought, even when you see your knuckles going white as you grip the arms of your seat.*

But after the horror experienced by passengers and crew on the Singapore Airlines plane last week (one poor man died of a heart attack and many were badly injured), I'm a little less convinced by this comparison.

The potholes round my way don't cause you to plummet 6,000ft.

What's more, from now on I'm going to make sure I keep my seatbelt fastened at all times. The in-flight recommendation to do that always sounded rather nannying and unnecessary. Surely one would have enough warning of turbulence to buckle up? But by the sound of it, the Singapore Airlines plane simply fell out of the sky.

■ **COLIN BAILEY**, principal of Queen Mary University, London, told the Gaza demonstrators that he wouldn't talk to them about their demands until they took off their masks and stopped camping on the premises.

"We don't feel safe on campus without our masks on," whined one of the women protesters.

"REALLY?" scoffed Bailey.

Time is on his side, however.

Term ends next week and those Hamas-loving students will all want to pack up and be off on their long summer hols.

A risqué bisque? Pass that J-cloth

Picture: MUSTAFA YALCIN/ANADOLU



■ **WHO ADVISED** Kevin Costner to dress like an ageing boulevardier for his Cannes photoshoot? He looked rather frightening, as though he was off to drink absinthe with Serge Gainsbourg. And what's with the facial hair in that strange array of colours? He was promoting, alongside Sienna Miller, his new series of westerns, *Horizon*. And here's me thinking the Kevin of the *Yellowstone* series, in rugged outdoor wear and cowboy hat, was the real deal.

■ **H**ERE'S a challenge for the next series of *MasterChef*. Send the contestants to pinyin up and produce an orgy of fine dining in the kitchen of the *Voglia* in Milan, billed as Italy's first erotic restaurant. *Voglia* is Italian slang for "desire" so the clue is in the title. Step away from the giant salami, Gregg. Take that smirk off your face and don't even mention the whipped cream.

You can't get a table at *Voglia* for the next two months, such is the popularity of this new venture dreamed up by Sicilian restaurateurs Claudia Mangano and Stefano Vaccaro.

"Sex, food and art have gone hand in hand for centuries," explains Claudia, which is one way of putting it, but maybe not one which would appeal to the hygiene inspectors.

Diners drink from champagne flutes shaped like curvy female nudes, while the decor incorporates anatomical sculptures and phallic imagery – the Ann Summers school of interior design.

It sounds so naff that I'm prepared to bet several euros the waiters come at you waving *Rubirosa* pepper grinders (the obscenely large ones named after the playboy racing driver) which haven't been seen in your local brasserie since the 1970s.

Attempts to marry food and sex are hardly new but rarely successful. Nude dining has been tried occasionally, but has never quite caught on in the shires, possibly because everyone sits on their napkins and nobody knows where to look.

The scene in the film *9½ Weeks*, where Mickey Rourke and Kim Basinger fool around messily with strawberries, chocolate syrup and ice cubes, only ever makes me long to wring out a J-cloth.

And what is the point exactly?

To put it delicately, retiring to the boudoir after three hefty courses is not always desirable, unless you have nothing but swinish sleep in mind.

And if you have come fresh from the hurly-burly of the chaise longue then perhaps you would be more inclined to move on from an erotic agenda and talk house prices or car insurance.

Yet the menu relentlessly nudges the clientele towards *amore*, including dishes called (with, I'm afraid, the crass English-speaking tourist in mind) *Foreplay* and *Threesome*.

I admit I am also curious about the blue crab pasta dish named after a sex act, though pasta is seldom high on anyone's list of aphrodisiacal nosh and any mention of crabs in this context is (to my mind) a serious marketing error.

The online reviews are not entirely favourable with one customer complaining of being kept waiting for two hours. That's a very long time to spend studying the details of the erotic decor.

Fortunately, no actual sexual activity between guests is permitted in the *Voglia* beyond longing looks, finger licking and hair flicking.

Or – as you might say – service not included.

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REVIEW

Edited by GARRY BUSHELL

After years as a soap favourite, actor Liam Fox tells **Garry Bushell** he's ready to take some risks



FOX ON HUNT FOR NEW CHALLENGES

REVIEW: THEATRE



STAR DUO
Liam with
wife, the
actress
Joanna
Hudson-Fox

LIAM FOX WASN'T expecting a phone call from BBC TV news, but what they asked for surprised him even more. "They wanted me to come in and talk about the situation with the Houthis who were attacking shipping off the coast of Yemen," the former Emmerdale star tells me. "I said, 'I could, but I'm just in the middle of panto!'"

Producers had confused the 53-year-old actor with Sir Liam Fox, the former defence secretary. But in fairness he did have a vague Middle East connection... "I was playing Abanazar in Aladdin at St Helens Theatre Royal in Merseyside," Fox chuckles. "My wife Jo said I should have turned up in costume."

Manchester-born Liam played Emmerdale's Dan Spencer for nearly a decade. The character is currently "off-screen", serving eight years for manslaughter after fatally punching his daughter's online stalker. It was a good solid right too, worthy of Mike Tyson. "Nobody expected Dan to do that - he was the nice guy," says Liam. "He was so unlikely to snap...that's why they gave me the storyline."

While his character rots in chokey, the soap star is sitting on the Bournemouth promenade, taking in the sea air with his actress wife Joanna Hudson-Fox and chatting to me. He is currently playing Grandpa Potts in a new touring production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, the musical fantasy based on Ian Fleming's 1964 children's novel. Liam is joined by Adam Garcia as Caractacus Potts - the Dick Van Dyke role in the 1968 film - with Charlie "Janine Butcher" Brooks and Two Doors Down star Elaine C Smith taking turns to portray the despicable Child Catcher. "I'm blessed, everybody in it is lovely," says Liam. He reveals he still gets asked 'Aren't you in prison?' and 'Is Dan coming back?' "It first happened days after he was sent down last year, but I'm enjoying this. Wearing a cap and a pair of glasses, people don't recognise you so much. Proper glasses, mind, not sunglasses. I'm not creepy." Isn't he a bit young to be Grandpa? "Lionel Jeffries was 41 when they made the film, I'm 53. A bit of grey in the hair and nice mutton chops and you're transformed." Acting certainly transformed Liam's life. He grew up in Stockport, the son of Irish hod-carrier Billy and Ann, a machinist who used to make football kits for Manchester United. "I was a little fat kid at school - shy and bullied. I started to do impressions and then it stopped. "We didn't have much growing up. All the money in our house went on my sister's horses. "I was just into Man United but my mate round the corner introduced me to films like the Rocky Horror Show and TV drama. That's how I got hooked. Seeing Tim Spall as Barry Taylor in Auf Wiedersehen Pet really inspired me, and Boys From The Blackstuff."



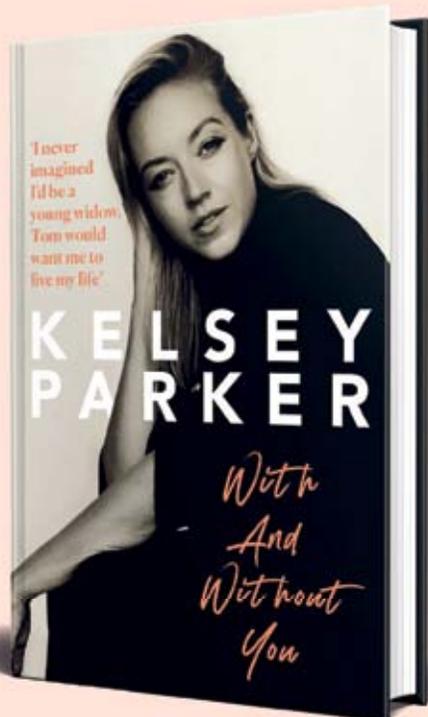
'It's ic
fun and
every

"Tom would want me to be happy"

KELSEY PARKER

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"I had to deliver a pizza to Mike Baldwin... afterwards he told me 'stay lucky son, stay lucky...' and I have

but I'm enjoying this. Wearing a cap and a pair of glasses, people don't recognise you so much. Proper glasses, mind, not sunglasses. I'm not creepy." Isn't he a bit young to be Grandpa? "Lionel Jeffries was 41 when they made the film, I'm 53. A bit of grey in the hair and nice mutton chops and you're transformed." Acting certainly transformed Liam's life. He grew up in Stockport, the son of Irish hod-carrier Billy and Ann, a machinist who used to make football kits for Manchester United. "I was a little fat kid at school - shy and bullied. I started to do impressions and then it stopped. "We didn't have much growing up. All the money in our house went on my sister's horses. "I was just into Man United but my mate round the corner introduced me to films like the Rocky Horror Show and TV drama. That's how I got hooked. Seeing Tim Spall as Barry Taylor in Auf Wiedersehen Pet really inspired me, and Boys From The Blackstuff."

Liam was 29 - "a late starter" - when he made his professional stage debut in 2000, in Jim Burke's *Cornered*, a brutal award-winning dark comedy set in a boxing gym. He'd landed his first TV work on *Coronation Street* as an extra the previous June. "I had to deliver a pizza to Mike Baldwin, so there I was working with the late Johnny Briggs. "Afterwards he told me, 'Stay lucky, son, stay lucky.' And I have."

His luck was certainly in when he auditioned for the role of Derwent in the second series of Victoria Wood's hit sitcom *dinnerladies* two months later. "I was waiting outside the audition room when I saw Victoria and smiled at her. She looked at me vaguely. "Later she said, 'I'm ever so sorry, I thought you were the photocopy repair man'. "We had a laugh before I'd even read a word. I think that's what got me the part."

Wood axed the award-winning BBC sitcom set in a Manchester factory canteen after just two series. Why? "She saw *The Royle Family* and stopped it there and then. She thought that was the future of TV comedy."

Liam landed Dan Spencer in 2011 after several smaller roles in the ITV soap as a policeman.



"They asked me to be a copper again and I turned it down. I got the proper offer soon after that. Dan was a great character, a bit nasty initially but I could see how I could make him funny too." Liam's first wife, Nicole Barber-Lane, was already in *Hollyoaks* playing matriarch Myra McQueen. His *Emmerdale* role rapidly accelerated the family's recognition rate. "Fame is all right. Being older helped. I never took it seriously. Fame is fleeting, isn't? "My guiding rule is just be nice. People are always perfectly fine with me."

HE CONTINUES: "There have been some funny moments. Somebody thought I was John Thomson once

and said of Cold them ri his funn actress bisexual "Kelli you tha director laughin Laugh loving c Stan Bo Rossiter He ad "I'm not A pas he was "I was s



...onic, it's
...d it's scary
...y night...'



VERSATILE
Liam is starring
in *Chitty Chitty
Bang Bang*, left;
above, as Dan
Spencer in
Emmerdale

'Tell me you're gonna do another series... Feet, you're brilliant in it.' I didn't put... t. John's a lovely bloke.' But he said... iest on-set memories were down to... Kelli Hollis who played Dan's cheating... l ex-wife Ali.
... has always got a story and she will tell... t story right up to the moment the... r shouts 'Action!', and you have to stop... g and get into character instantly."
... thing comes easily to Liam, who grew up... comedians who "were not very PC, like... ardman – the Jurmans", and Leonard... r – "a brilliant character actor".
... admires Steve Coogan too, but says,
... t sure he's funny out of character".
... sion for Manchester United began when... 12 and saw them beat Southampton –
... itting next to Alan Ball and met Kevin

Keegan after the game! What a day. I went every week after that until I couldn't afford to go any more."

He was also into the Madchester scene – "the Hacienda before it got too big, bands like New Order, the Happy Mondays and the Stone Roses."

Liam hates arrogance, ignorance and egotists. "Luckily most people I meet in this business are all right. If someone turns up in *Emmerdale* like that, they don't last."

His wife Joanna, who played a doctor on the soap, describes him as kind and genuine, but Fox admits, "She might complain about my attention span. I'm not a multi-tasker. If I'm doing something else, my brain is not there."

"And I wake her up every morning when she hears me talking in stupid voices as I get ready for the next show."

The couple first dated as drama students at

Salford University and rekindled their love after his 16-year first marriage ended in 2015.

They wed in 2020. He has a grown-up son Ben and step-daughter Gemma. Liam had been contemplating leaving *Emmerdale* for a while before lockdown. "Afterwards I jumped at the chance to be scared on stage."

Dancing was the toughest challenge.

"I thought the choreographer must see my dancing and weep..."

ESPECIALLY as the choreographer is Strictly's Karen Bruce. He's in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* until May 2025. The award-winning musical is bursting with unforgettable Sherman Brothers numbers including *Toot Sweets*, *Truly*

Scrumptious and the Oscar nominated title song. "It's an iconic role and quite futuristic," says Liam of this tall tale of a broken-down old racing car with magical powers. "It's going down great with audiences. It's fun! It's scary every night, but it's security."

He relaxes by watching TV – "Watching *Man United* is too stressful," he laughs.

"Baby Reindeer was really dark and I like the BBC's Irish comedy *Young Offenders* – that's the funniest sitcom I've seen for years."

Dan Spencer could be out of prison in four years for good behaviour, but first Fox wants "more risks, more character acting – big funny characters."

"I would like to play Willy Wonka, and to be in *Doctor Who* and *Les Mis*. I just want to do exciting work." But he adds: "I have no ambition to live in Hollywood."

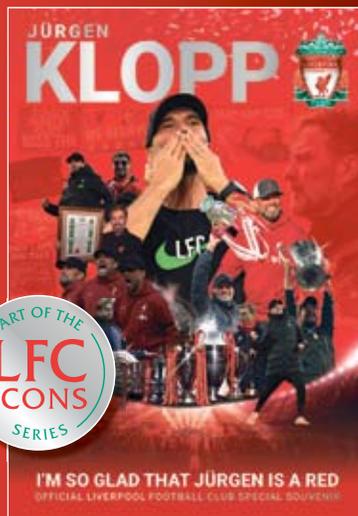


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REVIEW: MUSIC



with JAMES CABOOTER

PAUL WELLER 66 ★★★★★

Marking his 66th year, Weller offers unusually wry self-reflection here. Jam fans will relish the throwback Jumble Queen featuring Noel Gallagher, while *Sleepy Hollow* is the Modfather basking in Wild Wood introspection. Other pals Dr Robert, Richard Hawley and Suggs all join in the fun, as does Bobby Gillespie on stand-out *Soul Wandering*. Modvalous.



LENNY KRAVITZ

Blue Electric Light ★★★

Lenny has become a retro genre all of his own over the decades but here he embraces a few new flavours. TK421 sounds like INXS covering Bowie's TVC15, while popstastic highlight *Human* has an Art Of Noise vibe. There's still plenty of 70s-centric rock and soul workouts, Honey showcasing his light groove mastery.



BESS ATWELL

Light Sleeper ★★★★★

After helping to shape Taylor Swift and Ed Sheeran's recent mature albums, The National guitarist Aaron Dessner produces an obscure Brighton singer. It's inspired talent spotting, as Bess bounces around on a clutch of summery pop made for festival afternoons. Aaron's trademark production is here too, but Bess shines.



TWENTY ONE PILOTS

Clancy ★★★

Long diversifying from their emo roots, the festival headliners' most diverse album veers from ukulele ballads to punk/dance hybrids. Less intense than its singles suggested, Clancy's sci-fi story is dominated by laidback R&B and anthemic pop. Navigating kicks hard while Oldies Station swoons.

REVIEW: STAGE



with STEFAN KYRIAZIS

FAULTY TOWERS

★★★★★

Apollo Theatre to September 28
faultytowerswestend.com

There's a dotty old major on stage, politely chatting with a stuffed moose head. Which is answering back. We're all in stitches, including the cackling kid behind me.

Hapless Spanish waiter Manuel is hidden behind reception, of course, practising his English. It's yet another delirious delight - from the harridan with selective hearing to mistaken identities, mimed racehorse names and, "ja", those foreign guests - recreated from John Cleese and Connie Booth's seminal 1975-79 hospitality sitcom.

The Python legend has deftly blended episodes *The Hotel Inspectors*, *Communication Problems* and *The Germans*, and it's more than just cosy nostalgia. That unique alchemy of rhythmic writing, constant character assassination and slapstick hysteria still bites.

Adam Jackson-Smith revives hotel owner Basil to perfection, a tin-pot dictator quivering between pomposity and apoplexy. Anna Jane Casey nails Sybil from vertiginous hair to honking laugh, the supporting cast is a hoot and the flawless set tempts you to step straight into that iconic lobby.

Welcome to Torquay. Don't expect a view of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and don't, whatever you do, mention the war...



HILARIOUS
Faithful sitcom
stage revival

PEOPLE, PLACES & THINGS ★★★★★

Trafalgar Theatre to August 10

Denise Gough dazzlingly reprises her 2015 role as actress Emma rocks up to rehab, wrecked and resentful.

Act 1 is her seething meltdown. She defiantly derails group sessions, battles any who try to help her and does not believe in the Twelve Steps, higher powers or, indeed, herself.

Stark lighting, white tiled walls on either side and three rows of audience facing us suggest we're observing lab rats or, perhaps, ourselves.

Emma's fracturing psyche is stunningly staged as multiple, identical versions of herself burst from the walls and up through her bed to strobe lights.

Act 2 returns her to rehab with real commitment but the climactic homecoming to the "people, places and things" that most trigger her offers no easy catharsis.

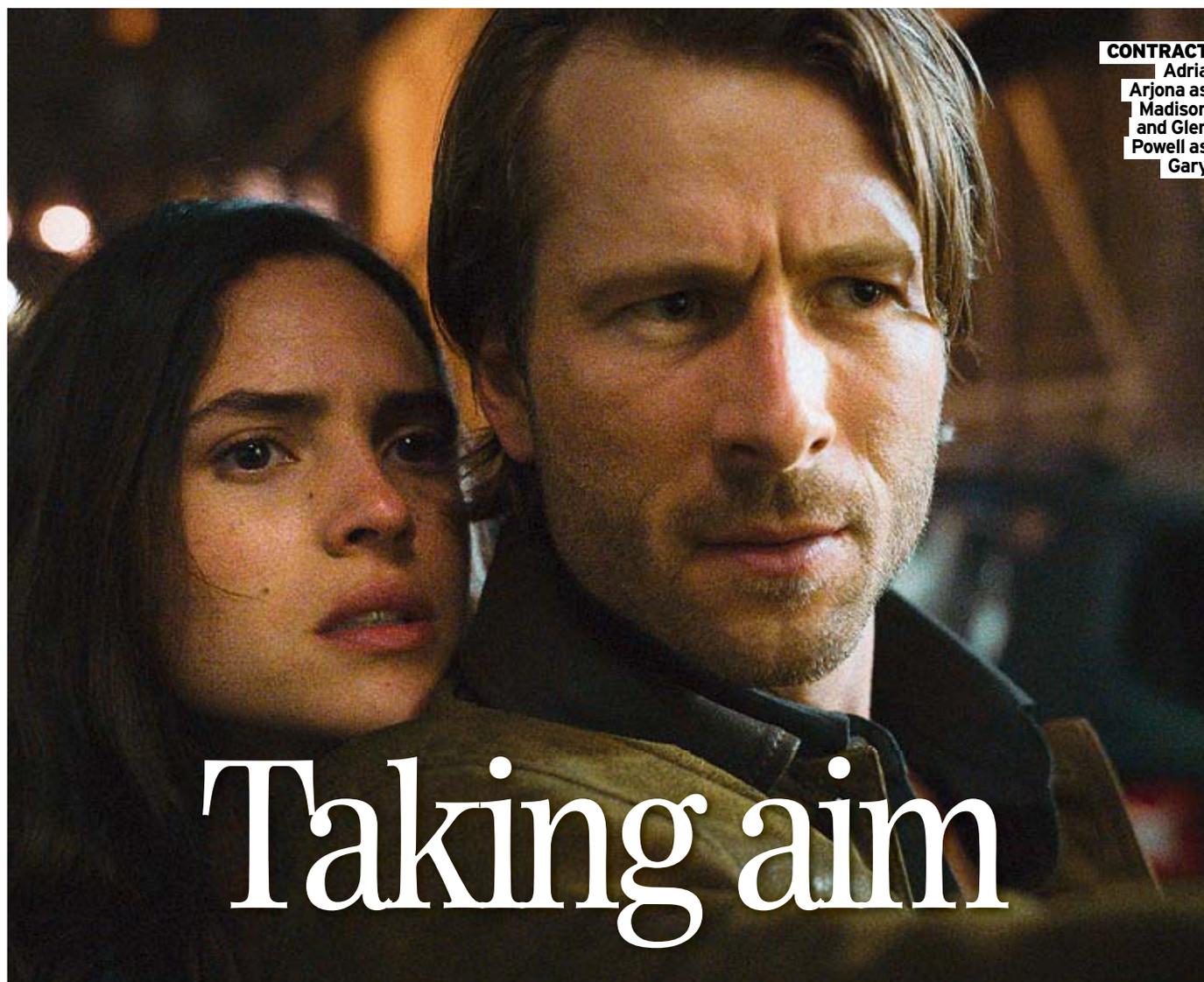
A strong cast, black humour and Duncan Macmillan's piercing writing deliver a tough but terrific watch.



STARK
Gough plays
Emma

REVIEW: CINEMA

STAR RATINGS ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★ Good
★★★ Worth a look ★★ Poor ★ Don't bother



CONTRACT
Adria
Arjona as
Madison
and Glen
Powell as
Gary

Taking aim

HIT MAN

Cert 15 ★★★★★

In cinemas now and streaming on Netflix from June 7

Teasingly billed as “a somewhat true story”, Hit Man is a delightfully entertaining black comedy. It’s all about a mild-mannered college professor, posing as a hired killer during undercover police stings to extract incriminating evidence from aggrieved targets, securing an arrest before real bullets fly and blood is spilt.

Top Gun: Maverick bad boy Glen Powell, who flaunted an impressive set of chiselled abs in last year’s romcom Anyone But You, propels his star further with an irresistibly charming central performance as the self-doubting, bookish academic who is

reborn when personality traits from his sharp-shooting alter egos follow him home to the lonely apartment he shares with two cats named Ego and Id.

“He’s like a Caucasian Idris!” gushes one of his gob-smacked police handlers, who can barely believe the shy, unassuming philosophy lecturer responsible for managing the technology in their surveillance operations can metamorphose into a swaggering, cocksure alpha male at the drop of a baseball cap.

Gary Johnson (Powell) is first asked to pose as a hit man in place of a suspended detective (Austin Amelio) and rises magnificently to the challenge.

For each assignment, the professor researches the target and alters his hired

“**This shoots to kill with snappy dialogue and sizzling screen rapport**”

killer’s appearance, voice and mannerisms to put the client at ease. Newfoundland resolve is tested when Gary sparks an attraction to damsel in distress Madison (Adria Arjona), who wants to put out a contract on her physically abusive ex-boyfriend.

Based on a 2001 magazine article, Hit Man shoots to kill with snappy dialogue, playful direction and sizzling screen rapport between the romantic leads. A script co-written by director Richard Linklater and Powell gradually cranks up tension as Gary’s two lives unspool with toe-curlingly hilarious consequences. Spirited performances secure full emotional investment in characters on the edge of glory. Every underdog has its day.

RAMPAGE

Anya Taylor-Joy as Furiosa



FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA

Cert 15 ★★★★★

In cinemas now

Bookmarked into five chapters with enigmatic titles such as The Pole Of Inaccessibility and Lessons From The Wasteland, director George Miller’s turbo-charged prequel to Mad Max: Fury Road bolts together an origin story spanning 15 years for the imperious warrior originally embodied by Charlize Theron.

Portrayed here by Anya Taylor-Joy in womanhood and Alyla Browne as a snarling youngster, Furiosa is anointed “the darkest of angels” as she rampages between the co-dependent strongholds to take revenge against self-aggrandising warlord Dementus (Chris Hemsworth). The

title character’s “purposeful savagery” is an apt summation of Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga - a brutal tale of self-preservation punctuated by spectacular stunt-filled action sequences that deliver injections of adrenaline.

Running almost 30 minutes longer than Fury Road, Miller’s prequel trundles on narrative exhaust fumes in a plodding middle act.

The film’s timeline guarantees safe passage for half the cast and spotlights the likeliest casualties in a brutal tug of war for dwindling natural resources.

From a storyline perspective, the prequel is less compelling, particularly once the title character is in her mid-20s.

Production design and costumes are jaw-dropping, immersing us in a world where bombastic men reign with cruelty. They reap what they sow.

THE PRESENT

Cert PG ★★★
In cinemas now

A magical grandfather clock allows three enterprising children to travel back in time and plaster the fissures in their parents’ faltering marriage before they formally separate in a family-oriented comedy directed by Christian Ditter.

Adopting the same fantastical conceit as Groundhog Day, The Present replays events from the perspectives of five members of the Diehl family: spin class instructor mother Jen (Isla Fisher), who is flirting with a new student (Ryan Guzman); father Eric (Greg Kinnear), who has already engaged a real estate agent to find him a bachelor pad; teenage daughter Emma (Shay Rudolph), whose crush on a classmate might be better focused on a caring co-star in the school play; and younger brothers Taylor (Easton Rocket Sweda) and Max (Mason Shea Joyce), whose fraternal bonds are visibly frayed.

Screenwriter Jay Martel’s unabashedly sentimental masterplan hinges on an heirloom inscribed with enigmatic words (“The clock can help you now and then, but only you can change events”) to romp through subtly different outcomes to the same topsy-turvy day.

Fisher and Kinnear lack fizzing screen chemistry - we wholeheartedly believe their marriage has stagnated - but younger co-stars are instantly likeable and sustain interest until a predictably gooey resolution.



DRAMA
Kinnear and Fisher head up the family



HISSY FIT
Garfield and friends

THE GARFIELD MOVIE

Cert U ★★★

In cinemas now

In an amusing opening sequence, which flatters to deceive, the eponymous tabby (voiced by Chris Pratt) tells us the story of how he “adopted” his long-suffering human owner Jon Arbuckle (Nicholas Hoult). “You will not be disappointed,” grins Garfield as lovable beagle Odie scurries around him.

Alas, Garfield may be the cat who always gets the cream - or rather an endless supply of lasagne conveniently ordered via an app - but director Mark Dindal serves us a disappointing computer-animated adventure made from the cold leftovers of better films including Chicken Run and The Secret Life Of Pets.

Based on characters created by Jim Davis for a 1970s’ comic strip, The Garfield Movie is a victim of an uninspired script that opts for the most obvious punchlines or bypasses them entirely.

Thus, rapper Snoop Dogg’s onscreen furball is named Snoop Catt and when Pratt’s gluttonous puss becomes embroiled in a hare-brained Mission: Impossible-style heist, he once again addresses us to camera: “I do my own stunts. Me and Tom Cruise.”

Dindal’s picture does not self-destruct after five seconds thanks to a spirited vocal performance from Hannah Waddingham as a feline criminal mastermind, who is one swish of a tail shy of caterwauling madness. Meowch.

REVIEW: TELEVISION



Jonnie Broadbent

London-born Jonnie, 47, is a Royal Shakespeare Company regular whose TV work includes roles in *The Crown*, *Silent Witness* and *Father Brown*.

What was your first TV memory?

Blake's 7, I still remember the theme tune; and Doctor Who - Peter Davison was my Doctor. I also remember *The Adventure Game* with an aspidistra at the end that would talk.

Who was your first TV crush?

Probably Felicity Kendal in *The Good Life* for reasons I didn't even understand at the time. At one stage of my life I was working as a gardener, doing a garden near where she lived, so I saw her coming and going.

What was your first TV appearance?

It was a big American production of *Alice In Wonderland*. But not long after that I was in an episode of the BBC2 sitcom *Gimme Gimme Gimme*, dressed up as a pink salmon which was supposedly being played by Tom Cruise.

What is your favourite current show?

I'm really enjoying Mr & Mrs Smith on Amazon. I'm quite liking ITV's spy thriller *Red Eye* and I love the vampire mockumentary

What We Do In The Shadows.

Which TV show would you take to a desert island?

It'd have to be a comedy, probably *Only Fools & Horses*. It has plenty of episodes, so many good bits and a lot of heart too. For years I've been trying to top *Del Boy* falling through the bar for laughs on stage. I'm still working on that.

What TV show would you like to put out of its misery?

Probably *Big Brother*. I think it's done its thing now. I get why people watch but it's had its time.

Guiltiest TV pleasure?

RuPaul's Drag Race. I like the journey and the vulnerabilities in the personalities - both in the people and their characters.

What are you up to at the moment?

I'm playing a clown in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Shakespeare's Globe. It's running all summer until August 24.

GARRY BUSHELL

● See Jonnie in *Much Ado About Nothing* at Shakespeare's Globe, until August 24.



with DAVID STEPHENSON

BBC digging deep to deliver flower power

WHERE HAVE ALL the good programmes gone? Has the BBC lost them down the back of the sofa? I'd even take a half-decent show. Or is this the lingering result of the long writers' strike in America?

Scouring the listings is a forlorn exercise right now, as we seem to be suffering a dearth of good drama, those shows that everyone is talking about.

Netflix's *Bridgerton* scraped into that category but it seems to be fast running out of plot. *The Responder* (BBC1, Sunday) also gets mentioned, for the incredibly gritty performance of Martin Freeman, but otherwise the pickings are slim.

ITV, for the time being, seems to have given up. We were meant to be booking into *The Fortune Hotel* for two weeks - that was optimistic - followed by a week of Britain's Got Talent semi-finals.

And we're about to hit a huge wall of sport with the Euros, Wimbledon and the Olympics. Who would launch a new show against that background?

Still let's be optimistic: a home country may win the Euros, a British player may conquer Wimbledon again and we might top the medals table in Paris.

If all else fails, here's a reason to be cheerful... *Love Island* starts soon on ITV2, one of the best comedies on the box.

Meanwhile, *Gardeners' World* presenter Monty Don is a seasoned presenter, as friendly and as warm as you could ever want in a host.

But he made a right "hosta" (a type of lily by the way) of himself when he reached into the wardrobe for his outfit for this year's **Chelsea Flower Show** (BBC1, Monday). He put on a greengrocer's jacket.

Okay, this outfit is not completely at odds with Chelsea - even turnips are on display - but it was a bold choice. It appeared the following night, too.

He might even have embraced it by now by auctioning off some fetching aubergines to keep spirits up in the rain.

The BBC has dug up every available gardening presenter for Chelsea, whether they have picked up a trowel or not.

More than ever, they want beginners watching the coverage so those who only have a small place for a garden plant are encouraged to branch out.

Otherwise, it was a tale of two Chelseas.

The first was "afternoon Chelsea" presented by Nicki Chapman and Angellica Bell who were very enthusiastic. "I'm beyond excited," said Bell.

She even demonstrated that by wearing a patterned green dress which allowed her to blend in with garden borders.

Both interviewed a range of celebrities, including effervescent BGT judge Bruno Tonioli, who still hasn't figured out how to use the buttons on his shirt.

Another judge, *Bake Off*'s Prue Leith,



STEPHENSON'S ROCKET

Is it possible to make a tedious programme against the background of the mighty Amazon River? Yes, alas. I just tried to watch **Into The Amazon with Robson Green** (Channel 5, Tuesday) but I had to turn it off when he started talking to a sloth. What a battle of wits. Robson asked, "Why are you so slow?" Why aren't you doing a proper tour of the Amazon River? But no, he then went to a local market to look at cures for all ailments. Not one for celebrity wittering. "The labelling is a bit basic," he offered. My label for this effort - Opportunity Wasted.

admitted to "a lifelong passion for gardening". Leith never stops. Do show her the relaxation garden.

Celebrities and presenters alike were a little carried away by the scent, the sun and the season. Singer Alfie Boe told Angellica he wasn't much good at gardening. You should sing to the plants, she thought.

"I don't think that would help," said the opera man. "I'm a terrible singer."

Oh... Still, everyone laughed.

Then there was "grown-up Chelsea" in the evening, presented by Joe Swift and greengrocer Monty.

This version was extra sensitive to beginners. "If you have enough space for it..." said Monty calmly. But it was a little too late for

COP THAT: Katherine Devlin as Annie in the excellent *Blue Lights*



PASSION: Monty Don and Joe Swift at this year's Chelsea Flower Show

former Wimbledon commentator Sue Barker, who revealed she "had an acre in the Cotswolds". Prepare for Barker's Farm!

Monty then gave us a tour of the Great Pavilion where he had his "beyond excitement" moment. "Here we have a polytunnel!" he rejoiced. Perhaps he could do a live link from Lincolnshire, home of the polytunnel, next year.

My favourite garden was the Edible Meadow, which is very good for your gut health when you walk through it. Yes, difficult to stomach. Weirder yet was showing "forest bathing". I think we all need to lay down now.

A show worth watching was **D-Day: The Unseen Footage** (Channel 5, Thursday), which challenged what we thought we knew about this momentous event. As we approach the 80th anniversary of the day, it was fitting to re-acquaint ourselves with this staggering achievement.

Among other things, it showcased the role of Bomber Command which effectively took key French cities out of the equation for our ground forces.

No wonder the French, who also lost loved ones in the bombings, still greeted the Allied troops excitedly.

There was also exceptional bravery on show, albeit in a fictional setting, for the final episode of the excellent **Blue Lights** (BBC1, Sunday).

Praise must go to this show for the realism in which they captured complex police operations in Belfast.

There was also a happy ending. I wasn't expecting that!

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WINTER'S WILDLIFE

with STUART WINTER



ELUSIVE
Nightingale
is rarely
seen in UK



Poets' muse is on the margins

No self-respecting nightingale would tarnish its golden-voiced reputation by bursting into song amid the hustle and bustle of busy London streets.

Lyricists may have immortalised such things in a famous wartime ballad, but the last time these avian minstrels performed in the capital was an age before grand houses came to Berkeley Square.

Traditionally, nightingales have been hailed as shy denizens of deep, dark woodlands, with their elusiveness glorified in the metaphysical stanzas of some of our greatest poets.

John Keats' ode eulogises the "light-winged Dryad of the trees" while John Clare, in *The Nightingale's Nest*, sets his encounters in "green woodland-rides with listening leaves".

The clandestine life of the heard-but-rarely-seen nightingale came home to roost while reading the broad-leaved woodland

“
Due to deer grazing they are now driven to scrubby old quarries

chapter of the *Reader's Digest Book of Birds* as a teenager. For every 10 people who hear nightingales pouring out their spring arias, only one sets eyes on the bird in its subdued shades of brown, the book revealed.

Since the 1960s, encounters in forest glades have become increasingly rare. Over the past 25 years, nightingale numbers have declined by 48% and fewer than 6,000 singing males make it to our shores from Africa each spring.

What's more, the likelihood of hearing one in a typical English forest with native trees and lush green canopy is nigh impossible. Nightingales have been driven from their woodland realm by avaricious deer grazing on the tangled understorey where they nest.

The corollary of a rapidly rising deer population, particularly non-native muntjac, has seen the 'migration' of nightingales to the scrubby margins of old quarries.

Out celebrating Dawn Chorus Day recently brought home this remarkable shift in habitat choice. Alongside a railway track skirting a former claypit, now home to a huge incinerator plant and in the shadow of a towering wind turbine, three male nightingales formed a remarkable trio as they claimed territories in the dense tangles of hawthorn and dogwood with their 95-decibel songs.

One ponders what Keats would have thought.

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IN THE



COMPACT
Philadelphus
'Petite Perfume
White' grows
well in pots



TOP CHOICE
Clematis
'Guernsey
Flute'

The annual flower show has its usual display of stunning new varieties

As always, the Royal Hospital in Chelsea London is opening its gates to gardening enthusiasts as it puts on an amazing floral display for the third week in May.

Every year plant breeders and nurseries take the opportunity to show off their new blooms.

New introductions are judged and one is announced the winner. Past champions have gone on to become firm favourites with gardeners, such as Geranium 'Rozanne', Anemone 'Wild Swan' and Mahonia 'Soft Caress'.

This year's shortlist includes a new clematis from Raymond Evison, the renowned clematis breeder in Guernsey. 'Guernsey Flute' has large star-shaped, pure white flowers with red stamens forming from May to July with repeat flowering in September.

If you've the space, clematis look their best when they are scrambling up a tree, covering it in a coat of flowers, but where space is limited, this compact variety will be perfect as a patio plant.

Trachelospermum, star jasmine, is one of my go to

GARDEN



with DIARMUID GAVIN

gardening@express.co.uk

Sorry, Diarmuid cannot reply personally

Premier stars on show at Chelsea



HEAVEN SCENT
Choose star jasmine for wonderful fragrance

evergreen climbers. If you're in Italy on your holidays this summer you will be sure to spot it as it is commonly used on garden railings and up walls.

But if you don't get away, the heady scent of the starry white flowers on a warm evening will transport you anyway. It does prefer a warm sunny spot for the best performance and this year there's a new variety called 'Star of Milano' which has a subtle gold variegation on the leaf margin and pink flushed blooms.

Growing to three metres in height it requires no pruning and will fit in a modern garden.

The new Philadelphus 'Petite Perfume White' will also produce a wonderfully strong fragrance. It's a compact variety so perfect for container growing on patios, small courtyards or a balcony.

Philadelphus, the orange blossom, is an undemanding shrub that will grow well in most soils in sun or some partial shade.

Salvias are good performers in the herbaceous borders or pots for summer

as they are long flowering, have aromatic foliage and will attract pollinators to your plot.

'Belle de Loire' is a new French variety with flowers that emerge orange and yellow in late spring and mellow to a soft cream and salmon colour over the summer.

Salvia or ornamental sage are good contenders for dry gravelly plots as they develop drought resistance as they establish.

Petunias along with begonias and geraniums are the mainstays of most hanging baskets and container arrangements.

Petunia 'Nicola' is a new Tumbelina variety with a different flower and colour

“

'Star of Milano' has a gold leaf margin and pink-flushed blooms



RUFFLED
Petunia Tumbelina 'Nicola'

shape. A ruffled magenta centre contrasts beautifully with the white wavy outer petals. This compact petunia will trail prettily down the sides of pots and window boxes, and deliver non-stop flowers from now until autumn.

And this year's winner of Plant of the Year? It's a new winter and spring ornamental flowering cherry with unusual pretty white star-shaped flowers which appear profusely in late March.

Prunus 'Starlight' has good resistance to frost damage and is a robust but graceful tree with glossy foliage – a lovely choice for a small front garden.

PLANT of the week

Rosa banksia lutea

This week I spotted this yellow rambling rose scrambling through a tree, using it as a growing frame to great effect.

Also known as Lady Banks Rose, this is an exceptionally beautiful climber but needs adequate space to be appreciated fully.

The small double pale yellow roses which are lightly fragrant hang in clusters on long almost thornless stems.

It requires little pruning but if growth is excessive, after flowering thin and shorten by removing one in three of the oldest stems entirely.



JOBS for the week

■ You can have as much colour as you like in the garden now – plant out tender summer bedding in your containers, baskets and beds. Dead head roses and feed fortnightly. Keep an eye for aphids and remove.

■ Bluebell leaves are yellowing now – if you want to lift, divide and spread them about, then now's the time to do so.

■ In the veg patch, you can plant out anything sown indoors and continue sowing seeds outdoors. Pinch out tomato side shoots, tie growing peas and beans to



supports, and cover fruit with netting to prevent birds tucking in.

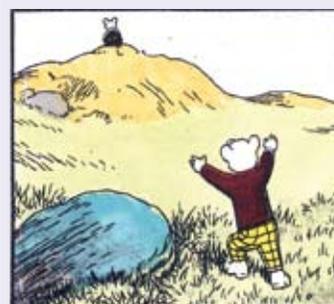
■ Tender herbs such as basil can be planted out now in your herb garden or window boxes.

■ Thin out sowings of hardy annuals

planted earlier – 10 to 20 cm apart.

■ Evergreen hedges can be trimmed.

■ Protect your crops – encourage ladybirds who will Hoover up the aphids by leaving a patch of nettles to grow in the garden – or plant some calendula.



The little mouse gets to the top, And then, at last, decides to stop.



He says, "I'm frightened by the sea, Suppose it should rush after me."

Rupert

Rupert at Rocky Bay
EPISODE 9

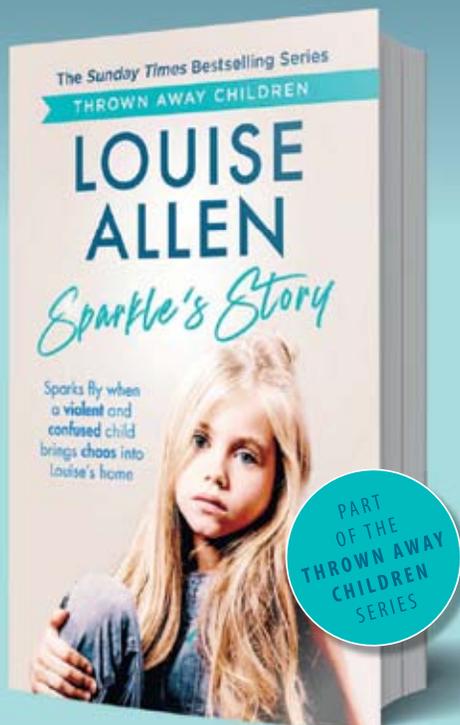
Thanking Cap'n Binnacle, Rupert pushes on towards his pal, who is sitting breathlessly on the highest point. "Oh dear, I'm so frightened," quavers the little mouse. "That tremendous great stretch of water! Suppose it rushes at us? We would be drowned." Rupert stares. "But that's the sea, you noodle," he smiles. "It never rushes about like that. It goes in and out a little way, always very slowly." "Well, it's the first time I've seen it," says Rastus, trembling. "And I feel much safer up here!"

To order a copy of the Rupert Annual 2024 (£10.99) visit www.expressbookshop.com or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on online orders over £25.



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EXPRESS

Eimear O'Hagan meets a 30 year old whose life was saved by the quick action of his teammates

On a brisk spring morning in March, Steven Smith died three times. Twenty minutes into his weekly game of amateur football, the 30-year-old from Broughty Ferry, Dundee, collapsed and went into cardiac arrest on the pitch, in front of his brother, nine-year-old son and a crowd of horrified spectators.

"One minute I was feeling great, enjoying the game, the next thing I knew I was coming round in an ambulance, being blue-lighted to hospital, having died three times" says Steven, a roads worker and former Royal Marine.

"A medic, who was with the other team, ran on to the pitch and his initial assumption was I was having a fit. However, he quickly realised I was having a cardiac arrest," says Steven. "My heart had suddenly developed an abnormal rhythm, and then stopped."

"The doctor, along with a physio, my brother and other players and spectators, took it in turns to perform CPR for around 13 minutes, while some of my teammates drove to the shops where there was a defibrillator."

Steven was shocked three times with the defibrillator, as each time his heart was restarted, he went back into cardiac arrest.

"I remember none of this, but my young son William was in the crowd and saw me collapse, and being treated on the grass."

"Players formed a shield around me but it's devastating to think of him there, believing his dad was dead."

After paramedics arrived and treated Steven with adrenaline, he was rushed to hospital. "I came round in the ambulance and had absolutely no idea what had happened," he says.

"My football top had been cut off, I was strapped to a stretcher, and when I tried to speak my words were garbled. It was really frightening."

After tests including an ECG (electrocardiogram), Steven learned what had happened. "Doctors were able to retrieve data from the defibrillator and establish the cause was an arrhythmia [an issue with heartbeat rate or rhythm], as opposed to a heart attack," he says.

It was a revelation that was not just shocking, but had deep emotional resonance for Steven. "Firstly, I had to get my head around the fact that despite being a young, fit and healthy man, my heart had stopped multiple times and I

IN GOOD

I died three times on the football pitch



was extremely lucky to be alive. Also, my father Raymond died in April 2022, aged just 54. He'd just got into his car after taking soil samples in a field as part of his work as an agronomist, and died suddenly. A passing motorist spotted him and stopped, but it was too late. He was gone.

"His post mortem had concluded he hadn't had a heart attack, but we'd never been

certain what exactly had caused his heart to stop.

"Now, although I don't know for sure, I believe he may have experienced what I did, but because he was on his own he had no chance of survival. To realise that I could

have died too, just two years after him, and left William without a dad – it was a lot to take in, both for me and all my family.

"My brother, Gregor, 27, and son will now be monitored as it seems likely it's an inherited condition."

Steven spent five days in hospital before being discharged with an external defibrillator which he had to wear at all times, apart from when showering.

"It was the first time in my life I felt frail," he admits. "I'm someone who loves nothing more than climbing a mountain or going for a run, and I served as a Marine for five years. To find myself so weakened was difficult."

"I put a brave face on for William, he'd already been through the trauma of seeing me collapse, and I reassured him I was going to be fine."

"It was hard for my partner Morgan, 27, to come to terms with what happened. It's not something you expect to go through as a couple, she was very worried about me."

A fortnight later, in mid-March, Steven had an ICD (implantable cardioverter defibrillator) fitted under general anaesthetic. It will monitor his heart rhythm for the rest of his life, and if necessary, shock the heart if it develops a dangerous,

HEALTH



with AMY PACKER



CHAMPS
Steven,
Gregor and
William

**LIFE
LESSONS**
Steven with
son William

and potentially fatal, rhythm again.

“The Danish footballer Christian Eriksen, who suffered a cardiac arrest during the Euros in 2021, and was also treated with CPR and a defibrillator on the pitch, was then fitted with an ICD. I’ve joked we have that in common, even if I can’t compete with him skills wise,” says Steven.

“But jokes aside, the ICD has given me a lot of reassurance because it’s a safety net I didn’t have before, when I didn’t even know I needed one.”

Recovering from surgery, Steven is off work, and has lost his driver’s licence for at least six months, which is typical after suffering a cardiac arrest.

“At the moment a gentle walk is all I can manage but I’d like to be back to work in the summer, and then get back to football and hill climbing after that.”

“I don’t want what has happened to hold me back, and more than anything I want to show William we

can experience difficult times, but then carry on with life,” says Steven.

Steven is a member of Unite the Union, who recently sponsored the cost of a defibrillator for his football club, Monifieth Athletic FC.

Players have taken part in training on how to use it, along with first aid training.

“**It was the first time I’d felt frail... to find myself weakened was difficult**”

“My life was saved because the people around me acted quickly, and a defibrillator was nearby. I’d like to see more football clubs install one, both for the sake of players and spectators, plus the local community.”

“I’m living proof of how important it is to have access to one.”

“If it even saves one life, it will be worth every penny.”

■ **If you have questions about your heart health or want reliable information about managing a condition, The British Heart Foundation can help. Visit bhf.org.uk/information-support to find out more**

Implantable cardioverter defibrillators – the facts

■ The heart has its own electrical system that regulates the heartbeat. With every beat, there’s an electrical signal that travels through your heart, causing it to contract and pump blood. If this doesn’t happen properly, you could have an abnormal heart rhythm (or arrhythmia) and you may need an ICD fitted.

■ An ICD is a small device which treats dangerously abnormal heart rhythms. It sends electrical pulses to regulate these rhythms, especially those that could be dangerous and cause a cardiac arrest.

You might need an ICD if:

- you have already had a life-threatening abnormal heart rhythm and are at risk of having it again
- you haven’t had a life-threatening heart rhythm, but tests show you are at risk of one in the future. This is usually because you have inherited faulty genes and may have a condition such as

cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome or Brugada syndrome

- you have heart failure and are at risk of developing a life-threatening heart rhythm.

An ICD is placed under the skin, usually in the space just below the collarbone (clavicle) to monitor your heart rate. Thin wires connect it to the heart, where it’s always checking your heart rate and rhythm. If it notices a dangerous heart rhythm, an ICD can deliver one or more of the following treatments:

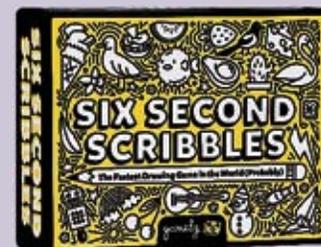
- **PACING** – a series of low-voltage electrical impulses (paced beats) at a fast rate to try and correct the heart rhythm.
- **CARDIOVERSION** – one or more small electric shocks to try and restore the heart to a normal rhythm.
- **DEFIBRILLATION** – one or more larger electric shocks to try and restore the heart to a normal rhythm.



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■ Created after requests for old Cadbury’s wrappers to help support memory activities for people with dementia, the Memory Bar Box will help youngsters bond with a relative with Alzheimer’s this half term. Apply for one of 3,000 free boxes, featuring Dairy Milk in nostalgic wrapping, at cadbury.co.uk/explore/partnerships/memory-bars



■ Keep your brain active with fun for everyone with Six Second Scribbles (£14.99; Amazon), which challenges you to draw 10 things from a given category in 60 seconds. It’s frantic, fast and funny and will help keep the whole family off screens. Make sure you have your pen and paper at the ready!



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■ There’s obviously no fibre in them, so they’re not quite as virtuous as eating broccoli, but the 100% organic Pip Rainbow Lollies (£3.90; Waitrose) are made with fruit and veg – including spinach, butternut squash and purple carrot – so will add colour to your little one’s day, minus mood-altering additives.



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Oman united

Richard Elias visits Muscat, the anchor of this stunning sultanate

VIBRANT
Corniche
promenade
in Muscat

Muscat is apparently named after the flat bottom of an anchor and if true, the choice is particularly apt.

The capital city of the sultanate of Oman is a thin strip of dozens of small towns and villages which over the course of the centuries have merged slowly into one.

Locals say that from high up, the resulting city resembles an anchor holding the rest of Oman together.

Protected from the encroaching desert by high, craggy, mountains, the country's history is inexorably

linked to the sea. Located on the eastern side of the Arabian peninsula, Oman is bordered by Yemen to the south and to the northwest Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Iranian capital, Tehran, is just under 800 miles north with Karachi in Pakistan 550 miles east across the Arabian Sea.

As a result, it is clear why this country of 4.5 million people is strategically so important in a geopolitical context to the West.

But this relatively lesser-known nation has a host of attractions

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

Eurostar is investing in up to 50 new eco-friendly trains to operate across five countries and beyond from the early 2030s. Boss Gwendoline Cazenave said the brand aims to be "the backbone of sustainable travel in Europe".
[eurostar.com](https://www.eurostar.com)

Cruise news

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Take off with a £600 flight credit bonus on Holland America Caribbean sailings this winter season.

The offer is available on 103 itineraries departing from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, between October and April - and it also comes with a pre-cruise hotel stay and transfers.

Holland America Line has six ships

sailing in the Caribbean this winter - Eurodam, Nieuw Amsterdam, Nieuw Statendam, Rotterdam, Volendam and Zuiderdam - offering voyages ranging from four to 21 days.

Prices start at £899 per person for four days to The Bahamas.

A Holland America spokeswoman said: "With a huge discount on flights, transfers and a hotel stay included, along with a choice of six beautiful ships, it's now easier than ever to enjoy the delights of this magical

destination." Booking is now open to July 31. [hollandamerica.com](https://www.hollandamerica.com)

Iceland is the newest 2024 European sailaway hotspot, says specialist Iglu Cruise. The North Atlantic island is showing a 40% year on year increase in online searches, with Greece up 32% and France rising 16%.

A spokesman said some of the largest glaciers in Europe and some of the world's most active volcanoes make for "an unforgettable trip" to Iceland. [igluccruise.com](https://www.igluccruise.com)

UK passengers can now join WIZZ Air's MultiPass flight subscription plan, which allows subscribers to travel once a month on eligible journeys via a fixed monthly fee. Prices start at £59.99 per person with savings of up to 40% available even in peak season. [wizzair.com](https://www.wizzair.com)

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TRAVEL

Hotel of the week

BY JAMES ROBINSON



The Swan Hotel and Spa Lake District

WHERE AND WHY

The Lake District is one of the UK's most popular holiday destinations, and the spectacular scenery that surrounds the Swan Hotel and Spa at Newby Bridge makes it easy to see why. From our suite we were treated to picture-perfect views of the River Leven flowing from Windermere, nestled among dramatic fells.

Our beautiful, spacious room was tastefully decorated in deep blues that gave it a homely feel, but the bathroom was the star of the show thanks to the stunning freestanding copper bathtub that drove home the luxury feel.

Guests will also find a small workspace with tea and coffee-making facilities as well as locally made natural toiletries from Bath House that you'll want to take home with you.

There's a couple of venues for your evening meal. The Swan Inn is a quaint pub serving hearty pub classics, while The River Room Brasserie offers a touch of class for something extra special.

ON THE MENU

In The River Room, the menu makes for a tough choice, with the likes of lobster and crab ravioli, roasted lamb rack and passionfruit and white chocolate cheesecake all hugely tempting. In the end, I went for pork belly with black pudding and a pea puree to start, followed by short rib of beef with shallot and bone marrow mashed potato.

My fiancée ordered baked scallops and a ribeye steak, which were also exceptional.

For dessert, I sampled the apple tarte tatin, while she went for the chocolate fondant – both were superb.

Breakfast features a continental buffet as well as a selection of cooked options.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

The in-house spa is not to be missed. Climb into the heated pool or the outdoor hot tub, enjoying the stunning vistas all around.

There's also saunas and steam rooms, as well as an ice bucket to cool yourself down if you're feeling brave.

Staff are on hand to bring you a selection of cocktails, and if that's not enough, you can also take to the treatment rooms where one of the hotel's expert massage therapists will leave you floating on air.

The hotel is also a short, pleasant walk from Windermere, England's largest lake.

From the southern shore, you can hop on a ferry to explore further or even take a historic steam train to see the sights further south.

WAKE-UP CALL

Rooms at The Swan Hotel in the Lake District start at £180 a night B&B. swanhotel.com

IMPOSING Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque



BARGAINS Souvenir shopping



SCENT PACKING Take home perfumes



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

which will enthrall, delight and amaze any visitor, no matter how well travelled they may be.

Although located just 300 miles from Dubai, Oman feels as if it is on a different planet.

This is true Arabia. A stark and hostile natural environment which is also utterly awe-inspiring.

In Muscat, there is not a single skyscraper. Nor will you find a plethora of supercars driving up and down the beautiful Corniche – the main promenade – of Muscat. Designer shops are few and far between and Instagrammers and WAGs have yet to discover its delights.

What you do get, though, is a fascinating throwback to a time when the spice trail saw merchants ply their trade from Southeast Asia using Muscat as a stopping-off point before sending their wares further westward.

The Omanis themselves have, since the 16th century, been master mariners, first as fishermen and later as explorers, using their expertise to control large swathes of Africa's eastern seaboard, in particular, the island of Zanzibar.

This tradition continues today as from before dawn, handmade fishing boats are put to sea in search of today's catch while as the sun sets, crews can be seen on the beaches mending their nets and preparing for the following day's adventures.

Our first port of call upon arriving in Muscat was, as most other people choose, the incredible

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THROWBACK
 Oman's fishing
 tradition



Tide and seek

Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. The prayer carpet in the main hall – which can accommodate up to 20,000 worshippers – is the second-biggest single carpet in the world, covering almost 47,000 sq ft.

Above you, suspended from the main dome, is a chandelier weighing 8.5 tonnes measuring 46in in height.

Non-Muslim visitors are allowed into the mosque between 8am and 11am Saturday to Thursday and it is certainly not to be missed.

The National Museum of Oman is located 30 minutes away and, while small, is a superb way to understand the history of this country. It is also air-conditioned which, in a city where temperatures of 45C in the summer are not uncommon, is welcome.

The Mutrah Souk – or market – is believed to be one of the oldest in the world and walking its narrow alleyways, it is not difficult to transport you back in time.

Unlike similar ones in other countries, there is a complete lack of feeling intimidated or hassled by the traders.

A cheery “hello” or a beckoning wave is the extent of their attempts to entice you in.

Another thing Oman is famous for is frankincense, one of the Three Wise Men's birth gifts to Jesus.

It comes in resin-form from the



LUXURY
 Kempinski
 Muscat
 hotel

trunk of the Boswellia tree and its citrusy, woody aroma permeates almost everywhere you go. Used as a skin conditioner and for medicines, it is best known for being an efficient way of keeping insects away in the summer months. This is done by

burning the resin in a clay receptacle and letting the smoke waft around.

Not surprisingly, the ornate designs of the resin holders are popular with visitors as holiday keepsakes.

If there is one thing which Omanis pride themselves on more than anything, it is their

friendliness. Greetings are warm and sincere and a genuine interest in your reason for visiting their country is obvious.

Central to their hospitality is something called Karak tea.

Alcohol, although available in Omani hotels – £12 a pint! – is not

sold outside and so this is the drink of choice. Think very strong, very sweet tea, using condensed milk, ginger and cardamom and you have it. Trust me, it is utterly addictive. It is sold everywhere and drive-in tea shops line the roadsides where waiters scurry to parked cars, taking orders and then bringing the Karak tea, accompanied by tasty mini doughnuts.

But it would be remiss not to travel out of Muscat and see what the rest of the

country has to offer.

Among the most popular tourist places is Wadi Bani Khalid. It is a near three-hour drive through some of the strangest landscapes you will ever encounter.

To describe it as “moon-like” would be an understatement but the scenery is totally compelling.

Oman's infrastructure is first-class and the road network would put much of the UK to shame.

Arriving at Wadi Bani Khalid it is evident just how popular the place is but it is large enough for everyone to find their own little piece of calm.

Walking through it can be a bit tricky.

Guidebooks describe it as an “easy hike”. If that is the case,

I would not like to endure a “difficult trek”. Yet after

20 minutes walking through the wadi – Arabic for “valley” or “ravine” – you are greeted by crystal-clear waters, ideal for swimming or cooling off in as the towering cliffs above provide fantastic shade from the glaring heat.

Muscat is not short of excellent hotels and the choice is dependent on what you intend to do during your visit. We stayed at the five-star Kempinski Muscat located in the Al Mouj district which is a modern, residential area half-an-hour's drive from the Corniche.

The beachfront property is stunningly decorated and exudes typical Arabic charm and character.

During our trip, we also visited both the Shangri-La and Jumeirah hotels which are situated further south on the coast.

It rained slightly, for one day during our stay, but clearly, it is an unusual occurrence as we were warned to “stay away from the hotel windows and keep our personal items close by”. Bizarrely, though, it prompted

GET THERE

Oman Air flies from Heathrow to Muscat, Oman, from £528 return. omanair.com

BOOK IT

Rooms at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat start at around £208 a night B&B. kempinski.com

MORE INFO

visitoman.om

the locals to immediately pack a picnic and head to the beach to endure the precipitation.

We followed them and were amazed to see literally hundreds of SUVs and 4x4s parked on the sands soaking up the “downpour”.

One word of warning, while Muscat International Airport is sleek and modern, getting through arrivals would test the patience of a saint. From departing the plane to walking out of the terminal took me two hours. The ultra-methodical but painfully slow processing of passengers was not the ideal way to start my trip.

But the rest of my days in Oman made up for that slight hiccup. A beautiful country with wonderful people and amazing scenery. If the anchor stays in place, I will moor up any time.

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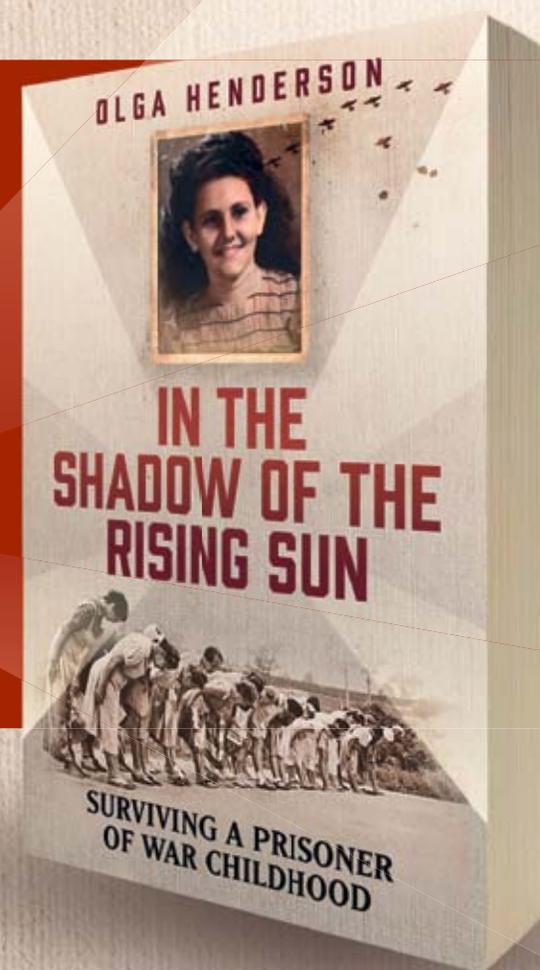
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FINANCIAL

SUNDAY EXPRESS

EDITED BY GEOFF HO



US puts the boot in Doc Martens' profits

ICONIC bootmaker Dr. Martens is expected to say its annual pre-tax profits have dived more than 40 per cent on Thursday, primarily due to tough trading in the US.

Analysts think Dr. Martens will say its profits for the 12 months to the end of March are down from £159.4million to £93.1million – the second year in a row that it has had a double-digit decline.

Additionally, its revenues are tipped to be down 11.2

per cent to £888.34million and the dividend is tipped to fall from 5.8p per share to 4.5p, for a shareholder payout worth £43.3million.

Chief executive Kenny Wilson, who has overseen five profits warnings since December 2022, will blame inflation and sharp declines in its US wholesale business.

Dr. Martens' shares have lost more than 80 per cent of their value since floating on the London Stock Exchange in

January 2021. Derren Nathan, head of equity research at Hargreaves Lansdown, said that with shareholders already "nursing heavy losses", they will scrutinise its outlook for its 2024/25 financial year.

"Dr. Martens sees a potential two-thirds fall in pre-tax profits as the worst-case scenario but has not ruled out the possibility of an improvement. Markets will be watching out for further guidance," he said.

HELL FOR LEATHER: Dr. Martens CEO Kenny Wilson will blame inflation for falling profits

Three fights to secure £32bn Vodafone deal

MOBILE phones giant Three could pare back investment in its network to "minimum levels", unless regulator Ofcom clears its £32billion takeover by Vodafone, sources warn.

The Competition and Markets Authority is carrying out a detailed probe into the deal, as it fears it would result in "substantially reduced" competition in the market.

Vodafone and Three are the third and fourth biggest players and if they were to combine, they would leapfrog market leader EE and Virgin Media O2.

The regulator will produce its initial findings and possible competition remedies in July, with its final report due in mid-September.

Three and Vodafone believe that together, they would have the scale and financial resources needed to invest more than £11billion to upgrade the UK's 5G infrastructure and compete

By **Geoff Ho**

more effectively with BT's EE and VMO2.

They believe that Britain has subpar telecoms infrastructure because the two market leaders do not have a third scale player to provide the competitive pressure needed for them to invest in their networks.

Sources familiar with the situation point out that Three has not been able to produce a return since 2020 due to the £2.3billion it has invested during that time in its network and its increasing cost base.

"Hutchison, its owner, has had years of losses from Three and without the deal, it will have to pare back investment so it can get a return," said one source.

Last year, while Three saw its revenues rise 3 per cent to £2.6billion, its earnings before taxes, interest, depreciation and amortisation fell 21 per cent to

£402million. They were eclipsed by its capital expenditure of £454million, which went primarily on network improvements.

At its first quarter trading update earlier this month, Three said that its revenues had climbed 9 per cent to £664million, while its active customer base had increased 3 per cent to 10.6million.

Churn, or the percentage of customers that leave, was practically flat at 1.5 per cent.

Chief executive Robert Finnegan said that while Three had a "solid" start to 2024, it is still feeling the effects of inflation, in particular consumers switching to lower value products, such as sim-only deals.

He added: "Merging with Vodafone is vital to give us the required scale to invest, grow and compete to create a best-in-class network for the UK."



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COMMENT



GEOFF HO

HUNDREDS of former sub-postmasters convicted due to the Horizon IT scandal are set to be exonerated, but this is only the start of justice finally being served.

One of the last acts of Parliament prior to its dissolution for the general election was to quash the wrongful convictions of the Post Office's victims. This brought relief to the innocent people accused of and jailed for false accounting and theft due to

errors with the Post Office's faulty Horizon software.

What elevates the scandal to one of the biggest miscarriages of justice in British history is the seemingly gleeful way the Post Office pursued innocent postmasters, along with its refusal to countenance the fact there were problems with Horizon, even when confronted with evidence.

Last week former Post Office chief executive Paula Vennells cried copious crocodile tears at

the inquiry. Those tears do nothing to help rebuild lives she and the Post Office destroyed.

What would be a good start would be to get compensation into the hands of every sub-postmaster the Post Office victimised as quickly as possible. Secondly, is to make sure that justice is seen to be done.

No one has been held accountable at the Post Office. Until that has happened, justice has not been served.

● geoff.ho@express.co.uk

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SCAN ME

Brands used in almost all online scams

By **Geoff Ho**

CYBER criminals are “weaponising” top brands to snare victims, featuring brand names in 97 per cent of their scams, according to IT think tank, the DNS Research Foundation.

It said criminals are appropriating brand names on an industrial scale in order to trick consumers. In more than 50 per cent of cases, the brands of home delivery and courier groups and financial services, such as banks and credit card groups were used by criminals in scam texts or emails.

Criminals also used technology, media and telecoms brands in more than a third of their scams, followed by the identities of public sector groups such as HM Revenue & Customs in 30 per cent of cases.

Lucien Taylor, chief strategy officer at DNS Research, said that while the average amount people lose to internet scams is £1,169 per person,

he suspects the real total could be 60 per cent higher as many do not report their losses due to embarrassment.

The think tank said that with our interactions with companies, charities and government services increasingly taking place online, fraudsters’ use of brand names is damaging trust in businesses. Its research found 58 per cent of people do not trust everyday messages and texts sent by brands.

Taylor said that more co-ordinated action is needed to tackle cyber criminals: “Without intervention and urgent action, we are on a collision course. Infringement of brands online – and being weaponised by criminals – comes at a time when consumers are using the internet more and more as the preferred way to engage with brands.”

Catering for workers across UK

SPECIALIST hospitality workers recruitment platform Brigad is planning to expand beyond London into other major cities, UK managing director Nicolas Ferrary says.

The French group connects restaurants, hotels and caterers with chefs, bar staff and other professionals. Workers select the jobs they want to take on.

Ferrary said: “We plan to expand to Manchester, Edinburgh, Birmingham and other cities in the next year.”

He said demand for workers is increasing ahead of the Euro 2024 football championships.

Restaurants are struggling to get kitchen staff, he added.



EXPANSION PLANS: MD Nicolas Ferrary

Tycoon and pension fund sink £85million into team GB bank

GB BANK has raised £85million in new funding, primarily from real estate and financial services tycoon Sameer Gehlaut, which the start-up lender says will turbocharge growth.

Gehlaut’s investment vehicle Hera will invest £40million in GB Bank over the next 12 months, which the fledgling bank says will enable it to ramp up its lending from £80million to £500million and double its head count to more than 80. Hera intends to invest a further £40million throughout 2025 and 2026.

GB Bank received £5million from its cornerstone investor, the Teesside Pension Fund. The local government

pension scheme has put more than £40million into the Middlesbrough-based challenger lender.

GB Bank says the funding will enable it to offer larger loans to the small to medium sized property developers and regeneration schemes it serves, and expand its customer base to include foreign nationals.

GB Bank CEO and co-founder Stephen Lancaster said: “This will allow us to deliver exceptional customer service, which has been our hallmark since day one.”

Founded in 2017 by Lancaster and his sister, Dr Emma Black, GB Bank received its banking licence in 2021.

By **Harvey Jones**

RISHI Sunak's snap general election gives families less than six weeks to sort out their personal finances ahead of a likely Labour Party victory on July 4. Conservative Party chancellors have been setting tax and pensions policy for the last 14 years and we could see a dramatic shift if Labour's shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves takes charge at the Treasury.

Personal taxes are the highest since the war but Reeves could push them higher, so families should see what they can do to reduce their exposure.

LOCK

First, the good news. Pensioners will breathe a sigh of relief as Labour has said it will keep the state pension triple lock for the full five-year term of the next Parliament.

The triple lock, which increases the state pension by earnings, inflation or 2.5 per cent, whichever is highest, is controversial but a boon for pensioners.

It handed them a 10.1 per cent increase in April 2023, in line with inflation, and an increase of 8.5 per cent this year, based on earnings.

The Conservatives are also fighting for the pensioner vote by standing by the triple lock and in truth, it is not as controversial as it was, said Aegon pensions director Steven Cameron. "As inflation and earnings growth falls to more typical levels, it should be easier for government to afford."

BUDGET

Thereafter, with the public finances in a mess, and Labour keen to raise money to fund its spending plans, things could get sticky. Reeves could announce a string of tax hikes if she delivers this year's Autumn Statement, or even line up an emergency post-election Budget.

Time is tight but Andrew Tricker, director of Lubbock Fine Wealth Management, suggested four steps to consider ahead of the election.

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt increased the pensions annual allowance from £40,000 to £60,000

from April 6, 2023, but there is a chance Labour could reverse that. "Take advantage today by making as large a contribution to your pension as you can afford," Tricker said.

Hunt abolished the pension lifetime allowance from April this year, which caps the amount people can build up in company and personal pensions to just over £1million, with the surplus taxed at a punitive 55 per cent.

Labour instantly pledged to re-introduce it if elected, although it has since gone quiet on the proposal.

"There is a great deal of uncertainty so the most prudent course of action is add to your pension while you can," Tricker said.

GAINS

While Hunt has made life easier for pension savers, he has been tough on those making capital gains.

He has cut the capital gains tax (CGT) annual exemption amount twice in two years, from £12,300 to just £3,000 today.

Labour could go a step further and axe the exemption altogether, so that people pay CGT on the first penny of gains when selling assets such as

Heat is on to get finances sorted ahead of election

antiques, jewellery, Bitcoin, property, their business or shares held outside the tax-free Isa.

"Investors should consider making full use of the current CGT allowance in case it is further reduced."

Another worry is that basic rate taxpayers pay CGT at 10 per cent which rises to 18 per cent on second home and buy-to-let property sales, while higher rate and additional rate taxpayers pay 20 per cent and 24 per cent respectively.

Labour could hike CGT rates in line with income tax, so higher rate taxpayers could pay 40 per cent on all of their gains, rising to 45 per cent for additional rate taxpayers.

Higher earners sitting on a potential gain may want to realise it before Labour takes power, although this will not be easy with a second home or buy-to-let property, where selling takes months.

It might still be possible, as Reeves may not announce any changes until the autumn. No guarantees, though.

'Take advantage today by making as large a contribution to your pension as you can afford'

CHANCES

Tricker also suggested investing as much of this year's tax-free Isa allowance as you can, just in case.

Labour has said it intends to "simplify the Isa landscape". It hasn't suggested reducing the £20,000 limit, but

nobody knows for sure. With taxes likely to rise elsewhere, the more you can shelter from HMRC, the better.

Inheritance tax is the most hated levy of all and as yet, we do not know what the Labour Party will do with it. However, many in the party would like to see a clampdown on inherited wealth, in the name of equality.

Frozen allowances and higher house prices are already pushing more estates into paying IHT under the Tories, with a record £7.5 billion handed to HMRC last year.

That could go up even further under Labour, but could easily rise under the Tories unless they increase the £325,000 nil-rate band.

Paul Barham, partner at Mazars, said even modest estates are now liable for IHT and families should plan to reduce bills regardless of who takes power. "Maximise gifting and other IHT allowances, write a will and discuss plans with loved ones".

We will have a better idea of what the two parties have in store for pension savers and taxpayers when they publish their manifestos. With the election approaching at speed, there is no time to hang around.

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NNIEAG Reporter

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Back page: **INCREASED** Recycling, Responsible Sourcing, Environmental Accountability

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FIVE-MINUTE GUIDE TO... INFLATION-BUSTING SAVINGS RATES

By **Harvey Jones**

WE ARE suddenly living in a golden age for savers as inflation plunges but the Bank of England (BoE) refuses to cut interest rates, which mean that nearly every savings account is paying an inflation-busting return.

Savers deserve some good fortune after getting next to nothing on their cash deposits for more than a decade, especially the elderly who saw their retirement income ravaged as a result.

The damage was done by the financial crisis, which forced the BoE to slash base rates almost to zero in March 2009, where it kept them until inflation took off.

Lately, savers have been getting more than 5 per cent but still finding their deposits shrinking in real terms as inflation flew to a high of 11.1 per cent in October 2022.

That has now gone into reverse, with consumer price inflation tumbling to 2.3 per cent in April, while the BoE has been holding bank rate at 5.25 per cent since last August.

Nine-out-of-10 savings accounts now beat inflation and experts are urging savers to take full advantage by shaking off their inertia and shopping around for a better deal.

A staggering 1,558 savings accounts and cash Isas beat inflation today, according to Moneyfactscompare.co.uk,



GOOD AS GOLD: Make deposits shine

including hundreds of easy access, notice and variable rate accounts, and a heap of fixed-rate bonds.

Fixed rates have dipped slightly in anticipation of the first BoE rate cut but that keeps getting pushed back and is unlikely to land before the election.

Moneyfacts spokesperson James Hyde said savers are finally getting a real return on their cash, with both fixed and variable rates holding firm. "As always, consumers must be willing to switch if more attractive options are available."

Monument Bank and Close Brothers top the easy access, best buy chart, paying 5.01 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. Close Brothers pays 5.16 per cent on its one-year fixed rate bond, while RCI Bank pays a fixed 5.05 per cent a year for two years, and Shawbrook

pays 4.57 per cent for five years. Rates change all the time so if you see one you like, go for it.

Do not just plump for the account that pays the highest rate of interest, said Hyde: "Review all relevant criteria, as eligibility and access are also important."

Check whether you can meet the minimum balance requirement, which may range from £1 to £10,000 or more.

Decide whether you want branch or postal access. This will involve a sacrifice, as the best rates are available online.

As rates remain high, many savers are "sleepwalking" into an unexpected tax bill, warned Shawbrook head of savings Adam Thrower.

Two in five think they do not earn enough interest to pay tax on their savings, including one in 10 who have more than £20,000 of savings outside of an Isa. "Yet for a basic rate taxpayer, getting 5 per cent interest on £20,000 could tip them over the personal savings allowance (PSA)."

Under the PSA, basic rate taxpayers can earn up to £1,000 interest a year without paying tax on it, which falls to £500 for higher rate taxpayers. Additional rate 45 per cent taxpayers do not benefit from the PSA.

These thresholds have not been changed since the PSA was introduced in 2016, at a time when savings rates were much lower, said Thrower: "As interest rates remain high, many could exceed the PSA for the first time, unless they take steps to minimise this by saving in a tax-free cash Isa instead."

Now may be a golden time to be a saver but it takes a bit of effort to really make your deposits shine.

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Best personal finance and mortgage deals

Source: Moneyfactscompare.co.uk

Rates correct at 8:00am 24th May 2024

Current Accounts

CURRENT ACCOUNTS WITH CREDIT INTEREST OR REWARD

Provider	Account	AER or Amount Paid
Halifax	Reward Current Account	£5 pm A
TSB	Spend & Save Plus	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	FlexDirect	5.00% B
Kroo Bank	Current Account	4.35%

Credit Cards

PURCHASE CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	APR
Barclaycard	Platinum All-Rounder Visa	21 mths	24.9%
Sainsbury's Bank	Dual 20 Month Credit Card MC	20 mths	23.9%
Lloyds Bank	Platinum 0% Purch & BT CC MC	20 mths	24.9%
NatWest	Purchase & Balance Transfer CC MC	19 mths	24.9%

Personal Loans

PERSONAL LOANS - BASED ON £10,000 OVER 5 YEARS

Provider	APR	Monthly Repayment	Total Amount Repayable
TSB	5.9%	£192.15	£11,529.00
M&S Bank	6.2%	£193.47	£11,608.20
Santander	6.2%	£193.47	£11,608.20
Sainsbury's Bank	6.4%	£194.35	£11,661.00

Mortgages

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	4.83%	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	5.23%	for 2 years	90%	£490	1st 2 yrs
The Co-operative Bank	4.63%	to 30.9.27	60%	£999	to 30.9.27
HSBC	5.13%	to 31.7.27	90%	£999	to 31.7.27

A = Paid net of income tax. **B** = Introductory rate for a limited period.

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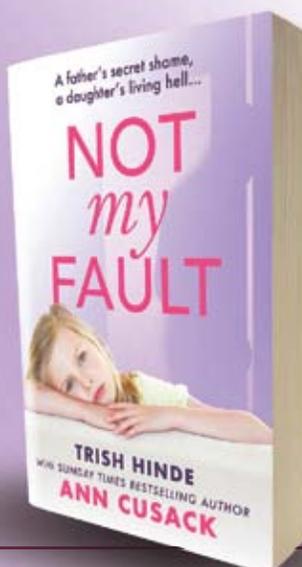
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Paul happy to walk the walk

PAUL Goddard is walking back to happiness – and he's not having to work at it, even though it's his job. Paul, 67 this year, is a Nordic walking instructor – that energetic pastime using poles – and he found he was slowing down.

Walking is one of the most beneficial forms of exercise and Paul was teaching his pupils how to make the very best of it in the undulating Essex countryside.

"I became an instructor in 2009 and was walking 40 to 50 miles a week," he says. "Then, several years ago, it became uncomfortable to walk distances that should have been easy for someone of my age and fitness levels. I felt very apprehensive as walking is not only my passion, but my business."

He carried on walking but then stumbled on a product called Turmeric+. "I had already started doing some research and had learned that turmeric could be helpful and bought supplements."

It was Turmeric+, however, that was really the step in the right direction, the daily tablet leaving Paul with a spring in his step.

Turmeric+ is different from other supplements. Curcumin, the active ingredient in turmeric, is difficult for the body to absorb. Some turmeric products offer high levels



MILES OF SMILES: Walking instructor Paul Goddard takes Turmeric+ daily to support his mobility

of curcumin but unless this is easily absorbed by the body, the higher amounts make little difference.

The need for easy absorption is what led the scientists at supplement leader FutureYou Cambridge to create Turmeric+ using the patented curcuma phospholipid complex formulation.

It's 30 times more absorbable than standard turmeric powder and contains vitamin C, which contributes to collagen formation for cartilage function, and vitamin D, which contributes to the maintenance of bones and muscles.

"Soon after taking it I experienced that lightbulb moment," says Paul, from Saffron Walden. "I realised my knees felt like they used to. I take Turmeric+ religiously now. I walk around 200 miles a month and even my customers have remarked on my mobility."

Walking is often overlooked as a way to stay fit and mobile, yet it's a great way to reach a recommended level of physical activity for staying healthy, without the toll on joints, ligaments and muscles that more demanding sports exact.

"Walking is not only great for fitness, it's important for mental health," says Paul. "Being able to walk easily has made a huge difference to my life and I feel fitter now than I did 20 years ago."

Advertisement

Trial Turmeric+ for just £5

Leading Cambridge company offering scientifically proven joint supplements for £5.

FutureYou Cambridge is offering you the chance to trial its premium joint health product, Turmeric+, for just £5.*

The offer is aimed at helping those who commonly suffer with joint health issues. Turmeric+ has received numerous positive reviews since its launch, becoming the company's best selling product.

'I used to suffer with great discomfort in my knees and neck, particularly when going up and down the stairs,' says Jacqui Hunter, 60, who runs her own event management consultancy and enjoys yoga, golf, gardening and travel.

'It certainly improved my flexibility and mobility dramatically and I've recommended it to lots of my friends. When you find something that works for you, you want to help others too.'

Turmeric+ is certified by Informed Sport. Adam Cleevely, FutureYou Cambridge's Chair, explains: 'We want to support more people to become or stay active. We think Turmeric+ can play an important role in that journey.'

'We're happy to offer people their first pack of Turmeric+ for just



£5 so they can experience it for themselves. Most people know if it's working for them within four to eight weeks – and if they like it, they will stick with it.'

'It certainly improved my flexibility and mobility dramatically'


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ON THIS DAY WITH SHAUN WALLACE

May 26,
1927



THE LAST Ford Model T rolled off the production line after 19 years and more than 15 million versions. It was one of the first mass production vehicles that was affordable, simple to operate and durable. While basic, it opened up motoring to the common man and turned the Ford Motor Company into a household name.

The model was first tested by Henry Ford himself who took the vehicle on a hunting trip to Wisconsin and northern Michigan, before it was shipped to its first customer on October 1, 1908.

Impressively it was available as a seven-seat town car, a five-seat touring car and also a two-seat runabout.

It was revolutionary in the way it was both designed and manufactured.

It was the first to have all four cylinders and crankcase cast as a single block, with a removable cylinder head for easy access.

And it was the first to make extensive use of the lightweight but strong alloy known as

Also on this day...

1703: Prolific London diarist Samuel Pepys died aged 70

1940: The evacuation of Dunkirk, known as Operation Dynamo, begins.

1966: Guyana gained its independence from Britain

vanadium steel. It had two forward gears and a reverse, and needed to be hand cranked to get the engine started.

The engine generated 20 horsepower and a top speed of 45mph, but as the petrol tank was gravity fed and the reverse gear offered more power, the car frequently had to be driven backwards up a steep hill.

It was manufactured on a moving assembly line at Ford's Highland Park Plant in Michigan. It would later be assembled in Detroit, Manchester in England, and Europe.

Continued improvements saw the price of the touring version lowered from \$850 in 1908, equivalent to around 18 months average salary, to \$260 in 1925.

While Henry Ford did say, "Customers can have any colour, so long as it's black," that only applied from 1914 to 1925.

Models were available in a variety of colours, including blue, red, grey and green.

The car was affectionately nicknamed Tin Lizzie and by the early 1920s more than half of the registered automobiles in the world were Fords.

Question: Which novel by Bram Stoker was published on this day in 1897?

Last week I asked: Who was beheaded on the orders of Henry VIII on this day in 1536? The answer is ANNE BOLEYN.

LETTERS

Write to: The Editor, Sunday Express,
One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP

Email: sunday.exletters@express.co.uk

Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number

Forgotten victims of the NHS Primodos scandal

I am so pleased to see the Government has finally accepted the moral case for compensation for those affected by infected blood ("Payments in summer for infected blood cases", May 19).

But what about us, women who either lost their child through stillbirth or giving birth to a child with birth defects, having been prescribed Primodos by their GP?

Our fight has been going on for more than 50 years, it is about time the Government took responsibility for the actions taken by NHS doctors back then and compensated us instead of ignoring it.

The then-Health Secretary Matt Hancock apologised but since then we have been ignored.

The Post Office scandal is now only getting results because everyone saw on TV what happened to the sub-postmasters. Why does it take something like a TV show to make the Government stand up and take responsibility?

Ena Hanks,
Guildford, Surrey

Take US to task over infected blood outrage

What is being done to hold the US to account for this disgusting contaminated blood tragedy?

Douglas Higgins,
Liverpool

Parliament stinks, vote Reform to drain swamp

With the Post Office, now the blood scandal, what else have successive governments been covering up?

We do need a lot of fresh blood (pardon the pun) in Parliament so I will be voting Reform UK at the next general election.

The public hates cover-ups and the bigger it is the more they will turn their backs on current parties.

Carol Jackson,
Fobbing, Essex

Injured sportsmen were all willing volunteers

While I have immense sympathy for sportsmen who suffer injuries either caused during taking part in a sporting activity, or the discovery later in life that physical or mental damage has occurred, I fail to see how a payout system is feasible

JACOB'S WEEKLY WISDOM

'And enterprises of great pitch and moment, With this regard their currents turn awry, And lose the name of action.'

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE,
1564-1616, Hamlet

Jacob Rees-Mogg says:
"At least the Prime Minister did not let this type of indecision trouble him."



or justified ("Players with head injuries may be set for payouts", May 19).

By all means use the knowledge gained to improve the sport, as in the case of boxing and rugby, but don't open a door where anyone can seek a payout for something they chose to take part in.

Liz Armstrong,
Bridlington, East Yorkshire

Were Klopp's injured stars treated in A&E?

I read with interest your article about Jurgen Klopp ("How the 'normal one' revitalised Liverpool", May 19). I admire Klopp (from afar as a Tottenham fan), and was glad to see that he claims to have left-of-centre sympathies.

Jeff Anderson's article states: "A staunch backer of the welfare state, he opposes private healthcare and lower taxes for the wealthy." So could anyone tell me how many of his injured players ever rocked up at their local A&E?

Simon Williams,
Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan

Weekends at theatre to slash NHS waiting lists

I'm pleased to read that if Labour is elected at the next general election, it intends to ask hospitals to use the operating theatres in the evenings and at weekends in an endeavour to cut waiting lists ("Streeting: 'Operations at weekend will cut list'", May 19).

But this should have been happening anyway, since the restrictions on Covid were lifted. Why not use empty theatres all the time, not just during usual working hours on weekdays? The Government

made it mandatory some years ago for GP surgeries to offer evening and weekend appointments to patients so why not hospitals too? Anything to reduce waiting lists can only be for the good.

Lynne English,
Wickford, Essex

America drags its heels on vital Ukraine aid

America's dithering on Ukraine aid for more than six months is responsible for what's happening in Kharkiv ("Heavy fighting' follows fresh attack on Kharkiv", May 12). And for those that are suffering, notice no dithering on aid to Israel. America will be responsible if the Third World War happens.

Nigel Clemow,
Newquay, Cornwall

Boris was nobbled but Keir got off scot-free

Boris Johnson didn't "blow it" (Letters, May 19) he was clearly got at. He was in both his home and workplace already mixing with people who had a right to be there (no outsiders were invited).

How this compares to Sir Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner travelling miles to attend a meeting that could have taken place on Zoom, and then stayed to "socialise", beats me. One rule for Labour and one for the Tories.

Rod Enderby,
Banbury, Oxfordshire

Clarkson's Farm is a grower so let it bloom

So the rumour that the next series of Clarkson's Farm could be the last is sad news for all the many who love and enjoy the show ("Clarkson's Farm future up in air", May 19). It is a show of escapism with a few laughs along the way and with so many fans let's hope it continues.

Annette Hale,
Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset

TELEPHONE VOTE RESULT

Last week Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology Michelle Donelan and her Labour opposite number Peter Kyle went head-to-head to answer your questions, and we asked:

Are the Tories the best to navigate the UK's digital future??

YES: 100% NO: 0%

JAMES BOND in CASINO ROYALE by Ian Fleming DRAWN BY JOHN McLUSKY

Casino Royale © Ian Fleming Publications Ltd 1953/The James Bond Strip © Express Newspapers Ltd 1987.

James Bond

BY IAN FLEMING
DRAWING BY JOHN McLUSKY



■ WAS MET BY THE FBI WHEN I LANDED IN NEW YORK—BUT ALREADY, BEFORE I EVEN STARTED ON MY NEW ASSIGNMENT, I SENSED I WAS BEING FOLLOWED



AND THE MAN KNOWN AS MR. BIG MAKES A NOTE OF BOND'S NEW ADDRESS

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Volkswagen has got the SUV business well covered with six different sizes to choose – from the smallest, the T-Cross, to the Touareg on whose platform the Porsche Cayenne is based.

Several have recently been facelifted, including the Tiguan which we wrote about a few weeks ago, the Touareg itself and most recently the T-Cross.

The latter faces a lot of opposition, some of it tough to beat, particularly with the likes of the Peugeot 2008, Toyota Yaris Cross and Vauxhall Mokka. The VW isn't that eye-catching but there are some quite striking colours available including one that's been introduced with this facelift (pictured above) called Rubber Ducky Yellow by Volkswagen. Well, rather by VW's customers who chose the name in an online competition.

There's also clear blue metallic that looks nice and an expensive (£860) optional King's Red metallic.

You have four trim levels to choose from: Life, Match, Style and R-Line, as well as a selection of powerplants.

Most T-Crosses come with a 1.0-litre three-cylinder engine with either 95 or 115PS but the higher-spec cars can also come with a 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine that has 150PS.

That's the motor that powers our



THE FACTS

Volkswagen T-Cross Style

Price: £30,740

Engine: 1,498cc, four-cylinder, petrol

Power: 150PS

Torque: 250Nm

Top speed: 124mph

0-62mph: 8.4secs

Economy: 47.4mpg

Combined CO2: 135g/km

For: Affordable, practical.

Against: Hard plastics look cheap.

Sum-up: The cheapest versions are the best buys.

Style-trimmed test car together with a seven-speed DSG auto 'box (you can't have a manual gearbox with this engine).

Without options it costs £30,740 which is a lot to pay for a car that's based on the VW Polo.

At the other end of the range you get much better value for money.

Right at the bottom is the Life with the lower-powered 1.0-litre engine and five-speed manual gearbox which is a smidgeon under £24,000. It's well equipped with LED head-

lamps, alloy wheels, an 8in central

touchscreen, smart phone mirroring and cruise control. Do you need much more?

If you're after some fun then the Ford Puma is the best choice in the compact crossover class but most drivers will be looking for a good all-rounder that's easy to drive and live with – and the T-Cross is certainly that.

The handling is safe, the steering light, but with not much feel, and you can tell that the centre of gravity is higher than it is in a Polo. Again, the extra performance provided by the

more expensive engine option isn't really needed but the DSG is a plus as it's so easy and smooth.

You also get space in the T-Cross. Those extra dimensions over the Polo give more room for passengers, especially in the back where six-footers will be comfortable, and for luggage.

For general storage there are vast door bins, a recess in the dashboard with a rubber liner so things don't slide about and a handy drawer under the passenger seat plus a cubby under the climate controls

that includes wireless charging for your phone. The rear bench seat, as well as splitting 60/40, can be slid back and forth, and you can order a passenger seat that folds flat in case you want to carry longer objects in the back.

The Volkswagen T-Cross is not greatly changed by this facelift, it's still a practical and easy-to-live-with motor. We'd recommend spending less by going for the entry-level models that are still well equipped.

And go for that Rubber Ducky Yellow paint.

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KB6227	Coronilla 'Citrina' 2 x 9cm potted plants £27.98 SAVE OVER 50%	£12.99			
KB6546	Lavatera Bamsley Baby 1 x 9cm Pot £13.99	£9.99			
KB0507	Lavatera Bamsley Baby 2 x 9cm Pots £27.98	£14.99			
KF5251	Agapanthus Blue Storm 1 x 9cm potted plant £11.99	£6.99			
KF5252	Agapanthus Blue Storm 2 x 9cm potted plants £23.98	£9.99			
KA2524	Maxicrop Plant Treatment	£1.00			
				P&P	£6.99
				Grand Total	

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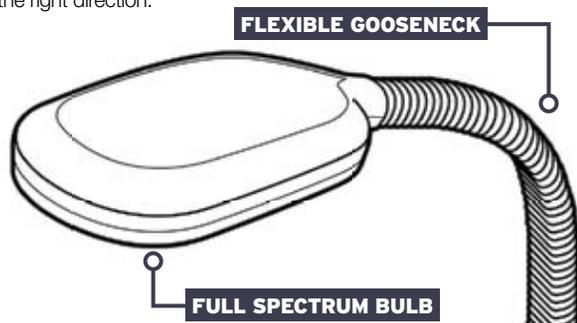
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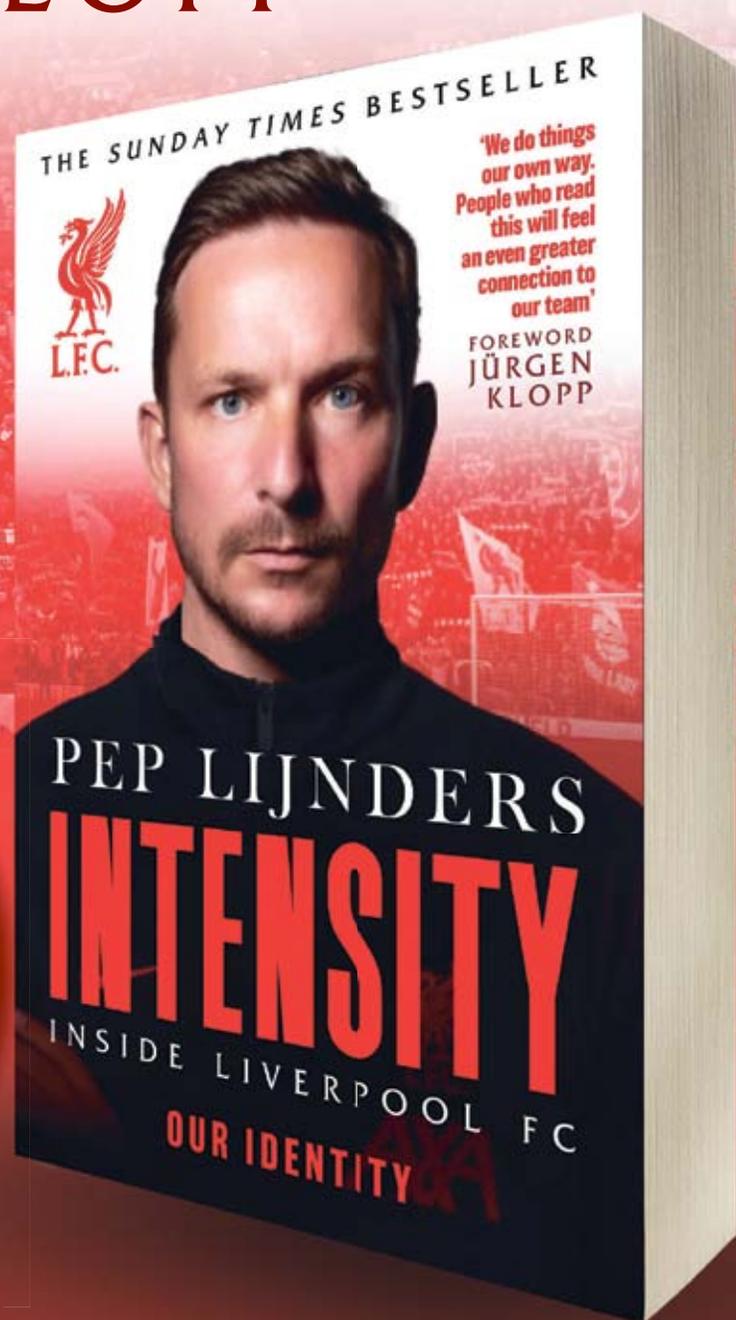
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ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests your logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Each letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start.

Can you beat the Target Time? Call for an Extra Letter Clue if you get stuck. Solution next Sunday.

DIFFICULTY: 10/10 **TARGET TIME:** 30 minutes; **CLUE:** Run out from a former bonfire, say.

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

For extra letter clues, call:

0907 181 2603*

(Deduct two minutes from Target Time for each extra letter used).

Full solution: **0907 181 2602***

Across only: **0907 181 2600***

Down only: **0907 181 2601***

*Calls cost 80p a minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text:

SXALPHA to 64343

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390

Last Sunday's solution

ACROSS: Plastic, Libel,

Twain, Invalid, Fanciful,

Give, Locale, Joiner, Blag,

Tinkered, Explain, Havoc,

Dandy, Apparel.

DOWN: Pitiful, Blend, Again

(clue), Crampon, Tangible,

Lady, Clique, Zinnia, Live,

Workshop, Bullion, River,

Lodge, Radical.

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

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

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ULTIMATE ALPHABEATER

Can you crack the super-tough Ultimate Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter – or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the main grid to start. Alphabeater is 'rotationally symmetrical' – in other words it looks exactly the same if you turn the page upside down. Solution next Sunday.

A	17	7	33	27	26	10	30	6	31	22	27	39	1
B													
C	25	35	11	25	6	16	6	18	38	1	28	1	34
D													
E	23	24	30	2	3	33	5	33	7	24	11	5	29
F													
G	18	6	28	37	27	12	27	29	12	36	35	26	1
H													
I	31	3	6	32	14	25	30	16	2	6	10	40	39
J													
K	24	38	15	38	30	27	14	3	6	24	27	39	23
L													
M	19	2	27	28	6	29	12	37	14	16	39	16	33
N													
O	22	1	36	35	39	27	14	26	14	34	26	34	3
P													
Q	1	12	18	9	11	38	19	21	6	3	35	35	17
R													
S	7	22	1	6	25	34	7	11	14	28	40	8	29
T													
U	21	1	2	19	27	4	33	1	14	10	13	35	20
V													
W	10	7	37	27	40	21	31	18	27	21	37	39	40
X													
Y	6	20	33	14	27	15	1	28	39	6	9	1	36
Z													

Target time: 46 minutes
Stuck getting started?
Try one of our helplines *Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Full solution:

0907 181 2598

Across only:

0907 181 2596

Down only:

0907 181 2597

Last Sunday's Solution:

Black squares: 3, 5, 7, 10,

11, 16, 18, 21, 23, 25, 31,

32, 34, 37.

Across: Magic, Trick, Grief,

Obviously, Jib, Smell, Hype,

Aids, Stoat, Wig, Questions,

Whizz, Scrum, Drove.

Down: Murkily, Quick, Sex,

Inform, Stamp, Revolutions,

Stool, Answer, Fat, Scull,

Drizzle.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
																			P	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
	H																			

For up to six extra letters call 0907 181 2599 (Deduct five minutes from Target Time for each extra letter heard). Callers will also hear two black squares clues free of any Target Time penalty. *Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **SXBEAT to 64343**. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Reduce Target Time by five minutes for each extra letter

● Puzzle phone and text services SP: Spoke, London W1B 2AG

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390

THE ULTRA ALPHAPUZZLE®

Here's the Ultra Alphapuzzle® – Sunday's extra tough version of Britain's favourite wordpower challenge.

Each grid number represents a different letter. All 26 letters are used.

Target time: 30 minutes Solution next Sunday.

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

For up to six extra clue letters call:

0907 181 2607*

(Deduct two minutes from Target Time for each extra letter used).

Full solution: **0907 181 2611***

Across only: **0907 181 2609***

Down only: **0907 181 2610***

*Calls cost 80p a minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Alternatively, for six extra clues direct to your mobile, text:

SXALPHAU to 64343

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

Last Sunday's solution

ACROSS: Chastise, Dough,

Explosive, Lip, Mire, Social,

Sultan, Beaver, Fellow,

Sold, Oil, Reprobate, Rusty,

Adjacent.

DOWN: Cream, Savoury,

Apparel, Flask, Took,

Gallery, Sailor, Torpid,

Denizen, Soda, Quell,

Violate, Chapter, Dwelt.

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

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

THINKING SPACE

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BRAIN TEASERS

1) Four women have donated to a rainforest charity, each giving a whole number of pounds. Holly gave more than Olive and Fern put together. Rose gave four times as much as Olive. Fern gave the least, only one pound. Altogether they gave fifteen pounds. Can you work out the order of the size of their donations?

2) What links a chess piece, One Canada Square, an 18th century writer and Bristol City FC?

3) Remove the letters of a Greek island, then those of a Caribbean island, to leave those of a Channel island: E N R R Y A G J E T D R E E C S A E

4) A programme is five times longer than the advert break in the middle. If it starts at 8:47 pm and finishes at 9:11 pm, how long was the break?

ANSWERS: 1 Rose gave the most, then Holly, then Olive, then Fern. 2 Clues for birds: rook, canary (wharf), swift (Jonathan). 3 Crete, Granada, Jersey. 4 Four minutes.

SUDOKU

Fill the small squares so that every column, every row, and every 3x3 square includes all of the digits from 1 to 9

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

Level: Gentle
Target: 16 minutes
For extra clues call

0901 322 5600

(Calls cost 77p per call from a BT landline plus network extras, other networks and mobiles may vary)

For today's full solution call

0907 181 2606

(Calls cost 77p per minute from BT landlines plus network extras, other networks and mobiles may vary).

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION

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

THE SKELETON CROSSWORD

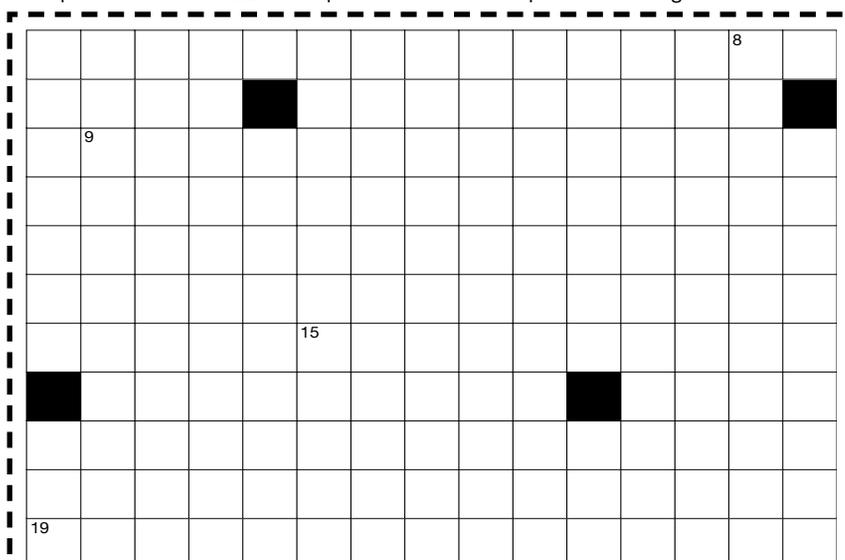
Last week's solution



WINNERS: £250 General Knowledge Crossword, May 12: D McCarthy, Portrush, County Antrim.
 £50 Mystery Word, May 12: Mrs Barnett, Consett, County Durham.
 WINNERS: Please allow 30 days to receive your prize.

THINKING SPACE

In the skeleton crossword, the black squares and clue numbers have to be filled in as well as the words. Four black squares and four clue numbers have been inserted to give you a start. The black squares form a symmetrical pattern; the top half matches the bottom, and the two sides correspond. You can fill in 12 more squares at once to correspond with those given.



NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
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THE £250 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD CAN BE FOUND INSIDE S MAGAZINE

ACROSS

- 1 Quick look back and forth
- 4 Work queries from tenor
- 7 Pretty cold Native American
- 9 More lithe chaps hear about a...
- 10 ...detective onto risqué crime
- 11 Um, an artist cheers misprints
- 13 An August match ends last
- 14 Bay horse heading west, look
- 16 Very quick break taken by petty officer
- 17 Sunblocks, perhaps?
- 19 Kind girl from Egypt reformed
- 20 Mirth when texting young lady about money
- 21 She's a trendy, on reflection

DOWN

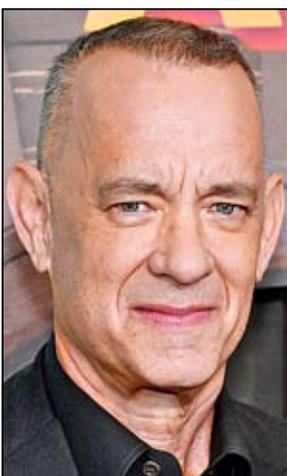
- 2 Rings on earth goddess
- 3 Soft food cut includes hollow pasta
- 4 Tense lush likes to chat
- 5 Bizarre mystic realm, even
- 6 Wrong pair of faces, formerly
- 7 Novel has prince or president
- 8 Something played with zest ultimately only disheartened
- 10 Dowel of polished lead, for example
- 12 Back and front harmonise
- 15 Country road north of a Russian river
- 16 Meddle with four in a lavatory
- 17 Shy insider made a claim
- 18 Child thus closer to guardian

MYSTERY WORD - WIN £50

For a chance to win £50 give the correct answer to **9 Across**. Call 0901 322 5301 leaving your name and address.
 *Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge. Alternatively complete the grid and send to Skeleton Mystery Word, May 26, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW.
 Competition closes May 30, 2024 at 23:59pm. An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received after the closing date.
 SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

PUB QUIZ

- 1 Directed by the Coen brothers, which 2008 film stars John Malkovich as CIA analyst Osborne Cox?
- 2 "Half a league, half a league / Half a league onward" are the opening lines of which poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson?
- 3 Ron and Russell Mael comprise which duo, whose hits include This Town Ain't Big Enough For Both Of Us?
- 4 "Well, nobody's perfect" is the final line of which 1959 film starring Marilyn Monroe?
- 5 Starring Philip Glenister and Keeley Hawes, which crime drama series was a sequel to Life On Mars?
- 6 Subtitled A Fairy Tale Of Home, which Christmas novella by Charles Dickens features the characters John and Dot Peerybingle?
- 7 Released in 1989, which song was the only UK No. 1 single for the Bangles?
- 8 Based on a novel by Tom Wolfe, which 1991 black comedy film stars Tom Hanks, right, as a Wall Street trader who is involved in a hit-and-run?
- 9 First broadcast in 2017, which comedy-drama series starring Alison Brie followed the members of a women's professional wrestling circuit in the 1980s?
- 10 Which 2013 novel by Dan Brown shares its title with the first part of Dante Alighieri's epic poem The Divine Comedy?



THEME: Fire
 10 Inferno.
 8 The Bonfire Of The Vanities, 9 GLOW.
 4 Some Like It Hot, 5 Ashes To Ashes, 6 The Charge Of The Light Brigade, 3 Sparks.
 9 The Burn After Reading, 2 The

THE SUNDAY CRUSADER AND HIS SQUIRE - WIN £100

The Crusader's clues

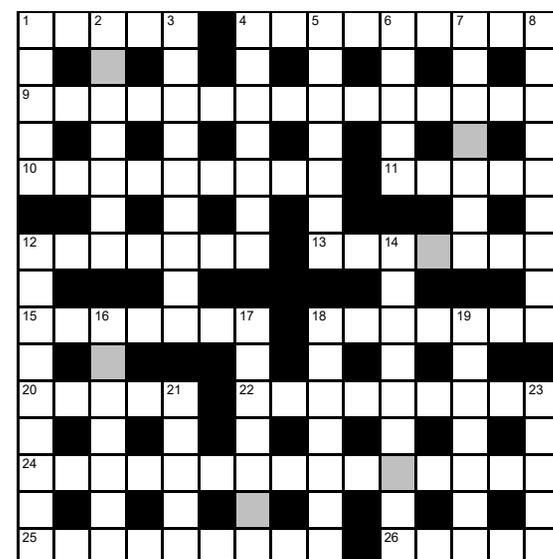
ACROSS

- 1 German is in with touts (5)
- 4 Try to move along (9)
- 9 Pre-match game caught by cross mischief-maker (5,10)
- 10 Lead cast near Delhi? (9)
- 11 Insane letters that, on reflection, prove irksome (5)
- 12 An expanded M1 plant (7)
- 13 Liberal, radical and socialist with empties all around could be drunk (7)
- 15 Dash south with mad character... (7)
- 18 ...G-man returning at night let down (7)
- 20 A novel set in Spain cut corners (5)
- 22 Small capitals top editor ruined (9)
- 24 Literary work an idiot foolishly introduced with an excerpt (1,7,2,5)
- 25 Covered paintings turned up (9)
- 26 'Skinny legend' first to find out (5)

DOWN

- 1 Harvest up on high veranda (5)
- 2 Anger about bird boast concealed (7)
- 3 Identify another one's guilt (6,3)
- 4 Overweight track racer faces defeat (7)
- 5 Prussian and Roman thus endure (7)
- 6 Beast shaming couple filled with desire (5)
- 7 City of Gold secure against nothing (7)
- 8 Spoiling one, joy was not likely (2,3,4)
- 12 Junior fool put on new satin shirt (9)
- 14 Introduction to fanzine in vernal issue (9)
- 16 Boxer with abs brought up a caveman (3,4)
- 17 Head of state breaking rules quits (7)
- 18 Not wearing old hat demoralised (7)
- 19 An aqueduct, perhaps, to shorten (7)
- 21 Something stuck with, after a point (5)
- 23 Dominoes beginning to fall for sap (5)

Cryptic clues from our knight, and quick clues from his squire, lead to the same answers in the Crusader's Sunday joust



The Squire's clues

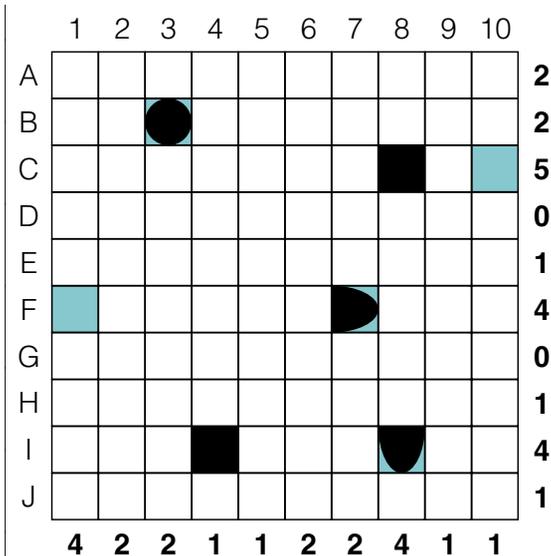
ACROSS

- 1 Stoppers (5)
- 4 Landing (9)
- 9 Puck of folklore (5,10)
- 10 Top act (9)
- 11 Irritate (5)
- 12 Windflower (7)
- 13 Full-bodied sherry (7)
- 15 Explode (7)
- 18 Remove the air from (7)
- 20 Be sparing (5)
- 22 Put paid to (9)
- 24 1924 E. M. Forster novel (1,7,2,5)
- 25 Went across (9)
- 26 Gather (5)

DOWN

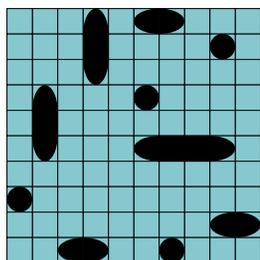
- 1 Portico (5)
- 2 Offence (7)
- 3 Select from a group (6,3)
- 4 Defeat decisively (9)
- 5 Experience (7)
- 6 Laughing animal (5)
- 7 Florida city (7)
- 8 Not on your Nelly (2,3,4)
- 12 Helper (9)
- 14 Children (9)
- 16 Arabian Nights hero (3,4)
- 17 Steps down (7)
- 18 Intimidated (7)
- 19 Shorten (a text) (7)
- 21 Savoury spread (5)
- 23 Draw off (5)

BATTLESHIPS



- 1 x Battleship
- 2 x Cruiser
- 3 x Destroyer
- 4 x Submarine

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION



FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

For your chance to WIN £100 read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER CALL: 0904 161 3700

(Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text DXCRUS followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to 88833 (Texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate) or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares to: Sunday Express Prize Crossword, May 26, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Competition closes June 1, 2024 at 23:59pm. An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 POSTCODE: _____

● One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.
 SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

LAST SUNDAY'S SOLUTION: Across: 1 Gaunt, 4 Anarchist, 9 Walking the plank, 10 Shangri-la, 11 Spica, 12 Monarch, 13 Theresa, 15 Nomadic, 18 Sleight, 20 Filch, 22 Agincourt, 24 Spelling mistake, 25 Open-ended, 26 Drift. Down: 1 Gowns, 2 Unlearn, 3 Triggered, 4 Anguish, 5 At heart, 6 Copes, 7 Imagine, 8 Take apart, 12 Manifesto, 14 Exercised, 16 Molière, 17 Chained, 18 Skimmed, 19 Gourami, 21 Halle, 23 Treat.
 Prize word: Pardon

*SP: Spoke - Helpline 0333 202 3390

SPORT FOOTBALL



WOMEN'S CHAMPS LGE

Bronze is Euro star

ENGLAND golden girl Lucy Bronze was thrilled to help Barcelona win the Women's Champions League final for the third time.

Second-half goals by Aitana Bonmati and Alexia Putellas sealed a 2-0 victory for the Catalans against Lyon as they retained the crown in front of a record crowd of 50,827 at the San Mamés Stadium in Bilbao.

It was Barca's third triumph in four years and their first success in five attempts against the eight-time French winners.

"We knew that's what we needed to be a club to make history," said England defender Bronze, after collecting her sixth Champions League winner's medal against her former club.

"It's hard to win it once. To win it back-to-back, Lyon showed how difficult it is and this team has finally done that. We go down in history as one of the best teams in Europe."



MANCHESTER CITY 1 MANCHESTER UNITED 2



GREAT LEADER BRU BEATS THE BLUES IN STYLE

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FINAL

FOOTBALL SPORT

CAPTAIN MARVEL DISPLAYS SUPERPOWERS FOR TEN HAG



HOW MAY I ASSIST YOU?
Fernandes set up Mainoo for United's second

SPECIAL BRU:
Fernandes led from the front in attack and defence in final



WELCOME HOME: Rooney

ROONEY 'PERFECT' FIT FOR PILGRIMS

WAYNE ROONEY has been appointed head coach of Championship club Plymouth Argyle.

The Sunday Express understands the former England captain, who left Birmingham in January after just 15 games in charge, has signed a three-year deal after beating off strong competition.

Ex-Manchester United striker Rooney, 38, said: "Taking this role feels like the perfect next step in my career and I would like to thank the chairman and board for the faith they have shown in me.

"This is an opportunity to be part of an exciting project. I look forward to helping to build a squad of players to play expansive football and to entertain the Green Army.

"I have experienced first-hand how talented the existing group of players is here and also the incredible atmosphere at Home Park.

"The club is on an exciting long-term journey, with a progressive plan in place. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of it. I can't wait for the Championship season."

Pilgrims director of football Neil Dewsnip knows Rooney from his time as boss of Everton's academy, where the striker emerged as a teenager.

Before his short stint at St Andrew's, Rooney cut his teeth in management at Derby and then in the United States with MLS side DC United.

Coaches Kevin Nancekivell and Simon Ireland will stay at Plymouth, as will goalkeeping coach Darryl Flahavan, with further additions to be made.

Chairman Simon Hallett said: "Throughout the interview process, Wayne showed himself to be a passionate, intelligent and knowledgeable candidate, with an appetite to prove himself and develop his managerial career.

"His ambitions and aims match ours perfectly and we feel he is the perfect candidate to provide the exciting and attacking brand of football that we all like to see and help us achieve the club's mission."

BRUNO FERNANDES has faced a lot of criticism. An easy target for a team that has simply struggled far too much this season.

He's been accused of being too moody and too petulant to be a Manchester United captain. But this performance proved he's the leader that so many claim he is not.

This was a display to show why United and INEOS simply have to do what it takes to keep the Portuguese star happy.

This was a game from a player who deserves to be playing for such a better team. Fernandes penned an open letter this week, declaring his adoration for everything about United.

But in there was a clear message to the club that they must match his ambitions. Bring this squad up to his level or he will have to go elsewhere. A lot of United fans couldn't blame him if he did.

At 29, he's coming close to passing his peak. This is a player who should be in a team winning more than the odd trophy. With

Chris McKenna
WEMBLEY VERDICT

and without the ball, he was terrific at Wembley.

When Manchester City pinged the ball about, he orchestrated the defence from the very front.

In a bold move, manager Erik ten Hag put him in as the false nine with Rasmus Hojlund on the bench. It paid off.

Fernandes hassled and harried when United were letting City have the ball, making sure there were no gaps. He was also putting pressure on the City defence and keeper Stefan Ortega.

Alejandro Garnacho was shrewd for the opening goal as he anticipated Josko Gvardiol's misplaced header over his own keeper and tapped home.

But the second was all about the brilliance of United. Marcus Rashford's pass to switch the play to Fernandes was superb.

The Argentinian calmly slid it to Fernandes. Then the magic happened. Fernandes had spotted

Kobbie Mainoo out of the corner of his eye and played an instinctive first-time pass. Mainoo did the rest.

It wasn't an easy finish but it was all about the set-up.

United can be buoyed by two teenagers scoring for the first time in an FA Cup final. There is a foundation of youth for whoever is United manager next season.

But they must build a team around Fernandes that is good enough for him to win consistently.

It was Fernandes who continued to bark orders as the City machine started to click into gear in the second half.

So often a hot-head, he was trying to keep everyone's head

cool. City scored, United started to panic. He was shouting at those around him to calm down.

For a moment, Fernandes lost his cool too, taking a shot from distance with Ortega off his line.

It gave City the ball back when United needed to hold it. Give him that moment of madness – otherwise he was simply superb.

He led the celebrations like he led his team throughout.

Mainoo got the official man-of-the-match award but Fernandes was the reason United have ended an utterly dreadful season in the league with an FA Cup.

The best finals, games and giant-killings from the heyday of the world's greatest competition. Order your copy at www.reachshops.co.uk/facupnostalgia



SCAN ME



Tuchel in demand

By Simon Mullock

THOMAS TUCHEL believes he will be the next manager of Manchester United – despite the Red Devils' sensational FA Cup triumph yesterday.

Reports in Germany claim that the former Chelsea boss turned down the chance to remain in charge of Bayern Munich because he wants another crack at the Premier League by succeeding Erik ten Hag at Old Trafford.

Ten Hag will officially learn his fate this week – but it appears that the Dutchman is doomed despite masterminding a dramatic 2-1 victory over bitter rivals Manchester City at Wembley.

Tuchel (above) is believed to be one of a number of names on the wishlist of Sir Jim Ratcliffe's INEOS Group should the decision be announced to end Ten Hag's two-year reign.

But according to sources in Munich, the 50-year-old reckons he is already nailed on for the job.

According to close friends of Tuchel in Germany he is desperate to prove himself in the Premier League as he has "unfinished business".

Tuchel was sacked by Chelsea in September 2022 despite leading the club to Champions League glory in his first season.

Bayern Vin win

BAYERN MUNICH have agreed a compensation fee of £10.2million with Burnley for Vincent Kompany to become their new boss.

The German giants have endured frustration in their bid to find a replacement for Thomas Tuchel after it was announced in February that he would depart the Allianz Arena this summer.

Following attempts to hire Bayer Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso and Austria boss Ralf Rangnick, Bayern appear to have switched focus to Claret's chief Kompany, despite him being unable to prevent relegation from the Premier League this season.

Kompany began his managerial career with Anderlecht before joining Burnley in 2022 and is contracted until 2028.



MANCHESTER CITY 1 MANCHESTER UNITED 2

TIME FOR SIR JIM

City boss Pep throws support

Harry PRATT

REPORTS FROM WEMBLEY

PEP GUARDIOLA reckons the Manchester United board have a "decision" to make after his City side

suffered a shock defeat at Wembley.

Nobody predicted a remarkable 2-1 victory for Erik ten Hag's Red Devils. Not least the Old Trafford football hierarchy after it was leaked on Friday that they intended to fire him no matter what happened in yesterday's final.

But having seen his English champions denied a second successive league and cup Double by their neighbours, City boss Guardiola cranked up the pressure on Sir Jim Ratcliffe and Co.

The Spaniard, who embraced Ten Hag warmly at the final whistle, said: "They have to take a decision!

"He's a lovely person and an extraordinary manager. Winning the FA Cup is important for them... like it was for us last season."

Ten Hag played dumb regarding his future but slammed the critics who suggested finishing eighth in the league – with a negative goal difference – is unacceptable.

The Dutchman hit back: "When you make these comments, I'm sorry to say you have no knowledge about football.

"No, you don't understand managing a football team. When the players aren't there I can't train them and coach them and we will not get the results we want."

As for United apparently talking to alternative candidates and if this had undermined him, he went on: "I don't know if they have done this. I can't answer this question. I don't know. Maybe you have sources. I don't have them."

When Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo opened up a two-goal lead by half-time for unfancied United, Guardiola's troops struggled to dictate proceedings in their usual fashion.

And the City supremo later claimed he was to blame for a particularly uncharacteristic lame opening period from his all-conquering outfit, whose consolation effort from Jeremy Doku came in the 87th minute.

This was the first time Guardiola had lost a domestic final on these shores in seven outings at the

ERIK THE RED: Ten Hag lifts his second piece of silverware at United

MANCHESTER UNITED have been told that the Old Trafford roof is beyond repair. Club bosses were embarrassed when the famous old stadium was flooded by a torrential downpour in the closing stages of the Premier League clash with Arsenal earlier this month. A number of companies were approached to patch up part of the Sir Bobby Charlton Stand but United were stunned to be told that it would cost around £3million to make an initial repair and that only a brand-new roof would fix the problem in the long term. Trafford Council chiefs have become increasingly concerned about public safety and have told United that the issue must be addressed.

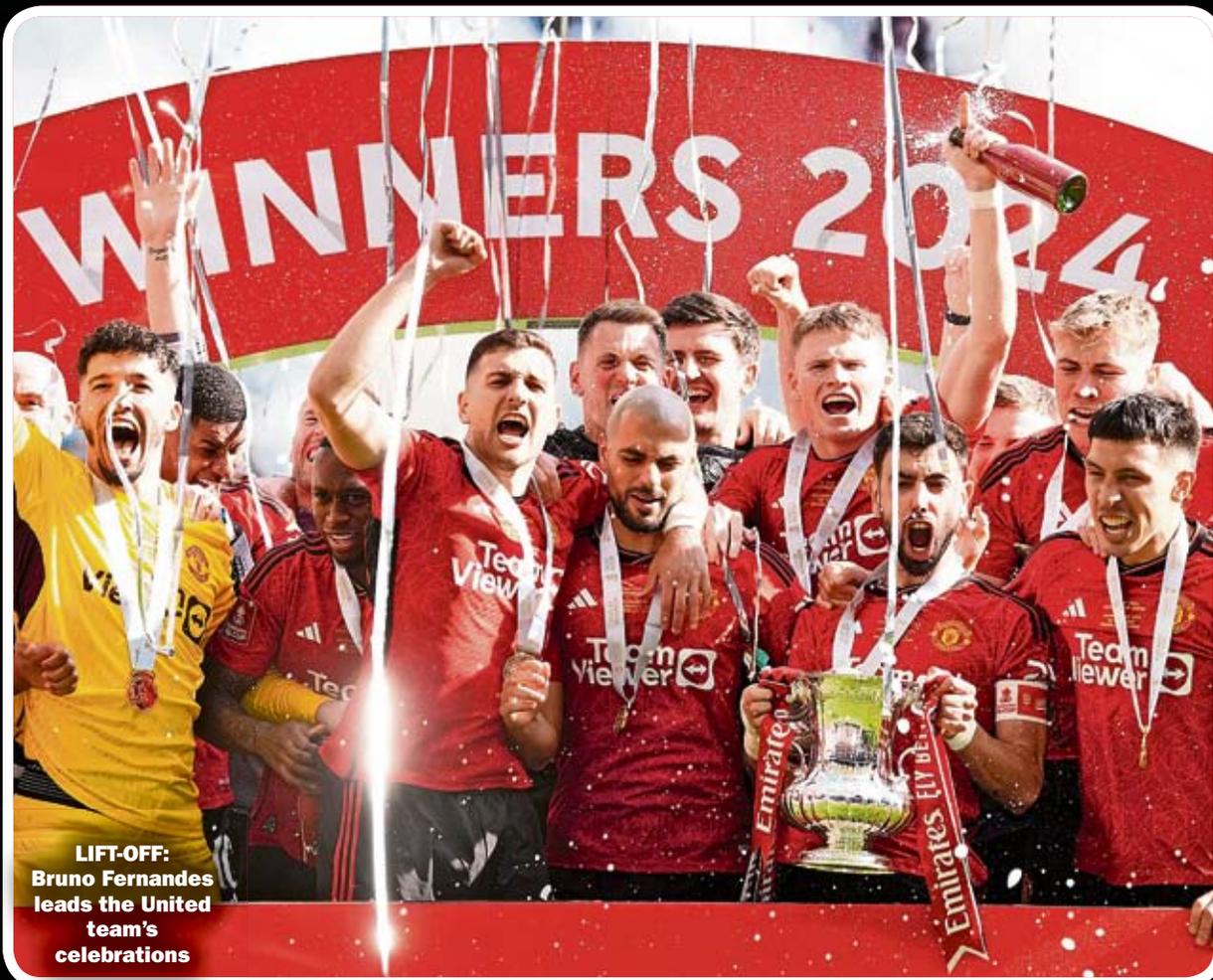
FINAL

FOOTBALL SPORT

DUTCHMAN AN 'EXTRAORDINARY MANAGER'

TO MAKE CALL

behind cup hero Ten Hag



LIFT-OFF:
Bruno Fernandes
leads the United
team's
celebrations

United boss in 'sack me or back me' ultimatum

From Back Page
he walked out of the stadium when asked if Ten Hag would still be in charge next season.

Ratcliffe said: "It is a glorious feeling to win the FA Cup Final at

Wembley. Manchester United clearly were not the favourites to win, but they played with total commitment and skill and overcame one of the great teams in football.

"We are all very proud

of the players and the staff who work tirelessly to support them."

United captain Bruno Fernandes also failed to give his manager a ringing endorsement when asked about his prospects of

survival. He said: "He prepares every game well – but sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't.

"We just want to celebrate. What happens with the manager is not for me to decide."

national stadium. He said: "I think my gameplan was not good.

"For my decisions, we were not in the right positions to attack them. My mistake – my gameplan was not good.

"The second half was much, much better. We were more intense, in part because we were 2-0 down and had nothing to lose. It was a tight game.

"We gave away the first goal, they made a good transition for the second – so credit to United for the that. We tried.

"We had clear chances in the second half, which weren't easy

because they had man-marking and defended the pockets.

"Unfortunately, we scored a goal a little bit too late. Maybe it could have been different but it's disappointing today.

"It's normal that teams can lose finals but this season has been an extraordinary one, fighting for all the trophies in a good way."

United match-winners Garnacho and Mainoo were thrilled with their displays.

Argentine Garnacho, 19, said: "This is incredible. Nobody believed in us but we're a team, all together.

"We fought the game of our lives.

The fans are always incredible there when we win, or lose, home or away."

And on Mainoo, he added: "He's the best player in the squad and he's the youngest.

"We're also good friends. I'm so happy for him."

Ten Hag echoed the accolades, admitting: "Sometimes it comes by luck that you develop a young player but it was a plan. We planned last summer to bring Garnacho in the team and also Kobbie.

"I am very happy they have potential to meet the standards you need for top football."



PEP TALK: Guardiola consoles Phil Foden after painful defeat

Guardiola suited but booted by Erik who outclasses his rival

BOSS WATCH

With David McDonnell

PERHAPS Pep Guardiola should have worn his lucky blue jumper after all.

Guardiola rarely wears a suit, but the Manchester City boss felt sufficiently emboldened to ditch his lucky blue roll-neck for more formal attire.

Yet this final was not decided by superstition, but by United boss Erik ten Hag proving once again he can get the better of the greatest manager of the modern era, when he has the personnel at his disposal.

This may have been United's worst season of the Premier League era but this victory, against all the odds, was vindication for Ten Hag, who was hoisted into the air by defender Lisandro Martinez at the final whistle.

On the eve of the game, Guardiola expressed sympathy for Ten Hag over the succession of injuries to key players throughout the season, which ultimately undermined the progress he made at United in his debut campaign.

But Guardiola's sympathy came with the caveat from the City boss that "at big clubs like United or City, if you don't always win, you're in trouble."

With Ten Hag still unsure of his future, despite this epic triumph, he won his second trophy in as many years at Old Trafford.

When United took the lead on the half-hour, there was no wild celebration from Ten Hag, just a couple of claps and fist-pumps, the United boss acutely aware there was still a long way to go.

Even when they doubled their lead, Ten Hag was measured, pointing skywards with both hands before taking a swig of water.

Having seen his side blow a 3-0 lead against Championship opponents Coventry, then scrape

through on penalties, Ten Hag was wise to take nothing for granted.

In the first half, his set-up and tactical approach worked to perfection.

Playing Bruno Fernandes as a false nine and Scott McTominay as No.10 allowed United to pack the midfield and thwart City when Guardiola's side were in possession, then hit them on the break, with Marcus Rashford and Alejandro Garnacho in particular proving vital outlets to attack from out wide.

Guardiola had to change something and responded by bringing on Manuel Akanji and Jeremy Doku, the latter testing Aaron Wan-Bissaka with his pace and willingness to run at him.

Yet when those changes did not yield an immediate return, Guardiola took the bold step of withdrawing Kevin De Bruyne, who was subdued throughout, for Julian Alvarez.

When Erling Haaland clattered the upright, Andre Onana kept out a blistering goalbound shot from Kyle Walker and Alvarez skied an effort high and wide moments later, Guardiola could not hide his frustration.

The City boss had his hands on his head in despair moments later when Alvarez somehow managed to steer the ball wide.

When Doku beat Onana at his near post there was a glimmer of hope for City, Guardiola imploring the City supporters to get behind their team.

But this was the day when Ten Hag outsmarted Guardiola and proved his enduring managerial worth.

SUNDAY **Express** SPORT
sundayexpress.co.uk/sport

LE KING CHARLES

FORMULA ONE PULLOUT P10



Murray will stop...when time is right

TENNIS PULLOUT P9



Buttler boys serve up a tasty treat in first T20 victory

CRICKET PULLOUT P8



MAN CITY

FA CUP FINAL

1



2

MAN UNITED



Wembley Stadium

TIME TO SACK OR BACK ME

Ten Hag seals stunning FA Cup win and wants answer on future

DUTCH OF CLASS: Erik ten Hag with the FA Cup at Wembley



ERIKTEN HAG challenged Manchester United to back him or sack him after a sensational FA Cup triumph.

Ten Hag admitted he doesn't know if he has a future at Old Trafford after his team beat rivals Manchester City thanks to goals from Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo.

Ten Hag still faces the sack and the defiant boss said: "If they don't want me anymore I will go somewhere else to win trophies – because that's what I have always done throughout

From **Simon Mullock** at Wembley

my career. When I came here I said I had come to win trophies and we have now won two. That isn't bad, is it? This club hasn't won many trophies over the last 10 years.

"INEOS have told me – but they don't have to tell me every week. I am where I want to be. When I came here, United were in a mess. I don't know (about the future). But this team now has an identity. We have ended the season on a high and we have all summer to enjoy it."

Sir Jim Ratcliffe was thrilled

after watching his boyhood team lift their first trophy since he invested £1.25billion to buy a 27.7 per cent stake in the club in February. But after paying tribute to the players and staff

TURN TO PAGE 75

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YOUR SPORTS PULLOUT INSIDE TODAY

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF FINAL PREVIEW

LEEDS v SOUTHAMPTON PULLOUT P4-5

SUNDAY EXPRESS

Sport

CLASS BRUNO LEADS WAY TO GLORY

United captain helps
stun below-par City



CAPTAIN,
LEADER,
LEGEND:
Bruno
Fernandes
lifts the
trophy

MAN CITY 1
MAN UTD 2
SEE: PAGES
2-3

2 FOOTBALL



MATCH RATINGS

STEFAN ORTEGA

His early show of nerves unsettled the whole Blues defence. Was a weakness for City.

5

KYLE WALKER

Ding-dong battle with Rashford and was denied after hitting two great long-range efforts.

6

JOHN STONES

Best in City defence first half and got better in the second when he stepped up.

7

NATHAN AKE

Had a stinker. Hooked at the break after making errors and sloppy in possession.

4

JOSKO Gvardiol

Been such a good player this season but was undone by Garnacho's pace and movement.

6

RODRI

His unbeaten run of 74 games in all competitions finally came to an unfortunate end.

6

MATEO KOVACIC

Poor. He did not drive forward and his passing was sloppy. Hooked at half-time.

4

KEVIN DE BRUYNE

Substituted early in what felt like a telling moment for City's main man. So quiet.

5

BERNARDO SILVA

Struggled to get on to the ball and City miss him badly when he is not involved.

6

PHIL FODEN

Played from the left first half, tucked inside after Doku came on. Quiet day for him.

6

ERLING HAALAND

Smashed a shot against the bar but was largely marked very tightly. Subdued.

6

SUBSTITUTES

Jeremy Doku (Kovacic 46) 8
Manuel Akanji (Ake 46) 6
Julian Alvarez (De Bruyne 56) 6

UNUSED SUBSTITUTES

Scott Carson (gk), Ruben Dias, Jack Grealish, Matheus Nunes, Oscar Bobb, Rico Lewis

RATINGS BY JOHN CROSS

MANCHESTER CITY 1 MANCHESTER UNITED 2

HAIL TEN HAG'S

Mainoo and Garnacho prove



THE KID'S ALRIGHT: Kobbie Mainoo leaps with delight after scoring United's second

COOL KIDS: Scorers Mainoo and Garnacho celebrate together

ERIKTEN HAG outwitted the best manager in football in what is likely to be his last game as manager of Manchester United.

The Dutchman conjured up a cunning tactical plan to destroy Pep Guardiola's dream of becoming the first man to claim back-to-back Doubles as United lifted the FA Cup in a triumphant Wembley finale for their boss.

Only a dramatic U-turn from Red Devils co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe will save Ten Hag from the sack despite rescuing a dreadful season with a trophy.

First-half goals from teenagers Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo ensured one of the great FA Cup shocks.

United finished 31 points behind their rivals as City became the first club to win four successive top-flight titles. But they were more than a match in North London.

City beat United with some ease in last year's final to take the second step towards winning the Treble.

But Ten Hag's masterplan ensured there would be no repeat.

Both managers were dressed for the occasion, sharply suited and booted.

Perhaps Guardiola will regret not wearing his 'lucky' fisherman's jumper despite the broiling heat.

Ten Hag's plan was to pack the midfield, frustrate the champions – and then try to punch a hole in City's backline by exploiting the pace of Marcus Rashford and Garnacho on the flanks.

Two goals in nine first-half minutes gave United the advantage they needed as City produced a furious second-half onslaught.

Their only reward was an 85th-minute strike from substitute Jeremy Doku, their best performer on a gut-wrenching afternoon.

As expected, City exerted their usual control of the ball but failed to produce any real threat.

It looked like Guardiola's players may have been partying too hard in the six days since clinching the title as they struggled to shake off a hangover.

Garnacho gave them an early warning with an angled drive that flew straight at City keeper Stefan Ortega.

Ortega was then

Simon MULLOCK

REPORTS FROM WEMBLEY

lucky to get away with a suicidal pass inside his box to Mateo Kovacic.

And United's growing confidence produced the breakthrough in the 29th minute when the German blundered once again.

Josko Gvardiol was in complete control when Diogo Dalot sent a long pass forward. But when City's back-up keeper came racing from his goal, the defender's attempt to find him with a header which only presented Garnacho with an open goal.

Rashford soon had another effort disallowed for offside before Mainoo struck brilliantly six minutes before the break.

Rashford's raking switch of play unbalanced the Blues. And when Garnacho found Bruno Fernandes on the edge of the box, his unselfish pass presented the teenager with the kind of chance he would have dreamed of when he was growing up in Stockport.

It was clear that Guardiola had used the half-time break to remind his players what was at stake.

Manuel Akanji was sent on to shore up the defence, while Doku's introduction gave City the threat they had been lacking.

He gave Aaron Wan-Bissaka a torrid time.

The Blues could have been level by the hour.

Phil Foden mis-kicked in front of goal before Erling Haaland's shot shuddered the crossbar.

Andre Onana produced a brilliant save to tip behind Kyle Walker's raking drive. And when Julian Alvarez replaced Kevin De Bruyne, he was high and then wide with two golden chances.

But City kept going as United started to visibly tire.

Ten Hag sent on Jonny Evans and Rasmus Hojlund – but it didn't stem the flow of City attacks.

Then, with five minutes to go, City earned a lifeline when Onana allowed Doku's 25-yard shot to sneak in at the near post.

Ten Hag held his head in his hands and then asked Mason Mount and Victor Lindelof to man the final barrier.

Eight years ago, Louis van Gaal was sacked just 24 hours after winning the Cup.

Ten Hag's fate will be decided in the coming week.

FINAL

FOOTBALL 3

RED DEVILS BOSS DEFIES THE ODDS AND HOLDS HIS HEAD HIGH

TEEN TERRORS

there's a bright future for United

HELPING HAND:
Gvardiol's header goes over Ortega as Garnacho waits to pounce (below) for United's first goal



MATCH FACTS	
Man City	Man Utd
4.....Shots on Target.....	5
10.....Shots off Target.....	3
7.....Corners.....	1
7.....Fouls.....	11
73.5%.....Possession.....	26.5%
664.....Total Passes.....	248



TWO WILL DO:
Mainoo finishes a fine United move for second goal



CITY HOPE:
Jeremy Doku drives home a late consolation



MATCH RATINGS

ANDRE ONANA

His late howler a gift for Doku and a way back for City. Could have been costly.

6

A WAN-BISSAKA

Looks better playing on the right, his favoured side. Good pace and tenacity.

7

LISANDRO MARTINEZ

What a warrior and leader. United have missed him this season. Terrific player.

7

RAPHAEL VARANE

Some way to go out. Looks so much better alongside him.

7

DIOGO DALOT

Top showing from United's full-back. Good in defence and dangerous going forward.

7

KOBBIE MAINOO

What a cool finish from United's boy wonder. Terrific, hard-working display all round.

8

SOFYAN AMRABAT

Struggles to get around the pitch but when he sticks to his task he still does a job.

7

ALEJANDRO GARNACHO

What a show. Scored one, made another and showed his class and quality.

8

SCOTT MCTOMINAY

Worked hard, pressed and had a physical presence even if he rarely got a look-in.

7

MARCUS RASHFORD

A surprise choice but took up Gareth Southgate's challenge to prove him wrong.

7

BRUNO FERNANDES

Brilliant captain's display, worked so hard, set the tone and showed top quality all round.

9

SUBSTITUTES

Jonny Evans (Martinez 73) 6
Rasmus Hojlund (Rashford 73) 6
Victor Lindelof (Garnacho 90) 5
Mason Mount (McTominay 90) 5
UNUSED SUBSTITUTES Altay Bayindir, Christian Eriksen, Amad Diallo, Antony, Willy Kambwala

RATINGS BY JOHN CROSS

4 FOOTBALL

LEICESTER CITY

One step back for Coady has paid off

CONOR COADY believes he made a brave move to quit the Premier League to join Leicester City – and it turned out to be one of the best decisions of his career.

The experienced defender left Wolves to secure regular football with the Foxes in the Championship.

And the bold switch worked an absolute treat with manager Enzo Maresca leading the club back to the top flight.

“It’s incredible,” said Coady (below).

“To go through a full season like we have, well, the boys have been incredible.

“I dropped out of the Premier League to come to Leicester, so to be going back to the Premier League, well it’s justified.

“It fills me with pride and, to be honest, I’m not someone who thinks too much about myself.

“But to do it with this club, especially the way we have, has just been brilliant.

“Our goal at the start of the season was to get promoted as champions – and we’ve gone and done it. It was no secret

Exclusive by Neil Goulding

what we wanted to do because that’s what the club needs and where the club has to be.”

The Foxes secured promotion from the second tier with two games to spare but a 3-0 demolition of Preston at Deepdale was the victory that deservedly saw them crowned Championship champions.

And 31-year-old centre-back Coady, who was on loan at Everton for much of last season, believes the club had to stay focused with so many people tipping them to automatically guarantee their way to promotion.

“I think everybody thought we were going to cruise it in February, but it was never ever going to be like that – and we knew that,” added Coady, who won promotion with Hull in the 2017-18 season. “Leicester City getting promoted or Leicester City winning anything, it’s all for the supporters and what they do.

“It’s incredible for the supporters and the whole club.”



BLACKBURN ROVERS

Szmodics chasing his top-flight goal

BLACKBURN hitman Sammie Szmodics would love the chance to prove his Premier League pedigree.

The 33-goal Rovers ace pocketed the Championship’s Golden Boot award for his stunning strike-rate in front of goal.

And with promoted Leicester City linked with a £20million move to snap up the sought-after marksman, Szmodics (right) might get his chance to test himself in the top flight next term.

“I don’t think anyone would begrudge me if a

By Neil Goulding

Premier League team came knocking,” said Republic of Ireland forward Szmodics.

“It was my dream growing up to play in the Premier League, everyone wants to play at the highest level.

“I’ve played in the National League, League Two,

League One and now the Championship. You’d be stupid not to look at your options.

“But I’ve still got two-and-a-half years left on my contract at Blackburn, so it’s out of my hands.”



SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF FINAL: LEEDS V

A CHANCE TO Farke’s targeting a Premier

David ANDERSON REPORTS

DANIEL FARKE claims he wants to make history at Leeds by becoming their first manager to win promotion through the play-offs.

Farke has learnt this season that Leeds have never gone up through the play-offs in their previous five attempts, going back as far as 1987, and says this is the challenge for him and his players.

Southampton and Farke’s first captain at Norwich, Russell Martin, stand in Leeds’ way at Wembley in today’s Championship play-off final and the United boss wants his players to write their names in club folklore.

“Yes, it would be pretty special for us as a club,” he said. “I didn’t know about the bad record in the play-offs when I signed my contract and over the season, everyone told me, ‘You can’t rely on the play-offs because we never win’.

“I’m fully aware of this record but that’s history. All that matters is we’re here now and we would be the first team in the history of this club if we did achieve promotion by using the play-offs.

“I think someone said we’ve never scored a goal at Wembley in the play-offs, is that right?”

“So, there are many opportunities on Sunday to write some history and believe me, we’re all very highly motivated to do this. The most important thing is that we do it.”

The winners could pocket as much as £200million because of the riches on offer in the Premier League and Leeds and Southampton are bidding to make an automatic return to the top flight.

Farke says there is no point trying to hide the enormity of the game from his players, claiming they are motivated by glory rather than money.

“Yes, a lot is riding on this game and if you want to hide it, it becomes like a secret, a mystery,” said the German, who won two Championships with Norwich.

“We know it’s an important game, it’s about the Premier League or the Championship next season. Also it’s the same for the opponent.

“It’s still just football, there are much more important things in life.

“The health of the people is much more important than the riches of the people, that’s for sure. We can also put this into the right frame and picture.

“We know that it’s an important game – we’re not scared of it and we all play football because it matters.

“It matters if you win or lose, not so much because you’re attracted by the riches or the money.

“We all started playing football because it was just me and my mates against the others. We’re attracted by glory and writing history. This is quite important and everything else that comes with it, the TV money, it’s important, we know it is, but it couldn’t extend our motivation.

“Our motivation comes from inside us and we want to prove ourselves against a very good side.”

Leeds (probable): Meslier; Gray, Rodon, Ampadu, Firpo; Gruev, Kamara; Gnonto, Rutter Summerville; Piroe.



Summerville’s Wemb-gee target

LEEDS ace Crysencio Summerville is relishing the chance to light up Wembley in today’s Championship play-off final against Southampton.

Summerville, 22 (right) grew up in Holland watching finals at Wembley and says it is the stage for him.

“I know the biggest

By David Anderson

stars have played at Wembley so I’m looking forward to it,” said the 21-goal Whites forward.

“I like to take that responsibility on my shoulders, I like the big games and the big stages. I’m

ambitious, so bring it on, I’m ready.”

Summerville is not fazed by today’s huge stakes with the winner earning as much as £200million.

“It’s like every other game,” he said. “I hope we can do it because we deserve it.”



SOUTHAMPTON  **TODAY, 3PM RACE FOR THE PROMISED LAND**

MAKE HISTORY

League return and eternal glory

TROPHY HUNTER:
Leeds boss
Daniel Farke

Benali hoping Saints can cash in on their success

THE last time Southampton won at Wembley they thrashed Carlisle to win the Football League Trophy in 2010.

That win under Alan Pardew netted them peanuts.

If they win against Leeds this afternoon then they can look forward to the biggest payday in the club's history. And one former Saints star

By **Richard Edwards**

believes that going up at Wembley will match anything the club has achieved since their 1976 FA Cup final win over Manchester United.

"Saints haven't won at Wembley too often but every time has been incredible," says Franny

Benali (right), who made over

300 appearances for his hometown club.

"As a footballer, I would think a play-off final is as big as it gets.

"The journey in the Championship and then the semi-finals of the play-offs has been incredible this season. Now you're at Wembley, you've got close to 40,000 of your fans

cheering you on and you've got a chance of getting back to the Premier League.

"There's so much at stake for both clubs.

"It's one of the richest prizes in sport, it's as big as it gets."

Saints will be hoping to return to the top flight at the first attempt after a tough campaign last season.



MARTIN BELIEVES IN STAYING POWER

RUSSELL MARTIN has no plans to jump the Southampton ship – win or lose the Championship play-off final.

Leicester boss Enzo Maresca and his Ipswich counterpart Kieran McKenna have suddenly found themselves on the radar of big clubs since securing automatic promotion into the Premier League.

Not just any clubs either – Manchester United are chasing McKenna, who is also on Chelsea's shortlist of potential successors to Mauricio Pochettino.

So does Martin expect his name to be thrown in the frame should he follow them into the English elite by masterminding a Saints victory over Leeds today at Wembley?

Ahead of the most lucrative one-off clash in world football, with an estimated £200million on the line, the St Mary's coach laughed at the suggestion.

Martin, who is cautiously optimistic Southampton will stick with him whatever the outcome against Daniel Farke's Yorkshiremen, said: "No, I don't think so.

"The Championship is full of good coaches. Those two have earned the opportunity to work in the Premier League.

"I think it's really great they're going to end up there with their current teams or if they're being linked to other

By **Harry Pratt**

clubs. It's great for them and it also shows the quality of the Championship."

Having exited his previous two clubs, MK Dons and Swansea, without making it into a third campaign, Martin is keen to set a personal best on the south coast.

The former Norwich and Scotland defender, 38, explained: "I haven't spent more than two seasons at a club for various reasons.

"So, yes, I'd like to beat that at some point. But I'm very grateful for the two years I had at those other clubs and for this opportunity here because it's tough as a manager. Tenures aren't too long.

"We loved it at Swansea but we just didn't feel we'd have the sort of opportunity we now have here.

"When this job came up, with the size of the club and with what we wanted to achieve, it was just too big.

"But it was painful to leave those clubs like we did and I don't want to feel that pain again of having to do it so quickly.

"Football is so reactive but at some point you want to put your stamp and mark somewhere.

"Hopefully, that can be here and this is the

time." Martin reckons there is nothing to split Leeds and Southampton, who finished third and fourth respectively, as they both bid to bounce back up at the first attempt.

He added: "Both of us have players who can produce those top moments out of nowhere.

"You want someone to create something but I think our team is always much stronger playing together.

"If we can get our rhythm we'll rely less on that one moment."



ST MARY'S MISSION:
Martin wants to stick around at Saints



LATE WINNER: Adam Idah

IDAH THE HERO AS HOOPS DO DOUBLE

Celtic 1 Rangers 0
By **Steve Anderson**

ADAM IDAH'S dramatic last-minute strike earned Celtic a 1-0 win over Rangers in the 150th anniversary Scottish Gas Scottish Cup final at Hampden Park.

Gers striker Cyriel Dessers missed a couple of chances in a goalless first half before replacement Abdallah Sima had the ball in the net in the 59th minute – only for referee Nick Walsh to rule it out for a foul on Hoops keeper Joe Hart.

The Light Blues, energised by their substitutes, looked the more likely to get the breakthrough but when Ibrox keeper Jack Butland spilled a long-distance drive, substitute Idah, on loan from Norwich, swooped to knock in the winner.

Celtic won their third successive cinch Premiership title last week with the help of 10 points from 12 against their city rivals and, while this was the first time Rangers had been the better side over 90 minutes, the Parkhead outfit still found a way to win and increase Brendan Rodgers' remarkable record against Rangers – just one defeat in 18 Old Firm games in his two spells as Celtic boss.

Rodgers said: "Obviously for the spectators it was very tense. We found an energy and a will and desire to keep pushing. Thankfully, we got a winner.

"It's been a fantastic season, to win a Double."

It was also a proud moment for retiring keeper Hart as he ended his playing career with another trophy.

He said: "I've loved every minute of my whole career. Football has been everything to me. I'm sure I'll miss it one day but right now I have so much joy. I'm super proud of everything that I've been a part of."

6 FOOTBALL



COUNTDOWN TO EURO 2024: 19 DAYS TO GO GARETH PREPARING

Build the side around 'rare gem' Palmer, says Alan Hudson

TALENT ACROSS THE BOARD... BUT HOW CAN BOSS SOUTHGATE BEST USE H

ENGLAND boss Gareth Southgate must plan his team around Cole Palmer, says former Chelsea star Alan Hudson.

Hudson believes the red-hot Blues playmaker "can be the difference between England winning the Euros and not winning it."

The former midfield maestro, 72, said: "This kid is special. He's a phenomenon, a rare gem, a throwback to the great inside-forwards."

"He is head and shoulders above anyone else England have and Southgate needs to make him the focal point of the team."

Palmer (below), 22, has made a remarkable impact at Stamford Bridge since leaving Manchester City for £40million last summer. He has scored 22 Premier League goals this season – second only to City hitman Erling Haaland – and provided 11 assists.

Hudson says Palmer was more worthy of being named the Premier League's Player of the Season than his former City team-mate Phil Foden.

"Foden's had a really good season but it's easier in a top side like City," added Hudson, who also had spells with

By **Tony Jimenez**

Arsenal and Stoke, and should have won many more than his two England caps.

"Chelsea have struggled for most of the season and Palmer has been their saviour. Who knows where they would be without him?"

"He has proved to be their best buy since Frank Lampard. He's taken Stamford Bridge by storm."

"He's had the same sort of effect on the team that Eden Hazard had. This kid is also a potential galactico for Real Madrid in the future – that is how high I rate him – and it would be sacrilege for Southgate to leave him on the bench in Germany."

Palmer reminds Hudson of England's finest goal poacher.

"My late, great Chelsea mate Peter Osgood was a terrific finisher but Jimmy

Greaves was the greatest," said Hudson, "and there's a touch of Greavsie about Palmer."

"I like the way he just slots the ball into the corner of the net. He is so cool and clinical."

"I bet England captain Harry Kane wants to see Palmer beside him. Palmer would be finding Harry all the time."



FOOTBALL 7

FOR A EUROPEAN ASSAULT WITH A SQUAD OF SUPERSTARS



Saka and Rice are the vital men, says Teddy Sheringham



DECISIONS:
England boss
Southgate



BUKAYO SAKA and Declan Rice will be key at the Euros, says Teddy Sheringham. The Arsenal stars enjoyed a superb season despite just falling short of glory in the Premier League title race. Saka finished the campaign with 20 goals in all competitions, while Rice (left) still bagged five from central midfield and provided great performance after great performance for Mikel Arteta's side as they tried in vain to stay

By Alex Wood

in front of Pep Guardiola's irresistible champions.

Competition for places – particularly in attack – is fierce for the Three Lions ahead of the Euros in Germany this summer.

But Sheringham insists the Arsenal double act will be two of the first names on the team sheet for Gareth Southgate.

"I wouldn't be thinking about picking Cole Palmer on the right instead of Saka," said the former Tottenham and Manchester United hitman, 58.

"Palmer has had an excellent season but Saka is a fantastic player. He makes the right decisions at the right time and that's what it's all about at the highest level.

"Rice would definitely be my sitting midfielder. You only need one sitter when Rice plays because he is that good. He can cover so much ground.

"Jude Bellingham picks

himself. He should be playing with a roaming role in front of Rice that allows him to get up in support of Harry Kane.

"Phil Foden would be the other player that I would play alongside Rice and Bellingham.

"That leaves the left wing and I think Jack Grealish would be the best option. I think Grealish is fantastic in what he does."

Marcus Rashford didn't make the cut for the England squad after a poor season with Manchester United.

The forward, 26, scored only seven Premier League goals during this campaign and is still recovering from an injury.

Sheringham, who was capped 51 times for the Three Lions, reckons Southgate isn't afraid of taking tough decisions when they are needed most.

"When you're getting dropped for your club team, when he should be one of the first names on the team sheet, that will have been the big concern for the

boss," he added. "Gareth is a loyal man. He likes to keep the faith with players that have done it for him in the past.

"But as we've seen with Raheem Sterling, sometimes that faith can run out."

SAK OF THE NET:
Bukayo



Create a whole greater than the parts, says John Barnes

ENGLAND have the right mentality to secure glory in Germany this summer – if they can gel together, says John Barnes.

The Three Lions narrowly missed out on winning Euro 2020 after an agonising defeat on penalties to Italy at Wembley in the tournament delayed by Covid.

A year later, Gareth Southgate's men were dumped out of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar by eventual winners France at the quarter-final stage.

But former Liverpool winger Barnes (right), who won 79 England caps, believes

Southgate's current squad has the collective strength and depth to prove all the doubters wrong.

"Individuals aren't going to win England international

By Alex Wood

tournaments," he said. "All we can do is ask Gareth to maximise the potential of the players that he has available.

"The whole idea of a golden generation, I heard it from 2010 and 2014 – Steven Gerrard, Frank Lampard, Joe Cole, Wayne Rooney, look at the team.

"Sol Campbell, Rio Ferdinand, Ashley Cole – we don't have defenders as good as them so why are we getting carried away now?"

"We need to have a certain humility. Gareth and the team has had that.

"I think we're good – we should be aiming to win but don't be disappointed if we don't. Let's keep our feet on the ground."

Southgate is well stocked in

forward positions, with Cole Palmer, Ollie Watkins and Jarrod Bowen – who scored 57 Premier League goals between them this season – all battling for a starting spot.

Harry Kane has been firing on all cylinders in Germany for Bayern Munich, while Phil Foden has been in sensational form for Manchester City and Jude Bellingham has been tearing it up in La Liga for Real Madrid.

Barnes, 60, believes England's abundance of talent up top counts for nothing if the equilibrium between the players is even a little off.

"It's pointless talking about what we have going forward

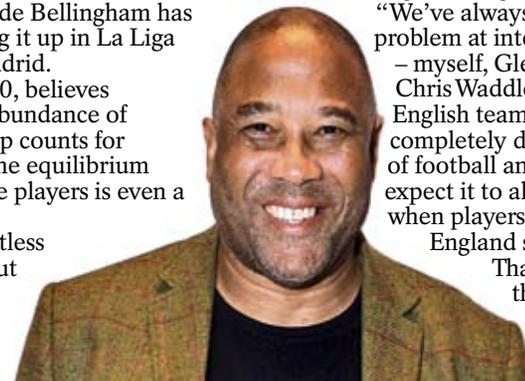
until we get that balance right," he added.

"You can't play all of them and the issue is that people expect these players to play in exactly the same way or be as effective as they are when they play for their clubs.

"That's unrealistic and has always worked against England.

"We've always had this problem at international level – myself, Glenn Hoddle, Chris Waddle – where the English teams play completely different styles of football and people expect it to all come together when players wear the England shirt."

That's the problem that Southgate must now solve.



THE

IS THREE LIONS?

8 CRICKET

COUNTY CRICKET

BEN HAS A BALL

BEN STOKES shone with the ball once again as Durham took just five sessions to beat Somerset by an innings and six runs in their Vitality County Championship clash at the Seat Unique Riverside.

Stokes (below) claimed a total of eight for 77 for Durham, who were 265 all out after their sole innings.

Toby Albert scored his maiden County Championship century and Nick Gubbins plundered his first as a father as Hampshire took complete control over Surrey.

They amassed 495-4 and lead by 368 runs with six wickets remaining.

Jordan Cox hit a double hundred as dominant Essex declared on 591 for seven on day two against Kent, who hit 118 for four in reply.

After day two, Lancashire trail Warwickshire – 284 all out – by 218 runs with seven wickets remaining.



And in-form Nottinghamshire have a commanding 234-3 against Worcestershire, who were all out for 80.

WOMEN'S CRICKET

CHARLIE'S ICY PLEA

CHARLIE DEAN says England want to develop an icy "ruthlessness" as they prepare for the second ODI against Pakistan.

After winning the T20 series 3-0 against the same opponents, England drew first blood in the 50-over format with a 37-run victory at Derby on Thursday.

Chasing 244 for victory, Pakistan looked on track to earn a first-ever ODI win over England in 13 attempts after reaching 149-4 in the 35th over.

But they lost five wickets for 29 runs to finish on 206-9.

Eight England players made double figures with the bat though nobody hit more than 50 – 19-year-old Alice Capsey top-scored with 44 from 65 balls.

The second ODI takes place at Taunton today.



And with England aiming to take an unassailable lead in the three-match series with victory, Dean (above) said: "We want to be ruthless when we're on top, we want to stay there."

INTERNATIONAL SERIES, 2ND T20: ENGLAND v PAKISTAN



JOS THE BOSS: Buttler passed 3,000 runs for England in T20s

Jofra joy as he's back up to speed

SCOREBOARD

Second Twenty20 International

England v Pakistan

EDGBASTON: England beat Pakistan by 23 runs

ENGLAND	
P Salt c Afridi b Wasim	13
J Buttler c Shadab Khan b Rauf	84
W Jacks c Shadab Khan b Rauf	37
J Bairstow c Ahmed b Afridi	21
H Brook b Wasim	1
M Ali c Rizwan b Afridi	4
L Livingstone not out	2
C Jordan c Rauf b Afridi	3
J Archer not out	12
Lb5 w1	6
Total (7 wkts., 20 overs)	183
Fall: 25, 96, 144, 147, 164, 165, 169.	
Bowling: Afridi 4-0-36-3, Amir 4-0-34-0, Wasim 4-0-19-2, Rauf 4-0-34-2, Khan 4-0-55-0.	
PAKISTAN	
M Rizwan c Livingstone b Ali	0
S Ayub c Salt b Topley	2
B Azam lbw Ali	32
F Zaman c Brook b Livingstone	45
S Khan c Jordan b Rashid	3
A Khan c Ali b Archer	11
I Ahmed c Jordan b Topley	23
I Wasim c Livingstone b Archer	22
S Afridi c Salt b Topley	9
M Amir b Jordan	5
H Rauf not out	3
W4 nb1	5
Total (19.2 overs)	160
Fall: 0, 14, 67, 78, 91, 100, 140, 147, 154.	
Bowling: Ali 4-0-26-2, Topley 3.2-0-41-3, Archer 4-0-28-2, Jordan 4-0-31-1, Rashid 3-0-25-1, Livingstone 1-0-9-1.	
Umpires: M Saggars & M Burns.	

JOFRA ARCHER shrugged off a nightmare start to his return to the international stage and helped England enjoy a timely World Cup confidence booster.

Captain Jos Buttler showered praise on the fast bowler for his double-wicket comeback, which ensured a 23-run win over Pakistan in the second T20.

Buttler top scored with 84 in England's 183-7 before they dismissed Pakistan for 160. But all English eyes were on Archer in his first game since a 14-month injury absence.

Yet, when he was smashed for 15 runs in a worrying first over, there were fears it could damage his confidence and he was quickly taken out of the attack by Buttler.

Archer, 29, was much more like his old self when he returned for his second stint. And he was mobbed by his team-mates after

Gary FITZGERALD

REPORTS FROM EDGBASTON

having Azam Khan caught by Moeen Ali.

It gave him the confidence to raise his pace to a top speed of 92mph and he also dismissed Imad Wasim before England completed their victory.

Archer's 2-28 helped replace the worry and pain of back and elbow stress-fractures with a huge smile of joy and relief.

Buttler, who became the first English batsman to pass 3000 T20 runs, said: "Jofra was brilliant. You saw the emotion out there taking wickets again for England. You've got to temper those expectations as it was a long time he was out. He's not going to be the Jofra Archer of old straight away but it was a very positive

performance. It's trying to get games into him while looking after him too.

"But the whole bowling group was brilliant. The two overs at the death by Chris Jordan were outstanding and we got a huge amount from winning this game. Hopefully it will set us up for the rest of the series and then the World Cup."

Having Archer fit and firing is such a massive boost for England in their bid to retain the T20 title in his native Caribbean and USA.

England made a strong start in the second game, after the first at Leeds was washed out.

Buttler lost opener Phil Salt (13) and Will Jacks (37) but smashed three sixes and eight fours in his knock. He reached his half-century with a trademark scoop for six off Haris Rauf.

Jonny Bairstow went for 21 from 18 balls and Harry Brook lasted just two balls. Buttler missed out on a century when he was caught by Shadab off Rauf.

Archer (below) made a batting cameo with a four and a six before Pakistan chased the 184 target. Shaheen Afridi was Pakistan's chief wicket taker with 3-36.

Moeen Ali removed Muhammad Rizwan third ball and Reece Topley snapped up Saim Ayub.

Archer suffered at the hands of skipper Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman, who struck him for two fours and a six from the first four balls, before Ali trapped Azam lbw for 32. Zaman was dismissed by Liam Livingstone for 45, then Jordan (2-39) and Topley (3-41) ensured England moved ahead in the series with two games left.



FRENCH OPEN: Andy yet to decide retirement date

MURRAY UNSURE OVER FUTURE

From Neil McLeman in Paris

ANDY MURRAY has insisted he has yet to make a decision over his retirement this summer.

The triple Grand Slam champion said in February that his career was coming to a close and he was "likely not going to play past this summer".

But the former world No.1, now 37, then ruptured his ankle ligaments in March and has only played two events before facing Stan Wawrinka in the first round of the French Open today.

During his rehab from injury, the Scot switched

racket from Head to Yonex – the first change of his pro career.

It does not appear the action of a man about to hang up his racket for good.

But Murray, who could say his farewell at Wimbledon, said: "When the time is right, I will stop."

"I don't know if I will play past the summer.

"The results I have been having are not what I would want.

"But the mentality around whether it's with my rackets and rehab or whatever, it's always to try to get better.

"I have to wait to see whether it's a good decision for me or not.

"I know they are different things but you wouldn't get a golfer using the same clubs that they came out with 25 years



MAKING A RACKET: Andy Murray in training with his new Yonex gear

ago. For some reason tennis is a sport where players are always reluctant to change.

"I felt like now is the time to see whether it can make a difference."

Murray is playing only his second French Open since 2017 when he lost to Wawrinka in the semi-finals.

The Swiss, now 39, also beat him in the first round

Nadal's not closed door

RAFA NADAL has claimed it is "a big, big chance" he is playing his final French Open but added: "I don't want to close 100 per cent the door."

And his upbeat mood in his pre-tournament press conference suggested the Spaniard, who turns 38 next month, is in no rush to retire.

A 14-time champion at Roland Garros, he has been dogged by hip injuries over the last two seasons and has suggested this will be his final year.

But the 22-time Grand Slam champion (below) said: "Physically I feel better. It's a big, big chance that it's going to be my last Roland Garros. But if I have to tell you it's 100 per cent my last Roland Garros, sorry, but I will not, because I cannot predict the future."

"I don't want to close 100 per cent the door."



here in 2020. They also both have three Major titles as the two most successful players of their era outside the big three of Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal and Roger Federer.

And world No.75 Murray revealed: "When we flew from Bordeaux to Geneva, we actually sat next to each other on an easyJet flight and ended up talking about the matches we've played."

Boult of lightning vow **DART AIMS FOR BULLSEYE**

KATIE BOULTER has vowed to come out firing like Serena Williams in her first ever French Open.

The British No.1 has risen to world No.28 despite never winning a WTA Tour match on clay or qualifying for this Grand Slam.

But she won two matches at a second-tier 125 event on clay in Paris last week.

And before facing world No.140 Paula Badosa,

Boulter, 27, said: "If you look at the players that have won these tournaments, you look at Serena, all of them, they're all big hitters and going after it."

"That's a really good lesson for me to remind myself I have a game to win on these courts. It's a matter of putting that on the court."



HARRIET DART is hoping to put her injury-hit start to the year behind her as she targets a place in the world's top 50.

The Brit, 27 (left) has had food poisoning plus a series of niggles but recently made the main draw at the Madrid Open and takes on Linda

Noskova in the first round of the French Open today.

She said: "This year's been really challenging. I've been ill a lot or something's been happening. Madrid was the first time I didn't have anything going on and the tennis got pieced together."

"It's just about staying healthy. My goal is to be top 50 by the end of the year."

● Dart was speaking at ASICS Rally for the Mind, where ASICS and the city of Paris invited Parisians to play tennis with ASICS athletes, professional coaches and special guests.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Sneyd's expecting full-firing Warriors

SALFORD'S Marc Sneyd insists there's no chance of catching Wigan cold today – so they have to be red-hot.

The wily England scrum-half will try and orchestrate a surprise victory over the reigning Super League champions who are threatening to win everything this season.

Having already bagged the World Club Challenge by beating star-studded Penrith, Matt Peet's side have now also reached Wembley.

They play Warrington in the Challenge Cup Final in less than a fortnight's time.

Asked if he thinks they will take their eye off the ball after thrashing high-flying Hull KR in last week's Cup semi-final, Sneyd said: "Probably not, if I'm honest."

"Wigan seem to turn up every week and play at a level which puts them there or thereabouts."

"Whoever's out there has to be

Salford v Wigan
Today, 3pm

playing their best rugby to go with them."

But Paul Rowley's Salford underdogs have proved they can tackle the best.

Recently, they were joint-top with mighty Wigan having beaten Warrington, St Helens and Hull KR.

With Sneyd (below) in great form, it's no surprise.

And he is set for a fascinating battle with Harry Smith today.

The Wigan scrum-half, 24, took Sneyd's

England place for last year's series against Tonga and was man of the match against Hull KR.

Sneyd said: "He plays on the front foot every week, kicking off the back of those middles or the back-rows who win the fourth tackle."

"It makes it a little easier for him. But he still has to execute the kick which he seems to do pretty well."



Broncos bucking up

OLI LEYLAND says London believe they can prove they are no one-hit wonders.

The promoted club finally got their first Super League win of the season when dumping Hull FC 34-18 a fortnight ago.

It came after 10 straight defeats but Broncos are out to repeat the feat when Hull KR visit today.

Half-back Leyland said: "It's given us a massive lift. We'd

London B v Hull KR
Today, 3pm

come close a couple of times but it's really been 10 or 15-minute periods where we've not managed it well and found ourselves four or five scores behind.

"For 80 per cent of the game, we're competing really well, so to get one over the line did give us a huge amount of confidence."

Sam's plan pays off

WARRINGTON warmed up for Wembley with a dazzling win in Perpignan which put them back joint-top of Super League.

The Challenge Cup finalists spent last week at a hotel at Canet Plage beach resort near Perpignan.

And the team-bonding paid off for coach Sam Burgess as he prepares for Saturday's league clash against Wigan

Catalans 8 Warrington 16
By Steve Brady

– a dress rehearsal for the following week's Cup final.

The score was locked 2-2 at half-time after an exchange of penalties.

But the Wolves came out biting in the second-half with George Williams and Matty Ashton scoring tries. Tom Davies went over for Catalans late on.

10 MOTOR RACING

FORMULA E SHANGHAI



RACE MANAGEMENT: Evans

EVANS IN TOP GEAR TO NICK HUGE WIN

By Sam Meade

MITCH EVANS claimed victory in the Shanghai E-Prix for Jaguar as his team-mate and championship leader Nick Cassidy was left frustrated.

Evans took the lead going into the final lap as he overtook Porsche's Pascal Wehrlein, who had led for much of the race with team-mate Antonio Felix da Costa in China, but was low on energy compared to the Jaguars in the final stages.

Cassidy, who started in 10th, had produced a masterclass in energy saving as he gradually negotiated his way through the field and was poised to launch a late attack for the lead.

He could not take that advantage though as Wehrlein, his main rival in the championship, was able to perform some stunning defensive driving to keep Cassidy behind him in the final corners, holding on to second place in the process.

It means the Porsche driver narrowly cuts Cassidy's lead at the top of the standings to 13 points.

The Jaguar man held position in the final laps and said afterwards: "It was a nice race today to get a one-three."

"I had the energy to win, for sure. Wasn't my decision, it's okay."

Race winner Evans said: "Super happy, it was not an easy race to manage."

"Sitting at the front can be good and it can be bad but I think that we managed it well."

"I thought that I got into the lead at the right time, but actually Pascal kind of caught me napping a bit at turn eight and put his nose up to have another go at me."

"I'm surprised he didn't get anything for going off track and passing me, so we have to look at that afterwards."

FORMULA ONE: MONACO GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING

Charles is feeling just right at home



SPEED DEMON: Leclerc celebrates after taking pole position

HOW THEY FINISHED

Driver	Team	Time
1 C Leclerc (Mon)	Ferrari	1:10:270
2 O Piastri (Aus)	McLaren	+0.154
3 C Sainz (Spa)	Ferrari	+0.248
4 L Norris (GB)	McLaren	+0.272
5 G Russell (GB)	Mercedes	+0.273
6 M Verstappen (Hol)	Red Bull	+0.297
7 L Hamilton (GB)	Mercedes	+0.351
8 Y Tsunoda (Jpn)	RB	+0.588
9 A Albon (Tha)	Williams	+0.678
10 P Gasly (Fra)	Alpine	+1.041

11 E Ocon (Fra) Alpine, 12 N Hulkenberg (Ger) Haas, 13 D Ricciardo (Aus) RB, 14 L Stroll (Can) Aston Martin, 15 K Magnussen (Den) Haas, 16 F Alonso (Spa) Aston Martin, 17 L Sargeant (US) Williams, 18 S Perez (Mex), 19 V Bottas (Fin) Sauber, 20 Z Guanyu (Chn) Sauber.

HOME hero Charles Leclerc delivered under pressure to put his Ferrari on pole position for the Monaco Grand Prix.

Leclerc was the favourite heading into yesterday's crucial qualifying session and the Monte Carlo-born star held his nerve to take top spot.

He saw off McLaren's Oscar Piastri by 0.154 seconds, with Carlos Sainz third in the other scarlet car and Lando Norris fourth.

Max Verstappen, bidding to take a record ninth consecutive pole, could manage only sixth after he hit the wall on the exit of Sainte Devote.

George Russell and Lewis Hamilton will start either side of the Red Bull driver after they qualified fifth and seventh

Dan MOXON REPORTS

respectively for Mercedes. Verstappen warned in the build-up that the street venue would not suit his machinery and his fears were realised.

On his final run, the Dutch driver struck the wall as he accelerated out of the opening corner. "I hit the wall," he said. "This car is slippery."

Sergio Perez will line up a lowly 18th after he failed to haul the other Red Bull out of the opening phase.

"What a joke," said the Mexican over the radio.

Perez, nicknamed the King of the Streets with five of his six career victories coming at temporary venues, will have his

work cut out to salvage a respectable result.

Mercedes might have hoped for more after Hamilton finished first, second and third in the three practice sessions.

However, the seven-time world champion will begin the race outside

the top six after he finished

0.351secs adrift of

Leclerc and

two positions behind

Russell, who now holds a 7-1 qualifying record this season

over his more established team-mate.

Fernando Alonso finished second here last year but the two-time world champion also faces an arduous afternoon in the

principality after he fell at the first hurdle, qualifying 16th.

Alonso was unusually out-qualified by his Aston Martin team-mate Lance Stroll, who will line up from 14th.

"It was nice," said Leclerc. "The feeling after a qualifying lap is very special here. The

excitement is so high. It feels really good.

"However, we need to put everything together for

Sunday's race.

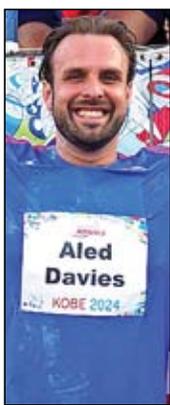
"In the past here we didn't manage to do that but we are in a stronger position and we are a stronger team. I'm sure we can achieve great things. Hopefully

Carlos can have a great start and follow me into turn one. That would be the perfect scenario."

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

1	M Verstappen (Hol)	161pts
2	C Leclerc (Mco)	113
3	S Perez (Mex)	107
4	L Norris (Gbr)	101
5	C Sainz (Spa)	93

FIT-AGAIN DAVIES HAPPY BACK ON TOP OF THE WORLD



GOLD: Davies

ALED DAVIES vowed to be ready to challenge for world records at this summer's Paralympics after securing his sixth consecutive F63 shot put title at the World Para Athletics Championships in Japan.

The Welshman, who turned 33 on Friday, beat Iran's Faisal Sorour in Kobe, with a furthest attempt landing at 15.60m just over three months before the Paralympics open in Paris.

It was a 10th world title

PARA ATHLETICS

overall for the three-time Paralympic champion, who also has four world discus golds in his collection but was last season plagued by a hip injury.

And after yesterday's victory he revealed he had only been throwing pain free for five weeks.

"I just need two months of work," said Davies. "Then I'll be ready to go after that world

record. There are so many things I am going to take away which I am going to apply in Paris.

"The main one this year is that Paralympic Games, so this sets me up quite nicely."

Nathan Maguire claimed the first World Championship medal of his career in the final event of the competition with bronze in the men's T54 800m.

The 26-year-old pipped Kuwait's Faisal Alrajehi by just 0.03 seconds to cross the line in

1min 35.27secs, close enough that he had to look up at the board to confirm he had done enough.

Maguire said: "It is everything, isn't it? This is the first time I have got on the World Championship podium. To do it now gives me a lot of confidence going into the rest of the year."

The British team finished the championships with a 12-medal haul of seven gold, two silver and three bronze.

RUGBY UNION 11

CHAMPIONS CUP FINAL: Leinster 22 Toulouse 31 (AET)

DUPONT'S SPUR-RED
ON TO VICTORY

ANTOINE DUPONT finally buried his Irish hoodoo as Leinster's European finals nightmare continued at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Dupont got revenge for three semi-final defeats in five years at the hands of Leo Cullen's men as Toulouse landed a sixth Champions Cup title at the home of Spurs.

But it was agony in extra-time for Cullen's side who had James Lowe sin-binned and conceded 10 points when down a man.

Leinster had a chance to win it in normal time but Cianan Frawley's drop goal went wide and the chance was gone.

Toulouse went a man down themselves when Richie Arnold was sent-off for a reckless clear out on Cian Healy but the damage had been done.

And that is three final defeats on the spin for Leinster who have been searching for a fifth title of their own since 2018 – but gutted Cullen insists they can kick the losing habit.

He said: "There is amazing character in the group and some good young players and once they get over the line I think they will kick on. "It is pretty devastating for the lads, we know how much they all put into it.

"We were bashing away and I thought we were so close to breaking them at different stages but they dug in and did what they had to do to stop us.

"They are a quality team and had players that stood up. You have good teams going at it and you have to be clinical. It felt like we were so, so close to doing it."

Toulouse went to town at the breakdown with Englishman Jack Willis having a towering game in defence and on the floor.

But scrum-half Dupont

HEROES:
Toulouse stars lift trophy



Adam HATHAWAY
REPORTS FROM TOTTENHAM

outshone Willis (right) with his display which rubber-stamped his status as the world's best player.

Jerome Kaino, the former All Black and now Toulouse assistant, said: "He is incredible. It seems to happen all the time, Antoine

getting the kudos for the match, he played incredibly."

The teams were locked 15-15 at the end of 80 minutes of club rugby which outshone most Test matches you could see.

Scotland's Blair Kinghorn kicked four penalties before Thomas Ramos took over that duty – but Leinster kept in touch thanks to Ross Byrne and Frawley.

With Lowe off in extra

time, Toulouse wing Matthis Lebel outstripped the Leinster defence and Ramos' penalty made it a 10-point game.

Leinster grabbed one back with a score from flanker Josh van der Flier but could not find a way back into the game as Ramos kicked Toulouse to victory.



SPORT IN BRIEF

FA Cup Final

MAN CITY (0).....1 MAN UTD (2).....2

Doku 87 Garnacho 30

Att: 84,814 Mainoo 39

Scottish Cup Final

CELTIC (0).....1 RANGERS (0).....0

Idah 90 Att: 48,556

CRICKET

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - DIVISION ONE

Durham v Somerset (Riverside): Somerset 171 (52.1 overs); M Pretorius 53; B A Stokes 4-54 and 88 (33.4 overs); B A Stokes 4-23. Durham 265 (61.5 overs); D G Bedingham 101; J T Ball 5-62. Durham (20pts) beat Somerset (3pts) by an innings and 6 runs.

Hampshire v Surrey (The Rose Bowl): Surrey 127 (46.3 overs); K J Abbott 5-24. Hampshire 495-4 (143.0 overs); T E Albert 114, N R T Gubbins 103, B C Brown 99no, L A Dawson 74no, J M Vince 52).

Kent v Essex (Canterbury): Essex 591-7dec. (142.4 overs); J M Cox 207, S Snater 83no, M K S Pepper 82, D Elgar 77, N L J Browne 65). Kent 118-4 (47.0 overs).

Lancashire v Warwickshire (Old Trafford): Warwickshire 284 (110.5 overs); A L Davies 117no. Lancashire 66-3 (29.1 overs).

Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire (New Road): Worcestershire 80 (31.1 overs); Nottinghamshire 234-3 (72.0 overs); Haseeb Hameed 100, J M Clarke 73no).

Gloucestershire v Derbyshire (Bristol): Derbyshire 526 (125.4 overs); M Lamb 207, B D Guest 95, A H T Donald 67, Anuj Dal 62; B J Webster 6-100. Gloucestershire 243-4 (66.0 overs); J R Bracey 87no, G L van Buuren 61no).

Leicestershire v Glamorgan (Leicester): Glamorgan 387 (104.5 overs); E J Byrom 86, K S Carlson 80, S A Northeast 61; S W Currie 5-64. Leicestershire 280-5 (85.0 overs); P S P Handscomb 102no, L J Hill 92).

Middlesex v Sussex (Lord's): Sussex 554-9dec. (164.3 overs); J A Simpson 167, C A Pujara 129. Middlesex 62-1 (19.0 overs).

Northamptonshire v Yorkshire (Northampton): Yorkshire 362 (104.1 overs); A Lyth 109, Shan Masood 60, J A Thompson 53). and 0-1 (0.3 overs) Northamptonshire 301 (82.0 overs); L Procter 116no; M V T Fernando 4-48).

MOTOR RACING

MONACO GRAND PRIX (Monte Carlo)

1 C Leclerc (Mon) Ferrari 1min 10.270secs, 2 O PIASTRI (Aus) McLaren 1:10.424, 3 C SAINZ JR (Spa) Ferrari

1:10.518, 4 L NORRIS (Gbr) McLaren 1:10.542, 5 G RUSSELL (Gbr) Mercedes GP 1:10.543, 6 M VERSTAPPEN (Ned) Red Bull

1:10.567, 7 L HAMILTON (Gbr) Mercedes GP 1:10.621, 8 Y TSUNODA (Jpn) RB 1:10.858, 9 A ALBON (Tha) Williams 1:10.948, 10 P GASLY (Fra) Alpine 1:11.311.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betfred Super League

CATALANS.....8 WARRINGTON.....16

Catalans Dragons—T: Davies, G: Mourgue (2). Warrington—T: Williams, Ashton, G: J. Thewis (4).

SALFORD.....P WIGAN.....P

P W D L F A Pts

St Helens.....12 9 0 3 329 124 18

Warrington.....12 9 0 3 302 151 18

Wigan.....10 8 0 2 312 132 16

Catalans.....12 8 0 4 252 168 16

Hull K R.....11 7 0 4 262 169 14

Salford.....11 7 0 4 210 226 14

Leeds.....12 6 0 6 214 238 12

Huddersfield.....12 5 0 7 250 245 10

Leigh.....11 4 1 6 244 194 9

Castleford.....12 3 1 8 214 374 7

Hull.....12 1 0 11 144 416 2

London B.....11 1 0 10 116 412 2

RUGBY UNION

Investec Champions Cup Final

LEINSTER.....22 TOULOUSE.....31

Leinster—T: van der Flier, G: Frawley, P: R. Byrne (4), Frawley, Toulouse—T: Lebel, C: Ramos, P: Kinghorn (4), Ramos (4).

TENNIS

ATP GENEVA OPEN (Switzerland)

Final: C Ruud (Nor) bt T Machac (Cze) 7-5 6-3.

ATP LYON OPEN (France)—Final:

G Mpetshi Perricard (Fra) bt T Etcheverry (Arg) 6-4 1-6 7-6 (9-7).

WTA GRAND PRIX DE SAR LA PRINCESSE LALLA MERYEM (Morocco)—Final:

P Stearns (USA) bt M Sherif (Egy) 6-2 6-1.

WTA INTERNATIONAL DE STRASBOURG (France)—Final:

M Keys (USA) bt D Collins (USA) 6-1 6-2.

TODAY

Sky Bet Championship Play-off Final

Leeds v Southampton (3pm).....

cinch Scottish Premiership Play-off Final 2nd Leg

Ross County (2) v Raith (1) (12noon).....

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betfred Super League (3pm):

London Broncos v Hull K R, Salford v Wigan.



STAR: Pogacar

Pogacar bags super sixth

TADEJ POGACAR claimed his sixth stage victory and all-but rubber-stamped his maiden Giro d'Italia title on the penultimate day of the race.

Welsh rider Geraint Thomas, who celebrated his 38th birthday on yesterday's 20th stage, is poised to extend the record he set in last year's edition as the oldest man to finish on a Giro podium with third place

CYCLING GIRO D'ITALIA

in the general classification behind Slovenian Pogacar and Colombian Daniel Martinez (Bora-Hansgrohe).

UAE Team Emirates rider Pogacar said: "We did a perfect job today as a team.

"I was really happy with the race and I cannot describe how I was feeling with all the fans on the climb."



FIRST: Elvira

TASTY LEAD FOR NACHO

NACHO ELVIRA opened up a four-shot lead heading into the final round after carding a 67 on day three in Belgium.

The Spaniard entered the weekend with a two-shot advantage after a pair of bogey-free 64s and he was still without a blemish as he reached the turn in 32 to lead by five.

Elvira came home in level par despite making his first two bogeys of the week

GOLF SOUDAL OPEN

and stands 18 under in Antwerp, four clear of English duo Joe Dean and Ross Fisher, Frenchman Romain Langasque and Denmark's Niklas Norgaard.

Elvira's only DP World Tour win came three years ago at Celtic Manor in Wales, where he started his final round with a six-shot lead but needed a play-off to seal victory.

12 RACING

ROSALLION'S RICH REWARD

ROSALLION pounced to pip stablemate Haatem in a thrilling finish to the Tattersalls Irish 2,000 Guineas.

Richard Hannon's pair were level with 100 yards to race, but the Curragh's 10-11 favourite found extra to come out on top.

His late surge under Sean Levey was hard luck on Haatem, who travelled best and breezed into the lead with two furlongs left.

Jamie Spencer's mount pinched several lengths on their pursuers, led by River Tiber, chasing a 13th title for Aidan O'Brien.

However Rosallion's turn of foot made all the difference and he swooped for a head victory, in owner Sheikh

By **Melissa Jones**

Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum's silks. The success rolled back the years for Levey, as his career began with a first ride at the circuit in 2005.

"The track has always been good to me but I've never come here with a chance like that," he said. "My lad's

turn of foot got me out of trouble. He found loads and felt exceptional."

The top two filled the places in Newmarket's 2,000 Guineas earlier this month, behind winner Notable Speech from Charlie Appleby's stable.

William Hill cut Rosallion to 5-2 for the St James's Palace Stakes rematch at Royal Ascot on June 18.



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KELSO (RTV)

THE SCOUT: 2.15 Someone You Loved, 2.50 Go Boy, 3.25 Well Educated, 4.00 Melusine De Pail, 4.35 Goodtimes Badtimes, 5.10 BOTHWELL BRIDGE (rb), 5.45 Jo Jo Binks.

2.15 J.A. WILSON CONTRACTORS NOVICES' HURDLE £4,357 (Class 4) 2m 51yds (10 declared)

- 1 L/BLU- ACUSTIC (109) M Barnes 5 11-1.....Conor Rabbit(5) 58
- 2 24L532- BLUEBERRY WINE (32) (D,F) (T) D McCain 8 11-1...B Hughes 113
- 3 F/P49-7 FAIRLY FULLING (18) Mrs J Walton 6 11-1.....R Chapman 43
- 4 46/U21-L FAMOUS LISS (22) W Coltherd 6 11-1.....S Coltherd 43
- 5 305/323- GEORDIES DREAM (82) (C&D) Miss P Robson 9 11-1...Craig Nichol 112
- 6 5 RAVENSCRAIG CASTLE (10) J Jardine 6 11-1.....C O'Farrell 95
- 7 43P66-8 ROCK N ROLL CHAMP (18) S Forster 6 11-1.....H Brooke 94
- 8 659- SARATOGA STEVE (30) L Russell 5 11-1.....P W Wadge(3) 94
- 9 SOMEONE YOU LOVED (F148) (T) F O'Brien 4 10-9...K Woods 106
- 10 7/71-L DORCAS ROAD (37) L Russell 6 10-8.....D R Fox 106

Forecast: 11-4 Someone You Loved, 3 Blueberry Wine, 4 Geordies Dream, 9-2 Ravenscraig Castle, 7 Dorcas Road, 12 Saratoga Steve, 16 Others.

2.50 HANDICAP CHASE (MEMORIAL TROPHY) £5,281 (4) 2m 5f 133yds (9)

- 1 3L135-P IMPULSIVE ONE (15) B Ellison 6 12-0.....H Brooke 128
- 2 170/123- GO BOY (57) A M Thomson 8 11-1.....R Mania 124
- 3 542P1-1 FIVE DOLLAR FINE (15) (F) A Hamilton 9 11-6D McMenamin 122
- 4 L11P-L HIDDEN COMMANDER (18) (C&D) W Coltherd 9 11-55 Coltherd121
- 5 1L134-5 CHAPEL GREEN (15) (C) L Russell 7 10-13.....D R Fox 121
- 6 21L47-2 EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE (18) N Alexander 8 10-11 B Lynn(3) 122
- 7 L7342-8 GRAND VOYAGE (10) (C) W Coltherd 8 10-10...Sean Quinlan 125
- 8 31237-5 CASTLETOWN (18) (C) L Russell 12 10-8.....P W Wadge(3) 126
- 9 58L/123-P OKAVANGO DELTA (16) R Dobbin 8 10-7.....Craig Nichol 125

Forecast: 11-4 Five Dollar Fine, 9-2 Everyday Champagne, 11-2 Go Boy, 7 Chapel Green, 8 Impulsive One, 10 Grand Voyage, Hidden Commander, Castletown, 12 Okavango Delta.

3.25 HANDICAP HURDLE (GBB RACE) £10,406 (2) 2m 51yds (8)

- 1 19/P210- JUNGLE JACK (44) (D,F) (T) D McCain 8 12-0...B Hughes 133
- 2 3/2148- DOYEN DU BAR (37) (C&D) Miss P Robson 8 11-1...H Brooke 133
- 3 113106- CAITHNESS (85) (C&D) L Russell 8 11-3.....D R Fox 135
- 4 P/123-P CARACI CASTLE (76) (C&D) A M Thomson 8 11-2...R Mania 125
- 5 78213-1 MACK THE MAN (10) (D) N Alexander 10 11-1...Mr K Alexander(5) 130
- 6 6336-51 WELL EDUCATED (15) (C&D) G Bewley 8 11-10(Tex)...J Bewley 127
- 7 4L144-3 CRACKING DESTINY (32) (D) Ewan Williams 11 10-6...Craig Nichol 134
- 8 34/612-7 MISTER MOODLES (80) R Menzies 6 10-5.....J Hamilton 134

BLINKERS: No. 1 VISOR: No. 5 TONGUE STRAP: No. 4, 7, 2, 1, 5, 6. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3, 4, 7, 2, 1, 5, 6.

Forecast: 5-2 Mack The Man, 4 Well Educated, 6 Jungle Jack, 7 Caithness, 8 Mister Moodles, Cracking Destiny, Caracast Castle, 10 Doyen Du Bar.

4.00 FIVE STAR TAXIS MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE £4,225 (4) 3m 1f 170yds (9)

- 1 F1/3223- MELUSINE DE PAIL (43) (T) Noel Williams 6 12-0...J Hogan(3) 107
- 2 L314F-L LONE STAR (17) P Kirby 7 11-3.....J Williamson(3) 112
- 3 14/174-L BLUE BALOO (67) A M Thomson 6 11-9.....R Mania 107
- 4 PP217-2 MISTRAL NELL (19) (T) F O'Brien 7 11-7.....J J Burke 108
- 5 43118-6 BRIGHT SUNBIRD (16) (D) R Menzies 9 11-3...Tabitha Worsley(3) 110
- 6 2/16040- AAZZA (78) (F) R Dobbin 8 11-1.....Craig Nichol 107
- 7 3474-L STARYLTYE (18) (C) D Russell 7 11-1.....P W Wadge(3) 109
- 8 32/55F-5 SOMEBODY'S FORTUNE (31) L Russell 10 10-5.....D R Fox 96
- 9 P1/58-9 JOANNA I'M FINE (11) Mrs J Stephen 7 10-2 D Johnston(5) 88

VISOR: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 7, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 7, 8. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 3.

Forecast: 3 Melusine De Pail, 7-2 Mistral Nell, 5 Somebody's Fortune, 7 Bright Sunbird, 8 Aazza, 10 Lone Star, Blue Baloo, 12 Staryltye, 20 Joanna I'm Fine.

4.35 PONSSE UK NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE £3,961 (5) 2m 7f 96yds (8)

- 1 13212-L GOODTIMES BADTIMES (77) A M Thomson 9 12-0...R Mania 92
- 2 263-322 TOUCAN SAM (11) A B Hamilton 6 12-0.....A Doyle(5) 92
- 3 4/P72-P JETEYE (12) S England 7 11-1.....Craig Nichol 92
- 4 8532/36- GRAND NORD (336) M Hammond 8 11-10...C O'Farrell 105
- 5 3/334-P BARON BRIGGS (57) A M Thomson 7 10-8...D McMenamin 105
- 6 6/P69-P LIZZY BELL (16) M Barnes 6 10-5.....P Kavanagh(3) 105
- 7 P68/9L-P DERWENT DEALER (34) D Brooke 8 10-5.....H Brooke 91
- 8 F449L-L DARK DUOMO (73) M Hammond 6 10-2...Emma Smith-Chaston(3) 87

BLINKERS: No. 8 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 7. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 1.

Forecast: 11-4 Jeteje, 3 Toucan Sam, 9-2 Baron Briggs, 5 Goodtimes Badtimes, 8 Grand Du Nord, 12 Dark Duomo, Derwent Dealer, 25 Lizzy Bell.

5.10 'GRASSROOTS' HUNTERS' CHASE SERIES FINAL £5,797 (3) 3m 2f 39yds (11)

- 1 2/112-31 SHANROE STREET (11) (F) G Walkingshaw 14 12-4...Mr Gregor Walkingshaw(7) 108
- 2 21443-2 SLIEVEGAR (14) (C&D) (T) M Comley 8 12-4...Doubtful 108
- 3 9/161U3- MATTS COMMISSION (34) J Teal 11 12-1...Mr J Teal(7) 63
- 4 5/P15-3 SUPER CITIZEN (11) (C) Mrs Lucinda Hughes 10 12-1...Mr John Dawson 93
- 5 3142-2 YIPPEE KI YAY (23) (T) Mrs N Sheppard 6 12-1...Mr Milo Herbert(7) 115
- 6 1/211-1 BOTHWELL BRIDGE (21) (D) Miss Kelly Morgan 9 11-2...Miss E Callwood(7) 116
- 7 P3LUL-P COOLDINE BOG (23) (T) Miss A Jackson-Fennell 11 11-2...Doubtful 86
- 8 P/P11-3 INVICTON (20) Ross Wilson 9 11-2...Mr Paddy Barlow(5) 86
- 9 322/13-L TEDS CHARLEY ROE (18) Mrs Jacqui Lang 11 11-2...Miss Lucy Brown(7) 86
- 10 P/P94-3P THE MACON LUGNATIC (18) Mrs K Macaggart 10 11-2...Miss Isobel Macaggart(7) 86
- 11 4/4633-3 WATCH LAW (29) Jess McKie 9 11-2...Mr N Orpwood(3) 82

BLINKERS: No. 8 VISOR: No. 1 TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 3, 6, 8 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 5, 10. SOFT/HEAVY WINNERS: Nos. 6, 3, 1, 4, 10, 5.

Forecast: 9-4 Yippee Ki Yay, 5-2 Bothwell Bridge, 5 Shanroe Street, 8 Super Citizen, 10 Matts Commission, 16 Watch Law, The Macon Lugnatic, 20 Others.

+++ YESTERDAY'S RESULTS +++ YESTERDAY'S RESULTS +++ YESTERDAY'S RESULTS +++

OWNER Fitri Hay had three winners in 15 minutes yesterday – and then added another as well. The four-timer amounted to odds of 2,249-1 at the Curragh, Goodwood and York.

GOODWOOD: Good-good to firm in places

- 1.30-QIRAT (H Crouch, 8-1) 1: Al Shabab Storm (4-1 fav); 2: Blue Prince (9-1) 3.13 ran. (R Beckett). Non-runners: Balmacara, Mission To Moon, Native American, The Camden Colt. The Camden Colt Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 15p in the pound.
- 2.05-FRANCOPHONE (J Fanning, 6-4 fav) 1: Regal Jubilee (2-1 2nd fav); 2: Where I Wanna Be (12-1) 3. 8 ran. (C Johnston). Non-runners: Beeley, Lava Stream.
- 2.35-JAKARTA (B Sayette, 3-1 2nd fav) 1: Royal Equerry (5-2 fav); 2: Jewel Of London (9-2) 3. 12 ran. (P & O Cole). Non-runner: Stage Effect.
- 3.10-TIDES OF WAR (H Turner, 14-1) 1: True Legend (10-3 2nd fav); 2: Crescent Lake (10-1) 3. 8 ran. (D M Simcock; 2-1 fav Vaguely Royal).
- 3.45-MEYDAAN (H Davies, 7-2) 1: Space Legend (15-8 fav); 2: Royal Power (9-2) 3. 7 ran. (S & E Crisford).
- 4.20-CRYSTAL FLYER (P Dobbs, 5-2 fav) 1: Candle Of Dubai (9-2); 2: Nini Star (9-2) 3. 10 ran. (T Ward).
- 4.55-GRANDLAD (A Farragher, 9-4 2nd fav) 1: Kiss And Run (17-2); 2: Rainyningeorgia (9-1) 3. 7 ran. (James Horton; 7-4 fav Cloud King).

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £16,252.49 carried over.
Placepot: £2,773.20
 (Race 1) 3, 5, 6; (2) 3, 4, 8; (3) 5, 6; (4) 2, 5; (5) 8, 5, 3; (6) 9, 4, 12; **Quadpot: £105.50**

HAYDOCK: Soft-heavy in places on round course

- 1.15-NELLIE LEVEX (P L Jamin, 9-2 cov fav) 1: Involvement (7-1) 2: Apiarist (20-1) 3. 12 ran. (T Dascombe; 9-2 covfav Cerulean Bay, 9-2 covfav Candonomer). Non-runner: Volterra.
- 1.50-KERDOS (R Kingscote, 12-1) 1: Live In The Dream (8-1) 2: Seven Questions (16-1) 3. 9 ran. (C Cox; 4-1 jfav Asfoora, 4-1 jfav Beautiful Diamond). Non-runner: Makarova.
- 2.25-INISHERIN (T Eaves, 9-2 2nd fav) 1: Orne (40-1) 2: Vandeeck (8-11 fav) 3. 7 ran. (K Ryan). Non-runner: Pandora's Gift.
- 3.00-ENGLISH OAK (O Murphy, 8-11 fav) 1: Persuasion (10-1) 2: Abduction (22-1) 3. 6 ran. (E Walker). Non-runner: Metabol.
- 3.30-DIVINE COMEDY (Kaiya Fraser, 3-1 fav) 1: Solent Gateway (14-1) 2: Emlyn (12-1) 3. 13 ran. (Harry Eustace). Non-runner: Evaluation.
- 4.10-NARIKO (O Murphy, 11-2 2nd fav) 1: Kodi Lion (8-1) 2: Moyola (22-1) 3. 15 ran. (H Palmer; 11-10 fav The Amazon).
- 4.45-CORSICAN CAPER (S Osborne, 11-2) 1: Squeezebox (11-1) 2: Bustaam (13-2) 3. 9 ran. (K Frost; 5-2 fav Western Stars). Non-runners: Story Horse, Sutee Alshams.

Jackpot: Not won, pool of £16,252.49 carried over.
Placepot: £2,773.20
 (Race 1) 3, 5, 6; (2) 3, 4, 8; (3) 5, 6; (4) 2, 5; (5) 8, 5, 3; (6) 9, 4, 12; **Quadpot: £105.50**

5.45 MARES' OPEN NH FLAT RACE (GBB RACE) £3,268 (4) 2m 51yds (11)

- 4-1 GALE MAHLER (19) (D) A Keatley 5 11-7.....H Brooke 104
- 4-2 BEAU DELLA (15) (F) J Jardine 5 11-0.....C O'Farrell 103
- BELLMOUNT LADY T Davidson 5 11-0.....H Reed 103
- DEAR DOT C Grant 5 11-0.....D McMenamin 96
- 6 GENIES GIRL (19) M Walford 5 11-0.....J Hamilton 96
- LEWESDON DANCER Paul Collins 5 11-0 Mr John Dawson(3) 96
- CATCHA FLIGHT R M Smith 4 10-8.....C Bewley 81
- 0 CRAFTY DANCER (30) K Scott 4 10-8.....P W Wadge(3) 81
- JO JO BINKS D Brooke 4 10-8.....B Hughes 81
- 5 LIZZIE LUNA (51) Ewan Williams 4 10-8.....Craig Nichol 98
- 0-9 MISaura (15) P Kirby 4 10-8.....J Williamson(3) 84

CHEEK PIECES: No. 1.

Forecast: 7-4 Beau Della, 2 Gale Mahler, 7 Genies Girl, 12 Jo Jo Binks, Bellmount Lady, Lizzie Luna, 16 Dear Dot, 25 Catcha Flight, 33 Others.

UTTOXETER (SKY)

THE SCOUT: 150 Dameofthecotswolds, 225 Lady Mendoza, 300 Big Blue Moon, 335 Eaton Collina, 410 Next Left, 445 Kado De Joie, 520 Mr Hope Street.

1.50 MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE) £5,827 (Class 3) 2m 3f 207yds (6 declared)

- 1 2/7F21-1 MISS MAVERICK (8) (C&D) G Hamner 7 11-0...James Davies 110
- 2 477/393- DORSET LADY (F25) G Brown 7 10-12...Doubtful 88
- 3 12040/P-7 LOVE AT SEA (20) T Gallagher 6 10-12...J Quinlan 88
- 4 3/72PP-3 ONEFORTHEFAIRGREEN (19) M Keighley 6 10-12...S Bowen 104
- 5 YESANNA (19) D Skelton 5 10-12.....H Skelton 104
- 6 34322-5 DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS (18) N Twiston-Davies 4 10-4...Twiston-Davies 123

Forecast: 9-4 Dameofthecotswolds, 2 Miss Maverick, 6 OnefortheFairgreen, 8 Yesanna, 16 Love At Sea.

2.25 TURF SERVICES NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE £3,248 (5) 2m 7f 70yds (6)

- 1 F3735-4 MY MONTY (15) H Evans 7 12-0.....B Poste 102
- 2 6L43- NATIVE MOON (42) (T) V Darfnall 6 11-13...A Johns 94
- 3 25P/532- LADY MENDOZA (178) R Menzies 7 11-10...N Moscrop 99
- 4 4UPP/P4- RELEASE THE KRAKEN (114) M Keighley 8 10-12...S Bowen 80
- 5 P544/L-0 ARCTIC LODGE (18) D J Jeffreys 8 10-8...T Bellamy 80
- 6 07L6/0P- HAMMER DAN (114) D Pipe 6 10-2.....James Davies 75

Forecast: 9-4 Native Moon, 5-2 Lady Mendoza, 4 My Monty, 7 Arctic Lodge, 8 Release The Kraken, 10 Hammer Dan.

3.00 QUINNBT.COM HANDICAP HURDLE £4,066 (4) 2m 3f 207yds (6)

- 1 2/L21F- CLONWAD ROYALE (77) (D) Jonjo & A O'Neill 5 12-0...R McLernon 113
- 2 L/4PP-4 TOUCHY FEELY (9) N Henderson 7 11-10...N De Boynville 116
- 3 12/P11-1 BIG BLUE MOON (19) (D) T Lacey 7 11-7...S Sheppard 118
- 4 7216P-2 FOUROFAKIND (32) (D) F Harry Derham 5 11-5 Paul O'Brien 119
- 5 835/P6P- KAC JUMPER (32) Deborah Cole 5 11-1...C Ward(3) 115
- 6 3/232P-6 MCGOWAN'S PASS (19) J Candlish 13 10-10...W Shanahan(5) 121

Forecast: 7-4 Big Blue Moon, 3 Fourofakind, 4 Clonwad Royale, 6 McGowan's Pass, Touchy Feely, 33 Jac Jumper.

3.35 CLARKE CHASE (GBB RACE) £20,812 (2) 2m 4f (10)

- 1 P/62LUP- MACKENBERG (45) (D) D McCain 9 12-0...T Gillard 139
- 2 L/4PP-4 YOUR DARLING (44) (D) B Paulling 9 11-11...B R Jones 142
- 3 32P/14P- NUMITOR (37) (D) H Main 10 11-8...S Bowen 145
- 4 2212L3- GLORY AND HONOUR (29) S England 8 11-2...J England 144
- 5 2/P351- EATON COLLINA (87) (D) Kerry Lee 9 11-1...R Patrick 142
- 6 61245-1 MYLESFROMICKLOW (56) (D) D Skelton 7 11-0...H Skelton 143
- 7 P1823-1 SAGEBURG COUNTY (30) (D,F) W Greatrex 7 10-10...Paul O'Brien 143
- 8 122P3-3 HYSTERY BERE (17) T Symonds 7 10-9...D Bass 144
- 9 4P221-1 MALAITA (38) (D) Mrs M Rowley 8 10-9...C Deutsch 138
- 10 2/82L13- ROYALE MARGAUX (38) T Symonds 6 10-8...B Poste 146

Forecast: 4 Malaita, 9-2 Sageburg County, 5 Eaton Collina, 6 Mylesfromicklow, 8 Glory And Honour, Your Darling, 10 Numitor, 12 Royale Margaux, Hystery Bere, 20 Mackenberg.

4.10 QUINNBT DAILY FREE BET HANDICAP CHASE £4,700 (4) 3m (6)

- 1 1/5P23-P SPORRY JIM (22) B Summers 7 12-2...C Hammond 92
- 2 323/50-1 NEXT LEFT (15) D Skelton 8 12-0...H Skelton 111
- 3 23147-1 WALKING THE WALK (268) (D) Kerry Lee 9 12-0...S Bowen 114
- 4 P/1PP7-2 JOHNNY B (30) C Down 10 11-9...James Davies 113
- 5 P/4242-3 COHNTY (19) A Hales 6 10-12...B Carver 115
- 6 P6L2-1 HIGGS (11) (C&D) S J Davies 11 10-4...J Best 111

Forecast: 7-4 Next Left, 11-4 Higgs, 9-2 Johnny B, 7 Walking The Walk, Cokhytho, 16 Sporry Jim.

4.45 SKOTT MILLS RACE NIGHT HANDICAP HURDLE £4,066 (4) 1m 7f 168yds (7)

- 1 P32L6-4 HOMME D'UN SOIR (20) (D) Billy Abrahamian 8 12-0...S Bowen 108
- 2 U14L84- THE GREY FALCO (93) (D) P Neville 9 12-0...S Twiston-Davies 110
- 3 1232P-3 FORGET THE WAY (17) (D) James Owen 7 11-13...Mr A Chadwick(5) 112
- 4 5P32U-8 SKIP MAHLER (20) M Walford 7 11-7...T Midgley(3) 113
- 5 32L16-3 KADO DE JOIE (20) (F) N Henderson 4 11-7...N De Boynville 116
- 6 23/4123- EAST END GIRL (149) (D) R Hapthorpe 7 11-5...Ciaran Gethings 112
- 7 27933/1- CHEF DE TROUPE (F25) (C&D) A Forbes 11 10-7...C Ward(3) 92

Forecast: 9-4 Forget The Way, 5-2 Kado De Joie, 5 Homme D'un Soir, 7 East End Girl, 10 The Grey Falco, Skip Mahler, 20 Chef De Troupe.

5.20 QUINNBT HANDICAP HURDLE £3,248 (5) 2m 3f 207yds (8)

- 1 5/75081- MR HOPE STREET (46) G Skelton 6 12-0...H Skelton 95
- 2 67140-5 NICK THE GREEK (22) J Coulson 5 11-12...T Gillard 100

- 3 140/PP-0 WELL VICKY (20) (D) A Ralph 7 11-8.....D Bass 76
- 4 542P4-2 USHUAIA DANCER (17) (F) Justin Landy 6 11-6...S Bowen 99
- 5 4L/5311- IF KARL'S BERG DID (322) H Dickinson 9 11-1...B Harris(3) 95
- 6 044/LP-LP FORT NELSON (8) S J Davies 7 10-3...J Turner(7) 83
- 7 666P-2 ASA (3) P Kirby 5 10-2.....William Maggs(5) 101
- 8 7/P45L3- GETAWAY WITH YOU (62) Billy Abrahamian 6 10-2...K Krogan 98

Forecast: 9-4 Mr Hope Street, 5-2 Asa, 5 If Karl's Berg Did, Ushuaia Dancer, 8 Getaway With You, 16 Well Vicky, 25 Nick The Greek, 33 Fort Nelson.

FONTWELL (SKY)

THE SCOUT 2.39 Fine Margin, 3.14 Call Off The Dogs, 3.50 STOWAWAY JESS (nap), 4.25 Doctor Foley, 5.00 SANDY BROOK (nb), 5.35 Happy Boy.

2.39 MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE) £4,066 (Class 4) 2m 3f 29yds (6 declared)

- 1 P/L- DIAMOND MONARCH (151) Christian Williams 7 11-4...J Tudor 19
- 2 42L/2P0- FINE MARGIN (43) W P Mullins (IRE) 7 11-4...Mr P W Mullins 138
- 3 5PPPL/ HE'S A STEEL (507) F Brennan 7 11-4...L Saunders(7) 92
- 4 4/435L2- OVAL STREET (90) M Gillard 8 11-4.....F Gillard 101
- 5 44FL4-2 BLESS THE MOON (21) James Owen 6 10-11...Lilly Pinchin 97
- 6 UP0- ON THE NOSE (F5) A West 6 10-11...L Edwards 64

BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP: No. 2.

Forecast: 1-10 Fine Margin, 10 Bless The Moon, 12 Oval Street, 50 On The Nose, Diamond Monarch, 100 He's A Steel.

3.14 DOWNLOAD THE STAR SPORTS APP HCAP CHASE £3,248 (5) 2m 3f 104yds (7)

- 1 2/L7317- HIDALGO DES BORDES (31) W Greatrex 7 12-0...J Bowen 99
- 2 3L22P2- BLAZE A TRAIL (35) (C,D) J & R Flint 10 11-13...C Brace 107
- 3 1/P44A-1 CALL OFF THE DOGS (10) (C) G & J Moore 9 11