

The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

INSIDE

Use your loaf

How to choose your white bread wisely

Features

Kamal Ahmed

Prime Minister's 'free microwave' strategy is not moving the polls

Comment

Fighting fit

How to stay strong in your 70s, 80s and beyond

Features

Tim Stanley

With the Trump verdict, the US is lurching towards civil war

Comment

Sunak: I'll change law to protect women's spaces

Sex is biological and not gender-based, says PM as he draws dividing line with Labour

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

RISHI SUNAK will vow to change the law to protect women's spaces such as toilets and changing rooms.

The Prime Minister will today announce that the Conservative manifesto includes a pledge to rewrite the Equality Act to make clear sex means "biological sex".

This is to ensure that trans women – those who were born male – can be legally barred from places such as women's prisons and sessions for domestic abuse victims, even if they have a gender recognition certificate.

The legislation will also make it easier to prevent biological males from joining female sports teams or entering women's single-sex wards in hospitals.

The proposals are an attempt to mark a clear dividing line with Labour. The Prime Minister said yesterday: "The safety of women and girls is too important to allow the current confusion around definitions of sex and gender to persist. The Conservatives believe that making this change in law will enhance protections in a way that respects the privacy and dignity of everyone."

Kemi Badenoch, the Equalities Minister, said that the plans would end the confusion that has allowed biological men to access spaces for women. She said: "Whether it is rapists being housed in women's prisons, or instances of men playing in women's sports... it is clear that public authorities and regulatory bodies are confused about what the law says on sex and gender and when to act.

"That is why we are today pledging that, if we form a government after the election, we will clarify that sex in the law means biological sex and not new, redefined meanings of the word."

The announcement comes amid fierce

debate over how to protect women's rights amid demands from activists over the treatment of trans people. This came to the fore when, in Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon tried to pass a law that would have allowed any Scot aged 16 or older to change their legally recognised sex by signing a declaration. The plans were blocked by the UK Government.

Transgender rapist Isla Bryson was initially sent to a women's prison in Scotland after being jailed in February 2023 for raping two women, crimes that were committed while living as a man.

Labour has been criticised for failing to stand up for women and a number of senior figures, including Sir Keir Starmer, have struggled to explain whether a woman can have a penis.

The Tories plan to change the Equality Act to make it clear that the protected characteristic of "sex" refers to biological sex and not the gender someone identifies with.

It means that even those who have a gender recognition certificate could be prevented from accessing single-sex spaces, even though the law sees them as the gender they identify with.

Writing for *The Telegraph*, Lucy Frazer, the Culture Secretary, says the law will be of vital importance on the sporting field. She adds: "Transgender athletes, with all the advantages of male puberty, have an undeniable edge over women and girls. ... The integrity and safety of women's sport will be guaranteed by this crystal-clear law change."

The new law will also make it clear that issues around gender can only be legislated on by Westminster, preventing the SNP repeating its attempt to bring in self ID via a vote in Holyrood.

Reports: Pages 4-7
Lucy Frazer: Page 4
Editorial Comment: Page 15

Murdoch marries again



Rupert Murdoch has married his fifth wife, 67-year-old Elena Zhukova, in a ceremony at his California vineyard. The media mogul, 93, was pictured in high spirits at the event, which was attended by his children and former spouse Wendi Deng. Report: Page 3

Starmer is 'the knight that won't fight' as he declines BBC debate

By Daniel Martin
and Genevieve Holl-Allen

THE BBC has announced a slew of election debates – but Sir Keir Starmer has already declined to take part in one of them.

The Labour leader has agreed to face Rishi Sunak in a head-to-head debate hosted by Sophie Raworth in Nottingham on June 26, and will also take part in a two-hour *Question Time* special with the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats and the SNP on June 20.

But Labour said he would not be attending a debate between seven parties on June 7.

Downing Street said Mr Sunak had not yet decided whether he would attend the events on June 7 or June 20.

It comes after the Tories challenged

Sir Keir to debate the Prime Minister in a record six TV debates – one every week of the campaign.

Conservative sources have called the Opposition leader "the knight that won't fight" and "Sir Fear Starmer" after he failed to agree to the demand.

It comes as Mr Sunak and the Labour leader prepare for their first televised leaders' debate of the election campaign, which will air on ITV tomorrow night.

The debate will offer Mr Sunak the chance to try to change the dynamics of a race in which Labour remains far ahead of the Tories in opinion polls.

The Prime Minister's team believe he has a chance of pinning Sir Keir down on the economy particularly, and of demonstrating that the Labour leader does not have a comprehensive plan for

government. It comes after the first week and a half of campaigning saw the Tories announce a string of eye-catching policies while Labour were engulfed in a row over whether Diane Abbott would be allowed to stand as an MP for the party.

The BBC's coverage will include a June 7 debate hosted by Mishal Husain between leading figures from the Conservative Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats, Scottish National Party (SNP), Plaid Cymru, Green Party and Reform UK.

The audience and members of the public will have the chance to ask questions during the debate in London.

There will also be a two-hour long *Question Time* leaders' special, hosted by Fiona Bruce, on June 20. The leaders

Continued on Page 4

Cancer rise in young fuelled by obesity

By Michael Searles
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT in Chicago

CANCER cases are rising more quickly in the young than the old because of an obesity epidemic, experts have warned.

The proportion of cases among adults aged 25 to 50 has surged by a quarter in two decades, faster than any other age group, figures show.

Experts fear the "disturbing" growth in early-onset cancer has been driven by the nation's unhealthy relationship with food, with obesity rates doubling over the same period.

The number of new cancer cases among Britons aged 25 to 50 has risen to 35,000 each year and the incidence rate, which takes account of population growth, is up by 24 per cent, rising from 132.9 per 100,000 people to 164.6 in

2019, according to the latest data. The second sharpest rise in cancer rates was among the under-25s, where it increased by 16 per cent, from 16.6 cases per 100,000 in 1995 to 19.2 cases.

Among all ages combined the cancer rate grew by 13 per cent, from 539 per 100,000 people to 611.5.

The slowest rise was among over-75s, which grew by 10 per cent, from 2,260 cases per 100,000 people to 2,483 cases, while in those aged 50 to 74, it was up 14 per cent from 955 to 1,092.

The analysis by Cancer Research UK comes amid concern that an epidemic of the disease among young people may be emerging. Discussing the findings at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) conference, scientists said unhealthy diets, a lack of exercise and

Continued on Page 2

Puzzles	16
Obituaries	21
TV listings	23
Weather	24

Rugby league star Burrow dies aged 41

Rob Burrow, the Leeds Rhinos and Great Britain rugby league great, has died after a four-and-a-half-year battle with motor neurone disease. The Prince of Wales, who surprised Burrow by handing him his CBE at Headingley in January, led heartfelt tributes to the 41-year-old, who became a prominent campaigner. As a player, he won eight Super League Grand Finals, three World Club Challenges and two Challenge Cups.

Page 3
Tribute: Sport, page 7

Spitfires at risk of being lost to history

An aircraft engineer who restores Spitfire fighter planes has said they must be kept flying or risk being lost to history. More than 20,000 Spitfires were built around the Second World War but it is estimated just 60 airworthy planes remain. Ahead of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, Alex Monk, 25, an aircraft restorer who works at Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar, said that future generations risk only knowing Spitfires from "grainy pictures in textbooks".

Page 9

Male contraceptive gel shows promise in trial

A contraceptive gel for men which is applied once a day has shown promise in early trials. The product, which is rubbed on both shoulder blades daily, has been found to lower sperm counts in around eight weeks. Scientists have said that this is quicker than other products in development and could overcome a limitation of other male contraceptives. The product is rubbed into the shoulders because it is easy to reach for the user and allows the hormones to soak into the skin.

Page 10

Trump: I'm OK with jail – but my fans won't be

Donald Trump said he is "OK" with being jailed but warned his followers may reach "breaking point" if he is sentenced to prison. Trump, 77, became the first US president convicted of a crime last week, and will be sentenced on July 11. Legal experts have argued he is more likely to be given a sentence of home confinement or probation, but others claim his campaign of attacks against Judge Juan Merchan, who will decide his sentence, could backfire.

Page 12

Councils in £1.4bn fire sale to avoid collapse

Councils are preparing to recoup a record £1.4 billion by cancelling investments and cashing in assets as they scramble to avoid bankruptcy. The Government has given 18 councils the green light to sell off assets and mothball projects to release cash in an attempt to avoid another wave of bankruptcies before July 4. Councils will be allowed to release £1.4 billion of their capital resources via land and property sales, redirecting budgets and delaying maintenance spending.

Page 17

Step inside the newsroom, every weekday

with
Camilla
TOMINEY

and
Kamal
AHMED

The Daily

A new Telegraph podcast

Telegraph app
 Podcasts
 Spotify



Listen now

Shooting industry going great guns

Activity provides £3bn boost for British economy and creates 67,000 jobs a year, research finds

By Hayley Dixon
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHOOTING is worth more than £3billion to the UK economy each year and creates 67,000 jobs, a report has found. The most comprehensive study of the industry in a decade has also found that it provides conservation benefits for 7.6million hectares of land – almost a

third of the UK. The Value of Shooting report, seen by *The Telegraph*, found that shooting contributes £3.3billion a year to the economy, an increase from £2billion in 2014. As the countryside becomes a central battleground in the general election campaign, the British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC) said the research shows a prospective government the “key role” the sector plays. Of the approximately 24.5 million hectares of land in the UK, about 7.6million are “subject to habitat and wildlife management and other conservation work carried out as a result of shooting”. “Habitat management and wildlife

and conservation activity by the shooting community has a significant beneficial impact on the countryside,” according to the report by Cognisense, a market research and data analytics firm. “Furthermore, farmers who appreciate shooting are encouraged to improve biodiversity, and in consequence where shooting takes place there is likely to be a more biodiverse countryside.” Two-thirds of the UK’s shooting providers controlled pests and predators, and about half managed woodlands or put out feed for songbirds over the winter months, the survey found. They also carried out activities

including litter picking and wetland restoration, with the value of the conservation work estimated at £500million, equal to 26,000 full-time jobs. “In effect, shooting provides a huge army of conservationists – people who actually go out into the countryside, work to improve it and invest a huge amount of their own time and money on projects,” the report, which is due to be released tomorrow, noted. It was estimated that including the indirect contributions, the value of shooting could be as much as £9.3billion, with England benefitting from 89 per cent of that economic activity, followed by Scotland at almost 10 per cent

and Wales at close to 2 per cent. Tim Scrivener, a photographer from Lincolnshire, joined two shoots for a total of 59 days last season picking up the shot game with his dogs. He told the report authors: “The social benefits of shooting are immeasurable.” Ian Bell, the chief executive of BASC, one of the 24 countryside organisations which commissioned the report, said: “This is undoubtedly an important election for shooting and conservation and this report underlines to any prospective government the key role the shooting sector plays in the economy and the conservation and management of the countryside.”

NEWS BULLETIN

Policeman deliberately rammed by car in field

An officer needed hospital treatment after being deliberately hit by a car on Saturday, Wiltshire Police said. The officer was driving a patrol car in Conscience Lane, from Rowde towards Devizes at about 11.30am when he saw a car parked in a field. He got out to speak with the occupants who “intentionally collided” with him as they left the area. The officer is now recovering at home. Police are appealing for any witnesses or anyone who may have dashcam footage to come forward. Wiltshire Police said: “This is a significant incident where an officer undertaking their duties has intentionally been injured.”

Adele lashes out at ‘homophobic’ heckler

Adele confronted a heckler during her Las Vegas residency after they appeared to shout, “Pride sucks”. The British star, 36, was in the middle of her show in the Colosseum Theater, at Caesars Palace, when she told the audience member to “shut up”. In a video, widely circulated on social media, the *Someone Like You* singer said: “What was that? Did you just say Pride sucks? Did you come to my f----- show and just say that Pride sucks? Are you f----- stupid? “Don’t be so f----- ridiculous. If you’ve got nothing nice to say, shut up, all right.” The singer’s residency in Las Vegas, Nevada, ends in November.

Hundreds of illegal vapes found in raids

Hundreds of illegal vapes and more than a thousand counterfeit cigarettes were seized in a raid on three shops in Ashford, in Kent. Kent Police and Kent County Council seized 880 vapes, 1,680 cigarette sticks, 600g of rolling tobacco, and 66 tubs of nicotine pouches that did not meet the UK’s safety standards. Jim Whiddett, from the council, said: “The teams have seen various types of illegal vapes, the largest being a 15,000 puff device with a single tank – well over 20 times the size for a legal product. [We] are also seeing devices without the correct labelling or warnings, meaning they have not passed the appropriate checks.”

Israeli hostage families march through London

The families of Israeli hostages held by Hamas have called for all parties to act fast to “bring our loved ones home”. Thousands of people marched from Lincoln’s Inn Fields, Holborn to Richmond Terrace, Whitehall on Sunday to demand the immediate release of those held in Gaza. A total of 121 remain unaccounted for after being kidnapped on Oct 7. At least 37 are presumed dead. According to Israel, 252 Israelis and foreigners were taken during the attack. President Joe Biden has urged Israel and Hamas to reach an agreement to release about 100 remaining hostages, along with the bodies of around 30 more, for an extended ceasefire.

The Daily Telegraph

is a member of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) and we subscribe to its Editors’ Code of Practice. If you have a complaint about editorial content, please visit www.telegraph.co.uk/editorialcomplaints or write to ‘Editorial Complaints’ at our postal address (see below). If you are not satisfied with our response, you may appeal to IPSO at www.ipso.co.uk.

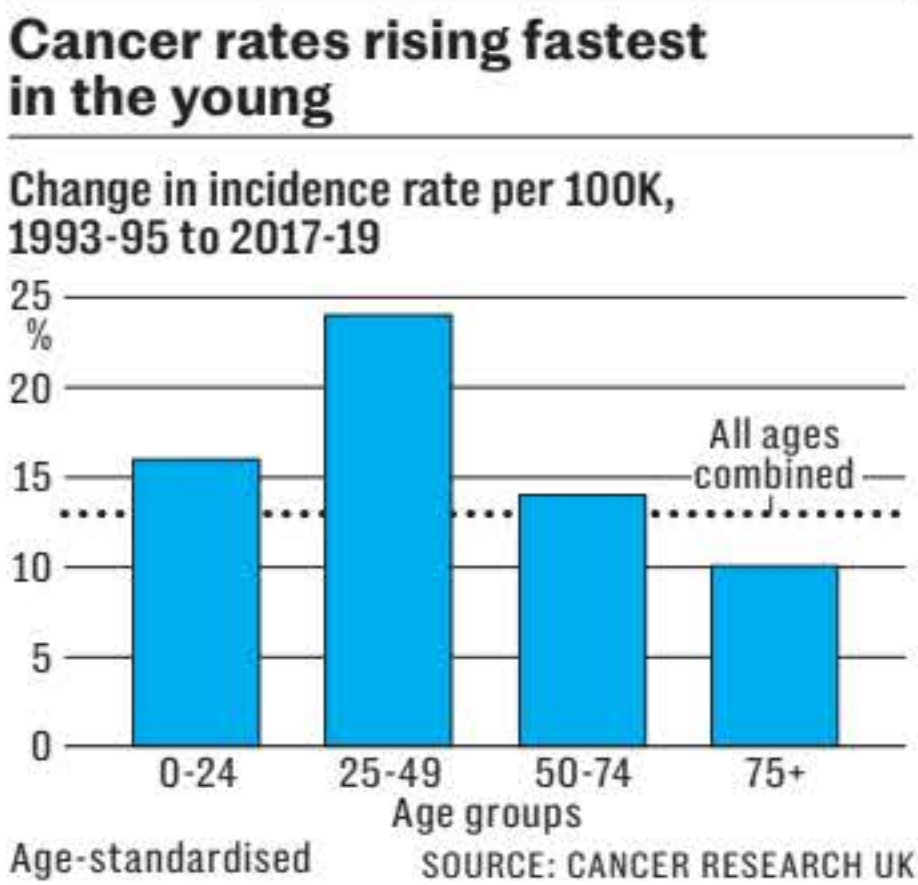
The Daily Telegraph, 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0DT



Muddy hell Hundreds of runners slip and slide their way across the River Blackwater, in Essex, at the annual Maldon Mud Race, which was held yesterday.

Avoid cancer by exercising and limiting alcohol intake, young women advised

Continued from Page 1 obesity were likely to be factors behind the surge. Prof Charles Swanton, Cancer Research’s chief clinician, said: “Over recent decades, there has been a clear increase in cancer incidence rates in young adults in the UK. “We are seeing them through our clinics and it is disturbing and we don’t have a good answer as to why this is happening. It really is a scientific conundrum that urgently needs to be solved. It’s a real puzzle we’ve got to get to the bottom of it.” He added: “There has been a major dietary change in the last 30-40 years. It could be something in the diet that alters the microbiome or something that alters the integrity of the epithelial of the gut. Some people have suggested high-fructose corn syrup, other dietary factors that are associated with obesity, or even microplastics and pollutants. We just don’t know.” He said Cancer Research had been “thinking about this very hard” and funded the “Grand Challenge” to



research and answer this question. Two thirds of Britons are either overweight or obese and almost one in four children aged 10-11 are obese for their age, according to the latest data. Dr Simon Vincent, the director of research at Breast Cancer Now, said young women could ward off the disease by “staying physically active and moderating their alcohol intake”. Dr Shivan Sivakumar, an associate

professor in oncology at the University of Birmingham, said: “We know some of it can be explained by the obesity epidemic in the UK.” Experts have warned that Britons’ diets are increasingly laden with ultra-processed foods that could affect the health of the gut’s microbiome. One study presented at ASCO by Ohio State University found that an imbalance in bacteria and an increase in inflammation – which can be caused by a diet high in sugar – in the gut caused “accelerated ageing” in the colon, with people under 50 developing bowel cancer cells that appeared to be 15 years older than their real age. A recent study by the Institute for Fiscal Studies also revealed that there had been a 50 per cent increase in people eating fast food and buying takeaways that has continued since the pandemic caused an increase in their popularity. Despite the growing rates of early onset cancers, they are still uncommon, with about nine in 10 cancers affecting people over the age of 50.

Plane turbulence victim ‘may have to change job’

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A PASSENGER on the Singapore Airlines flight hit by severe turbulence that led to the death of a British man believes he will have to change careers after suffering life-changing injuries. Bradley Richards, 29, was left with six fractures in his spine and neck and internal bleeding after flight SQ321, from London to Singapore, dropped 176ft in four seconds. Geoff Kitchen, 73, died from a suspected heart attack while many more were injured, some severely. Mr Richards believes he was knocked unconscious and woke up with blood pouring from his head. After using a pillow to stem the blood flow, he says he “immediately felt spinal pain” and had to be lifted into a wheelchair when the plane landed in Bangkok. The telecoms engineer from Benfleet, Essex, described the experience as like “something out of a movie”. He suffered multiple fractures to the spine and neck, a spinal epidural hae-

matoma and a cut to his head requiring 20 stitches. Doctors have told Mr Richards it is unlikely he will be able to return to work in his current role as an engineer. He said: “It’s just gutting – I’ve worked in that role for seven years and I couldn’t imagine doing anything else.” He has been receiving treatment in a hospital in Bangkok and is unsure when he’ll be able to return to the UK. Mr Richards said: “I try my best to remain positive and the airline and hospital have been so good to me. The health care is second to none.” Early findings by The Transport Safety Investigation Bureau (TSIB) show that the plane experienced a rapid change in acceleration upwards and downwards causing injuries to those without seatbelts on. Mr Richards said: “I was asleep or I think I might have been knocked unconscious when it happened. “I remember waking up and my head was just pouring with blood, kids were screaming, people running around, it was like something out of a movie.”

Murdoch marries for fifth time at age of 93

Media tycoon weds former molecular biologist, 67, in intimate ceremony with ex-wife in attendance

By Robert Mendick and Susie Coen in New York

HE IS smiling so broadly, you'd never imagine he'd done it before.

But here is Rupert Murdoch, looking like the cat that got the cream, after marrying for the fifth time on Saturday at the age of 93.

Official wedding photographs released yesterday show Mr Murdoch, the media tycoon, in high spirits with his new bride 67-year-old Elena Zhukova, a former molecular biologist born in Moscow.

Among the attendees was Wendi Deng, Mr Murdoch's third wife who is reported to have hosted the party last year where the bride and groom first clapped eyes on each other.

For Mr Murdoch, an incorrigible romantic, it may well have been love at

first sight. Lachlan Murdoch, his eldest son at 52, and his wife Sarah were also among the close friends and family understood to have attended the intimate wedding. Just a few months ago, the eldest Murdoch son was handed the keys to News Corp, the family firm.

The bride, a one-time mother-in-law of Roman Abramovich, wore an off-white, off-the-shoulder wedding dress while her husband looked immaculate in a dark suit, white

Among the guests at the wedding ceremony was Murdoch's ex-wife Wendi Deng



shirt and patterned yellow tie. Mr Murdoch, perhaps in a single concession to his age, eschewed more formal footwear for super comfy black trainers.

Succession, the hit TV series,

Fifth time lucky? The many wives of Rupert Murdoch

Patricia Booker
Married 1956, divorced 1967
Rupert Murdoch first got married 68 years ago. The media mogul was just 25 when he married Patricia Booker, an Australian flight attendant, in 1956 in Adelaide.

Anna Torv
Married 1967, divorced 1999
The longest lasting of the five marriages, Murdoch was married to Anna for 32 years. The marriage produced three children Elisabeth, Lachlan and James, upon whom the TV series Succession is loosely based.
Wendi Deng
Married 1999, divorced 2013

Deng, now 55, was born in China but moved to the US to study, meeting her first husband there. Murdoch and Deng were married in 1999 on his yacht Morning Glory, less than three weeks after his divorce from Torv.
Jerry Hall
Married 2016, divorced 2022
Hall, born in Texas, was once one of the world's most famous models. At

the time of their wedding at St Bride's church, just off Fleet Street, he was 84, she was 59.
Elena Zhukova
Married 2024
Is this fifth time lucky for 93-year-old Murdoch? Born in the Soviet Union in 1957, Zhukova has a daughter Daria, known as Dasha, who was married to Roman Abramovich.

been all too saccharine for a series well known for its dark and bitter take on the lifestyle of billionaires.

The photos released – three in total – show Mr Murdoch's new wife hugging him tenderly while holding a posy of Lily of the Valley flowers.

In another, they are sat on chairs. She is laughing out loud and he is smiling broadly too. In the third, the happy couple are sat on an outdoor sofa, the couple appearing content.

The wedding took place in Mr Murdoch's vineyard in California beneath suitably blue skies and in warm sunshine. It might have been fifth time around, but it's hard to believe he's had better weather than this.

The new Mrs Murdoch, despite her academic background, is no stranger to the high life. Alexander Zhukov, her former husband, was a Russian oil tycoon and their glamorous daughter Darya – known as Dasha – was married to Abramovich, the oligarch and one-time owner of Chelsea Football Club who is now on a sanctions list in the UK.

Mr Murdoch announced their

engagement in March and came as something of a surprise.

He had previously been engaged to Ann Lesley Smith, a former police chaplain, but their relationship was abruptly called off in April last year.

Mr Murdoch's fourth marriage to Jerry Hall, the ex-model, ended after seven years in June 2022. Saturday's wedding appeared an altogether lower key affair. When Murdoch married Hall, celebrity guests included Lord Lloyd Webber, Sir Michael Caine and Sir Bob Geldof as well as senior politicians Michael Gove and Dame Priti Patel.

His previous wives were Patricia Booker, an Australian flight attendant and Anna Mann, a Scottish-born journalist. Robert Thompson, the News Corp chief, and his wife Wang Ping were in attendance for the exclusive ceremony, as was Mr Murdoch's niece Penny Fowler.

Guests arrived at the 16-acre California winery in cars including Audis, Bentleys and Jaguars. Staff members were seen wheeling white flowers and greenery under the watchful eye of security guards.

Rugby league legend Rob Burrow, 41, dies from MND

By Tom Morgan

ROB BURROW, the Leeds Rhinos and Great Britain rugby league great, has died after battling motor neurone disease (MND) for four and a half years.

The Prince of Wales, who this year travelled to Leeds to hand him his CBE, led heartfelt tributes to the 41-year-old, who was a prominent MND campaigner following his diagnosis.

Prince William described him as a "legend of rugby league" who had a "huge heart", adding: "He taught us, 'in a world full of adversity, we must dare to dream'".

Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, joined tributes, saying Burrow "leaves behind an amazing legacy, my thoughts are with his friends and family."

As a player, Burrow, who spent his entire career with Leeds Rhinos, won eight Super League Grand Finals, three World Club Challenges and two Challenge Cups. However, Burrow captured hearts over his MND awareness work while he was confined to a wheelchair and able to speak only with the aid of voice technology. Diagnosed with MND in 2019, two years after retiring from rugby, the MND Association said Burrow "used every opportunity to raise awareness of the disease".

Last year, at the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon, Kevin Sinfield, his great friend and former captain, pushed Burrow the 26.2-mile course before lifting him out of his wheelchair so the pair completed the course together in Headingley Stadium, the home of the Rhinos.

Sinfield said later in a statement released via the RFU: "Today was the day that I hoped would never come."

Burrow was awarded the 2022 Helen Rollason Award at BBC's Sports Personality of the Year for his charity work. He was made an MBE in 2021 for his contribution to rugby league and for raising awareness of motor neurone disease.

Announcing his death on behalf of his family, Leeds Rhinos said he was "a true inspiration throughout his life whether that was on the rugby league field or during his battle with MND".

Burrow "will continue to inspire us all every day", Leeds said. A statement by Leeds on behalf of Burrow's family said: "Rob never accepted he couldn't do something. He just found his way of doing it better than anyone else. He will continue to inspire us all every day."



Rob Burrow with his wife, Lindsey, pitchside at the Headingley Stadium, the home of Leeds Rhinos, main; and being carried over the finish line by former captain Kevin Sinfield at the Leeds Marathon last year, inset

Bake Off winner sets the record straight: Authentic croissants should not be curved

By Blathnaid Corless
CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

AUTHENTIC croissants should be straight rather than curved, a top pastry chef has said.

David Atherton, a former winner of *The Great British Bake Off*, claimed that according to French culture the pastries should not be rounded at the ends.

A survey revealed more than half of the British public (59 per cent) believe food tastes better in its traditional form.

Mr Atherton, who has teamed up with the New York Bakery Co, also said when it comes to a Cornish pasty, diners should look out for distinctive crimping

down the sides – which served as a handle for miner's hands.

An authentic pasty is filled with mince, potato, swede, and onion. The beef should make up 12.5 per cent of the filling with vegetables making up a quarter.

OnePoll stats have revealed 46 per cent of Brits believe authenticity is synonymous with good quality and the food options are the best thing about going on holiday.

And, Brits eat food from three different cultures each week on average.

Atherton said that true Italian pasta should only ever contain durum wheat, water and salt – occasionally an egg.

And, a New York Bagel – one of the foods that New Yorkers hold in high regard – should always be boiled before being baked to create a distinctive soft texture while retaining a "good chew and a golden crust".

Meanwhile, the ingredients on an authentic ketchup label should always list vinegar.

The stats also revealed more than a third (35 per cent) of Britons have researched the origins of food to make sure what they are eating is correct.

And, when the British on holiday more than a quarter (27 per cent) of us like to ask locals about their cuisine to brush up on their facts.

Margolyes makes 'enormous amount of money' recording fan messages online

By Anita Singh
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

MIRIAM MARGOLYES has revealed that she makes "an enormous amount of money" by recording messages for fans at £100 a time.

The actress, 83, is signed up to the Cameo website, where members of the public can request personal messages from celebrities.

She told the Hay Festival: "There is a website called Cameo and people pay you to say happy birthday to people they love. Sometimes I'm asked to cheer up someone with terminal cancer. This is not easy. Sometimes I'm asked to pro-

pose to somebody on behalf of the person who's paying me.

"I enjoy it. I do as many as I can. And I charge £100 and I've made an enormous amount of money. I'm not ashamed of that."

After explaining that she is a socialist, Margolyes said: "Don't think I don't like money – I love money. I love it and I want as much of it as I can get."

Margolyes said she has also raked in the money for her autobiography, *Oh Miriam!* She said: "I was offered a quarter of a million to write it. No contest!"

Some of her show business anecdotes did not make the final edit of her book, she explained. "There were a couple of

things that were regarded as libellous. I told everything I could about who was sweet and who was horrible. But a couple of things were regarded as unwise."

The actress reasserted her dislike for her Cambridge University contemporaries Bill Oddie ("not a nice man") and John Cleese ("John has become a total a-----").

Margolyes is a regular guest on BBC One's *The Graham Norton Show*, and said the only fellow guest she had disliked was Lily Allen.

"She thought when she was on the programme that it was all about her," Margolyes said. "She thought, 'Who is this woman? Miriam who?'"

Strictly 'signs first blind contestant' to keep spotlight on disability

By Blathnaid Corless

STRICTLY COME DANCING is to feature a blind contestant for the first time in its history, sources have suggested.

Chris McCausland, a comedian who lost his sight aged 22 because of a hereditary condition, is said to have signed up for the next series of the BBC1 dance show.

It comes after Rose Ayling-Ellis, the *EastEnders* actress, became the competition's first deaf contestant, going on to win the glitterball trophy.

A source told *The Sun*: "Strictly Come Dancing bosses are delighted by the signing and think Chris will be great on the show."

"He has a hilarious sense of humour and an infectious personality."

They said producers were "keen to showcase disability" on the programme.

"Chris loves working and doing TV so it's the perfect project," they added. "Chris has spoken of his sight issues and is determined to show it won't hold him back on the ballroom dance floor."

The 46-year-old CBeebies actor lost

'Chris is determined to show his sight issues won't hold him back on the ballroom dance floor'

his sight because of a condition called retinitis pigmentosa, and has spoken in the past of how it has impacted his life and career.

"I'm blind but I don't see black," he explained in an interview ahead of his appearance on the Channel 4 reality

show, *Scared of the Dark*. "I still see light and space, I still have an awareness of the space around me, not in terms of objects and things, but in terms of the room and whether there might be something in front of me."

He began his career as a web developer, but could



no longer continue in the job after his eyesight deteriorated at university.

McCausland is known to children's TV viewers for his role as Rudi the market trader in CBeebies show *Me Too!*. He also presented *The Wonders of the World I Can't See* on Channel 4, as well as a BBC Radio 4 series *You Heard It Here First*.

He previously said about disability representation on-screen: "It's great that there's people coming through who are able to

represent disability while also having the experience to do the job properly.

"There's no point fast-tracking performers on to TV before they're ready."

"My attitude has always been to represent by not banging you over the head."

"I think the best way to represent a disability is to make people forget about it whenever possible. It's always part of you."

Strictly Come Dancing is expected to return to BBC One for its 22nd series in the autumn.

Farage reveals desire to stage takeover of Tory party and ‘reshape the centre-Right’

By **Genevieve Holl-Allen**

NIGEL FARAGE has said he wants to stage a “takeover” of the Tory party after the general election. The honorary president of Reform UK said that he did not have “any love” for the Conservatives and that his ambition was to “reshape the centre-Right”.

Mr Farage has sparked questions about his political future in Britain after he chose not to stand for Reform. The party poses an electoral risk from the Right to the Tories, with policy focuses including cracking down on illegal migration and abandoning carbon emissions targets. Mr Farage told *The Sunday Times*:

“Why do you think I called it Reform? Because of what happened in Canada – the 1992-93 precedent in Canada, where Reform comes from the outside, because the Canadian Conservatives had become social democrats like our mob here. “It took them time, it took them two elections, they became the biggest

party on the centre-Right. They then absorbed what was left of the Conservative Party into them and rebranded.” Asked if this meant he wanted to see a merger of the two parties, he replied: “More like a takeover, dear boy.” Mr Farage said of the Conservatives that “I certainly don’t have any trust for them or any love for them”, adding: “I

want to reshape the centre-Right, whatever that means.” The former MEP said the six weeks given by Rishi Sunak calling the election “wasn’t long enough” to fight a constituency seat. He said he wanted to focus on supporting Richard Tice, the Reform leader, and later in the year Donald Trump in the US election. He

revealed that he had been asked to join a “small-c” conservative grassroots organisation in the US later in the year to help support the Republican. Last week, Mr Farage appeared to hint at a possible election pact with the Tories this time round in *The Sun*, only for Mr Tice to later slap down the suggestion.

Truss and Rees-Mogg urge Sunak to ditch net zero

Popular Conservatives group reveals five pledges to stave off electoral ‘oblivion’ for Tories

By **Genevieve Holl-Allen**
POLITICAL REPORTER

A GROUP of Tory MPs including Liz Truss and Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg have called for scrapping the 2050 Net Zero target to be part of the Conservative manifesto to avoid electoral “oblivion”. The Popular Conservatives (PopCon) have issued a five-point plan on a Tony Blair-style pledge card for the Tories which they say could stop the party from being “a shadow of itself” after the general election. The group, which includes ex-prime minister Ms Truss and former business secretary Sir Jacob, urges the Conservatives to put scrapping 2050 net zero targets in the manifesto. They also wish to see pledges including scrapping the Equality Act, abolishing the Office for Budget Responsibility and reforming the Bank of England, and leaving the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR), put forward by the Tories.

policy in order to build more homes, reduce taxes and make business more competitive”. Ms Rees-Mogg wrote: “Instead, by aggressively striving to reduce emissions, we are making Britain and our people poorer, while having no impact on global temperatures.” The group’s intervention comes after Ms Truss, one of the foundational members of PopCon, urged Mr Sunak last month to ditch all targets and change course on environmental policy. The group is one of the newest groups on the Right of the Tory Party, and was launched in February by Ms Truss, Sir Jacob and Lee Anderson, who was at the time still a Conservative MP. The PopCon pledge card also includes a pledge to “take back control of our border by leaving the European Convention on Human Rights and repealing the Human Rights Act”. It also suggests that the Equality Act should be scrapped “so that taxes paid by hard-working people are used for

‘We have listened to the grassroots, we understand the disillusionment millions feel’

services people need rather than unproductive, divisive, woke and anti-capitalist political campaigns”. The fifth and final pledge is for the Conservative Party to propose restoring “democratic accountability” to the Civil Service, with senior Whitehall mandarins being directly politically appointed. Ms Rees-Mogg claimed that “countless government policies are sabotaged by Whitehall staff”. She added: “By offering an over-arching return to core principles, we can demonstrate that once more we are a Conservative Party worthy of people’s votes.” The group’s intervention comes as the Conservatives continue to lag behind Labour, with some polls putting the Tories at more than 20 points behind the Opposition. Mr Sunak, meanwhile, has put forward a series of what he has described as “bold” proposals to the electorate ahead of the general election, including bringing back national service for 18-year-olds.



Key to victory Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, looks full of confidence as he goes canvassing in Pimlico in central London, ahead of the general election on July 4 – despite his party trailing behind Labour in the polls.

This is not a culture war – biological sex matters to women and only the Tories will protect it

Commentary



By **Lucy Frazer**

BIOLOGICAL sex matters. Sadly, this has become a contested area of the law and as a result, too often inaccurate guidance is shared creating confusion and anger. That’s why it is important to be clear about the definition of sex.

Furthermore, failure to deal with this issue is not protecting women and girls. Getting the law right will ensure there is a level playing field and protect our women’s and girls’ rights to privacy. This isn’t a “culture war”. This is something that many people care about it. It’s about protecting rights where they matter, like they do in sport. I have previously called for sporting bodies to take an unambiguous position on transgender participation in

competitive sport. Transgender athletes, with all the advantages of male puberty, have an undeniable edge over women and girls. With bigger, stronger muscles, typically biological men can run faster, jump higher and endure physical strain for longer. We know that no amount of testosterone suppression can ever mitigate these inbuilt advantages. It’s common sense and cannot be ignored. But despite these clear, scientific facts, the debate has become

increasingly toxic and many people find it hard to speak up. They feel silenced. But it is right that we speak and it’s right that we take action, to protect women and girls. The current position needed to change. Sporting bodies have not been going far or fast enough to protect women and girls. That is why it is so important for the Government to add this legal clarity. It will provide legal cover for those who want to provide single-sex spaces and activities but currently don’t feel able to under the Equality Act. For our girls and young

women who hope of one day being elite sportswomen, this will give them the confidence they need to pursue their dreams without the anxiety that seeing male-born athletes fill podium place after podium place can bring. And this sensible change will ensure that women and girls have the facilities they need. Facilities like changing rooms and toilets that are essential for women’s privacy, dignity and safety. Without these spaces being single sex, many women and girls would rightly not feel

comfortable joining in. Adding clarity to the law will help those who run clubs and who are seeking to give women privacy and safety the support they need, whilst also providing facilities for others who need them. The integrity and safety of women’s sport will be guaranteed by this crystal-clear law change. We have spent decades fighting for equality and fairness. Let’s not stop now.

Lucy Frazer is the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Calls for windfall tax on firms that put profit above child safety

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE father of Molly Russell has called for a windfall tax to be imposed on tech firms for putting profits before children’s safety. Ian Russell, whose daughter took her life after being bombarded by suicide and self-harm posts, proposed the one-off “harm reduction windfall tax” as part of a five-point manifesto that his foundation is urging the political parties to adopt. In a report published today, the Molly Rose Foundation, set up in his daughter’s memory to campaign for online safety, said the tax would be a legitimate payback for the profits earned through their algorithms that prioritised content to users to generate advertising revenues. The foundation has not set a level for the windfall tax, but if it was to replicate the Government’s 35 per cent surcharge on energy companies, it would generate a potential £30 billion from



Molly Russell, 14, took her own life after receiving 16,000 post about self-harm

Meta’s global profits alone. Molly, 14, took her life after receiving 16,000 “destructive” posts encouraging self-harm, anxiety and even suicide in her final six months including on Instagram, her inquest was told.

The coroner concluded she died from an act of self-harm while suffering from depression and “the negative effects of online content” which had “more than minimally contributed” to her death. The foundation said the money would be ploughed into research, advocacy and making tech firms more accountable, which would provide evidence that the regulator Ofcom could use to investigate and clamp down on online harms. It would also pay for prevention, education and mental health initiatives. Mr Russell said: “We owe our children nothing less than decisive action that protects them from entirely preventable online harms and prevents further lost lives. It’s time to make clear the cost of entry to the UK market is children’s safety. “Six years after Molly’s death, it’s time for a fundamental reset of the relationship between tech companies and children. Political parties should commit to bold measures that can reassure parents real change is on the way.”

Leaders’ debates set to clash with England football matches

Continued from Page 1

of the four biggest political parties - the Conservative Party, Labour Party, Liberal Democrats and SNP – have been invited to answer questions from the studio audience for 30 minutes each. Nick Robinson, the BBC journalist, has also invited the leaders of the seven biggest political parties in Britain to be interviewed for Panorama specials, airing over the next four weeks. Additional dedicated debates will also take place in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. As well as tomorrow’s debate, ITV has already announced plans for a debate with leading figures from the seven main political parties on June 13. There will also be a Sky News debate on June 12, in which Sir Keir and Mr Sunak have been invited to take questions from a live audience. Sir Keir has confirmed that he will take part but negotiations are ongoing with the

Schedule clash Party leaders go head to head with Euros

June 4 21:00-22:00 First debate between Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer on ITV. Also on is the England Women’s European Championship football match against France from 8pm, moved to ITV4. **June 7 19:30-21:00** BBC debate with leading figures from the seven biggest political parties, on the BBC. From 7:45pm

on Channel 4, England will be playing Iceland in a warm-up match before the Euros in Germany. **June 20 20:00-22:00** Question Time Special with leaders from four political parties on the BBC. Football fans will be able to watch England’s Euros match against Denmark with time to spare before the debate. Kick-off is scheduled at 5pm on the BBC.

Prime Minister’s team. A number of the TV debates are set to clash with football matches in the Euros tournament. Most notably, the BBC seven-way debate on Friday will go up against the England vs Iceland warm-up match. Jonathan Munro, the deputy chief executive of BBC News, said: “TV debates have become a key part of elections in the United Kingdom, giving voters the chance to hear leaders and senior politicians debate policies and ideas directly with each other, which rarely happens on the campaign trail. “The BBC brings people together. Providing a shared space for people to debate and discuss is a vital part of our mission, so I’m delighted we’re holding this series of debates and election specials, hosted by such talented presenters.” All three of the BBC programmes will air on BBC One, BBC News and will be available on BBC iPlayer.

Labour may reverse cuts to boost size of Army

Party would use defence review to repair damage to national security done by Tories, Starmer claims

By **Daniel Martin**
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR could boost the size of the Army following an official review of Britain's defences.

Sir Keir Starmer told *The Telegraph* his party would hold a strategic defence review in his first year of government if Labour wins the general election, which would focus on protecting Brit-

ain from Russian air strikes and cyber attacks. If the review calls for the size of the military to be boosted, Labour will commit to delivering it, it is understood.

In a speech today in the North West, Sir Keir will repeat his pledge of a "triple nuclear lock" as he continues his campaign to persuade the country that he has changed the Labour party from the Jeremy Corbyn years.

The pledge consists of committing to the construction of four new nuclear submarines; maintaining the continuous at-sea deterrent and delivering all future necessary upgrades for these submarines.

It came as the Conservatives con-

tinue to try to paint Sir Keir as weak on defence. Last week, Grant Shapps, the Defence Secretary, wrote in *The Telegraph* that Labour cannot be trusted with the nuclear deterrent, citing Sir Keir's support for Mr Corbyn, a man who wanted to leave Nato.

Sir Keir has now responded to the attack and claimed Labour would repair the damage to national security under the Tories that has left Britain with the smallest army since the time of Napoleon. It emerged last week that the size of the British Army has fallen below 73,000 troops for the first time since the Napoleonic era.

Sir Keir told *The Telegraph*: "The changed Labour Party that I lead will

always prioritise our national security. We face increasing threats, new hybrid attacks and growing cyber warfare from our adversaries who want to undermine our democracy and way of life.

"That's why Labour in government will carry out a strategic defence review to secure Britain's defences for the future, ensure our Armed Forces have the kit they need to keep us safe and introduce a new 'Nato first' approach to deter Russian aggression.

"Our commitment to defending our great country is unshakable. It will be the first duty of Labour in Government to keep our country safe and protect our citizens."

The review would look at three areas,

Labour have said. First, it would assess new "hybrid threats" such as cyber attacks, disinformation campaigns and attacks on critical underwater infrastructure.

Second, the party said the review would ensure Britain's Armed Forces are fit and equipped to fight in war and that the Army is the right size to confront any military challenge.

Third, it would aim to bolster homeland protections, considering air defences to stop possible air strikes and the security of undersea cables.

John Healey, the shadow defence secretary, said: "Labour in government will always do and spend what's required to keep our country safe. But the Conserv-

atives have failed defence over the last 14 years. Even Ben Wallace admitted that the Conservatives have 'hollowed out and underfunded' our Armed Forces since 2010."

Labour said it will improve the Ministry of Defence's procurement system, saying the Tories have wasted £15 billion on bad procurement since 2010.

The party has highlighted that 14 ex-military personnel have been selected to stand as MPs. They include Al Carns, who was until last week a colonel in the Royal Marines, Louise Jones, an army veteran and former intelligence officer in the Army, and Calvin Bailey, who was a commanding officer in the Royal Air Force.

Drumming to a different beat

Dave Rowntree, the drummer for British rock band Blur, gave out music lessons for charity donations at a summer fair in Linfield, Sussex. The musician is standing in the race to be an MP for Mid Sussex, a seat currently held by the Conservatives' Mims Davies.



DAVID MCHUGH/BRIGHTON PICTURES

SNP launches campaign again after first fails to improve polling

By **Daniel Sanderson**
SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE SNP has relaunched its general election campaign after Labour surged ahead of the party in Scottish polls.

The first week of campaigning was also overshadowed by John Swinney, the First Minister, defending a disgraced expenses cheat.

The nationalists held what the party has billed the "formal launch" of its general election campaign at an event in Glasgow yesterday in which Mr Swin-

ney urged Scots to vote SNP "to remove the Tories from government".

However, the event was branded a "desperate relaunch" as it comes just 10 days after Mr Swinney held an event in Edinburgh in which he said he was "standing here launching the SNP campaign for the 2024 general election".

Labour has surged ahead of the SNP in Scottish polls, with eight in a row indicating Sir Keir Starmer's party, which won only one seat over the border in 2019, has a lead of up to 10 points over the SNP.

The first days of the SNP's election campaign have also been overshadowed by the Michael Matheson expenses saga.

Mr Swinney claimed at the relaunch that he is determined to end child poverty. However, opponents said this had been undermined by revelations on Sunday that the devolved SNP government is set to hand back £450 million of EU structural and investment funding because it failed to spend it.

"The SNP's disastrous election campaign has been overshadowed by John

Swinney's appalling handling of the Michael Matheson scandal," Craig Hoy, the Scottish Conservative Party chairman, said.

"This desperate relaunch will continue to be dogged by sleaze - and today's revelation... of EU funding down the drain only adds insult to injury.

"We know independence is line one of the SNP manifesto, but incompetence is clearly line two."

Mr Matheson, the former SNP health secretary, has been handed a ban from

Holyrood for claiming £11,000 from taxpayers to cover a iPad data roaming bill that was racked up while on holiday in Morocco.

At first, he insisted the device had been used only for parliamentary work, but he was forced to pay back the money after he claimed to have later discovered his teenage sons had used it to stream football matches.

In a move that has bemused opponents and enraged some SNP candidates, Mr Swinney has defended Mr Matheson and the party's MSPs refused

to vote for his punishment in Holyrood. Mr Matheson has repeatedly refused demands to quit as an MSP.

The Sunday Times reported that Scotland is expected to return 28 per cent of the European structural and investment funding it received in the past six years having failed to allocate the cash.

The money could have been spent on business support and schemes to alleviate poverty. The programme closes this month which means the funding is almost certain to go unspent and be lost.

Three Green candidates withdraw in racism row

By **Genevieve Holl-Allen**
POLITICAL REPORTER

THREE candidates for the Greens are no longer standing amid suggestions they made "inappropriate comments", the party's co-leader has said.

Adrian Ramsey said that three of those selected ahead of July's poll were "no longer going forward".

It comes after comments made by candidates on social media surrounding the Israel-Gaza conflict surfaced last month. Speaking to the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg, Mr Ramsey said: "The Green Party takes any suggestions of anti-Semitism, or indeed any form of racism, very seriously.

"Any suggestions that have been made of inappropriate comments in recent weeks are being investigated by the relevant people.

"In the last couple of weeks, there were three candidates who had been selected who are no longer going forward. I understand there's a small number more who are still being looked at."

It comes after Eilizabeth Waight, who was selected in Bethnal Green and Stepney, on Saturday said that she had "decided to withdraw" her candidacy.

Last month it emerged that she had posted a video in which a woman said: "What's left for the Zionists [is] to eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Pal-

estinians... I think this will happen soon." Ms Waight said: "Once I was made aware of connotations of anti-Semitism in some of the posts I shared from other accounts, I removed them immediately from my timeline and I apologise for the upset caused.

"I, and the Tower Hamlets Green Party, abhor racism in all its forms including anti-Semitism and work hard to identify and challenge it.

"Although this was a genuine and regrettable misunderstanding, in the current political climate, the issue has become a distraction from both the call to build a lasting peace in the Middle East as well as the other important issues facing constituents in Bethnal Green and Stepney. As such I have decided to withdraw my candidacy."

Maddison Wheeldon, who had been selected for Warrington North last month, claimed on Saturday that she had been deselected.

It came after it emerged that she said that both Israel and Hamas were "culpable" for Oct 7, and also that ordinary Israelis "are akin to the Germans that supported the Nazis".

Writing on X, formerly Twitter, Ms Wheeldon said: "Sadly I have to inform that I no longer have support of the Green Party, and am no longer allowed to be their MP candidate for Warrington North."



LUCY NORTHA

Smelling the coffee Victoria Atkins arrives at the BBC yesterday to answer questions about NHS waiting lists.

Clegg 'bankrolls' Lib Dems to help snatch win in old seat

By **Janet Eastham and Daniel Martin**

SIR NICK CLEGG has been bankrolling the Liberal Democrats in his former constituency seat.

The party's former leader has donated tens of thousands to his old seat of Sheffield Hallam to strengthen its fight against the current Labour incumbent.

Labour's Olivia Blake has been the MP for the Sheffield constituency since 2019. It is predicted to be the only seat in which Labour and the Lib Dems go head-to-head.

According to the *Financial Times*, those close to Sir Nick, now a senior Meta executive, said he had been providing financial support since losing his seat to Labour in 2017 and has recently "stepped up" these donations to provide larger, monthly payments.

The Electoral Commission's database shows that, in the past eight years, the Lib Dems have received £85,600 from Sir Nick, with just over £30,000 going to his former Sheffield constituency.

The *Financial Times* reported that the former party leader's more recent donations have not yet been published on the commission's register.

The Lib Dems are hoping to take up to 20 seats from the Conservatives in the July 4 election, with its Sheffield candidate Shaffaq Mohammed hoping

to unseat Ms Blake. One individual close to Sir Nick told the *Financial Times* that he acknowledged the party faced an "uphill battle" in his former seat, "given how much wind Labour has in its sails".

Sir Nick's donations to the Sheffield Hallam seat include £15,000 in 2019 and £5,000 in 2022.

The Electoral Commission also shows that he donated £25,000 to the central party last year, as well as two payments totalling £30,000 to its Scottish arm in 2021 and 2022.

The Sheffield Hallam seat was once a Tory stronghold and the Lib Dems are understood to be targeting voters who voted Conservative in 2019.

Mr Mohammed told the *Financial Times*: "The next government is going to be a Labour government. [But] if it's going to be as strong a Labour government as the polls suggest, we might actually need an alternative voice in this region."

The *Financial Times* reported that it had interviewed more than a dozen members of the public in Sheffield Hallam and did not find anyone who was planning to vote Lib Dem.

A Lib Dem spokesman said: "This is no surprise at all. Nick and Shaffaq have known each other for over two decades. Shaffaq would be an amazing MP for Sheffield Hallam."

Meta was contacted for comment.

Police look into Tory candidate's Labour and Reform 'posters'

Robert Largan criticised for social media images that 'make it look like he represents other parties'

By Janet Eastham and Genevieve Holl-Allen

POLICE are examining claims of election fraud after a Tory MP appeared to campaign for other parties.

Last night, Derbyshire Constabulary posted on social media that they had received multiple "concerns around marketing material" and would be reviewing the matter.

It comes after Conservative MP Robert Largan was accused of "pretending" to campaign for both Labour and Reform UK in adverts published on social media.

On Saturday morning, Mr Largan published an image on Twitter in red Labour colours which said "Labour for Largan".

Mr Largan captioned the post: "So many local Labour voters have told me they're going to vote for me, because they want to keep me as their local MP."

"There have been so many that I'm launching a new Labour for Largan club."

The Conservative politician faced backlash on social media for the posts, with one user claiming he was "pretending to be a Labour candidate".

Another said: "Totally pathetic ... have you got a Reform for Largan one too?"

In response, the Tory MP published another image bearing the slogan "Reform for Robert". Like the red advert it featured a photo of Mr Largan, but this time with the background in a shade of blue used by Reform UK.

Last night, Derbyshire Constabulary posted on X, formerly Twitter, to confirm they had "received a number of messages in relation to claims of election fraud, raised due to concerns around marketing material".

"An incident has been created and will be reviewed," the post said.

A spokesman for the Conservative

Party told the BBC: "The materials clearly carry imprints, as required by electoral law."

The Telegraph understands Robert Largan has not been contacted by police and his spokesman told this newspaper that he had done nothing wrong.

He said: "As Mr Largan's social media posts and website make abundantly clear, large numbers of traditional Labour voters have been contacting him to tell him they plan to vote for him, despite him being a Conservative candidate. The same goes for Reform supporters."

"This is because of Mr Largan's strong record of delivery in the High Peak. Therefore, supporters clubs of traditional Labour and Reform voters have been set up, to allow people to tell Mr Largan that they're supporting him."

"These are called Labour for Largan and Reform for Robert. Such supporters clubs are not a new phenomenon."

This is not the first time that Mr Lar-

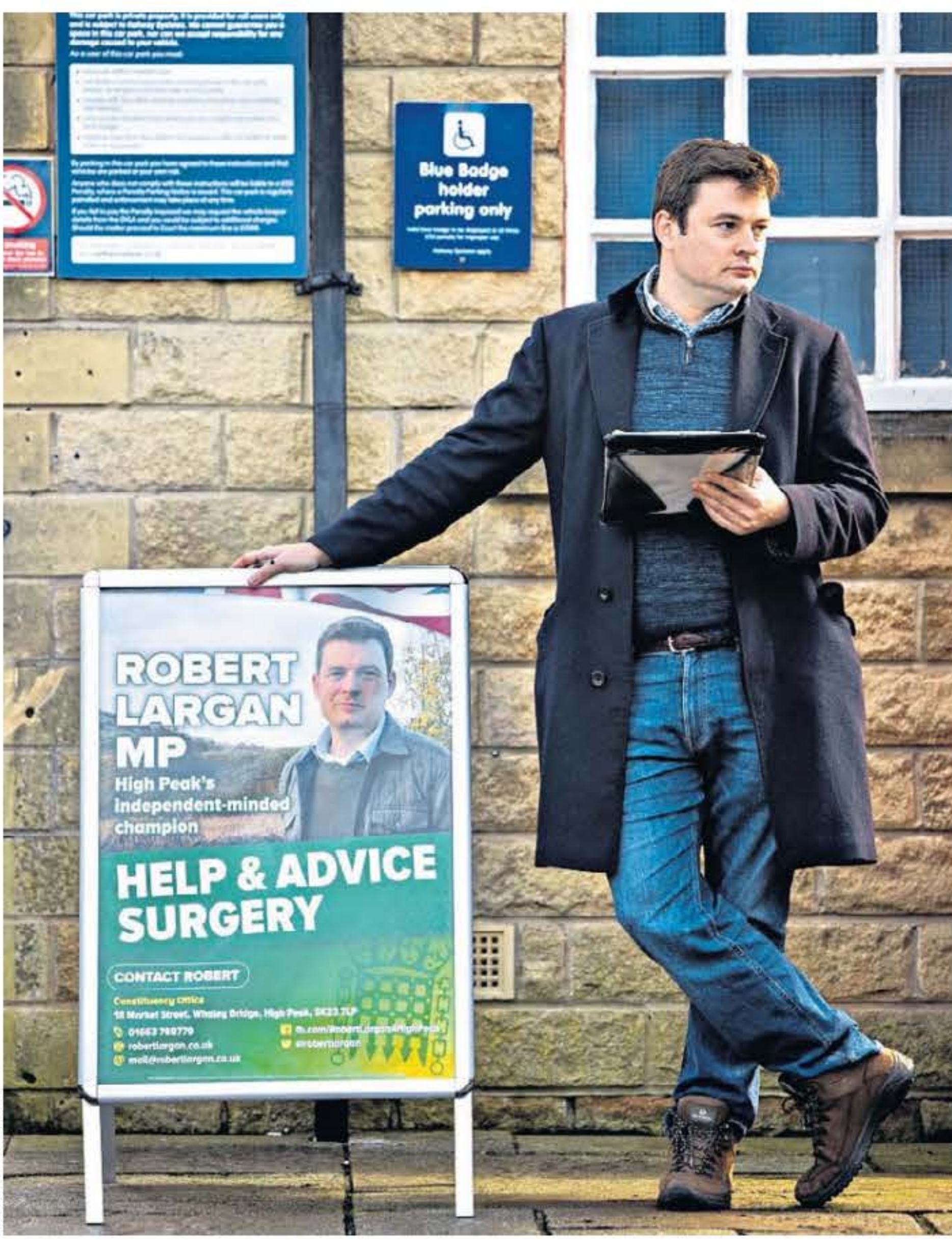
gan's tactics have faced criticism. Last year, he was accused of trying to mislead the public by trying to "pass off" a political leaflet as an independent newspaper.

Concerns were raised after the MP issued a newsletter titled "High Peak Reporter", which was the name of a defunct independent newspaper previously published in Derbyshire.

The High Peak Reporter circulated from 1887 to 1998 and is still owned by Quest Media Network.

Chris Bird, Quest's owner, told the BBC: "It's not right to pass off a political leaflet in association with a known independent newspaper."

The MP's office has previously issued an apology, insisting it had made a genuine mistake. A spokesman for Mr Largan added: "It is worth pointing out that all of Mr Largan's election leaflets clearly state that he is the Conservative candidate and are in full compliance with electoral law."



Tory MP Robert Largan, pictured left in his High Peak constituency, has been accused of electoral fraud by some social media users after he shared images that appeared to show him campaigning for Labour, above, and Reform, below

Bishop wades into Lib Dem deselection row

By Robert Mendick
CHIEF REPORTER

A SENIOR bishop has made an unprecedented intervention in the general election by condemning the Liberal Democrats for sacking a candidate over his Christian faith.

The Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Rev Philip Mounstephen, called the decision to deselect the Lib Dem's candidate for Sutton and Cheam "shockingly illiberal".

He suggested that by that measure William Gladstone, the most famous Liberal politician, would also have been barred as a candidate by the constituency.

David Campanale, 60, a former BBC journalist, was deselected after allegations that some local activists had conducted a two-year campaign against him.

He is accused of having

has offered his support to Mr Campanale.

In a statement posted on X, formerly Twitter, Bishop Mounstephen wrote: "The deselection of David Campanale on the grounds of his beliefs alone is shockingly illiberal."

"On this basis, Gladstone wouldn't have been allowed to stand in Sutton & Cheam."

Lord Alton, a crossbench peer and former Lib Dem MP, has also weighed in, signing a petition calling for Mr Campanale's reinstatement.

The former Liberal Democrat chief whip described Mr Campanale's treatment as "appalling" and "neither liberal nor democratic".

In response to Lord Alton's post, the bishop said: "I agree."

Supporters of Mr Campanale claim one member of his legal team was told by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) that his was the "worst case of direct religious discrimination" that the organisation had come across.

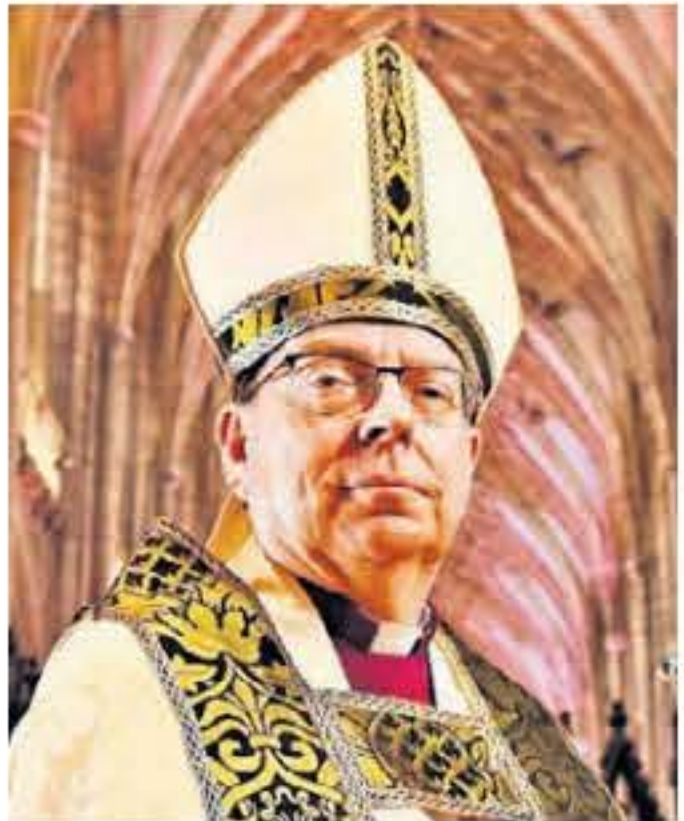
The leadership of the Liberal Democrat Christian Forum, which represents 400 Christian activists in the party, has written to the EHRC asking it to investigate the party.

The Sutton and Cheam seat on the edge of London was won last time out by the Tories' Paul Scully with a majority of just over 8,300, with the Lib Dems in second place. Mr Scully, the minister for London, is stepping down at the election.

The Liberal Democrats have said the party is unable to comment while Mr Campanale is appealing the decision to deselect him. A final appeal is pending.

A spokesman has previously said: "The Liberal Democrats are home to people of all faiths and none, including many Christians."

"Three Liberal Democrat MPs in neighbouring seats to Sutton and Cheam are practising Christians, including party leader Ed Davey, and the party's candidate selection process is overseen by the Rev Margaret Jane Joachim."



The Bishop of Winchester said the deselection was 'illiberal'

been involved with the Christian People's Alliance, a political party which has campaigned against abortion and gay marriage, and of failing to sufficiently disclose his faith during the selection process, a charge he denies.

Mr Campanale, who left the Christian People's Alliance in 2012 and says he disagrees with its tone, believes the attacks on him are part of an ongoing attempt to secularise the Lib Dems.

The party has been reported to the equalities watchdog amid claims it has tolerated a "hostile environment" for people of faith.

Now in an intervention by the Bishop of Winchester, he



Let summer come to you

Ocado

Girl dies after being found in marine park pool

Welsh teenager taken to hospital in Florida from Discovery Cove resort but died the next day

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A 13-YEAR-OLD girl has died after being found unresponsive in a pool at a holiday park where visitors can swim with dolphins.

Anna Beaumont, 13, from Wales, was taken to hospital from Discovery Cove in Orlando, Florida.

The Orange County Sheriff's Office said she was hospitalised on Tuesday, but died the next day.

In a statement, the police said: "We are sorry to report that on May 29 2024, 13-year-old Anna Beaumont was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

"Any information about the cause and manner of her death will need to come from the Medical Examiner's Office."

The medical examiner's office in Orlando said on Thursday that the death was accidental and the cause was drowning, the *Independent* reported.

In a statement shared with the BBC, Andrew Williams, the headteacher at Radyr Comprehensive, Ms Beaumont's school, said: "The very thought of losing a child is an unimaginable journey and I know I speak on behalf of the whole school community when I say that our thoughts are with Anna's family

as they try to come to terms with their loss. Anna was a cherished member of our school family, and her absence will be profoundly felt by pupils, staff and all who had the privilege of knowing her. "Her spirit, kindness and presence touched so many lives."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We are in touch with the family following the death of a child in the United States, and are providing consular support during this difficult time."

Discovery Cove is an all-inclusive resort and sister park of SeaWorld Orlando and Aquatica Orlando.

The company released a statement about the incident to local media, which said: "Our staff responded to an emergency involving a guest yesterday (May 28). Our team provided care and contacted Orange County Fire & Rescue.

"When emergency personnel arrived, they took over care and transported the guest to a nearby hospital.

"Out of respect for privacy of our guests, we do not provide any health information. Our thoughts are with this family."

Discovery Cove describes itself as an "all-inclusive day resort" on its website, and says it offers opportunities to swim with dolphins and snorkel among tropical fish.

It is a sister park of SeaWorld Orlando and Aquatica Orlando.

It comes after Aryan Ghoniya, 13, a fellow pupil of the Radyr Comprehensive, drowned in the River Taff while playing with friends two years ago.



RUSSELL SACHS FOR THE TELEGRAPH

Dogged competitor Willie, a three-year-old bearded collie cross, is put through its paces by Jodie Forbes at Dogstival, where 10,000 canines displayed skills from agility to scent work at Burley Park in Hampshire's New Forest at the weekend.

Aliens might exist, it is impossible to rule it out – says Astronomer Royal

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

IT IS impossible to rule out the existence of alien life, the Astronomer Royal has said.

Lord Rees of Ludlow, the former president of the Royal Society, has said

that most scientists would bet that there's life on "lots" of other planets.

The 81-year-old said the question of intelligent life is the one that is most often asked of him, and admitted he has heard from people who claim to have been visited, or taken away, by aliens.

And while the Astronomer Royal dismissed most of the claims, he confessed that he is fascinated by the debate.

Speaking on the *Rosebud* podcast, Lord Rees said: "This is the question that I'm most often asked. Are we alone? Is there intelligent life or any kind of

life? I get letters from people who think that, uh, they've been visited by the aliens or taken away by them: I don't believe most of those claims.

"If the aliens had made a huge effort to come here, would they have just met one or two well-known cranks, maybe

made a corn circle and gone away again? It seems unlikely."

The York-born astronomer has written more than 500 research papers and his research into quasars, a type of supermassive black hole, led to the disproving of the steady state

theory – an alternative theory to the Big Bang. He said he scientists were unable to say "whether it's likely or unlikely" that aliens existed in some form on another planet but that most would be probably inclined to suggest there is.



ONE OF THE GREATEST SPORTING TRANSFORMATIONS SINCE 2012 COULD BE A REALITY

Wimbledon is the greatest contributor to the UK economy of any annual event on our sporting calendar.

More than half a billion people around the world are drawn to the magic of The Championships every year.

To keep Wimbledon at the pinnacle of sport, with all of the significant economic and social benefits this brings to our country, London and the local area, we need to enhance this most cherished event.

We are proposing to make our event more accessible and to bring Wimbledon in line with the other Grand Slams by hosting our Qualifying event on site in SW19.

We will create two new parks for people to enjoy and for nature to thrive, alongside a new boardwalk for Wimbledon Park Lake. This means everyone will have access to beautiful new parkland that has not been freely accessible for more than 100 years.

We truly believe that these plans represent one of the greatest sporting transformations since 2012 and will unlock significant year-round benefits for the community.



To find out more about our plans and help us make them a reality, please visit wimbledon.com/wpp

Spitfires must fly or risk being lost to history

With only 60 airworthy aircraft left, engineers call for them to be used as D-Day anniversary looms

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

AN AIRCRAFT engineer who restores historic Spitfire fighter planes has said they must be kept flying for future generations ahead of the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Spitfires provided support for the Allied troops in the Normandy landings during the Second World War. More than 20,000 were built around the war period, but it is estimated just 60 airworthy planes remain.

Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar, nestled outside of London, is believed to be the world's largest Spitfire restoration and passenger flight hangar, and the team are currently working to revive their 17th Spitfire to an airworthy condition since opening in 2011.

Alex Monk, 25, who works at the family business, believes that all Spitfires "have a story to tell" but efforts need to be made before their stories are lost to history.

"We're at the point now of everything transferring out of living memory," Mr Monk said. "The only link that future generations will get to this other than grainy pictures in textbooks will be seeing these machines."

"It's actually this wonderful object that makes a lot of noise and does something and stands for an awful lot."

At the hangar, which lies on what used to be RAF Biggin Hill, the famous

60
The number of airworthy Spitfire fighters that remain, out of more than 20,000 that were built during the war period

fighter station during the Second World War, several Spitfires are up for repair in the workshop.

"They all have a story to tell and it humanises it all," Mr Monk said.

The Spitfire MK1a P9372 flew in the Battle of Britain and was shot down near Biggin Hill. William Watling, its pilot, survived suffering serious burns to his face and hands. The plane was shot more than 100 times and was excavated from Romney Marsh, in Kent, in the 1970s.

The bullet holes have been patched up with the plane's debris they had hanging up in the next door workshop to "show a little bit of vintage", Gary Woodhouse, the engineer, said.

He added that Peter Monk, the owner and Mr Monk's father, spends his time "scouring the globe" for parts to restore the machines.

"The more people want to spend and they want to buy – without these parts you couldn't do it," he explained.

"Things are always out there ... you'll find with the older generation, which we're now losing, keep these sort of things in their shed or on their mantelpiece."

The 56-year-old from Swanley began working at the hangar six years ago and admitted that "it's not your everyday job".

Alan Bates 'turned down offer to open Glastonbury'

By Anita Singh
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

ALAN BATES, the former subpostmaster leading the fight against the Post Office, has reportedly turned down an offer to open the Glastonbury Festival.

The offer was revealed by Toby Jones, who played Bates in the ITV drama *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*.

Hundreds of subpostmasters were wrongly accused of theft, fraud and false accounting due to a defective IT system, in what has been called the biggest miscarriage of justice in British legal history. Mr Bates continues to campaign on their behalf but has no interest in becoming a celebrity, Jones said.

"He is someone in the culture who just doesn't seem to be subject to the same forces that we all are. He can't be bought. He was asked to open Glastonbury. 'No, thank you.' He's asked to do these things and he doesn't want to do any of that. He says, 'I've got work to do', which is to get that stuff done," the actor told an audience at the Hay Festival.

Glastonbury has a history of inviting public figures to address the festival. Sir



A engineer works on the restoration of a Spitfire inside the Heritage Hangar at Biggin Hill Airport, in Kent. The team are planning to fly their Spitfire fleet to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day

Mr Woodhouse added: "At first you enjoy the novelty factor, it's great, it's huge."

"The interest has always been there with warbirds, with this type of aircraft, and especially the history and the older generation which we're losing."

"You are humble, it is iconic to work around them, it is not your everyday job. You've got to be proud, you are keeping history alive."

Also onsite is a D-Day veteran Spitfire being restored after it had a wing taken

off in a crash landing into an oak tree at Biggin Hill about 12 years ago.

The Spitfire MK912 was originally flown by Tony Liskutin, a Czech pilot and squadron leader, on June 6, 7 and 8 1944 over the British sector providing ground support.

Mr Monk recalled the day Liskutin was reunited with his aeroplane again on a visit to the hangar on March 25 2013. "He sees his machine come up alongside and you see the tears and the joy on his face from that, because he

wasn't expecting it. That was really great to see," he said.

"But there aren't that many D-Day veteran Spitfires left out there. There's probably less than 10 that I know of that have got genuine D-Day history."

Franco Tambascia, the chief engineer, has spent 33 years working with old warplanes.

"We're hoping to run the engine [of the D-Day spitfire] in six weeks even though there's a lot missing," he said. The 49-year-old added: "If it wasn't

for these aircraft and every aircraft like this we wouldn't have won the war."

"So we've got to keep the heritage going to make sure that [in] the future, everybody, the younger generation would understand what happened and what the pilots went through."

The Biggin Hill team are preparing to mark the D-Day anniversary by flying their Spitfire fleet with freshly painted invasion stripes on their wings, in a nod to the efforts in the lead-up to the offen-

sive. Mr Monk also plans to take the Spitfire in the workshop over to Normandy for the D-Day anniversary.

He goes to France every year for the commemoration, where his great, great uncle came ashore and was killed taking the Hillman bunker complex on June 6 1944.

He said: "For me, every year is as important. I think this one being the 80th is a big thing, but I think it'll probably be the last time that you'll have many veterans there in physical form."

Once you pop, you can't stop, Pringles thief told officers

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

AN SERIAL Pringle thief told police: "Once you pop, you can't stop," when being questioned over alleged shoplifting.

Adam Spencer, 40, was arrested by Nottinghamshire Police in Sutton-in-Ashfield on May 28.

He told police that in one shop raid he took 17 tubes of Pringles.

At Nottingham magistrates' court last week he admitted two counts of burglary and three counts of theft related to a series of offences, and was given a six-month prison sentence, suspended for a year.

On top of his suspended sentence Spencer, of Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts, was also ordered to pay £200 in compensation and complete a six-month drug rehabilitation requirement programme.

Pc Dean Fenton, of Nottinghamshire Police, said: "The actions of prolific thieves like Spencer can have a really negative impact on communities, who don't want to see their stores targeted again and again."

Police said the series of thefts in Sutton-in-Ashfield started on 11th April at Tesco, in Alfreton Road, before Asda in Priestscic Road on 17th April.

On May 2, Spencer broke through the back door of Iceland, also in Priestscic Road, before stealing meat products.

He then returned two hours later and stole more than £300 worth of stock. He returned to the store for another theft on May 19.

In a statement, the force said: "Spencer was recognised by the officers on Tuesday (May 28), as the county priority tasking team were investigating him at that point for multiple offences against shops."

They added: "Two of these took place in the early hours of the same morning on May 2 ... Either side of these two burglaries, Spencer also helped himself to items from three other stores in Sutton-in-Ashfield during a series of shop thefts."

The force said: "He took 17 pots of Pringles during one of the thefts, which Spencer later admitted to when questioned by police – telling them, 'Once you pop, you can't stop.'"



Wing and a prayer Parachutists board a Dakota at Duxford Air Show before crossing to France to celebrate D-Day.

BBC staff 'still to apologise' to Gardner for blocking entry into lift

By Janet Eastham
INVESTIGATIONS REPORTER

FRANK GARDNER has revealed that his BBC colleagues have not apologised after they were filmed blocking him from a lift.

In an interview with *The Sunday Times*, the security correspondent, who uses a wheelchair, claimed that the able-bodied employees seen failing to make way in a 2020 documentary have still not said sorry.

Mr Gardner has used a wheelchair since he was shot six times by al-Qaeda while reporting on growing terrorist activity in Saudi Arabia in 2004.

Bullets injured his spinal nerves and left him partially paralysed.

In the documentary film *Being Frank:*

The Frank Gardner Story, Mr Gardner talks candidly about the physical indignities he continues to suffer, even having to change his colostomy bag and catheter on camera.

Despite reporting daily on terrorism, intelligence and espionage, he says that "sometimes it's the small things that get in the way".

In one sequence, the camera shows the correspondent – who is due in the studio at any minute – watching the lift open to reveal it is full and then close again.

None of his able-bodied colleagues offer to get out and take the stairs.

Mr Gardner can be heard saying: "It is so annoying when you're about to be on air, and you can't get [in the lift]."

"Because I can't get down the stairs,

Anyone else can run down the stairs, but I can't do that."

When the same thing happens again, he worries aloud that he will "miss" his live on air slot.

After waiting 10 minutes, he and the

'It is so annoying when you're about to be on air, and you can't get in the lift ... Anyone else can run'

film crew have to speed through the newsroom to try another lift.

However, when asked by *The Sunday Times* whether any of his colleagues at the BBC, having seen themselves in the documentary, have since apologised to

him, the security correspondent said: "No."

While Mr Gardner survived the attack in Riyadh on June 6 2004, Simon Cumbers, 36, his cameraman and colleague, was shot in the head and died instantly.

In the interview, the security correspondent also commented on the incorrect initial reporting of the al-Qaeda attack.

The last al-Qaeda operative involved that day was beheaded in a mass execution in Riyadh in 2016, but Mr Gardner said that he is still waiting for justice.

The correspondent said: "It was so many years afterwards."

"And there is still something that niggles me – and it's stopping me having full closure."



Frank Gardner was partially paralysed after being shot six times by Al Qaeda

"The Saudi ambassador in London promised me compensation. Simon and I were supposed to be in their care but the minders ran away."

Mr Gardner said that he does not "blame them", adding: "Why should they lay down their lives for two foreigners?"

However, he added that no compensation materialised. Mr Gardner said: "But we got shot, the government promised compensation and they never paid a penny. I'm so disappointed with that."

"It's not the money – if it was a hundred pounds or a million, it doesn't matter. It's the principle. That would be closure."

The BBC has been contacted for comment.

Drug available on NHS may help cure deadly bowel cancer

By Michael Searles
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT in Chicago

A DEADLY form of bowel cancer could be cured with the help of a drug already available on the NHS.

Leading doctors found that immunotherapy drug, pembrolizumab (Keytruda), could make “bulky high-risk” tumours “melt away” and triple survival rates.

The trial led by University College London (UCL) found that three in five

patients who took the immunotherapy were cancer-free without the need for surgery or chemotherapy.

The remainder needed surgery to remove their tumour but the drug had helped shrink them beforehand, improving the chance of remaining cancer-free for longer.

The immunotherapy treatment is already used to treat various aggressive cancers including types of lung, cervical and breast cancers.

Prof Mark Saunders, a cancer doctor

at The Christie Foundation Trust, said having the immunotherapy before surgery could become a “game-changer”.

“This is a very exciting new treatment for the 10 to 15 per cent of patients who have the right genetic make-up.

He said the treatment also “saves patients from having more conventional chemotherapy, which often has more side-effects” and “may even replace the need for surgery”.

The trial involved 32 patients with stage 2 or 3 bowel cancer from five

NHS hospitals. Experts said it could be used in clinics “in a couple of years”.

All the patients involved had “bulky high-risk” tumours in their bowel that were “heavily-mutated”.

About one in eight of bowel cancer cases – 3,000 people per year – have these excessive mutations that allow the tumour cells to go undetected by the body’s immune system.

Pembrolizumab works by blocking the action of a molecule called PD-1 that hides the cancer from the immune sys-

tem. By exposing it, the body can identify and kill the cells itself.

Dr Kai-Keen Shiu, a cancer consultant and chief investigator from UCL told the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) conference that the drug “has completely changed the face of cancer treatment”.

“Immunotherapy can make tumours disappear before surgery. If you melt the cancer away before surgery you normally triple survival chances,” he said. “If patients have a complete

response to pembrolizumab it can triple your chance of survival. Patients also don’t need any chemotherapy after so they avoid all those side effects.”

Dr Shiu said the results showed the drug was “highly effective” and “increased the chances of curing the disease at an early stage.”

He added: “We need to wait to see whether the patients in our trial remain cancer-free over a longer period of time, but initial indications are extremely positive.”

Contraceptive gel for men lowers sperm in weeks

Hormonal product that is rubbed on both shoulder blades shows promise in early clinical trials

By Joe Pinkstone
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

A CONTRACEPTIVE gel for men which is applied once a day has shown promise in early trials.

The product, which is rubbed on both shoulder blades daily, has been found to lower sperm counts in around eight weeks.

Scientists have said that this is quicker than other similar products in development and could overcome a limitation of other male hormonal contraceptives.

The product contains two hormones, Nestorone (segesterone acetate) and testosterone, and is currently being tested as part of a clinical trial on more than 200 men in the US.

The product is rubbed into the shoulders or shoulder blades because it is easy to reach for the user and it is unlikely a child or woman would come into direct contact with the gel. The hormones soak into the skin and are absorbed by the bloodstream and accidental exposure to the gel could cause premature puberty in children and acne or excessive hair growth in women.

Phase two results announced today at the Annual Conference of the Endocrine Society in Boston, Massachusetts, reveal that the product reached low sperm levels in 80 per cent of men after just 12 weeks.

Contraception-level effectiveness is considered to be reached when a millilitre of semen contains fewer than one million sperm, according to scientists.

More than half of men reached this level by eight weeks, quicker than other experimental male contraceptives which can take as long as four months to become effective.

The study authors, from the National Institutes of Health in the US, wrote in their report: “More than 80 per cent of participants using this novel male hormonal contraceptive gel formulation containing Nestorone 8 mg and Testos-

terone 74 mg showed suppressed sperm output within 12 weeks, a rate that appears to be faster than prior studies with other hormonal regimens.

“A more rapid time to suppression may increase the attractiveness and acceptability to potential users.”

Participants had their sperm count measured every four weeks.

The scientists said that this may have missed key data between four and eight weeks that could indicate the method is even more effective than the current figures show.

The treatment works because testosterone lowers sperm suppression itself, but the segesterone product also speeds this up.

The trial launched in 2018 and researchers said at the time that the project could help share the responsibility of contraception between both men

80pc

The proportion of participants in the study who showed suppressed sperm output in 12 weeks while using the gel

and women. Dr Diana Blithe, the project lead on the Contraceptive Development Program at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland, said at the time that the product had been in development for more than a decade.

Dr Blithe added: “We are hopeful that the NES/T gel study will demonstrate effectiveness of a male method for use by couples.

“A successful result may lead to additional scientific discovery around contraceptive products for men.”

A non-hormonal form of male contraception is also in development and is currently being investigated in some British men.

The drug, called YCT-529, deactivates a protein called retinoic acid receptor alpha (RAR-alpha) which inhibits vitamin A activity and therefore curtails sperm production.

This approach avoids using hormones such as testosterone, which has raised concerns among prospective users.



Mighty effort Rita Ora performs on day two of the Mighty Hoopla festival at Brockwell Park, London yesterday. The singer has just released a single, *Ask and You Shall Receive*.

Woman visits hospital seven times drunk on fermented gut funghi

By Joe Pinkstone

A WOMAN who visited A&E seven times feeling sleepy and dizzy was drunk on alcohol brewed in her own stomach, doctors have found.

The 50-year-old was eventually diagnosed with auto-brewery syndrome, a rare condition only recorded previously in about 20 people. This unusual medi-

cal phenomenon is thought to develop when the array of microbes in the gut that help digest food go awry.

Fermenting funghi becomes dominant and converts carbohydrates into ethanol, much as happens between barley and yeast in a brewers tank.

The alcohol then seeps into the bloodstream leading the person to become drunk without consuming

alcohol. It is believed the woman, who had a history of chronic urinary tract infections (UTI), had a warped microbiome (the collection of all microbes, such as bacteria, fungi, viruses, and their genes, that naturally live inside us) caused by repeated antibiotic prescriptions.

As a result of a carb-rich diet the fermenting funghi got the woman

drunk even though she had not consumed any alcohol. The anonymous Canadian patient went to hospital seven times with symptoms of sleepiness, clumsiness, falls, and slurred words. Tests showed there was alcohol in her system, but the woman, who lived with her husband and children, was teetotal because of her religious beliefs.

Dr Rahel Zewude, the study co-au-

thor from University of Toronto, said: “Auto-brewery syndrome carries substantial social, legal and medical consequences for patients and their loved ones.

“Our patient had several [emergency department] visits, was assessed by internists and psychiatrists, and was certified under the Mental Health Act before receiving a diagnosis of

auto-brewery syndrome, reinforcing how awareness of this syndrome is essential for clinical diagnosis and management.” Scientists wrote in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*: “Auto-brewery syndrome is uncommon because it requires several host factors to interact with substantial overpopulation of fermenting micro-organisms, and high carbohydrate consumption.”

British-Iranian jailed for ties to country’s former queen

By Ahmed Vahdat

A BRITISH-IRANIAN woman has been held in solitary confinement in Iran for more than 200 days on charges of meeting with the former queen of the country, according to her family.

Nasrin Rooshan was detained in relation to her meeting with Farah Pahlavi, wife of the exiled former Shah, and for taking part in rallies in London to protest about the death of Mahsa Amini who was murdered by morality police.

Mrs Rooshan lives in the UK and became a British citizen 25 years ago after moving from Iran, Arash Asiabi, her husband, said. She returned to her Iran to visit a relative who was unwell, and was detained at the airport as she tried to leave.

She has since been held in solitary confinement in the notorious Evvin prison, which is run by the Revolutionary Guards, her husband said.

Mrs Rooshan was detained with Sara Tabrizi, 21, her cousin, at Tehran’s Imam airport last November.

Ms Tabrizi had been released on bail but died in unknown circumstances a few days after, according to Mr Asiabi.

Mr Asiabi said his wife had been

detained for links to the former Shah, who was exiled after the Iranian revolution.

“Nasrin always wanted to pay her respect to the former royal family of Iran and went to Egypt in 2023 to attend the anniversary of the death of the late Shah, where she met with the queen Farah Pahlavi. On her return to Iran to care for her ill aunt she was arrested,” he said.

Mrs Rooshan’s family members in the UK and Iran had been told by the Iranian authorities that she would be freed after eight months. But now they say they have been told that she must serve three full years of imprisonment.

Since 1982, the Islamic regime has detained 14 British-Iranian dual nationals on charges ranging from “espionage” to “plot to overthrow the Islamic republic”.

Most have since been released after spending from 18 days to nearly 10 years behind bars. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was the most high profile, and was released in March 2022 after a sustained campaign. Mehran Raouf, a British-Iranian engineer and labour activist, is in Evvin prison. He was arrested in October 2020.

Doctor adopts goldfish he found dropped on his lawn

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A JUNIOR doctor has garnered more than 16 million views online after rescuing a goldfish he found on his lawn.

Dr Ben Beska, 33, from Newcastle, said he saw a group of magpies squawking in his garden on Saturday and went out to investigate when he spotted the fish lying in the grass.

Acting quickly, the NHS cardiology doctor retrieved the fish and placed it in a freezer drawer filled with water, saying it was the only large container he had to hand at the time.

Locking the fish away from his two cats, Dr Beska visited his nearest aquatic shop and purchased a tank for the fish – which has now been named Alice after a text message he sent to a friend regarding the animal autocorrected from “it’s alive” to “it’s Alice”.

His initial post of the goldfish lying in the grass has earned over 16 million views on X, formerly Twitter, which Dr Beska said was “bonkers”.

“It’s pretty mad really, finding a fish on the lawn. I have no idea how it got in the garden,” Dr Beska said.

He added: “I went out and I was like, as if it’s an actual fish, so took a photo to



Dr Ben Beska found a goldfish in his garden and rescued it, naming it Alice

send to my fiancé to say, ‘How the hell is there a fish on the floor’, and then it moved – I couldn’t just leave it.”

Dr Beska, who intends to keep the fish as a pet, said after he put the “flapping” animal into the container, “it started to swim around, so it was alive”.

He suspected a bird had picked up the fish from a nearby pond and dropped it. The mystery of the goldfish has gone viral online, with Dr Beska’s original photo gaining over 150,000 likes and more than 4,000 comments.

Summer will not start until end of June, says Met Office

By Ewan Somerville

SUMMER will not start properly until the end of June, the Met Office has said.

Many areas of Britain basked in temperatures of up to 24C (75.2F) yesterday, raising hopes that a sunny spell is back for good.

But forecasters have warned that it was only “a taste of summer” as wet, windy and cooler weather is on the way over the coming weeks.

Predictions show the best is yet to come, however, with a prolonged period of settled sun on the way from the final week of June – just before Britain heads to the polls for the general election.

The Met Office’s long-range forecasts show that, based on climate data for the months of June, July and August between 1991 and 2020, the UK is on course to exceed the temperature average of 24C in the south of England.

This would mean a sustained period of temperatures in the high 20s in the south, and in the low 20s in the north where the seasonal averages are lower, the forecasting body said.

Marco Petagna, a forecaster at the Met Office, said: “It’s been a taste of summer for the first couple of days, but

for the week ahead and much of June it’s looking more mixed again, but there are signs that towards the end of June we could see something more settled, warmer and drier.”

He added: “For the three-month period as a whole [June, July and August], temperatures are likely to be above average overall so there’s a chance we’ll see some hot spells at times but the signals on rainfall are quite balanced, there’s equal chances of whether it will be wet or dry. The temperature signal is pretty good; it’s expected to be warmer than average overall.”

There is no indication of records being smashed though, as it would take something “exceptional” to beat the 40.3C heatwave that became Britain’s hottest ever day in July 2022.

Equally, July is not yet expected to be a washout like last year.

With meteorological summer officially beginning this weekend, the highest temperatures recorded on Sunday were 24.C at Pershore in Worcestershire and 23.9C in Usk and Cardiff in South Wales.

The warmest temperature of the year so far is 27.5C in Chertsey, Surrey, on May 12.

Zelensky: Biden not doing enough to help

Ukrainian president thanks US for permission to strike Russia but urges end to Atacms restrictions

By Nicola Smith ASIA CORRESPONDENT

VOLODYMYR ZELENSKY criticised Joe Biden yesterday for not doing enough in allowing US weapons to be fired into Russia as Ukraine faces the threat of a renewed invasion.

The Ukrainian president thanked his US counterpart for giving Kyiv permission to strike inside Russian territory with American munitions but said

restrictions – including on the use of long-range Atacms – should also be dropped.

In a rare rebuke of his US ally, he said: “Is that sufficient? No. Why? Because I have given you the example of airfields from which Russia is permanently firing, in calm, knowing that Ukraine will not fire back because it has no corresponding systems and no permissions.”

After weeks of pressure, Mr Biden gave permission for Ukraine to use American missiles, such as Himars, to fire across the border north of Kharkiv, where Russian forces are massing. But he blocked Ukraine from using the more advanced Atacms systems.

Russia said yesterday that Ukraine

had fired US-made weapons at targets inside Russia for the first time after Mr Biden gave the green light.

Russia’s ministry of defence and military bloggers reported that Himars, long-range artillery, were fired by Ukraine at Russia on Saturday evening.

Evgeniy Poddubny, the sanctioned Russian war reporter and Kremlin propagandist, on his Telegram channel, underneath a slideshow of several photos: “The enemy has begun using Western-made weapon systems to attack ‘old’ Russian territory. These are fragments of M142 Himars MLRS shells.

“The Russian Army’s air defence crews destroyed more than 10 missiles in the sky over the Belgorod region.”

‘Ukraine cannot target them with Western weaponry even if they fire against us’

Ukraine did not comment. Mr Zelensky said his government was seeking the green light to hit Russian military airfields used on a daily basis to attack “purely civilian infrastructure – dams, energy grid, schools, universities”, as well as hospitals.

He added that Russia continued to use artillery, long-range fire and some 300 weapons systems carrying tens of thousands of missiles on its side of the

border. “So they have these weapons there and they do not remove them because they know that Ukraine cannot target them with Western weaponry even if they fire against us,” he said.

Mr Zelensky made his comments at Asia’s top security summit in Singapore, during a surprise visit this weekend to appeal to Asia and Pacific leaders to attend a June peace summit in Switzerland where he hopes to forge a path for the “just” ending of Russia’s war.

He met with Lloyd Austin, the US defence secretary, as well as the leaders of Singapore, Timor Leste and Indonesia, but not with the Chinese delegation that was led by Dong Jun, China’s defence minister.

Beijing has publicly criticised the Ukrainian peace initiative because Russia is not invited, and confirmed that it would not be attending as the arrangements for the meeting “falls short of China’s requirements”.

It was reported that Mr Zelensky had hoped to engage with the Chinese in Singapore.

Instead, he accused China of being “an instrument in the hands of Putin”, claiming that the country was dispatching its diplomats at Russia’s behest to persuade countries to snub the summit.

China claims neutrality in the conflict while providing an economic lifeline to Russia, which is subject to international sanctions.

Starved, beaten and abused – kidnapped Pc returns home

By Harriet Barber

A 24-YEAR-OLD Ukrainian police-woman was “starved, beaten and abused” as a prisoner of war by Russian forces, her mother said as she was released after two years in captivity.

Maryana Checheliuk, an investigator with the National Police of Ukraine, was taken after being caught up in the siege of Mariupol’s Azovstal steel works.

Her story was recounted to *The Telegraph* magazine by her family last year, who told how she had been forced through a Russian filtration camp and then blocked from returning home.

On Friday, Ms Checheliuk was released in a prisoner exchange after enduring years of severe mistreatment, including being starved, beaten and abused. She appeared frail as she arrived back on Ukrainian soil in tears.

In her first phone call to her family



Maryana Checheliuk was captured by Russian forces in Mariupol and held for two years before being released on Friday, main



after being released, Ms Checheliuk said: “Mummy, I’m home.”

Natalya Checheliuk, her mother, replied: “My lovely and dear sunshine, we finally got this day.”

In March 2022, Ms Checheliuk sought refuge in the walls of Azovstal steel works but became trapped.

On May 1, she and her sister were ushered onto buses by Moscow’s forces and taken to a Russian filtration camp in Bezimenne. Ms Checheliuk was then held in a prisoner of war camp in Olenivka and detention facilities in Taganrog and Mariupol. Her mother said Ms Checheliuk became “very ill” and developed bronchitis.

Ms Checheliuk wrote a poem for her mother in captivity, which she read upon her return. “I long to see you mother, to tell you how it was for me there / How I yearned for your eyes, how I wanted to end my life,” she wrote.

White House expects Israel to approve Gaza peace plan

By Melanie Swan in Tel Aviv

THE White House has said “it expects Israel to say yes” to a Gaza peace plan despite so far rejecting it.

Joe Biden, the US president, has issued a three-part plan to end the war after mounting frustration with how long and violent it has become.

His proposal would start with a six-week ceasefire that would see Israeli forces withdraw from populated areas of Gaza and include the exchange of hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.

Appearing on ABC News’ *This Week on Sunday*, John Kirby, the National Security Council spokesman, said the deal is an “Israeli proposal, and one that

they arrived at after intense diplomacy with our own national security team, and over at the State Department”.

He added: “Where we are right now is that proposal, an Israeli proposal, has been given to Hamas. It was done on Thursday night our time. We’re waiting for an official response from Hamas.

“We would note that publicly, Hamas officials came out and welcomed this proposal.”

Mr Kirby’s comments appeared at odds with the Israeli prime minister’s position as of Saturday. In a statement, Benjamin Netanyahu said a permanent ceasefire is a “total non-starter”, adding: “Israel’s conditions for ending the war have not changed: the destruction of Hamas’s military and governing capa-

bilities, the freeing of all hostages and ensuring that Gaza no longer poses a threat to Israel.”

His Right-wing coalition has also threatened to dissolve the government if Mr Netanyahu does not continue with its aim of eliminating Hamas. Bezalel Smotrich, the minister of economy, said that “we will not agree to the end of the war before the destruction of Hamas”.

Yesterday, Mr Kirby said US intelligence suggests Hamas has been militarily degraded to the extent that it can no longer conduct an attack such as that of Oct 7. He said: “We’ve not said that they don’t still represent a viable threat to the Israeli people. Of course they do. But they don’t have the military capabilities to do what they did.”

German officer stabbed to death in attack at anti-Islam rally

By Our Foreign Staff

A 29-YEAR-OLD police officer died yesterday after being repeatedly stabbed during an attack at an anti-Islam rally in Germany.

A knife-wielding man attacked and wounded several people on Friday in the market square of Mannheim city in south-west Germany.

Five people taking part in a rally organised by Pax Europa, a campaign group against radical Islam, were wounded in the attack.

The policeman was “stabbed several times in the area of the head” while trying to intervene, local police said in a statement.

Immediately following the attack, he

underwent “emergency surgery and was put in an artificial coma”, but “died of his injuries” yesterday, police said.

Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, said he was “deeply saddened” by the death following the “terrible attack”.

“His commitment to the safety of all of us deserves the highest recognition,” Scholz said on X, formerly Twitter.

Christian Lindner, the German finance minister, told German tabloid *Bild* that the death “moves me deeply and makes me angry about what is happening in our country”.

“We must defend ourselves against Islamist terrorism with determination, and we will also strengthen the security authorities financially,” Lindner said.

On Friday, Nancy Faeser, the interior

minister, said in a statement: “If the investigations reveal an Islamist motive, this would be a further confirmation of the great danger posed by Islamist acts of violence.”

Germany has been on high alert for possible Islamist attacks since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war, with the country’s domestic intelligence chief warning that the risk of such assaults is “real and higher than it has been for a long time”.

The country had also seen a spate of attacks on politicians ahead of EU elections on June 9. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the president, said last week that he was worried by the trend and Germans “must never get used to violence in the battle of political opinions”.

Only
£28pm
for unlimited 5G data.

Airtime price rises each April by the Consumer Price Index rate of inflation + 3.9%.



Save
£120

Ends 25.06



Scan to shop

BIG
DEALS
FOR ALL

On The Nation's Network



Terms apply: [vodafone.co.uk/terms](https://www.vodafone.co.uk/terms). £120 saving achieved over 36 months (was £33, now £28 subject to April Annual Price Rise.) The Nation's Network: Vodafone UK, supporting the nation since 1984. Info: www.vodafone.co.uk/network. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+ Direct debit required.

I'm OK with going to prison, admits Trump

But former president warns he is not sure the public would stand for it after guilty verdict in trial

By Susie Coen

DONALD TRUMP said he is “OK” with being jailed but warned his followers may reach “breaking point” if he is sentenced to prison.

Trump, 77, became the first US president convicted of a crime on Thursday when a New York jury found him guilty on 34 charges of falsifying documents to cover up an alleged affair.

The Republican nominee now faces a punishment of up to four years in prison when he is sentenced on July 11.

Legal experts have argued he is more likely to be given a sentence of home confinement or probation, but others

claim his campaign of attacks against Judge Juan Merchan, who will decide his sentence, could backfire.

“I’m OK with it,” Trump told Fox News when asked about his potential incarceration in his first interview since conviction.

“I saw one of my lawyers the other day on television saying, ‘Oh no, you don’t want to do that to the president.’ I said: ‘You don’t beg for anything, that’s just the way it is.’”

But while Trump said he is at peace with the prospect of a prison sentence, he suggested his supporters may not. They ransacked the Capitol when Trump refused to recognise the 2020 election result.

“I’m not sure the public would stand for it,” he said of a possible prison sentence.

“I think it would be tough for the public to take, you know, at a certain point, there’s a breaking point,” he

‘I have a wonderful wife who has to listen to this stuff all the time ... She’s fine, but I think it’s very hard for her’

added. Trump’s warning will resonate in a country already concerned about the prospect of unrest and political harassment in the run-up to the November election. He still faces trial for inciting an insurrection.

The Telegraph revealed that Secret Service chiefs are working out plans to facilitate Trump’s round-the-clock protection if he is sentenced to prison.

All former presidents are entitled by law to 24-hour security for life, making the task of finding suitable accommodation trickier.

If Trump is given a sentence of up to a year, he will likely be sent to the “VIP” west wing of the notorious Rikers Island prison in the Bronx.

If he is given a longer stint, he will need to be housed in a state prison.

During the Fox News interview, which aired yesterday, Trump also said the trial had been “tougher” on his family than himself.

“I have a wonderful wife who has to listen to this stuff all the time,” he said. “She’s fine, but I think it’s very hard for her. I mean, she’s fine. But it’s ... you know, she has to read all this crap.”

Melania Trump, his wife, was notably absent from Manhattan Criminal Court throughout Trump’s trial. While his children Eric, Don Jr and Tiffany attended days of the hearing to support their father, Mrs Trump and his daughter Ivanka did not.

The former president also insisted he is the only person who could endure what he has described as a political “witch hunt” orchestrated by Joe Biden, the president.

He said: “A lot of people said, ‘We have no choice but to elect Trump... he’s the only one that can withstand this.’

“Don’t forget, if it weren’t me they’d be going into somebody else and I know a lot of the competition, they wouldn’t do so well. They’d be saying, ‘Mommy,

US ELECTIONS 2024

For all our US Election coverage visit [telegraph.co.uk/us-election](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/us-election)

take me home, I want to go home, this is brutal!”

It came as Stormy Daniels, the adult film star, called for Trump to be sentenced to prison as she broke her silence on the verdict.

“I think he should be sentenced to jail and some community service working for the less fortunate, or being the volunteer punching bag at a women’s shelter,” Ms Daniels told the *Sunday Mirror*.

A \$130,000 (£102,000) hush money payment to Ms Daniels was at the centre of Trump’s criminal trial.

Yesterday, Eric Trump said his father’s campaign had raised “over \$200million” since Thursday’s conviction. He said his wife Lara, co-chair of the Republican National Committee, told him they had raised “well over \$70million” in small donations.

“If you add the large dollar donations to it, you’re over \$200 million”, he added.

French enfant terrible starts magazine for OAP angst

By Peter Allen in Paris

UK viewers remember him as the enfant terrible of youth cult TV – a comic book Frenchman who never stopped poking fun at the stuffy old British.

Now Antoine de Caunes, once the outspoken anchor of Channel 4 hit *Eurotrash* and *Rapido* on the BBC, is himself a septuagenarian, and focused on highlighting the problems of the elderly.

He has just launched a magazine called *Vieux* (Old) in his home city of Paris, with an initial nationwide print run of 100,000.

“It’s about taking a step back, at a time when we celebrate youthfulness, vitality and immediacy,” said De Caunes, who turned 70 last December.

“What interests me is today. Although I am old, I feel like I have the appetite of a 20-year-old kid.”

Those who remember De Caunes in his heyday will recall how he joined Jean-Paul Gaultier, the fashion designer, to discuss current affairs and celebrity culture.

Low-budget features on *Eurotrash* included underwear shopping with Australian singer Kylie Minogue and sex talk with model Carla Bruni, who went on to marry French president Nicolas Sarkozy.

There was even a special edition on the eve of the EU referendum in 2016, which reminded the British that without “crazy continentals” they were part of a “a very sad and insignificant little island with bad food and terrible teeth”.

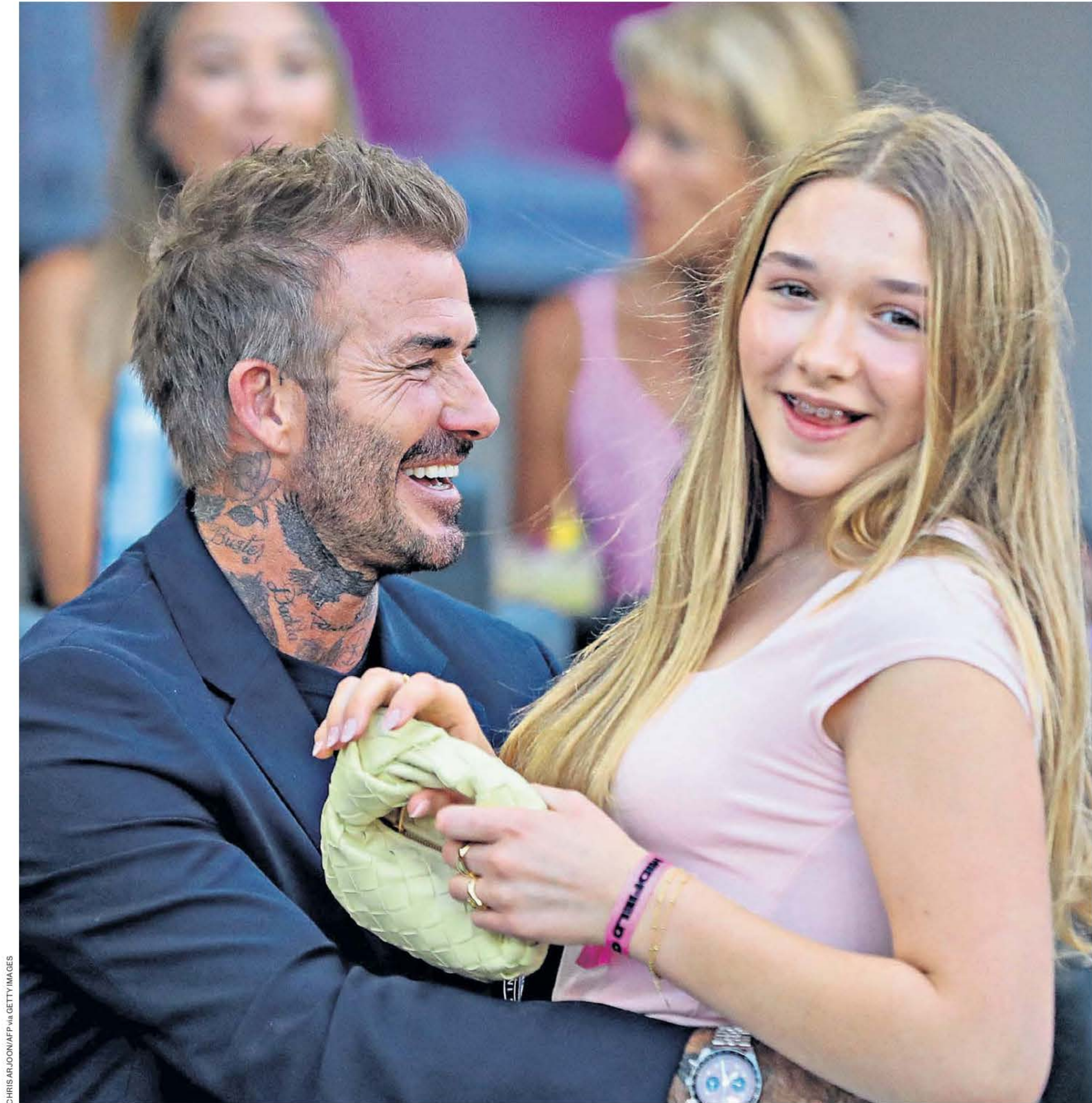
At the height of his popularity, De Caunes said: “You Brits allow one Froggie per generation to make it in England.

“You’ve had Maurice Chevalier and Sacha Distel, and I feel it’s an honour to be accepted in England.”

Given De Caunes’s background, *Vieux* is by no means a French version of the *The Oldie*, the successful British monthly for readers at an advanced stage in life, founded by Richard Ingrams, the former *Private Eye* editor and now edited by Harry Mount.

Instead, De Caunes has promised plenty of challenging features that will be of interest to people of every generation.

Editorial director Romain Jubert said: “A press adventure in 2024 is truly an adventure, and we are lucky to do it with Antoine – someone who has been young for longer than the rest of us.”



That’s my girl

Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham shares a moment of joy with his daughter Harper during his club’s 3-3 draw with St Louis City at the Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, yesterday.

Hunter Biden’s ‘24/7 crack habit’ to be brought up at firearms trial

By Susie Coen
US CORRESPONDENT in New York

HUNTER BIDEN’S own admission to smoking crack “every 15 minutes” around the time he bought a firearm is expected to be used against him as he becomes the first child of a sitting US president to go on trial today.

Joe Biden’s son faces up to 25 years in prison if found guilty of three counts of possessing a firearm while addicted to drugs, illegal under federal law.

The trial is the latest saga for the lobbyist-turned-artist who has for years

been consumed by legal troubles and controversies that are said to have plagued his father’s re-election campaign.

The trial comes days after the US president said “no one is above the law” after Donald Trump was convicted of 34 counts of falsifying business records.

Republicans are expected to seize upon any lurid details that come out of the trial in a bid to “distract” from Trump’s historic conviction.

The Democrat leader’s only surviving son, 54, has pleaded not guilty to three charges stemming from his pur-

chase of a .38-caliber Colt Cobra revolver in 2018 when he was addicted to drugs.

He will go on trial in the family’s home town of Wilmington, Delaware, on two counts of making false statements on paperwork for the gun purchase that he was not using drugs illegally.

He faces a third charge that he illegally possessed the gun – which he had for only 11 days in October 2018.

Christopher Galdiери, a professor of politics at St Anselm’s College, Merseyside, said Trump may use the

younger Biden’s trial in a bid to “provoke” the Democrat leader during the first presidential debate later this month.

“I think it’s going to be a lot like the Access Hollywood tape in 2016, where that broke and I think that same day WikiLeaks started posting Hillary Clinton’s emails,” he told *The Telegraph*. “I think the Republicans are hoping that this can distract... but I don’t know that that’s going to compete with Trump’s felony conviction when Trump is the one who is actually a candidate.”

The prosecution is expected to introduce evidence, including pictures, text messages and his claim in his 2021 memoir *Beautiful Things* that he was smoking crack cocaine “24 hours a day every 15 minutes, seven days a week” despite stating on a federal form that he was not using any illegal drugs when he purchased the gun.

‘Republicans are hoping that this can distract... I don’t know that it’s going to compete with Trump’

The defence team has pushed for narrow definitions of the terms “addict” and “user” and requested instructions requiring an acquittal if the jury determines that the defendant did not consider himself to fit those definitions.

One of the key witnesses against Hunter Biden is expected to be Hallie Biden, his brother Beau’s widow, with whom he became romantically involved after his brother’s death.

Hunter Biden faces separate tax evasion charges in his home state of California, in a case set to go to trial later in the year.

Trump joins TikTok after trying to ban app

By Our Foreign Staff

DONALD TRUMP has joined TikTok, despite attempting to ban the Chinese-owned app, ahead of the US presidential election in November.

The former president posted a launch video on his account on Saturday night. The video showed Trump greeting fans at an Ultimate Fighting Championship event in Newark, New Jersey.

The account, called President Donald J Trump and with the address @real-donaldtrump, had more than 450,000 followers by 8am GMT.

ByteDance, the China-based tech giant that owns the short video social media platform, is challenging in courts a US law that came into effect in April requiring it to sell TikTok by next January or face a ban.

The White House says it wants to see Chinese-based ownership of the platform ended on national security grounds, but not a ban on TikTok.

TikTok has argued that it will not share US user data with the Chinese government and that it has taken substantial measures to protect the privacy of its users.

Trump attempted to ban TikTok in 2020 when he was president, but was blocked by the courts.

He accused TikTok of peddling pro-China and anti-Israel propaganda, adding that Facebook was an American company which is “not owned and controlled by the Chinese government”.

Trump said in March that the platform was a national security threat, but also that a ban on it would hurt some young people and only strengthen Meta’s Facebook, which he has strongly criticised.

Joe Biden’s reelection campaign joined the app in February.



Donald Trump has joined TikTok ahead of the US presidential election in November

form ended on national security grounds, but not a ban on TikTok.

TikTok has argued that it will not share US user data with the Chinese government and that it has taken substantial measures to protect the privacy of its users.

Trump attempted to ban TikTok in 2020 when he was president, but was blocked by the courts.

He accused TikTok of peddling pro-China and anti-Israel propaganda, adding that Facebook was an American company which is “not owned and controlled by the Chinese government”.

Trump said in March that the platform was a national security threat, but also that a ban on it would hurt some young people and only strengthen Meta’s Facebook, which he has strongly criticised.

Joe Biden’s reelection campaign joined the app in February.

China lands probe on dark side of the Moon

By Our Foreign Staff

CHINA’S Chang’e-6 lunar probe successfully landed on the far side of the Moon to collect samples, state news agency Xinhua reported yesterday – the latest leap for Beijing’s decades-old space programme.

The Chang’e-6 set down in the immense South Pole-Aitken Basin, one of the largest known impact craters in the solar system, Xinhua said, citing the China National Space Administration.

It marks the first time that samples will be collected from the rarely explored area of the Moon, according to the agency.

The Chang’e-6 is on a technically complex 53-day mission that began on May 3. Now that the probe has landed, it will attempt to scoop up lunar soil and rocks, and carry out other experiments in the landing zone.

That process should be complete within two days, Xinhua said. The probe will use two methods of collection: a drill to collect samples under the surface and a robotic arm to grab specimens from the surface.

Then it must attempt an unprecedented launch from the side of the Moon that always faces away from Earth.

Scientists say the Moon’s dark side – so-called because it is invisible from Earth, not because it never catches the sun’s rays – holds great promise for research because its craters are less covered by ancient lava flows than the near side.

Material collected from the dark side may better shed light on how the Moon formed in the first place.

Plans for China’s “space dream” have been put into overdrive under President Xi Jinping.

Beijing has poured huge resources into its space programme over the past decade, targeting a string of ambitious undertakings in an effort to close the gap with the two traditional space powers – the United States and Russia.

It has notched up several achievements, including building a space station called *Tiangong*, “heavenly palace”.

Beijing has landed robotic rovers on Mars and the Moon, and China is only the third country to independently put humans in orbit.

But Washington has warned that China’s space programme is being used to mask military objectives and an effort to establish dominance in space.

China aims to send a crewed mission to the Moon by 2030 and plans to build a base on the lunar surface.

The United States is also planning to put astronauts back on the Moon by 2026 with its Artemis 3 mission.

Gun-toting woman seeks to become leader of Iran

Hardline radical who endorsed execution of protesters could be state's first female president

By Melanie Swan

A RADICAL Iranian MP who pushed for executions of protesters has stepped forward to become the country's first female presidential candidate.

Zohreh Elahian has registered to run in the country's snap elections at the end of June following the sudden death of Ebrahim Raisi, its former president, last month in a helicopter crash.

A staunch supporter of Ali Khamenei, the country's supreme leader, she could potentially become the first woman ever allowed to stand if approved by the Guardian Council, which vets all potential candidates.

A physician by trade and former member of the parliament's national



Zohreh Elahian was sanctioned by Canada for her views on execution

security and foreign policy committee, she has been an MP twice, though no woman has ever been allowed to stand for president.

The hardliner was sanctioned by Canada in March for endorsing the death penalty for protesters involved in the Women, Life, Freedom movement as suppression of the hijab rebellion continues to sweep across Iran and state enforcement deepens. Over 550 protesters were killed by state security after the 2022 uprising in the wake of the killing of Mahsa Amini by Iran's morality police, and last year alone, over 800 Iranians were executed.

Mrs Elahian now awaits the decision of the country's Guardian Council, which is in charge of interpreting the country's Islamic constitution, with the election motto "a healthy government,

a healthy economy and a healthy society". By law, women are not allowed to stand for president, but her possible candidacy hangs on an interpretation of the Arabic terminology for "men" – and if it is a reference to a more generic term for "figures" or "people".

Mrs Elahian, who was photographed with a sniper rifle last year while on an MP delegation to an arms exhibition, is seen by some women in Iran as the epitome of the misogynistic regime where sexual violence has become a systemic means of punishing women and hundreds continue to be rounded up in violent suppression of hijab rebellion.

Dowlat Nowrouzi, the UK Representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran and opposition group, said: "This is merely a ridiculous spectacle of a regime drowning in a quagmire of crises. No one will be deceived by these absurd gambits. The regime in Tehran oppresses and assaults women daily on the streets under the pretext of hijab enforcement. In this regime, elections are meaningless, it is a selection."

She said the strict Islamic constitution will not allow a woman to join the ranks. "The clerical regime does not even tolerate a single woman in the cabinet. According to Article 115 of the regime's constitution, 'the president must be among the men'. The women of Iran know that the only way to achieve freedom and equal rights is through regime change by the people and the Resistance."

Melanie Joly, Canada's foreign affairs minister, announced the sanctions against Mrs Elahian on International Women's Day in March, saying that she had used her "positions of influence to call for or carry out increasingly repressive measures against women and girls in Iran".

Mrs Elahian has been at the heart of Iran's controversial policy-making apparatus. While serving as a member of parliament's national security and foreign policy committee, she was one of 227 lawmakers in Iran who signed a letter requesting the execution of protesters in the wake of the 2022 uprising.

Earlier that year, she claimed that if talks to restore the 2015 nuclear deal did not continue in line with the country's interests after Donald Trump, the then US president, pulled out of the deal, they were not essential.

She said at the time that "all sanctions must be lifted, and we must certainly obtain a credible guarantee from the United States so that we do not face another withdrawal from the agreement and the return of sanctions".



'This is merely a ridiculous spectacle of a regime drowning in a quagmire of crises'

Zohreh Elahian posed with a sniper rifle last year while on an MP delegation to an arms exhibition

We will not replace Ramaphosa, South Africa's ruling party vows after election loss

By Our Foreign Staff

SOUTH AFRICA'S ruling party has vowed not to replace Cyril Ramaphosa after calls for the president to step down to allow coalition talks to go ahead.

Official results from Wednesday's vote show the African National Congress (ANC) has lost its grip on political power for the first time in 30 years.

The result means that the ANC must now share power, in the form of a coalition, in order to keep it – an unprecedented prospect since the democratic end of white minority rule in 1994.

In two weeks, a new parliament will sit to choose a president, who would likely emerge from the ANC.

The party's poor showing has fuelled speculation that Mr Ramaphosa's days might be numbered, either because of the demands of a prospective coalition

partner or as a result of an internal leadership challenge.

Fikile Mbalula, the party's secretary general, said yesterday that the ANC would not bend to pressure from other parties that Mr Ramaphosa must step down. "That is a no-go area," he said.

Before Wednesday's vote, the ANC had won every national election by a landslide since 1994. But voters, angry at joblessness, inequality and rolling blackouts, withdrew their support for the party to 40 per cent, down from 57.5 per cent in the 2019 parliamentary vote.

Yesterday, during the first press briefing the ANC has held since the polls, Mr Mbalula said: "Did we commit mistakes? Yes, we did. In governance and everywhere else."

He said the ANC would be having discussions internally and with other parties to create national and provisional

governments "that reflect the will of the people and that are able to take the country forward".

The white-led, pro-business Democratic Alliance (DA), received 21.8 per cent of votes in the election, while uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) – a new party led by Jacob Zuma, the former president, and named after the ANC's former armed wing – took 14.6 per cent.

The far-Left Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) got 9.5 per cent.

The leaderships of the DA and the small Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) were due to meet separately yesterday.

Local media reported that the DA could be open to entering a cooperation pact with the ANC. The IFP could also be part of such a deal.

Mr Mbalula said the ANC's leadership would meet tomorrow for discussions on the way forward.

Modi hopes for 'super majority' to redraw Indian constitution as polling lead grows

By George Johnson

INDIA'S Narendra Modi is on course to win a "super majority" early exit polls showed, stoking fears he will use sweeping powers to change the constitution amid a rising tide of nationalism.

The polls show an unexpected growth in support for Mr Modi, with his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party predicted to win more than 350 of the 543 seats up for grabs.

If that happens, he would have the two-thirds majority in parliament he needs to change the constitution, which his opponents say he plans to do.

Right-wing Hindus have been campaigning to transform India from a secular state into a Hindu one, or Hindu Rashtra.

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, or RSS, have been most prominent in

this campaign and hugely influential in Mr Modi's policies and personality.

The Right-wing paramilitary group, which helped sweep Mr Modi to victory in 2014 by depicting him as the great redeemer of Hinduism, have long resisted foreign political and economic influence.

On Saturday, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed Mr Modi's party "have openly said they will change, scrap, finish and throw out the constitution if they win the election".

Support for Mr Modi, 73, has been growing despite record-high unemployment, soaring inflation and growing inequality. His party's performance this year looks set to surpass that of 2019 when it won 303 seats.

His growing appeal is largely down to what his supporters and critics say is an amping up of nationalism to appeal to

Hindus, who make up 80 per cent of the country's 1.4 billion population.

In January, he caused outrage among Muslims when he fulfilled a long-held demand from the RSS that he open a Hindu temple on the site of a demolished 16th-century mosque. He has also been accused of giving Islamophobic speeches.

If Mr Modi wins another term, many fear India will drift even further towards Right-wing ideologies and embolden the BJP to change India's secular constitution, curtail civil liberties and further marginalise India's minorities, especially Muslims.

Mallikarjun Kharge, the Opposition Congress president, said on Wednesday: "In this election, if you don't defeat the BJP, then both our constitution and democracy will be at risk, along with your future."

Three friends in final embrace before being swept away by flood

By Josephine McKenna in Rome

THREE young friends including two lovers were filmed in a heartbreaking final embrace before they were swept away by flash floods in northern Italy.

Patrizia Cormos, 20, her friend Bianca Doros, 23, and her boyfriend Cristian Molnar, 25, had decided to take a stroll along the Natisone River near Udine in the northern Friuli region when the river surged to dangerous levels after days of torrential rain.

The two women and man, all in their 20s, were last seen alive on Friday standing thigh deep in the swirling river water on a tiny island they walked to in the middle of the river.

Video shared from the scene as rescue efforts were underway showed the trio hugging each other as they remained trapped in the rising torrent unable to reach the riverbank.

Giorgio Basile, chief of the provincial firefighters in Udine, said: "We threw them a rope, but they were literally swallowed up by the flood waters in front of our eyes. We watched them disappear."

Ms Cormos and Ms Doros, a Romanian who was reportedly visiting her family, were found about 1km from where they were last seen. As the search continues for Mr Molnar, who is also Romanian, prosecutors opened an investigation into the tragedy.

One of the women had made an emergency call to police at about 1.35pm on Friday and firefighters quickly arrived at the scene.

One firefighter urged them to stick together from a nearby bridge as emergency workers attempted to throw them a rope but the three were carried away by the swiftly moving current.

Firefighters and other emergency workers have been using drones, boats and divers to sweep the river for any sign of the missing since Friday.

A handbag of one of the women was recovered reportedly containing the mobile that made the emergency call.

"The main element is not so much the rain, it is the power of the river, the very strong currents," Mr Basile said. "There are gorges, there is a backwash of water and even for the experts it is a particularly treacherous task." Patrizia Cormos was a student at



From top, Bianca Doros, Cristian Molnar and Patrizia Cormos were seen hugging before they disappeared in the water



the Academy of Fine Arts in Udine and she had asked her mother if she could join her friends for a drive on Friday after finishing an exam.

The three friends drove to Premariacco Beach near Udine and walked down to the river. Miss Doros, who was studying economics in Bucharest, had arrived in Udine a few days earlier to visit her parents while her boyfriend, who was also Romanian, had travelled from Austria to see them.

The families of the victims had not made any public comment late last night but the mother of Miss Cormos was quoted in the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, before her daughter's body was found.

"I had told her not to go, because she was tired," her mother reportedly said in tears, without mentioning her daughter by name.

"But she said 'we are just going to hang out for a bit and take some photos. Come on mum, don't be angry'."

Michele De Sabata, mayor of the nearby town of Premariacco, expressed his sympathy on behalf of the community.

"They found themselves in an unpredictable situation. Those who



live in Premariacco know the river and how conditions can change quickly. The three kids arrived when it was sunny.

"They could not have known what was about to happen. It only took minutes."

Heavy floods have caused widespread chaos across northern Italy in areas including Milan, Varese and Cremona in the past two weeks.

Violent storms struck the Friuli and Veneto regions in mid-May and there is further rain forecast in the north of Italy this week.



Labour’s assault on rural Britain goes on

Tony Blair has notably described the Hunting Act 2004 as one of the domestic legislative measures which caused him greatest “regret”. By his own admission, the former prime minister failed to grasp the role that one of this nation’s most misunderstood pursuits plays in rural life, communities and traditions. Yet Labour is now promising to double down on this mistake.

An honest assessment of the legislation would expose how poorly written and harmful the ban has proved to be. Concerns raised in the early 2000s that it would be near unenforceable unless the police significantly distorted their priorities fell on deaf ears. Yet studies have since shown that officers often have only a very limited understanding of the ban and there are obvious difficulties in proving offences, with investigations absorbing police time that many would prefer was spent tackling serious crime. Though activists maintain that animal welfare is under threat, research indicates that fox populations have plummeted since the 2004 Act, as farmers have resorted to other means of control.

The modern Labour Party does not share its former leader’s remorse. Shadow environment secretary Steve Reed has said Labour would close loopholes in the existing ban that allow some types of hunting to go on, namely trail hunting, where dogs follow a pre-laid scent rather than a wild animal. Although this activity is considered by many as benign, the mere sight of horses and hounds in rural England seemingly remains offensive to urban-rooted class warriors.

Tim Bonner, the head of the Countryside Alliance, has described the proposals as “absurd”. The impact of restrictions, he says, would be “devastating”.

In a similar vein to the proposed punitive VAT levy on independent school fees, Labour may hope that revisiting the hunting issue will help the party portray the Conservatives, and the Prime Minister, as preoccupied with the concerns of a privileged elite. But just as many parents who choose to educate their children privately do not conform to the Left’s stereotype – hunting is very mixed, socially.

After 14 years in power, the Tories have done little to reverse Blair’s restrictions on rural culture. More often than not, proposed free votes on the foxhunting ban have been dropped. If Labour triumphs on July 4, hunting will be outlawed once and for all. Rishi Sunak has a golden opportunity to put his party on the side of rural Britain – and let sleeping foxes lie.

Protecting women

Over the course of the past decade, the rights of women have been repeatedly compromised to satisfy the needs and demands of trans activists. Only recently have some politicians begun to articulate what has been clear to most people in Britain: that while trans people deserve dignity, the biological difference between the two sexes is not contestable.

A long overdue correction is now under way. With new guidance in place, schools can feel confident consulting the parents of pupils who may wish to socially transition. Ministers have accepted the findings of the Cass Review, and children will not be routinely prescribed puberty blockers.

As Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer writes in today’s *Telegraph*, the Conservative Party is pledging to change the Equality Act, to make clear that the protected characteristic “sex” is “biological sex”, marks an important next step. This means it will be easier to bar trans people from female sports and single-sex spaces. At present the legislation, it has been argued, can be exploited to undermine women’s rights, security and competition in sport.

Doubtless groups such as Stonewall will mobilise in opposition to this wording change, given it pushes them further into retreat. But that must not stop politicians of all stripes from lending it their support. In one of its last acts in office, the last Labour government passed the Equality Act. In the 14 years since, the number of people who identify as a different gender from their biological sex has increased substantially. The status quo is untenable.

How will this operate in practice? If re-elected, the Conservatives must ensure that those expected to implement this tweaked legislation are given the confidence and reassurance to do so.

Raising Spitfires

Between 1938 and 1948 over 20,000 Spitfire fighter planes were built. Remarkably, about 60 of them are still in working order, 80 years on – and that number is slowly climbing. More vintage planes are being restored and gradually brought back to life. Biggin Hill Heritage Hangar, opened on the site of the Second World War fighter station RAF Biggin Hill in 2011, is currently working on returning its 17th Spitfire to working order. As the heroism of the war fades from direct, personal memory, these remarkable machines will continue to bear witness to the achievements of the extraordinary men who flew them and to whom we all owe so much. Some of the planes restored at Biggin Hill will fly in commemorations for the 80th anniversary of D-Day this week. These restorations are as worthy as those of any artistic masterpiece.



We accept letters by post and email. Please include name, address, work and home telephone numbers.

111 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0DT

EMAIL dletters@telegraph.co.uk

NEWSLETTER Sign up to receive Letters to the Editor every Friday at telegraph.co.uk/letters

FOLLOW [@TelegraphLetters](https://twitter.com/TelegraphLetters)

Donald Trump has demonstrated that he is unfit to hold office again

SIR – Donald Trump’s tirades on being found guilty in a court of law (report, June 1) confirm what we all know. He is emotional, irrational and unpredictable. The American people cannot again allow the hand of such a man anywhere near the nuclear button.

Antony Mackenzie-Smith
Abergavenny, Monmouthshire

SIR – Boris Johnson is wrong to offer his support to the now convicted criminal Donald Trump (report, June 1). Although the hush-money case was the least important of Mr Trump’s four indictments, it followed the procedures of New York State law. The trial was conducted fairly and impartially by Judge Juan Merchan, and decided by a jury of 12 of Mr Trump’s peers.

Mr Johnson says: “I believe that Donald Trump – at his best – could offer the world the strong, confident leadership that it needs”. But that’s the problem: no one knows which Donald

Trump we would get. He is very far from the “stable genius” that he claims. John Bolton – the former national security adviser, who worked for Mr Trump and, in common with many other former administration officials, now opposes his re-election – has made clear that foreign policy is considered by him to be exclusively a matter of personal relations between “big men”. He admires powerful dictators. At a particularly dangerous time in global affairs, it would be foolhardy to put the nuclear codes and the might of the world’s superpower at the mercy of his unprincipled and self-serving whims.

Dr John Law
Feliasstowe, Suffolk

SIR – I always held an affectionate respect for Nigel Farage, and admired his work in forcing David Cameron’s hand over the EU referendum. But that respect has dissipated in the light of his adoration of the convicted criminal Donald Trump. Similarly, with that

other “Marmite” politician, Boris Johnson, I always fell into the “like” camp. He made a lot of excellent decisions as prime minister, and dealt well with the triple-whammy of Brexit, Covid and Ukraine. Yet, for me, his claim that Mr Trump’s conviction was a “liberal hit job” is a step too far. The contempt that Mr Trump displayed towards the court was unconscionable. Mr Johnson’s support for this behaviour suggests a deeply flawed moral compass and has led me, at least, to consign him, along with Mr Farage, to the wastelands of irrelevance. A great shame.

Simon Dilloway
Lopham, Norfolk

SIR – The United States has a population of nearly 335 million. Surely, among all those people, there must be better options for president than Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

Judy Harckham
Southampton



Route exceptionnel: a road cuts through vineyards in Alsace, north-eastern France

France’s roads are kilometres ahead of Britain’s

SIR – Having spent most of the past month travelling by car across the length of France, I was interested to read David Allen’s letter (“France’s flawless roads”, June 1).

I can confirm that the surfaces are invariably superb, and hold-ups very rare. Indeed, it was a shock to return to the poor surfaces and traffic delays so widely experienced in Britain.

I also enjoyed using the French trains on the south coast, many of which were “double-deckers”

designed to increase capacity. I wonder if this option has been considered here.

Anthony Cutler
Great Malvern, Worcestershire

SIR – Like Mr Allen, we recently enjoyed a few weeks of pothole-free driving in France – until last week, that is, when one appeared in the tiny, remote lane leading to our gîte. It was repaired the following day.

Howard Stephens
Burgh St Peter, Norfolk

Junior doctors have a right to expect better

SIR – Peter Toghill (Letters, June 1) complains that proposed industrial action by junior doctors is contrary to the views of much of the medical profession and most patients.

Yet compare the salary of some newly qualified solicitors – £150,000, according to your report (May 30) – with that of newly qualified doctors (about £40,000). While I have no doubt that most young solicitors work hard, junior doctors not only work long, hard hours, but also make life-and-death decisions day in, day out. It is understandable if they feel undervalued and wonder whether they have chosen the wrong career.

Helen Savage
Chesham, Buckinghamshire

SIR – Peter Toghill says he is ashamed of his profession. I have just retired after 41 years of working in the NHS. The crux of the matter is that

successive governments have eroded the professionalism and autonomy of doctors. I hear colleagues in their mid-consultant careers saying they can’t wait to retire. These are the doctors we desperately need in order to keep the NHS on track.

Politicians must get doctors on side. Labour’s mooted plan to reintroduce the pensions lifetime allowance is a good example of how not to do this.

Dr Mike Copp
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

SIR – Sir Keir Starmer has said he will use spare capacity in the private sector for NHS patients – but this already happens. Labour also says it will make NHS staff work at weekends. Perhaps it can explain how overstretched staff can safely work even more hours, further undermining their work-life balance.

Rodney Enderby
Banbury, Oxfordshire

The value of a degree

SIR – Michael Deacon (Features, May 30) is correct: “Mickey Mouse” degrees should be scrapped. However, he appears to misunderstand the value of studying the “grander” subjects at university. This does not necessarily lie in the subject itself, but in the skills associated with a degree, such as the ability to produce a coherent argument and carry out in-depth research.

But a university education is not solely about the course being studied. It also often involves attending other talks, lectures and possibly short courses. Mr Deacon should ask himself why the big four accountancy firms, for example, are keen to employ graduates of non-cognate subjects such as English and classics. It is because they possess the skills outlined above.

Dr Annie Boon
Wantage, Oxfordshire

SIR – Fiona Wild (Letters, May 30) rightly fears for the future of music in private schools as a result of Labour’s proposed VAT on fees.

Alas, the subject has long been sidelined in the state system, not just since Covid. Instrumental teachers could once earn a salaried wage visiting several schools on a peripatetic basis. This led to an explosion of youth orchestras, through which youngsters from all backgrounds could enjoy the experience of performing. No longer – and most parents in underprivileged areas cannot afford private tuition.

Moreover, should universities stop offering music degrees, the result will be a lack of teachers to pass their skills on to the next generation.

Ros Groves
Watford, Hertfordshire

Proper coffee

SIR – I must disagree with Duncan Rayner (Letters, June 1). Caffè Nero, not Costa, is the best of the high street coffee shops, and home-brewed heaven is achieved by using Taylors of Harrogate “Rich Italian” beans (strength four).

Kevin Duffy
Manchester

SIR – I take issue with Duncan Rayner’s claim that ground coffee should be stored in an airtight container and never in the freezer.

Ground coffee stored in a pantry will only stay fresh for a month unless it is vacuum sealed, whereas in the freezer it will keep for up to six. For decades I have enjoyed delicious home-brewed coffee made from frozen ground beans stored for several months.

Ian Statham
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

November’s election is now a referendum on whether Trump should go to prison – or the White House

TIM STANLEY



When the news of the Trump verdict came over the car radio, I almost had to pull over. My thought was: “This is Fort Sumter”. Just as when the South decided to shell a Northern-held fort in 1861, it felt like the no-turning-back first shot fired in an inevitable civil war.

Why was I so shocked? We’ve known this was coming for weeks and the trials of Donald J Trump have barely moved the polls. But the American public has always said a conviction is important, for it changes the nature of the election.

Two horrible things can be true at once. Trump governed intemperately, lost the 2020 election, refused to concede and, at the very least, was the inspiration for an insurrection on January 6 2021.

But it’s also accurate to say he’s been the target of a conspiracy to deny him office. The Democrats had every chance to nominate a competent alternative in 2020. Instead they chose Joe Biden, a zombie who they couldn’t persuade to

stand aside in 2024. Far from uniting the country, he has put Trump back into contention.

Uncertain they could beat him at the ballot box, the Democrats turned to the courts, attacking every conceivable aspect of his career – from sex to business to his mishandling of White House paperwork – across several states. The strategy was absurd. It’s usually reserved for gangsters like Al Capone.

So, no, I wasn’t psychologically prepared for a conviction in New York because the case should never have been brought; tampering business records shouldn’t have been linked to election influence; and Stormy Daniels should never have given testimony irrelevant to the case.

It all seemed so preposterous. Legal experts now say it’s highly unlikely that the sentence, to be handed down on July 11, will include prison – but if prison is possible, I’d put money on it happening. It’s clear that the goal of this exercise isn’t to prove the banal point that no one is above the law. It is to stop Trump serving another full term.

His campaign won’t end; he might wind up running for president while being barred from voting. Trump has pledged to appeal: if he makes it to the White House, he cannot then pardon himself as this is a state case, not federal. By that point, Ms Daniels will be the least of his problems anyway. Three fresh criminal trials will probably have started. Trump is hoping the Supreme Court will excuse him from one; his powers of presidential

self-pardon will be tested in the others.

Either way, given how easy it was to convict him in New York on such silly charges, we can expect him to face ongoing, aggressive legal jeopardy.

In short, the November election is crystallised in the mind as not about jobs or war, but a referendum on whether or not Trump should be in prison. Whatever the outcome, America will lose. Either it gets a president with a rap sheet, which would be a national humiliation, or Trump is defeated, cries fraud, does time and there is violence from his supporters. Those who think you can restore normalcy by locking him up are deluded.

There was already a riot on January 6, which cast minds back to the worst of the 1960s or the racist Red Summer of 1919. Four presidents have previously been assassinated. White supremacists have blown up buildings and shot schoolkids.

By comparing 2024 to the civil war of 1861-65, I risk not only hyperbole but sacrilege, for the great cause of slavery abolition is absent – and the conflict is more difficult to define than Confederate v Union. But it is rural v urban, blue collar v educated, Christian v secular, with issues – such as abortion or immigration – that determine identity and defy compromise. The two parts of the nation hate each other.

Blame Trump for that, fine. But the Democrats have raised the stakes by calling him a wannabe dictator, implying that a second term would mark the end of the republic. And by

Labour’s hard Left

SIR – On May 6 1981, a nice, sensible man called Andrew McIntosh won the Greater London Council (now the Greater London Authority) for Labour.

The next day the Left-wingers called a meeting at which McIntosh was deposed and replaced by “Red Ken” Livingstone, with predictable results.

Do the recent manoeuvres by Angela Rayner and others (“Abbott allowed to stand at election after Rayner forces about-turn”, report, June 1) indicate a similar fate for “nice” Sir Keir Starmer? Or will he, once elected, revert to type and become the Ken Livingstone he was just five years ago, when he was actively promoting Jeremy Corbyn’s far-Left agenda?

Michael Tyce
Waterstock, Oxfordshire

SIR – I consider it very irresponsible of Margaret Humphreys (Letters, June 1) to encourage people to go to their polling stations and invalidate their ballot papers. As she rightly points out, we are lucky to live in a country where we are able to vote, and we should not abuse that right in such a childish way.

Rosemary Marshall
New Malden, Surrey

SIR – It has long been my view that, by law, there should be a box at the bottom of the candidates list on all ballot papers marked: “None of the above”. It could prove a serious vote-winner this time.

Gregory Shenkman
London SW7

SIR – Margaret Humphreys’s letter reminds me of the count on general election night when I was a Conservative candidate.

I argued to the acting returning officer that the sizeable pile of papers scrawled with ripe descriptions of me were actually a strong indication of support. He didn’t buy it.

Craig Heeley
Badminton, Gloucestershire

Out-of-touch Church

SIR – I admire and congratulate Anne Parrie-Smith (Letters, May 30) for her work to support her parish during the Covid pandemic.

However, these efforts were only necessary because the leaders of the Anglican Church took a unilateral decision to close our places of worship – a move so typical of the out-of-touch mentality among the top tier of the clergy today.

Dr Michael A Fopp
Soulbury, Buckinghamshire

Salcombe in winter

SIR – I can assure Ian Franklin (Letters, June 1) that if he visits Salcombe in winter he will find plenty of lights on, provided he looks in the right places.

As an ex-resident, I know lots of people who still live there. They are all on my Christmas card list.

Joy Strawbridge
Torquay, Devon

SIR – My question about holiday homes is: who sold the properties in the first place? Locals, surely.

P Farmer
Helmsley, North Yorkshire

Lord Lucan’s shopping

SIR – I may have been one of the last people to see Lord Lucan (report, June 1).

A few days before his disappearance he ordered a book at Heywood Hill in Curzon Street, where I then worked; I don’t remember the title. It was never collected, and subsequently I was interviewed by the police.

Professor Elizabeth Archibald
Cambridge

The United States is lurching towards civil war

November’s election is now a referendum on whether Trump should go to prison – or the White House

TIM STANLEY



When the news of the Trump verdict came over the car radio, I almost had to pull over. My thought was: “This is Fort Sumter”. Just as when the South decided to shell a Northern-held fort in 1861, it felt like the no-turning-back first shot fired in an inevitable civil war.

Why was I so shocked? We’ve known this was coming for weeks and the trials of Donald J Trump have barely moved the polls. But the American public has always said a conviction is important, for it changes the nature of the election.

Two horrible things can be true at once. Trump governed intemperately, lost the 2020 election, refused to concede and, at the very least, was the inspiration for an insurrection on January 6 2021.

But it’s also accurate to say he’s been the target of a conspiracy to deny him office. The Democrats had every chance to nominate a competent alternative in 2020. Instead they chose Joe Biden, a zombie who they couldn’t persuade to

stand aside in 2024. Far from uniting the country, he has put Trump back into contention.

Uncertain they could beat him at the ballot box, the Democrats turned to the courts, attacking every conceivable aspect of his career – from sex to business to his mishandling of White House paperwork – across several states. The strategy was absurd. It’s usually reserved for gangsters like Al Capone.

So, no, I wasn’t psychologically prepared for a conviction in New York because the case should never have been brought; tampering business records shouldn’t have been linked to election influence; and Stormy Daniels should never have given testimony irrelevant to the case.

It all seemed so preposterous. Legal experts now say it’s highly unlikely that the sentence, to be handed down on July 11, will include prison – but if prison is possible, I’d put money on it happening. It’s clear that the goal of this exercise isn’t to prove the banal point that no one is above the law. It is to stop Trump serving another full term.

His campaign won’t end; he might wind up running for president while being barred from voting. Trump has pledged to appeal: if he makes it to the White House, he cannot then pardon himself as this is a state case, not federal. By that point, Ms Daniels will be the least of his problems anyway. Three fresh criminal trials will probably have started. Trump is hoping the Supreme Court will excuse him from one; his powers of presidential

self-pardon will be tested in the others.

Either way, given how easy it was to convict him in New York on such silly charges, we can expect him to face ongoing, aggressive legal jeopardy.

In short, the November election is crystallised in the mind as not about jobs or war, but a referendum on whether or not Trump should be in prison. Whatever the outcome, America will lose. Either it gets a president with a rap sheet, which would be a national humiliation, or Trump is defeated, cries fraud, does time and there is violence from his supporters. Those who think you can restore normalcy by locking him up are deluded.

There was already a riot on January 6, which cast minds back to the worst of the 1960s or the racist Red Summer of 1919. Four presidents have previously been assassinated. White supremacists have blown up buildings and shot schoolkids.

By comparing 2024 to the civil war of 1861-65, I risk not only hyperbole but sacrilege, for the great cause of slavery abolition is absent – and the conflict is more difficult to define than Confederate v Union. But it is rural v urban, blue collar v educated, Christian v secular, with issues – such as abortion or immigration – that determine identity and defy compromise. The two parts of the nation hate each other.

Blame Trump for that, fine. But the Democrats have raised the stakes by calling him a wannabe dictator, implying that a second term would mark the end of the republic. And by

now labelling him as a criminal, they’ve put him totally beyond the pale.

Why there’s this special hate for him escapes me. The deadliest thing a president can do is go to war, yet Trump avoided it – while George W Bush declared two, killed millions, and is apparently the acceptable face of the Republican Party. Reality is less important than perception. Trump’s people attack Biden as a far-Left failure, yet he’s copying Trump’s policies at the border and the economy is going well.

An irrationality is entering Western politics. A recent movie by Alex Garland, *Civil War*, depicts a United States torn into several factions – and has been criticised for failing to say how the conflict started. But the fight is the point. All our mindless anger has to go somewhere, looking for the release valve of sanctioned violence, directed by the logic of wild rhetoric. In the 1850s, America witnessed prophetic killing at John Brown’s raid or Bleeding Kansas, but it was the election of 1860 that triggered all-out war – because the South believed Republican candidate Abraham Lincoln was the devil and his victory an existential threat.

Lincoln would have despised Trump, but also recognised in the present danger the death-wish that has haunted his country since its birth. Abe once observed that a country so blessed by geography and talent could never be conquered by outsiders: “As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”



MARKETS Week-on-week change				CURRENCIES Friday close	COMMODITIES Week-on-week change
FTSE 100 8275.38 -42.21(-0.51pc) 52WkHigh 8474.41 52WkLow 7215.76 Yield 3.66pc +0.03 P/E Ratio 13.74 -0.11	BIGGEST RISER Auto Trader Grp 816¼p +68% (+9.15pc) BIGGEST FALLER Flutter Enttrmt 14900p -1090.00 (-6.82pc)	DOW JONES 38686.32 -383.27(-0.98pc) 52WkHigh 40077.40 52WkLow 32327.20	FTSE 250 20730.12 ▼ -40.81 (-0.20pc) FTSE All Share 4517.08 ▼ -20.94 (-0.46pc) FTSE All Share Yield 3.62 ▲ +0.06 FTSE Eurotop 100 4076.06 ▼ -19.82 (-0.48pc) Nikkei 225 38487.90 ▼ -158.21 (-0.41pc) EURO STOXX 50 4983.67 ▼ -51.74 (-1.03pc) S&P 500 5277.51 ▼ -27.21 (-0.51pc) Nasdaq 16735.01 ▼ -185.78 (-1.10pc)	£\$ Rate 1.2732 Change -0.06¢	GOLD \$2328.02 (£1827) -6.32 (-0.27pc)
				£€ Rate 1.1728 Change -0.16¢	BRENT CRUDE \$81.62 (July) -0.50 (-0.61pc)

Keeping schtum
The days of the City's fat cats opining about politics are long gone
Lucy Burton
Page 18

Numbers game
Generalists are leaving the Civil Service in tatters – it is time to hand over the reins to mathematicians
Andrew Orlowski
Page 18

Councils to recoup £1.4bn to avoid collapse

Ministers have given 18 local authorities the green light to sell off assets in a bid to avoid bankruptcies

By **Melissa Lawford**

COUNCILS are preparing to recoup a record £1.4bn by cancelling investments and cashing in assets as they scramble to avoid bankruptcy.

The Government has given 18 councils the green light to sell off assets and mothball projects to release cash in a bid to avoid another wave of council bankruptcies before the nation heads to

the polls on July 4. In total, across 2024-25, councils will be allowed to release £1.4bn of their capital resources via land and property sales, redirecting their budgets, delaying maintenance spending and stopping other projects.

This will be 19 times the total given the go-ahead in 2018-19, with prices adjusted for inflation to today's prices

Use of so-called "capitalisation directions", an emergency measure that allows councils to meet their day-to-day costs by using capital resources, has surged by 58pc since 2023-24, according to analysis by the Institute for Government (IFG).

Birmingham council, which issued a Section 114 notice effectively declaring

bankruptcy last year, will be allowed to release £685m in cash this year. In total, since 2020, it has released £1.26bn in capitalisation directions.

At the start of this year, Birmingham council auctioned off 35 freehold properties, including a nursery, a former children's centre and industrial land. Bradford and Southampton councils will be allowed to free up £140m and £122m this year respectively.

The Government has ramped up the use of capitalisation directions in recent years. Between 2018-19 and 2022-23, the number of councils allowed to use their resources in this way increased from just one, Slough, to six local authorities. In the

past two years, the number has tripled to 18. Local authorities are grappling with a spiralling funding crisis as demands for services such as social care booms. Earlier this year, accountancy firm Grant Thornton warned that four in 10 local councils are at risk of going bust over the next five years.

Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, warned yesterday that Labour would not bail out bankrupt councils after the coming election, telling Sky News she was "not going to be able to fix all the problems straight away" and saying she would focus on reforming the planning system.

She added: "I'm under no illusions about the scale of the challenge that I

will inherit if I become chancellor later this year and I need to be honest with people. My focus is on reforming the planning system to get Britain building again. If we do those things, we will bring in the tax revenue and we will be able to invest in public services again. There's no shortcuts. That is the way."

Stuart Hoddinott, an IFG senior researcher, warned that the Government is using short-term measures that will make the crisis worse in the long term.

Mr Hoddinott said: "It's another, quieter way of supporting local authorities that doesn't make as big a headline as a local authority going bankrupt. The government decision to expand the use

of exceptional financial support, not to be too cynical, but may be a way of trying to avoid those section 114 notices."

More councils would probably have effectively declared themselves bankrupt if the Government had not increased use of exceptional financial support, Mr Hoddinott added. He said: "But it is not a sustainable solution. Obviously you can only sell buildings once, but your pressures are ongoing."

Analysts warned that councils are selling commercial property at the worst possible time, as the post-pandemic shift to home working has depressed prices of office buildings.

Analysis: Page 19



Car's the star Ellis Laing polishes her father's 1967 Ford Mustang Fastback – the model that featured in *Bullet* starring Steve McQueen – at yesterday's BVAC Classic car show at Thirlestane Castle in the Scottish Borders. More than 1,000 cars took part in the event to celebrate the Mustang's 60 years of production.

Oil output cut as Opec cartel attempts to shore up prices

By **Matt Oliver**

SAUDI ARABIA and Russia have persuaded members of the Opec oil cartel to extend deep production cuts until the end of 2025 in a fresh attempt to prop up prices in the face of US competition

Delegates from the group of oil-producing countries yesterday said they would extend all production squeezes in place, but there would be some variation in time scales.

The move will put upward pressure on prices. Brent crude is trading at some \$81 per barrel at a time when unexpectedly high US production and an economic slowdown in China are weighing on the market.

It came as Saudi Arabia yesterday completed a \$12bn (£9.4bn) Saudi Aramco share sale to fund Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman's "Vision 2030" to move its economy away from oil and towards industry and tourism.

Opec said the move aimed to "achieve and sustain a stable oil market, and to provide long-term guidance and transparency for the market".

The cartel's members generally need oil to sell for at least \$80 per barrel to balance their governmental budgets.

At the moment, they are collectively cutting output by a combined 5.86m barrels per day – equivalent to about 6pc of global demand.

That includes a group-wide cut of 2m barrels per day and further voluntary cuts of 1.7m barrels and 2.2m barrels, respectively, by two subsets of the group.

The cut of 1.7m barrels has been extended until the end of 2025 and the cut of 2.2m will be extended from the end of the second quarter of 2024 through to the end of the third quarter.

UK's real life 'Q-branch' joins war on drugs

By **Christopher Jasper**

A DEFENCE firm described as Britain's real-life "Q-branch" has taken a role in America's war on drugs as it deploys a fleet of radar-equipped blimps that scan for incursions from Mexico.

QinetiQ, the FTSE 250 defence company, is managing the airship-like craft, which is deployed at intervals along the 2,000-mile stretch between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.

The blimps can ascend to altitudes of up to 15,000ft and have a viewing range of 200 miles that enables them to more easily spot the low flying planes and speed boats favoured by drug runners. QinetiQ was awarded the \$170m (£133m) Tethered Aerostat Radar System

(Tars) contract by the US Department of Homeland Security in November, taking over responsibility for the network of eight blimps and ground

70,000
Deaths attributed to fentanyl, the synthetic opioid 100 times more potent than morphine, by US authorities in 2022

stations and more than 200 employees.

The Tars fleet was first deployed in the 1980s, when drugs and contraband were typically carried on the estimated 8,500 illegal flights a year that landed

on dirt runways. More than 500 aircraft were seized by Mexico's authorities from drug baron Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, most of them Cessnas that could operate from a 900ft airstrip and had double doors for quick unloading.

The Tars balloons, known as aerostats, helped US officers intercept planes or boats entering US territory and to anticipate where gangs might cross the border from planes landing on makeshift runways inside Mexico.

Today, flows of cocaine, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine have been joined by fentanyl, the synthetic opioid 100 times more potent than morphine that has spawned a new US drugs crisis, with more than 70,000 overdose deaths reported in 2022.

Boeing safety crisis 'brewing for a decade'

By **Christopher Jasper**

THE safety crisis gripping Boeing has been brewing for more than a decade, the boss of the world's biggest international airline has claimed.

Sir Tim Clark, president of Emirates, said the aerospace giant's issues can be traced back 10 to 15 years to when he claims it began to focus on profits instead of engineering excellence.

A push to extract cost cuts from suppliers and outsource work that Boeing had undertaken in-house came back to haunt the company when a faulty door panel blew out of a 737 Max plane flying at 16,000ft in January, he said.

Speaking yesterday at the International Air Transport Association (Iata)

conference in Dubai, Sir Tim said that the company had "no good reason to ruthlessly pursue cost cuts", which he claimed threw its supply chain into

'You cannot take your eye of the ball in our business. Finance is not difficult. Engineering is'

turmoil, particularly as it was embarking on construction of the 787 Dreamliner at the time.

He said: "Boeing's governance model became more focused on the plc demands and all the financial metrics, the results of which we are now facing.

At the time they probably thought they could do wonderful things, cost cutting, efficiency.

"But if you spend 10 or 15 years trying to strip out from your supply chain it's likely things will start to happen in terms of quality issues. You cannot take your eye off the ball in our business. Manufacturers cannot do that. Finance is not difficult. Engineering is."

January's panel blow-out on an Alaska Airlines plane triggered an investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which has capped 737 build rates, installed officials on production lines at Boeing and its suppliers, and ordered Boeing to overhaul its quality control procedures.

Rolex increases watch prices in UK

By **Daniel Woolfson**

ROLEX has raised the UK price of some of its precious metal watches following a surge in interest among investors in gold as a safe-haven asset.

The luxury retailer has added as much as £1,500 to the price tag of watches such as the Daytona chronograph in white gold rose, which now costs £38,700, compared with £37,200 previ-

ously. Meanwhile, the price of its yellow gold GMT Master has been increased from £34,000 to £35,400, according to data from Bloomberg.

Gold prices have risen 14pc to a record high this year. Investors have been buying the precious metal in anticipation of expected cuts to US interest rates as it is seen as a stable investment that becomes more appealing to investors amid times of geopolitical and economic

turmoil. Rolex, which produces more than one million watches per year, usually raises its prices once a year. However, currency volatility has prompted it to increase them more frequently in recent years.

Soaring prices have triggered a surge in thefts of such watches, which have tripled in a year, particularly in London where half of them are stolen, according to The Watch Register.



Fickle bond markets will be a key election battleground

ROGER BOOTLE



Hangover from Liz Truss mini-Budget damaged the Conservatives' reputation for economic competence

Talking about the issues in the 1992 US election campaign, James Carville, an adviser to the then presidential candidate Bill Clinton, said, "it's the economy, stupid". And on another occasion, he quipped that if there were reincarnation he wanted to come back as the bond market because then "you can intimidate everybody".

How might the economy and bond markets influence UK electoral prospects over coming weeks? Of course, despite Carville's remark,

elections are about a good deal more than the economy. After the UK's ejection from the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) on Sept 16 1992, the British economy was well managed by the Conservative chancellors Norman Lamont and Kenneth Clarke, and it responded well. Economic growth was strong and inflation was low. The public finances were in good order. But none of this seemed to cut much ice with the electorate. In 1997 Labour won a landslide victory.

This didn't necessarily prove Carville wrong, though, about the importance of the economy. For in large part this shattering defeat for the Conservatives stemmed from the humiliating ERM exit, which caused interest rates to rise twice in a day, first to 12pc and then to 15pc. In one day the Conservatives lost their reputation for economic competence. Is there a parallel with the Truss/Kwarteng mini-Budget? In contrast to the situation in 1997, there is no doubt that over the five years since

the last election, in 2019, economic performance has not been good. Whereas at the time of the 2019 election the economy had grown by 1.8pc over the previous year, and GDP per capita by 1.3pc, the equivalent figures now are 0.2pc and minus 0.7pc. At the time of the 2019 election, CPI inflation was 1.4pc, whereas it now stands at 2.3pc. The Bank Rate was then at 0.75pc whereas it now stands at 5.25pc. Admittedly, recent data have been more encouraging and have given some support to the Government's case that we have turned a corner. Most importantly, GDP in the first quarter was shown to have grown by a surprisingly strong 0.6pc, thereby putting an end to the short, shallow recession and showing the economy expanding at what used to be its normal rate, about 2.5pc per annum.

Then came the inflation figures for April. They were widely judged disappointing because the rate didn't fall as far as many analysts (including

yours truly) had predicted. Nevertheless, they did show inflation down to 2.3pc, sharply lower than the peak of 11.1pc and within a hair's breadth of the 2pc target.

There is scope for some more good news in the coming weeks. On June 12 the figures for April's GDP could show that the decent recovery of the first three months of the year has continued. Equally, it is possible that May's inflation figures, due on June 19, will be below the 2pc target.

That could influence the Bank of England's decision on interest rates, which is due on June 20. I suspect, though, that it won't cut rates then. Even so, the data could influence expectations of a rate cut in August and affect general consumer confidence.

Historical analysis shows that when the GfK measure of consumer confidence is above minus 15, the incumbent government has a decent chance of being re-elected. This measure recently rose from minus 19 in

April to minus 17 in May, so within a whisker of that supposedly critical level. And a further improvement to minus 15 or better is certainly possible in coming weeks.

Beyond the election, though, it is far from plain sailing. Admittedly, inflation could continue to fall and interest rates could be reduced in August and perhaps again later in the year. But, as things stand, the fiscal position looks far from rosy.

This may well have been a critical factor influencing the Prime Minister's decision to call the election in July, rather than waiting until October or November as had been widely assumed.

The attractions of the latter were largely based on the hope that another "fiscal event" could be staged that would enable the Government to cut taxes, and, perhaps, reduce employee National Insurance contributions a third time.

But recently the fiscal outlook has become cloudier. Of course, government expenditure is under upward pressure from all the usual sources, including the NHS and defence. The recent tainted blood scandal threatens to be resolved only with the payment of about £10bn in compensation. In fact, that shouldn't make things more difficult for the fiscal rules as it will be a one-off payment.

The Government's standing against the key fiscal rule, namely that the ratio of government debt to GDP

must be falling in five years' time, should be unaffected.

What has really made the difference to the fiscal outlook is the recent deterioration in interest rate expectations and bond yields, following the slower than expected fall in inflation. This phenomenon began in the US but continued over here. The result is that, whereas at the time of the Budget, the OBR estimated that there was headroom above the fiscal rules of about £9bn, and at one point subsequently it looked that headroom could be much larger, it now looks as though the figure could be as low as £5bn. That would buy next to no handouts.

Of course, all this can change. Not the economic fundamentals, mind. Slow productivity growth cannot change radically by autumn. Similarly, the debt ratio is bound to remain uncomfortably high. But, as Carville warned, the bond markets are powerful and fickle. With the Prime Minister having gone for an early election partly because there will supposedly be no money in the kitty come autumn, if Labour were to win, it would be deeply ironic if a sharp fall in interest rate expectations and bond yields presented the new chancellor with a significant amount of fiscal headroom for Labour's first "fiscal event".

Roger Bootle is senior independent adviser to Capital Economics. Roger.bootle@capitaleconomics.com



Cannabis classification plan A worker tends to marijuana plants in a greenhouse at Actera's cultivation facility in Samut Prakan, Thailand. The majority of Thais support prime minister Srettha Thavisin's plan to reclassify cannabis as a narcotic and limit its use to medical purposes, according to a survey. Actera is a private equity firm with assets that exceed \$3.3bn (£2.6bn).

Generalists are leaving the Civil Service in tatters. It is time to hand over the reins

ANDREW ORLOWSKI



Technical types, scientists and mathematicians are being kept out of the corridors of power

Get ready for the revenge of the Oxford PPE graduates. The generalists who have been running the British state for decades can finally breathe a sigh of relief. Peter Thiel, the multi-billionaire co-founder of PayPal and Palantir, says the era of the maths wizard is over.

Thiel envisages a brutal jobs apocalypse where AI culls more maths experts than it will "word people". He calls this "a long-overdue rebalancing of our society". But hold your horses.

Thiel must be referring to an AI that hasn't been invented yet, for among the smartest AI we have today has been advising us to eat a rock a day to improve our health, and assuring us that cats have been to the Moon. This came from Google's AI Overviews enhancement, an experiment it scaled back on Friday.

If anything, today's generative AI is even worse at solving mathematical challenges than it is at delivering wisdom. On five-digit multiplication, GPT4 gets it right less than 7pc of the time. Don't delete that calculator app just yet.

Now let's examine Thiel's proposition more closely. Have we really been living through a "tyranny of the numerate", from which we need to be liberated? He cites Silicon Valley as an example of a maths-dominated culture, but it has never been true of the British state. Our administrative class prefers all-rounders to run the Civil Service,

and that's what it gets: "generalist" is by far the most popular track of the recently revived Civil Service Fast Stream programme. Generalists go far in politics too: prime ministers holding a PPE (philosophy, politics and economics) degree from Oxford include Wilson, Heath and Cameron, and we will soon have Rachel Reeves and Ed Miliband, also both PPEs, in charge of the important numbers.

According to research by the Institute for Government, less than a quarter of newly recruited civil servants (23pc) have a Stem (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) degree, although 44pc of students graduate having completed a Stem subject.

And you may wonder where that 23pc is working.

"There's an absolute dearth of maths skills in the Treasury," one civil servant there told me. "We need to know numbers, and interrogate numbers, but it's a horror show". Maths skills

certainly weren't evident when Laura Trott, the chief secretary to the Treasury, appeared on the *Today* programme recently and insisted debt would decline. It was actually forecast to increase, Evan Davis pointed out.

Stem graduates are notorious for asking awkward and annoying questions, such as "how exactly will this keep the lights on?" This disrupts the smooth consensus that Whitehall likes in a room, and that it seems to value above all else.

Dominic Cummings recognised this as a structural weakness of Whitehall and tried to shake things up. He called for "misfits and weirdos" to apply. He didn't last long.

Stem graduates can make more money in the private sector, so are entitled to ask why they should help out the state from one of its self-inflicted disasters. Recent changes in recruitment have made things even worse, and almost seemed designed to

keep them away. A new situational judgment (CSJT) test has been introduced, an exercise that invites the candidate to defuse hypothetical workplace dramas. You can try it for yourself online.

One distinguished Cambridge masters graduate I know did just that, and found himself in the bottom 5pc of scores. "I took it again several times, with a top psychologist, and we still came in the lowest 15pc."

Jordan Urban, of the Institute for Government, says: "These tests value soft skills over hard ones, including numerical ones."

Another Westminster researcher says: "It's an obvious barrier to maths and engineering types." The MoD has lost discrimination cases, brought by outstanding civil servants who were thwarted by such tests, but Whitehall perseveres.

Not surprisingly then, first-preference applications to the science and engineering Fast Stream tracks crashed between 2020 and 2023, down 78pc – twice the fall in humanities applications.

Simon Case, the head of the Civil Service, said last year that half of the fast stream intake are Stem graduates. But insiders say it has only been able to claim that by moving the goalposts. "They have reached it by expanding

the definition of Stem to include economics, and some other kind of humanity or social science degree, which has quantitative elements to it," one source tells me.

This revelation alone should be a minor scandal.

Another trick Whitehall likes is embracing more amorphous skills such as "digital", rather than engineering, computer science and maths, all of which require rigour and deep knowledge.

"They've done one-day courses in AI, or big data", scoffs one Whitehall source, "so of course they are all experts now."

The rise and fall of the Government Digital Service illustrates the peril of taking self-styled digital wizards at face value. For a few years it blazed a trail in Whitehall, but ultimately over-promised and under-delivered, and had to hire hundreds of contractors to do the hard graft.

The labels "builder" and "maker" are beginning to work the same way, self-certifications that sound impressive but mean little.

And for all his success in Silicon Valley, it must be noted, Thiel himself holds a degree in law. No wonder technical types, scientists and mathematicians suspect a conspiracy to keep them out. It really is.

The days of the City's fat cats opining to the masses about politics are long gone

LUCY BURTON



Corporate heavyweights are refusing to put their head above the parapet as they fear it could be cut off

It is not unusual for corporate bigwigs to try to exercise their power ahead of a big political event. The evening before the EU referendum, some of the biggest names in business made a last-ditch plea in an open letter for voters to back Remain. Bosses at financial giants such as Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, Morgan Stanley, the London Stock Exchange, Prudential and KKR signed it. So too did law firms and accounting giants, as well as about 50 bosses of FTSE 100 companies, so

the letter had star power. But Brexit went even so.

It was worth a shot. A year earlier more than 100 senior business figures, including at least five who previously backed Labour, had warned that a Labour government would "threaten jobs and deter investment" in the closest election campaign for years.

A month later, David Cameron returned to Downing Street with an outright majority after Labour was virtually wiped out by the SNP in Scotland and the Liberal Democrat vote had collapsed. Within an hour, Ed Miliband, Nick Clegg and Nigel Farage all stood down. So you can hardly blame Sir Keir Starmer for hoping to reap the rewards of his lengthy pro-business push by publicising a first-class list of his own.

Behind closed doors, high-profile executives have been giving Labour officials the nod that they are onside and, with just over a month to go until the election, the party wanted them to

put pen to paper. Many have been won over by Sir Keir's awareness that "there's no magic money tree" and that economic growth is vital, as one boardroom veteran put it. But that hush-hush show of support doesn't translate into public cheerleading. Not long after Labour published a letter signed by 120 executives supporting the party last week, Rachel Reeves was asked why not one FTSE 100 boss had signed it. It had few heavyweight names, leading one critic to dismiss it as a "p--- poor" effort.

Conservatives who have been rubbing their hands with glee since the list was criticised shouldn't feel too smug, because they are not going to get a blockbuster letter of endorsement either. Labour's list may have been ridiculed by some for lacking big-hitters, but that doesn't mean those names will back the other side. This proves that the days of City fat cats opining over politics are over. As one boss says of the list, nobody wants to

put their head above the parapet publicly because it will be cut off. And anyway, he continues, businessmen make poor politicians and nobody wants to hear it anymore. Those days are long gone. "What if you want to be in the cool gang but then you realise the cool gang is smoking crack and you don't want to be in the cool gang?" he says, deciding that it's best to appear neutral himself.

Even the bosses desperate to back one of the main parties publicly are being restrained by their PR advisers, who have been reminding their more vocal clients in slightly politer terms that the days of playing politics are no more. It was fine to be loud in the run-up to the historic Brexit vote, but this is different.

Politicians aren't listening. As Labour's lead narrows and Rishi Sunak spots a faint glimmer of hope, both parties will be racing for a high-profile endorsement ahead of the election. No doubt some will emerge – Lord

Spencer, the Tory donor and billionaire financier, last week told us he had donated £250,000 to the party while sounding a warning about Labour – but examples of this sort of public championing will be few and far between. Another long-standing Tory donor did not want to indulge the conversation when contacted, saying merely that he had decided to support individual MPs instead.

The attitude is very different in America, where Wall Street leaders are much more likely to wade into divisive political debates. Stephen Schwarzman, Blackstone's chief executive, has said he will back Donald Trump in the 2024 election and hedge fund billionaire Bill Ackman expressed support for the former president late last week – after he was found guilty of 34 counts of falsifying business records.

In the City, senior executives only talk politics in hushed tones when in busy restaurants. One partner tells me over lunch that he would never reveal

his political thoughts about this election to colleagues. He had planned to vote Labour but is considering backing the Conservatives, he says in a whisper, as he thinks they may be a safer bet for the economy. But he will keep that to himself as he thinks most of his peers will vote Labour.

Conservative support could be underestimated because younger voters are on the fence or feel sheepish about supporting Sunak. Lord Hayward, a leading pollster who coined the term "shy Tories" in 1992 after the party's unexpected general election victory, last week said election experts may be getting it wrong because a large number of people are "don't knows".

Political parties will be all too aware of this, giving both sides even more impetus to get some powerful names backing them publicly. But with so little time left and company bosses keeping schtum, their leaders will have to find other ways to prove to voters that they can be trusted with the economy.

Tory heartlands debt crisis is a headache for Sunak

Councils in the Shire counties feature very strongly in a list of local authorities with biggest debts, writes *Melissa Lawford*

Standing on a solar farm in Swindon, Liam Kavanagh had a business proposition for struggling local councils desperate for cash.

Among them, the Tory-led local authority Thurrock, which agreed to purchase a solar farm in Swindon through bonds marketed by his company, Rockfire Capital, in exchange for millions of pounds in interest payments.

Following the agreement in 2016, Thurrock agreed to buy a further 52 solar farms through Kavanagh's enterprise, investing £655m of public cash – borrowed from other councils.

Kavanagh, who denies wrongdoing, subsequently purchased a private jet, a yacht and a country estate. But by the end of 2022, Thurrock had effectively declared bankruptcy, after its debt ballooned to £1.3bn and losses on the project reached £200m.

It is one of many local authorities drowning in debt after a pre-pandemic borrowing spree and threatening to be a thorn in Rishi Sunak's side in the run up to the general election. Eight councils have issued Section 114 notices since the end of 2020 as they are effectively bankrupt. More are on the edge, and many of those with the biggest debts are in Tory heartlands.

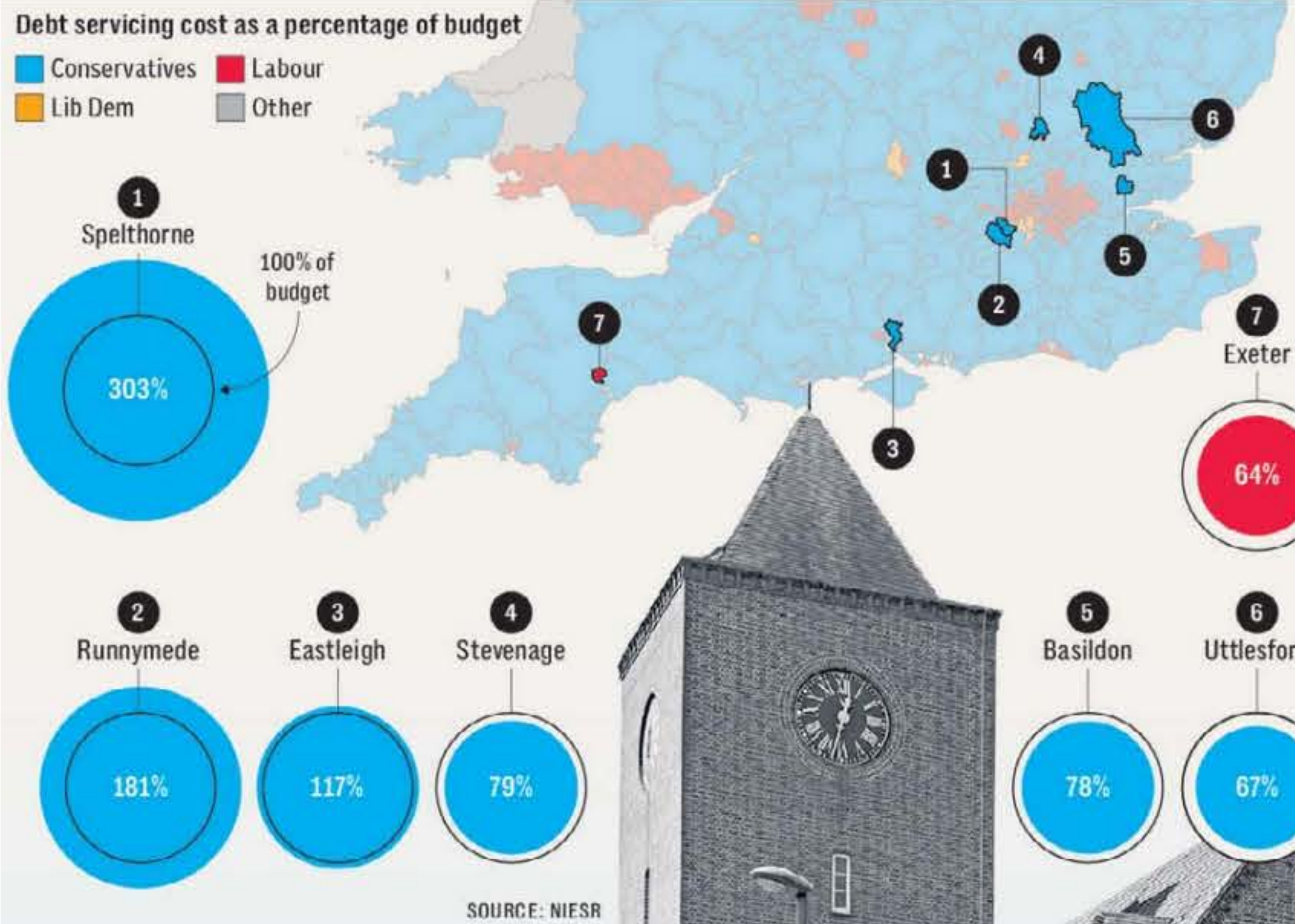
Local government finances are in a well-documented crisis and the issue is a ticking time-bomb for any new government. An internal dossier of problems drawn up by Sue Gray, Labour's chief of staff, warns that bankrupt councils could ruin the party's honeymoon period if it wins power. But that same problem may also help Labour win the election.

Councils are grappling with the toll of long-term funding cuts just as they are facing soaring demand for services such as social care. In the wake of austerity, many also took on large debts to invest in new sources of income, such as offices and shopping centres. Since then, interest rates have soared, commercial property values have slumped and councils have been left scrambling to pick up the pieces.

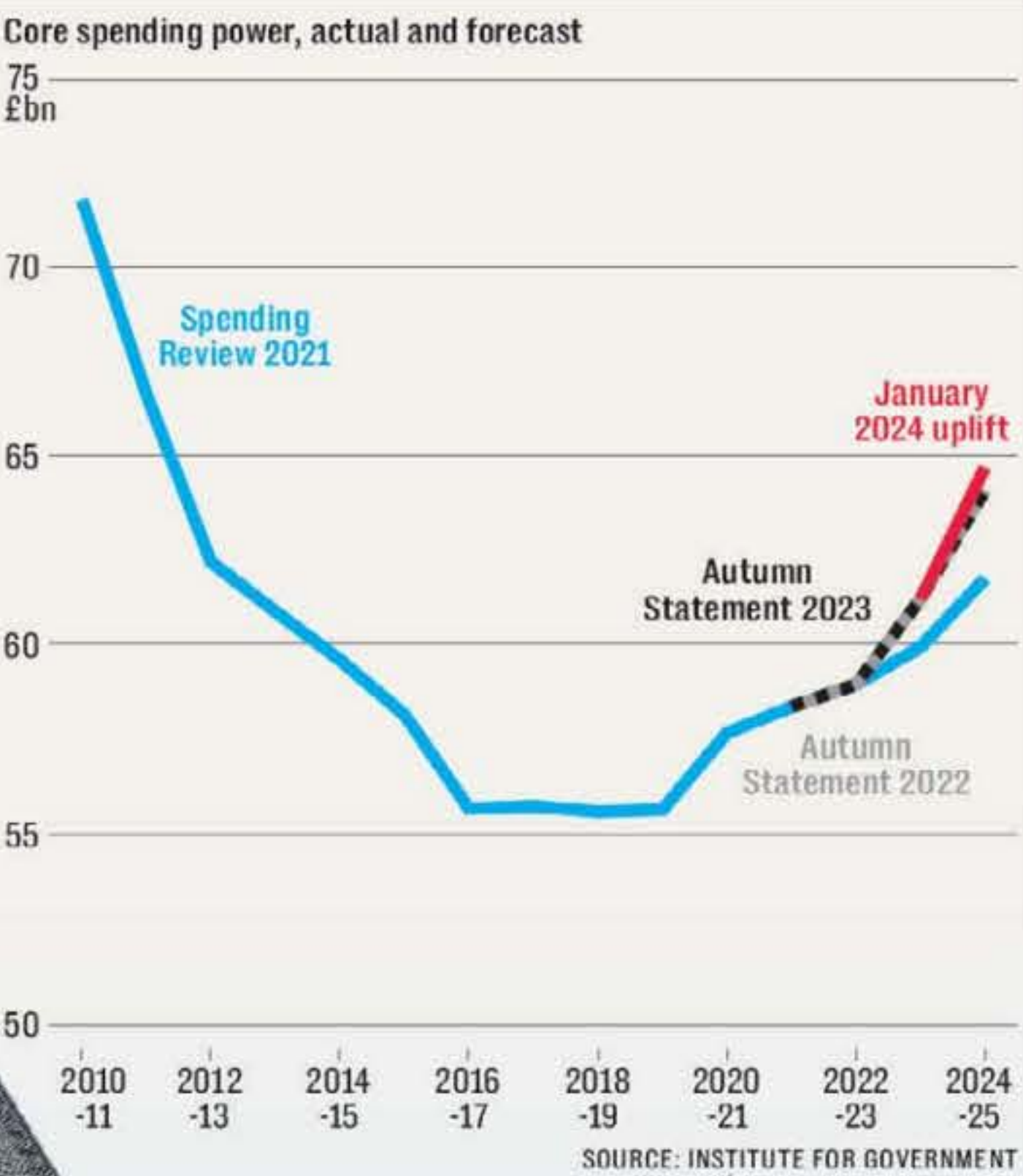
Analysis by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (Niesr), found that local authorities have lost £80bn in net worth since the end of 2021. Across England, councils are spending, on average, 15pc of their budgets servicing debt and 23 local authorities are spending more than 40pc of their annual budget on debt interest. In Spelthorne and Runnymede in Surrey, the councils' debt interest bills are 303pc and 181pc of their respective core budgets.

Of the top 10 councils with the largest debt interest pile in proportion to their core budgets, according to Niesr, nine were in the south of England. Seven were in Tory constituencies and five either had Tory councils, or did until Labour's gains in last month's local elections. Councils'

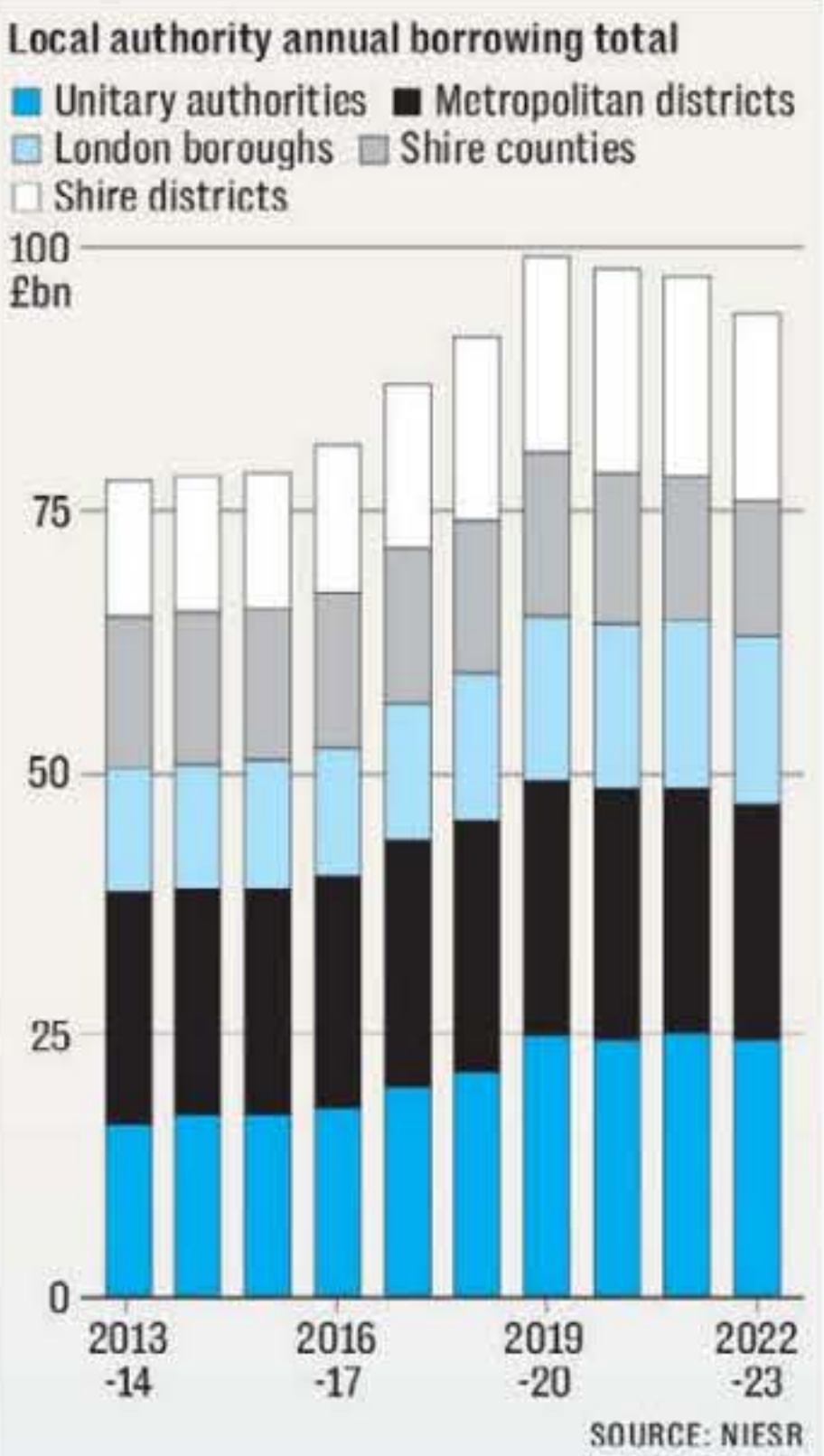
Councils in Tory heartlands are drowning in debt



Local authority budgets have been cut



Borrowing in the Shires has jumped



'They are punting like drunken sailors all around the country'

cash problems began with austerity. In 2010-11 their core funding from central government was £71.8bn, based on today's prices, according to the Institute for Government (IFG). By 2017-18, this had plunged by more than £16bn. The figure has climbed since and after a funding uplift announced in January totalled £64.7bn – 10pc less than 14 years earlier.

In a clear mirror image, as central government funding dropped, local authorities' borrowing rose. Between 2013-14 and 2020-21, their borrowing rocketed 26pc, from £78bn to £98bn, according to IFG analysis, based on today's prices. By 2022-23, the total had dipped to £94bn, but this was still £16bn higher than in 2013-14.

Local authorities piled into commercial property investments, buying offices and shopping centres in an attempt to find new sources of income. "The story we got from councils was very much: 'we need an income stream because the Government has essentially taken away our income,'" says Mat Oakley, head of commercial research at Savills.

Interest rate cuts following the financial crisis meant borrowing costs

were at historic lows and councils could borrow at even more favourable rates from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb). Oakley adds: "2016 to 2019 was the boom period."

Although they comprised a small proportion of the market – at their peak, councils made up 3.5pc of commercial property deal turnover – they sometimes led market pricing because favourable PWLB rates meant they could bid more aggressively, says Oakley.

"They are punting like drunken sailors all around the country," one fund manager, who had been outbid by several local authorities, told the *Financial Times* in 2017.

Matthew Oakeshott, chairman of OLIM Property, says: "The wide boys in property couldn't believe their luck. They saw the councils coming from a mile off and unloaded the stuff they couldn't shift anywhere else."

Some investments were particularly unwise, such as those made by Nottingham and Woking councils, which have since issued Section 114 notices. But many did bear fruit. Spelthorne, Runnymede and

Stevenage, which are among the councils with the biggest debts, have been earning more from property and other commercial income than they have been paying in debt interest. And unlike many other councils they have been able to shore up their reserves, says David Phillips, of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

Yet high levels of debt come with big risks – particularly when interest rates have climbed to a 15-year high and commercial property values have plunged since the pandemic.

The big question is when do local authorities have to renew their debt, according to Max Mosley, senior economist at Niesr. "If they have to renew debt in the short-term, when interest rates have gone up very, very quickly, this may not have been factored into the business model," he says.

Timing is also crucial, Oakley adds. Councils often invested in offices that have plunged in value in the wake of the pandemic shift to home working.

"We now have a situation where local authorities have got assets that have been marked down by 40pc or 50pc and maybe the income has fallen

'This is the worst time in the commercial property cycle to be forced to sell. Assets have been marked down up to 50pc'

away,' says Oakley. This is happening at the same time as councils are grappling with balance sheet pressure across the board, he adds. "All of their wage bills have gone up. All of their fuel bills have gone up."

"They are under pressure to find capital very quickly and the knee-jerk reaction is to sell these assets."

"This is the worst time in the commercial property cycle to be forced to sell an asset because they will get the lowest price," says Oakley.

Councils in the south of England are more exposed to debt interest and swings in the commercial property market because of a quirk of how UK local authorities are structured, says the IFS's Phillips.

Council finances will be a challenge for Tory MPs campaigning for re-election in the South because councils are responsible for voters' everyday impressions of the state.

"You can't hide potholes," says Prof Tony Travers, of the London School of Economics' department of government.

"Potholes and dimmed street lights go to the core of why we have government at all."

HSBC owed £143m by Barclay family's collapsed logistics company

By Luke Barr

HSBC faces steep losses from the unravelling of the Barclay family's sprawling business empire, new documents show.

The British banking giant is owed £143m after the family's delivery business fell into administration in March.

Restructuring experts at Teneo who are overseeing the administration have warned that based on the current outlook the bank "will not be repaid in

full". Documents filed for The Logistics Group, which owns delivery business Arrow XL and formerly owned Yodel, reveal the financial impact HSBC faces as the sole secured creditor.

Teneo estimated it could recover £57.5m by selling Arrow XL, the company's main asset.

The Logistics Group collapsed into administration this year after HSBC called in loans the business was unable to repay. The company's downfall represented another setback for the Bar-

clay family, which was recently forced to put their online retailer Very Group up for sale to tackle mounting debts.

Brothers Aidan and Howard, who oversee the Barclays' dwindling business empire, were listed as directors of The Logistics Group at the time of its failure.

Administrators have warned that the company has "significant levels of borrowing which would need to be restructured in order to rescue the business as a going concern". They added: "How-

£8.9m

Loss suffered by The Logistics Group in the 12 months to June 2021. It posted a profit of £91.4m a year earlier

ever, having regard to the likely value of the underlying assets, there appears little prospect that this could be achieved."

As well as losing control of The Logis-

tics Group, and potentially Very, the Barclays also sought to sell *The Telegraph* and *The Spectator* to RedBird IMI to settle debts owed to Lloyds Bank.

The deal was blocked by the Government over concerns about foreign state ownership of the media.

RedBirdIMI is an investment fund largely backed by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, an Emirati royal who is deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates. *The Telegraph* has been put up for sale again. In its

latest set of financial accounts, The Logistics Group recorded a loss of £8.9m for the year ending June 2021. This represented a vast swing into the red after it posted profits of £91.4m in 2020.

A total of 10 other creditors, in addition to HSBC, are owed debts of £18.3m that they are unlikely to recover from The Logistics Group.

The Barclay family declined to comment. HSBC was contacted for comment.

UK driverless car champion is taking on US's tech giants

By Matthew Field

BRITISH driverless car champion Wayve wants to put vehicles on the streets of San Francisco, challenging US giants such as Elon Musk's Tesla and Google's Waymo in their own backyard.

The company, which last month raised more than \$1bn (£780m) for its technology, is hiring US staff to co-ordinate test drivers and safety operators.

A spokesman for the London head-quartered firm confirmed it would put cars on US roads, saying: "We will be doing data collection in the US to prepare for Level 2 ADAS [advanced driver assistance system] testing in the future."

At so-called "Level 2" autonomous driving, its cars require a human being to be ready to take control, but they can drive hands-free in many situations.

The UK business is hoping to sell its self-driving software to carmakers and ultimately offer technology that does not require human input.

Wayve, led by chief executive Alex Kendall, has trialled its technology on UK roads in modified Jaguar i-Pace electric cars, using artificial intelligence (AI) to guide vehicles that have a safety driver. It cannot legally operate its cars in Britain without a safety driver. Its US expansion would mark a rare example

of a British start-up taking on Silicon Valley behemoths on their home turf. Driverless car companies such as Waymo, which is owned by Alphabet, Google's parent company, have tested driverless cars on US roads for years. However, they have suffered setbacks to their domestic expansion after accidents involving their vehicles.

The US highways regulator is investigating Waymo after alleging several incidents "involved collisions with clearly visible objects that a competent driver would be expected to avoid".

Waymo, which offers robotaxi services without safety drivers in Arizona and California, said it was "proud" of its safety record.

Meanwhile, Cruise, part of US carmaker GM, suspended its US operations in November after a pedestrian was trapped under one of its robotaxis. It restarted operations last month.

Mr Musk's Tesla offers self-driving features on its electric cars and is planning its own robotaxi service, but it faces investigations by US regulators and the US Justice Department over the capabilities of its technology.

In May, Wayve announced the UK's biggest investment in an AI business, raising more than \$1bn from the likes of SoftBank, Microsoft and Nvidia.



Coming up roses Janelle Monáe sings at the weekend's WeHo Pride festival in West Hollywood, California.

Brexit is blamed for £6bn fall in retail sales to the EU

By Hannah Boland

BRITISH retailers have suffered a £6bn slump in sales to the EU since Brexit as border red tape strangles demand for UK fashion.

Exports to the EU of non-food products have plunged by almost a fifth from 2019 levels, according to data from Retail Economics. Last year, £27.6bn of UK non-food items were sold in the EU compared with £33.6bn in 2019.

The drop was most pronounced in clothing and footwear, where exports tumbled from £7.4bn in 2019 to £2.7bn in 2023.

Richard Lim, chief executive of Retail Economics, said: "The profound shift in the UK's trade relationship with the EU has hit British brands and retailers hard."

"Successive waves of disruption caused by Brexit and the pandemic have significantly disadvantaged UK exporters who are having to navigate increased friction and cost."

However, the Retail Economics figures suggest EU companies had not experienced a similar slump in sales to the UK, which had imported non-food products from the EU "at a broadly similar rate" since 2019.

It will fuel concerns that UK firms are being harder hit by Brexit red tape,

despite Government pledges to eliminate bureaucracy.

Retailers have faced increased hurdles when shipping to the EU since early 2021. Items valued at more than £135 are subject to customs duties.

Retailers have also warned that EU customers are being dissuaded from buying British goods by shipping delays. Between 2021 and 2022, dwell times at UK ports more than doubled.

The British Footwear Association has warned of "dramatically reduced demand" for UK brands, as EU import duties and taxes are in some cases forcing them to charge up to 30pc more, compared with local brands.

Marks and Spencer closed 11 of its French stores in late 2021, blaming supply complexities in shipping fresh and chilled produce into the country. The EU introduced checks on meat and dairy products the day after Brexit, but the UK did not reciprocate to avoid chaos at the ports. UK checks on EU produce have been delayed many times.

Retail Economics said higher shipping costs, extra delays and the need for businesses to register an EU entity to trade in the bloc were too much for fashion firms whose market was "characterised by tight profit margins and the need to respond rapidly to trends".

Sir Ian Stoutzker

High-flying City financier and philanthropist who brought live classical music to a wider audience

SIR IAN STOUTZKER, who has died aged 95, was one of Britain's leading musical philanthropists as a patron of orchestras, conservatoires and young musicians, and as co-founder, with the violinist Yehudi Menuhin, of the charity Live Music Now.

Stoutzker was himself a gifted and elegant musician who might have played professionally but chose to be a City financier, and he briefly flew high in the booming markets of the early 1970s. His first major venture in the musical sphere, also in that period, was to rescue the New Philharmonia Orchestra: this was the survivor of the original Philharmonia which, after being disbanded by its founder Walter Legge in 1964, was re-formed by its players with the backing of the conductor Otto Klemperer as a self-governing but fragile co-operative.

Asked to sponsor a concert, the British premiere of Shostakovich's Symphony No 15, Stoutzker instead offered to take full financial command, and went on to serve the orchestra as chairman (a post normally reserved for a playing member) from 1972 to 1976, then president until 1979. Besides keeping the ship afloat until relief arrived through commercial sponsorship, he steered the appointment of Riccardo Muti as principal conductor after Klemperer's death in 1973, and secured the restoration of the name "Philharmonia", minus "New", in 1977.

Stoutzker went on to chair the advisory committee of the London Symphony Orchestra from 1992 to 2007 and to co-chair the European Union Youth Orchestra. But perhaps his most enduring contribution to British musical life was his role as founder chairman from 1977 to 2019, and subsequently president, of Live Music Now. "My friend Yehudi Menuhin," Stoutzker wrote, "asked me for help in realising a dream close to his heart."

Inspired by the virtuosos' experience of playing to concentration camp survivors and PoWs at the end of the Second World War, the concept was to deploy young musicians at the start of their careers to reach audiences in community centres, special schools, hospitals, care homes and hospices who were rarely able to experience the joy and therapeutic benefit of live performance.

By the end of Stoutzker's devoted tenure



Stoutzker is awarded the Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy by the then Prince in 2013

- Menuhin described him as "indefatigable and ever-present" - Live Music Now had staged more than 85,000 recitals, reaching 2.8 million people. The organisation, Stoutzker said, had deepened understanding "of the role which music plays in our emotional, physical and social well-being [and] contributed to the UK's pre-eminence in the field."

Ian Isaac Stoutzker was born on January 21 1929, the fourth and youngest child of Aaron Stoutzker, cantor of the Central London Synagogue, and his wife Dora, née Cohen, a piano teacher from Tredegar in south Wales, where the family made their home during the Second World War after their house in London was bombed.

Ian was educated at Tredegar County School and Berkhamsted School and began studying the violin in his teens with Albert Sammons, who continued to teach him at the Royal College of Music. A City diarist later

recorded that Stoutzker "turned down the offer of lead violinist in a northern orchestra" to start work as a junior in a merchant bank, Samuel Montagu, while studying in the evenings at the LSE.

In the late 1950s he moved to join the banking house of Keyser & Co, the family business of his sister Nina's husband, Roland Franklin. Having expanded to become Keyser Ullmann, the firm became one of the boldest movers in the early-1970s property lending boom, with Stoutzker and Franklin as joint managing directors and the Tory MP Edward du Cann as chairman.

Stoutzker was particularly associated with Keyser Ullmann's 1972 merger with Dalton Barton, a "fringe bank" and property investment group built up by the entrepreneur "Black Jack" Dellal. But when the market crashed at the end of 1973, large exposures to a gallery of high-profile players brought the expanded group to the edge of

collapse, sustained only by £65 million of loans from the Bank of England.

Management changes ensued, the resignations of Stoutzker and Franklin in 1975 following those of Dellal, du Cann and others. Stoutzker returned to the financial scene as chairman from 1985 to 2000 of Dawnay Day International, the successor to some of Keyser's European operations.

He had inherited from his mother, and absorbed from his own childhood, a deep love of Wales - for its natural landscape as well as its musical heritage. His benefactions in his adopted land extended from the Tredegar Town Band to the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, where he endowed the Dora Stoutzker concert hall and an annual prize.

He also gave a prize for solo performance at the Royal College of Music, where he served on the council for over 30 years, while his generosity helped the Royal Academy of Music to acquire the "Viotti ex Bruce" Stradivari violin. His own instrument - he sometimes played with the cellist Jacqueline du Pré - was the 1741 "Vieuxtemps" by Guarneri del Gesù, once owned by the great Belgian violinist Eugène Ysaÿe.

He was appointed OBE in 1993, raised to CBE in 2012, and knighted in 2019 - having also been awarded, in 2013, the Prince of Wales Medal for Arts Philanthropy, reflecting the longstanding support of the then Prince for the work of Live Music Now.

The citation for Stoutzker's 2008 honorary fellowship of the Royal Academy of Music declared that "with the possible exception of George Frederic Handel, no individual has done more to bring music to children and the disadvantaged in the history of this country."

In later years he and his wife lived in Salzburg, where they enjoyed the annual music festival and endowed a performance prize at the Salzburg Mozarteum University.

Ian Stoutzker married, in 1958, Mercedes Cohen, whose family came from Tangier and who was as passionate about modern British art as her husband was about music; works from their collection, by Lucian Freud, David Hockney and others, were donated to the Tate Gallery. She survives him with their daughter and son.

Sir Ian Stoutzker, born January 21 1929, died April 6 2024

David Sanborn

Saxophonist who worked with the likes of Bowie and Clapton

DAVID SANBORN, who has died aged 78, was an alto saxophonist whose blend of jazz, pop and R&B brought the likes of David Bowie, Bruce Springsteen, Eric Clapton and Stevie Wonder to his door; it was said that he "put the saxophone back into rock'n'roll".

He released 25 albums across a 60-year career, but he was probably best known for his work with Bowie, and his playing was the defining feature of the singer's "blue-eyed soul" hit *Young Americans* and the album of which it was the title track.

"On the Young Americans tour, Bowie would sometimes let the band play for 20 minutes before he came on," Sanborn recalled. "On the album there was no lead guitar, so I played the role of lead guitar. I was all over that record."

He always resisted pigeonholing. "I'm not so interested in what is or isn't jazz," he said. "The guardians of the gate can be quite combative, but what are they protecting? Jazz has always absorbed and transformed what's around it. It's not like 'When the cha-cha went away, music died.'"

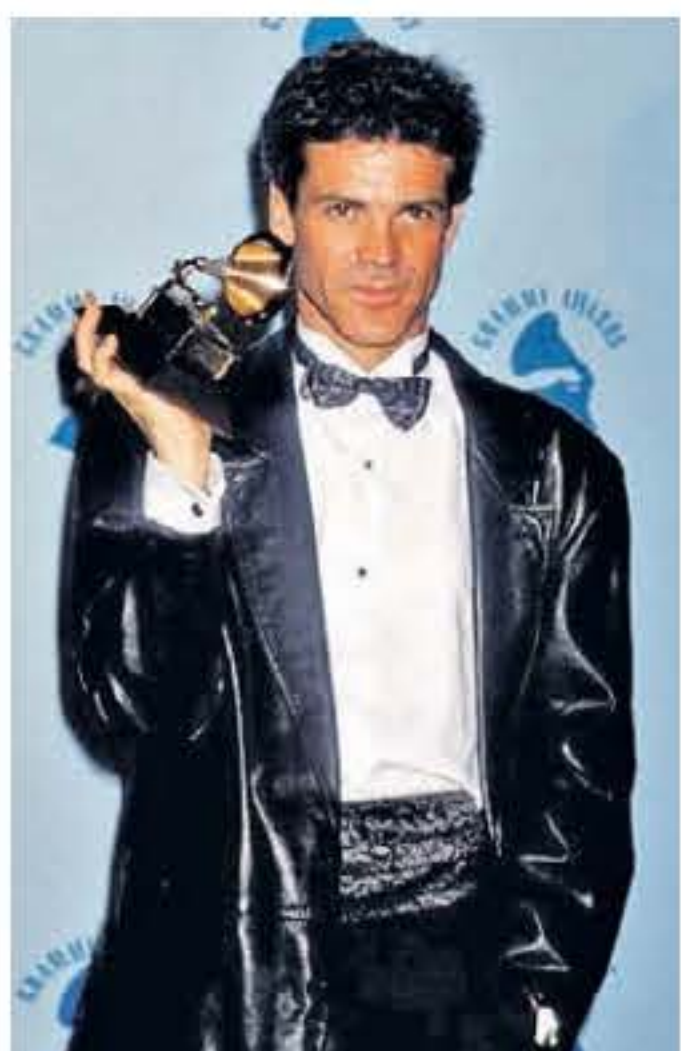
David Sanborn was born in Tampa, Florida, on July 30 1945, but grew up in Kirkwood, a suburb of St Louis, Missouri, where his father was stationed in the US Air Force.

He contracted polio aged three and was in an iron lung for a year. As he got older, he recalled, "I used to lie in bed a lot, listening to the radio, which was my theatre of the imagination."

As part of his therapy he switched from piano to saxophone when he was 11 to build up his lungs; within three years he was on stage in local clubs playing with such notable blues figures as Albert King and Little Milton.

He studied music at Northwestern University in Illinois then transferred to the University of Iowa, where he studied with the acclaimed jazz saxist JR Monterose. He followed a friend's advice and moved to California, where he joined the Paul Butterfield Blues Band, with whom he appeared at Woodstock.

That led to a tour with Stevie Wonder and an appearance on his 1972 album *Talking Book*, and Sanborn became a much sought-after session player. In 1975, besides playing with Bowie, he appeared on Bruce Springsteen's album *Born to Run*, as well as



Sanborn in 1986 with one of his six Grammy Awards

releasing his own debut solo album, *Taking Off*.

During the 1970s he also played with, among others, BB King, Paul Simon (*Still Crazy After All These Years*), Elton John, Chaka Khan, Kenny Loggins and the Eagles (*The Sad Café* on their 1979 LP *The Long Run*), while in the following decade he numbered Aretha Franklin, Billy Joel, Roger Waters, Clapton and the Rolling Stones (their 1983 album *Undercover*) among his collaborators.

His solo albums *Hideaway* (1979) and *Voyeur* (1981) each sold more than half a million copies - good going for jazz. The former provided the track *Seduction* (written by Giorgio Moroder) for the 1980 film *American Gigolo*, while the latter won Sanborn the first of his six Grammy Awards, for best R&B instrumental performance on *All I Need is You*.

From 1988 to 1990 he hosted the US television show *Night Music*, as well as the syndicated *The Jazz Show* on radio. As for his live work, he was able to fill decent-sized auditoria with ease - although the *Telegraph* did not rate his 1991 solo album *Another Hand*: "Beneath the bluesiness is blandness," wrote Martin Gayford. "It's not that this is an awful album - just a rather insubstantial and pretty one."

Sanborn was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2018 but continued to tour, as well as presenting a podcast, *As We Speak* - interviewing such figures as Sonny Rollins - until his death from complications of the disease.

David Sanborn is survived by his wife Alice Soyer, a fellow musician, and his son Jonathan.

David Sanborn, born July 30 1945, died May 12 2024

Rob Burrow

Rugby league international known as the 'mighty atom' who helped raise millions for MND charities

ROB BURROW, who has died aged 41, was an England and Great Britain rugby league international who in December 2019 was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease, touching the hearts of television viewers alongside his close friend and former teammate Kevin Sinfield, who raised more than £8 million for MND charities.

"Throughout his career Rob overcame the odds to become a legend in the game and he tackled MND with the exact same determination," said Sinfield.

At 5ft 4in and weighing less than 11 stone, Burrow, who spent his entire 16-year career with Leeds Rhinos, was a Lilliputian in a land of Gullivers, the smallest player in Super League, but he won 15 international caps and earned the tabloid nicknames "mighty atom" and "pocket rocket".

His spirit and courage on the rugby field continued after his retirement when he was diagnosed with MND.

Burrow made 493 appearances for Leeds between 2001 and 2017, scoring 198 tries and kicking 162 goals for a total of 1,111 points. In a golden era for Leeds, Burrow won eight Super League titles, two Challenge Cups, and three World Club Championships against Australian sides.

In the 2011 Grand Final victory over St Helens at Old Trafford he became the first player to win the Harry Sunderland Trophy for man of the match twice, earning the unanimous vote of all 37 judges.

His try in that victory is regarded as one of the finest of all time when, with his lightning pace, he sidestepped, weaved and

ducked past stunned defenders on a bewitching long-range run.

Burrow never took a backward step, and his spirit was epitomised during a Cup tie against Hull in 2010. Despite his diminutive size he was not afraid to trade punches with the 6ft 5in Tongan forward Epalahame Lauaki and was sin-binned for his misdemeanour, to the amusement of the crowd.

Despite being unable to talk in recent years and relying on a machine to communicate, Burrow never lost his smile or his cheeky persona.

Robert Geoffrey Burrow was born in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, on September 26 1982 to Geoff and Irene; he had two sisters. He attended Airedale High School and began playing rugby league aged seven for Castleford Panthers.

He joined Leeds in his teens and enjoyed a rapid rise. "He may have been small but nobody could catch him, he was so fast," his mother recalled. "We used to hope they wouldn't catch him up because everyone else was huge."

After establishing himself in the Leeds senior team he was named player of the series in Great Britain's 3-0 victory over New Zealand in 2007, finishing as top scorer with 26 points from two tries and nine goals.

He played alongside his friend Kevin Sinfield in five Challenge Cup finals between 2010 and 2015, losing the first three before winning the last two. His final match was the 2017 Super League Grand Final at Old Trafford when Leeds beat Castleford.



Burrow shortly after his diagnosis with MND

Burrow was diagnosed with MND two years later. His wife Lindsey, a physiotherapist, became his carer.

"I expected to be told I had something that could be treated and move on, and it was a shock when the doctor told me I had an incurable illness," he recalled. "The hardest bit is that you do not know why you have it and there is nothing you can do. Maybe it's the athlete in all of us. I didn't want to lie down and take it. I wanted to compete."

Sinfield, who was appointed MBE in 2014, OBE in 2021 and CBE this year, ran seven marathons in seven days a year after

Burrow's diagnosis to raise £2 million. He then ran 101 miles in under 24 hours before another seven ultra marathons, starting at Murrayfield, and finishing at Old Trafford at half-time during the Rugby League World Cup final in 2022.

In May 2023 Burrow and Sinfield completed the inaugural Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon when Burrow was famously lifted out of his specially adapted wheelchair and carried over the finishing line by Sinfield - an image that brought tears to the eyes of many television viewers.

"I told Rob he was not going to beat me, we are finishing together," said Sinfield. "Rob then kissed me on the cheek and it felt like scoring in a Grand Final again."

Sinfield, who joined the coaching staff of the England rugby union team, was inspired by fellow sporting MND sufferers Doddie Weir and the former Bradford City footballer Stephen Darby. Weir, who won 61 caps for Scotland's rugby union side, died in 2022 aged 52. That year, Burrow and Sinfield were awarded the freedom of the City of Leeds.

Burrow's wife Lindsey raised more than £61,000 by running the Leeds Marathon alongside his former teammates Jamie Jones-Buchanan, Jamie Peacock and Barrie McDermott.

Rob Burrow was awarded the MBE in 2021 for his services to rugby league and the MND community. He is survived by Lindsey and by their two daughters and a son.

Rob Burrow, born September 26 1982, died June 2 2024

Sjoukje Dijkstra

Figure skater who won gold at the 1964 Olympics with her flying spins and later toured with a circus

SJOUKJE DIJKSTRA, who has died aged 82, was a figure skater who in 1964 became the first Dutch athlete to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics.

A powerful athlete known for her double Axel jumps and flying spins, Sjoukje Dijkstra was fairly tall (1.68m) for a skater. Indeed, in her memoir *The Long Program*, the US figure skater Peggy Fleming rather unkindly described her as "a huge, muscular lady who performed huge jumps", adding: "All I could think was couldn't she be a little more feminine?" A magazine profile, however, observed that "she is much more slender in person than she appears on the ice".

Sjoukje Dijkstra was European champion five times (1960-64) and world champion three times (1962-64). She skated at three Winter Olympics, finishing 12th in Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956 before winning a silver medal at Squaw Valley in 1960.

But it was her gold medal at Innsbruck that made her a heroine in her native Netherlands. It was the country's first Olympic gold since "Flying Housewife" Fanny Blankers-Koen's four gold medals on the track at the Summer Games in London in 1948.

Her Olympic gold also meant that Sjoukje Dijkstra was the first figure skater since the Norwegian Sonja Henie in 1936 to win World, Olympic and European titles in the same year.

After her Olympic triumph, Sjoukje



Dijkstra left competitive sport to work in the Holiday on Ice shows, and for eight years was the leading attraction in the shows in European cities.

In 1975 she married Karl Kossmayer, 25 years her senior, who was the star of "The Unrideable Mules", a comedy circus act in which he and his sister Julie, pretending to be members of the audience, would climb into the sawdust ring, Karl trying his hand at riding a bucking mule and losing his trousers, while Julie - as his "wife" - tried to restrain him. For a time in the 1960s he had

performed his act on a carpeted "ring" on the ice in the Holiday on Ice shows.

In 1980 Kossmayer made a brief attempt at running his own touring circus, capitalising on his wife's popularity by calling it Circus Sjoukje Dijkstra, although the star attraction remained the mules. But the venture lasted only a few weeks, due to a clash of temperaments between Kossmayer and the German circus director Carl Althoff, with whom he had gone into partnership.

Sjoukje Rosalinde Dijkstra was born on January 28 1942 at Akkrum in Friesland. Her

father, Lou Dijkstra, was a doctor who had competed as a speed skater in the 1936 Winter Olympics. He gave his daughter her first skates as a sixth-birthday present, and she was soon training at the ice rink at the Apollohal in Amsterdam, where her talent for figure skating became obvious.

Aged 11 she travelled to London to train with Arnold Gerschwiler at the ice rink in Richmond. He would remain her coach throughout her competitive career. She first appeared on the international scene in 1954 when she finished 19th in the European Championships.

In the Netherlands Sjoukje Dijkstra's great competitor was Joan Haanappel, who had won four national titles in a row. But Sjoukje Dijkstra won in 1959 and remained on top, winning six national titles in addition to her European and world titles.

Sjoukje Dijkstra and Karl Kossmayer retired to Hilversum in the Netherlands, where from 1985 Sjoukje was the adviser to the figure skating section of the Dutch Skating Federation. In 2005 she received the first Fanny Blankers-Koen Trophy and in 2014 she was inducted into the International Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

Her husband died in 2001 and she is survived by their two daughters, Rosalie and Katja, who became noted as trainers of donkeys and horses.

Sjoukje Dijkstra, born January 28 1942, died May 2 2024

READER SOLUTIONS BY TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP



offers provided by hayloft



Save £20

Hydrangea 'Polestar'

Perfect for pots

The perfect patio plant, this compact, colour-changing new beauty is one of the earliest varieties to start flowering. From June to October its blooms open, initially lime-white before maturing first to cream and then blush pink, and covering the lush green foliage. By early autumn, the blooms will become a rich and rosy shade of red. Growing to a height and spread of around 60cm, this hardy shrub is perfect for small gardens or for planting in containers. **P&P £4.95 per order. Supplied as 12cm pots, with delivery in seven days.**

K41154	Hydrangea 'Polestar' x 1	£18
K41155	Hydrangea 'Polestar' x 3	£34

 0333 772 0325 quote RODU24

 gardenshop.telegraph.co.uk

Calls will cost a maximum of 5p per minute from a BT line. Mobile and other service providers' rates may vary. Lines open seven days a week, 8am-8pm. P&P £4.95 per order. Dispatched in seven days, subject to availability. Please send cheques and postal orders, made payable to Hayloft Plants Ltd, to: Telegraph Garden Shop Offer, PO Box 2020, Pershore WR10 9EP; and clearly state your name and address. All products are purchased from, and your resulting contract will be with, Hayloft Plants Ltd (registered no. 04098670), a company independent of Telegraph Media Group Ltd.

Television reviews

A masterful and immersive retelling of familiar history



In BBC Two's series, actors recreated the testimony of the survivors of D-Day

They are almost all gone now, the veterans who once upon a time liberated Western Europe. Soon, with no more living witnesses, documentaries like **D-Day: The Unheard Tapes** (BBC Two) may become the norm. Its creative idea is to reanimate audio archive by using young actors to lipsync the testimony of those who were there on 6 June 1944.

The immediacy is jolting, the emotional access intimate. There is a difference between listening to the crackly recording of an old soldier talking about being shot at by Germans, and watching that same recollection issue from the mouth of a fresh-faced man in his twenties wearing period civvies and a raffish 'tache.

It's no great leap of the imagination to place such an everyday stoic on a landing craft approaching Omaha, or flying in by glider to liberate Pegasus bridge. "You heard about the hedgerows?" seethes Private Harry Parley, with a look of hurt horror at battling field by field to liberate Cherbourg. "They never told me about the hedgerows."

The concept of actors lipsyncing to recorded voices was first used by the same production company in 2022's *Aids: The Unheard Tapes*. This new series feels inspired partly by Jeremy

Deller's centenary commemoration of the Somme, when young men outfitted as Tommies trooped in ghostly silence through British streets.

The outstanding cast skilfully hint at trauma with the tweak of an ear or the widening of an eye. Hellish visions of slaughter and mutilation, the remembered sounds of sand sucking in bullets or bombs whistling over Caen, are revisited as shocks experienced for the very first time.

Across three episodes covering the build-up, the day itself, and the long attritional aftermath, the cast also pops up in shaky-cam reconstructions which supplement the actual footage. With articulate historians filling in the background, this becomes an all-purpose immersion that, in the fog of war, never loses sight of either the vast geopolitical overview or minute psychological realities.

Among the rainbow of accents, including an African-American who simmers at not being trusted to fight, those who awaited the invasion also lend their voices. "He wants to shoot you dead too," says Adolf Rogosch, a Wehrmacht infantryman fixing the camera with a blue-eyed stare. "It was either you or him, one of the two. There is no alternative."

A sombre, vital, masterful retelling. **Jasper Rees**

I was devastated when Channel 4 said last year that they would "no longer be working" with *Escape to the Chateau's* Dick and Angel. There had been an investigation into alleged clashes between the Strawbridges and that show's producers, along with an audio file of Angel being really rather unangelic. But their new series, **Secret France with Dick and Angel**, had already been filmed.

With Dick and Angel grinning and giggling throughout, the embodiment of joie de vivre and esprit de corps, it seemed too good to be true. But Channel 4 have confirmed that *Secret France* is the couple's last hurrah.

I tried to pretend I knew none of the above, particularly as episode one made no mention of Dick and Angel's defenestration. Taken on its own merits, *Secret France* was a cut above your run-of-the-mill travelogue. You think you've seen most corners of the world covered already in travel telly, and in fact you most probably have.

Still, I would agree with *Secret France's* assertion that in the fuss to gush over Provence, the old trading port of Marseille has often been overlooked.

This may be because it has become associated with gang violence and no-go areas in the quartier nords (helped by items such as "How drug gangs operate in Europe's most dangerous city" on *Channel 4 News* last month). In any case, it was good, and unexpected, to see Dick and Angel doing their surprised-by-joy schtick in some unexpected places. They are soon to be booted off Channel 4 for their alleged behaviour behind the scenes, but in front of the scenes they still know what to do.

So off they trotted to the Maison Empereur hardware store, which to me looked monumental (I like hardware stores). They made their own scent; they found some flamingos. Dick walked about wearing what looked like an upturned bread basket on his head.

Throughout they maintained the crucial appearance of genuine curiosity. Alas, soon they too will be a curiosity, perhaps cast to television's four winds for harbouring secrets of their own. **Benji Wilson**

D-Day: The Unheard Tapes ★★★★★
Secret France with Dick and Angel ★★★

What to watch



LOST BOYS & FAIRIES
BBC One, 9pm



Sion Daniel Young and Fra Fee are a couple trying to adopt in Daf James's sensitive drama

While one comedy-drama about the trials of adoption twinkles merrily away on Apple TV+, along comes another with an invigorating twist on the premise so charmingly depicted in *Trying*. In this three-part, boxsetted series, extrovert Gabriel (Sion Daniel Young) and sensible Andy (Fra Fee) are a drag performer and accountant, together for eight years and with their hopes of adoption dependent on a sympathetic

report from Elizabeth Berrington's savvy and witty social worker, Jackie. Her interview teases out the couple's personal stories, including a few aspects that Gabriel in particular – still bearing the psychological scars of a horribly difficult upbringing – would rather keep quiet. Both uproariously funny and deeply moving, Daf James's script rings true thanks to the easy chemistry between the leads, despite occasional

detours into magic realism. The encounters between the hopeful couple and their potential adoptees carry with them a genuine tension as they weigh up their options – partially sighted charmer Esme? Reclusive truth-teller Jake? Unimpressed Tamsin? – and there is a tenderness, wit and warmth that tugs effectively at the heartstrings without ever drowning them in syrup. **Gabriel Tate**

Tonight focuses on potential matchday flashpoints in Coventry, Walsall and Manchester during the 2022-23 season.

DRAMA

Mayor of Kingstown *Paramount+*
It takes more than a snow plough to keep Mike McLusky down – with star Jeremy Renner having recovered from the life-threatening injuries he suffered last year, he is back as the titular mayor trying to keep the peace in a bleak Michigan town dominated by its prison. This third season, as glum and violent as those preceding it, finds

foes new and familiar jockeying for supremacy.

The Sympathizer *Sky Atlantic, 9pm*
With Saigon behind him, the Captain (Hoa Xuande) adapts to life in the US with unease until the timely intervention of an Orientalist professor (Robert Downey Jr once again) and his intriguing secretary (Sandra Oh) – while the hunt for the mole continues apace. Compelling, confounding entertainment, deftly performed.

ENTERTAINMENT

Love Island *ITV1/ITV2, 9pm*
Amid tanking ratings and the legacy of safeguarding



Canal Boat Diaries: Robbie Cumming in Northampton

issues that have reportedly been rectified, the one-time national obsession returns for an 11th series. Maya Jama is back on hosting duties, £50,000 is up for grabs and there's no shortage of hunks and hotties queuing up to enter the Mallorcan villa – from a footballer, dancer and shop manager to a make-up artist promising to bring a dose of "Scouse glamour" to the show.

FACTUAL

Canal Boat Diaries *Yesterday, 7pm*
A fifth series for this amiable, easygoing waterborne travelogue, airing every weeknight for a fortnight. Robbie Cumming's latest voyage takes him south from Braunston in Northamptonshire, including a detour to Warwick Castle and a dip in the Grand Union Canal. **GT**

The Daily T A new Telegraph podcast



Radio choice

Night Train to Odesa
Radio 4, 11.45am

There's a rare seam of gritty realism in *Night Train to Odesa* (continuing until Friday), journalist Jen

Stout's compelling account of how she was catapulted from studying in Moscow to covering the horrors of war in Odesa in the weeks following Putin's invasion of Ukraine. In this morning's

opener, she scrambles to gather the accreditation and equipment necessary before following a lead to the refugee-packed port of Isaccea. For something more light-hearted, turn to

the reliably entertaining Scottish-Asian corner-shop comedy **Fags Mag and Bags** (*Radio 4, 2.15pm*), which returns for another raucous six-week run. **Gerard O'Donovan**

RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHz

6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Dean and Vicky **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Rock Show with Daniel P Carter **1.00am** BBC Introducing Rock on Radio 1 with Alyx Holcombe **2.00** Radio 1's Future Alternative **3.00** Radio 1 Relax in Love **4.00** Radio 1 Dance **5.00 - 6.57am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Arielle Free

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat **2.00pm** DJ Spooky. DJ Spooky sits in for Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox. Music and chat **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whitley. Music and chat **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent **7 10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg **3.00** Pick of the Pops **4.00 - 6.30am** Jason Mohammad

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Amanda Maier-Rontgen **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape. A sequence of music **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: EarthWorks. Rose Ferraby explores traces of human history in the Yorkshire Wolds **10.00** Night Tracks. A

soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30 - 6.30am** Through the Night

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198KHz

6.00am Today **9.00** Start the Week **9.45** Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Tourist Trap **11.45** Book of the Week: **Night Train to Odesa** See Radio choice **12.00** News **12.04pm** You and Yours. Consumer affairs **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Presented by Sarah Montague **1.45** Thief at the British Museum. The museum shares details about how they think the thief covered their tracks **2.00** The Archers. The penny drops for Lynda, and Freddie faces a dilemma **2.15** Fags, Mags and Bags See Radio choice **2.45** Gambits. The Board, by Eley Williams **3.00** A Good Read. New series. Kathryn Hughes and Dan Schreiber discuss their favourite books **3.30** History's Secret Heroes. The story of an elite secret unit of Jewish commandos. Last in the series **4.00** The Beaches. The scientific mission that ensured the success of the D-Day landings **4.30** The Kitchen Cabinet. Jay Rayner presents the culinary panel show from Gloucester **5.00** PM. Presented by Ben Wright **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. With Marcus Brigstocke, Tony Hawks, Vicki Pepperdine and Henning Wehn **7.00** The Archers. Fallon springs a surprise and Vince is on the warpath **7.15** Front Row. Arts programme **8.00** The Briefing Room **8.30** BBC Inside Science **9.00** Start the Week **9.45** Assume Nothing: The Shankill Gold Rush **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Long Island **11.00** Harland **11.30** Soul Music **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am** Book of the Week: Night Train to Odesa **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service **5.20**

Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45 - 6.00am** Farming Today

RADIO 5 LIVE
MW 693 & 909KHz

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **7.45** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00 - 6.00am** Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM
FM 99.9-101.9MHz

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00 - 6.30am** Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News **8.06** HARDtalk **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** CrowdScience **10.00** News **10.06** The History Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Conversation **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** World Business Report **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.06** From Our Own Correspondent **8.30** Discovery **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** The Conversation **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** The History Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Assignment **3.00**

News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** In the Studio **5.00 - 8.00am** Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Hercule Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead **6.30** The Great Impersonation **7.00** Minor Adjustment **7.30** Steptoe and Son **8.00** A Short Gentleman **8.30** These Days **8.45** D-Day Minus 6: Putting You Through **9.00** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue **9.30** A British History in Weather **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** The Moth Radio Hour **10.55** Inheritance Tracks **11.00** Hercule Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead **11.30** The Great Impersonation **12.00** Minor Adjustment **12.30pm** Steptoe and Son **1.00** A Short Gentleman **1.30** These Days **1.45** D-Day Minus 6: Putting You Through **2.00** Just a Minute **2.30** The Nimmo Twins In... **3.00** Blood Count **3.45** Madame Zilensky and the King of Finland **4.00** The Moth Radio Hour **4.55** Inheritance Tracks **5.00** Hercule Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead **5.30** The Great Impersonation **6.00** Minor Adjustment **6.30** Steptoe and Son **7.00** A Short Gentleman **7.30** These Days **7.45** D-Day Minus 6: Putting You Through **8.00** Just a Minute **8.30** The Nimmo Twins In... **9.00** Blood Count **9.45** Madame Zilensky and the King of Finland **10.00** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue **10.30** Goodness Gracious Me **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Dead Ringers **11.30** Dave Podmore's Cricket Night **12.00** The Moth Radio Hour **12.55am** Inheritance Tracks **1.00** Hercule Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead **1.30** The Great Impersonation **2.00** Minor Adjustment **2.30** Steptoe and Son **3.00** A Short Gentleman **3.30** These Days **3.45** D-Day Minus 6: Putting You Through **4.00** Just a Minute **4.30** The Nimmo Twins In... **5.00** Blood Count **5.45 - 6.00am** Madame Zilensky and the King of Finland

The Telegraph
Extra
VIP

Claim two free tickets to Foodies Festival 2024

Celebrate the best of local food and drink this summer. Enjoy cooking demos with MasterChef finalists, tutored wine tastings and live music at venues across the country. Free tickets are limited but if you miss out, subscribers can still save 25% on the full ticket price.

To claim, visit telegraph.co.uk/VIP-offers or scan the QR code

To scan the QR code, open your phone camera, point it at the code and tap the banner that appears on screen. On older phones, you may need to download a QR code reader first.

To claim this VIP offer of two free tickets, you need to be a Digital Subscriber who has been with us for 12 months, Or you need to be a Digital Plus or Print Subscriber who has been with us for a month. Offer ends 8 September 2024. Limited to two tickets per booking. The ticket cannot be refunded and there is no cash alternative. Subject to availability, tickets are first come, first served.

Today's television

Main channels

BBC One
6.00 am Breakfast (S) 9.30 Rip Off Britain (S) 10.15 The Moment of Proof (R) (S) 10.45 Expert Witness (AD) (R) (S) 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer (R) (S)
12.15 pm Bargain Hunt: All About D-Day (S)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather (S)
1.35 Regional News; Weather (S)
1.45 BBC News at One; Weather (S)
2.00 Doctors (AD) (S)
2.30 Clean It, Fix It (R) (S)
3.00 Escape to the Country (S)
3.45 Garden Rescue (R) (S)
4.30 The Finish Line (S)
5.15 Pointless (R) (S)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S)
6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)
6.55 Party Election Broadcast (R) (S)



Panorama: The Missing Cryptoqueen

7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas present (S)
7.30 EastEnders Cindy and George try to help Anna after her mugging (AD) (S)
8.00 Panorama: The Missing Cryptoqueen: Dead or Alive? Current affairs report (S)
8.30 The Bidding Room Items include a transforming bookcase (R) (S)
9.00 Lost Boys & Fairies New series. Drama starring Sion Daniel Young See What to watch (AD) (S)
10.00 BBC News at Ten (S)
10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)
10.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You With Chris McCausland and Sophy Ridge (R) (S)
11.25 I Kissed a Girl 12.15am I Kissed a Girl: The Reunion 1.10 - 6.00am News

BBC Two
6.45 am Bargain Hunt (R) (S) 7.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (R) (S) 8.00 Sign Zone: Our Changing Planet: Restoring Our Reefs (AD) (R) (S) (SL) 9.00 News (S)
12.15 pm Politics Live (S)
1.00 Impossible (R) (S)
1.45 Mastermind (R) (S)
2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) (R) (S)
2.45 Five Bedrooms (AD) (R) (S)
3.30 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R) (S)
4.15 Monkey Planet (R) (S)
5.15 Flog It! (R) (S)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (R) (S)
6.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (S)



Springwatch

7.00 Your Garden Made Perfect Redesigning a lacklustre garden in Hertfordshire (R) (S)
8.00 Springwatch Megan McCubbin is on the banks of Loch Lomond (S)
9.00 D-Day: The Unheard Tapes The soldiers battle on the beaches of Normandy (AD) (S)
10.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul and Bob head to a lake deep in the Surrey Hills (AD) (R) (S)
10.30 Newsnight (S)
11.05 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust 12.05am Race Across the World: The Reunion 1.05 Sign Zone: Countryside 2.00 Sign Zone: The Great British Sewing Bee 3.00 - 6.45am This Is BBC Two

ITV1
6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) 9.00 Lorraine (S) 10.00 This Morning (S)
12.30 pm Loose Women (S)
1.30 News; Weather (S)
1.55 Regional News; Weather (S)
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (AD) (R) (S)
3.00 Lingo (R) (S)
4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S)
5.00 The Chase for Soccer Aid (R) (S)
6.00 Regional News; Weather (S)
6.25 Party Election Broadcast (S)
6.30 News; Weather (S)



Love Island

7.30 Emmerdale Billy breaks down (AD) (S)
8.00 Coronation Street Bethany sends Craig on a wild goose chase, and Abi fears that her life is ruined (AD) (S)
9.00 Love Island New series. Everyone's favourite villa is ready and waiting packed with new singles See What to watch (S)
10.30 News; Regional News; Weather (S)
11.00 Regional News; Weather 11.15 Instagram's Worst Con Artist 12.05am Shop on TV 3.00 My Mum, Your Dad 3.50 Unwind with ITV 5.05 Gino's Italy: Like Mamma Used to Make 5.35 - 6.00am Gino's Italy: Secrets of the South

Channel 4
6.30 am 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) 6.55 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) 7.20 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 8.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 9.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 9.40 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 10.10 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 10.40 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S)
12.05 pm Channel 4 News (S)
12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S)
1.10 Car S.O.S. (AD) (R) (S)
2.10 Countdown (S)
3.00 A Place in the Sun (R) (S)
4.00 A Place in the Sun (S)
5.00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses (S)
6.00 Four in a Bed (S)
6.30 Channel 4 News (S)



Football Cops

7.00 Live England International Football England v Bosnia & Herzegovina (kick-off 7.45pm). Jules Breach presents all the action from the friendly at St James' Park in Newcastle (S)
10.00 Football Cops See What to watch (AD) (S)
11.05 Kingpins 12.05am England International Football 1.00 Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back 1.50 The Simpsons 2.15 FILM: Swan Song (2021) 4.00 Iris Prize Best British Shorts 4.15 FILM: Shankar's Fairies (2021) Drama starring Shreeja Mishra and Jaishid Kumar 5.50 - 6.30am Countdown

Channel 5
6.00 am Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (S) 11.15 Storm Huntley (S)
12.45 pm Friends (AD) (R) (S)
1.10 Friends (AD) (R) (S)
1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (S)
1.45 Home and Away (AD) (R) (S)
2.15 FILM: Murders to Die For (2023, TVM) Thriller starring Kate Miner (S)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (R) (S)
5.00 5 News at 5 (S)
6.00 Police Interceptors (R) (S)
6.55 5 News Update (S)



The Hospital: Life on the Line

7.00 Traffic Cops Officers are out in force on a bank holiday weekend (R) (S)
7.55 5 News Update (S)
8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders Officers deal with a speeding driver, who turns out to be a Geordie celebrity (S)
9.00 The Hospital: Life on the Line New series. A look inside Clydebank's NHS Golden Jubilee University National Hospital (S)
10.00 Serial Killer Wives Exploring the lives of serial killers through the lens of their partners (R) (S)
11.05 999: Critical Condition 12.05am Ultimate Police Interceptors 1.00 PlayOJO Live Casino Show 3.00 Secrets of Your Supermarket Food 3.50 How to Give Up Sugar (& Lose Weight) 4.40 Wildlife SOS 5.05 House Doctor 5.30 Entertainment News on 5 5.35 Fireman Sam 5.45 - 6.00am Paw Patrol

Film choice



Dr Who and the Daleks (1965) Film4, 4.30pm ★★★

Whovians have mixed feelings about Gordon Fleming's spin-off film, but it's entertaining enough. Based on the TV serial *The Daleks*, it was the first *Doctor Who* serial to be filmed in Technicolor, and follows the Doctor (played by Peter Cushing) and his companions (Roberta Tovey, Jennie Linden and Roy Castle) as they're accidentally transported to the home planet of the villainous Daleks.



The Tourist (2010) Sky Showcase, 10.15pm ★★

Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck follows his superb drama *The Lives of Others* with a so-so remake of a middling French thriller, *Anthony Zimmer*. On the train from Paris, Angelina Jolie tries to throw pursuers off the trail of her absent lover, a master thief, by taking up with Johnny Depp and hiding in Venice. It's silly, but Jolie and Depp, ever the lookers, do have strong chemistry.



47 Metres Down (2017) Film4, 12.20am ★★★

Johannes Roberts's deep-sea horror will put you off scuba diving for life. Mandy Moore and Claire Holt are two sisters on holiday in Mexico, who decide to embrace their fun side and go diving for the chance to see some sharks. The trip of a lifetime goes very, very wrong, however, when their cable breaks and they're trapped, in a cage, at the bottom of the ocean, surrounded by beasts.

with

Camilla TOMINEY

and

Kamal AHMED

Listen every weekday

Telegraph app Podcasts Spotify

Freeview, satellite and cable

BBC Four
FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 108
7.00 pm Great British Railway Journeys
7.30 War Walks
8.00 Britain's Lost Masterpieces
9.00 Vasa: The Ghost Ship See What to watch
10.00 D-Day: The Untold Story – Journeys to the Bottom of the Sea
11.00 Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies
12.00 D-Day: The Last Heroes
1.00 am Great British Railway Journeys
1.30 War Walks
2.00 - 3.00am Britain's Lost Masterpieces

ITV3
FV 10 FS 115 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117
11.15 am Heartbeat
12.20 pm Heartbeat
1.30 Classic Emmerdale
2.05 Classic Emmerdale
2.35 Classic Coronation Street
3.10 Classic Coronation Street
3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple
5.55 Heartbeat
6.55 Heartbeat
8.00 McDonald & Dodds
10.00 Wire in the Blood
11.00 Wire in the Blood
12.00 The Royal
12.50 am Bless This House
1.15 Upstairs, Downstairs
2.10 Unwind with ITV
2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4
FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118
11.25 am Isle of Man TT
12.25 pm The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
1.35 Magnum, PI
2.40 Kojak
3.40 Minder
4.50 The Sweeney
6.00 BattleBots
7.00 Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights
8.00 MotoGP Highlights
9.00 Isle of Man TT
10.00 No Room for Error
11.05 pm FILM: Shaun of the Dead (2004)
1.00 am Motorsport UK
1.50 Isle of Man TT
2.45 Unwind with ITV
3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts
FV 36 FS 147 SKY 130 VIRGIN 140
Noon The Joy of Painting
1.00 pm Tales of the Unexpected
2.00 Cold War & Cinema
3.00 Lenny Henry's Got the Blues
4.00 Discovering: Robert Donat
5.00 The Joy of Painting
6.00 Tales of the Unexpected
6.30 Tales of the Unexpected
7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
8.00 Andre Rieu: Falling in Love – Live in Maastricht 2016
11.00 Shakespeare: Macbeth
1.10 am Will's Book
2.25 Bring Me the Head of Alfred Hitchcock
3.50 - 4.50am Cheltenham Literature Festival

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108
11.10 am Billions
12.15 pm Game of Thrones
1.20 The Sopranos
2.25 The Sopranos
3.30 True Blood
4.35 True Blood
5.45 Billions
6.50 Billions
7.55 Game of Thrones
9.00 The Sympathizer See What to watch
10.15 Succession
11.30 The King
12.30 am The King
1.30 The Newsroom
2.40 Game of Thrones
3.40 - 4.10am In Treatment

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428
11.00 am 40 Guns to Apache Pass (1967) Western starring Audie Murphy
12.55 pm A Lawless Street (1955) Western starring Randolph Scott
2.30 Ten Tall Men (1951) Foreign Legion comedy adventure starring Burt Lancaster
4.30 Dr Who and the Daleks (1965) See Film choice
6.20 First Knight (1995) Arthurian adventure starring Richard Gere
9.00 Gangs of New York (2002)
12.20 am 47 Metres Down (2017) Horror starring Mandy Moore See Film choice
2.05 - 3.55am Downhill (2020)

Drama
FV 20 FS 158 SKY 143 VIRGIN 116
11.40 am The Bill
12.40 pm Classic EastEnders
1.20 Classic EastEnders
2.00 London's Burning
3.05 Lovejoy
4.15 Tenko
5.20 Birds of a Feather
6.00 Waiting for God
6.40 Are You Being Served?
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine
8.00 The Brokenwood Mysteries
10.00 New Tricks
11.20 Soldier, Soldier
12.30 am Lovejoy
1.40 Call the Midwife
2.50 - 4.00am Classic Holby City

Dave
Noon Storage Hunters UK 2.00pm Gadget Man 3.00 Top Gear 5.00 Haiky Bikers' Best of British 6.00 Rick Stein's Mediterranean Escapes 7.00 Would I Lie to You? 7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games 9.00 Q! XL Extended edition. With Josh Widdicombe, Aisling Bea and Tony Hawks 10.00 Mad Dogs. Emotions run high when the guys are trapped in an international quarantine 11.10 Q! 12.15am Mock the Week 12.55 Would I Lie to You? 1.35 Live at the Apollo 2.35 Meet the Richardsons 3.05-4.00am Whose Line is It Anyway? USA
GOLD
Noon Last of the Summer Wine 12.00pm Keeping Up Appearances 1.20 Ever Decreasing Circles 2.00 Porridge 2.40 Dad's Army 3.20 Are You Being Served? 4.00 Last of the Summer Wine 5.20 Porridge 6.00 Keeping Up Appearances 6.40 Dad's Army 8.00 Open All Hours 8.40 Blackadder the Third. Edmund tries to find a rich bride for Prince George 9.20 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV. An award-winning camera crew follow a woman's attempts to light her boiler 10.00 The Royle Family 10.40 Harry Enfield and Chums 11.20 Knowing Me, Knowing You – With Alan Partridge

12.00 Open All Hours 12.40am Blackadder the Third 1.20 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV 2.00 The Royle Family 2.30 Harry Enfield and Chums 3.15-4.00am Knowing Me, Knowing You – With Alan Partridge
ITV2
11.45am Dress to Impress 12.50pm Wheel of Fortune 1.55 Family Fortunes: Gino's Best Bits 2.25 Veronica Mars 3.25 Britain's Got Talent: The Final 6.00 Catchphrase. Marty, Sandra and Dave compete 6.45 FILM: Pitch Perfect 2 (2015) Comedy sequel starring Anna Kendrick 9.00 Love Island New series. Everyone's favourite villa is packed with new singles See What to watch 10.30 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad! 12.30am Bob's Burgers 1.30 Hey Tracey! 2.30 Unwind with ITV 3.00-6.00am Teleshopping
More4
11.25am Find It, Fix It, Flog It 12.30pm Come Dine with Me 3.10 Four in a Bed 5.50 Chateau DIY 6.55 Car S.O.S. 7.55 Grand Designs. A couple planning to create a hybrid structure in Cumbria 9.00 PopMaster TV. With contestants from Poole, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Shrewsbury 10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Katherine Ryan,

David Mitchell and Nick Helm join in the fun 11.05 24 Hours in A&E 12.10am PopMaster TV 1.15 999: On the Front Line 2.15 24 Hours in A&E 3.20-3.50am A Place in the Sun
PBS America
11.50am WWII in Color: Road to Victory 1.00pm Niagara Falls 2.05 The Soviet Union: 100th Anniversary 1922 3.05 D-Day: Invasion 4.05 Race to Victory 5.05 Beautiful Serengeti 5.40 WWII in Color: Road to Victory 6.50 The Soviet Union: 100th Anniversary 1922 7.50 D-Day: Invasion 8.50 Race to Victory 9.50 WWII in Color: Road to Victory 10.55 Niagara Falls 12.00 The Soviet Union: 100th Anniversary 1922 1.00am D-Day: Invasion 2.00-6.00am Teleshopping
Talking Pictures TV
24 hours, including at: 11.35am The Outer Limits 12.40pm FILM: Stagecoach (1966) Western remake starring Bing Crosby 3.00 The Saint 4.00 FILM: Beach Red (1967) Second World War drama starring Cornel Wilde 5.50 Look at Life 6.00 The Road to D-Day 7.00 The Footage Detectives 8.00 Enemy at the Door 9.05 Into the Blue 11.15 FILM: Rage (1966) Thriller starring Glenn Ford 1.20am Terminus 2.00 Maigret 3.50-4.00am Look at Life

Yesterday
Noon Great British Railway Journeys 1.00pm Antiques Roadshow 2.00 Bangers & Cash 4.00 Adolf Hitler's War 5.00 World War Weird 6.00 Antiques Roadshow 7.00 Canal Boat Diaries See What to watch 8.00 Abandoned Engineering 9.00 The Witch Hunts: Lucy Worsley Investigates 10.00 Bangers & Cash 11.00 Abandoned Engineering 12.00 Great British Railway Journeys 1.00am Hornby: A Model World 2.00 Abandoned Engineering 3.00-6.10am Teleshopping
Sky Sports Live Event
Noon Lunchtime Live 2.00pm Sports Desk 3.00 Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Sri Lanka v South Africa 7.30 Live World Pool Championship. Live coverage of day one of the tournament 9.30 Sky Sports News 10.00 Sky Sports News at Ten 10.30 Back Pages Tonight 11.00 Sky Sports News 1.00-5.30am Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Afghanistan v Uganda
Sky Sports Premier League
Noon Gary Neville's Soccerbox 1.00pm Premier League Best Goals 2.00 Premier League Highlights 5.00 Premier League Review 7.00 Premier

League Icons 7.30 Premier League 100 Club 8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox 9.00 Fabregas & Henry: Christmas Special 9.30 Newcastle – The Entertainers 10.00 Class of '92: Full Time 11.00 PL Retro 1.00am Premier League Years 3.00-4.00am PL Greatest Games
TNT Sports 1
11.45am Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union 1.45pm Ligue 1 2.45 Serie A 3.45 Uefa Champions League 5.15 No Filter Football 5.30 Premier League Stories 6.30 Live: Ultimate Pool. Coverage from Group 1 of the Ultimate Pool Pairs Cup 9.30 Fight Week 10.00 HSBC SVNS Highlights 11.00 WWE Raw Highlights 12.00 WWE SmackDown Highlights 1.00-4.15am Live: WWE Monday Night Raw. Wrestling action
Discovery
Noon Wheeler Dealers 1.00pm Barnwood Builders 3.00 Gold Rush 4.00 Alaska: Homestead Rescue 6.00 Demolition Down Under 7.00 Kindig Customs 8.00 Supertruckers 9.00 Wheeler Dealers World Tour 10.00 Roadworthy Rescues 11.00 Combat Dealers: Reloaded 12.00 Gold Divers 1.00am Wheeler Dealers World Tour 2.00 Roadworthy Rescues 3.00-4.00am Gold Rush

Sky Cinema Premiere
24 hours, including at: 10.35am Bonus Track (2023) Comedy starring Joe Anders 12.15pm The Exorcist: Believer (2023) 2.15 The Blackening (2023) Comedy horror starring Grace Byers and Jermaine Fowler 4.05 Bonus Track (2023) Comedy starring Joe Anders 5.50 Blue Beetle (2023) Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Maridueña 8.00 The Exorcist: Believer (2023) Horror sequel starring Leslie Odom Jr 10.00 Some Other Woman (2023) While visiting an island for her husband's work, a woman meets a stranger who takes over her life. Thriller starring Ashley Greene 11.35 Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (2024) Thriller starring Eric Bana and Anna Torv 1.35am Ride On (2023) Action drama starring Jackie Chan 3.50-5.30am The Inseparables (2023) Animated adventure with the voice of Monica Young
Sky Documentaries
Noon FILM: McQueen (2018) The life and career of fashion designer Alexander McQueen 2.00pm FILM: Tread (2020) A man who wrecked havoc in his town in a customised bulldozer 3.45 My Icon: John Amaechi 4.00 The Directors 5.00 Discovering: Alan Rickman 6.00 The Seventies 7.00 The Great Rhino Robbery 8.00

The Man Who Bought Cricket 9.00 FILM: Tina (2021) A celebration of Tina Turner's life and career 11.15 FILM: Hitsville: The Making of Motown (2019) 1.15am FILM: Lennox: The Untold Story (2020) The life story of former heavyweight boxer Lennox Lewis 3.15-5.00am Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth
Sky History
Noon The UnXplained with William Shatner 1.00pm Pawn Stars 2.00 Ancient Skies 3.00 Bomber: Terror of WWII 5.00 Pawn Stars 6.00 American Pickers 7.00 Forged in Fire 8.00 American Pickers 9.00 Lost U-Boats of WWII 10.00 Secrets of the Lost Liners 11.00 The UnXplained with William Shatner 12.00 Pawn Stars 2.00am Hitler's Handmaidens 3.00-4.00am American Pickers
Sky Max
Noon The Flash 1.00pm SEAL Team 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 4.00 S.W.A.T. 5.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow 6.00 Stargate SG-1 8.00 Flintoff's Road to Nowhere 9.00 FILM: Game of Death II (1980) Martial arts crime adventure starring Bruce Lee 11.00 The Walking Dead 12.00 Hold the Front Page 1.00am SEAL Team 2.00 A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip 3.00-4.00am Hawaii Five-0

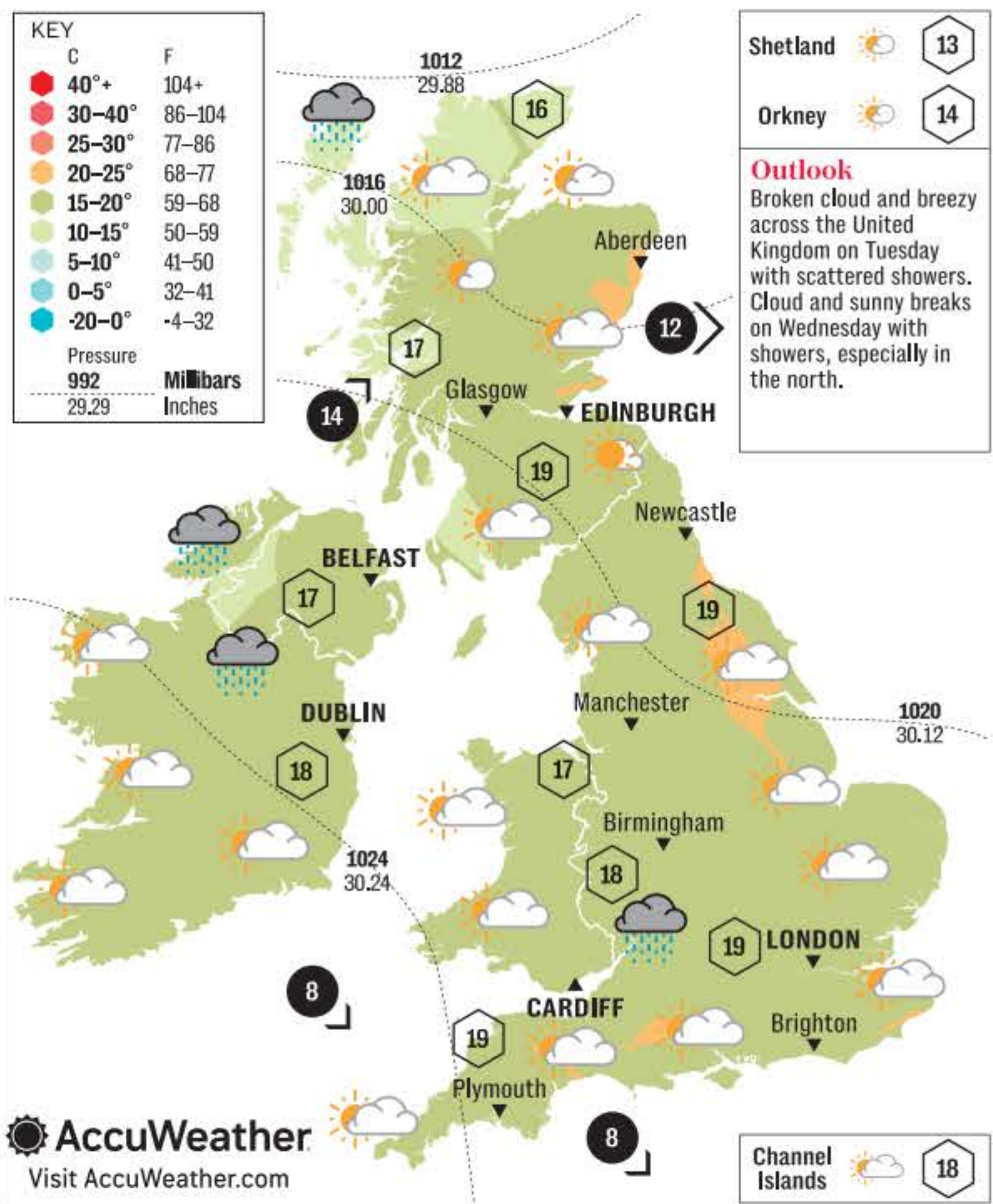
Weather & Crosswords*

Forecast

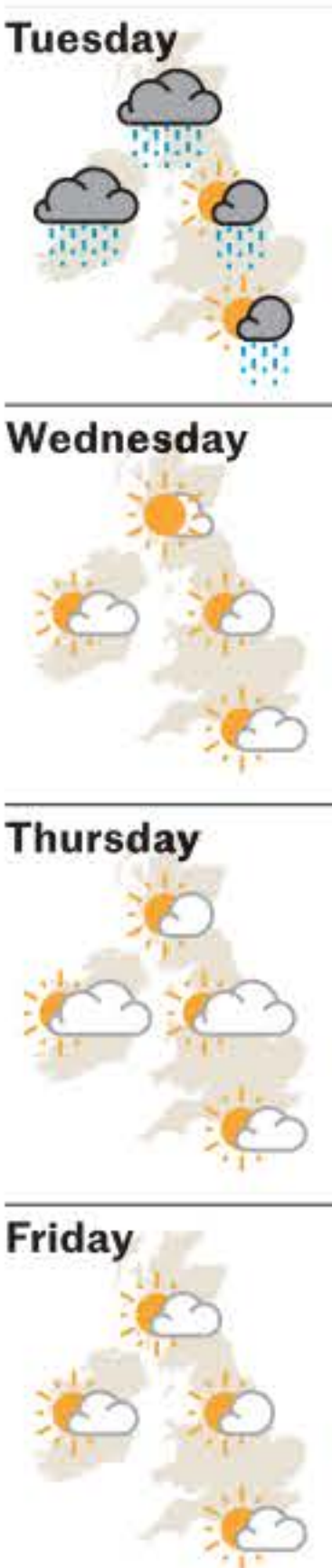
General situation

A nearby front will result in cloud and sunny spells across the United Kingdom today with the odd shower, especially during the afternoon. More widespread showers in the north tonight.

- ♦ **London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Cloud and sunny spells today with the odd shower. A light to gentle northwesterly wind. Max 65-70F (18-21C). Clear periods and mainly dry tonight. Min 50-57F (10-14C).
- ♦ **NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Sunny periods today with the odd shower. A gentle W to NW wind. Max 54-68F (12-20C). The odd shower tonight. Min 45-55F (7-13C).
- ♦ **Wales:** Sunny spells today with the odd shower. A gentle to moderate W wind. Max 54-66F (12-19C). Clear periods tonight. Min 45-55F (7-13C).
- ♦ **N Ireland:** Sunny periods today with the odd shower. A gentle W wind. Max 50-62F (10-17C). A couple of showers tonight. Min 41-54F (5-12C).
- ♦ **SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray, Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Sunny periods today with the odd shower. A gentle to moderate W to SW wind. Max 45-70F (7-21C). Showers tonight. Min 34-54F (1-12C).

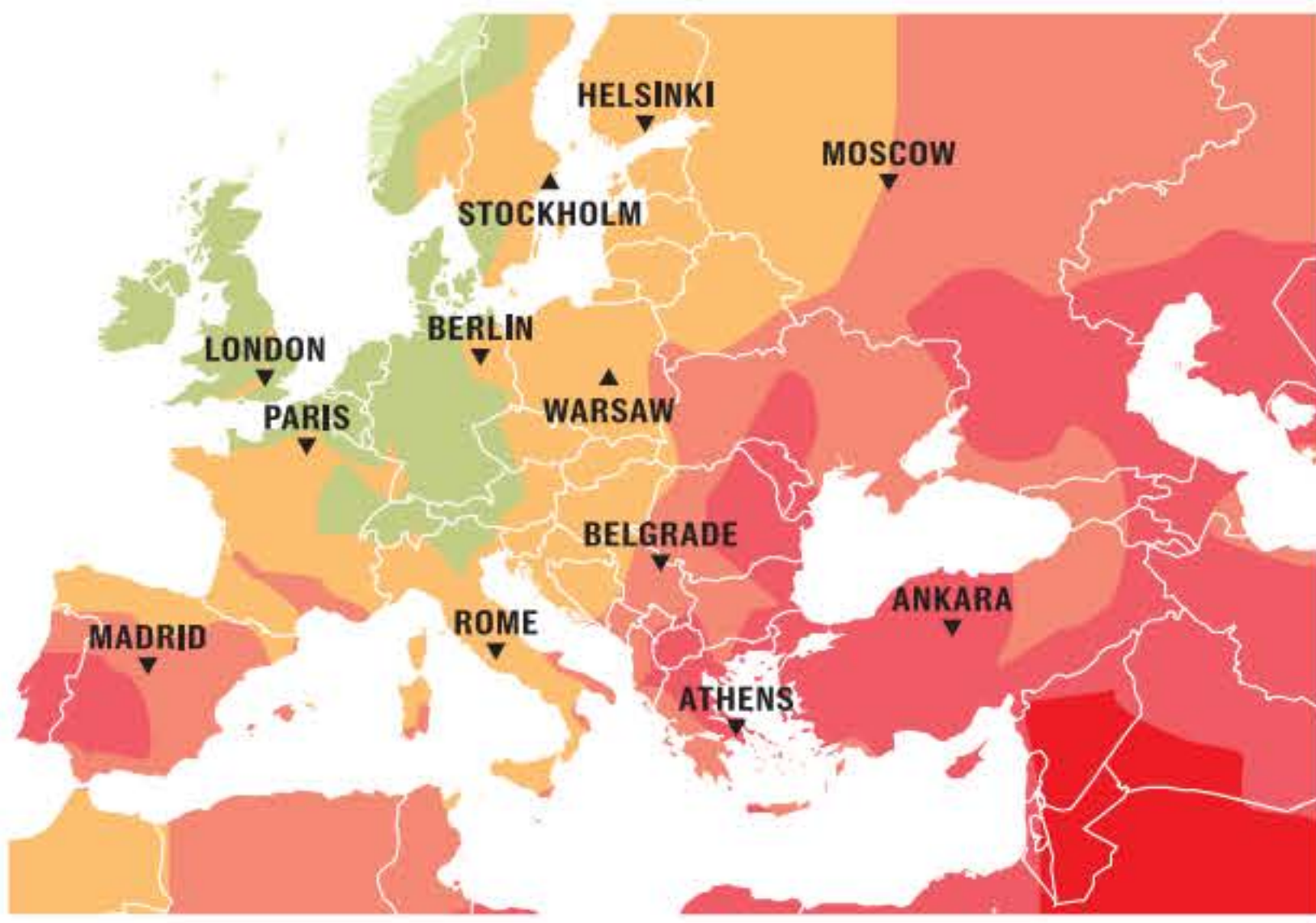


Four day forecast



European readings

	Max	Min	Daytime		Max	Min	Daytime		Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Akrotiri	30	20	sunny	Frankfurt	23	17	cloudy	Oslo	26	16	p/cldy
Alicante	24	18	sunny	Funchal	23	17	p/cldy	Palermo	27	19	windy
Amsterdam	17	10	cloudy	Gdansk	24	14	p/cldy	Paris	17	12	cloudy
Athens	32	20	sunny	Geneva	18	11	rain	Perpignan	25	16	sunny
Barcelona	22	15	p/cldy	Gibraltar	23	18	sunny	Prague	22	14	storms
Bari	30	19	windy	Hamburg	23	15	cloudy	Reykjavik	10	6	showers
Belgrade	29	16	p/cldy	Helsinki	25	16	rain	Rhodes	32	20	sunny
Benidorm	24	16	sunny	Innsbruck	22	11	showers	Riga	25	12	showers
Bergen	15	10	p/cldy	Istanbul	29	20	haze	Rome	21	14	showers
Berlin	24	16	p/cldy	Kyiv	26	17	storms	Saint Malo	17	12	p/cldy
Biarritz	19	13	p/cldy	Lisbon	27	17	cloudy	Salzburg	19	11	showers
Bodrum	33	19	p/cldy	Locarno	23	10	showers	Santander	19	12	showers
Bordeaux	19	12	cloudy	Luxembourg	18	13	cloudy	Santiago/Comp.	23	11	sunny
Brest	17	8	p/cldy	Madrid	28	12	sunny	Sofia	27	14	p/cldy
Brussels	16	13	cloudy	Majorca	24	13	p/cldy	St. Petersburg	28	17	showers
Bucharest	34	19	p/cldy	Malaga	27	19	p/cldy	Stockholm	25	13	sunny
Budapest	24	13	p/cldy	Malta	29	21	windy	Strasbourg	21	15	rain
Cagliari	27	15	sunny	Marseille	24	15	sunny	Tenerife	26	20	windy
Chamonix	17	8	showers	Menorca	24	16	windy	Tirana	33	16	sunny
Copenhagen	26	17	sunny	Milan	25	14	storms	Toulouse	22	13	p/cldy
Corfu	32	18	p/cldy	Monaco	22	16	showers	Valencia	26	16	sunny
Cork	21	10	p/cldy	Moscow	27	18	p/cldy	Venice	26	16	p/cldy
Corsica	23	11	p/cldy	Munich	19	12	showers	Vienna	25	13	p/cldy
Crete	27	17	sunny	Naples	24	17	showers	Vigo	27	14	sunny
Dublin	20	5	p/cldy	Nice	22	16	p/cldy	Vilnius	25	15	p/cldy
Dubrovnik	27	19	storms	Nicosia	37	19	sunny	Warsaw	23	13	storms
Faro	25	20	sunny	Oporto	27	17	windy	Zagreb	27	11	p/cldy
Florence	26	13	p/cldy					Zurich	18	12	showers



World readings

	Max	Min	Daytime		Max	Min	Daytime		Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Accra	30	23	cloudy	Damascus	37	15	sunny	New Orleans	28	23	storms
Addis Ababa	30	9	cloudy	Dar es Salaam	32	23	sunny	New Delhi	43	30	haze
Adelaide	14	4	sunny	Dhaka	35	28	sunny	New York	27	19	p/cldy
Alexandria	31	19	haze	Dubai	41	31	sunny	Ottawa	25	12	p/cldy
Algiers	25	18	windy	Falkland Is.	5	3	windy	Perth	21	11	rain
Amman	36	18	sunny	Harare	27	11	sunny	Port-of-Spain	32	26	storms
Anchorage	12	4	sunny	Havana	34	22	storms	Rio de Janeiro	27	20	sunny
Ankara	29	11	p/cldy	Hong Kong	30	27	storms	Riyadh	43	29	haze
Ascension Is.	28	25	showers	Honolulu	25	23	showers	San Francisco	15	12	p/cldy
Auckland	17	13	p/cldy	Jakarta	34	27	p/cldy	Santiago	16	9	cloudy
Baghdad	44	26	haze	Jeddah	41	28	sunny	Seattle	14	12	rain
Bahamas	29	25	showers	Jerusalem	32	17	sunny	Seoul	26	14	sunny
Bahrain	37	33	haze	Johannesburg	21	8	showers	Seychelles	32	28	cloudy
Bamako	40	27	sunny	Kabul	35	14	sunny	Singapore	31	26	showers
Bangkok	34	28	storms	Karachi	34	29	haze	Sydney	18	12	rain
Beijing	33	18	sunny	Kolkata	35	30	p/cldy	Taipei City	25	20	showers
Beirut	29	22	sunny	Kuala Lumpur	32	25	showers	Tangier	28	20	windy
Bermuda	25	21	p/cldy	La Paz	16	-2	sunny	Tel Aviv	33	19	sunny
Bogota	22	10	rain	Lahore	47	28	haze	Tokyo	23	18	storms
Bridgetown	30	26	storms	Lima	19	15	sunny	Toronto	17	15	rain
Brisbane	24	11	sunny	Los Angeles	18	14	p/cldy	Tunis	27	20	p/cldy
Buenos Aires	16	11	rain	Maldives	33	28	cloudy	Vancouver	13	12	rain
Cairo	36	26	sunny	Manila	36	26	storms	Washington	27	18	p/cldy
Canberra	13	0	windy	Marrakesh	35	19	sunny	Wellington	16	7	p/cldy
Cape Town	17	7	sunny	Melbourne	14	5	p/cldy	Winnipeg	26	11	storms
Casablanca	28	17	sunny	Miami	30	24	storms				
Chicago	23	15	p/cldy	Montego Bay	31	25	storms				
Christchurch	15	-3	p/cldy	Mumbai	34	31	p/cldy				
Colombo	29	27	storms	Nairobi	27	15	p/cldy				

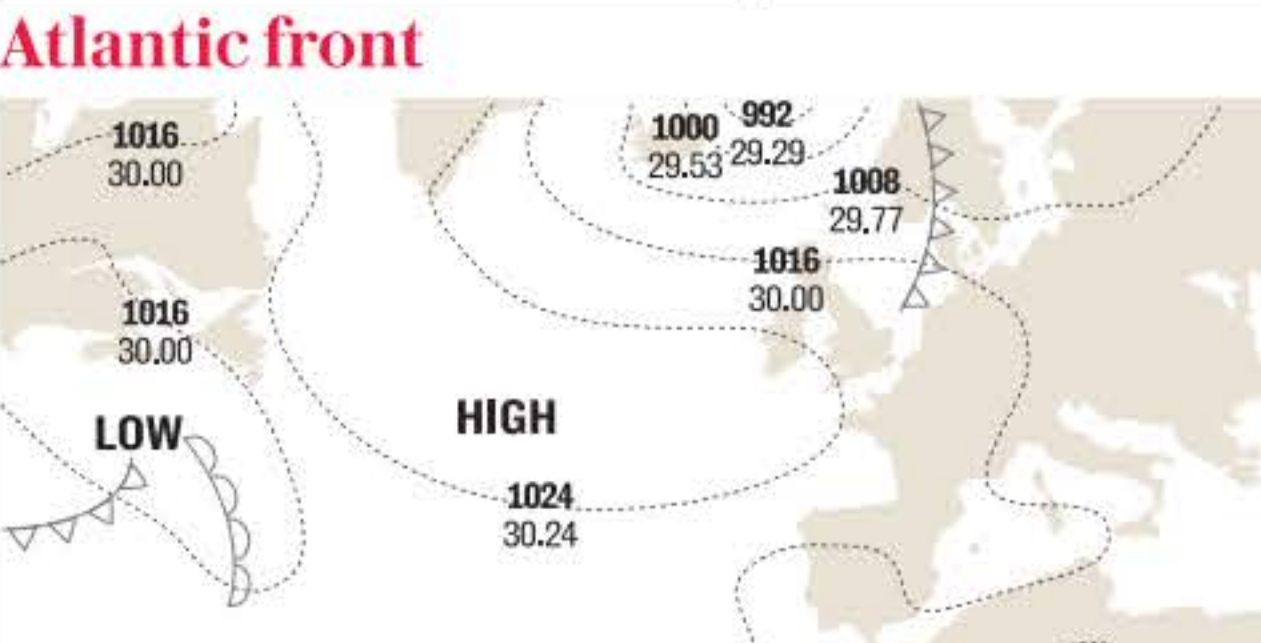
British readings

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime
		mm	°C	weather
Aberdeen	5.9	0.00	14 11	p/cldy
Aberystwyth	12.0	0.00	17 5	sunny
Antrim	1.1	0.00	17 7	cloudy
Aviemore	4.5	0.00	20 6	p/cldy
Barnstaple	12.7	0.00	21 10	sunny
Barrow-in-Furness	10.9	0.00	16 11	sunny
Basingstoke	11.0	0.00	14 7	sunny
Bedford	11.9	0.00	17 7	sunny
Belfast	6.4	0.00	18 9	p/cldy
Berwick	9.2	0.00	19 6	p/cldy
Birmingham	12.1	0.00	21 5	sunny
Bodmin	10.2	0.00	21 11	sunny
Bournemouth	11.1	0.00	17 6	sunny
Braintree	6.0	0.00	14 9	p/cldy
Brecon	13.2	0.00	20 3	sunny
Bridlington	13.2	0.00	17 9	sunny
Brighton	8.3	0.00	21 9	p/cldy
Bristol	12.9	0.00	22 9	sunny
Cambridge	9.0	0.00	17 11	sunny
Cardiff	11.0	0.00	19 11	sunny
Carlisle	9.5	0.00	19 8	p/cldy
Catterick	9.7	0.00	21 6	p/cldy
Cheltenham	12.9	0.00	23 7	sunny

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime
		mm	°C	weather
Chester	11.3	0.00	17 9	sunny
Coventry	12.3	0.00	21 7	sunny
Doncaster	11.7	0.00	22 8	sunny
Dover	3.0	0.00	18 11	cloudy
Dundee	6.5	0.00	15 7	p/cldy
Eastbourne	7.0	0.00	19 11	p/cldy
Edinburgh	6.3	0.00	22 7	p/cldy
Epsom	7.4	0.00	15 9	p/cldy
Falmouth	9.3	0.00	19 12	p/cldy
Farnborough	11.5	0.00	23 7	sunny
Fort William	0.8	0.00	18 4	cloudy
Glasgow	2.5	0.00	20 7	cloudy
Great Malvern	13.0	0.00	18 4	sunny
Grimby	12.2	0.00	16 10	sunny
Guernsey	8.3	0.00	17 11	p/cldy
Hereford	13.4	0.00	18 8	sunny
High Wycombe	11.2	0.00	23 3	sunny
Holyhead	10.2	0.00	17 9	sunny
Huddersfield	11.4	0.00	17 9	sunny
Ipswich	7.5	0.00	19 9	p/cldy
Isle of Man	9.1	0.00	17 10	p/cldy
Isle of Skye	0.2	0.00	14 9	cloudy
Isle of Wight	10.8	0.00	18 9	sunny

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime
		mm	°C	weather
Isles of Scilly	13.3	0.00	17 12	sunny
Jersey	7.0	0.00	18 12	p/cldy
Keswick	9.0	0.00	20 6	p/cldy
Kew Gardens	8.0	0.00	23 11	p/cldy
King's Lynn	12.2	0.00	13 6	sunny
Leeds	11.5	0.00	19 9	sunny
Leek	10.1	0.00	17 7	sunny
Leominster	11.1	0.00	23 6	sunny
Lincoln	10.4	0.00	14 8	sunny
Liverpool	11.3	0.00	17 9	sunny
London	10.6	0.00	15 8	sunny
Manchester	7.0	0.00	18 7	p/cldy
Middlesbrough	11.6	0.00	14 7	sunny
Newcastle	10.4	0.00	19 6	sunny
Newquay	9.0	0.00	17 11	p/cldy
Nottingham	11.2	0.00	16 7	sunny
Orkney	0.8	0.00	16 9	cloudy
Oxford	11.4	0.00	17 7	sunny
Perth	6.6	0.00	22 7	p/cldy
Peterborough	11.0	0.00	13 6	sunny
Plymouth	12.4	0.00	20 9	sunny
Portsmouth	11.2	0.00	21 9	sunny
Prestwick	2.0	0.00	18 9	cloudy

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime
		mm	°C	weather
Ramsgate	7.3	0.00	16 12	p/cldy
Rhyl	13.8	0.00	17 8	sunny
Rugby	12.8	0.00	21 6	sunny
Salisbury	13.0	0.00	18 6	sunny
Scunthorpe	11.8	0.00	23 6	sunny
Sheffield	11.7	0.00	22 8	sunny
Shetland	0.0	0.03	13 9	showers
Shrewsbury	11.4	0.00	19 7	sunny
Skegness	11.0	0.00	16 7	sunny
Southampton	11.2	0.00	23 11	sunny
Southend-on-Sea	6.9	0.00	18 11	p/cldy
Stornoway	0.3	0.01	15 11	cloudy
Swansea	12.8	0.00	22 12	sunny
Swindon	12.9	0.00	20 8	sunny
Thirsk	12.3	0.00	21 4	sunny
Tiree	0.0	0.03	14 11	showers
Weymouth	13.0	0.00	19 11	sunny
Whitehaven	10.3	0.00	16 9	sunny
Widmerne	10.2	0.00	18 6	sunny
Worcester	13.0	0.00	18 4	sunny
Yeovil	11.2	0.00	21 7	sunny
York	11.7	0.00	21 8	sunny



Noon today: Low pressure will impact Italy and the Balkans while high pressure remains just west of the United Kingdom and France.

Sun & moon (Greenwich)	
Sun rises	0448
Sun sets	2112
Moon rises	0255
Moon sets	1745
New moon	June 6

Yesterday	
Warmest	Pershore 24C (75F)
Colest	Anaonch 2C (35F)
Wettest	Benbecula Island 0.16 in.
Sunniest	Pembrey Sands 13.9 hr.

Lighting up	
Aberdeen	2155 to 0419
Belfast	2153 to 0453
Birmingham	2123 to 0448
London	2112 to 0448
Manchester	2130 to 0445
Penzance	2125 to 0515

High water	
Aberdeen	-- -- 1123 3.9m
Belfast	0906 3.3m 2140 3.2m
Cardiff	0448 11.0m 1718 11.0m
Dover	0920 6.0m 2138 6.2m
Falmouth	0259 4.7m 1536 4.6m
Harwich	0945 3.7m 2158 3.7m
Holyhead	0815 5.2m 2057 5.1m
Hull	0420 6.6m 1623 7.0m
Liverpool	0902 8.7m 2139 8.5m
London	-- -- 1150 6.5m
Portsmouth	0920 4.3m 2154 4.6m
Southampton	0827 4.0m 1444 1.2m

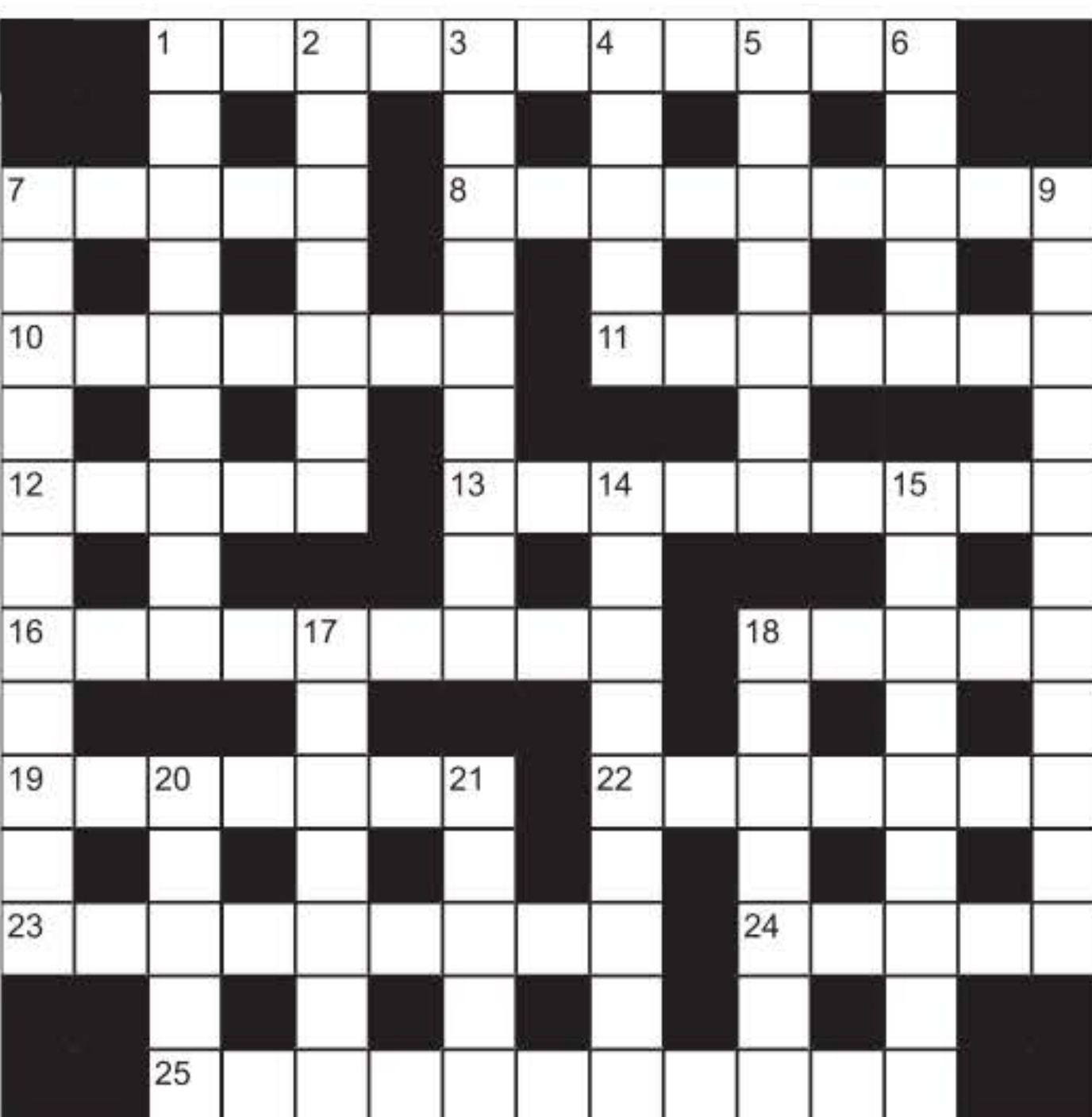
Source: © Crown copyright, All rights reserved

Pollen count	
Grass and weed pollen	are very high.
Tree pollen	is low and fungal spores are moderate.

Provided by the National Pollen and Aerobiology Research Unit

Sea forecast
S North Sea: A light to gentle northwesterly wind today. Seas will be rough. Visibility will be good.
Dover Strait, English Channel: A light to gentle northwesterly wind today. Seas will be very rough on the east and will be high on the west. Visibility will be good.
St. George's Channel: A light air to light northwesterly wind today. Seas will be high. Visibility will be good.
Irish Sea: A gentle to moderate westerly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be good.

Crossword 30,630



Across

- 1 DiCaprio has prepared exciting food, say (11)
- 7 Miserly Scrooge's capital wealth (5)
- 8 High roller? (5,4)
- 10 What's put in the pot for a thief (3,4)
- 11 Leo, say, with drink for volunteers (5,2)
- 12 One who's rehabilitated - a defector to Labour? (2-3)
- 13 Irritating complaint you voiced right before I caught song (9)
- 16 Live east of e.g. Durham, around power plant (9)
- 18 Maybe press Edmund I to invade Mercia's borders (5)
- 19 Very rude public disturbance led by alumnus (7)
- 22 Hammered iron, holding new iron in fire (7)
- 23 Deplorable behaviour from idol given crackers (4