

# SUNDAY PEOPLE

E-EDITION

MAY 26, 2024

## UNITED'S TEEN SPIRIT WINS CUP



**RED ARMY** Goalscorers Garnacho and Mainoo, both 19, celebrate, ten Hag kisses cup, inset

...but will it save ten Hag?

See Sport

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See page 30

# EAMONN & RUTH SPLIT SHOCK

TV COUPLE BLAME WORK FOR DIVORCE AFTER 14 YEARS

See pages 4 & 5

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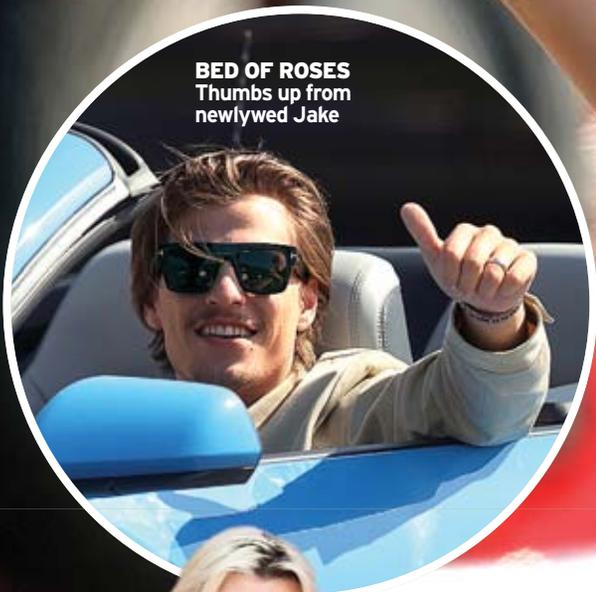
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# Millie's wedding joy turned up to Eleven



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



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

## 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”**



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



**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 Langsford 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 Langsford 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,



**IN PAIN**  
Physio this month

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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.

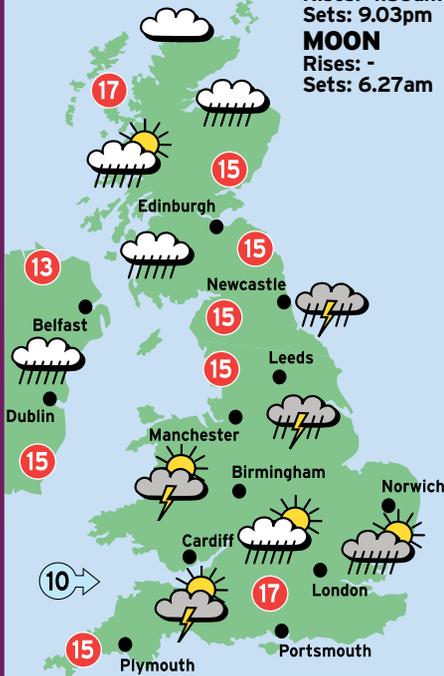
He posted on Instagram: "My God, what a Cup Final, what a Result!".

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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."

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

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

# 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.**

**ELECTION  
2024**

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 Iglj 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 Iglj 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



**UNFURLED** Huge banner in Albania welcomes Cameron



## 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.

# 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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**'PUMPED UP'**  
PM in Wetherspoon

TESCO  
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The  
power to  
lower  
prices.

25%  
off

Clubcard  
Prices



# All Clothing



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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.

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# Sheridan lined up for last ever Gavin & Stacey

Gobby Rudi 'set to make return' for final show of hit comedy

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 &amp; 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



TEAM TALK Enjoying action



GRIPPED George lost in the action



MATCH OF DAY Pair in FA suits



TALKING POINT William gives George some tips

# Fans all

BY SERENA RICHARDS at Wembley

## From Sky Blues

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

From Red Devils to Sky Blues, they were unanimous in backing the 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”.

**“The scrapping is good for the bigger teams but the smaller clubs will suffer”**

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 presume they can afford

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# 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

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 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 the 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.

The 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."

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

VOICE OF THE

SUNDAY  
PEOPLE

# 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**

**W**hat 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 Donnelan 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.

# A ton of love



**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

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."

**SERVICE** Steve in the Army



# 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

# AWARD TO SCANDAL WATER CO

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.

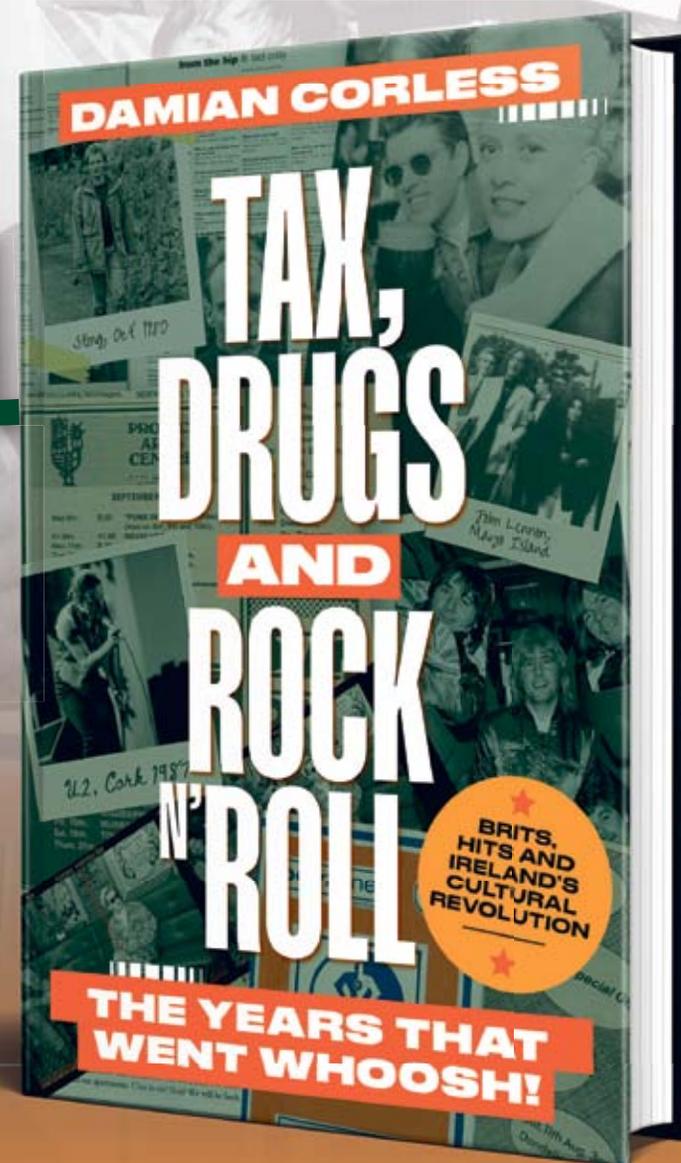
The 23cm animal was up to 20 years old and the fourth largest measured since records began in 1994.

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.



# BRITS, HITS AND IRELAND'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

The book that explores how an influx of British pop stars in the early 1980s kick-started a cultural transformation in Ireland



On sale from all good bookshops and Amazon, ebook also available.



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."

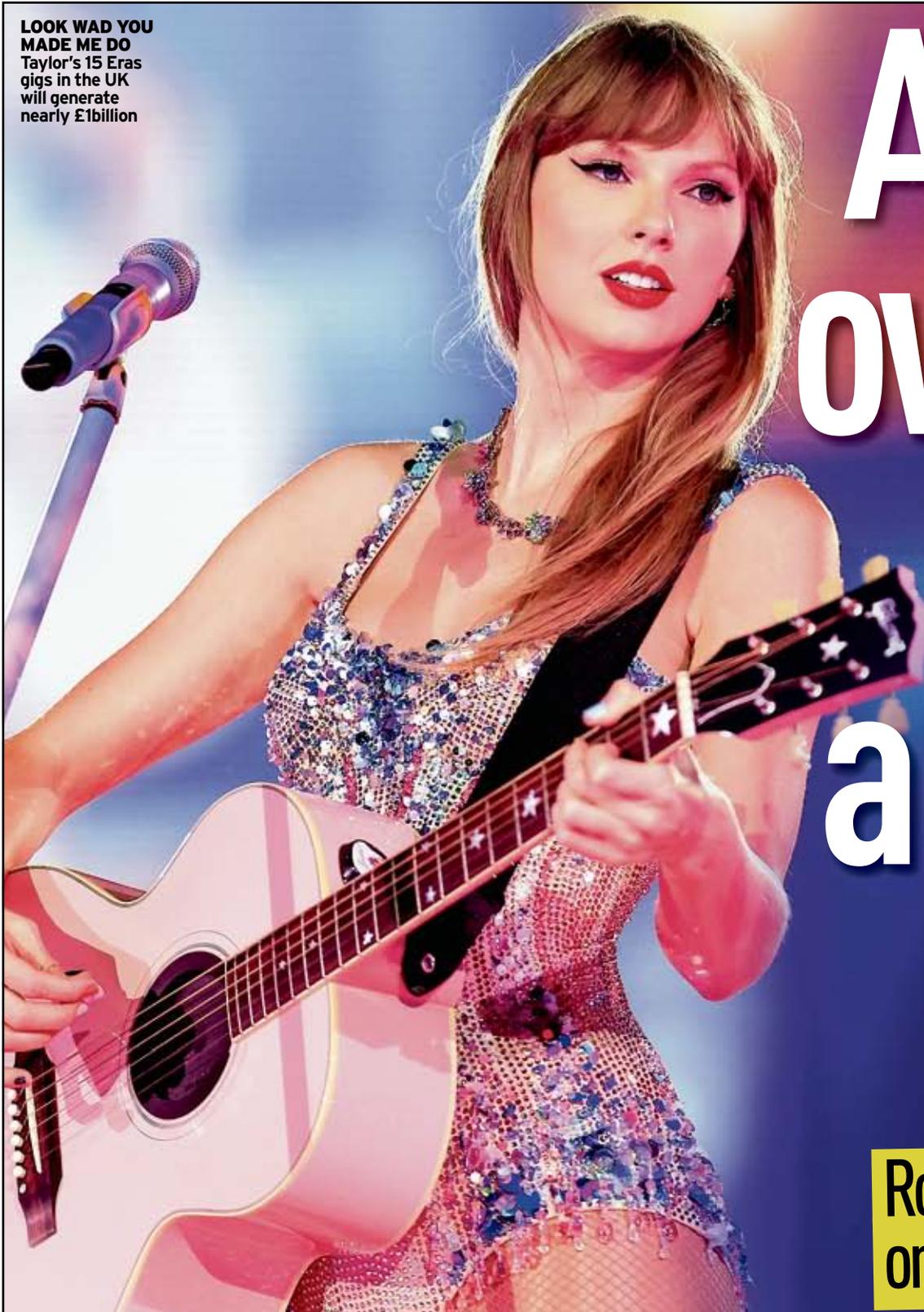
The North Carolina native, who battled alcohol addiction and depression for years, went pro in 2015.

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

# 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.

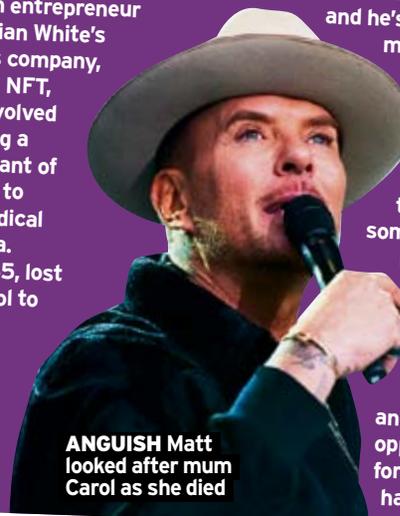
Matt, 55, lost mum Carol to cancer 10 years ago and believes had she taken cannabis

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.

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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.”

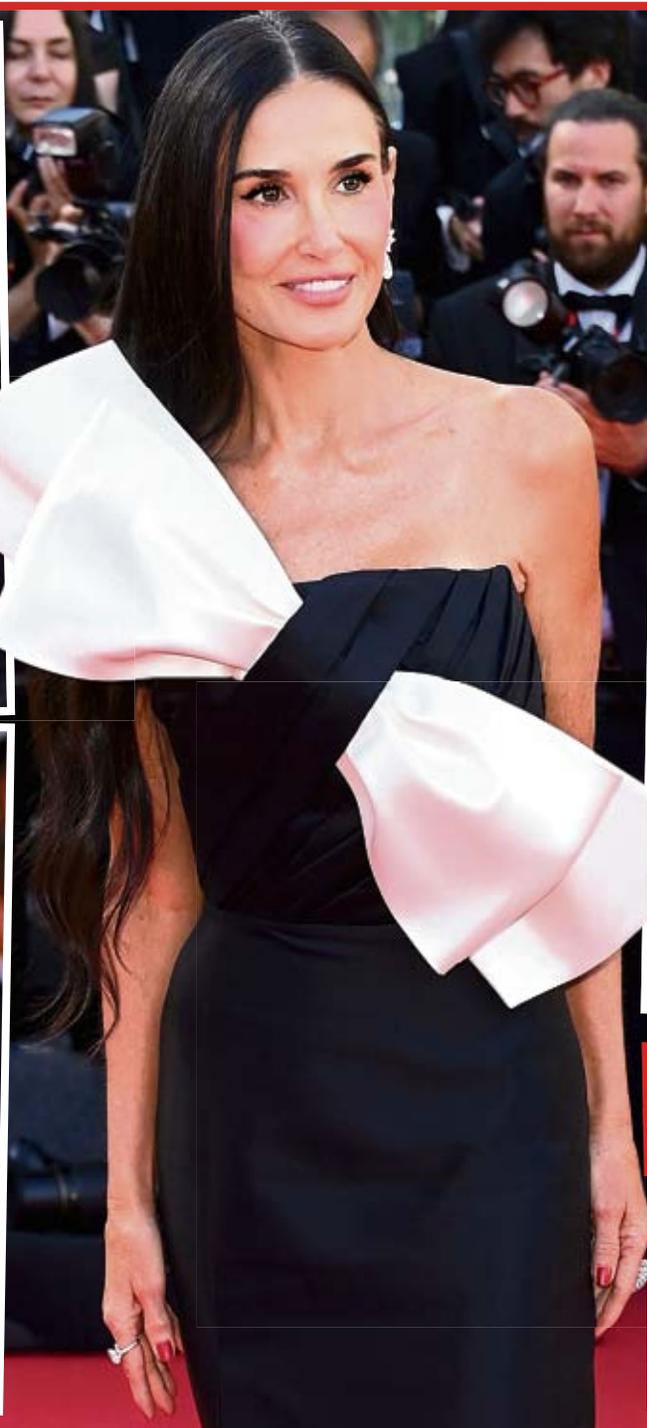
She added: “She is a total inspiration to us all, we all love her.”



**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.

# BANGHOL

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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# 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.

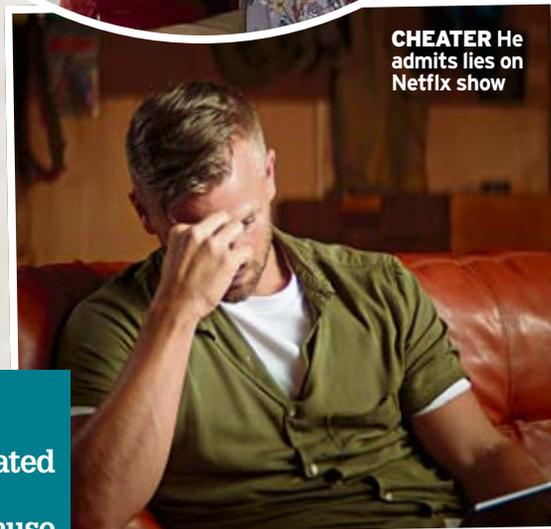
Sam, 38, first claimed he joined "out of pure fleshly desire and just simple curiosity" and says he stopped having affairs two years before the data was leaked – although he admits he probably would not have confessed if it were not for the hackers.

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 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... and I was shocked he could still love me and 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."

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■ 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



**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



**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."

scoops@reachplc.com

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



# 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 manufactures 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 Bangeronomics, 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.

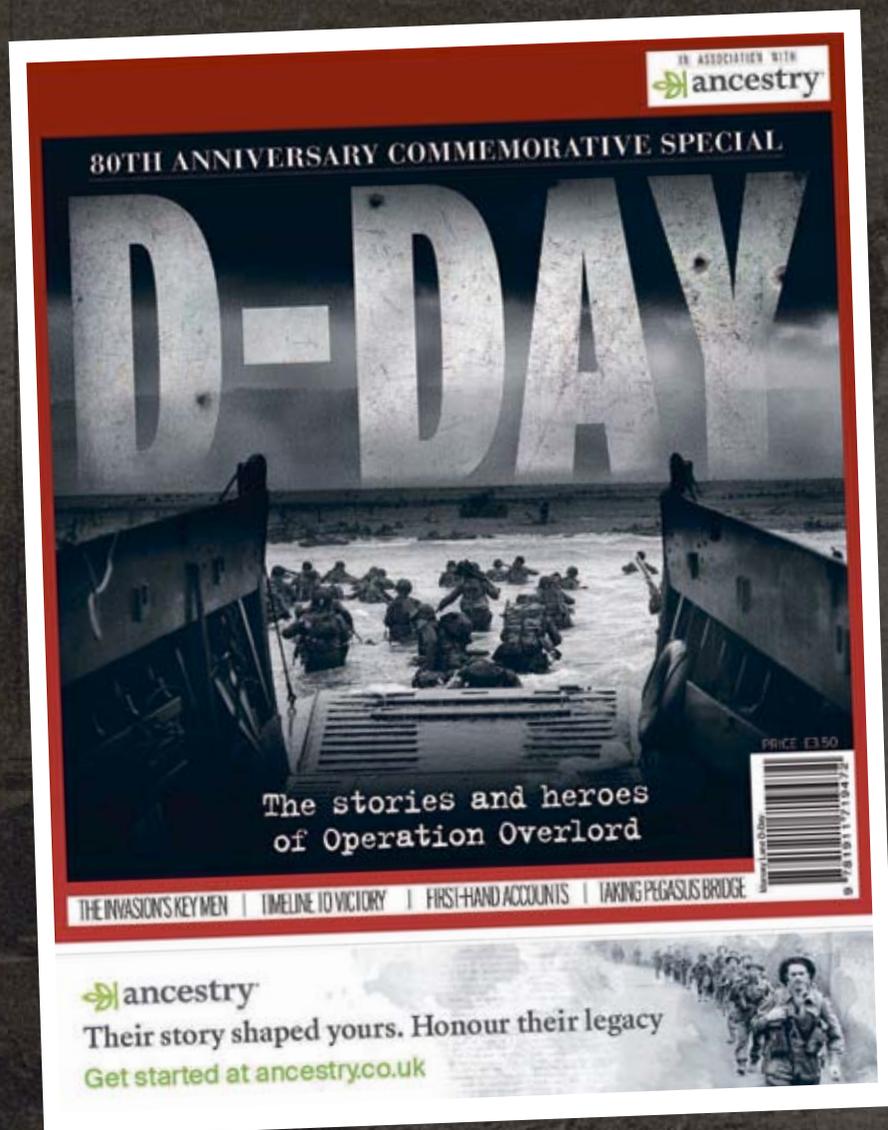
"That's the hype, so here is the stark reality that all cars, irrespective of the powerplant, need looking after."

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



## 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.



# I FEAR 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."

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

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.

janine.yaqoob@reachplc.com



ROLE With co-star Millie Gibson

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## 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.

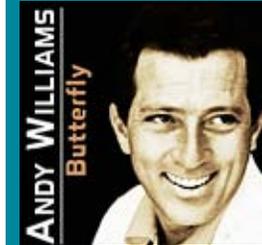
The raid took place at an industrial unit in Bloxwich, West Mids, in February.

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.

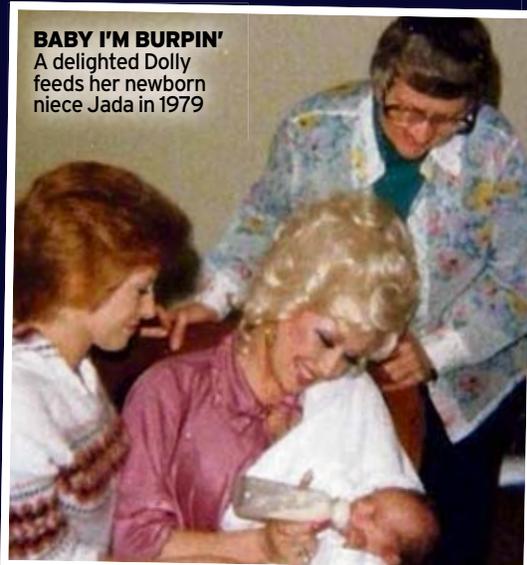
"I've never seen her tear down another female artist or throw shade at another artist, period. She always says, 'Don't worry about what anyone else is doing. Hoe your own row.'

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

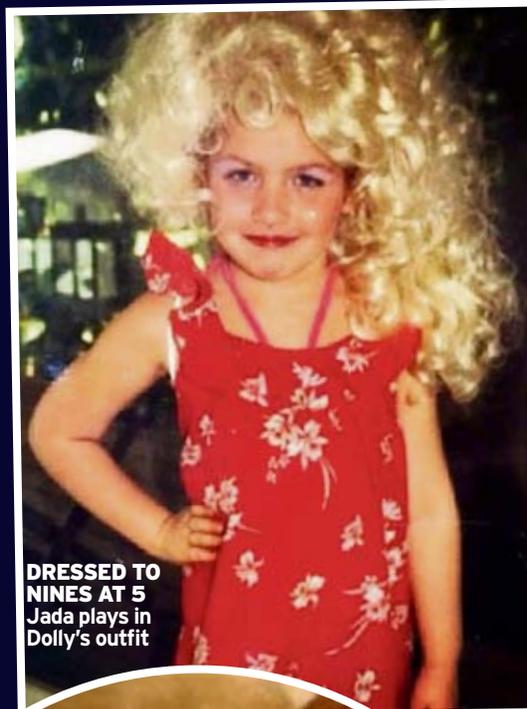
"Oh, and always make your bed."

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

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

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

**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

I ask myself, what would Dolly do? She just wants to help people and have a good time...

# INSPIRING AND GLAM AUNTIE



“

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 Beyoncé covered it as part of her own foray into country music.

Dolly gave it her blessing, saying: "Beyoncé is giving that girl some trouble and she deserves it." Jada says the praise is genuine, explaining: "Beyoncé 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 Beyoncé's. It's one thing not to like a song version but it doesn't feel right to see so many people saying Beyoncé doesn't belong in country.

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

"Beyoncé loves Dolly and Dolly loves her. She was so honoured Beyoncé wanted to re-work Jolene.

"Whitney did her interpretation of I Will Always Love You and now Beyoncé 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.

## £326k donor true as steel

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".

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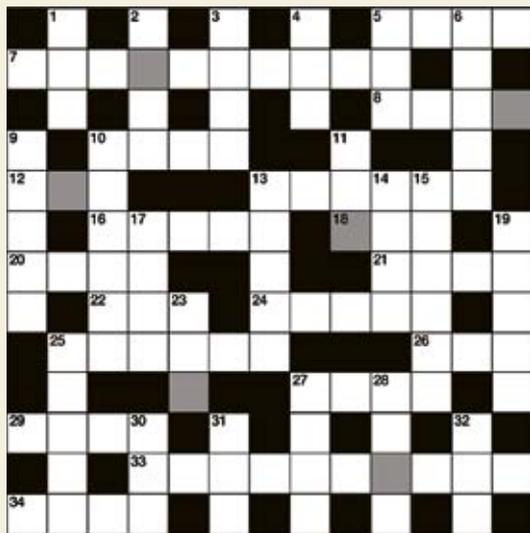
## Sir's ban for ex-pupil sex

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.

## £50 CROSSWORD



Solve the crossword in the normal way and the shaded squares, when read in order, will reveal the solution. Work out what it is and call our entry line below by midnight Saturday, June 1. One winner will be picked at random from all correct entries sent in by the closing date and will receive £50, or for Irish entries, the equivalent in Euros.

## ACROSS

- 5 Male rabbit (4)  
7 Ardent (10)  
8 Chew steadily (4)  
10 Novice (4)  
12 Garland of flowers (3)  
13 Cruel (6)  
16 Army officer (5)  
18 Flatfish (3)  
20 Worry (4)  
21 Blow (4)  
22 Auction item (3)  
24 Cardiff's country (5)  
25 Punctuation mark (6)  
26 Organ of sight (3)  
27 Employer, informally (4)  
29 A great deal (4)  
33 Casual or fortuitous (10)  
34 Jump (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Jam container (3)  
2 Catch sight of (4)  
3 Company emblem (4)  
4 Month (3)  
5 Ask earnestly (3)  
6 Move slowly (5)  
9 Steep rock face (5)  
10 Opportune (6)  
11 Squib (3)  
13 Muscular strength (5)  
14 Ribbon (4)  
15 Maltreats (6)  
17 At the summit (4)  
19 Following in time (5)  
23 Definite article (3)  
25 Dwelling (5)  
27 Augur (4)  
28 Dispatch (4)  
30 Pelvis (3)  
31 Perform (3)  
32 Not good (3)

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION



## CROSSWORD ENTRY LINE

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## LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS 4 Sweeps, 7 Chaplain, 8 Orders, 10 Lasso, 13 Drey, 14 Draw, 15 Deep, 16 Ian, 17 Evil, 19 Each, 21 Eliminate, 23 Talc, 24 Veto, 26 Mir, 27 Tree, 29 Loaf, 32 Sour, 33 Alone, 34 Affirm, 35 Bluebell, 36 Aretha.  
DOWN 1 Scold, 2 Balsa, 3 Also, 4 Snore, 5 Eddy, 6 Pariah, 9 Repeat, 11 Arc, 12 Swell, 13 Deliver, 15 Dim, 16 Ice, 18 Victor, 20 Atoll, 21 Ear, 22 Nee, 23 Tifter, 25 Wan, 28 Rumba, 30 Oozes, 31 Feels, 32 Sift, 33 Apex.

## WINNER FROM May 12

CROSSWORD solution was HORSES. Winner: A Johnson, Nottingham

MORE GREAT PUZZLES FREE INSIDE



## Healthy YOU



With AMY PACKER

## 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,

# 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,



**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. “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**

**“ It was the first time I’d felt frail... to find myself weakened was difficult**

### 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.







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

# 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.



## 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.

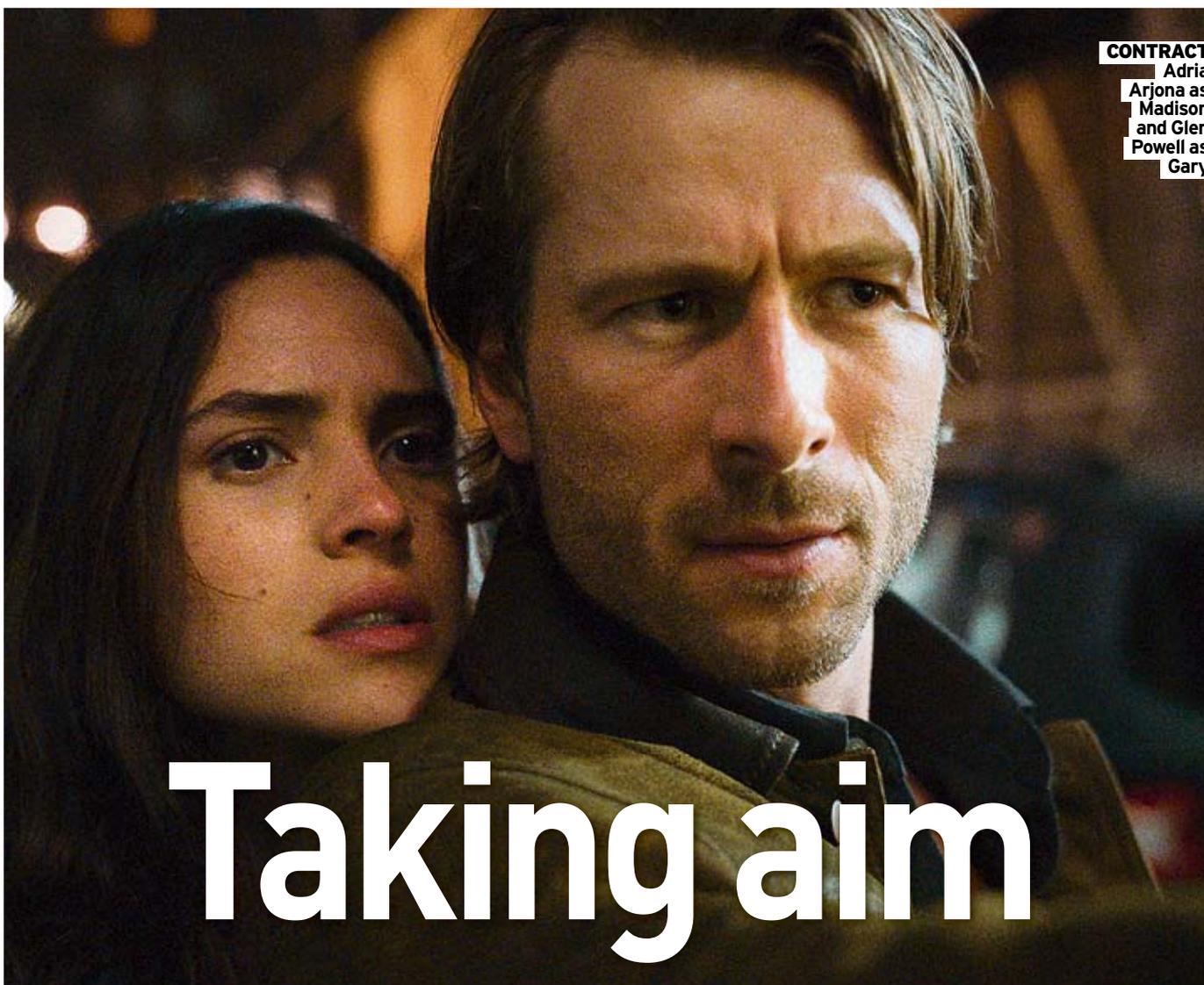
## GET in TOUCH

Send your emails to [warren.shute@reachplc.com](mailto:warren.shute@reachplc.com) or tweet @warrenshute

## STAR RATINGS

★★★★★ Excellent  
 ★★★★ Good  
 ★★★ Worth a look  
 ★★ Poor  
 ★ Don't bother

# Movies



**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.

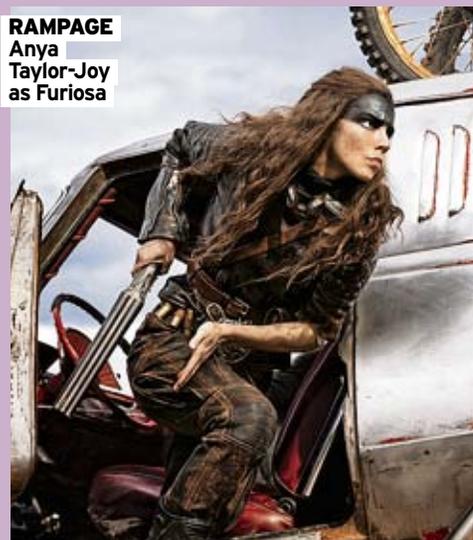
For each assignment, the professor researches the target and alters his hired

“**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 Ayla 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 catering wailing madness. Meowch.

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# Travel



Edited by  
**NIGEL THOMPSON**  
@TravelEdNigel

**FAMOUS**  
Spectators  
can see  
landmarks  
such as the  
Eiffel Tower

# Ahead of the Games

**Lizzie McAllister** decides France's capital is the gold standard of Olympic host cities

**P**aris – city of light, love, world-famous landmarks, fabulous food and, this summer, the Olympic Games. As the final preparations are being made before the sporting extravaganza kicks off on July 26, I took a trip to soak up the excitement and see what's in store for supporters.

The last Olympics, held in Tokyo in 2021, (postponed from 2020 due to the pandemic) were staged without spectators

**GAME ON!**  
The Olympic  
Stadium



as Covid restrictions were still in place. So excitement is riding high here as the city gears up to welcome the world in the most French way possible.

While previous host cities saw swathes of new infrastructure specially constructed in preparation for their own Games, Paris is making use of what it has.

Of the 38 venues selected to hold the events, just two are being built from scratch, while the rest already exist – even if

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

## CRUISE NEWS

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Bookings for Holland America's 2026 Grand World Voyage are now open.

Volendam will visit 48 ports in 25 countries and all seven continents on a 132-day itinerary departing from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on January 4.

Highlights include Rio de Janeiro, Tahiti, Sydney, Bali, Singapore, the

Maldives, Sri Lanka, Safaga (for Luxor), Lisbon, Oslo and Bordeaux. A spokeswoman said: "Our Grand Voyages are renowned for connecting guests with the world's most fascinating places." From £24,199 per person. [hollandamerica.com](http://hollandamerica.com)

■ Southampton has a new volunteer programme to welcome cruise visitors. Ten locals will greet passengers at the Ocean Cruise Terminal and provide them with information about key city attractions. [gosouthampton.co.uk](http://gosouthampton.co.uk)

## BIG DEAL

Cyprus from £719pp:  
Depart from Glasgow  
International on June 9 for a  
seven-night getaway at three-star+  
Tsokkos Gardens Apartments in  
Paralimni, on the eastern coast.  
All-inclusive accommodation with  
22kg baggage and transfers.  
[jet2holidays.com](http://jet2holidays.com)

## AIR UPDATE

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Essex is taking off for easyJet with the budget carrier's 10th UK base opening at Southend next spring.

Three 186-seat Airbus A320neo aircraft will be based at the seaside terminal from March with six new routes launching to popular holiday destinations. The airline already flies

from Southend to Amsterdam, Geneva, Faro, Palma, Malaga and Paris and the based jets will allow it to add Pisa, Gran Canaria, Dalaman, Antalya, Marrakech and Enfidha in Tunisia.

Flights and package holidays are now on sale and boss Johan Lundgren said: "This will create hundreds of jobs and provide more choice for consumers."

The airport has its own station on the line from London Liverpool Street. [easyjet.com](http://easyjet.com), [londonouthendairport.com](http://londonouthendairport.com)

## ACCESS ALL

FOR TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES  
BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Hidden disabilities are getting ongoing recognition at family-friendly Caribbean brand Beaches Resorts.

The all-inclusive sister firm to Sandals, with sites in Jamaica and Turks and Caicos, has had official renewal of its Advanced Certified Autism Centre (ACAC) designation.

Certification requires in-depth training on autism sensitivity in areas such as communication, sensory impacts, motor skills, social skills, environment and emotional awareness. There must



be activities and accommodation available for autistic guests, sensory guides for interactive areas and protocols and physical space to accommodate needs.

Beaches will also celebrate its second Annual Beaches Autism All-Inclusive Week at Beaches Negril in Jamaica from September 22-29, bringing together a community of guests. beaches.co.uk

## BUY OF THE WEEK

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

If you like to live life on the edge with the weight of your luggage on holiday, then keep kilo-savvy with these lightweight scales.

Stay within your allowance up to a whopping 49.9kg (also displays g, lb and oz) and they only add a mere 87g to that. Works off a CR 2032, which is either one of those disc batteries or the number of goals Cristiano Ronaldo has scored in his 73-year career.

■ MYCARBON Portable Digital Scales, £8.83, amazon.co.uk



**HISTORIC SQUARE**  
Lille's Grand Place



### CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

some of them require a lick of paint before things kick off. But this means you'll be watching the likes of volleyball, weightlifting and gymnastics held in some of France's most iconic landmarks.

I got the chance to explore the Grand Palais, which is being prepared to host fencing and taekwondo.

Donning a hard hat and hi-vis vest was necessary as work is still taking place at this stunning building, with its distinctive glass domed roof.

One of its three areas will open temporarily for the Games but its doors will reopen to the public next spring, when it will host art exhibitions.

This year's new event is breakdancing. Place de la Concorde, the public square at the end of the Champs Elysees, will make a spectacular venue to showcase this, along with BMX freestyle, skateboarding and 3x3 basketball.

With no shortage of attractions you're bound to see your fair share just walking between Olympic venues.

But it's worth going out of your way to visit the 17th-century Palace of Versailles, with its Hall of Mirrors and lavish living quarters.

This will serve as a majestic backdrop for the pop-up equestrian stadium.

Paris certainly has the skills when it comes to feeding visitors. There are so many classic dishes and if you want to try it all there are some stunning tasting menus on offer.

The fabulous cruise boat restaurant Ducasse sur Seine is owned by Michelin-star heavyweight Alain Ducasse, whose brigade of 36 chefs prepare dishes with seasonal produce. You'll find it on the quayside of Port Debilly in the swanky 16th arrondissement.

Here I indulged in a once-in-a-lifetime, six-course tasting menu while drifting down the River Seine, with the Eiffel Tower reflected on the water. Magnifique!

If you prefer a more intimate setting, try Pouliche, a wonderful little bistro on rue d'Enghien. It's the brainchild of Amandine Chaignot – one of the chefs involved in designing the Paris 2024 athletes' menus.

She puts together tasting menus,

**STARRY NIGHTS**  
You might see celebs at Plaza Athenée



lunches for €30, dinners for €62 and vegetarian Wednesdays, created with the best produce brought to the restaurant each day.

But my Paris favourite was Eclipses 75007 on Rue de Beaune. Set in a basement room kept cool to ensure the vast quantities of wine stored there keep their signature flavours, it too offers a tasting menu, featuring smoked celeriac mash, seafood and perhaps the most delicious carrots I've ever eaten.

These gourmet restaurants will set you back a fair amount, but if you want to do things the French way, I can't recommend them enough.

After a long hard day of watching elite athletes push their bodies to the limit, you'll need somewhere to rest your weary head.

Stay in style at Hotel Plaza Athenée on Avenue Montaigne, with many of its

**“**  
I dined on the Seine, with the Eiffel Tower reflected in the water  
**”**

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MAJESTIC  
Paris Gate  
monument  
in Lille

# Games, set & Paris match

luxury rooms offering Eiffel Tower views.

The lavish art-deco building has a spa designed in partnership with Dior, a dazzling bar and Michelin-star food by executive chef Jean Imbert, so don't be surprised if you see the odd celebrity wandering the hotel's halls.

After my sweep of Paris, I took a detour to Lille, which will see its fair share of visitors as it hosts the handball and basketball events.

Up near the Belgian border, and a bit of a hidden gem, this former Flemish town is a hit with youngsters

thanks to its nine universities, array of quality art galleries and museums and buzzing bar scene.

The town's handsome Place du Général-de-Gaulle is packed with 17th century architecture and there is a charming book market in the Old Stock Exchange every day.

One of the most fascinating must-sees is La Piscine Roubaix, a former public bath that now serves as an eclectic museum with work by the likes of Picasso as well as local artists. It even has a decorative water feature where a swimming pool used to be.

## COMFY Mama Shelter



After exploring the city and admiring all its beautiful attractions, you'll deserve a cool drink.

That's where Brasserie Moulins d'Ascq comes in. Founded in 1999, this is one of France's top organic breweries and serves more beers than I could make a dent in during a tasting session.

The drinks aren't cheap but if you've made it all the way out there for the Olympics, it's worth pushing the boat out.

For dinner, I headed to the trendy spot of Nu, on Ave le Corbusier, with panoramic views of the city and more affordable yet tasty wares.

From tender lamb on a bed of beans, to pumpkin risotto topped with mushrooms, this pan-European eatery and bar has a wealth of choice and slightly less intimidatingly well-dressed waiters than its Parisian counterparts.

Mama Shelter, a stone's throw from the city's two main train stations, is a sleek spot for a stopover.

## GET THERE

Eurostar one-way fares from London St Pancras International to Paris or to Lille start at £39. [eurostar.com](http://eurostar.com)

## BOOK IT

Rooms at the Hotel Plaza Athenée in Paris start at around £1,666 a night. [dorchestercollection.com](http://dorchestercollection.com)

Rooms at the Mama Shelter hotel in Lille start at around £70 a night. [fr.mamashelter.com](http://fr.mamashelter.com)

## MORE INFO

[france.fr](http://france.fr) [parisjetaime.com](http://parisjetaime.com) [lilletourism.com](http://lilletourism.com)

The hotel attracts a young clientele with its reasonable prices, buffet breakfast and modish interiors. At dusk the buffet room turns into a 360-degree bar.

Both Paris and Lille are easily accessible from London on the Eurostar – and the journey is so short you'll be in la belle France before you know it.



## TRAVEL TEST

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

**WHAT:** Refurbished Hilton hotel at Gatwick South Terminal. Rooms from £109 a night on room-only with free wi-fi; executive rooms from £166. [hilton.com](http://hilton.com)

**WHERE:** A five-minute walk to South Terminal departures, the North Terminal is easily reached by the shuttle.

**EXPERIENCE:** Appearances can be deceptive. Arriving by train, you reach the hotel via a multi-storey car park and a gloomy tunnel then into a bright, airy reception lobby.

After a friendly check in and upgraded to an Executive room on the fourth floor, I found it generously sized with a seriously large, comfortable bed, fancy Crabtree & Evelyn amenities and a decent shower. Add a desk, sofa and a huge HDTV and I was a happy guest.

And even happier knowing Executive rooms come with access to the nearby Executive Lounge and a complimentary range of soft drinks, snacks, tea and coffee, with the added bonus of beers, wines and spirits with canapés between 6-8pm.

You can eat tapas at Amy's Bar, the likes of burgers at Charlie Fry's Sports Bar and there is the Yokozuna Japanese Steakhouse, but I headed to the main Garden Restaurant for a Cod & Pancetta fishcake with a poached egg and new potato Lyonnaise (£19) which was delicious.

I then failed to resist the Strawberry & Prosecco Torte with Prosecco jelly (£9) dessert.

Back in my room, and while I could see planes landing from the window, there was not a whisper of noise all night.

**QUIBBLES:** Minor... the dreary, draughty entrance tunnel could do with cheering up and signage in the car park is not the best.

**VERDICT:** Top-notch airport hotel, friendly and convenient. **9.5/10**

## BIG DEAL

Greek Islands from £599pp: save £325pp on a seven-night self-catering stay at three-star Stavroula Apartments (sleeps two) in Aghios Gordis, Corfu. Comes with flights from Gatwick on June 17, 20kg baggage and transfers, three minutes from the beach. [sunvil.co.uk](http://sunvil.co.uk)





## Celebrate 30 magnificent years of LeShuttle with Vicky Lissaman

An emblematic link between the UK and France, LeShuttle is this month celebrating 30 years of service. Transporting vehicles and passengers through the Channel Tunnel from Folkestone to Calais in just 35 minutes, it provides the quickest route to Europe.

To mark its significant milestone, here are 30 fascinating facts about this remarkable feat of engineering, highlighting its innovation and impact on both sides of the Channel.

**1** The Channel Tunnel is 32 miles long between the two terminals in Folkestone and Calais, and the undersea section is 25 miles long, making it the longest undersea tunnel in the world.

**2** The late Queen Elizabeth II was the first passenger aboard LeShuttle on May 6, 1994, marking a momentous occasion in British and European transportation.

**3** More than 480 million passengers have made the Channel Tunnel journey.

**4** More than 100 million vehicles have boarded LeShuttle since its inception.

**5** If you parked all nine LeShuttle passenger shuttles end to end they would stretch for over four miles.

**6** LeShuttle has transported more than 3.5 million pets since 2000, an average of 156,000 a year. They have carried all kinds of animals including red pandas, jellyfish, sloths, orangutans, pythons, bears, wolves and even snow leopards.

**7** Samphire Hoe Country Park owes its existence to the Channel Tunnel, as 4.9 million cubic metres of chalk excavated during construction enlarged the British Isles by 90 acres.

**8** LeShuttle offers the quickest route to Europe, with a start-to-finish journey time of 35 minutes.

**9** It travels at nearly 87 mph.

**10** A train or shuttle navigates the tunnel every four minutes during peak hours,



**FIRST PASSENGER**  
Elizabeth II

ensuring smooth and efficient transit for passengers and freight.

**11** Contrary to popular belief, the Channel Tunnel comprises not one, but three tunnels.

Two carry LeShuttle passenger vehicles and freight, as well as Eurostar services, while a smaller service tunnel lies in between.

**12** In 2014, Tour de France champion Chris Froome blazed a trail by becoming the first cyclist to pedal through the Channel Tunnel, completing the 31-mile journey in a remarkable 55 minutes.

**13** BBC One's Children In Need Rickshaw Challenge took on the tunnel in 2018, spending more than eight hours traversing its length to raise funds.

**14** The iconic Channel Tunnel served as a captivating backdrop for the Anglo-French crime drama series *The Tunnel*, filmed for Sky Atlantic.

**15** Since its inauguration, the

Channel Tunnel has welcomed the equivalent of six times the population of the UK.



**SAFE TRAVELS**  
Millions of vehicles use the Channel

**16** A staggering one million e-commerce express delivery parcels embark on LeShuttle daily, highlighting its pivotal role in modern trade and logistics.

**17** A LeShuttle passenger train measures nearly 2,625 ft, equivalent to seven football pitches, showcasing the sheer scale of this engineering marvel.

**18** The American Society of Civil Engineers has added the Channel Tunnel to its prestigious list of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World.

**19** The Channel Tunnel reconnects Great Britain with the European

mainland for the first time since the Ice Age, more than 8,000 years ago.

**20** A total of 2,225,000 passenger vehicles were transported in 2023 (up six per cent on 2022).

**21** The busiest day of 2023 was March 31, when 7,858 passenger vehicles were transported on LeShuttle from Folkestone to Calais.

**22** LeShuttle emits 73 times less CO2 when compared to ferry travel, making it a greener alternative for travellers and businesses.

**23** A quarter of the trade between the UK and the EU comes through the Channel Tunnel on LeShuttle.

**SMASHING WORKERS**  
as they broke through the tunnel



# The link effect



**WILD RIDE**  
Families and pets on LeShuttle



**MAKING HISTORY**  
The first journey was in May 1994

**24** Two million passenger vehicles use LeShuttle each year, on average.

**25** The Channel Tunnel is built underneath the sea bed, and is 246ft below sea level at its deepest point.

**26** LeShuttle's passenger side has travelled 33,554,044 miles, equivalent to circumnavigating the globe 1,350 times.

**27** Eleven tunnel boring machines, 280 miles of pipework, and seven years of intensive work laid the foundation for this monumental undertaking.

**28** The construction of the Channel Tunnel required 720,000 concrete segments.

**29** Around 13,000 engineers, technicians and workers contributed towards building the tunnels.

**30** The 11 boring machines that dug the Channel Tunnel weighed 12,000 tonnes in total – heavier than the Eiffel Tower. One was too big to be removed from the tunnel so it simply made a left turn and was buried under the sea. [leshuttle.com](http://leshuttle.com)

**“**  
The busiest day in 2023 was March 31 with 7,858 passenger vehicles  
**”**



**FRENCH CONNECTION**  
Arrival in Calais

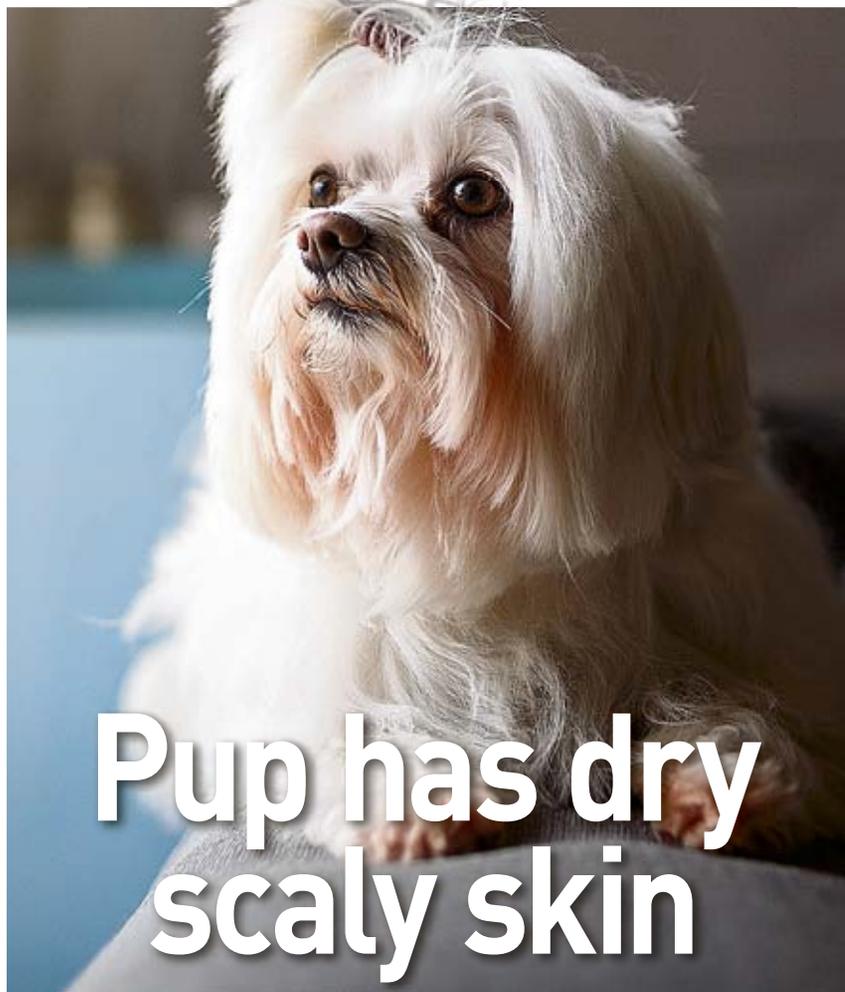
# Pets



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## Pup has dry scaly skin

**Q** We have a three-year-old Lhasa Apso. He has dry scaly patches of skin with bruising next to them under his front leg, chest and groin area, but no pain or discomfort. Do we need to see the vet?

**A** There seem to be two separate problems with your dog, although they are possibly related.

The dry scaly patches (lesions) that you describe could be a disease called superficial pyoderma. There are a variety of lesions possible, including crusts, scale and small circular lesions with a thin rim of epithelium.

These are called epidermal collarettes and are frequently seen in bacterial infections.

Lesions in this area are often itchy. An important question your vet might ask is, if itching is present, was it there before the lesions appeared or after?

Lesions are invariably associated with underlying problems and it is helpful to know about itchiness to help guide subsequent investigations.

The bruising is less common than the other lesions your dog has. There may have been some localised trauma, in which case bruising should fade away quickly. Otherwise, there are some autoimmune problems or bleeding disorders that might be contributing factors.

Given the unusual appearance of these lesions a consultation with your vet is necessary in order to establish a diagnosis and investigate underlying problems.

A comprehensive physical examination followed by a complete blood count, including red and white blood cells and platelets, are likely first

steps. Your vet may also advise skin sampling for microscopical examination.

**Q** Is it true that cat flu is usually a mild disease and gets better on its own? My three-year-old cat spends most of the time indoors and I am not sure he needs a cat flu booster.

**A** Cat flu is a common disease, caused in approximately 90 per cent of cases by two viruses. These are feline calicivirus (FCV) and feline herpes virus (FHV). Other causes include bacteria such as *Bordetella bronchiseptica*.

Signs of cat flu include sneezing, eye and nose discharges, a high temperature, lethargy, lack of appetite, coughing, tongue ulceration and drooling (particularly with calicivirus).

It is not my experience that cat flu is usually a mild disease. Although some cats just have a bout of sneezing, are perhaps a bit off colour and recover quite quickly, many cats have more serious symptoms such as the ones mentioned.

Secondary infections can make an affected cat very unwell, sometimes with pneumonia, and I have unfortunately seen some deaths in spite of treatment. The incubation period for FCV and FHV can be up to 10 days, and the viruses can survive in the environment for a similar period of time.

Indoor cats are not free of risk as the virus can be brought in on clothing from people in contact with cats. There is also an additional risk every time your cat goes outside. Your vet will advise on the current disease situation in your locality, and whether your cat needs a cat flu booster now.

● David Grant has been a vet for more than 50 years. Email questions to him at [pamperedpets@people.co.uk](mailto:pamperedpets@people.co.uk). He cannot enter into individual correspondence.

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## WINTER'S WILDLIFE

with STUART WINTER



**ELUSIVE**  
Nightingale  
is rarely  
seen in UK

### Poets' muse is on the margins

No self-respecting nightingale would tarnish its golden-voiced reputation by bursting into song amid the hustle and bustle of busy London streets.

Lyricists may have immortalised such things in a famous wartime ballad, but the last time these avian minstrels performed in the capital was an age before grand houses came to Berkeley Square.

Traditionally, nightingales have been hailed as shy denizens of deep, dark woodlands, with their elusiveness glorified in the metaphysical stanzas of some of our greatest poets.

John Keats' ode eulogises the "light-winged Dryad of the trees" while John Clare, in *The Nightingale's Nest*, sets his encounters in "green woodland-rides with listening leaves".

The clandestine life of the heard-but-rarely-seen nightingale came home to roost while reading the broad-leaved woodland

**“**  
Due to deer grazing they are now driven to scrubby old quarries

chapter of the Reader's Digest Book of Birds as a teenager. For every 10 people who hear nightingales pouring out their spring arias, only one sets eyes on the bird in its subdued shades of brown, the book revealed.

Since the 1960s, encounters in forest glades have become increasingly rare. Over the past 25 years, nightingale numbers have declined by 48% and fewer than 6,000 singing males make it to our shores from Africa each spring.

What's more, the likelihood of hearing one in a typical English forest with native trees and lush green canopy is nigh impossible. Nightingales have been driven from their woodland realm by avaricious deer grazing on the tangled understorey where they nest.

The corollary of a rapidly rising deer population, particularly non-native muntjac, has seen the 'migration' of nightingales to the scrubby margins of old quarries.

Out celebrating Dawn Chorus Day recently brought home this remarkable shift in habitat choice. Alongside a railway track skirting a former claypit, now home to a huge incinerator plant and in the shadow of a towering wind turbine, three male nightingales formed a remarkable trio as they claimed territories in the dense tangles of hawthorn and dogwood with their 95-decibel songs.

One ponders what Keats would have thought.

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**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



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# Premier stars on show at Chelsea



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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 Rambler 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.

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- Contrasting blue-green foliage
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### Coronilla glauca 'Citrina'

**Coronilla 'Citrina' will light up the garden in winter with an abundance of lemon-yellow pea-like blooms that just keep coming.** We've had reports of this easy to grow shrub flowering for 9 months or more, making it a hard-working addition to the garden scene. Hardy Coronilla 'Citrina' shows off its sweet-scented blooms against unusual blue-green foliage. A versatile shrub for almost any garden situation, performing particularly well in exposed locations and coastal areas.

A compact, rounded habit makes this tough little performer ideal for patio containers where you really get to appreciate the scent and pretty petite blooms. Alternatively train it as a wall shrub for a spectacular upright display.

Height and spread: 100cm (39").  
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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. 1/4. (R Beckett). Tote: £140. Tote Exacta: £270. 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. Tote Exacta: £110. 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. Tote Exacta: £2.60. Tote Trifecta: £77.80. Tricast: £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. Tote Exacta: £6.30. Tote 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. Tote Exacta: £2.90. Tote Trifecta: £441.30. CSF: £68.40.

4.40: NIGHTYES (B Robinson 6-4f) 1; LAST APPLAUSE (17-2) 2; ALFA MOONSTONE (9-2) 3. 5 ran. 4f. 1/2. (D O'Meara). Tote: £2.50. Tote Exacta: £1.30. Tote Trifecta: £12.60. Trifecta: £40.70. CSF: £14.23.

5.15: FURNOONFEVER (Billy Loughnane 11-10f) 1; THE HUN (10-1) 2; SWORDSTICK (8-1) 3. 5 ran. 1/4. (G Boughey). Tote: £2.10. Tote Exacta: £3.50. Tote Trifecta: £148.90. 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. Tote Exacta: £2.30. Tote Trifecta: £22.90. 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. Tote Exacta: £1.70. Tote Trifecta: £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. 3/4. (W Williams). Tote: £5.30. Tote Exacta: £1.30. Tote Trifecta: £12.70. 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. 1/2. (Seamus Mullins). Tote: £3.75. Tote Exacta: £7.20. Tote Trifecta: £25.60. 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. 4f. (D Skelton). Tote: £4.00. Tote Exacta: £9.60. Tote 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. 1/4. 1/2. (S England). Tote: £3.25. Tote Exacta: £1.80. Tote 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. 4f. (W Greatrex). Tote: £4.34. Tote Exacta: £2.60. Tote Trifecta: £37.10. CSF: £67.46. Trifecta: £66.50. CSF: £12.60. NR: Tom Green.

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: £2.36. Tote Exacta: £6.10. Tote Trifecta: £67.46. Trifecta: £37.10. CSF: £67.46. NR: Go On Green, Gun Carriage, Hill Road.

1.55: ARIZONA BLAZE (E Ogan 7-1) 1; CAMILLE PISSARRO (4-6) 2; MIDNIGHT STRIKE (3-1) 3. 7 ran. hd. 1/2. (A Murray). Tote: £8.00. Tote Exacta: £1.10. Tote Trifecta: £46.50. CSF: £12.07.

Placepot: £33.10. Quadpot: £5.60.

Advertisement for Alex Corrie's horse racing tips. It features the text 'Horse Racing & Sports Tips ALEX CORRIE HE IS THE MAN IN THE KNOW' and 'YEAR AFTER YEAR OF GREAT INFO! WINS AT ALL SORTS OF PRICES AND SUPER WINNING RUNS INCL 14 WINNING MONTHS IN A ROW WINS IN SEPT/OCT/NOV INCL W10/1 W17/2 & W11 DON'T MISS THIS MONTH 2 SOLID BETS FOR TODAY MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON!' along with contact information for 'SUNDAY PEOPLE' and 'RACING COMMENTARIES AND RESULTS'.

THE ROAR OF ROSALLION

RACING BY MELISSA JONES

ROSALLION pounced to pip stablemate Haatem in a thrilling finish to the Tattersalls Irish 2,000 Guineas.

Richard Hannon's pair were level with 100 yards to race, but the Curragh's 10-11 favourite found extra to come out on top.

His late surge under Sean Levey was hard luck on Haatem, who travelled best and breezed to the front with two furlongs left.

Jamie Spencer's storm pinched several lengths on their pursuers, led by River Tiger, chasing a 13th title for Aidan O'Brien.

However, Rosallion's turn of pace made all the difference and he swooped for a head victory, in owner Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum's silks.

Levey said: "My lad's turn of foot got me out of trouble. He found loads and felt exceptional."

William Hill cut Rosallion to 5-2 for the St James's Palace Stakes rematch, after Hannon confirmed Royal Ascot would be his star colt's next stop on June 18.

The Wiltshire trainer said: "Both horses ran the races of their lives."

Owner Fitri Hay had three winners in 15 minutes yesterday - and added another for good measure. The four-timer amounted to odds of 2,249-1 at the Curragh, Goodwood and York.

Hay's haul included the Group Two Greenlands Stakes with Mitbaahy (9-1) and 9-4 favourite Starlust's Knavesmire handicap rout of 11 rivals.

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: £11.30. Tote Exacta: £3.20. Tote Trifecta: £82.30. 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. 8f. 3/4. (A P O'Brien). Tote: £4.50. Tote Exacta: £12.30. Tote Trifecta: £43.90. CSF: £11.46. NRS: Mythical Rock, Nestor.

Placepot: £15.70.

3.40: ROSALLION (S M Levey 10-11f) 1; HAATEM (6-1) 2; RIVER TIBER (3-1) 3. 8 ran. hd. 1/4. (R Hannon UK). Tote: £1.91. Tote Exacta: £1.60. Tote Trifecta: £5.90. Tricast: £11.52. Trifecta: £18.30. CSF: £6.56.

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. Tote Exacta: £1.60. Tote Trifecta: £16.30. CSF: £5.38. Trifecta: £27.90. CSF: £23.50. NRS: Chally Chute, Mi Rango, Soaring Monarch, Take Heart, Titanium.

4.50: FOLLOW ME (W J Lee 4-1f) 1; TRANSCENDING GLORY (16-1) 2; GUNZBURG (18-1) 3. 13 ran. 3/4. 1f. (R O'Sullivan). Tote: £5.00. Tote Exacta: £6.30. Tote Trifecta: £82.30. 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. 8f. 3/4. (A P O'Brien). Tote: £4.50. Tote Exacta: £12.30. Tote Trifecta: £43.90. CSF: £11.46. NRS: Mythical Rock, Nestor.

Placepot: £15.70.

3.40: ROSALLION (S M Levey 10-11f) 1; HAATEM (6-1) 2; RIVER TIBER (3-1) 3. 8 ran. hd. 1/4. (R Hannon UK). Tote: £1.91. Tote Exacta: £1.60. Tote Trifecta: £5.90. Tricast: £11.52. Trifecta: £18.30. CSF: £6.56.

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4.50: FOLLOW ME (W J Lee 4-1f) 1; TRANSCENDING GLORY (16-1) 2; GUNZBURG (18-1) 3. 13 ran. 3/4. 1f. (R O'Sullivan). Tote: £5.00. Tote Exacta: £6.30. Tote Trifecta: £82.30. 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. 8f. 3/4. (A P O'Brien). Tote: £4.50. Tote Exacta: £12.30. Tote Trifecta: £43.90. CSF: £11.46. NRS: Mythical Rock, Nestor.

Placepot: £15.70.

3.40: ROSALLION (S M Levey 10-11f) 1; HAATEM (6-1) 2; RIVER TIBER (3-1) 3. 8 ran. hd. 1/4. (R Hannon UK). Tote: £1.91. Tote Exacta: £1.60. Tote Trifecta: £5.90. Tricast: £11.52. Trifecta: £18.30. CSF: £6.56.

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. Tote Exacta: £1.60. Tote Trifecta: £16.30. CSF: £5.38. Trifecta: £27.90. CSF: £23.50. NRS: Chally Chute, Mi Rango, Soaring Monarch, Take Heart, Titanium.

4.50: FOLLOW ME (W J Lee 4-1f) 1; TRANSCENDING GLORY (16-1) 2; GUNZBURG (18-1) 3. 13 ran. 3/4. 1f. (R O'Sullivan). Tote: £5.00. Tote Exacta: £6.30. Tote Trifecta: £82.30. CSF: £72.41. NR: Matter Of Fact.

UTTOXETER

GOING: SOFT, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES WEATHER: CLOUDY NEWSBOY'S TIPS: 1.50 DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS, 2.25 MY MONTY, 3.00 MCGOWAN'S PASS, 3.35 HYSTERY BERE, 4.10 COKYTHO, 4.45 FORGET THE WAY, 5.20 ASA

1.50 MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (3) 2m 4f Winner £5,827 (6 run) 1-11 MISS MAVERICK (8) G Hamner 7 11-8 (CD) James Davies 93- DORSET LADY G Brown 7 10-12 Doubtful 3 0/7 LOVE AT SEA (20) T Gallagher 6 10-12 Quinlan 4 P-3 ONEFORTHFAIRGREEN (19) M Keighley 6 10-12 S Bowen 5 7 YESANNA (19) D Skelton 5 10-12 H Skelton 6 2-5 DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS (18) N Twiston-Davies 4 10-4 S Twiston-Davies BETTING: 5-4 Dameofthecotswolds, 2 Miss Maverick, 6 Others.

2.25 NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m 7f Winner £3,248 (6 run) 1 5-4 MY MONTY (15) H Evans 7 12-0 B Posts 2 43- NATIVE MOON (42) V Dartnall 6 11-13 A John 3 32- LADY MENDOZA (178) R Menzies 7 11-10 N Moscrop 4 P-4 RELEASE THE KRAKEN (114) M Keighley 8 10-12 S Bowen 5 4-0 ARCTIC LODGE (18) D J Jeffreys 8 10-8 Bellamy 6 0P- HAMMER DAN (114) D Pipe 6 10-2 James Davies BETTING: 2 Lady Mendoza, 3 Native Moon, 5 My Monty, 6 Others.

3.00 HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 2m 4f Winner £4,066 (6 run) 1 F- CLONDAV FOLEY (77) Jonjo & A O'Neill 5 12-0 (D) R McLernon 2 P-4 TOUCHY FEELY (9) N Henderson 7 11-10 N De Boynville 3 1-1 BIG BLUE MOON (19) T Lacey 7 11-7 (D) S Sheppard 4 P-2 FOUROFKING (32) Harry Derham 5 11-5 (D) Paul O'Brien 5 P-6 JAC JUMPER (32) Deborah Cole 5 11-1 C Ward (3) 6 6-3 MCGOWAN'S PASS (19) J Candlish 13 10-10 W Shanahan (5) BETTING: 6-4 Big Blue Moon, 10-3 Clondav Foley, 4 Others.

3.35 CLARKE CHASE (2) 2m 4f Winner £20,812 (10 run) 1 UP- MACKENBERG (45) D McCain 9 12-0 (D) T Gillard 2 UP- YOUR DARLING (44) B Pauling 9 11-10 (D) R Jones 3 16- NUMITOR (37) H Main 10 11-8 (D) S Bowen 4 3-3 GLORY AND HONOUR (29) S England 8 11-2 England 5 11- EATON COLLINA (87) Kerry Lee 9 11-1 (D) R Patrick 6 51- MYLESFROMWICKLOW (56) D Skelton 7 10-10 (D) H Skelton 7 31- SAGEBURG COUNTY (30) W Greatrex 7 10-10 (D) Paul O'Brien 8 3-3 HYSTERY BERE (17) T Symonds 7 10-9 D Bass 9 11- MALAITA (38) Mrs M Rowley 8 10-9 (D) C Deutsch 10 43- ROYALE MARGAUX (38) T Symonds 6 10-8 B Poste BETTING: 7-2 Sageburg County, 4 Malaita, 5 Eaton Collina, 6 Others.

4.10 HANDICAP CHASE (4) 3m Winner £4,700 (6 run) 1 3-P SPORRY JIM (22) B Summers 7 12-2 C Hammond 2 1-0 NEXT LEFT (15) D Skelton 8 12-0 H Skelton 3 47- WALKING THE WALK (268) Kerry Lee 9 12-0 (D2) S Bowen 4 72- JOHNNY B (30) C Down 10 11-9 James Davies 5 2-3 COKYTHO (19) A Hales 6 10-12 B Carver 6 -11 HIGGS (11) S-D Davies 11 10-4 (CD) J Best BETTING: 7-4 Next Left, 11-4 Higgs, 4 Johnny B, 5 Others.

4.45 HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 2m Winner £4,066 (7 run) 1 6-4 HOMME D'UN SOIR (20) Billy Aprehram 8 12-0 (D3) S Bowen 2 84- THE GREY FALCO (93) P Neville 9 12-0 (D3) S Twiston-Davies 3 P-3 FORGET THE WAY (17) James Owen 7 11-13 (D) Mr A Chadwick (5) 4 U-8 SKIP MAHLER (20) M Walford 7 11-7 T Midgley (3) 5 6-3 KADO DE JOIE (20) N Henderson 4 11-7 N De Boynville 6 23- EAST END GIRL (149) A Ralph 7 11-5 (D2) Ciaran Gettings 7 31/ CHEF DE TROUPE A Forbes 11 10-7 (CD) C Ward (3) BETTING: 9-4 Forget The Way, 5-2 Kado De Joie, 4 Homme D'Un Soir, 6 Others.

5.20 QUINNBT HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m 4f Winner £3,248 (8 run) 1 8f- MR HOPE STRIDE (46) D Skelton 6 12-0 H Skelton 2 0-5 NICK THE GREEK (22) J Coulson 5 11-12 T Gillard 3 P-0 WELLY VICKY (20) A Ralph 7 11-8 (D2) D Bass 4 2-2 USHUAIA BANCER (17) Justin Landy 6 11-6 S Bowen 5 11- IF KARL'S DERG DID (322) H Dickinson 9 11-1 B Harris (3) 6 -6P FORT NELSON (8) S-D Davies 7 10-3 J Turner (7) P-2 ASA (3) P Kirby 5 10-2 (BF) William Maags (5) 8 6-3 GETAWAY WITH O (62) Billy Aprehram 6 10-2-0 K Rogan BETTING: 9-4 Mr Hope Stride, 5-2 Asa, 5 If Karl's Derg Did, 8 Others.

5.50 IRISH 1,000 GUINEAS (FILLIES' G 1) (3-Y-O) 1m Winner £290,000 (14 run) (6) 1-1 A LILAC ROLLA (49) P Twomey 9-2 (C) C T Meane (12) 251 ALPHERAZT (12) Joseph G Murphy 9-2 (D2) G F Carroll (2) 21 AZADA (218) D K Weld 9-2 C O Hayes (1) 1-1 BLUEDRUM (20) J Harrington 9-2 S Foley (10) 32 BUTTONS (14) A P O'Brien 9-2 (BF) W M Lord (6) 11-43 EVERLASTING (29) A P O'Brien 9-2 (D) D McMonagle (7) 3 1-8 FALLEN ANGEL (21) K R Burke (UK) 9-2 (BF, C) D Tudhope

4.55: GRANDLAD (A Farragher 9-4) 1; KISS AND RUN (17-2) 2; RAINYINTSOTGEORGIA (9-1) 3. 7 ran. 7-4f Clond King, nk. 4f. (James Horton). Tote: £3.25. Tote Exacta: £18.10. Tote Trifecta: £104.20. CSF: £20.11.

Placepot: £8.90. Quadpot: £6.20.

1.15: NELLIE LEYLAK (P-L Jamin 9-2) 1; INVOLVEMENT (7-1) 2; APIARIST (20-1) 3. 12 ran. 9-2f Curlew Bay, 9-2f Candonomore. 1/4. 4f. (T Dabcombe). Tote: £5.50. Tote Exacta: £9.90. Tote Trifecta: £38.90. Trifecta: £582.52. Trifecta: £650.90. CSF: £34.62. NR: Volt-erra.

1.50: KERDOS (R Kingscode 12-1) 1; LIVE IN THE DREAM (11-4) 2; SEVEN QUESTIONS (16-1) 3. 9 ran. 4f-11f Astoria, 4-11f Beautiful Diamond. 1/4. 2/4. (C Cox). Tote: £13.70. Tote Exacta: £2.40. Tote Trifecta: £135.90. Trifecta: £1534.73. Trifecta: £1106.90. CSF: £101.49. NR: Makarova.

2.25: INISHERIN (T Eaves 9-2) 1; ORNE (40-1) 2; VANDEEK (8-1) 3. 7 ran. 3/4. nk. (K Ryan). Tote: £5.50. Tote Exacta: £9.20. Trifecta: £252.59. Trifecta: £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. 4/2. shd. (E Walker). Tote: £1.73. Tote Exacta: £29.60. Tote Trifecta: £8.10. Trifecta: £58.70. CSF: £8.70. NR: Metabolt.

3.30: DIVINE COMEDY (Kaiya Fraser 3-1f) 1; SOLENT GATEWAY (14-1) 2; EMIVAN (12-1) 3. 13 ran. 5/4. 2/4. (Harry Eustace). Tote: £4.00. Tote Exacta: £3.60. Tote Trifecta: £480.20. CSF: £469.96. Trifecta: £480.20. CSF: £56.31.

3.45: MEYDAAN (H Davies 7-2) 1; SPACE LEGEND (15-8) 2; ROYAL VOWEL (9-2) 3. 7 ran. nk. 1/2. (S & E Crisford). Tote: £4.70. Tote Exacta: £2.30. Tote Trifecta: £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. Tote Exacta: £1.80. Tote Trifecta: £15.60. Tote Trifecta: £73.80. CSF: £13.68.

4.45: CORSICAN CAPER (S Osborne 11-2) 1; SQUEEZEBOX (11-1) 2; BUSTAAM (12-3) 3. 9 ran. 5-2f Western Stars. 1/4. 3/4. (K Frost). Tote: £6.50. Tote Exacta: £2.00.

8 (4) 302 FINSCEAL LUAS (14) J S Bolger 9-2 (BF) R P Cleary 9 (13) 1f- OPERA SINGER (238) A P O'Brien 9-2 (CD) R L Moore 10 (7) 82- PEARLS AND RUBIES (239) A P O'Brien 9-2 W M Coen 11 (8) -12 PURPLE LILY (29) P Twomey 9-2 (BF, D) W Lee 12 (14) 32- QUEEN OF THUNDER (263) K J Condon 9-2 (BF) N Whelan 13 (9) 12- SKELLET (226) R Beckett (UK) 9-2 (BF) R G Ryan 14 (5) 2-3 VESPERTILIO (14) W McCreery 9-2 (C) D McDonogh BETTING: 15-8 Opera Singer, 5 Vespertilio, Fallen Angel, 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."

You wouldn't get a golfer using the same clubs from 25 years ago



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."

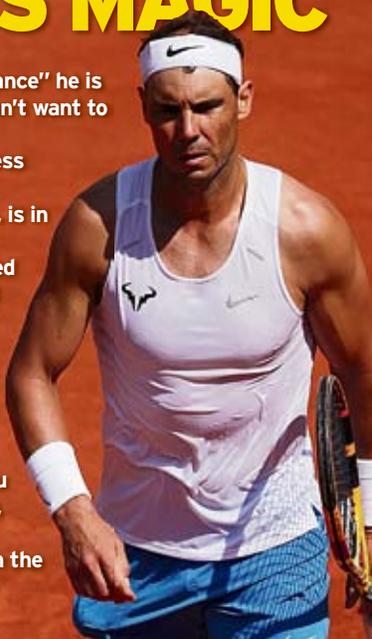
His upbeat mood in his pre-tournament press conference yesterday suggested the smiling Spanish superstar, who turns 38 next month, is in no rush to retire.

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."

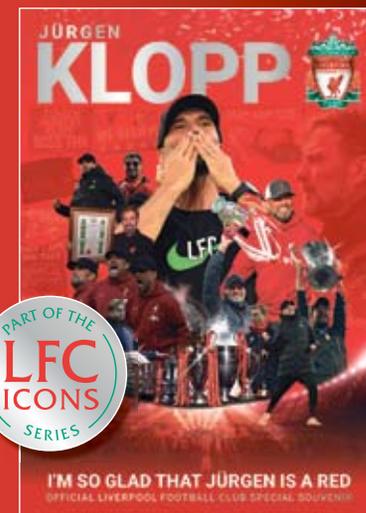
Nadal, who faces world No.4 Alex Zverev in the first round, added: "In some way this place is magical for me."



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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



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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

# Jof'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 w/l		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 nb/l		5
Total (19.2 overs)		160

Fall: 0, 14, 67, 78, 91, 100, 140, 147, 154.  
Bowling: Ali 4-0-26-2, Topley 3.2-0-41-3, Archer 4-0-28-2, Jordan 4-0-31-1, Rashid 3-0-25-1, Livingstone 1-0-9-1.  
Umpires: M Saggars & M Burns.

**FA Cup Final**  
MAN CITY (0).....1 MAN UTD (2).....2  
Doku 87 Gernsdofer 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 4-54) and 88 (33.4 overs; B A Stokes 4-23). Durham 265 (61.5 overs; D G Bedingham 101; J T Ball 5-62). Durham (20pts) beat Somerset (3pts) by an innings and 6 runs.

## 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 Tsunoda (Jpn) RB 1:10.858, 9 A Albon (Tha) Williams 1:10.948, 10 P Gasly (Fra) Alpine 1:11.311.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

**Betfred Super League**  
CATALANS.....8 WARRINGTON.....16  
Catalans Dragons—T: Davies, G: Mourgue (2). Warrington—T: Williams, Ashton, G: J. Thewis (4).  
**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: Lebel, C: Ramos, P: Kinghorn (4), Ramos (4).  
**TENNIS**  
**ATP GENEVA OPEN** (Switzerland)  
Final: C Ruud (Nor) bt T Machac (Cze) 7-5 6-3.  
**ATP LYON OPEN** (France)—Final:  
G Mpetshi Perricard (Fra) bt T Etcheverry (Arg) 6-4 1-6 7-6 (9-7).

## 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."

#### GOLF

**GRAYSON MURRAY**, the US 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



# 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
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

## 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



### 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."

# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL



BORUSSIA DORTMUND v REAL MADRID  
SATURDAY, KICK-OFF 8PM

# MY TROPHY WATCH

**EXCLUSIVE** by Simon Mullock

**PAUL LAMBERT** was in the Borussia Dortmund team that won the Champions League - despite one of his own team-mates writing off their chances of beating Juventus in the final.

Former Scottish international Lambert reckons that Edin Terzic's Class of 2024 can do exactly the same by shocking mighty Real Madrid.

Lambert, 54, marked Zinedine Zidane in Munich 26 years ago. Juve also had Alessandro Del Piero, Christian Vieri, Alen Boksic and Didier Deschamps in their ranks.

Karl-Heinz Riedle, the German striker who would later sign for Liverpool, felt Dortmund had no hope after Lambert told him that Ottmar Hitzfeld's team would either become European champions or beat Bayern Munich to the Bundesliga title that season.

Riedle would score twice in a sensational 3-1 victory - and it would cost him his luxury watch. Lambert,

## Lambert's bet with Riedle landed him prized Rolex

who captained Celtic in the 2003 Europa League final, said: "I 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 (right), a rare and extremely valuable Rolex Daytona. 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, Kalle Riedle, Paulo Sousa and Stephane Chapuisat.

### Chance

"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, who managed Aston Villa, Norwich, Blackburn, Wolves, Stoke and Ipswich after bringing the

curtain down on a playing career that also realised four Scottish Premier League title medals and 40 international caps, provided the cross for Riedle's opening goal as well as keeping Zidane under lock and key.

He accepts the odds are against Dortmund with Madrid looking to become champions for the 15th time.

But the Scot feels that if Dortmund can control the counter-attacking threat posed by Jude Bellingham, Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo then they can land another major shock.

Lambert, who has been coaching youngsters in Australia as part of a Dortmund initiative to spread the club's philosophy, has been invited by his former side to be part of the famous Yellow Wall for the final.

**He said: "I played in front of the Yellow Wall and it was always on my bucket list to be a part of it. So a few years ago, when Jurgen Klopp was the manager, I stood with them for a game against Cologne. It was an incredible experience."**



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NEXT STEP: Boss Wayne Rooney

## ROONEY IN HOT SEAT AT ARGYLE

WAYNE ROONEY has returned to management with Plymouth Argyle.

The former England captain, 38, left Birmingham in January after just 15 games in charge and has signed a three-year deal to become head coach at the Championship side.

The ex-Manchester United striker said: "Taking this role at Plymouth Argyle feels like the perfect next step in my career and I would like to thank the chairman and board for the faith they have shown in me.

"This is an opportunity to be part of an exciting project. I look forward to helping to build a squad of players to play expansive football and to entertain the Green Army.

"I have experienced first hand how talented the existing group of players is here and also the incredible atmosphere at Home Park.

"The club is on an exciting long-term journey, with a progressive plan in place. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of it."

Argyle director of football Neil Dewsnip knows Rooney from his time as boss of Everton's academy, where the striker emerged as a teenager.

Plymouth dispensed with the services of Ian Foster in April, just three months after he had replaced Steven Schumacher following his departure for Stoke City.

First-team coach Kevin Nancekivell will remain at the club along with fellow first-team coach Simon Ireland and goalkeeping coach Darryl Flahavan, with further additions to be made in due course.

## KDB TALKS FOR SAUDIS

by Ryan Taylor

KEVIN DE BRUYNE'S advisors 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 big money switch to the Saudi Pro League and would favour the MLS when he eventually departs Manchester City, where he has just one year left on his deal.

However, Al-Hilal have long seen the Belgian as a dream signing and are now looking to turn his head.

In the past few days, representatives from his agency held talks with champions Al-Hilal and Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr, among others, during a three-day visit.

San Diego FC have already held private preliminary discussions with the six-time Premier League winner's entourage to register their interest.

Saudi clubs also have De Bruyne's City team-mates Ederson and Bernardo Silva on their radar.

# CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

# The tables have turned... now Euro apprentice Bellingham is providing the inspiration for trailblazer Sancho's revival



**JADON SANCHO** was the trailblazer. Jude Bellingham followed in his footsteps.

On Saturday at Wembley the two will go head-to-head for the right to be crowned a European champion.

Yet there can be no doubt whose star has been on a constant rise – while the other's has plummeted.

The two are interlinked because Real Madrid's golden boy Bellingham could have taken a very different direction had it not been for Sancho.

It was the example he set, by leaving Manchester City in search of first-team football and European exposure with

## NEIL

X: @neil\_moxley



## MOXLEY

email: neil.moxley@reachplc.com

Borussia Dortmund, that influenced the decision 20-year-old Bellingham took when he looked to move on from Birmingham City.

**Within a couple of years of plying his trade in Germany, Sancho wasn't just a gifted unknown.**

He returned to England to sign for Manchester United – a mammoth

five-year contract in his pocket on the back of a £73million move which made him the second-most expensive English player of all time.

The circle around Bellingham had seen how that had played out, followed suit, and what a wise choice Real Madrid has turned out to be.

The two players are, however, very

different. Bellingham's ferocious will to win, drive and almost blemish-free image – his copybook blotted by a foul-mouthed tirade at Mason Greenwood earlier this season – has propelled him towards global superstardom via the Bernabeu.

Sancho had to get away from Old Trafford after a tit-for-tat mud-slinging

Borussia Dortmund v

Real Madrid

SATURDAY  
KICK-OFF 8PM**SAVED BY  
THE BELL**Jadon Sancho  
(left) and Jude  
Bellingham have  
both shone in  
Europe

exercise with Erik ten Hag that did neither any favours.

One side was claiming standards in training weren't being met, the other that they were. As exercises in futility go, it was right up there.

**Miracle**

Strangely, it hasn't turned out badly for Sancho.

Barring a miracle, Manchester United's Dutch boss will be on his way out this summer, leaving behind a void that someone more open – and possibly suited – to Sancho's personality might eke out the same kind of form that has wowed the yellow and black hordes in

Germany. Because someone somewhere at the Westfalenstadion has worked out what makes the 24-year-old tick. And let's make one thing clear – Sancho can play.

Cards on the table, I hadn't seen too much of him until Gareth Southgate threw him into the Euros quarter-final to face Ukraine in Rome three years ago.

**And there are some players who just look like footballers. The way they control the ball and move across the pitch. Sancho's a natural athlete as well, which helps.**

And yes, the opposition on the night wasn't up to much but he had just

sealed that move to Old Trafford and I remember thinking that he was going to be a handful for Premier League defences – that Manchester United had got one right.

**Power**

It turned out not to be the case. Only Sancho, Ten Hag and those in the corridors of power at the time know the true story of why it went wrong.

But the good news for Sancho is that he has time to repair any damage.

Bellingham is mature – ahead of his time. Either he knows, or those around him have hammered into him, the attributes necessary to succeed on the

big stage. He shows it every week at the Bernabeu. You have to.

There was a time when Bellingham must have looked at Sancho as an inspiration.

How the tables have turned. If Sancho follows the path set down by his England international colleague next week, he may well find redemption.

A return to Manchester, confidence renewed and a new manager to work under.

**For Sancho, next week at Wembley shouldn't be his moment of crowning glory – it should be a spur to reach even greater heights.**

**WATER WORLD:** Rain at Old Trafford**£3M TO FIX  
THEATRE OF  
STREAMS****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 'Theatre of Dreams' 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 but that only a brand-new roof at the stadium 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.

**EAGLES ACCEPT  
MARC WILL FLY**by **Darren Witcoop**

CRYSTAL PALACE are resigned to £50million-rated defender Marc Guehi being lured away this summer.

Guehi (below), who will be part of the England squad for the summer's Euros, is attracting interest from Arsenal and Manchester United.

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 another target.

Lacroix has already confirmed he has been in contact with Eagles boss Oliver Glasner and a reunion at Selhurst Park is the pipeline.

Palace will be desperate to keep Michael Olise and Ebere Eze and see no need to cash in on their star assets.

One player unlikely to arrive is Ben Johnson, with Palace's interest in the West Ham contract rebel having cooled.



## CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF FINAL

LEEDS v SOUTHAMPTON  
TODAY, KICK-OFF 3PM

# GLORY GLORY LEEDS UNITED

Farke: We're motivated by  
the occasion... not cash

## ON OUR WAY TO WEMBLEY

Daniel Farke and Archie Gray celebrate at full time after the Championship play-off semi-final second-leg against Norwich at Elland Road

by David Anderson

**DANIEL FARKE claims he wants to make history at Leeds by becoming their first manager to win promotion through the play-offs.**

Farke has learnt this season that Leeds have never gone up through the play-offs in their previous five attempts, going back as far as 1987, and says this is the challenge for him and his players.

Southampton and Farke's first captain at Norwich, Russell Martin, stand in Leeds' way at Wembley in today's Championship play-off Final and the United boss wants his players to write their names in club folklore.

"Yes, it would be pretty special for us as a club," he said. "I didn't know about the bad record in the play-offs when I signed my contract and over the season, everyone told me 'you can't rely on the play-offs because we never win'.

"I'm fully aware of this record, but that's history. All that matters is we're here now and we would be the first team in the history of this club if we did achieve promotion by using the play-offs.

"I think someone said we've never scored a goal at Wembley in the play-offs, is that right?"

### Opportunities

"So, there are many opportunities to write some history and believe me, we're all very highly motivated to do this.

"Yeah, the most important thing is that we do it."

The winners could pocket as much as £200million because of the riches on offer in the Premier League and Leeds and Southampton are bidding to make an automatic return to the top flight. Farke says there is no

point trying to hide the enormity of the game from his players and claims they are motivated by glory rather than money.

"Yes, a lot is riding on this game and if you want to hide it, it becomes like a secret, a mystery," said the German, who won two Championships with Norwich.

"We know it's an important game, it's about the Premier League or Championship next season. Also it's the same for the opponent.

### Important

"It's still just football, there are much more important things in life. The health of the people is much more important than the riches

of the people, that's for sure. We can also put this into the right frame and picture.

"We also know that it's an important game, we're not scared of it and we all play football because it matters.

"It matters if you win or lose, not so much because you're attracted by the riches or the money or something like this.

"We all started playing football because it was just me and my mates against the others. We're highly motivated to win this game.

"We're not attracted by money, we're attracted by glory and writing history.

"This is quite important and everything else that comes with it, the TV money, it's important, we know it is, but it couldn't extend our motivation.

"Our motivation comes from inside us and we want to prove ourselves against a very good side."

### 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, Aribo, Brooks, Armstrong, Fraser.



REALIST: Ex-Saint Benali

## Benali: It's moneyball for Saints

by Richard Edwards

THE last time Southampton won at Wembley they thrashed Carlisle to win the Football League Trophy in 2010.

That win under Alan Pardew netted them peanuts.

If they win against Leeds they can look forward to the biggest payday in the club's history and a bank balance boost of up to £265million depending on whether they stay-up next season.

And one Saints believes that going up at Wembley will match anything the club has achieved since their 1976 FA Cup final win over Manchester United.

"Saints haven't won at Wembley too often, but every time has been incredible," says Franny Benali, who made over 300 appearances for his hometown club. "A play-off final is as big as it gets.

"The journey in the Championship and then the semi-finals of the play-offs has been incredible this season. Now you're at Wembley, you've got close to 40,000 of your fans cheering you on, and you've got a chance of getting back to the Premier League.

"There's so much at stake – to the city and to the economies of both Southampton and Leeds.

It's one of the richest prizes in sport, it's as big as it gets."

Saints were relegated from the Premier League after a dismal campaign last season.

They finished bottom of the table, won just six matches and worked their way through three managers.

Their season under Russell Martin, appointed in June, has been the complete opposite and Benali is full of belief for the final. He said: "It's going to be a huge occasion. But it's one that this side can handle."

“

We're not attracted by money. We're attracted by glory and writing history. The TV money, it's important, but it couldn't extend our motivation



# 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."



Slot would get everyone in the right sharp and aggressive attitude

## 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 Giovanni 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.



## EURO CUP FINAL SPECIAL



**WINNERS** Celtic lift the Cup after beating Rangers

## IDA'S A BHOY WONDER

Celtic 1 Rangers 0

**SCOTTISH CUP FINAL** ADAM IDA'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** Kyllian 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.

# FA CUP FINAL



## MANAGER WATCH



STYLE GURUS: Pep Guardiola and Erik ten Hag sharpen up on the day

## ERIK TACTICS SUIT IDEALLY

by David McDonnell

PERHAPS Pep Guardiola should have worn his lucky blue jumper at Wembley after all.

Guardiola rarely wears a suit, but the Manchester City boss felt sufficiently emboldened to ditch his lucky blue roll-neck, which he had worn for so many games this season, for more formal attire.

Yet this final was not decided by superstition, but by United boss Erik ten Hag proving again he can get the better of the greatest manager of the modern era when he has the personnel at his disposal.

This may have been United's worst season in Premier League history, with eighth place their lowest finish for 34 years, but this win, against all the odds, was vindication for Ten Hag, who was hoisted into the air by defender Lisandro Martinez at the final whistle.

On the eve of the game, Guardiola expressed sympathy for Ten Hag over the succession of injuries to key players throughout the season which ultimately undermined the progress he made in his debut campaign.

But Guardiola's sympathy came with the caveat that "at big clubs like United or City, if you don't always win, you're in trouble".

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 advantage he was measured, pointing skywards with both hands before taking a swig of water.

Having seen his side blow a 3-0 lead against Championship opponents Coventry in the semi-final, then scrape through on

penalties, Ten Hag was wise to take 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 thwart City when they were in possession, then hit them on the break, with Marcus Rashford and Alejandro Garnacho proving vital outlets to attack from out wide.

Guardiola responded by bringing on Manuel Akanji and Jeremy Doku, yet when those changes did not yield an immediate return he took the bold step of withdrawing Kevin De Bruyne, who was subdued throughout, for Julian Alvarez.

When Erling Haaland clattered the upright, Andre Onana kept out a blistering shot from Kyle Walker and Alvarez skied high and wide, Guardiola could not hide his frustration. The City boss had his hands on his head in despair moments later

when Alvarez steered the ball wide when put through by Phil Foden. In that spell, City could have gone from 2-0 down to 3-2 up but were left ruing missed opportunities.

With 15 minutes left, Guardiola pleaded for a penalty, wrapping his arms around his midriff to express his belief that Haaland had been bundled to the ground by Kobbie Mainoo.

When Doku beat Onana at his near post there was a glimmer of hope for City, Guardiola imploring the fans to get behind their team with one final push in the dying moments of added time.

But this was the day when Ten Hag proved his enduring managerial worth.

**GOALDEN BOYS:** Manchester United's scorers Alejandro Garnacho (left) and Kobbie Mainoo celebrate after the final whistle and the party continues (below)



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SCAN ME

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# MAN CITY 1 MAN UTD 2



**MANCHESTER UNITED could have all the cash in the world under INEOS - their youngsters will always end up having a say.**

Erik ten Hag's FA Cup winners, who recorded the club's lowest-ever Premier League finish, have looked lost in transition throughout a horrendous, miserable season that has now ended on a notable high.

They have lacked identity and it was somewhat fitting that two academy graduates - straight off Carrington's prestigious conveyor belt of talent - had the character to step up and have a say at Wembley to earn another piece of silverware.

It was a timely reminder that young talent will always be embedded into United's DNA.

Nobody had given the Red Devils a hope in hell and most expected a Manchester City whitewash amid reports Ten Hag is set to receive the boot, but heroic goalscorers Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo were indispensable and central to executing the Dutchman's cunning game plan.

Five-time Champions League winner Casemiro, who cost United a whopping £60million plus £10m in add-ons, was initially named on the bench before eventually dropping out of the matchday squad with 'muscle tightness'.

And as he watched on anxiously from the sidelines ahead of his inevitable summer switch to Saudi Arabia, Mainoo showed class and maturity beyond his years to edge the midfield battle against an undisputed Rolls-Royce in Rodri.

## All-action

Mainoo's ballsy, all-action performance surely solidifies his seat on the plane to the European Championship in Germany - regardless of what happens in England's upcoming friendlies against Bosnia & Herzegovina and Iceland, respectively.

He now looks twice the player Casemiro does, while £85m unused sub Antony was shown up once again by teenage attacking superstar Garnacho.

While the jet-heeled winger only spent two years within United's academy ranks after being snapped up from Atletico Madrid in 2020, he is still one of their own.

Garnacho was a thorn in City's backline and his sheer speed, perseverance and determination caused Josko Gvardiol aggro all afternoon.

He looked right at home on the big stage, as he has all season, and while United should organise an inquest to determine just how they sanctioned that eye-watering fee for Antony, equally, they will be counting their lucky stars they have Garnacho on their books.

**Both he and Mainoo are two beacons of hope and light and this historic and memorable triumph will be a day they rightfully cherish for the rest of their careers.**

Credit must also go to Marcus Rashford and Scott McTominay, who certainly played their part. It's been an incredibly tough time for Rashford - arguably the most difficult spell of his illustrious

# Young, gifted and back... you can't buy what United's graduates offer up



HERE WE GO: Alejandro Garnacho (behind ball) wheels away after opening the scoring for his team at Wembley

## RYAN TAYLOR

### BIG MATCH VERDICT

career. He has been one of few constants for England since making his debut in May 2016 but that has now been wiped from beneath his feet.

Rashford (right) did not score here but he was a crucial outlet on the left flank with his willingness to run in behind disjointed City's backline and create space.

His painful Euro 2024 snub will hurt this summer but this was the

kind of display that proves he still has a future at United. The fire was back in the 26-year-old's belly and after watching noisy neighbours City lift countless trophies this FA Cup will feel priceless.

**Meanwhile, McTominay pressed like a madman, running himself into the ground. He is living proof for United's academy stars anything is possible with hard work.**

This particular Final simply meant more to United.

It meant more to the potentially-departing Ten Hag, it meant more to the Carrington academy graduates and goalscorers Garnacho and Mainoo and it will now mean more to Sir Jim Ratcliffe when INEOS decide whether they stick or twist.

Whoever is at the helm next season, Ten Hag or not, the fresh blood at United must be built around. They are the club's future.



## 'UNITED WERE IN A MESS'

### From Back Page

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.

"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."

Ratcliffe (below) was thrilled after watching his boyhood team lift their first trophy since he invested £1.25billion in the club in February.

But 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."

City dominated the second half but only had Jeremy Doku's strike to show for their efforts.

And boss Pep Guardiola dismissed suggestions his side paid the price for partying too hard after winning their fourth successive Premier League title.

He 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."

## TUCHEL'S IN FRAME

### From Back Page

the proposal - and the suggestion in Munich is that he believes United have identified him to replace Ten Hag.

Mauricio Pochettino is also in the frame after being sacked by Chelsea, while former Blues boss Graham Potter rejected Ajax when it became clear United were thinking of axing Ten Hag.

According to close friends of Tuchel in Germany he is desperate to prove himself in the Prem because he has "unfinished business".

● BAYERN MUNICH have agreed a compensation fee of £10.2million with Burnley for Vincent Kompany to become their new manager.

Bayern lost 4-2 to Hoffenheim on the final day, meaning they slipped to a third-placed finish in the Bundesliga.



## FA CUP FINAL



## A C U N N I N G

SIMON MULLOCK



BIG MATCH VERDICT

**ERIK TEN HAG** outwitted the best manager in the world in what is likely to be his last game as Manchester United boss.

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 man-of-the-match Kobbie Mainoo ensured one of the great cup shocks.

United finished 31 points behind their rivals as Manchester City became the first club to win four successive titles. But they were more than a match

in North London.

City beat United with some ease in last year's final to take the second step towards winning the Treble.

Ten Hag's master plan ensured there would be no repeat.

Both managers were dressed for the occasion, sharply suited and booted.

Perhaps Guardiola will regret not wearing his 'lucky' fisherman's jumper despite the broiling heat.

Ten Hag's plan was to pack the midfield, frustrate the champions – and then try to punch a hole in City's backline by exploiting the pace of Marcus Rashford and Garnacho on the flanks.

**Advantage**

Two goals in nine first-half minutes gave United an advantage they needed as City produced a furious second-half onslaught.

City's only reward was an 85th-minute strike from substitute Jeremy Doku, their best performer on a gut-wrenching afternoon for them.

**As expected, City exerted their usual control of the ball 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

struggled to shake off a hangover. Garnacho gave them an early warning with an angled drive that flew straight at City keeper Stefan Ortega.

The German stopper 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 blundered once

again. Josko Gvardiol was in complete control when Diogo Dalot sent a long pass forward.

**Racing**

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 soon had

another effort disallowed for offside before Mainoo struck brilliantly six minutes before the break.

Rashford's raking switch of play unbalanced the Blues.

And when Garnacho found Bruno Fernandes on the edge of the box, the Portuguese's unselfish pass presented Mainoo with the kind of chance he would have dreamed of when he was

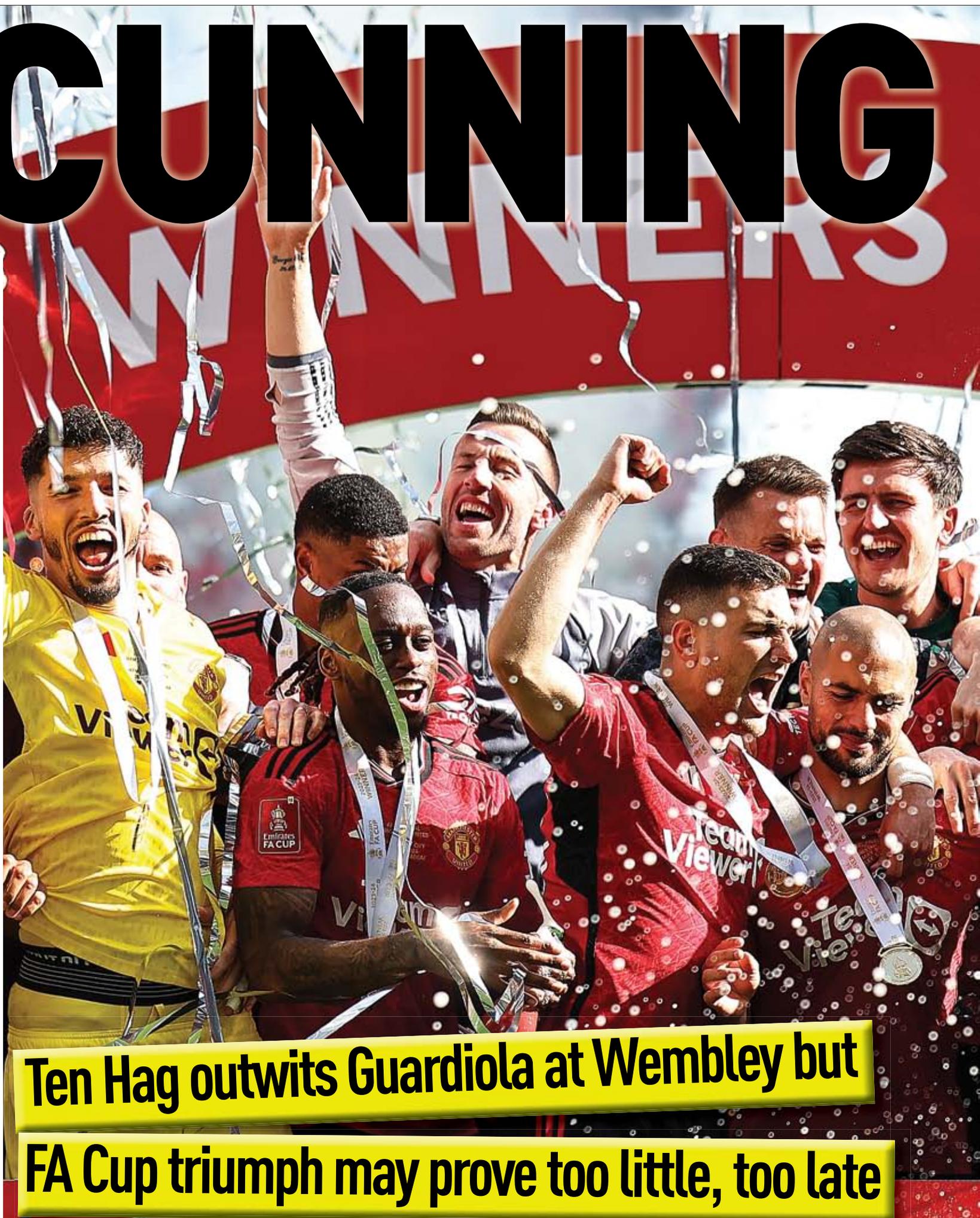
growing up in Stockport. It was clear Guardiola had used the half-time break to remind his players what was at stake.

**Manuel Akanji was sent on to shore up the defence, while Doku's introduction gave City the threat they had been lacking.**

He gave Aaron Wan-Bissaka a torrid time. The Blues could have been level by the hour. Phil Foden mis-kicked in

Ten Hag outwits Guardiola at Wembley but

FA Cup triumph may prove too little, too late



MAN CITY 1 MAN UTD 2



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 1 CARDS 2 0  
Referee: Andrew Madley 6

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



PLAN, ERIK

Red-emption

United celebrate their surprise win over City that denied their Manchester rivals the double and gave the Reds something to hold onto after a below par league season

front of goal before Erling Haaland's shot shuddered the crossbar. Andre Onana produced a brilliant save to tip behind Kyle Walker's raking drive.

Replaced

And when Julian Alvarez replaced Kevin De Bruyne he was high and then wide with two golden chances. But City kept going as United started to visibly

tire. Ten Hag sent on Jonny Evans and Rasmus Hojlund, but it did not stem the flow of City attacks.

Then, with five minutes to go, a lifeline when Onana allowed Doku's 25-yard shot to sneak from his grasp and sneak in at the near post.

Ten Hag held his head in his hands and then asked Mason Mount and Victor Lindelof to man the final barrier.

Eight years ago, Louis van Gaal was sacked just 24 hours after winning the FA Cup.

Ten Hag's fate will be decided in the coming week.

**MAIN MAN**  
Kobbie Mainoo of Manchester United celebrates after scoring



CONFIDENT: Tuchel thinks job is his

# 'I'll get the United job, Tuch wood'

by **Simon Mullock**

THOMAS TUCHEL believes 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 turned down the chance to remain in charge of Bayern Munich because he wants another crack at the Premier League by succeeding Erik ten Hag at Old Trafford.

Ten Hag will officially learn his fate this week – but it appears that the Dutchman is doomed despite masterminding a dramatic 2-1 win over Manchester City at Wembley.

Tuchel is believed to be one of a number of names on the wish-list of Sir Jim Ratcliffe's INEOS Group should the decision be announced to end Ten Hag's two-year reign.

But according to sources in Munich, the 50-year-old reckons he is already nailed-on for the job.

Bayern announced that Tuchel was leaving the club after it became clear that Bayer Leverkusen would be crowned Bundesliga champions.

But the Bavarians then decided to perform a U-turn by offering to hand him a new contract to stay in charge. They were shocked when Tuchel turned down

Turn to Page 61

**The £200M date with destiny**  
**LEEDS v SO'TON**  
See page 58

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# » FA CUP FINAL MAN CITY 1 MAN UTD 2

# DEAD MAN TALKING



### SILVER SERVICE

Ten Hag delivered a trophy and Europa League football for United next season at Wembley yesterday

## Doomed Ten Hag in 'back me or sack me' ultimatum after statement Cup win

by **Simon Mullock**

**ERIK TEN HAG has challenged Manchester United to back him or sack him after masterminding a sensational FA Cup triumph.**

Ten Hag admitted he does not know if he has a future at Old Trafford after his team beat bitter rivals Manchester City at Wembley to lift the second trophy of his two-year reign and secure European qualification.

First-half goals by Alejandro Garnacho

and man-of-the-match Kobbie Mainoo clinched the club's 13th FA Cup.

But Ten Hag still faces the sack after a disastrous Premier League campaign – and United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe refused to back his manager when he was asked if the Dutchman had saved his job.

A defiant Ten Hag said: "If they don't want me any more I will go somewhere else to win trophies – because that's what I have always done throughout my career. When I came

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