

DAILY STAR

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
Ever had an encounter you'd rather forget?

Sunday

MAY 26, 2024 £1.90



IN THE RED: Man United boss Erik Ten Hag hails Cup Final goal scorers Kobbie Mainoo and Alejandro Garnacho

MAN TWO-NITED

FA CUP SPECIAL: SEE STARSPO

WOMAN'S MEMORY IS WIPED OUT BY MIND-BLOWING BONK



Did the Earth move for me?

by JERRY LAWTON
HOSPITAL worker Polly Fisher had a romp with partner Mick Thacker she will never remember. She thought she'd had a stroke but docs said the intense lovemaking gave her amnesia.
Full story: Page 9



Eamonn and Ruth divorce

PAGE 13



Binface takes on Biggles

PAGE 4

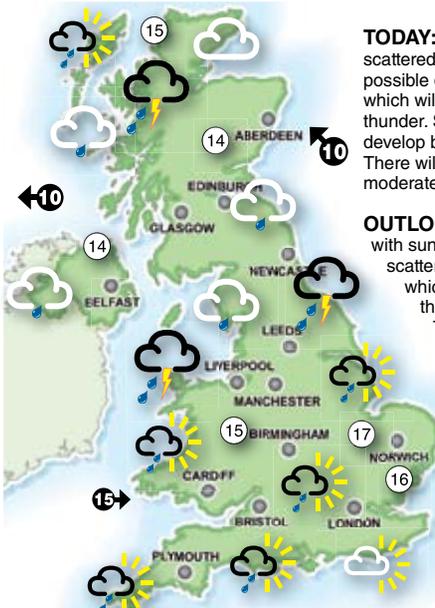
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TODAY'S WEATHER



TODAY: An unsettled day with scattered showers which are possible quite widely, some of which will be heavy and bring thunder. Sunny spells will develop between the showers. There will be gentle to moderate south-easterly winds.

OUTLOOK: Bright tomorrow with sunny spells and scattered showers, some of which will be heavy and thundery in nature. There will be more cloud around on Tuesday with showers developing.

MON
TUE
WED

AIR QUALITY Air pollution levels Low (1) Very high (10) uk-air.defra.gov.uk

Highlands	3	North Wales	3
North East Scotland	3	West Midlands	3
Central Scotland	3	East Midlands	3
Scottish Borders	3	South Wales	3
Northern Ireland	3	South West	3
North West & Mersey	3	South East	3
North East	3	Eastern	3
Yorkshire & Humber	3	Greater London	3



PLUNGE: Block

Lad, 12 in tragic flats fall

A CHILD who died after falling from a block of flats in south-east London was a 12-year-old boy, police have said.

The lad fell from a building in Kennington on Friday afternoon and died at the scene, the Met Police confirmed.

Officers said so far there is "nothing to indicate that the incident is suspicious".

The Met added: "Police were called to a child having fallen from the upper floor of a flat on Hotspur Street.

"Officers attended along with London Ambulance Service.

"Despite their efforts, the child was pronounced dead. The child's family have been informed."

Florence Eshalomi, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, posted on social media: "Very sad to hear about the sad death of a young child who fell from a block of flats.

"My thoughts are with his family at this sad time."

The boy's death came as Walthamstow Coroner's Court heard five-year-old Aalim Ahmed also died after he fell from the 15th-storey of a tower block in Plaistow, east London.

'Stalker' law fight

THE real-life Baby Reindeer "stalker" has hired a leading US law firm in her fight against Netflix.

Fiona Harvey, 58, from London, claims the drama, billed as a "true story", never happened.

Netflix showed comic Richard Gadd being stalked after a pub meeting. "Martha" pleads guilty and is jailed for nine months. Harvey denies all of Gadd's storyline.

New York-based Roth Law Firm boasts it takes a "gloves-off" approach to fighting for clients.

Netflix has been warned by them to "preserve any evidence" as Ms Harvey prepares to sue.

BREACH OF PEACE

A WOMAN, 80, of Peaceful Lane, spent a day in jail accused of spitting on a man for using too much water in Dunedin, Florida.

NEWS

TEACHER TO BE SENTENCED FOR KNIFE MURDER OF PARTNER

Weds / Old Bailey, London
Fiona Beal, of Northampton, admitted killing 42-year-old Nicholas Billingham.

ROY KEANE HEADBUTT TRIAL

Weds / London
Scott Law, 43, of Essex, denies assaulting TV pundit last September.

FUN

MIGHTY HOOPLA

Saturday / Brockwell Park, London
Acts on the bill include Nelly Furtado, En Vogue, Claire Richards and Bananarama. For details visit mightyhoopla.com

ROMESH LIVE

Tues & Weds / Utilita Arena Cardiff

TV funnyman is in town with latest stand-up show. See utilitaarena cardiff.co.uk

SPORT

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL

Saturday / 8pm, TNT Sports

It's Real Madrid v Borussia Dortmund at Wembley to find out which club side rules Europe for 2023-24.

FRENCH OPEN TENNIS

All week, Discovery+ and Eurosport

The second tennis Grand Slam event of the year sees the world's best battle it out on the clay courts of Roland Garros.

TELLY

BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT

Tomorrow / 8pm, ITV1

And & Dec host the first live semi-final. A raft of acts will battle it out for a chance to win £250,000 in the final.

THE GREAT BRITISH SEWING BEE

Tuesday / 9pm, BBC One

The hopefuls will be tackling challenges inspired by the world of sport. As always, they'll need to impress judges Esme Young and Patrick Grant.

TWEET OF THE WEEK

X Larry the Cat @Number10cat
I don't get to vote in the general election, but I do have to live with whoever you elect. No pressure.

DON'T FORGET

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

Tomorrow / Nationwide

It's the Spring Bank Holiday tomorrow, so for those not working, enjoy that lovely long weekend.

CORRECTIONS & COMPLAINTS

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THE HEALTH LOTTERY

Big Win numbers Saturday, May 25	02 19 28 41 49 12
Big Win numbers Friday, May 24	02 03 07 16 24 38
Big Win numbers Thursday, May 23	11 14 15 29 35 24
Big Win numbers Wednesday, May 22	11 24 37 47 50 30
Big Win numbers Tuesday, May 21	03 04 05 41 43 27

2ND CHANCE DRAW, SATURDAY, MAY 25: 02, 22, 42, 43, 50
2ND CHANCE DRAW, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22: 10, 12, 17, 21, 39
ALL OR NOTHING, FRIDAY, MAY 24: 03, 05, 06, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23 and 24

NATIONAL LOTTERY

SATURDAY, MAY 25

LOTTO	06 28 30 40 53 58 13	Estimated jackpot £3.9million
T-BALL	03 05 13 16 36 01	

FRIDAY, MAY 24

EURO	09 12 18 22 50 01 03	Friday, May 24. Estimated jackpot is £33m. See online for winners' details
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MILLIONAIRE MAKER: VBF54031

KNIFED TO DEATH ON THE BEACH

Police arrest suspect, 17



GRIM TASK: At scene

A BOY, 17, was arrested on suspicion of murder after a woman was stabbed to death on a popular beach.

Dorset Police said they were called to reports two women, both from Poole, had been stabbed on Bournemouth's Durley Chine Beach around 11.45pm on Friday.

A 34-year-old woman was pronounced dead at the scene while a 38-year-old was taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Yesterday lunchtime, the

by TED HENNESSEY

force said a 17-year-old boy from Lancashire had been arrested on suspicion of murder.

Dorset Police's Detective Supt Richard Dixey said: "We have worked tirelessly since the initial report.

"Foremost, our thoughts remain with the loved ones of the woman who very tragically lost her life.

"Officers are continuing with their inquiries, a cordon remains in place and will remain so for some time."

news@dailystar.co.uk



FOR ALL THE REALLY BIG ELECTION INTERVIEWS



PLEDGE: Rachel

Reeves rescue mission

LABOUR'S shadow chancellor reckons the voters will shun the Tories because of their economic record.

Rachel Reeves compared the Conservatives to firebombers who left the country up in smoke.

She said: "No one is going to give a box of matches back to the arsonists who burned the house down."

But the MP for Leeds West - a former banker - has pledged to fix Britain's financial footing if Labour wins.

She stated: "Let me start with a very simple promise: I will never play fast and loose with your money."



KEIR KICK: Johnson

Bozo's wokey whinge

BORIS "Bozo" Johnson has labelled Sir Keir Starmer "a woke lefty lawyer".

The former PM said he refused to believe opinion polls predicting a landslide victory for the Labour leader.

Bozo claimed: "I just cannot believe that the British people would be so utterly mad."

"According to one poll the Tories would be reduced to 11 seats."

Boris also threatened Sir Keir "would be the most dangerous and left-wing Labour prime minister since the 1970s".

He added: "He has been a pathetic captive of the woke tyranny. He is a woke lefty lawyer from north London - he doesn't even eat meat."

THE STAR SAYS: P8

Picture: PA



Binface: I'll take out the Tory trash..

SPACE WARRIOR VERSUS BIGGLES

by JAMES CAVEN

COUNT Binface lifted the lid on where he plans to stand for parliament in the General Election as he vowed to take out the trash.

The intergalactic space warrior says Rishi "Biggles" Sunak's seat in Richmond, North Yorks, is the "juiciest" target.

But he's also set his sights on constituencies being contested by Tory big beasts like Jeremy Hunt, Jacob Rees-Mogg and "Lettuce" Liz Truss.

The Count said: "I'm completely spoilt for choice. The last Parliament has been such a shower that any number of them are ripe for the plucking."

Binface has previously stood against former PMs Bozo Johnson and Theresa May under his former guise of Lord Buckethead.

He warned: "It is time to take out the trash. Bindependence day is on the way."

The satirical character, created by comic Jon Harvey, inset, has still to decide which seat to go for. He said: "If the other parties can have a non-local candidate, why not an alien from another quadrant?"

Binface said Biggles' seat in Richmond is "hanging rather precariously on a branch", adding: "You might say I've got my visor on that one too. Look at my record, I have taken on two Conservative Prime Ministers."





RAGING: Grant

Hugh in 5-hour jam rant

HUGH Grant saw red when he was caught up in holiday traffic.

The Hollywood star fumed he had been stuck for nearly five hours.

Grant, 63, got caught on the A3 near Tolworth, Greater London, on Friday afternoon.

At one point he said he was stuck for "four and a half hours".

Earlier, posting on X, formerly Twitter, he asked Transport for London: "Any chance of an update on the situation on the A3 near Tolworth? Now entering third hour of almost stationary traffic jam. And long red line still ahead. Children in car."

TfL said: "For safety we've closed two lanes of the A3 due to emergency repair works. We apologise for the delay."



PUMPED UP: Prices

M-way petrol 'rip-off'

MILLIONS of hard-up motorists are suffering "highway robbery" from motorway service stations - which charge an extra £10 a tank, an AA probe has found.

The rip-off sees garages on motorways charge up to 17p a litre more than on A-roads - at 160p a litre versus 143p on routes to the West Country.

Experts said profiteering service station bosses were fleecing motorists, especially after petrol prices rose by 8p a litre already this year.

Luke Bosdet, the AA's spokesman on pump prices, said: "Motorists on faster motorway routes face higher fuel costs, but filling up on A-roads will save £9 to £10 a tank at the pumps."

BRITS SUP FOR A HUGE PARTY



CHEERS: Pubs enjoying bank holiday bonus

Revellers' 60m-pint weekend

PUBS will get a bank holiday boost as 60million pints are supped this weekend.

Breweries are rushing more barrels to boozers as Merry May brings a bonus Sunday night out tonight, with the nation off work tomorrow to recover.

Beaches were busy as sun worshippers made the most of 23C temperatures yesterday, with 50,000

■ by ISOBEL DICKINSON

visitors flocking to Brighton, 30,000 in Bournemouth and 20,000 in Great Yarmouth.

But daytrippers face the worst traffic of the weekend today as 20m cars clog the roads. And showers will hit many, with thunderstorms for some and 20C highs.

Around 60m pints of beer are being drunk in Britain's 40,000 bars

across the weekend, British Beer and Pub Association data trends show. And real ale is seeing a big weekend as revellers head to hundreds of spring fairs.

Alison Jordan, boss of drinks analysts Oxford Partnership, said: "Never mind the weather, the FA Cup final and other TV sport are giving pubs a shot in the arm."

isobel.dickinson@dailystar.co.uk



Picture: GEORGE CRACKNELL WRIGHT

ROAD TO HOL

DRIVERS have been warned to brace themselves for major jams this weekend.

The RAC said more than 20million car trips will be made, while the AA said more than half of the drivers in the UK will be on the road at some point.

The RAC's Alice Simpson said: "In those places where the warm spring sunshine makes its presence felt, the number of people deciding to get behind the wheel and head for the coast or countryside will only go up."

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for the facts [drinkaware.co.uk](https://www.drinkaware.co.uk) 18+. 25% off 6 bottles of wine offer excludes Wine Route & finest meal deal wines, boxed wine, fortified wine, bottles under £5.50 in England and NI or £7 in Wales & bottles under 200ml. Minimum unit pricing applies in Wales. Max. 36 bottles. Excludes Express, Scotland & Whoosh. While stocks last. Clubcard/app required. Delivery charges may apply. Ends 27/05.

+ No.1 FOR TELLY + No.1 FOR TELLY +



TREAT: McDonald

Pork pie passion for Jane

JANE McDonald says she won't leave her home city - because of its famous pork pies.

The singer says she can't live without her fix of the treats from Wakefield's Allum's Butchers.

The star of Cruising With Jane McDonald has lost weight in recent years after cutting out junk food.

But there's one part of her diet she refuses to ditch - and it is the West Yorkshire firm's goodies.

Jane said: "A lot of people still say to me, 'Why do you still live in Wakefield?'"

"I'll tell you why I still live in Wakefield - Allum's pork pies. They are absolutely brilliant. The best pork pies ever."



ALPHABET: Clark

Traitors Harry's 'dumb'

TRAITORS winner Harry Clark claims he still doesn't know the alphabet.

The 23-year-old confessed he didn't know his A-Z and said his mum Georgia had always told him he was the "smartest dumb person" in the world.

Harry, who was a Lance Corporal in the Army when he won the £95,000 prize in January, said: "My brain is wired backwards... I don't even know the alphabet, because I just skip bits."

Asked if he was telling the truth about not knowing his ABCs, he said it was true, but that he knew his "shark alphabet".

He said: "I know the alphabet in sharks... if you say any letter, I can tell you a shark species. I am obsessed with sharks."



Pieman Cowell

SIMON Cowell gets revenge on Britain's Got Talent's Ant and Dec. After tricking the music mogul several times in this year's series, tonight's final auditions see Simon finally get his own back. He enlists an actor to audition

as a baker supposedly trying to break the record for the most custard pies thrown at his face. It's later revealed Simon is in on it - before pieing Ant and Dec in the face. Watch on ITV tonight from 8pm.



CHINESE GO MAD FOR JEZZA'S FARM



SHOWMAN: Farmer Jez

■ by AARON TINNEY
"CREEPY" Jeremy Clarkson's farming show is a massive hit in China.

Millions of fans love him for shining a light on the "brutality" of agricultural life.

Clarkson's Farm has a 9.6 out of 10 rating on the Chinese review site Douban from nearly 80,000 people.

One reviewer said of his

Millions love Diddly disasters

Diddly Squat Farm in the Cotswolds: "I often saw adults pulling up a bag of seeds that germinated early, and looking at them with regret. His face was full of distress."

"Anyone who has lived and worked in the countryside can

understand the pain and sweat shed by hard work."

The Amazon Prime show has also been watched more than five million times on Chinese streaming service Bilibili.

Clarkson, 64, is popular among many younger people

in China. Zoe Mou said: "During Covid I mostly just binge-watched shows, played video games, and was depressed. Watching Clarkson's Farm took me outside of that little circle."



Boff: AI to see us off

IT'S all fine... nothing to see here. Absolutely nothing to worry about. Normally when a Government or big corporation tells you that, it's time to get concerned.

And that could well be the case when it comes to the rapid rise of Artificial Intelligence.

Despite warnings, big-tech firms that are creating these mega-egghead chatbots tell us they have it all under control.

That they're aware of the risks and that they're doing all they can to make it safe.

Of course, they would say that. *A top boffin tells us today that these firms are just distracting us from the real dangers of potentially humanity obliterating AI.*

Scientist Max Tegmark claims the development of the technology is just as alarming as the fears around the building of atomic bombs during World War Two.

Back then the boffs claimed what they were doing was good for humanity.

In fact, their experiments could have ended our civilisation.

Can we trust these massive tech companies that are driven by profits to make sure they have got everything under control?

We'd be daft to. It's up to the governments of the world to step in and make sure AI doesn't destroy us all.

Before it's too late.
Don't blow final bristle

WE are big fans of nature and do our bit to help our animal friends.

Today is no different and our mission is to help the plight of our prickly pal, the hedgehog.

The creatures face extinction within 10 years as developers wipe out their habitat.

The UK population has plunged from 35 million in 1950 to under a million.

But we can help. The Woodland Trust's advice includes leaving out water and ditching pesticides.

And if enough people chip in to help, the future of the British hedgehog could be much brighter.

You Bozo..

BORIS Johnson says Keir Starmer would be the most "dangerous" PM since the 70s.

He's forgotten someone with bad hair whose name rhymes with Doris...

Pictures: **MEDIADRUMIMAGES.COM**



Wheel lovely

by JOHN WARD

THIS rare 1965 Ferrari is set to make more than £1.5million at auction.

It was among just 200 examples of the gorgeous Ferrari 275 GTS ever built.

The listing reads: "Owned by a meticulous enthusiast, this 275 GTS has been well maintained and stored."

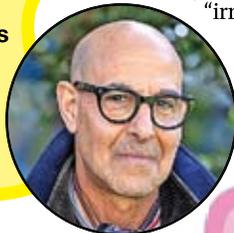
KIDS' TV FAVE TURNS 20!

PEPPA BIG

IT'S the animated show that won the hearts of millions of kids – and adults too. Now Peppa Pig is grown up and turning 20!

The show hit screens on Channel 5 back on May 31, 2004, and the tales about the talking, puddle-loving piglet went on to be a massive global hit.

Here JAMES MOORE reveals 20 little-known facts about the star porker...



West began a feud with Peppa after her album earned a better review than his.

9 Actor and parent Stanley Tucci jokingly branded the character an "irritating animated swine".

10 Adele had to withdraw comments she would not collaborate with Peppa, later saying: "I'm with you babes."

11 Peppa has also sparked controversy. The show's characters were criticised for not



wearing car seatbelts in early seasons, which were later altered.

12 One episode called Mister Skinnylegs was banned in Australia in 2012 after encouraging kids to befriend spiders, which can be deadly Down Under.

13 Over the years, poor Peppa has also been accused of encouraging children to be rude, impatient... and even changing how US children speak.

14 Rapper Cardi B once called her out for encouraging her daughter Kulture to jump in puddles every time she spotted one.

15 Four girls have voiced Peppa. Harley Bird, who was Peppa for 13 years, is now 22. She has since appeared in Doctor Who and was singer Amy Winehouse's best pal in the movie Back To Black.

16 Peppa Pig World theme park opened in 2011 at Paultons Park in Hampshire. In 2021, ex-PM Boris "Bozo" Johnson bizarrely asked business leaders if they had visited it.

17 There are now Peppa theme parks around the world, from the US to Germany and China.

18 Bizarre fan theories have emerged, over the years, including the idea the characters are actually reincarnated people.

19 Another suggests that each episode is based on a kids' dream.

20 Yet another weird one reckons that Peppa's world is a post-apocalyptic one where all the humans have been wiped out...

1 Peppa, who lives with Mummy Pig, Daddy Pig and little brother George, was the brainchild of then hard-up British animators Neville Astley and Mark Baker.

2 They came up with the bossy, snorting four-year-old after being inspired by a pal's little girl and shows like The Magic Roundabout.

3 They then gave her an "edgy" name and a red dress for her fiery personality.

4 Peppa has gone on to be a billion-pound franchise. There have been nearly 400 episodes of the show and they have been broadcast across 200 countries in 40 different languages.

5 Merchandising of Peppa clothes and toys makes more than £200million annually and she has even appeared on stamps.

6 Queen Elizabeth II is said to have been a fan. There was also a book called Peppa Meets The Queen, written to celebrate Her Maj's Diamond Jubilee.

7 Other famous fans include television star Holly Willoughby, the model Gigi Hadid, film star Orlando Bloom and movie director Quentin Tarantino.

8 But others have had beef with Peppa. Singer Kanye





ARRESTED: Rapper

Minaj in pot probe

NICKI Minaj was arrested in the Netherlands hours before she was due to fly to the UK for a major concert.

The 41-year-old US star, known for hits Starships, Super Bass and Anaconda, had been scheduled to appear at Manchester's Co-op Live last night.

A statement from the National Police Corps in the Netherlands confirmed a woman was arrested.

They alleged she was taking soft drugs from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport to another country.

In social media posts on X and Instagram, Minaj claimed police said drugs were found in her luggage after customs checks.

She wrote "they found weed" and her security "already advised them" that items belong to them, and not her.



FATAL SHOT: Alec

Baldwin legal bid denied

LAWYERS acting for US actor Alec Baldwin said "we look forward to our day in court" after a judge denied their bid to throw out his criminal case.

The star had previously pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter following the fatal shooting of top cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of western film Rust in October 2021.

On Friday, New Mexico judge Mary Marlowe Sommer rejected arguments made by Baldwin's lawyers Luke Nikas and Alex Spiro for dismissing the case, finding that the Grand Jury process was not prejudiced against the 66-year-old actor.

Baldwin will stand trial from July 9 in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after a prop gun he was holding went off, killing Ms Hutchins.

10 MIN QUICKIE BLEW MY MIND



Pictures: GETTY

DEMI TAKES FINAL BOW

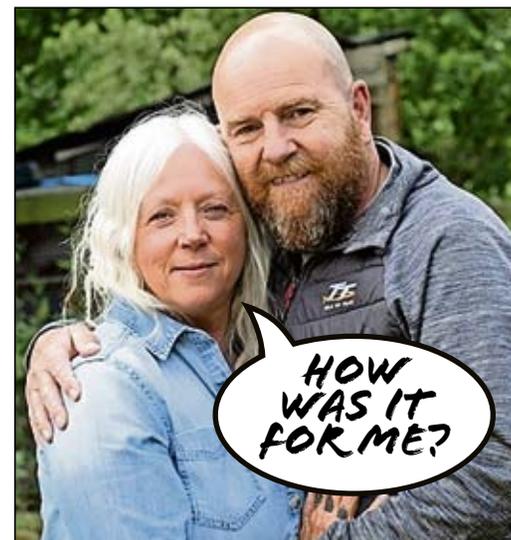
ACTRESS Demi Moore waves goodbye at the end of the glitzy Cannes Film Festival.

She wore a stunning black and white gown with a huge bow.

The 61-year-old was on

the red carpet yesterday. Meanwhile, Helen Mirren, 78, showed off her glamorous side too.

She shone in a black sequinned gown to attend L'Oréal's Lights On Women's Worth.



LOST IN LUST: Polly and partner Mick

Woman's memory wiped by orgasm

AN afternoon quickie with her lover blew Polly Fisher's mind – quite literally.

She said she experienced such an intense orgasm it wiped her memory.

The 10-minute sex romp with partner Mick Thacker caused her to suffer transient global amnesia, an ultra-rare condition which can occur in middle-age after sudden strenuous activity.

Mum-of-four Polly's is one of only a handful of cases in the world triggered by sex.

Although she made a full recovery, a whole seven hours of her life have been lost to her.

That includes any recall of the sex that caused her memory loss, or the ambulance ride to hospital.

Mick said: "It was the scariest thing I've ever witnessed. Now we know what caused it, we can laugh. Friends are calling

me Orgas-Mick!" They told their story to the Daily Star Sunday to help others who may experience the same ordeal and to educate medics.

The condition is so rare, it's not on the NHS website.

Polly, 58, of Rotherham, South Yorks, said: "I still have no memory of it."

jerry.lawton@dailystar.co.uk

by JERRY LAWTON

It's stroke of luck for bald



SEXY: Patrick

EGGHEADS say six out of 10 baldies get turned on by having their scalp touched.

The bonce is one of the human body's less obvious erogenous zones.

But baldies like Sir Patrick Stewart have a head start because the sensitive nerve endings on the head are not protected by hair.

The research was for dating site illicitencounters.com, which said: "Now we know why bald men are so sexy."

North is a step too far..

A WELL-travelled 90% of Brits have been abroad yet 20% of Southerners have never been "up north".

And 17% of Northerners have never travelled "darn saaf". The poll, from train company LNER, does little to break down the north-south divide.

It also reveals 69% of Southerners have never tried haggis, while 41% of Northerners have not had a Ploughman's lunch.

Working Fat Home



by DAVID O'DORNAN

WORKING from home can make you fat and fed up.

A study has shown obesity and mental health issues are worse among those who work full-time from their house.

The research found hybrid staff - who split their hours between the workplace and home - were the happiest and also the healthiest.

Health insurance firm Vitality

OFFICE HEALTHIER FOR STAFF

commissioned analysis of 5,000 employees from across several UK businesses.

It found that those who work remotely five days a week took twice as many sick days on average compared with those going into the office.

The report found 12% of staff who are fully remote suffered

depression, compared with 10% of full-time office employees and 8% of hybrid workers.

And 25% of those working from home full-time were obese compared with 20% of hybrid workers and 24% of office staff.

People who stayed at home were also more likely to have

joint or back pain, which can be caused by hunching over a laptop all day.

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

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Mariah simply the bust

★ MARIAH Carey hits a high note as she shows off her age-defying looks in a busty top. The 55-year-old singing legend, who recently wrapped up a Las Vegas residency, looked incredible in a white outfit.

Mariah, who posted the photo to Instagram, wore a stunning low-cut top as she bent over a table in the eye-catching image.

[Frames subject to availability]. Cannot be used with any other offers. Second pair from the same price range or below. Both pairs include standard 1.5 single-vision lenses (or 1.6 for £170 Rimless ranges). Varifocal/bifocal: pay for lenses in first pair only. Excludes SuperDigital, SuperDrive varifocals, SuperReaders 1-2-3 occupational lenses and safety eyewear. Additional charge for extra lens options.

YANKS TRUMP BRITS, NIGE?

NIGEL Farage likes everyone to think he's flying the flag for Britain. But he's decided to sack off trying to become an MP to instead support Donald Trump in the US. How patriotic!



He's not daft – at least he has a chance of being on the winning side with the big orange man-baby...



THE Ward

on the street

HE'S FUMING, FEARLESS & FUNNY

Dad joke

MY wife said: "It's the 4th time you've gone back for dessert! Doesn't it embarrass you?" I said: "No, I tell them it's for you."

of the week



Prices will KO bouts on the box

I REMEMBER the golden age of British boxing when world-class fights were free on terrestrial TV.

No chance of that now. To watch Tyson Fury make another £80million losing to Oleksandr Usyk would have cost you £25.

Apparently at least 25million people used an illegal stream to view the bout – four million of them from the UK.

I'd never advocate illegal streaming, but I don't have a huge amount of sympathy for grasping broadcasters.

PM butt of a joke

INTERESTING fact of the week... an anagram of Rishi Sunak is hi risk anus. Make of it what you will...



PAULA VENNELLS

FORMER Post Office boss shed crocodile tears all week as she refused to take responsibility for the Horizon IT scandal.

Never rains but pours for Sunak

WELL, what a way to go...

Standing behind a lectern that was far too tall for him, in the pissing rain, trying to talk over the booming strains of Things Can Only Get Better.

That's how the Prime Minister told us the date of the election.

It was not a D:Ream but a nightmare for our little AI robot PM.

He'll be Forlorn On The Fourth Of July – Labour's Windependence Day.

The chaotic nature of the speech was actually quite fitting, given the entire shambles his party and Government has become.

And to think the tiny fella used to be dubbed Dishy Rishi by supporters.

Now he'll go down in history as the Wally Without A Brolly.

Rishi Sunk without a trace. Things clearly cannot get any better for him.

It was only getting worse – and that's likely why he caved in and called the country to the polls.

With the recent history of his party,

gawd only knows what other bad news was lurking around the corner.

One of his top ministers has been unmasked as a serial kitten killer, perhaps?

His campaign started off just as shambolic as his announcement.

He turned up for a question-and-answer session at a factory where two of the questioners weren't employees but were actually Tory councillors.

So far, so shady.

Then he asked people in Wales whether they were looking forward to the Euros, even though the country hasn't qualified for the tournament.

He's truly a man of the people.

And then, in a move that not even writers of In The Thick Of It could dream up, he held a press

conference in Belfast at the Titanic Quarter... and got asked whether he was captaining a sinking ship.

Oops.

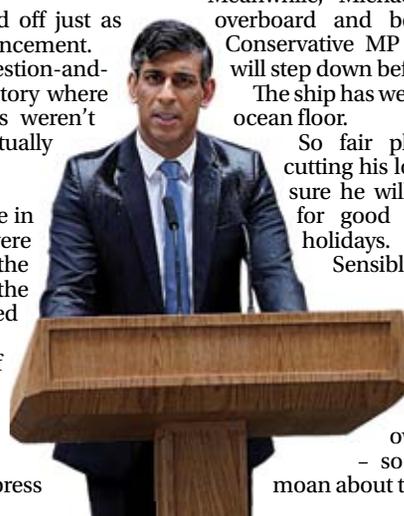
Meanwhile, Michael Gove jumped overboard and became the 77th Conservative MP to announce he will step down before the election.

The ship has well and truly hit the ocean floor.

So fair play to Rishi for cutting his losses and making sure he will be out of office for good by the summer holidays.

Sensible. Why drag us all through a few more months of this wreckage?

Let the other lot make a start of making their own almighty mess – so we can start to moan about them too.



LITTLE PRICEY FOR ME



LUKE Littler hit a nine-darter on his way to winning the Premier League Darts title at the O2 Arena. But the 17-year-old's performance wasn't the most jaw-dropping part of the evening. That was left to the venue's beer prices – £8.95 for a pint of Budweiser, £9.50 for Camden Hells.

Forget bullseyes... those prices are blatant bulls***.

Draught beer		
Budweiser	8.95	12.90
Stella Artois	8.95	12.90
Camden Stout	8.95	12.90
Camden Pale Ale	9.25	18.50
Camden Hells Lager	9.50	19.00
Draught cider		
Thatchers Gold	8.95	12.90
Thatchers Fusion	9.25	18.50

Half pints available from £4.85

PLAY-OFF? WE'RE OFF

FAIR play to the Leeds fans who risked the wrath of their other halves to ditch a £5,000 family holiday in Ibiza so they can fly back to watch their side face Southampton in the Championship play-off final at Wembley today.

I've experienced both a play-offs loss and a win as a QPR fan but wouldn't have missed either.

A few days in the dog-house will be worth it.



Lord wants fans lashed

TORY Lord Sharpe passed an order to extend drinking hours during the Euros and then said he was proud to help "people to get properly on the lash".

The outgoing Government might've been popular had it done more of this.

But these longer hours only kick in if England or Scotland reach the semis or the final.

Optimistic! They should open late on July 5 too – might be a few folk ready to party!



STEVE BRAY
HE'S annoying, but the bloke deserves a knighthood for hilariously blasting out Things Can Only Get Better to drown out drippy Rishi's No 10 speech.

To join the debate, email Wardy at john.ward@dailystar.co.uk

STRANGE BUT TRUE

EXCLUSIVE
KOALA'S PRINTS SAME AS OURS



IF you're in a spot of trouble, get yourself a Koala, quick!

The super-cute Australian animals have fingerprints that are nearly indistinguishable from our own.

They are so similar even forensic experts have been left unable to tell the difference.

STILL GO BONKERS

A BLOKE can still host a "non-monogamy" orgy in his home if he stops calling it Club Ménage, a judge ruled in Canada.

EXTERMINATED



SPITFIRE DEATH

A PILOT died when an RAF Spitfire crashed into a field yesterday.

Police and emergency services rushed to RAF Coningsby, Lincs, which

houses the historic Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, at around 1.20pm.

Nobody else is thought to have been involved, Lincolnshire Police said.

Expert says big tech hiding risk to human future

by AARON TINNEY

A BOFFIN fears the tech giants behind artificial intelligence are distracting us from its risks.

Scientist Max Tegmark warned it mirrors the efforts to keep the atomic bomb secret.

He said issues such as AI causing data breaches is being used as a smokescreen to obscure the fact it could wipe us out.

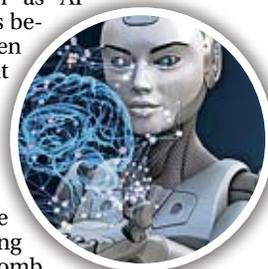
Tegmark said: "When the top physicists found out [about the first nuclear reactor in 1942] ... they realised the single biggest hurdle remaining to building a nuclear bomb had just been overcome.

"They realised that it was just a few years away - and in fact, it was three years."

Tegmark's Future of Life Institute is calling for a six-month pause on advanced AI research.

DAILY STAR SUNDAY SAYS: PAGE 8

news@dailystar.co.uk



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be drinkaware.co.uk Ends 28th May. Buy 6 or more bottles of selected wine, champagne or sparkling and save 25%. Excludes bottles under £6 in England or £7 in Wales, fortified wine, boxed wine and gift sets. Max 36 bottles per customer. Excludes Locals and Scotland. Subject to availability. Please drink responsibly.

Sainsbury's



SEXY: Wynne in ads

TV Gio's tache is turn-on

GO Compare singer Wynne Evans says he keeps getting asked if he wears his moustache during sex.

The Welsh singer is a household name after starring in the insurance comparison website's telly adverts.

The 52-year-old plays comedy character Gio Compario - an opera singer with a tuxedo and large fake moustache.

Wynne, who won last year's Celebrity MasterChef, said: "People often ask me, 'Have you ever had sex with the moustache on?'"

He joked: "No, why would I?"

Wynne added: "I've had some weird letters."

"People like describing sexual acts, what they want to do and all of this kind of stuff."

PETS OF THE WEEK



THESE boisterous brothers put the "ow" in meow because they love wrestling.

But after play-fighting, Peanut Butter and Marmite love giving each other a wash at their Greater Manchester home.

Owners Dougal and Louise Davidson, who got the nine-month-olds from a rescue centre recently, said they have made themselves right at home - demanding tummy tickles and stealing everyone's dirty socks.

Want to see your animal pal here? Email pets@dailystar.co.uk

DRY RUN HALTED

A MAN, 32, wanted for a shooting, was found by cops "folded not so neatly" inside a clothes dryer in Pensacola, Florida.



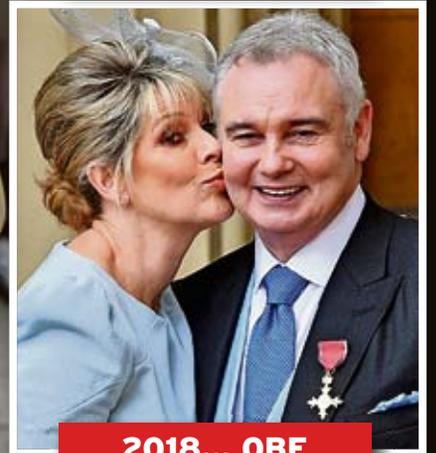
Picture: BRETT COVE/SOPA IMAGES/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



2002... BABY



2009... ENGAGED



2018... OBE

They went in different directions..

EAMONN & RUTH DIVORCE SHOCK

EAMONN Holmes and Ruth Langford have split after 14 years of marriage.

The former This Morning hosts, both 64, are divorcing after work commitments "took their marriage in different directions".

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

A source added: "It's a very sorry tale. They are both so loved by the British public, they won over so many people on This Morning which they hosted for more than a decade."

Pals of Ruth and Eamonn, who was awarded an OBE in 2018, said the pair had drifted apart, with neither appearing together on their Instagram accounts recently.

The presenters had been together for 13

■ by ISOBEL DICKINSON years before they tied the knot in 2010.

Our source added the former couple were determined to "keep things amicable".

Ruth and Eamonn are parents to son Jack, 22. Eamonn also has sons Declan, 35, Niall, 31, and daughter Rebecca, 33, from his previous marriage.

isobel.dickinson@dailystar.co.uk



ONE of the best shows on television gets barely any hype... Inside No.9.

Every episode is truly top-notch stuff.

The storylines are so innovative and the acting is always fantastic.

And there have been countless big-name guest stars over the years.

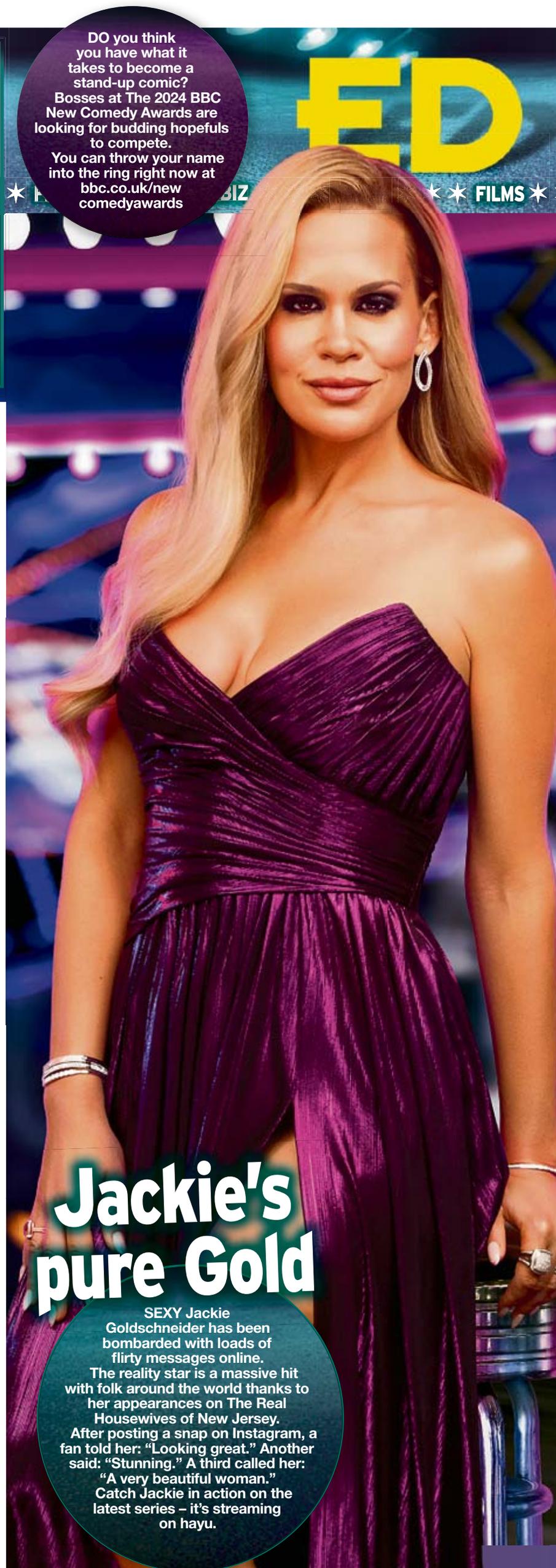
But it doesn't get much attention. The BBC airs it in a fairly late slot on Wednesday nights on BBC Two, so the ratings aren't exactly groundbreaking. And it hasn't been nominated for any awards for years.

This show deserves a lot more attention than it gets.

OFF THE TOP OF MY

ED

The episodes are available to stream on the BBC iPlayer, and the great thing is each one is a standalone story so you can start bingeing with any of them.



DO you think you have what it takes to become a stand-up comic? Bosses at The 2024 BBC New Comedy Awards are looking for budding hopefuls to compete. You can throw your name into the ring right now at bbc.co.uk/newcomedyawards

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LESS MALARKY MORE SMARTY

SWITCH TO SMARTY MOBILE

Jackie's pure Gold

SEXY Jackie Goldschneider has been bombarded with loads of flirty messages online. The reality star is a massive hit with folk around the world thanks to her appearances on The Real Housewives of New Jersey. After posting a snap on Instagram, a fan told her: "Looking great." Another said: "Stunning." A third called her: "A very beautiful woman." Catch Jackie in action on the latest series - it's streaming on hayu.

GLEAVE

Out and about on the celebrity beat!

*** SHOWBIZ *** TELLY *** FILMS *** SHOWBIZ *** TELLY *** SHOWBIZ *** TELLY ***

Flyin' past lions

IT'S looking like the contestants will be fired up in the finale of *Race Across The World*.

As the competition reaches its climax, we'll see them heading through Indonesia.

And when Isabel and Eugenie reach Semarang in the

Central Java province, they get up close to these lion dancers.

An insider said: "They saw some amazing sights during their final leg. It's another beautiful episode."

See who wins the £20k prize on BBC One on Wednesday at 9pm.



REVIEWED



GIGGLER ON THE ROOF..

NOW summer is finally here, rooftop bars are opening up again.

Roof East in London returns for a 10th year and is better than ever.

It's got multiple bars, food and plenty of space with amazing views across the capital.

But it's the games that really make the place worth visiting.

Glitterbowls is the most fun. Bowls is famous for being popular with pensioners but this version doesn't feel old-fashioned.

Also try Arrows, which is a simple version of archery, and Birdies – a massive crazy golf course. There's giant Jenga too.

I was useless at many of the games, but it was still a lot of fun.

We were having such a laugh we forgot to add up the scores.

The sunny weather probably won't last long so I'm already planning a return visit while I can.



SCARY SHOW IS STRICTLY NO-GO

Sarah fears the dance contest

SARAH Greene snubbed a lucrative offer to take part in *Strictly*.

The broadcasting legend is not keen to dance on live TV on Saturday nights.

She told me: "I have been asked to do *Strictly*. But I'm a coward."

"I know that sounds weird because most of the things I've done have been live TV. But I like doing things where I can have some control."

It's not just *Strictly* that Sarah has turned down. She isn't mad on having a crack at *I'm A Celebrity* or *Celebrity Big Brother* either.

She added: "I love watching reality shows."

"But I would rather have hot needles in my eyes than do some of

them. I know I'd scratch my nose at the wrong time and it would look like I was having a big pick."

She added: "I think it's amazing that reality shows are called reality shows, because we all know that they're not. There's a camera there. And as soon as that happens it's not actually real."

"Not really. It's a version of real. It's a drama. That's why I love watching them."

Sarah has been back on the box hosting game show *The Finish Line* alongside Roman Kemp.

The series continues tomorrow at 4.30pm on BBC One.



SIMON Cowell has got a great sense of humour.

When I bumped into him a few weeks ago, there was an awkward moment.

Just as we started talking,

someone decided to remind him about a story I'd written about him that had caused a bit of drama.

But Simon wasn't remotely bothered.

In fact, he insisted he thought the whole thing had been funny and he loved it. And he then shook my hand.

Simon is a lot of things, but prissy certainly isn't one of them.

Name drop

What they're really like 🤔



Have your say: Email me at edward.gleave@dailystar.co.uk or tweet me at @EdHotTV

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OUTRAGE: Archbishop

Welby's air miles

THE Archbishop of Canterbury is said to have racked up 48,000 air miles on 10 trips to exotic locations in less than a year.

Justin Welby, 68, was dubbed the "Archbishop of Air Miles" by outraged green activists over his carbon footprint.

They have branded him everything from a "hypocrite" to a "fraud" for jetting around the planet while urging his congregations to aim for net zero.

Church of England officials and parishioners said their leader was practically now a "member of the Foreign Office" thanks to his travel to far-flung foreign summits.

Others defended him online, saying the "good he does on these trips outweighs Justin Welby's carbon footprint".

TRY THIS

WE'VE GOT HOT WINE DAY BUYS..



IT'S National Wine Day and online gifting site Moonpig has teamed up with Virgin Wines to offer some fine discounts you won't want to miss out on.

With up to 20% off the likes of a trio of wines and wooden gift sets, it's perfect for those celebrating a special occasion right now.

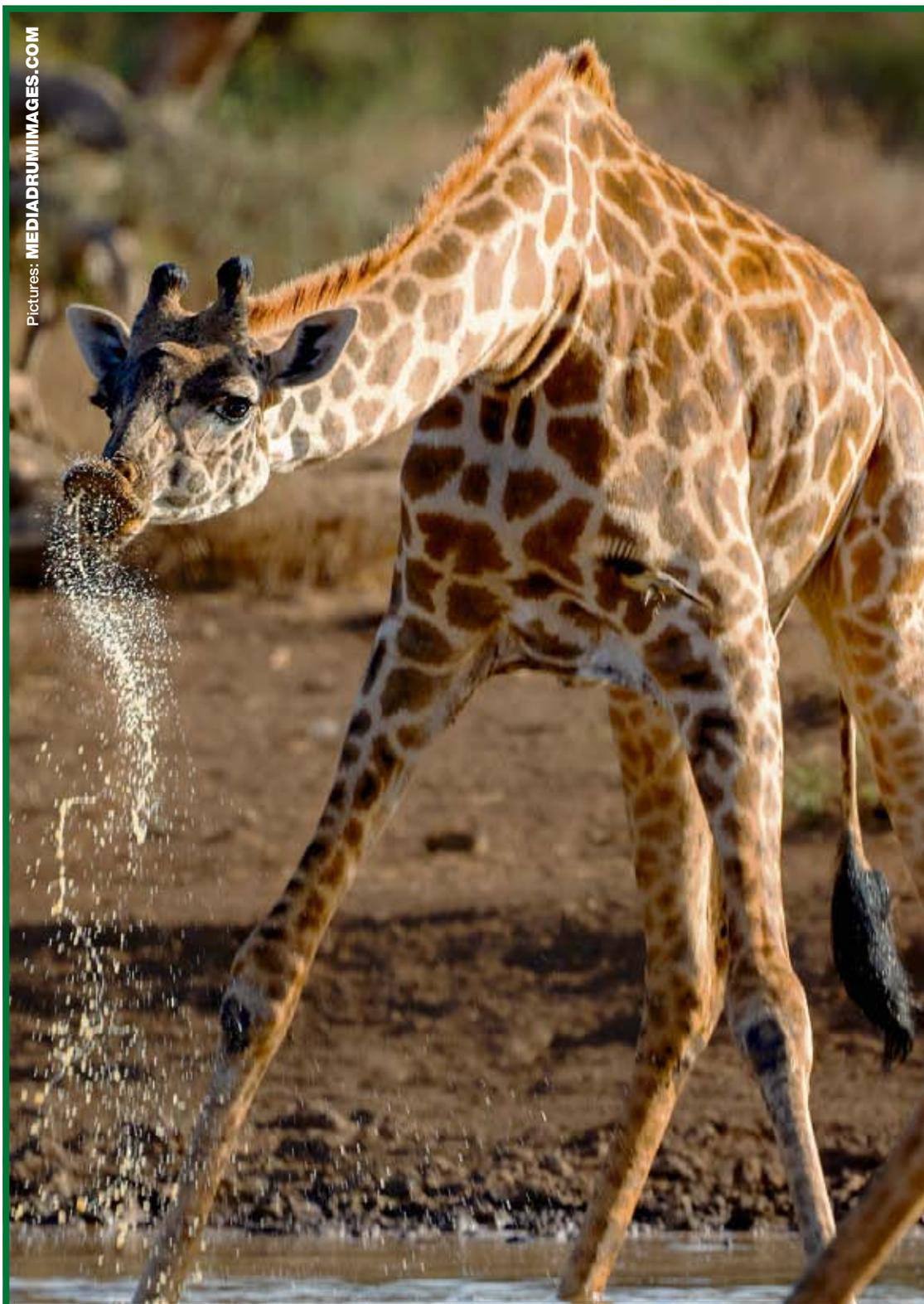
There's fabulous fizz such as Hennessy Foxearle English sparkling wine on offer for £32 (down from £40).

Or maybe opt for La Mechita Familia Zuccardi Malbec, which comes in a wooden gift box for £30.40 (from £38). Sip sip hooray! See moonpig.com

SILENT ASSASSIN

A KILLER dodged cops for 20 years by leaving his family and posing as a mute beggar until he was nabbed for fighting in Anxi, China.

Hedgehogs 'will be extinct in 10 years'



Pictures: MEDIADRUMIMAGES.COM

SPOUT OF AFRICA

★ A PLAYFUL young giraffe blows out a jet of water as it necks a drink in the heat of the day. The wobbly baby, just a few months old, spread its legs in a bid to stay

upright at the stunning Amboseli National Park in Kenya. ★ Michelle Guillermin, who spotted the hilarious scene, said: "Giraffes are a fun animal to watch."



THREATENED: Baby hedgehog explores

PRICKLY FUTURE FOR GARDEN FAVOURITES AS NUMBERS SLUMP

ONE of Britain's favourite mammals is on the verge of extinction.

Hedgehogs could be wiped out in just 10 years as their habitats fall victim to developers and farming.

Numbers are now below a million - but there were 35 million of them in 1950.

Experts blame their decline on housing, roads and bigger farms removing woodland and hedgerows.

Fences around gardens and parks also stop our prickly pals finding food, while pesticides have killed the bugs they rely on.

A source from the Woodland Trust, which is campaigning to save the hedgehog, warned: "They have lost three-quarters of their population in just 20 years. A big cause is the loss of their habitat"

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society's Imogen Buller said: "We've lost a significant proportion of hedgehogs since the Millennium.

"Numbers have declined

so much they're now on the Government red list of species vulnerable to extinction. Their situation is of great concern.

"The reasons for their decline include habitat loss, more fences and pesticides."

You can help them by making 13cm-wide holes at the bottom of fences to create hedgehog highways.

Leaving out saucers of water - not milk - and ditching pesticides helps.

THE STAR SAYS: P8

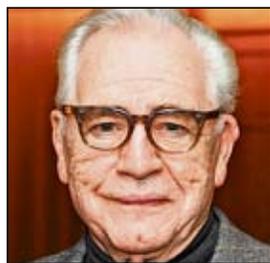
news@dailystar.co.uk

WEAKEST CLINK

A JAIL is letting prisoners remove troublesome cell mates in Weakest Link-style votes.

Thirty men attend daily group therapy sessions and learn to manage their emotions at the UK's only "therapeutic" prison.

Inmates deemed unsuitable for the regime at Category B HMP Grendon, Bucks, can be removed by fellow inmates who cast votes for them, an Independent Monitoring Board report says.



DISTURBED: Cox

Brian is wuss on film gore

MOVIE hardman Brian Cox walked out of Pulp Fiction because he hates cinema violence.

Despite playing socio-paths including Hannibal Lecter in Manhunter, the Scot was disturbed by the scene in the Quentin Tarantino film where John Travolta accidentally blows a man's head off.

Brian said: "I found it distressing. There was blood all over. I thought, 'I can't be doing this.'"

"I'm not very good with violence."

Brits going back to the Seventeas..

RETURN OF BLANCMANGE AND ARCTIC ROLLS

■ by ISOBEL DICKINSON

CLASSIC 70s desserts like blancmange and Arctic roll are making a comeback.

Retailers say demand for old-fashioned foods is surging, with more and more customers searching for wobbly retro staple blancmange to have after tea.

Other retro classics such as Bakewell tarts, baked Alaska and jelly and custard are flying off the shelves.

Data from online store Ocado shows huge increases in interest around classic 70s flavours and nostalgic foods.

A spokesman said: "We can't help but feel fond of all things nostalgic, when times seemed that little bit easier."

Charlotte Gale, sweet bakery buyer for Ocado.com, said: "We all like to reminisce over the good old days, especially when it comes to food and drink."

"Trends are all very cyclical, and nostalgic flavours are really having a moment."

"Bakewell tart is proving particularly popular - we've seen a surge in sales and searches of our site."

Duncan Kirk, who is owner of The Bakewell Tart Shop, a family-run business selling the treats since the 1920s,



GOOD PUD: Classic

added: "There is something very special about Bakewell tarts."

"The mix of raspberry jam, ground almonds, and frangipane brings back happy memories."

"Lots of the people we speak to feel very nostalgic about them."

isobel.dickinson@daily star.co.uk

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THE £80K TOP TRUMP

SPIDER-MAN

PHYSICAL STRENGTH: 7
SPECIAL POWERS: 6
WEAPONS: 6

"Hang onto your hats, heroes! It's your friendly, neighbourhood web-slinger - the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!"

HERE'S a rare find to have your spidey senses tingling - a mint-condition 1977 Marvel Superheroes Spider-Man Top Trumps Card. Images show it has been perfectly preserved for 47 years and now it is being sold on Ebay for £78,935. The game card, created by PSA, is from their super heroes deck. Spiderman is seen in full flight with a little web under his arms.

Picture: MEDIAPRIMAGES.COM

FELLAS HAVE TO GROW WITH FLO



THINK again if you plan on messing around with **Flo**.

The BRIT Award-winning trio have dropped fresh summer vibe *Caught Up* and it's a warning to flaky fellas.

The girls revealed: "It's very simple - we are not going to lose ourselves going crazy over a guy. If you get caught up, it's a simple bye-bye."

"We know our worth and *Caught Up* is a reminder that we are not to be played with."

LISTEN UP: NEW ALBUM

TINY HABITS / *All For Something* ★★☆☆☆

THIS Boston trio recorded their album in California and they captured the spirit of classic Laurel Canyon acts. The record begins like the opening of curtains on a spring morning - all birdsong and acoustic sparkles.



There's a definite introspective 1970s folk vibe that morphs into more modern-day indie pop and even a little Corrs-alike. A warm glove of a debut.

★ THERE were benefits to growing up with four sisters for US singer **Benson Boone**.

He said: "They loved Barbie movies. I'd be like, 'I'm a dude - I'm not watching these!' But really I was like, 'These are really good - the animation, the stories.'"

"It helps my songwriting and what I do because I want to be vulnerable in my music."

"And it was really helpful for dates." There it is!



Noah shares his success

STICK Season chart-topper **Noah Kahan** is making sure that he gives back following his incredible success.

The singer has launched The Busyhead Project to help charities while on the road.

Noah said: "I want to make sure my passion for talking about mental health and raising money for it is following the growth of my venue capacity."

"I'm a big believer in striking while the iron is hot - doing as much good as possible."



JAMES CABOOTER'S

WIRED

@Caboots

Weekend

GIRLI fears her heroes may have to take out a restraining order on her. The Londoner was just 14 when "my friend had sent me a link to a song by **Tegan And Sara** and it had blown my mind". The singer added: "That day changed my life. Although at some point they'll get a restraining order on me because I talk about them all the time!"

You Me time to split At Six

MEGAN THEE XXX STALLION

MEGAN Thee Stallion woke up the normally sleepy town of Napa as she took to the stage at the BottleRock festival.

The US rapper wowed in her purple get-up for a racy performance at the show where **Stevie Nicks** also performed earlier in the day.

Ed Sheeran and rockers **Pearl Jam** were also on form for the annual Memorial Day weekend concert.



ROCKERS SAY GOODBYE WITH STRING OF GIGS

THE time has come to bid a fond farewell to **You Me At Six** and it feels like a full-circle moment for the lads.

After announcing their decision to split earlier this year, the Surrey rockers were to play their final UK festival dates at Slam Dunk in Hatfield yesterday and Leeds tonight.

The band could have headlined Reading and Leeds festivals or Download but went with their hearts.

Singer **Josh Franceschi** told me: "It's a full-circle moment as it's the first ever festival we played."

"When they offered us the headline slot, it felt like the

right time to end our story there. That was the reason behind that.

"We have a great relationship with Reading and Download as well. It just so happens Slam Dunk was the festival that we were most actively talking to."

The lads are in the middle of farewell dates across the world and play UK arena gigs next March.

The decision to quit has been emotional and **Josh** adds: "It's been a bit odd but

lovely that it happens in real time because we can meet fans and hear anecdotes about what our band means to them then play for them." He went on: "It's special."



CAUGHT LIVE

Kate Nash at **Earth Theatre, Hackney**
The singer played to a buzzing crowd at this great little venue in London. Nash's energy did not disappoint and her crowd interaction had fans bouncing all night.



★ **CELINE Dion** has opened up about her battle with stiff person syndrome. The Canadian has been unable to perform since suffering the incurable condition that causes persistent muscle spasms.

Celine said: "It's not hard to do a show - it's hard to cancel a show."

"I'm working hard every day. But I have to admit, it's been a struggle. I miss it so much. The people, I miss them. If I can't run, I'll walk. If I can't walk, I'll crawl. I won't stop."

Fans will get to see the singer's battle in a new Prime Video documentary, *I Am: Celine Dion*.



Pictures: GETTY

BOOK THIS



AKASHA SPA, PICCADILLY, LONDON

FIND a soothing sanctuary in this stunning spa hidden under the city streets.

Akasha is a secret oasis below the five-star Hotel Café Royal in Piccadilly.

When you enter the hotel from the hubbub of one of London's busiest thoroughfares you'd never think minutes later you'd enjoy total tranquillity.

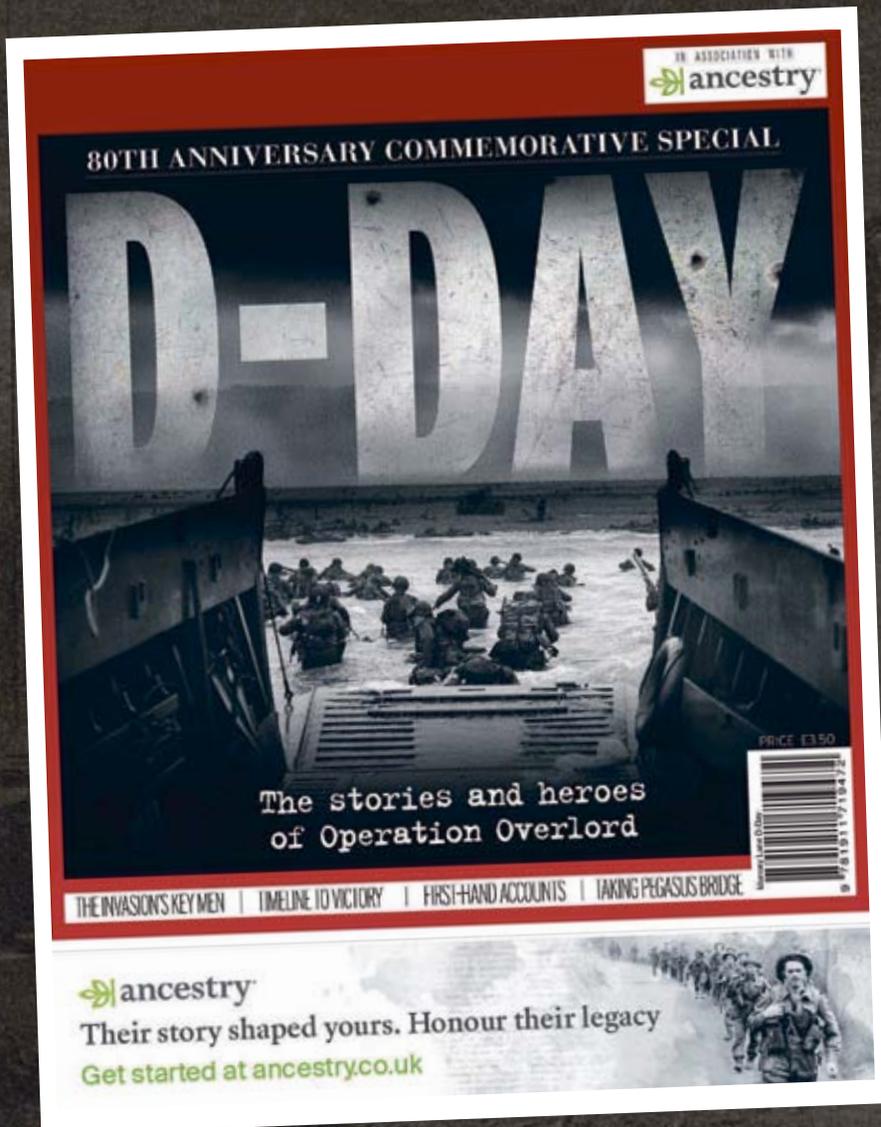
Akasha is a gorgeous endless marble vault where you feel as though you have hired the whole thing privately as you barely see anyone else. Bliss! You can enjoy a refreshing



swim in the pool or doze on one of the beds tucked in the alcoves beside it. There's also a fabulous Jacuzzi and sauna, plus a hamman to soothe those aching muscles.

With a Red Letter Days package you get 90 minutes to lap up the facilities plus a 30-minute back massage. It was easily one of the best I've ever had, with a super-skilled practitioner melting away any tension. After all that hard work it was time for a fruit platter and a glass of fizz. Heaven! It's £275 for two at redletter days.co.uk

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★ IT'S the perfect family paw-trait as two cheeky polar bear cubs jump on their exhausted mum.
★ In scenes familiar to parents everywhere, the youngsters crawled over her and nibbled her ears and paws as she tried to grab a well-earned nap.
★ Isabel Jauss, from Hamburg, Germany, photographed them in Wapusk National Park, Manitoba, Canada. She said: "When I arrived, all three of them were sleeping."



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Don't miss another voucher in tomorrow's paper



WORRIES: Taylor

Swifties copycat warning

TAYLOR Swift fans are being urged not to buy the same cat she has.

The singer's pets, which frequently appear on her social media, have hundreds of millions of posts devoted to them online.

But animal welfare experts say two of her cats are Scottish Folds, a breed that endures chronic pain.

They have a genetic mutation that gives their ears an owl-like appearance, but causes abnormal bone growth, arthritis and severe pain.

Sarah Elliot, from the Cats Protection charity, said: "We are not saying Taylor herself is at fault."

She said breeders fail to give owners all the information they need.

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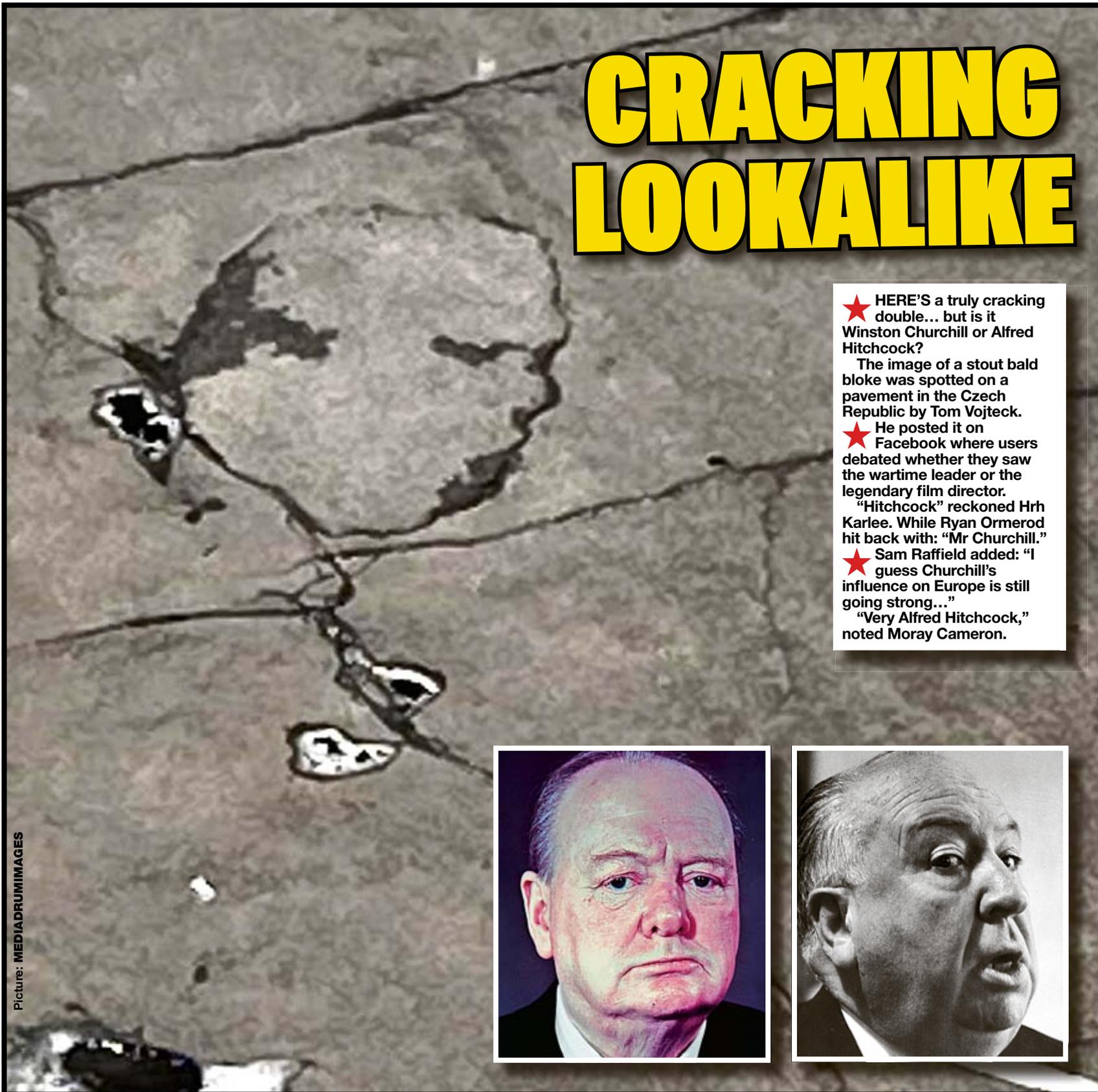
They've also supplied goodies for Niall Horan, Paddy McGuinness and TV show The Voice.

Lip-smacking sponges can be delivered to your door for anything from birthdays to Father's Day.

See candyscupcakes.co.uk

PICK YER PET FURY

CRUEL self-service vending machines flogging cats, dogs and other pets have sparked outrage among animal lovers in China.



CRACKING LOOKALIKE

★ HERE'S a truly cracking double... but is it Winston Churchill or Alfred Hitchcock?

The image of a stout bald bloke was spotted on a pavement in the Czech Republic by Tom Vojteck.

★ He posted it on Facebook where users debated whether they saw the wartime leader or the legendary film director.

"Hitchcock" reckoned Hrh Karlee. While Ryan Ormerod hit back with: "Mr Churchill."

★ Sam Raffield added: "I guess Churchill's influence on Europe is still going strong..."

"Very Alfred Hitchcock," noted Moray Cameron.

Picture: MEDIADRUMIMAGES

TURDWATCH

Uni orders students to shut their windows as pigeons poo in rooms



FEATHERED FIENDS: Pigeons at Cambridge

POSH Cambridge is being turned into a poo-niversity by pigeons pooping in students' bedrooms.

Undergraduates at the historic seat of learning have been warned they should keep their windows closed at all times.

It comes after several incidents of "nuisance" pigeons fluttering into

by ISOBEL DICKINSON

bedrooms and some even nesting under beds.

A note from housekeepers to the residents of Homerton Hall said the birds "will think nothing of entering" rooms and "leaving a mess".

The note, highlighted in the uni's Varsity newspaper was accompanied by an image of a particularly

menacing pigeon. It's not the first time students at the elite educational establishment have been plagued by the birds some folk have dubbed "flying rats".

Earlier this year, college bosses advised students to decorate their rooms with cinnamon, cucumbers and cloves to ward off silverfish bugs.

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Rick Lyons is the...

ECO



WORRIER

Train network's a rail disgrace

MY wife and I recently had to go to Kilmarnock together for work.

We live in Leeds. Kilmarnock is only 170 miles away, about the distance from Leeds to London.

It takes two and a quarter hours to get to London on the train from Yorkshire.

But a door-to-door return trip to Kilmarnock by public transport is closer to 12 hours!

We had to go to Kilmarnock four times, so I reckon we spent nearly 50 hours just travelling there and back.

We could have made the round trip to Australia in that time...



My point? Beyond routes servicing the English capital, public transport in the UK is beyond awful.

The UK has only got half the high-speed railway network of Belgium, a country that is eight-times smaller.

We have 14 times fewer kilometres of high-speed rail than Germany. And 32 times less than Spain.

Travelling between UK towns by train, in other words, is not at all quick.

That's something I felt firsthand while going up and down to Scotland.

And, after spending 50 hours in my company, it was something my wife felt even more.



THE WRONG NUMBER

40%

THE proportion of British urbanites who can reach their city centre by public transport within 30 minutes. Nearly 66% of people can do that in the bigger European cities.



W£N-W£N

IMPROVING public transport is a key part of levelling-up. Don't sit in silence as MPs fail to deliver – write to candidates or see your local councillor. At the very least, you'll feel better after a good rant.

@ecoworrierRick



Madge so eye poppin'

★ MADONNA gives a sultry stare from under shades as she hits town in leather gloves and fishnets.

The pop icon was at the Off-White collection party in New York and posted snaps on Instagram.

★ The Material Girl, 65, who just wrapped up her Celebration Tour, was out partying after reports she had split from boxer Josh Popper, 30.



WARM HANDS LUKE...



Picture: SWNS

GOD LOVES A DRYER: Luke carrying out his latest test

My hand dryer reviews are just a lot of hot air!

LUKE Cooper likes to get hot in his spare time – rating warm air dryers in public toilets.

He puts them through their paces everywhere – in restaurants, supermarkets, motorway service stations, bowling alleys, cinemas, theatres and airports.

The 31-year-old can't help himself and even does it on holiday. Music tutor Luke rates the effectiveness of each and posts his results on social media.

He scores the dryers out of 10 for temperature, air pressure, surface

area of the air, drying time and height on the wall.

And his favourite hand dryer of all time is the mighty Dyson Airblade dB.

He said: "It's not my job. A 'passion' would be a better word, but it's a service I like to provide to the public."

Luke, from Barnsley, South Yorks, added: "Name a better feeling than drying your hands in a warm cocoon of circulating air. I like to vary my tests, from Asda to the Empire State Building."

news@dailystar.co.uk



HERE ARE LUKE'S FAB FOUR TO DRY FOR..

Cineworld – Sheffield: Dyson Airblade dB. All-time great. 10/10	9KJ. Looks alien, works fab. 9/10	talented cousin. Still a solid 9/10
Leicester Forest Services – M1: Dyson Airblade	Cineworld – Leeds: Mitsubishi Jet Towel. Dyson Airblade dB's less-	Hollywood Bowl – Sheffield: ATC. In Hollywood toilets... can't ask for more. 8/10

A smash and grab

HIGHWAY bandits in Mexico made off with more than 40 tonnes of avocados.

The load was stolen in two robberies in the western state of Michoacan – Mexico's main producer.

Armed men stopped the trucks, carrying about 20 tonnes each of the fruit fans love to smash on toast.

Growers have often faced extortion demands from drug cartels, and fruit thefts from orchards, but hijackings of entire shipments remain quite rare, said officials.

Sauvignon bonk



by MATT ACTON

SWINGERS whipped their corks out for a combined orgy and wine tasting.

Connoisseurs exchanged notes on a selection of tipples before swapping partners in the "playrooms" at a popular wife-swapping venue.

A promo for the saucy session teased: "It's a wine tasting with a twist. You'll be

WIFE SWAPPERS AT WINE-TASTING ORGY

treated to tasting six different quality wines and deciding which of the panel experts was right... and who is so very wrong. The party continues

afterwards all night long..." Partygoers were asked to dress smartly, with cocktail dresses suggested for ladies.

The sold out Who's Wine Is It

Anyway? bash took place at the Purple Mamba club in Nottingham, with tickets costing £45 per couple or £40 for single blokes.

One punter said in a review: "Would recommend anyone to go as me and my partner felt so chilled & relaxed there."

Another, called John, said: "It is my paradise."

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Picture: MEDIADRUIMAGES/NASA

GOT TO STAR SOMEWHERE

★ **BABY** stars twinkle in a new image from the Hubble Space Telescope.

The trio, named HP Tau, HP Tau G2, and HP Tau G3, are less than 10million

years old, compared with our own Sun's 4.6billion years.

★ **HP Tau** is the youngest of them all and is a type of young variable star that hasn't begun

nuclear fusion yet but is beginning to evolve into a hydrogen-burning star similar to ours.

The trio are about 550 light years away in the constellation of Taurus.



CLEANING: Booster

Polish up your mood

SPRING cleaning makes you happier.

Boffins have found the smell of a freshly cleaned house, along with less clutter, is good for the brain.

Findings from online electrical retailer ao.com revealed homes that smell great are better for people's moods and can make them more productive.

Consumer psychologist Cathrine Jansson-Boyd said: "Having a cluttered home environment can impact people's wellbeing which means a spring-clean can make people feel generally better."

"A good clean, which makes the house smell fresh, can comfort households. And when it comes to mental health, seeing an environment become cleaner can be satisfying."



SLURPING: Best way

Time to suck it up, Brits

BRITS are eating noodles wrongly - because we don't slurp them.

Diners are too polite when it comes to eating the dish, say Japanese experts.

They said slurping the slippery treat is not just acceptable but considered the correct way to enjoy the popular dish.

It helps cool the noodles, making them easier to eat, and enhances the flavour and aroma.

The findings were put out by Japanese Casino, who said: "Understanding and embracing these cultural nuances can significantly enhance your dining experience. Next time you enjoy a bowl of ramen, slurp away!"

CROOK'S TALL TALE

A 5FT 8in drunk driver, 33, tried to con traffic cops by using an identity card that said he was a strapping 8ft tall in Rock Rapids, Iowa.



Pictures: MEDIA DRUM IMAGES / ANUJ JAIN

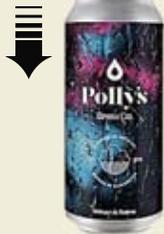


Pollied' pretty tight squeeze

HUNGRY parrot chicks peep out of their hole as they wait for their parents to bring food.

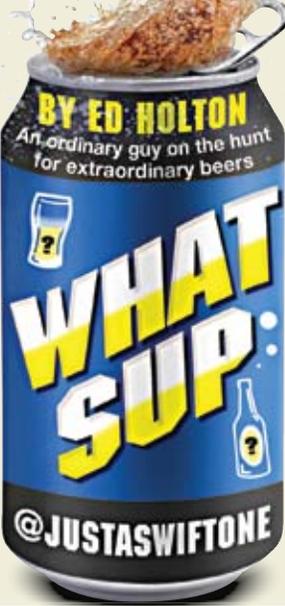
The fab photos were by Anuj Jain, 45, from Chandigarh, India, who said it shows "the beauty of nature".

LIKE BREWDOG'S 'HAZY JANE'? THEN TRY



POLLY'S X CLOUDWATER'S 6.5% IPA 'WHEN IT RAINS'

A SOGGY Sunak was outside 10 Downing Street this week announcing the election in torrential rain. The PM's performance went down a storm thanks to Blairite anthem Things Can Only Get Better stealing his thunder. Here's a D-Ream tippie that always gets my vote. Buy it from pollysbrew.co for £5.



LIKE GUINNESS? THEN TRY



LOST CAUSE'S 6% STOUT 'IN THE CLUB STYLE'

THEY think it's all over.... it is now for Marcus Rashford and Jordan Henderson. They've both been booted out of England's provisional Euros squad. With Southgate opting for fresh blood to get the Three Lions roaring, here's a new brewery that's a special talent with a lot of flair. Buy it from lostcausebrewing.co.uk for £4.50.

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STRICTLY LOVEBIRDS

We make music.

STRICTLY lovebirds Tyler West and Molly Rainford have been busy making sweet music. ■ by JAMES INGHAM

work projects despite the old warning to never mix business and pleasure.

The couple recently moved into their own London love nest - a plush East End apartment. Beaming Tyler, 28, exclusively told the Daily Star Sunday: "We already live together, so why not work together as well?"

Actress Molly, 23, is balancing a solo music career with appearing in EastEnders. "For us there wasn't a Strictly curse, it was a Strictly blessing."

And radio DJ Tyler is planning his own secret project. "I think when you really love someone it just clicks."

The Kiss FM host revealed: "I've been working on my music behind the scenes for the last two years and it is almost ready to go." Molly plays Cindy Beale's daughter Anna Knight in Albert Square. Tyler said: "Molly's schedule on EastEnders is crazy but she's been

MIX BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE



IN TUNE: The couple. Inset, Tyler does Strictly with Dianne Buswell

Make sweet together

with me in countless writing sessions helping with the project, so there will be some sort of collaboration.

"I can't wait to play one of Molly's tracks during a DJ slot when she's one of the biggest artists in the world. That will be sick."

The pair grew close in 2022 while on Strictly Come Dancing.

They officially started dating a few months later on the live arena tour.

Despite the whirlwind romance, Molly was quick to brush off talk of marriage.

The former Britain's Got Talent child star said: "We are just really happy as we are at the moment."

"Moving in together has been incredible

and we don't feel the need to rush anything."

And Molly joked: "We've had to get used to a few annoying habits."

"I've taught him how to hang a towel and I'm getting better at not letting dirty washing build up."

"Tyler is a great cook but he can get a bit stressed in the kitchen."

"If he's cooking you stay out of the kitchen, so I generally prefer to cook."

Molly said they were both eyeing up a stint on Celebrity MasterChef.

She added: "It would be stressful though. That would certainly be our biggest test for the relationship."



HOMEMAKERS: Molly and Tyler decorate apartment

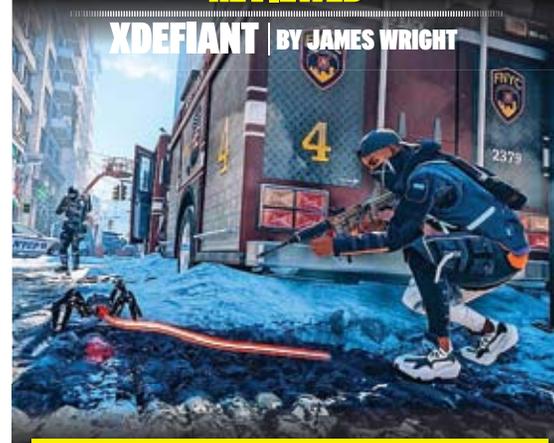


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GAMES JAMES

REVIEWED

XDEFIANT | BY JAMES WRIGHT



FUN SHOOTER A REAL BLAST

EARLIER this week Ubisoft dropped much-anticipated new game XDefiant.

If it's not ringing any bells, then that's OK since it was originally announced back in July 2021 and it's not as though we've exactly been short of first-person shooters these past few years.

Intriguingly, rather than spinning up a whole new shooter, Ubisoft has instead created various factions pulled from some of the developer's pre-existing franchises.

For instance, it includes The Cleaners (The Division), Libertad (Far Cry 6), Echelon (Splinter Cell), DedSec (Watch Dogs 2) and Phantoms (Ghost Recon Phantoms).

Each faction includes three characters, but you'll only start with one from each faction, with more unlockable through completing in-game missions.

It's easy to view XDefiant as just

another in a long line of free-to-play, fast-paced arcade shooters.

But in truth, it does feel somewhat refreshing, if only for its sheer simplicity.

It says a lot that one of the top comments on the r/Games Subreddit right now reads: "As a fps maniac, this game is free and 30 gigs of fast-paced, COD-like gameplay."

"It scratches that itch without supporting 300 gigabyte download practices and that's honestly a huge W in my book."

There's no battle royale, no funky convoluted mechanics to learn, it's just a really solid shooter with good performance and Usain Bolt-like match-making that loads you into a game in no time.

Unsurprisingly then, the game hit a million unique players within 2.5 hours of launch.

If you're looking for something new to try over the bank holiday, this might be the (free) game for you.

News Bites

- NEW Fortnite season adds Fallout's T-60 power armor and Magneto from X-MEN.
- A SHOWCASE for Call Of Duty: Black Ops 6 has been confirmed for June 9.
- A FRESH Astro Bot game will be revealed by PlayStation "in weeks", it's claimed.

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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.

FOLLOW STUART ON TWITTER: **@BIRDERMAN**

GROW



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

FOR IT



with DIARMUID GAVIN

gardening@dailystar.co.uk

Sorry, Diarmuid cannot reply personally



Premier stars on show at Chelsea

HEAVEN SCENT
Choose star jasmine for wonderful fragrance

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.

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

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.



RUFFLED
Petunia Tumbelina 'Nicola'

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.

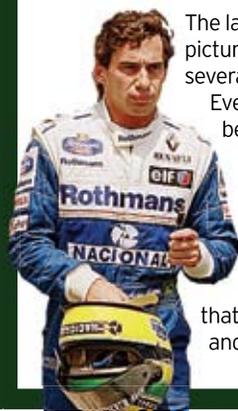
Many of the fancy tulips we plant are highly bred and often only perform really well for one year. Those that do reflower are often smaller or paler.

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.



Ducati bike tribute to racing legend Senna



The late and very great Ayrton Senna, pictured, was a keen biker and owned several Ducatis.

Ever since his death 30 years ago there has been a run of Senna tribute models.

This latest one is a dramatic yellow and green liveried Ducati Monster that represents the Brazilian flag and Senna's helmet colours. Priced at £23,500, only 341 will be built.

The significance of that number is that Senna won three world championships and 41 is the number of F1 races he won.



MOTORING



VW revamp improves an excellent little SUV

Volkswagen has got the SUV business well covered with six different sizes to choose – from the smallest, the T-Cross, to the Touareg on whose platform the Porsche Cayenne is based.

Several have recently been facelifted, including the Tiguan which we wrote about a few weeks ago, the Touareg itself and most recently the T-Cross.

The latter faces a lot of opposition, some of it tough to beat, particularly with the likes of the Peugeot 2008, Toyota Yaris Cross and Vauxhall Mokka. The VW isn't that eye-catching

but there are some quite striking colours available including one that's been introduced with this facelift, pictured above, called Rubber Ducky Yellow by Volkswagen. Well, rather by VW's customers who chose the name in an online competition.

There's also clear blue metallic that looks nice and an expensive (£860) optional King's Red metallic.

You have four trim levels to choose from: Life, Match, Style and R-Line, as well as a selection of powerplants.

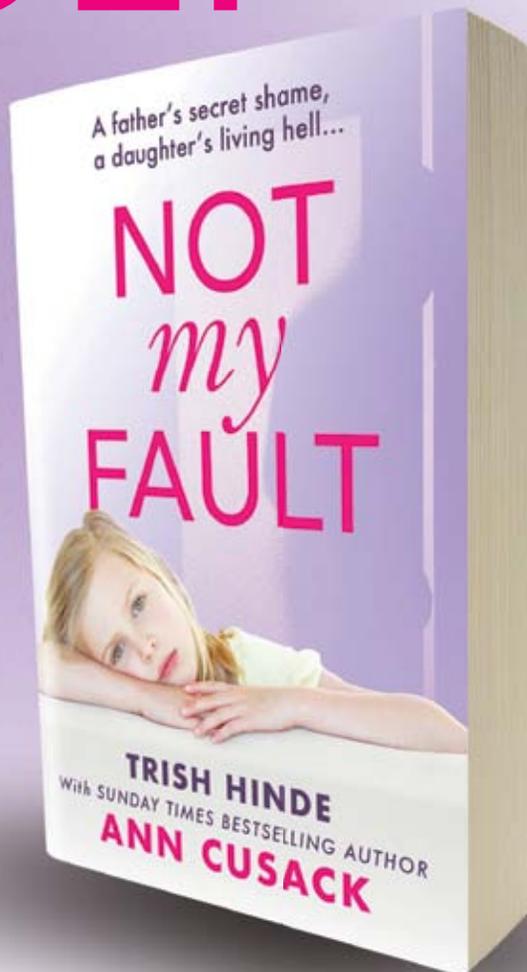
Most T-Crosses come with a 1.0-litre three-cylinder engine with either 95 or 115PS, but higher-spec

A FATHER'S SECRET SHAME,
A DAUGHTER'S LIVING HELL...

NOT *my* FAULT

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By the writer of
ABANDONED
and **THE CONVENT**



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TAKE A SEAT...

SEAT is offering another engine option in its Leon hatchback – a 1.5-litre petrol unit from Volkswagen's parts bin that produces 115PS.

A further addition is a PHEV powertrain that produces 204PS and has an electric range of almost 60 miles. That seems like a great option and it's no wonder PHEVs are continuing to sell well, unlike pure EVs.

The Leon has also just received a



facelift both inside and out. The car has now gone into production in Barcelona and prices will be announced soon.

with
**COLIN
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**GOT A COMMENT
ON MOTORING?
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ON X AT
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The London Concours, held June 4-6 at the Honourable Artillery Company, celebrates the pop-up headlamp, no longer seen due to safety regulations. When I was a kid, a pop-up headlamp was an exotic feature. The event brings together a stunning collection of cars with the feature, from the Lotus Elan to the Lamborghini Miura. The Lotus's headlamp was powered by an engine vacuum and they would often come up one at a time, one only or none at all. Scary at night. Tickets from £5 at londonconcours.co.uk



Cross purposes



cars can also come with a 1.5-litre four-cylinder engine that has 150PS.

That's the motor that powers our Style-trimmed test car together with a seven-speed DSG auto 'box (you can't have a manual gearbox with this engine).

Without options it costs £30,740, which is a lot to pay for a car that's based on the VW Polo.

At the other end of the range you get much better value for money.

Right at the bottom is the Life with the lower-powered 1.0-litre engine and five-speed manual gearbox which is a smidgeon under

£24,000. It's well equipped with LED headlamps, alloy wheels, an 8in central touchscreen, smart phone mirroring and cruise control. Do you need much more?

If you're after some fun then the Ford Puma is the best choice in the compact crossover class. But most drivers will be looking for a good all-rounder that's easy to drive and live with – and the T-Cross is certainly that.

The handling is safe, the steering light, but with not much feel, and you can tell that the centre of gravity is higher than it is in a Polo. Again,

the extra performance provided by the more expensive engine option isn't really needed but the DSG is a plus as it's so easy and smooth.

You also get space in the T-Cross. Those extra dimensions over the Polo give more room for passengers, especially in the back where six-footers will be comfortable, and for luggage.

For general storage there are vast door bins, a recess in the dashboard with a rubber liner so things don't slide about and a handy drawer under the passenger seat plus a cubby under the climate controls

that includes wireless charging for your phone.

The rear bench seat, as well as splitting 60/40, can be slid back and forth, and you can order a passenger seat that folds flat in case you want to carry longer objects in the back.

The Volkswagen T-Cross is not greatly changed by this facelift, it's still a practical and easy-to-live-with motor. We'd recommend spending less by going for the entry-level models that are still well equipped.

And go for that Rubber Ducky Yellow paint.

THE FACTS

Volkswagen T-Cross Style

Price: £30,740

Engine: 1,498cc, four-cylinder, petrol

Power: 150PS

Torque: 250Nm

Top speed: 124mph

0-62mph: 8.4secs

Economy: 47.4mpg

Combined CO2: 135g/km

For: Affordable, practical

Against: Hard plastics look cheap

Sum-up: The cheapest versions are the best buys

Interstar innovates

Nissan has just opened the order books for diesel versions of the Interstar, the company's largest LCV van. It's available in two trim levels: Acenta and Tekna with the former costing £33,090 plus VAT, and the more comprehensively equipped Tekna model an extra £1,200 plus VAT on top of that.

All versions are powered by a 2.0-litre diesel engine with a choice of power outputs from 105 to 170PS. The diesel-powered Interstar has a payload of



two tons which is presumably greater than that which will be available with the upcoming all-electric versions of the van.

Deliveries to customers will start in October.

ODD NAME GAME

Quite why SsangYong decided to change its name to KGM Motors UK I have no idea, but it must cause some confusion in the marketplace. Is KGM yet another Chinese newcomer, people might ask. Perhaps this is why KGM is offering a £1,000 discount on any vehicle in the range until May 27.

That doesn't give interested punters much time to get down to their dealers



but as we often say, if you miss the deadline, it's always worth haggling to see if they'll extend the offer. After all, they run these promotions because they need to shift stock.

MOVIES

STAR RATINGS

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



CONTRACT
 Adria
 Arjona as
 Madison
 and Glen
 Powell as
 Gary

Taking aim

HIT MAN

Cert 15 ★★★★★

In cinemas now and streaming on Netflix from June 7

Teasingly billed as “a somewhat true story”, *Hit Man* is a delightfully entertaining black comedy. It’s all about a mild-mannered college professor, posing as a hired killer during undercover police stings to extract incriminating evidence from aggrieved targets, securing an arrest before real bullets fly and blood is spilt.

Top Gun: Maverick bad boy Glen Powell, who flaunted an impressive set of chiselled abs in last year’s romcom *Anyone But You*, propels his star further with an irresistibly charming central performance as the self-doubting, bookish academic who is

reborn when personality traits from his sharp-shooting alter egos follow him home to the lonely apartment he shares with two cats named Ego and Id.

“He’s like a Caucasian Idris!” gushes one of his gob-smacked police handlers, who can barely believe the shy, unassuming philosophy lecturer responsible for managing the technology in their surveillance operations can metamorphose into a swaggering, cocksure alpha male at the drop of a baseball cap.

Gary Johnson (Powell) is first asked to pose as a hit man in place of a suspended detective (Austin Amelio) and rises magnificently to the challenge.

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

“**This shoots to kill with snappy dialogue and sizzling screen rapport**”

killer’s appearance, voice and mannerisms to put the client at ease. 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 Alya 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



DRAMA
 Kinnear and Fisher head up the family

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.



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 on-screen furball is named Snoop Catt and when Pratt’s gluttonous puss becomes embroiled in a hare-brained Mission: Impossible-style heist, he once again addresses us to camera: “I do my own stunts. Me and Tom Cruise.”

Dindal’s picture does not self-destruct after five seconds thanks to a spirited vocal performance from Hannah Waddingham as a feline criminal mastermind, who is one swish of a tail shy of caterwauling madness. Meowch.

TRAVEL



Edited by
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Oman united

Richard Elias
visits Muscat,
the anchor of
this stunning
sultanate

VIBRANT
Corniche
promenade
in Muscat

Muscat is apparently named after the flat bottom of an anchor and if true, the choice is particularly apt.

The capital city of the sultanate of Oman is a thin strip of dozens of small towns and villages which over the course of the centuries have merged slowly into one.

Locals say that from high up, the resulting city resembles an anchor holding the rest of Oman together.

Protected from the encroaching desert by high, craggy mountains, the country's history is inexorably linked to the sea. Located on the

eastern side of the Arabian peninsula, Oman is bordered by Yemen to the south and to the northwest Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Iranian capital, Tehran, is just under 800 miles north with Karachi in Pakistan 550 miles east across the Arabian Sea.

As a result, it is clear why this country of 4.5 million people is strategically so important in a geopolitical context to the West.

But this relatively lesser-known nation has a host of attractions which will enthral, delight and

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

CRUISE NEWS

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Take off with a £600 flight credit bonus on Holland America Caribbean sailings this winter season.

The offer is available on 103 itineraries departing from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, between October and April - and it also comes with a pre-cruise hotel stay and transfers. Holland America Line has six ships

sailing in the Caribbean this winter - Eurodam, Nieuw Amsterdam, Nieuw Statendam, Rotterdam, Volendam and Zuiderdam - offering voyages ranging from four to 21 days.

Prices start at £899 per person for four days to The Bahamas.

A Holland America spokeswoman said: "With a huge discount on flights, transfers and a hotel stay included, along with a choice of six beautiful ships, it's now easier than ever to enjoy the delights of this magical

destination." Booking is now open to July 31. hollandamerica.com

■ Iceland is the newest 2024 European sailaway hotspot, says specialist Iglu Cruise. The North Atlantic island is showing a 40% year-on-year increase in online searches, with Greece up 32% and France rising 16%.

A spokesman said some of the largest glaciers in Europe and some of the world's most active volcanoes make for "an unforgettable trip" to Iceland. iglu-cruise.com

Eurostar is investing in up to 50 new eco-friendly trains to operate across five countries and beyond from the early 2030s. Boss Gwendoline Cazenave said the brand aims to be "the backbone of sustainable travel in Europe". eurostar.com

UK passengers can now join Wizz Air's MultiPass flight subscription plan, which allows subscribers to travel once a month on eligible journeys via a fixed monthly fee. Prices start at £59.99 per person with savings of up to 40% available even in peak season. wizzair.com

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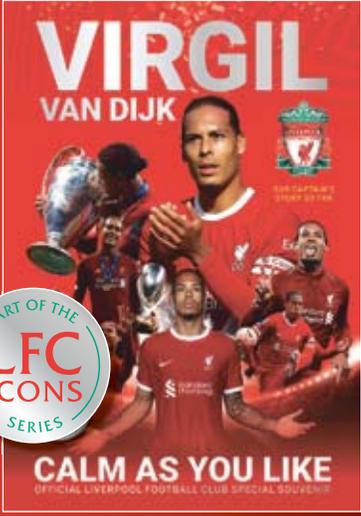
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HOTEL OF THE WEEK
BY JAMES ROBINSON



The Swan Hotel and Spa Lake District

WHERE AND WHY

The Lake District is one of the UK's most popular holiday destinations, and the spectacular scenery that surrounds the Swan Hotel and Spa at Newby Bridge makes it easy to see why. From our suite we were treated to picture-perfect views of the River Leven flowing from Windermere, nestled among dramatic fells.

Our beautiful, spacious room was tastefully decorated in deep blues that gave it a homely feel, but the bathroom was the star of the show thanks to the stunning freestanding copper bathtub that drove home the luxury feel.

Guests will also find a small workspace with tea and coffee-making facilities as well as locally made natural toiletries from Bath House that you'll want to take home with you.

There's a couple of venues for your evening meal. The Swan Inn is a quaint pub serving hearty pub classics, while The River Room Brasserie offers a touch of class for something extra special.

ON THE MENU

In The River Room, the menu makes for a tough choice, with the likes of lobster and crab ravioli, roasted lamb rack and passionfruit and white chocolate cheesecake all hugely tempting. In the end, I went for pork belly with black pudding and a pea puree to start, followed by short rib of beef with shallot and bone marrow mashed potato.

My fiancée ordered baked scallops and a ribeye steak, which were also exceptional.

For dessert, I sampled the apple tarte tatin, while she went for the chocolate fondant – both were superb.

Breakfast features a continental buffet as well as a selection of cooked options.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

The in-house spa is not to be missed. Climb into the heated pool or the outdoor hot tub, enjoying the stunning vistas all around.

There are also saunas and steam rooms, as well as an ice bucket to cool yourself down if you're feeling brave.

Staff are on hand to bring you a selection of cocktails, and if that's not enough, you can also take to the treatment rooms where one of the hotel's expert massage therapists will leave you floating on air.

The hotel is also a short, pleasant walk from Windermere, England's largest lake.

From the southern shore, you can hop on a ferry to explore further or even take a historic steam train to see the sights further south.

WAKE-UP CALL

Rooms at The Swan Hotel in the Lake District start at £180 a night B&B. swanhotel.com

IMPOSING
Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

amaze any visitor, no matter how well travelled they may be.

Although located just 300 miles from Dubai, Oman feels as if it is on a different planet.

This is true Arabia. A stark and hostile natural environment which is also utterly awe-inspiring.

In Muscat, there is not a single skyscraper. Nor will you find a plethora of supercars driving up and down the beautiful Corniche – the main promenade – of Muscat. Designer shops are few and far between and Instagrammers and WAGs have yet to discover its delights.

What you do get, though, is a fascinating throwback to a time when the spice trail saw merchants ply their trade from Southeast Asia using Muscat as a stopping-off point before sending their wares further westward.

The Omanis themselves have, since the 16th century, been master mariners, first as fishermen and later as explorers, using their expertise to control large swathes of Africa's eastern seaboard, in particular, the island of Zanzibar.

This tradition continues today as from before dawn, handmade fishing boats are put to sea in search of today's catch while as the sun sets, crews can be seen on the beaches mending their nets and preparing for the following day's adventures.

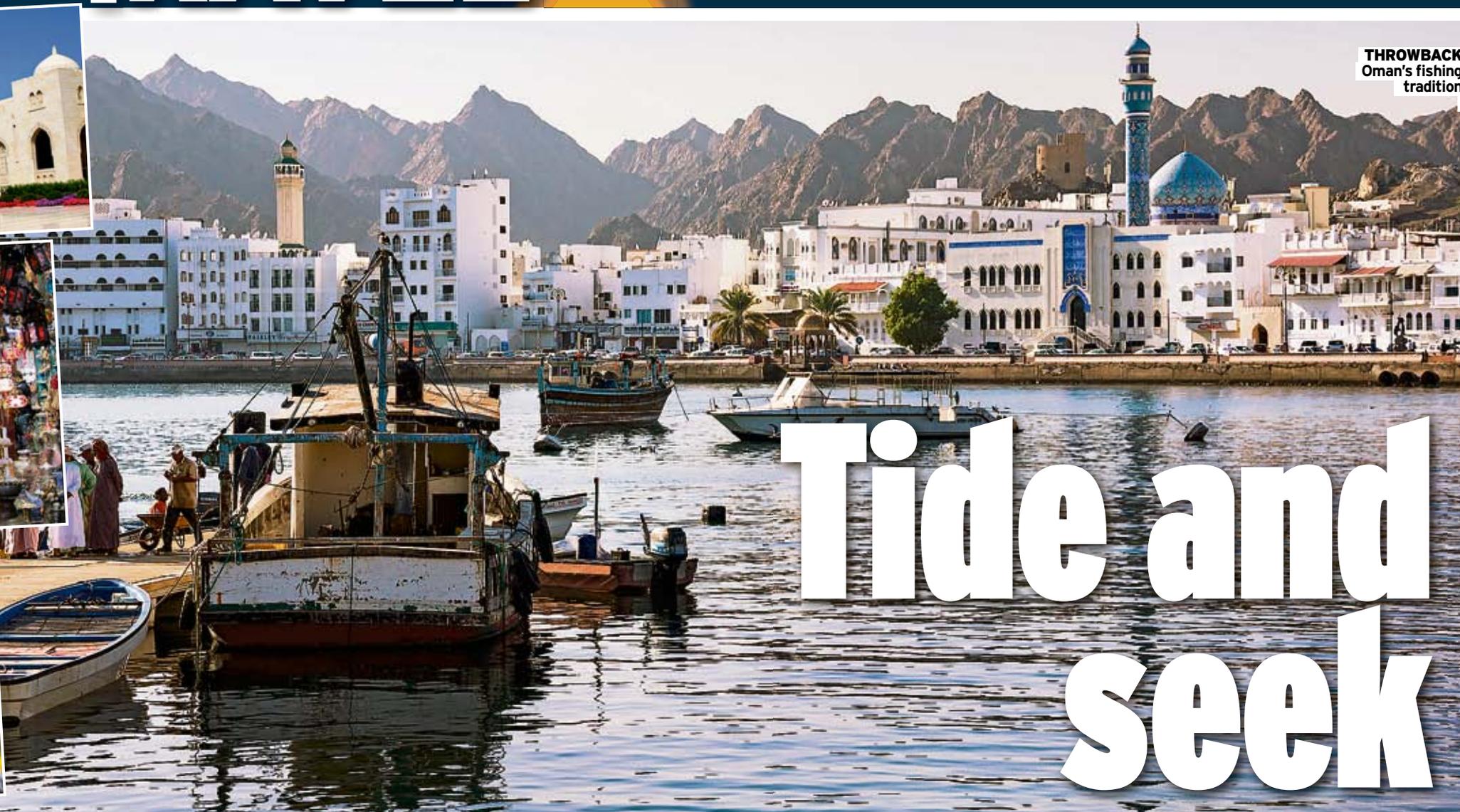
Our first port of call upon arriving in Muscat was, as most other people choose, the incredible Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. The

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THROWBACK
 Oman's fishing tradition



Tide and seek

prayer carpet in the main hall – which can accommodate up to 20,000 worshippers – is the second-biggest single carpet in the world, covering almost 47,000 sq ft.

Above you, suspended from the main dome, is a chandelier weighing 8.5 tonnes measuring 46in in height.

Non-Muslim visitors are allowed into the mosque between 8am and 11am Saturday to Thursday and it is certainly not to be missed.

The National Museum of Oman is located 30 minutes away and, while small, is a superb way to understand the history of this country. It is also air-conditioned which, in a city where temperatures of 45C in the summer are not uncommon, is welcome.

The Mutrah Souk – or market – is believed to be one of the oldest in the world and walking its narrow alleyways, it is not difficult to feel you have travelled back in time.

Unlike similar ones in other countries, there is a complete lack of feeling intimidated or hassled by the traders.

A cheery “hello” or a beckoning wave is the extent of their attempts to entice you in.

Another thing Oman is famous for is frankincense, one of the Three Wise Men's birth gifts to Jesus.

It comes in resin form from the



LUXURY
 Kempinski
 Muscat
 hotel

trunk of the Boswellia tree and its citrusy, woody aroma permeates almost everywhere you go. Used as a skin conditioner and for medicines, it is best known for being an efficient way of keeping insects away in the summer months. This is done by

burning the resin in a clay receptacle and letting the smoke waft around.

Not surprisingly, the ornate designs of the resin holders are popular with visitors as holiday keepsakes.

If there is one thing which Omanis pride themselves on more than anything, it is their

friendliness. Greetings are warm and sincere and a genuine interest in your reason for visiting their country is obvious.

Central to their hospitality is something called Karak tea.

Alcohol, although available in Omani hotels – £12 a pint! – is not

sold outside and so this is the drink of choice. Think very strong, very sweet tea, using condensed milk, ginger and cardamom and you have it. Trust me, it is utterly addictive. It is sold everywhere and drive-in tea shops line the roadsides where waiters scurry to parked cars, taking orders and then bringing the Karak tea, accompanied by tasty mini-doughnuts.

But it would be remiss not to travel out of Muscat and see what the rest of the

country has to offer.

Among the most popular tourist places is Wadi Bani Khalid. It is a near three-hour drive through some of the strangest landscapes you will ever encounter.

To describe it as “moon-like” would be an understatement but the scenery is totally compelling.

Oman's infrastructure is first-class and the road network would put much of the UK to shame.

Arriving at Wadi Bani Khalid it is evident just how popular the place is but it is large enough for everyone to find their own little piece of calm.

Walking through it can be a bit tricky. Guidebooks describe it as an “easy hike”. If that is the case, I would not like to endure a “difficult trek”. Yet after

20 minutes walking through the wadi – Arabic for “valley” or “ravine” – you are greeted by crystal-clear waters, ideal for swimming or cooling off in as the towering cliffs above provide fantastic shade from the glaring heat.

Muscat is not short of excellent hotels and the choice is dependent on what you intend to do during your visit. We stayed at the five-star Kempinski Muscat located in the Al Mouj district which is a modern, residential area half-an-hour's drive from the Corniche.

The beachfront property is stunningly decorated and exudes typical Arabic charm and character.

During our trip, we also visited both the Shangri-La and Jumeirah hotels which are situated further south on the coast.

It rained slightly, for one day during our stay, but clearly, it is an unusual occurrence as we were warned to “stay away from the hotel windows and keep our personal items close by”. Bizarrely, though, it prompted

GET THERE

Oman Air flies from Heathrow to Muscat, Oman, from £528 return. omanair.com

BOOK IT

Rooms at the Kempinski Hotel Muscat start at around £208 a night B&B. kempinski.com

MORE INFO

visitoman.om

the locals to immediately pack a picnic and head to the beach to endure the precipitation.

We followed them and were amazed to see literally hundreds of SUVs and 4x4s parked on the sands soaking up the “downpour”.

One word of warning, while Muscat International Airport is sleek and modern, getting through arrivals would test the patience of a saint. From departing the plane to walking out of the terminal took me two hours. The ultra-methodical but painfully slow processing of passengers was not the ideal way to start my trip.

But the rest of my days in Oman made up for that slight hiccup. A beautiful country with wonderful people and amazing scenery. If the anchor stays in place, I will moor up any time.

COOL OFF
 Hidden beach on coast of Oman



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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.



FIRST PASSENGER
Elizabeth II

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



FRENCH CONNECTION
Arrival in Calais

The link effect



WILD RIDE
Families and pets on LeShuttle



MAKING HISTORY
The first journey was in May 1994

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



SAFE TRAVELS
Millions of vehicles use the Channel

population of the UK.

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 6% 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



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.



MASSIVE BORE
Work on the tunnel rail link

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Vax Technology

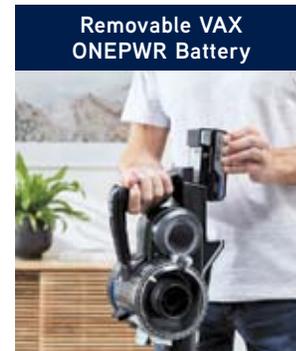
The brushless motor, controlled by VAX Core™ technology, continuously monitors and ensures optimal cleaning performance, whilst 3-stage filtration captures up to 99.8% of particles and fine dust down to 0.3 microns in size.^A The dirt bin is also easily removed for simple and hygienic emptying, and with a removable brushbar and filter, maintenance of a VAX Blade 4 is made simple.

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JMK27

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*UK Market data Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 (by sales volume), tested in boost mode on carpet according to IEC 62885-4:2020 part 5.3. For further information email claimsinfo@vax.co.uk **UK Market data Jan 2023 - Dec 2023 (by sales volume), tested in boost mode on carpets and hard floors according to IEC 62885-2:2021 parts 5.2 and 5.4. For further information email claimsinfo@vax.co.uk †Tested in standard power mode on hard floor, with floor brush switched off. ‡Tested according to EN60312-1:2017 Clause 5.11. *Maximum suction power, tested in boost mode according to IEC 62885-2:2016 clause 5.8. Orders before 7pm Monday-Friday, next day delivery available. Offer only while stocks last.

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STARTS WITH RACING

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TIDY UP ON O'BRIEN'S SECOND STRING

DRESS up for the Classic season and close out the Tattersalls Irish 1,000 Guineas with Ballydoyle's **BUTTONS (3.45)** at The Curragh this afternoon.

Aidan O'Brien will saddle likely market leader in Opera Singer and this immaculately bred filly has solid claims.

But at five times the price, and with two runs under her belt, I fancy that the daughter of Kingman will rustle the feathers of her stablemate.

She was still too green to do herself justice on her three-year-old debut in the Priory Belle Stakes and then she was given a far-from-satisfactory ride in a Group Three at Leopardstown.

That day, Colin Keane was brilliant on the winner, but the others jockeys had questions to answer, with Buttons running on to finish a closing second.

There looks sure to be a much faster pace on her and this physically imposing filly with her devouring stride should relish the wide-open spaces of The Curragh.

Auguste Rodin may well run away with the Tattersalls Gold Cup but following his Sheema Classic demise at Meydan, I am more than happy to let him win at around even-money.

The nod goes to the filly **LUMIERE ROCK (3.10)** who ended last season

JACOBS' Crackers

FIVE-TIME NAPS TABLE CHAMP MOORESTYLE'S BEST BETS...

with a close-up sixth in the Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Turf at Santa Anita.

Good ground is exactly what she requires to take another step forward and she is the value each-way call here.

Look out for **FLIGHT OF FANTASY (2.00)** in the valuable fillies' handicap.

The daughter of the great Galileo obviously found an extended 10 furlongs beyond her last time out at in a Group Three at Naas and back to a mile and off a mark of 90, she gets the vote.

Later on, **SPOKEN TRUTH (4.15)** may be able to back up her maiden success at Cork by stepping up in the Group Three Gallinule Stakes over the stiff mile-and-a-quarter trip.

I suspect 12 furlongs may be on the cards later in the season for this daughter of Frankel and she can outstay Mundi and Stromberg in a strong renewal.

The best wager over the sticks in the UK could come at Fontwell with **CALL OFF THE DOGS (3.14)**.

A six-length winner over a shorter trip at the track last time out, the extra yardage here should play to his strengths.



CLASSIC CHANCE: Buttons is tipped to spring a shock in the Irish 1,000 Guineas

BEST EACH-WAY DIEGO VELASQUEZ can shine in the Betfred Derby on Saturday despite facing stablemate City Of Troy.

FONTWELL sky sports racing

JASON HEAVEY	MOORESTYLE
Fine Margin 2.39	Fine Margin
Call Off The Dogs (nb) 3.14	Call Off The Dogs
Midnight Gold 3.50	Stowaway Jess
Toad Of Toad Hall 4.25	William Ewart
Sandy Brook 5.00	Celtic Fortune
Happy Boy 5.35	Beat The Heat

2.39 STAR SPORTS MAIDEN HURDLE (GBB RACE)

CI 4 (10 flights) 2m 3f (6 run) £4,066

1 P/L DIAMOND MONARCH (151) Christian Williams 7 11 4.....J Tudor 19
2 P/O FINE MARGIN (43)(T) W P Mullins (IRE) 7 11 4.....Mr P W Mullins*138
3 P/L HE'S A STEEL (507) F Brennan 7 11 4.....L Saunders (7) -
4 SL2-OVAL STREET (90)(G)(B) M Gillard 8 11 4.....F Gillard 101
5 L4-2-BLESS THE MOON (21)(BF) James Owen 6 10 11.....Lilly Pinchin 97
6 U/O-ON THE NOSE (F5) A West 6 10 11.....L Edwards 64

Star Betting: 1-10 Fine Margin, 10 Bless The Moon, 12 Oval Street, 50 On The Nose, Diamond Monarch, 100 He's A Steel.

3.14 THE STAR SPORTS APP HANDICAP CHASE

CI 5 (15 fences) 2m 3f 104yds (6 run) £3,248

1 310-HIDALGO DES BORDES (31)(BF)(G)(T) W Greatrex 7 12 0.....J Bowen 99
2 2P2-BLAZE A TRAIL (55)(C,D2,G,S)(H) & P Flint 10 11 15.....C Brace*107
3 44-1 CALL OFF THE DOGS (10)(C,G,S)(B) G & J Moore 9 11 9.....C Quinn (3) 103
4 05L-ROYAL JUNIPER (45)(S)(T) Mrs H Nelmes 8 11 1.....Charlie Price (3) 106

3.50 STAR SPORTS HANDICAP HURDLE

Class 4 (11 flights) 2m 6f (9 run) £4,066

1 2L4-SAMBEZI (31)(C2,G,S)(P,T) O Signy 8 12 0.....B J Powell 111
2 500-BALLYFINN (32)(T) A Honeyball 6 12 0.....R Dingle 106
3 135-ALEXANDRA ROMANOV (201)(C,D,C,G,S) Miss S West 7 11 12
4 124-STOWAWAY JESS (33)(G) F O'Brien 7 11 7.....Fern O'Brien (7) 108
5 P3P-SERMANDO (35)(G,S)(P,T) Alexandra Dunn 10 11 6.....N Schofield 110
6 21-2 MIDNIGHT LOGIC (20)(G)(P,T) N Mulholland 7 11 6.....H Cobden 112
7 4L3-ILLOGICAL LOGIC (45) Christian Williams 6 11 5.....J Tudor*113
8 P5-8 SOBALOT (18)(C,D,S)(P,T) Ben Clarke 7 11 0.....L Williams 109
9 P4L-SAM'S AMOUR (87) K Burke 7 10 3.....A Wedge 110

Star Betting: 11-4 Midnight Gold, 4 Stowaway Jess, 5 Ballyfinn, 6 Alexandra Romanov, 7 Sambezi, 10 Illogical Logic, 14 others.

4.25 STARSPTS.BET HANDICAP CHASE

Class 5 (19 fences) 3m 2f (7 run) £3,248

1 PP-L FRIENDS DON'T ASK (18)(C,D2,G,S)(P) C Eilam 9 12 0.....B J Powell 38
2 PP3-DOCTOR FOLEY (32)(C,D,G,S)(T) A Honeyball 7 11 5.....R Dingle 96
3 333-WILLIAM EWART (31)(S)(P,T) Christian Williams 7 11 3.....N Schofield 98
4 1P-P TOAD OF TOAD HALL (15)(C,D2,C,G,S) Alexandra Dunn 8 11 1
5 PPS-HELLSTOPATHTHETOP (37) K Burke 7 11 0.....H Kimber 92
6 LP-P PRINCE CLENI (11)(G) Christian Williams 6 10 10.....A Wedge 81
7 20-4 LOUGH SALT (19)(G,S)(P) P Winks 13 10 5.....L Scott (5) 99

Star Betting: 2 William Ewart, 9-4 Doctor Foley, 5 Toad Of Toad Hall, 7 Hellstopatthetop, 8 Prince Cleni, 16 others.

5.00 STAR SPORTS HANDICAP HURDLE

Class 5 (13 flights) 3m 2f (7 run) £3,248

1 P36-SEIGNOR GRINGO (33)(S)(P) R Bandey 6 12 0.....H Bannister 97
2 PL-1 SANDY BROOK (14)(G,S) C Gordon 9 11 13.....F Gordon (5) 99
3 P1-2 DEAR RALPHY (37)(S,B,T) A Honeyball 8 11 5.....B Godfrey 100
4 P4-4 CELTIC FORTUNE (18)(P,T) N Mulholland 7 11 3.....H Cobden 100
5 P5-4 KAPITALISTE (14)(G)(T,V) Alexandra Dunn 8 10 13.....P Armonson (3) 102
6 L36-DANZINI (32)(G)(T) K Burke 8 10 9.....A Wedge*103
7 OP-3 GLORIOUS MIST (14) P Butler 7 10 2.....L Scott (5) 94

Star Betting: 11-10 Sandy Brook, 9-2 Danzini, 6 Celtic Fortune, 7 Kapitaliste, 10 Seigneur Gringo, 14 Dear Ralphy, 16 Glorious Mist.

5.35 STARSPTS.BET.CO.UK HANDICAP HURDLE

Class 5 (9 flights) 2m 2f (8 run) £3,248

1 /1-5 HAPPY BOY (8)(BF)(G)(T) C Gordon 7 12 0.....F Gordon (5) 106
2 /3P-BEAT THE HEAT (F51)(C,D2,C,G,S)(P) J Boyle 7 11 13.....Sean Houlihan 103
3 31-2 CAWTHORNE BANKER (14)(BF)(G)(P) Jonjo & A'Neill 6 11 12.....Jonjo O'Neill Jr 104
4 04-L GOT GREY (13)(T) Mrs H Nelmes 5 11 9.....Charlie Price (3)*108
5 OP-P BAIKAL (F9)(G)(T) A West 5 11 9.....L Edwards 104
6 0L-SARSEN (67)(B,T) A Honeyball 6 10 11.....R Dingle 99
7 L0-EVENTFUL (2)(G,S) & S Best 7 10 11.....T Cannon 89
8 OP-P PRIVATORY (14)(S)(P,T) P Butler 6 10 4.....M Goldstein 94

Star Betting: 13-8 Cawthorne Banker, 5-2 Happy Boy, 6 Beat The Heat, 7 Baikal, 10 Sarsen, 16 Eventful, 20 Got Grey, 33 Privatory.

Carry on Crow

HOT DOGS

WITH JONATHAN HOBBS

TOWCESTER hosted the last batch of first round heats of the 2024 Star Sports/TRC English Greyhound Derby last night and are counting down to next week's second round on Friday and Saturday nights.

However, normal service resumes this afternoon with an all-open live-on-SIS 12-race card at the Northamptonshire track and recent Ladbrokes Kent St Leger winner **COONOUGH CROW (4.07)** is one of the stars of the show.

Mark Wallis' in-form two-time Category One winner goes over 712m and can strike at the expense of likely long-time leader You Too, while Wallis might also be on the mark later with youngster **TABLE TOPPERS (4.44)** who looks well drawn.

Another Wallis star **BALLYMAC TAYLOR (5.03)** is tough to oppose over 942m as her Dorando Marathon prep continues.

Meanwhile, other Towcester fancies this afternoon are Laurence Tuffin's **FABULOUS TOVA (3.29)** and Con Condon's **BARNTICK WATCH (3.49)**.

In association with www.towcester-racecourse.co.uk - home of the Star Sports and TRC Events & Leisure English Greyhound Derby. See website for racing information and bookings or call 0800 304 7700.

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GREYHOUND RESULTS

CRAYFORD

2.23: Sleepy Seanie (6) 3-1, Trapstyle Tee (5) 5-1, bf: £18.46, tri: (6-5-4) £0.00. 2.41: Mystical Leo (3) 11-4, Runaway Sydney (4) 7-4 fav, bf: £9.95, tri: (3-4-1) £0.00. 3.01: Swift Charming (4) 5-2, Snowdon Star (1) 9-4 fav, bf: £10.11, tri: (4-2-2) £0.00. 3.19: Choices Express (5) 2-1, Saltees Suzi (2) 8-1, bf: £19.44, tri: (5-2-4) £0.00. 3.38: Graphics Gallery (3) 7-2, Kellsboro Ava (2) 9-4, bf: £13.81, tri: (3-2-6) £0.00. 3.57: Runaway Misty (5) 15-8 jt-fav, Kellsboro Roly (3) 15-8 jt-fav, bf: £6.62, tri: (5-3-1) £0.00. 4.16: Swift Jock (6) 9-2, One More Tune (1) 7-4, bf: £18.26, tri: (6-1-4) £0.00. 4.34: El Rapido (6) 6-1, Carlow Town (5) 7-4 fav, bf: £21.70, tri: (6-5-1) £67.39. 4.53: Choices Pat (5) 2-1, Solid Heggo (1) 4-1, bf: £11.84, tri: (5-1-4) £0.00. 5.12: Swift Aim (1) 2-1, El Speedy (5) 7-4 fav, bf: £18.26, tri: (1-5-4) £0.00. 5.31: Kuda Ruby (2) 9-4, Stella Bella (4) 2-1 jt-fav, bf: £9.25, tri: (2-4-6) £29.51. 5.49: Corbally Chubbs (2) 7-4 fav, Airport Star (1) 9-4, bf: £6.61, tri: (2-1-1) £0.00.

DONCASTER

11.13: Glitter Alfie (6) 7-1, Ardmayle Lady (1) 6-4 fav, bf: £25.70, tri: (6-1-2) £82.26. 11.29: Foyle Bandit (3) 4-1, Odins Prince (2) 4-5 fav, bf: £9.19, tri: (3-2-4) £0.00. 11.47: Shanghai Zorro (1) Evens fav, Queen Babs (4) 13-8, NR: Springside Dona (res), : Glitter Ronnie (res), bf: £2.97, tri: (1-4-2) £0.00. 12.04: Links Gloria (3) 9-4 fav, Magical Jimmy (1) 7-2, bf: £11.08, tri: (3-1-6) £0.00. 12.21: Tommys Elena (6) 10-3, Robyns Girl (4) 4-1, bf: £21.79, tri: (6-4-3) £0.00. 12.38: Scroggy Pat (4) 15-8, Emers Nellie (5) 4-1, bf: £11.01, tri: (4-5-1) £0.00. 12.54: September Rain (5) 7-4 fav, Flew The Coop (2) 3-1, bf: £8.19, tri: (5-2-6) £0.00. 11.2: Skeard Magic (1) 11-4, Lindrick Luna (3) 9-1, bf: £28.58, tri: (1-3-4) £0.00. 1.29: Are You Sure (2) 10-3, My Blue Boy (4) 7-4 fav, bf: £12.10, tri: (2-4-3) £0.00. 1.47: Agile Dorothy (1) 5-4 fav, Drumcrow Bale (3) 7-2, bf: £7.00, tri: (1-3-6) £0.00. 2.03: Blitz Becky (1) 9-4, Ruffian Fane (2) 8-1, bf: £20.16, tri: (1-2-3) £0.00. 2.21: Clonalis Bluelee (2) 7-1, Sober Flight (6) 5-6 fav, bf: £19.21, tri: (2-6-5) £0.00.

MONMORE

11.01: Tommys Duke (6) 12-1, Skyfall Wizard (3) 10-3, bf: £70.97, tri: (6-3-4) £233.67. 11.18: Ballymac Ethan (4) 10-11 fav, Elderberry Syd (6) 10-3, bf: £5.45, tri: (4-6-5) £23.07. 11.34: Crossfield Kevin (5) 7-4 fav, Sweet Treats (6) 4-1, bf: £10.17, tri: (5-6-1) £37.68. 11.52: Helicopter Molly (3) 7-2, Springside Lily (6) Evens fav, bf: £9.75, tri: (3-6-2) £31.41. 12.09: Toems Mary (5) 7-1, Jaguar Rosie (6) 15-8 fav, bf: £27.54, tri: (5-6-4) £76.98. 12.26: Alien Bolt (6) 5-1, Mitches Magician (5) 5-2 fav, bf: £21.61, tri: (6-5-3) £53.87. 12.42: Chubbys Coco (3) 5-6 fav, Born Queenie (1) 7-1, bf: £8.99, tri: (3-1-5) £16.58. 12.59: Slapdash Joe (5) 7-2, Kilara Coco (3) 10-3, bf: £21.50, tri: (5-3-6) £56.20. 1.17: Drumdoit Milo (6) 6-4 fav, Dhustone Dan (1) 5-2, bf: £6.37, tri: (6-1-2) £12.30. 1.33: Tullymurry Lyric (3) 6-4 fav, Mossrich Frankie (2) 7-1, bf: £13.66, tri: (3-2-4) £0.00. 1.51: Outa The Blue (3) 11-10 fav, Don Nico (5) 7-2, bf: £6.42, tri: (3-5-1) £0.00. 2.07: Zari Skye (3) 13-8 fav, Yama Rose (1) 3-1, bf: £7.62, tri: (3-1-5) £22.24.

ROMFORD

11.09: Fantasy Pete (3) 7-4 fav, Young Dotty (4) 4-1, bf: £9.97, tri: (3-4-2) £45.83. 11.27: Silver Bucks (3) 9-4 jt-fav, History (6) 7-2, bf: £12.29, tri: (3-6-5) £34.91. 11.43: Indian Maddie (4) 2-1 fav, Legsbeavingyou (5) 3-1, bf: £9.34, tri: (4-5-2) £0.00. 12.01: Hot Sauce Dude (2) 1-5 £0.00. 12.18: Last Dance Capri (6) 15-8 fav, Burgess Siun (2) 4-1, bf: £11.01, tri: (6-2-4) £25.28. 12.34: Swift Janice (2) 11-4, Move Over Izzy (3) 11-4, bf: £11.28, tri: (2-3-4) £0.00. 12.51: Dark Phoenix (1) 6-1, Mayses Menace (3) 9-4, NR: Keeperhill Meek (res), bf: £26.97, tri: (1-3-4) £0.00. 1.08: To Tone Chloe (1) 7-4 fav, Glory Justice (2) 8-1, bf: £16.42, tri: (1-2-3) £33.96. 1.26: Sirius Warrior (1) 4-1, Roman Champ (6) 10-3, bf: £22.83, tri: (1-6-3) £60.87. 1.42: Emersons Dream (5) 9-4, Without Time (3) 5-2, bf: £9.74, tri: (5-3-6) £0.00. 1.59: Kingdom County (4) 5-2, Sentosa Sunset (2) 11-8 fav, bf: £7.67, tri: (4-2-5) £22.77. 2.14: Ladys Luck (1) 2-1, Chillil Juliet (4) 10-1, bf: £24.65, tri: (1-4-2) £112.07.

RACING

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

HAYDOCK
 1.15: 1, NELLIE LEYLAX (P-L) Jamin 9-2 cofav; 2, Involvement (7-1); 3, Apiarist (20-1), 9-2 cofav Cerulean Bay, 9-2 cofav Candonomore. 1/4l, 4l, 12 ran. T Dascombe. Tote: £55.00; pl £21.00, £2.90, £3.90. Exacta: £38.90. Tricasta: £582.52. Trifecta: £650.90. CSF: £34.62. NR: Volterra.

1.50: 1, KERDOS (R Kingscote 12-1); 2, Live In The Dream (8-1); 3, Seven Questions (16-1). 4-1 jtfav Asfoora, 4-1 jtfav Beautiful Diamond. 7/4l, 2/4l, 9 ran. C Cox. Tote: £13.70; pl £3.60, £2.40, £3.90. Exacta: £135.90. Tricasta: £1534.73. Trifecta: £1106.90. CSF: £101.49. NR: Makarova.

2.25: 1, INISHERIN (T Eaves 9-2); 2, Orne (40-1); 3, VandeeK (8-11 fav). 3/4l, nk, 7 ran. K Ryan. Tote: £55.00; pl £2.00, £9.10. Exacta: £92.30. Tricasta: £252.59. Trifecta: £369.30. CSF: £132.40. NR: Pandora's Gift.

3.00: 1, ENGLISH OAK (O Murphy 8-11 fav); 2, Persuasion (10-1); 3, Abduction (22-1). 4/4l, shd, 6 ran. E Walker. Tote: £11.73; pl £1.10, £3.50. Exacta: £8.10. Trifecta: £58.70. CSF: £8.70. NR: Metabolit.

3.30: 1, DIVINE COMEDY (Kaiya Fraser 3-1 fav); 2, Solent Gateway (14-1); 3, Emlyn (12-1). 5/4l, 2/4l, 13 ran. Harry Eustace. Tote: £4.00; pl £1.70, £4.80, £3.60. Exacta: £51.20. Tricasta: £454.97. Trifecta: £748.20. CSF: £47.16. NR: Evaluation.

4.10: 1, NARIKO (O Murphy 11-2); 2, Kodii Lion (8-1); 3, Moyola (22-1). 11-10 fav The Amazon, 2l, 1/4l, 15 ran. H Palmer. Tote: £6.80; pl £1.90, £2.20, £4.80. Exacta: £35.50. Tricasta: £933.33. Trifecta: £841.90. CSF: £47.96.

4.45: 1, COBSICAN CAPER (S Osborne 11-2); 2, Squeezbox (11-1); 3, Bustaan (13-2). 5-2 fav Western Stars, 1l, 3/4l, 9 ran. K Frost. Tote: £6.50; pl £2.00, £2.80, £1.80. Exacta: £42.70. Tricasta: £398.96. Trifecta: £344.90. CSF: £62.44. NR: Story Horse, Suttie Alshams.

JACKPOT: Not won, pool of £16,252.49 carried over.
PLACEPOT: £105.50
PLACEPOT: £2,773.20

GOODWOOD

1.30: 1, QIRAT (H Crouch 8-1); 2, Al Shabab Storm (4-1 fav); 3, Blue Prince (9-1). 1/4l, hd, 13 ran. R Beckett. Tote: £7.80; pl £2.10, £2.00, £3.00. Exacta: £20.80. Tricasta: £179.34. Trifecta: £168.70. CSF: £27.12. NR: Balmacara, Mission To Moon, Native America, The Camden Colt, The Camden Colt Rule 4 applies to All Bets, deduct 15p in the pound.

2.05: 1, FRANCOPHONE (J Fanning 6-4 fav); 2, Regal Jubilee (2-1); 3, Where I Wanna Be (12-1). 7/4l, 4/4l, 8 ran. C Johnston. Tote: £2.50; pl £1.20, £1.20, £2.00. Exacta: £4.90. Tricasta: £24.40. CSF: £4.47. NR: Beeley, Lava Stream.

2.35: 1, JAKARTA (B Sayette 3-1); 2, Royal Equator (5-2 fav); 3, Jewel Of London (9-2). 7/4l, 1/4l, 12 ran. P & O Cole. Tote: £4.00; pl £1.40, £1.50, £1.80. Exacta: £13.40. Trifecta: £37.10. CSF: £13.18. NR: Stage Effect.

3.10: 1, TIDES OF WAR (H Turner 14-1); 2, True Legend (10-3); 3, Crescent Lake (10-1). 2-1 fav Vaguely Royal, shd, 2/4l, 8 ran. D M Simcock. Tote: £15.30; pl £3.60, £1.40, £2.50. Exacta: £73.20. Tricasta: £469.96. Trifecta: £480.20. CSF: £56.31.

3.45: 1, MEYDANA (H Davies 7-2); 2, Space Legend (15-8 fav); 3, Royal Power (9-2). nk, 1l, 7 ran. S & E Crisford. Tote: £4.70; pl £2.30, £1.50. Exacta: £10.80. Trifecta: £33.20. CSF: £9.93.

4.20: 1, CRYSTAL FLYER (P Dobbs 5-2 fav); 2, Candle Of Dubai (9-2); 3, Nini Star (9-2). 1/4l, 1/4l, 10 ran. T Ward. Tote: £3.50; pl £1.70, £1.80, £1.60. Exacta: £13.60. Trifecta: £73.80. CSF: £13.68.

4.55: 1, GRANDLAD (A Farragher 9-4); 2, Kiss And Run (17-2); 3, Rainynitegeorgia (9-1). 7-4 fav

★ **VANDEEK** lost his unbeaten record as **Inisherin** ran out an impressive winner of the **Betfred Supports Jack Berry House Sandy Lane Stakes at Haydock.**

★ Sent off the 8-11 favourite, VandeeK won each of his four juvenile starts, including Group One glory in both the Prix Morny and Middle Park Stakes.

★ However, he was clearly toiling approaching the closing stages of the six-furlong heat and Inisherin (9-2), who finished unplaced in the 2000 Guineas last time, had plenty in reserve to run out a three-and-three-quarter-length victor over 40-1 shot Orne, with VandeeK coming third.

★ Inisherin, who was ridden by Tom Eaves yesterday, does not hold an entry in the Commonwealth Cup at Royal Ascot, although he can be supplemented for the race at a cost of £46,000, with Coral making him the 4-1 favourite for that contest.

Cloud King, nk, 4l, 7 ran. James Horton. Tote: £3.25; pl £1.70, £2.50. Exacta: £18.10. Trifecta: £104.20. CSF: £20.11.

QUADPOT: £6.20
PLACEPOT: £8.90

YORK

1.35: 1, TIRIAC (K Shoemark 11-1); 2, Holkham Bay (17-2); 3, Slainte Mhach (17-2); 4, Mattice (12-1). 10-3 fav Champagne Sarah, shd, 1/2l, 7/4l, 21 ran. J Channon. Tote: £14.00; pl £2.80, £3.50, £2.90. Exacta: £77.80. Tricasta: £469.06. Trifecta: £539.50. CSF: £66.27. NR: Lusaka, Sobegrand.

3.35: 1, CAVERN CLUB (F Norton 6-4 fav); 2, Oman (7-2); 3, Yokkell (15-2). hd, 3l, 5 ran. James Owen. Tote: £2.50; pl £1.40, £1.90. Exacta: £6.30. Trifecta: £26.50. CSF: £6.76. NR: Chase The Dollar.

4.05: 1, SPIRIT GENIE (G Wood 13-2); 2, Way To Dubai (10-1); 3, Yanifer (15-2). 7-2 fav Baradar ns, 7/4l, 9 ran. J Candlish. Tote: £7.50; pl £2.90, £2.20, £2.90. Exacta: £66.60. Tricasta: £497.13. Trifecta: £441.30. CSF: £68.40.

4.40: 1, NIGHTEYES (B Robinson 6-4 fav); 2, Last Applause (17-2); 3, Alfa Moonstone (9-2). 4l, 1/4l, 5 ran. D O'Meara. Tote: £2.50; pl £1.30, £3.00. Exacta: £12.60. Trifecta: £40.70. CSF: £14.23.

5.15: 1, FOURNEOHFEVER (Billy Loughnane 11-10 fav); 2, The Hun (10-1); 3, Swordstick (8-1). 1/4l, 1l, 5 ran. G Boughey. Tote: £2.10; pl £1.20, £2.50. Exacta: £9.50. Trifecta: £38.50. CSF: £11.81. NR: Travolta.

QUADPOT: £50.50
PLACEPOT: £142.90

CARTMEL

4.00: 1, SHANTWOPFIVE (J Bowen 4-1); 2, Dunbulcan Bay (5-1); 3, Jimmy Chou Pecos Aa (11-10 fav). 9/4l, 9l, 7 ran. W Greatrex. Tote: £5.30; pl £2.90, £2.30. Exacta: £22.90. Trifecta: £53.00. CSF: £23.75. NR: Vroomoz Eile.

4.35: 1, MERMAIDS CAVE (C P O'Shea 5-1); 2, She's A Saint (7-4 fav); 3, Spot On Soph (13-2). 1l, 1/4l, 7 ran. James Owen. Tote: £6.00; pl £2.40, £1.70. Exacta: £14.50. Trifecta: £79.70. CSF: £14.57.

5.10: 1, FAUTINETTE (Miss L M Turner 4-1); 2, Fortuna Ligna (15-8 fav); 3, Lady Mendoza (13-2). 1/4l, 7/4l, 5 ran. V Williams. Tote: £5.30; pl £2.40, £1.30. Exacta: £12.70. Trifecta: £62.10. CSF: £12.48.

5.40: 1, TOMMIE BEAU (M G Nolan 11-4); 2, Charlie Overalls (7-4 fav); 3, Flic Ou Voyou (17-2). 14l, 8l, 5 ran. Seanmullins. Tote: £3.75; pl £1.50, £1.40. Exacta: £7.20. Trifecta: £25.60. CSF: £3.03. NR: Courtland.

6.15: 1, PLAYFUL SAINT (H Skelton 3-1); 2, Tedtwo (9-4 fav); 3,

Doyen Du Bar (11-2). 9l, 4l, 5 ran. D Skelton. Tote: £4.00; pl £1.60, £1.80. Exacta: £9.60. Trifecta: £44.60. CSF: £10.55.

6.50: 1, BIG BEE HIVE (J England 9-4 fav); 2, Shillanavogy (10-3); 3, O'Faolains Glory (5-2). 1/4l, 6l, 6 ran. S England. Tote: £3.25; pl £1.60, £1.90. Exacta: £10.80. Trifecta: £31.80. CSF: £10.72. NR: Judicial Review.

7.20: 1, VILLAGE MASTER (J Bowen 10-3); 2, My Gift To You (5-2 fav); 3, Dr Sanderson (17-2). 4l, 4l, 9 ran. W Greatrex. Tote: £4.34; pl £1.40, £1.20, £2.60. Exacta: £11.60. Tricasta: £63.46. Trifecta: £66.50. CSF: £12.60. NR: Tom Green.

QUADPOT: £5.60
PLACEPOT: £33.10

WINDSOR

5.35: 1, SIXTIES CHIC (E Greatrex 7-1); 2, Antiphon (13-2); 3, Coup De Force (5-1). 4-1 fav Vince Lombardi. 7/4l, 1l, 13 ran. J Channon. Tote: £8.80; pl £2.60, £2.10, £2.80. Exacta: £64.10. Tricasta: £254.14. Trifecta: £281.10. CSF: £51.31. NR: Coco Bear.

6.05: 1, AFENTIKO (F Marsh 8-13 fav); 2, Arabian Cobra (7-1); 3, Sensorium (16-1). nk, 4l, 11 ran. P & O Cole. Tote: £1.62; pl £1.10, £1.70, £3.00. Exacta: £5.50. Trifecta: £41.20. CSF: £5.40. NR: Camden Flyer.

6.40: 1, EZRA CEE (R Coakley 4-6 fav); 2, State Of Madness (33-1); 3, Pearl's Edge (100-1). nk, shd, 7 ran. K P De Foy. Tote: £1.67; pl £1.10, £5.70. Exacta: £18.80. Trifecta: £373.90. CSF: £30.12. NR: Flying Star.

7.15: 1, JUMBEAU (Jack Doughty 85-40 fav); 2, Democracy Dilemma (9-4); 3, Intervention (6-1). hd, 2/4l, 5 ran. Tom Clover. Tote: £3.13; pl £1.50, £2.60. Exacta: £6.90. Trifecta: £17.00. CSF: £7.04. NR: Desperate Hero, Night On Earth, Tees Spirit.

7.45: 1, TONY MONTANA (F Marsh 4-1 fav); 2, Al Anoud (11-2); 3, Island Star (9-2). 1/4l, shd, 11 ran. M Bell. Tote: £5.00; pl £1.80, £2.50, £1.90. Exacta: £34.10. Tricasta: £103.70. Trifecta: £147.30. CSF: £25.92.

SALISBURY

4.49: 1, MISS COLLADA (J Leavy 11-10 fav); 2, Mister Mcgregor (7-2); 3, Lovestruck Romeo (5-1). 1/4l, 1/4l, 8 ran. R Hannon. Tote: £2.10; pl £1.10, £1.30, £1.50. Exacta: £6.00. Trifecta: £12.80. CSF: £5.00.

5.20: 1, BOADICIA (T Whelan 9-2); 2, Horse Whisperer (7-4 fav); 3, Via Blanca (15-2). 1/4l, 1/4l, 7 ran. Harry Eustace. Tote: £6.00; pl £2.70, £1.50. Exacta: £16.20. Trifecta: £80.50. CSF: £13.02.

5.55: 1, NOEL FOX (R Clutterbuck 16-5); 2, Northfield Lake (7-1); 3, Midnight's Dream (11-4 fav). 1/4l, 7/4l, 8 ran. R Beckett. Tote: £4.20; pl £1.50, £1.90, £1.40. Exacta: £21.80. Trifecta: £57.30. CSF: £25.43.

6.30: 1, RAQIYA (T Whelan 5-1); 2, Funny Story (5-2); 3, Mister Sketch (16-1). 5-4 fav Shaheer, nk, 2/4l, 6 ran. Owen Burrows. Tote: £6.00; pl £2.40, £1.60. Exacta: £19.50. Trifecta: £107.60. CSF: £18.19.

7.00: 1, SILVER TRUMPET (G Downing 6-1); 2, Flavour Maker (4-1); 3, Yellow Pages (13-2). 2-1 fav Hilltop, 4l, ns, 8 ran. E J-Houghton. Tote: £7.00; pl £1.90, £1.60, £1.50. Exacta: £29.60. Tricasta: £162.33. Trifecta: £148.90. CSF: £30.43. NR: Armaz, Travis.

7.30: 1, TEST OF LOVE (S W Kelly 3-1 fav); 2, Wonder Smile (7-1); 3, Loaded Quiver (17-2). 1/4l, 2l, 10 ran. Sir M Prescott. Tote: £4.00; pl £1.50, £2.30, £2.90. Exacta: £26.10. Trifecta: £163.50. Trifecta: £149.10. CSF: £24.61.

8.00: 1, GELICUAUX (G Downing 9-1); 2, Midnight Rumble (5-2 fav); 3, Ravenswell (11-2). 7/4l, hd, 7 ran. E Walker. Tote: £10.10; pl £4.40, £1.90. Exacta: £35.00. Tricasta: £136.30. Trifecta: £192.00. CSF: £30.88. NR: Spanish Poet.

QUADPOT: £16.40
PLACEPOT: £29.10

KELSO Racing TV

JASON HEAVEY MOORESTYLE

Geordies Dream 2.15 Acoustic
 Five Dollar Fine 2.50 Go Boy
 Well Educated 3.25 Caithness
 Mistral Nell 4.00 Blue Baloo
 Jetye 4.35 Jetye
 Yippee Ki Yay 5.10 Super Citizen
 Beau Della (trb) 5.45 Catcha Flight (e/w)

2.15 NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE)

Cl 4 (8 flights) 2m (10 run) £4,357

1 0LU-ACOUSTIC (109)(T) M Barnes 5 11 11.....Conor Rabbit (5) 58
 2 532-BLUEBERRY WINE (32)(G,S)(T) D McCain 8 11 11.....B Hughes* 113
 3 40-0 FAIRLY FULLING (18)(H) Mrs J Walton 6 11 11.....R Chapman -
 4 21-L FAMOUS LISS (22)(S) W Coltherd 6 11 11.....S Coltherd 43
 5 323-GEORDIES DREAM (82)(B,F,G)(P) Miss P Robson 9 11 11.....
 Craig Nichol 112
 6 5 RAVENS CRAIG CASTLE (10)(P,T) J Jardine 6 11 11.....C O'Farrell 95
 7 66-0 ROCK N ROLL CHAMP (18) S Forster 6 11 11.....H Brooke 94
 8 650-SARATOGA STEVE (30)(H,T) R Russell 5 11 11.....P W Wadge (3) -
 9 SOMEONE YOU LOVED (F148) F O'Brien 4 10 9.....K Woods -
 10 /0L-DORCAS ROAD (37)(T) L Russell 6 10 8.....
 Star Betting: 11-4 Someone You Loved, 3 Blueberry Wine, 4 Geordies Dream, 9-2 Ravenscraig Castle, 7 others.

2.50 HANDICAP CHASE

Cl 4 (16 fences) 2m 6f (9 run) £5,281

1 35-P IMPULSIVE ONE (15)(G,S)(T) B Ellison 6 12 0.....H Brooke* 128
 2 123-GO BOY (57)(S) A Thomson 8 11 11.....R Mania 124
 3 P1-1 FIVE DOLLAR FINE (15)(G,S) A Hamilton 9 11 6.....
 D McMenamin 122
 4 LP-L HIDDEN COMMANDER (19)(CD2,C,D,G,S)(P,T) W Coltherd
 9 11 5 S Coltherd 121
 5 34-5 CHAPEL GREEN (15)(S)(P) L Russell 7 10 13.....D R Fox 121
 6 40-2 EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE (18)(G,S)(P) N Alexander 8 10 11.....
 B Lynn (3) 122
 7 42-0 GRAND VOYAGE (10)(S)(P) W Coltherd 8 10 10.....Sean Quinlan 125
 8 30-5 CASTLETOWN (18)(G,C,G,S)(V) L Russell 12 10 8.....
 P W Wadge (3) 126
 9 23-P OKAVANGO DELTA (16)(G,S)(P) R Dobbin 8 10 7.....Craig Nichol 125
 Star Betting: 11-4 Five Dollar Fine, 9-2 Everyday Champagne, 11-2 Go Boy, 7 Chapel Green, 8 others.

3.25 HANDICAP HURDLE (GBB RACE)

Cl 2 (8 flights) 2m (8 run) £10,406

1 2L0-JUNGLE JACK (44)(D,S)(B) D McCain 8 12 0.....B Hughes 133
 2 140-DOYEN DU BAR (37)(CD,D,S)(H) Miss P Robson 8 11 6.....
 H Brooke 133
 3 L06-CAITHNESS (85)(CD2,G,S) L Russell 8 11 3.....D R Fox* 135
 4 23P-CARCACI CASTLE (67)(CD2,G,S)(P,T) A M Thomson 8 11 2.....
 R Mania 125
 5 13-1 MACK THE MAN (10)(D3,S)(V) N Alexander 10 11 1.....
 Mr K Alexander (5) 130
 6 6-51 WELL EDUCATED (6)(CD,D2,G,S) G Bewley 8 10 10(7ex)
 J Bewley 127
 7 143-CRACKING DESTINY (32)(G,S) Ewan Williams 11 10 6.....
 Craig Nichol -
 8 120-MISTER MOODLES (80)(G) R Menzies 6 10 5.....J Hamilton 134
 Star Betting: 5-2 Mack The Man, 4 Well Educated, 6 Jungle Jack, 7 Caithness, 8 Mister Moodles, Cracking Destiny, Carcaci Castle, 10 Doyen Du Bar.

JASON HEAVEY MOORESTYLE

Dameofthecotswolds 1.50 Miss Maverick
 Lady Mendoza 2.25 My Monty
 Big Blue Moon 3.00 Big Blue Moon
 Malaita (nap) 3.35 Mackenberg (e/w)
 Walking The Walk 4.10 Johnny B
 East End Girl 4.45 The Grey Falco
 Mr Hope Street 5.20 Asa

1.50 MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (GBB RACE)

Cl 3 (10 flights) 2m 4f (5 run) £5,827

1 21-1 MISS MAVERICK (8)(CD,C,S) G Hamner 7 11 8.....
 James Davies 110
 2 303-DORSET LEA (F25)(T) G Brown 7 10 12.....DOUBTFUL
 3 40/0 LOVE AT SEA (20) J Gallagher 6 10 12.....J Quinlan 88
 4 PP-3 ONEFORTHFAIRGREEN (19) M Keighley 8 10 12.....S Bowen 104
 5 0E YESANNA (19) D Skelton 5 10 8.....H Skelton -
 6 22-5 DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS (18)(G) N Twiston-Davies 4 10 4.....
 S Twiston-Davies* 123
 Star Betting: 11-8 Dameofthecotswolds, 2 Miss Maverick, 6 Oneforthefairgreen, 8 Yesanna, 14 Dorset Lea, 20 others.

2.25 NOVICES' HURDLE

Cl 5 (12 flights) 2m 7f (6 run) £3,248

1 35-4 MY MONTY (15) H Evans 7 12 0.....B Postex* 102
 2 L43-NATIVE MOON (42) V Darhall 6 11 13.....A Johns 94
 3 532-LADY MENDOZA (178)(G)(P) R Menzies 7 11 10.....N Moscrop 99
 4 /P4-RELEASE THE KRAKEN (114)(V) M Keighley 8 10 12 S Bowen 78
 5 /L-0 ARCTIC LODGE (18) D J Jeffreys 8 10 8.....T Bellamy 80
 6 /0P-HAMMER DAN (114)(T) D Pipe 6 10 2.....James Davies 75
 Star Betting: 9-4 Native Moon, 5-2 Lady Mendoza, 4 My Monty, 7 Arctic Lodge, 8 Release The Kraken, 10 others.

3.00 QUINNBT.COM HANDICAP HURDLE

Cl 4 (10 flights) 2m 4f (6 run) £4,066

1 21F-CLONDAW ROYALE (77)(D,S)(T) Jonjo & A O'Neill 5 12 0.....
 R McLernon 113
 2 FP-4 TOUCHY FEELY (9)(G,S) N Henderson 7 11 10.....N De Boilville 116
 3 P1-1 BIG BLUE MOON (19)(D,G,S) T Lacey 7 11 7.....S Sheppard 118
 4 6P2-FOUROFAKIND (32)(D,S) Harry Derham 5 11 13.....Paul O'Brien 119
 5 PP6-JAC JUMPER (32)(S)(T) Deborah Cole 5 11 13.....C Ward (3) 115
 6 26-3 MCGOWAN'S PASS (19)(S)(P) J Candlish 13 10 10.....
 W Shanahan (5)* 121
 Star Betting: 7-4 Big Blue Moon, 3 Fourofakind, 4 Clondaw Royale, 6 McGowan's Pass, 33 others.

4.00 MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE

Cl 4 (13 flights) 2m 7f (9 run) £4,225

1 223-MELUSINE DE PAUL (43) Noel Williams 6 12 0.....J Hogan (3) 107
 2 4F-LONE STAR (17)(G,S)(T) P Kirby 7 11 13.....J Williamson (3)* 112
 3 04L-BLUE BALOO (67)(S) A M Thomson 6 11 9.....R Mania 107
 4 10-2 MISTRAL NELL (19)(S) F O'Brien 7 11 11.....Craig Nichol 108
 5 10-6 BRIGHT SUNBIRD (16)(D,G)(P) R Menzies 6 11 10.....Tabitha Worsley (3) 110
 6 040-AAZZA (78)(S) R Dobbin 8 11 11.....Craig Nichol 107
 7 4L-0 STARLYTE (18)(G)(P,T) L Russell 7 11 11.....P W Wadge (3) 109
 8 5F-5 SOMEBODY'S FORTUNE (31)(T,V) L Russell 6 10 5.....D R Fox 96
 9 50-0 JOANNA I'M FINE (11)(S) Mrs J Stephen 7 10 2.....D Johnston (5) 88
 Star Betting: 3 Melusine De Paul, 7-2 Mistral Nell, 5 Somebody's Fortune, 7 Bright Sunbird, 8 Aazza, 10 others.

4.35 PONSSE UK NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE

Cl 5 (17 fences) 2m 7f (8 run) £3,961

1 2/L-GOODTIMES BADTIMES (77)(G,S) A M Thomson 9 12 0.....R Mania -
 2 322-TOUCAN SAM (11)(T) A B Hamilton 6 12 0.....A Doyle (5) 92
 3 P2-P JETYE (12)(B)(P,T) S England 7 11 11.....Craig Nichol -
 4 /36-GRAND DU NORD (33)(G) M Hammond 8 11 10 C O'Farrell -
 5 34P-BARON BRIGGS (57)(P,T) A Thomson 7 10 8.....D McMenamin* 105
 6 PP-L IZZY BELL (16)(T) M Barnes 6 10 5.....P J Kavanagh (3) -
 7 0LP-DERWENT DEALER (34)(P) D Brooker 8 10 5.....H Brooke 91
 8 0LL-DARK DUOMO (73)(B,T) M Hammond 6 10 2.....
 Emma Smith-Chaston (3) 87
 Star Betting: 11-4 Jetye, 3 Toucan Sam, 9-2 Baron Briggs, 5 Goodtimes Badtimes, 8 Grand Du Nord, 12 others.

5.10 HUNTERS' CHASE SERIES FINAL

Cl 3 (19 fences) 3m 2f (9 run) £5,797

1 2-31 SHANROE STREET (11)(G,S)(V) G Walkingshaw 14 12 4.....
 Mr Gregor Walkingshaw (7) 108
 2 43-2 SLIEVEGAR (14)(CD,G)(T) M Comley 8 12 4.....
 DOUBTFUL
 3

RACING

Rich pickings

ROSALLION STARS FOR HANNON

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

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

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

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

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

The success rolled back the years for British-based Levey, as his career began with

by **MELISSA JONES**

a first ride at the circuit in 2005. He said: "The track has always been good to me but I've never come here with a chance like that."

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

The top two filled the places in Newmarket's 2,000 Guineas earlier this month, behind impressive winner Notable Speech from Charlie Appleby's stable.

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.

"He will go to Ascot now and it'll be a great race for everybody," the Wiltshire trainer (inset) said.

"Both horses ran the races of their lives. Newmarket was utterly galling, this more than makes up for it - the icing on the cake."

★ **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.

Meanwhile, Rachael Blackmore enjoyed a perfect introduction to York racecourse as Term Of Endearment claimed Group Three glory in the William Hill Bronte Cup Fillies' Stakes.

The rider has ticked all the main boxes in the National Hunt sphere, having won the Grand National, Cheltenham Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle, but victory in this one-mile-six-furlong contest represented her highest achievement on the level.

Trained by long-term ally Henry de Bromhead, Term Of Endearment was sent off at 4-1 and was a three-quarter-length winner.

LION ROARS:
Sean Levey steers Rosallion to victory in the Irish 2,000 Guineas



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A POTENTIAL SAVING OF UP TO £34 IN TOTAL!

We have teamed up with Racing TV to give readers the opportunity to claim a free pair of tickets to any one of 4 race meetings up and down the country this June.

Whether you are already an avid racing fan or new to the sport, you're

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WETHERBY
Tuesday 11th June



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Monday 17th June



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Wednesday 26th June



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Thursday 27th June

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Terms and Conditions: Offer is open until all tickets are redeemed or up until midnight 5 days prior to each listed race; whichever occurs first. Tickets are limited for each event, subject to availability and offered on a first come first served basis. Limited to one pair of tickets per customer for one event. For full terms and conditions, please see www.dailystar.co.uk/racingtickets

To find out more about Racing TV visit racingtv.com

The Epsom Derby, the most prestigious race of the British Flat season is just around the corner, it's the showpiece of the summer horse racing season.

To celebrate, we have partnered with Racing TV, Britain and Ireland's premier horse racing channel, to give our readers free viewing until Wednesday 10th July, 2024!

You can also enjoy live coverage of Goodwood's May Festival, Haydock's Temple Stakes Day and much more!

Racing TV is available on your TV, desktop and mobile, with complete live coverage. Racing TV is available on Sky (channel 424), Amazon Fire TV, Apple TV, Android and iOS apps and via racingtv.com

For full details on how to download the Racing TV apps visit racingtv.com/apps

HOW TO CLAIM

To activate your Racing TV Free viewing, simply call 0845 111 6999 (8am-9pm)* and quote 'RTVFREE'.

Your free Racing TV viewing will be active until Wednesday 10th July

2024. If claiming the trial to use on Sky (channel 424) please have your 9-digit viewing card number to hand when calling to activate the channel.

See terms and conditions for details.**

Terms and Conditions: **Your free viewing is activated by calling 0845 111 6999 and quoting 'RTVFREE', calls charged at up to 10p per minute from a landline. Mobile costs will vary. Call time estimated at 5 minutes. Free trial promotion is only available to new and reinstating Racing TV customers until Friday 7th June, 2024. Offer is not available on Sky Glass, Sky Stream, Virgin Media, Eir TV or Vodafone TV. Free viewing will end on Wednesday 10th July, 2024. ***To ensure a smoother and quicker service please have your 9-digit viewing card number to hand when calling to activate the channel on sky. For Sky Q press Home on your Sky Q remote, select Settings, then select System Information. For Sky+ HD press Services on your Sky+ HD remote, select Settings, then select System Details.



SWAP: Murray with new racket

Andy doing all he can to keep going

from NEIL McLEMAN in Paris

ANDY MURRAY has insisted he has yet to make a decision over his retirement this summer.

The triple Grand Slam champion said in February that his career was coming to a close and he was "likely not going to play past this summer".

But the former world No.1, now 37, 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 pro career.

It does not appear the action of a man about to hang up his racket.

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 have been having are not what I would want. But the mentality around whether it's with my rackets and rehab or whatever, it's always to try to get better. Is there anything that you can do that might help and influence some results or not?"

"I have really enjoyed it as well. That's probably helped me a bit the last few weeks as well."

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.

DART OUT TO HIT BULLSEYE

HARRIET DART is hoping to put her injury-hit start to the year behind her as she targets a place in the world's top 50.

The Brit, 27, began 2024 by being hospitalised with food poisoning in Bangkok and has also had a series of niggles.

However, Dart recently made the main draw at the Madrid Open and she takes on Linda Noskova in the first round of the French Open tomorrow.

She said: "This year's been challenging. I've been ill a lot or something's been happening."

"Madrid was the first time I actually didn't have anything going on, which was really nice, and the tennis got pieced together."

"For me, it's just about staying healthy. I have goals to be top 50 by the end of the year."

● Dart was speaking at ASICS Rally for the Mind, where ASICS and the city of Paris invited Parisians to play tennis with ASICS athletes, professional coaches and special guests.

RUGBY LEAGUE

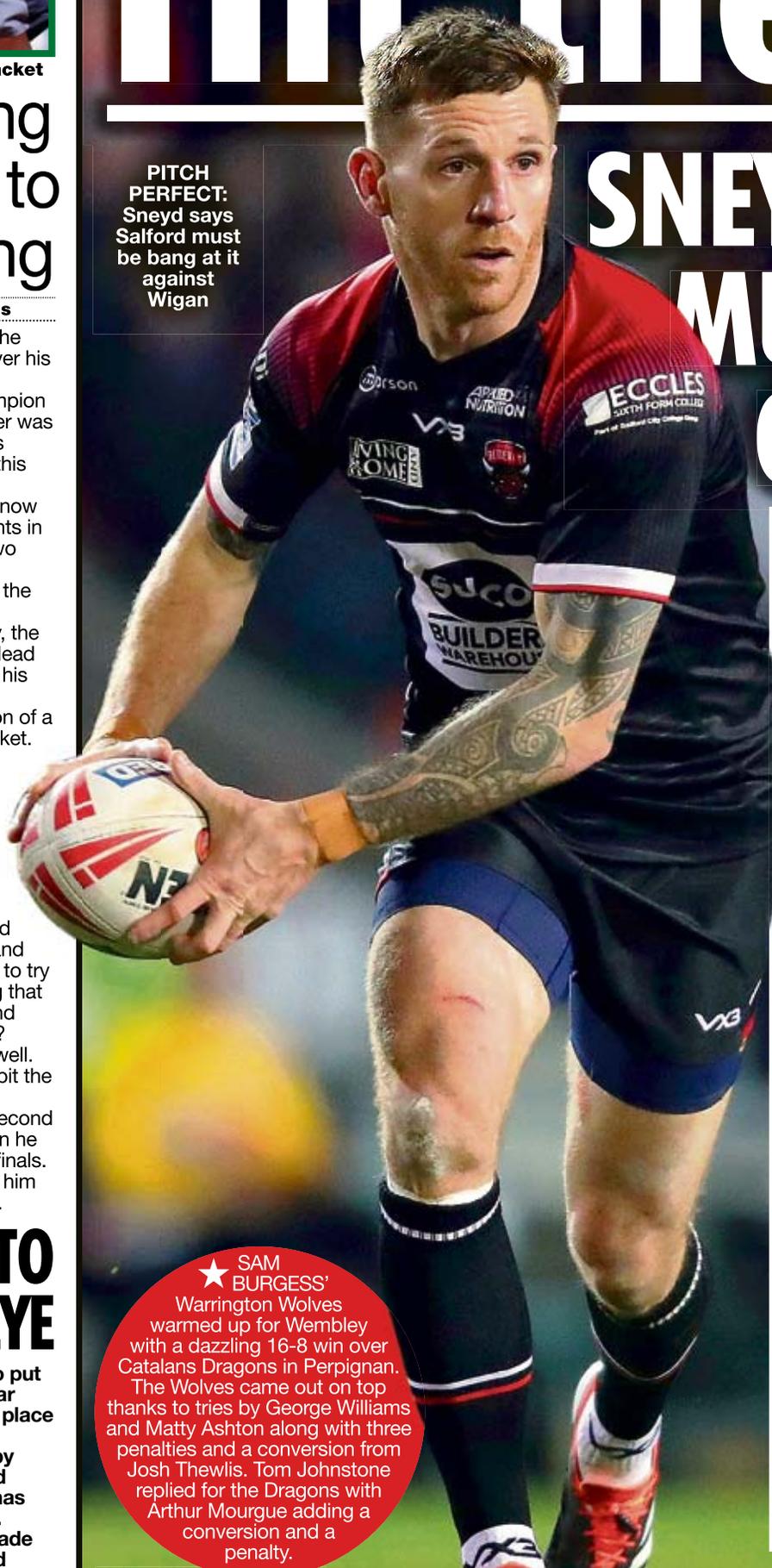
SALFORD v WIGAN

SALFORD COMMUNITY STADIUM | TODAY, 3PM | SKY SPORTS

Hit the Marc

PITCH PERFECT: Sneyd says Salford must be bang at it against Wigan

SNEYD SAYS DEVILS MUST BE ON TOP OF THEIR GAME



SALFORD'S Marc Sneyd insists there's no chance of catching Wigan cold today so they have to be red-hot.

The wily England scrum-half will try and orchestrate a surprise victory over the reigning Super League champions who are threatening to win everything this season.

Having already bagged the World Club Challenge by beating star-studded Penrith, Matt Peet's side have now also reached Wembley.

They play Warrington in the Challenge Cup Final in less than a fortnight's time.

With just two defeats in all competitions since last July, Wigan are in imperious form.

Asked if he thinks they will take their eye off the ball after thrashing high-flying Hull KR in last week's Cup semi-final, Sneyd said: "Probably not, if I'm honest."

"Wigan seem to turn up every week and play at a level which puts them there or thereabouts every week. We can't have any players not turning up and not giving their best."

"Whoever's out there has to be playing their best rugby to go with them because they'll play 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 game's gone."

"We have to make sure we're on for 80."

But Paul Rowley's Salford, who have signed in-form Huddersfield centre Esan Marsters on a three-year deal from 2025, have proved they can tackle the best. Recently they were joint-top

by DAVE CRAVEN

with mighty Wigan having beaten Warrington, St Helens and Hull KR.

With Sneyd in great form, it's no surprise they are firing even after losing Man of Steel Brodie Croft and England hooker Andy Ackers in the off-season to Leeds Rhinos.

The two-time Lance Todd Trophy winner, 33, said: "I am enjoying the rugby – and being in 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."

They slumped at Leigh before the Cup break but are keen to quickly show that was a bump in the road.

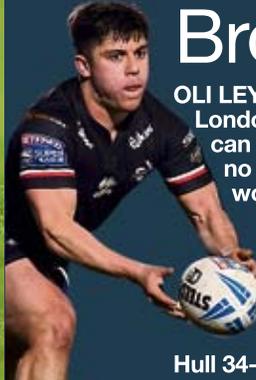
Former Hull ace Sneyd, who should see out his career with the Red Devils after signing a new two-year deal, is set for a fascinating battle with Harry Smith.

The Wigan scrum-half, 24, (below) 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."



★ **SAM BURGESS'** Warrington Wolves warmed up for Wembley with a dazzling 16-8 win over Catalans Dragons in Perpignan. The Wolves came out on top thanks to tries by George Williams and Matty Ashton along with three penalties and a conversion from Josh Thewlis. Tom Johnstone replied for the Dragons with Arthur Mourgue adding a conversion and a penalty.



Broncos looking for another Oli good show

OLI LEYLAND says London believe they can prove they are no one-hit wonders.

The promoted club finally got their first Super League win of the season beating Hull 34-18 a fortnight

London v Hull KR Today, 3pm

ago. It came after 10 defeats but Broncos are out to repeat the feat when Hull KR visit today.

Half-back Leyland (left) said: "It's given us a massive lift."

"We'd come close a

couple of times but it's really been 10 or 15-minute periods where we've not managed it well and found ourselves four or five scores behind.

"For 80 per cent of the game, we're competing really well."

"But in that 20 per cent we've just fallen

off the cliff. So to get one over the line did give us a huge amount of confidence to know we can do it again."

The Robins are smarting after being smashed 38-6 by Wigan in the Challenge Cup semi-final.

Leyland, 23, added: "The break allowed us

to savour our win and refocus. We've had a good week training. We're fresh and ready."

"We know where we went wrong last time against KR and want to put that right as it was probably one of our worst performances of the year."

DAVE CRAVEN

FORMULA 1

MONACO GP
MONTE CARLO QUALIFYING

LECLERC ON THE MONEY

Charles homes in to take pole

HOME hero Charles Leclerc delivered under pressure to put his Ferrari on pole position for the Monaco Grand Prix.

Leclerc was the favourite heading into yesterday's crucial qualifying session and the Monte Carlo-born star held his nerve to take top spot.

He saw off McLaren's Oscar Piastri by 0.154 seconds, with Carlos Sainz third in the other scarlet car and Lando Norris fourth.

Max Verstappen, bidding to take a record ninth consecutive pole, could manage only sixth after he hit the wall on the exit of Sainte Devote.

George Russell and Lewis Hamilton will start either side of the Red Bull driver after they qualified fifth and seventh respectively for Mercedes.

Verstappen warned in the build-up that the street venue would not suit his machinery and his fears were realised.

On his final run, the Dutch driver struck the wall as he accelerated out of the opening corner. "F***, I hit the wall," he said. "This car is slippery."

Sergio Perez will line up a lowly 18th after he failed to haul the other Red Bull out of the opening phase.

"What a joke," said the Mexican over the radio. "F***ing hell."

Perez, nicknamed the King of the Streets with five of his six career victories coming at temporary venues, will have his

by JOHN NORFOLK

work cut out to salvage a respectable result.

Mercedes might have hoped for more after Hamilton finished first, second and third in the three practice sessions.

However, the seven-time world champion will begin the race outside the top six after he finished 0.351secs adrift of Leclerc and two positions behind Russell, who now holds a 7-1 qualifying record this season over his more established team-mate.

Fernando Alonso finished second here last year but the two-time world champion also faces an arduous afternoon in the principality after he fell at the first hurdle, qualifying 16th.

Alonso was unusually out-qualified by his Aston Martin team-mate Lance Stroll, who will line up from 14th.

"It was nice," said Leclerc. "The feeling after a qualifying lap is very special here."

"The excitement is so high. It feels really good."

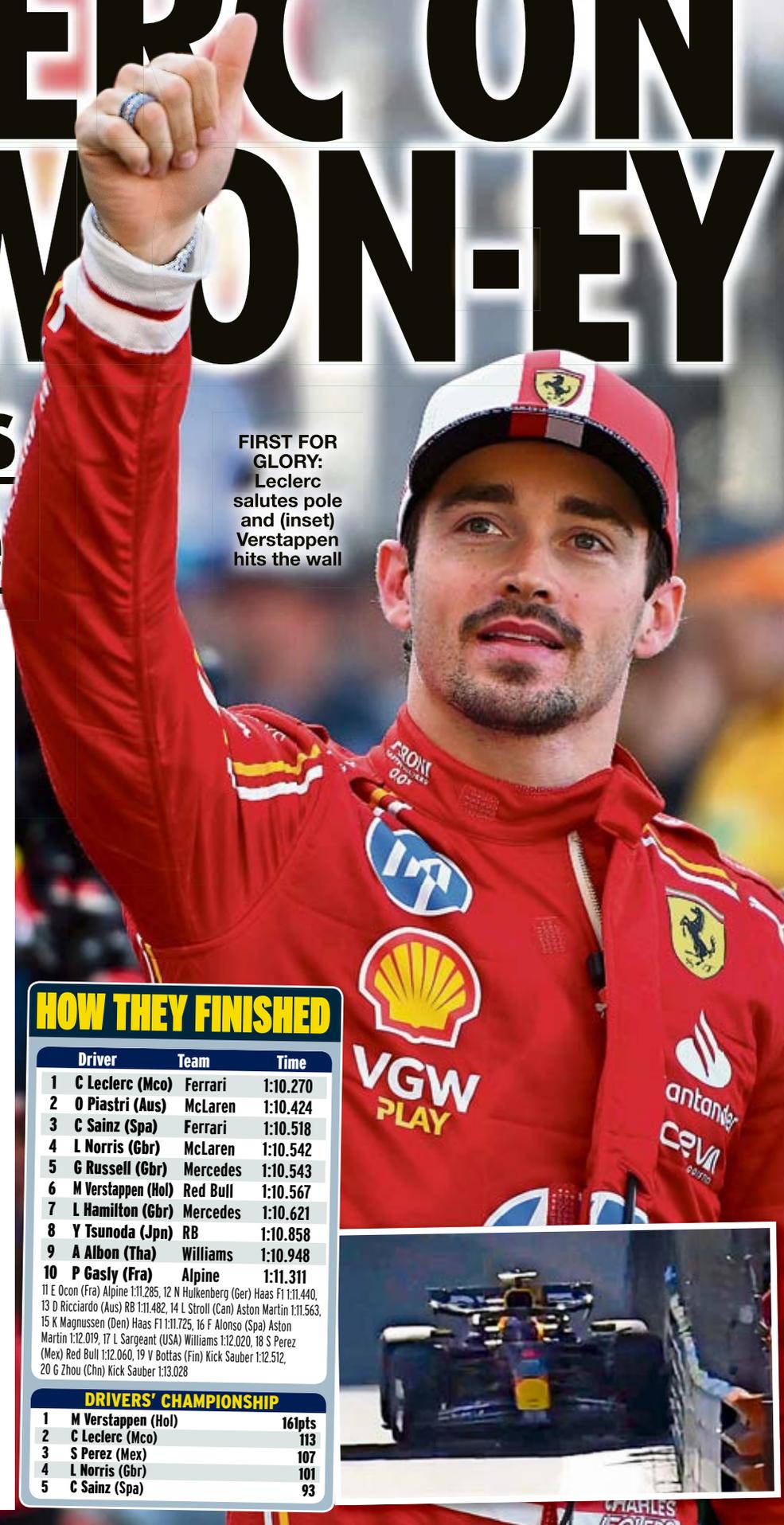
"However, we need to put everything together for Sunday's race."

"In the past here we didn't manage to do that but we are in a stronger position and we are a stronger team. I'm sure we can achieve great things."

"Hopefully Carlos can have a great start and follow me into turn one."

"If we are one-two, we can manage that as a team. That would be the perfect scenario."

FIRST FOR GLORY: Leclerc salutes pole and (inset) Verstappen hits the wall



HOW THEY FINISHED

Driver	Team	Time
1 C Leclerc (Mco)	Ferrari	1:10.270
2 O Piastri (Aus)	McLaren	1:10.424
3 C Sainz (Spa)	Ferrari	1:10.518
4 L Norris (Gbr)	McLaren	1:10.542
5 G Russell (Gbr)	Mercedes	1:10.543
6 M Verstappen (Hol)	Red Bull	1:10.567
7 L Hamilton (Gbr)	Mercedes	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

11 E Ocon (Fra) Alpine 1:11.285, 12 N Hulkenberg (Ger) Haas F1 1:11.440, 13 D Ricciardo (Aus) RB 1:11.482, 14 L Stroll (Can) Aston Martin 1:11.563, 15 K Magnussen (Den) Haas F1 1:11.725, 16 F Alonso (Spa) Aston Martin 1:12.019, 17 L Sargeant (USA) Williams 1:12.020, 18 S Perez (Mex) Red Bull 1:12.060, 19 V Bottas (Fin) Kick Sauber 1:12.512, 20 G Zhou (Chn) Kick Sauber 1:13.028

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

1 M Verstappen (Hol)	161pts
2 C Leclerc (Mco)	113
3 S Perez (Mex)	107
4 L Norris (Gbr)	101
5 C Sainz (Spa)	93

Nacho's nailing it

■ GOLF

NACHO ELVIRA takes a four-shot lead into the final round of the Soudal Open after carding a 67 on day three in Belgium.

The Spaniard entered the weekend with a two-shot advantage after a pair of bogey-free 64s and was still without a blemish as he turned in 32 to lead by five in Antwerp.

He came home in level par despite his first two bogeys of the week and will head into round four on 18 under, four clear of English duo Joe Dean and Ross Fisher, Frenchman Romain Langasque and Denmark's Niklas Norgaard.

Elvira, 37, has only one previous DP World Tour win to his name – three years ago at Celtic Manor in Newport, Wales.

Pog now so close

■ CYCLING

TWO-TIME Tour de France champion Tadej Pogacar has all but secured the Giro d'Italia on his debut in the Italian grand tour.

The Slovenian has only today's ceremonial ride in Rome to confirm the triumph and the two-time Tour de France champion has done it in style.

Pogacar once again destroyed his rivals in the mountains to claim a sixth stage win out of 20 and extend his already considerable advantage to nearly 10 minutes.

The UAE Team Emirates rider was all smiles as he soloed to victory. He sat up, waving to the crowds as they roared him on and bowed as he crossed the line.

Davies a top shot

■ PARA ATHLETICS

ALED DAVIES hit form ahead of this summer's Paralympics as he secured his sixth consecutive F63 shot put title at the World Para Athletics Championships in Japan.

The Welshman, who turned 33 on Friday, beat Iran's Faisal Sorour in Kobe with his furthest attempt landing at 15.60m just over three months before the Paralympics open in Paris.

It was a 10th world title for the three-time Paralympic champion, who was plagued by a hip injury last season and has only been throwing pain-free for five weeks.

Englishman Nathan Maguire won his first World Championship medal in the final event with bronze in the men's T54 800m.



HAPPY: Mitch Evans

EVANS ABOVE ALL HIS RIVALS

MITCH EVANS claimed victory in the Shanghai E-Prix for Jaguar as team-mate and championship leader Nick Cassidy was left frustrated.

Evans took the lead going into the last lap as he overtook Porsche's Pascal Wehrlein, who had led for much of the race with team-mate Antonio

■ FORMULA E

Felix da Costa in China but didn't have Jaguar's energy.

Cassidy, who started 10th, had produced a masterclass in energy saving as he made his way through the field and was poised to launch a late attack for the lead. But he

couldn't take that advantage as Wehrlein – his main rival in the championship – performed some stunning defensive driving to keep Cassidy behind him in the final corners, holding on to second place.

It means the German driver narrowly cut the New

Zealander's lead at the top of the standings to 13 points.

Cassidy held position in the final laps and said: "It wasn't my decision. I had the energy to win for sure."

Race winner and fellow Kiwi Evans said: "Super happy, it was not an easy race to manage."

Cullen's French lesson

by **ADAM HATHAWAY**
Leinster 22 Toulouse 31

ANTOINE DUPONT finally buried his Irish hoodoo as Leinster's European finals nightmare continued at Tottenham.

Toulouse captain Dupont avenged three semi-final defeats in five years at the hands of Leo Cullen's men to seal a sixth Champions Cup.

It was glory for England's Jack Willis (below) and his French team but agony in extra-time for

Leinster, who leaked 10 points with James

Lowe in the sinbin. They could have won it in normal time but Ciaran Frawley's drop goal went wide.

Toulouse had Richie Arnold sent off for a reckless tackle on Cian Healy but the damage had been done.

That is three final defeats on the spin for Leinster but defiant Cullen said: "Once they get over the line I think they will kick on."



SPORT IN BRIEF

FA Cup Final
MAN CITY (0).....1 MAN UTD (2).....2
 Doku 87
 Garnacho 30
 Mainoo 39
 Att: 84,814

Scottish Cup Final
CELTIC (0).....1 RANGERS (0).....0
 Idah 90
 Att: 48,556

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).

SALFORD.....P WIGAN.....P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Helens	12	9	0	3	329	124	18
Warrington	12	9	0	3	302	151	18
Wigan	10	8	0	2	312	132	16
Catalans	12	8	0	4	252	168	16
Hull K R	11	7	0	4	262	169	14
Salford	11	7	0	4	210	226	14
Leeds	12	6	0	6	214	238	12
Huddersfield	12	5	0	7	250	245	10
Leigh	11	4	1	6	244	194	9
Castleford	12	3	1	8	214	374	7
Hull	12	1	0	11	144	416	2
London B	11	1	0	10	116	412	2

RUGBY UNION
Investec Champions Cup Final
LEINSTER.....22 TOULOUSE.....31
 Leinster—T: van der Flier, C: Frawley, P: R. Byrne (4), Frawley.
 Toulouse—T: Lebel, C: Ramos, P: Kinghorn (4), Ramos (4).

TODAY

Sky Bet Championship Play-off Final
 Leeds v Southampton (3pm).....

cinch Scottish Premiership Play-off Final 2nd Leg
 Ross County (2) v Raith (1) (12noon).....

RUGBY LEAGUE
Betfred Super League (3pm)
 London Broncos v Hull K R
 Salford v Wigan

CRICKET

ENGLAND v PAKISTAN

SECOND T20 INTERNATIONAL | EDGBASTON

TOBY ALBERT scored his maiden County Championship century and Nick Gubbins plundered his first as a father as Hampshire took complete control over Surrey.

Albert took ground out a ton on his sixth first-class appearance and Gubbins raised his bat on a second century of the campaign in his first innings since daughter Otilie was born two weeks ago.

James Vince, Ben Brown and Liam Dawson also grabbed half-

centuries as Hampshire piled on 495-4 to boast a huge 368-run lead over the reigning champions.

John Simpson and Cheteshwar Pujara completed centuries on a day when Sussex rewrote their record books against Middlesex at Lord's.

Simpson got the second of his short tenure as Sussex skipper, making 167 and Pujara posted 129 in a score of 554-9 dec that eclipsed their previous best against the hosts.

CHARLIE DEAN says England's women want to be more "ruthless" as they prepare for the second ODI against Pakistan.

After winning the T20 series 3-0 against the same opponents, England drew first blood in the 50-over format with a 37-run victory at Derby on Thursday.

Chasing 244 to win, Pakistan looked on track to earn a first-ever ODI win over England in 13 attempts after reaching 149-4 in

the 35th over – only to lose 5-29 and finish on 206-9.

Eight England players hit double figures, with teen Alice Capsey top-scoring with 44 from 65 balls.

The second ODI is in Taunton today and Dean, 23, said: "We want to be ruthless, when we're on top, we want to stay there."

"With Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa we need to make sure partnerships don't form near the back of an innings."

FULL JOS: Buttler lifts the ball past Azam Khan on his way to a top score of 84



SCOREBOARD

Second Twenty20 International

England v Pakistan

EDGBASTON: England beat Pakistan by 23 runs

ENGLAND

P Salt c Afridi b Wasim	13
J Buttler c Shadab Khan b Rauf	84
W Jacks c Shadab Khan b Rauf	37
J Bairstow c Ahmed b Afridi	21
H Brook b Wasim	1
M Ali c Rizwan b Afridi	4
L Livingstone not out	2
C Jordan c Rauf b Afridi	3
J Archer not out	12
Lb5 w1	6

Total (7 wkts., 20 overs).....183

Fall: 25, 96, 144, 147, 164, 165, 169.

Bowling: Afridi 4-0-36-3, Amir 4-0-34-0, Wasim 4-0-19-2, Rauf 4-0-34-2, Khan 4-0-55-0.

PAKISTAN

M Rizwan c Livingstone b Ali	0
S Ayub c Salt b Topley	2
B Azam lbw Ali	32
F Zaman c Brook b Livingstone	45
S Khan c Jordan b Rashid	3
A Khan c Ali b Archer	11
I Ahmed c Jordan b Topley	23
I Wasim c Livingstone b Archer	22
S Afridi c Salt b Topley	9
M Amir b Jordan	5
H Rauf not out	3
W4 nb1	5

Total (19.2 overs).....160

Fall: 0, 14, 67, 78, 91, 100, 140, 147, 154.

Bowling: Ali 4-0-26-2, Topley 3.2-0-41-3, Archer 4-0-28-2, Jordan 4-0-31-1, Rashid 3-0-25-1, Livingstone 1-0-9-1.

Umpires: M Siggers & M Burns.

Bosh Buttler!

TOP KNOCK JOS JOY FOR JOFRA

JOFRA ARCHER shrugged off a nightmare start to his big return to the international stage to give England a big World Cup boost.

And captain Jos Buttler showered praise on the fast bowler for his double-wicket comeback, ensuring 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 were on Archer, 29, for his first game following a 14-month injury absence.

Yet when he was smashed for 15 in a poor first over, there were fears his confidence would be hit and he was quickly removed from the front line.

Archer (right), however, was much

from **GARY FITZGERALD** at Edgbaston

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 he picked up his second wicket, that of Imad Wasim, before England completed their victory.

His 2-28 helped replace the pain of having his career disrupted by back and elbow stress-fractures, with a joyous smile of relief.

Buttler, who became the first

English batsman to pass 3,000 T20 runs, said: "Jofra was brilliant. You saw the emotion out there taking wickets again."

"You've got to temper expectation as he was a long time out. He's not going to be the old Jofra straight away but it was positive. It's trying to get games into him while look after him too."



"But the whole group was brilliant. The two overs at death by Chris Jordan were outstanding and we got a huge amount from this win. Hopefully it will set us up for the rest of the series and then the World Cup."

England made a strong start. Buttler lost opener Phil Salt

(13) and Will Jacks (37) but he smashed three sixes and eight fours in his knock.

He swept his way to his half century with a scoop for six off Haris Rauf and thumped a superb switch-hit over the ropes too.

Jonny Bairstow went for 21 and Harry Brook lasted just two balls. The skipper missed out on a century when he was caught by Shadab Khan off Rauf.

Archer's cameo with the bat brought a four and a six before Pakistan went in to try and chase down the 184 target.

Shaheen Afridi was Pakistan's chief wicket taker with 3-36.

Iftikhar Ahmed and Wasim Imad struck some hefty blows but England moved ahead with two games to play.

EURO 2024 

TEDDY BOYS

Rice and Saka key for 3 Lions reckons Sheri



PAIR OF ACES: Gunners duo Rice and Saka



REAL THREAT: Bellingham

Big wall of sound to quell Bell

by SIMON MULLOCK

PAUL LAMBERT was in the Borussia Dortmund team that won the Champions League and the Scot feels they must control Jude Bellingham and Co to land another major shock.

Ex-Scotland midfielder Lambert reckons Edin Terzic's Class of '24 can stun mighty Real Madrid, who also boast Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo in attack, on Saturday at Wembley.

Lambert, 54, had the task of marking Zinedine Zidane in Munich 26 years ago. Juventus also had Alessandro Del Piero, Christian Vieri, Alen Boksic and Didier Deschamps.

He said: "If we can exert some control over Madrid's attacking players then we have a chance of winning."

"That's easier said than done – but they said the same thing when we played Juventus in '97."

Lambert, who managed Aston Villa, Norwich, Blackburn, Wolves, Stoke and Ipswich after bringing the curtain down on his playing career, accepts that the odds are against Dortmund again.

He has accepted an invitation to be part of his former club's famous Yellow Wall for the final.

He said: "Madrid are favourites but they can be beaten in a one-off game – and the Dortmund fans can play their part."

"I played in front of the Yellow Wall and it was on my bucket list to be a part of it. Years ago I stood with them for a game against Cologne – an incredible experience."

"Wembley might be even in fan numbers but I promise you Dortmund's fans will make it sound like a home game."

ARSENAL duo Bukayo Saka and Declan Rice will be key for England this summer, says Tottenham legend Teddy Sheringham.

The Gunners stars enjoyed an excellent season despite the North Londoners just missing out on title glory to Manchester City.

Saka finished the campaign with 20 goals in all competitions while Rice still bagged five from central midfield.

Competition for places – particularly in attack – is fierce for the Three Lions.

But Sheringham (right) insists the Arsenal double act will be two of the first names on the team sheet.

"I really wouldn't be thinking about picking Cole Palmer on the right instead of Saka," he said.

"Palmer has had an excellent season, but Saka is a fantastic player who makes the right decisions at the right time and that's what it's all about at the highest level."

"Rice would definitely be my sitting midfielder. You only need one sitter when Rice plays because he is that good. He can cover so much ground."

"Jude Bellingham picks himself. He should be playing with a roaming role in front of Rice that allows him to get up in support of Harry Kane."

"Phil Foden would be the other player that I would play alongside Rice and Bellingham."

"That leaves the left wing and I think Jack Grealish would be the

by ALEX WOOD

best option there. I think Grealish is fantastic in what he does."

Manchester United forward Marcus Rashford hasn't made the cut for the England squad after a poor season.

The striker, 26, only scored seven Premier League goals during an injury-hit campaign.

And Sheringham, who was capped 51 times for the Three Lions, reckons boss Gareth

Southgate isn't afraid of taking the tough decisions.

"When you're getting dropped for your club team, when he should be one of the first names on the team sheet, that will have been the big concern," he added.

"Gareth is a loyal man. He likes to keep faith with players."

"But as we've seen with Raheem Sterling, sometimes that faith can run out."



Barnes: Mentality monsters can win it

ENGLAND have the right mentality to secure glory in Germany, says national legend John Barnes.

The Three Lions narrowly missed out on winning Euro 2020 after an agonising defeat on penalties to Roberto Mancini's Italy.

A year later, Gareth Southgate's men were then dumped out of the

World Cup quarter-finals in Qatar to eventual winners France.

But Barnes (right) believes this squad has the collective strength to prove doubters wrong.

"Individuals aren't going to win England international tournaments,"

he said. "All we can do is ask Gareth to maximise the potential of the players that he has available."

"I think we're good – we should be aiming to win, but let's keep our feet on the ground."

ALEX WOOD



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TRANSFER TALK

NDIDI DO OR DON'T

by **CLIVE HETHERINGTON**

LEICESTER are weighing up whether to offer unsettled midfielder Wilfred Ndidi a new deal.

The Nigerian, 27, is eyeing a move – despite the Foxes' return to the Premier League.

Ndidi is due to become a free agent at the end of next month and has attracted attention from a string of clubs including Aston Villa, Tottenham and Newcastle.

Leicester are understood to have been deliberating over tempting Ndidi with a new contract after he played a key role in the run-in.

However, he has admitted to being open to the possibility of a move.

FULHAM are eyeing Le Havre captain Arouna Sangante, 22, as they look to sign defensive reinforcements.

Bets are on Gio

by **RYAN TAYLOR**

REAL BETIS want to bring Tottenham midfielder Giovanni Lo Celso back to the club.

The La Liga outfit, managed by Manuel Pellegrini, sold the Argentina international playmaker to Spurs for £27.2million in January 2020 following an initial six-month loan.

But injuries have plagued him and he's available for transfer. Villarreal, Barcelona and AC Milan are admirers.

BOURNEMOUTH are considering signing Joel Matip, 32, after he was released by Liverpool at the end of the season.

OMARI'S WANTED

by **RYAN TAYLOR**

STUTTGART are leading the chase for Chelsea youngster Omari Hutchinson.

The winger, 20, who won promotion with Ipswich, saw Stuttgart demolish Borussia Monchengladbach 4-0 on the final day of the Bundesliga season.

Gladbach have also shown interest but Stuttgart are targeting a loan swoop. Ipswich remain keen on bringing him back next season.

MONACO are one of several clubs interested in Stoke and England youth international Sol Sidibe, 17.

CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF FINAL

PREMIER

Farke men are out for glory not riches

DANIEL FARKE says 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, stands in Leeds' way at Wembley in today's Championship play-off final and the United boss wants his players to write their names in club folklore.

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

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

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

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

"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.

"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

by **DAVID ANDERSON**

Championship next season. Also it's the same for the opponent.

"It's still just football, there are much more important things in life. The health of the people is much more important than the riches of the people, that's for sure. We can also put this into the right frame and picture."

"We 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."

"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 and we want to prove ourselves."

DAN THE MAN: Farke wants to make history with Leeds

LIKELY TEAMS

LEEDS:

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

REFEREE:

John Brooks

SUMMER LOVIN'

by **DAVID ANDERSON**

assists this term and the Championship Player of the Season says big games bring the best out of him.

"I've not been to Wembley before," said the Holland Under-21s star.

"I've watched some games and finals at Wembley. I know the biggest stars, they have played at Wembley so I'm looking forward to it."

"I like to take that

LEEDS wing ace

Crysencio Summerville is relishing the chance to light up Wembley for Leeds in today's Championship play-off final against Southampton.

Summerville, 22 (right) grew up in Holland watching finals at Wembley and says it is the stage for him.

The attacker is Leeds' top scorer with 21 goals and 10

responsibility on my shoulders, I like the big games and the big stages. I'm ambitious, so bring it on, I'm ready."

Summerville is confident in his ability and is not fazed by today's huge stakes.

"It's a game," he said. "You know, it's like every other game. You can win, you can lose, but we've got one rule – if you can't win, don't lose."





LEEDS v S'HAMPTON
WEMBLEY , TODAY, KO 3PM , SKY SPORTS



PASSION

Russell's group sticks together

RUSSELL MARTIN has no plans to jump the Southampton ship – win or lose the Championship play-off final.

Since securing automatic promotion into the Premier League earlier this month,

by **HARRY PRATT**

Leicester boss Enzo Maresca and his Ipswich counterpart Kieran McKenna have suddenly found themselves on the radar of the big clubs.

Not just any clubs, either.

Manchester United are chasing McKenna, who along with King Power coach Maresca is also on Chelsea's shortlist of potential successors for departed Mauricio Pochettino.

So does Martin expect his name to be thrown in the frame should he follow them into the English elite by masterminding a Saints victory over Leeds today at Wembley?

Ahead of the most lucrative one-off clash in world football, with £200million on the line, the St Mary's coach laughed at the suggestion.

Martin, cautiously optimistic the Southampton hierarchy will stick with him whatever the outcome against Daniel Farke's Yorkshiremen, said: "No, I don't think so!

"Look, the Championship is full of good coaches. Those two have earned the opportunity to work in the Premier League.

"I think it's really great they're going to end up there with their current teams or if they're being linked to other clubs.

"It's great for them – and it also shows the quality of the Championship, for sure."

Having exited his previous two clubs, MK Dons and Swansea, without making it into

a third campaign, Martin is keen to set a personal best on the south coast.

The former Scotland and Norwich defender, 38, added: "I haven't spent more than two seasons at a club, for various reasons.

"So, yes, I'd like to beat that at some point. But I'm very grateful for the two years I had at those other clubs and for this opportunity here because it's tough as a manager. Tenures aren't too long.

"We loved it at Swansea but just didn't feel we'd have the sort of opportunity we have now here.

"When this job came up, with the size of the club and with what we wanted to achieve, it was just too big.

"But it was painful to leave those clubs like we did and I don't want to feel that pain again of having to do it so quickly.

"Football is so reactive but at some point you want to put your stamp and mark somewhere. Hopefully that can be here and this is the time."

Martin reckons there is nothing to split Leeds and Southampton, who finished third and fourth in the table respectively. He added: "Both of us have players who can produce those top moments out of nowhere – and you hope for that to happen.

"You want someone to create something but I think our team is always much stronger when we're playing together."

S-MART MOVE: Russell jumped at the chance to manage Saints

Benali nuts for top flight

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

That win under Alan Pardew (right) netted them peanuts. If they win against Leeds this afternoon then they can look forward to their biggest payday.

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

by **RICHARD EDWARDS**

haven't won at Wembley too often, but every time has been incredible," said Franny Benali, who made over 300 appearances for his hometown club.

"As a footballer I would think a play-off final is as big as it gets.

"The journey in the Championship and then the semi-finals of the play-offs has been incredible this season. Now you're at Wembley, you've got

close to 40,000 of your fans cheering you on.

"There's so much at stake. It's one of the richest prizes in sport, it's as big as it gets."

And Benali believes boss Russell Martin has worked magic.

He added: "Russell Martin has done an incredible job this season.

"It has just been great to watch Saints this year."



CHAMPION: Conor Coady after Foxes promotion

CON JOB IS SOURCE OF HUGE PRIDE

CONOR COADY believes he made a brave move to quit the Premier League to join Leicester – and it turned out to be one of the best decisions of his career.

The experienced defender left Wolves to secure regular football with the Foxes in the Championship.

And the bold switch worked an absolute treat with manager Enzo Maresca (below) leading the club back to the top flight.

"It's incredible," said Coady. "To go through a full season like we have, well the boys have been incredible.

"I dropped out of the Premier League to come to Leicester, so to be going back to the Premier League, well it's justified.

"It fills me with pride and I'm not someone who thinks too much about myself.

"But to do it with this club, especially the way we have, has just been brilliant.

"Our goal at the start of the season was to get promoted as champions – and we've gone and done it."

The Foxes secured promotion from the second tier with two

EXCLUSIVE by **NEIL GOULDING**

games to spare, but a 3-0 demolition of Preston at Deepdale was the victory which deservedly saw them crowned

Championship champions.

And centre-back Coady, 31, who was on loan at Everton for much of last season, believes the club had to stay focused with

so many people tipping them to guarantee their promotion automatically.

"I think everybody thought we were going to cruise it in February, but it was never ever going to be like that – and we knew that," added

Coady, who won promotion with Hull in the 2017-2018 season.

"We've been fantastic and have done what we needed to do. The supporters pay good money to come and watch us, winning the league is for them.

"Leicester City getting promoted or Leicester City winning anything, well it's all for the supporters and what they do.

"It's incredible for them, for us and for the whole club."



SAM GOAL

BLACKBURN hitman Sammie Szmodics would love the chance to prove his Premier League pedigree.

The 33-goal Rovers ace (right) is a £20million target for promoted Leicester City.

"I don't think anyone would begrudge me if a Premier League team came knocking," said Szmodics. "I'd be foolish not to look at it."



Rodgers' double delight

by **STEVE ANDERSON**
Celtic 1 Rangers 0

ADAM IDAH'S dramatic last-minute strike earned Celtic victory over Rangers in the 150th anniversary Scottish Cup final at Hampden Park.

It secured a double for Brendan Rodgers' side after a third successive Premiership title last week.

Abdallah Sima had the ball in the net in the 59th minute, only for it to be ruled out for a foul on keeper Joe Hart (right).



When stopper Jack Butland spilled a drive, substitute Idah swooped to knock in the winner.

Rodgers said: "You don't need to be perfect, you just need to win and we did that."

BARCELONA beat Lyon 2-0 to win the UEFA Women's Champions League final.

Aitana Bonmati and Alexia Putellas scored.

FA CUP FINAL



HAG CALL



SPECIAL BRU: Fernandes holds the trophy as United celebrate

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MAN CITY.....I MAN UNITED...2
 DOKU 87 GARNACHO 30, MAINOO 39

TO MAKE



JEEPERS KEEPER: Alejandro Garnacho pounces after City's Stefan Ortega's error

PEP GUARDIOLA reckons the Manchester United board have a "decision" to make after his City's shock defeat at Wembley.

Few predicted a remarkable 2-1 victory for Erik ten Hag's side. Not least the Old Trafford football hierarchy after it was leaked on Friday they intended to fire him no matter what happened in yesterday's final.

But having seen his English champions denied a second successive League and Cup Double by the neighbours, City boss Guardiola cranked up the pressure on new co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe and Co.

The Spaniard, who embraced Ten Hag warmly at the final whistle, said: "They have to take a decision. He's a lovely person and an extraordinary manager."

"Winning the FA Cup is important for them... like it was for us last season."

Ten Hag played dumb with regards to his future but slammed the critics who suggest finishing eighth in the league - with a negative goal difference - is unacceptable, given their injury woes.

The Dutchman said: "When you make these comments, I'm

by **HARRY PRATT**

sorry to say you have no knowledge about football. You don't understand managing a football team. When the players aren't there I can't train them and coach them and we will not get the results we want."

As for United apparently talking to alternative candidates and if this had undermined him, he went on: "I don't know if they have done this. I can't answer this question. Maybe you have sources. I don't have them."

When Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo opened up a two-goal lead by half-time for unfancied United, Guardiola's troops struggled to dictate proceedings in their usual way.

And the City supremo later claimed he was to blame for a particularly uncharacteristic lame opening period from his all-conquering outfit, whose consolation effort from Jeremy Doku came in the 87th minute.

This was the first time Guardiola had lost a domestic final on these shores in seven outings at the national stadium.

He groaned: "My mistake - my game plan was not good."

"We had clear chances in the



TEEN SPIRIT: Garnacho kisses badge after scoring

second half, which weren't easy because they had man-marking and defended the pockets.

"Unfortunately, we scored a goal a little bit too late. Maybe it could have been different but it's disappointing today."

United goal hero Garnacho was thrilled with their display.

The Argentine, 19, said: "This is incredible. Nobody believed in us. But we're a team, all together. We fought the game

of our lives." Mainoo crowned a great week, in which he was named in England's provisional squad for the Euros, with a goal.

Garnacho added: "He's the best player in the squad and he's the youngest. We're also good friends. I'm so happy for him."

On the duo, Ten Hag said: "I am very happy they have potential to meet the standards you need for top football."

Tuchel's in pole position

From Back Page learn his fate this week - but it appears that the Dutchman is doomed despite masterminding a dramatic 2-1 victory over rivals Manchester City at Wembley.

Tuchel is believed to be one of a number of names on the wishlist of Sir Jim Ratcliffe's INEOS Group.

And sources in Munich say 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 club made a U-turn by offering him a new contract to stay.

They were shocked when Tuchel turned down the proposal - and the suggestion in Munich is he believes United have identified him as the man to replace Ten Hag.

Mauricio Pochettino is also in the frame after being sacked by Chelsea, while former Blues boss Graham Potter rejected Ajax's advances when it became clear United were thinking of replacing their manager.

Leaking roof can't be fixed

by **SIMON MULLOCK**

MANCHESTER UNITED have been told that the Old Trafford roof is beyond repair.

Club bosses were embarrassed when the stadium was flooded by a torrential downpour in the closing stages of the Premier League clash with Arsenal earlier this month.

A number of firms were approached to patch up part of the roof on the Sir Bobby Charlton Stand.

But United were stunned to be told it would cost about £3m to make an initial repair and that only a brand-new roof would fix the problem in the long term.

Trafford Council chiefs have become increasingly concerned about public safety and have told the club to address the issue.

New United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe has vowed to give the fans the kind of stadium a club of their stature deserves.

His preferred option would be to build a new ground on land nearby rather than rebuild the current stadium - but that would cost in excess of £2bn.

Bowen to Toon Ed down

by RYAN TAYLOR

JARROD BOWEN wants to stay at West Ham despite interest from Newcastle.

The England forward (below) is on Toon boss Eddie Howe's radar after hitting 20 goals in all competitions this season.

But after signing a bumper contract extension until 2030 last October, Bowen is going nowhere as West Ham have no interest in a sale as they sweat on the future of Lucas Paqueta after the midfielder ace was charged with breaching FA betting rules.

Both Bowen and his family love the club and he is viewed as the face of Julen Lopetegui's new-look project after he replaced David Moyes.

Bowen would only listen to offers that would enable him to play in the Champions League – but, even then, sources claim there are no guarantees he would jump ship.

Guehi's a going concern

by DARREN WITCOOP

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

Guehi, who will be part of the Three Lions squad at Euro 2024, is attracting interest from Manchester United and Arsenal.

Palace have lined up Real Betis' Chadi Riad as his replacement in a £10m deal, while Wolfsburg's French centre-half Maxence Lacroix

is another target.

He has already confirmed he has been in contact with Eagles and ex-Wolfsburg boss Oliver Glasner about a reunion.

Palace are desperate to keep star assets Michael Olise and Eberechi Eze but could sell Guehi, 23 (above) for the right price.

One player unlikely to move across London now is defender Ben Johnson with Palace's interest in the West Ham contract rebel having cooled.

FA CUP FINAL



ON THE JOB: Guardiola (left) and Ten Hag look on



BOSS WATCH

PEP BLUE IT AFTER WARDROBE SWITCH PROVED COSTLY

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

Guardiola rarely wears a suit, but the Manchester City boss felt sufficiently emboldened to ditch his lucky blue roll-neck, 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 once again he can get the better of the greatest manager of the modern era, when he has the personnel at his disposal.

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

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

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

When United took the lead on the half-hour, there was no wild celebration from Ten Hag, just a couple of claps and fist pumps, the United boss acutely aware there was still a long way to go.

Even when they doubled their lead, Ten Hag was measured, pointing skywards with both hands before taking a swig of water.

Having seen his side blow a 3-0 lead against Championship opponents Coventry, then scrape through on penalties, Ten Hag was wise to take nothing for granted.

In the first half, Ten Hag's set-up and tactical approach

from DAVID McDONNELL at Wembley

worked to perfection with Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo putting United two goals up.

Playing Bruno Fernandes as a false nine and Scott McTominay as No.10 allowed United to pack the midfield and thwart City when Guardiola's side were in possession, then hit them on the break, with Marcus Rashford and Garnacho in particular proving vital outlets.

Guardiola had to change something and responded by bringing on Manuel Akanji and Jeremy Doku, the latter testing Aaron Wan-Bissaka with his pace.

Yet when those changes did not yield an immediate return, Guardiola took the bold step of switching star man Kevin De Bruyne, who was subdued throughout, for Julian Alvarez.

When Erling Haaland clattered the upright, Andre Onana kept out a blistering goalbound shot from Kyle Walker and Alvarez skied a effort high and wide moments later, Guardiola could not hide his frustration.

The City boss had his hands on his head in despair moments later, when Alvarez somehow managed to steer the ball wide, when put through on goal by Phil Foden. In that spell, City could have gone from 2-0 to 3-2 up, but were left ruing the missed opportunities.

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

When Doku beat Onana at his near post, there was a glimmer of hope for City, Guardiola imploring the City fans to get behind their team.

But this was the day when Ten Hag, beleaguered and potentially on his way, outsmarted Guardiola and proved his managerial worth.

Captain marvel Bruno leads by example STAR DELIVERS

BRUNO FERNANDES has faced a lot of criticism.

An easy target for a team that has simply struggled far too much this season.

He has been accused of being too petulant to be a Manchester United captain.

But this was a performance to prove he is the leader so many claim he is not.

This was a display to show why United and INEOS simply

BIG-MATCH VERDICT
by Chris McKenna



have to do what it takes to keep the Portuguese man happy.

This was a game from a player who deserves to be starring for such a better team.

Fernandes penned an open letter this week declaring his adoration for everything about

United. But in there was a clear message to the club that they must match his ambitions.

It was a gauntlet laid down to bring this squad up to the level to match him or he will have to go elsewhere.

At 29, he is coming close to



MAN CITY.....I MAN UNITED....2

DOKU 67

GARNACHO 30, MAINOO 39



CLASS ACT:
United skipper (left) chases down City



DOUBLE ACT:
Fernandes (top) jumps on scorer Garnacho after opener

Vincent compo agreed

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

The German giants have endured frustration in their bid to find a replacement for Thomas Tuchel after it was announced in February that he would depart the Allianz Arena this summer.

But Bayern seem to have landed on Kompany (below) as their manager. Tuchel's farewell ended on a sour note with

Bayern losing 4-2 to Hoffenheim on the final day of the season, meaning they slipped to a third-placed finish.



Following attempts to hire Bayer Leverkusen manager Xabi Alonso and Austria boss Ralf Rangnick, Bayern appear to have switched focus to Clarets chief Kompany.

The former Manchester City defender began his managerial career with Anderlecht in Belgium before joining Burnley in 2022 and is contracted to the club until 2028.

He led the Clarets to promotion in 2022-23 – but the Premier League was a different story and Burnley's relegation from the top flight was confirmed against Tottenham on May 12.

Saudis to Roc boat

by **RYAN TAYLOR**

SAUDI ARABIAN clubs met with agency bosses who represent a number of high-profile players this week.

The Saudi Pro League's Al Hilal and Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr, among others met with Roc Nation Sports, who have Man City's Kevin De Bruyne, Madrid's Vinicius Junior, Arsenal's Gabriel Martinelli and West Ham's Lucas Paqueta currently on their books.

De Bruyne (left) has no interest in a move to Saudi and would prefer a switch to the MLS when he calls time on his Premier League stint.



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

passing his peak. This is a player who should be playing in a team collecting more than the odd trophy.

His performance at Wembley showed just that. With and without the ball, he was terrific.

When Manchester City pinged the ball about, it was he who was orchestrating the defence from the very front.

In a bold move, Erik ten Hag put him in as the false nine with Rasmus Hojlund on the bench.

It paid off. Fernandes hassled and harried when United were letting City have the ball but making sure there were no gaps for Pep Guardiola's Premier League champions to find.

It was Alejandro Garnacho who was shrewd for the opener as he read Josko Gvardiol's misplaced header over his own keeper and tapped home.

But the second was all about the brilliance of United. Marcus Rashford's pass to switch the

play to Garnacho was superb. He then calmly cut inside before sliding it to Fernandes. Then the magic happened.

Fernandes had caught Kobbie Mainoo out of the corner of his eye and played an instinctive first-time pass.

Mainoo did the rest. It was not an easy finish but it was all about the set up.

United can be buoyed by two teenagers scoring for the first time in an FA Cup Final. The

goalscorers and Hojlund means there is a foundation of youth for whoever is the United boss next season.

But they simply must build a team around Fernandes. And make it one good enough for him to win consistently.

He continued, tirelessly, to point and guide those around him. City scored through Jeremy Doku, United started to panic.

He was shouting at those around him to calm down. They

were not heeding his guidance. The introduction of Hojlund saw him move out to the left.

For a moment he lost his own cool. Taking a shot from distance with Stefan Ortega off his line.

It gave City the ball back when United needed to hold it. Give him that moment of madness. For the rest of it he was simply superb.

He led the celebrations like he led his team throughout.

FA CUP FINAL



CHALLENGE: Rooney

Rooney aims to bloom at Argyle

FORMER England captain Wayne Rooney has returned to management with Championship side Plymouth.

The 38-year-old, who left Birmingham in January after just 15 games in charge, has signed a three-year deal to become head coach at Argyle after seeing off strong competition for the position.

Former Manchester United hitman Rooney 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."

"I can't wait for the Championship season to start in August."

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

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

Plymouth chairman Simon Hallett said: "Throughout the interview process, Wayne showed himself to be a passionate, intelligent and knowledgeable candidate with an appetite to prove himself and develop his managerial career."

"His ambitions and aims match ours perfectly and we feel he is the perfect candidate to provide the exciting and attacking brand of football that we all like to see and help us achieve the club's mission."

MATCH RATINGS

Man City

STEFAN ORTEGA 5
His early show of nerves unsettled the whole Blues defence. Weakness for City.

KYLE WALKER 6
Had a ding-dong battle with Rashford and was denied two long-range efforts.

JOHN STONES 7
City's best defender in the first half and got better in the second when he stepped up.

NATHAN AKE 4
Had a stinker. Hooked at break after making mistakes and being sloppy in possession.

JOSKO Gvardiol 6
Solid all season long but was undone by Garnacho's pace and movement.

RODRI 6
His unbeaten run of 74 games in all competitions finally came to an end.

MATEO KOVACIC 4
Did not drive forward and his square passing was sloppy. Taken off at half-time.

KEVIN DE BRUYNE 5
Substituted early in what felt like a telling moment for City's main man. So quiet.

BERNARDO SILVA 6
Struggled to get on the ball and City miss him badly when he is not involved.

PHIL FODEN 6
Played from the left in the first half, tucked inside after Doku came on. Quiet.

ERLING HAALAND 6
Smashed an effort against the woodwork but was largely marked very tightly.

SUBSTITUTES
JEREMY DOKU (Kovacic (46th) 8)
MANUEL AKANJI (Ake (46th) 6)
JULIAN ALVAREZ (De Bruyne (56th) 6)



FACE ACHES: Erling Haaland feels the pain of defeat

Ratings by **JOHN CROSS**

TEENAGE Golden boys pull off



MATCH STATS

Man City	Man United
4	5
10	3
5	3
7	1
7	11
1	3
90	76
8	15
62	40
73	27

1 0 2 0

MATCH VERDICT
TURN TO PAGES 52-53



WIN-DERFUL: Ten Hag and Martinez

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

by **SIMON MULLOCK**

Ten Hag conjured up a cunning tactical plan to destroy Pep Guardiola's dream of becoming the first man to claim back-to-back Doubles as United lifted the FA Cup in a triumphant Wembley finale for the Dutchman.

Only a dramatic U-turn from Old Trafford 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 Kobbie Mainoo – both just 19 – ensured one of the great cup shocks.

United finished 31 points behind their rivals as City became the first club to win four successive titles.

But they were more than a match for them 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 masterplan ensured there would be no repeat. Both managers were

dressed for the occasion, sharply suited and booted.

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

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

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

Their only reward was an 87th-minute strike from substitute Jeremy Doku, their best performer on a gut-wrenching afternoon.

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



MAN CITY.....1 MAN UNITED....2

DOKU 87

GARNACHO 30, MAINOO 39



DREAMS

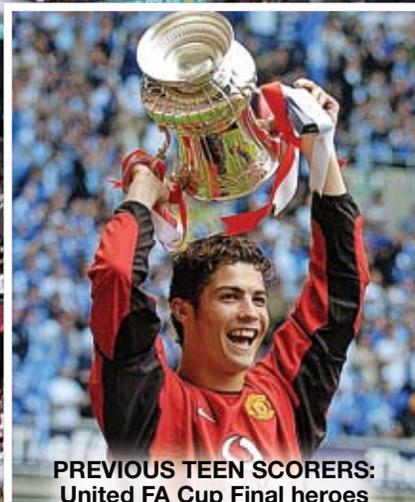
Ten Hag masterplan

ERIK WIN AND OUT

From Back Page somewhere else to win trophies – because that’s what I have always done. “When I came here I said I had come to win trophies and we have now won two. That isn’t bad, is it? This club hasn’t won many trophies over the last 10 years. “INEOS have told me but they don’t have to tell me every week. When I came here, United were in a mess. This team now has an identity.” Ratcliffe said it was “a glorious feeling” after watching his boyhood team repay some of his £1.25billion investment but he walked out of the stadium when asked if Ten Hag would be in charge next season. United captain Bruno Fernandes also failed to give his manager a ringing endorsement. Fernandes said: “He prepares every game well – but sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn’t.”



MAINOO MAN: Kid Kobbie sweeps home United's second past Stefan Ortega



PREVIOUS TEEN SCORERS: United FA Cup Final heroes Cristiano Ronaldo in 2004 (top) and Norman Whiteside in 1983



TWO BEAUTIES: Mainoo (left) and Alejandro Garnacho

with an angled drive that flew straight at City keeper Stefan Ortega. Ortega was then lucky to get away with a suicidal pass inside his penalty area to Mateo Kovacic. And United’s growing confidence produced a breakthrough on the half-hour when the German blundered once again. Josko Gvardiol was in complete control when Diogo Dalot sent a long pass forward. But when City’s back-up keeper came racing from his line, 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 man of the match Bruno Fernandes on the edge of the box, his unselfish pass presented the teenager with the kind of chance he would have dreamed of when he was growing up in Stockport. It was clear that Guardiola had used the half-time break to remind his players what was at stake. Manuel Akanji was sent on to shore up the defence while Doku’s introduction

gave City the threat they had been lacking. He gave Aaron Wan-Bissaka a torrid time. The Blues could have been level by the hour mark. Phil Foden miskicked in front of goal before Erling Haaland’s shot shuddered the crossbar. Andre Onana produced a brilliant save to tip behind Kyle Walker’s raking drive. And when Julian Alvarez replaced Kevin De Bruyne he was high and then wide with two golden chances. But City kept going as United started to visibly tire. Ten Hag sent on Jonny Evans and Rasmus Hojlund but it didn’t stem the flow of City attacks. Then, with three minutes to go, a lifeline when Onana allowed Doku’s 20-yard shot to sneak from his grasp and creep in at the near post. Ten Hag held his head in his hands and then asked Mason Mount and Victor Lindelof to man the final barrier. Eight years ago, Louis van Gaal was sacked just 24 hours after winning the Cup. Ten Hag’s fate will be decided in the coming week.

MATCH RATINGS

Man United

- ANDRE ONANA** His late howler a gift for Doku and a way back for City. Could have been costly. **6**
- AARON WAN-BISSAKA** Looks so much better playing on the right, his favoured side. Pace and tenacity. **7**
- LISANDRO MARTINEZ** What a warrior and leader. How United have missed him this season. Terrific. **7**
- RAPHAEL VARANE** Some way to go out. Looks so much better with Martinez alongside him. **7**
- DIOGO DALOT** Top display from one of United’s best performers. Strong in defence and attack. **7**
- KOBBIE MAINOO** What an ice-cool finish from United’s boy wonder. Terrific, hard-working display. **8**
- SOFYAN AMRABAT** Struggles to get around the pitch but when he sticks to his task he still does a job. **7**
- ALEJANDRO GARNACHO** What a performance. Scored one, involved in another and showed his class. **8**
- SCOTT MCTOMINAY** Worked hard, pressed and had a physical presence even if he rarely got a look-in. **7**
- MARCUS RASHFORD** A surprise selection but definitely took up the challenge to prove England boss wrong. **7**
- BRUNO FERNANDES** Brilliant captain’s display as he worked hard, set the tone and showed top quality. **9**

- #### SUBSTITUTES
- JONNY EVANS** (Martinez (73rd) 6)
 - RASMUS HOJLUND** (Rashford (73rd) 6)
 - VICTOR LINDELOF** (Garnacho (90th) 5)
 - MASON MOUNT** (McTominay (90th) 5)



CLAP OF HONOUR: Marcus Rashford

Ratings by JOHN CROSS



DUO: Ederson and Ortega

Ort and Ed are a couple of keepers

EXCLUSIVE by HARRY PRATT

MANCHESTER CITY will attempt to secure goalkeeper Stefan Ortega on a new deal next week as they prepare for life without Ederson. German shot-stopper Ortega, 31, has again excelled in the final few weeks of the season after replacing injured first-choice Ederson during the champions’ crucial 2-0 victory at Tottenham in their penultimate league outing. Now manager Pep Guardiola, who could lose Ederson this summer to the Saudi Pro League, is determined to keep hold of Ortega. The club’s hierarchy will hold talks with the player’s representatives in the coming days over an improved extension on the table, which bumps up his weekly wage from £70,000 to £90,000 and ties him down for an additional couple of seasons. Since joining in July 2022 on a free from Arminia Bielefeld, Ortega has always been used in the domestic cup competitions and of his 34 appearances only 12 have been in the Premier League. His consistent form has led to Guardiola saying the difference between his No.1 and 2 keepers is as small as he has known. Ederson, a £30million buy from Benfica in 2017, has made exactly 250 league appearances, winning six titles. City want him to extend his £120,000-a-week contract by at least another year. But negotiations have stalled and the feeling inside the club is that Ederson, 30, is looking to get a big-money deal in Saudi. City will not allow him to leave on the cheap, though. They will demand around £60m.



TUCHEL 'NEXT BOSS'

THOMAS TUCHEL believes he will be the next manager of Man United – despite their FA Cup triumph. Reports in Germany claim the former Chelsea boss (left) 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
Turn to Page 51

A £200m BATTLE FOR THE PREM

sky bet
CHAMPIONSHIP
EFL
CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFF FINAL
PREVIEW:
LEEDS v SOUTHAMPTON
PAGES 48-49

FA CUP FINAL: MAN CITY 1 MAN UNITED 2



FA CUP SPECIAL
SEE PAGES 50-55



BETTER THE DEVILS YOU KNOW: Bruno Fernandes lifts the cup

GO NEW WITH THE WIN

Doomed Ten Hag issues 'back or sack' ultimatum on his OT future



from **SIMON MULLOCK** at Wembley

ERIK TEN HAG challenged Manchester United to back him or sack him after a sensational FA Cup triumph. Ten Hag admitted he doesn't know if he has a future at Old Trafford after his team beat rivals Man City thanks to goals from Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo. Ten Hag still faces the sack and the defiant boss said: "If they don't want me anymore I will go"
Turn to Page 55

SS1ST 260524



9 771478 555972

1234ABCDEFHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

TWELVE PAGES FULL OF GAMES AND TEASERS

Find the triangle



**PUZZLE
PLANET
EXTRA**



PUZZLE PLANET



CELEBRITY CROSSWORD



Rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to spell out the name of the celebrity in the centre of the grid

- ACROSS**
- 1 Blur wanted it with TV in 1999 (6)
 - 4 *Morning Live* presenter and former Hear'Say singer (3,5)
 - 10 Foyle's __, ITV drama starring Michael Kitchen (3)
 - 11 Controversial Robin Thicke track from 2013, __ *Lines* (7)
 - 13 Leonardo DiCaprio's *Wolf Of Wall Street* colleague, __ Hill (5)
 - 14 Justin __, actor who married Kate Bosworth last year (4)
 - 15 Rugby player, royal relative and three-time father, __ Tindall (4)
 - 16 Micky Dolenz's iconic band of the 1960s, The __ (7)
 - 18 James Osterberg Jr's stage name, __ Pop (4)
 - 19 & 35 **Across** American sports player dating Taylor Swift (6,5)
- DOWN**
- 21 If Michaela Strachan was *Her*, this was Pete Waterman (6)
 - 22 *The Three __* - Martin Short, Chevy Chase and Steve Martin (6)
 - 24 Chelsea winger and England national, __ Sterling (6)
 - 25 She's played by Sophie Willan and she's *Not Normal!* (4)
 - 29 *Pretty Woman* singer, Roy __ (7)
 - 32 Fantasy series about fairytale characters, *Once __ A Time* (4)
 - 33 Samson __, co-starred in *Bloods* with 21D (4)
 - 35 See 19 Across
 - 36 Singer expecting her first child with colleague Nelly (7)
 - 37 See 6 Down
 - 38 English character actress, Alison __ (8)
 - 39 Ms McAlpine, *Coronation Street* star (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 Sharp-tongued TV talent show judge, Simon __ (6)
 - 2 First chart-topping hit from *The Tortured Poets Department* (9)
 - 3 Idris __, plays BBC detective Luther (4)
 - 5 Lead vocalist with Radiohead, Thom __ (5)
 - 6 & 37 **Across** Recent Marvel movie starring Dakota Johnson (6,3)
 - 7 *University Challenge* question master, Amol __ (5)
 - 8 The Pretenders singer and animal rights campaigner, Chrissie __ (5)
 - 9 American dramedy about people who share a birthday (4,2,2)
 - 12 Moon __, eldest daughter of iconic multi-instrumentalist Frank Zappa (4)
 - 17 Richard __, was TV's first *Travel Man* (6)
- DOWN**
- 20 Quick-tempered chef, Gordon __ (6)
 - 21 Jane __, played Edina Monsoon's dippy secretary Bubble (8)
 - 23 Love Island participant whose dad was an international footballer (5,4)
 - 26 Tom Holland and Chris Pratt lend their voices to this animation (6)
 - 27 British host of US show *Last Week Tonight*, __ Oliver (4)
 - 28 Dean Gaffney's *EastEnder*, __ Jackson (6)
 - 30 Most decorated gymnast in history, Simone __ (5)
 - 31 Comedian who created Alan Partridge, __ Coogan (5)
 - 32 Argumentative *Big Brother* 8 participant, Charley __ (5)
 - 34 Radio 2 DJ and *Eggheads* question master, Jeremy __ (4)

To hear individual answers or the full solution call 0905 789 4164.
Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke. Helpline: 0333 202 3390.

BATTLESHIPS

Find where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
A						●					4
B											2
C	●										1
D				●					●		3
E											1
F											1
G								●			4
H											1
I											1
J									■		2
	3	2	1	0	4	3	0	2	3	2	

WORD SPIRAL

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the seven-letter keyword in the shaded boxes.

Keyword clue: **A sea creature**

- 1 Male deer
- 2 Former US Vice President
- 3 Cupid
- 4 River deposit
- 5 Body powder
- 6 Crustacean
- 7 U2 singer
- 8 Make eyes at
- 9 Dutch cheese
- 10 Bill of fare
- 11 Asian language
- 12 Second-hand
- 13 Aquatic bird
- 14 Osculate
- 15 Black-marketeer
- 16 Prohibition

1			2			3
	9			10		
	14			15		
8					11	4
			16			
	13			12		
7			6			5

FAMOUS FACES

Identify the five celebrities, take their initials and put them in the correct places in the numbered boxes. These letters will spell the name of a celebrity.

5	7	6	4	8
1	3	9	2	10



SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

PUZZLE PLANET



TRAIN YOUR BRAIN

30-SECOND MATHS TEST

Follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given, to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second

challenge: you have 30 seconds for the BEGINNER task. For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 60

seconds and true mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and GENIUS in 90 seconds together.

BEGINNER **58** $+14$ $\div 8$ $+15$ $\frac{2}{3}$ OF THIS $+58$ 50% OF THIS -12 $\frac{3}{5}$ OF THIS

INTERMEDIATE **16** $\times 9$ $+25$ TAKE THE SQUARE ROOT REVERSE THE DIGITS $+145$ $\frac{7}{8}$ OF THIS -19 40% OF THIS

GENIUS **234** $\frac{7}{9}$ OF THIS $+154$ $\frac{5}{12}$ OF THIS -122 $\times 14$ $+38$ $\frac{7}{10}$ OF THIS -14

WORDSEARCH 1

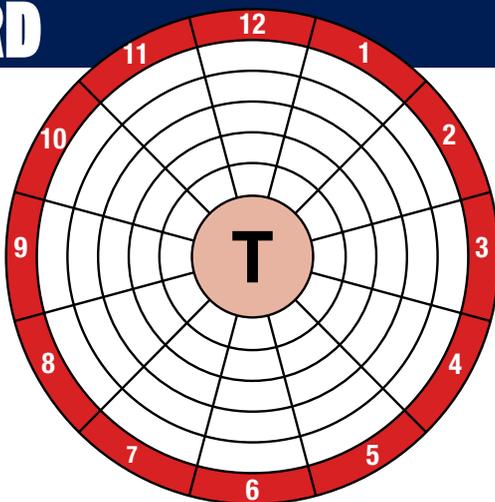
Can you find all of these witches and wizards in the grid? Words may appear forwards, backwards or diagonally.

- | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|
| BABA YAGA | MEG | SAMANTHA |
| CATWEAZLE | MERLIN | SARUMAN |
| DUMBLEDORE | MORGANA | SNAPE |
| GANDALF | NANNY OGG | VOLDEMORT |
| GLINDA | RINCEWIND | WILLOW |
| HECATE | SABRINA | WINNIE |

C O T P B R I N C E W I N D H
 T R O M E D L O V I A K G P T
 H E C A T E K C N Y L Q W M X
 K V M O R G A N A B E K E H O
 X F Z M J H I G E R S N A P E
 H E L Z A E W T A C R A E S E
 G R F R I M I S Y Y R N A U R
 A W U G Z E M P T K A B R K O
 N Q I Q N G M M I M R B N E D
 D H K L I N O W U I H Z A Q E
 A D N I L G F R N O C J H B L
 L Z Y P R O A A G D H D I G B
 F L A W E S W A B S A K G M M
 U S J B M N A N N Y O G G K U
 A H T N A M A S O L Q K B H D

CLOCKWORD

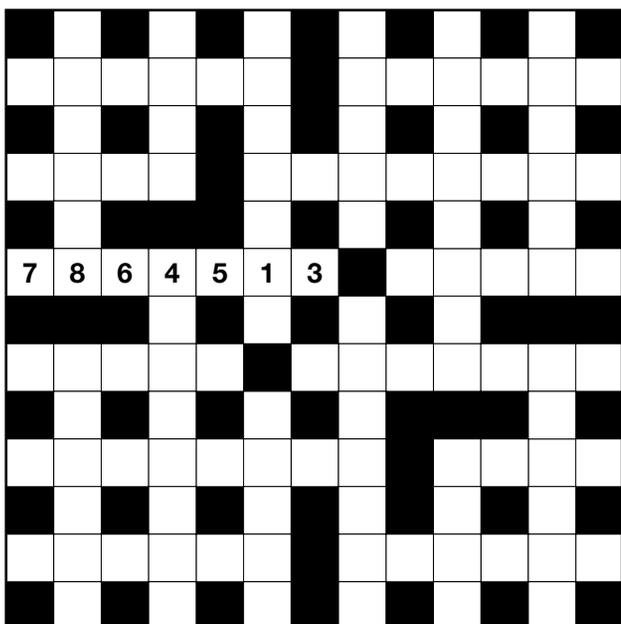
The solutions from 1 to 12 are all six-letter words ending with the letter T in the centre. Moving clockwise from 1, the letters in the outer circle will spell out the name of a US singing star.



- 1 Dirge
- 2 Aspersion
- 3 Big cat
- 4 Chewy sweet
- 5 Evoke
- 6 Insect
- 7 Spurn
- 8 Devise
- 9 Vegetable
- 10 Truthful
- 11 Complete
- 12 Straying

NUMBERFIT

Can you fit all the listed numbers into the grid? We've given you one to get you started.



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 4 digits | 78645 | 846120 | 8 digits |
| 2066 | 84285 | 856708 | 15059488 |
| 2450 | | 989598 | 15675138 |
| 3077 | 6 digits | | 40476454 |
| 9787 | 245708 | 7 digits | 67865465 |
| | 455045 | 4378745 | |
| 5 digits | 475127 | 4395489 | |
| 14657 | 504385 | 6581515 | |
| 42964 | 807580 | 7864513 | |

THE NAME GAME

Hidden in the grid is the name of a cartoon character. Answer the questions, then rearrange the letters corresponding to your answers to fill in the name.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>1 Which actor links the films <i>X-Men</i> and <i>Flushed Away</i>?
 Ian McKellen (L)
 Patrick Stewart (O)
 Jean Reno (B)</p> <p>2 Which of the following is a type of offshore investment fund that uses pooled funds or borrowed capital?
 A bush fund (L)
 A shrub fund (O)
 A hedge fund (A)</p> <p>3 According to the proverb, a rolling stone gathers no...what?
 Dirt (T)</p> | <p>Moss (D)
 Water (P)</p> <p>4 Which US state was purchased from Russia in 1867?
 Alaska (K)
 Hawaii (I)
 Oregon (Y)</p> <p>5 What is the first name of E. Nesbit, the author of <i>The Railway Children</i>?
 Edith (D)
 Edna (A)
 Enid (H)</p> <p>6 Which of these actresses was the long-term partner of Martin</p> | <p>Freeman?
 Amanda Abbington (U)
 Amanda Mealing (M)
 Amanda Holden (D)</p> <p>7 Which of these antelopes is also known as the Indian antelope?
 Nilgai (T)
 Blackbuck (O)
 Gemsbok (V)</p> <p>8 Which author wrote the <i>City Of Ember</i> series of novels for young people?
 Jeanne DuPrau (C)
 Angie Thomas (S)
 Madeleine L'Engle (D)</p> | <p>9 What is the most populous city in the Philippines?
 Manila (L)
 Quezon City (D)
 Davao City (W)</p> <p>10 Miley Cyrus (pictured) rose to fame playing which fictional pop star in a Disney TV series?
 Jane Idaho (K)
 Hannah Montana (N)
 Lisa Tennessee (B)</p> |
|--|--|--|--|

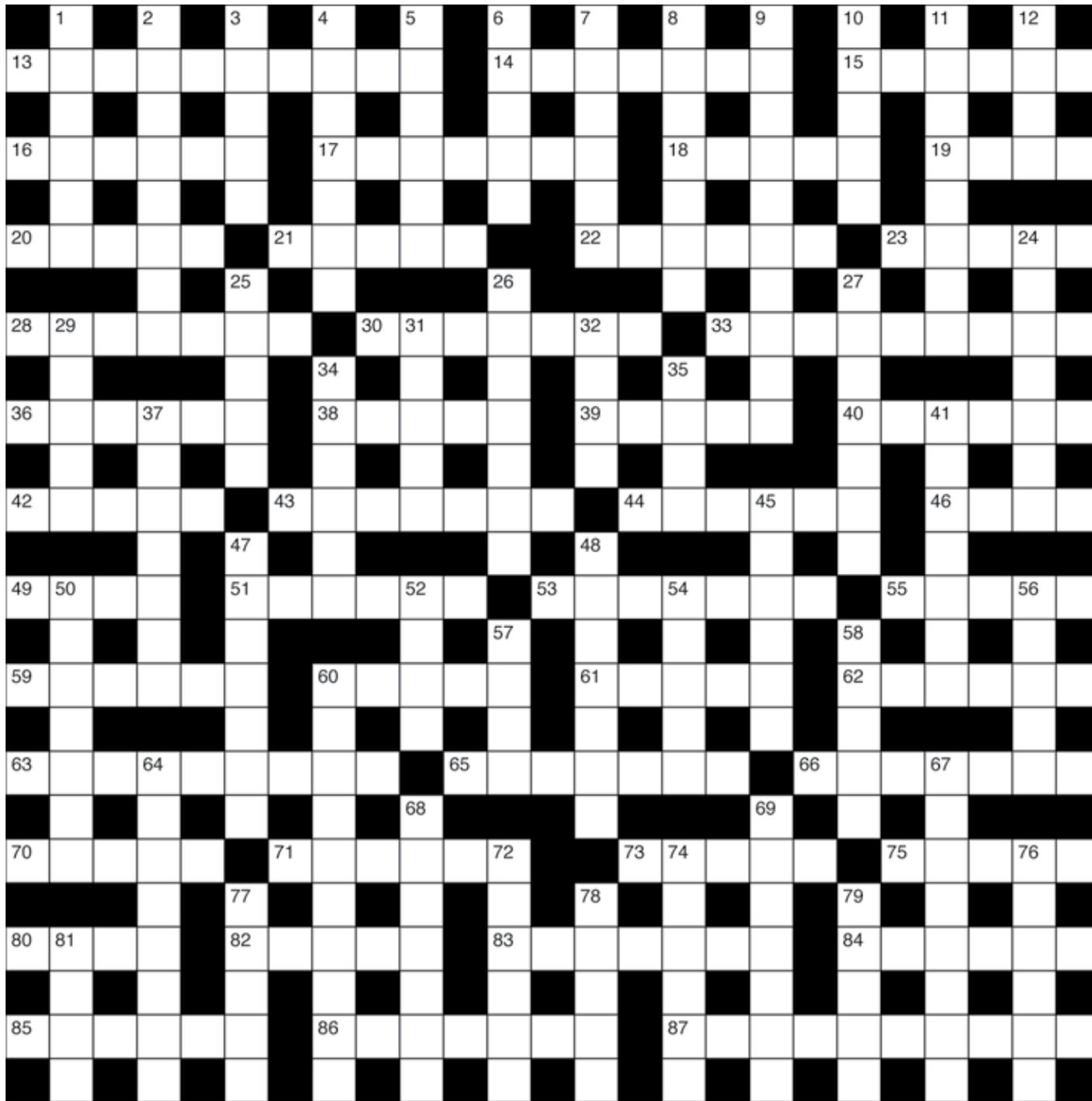


SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

PUZZLE PLANET



GIANT CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 13 Substantial sum (4,6)
 - 14 Furniture item (7)
 - 15 Cried (6)
 - 16 Idles (6)
 - 17 Supposed (7)
 - 18 Repaired (5)
 - 19 Shed (4)
 - 20 Concluded (5)
 - 21 Delivered (5)
 - 22 Vague (6)
 - 23 Yet (5)
 - 28 Swept (7)
 - 30 Encase (7)
 - 33 Conjectural (4,2,3)
 - 36 Animal (6)
 - 38 Bird (5)
 - 39 Hybrid (5)
 - 40 Swimmer (6)
 - 42 Jam (5)
 - 43 Afterwards (5,2)
 - 44 Tool (6)
 - 46 Pillar (4)

- 49 Employee (4)
- 51 Frightfully (3-3)
- 53 Rustic (7)
- 55 Warm (5)
- 59 Textbook (6)
- 60 Stick (5)
- 61 Accumulate (5)
- 62 Rang (6)
- 63 First (2,3,4)
- 65 Mapped (7)
- 66 Cleaners (7)
- 70 Deliberate (5)
- 71 Change (6)
- 73 Rearwards (5)
- 75 Tolerate (5)
- 80 Not that (4)
- 82 Father (5)
- 83 Wine (7)
- 84 Rope (6)
- 85 Trim (6)
- 86 Nationality (7)
- 87 Great mystery (4,6)

- DOWN**
- 1 Appeal to (4,2)
 - 2 Biscuits (8)
 - 3 Awry (5)
 - 4 Clubs (7)
 - 5 Caress (6)
 - 6 Platform (5)
 - 7 Exhilarated (6)
 - 8 Embarrassed (7)
 - 9 Certainly (2,3,5)
 - 10 Blind (5)
 - 11 In pairs (3,2,3)
 - 12 Raise (4)
 - 24 Chiefs (7)
 - 25 Trivial (5)
 - 26 Ship (7)
 - 27 Eccentric (7)
 - 29 Cook (5)
 - 31 Hurry (5)
 - 32 Kick (4)
 - 34 Fruit (6)
 - 35 Exclamation (4)
 - 37 Surface (7)

- 41 Earth (7)
- 45 Disappear (6)
- 47 Germ-free (7)
- 48 Mends (7)
- 50 Systematise (7)
- 52 Promise (4)
- 54 Portion (5)
- 56 Utter (5)
- 57 Measure (4)
- 58 Creep (5)
- 60 Have patience (4,4,2)
- 64 Distributes (5,3)
- 67 Misfortune (4,4)
- 68 Surprise (7)
- 69 Cakes (7)
- 72 Play (6)
- 74 Spirit (6)
- 76 Began (6)
- 77 Saw (5)
- 78 Endeavoured (5)
- 79 Box (5)
- 81 Expectation (4)

DITLOIDS

If 3 B M = Three Blind Mice and 101 D = 101 Dalmatians, can you solve the following set of six devious Ditloids?

- 12 S of the Z
- 5 Q Of The O by JH
- 5 P for a T in R U
- 1882: A of JJ by RF
- S W: E 1 – The P M
- 1087: D of W the C

DEFINITIONS

Can you guess the correct meanings of these tricky words?

WEALD

- A River barrier
- B Open country
- C Using an axe

BRUMAL

- A Relating to winter
- B Wild climbing plant
- C Belonging to animals

EVIRATE

- A Tear out the bowels
- B Render weak or unmanly
- C Avoid

BRAIN BUSTERS

Can you tackle these four tantalising teasers?

- 1 Tim is moving into a shared house. Which room will he get? Lloyd's is the room above the ground floor room. Noel's is the guest bedroom. Neither Alex nor Lloyd have the box room, which is between the master and guest bedrooms.
- 2 Which two words meaning 'could' and 'edge' can be combined to make a word meaning 'chaos'?
- 3 Place a total of 10 Ns among the following letters (in their current order) to make three new words: I U E D O C A O I G U E R Y
- 4 Chloe's mother is twice her age. Ten years ago she was three times her age. How old is Chloe's mother?

**SOLUTIONS
NEXT WEEK**

PUZZLE PLANET



MOVIE LINKS

Name the movies in which these stars appeared together to link Bruce Willis to Billy Crudup.

JIGSAW SUDOKU

Fill in the rows, columns and boxes with the numbers 1 to 9 without the same number appearing twice in any row, column or box.

4			2				5	
					3		6	4
8			5					
		9					8	
2	3			9				
	8					1		5
					7			
			6	7				
				5		3		9

ANAGRAM CROSSWORD

Fill in the grid using anagrams of the listed words. There may be more than one option for each word.

1		2		3		4	5		6		7
8						9					
					10						
11					12						
			13				14				
15		16							17		18
19				20			21				
22						23					
		24				25					

ACROSS

- 1 HOTELS
- 4 AULD
- 8 TEAR IT
- 9 SUTURE
- 11 A SLAB
- 12 CAN THEN
- 13 DODGY AS (2 words)
- 19 RAISERS
- 21 AN EAR
- 22 SPUR US
- 23 DID ACT
- 24 SKIS
- 25 MY SITE

DOWN

- 2 A TELLY
- 3 ODORANT
- 5 TACIT
- 6 A LORD'S
- 7 IT OWES
- 8 LAB'S (2 words)
- 10 LED WEST
- 14 READY TO (2 words)
- 15 AS RUSE
- 16 BUNKED
- 17 I MUTED
- 18 CAPT.
- 20 SPORE

KILLER SUDOKU

Killer Sudoku is based on the traditional grid and every column, every row and every 3x3 box must contain the digits 1 to 9. But the dotted shapes must be filled with numbers that add up to that in the left corner.

15				20			14			14	
		14		8				12	9		
13	12				12						10
		11			12	13		8			
17					14	8					17
			12					5			
8	12			5			9			17	
	8		22	20			11			15	
								8			

SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

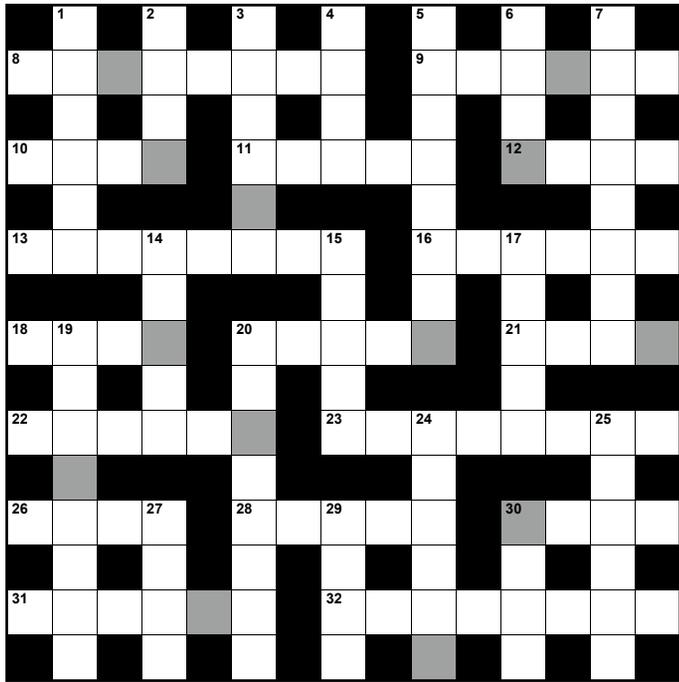
Test your knowledge with *Jay's Virtual Pub Quiz Book*, available from Mirror Books. Call 01256 590490 or order online at mirrorbooks.co.uk. (Free P&P on orders over £15.)

PUZZLE PLANET



QUIZ CROSSWORD

Rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to reveal the name of an actress (7,6)



ACROSS

- 8 1999 fantasy novel by Neil Gaiman, also a 2007 film of the same name (8)
- 9 Author of 1934's *Murder On The Orient Express*, _ Christie (6)
- 10 Berkshire public school founded in 1440, _ College (4)
- 11 Irish golfer who won the 2019 Open, _ Lowry (5)
- 12 Soft cow's milk cheese named after the French region from which it originated (4)
- 13 American author of the plays *Our Town* and *The Skin Of Our Teeth*, _ Wilder (8)
- 16 Weather map line joining all the places with the same air pressure (6)
- 18 Character from Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, _ the joiner (4)
- 20 Large village in North Somerset which is joined to the seaside town of Weston-super-Mare (5)
- 21 Deep, narrow valley, particularly in Scotland (4)
- 22 South Asian country whose capital is Thimphu (6)
- 23 Turkey's largest city, which straddles the Bosphorus Strait (8)
- 26 Author of the 1989 novel *London Fields*, Martin _ (4)
- 28 _ Sea, linked to the Celtic Sea in the south by St George's Channel (5)
- 30 American TV mystery drama which first aired in 1990, _ Peaks (4)
- 31 The goalkeeper for Aston Villa W.F.C. and the Netherlands national team, _ van Domselaar (6)
- 32 Natural hazard outside human control, also called a *damnum fatale* (3,2,3)

DOWN

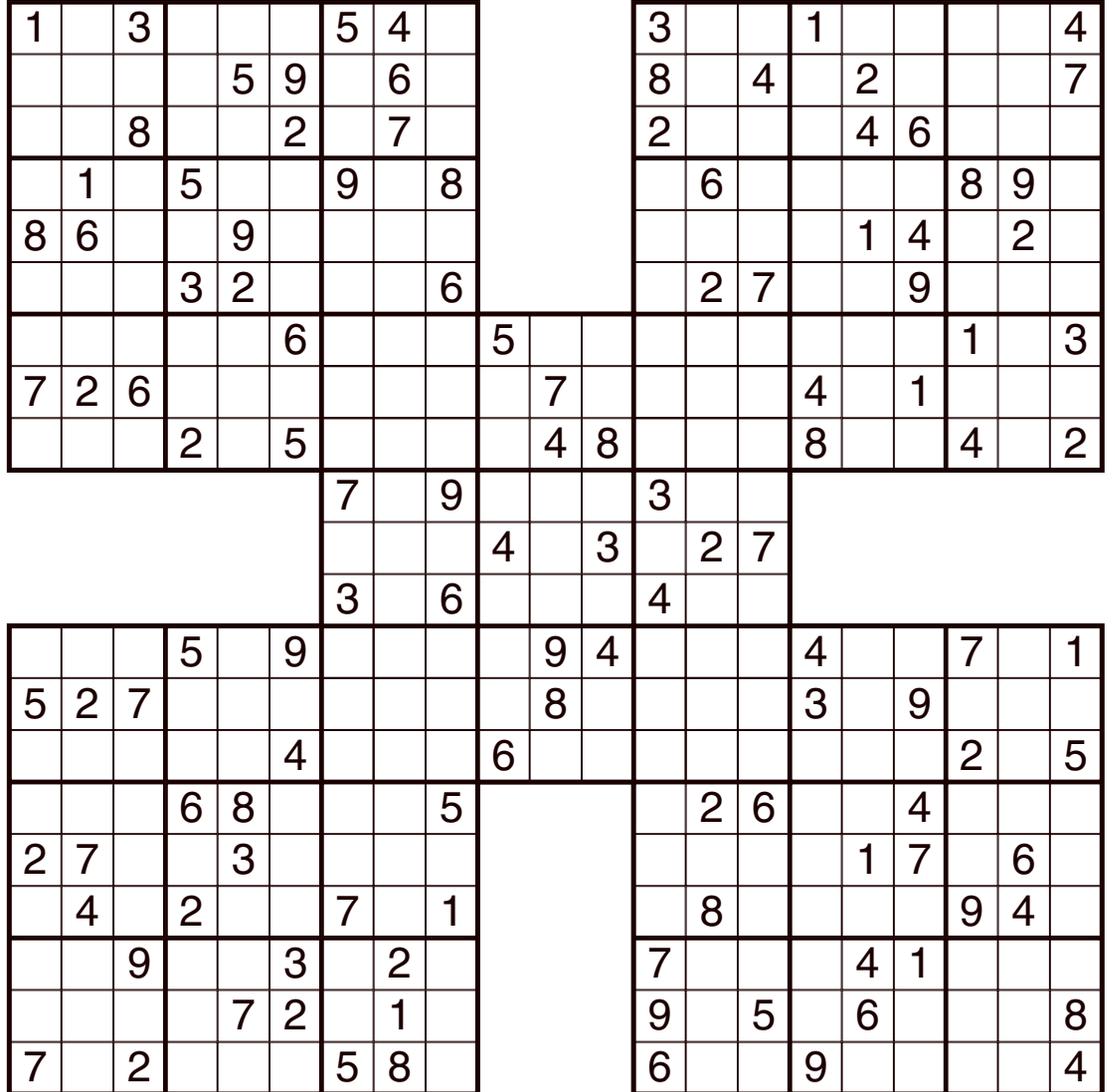
- 1 A _ *In Time*, 1976 children's novel by Penelope Lively (6)
- 2 West Asian country whose capital is Tehran (4)
- 3 Famous thoroughfare in the central and western part of Los Angeles, _ Boulevard (6)
- 4 Covered walkway in ancient Greek architecture (4)
- 5 The first synthetic plastic, developed by Leo Baekeland in 1907 (8)
- 6 Metrical foot consisting of one short syllable followed by one long syllable (4)
- 7 Species of edible mushroom native to East Asia (8)
- 14 Lexicographer best known for the publication of his 1852 thesaurus, Peter Mark _ (5)
- 15 Luca _, Italian tennis player who defeated Novak Djokovic in 3 sets in Indian Wells 2024 (5)
- 17 Family of keyboard musical instrument with pipe divisions or other means of producing tones (5)
- 19 Book of the Hebrew Bible concerning the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (8)
- 20 The capital and largest city of the Canadian province of Manitoba (8)
- 24 The largest island of the Windward group of the Society Islands in French Polynesia (6)
- 25 Single staff or pole used to help support a camera (6)
- 27 Area of the City of Westminster that is one of London's main entertainment districts (4)
- 29 The Tsar of all Russia from 1547 to 1584, _ the Terrible (4)
- 30 William Howard _, the 27th President of the USA (4)



To hear the across and down solutions call 0907 181 1080. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

SAMURAI SUDOKU

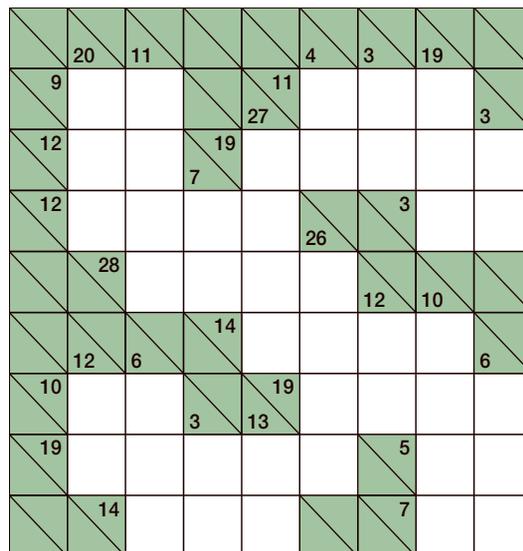
In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply for all five 9x9 sudokus, but the 9x9 inner sudoku shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outside sudokus.



For extra clues call 0905 789 4163. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

KAKURO

Fill in each series of blank squares using the numbers 1 to 9. Each series - across and down - must add up to the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of the series. A number may be repeated in each line but not in a series.



PATHFINDER

Starting with the highlighted letter, follow a path to find 21 boys' names beginning with E. The trail passes through every letter once (but only once) and may go up, down, left or right, but not diagonally.



To hear the across and down solutions call 0907 181 1080. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

PUZZLE PLANET



ALPHAPUZZLE™

Alphapuzzle® tests your logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Each letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Can you beat the Target Time? Call for an Extra Letter Clue if you get stuck. Solution tomorrow. **DIFFICULTY:** 10/10; **TARGET TIME:** 30 minutes
CLUE: Location for fish, they say.

21	22	2	15	14	2	16	17			13		
	10			20			7	5	23	20	9	4
4	22	19	3	12	10		19			19		18
	2			19		10	6	3	1	1	19	20
12	19	2	9	20		22				2		10
16			4	2	26	20				16		12
3		2	11	20		26		14	17	20		3
26		5		8	2	25	20					2
20		10			16		5	2	3	16	15	
24	3	9	4	7	16	17		2				2
2		7			2		10	9	16	3	5	20
19	2	15	9	20	4			19				3
		14			10	20	16	20	15	2	14	20
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				B			G					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
												M

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION
Across: Defraud, Habit, Axing, Optical, Optimist, Flan, Divine, Judged, Rich, Cut-glass, Fanfare, Igloo, Rhyme, Spectre.
Down: Diamond, Refer, Flint, Vacancy, Argument, Naze, Drowsy, Duress, Hate, Quagmire, Backlog, Allot (clue), Talon, Dispose.

EXTRA CLUE LETTERS: 0907 181 2628*
(Deduct two minutes from target time for each extra letter heard.) FULL SOLUTION: 0907 181 2629*
*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge.
Alternatively, for six extra clues to your mobile, text DSSALPHA to 64343.
Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

SUDOKU

4			8			5	7
5			1	7		6	
		7	5	4	1		
	6		8			3	2
7			9	2			
	2		4		5	8	
		9	2				
	7	6				4	1
3				8			5

Fill the grid so that every column, row and 3x3 square includes all the digits from one to 9.
LEVEL: Gentle
TARGET: 16 mins
Solution tomorrow

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

3	2	1	9	7	8	4	5	6
4	7	9	2	6	5	3	1	8
8	6	5	4	1	3	2	9	7
2	5	7	3	4	1	6	8	9
1	3	8	5	9	6	7	2	4
6	9	4	8	2	7	5	3	1
5	1	2	7	8	4	9	6	3
7	8	3	6	5	9	1	4	2
9	4	6	1	3	2	8	7	5

Extra clues: 0901 322 5604

Today's Solution: 0907 181 2630

*Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

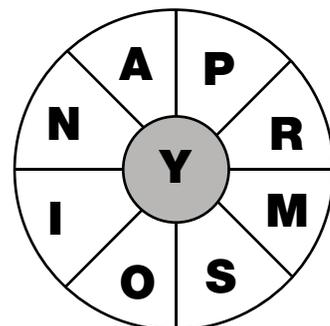
LOSS WORD

L I S L E S S U R B
O B E R N I L B U D
V E I K N A S C I B
E J P E I N H K K E
J P M A L A W S N L
A O O B R R A N I G
R K L E E I R I S R
A S S O B T S M L A
S T O Z U D A V E D
W O C S O M W N H E

Welcome to our Wordsearch with a difference. Not only are there 18 lost names hidden in the grid, written forwards, backwards, up, down or diagonally, but if you find them and cross them out, the letters that remain will spell out a further related name. As usual, we're not going to tell you what the lost names are, but they do all have a strong connection. The hidden name is Portuguese but it's not a man-of-war – and that's a clue!

WORDWHEEL

Using only the letters in the wordwheel, take 10 minutes to find as many words as possible, none of which may be plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. Each word must contain the central letter and at least three others. Letters can only be used once in every word. There is at least one nine-letter word in the wheel.



To hear the full solution call 0907 181 1078.

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390.

WORD LADDER

Using the clues provided, fill in each step of the ladder with a new word, changing one letter at a time.

	LOOK
Chef	
Irish town	
Cereal crop	
Ripped	
Settlement	
	DOWN

TWO-WAY TEASER

Call 0907 181 2588

for today's solution. *Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
1 Remarkable piece of railway equipment (6)
4 Rare tiffs with sweetheart (6)
7 Stake for backing a mount – may be hotly tipped (4)
8 Youngster ate green fresh produce (8)
9 Possibly pleased to have passed (7)
12 It may come between players (3)
14 In pain father is brave (6)
15 Animal hunt (6)
16 Three directions a sheep takes (3)
18 Ocean bird heading for Welsh city (7)
22 Nobody we know (8)

- 23 I'd look around for bathing facilities (4)
24 Search for one drink after another (6)
25 Show EEC arrangements about French wine (6)

DOWN

- 1 Take a chance or just think about it (9)
2 One drink to put some life into another (6,3)
3 Having had a lot of drinks, started to smoke (3,2)
4 Kid having a nap (5)
5 A method that's out of place (4)
6 Confounded weeds in the vegetable patch (5)
10 Fly from a ship (5)
11 Suit oneself (5)

- 12 Ran up a share account (9)
13 Brave emblem (5,4)
17 Vigil held by Albert (5)
19 Bet he's involved in a war (5)
20 Railwaymen have points to look after (5)
21 Deep sea fish (4)

QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS**
1 Prompt (6)
4 Scanty (6)
7 Volcano (4)
8 One aged 13–20 (8)
9 Gone by (7)
12 Entrap (3)
14 Native American (6)
15 Domesticated polecat (6)
16 Female sheep (3)

- 18 Welsh town (7)
22 Alien (8)
23 Swimming pool (4)
24 Hunter (6)
25 Show (6)

DOWN

- 1 Guess (9)
2 Fizzy drink (6,3)
3 Illuminated (3,2)
4 Unglazed leather (5)
5 Absent (4)
6 Root vegetable (5)
10 Greenfly (5)
11 Attire (5)
12 Story (9)
13 Emblem of 14 across (5,4)
17 Look at (5)
19 Bet (5)
20 Tend to (5)
21 Lowest male singer (4)

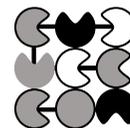
Two sets of clues but the answers are the same ANSWERS TOMORROW

1		2		3		4		5		6	
7				8							
		9		10				11		12	13
14								15			
16	17			18	19		20				
				21							
22								23			
24										25	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION ACROSS: 1 Dinosaur, 5 Ages, 8 Lark, 9 Reaching, 10 Tremble, 12 Unfit, 13 Dished, 15 Adults, 17 Stick, 18 Bedroom, 22 Old folks, 23 Abel, 24 Toes, 25 Filled. **DOWN:** 1 Dilated, 2 Nurse, 3 April, 4 Read, 6 Gainful, 7 Sight, 11 Break, 12 Undid, 14 Swindle, 16 Sampled, 17 Scout, 19 Easel, 20 Orbit, 21 Clef.

MIRROR IMAGE

Which of the four shapes below is an exact mirror image of the one to the right?



A B C D

Test your knowledge with Jay's Virtual Pub Quiz Book, available from Mirror Books. Call 01256 590490 or order online at mirrorbooks.co.uk. (Free P&P on orders over £15.)

PUZZLE PLANET



GIANT ARROWWORD



Strongbox March	Move a plane on a runway to take-off	European	Play a part	Flat Lubricate	Cardboard container			
			Mark to indicate a sentence pause					
Average	Female deer	Proportion					Loo	
			Postage sticker	Pixie _ pictured				
Gift	Actor, _ Winstone	Aussie singer	Enquire		As well Digits			
				Narrow				
_ Clark, pictured	Behind time	TV series, Going Out	In the past		Mouth part	Which person? Tree	TV duo, _ & Dec	Knock out
			Prospect	Tusked mammal Nocturnal bird				
Maris Piper, e.g.	Unwrap	Hostility Curve						Belonging to us
			Writing tool	Hundred _ Wood, Piglet's home	Vital organ	Weight unit Glides		
For each		Spatters					Not even	Colouring substance
Unit of length	Luggage			Patterned with small squares	Oriental	Language segment		
		Expanded						1978 musical
	Nip	Listen to			Brink Keen			
			Stair			Top teacher	Simmer	
	Stoatlike animal	Sever			Cricket trophy, The _			
			Omelette ingredient			Consume		
	Looked at	Hearing organ			Rub out			
			And not			Water droplets		

PUB QUIZ

HISTORY

- Which Chinese political leader wrote the *Little Red Book*?
- Which Soviet cosmonaut was the first man in space?
- Which US president was instrumental in securing the 1978 Camp David Accords?
- Which US president succeeded Lyndon B Johnson in 1969?
- Which Viscount married Serena Stanhope in October 1993?
- Which European country had a civil war 1936-39?

FILM & MUSIC

- Which composer wrote *The Nutcracker* and *Romeo and Juliet*?
- Which US record company was founded in Detroit in 1959 by Berry Gordy Jr?
- Which late Egyptian actor starred in *Dr Zhivago* and *Funny Girl*?
- Which new wave rock group was formed in 1975 by singer David Byrne?
- Which American-Australian actor directed and starred in the 1995 movie *Braveheart*?

SCIENCE

- Which poisonous gas is represented by the symbol CO?
- Which unit was formerly defined as the volume occupied by 1 kg of pure water at 4 degrees C and at standard pressure?
- What colour does litmus turn in the presence of acid?
- Which gas is represented by the symbol Xe?
- The conjunctiva is found in which part of the body?
- How many minutes are in a degree?

WORDS

- What was a galleon?
- Which organisation for young people is represented by the initials YHA?
- What is a migraine?
- Which European country is known as Suomi in its native language?
- Which word describes a fear of enclosed places?
- Which militant organisation is represented by the initials IRA?

UNITED KINGDOM

- What name is given to political party officials responsible for discipline?
- Which title is sometimes conferred on the eldest daughter of the British sovereign?
- Of which English county is Wakefield the administrative centre?
- What is the largest of the Inner Hebrides?
- In which county is the market town of Ludlow?
- Of which county is Winchester the administrative centre?

SHOWBIZ QUIZ

- Who played the lead role of Chris Washington in 2017's *Get Out*?
- Espresso* has been a recent hit for which American singer?
- Who is the latest member of the Dingle clan to work in the *Emmerdale* garage?
- Which Britpop band is headed by singer Damon Albarn?
- Whose childhood is the ITV comedy *Changing Ends* based on?
- Which band recorded the hit 1976 album *Hotel California*?
- Which recent film stars Ariana DeBose as an astronaut?
- What is the title of Pearl Jam's latest hit album?
- Who was the winner of *The Apprentice 2024*?
- Who recently presented her *Renovation Rescues* on Channel 4?

SUMTHING

Fit the listed numbers into the grid so that all the sums are correct – reading left to right and top to bottom.

1	0				
		x		=	
2	-		+		+
2					
3		x		=	
4					
4	=		=		=
5					
7					
8	5	x		=	
9					

2	1				
		7	x		=
1					
1	+		+		-
2					
2		x		=	
2					
3	=		=		=
6					
8					
9		+		=	
9					

SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

PUZZLE PLANET



LOGIC

Can you match each robot to its university team?

Teams of student engineers from five universities are competing in a robot battle. Each team has designed and built a robot to fight against the others. Based on the outcome of each match, the robots are then ranked from first to fifth.

The team from Manchester designed the red robot. Manchester's robot performed better in the contest than Rusty and Killer Queen.

Sparky the silver robot won the tournament and was designed by either the Bristol or Glasgow team.

The green robot designed by Durham did not end up in the top three.

The Annihilator was designed by the only Scottish university in the tournament.

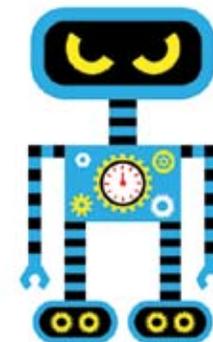
In the rankings, Ares ended up one place above Oxford's robot, which was a metallic colour.

The robot that took the silver medal was not blue, and the robot that won the bronze medal was not called Killer Queen.

Much to their relief, Durham did not come last in the tournament.

From the information given, can you determine how each university's robot performed in the tournament?

	Red	Blue	Gold	Green	Silver	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Durham	Bristol	Oxford	Glasgow	Manchester
Sparky															
Killer Queen															
Ares															
The Annihilator															
Rusty															
Durham															
Bristol															
Oxford															
Glasgow															
Manchester															
1st															
2nd															
3rd															
4th															
5th															



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot six differences between these two pictures of Nicki Minaj?



GOGEN

Place all the remaining letters of the alphabet (except Z) into the grid to form the listed words, moving between adjacent cells horizontally, vertically or diagonally in any direction.

1

P		S		Q
X		N		R
B		C		V

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

2

V		K		L
W		E		Q
J		T		M

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

PUZZLE PLANET



DOT-TO-DOT

Brush up your fine motor skills by joining up the dots from number 1. Try gliding smoothly from dot to dot without taking your pen or pencil off the paper.



WORDSEARCH 2

Can you find all of these words related to 'emotion' in the grid? Words may appear forwards, backwards or diagonally.

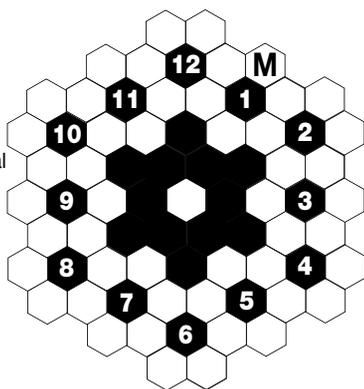


- | | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| AFFECTING | FERVENT | SENSITIVE |
| ARDENT | FIERY | STIRRING |
| ECSTATIC | HISTRIONIC | TENDER |
| EMOTIVE | IMPETUOUS | TOUCHING |
| EXCITABLE | MOVING | WARM |
| FANATICAL | PASSIONATE | ZEALOUS |
| FEELING | POIGNANT | |

HONEYCOMB

All the solutions read clockwise around their numbers. The solution to clue number 1 starts from the given letter.

- Moveable
- Base
- Reason
- Injured party
- Type of cereal
- Maggots
- Broad street
- Joins
- Guard
- Puzzle
- Boil
- Prickly plant



CELEB WORDMATCH

Find a word that can follow the word on the left and precede the word on the right. When you have filled in all the answers, the name of a celebrity can be read from top to bottom in one row.

AIR						TEA
TOWN						ONE
RED						BOMB
BAR						PIGEON
HEART						VEST
WARP						BUMP
LOW						DOWN
LOVE						BAR
TEA						BILL
SERIAL						WHALE
STEAM						BOAT
LAUNDRY						WEAVE

ARROWWORD

Complete the puzzle, then rearrange the letters in the shaded squares to find the name of an actor (6,6).

Sea cow	Anne actress, Peake	Chart	Discovers, finds out	Produce by magic	Loyal, dedicated
				Poem	
US actress, Basinger	Man	Italian car maker	Sun browning		Kings of rock group
		Charge for a service		US singer and actress, familiarly (1,2)	
Hitlerite			Vinegar bottle		
		At the rear of a ship		Fish eggs	
A Small Light actress, Powley	Consume		Pay out		

To hear the solution call 0907 181 1079. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

SOLUTIONS NEXT WEEK

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