

# SUNDAY Mirror

THE HEART OF BRITAIN

Sunday, May 26, 2024

E-EDITION

Labour pledges affordable childcare to parents



SEE PAGES 6&7

SUNDAY Mirror & DAILY Mirror

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EXCLUSIVE

## Sheridan lined up for Gavin & Stacey comeback

SEE PAGE 11

## TV COUPLE'S MARRIAGE OVER

# Ruth and Eamonn split

BY JANINE YAQOUB and LAURA ARMSTRONG

**TV ROYALTY Eamonn Holmes and Ruth Langsford are divorcing after 14 years of marriage.**

The ex-This Morning hosts' 27-year relationship is over after hitting a "perfect storm" of problems, say pals.

The split was recent but a source said: "They'd been leading separate lives for some time and drifted apart."

FULL STORY: PAGES 4&5

### Stars break up after 27 years together



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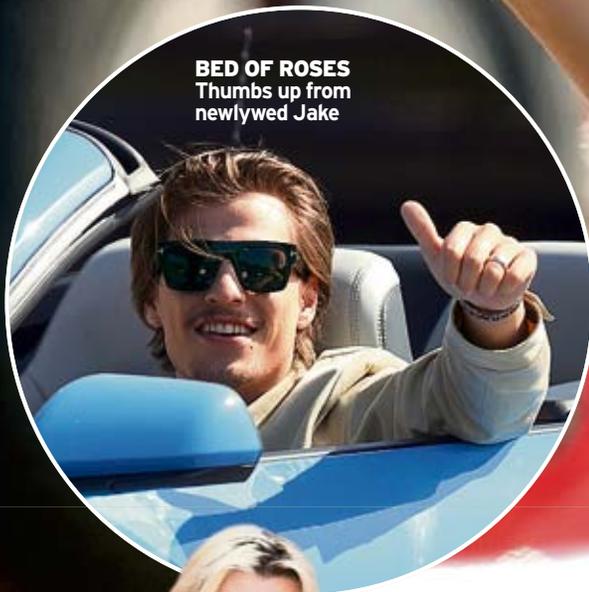
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# Millie's wedding joy turned up to Eleven



**BED OF ROSES**  
Thumbs up from newlywed Jake



**IT'S MY WIFE**  
Smiling Millie shows her wedding ring



**LIVIN' ON A STARE**  
Eye-catching Jake and Millie in 2022 at BAFTAs in London

## Things can only get better for Stranger star and rocker's son

BY **JANINE YAQOOB**  
TV and Showbiz Editor

**STRANGER Things' Eleven is in heaven after tying the knot with rock legend Jon Bon Jovi's son.**

Millie Bobby Brown, 20, and model Jake Bongiovi, 22, beamed with joy on a car trip round New York's posh Hamptons.

Overjoyed Millie threw her arms in the air as she stepped out of the convertible. It was revealed on Friday that the couple had got hitched in a private

ceremony in the US last weekend, with just close family in attendance.

The youngsters were first linked in 2021 and dated for over a year before their engagement. Jake popped the question to Millie underwater while they were scuba diving.

Jon, 62, who has been married to Dorothea for 35 years, said: "With the support of family around them, they're gonna be great together."

Millie found fame as Eleven, in the Netflix's sci-fi horror hit Stranger Things, expected to return for a final season next year.

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**“With support of family around them they're going to be great”**



**KEEP THE FAITHFUL**  
Jake, Millie, Dorothea and rocker Jon Bon Jovi

# Ukraine 'regains control' of Kharkiv region from Russia

BY SIMON MURPHY

UKRAINE has taken "combat control" of areas in the north-eastern Kharkiv region entered by Kremlin troops two weeks ago, Volodymyr Zelensky says.

Mr Zelensky, president of the war-torn nation, said in a video address: "Our soldiers have managed to take combat control of the border area."

But Viktor Vodolatskiy, a

ADDRESS Mr Zelensky



member of Russia's lower house of parliament, claimed their forces control more than half the town of Vovchansk, a state news agency reported.

The town three miles from the border has been a flashpoint since forces entered the region on May 10.

At least two people died yesterday as glide bombs hit a supermarket in Kharkiv city. Mayor Ihor Terekhov said: "A large number of people are missing,"

## Tributes paid to flat fall boy

TRIBUTES were paid yesterday to a "kind" boy of 12 who died after plunging from a block of flats.

Renoy Ellis fell from an upper floor flat in Kennington, South East London, on Friday.

His half-brother Jason Campbell told the BBC Renoy was amazing and had "so much potential" and pal Benjamin, 11, said: "He was a good friend."

Met Police said there was "nothing to indicate the incident is suspicious".

# TV'S EAMONN



TV STARS

Pair on This Morning in 2021

BY JANINE YAQOUB TV and Showbiz Editor and LAURA ARMSTRONG Assistant Editor, Showbiz

**TV golden couple Ruth Langford and Eamonn Holmes ended their 14-year marriage after a "perfect storm" of relationship woes, friends said last night.**

Fans were stunned by a 19-word statement declaring their once rock-solid relationship was finished.

The couple's spokesman said: "Ruth Langford and Eamonn Holmes have confirmed their marriage is over and they are in the process of divorcing."

The pair, both 64, who began dating 27 years ago, are said to have grown apart because of pressures, including Eamonn's faltering health and their diverging career paths.

A source said: "They'd been leading separate lives for some time and had drifted apart." An insider close to Ruth said the split was recent but it was her decision to divorce.

There was a growing strain between them caused by losing their lucrative hosting gig on This Morning and Eamonn's chronic back pain. They also lost people closest to them. In November 2022, Eamonn's mum died and, in 2019, Ruth was devastated by sister Julia's suicide.

On top of this, Ruth has spoken of struggling with empty-nest syndrome when their son Jack, 22, described as the glue

that held the family together, went to university in 2022. And Eamonn faces an ongoing legal battle over a disputed tax bill of £250,000 dating from 2018. He said the saga had caused shingles that could have left him blind.

The source said: "It's a perfect storm." The pair, last seen together almost two years ago, had been seen as one of TV's most formidable couples.

They were a regular fixture on This Morning for 15 years. They were famed for their on-screen quarrelling but Ruth said they would always work through it. She said: "We spar a lot, we're both quite fiery characters. I always say to people, 'We're not arguing, we're just having a difference of opinion!' We

don't argue about big stuff. It's just silly bickering."

In 2020, she told a magazine: "Eamonn and I can have big rows and argue, then 10 minutes later we're laughing about something."

"We've been together 23 years so it has been a long and happy relationship but we have our moments. There are times when he really annoys me and I really annoy him. There are times when I think, 'Get out of my face.' Obviously, you're not always going to get on, but you have to make it work."

They were replaced as the regular Friday hosts of This Morning by Alison Hammond and Dermot O'Leary in November 2020. They were

moved to a school holidays and bank holiday slot until 2021, when they both announced their departure.

They went their separate ways professionally which, insiders say, played a big part in the split.

Eamonn has been often travelling back to his native Belfast to film BBC show Farm To Feast and see his two grandchildren - Emilia, two, and baby Isabella, six months.

He has openly spoken of his hopes to move back to his home country but said Ruth wanted to

stay at their £3million home in Weybridge, Surrey.

The source said: "Eamonn travels back to Belfast most weekends. He loves spending time with his grandchildren. They bring him such joy. He wants to retire there."

Ruth and Eamonn were introduced by a mutual friend, TV presenter Sally Meen, and began dating in 1997.

They signed a lucrative deal with a glossy magazine for their lavish 2010 marriage at the grand 19th century Hampshire hotel, The Elvetham.

Among the invited VIPs were their TV pals Holly Willoughby and Phillip Schofield, Gloria Hunniford and Jeremy Kyle, along with Sir Alex Ferguson,



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# AND RUTH SPLIT AFTER 27 YEARS

# They just grew in different directions



**GOLDEN COUPLE**

Eamonn & Ruth at TV awards in 2020



**FIRST WIFE**

With Gabrielle and their kids



**EARLY DAYS**

Couple on ITV show in 2002

then-boss of Eamonn's beloved Manchester United. The couple are parents to Jack, while Eamonn also has sons Declan, 35, Niall, 31, and daughter Rebecca, 33, from his 10-year marriage to Gabrielle.

Last week, this paper revealed how Eamonn, now a GB News presenter, has painful physio almost daily. He has had back surgery to help with bulging discs but had a setback when he fell and

broke his shoulder last year. Recent photos showed him in London's Notting Hill on sticks and later in a wheelchair after another session.

Eamonn said in January the "harsh reality" was he may never walk again unaided. Despite his agony, he hosts his GB News shows from Monday to Wednesday.

Eamonn has posted on social media about another lady in his life - his good pal Emmerdale actress and ex-glamour model Linda Lusardi, 65.

With a picture of them together, he wrote: "1982 v 2024 and she hasn't changed a bit. My wonderful, close friend Linda Lusardi who I went to

see today. 42yr friendship x". Ruth, who has been a presenter on ITV's Loose Women since 2013, is being supported by her pals from the show, say insiders.

Eamonn had burned his bridges with ITV after saying there was a "culture of toxicity" at This Morning.

The source said the couple have "never been able to meet back in the middle". Hours after news of the divorce broke, Eamonn was celebrating his beloved United beating staunch rivals Manchester City to win the FA Cup Final at Wembley.

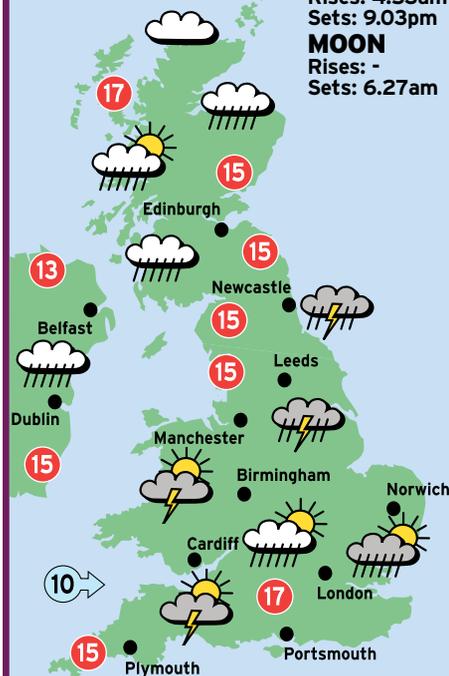
He posted on Instagram: "My God, what a Cup Final, what a Result!".

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## TODAY'S WEATHER

An unsettled day is expected with scattered showers which are possible quite widely, some of which will be locally heavy or even thundery at times later on in the afternoon and evening. Brighter or sunnier spells will develop between the showers for many areas. Gentle to moderate south-westerly winds.

**SUN**  
Rises: 4.53am  
Sets: 9.03pm  
**MOON**  
Rises: -  
Sets: 6.27am



## 4 DAY OUTLOOK

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR
Birmingham	15c	16c	17c	17c
Cardiff	15c	16c	17c	18c
Edinburgh	15c	15c	16c	16c
Liverpool	16c	18c	18c	17c
London	16c	16c	18c	17c
Manchester	15c	16c	17c	17c
Newcastle	16c	17c	17c	16c
Norwich	17c	17c	18c	17c
Plymouth	15c	16c	17c	17c

## ABROAD YESTERDAY

	C	F		C	F		
Amsterdam	th	16	61	Madrid	s	27	81
Athens	s	28	82	Majorca	s	24	75
Barcelona	s	21	70	Malaga	s	23	73
Benidorm	s	25	77	Malta	s	24	75
Corfu	s	26	79	Marmaris	s	30	86
Crete	s	25	77	Miami	s	32	90
Ibiza	s	23	73	Paris	f	19	66
Larnaca	s	28	82	Sydney	f	18	64
Las Palmas	s	24	75	Tenerife	s	24	75

- : not available, m: misty, c: cloudy, s: sunny, r: rain, dr: drizzle, sn: snow, f: fair, fg: fog, sh: showers, th: thunder, hl: hail, sl: sleet

**FREE  
MAG  
INSIDE**



## THE LOTTERY

Last night's numbers:

**LOTTO:** 6, 28, 30, 40, 53, 58 **Bonus:** 13

**THUNDERBALL:** 3, 5, 13, 16, 36

**Thunderball:** 1. £500k is the top prize.

**HEALTH LOTTERY:** 2, 19, 28, 41, 49

**Bonus:** 12. £100k is top prize.

**FRIDAY EUROMILLIONS:** 9, 12, 18, 22, 50

**Lucky Stars:** 1 & 3

# LABOUR'S PHILLIPSON ON



REUNITED Ms Haq & Bridget

## Teacher has big surprise for her model pupil MP

EXCLUSIVE BY JOHN STEVENS  
Political Editor

THE Shadow Education Secretary had a surprise school reunion this week with a teacher who helped her rise to the top of the class.

As she filmed an election video, Bridget Phillipson was asked who had inspired her and as she spoke about the "brilliant" Zahida Haq, her Spanish teacher stepped out from behind the camera.

Delighted Bridget said Ms Haq was "pretty much the embodiment of what I set out to achieve".

The MP was raised by a single mum in a council house in Washington, Tyne and Wear. She had free school meals and was bullied for being poor - but went on to win a place at Oxford.

Ms Haq described her as "an absolute model student" and told her: "I remember you had a beautiful smile and an incredible thirst for knowledge."

Bridget gave Ms Haq an equally good report, saying: "What was fantastic was not just that she was a brilliant Spanish teacher but she set up a girls' rugby team. She gave up so much of her own time to do that, above and beyond what she was doing in the classroom."

Bridget wants all kids to have the chance to do music, sport, art and drama, paid for by axing tax breaks for private schools and changing the way schools are assessed.

She vowed: "We'll do that quickly if we form the next government."

EXCLUSIVE  
BY JOHN STEVENS  
Political Editor



**LABOUR will put affordable childcare for more parents at the centre of its manifesto.**

Shadow Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson today reveals fixing the broken system will be her "number one priority".

She tells us that early years education "is where you make the single biggest difference to children's life chances even before they arrive at school", adding: "It's how we will ensure all children, no matter what their background, have every chance to thrive."

And 40-year-old Bridget, who grew up in a council house near

Sunderland and was on free school meals, vows Labour will transform education just as it did under Tony Blair when she was a teenager.

"I'm determined we'll put education front and centre of national life once more," she says.

"That's what I experienced under the last Labour government - the value of education and the impact that had on my life.

"I'm determined that we will do that again - renewing education, education, education for the next generation of children."

With the General Election less than six weeks away, Bridget insists the stakes could not be higher.

"This is a big defining moment for our country, where the choice people make on July 4 will be

enormous," she says. Meanwhile, Labour is thought to be preparing plans to create thousands of extra nursery places across the country.

Bridget says: "We will deliver an expanded childcare offer for families. We will make sure the places are there.

"This is a big personal priority for me. I know it's a big challenge at the moment for parents but also as a country we are letting down too many children. The system is so broken. I think parents know it will take time to fix it.

"But if we win the election, we will get to work on the first day to start that process of change.

"I want to make childcare more available, more accessible for parents, and I want to ensure that

all children have access to really high-quality early years education.

"We are a long, long way away from that at the moment. Under the Tories, there is such a big gap



FREE MEALS Little Bridget

# Early years is where you can make the biggest difference to a child's life chances

# AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE PLEDGE

**VOW** Bridget wants childcare for more parents

Pictures: IAN VOGLER



## Quick-fire questions

Favourite subject?  
**History.**  
Least favourite subject?  
**Chemistry.**  
After-school club?  
**Hockey. I captained the hockey team.**  
Favourite school dinner dessert?  
**Sponge and custard.**  
Ever get detention?  
**No.**



between children from more affluent backgrounds and children from less affluent backgrounds.

“They arrive at school having already slipped behind. I’m determined to make progress on that.”

Labour has tasked former Ofsted head Sir David Bell with finding new ways to increase levels of childcare in England.

One of the possibilities is creating nursery places inside existing primary schools.

The birth rate in England and Wales has been declining for more than a decade – from 1.92 babies per woman in 2010 to just 1.49 in 2022.

Bridget points out that with fewer children starting school leaving some classrooms empty, she would “think imaginatively about how we use that

space”. The Tories have pledged to extend their childcare scheme in England so that working parents of children aged nine months to three years get 15 hours of free support a week from this September.

Ministers have said this will rise again in September 2025, so working parents get 30 hours of free childcare from when children are nine months to when they start school.

But watchdogs have warned it will be difficult to recruit early years workers to provide enough places – and have raised concerns about the quality of provision. The National

**“I’m determined that we will put education front and centre of national life once more**

Audit Office last month said the changes could widen the attainment gap between children from more affluent families and those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Bridget says: “What parents are now discovering is the places they’ve been promised just aren’t there. The Tories’ policy is unravelling. It was always a pledge without a plan to make it happen.”

“Everything we set out in the election – including childcare – we’ll have a plan behind it, in terms of how we’ll pay for it and how we’ll deliver it.”

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**COMMENT: PAGE 14**



**WASHOUT** PM announces election date in the pouring rain

## Rats flee Tory Titanic to avoid the disaster that looms on July 4

BY **MIKEY SMITH**  
Deputy Political Editor

THE Tories lost more than 1,000 years’ worth of parliamentary experience in days as MPs fled Rishi Sunak’s “sinking ship”.

In an exodus the likes of which have not been seen since Tony Blair’s 1997 cull of high-profile Tories, big beasts including Theresa May, Michael Gove, Andrea Leadsom and John Redwood spent their last moments in Parliament on Friday. Research by the MHP Group found the average length of service for the 78 Tories stepping down at the election is 15 years – so much of the party’s “institutional memory” leaves with them.

Many don’t want to risk a “Portillo moment” on July 4, losing their seats.

When Michael Portillo, the then-Defence Secretary, lost to Labour in 1997, it was considered a pivotal indication that the Tories were about to be voted out in a landslide.

This week, Mr Sunak’s shock election announcement was made in the pouring rain, as protesters blasted out Labour anthem Things Can Only Get Better nearby. The mood among Tory backbenchers afterwards was just as bleak. One was seen in tears on the Commons terrace, sure they’d soon be out of a job.

Few had expected an autumn election to be easy. But none we spoke to thought a July poll would be anything but a disaster.

Mr Sunak hosted his opening rally in a dark, pokey room in the Excel Centre in East London.

The larger spaces were already occupied by a Disney exhibition, a cryptocurrency conference, and preparations for this year’s Comic Con. “Why he didn’t use that room

to call the election, rather than getting drenched in the street, I will never know,” another MP said.

Since then, more questionable campaign venues – at a Welsh brewery and Northern Ireland’s Titanic Quarter – were criticised.

Mr Sunak soldiered on, seeking to draw dividing lines between him and Labour leader Keir Starmer.

But his message seemed confused. Labour has “no plan” for, he insisted on Wednesday. But on Friday he seemed to accept his opponents did have a plan – and it would cost £38.5 billion.

Mr Starmer continued Labour’s “ming vase” strategy – treading carefully so as not to break his party’s 20-point poll lead.



**STRATEGY**  
Keir Starmer

Launching the campaign on Wednesday, he unveiled his party’s one-word slogan: Change.

On Friday, he went to Scotland, launching a bid to wrest back seats from the SNP, nearly 10 years after the influx of nationalist MPs. “We can’t just send a message

at this election,” he said in Glasgow. “We must send a government.”

A few hours later, back in Westminster, any hope Rishi Sunak’s unlucky streak was due to end was dashed. Michael Gove – Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations – surprised MPs giving their goodbye speeches with the news he was also quitting.

With no sign of polls narrowing, Mr Sunak faces an uphill battle to prevent a complete wipe-out.

And Nigel Farage made that hill a little steeper on Thursday by saying he won’t stand – but will be campaigning hard for Reform UK.

For already fearful Tories, that was the worst possible outcome.

# LABOUR MOCKS TORY BIG IDEA TO

## PM's Rish-up in a brewery run by Tory

EXCLUSIVE BY SIMON MURPHY

THE brewery that hosted Rishi Sunak for a campaign visit is owned by a party member, we can reveal.

The PM was said to have met "businesses of all persuasions", with the firm in Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, calling him "impressive".

In fact owner Craig Edmunds is a Conservative supporter who even visited a Tory MP in Parliament.

Mr Sunak's visit marked another gaffe by the PM, asking if people were "looking forward to all the football" - despite Wales missing out on the Euros.

## 'Settle your £1k Rwanda bet, Sunak'

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH

RISHI Sunak should settle his £1,000 wager with Piers Morgan over Rwanda flights, Angela Rayner told this paper yesterday.

The PM bet the TV host the migrant planes would fly before the election, but has now admitted none will take off before July 4.

Piers says he should give the £1k to the Red Cross.

Labour's deputy leader Ms Rayner said: "What's a grand to Rishi? He's richer than the king now apparently."

"He should give it to charity... it might help his ratings at the minute."

## Tories probe over voters' data rules

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH

AN MP apparently broke rules by claiming expenses to harvest voters' data for the election campaign.

Derek Thomas is among many Conservative MPs who have surveys and petitions on websites capturing personal info to use for campaign ads.

He claimed £500 of public money for beer mats showing links to his site. Mr Thomas claims he deleted emails sourced through the survey in January, and said: "This claim was submitted to IPSA as per normal practice and processes."



PRIVATE CHARTER An Embraer Legacy 600 jet

## Cam's £60K private jet for 89-minute trip a 'grotesque waste'

EXCLUSIVE BY MIKEY SMITH  
Deputy Political Editor

DAVID Cameron blew £60,000 of taxpayers' money on a luxury private jet to Albania for an 89-minute stay.

The Foreign Secretary was met by his Albanian counterpart Igli Hasani for what should have been a lavish trip to the country's capital Tirana.

Union flags lined the streets and a three-storey banner of Lord Cameron was draped on a government building.

The former PM was to host talks with Albanian politicians about the UK's partnership with the country to tackle small boat arrivals.

But less than an hour-and-a-half after touching down in an Embraer Legacy 600, rented from Maltese firm Vistajet, Lord Cameron was summoned to return for an emergency Cabinet meeting in London before Rishi Sunak called

the Election. Emily Thornberry, Shadow Attorney General said: "This sums up so much of what's wrong with this Government."

"The grotesque waste of taxpayers' money spent chartering yet another luxury private jet; the incredible chaos of having to rush back to London after less than two hours in Albania; and the sheer arrogance of treating a crucial NATO ally with such disrespect."

The luxury aircraft costs £8,600 an hour to rent and seats up to 13 passengers, or five on lay-flat beds.

Mr Cameron was already under fire for chartering an even more luxurious Embraer Lineage 1000 jet for a five-day tour of central Asia last month. It has a separate relaxation zone with extra-long sofas and can sleep up to nine.

Ms Thornberry said: "Our country deserves better than this."

FLYING VISIT Lord Cameron meets Igli Hasani... before flying straight out again



# A NATIONAL

BY MIKEY SMITH  
Deputy Political Editor

**LIFE as a young person under the Tories would mean "maths until 18 then off to war", a Labour source claims as Rishi Sunak plots the return of National Service.**

Tory plans are said to include 18-year-olds joining up or doing volunteering jobs such as building flood defences one weekend a month.

It is claimed other voluntary roles would include work with the NHS, fire service or police.

The plans would take effect from September 2025 and cost £2.5 billion a

year. A Royal Commission would hammer out the details.

The Prime Minister - who met former servicemen yesterday at a pub in North Yorkshire - has never served in the armed forces but is said to think compulsory service would help bring back the "national spirit" that emerged during the Covid pandemic.

Meanwhile, Labour leader Keir Starmer - on the campaign trail in Staffordshire - confirmed he would give 16 and 17-year-olds the vote, saying: "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." He spoke as Deputy Leader Angela Rayner

published the party's package of workers' rights, newly branded as "Labour's plan to make work pay".

The deal includes a ban on zero-hour contracts and fire-and-rehire tactics, plus stronger employment rights from day one of a new job. Mr Starmer also warned the chaos dogging the opening

days of Mr Sunak's campaign would continue if the Tories got back in.

He said: "Chaos is in the Tory bloodstream. It is how they have governed, how they campaign and with their latest unfunded promises, how they would continue if re-elected. And that Tory chaos is not just about politics. It



WALKIES Ed Davey and dog



VOTE PLEDGE Keir in Stafford with Labour candidate Leigh Ingham, second right, and voters

# MAKE TEENS WORK IN MILITARY



**ELECTION**  
**2024**



# DISSERVICE

costs people and the country a fortune through higher taxes, soaring mortgages and crippling energy bills.

“People I speak to up and down the country want it to end.

“They want to stop the chaos, turn the page, and start to rebuild.”

Further north, the PM enjoyed a

moment of respite from his MPs quitting, after days of high-profile Tories throwing in the towel.

The Conservatives were forced to deny claims Mr Sunak was hoping to have a “duvet day”, bunkered in his North Yorkshire constituency. But

while the teetotaler met local

veterans at a Wetherspoon in North-allerton, his relatively light schedule allowed him to avoid more gaffes.

The PM said he was “pumped up” despite a string of blunders and announcing the election in the rain.

“I thought, ‘come rain or shine, it’s the right thing to do,’” he told locals of his decision to make the speech outside No 10 without an umbrella.

“But no pneumonia yet. My suit, on the other hand... I’m not quite sure what state it will be in when I get back down to London.”

Mr Sunak later returned to the capital, campaigning in Wimbledon before moving to Tory HQ. Elsewhere, Lib Dem leader Ed Davey welcomed Mr Starmer’s pledge to lower the voting age – but

added that “bolder” reform was needed to fix the “broken” political system.

Speaking during a dog-walking event in Winchester, Hants, he said: “The Liberal Democrats have long supported votes at 16.”

**“** People I speak to up and down the country want it to end. They want to stop the chaos and rebuild **”**

A Labour spokesperson later said of the Tory National Service plan: “This is not a plan – it’s a review which could cost billions and is only needed because the Tories hollowed out the armed forces.”

Naomi Smith, of GetVoting.org said:

“For 14 years this Government has failed young people, now they have the gall to impose mandatory national service.”

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## Fairer New Deal will boost life for working people

**ANGELA RAYNER**  
Labour Deputy Leader



I KNOW the difference Labour in power can make. As a young mum in the 1990s, it was a Labour government that transformed my life. When I most needed it, that support meant I could go out and find the job that I built a life upon for me and my son.

I got a job as a home help in social care. The minimum wage meant I earned more. And joining a union changed the course of my life. These things were my lifeline.

The last Labour government introduced the national minimum wage, the 48-hour working week, 28 days’ paid holiday, parental leave, and greater protection from unfair dismissal. Never forget that the Tories opposed them all.

The Tories have taken Britain down the path of managed decline. Many people are unable to get jobs they can raise a family on, while businesses are unable to retain the workers they need to grow.

It’s costing Britain dearly, with more and more people drawn into insecure work and good employers being undercut on an uneven playing field.

After years of chaos, the Tories have left behind a broken labour market and an economy marked by dire productivity, insecurity and low pay. They have attacked trade unions and disrespected business, creating division that has harmed working people and the economy.

It’s time for change.

Labour’s New Deal for Working People is our plan to make work pay. It’s how we’ll boost wages, make jobs more secure and support working people to thrive, delivering a genuine living wage, banning exploitative zero-hour contracts and ending fire-and-rehire – the biggest upgrade to rights at work for a generation.

Too much time has been lost already under the Tories, so a Labour government would hit the ground running and introduce legislation within 100 days of entering government.

Our New Deal is core to our mission for growth, raising living standards in every part of the country. Because creating well-paid jobs across all parts of our country is what it takes to rebalance Britain.

Labour’s New Deal will ensure more people stay in work, make work more family-friendly and improve living standards, with more money in working people’s pockets.

Vote for change on Thursday July 4 by voting Labour. Let’s take the path of national renewal. Together let’s change our country – and get Britain’s future back.



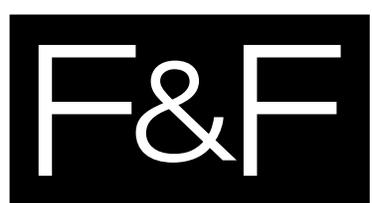
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IMAGE Duke and Duchess

## Harry & Meg pic is added to NPG trove

BY CHARLOTTE McLAUGHLIN

A PHOTO of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex has become part of the National Portrait Gallery's permanent collection.

The black and white portrait was taken by their long-time friend and photographer Misan Harriman in Manchester in September 2022, a few days before the death of Queen Elizabeth.

The image captures Meghan and Harry side-on, looking composed as they hold hands before taking to the stage at the One Young World event.

Mr Harriman, who also took images of the couple's daughter Princess Lilibet on her first birthday, said: "It never gets old that this extraordinary image of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex is now part of the permanent collection."

The central London venue already houses prints by Alexi Lubomirski of Harry and Meghan taken on December 21 2017, which were released to officially mark their engagement.

### CORRECTIONS & COMPLAINTS

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# What's occurring? Sheridan lined up for Xmas special

## Gobby Rudi 'set to make return' in final show of Gavin & Stacey

AWARDS NOD Sheridan at the Oliviers in April



RIVALRY Pair played siblings

EXCLUSIVE BY LAURA ARMSTRONG Assistant Editor, Showbiz

FANS excited for Gavin & Stacey's long-awaited last-ever episode are in for an extra special Christmas present - with the return of Sheridan Smith to the cast.

The storyline for Gavin & Stacey: The Finale is understood to bring back Sheridan's character Ruth "Rudi" Smith, the gobby sister of co-writer James Corden's Smithy.

Rudi, who annoyed her brother by insisting on also being called Smithy, appeared in series two and three of the hit sitcom, but was missing from the 2019 Christmas special.

Sources working on the BBC show say informal discussions have already taken place with Sheridan, 42, despite rumours she would not be involved.

An insider said: "The script includes all the major players, including Smithy's sister Rudi.

"Nothing's signed and conversations are still ongoing, especially as a filming date hasn't been set. But all the stops are being pulled out to have the whole cast there."

The news follows the early closure of Opening Night, Sheridan's return to London's West End after her triumph in 2023's Shirley Valentine, for which she got an Olivier Award nomination.

### SCRIPT

Co-writers James, 45, and Ruth Jones, 57, sparked a fever pitch of excitement last month when they shared a photo of a script for the final show - five years after fans saw Ruth's character Nessa propose to Smithy at the end of the 2019 Christmas special.

The series, with Matt Horne as Gavin and Joanna Page as Stacey, ran for three seasons from 2007 to 2010, with two Christmas specials - including one in 2008. But Sheridan was also a runaway hit as Rudi, whose antagonistic relationship with her brother included some warm moments.

One iconic scene has the siblings in a rap duet to American Boy. Off screen, Sheridan and James began dating in 2007 but seemed to split in 2008, when James called his relationship status "complicated". They reunited, but split fully in 2009 - with James saying he felt "heartbroken and lost".

The insider added: "Sheridan and James are still friendly - they recently bumped into each other at the Variety Club Awards and got on really well.

"So the hope is she'll be able to be part of it. Everyone's very excited about this episode - it's going to be a phenomenal last hurrah."

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COUPLE Sheridan & James in 2009

# Migrant crossing figure hits record 10,000 in 5 months

BY MIKEY SMITH

MIGRANTS crossing the English Channel in small boats this year have topped 10,000, 24 days sooner than in 2023.

The number hit 10,170 on Friday as 288 people crossed in five boats – the highest first five-month figure since records began in 2018.

Last year 10,000 was reached on June 17. The total for 2023 was 29,437

arrivals on the Kent coast from France. PM Rishi Sunak aims to “stop the boats” by sending some asylum seekers to Rwanda for processing. But he said no flights would be taking off before the July 4 General Election.

The Home Office said the number of people crossing showed the flights are needed quickly. Labour leader Keir Starmer opposes the scheme.



PERIL Boat in Channel

## Killer blades 'easy to buy'

TEENAGERS can easily buy deadly weapons online, police warn, after a youth of 17 murdered a 16-year-old with a sword.

Rahaan Ahmed Amin was attacked in an East London park last July. It is believed the sword was bought using an adult's ID.

The killer, who can't be named, was found guilty at the Old Bailey on Friday.

Det Ch Insp Kelly Allen said the case shows “how easy it is for young people to purchase deadly knives”.

# PRINCES UP FOR



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# Fans all

## From Sky Blues

BY SERENA RICHARDS at Wembley

FANS of both Manchester clubs were united over one thing yesterday on the way to their Wembley showdown – and that was the Mirror's campaign to save FA Cup replays from being scrapped.

From Red Devils to Sky Blues, they were unanimous in backing our demand that the FA does a U-turn on its decision to get rid of replays altogether – often the life blood of smaller teams and the communities they serve.

Fans spoke before seeing United beat City 2-1 in a shock FA Cup Final in front of 90,000

with millions more watching worldwide. City supporter James Swindells, 58, summed up the mood over the FA move,

saying if they don't back down: “I think we should boycott the Cup as it's not right.” He added that City followers – who saw their club relegated to football's third tier in 1998 – “know that in the past we needed that money”.



**Mirror**

Old Trafford fan Ryan Eland, 31, said: “The scrapping is good for bigger teams but the smaller clubs will suffer. If their first match is a draw at home they would want a rematch.”

Irishman Thomas O'Brien, 57, a diehard Red Devil, said: “I don't think replays should be scrapped. If there's that much money in the FA I'd

# CUP AS SUPPORTERS BACK CAMPAIGN



**NO-ASIS** Noel looking miffed



**FER-GLEE TIME** Sir Alex leaps from seat as they win



## It's His Royal Surpriseness

PRINCE William can't believe the drama unfolding before his eyes as he and son Prince George watch Manchester United's FA Cup Final win yesterday over arch-rivals City.

Football Association president Wills, 41, clasped his hands to his face as the right royal cup final upset unfolded at Wembley.

George, 10 - who like his dad is an Aston Villa fan - was gripped too by the action on the pitch.

And he listened intently as William took him through the game's talking points.

William and his eldest attended

the clash wearing matching FA suits - and George looked to be well on his way to being an ambassadorial pro as he shook hands with dignitaries.

Up-and-coming Argentine star Alejandro Garnacho, 19, gave United a shock lead then celebrated with captain Bruno Fernandes, 29.

Ex-United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, 82, was among those celebrating the 2-1 final score - while City-mad former Oasis star Noel Gallagher, 56, looked like he wanted to be Half The World Away.



**STUNNED** Scorer Alejandro and captain



**SHOCK AND HEIR** William cannot contain excitement



**RED-DY FOR ACTION** Stadium before match

# united for replays

## to Red Devils, they blast FA axe

presume they can afford replays. Smaller leagues should not have to suffer while the bigger leagues still get their revenue."

City man Richard Crabtree told us fixtures could "get busy towards the end of the season but I still think we can fit in replays". His twins Harry and Charlie added: "We agree - replays should happen for the smaller teams."

More than 10,000 people have signed the Mirror's petition to Save the FA Cup in fury against the decision to scrap replays next season.

United fans Ali Cawson and Scott Fennell also support their **FA RED CARD** Thomas O'Brien



hometown club Grimsby, who finished fourth bottom this season in League Two, the Football League's basement division. "Grimsby needs moments like replays," Ali said.

Scott said: "If you have a good enough team you should win the first match. Get the win so you don't need replays."

But Ali added: "Some of the best games have been replays so keep them."

Yesterday, research was published showing fans in every region are against the axing. Two opinion polls backed our Keep

the Magic of the FA Cup campaign. But FA chiefs insist replays must go to ease fixture congestion for our top clubs playing in Europe.

Multinational market research firm Ipsos found 43% opposed the FA move with 80% wanting an increase in prize money "allocated to lower league teams in the football pyramid".

In the second poll, specialist researchers Whitestone Insight found 56% thought smaller clubs would miss out on income if replays went and 44% thought penalties instead of replays would mean a loss of FA Cup magic.

Our campaign is backed by many clubs plus former stars including Peter Reid, Malcolm Macdonald, Dwight Yorke and Bobby Gould. The FA said: "We are working on the financial package which will ensure no lower league club loses out as a result of no replays."

serena.richards@reachplc.com



**'FIT REPLAYS IN'** Richard Crabtree and his twins

VOICE OF THE

SUNDAY  
**Mirror**Choice for  
change is  
Keir to see**THE choice at this General Election is clear. More of the same, or change for the better. Renewal over stagnation. Hope over despair.**

Keir Starmer yesterday put his faith in Britain's future, pledging support for a lower voting age to give 16 and 17-year-olds a say.

And Shadow Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson tells us today that affordable childcare for more parents will be a key plank of Labour's manifesto. That could be achieved by creating extra nursery places from spare space in primary schools.

She will also hire 6,500 more teachers – paid for by ending tax breaks for private schools to make the education system fairer.

The Tories squeal at that but while everyone should spend their money as they choose, the taxpayer should not be subsidising that choice.

As next Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper will boost police numbers – with 13,000 more PCs and support officers to tackle the antisocial behaviour that blights many neighbourhoods.

And when Shadow Health Secretary Wes Streeting runs the NHS, there will be 40,000 extra hospital appointments a week to cut waiting lists. This will be funded by a crack-down on non-dom tax loopholes.

**STABILITY**

To curb Channel boat crossings, a new Border Security Command will use counter-terror tactics against the organised crime gangs who control this vile trade.

But the top issue for voters is the cost of living – which is why Mr Starmer is right to put economic stability at the forefront of his campaign. He's also right to urge caution over expectations that it can happen overnight.

Labour will not inherit the healthy economy Tony Blair did in 1997.

Growth is now key to getting it back on track after 14 years of Tory mismanagement.

That is why the new publicly owned Great British Energy company is so essential.

Doubling onshore wind power, trebling solar and quadrupling offshore wind could cut our annual bills by £1,400 and create 500,000 jobs.

Even Tory Chancellor Jeremy Hunt admits getting green technology right would be worth £1trillion to British business by 2030. It would turn economic growth into financial boom.

But to get there we need less of the flair of Blair and more of the common-sense, down-to-earth steer of Keir.

The opinion polls suggest the Labour leader has this election in the bag. Tory MPs think so, too – and so one in five are quitting. Michael Gove also feels it's time to throw in the towel.

Even Rishi Sunak must think the gods are against him after the heavens opened up over Downing Street – and he then launched his sinking ship from the birthplace of the Titanic.

But polls do not make a Labour victory a done deal, as Neil Kinnock found out in 1992 and Ed Miliband in 2015.

Which is why every vote counts. And every vote for Labour counts towards the change and renewal this country craves.

**JASON BEATTIE**

Guest columnist

**NO COME  
ALL YE  
FAITHFUL**

If Labour is genuinely a broad church, then it should have found a way for Jeremy Corbyn and Diane Abbott to rejoin the congregation.

When there is room for Natalie Elphicke in Keir Starmer's party there should also be a place for

Ms Abbott, who made history when she became the first female Black MP in 1987. And by standing as an independent in Islington North, Corbyn could deny Labour victory in one of its safest seats.

Some will regard this as an act of vanity but the

former leader may be doing his former party a favour.

The Tories are desperate to yoke Starmer to his predecessor.

That's not going to wash when Corbyn has not just been expelled from Labour but is seeking to defeat them at the ballot box.

**Sent to the showers****The only way is down now for this drippy PM and his washout party**

What were they thinking? That's the question Labour keeps asking. What were the Tories thinking when they sent Rishi Sunak out in the rain to announce the General Election?

What were they thinking when they decided to cut and run while 20 points behind in the polls?

And what were they thinking when they admitted that the flights to Rwanda – their flagship policy – have been effectively grounded?

But the real jaw-dropper as far as Labour is concerned is what were they thinking by trying to make this a presidential contest between Sunak and Keir Starmer?

If you are going to enter a beauty pageant, you want to be able to parade down the catwalk without tripping over your shoelaces.

But in the first 48 hours of the election campaign, Sunak mislaid his broly, was caught out answering patsy questions from two planted Tory stooges, asked a couple of Welsh voters if they were looking forward to the Euros even though Wales has not qualified and posed in front of the dock where the Titanic was built.

Once again, what were the Tories thinking? Sunak is about as natural on the stump as an elephant in a ballet class.

In the last election he fought – for the Tory leadership – he was thrashed by Liz Truss, who in turn

was beaten by a lettuce. If he could not persuade even his own party to back him, you wonder how he's going to convince the public to turn out for him on July 4.

The only thing Sunak has achieved since calling the election is to reinforce the perception that he's a socially-awkward, well-off geek who's out of his depth.

And if you are going to frame an election around one person, then it helps if that person has actually achieved something.

He's failed to stop the boats, broken his pledge to cut NHS waiting lists and his one legacy project – the smoking ban – has been snubbed out.

But which other Tories could share the heavy lifting of campaigning?

Lord Cameron? He's the architect of austerity who did a runner after causing the chaos of Brexit.

Jeremy Hunt? He looks frightened of his own shadow.

Oliver Dowden? He's so wet you could grow watercress on him.

Michael Gove? He's just joined the scramble for the exit door.

Then there is a string of Cabinet ministers such as Lucy Frazer, Alex Chalk, Steve Barclay and Michelle Donnellan who are so anonymous they would struggle to pick each other out in an identity parade.

If you want to know what the Tories were thinking it is that their fortunes are so bad Sunak is the best they have to offer.



“  
Sunak is as natural on the stump as an elephant in a ballet class”



The popcorn was ready. The champagne was on ice. Now, John Redwood has ruined what could have been one of the highlights of election night by standing down before voters had the chance to boot him out.

Anyone looking for a “Were you up for Portillo?” moment will have to console themselves by waiting to see if Jeremy Hunt loses his seat.

Or Penny Mordaunt, Iain Duncan Smith and, if things go really well, Liz Truss.



The polls point to a Labour victory but if, like me, you can remember the 1992 General Election, you never take anything for granted.

The disappointment of Neil Kinnock's defeat still burns to this day. Though it was not as bad as the 2015 result, when I got home to find that my cat had been run over.



**ICONIC Spitfire fighter**  
**Pilot killed in Spitfire crash at Battle of Britain event**

BY **KEITH PERRY**

A PILOT died when a Spitfire crashed in a field during a Battle of Britain display flight yesterday.

Emergency services including a rescue helicopter were scrambled to RAF Coningsby, Lincs, after reports of a crash near the base at 1.20pm.

It is understood the plane, with only the pilot on board, was part of the RAF's Battle of Britain Memorial Flight display team booked to perform at an event nearby.

Police said the pilot died at the scene.

The Ministry of Defence said: "It is with great sadness we must confirm the death of an RAF pilot in a tragic accident near RAF Coningsby today.

"The pilot's family have been informed and we ask their privacy is respected at this difficult time."

An RAF spokesman said: "We are working with the emergency services and supporting those involved."

A probe into the cause of the crash is under way.

The Supermarine Spitfire played a key role in the Battle of Britain. About 60 are still flown, while 180 more are kept in museums and private collections.

**For Romans, Wolds were their oyster**

FLOOD defence work has unearthed a possible Roman oyster site.

Large amounts of "misshapen oyster shells" were found on the banks of the Humber Estuary, near Weeton, East Yorkshire.

Environment Agency senior archaeologist Jennifer Morrison said: "It was truly amazing to find the evidence of this early oyster processing site during our dig.

"At this time, oysters would have been plentiful and a staple of the diet."

Oysters were prized by the Romans – with some saying they were key to Julius Caesar's decision to invade Britain.

# Two become ton



**BOW DOWN** Golda at Netflix hit's season 3 screening in London earlier this year



**TV ROYALTY**  
As Queen Charlotte

**Bridgerton's Queen Charlotte ties the knot in quiet ceremony**

**EXCLUSIVE**

BY **LAURA ARMSTRONG**  
Assistant Editor, Showbiz

**THERE were no peacocks or extravagant displays at her wedding but Bridgerton star Golda Rosheuvel certainly found a happy ending.**

The actress – Queen Charlotte in the hit Netflix series – quietly married long-term partner Shirreen Mula just before Christmas.

A source said: "Golda and Shirreen have been together a long time, long before Golda found fame with Bridgerton.

"They have been through a lot and have been committed to each other for more than a decade.

"And last year they decided the timing was right to make things official and tie the knot.

"It was the complete opposite of a Bridgerton wedding – there were no extravagant displays or hundreds of guests. The wedding itself was incredibly low-key. But

it felt right for the two of them and their friends and family are so happy for them both."

Golda has been at the centre of the Bridgerton drama since the series launched in 2022, becoming a household name overnight.

The 54-year-old's portrayal of Queen Charlotte, who she admits she based on her own mother, was such a hit that bosses at production company Shondaland even brought out a spin-off.

In season two of the main series, viewers saw the Queen arranging an opulent wedding, complete with a garden reception featuring peacocks.

But the source said: "A lavish, over-the-top do was the opposite of what Golda and Shirreen wanted for their own wedding. They are very down-to-earth."

In the third series of the period drama, which was released in part this week, the Queen is once again trying to influence the wedding matches of the season.

But a trailer for the second instalment suggests that in the finale, the temperamental royal will channel her firepower instead into unmasking gossip writer Lady Whistledown.

Part two of series three will be released on June 16.

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**A lavish, over-the-top do was the opposite of what Golda and Shirreen wanted for their wedding**



**HAPPY** Golda and Shirreen

# 3 forces' £123k bill in month for holding migrants in cells

BY MIKEY SMITH Deputy Political Editor  
MINISTERS spent £123,000 in a month holding migrants in police cells.

People can be held before being moved to immigration detention centres if officers believe they do not have permission to stay in the UK.

And forces can charge for use of cells when it is not a criminal matter, which can cost £510 per detainee per day.



CHARGE  
Police cell

In February, three forces – Avon and Somerset, Police Scotland and West Midlands – billed the Home Office a total £123,175. Only bills over £25,000 are routinely published, so the total for all 41 forces is likely to be far higher.

It comes as police are urged to make fewer arrests to aid the creaking justice system.

The Home Office was contacted for comment.

# Cops search 432 under 10

POLICE stopped and searched 432 children aged under 10 in England and Wales last year.

Nearly a quarter were from BAME backgrounds – disproportionately high for population percentage.

Police in Avon and Somerset searched the most at 117, followed by the Kent and Met forces, site data.police.uk shows.

Some 200 searches were drug-related and 87 weapon-related. There was no further action in 79%.

# FOREST CAMP



RELIEF Steve now helps JP

## Fewer flashbacks thanks to retreat

STEVE Robinson was on his third tour of Bosnia when he suffered a spinal injury.

Medically discharged from the Army in 1999, at 31, the dad of two also had PTSD.

Now 56, the former Royal Corps of Signals Corporal finds respite from PTSD triggers and symptoms at Belisama's. He says: "Military training changes you – it rewrites your brain so you can survive in war. This leads to problems with PTSD.

"We can come down here and we're away from the triggers, with people with the same sense of humour and life experiences." Steve

SERVICE Steve in the Army

battled flashbacks, poor sleep and hyper-vigilance, working 100-hour weeks as an operations manager to suppress his anguish.

He had a near-fatal heart attack in 2016 which led to a PTSD diagnosis.

Steve, of north Lancashire, comes to Belisama's twice a week and helps Steve run it. The community helped keep his spirits up after his back injury degenerated two years ago, leaving him partially paralysed below the waist.

"I've started talking to my wife about Bosnia, properly," he says. "I don't get flashbacks as much.

"My family can see I've improved massively."



# OUT

### EXCLUSIVE BY AMY SHARPE

**THROWING wood on the campfire, ex-soldier JP Marriott sits back on a bench he carved from a log and gestures at the nearby river.**

"It's so peaceful here," he says. "It feels like we're a million miles from all the everyday stresses."

This is Belisama's Retreat, a tranquil area of woodland on Lancashire's River Ribble where JP "fixes broken soldiers".

The former Royal Artillery bombardier's retreat offers a break from civilian life to veterans with conditions such as PTSD, depression and addiction.

Here, they can deal with mental anguish and build emotional resilience by spending time outdoors camping, lighting bonfires and enjoying nature.

JP, 54, says: "People imagine us soldiers must be here acting like Rambo with big knives, killing stuff. But the lads had enough of all that in the Army. We're here preserving the

woodland and want to be peaceful. This retreat has saved lives."

Thought to be the UK's first military ecotherapy site, it has 500 veterans registered and gets two or three new enquiries every week. A stay can be arranged with a few hours' notice.

JP says adjusting to civilian life is not easy and many who join the Army from school know nothing else, adding: "We offer respite from those pressures and get down to the basic things you need for happiness: food, water and shelter."

Some sign up to the retreat to camp in the wild, while others come to offload when "the black dog taps on their shoulder".

Father of three JP, who has mental health first aid and ecotherapy training but is not a qualified counsellor, says during chats visitors tell him things they would not share with loved ones to spare them from secondary PTSD.

He says: "Rather than getting angry with their partners or kicking their dog, they come here and unload

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# HELPS ARMY VETS FIGHT DEMONS



OVER THE COALS JP cooks a meal at Belisama's



SUPERFIT Liam in his Army days



KINDLING HOPE Vets at Retreat fire

## It's a place where we can reconnect

LIAM Hammet says he felt "abandoned" when the Army made him redundant, spiralling into alcoholism.

Liam, 33, joined the 32 Engineer Regiment at 16 and spent six years overseas, prepping his regiment for two tours of Afghanistan as a PT instructor.

After being laid off in 2013, at 23, he lived a caravan and spent seven years as a motorway surfer. He became addicted to booze and did jail time in 2022 for crimes linked to his

habit. But it was a wake-up call and determined to turn his life around, he became a veterans' mentor. He now takes ex-soldiers to

Belisama's every week.

Liam, of Burnley, Lancs, says: "It's a place to get back into nature, connect, reconnect and enjoy the planet."

Sober for two years now, Liam believes the Army should give discharged soldiers training to prepare them for civilian life. He says: "It's a different world out here."



SOBER Liam had wake-up call

# OF THE WOODS

without judgment. Once we've had the horrible talk, I'll start using grounding techniques to bring them back down from the open wound of the trauma and back into the room.

"We might go up the river in the canoe, search for wild garlic or go looking for kingfishers or otters."

Belisama's also has activities such as archery and axe-throwing. In one exercise, JP asked a veteran to create an image of his mind using nature – and the lad used dead sticks and leaves to show the messed-up parts

of his brain. JP says: "We burnt the dead sticks on a campfire. It's a physical way of clearing your head."

We are visiting the retreat days after actress Tina Malone, 61, revealed how PTSD, brought on by his experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq, drove husband Paul Chase, 41, to drink, drugs and, in March, suicide.

Sadly, Paul's case does not surprise JP. Suicides in men aged 35 to 44 in 2021 were 33.5 per 100,000 in veterans compared with 18.8 in non-veterans, Office for National Statistics show.

Sitting by the campfire, JP cites three military peers who took their lives in recent months. He says: "More have now died of PTSD or suicide than died in combat in Afghanistan."

Veterans also face problems with money, housing, work and marriage.

Homelessness among veterans in England rose 14% in 2023 compared with the previous year. JP says: "Some struggle to live in houses as they find it restrictive or triggering. Others have got into trouble and been kicked out or lost their home, perhaps

because of financial or substance abuse issues." Where appropriate, he points people to specialised support.

JP left the Army in 1999 after 14 years, then worked in data communications and ran a tattoo studio, among other jobs.

Using his Army pension, he bought four acres of land in 2017 intending to grow produce for local restaurants. But its calming impact on Army mates convinced him to start Belisama's in 2018. "If it helped them, I thought it would help others," he says.

His proudest achievement is aiding a suicidal ex-soldier to thrive, even reconnecting with his estranged family. JP says: "Last time I saw him, he had this sunshine glow and this other guy gave me a hug – it was his brother, who he hadn't spoken to for 30 years."

Today, demand is as high as ever but grants have

dried up, leaving Belisama's reliant on donations and the savings of JP, who is working for nothing, to stay afloat.

He is trying to raise £34,000 to buy neighbouring land and build a car park, to improve accessibility.

JP would have lost his house last year but for the Royal British Legion's intervention. He also won one of PM Rishi Sunak's Point of Light awards, which recognise outstanding UK volunteers – but could not afford to travel to London to collect it.

JP says: "As soldiers, the orders we followed came from Government. It is their responsibility to make sure grants and funding is available for smaller organisations like ours."

He adds: "This work can be draining but I'm not stopping. Too many people depend on me. We just need that support."

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Support Belisama's at [gofundme.com/f/improve-access-ans-secure-parking-for-belisamas-retreat-cic](https://gofundme.com/f/improve-access-ans-secure-parking-for-belisamas-retreat-cic)



CAMPMATE JP gets a brew on

“People imagine we're here like Rambo killing stuff – but the lads had enough of that in the Army”



HEARTBREAK Tina and tragic Paul

# SCANDAL-HIT WATER FIRM'S ECO AWARD

## Company's boast as dozens get parasite

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY SIMON MURPHY

**THE scandal-hit water firm embroiled in the parasite outbreak in Devon boasted of winning an environmental award only months earlier.**

South West Water's parent firm said it could face paying millions in compensation after 16,000 households and firms in and near Brixham, Devon, were told to boil their water.

Two people went to hospital among nearly 80 cases of cryptosporidiosis – which causes diarrhoea and vomiting – in the past week.

The water firm, in partnership with Glanville Environmental and Public

Sewer Services, won the silver Green Apple Award for Environmental Improvement in November. South West Water boasted it was for "using innovative approaches under tight deadlines to upgrade a 640-metre length of sewer".

The firm's John Evans said: "It is always a great moment when our hard work is recognised."

And Glanville Environmental celebrated a UKSTT gong for "trenchless technology" alongside South West Water the same month.

It comes as it was reported South West Water owner Pennon Group will pay £127m in dividends to shareholders.

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## It's net your usual catch

THIS seahorse caught by a father and son while crabbing is one of the biggest ever found in British waters.

Robin and Jaxon Guy accidentally pulled up the unusual aquatic creature - thought to be a short-snouted seahorse - from Poole Bay, Dorset.

The 23cm animal was up to 20 years old and the fourth largest measured since records began in 1994.

The Seahorse Trust's Neil Garrick-Maidment said: "It was in brilliant condition," adding that Robin and Jaxon "did everything right by taking a quick photo" before releasing it back into the sea. There are two types of seahorses in UK waters: spiny and short-snouted.



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# Sainsbury's



**RAPPER** Singer Nicki Minaj

## Nicki Minaj is arrested in Amsterdam

BY CHARLOTTE McLAUGHLIN

NICKI Minaj's Manchester gig was cancelled last night after the singer was arrested in Amsterdam.

In a series of social media posts, Minaj, 41, claimed that police said they found drugs in her luggage after items were checked by customs at Schiphol Airport.

The US rapper wrote "they found weed" and said her security advised officials the items belonged to them, not her. Dutch police later said they had released her "and she can now move on", but she will have to pay a fine.

In a video on Instagram, she alleged: "They've been trying to stop me from coming to every show. They took my bags before I could see them."

She is due to play in Birmingham tonight.



**SHOCK NEWS** Grayson

## PGA-winning golfer Murray dies aged 30

BY KEITH PERRY

AMERICAN golfer Grayson Murray has died aged 30.

The two-time PGA champion had pulled out of this week's PGA Charles Schwab Challenge a day before his passing was announced.

Tour commissioner Jay Monahan said he was "lost for words" to hear the news yesterday morning.

He said: "We mourn Grayson and pray for comfort for his loved ones."

The North Carolina native, who battled alcohol addiction and depression for years, went pro in 2015.

In July 2017, he won the Barbasol Championship in his first PGA tour victory.

In January of this year, he earned his second at the Sony Open in Hawaii.

Murray's cause of death is not yet known.

**LOOK WAD YOU MADE ME DO**  
Taylor's 15 Eras gigs in the UK will generate nearly £1billion



# Airbnb owners make a Swift profit

Room rates skyrocket on nights of Taylor gigs

## EXCLUSIVE

BY NATASHA WYNARCZYK  
Consumer Editor

**TAYLOR Swift fans needing a place to stay after the megastar's gigs could be in for a Cruel Summer as prices are soaring by up to 223%.**

Those with rooms for concertgoers are making a Swift buck as we found prices for stays could rise by as much as £500 per night in some parts of the country when her record-breaking Eras Tour is taking place.

Researchers looked at Airbnb prices for the week before and the week Taylor is in town, to find the average costs to stay for two people for one night.

And the biggest hike was when Taylor, 34, is performing at Edinburgh's Murrayfield Stadium over the weekend of June 7-9.

Then, Airbnbs cost an average of £769 per night – but the weekend before it is £237.88, making it a 223% increase during the weekend of her gigs. Taylor then heads to Liverpool's Anfield, performing on June 13, 14 and 15. For the same dates the week before,

Airbnb rentals cost on average £99.64 a night but they rise to £202.59 the dates of the gigs – more than double.

Her next show is in Cardiff, with Welsh fans seeing the least damage to their wallets. Taylor is doing one night at the Principality Stadium, on June 18.

That night, it is £185.07 for a stay compared with £156.44 the Tuesday before – an 18% increase. For London,

Alt Index looked at Travelodge hotels within three miles of Wembley Stadium. The average

cost for a one-night stay when she plays on June 21, 22 and 23 is £222.60. But the same time period the week before is £109.93, making this a 102% increase.

When Taylor is playing on August 15, 16, 17, 19 and 20, the average cost for a one-night stay at a nearby Travelodge is £167.96. For the same time the week before it is £88, making stays over the tour dates 91% more.

Consumer expert Scott Dixon, of The Complaints Resolver, said: "This is blatant profiteering and extortion which simply cannot be justified. No

hotel or Airbnb can justify charging nearly £800 for one night.

"This highlights why consumers ought to plan ahead and factor in these costs, and consider different locations when buying tickets for events."

The Eras Tour is set to provide a £997million boost to the UK economy, according to Barclays. Fans will spend an average of £848 on tickets, accommodation, travel, merchandise, new outfits and food and drink.

Almost 1.2 million Swifties will catch her live shows when she visits the UK this summer for her 15 performances.

Taylor recently became the first artist to achieve billionaire status solely through her music, while the Eras Tour, which started on March 17, 2023 in Glendale, Arizona, is the highest grossing of all time – breaking the \$1billion barrier last December.

An Airbnb spokesman said: "The average price for booked accommodation on Airbnb in Liverpool, Cardiff and Edinburgh for the concert dates is around £233 per night."

Travelodge said: "We pride ourselves on providing our customers with a well-priced, well-located stay they can trust."

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**“ This is blatant profiteering and extortion which simply cannot be justified... people must plan ahead**



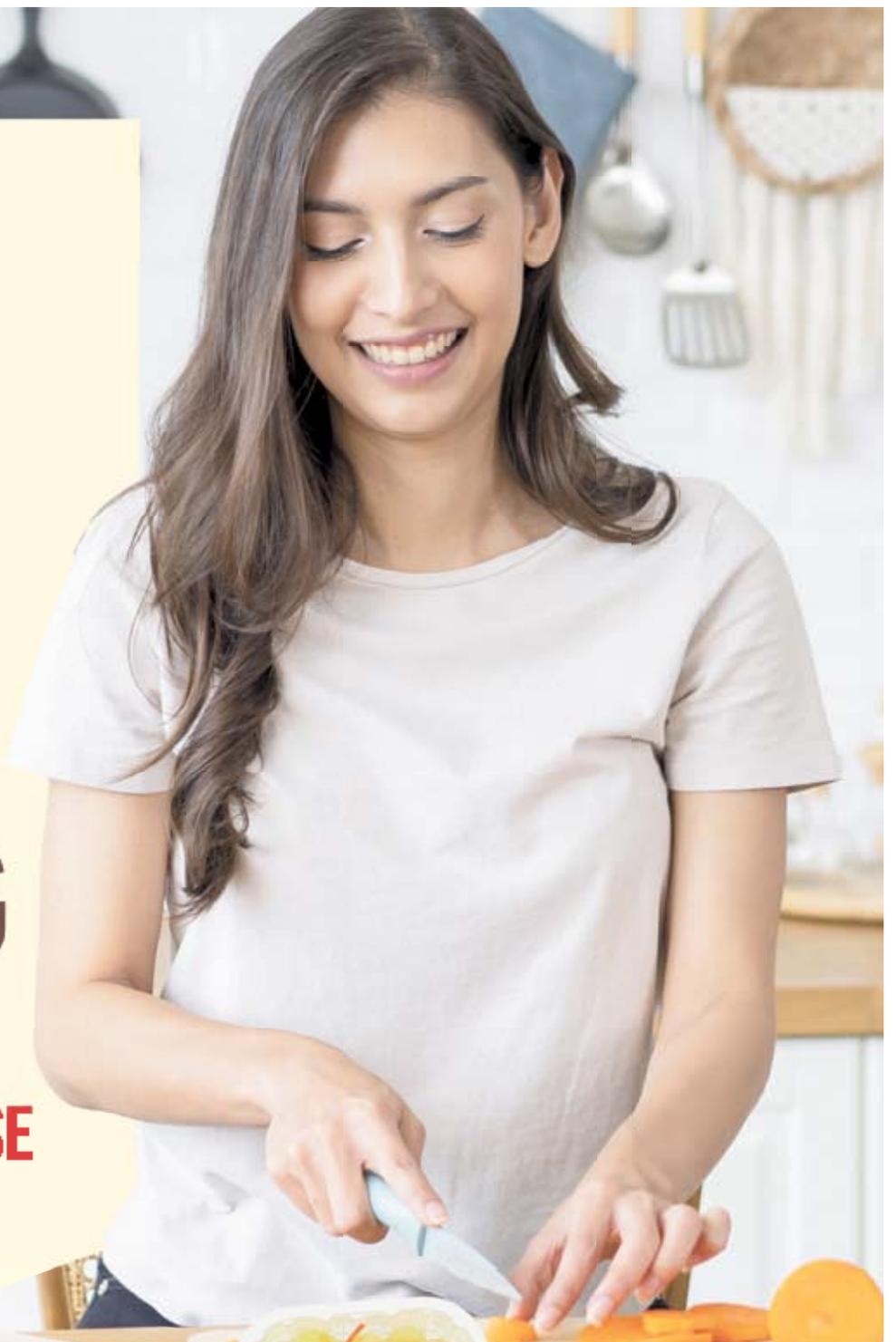
**LES SWIFTIES** Fans in Nanterre, France, queue outside gig earlier this month

SUNDAY **Mirror**

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**BAN** North Korea's Jong-Un  
**Despot Kim**  
**song-glum at**  
**blocked tune**

BY **PATRICK HILL**  
in Seoul, South Korea

NORTH Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un has banned music by one of his dad's favourite singers after South Korea blocked a tune praising the despot.

Star Kim Yeon-Ja, 65 – born in South Korea and whose hits include Our Wish is Unification – performed for his father Kim Jong-Il in Pyongyang.

The ban comes days after South Korea barred a North Korean music video that glorified the nation's baby-faced despot, 40, as a “friendly father” and a “great leader”.

The video, which shows soldiers and schoolkids belting out lines such as “Let's brag about Kim Jong-Un”, was an unlikely global social media hit after its release on state TV.



**TROTTERS** Lillian Ross  
**'Good grub is**  
**the secret to**  
**living to 108'**

BY **PATRICK HILL**

A WOMAN celebrated her 108th birthday by saying “great care and good food” was her secret to long life.

Lillian Ross, who was fed pig's trotters and sheep's heads by her mum while she grew up in London, was born in 1916, when the toggle wall light switch was invented.

Ms Ross celebrated her big day on Tuesday at the Paddocks Care Home in Swaffham, Norfolk, with ballroom dancers, a barbecue and a visit from the town's mayor.

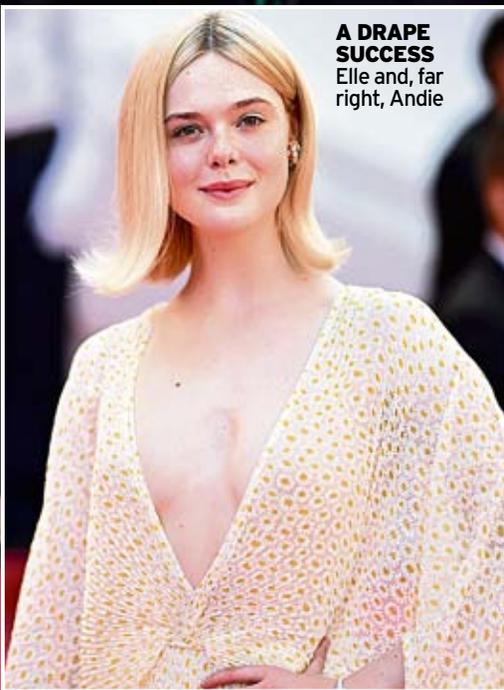
And she said she was “astonished” to have reached the age.

Jenny Strutt, who looks after Ms Ross at the care home, said she was “always smiling, always happy.”

She added: “She is a total inspiration to us all, we all love her.”



**CAPE CRUSADE** Olivia and Demi, right, both chose black and white



**A DRAPE SUCCESS** Elle and, far right, Andie



**That's a wrap at**  
**Cannes for Demi**

BY **JANINE YAQOOB**

ACTRESS Demi Moore takes a bow as her comeback in horror flick *The Substance* is widely lauded at Cannes Film Festival.

Demi, 61, graced the red carpet on the final day of the 12-day French event alongside Hollywood stars Viola Davis, 58, Andie MacDowell, 66, and Elle Fanning, 26.

# BANG HOLIDAY

BY **PHIL CARDY**

**THUNDERY, wet weather will today stretch its tentacles across the country and wash away most of the May Bank Holiday sunshine.**

Yesterday's dry, fine conditions meant giant octopus kites could be seen soaring along the coast.

But the sky-high octopi on Majuba Beach in Redcar, North Yorkshire, will be brought back down to earth today as storms are expected to make the good weather go out with a bang.

Thunder and lightning are set to start rumbling their way across the Midlands and the North this afternoon with a yellow warning in place until 8pm.

Meanwhile, bands of rain in the East and Cornwall are expected to intensify – prompting the Met Office to issue a vast weather warning, from the east to west coast and from Middlesbrough down to Milton Keynes.

Forecasters say sudden flooding could create difficult driving conditions,



**HIGH** Octopus kites on beach

## Thunderstorms set to rumble in

or even lead to communities being cut off by road closures.

Homes and businesses could be flooded, hit by lightning strikes or have their power cut off. And train and bus services face cancellations and delays.

With the chance of between 20 and

30mm of rain falling in just a few hours, the Environment Agency has issued 26 flood alerts, most of them in Southern England, west of the capital, but also near Derby and Shrewsbury.

Tomorrow's Bank Holiday Monday weather is also expected to be a mixed

bag of sunshine and showers. Describing the bank holiday weather, Met Office meteorologist Craig Snell said: “Overall, it's a pretty mixed picture.

“Saturday was probably the best of the bunch. There will still be some sunshine around on Sunday and Monday, but we'll certainly be dodging downpours.”

Meanwhile, holidaymakers heading for sunnier climes faced serious delays yesterday as they tried to get away for half-term. Long queues formed at the Port of Dover as officials reported processing times of two hours at French border controls.

And the roads in the town were gridlocked because of the amount of traffic heading to the port.

A Port of Dover spokesman said: “We are experiencing extremely high levels of traffic and are working with French border police, Kent Highways and Kent Police to clear the queues as quickly as possible.”

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# Moss sticks to 'holy wood' life

If Kate Moss finds airport security guards opening her luggage any time soon, she could be in for some stick...

The supermodel admits she takes a twig of "mystical" Peruvian wood Palo Santo with her when she travels, to "cleanse" her hotel room.

The very expensive sticks - known as "holy wood" - are used by spirit priests, or shamans, to bring good energy.

And apparently, Kate needs a lot of good energy. Speaking in a magazine interview, she says: "When I travel I like to bring elements of home with me.

"I cleanse the room with Palo Santo and I burn my brand Cosmoss's incense to feel grounded and calm." Maybe we need more sticks in our lives.



**CLEANSING**  
The mystical wood 'brings good energy'



# NO FILTER

with Laura Armstrong & Janine Yaqoob

## Music world needs to be cleaned up, blasts Kate

**Kate Nash** has delivered a searing critique of the music industry, saying it lacks boundaries and needs cleaning up.

The singer, who will release new album *9 Sad Symphonies* next month, tells us in an exclusive chat that it can sometimes be hard to tell where the lines are when it comes to female artists being taken advantage of.

But she says she has learned to listen to her gut reaction - saying the more artists speak out, the better.

And she heaped praise on Taylor Swift for opening up about exploitation in the industry and the sexual assault she experienced.

Kate says: "The industry has no HR department,



everyone's independent. Probably the best thing I've learned is that gut instinct - especially as a woman - is there for a reason.

"If you have a feeling, follow that. You usually feel peculiar about something because it is peculiar."

Kate says boundaries are also blurred because of the performance environment.

She adds: "We're in clubs and bars, and there's alcohol - it's difficult to start tackling what's right and wrong in that environment.

"Most women experience it to some degree."

Asked about Taylor, she says: "There's a lot more attention - I do think fans are interested. But there are a lot of people with a lot of power who don't give a f\*\*\*."

Hats off to Kate for calling it as she sees it.

## Matt's high hopes on marijuana firm

**Matt Goss** is on a high after joining forces with a marijuana multi-millionaire.

The Bros singer has bought shares in entrepreneur Maximilian White's cannabis company, Dr Green NFT, and is involved in growing a legal variant of the plant to make medical marijuana.

Matt, 55, lost mum Carol to cancer 10 years ago and believes had she taken cannabis

it would have stopped her having such a slow and painful death.

Brit businessman Max says of the star: "His mum had cancer and he's a big advocate of medical marijuana

because he believes she would have survived a bit longer if she had good CBD treatments, which is some research that we have done heavily as a firm.

"So when Matt looked at our firm being the leaders in the medical field, and we had an opportunity to join forces, he snapped our hands off for it."



**ANGUISH** Matt looked after mum Carol as she died

**Eloise Viola** is supporting **Rebecca Ferguson** on tour at the moment - and we've been blown away by her gorgeous vocals and powerful lyrics.

Her debut album *Glasshouse*, released earlier this month, is a passionate pop record sharing messages of self-love, empowerment and strength with mighty disco vibes. We predict great things for Eloise.



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## Table-dance Rod asks 'Da ya drink I'm sexy?'

**Sir Rod Stewart** proved he really is Forever Young during a boozy beach bash.

The Maggie May singer, 79, blew tens of thousands on Laurent Perrier champagne and danced on tables in Portugal.

Onlookers told how the superstar forked out for "dozens" of bottles at £127 a pop for his pals at the Thai Beach Club in Vilamoura.

And after sinking beer and fizz all afternoon, he even got up on stage to give an impromptu

rendition of his hit *Da Ya Think I'm Sexy*.

A source said: "All the crowd were loving it and singing along. Rod was definitely a

bit tipsy but loving life." Rod also posed for pictures with fans. Dressed in a white shirt and Tom Ford sunglasses, in one he smiled clutching a pint of beer.

His boozy session came 24 hours before he was on stage in Antwerp, Belgium. But the dad of eight loves a bevvy. He goes to his Essex local the Cock Inn in Sheering three nights a week, where he enjoys Guinness and glasses of rosé Whispering Angel. He even launched his own whisky, Wolfie's.



**HALF-CUT IS THE DEEPEST** Rod & beach club owner Giuseppe D Ursi



## Follow the lead of role **model** Kendall

We're even bigger fans of **Kendall Jenner** after chatting to one of her pals this week. We hear the model is a serious advocate for diversity and only agreed to a recent big deal if the firm used a diverse range of models in the campaign. The source said: "Kendall signed a fashion deal worth millions but told the team she would only sign if they promised to reflect the full range of the customer base. "She sees models every day miss out on opportunities they are clearly qualified for and thinks it isn't fair. She plans to make the same stipulation for all brands she works with and is hoping others will follow her lead." Good for her.



**Sophie Ellis-Bextor** is enjoying a "bonkers" career boost after her hit song *Murder on the Dancefloor* featured in *Saltburn*. The pop star revealed since it was played in the film's final scene, her popularity has exploded. And she mostly notices the difference in how teens view her.

Speaking to **Rachel Jackson** on her own *Spinning Plates* podcast, she said: "It's bonkers. It's so surreal. We were emailing and you said, 'My teenage daughter's going to be excited.' That is definitely a new thing! This time last year she'd have been like, 'Who the hell is that?'"



**CHAMPION** Kendall is fighting for more diversity in campaigns

# It's Mission: **Impossible**

## £23m prop problem delaying Cruise action film

**Getting the next Mission: Impossible on the big screen really feels like the hit film franchise is living up to its name.**

We can reveal the eighth instalment in **Tom Cruise's** series has hit further delays - thanks to a malfunction with a £23million submarine.

Sources say the gimbal, which is used to lower the 120ft-high structure, jammed under its weight and had to be



**CRUISE CONTROL** Tom & Hayley in *Dead Reckoning*

### EXCLUSIVE

repaired. This has put filming back weeks and bumped up costs.

A source said: "They're not happy as it puts production behind, which costs a lot of money per day."

Fans are eagerly awaiting the next chapter in secret agent Ethan Hunt's story. It was originally set for release this summer but has been dogged by delays. Reports suggested it

will be out in May 2025 - but that was before this recent setback.

Most of the film has been shot in the UK, much of it at Surrey's Longcross Studios.

Cruise, 61, brought *Mission: Impossible*, a hit TV series from the Sixties, to the big screen in 1996.

The last instalment, *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One*, also starring **Hayley Atwell**, was out last summer and featured a submarine that is blown up and sinks. The next offering will revisit the submarine 10 years later.

Production hit problems once they started adding fittings and stairwells to the empty sub shell and realised the contraption holding it could not tolerate the weight.

Insiders say the repairs are ongoing. It's all enough to give you the sinking feeling, isn't it?



**REEL DEAL** Supermodel at Cannes Film Festival

## Cannes-do Bella

Draped in a slinky silver dress, **Bella Hadid** dazzles in diamonds at the Cannes Film Festival. The 27-year-old American supermodel was there to grace the red carpet in support of upmarket jewellers Chopard - and she certainly was the Bella of the ball.

# THE WEAKEST CLINK

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY STIAN ALEXANDER

**A PRISON is letting inmates vote out troublesome cellmates.**

Lags at Category B HMP Grendon can be kicked out by fellow inmates who cast Weakest Link-style votes at regular "wing meetings".

The UK's only "therapeutic" jail accepts prisoners from other jails for



**VOTE** Grendon prison, Bucks

good behaviour. They live in a wing with 30 others, attending daily group therapy sessions and being taught to manage their emotions.

One ex-lag also told of darts games,

## Prisoners at 'therapeutic' Cat B jail allowed to vote out their cellmates

quizzes and plays. Prisoners at Grendon, Bucks, must have at least another 18 months to serve, have been drug-free for at least two months, and not be considered an

escape risk. If voted out for being "unsuitable", they must return to the jail they arrived from. Since the scheme started at the 185-man jail, five lags have been ordered out, 17

were booted out for security breaches, 19 were deemed "unsuitable for therapy" and 25 asked to return to a "normal" prison, an Independent Monitoring Board report found.

A source said: "Prison bosses will try almost any kind of innovation to maintain order. This seems to be working well. No wants to be voted out by their peers."

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## Murderers' hospital Broadmoor ablaze



BY PHIL CARDY

HUGE flames engulfed a derelict Broadmoor Hospital site yesterday.

Neighbours were urged to keep windows closed as firefighters battled the blaze at the former asylum for the criminally insane, in Crowthorne, Berks.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service said no injuries had been reported. Emergency services also confirmed

the current hospital was not impacted. New Broadmoor Hospital, opened nearby in 2019, houses murderers including Michael Adebowale, who butchered soldier Lee Rigby, in Woolwich, in 2013.



**KILLER PATIENT** Michael Adebowale

Killers at the old hospital included Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe and gangster Ronnie Kray. But the site, which was first opened in 1863, was closed when its Victorian buildings were deemed no longer fit for purpose.



**LIONHEART** Crier Trevor Heeks was lost for words "for the first time ever" after getting a charity work award.

BY PATRICK HILL

Trevor, 80 – the crier in Trowbridge, Wilts, for 38 years – was given the Melvin Jones Fellowship for outstanding dedication to humanitarian work.

The gong is named after the founder of Lions International, which Trevor has been a part of for 25 years.

Trevor, who has won 160 competitions and took up his calling despite a stutter in his youth, said his Lions work was inspired by his family's own difficulties after his dad died.

He said: "I was 11, my sister was three weeks old. It was a struggle.

"Of what we raise, 95% stays in Trowbridge – but 5% goes across the world. We do what we can."



**FEELINGS** Ben lost mum Pub chats for men to own their sorrows

BY PHIL CARDY

A UNIVERSITY student who lost his mum suddenly has set up a pub group where men can chat about their mental health over a pint.

Ben Mason, 20, whose mother died from a brain aneurism two years ago, wants to change how young men view themselves, their mental health and those around them.

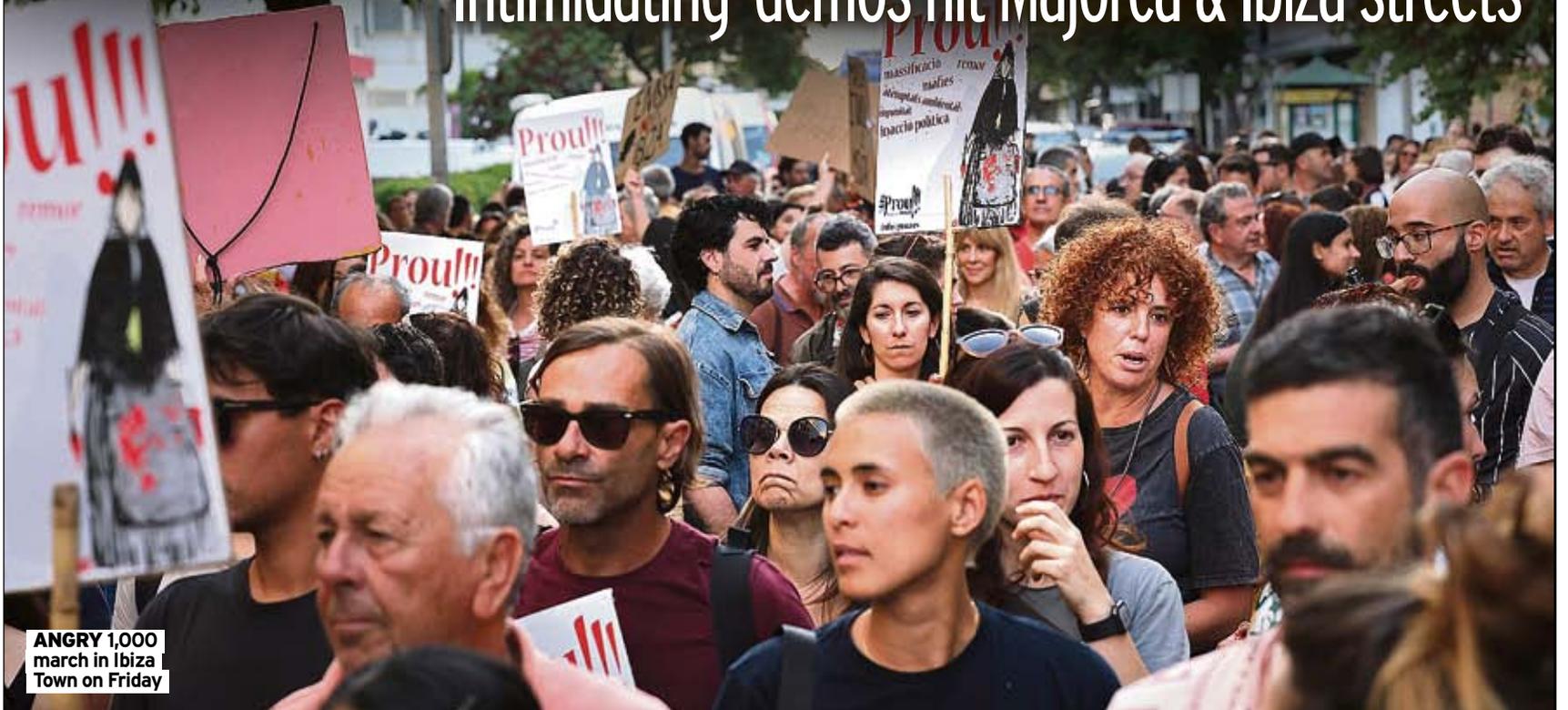
The Grieving Pint sessions started in Bristol under the tagline "Talking today to save tomorrow" and spread to pubs in Bath, Exeter and Swansea.

Bristol University student Ben said: "I don't think mental health is spoken about as much as it should be.

"Lots of guys hide what they're going through and what they're feeling."

# Brit tourists face chaos on hol isles

## 'Intimidating' demos hit Majorca & Ibiza streets



**ANGRY 1,000** march in Ibiza Town on Friday

BY SASKIA ROWLANDS in Majorca

**SPANISH anti-tourism protesters fed up with British holidaymakers last night staged the latest in a string of demos at hotspots.**

Thousands took to Majorca's streets clutching placards saying "SOS tourism" and "Tourism is eating us".

It came 24 hours after similar scenes in Ibiza, and in Tenerife last month.

Yesterday's demo – in Majorca capital Palma – was planned by a group called Mallorca No Es Ven, which means "Majorca is not for sale".

Members say rowdy holidaymakers, mainly Brits and Germans, are hiking prices and driving locals out.

They want a summer limit on vehicles and a ban on using taxpayer cash to promote the island as a party spot.

One worried British holidaymaker said: "This is intimidating to ordinary people who have come for a holiday."

Another said: "If this sort of thing continues, there won't be many tourists left for them to complain about."

Protester Daniella, 28, a teacher

**ENOUGH** Rally in Majorca



whose mum hails from Preston, Lancs, said: "Over 40% of my wages go on rent. Tourism increases the price of everything from gas to food and taxes."

Pal Cati, 29, added: "We can't drive any more to certain areas because there is nowhere to park." But British

expat Mitch Liebenberg, who works in the tourist industry in Ibiza, said: "They're protesting their main source of income. What we need is to protest the government for not building the infrastructure to cope with the tourists."

The Balearic Islands government,



**SIGNS** Crowds in Ibiza Town

which is bidding to clamp down by banning booze sales at night and restricting party boats, said: "Tourists are still welcome.

"But the time has come to talk about containment and limits."

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**CORDON** Officer at scene

## Teen held after 1 woman killed, 1 injured in beach stabbing

BY SIMON MURPHY

POLICE investigating the fatal stabbing of a woman on a beach have arrested a 17-year-old boy on suspicion of murder.

Two females were attacked on Durley Chine Beach, Bournemouth,

on Friday night. One, aged 34, was pronounced dead at the scene, Dorset Police said.

The other, aged 38, was taken to hospital with "serious injuries".

The teenager, who was arrested yesterday, is from Lancashire.

Detective Superintendent Richard Dixey, of Dorset's Major Crime Investigation Team, said: "We have worked tirelessly throughout the night...and have been able to progress our investigation."

The victims' families have been

informed. Det Supt Dixey added: "Foremost, our thoughts remain with the loved ones of the woman who very tragically lost her life."

He added a cordon had been put up at the scene of the crime and "is likely to remain...for some time."

# AS NETFLIX EXPOSES CHEAT SITE,

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY JACKIE ANNETT

**CHILDHOOD** sweethearts Sam and Nia Rader seemed to have it all – good looks, bright smiles, a fairytale marriage and, with millions of followers on YouTube, the world at their feet.

But as Ashley Madison: Sex, Lies and Scandal – the show currently taking Netflix by storm – reveals, that fairytale was built on huge lies.

The three-part docuseries tells how, in 2015, Ashley Madison, a website for married people looking to cheat, was hacked and the identities of 30 million users leaked on to the dark web and made public.

Among them was former ER nurse – and apparently committed Christian – Sam, who not only had numerous affairs, he also made advances towards his wife's friend.

In his first exclusive British interview, Sam says: "Breaking my wife's heart was the hardest thing I've ever had to do. My infidelity ripped Nia's world apart."

Growing up in Texas, all Nia ever wanted was a doting husband and a family of her own.

Meeting charming, handsome Sam, who she believed shared her important core moral values and religious faith, she thought she'd hit the jackpot.

The devoted couple tied the knot in 2009, when Sam was 24 and Nia was 20, and welcomed their first child, Symphony, now 13, the next year.

A sweet video of the husband and wife lip-synching in the car to the song Love is an Open Door from Disney's Frozen while their unimpressed daughter rode in the back seat was a YouTube hit in 2014.

The pair launched a successful career as influencers, painting a rosy picture of a happy home life to their 2.5million vlog fans as their family grew to include Abram, now 10, Juliet, seven, and Josie Grace, three.

Never in a million years did Nia think her adorable, God-fearing husband and business partner would risk everything by being unfaithful.

Yet no sooner was the ring on her finger than Sam was breaking the commandment 'Thou shalt not commit adultery'.

He had a number of affairs between 2009 and 2013 after joining the Ashley Madison site, which was founded in 2001 by Darren Morgenstern.

Sam, 38, first claimed he joined "out of pure fleshly desire and just simple curiosity" and says he stopped having affairs two years before the data was leaked – although he admits he probably would not have confessed if it were not for the hackers.

Sam said that when the scandal first broke, God and Nia had forgiven him, which meant he had been



**WEDDING DAY** Tying the knot in Texas, US, in 2009



**A UNITED FRONT** Pair are still together



**CHEATER** He admits lies on Netflix show

**“I was devastated and totally shocked because he had always been such a moral person**

“completely cleansed of this sin”. But after agreeing to take part in the Netflix series, the dad broke yet another Christian commandment by lying to producers.

He told them he had only opened an account and did not actually cheat on his wife – before finally confessing to everything, including approaching one of Nia's pals.

He says: "Watching the documentary and hearing all the ugly things I did out loud for the first time made me feel sick. What the documentary doesn't show is that my confessions were painfully drip-fed to my wife over a couple of weeks." By the time

Sam's sordid secret life was exposed through the Ashley Madison leak, the Raders had been married for nearly six years and together for 11.

Initially Nia, 35, a former clothing store manager, was adamant she wanted a divorce.

She says: "I had to let go of that fairytale facade. I was devastated, so angry and hurt. And I was totally shocked because he had always been such a moral person."

Yet despite the heartbreak and humiliation, family clearly comes first for Nia. In an act of Christian forgiveness, she renewed her marriage vows to Sam in 2019 following relationship counselling and in 2021 they

welcomed their fourth child. To this day, she cannot speak in detail about the depth of Sam's betrayal, as talking about his affairs still makes her cry.

What she will say is that being so deeply in love blinded her to the warning signs of his cheating.

She adds: "It wasn't easy to get over something like that. We had such an intense love and so I didn't understand how he could still love me and do that. I was totally blindsided when I found out."

The pair have written a tell-all book about their relationship, Sam and Nia Live in Truth: Public Scandal, Secret Vows, Restored Hearts.

And Nia agreed to put herself

through the mill again and air their dirty laundry on Netflix, as she says she wants to show other women that divorce is not the only option if their husband cheats.

She says: "I wanted to share my story in the hope that somebody would see it and realise there is hope for their marriage."

"There may be other women sitting there in my shoes, living in the situation I was in nine years ago, who may be trying to decide whether or not they want to stay with their husband."

"Divorce is not the only option. I had to take a step back and ask myself 'Is this worth throwing away everything over?' He

## THE HUSBAND

# My infidelity ripped Nia's world apart. Breaking her heart was the hardest thing I had to do

# A COUPLE REVEALS ALL

**BROKEN VOWS**  
Sam admits he was unfaithful to Nia several times

## THE WIFE

We had such an intense love... I was shocked he could love me and yet cheat on me



**DRIVEN** Abbi Pulling  
Pulling power of car racing in Netflix doc

BY PHIL CARDY

A BRITISH racing driver is to star in a documentary about the all-female F1 Academy championship.

Abbi Pulling, 21, recently became the first woman to top the podium in a Formula 4 race.

Actress Reese Witherspoon's company is producing the Netflix documentary F1 Academy.

Abbi, of Gosberton, Lincs, who drives for the Rodin Motorsport team, said the global audience it may attract would be huge for the sport.

She was excited to show people what happens behind the scenes.

She added: "It's not just turning a wheel and pushing pedals. You do more off track, 90% of your time is prepping for the next time you're in a car."



**GRATEFUL** Actor Rob  
No, no, thank YOU, insists Wrexham Rob

BY PHIL CARDY

A POLICE football team organised a charity kick-about to thank Wrexham AFC's celebrity owners for helping the area – and were thanked themselves by Rob McElhenney.

The actor and his co-owner Ryan Reynolds have donated nearly £20,000 in the past year to good causes promoted by Wrexham Police FC.

The game between off-duty officers and the inclusive team Happy Samedays raised £334 for kids' hospitals in Vancouver, Canada, and Philadelphia, US – the stars' home towns.

Star Rob said on his social media: "Love this. Thank you."

Sgt Dave Smith, of North Wales Police, said: "We just wanted to do something to give something back."

was working very hard to earn my trust back and I realised the grass is not greener on the other side."

While Nia has received a lot of support from some fans, other women have found it difficult to understand why she gave Sam a second chance.

She accepts that not everyone agrees with her choice. But she feels her husband has now proved he can be trusted.

Nia admits: "A lot of people see me as a dummy for

ignoring all the red flags, but that's just not true. The mistake I made was that I was too in love to see the warning signs. Sam is so honest with me now and I trust that he's not still doing these things.

"And what many people don't realise is that he didn't only stop because he was caught. The data breach happened in 2015 and the last time Sam cheated was 2013. He had already come to his senses but was carrying a huge secret. I forgive him."

As for Sam, he accepts he has only himself to blame – and has a warning for other spouses who may be tempted to stray. Since the series began streaming earlier this

month, the dad has faced a swathe of criticism. He says: "People who say I don't deserve Nia are right. I'm a very lucky man."

"I'm the face of happily married men who go on Ashley Madison and I'm taking the brunt of people's anger about men cheating. But I get it, as I've invited this on myself."

"I don't regret the data leak – it had to happen at some point. My secrets were eating away at me."

"I hate that men are acting outside of their marriage and I hate that I did it. Adultery destroys families."

jackie.annett@reachplc.com

■ Ashley Madison: Sex, Lies & Scandal is streaming on Netflix, and the book Sam and Nia Live in Truth: Public Scandal, Secret Vows, Restored Hearts is available on Amazon

# Long arm of the snore

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY PHIL CARDY

**POLICE officers are being given training on how to sleep to help combat stress.**

Fatigue can affect cops' physical and mental health, so experts have developed a programme to provide data on their



**ZZZZZ-CARS** Cops must be alert

## Officers get sleep analysed to tackle stress

sleep, tiredness and recovery rates. The scheme will help them understand why they may feel tired, stressed or anxious. More than 700 officers and

staff have taken part, with the scheme being opened up to 27 forces.

Police Federation figures show a record 13,294 officers were signed off in the year from April 2022 due to stress, depression, anxiety or PTSD – 80% up on a decade ago. The sleep

study has been piloted by Merseyside Police working with Liverpool John Moore University.

Some of those taking part wear a BioStrap device for 120 days to measure heart rate variability, respiratory rates, sleep time and sleep type.

Assistant Chief Constable Jenny Sims said: "The stresses and strains of the job do, in some cases, affect the quality of sleep our workforce have. We know poor sleep can contribute to physical and mental health issues."

The university's Dr Carol Cox added: "This research will allow us to better understand the quality of life of police officers and staff."

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## Ash seizes the day

IT'S strictly sand, sea and sun for ex-Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts after some tough times.

The 42-year-old - who starred in the 2018 series of BBC's Strictly Come Dancing - enjoyed some much needed R 'n' R in Turkey after losing her dog Cooper and pal TJ.

Ashley told fans on Instagram: "Sometimes life reminds ya to look around and be grateful... Deep breathes, sea, some smiles and sunshine for the soul!"



**DON'T CHA BURN** Sun fun



**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY ISAAC CROWSON

**A MAJOR new TV show is being made about the death of a man in Michael Barrymore's swimming pool, raising fresh hopes of justice for the victim's family.**

Producers, who are eyeing a deal with Netflix or rival Amazon Prime, are tracking down witnesses who were at the star's home on the night Stuart Lubbock, 31, died 23 years ago.

Police said "now is the time to come forward" and urged any new information be given to them.

The documentary could prove another headache for ex-Strike It Lucky host Barrymore, 72, who is enjoying a revival as a TikTok entertainer as he plans a move to Spain.

Stuart's family say the programme could provide new hope and lines of inquiry – and have vowed to never give up their crusade for the truth.

**ASSAULT**

His ex-wife Sue Homan said: "We will always fight for justice. Anything that can shine a light on what happened is a good thing. There cannot be silence and unanswered questions forever.

"I will always want justice. Stuart deserves it. This gives fresh hope. The battle will always continue."

Stuart, a meat factory supervisor from Harlow, Essex, died in March 2001 at a party at Barrymore's £2million mansion in nearby Roydon. He was found unresponsive in his underwear in a swimming pool.

A post-mortem revealed he had suffered severe internal injuries which suggested he had been sexually assaulted. No one has ever been charged over his death.

The team behind the documentary, which is in the early stages of planning, will contact all nine people who were at the party and ask them to tell their side of the story.

A source said: "The documentary will look to finally get a solid witness account from those who were at the party that night. Police have made it clear they are not giving up and still want anybody with information to come forward. It is clear this is not going away and never will."

A spokesman for Essex Police said: "As we have continually stated over the last 20 years, we believe someone, or some people, at that party know what happened.

"We know that not everyone was responsible for what happened, but someone was. Now is the time to come forward."

Following the death, Barrymore virtually disappeared from public life. He lost his job at ITV in 2003, and was rarely seen again until he appeared on Celebrity Big Brother in January 2006 – he finished second.

A series of career revival attempts were often overshadowed by the ongoing investigation.

Barrymore and others were arrested and questioned on multiple occasions, but no charges were ever brought, and the star ultimately

**VICTIM** Stuart Lubbock was attending party

# Barrymore TV show will offer new hope for justice

**SPANISH MOVE** The star has never been charged



**SCENE** Pool at mansion where Stuart was found

## Family pray for pool death answers as show tracks down nine witnesses

sued Essex Police for wrongful arrest, although he dropped his compensation claim of £2.4m after a court ruled he was due nominal damages.

**“Anything that can shine a light is good. There cannot be silence and unanswered questions forever**

News of the documentary comes just days after the former TV entertainer was seen with a male companion and his dog in West London. The pair looked relaxed and carefree last weekend, as Barrymore finalises plans for a new life in Barcelona.

Four years ago Channel 4's Body in the Pool examined the death in detail and police – who admitted making "crime scene mistakes" – relaunched their probe and began pursuing several leads.

Sadly, Stuart's dad Terry, who campaigned for justice for 20 years, died in 2021 without ever finding

out the truth of what happened to his son.

Essex Police added: "Essex Police has never given up on this case and the force is motivated by the desire to deliver justice for Mr Lubbock and his family. This has been an extremely lengthy and complex investigation. We will continue to act on any new information to assist us in our pursuit of justice for him and for his family and friends."

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**TARGET** Lucrative avocados  
**Gangs swoop for Mexico's 'green gold'**

BY **SIMON MURPHY**  
BANDITS in Mexico have got away with more than 40 tons of avocados. The fruit was stolen in two separate robberies in Michoacan state, the country's main producer. Armed gangs swooped on trucks carrying about 20 tonnes each, the attorney general's office said. Avocados are usually shipped in crates, which would make transferring the load easier and quicker. Mexico being the world's largest producer of the fruit, which has been nicknamed "green gold", and growers have long been targeted in drug cartel extortion demands. Thefts of avocados while still on trees in orchards are not unknown – but hijackings of whole shipments are rare.



**ON DISPLAY** Ship's bell  
**Bell of 1st US ship sunk in WW1 is home**

BY **PATRICK HILL**  
A BELL from the first US destroyer sunk in the First World War has finally been returned. Divers found the wreck of USS Jacob Jones on the seabed about 328ft off the Isles of Scilly in August 2022 and the bell was retrieved earlier this year. The Jacob Jones was torpedoed by a German sub in December 1917, with the loss of 64 sailors. US Admiral James Kilby, who received the bell, said: "Her crew's legacy will live on. Our Navy expresses our sincerest gratitude to those who made it possible to take this incredible artefact of sombre history back home." The bell will be displayed in the National Museum of the US Navy in Washington DC.



**Ant and Dec end up pie-eyed as Simon gets sweet revenge**

BY **JANINE YAQOOB**  
It's custard's last stand for Britain's Got Talent pranksters Ant and Dec as show boss Simon Cowell finally gets his own back on them. After being on the wrong end of many of their tricks this series, the scheming music mogul, 64, turns the tables in tonight's final auditions. He

enlists an actor to pose as a fake baker who tries to break the record for the most custard pies thrown at his face in one minute. The prank is later revealed as Simon gives the Geordie duo a good splattering on stage. Watch on ITV tonight from 8pm. BGT's live semi-finals begin tomorrow.



**NCUTI: MY FEAR OF BEING DEBTOR WHO**

BY **JANINE YAQOOB**  
TV and Showbiz Editor

**DOCTOR** Who star Ncuti Gatwa may be pulling in a galaxy-sized income but he still panics about being poor.

The Scottish star, who came to Britain from Rwanda as a two-year-old refugee, says he struggled to make ends meet before his break in the 2019 Netflix hit Sex Education. And even after bagging one of the most coveted jobs in TV as the rakish Time Lord, he says he constantly checks if he has food in the fridge. On top of his previous earnings, the role boosted Ncuti, 31, into millionaire

**Past struggles haunt Doctor star**

status – but he admits: "I still wake up and check my bank balance, or I check if there's food in my fridge. That's the fuel that drives me – stay booked and busy." At the lowest point in his career, Ncuti was penniless and homeless, borrowing from pals to get to auditions. But five years ago he landed the role of free-spirited student Eric Effiong in Sex Education, which ran for four seasons – leading to him being cast as the 15th

incarnation of The Doctor in the cult BBC series. He told Sirius XM: "When you don't know where your next meal is coming from, you remember that – it inspires you to keep booking more jobs. "It's all very well for me to sit here in my lovely shirts and say the hard times are what fuelled me. But the hard times are hard



times – and actors all over know that story. It makes the good times even sweeter." Ncuti, who also had a part in 2023's Barbie movie, is set to be the highest-earning Doctor so far after the BBC teamed up with Disney Plus to take it global. In 2022 his company Gemini Moon showed his own stake worth more than £700,000.

**“ Hard times are hard times, you remember that feeling ”**

**ROLE** With co-star Millie Gibson

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# MoT? MUSK TRY HARDER

**EXCLUSIVE**  
BY MATTHEW DAVIS

**BILLIONAIRE Elon Musk's trendy Tesla battery-powered eco cars top the list for flunking the MoT.**

Nearly 20% of the Model 3 Performance cars failed the roadworthiness test, which cars must take annually from three years old. The study of last year's MoT results also showed almost 80% of the £60,000 model's failures were due to tyres. The car

## £60k Teslas top the list for failing roadworthy test

boasts a top speed of 163mph and accelerates from 0-60 in just 2.9secs.

The Tesla Model 3 Long Range also finished in the top 10 of vehicles that



**SHOCK: Electric Tesla flunks test**

failed their first MoT. Other cars on this list of failures were three different versions of the Ford Fiesta, a Renault Clio and the BMW 330. At the other

end of the scale the vehicle that has the best pass rate was the Honda Jazz, with other cars from Japanese manufacturers doing well.

In previous years family workhorse cars such as the Renault Megane and the Ford Galaxy have had the worst pass rate.

James Ruppert, author of the

car magazine Bangernomics, said: "The standout result is the electric Model 3 which confirms what people in the car trade are seeing; owners who believe their electric vehicles are invincible.

"That's the hype, so here is the stark reality that all cars, irrespective of the power-plant, need looking after."

Tesla was contacted for comment.



**HYPE** Elon Musk

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## Cam's corker of a festival

ACTRESS Cameron Diaz raises a glass of her own Avaline rose wine brand at the BottleRock festival.

The Hollywood star looked bubbly as she bopped to acts including headliner

Stevie Nicks at the music, food and drink bash in California's Napa Valley.

Cameron, 51, had her second child, son Cardinal, with Good Charlotte rocker Benji Madden, 45, in March.



**GLASS ACT** Cameron at BottleRock festival

## Clues call on booze haul

MORE than 60,000 bottles of Jägermeister have been stolen from a warehouse.

Police are appealing for help finding out who is flogging the liqueur, which comes in distinct bottles.

They have a white spot sticker on the back instead of showing the pink "UK duty paid" stamp.

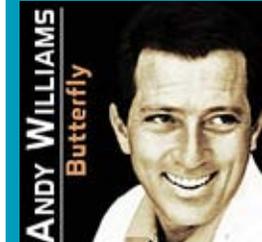
The raid took place at an industrial unit in Bloxwich, West Mids, in February.

Anyone who has bought a bottle or knows where they are being sold can call 101 or Crimestoppers.

### ON THIS DAY...

MAY 26

in 1957



ANDY WILLIAMS Butterfly Crooner Andy

### TOP 10 singles

- 1 **Butterfly**  
Andy Williams
- 2 **Rock-A-Billy**  
Guy Mitchell
- 3 **Yes Tonight Josephine**  
Johnnie Ray
- 4 **When I Fall In Love**  
Nat 'King' Cole
- 5 **Cumberland Gap**  
Lonnie Donegan
- 6 **99 Ways**  
Tab Hunter
- 7 **I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen**  
Slim Whitman
- 8 **Baby Baby**  
Frankie Lymon And The Teenagers
- 9 **Too Much**  
Elvis Presley
- 10 **Freight Train Ft Nancy Whiskey**  
Charles Mcdevitt Skiffle Group featuring Nancy Whiskey

## Theatre cuts its 'bad' lines

A THEATRE has removed "offensive" phrases from its online job adverts.

Camden People's Theatre in North London drew criticism over the terms "benefit class, criminal class and underclass".

Lee Elliot Major of University of Exeter, the UK's first professor of social mobility, said the terms "immediately position people as inferior".

The theatre said: "We are reviewing the language we use to encourage and support access, diversity and inclusion."

# CHERRY PAY

Harrods sells cherries for **£165** per kilo... which works out at **£1.75** for each one



STONE ME High price for cherries as part of your 5-a-day at the posh store

Harrods		
RED CHERRIES		
Net weight	L/kg	PRICE
0.170 kg	165.00	£ 28.05

### EXCLUSIVE BY NATASHA WYNARCZYK Consumer Editor

**LIFE certainly is a bowl of cherries if you can afford to shop for these sweet treats at Harrods.**

The luxury department store flogs red cherries for £165 a kilo – meaning a single piece of the fruit costs £1.75 there.

And staff on its food hall counter in Knightsbridge, West London, are even prepping customers on the price to avoid any sour faces at the till.

For red cherries to count as part of your diet's five-a-day, you need to eat 16 of them.

So doing this with Harrods fare would set you back £28.05.

The posh store says its grower is based in San Francisco and is the best in the world. But the price still seems extortionate and is sure to leave a bitter taste with some shoppers.

For example, if you bought cherries at Tesco and Sainsbury's, it would cost an average £10 per kilo. And when this newspaper visited

Chrip Street market in East London, we found trader Sarajul Haque selling red cherries at his bustling fruit and veg stall for just £6.60 a kilo.

This makes the Harrods offering 2,400% more expensive than Mr Haque's. The 51-year-old said: "Mine vary in price according to the supplier

– sometimes it's £5 and sometimes £7, so cheap, but they are good and as you can see, I'm very busy."

Minicab driver Ataur Rahman, 60, was buying half a kilo of cherries, which cost him £3.30, at the stall.

He was gobsmacked when told of

the Harrods price and said: "It's way too much, how can anybody spend that?"

"Here, they cost around £6 a kilo and I don't think there's any difference between them and the Harrods ones."

Meanwhile, Joan Clarke, 79, who was browsing in the market, said: "Near where I live in Bethnal Green I see them going for £7.99 a kilo on the market and usually wait until they go down a little bit before buying them."

"The Harrods price is crazy money. But if people are silly enough to spend that on cherries, let them buy them."

In December, cherry farmers in Australia, which is a major exporter, said they had suffered their worst harvest in 50 years after wet weather damaged 70% of crops, pushing up prices as supply struggled to meet demand.

Meanwhile, cherries were not the only fruit with a hard-to-swallow price in Harrods.

The store's Japanese Crown melon, which is presented in a black and gold box, costs £150.

Harrods was contacted for comment.

natasha.wynarczyk@reachplc.com



A BITTER PRICEY Harrods food hall



CONTRAST Chrip Street Market



LOW PRICE Trader Sarajul

## COUNTRY LEGEND'S NIECE ON HER

## EXCLUSIVE

BY LAURA ARMSTRONG  
and JAMES INGHAM

**DOLLY Parton's niece has spoken for the first time of how she has drawn inspiration from the country legend's amazing strength of character, saying she often asks herself: "What would Dolly do?"**

Jada Star, the daughter of one of Dolly's younger sisters, Frieda, says some of her happiest childhood moments were with the singer.

And she recalls how she nicknamed her "Auntie Granny" because of how she spoiled her and her cousins, even letting her into her closet to try on her iconic country queen costumes.

But Jada admits that despite their closeness, she has never seen her aunt without make-up – although she has tried hard to do so.

Jada says: "The thing Dolly has taught me, and the rest of the world, is to be unapologetically yourself.

"She dresses the way that makes her feel good – despite people trying to paint her as a dumb blonde.

"I love watching her old interviews, especially from the 70s. You see interviewers try to cut her down and make fun of her for her appearance.

"And you see the way she handles those situations with humour and love – and no bite. That's one of the best lessons I could learn from her.

## QUEEN

"I try to think, 'What would Dolly do?' She never wants to hurt anyone. She just wants to have a good time."

Jada thinks of herself as a late bloomer, given her family heritage. While Dolly released her first album at 21, Jada has just recorded her own debut at more than twice that age.

But while 78-year-old Dolly did not play Glastonbury until just 10 years ago, Jada is set to appear this year.

She says: "Dolly is a supernova, she never stops. She's an anomaly. And she is such a queen. Her manner shows her ultimate strength – it's not a sign of weakness. It shows she's secure enough in herself not to fight every battle.

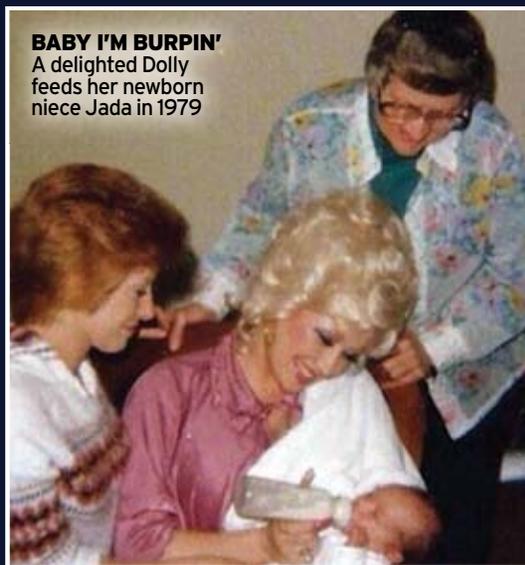
"I've never seen her tear down another female artist or throw shade at another artist, period. She always says, 'Don't worry about what anyone else is doing. Hoe your own row.'

"She says be true to yourself and think about the things you say before saying them.

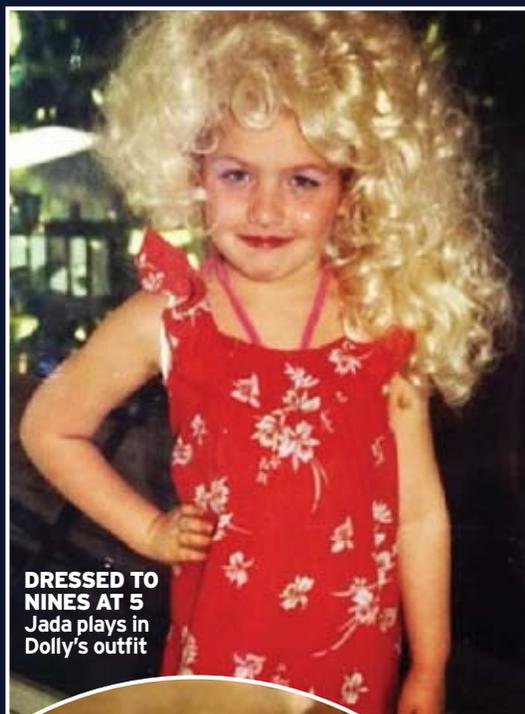
"Oh, and always make your bed."

Jada discovered her talents as a singer-songwriter after joining the family show at Dollywood, in Tennessee.

Recalling how Dolly exploded as a global star in 1980 after appearing in the movie 9 to 5 – writing and singing the hit title song – Jada says: "I remember when she blew up as a movie star as well as a country star. Until I was four or five, she was just Auntie Granny – larger



**BABY I'M BURPIN'**  
A delighted Dolly feeds her newborn niece Jada in 1979



**DRESSED TO NINES AT 5**  
Jada plays in Dolly's outfit



**I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU** Dolly cuddles Jada, 4

**"I remember hours of playing dress-up, trying on wigs, dresses, jewellery... she'd likely still let us**

than life and so much fun. Then one day I was watching my favourite cartoon, Alvin and the Chipmunks, and Dolly's voice comes on, playing herself. That's when I realised she wasn't just Auntie Granny – she was everywhere."

Jada also recalls Dolly buying her a big ET toy as a present, unaware that the youngster hated the film. She

says: "To me, it was a horror movie. So I used to hide it under my bed, then put it out on my shelf when Dolly used to visit. Even as a kid, I didn't want to hurt her feelings.

"She wouldn't have cared but I remember not wanting to upset her. "And I remember hours and hours of playing dress-up in her closet –

trying on all her wigs, dresses, jewellery and shoes. She's so much fun, she would probably still let us if we asked."

Asked if she has ever seen Dolly without make-up, Jada laughs: "When we were very young she took us – all the cousins – to Hawaii with her.

"We got to spend two weeks with just her and her staff. We had slumber parties and slept with her on the floor.

And I remember one night I tried my hardest to wake up earlier than everyone else so I could see her without make-up but it didn't happen.

"I've never seen her un-glammed in my life – there's only ever been a handful who have. But from what I've heard, you'd still know it's her.

"She's naturally beautiful. She jokes about all the unnatural stuff and all

# My aunt is a supernova... in situations I ask myself, what would Dolly do?

**Bus is a kinky ride for punks**

EXCLUSIVE BY AISHA NOZARI

A PUNK rocker hiring Dolly's old tour bus for his band's farewell tour has described it as "kinky".

"Fat Mike" Burkett, lead

singer of NOFX, told us: "I'm renting her bus because she's not using it now. It's so awesome.

"There's a four-poster bed, there's a bathtub.

There's a mirror. It's a kinky f\*\*\*\*\* bus."

Mike and bandmates Eric Melvin, Aaron Abeyta and Erik Sandin are rounding off the US group's

# INSPIRING AND GLAM AUNTIE

## £326k donor true as steel



“She’s naturally beautiful, even as a teen. She’s always been beautiful, on the inside and out”



**FAME 'N' FAMILY**  
Jada has backing of star aunt Dolly



**LATE BLOOMER**  
Jada found her voice working at Dollywood resort

**GLASTO AT LASTO**  
Glam Dolly at festival in 2014, aged 68

the nips and tucks, but if you see pictures of her as a teenager she’s a bombshell. “She’s stunning – she’s always been beautiful, on the inside and out.”

Dolly is now working on a new record titled Dolly Parton: Smokey Mountain DNA, her 50th studio album. Its name comes from the range of Appalachian peaks in whose shadow she grew up. But in her musical DNA, mega-hit Jolene

stands proud – given a new lease of life this year when Beyonce covered it as part of her own foray into country music.

Dolly gave it her blessing, saying: “Beyonce is giving that girl some trouble and she deserves it.” Jada says the praise is genuine, explaining: “Beyonce updated Jolene with Dolly’s blessing. You can’t gatekeep art. Dolly is telling you the purest interpretation of that story but I

love hearing Beyonce’s. It’s one thing not to like a song version but it doesn’t feel right to see so many people saying Beyonce doesn’t belong in country.

“That language doesn’t sit right with me and it’s certainly not how Dolly feels.

“Beyonce loves Dolly and Dolly loves her. She was so honoured Beyonce wanted to re-work Jolene.

“Whitney did her interpretation of I Will Always Love You and now Beyonce has done hers of Jolene. Dolly sees it as a compliment. Dolly is queen of country but they’re all queens in their own right.”

Reflecting on her own turn in the spotlight Jada, whose debut album is called Tell Me I’m Your Angel, said:

“When I started performing, I was terrified. But then I thought I could be insecure and scared, then put on some amazing eyelashes and get ready and I don’t have to be scared Jada.

“I can be my own queen, or be like my aunt Dolly. She isn’t afraid of anything.

“Actually, she does it all in spite of being afraid. She has an unshakable faith in God, music, people... that’s what gets her through life.

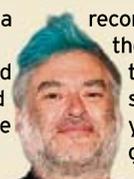
“I’ve seen her have the most incredible impact on the world and if I could have just a tiny impact, I’d be so happy.”

[laura.armstrong@reachplc.com](mailto:laura.armstrong@reachplc.com)

■ Jada’s debut album, Tell Me I’m Your Angel, is out now

40-year career with a European tour.

They have released 14 studio albums and 15 EPs, and sold more than six million



**TOUR Fat Mike**

records. Speaking before their first Milan show this month, Mike, 57, said the bus was all you would expect of glam queen Dolly –

except that unlike her first tour bus, now on show at her Dollywood park under the name Suite 1986, this one is not decked out in pink.

THE mystery behind a £326,000 donation to the NHS in the will of a woman in the US has been solved.

Elizabeth Fairchild left the cash to Scunthorpe General Hospital.

Following an appeal, it emerged she was born in the North Lincolnshire town and was a secretary in its steelworks before emigrating in the 1960s.

Her family said she visited often, adding they were “thrilled the money is helping dementia patients, especially since Elizabeth suffered with this herself”.

# WIN £100

**DOUBLE PLAY BINGO**

Sun May 26 2024  
Game 19 Day 7

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Here’s an extra chance to win £100 in our great Bingo game. Today it’s **DAY 7**, the final day of **GAME 19** on your card. Every weekday new numbers are printed in the Daily Mirror. But if you don’t have all the numbers crossed off on the grid you can still win our £100 Sunday prize. Today’s Sunday People has different numbers for extra chances to win. All 15 numbers on either of your **GAME 19** grids must be crossed off to win.

To claim tomorrow call **01420 525501** from 10am to 3pm on Mondays only, lines are not open today. No responsibility is accepted for failure to claim in the stated hours. Calls charged at national rate. Standard Reach plc rules apply, see [mirror.co.uk/2024bingorules](http://mirror.co.uk/2024bingorules). Full terms as previously published.

## Sir’s ban for ex-pupil sex

A GEOGRAPHY teacher who admitted repeatedly having sex with a former pupil has got an indefinite ban from the profession.

A misconduct panel found Thomas Sherlock, 29, who taught at Ormiston SWB Academy in Bilston, West Midlands, guilty of unacceptable professional conduct.

The Teaching Regulation Agency said there was “some risk of repetition of the behaviour” and “in view of the seriousness” of the case he is not entitled to apply for full restoration of his eligibility to teach.

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Quote FITF

# time to **shine**

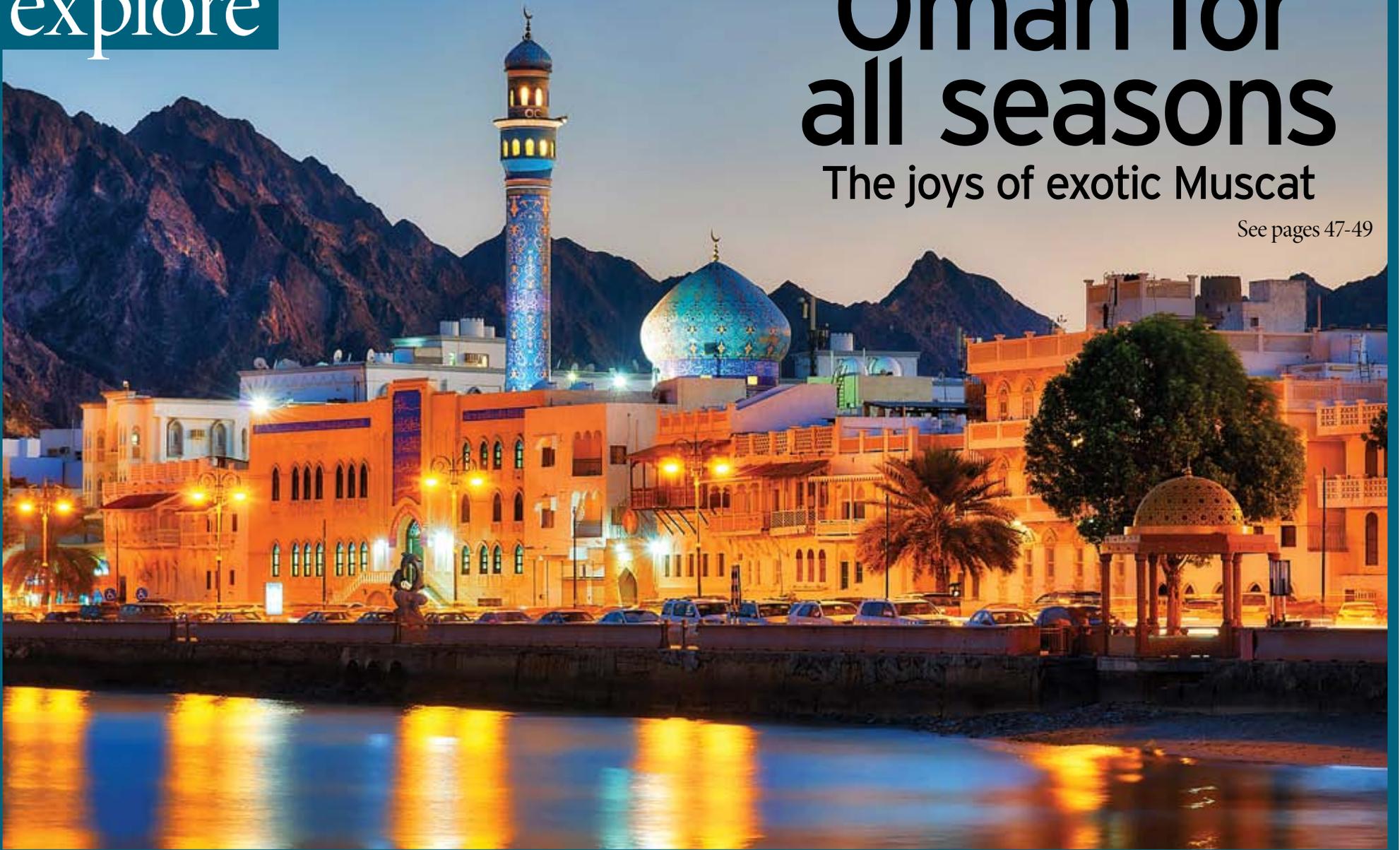
Live your best life 

explore

## Oman for all seasons

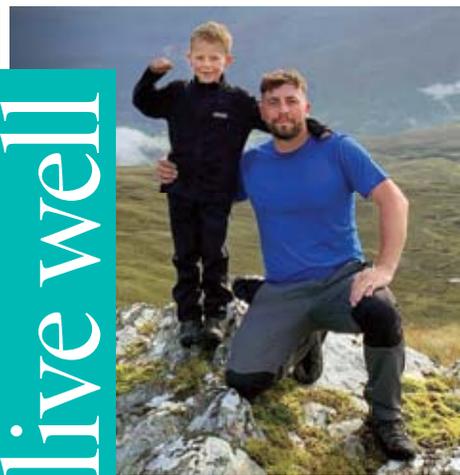
The joys of exotic Muscat

See pages 47-49



I died three times on a football pitch

See pages 44&45



live well

unwind



All the latest movie, music and theatre reviews

See page 42

dig in

New star blooms at the Chelsea flower show



See pages 58&59

talk money



Be quids in by paying off your mortgage early

See page 57

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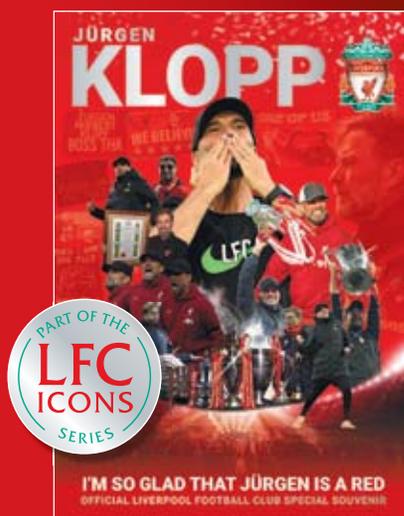
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## MUSIC

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 pop-tastic 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.

## STAGE

with STEFAN KYRIAZIS

### FAWLTY TOWERS

★★★★★

Apollo Theatre to September 28  
[fawltytowerswestend.com](http://fawltytowerswestend.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

# SUNDAY PUZZLES



Feet up... cup of tea... brain in gear

**£500**  
to be won!

## Quizword & Crossword

Two sets of clues, two different answers - all on the same grid. Choose one or the other.

### Quizword

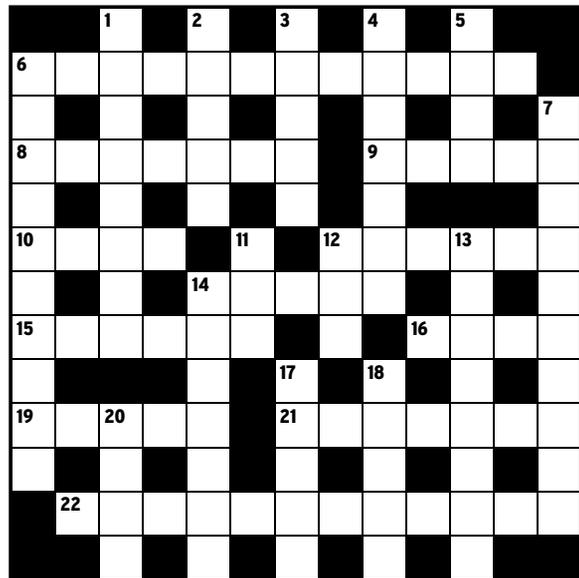
#### ACROSS

- 6 1896 Savoy Opera by Gilbert and Sullivan subtitled The Statutory Duel (3,5,4)
- 8 Michael -, actor who played the title role in ITV comedy-drama series Boon (7)
- 9 Underground railway system, such as that in Paris (5)
- 10 Eric -, Monty Python member who wrote the book of Broadway musical Spamalot (4)
- 12 County in England whose administrative centre is Dorchester (6)
- 14 Hickory tree of the southern US with edible nuts (5)
- 15 Band of inelastic tissue that attaches a muscle to a bone (6)
- 16 See 6 Down
- 19 Bobby -, 1939 Wimbledon singles tennis championship winner (5)
- 21 US state; capital Montgomery (7)
- 22 1894 novel by George Moore (6,6)

#### DOWN

- 1 1971 adventure film starring Michael York and Elke Sommer (8)
- 2 Venomous snake such as the Banded - or Common - (5)

- 3 - River, US watercourse forming part of the border between Idaho and Oregon (5)
- 4 Peter -, actor who played Len Fairclough in ITV soap Coronation Street from 1961-83 (7)
- 5 Three-handed card game using 32 cards (4)
- 6 and 16 Across  
2004 stage work by Alan Bennett; 2006 Tony Award for Best Play winner (3,7,4)
- 7 2003 Grand National winner ridden by Barry Geraghty (6,4)
- 11 2001 novel by Freya North (3)
- 12 Robin -, journalist and broadcaster who presented BBC TV programme Question Time from 1979-89 (3)
- 13 Name given to two groups of Greek islands in the Aegean Sea; the Northern - and Southern - (8)
- 14 Ferdinand -, German designer of the Volkswagen car (7)
- 17 Oil port in SE Iraq; economic capital of the country (5)
- 18 State bordering Saudi Arabia whose capital is Doha (5)
- 20 Lillian -, Best Actress in a Supporting Role Oscar nominee for Duel in the Sun (4)



### Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 6 Animal with a huge mouth (12)
- 8 Prolonged applause (7)
- 9 Thick (5)
- 10 Relatively long time (4)
- 12 Get the better of (6)
- 14 Old Nick (5)
- 15 Perceive or notice (6)
- 16 Terrible fate (4)
- 19 Sing like the Swiss (5)
- 21 Fruit (7)
- 22 Occasionally (4,2,1,5)

#### DOWN

- 1 Evident (8)
- 2 Theme (5)
- 3 Located (5)
- 4 Firearm (7)
- 5 Rotate (4)
- 6 Fastening for clothes (4,3,3)
- 7 Unit of length (10)
- 11 Tifter (3)
- 12 Rowing blade (3)
- 13 Type of wallpaper (8)
- 14 Surgical knife (7)
- 17 Place visited frequently (5)
- 18 Noisy fight (5)
- 20 Eat a meal (4)

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

## Two-speed coffeebreak

Two sets of clues - but the answers are the same.

### Cryptic clues

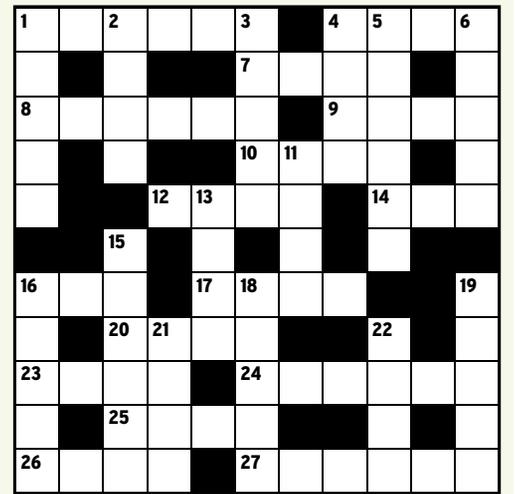
#### ACROSS

- 1 Ranted about being passionate (6)
- 4 His camera captures fiddle (4)
- 7 Authentic sort of earl (4)
- 8 Friend and expert in building (6)
- 9 Walk to portal, say (4)
- 10 Not far from one argument (4)
- 12 Fish with musical tail (4)
- 14 Point to the Spanish swimmer (3)
- 16 Hippies' food (3)
- 17 Yearn to be extensive (4)
- 20 Navy bird? (4)
- 23 Tear off at speed (4)
- 24 Time to jump (6)
- 25 Pleased with simplicity (4)
- 26 Another day with some cattle (4)
- 27 Listen out for decoration (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Enough to have beer with politician (5)
- 2 Daughter finds university students boring (4)
- 3 Time to tear into fashion (5)
- 4 Long story about a gas (4)
- 5 Cartel controlled wine (6)
- 6 Copper, say, has new mate left (5)
- 11 Merit of learning (4)
- 13 Dog left to have a look (4)
- 15 Wept bitterly, about to come back for alloy (6)
- 16 Supercharger has somewhere to sit (5)
- 18 Start playing notes (5)
- 19 Majestic order for lager (5)
- 21 Scan a red construction (4)
- 22 Lack a young woman (4)

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror



### Quick clues

#### ACROSS

- 1 Fervent (6)
- 4 Swindle (4)
- 7 Genuine (4)
- 8 Royal residence (6)
- 9 Manner of walking (4)
- 10 Close (4)
- 12 Musical ending (4)
- 14 Snakelike fish (3)
- 16 Pastry item (3)
- 17 Lengthy (4)
- 20 Small bird (4)
- 23 Scale (4)
- 24 Season (6)
- 25 Relax (4)
- 26 Group of cattle (4)
- 27 Christmas 'rope' (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Sufficient (5)
- 2 Tedious (4)
- 3 Fad (5)
- 4 Long narrative (4)
- 5 Red wine (6)
- 6 Type of element (5)
- 11 Deserve (4)
- 13 Leer (4)
- 15 Tankard material (6)
- 16 Roost (5)
- 18 Beginning (5)
- 19 Royal (5)
- 21 Peruse (4)
- 22 Fail to hit (4)

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

**CHECK THE SOLUTIONS NOW!**

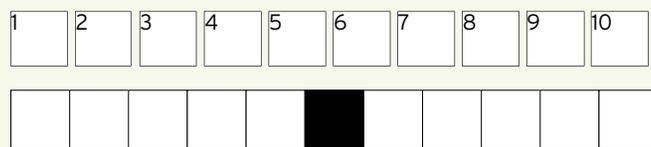
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**CHECK THE SOLUTIONS NOW!** Call 0903 659 6060 (80p/min) to hear FULL SOLUTIONS to CROSSWORD and QUIZWORD, and to hear 5 EXTRA CLUES for CROSSWORD and QUIZWORD too! Or text CROSSCLUE or QUIZCLUE to 61011 (£1/text) for 5 clues.

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Calls cost 80p/min plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1 + 1 standard network rate message. SP Mi Telecom Ltd. Helpdesk 0330 880 6060. Min age 18+. All lines close midnight tonight except where stated. Std Mirror Rules apply, see www.mirror.co.uk/rules.

## The name game

Hidden in the grid is the name of a film. Answer the questions, then rearrange the letters corresponding to your answers to fill in the name.



Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

**BOX1:** In which of the following pastimes might a creel be used?

- Knitting (R)
- Fishing (O)
- Fencing (Y)

**BOX4:** According to the proverb, all roads lead to which city?

- Rome (A)
- London (B)
- Timbuktu (D)

**BOX7:** What is the smallest of Japan's four main islands?

- Hokkaido (T)
- Shikoku (P)
- Kyushu (Y)

**BOX10:** Nile Rodgers (pictured) co-founded which disco band in the 1970s?

- Lipps Inc (S)
- Chic (B)
- Boney M (Z)

**BOX8:** Who directed the 1999 film Eyes Wide Shut?

- James Cameron (J)
- Stanley Kubrick (N)
- Martin Scorsese (Q)

**BOX9:** Who starred opposite Meg Ryan in the 1990 romantic comedy Joe Versus the Volcano?

- Tom Hanks (R)
- Michael Keaton (J)
- Matt Dillon (N)

**BOX5:** Which capital city was known as Godthab, meaning Good Hope, until 1979?

- Copenhagen (T)
- Nuuk (I)
- Reykjavik (N)

**BOX6:** Which Spanish city was the birthplace of Pablo Picasso?

- Cadiz (K)
- Malaga (T)
- Seville (X)

**BOX3:** What nationality was Catherine of Aragon?

- Dutch (R)
- Spanish (E)
- Irish (T)



## 30-sec brain teaser

Boost your brain power with our 30-second test. Start with the number on the left and follow the instructions. Beginners should aim to complete the puzzle in 30 seconds. Intermediates should finish their own puzzle and the Beginner's Challenge. Genius players have 30 seconds to complete their own plus the Intermediate. Good luck! Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

BEGINNER	20	3/4 of this	+17	÷8	+59	÷7	+4	×3	+46	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE	224	-68	÷13	+247	6/7 of this	-34	75% of this	+169	4/5 of this	ANSWER
ADVANCED	8	×64	-48	7/8 of this	Reverse the digits	-175	6/11 of this	+54	Increase by 75%	ANSWER

## Mirrorgram

Solve our ten-letter anagram below



Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

**If you like these...**

...You'll love our jam-packed puzzle pullout every weekday in the Daily Mirror



Su-doku corner

**EASY SU-DOKU**

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

The rules for Su-doku couldn't be easier. All you have to do is fill the empty squares so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all the numbers 1 to 9.

**SU-DOKU TOUGHIE**

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

The rules for Su-doku are easy, but this one's a toughie! Each number from 1 to 9 must appear only once in each horizontal and vertical line, and only once in each 3x3 grid.

**KILLER SU-DOKU**

22			11	9	10	10	7	15
	8							7
7			11	13		18		16
	21			16				
		11	3	20		24		
8						4		
20				13		20		13
13	4	12	20	8				
								11

Killer Su-doku is based on the traditional grid and every column, every row and every 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9. But the dotted squares must be filled with numbers that add up to that in the left corner.

Solutions for all su-dokus in next week's Sunday Mirror

**FUTOSHIKI**

			3	4
∨	∨			2
		∨		
		∧	<	

Insert the numbers one to five in each row and each column, making sure that no number is repeated. The only symbols to guide you are the "greater than" (>) and "less than" (<) signs.

**CHECK THE SOLUTIONS NOW!** Call 0903 659 6060 (80p/min) to hear SU-DOKU 5 NUMBER CLUES or FULL SOLUTIONS to the easy and toughie su-dokus. Or text EASYCLUE or TOUGHCLUE to 61011 (£1/text) for 5 clues.

**£500 Star search**

For your chance to win £500 fill in the crossword and the shaded squares will spell out the name of a celebrity – this is your prize answer. Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9					10		
11						12	
13	14	15			16		
17			18	19	20		
21			22			23	24
25				26			
27					28		

- ACROSS**
- Star Trek character played by Simon Pegg (6)
  - Amis, Lucky Jim novelist (8)
  - A borough of New York (8)
  - Secret stores (6)
  - A fastening (10)
  - Voice below soprano (4)
  - Horticulturalist (8)
  - Wood, actor best known for playing Frodo Baggins (6)
  - 2001 romantic comedy film starring Audrey Tautou in the titular role (6)
  - Pike, star of the fantasy TV series The Wheel of Time (8)
  - Krabappel, Bart Simpson's schoolteacher (4)
  - 1942 romantic drama film starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman (10)
  - Eludes (6)
  - Cold dessert (3,5)
  - Male relative (8)
  - Short advertisement (6)
- DOWN**
- Measure of the purity of gold (5)
  - Birch, BAFTA nominee for her role in American Beauty (5)
  - Anton \_\_, actor whose films included Fright Night and Green Room (7)
  - Joe \_\_, late footballer and manager of teams including Wimbledon and Newcastle United (7)
  - Item of clothing (7)
  - Left-wing political philosophy (9)
  - Visual fatigue (9)
  - Pedro \_\_, Spanish director whose films include All About My Mother and Pain and Glory (9)
  - Spotted dog breed (9)
  - Pardons or forgives (7)
  - White \_\_, cocktail of vodka, cream and coffee liqueur (7)
  - Hidden meaning (7)
  - Main blood vessel (5)
  - The \_\_, TV gameshow hosted by Bradley Walsh (5)

**£500 to be won!** HOW TO ENTER: Call 0904 161 2323 (£1.50/call). Or text SMSTAR followed by a space and your answer, name and postcode to 61011 (£1.50/text). FOR 5 CLUES and FULL SOLUTIONS: 0903 659 6060 (80p/min) or text STARCLUE to 61011 (£1/text) for 5 clues. Winner drawn at random from correct entries received by midnight on Saturday 1 June 2024. SOLUTION CALLS cost 80p/min plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1 + 1 standard network rate message. COMPETITION CALLS cost £1.50/call plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 + 1 standard network rate message. You may receive free promotional messages, to opt out end message with NO INFO. Lines close at midnight tonight except where stated. You must be 18+ to enter and T&C's apply, see www.mirror.co.uk/rules. SP Mi Telecom Ltd. Helpdesk 0330 880 6060. **Sunday 5 May winner:** Marianne Hopcraft, Bedfordshire **Sunday 12 May winner:** Jane Wilcock, Carlisle

**Word Ladder**

	LOVE	
Transfer		
Additional		
Centre		
Upkeep		
Motor vehicles		
	CATS	

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time. Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

**Brickwork**

1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Enter the solutions to the clues in their numbered layers of the wall. Each word must be an anagram of its neighbours, plus or minus one letter.

- Cow's noise
- Chamber
- Heathlands
- Engines
- Perch
- Spoils
- Hill

Solutions in next week's Sunday Mirror

LAST SUNDAYS SOLUTIONS

- QUIZWORD**
- ACROSS:** 6 Playboy Of The, 8 Coghlan, 9 Crisp, 10 Pery, 12 Googol, 14 Auger, 15 Castle, 16 Joab, 19 Encke, 21 Caribou, 22 Western World.
- DOWN:** 1 Maigret's, 2 Abele, 3 Hymns, 4 X Factor, 5 Thai, 6 Pickpocket, 7 Spellbound, 11 Hue, 12 Gee, 13 Gronberg, 14 Alberta, 17 Score, 18 Brown, 20 Clea.
- CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS:** 6 Deliberation, 8 Arrests, 9 Roost, 10 Ions, 12 Revamp, 14 Cover, 15 Gather, 16 Eden, 19 Inset, 21 None too, 22 Advantageous.
- DOWN:** 1 Clarinet, 2 Abyss, 3 Cross, 4 Starter, 5 Polo, 6 Drawing pin, 7 Stupendous, 11 For, 12 Red, 13 Audition, 14 Central, 17 Unity, 18 Snags, 20 Soda.

- SPEEDBREAKER**
- 1=I, 2=N, 3=D, 4=X, 5=J, 6=P, 7=R, 8=O, 9=F, 10=T, 11=E, 12=Q, 13=V, 14=G, 15=A, 16=C, 17=L, 18=M, 19=Z, 20=B, 21=W, 22=K, 23=H, 24=S, 25=U, 26=Y.

- JUST A BIT OF FUN**
- 2 Failure to secrete milk

- NAME GAME**
- CHARDONNAY**
- 1N, 2N, 3A, 4D, 5H, 6Y, 7C, 8R, 9O, 10A.

- TWO-SPEED COFFEEBREAK**
- ACROSS:** 1 Teller, 4 Rasp, 7 Ovid, 8 August, 9 Cope, 10 Over, 12 Acre, 14 End, 16 Two, 17 Rats, 20 Oven, 23 Ride, 24 Desire, 25 Late, 26 Duel, 27 Settle.
- DOWN:** 1 Tramp, 2 Luge, 3 Rotor, 4 Rice, 5 Adored, 6 Plead, 11 Vest, 13 Cure, 15 Noodle, 16 Tired, 18 Andes, 19 Theme, 21 Veal, 22 Mist.

- 30-SEC BRAIN TEASER**
- Beginner 43; Intermediate 169; Advanced 261.

**MIRRORGRAM**

MARGINALIA

**ARROW WORD**

	T	S	I	H	G									
S	P	A	C	E	C	A	R	E	E	R				
E	V	I	C	T	E	D	A	X	E					
T	R	E	N	T	C	O	E	R	C	E				
U	R	N	O	U	R	T	E	N						
S	N	A	P	B	E	V	E	L						
E	M	A	K	E	S	E	N	S	E					
A	C	O	R	E		S		G	R	A	D	E		
N	U	N	D	E	R	S	T	U	D	A	P	R	E	S
A	N	D	O	P	A	L	N	A	P	K	I	N	S	
E	D	E	N	D	E	S	I	S	T	S	T	Y		
M	I	L	L	S		P	A	T	H	A	U			
L	E	O		A	C	T	S	E	D	W	A	R	D	
				A	G	A	H	D	O	R	M	E	R	
				O	P	S			G	Y	P	S	Y	
				S	T	O	R	E	S	L				
				M	A	T	I	N	E	E	P	I	S	A
				P	A	R	C	E	L	A	F	A	R	
				T	E	N	S	E	S	C	L	Y	D	E

**EASY SU-DOKU**

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

**SU-DOKU TOUGHIE**

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

**KILLER SU-DOKU**

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

**FUTOSHIKI**

3	<	4	2	<	5	1
∨						
2	>	1	3	4	5	
4	2	5	1	3		
		∨				
1	5	4	3	2		
∧						
5	3	>	1	2	4	

**WORD LADDER**

Back, Sack, Sock, Soak, Soar, Star, Stab.

**BRICKWORK**

Ace, Lace, Cleat, Claret, Alter, Real, Ear.

**£500 STAR SEARCH**

- ACROSS:** 8 Irma, 9 Over-the-top, 10 Inched, 11 Honolulu, 12 Null, 13 Even number, 17 Meow, 18 Knick, 19 Sash, 20 Sutherland, 22 Roll, 23 Sheepdog, 27 Logjam, 28 Moratorium, 29 Leon.
- DOWN:** 1 Art nouveau, 2 Cash flow, 3 Woodpecker, 4 Seth, 5 Stun, 6 Bedlam, 7 Joel, 14 Erica, 15 Naked flame, 16 El Salvador, 19 Struggle, 21 Hyenas, 24 Hook, 25 Dhow, 26 Grit.

**HIDDEN STAR:** John Lithgow

# ANDY CAPP



# RUSSELL GRANT



**Aries** March 21-April 20  
Tension exists in a close relationship. You have a feeling your partner is annoyed with you but they won't say why. Attending a sporting event or concert together or booking a meal at their favourite restaurant will break down barriers that currently exist between you.

For more call **0905 789 4171** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
Have some alternative plans ready if you have been asked to organise a live music show or charity event. Anything that can go wrong seems to do so. Problems will be resolved but social pursuits and commitments are taking up a lot of your time. You need to relax, too.

For more call **0905 789 4172** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
It will be worth paying attention to world affairs. A big news story could have serious undertones that will affect your personal life. You will be approached to help a charity raise funds. Getting involved in this project will give your life new meaning and open new doors.

For more call **0905 789 4173** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
Keep believing that you can get through it no matter what might lie ahead. Youngsters are looking to you for inspiration. Having the strength and the resilience to continue knowing there will be a brighter day will get you through any challenges in your way.

For more call **0905 789 4174** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Leo** July 24 - August 23  
You will get another chance to consider a recent proposal you turned down. You have to make your mind up quickly. Be wary of advice from a colleague who might be secretly hoping to grab this opportunity for themselves. An old injury will flare up causing you to pull out of a sporting event.

For more call **0905 789 4175** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Virgo** Aug 24 - Sept 23  
A trip to investigate your roots will turn out to be an interesting experience. Delving into parish archives in search of your ancestors could lead to the start of a lifelong interest. You could discover a famous or perhaps an infamous name among them too.

For more call **0905 789 4176** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Libra** Sept 24-Oct 23  
You truly hate direct confrontation but you have no choice but to stand up to a bully. They cannot be allowed to intimidate you in a public forum. Once you take a stand, others will support you. You aren't the only one who has been a victim of this person's aggression.

For more call **0905 789 4177** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Scorpio** Oct 24 - Nov 22  
A straying domestic pet could have you and your friends scouring the neighbourhood. Volunteer to help put up posters or share social media posts. You want to do all you can but you may have to leave others to continue this search when other responsibilities demand your attention.

For more call **0905 789 4178** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 - Dec 21  
Actions taken at work will attract the unwelcome attention of a superior. Although their advice is well meant, you would prefer to get on without an audience there. An up-and-down romantic relationship will quickly veer between a light-hearted farce and a messy melodrama.

For more call **0905 789 4179** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Capricorn** Dec 22 - Jan 20  
A sizeable family reunion is being arranged, occasioned by a wedding, anniversary or christening. This is a great opportunity to bring kith and kin together in the real spirit of celebration. A relative you haven't seen for many years is ready to return to the fold.

For more call **0905 789 4180** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Aquarius** Jan 21 - Feb 19  
You have clear views about what in your home or workplace could do with a spruce-up. If you are left to put your ideas into action, you could make a big difference to your environment. In some areas there needs to be a major change. In the community, the focus is on younger people.

For more call **0905 789 4181** (80p/min + network access charge)

**Pisces** Feb 20 - Mar 20  
Pressures on you now are few. This should give you plenty of time to make serious progress with a personal project at your chosen pace. Later you will need to make it clear to an older relative that they need to step back and allow you to chart your own course. It is only fair.

For more call **0905 789 4182** (80p/min + network access charge)

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PLEASE SEND ME	CODE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
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<b>2 HYDRANGEA LITTLE SPOOKY + 1 FREE</b>	<b>SP1110</b>		<b>£19.98</b>	<b>£</b>
			P&P	FREE
			TOTAL	£

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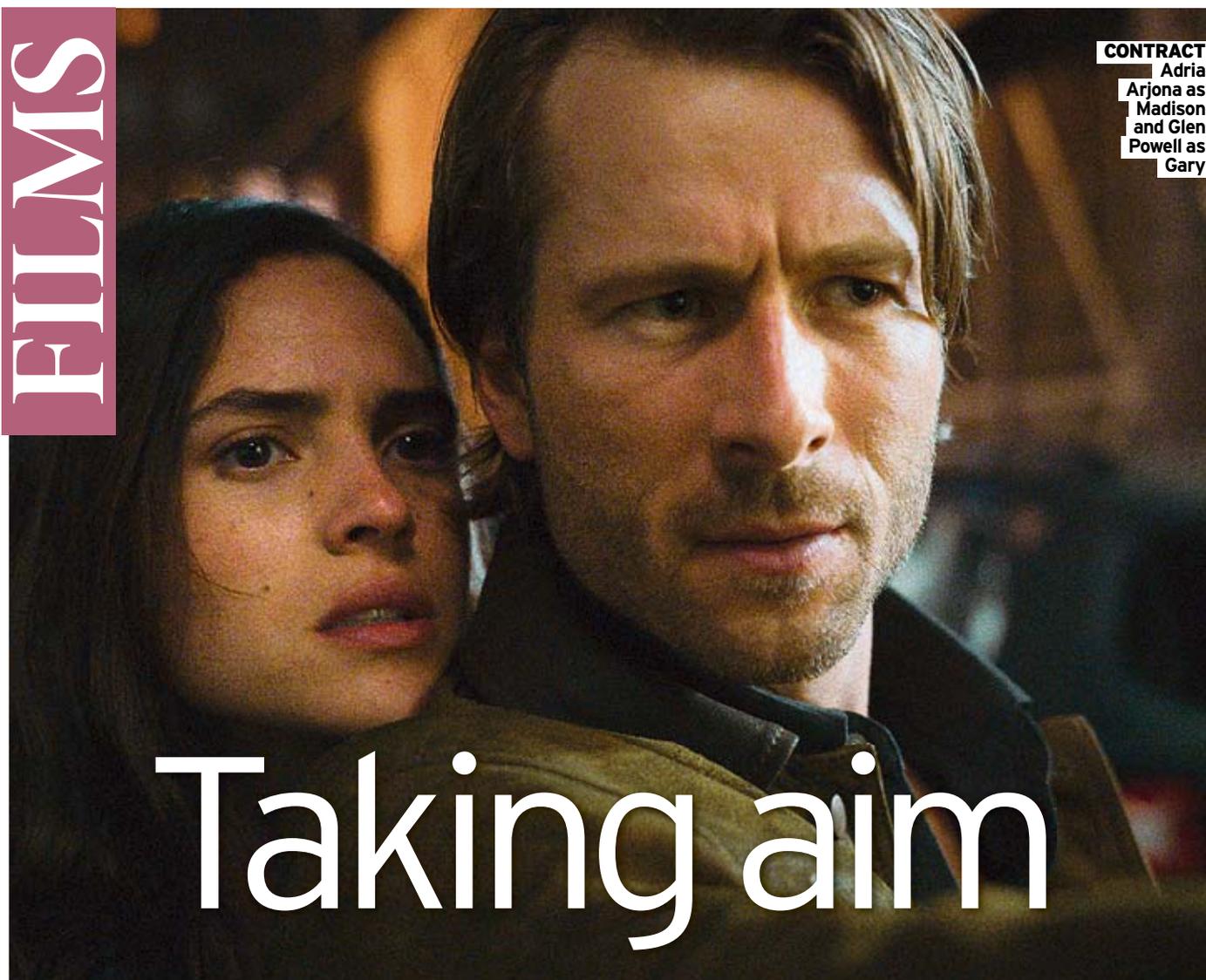
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# time to UNWIND

STAR RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent  
 ★★★★☆ Good  
 ★★★☆☆ Worth a look  
 ★★☆☆☆ Poor ★ Don't bother

FILMS



**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

**T**easingly 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. Newfound 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.

# LIVE FOR TODAY

Running with terminal cancer  
By Kevin Webber

## Pushed to the limit on ultra marathon

**CHALLENGE**  
Kevin's fellow runners, below, on the start line



I love every kind of running - on a track, in a park, in the countryside, when it's dry, wet or cold, on my own and with others, but my favourite running is a multi-day ultra-marathon overseas.



This week I met up with 42 others to take on The Way of Legends 200k foot race in Burgos, Spain, a race crafted by the amazing Manu Pastor, who is himself an outstanding runner.

I'm running as you read this, so will write more next week when it's over, but the most joyful time is meeting the other competitors. Plus, I was delighted that I knew around half of the crew and competitors from previous races.

The camaraderie on this race was formed in an instant, even though we represent countries as diverse as Canada, South Africa, Turks and Caicos, Philippines and many more.

From my many years of competing in this kind of race, I have come to realise that what bonds different people is the common love of being outside, pushing ourselves to the limit.

When you are away from home comforts, taking on serious mountain terrain with no guarantee of completing the event, you just seem to form an instant bond. For most that is never about beating another runner, but more about being the best you can with the abilities you have.

The desire to see everyone come in each day is huge and it's always smiles all round when the last competitor is safely back.

What makes this race even more special is the support from the volunteer crew

who feed us, sort our accommodation and do whatever they can to help get us out each day to have a safe race.

As this event started I already had confidence that not only will I not get lost in remote mountain terrain thanks to great course marking, but also, should I need any medical assistance, I will be well looked after because two doctors, Laura and Helen, have already been visible on the start line, on the course and at the end of the day. Let's hope than no one needs them!

Fingers crossed that I complete this challenge, and I hope that you, too, take some time when you're alone to think about how you could enjoy activities you love even more by doing them alongside other people.

Until next week,  
Kev

“What bonds us is a love of being outside, pushed to the limit”

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## 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 was extremely lucky to be alive. Also,

# time to I died three times on the football pitch



**BIG HELP**  
The team receiving the Unite defibrillator



**SUPPORT**  
Steven with his partner Morgan

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,

# LIVE WELL



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](http://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.

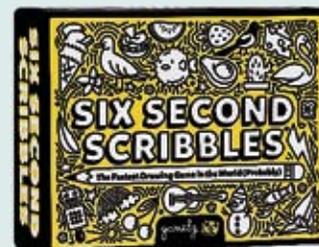
**An ICD is placed under the skin, usually in the space just below the collarbone (clavicle) to monitor your heart rate. Thin wires connect it to the heart, where it's always checking your heart rate and rhythm. If it notices a dangerous heart rhythm, an ICD can deliver one or more of the following treatments:**

- **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.

## RETAIL THERAPIES



■ 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](http://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!



■ Trade your online soccer gaming for some old-school sticker fun. What footie fan doesn't love filling a Panini album with stickers of all their favourite players? The England Official Sticker Collection Tournament Edition 2024 (from 90p per pack; [panini.co.uk](http://panini.co.uk)) is packed full of past, present and future Three Lions stars, plus elite players from four of Europe's greatest national teams.

■ 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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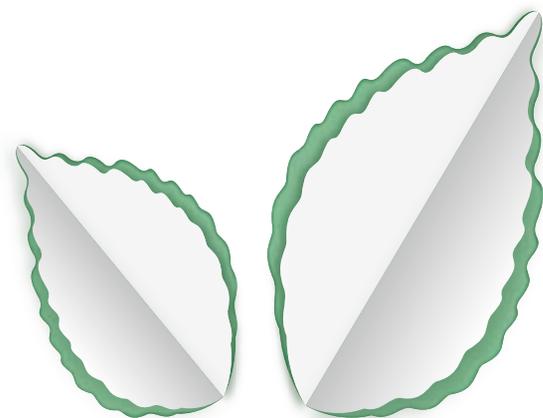
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Source: Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), 2005 - 2020  
European Forests: EU27 + Norway, Switzerland and the UK



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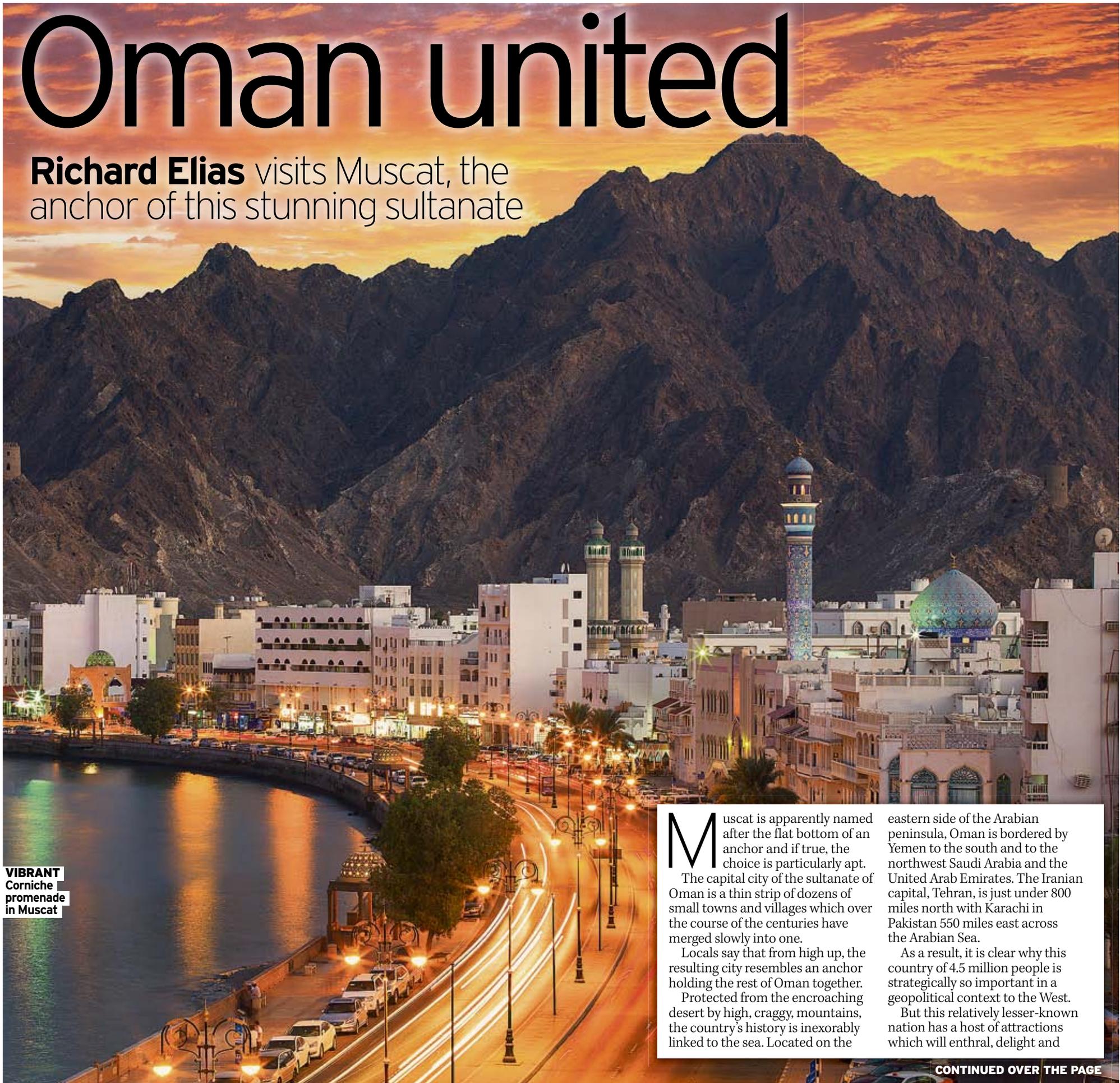
time to **EXPLORE**



Edited by  
**NIGEL THOMPSON**

# Oman united

**Richard Elias** visits Muscat, the anchor of this stunning sultanate



**VIBRANT**  
Corniche  
promenade  
in Muscat

**M**uscat 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 which will enthral, delight and

**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

**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

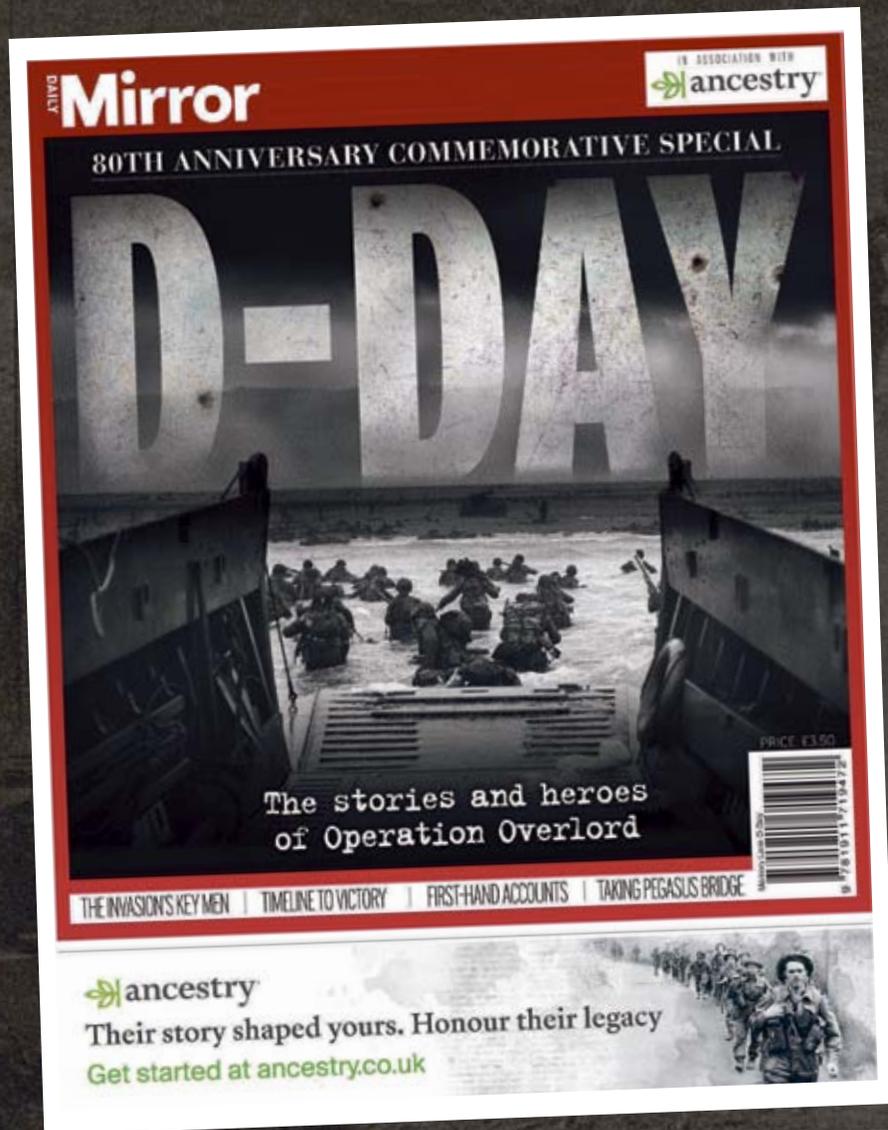
Iceland is the newest 2024 European sailaway hotspot, says specialist Iglu Cruise. The North Atlantic island is showing a 40% year on year increase in online searches, with Greece up 32% and France rising 16%.

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. iglucruise.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

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## 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](http://swanhotel.com)

### IMPOSING Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque



### BARGAINS Souvenir shopping



### SCENT PACKING Take home perfumes

#### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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 Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. The

# EXPLORE



**THROWBACK**  
Oman's fishing tradition

# Tide and seek

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.



**COOL OFF**  
Hidden beach on coast of Oman

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## Deals of the week

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

### LONG HAUL

**Mauritius from £1,529pp:** save up to 55% on a half-board stay at the five-star The Residence in Belle Mare. Fly from Manchester on June 25. [kenwoodtravel.co.uk](http://kenwoodtravel.co.uk)

**Cuba from £953pp:** save 25% on an eight day tour departing on June 8, visiting Vinales, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Soroa and Old Havana. Includes accommodation, transport, selected meals, activities and a local guide. International flights extra. [intrepidtravel.com](http://intrepidtravel.com)

**Thailand from £999pp:** save up to 40% on a week's B&B at the four-star Centara Villas resort in Koh Samui, departing from Heathrow on selected dates between July 1-15. Book by June 15, Edinburgh flights also available, book by June 15. [awayholidays.co.uk](http://awayholidays.co.uk)

**Antigua from £1,399pp:** fly from Gatwick on selected dates in July for a week on all-inclusive at the three-star Hawksbill Resort near Five Islands. Comes with 23kg baggage, book by May 31. [britishairways.com/antigua](http://britishairways.com/antigua)

### SHORT HAUL

**Turkey from £349pp:** a seven night all-inclusive stay at the adults-only five-star Ramada by Wyndham Fethiye Oludeniz hotel comes with flights from Birmingham on June 1. [thomascook.com](http://thomascook.com)

**Lanzarote from £519pp:** fly from Edinburgh on June 4 for a week's self-catering at Villas Coral Deluxe (sleeps six) in Playa Blanca. Includes 22kg baggage and car hire. [jet2holidays.com/villas](http://jet2holidays.com/villas)

### ESCORTED TOUR

**Venice, Verona and Lake Garda from £1,310pp:** save £231pp on an eight day itinerary departing on June 19 from London, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester or Newcastle. Based at Lake Garda with four guided excursions and transfers. [newmarketholidays.co.uk](http://newmarketholidays.co.uk)

### CRUISE

**No-fly Spain and France from £459pp:** join MSC Virtuosa in Southampton on June 22 for a seven night round trip to La Rochelle, Bilbao, La Coruna and Cherbourg. Save up to £400 per couple, includes gratuities. [cruisekings.co.uk](http://cruisekings.co.uk)

### STAYCATION

**Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo from £299pp:** depart from selected pickup points in the north of England on August 4 or 12 for a three day coach break. Includes two nights' half-board accommodation, ticket for the Tattoo at the castle and tours in the Scottish capital and Gretna Green. [nationalholidays.com](http://nationalholidays.com)

**Lancashire from £547:** save 15% on a four night self-catering getaway at Snipe (sleeps six) in Bleasdale, Forest of Bowland. Arrival on June 3. [glampinghideaways.co.uk](http://glampinghideaways.co.uk)

**Cotswolds from £650:** a four night self-catering break at Oxbow Cottage (sleeps two, pet friendly) in Maugersbury near Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, is for arrival in July. [staycotswold.com](http://staycotswold.com)

### STAR BUY

**Rhodes from £315pp:** jet away from Manchester on June 6 for a week's self-catering at the two-star+ beachfront Avra Apartments in Lindos. Other UK airports available. [olympicholidays.com](http://olympicholidays.com)

■ Prices correct at publication, based on two sharing unless stated otherwise.



**EGG-CITED**  
Denis's girls loved Roarr!



**MAKE A SPLASH**  
Water park

## Denis Mann and his family enjoy a sense of bygone eras on a trip to Norfolk

We hadn't realised dinosaurs walked the Earth down Norfolk way, but there they were, right before us: a couple of storeys high and sounding mighty grumpy for a local, who are generally cheerful, friendly types, and not so tall.

You wouldn't mistake them for real dinosaurs. This is a good thing. I've seen the Jurassic Park films, all 200 of them, and – spoiler alert – it doesn't end well for the majority of the humans.

Here at ROARR! the velociraptors move only as far as the animatronics allow, which is not very far and not very fast. Perhaps a little less thrilling than a Steven Spielberg blockbuster, but at least you don't have to hide in the kitchen cupboards.

And you get a proper sense of scale by being close to these detailed models, and a proper pain in the neck gazing up at the massive height on the magnificent, utterly unlikely, brontosaurus.

I thought our two small homo sapiens (seven-year-old twin girls) would be a tad too old for ROARR! But they were jumping-up-and-down-on-the-spot, swooningly in love with the place.

They raced ahead through the Valley of the Dinosaurs, thoughtfully laid out on a path through lovely woods, while we loped along behind, knowing they would come to no harm.

And we all enjoyed pretending to be scared when we finally found good old Tyrannosaurus Rex. Even if he was so very, very terrifying that a family of crows was carrying twigs to build a nest in his fearsome jaws.

Despite the theme, this is a relaxing place to visit. The whitest knuckles are those of the parents gripping the

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# EXPLORE



**DINO-MITE**  
Kids have fun on a grand scale at Roarr!

# Jurassic larks

## Hotel news

BY VICKY LISSAMAN



Live the Barbie dream life, where every night is a girls' night out, at Atlantis Paradise Island Bahamas.

In partnership with Mattel, the luxury Caribbean resort is now offering Barbie-themed guest rooms, a cafe and a themed walk-through experience.

The Coral is a Barbie wonderland with pink walls, disco balls and doll-themed artwork, with the adjacent pool featuring a Barbie lounge area.

There's also a Barbie Boardwalk Adventure, featuring life-sized interactive playsets, Barbie ball pit with 80,000 balls, activity stations and life-sized Barbie doll boxes. Tickets from around £30.

And fill up at a Barbie diner, where you can enjoy pink doughnuts and milkshakes. Throughout summer, Atlantis will also host Barbie Bahamas Pool Parties at The Coral Pool. [barbieatlantis.com](http://barbieatlantis.com)

Coppa Club has opened its first property in Wales, The Cardiff Townhouse, on the site of a beloved landmark. Bringing the David Morgan department store back to life, the all-day socialising bar, cafe and dining venue on The Hayes has stylish spaces for coffee, cocktails, working, socialising and relaxing.

Split over two levels, the upstairs features the Atrium bar, set under a historic skylight. [coppaclub.co.uk/the-cardiff-townhouse](http://coppaclub.co.uk/the-cardiff-townhouse)

Suffolk's Bedford Lodge Hotel and Spa is offering a summer treat for spa and nature lovers.

The two-night staycation package includes breakfast, three hours of spa access as well as tickets to the Cambridge University Botanic Garden. Available from July 15 - August 31, £560 for two. [bedfordlodgehotel.co.uk](http://bedfordlodgehotel.co.uk)

## Buy of the week

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Every family holiday by the pool needs a donut and this one looks like a splashingly sweet treat.



Made from durable vinyl, with a 114cm diameter, it's easy to inflate and comes with a repair patch in case of aquatic activity overload. Hundreds and thousands of hours of fun!

Intex Inflatable Sprinkle Donut, £6.99, [therange.co.uk](http://therange.co.uk)



**HOLT, WHO GOES THERE**  
Quaint town

barriers as they watch their young ones on the Swing-O-Saurus or the Raptor Contraptor.

Teens would maybe sneer at such genteel thrills, but Millie and Nora were in raptures. And they'd still be on the Predator High Ropes now if we hadn't coaxed them down with promises of hot food.

There's a water park that dumps freezing water on top of excited kids, but we didn't dare venture in on a cool spring day. A few brave souls did, however, and it looked great fun. I hope they've changed back to their regular colour by now.

And there was a live stage show, a short film, indoor slides and climbing frames, cars that Year Twos can drive, a maze and goodness knows what else.

Before we knew it, hours had shot by.

We left very happy, ruddy-faced, pretty

**SPOTLESS**  
The cottage in Holt



tired and sneakily educated. Big tick. ROARR! is near Norwich, but our business was north for the rest of our short break. In that little bit of heaven they call the Norfolk coast, further up than the busy Broads and a relatively unscathed part of the country.

Come prepared: you can have five seasons in one day round here – the four standard ones and a special Norfolk season with all of the above all at the same time.

But who wants southern California with its warm summer days all year round?

OK, put your hands down, you lot. The rest, follow me to the gorgeous

Georgian town of Holt and the glories of a different sort of seaside.

Holt, like the dinosaurs, is from a different era. People here say "Good morning" as they pass by, as they did in Mesozoic times, I believe.

Shopkeepers smile as you enter their premises, which could be, miraculously, an honest-to-God butcher's or fishmonger's, an independent bookshop or a coffee shop, cafe or bakery not owned by Coca Cola or an all-consuming chain.

And the food and drink! On the first night at our faultless cottage, sourced from the Norfolk Cottage Agency, I was sent to check out dining options at the local pubs (a dirty job).

A pint of Moon Gazer Ostara (9/10) and another of Barsham's Eastern Gold (9/10) and no further exploration was required (shame). I'd found a table at the Feathers, quite a smart dining pub on the High Street, where we ate like hungry plesiosauruses and still had change out of £70.

The coastal seafood platter for two (£26) was so substantial we had a doggy bag of smoked salmon and prawns for snacks at home.

All the food we experienced was quality. We had a full English breakfast (£12.45) at the Owl Tea Rooms and it was immaculate – with a black pudding that brought back memories of my northern roots. Clean plates all round and wonderful service as well. And we took home

**“** That bit of heaven called the Norfolk coast further up than the busy Broads **”**



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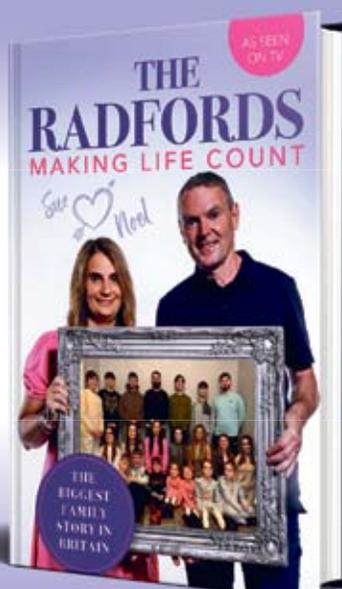
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# time to



**STRAIT UP** Underwater plans

## Tunnel from Spain strait to Morocco

BY **MILO BOYD**

A new underwater tunnel could link Spain to Morocco by the end of the decade.

The Moroccan National Company for Strait Studies has announced work is under way to explore whether the project is feasible and what it would cost.

If built, the tunnel across the Strait of Gibraltar would include a 17-mile stretch underwater that would reach depths of 1,560ft, considerably more than the 23-mile underwater part of the Channel Tunnel which goes down to only 246ft.

It would connect Punta Paloma, west of Tarifa, with Malabata in northern Morocco, just east of Tangier.

Some estimates have put the cost of the construction connecting Europe and Africa at around £6billion, also including the building of a maintenance tunnel.

The tunnel across the Strait of Gibraltar was first discussed 40 years ago and is seen as a strategic key link for both Spain and Morocco, as well as Europe and Africa.

If completed, it could make taking holidays in Morocco easier and much greener for European tourists because it would remove the need for a flight or a long and typically expensive crossing by boat.

Transport officials hope the tunnel could be completed for the 2030 FIFA World Cup, jointly hosted by Spain, Portugal and Morocco. It would also prove to be an important trade crossing, with the potential to transport millions of tons of cargo between Africa and Europe.

Get your travel dining on track with European Sleeper. The night train is to introduce a restaurant on its Amsterdam-Berlin-Prague service this autumn. The eaterie will pilot from September 1 to November 1. [europeansleeper.eu](http://europeansleeper.eu)

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## Yolanthe Fawehinmi gets top tips on how to plan a perfect trip with friends

Going on holiday with friends can be a great opportunity to try new things, deepen relationships and create lifelong memories.

But what if your friendship group has many different personalities and interests?

What happens if you disagree on what to do, or some friends want to go somewhere that's way out of another person's budget?

Planning a group holiday where everyone feels happy and content will require careful consideration.

We asked travel experts for their top tips to ensure the trip is fun and stress-free for everyone...

### Decide on the planning process

Boss of Nina Price Travels says you need to first decide if you want to do the planning yourselves, or go to a third-party travel agent who can plan the entire group holiday on your behalf.

"You will still need to appoint someone who can do the liaising and be upfront with the rest of the group. They need to be super organised. Too many cooks spoil the broth," says Price.

"But if no-one is willing to do it, tasks need to be delegated. Those who aren't doing much should be cooperative and chilled out."

# EXPLORE

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# Travel team spirit



**CHECK** Charge your devices

## Get switched on to tech luggage rule

BY MILO BOYD

A small mobile phone mistake could see you blocked from taking tech on a flight.

While each airline has its own set of hand luggage restrictions - Ryanair, Jet2, TUI and easyJet all having a list of no-go items for passengers - there's a particular regulation concerning electronic devices that travellers might not be clued up on.

If you've got an electronic device that won't turn on, you could be barred from bringing it on board. The UK Foreign Office website states: "Make sure your electronic devices are charged before you travel. If your device does not switch on when requested, you will not be allowed to take it onto the aircraft."

While it's unlikely everyone will need to demonstrate their device's functionality, don't be surprised by random checks at airport security.

Travel gurus from International Citizens Insurance have issued a stark warning to holidaymakers. They caution: "If you cannot turn on your devices when requested by security personnel, they can take it from you, placing your holiday snaps in jeopardy."

British Airways lays down the law, stating: "You can generally take electric and electronic items in your hand or checked baggage, but you need to follow specific safety instructions."

"Airport security staff may ask you to turn on electronic or battery powered devices, such as phones, tablets, e-books and laptops, to demonstrate they function. If you're not able to do this, you will not be able to take your device with you."

"Please ensure that any items in your hand baggage are fully charged and switched on before you arrive at the airport. If your device is not charged, please place it in your checked baggage."

Airlines also have restrictions regarding lithium batteries being allowed into checked in luggage, so this may not be an option.

The safest course is to make sure your devices are charged up and in your carry-on bag.

Price also thinks it's best to set up a WhatsApp group as soon as possible. It doesn't only help with communication but will help you get a feel of how many people are actually going on the group trip.

"I have a rule of thumb: give people three options. If there are too many, no decisions get made. So that's three destinations and three types of accommodation."

"Put some activities out there too," she adds.

### Agree on a budget (and keep it fair!)

Budgeting is key. Some people in the group may only want to spend £100 on the trip, while others may want to fork out £1,000.

"There needs to be a really honest conversation about how much everyone is willing to spend," says Hollie Youlden, UK marketing manager at Kilroy, a youth and student travel agency in the Nordic and now UK region.

"Obviously in a group, people earn different salaries, some people could be in a relationship or be a parent, so how much you have in terms of disposable income will differ among a group of friends," she says.

"It also helps to establish the biggest priority for the trip. Is it the quality of the accommodation, or the destination? Or is it about the number of activities you can fit into your holiday?"

Price agrees that handling the spending and budget is really important, and adds: "You need to be realistic and open to the fact that you may not travel to the destination you want."

"Going on group holidays is all about compromise and having fun with friends. So keep this in mind too."

### Plan how you'll sort spending money while away

There are various money apps people can use when planning a group holiday with

friends, which can be helpful for keeping track of spending, especially if it's more than three people.

However, Price does believe that 20 people should be the limit, especially if you are flying somewhere and not booking in advance, and would always advise going on holiday in smaller groups.

"There's an app called Splitwise, where you can keep a tally of who has paid for what. This could be a very useful tool when it's time for people to make payments."

"Sometimes it's easier for the delegated organiser to make the down payment and everyone just sends them the money back, as it can get very messy," says Price.

"Also, think about ways you can save some money."

"It's getting so expensive to travel everywhere."

"You can share luggage to cut costs, and look at destinations where you might be able to fly to a smaller airport outside the city and get a transfer."

"Perhaps don't book during peak seasons, such as the summer holidays, as you will always need to pay more."

"Group discounts are sometimes available, but this can be a lot of work for one person."

### How can you avoid conflict and factor in everyone's needs?

Sometimes a bit of conflict and tension is inevitable on a group trip, but there are things you can do to ensure everyone is getting the most out of the holiday and avoid big arguments.

"You need to work some flexibility into your itinerary," says Youlden. "There are probably things that everyone agrees are a must-do. For example, say you were going to India, the Taj Mahal is probably going to be one of those must-sees. But there'll be other activities or cities where maybe only half the group is interested."

### Consider a themed trip

It could be worth considering a themed holiday. These are popular and great for group holidays - that way, you'll all know what you're signing up for and there'll be a shared experience at the heart of it. For example, going on a cooking holiday to Italy.

"I was in Florence last year, and there was an option to tour the city in a golf cart," says Price.

"You can find stuff like this on websites Not In The Guidebooks and Do Something Different."



TRAVEL EXPERTS  
Hollie Youlden and Nina Price



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# time to TALK MONEY

with WARREN SHUTE

## The Smarter Spender £

Getting ahead financially means making some smart money decisions. Here is a snapshot of the money information you need to know.

### Market movements

Index	YTD (%)	10yr (%)
FTSE 100	10.83	6.12
S&P 500	12.19	13.00
MSCI World	12.04	11.11
MSCI Emerging Market	10.92	6.46
Gold Price	18.59	9.43
UK Property market proxy	0.57	3.29
Deposit Rate	0.54	0.19
RPI	1.58	4.12
CPI	0.98	2.88

Total return in pounds sterling. YTD is the year-to-date percentage total return. 10yr (%) is the compound annualised growth rate over 10 years. Deposit rate reflects a typical savings account at £2,500. RPI and CPI are inflation measures.

### Great savings rates

- Ulster Bank is offering a variable savings account of 5.20%pa.
- Habib Bank Zurich plc is offering a 1-year fixed rate of 5.21%pa.
- Shawbrook Bank is offering a 3-year fixed rate of 4.71%pa.
- Shawbrook Bank is offering a 5-year fixed rate of 4.57%pa.
- Please check the terms and conditions before depositing your money. If you hold money with a UK authorised bank or building society, you are covered under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme up to £85,000 per eligible person, per bank or building society.

### Great mortgage deals if you're remortgaging:

- Barclays is offering 4.31% fixed rate until 30/09/2029 at 60% LTV.
- Vernon Building Society is offering a 4.69% fixed rate until 31/08/2029 at 80% LTV.

### If you're moving home:

- Barclays is offering 4.32% fixed rate until 30/09/2027 at 60% LTV.
- Danske Bank is offering a 4.53% fixed rate until 02/07/2029 at 80% LTV.

### If you're a first-time buyer:

- Lloyds Bank is offering a 4.71% fixed rate until 31/08/2029 at 90% LTV.
- Halifax is offering a 5.14% fixed rate 31/08/2027 at 100% LTV.
- Please check the fees and terms and conditions of the mortgage before arranging it. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

# Cash in to bring the house down

## Overpaying on your mortgage is a smart move

**It's the one debt most of us are happy to take out and it seems almost second nature to do so; for the majority, it takes nearly our whole working lifetime to repay it.**

So how can you join the 52% or so of householders in the UK who own their homes outright?

Because interest rates have risen, and for many the cost of borrowing is now more expensive than it was, it might be opportune to discuss how to repay your mortgage early, if you can.

### Make additional payments

Let's say you have a £200,000 mortgage at 2.5% over a 25-year term; your repayments would be around £890 per month. If you overpaid by just 10%, £90 per month, you'd reduce your mortgage term by three years and save yourself £9,000 in interest.

If you committed to an overpayment of £1,000 per quarter, it would save you over eight years on your term and £24,500 in interest payments.

But before you start on your mortgage repayment plan, check with your mortgage lender first: some restrict the amount you can repay without incurring penalties. And when you start your overpayments, ensure your lender will apply the payment to the capital immediately and not to the following month's payment.

### Pay more frequently

Almost all mortgages are set up on a monthly payment-in-arrears basis but what if you paid your mortgage fortnightly?

If you paid half after the first fortnight and the second half two weeks later, you'd pay 26 half payments in the year - 13 full payments, effectively one extra month. Based on the example above you'd save almost £8,000 in



**“If you can cut back or make sacrifices to save a bit, your future self will thank you**

interest and shave over 2.5 years off your mortgage term. Is this a good idea? Definitely - but never pay any fees to do so.

### How to afford overpaying

It's always hard to find extra money but if you can somehow cut back, reduce or make sacrifices to save just a little, your future self will thank you.

I appreciate for many it may not be the ideal time to start overpayments but I have learned in the last 29 years as a financial planner that there really is no ideal time to start anything.

Perhaps include your mortgage overpayments in an overall financial health review which could include cutting out wasted spending.

If you want to be financially savvy, take lunch into work, walk rather than driving or use public transport, turn down your thermostat or take in a lodger. If you spent £7 a day on lunch, that's £140 each month. Based on the

mortgage above a £140 monthly overpayment would save you £26,500 in interest and 10 years on your term.

So when you go out at lunch, just remember it's costing you more than the price of the sandwich!

### Save on interest

The average mortgage rate on a five-year fixed deal is about 4.5%. UK mortgage rates peaked last autumn when the average rate reached 6.94% - the highest level since 2002.

Trading Economics are forecasting the Bank of England interest rate to remain at 5.25% and reduce to 3.75% in 2025 and 2.75% in 2026.

Also consider taking a shorter-term mortgage. Twenty-five and 30-year mortgages are common but if you set your repayments to be the same as a 15-year mortgage, you'll pay it off 10 years sooner versus a 25-year mortgage and save almost £30,000 in interest! Just be mindful of penalties. ■ Check out The Finance Geeks Podcast



## Home bonds: 5 things you should know

**1** There are currently around 14 million outstanding mortgages in the UK against 29.4 million homes.

**2** UK mortgage lending is forecast to be £122 billion in 2024, a significant decline from £171 bn in 2022.

**3** Repaying your mortgage is a guaranteed investment return that you're unlikely to ever regret.

**4** Your home is often your greatest asset, repaying your mortgage reduces your risk.

**5** The Bank of England interest rate has increased from 0.1% in December 2021 to 5.25% today but it is forecast to go down again.

The **BIG** save

## Q&A

**I'm a first-time buyer and want to save for a deposit. Any advice?**

**WARREN:** If you're aged between 18 and 40, a Lifetime ISA gives you a free 25% bonus on savings up to £4,000 pa if used for a house deposit - but you must hold it for 12 months. It's a great way to save for your first home.

Alternatively you could look to use NS&I Premium Bonds, or a high-interest account.



**Is there a difference between an AVC and asking your employer to increase your pension contributions?**

**WARREN:** In simple terms, no. Some schemes don't allow direct top-ups, so you will have an additional pot. But with most workplace pensions the increase will go directly into the same fund.

# UK tiptoes out of recession

In the initial quarter of 2024, the UK's economy emerged from recession, registering a growth of 0.6% in contrast to the final quarter of 2023.

This growth rate surpassed that of the US at 0.4% and the Eurozone at 0.3% during the same period. However, when compared with the first quarter of 2023, GDP saw a modest rise of 0.2%.



Meme stocks, the focus of speculative frenzy by day traders in the pandemic, have made a comeback. GameStop's stock price had a 74% upswing, while AMC Entertainment's shares soared by 78% in a day, triggered by a sudden flurry of activity on the Roaring Kitty account.

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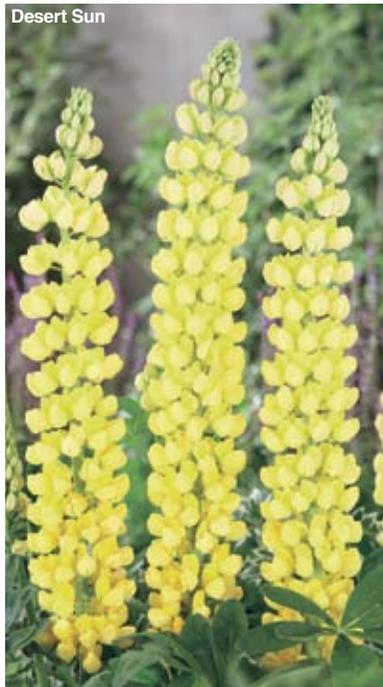


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## Poets' muse is on the margins

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.

FOLLOW STUART ON TWITTER:  
**@BIRDERMAN**

## time to



**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

# DIG IN



with DIARMUID GAVIN

gardening@mirror.co.uk

Sorry, Diarmuid cannot reply personally



# Premier stars on show at Chelsea

**HEAVEN SCENT**  
Choose star jasmine for wonderful fragrance

PICTURE RAYMOND J. EVISON LTD.

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.

## 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.

## 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.

## YOU ASK

### Hi Diarmuid

My tulips, which are a few years old, only produced lush leaves this year – no flowers at all. Do I just dig up and replace?

Thanks, Marion

### Hi Marion

Yes, I'd dig them and throw them out.



Many of the fancy tulips we plant are highly bred and often only perform really well for one year. Those that do reflower are often smaller or paler.

So for the best display, treat tulips as annuals and refresh every year.

However, if you buy species tulips such as the lovely Tulipa humilis, they will naturalise and perform as perennials, returning in flower every year.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

### Ryobi's Cordless Patio Cleaner easily removes weeds, moss and grass from your paths and patios

With Spring now upon us it's time to tackle all those outdoor cleaning jobs that have been neglected over the summer months. But don't let unsightly weeds, overgrown grass, and nasty moss get in the way of your beautiful outdoor space.

With the Ryobi 18V ONE+™ Cordless Patio Cleaner, you can power through even the toughest outdoor mess with consummate ease.

#### No more bending or kneeling down

Say goodbye to bending or kneeling down to clean your paths and patios. The ONE+™ Patio Cleaner with wire brush spins at an incredible 1350rpm to power through the task effortlessly! Whether you need to clear weeds, grass, or moss from your patio, paths, driveway or bricked areas, this patio cleaner is the tool for the task.

#### Innovative design for easy cleaning

The Ryobi 18V ONE+™ Patio Cleaner features an innovative telescopic height adjustment handle, which means easy upright cleaning for any user. The two-handed design ensures it is ergonomic and easy to use, while the wire brush



guard protects the user from any debris. Plus, with the tool-less brush changing mechanism, you can quickly and easily switch between different types of cleaning brushes for hard or delicate surfaces, even with gloves on.

And when it's time to put it away, the handle design allows for quick and easy storage, taking up less space in your shed or garage.



## 18V CORDLESS PATIO CLEANER WITH 2.0AH BATTERY STARTER KIT

# Spotless patios in minutes with complete cordless convenience!



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Peter, Verified Purchaser



SWIVEL HANDLE FOR HOLD-STEADY COMFORT

POWERFUL LONG LASTING 2.0AH BATTERY



BEFORE

Incredible results in no time without stooping or scraping!

AFTER



The wire brush wheel spins at high speed to leave surfaces clean and debris-free

### Ryobi 18V Cordless Patio Cleaner Kit What you get

- Patio Cleaner (RY18PCA-120)
- Ryobi ONE+ 2.0Ah Battery
- Ryobi ONE+ 2.0A Charger
- 3-Year Warranty\*
- Free Delivery (GB mainland only)

Owners of this 18V Cordless Patio Cleaner couldn't be happier! "I was so impressed with the Ryobi ONE+™ Patio Cleaner," says Jenny. "It made cleaning my patio so easy, and I loved the wire brush that just powered through the weeds and overgrown grass. I'm so glad I added this to my collection of Ryobi tools." Jenny P (verified buyer).

Another regular customer said: "It's powerful, easy to use, and perfect for keeping my outdoor space looking great." Dave R (verified buyer).

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Order the Ryobi 18V ONE+™ Patio Cleaner today and power through even the toughest of outdoor messes with ease.



Save £90 now!  
Order today for just £129.99 and get your patio cleaner with wire brush wheel, a 3-year warranty and fast, free GB mainland delivery.

"Takes all the strain out of this laborious task!"  
John, Verified Purchaser

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NECK AND NECK Levey (below) rides Rosallion to narrow win

RESULTS

CHESTER: Good to soft-soft in places

1.45: FAIR POINT (M Ghiani 2-5f) 1; HIYA HONEY (11-2) 2; MOSTAR DREAMS (9-2) 3. 4 ran. 20f. (R Beckett). Tote: £1.40; Tote Exacta: £2.70. Trifecta: £3.40. CSF: £3.03.

2.20: COLUMNIST (J Garrity 5-2) 1; CABELLERO (3-1) 2; KING OF ANGELS (9-4) 3. 6 ran. 4f. 3/4. (R Fahy). Tote: £3.50; £1.50, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £10.10. Trifecta: £19.70. CSF: £9.52. NRS: Flicka's Girl, One More Guinness.

2.55: ANIMATO (Jason Watson 12-1) 1; TI-GERTEN (9-2) 2; RICH BELIEF (8-1) 3. 10 ran. 11-4f. Dreams Adozen. 3/4. nk. (D O'Meara). Tote: £13.00; £2.60, £2.10, £2.80. Tote Exacta: £77.80. Trifecta: £469.06. Trifecta: £539.50. CSF: £66.27. NRS: Lusaka, Sobegrand.

3.35: CAVERN CLUB (F Norton 6-4f) 1; OMAN (7-2) 2; YOKKELL (15-2) 3. 5 ran. hd. 3f. (James Owen). Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £6.30. Trifecta: £26.50. CSF: £6.76. NR: Chase The Dollar.

4.05: SPIRIT GENIE (G Wood 13-2) 1; WAY TO DUBAI (10-1) 2; YANIFER (15-2) 3. 9 ran. 7-2f. Baradar. ns. 3/4. (J Candlish). Tote: £7.50; £2.90, £2.20, £2.90. Tote Exacta: £66.60. Trifecta: £497.13. Trifecta: £441.30. CSF: £68.40.

4.40: NIGHTYES (B Robinson 6-4f) 1; LAST APPLAUSE (11-2) 2; ALFA MOONSTONE (9-2) 3. 5 ran. 4f. 1/2. (D O'Meara). Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £3.00. Tote Exacta: £12.60. Trifecta: £40.70. CSF: £14.23.

5.15: FURNOEHOFER (Billy Loughnane 11-10) 1; THE HUN (10-1) 2; SWORDSTICK (8-1) 3. 5 ran. 1/4. (G Boughy). Tote: £2.10; £1.20, £2.50. Tote Exacta: £9.50. Trifecta: £38.50. CSF: £11.81. NR: Travolta. Placepot: £142.90. Quadpot: £50.50.

CARTMEL: Good to soft-soft in places

4.00: SHANTWOPOINTFIVE (J Bowen 4-1) 1; DUNBULCAN BAY (5-1) 2; JIMMY CHOU PECOS AA (11-10) 3. 7 ran. 9/16. (W Greatrex). Tote: £5.30; £2.20, £2.30. Tote Exacta: £22.90. Trifecta: £53.00. CSF: £23.75. NR: Vroomooz Elle.

4.35: MERMAIDS CAVE (C P O Shea 5-1) 1; SHE'S A SAINT (7-4) 2; SPOT ON SOPH (13-2) 3. 7 ran. 1/4. (James Owen). Tote: £6.00; £4.00, £1.70. Tote Exacta: £14.50. Trifecta: £79.70. CSF: £14.57.

5.10: FAUTINETTE (Miss L M Turner 4-1) 1; FORTUNA LIGNA (15-8) 2; LADY MENDOZA (13-2) 3. 5 ran. 1/4. (V Williams). Tote: £5.30; £2.40, £1.30. Tote Exacta: £12.70. Trifecta: £62.10. CSF: £12.48.

5.40: TOMMIE BEAU (M G Nolan 11-4) 1; CHARLIE UBERALLES (7-4) 2; FLIC OU VOYOU (17-2) 3. 5 ran. 1/4. (Seamus Mullins). Tote: £3.75; £1.50, £1.40. Tote Exacta: £7.20. Trifecta: £26.60. CSF: £8.03. NR: Courtland.

6.15: PLAYFUL SAINT (H Skelton 3-1) 1; TEDTWO (9-4) 2; DOYEN DU BAR (11-2) 3. 5 ran. 9f. (D Skelton). Tote: £4.00; £1.60, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £9.60. Trifecta: £44.60. CSF: £10.55.

6.50: BIG BEE HIVE (J England 9-4f) 1; SHILLANAVOGY (100-30) 2; O'FAOLAINS GLORY (5-2) 3. 6 ran. 1/2. (S England). Tote: £3.25; £1.60, £1.90. Tote Exacta: £10.80. Trifecta: £31.80. CSF: £10.72. NR: Judicial Review.

7.20: VILLAGE MASTER (J Bowen 100-30) 1; MY GIFT TO YOU (5-2) 2; DR SANDERSON (17-2) 3. 9 ran. 4f. (W Greatrex). Tote: £4.34; £1.40, £1.20, £2.60. Tote Exacta: £11.60. Trifecta: £63.46. Trifecta: £66.50. CSF: £12.60. NR: Tom Crean. Placepot: £33.10. Quadpot: £5.60.

CURRAGH: Good-good to firm in places

1.20: HENRI MATISSE (R L Moore 11-8f) 1; CADOGAN (9-2) 2; RED EVOLUTION (5-1) 3. 11 ran. shd. nk. (A O'Brien). Tote: £2.38; £1.10, £1.70, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £8.70. Trifecta: £37.10. CSF: £7.47. NRS: Go On Green, Gun Carriage, Hill Road.

1.55: ARIZONA BLAZE (E Egan 7-1) 1; CAMILLE PISSARRO (4-6) 2; MIDNIGHT STRIKE (3-1) 3. 7 ran. hd. 1/2. (A Murray). Tote: £8.00; £2.20, £1.10. Tote Exacta: £15.30. Trifecta: £46.50. CSF: £12.07.

2.30: MITBAAHY (J P Spencer 9-1) 1; REGIONAL (17-2) 2; ANO SYRA (50-1) 3. 12 ran. 7-2f. Art Power. 3/4. shd. (C Hills (UK)). Tote: £1.91; £1.10, £3.20, £3.00, £8.40. Tote Exacta: £82.30. Trifecta: £1397.20. CSF: £83.82. NR: Easy. Result Stands.

3.05: CANDLEFORD (R L Moore 11-4) 1; SUMIHA (2-1) 2; STARRY HEAVENS (66-1) 3. 9 ran. 1/4. 3/4. (W Haagos (UK)). Tote: £3.75; £1.50, £1.10, £8.50. Tote Exacta: £8.40. Trifecta: £114.60. CSF: £8.53. NRS: Gentleman Joe, Raise You.

3.40: ROSALLION (S M Levey 10-11f) 1; HAATEM (6-1) 2; RIVER TIBER (3-1) 3. 8 ran. hd. 1/4. (R Hamon (UK)). Tote: £1.91; £1.10, £1.70, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £8.70. Trifecta: £37.10. CSF: £7.47. NRS: Go On Green, Gun Carriage, Hill Road.

4.15: CRYSTAL BLACK (C T Keane 3-1) 1; DEAKIN (13-2) 2; SATURN (9-4) 3. 12 ran. nk. 3/4. (G Keane). Tote: £4.00; £1.10, £2.00, £1.60. Tote Exacta: £16.30. Trifecta: £53.18. Trifecta: £272.90. CSF: £23.50. NRS: Chally Chute, Mr Rango, Soaring Monarch, Take Heart, Titanium.

4.50: FOLLOW ME (W J Lee 4-1f) 1; TRANSCENDING GLORY (16-1) 2; GUNZBURG (10-1) 3. 13 ran. 3/4. 1f. (R O'Sullivan). Tote: £5.00; £1.80, £3.40, £6.30. Tote Exacta: £79.60. Trifecta: £1088.87. Trifecta: £823.80. CSF: £72.41. NR: Matter Of Fact.

5.25: JAN BRUEGHEL (R L Moore 7-2) 1; OZARK DAZE (2-1) 2; RAYDAMANN (5-2) 3. 10 ran. nk. 3/4. (A P O'Brien). Tote: £4.50; £1.50, £1.20, £1.00. Tote Exacta: £12.30. Trifecta: £43.90. CSF: £11.46. NRS: Mythical Rock, Nestor. Placepot: £15.70.

6.00: GOODWOOD: Good-good to firm in places 1.30: QIRAT (H Crouch 8-1) 1; AL SHABAB STORM (4-1) 2; BLUE PRINCE (9-1) 3. 13 ran. 1/4. hd. (R Beckett). Tote: £7.80; £2.10, £2.00. Tote Exacta: £25.60. Trifecta: £168.70. CSF: £27.12. NRS: 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: FRANCOPIE (J Fanning 6-4f) 1; REGAL JUBILEE (2-1) 2; WHERE I WANNA BE (12-1) 3. 8 ran. 3/4. 4/4. (C Johnston). Tote: £2.50; £1.20, £1.20, £2.00. Tote Exacta: £4.90. Trifecta: £24.40. CSF: £4.47. NRS: Beeley, Lava Stream.

2.35: JAKARTA (B Savette 3-1) 1; ROYAL EQUERRY (5-2) 2; JEWEL OF LONDON (9-2) 3. 12 ran. 3/4. 3/4. (P O Cole). Tote: £4.00; £1.40, £1.50, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £13.40. Trifecta: £37.10. CSF: £10.18. NR: Stage Effect.

3.10: TIDES OF WAR (H Turner 14-1) 1; TRUE LEGEND (100-30) 2; CRESCENT LAKE (10-1) 3. 8 ran. 1f. (Vaguely Royal shd. 2/4. (D M Simcock). Tote: £15.30; £3.60, £1.40, £2.50. Tote Exacta: £73.20. Trifecta: £469.96. Trifecta: £480.20. CSF: £56.31.

3.45: MEYDAAN (H Davies 7-2) 1; SPACE LEGEND (15-8) 2; ROYAL VOGUE (9-2) 3. 7 ran. nk. 1f. (S & E Crisford). Tote: £4.70; £2.30, £1.50. Tote Exacta: £10.80. Trifecta: £38.20. CSF: £9.93.

4.20: CRYSTAL FLYER (P Dobbs 5-2f) 1; CANDLE OF DUBAI (9-2) 2; NINI STAR (9-2) 3. 10 ran. 1/4. 1/2. (T Ward). Tote: £3.50; £1.70, £1.80, £1.60. Tote Exacta: £15.60. Trifecta: £73.80. CSF: £13.68.

4.40: NARIKO (O Murphy 11-2) 1; KODI LION (8-1) 2; MOYOLA (22-1) 3. 15 ran. 11-10f. The Amazon. 1/2. (H Palmer). Tote: £6.80; £1.90, £2.20, £4.80. Tote Exacta: £55.50. Trifecta: £933.33. Trifecta: £841.90. CSF: £47.96.

4.45: CORSICAN CAPER (S Osborne 11-2) 1; SQUEEZEBOX (11-1) 2; BUSTAAM (12-1) 3. 9 ran. 5-2f. Western Stars. 1f. 3/4. (K Frost). Tote: £6.50; £2.00, £2.80, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £42.70. Trifecta: £398.96. Trifecta: £220.59. CSF: £369.30. CSF: £132.40. NR: Pandora's Gift.

3.00: ENGLISH OAK (O Murphy 8-11f) 1; PERSUASION (10-1) 2; ABDUCTION (22-1) 3. 6 ran. 4/4. shd. (E Walker). Tote: £1.73; £1.10, £3.50. Tote Exacta: £8.10. Trifecta: £58.70. CSF: £8.70. NR: Metaboli.

3.30: DIVINE COMEDY (Kaiya Fraser 3-1f) 1; SOLENT GATEWAY (4-1) 2; EMIVIA (12-1) 3. 13 ran. 5/4. 2/4. (Harry Eustace). Tote: £4.00; £1.70, £4.80, £3.60. Tote Exacta: £51.20. Trifecta: £454.97. Trifecta: £748.20. CSF: £47.16. NR: Evaluation.

4.10: NARIKO (O Murphy 11-2) 1; KODI LION (8-1) 2; MOYOLA (22-1) 3. 15 ran. 11-10f. The Amazon. 1/2. (H Palmer). Tote: £6.80; £1.90, £2.20, £4.80. Tote Exacta: £55.50. Trifecta: £933.33. Trifecta: £841.90. CSF: £47.96.

4.45: CORSICAN CAPER (S Osborne 11-2) 1; SQUEEZEBOX (11-1) 2; BUSTAAM (12-1) 3. 9 ran. 5-2f. Western Stars. 1f. 3/4. (K Frost). Tote: £6.50; £2.00, £2.80, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £42.70. Trifecta: £398.96. Trifecta: £220.59. CSF: £369.30. CSF: £132.40. NR: Pandora's Gift.

5.20: QUINNBT HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m 4f Winner £3,248 (8 run) 1-8f Mr HOPE STREET (46) D Skelton 6 12-0 (D)..... H Skelton

0-5 NICK THE GREEK (22) J Coulson 5 11-12..... T Gillard

3-P-0 WICK LUCKY (20) A Ralph 7 11-8 (D2)..... D Bass

4-2 USHUAIA DANCER (17) Justin Landy 6 11-6..... S Bowen

5-1f IF KARL'S BERG DID (322) H Dickinson 9 11-1..... B Harris (3)

6-P FORT NELSON (8) S J Davies 7 10-3..... J Turner (7)

P-2 ASA (3) P Kirby 5 10-2 (BF)..... William Maags (5)

6-3 GETAWAY WITH OBF (62) Billy Aprehramian 6 10-2..... K Rogan

BETTING: 9-4 Mr Hope Street, 5-2 Asa, 5 If Karl's Berg Did, 8 Others.

4.55: GRANDLAD (A Farragher 9-4) 1; KISS AND RUN (11-2) 2; RAINYINTOGEORGIA (9-1) 3. 7 ran. 7-4f Cloud King, nk. 4. (James Horton). Tote: £3.25; £1.70, £2.50. Tote Exacta: £18.10. Trifecta: £104.20. CSF: £20.11.

Placepot: £8.90. Quadpot: £6.20.

HAYDOCK: Soft-heavy in places on round course 1.15: NELLIE LEYLAK (P-L Jamin 9-2) 1; INVOLVEMENT (7-1) 2; APIARIST (20-1) 3. 12 ran. 9-2col. Carleuan Bay, 9-2col. Candonomore. 1/4. 1/4. (T Dab-combe). Tote: £5.50; £1.80, £2.90, £3.90. Tote Exacta: £38.90. Trifecta: £582.52. Trifecta: £650.90. CSF: £34.62. NR: Volt-erra.

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3.00: ENGLISH OAK (O Murphy 8-11f) 1; PERSUASION (10-1) 2; ABDUCTION (22-1) 3. 6 ran. 4/4. shd. (E Walker). Tote: £1.73; £1.10, £3.50. Tote Exacta: £8.10. Trifecta: £58.70. CSF: £8.70. NR: Metaboli.

3.30: DIVINE COMEDY (Kaiya Fraser 3-1f) 1; SOLENT GATEWAY (4-1) 2; EMIVIA (12-1) 3. 13 ran. 5/4. 2/4. (Harry Eustace). Tote: £4.00; £1.70, £4.80, £3.60. Tote Exacta: £51.20. Trifecta: £454.97. Trifecta: £748.20. CSF: £47.16. NR: Evaluation.

4.10: NARIKO (O Murphy 11-2) 1; KODI LION (8-1) 2; MOYOLA (22-1) 3. 15 ran. 11-10f. The Amazon. 1/2. (H Palmer). Tote: £6.80; £1.90, £2.20, £4.80. Tote Exacta: £55.50. Trifecta: £933.33. Trifecta: £841.90. CSF: £47.96.

4.45: CORSICAN CAPER (S Osborne 11-2) 1; SQUEEZEBOX (11-1) 2; BUSTAAM (12-1) 3. 9 ran. 5-2f. Western Stars. 1f. 3/4. (K Frost). Tote: £6.50; £2.00, £2.80, £1.80. Tote Exacta: £42.70. Trifecta: £398.96. Trifecta: £220.59. CSF: £369.30. CSF: £132.40. NR: Pandora's Gift.

5.20: QUINNBT HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m 4f Winner £3,248 (8 run) 1-8f Mr HOPE STREET (46) D Skelton 6 12-0 (D)..... H Skelton

0-5 NICK THE GREEK (22) J Coulson 5 11-12..... T Gillard

3-P-0 WICK LUCKY (20) A Ralph 7 11-8 (D2)..... D Bass

4-2 USHUAIA DANCER (17) Justin Landy 6 11-6..... S Bowen

5-1f IF KARL'S BERG DID (322) H Dickinson 9 11-1..... B Harris (3)

6-P FORT NELSON (8) S J Davies 7 10-3..... J Turner (7)

P-2 ASA (3) P Kirby 5 10-2 (BF)..... William Maags (5)

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BETTING: 9-4 Mr Hope Street, 5-2 Asa, 5 If Karl's Berg Did, 8 Others.

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# TENNIS: FRENCH OPEN



ATTACK MODE: Boulter

## Boulter vow to follow the greats

BY NEIL McLEMAN  
KATIE BOULTER has promised to come out firing like Serena Williams in her first French Open. The British No.1 has climbed to world No.28 despite never winning a WTA Tour match on clay or qualifying for this Grand Slam at Roland Garros. 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 has learned to bring her usual aggressive approach to the red clay.

She said: "I lost sight for a little bit where I began to think that maybe the best way to win is to become a clay-court player, the stereotypical one, which is a little bit more passive."

"But if you look at the players that have won these tournaments, you look at Serena, you look at [Maria] Sharapova, you look at these girls [Elena] Rybakina, all of them, they're all big hitters and going after it."

"That's a really good lesson for me to remind myself that I have a game to win on these courts."

Boulter goes out with Aussie world No.11 Alex de Minaur, while her friend Badosa has confirmed she has reunited with world No.9 Stefanos Tsitsipas.

# RACK 'N ROLL

## Murray: I hope racket switch up can help stave off retirement



TIME FOR A GEAR CHANGE  
Murray practising in Paris yesterday

From NEIL McLEMAN in Paris

**ANDY MURRAY has insisted he has yet to make a decision over his retirement this summer.**

"When the time is right, I will stop" he said.

The triple Grand Slam event 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 rackets from Head to Yonex - the first change of his professional career. It does

not appear the action of a man about to hang up his racket for good.

But Murray, who could yet say his farewells 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've 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. Is there anything that you can do that might help?"

"I have to wait to see whether it's a good decision. I know they are different things but you wouldn't get a golfer using the same clubs that they came out

with 25 years ago. For some reason tennis is a sport where players are reluctant to change.

"I felt like now is the time to see whether it can make a difference."

"I don't want to finish my career thinking, 'Should I have given it a go?'" 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 here in 2020.

They also both have three Major titles, as the most successful players of their era outside the Big Three of Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal and Roger Federer. And world No.75

Murray said: "When we flew from Bordeaux to Geneva, we sat next to each other, talking about the matches we have played and the difficulties psychologically of the players we were competing against."

"We both had different journeys in terms of how things worked out for us. There are lots of similarities there as well."

Both great champions are now fighting against the dying of the light in their careers.

After winning only three matches this season, world No.97 Wawrinka said: "If the results don't come, I will have to ask myself some questions but I am really positive because my level of play can be really good."

"It is up to me to find the answers."



## HEALTH GOALS: Dart DART'S TARGET

BY JACOB MURTAGH in Paris  
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 27-year-old Brit has climbed to 91st in the rankings despite an unsettled year.

She said: "As much as my ranking's gone up, I've been ill a lot or something's been happening."

"It's just about staying healthy for the rest of the season. I have goals to be top 50 by the end of the year. I just need to keep working on my game and the results will take care of themselves."

Dart, who faces Linda Noskova in the first round of the French Open tomorrow, has never won a match in the main draw at Roland Garros.

Dart was speaking at ASICS Rally for the Mind, where ASICS and Paris invited Parisians to play tennis with ASICS athletes, professional coaches and special guests.

### TODAY'S ORDER OF PLAY

**COURT PHILLIPE CHATRIER** (starts 11am UK)

Naomi Osaka v Lucia Bronzetti  
Carlos Alcaraz v JJ Wolf  
Caroline Garcia v Eva Lys

### NIGHT SESSION

(Not before 7.15pm UK)  
Andy Murray v Stan Wawrinka

## RAFA FEELS MAGIC

BY NEIL McLEMAN

RAFA NADAL has claimed it is "a big, big chance" he is playing his final French Open but added: "I don't want to 100 percent close the door."

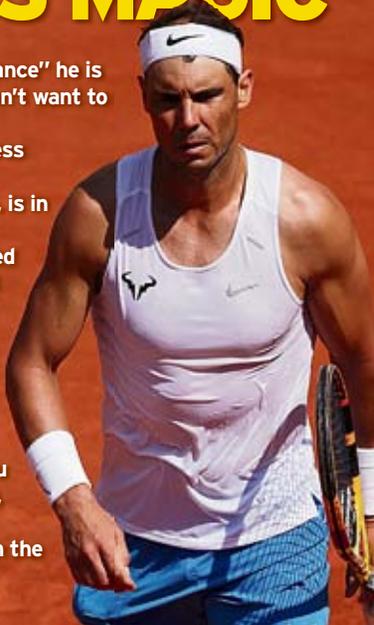
His upbeat mood in his pre-tournament press conference yesterday suggested the smiling Spanish superstar, who turns 38 next month, is in no rush to retire.

The 14-time champion here has been dogged by hip injuries over the past two seasons and has suggested this will be his final year.

But Nadal said: "Physically I feel better. I am improving in different ways. I have less limitations than three, four weeks ago, without a doubt."

"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 percent my last Roland Garros, sorry, but I will not, because I cannot predict."

Nadal, who faces world No.4 Alex Zverev in the first round, added: "In some way this place is magical for me."



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IN THE SHADE Hamilton

## Lewis is expecting grid lock

BY DANIEL MOXON

LEWIS HAMILTON smirked and declared he expects George Russell to continue out-qualifying him this year.

Hamilton is leaving Mercedes at the end of the season, while fellow Briton Russell is the future of the team.

And the younger Briton boasts an impressive qualifying record this season compared to the seven-time F1 champion.

By going fifth quickest in Monaco, Russell got the better of Hamilton for the seventh time out of eight grands prix in 2024.

The 39-year-old, who will start from seventh today explained his team-mate is driving an upgraded car, while he has an older-spec machine.

But after impressing in practice, Hamilton was at a loss after an underwhelming result.

He said: "We only had one upgrade, which George has, so I always knew it would be difficult to out-qualify George because he has the upgraded component.

"But once we got to qualifying, I didn't understand.

"That's definitely frustrating and something I don't really have an answer for at the moment.

"I'm not driving any different and the laps were really great.

"We've just got to keep pushing and we'll slowly get closer through the year as more upgrades come. I don't anticipate being ahead of George in qualifying this year."

Russell feels Mercedes are making "huge progress" but was frustrated to just miss out on the second row.

"I'm hoping this can be a turning point for us," the 26-year-old said.

# FORMULA ONE

ROUND 8: MONACO GRAND PRIX  
START: 2PM, LIVE ON SKY SPORTS

# CHARLES THE FIRST

## Home hero Leclerc is desperate to turn qualifying success into victory



**EYES FRONT FOR LECLERC**  
Charles Leclerc celebrates his pole position and (left) McLaren's Lando Norris

BY DANIEL MOXON

**CHARLES LECLERC is confident it will be third time lucky in Monaco today after ending Max Verstappen's remarkable qualifying run.**

The Dutchman (right) was on a streak of eight grand prix poles in a row but it was home hero Leclerc who topped the timesheets yesterday.

However, the Ferrari driver has been here before and seen it agonisingly slip away.

In 2021, he qualified on pole but failed to start because of a mechanical problem. The next year he was at the front again – but a botched Ferrari pit strategy cost him the win.

Qualifying king Leclerc has failed to convert any of his last 12 pole positions into victory,

but feels he and his team are ready to end that barren run.

He said: "I know from the past that qualifying is not everything. As much as it helps a lot for Sunday's race, we need to put everything together.

"In past years we didn't manage to do so, but we are a stronger team in a stronger position and I'm sure we can achieve great things."

Leclerc only really received pressure from McLaren's Oscar Piastri, who will join him on the front row.

Carlos Sainz made it two Ferraris in the top three ahead of Britons Lando Norris and Mercedes' George Russell.

Verstappen had to settle for just sixth, with Lewis Hamilton on his gearbox, as Red Bull

struggled to find balance. The three-time F1 champion was typically blunt as he assessed his car and said: "I'm not disappointed with the position, just our performance which for the whole weekend has been a surprise to me.

"I knew our limitations coming into this weekend but it's been bad.

"I can't take any kerbs – in the middle sector I'm driving around all the kerbs and it feels like I'm driving a go-kart with my suspension."

And he does not expect to be able to make up the difference today, and added: "If it's a straightforward race then there's not much you can do.

"The cars are so wide, so big that you can't pass. We'll just try

to stick with them. We don't have a fast car, it's not like we qualified out of position and will have a pace advantage that we can use. We'll see what happens."

Red Bull boss Christian Horner cut a frustrated figure as Sergio Perez also struggled and qualified down in 18th.

And he does not expect that picture to get much better today. He said: "We're going to be in a high-speed traffic jam for the first 25 percent of the race.

"It's a frustrating race this one for the drivers.

"The cars are so big here that overtaking really isn't on unless the car ahead makes a significant mistake.

"We'll take as many points as possible and come back at the next race in Montreal."



### TODAY'S GRID

1 C Leclerc (Mon)	1:10.270
2 O Piastri (Aus)	1:10.424
3 C Sainz Jr (Spa)	1:10.518
4 L Norris (GB)	1:10.542
5 G Russell (GB)	1:10.543
6 M Verstappen (Hol)	1:10.567
7 L Hamilton (GB)	1:10.621
8 Y Tsunoda (Jpn)	1:10.858
9 A Albon (Tha)	1:10.948
10 P Gasly (Fra)	1:11.311
11 E Ocon (Fra)	1:11.285
12 N Hulkenberg (Ger)	1:11.440
13 D Ricciardo (Aus)	1:11.482
14 L Stroll (Can)	1:11.563
15 K Magnussen (Den)	1:11.725

### DRIVERS' STANDINGS

1 Verstappen (Red Bull)	161pts
2 Leclerc (Ferrari)	113
3 Perez (Red Bull)	107
4 Norris (McLaren)	101
5 Sainz Jnr (Ferrari)	93
6 Piastri (McLaren)	53
7 Russell (Mercedes)	44
8 Hamilton (Mercedes)	35
9 Alonso (Aston Martin)	33
10 Tsunoda (RB)	15



UEFA EURO2024 GERMANY



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# CRICKET



T20 MATCH 2 OF 4: ENGLAND WIN BY 23 RUNS  
ENGLAND LEAD SERIES 1-0 MATCH 3, TUES 6.30PM

# Jofra's at maximum smiles per hour again



**HE'S BACK**  
Archer took two wickets on long-awaited England return

BY GARY FITZGERALD at Edgbaston

**JOFRA ARCHER** shrugged off a nightmare start to his big return to the international stage, and helped drive England to a timely World Cup confidence-booster.

And captain Jos Buttler showered praise on the fast bowler for his double-wicket comeback which cued 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 eyes – English ones anyway – were on Archer, 29, on his first game following a 14-month injury absence.

When he was smashed for 15 runs in his first over there were fears it could hit his confidence – and he was swiftly removed from the front line by Buttler.

Archer, however, was much more like his old self when he returned for his second stint. And was mobbed by his team-mates after having Azam Khan caught by Moeen Ali.

It gave him the confidence to raise his pace to a top speed of 92mph and pick up a second wicket, Imad Wasim, before England completed their victory.

His 2-28 figures brought smiles of joy

## 'BRILLIANT' LIFT FOR WORLD CUP

to help replace the worry and pain of long struggles with injury.

Buttler, who became the first English batsman to pass 3000 T20 runs, said: "Jofra was brilliant. You saw the emotion 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. We're trying to get games into him and look after him too."

"But the whole bowling group was brilliant. The two overs by Chris Jordan at the end 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 a massive boost for England who want him fully fit in their bid to retain the T20 title in the Caribbean and USA.

England made a strong start to their

innings in yesterday's second game of their four-match T20 series, with the first one at Leeds washed out.

Buttler lost opener Phil Salt and Will Jacks, as he smashed three sixes and eight fours in his knock. He got his half century with a trademark scoop for six off Haris Rauf.

Jonny Bairstow went for 21, off 18 balls and Harry Brook lasted just two balls. Buttler was out for 84 caught by Shadab Khan off Rauf.

Shaheen Afridi finished with 3-36. Pakistan set off to chase down the 184. Moeen Ali removed Mohammad Rizwan third ball and Reece Topley snapped up Saim Ayub.

Archer suffered at the hands of Azam and Fakhar Zaman, who struck him for two fours and a six from his first four balls.

But Ali trapped Azam lbw for 32 to give England a breakthrough. Fakhar was dismissed by Livingstone for 45. Iftikhar Ahmed and Imad Wasim struck some hefty blows before the former was caught by Chris Jordan off Topley.

Archer removed Imad before Jordan and Topley ensured England moved ahead in the series 1-0 with two games now remaining.

## SCOREBOARD

### 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 wI	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 nbI	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 Suggers & M Burns.

**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  
Spain: Almeria 6 Cadiz 1, Osasuna 1 Villarreal 1, Rayo Vallecano 0 Athletic Bilbao 1, Real Madrid 0 Real Betis 0, Real Sociedad 0 Atletico Madrid 2.  
Italy: Juventus 2 Monza 0, AC Milan 3 Salernitana 3.  
France Cup Final: Lyon 1 PSG 2.  
German Cup final: FC Kaiserslautern 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1.

**CRICKET**  
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - DIVISION ONE—Durham v Somerset (Riverside): Somerset 171 (52.1 overs; M Pretorius 53; B A Stokes 454) 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.

## RESULTS & FIXTURES

**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 127no). 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).

**DIVISION TWO—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 North-east 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).  
**Northants 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)—QUALIFYING: 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 Tsumoda (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).  
**TODAY: Betfred Super League** (3pm)  
London Broncos v Hull K R  
Salford v Wigan

	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. C: Frawley.  
P: R. Byrne (4), Frawley. Toulouse—T: Label. 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).

## SPORTS SHORTS



## Stokes fired-up to skittle Somerset

**COUNTY CRICKET**  
BEN STOKES performed impeccably 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.

Stokes (above), who took four wickets for 23, and eight for 77 all told, was backed up by Ben Raine's 3-26 as his side skittled Somerset, who were battling illness and injury, for 88.

Earlier, Jake Ball's five wickets had the hosts at 199-9 at one point, but lower-order runs from Raine and Peter Siddle got Durham up to a total of 265 – a first-innings lead of 94.

Toby Albert scored his maiden century and Nick Gubbins plundered his first ton as a father, as HAMPSHIRE took control over SURREY.

James Vince, Ben Brown and Liam Dawson grabbed half-centuries as Hampshire piled on 495-4 for a 368-run lead over the champions.

Jordan Cox hit a double hundred on his return to Canterbury as visitors ESSEX declared on 591-7 before reducing KENT to 118-4 in reply.



## Pogacar cued for a pink-letter day

**CYCLING**  
TADEJ POGACAR'S sixth stage win all-but rubber-stamped his maiden Giro d'Italia title on the penultimate day of the race.

Welsh rider Geraint Thomas, who turned 38 yesterday, is on track for third place in the general classification behind Pogacar (above) and Colombian Daniel Martinez.

Pogacar, who has a lead of almost 10 minutes heading into today's procession into Rome, said: "We did a perfect job today as a team."

## golfer, has died at the age of 30.

The two-time winner on the tour had withdrawn from this week's Charles Schwab Challenge event on Friday with illness, after playing 16 holes of his second round.

"We were devastated to learn – and are heartbroken to share – that Grayson Murray passed away this morning," said PGA Tour commissioner Jay Monahan. No cause of death has been given yet.

# RUGBY LEAGUE



## DUPONT ENDS IRISH CURSE IN A THRILLER

**RUGBY UNION**

**LEINSTER 22**  
**TOULOUSE 31**



After Extra-Time - Champions Cup Final  
BY ADAM HATHAWAY

ANTOINE DUPONT finally buried his Irish hoodoo as Leinster's European finals nightmare continued at Tottenham.

Dupont got revenge for three semi-final defeats in five years at the hands of Leo Cullen's men as Toulouse (above) landed a sixth Champions Cup title.

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 Ciaran Frawley's drop-goal went wide.

Toulouse went a man down themselves when Richie Arnold was sent off for a reckless clearout on Cian Healy, but the damage had been done.

It's three final defeats on the spin for Leinster, who have been searching for a fifth title since 2018 - but Cullen insists they can kick the losing habit.

He said: "There is amazing character in the group and some young players.

"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 we were so close to breaking them at different stages, but they dug in and did what they had to do."

Toulouse went to town at the breakdown with Jack Willis (below) having a towering game in defence and on the floor. But scrum-half Dupont outshone the Englishman to rubber-stamp his status as the world's best player.

Jerome Kaino, the former All Black and now Toulouse assistant coach, said:

"Dupont is incredible. It seems to happen all the time, Antoine getting the kudos for the match. He played incredibly."

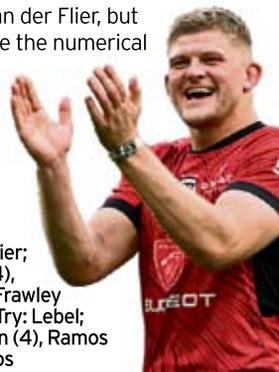
The teams were locked 15-15 at the end of 80 minutes which outshone most Tests.

Scotland's Blair Kinghorn kicked four penalties before Thomas Ramos took over 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 Josh van der Flier, but couldn't make the numerical advantage count as Ramos kicked Toulouse home.

LEINSTER: Try: Van der Flier; Pens: Byrne (4), Frawley; Con: Frawley  
TOULOUSE: Try: Lebel; Pens: Kinghorn (4), Ramos (4); Con: Ramos



# DEVILS MUST CARE

## Sneyd: We need A-game to upset Wigan



**MAKING A MARC**  
Sneyd has been in fine form to help Salford beat top sides

	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 KR	11	7	0	4	262	169	14
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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

**Salford v Wigan**  
Today 3pm, Sky Sports

BY DAVE CRAVEN  
Rugby League Correspondent  
@DCravenRL



**SALFORD'S Marc Sneyd insists there is zero chance of catching Wigan cold today - so his Devils had better be red-hot.**

The wily England scrum-half is looking to orchestrate a surprise Red Devils victory over the defending Super League champions, who are threatening to win everything.

Having already bagged the World Club Challenge, Matt Peet's Warriors have also reached Wembley - they play Warrington in the Challenge Cup Final on June 8.

With just two defeats in all competitions since last July, Wigan are in imperious form.

Asked if he thinks that the Warriors will take their eye off the ball after thrashing high-flying Hull KR in last week's cup semi-final,

Sneyd insisted: "Probably not, if I'm honest.

"Wigan seem to turn up every week and play at a level which puts them there or thereabouts. We can't have any players not turning up or not giving their best.

"Whoever is out there has to be playing their best rugby to go with Wigan because they'll be playing at seven, eight and nine out of 10 for 80 minutes.

"We can't afford to have a break for five minutes because they have players who will find you, take advantage and then all of a sudden the games gone. We have to make sure we're on it for 80."

But Paul Rowley's Salford underdogs - who have just signed in-form Huddersfield centre Esan Marsters on a three-year deal from 2025 - can bite as well as bark, with



recent form of toppling the best. At one point this season they were joint-top with mighty Wigan, having beaten Warrington, St Helens and Hull KR.

With Sneyd in great form, it is no surprise Salford are firing, even after losing both Man of Steel Brodie Croft and England hooker Andy Ackers to Leeds in the off-season.

Two-time Lance Todd Trophy winner Sneyd, 33, said: "I am enjoying the rugby - and being part of a team where we're all enjoying it. It helps when you go in every day with a smile on your face.

"Obviously, it is a challenge; we've got different players playing different positions on a fairly regular basis.

"Players leaving kind of becomes the norm at Salford so it's nothing

new. We just crack on and see where we go. Quite a lot of other players have stepped up and we're not doing bad."

Having slumped at Leigh before the cup break, Sneyd and Co are keen to show that was a blip.

The ex-Hull ace, who should see out his career with the Red Devils after signing a new two-year deal, is set for a fascinating battle with Harry Smith (left) 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's obviously going well and has a strong Wigan team around him, which helps when playing in the halves.

"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 does well."

## WOLVES STAY IN LEADING PACK

**Catalans 8 Warrington 16**

WARRINGTON WOLVES warmed up for Wembley with a dazzling win in Perpignan to put them back joint-top of Super League.

The Challenge Cup finalists spent last week at a hotel at Canet Plage beach resort and the team-bonding paid off for head coach Sam Burgess (right) as he prepares for next Saturday's clash against

Wigan. Josh Thewlis' penalty - one of three, plus a conversion - put Warrington ahead.

Arthur Mourgue struck back with a penalty but the Wolves came out biting in the second half, stand-off George Williams crossing. Thewlis put the Wolves two points further in front and a Matty Ashton try made it 14-2.

Dragons' Tom Davies took the game close to the wire with a late try.



## Oli: Broncos are not one-ders

**London Broncos v Hull KR**  
Today 3pm, Sky Sports

BY DAVE CRAVEN  
OLI LEYLAND says London believe they can prove they are not one-hit wonders. The promoted club finally got their first Super League win of the season when dumping Hull 34-18 a fortnight ago.

It came after 10 straight defeats but they are out to

repeat the feat when Hull KR visit today.

Half-back Leyland (left) said: "It's given us a massive lift. In our games, 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 percent of the game, we're competing really well. But in that 20 percent we've just fallen off the cliff."

# ANDY DUNN

Britain's best columnist



## FIRST-CLASS POST

@Alookman\_ "We made history. God did!!!! "

And, with one of the finest individual displays in a European final, Ademola Lookman made history. And don't forget his Atalanta manager Gian Piero Gasperini, who outwitted Sporting's Ruben Amorim, Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp (ex-Liverpool, that is) and Bayer Leverkusen's Xabi Alonso en route to Europa League success. Truly remarkable achievements by Gasperini and Lookman.



## Dunny's Hairdryer



AMADOU ONANA cost Everton around £33million in 2022, while Jarrad Branthwaite cost Everton around £1m in 2020.

The chances are that the club will have to sell both players this summer and might even part with Dominic Calvert-Lewin, who has only a year left on his contract.

But Branthwaite (above) is the one they would most ideally like to keep, while they would be more than open to offers for Onana, who has been a bit hit-and-miss.

The trouble is that the sale of Branthwaite would be more beneficial when it came to complying with the profit and sustainability rules.

And that, in a nutshell, is why they are not fit for purpose.

## REGULATOR A LOT LATER

THE impending General Election means the Football Governance Bill - and the introduction of an independent regulator - will be delayed.

No problem, say its supporters, as it will only be a relatively short delay and Labour are even more committed to the process than the Tories.

But a word of warning. The Premier League do not want an independent regulator and the same Premier League gave Sir Keir Starmer (above) - certain to be the next Prime Minister - three grand's worth of Arsenal tickets last season.

Don't be surprised if the roll-out of an independent regulator takes a little more time than many anticipated.



## Can FA throw book at Paq?

AS Lucas Paqueta is promising to "fight with every breath" to clear his name, there is a limit on what can be said about his case and the charges that he deliberately got himself booked on four occasions.

But to bring such serious charges, the Football Association must have serious evidence.

Even if a player tells someone he is going to be booked, how do you actually PROVE he has got himself booked on purpose?

I guess that, if the player confesses, it would help.

An England player did exactly that in October 2004, saying he deliberately fouled a Wales player in order to get a yellow card and serve a suspension when he knew he would not be available anyway.

On that occasion, the FA decided there was "insufficient evidence" to pursue a disciplinary charge.

Mind you, the player was David Beckham.

This situation with Paqueta (left) is, of course, completely different, but it will still be interesting to see how the FA make this most serious of allegations stick.



## DESPERATE DAN'S DIRE STAND-OFF

■ YES, they are big businesses and operate by the rules of big businesses. And yes, there is a lot of money as well as a principle involved.

■ But Newcastle United are a proud football club and Dan Ashworth (above) decided that he did not want to be at that proud football club.

■ The unseemly legal wrangle between two great institutions - Newcastle and Manchester United - does neither of them any favours.

# SHI AIN'T SHILLY-SHALLYING ON RISE TO 'MATCH-FANS' MOLINEUX PRICES

REMEMBER Jeff Shi from a week ago? He called for VAR to be scrapped.

In fact, the Wolves chairman has tabled a motion to do just that, asking Premier League clubs to vote it out at their next meeting on June 6.

A reminder why Jeff wants it canned. He said: "The Premier League's match-attending fans are becoming increasingly disengaged due to the negative impact of VAR on our match experience, which is also leading to apathy and hostility in the stands and on social media."

Shi certainly knows all about hostility in the stands and on social media now.

It turns out he is so concerned about "match-attending fans" and their "match experience" that he has bumped up the price of their season tickets, with a lot of fans seeing increases of 17 percent, while some children's tickets are up by an average of 176 percent.

And this is in Wolverhampton, a city that has the second-highest unemployment rate in the country.

What will the loyal "match-attending

fans" be getting for forking out more money than they can probably afford?

"Fans play an important role," wrote Shi (right), in an open letter to supporters. "If you only pursue trophies or consistent European football, Wolves might not be an ideal choice."

We are not going to try too hard to win cups or to get into Europe, but hand over more cash anyway.

Talk about taking loyal fans for mugs. Of course, Wolves are not unique in hiking up ticket prices for next season. In fact, clubs increasing the prices are in a majority and there have been backlashes at Spurs and Liverpool.

Let's hope those backlashes continue. The era of supporters being taken for granted - particularly in the Premier League - is in full, unpleasant swing.

Recently, the subscription channels who broadcast live Premier League football increased their prices and we all know that the cost of replica jerseys is now nudging towards three figures.

In that letter about VAR - he clearly loves a letter - Shi nauseatingly referred to the Premier League as a "brand".

Well, the "brand" relies on the passion of the fans - fans Shi is trying to fleece.

Once again, remember, these are the fans who Shi cares about so much that he wants VAR scrapped.

Some fans belong to supporters' groups, who have reacted to the ticket price hikes with a joint statement.

"Match-going fans are the lifeblood of any football club. Those very fans are now left disillusioned with feelings of frustration and anger... priced out of a love, a passion and a community that has remained constant in their lives."

"Wolverhampton Wanderers FC has always been a pillar of the local community. How much the club values that community is now very much in question."

Well said. And rather than pointless grandstanding about VAR, perhaps Shi should address the real feelings of the "match-attending fans".

There is one major thing ruining their "match experience" - and it is not VAR.





SELHURST SPARK Wright and Thomas

## 'RETAIN JEWELS, PALACE'

EXCLUSIVE BY RICHARD EDWARDS

MICHAEL OLISE is the most exciting player to come out of Crystal Palace since Ian Wright.

And now Wright's former team-mate, ex-England midfielder Geoff Thomas, believes the time has come for Palace to dream big - and learn from the lessons of the past.

Which means keeping hold of Olise and team-mates Eberechi Eze and Jean-Philippe Mateta this summer.

Thomas said: "Michael is just different class. He's just so exciting to watch - every time he gets the ball there's a buzz in the stadium, it's just absolutely electric.

"Him and Eze, I think you can put them up with Ian Wright and Mark Bright in the early '90s, there was a similar feeling when those two were playing together.

"They made such a difference to the team. Now you see it with Eze and Olise, when they're missing then you feel like there's a big hole.

"When they're in the side and fit, then Palace are almost impossible to handle. Add Mateta to that and you can see why they've finished the season so incredibly.

"They've absolutely torn teams to shreds."

Under new man Oliver Glasner, Palace won six of their last seven matches - scoring 21 goals as Olise (left), Eze and Mateta ran riot.

With plans approved to extend Selhurst Park, now all Palace need to do is to keep hold of their prize on-pitch assets.

"The big question is whether they can keep hold of these guys," said Thomas.

"And if they do stay, then who knows what's possible.

"Look at what Aston Villa have done. Now they're in the Champions League."



## TOP GUEHI WILL GO...

EXCLUSIVE BY DARREN WITCOOP

CRYSTAL PALACE are resigned to £50million-rated defender Marc Guehi being lured away this summer.

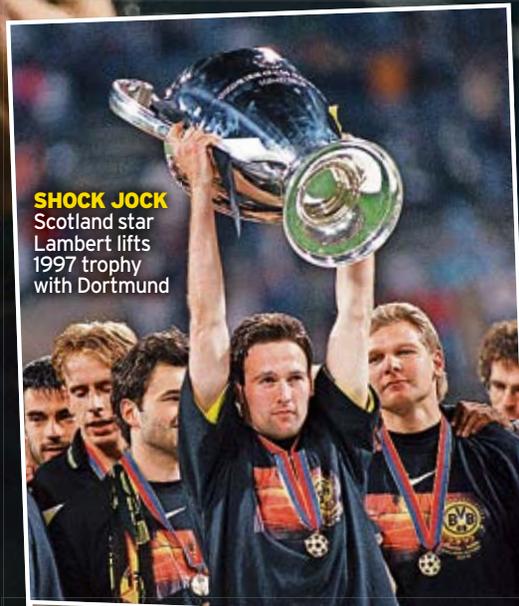
Guehi, who is part of Gareth Southgate's preliminary England squad for the Euros, is attracting interest from Manchester United and Arsenal.

Palace have lined up Real Betis' Chadi Riad as Guehi's replacement in a £10m deal, while Wolfsburg's French centre-half Maxence Lacroix is a target.

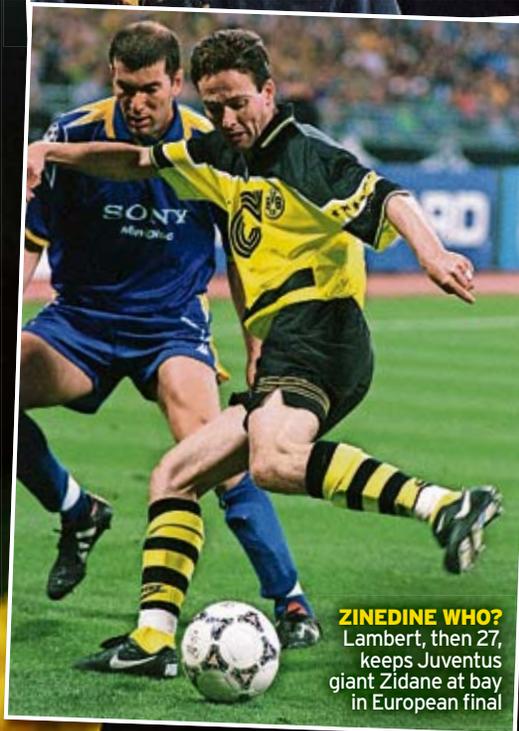
Lacroix has confirmed he has been in contact with Eagles boss Oliver Glasner and a reunion at Selhurst Park is in the pipeline.

# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

# WATCH THIS



**SHOCK JOCK**  
Scotland star Lambert lifts 1997 trophy with Dortmund



**ZINEDINE WHO?**  
Lambert, then 27, keeps Juventus giant Zidane at bay in European final

### LOAN AND GROWN...

Manchester United exile Jadon Sancho is roaring with Dortmund



Lambert: My Dortmund team-mate Riedle chance of beating Zidane's Juventus in 1997 gift me his rare Rolex if we won it... I still

EXCLUSIVE BY SIMON MULLOCK

**PAUL LAMBERT was once part of a Borussia Dortmund team that won the Champions League against all the odds.**

Ahead of that 1997 final even one of Lambert's Dortmund team-mates had totally written off their chances of beating Juventus.

But former Scotland international Lambert, 54, reckons that boss Edin Terzic's class of 2024 can do exactly the same this Saturday and shock the mighty Real Madrid at Wembley.

Twenty-seven years ago Lambert had the daunting task of marking Zinedine Zidane in Munich.

Back then Juve also had Alessandro Del Piero, Christian Vieri, Alen Boksic

and Didier Deschamps, in a side expected to be simply too strong.

Karl-Heinz Riedle - the German striker who would later sign for Liverpool - said Dortmund had "a one-percent chance of beating Juventus" after Lambert told him their team would either be European champions or beat Bayern Munich to the Bundesliga title that season.

But it was Riedle who would score twice in a sensational 3-1 victory over Juventus on a famous night in Munich - and that triumph would cost him his luxury watch.

Lambert recalled: "I had told Kalle [Riedle] that we would either win the

Champions League or the Bundesliga. I just had this feeling.

"He knew that I loved his watch, a rare and extremely valuable Rolex Daytona - and he promised to give it to me if my prediction came true.

"Kalle was as good as his word. I've still got the watch. I will never part with it. It means so much to me because of what it represents.

"No one gave us a chance against Juventus.

"They had some of the game's greatest players - but when I looked around our dressing room it filled me with the belief that we would do it. We had players who

had won World Cups and European Championships.

"Matthias Sammer was a Ballon d'Or winner. There was Andreas Moller, Jurgen Kohler, Riedle, Paulo Sousa and Stephane Chapuisat.

"I knew we had a great chance. Kalle wasn't so sure. But he scored our first two goals - and it ended up costing him his Rolex!"

Lambert (right) went on to manage Aston Villa, Norwich, Blackburn, Wolves, Stoke and Ipswich, among others, after a playing career that also brought four Scottish league title medals with Celtic and 40 caps.

He provided the cross for Riedle's opening goal as well as keeping French star Zidane under lock and key, but he accepts that the odds are





BORUSSIA DORTMUND v REAL MADRID  
SATURDAY, WEMBLEY, KICK-OFF 8PM

# SPACE



## Joselu, big in Madrid, but not in Potteries...

BY JOHN RICHARDSON

HE could not do it on a wet and windy Tuesday night in Stoke and did not fare much better alongside the River Tyne.

But Real Madrid surprise package Joselu (above) heads for Wembley on Saturday a hero after his late two-goal blast in the semi-final against Bayern secured a place in the final.

To say fans of both Stoke and Newcastle watched on in astonishment would be an understatement.

The 34-year-old said: "My experience in England helped me reach where I am now.

"I still follow both clubs, but especially Stoke where I still have lots of friends.

"When I got married some of them - and from Newcastle - came to the wedding."

The twilight of Joselu's career is proving to be his most fruitful with 10 Spain caps in the past 14 months, helping them claim the Nations League title, a La Liga winning medal with Real Madrid after scoring 10 goals in 34 appearances and the chance on Saturday of a Champions League winners gong.

Joselu, who joined Real on loan from Espanyol last summer, said: "Age doesn't matter to me. I feel like an 18-year-old kid."

His nickname at Madrid is 'Crouchy' after Peter Crouch, who he played alongside during his time in the Potteries.

"Crouchy is a very funny guy but football wise he really helped me a lot," Joselu added. "I played with a lot of good footballers at Stoke - Crouchy, Marko Arnautovic, Bojan Krkic, Xherdan Shaqiri.

"I really loved Jonny Walters. He always gave everything and physically was the best."

Joselu smiles at the reputation that playing at Stoke in adverse weather has.

He said: "Everyone hated playing there didn't they? It was a real test because it always seemed to be windy, not helped by the corners of the ground being completely open.

"It always seemed to be freezing as well."

**STOKING FLAMES**  
Joselu's time in England helped him

had given us just one-percent European final. He vowed to have it. So be warned, Real!

once again against Dortmund now. Madrid are looking to become European champions for the 15th time and have knocked out Manchester City and Bayern on the road to this final.

But if Dortmund can control the fearsome counter-attacking threat of Jude Bellingham, Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo then Lambert is convinced they can land a major shock.

The Scot, who has recently been coaching youngsters in Australia as part of a Dortmund initiative to spread their philosophy, has accepted an invitation from his former club to be part of the famous Yellow Wall for the final.

He said: "Madrid can be beaten in

a one-off game - and the Dortmund fans can play their part.

"I played in front of the Yellow Wall and a few years ago, when Jurgen Klopp was manager, I stood with them for a game against Cologne. An incredible experience.

"Wembley might be evenly split on numbers, but Dortmund's fans will make it sound like a home game. If we can exert some control over Madrid's attacking players then we have a chance.

"That's easier said than done... but they said the same thing when we played Juventus back in '97."



**WISE MOVE** Shareholder Henry with Como president Dennis Wise



**TOP JOB** Roberts celebrates with his No.2 Fabregas

## COMO GOING UP WAS FAB... NOW OSIAN HAS A SECOND PROMOTION

EXCLUSIVE BY GRAHAM THOMAS

WELSH coaching guru Osian Roberts will spend this summer watching the seeds he has planted across Europe come into full bloom.

The man who shaped the coaching careers of Cesc Fabregas, Mikel Arteta, Patrick Vieira and Thierry Henry has proven he is no mere blackboard technician by guiding Italian club Como into Serie A.

Roberts' five-month stint as hands-on head coach on the banks of Lake Como was a massive success as he returned the club to the top flight after an absence of 21 years.

Having come in as coach on Henry's recommendation to allow former Arsenal star Fabregas to gain his badges, Roberts will now move upstairs to become director of development.

That might give him time to reflect on the efforts of

another of his ex-pupils - current Gunners boss Arteta - as well as the progress of England pair Eberechi Eze and Marc Guehi, who Roberts coached during his time at Crystal Palace.

Roberts, 58, said: "I have worked as technical director with Wales and Morocco, as hands-on manager of age-group teams, as assistant coach with Wales and Crystal Palace, and the truth is I really enjoy all three roles.

"In fact, I'd like to continue to do all three because it is all about football and what I have learned is that coaching and management works far better when the structure is horizontal, with everything aligned, rather than a vertical hierarchy."

That will translate next season into Fabregas being the man in the dugout when Como take on

Juventus and the Milan giants, but Roberts will work closely with the Spaniard.

"I cannot wait to see this club in Serie A because I live right in the city and so I've seen what this means to people - fans who have followed the club for 40 years, but who have seen dark times for the past two decades.

"This success means everything to them. That's the power of football."

Title success was something that just eluded Arteta this season, but Roberts reckons his former graduate of the renowned FA of Wales coaching course can go one better next season and become a Premier League winning manager.

"People will look back on this era and recognise it was one of those rare times when one club was dominant, almost to the point of perfection," said

Roberts of Manchester City under Pep Guardiola.

"Mikel did a fantastic job, but they were not as near perfection and those very fine margins proved to be the difference.

"But I think he will look at this season and think about small things he might have done differently.

"He will make those adjustments and I see no reason why Arsenal can't win the title next season."

With Wales having failed to qualify for the Euros, Roberts will be rooting for his old Palace youngsters Eze and Guehi.

Roberts said: "Both are very impressive young men, who are passionate about developing themselves, who just happen to be superb footballers and first-rate young men and they could both make a big impact."

I see no reason why Arsenal can't win the title next season



**BONJOURNO, SERIE A** Como celebrate their promotion to top flight



## Summer of love...

BY DAVID ANDERSON  
LEEDS UNITED award winner Crysencio Summerville is relishing the chance of a Wembley prize.

The 22-year-old striker grew up in Holland, but saw the great stadium on TV.

He is Leeds' top scorer - with 21 goals and 10 assists all told this season - and the Championship Player of the Year (above), who says big games bring out his best.

The Holland Under-21s star said: "I've not been to Wembley myself before but I've watched some games and finals there. I'm looking forward to it.

"I like the big games and the big stages. I'm ambitious, so bring it on! I'm ready."

# CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF FINAL



# RUSSELL CROW

BY HARRY PRATT

**RUSSELL MARTIN has got no plans to jump ship at Southampton - whether they win or lose the Championship Play-Off Final today.**

Leicester boss Enzo Maresca and his Ipswich counterpart Kieran McKenna have suddenly found themselves on the radar of the top-flight clubs since securing automatic promotion into the Premier League.

Not just any clubs, either.

Manchester United are chasing McKenna, who along with King Power coach Maresca is also on Chelsea's shortlist of potential successors for the departed Mauricio Pochettino.

So does Martin expect his name to be thrown into the frame should he follow those two coaches into the English top tier by masterminding a Saints victory over Leeds at Wembley? Ahead of the most lucrative

## Gladiator Martin: I make my stand with Saints, do or die!

one-off clash in world football - with an estimated £300million on the line this afternoon - the St Mary's manager laughed at that suggestion.

Martin, who is cautiously optimistic that Southampton will stick with him whatever the outcome against Daniel Farkes Yorkshiremen, declared: "No, I don't think so!

"Look, 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 clubs.

"It's great for them - and it

also shows the quality that there is in the Championship, for sure."

Having exited both of his previous two clubs, MK Dons and Swansea, without making it into a third campaign as coach, Martin is keen to set a personal best on the South Coast.

The former defender, 38, who won 29 Scotland caps, said: "I have not stayed longer than

two seasons as a coach at a club, for various reasons.

"So, yes, I'd like to beat that at some point.

"But I'm still very grateful for the two years I had at those other clubs, and for this opportunity at Southampton because it's tough as a manager. Tenures aren't very long.

"I loved my time at Swansea but just didn't feel that I would have the sort of opportunity that I have now here.

"When this job came up, with the size of the club and with what we all wanted to achieve, it was just too big.

"But it was painful to leave those clubs like I did, so quickly, and I don't want to feel that pain

again. Football is so reactive but at some point you want to put your stamp on something and make your 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 in the table, respectively, as they both bid to bounce straight back up at the first attempt.

He added: "Both of us have players who can produce those top moments out of nowhere - and you hope for that to happen.

"You want someone to create something as an individual but our team is always much stronger when we're playing together.

"If we can get our rhythm and into the flow of the game against Leeds, then we'll rely less on that one moment."



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LEEDS UNITED v SOUTHAMPTON  
TODAY, WEMBLEY, SKY SPORTS, KO 3PM



**UPWARDLY MOBILE**  
Leeds boss Daniel Farke

# Go Dan in history

**FARKE: WE PLAY FOR GLORY NOT MONEY...IT'S STILL ME & MY MATES AGAINST THE OTHERS**

BY DAVID ANDERSON

**DANIEL FARKE is looking to make Leeds history today by becoming the club's first manager to win promotion via a play-off final.**

Farke has learnt this season that Leeds have never gone up through the play-offs, in five previous attempts going back as far as 1987, and says this is the moment for his players to change that.

Southampton and their manager Russell Martin - Farke's first captain when he was boss at Norwich - stand in Leeds' way at Wembley.

The United boss is convinced his players

can write their names in club folklore by making it sixth-time lucky.

"Yes, it would be pretty special for us as a club," Farke said.

"I didn't know about the bad record in the play-offs when I signed my contract but over this season, everyone has told me, 'You can't rely on the play-offs... we never win'.

"I'm fully aware of this record now, but all that matters is we're here 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 even scored a goal at Wembley in the play-offs, is that right?"

"So, there are many opportunities to write

some history and, believe me, we're all very highly motivated to do this."

There's an estimated £300million up for grabs this afternoon, because of the riches on offer in the Premier League.

Leeds and Southampton both bid to make a return to the top flight at the first attempt, after their relegations last season.

Farke says there is no point trying to hide the enormity of the game from his players but claims they are motivated by the glory rather than the 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 Championship titles with

Norwich. "We know it's an important game, it's about the Premier League or 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 also know that it's an important game, we're not scared of it.

"It matters if you win or lose, not 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 are highly motivated to win this game. We're not attracted by money, we're attracted by glory and writing history."

**A lot rides on the result... we're not scared of that**

**LIKELY TEAMS**  
**LEEDS UNITED**  
Meslier, Gray, Rodon, Ampadu, Firpo, Gruev, Kamara, Gnonto, Rutter, Summerville, Piroe  
**SOUTHAMPTON**  
McCarthy, Walker-Peters, Harwood-Bellis, Bednarek, Stephens, Downes, Smallbone, Aribu, Brooks, Armstrong, Fraser



**WINNER** Walsh hits his second

## WALSH A FOX FOR THE AGES

**Leicester City 2 Derby County 1**  
Walsh 41, 84 Johnson 28  
First Division Play-off Final,  
May 30, 1994 Att at Wembley: 73,671

BY MATT BOZEAT

WHO is Leicester's greatest player? Jamie Vardy? Gary Lineker? Older Foxes fans might vote for Frank Worthington or Peter Shilton.

But many would go for Steve Walsh. He made 449 appearances in his 14 years at Leicester - and fired them into the Premier League for the first time, 30 years ago.

His 1993-94 season had been written off after only a few weeks of the campaign following a cruciate ligament injury at Middlesbrough.

In his absence, boss Brian Little had kept Leicester in touch with the second-tier pacesetters - and then dragged a half-fit Walsh out of the treatment room for the play-offs.

Little knew that Walsh (below) bled blue and white - and would lift the crowd and his team-mates.

He was right. Leicester beat Tranmere over two legs to reach a third successive play-off final.

The night before the showdown against east-midlands rivals Derby, Little asked Walsh how fit he was.

"The manager said he'd take me at 60 percent fit," remembered Walsh, who joined with Wigan in 1986. "I told him I was 60. I knew I was 40."

The then Derby owner Lionel Pickering had set out to spend until the Rams reached the Premier League. Paul Kitson was brought in from Leicester, and Derby's £1.3million signing Tommy Johnson fired the Rams into a first-half lead.

Leicester were level at the break after Walsh beat Derby keeper Martin Taylor to Gary Coatsworth's up-and-under. The score stayed 1-1 until the 84th minute when



Leicester put together the best move of the match.

Julian Joachim teed-up skipper Simon Grayson for a cross that Ian Ormondroyd got to first for the Foxes.

Taylor flung himself to his right to keep out his header - but the ball dropped onto Walsh's foot, and he tapped into the net.

■ Matt Bozeat's 'When You're Smiling: Life, Love, Leicester City and Football's Greatest Fairytale'. Available from amazon.co.uk

## ARMED 'N' DANGEROUS BENALI'S BIGGING IT UP!

BY JOHN RICHARDSON

ADAM ARMSTRONG is determined to prove himself as a Premier League Saint after two nightmare top-flight terms on the South Coast.

Today, Southampton's leading scorer has Leeds United in his sights, after a Championship season that yielded 23 goals.

Three of those came against Daniel Farke's United, contributing to a regular-season double over today's Wembley rivals.

"Those goals, and in fact all my Championship goals, won't count for anything unless we win promotion," said Armstrong, 27. "It's where I want to be - playing the big games week in, week out."

Back in August 2021 the Geordie (right) arrived at the Saints from

Blackburn Rovers for £15million after blitzing the Championship with 28 goals. His previous top-flight experience with hometown club Newcastle United had been limited before being let out on loan and eventually sold to Rovers for £2m.

Tony Mowbray, in charge of Armstrong at Blackburn, said: "Adam's a goalscorer and always has been.

"He scores with both feet, and he's electrically fast off the mark.

"As long as you've got players who can slide him in, put passes over the top, put the ball in space for him, he WILL score goals."



EXCLUSIVE BY RICHARD EDWARDS

THE last time Southampton won at Wembley they thrashed Carlisle to lift the Football League Trophy in 2010.

That success under Alan Pardew netted them relative peanuts in cash terms. If they beat Leeds today they will earn the biggest payday in the club's history - getting on for an estimated £300million if they stay up next season.

And one celebrated Saint believes that going up at Wembley will match anything the club has achieved since their FA Cup Final win over Manchester United back in 1976.

Southampton legend Franny Benali, 55, who made over 360 appearances for his hometown club said: "Saints haven't won at Wembley often, but every time has been incredible. 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. Now you're at Wembley, you've got 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 the cities and for the economies of both Southampton and Leeds. It's one of the richest prizes in sport. It's as big as it gets."

# THE SCOUT

BY RYAN TAYLOR

Who is the next big thing? The next Bellingham, Mbappe or Foden? Every Sunday, we look at the best kids in the world under 22 years of age... and why they will - and should - be on the radar of the biggest clubs.



## » OMARI HUTCHINSON

■ CHELSEA prospect Hutchinson enjoyed a stunning promotion-winning loan spell with Ipswich this season, scoring 10 goals and registering five assists in the Championship.

He is an exciting dribbler and is now sharpening his end product, having flourished with regular game-time.

**AGE:** 20 **HEIGHT:** 5ft 9in (1.74m)

**NATIONAL SIDE:** Jamaica

**CLUB:** Chelsea

**CONTRACT EXPIRES:** June 2025

**POSITION:** Winger

**FOOT:** Left

**STYLE:** Speedy and skilful dribbler

**TRACKED BY:** Ipswich, Ajax, PSV, Stuttgart, Borussia Monchengladbach

**MARKET VALUE:** £15million

**WHY BUY HIM?** Registered great numbers in the Championship and has a huge ceiling. Chelsea unable to offer assurances or minutes, and with the Blues under pressure to raise cash due to FFP, now could be the perfect time to pounce.

## » ARCHIE GRAY

■ A REVELATION this season for Leeds, having featured in all but two of their 46 Championship matches.

Leeds will be desperate to keep hold of their exciting academy graduate but it only seems a matter of time before one of the Big Six clubs come calling.

**AGE:** 18 **HEIGHT:** 6ft 1in (1.87m)

**NATIONALITY:** English

**CLUB:** Leeds United

**CONTRACT EXPIRES:** June 2028

**POSITION:** Right-back or central midfielder

**FOOT:** Right

**STYLE:** Technical, athletic, versatile.

**TRACKED BY:** Newcastle, Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund

**MARKET VALUE:** £20m

**WHY BUY HIM?** Has made senior football look easy since forcing his way into the Leeds first team at the beginning of the season. He still has several years of physical development ahead of him and will only get better with experience and age. Homegrown talents are also hard to come by.



# POCH AXE WAS CHELSEA



NO Southgate and Henderson

## HENDO'S TIME AT TOP IS UP

JORDAN HENDERSON will be bitterly disappointed to miss out on the Euros because that's the kind of character he is.

But I'm not having the suggestion that the midfielder is 'paying the price' for going to the Saudi Pro League or for then bailing out after six months with Al-Ettifaq to join Ajax.

The bottom line is that time catches up with everyone - and as Jordan approaches his 34th birthday next month it is clear that England boss Gareth Southgate now has other options that he wants to use.

That's no criticism of Henderson. He has been a model professional throughout his career and is already guaranteed to be remembered as one of Liverpool's great captains.

Henderson won it all at Liverpool, and had a massive influence on one of the club's best-ever teams.

If Henderson does have a regret it might be that he left Anfield a year too soon.

Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but the injury problems that plagued Jurgen Klopp during last season would have ensured Henderson got plenty of minutes on the pitch in the best league in the world.



### WAVE AFTER WAVE...

Pochettino became latest Chelsea boss axed... McKenna (below) should think carefully if offered the gig



# HITTING THE PANIC BUTTON... AGAIN!

# The sack race is now in full swing and I blame Pep!

**APOLOGIES to Manchester City fans who think that everyone has got it in for their club at the moment... but I blame Pep Guardiola for Chelsea's decision to let Mauricio Pochettino go.**

Pep might raise an eyebrow at that, given his champions drew home and away against the London club in the Premier League this season.

But the bottom line is that I believe the presence of the Catalan is provoking clubs into making knee-jerk decisions, as their determination to try and close the gap on City descends into desperation. City clinched their fourth successive title last week - and their sixth



in seven seasons. The fact that only Arsenal and Liverpool have been able to build a sustained challenge to their dominance in that period suggests that the best way to combat Guardiola is to keep the faith with your manager.

It might not be enough, of course, whether it's two points, one point or goal difference, City always seem to get over the line.

And my theory is that owners, chairmen and board members are now reaching for the panic button more quickly than they used to.

Chelsea and Liverpool will both have new managers next season - and perhaps, too, Manchester United. The Pep factor will once again come into sharp focus.

When a club has raised the standard to a level where breaking the 90-point barrier is the minimum requirement to mount a title challenge, then three defeats on the bounce becomes a major crisis.

If an owner sees their team quickly becoming a fading dot in City's rear view mirror, then the temptation to make a change is

obvious. Unfortunately more and more of them are unable to resist the impulse to sack the manager and give someone else a go.

Chelsea owner Todd Boehly obviously felt that, after lavishing more than £1 billion in the transfer market, he deserved to be getting more bang for his buck.

So Pochettino was toast - despite qualifying for Europe with a sixth-placed finish after five successive wins and just one defeat in 15.

Chelsea also reached the Carabao Cup Final and the FA Cup semi-finals.

I sat next to Blues legend Frank Lampard at the League Managers Association awards dinner on Tuesday night - and when the news broke that Poch had gone a look of utter disbelief spread across his face.

Frank wasn't the only one in the room who was shocked.

Almost immediately there were a few whispers that new LMA Manager of the Year Kieran McKenna was in the frame to take over at Stamford Bridge after brilliantly guiding Ipswich Town to the Premier League. And why not, after the job Kieran has done at

Portman Road? I did my coaching badges with McKenna and he is an impressive individual who has grasped the opportunity given to him in Suffolk with both hands.

But Mr Boehly has built himself a reputation for having the quickest trigger finger in English football in the two years since he bought Chelsea from Roman Abramovich.

Would the American be able to resist lining up the crosshairs again if a young manager with no Premier League experience suddenly finds himself at the mercy of the Stamford Bridge fans after a fistful of defeats in the opening weeks of next season?

Graham Potter was doing an admirable job at Brighton when Chelsea came calling.

But some supporters questioned whether he had the profile for a club of their stature - and Boehly loaded a bullet to ensure his reign lasted just 31 matches.

Boehly isn't steeped in football - but he is an extremely astute businessman who has made a fortune by making the right decisions.

Someone at Stamford Bridge must have his ear, because I can't believe that he's just making it all up as he goes along.

He must be getting advice that he trusts from somebody.

Surely he can't be taking these decisions on a whim?

Footballers like routine. Familiarity helps them to thrive.

If a club changes the manager every five minutes they don't know what's going on.

It's impossible for a manager to get his ideas across to players who are thinking, 'It doesn't matter what the boss tells me, because he'll be gone as soon as we lose a couple of games'.

Let's hope the next manager off the rank at Chelsea gets to go the distance.



JADON JOY Sancho winning in Germany

## SANCHO SENDING SIGNALS

IT'S hard to see a future for Jadon Sancho at Manchester United if Erik ten Hag remains as manager.

Sancho has played a key role in helping Borussia Dortmund reach the Champions League final, after being sent there on loan following his fall-out with the United boss.

He couldn't be persuaded to apologise to Ten Hag, after having questioned the Dutchman's integrity on social media - and I think the time for a reconciliation has now passed.

United could have done with their £73 million winger firing on all cylinders this season for them.

Instead, Dortmund have reaped the benefits of his frustration, as Sancho has shown what he can offer in an environment that suits him.

Ten Hag is walking on thin ice himself at Old Trafford after a disappointing Premier League season which saw his team finish eighth.

New investor Sir Jim Ratcliffe's failure to publicly back his manager speaks volumes.

The Dutchman's departure would open the door for Sancho to return.

But don't underestimate how important it is for even the best players to be comfortable in their surroundings.

Sancho will be up against another Englishman at Wembley on Saturday.

Like Sancho, Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham once went to Dortmund to learn his trade and used the experience as a stepping stone to join one of the world's biggest clubs.

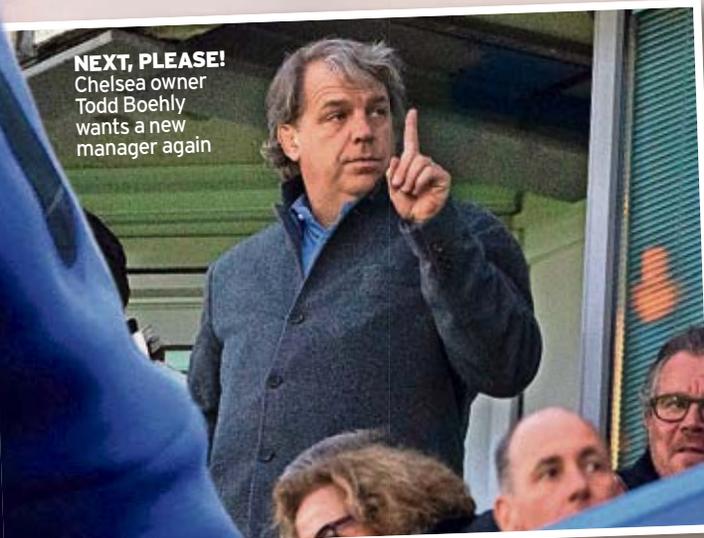
While United clearly haven't had any kind of return on their Sancho investment, the same can't be said about Real after their £114m deal for Bellingham.

The young midfielder looks born to play at the Bernabeu, and already has a La Liga title medal to show for his first season in Spain.

His relationship with Real boss Carlo Ancelotti has been a huge factor in the way he has settled in Madrid - and the England star has quickly acquired the swagger to do the business in the famous white shirt.

Bellingham's Real will be hot favourites to become European champions for the 15th time at Wembley - and I don't see a scenario where Dortmund produce a shock.

Interview: SIMON MULLOCK



NEXT, PLEASE! Chelsea owner Todd Boehly wants a new manager again



# NEW BOSS AT ANFIELD

# Slot machine

EXCLUSIVE  
BY SIMON MULLOCK

**WHEN new Liverpool boss Arne Slot is not ordering his players to put the boot into each other, he is shooting from the lip.**

The Dutchman has built a reputation for playing the beautiful game during an eight-year coaching career that has taken him from lower league SC Cambuur to Anfield via AZ Alkmaar and Feyenoord.

But, like his Kop predecessor Jurgen Klopp, the 45-year-old learned during his unremarkable playing days that sometimes you need to get tough.

If Slot feels like his players have allowed their standards to drop in training, he will tell one of them to give the rest a kicking in a bid to shake them up.

And, during his time in charge of Feyenoord, he wound up both Jose Mourinho and Diego Simeone by questioning their methods.

PEC Zwolle hardman Bram van Polen has described how Slot would tell him to fly into tackles in training when the Dutchman became an assistant coach at the club after spending his last four seasons there as a player.

Van Polen said: "Slot puts a lot of energy into all his training sessions. He is very demanding and wants things practised to perfection.

"But, oh dear, if he thought at the end of the week that the players had not given everything in training...

"If the squad had been lacking sharpness, he would come up to me a day before the game and say, 'Can you drive everyone over the edge in our last training session?'

"And do you know what? I loved that. Oh yes, I was triggered. He wanted me to put the boot in - and I would give it all.

"I would clatter them in training, full on - and it was fantastic how Slot would get



**PERFECT DUTCH**  
Slot hones his Feyenoord side in training

**Holland hardman: Arne is tireless, and worked us hard in training. He is not afraid to tell us to put the boot in... clever coach, made us sharper**

everyone in the right sharp and aggressive attitude for the match the next day. I knew then that he was becoming a fabulous coach."

Slot flew into Merseyside on Friday to finalise his contract and to meet with new chief executive Michael Edwards and sporting director Julian Edwards.

Liverpool are paying Feyenoord £11million in compensation - and have also been forced to pay the final month of the Dutchman's wages from his contact in Rotterdam, around £320,000.

Slot famously enjoyed winding up Mourinho several times when

their teams met five times in Europe in the space of three years. He told the former Chelsea and Manchester United boss that he preferred to watch Pep Guardiola's teams.

He said: "If I watch Pep's teams, I know I may learn a thing or two. There are always great details in his attacking and attractive style."

Mourinho responded by suggesting studying his team might help Slot win a trophy.

Another European game against Simeone's Atletico ended with the Argentine squaring up to Slot at the final whistle after

another exchange of verbals. Simeone flipped again when he spotted the Dutchman laughing at him in the tunnel.

"Slot had the guts to tell me that I was a frustrated character and that I get wound up over all sorts of things," said Simeone. "I would never say stuff like that about a fellow manager."

But Van Polen reckons his former coach has all the tools to be a success.

He said: "Slot has a lot of good qualities as a coach. I knew, even when he was still a player, that he would be good.

"He knew how to get the best out of players and that turned out to be so true once he got the chance to build his own team."

## EURO CUP FINAL SPECIAL



**WINNERS** Celtic lift the Cup after beating Rangers

## IDAHA'S A BHOY WONDER

Celtic 1 Rangers 0

**SCOTTISH CUP FINAL** ADAM IDAH'S last-minute strike sealed the Double for Celtic.

Brendan Rodgers continued his remarkable record against Rangers - just one defeat in 18 Old Firm games in his two spells as Celtic boss.

He said: "It's a game you don't need to be perfect in, you just need to win."



Lyon 1 Paris Saint-Germain 2

**COUPE DE FRANCE FINAL** Kylian Mbappe ended his PSG career with a win and the Double. Ousmane Dembele and Fabian Ruiz hit their goals with Jake O'Brien replying.



Kaiserslautern 0 Bayer Leverkusen 1

**GERMAN DFB POKAL FINAL** Bundesliga champions Leverkusen completed the Double despite playing all of the second half with 10 men. Ex-Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka won it on 17 minutes with a 25-yard strike.

## 'GREAT BARCA BUNCH'



Barcelona 2 Lyon 0

**WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL** England and Barcelona star Keira Walsh hailed a "great bunch of girls" after Aitana Bonmati and Alexia Putellas scored to win it.

## I'M MATIP FOR TOP STILL

BY DARREN WITCOOP

**JOEL MATIP** has set his sights on winning a Premier League lifeline.

Free agent Matip (right), 32, has been released after an eight-year spell with Liverpool.

His season was wrecked by injuries and he made his final and 201st appearance in December.

But the defender thinks he can regain full fitness and cope with the demands of English football.

Matip, who won a Premier League and Champions League at Anfield, is being eyed by Bournemouth, with Lloyd Kelly heading to Newcastle.



## BETIS WANT CELSO

BY RYAN TAYLOR

**REAL BETIS** want to bring Tottenham midfielder Giovani Lo Celso back.

The La Liga outfit, now under Manuel Pellegrini, sold the Argentina playmaker (right) to Spurs for £27.2million in January 2020, after an initial loan.

But injuries have plagued Lo Celso's time in north London and he is considered available for transfer.

Betis are looking to do a deal and

have already held exploratory talks over a swoop, though Tottenham are keen to entertain a bidding war.

Villarreal, where Lo Celso flourished last season on loan, are in the hunt, as are cash-strapped Barcelona, who have a long-standing interest in the 50-cap Argentina star.

Serie A giants AC Milan are also admirers of the ex-Paris Saint-Germain player, who is set to represent his country at this summer's Copa America.



## Ouch! £3m to patch up Old Trafford roof



EXCLUSIVE BY SIMON MULLOCK

MANCHESTER UNITED have been told that the Old Trafford roof is beyond repair.

Club bosses were hugely 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 roof on the Sir Bobby Charlton Stand.

But United were stunned to be told that it would cost around £3million to make an initial repair and also 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.

New United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe has vowed to give the fans the kind of stadium a club of their stature deserves.

Ratcliffe's preferred option would be to build a new ground on land close to the existing Old Trafford footprint rather than rebuild the current stadium.

But the cost of such a project would be in excess of £2billion.

Ratcliffe has appealed for Government help to finance a new ground - and Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham has given his backing.

Labour leader Keir Starmer was a guest at the Arsenal game - and Ratcliffe is supporting him to win the upcoming General Election.

## Marco eye on Arouna



FULHAM are eyeing Le Havre captain Arouna Sangante as they look for defensive reinforcements.

The Cottagers are set to lose Tosin Adarabioyo on a free transfer next month, so a centre-back is among Marco Silva's top priorities.

Club scouts have been tracking 22-year-old Senegalese star Sangante (above) for six months. He would cost up to £15million.

Fulham are also admirers of Chelsea's Trevoh Chalobah, 24, who was valued at £25m in September.

# MAN CITY 1 MAN UTD 2

Doku 87

Garnacho 30, Mainoo 39



# OFF ON A HIGH!



## Ten Hag goes away on hols showing all what a real fighter he can be

### JUST WHEN HE NEEDED A LIFT

Lisandro Martinez hoists up Ten Hag after the win and (above) Erik hugs his scorers Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo



EXCLUSIVE BY RYAN TAYLOR

KEVIN DE BRUYNE's advisers met with 10 Saudi Arabian clubs in the Middle East this week ahead of the summer transfer window.

But the 32-year-old playmaker is not interested in a mega-money switch to the Saudi Pro League and would favour a move to MLS when he eventually departs Manchester City, where he has just one year left to run on his deal.

However, Al Hilal have long viewed the Belgium midfielder as a dream signing and they are now looking to turn his head.

In the past few days, top reps from his agency held key talks with champions Al Hilal and Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr, among others, during a flying three-day visit.

Roc Nation Sports also have players such as Vinicius Junior,

Gabriel Martinelli and Lucas Paqueta on their books, alongside De Bruyne (left).

Additionally, San Diego FC have held private preliminary discussions with the six-time Premier League winner's entourage to register their interest in a future transfer.

Saudi clubs also have De Bruyne's City team-mates Ederson and Bernardo Silva on their radar.

BY DAVID McDONNELL at Wembley

**PERHAPS City boss 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.

However, this final was not decided by superstition, but by United boss Erik ten Hag proving once again he can get the better of the modern era's greatest manager, when he has the personnel at his disposal.

This may have been United's worst season of the Premier League era, with eighth place their lowest finish for 34 years, but this victory - against all the odds - was vindication for Ten Hag.

On the eve of the game, Guardiola expressed sympathy for Ten Hag over the succession of injuries to key players throughout the season.

But that 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, 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.

Even when they doubled their lead, he remained measured, pointing skywards with

both hands before taking a swig of water.

Having seen his side blow a 3-0 lead against Championship side Coventry - winning on penalties - Ten Hag, who is off on his holidays today, took nothing for granted.

In the first half, his 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 control City when they were in possession, hitting them on the break.

Marcus Rashford and Alejandro Garnacho proved vital outlets to attack from out wide.

Guardiola responded by bringing on Manuel Akanji and Jeremy Doku, the latter testing Aaron Wan-Bissaka with his pace.

But when those changes did not yield immediate returns, Guardiola took the bold step of withdrawing playmaker Kevin De Bruyne, who was subdued throughout, for Julian Alvarez.

Erling Haaland clattered the bar, Andre Onana kept out a blistering goalbound shot from Kyle Walker and Alvarez fired an effort high and wide moments later - Guardiola incredulous that his side had not been able to score.

The City boss had his hands on his head moments later, when Alvarez somehow managed to steer the ball wide, when put through on goal by Phil Foden.

In that spell, City could have gone from 2-0 to 3-2 up, but were left ruing the missed opportunities.

When Doku beat Onana at his near post, there was a glimmer of hope for City.

But this was the day Ten Hag - beleaguered and potentially on his way out - outsmarted Guardiola and proved his worth.

## KDB AGENTS IN SAUDI TALKS



SCAN ME

Order your copy at [www.reachshops.co.uk/facupnostalgia](http://www.reachshops.co.uk/facupnostalgia)



NEW JOB Rooney yesterday

## Pilgrimage is perfect for Rooney

BY GARY CHAPPELL

FORMER England captain Wayne Rooney has returned to management with Championship side Plymouth.

Rooney, 38, left Birmingham in January after just 15 games in charge and has signed a three-year deal to become head coach at Argyle.

Ex-Manchester United striker Rooney said: "Taking this role at Plymouth Argyle feels like the perfect next step. 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 and also the incredible atmosphere at Home Park.

"The club is on an exciting long-term journey, with a progressive plan in place. I'm grateful for the opportunity."

Argyle director of football Neil Dewsnip knows Rooney from his time as boss of Everton's academy, from which the striker emerged.

The Pilgrims sacked Ian Foster in April, just three months after he had replaced Steven Schumacher following his departure for Stoke.

## Ouari's German options



EXCLUSIVE BY RYAN TAYLOR  
STUTTGART are leading the chase for Chelsea kid Omari Hutchinson.

The 20-year-old winger (above), who won promotion to the Premier League on loan with Ipswich this season, watched Stuttgart's 4-0 win against Borussia Monchengladbach last weekend to clinch second place in the Bundesliga.

Both German clubs have shown interest in a loan, but Stuttgart hope the lure of the Champions League will be key, with Ajax and Feyenoord also in the hunt.

# MANCHESTER CITY 1

Doku 87

# MANCHESTER UNITED 2

Garnacho 30, Mainoo 39



WE'RE UNITED Ten Hag and his coaching team

# The only thing snappy about City was Pep's suit and tie... they were sloppy and organised Reds made them pay

**IT will be of no consolation to Pep Guardiola, but he obviously had a feeling it could happen.**

When looking ahead to this game, the Manchester City manager outlined his main worry – that a sense of complacency might undermine their quest for yet another trophy.

It turns out Pep was right to be worried.

City were not just beaten by a very well-organised, incredibly hard-working, counter-attacking United, they were beaten by their own complacency.

This was as sloppy a performance as a Guardiola side has produced for a long time.

The only thing really snappy about this City display was the manager's suit and tie.

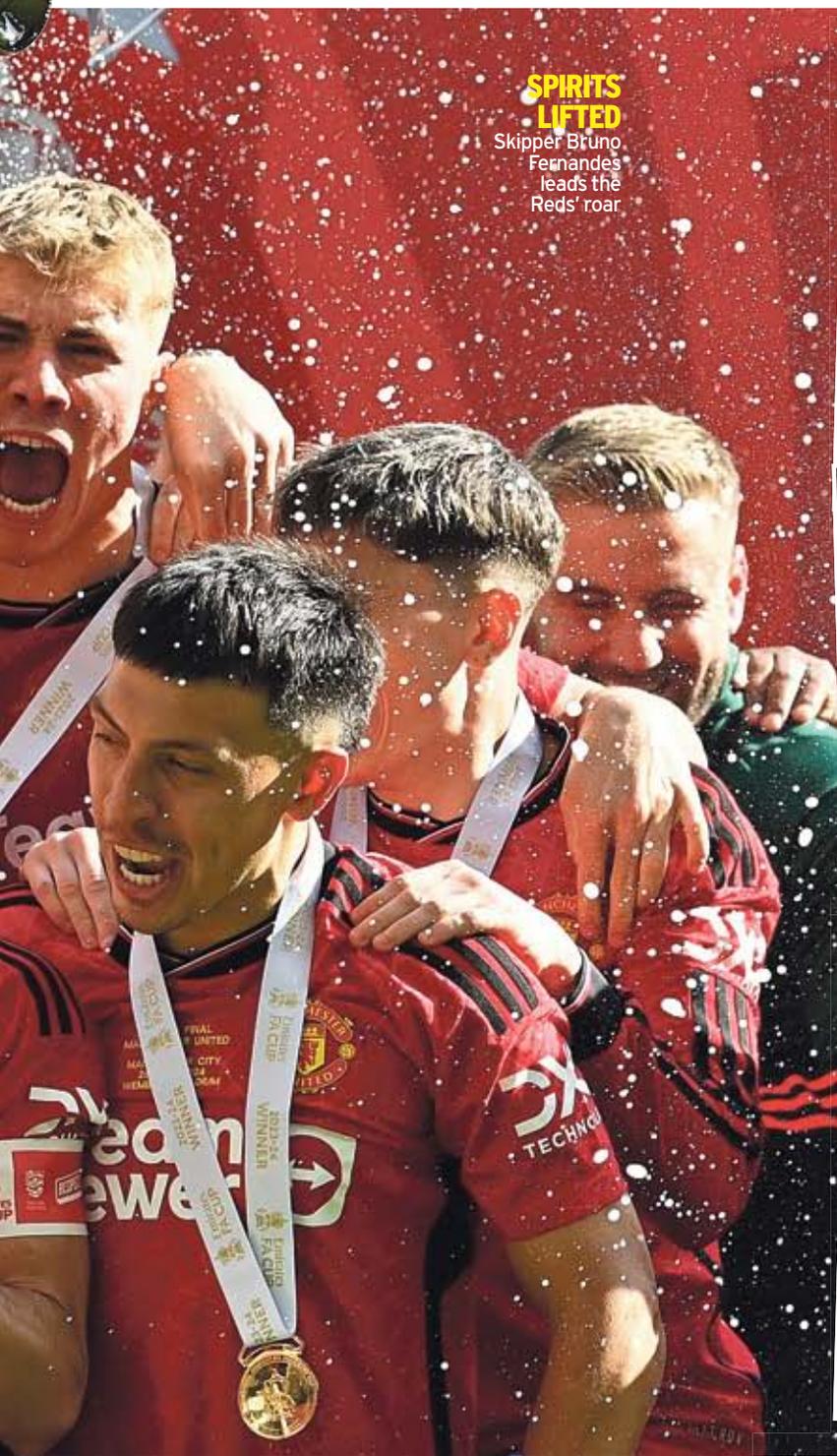
The law of averages suggested they were due a substandard outing – and that Rodri had to be reminded what it is like to lose a football match – but few could have seen this coming. The opening gift for Alejandro Garnacho, for example, was



Emirates FA CUP

EMIRATES FA CUP FINAL WEMBLEY STADIUM

**It remains to be seen what happens to Ten Hag, but the least that can be said is his players gave him everything**



**SPIRITS LIFTED**  
Skipper Bruno Fernandes leads the Reds' roar



**TOP TRIO** Sofyan Amrabat, Rasmus Hojlund and Scott McTominay



**WHAT A STAR** Andre Onana keeps the celebrations going



**UPSET** Erling Haaland (left) can't believe City's Double dreams are over

# DEFIANT ERIK IS IN THE DARK OVER FUTURE

**FROM BACK PAGE**  
trophies – because that's what I have always done throughout 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. Now we have ended the season on a high and we have all summer to enjoy it."

First-half goals by Alejandro Garnacho and man-of-the-match Kobbie Mainoo proved enough to beat bitter rivals Manchester City at Wembley and secure United's 13th FA Cup.

Ratcliffe was thrilled after watching his boyhood team lift their first trophy since investing £1.25 billion to buy a 27.7 percent stake in the club in February.

But, after paying tribute to the players and staff, 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. Fernandes said: "He [Ten Hag] 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."

City boss Pep Guardiola dismissed suggestions that his players had paid the price for partying too hard in the six days since winning their fourth successive Premier League title.

He insisted it was his flawed tactical plan that was to blame for City's lethargic first-half performance, rather than a hangover.

They dominated the second half but only had Jeremy Doku's 87th-minute strike to show for their efforts.

Guardiola said: "No, no, no, we prepared properly. We celebrated this week because we won 91 points and won many games.

"My plan was not good. We were not in the right positions, it was my mistake.

"United were the complete opposite. They were focused and how they reacted was really good. Our players know it and they know why.

"We gave them the first goal and the second goal was from a good transition. But we fought until the end and if we had scored the goal earlier we could have equalised."

Guardiola was also magnanimous in defeat to Ten Hag.

He added: "United have to take a decision.

"He [Ten Hag] is a lovely person, an extraordinary manager, and winning the FA Cup is important for them – like it was for us last year."

## ANDY DUNN

BRITAIN'S BEST COLUMNIST FROM WEMBLEY



comedic, with Stefan Ortega showing why he has been a No.2 for all this time and if Ederson does leave, then City will recruit a blue-chip replacement.

Not that Ortega should be singled out for special criticism, even though he was horribly at fault for United's breakthrough.

It is some rarity but you would be hard-pressed to name a City player who did himself justice on such a grand stage.

Erling Haaland might be able to dodge the flak, on account of the

dismal service that was provided. There have been suggestions that Kevin De Bruyne might be tempted by Saudi money and perhaps he was limbering up for the Saudi Pro League by putting in this level of performance.

It was to the surprise of absolutely no one that Guardiola put him out of his misery before the hour mark.

And unlike on other occasions this season, De Bruyne had no cause to dispute the decision.

By then, Guardiola (left) had made two changes – Manuel Akanji and Jeremy Doku coming on for Nathan

Ake and Mateo Kovacic – and, predictably, from a territorial point of view, they dominated the second half.

But that had been Erik ten Hag's game plan from the first whistle – allow City to have the lion's share of possession and hit them on the counter-attack.

Not overly complicated but highly effective on this occasion, despite Doku's late strike.

As a United supporter, it cannot be fun watching your expensively-assembled team be content to have a meagre ration of possession but that is the lot of most teams who face Guardiola's passing machine.

And, of course, it paid dividends and they don't wrap possession statistics around the handles of the FA Cup. The only

stat that mattered was on the scoreboard and, to be fair to Ten Hag and his wonderfully committed team, the second goal – finished by Kobbie Mainoo – was a beautiful piece of work.

It remains to be seen what happens to Ten Hag but the least that can be said is that his players gave everything for him and were suitably rewarded.

It should also be said that if they had produced these levels on a consistent basis throughout the entire season, no one would be having the Ten Hag debate.

The only Guardiola debate is about when he will decide his epic time at City has come to its natural end.

It seems that one more season – taking him to the end of his contract – is favourite.

But if it had, momentarily, crossed his mind that a Wembley farewell might be in order, this surely ruled that out.

When Guardiola leaves, he will want to leave on a high.

And this, in the context of City's magnificence under Pep, was as low as it gets.



**PAYBACK TIME** Co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe hugs Andre Onana as Diogo Dalot enjoys a tough season ending on a high

RATINGS by JOHN CROSS

**MANCHESTER CITY**

- STEFAN ORTEGA** 5  
Early show of nerves unsettled the whole City defence
- KYLE WALKER** 6  
Had a ding-dong with Rashford and denied two long-range efforts
- JOHN STONES** 7  
City's best defender in the first half and got better in the second
- NATHAN AKE** 4  
Hooked at half-time after making mistakes. Sloppy in possession
- JOSKO Gvardiol** 6  
Undone by Garnacho's pace and movement
- RODRI** 6  
Unbeaten run of 74 games in all competitions finally at an end
- MATEO KOVACIC** 4  
Poor. Did not drive forward and his square passing was sloppy
- BERNARDO SILVA** 6  
Struggled to get on the ball. City miss him when he is not involved
- KEVIN DE BRUYNE** 5  
Substituted early in what felt a telling moment for the main man
- PHIL FODEN** 6  
Quiet. Played from the left first half, tucked inside later
- ERLING HAALAND** 6  
Smashed an effort against the woodwork but marked very tightly
- SUBSTITUTES**  
Doku (for Kovacic 46) ..... 8  
Akanji (Ake 46) ..... 6  
Alvarez Booked (De Bruyne 56) ... 6
- SUBS NOT USED:** Carson, Dias, Grealish, Nunes, Bobb, Lewis

**MAN OF THE MATCH**

**BRUNO FERNANDES**  
Was everywhere on the pitch. This performance underlines his quality at the highest level.

MAN CITY	MAN UTD
74% POSSESSION	26%
4 SHOTS ON TARGET	5
10 SHOTS OFF TARGET	3
5 BLOCKED SHOTS	3
7 CORNERS	1
1 OFFSIDES	3
7 FOULS	11
0 CARDS	2
1 CARDS	0

Referee: Andrew Madley 6 ATT: 84,814

**MANCHESTER UNITED**

- ANDRE ONANA** 6  
His late howler a gift for Doku could have been very costly
- AARON WAN-BISSAKA** 7  
Looked so much better playing on right. Good pace and tenacity
- RAPHAEL VARANE** 7  
What a way to go out. Looks much better playing with Martinez
- LISANDRO MARTINEZ** 7  
Such a warrior and leader. How United have missed him. Terrific
- DIOGO DALOT** 7  
Top performance. He was good defensively, dangerous in attack
- SOFYAN AMRABAT** 7  
Struggles around the pitch but when sticks to task does a job
- Kobbie MAINOO** Booked 8  
Ice-cool finish from United's boy wonder. Terrific and hard working
- ALEJANDRO GARNACHO** 8  
What a performance. Scored one, involved in another. Class act
- SCOTT MCTOMINAY** Booked 7  
Worked hard, pressed, had physical presence - but rarely got a look-in
- MARCUS RASHFORD** 7  
A surprise selection - was out to prove Gareth Southgate wrong
- BRUNO FERNANDES** 9  
Brilliant captain's display set the tone and showed top quality
- SUBSTITUTES**  
Evans (Martinez 73) ..... 6  
Hojlund (Rashford 73) ..... 6  
Lindelof (Garnacho 90+3)  
Mount (McTominay 90+3)
- SUBS NOT USED:** Bayindir, Eriksen, Diallo, Antony, Kambwala



**MANCHESTER CITY 1**

Doku 87

**MANCHESTER UNITED 2**

Garnacho 30, Mainoo 39



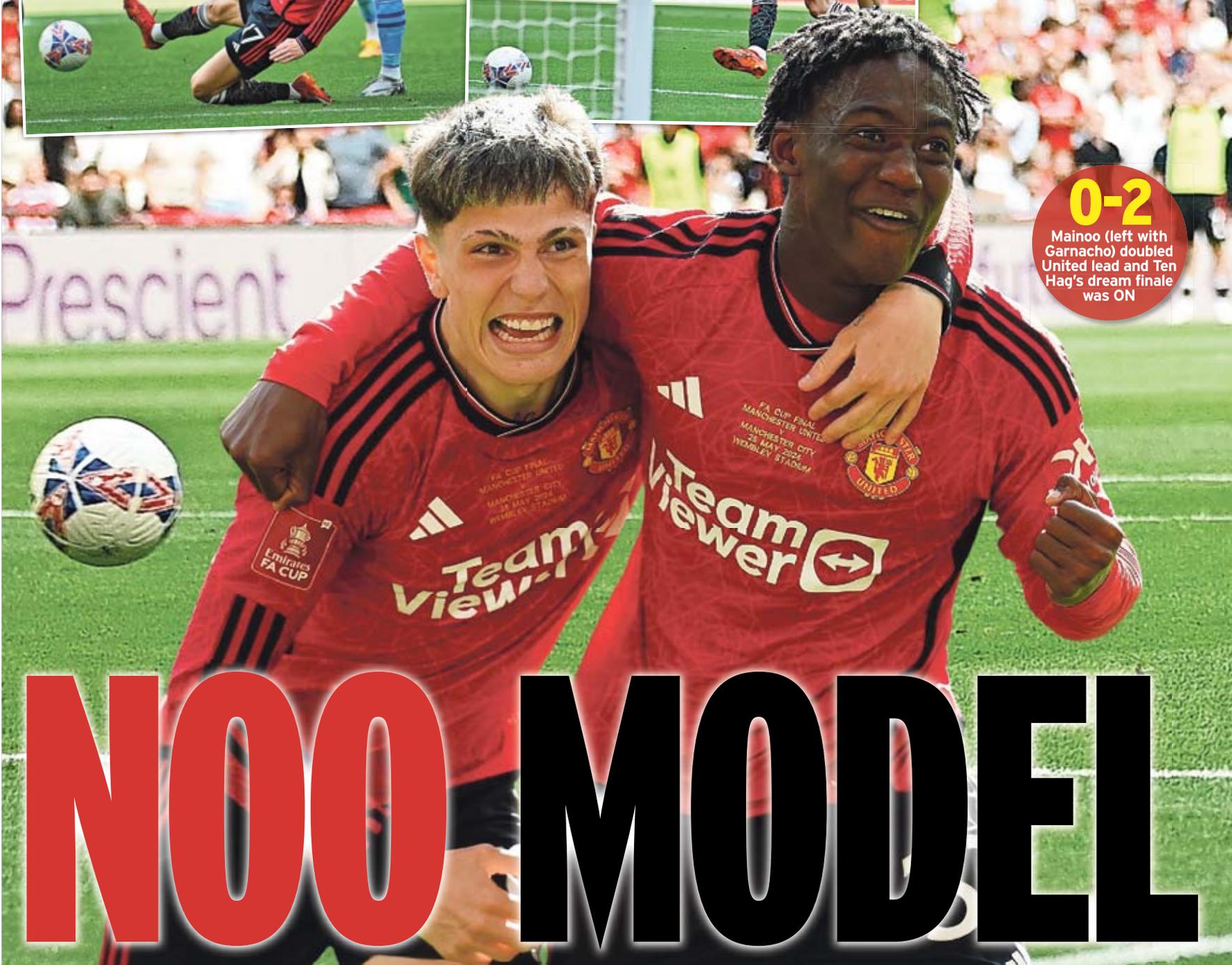
**1-2**

Doku's 87th-minute strike set up a nervy finale for United



**0-1**

Garnacho broke the deadlock on 30 minutes



**0-2**  
Mainoo (left with Garnacho) doubled United lead and Ten Hag's dream finale was ON

**NOO MODEL**

**Kobbie dazzler as General Erik outsmarts Pep ...and snatches a Europa ticket**

By **SIMON MULLOCK** at Wembley @MullockSMirror

**ERIK TEN HAG coolly outwitted the best manager in football - in what is still likely to be his last game as the Manchester United head coach.**

Ten Hag conjured up a cunning tactical plan to destroy Pep Guardiola's dream of becoming the first man to secure back-to-back Doubles as United lifted the FA Cup in a triumphant Wembley finale for the Dutchman.

Only a dramatic U-turn from United co-owner Sir

Jim Ratcliffe will save Ten Hag from the ignominy of the sack despite rescuing a dreadful season with a trophy.

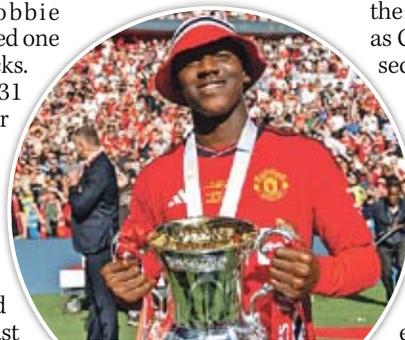
First-half goals from youngsters Alejandro Garnacho and official man-of-the-match Kobbie Mainoo (right) ensured one of the great cup shocks.

United finished 31 points behind their rivals as City became the first club to win four successive titles. But they were more than a match for them here.

City beat United with some ease in last

year's final but Ten Hag's masterplan ensured that there would be no repeat, to the obvious delight of watching club legend Sir Alex Ferguson (right).

Ten Hag's plan was to pack the midfield and

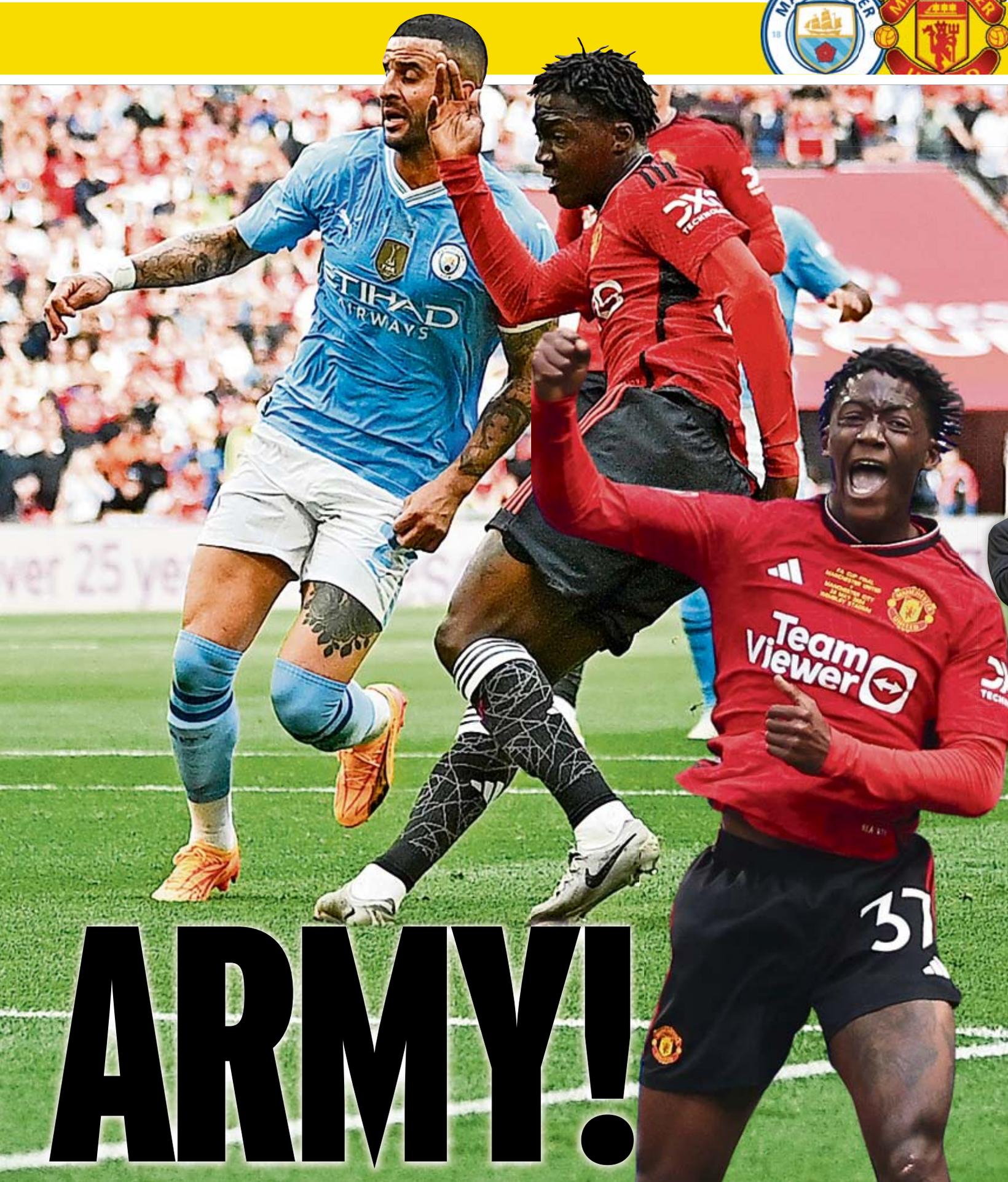


frustrate the champions - then try to punch a hole in City's backline principally by exploiting the pace of Marcus Rashford and Garnacho on the flanks.

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 half-time substitute Jeremy Doku, their best performer on a gut-wrenching afternoon.

As expected, City exerted their usual



# ARMY!

control of the ball – but without producing any real threat against the massed red-shirted ranks.

It looked like Guardiola's players may have been partying too hard in the six days since clinching the title, as they seemed to struggle to shake off a hangover.

Garnacho gave them an early warning with an angled drive that flew straight at Stefan Ortega.

The City keeper was then lucky to get away with

a suicidal pass inside his box to Mateo Kovacic.

And United's growing confidence produced a breakthrough in the 29th minute when Ortega once again blundered.

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 only presented Garnacho with an open goal.

Rashford had another

effort disallowed for offside before Mainoo struck brilliantly six minutes before the break.

Rashford's raking switch of play unbalanced City. And when Garnacho found Bruno Fernandes on the edge of the box, his pass presented teenager Mainoo with the kind of chance he would have dreamed of when he was growing up in Stockport.

For the second half Guardiola sent on Manuel Akanji to shore up the defence, while Doku gave City the threat they had been lacking.

They could have been level by the hour. But Phil Foden mis-kicked in front of goal, then Erling Haaland rattled the bar. Andre Onana made a brilliant save to tip away Kyle Walker's drive. Julian Alvarez was high and then wide with two golden chances. Ten Hag sent on Jonny Evans and Rasmus Hojlund. It didn't

stop City. With five minutes to go, Onana somehow allowed Doku's 25-yard shot to sneak from his grasp and creep in.

Ten Hag held his head in his hands, then asked Mason Mount and Victor Lindelof to man the barricades.

Eight years ago, Louis van Gaal was sacked just 24 hours after winning the FA Cup for United.

Ten Hag has delivered that trophy, and with it an unlikely European ticket. But his fate will be decided in the coming week.

## KOMPANY IN FOR MUNICH

BY GARY CHAPPELL

BAYERN MUNICH have agreed a compensation fee of £10.2million with Burnley for Vincent Kompany to become their new manager.

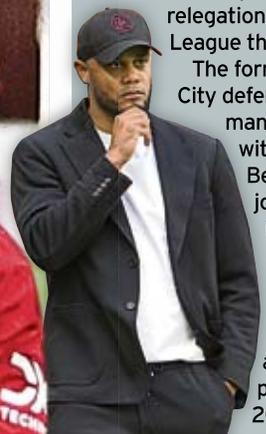
The German giants have endured frustration in their bid to find a replacement for Thomas Tuchel after it was announced in February that he would depart the Allianz Arena this summer.

Tuchel's reign ended badly, with Bayern losing 4-2 to Hoffenheim on the final day of the season, dropping them to third in the Bundesliga.

Following attempts to hire Bayer Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso and Austria boss Ralf Rangnick, Bayern switched focus to Kompany (below), despite Burnley's relegation from the Premier League this season.

The former Manchester City defender began his managerial career with Anderlecht in Belgium, before joining the Clarets in 2022.

He won promotion with Burnley from the Championship, amassing 101 points during the 2022-23 season.



## Bell's Burnley desire

BY JOHN RICHARDSON

CRAIG BELLAMY wants to become the next Burnley boss after turning down the chance to join Vincent Kompany at Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga.

Kompany's former assistant Bellamy is now keen to take on a No.1 role. His reputation as a coach has grown at Turf Moor and he has support within the club.

## TUCHEL SURE OF JOB OFFER

FROM BACK PAGE

believed to be one of a number of names on the wish-list of Sir Jim Ratcliffe's INEOS Group should they end Ten Hag's two-year reign.

But according to sources in Munich, 50-year-old Tuchel reckons he is already nailed-on for the job.

Bayern announced that Tuchel was leaving the club, after it became clear that Bayer Leverkusen would be crowned Bundesliga champions.

But the Bavarian club performed a U-turn by offering to hand him a new contract to stay – only for the German to turn them down.

Mauricio Pochettino is also in the frame, after being sacked by Chelsea, while another former Blues boss Graham Potter rejected the chance to become Ajax manager when it became clear United were thinking of replacing their manager.

Bayern sporting director Max Eberl thought he had an agreement with Tuchel sealed, only for him to change his mind.

According to close friends in Germany Tuchel is desperate to prove himself in the Premier League because he has 'unfinished business'.

**£300M PLAY-OFF**  
Farke: I want to make history  
**LEEDS UNITED V SOUTHAMPTON**  
SEE PAGES 70&71

**Jadon eyes Real shock**  
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL: PAGES 68&69

» **FA CUP FINAL** **MAN CITY 1 MAN UNITED 2**



**LUCKY 13... FOR SOME**  
United celebrate winning their 13th FA Cup

**PERFECT TEN**

BY **SIMON MULLOCK**  
Chief Football Writer at Wembley

**ERIK TEN HAG** challenged Manchester United to back him or sack him after the Dutchman masterminded a sensational FA Cup triumph yesterday.

Ten Hag admitted that he doesn't know if he has a future at United after lifting the second trophy of his two-year reign to qualify for Europe.

But he still faces the sack after a disastrous league campaign – with co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe refusing to back his manager when asked if Ten Hag had saved his job.

Ten Hag said: "If they don't want me, I'll go somewhere else to win

TURN TO PAGE 77



**FINAL SALUTE?**  
Ten Hag waves to the fans in what could be his last game at United

**Dutch boss signs off in style... and Tuchel believes he's got Erik's job**

BY **SIMON MULLOCK**

**THOMAS TUCHEL** believes that he will be the next manager of Manchester United - despite the Reds' sensational FA Cup triumph.

Reports in Germany claim that the former Chelsea boss (below) shocked the Bayern Munich board by turning down a new deal because he believes United have identified him as the man to replace Erik ten Hag.

Tuchel has made it clear he wants another crack at the Premier League.

Ten Hag learns his fate this week - but it appears he is doomed, despite pulling off a sensational FA Cup win yesterday. Tuchel is

TURN TO PAGE 79



**LOOK ROO'S BACK**  
SEE PAGE 76



**BAYERN LAND KOMPANY**  
SEE PAGE 79



**FOWLER: SO MANY SACKINGS... I BLAME PEP**  
SEE PAGES 72-73



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