

THE



TIMES

Monday June 3 2024 | thetimes.com | No 74425

51

£2.80 £2.00 to subscribers
(based on a 7 Day Print and Digital Subscription)

Kay Burley Putin, Rishi's dog and me

INSIDE TIMES2



What bees have done for Beckham

Kevin Maher

Tory vow to end abuse of gender laws by predators

Badenoch promises more protection for women

Oliver Wright Policy Editor
Steven Swinford Political Editor

Kemi Badenoch has accused sexual "predators" and "activist" campaign groups of abusing Britain's equalities laws, and pledges to protect the "privacy and dignity of women and girls".

In her first significant intervention of the election campaign, the women and equalities minister says that a future Tory government would define "sex" as biological in the eyes of the law.

Writing in The Times, she says that changing the Equality Act would provide new protections for biological women in same-sex spaces such as changing rooms and hospital wards.

She accuses Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, of going "round in circles on this issue", adding that opposition politicians had "smeared" those with concerns as transphobic.

Badenoch also attacked "activist organisations" such as Stonewall for exploiting loopholes in the law "for their own agenda".

She wrote: "Whether it is rapists being housed in women's prisons, or men playing in women's sports where they have an unfair advantage, it is clear that public authorities and regulatory bodies are confused about what the law says and what to do — often for fear of being accused of transphobia."

"Clarification is required. Not just to protect the privacy and dignity of women and girls, but also ... transpeople [who] were going about their lives in peace, until predators started exploiting loopholes in the law by

calling themselves trans with no evidence beyond their self-identification."

Badenoch claimed that the reform of the law would have profound implications for vulnerable women. "The change will mean that a rape crisis centre can legally provide a space for female victims to share intimate and painful experiences, without worrying about being sued for not admitting biological men who are titillated by tales of sexual abuse, even if they have a gender recognition certificate," she said.

"It also allows us to make a women's-only ward in a hospital a space for biological women, without those hospitals fearing legal action."

In other developments:

● Diane Abbott announced that she would be running as Labour's candidate in Hackney North & Stoke Newington and denied that she had been offered a peerage not to stand.

● Business groups and one of Labour's largest supporting unions told Starmer that Britain "needed" foreign workers, after he pledged to bring immigration numbers down.

● The police are to review a Conservative candidate's campaign material after he was accused of election fraud for suggesting that Labour was backing his candidacy.

Badenoch's intervention comes after a controversial recommendation by the Equalities and Human Rights Commission last year that called for ministers to review the 2010 Equality Act.

It said the act interchangeably referred to gender and sex and had contributed to polarised debate that

Continued on page 7



Rob Burrow
1982-2024

The rugby league player Rob Burrow CBE died yesterday of motor neurone disease, aged 41. The Prince of Wales said he had a "huge heart". **Obituary, page 43; Sport, 56-58**

REBECCA LUPTON FOR THE TIMES

Cancer rise in under-50s blamed on poor diet

Eleanor Hayward
Health Editor, Chicago

More young adults than ever are developing cancer, with cases rising twice as fast among the under-50s as in the elderly, key British research has shown.

Evidence suggests that the surge in early-onset cancer is linked to harmful gut bacteria and chronic inflammation, caused by a shift in diet.

Cancer rates among Britons aged 25 to 50 have increased by 24 per cent since the 1990s, with 35,000 people a year in this age group having cancer diagnosed. This is a far steeper rise than for any other age group, with the second biggest increase, 16 per cent, seen in under-25s. The lowest rise, 10 per cent, was among the over-75s.

Experts said the findings indicated that a risk factor that has emerged in recent decades as this generation has grown up, possibly linked to a "major change in western diets over the past 30 to 40 years", such as the use of sweeteners in ultra-processed foods.

The figures were published by Cancer Research UK at the American Society of Clinical Oncology meeting, the world's largest cancer conference, in Chicago.

Alarm at the global pattern of rising cases in the young, particularly for bowel cancer, has been a focus of the conference. Multiple studies have been presented suggesting that the microbiome — the trillions of bacteria in the gut — is key to explaining this rise.

Patients with early-onset bowel cancer were found to have more harmful gut bacteria, linked to poor diets and highly processed foods. These bacteria can cause chronic inflammation or DNA mutations, leading to tumours.

Professor Charles Swanton, chief clinician at Cancer Research UK, said alterations in the gut microbiome were a leading possible explanation for the "scientific conundrum" of why more young adults are getting cancer, adding: "There are many preventable causes of cancer we know about, including smoking, obesity and red meat. But they don't in themselves explain the increase we're seeing in the under-50s."

Swanton said harmful microbes

Continued on page 4

IN THE NEWS

Roaming challenge

The presenter Kate Humble defended the right to exclude the public from designated areas to ensure the protection of wildlife, the environment and farmland. **Page 3**

TV debate tactics

Labour and the Conservatives set out their attack lines for the first leaders' election debate on ITV tomorrow. The Tories said Sir Keir Starmer talked only of the past. **Page 8**

Nation of hustlers

The cost of living crisis has encouraged Britons of all ages to supplement their incomes with second jobs or other money-making schemes, a study has found. **Page 20**

Modi scents victory

Narendra Modi is on course to be India's prime minister for a third time, although short of his wished-for supermajority, as voters dealt a blow to the Congress party. **Page 26**

Shein float hopes

Labour has held talks with the boss of Shein to try to persuade the Chinese fast-fashion company to opt for a blockbuster initial public offering in London. **Page 31**

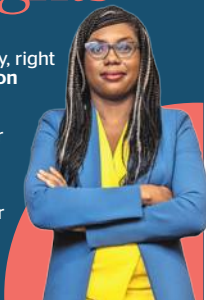


News

Today's highlights

8.15am Ehud Olmert, former Israeli PM
9.30am Kemi Badenoch, business secretary, right
11am In The Exit Interviews, Robert Halfon
 tells Matt Chorley about the highs
 and lows of his ministerial career
1.45pm Andrew Neil is joined by the former
 Labour policy chief Claire Ainsley
 and by David Cameron's spin
 doctor Sir Craig Oliver
5.20pm Maria Caulfield, the health minister

TIMES RADIO
 DAB RADIO • ONLINE • SMART SPEAKER • APP



TODAY'S EDITION

NEWS



FLYING HEROES

Unsung British
warplanes that
excelled on D-Day

PAGE 13

SPORT



BIG HITTERS

Cricket served up
with some US
razzmatazz

PAGE 51

TIMES2



AWKWARD?

The science of how
to make people
like you

PAGES 6, 7

432 days since Wall Street Journal
reporter Evan Gershkovich
was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan



LETTERS 24
LEADING ARTICLES 25
WORLD 26

BUSINESS 31
REGISTER 43
LAW REPORT 45

SPORT 49
CROSSWORD 58
TV & RADIO TIMES2



Sir Keir Starmer, the man who could be PM

Twelve days into the election campaign, Labour is leading the polls by about 20 points. What do we know about its leader, Sir Keir Starmer, and just how has he changed his party?

Available on the Times Radio app or wherever you get your podcasts

OFFER

Save up to 30% with a subscription to
The Times and The Sunday Times

[THETIMES.COM/SUBSCRIBE](https://www.thetimes.com/subscribe)

THE WEATHER

© TIMES MEDIA LIMITED, 2024.
 Published in print and all other derivative
 formats by Times Media Ltd, 1 London Bridge
 St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7782
 5000. Printed by: Newsprinters
 (Broomfield) Ltd, Great Cambridge Rd,
 Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY; Newsprinters
 (Knowsley) Ltd, Kitting Rd, Prescot,
 Merseyside, L34 9HN; Newsprinters
 (Eurocentral) Ltd, Byramsmuir Road,
 Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP; Associated
 Printing (Carn) Ltd, Morton 2 Esky Drive, Carn
 Industrial Estate, Portadown, BT63 5YU; KP
 Services, La Rue Martel, La Rue des Pres
 Trading Estate, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7QR.
 For permission to copy articles or headlines
 for internal information purposes contact
 Newspaper Licensing Agency at PO Box 101,
 Tunbridge Wells, TN11 1WX, tel 01892
 525274, email copy@nla.co.uk. For all other
 reproduction and licensing enquiries contact
 Licensing Department, 1 London Bridge St,
 London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7711 7888,
 e-mail enquiries@newslicensing.co.uk

A dry day for most with hazy sunny
spells; patchy rain in central and
northern parts. Full forecast, page 47

Starmer goes on the offensive with 14 ex-forces candidates

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Sir Keir Starmer will try to burnish Labour's credentials on defence and security today as he unveils 14 former forces personnel who are standing to become MPs for the party.

On a visit to the northwest Starmer will be met by candidates who include a former colonel in the Royal Marines and a commanding officer in the Royal Air Force. He will also unveil what Labour is describing as a "nuclear deterrent triple lock". This will commit the party to constructing four nuclear submarines to replace the current Vanguard class that carries Trident nuclear weapons. He will promise that these will continue the UK's continuous at-sea deterrent and say that a Labour government will ensure the delivery of all future upgrades.

YouGov polling suggests that "defence and security" is one of the few policy areas where the Tories retain a lead over Labour, with 22 per cent saying that they trust the government and 20 per cent trusting Labour.

Rishi Sunak has made raising Britain's defence spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2030 a central part of his election campaign; Labour says that it supports the aspiration but has not made a

commitment to a timescale. Starmer knows he needs to emphasise to voters that he backs the UK's nuclear deterrent after 47 Labour MPs, including Angela Rayner, now his deputy, and David Lammy, now the shadow foreign secretary, voted against renewing Trident in 2016.

The former forces personnel who are standing for Labour include Alistair Carns, who served with the Marines in Afghanistan and was awarded the Military Cross in recognition of gallant and distinguished service. He has been chosen to fight Selly Oak in Birmingham, a seat held by Labour. Also on the list is Louise Jones, an intelligence officer for the army who also served in Afghanistan. She is standing in Derbyshire North East, a former Labour seat where the Tories have a 12,000 majority.

She is joined by Calvin Bailey, an RAF commander who was involved in co-ordinating the evacuation of Kabul. He is standing in Leyton & Wanstead, where Labour has a 20,000 majority.

Starmer said that his commitments on Trident were proof that "national security will always come first in the changed Labour Party I lead". He added: "No longer the party of protest, Labour is the party of national security. The excellent former service personnel

that are standing as Labour candidates are a testament to that change."

John Healey, shadow defence secretary, claimed that the Tories had cut the army to its "smallest size since Napoleon, missed recruitment targets every year and allowed morale to fall to record lows".

Grant Shapps, the defence secretary, said: "Twelve members of Starmer's front bench team voted against Trident. We know Rayner is now making the decisions in Labour, so Starmer's supposed backing for Trident is meaningless."

Meanwhile, Elbridge Colby, who is tipped to become national security adviser to Donald Trump if he wins the White House, told Times Radio that the UK should follow Poland and commit 4 per cent of its GDP to defence spending.

Colby, a former US deputy assistant secretary of defence, said: "The Sunak government has talked about a 2.5 per cent commitment. I understand Mr Starmer is also committed to that. I think that would probably be just a starting point."

"I mean, if you look at Poland, they're spending 4 per cent. Nato basically in Europe needs to step up if this transatlantic alliance is to survive."

Labour denies planning to change pension tax relief

Oliver Wright

Labour insisted last night that it had no plans to change pension tax relief after Jeremy Hunt warned that the party would target people's retirement savings if it won power.

Rachel Reeves said in 2016 that Labour should introduce a flat rate of pensions tax relief of 33 per cent, which would hit higher earners.

The party has also said that it would reinstate a standard lifetime allowance for tax-free contributions, which was abolished by the Conservatives, but it has not said what this limit would be.

Hunt said it was clear that Labour would try to target pensions, pointing to a previously unannounced move by Gordon Brown after the 1997 election to scrap tax relief on the dividends that pension funds received on their investments. "Labour betrayed pensioners before," he said. "We are worried that, just as Labour did in the past when they have a black hole in their finances, they will go for back-door taxes on pensions."

Hunt claimed that Labour governments "try to increase taxes wherever they think it won't be noticed", adding: "I'm afraid, too often in the past, they thought that it was pensioners who

wouldn't notice their taxes went up. But when they raided pensions by £118 billion they made nearly every pensioner today worse off. People will never forget that."

A Labour spokesman said that there were "no planned changes to pensions tax relief". The Tories pointed out, however, that this was not the same as the guarantees that Labour had given on income tax, national insurance and most recently VAT. On these levies Labour has said it would not raise any rates for the full first term of an incoming government.

All savers putting money into a pension currently get tax relief at the basic rate of 20 per cent. Higher earners, with income above £50,000, can get 40 per cent tax relief, and those earning more than £150,000 get 45 per cent. Paying for these reliefs is estimated to cost the Treasury, or taxpayer, £40 billion a year.

Those in favour of reform argue that the equalising tax relief would benefit those who are less well off and could save the Treasury money.

Critics point out, however, that most people with large pension pots will be paying the money back in tax when they draw down their pensions. This could lead to people being taxed twice.

Father calls for windfall levy on tech giants

Mark Sellman

Technology Correspondent

Under-16s should not be banned from smartphones or social media but technology companies should pay a windfall tax for their "pollution", the father of Molly Russell has said.

Ian Russell, whose daughter took her own life aged 14 after viewing disturbing content online, has published a manifesto to "transform children's online safety" in an appeal to the political parties.

Russell, 60, a television producer, has released a five-point plan through his charity, the Molly Rose Foundation. It includes a windfall tax, strengthening the Online Safety Act, placing a duty of candour on tech companies, forcing Apple and Google to take stronger action through their app stores, and investing in mental health schemes.

MPs on the education committee recently called for the digital age of consent to be raised to 16. The parent-led Smartphone Free Childhood campaign now has more than 100,000 members. However, Russell's manifesto says that the bans would "be counter-productive" as they "penalise children for the failures of Big Tech".

Nurses tell of patients dying in corridors

Poppy Koronka Health Correspondent

Patients are being left without access to oxygen and are dying in hospital corridors, nurses' leaders said, citing an NHS "corridor care" emergency.

A Royal College of Nursing (RCN) survey found that more than a third of its 11,000 members had delivered care in an inappropriate area during their most recent shift. Professor Nicola Ranger, acting general secretary and chief executive, is expected to tell members at the union's conference

today: "Our once world-leading services are treating patients in car parks and store cupboards. The elderly are languishing on chairs for hours on end and patients are dying in corridors. The horror of this situation cannot be overstated. It is a national emergency for patient safety and today we are raising the alarm."

Of the nurses who said that they had delivered care in corridors and other inappropriate areas, 53 per cent of them said they were without life-saving equipment, such as oxygen or suction

tubes. Two thirds, or 67 per cent, said that the care they delivered in public compromised the patient's privacy and dignity. One nurse, working in a hospital in England, said: "Patients are soiled for long periods of time because there is nowhere to change them."

The union is now calling for care in corridors to be "never events", much like operating on the wrong limb or leaving behind equipment in surgery.

The RCN will release a report on care in corridors today, as well as setting out its manifesto for the election.

Right to roam? Well, up to a point

Farming and wildlife come before access for all, the TV presenter Kate Humble has said. **Charlotte Alt reports**

While walkers might enjoy exploring Britain's untrodden paths, landowners and farmers have long questioned whether they can be trusted.

Now Kate Humble, the television wildlife presenter and author, has defended the right to exclude the public from designated areas to ensure the protection of wildlife, the environment and farmland.

Only 8 per cent of England and Wales is covered by the right to roam freely, a custom that allows anyone to wander in open countryside. The rules have, however, become an existential battle in recent years.

Humble said: "I do think it's enormously important that there are areas of the country where people are not allowed. We've all walked along footpaths or along river banks or through urban parks and seen the rubbish that has been left, frankly the disrespectful way people treat the countryside."

Speaking at the Hay Festival on a panel with Tayshan Hayden-Smith, the former professional footballer turned guerrilla gardener, and Paul Whitehouse, the actor and comedian, Humble added that there was already an "extraordinary right to roam" throughout Britain.

"We also need to remember that we think of ourselves as the most important species, but we're not — we're part of an ecosystem with other species that have an equal right to be able to breed and live quietly and feed themselves," she said.

Humble added that it was important to allow farmers and food producers to prevent access for people who "don't understand how animals are looked after or how crops are grown".

She said: "It is really important that farmers and landowners are able to protect that and not have to deal with people just walking over it or camping on it and leaving their rubbish on it."

There has been an increasingly vocal campaign in recent years to extend roaming rights in England and Wales to a similar level to Scotland, where a majority of land has been open to the public for two decades, provided people act responsibly.

In 2020 the Right to Roam campaign was launched, organising the first string of mass trespasses in 2022,



Hikers, such as those on Snowdon, have been blamed for erosion. Kate Humble says some land should be private, in defiance of Right to Roam protesters

honeypots, there are places in Wales like everyone climbs Pen y Fan or everyone wants to climb Snowdon and you do have these great congregations of people but there are also a lot of footpaths, a lot of access that people don't use. People will buy a guidebook and do a walk that's in that guidebook, they won't just look on a map and think, well, I can go somewhere else."

Putting suitable limits on the right to roam, leading article, page 25



most notably on the 12,000-acre Berkshire estate of Lord Benyon, who was then the countryside access minister.

In March this year more than 500 people staged a trespass in protest at being charged to enter Cirencester Park, in the Cotswolds, which had been free to access for 326 years. The Earl of Bathurst introduced a £4 charge to visitors with locals required to pay a £10 deposit. The family said the system was introduced to support restoration and maintenance work for the estate, which spans more than 3,000 acres.

Similarly, the Right to Roam campaign has been involved in the legal battle to save access on Dartmoor.

Supporters of free access have also voiced frustrations over the fact that 50 per cent of land in England and Wales is owned by 1 per cent of the

population. Polling from last year suggests that 62 per cent of the population would support an expansion of roaming rights in England, provided exclusions were put in place for private gardens, land with crops and sensitive military and conservation sites.

While Labour voters are more keen on the idea than Tories, with 74 per cent in favour compared with 56 per cent respectively, only 5 per cent of the 2,029 adults surveyed by YouGov strongly opposed the idea.

At the festival Humble was challenged by an audience member who argued that the lack of public footpaths has led to honeypots where overcrowding has caused erosion and destruction of the public land that is accessible.

Humble responded: "There are

Sewing Bee star mourns death of fashion

David Sanderson Arts Correspondent

Fashion is dead according to the guru of *The Great British Sewing Bee* as he bemoaned the release of a new product every few seconds by "fast fashion" retailers.

Patrick Grant said that Shein, the Chinese company believed to be the world's largest fashion retailer, was releasing 2,000 products every day.

"Which means fashion no longer exists," he told the Hay Festival. "Because if fashion changes every time we get our phone out what does that mean?"

Grant, who lobbied the government to remove VAT on clothing repairs, said that the rise of companies such as Asos

during the past two decades had led to "an incredible decline in quality and an extraordinary increase in volume".

Grant said that a friend in the industry told him that many of the products being offered had been generated by artificial intelligence and were "not even real".

"There is just a wave of stuff being created to make sure we never look at anybody else's things. The whole idea is to swamp the world."

And he warned that while Shein was "reigning" at the moment with an estimated value of £90 billion it would come under threat from a new rival, Temu, which had spent £1.5 billion on marketing in its maiden year.



Shein, the world's biggest fashion retailer, is worth about £90 billion

Grant, who runs the textile manufacturer Cookson & Clegg, said people should buy higher-quality products made of natural materials and make better use of repair shops.

He said that the French government was incentivising people to repair clothes and Sweden had taken VAT off the cost of repairs.

He has met the prime minister's wife, Akshata Murty, to lobby for the government to commission all its clothing orders for state organisations from British manufacturers.

"Army uniforms are now made in China," he said adding that given the tensions between Beijing and London "it seems an odd idea".

ROSEBERYS
LONDON
Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers

Jewellery & Watches

Tuesday 25 June

www.roseberys.co.uk



Rise with the sun More than 130 hot air balloons took off into clear blue skies from Ragley Hall, near Alcester, yesterday on the last day of the Midlands Air Festival

SIMON CHAPMAN/LNP

Quintagram® No 1958

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Cab (4)

— — — —

2 Heap, stack (4)

— — — —

3 Part of the weekend (6)

— — — — —

4 Take a ---, choose not to lead (4,4)

— — — — —

5 Appointed (10)

A	A	A	A	A	B	C	D
D	D	E	E	E	E	G	I
I	I	K	L	N	N	P	S
S	S	T	T	T	U	X	Y

Solutions see **MindGames**
Cryptic clues see **MindGames**

TIMES RADIO

Breakfast: 6am to 10am

Our free radio station has all the latest headlines, interviews and debates every morning

Listen seven days a week

On DAB,
app,
website
and smart
speaker



Hopes that immunotherapy will triple bowel cancer survival rates

Eleanor Hayward
Health Editor, Chicago

Survival rates for a deadly type of bowel cancer could triple by giving patients an existing immunotherapy drug that “melts away” their tumours, a trial has found.

Research led by University College London found that pembrolizumab, a drug already available on the NHS for other cancers, can make “bulky high-risk” bowel cancer shrink and disappear. Researchers hope the drug will be able to cure patients without the need for the standard treatment of surgery and chemotherapy, improving survival chances and avoiding brutal side-effects.

The study, presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago, involved 32 patients from five NHS hospitals in the UK.

They all had a sub-type of the disease, called MMR deficient/MSI-high

bowel cancer, which is when tumours have a lot of genetic mutations and are hard to treat. This form of bowel cancer affects between 2,000 and 3,000 people each year in the UK. The patients had stage three cancer, meaning they had bulky tumours threatening to spread outside the bowel, which kill one in three within five years.

The trial involved giving them three doses of pembrolizumab over nine weeks. The drug is delivered via a 30-minute injection into the back of the hand and stimulates the body’s immune system to fight cancer cells. It is already offered by the NHS for the treatment of several other cancers, including cervical, breast, lung and skin.

After finishing their course of the immunotherapy drug, patients had surgery to remove the area of their bowel where the tumours had been. Some 59 per cent of patients had no trace of cancer left — suggesting they did not require surgery at all. The re-

maining 41 per cent were able to have their tumours removed, and all are now disease-free.

Doctors said this was a big improvement compared with the standard treatment, which involves surgery to remove the tumour followed by three to six months of chemotherapy. The new treatment approach could be implemented on the NHS within two years.

Dr Kai-Keen Shiu, of University College London Hospitals, who led the trial, said: “Immunotherapy can make tumours disappear before surgery. If you melt the cancer away before surgery you normally triple survival chances... Patients also don’t need any chemotherapy after so they avoid all those side-effects. Currently the chance of surviving for three years after surgery without relapse is about 75 per cent in bowel cancer patients. We hope this treatment will get it closer to 90 to 100 per cent.”

The trial began in 2022, and over the

next few years patients will be monitored to see if their cancer returns.

Professor Mark Saunders, a consultant clinical oncologist at The Christie in Manchester, one of the hospitals involved in the trial, said: “This is a really very exciting new treatment for the 10-15 per cent of patients who have the right genetic make-up. Immunotherapy prior to surgery could well become a ‘game-changer’ for these patients with this type of cancer. Not only is the outcome better, but it saves patients from having more conventional chemotherapy, which often has more side-effects. In the future, immunotherapy may even replace the need for surgery.”

Bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK, with about 42,900 cases a year. Survival chances depend on early diagnosis and treatment. Nine in ten patients with stage one cancer survive for five years, but this falls to one in ten for those with stage four.

Contraceptive gel for men works fast

A male contraceptive gel takes effect sooner than similar methods for male birth control, research suggests.

Combining two hormones, segesterone acetate and testosterone, the gel suppresses sperm production faster than other experimental hormone-based contraceptive methods.

The 222 participants applied the gel daily to each shoulder blade and took sperm count tests every four weeks.

The threshold deemed effective for contraception was one million or fewer sperm per millilitre of semen.

According to findings, presented at the Endocrine Society’s annual meeting in Boston, 86 per cent of men in the study reached this sperm count by week 15. Among those men, sperm production was suppressed at an average of less than eight weeks of treatment.

Researchers say that earlier studies of male hormonal contraceptives given by injections showed an average time of between nine and 15 weeks for sperm output to be suppressed.

Diana Blithe, chief of the Contraceptive Development Program at the National Institutes of Health based in Maryland and a senior researcher for the study, said: “A more rapid time to suppression may increase the attractiveness and acceptability of this drug to potential users.”

She added: “The development of a safe, highly effective and reliably reversible contraceptive method for men is an unmet need. While studies have shown that some hormonal agents may be effective for male contraception, the slow onset of spermatogenic suppression is a limitation.”

Researchers will now look at effectiveness, safety and reversibility.

Ultra-processed foods may be behind surge

Continued from page 1

could “initiate mutations in DNA, not dissimilar from the way tobacco smoke induces mutations in lung cells”. They can also cause chronic inflammation that could increase the risk of tumours.

He said unhealthy gut bacteria might be linked to “a major dietary change in the last 30 to 40 years”, such as the use of high-fructose corn syrup as a sweetener. “It could be something in the diet that alters the microbiome. Or even microplastics and pollutants. There has been an increase in obese and over-

weight individuals over the last 30-40 years coincident with changing western diets. And I think that that may also be playing a role too.”

The analysis by Cancer Research UK provides a breakdown of rates of cancer by age group from 1993 to 2019. It is the first research to confirm that the pattern of rising early onset cancer reported globally is happening in the UK.

Across all age groups, cancer incidence has increased by 13 per cent in the past two decades. Among those aged 25 to 50, this increase was 24 per

cent, with the incidence rate growing from 133 cases per 100,000 people in 1995 to 165 in 2019. This is projected to keep rising until 2040.

Those affected by early-onset cancer include the Princess of Wales, who had the disease diagnosed at age 42, and Dame Deborah James, who died in 2022 aged 40, six years after having bowel cancer diagnosed.

Swanton said: “It’s an otherwise healthy population, in full-time work with young families. Cancer has a tremendous impact, often a tragic impact.

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.” He stressed that cancer was still mainly a disease of elderly populations, with only one in ten cases occurring among under-50s.

A study presented at the ASCO conference by the Washington University School of Medicine found that patients with early-onset bowel cancer had increased levels of certain harmful gut bacteria, *Fusobacterium*, linked to low-fibre diets, which can promote tumours.

Shooting target wishes he were dead

David Brown

The intended target of the gangland shooting that has left a nine-year-old girl fighting for her life has condemned the hitmen and said he wishes he had been shot instead.

Beytullah Gunduz, who has been linked to the Turkish underworld in two murder trials, was sitting with friends outside a London restaurant until 15 minutes before a gunman opened fire on diners last week.

He returned to the restaurant to find three of his friends with gunshot wounds and the girl on the floor inside, having been shot in the head. She had been sitting with her family.

The attack has led to concerns that the shooting will reignite a bloody gang

war between Tottenham Turks and their rivals the Hackney Turks. The gangs are linked to a battle for control over drugs, racketeering operations and political funding in Turkey.

Gunduz, 37, was the victim of a gangland hit when he was shot in the neck by a Tottenham Turks assassin. He has previously been cleared of organising a hit himself.

He told a friend he was devastated that the injured girl, who moved with her parents from India to Birmingham two years ago, was unwittingly dragged into the dispute as she remained in a critical condition. "That little girl is an innocent person," he said. "She was just sitting behind us with her family."

A gunman on a stolen motorcycle opened fire at Evin, a Turkish restaurant

in Dalston, east London, on Wednesday night.

Gunduz described his anger to his friend at the way the shooting was carried out. "If these people knew I was there why didn't they wait until I left and walked around the corner?" he said. "We can be criminals but this girl was not. She didn't do anything wrong. It is killing me inside. The waiting to know if she is going to live is too much. I am heartbroken."

Gunduz, from Finsbury Park, north London, told the friend: "I wish it had been me. Maybe I deserve it. I have not been sleeping for four days. I have been praying for her and visiting the mosque. I wish I was still there [outside the restaurant] and the bullet had gone in my head."

One of his friends was discharged

from hospital the day after the shooting. A second victim, Mustafa Kiziltan, 37, who was jailed in 2019 for his involvement in an acid attack on a man outside a Dalston nightclub, was discharged on Friday. The third victim, aged 42, is expected to remain in hospital for two weeks.

Gunduz believes the attack is linked to a previous attempt on his life in nearby Clissold Park in August 2020 when a gunman on a motorcycle shot him in the neck. Police had warned Gunduz in 2019 that they had evidence that a hitman had been recruited to kill him. Two men stood trial for conspiracy to murder at the Old Bailey. No one was charged with the shooting.

Five years earlier, Gunduz was himself cleared after being accused of

hiring an assassin for the murder of Zafer Eren, a leading member of the Tottenham Turks. The gunman, Jamie Marsh-Smith, and getaway driver, Samuel Zerei, were convicted of murder.

The injured girl's grandmother said her son contacted her on Thursday saying his only child had been shot while they were visiting friends in London. "Since then, he had called me countless times and was crying every single time," she told local media.

She said her granddaughter was on a ventilator and doctors could not remove the bullet during the initial attempt at surgery on Thursday. Surgeons told the girl's parents they had to wait until swelling in her head subsided before making a further attempt.

Girl drowns on holiday at Florida water park

Mario Ledwith

A 13-year-old British schoolgirl died after being found unresponsive in a pool while on holiday in the US.

Anna Beaumont, from Cardiff, had been staying at the Discovery Cove resort in Orlando, Florida, where she died last Tuesday.

Staff at the all-inclusive resort, which is a sister park to SeaWorld Orlando, called the emergency services after being alerted to an incident in one of its pools.

Anna was taken to hospital in a critical condition but died the following day, according to the Orange County Sheriff's office. The local medical examiner described the manner of death as "accident with cause listed as drowning". No further details were given.

Andrew Williams, head teacher at Anna's school, Radyr Comprehensive, 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."

In a statement to the BBC, he added: "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."

Guests at Discovery Cove are able to take part in a range of largely water-based activities, many of which involve interacting with wildlife, including swimming with dolphins and snorkelling with exotic fish and rays.

In a statement Discovery Cove said: "Our staff responded to an emergency involving a guest. Our team provided care and contacted Orange County fire and 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."

A Foreign Office spokeswoman 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."



Flight of fancy
Jonathan Evers is Papageno, half-man, half-bird, and Jasmine Flicker is Papagena in *The Magic Flute* at Nevill Holt Festival in Leicestershire

Police chief backs colleague accused of war lies

Fiona Hamilton Chief Reporter

The chief constable responsible for professional standards and ethics is facing questions after acting as the "police friend" to a colleague accused of lying about his military career.

Craig Guildford, who heads West Midlands police, has been supporting Nick Adderley, the suspended chief constable of Northamptonshire, and was at his gross misconduct hearing last week. He said he was on the voluntary "panel of friends" and his decision was about humanity and providing support.

Guildford has said he would root out officers who undermined trust and damaged the profession.

Adderley, who was appointed chief

constable in 2018, is accused of telling "whopping lies" about his naval history and of wearing a fake Falklands war medal.

Any police officer accused of misconduct has the right to be accompanied by a police friend during interviews and at all stages of proceedings.

A source said it was important for Adderley to be given support and he could choose any other officer, staff member or a person nominated by the staff association to carry out the friend role. But given Guildford's responsibilities and his position as chief, the "optics don't look good", the source said.

Adderley is accused of claiming he was a Falklands veteran, even though he was only 15 when the conflict started



Nick Adderley was accompanied to his tribunal by Craig Guildford, right

in April 1982. He also claimed to have served in the Royal Navy for ten years when he had served for only two, which included his service with the Sea Cadets from the age of ten.

Adderley is also accused of claiming

to have seen active service during his naval career, had been a military negotiator in Haiti despite never having visited the country and that he had been a "commander or a lieutenant", even though the highest rank he achieved was able seaman.

Guildford said: "I have been on the panel of friends as a superintendent and chief officer for nearly two decades. The Chief Police Officers Staff Association has a number of chiefs, deputies and assistant chief constables who undertake this voluntary welfare role."

"For me it's all about humanity ... People have a right to be supported in such circumstances, panels do the judging, that's the law."

Adderley denies misconduct.

News Politics

Britain needs migrant workers, Starmer told

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Business groups and one of the unions that gives Labour the most support have told Sir Keir Starmer that Britain “needs” foreign workers, after he pledged to reduce immigration.

The Labour leader said Britain had become too reliant on workers from abroad to fill skill shortages, describing migration levels as “sky-high”.

He said a Labour government would work to train British workers in sectors where there was a high level of visa applications to fill shortages.

But the proposal, designed to neutralise Tory claims that Labour would be soft on migration, received a muted response from businesses, which said the party would have to set out “credible plans” to improve the skills of British workers.

It was also criticised by Gary Smith, the head of the GMB union, who told Times Radio that the economy needed migrant workers.

“We have to have migration in our economy,” he said. “Clearly, people will expect that to be managed and done properly. What I am concerned about is getting into a divisive agenda around migration and immigration, something that is being exploited by the right to try and put fear into people. The truth is we need migrant workers in our economy.”

Matthew Percival, the skills director of the CBI, said businesses wanted to see all political parties put forward “credible plans to ease shortages and support growth”.

He added: “The CBI has long called for a stronger link between shortages and the training that is available. It’s a key part of a more honest conversation about immigration.”

Neil Carberry, the chief executive of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation, went further, saying the plan could jeopardise Starmer’s pledge to make the UK the fastest-growing G7 economy.

“We currently have a broader shortage of people, not a few specific shortages,” he said. “Labour would cause problems for its own growth goal by restricting firms from access to workers where the alternative might be work going elsewhere.”

Last year net migra-



Analysis

Sir Keir Starmer’s pledge to reduce net migration may be an important statement of intent but it is also maddeningly unspecific (Oliver Wright writes).

Last year net migration — the difference between the numbers leaving and coming to the UK — was 685,000, up from 206,000 in 2019.

This was, however, lower than the 745,000 figure in 2022, which was largely driven by Ukrainians.

The figure is almost certain to fall further this year as a result of new rules that tighten restrictions on foreign students and workers bringing relatives with them — something Labour has no plans to reverse.

So when Starmer told *The Sun* “read my lips — I will bring immigration numbers down” it was more a statement of fact rather than a substantive policy promise.

And, as the Tories were quick to note, Labour has repeatedly refused to say what it wants to

cut migration levels down to. At the end of the next parliament net migration could still be more than half a million a year yet Starmer would have fulfilled his pledge.

Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary, would not even back comments by her shadow cabinet colleague Darren Jones that a “normal” level of net migration would be about the 200,000 mark.

Labour’s argument is that it does not want to be too specific because it cannot account for external factors, like British help for those fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.

Instead, Starmer has set out a plan under which when there is an increase in applications for work visas in particular sectors of the economy. This would trigger a government-led plan to train more British workers in those areas.

This would be done by bringing together the Migration Advisory Committee, the Industrial Strategy Council and Skills England.

It is designed to combat a situation, highlighted by

Cooper, in which professional engineering visas have doubled in the past few years, while engineering apprenticeships have fallen.

But the problem with this approach is that by the time companies are applying for visas for foreign workers because of a skill shortage in the UK, it is already too late.

And at the pace the government works — and the time it takes to train people — it could be many years before that skill gap is closed.

Indeed, by the time they have been trained up and have entered the labour market, in some areas the pace of technological change could even mean that the skills gap no longer existed.

In reality, Starmer’s pledge is more a political attempt to neutralise what Labour sees as its Achilles’ heel on migration, rather than a substantively new policy.

It may be enough to allay voters’ concerns, but it is not enough to judge the party’s record if it does win power on July 4.

tion stood at 685,000, up from about 206,000 in 2019.

Starmer was careful not to put a target on any reduction but told *The Sun* on Sunday: “Read my lips — I will bring immigration numbers down. I will control our

borders and make sure British businesses are helped to hire Brits first.”

Experts said the pledge would not be difficult to fulfil as immigration levels were already beginning to fall, but that it would be harder to find British workers to fill all the gaps.

“If a Labour government were to be elected there would already be a fair wind behind their pledge to reduce net

migration without changing current policy,” Rob McNeil, deputy director of the Oxford University Migration Observatory, said. “Given how enormously high migration rates are at the moment it would be pretty surprising if it did not drop off, especially given the more restrictive policies that have already been put in place, most of which Labour does not oppose.”

But he added: “What is much harder to judge is whether Labour’s plans to increase training of domestic workers in areas where there are skill shortages would make any difference.”

“There’s no particular evidence that training cuts migration, and in the care sector, for example, pay and conditions are the key issues making it hard to recruit UK workers, not training.”

“The Migration Advisory Committee recommended increasing pay and conditions to attract more UK workers into the sector but that has not happened because it is complicated, expensive and would push up the cost of care.”

Speaking yesterday Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary, stopped short of setting a target, saying the Conservatives had failed when they had done so and arguing that “variations” each year — such as the war in Ukraine — must also be considered.

When pushed in an interview with Laura Kuenssberg on the BBC for an estimation on how much Labour wanted to lower migration, Cooper said: “We clearly want to see significant changes in place because we have seen the numbers treble.”

But she added: “I know that you’re effectively trying to suggest I set a target or a broad target. I’m not going to do that. We are going to be clear, net migration must come down.”

Cooper was asked to rule out sending asylum seekers to another country to have their claims processed but did not do so.

“Keir has always said we would look at what works and there are different kinds of, I think, the sort of offshore processing arrangements and things that have already been used at different times in the past,” she said.

James Cleverly, the home secretary, claimed Starmer had a record of supporting high immigration levels. “This is yet another day where Starmer will say what he thinks people want to hear during an election because he lacks conviction to say what he believes,” he added. “A Labour government would allow open-door immigration, making the UK a magnet for illegal migrants.”



Anger runs deep over river waste by the Avon

Finding an impeccable source for a story can be hard, and this one is located only after consulting an Ordnance Survey map, thrusting through thickets and clambering into a ditch with a Liberal Democrat candidate holding a huge yellow umbrella (Damian Whitworth writes).

The source of the River Avon, according to the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, lies in a field north of the village of Acton Turville in south Gloucestershire. My plan is to travel along the Avon to ask candidates and voters what they think of the state of our country and its rivers. I want to start at the beginning but it is not that easy to pinpoint.

We examine watery trenches and empty channels in fields beside a railway line until we come to a ditch hidden by undergrowth that contains a small trickle of water. It is an idyllic spot and, we are pretty sure, the right one.

Here, the trust told me, the water bubbling up from an aquifer should be clean, but that will change quickly as it flows downstream. An analysis by *The Guardian* last year of Environment Agency data found that the Avon had 6,573 sewage discharges from storm overflows, the third highest in England and the most of any river in the south.

I ask Claire Young, the Lib Dem candidate for Thornbury & Yate, how she feels about the condition this water may be in when it reaches Bristol. “Angry,” she says. “And local people are clearly angry.”

The Bristol Avon (not to be

We will protect women by ending doubt on gender

Kemi Badenoch Comment

Last month, I received a letter from a woman that was so profoundly distressing, I felt compelled to share it. She wrote about two incidents of being followed into a women’s toilet by men presenting as women. The first time, aged 16, she was raped. The second time, years later, she was able to lock herself in a cubicle as a man dressed in women’s clothing tried to break the door down. She is one of many women who write to me every

week, asking that we do more to defend single-sex spaces. So we are going to act.

Whether it is rapists being housed in women’s prisons, or men playing in women’s sports where they have an unfair advantage, it is clear that public authorities and regulatory bodies are confused about what the law says and what to do — often for fear of being accused of transphobia.

The law is confused because times have changed and words are being re-interpreted to meanings quite different from what legislators intended. Clarification is required. Not just to protect the privacy and dignity of women and girls, but also to protect

people with gender dysphoria, whom the law was set up to protect. Trans people were going about their lives in peace, until predators started exploiting loopholes in the law by calling themselves trans with no evidence beyond their self-identification.

Sex and gender, terms once used interchangeably in the law, now mean different things with significant implications. This is being exploited by all sorts of activist organisations, most notably Stonewall, for their own agenda. That’s why today, the Conservatives are pledging that if we form a government after the election, we will clarify that “sex” in the Equality Act means biological sex.

Many will ask why hasn’t this been done already. Or claim it is just an announcement just for the election. Far from it. I first started work on this issue two years ago, as the SNP were bringing in their disastrous gender recognition bill. Most of the last 18 months has been spent preparing a legal case to stop its adverse effects across all of the UK, and then defending it from appeal. But the order we put in place is just a stop gap. A permanent solution is required to stop devolved governments messing around in this space.

We are one United Kingdom and it is impracticable for gender recognition regimes to vary in different parts of

the country. So, we will also legislate to establish that gender recognition is a reserved matter.

Last year I wrote to the Independent Equality and Human Rights Commission asking for their advice. They replied saying clarification in the law would be beneficial for service providers.

I went to the prime minister with a plan for fixing the issues. Clear guidance for schools on how to deal with children questioning their gender, dealing with the erasure of women in healthcare with ridiculous phrases like “chest-feeding” or “birthing parent”, updating building regulations to stop the fad for

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Tracy Worcester wants nationalised water companies; Will Hall, top left, may not vote. Claire Young, right, hopes to swing them to the Lib Dems

confused with various other Avons) winds through Chippenham, Bath and Bristol on its 75-mile journey to the Severn Estuary. It passes through a dozen constituencies, including some where the Liberal Democrats and Labour are pushing hard to knock bricks out of the Tories' blue wall.

The Times's award-winning Clean It Up campaign wants more robust regulation, stronger spill targets and more immediate investment. It also wants the designation of new river bathing waters, and water companies to be stripped of self-monitoring powers.

The government launched its "plan for water" last year, promising unlimited fines on polluters, better monitoring of storm overflows and the effective

end of raw sewage discharges by 2050, but it was criticised for not going far enough, quickly enough. With only 14 per cent of rivers achieving "good" ecological status there is national concern about pollution from sewage and run-off from farms and roads, and unease about water companies raising bills to pay for infrastructure improvements.

The Tory candidate in Thornbury & Yate, Luke Hall, had a majority of more than 12,000 in 2019, but polling suggests he could be vulnerable to the challenge from Young, the leader of South Gloucestershire council.

The Liberal Democrats have made the state of our waterways one of their key issues. Last week Sir Ed Davey, the party leader,

outlined plans to put environmental experts on water companies' boards, to replace Ofwat, the regulator, and to ban water bosses from taking bonuses.

"Local people are really motivated to tackle the state of our rivers. But while they can get in waders and get into the river, they can't deal with the sewage," Young said. "People care about the area they live in. We've got some lovely rivers. It does come up on the doorstep." The Tories "have had 14 years in which they could have tackled the problem", she added.

Today the Liberal Democrats will set out plans that would create "blue flag" swimming status for rivers. The party says it has evidence that water companies have discharged sewage more than

100,000 times in rivers that have areas with bathing-water status.

One person who will not meet me in a ditch, or even talk on the phone, is Hall. The Tory press office tell me that the candidate, who was elected as the constituency's MP in 2015, will answer emailed questions. He has not replied to them.

Someone who is not so shy is Jason Martin, 50, who is building glamping domes in a workshop close to the source of the river. He has been fishing in the Avon since he was a boy.

"You don't get as many fish as you used to," he said. Some of the places he fishes are

weed-clogged because, he suspects, fertiliser from farming has entered the watercourses. "These water boards are allowed to let crap flow into the rivers. It shouldn't be happening. They're making money off ruining the environment."

Who will he vote for? "I've never voted in my life. It's the same snake, different heads. If Labour get in and I see something happening with the rivers getting clean, then I'd probably vote for them next time."

At the Fox & Hounds pub Mark Hayward, the landlord, said what happens to our rivers would help him decide how to vote. Once the water leaves the village, "man influences it and makes it dirty. It's very depressing. It's not getting any better."

The main issue for him, though, is the effect that Brexit has had on his ability to find staff.

Badminton, the seat of the Duke of Beaufort, is a mile up the road. On the garden wall of a cottage on the edge of the estate is a stall that sells organic salad produced by Forbidden Fruit and Veg. Will Hall, 33, the company's head gardener, is disinclined to vote for either the Conservatives or Labour. His employer goes further.

She is Tracy Worcester, the duke's former wife, who lives with what she calls a "community" of gardeners, including Will.

Worcester, 65, and her husband divorced in 2018. She campaigns against factory farming and is opposing a solar farm that is planned to sit partly on her former husband's 52,000-acre estate.

She offers a tour of her beautiful wild gardens and the walled kitchen garden where the contents for the veg boxes are grown. I've seen

claims about a rival source of the Avon here on the estate but she's not sure. "When it's very wet there is a stream going through the park."

Voters worried about rivers should "put their vote where their mouth is and vote for a party that wants to nationalise the water so that we don't have these private companies creaming off all the profit and our taxes are paying for investments into infrastructure to have clean water," she says. "It comes out of the sky. It's free. Collect it and make sure it's clean for us to drink. Don't vote for any of the mainstream parties."



"gender-neutral" toilets where women have to walk past men using urinals, removing mixed-sex wards and so much more. The lack of clear legal definitions is the root of most of these problems. Rishi Sunak agreed.

We have a plan and we've been seeing it through. Just last week, the health secretary banned puberty blockers following the Cass review, as the government fulfilled its intention to stop children making irreversible life-changing decisions.

Our plan is working, but it is at risk. Conservatives understand these basic principles, sadly the Labour Party does not. Nor do the SNP or Liberal Democrats. There are numerous examples of Keir Starmer going round in circles on this issue. And many more of mostly Labour politicians smearing those with concerns as "transphobic" or "far-right". This

change in law is necessary and no other party will fix it, only the Conservatives. The change will mean that a rape crisis centre can legally provide a space for female victims to share intimate and painful experiences, without worrying about being sued for not admitting biological men who are titillated by tales of sexual abuse.

A future Conservative government will take bold action and introduce primary legislation to clarify that the protected characteristic of sex in the Equality Act means biological sex.

Our legislation will mean that for the purposes of the Equality Act, the provision in the Gender Recognition Act recognising legal sex will be disapplied. The work is ready to go but will be lost if Labour wins on July 4.

Kemi Badenoch is the minister for women and equalities

Law reform will crack down on predators, says Badenoch

Continued from page 1

pitted women's rights against the rights of trans people. It argued that the act should be amended to explicitly define sex as "biological sex" to bring "greater legal clarity" and ensure single-sex spaces could only be accessed by "biological women".

Badenoch has said that she agreed with the EHRC's recommendations but the government had failed to bring forward legislation to make the change before Rishi Sunak called the general election.

The prime minister said he fully backed the change and that the Con-

servatives were taking an "evidence-based" approach to the issue. "The safety of women and girls is too important to allow the current confusion around definitions of sex and gender to persist," he said. "The Conservatives believe that making this change in law will enhance protections in a way that respects the privacy and dignity of everyone in society."

In her article Badenoch also revealed that a future Tory government would legislate to strip the Scottish parliament of its powers to legislate on issues surrounding gender recognition. The Scottish parliament passed a bill

promoted by the SNP to make it easier for transgender people in Scotland to get gender recognition certificates than it is in England and Wales. Alister Jack, the Scottish secretary, blocked the reforms, invoking Section 35 of the Scotland Act for the first time, claiming it interfered with UK-wide equalities legislation.

In December, the Court of Session ruled that the action was lawful, despite a challenge from the Scottish government. Badenoch wrote: "On fundamental matters of personal identity there should be one approach throughout the United Kingdom."

Badenoch said she hoped the change would prevent a repeat of cases such as that of a woman raped by a man presenting as a woman, who followed her into female lavatories. "She is one of many women who write to me every week, asking that we do more to defend single-sex spaces," Badenoch wrote.

News Politics

Abbott fights seat for Labour and denies Lords offer

Steven Swinford Political Editor

Diane Abbott has confirmed that she is planning to stand as Labour's candidate in Hackney North & Stoke Newington as she denied that she had been offered a peerage.

On Friday Sir Keir Starmer said Abbott would be free to stand for Labour after a shadow cabinet backlash over plans that would, in effect, have barred her from standing.

Baroness Chakrabarti, a close friend of Abbott, said she had advised her to "take some time to consider what she wants to do". She said Abbott had been subjected to "unauthorised briefings by overgrown schoolboys in suits with their feet on the table".

Abbott confirmed yesterday evening that she was standing for Labour: "I have never been offered a seat in the Lords, and would not accept one if offered. I am the adopted Labour candidate for Hackney North & Stoke Newington. I intend to run and to win as Labour's candidate."

The Sunday Times reported that several former Labour MPs, including Abbott, had been offered peerages to quit the Commons and open up seats for allies of Starmer, the party leader.

Amid the speculation as to whether Abbott, Britain's first black woman MP, would be permitted to stand again for Labour, the party has also faced allegations of a cull against left-wing members in its candidate selection.

Asked if Starmer had promised anyone a seat in the Lords, Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary, said: "No party can do that, it's not the way the system works."

She told *Sunday Morning with Trevor Phillips* on Sky News: "There's a whole process with the independent committee that will vet nominations, there have to be processes in terms of the numbers of nominations, designated by the prime minister and so on. So, no party can do that or make those sorts of



Diane Abbott said even if she were offered a peerage she would refuse it

commitments." She added: "The thing that we do know is we've seen a series of quite shocking Conservative resignation honours lists from Boris Johnson to Liz Truss, and Keir has already said that he would change the way that he approaches all of those things."

"Indeed, he's said that he wouldn't have a resignation honours list because it's been so distorted by the way that the Conservatives have done that."

Chakrabarti discussed Abbott's situation on BBC's *Sunday* with Laura Kuenssberg and said: "I hope that she will now, after this sometimes sordid week of unauthorised anonymous briefings by overgrown schoolboys in suits with their feet on the table, maybe watching too much *West Wing* but not taking on its more progressive values ... I hope she will take some time to consider what she wants to do."

She added: "It's been pretty appalling, trying to bully someone of her stature ... It's not good for Keir Starmer's leadership, it's not good for the Labour Party, and it hasn't been very nice for Diane and for common decency."

Faiza Shaheen, a prospective Labour candidate, was blocked from running in Chingford & Woodford Green, allegedly in relation to having liked posts on Twitter/X claiming that those who

were mildly critical of Israel were "assailed" by "professional organisations" that inflicted "non-stop harassment".

Yesterday she criticised the party for sending canvassers to her doorstep to ask for votes.

Lloyd Russell-Moyle, the previous MP for Brighton Kemptown, was told that he could not stand again after being suspended by Labour over what he called a "vexatious and politically motivated complaint" against him.

Men who are seen to be more politically aligned with Starmer have been announced as candidates, including Luke Akehurst, a member of the party's national executive committee, Torsten Bell, head of the Resolution Foundation think tank, and Alex Barros-Curtis, a legal aide who led Starmer's campaign to be leader.

Asked why Shaheen or Russell-Moyle were not being permitted to stand while former Tories were welcomed in to the party, Cooper said: "Neither Natalie Elphicke nor Mark Logan are standing as Labour candidates in the election. We want people to support the Labour Party, we want people who have not voted Labour in the past to vote Labour this time because it really is time for change."

"Yes, it's true, we have clear standards and complaints processes around having standards for candidates. And, yes, it's true that Keir Starmer has changed the Labour Party after the 2019 election, and right that he should do so."

Cooper said she would "obviously support" Abbott if she decided to stand, adding: "It has to be Diane's decision ... Diane has been — continues to be — a really important figure in the Labour Party, not just because of the trail-blazing people have talked about, but also some of the things she did, for example she was crucial to exposing the Windrush scandal and holding the government to account on that."



Rishi Sunak was out campaigning with Tim Barnes, left, the Tory candidate for

'Past vs future' in first TV debate

Steven Swinford

Rishi Sunak will accuse Sir Keir Starmer of pursuing "power for power's sake" while the Labour leader will focus on "14 years of Tory chaos" during the first TV debate of the campaign.

The men will face each other in an ITV debate tomorrow, with Sunak taking the opportunity to try to dent Labour's 20-point opinion poll lead.

Starmer will accuse the Tories of trashing the economy since 2010, tying Sunak to Liz Truss and Boris Johnson.

In response, Sunak will attempt to shift the discussion to the future, highlighting ideas he has unveiled during the campaign, including national service for 18-year-olds, income tax cuts for pensioners and scrapping so-called "Mickey Mouse" degrees.

A senior Tory source said: "Starmer is going to talk about the past. It is all he talks about. This will be an opportunity to talk about the difference between the

two. He will argue that Starmer doesn't have any convictions, doesn't have any principles. This might be the first time people tune into the campaign."

Starmer will draw on his own legal experience, according to his allies. "He will be the prosecutor in the debate," a senior Labour source said. "Rishi will have to stand there in the dock having to defend 14 years."

The leaders spent yesterday preparing for the debate, to be hosted by Julie Etchingham. Starmer has been played by Oliver Dowden, the deputy prime minister, during Sunak's preparations, while during the Labour leader's preparations the role of Sunak has been played by Tom Webb, a policy adviser with a knack for impressions.

A Labour source said: "Keir will treat the debates as he has treated the rest of the campaign — as a chance to speak directly to people, beyond the usual noise of Westminster."

The hour-long debate will take place

at 9pm in front of a studio audience. ITV will host a separate multi-party debate on June 13 with senior figures from the Conservatives, Labour, the Liberal Democrats, SNP, Reform UK, the Greens and Plaid Cymru. The BBC will host another head-to-head debate towards the end of the campaign.

Sunak has challenged Starmer to an election debate a week. Starmer, however, has said he will only participate in two. The prime minister has accused him of lacking "courage" as a result.

The BBC said the pair would go head to head in a debate hosted by the newsreader Sophie Raworth in Nottingham, airing on June 26.

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

Campaign restores your faith in democracy, Edward Lucas, page 22

Minister wants personal protection officers for MPs

Matt Chorley

Every MP elected next month should get a personal police protection officer to provide security around the clock, an outgoing Tory minister has said.

Robert Halfon, who is standing down after 14 years in the Commons, said the escalation in abuse and violence towards MPs meant all 650 should be offered the level of security usually reserved for senior ministers in high-risk roles such as home secretary.

He is among more than 100 MPs who have announced they will not seek re-election. Taking part in a Times Radio series *The Exit Interviews*, he said the security situation was "definitely worse, without a doubt", adding: "It has been getting bad for years ... every day you pray, there's not going to be another Jo Cox or [Sir] David Amess, but I think

they really need to look at seriously the security of MPs." Amess was a Conservative MP killed at a constituency surgery in 2021 while Cox was a Labour MP murdered in June 2016.

Mike Freer, a junior justice minister, told Times Radio that he realised he had to leave politics when his home and office became a "fortress" with panic buttons, and his husband, Angelo, was unhappy seeing him leaving for constituency surgeries wearing a stab vest.

A House of Commons spokesman said: "The ability for members and their staff to perform their parliamentary duties safely, both on and off the estate, is fundamental to our democracy ... There have been a number of significant changes in the approach to MPs' security in recent years."

Listen to *The Exit Interviews* on Mondays from 11am on Times Radio.



the Cities of London & Westminster, while Angela Rayner, Labour's deputy leader, backed Primesh Patel in Harrow East

Saatchi & Saatchi ads target young

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Lord Hague of Richmond has admitted that he regrets giving a speech to the Conservative Party conference as a precocious 16-year-old because it cast him as “a bit of a freak”.

But the former Tory leader may have simply peaked too early, after a YouGov poll found that 40 per cent of Britons aged between 18 and 24 consider regular voters to be more attractive potential partners.

More than half the 4,200 people surveyed felt that their politically engaged peers were more intelligent, while 35 per cent considered them to be more trustworthy and 17 per cent thought they would be more likely to pick up the bill on a date. However, a fifth of respondents felt non-voters would spend more time talking about themselves on a first date and were more likely to be rude to a waiter.

The findings have been used to

inspire Just Vote, a campaign from the advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi designed to encourage young people to vote in the general election. It hopes to tackle the demographic's historically low turnout, with just over half of under-35s voting in 2019.

Just Vote posters will be erected across the country, including at the Glastonbury music festival, underpinned by an online ad campaign.

The emoji-laden adverts will feature slogans including the Tinder dating app-inspired “Voting types get more swipes” and “voting is hot AF [as f***]”.

The campaign is being led by Dale Vince, chief executive of the renewable energy firm Ecotricity, who is investing about £1 million into it. Vince said it was “shocking” that a third of young people were not registered to vote.

“This is the most important election of our lifetimes — and that's especially true for younger people, for whom the climate crisis will define their lives,” he

added. “Just Vote is here to remind people that voting is a superpower — it's the only way we get to be heard on the issues that matter most to us. We can see the engagement and passion of Gen Z on issues like the climate crisis — it's vital that their voices are heard.”

Vince has previously donated more than £1.4 million to Labour. The Just Vote campaign is not aligned to a party, but Sir Keir Starmer is most likely to benefit. According to polls, two thirds of those born after 1996 expect to vote Labour.

Richard Huntington, chief strategy officer of Saatchi & Saatchi, said the campaign was an opportunity to “turn the tide from apathy to action”.

“If the younger generation continue to exclude themselves from the democratic process, this pessimism becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy,” he said.

Young voters can make a huge difference, Dale Vince, page 22
Disillusion threatens a low turnout, leading article, page 25

Gen Z will vote, but they're not excited about it

To today's students, Tory rule has been a lifelong joke — but the other choices look little better, James Marriott writes

A warm sun is breaking through the dreary clouds over Warwick University and a confused first-year student is fretting about concerning news that has just reached her: the government's planned “inscription” of young people into the army.

This sounds, she tells me nervously, “a bit weird”. It is, I am realising, very easy to overstate the hyper-politicisation of the student body. Though most of the undergraduates I speak to are well informed, my visit to Warwick is a useful reminder that the radical students who dominate news bulletins with their causes, marches, protests and petitions are far from representative of the university population.

Warwick has a reputation as one of the most prestigious Russell Group institutions (it ranked ninth in last year's Sunday Times Good University Guide) and is a popular second choice for students rejected by Oxbridge. It occupies a campus on the outskirts of Coventry which, with its wide public spaces and banally ugly official buildings, has something of the atmosphere of the provincial capital of a totalitarian state.

In the 1970s it was known as “red Warwick” for its fierce left-wing politics but, on the evidence of my visit, the atmosphere has faded to a muted pink.

Most students dislike the government but Benedict Haslam, 21, studying PPE and fresh out of his final exam, gave one of the few examples of really vehement anti-Tory sentiment I unearthed. The Conservatives, he told me, were xenophobic and “truly horrible”. He said: “They have mishandled most things ... Their new policy about national service is a last ditch attempt to terrify young voters and incentivise older voters to demonise the younger generation.”

These are passionate sentiments but it is worth noting that Haslam's news habits — he is a devotee of the Financial Times and the *Today* programme — are hardly those of a Trotskyist revolutionary. Neither are his views on Sir Keir Starmer, whom he sees as not “a particularly potent or strong leader” but also one who probably “has positives”.

Moderation, or perhaps equivocation, was more widespread than I'd expected. Ella Carr, 20, a second-year PPE student, told me equably that on some matters, “I think people are very harsh on” the Conservatives, and on others, “people aren't harsh enough”.

She doesn't know who she will vote for, though. “I just know that I'm not going to vote Conservative.”

I don't really like Keir Starmer that much. He doesn't really have a backbone.” She may go Lib Dem as the best way to unseat the Conservative Bim Afolami (“I don't really like him”) in her home constituency of Hitchin & Harpenden.

I met a number of tactical

Lib Dem voters: much of Warwick's student body is drawn from the affluent “blue wall” southern constituencies, which have been drifting away from the Conservatives since Brexit and are among Sir Ed Davey's juiciest targets.

For many students, I sense, the Conservative Party is hardly worth the effort of hatred. Almost nobody is old enough to remember a Labour government. To them Tory rule is simply an absurd fact of existence, a chaotic joke that has lasted their whole lives.

Jack Lucas, 20, another tactical Lib Dem voter, said: “It's just been a mess to be honest. Their policies don't make any sense.” Like everyone I speak to he is unenthused by Labour, but concludes that “they'll be better than the Conservatives”. For these students, Jeremy Corbyn-era political excitement is a phenomenon of the archaic past. When Corbyn appeared on stage at Glastonbury in 2017, the present cohort of first time voters were 11 years old. They seem world-weirier and less idealistic than their predecessors.

Labour's one undoubted success with student voters can be credited to its social media manager. Almost everyone I spoke to brought up the party's witty TikTok memes. Indeed, for some students, the Labour TikTok account is their principal source of political news.

The other talking point is Gaza. Warwick has a modest pro-Palestinian encampment: its 20 or so tents under a grove of trees make for a pleasantly Arcadian prospect. An affable band of protesters were eating under a gazebo.

One of them, Saboor, 21, agreed to speak to me, though only after disappearing behind a tent to be briefed by another protester. He is an impassioned left-winger, highly motivated by Gaza along with among many other issues. “I don't think we should stand for any sort of injustice,” he told me. Intriguingly, he was the only student I spoke to who brought up trans rights. Though he is disaffected with the two-party system he will vote Labour as his MP was Zarah Sultana (“a good vote”).

Pretty much all the students I spoke to sympathised with the Palestinian cause, though I think that Hannah Smith, 20, was correct to observe that it is only “a minority actually protesting”. I was intrigued, too, to detect an unmistakable mood of weariness with campus activism. This term's biggest drama was the clash between the traditional Eurovision night held in the university's central piazza and the Gaza protesters who had camped out there to obstruct it.

“People were livid” about the cancellation of the Eurovision party, Carr says, “really angry”.

Tories are nevertheless virtually non-existent. The only person I managed to speak to who was definitely voting Conservative was the president of the university's Conservative Association, a wryly embattled young man named Lewis Wakeford, who is a “big fan” of Jeremy Hunt. “At the end of the day I'll still vote Conservative,” he said resignedly, “but I can definitely see why other people aren't.”

Hannah Smith said few

people joined the Gaza camp





FATHER'S
DAY **SUNDAY**
16 JUNE

M&S

ORDER BY 10PM, COLLECT IN STORE TOMORROW

Kayaker found dead after going missing in Alps

A record-breaking British kayaker who disappeared after becoming trapped in the rapids of the Melezza River in Switzerland has been found dead (Georgia Lambert writes).

Bren Orton, 29, had been missing since May 16, after he was sucked out of his kayak in the river in the Palagnedra region.

His disappearance prompted a vast search and rescue operation led by Swiss police, with support from Italian officers and a team of 15 kayakers, including some from the United States.

Police in Ticino confirmed that Orton's body was found

downstream, in Lake Maggiore. A spokesman said that "shortly before 1pm in Locarno, the lifeless body of the man who disappeared on May 16 while kayaking in the Melezza was found in the waters of Verbano".

He added: "The alarm was triggered by a sailor who found the body and immediately notified the emergency services."

Orton, an accomplished whitewater kayaker, was sponsored by Pyranha Kayaks. In a post on Facebook the company said: "It is with immense sadness that we announce that our friend and ambassador Bren Orton is no longer with us."

"The outpouring of



love and support from the paddling community since Bren went missing has been extraordinary. This support has been a profound source of strength for all of us, especially for his family and close friends. Sending our love to our paddling family at this time."

The daredevil sportsman had tackled some of the world's most remote and

Bren Orton had tackled some of the most challenging and remote kayaking locations

rugged locations, including the 128ft cascading waters of the Big Banana Falls in Mexico, where in 2018, he achieved a British record for the longest kayak descent.

Hallmarks of his career included the Adidas Sickline Extreme Kayak World Championships, where he competed in 2023.

Writing about his experience, Orton said: "My goal in kayaking

has always been to be the best all-round kayaker that I can be and to be able to show up to any spot in the world and shred."

Orton was a popular social media influencer on YouTube and Instagram, where he shared the sport's highs and lows, the beauty of his surroundings and the tough lessons learnt on the river.

His engaging content has garnered a substantial following and has inspired a new generation of kayakers.

Wear seatbelts for whole flight, passengers told

Ben Clatworthy Dubai

Airlines will amend their safety briefings to urge passengers to always wear seatbelts after the Singapore Airlines incident that left a British pensioner dead, The Times has been told.

Safety teams at dozens of airlines are understood to be reviewing how to compel passengers to keep their belts on even when the seatbelt sign is off.

Captains at many major airlines are already emphasising the need to be strapped in during their pre-departure PA messaging. Seatbelt signs are also being turned on faster, even in mild turbulence.

Safety briefings have already been adapted in recent years to place a greater emphasis on the danger posed by lithium-ion batteries in mobile phones and battery packs.

Passengers are now told to inform the crew immediately if their phone gets stuck in their seat. They are urged not to move the seat for fear of damaging the battery and causing a fire in the cabin.

Chief executives of airlines are said to be increasingly concerned that they could be the next to have an incident caused by turbulence.

Some 21 global airlines have signed up to trade body Iata's "turbulence aware" programme that gives advance warning to cockpits and flight planners. The topic is expected to be high on the agenda at the body's annual conference in Dubai this week.

Sir Tim Clark, the president of Emirates, said: "We've had our own fair share of issues. Not as bad as Singapore Airlines, but let's be quite honest, it's a real race and the whole industry is now upping in the game with regard to mak-

ing sure that passengers are strapped in. We are looking at all the protocols."

Singapore Airlines Flight 321 encountered severe turbulence earlier this month and dropped 178ft in fewer than five seconds, with passengers experiencing a violent seesaw motion.

Geoffrey Kitchen, a 73-year-old musical theatre director from outside Bristol, was killed and more than 100 passengers were admitted to hospital as a result of the incident.

A British telecoms engineer knocked unconscious on the same flight is undergoing treatment for six spine and neck fractures. Bradley Richards, from Benfleet, Essex, described the emergency, during which he woke up with blood pouring from his head, as "frantic" and like "something out of a movie".

Sources said the issue was of "extreme concern" to airlines and changes were afoot. One senior aviation source said: "Airline bosses are terrified by the Singapore event. They know they could be next and it worries them. There's a concerted effort in the industry now to adapt, and [safety] briefings are going to be at the heart of it."

"The messaging is going to be massively strengthened: it'll be 'Stay strapped in at all times'. End off."

Iata has launched a new platform where airline captains can report areas of turbulence to aid flight planners. Airlines are also increasingly using AI to try and predict areas where flights will experience bumps.

Paul Charles, who runs the PC agency, a consultancy, said: "Many airlines are moving quickly to try and reassure flyers. This is the most significant change to onboard safety advice for at least two decades and travellers should now always plan to buckle up."



Book your **free**** hearing check today.

Visit bootshearingcare.com or call 0345 200 7052†

Interest free payment plans available*

Boots
Hearingcare

*Requires minimum 10% deposit. Boots Hearingcare is a credit broker, introducing credit provided by Novuna Personal Finance. Authorized and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Subject to acceptance, terms and conditions apply.
**Over 18s and Hearingcare stores only. †Local call rates apply, mobiles may vary.

Rise of 'fakeaway' mealtime treats

Andrew Ellison
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Nothing beats a home-cooked meal but a decent takeaway can also be a real treat. Now Britons are trying to get the best of both worlds by turning to shop-bought "fakeaways" as a way of treating themselves on a budget, according to supermarket sales data.

Figures from Ocado show that sales of restaurant-branded products such as Franco Manca pizzas, Gourmet Burger Kitchen burgers and Itsu meals, have soared by more than 50 per cent over the past year.

Customers are significantly more likely to have these products delivered on a Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the online grocer's data reveals, suggesting that people are using them as a weekend treat in front of the TV or when seeing family and friends.

Ocado said that Friday was the most popular delivery day for products from Franco Manca, Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Leon, and Pizza Express, with shoppers most likely to buy Nando's, Wagamama and YO! Sushi food on a Sunday.

Customers can even get a taste of Michelin-starred dining at home. Sales of sauces from Gymkhana, a Michelin two-star Indian restaurant in London, have risen by 111 per cent at Ocado, while sales of Hawksmoor steaks are up 32 per cent since last year.

While restaurant-branded products

are generally more expensive than other brands or own-brand alternatives, they are still markedly cheaper than in the restaurant or to have delivered. For example, Franco Manca's spicy salami and fried onion pizza costs £5.75 at Ocado but the equivalent pizza would cost £12.30 in the restaurant or £14.25 for delivery by Deliveroo. Perhaps unsurprisingly, however, most reviews suggest that the pizza, while nice, is not near the standard of the restaurant equivalent.

Ocado said consumers were facing "difficult choices" about how and where to spend and that was driving the trend for fakeaways.

Research by Savanta last month found that three quarters of Britons say they are more conscious of their spending on takeaways and meals out than they were a year ago. This has also been the experience of Just Eat, the delivery service, where order numbers fell 6 per cent in 2023 compared with the previous year.

The Savanta research also found that more than half of people said that buying restaurant-branded products rather than ordering takeaways was a way to treat themselves whilst still being money-conscious. Ten years ago barely any major restaurant chains had their brands in grocery stores but these days most do. Pizza Express, one of the first chains to move into retail, sells nearly twice as many pizzas in supermarkets as in its restaurants.



Spinning a yarn Ruth Rea teaches a workshop on wool spinning at the Tangled Galashiels Fibre Festival in the Scottish Borders. Rea is a Tweed Guild member

Champagne drinking with Uber driving

Ben Clatworthy Travel Correspondent

First it was boats to Croatian islands, now Uber is adding sparkle with new tours to Champagne.

The ride-hailing app is launching Uber Bubbles, an experience that will take passengers from Paris to the region famous for its sparkling wines.

"With more than 15 million visitors expected in Paris this summer, we wanted to curate a seamless day trip from Paris to escape the frenzy and enjoy one of the most iconic regions in France," Laureline Serieys, the general manager of Uber France, said. "With Uber Bubbles, we're putting the heart of France's champagne region at your fingertips."

The experience is designed to capitalise on the Olympic boom, taking visitors to the Games to famous vineyards.

The tour is available to book now and will be offered on Fridays and Saturdays from June 7 to August 17, costing €200 (£170) for up to four guests.

Passengers will be collected in a Tesla and taken to lunch at the Perrier-Jouët Cellier Belle Epoque in Epernay. After that they will visit Maison Mumm in Reims for a tour of the cellar and then a Cordon Rouge tasting before being driven back to Paris.

The ride-sharing company also plans to offer free tours on electric boats along the Seine. The experience will be called Uber Cruise is expected to launch in mid-July.

TUI
Live Happy

Save up to
£250
per booking*

Final boarding call for holidays this summer.



**FREE KIDS' PLACES
STILL AVAILABLE***



Offers are correct at time of going to print 31/05/2024. *Save up to £250 per booking on TUI and First Choice package holidays. Price will automatically be applied on site and is valid for holidays with a TUI flight departing between 1st May 2024 – 31st October 2024. Saving is based on a minimum of 2 adults sharing between 1st May – 31st October 2024 for holidays that are 7, 10, 11 or 14 nights. No minimum spend required. Offer is valid from 1st June – 31st July 2024 across all sales channels. Offer does not apply to accommodation only, flight only, solo travellers or 3rd party flight bookings. Offer is only valid for new bookings. Offer is for TUI and does not include Crystal Ski, Marella or River Cruise. See www.tui.co.uk, www.firstchoice.co.uk or the relevant brochure for booking terms and conditions. Offer is subject to availability and may be amended or withdrawn at any time without notice. *Free kids' place offer applies to new bookings only, on selected holidays subject to limited availability. Only 1 free kids' place is available in each selected hotel room or selected apartment type or villa with a minimum of 2 full paying adults. Other children must pay the full brochure price. You'll need to pay a deposit, but we deduct this from your final balance and will refund this when you pay for your holiday in full. If you change your booking, free child places on your new booking will depend on availability. Please see www.tui.co.uk or the relevant brochure for full booking terms and conditions that apply. All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.caa.co.uk. TUI is a trading name of TUI UK Limited, a member of the TUI Group. Registered office: Wigmore House, Wigmore Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 9TN. Registered in England No: 2830117. ATOL 2524, ABTA V5126.

Unsung aircraft that stormed in to save the day

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

When major anniversaries of battles approach, there are often calls to recognise some unsung hero who has been overlooked. As we hit the 80th anniversary of D-Day this week, there has been such a call, but it is to recognise the contribution of two planes.

The role of the Typhoon and the Tempest in securing the victory of D-Day and protecting Britain from German reprisals is being trumpeted in this anniversary year by those who think they were overshadowed by the more famous Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster bomber.

BAE Systems, which has inherited the heritage of Hawker Aircraft, maker of the Tempest and Typhoon, is retelling the story of the planes and pilots that supported troops in Normandy, terrified the German army and defended London from the V1 rocket.

Andrew Fetherston, heritage archive manager for BAE Systems said: "D-Day 80 is a time to bring the Typhoon and Tempest back into people's perceptions, to recognise their important roles at that crucial moment in the war."

It's a tale of bold designs, worrying technical problems, perseverance and daring pilots. The two planes emerged during the war. The Typhoon was the first, a fighter-bomber designed by Sydney Camm as a successor to his Hurricane, but its beginnings were rocky when it was introduced in 1941. In fact, it nearly didn't get off the ground.

John Bulmer, a BAE employee known to colleagues as the company's heritage champion, said there were "a



The Hawker Tempest's speed allowed pilots to run down the Nazis' V1 flying bombs. Right: Roland Beamont

number of problems. For instance, the tail occasionally fell off." With teething problems like that, it was natural that the RAF began to wonder if it was worth the trouble. However, it had the crucial support of the test pilots including Wing Commander Roland Beamont, whose intervention ensured that the Typhoon would go on to become a vital part of Britain's aerial armoury.

"It was my father who advocated for them," said Carol Walton, Beamont's daughter. "He was summoned to a fairly high-powered meeting — he was on-

ly 22 — and all these senior RAF guys said they didn't want the Typhoon. They wanted more Spitfires, but my father asked if any of them had flown the Typhoon. Nobody answered because nobody had, so he managed to persuade them they should have them."

The teething problems were worked out and, while it had been designed as an interceptor, it found its forte in ground attack. More than 3,000 Typhoons would be built, a small number compared with the more than 20,000 Spitfires. The Typhoon was equipped

first with bombs and then rockets which made it a formidable threat before and after D-Day. It was highly effective in taking out German communications and infrastructure before the invasion and, while it had more of a supporting role on D-Day itself, it played a big part in the ensuing Battle of Normandy. "Our RAF boys with their rocket-carrying Typhoons made a wonderful job of stopping the enemy," recalled Sergeant Rich-

ard Brock, a D-Day veteran from the 1st Battalion East Lancs Regiment.

"The German forces were pretty terrified of it," added Bulmer. "I've read accounts of Typhoons coming in, firing rockets and German troops running away."

After the D-Day landings, Hitler was ready to unleash a new terror on Britain: the V1 rockets. These could wreak devastation on cities, but there was a defence against them in the form of the Typhoon's successor, the Tempest.

The Tempest was brand new in 1944, meaning fewer than 1,400 were built during the war, yet it played a vital role in home defence because of its speed.

When V1 attacks began on June 13, Beamont was one of the leading aces who used the Tempest's pace as a defence against this threat.

"Before then other aircraft could shoot [V1s] down but they had to do the rather hazardous thing of flying headlong at it," Bulmer explained.

The Tempest helped defeat the Nazi counter-threat and made Beamont a hero. He later became a test pilot, flying at airshows. "When I was growing up I had the fuselage of his Tempest in the hall and played hide and seek in it. I thought everybody had a bit of an aeroplane stuck in their hall," Walton said.

D-Day's 80th, Max Hastings, page 22 and Times2





BIG SUMMER SAVERS

SAVE £336

PERFECT HOLIDAY SNAPS

£39

PER MONTH*

INCREASES 31ST MARCH 2025

+

UNLIMITED

DATA

+

UK'S BEST

NETWORK

FOR OVER 10 YEARS

Price rises each year on 31st March by £1.50



Best Take on Google Pixel 8a

PHOTOGRAPHY LOVERS CHOOSE EE

OFFER ENDS 1ST JULY



UK RootMetrics® Report H2 2023
Best for network performance

£20 upfront. Google Pixel 8a from £39. 36 month credit agreement. Device monthly repayment £7.97. £20 upfront, total amount payable £307. 0% APR. *24 month Airtime plan with unlimited data, currently £31 a month. Price increases each year on 31st March by £1.50. See ee.co.uk/increase for details. Speeds capped at 100Mbps. Allowances for use in the UK (excluding Jersey, Guernsey & Isle of Man) & Republic of Ireland. £2.28 daily charge applies in EU/EEA. Flex Pay is a consumer credit product to finance your device. If you do not keep up to date with payments, your credit file and future borrowing may be impacted. Only take out credit if you believe it is affordable for you to do so. Credit is subject to a credit check, your status and assessment. You'll need an EE mobile airtime plan. EE Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for the provision of consumer credit. UK'S BEST NETWORK 10 YEARS IN A ROW. Rankings based on the RootMetrics® UK RootScore® Report. From H2 2013 to H2 2023. Tested with best commercially available smartphones on 4 national mobile networks across all available network types. Your experiences may vary. The RootMetrics award is not an endorsement of EE. For more details visit ee.co.uk/claims.

GET OFFER



News

Libraries ban books after single complaint

Charlotte Alt

Books by authors including Raymond Briggs, David McKee and Jules Verne have been removed from public libraries after only one complaint.

More than a dozen books were removed after people complained about their content or because librarians deemed them to be offensive.

They include Briggs's *Fungus the Bogeyman*, McKee's *Three Monsters*, Verne's *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, Chris Claremont's *The Uncanny X-Men* and Victor Appleton's *Tom Swift* series.

Libraries also received dozens more complaints asking them to remove content in a wave of "book challenges" that one expert called the "tip of the iceberg" of increasing censorship.

Louise Cooke, emeritus professor of information and knowledge management at Loughborough University, said censorship in the UK was more "covert" than in the US, where the American Library Association has been documenting attempts to ban books for years.

"In America it's a huge public issue and sometimes you even wonder if it is actually happening a lot more in the US or whether there is just a lot more awareness of it," she said, adding that the growing tendency to remove anything that could offend an individual is "massively dangerous."

The Times sent Freedom of Information requests to 204 councils responsible for public libraries. Of those 163 responded; 17 did not hold the required information and 24 did not respond.

The analysis revealed that at least 16 books were removed from shelves in 11 councils after one objection from a customer, parent or librarian.

A parent complained to Hertfordshire county council about the word "golliwog" in *Fungus the Bogeyman*. An internal email says: "I must admit I was rather shocked that the word was still being printed in an edition of the book from 2012 — as a lot of those 'classic' books from the 1970s have had such offensive words removed in later editions, now that we know better."

Five Weeks in a Balloon, about a trip across Africa, was removed by Coventry Library Services after a customer complained about its "inappropriate and racist" language. An internal email reads: "[The customer] says it refers to 'beastly n*****s' and other such terms."

While not all translations of Verne's book appear to include the phrase, most refer to people living in Africa as "savage beasts" and "savage tribes".

In Essex a public library removed McKee's children's book *Three Monsters* (2005) from its shelves after one

customer complained about its "divisive language". The particular section was: "Clear off," shouted the second monster. "We don't want any funny foreigner types here."

The story tells of an "alien" monster who arrives at an idyll by the sea where he is treated deplorably by two other monsters who force him to do land clearing.

Andersen Press, the publisher, describe the story: "Once he has done it, the horrible pair do tell him to go, and then watch in amazement as he dances back to his boat. The clever stranger has built himself his own personal little island with the earth and plants they told him to clear away."

McKee was known for writing about serious topics in a humorous way and the moral of his popular *Elmer* books was to embrace being different.

Most libraries voluntarily follow national guidance from the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP), which states that books should not be censored unless their content has been found to be unlawful.

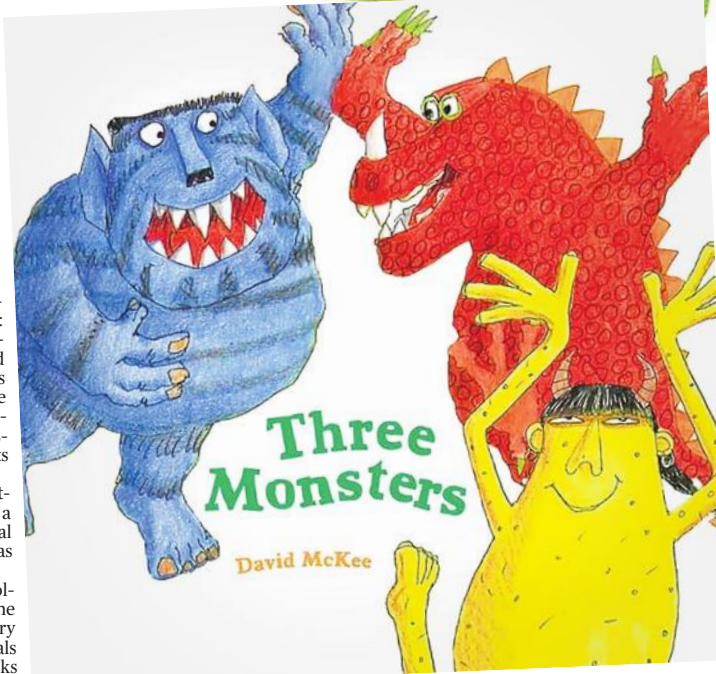
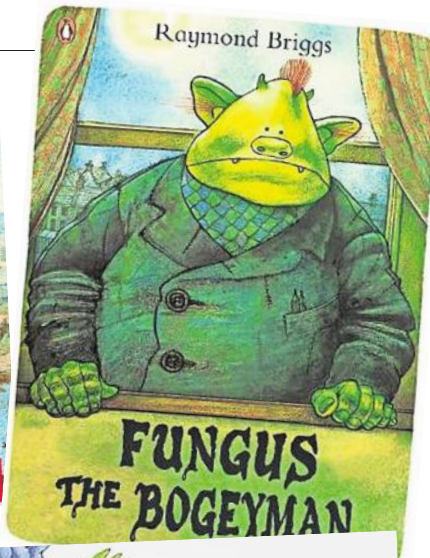
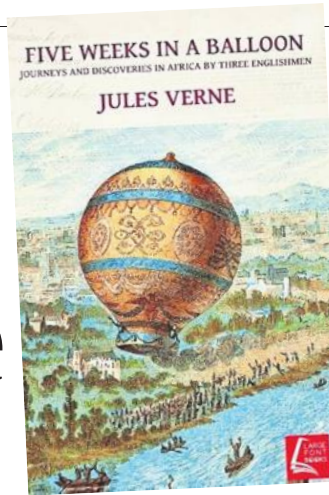
Jo Cornish, interim chief executive of CILIP, said: "Our general view as a profession is that it's better for the reader to have access to material, not proscribed by law, than it be banned."

"As we make clear in our guidance, we are committed to opposing censorship unless there is a specific risk that providing access to a particular book would break the law or incite hatred or violence."

Nonetheless, decisions on stock policy are made by each library independently with oversight lying with local authorities and ultimately the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Cornish said: "There have always been items in libraries that have sparked controversy and debate, but anecdotally we are aware that requests to withdraw items are becoming more frequent and co-ordinated. And that there are real consequences being felt by individuals. We are aware of one school librarian reporting they lost their job defending the principle of providing LGBTQ+ positive book displays."

Of the 16 books removed from public libraries, eight were due to complaints regarding "racist" or "divisive" language, three for "inappropriate" sexual or violent content, three for concerns about potentially damaging health ad-



Fungus the Bogeyman by Raymond Briggs, left, has been popular for years but it and other books are being withdrawn over concerns about their language

Behind the story

Attempts to ban books that are considered to contain controversial content have always existed: think of the furor over *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (Charlotte Alt writes).

However, in recent years there has been a targeted and broadened effort to remove any book that may cause offence from public and school libraries.

The American Library Association said that 4,240 titles were targeted in 2023, often by pressure groups who say their content is inappropriate for young readers. In the UK there is no central authority that tracks "book challenges". Most public libraries follow guidance from the Chartered Institute of Library

and Information Professionals, which states that books should not be banned unless the title has been found to be unlawful.

Louise Cooke, of Loughborough University, said: "If you go back enough in time, you would find that censorship was mainly focused around sedition, treason and obscenity but probably not much else beyond that. Now it has moved to include things that are potentially discriminatory or personally offensive to individuals, perhaps because of protected characteristics or personal beliefs. All the while it's broadening the categories of things that people feel should be censored."

Isobel Hunter, chief executive of Libraries

Connected, a charity that represents the public library sector, said: "I think there are certain areas of book stock that are really complicated but that's mirroring what's going on in society, where there is a really, really complex debate on some of these issues and at times without any sort of middle ground."

The exact scale of "book challenges" in the UK is difficult to assess because it is often done covertly. Alison Tarrant, of the School Library Association, said: "Some of our members have been told that they can have the LGBTQ books on the shelf but they shouldn't be part of a display and there should be questions around if that is equal provision for all students."

Unhappy endings

Fungus the Bogeyman by Raymond Briggs The children's book was removed in Hertfordshire after a customer complained about the word "golliwog" in the text.

Three Monsters by David McKee The children's book was removed in Essex after a complaint that its language was inappropriate.

Five Weeks in a Balloon by Jules Verne The novel was removed in Coventry after a complaint that it included racist language.

I Hate School by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross The children's picture book was removed in Birmingham after a complaint about illustrations of children about to be executed.

The Uncanny X-Men: The Trial of Magneto by Chris Claremont The Marvel comic book was removed in Edinburgh after a parent complained about racist language.

Spirou & Fantasio in New York by Tome and Janry The comic book was removed in Hertfordshire after a complaint about racist stereotypes.

Akissi Tales of Mischief by Marguerite Abouet and Mathieu Sapin The comic book was removed by Brent council after a complaint that a hairstyle perpetuated racial stereotypes.

Billy Bonkers, the (Great) Beach Rescue by Giles Andrea The children's book was removed from libraries in Birmingham after a complaint that one of the main characters showed inappropriate interest in watching young women.

Fast like a Girl by Dr Mindy Pelz It was removed by Torfaen council after a complaint that it could encourage extreme weight loss.

Tom Swift by Victor Appleton Birmingham library staff said it was racist because the protagonist has a "coloured" servant who calls him "Massa Tom".

vice and two for outdated information.

All copies of the Marvel superhero comic book *The Uncanny X-Men: The Trial of Magneto* by Chris Claremont were removed from libraries in Edinburgh because one parent complained about the "use of the n-word".

Birmingham city council withdrew all copies of *I Hate School* by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross because a customer complained that the story of a young girl's imaginary life at school showed illustrations of children about to be executed by hanging.

Analysis by The Times also shows there were at least an additional 48 separate "book challenges" in 29 councils but which did not result in removal.

Books about LGBTQ+ topics or gender theory received the most challenges, often because the complainant perceived them as "advocating child harming procedures".

Two books by Juno Dawson, author of *This Book is Gay* and *You Need to Chill*, received complaints in four areas for their discussion of gender and sexuality. Dawson said: "It's truly concerning that 'book banning' seems to be on the rise in the UK. Paradoxically these attempts always seem to be from people who consider themselves champions of free speech."

A spokesman for the Department for Culture, Media and Sport said: "Freedom of speech is one of the core values that defines our society and we expect library collections to represent a variety of perspectives and topics."

Teenagers drop in for GCSE in skateboarding

Jack Malvern

Skateboarding's reputation as a defiant subculture found in graffiti-covered spaces is taking a knock after it was approved as a subject for GCSE.

The sport, described by some as more of a way of life, is officially part of the curriculum in Northern Ireland as a topic in physical education qualifications.

Theo Hamilton, 16, who is studying at Campbell College in east Belfast, is one of two pupils in Northern Ireland to study skateboarding this year, undertaking written exams and assessment of their skills in a skatepark. He said that he enjoyed the course and had

been skating since the age of 14. "The main practical set was just the knowledge of the sport," he said, "nothing too challenging — ollies, shuivits and dropping." An ollie is a jump caused by striking the tail of the board into the ground, a shuvit is a 180-degree jump without the tail hitting the ground and dropping is entering a ramp from the top.

The sport, which could be used for GCSE physical education qualifications in the rest of the UK, was approved by Northern Ireland's Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment.

Jared Purvis, 29, founder of the Sk8board School in Northern Ireland, persuaded the council to adopt skate-

boarding after teaching rock-climbing as part of GCSE physical education. Other recognised disciplines include table tennis, dance and inline roller hockey. "We thought: if this can be a GCSE then surely there can be an option for skateboarding," he said. "I looked at some English exam boards and they had snowboarding. I thought: it's not that different."

Students hoping to get the top grade, labelled A* in Northern Ireland and equivalent to a 9 in England, will need to show a confident drop-in from the top of a ramp.

"If you can do it on a 6ft ramp rather than a 3ft ramp, that's progression,"

Purvis said, adding that there was no requirement to do a kickflip, which any visitor to a skate park will see dozens of skaters try and fail.

Candidates are expected to master basic pushing and turning, using both carving (leaning) or tic-tac turns (raising the front wheels to pivot on the rear wheels). Other than practical skills, candidates must know how to dismantle and fix a skateboard and be familiar

with all categories: freestyle, street, park, vert and pool.

Skateboarding has attracted a wide variety of adherents over the years including Katharine Hepburn, John Lennon, Jodie Foster, Michael Jackson and Farrah Fawcett.

Theo said that recognition as a GCSE subject could change the perception of skateboarding. "People wouldn't consider it to be a sport in the past but, since the Olympics, they are seeing it as something they can do as a sport," he said.



Theo Hamilton is studying at Campbell College, Belfast



Murdoch marries in California vineyard

Rupert Murdoch, chairman emeritus of News Corporation, which owns The Times, has married his partner, Elena Zhukova, a retired scientist (Fiona Hamilton writes).

The ceremony took place at Moraga, Murdoch's vineyard and estate in California, where the couple were surrounded by close family and friends.

Murdoch, 93, and Zhukova, 67, met at a family gathering last year. The marriage is Murdoch's fifth. He has six children from his previous unions.

Last year his son Lachlan, 52, became sole chairman of News Corporation, which also publishes The Sunday Times, and executive chairman of Fox Corporation. Murdoch moved into a new role as chairman emeritus of both companies after a nearly 70-year career in which he grew a \$25 billion media empire across the United States, Britain, Europe and Australia.

News Corp also owns publications including The Wall

Street Journal, The Australian and The Sun, as well as the publisher HarperCollins and TalkTV.

Announcing the next step in his career in September, Murdoch said he would be involved every day at his newspapers, TV networks and publishers, but hailed his son as the future. "For my entire professional life, I have been engaged daily with news and ideas, and that will not change," he said. "But the time is right for me to take on different roles, knowing that we have truly talented teams and a passionate, principled leader in Lachlan."

FOR a Day Dedicated TO HIM

FATHER'S DAY
16TH JUNE

Hawaiian print family clothing
by George.

FROM
£6
Boys Shirt

ASDA
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

Selected stores and lines. Subject to availability. Palm Tree and Hibiscus Linen Rich Short Sleeve Men's Shirt £14. Palm Tree and Hibiscus Linen Rich Short Sleeve Boy's Shirt, 1-8yrs £6-£8. Palm Tree and Hibiscus Linen Rich Dress 1-8yrs £10-£14. Delivery, collection and minimum basket charges may apply. UK delivery only. Carrier bag charges may apply. Delivery/collection slots subject to availability. May exclude Asda Express stores and small stores - see ASDA.com/smallstores

AI and open jails hailed as the future of justice

TIMES Crime and Justice Commission

David Woode Crime Correspondent
Oliver Myers

Open prisons could be more efficient to run when technology has advanced to allow for the use of AI and electronic tagging to closely monitor offenders preparing for release, a former justice secretary has said.

David Gauke is “intensely conscious” of the prisons crisis in England and Wales but warned Alex Chalk, the lord chancellor, that he faced a “potential political disaster” before the election.

Under a scheme to ease overcrowding, eligible prisoners serving four years or less can be released up to 70 days early. However, jails remain full and probation staff fear the prison service may be unable to accept prisoners within the next few weeks.

Gauke, a chief secretary to the Treasury and justice secretary under Theresa May, suggested advances in technology could help with rehabilitation.

“Open prisons are cheaper than closed prisons and, in my view, would deliver better value for money so I think [there could be] an expansion of that. As technology becomes more advanced,

through electronic tagging and potentially combined with AI in terms of monitoring, I wonder whether we can find opportunities here,” he told The Times Crime and Justice Commission.

The year-long inquiry will consider the future of policing and the criminal justice system. A final report will be published in April.

Gauke said he did not want to “brush over the political difficulties” but recognised the dilemma Chalk faced over releasing people from prison.

“I have no doubt that Alex Chalk is having sleepless nights that somebody released early does not commit a serious crime, particularly in the next [five] weeks,” he said.

Asked if he was worried about the early release scheme, Gauke replied: “A number of long and short-term factors have created a perfect storm. We’re either going to have to spend a lot of money or try to deliver a system for 100,000 prisoners on the cheap; the chances of something going badly wrong, resulting in prison riots, potential deaths of prison officers and prisoners, is a genuine risk.”

Gauke gave evidence to the commission days before two disturbances engulfed the crisis-hit Parc prison in Bridgend, Glamorgan. The first involved 20 prisoners and was “resolved safely” on Friday while three inmates were admitted to hospital after an alter-

cation in a second “unrelated” matter on the same day, according to G4S, the security firm that runs the prison. Ten people have died at the prison since February 27. Four deaths are believed to be drug-related.

When Gauke was justice secretary, he said there was a “very strong case” for abolishing short sentences of six months or less. He claimed they weren’t working for many inmates and believed the courts could explore community rehabilitation, with the exception of those serving time for violent and sexual crimes.

In October 2023, Chalk introduced the Sentencing Bill that proposed a presumption against custodial sentences of less than 12 months. The bill was scrapped when the prime minister called the election.

Gauke also said: “If you’re looking for bang for your buck in terms of reducing crime, prison is an expensive way of doing it. We put far more people in prison compared to Germany, the Netherlands and Scandinavia. We have to be more creative about the use of electronic tagging and if more can be done to monitor alcohol and drugs [use].”

He said that factors such as the high number of people on remand and police’s higher rates of arrest in recent years are putting pressure on prison numbers. The Conservative Party has been contacted for comment.



The Eagles, with the late Glenn Frey’s son Deacon in the line-up, provided harmonies like honey at the start of a week of performances at Co-op Live Manchester as part of their Long Goodbye tour

Music legends bid farewell with a note-perfect affair

Pop Mark Beaumont

The Eagles
Co-op Live, Manchester
★★★★☆

As six men, backlit by spotlights, multi-harmonised the a cappella opening to Steve Young’s *Seven Bridges Road* like a heavenly cowboy choir, what’s touted as Britain’s best arena sound system was about to get the ultimate showcase demo.

More than four decades after they split, vowing to re-form only when hell freezes over, and 30 years after the Hell Freezes Over reunion tour, the Eagles arrived at Manchester’s Co-op Live arena to open the UK leg of their Long Goodbye farewell tour as probably the most perfectly drilled act on the planet. So immaculate is

their vocal blend, so sparkling their sound, that internet doubters have claimed they’re merely miming to some of the bestselling records ever. “Anyone here from Manchester?” main man Don Henley asked a crowd who had given a muted response to his shout-outs to local heroes the Smiths, Oasis and (exposing his peaceful, easy leanings) Simply Red. But then, for two transportive hours, the Co-Op would be forgiven for thinking it had teleported deep into the American heartland. With their stage screens framed with sunset palm trees, the Eagles encapsulated the definitive sound of Americana FM, from Venice Beach to the Everglades. *Tequila Sunrise* and *New Kid in Town* were the epitome of Hawaiian-shirted Californian poolside grooves, so swinging Seventies they might as well keep the beat by dropping keys into a bowl. *Lyin’ Eyes*, *Take It to the Limit* and *Peaceful Easy Feeling*, boasting

Starting your EV journey with up to 2,400 miles in the tank?

○ OVO Beyond

The Energy Savings Account.
Money off today.
Greener rewards tomorrow.



Beyond allows eligible customers to bank up to 100 free miles a month over 2 years (up to a maximum of 2,400) which can be redeemed when a customer signs up to Charge Anytime.

Free miles can be redeemed at any time over the 2 year period and for 3 years after. Free miles must be redeemed in one go and are payable as account credit within 30 days of redemption. Credit will depend on number of miles banked when redeemed and then current Charge Anytime rate. EV mileage calculation based on average sized EV requiring 1 kWh per 4 miles. Actual miles obtained depends on type of vehicle, driving style, weather and other factors. Terms and eligibility criteria apply. For more information, see ovoenergy.com/beyond.



'Macho' culture on panel shows deters women comedians

Alex Farber Media Correspondent
Jack Malvern

Female comedians are reluctant to take part in TV comedy panels because of their "down the pub" macho culture, a senior executive has said.

The admission from the experienced programme commissioner, speaking anonymously, came as research showed the BBC trailing its rivals in achieving parity between male and female hosts, team captains and guests.

"Panel shows are essentially three hours of willy waving machismo and one-upmanship joke telling. It's not a great environment for many female comedians to do their best material because they have a very 'blokes down the pub' feel," the sources said.

"Many good comedians, including women, really hate the environment and just don't want to do it, which is one of the reasons there are so few on there. We have tried to book more women and come up across this issue constantly."

The likes of ITV and Channel 4 have consistently outperformed the BBC since 2014, when Danny Cohen, its former director of television, pledged to book at least one woman per show as men accounted for 90 per cent of spots.

The drive helped reduce the imbalance to a 60:40 split by 2020 but over

the past three years the proportion of women appearing on shows such as *Have I Got News For You*, *QI* and *Would I Lie To You?* has plateaued.

Meanwhile, ITV's *Celebrity Juice* and Channel 4's *Taskmaster* and *8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown* have helped to extend female representation on commercial TV to 45 per cent, according to Stuart Lowe, an analyst.

Sandi Toksvig, who took over *QI* hosting duties from Stephen Fry in 2016, argued that it was easy for broadcasters to bridge the gender divide. "Make more women hosts and you solve the problem," Toksvig said. "It's not tricky it's just not happening."

The most prominent woman on panel shows on TV and radio since 2020 was Sue Perkins, with 74 appearances (3.2 per cent of all women's appearances). Next were Toksvig (61 appearances), Lucy Porter (58), Maisie Adam (55) and Ria Lina (49).

The most popular men over the same time period were Des Clarke (135), host of BBC Radio Scotland's satirical show *Breaking the News*, followed by Paul Merton (119), David Mitchell (113), Greg Davies (104) and Alan Davies (101).

The list of top 100 most prominent comedians for the 2020s featured 40 women. For the 2010s the figure was 26, higher than the 2000s and 1990s that each featured 15 women.

harmonies like honey, were archetypal Nashville bar room laments, their partners gallivanting round "the cheating side of town". And *Already Gone*, *Life in the Fast Lane* and Henley's solo hit *The Boys of Summer* were the top-down road trips in between.

With the late Glenn Frey's son Deacon and the American country

superstar Vince Gill firmly filling his boots and the 76-year-old "master of the Stratocaster" Joe Walsh, the Eagles of 2024 are the most unified and harmonious a proposition as they've been since the early Seventies.

There were moments in *I Can't Tell You Why* when things got so soft rock it was a miracle their thumbs didn't

push clean through their fretboards, but an encore of *Hotel California*, its dual guitar solo still one of rock's most bewitching moments, deepened and thickened the tone in time for Henley's honed solo hymnal *Desperado*. The dark desert highway will feel far emptier without them.

To June 8, eagles.com



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](https://www.wimbledon.com/wpp)



TIMES RADIO

THE ELECTION STATION

ON TOUR



DAB
RADIO



ONLINE



SMART
SPEAKER



APP

JOHN PIENAAR

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST ELECTION NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY



KATE McCANN



Family swim A mute swan with its cygnets at Iwer, Buckinghamshire. Sun will mix with showers this week Weather, page 47

WHERE RISK MEETS OPPORTUNITY

Whatever the obstacles, CME Group provides the tools that global market participants need to manage risk and capture opportunities. With 24-hour access to futures, options, cash and OTC products across all major asset classes, you can drive your trading strategy forward with confidence and precision.

VISIT [CMEGROUP.COM/OPPORTUNITY](https://cmegroup.com/opportunity)

UNCERTAINTY

STRATEGY

VOLATILITY

POSITION

 **CME Group**

Derivatives are not suitable for all investors and involve the risk of losing more than the amount originally deposited and profit you might have made. This communication is not a recommendation or offer to buy, sell or retain any specific investment or service. Copyright ©2022 CME Group Inc. All rights reserved.

Sarah Kemp
LPGA Player

Britons take on side hustles to make ends meet

Andrew Ellison
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Napoleon is said to have described Britain as a nation of shopkeepers. More than two centuries later it appears we have morphed into a nation of side hustlers as people turn to selling goods online and freelancing to pay the bills.

Until recently, earning cash from several roles rather than just one job was thought to be the preserve of Gen Z and millennials but research has found that the cost of living crisis has encouraged Britons of all ages to try to supplement their income.

While young people are still the most likely to have a side hustle, with two thirds of 16 to 34-year-olds having more than one income stream, a quarter of middle-aged Britons also now have a way of earning extra cash.

Across the population 47 per cent of people say they have a second income — with a further 10 per cent actively searching for one.

Selling second-hand clothes or up-cycled furniture are the most common sources of extra cash, with 24 per cent citing “retail” as their side hustle.

Other popular ways to boost earnings are freelance writing, technology jobs such as app development and web design, and health and wellness advice.

The study, commissioned by the accountancy group Sage, found that side hustles could provide a significant boost to earnings, particularly for young people: 16 to 34-year-olds pocketed an average £546 a month. This has inspired more than 90 per cent of young people to say that they want to turn side hustles into a full-time business.

Jonny Cottom, 30, from north London, has done just that. He began creating sustainable water bottles in 2020, inspired by the bad smell coming from his reusable bottle.

In less than four years he has transformed his brand, Breakbottle — bot-

ties that “break” in the middle so they can be cleaned hygienically — into a business turning over £70,000 a year.

He said: “I was working as an accountant at a City firm during the day and I’d spend about an hour working on my side hustle each evening after work.”

“The more it grew, the more difficult it was to manage my full-time job — so I decided to quit and take the plunge, launching a crowdfunding campaign in 2021 which raised £40,000.”

Andreas Georgiou, of Sage, said: “Far from being a generation of quitters, our research reveals today’s entrepreneurial landscape is teeming with Gen Zs and Millennials. As well as growing single side hustles, we’re seeing young people, in particular, using tech to combine income from multiple side hustles to effectively create full-time jobs.”

The number of people engaged in such ventures suggests that many could be avoiding paying tax on their second income. More than 12 million people file a tax return each year but the research suggests that 22 million people earn cash outside their main job.

Under the government’s “trading allowance” scheme, Britons are allowed to earn up to £1,000 a year from casual work or trading without paying tax but anything above this must be declared on a self-assessment form.

HM Revenue and Customs said that casual services such as babysitting or gardening or hiring out personal equipment such as power tools were the types of income allowed to be earned tax free within the allowance.

Yet while many Britons are taking on more jobs, the number of workless households has hit a 12-year high. Figures published last week by the Office for National Statistics showed that in the first three months of this year there were 269,000 non-student households where no adult had ever been employed, the most since spring 2012 and a 12 per cent increase on the same period last year.

Donors step in to pay for teacher-training scheme

Emma Yeomans

The founder of a charity that helps professionals change career to teaching said her faith in human nature had been restored after donors came forward to try to save the programme.

Lucy Kellaway, a former Financial Times columnist who retrained as a maths teacher, founded Now Teach in 2016. It has helped more than 1,000 professionals, including executives and scientists, to become teachers.

However, the government pulled the plug on the scheme in April. It will continue paying for those already retraining but will end funding for recruitment, despite a severe staff shortage in schools.

Although the pledges of support from donors — some of whom have given “a bob or two in savings”, Kellaway said — are not yet enough to guarantee Now Teach’s next cohort, she added that she was “guardedly optimistic” the government’s cuts would not spell the end of its recruitment.

“It almost restores one’s faith in

human nature,” she said. “The government is not doing something which it self-evidently should be doing. It looks like philanthropists are going to step up and pay for it instead.”

Recruitment targets for secondary school teachers have been missed by 50 per cent in recent years. Some subjects, such as physics, recruited only 17 per cent of its target for this year.

Now Teach recruits a higher proportion of science and maths teachers than the national average. Applications for teacher training from those aged over 40 are up by 31 per cent on last year, to 6,697, and for the under-40s they are up by 11 per cent, to 30,584.

Last year the government pledged £4.5 million over three years to hire one cohort to Now Teach and support them through training, but the cuts mean recruitment will stop in September and support will tail off by 2026.

As a result Now Teach will not be able to take on trainee teachers this summer, despite a significant number of applications, unless it can find enough donors to cover its costs.

Bulgarians exploited the computer that said 'yes'

Libby Purves

Page 23



Comment

Greece shows old-young strife is ancient history

Sunak's national service proposal may be purely symbolic but it taps into a generational divide that goes back to Socrates

Trevor Phillips



@TREVORPTWEETS

Thus far, few are paying much attention. The battle buses have been launched but they are barely out of neutral. There are many minds yet to be made up.

The only policy that has stirred any passion is Rishi Sunak's proposed national service scheme for 18-year-olds. Though the home secretary argued to me last week that its aim is to make young people feel more British and to bring our divided communities together, it is plainly a naked bid for the votes of the British Nostalgia Party.

If the government really wants to address the absence of a belief in Britain and its values, I have a simpler idea: send the kids overseas for a while, preferably to the most hostile nations we can find. Nothing dissolves Brits' racial, religious and regional divisions faster than standing together in the corner of a foreign field, alternately being mocked for our funny ways and denounced for our imperial transgressions.

My money would be on Greece. To be precise, Athens. We made the trip last week; in a year where more people are participating in elections than at any time in history it seemed fitting to return to the city where in 508BC Cleisthenes laid down the rules of the game for democracies ever since. One lesson is that while we may consider our leaders — and the pretenders to leadership —

inadequate, we are fortunate that they are, relatively speaking, usually neither corrupt nor mad. Other nations are not so fortunate. Standing in the shadow of the Parthenon last week, some modern-day echoes were inescapable.

The general Pericles, creator of the 5th-century BC Athenian empire, was the moving spirit behind the construction of the great temples that together make up the Acropolis; in effect, the ancient world's greatest property developer. Born into a wealthy family, he rose to fame partly through the mass entertainment medium of the day, theatre.

Pericles was hardly a model of consistency. But he was acclaimed as a master communicator; his funeral orations for the war dead of Athens — ghostwritten, of course — are still studied as masterpieces of persuasion. He was also accused of sexual perversion, bribery and nepotism. Tried for mismanagement

To the world we are all colonialists — and the people who beat Hitler

of public funds during an epidemic, he was convicted and stripped of office. Within a year he had been re-elected to rule the city-state. I will leave you to contemplate the 21st-century resonances.

The second lesson is that time abroad can teach young people to see us as others do. The rest of the world really doesn't divide Britain by race or class; to them we are all colonialists as well as the people who defeated Hitler. We are all the authors of Britain's past, irrespective of our background. Our guide to the Acropolis was charming and knowledgeable; but she knew exactly

where to point her anti-imperialist dagger to maximum effect.

Gathering her charges in front of the Caryatids, six monumental statues holding up the portico of the Erechtheion, she glanced at us before explaining that one of the surviving marble maidens was missing, held hostage in the British Museum, having been abducted by Lord Elgin. I could feel the air freeze as the reproachful gaze of the largely American group swivelled in our direction.

There would have been little point in protesting that we just happened to be born in the place where the wretched thing ended up. It would have been downright provocative to protest that it wasn't our fault that we'd drawn, to quote Cecil Rhodes, the greatest prize in life's lottery, being born English.

Had I complained that the statues on display in the Acropolis are actually fakes — the real Caryatids are protected from Athens's pollution in the Acropolis museum — and therefore no more in situ than in London, I suspect I would have received a lecture in preparation for ostracism from the group. A citizen vote to exile someone would be instantly recognisable to teenagers as the 5th-century BC equivalent of cancellation by social media, a technique used by Pericles to eliminate his opponents.

The Tories have wrapped up their national service proposal in a royal commission. That suggests they never expect it to see the light of day in practice. Its value is purely to jolt the electorate. It resonates because it stands for a more profound social division, probably the most important at this election: the divide between young and old — or perhaps more precisely between baby-boomers and those who have come after us.



One Acropolis caryatid still being in the British Museum is a cause of contention

Britain, like many western countries, is at an inflection point; for the first time in living memory, the next generation can no longer take for granted that it will be more prosperous than its parents.

There are poor pensioners, sure; but in the UK, age is now the best indicator of wealth, ahead of class, education race or region. On average, the wealth of those in their early sixties is nine times that of those in their early thirties. The latter group, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, is unlikely ever to catch up. Those now in their teens and early twenties, saddled with student debt, can look forward to a lifetime of being asset-poor.

But they don't vote in the same numbers as their parents. Those over 65 are almost twice as likely to turn out as those under 25. The boomers

have intimidated all the parties into a near-insane pledge to maintain the real income of pensioners that will add some £45 billion to the pensions bill by 2050. The Tories in particular seem oblivious to the bitterness of the young, who can no longer buy a first home.

There may be logic in their disregard: only among those over 65 do they have a slim majority; and statistically, a voter would probably

Boomers have pushed all parties into insane pledge on pensions

have to be as old as Socrates himself to be certain of voting Conservative this time round. Down through the centuries, the old gadfly may be speaking to us for what is left of the Conservative core vote: "The children now love luxury; they have bad manners, contempt for authority; they show disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. Children are now tyrants, not the servants of their households. They no longer rise when elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble up dainties at the table, cross their legs, and tyrannise their teachers."

The national service proposal matters. The Conservatives have chosen the correct dividing line. What is not clear yet, electorally, is whether they have put themselves on the right side of it.

RED BOX

For the best analysis and commentary on the political landscape [thetimes.com/redbox](https://www.thetimes.com/redbox)

A new podcast looking back on remarkable lives

Our new podcast, *Your History*, tells the life stories of people who have shaped our own. Join Anna Temkin, deputy obituaries editor of The Times, every week and discover endlessly fascinating stories.

Listen for free via the QR code or wherever you find your podcasts



LISTEN NOW



T AUDIO

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Comment

Election's finally here and I'm on your doorstep

The campaign trail restores faith in democracy — people are friendly and hard work pays off

Edward Lucas



A tailcoat, striped trousers and stiff collar loomed in the doorway of the Belgravia mansion. "Is her grace at home?" I enquired politely. The dowager duchess was a Lib Dem, having abandoned the Tories over Brexit. The butler, however, was a staunch Conservative.

After 33 months of door-knocking in the central London constituency where I am standing, that vignette remains a highlight. Another was finding a senior member of the IRA, now retired, who cursed me roundly for Britain's crimes in Ireland, before saying that I could count on his vote as the best way of getting Irish-style electoral reform. Nearby lives an equally supportive former home secretary's widow; an all-too-likely target in bomb-making days.

Paradoxes abound, including a surprising consensus between headline Palestinian activists and the supporters (far fewer) of the extremist parties in Israel. Both camps reject a two-state solution in favour of mass population transfers, forced if necessary. Both detest "BBC bias".

I learnt door-knocking in my student days when I worked for the late Paddy Ashdown. His maxim still rings in my ears. "If you want voters

to listen to you about what matters to you, you have first to listen to them about what matters to them." So, much as I would like to hold forth on the Russian and Chinese threats and the importance of land-value taxation, I don't. Instead I ask about noise, mess and safety: the most powerful words in the political lexicon.

Another good question is an innocent "how's Brexit working out for you?" That usually produces a fusillade of complaints: three-quarters in this constituency voted to stay in the EU. The wounds are unhealed, sometimes tragic in the personal and professional agonies inflicted. Every leaflet features our

Physical abuse is rare, though it can flare up worryingly fast

message of "back to Europe", as far and fast as possible.

Projected polls suggest the Tories are toast here, with the popular MP standing down. The Labour support is soft too: I meet nobody who is excited by Sir Keir Starmer. With a Labour government a near certainty, many are tempted by having an MP who speaks his mind on Europe and greenery.

But first, catch your voter. With more mansion blocks than mansions, that means getting past entryphones and porters. My languages come in handy. A few words in Russian, Polish or Lithuanian can turn a stern "no leaflets" rule into a smiling offer to

help stuff the letterboxes. But not always. "Our residents pay a lot of money in order not to be bothered by people like you," a concierge told me bluntly.

You can work public spaces too. Anyone with a dog or pushchair is likely to be local, rather than a tourist or commuter. Few people object to having their child or pet praised by a stranger. Or almost nobody. "What a friendly face your dog has," I exclaimed brightly as an enormous, muscly creature emerged from a battered door into a junk-strewn forecourt. "He don't like strangers," came the curt response, backed up with the hellhound's snarling lunge at the gate.

Physical abuse is rare, though it can flare up worryingly fast. Voters are mostly friendly. When not, their anger is better than apathy. "I'm fed up with the lot of you" lets me say that I agree — I entered the race because I was in such despair at the state of our politics. That sometimes gets a sympathetic hearing. Relations with the other candidates are encouragingly amicable too: we are rivals, I stress, not enemies.

Unlike the big parties' efforts, Lib Dem campaigns are skinny affairs. The candidate must raise every penny, write every leaflet and recruit every activist. We have dozens now. In real life most would charge hefty day rates. But here they are trudging the streets on my behalf. It is beyond humbling.

Deeds beat words. I am reaping the harvest of hundreds of cases of injustice, abuse and mischief I have taken up over the past months. This work resembles plumbing:

unblocking some things, plugging others. The infuriating humiliations and delays experienced by the powerless make successes even sweeter. Such as the family who, after 20 years, had reached the top of the waiting list for social housing only to fall foul of a highly suspicious coincidence: a text message offering them a much-needed three-bedroom flat was sent with a digit missing. When they failed to turn up and view the property, they were deemed to have rejected it and struck from the list.

I worked hard to fix that, though nobody will explain what happened; the employee concerned has left, I was told. The stench of sleaze comes not only from dirty foreign money sloshing through London's sewers. A troubling miasma seems to hang over allocations of social housing, and over the way in which maintenance contracts are awarded and monitored. If elected, I may get to the bottom of this.

Another victory (aided by Times coverage) was getting the government to abandon its secret blacklists. These banned outside experts, including my constituent, the chemical weapons expert Dan Kaszeta, from speaking at civil service events if they had criticised our rulers. We are also close to stopping Westminster council's control-freakish crackdown on Covent Garden's self-regulated street performers.

I've benefited too, as I work my way round the constituency's 60,000-plus voters: you lose self-consciousness, deepen patience and boost empathy. Only five weeks to go.



Young voters make a huge difference: it's time to register Dale Vince

This fourth of July will be the most important general election of our lifetimes, with the opportunity for a profound change of direction. It's vital that as many people as possible vote, especially younger voters, who have the most skin in the game. Ironically, at this election, they will find it harder to vote than ever before.

At the last election just one in three people under 34 voted; at this election that figure could fall. Across the population, voter turnout has been in decline for decades. We need to re-engage with politics and we need changes that increase participation, not reduce it.

Today I'm launching Just Vote, a campaign with the aim of persuading a million young people to register to vote. I'm doing this with the support of Saatchi & Saatchi, which has had a powerful influence on British political history. Together, we are underlining the importance of making sure young people have a voice.

My message to all is this: voting is your superpower. It's the single

Nearly three million people will be able to vote for the first time

biggest way to make a difference. In certain policy areas, it's the only way. No amount of debate, protest or direct action can penetrate the current government's ideological blinkers on certain issues.

The difference new voters can make is colossal; not just to the outcome, but to the legitimacy of the next government. There will be nearly three million people who will be able to vote for the first time at this election, an audience we especially want to reach.

Voting also carries social capital. YouGov research commissioned for Just Vote found that the UK public thinks people who vote are more intelligent, trustworthy, and attractive than non-voters.

Finally, it's not enough just to persuade young people that voting is worth their while. Just Vote's mission is to ensure they are able to exercise that right unhindered by the government's new Voter ID legislation. Just Vote will raise awareness of the new requirements, ensuring that no young person suffers the same humiliation as Boris Johnson, when he turned up at the local elections last month trying to use a copy of Prospect magazine as ID.

The snap election has shortened the time available. We're focused on persuading as many young people as possible to register by the June 18 deadline and then having the correct ID. And finally, when the day comes — to Just Vote.

Dale Vince OBE is founder of Ecotricity

Max Hastings Notebook

Normandy in party mood on the eve of D-Day's 80th

Normandy, where last month I was doing book research, proved *en fête* before the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Every shop and restaurant was adorned with period caricatures, flags and welcome signs. Banish the legend of French rudeness — everybody was delightful. There seemed more American than British visitors. The vast US memorial at Omaha Beach was a heaving mass — take a bow, Steven Spielberg — whereas when we visited two of the Commonwealth cemeteries, Tilly-sur-Seuilles and Jérusalem, which seem much more moving because they're so intimate, we were alone.

Keith Douglas lies in the former, he who wrote "And when I prepare to die behind my gun/I shall not glow with fervour like a sun/ Then, whatever will restrain/ the coward reasoning closely in my brain/ I think it will be that I am mad to see/

the whole performance and what the end will be". He never did fulfil that latter ambition of survival, shared by almost every man of the millions who fought in Normandy, being killed on June 9, 1944, aged 24.

Blackcurrant affair

Driving through the lush Norman countryside, with so many golden-walled manor houses such as once we coveted, I recalled the 1980s when I began to write about the Second World War, and met a host of veterans. One of my favourites was an exuberant French former officer of the Special Operations Executive named Jacques Poirier. "Since you are to write about Resistance," he cried — I was then doing a book about that experience — "we must share the drink of Resistance!" And thus he introduced me to Kir, named for Canon Félix Kir, a famous Dijon Resister.

I have been drinking white wine with cassis ever since. If one orders it in most English restaurants they overdo the latter, but on Friday at Jeremy King's newish Arlington, it was just right.



Tank talk

You may be shocked when I say how much I also liked a Waffen SS veteran, a tank officer named Fritz Langanke. Like most of his comrades, he had previously served in Russia. He described differences. In Normandy they developed what they called ruefully "the German look", meaning that their heads were forever craning towards the sky, seeking prowling Allied aircraft, which destroyed so much of Hitler's armour.

Contrarily, he said that the Russians never gave them a moment's peace at night, whereas on the American front in France where Langanke fought, hostilities shut down for six priceless hours of darkness, during which they could rear and refuel. "I think the Americans liked their sleep just a little too much," he said wryly.

Hero Hollis

A namesake of mine, though no relation, Lt Col Robin Hastings, once talked to me about his sergeant-major, Stan

Hollis, who won a VC for a series of suicidally brave actions on and just after D-Day. "You know," said Hastings, "Hollis was the only man I met in the entire war who felt that winning it was his personal responsibility. Everybody else, if there was some bloody awful job to be done, prayed that some other poor bugger would get it."

Bayeux tasty

Our best dinner was at Le Quarante-Neuf, on the northeastern edge of Bayeux, that town of so many enchantments. You know a place is good when you find it teeming with locals. We ate foie gras with a defiant absence of guilt, fillets of sole and cheese, and I asked Chris Legrand, the patron, to serve a glass of something appropriate of his choice at every course. It worked a treat.

Border disorder

The only unhappy part of our trip was an hour-long delay at passport control on returning to Portsmouth. I do not blame Brittany Ferries, but instead all those who lied or allowed themselves to be lied to back in 2016, about the consequences of "taking back control of our borders". We would have got home faster in a dinghy.

D-Day's heroes, Times2, p4-5



Buy prints or signed copies of Times cartoons from our Print Gallery at timescartoons.co.uk or call 0800 912 7136

Bulgarians exploited the computer that said 'yes'

Impersonal system made it easier for criminal groups to defraud the DWP but frustrates and hampers those in real need

Libby Purves



@LIB_THINKS

The nation owes gratitude to Inspector Vassil Panayotov. If his account is right, the Bulgarian policeman from Sliven deserves an MBE. He says he felt growing suspicion of an influx of unexpected cash-splashing in his town, with hundreds of people suddenly "living like barons... receiving social benefits from the United Kingdom using the weaknesses in the British social system". Some of the recipients had never even been to the UK, others had been given plane tickets to nip over for a quick photo op, standing outside a property to prove an address for Universal Credit.

Panayotov says that the unaccountable influx of designer clothes, new shops, casinos and building work made him tip off our Department for Work and Pensions. He showed one British reporter a video of people laughingly throwing banknotes around and remarked: "That is your money. British money."

The DWP, unsurprisingly, claims it was already on the case by early 2021, with "large amounts of

intelligence needing to be worked through and police resources to be secured". Interestingly, in December of that year the Labour MP Kate Osamor and the Work Rights Centre were complaining that many of her Bulgarian constituents were suffering eviction or destitution after being "unfairly targeted for investigation based on their nationality", with their benefits abruptly suspended.

The DWP responded at the time that it was just doing a risk review: well, now we know why. But it is sad to reflect that some poor devils who got cut off by text, without warning, clarity or information on how to appeal, were themselves innocent victims of their criminal

Crooks joked about the unintended universality of Universal Credit

countrymen. Just like the rest of us, only more scared and hungry.

Raids and arrests were eventually made, and after £54 million of theft from the public purse — some of it over the Covid crisis — five fraudsters were jailed last week. Less than a million has so far been recovered. During their heyday Ali, Paneva, Nikolova, Stoyanov and Todorova operated from suburban London shops and had a WhatsApp group

titled "Deluxe". They joked about the unintended universality of our new Universal Credit system, and not only fed money back to Sliven but threw it about on Rolexes, diamond-encrusted sunglasses and the usual moneyed shopaholic rubbish.

The prosecutor Tom Little KC says more investigations are going on: £54 million may be the tip of an iceberg. He said the scheme was "both simple to operate and highly effective". Meanwhile the DWP, as the judge more tartly observed, was less effective, with a "woefully inadequate" checking system that couldn't identify even ludicrously repeated use of the same names, addresses and telephone numbers.

Apart from the utter shamelessness of the perpetrators, some now whimpering about remorse and poorly grannies, the most fascinating thing is how brilliantly organised they were. They forged fictitious tenancy agreements, counterfeit payslips, letters from imaginary landlords, employers, and GPs. They invented children and wrote as if from their schools. They had hundreds of burner phones. They took photos of individuals they had flown over for a few days, standing outside random properties. Because the DWP (showing at least a modicum of galumphing caution) demands a front door to be open in the picture to prove the claimant

lives there, the fraudsters just photoshopped it standing ajar. They charged their thousands of customers a one-off fee to register, but after two months took the rest for themselves and their "commissioners" back home in Sliven, whose job was finding new fake claimants. They had an excellent filing system of "claim packs", and colour-coded ring binders.

These awful people were efficient, knowing which buttons to press in the Universal Credit cash machine.

Applications require files and paperwork, receipts and invoices

And the more you read about the ordinary functioning of the benefits system, you can't help noticing that all the systems and safeguards they hoodwinked with their folders and phones and economies of administrative scale are the same ones that frustrate real claimants.

Applications for Universal Credit (still only partly "rolled out") require files and paperwork: receipts, invoices from childminders, rent slips, an online account and a helpline that may take 40 minutes to answer but which charges for waiting time (one woman spent £9, fruitlessly). It needs a keen record of dates and knowing which household

expenses are eligible. The rules, by the way, changed yet again last month about something called the "Administrative Earnings Threshold".

Even if you are intelligent and assiduous and online; even if you aren't confusedly desperate, hungry, undereducated and tired; even if you get it right, it may be five weeks after losing your job before the money comes. It ain't easy. Plenty of us with secure homes and food get muddled even when filling in tax returns: have some pity for those without. There is a case for asking whether the whole welfare system wouldn't be better taken back to a considerably simpler, less IT-dependent, more personal and closely localised (even slightly patriarchal) administration. It would need a larger workforce — someone to look at the real front door not a photoshopped fake, for instance — but would be harder to crack for chancers with colour-coded ring binders and no conscience.

Six and half million families are on Universal Credit; half of them on the edge of food poverty. Over a third are in work, a fact which suggests very strongly that low-level earnings have become immorally inadequate. Universal Credit was supposed to provide a minimum living standard for the willing, working and law-abiding, not an easy mark for thieves. Embarrassing that it works the wrong way round.

Letters to the Editor



Overcoming vested interests in NHS

Sir, Dr Jane Stanford (letter, May 31) is quite right that the shortage of GPs is more a failure of retention than a lack of training, with a third factor now being a lack of resources in primary care to employ GPs who would like to practise. Politicians over the next few weeks are bound to promise more hospitals, more doctors and more training places, but what is the point, when the NHS apparently managed to lose 20,000 fully trained doctors last year alone?

The NHS's fundamental problem is that it is disconnected from the needs of its patients, staff and communities, and has throttled its staff with over-regulation, leading to reduced productivity and an exodus of staff. Furthermore, in the face of World Health Organisation evidence, it has failed to see either public health or primary care as its answer to sustainability and drained both to extinction.

Any incoming government must show that it has a grip on the detail of where things have gone wrong. It must also show that it is determined to overcome the massive vested interests that have allowed a system to exist that is so toxic to its frontline staff and unable to meet the needs of patients that it should be serving.

Dr Michael Dixon

Chair, College of Medicine,
Guy's Hospital, London SE1

Ukraine's freedom

Sir, Lord Renwick of Clifton (letter, Jun 1) calls for an armistice in Ukraine at some point. However, Ukrainians would accept an armistice only if the pre-2014 borders, including Crimea, were restored. Imagine that Germany had invaded Britain in 1941 and captured Kent, Sussex and Surrey. I doubt Churchill would have called for an armistice without these counties being returned to British control. You cannot expect Ukraine to give up lands that are Ukrainian.

Yaroslav Tymchyshyn

Chair, Bolton branch, Association of Ukrainians in Great Britain

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

Corrections and clarifications

● In recording Eva Petulengro's surviving children, we failed to mention her son Bradley (obituary, May 30). We apologise for the omission.



The Times takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces.

Requests for corrections or clarifications should be sent by email to feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to Feedback, The Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Need for a sensible party of opposition

Sir, Matthew Parris ("It's not too late for the Tories to choose dignity", Jun 1) urges the Conservative Party to adopt a mature posture of electioneering, and the message from the prime minister is that he and the chancellor are grown-ups who can be trusted. That may be, but the wider party landed us with Boris Johnson and Liz Truss and would very likely do so again at the first opportunity. Truss is hard earned and easily lost.

Mark Banham

Beechingstoke, Wilts

Sir, Matthew Parris makes an excellent case for an honourable withdrawal for the prime minister. Moreover, after reading about Rory Stewart's experiences as a minister in his book *Politics on the Edge*, I am struck that while each political party strives to present coherent policies, each of them has rather missed the point. Much of the electorate is more simple in its needs for government: someone who is simply competent.

Rick Francis

Southam, Warks

Sir, Matthew Parris is to be congratulated for confirming that people would like some frank and

honest speaking from politicians.

Yesterday I had a long chat with an old school friend who has always been on the opposite side of the political divide to me at election time. We have had many heated debates over the years. This year, however, we are in total agreement in that we do not want to vote at all. We look at our country falling down around us, schools and hospitals neglected and the whole infrastructure of the country coming apart at the seams, and cannot vote for any of the political parties on offer because we simply do not trust them. The truth is that this country urgently needs repairs — and they cost money.

Mary Smith

Worthing, W Sussex

Sir, Matthew Parris was his most eloquent in his comment article on Saturday. The only trouble is that the Conservative Party is no longer unified, either in its political beliefs or its aspirations. Does it want levelling up and greater state involvement or lower taxes and greater freedom for the individual? The Tory party ceased to be sensible when it broke apart over Brexit. It has lost its sense of responsibility, and before it can recapture that it

needs to sort itself out. A long period in opposition might help.

Ian Hislop

Kingsbridge, Devon

Sir, After correctly pointing out that Sir Keir Starmer "has never even been a minister", Matthew Parris suggests that "Margaret Thatcher was essentially untested too" when she became prime minister. This is an arguable point. The Iron Lady had already displayed her resolve when, as Edward Heath's education secretary, she took the unpopular decision to end free school milk.

Bernard Kingston

Biddenden, Kent

Sir, Kevin Gamble (letter, May 31) writes: "As a natural Conservative who admires Rishi Sunak I will not be voting for the Conservatives at the election." Is that a logical statement? I am also a natural Conservative who admires Rishi Sunak. In these dangerous times I ask myself who will be the better prime minister, Sir Keir Starmer or Rishi Sunak? My own conviction — growing stronger by the day — is Sunak.

Christopher Dodson

Wilmslow, Cheshire

Enforcing change

Sir, Sean O'Neill is right that there must be more robust oversight of action taken in response to public inquiry recommendations ("Public inquiries must have a way to enforce real change", May 27). With every inquiry comes promises to enact change, yet there is no mechanism to oversee whether life-saving changes have been made. This is a serious accountability gap. In September more recommendations will be made in the final Grenfell Tower inquiry report, but the government has still failed to enact safety recommendations from the first report almost five years ago.

We urge the next government to set up a national oversight mechanism: an independent public body to collate, analyse and follow up on actions taken in response to recommendations. The failure to enact recommendations can have fatal consequences and gives rise to loss of faith in state and legal processes. An oversight mechanism would help to ensure that the value of public inquiries can be realised.

Deborah Coles, executive director, **Aniesha Obuobie**, Grenfell project co-ordinator, Inquest

Future of farming

Sir, I enjoyed reading Emma Duncan's summary of the flowers v food argument raging in the agricultural sector (weekend essay, Jun 1). Unfortunately it was accompanied by a picture of a "wildflower" margin featuring California poppy, cosmos, ornamental cornflowers and borage. These non-native annuals have relatively little value for biodiversity compared with perennial wildflowers, and their management is often problematic. Rolling back biodiversity loss is more difficult than government schemes suggest, and the choice of photo neatly illustrated how little understood this topic remains.

Nick Mann

Founder, Habitat Aid

Cowboy builders

Sir, Emma Duncan says Labour's plan to "get Britain building" is "an excellent notion" ("Nimbys, bats and newts, your time is up", May 31) — but it would not be if the result is to unleash uninsured cowboy builders.

Building regulations do not provide realistic protection against shoddy work, and will take time to reform. Moreover, action through the courts is hideously slow. Unlike doctors and vehicle drivers, builders are allowed to carry out their activities without any compulsory negligence insurance in place before commencing work. The incoming government should plug this glaring gap in consumer protection.

Andrew Colvin

London W13

Book censorship

Sir, The machinations at Bloomsbury Publishing ("Bloomsbury set to over Tavistock", Jun 1) come 91 years after young Germans seized libraries of books they deemed to be against their ideology. In May 1933 hundreds of thousands of books were consigned to public bonfires in front of huge crowds in "a cleansing by fire" (Säuberung). Can we now expect Bedford Square to be lit by the catalogue of Bloomsbury books deemed to be inappropriate by the sensitive younger members of staff at Bloomsbury Publishing?

Dr Andrew Orr

Montrose, Angus

Banksy town boost

Sir, I read Max Kendix's article with great sadness ("Sunak pledges £600m to help spruce up 30 towns across UK", news, Jun 1). I had read a while ago about various towns and cities that needed a boost, so I wrote to their leaders offering a show of Banksy artwork, which always draws the crowds and boosts the local economy. Of the 15 councils that I contacted, only one bothered to reply — and that to say "no". It is evident to me that town councillors are evidently more interested in serving themselves than in the people they are elected to represent.

John Brandler

Brandler Galleries; Banksy tour organiser, Brentwood, Essex

Speaking my name

Sir, Last year, my son gave me a T-shirt emblazoned with the slogan "Yes, I am Polish, and no, you can't pronounce my last name". Your report "Mispronouncing a name could breach equality laws" (May 31) highlights an issue that can be trivial or very serious indeed. In my experience many people, especially mono-lingual Britons, make little effort to get foreign names right. Then there are the very woke people, especially in academia, who try to pronounce my name correctly but massacre it because they never take the trouble to ask me how to pronounce it. I have lived with this for decades. I do not expect people who don't speak Polish to be able to pronounce Polish names. It's only when I'm in Poland that I don't have to spell my name for people or tell them how to pronounce it. People should make the effort and just ask; they won't get their heads bitten off. **Professor Ryszard Piotrowicz** Aberystwyth

Cathedral singing

Sir, Further to Victoria Morton's letter (Jun 1), both the cathedral school and Gloucester cathedral are in excellent health, as are their choirs. The school roll stands at 740 pupils, while the two cathedral choirs contain 16 boys and 16 girls respectively. The cathedral and the school remain committed to supporting choral music together despite the present challenges, as they have done since at least 1541.

David Morton, headmaster, the King's School, Gloucester; **the Very Rev Andrew Zihni**, dean of Gloucester

Mind the gap

Sir, Medical students at Barts Hospital in the 1970s would have regarded Glasgow's Subcrawl (letter, May 30) as mere training in preparation for the legendary Circle Line Challenge: one pint of beer at each of the 27 stations along the line. Anyone failing to complete the task was expected to return to Farringdon Station and start again.

Ben Timmis

Emsworth, Hants

Advice for life

Sir, Rose Wild's musings on the subject and object of a sentence (Feedback, Jun 1) reminded me of the tale my late father told of his headmaster's advice to school leavers: "Remember boys, in life it's not who you know, it's whom."

Susan d'Andrade

Bimport, Dorset

NO PEERAGES IN BIRTHDAY HONOURS

FROM THE TIMES JUNE 3, 1924

The Birthday Honours List is notable for the absence of peerages and for the small number of baronetcies. Prince George, who recently received the Garter, is created GCVO. The additions to the Order of Merit are Mr F H Bradley, philosopher, psychologist and logician, to whom is largely due the advance of English philosophical thought in his time; and Sir Charles Sherrington, whose researches in the nervous system have placed him among the most illustrious physiologists. The veteran journalist and "Father" of the House of

Commons, Mr T P O'Connor, is made a Privy Councillor.

Of the new baronets Mr Alexander Grant gave £100,000 to the Scottish National Library with the library of the Faculty of Advocates as a nucleus, and Sir Humphry Rolleston is the distinguished physician who has done much for Government Departments. Mr D Y Cameron, RA, who receives a knighthood, is eminent both as painter and as etcher. Lord Inchcape, who went to India as chairman of the Indian Retrenchment Committee, becomes GCSI.

Of those created GBE, Lord Plumer recently completed a successful term as Governor of Malta. Sir Mansfeldt Findlay, lately British Minister to Norway, rendered diplomatic service of exceptional distinction and value, especially during the war. Sir Josiah Stamp, the economist and statistician, was a member of the Dawes Committee of Experts on Reparations and the German Budget. Mr Robert

Donald, a well-known journalist, is chairman of a new committee on an improved organisation for wireless services. Sir Howard Frank, head of the firms of Knight, Frank and Rutley and Walton and Lee, has been chairman of the Disposal and Liquidation Commission.

In the British Empire Order also Lady Willingdon, who was of great assistance to her husband in his memorable Governorships of Bombay and Madras, is promoted to GBE; Mrs Barnett, who continued in numerous ways the social work of her husband, the late Canon Barnett; and Miss Janet Campbell, MD, who has done valuable work for maternity and child welfare and the health of women in industry, are Dames of the Order. Lady Reading, wife of the Viceroy of India, receives the Kaisar-i-Hind Medal.

THE TIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Daily Universal Register

UK: Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index; CBI monthly growth indicator.
Germany: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bonn.

Nature notes



There are certain butterflies that speak to us of spring; for instance, the sulphur yellow brimstone, the pretty little orange tip, the comma and the holly blue. But at this time of year they are often nowhere to be seen. The June gap is the consequence of the differing timings of butterfly life cycles. Orange tips only have one generation a year and it emerges and fades away early; by June those species that have two, such as small tortoiseshells, common whites, holly blues, peacocks and commas, have had their first brood and the second is yet to emerge. In July gatekeepers, meadow browns and skippers will emerge, to be joined by summer migrants such as painted ladies and red admirals. MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Jill Biden, pictured, first lady of the United States, 73; Wasim Akram, cricketer, Pakistan (1985-2002), 58; Ellie Baker, athlete, 1500m gold medalist in the UK Athletics Indoor Championships (2023), 26; Sir Peter Bonfield, chief executive, BT (1996-2002), 80; Raúl Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba (2011-21), president of Cuba (2008-18), 93; Laura Clarke, chief executive, ClientEarth (environmental charity), UK high commissioner to New Zealand (2018-22), 46; Jonathan Djanogly, Conservative MP for Huntingdon (2001-May 2024), justice minister (2010-12), 59; John C Dugan, chairman, Citigroup (investment bank), 69; Bethany England, footballer, Tottenham Hotspur WFC and England, member of the Euro 2022-winning England national team, 30; Antoine Frérot, chairman, Veolia (water management, waste management and energy services), 66; Sir Simon Fraser, deputy chairman, Chatham House (2016-22), the Royal Institute of International Affairs, head of the diplomatic service and permanent under-secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2010-15), 66; Meryl Halls, managing director, Booksellers Association, 59; Ivan Harboure, architect, Maggie's West London (2009), 62; Rear-Admiral Roger Lane-Nott, commander of HMS Splendid during the Falklands conflict, 79; Rafael Nadal, tennis player, former world No 1, two-time Wimbledon winner (2008, 2010), 38; Lt Gen Richard Nugee, chairman, Naafi (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes), defence sustainability and climate change lead, Ministry of Defence (2020-21), 61; Canon Prof Nicholas Orme, historian, 83; Dame Sue Owen, chairwoman, Royal Ballet Companies, permanent secretary for the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (2013-19), 69; Timothy Wates, chairman, Wates Group (construction, development and property group), 58.

On this day

In 1844 the last-known breeding pair of Great Auk died on Eldey island off the coast of Iceland. In a race by fishermen to catch the flightless birds, an incubating egg was stood upon.

The last word

"All that remains/ For us will be concrete and tyres." Philip Larkin, English poet, *Going, Going* (1974)



A Qualified Triumph

Modi is likely to win an impressive third term as India's prime minister. It must not come at the cost of the basic principles of democracy and fair play

After seven weeks and in searing heat, the world's biggest exercise in democracy has come to an end. The results of India's general election will be announced tomorrow. The seventh and final round of voting took place across eight states and territories on Saturday, and all the expectations are that Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) will win a resounding nationwide victory, giving the 73-year-old leader a third mandate and confirming his ruthless dominance of India's politics.

Not all that Mr Modi had hoped for may be achieved, however. He set himself the target of winning some 400 of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha — lower house of parliament — with hopes of humiliating the lacklustre Congress party and its motley coalition campaigning under the catchy acronym INDIA. Despite Mr Modi's triumphalist forecast of a "hat trick" for his party, turnout, at about 63 per cent, has been disappointingly less than in 2019. This may be because of the heatwave that has brought record temperatures of 50C to Delhi; or because voters are angry about inflation, especially of food prices, and unemployment, particularly high among young people; or it may be that Mr Modi's increasingly authoritarian behaviour and his discriminatory measures against India's 200-million strong Muslim minority have

sent warning signals to those who otherwise were energised by his strongman image and determination to make India a global power.

If the BJP falls short of the 303 seats it won in the last election, it will be a blow for the prime minister. He has seemed increasingly convinced of his own greatness, bizarrely even suggesting that his birth was divine: "I'm convinced that God has sent me for a purpose. If that purpose is fulfilled, he will help me accomplish my work as well." That work, more and more openly, is Hindutva, the establishment of Hindu nationalist supremacy, and his campaign has demonstrated an ugly intolerance to non-Hindus. He has referred to Muslims as "infiltrators" and suggested that their high birth rate was a threat to Hindu dominance. He has sought to silence or imprison his more outspoken critics, and has used administrative measures to harass them with charges of fraud, tax irregularities or links to terrorism, tactics favoured by all autocrats.

On the whole India's mammoth election has been conducted fairly, and confirms the deeply embedded idea of democracy in the world's most populous nation. But an overwhelming BJP victory has its dangers. It should galvanise the torpid Congress party into finally jettisoning its dynastic fixation and embrace not only a more dynamic

leader but policies that go beyond simply championing the rural poor. That may not happen, and the opposition may simply retreat, demoralised, leaving behind the cause of secularism. Victory will underline Mr Modi's strongman image, but at the cost of riding roughshod over minority rights, democratic guarantees and the growing inequality that has made millionaires of some BJP supporters but left many ordinary Indians behind.

Mr Modi's overwhelming aim of bolstering India's global role will be enhanced. But he has chosen some unsavoury allies to do so. Since the days of non-alignment, India has had a pragmatic and even warm relationship with Moscow. But today's refusal to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, its opportunistic purchase of Russian oil at bargain prices and its sympathetic stance to President Putin, together with India's membership of the Brics grouping, suggests a growing indifference towards relations with the West — where India's economic and security interests more obviously lie.

India has long had a lively and outspoken press, a history of judicial independence and a cultured image of fair play, in politics as well as in cricket. It would be a great loss if any of these were jeopardised by a Modi victory.

Getting out the Vote

All parties must address the disillusion with politics that threatens a low turnout

Political parties always profess worries at election time that the real victor will be indifference. In particular they bemoan the lack of interest in politics and the contempt for politicians among young people. Campaign activists point to the low turnout in past elections. They insist that manifestos, in response, must focus especially on issues that matter to younger voters: affordable housing, mental health, job training and meaningful employment. Strategists pore over surveys to see which party stands to gain from the so-called youth vote and commission public relations companies to dream up slogans that might capture it.

Of course it matters that people of all ages vote, as Dale Vince argues in today's *Thunderer* column. Democracy is a right contested for centuries in this country, is far from the norm (despite nominal adherence) in most parts of the world and is a value for which thousands have fought and died. If Generation Z, or however an age group is categorised, sees the election as a charade and believes its ideals are best expressed on the streets or in raucous social media postings, politicians on the stump, especially the Tories who stand most

to gain, will pay little attention. They will instead court reliable older voters and skew campaigns to their interests: pensions, house prices, inheritance taxes and promises not to build prisons or affordable homes on green and pleasant land. Theresa May discovered the cost of a manifesto that threatened older voters' pockets.

Surveys repeatedly try to find a pattern in voting intentions. Most find that overall turnout is lower than in the 1990s — far below the high rates of 80 per cent in the 1950s — and that the disparity between older and younger voters is growing. In 2005, turnout was down to a mere 38.2 per cent for the 18-24 age group; it was only a little higher for 24-35 year-olds, at 47.7 per cent. Various reasons are put forward: a general disillusion with the power of governments to effect lasting change; failure to inculcate voting as a civic duty at an early age; and, ironically, the individual electoral registration reform of 2014, intended to make it feasible online. Until then, registration was by household, generally done by parents. Now younger voters are expected to register individually. Too few bother.

Labour has the most interest in boosting young participation: recent polls found that two thirds of those born after 1996 expect to vote Labour. By contrast, the Conservatives would seem to have an interest in getting only older voters to the ballot boxes. To their credit, however, they too have urged younger people to participate, prompted partly by surveys that find a resurgence of support for the right (and sometimes, alarmingly, for the far right); and partly by disillusion among many, especially Muslim voters, with Labour's foreign policies, especially on Gaza.

What no party should promise is to lower the voting age to 16. This is a foolish pledge by the Scottish National Party, desperately scrambling for a dwindling core of support. At 16, most students' political ideas are inchoate, uninformed by the civic education often offered in the last two years of schooling. Labour has toyed with the idea too, and may be tempted to promise votes at 16 in its manifesto. It should not. Parties can suggest that voting enhances the social and intellectual standing of the young. But most votes must be won by good policies appealing to all ages.

Roaming Limits

Not all parts of Britain's countryside should be opened up for everyone to enjoy

Roamin' in the gloamin' — what more romantic idea could there be as summer approaches? Who is not tempted to follow Theresa May in her greatest confessed sin of tripping naughtily through the wheat fields? Do the fields, forests, moors and grasslands not belong to all of us, the lungs and playgrounds of Britain to be enjoyed without let or hindrance? The Ramblers Association and other champions of the outdoor life certainly think so and have lobbied, successfully, against those who would close ancient public footpaths, fence off fields, enclose woods and prosecute anyone setting booted foot on what is nominally private land.

Their victory came with the passing of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act in 2000, which gave a legal right to walk over mountain, moor, heath and downland without fear of trespassing. But the new freedom is not unlimited: it covers only 8 per cent of the land in England, and is not equally distributed. Campaigners now want to open up river banks, grasslands and especially woodlands, which alone would double the coverage. They also argue that too much land near cities is inaccessible to those getting out for a day.

The notion is fine; the practice less so. Areas of special scientific interest cannot equally be play-

grounds for picnickers. Those worried about the dwindling of wildlife numbers, the intrusion of humans into remote areas where protected fauna and flora thrive, cannot also countenance organised hikes that could do untold, though unintended, damage. And too many people leave behind too much detritus: litter, bottles and plastic — not the riverside landscape where Mole and Ratty can thrive. Kate Humble, the television wildlife presenter, sensibly said the right to roam should not be a blanket right. Species have a right to live, breed and feed unmolested. Ecology and recreation can coexist; but only with respect.

World

Indian dynasty on the brink as Modi eyes a third term

The party that has dominated for decades faces ruin,

Catherine Philp reports



The crowds were swelling even before Rahul Gandhi took to the stage, seeking to rally support in the birthplace of his great-grandfather, the architect of Indian independence.

Allahabad, the ancestral home of Jawaharlal Nehru and the political dynasty he founded, has not come out in support of his Congress party in the decade since Narendra Modi shot to power in 2014, leaving the tainted, scandal-plagued "Grand Old Party" of India in ruins.

As Gandhi took to the stage with his regional ally in the critical state of Uttar Pradesh, the crowds surged forward, breaking the barricades.

Congress would later blame Modi-allied police for understaffing the event and failing to keep control. Others blamed a mike failure for the fiasco that meant Gandhi was forced to depart without even addressing the crowd.

The debacle was something of a metaphor for the Congress party under Rahul Gandhi's de facto leadership, struggling to overcome institutional disadvantages after a decade of Modi's all-encompassing rule as well as inbuilt deficiencies of its own that have plagued it since the rule of his powerful grandmother, Indira Gandhi.

As Modi seeks election for a third term, aiming for a supermajority, Congress and the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty find themselves at a crossroads. Either the Modi wave is halted here, or the party faces near-certain extinction at a national level, ending a dominance that has lasted for almost six decades of independence.

India's notoriously unreliable exit polls, released on Saturday night, pointed to an easy third term for Modi — though the range ran from a sizeable drop in support to a healthy majority with the support of allies. An aggregate of five put the BJP's National Democratic Alliance at 365, just above their 2019 score but short of the supermajority threshold of 370.

Congress — formed by a British civil servant in 1885 as a "safety valve" against another nationalist uprising and ridden to freedom by the Indian independence movement in 1947 — became an open target for a resurgent BJP when it came to power in 2014 under Modi.

The fractures appeared under Indira Gandhi, Nehru's daughter, who sidelined internal dissenting voices



and instituted "high command control", alienating grassroots workers. The Emergency, a 21-month period from 1975 to 1977 in which the constitution was suspended, opponents were rounded up and atrocities were committed, was India's darkest moment since independence.

Far from ending the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, though, Indira's rule enshrined it. Returning to power in 1980 after three years in opposition, she launched a bloody crackdown on Sikh nationalists, including the massacre at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. She paid with her life, assassinated in revenge in 1984 by her Sikh bodyguards.

Indira's son, Rajiv, took power on the day she was killed, having entered politics reluctantly at his mother's behest after his younger brother, Sanjay, an MP, died in a plane crash. Rajiv was prime minister for five years and then leader of the opposition for a year but, six months after leaving office, he too was assassinated, leaving his Italian widow, Sonia, and their two children, Rahul and Priyanka.

Sonia declined Congress's entreaties to lead the party, knowing her foreign birth was an issue and hoping to protect her children from the violence that had claimed their father and grandmother. Security threats made Rahul abandon his studies at Harvard, which he later completed at Cambridge, joining a management consulting group in London and subsequently in Mumbai.

Sonia agreed to lead the party in 1997 and Rahul, below, entered politics in 2004, taking his mother's seat in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, while she moved to neighbouring Raebareli. After Congress's shock 2004 victory

over the first BJP government, Sonia declined to become prime minister, remaining party president while the economist Manmohan Singh fronted the government.

Rahul was not a natural politician. "He is an introvert," said Rajesh Pati Tripathi, a Congress veteran and scion of an Uttar Pradesh political dynasty founded by his grandfather, who became a freedom fighter against British rule at the age of 14. "He's not great at a rally. He doesn't open up, which people think is arrogance."

Rahul's diffidence may be linked to the "cocooned and secure life" he grew up in as a consequence of his privilege and intense security fears, Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya, a political analyst, said. Rahul swiftly became an easy target for Modi's mockery, an entitled young princeling in contrast to his self-made, low-caste persona. The BJP nicknamed him "Bappu", a pejorative meaning variously "idiot" or "child". Modi makes a virtue of his childlessness, which he contrasts with the dynastic politics of the opposition, accusing them of self-interest and nepotism.

In 2022, with Congress still cratering in the polls but Modi dented by a botched pandemic response, Rahul set out on a "yatra", or march, along India's vast length. The tagline was "Bharat Jodo" (unite India), a riposte to Modi's divisive politics. It began on India's southernmost tip in Tamil Nadu, opposition-friendly territory, and took Gandhi all the way to the Muslim-majority Kashmir, stripped of its autonomy by the Modi government in 2019.

The yatra "changed Rahul", said Pratu Patel, a veteran communist leader in Allahabad and a friend of the Nehru-Gandhi family. Meeting ordinary Indians by day, sleeping in family homes or makeshift shelters by night and growing a long greying beard gave Gandhi the air of a sadhu, a holy person.

It was the bursting of his privileged cocoon that has the greatest effect, Tripathi said. "If you take a walk in the villages in a faraway place, it will change you," he said. "When you don't know the reality of what is really happening, you are within yourself. Once you start going there and start living with those people, you can never just be a 'Delhi politician' anymore. He's a changed person."

Is it too late, though, with Modi poised for a third term? Gandhi is no rhetorical match for Modi. His yatra may attract new young workers but the party faces a marathon rebuilding. Perhaps the strongest evidence of Gandhi's new skills is the frequency with which Modi now targets him, not as Bappu but as "Shahzada", meaning "emperor's son", an Urdu word intended to cast him as a Muslim in Hindu clothing.

Modi victory must not come at the cost of democracy, leading article, page 25



Hats off The US Air Force Academy's Class of 2024 graduates were greeted by a

Latest promise of peace in

Israel

Gabrielle Weiniger Tel Aviv
Amal Helles Cairo

President Biden's outline for a truce has put a ceasefire back on the horizon but, for residents of Gaza and the Israeli and Lebanese border towns, political wrangling is but a distant whisper.

The belief that almost eight months of war may be over is not shared by those in Rafah, many of whom say that nothing has changed and nothing will.

"The whole world is treating this peace agreement as if it were a humanitarian truce, or the entry of aid, or a temporary halt in order to release the kidnapped people in Gaza," said Rushdi Haj Ahmed, a Rafah native who moved to Tel al-Sultan after an evacuation order, only to witness a deadly airstrike there last week.

"As happened in the first truce, Israel returned to war again, even after the

release of the kidnapped. Despite talk about this peace agreement, the bombing is still continuing in Rafah, and the pace of targeting, raids and bombing has increased. Rafah is still a dangerous area."

Yesterday the US said that if Hamas agreed to the road map, laid out in a speech by Biden on Friday, to end the war in Gaza, it expected Israel to accept the plan too.

"This was an Israeli proposal. We have every expectation that if Hamas agrees to the proposal as was transmitted to them, an Israeli proposal then Israel would say yes," John Kirby, the White House national security spokesman, told *This Week* on ABC News.

Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defence minister, said: "In any process to bring about the end of this war, we will not accept the rule of Hamas in Gaza."

The deal would begin with an immediate, temporary ceasefire and begin

Biden camp braced for pain as Hunter's trial begins
Page 28

War brings generations closer together
Page 30



flypast by Thunderbirds in Colorado Springs. Almost 1,000 cadets became second lieutenants in the Air Force or Space Force

Ramaphosa stays, ANC demands in coalition talks

South Africa

Jane Flanagan Cape Town

Frantic political horse-trading has started in South Africa after a crushing blow to the African National Congress pitched the country into coalition rule.

President Ramaphosa called for rivals to find "common ground" after a final tally from the general election on Wednesday confirmed that his party's catastrophic losses would force it to strike deals to retain power.

"Whether we like it or not, our people have spoken," Ramaphosa said after confirmation that the ANC's 40 per cent share — down from 57 per cent in 2019 — left it short of a parliamentary majority.

"The people of South Africa expect their leaders to work together to meet their needs. This is a time for all of us to put South Africa first."

Earlier the secretary-general of the ANC said it was talking to "everyone" about various permutations of a new government, but demands for Ramaphosa to step down were a "no-go zone".

Behind the ANC came the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA) on 22 per cent, and in third place was the radical party of Jacob Zuma, the former president, who had warned officials against declaring final results.

The declaration proceedings went ahead despite calls for it to be delayed for investigations into counting discrepancies. "If that happens, you are going to be provoking us," Zuma, 82, had said after alleging "serious" but unspecified issues that affected the result for his new party, uMkhonto weSizwe (MK), which finished on 15 per cent.

Zuma, who was forced out of office in 2018 after corruption allegations, was



President Ramaphosa's ANC claimed only 40 per cent of the votes cast

jailed for contempt of court in 2021, triggering riots that led to 350 deaths.

South Africa is braced for the most volatile political environment since mass bloodshed threatened to derail the first free vote 30 years ago.

Under the constitution the national assembly must convene within 14 days to elect a speaker and a president after the declaration of the election outcome. The ANC will have to turn to opponents to have a chance of governing. Negotiating with the investor-friendly Democratic Alliance (DA) — the second largest party on 22 per cent — and its mostly white leadership would be Ramaphosa's best chance of re-election as president. But the ANC conceding to probable demands for cabinet positions as well as compromises on budgets and key policies would be hard for the party to stomach.

One way to soften the DA option would be to include the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party and pitch ANC-DA co-operation as a government of national unity, invoking the spirit of the first Mandela term.

Gaza rings hollow to war-weary Rafah

negotiations towards a permanent end to the war, as well as the reconstruction of the devastated Gaza Strip. But, once the Sabbath ended on Saturday night, two of Binyamin Netanyahu's religious coalition partners threatened to quit if the plan went ahead, and the prime minister also appeared to appease his right-wing backers, saying in a second, amended statement that Israel would not agree to any permanent peace in Gaza so long as Hamas retained "military and governmental power".

The mixed messaging as to whether the proposal was fully backed by Israel, or conditional, has led to some

confusion in Gaza, where residents say heavy bombing continues.

"Regarding the initiative of Biden, it is not clear whether this is an Israeli proposal that Biden is trying to promote on behalf of Netanyahu to strengthen his position in the governmental coalition, or whether it is unacceptable to Israel," said Abu Muhammad

Kafarna, who is in the Israeli-declared humanitarian safe zone of al-Mawasi after being displaced with his five children from northern Gaza. "I hope this war will stop at any cost," he added.

Thousands of protesters gathered in Tel Aviv and other big cities to

call on Israeli leaders to accept the deal and bring back the hostages held in Gaza. Some 125 people are still being held since the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, and the Israeli authorities estimate that about 30 hostages have died in captivity.

The Israeli war cabinet was due to convene yesterday to discuss the proposal as families of the hostages camped outside the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, hoping for news.

Hamas's political and military leadership have previously taken time to respond to proposals, with its leadership spread from Qatar to tunnels underground somewhere in the Gaza Strip, where messages can take days to emerge.

The Israeli military said it was continuing with "targeted" operations in Rafah, including in the newly conquered Gazan side of the Egyptian border known as the Philadelphi corridor.



Chinese robot lands on far side of moon

China

Tim Hornyak

China landed an unmanned spacecraft on the far side of the moon yesterday, a step forward in its mission to be the first nation to bring back samples from the satellite's dark side.

The Chang'e 6 craft touched down at 6.23am Beijing time in the Apollo crater of the South Pole-Aitken Basin, officials said. It used an autonomous system, including microwave, laser and optical sensors, to avoid obstacles and choose a safe landing site, the China National Space Administration added.

The far side of the moon is pitted with craters and it is a challenging place to land because missions must rely on complex communication relays instead of line-of-sight signals. Chang'e 6 communicates with Earth via the Queqiao-2 satellite, but can also make

decisions autonomously to minimise its reliance on instructions.

The craft is equipped with a drill to collect subsurface samples and a robotic arm to collect rocks and soil on the surface. It is scheduled to take two days to complete its sampling work, after which its ascender unit will launch for the journey back to Earth.

Chang'e 6 follows Chang'e 5, which in 2020 returned samples from the near side of the moon, making China the third country to do so after the United States and the Soviet Union. Chang'e 4 was the first craft to manage a controlled landing on the far side of the moon in 2019.

The missions are part of China's ambition to become a leading player in space, and include plans to build a base at the moon's south pole — thought to have water ice — and landing astronauts on the moon by 2030.

World

Biden camp is braced for pain as Hunter's gun trial starts

United States

Hugh Tomlinson Wilmington

In the depths of his addiction to crack cocaine in November 2018, Hunter Biden texted Hallie Biden, his lover and the widow of his brother, Beau, who had died three years before.

"I'm a liar and a thief and a blamer and a user and I'm delusional and an addict ... and I've ruined every relationship I've ever cherished," he wrote.

Days earlier, Hallie had written to Hunter, pleading with him to seek help. "I am afraid you are going to die," she said. Minutes later, she added: "And I can't live without you."

Those text messages and more excruciating details will be made public in court as Hunter's trial on federal firearms charges starts in Delaware today. Joe Biden's 54-year-old son, whose troubles have dogged his father's presidency, is charged with lying about his

most painful wounds endured by the tight-knit Biden family. Hallie Biden will be summoned by prosecutors to testify about her brief relationship with Hunter after Beau's death that deepened rifts within the clan.

Along with his late brother's widow, the prosecution will call Hunter's ex-wife, Kathleen Buhle, and Lunden Roberts, a former stripper and the mother of his estranged child. All three women will testify as witnesses to Hunter's addiction around the time that he bought the Colt Cobra revolver in 2018, having allegedly ticked a box on the form denying that he was a drug user.

Prosecutors alleged in court filings that "Witness 2", believed to be Roberts, "observed the defendant using crack cocaine frequently — every 20 minutes except when he slept".

Underpinning the prosecution case is a trove of material taken from the infamous laptop that Hunter left at a repair shop in Delaware in 2019 and which was later passed to Republican operatives and the FBI.

The hard drive has been combed for incriminating evidence against Biden and his son. Nude photos and videos of Hunter having sex, entertaining sex workers and smoking crack have appeared in the press, on social media and been displayed at a hearing in Congress. Some will be displayed again in court.

To the dismay of some at the White House, the president has refused to distance himself from his son as House Republicans loyal to Trump have pursued a months-long impeachment investigation against the president, seeking to tie him to Hunter's tangled business dealings abroad.

Hunter remains a regular visitor to the White House and he and his father speak several times a day. The president has reportedly barked at aides who cautioned that his son is a liability to the campaign. Many now avoid the subject altogether.

Further troubles lie ahead for the Bidens. Hunter's second trial on federal tax charges will open in California on September 5, two months before polling day. Last week it emerged that Roberts would release a tell-all memoir in August, with publishers promising "revelations that could well impact the outcome of the 2024 election".



Hunter Biden is charged with lying about his drug addiction when trying to buy a gun

drug addiction when he filled in a form to buy a gun in October 2018. If convicted he faces the possibility of jail time.

The trial could hardly come at a worse moment for Biden, just as the 2024 campaign is upended by Donald Trump's guilty verdict in his New York hush-money case last Thursday. As Biden seeks to sharpen the choice facing voters in November with a renewed focus on his Republican rival, now a convicted criminal, a second trial that threatens daily humiliation for his own family is an unwelcome distraction.

White House aides are alarmed by the toll that his son's legal peril has had on the 81-year-old president. Friends have said that Biden is "consumed" by Hunter's troubles, fearing that his son could slide back into drug addiction if he is sent to jail.

"The Hunter drama has been going on for ever, and I know it has to take a toll on him," James Carville, the veteran Democratic strategist, told The Washington Post last week.

The trial is set to reopen many of the



JEFF BOTTARI/ZUFFA LLC/GETTY IMAGES

Donald Trump attended a UFC fight night event in Newark, New Jersey, one of his first appearances since his criminal conviction

harsher punishment because he faced charges elsewhere.

The convictions have brought a mixed reaction from voters. An Ipsos poll for Reuters after the guilty verdicts showed that 54 per cent of registered voters would not vote for Trump with a criminal conviction. However, the overall number of voters who have said they will vote for him has increased.

On Saturday Trump was given a rousing reception at a UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) fight night in New Jersey. Although several sports celebrities ignored him, fans gave him an enthusiastic welcome.

It was one of Trump's first public appearances since he was found guilty on Thursday on 34 charges of falsifying business records. Hush-money payments were made to the porn actress Stormy Daniels in 2016 over a sexual relationship a decade earlier.

Trump arrived with Dana White, the UFC's president, high-fiving fans as Kid Rock's *American Bad Ass* played.

President Zelensky of Ukraine has said Trump's re-election would be the end of the US as a player on the world stage. He told The Guardian that Trump would be a "loser president" after saying he could bring an end to the war within 24 hours.

Trump has not detailed his plan, but it is thought that it would inevitably involve Ukraine ceding territory.

Public won't accept my house arrest, says Trump

Donald Trump has said the American public would not tolerate him being put under house arrest after his criminal conviction last week (Alistair Dawber writes).

Speaking to Fox News, the former president, 77, said: "I'm not sure the public would stand for it,

I think it'd be tough for the public to take. At a certain point, there's a breaking point."

It is not clear that house arrest is being considered by Judge Juan Merchan. Trump will learn his fate on July 11, four days before the Republican national convention in Milwaukee at which he will be formally selected as the party's presidential nominee.

Most legal experts have said that as a first-time offender, and because of his age and the nonviolent nature of his crimes, Trump is likely to avoid a prison sentence. However, Todd Blanche,

his lawyer, said he feared his client could be jailed. "On the one hand, it would be extraordinary to send a 77-year-old to prison for a case like this," Blanche said. "A first-time offender who was also president of the United States, I mean, I think almost unheard of."

On the other hand, Blanche said, "this is a highly publicised case" and some might argue that Trump deserved a



One in three Americans know someone killed by an overdose

Alistair Dawber Washington

Almost a third of Americans have lost someone they know to a drug overdose, according to new research, as deaths from synthetic opioids like fentanyl have soared in recent decades.

A poll by scientists at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health estimated that 32 per cent of the US's adult population — or about 82.7 million people — said that they knew someone who had died after an overdose. Almost a fifth of the survey's 2,300 respondents said that a family

member or close friend had succumbed to drugs.

The rates of reported loss due did not differ significantly by political party affiliation, the researchers found, but those who had lost someone were more likely to view addiction as an extremely or very important policy issue.

"The drug overdose crisis is a national tragedy," said Alene Kennedy-Hendricks, assistant professor in the department of health policy and management at the school.

"Although large numbers of US adults are bereaved due to overdose,

they may not be as visible as other groups who have lost loved ones to less stigmatised health issues. Movements to build support for policy change to overcome the devastating toll of the overdose crisis should consider the role of this community."

Data collected by the researchers showed an exponential increase in the number of Americans dying from overdoses over the past few decades. More than a million people have lost their lives to drugs since the late 1990s.

The problem appeared to get worse in the aftermath of the pandemic. In

2022, a record 108,000 people in the US died from drug-involved overdose, including from both illicit or prescription drugs.

The issue has become a key political battleground in an election year. Donald Trump, 77, has blamed what he says is the Biden administration's failure to secure the border with Mexico, arguing that foreign entities, including the Chinese government, are profiting from lax security.

Fentanyl, a synthetic opioid, has proved to be especially deadly in recent years. The drug, which is used in

medical procedures, is highly toxic and even small amounts can kill if not administered correctly.

The White House says a bill that it has put before Congress would dramatically tighten security at the border and reduce the imports of illicit drugs such as fentanyl. It blames Republicans for blocking the bill's progress.

While the data will worry policymakers, they will be encouraged by the very latest findings, which show a slight fall in the overall numbers of people dying from overdoses in the past two years.

Lost Judaica: Nazi destruction laid bare

Netherlands
Bruno Waterfield

Parchment cut from a holy Torah scroll to make insoles for the German Nazi army, a portrait of a German soldier with Swastika insignia painted on canvas made from Jewish holy text, and a Jewish artwork imprinted with the jackboot of a soldier who took him and his family to their deaths.

These are just some of the items on display in a new Dutch exhibition that charts the plunder, defacing and loss of Jewish cultural property during the Second World War.

Looted, at the Jewish museum and the new national Holocaust museum in Amsterdam, catalogues Nazi plundering and destruction of Jewish libraries and synagogues as well as daily culture.

"These objects are very close to the Jewish identity. It is so much part of the whole story of the genocide, which was cultural too," said Julie-Marthe Cohen, one of the exhibition's curators.

While exhibits cover the looting and restitution, often after decades of struggle, of valuable artworks, new research unveils wider looting and destruction of Jewish culture — Judaica — that was intrinsic to the Holocaust and attempts by the Nazis to destroy Europe's Jews.

"People in general show very little interest in the looting of books, ritual objects or Judaica compared to the art. This is understandable. Art is art and loved by everybody. Judaica is mostly loved only by Jews," said Cohen.

Hot on the heels of the invading German army in 1940 came a special task force, or *Einsatzstab*, under the command of Alfred Rosenberg, the Nazi ideologue later executed for war crimes in 1946.

His notorious *Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg* (ERR) seized entire libraries, religious texts in synagogues as well as art or religious objects with the aim of finding "evidence of the pernicious nature of Judaism", making financial gain and eradicating Jewish culture

from Western civilisation. "The ERR's rapacity devastated both private and institutional Jewish libraries," said Cohen. "One prime target for the Nazis was the Torah."

Plundered Torah scrolls, the most important document of Judaism and composed of the five books of Moses, were in extra demand because they were made out of parchment and worth money.

The parchment was in great demand among cobblers for making insoles and repairing shoes. A pair of insoles is on display that were used in the jackboots of a German soldier. "The words he walked on every day are those of the Ten Commandments and other texts from chapter 20 of the Book of Exodus," notes the catalogue.

Displayed wartime copies of the Nazi picture weekly, the *Illustrierter Beobachter*, show "expert scholars" at Rosenberg's Institut zur Erforschung der Judenfrage (Institute for Research on the Jewish Question) poring over loot-



Plundered Torah scrolls were in great demand among cobblers for insoles

ed books. Two of those depicted are Johannes Pohl and Wilhelm Grau, who supervised and directed a "special library commando", seizing Jewish libraries in the Netherlands and France.

Another exhibit is a modern print, titled *Evil-speaking Little Women*, by the acclaimed Dutch artist Samuel Jessurun de Mesquita. It is marked with a footprint left by a jackboot when he was arrested and his house was ransacked by the Germans in February 1944.

De Mesquita and his family were deported to Auschwitz and other death camps, where they were murdered. The print was rescued by a friend, the famous artist Maurits Escher, shortly after the raid, who noted that many of his works "lay scattered across the floor, many torn and trampled".

According to Emile Schrijver, director of Amsterdam's Jewish cultural quarter, after the war many Jews had a "struggle they were forced to wage to reclaim their property and indeed their dignity", facing an indifferent Dutch state that had often collaborated with the Germans, setting often insurmountable bureaucratic barriers to restitution. Attitudes began to change later as Dutch society recognised losses and wanted to make good on the restitution of looted property.

Looted, curated by the national Dutch Rijksmuseum and the Jewish Cultural Quarter, runs from May 31 to October 27 at the Jewish Museum and the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam



Activists stuck a poster on the glass case of *Coquelicots* by Claude Monet in the Orsay Museum, Paris, but it was undamaged so they were not punished

Art vandals can't hide behind glass

The French culture minister has demanded legal reform to ensure that those who target art protected by glass are punished (Adam Sage writes).

Rachida Dati spoke after environmental activists stuck a poster on the glass case of *Coquelicots* (Poppy Field) by the French impressionist Claude Monet, which hangs in the Orsay Museum in Paris.

The action was by Riposte Alimentaire, a group campaigning for a "social security system of sustainable food", which threw soup on the glass case of *Mona Lisa* in the Louvre in January.

A source at Orsay Museum said Monet's work, painted in 1873, was undamaged.

Under French law activists face up to seven years in prison and a fine of €100,000 for "destroying,

damaging or deteriorating" a cultural item. But if there is no damage they often escape prosecution.

Dati wants to ensure protesters no longer go unpunished. She said she had asked the justice ministry to implement "a criminal policy adapted to this new form of crime which attacks the most noble aspect of our cohesion — culture".

In the Netherlands two Just Stop Oil campaigners were given one-month jail sentences for glueing themselves to the glass protection and back wall of *Girl with the Pearl Earring*, the 17th-century masterpiece by Johannes Vermeer, in 2022. But this year an appeals court overturned the sentence because the activists had spent 23 days in custody awaiting trial.

Michelin app makes journeys for the slow and the curious

From our correspondent

DAVID CHAZAN
CHAVIGNOL



It is easy to lose track of time in Chavignol, a medieval village of stone houses surrounded by hillside vineyards, with a population of less than 200.

We hadn't planned to stop there, but the app we were using to navigate the Loire Valley suggested tasting Chavi-

gnol's "famous cheese". So there we were, sitting at a table in a courtyard outside the cheesemonger, enjoying the view over the vines and sampling the local goat cheese with mâche, or lamb's lettuce. "It goes just as well with white as red wine," the cheesemonger helpfully told us.

This is travel using Michelin's redesigned navigation app, ViaMichelin. Instead of prioritising the fastest route from A to B, it points out short detours travellers could make to visit sites such as châteaux or museums. Not so much fast and furious as slow and curious.

ViaMichelin draws on Michelin's expertise and vast database of hotels,

restaurants and tourist sites to offer a wellspring of information not provided by other traffic and navigation apps.

If you've got time for leisurely travel, there's a choice of routes: the quickest, a slower "alternative", or an even slower "ecological" option with a smaller carbon footprint. The fuel cost and road tolls are indicated for each option. The app covers 11 European countries, including the UK, and is available in English and six other languages.

Our voyage of discovery was not all plain sailing, however. We took a detour to the Château de la Bussière, only to find it closed. The app had omitted to tell us it wasn't open to the public on

Tuesdays. Admittedly, we could have phoned to check as it did list the number. Instead, we took a souvenir picture through the wrought iron gates and made a mental note to come back.

Caio Favero Teixeira, ViaMichelin's general manager, said: "According to our studies, information about opening times is less important to users than suggestions for detours, because if you plan your trip with stops, you're probably going to do it at times that are consistent with the stops. You're not going to stop for a beautiful view at night or visit a château at two in the morning."

The latest version of the app can be difficult to use at times, particularly

while driving. Favero Teixeira said it was designed for people to look at before they set out, choose stopovers or detours and then programme them into the navigator. "We listen to users a lot and we want to continue to improve the app," he added.

The idea is that the journey can be as important as the destination, Favero Teixeira says. "Navigation apps have made us lose sight of the many possibilities for exploration, apart from finding the fastest or most economical route," he said. "We devise routes that meet expectations, that are fast or economical and, more importantly, routes that are worth the detour."

War brings generations closer together

Andriy Baidalenko was torn over his son's urge to follow him into battle against Russia, reports **George Grylls** in Lyman

In the muddy trenches of eastern Ukraine, Andriy Baidalenko, 47, has watched his son Sasha, 26, sacrifice the best years of his youth to the needs of a temperamental Soviet-era howitzer.

Sasha was a teenager when the war began in Donbas, in 2014. This summer, the battle for Ukraine will overtake the Yugoslav wars to become the longest conflict on the European continent in two centuries. A decade after "little green men" crossed the border into eastern Ukraine, Kyiv's chances of prevailing appear slim.

Western weapons have arrived too slowly to prevent a Russian advance on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

Throughout the winter and spring, the Baidalenkos have stood firm against the Russian onslaught, watching western support ebb away. They know their underground shelter in Serbryansky forest, made of layered pine logs and earth, is no match for a glide bomb, a weapon that Russian planes have been dropping on Ukrainian positions for months. President Zelensky has pleaded for western air defences to protect Ukrainian troops.

But despite the hardship, it seemed clear the conflict had brought the Baidalenkos closer together as they shared tales from a safe house in Lyman, a few miles behind the front lines, a few weeks ago. A white cat nuzzled the two gunners' grubby hands.

Recently, father and son were checking on their gun, hidden in a thicket, when three shells flew over their heads and exploded behind them. The Baidalenkos threw themselves flat on the ground and prayed. Andriy was the first to raise his head to check that his son was still alive. "He's my blood. He's part of me," Andriy said.

There are plenty of reasons Sasha might curse his inheritance. Part of a six-man team, he is engaged in a constant battle to keep his unit's Soviet-grade D-20 howitzer out of the mire.

His father, a gunner, is responsible for making sure no shot is wasted. "He



ANASTASIA VILASOVA FOR THE TIMES



has excellent aim," grinned Sasha. "He never misses his mark."

The Baidalenkos have an impressive — perhaps apocryphal — claim on Ukrainian military history as the supposed descendants of Dmytro "Baida" Vyshnevetsky, a Cossack hero of the 16th century.

A founding father of Ukraine, Baida launched raids against the Ottomans from an island fortress in the Dnieper river. He was immortalised in a folk ballad that bears his name, eventually dying at the hands of Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman emperor, who hooked him up by his ribs and hung him from a wall for three days.

When Sasha was a boy, his father regaled him tales of Baida as well as of his great-grandfather, also called Andriy, who joined the Red Army at the age of 16 during the Second World War.

Andriy Sr rose through the ranks to become the commander of a 100mm anti-tank gun but suffered shell shock towards the end of the fighting. He was mute for six months, regaining his speech only after a doctor encouraged him to sing the words he could not say. Every year on May 9, he would stammer his way through Victory Day, the Soviet commemoration of the Nazi defeat, a scar that would never heal.

The parallels with the present are not lost on Andriy, who left the family's apartment in Kyiv in 2014 to fight the Russian invasion, pointing his howitzer east rather than west. He battled in Donbas for two years, an experience that would prove invaluable eight years later when Russia mounted a second assault on February 24, 2022.

That morning, as the air raid sirens in Kyiv blared to the sound of war, Andriy signed up a second time only to see his son, who was too young the first time round, follow him to the enlistment centre. "I was torn. I knew that we needed men to fight. But he's my boy. I wanted to protect my son," Andriy said.

With his lack of military experience, Sasha was first deployed away from the front lines but, like his great-grandfather in the Second World War, he pestered to be thrown into the action.

His frustrations boiled over when his father narrowly escaped death taking part in the Kharkiv counteroffensive of 2022. While blasting his way through the Russian defences with a 120mm mortar, Andriy was hit by a piece of shrapnel the size of a fingernail which came within centimetres of severing an artery in his neck.

That near-miss led to a deal between father and son. "I told him that he

needed to make me a promise," Andriy said. "If he gave me a grandchild, I would give him my blessing to join me on the front line. I call it my ticket to eternity."

At the end of last year, Sasha upheld his side of the bargain when his girlfriend revealed that she was pregnant.

Andriy was delighted at the prospect of a grandchild, but when we spoke in Lyman a few weeks ago he lamented nevertheless that he would miss the upcoming gender reveal party and his son's hastily arranged marriage in Kyiv. "Someone has to stay behind and keep shooting," he shrugged.

Shortly after speaking to father and son on the front lines, we returned to Kyiv where we visited the family's apartment, which appeared to have been preserved in aspic since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Viktor Baidalenko, 69, father of Andriy and grandfather of Sasha, sorted through black and white pictures showing the family's involvement in



other episodes of Ukraine's violent past. He explained that Sasha's great-great-grandfather had been a Ukrainian nationalist who fought with Symon Petlyura, the commander who tried to create an independent Ukraine after the Russian Revolution of 1917. Sasha's great-great-grandfather was purged in the 1930s, and died in a Siberian gulag.

Sorting through the family archives, Viktor found a portrait of his mother, Lyudmila, wearing a beetle brooch for the camera. Lyudmila was taken from Kyiv by the Nazis at the age of 14, working in labour camps as an *Ostarbeiter* (slave worker from central or eastern Europe) for four years. Like many other women she never spoke about her experiences when she returned to the Soviet Union. "Everything can be passed on," Viktor said.

The war in eastern Ukraine has been handed down from one generation to the next. But Sasha hopes he will be the last Baidalenko to fight for his country, even if at present the outlook is bleak.

Shortly after visiting the family flat, Sasha brought us news. The gender of his first child had been revealed in an eruption of pink smoke and a momentary explosion of joy after weeks of setbacks for Ukraine. The next Baidalenko will be a baby girl.



Scottish Equitable Policyholders Trust Limited

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the thirty-first ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Qualifying Policyholders of Scottish Equitable Policyholders Trust Limited will be held at Aegon, Lochside Crescent, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE on 13 June 2024 at 1:45 p.m. for the following purposes:

Extraordinary Resolution

1. To approve the Supplemental Deed of Trust to the Deed of Trust by the Company made on 31 December 1993, relating to Scottish Equitable plc, setting out proposed amendments relating to the conduct of business at meetings of Qualifying Policyholders.

Ordinary Resolutions

1. To note the resignation of PricewaterhouseCoopers as Auditors of the Company with effect from 31 December 2023 and ratify the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as Auditors of the Company with effect from 1 January 2024 and authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

2. To consider the Report on the activities of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

3. To approve the aggregate ordinary remuneration to be made available to the Directors of the Company.

4. To appoint Mr Rees Aronson as a Director of the Company.

5. To reappoint Mr Kerr Luscombe (retiring by rotation as a Director of the Company).

Any Qualifying Policyholder who is entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Qualifying Policyholder) as their proxy to attend and vote instead of them. A proxy is entitled to vote but is not entitled to speak except to demand or join in demanding a poll. Proxy forms, which can be obtained from the Secretary, must be deposited at Aegon, Lochside Crescent, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE before 9 am on 12 June 2024.

Any Qualifying Policyholder whose policy, as at the commencement of the Meeting, is in force, and has been at least one year in force, is entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting.

"Qualifying Policyholders" for the purposes of this Notice has the meaning set out in the Trust Deed executed by the Company on 31 December 1993 and extends to:

(a) any person who was a member of Scottish Equitable Life Assurance Society and whose policy was transferred to Scottish Equitable plc; and

(b) any person who has a with profits policy with Scottish Equitable plc where the policy has been linked to the With Profits Sub-Fund for a continuous period of at least one year as at the commencement of the Meeting.

Any queries in respect of the qualification of policyholders to attend and vote at the Meeting should be addressed to the Secretary.

By Order of the Board
James K MacKenzie
Secretary

Aegon
Lochside Crescent
Edinburgh Park
Edinburgh
EH12 9SE

Andriy Baidalenko told his son, Sasha, that he could fight on the front line after he provided a grandchild — "my ticket to eternity". Sasha's girlfriend is now pregnant with a baby girl

Germany

Oliver Moody Berlin

An MP and advocate of support for Ukraine has been assaulted on the campaign trail after physical attacks on other politicians in Germany.

Roderich Kiesewetter, a former army colonel who has been pressing Berlin to give more help to Kyiv, was called a warmonger, shoved and then punched at an information stand in his southwest German constituency.

The suspect is Peter Baur, 55, a local café owner running for a fringe political movement known as the Pacemakers.

Kiesewetter, 60, of the centre-right

Christian Democratic Union opposition party, is at least the sixth politician to have been physically attacked since campaigning for the European parliamentary election started a month ago.

He said that the man had approached him at the campaign stand in Aalen, a town 30 miles east of Stuttgart. The assailant is reported to have verbally abused him. When Kiesewetter tried to take a photograph, he told the local Schwäbische Post news website, the man "ran up to me, threw a punch at me and pushed me into a plant".

Offences against politicians and elected officials almost doubled last year, from 1,994 in 2022 to 3,691. Eighty

Roderich Kiesewetter was only slightly hurt



were violent crimes. Holger Münch, head of the German equivalent of the FBI, has said there is a risk of reaching "the tipping point for democracy".

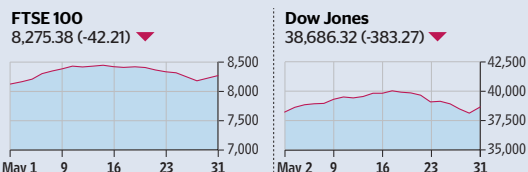
Last month Matthias Ecke, an MEP from the Social Democratic party had to be treated in hospital after he was set upon by teenagers in Dresden. A few days later Franziska Giffey, the former mayor of Berlin, was hit over the head with a bag of "hard objects". Two Green politicians were then attacked in Essen.

● A 29-year-old police officer died on Sunday after being stabbed in an attack at an anti-Islam rally in the city of Mannheim on Friday.

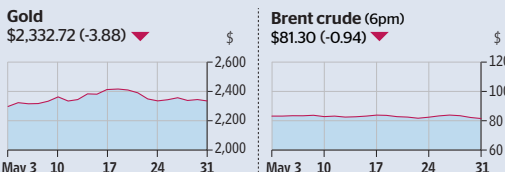
Pro-Ukraine MP punched on campaign trail

Business

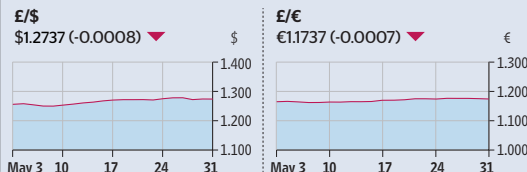
WORLD MARKETS (Friday's close. Change on the week)



COMMODITIES



CURRENCIES



Nvidia boss hurries out new serving of chips to hungry market

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

Nvidia has revealed its latest suite of artificial intelligence products, saying it is on an "accelerated road map" for new launches.

Addressing the Computex conference in Taipei, Jensen Huang, Nvidia's founder and chief executive, said the company would release a next-generation processor platform called Rubin. His comments in Taiwan came less

than three months after the announcement of Blackwell in March.

Little was divulged about the "secret" platform, although Huang, 61, said: "All of these chips I'm showing you here are all in full development."

He also declared that "the next industrial revolution has begun. Companies and countries are partnering with Nvidia to shift the trillion-dollar traditional data centres to accelerated computing and build a new type of data centre — AI factories — to pro-

duce a new commodity, artificial intelligence."

Nvidia's share price has surged by 178 per cent in the past year because of insatiable global demand for its power graphics processing units, which are banded together in racks housed in data centres and are used to train and power AI.

Running through its new range of products and services, Huang's presentation further set out Nvidia's plans to continue to dominate the space, with

the technology tycoon hailing the company's relationships with leading AI companies, including Google.

Among demonstrations at the event, he said the company was creating a digital twin of Earth, called Earth2, to "simulate" the planet to better understand climate change and natural disasters, such as Taiwan's recent earthquake.

Nvidia is worth about \$2.7 trillion, snapping at the heels of Apple and Microsoft for the title of the world's most valuable business. It has been a

key driver in the rise in America's S&P 500 share index, which is weighted by stock market values.

Its financial results repeatedly surpass Wall Street analysts' expectations. In its latest quarterly figures published in May, Nvidia revealed that its sales had leapt by 262 per cent to \$26 billion. Most of this came from its data centre division, where its high-specification processors are in the highest demand. Sales here were up 427 per cent from the year before at \$22.6 billion.

Labour in float talks with Shein

Party met officials from the Chinese company

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

The Labour Party has held talks with the boss of Shein to try to persuade the Chinese fast-fashion company to opt for a blockbuster London float.

Jonathan Reynolds, the shadow business secretary, Sarah Jones, the shadow minister for industry, and Chris Bryant, the shadow minister for creative industries, are understood recently to have met Donald Tang, the executive chairman of Shein, to discuss a potential initial public offering in London.

Sources told The Times that Labour, which could come to power after the general election in July, was "very supportive" of Shein listing in the UK.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, held talks with Tang in February as part of British regulators' and government officials' efforts to persuade it to explore a possible multibillion-pound London float after an attempt to list in New York hit regulatory hurdles.

Reports have suggested that the Singapore-based fast-fashion company could be valued at about \$70 billion, setting the scene for what could be Britain's biggest stock market float.

It would represent a much-needed milestone for ministers and City chiefs who have been battling to restore London's status as a global listing venue after a series of blows, including the decision last year of Arm Holdings, the Cambridge-based chip designer, to list in New York.

Shein is understood to be weighing its options. Sky News reported late on

Sunday that the company could file its IPO prospectus in London as soon as this week.

The Times understands that French ministers also have tried to woo Shein, despite a recent fast-fashion bill that will impose hefty levies on companies supplying low-cost garments.

Shein had already applied for a listing in the United States but faced opposition, partly owing to claims that it used cotton from forced labour in China's Xinjiang region. The US Securities and Exchange Commission, the country's markets regulator, told Shein that its application would not be accepted unless the company submitted a public filing. Shein does not plan to that as it is concerned that it would be unable to react to public scrutiny for two months if it did.

The company is likely to face fresh battles in Britain. Senior politicians have said that a Shein listing should not be allowed to go ahead while parliament is dissolved for the general election and that an IPO by the business should be subjected to greater scrutiny.

Liam Byrne, the Labour chairman of the business select committee, said: "It is not ideal that Shein's floating in London could get the green light without parliamentary scrutiny. Parliament needs to satisfy itself that the concerns raised recently by the US Congress of forced labour in Shein's supply chains have been thoroughly addressed."

The Labour Party was contacted for comment.

Fresh promise of floats, pages 36-37



Shein's fashion has made its mark all over the world, but it has also come in for criticism over claims that it has used slave labour to produce its fabrics

Names that failed the taste test

Sebastian Shehadi

Companies can spend countless hours and vast amounts of money on getting their names right, even if the end result isn't quite as well received as they might like. Generally speaking, though, they pass the taste test at Companies House. But not all of them. Some, in fact hundreds, are deemed too offensive.

According to a freedom of information request seen by The Times, Companies House turned down nearly 800 last year because they might offend a "reasonable person". Of the dismissed names, the vast majority involved swear words, sex-related obscenities or drugs. The rest included references to hacking, paedophilia, violence or hate speech such as racism, sexism and homophobia.

The naughty list includes "Welsh Buttocks", "Liquid Crack", "Dog Tits Bakery", "Scorpio Bastardo" and "THE PEOPLE'S DANKEST CANNABIS COMPANY". The most bizarre submission, and certainly the longest, was: "I Could Tell That My Parents Hated Me. My Bath Toys Were A Toaster And A Radio."

Not everyone agrees with Companies House's decision to screen company brands. "Rejecting company names like 'Crappy Nappy' or 'The Men's Grooming Clinic' suggests perhaps an overly rigid assessment process," Nicholas Campion, a director at 1st Formations, a leading company formation agent, said. "By focusing solely on possible negative connotations, Companies House is restricting legitimate companies from registering names that match their trading names and business activities, as deemed acceptable by the likes of the Advertising Standards Agency."

"Companies House is rightly recognised as the world's pre-eminent company registrar, but regarding its rejection of certain company names, it may need to bring itself up to date with modern language usage, as the Oxford English Dictionary has done."

Business

Need to know

1 Business groups and a leading union that gives Labour key support have told Sir Keir Starmer that Britain “needs” foreign workers after he pledged to cut immigration. Starmer said that a Labour government would train British workers in sectors with a high level of visa applications to fill shortages. **Page 6**

2 More than half the population have a second income or are searching for one, according to research for Sage, the accountancy group. A quarter of middle-aged Britons earn extra cash, once thought to be the preserve of younger generations. **Page 20**

3 Labour has held talks with the boss of Shein to encourage the Chinese fast-fashion company to opt for a float on the London Stock Exchange. Three shadow ministers are understood to have met Donald Tang to discuss an initial public offering in the City. **Page 31**

4 Nvidia has revealed its latest suite of artificial intelligence products, saying it is on an “accelerated road map” for new launches. Jensen Huang, the company’s founder and chief executive, said “the next industrial revolution has begun”. **Page 31**

5 Ocado’s six-year stint in the FTSE 100 looks set to end this month, with the stock having lost almost 90 per cent of its value since its lockdown highs. Ocado has been trying to position itself as a technology company but has yet to make a profit after 24 years.

6 The gender pay gap in Britain is closing more slowly than it was, with companies still struggling to promote women to more senior roles. The average male worker earned 11.8 per cent more than the average female last year, according to data from PwC, the Big Four accounting firm.

7 A battle between Tata Steel and one of the unions representing workers at its troubled Port Talbot plant in south Wales has intensified. Unite said that it was prepared to escalate industrial action after a warning from the company that it could cut redundancy pay. **Page 34**

8 Energy bills will remain high for at least the next six years as gas-fired power stations age and new nuclear plants are delayed, an analysis has suggested. The price paid to electricity generators to maintain a stable supply will be at least £51 per kilowatt, Cornwall Insight has forecast, up from £18 now. **Page 35**

9 More than \$2 billion has been wiped from the fortune of the tycoon behind the American pharmacy chain that owns Boots after a year-long plunge in the company’s share price. Stefano Pessina, the executive chairman of Walgreens Boots Alliance, has a holding that has fallen from \$4.4 billion to \$2.2 billion. **Page 37**

10 The government’s electric vehicle infrastructure fund has invested £35 million in a start-up that installs charging points in the car parks of apartment buildings. **Page 37**

The City still waiting for

The technology and retail group is heading out of the FTSE 100, report **Tom Howard** and **Isabella Fish**

Few companies have attracted as much scepticism as Ocado.

“Ocado begins with an ‘o’, ends with an ‘o’ and is worth zero,” Philip Dorgan, then an analyst at Ambrian Partners, the broker, quipped before its stock market float in 2010. Sir Terry Leahy, the former Tesco boss, once dismissed Ocado as little more than a “charity”, given its penchant for building up big losses. Critics have long chorused that the company has never made a profit and probably won’t for several more years, at least.

Nevertheless, for a while it looked as though fortune would favour the brave, in this case Tim Steiner, Ocado’s co-founder and chairman. He took his company into the FTSE 100, the Premier League of the London stock market, and its status was reinforced early on in the pandemic as Britons’ demand for online shopping boomed. Ocado’s share price followed suit, which helped Steiner to take home £59 million in 2020.

But the critics never really went away and now they may believe they are having the last laugh. The group’s six-year stint in the Footsie looks set to come to an end this month, with the stock having lost almost 90 per cent of its value since its lockdown highs.

Ultimately, the pandemic didn’t turn out to be the blessing that company executives and stock market investors first thought. Ocado, limited by the number of its fulfilment centres, could not keep up with demand and so watched on helplessly as customers went elsewhere. Tesco and Sainsbury’s were able to double their capacity in only a few weeks by using their stores as mini fulfilment centres. Ocado lacked such flexibility and the same old questions about profitability returned. If it couldn’t

Tim Steiner
co-founded the
online delivery
business



make any money at a time when many people were all but forced to shop online, when could it?

Steiner, 54, founded Ocado in 2000 with two former Goldman Sachs colleagues. It started life as the online delivery provider for Waitrose, which eventually was replaced by Marks & Spencer in 2019.

Even in its early years, it polarised opinion. Jorn Rausing, of the billionaire Swedish family behind the Tetra Pak empire, was convinced and became one of the company’s first investors when in 2003 he put in £26.5 million. He remains on the board as a non-executive director.

On the other hand, the sceptics came out in force before Ocado’s 2010 stock market flotation, which valued it at nearly £1 billion. That was less than the figure Steiner and his team had been hoping for, although it was also double what many City analysts had thought it should be worth. “Even at the revised valuation, the company is still overvalued and expensive,” Amisha Chohan, then an analyst at HB Markets, said at the time.

More recently, Ocado has been trying to position itself as a technology company that sells its robot packing expertise to retailers worldwide. After securing a string of new partnerships in 2018 and 2019, including with Kroger, the American supermarkets powerhouse, James Lockyer, a retail analyst at Peel Hunt, said Ocado had the potential to become the “Microsoft of retail”.

Steiner used that optimism to convince investors to give him another £1.5 billion during the pandemic to fund the expansion of its robotic warehouses. However, new signings — at least the bigger, more meaningful ones — have not been as plentiful as expected, much to the frustration of analysts and investors.

“All of the major retailers will have looked at the Ocado model, but they will also have looked at Ocado’s [profit and loss statement],” Clive Black, a retail industry analyst at Shore Capital, the broker, said. “The joint venture with M&S loses money and it’s probably going to be three years before that changes. And that business has been going for 24 years.”

Most industry experts think

Gender pay gap is closing ... slowly

Tom Howard

The gender pay gap in Britain is closing more slowly than it was, with companies still struggling to promote women to more senior roles.

The average male worker earned 11.8 per cent more than the average female last year, according to data from PwC, the Big Four accounting firm. That is down from 12.2 per cent in 2022, which itself was an improvement on the 12.9 per cent recorded in 2021.

The gender pay gap has come down in each of the past three years, but PwC said the “rate of change remains modest”. On its calculations, it will take more than 45 years for the gap to close completely, meaning that parity “remains out of sight for a 21-year-old woman entering the workforce today”.

Of the 10,000 or so businesses that disclose their gender pay gaps, six in ten reported an improvement last year, although most of these reductions were

of less than two percentage points. A fifth of companies said their gaps had stayed the same or had worsened, slightly more than in the previous year.

“While the gender pay gap continues to move in the right direction, the data once again highlights that organisations are facing difficulties in meaningfully reducing reporting figures,” Katy Bennett, diversity and inclusion consulting director at PwC, said. “Societal barriers play a strong part, but there are still things businesses can do to drive change.”

Gender pay data does not show that men earn more than women for doing the same job, which has been illegal in the UK since 1970. It does, however, demonstrate that more men occupy senior, higher-paying roles than women. Companies have been pushing to improve diversity at the top of their organisations, but are still falling short for reasons that are not entirely clear.

Some employment experts have

Slow road



that having a central warehouse, full of all the products stocked by a supermarket that are then put into vans by robots, can be profitable, but only in very dense areas where the delivery driver is stopping regularly. Few are sure that it can work in more rural areas, where there are longer drives between customers.

One analyst estimated that to deliver a customer’s shopping from a big fulfilment centre cost, on average, about £13 last year. By contrast, when Tesco or Sainsbury’s load up their vans at one of their supermarkets, which are usually closer to the customers, the delivery cost is thought to be closer to £7 per order.

While it is relatively cheap for a

retailer to use one of its large stores as a delivery hub, it is much more expensive to build a warehouse fitted out with robot packers. The chunky set-up costs are reflected in Ocado’s more recent losses: £394 million in 2023; £500.8 million in 2022; and £176.9 million in 2021.

Some investors think profits will remain elusive and are betting heavily that Ocado shares will continue to fall. The stock is the second most “shorted” in London, with 8.2 per cent of its shares on loan to funds that think their value will drop. A few, including DI Capital Partners and Millennium, have increased their bets in recent weeks.

Ocado shares staged a recovery rally

Founders pick up WIT Fitness

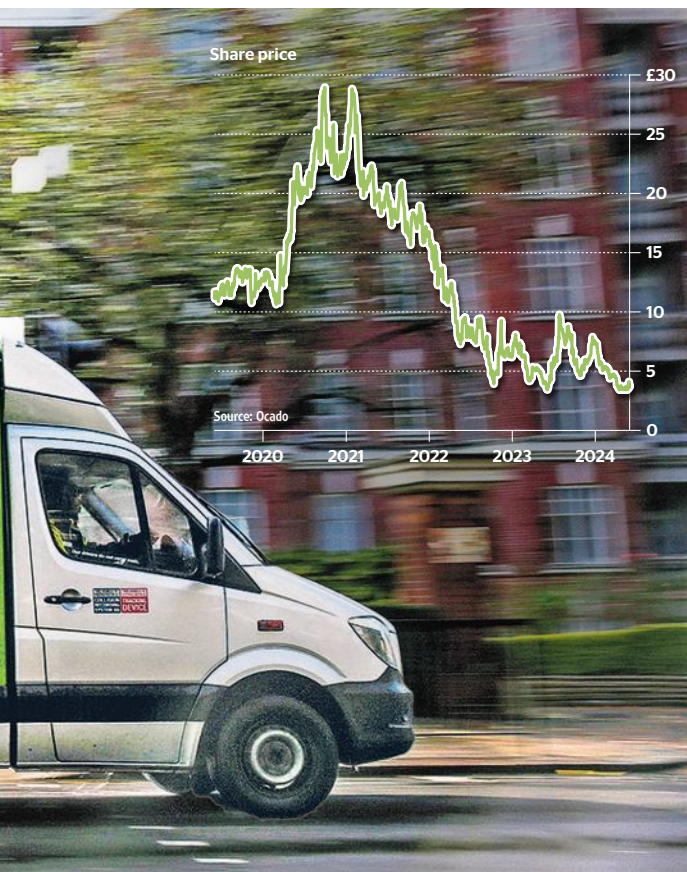
Isabella Fish Retail Editor

Mike Ashley’s Frasers Group has off-loaded a majority stake in WIT Fitness back to its founders, only four months after it bought the gym and sportswear group.

The owner of Sports Direct and Flannels sold the holding last month for an undisclosed sum to Sam Kitching and Daniel Williams, who founded WIT Fitness in 2015. The co-founders acquired it through Friday&, a venture capital firm of which Kitching is a managing partner. Frasers Group has retained a minority stake in the business.

WIT Fitness, which provides CrossFit training programmes, is based in London and employs about 15 staff.

Ocado to deliver



towards the end of May, but even now they are still worth less than half than their value entering 2024, which is why the company finds itself on the cusp of demotion from the FTSE 100. At its pandemic peak, it had a stock market value of £22 billion; now it is closer to £3 billion.

In addition to the enduring worries about profitability and future demand for its technology, sentiment towards the company has been soured by a falling-out with M&S. "Threatening to sue your biggest partner is not going to make [other retailers] think 'yeah, we'd love to come and work with you', is it?" one industry source said.

Steiner's pay has annoyed share-

holders, too. At its annual general meeting in April, close to a fifth of them voted against a new incentive scheme under which Steiner could pick up a £15 million bonus if certain targets are met over the next three years.

The Ocado board had proposed the new package because the previous one was "no longer motivating or retentive", given that it would likely prove too difficult to achieve.

The sceptics' reaction was suitably predictable.

"I think people get irritated when [the company] is draining money and losing cash and [the chief executive] still wants more money," Nick Bubb, the veteran retail analyst, said.

Fraser's Group, which also owns House of Fraser and Jack Wills, bought the assets and intellectual property of WIT Fitness in January from VGC Capital, an investment fund. Kitching and Williams had sold their majority holding in the business to VGC Capital in 2021.

Under the latest deal, Kitching, 34, and Williams, 41, will lead WIT Fitness in partnership with Fraser's. WIT Fitness said it would "benefit from Fraser's Group's extensive retail experience and deep expertise in sport and fitness."

Michael Murray, 34, chief executive of Fraser's Group, said he was looking forward to having Kitching and Williams "on board and leading the WIT brand with the support and guidance of Fraser's Group". There were said to have been no fallouts or issues with how Fraser's was running the business.

"Given the ever-increasing popularity of training across different modalities, we see a real opportunity to fulfil our original mission, to help to change people's lives through training, this time in collaboration with the strongest possible partner in the Fraser's group," Williams said.

'Smart risk' was not so smart

When Ocado Group struck a deal to form a partnership with Marks & Spencer in 2019, Tim Steiner, 54, its chief executive, lauded the £750 million joint venture as "transformative" for both parties. It was an "incredibly smart risk", he said at the time, insisting that "you have got to take calculated risks where your upside is enormous, your downside is minimal and your investment to do it is sensible".

The downside has been far from minimal. The partnership has been beset by problems since its inception, weighing heavily on Ocado's share price. The grocery technology group's valuation has fallen from £22 billion during the pandemic to only £3.2 billion as of May 28, enough to push it out of the FTSE 100.

The joint venture got off to a positive start, with M&S products defying sceptics by proving to be more popular than those of Waitrose, Ocado's former partner. However, as the pandemic's online shopping bubble deflated, Ocado found itself with excess capacity and losses. It suffered a loss of £4 million in 2021-22 as shoppers returned to bricks-and-mortar supermarkets.

In November, Stuart Machin, 53, M&S's chief executive, said he was "positively dissatisfied" with the joint venture after it recorded a half-year loss of £23 million from Ocado. Ocado's finance chief has said that it would not make a pre-tax profit for another five or six years.

Improvements have started to emerge after Hannah Gibson, 39, chief executive of Ocado Retail, took action to improve the retailers' performance. Revenue increased by 11.2 per cent to £2.47 billion in the latest financial year, while earnings reached £26.8 million, reversing a loss of £15.1 million in the previous year.

The week ahead

The United States is expected to have generated another impressive month of jobs growth in May, despite persistently high interest rates. When the numbers are released on Friday, analysts expect to see a 150,000 increase in non-farm payrolls in the world's largest economy last month, driven by strong employment in the public and private sectors. The unemployment rate is expected to remain unchanged at 3.9 per cent.

The booming labour market has given the US Federal Reserve a reason to delay expected rate cuts. The Fed's benchmark interest rate has been held at the range of 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent since last September. Analysts at Barclays expect a higher 200,000 increase in payrolls, beating the 175,000 recorded in April. Paul Ashworth, chief North America economist at Capital Economics, said the jobs numbers were likely to beat economists' estimates for the sixth time in nine months.

Markets will be keeping a close



It's boom time in America, despite stubbornly high interest rates

eye on the pace of average monthly earnings growth, which is expected to remain stable at 0.2 per cent. An unexpected increase in wages growth could push back a rate cut even further into early 2025. Investors are betting on one rate cut from the Fed in December, after November's presidential election.

TOMORROW

LondonMetric will report its full-year results as the property company begins to slim down its portfolio. Last week it said it had sold seven sites for £31.3 million, most of which were former assets of LXi Reit, the property trust it

acquired this year. Investors will be looking for more detail on further disposals and the integration of the LXi portfolio. City analysts expect pre-tax profits of £118.1 million, which would mark a 17 per cent increase year-on-year.

Interims Chemring, Gooch & Housego **Trading updates** British American Tobacco, Ferguson **Economy** SMMT UK monthly car registrations figures, S&P Global UK services purchasing managers index

WEDNESDAY

B&M European Value Retail told investors in April that its annual profit would be at the top end of forecasts after its revenue rose by over 10 per cent. The discount retailer is expected to unveil adjusted pre-tax earnings of £629 million for the year to the end of March, up by 9.8 per cent on last year and 83.9 per cent higher than in 2020. Revenue grew by 10.1 per cent to £5.5 billion in the year as it benefited from shoppers trading down amid the cost of living crisis.

A gross 47 new UK stores opened

over the year, with B&M having taken over 51 Wilko sites in September for £13 million after the latter's collapse. Alex Russo, B&M's chief executive, said the group had performed well in the year, "delivering strong operational execution". **Finals** B&M European Value Retail, discoverIE, Ninety One, Vp Group, Workspace

Interims Paragon Bank **Trading update** WH Smith **Economy** SMMT UK monthly car registrations figures, S&P Global UK services PMI



Opec+ extends its cuts

Ben Martin

The powerful oil production cartel led by Saudi Arabia and Russia has decided to prolong cuts in its crude output before starting to gradually unwind some of the curbs later in the year.

Energy ministers from the Opec+ group of countries agreed yesterday that cuts equating to 3.66 million barrels per day would be extended from the end of this year until the end of 2025.

However, another tranche of curbs, which were due to end on June 30 and have reduced production from eight members of the group by 2.2 million barrels per day, have been extended by only three months. They will be unwound slowly from October in a process that will last a year.

The output reductions, which began in late 2022 and have totalled 5.86 million barrels a day, have played an important role in putting a floor under oil prices, helping countries that are

heavily reliant on revenues from crude exports.

Opec+ includes the 12 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and another group of crude producers led by Russia. They meet twice a year and will hold their next gathering at the beginning of December.

The agreement came as Saudi Arabia's national oil company pressed ahead with a \$12 billion-plus sale of shares in the business in what is the first offer of stock in the world's biggest crude exporter since it went public on the Riyadh exchange 2019.

There was strong demand for all of the stock on offer in Saudi Aramco yesterday, when the sale officially got under way. The deal is expected to be priced later in the week. If an option to sell additional shares is taken up, about 0.7 per cent of Aramco will have been sold and the offer will raise approximately \$13 billion for the kingdom.

THURSDAY

Investors will be hoping for a glimpse into what the present year has in store for Mitie when it reports annual results. The FTSE 250 outsourcer, whose 64,000 staff clean hospitals, run police custody suites and guard ports, has already given the market a good idea what its figures will be after a comprehensive trading update in April, in which it raised its earnings outlook. Operating profits for the 12 months to the end of March are expected to reach at least £200 million, which would be a 23 per cent increase on the previous year, while revenues are expected to top £4.5 billion, a record, thanks to acquisitions and significant contract wins and extensions.

Finals Mitie **Trading updates** Seraphim Space Trust, S&U **Economy** ECB interest rate decision

FRIDAY

All eyes will be on Bellway and its latest trading update, two weeks after Keith Adey, its chief financial officer, announced his decision to step down. He plans to retire from full-time executive work but will continue at the housebuilder until a successor is appointed, which is likely to be early next year. The half-year figures that Bellway reported in March were lower than expected, with revenue down by 30 per cent and completions down 28 per cent. However, the company said that the market was recovering as interest rates stabilised, so investors will be looking for signs of development in its forward order book, last valued at £1.3 billion in March, down from £1.6 billion in the year before.

Trading update Bellway **Economy** Halifax house price index, US employment report

Business

Tata Steel jobs battle with union heats up

Ben Martin

A battle between Tata Steel and one of the unions representing workers at its troubled Port Talbot plant in south Wales has intensified.

Unite said that it was prepared to escalate industrial action after a warning from the company that it could cut redundancy pay over the dispute.

Tata told workers on Friday evening that it was being "left with little alternative" but to reduce the terms on offer under a forthcoming voluntary redundancy programme after Unite announced an overtime ban and a work-to-rule starting from June 18.

The clash represents a further deterioration in the relationship between the Indian-owned Tata and Unite, which are locked in a bitter fight over the future of the company's Welsh operations.

Tata, Britain's biggest steel producer, is planning to close its two remaining blast furnaces at Port Talbot this year and to replace them with a greener electric arc furnace, at a cost of as many as 2,800 jobs. Under a deal reached with Rishi Sunak's



Tata is planning to close its two remaining blast furnaces at Port Talbot this year at a cost of as many as 2,800 jobs

snap election on July 4. The government has not yet officially signed off its deal with Tata, The Sunday Times reported, and Labour, which leads in the polls, has criticised Sunak's agreement. Sir Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, said on the campaign trail last week that he would "fight for every single job" at Port Talbot and "for the future of steel here in Wales".

However, Tata told workers on Friday that "neither the general election nor its outcome has any impact on the timings or our decision to proceed with the winding down of our heavy-end operations" and that it could bring forward the closure of one of its blast furnaces.

Unite claimed that Tata's stance was "a direct rebuff" to Labour. Sharon Graham, the union's general secretary, said: "Unite and its members will not tolerate Tata's bully-boy tactics and neither should Labour. The union is now preparing to escalate industrial action in direct response to the company's threats."

Tata said that its enhanced redundancy terms would "remain in place unless industrial action is taken, in which case it would revert to our standard terms". It is also considering its legal options regarding the union's ballot for this month's industrial action amid questions at the company about irregularities in the process run by Unite.

Jo Stevens, Labour's shadow Welsh secretary, said: "We have repeatedly said no irreversible decisions should be made before polling day. We don't want to see a single job go at the site, but Conservative ministers failed to take steps to protect workers and communities."

T TIMES Travel Offers

QUEEN MARY 2'S

Literature Festival at Sea 2024

Departure | November 13, 2024



Find yourself in literary heaven, surrounded by authors, poets, journalists, historians, and fellow book lovers, on this seven-night sailing, dedicated to the power of the pen.

Curated by the programming team of Cheltenham Festivals, this unique voyage celebrates the written word in its many forms.

Sailing on board Queen Mary 2 is the ultimate way to cross the Atlantic. You'll find an incredible sense of freedom from the space she offers. Whether you're in the mood for complete relaxation or something more active, you can find it on board. Immerse yourself in enthralling entertainment, indulge at the spa, or simply relax with a book in her vast library.

PRICE INCLUDES

- ✓ Seven-night Transatlantic Crossing on board Cunard's Queen Mary 2 from Southampton to New York
- ✓ Economy-class flights and transfers from New York to the UK
- ✓ All meals and entertainment
- ✓ Programme of literary events throughout the voyage
- ✓ Complimentary money to spend on board
- ✓ Access to additional events when you book direct with Cunard and quote TIMES

*Cunard Fares shown are based on two adults sharing the lowest available stateroom grade in each stateroom type. Fares for sole occupancy and supplementary fares are available on request. For full terms and conditions visit cunard.com. Cover charge applies for alternative dining options. Programme of Literature Festival at Sea talks are included in your fare. Literature Festival at Sea workshops will be at an additional charge and are available to book on board. Other activities may incur an additional charge. Speakers and on board activities are subject to change. Book via the phone number on this advert and quote TIMES to enjoy access to additional on board events for Times readers. Events are subject to change and availability. This offer is available to UK residents only. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Cunard. ABTA V9764 ATOL 6294 protected, a company wholly independent of News UK. All information is correct at the time of going to print.

OUR TRUSTED PARTNERS



Scan the QR code with your camera app to view more details.

Confirmed Speakers

FULL CURRENT LIST AVAILABLE ONLINE



SEVEN NIGHTS FROM*
INSIDE: £1,269 PP
BALCONY: £1,649 PP
GRILL SUITE SOLD OUT



government, the state will provide a £500 million grant to support the transition.

Tata warned last year that its entire operation in Britain, where it employs more than 8,000 people, would be at risk unless the government provided it with funding to make the switch to the less carbon-intensive technology.

Unions oppose the job losses and GMB and Community have put

forward an alternative plan to decarbonise steel production at Port Talbot that would keep the blast furnaces open until 2032. This proposal has been rejected by Tata. The move by Unite to stage the overtime ban and work to rule at Port Talbot and an associated Tata site in Llanwern is in protest against the furnace closures.

The situation is further complicated by Sunak's decision to call a

Pension fund takes aim at Vanquis

Ben Martin Banking Editor

One of the largest pension funds in the United States has emerged as a leading short-seller of Vanquis.

The \$192 billion Teacher Retirement System of Texas has placed a bet against shares of the Bradford-based lender equating to 0.5 per cent of Vanquis's issued share capital, according to filings with the City regulator. It is the first time that the huge Austin-based fund has disclosed a "short" against a London-listed company. Financial Conduct Authority data shows.

Short-selling is a technique used by funds to profit from falling share prices and under British rules investors are required to publicly disclose their short bets once their positions reach 0.5 per cent.

At its peak Vanquis was a member of the FTSE 100 share index, valued



Ian McLaughlin is Vanquis's boss

at more than £5 billion, but setbacks including a botched overhaul of its now-defunct doorstep lending operations in 2017 have driven a sharp fall in its share price. Today it has a market value of only £139 million. Its shares have tumbled by 75 per cent in the past year alone and the short position amassed by the Texan scheme suggests that the American fund believes they have further to fall.

The Teacher Retirement System of Texas is the sixth largest public pen-

sion scheme in the United States and is among the 25 biggest in the world, with about two million members.

Vanquis now focuses on supplying less risky "near-prime" and mid-cost credit through its Vanquis credit card operations and Moneybarn vehicle finance division.

Ian McLaughlin, 57, who became Vanquis's chief executive last summer, is trying to revive its fortunes but has been hampered by a jump in complaints about its credit cards. While Vanquis has said the "vast majority" of these complaints are not being upheld, the cost of handling them is hitting its finances. It fell to a pre-tax loss of £4.4 million last year from a £10.1 million profit in 2022.

Vanquis declined to comment. The Texan fund said it did not comment on specific positions but added that it was a regular short-seller of stocks around the world.

Activist builds Alliance Pharma stake

Alex Ralph

An activist investor has built a large shareholding in Alliance Pharma, the struggling healthcare business.

DBay Advisors, an investor based on the Isle of Man, has lifted its stake in the Aim-quoted company above 23 per cent, cementing its position as the largest shareholder.

The stakebuilding coincides with difficulties at Alliance, which has delayed its annual results for a third time and changed its chief executive last month. It has said that Deloitte, its auditor, has requested more time

but that the details provided in its full-year trading update in January remain accurate.

Alliance is also in the midst of a change at the top of the company, with Peter Butterfield, 48, its chief executive since 2018, being replaced by Nick Sedgwick, 51, a former regional director for consumer health in the UK and Ireland for Reckitt, the FTSE 100 company.

Shares in Alliance have fallen by 40 per cent over the past 12 months on the London Stock Exchange's junior market.

Alliance, based in Chippenham,

Wiltshire, employs about 285 people in Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific region.

It is unclear whether the acquisitive DBay, which emerged as a shareholder about two years ago, is acting as an activist investor. It has made previous takeover attempts for companies, including an unsuccessful approach for CareTech, one of Britain's largest social care providers, in 2022. A year earlier it acquired Telit Communications for £320 million.

DBay and Alliance declined to comment.

Simon French

Sterling's unsung success story should be a confidence boost

“Currencies are like referees. When you don't notice them, they're doing a good job. And as it is with officiating at football matches, so it is with the British pound.

Sterling has been gradually strengthening and last week hit its highest trade-weighted level since the Brexit referendum almost eight years ago. This is not simply a story of happier holidaymakers turning their minds towards the cost of a foreign break. It is also a sign that the UK's economy is adjusting to the shock of Brexit trade frictions, imported energy price shocks and the disruption from a global pandemic.

The impact of a stronger pound, at least at the margin, is to dampen imported cost inflation in consumer staples such as oil, gas and food. Moderation in these prices has contributed to indicators of sentiment turning more upbeat. Consumer confidence has just hit a three-year high, according to GfK; the Lloyds Bank Business Barometer is now at an eight-year high. These are important metrics on the economic outlook for the second half of the year.

I was struck in the aftermath of the 2022 mini-budget how, as the value of the pound tested its post-Brexit referendum lows, business activity stalled as domestic supply chains, reliant on overseas components, struggled with unstable exchange rates and volatile pricing. While UK government debt discounted the “moron premium” of bad governance rapidly after the change of prime minister in October 2022, the scarring of private sector activity persisted well into 2023. This culminated in a shallow recession at the end of last year. However, with a general election only a month away and a new government not exactly poised for a golden economic inheritance, at least the currency markets are one less thing to worry about.

The same upbeat message for the pound can't be repeated for several important economies and currencies around the world. Here the backdrop, particularly heading into a seismic American election season, is fraught. The strains of a strong US dollar are manifesting themselves from Japan to Argentina, from South Africa to China. Last week, for example, Japanese policymakers revealed that



President Milei has overseen a sharp devaluation in the Argentinian peso

they had spent \$62 billion over the course of the past month to protect the Japanese yen. Even this huge intervention barely moved the yen off its all-time low valuation.

The new economic policies of President Milei in Argentina have led to the official value of the Argentinian peso losing 60 per cent of its value since November. Black market rates for the peso are even less favourable. With inflation now touching 300 per cent a year, any attempt by Milei to remove capital controls, a stated aim of his administration, is fraught with danger. In South Africa, the halving of the value of the rand against the US dollar over the past decade helped to trigger the backlash in last week's election that led to the African National Congress losing its majority for the first time since the end of apartheid in the early 1990s.

Meanwhile, China remains a fascinating example of an economy tightly bound with the United States

and yet experiencing sharply divergent economic conditions of low inflation, deflating asset bubbles and low consumer spending. Key currency indicators suggest that the Chinese yuan needs to weaken and yet Beijing's policymakers, worried about capital flight amid low domestic interest rates, are holding the line.

This is an unstable equilibrium for China, both economically and politically. The Biden administration or a Donald Trump back in the White House, already anxious about the dumping of green technology in international markets, will happily label the Chinese as currency manipulators on any sustained yuan weakness. There are no easy steps.

Even in the eurozone, which looks set to be the first big economic area to begin easing interest rates this week, there is concern over currency risk. While eurozone policymakers have been at pains to state that they can move monetary policy separately to



Energy bills to stay high as nuclear plans delayed

Emma Powell Acting Energy Editor

Energy bills will remain significantly higher for at least the next six years as gas-fired power stations age and as the construction of new nuclear plants is delayed, a new analysis has suggested.

The price paid to electricity generators to maintain a stable supply will be at a minimum of £51 per kilowatt annually until the end of the decade, Cornwall Insight has forecast, substantially more than the present rate of £18 per kilowatt.

The capacity market scheme pays conventional power plants subsidies to remain open as a back-up for renewable suppliers. It buys most of the energy needed four years in advance.

Prices were £18 per kilowatt in 2020 for the 2024-25 period, but hit a record £65 in this year's auction for power due to be delivered in 2027-28. Cornwall Insight has forecast that the price will be £62 for 2028-29 and £56.50 for the following year.

High prices will come as existing gas and nuclear power plants become less reliable and as their running hours decrease, requiring elevated prices in the capacity market to cover their costs.

There are 32 gas-fired plants in the UK, but the vast majority were commissioned around the turn of the century and up to half could be mothballed by 2035, according to government estimates. Meanwhile, four out of the country's five nuclear power stations are due to be decommissioned by 2028. A lack of certainty over when Hinkley Point C, the only new nuclear plant under construction in Britain, will start generating power will also contribute to keeping prices high, the consultancy said.

In January, EDF, the French state-backed company developing the plant, announced that the 3.2-gigawatt power station could take until 2031 to come on line, up to six years behind the initial deadline.

Tom Faulkner, head of assets and infrastructure and networks at Cornwall Insight, said that while solutions like battery storage could meet some of the increasing power demand, they could be expensive and generators needed higher payouts to cover their costs. “At the same time, refurbishing the ageing plants to continue to provide the power comes with its own costs — costs that ultimately land with consumers.”

To encourage investment, capacity market prices may need to stay higher for longer, Faulkner said.

America and the Federal Reserve (which is unimpeachable logic, given the very different levels of demand between the US and Europe), any direct action may trigger a significant move lower in the value of the euro. The second tier of European central banks in Switzerland and Sweden have already taken steps to ease their borrowing rates and there has been a noticeable underperformance in recent months by both the Swiss franc and the Swedish krona.

So what do these disparate stories tell us about exchange rates? In short, that their strains are symptoms of a global economy that retains deep imbalances. Some countries are consuming beyond their means, funded by others that are consuming too little and are saving too much. Another group of countries have sustained trade deficits, unable to adjust their terms of trade as surplus countries aggressively protect their own trade positions. The result of these imbalances is that exchange rates, after arguably 40 years where they have been a side-issue in economic policymaking, are returning to front pages across the world.

For Britain, knowing the right path to take is not straightforward. On one hand, there is a respectable argument that for decades the pound has been too strong owing to an outsized financial sector that has undermined the ability of more tradeable, industrial sectors to compete in global markets. But the alternative argument is that the two sterling devaluations of modern times, in 2008 and 2016, triggered contractions in real household spending power as a pound bought rather fewer internationally traded goods and services.

No government will seek a third such episode any time soon, so this takes us full circle. A good aim for the next government is to keep the pound out of the headlines and to pursue a “good refereeing” policy. It may help to explain why Labour is so reluctant to announce anything that could trigger economic uncertainty. As Liz Truss found, a country like the UK with large trade and fiscal deficits can't buck the markets. Least of all currency markets.

Simon French is chief economist at Panmure Gordon

Wall-to-wall laughter

Buy fine art, signed and framed prints by our cartoonists Peter Brookes, Morten Morland, Peter Schrank and Nick Newman.

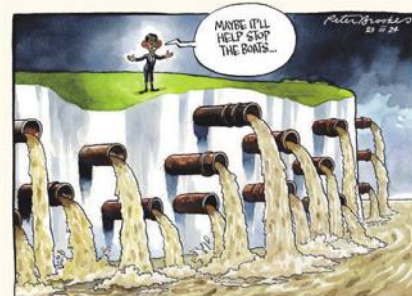
Exclusively at The Times Print Gallery
at timescartoons.com or call us on 0800 912 7136



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
PRINT GALLERY

PHOTOGRAPHY • PRINTS • CARTOONS • MORE

ORDER
TODAY



T GIFTS

Fresh promise of floats to end

Shein, Unilever and firms in technology and property are in focus amid talk of IPOs returning to London, reports Helen Cahill

It's a theme that lingered through the cold of winter and a dismal spring, one in which executives and investors bemoaned companies' low valuations on the London stock market and a steady stream of businesses preferred to list their shares in New York or to go private. Yet the arrival of summer has brought with it hopes that the City's fortunes may be about to change.

Several homegrown and overseas businesses are looking to make their debuts on the London Stock Exchange and others are set to follow. This month Raspberry Pi, the Cambridge-based maker of micro computers, wants to raise £31.5 million with a company valuation of £500 million. Perhaps more significantly, in any number of ways, Shein is considering a float that could be worth up to \$70 billion, with London tipped as a serious contender in a battle for the vast Chinese retailer's affections being fought among stock markets worldwide.

According to Julian Morse, co-chief executive of Cavendish, the City broker,

conversations about an opening of the flotation window started last Christmas and are now "gathering pace. There is always a risk for investors with initial public offerings, so they expect a bit of a discount to existing, quoted peers. The stock market itself is recovering, so investors are willing to pay fair prices for companies. Therefore company owners are starting to see IPOs as a viable way to partially exit their businesses. The appetite to invest again in IPOs is encouraging."

His optimism was echoed by Alasdair Haynes, the founder and chief executive of Aquis Exchange, a challenger market. He sees more companies readying themselves for a public offering after "a slow start" to 2024. "The pipeline is looking strong for the rest of the year," he said, "and we expect it might be a similar situation as last year, where we saw much of the IPO activity in the Aquis Exchange happen in the fourth quarter."

"Fundraising is still tough for many companies, but conditions are looking more optimistic. The election happening in July could be a good thing for confidence, giving some much-needed certainty for the remainder of the year."

Despite its small size, Raspberry Pi's market debut could be significant. Jeffries and Peel Hunt have been appointed as brokers, with Arm Holdings, the microchip powerhouse, and Lansdowne Partners, the hedge fund, supporting the float as cornerstone investors.

Veena Anand, an analyst on Can-



Unilever's ice cream business, the owner of Ben & Jerry's, Raspberry Pi and BrewDog are among the flotations that could bring life back to the stock market

accord Genuity's Quest team of researchers, called Raspberry Pi's decision to list in London "remarkable", given oft-cited concerns about the "liquidity, reduced investor risk appetite and challenges in valuing growth stocks" in Britain. That said, the company's decision to appoint only two corporate brokers for the float reflected its "confidence in its high-quality offering". Moreover, "having cornerstone investors supporting Raspberry Pi's vision for expansion adds credibility. This contrasts with the scepticism often associated with private equity firms off-loading their stakes in a buoyant market."

Special Opportunities Reit is preparing for a flotation seeking to raise

£500 million on June 17. The real estate trust invests in distressed commercial property assets and is fundraising to take advantage of a "dislocation" in the property market. It met 135 investors before announcing the listing in a roadshow that made clear institutions' eagerness to support companies by "investing through an IPO".

"It definitely feels as though the market is poised to turn," Simon Lee, Special Opportunities' chief executive, said, "and if you look at some of the best listed real estate trusts, they are now trading at the same level as their asset value, or at a premium, or at a very low discount, so there is much more certainty in the market. We are seeing that because inflation appears to be



coming under control. Even if the outlook isn't completely certain, investors feel there is a positive trajectory.

"Equally, when you are coming to market at this time, there is less competition and we are putting forward a proposition that doesn't require an improvement in market conditions to hit our targeted minimum returns for shareholders. There are some compa-

ALDBROUGH
HYDROGEN STORAGE

A collaboration between SSE Thermal and Equinor

The Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage Project

Section 48 The Planning Act 2008

Regulation 4 of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 and Regulation 13 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment "EIA") Regulations 2017.

Notice publicising a proposed application for a Development Consent Order for the Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage Project.

Notice is hereby given that Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage Limited ("the Applicant"), whose registered office is 1 Kingdom Street, London, W2 6BD, proposes to make an application ("the Application") to the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero under Section 37 (applications for orders granting development consent) of the Planning Act 2008 for a Development Consent Order ("DCO"). The Project is a collaboration between Equinor and SSE Thermal.

The Application is for the proposed Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage Project ("the Proposed Development"). The Proposed Development is located approximately two kilometres from Aldbrough Village, north-east of Hull, in the Holderness area of the East Riding of Yorkshire. The Project will be located next to the existing Aldbrough Gas Storage facility which is operated by SSE Thermal. The existing facility has stored natural gas in underground salt caverns since 2011.

The Proposed Development's main components are:

- Hydrogen storage infrastructure: up to nine subsurface caverns to be created in deep-underground salt formations to safely store hydrogen.
- Marine infrastructure: pipelines running below ground between the Hydrogen Storage Facility and the North Sea for the abstraction of sea water and return of brine.
- Above ground facilities: including a central processing area, a wellhead and leaching area.

The Project is an Environmental Impact Assessment development ("EIA Development"), as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. An Environmental Statement will be submitted as part of the application. A Preliminary Environmental Information ("PEI") Report forms part of the consultation material. This will assess the likely significant effects arising from the Project on the environment.

Consultation on the proposals will take place from 17 June to 18 August 2024.

Copies of the consultation materials, including the documents, plans and maps showing the nature and location of the proposed development, will be available to view or download free of charge from 17 June 2024 until 11.59pm on 18 August 2024 on the project website via the library page: www.aldbroughhydrogen.com

Copies of the consultation materials may be requested in hard copy, free of charge (with the exception of the full PEI Report which will be charged at £0.35 per page) or on USB, free of charge, during the consultation period by contacting the project team at AHS@ERM.com, by telephone on 01865 384980 or by writing to **Freepost Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage**.

If you are unable to access the project website, you can view hard copies of the documents from 17 June 2024 until 18 August 2024 during opening hours at:

- Aldbrough Sports Hall, Recreation Field, Garton Rd, Aldbrough, HU11 4QA
- Hornsea Community Hub, Broadway, Hornsea, HU18 1PZ
- Beverley County Hall, Cross Street, Beverley, HU17 9BA

Should you have any questions about the consultation or the Project please visit the website or contact the Applicant using the above details.

There will be six in-person drop-in events in public locations within the vicinity of the proposed Project in Aldbrough, Sproatley and Garton. Details of planned face to face events are provided below:

Date	Time	Venue	Address
06/07/24	11.00-15.00	Aldbrough Sports Hall	Garton Road, Aldbrough, HU11 4QA
09/07/24	16.00-20.00	Garton Meadows East Village Meadows	Back Lane, Garton, HU11 4QB
10/07/24	10.00-14.00	Sproatley Village Hall	Sproatley Road (B1240) HU11 4GA
11/07/24	16.00-20.00	Aldbrough Sports Hall	Garton Road, Aldbrough, HU11 4QA
12/07/24	16.00-20.00	Sproatley Village Hall	Sproatley Road (B1240) HU11 4GA
18/07/24	10.00-14.00	Garton Meadows East Village Meadows	Back Lane, Garton, HU11 4QB

Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this publicity. **Responses must be received no later than 18 August at 11.59pm. Responses received after this time may not be considered.**

When providing your response, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the scheme.

A feedback form is available as part of the consultation materials at deposit locations, consultation events and online. A printed copy of the feedback form can be requested by contacting the project team through the details below.

Response to the consultation can be submitted in the following ways:

- Online via our website (www.aldbroughhydrogen.com)
- By post at **Freepost Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage**
- By email (AHS@ERM.com)

The Applicant will consider and have regard to all responses when developing the application for a DCO once consultation has closed. Responses will form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be one of the factors taken into consideration by the Secretary of State when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination.

By submitting a consultation response to the Applicant, a respondent agrees that we may supply a copy of their response to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate if required to do so. However, Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage Limited will request that personal details are not placed on the public record. Personal information will be processed and handled securely in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. The information may be disclosed to or shared with the Applicant's connected companies, agents, contractors and advisors who provide services to the Applicant in connection with the preparation of an application for development consent under the 2008 Act. This will allow the Applicant to fully consider the responses and use them in preparation of application materials/ the information will be used solely in connection with the consultation process and the development of this project and, except as noted above, will not be disclosed to any third parties.

If you would like further information about this notice, the consultation or the scheme, please contact the project team via the contact details above.

City's sinking feeling



nies that will require a certain level of growth to feel confident fundraising."

James Carswell, a property sector analyst at Peel Hunt, said: "Clearly, it is very encouraging to see an attempt at an IPO in the sector. It's something we haven't seen for a number of years now, but it's going to have to be a pretty good pitch to investors."

Nevertheless, the business being

watched most closely is Shein. It was valued at \$66 billion in a private fundraising in May last year. Bankers at Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley have been lining up the float, which could lead to the Chinese conglomerate entering the FTSE 100 share index if London beats off its international rivals.

The listing would be a "shot in the

arm" for the London Stock Exchange, Clive Black, head of research at Shore Capital, said, although the company would face intense scrutiny as a public entity and would need to find non-executive directors willing to reassure investors on its labour and supply chain policies.

"Shein is a formidable business in terms of its operating capabilities, but the devil will be in the detail," Black said. "The governance of the business will be a major talking point. How transparent will they be about their operating performance, from who supplies the products, what their labour processes and how the product is distributed? Shein faces some really substantial compliance issues because this is not a conventional business."

If Shein is a name still unfamiliar to some investors, Unilever certainly isn't. The consumer goods conglomerate prompted speculation about a float for its ice cream business in London back in March, when it revealed plans for a demerger of a unit that includes the Magnum and Ben & Jerry's brands. Analysts at Barclays have valued Unilever's collection of ice creams at up to £17 billion.

A rich prize, then, but like Shein there

is likely to be determined competition. In this case, London will be going head-to-head with Amsterdam to secure the listing. There also is likely to be interest in the brands among private buyers.

Unilever abandoned its Dutch headquarters four years ago to become fully incorporated in Britain, but it said at the time that it would be "comfortable" choosing the Netherlands for a future listing of its foods and refreshments businesses. The Amsterdam exchange also has form: it prevailed over London this year when CVC Capital Partners, the private equity group, decided to go Dutch with its €2 billion IPO.

Then there are more long-term bets, companies that have long flirted with floating. BrewDog has been earmarked as an IPO candidate for several years and it previously appointed lawyers at Freshfields to chart a course to public markets at a rumoured valuation of £2 billion.

James Watt, the co-founder of the brand who recently stepped down as its chief executive, has said in the past that the group wants to secure "longer-term liquidity" for its existing individual investors. Watt retains a 21 per cent stake and continues to advise BrewDog on strategy.



Liberation is laughing all the way to the bank

Dominic Walsh

Pub-goers' desire for an "experience" rather than merely a quiet pint has led to record annual revenue of £144.4 million at Liberation Group, up 20 per cent from the year before.

In the year to January 27, the pubs and brewing business lifted like-for-like sales in its managed pubs by 8 per cent, with a 12 per cent increase in comparable hotel room sales. Underlying earnings in the managed division jumped by 19 per cent.

Trading since the end of its financial year has remained resilient, with like-for-like sales in the managed estate to the end of April growing by 6.5 per cent.

The group has about 130 pubs and inns in the Channel Islands and the south of England, plus three breweries, but its boss Jonathan Lawson insists it is about far more than buildings: "We're in the experience business. Just opening our doors won't work any more."

Lawson, 53, who became chief executive in January 2019, said its premium pubs and inns were tapping into the trend for more exclusive and intimate weddings, as well as comedy nights, outdoor cinemas and supper clubs. It is also, albeit somewhat belatedly, cashing in on the breakfast and brunch market in the wake of market data showing that 55 per cent of adults are eating out for breakfast at least twice a month.

Perhaps the experience with the greatest potential is its hotel business, which has grown from ten rooms to 400 since 2016 and is now aiming for 700. The business, part of the managed pubs division, recently was badged as Butcombe Boutique Inns and has a medium-term target of 25 sites under the brand. In the first quarter of this year its inns with a total of 400 rooms are running at an occupancy rate of 70 per cent and an average room rate of just over £100.

In 2015, Liberation acquired the Butcombe brewing and pubs business in Bristol for about £17 million, then itself was acquired by Caledonia Investments in a deal worth £118 million. Since then Liberation has made a series of smaller acquisitions, buying 21 pubs from Wadsworth and taking over the 22-strong Cirrus Inns chain.

Asked whether further deals were likely, Lawson said: "We've certainly proved in the last few years that we're quite good at buying and integrating small groups. If opportunities became available, we'd certainly consider them."

The Liberation boss played down suggestions that Caledonia was contemplating an exit. "We've got a really strong story, but I don't think either we or Caledonia are in any rush."

Italian tycoon behind Boots loses \$2bn in a year as shares plummet

Isabella Fish, Lauren Almeida

More than \$2 billion has been wiped from the fortune of the tycoon behind the American pharmacy chain that owns Boots after a year-long plunge in the company's share price.

Stefano Pessina, 82, the executive chairman of Walgreens Boots Alliance, is the company's largest shareholder. The market value of the Italian's holding in Walgreens has fallen from \$4.4 billion to \$2.2 billion in the past year, according to FactSet Data.

Shares in Walgreens have dropped by just over 40 per cent in the past 12 months in a period during which the S&P 500 share index has gained 9 per cent. Last week the stock hit an intraday low of \$14.63, its weakest level since before the millennium.

Walgreens, which has more than 330,000 staff and 12,500 stores, has battled high debt stemming from an aggressive acquisition spree. Operating



Stefano Pessina led the Boots takeover

losses swelled to \$13.2 billion in the first six months of its financial year, against a \$6 billion loss a year earlier, reflecting a \$5.8 billion impairment charge on its investment in VillageMD, a primary care provider.

It also suffered reputational damage

after its agreement in 2013 with Theranos, the fraudulent blood-testing business led by Elizabeth Holmes, to conduct pilot tests in some of its stores. The partnership collapsed when the fraud came to light in 2015 and Walgreens has agreed to pay \$44 million to settle a class-action lawsuit related to the faulty blood tests.

Pessina stepped down as chief executive of the company in 2020 after five years in charge. He orchestrated the merger of Walgreens and Alliance Boots, which was completed in 2014. Boots is one of Britain's biggest high street retailers.

Boots achieved a 42.3 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £237.6 million for the year to the end of last August, on the back of higher profit margins, according to recent filings for three UK subsidiaries at Companies House.

Revenue rose from £77 billion to £83 billion, driven by brands such as

Liz Earle, Soap & Glory and Fenty Beauty by Rihanna, the singer.

The British retailer paid out £107 million in dividends between the subsidiaries and spent at least £38 million on restructuring costs, the documents showed, as it seeks to reduce the number of its stores from about 2,200 to 1,900. In the three months to the end of February this year, it increased retail sales by 5.9 per cent, driven by business online and in physical stores.

Last November, Boots agreed to offload £4.8 billion of pension obligations to Legal & General, the insurer, in a deal that could pave the way for a potential sale or a stock market listing of the chain. Reports emerged last year that Walgreens was considering ways to separate Boots, including a potential London listing. A London float is understood to be the preferred choice for Sebastian James, 58, the managing director of Boots.

Walgreens declined to comment.

State fund boosts electric vehicle charging for blocks of flats

Tom Howard

The government's electric vehicle infrastructure fund has invested £35 million in a Hertfordshire-based start-up that installs charging points in communal car parks.

Energy Park has secured the backing from the £420 million Charging Infrastructure Investment Fund.

Half of the fund's money came from the government, while the rest was from investors including The Church

Commissioners of England, Morgan Stanley and Masdar, Abu Dhabi's state-owned renewable energy company. Zouk Capital is the fund's manager.

Thus far, investment in Britain's charging network has been focused largely on adding more points in driveways, car parks and service stations. Energy Park specialises in installing charging points in the communal car parks of apartment buildings, of which there are about 100,000 in the UK.

It says it can provide residents with

cheaper charging for their electric cars, while removing the hassle for landlords by funding and managing the points. Energy Park is also targeting the leisure industry, with plans to work with holiday park and hotel operators.

"We're delighted to be partnering with Zouk Capital to drive the growth of EV [electric vehicle] infrastructure in the UK," Gavin Malone, 44, Energy Park's founder, said. "The demand for affordable EV charge points at apartment buildings and residential destina-

tions is increasing rapidly and with Zouk's funding we can grow quickly to become a leading provider of tailored EV charging solutions for more residential landlords."

George Ridd, a partner at Zouk, said the investment in Energy Park would help to "accelerate the electrification of the UK's vehicles".

The government wants Britain to have reached net zero emissions by 2050. Part of its plan to reach this goal is to get more electric vehicles on the

road, although there are doubts about whether the charging infrastructure can be built quickly enough.

The number of public chargers has doubled to more than 57,000 in under four years, but the government wants 300,000 by 2030, when it is forecasting that there will be nine million electric vehicles on the road, up from a million or so today. Even if the charging points are installed, there are question marks over whether the national electricity grid can handle the extra demand.

Got a problem? Then this company can fix it for you

THE TIMES
ENTERPRISE
NETWORK
INNOVATION



Cambridge Design Partnership has created solutions for companies both big and small, reports **Richard Tyler**

For Laura Whitaker and her sister Hannah Stroud, it was an unforgettable moment. Whitaker has Usher Syndrome, a genetic condition that causes hearing to be lost and vision to be severely impaired. When they were young and before the symptoms developed, they

used to sing together. One of their favourite songs was *Fix You* by Coldplay.

Now, supported by Cure Usher Syndrome, the charity, and its partners Havas Lynx, a communications agency, and Cambridge Design Partnership, a technology innovation consultancy, they have been able to share that memory again through a cleverly designed device. A ball held by the sisters transformed the song into tactile sensations that allowed both to "feel" the song. When *Fix You* was played, they spontaneously sang a line. Their delight was clear, a powerful moment captured in a video for the charity designed to raise awareness of the condition.

Stuart Curtis is the lead engineer on the pro bono project for Cambridge Design Partnership, which is based a few miles to the west of the city. "The main challenge we had was that you are not used to feeling things with your hands that are as complex as a piece of music. The research we did was to find the particular frequencies that skin can feel, and it was so much lower than you can hear."

"We then had a design envelope to work around. We knew we had to get as much of that song information across in those lower sounds and filter out those above it. And we also had to take account of the fact that there were two people in this experience, one with normal hearing and one with reduced hearing. So any sound output would take away from that shared experience."

The device, which appears in the video to be a large, crystal ball with swirling colours, was in fact a giant Christmas bauble into which the Cambridge Design Partnership team added sound transducers, a wireless amplifier and simple lights that respond to music. They developed the concept in a few weeks in their spare time and delivered a working model in time for Havas Lynx to film the video.

"If you hold the ball and really concentrate, you can genuinely feel the song coming through enough that you can pick it up and start singing along to it. It wasn't just distant, rumbling base sounds, but the full song and melody that went with it," Curtis said.

"The brief really matched everything that CDP is all about. It was interesting, there was nothing that existed that could do exactly what they wanted, but it felt doable. Our focus is to improve life through innovation and this fitted that."

Innovative thinking comes easily to the partnership, whose team of 280 typically tackle product design, robotics and manufacturing challenges for large multinationals and venture-capital backed start-ups that want to see their ideas happen as quickly and as effectively as possible. The technology innovation business was founded in 1996 by Mike

Chris Martin, of Coldplay, which produced *Fix You*



Laura Whitaker, left, who has Usher

Beadman, 58, Mike Cane, 63, and Matt Schumann, 57, who had all worked together at TTP, another innovation agency, itself the product of people splitting off from existing technology-related companies.

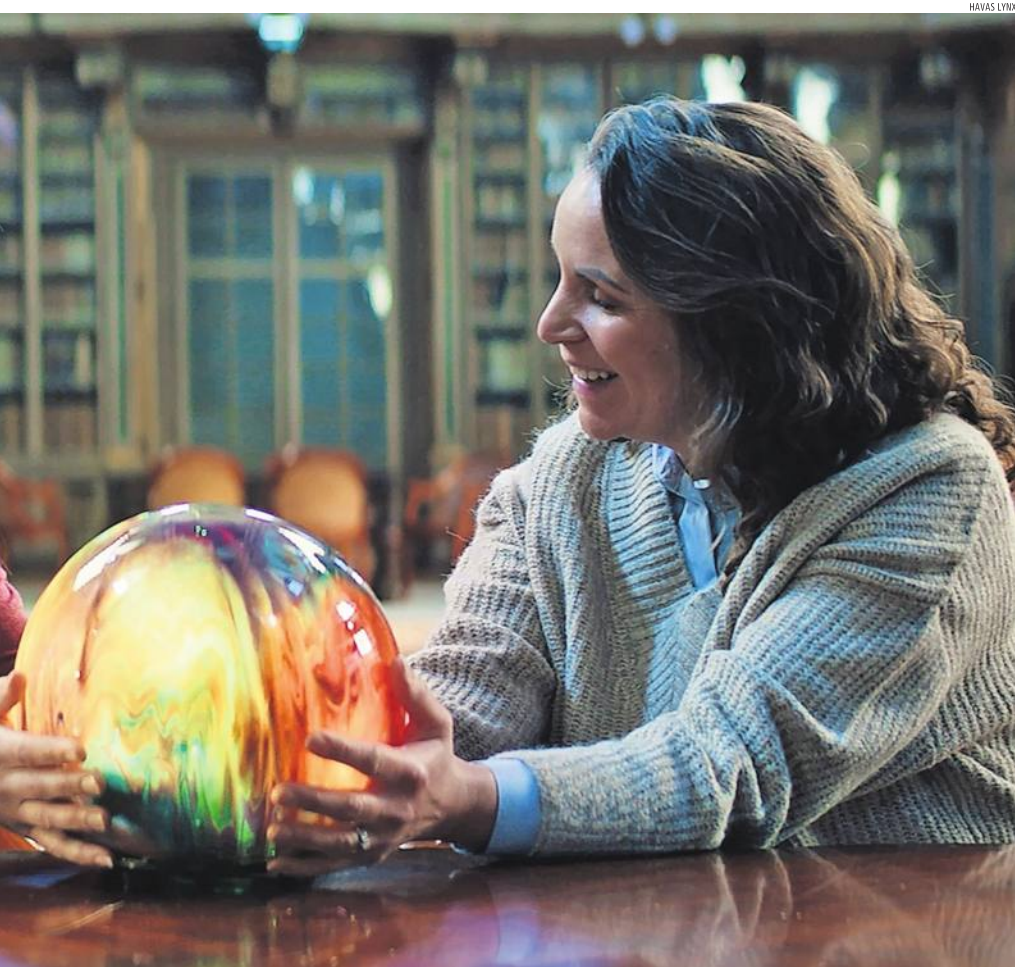
"Our USP was we wanted to create products for our customers, using the right technology for each application. Some of our competitors develop a technology and try and push it. We are technology agnostic. We will develop or use the right technology for each application," Schumann said.

He said that rivalry between competing consultancies for the best staff and work was "a positive thing. Cambridge has a name globally because of it. Competition drives up quality and value for money. And it creates a magnet for attracting highly skilled, ambitious, smart people into the area. It doesn't help with house prices, but it makes it easier to find talented people within commuting distance."

Cambridge Design Partnership's campus covers two large,

modern, energy-efficient buildings on the edge of a disused air base near the village of Highfields Caldecote. Inside the main facility are rooms dressed to appear like a domestic setting (where consumers are monitored through one-way mirrors, with their permission, to see how they interact with new devices) through to category two containment facilities for testing biological and hazardous materials, 3D printing suites and even a machine tool and paint shop. "The benefit of





Syndrome, and Hannah Stroud, her sister, relive a childhood memory with the help of a specially designed globe

having everything in-house is confidentiality," Schumann, the company's joint managing director, said.

The business typically takes on about 250 projects a year. "At the top end, we work with most of the global pharmaceutical and medical companies," Schumann said, "but we also love working with start-ups because they are very publicity-hungry as they are always in fundraising mode, so they like to talk about the work. It's great for our morale. Understandably, the larger companies are very cautious about going public on something until it is ready for launch."

This can be many years for medical devices, which need regulatory clearances. One fast-growing company it has worked for is Diagnostics for the Real World, which is Cambridge-based and is led by Helen Lee, 83, its chief executive. "She has developed a point-of-care system for diagnosing flu, A and B, Covid and other diseases, including HIV. The machines, Samba II, are in the NHS and around the world. We have been developing their next generation, Samba III. Normally it would take a couple of years to develop in a small start-up, but by working with a company like us we managed to accelerate it to four to six months. It is exciting technology."

Cambridge Design Partnerships' business model is to learn from doing and then to sell on that expertise. Unlike other consultancies, it doesn't retain any intellectual property rights over the solutions it develops. "You are building know-how," Schumann said. "We don't work for different customers developing exactly the same product. The solution is always slightly, or very different. You are taking the general know-how, and getting more experienced."

It became 100 per cent-owned by



Matt Schumann says the business always develops unique products

an employee trust in 2018 when the three founders, who had built it to revenues of about £12 million without outside investment or debt, decided to sell. Cane retired, while Beadman and Schumann continued in their roles. "We were getting weekly enquiries

from venture capital and financial boutiques and American companies asking if we were for sale," Schumann said. "We were quite happy growing organically at 20 per cent to 25 per cent a year, running our own business and having fun. But we thought retirement was coming up as the founders, what do we do?"

"Then we heard about the employee ownership trust route. Because we had retained profits and reinvested everything, we realised that route was feasible and we could achieve a normal valuation by selling to the employees. As we are a people business, we asked, 'How would it work if it was part of a larger organisation?' We felt we would lose the culture. By not having external owners at all, we could build on that culture."

Schumann said the decision had been right for the company, the founders and its employee-owners. "Has it worked? I would say an emphatic yes. The value of the company has more than tripled since."

For more information about Cure Usher Syndrome, visit cureushersyndrome.com

About TEN

● See Times Enterprise Network online for daily news, insights and inspiration for entrepreneurs and business leaders

● Sign up for the weekly

Entrepreneurs newsletter to receive the inside track on issues facing growing businesses, delivered to your inbox every Thursday morning thetimes.co.uk/ten

Election is chance to transform the business landscape

Steve Rigby



The sound of the election starting gun is still ringing in the nation's ears and we will soon have a new government with a fresh mandate. This is good news for business. The prospect of five years of stability and a clear direction of travel is a beacon of hope for entrepreneurs across the country. Inflation is falling and the economy is growing. The horizon appears brighter than it has for some time.

With the right leaders and policies in place, we are in line for an economic bounce back that will confound the IMF and other naysayers that talk down our prospects. However, to pave the way for great British businesses, the next government must begin by thinking like one.

The UK is sometimes described as a nation of shopkeepers. It is true that we boast a huge number of hard-working, small-scale, productive enterprises, but we are also a nation of pioneers, of innovators, of explorers and of entrepreneurs.

You need only look at recent investment in semiconductors or gigafactories to see that innovation flows through our veins in Britain.

We do have a tendency to talk down our talents when it comes to business, but this is not a uniquely British problem. Rigby Group operates the UK's fifth largest business in France with more than 3,000 colleagues and £2.5 billion in revenue. I can assure you that the view of public service, government performance and economic prowess is no different across the Channel. Where we do fall down in Britain is knowing how to channel our self-evident entrepreneurial drive in a direction that will improve the economy and society. This is where a strong, knowledgeable government can make a real impact.

Every developed economy has challenges and Britain has seen more than its fair share. It is fair to say that our attractiveness as a location for big, stable businesses that pay lots of tax and employ thousands of people has suffered as a result. In the past few months, we've seen leading companies such as DS Smith and Currys dance around the nets of international poachers, with Darktrace the latest to be snapped up.

This is no time for doom-mongering, though. An election provides an opportunity to transform the environment for businesses, especially "breakthrough businesses", the companies that typically employ more than 100 people and have the potential to

become structurally important in their region or industry. Encourage these to flourish and we will reap the rewards of the great entrepreneurial spirit we have on home soil.

Against our global peers, the UK is in a great place. We are the sixth largest economy in the world, boasting the second largest services economy and the sixth largest public market. We also have the highest concentration of business ownership per capita in the G7.

As we look to a new industrial strategy, we must harness not only new growth industries but also established industries. Our financial services sector is the second largest in the world. Our information technology industry comprises more than 6 per cent of the economy. As we develop our world-leading position in artificial intelligence, we have the opportunity to become an international landing pad for global organisations seeking to gain a leading position in this technology.

Our life sciences sector invests £9 billion annually in research and development. AstraZeneca is just one example in a line of high-flying great British businesses in this industry. Our clean energy transition, while behind our own aspirations, is materially ahead of most G7 countries. Our creative industry leads the world in film and

gaming, employing more than two million people. Our professional services sector provides the gold standard in legal services and growth exists in almost every aspect of this knowledge-intensive industry that makes up 9 per cent of our economy.

The new government should be led by British business values. We place bets on industries that may take a decade to pay off because we believe in them. We invest ahead of the curve

in infrastructure and talent. We work out our product and service market fit and plan meticulously for every scenario. Importantly, we think long-term, which allows us to take educated risks. It allows us to create a vision that our shareholders and colleagues believe in and to set bold aspirations that can produce global-leading businesses.

It is not the government's job to run our businesses for us, but the job of the government is to provide a safe harbour from which our ships can sail. This safe harbour built on regulation, incentivisation and thoughtful taxation is critical as we now look forward to the next five years. As we approach the election, I urge the next government to learn from the business sector. We need long-term policy and thinking, coupled with clear objectives for growth and for the necessary tools to allow us to succeed. We have no shortage of entrepreneurial drive. We just need direction.

Steve Rigby is the co-chief executive of Rigby Group, a technology-focused family business, and a board member of Family Business UK

“We need long-term policy and thinking, with clear objectives for growth”

Business Equity prices

Automobiles & parts

1,197.40	Aston Martin Lag	145%	+ 10%	-3.9
----------	------------------	------	-------	------

Banking & finance

2,763.61	Abdn	155	- 3½	9.4	—
4.80	Acuity RM	3½	—	2.7	-23.2
8,044.51	Admiral	2714	- 11	2.7	24.4
6.94	ADVF	15	- 2	—	-3.7
1,587.44	AJ Bell	385	+ ½	2.7	23.2
47,555.07	Aon Corp	21862½	- 188½	—	22.2
158.30	Arbutnot Bkgs	970	+ 30	4.7	4.3
1.75	Argo Group	4½	—	—	2.0
1,293.99	Ashmore	195	- 10%	8.6	13.4
44,379.34	Aus New Z	1475½	- 6½	—	12.6
12,922.86	Aviva	479½	- 8½	12.9	39.9
63,761.05	Banco Santander	410	+ 7	3.7	7.2
1,675.38	Bank of Georgia	3710	- 305	7.2	4.1
32,818.83	Bardays	220	+ 3½	3.6	8.4
1.68	Blue Star Capital	—	—	—	-0.2
171.64	BP Marsh&Ptnrs	461	- 2	1.4	12.7
3.35	Braveheart Inv	5½	+ ¼	2.1	2.1
1,564.20	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	—	28.1
1,773.54	Bridgepoint	223½	- 12½	4.0	24.8
16.44	Centas Secs	29	+ 2	—	5.9
383.93	Chesna	254½	+ 5½	9.4	20.7
11.94	City of Lon Gp	10	- 14	—	-0.6
181.43	City Lon Inv Gp	358	- 6	9.0	12.3
720.53	Close Bros	478½	- 15½	6.3	5.0
787.68	CMC Markets	281½	+ 1	1.7	76.0
16,433.22	Commerz&k	1325	- 10%	—	9.3
25,896.15	Deutsche Bk	1298½	- 42½	—	5.3
2,782.27	Direct Line Ins	214½	+ 4	1.9	13.6

Investment companies

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld%	P/E
27,867.48	3i Group	2863	+ 34	2.8	40.6	328.40	Invesco Bond Inc	170	- 3	6.9	2.1
3,122.15	3i Infrastructure	338½	+ 11½	3.3	-7.9	0.08	IPST Bal	140½	- 2½	2.5	-9.4
1,291.16	Aberforth Smnr	1534	+ 168	3.2	-12.8	69.49	IPST Gbl Eq	272	+ 4	2.3	-9.8
3,418.93	Alliance	1204	- 20	1.9	-3.4	0.03	IPST ManagedG	103	- 3	0.9	-4.6
629.40	Asia Dragon Tr	395	+ 38	1.5	-16.1	0.57	IPST UK Equ	164½	+ ½	3.7	-13.3
3.88	Athelney Trust	180	- 3	5.0	-4.5	1,720.65	JPMI American	941	- 37	0.7	1.7
1,090.58	AVI Global Trust	243	+ 13	1.4	-10.2	300.77	JPMI Asia Gr & Inc	355	+ 1	3.9	-9.3
129.02	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	210	+ 17	0.8	-10.8	190.95	JPMI China	229½	+ 14½	5.2	-10.6
351.30	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	98½	+ 1½	2.3	-14.6	415.44	JPMI Cleaverhs	726	+ 32	4.8	-4.7
647.44	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	725	- 7	1.1	-32.7	3.42	JPMorgan Emer E & ME & Africa40	+ 520	1.0	158.6	
330.58	Baillie Gifford SN	109½	- 7½	—	-36.3	1,143.63	JPM Em Mkts	102	- 2	1.4	-11.7
258.77	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	176	+ 13	1.9	-35.1	708.98	JPM Euro disc	483	+ 21	2.0	-10.4
548.61	Bal Comm Prop	78½	+ ¼	4.6	-27.7	379.27	JPM GEM	129½	- 3½	3.5	-11.2
1,339.07	Bankers Inv Trst	112½	+ ¼	2.0	-10.8	5,253.48	JPM GG&I	537	- 21	3.2	1.3
1,310.20	BH Macro	364	+ 28	—	-13.5	675.09	JPM Indian	950	+ 24	—	-19.4
316.12	Biotech Growth	944	- 47	—	-5.2	195.54	JPM Jap SmI Co	294	+ 16	3.8	-12.8
152.89	BlackRock Com Inc	121½	+ 1½	3.4	-10.8	756.11	JPM Japan	518	+ 14	1.1	-8.7
283.04	BlackRock Fro Inv	149½	- 5½	3.8	-8.1	3.24	JPM Mid CapI	1220	+ 1220	2.9	-14.6
624.26	BlackRock Eur Euro	623	- 2	1.0	-5.6	0.90	JPM Multi-asset G&H	101½	+ 101½	5.7	—
40.92	BlackRock E & Gwth	203	+ 21	3.5	-32.2	40.33	JPM SmirI Co	339	+ 40	3.3	-13.4
705.55	BlackRock Smnr	1498	+ 140	2.7	-11.7	130.22	Keystone Positive Gange Inv	+ 126	- 11	0.1	-11.5
154.01	BlackRock Sustain Amer	198½	- 2½	3.5	-10.1	1,148.38	Law Debenture	876	+ 59	3.9	-1.0
591.21	BlackRock Thmrgton	639	+ 54	2.2	-10.3	349.89	Lowland	129½	+ 10½	3.5	-12.5
1,127.98	BlackRock Wld Mkt	590	+ 22	5.9	-4.3	129.32	Majestic	244	- 4	2.6	-4.9
153.02	Brown Adv US sm	1290	- 25	—	-11.9	255.23	M Currie Port	369	+ 10	1.0	-1.7
567.81	Brunner	1330	+ 30	1.6	-4.9	56.05	Marwyn Val	101	+ 11	4.9	-52.2
1,929.94	Caledonia Inv	3540	+ 110	1.2	-35.4	1,899.82	Mercantile IT	243½	+ 20½	3.0	-12.1
2,110.98	City of Lon IT	423	+ 16	4.9	-2.2	863.25	Merchants	582	+ 35	5.3	-4.2
67.18	Crystal Amber F	87½	+ 10½	22.6	-31.2	394.76	Mid Wynd	755	- 17	1.2	-1.6
32.08	CT Priv Eq Ord	460	+ 17	3.9	-35.9	2,486.10	Monks Inv Trst	1156	+ 16	0.2	-11.1
3.96	CT Property	73½	+ 73½	6.1	-14.5	269.39	Montauk Eur SmI	142½	+ 3½	0.6	-32.9
340.55	CT UK Cap&nc	334	+ 14	3.6	-3.5	912.51	Murray Income Trust	866	+ 23	4.3	-10.8
76.67	CT UK HT B	87½	+ 3½	—	-8.7	1,529.88	Murray Int	249	+ 3	4.1	-40.7
79.16	CT UK HT	95	+ 11	5.9	-4.9	—	NB Global Floating	64	- 3½	5.4	-9.6
27.55	Dunedin Entp	500½	+ 10½	5.7	-32.3	440.29	Pacific Assets	364	—	0.5	-12.6
1,121.62	Edinburgh IT	742	+ 41	3.6	-9.5	1,529.17	Pantheon Int	326	- 1	—	-32.6
590.34	Edin Wwde	143½	- 1½	—	-11.7	7,503.62	Pershing Sq	4078	- 14	0.5	-26.7
90.00	EP Global Opp	308	+ 24	1.3	-21.6	1,664.64	Personal Assets	485	—	1.5	-40.7
324.06	European Assets	90	+ 5	5.6	-11.7	3,611.72	Polar Cap Trust	2990	- 15	—	-9.8
596.37	European Opp Trust	906	+ 42	0.3	-10.6	18.87	Prem Gbl & Inf	104	+ 11	6.7	-34.9
5,082.37	F&C Invest Tr	1010	+ 18	1.3	-10.8	2,490.11	Renewables Inv	100½	+ 2½	5.7	-24.0
371.87	Fidelity Asian Val	522	+ 6	2.6	-9.6	246.33	RIT Cap Ptnr	1828	+ 46	—	-10.7
1,163.44	Fidelity China Sp	222	+ 16	2.7	-10.9	41.33	Riverstone	900	- 20	—	-26.9
524.72	FidelityEmergMkt	685½	+ 9½	2.0	-11.9	418.39	Schroder TotRt	436	+ 9	2.3	-10.8
1,636.97	Fidelity European Trust400	131½	+ 20	—	-13.7	740.95	Schrd Asia Pac	510	+ 7	2.1	-32.3
212.26	Fidelity Jap Tru	174	+ 4	—	-10.5	195.56	Schrod Inc Gwth	286	+ 14	4.5	-10.9
1,004.21	Fidelity Spec Val	310	+ 21	2.8	-9.5	302.06	Schrod Jap Gwth	255	- 5	1.8	-9.9
1,546.36	Fins Gwth & Inc	835	+ 8	2.0	-7.4	214.40	Schrod UKMID	620	+ 58	3.1	-14.8
684.70	GCP Infrastructure	78½	+ 6½	6.3	-35.8	101.64	Schroder UK PP Tr	12½	+ ½	—	-47.6
30.35	Gldn Prop Prc Mkt	35½	- ½	—	-18.7	900.50	Scot American	505	+ 7	2.8	-48.0
3,232.78	Greencoat UK Wind	140½	+ 1½	6.3	-36.9	12,102.56	Scot Mtge	878	+ 17	0.4	-9.1
85.60	Hansa Investment	214	+ 2	0.8	-43.2	298.67	Secs Trst Mkt	216	+ 2	3.0	-0.4
170.40	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	213	+ 14	0.8	-45.9	1,287.78	Sequoia Eco	79½	- 2½	7.4	-13.5
1,839.57	Harvest Gldn Pl Eq	2390	+ 100	—	-42.8	777.89	Temple Bar	271½	+ 23½	3.6	-67.5
404.26	Hend Euro Foc	190	+ 10	2.1	-31.7	1,716.30	Tipton Em Mkt	154½	+ 1	2.7	-15.2
279.73	Hend High Inc	162½	+ 5½	6.0	-8.2	811.62	The Gld Smaller	163	+ 4	1.3	-9.8
662.83	Hend Smnr	888	+ 108	2.9	-14.4	1.01	Tiger Royal and Inv	½	+ ½	—	-12.2
1,186.72	Herald	2175	+ 75	—	-32.4	1,050.43	TR Property	331	+ 17	4.4	-6.1
2,201.67	HgcCapital Trust	481	+ 6	1.3	-4.6	2.59	Tray Inc&Gth	79½	+ 79½	3.7	-4.3
2,527.17	HCL Infra	124½	- 1½	5.2	-22.6	88.78	Uthico Ord	103½	+ 4½	3.2	-42.5
—	Highbridge Tactical	—	—	—	-61.1	490.36	Uthico Emerging Mkt	226	+ 3	3.1	-38.5
815.73	ICG Ent Tr	1224	- 22	1.6	-38.7	1,194.10	Vietnam Ent Tr	603	+ 2	—	-16.9
1,063.95	Impax Env Mkts	398	—	1.0	-11.0	1,567.74	Witan	257	+ 5	2.2	-8.4
207.63	Invesco Asia Tr	314	+ 3	4.2	-12.3	1,873.47	Ww Health	345	+ 11	0.8	-9.5

48,567.41	Land Stk Ex Gp	9162	- 162	1.2	66.3
4,738.95	MaG	199	- 2½	9.7	16.0
3,064.01	Man	263½	+ 2½	4.9	17.3
23.31	Manx Fin	20	—	2.2	5.7
1.43	Marechal Cap	1½	—	—	-3.2
411.40	Mattoli Woods	791	+ 3	3.4	41.2
15.35	Metal Tiger	9	+ 1	—	-2.0
257.66	Metro Bank	38½	- ½	—	2.8
54,959.14	Nat Aust Bk	1771½	- 25½	—	14.4
27,467.04	NatWest	315	+ 7½	5.3	6.4
372.21	Numis	343	+ 1	—	—
1,801.35	Onesavings Bank	464	- 10½	6.8	7.1
399.10	PayPoint	549	+ 2	3.5	12.8
3.17	PCF Group	—	+ ½	—	-0.4
4,969.75	Phoenix	496½	- 6½	10.5	—
20,545.70	Prudential	747	- 18½	2.2	15.3
12.59	Quantum Blockchain	½	—	—	-3.0
1,635.43	Quilter	117½	- 1½	4.4	38.0
6.73	Randall & Quilbe	1½	+ ½	—	—
1,869.99	Rathbone Gr	1728	- 54	4.9	34.0
1.71	RiverFort Global Opp	½	—	1.6	-1.8
87.25	Rockwood Strategic	271	- 3	7.0	—
230.86	S & U	1900	- 110	6.6	7.0
2.19	Sancus Lending Grp	43	+ ½	—	-0.1
210.81	Schroder REIT	43	+ ½	—	-3.9
6.31A.10	Schroders	391½	- 3½	5.4	16.1
2,740.83	St James Place	499½	+ 8½	4.7	—
19,763.12	Stand Chart	777½	- ½	2.7	9.3
6.82	Starvest	11½	- ½	—	-1.9
34.16	STM Group	57½	—	1.0	59.2

Market cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wtdy +/-	Yld%	P/E
73.08	Billington Hldgs	592	+ 17	2.6	7.4
269.92	Boat (Henry)	202	- 8	3.6	10.4
1,323.49	BREEDON	385½	- 11	3.4	12.4
4,060.64	Br Land	437½	+ 28½	5.3	-3.8
11.78	Caledonian Tst	100	...	...	...
134.94	Cap & Regnl	60	+ ¼	9.5	...
23.87	Cardiff Prop	2300	...	0.9	20.2
10.44	Carecapital	1½	...	...	-0.2
83.55	Clarke T	158	- ½	3.7	11.5
1,148.53	Countryside Partner	229½	+ 11	...	16.7
0.61	Craven House	15½	...	...	-0.1
2,614.13	Derwent London	2328	+ 42	3.4	-5.4
42.07	Dolphin Capital	4½	...	...	-4.9
21.34	First Prop	19½	+ ¼	...	...
4.61	Fletcher King	45	- 2½	1.6	20.6
212.05	Fontons Group	70	+ ½	1.3	41.1
274.23	Galliford Try	267	- 6	4.4	19.3
1,122.51	Genuit Group	450½	- 24	2.6	29.2
331.61	Gleeson (MJ)	568	- 2	2.2	19.5
1,988.53	Grafton	993	- 30	3.7	11.5
1,845.29	Grainger	250	+ 4½	2.7	71.4
1,400.32	Great Portland	345½	- 74½	3.3	-2.6
1,393.00	Hammons	27½	+ ½	5.4	...
446.92	Harworth Gp	138	+ 1½	1.0	30.1
6.97	Heath (Samuel)	275	...	4.3	8.1
30.59	Highcroft Inv	587½	- 42½	...	-2.5
627.74	Ibstock	160	- 11½	4.3	30.1
826.62	James Halstead	191	- 4	4.3	17.8
37.46	Keller	1290	- 72	3.4	...

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wtdy +/-	Ytd%	P/E	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wtdy +/-	Ytd%	P/E	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wtdy +/-	Ytd%	P/E	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wtdy +/-	Ytd%	P/E	Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wtdy +/-	Ytd%	P/E						
3,693.59	Mediclinic	501	+ 1	...	-1.3	0.79	Bathill Group	1	1/2	...	-1.5	569.15	DRD Gold	651/2	- 1 1/2	...	7.7	2.77	Shuka Minerals	11 1/2	+ 1 1/2	...	-1.6	6.33	Reebuck Food Grp	12 1/2	...	-7.4	4,893.39	LG Electronics	1358 1/2	+ 180.0	2.0	11.3	
1.68	N4 Pharma	1/2	-1.2	15.04	Catalyst Group	71 1/2	+ 1 1/2	37.7	4.0	5.24	ECR Minerals	1/2	...	-1.9	6.03	Sound Energy	1	-1.4	613.30	RPS Group	221	0.01	Location Sciences	1/2	- 134 1/2	...		
291.38	NIOX Group	70 1/2	+ 1/2	1.4	33.4	0.31	Catenae	-0.2	5.20	Empyrean Energy	1/2	...	1.0	12.35	Star Energy	9 1/2	-0.3	3,334.25	RS Group	703 1/2	- 37	3.0	14.1	38.08	MTI Wireless	44 1/2	- 1 1/2	5.5	12.3	
CHF190.1bn	Novartis	CHF93.17	+ 1.43	...	23.2	2.54	DCD Media	100	- 50	...	5.0	4,203.81	Endeavour	1717	+ 36	3.8	...	2.78	Sunrise Resources	-6.5	14.67	RTC Group	100	+ 5	1.0	7.8	33.99	Nanoco Gp	17 1/2	- 1/2	3.9	2.9
5.23	Omega Diags	2 1/2	-1.6	58.04	Ebiqity	42 1/2	- 1	EnQuest	16	+ 1	-1.4	3.22	Tertiary Minerals	1	-0.1	641.57	RWS Hldgs	174	- 2 1/2	6.9	...	141.00	Netcal	85 1/2	...	0.9	27.1	
0.73	Ovoca Bio	1/2	-0.3	1,217.96	Future	1060	+ 19	6.3	11.2	307.48	Eurochem	1	2.83	Thor Mining	2	1.0	21.2	...	210.23	Smiths Group	460	- 2	1.0	21.2	114.65	Northamber	42 1/2	- 1 1/2	1.4	...	
331.00	Oxford Biomedica	331	+ 4	...	-5.1	1,771.23	GlobalData	220	- 8	2.0	57.8	39.39	Eurasia Mining	1/2	...	-2.7	8.39	Europa Oil&Gas	1 1/2	1,904.24	Serco	178	- 4	1.9	9.9	2.22	Online Blockchain	15 1/2	+ 2	...	-2.0	
1.76	PhysicsOne	1 1/2	-3.2	351.72	Hyve Group	120 1/2	248.53	Ferropo	4 1/2	- 5 1/2	0.3	2.50	Tower Resources	-0.6	151.10	Smiths News	61	- 3 1/2	6.6	6.1	144.58	Odor Metrics	110	+ 1 1/2	2.5	25.4	
11.95	Protonic Sciences	4	+ 1/2	197.54	IG Design Grp	201	- 13	-8.9	...	4,565.06	Fresnillo	619 1/2	+ 23 1/2	0.7	24.9	570.15	Tullow Oil	39 1/2	+ 3 1/2	...	-6.5	9,972.82	Smurfit Kappa	3820	- 62	3.3	15.1	0.22	Parity	1/2	-0.3
31,284.07	Reckitt Benckiser	452	+ 40	4.4	14.3	11,463.81	Informa	847 1/2	+ 3 1/2	1.5	...	43.86	GP Exploration	28	...	-2.6	1.02	UK Oil & Gas	-0.1	69.24	Software Circle plc	17 1/2	- 1/2	9.59	Pennant Intl	26	- 1/2	
7.45	RUA Life Sciences	12	- 1 1/2	...	-1.4	3,160.54	ITV	79 1/2	+ 2 1/2	6.4	15.3	10.88	Galentus Gold	9 1/2	- 1 1/2	-0.8	0.82	URU Metals	50	-1.0	48.56	Staffline Gp	33 1/2	- 1 1/2	...	-6.3	1,456.43	Playtech	478	- 2 1/2	
46.96	Sareum Hldgs	43 1/2	+ 8 1/2	...	-7.0	2.15	Jayvino	2 1/2	-0.1	15.55	GMO Resources	5 1/2	- 1 1/2	-9.3	2.14	Vast Res	1/2	-0.1	579.66	Three1	436	- 2 1/2	3.8	10.5	96.33	Pulsar Group	77	+ 3 1/2	
8,659.53	Smith & Neph	990 1/2	+ 11 1/2	3.0	41.9	1.75	Life Company Gp	1/2	-0.1	18.93	Gem Diamonds	13 1/2	+ 1	...	9.99	Victoria Oil&Gas	3 1/2	- 1/2	...	-1.8	32.92	Synectics	185	- 5	1.6	14.4	2,550.92	QinetiQ	447 1/2	+ 3 1/2	1.8	34.9	
1,021.66	Spire Hcare																																		

138.79	Accsys Tech*	58	-	1%	-25%
36,840.51	BASF	14272%	+ 16%
23,655.67	Bayer DM50	24077%	+ 52%	...	-92%
3.22	Biome Tech*	85	-25%
0.45	Bytrol®
4.98	Camb Gid Timber*	6%	-94%
1,364.08	Coats Grp	85%	- 2%	21%	21%
6,339.45	Croda	4540	- 89	23	373%
31.53	Cropcor (James)*	330	- 5	2.1	97%
884.86	Elenoritis	150%	+ 3%	10	40%
6.16	Hardidex*	7%	+ 1%	...	-41%
3,225.11	Johnson Mat	1758	- 26	4	3%
6,881.64	Mondi	1561	- 28	49	182%
18.85	Robinson*	112%	...	4.8	...
5,255.83	DS Smith	381	+ 11%	4.8	11%
5,707.99	Swire Pacific	682%	- 21%	...	-34%
6.19	Symph Environ*	2%	-	...	-26%
474.35	Synthomer	290	- 16	...	-24%
33,004.35	Takeda Pharm	2085%	+ 19%	...	-33%
4.51	Velocys*	1%	-04%
1,121.01	Victrex	1288	- 8	4	182%
88.27	Wynnys Group*	382%	...	4.5	12%
273.14	Zotefams*	562	+ 44	12	30%

383.53	888 Hdggs	85%	-	3	-6.7
296.08	Accesso Tech	730	-	20	55.5
44.85	Best of the Best	530	-	-	5.6
13,692.23	Carnival	1080	+ 14	42	4.6
132.58	Celli	140	+ 2½	18.5	11.8
1,336.81	Dominos Pizza	333	+ ½	3.1	11.6
4,314.25	Entain	675%	- 32	2.6	-4.7
26,454.39	Flutter Ent	14900	- 1090	-	-
119.09	Gaming Realms	40%	+ 1½	25.5	1.5
12.90	Heavittree	265	-	2.0	8.5
7.79	Heavittree	160	-	3.4	5.1
1.22	Hermes Pacific	52%	-	-	-
12,810.13	InterContinental Hotels	700	- 36	15	22.6
6.33	Mineco Gp	½	-	-	-5.3
1,828.75	Mitch & Butlers	308	+ 7	-	-
233.77	On The Beach	140	+ 6	0.6	22.1
386.92	Rank Gp	82%	- 3½	-	-4.5
499.23	Restaurant Gp	64%	-	-	-
19.54	Rotale	63	-	-	-
8.40	Sportech	84	+ 16	-	-
1,327.19	SSP	166%	- 12	2.2	-
1.39	Tasty	⅝	-	-	-0.1
5.76	Tintex	32½	- 12½	-	-1.7
7.729.98	Tui	538	- 11	4.7	-
5.31	Webs Holdings	1½	+ ½	-	-
946.95	Wetherspoon JD	766	- 28	23.5	-6.3
5,362.96	Whitbread	2953	+ 28	3.3	-
627.18	Young & Co - A	1010	+ 22	2.2	21.1
382.52	Young & Co - N/V	616	- 32	3.9	12.6

5.68	Aeorea Comms♦	59½	...	5.0	20.6
29.17	Altitude Group♦	41	+	1½	56.5
13.17	Arcontech Grp♦	98½	-	1½	3.6
663.01	Ascential†	325	-	16½	...
7,330.76	Auto Trader	816½	+	68½	1.0
495.37	Bloomsbury Pub	610	+	70	2.3

◆ AIM company; # Price at suspension;
† Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue;
▼ Ex all; § Capital distribution; * figures
or report awaited; ... No significant data.
Companies in bold are constituents of the
FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav
Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR Data as shown is
for information
purposes only. No offer is made by
Morningstar or this publication

This Pillow Relieves Neck Pain

10/10

"Best Pillow for Neck Pain 2023"
The Telegraph

What if something as
simple as changing
your pillow could take
your pain away?



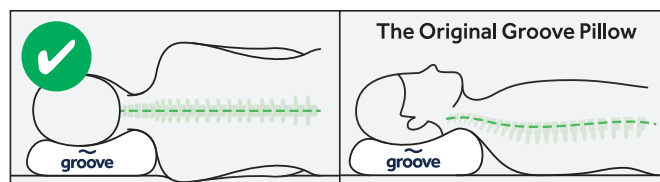
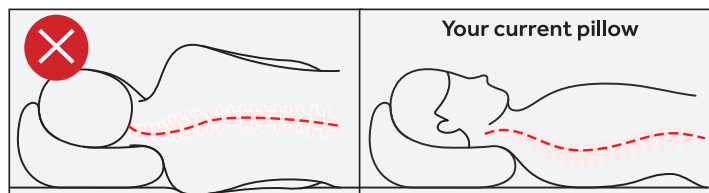
Voted "Best Pillow For
Neck Support 2023"

"Supportive, comfortable
and cooling! Our GHI
panellists were impressed
with the support and
comfort provided for the
upper body whatever the
sleeping style, transforming
each night's sleep!"

The Groove Pillow eliminates neck and upper back pain by correcting your posture while you sleep. Its revolutionary design supports your head and neck and promotes neutral spine alignment – which can lead to a reduction of neck pain overnight.

The Groove Pillow corrects sleep posture

Notice how a normal pillow leaves your spine out of alignment, causing your neck muscles to compensate to support your head. The unique 'dip' design of the Groove Pillow corrects this, leading to a reduction in neck pain and promoting a better night's sleep.



Dr Eric Kelly, Wellspring Chiropractic clinic:

"The thing I like most about the Groove Pillow is that it has this unique dip which helps to support your cervical spine's anatomical curve. Basically this means that your spine remains in proper alignment when you sleep."

Don't take our word for it

The Groove pillow has been subject to mass media acclaim, transforming the way consumers deal with neck pain. It is also **recommended by over 1000 physiotherapy clinics in the UK and USA.** To see all our media coverage and exclusive reader offers, visit online at groovepillows.co.uk

Now **£29.95**

See our full range of offers online



Rated 'Excellent'

★ Trustpilot


groove

0800 048 8009

Call FREE 7 days a week 9am-5pm

groovepillows.co.uk



Michelle Obama's mother ... and White House resident Marian Robinson
Page 44



Register

Rob Burrow

Rugby league star who raised millions for charities researching motor neurone disease after having the condition diagnosed aged 37

Giving a speech while presenting an award to a young player at a Leeds Rhinos club dinner in September, 2019, Rob Burrow tripped over his tongue while trying to say "consistency".

During a family holiday a month earlier his mother noticed that the former rugby league star was less articulate than usual. Colleagues on the Rhinos' coaching staff observed that Burrow was slurring his words and wondered if he had a drinking problem.

His arms started to twitch and during a phone call he was unable to pronounce "solicitor". Burrow assumed that these were temporary snags, perhaps stemming from the stress of work and from moving house, a virus, or side-effects of medication to alleviate chronic pain from old injuries.

But in December 2019, at the age of 37, three days before his son's first birthday and two years after he was part of the Leeds squad that won the Super League Grand Final, he received devastating news. A consultant informed him that he had motor neurone disease (MND) and estimated that he had only one or two years to live. A few weeks later Burrow went public with the diagnosis, inspiring a wave of sympathy. He resolved to surpass the doctor's expectations while remaining an active father and husband. "I wasn't afraid of death," he said. "I was afraid of not making the most of however long I had left."

Although shy and private by nature, and not wishing to be pitied, he became a remarkably successful fundraiser for the fight against the rare and fatal disease, helping to raise millions of pounds

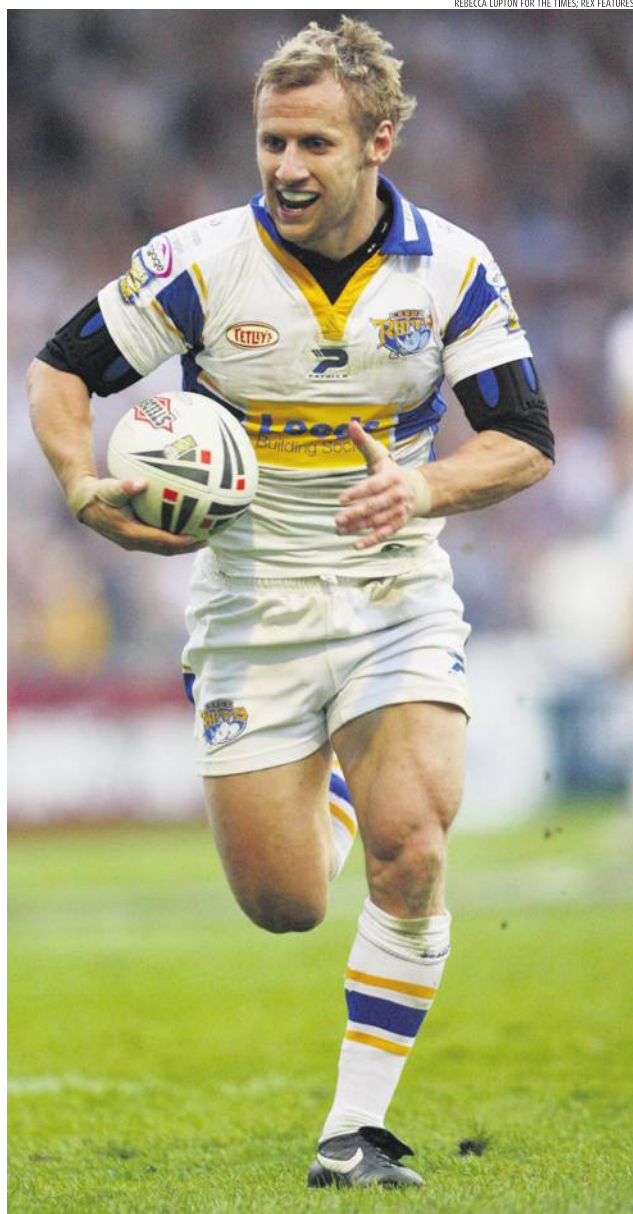
'It tries to rob you of your breath. But it can't sap your spirit'

as the rugby community rallied around him. The pathos of his plight — as well as the bravery, openness and good-natured stoicism with which Burrow and his wife, Lindsey, tackled his illness — touched countless people nationwide whether or not they were familiar with his sporting exploits.

"This was the biggest game of my life. I had always been an underdog, always overcome adversity — that was one of my 'things' as a rugby player," he recalled in his best-selling 2021 autobiography, *Too Many Reasons to Live*. "I'd spent my entire rugby career trying not to show any weakness and I was determined not to show any weakness now."

He made his last appearance in a Rhinos shirt in a testimonial in January 2020 with an emotional cameo at Headingley Stadium. The sold-out crowd gave him a standing ovation and cheered when highlights from his career were shown on the screen. "I'm overwhelmed and humbled," he said.

Yet only a couple of months later he was, as he put it, "a prisoner in my own body". As his health declined, Burrow could no longer walk unaided or feed himself and the disease stole his speech. He had recorded his voice so that he could communicate using an app on his phone and he interacted using eye-gaze technology that tracked his pupils as he scanned a screen. His wife became his full-time carer, carrying him around as



his weight dropped to seven stone.

He was never heavy. Standing 5ft 5in in his studs, Burrow was renowned as the smallest player ever to compete in Super League. "It's been the same since I started playing when I was eight; everyone's always seemed to be a foot taller and a lot heavier," he told *The Sunday Times*. "It never worried me because it's not what my game is about."

Burrow was blessed with the speed and acceleration of a sprinter while his stature gave opponents less of a target when they tried, and often failed, to tackle him. What mattered most was the size of his heart. His relish for the sport drove him to success as a scrum half and hooker for Leeds, where he spent his entire professional career.

Fuelled by half-a-dozen espressos in

the mornings and cans of Red Bull later in the day, and thickset after years of building up his upper-body muscles, the impish Burrow played 493 times for the Rhinos from 2001 to 2017. He scored 198 tries and won eight Super League championships, two Challenge Cups and three World Club Challenge titles. He was twice awarded the Harry Sunderland Trophy, the accolade given to the man of the match in the Super League Grand Final.

Scores were level shortly before half time when Leeds faced St Helens in the 2011 Grand Final but Burrow broke the deadlock with a thrilling individual try. Barrelling through the defensive line on a 50m run, he dipped and jinked past flailing opponents. Later in the game another Burrow burst set up the match-

Rob Burrow received the devastating news of his diagnosis two years after he was part of the Leeds squad that won the Super League Grand Final. His wife, Lindsey, survives him with their three young children



winning try. Leeds won 32-16 and he was the unanimous choice for player of the game despite starting on the bench.

He was unafraid to take on the biggest opponents — indeed, the bulkier they were, the easier it was to evade their cumbersome clutches with a nimble side-step or dip of the head. Avoidance was not always his intention. During one comically mismatched altercation in 2010 he was sent to the sin bin by the referee for flinging his fists at Epalahame Lauaki of Hull FC, a man five inches taller and seven stone heavier. "I swear even the referee was trying to stifle a giggle," Burrow noted.

Burrow also amassed 15 England caps (12 tries) and five appearances for Great Britain (four tries), although injuries interrupted his progress. There were shoulder and knee problems and blows to the head. His size made him especially susceptible to concussive injuries: jarring tackles that would have been chest-high on taller men were liable to hit him at head or neck level.

He estimated that he was knocked unconscious about twenty times during his career and suffered hundreds of minor concussions. While more research is needed to establish any definitive link, a 2022 study of Scottish international rugby union players found that their risk of MND was 15 times higher than for the general population. It was natural for Burrow to wonder: "Did I work my muscles too hard because I was always striving to be the strongest, pound for pound? Or did I take too many bangs to the head?"

Other sportsmen have been struck at a relatively early age with the incurable illness that causes muscles to weaken and waste. The former Rangers footballer Fernando Ricksen (obituary, September 19, 2019) had MND diagnosed in 2013 at the age of 37. The South African rugby union star Joost van der Westhuizen died aged 45 (obituary, February 6, 2017). The former Scotland rugby union international Doddie Weir (obituary, November 28, 2022) revealed his diagnosis in 2017, aged 46, and also became a high-profile MND campaigner. Burrow sought Weir's advice and they became close.

Robert Geoffrey Burrow was born in Pontefract, West Yorkshire, in 1982, to

Irene (née Bateman) and Geoffrey, a sports branch secretary for the GMB union. They survive him. In 2006 he married Lindsey, a physiotherapist who had worked with MND patients. They began dating aged 15 after meeting through a dance school attended by his sisters, Joanne and Claire. Lindsey survives him with their three young children: daughters, Macy and Maya, and a son, Jackson.

Burrow went to Airedale High School but viewed academic work as a distraction from sport. He unofficially signed with Leeds aged 13 before turning professional to the delight of his father, a Leeds season-ticket holder. In his spare time he qualified as a massage therapist. He became a coach with the Rhinos' academy after retiring as a player following Leeds' victory over Castleford Tigers in the 2017 Grand Final and ran a sports massage and physiotherapy business with his wife.

His friend the former Rhinos captain Kevin Sinfield helped Burrow to raise millions of pounds. In 2023 Sinfield pushed his former teammate in his wheelchair along the course of the inaugural Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon, then carried him over the finish line. By the summer of 2023 more than £4 million had been raised towards building a specialist MND care centre in Leeds to be named after Burrow, who was appointed MBE in 2021 and CBE in the 2024 New Year Honours List.

"I was supposed to be Road Runner," he reflected, referring to the cartoon, "not Wile E Coyote. You never know what might fall out of the sky and flatten you or when that might happen. And all you'll want to do is surround yourself with family and friends and make the most of however long you've got left."

He felt that a trial drug slowed the progression of the disease and did not abandon hope of a cure. "First it comes for your voice," he told the BBC. "Then it takes your legs. It tries to rob you of your breath. But it can't sap your spirit."

Rob Burrow CBE, rugby league player and motor neurone disease campaigner, was born on September 26, 1982. He died of MND on June 2, 2024, aged 41

Marian Robinson

Fit, feisty and down to earth mother-in-law of Barack Obama, who lived in the White House and kept the family grounded

The idea of Barack Obama's mother-in-law moving into the White House was a gift to television comedians. David Letterman said the president would be OK negotiating with the Taliban because "he lives with his mother-in-law". Jay Leno quipped: "Joe Biden was right. Hostile forces will test him in the first few months."

Nothing could have been further from the truth. Marian Robinson was the family's secret weapon. Fit, feisty and down to earth, she kept Barack and Michelle Obama grounded and organised, as she had done during the election campaign, taking charge of their daughters Malia and Sasha, then ten and seven. She rode in their armed convoy to school, prepared their meals, helped with their homework and oversaw their ballet practice.

"If somebody's going to be with these kids other than their parents, it better be me," she said. Often she spoiled them. Michelle preferred that her daughters be in bed by 8.30pm after watching no more than an hour of television. "8.30pm? That's ridiculous," their grandmother declared.

After Obama's inauguration in January 2009, Robinson was reluctant to leave her Chicago bungalow for 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. "The White House reminds me of a museum, and it's like, how do you sleep in a museum?" she told *People* magazine. Eventually she was persuaded, making her the first presidential mother-in-law in living memory to live there. "She wasn't completely kicking and screaming, but it was clear that her preference would be to remain in her old life," Michelle said.

Robinson's profile was so low that, unlike the rest of the family, she came

and went as she liked. Obama once told a radio interviewer that she "just walks out the gate and goes over to CVS and starts doing her shopping or whatever". If someone told her that she looked like Michelle's mother, she replied with a disarming smile: "Oh, I get that a lot."

Occasionally she appeared on the world stage. In 2014 she accompanied the family to China and in 2015 she joined them on a visit to London that included tea with the Duke of Sussex. In the White House she avoided the West Wing. "Just show me how to work the washing machine and I'm good," she said. Michelle told how she avoided socialising with Oscar winners and Nobel laureates, adding: "The only guest she made a point of asking to meet was the Pope."

Marian Lois Shields was born on the South Side of Chicago in 1937, the fourth of seven children of Purnell Shields, a carpenter and handyman, and his wife Rebecca (née Jumper), a nursing assistant. Both were of multi-racial ancestry and had settled in Chicago during the Great Migration of the early 20th century, though Purnell was unable to join a union or work for large construction firms because of his skin colour.

She studied to become a teacher before becoming a secretary for the mail-order company Spiegel, a bank and the University of Chicago. In 1960 she married Fraser Robinson, a pump operator for the city's water department. Fraser, who died from multiple sclerosis in 1991, was "another South Sider with a boxer's strength and jazz lover's cool", the family said. Their children, Craig and Michelle, were raised in a cramped, second-floor apartment. Both went to Ivy league



Marian Robinson was the Obamas' secret weapon in the White House

ANALIA GARELLI/EPA

universities and survive her. Michelle recalled her mother's strong will: "She once chewed out a police officer who had accused Craig of stealing a bike, demanding that the adult apologise to her son." Nothing was off limits in family conversations. "She always took us seriously, carefully considering what we had to say and responding with thoughtful questions, and plenty of encouragement," Michelle said. Such frankness backfired when Craig scored so well in a school sex education test that his concerned teachers summoned his mother for a meeting.

When Michelle started high school, Robinson returned to the bank. She also kept fit and in her early sixties collected gold and silver medals in the 50 and 100-yard dash at the Illinois Senior Olympics. She gave up after an injury slowed her down. "You don't run just to be running, you run to win," she told Oprah Winfrey in 2007.

As the Obamas' political ambitions grew, so did her role. For the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado, she narrated *South Side Girl*, a biographical film introducing Michelle. On election night she was on stage in Grant Park, Chicago, for Barack's victory speech.

When the Obamas left the White House in January 2017 Robinson returned to Chicago, slipping effortlessly back into her former life of anonymity. In an essay for *Esquire* magazine about her son-in-law's 2012 re-election campaign, she wrote of Washington: "My job here is the easiest one of all: I just get to be grandma."

Marian Robinson, secretary, was born on July 29, 1937. She died of undisclosed causes on May 31, 2024, aged 86

Belinda Bellville

Formidable couturier credited with transforming Lady Diana Spencer from dowdy nursery teacher's assistant into fashion icon

Late on a Friday afternoon in February 1981, a few days before the official photoshoot that would announce her engagement to Prince Charles, 19-year-old Lady Diana Spencer paid a visit to Belinda Sassoon in Knightsbridge, the couturier favoured by the British aristocracy.

Nervously fingering the satin gowns, she was met by an imperious French vendeuse who, failing to recognise her, suggested she go next door to Harrods because they were closing. The cobalt-blue skirt set that she would wear beside Charles several days later had, to Belinda Bellville and David Sassoon's horror, been hurriedly picked out from a rack at the department store.

They called Diana to apologise and her mother, Frances Shand Kydd, a regular client, persuaded her to return. Bellville and Sassoon designed Diana's wedding trousseau, her "going away" outfit — a peach silk suit with a white chiffon collar — and the blue-and-white sailor's dress that she wore for her first official photograph with Queen Elizabeth II.

Diana was wholly uninterested in fashion and over the next 12 years they helped to morph her wardrobe from thick woollen cardigans and billowing skirts to elegant gowns and silk suits. Her taste became romantic bows, lace and ruffles; her favourite item was a silk dress in a multicoloured print that she called her "caring dress" because she wore to visit orphanages or hospitals.

Bellville in particular prioritised discretion over publicity and referred to Diana in the appointments book as "Miss Buckingham". Such intimate knowledge of the vagaries of the upper



Belinda Bellville: 'top people's darling'

classes came naturally to her. A former debutante and, in Sassoon's words, "a very intimidating designer", Bellville had been dressing socialites and royals, including Princess Margaret and the future Queen Camilla, since 1953, when she opened her boutique Bellville et Cie in Knightsbridge.

By the time she hired Sassoon as her assistant five years later she was the designer of choice among the cream of British society, dubbed "Belinda Bellville, the top people's darling" by the press. Her name had become synonymous with elegant evening wear: plush cocktail dresses in chiffon, organza and tulle, for instance, or wedding gowns of duchesse satin.

They made an endearing and rather curious pair. Bellville was "forever correcting" Sassoon, a young designer fresh out of art school who was more in touch with modern trends. She understood the lifestyles of the women they

dressed, teaching him the tricks of the trade such as how to make plunging necklines work with bras. "Bellville understood that Cheltenham racecourse is a draughty place," observed *The Times*, "and would always know to within an inch how much décolletage a duchess would stand at dinner." Sassoon in turn brought in "new money" clients and a grasp of Sixties styles. "I taught her to do the twist, too," he said.

Although perhaps the most notable, Diana was not the only member of the royal family they dressed. Their first visit to Buckingham Palace had been in 1958 to oversee the fitting of a bridesmaid's dress for eight-year-old Princess Anne. In 1960 they arrived at Kensington Palace for a fitting with Princess Margaret shortly after her marriage to Lord Snowdon in 1960. She opened the door in a burgundy Yves Saint Laurent velvet suit covered with a layer of plastic, paintbrush in hand (she was endeavouring to live a "normal life").

As their royal clientele blossomed, so too did the celebrities: in the Sixties they dressed Jackie Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor ("always late but charming"), Joan Collins and Audrey Hepburn ("polite and effortless"). In 1970, by which time Madonna, Jerry Hall, Helen Mirren and Ivana Trump had been added to the list, they had renamed the business Bellville Sassoon.

The eldest of three, Belinda Bellville was born in Leicestershire in 1930 to Anthony, a scion of Keen's mustard dynasty, and Audrey (née Kidston). Cath Kidston was Belinda's cousin. "I used to go and stay with her and watch her go out to work," Kidston said. "She was fun, creative and interested in

everything. She was someone I could aspire to be like."

Belinda's parents moved in smart circles and were keen on horses, racing cars and sailing. Their yacht *Maheleh*, a converted Thames barge that they sailed from their home on the Isle of Wight, came complete with a grand piano and an iron bath.

Bellville's interest in fashion stemmed mostly from her grandfather, Cuckoo Leith, who ran a dress shop on Savile Row. During the war she made garments out of old curtains with her mother; her father joined the Royal Navy Reserve and had the deck of the *Maheleh* cast in concrete so that he could stand on it and shoot at doodlebugs. The rest of the family spent the war in relative peace. They moved to a large house on the River Wye, riding Welsh ponies in the mountains and fishing for salmon.

Belinda was presented at court in 1947, after a brief spell at Miss Faunce's school at Wimborne St Giles in Dorset. In 1952 she married David Whately, a partner in a company that sold phones and abstract sculptures for advertising. He was later a financier.

She was determined to pursue a career in fashion and worked as an administrative assistant for photographers and magazines and at a boutique on Bond Street before founding Bellville et Cie, in partnership with Sydna Scott, who had another shop in Knightsbridge. "The space was so small it had an outside loo and I used to visit the neighbouring pub to design and sketch the dresses," Bellville recalled. She bankrolled the project through £500 she had raised from selling the

Citroën car her brother Jeremy had given her as a wedding present.

Bellville's first show, at Leith's house in Manchester Square, was a success and she moved the premises to 14 Motcomb Street in Belgravia, employing 40 people. She hired Sassoon after watching his final show at the Royal College of Art and he became a partner in 1970.

The early focus of Bellville et Cie was on wedding dresses, which accounted for more than a quarter of their Sixties output. By the end of the decade Tatler reported that they had designed more society wedding dresses than any other couturier over the past 30 years. Yet by the Eighties the concept of luxury, made-to-measure clothes was beginning to lose its allure as customers had more money but less time to spend it. When Bellville retired in 1982 Sassoon took over the company.

Bellville remained a consultant but moved with her family to Shaftesbury, Dorset, and then north Norfolk in 2001. Her husband died in 2008; she is survived by three daughters.

In 2017, six years after the company went into liquidation, Sassoon recalled in an interview with the *Daily Mail* that in the early years Bellville would scold him when he mentioned "Ascot". "She told me very severely that As-cot, as I'd pronounced it, was a water heater," he said. "I can hear her now: 'And we don't say navy, David, it's navy blue!'"

Belinda Bellville, fashion designer, was born on March 29, 1930. She died on May 5, 2024, aged 94

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Law Report

Protections for strikers not compatible with Convention rights

Supreme Court
Published on June 3, 2024

Secretary of State for Business
and Trade v Mercer

Before Lord Lloyd-Jones, Lord Hamblen,
Lord Burrows, Lord Richards and Lady
Simler
[2024] UKSC 12
Judgment April 17, 2024

Section 146 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 was incompatible with article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, insofar as it failed to provide any protection against sanctions, short of dismissal, intended to deter or penalise trade union members from taking part in lawful strike action organised by their trade union.

The Supreme Court so declared in allowing an appeal by the claimant, Fiona Mercer, against the refusal by the Court of Appeal (Lord Burnett of Maldon, Chief Justice, Lord Justice Bean and Lord Justice Singh) (sub nom *Mercer v Alternative Future Group Ltd* [2022] ICR 1034) to make a declaration to that effect when allowing an appeal by the intervener, the Secretary of State for Business and Trade, against the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Choudhury, President) ([2021] ICR 1598) and restoring the decision of the employment tribunal (Employment Judge Franey) of May 4, 2020, on a preliminary issue in the claimant's complaint against the employers, Alternative Future Group Ltd and Ian Pritchard.

Section 146 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 pro-

vided:

"(1) A worker has the right not to be subjected to any detriment as an individual by any act ... by his employer ... for the sole or main purpose of ... (b) preventing or deterring him from taking part in the activities of an independent trade union at an appropriate time, or penalising him for doing so ...

"(2) In subsection (1), 'an appropriate time' means — (a) a time outside the worker's working hours, or (b) a time within his working hours ... with ... consent given by his employer."

Michael Ford KC, Stuart Britten and Alan Bogg for the claimant; **Daniel Stilitz KC and Hannah Slarks** for the Secretary of State.

LADY SIMLER, with whom the other members of the court agreed, said that employees who were dismissed for taking part in lawful strike action had some statutory remedies for unfair dismissal but there was no express statutory (or other) protection in domestic law against action short of dismissal for employees, or indeed workers who participated in lawful strike action.

The question was whether section 146 of the 1992 Act could properly be interpreted as extending to provide such protection and, if not, what was the consequence.

The claimant was employed as a support worker in the care sector. As a Unison workplace representative she was involved in planning and took part in lawful strike action at her workplace. She was suspended by her employer.

During her suspension she received normal pay but received nothing for the overtime she would normally have worked. The effect, if not the purpose, of the suspension was also to remove her from the workplace while the industrial action was in progress.

She complained that the decision to suspend her was taken for the sole or main purpose of preventing or deterring her from taking part in the activities of an independent trade union "at an appropriate time" or penalising her for having done so.

As a matter of ordinary domestic construction, section 146 had been interpreted as not providing protection from detriment short of dismissal to workers engaged in lawful strike action.

That was because the words "at an appropriate time" were defined to exclude working time (save where the employer had consented to the activities in question) so that they limited the protection available to activities which were outside working time and/or not inconsistent with the employees' performance of their primary duties to their employer. That conclusion was reinforced by considering the wider scheme of the 1992 Act.

On ordinary principles of statutory interpretation, section 146 did not provide protection against detriment short of dismissal for workers taking part in industrial action.

It was therefore necessary to consider whether the absence of such protection was compatible with article 11 of the Convention, which protected the right to freedom of association. The jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights showed that, although the right to strike was protected by article 11, it was not a core right, nor was it absolute.

The present case concerned the state's positive obligations as regulator of relationships between private employers and workers. States were afforded a wide margin of appreciation in that context given the sensitive social and political issues involved. The state's positive obligations under article 11 did

not require it to confer universal protection in all circumstances to all workers against any detriment (however slight) intended to dissuade or penalise them from participating in a lawful strike.

However, it did not follow that the state had no positive obligations at all. The legislative scheme had to strike a fair balance between the competing interests at stake and any provision of the scheme that restricted the protection of article 11 rights had to be justified, recognising the margin of appreciation to be accorded to the state.

The right of an employer to impose any sanction at all short of dismissal for participation in lawful industrial action nullified the right to take lawful strike action. If employees could only take strike action by exposing themselves to detrimental treatment, the right dissolved. Seen in that way, section 146 both encouraged and legitimised unfair and unreasonable conduct by employers.

Had there been legislation addressing action short of dismissal, it might have been possible to say that a fair balance had been struck by parliament given the wider margin of appreciation to be applied. However, the failure to provide any such legislative protection at all put the United Kingdom in breach of its positive obligation to secure effective enjoyment of the right to participate in a lawful strike that was protected by article 11.

It was, therefore, necessary to consider whether a compliant construction of section 146 was possible within the meaning of section 3 of the Human Rights Act 1998. Section 3 required that, so far as it was possible to do so, primary legislation had to be read and given effect in a way which was compatible with rights guaranteed under the Convention. However, it did not enable the court to change the substance of a provision from one where it said one thing into one that said the opposite.

A Convention-compatible interpretation of section 146 was not possible and would amount to impermissible judicial legislation rather than interpretation. There was not a single, ob-

vious legislative solution that would ensure compliance with article 11 while at the same time maintaining an appropriate balance between the competing rights of employers and their workers in such a politically and socially sensitive context.

Having reached that conclusion, the final question was whether to make a declaration of incompatibility under section 4 of the 1998 Act. The Court of Appeal had concluded that it would not be appropriate to grant a declaration of incompatibility because there was a lacuna in the law rather than a specific statutory provision which was incompatible with article 11.

However, section 146 of the 1992 Act was the only provision which limited the common law in the present context and had the implicit effect of legitimising sanctions short of dismissal imposed for participation in a lawful strike, thereby putting the UK in breach of article 11. That was what was inherently objectionable in the terms of section 146 as it stood.

On the assumed facts, the claimant had no means of legal redress in domestic law for the detriments to which she had been subjected. The sole means of vindicating her article 11 right in the domestic courts or tribunals was blocked by the conventional interpretation given to section 146.

The court was not obliged to make a declaration of incompatibility. There might be circumstances where, despite a conclusion of incompatibility, it was not appropriate to exercise that power. However, the present was not such a case. The ultimate legislative solution to the problem might call for inquiry. Questions of policy would have to be addressed and evaluated, their practical ramifications considered and a fair balance struck between all the competing interests at stake.

However, the existence of policy choices in the means of giving effect to the lawful strike rights protected by article 11 was a reason in favour of making a declaration of incompatibility, not refusing one.

Solicitors: **Unison Legal Services; Treasury Solicitor.**

Births, Marriages and Deaths

To book a Birth, Marriage or Death announcement in the Register, visit newsukadvertising.co.uk for help, please call 020 7782 7553 or email BMDs@thetimes.co.uk

HOW lovely is your dwelling-place, LORD Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Psalm 84:1-2 (NIV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

WEBB on 3rd May 2024 to Jessica (née Ashby) and Peter, a son, Leo Frederic.

Marriages

MR M. W. BOLTER AND MRS L. O. BOLTER-BOOTH

The marriage took place on Saturday 1st June 2024 at Winchester Cathedral between Mr Michael Warren Bolter and Mrs Lauren Olivia Bolter-Booth. Family and friends celebrated with the couple at the University of Winchester, where they first met.

Deaths

BRAITHWAITE (PARROTT) Gisela, widow of Lt Colonel Godfrey F. Parrott and subsequently Guy Braithwaite, died on 25th May. Funeral service at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Eilesborough, Buckinghamshire on 20th June at 11.00am. No flowers by request.

ANDERSON Murray G. C. passed away peacefully on 20th May 2024, aged 74. Beloved husband of Jean and loving father of Jamie. Formerly a company secretary with British American Tobacco. Funeral service to be held at Randal's Park Crematorium, Leatherhead on Thursday 20th June at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations to Medecins Sans Frontieres.

QUINE Nicholas Joseph died peacefully surrounded by his family on 15th May 2024, aged 87. He was much loved by his wife Lisa, two children Nigel and Georgina, and six grandchildren — Daisy, Charlie, Freddie, Kitty, Bonny and Maggy. A private family funeral will be followed by a celebration of Nick's life at a later date in 2024. He will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Birthdays

OMD 90 Birthday wishes to Owen Davies from his children. Born in south Wales, now in southwest London. Husband, son, brother, father, grandfather and friend to many. With all our love, always.

Court Circular



Sandringham, Norfolk
2nd June, 2024
Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.
The Reverend Canon Dr Paul Williams preached the Sermon.

THE TIMES

A new podcast looking back on the remarkable lives that have shaped our times

Join Anna Temkin, deputy obituaries editor of The Times, every week and discover endlessly fascinating stories.

Listen to Your History for free via the QR code below, on Apple Podcasts, Spotify or wherever you get your podcasts.



Legal Notices

TOPLAND (NO. 14) LIMITED
Company Number: 08842021
TOPLAND THAMES LIMITED
Company Number: 0677402
TOPLAND (SUNDERLAND WATERSIDE) LIMITED
Company Number: 04163500
TOPLAND WEST LIMITED
Company Number: 03915417
(All In Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
Principal Trading Address (All) 105 Wigmore Street, 7th Floor, London, W1U 1QY
Sharon Bloomfield and Malcolm Cohen of BDO LLP, 55 Baker Street, London, W1U 7EU were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Companies on 22 May 2024.
Creditors of the Companies are required, on or before the 9 July 2024 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors (if any) to the Joint Liquidators, and, if so required by notice, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice.
Notes: Please note that these are solvent liquidations. The directors of the Companies have made a declaration of solvency and it is expected that all creditors will be paid in full.
Further details contact: Pauline Durrant, Email: Pauline.Durrant@bdo.co.uk, Tel: 0207 486 5888.

HIGH SPEED TWO (HS2) LIMITED NOTICE OF HIGH COURT INJUNCTION

TAKE NOTICE THAT:

On 24 May 2024 the High Court made an Order continuing an injunction to restrain unlawful trespass on and obstruction of access to land on the route of Phase One of the HS2 Scheme.

A copy of the Order can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6655dd448f90ef31c23ebb35/181_Injunction_Order_dated_24_May_2024.pdf

Copies of the documents relating to the application can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/hs2-route-wide-injunction-proceedings>

THE NO-FLY MAIDEN 2024/25

4 DAY FLASH SALE

IN CELEBRATION OF QUEEN ANNE'S NAMING CEREMONY

TOP PARTNER FOR



CANARY ISLANDS

14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 3RD NOVEMBER,
1ST & 22ND DECEMBER 2024

Embark the brand new *Queen Anne*

and depart Southampton

- Funchal, Madeira (overnight)

- Santa Cruz, La Palma - Santa Cruz, Tenerife - Las

Palmas, Gran Canaria - Arrecife, Lanzarote - Lisbon,

Portugal - Arrive in Southampton

Itinerary based on 1st December 2024 departure

YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES

STATEROOM/SUITE	3 RD NOV 2024 FARE FROM (PP)	1 ST DEC 2024 FARE FROM (PP)	22 ND DEC 2024 FARE FROM (PP)
BRITANNIA RESTAURANT			
Inside	£1,399	£1,399	£2,229
Oceanview	SOLD OUT	£1,849	SOLD OUT
Balcony	£2,449	£2,049	£4,369
Club Balcony	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT

PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL

Princess Suite	£3,729	SOLD OUT	SOLD OUT
----------------	--------	----------	----------

Solo fares are available from £2,399

LAST CABINS
REMAINING

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN

14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 17TH NOVEMBER 2024

Embark the brand new *Queen Anne*

and depart Southampton -

Seville (from Cádiz), Spain -

Cartagena, Spain - Valencia,

Spain - Granada (from

Málaga), Spain - Gibraltar

- Lisbon, Portugal - Arrive in

Southampton



YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES

STATEROOM/SUITE	GRADE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
BRITANNIA RESTAURANT			
Inside	IE	£1,349	£1,199
Oceanview	EB	£1,669	£1,649
Balcony	BD	£1,839	£1,799
Club Balcony	A1	£2,399	£2,299

PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL

Princess Suite (1 left!)	P1	£3,409	£3,299
--------------------------	----	--------	--------

Solo fares are available from £2,069

NORWEGIAN FJORDS

7 NIGHTS DEPARTING 11TH MAY 2025

Embark the brand new *Queen Anne*

and depart Southampton -

Stavanger, Norway - Alesund,

Norway - Olden, Norway

- Cruise by Innvikfjorden

- Cruise by Nordfjord -

Haugesund, Norway -

Arrive in Southampton



YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES

STATEROOM/SUITE	GRADE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
BRITANNIA RESTAURANT			
Inside	IF	£979	£969
Oceanview	EC	£1,099	£1,089
Balcony	DC	£1,299	£1,269
Club Balcony	A2	£1,899	£1,859

PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL

Princess Suite	P2	£2,699	£2,619
Penthouse Suite (1 left!)	Q4	£4,249	£4,119
Master Suite (1 left!)	Q2	£6,999	£6,789

Solo fares are available from £1,659

GREEK ISLES & TURKEY

19 NIGHTS DEPARTING 7TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Embark the brand new *Queen Anne*

and depart Southampton -

Seville (from Cádiz), Spain -

Heraklion, Greece - Ephesus

(from Kuşadası), Turkey -

Athens (from Piraeus), Greece

- Santorini, Greece - Messina,

Italy - Granada (from Málaga),

Spain - Arrive in Southampton



YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES

STATEROOM/SUITE	GRADE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
BRITANNIA RESTAURANT			
Inside	IF	£2,299	£2,269
Oceanview	EC	£2,849	£2,819
Balcony	DC	£3,799	£3,719
Club Balcony	A2	£5,499	£5,389

PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL

Princess Suite	P2	£8,499	£8,239
Queens Suite	Q6	£10,999	£10,669

ALL HIGHER SUITES ARE SOLD OUT

Solo fares are available from £3,919

YOUR FREE CHAMPAGNE BREAKFAST⁺⁺

To celebrate the arrival of *Queen Anne*, Cunard's fourth ship in their fleet, guests are invited to enjoy a free Champagne breakfast. Whether fluffy, Buttermilk Pancakes sound like the ultimate treat, or rich and creamy poached Lobster Benedict is more your style, there's nothing quite like a Cunard Champagne Breakfast. Once you're on board, simply choose which day you'd like your Champagne Breakfast and order using the room service card you'll find in your suite or stateroom⁺⁺.



WHAT'S INCLUDED
IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS
EXCLUSIVE FLASH SALE

EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS
OF UP TO £660[±]

FULL-BOARD LUXURY CRUISING
FROM ONLY £85^{PP} PER NIGHT

COMPLIMENTARY
ON BOARD SPEND OF UP TO \$1,230^{*}

OR

COMPLIMENTARY
CAR PARKING[#] OR COACH TRANSFERS

SAIL ON BOARD THE BRAND NEW
QUEEN ANNE

EARN UP TO 21,338 EXCLUSIVE
CRUISE MILES[®] WORTH £213
TOWARDS YOUR NEXT BOOKING^{††}



www.rolcruise.co.uk

TRAVEL WITH
CONFIDENCE

Agent to ATOL Holder
Cunard £294

ABTA
ABTA No F9255

CALL ONE OF OUR
CRUISE SPECIALISTS FREE ON

0808 258 0012

QUOTE OFFER REF 635481

OPEN 7 DAYS
8:30AM - 8PM

Trustpilot
★★★★★
June 2024

ROL
CRUISE

Fares are based on two adults sharing, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offers apply to new bookings only. Some ports may require a tender. ±Savings are based on two adults sharing. *On board spend is per stateroom/suite and is tiered depending on grade booked. ++Cunard T&C's apply. Champagne breakfast offer is applicable to bookings made by 6th June 2025, for 2025 voyages of 7 nights or more. #Car parking is based on one space for the duration of the cruise. ††Cruise Miles[®] T&C's apply. Cunard T&C's apply. E&OE

Today A dry day for most with hazy sunny spells, patchy rain in central and northern parts. Max 21C (70F), min 7C (45F)

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



A spider new to science was recently discovered at the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus in Cornwall. *Anasaitis milesae*, a harmless jumping spider with a tiny body and big eyes, possibly came to the UK from the Caribbean, where its closest relatives live but how it travelled to Cornwall is a bit of a mystery.

Dramatic changes are happening in the numbers and species of spiders in the UK. Helen Smith, conservation officer for the British Arachnological Society, explained: "More species are arriving in the UK and now becoming established because of globalisation with the movements of goods and people and our warmer climate."

The false wolf spider is a large arachnid that came from the Mediterranean and was first spotted in the UK in 2008. It has now become established in homes around London. Another arrival from the Mediterranean is the green-fanged tube web spider that was first spotted in about 1900 on the south coast of England, but over the past 20 to 30 years has spread rapidly across the southeast as the climate becomes warmer.

Britain's native spiders are also on the move. The beautiful cricket bat spider is named after the marking on its back, and has been rapidly pushing northwards through southern England and south Wales over the past several years.

Native spiders adapted to cold mountain climates have become victims of the increasing temperatures. The Scottish mountain spider and Alpine bear spider in the Scottish Highlands are classified as vulnerable to extinction and in the Welsh mountains *Micraia alpina* is teetering on the edge of extinction.

Climate change is also hurting rare native species in wetlands where spiders are challenged by the increasing threat of droughts and rising sea levels, and heathland spiders are facing the increasing threat of wildfires in hot dry weather conditions.

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675

8am to 5pm daily (calls are charged at £1.55 plus network extras)

WeatherQuest
weatherquest.co.uk

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, ss=sun, t=thunder
*previous day **data not available

	Temp C	Rain mm	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	18	PC	7.9
Aberporth	14	S	0.0
Anglesey	14	PC	0.0
Aviemore	18	C	0.0
Barnstaple	20	S	0.0
Belfast	19	S	0.0
Birmingham	19	S	0.0
Bournemouth	20	S	0.0
Bridlington	16	S	0.0
Bristol	19	S	0.0
Cambridge	16	S	0.0
Cardiff	18	S	0.0
Edinburgh	16	PC	0.0
Exeter	19	S	0.0
Glasgow	15	C	0.0
Hereford	20	S	0.0
Hertsmere	18	PC	0.0
Ipswich	17	R	0.0
Isle of Man	14	S	0.0
Isle of Wight	20	PC	0.0
Jersey	16	PC	0.0
Kew	16	PC	0.0
Kinross	18	PC	0.0
Leeds	15	PC	0.0
Lerwick	12	D	0.0
Leuchars	18	S	0.0
Lincoln	18	S	0.0
Liverpool	14	C	0.0
London	20	S	0.0
Lyneham	19	S	0.0
Manchester	17	PC	0.0
Margate	15	C	0.0
Milford Haven	19	S	0.0
Newcastle	16	PC	0.0
Nottingham	19	S	0.0
Orkney	15	C	0.0
Oxford	19	R	0.0
Plymouth	18	S	0.0
Portland	15	S	0.0
Scilly, St Mary's	16	S	0.0
Shoreham	19	PC	0.0
Shrewsbury	18	S	0.0
Snowdonia	16	S	0.0
Southend	17	C	0.0
South Uist	13	C	0.0
Stornoway	14	D	0.0
Tiree	13	C	0.0
Whitehaven	16	PC	0.0
Wick	18	C	0.0
Yeovilton	19	S	0.0

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

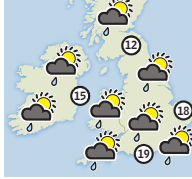
Alicante	22	PC	Madeira	21	PC
Amsterdam	16	B	Madrid	24	PC
Alghero	31	S	Malaga	23	PC
Auckland	18	B	Mallorca	24	PC
Bahrain	36	S	Malta	25	PC
Bangkok	33	PC	Melbourne	12	B
Barbados	30	B	Mexico City	30	S
Barcelona	21	PC	Miami	30	B
Beijing	32	S	Milan	24	S
Beirut	29	S	Mombasa	31	PC
Belgrade	27	S	Montreal	24	B
Berlin	24	PC	Moscow	25	PC
Bermuda	24	PC	Mumbai	34	SH
Bordeaux	17	C	Munich	15	B
Brussels	15	B	Nairobi	24	B
Bucharest	22	S	Naples	22	B
Budapest	29	S	New Orleans	33	T
Buenos Aires	20	S	New York	27	PC
Cairo	34	S	Nice	21	PC
Calcutta	34	PC	Nicosia	29	S
Canberra	12	DU	Oslo	22	PC
Cape Town	18	PC	Paris	16	B
Chicago	17	R	Perth	17	SH
Copenhagen	25	S	Prague	17	T
Corfu	31	PC	Reykjavik	9	B
Delhi	41	S	Riga	23	PC
Dubai	41	S	Rio de Janeiro	25	PC
Dublin	17	S	Riyadh	41	S
Faro	24	S	Rome	17	PC
Florence	24	PC	San Francisco	17	PC
Frankfurt	18	B	Santiago	17	S
Geneva	15	SH	Sao Paulo	20	S
Gibraltar	22	PC	Seoul	24	S
Helsinki	22	SH	Seychelles	31	PC
Hong Kong	30	PC	Singapore	30	PC
Honolulu	28	PC	St Petersburg	25	B
Istanbul	26	S	Stockholm	21	S
Jerusalem	31	S	Sydney	16	B
Johannesburg	18	S	Taipei	31	S
Kuala Lumpur	31	PC	Tenerife	23	PC
Kyiv	18	SH	Tokyo	22	B
Lanzarote	24	PC	Vancouver	15	C
Las Palmas	26	PC	Venice	23	PC
Lima	17	B	Vienna	21	PC
Lisbon	26	S	Warsaw	23	B
Los Angeles	18	DU	Washington	28	B
Luxor	39	S	Zurich	16	B

Five days ahead

Mainly dry and sunny in southern Britain, patchy cloud and outbreaks of rain elsewhere

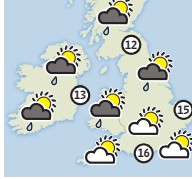
Tomorrow

Bright spells and showery outbreaks of rain, heaviest and most widespread across central and northern Britain through the afternoon.
Max 19C, min 3C



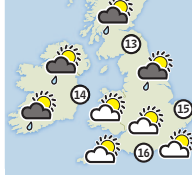
Wednesday

A dry day with sunny intervals across southern England. Patchy cloud and spells of rain elsewhere, heaviest across Scotland by the afternoon.
Max 16C, min 3C



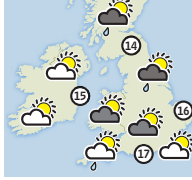
Thursday

Staying largely dry with sunny spells across southern England and Wales. Bright periods and persistent rain elsewhere, heaviest in the west.
Max 16C, min 4C



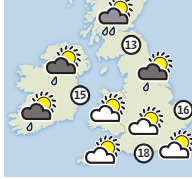
Friday

A day of patchy cloud and rain across Scotland and northern England. Mainly dry elsewhere with sunny intervals and one or two showers.
Max 17C, min 4C



Saturday

Bright intervals and heavy spells of rain and showers across Ireland and northern Britain. Mostly dry with sunny periods elsewhere.
Max 18C, min 4C



The Times weather page is provided by **WeatherQuest**

Wind speed

34 (mph)

Temperature

28 (degrees C)

Sea state

Calm

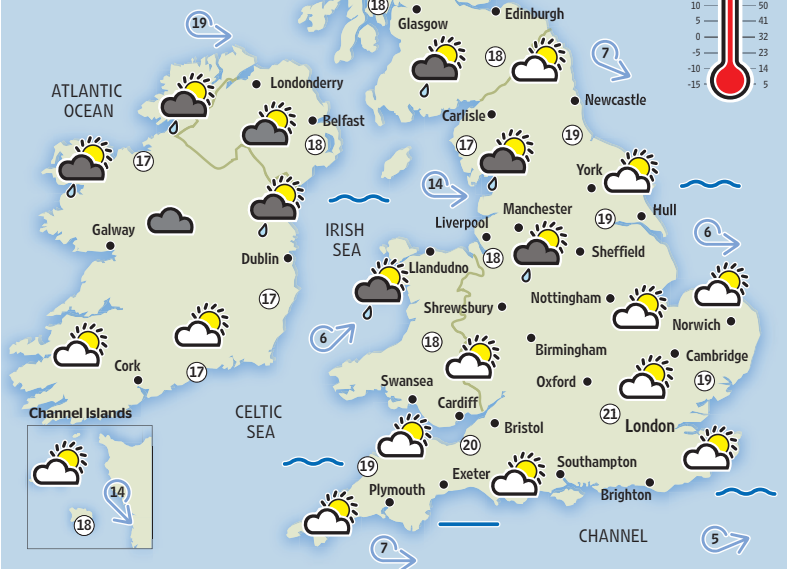
Slight

Moderate

Rough

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Sunday there were 14 flood alerts and no warnings in England and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales and Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk



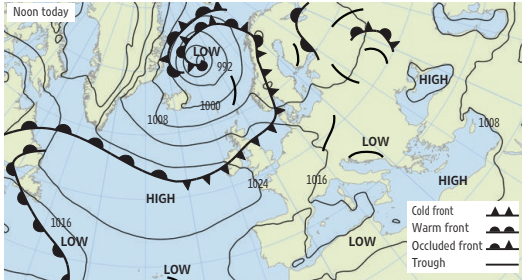
General situation: Patchy cloud and a little rain in central and northern areas, mostly dry and sunny elsewhere. **London, E Anglia, Cen S Eng, E Mids, SE Eng, E Eng, SW Eng, S Wales, Channel Is:** A largely dry day with sunny periods and a chance of the odd isolated shower through the afternoon. Light to moderate west to northwesterly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 9C (48F). **NW Scotland, NE Scotland, N Isles:** Patchy cloud and scattered showers,

heaviest and most frequent through the afternoon. Moderate to fresh west to southwesterly winds. Maximum 17C (63F), minimum 7C (45F). **SW Scotland, Lake District, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, W Mids, N Wales, IoM:** Bright intervals and a few outbreaks of rain, most widespread through the morning. Light to moderate west to northwesterly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 9C (48F). **Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** A mainly dry day with sunny intervals in the

south. Bright periods and patchy rain elsewhere, most widespread through the morning. Light to moderate west to northwesterly winds. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 9C (48F). **Edinburgh and Dundee, Cen Highland, Moray Firth, Aberdeen, Argyll, NE Eng, Glasgow, Borders:** A dry day with lengthy spells of sunshine, perhaps turning a little hazy through the afternoon. Light to moderate westerly winds, fresh over the hills. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 7C (45F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres		
Today	HT	LT
Aberdeen	11:23 3.9	---:--
Avonmouth	05:01 11.7	17:33 11.8
Belfast	09:06 3.3	21:40 3.2
Cardiff	04:48 11.1	17:18 11.1
Devonport	03:29 5.0	16:06 4.9
Dover	09:20 6.0	21:38 6.3
Dublin	09:30 3.9	22:12 3.8
Falmouth	02:59 4.7	15:36 4.6
Greenock	10:25 3.2	22:58 3.1
Harwich	09:45 3.7	21:58 3.7
Holyhead	08:15 5.2	20:57 5.1
Hull	04:20 6.6	16:23 7.0
Leith	---:--	---:-- 12:36 5.2
Liverpool	09:02 8.7	21:39 8.5
London Bridge	11:50 6.5	---:--
Lowestoft	07:51 2.3	19:23 2.4
Milford Haven	04:01 6.3	16:33 6.2
Morcambe	09:15 8.7	21:51 8.5
Newhaven	09:04 6.0	21:31 6.3
Newquay	02:57 6.2	15:28 6.2
Oban	04:01 3.6	16:23 3.3
Penzance	02:29 5.0	15:03 4.9
Portsmouth	09:20 4.3	21:54 4.6
Shoreham	09:17 5.5	21:46 5.9
Southampton	08:27 4.0	20:59 4.3
Swansea	04:08 8.5	16:38 8.5
Tees	01:32 4.9	13:39 5.2
Weymouth	04:27 1.7	17:07 1.7



Synoptic situation

A cold front associated with a low-pressure system to the west of Scandinavia will bring bright periods and some patchy rain to the north of Ireland and parts of central Britain throughout the day, particularly in the morning. A trough will bring patchy cloud and a few showers into northern Scotland, heaviest and most frequent by the afternoon.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday
Warmest: Pershore, 24.0C
Coldest: Aonach Mor, 0.9C
Wettest: Harris Quinish, Western Isles, 3.0mm
Sunniest: Boulmer, Northumberland, 15.4hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 04:46
Sun sets: 21:09
Moon rises: 02:53
Moon sets: 17:44
New Moon: June 6

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	22:24-03:48
Belfast	22:21-04:21
Birmingham	21:52-04:28
Cardiff	21:52-04:18
Exeter	21:50-04:34
Glasgow	22:23-04:06
Liverpool	22:02-04:17
London	21:40-04:16
Manchester	21:59-04:13
Newcastle	22:06-04:01
Norwich	21:40-04:04
Penzance	21:55-04:45
Sheffield	21:56-04:11

Classical Spain

WITH AN EXPERIENCED AND INSIGHTFUL TOUR MANAGER

SEVEN DAYS FROM £899 PER PERSON

Return flights and transfers
Six nights in three-star superior and four-star accommodation with daily breakfast
Six tours and visits including Seville and the Mezquita, Córdoba, Ronda, Granada and the Alhambra Palace

SEVEN DAYS FROM £899 PER PERSON

Return flights and transfers
Six nights in three-star superior and four-star accommodation with daily breakfast
Six tours and visits including Seville and the Mezquita, Córdoba, Ronda, Granada and the Alhambra Palace

Andalucia is one of the most beautiful corners of Europe, where the excesses of modern life do not seem to have taken root and travellers are welcomed as honoured guests.

Departures September to November 2024

Call 0808 258 7136 and quote **KS705**
thetimes.co.uk/riviera-cs

WeatherQuest
weatherquest.co.uk

SIMPLE AND CONVENIENT

YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR SAVINGS

- ✓ *Simple & convenient to use*
- ✓ *Competitive savings rates*
- ✓ *Manage multiple accounts with a single login*



raisin.co.uk/offer-tmm0424

Sport

Windsor

Thunderer

5.10 Raffles Angel	7.15 Flindrinki
5.45 Titian Blue	7.45 Trojan Truth
6.15 Gutsy Girl	8.15 The Conqueror
6.45 Blue Day	8.45 Grey Fox (nap)

Going: good to firm

Draw: 6f, low numbers best

Sky Sports Racing

5.10 Handicap

(3-Y-O: £4,397: 6f) (12 runners)		
1	554 REBEL EMPIRE 58 (BF) R Hannan 9-9	S M Levey
2	36-02 CALL TIME 10 J S Moore 9-9	L Keniry
3	11-46 LANCY RASCAL 17 P McEntee 9-7	Grace McEntee
4	2-00 NANTAU ROSE 36 (H,B,F) J Portman 9-7	R Hornby
5	385 RAFFLES ANGEL 15 (O) R Guest 9-6	D Keenan
6	11-50 MAMMY 33 M Bell 9-6	H Crouch
7	243-4 Raffles Angel 16 152 W Higgins 9-6	T Marquand
8	6-36 RAGBLES KITTY 25 S Dwyer 9-6	S De Sousa
9	00-02 CROCUS TIME 109 R Hannan 9-4	A Volkhansky (3)
10	23-35 TANGLED UP IN BLUE 9 P A West 9-4	N Currie
11	20066 HOT FRONT 9 (V) P Evans 9-3	D Probert
12	6-42 NOISY MUIF 37 P Appleby 9-2	Rossia Ryan

7-2 Raffles Angel, 4-1 Mammy, 6-1 Rebel Empire, 7-1 Call Time, 8-1 Lieutenant Rascal, 10-1 Crocus Time, 12-1 Persian Blue, Noisy MuiF.

Thunderer's choice: Titan Blue runner up in decisive style on her handicap bow at Ripon last time **Danger** Noisy MuiF

5.45 Novice Stakes

(2-Y-O: £5,373: 6f) (12)		
1	AMOR CORDIS Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-7	K Shoemaker
2	BALLARAT BERTIE R Hughes 9-7	G Rooke
3	BOLD IMPACT 15 R Beckett 9-7	Rossia Ryan
4	2 CAYMAN TAIL Dr R Hannan 9-7	J Leavy (5)
5	40 DILIGENTLY 17 Cox 9-7	R Kingscote
6	GAEDHOMH R Hannan 9-7	S M Levey
7	LEONARDO DAX P Owens 9-7	H Crouch
8	RAJERO M Bell 9-7	O Murphy
9	SHOUT 5 & Criford 9-7	J Mitchell
10	3 INVINCIBLE SCUM 16 R Meenan 9-2	R Hornby
11	MUMA MYFLO 5 C Williams 9-2	H Davies
12	2 TITIAN BLUE 15 W Higgins 9-2	T Marquand

3-1 Titian Blue, 9-2 Invincible Scum, 6-1 Diligently, Bold Impact, 7-1 Gaedhomh, 9-1 Cayman Tail, 10-1 Shout, 16-1 Rajero.

Thunderer's choice: Titan Blue shamed well when runner-up on her Ripon debut **Dangers** Invincible Scum, Bold Impact

6.15 Novice Stakes

(4-Y-O: £3,420: 6f) (12)		
1	41- GUTSY GIRL 285 (D) C Fellows 3-9-1	K Shoemaker
2	ALMIZAN Owen Burrows 3-9-2	W Buick
3	0 ANGELO OF RAIN 16 W Higgins 3-9-2	T Marquand
4	552-4 APEELING 34 (BF) A Balding 3-9-2	O Murphy
5	5-4 ARTHUR ROSE 21 Cox 3-9-2	Rossia Ryan
6	511-222- BOUGDIE 290 (BF) R Hannan 3-9-2	P Dobbs
7	MAIRIE IN CHELSEA Jack Jones 3-9-2	D Hogan
8	300-3 RAVENSBOROUGH 145 (P) M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-2	H Davies
9	4-3 RED PINKIE 34 (BF) S R Staute 3-9-2	R Kingscote
10	4 THUNDERING BREEZE 21 G J Moore 3-9-2	J Watson
11	THUNDERSTORM KATIE BRIANNE Taylor 3-9-2	S Osborne
12	7 TWILIGHT TRUTH H Cann 3-9-2	T Whelan

11-4 Gutsy Girl, 4-1 Red Pinkie, 5-1 Bourgeoisie, 12-1 Apeeling, 7-1 Almizan, 16-1 Arthur Rose, Angel Of Rain, Ravensbourne.

Thunderer's choice: Gutsy Girl impressed when winning at Carlisle **Dangers** Red Pinkie, Almizan

6.45 Handicap

(3-Y-O: £9,631: 6f) (10)		
1	8-3 1260- MASTERS MOST 219 (D) R Beckett 9-9	Rossia Ryan
2	07-30 DAPPER VALLEY 30 R Hannan 9-9	P Dobbs
3	313-0 MOSWATAT 30 (D) R Varian 9-9	S De Sousa
4	1-640 SALVUCCIO 94 G Baughley 9-6	W Buick
5	61-61 CAJETAN 33 (P,D) J Channon 9-1	D Probert
6	43000 GDAY MATE 36 M Appleby 9-1	H Davies
7	442-1 BLUE DAY 35 (D) Harry Chilton 9-0	O Murphy
8	00-04 ROYAL ZARER 30 (D) R Bell 9-1	T Marquand
9	11-51 JIMMY SPEAKING 21 (D) Dwyer 8-12	H Doyle
10	46-24 TREFFOR 30 (D) Chille 9-5	S Osborne

5-2 Blue Day, 4-1 Jimmy Speaking, 5-1 Cajetan, 8-1 Moswatat, Trefor, 10-1 Salvuccio, 12-1 Dapper Valley, Masters Most.

Thunderer's choice: Blue Day made no mistake on his return/handicap debut at Southwell **Danger** Trefor

Goals

DP World Tour European Open

Hamburg: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 279 L. Canter 68, 66, 73, 72, 281 Lawrence (Sza) 77, 67, 68, 68, B Wiesberger (Austria) 71, 72, 67, 71, 282 J Guerrier (Fr) 71, 71, 69, N Noergaard Moeller (Den) 69, 68, 71, 74, 283 K Nakajima (Japan) 71, 71, 70, 71, 284 R Cabrera (Sp) 72, 70, 72, 78, 285 T McKibbin 69, 71, 71, 74, G Migliozzi (It) 70, 70, 67, 78, J Veerman (Sza) 72, 71, 71, Lewis 72, 70, 70, 73, G Porteous 69, 69, 77, 206 P Larrazabal (Sp) 70, 70, 73, 72, C Hill 72, 69, 72, 73, M Jordan 72, 70, 73, 71, D Law 71, 71, 71, 73, J Schaper (Sza) 71, 69, 71, 75.

USPGA Tour RBC Canadian Open

Hamilton, Ontario: Leaders after three rounds (United States unless stated): 196 R MacIntyre (Sco) 64, 66, 66, 200 M Hughes (Can) 68, 64, 67, 68, 201 J Griffin 70, 68, 68, P URS (India) 70, 66, 70, 207 J Gustavsson (Swe) 72, 66, 69, C Gainer 65, 71, 71, K Rudgeley (Aus) 69, 71, 67, 208 M de Roey (Bel) 69, 69, 70, M Prat (Sp) 70, 68, 70.

Motorcycling

MotoGP Grand Prix of Italy

Mugello: Leading positions 1, F Bagnaia (It, Ducati) 40min 51.385sec, 2, E Bastianini (It, Ducati) at 0.799sec behind; 3, J Martin (Sp, Ducati-Pramac) 0.924, Championship 1, Martin 17pts, 2, Bagnaia 153, 3, M Marquez (Sp, Ducati-Gresini) 136.

Rugby league

59, 69; A Yuba (Tha) 72, 72, 68. **213** Kim Min-byeol (S Kor) 72, 71, 70; M Yamashita (Japan) 72, 71, 70; Yin Ruoning (China) 73, 71, 69. **214** A Ewing 74, 72, 68; A Furue (Japan) 71, 72, 71; C Iwai (Japan) 70, 71, 73; C Park 70, 72, 72; A Thitikul (Tha) 74, 72, 68. **Others:** **218** J Ewart (Eng) 72, 71, 75. **219** C Hull (Eng) 75, 72, 72.

Betfred Championship Batley 31 Sheffield 18; Bradford 36 Barrow 24; Doncaster 25 Whitehaven 25; Featherstone 40 Swinton 42; Halifax 24 Toulouse 38; York 18 Widnes 22; **League** One Cornwall 30 Newcastle 6; Midlands 18 Keighley 25; North Wales 24 Oldham 25; Warrington 22 Hunslet 24.

215 Handicap (€5,653: 1m 2f) (7)

1	7	3116 AEROSPACE 22 (D) A Watson 5-9-1	H Doyle
2	600-0	AIKHAL 17 (P,T,D) J Osborne 5-9-1	S Osborne
3	1	440-4 SILVER GUNN 35 (T,D) M Botti 6-9-4	N Callan
4	6	00-00 BODORGAN 30 (T) C Hills 4-9-3	R Hornby
5	2	400-0 HAD HIGH SPIRITED 44 (D) Wiggins 4-9-1	T Whelan
6	3	323-1 FLINDRINKI 154 (D) H Canady 4-9-0	T Marquand
7	4	440-0 WONDER STARELZAAAN 39 (D) C Cookley 6-11 G Bass	

11-8 Flindrinki, 9-2 Aerospace, 5-1 Silver Gun, 6-1 Bodorgan, 10-1 Wonder Starelzaaan, 12-1 High Spirited, 14-1 Aikhal.

Thunderer's choice: Flindrinki remains unexposed (first run on turf here) **Danger** Silver Gun

7.45 Handicap

6	(1)	50-32 MAMMY 33 M Bell 9-9	H Crouch
7	(9)	243-4 PERSIAN BLUE 152 W Haggas 9-9	T Murgand
8	(6)	0-366 GAMBLERS KITTY 25 C Dwyer 9-9	S De Sousa
9	(3)	00-02 CROCUS TIME 109 R Hannon 9-9	A Volkshansky (3)
10	(2)	35-05 CROUGLED UP IN BLUE 9 (P) A West 9-4	N Currie
11	(5)	20666 HOT FRONT 9 (V) P Evans 9-3	D Probert
12	(7)	6-42 NOISY MUSIC 37 M Appleby 9-2	Rossa Ryan

7-2 Raffes Angel, 4-1 Mamma, 6-1 Rebel Empire, 7-1 Call Time, 8-1 Lieutenant Rascal, 10-1 Crocus Time, 12-1 Persian Blue, Noisy Music.

Thunder's choice: Raffes Angel won in decisive style on

3-1 Bond Street, 9-2 Ten Ten Twenty, 5-1 Angel On High, 6-1 Velvet Vulcan, 7-1 Grey Owl, 10-1 Trojan Truth, 12-1 others.

Thunderer's choice: Trojan Truth can bounce back to form equipped with first-time blinkers **Danger** Angel On High

8.15 Handicap

3	(40)	3 BOLD IMPACT 15 R Beckett 9-7	Rossia Ryan
4	(10)	2 CAYMAN TAI 20 (BF) R Hannon 9-7	J Leavy (5)
5	(5)	40 DELIGENTLY 17 C Cox 9-7	R Kingscott
6	(3)	3 GAYEDHON R Hannon 9-7	S M Leavy
7	(12)	LEONARDO DAX P Owens 9-7	H Crouch
8	(8)	RAJEKO M Bell 9-7	O Murphy
9	(11)	SHOUT S & E Crisford 9-7	J Mitchell
10	(7)	3 INVINCIBLE SONG 16 B Meehan 9-2	R Hornby
11	(9)	MYMO MYELO S Williams 9-2	H Davies
12	(6)	2 TITIAN BLUE W Hoggan 9-2	T Marquand

4-Dainesia, 9-2 Nostromo, 5-1 Sexy Raxy, 6-1 Mujid, 7-1 The Conqueror, 8-1 Dee's Dream, 10-1 Miss Harmony, 12-1 others.

Thunderer's choice: The Conqueror was too free when behind-par here last time **Dangers** Dee's Dream, Dainesia

8.45 Handicap

(1)	41	GUTSY GUN 285 (D) C Fellows 3-9-9	K Shoemaker
(2)	5	ALMIZAN Owen Burrows 3-9-2	W Buick
(3)	(2)	0 ANGEL OF RAIN 16 H Baldges 3-9-2	T Marquand
(4)	(10)	552-3 APELIN 34 (BF) A Hagging 3-9-2	O Murphy
(5)	9	5-6 ARTHUR ROSE 21 C Cox 3-9-2	Ross Ryan
(6)	(11)	522Z-BURGEOISE 290 (CF) R Hannan 3-9-2	P Dabbs
(7)	3	MAID IN CHELSEA Jack Jones 3-9-2	D Hogan
(8)	(2)	300-3 RAVENSHOUBEN 145 (P) M Murphy & M Keady 3-9-2	D Davies
(9)	4	4-3 RED PINK 21 (B) J St Mount 3-9-2	R Kingscote
(10)	(6)	44 THUNDERING BREZZIE 21 G J Moore 3-9-2	J Watson
(11)	(8)	THUNDERSTORM KATIE Brian Toomey 3-9-2	S Osborne
(12)	(7)	TWILIGHT TRUTH H Candy 3-9-2	T Whelan
14-GUTSY GUN 41 Red Pink, 5-1, Bugeoicse, 11-2 Apeeling, 7-1 Almizan, 1-4 Arthur, 5-6 Agg, 3-9-2, 3			

9-2 Grey Fox, 5-1 Racing Demon, 6-1 Darvel, Intercross, 10-1 Desfondado, Atlantis Blue, Finn Russell, 14-1 others.

Thunderer's choice: Grey Fox was back in the groove at Newbury last time **Dangers:** Darvel, Desfondado

Ayr

Thunderer

2.15 Haazeer	3.45 Westernespe
2.45 Desert Quest	4.15 Redondo
3.15 Young Fire (nb)	4.45 Bowman

Going: good-good to soft in places

Draw: no advantage

2.15 Maiden Stakes

Results

Golf

DP World Tour European Open
Hamburg: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): **279 L** Canter 68, 66, 73, **72.281 T** Lawrence (SA) 77, 67, 68; **B** Wiesberger (Austria) 71, 72, 67, 71. **282 J** Guerrier (Fr) 71, 71, 71, 69; **N** Noergaard

Wom	Wom
Helsinki	Helsinki
British	British
Del	Del
64	64
(206)	(206)
India	India
66, 65	66, 65
69, 71	69, 71

5-4 Electrolyte, 3-1 Haazeer, 6-1 Triple Charged, Motawahu, 7-1 Pap's Turf.

Women's European Tour Dormy Open

Helsingborg: Leading final scores (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 205 P Delacour (Fr) 68, 67, 67, B Hriem (Ger) 72, 69, 64 (Delacour won play-off at first extra hole). 206 N Broch Estrup (Den) 68, 70, 68, P URS (India) 70, 66, 70, 207 J Gustavsson (Swe) 72, 66, 69, C Gainer 65, 71, 71, K Rudgeley (Aus) 69, 71, 67, 208 M de Roey (Bel) 69, 69, 70, M Prat (Sp) 70, 68, 70.

Motorcycling

MotoGP Grand Prix of Italy

Mugello: Leading positions 1, F Bagnaia (It, Ducati) 40min 51.385sec, 2, E Bastianini (It, Ducati) at 0.799sec behind; 3, J Martin (Sp, Ducati-Pramac) 0.924, Championship 1, Martin 17pts, 2, Bagnaia 153, 3, M Marquez (Sp, Ducati-Gresini) 136.

Rugby league

Betfred Super League Warrington 18 Wigan						
19	Hull Kingston Rovers 12 Leigh 0	Leeds 4				
20	Castleford 4	Salford 4 London Broncos 4				
P W D L A Pts						
St Helens	13	10	0	3	353	136
Wigan	12	10	0	2	357	156
Hull KR	13	9	0	4	338	183
Warrington	13	9	0	4	320	170
Catalans D	13	8	0	5	264	192
Salford	13	8	0	5	250	156
Leeds	13	8	0	5	246	142
Huddersfield	13	6	0	7	274	162
Leigh	12	4	0	7	244	206
Castleford	13	3	0	9	218	406
Hull	13	1	0	12	162	440
L Broncos	13	1	0	12	134	510

Betfred Championship Batley 31 Sheffield 18; Bradford 36 Barrow 24; Doncaster 25 Whitehaven 25; Featherstone 40 Swinton 42; Halifax 24 Toulouse 38; York 18 Widnes 22; **League** One Cornwall 30 Newcastle 6; Midlands 18 Keighley 25; North Wales 24 Oldham 25; Warrington 22 Hunslet 24.

Women's Betfred Super League

Featherstone Rovers 10 Yorks Huddersfield 30; Leeds 68 Barrow 0; Huddersfield 40 Warrington 4.

Rugby union

Gallagher Premiership: Semi-Final Bath 31 Sale 23

215 Handicap (€3,664: 1m 5f) (9)

1	9	0-560 FANFARMFORGOTTEN 20 J Bailey 4-9-11	D Nolan
2	5	400-0 GRIFTER JH88 (D) J Candlish 5-9-9	C Lee
3	6	31400 CARLTON 48 (P) T Waggott 4-9-6	JP Sullivan
4	5	51053 YAKHABAR 20 (P) J Bailey 5-9-6	B Garrity
5	2	42562 DESERT QUEST 21 (D) Ewan Williams 4-9-5	P Mulrennan
6	4	00-06 RED FORCE ONE 31 (D) T Kirby 9-9-4	C Beasley
7	7	42-04 LAUDABLE 5 (V) T Davidson 4-9-2	A Mullen
8	1	-4004 MONDIAL 20 (T) K Scott 4-9-0	W Pyle (5)
9	3	20403 CRYSTAL GUARD 92 (P) J Jardine 6-8-9	M Tabti (5)
10	3	Desert Quest, 7-2 Laudable, 4-1 Yakhbar, 6-1 Crystal Guard, 10-1 Mondial, Carlton, 12-1 Red Force One, 14-1 Griffen, 20-1 Fanfarmforgotten.	

3.15 Handicap

1	(2)	35-42 REBEL EMERALD 58 (B,C) R Hannan 9-9-9	S M Lively
2	(18)	00-00 CALL TIME 10 1/2 W Moore 9-8-8	L Keniry
3	(11)	-3-04 LEUTENANT RASCAL 17 P McKeen 9-7-6	Gracie McEntee
4	(10)	-2-00 NANCY ROSE 36 (B,F) J Portman 9-7-6	R Horney
5	(4)	3651 RAFFLES ALONG 15 (D) R Guest 9-6-6	D Keenan
6	(1)	50-32 MAMMY 33 M Bell 9-6-6	H Crouch
7	(9)	243-4 PERSIAN BLUE 152 W Haggas 9-6-6	T Marquand
8	(6)	0-366 GAMBLERS KITTY 29 C Dwyer 9-6-6	S De Sousa
9	(3)	00-02 CROCUS TIME 109 R Hannan 9-6-4	A Volkshansky (3)
10	(12)	35-35 TANGLED UP IN BLUE 9 (P) A West 9-6-4	N Currie
11	(5)	20066 HOT FRONT 9 (V) P Eyles 9-6-4	D Probert

9-4 Little Empire, 1-4 Young Fire, 7-2 Darker, 7-1 Paco's Pride, 10-1 Propagation, 12-1 End Zone, 20-1 Grey Force One, 25-1 Rosenpu.

3.45 Handicap

(€4

Sport T20 World Cup

Bowlers win cups and England have an attack to fear

Mike Atherton

Chief Cricket Correspondent, Barbados



For a white-ball coach and captain, the drill is obvious, if not straightforward: do well in global ICC events, namely World Cups in 50-over and T20 cricket and the reconstituted Champions Trophy. While bilateral cricket may provide a useful opportunity to shape teams, results are less relevant. It is the tournaments that matter.

So far, so up and down for Jos Buttler and Matthew Mott. They won a T20 World Cup at the first attempt in Australia in 2022 and then fell flat on their faces in India last winter in the 50-over equivalent. The nagging question remains: which performance reflected more accurately on their leadership capabilities and how far was the first of those a hangover from the Eoin Morgan regime?

At least the sense of complacency that Rob Key admitted to — the England managing director of men's cricket said that he was so engaged in the project to resurrect the Test team, the white-ball side got overlooked for a while — has been banished. Alone among the major contenders, England recalled their players from IPL duty to get them together for an extended period before the competition began. Even if rain ruined the Pakistan series, it was the right call.

Australia, for example, completed their final warm-up game against hosts West Indies on Friday with only nine players, needing support staff to make up 11 in the field. Marcus Stoinis's luggage went missing in transit and those involved in the IPL had been given some time at home, meaning Australia were short. World events fit around the IPL these days, not the other way around.

Preparation or not, T20 cricket is far more of a lottery than its 50-over equivalent. In the latter, there is a very strong

correlation between rankings and performances in the four-year cycle and the eventual finalists. This is much less pronounced in T20, where the trophy has been shared around; England (2010 and 2022) and West Indies (2012 and 2016) are the only teams to win it more than once.

So it would be harsh to judge Buttler and Mott on victory alone, but a more error-free tournament than in India is essential. They were incapable of dragging their team out of a cycle of defeat there, making decisions around selection and at the toss that accentuated the downward spiral. By any measure, and especially given the expectations and vast experience in white-ball cricket and in India, it was a shameful tournament.

Because this World Cup has been expanded to 20 teams, the opening stages — England play Scotland, Australia, Namibia and Oman — are likely to be less competitive than in India where there was little respite after the opening defeat to New Zealand. It is the super-eight stage where things will hot up.

On paper they look primed to give it a go, with the return of Jofra Archer providing the biggest boost of all, adept as he is of attacking in all three phases of the innings. There has been an injection of fresh blood, with Will Jacks and Tom Hartley included for the first time in global events, but for some like Moeen Ali this feels as though it may be a valedictory tournament.

The batting boasts depth and power. The series in the Caribbean before Christmas pointed firmly towards some high scores — Key described it as a "slugfest" — and with its short boundaries and strong cross breezes, the Caribbean can be a nightmare for bowlers.

Equally, there is no substitute rule, which inflated scores unrealistically in the IPL, and the small size of the squares might mean some tired pitches by the end of the tournament.

As ever, a little nous, intelligence and versatility will go a long way. In T20, batting takes the headlines, but bowling often wins the tournament. To that end, England look well balanced, with the pace of Mark Wood and Archer, the left-arm variety of Reece Topley and plentiful spin options, Adil Rashid looking somewhere near his best in the series against Pakistan.

Given their strength in depth and resource advantage, India begin as the bookies' favourites. They have largely gone with the tried and tested, but the arrival of top-order batsman Yashasvi Jaiswal into an ICC white-ball event, for the first time, is a reminder of the brilliance of the talent pipeline. If they can overcome their propensity to underperform at critical moments — the semi-final against England in Adelaide in 2022 and last year's 50-over final against Australia

are cases in point — they should be there or thereabouts.

Australia, too, have gone for experience, leaving out the precocious Jake Fraser-McGurk in favour of David Warner. Travis Head is among the most

fearful white-ball batsmen in the game now and they have a plethora of all-rounders to help with selection. Glenn Maxwell's poor IPL was a concern and if the pitches do spin at the back end, that may stymie their game plan, which relies on heavy hitting and pace.

Rachin Ravindra is a concession to youth in New Zealand's otherwise familiar line-up, with Trent Boult helming the attack again, the underrated Mitchell Santner to lead the spin options, and Daryl Mitchell and Glenn Phillips providing middle-order firepower. Kane Williamson leads once more and if the pitches do require something other than all-out attack, he will be well placed to adapt.

South Africa possess the most improved batsman in the format in Heinrich Klaasen, although he has yet to fully bring his franchise form to the

Archer, left, and Jordan form part of an England attack that boasts high-quality seam and spin as they get ready for their opener against Scotland in Barbados tomorrow



England v Scotland

Kensington Oval Tomorrow, 3.30pm

TV: Sky Sports Cricket/
Main Event
Radio: 5 Sports Extra

global stage. It is hard to judge their overall form, having played nine matches since the 2022 World Cup, and having won only two of those. Nevertheless, explosive batsmen and fast bowlers remain a potent combination in any tournament.

And what of the hosts, with local knowledge on their side? West Indies have almost completely moved to a split Test and white-ball policy, with only the odd player like Shamar Joseph, the exciting fast bowler, crossing the divide. A successful tournament for them would be a good news story, with semi-finals slated for Guyana and Trinidad, two cricket-mad regions often overlooked when England tour the Caribbean.

For all the focus (understandably enough) on what the World Cup can do eventually for the sport in America, its impact on the Caribbean is more significant in the near term. The 2007 World

Cup was underwhelming, with high ticket prices and a lack of authentic Caribbean atmosphere. There has been a concerted effort to tackle those problems to ensure a less sanitised tournament this time, although the 10.30am start times — 23 matches start in the morning — at the behest of Indian TV will be a hard obstacle to overcome for a format that shines best under lights.

In the Caribbean, short-form cricket is king and Johnny Grave, the chief executive officer of the West Indies cricket board, admitted that pitching for the T20 World Cup jointly with America was carefully thought out.

"We wanted to grow the sport in our time zone, which we believe is crucial to our long-term survival," he said. A strong performance from his team, and a smoothly run but fun tournament, showing the best of this marvellous region, would go a long way to ensuring that.

Cricket scoreboards

T20 World Cup Group A

United States v Canada

Dallas (United States won toss): United States

(2pts) beat Canada by seven wickets

Canada (balls) (6) 23 (16)

A Johnson c Kumar b Baddhan 23 (16)

N S Dhallwal c Singh b Anderson 61 (44)

P Singh run out 5 (7)

N R Kirtan c Anderson b Khan 51 (31)

IS Movva not out 32 (16)

D S Bajwa run out 11 (5)

D Heylinger not out 1 (1)

Extras (lb 8, w 2) 10

Total (5 wks, 20 overs) 194

*S B Zafar, N Dutta, K S Rehman and J O A

Gordon did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-43, 2-66, 3-128, 4-159, 5-173.

Bowling Khan 4-0-41-1; Netravalkar 2-0-16-0;

Baddhan 4-0-27-1; Singh 3-0-24-0; Van

Schalkwyk 3-0-34-0; Taylor 1-0-15-0;

Anderson 3-0-29-1.

United States (balls) (6) 0 (2)

S R Taylor lbw b Rehman 0 (2)

*M D Patel c Movva b Heylinger 16 (16)

A G S Gous c Johnson b Dutta 65 (46)

A Jones not out 94 (40)

C J Anderson not out 3 (5)

Extras (lb 2, w 14, nb 3) 19

Total (3 wks, 17.4 overs) 197

N R Kumar, H S Baddhan, S C van Schalkwyk,

J Singh, S N Netravalkar and M A A Khan did

not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-0, 2-42, 3-173.

Bowling Rehman 4-0-34-1; Gordon 3-0-44-0;

Heylinger 3-0-19-1; Zafar 4-0-42-0; Dutta

2-4-0-41-1; Singh 1-0-15-0.

Group C

West Indies v Papua New Guinea

Georgetown, Guyana (West Indies won

toss): West Indies (2pts) beat Papua New

Guinea by five wickets

Papua New Guinea (balls) (6) 23 (16)

T P Ura c Pooran b Shepherd 2 (5)

*A Vasey c Chase b Joseph 21 (22)

L Siaka b Hosein 1 (2)

S Bau b Joseph 50 (43)

H Hiri c Powell b Motie 2 (6)

C J A Amin c Pooran b Russell 12 (14)

TK Doriga not out 27 (18)

C A Soper b Russell 10 (9)

A Nao run out 0 (0)

K V Morea not out 2 (2)

Extras (lb 1, w 7, nb 1) 9

Total (6 wks, 20 overs) 136

J Kariko did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-5, 2-7, 3-34, 4-50, 5-94, 6-98,

7-122, 8-130.

Bowling Hosein 3-0-9-1; Shepherd 3-0-23-1;

Russell 3-0-19-2; Chase 4-0-26-0; Joseph

4-0-34-2; Motie 3-0-24-1.

West Indies (balls) (6) 34 (29)

B A King c Siaka b Vasey 34 (29)

J Charles lbw b Nao 0 (1)

IN Pooran c Ura b Kariko 27 (27)

R L Chase not out 42 (27)

*R Powell c Doriga b Soper 15 (14)

S E Rutherford c Doriga b Vasey 2 (7)

A D Russell not out 15 (9)

Extras (lb 2) 2

Total (5 wks, 19 overs) 137

R Shepherd, A J Hosein, A S Joseph and

G Motie did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-8, 2-61, 3-63, 4-85, 5-97.

Bowling Morea 3-0-30-0; Nao 2-9-1; Soper

3-0-19-1; Bau 1-0-18-0; Kariko 4-0-17-1; Vasey

4-1-28-2; Amin 2-0-14-0.

Vitality Blast: North group

Lancashire Lightning

v Derbyshire Falcons

Emirates Old Trafford (Derbyshire Falcons

won toss): Lancashire Lightning (2pts) beat

Derbyshire Falcons by 57 runs

Lancashire Lightning (balls) (6) 39 (24)

J J Bohannon c Wagstaff b Chappell 39 (24)

L W P Wells b Dupavillon 5 (9)

*K K Jennings c Wagstaff b Brown 16 (11)

T C Bruce c Whiteley b Chappell 35 (28)

L Wood st Guest b Patel 1 (1)

*M F Hurst c Brown b Chappell 27 (25)

S J Croft c Whiteley b Brown 17 (10)

C J Green not out 22 (11)

T H Aspinwall not out 4 (3)

Extras (w 9, nb 4) 13

Total (7 wks, 20 overs) 179

J M Blatherwick and M T Stanley did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-45, 2-50, 3-74, 4-83, 5-121,

6-151, 7-153.

Bowling Chappell 4-0-38-3; Dupavillon

4-0-35-1; Brown 4-0-37-2; Wagstaff 3-0-33-0;

Patel 4-0-29-1; Reece 1-0-7-0.

Derbyshire Falcons (balls) (6) 17 (10)

L M Reece b Green 6 (5)

H R C Carne b Blatherwick 26 (22)

D L Lloyd b Stanley 10 (10)

*S R Patel c Blatherwick b Green 7 (5)

A K Dal c Bohannon b Wells 9 (13)

*B D Guest c Jennings b Aspinwall 42 (32)

R A Whiteley c Blatherwick b Wells 11 (9)

Z J Chappell b Green 7 (6)

M D Wagstaff not out 0 (1)

D M Dupavillon c and b Green 0 (1)

P R Brown run out 0 (2)

Extras (lb 1, w 3) 4

Total (17.4 overs) 122

Fall of wickets 1-18, 2-39, 3-48, 4-51, 5-71, 6-110,

7-120, 8-122, 9-122.

Bowling Wood 3-0-25-0; Green 3-4-0-12-4;

Aspinwall 2-0-17-1; Stanley 2-0-25-1; Wells

4-0-25-2; Blatherwick 3-0-17-1.

Northants Steelbacks

v Yorkshire Vikings

Northampton (Yorkshire Vikings won toss):

Yorkshire Vikings (2pts) beat Northants

Steelbacks by 29 runs

Yorkshire Vikings (balls) (6) 35 (25)

J E Root c Bartlett b Bopara 35 (25)

D J Malan b Bopara 41 (37)

J H Wharton b Bopara 0 (1)

TD Ferreira c Breetzke b Bopara 15 (10)

*S M Khan not out 36 (17)

D M Bess c Willey b Scrimshaw 28 (24)

J A Thompson c Zaib b Willey 20 (7)

Extras (lb 3, w 6, nb 2) 11

Total (6 wks, 20 overs) 186

F J Heldreich did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-37, 2-58, 3-71, 4-90, 5-90,

6-124, 7-131, 8-139.

Bowling Moriarty 4-0-30-1; Leech 2-0-17-0;

Revis 4-0-42-2; Bess 3-0-20-2; Root 1-0-7-0;

Thompson 4-0-18-3; Chohan 2-0-21-0.

Played Saturday: Edgbaston Leicestershire

Foxes 176-6 (P S P Handscomb 75 not out),

Derbyshire Falcons 178-6 (S R Patel 64),

Derbyshire Falcons (2pts) won by four

wickets; Birmingham Bears 149 (R M Yates

68), Notts Outlaws 127, Birmingham Bears

Cpts won by 22 runs.

PL D McManus c Wharton b Revis 26 (14)

G A Bartlett c Khan b Thompson 5 (6)

B W Sanderson not out 10 (10)

G L S Scrimshaw not out 6 (6)

Extras (lb 2, w 6, nb 2) 10

Total (8 wks, 20 overs) 157

F J Heldreich did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-37, 2-58, 3-71, 4-90, 5-90,

6-124, 7-131, 8-139.

Bowling Moriarty 4-0-30-1; Leech 2-0-17-0;

Revis 4-0-42-2; Bess 3-0-20-2; Root 1-0-7-0;

Thompson 4-0-18-3; Chohan 2-0-21-0.

Played Saturday: Edgbaston Leicestershire

Foxes 176-6 (P S P Handscomb 75 not out),

Derbyshire Falcons 178-6 (S R Patel 64),

Derbyshire Falcons (2pts) won by four

wickets; Birmingham Bears 149 (R M Yates

68), Notts Outlaws 127, Birmingham Bears

Cpts won by 22 runs.

PL W L T NR Pts RR

Lancashire 3 2 1 0 0 4 2.63

Birmingham 2 2 0 0 0 4 1.32

Yorkshire 3 2 1 0 0 4 0.91

Northants 3 2 1 0 0 4 0.58

Leicestershire 2 1 1 0 0 2 1.29

Derbyshire 3 1 2 0 0 2 -0.82

Worcestershire 2 1 1 0 0 2 -1.71

Notts 2 0 2 0 0 0 -2.15

Durham 2 0 2 0 0 0 -3.09

GARETH COPELEY/GETTY IMAGES

ROBERT CHANFONE/GETTY IMAGES



Brook: I lost weight to run faster singles

Simon Wilde Barbados

Harry Brook has said he used his four months out this year to lose weight in an effort to improve his speed between the wickets and hit the ball harder.

The now lithe 25-year-old believes that being faster at running ones and twos could play an important part for England's batsmen at the World Cup.

Brook left the tour to India in January before the first Test and subsequently pulled out of the Indian Premier League because his grandmother Pauline fell ill and later died, but he continued to train at home.

His first match back was for Yorkshire in early April and Brook scored heavily in five County Championship appearances — 409 runs, average 77.60, with



Brook's scores were low in the 50-over World Cup, left, and against Pakistan



two hundreds — before rejoining England for the T20 series with Pakistan.

"I just tried to nail it [better fitness] as soon as I got home," Brook said. "Obviously it was not in great circumstances, but I tried to train as hard as possible."

"I was trying to lose a bit of weight and trying to get leaner. For me batting in the middle [of the order], twos are going to be quite a big thing for my game. Fast hands, too, [so] losing a bit of weight may make your hands go a bit quicker. In the field as well."

This is Brook's third World Cup across the 20-over or 50-over formats, but one half-century in 11 innings in Australia in 2022 and India last year shows he has yet to really make an impact. "I think I've got to try to play at my own pace and not let other teams dictate," he added.

Anthems, flags and big sixes in Texas

One hundred and eighty years after the USA and Canada played each other in the first ever international cricket match, the two sides met again to kick off cricket's first World Cup on American soil (Elizabeth Ammon writes).

At the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, which used to be a baseball diamond, a brief opening ceremony featured drummers, dancers, children carrying enormous flags and rousing renditions of both national anthems.

The ground, with a capacity of 7,000, was about three-quarters full, with



plenty of USA shirts on display and American flags draped

round the shoulders of spectators. The drop-in pitch, despite a light covering of grass, had pace and carry, and the outfield was lightning quick.

After the home side won the toss and elected to bowl first, they were set



Jones hit ten sixes as the USA beat Canada in Texas

195 to win. They lost opener Steven Taylor with the second ball of the chase.

After that, Andries Gous, a former South Africa Under-19 batsman, made 65 off 46 balls in a 131-run third-wicket partnership with Aaron Jones, a 29-year-old who was born in New York but raised in Barbados.

Jones smashed ten sixes — the second most in a T20 World Cup innings behind Chris Gayle's 11 against England in 2016 — and the last of them ended the match, as he stood on 94 not out from only 40 balls.

Hurricane season could put more pressure on big teams

Simon Wilde

The start of the hurricane season in the Caribbean is causing anxiety among the bigger teams at the World Cup, for whom qualification to the super-eight stage could be jeopardised by rain delays. Games being subjected to the DLS recalculation system, or even washed out altogether, could result in sides dropping points against smaller fry they would expect to normally beat.

At the last T20 World Cup in Australia, staged in October and November 2022, England lost a group game against Ireland in Melbourne when rain ate into the reserve time before halting the

match for good. England were on 105 for five in the 15th over, five runs behind the DLS par score.

"Teams are going to have to adapt and that ability to make quick decisions is going to be crucial," Matthew Mott, the England head coach, said. "The shorter the game, the less impact decision-making and communication has from the bench. Players themselves have got to make quick decisions."

England's biggest priority is beating Australia on Saturday, as it would afford them wriggle-room were they to drop points against Scotland, or Oman and Namibia next week. Showers are forecast for the next three days in Barbados.

South group: Essex v Middlesex

Chelmsford (Essex won toss): Essex (2pts) beat Middlesex by four wickets

Middlesex (balls) (61)
S S Eskinazi c Rossington b Beard 1 (2)
M K Andersson c Elgar b Benkenstein 49 (31)
R F Higgins st Rossington b Critchley 27 (23)
M D E Holden not out 85 (42)
J B Cracknell c Sams b Walter 22 (12)
J M De Caires b Walter 0 (1)
T J L Davies c Benkenstein b Sams 8 (6)
L B K Hollman c Allison b Sams 2 (3)
T G Helm not out 1 (1)
Extras (b 2, lb 2, w 2, nb 2) 8
Total (7 wks, 20 overs) 203

B C Cullen and N B Cornwell did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-5, 2-7, 3-9, 4-15, 5-16, 6-17, 7-19, 8-22

Bowling Sams 4-0-35-2; Beard 3-0-41-1; Allison 2-0-20-0; Harmer 4-0-46-0; Critchley 3-0-17-1; Benkenstein 1-0-12-1; Walter 3-0-28-2.

Essex (balls) (61)
T A M Rossington c Davies b Helm 10 (8)
D Elgar c Hollman b De Caires 32 (21)
M S Pepper lbw b Hollman 101 (44)
J M Cox c Cracknell b Higgins 22 (8)
P I Walter c Andersson b Hollman 2 (7)
M J J Critchley c De Caires b Cullen 16 (11)
D R Sams not out 10 (3)
S R Harmer not out 6 (4)
Extras (lb 1, w 7) 8
Total (6 wks, 17.4 overs) 207

L M Benkenstein, B M J Allison and A P Beard did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-14, 2-97, 3-122, 4-148, 5-181, 6-189.

Bowling Cornwell 2-4-0-35-0; Helm 3-0-33-1; Cullen 3-0-38-1; De Caires 2-0-25-1; Hollman 4-0-50-2; Higgins 3-0-25-1.

Glamorgan v Sussex Sharks

Sophia Gardens (Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan (2pts) beat Sussex Sharks by 25 runs

Glamorgan (balls) (61)
E J Byrom c Carter b McAndrew 9 (8)
K S Carlson c Hudson-Prentice 15 (11)
R Robinson 27 (22)
T C B Cooke c Lamb b Mills 61 (43)
S A Northeast not out 39 (23)
C A Ingram b Mills 0 (1)
M Labuschagne b Mills 11 (7)
D A Douthwaite c Carter b Mills 7 (7)
R E Evans not out 0 (2)
Extras (lb 1, w 5, nb 8) 14
Total (7 wks, 20 overs) 183

M S Crane and J P McIlroy did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-23, 2-37, 3-75, 4-143, 5-143, 6-162, 7-174.

Bowling Robinson 3-0-17-1; Coles 4-0-35-0; Mills 4-0-33-4; McAndrew 4-0-44-1; Lamb 4-0-41-0; Carson 1-0-12-0.

Sussex Sharks

O J Carter c Byrom b Ingram 33 (29)
D P Hughes lbw b McIlroy 10 (5)
T P Alsop c Labuschagne 8 (8)
b Van der Gugten 69 (49)
F J M Coles not out 3 (6)
J J Hudson-Prentice c Northeast b Douthwaite 3 (6)
T J A Simpson c Labuschagne b Crane 1 (3)
D J Lamb c Labuschagne b Crane 8 (15)
N J McAndrew not out 17 (6)
Extras (lb 1, w 6, nb 2) 9
Total (6 wks, 20 overs) 158

J J Carson, O E Robinson and T S Mills did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-22, 2-31, 3-73, 4-80, 5-85, 6-120.

Bowling McIlroy 3-0-13-1; Bevan 1-0-17-0; Van der Gugten 4-0-43-1; Douthwaite 4-0-38-1; Crane 4-0-22-1; Labuschagne 2-0-14-0; Ingram 2-0-10-1.

Hampshire Hawks v Kent Spitfires

Ullitla Bowl (Kent Spitfires won toss): Hampshire Hawks (2pts) beat Kent Spitfires by three wickets

Kent Spitfires (balls) (61)
Z Crawley b Howell 20 (15)
D J Bell-Drummond c and b Fuller 42 (27)
T S Mueyie lbw b Fuller 0 (1)
T S W Billings c McDermott b Dawson 43 (30)
J L Denly c Fuller b Dawson 18 (21)

J D M Evison not out 14 (10)
M K O'Riordan b Howell 2 (4)
B Swanepeel c Albert b Wood 2 (3)
G Stewart c Fuller b Turner 7 (5)
X C Bartlett lbw b Wood 1 (3)
M W Parkinson not out 1 (1)
Extras (b 4, w 11) 15
Total (9 wks, 20 overs) 165

Fall of wickets 1-59, 2-59, 3-71, 4-131, 5-134, 6-137, 7-146, 8-157, 9-158.

Bowling Wood 4-0-19-2; Naser 2-0-32-0; Turner 3-0-32-1; Fuller 3-0-23-2; Howell 4-0-27-2; Dawson 4-0-28-2.

Hampshire Hawks (balls) (61)
T B R McDermott c Crawley b Evison 25 (20)
J M Vince b Evison 35 (34)
N R T Gubbins b Evison 0 (3)
J J Weatherley c Crawley b Bartlett 49 (32)
T E Albert c Stewart b Parkinson 5 (4)
J K Fuller c Billings b Swanepeel 30 (16)
B A C Howell c Crawley b Stewart 9 (5)
L A Dawson not out 9 (4)
M G Naser not out 1 (1)
Extras (lb 1, w 2) 3
Total (7 wks, 19.5 overs) 166

C P Wood and J A Turner did not bat.

Fall of wickets 1-53, 2-53, 3-78, 4-83, 5-142, 6-150, 7-158.

Bowling Bartlett 4-0-37-1; Swanepeel 4-0-36-1; Stewart 3-5-0-40-1; Parkinson 4-0-21-1; Evison 4-0-31-3.

Surrey v Somerset

Kia Oval (Somerset won toss): Surrey (2pts) beat Somerset by 57 runs

Surrey (balls) (61)
D W Lawrence c Lammonby b Meredith 3 (3)
J J Evans c Lammonby b Overton 4 (4)
J J Roy c Lammonby b Meredith 9 (8)
O J D Pope b Van der Merwe 40 (32)
J L Smith b Green 87 (38)
J K Clark c Dickson b Green 5 (8)
T K Curran c Banton b Green 1 (2)
S A Abbott b Meredith 2 (4)
C T Steel not out 3 (6)
A A P Atkinson c Dickson b Green 1 (4)
S H Johnson b Ball 2 (5)
Extras (lb 2, w 4) 6
Total (19 overs) 163

Fall of wickets 1-7, 2-7, 3-28, 4-139, 5-152, 6-153, 7-154, 8-156, 9-157.

Bowling Overton 4-0-30-1; Meredith 4-0-34-3; Ball 4-0-32-1; Van der Merwe 3-0-33-1; Green 4-0-32-4.

Somerset (balls) (61)
T Banton c Smith b Johnson 11 (13)
W C F Smeed b Johnson 20 (12)
T Kohler-Cadmore run out 25 (10)
T B Abell c sub b Abbott 4 (8)
S R Dickson c Curran 12 (7)
T A Lammonby c Johnson b Lawrence 19 (19)
B G F Green b Curran 8 (10)
C Overton c sub b Curran 5 (9)

R E Van der Merwe c Johnson b Abbott 1 (2)
J T Ball c Clark b Abbott 0 (4)
R P Meredith not out 0 (0)
Extras (w 1) 1
Total (15.4 overs) 106

Fall of wickets 1-16, 2-31, 3-54, 4-62, 5-80, 6-93, 7-103, 8-106, 9-106.

Bowling Johnson 3-1-15-2; Atkinson 3-0-33-0; Clark 1-0-11-0; Abbott 3-0-8-3; Steel 1-0-14-0; Curran 2-4-0-16-3; Lawrence 2-0-9-1.

Charlotte Edwards Cup

Northampton Northern Diamonds 123-8 (20 overs: H Armtage 39); Sunrisers 126-6 (20 overs: G Scriven 64 not out). Sunrisers won (4pts) by four wickets.

Kia Oval Southern Vipers 142-6 (20 overs: A Monaghan 44 not out); South East Stars 146-4 (18.1 overs: S Dunkley 53, P Schofield 50, SE Stars (4pts) won by six wickets.

Emirates Old Trafford Thunder 111-9 (20 overs: K Gordon 5 for 12); The Blaze 112-3 (15.4 overs: T Beaumont 34 not out). The Blaze (4pts) won by seven wickets.

Sport Football

We'll bring Bazball to the Euros,

Paul Joyce



England flung open their doors to Ben Stokes over the weekend, with footballers drawing inspiration from their cricketing counterparts, and the rallying cry issued will now propel them into Euro 2024.

Bazball is about to meet Gazball. "We want to attack every tournament and attack every game, similar to cricket," Kieran Trippier, who will captain Gareth Southgate's team in today's opening warm-up game against Bosnia-Herzegovina, said.

Southgate has always been quick to embrace other sports in the search for fresh insights to improve his team. Eddie Jones, Eoin Morgan, Marcus Smith and the former NFL duo Jay Ajayi and Osi Umenyiora are among those who have visited England camps, and so the opportunity for a local hero to drop into England's Rockliffe Park HQ, in Darlington, was too good to pass up.

Stokes, the England Test captain and Durham all-rounder, watched training on Saturday before imparting words of wisdom to a group seemingly enraptured by what he had to say.

There were lessons on leadership, about coping with adversity and about the mindset Stokes has nurtured with Brendon McCullum, the head coach, which has coaxed a more aggressive, expansive outlook from the team. Since taking over as captain in May 2022, Stokes has won 14, lost seven and drawn one of his 22 Tests and his win percentage is second to only WG Grace.

"In my head he's one of the few English sportsmen that I felt could impact them, make them think," Southgate said of the 32-year-old Stokes.

"He's authentic, he talked brilliantly about getting the right balance of fearlessness but recognising that anybody's going to have nerves. It's about making good decisions under pressure.

"He was able to talk to them about some leadership aspects, the culture he'd tried to create. That backed up some of the things we're doing, so we were pleased that reaffirmed some ideas as well.

"He's a hugely impressive guy that's relatable to their age. And anybody who's performed as well as he has for England — that was a really good session that worked well for us."

The Newcastle United defender Trippier, a cricket novice, also spoke enthusiastically

about the impression Stokes left, especially when talking about the thrilling 2019 World Cup finale.

"I don't know a lot about cricket but he was talking about the last over, the Super Over, and he was saying that it doesn't really happen so they can't really practise for that," Trippier, whose son, Jacob, will be a mascot at St James' Park today, said.

"That was a challenge they had to face and it's similar to us with penalty shoot-outs, extra time, the challenges and setbacks that we have to overcome."

Possible line-up



"We can look at his path and his journey, what he has been through, and with the England cricket team as well, and we can relate that to ourselves because we've had difficult moments. We lost in the [European Championship] final, the semi-final [at the World Cup in 2018] and obviously [the quarter-finals in] Qatar.

"It's how we bounce back from that and he's done that. The challenges he faces in the pressure moments are similar to what we have to go through."

Southgate's priority over the coming week, starting with the visit of Bosnia and continuing with the friendly with Iceland at Wembley on Friday, is to come up with a convincing formula given England's injury problems. Should he do so, the style in which his side performs should then follow.

The make-up of his midfield, and especially who partners Declan Rice, remains his biggest conundrum given that, by his own admission, he has spent "the past few months thinking, 'Declan

with who?' and 'Who, if without Declan?'" A year ago Southgate seemingly knew the way forward. England had just beaten Malta 4-0 in a Euro 2024 qualifier, with Trent Alexander-Arnold's passing range instrumental in creating the opening goal before he thumped home a finish to double the advantage. He had been deployed in midfield, having impressed when moving into central areas from right back at the end of the 2022-23 season with Liverpool. "I've got no questions in my head; he can do it," the England manager said after the game. A 7-0 rout of North Macedonia a few days later confirmed that impression.

That concerns have returned stems, presumably, from a lack of playing time, with the 25-year-old having made only three appearances for England since those run-outs, with injury ruling him out of two camps. In one of those matches he reverted to right back.

It makes sense then, with the European Championship opener against Serbia on June 16, that Alexander-Arnold should have the chance to impress today.

"In the past year or so, by playing there for his club, he has got more comfortable with receiving the ball in tight areas," Southgate said. "It's not quite the same as receiving with the touchline to one side. The pitch geography is a little different. But it's the quality on the ball. That's why we have tried it previously, because we felt he could offer something that at that stage we didn't have."

"There are obviously a couple of good technical players who have come through since. Kobbie [Mainoo] is one. Adam Wharton is one. I have liked how he [Wharton] has trained. He looks to play forward, he can play one-touch. He's adapted very well. So there is a bigger pool but one of those boys was playing in the Championship [Wharton at Blackburn Rovers] this year and the other was finding his feet for Manchester United. So they are not [Real Madrid's Toni] Kroos and [Luka] Modric in terms of experience, but the team will have a different feel and we think that's the best route to go."

Of course, Mainoo, 19, Kyle Walker and Phil Foden have yet to join the squad after their FA Cup final exertions with United and Manchester City respectively.

Jude Bellingham, Real's Champions League winner, will not report until next weekend, with Southgate wanting the midfielder to "psychologically refresh" after his club's success over Borussia Dortmund at Wembley.

England v Bosnia-Herzegovina

St James' Park
Today, kick-off 7.45pm
TV: Channel 4, Radio:
BBC 5 Live

Grealish not guaranteed place in squad

CONTINUED FROM BACK

most important thing [to be with the group]," he said. "The most important thing is rest and recovery and we will benefit from that."

"That is the constraint of international football. You have to work out the most important thing and for Jude, and therefore the team, it is psychologically switching off and recovering."

Bellingham's importance to the cause is emphasised by the continued fitness issues surrounding Harry Maguire, who is a major doubt for the opening group C game with Serbia on June 16.

Southgate said Maguire was recovering well from a muscle injury, but the friendlies will come too soon for him.

It means Crystal Palace centre back Marc Guéhi is in pole position to start for England against the Serbs,

providing he comes through the friendly programme unscathed.

Maguire, United team-mate Luke Shaw and Newcastle United winger Anthony Gordon are all making progress after injuries.

Of Maguire, Southgate said: "He won't be involved [against Bosnia]. Unlikely, I would say, for next Friday." England will also be without Bukayo Saka tonight, while Kieran Trippier will captain the side with Harry Kane lined up to start against Iceland.

Southgate also refused to offer Jack Grealish any guarantees that the Manchester City attacker would make his final 26-man squad.

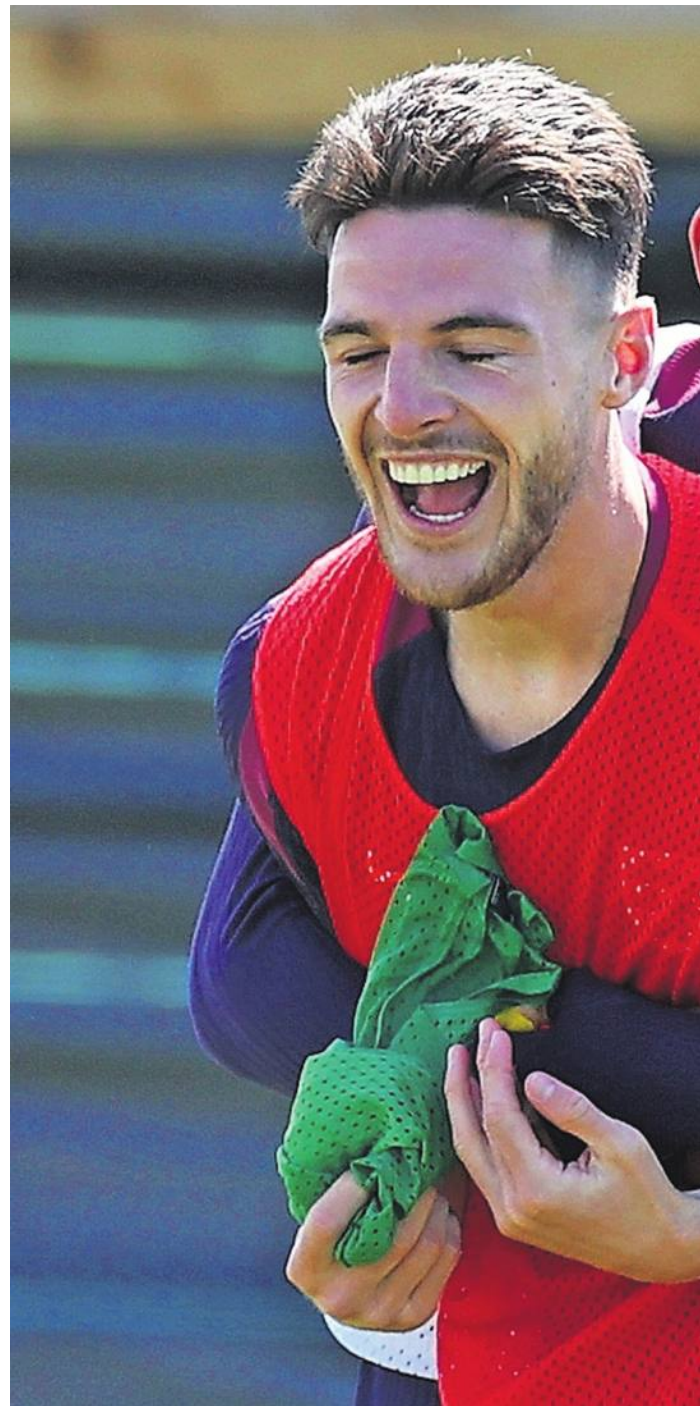
Grealish has cut short a holiday to report for duty after a difficult club season which ended with him being overlooked entirely for City's FA Cup final defeat to United.

Asked directly if Grealish was facing a battle to remain in the squad, Southgate added: "I don't think we're defining that just yet."

"I haven't talked to him [Grealish] specifically about the cup final. But he has been really bright and he loves being here. He's had a good energy about his training."

"[There are] a lot of good players in that area of the pitch and they are all competing. We think we know who the best have been across the season. What we don't totally know is how many we need to take or how many we can allow ourselves to take because of the cover we might need in other positions as well."

Cole Palmer and Eberechi Eze are among those hoping to start against Bosnia, with Trent Alexander-Arnold poised for a run-out in midfield.



says Trippier Sorry City, Real's dynasty is safe for the next decade

EDDIE KEOGH/THE FA VIA GETTY IMAGES



Clockwise from above: Alexander-Arnold, right, could solve the problem of who can partner Rice, left, in midfield; James Maddison catches up with Stokes, the England Test cricket captain; Kane, left, and Stones enjoy their training in the Darlington sunshine at Rockliffe Park



Ian Hawkey says arrival of Kylian Mbappé is icing on cake of young stars future-proofing European champions

Just behind the main surge of celebrants, with extrovert Real Madrid players jiving in front of supporters after the club's 15th European Cup had been claimed, a pair of understudies discreetly linked arms. They made an odd pair of dance partners. One, Andriy Lunin, is 6ft 4in. The teenager he was taking into his embrace, Arda Güler, is 5ft 8in.

Lunin sensed Güler needed a push to get his young face into the frames of Wembley's assembled photographers, to remind the Turkey attacking midfielder he too belongs in this story. Lunin thoroughly deserved to be because he had kept goal for Madrid through all the knockout ties, each of them tight, en route to Saturday's triumph and made critical saves. He missed the showpiece conclusion only because Thibaut Courtois, the No 1, recovered sufficiently from an injury that had deprived the Belgian of eight months of the season. Lunin was on the bench in London, watching Courtois doing some of what Courtois did two years ago against Liverpool in Paris — his saves setting the base for Madrid to take a grip on a final they had not controlled for long periods.

Güler's part in this European Cup has been entirely that of touchline witness. But such had been his impact on the last month of Madrid's winning Liga season that Carlo Ancelotti could, before the final, suggest that Güler might be part of his second-half strategy and make it sound plausible. He may be only 19 but he is full of technical daring that wows team-mates every day in practice. He's started only four games but has half a dozen goals. He'd be labelled the face of Madrid's long-term future if there weren't so many of those already.

Assuming he steadily climbs Madrid's attacking hierarchy, Güler can imagine matching the haul of six Champions League gold medals owned by veterans such as Luka Modric, or Dani Carvajal, or Nacho before he's 30. Madrid have won club football's top prize that many times since 2014. Güler can make bold assumptions, too, because any

teenager recommended for signing by the chief scout Juni Calafat's department has excellent endorsements. This is a club in a dazzling phase of youth recruitment: they had Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo ready to join when they were 16; Endrick, their fellow Brazilian, will check in at the Bernabeu after his 18th birthday next month. Eduardo Camavinga joined at 18. They backed a €100million (£85million) spend on Jude Bellingham when he was 19.

All of which inclined Madrid president Florentino Pérez to talk of a dynasty as he praised the galvanised second-half performance that saw off Borussia Dortmund on Saturday. "This is the launchpad for our 16th European Cup," Pérez said. He will set the same target when Madrid, some time this week, formalise the signing of Kylian Mbappé, a footballer they have been tracking since he was about 11. After several episodes of long, teasing negotiations, Mbappé will, at 25, finally join a squad of many attacking talents, as a free

longer be the team of Kevin De Bruyne and Bernardo Silva. PSG? They will have had to learn what life post-Mbappé needs to look like. Bayern Munich? They need to be careful that potential young signings don't all start asking why the manager there changes every year.

Plunging Mbappé into a thriving, future-protected Madrid does pose questions to Ancelotti about tactical readjustments, but to forecast difficulties and sudden imbalance seems perverse. As Bellingham acknowledged to TNT Sports, Mbappé represents "the only little thing maybe we've been missing — that clinical [No9]."

Through half of this season, Bellingham gave Madrid the impression they need not miss that sort of player, with his golden goal-a-game autumn. The tyro Güler then bookended the Liga campaign with similar form and when Madrid needed a target man to swing Saturday's final their way, they found an unlikely locum centre forward in 5ft 8in full back Carvajal, leaping high to nod in a near-post header ahead of tall Dortmund markers.

In the semi-final, a stop-gap loanee, 34-year-old Joselu, came off the bench to rescue a losing cause against Bayern.

But these were resourceful solutions to a genuine gap. No Madrid player has reached 20 goals in the past two Liga seasons, something that never happened while Cristiano Ronaldo or Karim Benzema were there. Mbappé arrives fresh from having scored 44 times across competitions for PSG in 2023-24.

Assuming Vinicius and Mbappé, who share a preference for attacking face to goal, from wide on the left, establish a complicity, Bellingham should spend less time acting as a false nine in his second Madrid season than in his first. Besides, there's now a deeper gap to fill: that of Toni Kroos, who has retired from club football, and with it an impulse to assign to Bellingham aspects of what Kroos has given Madrid over the past decade, to invite him to set the midfield tempo.

Ancelotti will think about that, but resist any misusing of Bellingham's all-terrain energy. "We have lost a very important player," the Italian said of Kroos.

"We'll adapt, but we'll have to play in a slightly different way, adapting to the characteristics of the players we have. I'm lucky enough to be at the best club in the world, where we have the resources to remain competitive."



Ancelotti recreates his iconic cigar smoking image with his Real players

transfer, albeit on mammoth wages, from Paris Saint-Germain.

Mbappé is some reinforcement. He is also a statement, carrying a message to all other would-be builders of European Cup dynasties that none looks as well set up as Madrid. Not even Manchester City, with whom many more jousts like the European quarter and semi-final meetings of the last three years can be anticipated, and the head-to-head duels of Phil Foden and Bellingham, Erling Haaland and Mbappé relished.

But Pérez will look gladly at the age-profile of his superstar cohort compared with City's. In five years time, Vinicius will be 27, Camavinga 26, Bellingham 25 and Güler a 24-year-old still with the face of a schoolboy shyly starting year ten. Endrick will be 23. City? They will no

'Stewards spoilt Wembley celebrations'

Ian Hawkey

Real Madrid staff have complained that celebrations of the club's Champions League triumph were marred by heavy-handed stewarding at Wembley and that stadium security personnel prevented designated family and friends from joining players on the pitch.

Two of Madrid's own contracted security detail were restrained by stewards as arguments escalated over who was officially accredited to enter the playing area after the trophy presentation. Following instructions from Uefa, family and friends of Madrid players with wristbands enabling access were allowed through. Some Real staff

complained the stewarding spoilt the celebrations, although the club has not raised an official complaint. Wembley officials declined to comment on the incident but are understood to be happy with the stewarding in general.

It capped a challenging night for Uefa, which was heavily criticised for the crowd-management failings that caused the 2022 final in Paris to be delayed, and for Wembley, a stadium seeking to redeem its reputation after the violence at the Euro 2020 final, when an estimated 2,000 people without tickets breached security barriers.

On Saturday an unprecedented 2,500 stewards were deployed as part of the FA's £5 million investment in improving

security. Barely 30 seconds after kick-off three people pierced the touchline cordon and ran on to the pitch. During the match, footage was posted online of a small group trying to force their way into one of the entrances and, after the final whistle, video circulated of further attempts to enter through a staff doorway. The FA said the attempts had been thwarted, adding: "Our enhanced security operations ensured these incidents were dealt with robustly and swiftly." The Metropolitan Police said: "We are confident the overwhelming majority of attempts to unlawfully gain access to Wembley were unsuccessful."

Police made 53 arrests, five of them for pitch invasion.

Sport French Open

If golf starts at 7am, why not tennis at 10?

Stuart Fraser warns of risks to players and fans after Djokovic's 3.07am finish



As Novak Djokovic finally claimed victory in his late-night French Open battle at 3.07am yesterday, Casper Ruud was on the physio table making clear the absurdity of it all on social media. His own late finish about two hours earlier meant he was still going through the necessary recovery process at this ludicrous hour.

"Can tennis be considered one of the toughest sports in the world?" the No 7 seed from Norway asked on social media. "What other sports make you play/compete/perform for four-plus hours at 3am?"

"I just finished my match two hours ago. After that I have to cool down on the bike for 15 minutes, do press/media, ice bath for ten minutes, shower, eat and then get treatment/massage. I'm currently at the treatment stage."

It has long been clear that tennis has a scheduling problem that needs addressing. Too often in recent years, at tournaments across the world, players have been forced to burn the midnight oil to new extremes. There

Latest grand-slam finishes

4.34am 2008 Australian Open: Lleyton Hewitt vs Marcos Baghdatis
4.05am 2023 Australian Open: Andy Murray vs Thanasi Kokkinakis
3.40am 2024 Australian Open: Daniil Medvedev vs Emil Ruusuvuori
3.34am 2007 Australian Open: Andreas Seppi vs Bobby Reynolds
3.12am 2019 Australian Open: Garbiñe Muguruza vs Johanna Konta
3.07am 2024 French Open: Novak Djokovic vs Lorenzo Musetti

is no other sport like it.

French Open organisers are somewhat fortunate that Djokovic defeated Italy's Lorenzo Musetti. Had the Serbian been knocked out in the third round, losing his world No 1 ranking in the process, one suspects that a furious tirade would have followed. As it was, he only gently hinted at some frustration bubbling underneath the surface before quickly focusing on the recovery he faces before his match today.

"I don't want to get into it," Djokovic said, only minutes after departing the court. "I have my opinions but I think there are great things to talk about as we are talking about this match today, and both Lorenzo's and my performance stand out. I don't want to be talking about [the] schedule."

He added: "I think some things could've been handled a different way.

There's a beauty as well in winning the match at 3am if it's the last one of the tournament — but it's not, so I'm going to have to switch all of my young genes [on] and try to recover as quick as possible."

The specific mistake of organisers on Saturday was the shoe-horning of an extra match into the Court Philippe Chatrier schedule before Djokovic faced Musetti. Having initially been given a scheduled start of 8.15pm, play did not commence until 10.37pm.

There are wider flaws with the sport's approach to scheduling, however. Financial greed has resulted in the encouragement of more night play where possible, without acknowledging the simple fact that the average length of tennis matches has steadily increased because of improved physicality and slower surfaces.

Until recent years, the French Open was a perfectly successful daytime tournament that did not go beyond sunset at about 9.30pm. Now, floodlights are

Djokovic did not start until 10.37pm

across the grounds and a specific one-match night session has been carved out on Court Philippe Chatrier, which not only brings in extra revenue through ticket sales but has been sold as a separate rights package to Amazon Prime.

It is easy for pampered tennis chiefs to make these decisions. They will have no issue taking tournament cars back to their accommodation whenever play finishes, a stark contrast to the thousands of spectators who struggle at 3am to find suitable transport home.

The concerns of women walking alone in the dark streets are obvious.

As was the case yesterday, great contests can still take place in the early hours. But surely it would be more enjoyable for all involved, on the court and in the stands, if it were to take place at a more reasonable time in sync with the natural body clock? Mirra

Andreeva, the 17-year-old prospect, was understandably tired before she even started a second-round match that eventually finished at 12.59am on Friday.

"We went on court and it was around 10pm," Andreeva

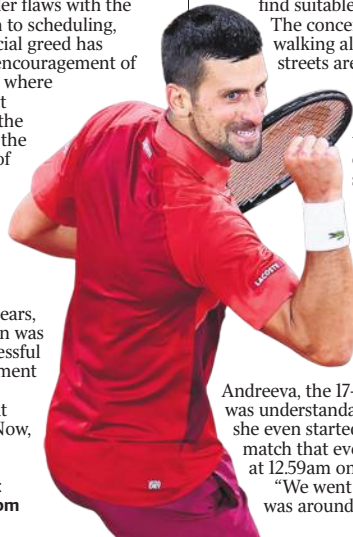
said. "I am usually already in bed by that time."

No doubt there have been scheduling challenges caused by the poor weather throughout the first week in Paris, but this late-night experience is far from an outlier in tennis nowadays. Four of the six latest grand-slam finishes in history have been recorded in the past five years.

In my view it is starting to have a particular impact on staff behind the scenes — many of whom do not receive overtime pay for a late finish. The bright and bushy-tailed vibe at the start of a grand-slam fortnight is now quickly making way for an assortment of drained faces one week in. Do not underestimate the effect that sleep deprivation can have on both physical and mental health.

Excuses are often trotted out by organisers, such as the unpredictable length of a tennis match, but there is a clear pattern of later finishes in the sport that needs to be properly addressed. If golf can get some of the best players in the world out on the course at 7am, then why isn't tennis shifting to an earlier start time of 10am, for example, on all courts? The Chatrier schedule throughout the first week here did not commence until noon, causing problems in itself.

The reputation of night play here at Roland Garros is now such that some players specifically request not to play at that time of day on Chatrier. Among them is Iga Swiatek, the world No 1, who said: "There's no issue. I just like to sleep normally." Don't we all?



Enjoy an epic summer of tennis, on a TV made by Sky.

With a 4K UHD screen and Dolby Atmos® soundbar built in.



From
~~£699~~
£555

or £11 a month for 48 months. 0% interest.
 *Requires Sky Ultimate TV subscription.

sky glass

Available in 3 sizes, 65", 55" and 43".

Go to Sky.com Visit a Sky store

Biggest barrier for Saints? Knowing they are superior

Stuart Barnes



What a weekend. On Friday the febrile atmosphere at Franklin's Gardens seemingly reverberated through my television set in distant Wiltshire. On Saturday, Bath — with the not inconsiderable assistance of a defiant Sale Sharks side — delivered an unforgettable afternoon.

It wasn't anything like a game for the ages. Had it not been a semi-final with a trip to Twickenham on the line, it would have been just another Gallagher Premiership match: tough, rugged, with bursts of excitement and periods of excessive errors. This wasn't about picking up a bonus point here, depriving the opposition of one there; winning was all that mattered.

The same mantra applied the previous night. Neither Northampton Saints nor Saracens were at their best but these knockout games have a different psychology. Playing well can be harder than winning. Jack Rowell's old Bath team used the phrase "never in doubt" to understate the awfulness of coming so close to losing games that were theoretically comfortable assignments.

Throughout the process of developing a team, the single most important factor is the quality of performance. Without this, teams will not win enough games to make the top four. When they reach the knockout stage, in whatever competition, performance is something that rarely flourishes for an entire game. Sometimes it takes the day off. The Bath teams of a previous century produced only one five-star performance in an era of constant Twickenham success: against Gloucester in the 1990 Pilkington Cup final.



Finals are not easy. Nor are semi-finals. Bath prepared for Sale as though it were just another 80 minutes at the Recreation Ground. Train, think, say what you want, the hours before kick-off erase all that pretence.

Sale had a guard of honour waiting for them as they ambled down the steps from Pulteney Bridge to Bath's famous and most scenic of weirs. It seemed as though thousands of Sharks fans were waiting, thundering the name of their team nonstop. It was a statement of intent, a dramatic scene. Sale's fans were fantastic all afternoon.

But that was only the back-door entrance compared with the grand arrival of the home team. Pasty in one hand, pen in the other, I was jolted by a distant and growing roar from the other side of the Rec, hundreds of metres from the press box. Like nothing I have heard at the old ground. As the team entered the environs of the stadium, fans created a walkway with what looked like thousands of supporters packed either side of their pedestrian route, cheering them on. It was reminiscent of the entrance to Toulon during their European glory days. Inspiring and intimidating at the same time.

The stadium wasn't any more packed than normal — its 15,000 capacity is pretty much always filled — but the atmosphere was on a whole other level. Inspiring? Yes, but not without the intimidating fear that comes with letting down their fans. On Saturday Bath will be emptied, as it once was in the 1980s and 1990s. It is a communal coming together.

Post-match I bumped into a man whose state can be described only as one of gloriously epic inebriation. He loved the community game, he told me — over and over again. And that's what Bath should aspire to be at heart: a giant community club.

That is also a burden. What makes finals a slog is that damned expectation. When you know you are the superior side it becomes too easy to retreat into your shell and take few risks. But that only keeps the scoreboard close and allows the lesser team a chance. That's what happened on Friday night. The Saints have been a better team than



Bath want action over Hill fan row

CONTINUED FROM BACK

the fan was taken to a medical unit for treatment on his cut.

Bath are keen not to let the matter lie, and hope that Hill, 29, faces disciplinary action, whether from the police or the RFU.

Bath have voiced their displeasure to Sale at executive level, taken the details of the fan in question and will now relay to the RFU what happened. Before next season they will also reiterate their supporters' charter on fan behaviour.

The RFU will speak to both clubs before deciding whether to take any action. As the governing body, it can bring a disciplinary charge against Hill, pictured at the Rec before the match on Saturday, if deemed appropriate.

During the semi-final, Sale fans made separate allegations that they had been abused by Bath supporters, verbally and physically, on social media. Bath are now looking into those too.

Avon and Somerset police have been contacted for comment.

Saracens all season and so they were on Friday, but they couldn't expand their game under pressure. What was a fair nine-point margin, three minutes from the end, was suddenly two points and the nerves jangled.

Northampton have been the best team in England this season. They should be favourites. They should win. That comes with pressure. The smart psychology for Johann van Graan, the Bath head coach, is to convince his men that they will win while reiterating the point that the wider public expects the Saints to prevail.

This may just free them to be inspired, rather than intimidated, by the hordes of cider folk heading east on the M4 on Saturday. The community are delirious just to be Twickenham-bound once more.

The supporters can be used as an inspirational weapon rather than an intimidatory factor. Finn Russell can strut his stuff on a stage the ideal size for him to perform, Puck and Prospero rolled

into one. On an individual level he has to banish any personal pressures. He is one of Europe's most glittering stars but there remains an absence of trophies on his shelf, bar the Pro12 triumph in 2015.

Bath are only the second-best side in England this season but Twickenham is a knockout game. It's about finding enough to win. It really doesn't matter how well either team plays. It's about lifting a trophy or losing a final. There are no prizes for topping the table. It's up to Northampton to assert their quality on a day when quality does not always count.

As with the semi-final, it could be an average affair in the technical sense, but an epic game à la Toulouse versus Leinster. Unlike the theatre, the actors don't have to be foot-perfect to make for memorable drama. Maybe that's the beauty of sport.

Northampton Saints v Bath
Saturday, kick-off 3pm TV: TNT Sports, ITV

QATAR AIRWAYS **CUP**

SPRINGBOKS

WALES

KICK-OFF 2PM

KILLIK Cup

BARBARIANS

FIJI

KICK-OFF 5:15PM

ONE TICKET. TWO MATCHES.

TWICKENHAM STADIUM | 22 JUNE 2024

BUY NOW **ticketmaster** **★TICKETEX**

BARBARIANS INCLUDE:

DANNY CARE

JONNY MAY

KYLE SINCKLER

JONATHAN JOSEPH

DAVID RIBBANS

ZACH MERCER

BEN YOUNGS

Sport Rob Burrow, 1982-2024

From a 5ft 4in league star

CONTINUED FROM BACK

skip in and out of the giants who liked to rule the playing field. There is a debate to be had about his greatest moments — his man-of-the-match heroics in the Grand Final in 2011? His starring role for Great Britain in the series against New Zealand in 2007? There is time aplenty for that.

Yet Burrow became more than a rugby league hero. In his fight against MND he became a national figure of extraordinary significance, a man loved and admired for qualities that stretched far beyond his physical attributes and a sidestep that no one seemed able to pick.

The mourning that follows his death will reflect that. There will, at some point too, be celebrations that will treasure the impact he made and the legacy of the achievements he accumulated when he found himself literally in a fight for his life.

He had MND diagnosed in December 2019 and was given a life expectancy of two years. More than four years later they opened the gates of Headingley Stadium, yesterday afternoon, for well-wishers to come to pay their respects. Yet Burrow became so much more than a local hero.

He became the focal point for the fight against MND. In this, he received a baton-pass from Doddie Weir, the Scotland rugby union international, who died of the disease

“The miles Sinfield accumulated symbolised how far one human is prepared to go for another

18 months ago. Burrow was never slow to thank Weir for showing him the way to live with MND; Weir's refusal to allow it to dent his spirit or diminish his charisma was a lesson that Burrow learnt fast.

With his great mate Kevin Sinfield, he then set about continuing Weir's work to raise awareness for MND sufferers and funds to help science find a way to fight it. Sinfield's eye-watering marathon exploits have now raised more than £8million for MND charities. If there was a moment that captured all this, it was the sight of Sinfield carrying Burrow over the finishing line of the inaugural Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon just over a year ago.

Barely a tearduct can have remained intact that day because herein lay a truth far greater than the success of Burrow's and Sinfield's incredible Leeds Rhinos team of the previous two decades. Here has been a story that told of the important life forces. In words that were typically succinct and yet unspeakably moving, Sinfield said later that the moment “symbolised friendship, love and caring for your mate”.

He also explained it this way: “When one of your best mates is given the diagnosis Rob got, then you have a choice whether you stand shoulder to shoulder, or you don't.”

Burrow's life thus took on another meaning once he had been handed his MND diagnosis. He came to symbolise the strength of the bonds of friendship.

You can interpret that as the bonds that were forged over many years by team-mates working side by side in

In his own words

Rob Burrow's autobiography, titled *Too Many Reasons to Live*, was a phenomenal success when it was published in 2021. He told of having motor neurone disease (MND) diagnosed in late 2019, and how quickly it changed his life. Here is a sample of what he wrote:

His diagnosis

“I do remember asking if Lindsey [his wife] was OK. She had a bit of a cry and we cuddled. Then I said: ‘Thank God it's me and not you or the kids.’ When I phoned my parents to tell them the news, Dad hit the deck. I could hear Mum sobbing uncontrollably in the background. At home Lindsey also collapsed in the hallway. It wasn't a pretty scene. There's not much pretty about MND. Then we took the girls swimming and tried to act normal.”

His children

“There might not be much treatment for MND, but when I watch my kids running around with big smiles on their faces, giggling and screaming and hollering, it feels like I've been cured.”

His defiance

“Every day MND tries to convince me to quit — tells me I'm too small, that I don't have what it takes — but I refuse to listen. MND picked on the wrong bloke, just like opponents on the rugby field always picked on the wrong bloke. I can't keep dodging the disease for ever, but I won't stop trying. I'm not thinking about the full-time hooter. I'm still fighting tooth and nail. That's how it has to be.”

● *Too Many Reasons To Live* by Rob Burrow with Ben Dirs (Macmillan)



Burrow with his son Jackson at a Leeds Rhinos game in 2020. He spent his entire career with the club, winning eight Super League titles and two Challenge Cups

an aggressive sport that requires relentless courage and values the physical support of those wearing the same colours. This was the message that Sinfield wanted to share when he and Burrow were both honoured with awards at the 2023 BBC Sports Personality of the Year event. “In sport and certainly in rugby,” he said, “the connections you make and the friends don't just stop when the whistle goes. Sport is powerful enough to bring communities together.”

“Kev was my captain,” was Burrow's take on their double act, “and he still is my captain.”

Yet you could take Burrow outside



“His qualities stretched far beyond his physical attributes and a sidestep no one was able to pick

of the changing-room environment and still treasure the simple value of deep friendships. The many miles that Sinfield accumulated in his extraordinary sequence of marathons and ultra-marathons became a symbol of how far one human is prepared to go for another. In

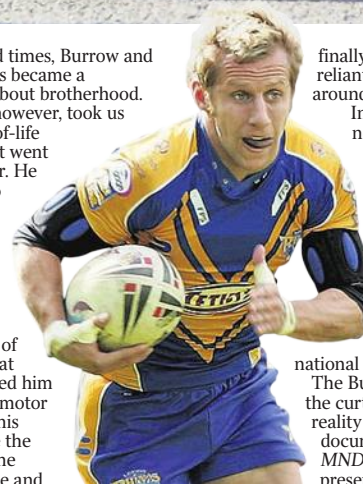
complicated times, Burrow and Sinfield thus became a statement about brotherhood.

Burrow, however, took us on an end-of-life journey that went even further. He took us into his home, he let us know his family. He allowed us in to witness the callousness of a disease that slowly robbed him of his basic motor skills, then his ability to be the father that he wanted to be and

finally made him utterly reliant upon the care around him.

In his last years it was not just Burrow or Sinfield who became national heroes, then, it was Burrow's wife, Lindsey, too. Her bravery of spirit as his primary carer and her relentlessly cheerful resilience have also become a national story.

The Burrow family pulled the curtain back on the full reality of it all in a documentary, *Living with MND*. Lindsey has since presented another



to national hero

Burrow raised millions to fight MND, completing events with his wife Lindsey and three children, left. Crossing the finish line of the 2023 Rob Burrow Leeds Half Marathon with his friend and former team-mate, Sinfield, right, and teaming up with fellow sufferer Weir, below. Inset, the public were invited to leave flowers at Headingley



documentary, *Who Cares For Our Carers?* which exposed the physical and emotional workload of those in the MND family. Lindsey has had a book out recently too: *Take Care*. On his Instagram page, Burrow said: "I hope Lindsey's book will inspire people to be more like her. What a world that would be."

Indeed, as this cast of people so terribly hurt by MND have come into our lives, it has been impossible not to be affected by the depth and strength of their love. They have become extraordinary role models.

Burrow was a wonderful rugby player. If you have a minute, just treat yourself to a few gorgeous minutes with him on YouTube. His tries alone say something about the strength of his beating heart. Yet it is far, far more than a rugby player who is so sadly lost to the world.

£5m MND centre opens today

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Leeds Rhinos confirmed that the opening of a £5 million specialist motor neurone disease (MND) facility at the city's Seacroft Hospital would go ahead as planned today, despite the death of Rob Burrow yesterday at the age of 41.

"Fittingly, as a tribute to the incredible work done by Rob, the groundbreaking of the new Rob Burrow Centre for MND at Seacroft Hospital will go ahead at Rob's request," the club, where Burrow spent his whole rugby league career, said in a statement.

The Prince of Wales, who presented Burrow and his former team-mate and friend Kevin Sinfield with CBEs this year for their fundraising efforts, wrote

on social media that Burrow was a "legend of rugby league" and "had a huge heart". "He taught us that, in a world full of adversity, we must dare to dream," he said. "Catherine and I send our love to Lindsey [Burrow's wife], Jackson, Maya and Macy [their children]."

Sinfield also paid tribute to his friend, writing: "Today was the day that I hoped would never come... I would always say that you were the toughest player I ever played alongside, however, since your diagnosis, you were the toughest and bravest man I have ever met. The last 4½ years you showed the world what living and loving looked like and this was always done with the biggest smile on your face. I will miss you my little mate." **Obituary, page 43**

Dubois victory sets up Joshua Wembley clash

Boxing
Rick Broadbent

Daniel Dubois showed the requisite guts, glory and improvement to win the IBF interim heavyweight belt and set up an all-British Wembley duel with Anthony Joshua over the weekend.

On a night when America's sledgehammer Deontay Wilder, 38, was brutally knocked out by Chinese man-mountain Zhilei Zhang, hopefully convincing the former WBC champion that he should retire, Dubois thrust himself into the heavyweight conversation.

Filip Hrgovic, tough, durable and previously unbeaten, had been the IBF's frustrated mandatory challenger and you have to feel for him after waiting an age for a shot that never came. He rocked Dubois early, but the Londoner ploughed forward, peppering the Croatian with double jabs and cutting him around both eyes before the fight was stopped on the advice of a doctor.

Joshua, 34, was ringside, as he had been when Oleksandr Usyk beat Tyson Fury a fortnight earlier. Plenty of people did not expect Dubois, 26, to be a significant figure in the coming title shake-up, but he has been rebuilding patiently under the tutelage of Don Charles.

"I was rock bottom last year but now I'm on top," he said. "I've heard the next opponent will be AJ so bring it on. I'm

anxious to become the best and this is my era, this is my time. I just need to keep improving," he said.

Ever since Usyk unified the division by beating Fury, the IBF had been expected to strip the Ukrainian of its belt for not facing its mandatory challenger. Usyk's team have asked the IBF for an exception so that his rematch with Fury on December 21 will again be for all the belts.

However, if the IBF strips Usyk of the belt then Dubois should be upgraded to full champion and that title will be on the line when he takes on Joshua in London on September 21. It also means Joshua could become a three-times world champion eight years after he first won the IBF belt.

Dubois has undeniably been through a lot in his 23 fights. Last August, he was inches from being the world champion after flooring Usyk in their bout. However, the telling blow was ruled low and Usyk was given time to recover. From there he deployed his superior skill to forge a ninth-round stoppage.

Dubois was first pilloried when he took a knee and was counted out after suffering a broken eye socket against Joe Joyce in 2020.

"Undoubtedly, I have the heart," he told *The Times* last year. "My confidence has never gone and I see those things as a lesson."

United can play with sister club Nice in Europa League

Football
Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

Manchester United and Manchester City are set to be given the go-ahead by Uefa to compete in the same European competitions as their sister clubs in the coming season. United and Nice, the French club owned by Sir Jim Ratcliffe's company Ineos, have both qualified for the Europa League, while City are in the Champions League along with the Spanish side Girona.

Uefa's Club Financial Control Board (CFCB) is due to issue a ruling on multi-club ownership issues today for the two Manchester clubs and others involved in European competition. It is understood the CFCB is set to give approval to the Manchester clubs playing along with their sister clubs subject to certain conditions.

However, the clubs are to be told that the 2024-25 season will be viewed as a transitional one and there will not be as much leeway given in future seasons. The CFCB is expected to say Girona

and Nice should be operated via a "blind trust" by a panel approved by Uefa. That model was used this season in a deal for AC Milan, Toulouse and their American investor Red Bird Capital.

Girona, also owned by City Football Group (CFG), finished third in La Liga. They have had three key players either loaned or sold via CFG's influence, including the Manchester City-bound forward Savio. The CFCB is understood to have scrutinised the CFG links because of the clubs' transfer dealings. The panel's criteria covers clubs in the same ownership group that "transferred, permanently or temporarily, three or more players with the other club, directly or indirectly via related parties, during the season".

A Uefa document on multi-club ownership seen by *The Times* says a blind trust would be a "temporary alternative... granted on an exceptional basis for the 2024-25 Uefa competitions". The document also makes clear that Uefa's multi-club ownership rule may be changed for future seasons.

Earps out of England qualifier with hip injury

Mary Earps has withdrawn from the England squad with a hip injury, meaning she will miss tomorrow's Euro 2025 qualifier away to France.

The reigning BBC Sports Personality of the Year hobbled off in the eighth minute of Friday's qualifier, also against France, and was seen on crutches after the game in Newcastle.

The injury, which England have described as "minor", occurred when Earps went down after playing a routine pass in the first minute. However, despite her attempts to soldier on in what was her 50th England appearance, the 31-year-old was replaced by Hannah Hampton.

France v England
Tomorrow, kick-off 8pm TV ITV4

West Ham closing in on £25m forward Guilherme

West Ham United have moved closer to a £25.5 million deal to sign the 18-year-old Palmeiras forward Luis Guilherme (Gary Jacob writes).

The Brazil Under-20 international plays mostly as a right winger, contributing one goal and one assist in 44 games for his club. He was linked with Chelsea and Bayern Munich in October and has a year left on his deal. He favours a move to the Premier League and Palmeiras are willing to sell him for less than the £47 million release clause as they will retain a 20 per cent sell-on fee.

Tim Steidten, the West Ham technical director, is also working on a £12.5 million deal for Fabricio Bruno, the Flamengo centre back.

Sport

Mike Atherton

Bowlers win World Cups –
and England's look strong

T20 World Cup, pages 50-51



Little guy with a giant heart who moved a nation


Rob Burrow
1982-2024

Burrow with friend Kevin Sinfield, right, at a charity event in November 2021

Owen Slot

Chief Sports Writer



Rugby, in both its codes, has always had a love affair with the little guys whose courage and skill enabled them to mix it, undaunted, with the behemoths of the game. Rob Burrow was one of the very best of those; absolutely as good as they come. No opposition was too big for him and it was a different adversary

altogether that was finally his undoing in a West Yorkshire hospital yesterday. In an interview in these pages two years ago he stated with his characteristic no-nonsense determination that "I'm not giving up until my last breath". That last breath has now been taken, leaving Burrow a tragic victim of motor

neurone disease (MND) at the age of 41. It was partly because of his diminutive stature that his highlights reel as a player is so crammed with magic. Bristling, bustling, accumulating brilliant tries. He was but 5ft 4in yet possessed of pace and balance that allowed him to

Fan reports Hill to police

 Will Kelleher
Deputy Rugby Correspondent

The fan who claimed that Jonny Hill left him with a cut above his eye after Sale Sharks' Gallagher Premiership semi-final defeat by Bath has reported the incident to the police.

The Bath supporter, 28, said that Hill, who plays for Sale but is injured at present, hurt him after the full-time whistle at the Recreation Ground on Saturday. He then filed a complaint with Avon and Somerset police that evening.

Hill, the 6ft 7in second row who has 20 England caps and represented the British & Irish Lions in 2021, was seen in a scuffle with a supporter and was pulled away by Byron McGuigan, a Sale coach. The fan then complained of broken sunglasses and a small cut above his right eye. It is understood that

Continued on page 55

Bellingham to rest for Euros

Paul Joyce

Gareth Southgate has told Jude Bellingham to "psychologically switch off" this week to ensure he is ready for the start of England's Euro 2024 campaign.

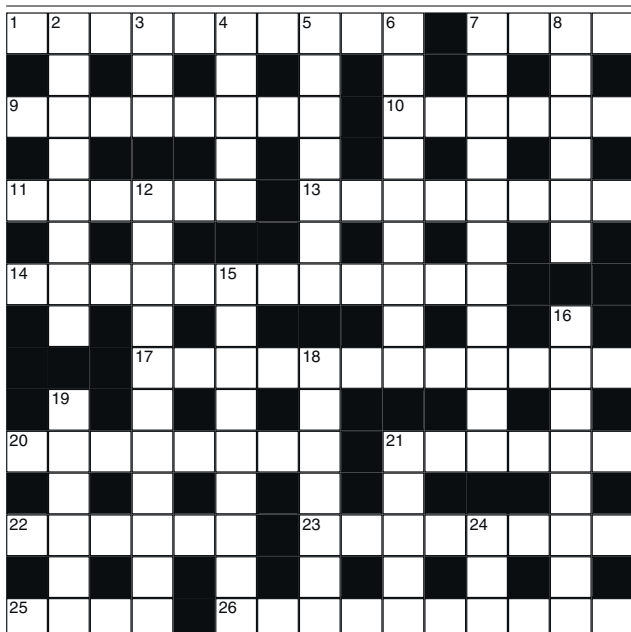
The midfielder capped a stellar first season with Real Madrid by helping them win the Champions League final on Saturday and Southgate believes heading straight into camp for the tournament would prove counterproductive to the nation's hopes of lifting silverware in Germany.

England face Bosnia and Herzegovina at St James' Park tonight in the first of two warm-up games, with Bellingham also missing Friday's match at Wembley against Iceland.

Southgate admits that will impact on his preparations, but is prioritising the 20-year-old's wellbeing. "It's not the

Continued on page 52

Times Crossword 28,933



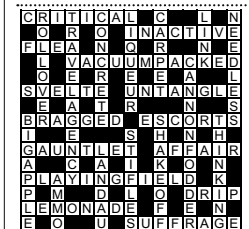
ACROSS

- 1 Waste puzzlingly suggesting exercise gear? (10)
- 7 Cry of equine creature heard (4)
- 9 Host increasingly pious, concealing note (8)
- 10 OK to scoff but possible His Majesty will abdicate? (6)
- 11 A river boy reaching the very top (6)
- 13 Sacrifice of old boy left country leaderless (8)
- 14 Bury getting goal in stoppage time (12)
- 17 Captain Hook was so alone! (6-6)
- 20 Doubt over inquest condemned (8)
- 21 Considered what brought about one journalist going after another (6)
- 22 Pay no attention to foreign or English nurses (6)
- 23 Amount of business seen in a pie shop? (8)
- 25 Amaze fans, making a comeback (4)
- 26 Ship's officer with another moving victory (6,4)

DOWN

- 2 Huge place in London, did you say? (8)
- 3 Other half once turning up with a weapon (3)
- 4 Revolutionary endlessly afflicted (5)
- 5 In France we must keep on rebelling, very excitable (7)
- 6 Drunk's greedy: called out for lobster perhaps (9)
- 7 This might keep one running (11)
- 8 Hit the drink (6)
- 12 Press on excitedly with yoga, finding nourishment here? (6,5)
- 15 Machismo of island hunter avoiding nothing (9)
- 16 Showing respect as always aboard charter (8)
- 18 Continual rearrangement not on? It's ridiculous (7)
- 19 Move head of Treasury? That's the Chancellor's plan (6)
- 21 Woman appearing to be a pescatarian (5)
- 24 Little resistance in Cockney's birthplace we hear (3)

Prize solution 28,926



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

The winners of Prize Crossword No 28,926 are
O Bloor, Lymington, Hampshire
G Graham, London SW14
L Knutton, Coventry, West Midlands
T Madge, London E14
M Moran, Pangbourne, Berkshire

Newspapers support recycling

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2023 was 45.5%

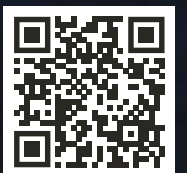


Andrew Neil joins Times Radio

Don't miss one of Britain's most renowned broadcasters on Times Radio. Andrew Neil will be with you every lunch time with informed analysis, debate and the big interviews you need to hear. It's an appointment to listen.

Listen for free today, 1-2pm

TIMESRADIO
THE ELECTION STATION



DAB RADIO | ONLINE | SMART SPEAKER | APP



CARRERA

CHASING DREAMS SINCE 1963



TAG HEUER BOUTIQUES, LONDON
OXFORD STREET • COVENT GARDEN • HARRODS
TAGHEUER.COM

Putin 'liked'
her Instagram

Rishi got a
dog because
she told him to

She asked the
Tory schools
minister about his
Mickey Mouse
degree

'One mistake is all it takes'

Why politicians fear Kay Burley

Is David Beckham really the bees' knees when it comes to sustainability?

Kevin Maher



All hail the new ambassador to the King's Foundation! All bow before this bold appointee, who has become the new face of the charity and who represents, in essence, the foundation's mission to promote, above all else, sustainability. Yes, it's David Beckham! Hurrah! Sorry, what?

David Beckham? Is the new face of sustainability? David Beckham? Who only last month flew to a secluded vineyard in Spain on a private jet (he apparently owns a Bombardier Challenger 350, worth £18 million), for a double date with wife Victoria and buddies Gordon and Tana Ramsay and flew home within 24 hours clutching a £900 bottle of wine? That David Beckham?

It might be just me, but making David Beckham the brand ambassador for sustainability feels like appointing the Cookie Monster to the board of Weight Watchers. Yes, there's a tissue of thematic connectivity there. But, equally, no.

And, obviously, as anyone who's seen his fearless and penetrating Netflix documentary series *Beckham* can attest, he's a great guy who felt really bad after the red-card sending off at the 1998 World Cup and has basically been brilliant ever since, but that doesn't necessarily qualify him for this new ambassadorship. The foundation's fundamental aim, for instance, backed by the King, is to "champion a sustainable approach to how we live our lives and build our communities".

Beckham, meanwhile, has always been the unashamed king of conspicuous consumption, championing a rapaciously commercial approach to how we live our lives. Think of all the "faces" he's been through the years. The face of Pepsi was a big one. I wonder how many Pepsi cans in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch began as thirst-quenchers from football enthusiasts desperate to emulate Beckham's washboard stomach by slurping back his heavily endorsed fizzy drinks?

He's since been the face of Gillette (the non-sustainable hint is in the product — "disposable" razors) and is currently the face of absurdly faddy



The King and David Beckham

and environmentally questionable coffee-making system, Nespresso. Yes, in the interest of fairness, Nespresso also makes paper-based compostable coffee pods, and yes, you can collect up all your used evil aluminium pods and put them in a bag and post them away, or drive them to your "local" Nespresso Boutique, but, come on, ever heard of boiling water and coffee grounds? I think there's a word for that? Oh, yes, sustainable!

And we're not even touching his alleged "£3 million car collection" (according to The Sun), including Maseratis, Bentleys and a planet-nuking Hummer. Although it's moving to note that, in 2022, his wedding present to son Brooklyn and wife Nicola Peltz was a fully electric and environmentally friendly "upcycled" Jaguar XK120. And it only cost a rumoured £420,000, adding to the suspicion that the sustainability movement is being co-opted by the super-rich as the ultimate status symbol. "You have a Tesla? How cute. My electric Jag corners like she's on rails, and only cost £400k! And it's soooo good for the planet!"

And then, inevitably, there's the property portfolio, with the rumoured £31 million London townhouse, £18 million Miami apartment and £12 million Cotswolds home, with 1,200 sq ft underground wine cellar, football pitch, artificial pond, artificial island, £50,000 safari tent, and, of course, a green space for Beckham's bee hives, from where he collects his own honey. Wait! David Beckham makes his own honey? Wow. Good on him. That is a seriously sustainable endeavour. If only there was a royal foundation that could use him? Talk about a perfect fit!

When not to get a haircut

Speaking of over-pampered footballers ... It's mildly depressing to learn that the England squad are bringing their own official hairdresser to this summer's Euros in Germany. Creating the team's trademark trims is seemingly treated as a sacred ritualistic duty, with squad barber Ahmed Alsanawi warning, solemnly, that he would never cut a player's hair on the day of a match. Because? "They have to concentrate on getting in the zone!" Yep, I always find that getting my hair cut is a completely destabilising event that pulls me out of every zone of concentration possible.

Meanwhile, on the same subject, Gareth Southgate unintentionally revealed the real reason why the England men's team haven't won a major footballing tournament since the 1966 World Cup. When asked about the players' preparation routine he said, "The lads are obsessive about getting their hair cut the night before a game." Right. Now, this is possibly just some wacky blue sky-thinking, but I'm sure there's only one thing the lads should be obsessive about before a game. It's called the game.

I'm the Leave J-Lo Alone Guy

Remember the "Leave Britney Alone Guy" who wailed through a

viral video demanding that everyone stop pillorying Britney Spears? I'm the "Leave J-Lo Alone Guy" and I'm baffled at the amount of online bile directed at Jennifer Lopez, just because she's made some dumb Netflix movies (see

Atlas), a so-so album (*This Is Me ... Now*) and has cancelled a summer tour. From the trilogy of knockout screen performances she delivered in the 1990s (*Selena*, *U Turn* and *Out of Sight*), she's earned the right to have as many failures

as she likes. She is a better actor than, say, Keanu Reeves (I don't remember him getting pilloried when *The Matrix Resurrections* flopped) and a better singer than Kylie. Just (big breath, lots of tears), "Leave. Her. Alone!"

'I was covered in

Now on her 12th election, Kay Burley is a master of the political dust-up. But the stresses of her lifestyle led to an almost fatal calamity. By Michael Odell

The Sky News presenter Kay Burley's morning routine has had a minor but key tweak. Her alarm goes off at 3.17am, at which point she sits up, takes a breath, then puts on the lights in her Knightsbridge flat to ensure she is fully awake. After a shower, she reads her briefing notes while listening to the BBC World Service and then, without breakfast or caffeine, heads to Sky's Millbank studios in southwest London to present *Kay Burley at Breakfast* live from 7am to 10am.

"The sitting up, taking a breath and putting all the lights on is very, very important because last year I jumped out of bed and, next thing, I woke up covered in blood on the bathroom floor," she says. "I take medicine to lower my blood pressure and the menopause lowers it further still. Who knew? I got out of bed too quickly and just passed out in the shower. Luckily I hit my head on the wall as I went down because the doctor said if I'd hit the door jamb it would have been Goodnight Vienna."

She says the incident was last June and later sends a photo of the black eye that forced her to miss her show.

Today Burley is still pushing herself hard. She's done her live broadcast. It's 1pm and I'm on the balcony of her beautiful apartment, which is a five-minute walk from Harrods. But she won't have a nap or eat — she is oddly insistent I eat her chocolate biscuits, though — because she is fasting.

"I'll do 18 hours without food and then have 300 calories at some point because it makes me feel good," she beams. "But I'm not Rishi, I can't do his 24 or 36 hours fast."

There's a Bafta on the mantelpiece for Sky's 9/11 coverage (Burley: "If you're just joining us the entire eastern seaboard of the United States has been decimated by a terrorist attack") and pink dumbbells tucked under the sofa. And as if daily live TV wasn't enough to keep her busy, I see Burley has several hobbies on the go. There's a cross-stitched bull and a paint-by-numbers lion. By the sofa is a guitar.

"I'm pretty good now," she says. "I play Elvis, Oasis and Ed Sheeran. I think Ed Sheeran likes to make it look hard but it's actually easy."

But Burley's first love is still the live political dust-up. The general election is a month away and she is in a predatory mood. "Neither Rishi or Sir Keir has done this as leader before so one mistake is all it takes," she says gleefully. "There can only be one winner, can't there? I do give politicians a hard time and the stakes feel so high this time. This is the most exciting election since 1997, easily."

She was on fine form earlier today. Damian Hinds, the Tory schools minister, came on to discuss an end to "rip-off" university degrees. Burley let

him burble along amiably but then, like a cat Hinds thought it was OK to stroke, she sank her teeth into his leg.

"Was yours a Mickey Mouse degree?" she demanded suddenly. Hinds said he studied PPE — politics, philosophy and economics — at Oxford University. "And that's not a Mickey Mouse degree?" she went on. Hinds wriggled but Burley had more. "Do you know what my degree was in?" she demanded. "Life."

The 63-year-old self-styled "Wigan street fighter" was born to parents who worked in a cardboard factory and she began reporting at the *Wigan Evening Post* and *Chronicle* aged 17. After joining TV/AM in 1987 she went to Sky when it launched in 1989. The Guinness Book of Records is said to be looking into whether she has logged more live TV broadcast hours than any other journalist in the world. For now, though, she is simply enjoying the afterglow of this morning.

"I actually didn't know Damian did PPE," she admits. "But I could tell from the look in his eyes he thought I knew. That's important. You see the chink in the armour."

I reckon Burley could be a decent election issue herself. Is it still possible for a teenager who didn't go to uni to make the journey from a Wigan council house that Burley has?

"My boss [at TV-AM] Bruce Gynge said I was rubbish reading an Autocue but I worked harder than everyone else. I practised reading Teletext [an early text-based news service] and people supported me. So yes, I think if you want it enough, you can make it."

Burley has interviewed prime ministers and presidents, and counts Lord Mandelson as a friend (he gave her a quote for her bonkastic 2011 novel *First Ladies*, in which the PM has an affair with a dim TV reporter called Isla). The Greater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham has been for Christmas lunch and as chancellor Rishi Sunak was strong-armed by Burley into buying a dog. "He was telling me his kids were nagging him for one before we went on air. When we went live I said, 'So, you were just telling me your kids can have a dog', and so they got one, which of course he now absolutely loves."

But she has her critics, the most excoriating of whom isn't even real. Malcolm Tucker, the feared enforcer portrayed by Peter Capaldi in *The Thick Of It*, once noted: "Being interviewed by Kay is, as we all know, like being interviewed by a backward child. That's obviously great most of the time. But occasionally she will throw you a curveball like a child might: 'Why is there war?' 'What is Europe?' — and if you can't answer, it's you who ends up looking like the thick-as-pigshit chancer."

Burley is a fearless and nimble live interviewer but does make mistakes. Last October she misquoted words spoken by Palestinian ambassador to

blood on the bathroom floor'

COVER: MARK HARRISON FOR THE SATURDAY TIMES MAGAZINE



the UK, Husam Zomlot, to CNN. Following the October 7 attacks, he expressed regret for civilian deaths on both sides before saying: "And what is more tragic or equally tragic is the blindness and the deafness of the world and the international community for so many years of the warnings we have been saying that this was coming."

In several interviews, including one with James Cleverly, who was the foreign secretary at the time, Burley erroneously paraphrased Zomlot as saying "Israel had it coming". There were 1,537 complaints to Ofcom and a Sky News apology followed. But not from Burley who, at the height of the furore answered one critic on Twitter/X thus: "I'm on the train to Liverpool and a bit bored. Have a great day."

"Don't quote Twitter at me," she snaps when I mention this.

Was she sorry? "I've seen him [Husam Zomlot] since, I've had a cup of coffee with him since, I've spoken to him on the phone since," she tells me. "It was a moment in time, we make mistakes and we move on." (Later Burley's PR clarifies that she's made contact with Zomlot through a third party and they plan to have a coffee.)

Did she get a bollocking from her bosses? "No, no! We have a chat but the nature of live telly is you are dancing on the head of a pin."

Kay Burley

“My family history is not great for longevity — I just don't know how long I've got

Her Sky contract is up for renewal in November. She won't say what she earns — reportedly £500,000 a year back in 2012 — but seems confident it will be renewed. "I think Sky are very keen to keep me and they are very much in my DNA," she says.

But there is a Huw Edwards-shaped hole at the BBC, I suggest. Would she be interested? "I think Clive Myrie and Laura Kuenssberg have filled that hole very nicely but it's very sweet of you to suggest me."

She knows Edwards quite well. She saw him a year ago at a pre-coronation lunch at Buckingham Palace. Burley kept asking courtiers if Prince Harry would attend. Edwards feared she would get them thrown out. "That's what people expect of me," she chuckles. "I say whatever is in my head. Carol Vorderman says, 'The most dangerous people in the world are post-menopausal women because they just don't care,' and I totally agree with that."

Was she shocked at Edwards' downfall? "I feel so sorry for his wife and daughters. He's a grown man who can make his own decisions about how he lives his life but you have to think about the impact your actions have on your family."

Burley is twice divorced (she wed reporter Steve Burley aged 19 and they divorced six years later. She married

the football agent Steve Kutner in 1994, which lasted a year, and they have a son, Alexander, 31). She won't discuss her private life, though I note there is only one toothbrush in her bathroom and the dent in the wall looks a decent match for her skull.

And yet I think she is attractive to, and charmed by, powerful men. Last year the Russian president Vladimir Putin liked one of her Instagram posts.

"We checked and it was his personal account," she beams. "I thought, 'Are you trying to slide into my Instagram account?'" Did she make contact for an interview? "Yes — no response."

It's not just brutal dictators. She talks delightedly about the charm of politicians such as Ken Clarke, Lord Heseltine, Boris Johnson and Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton.

"David Cameron is so charming. I remember in 2005 we spent a week broadcasting from the northwest. By Friday I was flagging and ready to go home when this Tory whippersnapper came to a housing estate where we were filming to be interviewed. It was Cameron and afterwards I bet our cameraman £20 that we'd just met the next Tory prime minister."

Charm can hide a multitude of sins, I say. "Yes, but if, like 'Call me Dave', you're warm and connect with people, you'll do well — politics is called 'showbiz for ugly people' for a reason."

Is she susceptible to male charm? "Well, I've had two successful marriages, so yes is the answer to that question. Not just male charm, though. Meeting Hillary Clinton or listening to Mishal Husain on the *Today* programme, these are extraordinarily bright, talented women."

This is Burley's 12th general election. The first was Thatcher's seismic 1979 victory, which she covered from a Wigan school sports hall as a junior reporter. This time she'll anchor Sky's coverage. "Other broadcasters get told the result of the exit poll before announcing it but I don't," she enthuses. "My producer likes to capture me in that incredible moment of excitement."

She seems permanently adrenalised: needlepoint, fasting, painting, guitar (she is also a mountaineer) ... she seems in a rush. She has spoken about how the threat of breast cancer, which killed her mother, grandmother and her aunt, worries her. She had a scare once and the fear is particularly vivid right now. "My sister Jacqueline was diagnosed with breast cancer last year. She's my kid sister, she's got three grandchildren under three and, to be honest, I wish I had it instead of her. I would rather it was me than her."

Jacqueline is having treatment and Burley has regular genetic testing for the disease. "My family history is not great for longevity, so I'm always reminding myself. I just don't know how long I've got."

I can't believe what she gets done without sleep, food or coffee. When I leave, Burley is off to devote some time to a young female colleague at Sky, who asked her for career advice.

Why did she choose this colleague? "She's a lovely ordinary girl whose parents worked for the emergency services. And she works harder than anyone else. If I'm honest, I suppose she reminds me a little bit of me."

The lowdown

Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner

Now then! What have we got here? Obviously you'll have to tell me.

It's a Jonas brother singing on a bicycle.

Alone? Strange, don't they usually come in threes?

He must have gone rogue. It would make sense.

Why?

He's having a hard time: divorce from a gorgeous British actress.

That must sting.

He appeared to take the initiative: Joe Jonas (aka the middle Jonas) filed papers to dissolve his marriage to Sophie Turner in 2023. The pair, who had their first date in a British pub and whose haunts include a board game bar in Birmingham, are battling over a home in Henley.

Wow, razz! Sounds like they knew how to live.

Funny you say that as since being liberated — sorry, single — she's been on a successful comeback tour, spotted out partying with her besties Jennifer Lawrence and Taylor Swift, and dating the sexy aristo Peregrine "Perry" Pearson.

Turner even appears on this month's cover of British Vogue. And, well, Jonas is sad about it.

How do you know for sure?

Via a reasonably average pop song, of course! Last week Jonas released a TikTok video of himself cycling along over a verse of his new single. Oh dear.

It's a shame Swift is on Turner's side — the queen of revenge lyrics could definitely have improved his.

Savage.

Listen. "Even baddies get saddies and that's the hardest truth/ Called your mommy and daddy, they don't know what to do," Jonas sings.

Wow, you're right. That's terrible. Hey, what's a baddie?

Not sure. I think he means to say he's a cool dude but, well ...

The saddies. The calling of mommy and daddy.

You've hit the nail on the head. Need I say more?

Hannah Rogers



times2

D-Day's heroes: 'The ramp went down and all hell broke loose'

The breathtaking accounts of those who fought in the Normandy landings highlight the extreme acts of bravery and sacrifice that took place in the Second World War's most famous battle. By **Max Hastings**

On March 4, 1944, the Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, wrote testily to King George VI's private secretary, Tommy Lascelles, urging that the generals should hurry up and choose a date for the invasion of Europe. The primate was concerned that it might clash with Easter or Palm Sunday and wanted to arrange a day of prayer at a suitable interval before the event.

Lascelles observed drily: "He is, in some ways, most curiously out of touch with realities." Nonetheless, tens of millions of people on both sides of the Atlantic, including those who would land in Normandy to form the point of the allied spear, now shared the archbishop's impatience to bring on the action, the main event of the Second World War in the west.

On the evening of June 5 the colonel of a parachute battalion about to board their aircraft for Normandy told his men: "We are history." He was not wrong. His own battalion, like almost the entire British Army about to take off and sail for Normandy, were not professional soldiers but a cross section of the manhood of the nation. The BBC correspondent Chester Wilmot quizzed some paratrooper pathfinders about their earlier lives.

One had been a hod-carrier, another a Kent toolmaker. There was an Edinburgh bricklayer, a Worcestershire foxhunt kennelman, a Dumfries lorry driver. There were also two prewar regular soldiers, a deserter from the Irish army, an Austrian-Jewish refugee. Three had been at Dunkirk in 1940, one had fought in Africa. They were led by a young lieutenant who, before the war, performed in the chorus line of a West End musical comedy.

The naval officer Alan Richardson, meanwhile, was aboard a landing craft laden with ammunition. In its tiny wardroom stood a vase of roses, given

“We were pinned down ... Bullets kicked up sand inches from my face

Overlord: D-Day and the Battle for Normandy 1944
by Max Hastings
(Pan Macmillan 18.99).
To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on online orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members

to his captain before they sailed by his wife, Alwyn, who lived nearby in Brighton. She said simply: "Take a little bit of England with you."

Richardson wrote: "In some strange way it didn't seem to us to be such a vast assembly of ships as so vividly described by those fortunate enough to be privy to the broader picture. Our world was this barely floating steel box of high explosives that we had to beach and unload on a hostile shore, and this tended to concentrate our minds rather forcefully on the immediate problems ahead."

Surgeon Lieutenant Graham Airth, when told where his ship would be landing its embarked troops, consulted an old tourist guidebook. This listed among the charms of Ouistreham, largest town on the invasion front, "Casino 10 Juin-15 Sept", and the principal hotel's bill of fare: "Porc aux huitres chauffées ... Homards à l'américaine ... Soufflé au Grand Marnier ..."

Airth noted facetiously, indeed somewhat tastelessly, that the promise of such delights caused him to gaze on the assault troops, clambering clumsily into their landing craft, and "to wish I was going in there with them". He might jest. He was not among those landing from the air or storming the beaches.



Back row: Winston Churchill, Maj-Gen Sir Miles Dempsey and Gen Sir Bernard Montgomery visiting Caen, July 22, 1944



On June 6 one British and two American airborne divisions began to jump, and almost immediately to fight, minutes after midnight. The British paratrooper James Byrom spoke French and was tasked by comrades to knock on the front door of the first house they saw: "At the sight of the motherly, middle-aged peasant the gulf of the years disappeared and I might have been back in 1939, an English tourist on a walking tour dropping in to ask for a glass of cider and some camembert: 'Excusez-nous, Madame. Nous sommes les parachutistes anglais faisant partie de Débarquement Allié.'"

"There was a moment of scrutiny, then the woman folded me in her arms. The tears streamed down her face, and in between kisses she was shouting for her husband, for lamps, for wine ... We found ourselves — an evil-looking group of camouflaged cut-throats — surrounded and overwhelmed by the pent-up emotion of four years."

Two hours after the dawn of D-Day, the first of 120,000 men landed on five beaches, to face a hail of German fire. Private Ron Major from Bradford found the run-in weirdly quiet, "but then 'Ramp down' and all hell broke loose. As we scrambled out of our craft some were hit and fell in the sea. Many more were killed as we approached the beach up to our necks in water. We were pinned down at first, then gradually we got to the beach head."

Major fired sporadic bursts from his Bren gun between dashes towards the road above the shingle: "All the way, bullets had been kicking up sand inches from my face." Then, just as he was taking aim, a German round hit his wrist, smashing the bones. The 24-year-old, whose brother was captured at Dunkirk, had trained for four years for this moment, but within minutes his war was over.

The tank loader Patrick Hennessy's crew dropped the canvas screen of their amphibious Sherman, then halted and began to fire while most of

the tank's hull was still underwater. The commander called over the intercom: "75, HE — traverse right, steady, on. 300 — white fronted house — first-floor window, centre."

"On.
"Fire!"

Hennessy wrote: "There was a puff of smoke and brick dust from the house, and we continued to engage. The shore, which had been practically deserted when we arrived, was beginning to fill up fast."

The driver Harry Bone begged his commander to move up the beach because the incoming tide was filling his compartment with water. Yet the tankman hesitated because he could see no cleared path and was meanwhile reluctant to expose the entire Sherman when the wrecks of others, several burning fiercely, already littered the shoreline. Seconds later his dilemma was resolved.

A wave broke over the stern of the tank, swamping and silencing the engine. The driver and co-driver emerged from their hatches, soaking wet and swearing horribly. They inflated the Sherman's dinghy and began to edge towards the shore, using map boards as paddles. Within seconds a German bullet punctured the dinghy and hit the co-driver in the ankle. Amid more obscenities, the crew floundered on to the beach, dragging their wounded comrade.

The generals were naive about the inevitable grogginess of most of the tens of thousands of men who waded ashore, weakened by seasickness. The signaller Finlay Campbell recalled that his legs continued to feel "wobbly" for two days after he stumbled ashore. His recent 21st birthday present, a brand-new fountain pen, had fallen unused into the Channel.

The artillery observer Captain Hugh Collinson started the day feeling prosperous because the previous evening he had won ten shillings and ten pence playing bridge with a ship's officer. He was now, however, anticipating worse things: "It was rough, and I knew we



Some of the 29,000 British troops who landed on Sword Beach on June 6

were in for an unpleasant run-in."

Yet when he climbed on deck, amid the majestic spectacle of the Allied armada, "I was so lost in admiration that I had almost forgotten that this was not an exercise until brought back to reality by a few bullets overhead." He jumped into waist-deep water and ran to the shelter of a knocked-out tank.

As he led his men on another forward bound, he heard the whine of a shell, shouted to the others, "Get down!" and himself dropped flat. After the explosion he felt something hit his side and felt a frightening wetness. But there was no blood — his water bottle had been punctured by shrapnel.

"Then I saw something much worse. My best signaller, a chap called Harrison from Preston, was lying in a rather peculiar attitude and I saw that he had been killed outright." Harrison had survived landings in North Africa, Sicily, Italy. "He was only 21."

Terry Skelly celebrated his 20th birthday by landing as signals officer of 3 Commando. He wrote: "I was just starting down the port ramp when our craft gave a lurch as it was severely hit ... depositing me in five feet of water.

"I was rolled over and over underwater until I came to rest against the body of a man jammed against a beach obstacle ... I could clearly see his dead face with his eyes open and read his East Yorks titles and see his 3 Div shoulder flashes. I pulled myself to my feet and started for the beach with water up to my chest.

"The clutter was amazing compared with our well-ordered landings on exercises in the UK ... I was amazed to see a lot of soldiers huddled at the top of the beach, apparently stopped by one strand of barbed wire ... The assault brigade were paying a terrible price for not getting off the beach quickly enough."

One of the romantic legends of D-Day was created by an 18-year-old French girl, who moved around the beach attempting to succour the wounded and being greeted by countless wolf whistles. The story

went that she had rushed to aid the liberators. In truth, however, she had bicycled from her home to Caen to fetch a swimsuit she had carelessly left by the sea on the previous day. Her name was Jacqueline Noel, and she married a British soldier whom she met a few days later.

Her D-Day experience was shadowed by family tragedy, because she discovered that her sister had been killed by RAF bombs falling on Caen. She cherished a kaleidoscope of memories: "The sea with all the boats on it. All the boats and planes. It was something which you just can't imagine if you have not seen it. It was boats, boats, boats and more boats, boats everywhere. If I had been a German, I would have looked at this, put my weapon down and said, 'That's it. Finished.'"

A German defender who surrendered that day said later, "At first I was rather depressed, of course. I, an old soldier, a prisoner after a few hours of invasion. But when I saw the materiel behind the enemy front, I could only say, 'Old man, how lucky you have been!'"

As French commandos began to clear Ouistreham, a magnificent civilian figure with a huge moustache dashed towards them and announced that he would lead the column and show them the defences. As the commandos advanced, their guide demanded, "Give me rifle! I went all through the last war! *Ah, ces salauds de Boches!*"

Major Pat Porteous, who had won a VC two years earlier at Dieppe, commanded a troop of 4 Commando charged with destroying a coastal battery. He lost a quarter of his men getting over the sea wall, then raced for the battery covered by smoke grenades. They found that the German guns had been redeployed inland: only telephone poles protruded from the coastal battery.

One commando died when a German grenade exploded beside

British and Canadian 3rd Division troops land on Juno Beach on D-Day

“The assault brigade were paying a terrible price



Max Hastings

him as he tried to climb the medieval tower from which the defenders were directing fire. The commandos fired a PIAT anti-tank bomb at it, without effect. It was too high for a flamethrower to reach its occupants. The commandos were ordered to leave the tower for others to mop up and hasten towards the Caen canal bridge. They were soaking wet, bent under the weight of their huge rucksacks: "We really looked like a lot of snails going home."

A Frenchman ran out of a farmhouse crying out in despair, "My wife has been wounded! Is there a doctor?" Then a mortar bomb exploded, knocking several commandos to the earth. They rose to see the Frenchman's head rolling down the road.

Men noticed a field of strawberries and, during a halt, hastened aside to pick them. Porteous wrote: "The poor little French farmer came to me and said: 'For four years the Germans were here and they never ate one!'"

A British commando NCO was shocked to be confronted at close quarters by a 15-year-old Wehrmacht prisoner from Graz, whom he had just shot with his Bren gun, and who was now screaming in agony. The corporal asked a Viennese Jewish interpreter the German word for sorry — *verzeihung* — which he then kept repeating to his victim, explaining that he had never shot anyone before. The next day this penitent novice in the craft of killing, one among thousands who had entered Normandy that morning, was himself killed.

A participant later wrote, "D-Day seemed very long," but finally it drew towards a close. Some 29,000 men had landed on Sword, against 25,000 on Gold; 21,500 on the Canadians' Juno; 23,250 on the American Utah; 34,250 on US Omaha. Four thousand tons of munitions and stores had also come ashore on Sword, three quarters of the target total. British and Canadian planners had budgeted for 7,750 casualties across their three beaches on D-Day and actually suffered 2,515.

Despite the carnage that seemed too terrible to those in its midst, the invasion had succeeded, a secure British, Canadian and American beachhead established. A cluster of men of

the 13/18th Hussars listened in a sunlit orchard three miles inland from Sword beach to the radio broadcast of King George VI's speech, applauding the outcome. A third of the regiment's tanks had been lost, one officer and 15 men killed, a further officer and 15 men wounded.

They examined curiously their first German prisoner, "a dejected and frightened spectacle", in the words of the adjutant Julius Neave. He added: "Of all the other impressions of the day, by far the most pronounced at the end of it was a feeling of surprise and thankfulness that we were still alive to tell the tale."

Afloat in his warship at midnight Surgeon Lieutenant Airth wrote: "This has indeed been D-Day, Dawned-day, Death-day, Destruction-Day. Disappointment and Disillusion Day. I have seen men die suddenly, horribly. I have twice been very near death myself, so near that I desperately wish to forget ... Tonight we are sleeping fitfully, with our clothes on."

In the weeks that followed Montgomery's forces suffered an average of 2,354 casualties a day, for 83 days. Each British division lost an average of 341 officers and 5,115 other ranks — three quarters of its infantrymen. By the time 6th Airborne Division was withdrawn from the battle on September 5, it had lost half its overall strength, killed or wounded.

Our parents' or grandparents' generations viewed D-Day in 1944 as the supreme event of the Second World War, and indeed the struggle for northwest Europe as its decisive campaign; modern historians recognise that the eastern campaign was decisive in smashing Hitler's Wehrmacht, although the US provided the means by which all the allies — including the Russians — were armed to prevail. Major John Rex, a 40-year-old peacetime accountant, wrote with rueful awe in 1944 of Britain's transatlantic allies: "They were go-getters, those Americans, they would get their teeth into anything, worked hard, would never admit anything was beyond them." He was impressed, and a little scared, by the comparison with his own impoverished, war-weary nation.

Yet Britain can still take just pride in its vital contribution in standing alone against Hitler in 1940-41. It was Churchill's extraordinary achievement to guide the nation to a place among the victors of 1945, such as had seemed to many people unattainable back in 1940.

life

Ask Professor Tanya Byron

My sister undermines me in front of my kids and my mother supports her — I can't let it go

Q My sister is in her late thirties and has a very successful, high-earning career. We have always got on reasonably well (more so when we were children) but as we have become adults she has changed towards me, and I think that's because she's jealous.

I have a husband and children and my sister doesn't. She is a wonderful aunt but, increasingly, I feel as if she sees my children as her own. She has undermined me in front of them and even tells me how to parent them (again, sometimes in front of them). This is driving me mad but the difficulty is that having a conversation isn't possible because she becomes defensive and even angry. She will then sulk, refuse to see me and the kids, and text them telling them why (from her perspective).

Her sense of entitlement I believe stems from her increasingly mutually dependent relationship with our parents. They have always indulged her and continue to do so. When I mention this to my mother she says I'm being selfish and that I should feel sorry for my sister, who "desperately wants what you have", meaning a husband and kids. My sister and my mother are very much alike — critical and needing to be in control — and so I know Mum will always defend her.

My sister (like our mum) is difficult and demanding, which is probably why she has not had many relationships. She spends a lot of time with our parents, goes on holiday with them and gets a lot from them in return. They will pander to her every whim and, if they don't, I know she does her angry sulking routines with them.

I know they are worried about her and want her to be happy. I have suggested that their mutual dependence gets in the way of her finding a partner and being fully independent but they dismiss this. I also can see that she provides some kind of balance to their marriage, which has always been full of conflict and never happy.

I am beginning to feel like I cannot have any relationships with my family — it all feels so unhealthy. How can I make my parents see sense and how can I manage my difficult sister?

Gabriella

A You describe two complex issues: your sister's behaviour around your children which, from what you describe, is unacceptable, and the dysfunctional relationship she has with your parents. What is interesting is that both issues share a common theme — boundaries (or lack thereof).

In psychology, the concept of a boundary is used to describe the limits we set to maintain our personal (physical and emotional) space.

Understood as a psychological demarcation, boundaries enable us to protect our identity and integrity, and also to take responsibility for our actions. In relationships, boundaries establish how we want to be treated and help to protect us from the emotional and psychological intrusions of others.

What you describe highlights a complete lack of boundary-setting in your birth family. Your sister's behaviour with your children is clearly unwelcome and intrusive. By undermining you as their mother, she transgresses an important boundary that you clearly need to explicitly set. I do wonder, however, whether your sister struggles to respect boundaries given the very blurred boundaries within her relationship with your parents. An example of the lack of boundaries here is seen in the way that your mother colludes with your sister's unacceptable behaviour with your children by normalising it and expecting you to "feel sorry for her".

The problem with poor boundaries within a family system is that accountability becomes unclear. Healthy boundaries allow us to take responsibility for ourselves and our actions but not those of others. Your mother expects you to take some responsibility for the emotions and needs of your sister, and your sister, it appears, has the unenviable responsibility of stabilising your parents' unhappy relationship by living most of her life with them. Indeed, it is clear that for your sister to be able to live and function as an adult, she needs to remove herself from the dependent child role she still inhabits with your parents. However, for this to happen, there needs to be an understanding of what drives this enmeshed and regressed relationship triangle.

In family systems theory, the concept of triangles refers to a three-person relationship system. This is the smallest stable relationship unit within a family system, because a two-person system that is unstable cannot balance itself without the presence of a third person. For example, when two people in a family are experiencing tension or conflict, they might (consciously or unconsciously) involve a third person to reduce the intensity of their animus by providing a distraction away from the relationship

If you would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email proftanyabyron@thetimes.co.uk

hostilities, thus alleviating the tension. By continuing to "parent" your sister, your parents can function as a couple, whereas without her presence, it is possible that hostilities would resume and their own relationship become unstable.

Your mother feels sorry for your sister and wants her to be happy. However, it could be argued that by focusing on your sister as a dependent unhappy "child", your mother is distracted from the unhappiness she herself feels in her marriage. Meanwhile, your sister seems unable to be emotionally independent and is therefore unable to find a nurturing relationship that could lead to her building her own family. She needs to

“Your sister is transgressing a boundary that you need to set

free herself up from the unhappiness in your parents' marriage and not be a distraction for them, however difficult that is and however problematic the outcome for your parents when they face their marital issues.

I do not see how you could address the bigger issue that relates to the triangle of relationships between your mother, father and sister, and in fact I encourage you to maintain a boundary by not involving yourself in it. It could be argued that for your sister to maintain healthy boundaries in her relationship with you and your children, she needs to have healthy boundaries with your parents. This, however, may not happen and so all you can do is create and maintain your boundaries, which will require you to assertively communicate your rules of engagement with your children. I advise that this is done within the context of acknowledging her importance as your children's aunt so that the boundary setting doesn't feel hostile and punitive.

It may be, however, that to maintain the boundaries you set out, you have to establish consequences that are followed through when those boundaries are violated (eg no messaging with your children, being asked to leave if she deliberately undermines you in front of them). This may create friction within your family and so require you to then set further boundaries if your mother becomes intrusive and tries to involve herself in this issue. While this may not be pleasant, what you are doing is protecting your children from a confusing lack of boundaries (ie when their aunt undermines you in front of them) and also role-modelling what healthy and respectful relationships look like. This is not being selfish — it is about maintaining your values and wellbeing, and not allowing the demands, expectations and needs of others to undermine your role as a mother. I wish you well.



In my teens and twenties, I would feel tongue-tied meeting strangers. The idea of walking into a party of people I didn't already know filled me with absolute dread. I had a close social circle, but no idea how to build new bonds.

I'm now a science writer, and am fascinated by the effects of our relationships on our wellbeing. The advantages of a strong social network — greater health, happiness and financial security — stretch to every corner of life. There is abundant evidence that a sense of connection and belonging can soothe the physiological stress response, reducing inflammation and lowering the risk of illnesses such as diabetes, stroke, heart failure and Alzheimer's.

The case for social connection is now so strong that the World Health Organisation launched a commission last year that aims to raise awareness of loneliness as a public health threat. Studies published in *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* show that our acquaintances can enhance original thinking through the creative cross-pollination of ideas. A thriving social network is also one of the most reliable routes to employment and one of the best predictors of job satisfaction, according to data from the University of Oxford's Oxford Martin School.

Given friendships are so important I wanted evidence-based guidelines on the best ways to make more of them. I reviewed hundreds of scientific studies to identify the most common barriers to building better relationships and the ways to overcome them. The results of this research, which I detail in my book *The Laws of Connection*, are profoundly optimistic. With just a little encouragement and practice, we can all build the confidence and skills to cultivate the relationships we crave. Here are my five favourite lessons.



Awkward? The science of how to make people like you

Struggle at parties? David Robson has a research-backed guide to help you win over new friends — and ditch social anxiety for good

Recognise your potential for change and avoid the personality myth

Let's begin with the personality myth, the idea that our social habits are hardwired and cannot be changed. We may assume, for instance, that we are simply too introverted to make new friendships. Research published by the American Psychological Association, however, suggests that we all benefit from being a little more gregarious, regardless of our natural tendencies.

Consider a study from the University of California, Riverside, published in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*. The experiment took the form of a two-week challenge. For the first seven days, half the participants were told to "act as talkative, assertive and spontaneous as you can" (the behaviours of a classic extrovert) while the rest were told to be "deliberate, quiet and reserved" (the behaviours of a classic introvert).

The effects of the intervention were considerable. Whatever their initial level of introversion or extroversion, the participants' positive mood and sense of connectedness increased when they acted more openly. The psychologists observed the exact opposite when they asked the participants to act more introvertedly for a week.

If you are an introvert, it is worth remembering that you can use your natural sensitivity to your advantage. A study published in *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin* suggests introverts tend to be considered more

attentive listeners, for example, whereas extroverts do not always convey their interest in others to their best advantage.

Introverts' biggest barrier may be pessimistic expectations. They assume they will not enjoy social events, according to a study published in the *Journal PLOS One*, which discourages them from taking part. When they push themselves out of their comfort zone, however, they tend to be pleasantly surprised with the experience.

According to a study conducted by the University of Sussex and the University of Pennsylvania, it takes just a week of regularly approaching new people to start getting over our fears of talking to strangers and to recognise that most interactions are far less awkward and more rewarding than we think. We should never feel compelled to act in a way that feels totally alien to our nature, but if you are dissatisfied with your social life and wish to build some new friendships, then your personality need not hold you back.

Compliment generously but be specific with your words of praise

As we start flexing our social muscles, we can think a little more carefully about the ways in which we show our appreciation to others. Whether we are thankful for a family member's support through a difficult period or secretly admire a friend's creative genius, many of us fail to express our respect or gratitude as regularly as we should. We fear that our compliments will be clumsy and awkward. We don't want to seem unctuous or ingratiating and we worry that our words will lose their meaning if we say them too often. These concerns are mostly unfounded.

People tend to appreciate our praise far more than we expect and they do not get bored with hearing how

warmly we feel. Nicholas Epley at the University of Chicago and Xuan Zhao at Stanford University asked participants to note down five separate compliments for one of their acquaintances, which the psychologists then delivered, one by one, over the following week. The recipients' pleasure did not decline over the week, nor were the words of praise perceived as being any less genuine on the last day compared with the first.

The act of expressing appreciation can also bring immediate benefits to the person saying the kind words. Expressing thanks to a team-mate can help to mute our stress response during a work presentation, for instance, according to a study in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

When expressing appreciation, we should use precise language to celebrate the specific qualities that we admire.

Practise self-disclosure and embrace the beautiful mess effect

At its foundation, strong social connection arises from a profound understanding of each other's inner worlds. Unfortunately, most of us are a little too reserved in the information that we share with other people.

In an experimental method known as the fast friends procedure, pairs of participants are given a series of conversation prompts that encourage each person to open up about their hopes and fears: for what in your life do you feel most grateful? If a crystal ball could tell you the truth about yourself, your life, your future or anything else, what would you want to know? If you could undo one mistake you have made in your life, what would it be and why would you undo it?

At the start of an experiment reported in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, most people worried that the deeper conversations

“We fear that asking for help makes us needy, but it fosters a bond

would be extremely cringe-making, compared with standard small talk about someone's background or what they did on a public holiday.

Afterwards, however, they reported enjoying the conversations far more than expected and they tended to feel much closer to their partners than when they had engaged in small talk.

We are particularly wary of revealing fears and vulnerabilities. Surveys, however, suggest that people tend to see courage and authenticity in these declarations — a phenomenon that is sometimes called the beautiful mess effect.

Do not fear bragging — and embrace mitfreude

It is not just our weaknesses that we hide. Many of us hide our successes for fear of being a braggart. “If you want people to think well of you, do not speak well of yourself,” the 17th-century mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal wrote in his *Pensées*.

Such advice is repeated so often that we may consider it to be a self-evident truth, yet psychological research tells a different story. When we hide our achievements, people suspect (possibly correctly) that we are attempting to manage their emotions. They assume that we do not trust them to overcome their envy, which feels highly insulting and weakens our bond.

You might be of the opinion that humblebragging — the act of veiling a boast in a complaint — would be a tactful solution. Unfortunately, most people can easily see through what you are doing and they start to scent deception. We resort to false modesty because we underestimate how pleased other people will be to hear our good news. Mitfreude — our joy at another's happiness — may be far more common than its malign cousin schadenfreude and it is a far more reliable source of social connection.

Ask for help and enjoy the Benjamin Franklin effect

Many of us fear that a request for help will make us seem needy or a nuisance but it is often the ideal way to foster a bond. Franklin noted as much in his autobiography.

As he embarked on his political career in the General Assembly in Pennsylvania, he faced a rival. Shunning the idea of “servile respect”, he instead decided to ask if he could borrow a book from the man's extensive library. The strategy worked a treat. “When we next met in the House, he spoke to me (which he had never done before), and with great civility; and he ever after manifested a readiness to serve me on all occasions, so that we became great friends,” Franklin wrote.

Scientific studies have confirmed that the Benjamin Franklin effect is real. You are unlikely to win friends by putting people under pressure, and so must offer plenty of opportunity for them to reject your request. Provided that you are respectful, however, research from Cornell University suggests that others will be happier to help than you expect.

David Robson is the author of *The Laws of Connection: 13 Social Strategies That Will Transform Your Life*, published by Canongate on June 6 (£18.99). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk. Free UK standard P&P on orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members

“Pessimistic expectations may be introverts' biggest barrier

first night

dance

Smashed

Peacock Theatre, WC2 (60min)

★★★★☆

The German choreographer Pina Bausch was such a distinctive talent — whether or not you like her brand of indulgent dance-theatre — that her work is ripe for parody. And so it proves in Gandini Juggling's delightful *Smashed*, “a tea party that you will never forget”. Inspired by Bausch, this hour-long show incorporates so many of her cabaret tropes — the use of props, the blend of popular and classical music, men in suits and women in slinky frocks exploring the male-female divide — that it could actually be one of her performances. If you ignore the juggling, that is.

The stage is filled with nine chairs (one for each performer) and 100 apples which the company juggle in many and varied ways. They start with a choreographed procession — very Bausch — in which the dancer-jugglers promenade to the strains of Jack Little's jaunty Second World War tune *I've Always Wanted to Waltz in Berlin (Under the Linden Tree)*. It's the prelude to a series of witty and wry vignettes that look at the fraught relationships between two women and seven men.

Sean Gandini and Kati Ylä-Hokkala borrow elements of Bausch's overwrought (and to my mind highly pretentious) style and stitch them into the complexities of virtuoso juggling. Somewhere in the mix there's afternoon tea and a soundtrack of popular songs — Tammy Wynette imploring us to stand by our man while Bach takes the musical high ground.

The juggling, it goes without saying, is impressive, especially in its more unusual incarnations, such as a pas de deux for man, woman and dancing apples and an elaborate game of pass the fruit. By the time the teacups make an appearance you know — given the title — that it's not going to end well for them. Indeed, the finale of *Smashed* is a marvellous free-for-all as the babbling, blubbing performers descend into emotional anarchy and physical destruction. I wouldn't want to be the one sweeping up the stage after this show.

Debra Craine
Smashed is at the Greenbelt Festival, Boughton House, Northamptonshire, on August 25, gandinijuggling.com



Jonathan Eyers, as a personable Papageno, is surrounded by quirky dancers who percolate every scene

Wacky and winning

The 2024 Leicestershire festival opens in fine style with Mozart, says Richard Morrison

opera

The Magic Flute

Nevill Holt Theatre, Market Harborough (255min, including 90min interval)

★★★★☆

David Ross, the billionaire founder of Carphone Warehouse, has been presenting summer opera seasons on his magnificent, sculpture-strewn Leicestershire estate for two decades. He added a handsome 400-seat theatre, created out of former stables, in 2018. This year he has added a lot more. Comedy, jazz, classical concerts, art exhibitions and literary talks enhance a festival that runs almost throughout June.

It's a bold attempt not just to diversify the programme but also to build a wider audience in an area of the East Midlands that isn't saturated with high-quality arts. And it's all being done without public money. Ross is a controversial figure, but there should be no controversy about the value of what he's trying here.

This year's opening production, however, stays faithful to Nevill Holt's operatic traditions. Apart from reconciling Sarastro and the Queen of the Night in a rather sweet way in the final ensemble, and presenting the (largely rewritten) dialogue in English while leaving the musical numbers in German, Melly Still's staging of *The Magic Flute* does nothing very radical. Instead, it delivers the story with plenty of energy (some over-extended “dramatic pauses” in Act II notwithstanding), wacky, colourful

costumes, characterful and quirky dancers who percolate every scene, a playground slide, and dozens of strings dangling from flies to floor. Perhaps they symbolise the moral mazes through which the characters have to navigate.

The singers are mostly young, and it shows at times. Olivia Warburton's Pamina is full of spirit, and her singing has clarity and beautifully floated top notes. Now she needs to cultivate more warmth in the voice. As Tamino, the Latvian tenor Martins Smaukstelis sounds elegant but dramatically constrained, and the personable Jonathan Eyers (Papageno) sometimes seems to be waiting for audience laughs that don't come.

No quibbles, however, about Nazan Fikret, who powers through the Queen of the Night's ledger lines with tremendous zest and admirable precision. Nor about Allen Michael Jones, a fast-rising American bass, whose speaking voice as Sarastro is as commanding as his singing. Unusually for a Sarastro, he also strips to the waist. And there's a bonus in the pit, where an excellent young conductor, Finnegan Downie Dear, has luxury casting at his command in the shape of the Britten Sinfonia. Mozart's score fizzles along, and there's some lovely suave orchestral blends to admire too. **To June 9, nevilleholtheatre.co.uk**

classical

Hallé/Elder

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

★★★★☆

How much of a difference does a conductor really make? It's a question I've been asked dozens of times as a music journalist and from now on I might point to this concert as my answer. Because here, as the massed choirs and splendid orchestra of the Hallé made the Bridgewater Hall ring with glorious sound, was the evidence that the right conductor does, of course, make all the difference.

The role goes far beyond just beating time. When Mark Elder arrived in Manchester nearly 25 years ago as music director, he knew that to flourish an orchestra needed to be at the heart of its community. He helped to set up the Hallé's Youth Choir and Children's Choir and now, as he took his leave in the first of his “finale” concerts, these young singers, along with the Hallé Choir, triumphed in a new commission by James MacMillan.

Timotheus, Bacchus and Cecilia was just right for a symbolic occasion, which, given Elder's loyal audience, was also bound to be an emotional one. MacMillan treated us to a full-blooded celebration of the power of music, setting words by John Dryden in praise of Saint Cecilia. From ethereal heavenly voices to the echoes of war, no opportunity to paint drama in sound was missed and it all built to a terrific ending with chorus and orchestra at full tilt — it will do well, I'm sure, at the Proms this summer.

Mahler's Fifth Symphony is, at its simplest level, a journey from despair to joy, but that doesn't begin to cover the complex array of emotions it voyages through along the way. The composer himself worried what his public would make of the scherzo's “chaos, which is constantly giving birth to new worlds and promptly destroying them again”. But in Elder's hands, there was room for them all.

Throughout, his tempos were slow, yet that felt like a technicality. This was music as philosophy, the superb Hallé players revealing to us intangible deeper truths. After a moving speech by Elder, in which he paid tribute to both his audience and players, there was time for one more tune “before we go our separate ways”. Elgar's *Chanson de Nuit* made the loveliest of farewells.

Rebecca Franks
The Hallé is touring to July 21, halle.co.uk

pop

St Vincent

Royal Albert Hall

★★★★☆

Feverish anticipation hung over St Vincent's biggest London show to date, a feeling heightened by the art-rockers' thrilling track record of shape-shifting leaps between different musical styles and performance-art poses. For her first UK appearance in two years, Annie Clark arrived dressed in black, flanked by a hard-rocking band, indulging her inner headbanger to the max in an ear-bashing orgy of distorted guitars and heavy metal histrionics. The overall effect was spectacular, but slightly marred by muddy sound and clumsy staging.

This show was the British launch party for the 41-year-old, Dallas-raised Clark's terrific seventh album, *All Born Screaming*, which earned rapturous reviews and a Top Five chart placing



St Vincent at the Royal Albert Hall

on release in April. Drawing heavily on industrial rock and pummelling electronica, it features star guests including Dave Grohl and Cate Le Bon. It has been billed as Clark's most emotionally raw work to date.

New album tracks dominated this set, from the turbo-gothic techno-rock bombast of *Reckless* to the muscular funk-metal stomper *Big Time Nothing*, which sounded like an inspired mash-up of Prince and Nine Inch Nails.

Clark punctuated new material with older crowd-pleasers, including a roaringly dramatic *Los Ageless* and the gloriously sarcastic break-up anthem *Cheerleader*, plus a smattering of quieter numbers, notably the tender retro-glam chanson *Candy Darling*. Behind her raucous full-metal racket, the singer often defaulted to a

surprisingly anodyne brand of soft-rock. This is the savvy pop chameleon, after all, who co-wrote a global chart-topping single with Taylor Swift.

This was a mighty, maximalist show, but it fell short of greatness. The Albert Hall's boomy acoustics were partly to blame, blunting Clark's sharp-witted lyrics and melodic subtleties. The staging was also a little cluttered, with three small video screens perched directly behind the band, plus three mobile arched doorways that felt oddly amateurish for such a cutting-edge performer. St. Vincent is one of contemporary rock's most fascinating, multi-dimensional artists but her magnificent new album, and her Bowie-sized ambitions, deserve better presentation than this. **Stephen Dalton**

Britain's greatest living baritone bounds into one of Glyndebourne's wood-panelled drawing rooms and glances round with an air of recognition. "When the old theatre was still here, this used to be the men's chorus dressing room," he says.

Oh really? How does he know? "Because I used to be in the men's chorus," he says. "Summer of '69. I had no operatic experience. Fresh out of the Royal College of Music. But at the end of the season they asked me to stay on and accept the John Christie Award [Glyndebourne's study-grant for an outstanding young talent]. I said no. Welsh National Opera already had their claws into me. I went to Cardiff instead."

Sir Thomas Allen turns 80 this September. He is a great-grandfather. He has sung every baritone role in the repertoire, or at least every one he wants to do, and performed in just about every great opera house in the world. And he was supposed to have retired from the stage five years ago.

Yet he is back at Glyndebourne this summer, 55 years after he first trod the boards here, playing the scheming ambassador Baron Zeta in Cal McCrystal's production of Franz Lehár's classic operetta *The Merry Widow*. What tempted him to return?

"I had such a great time doing this part a few years ago at the Metropolitan Opera [in New York] that I thought, I want to do that again. So here I am, dragging my arse round the old place."

That Met production was quite the stage spectacle, wasn't it? "Extraordinary," Allen says. "There was an army of dancers, trained to the nth degree by Susan Stroman. All the girls were 6ft, and that was just up to the top of their legs. My wife is still trying to calm me down."

You can take the boy out of Geordie-land, but nobody has ever been able to take the Geordie out of Allen. Indeed one of his "retirement" jobs was being chancellor of Durham University, which he loved. He grew up in the mining village of Seaham Harbour in Co Durham. Is it true he was the inspiration for *Billy Elliot*?

"So I gather," he says. "When Lee Hall was asked what gave him the idea for writing the story he replied: 'I looked at the career of Tom Allen from Seaham Harbour.' But I haven't included it in my CV."

Apart from Billy going into ballet rather than opera, there are striking similarities. "It's true that it was pretty well unique for anyone from my town to have a career in the arts," Allen says. "There were many fine singers around, but they only performed locally. There weren't the opportunities. You didn't go from the northeast to study in a fancy music college."

Allen did exactly that. Taught singing in his lunch breaks by a supportive school teacher (Denis Weatherley, his physics master, who was also a well-known local baritone), Allen won a place at the Royal College of Music. Coming to London in the Swinging Sixties must have been a culture shock.

"Huge shock. Musically and socially. I nearly turned round and went straight back. But although it was a baptism of fire, I clung on."

He did rather better than that. By 1971 he was singing solo parts at



Allen, centre, in the Royal Opera's *Il Turco in Italia* (2005). Below: in the Met's *The Merry Widow* (2014)

'Did I inspire Billy Elliot? Yes, but it's not on my CV'

The baritone Thomas Allen's journey from mining village to international opera star has been a wild ride, hears **Richard Morrison**

Covent Garden. His Glyndebourne solo debut, as Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, followed in 1973, and not long after he was taking leading roles around the world. That phenomenal success surprised a lot of people, not least his teachers. "I had so many people in my youth warning me off opera," he says. "They used to say, 'Stick to Bach and Handel, lad. Your voice isn't Italian enough for opera.'"

"But I made a point of learning from the Italian singers I met at Glyndebourne and elsewhere. Great figures like Sesto Bruscantini. I absorbed their mannerisms, their cooking habits, everything. I lived in Florence for some time and devoured the city. I think it's vital to immerse yourself in the culture around the role you are playing. When I sang Prosdocimo [the manipulative poet in

Rossini's *Il Turco in Italia*] I tried to turn myself into a slightly larger version of Marcello Mastroianni."

Is that what a life on the stage is, constantly wearing other people's personalities? "Something like that," Allen says. "Consequently I have no idea of who I actually am."

Seriously? "Well, I said to my granddaughter recently that if I had stayed in Co Durham and become a teacher for 50 years, as I could have done, I would have been a very different character from who I am now. In this business you absorb so much from very different people. I don't think it makes you any the worse. It's almost like doing a lifelong psychology course. You try to understand situations and how personalities react to them."

Is that true, even when he is doing a

supposedly lightweight comedy such as *The Merry Widow*? "Absolutely," Allen says. "I've been back and forth to Vienna so many times for work. I can call on so many memories: the atmosphere, the mannerisms of the Viennese. It's proved invaluable for this show."

But isn't *The Merry Widow* set in the Paris embassy of an imaginary country called Pontevedro? "Yes, but Pontevedro is clearly more Viennese than Vienna," Allen says. "You can smell the sachertorte in every scene. But what I most love about the show is that, like a lot of classic American musicals such as *Kiss Me, Kate*, you have at its heart these two people who

Our politicians are ignorant about classical music

are constantly at odds but, in the right circumstances, will love each other for the rest of time. It's sad and beautiful, as well as hugely entertaining."

Has Allen ever had flaming rows with directors or conductors during his marathon career? "Directors, yes," he says. "It doesn't happen often, but when it does I think it makes you stronger. I had to stand up physically to Giorgio Strehler [the formidable Italian actor, director and politician] and do battle. That was the nature of the man, his Italian temperament coming out. Well, he got some Geordie temperament from me."

I ask Allen if such experiences prompted him to go into directing opera himself, which he has done with notable success in the past 20 years. "I suppose there was a slight frustration at having been a piece of clay in so many directors' hands," he says.

Equally strong was a desire to pass on his experience to young singers. That led to his involvement in the Samling Institute, a privately supported charity that provides coaching to promising musicians in their teens and twenties. "We give them a short, sharp shock over the course of a week," Allen says. "It shows them the level they should be aiming for. I don't think conservatoires do enough of that. They have wonderful teachers, but not enough of them have much experience of being out here in the wilds of professional musical life. For young singers suddenly to be confronted by heavyweight professionals, having to raise their game or else sink — that's the shock we provide."

The insecurity of the opera profession has been considerably exacerbated by the severe recent cuts imposed on English National Opera and Welsh National Opera, the company that nurtured Allen in his twenties. "It's horrendous," Allen says. "I thought we were an advanced and civilised country. I'm not surprised, though, in a way. When I meet politicians I can't believe the level of ignorance about what opera singers and classical musicians actually do. They should be proud of these great opera companies around the UK, not watching while they get destroyed."

The Merry Widow runs at Glyndebourne from June 9 to July 28, glyndebourne.com



Your weekday brain boost

**More
puzzles**
Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

	6		2 3	5		4				4		8 3 5		9			
8						3				9		1			5		
			7		8		1			3		2	7				
6			5 7		1		4			4	3		8 6		7		
		7	1		4							5	2	4			
	4				3	2	9			8		9		1			
		8					5			2				8			
		6	8				3			8		7	4	3			
7	3			6		1				9		3			6 1		

4	5		7		6			8	1		6	4
	6	5	1		8		6		7	2		
	1				7		4			9		
	9		3		7			5	1	2		3
	8	7	4						5	8	1	
5		8	1	6	4		2	7	1	6		8
		9	2		1		5		3	1		
2		6		8				4				5
	6	1	4	8	3		7		4	6	5	2

Suko

	15	24
	17	18
23	13	9

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

	2	1		6	
3			2		1
	6	3		1	
	1		6		4
		4	1		5
				4	

Sudoku super fiendish

	2		
	7 9		
	5	2 1	7
7 3		5	8
9	4		
1		2	
5	4	7 8	2
6	2	3	
1	3	6	9

Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger ($>$) or smaller ($<$) than the number next to it.

<input type="text"/>	>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
∨	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	∨	<input type="text"/>	∧	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	∧	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	4	3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

3	17	26	18	2	10	26		5	22	9	7	20
17		22		8		10		7		3		10
18	22	17	8	8		25	10	4	4	7	15	21
1		18		26		14		9		18		21
2	3	9	15	23	9	7	21		12	10	7	11
15				2		11		6		9		
11	9	22	22	2	14		15	9	21	9	9	20
		17		1		15		9				9
26	1	7	25		24	9	18	16	22	17	24	9
7		17		8		3		7		24		16
20	7	26	18	7	15	7		25	15	7	3	9
25		2		10		20		2		24		26
7	24	24	9	13		6	15	2	19	9	18	1

A B C ~~D~~ E F G H I J K L ~~M~~ N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Thursday's solutions

SAMURAI

5	2	1	4	8	7	9	6	3
8	6	9	3	2	1	7	4	5
3	7	4	6	9	5	1	2	8
4	3	5	9	6	8	2	7	1
9	8	6	1	7	2	3	5	4
2	1	7	5	3	4	8	9	6
1	4	2	8	5	9	6	3	1
6	9	8	7	4	3	5	1	2
7	5	2	3	1	6	4	8	9

5	7	6	9	4	8	3	2
8	9	4	1	2	3	7	6
2	1	3	7	6	5	9	4
6	5	9	4	3	1	8	7
7	3	1	2	8	9	4	5
4	2	8	6	5	7	1	3
3	8	7	5	1	6	2	9
9	6	2	8	7	4	5	1
1	4	5	3	9	2	6	8

SUDOKU

9	5	8	1	2	3	7	6
4	1	6	5	9	7	2	8
3	7	2	6	4	8	5	9
2	6	5	3	8	9	4	1
7	8	4	2	6	1	9	3
1	9	3	4	7	5	8	2
5	2	1	8	3	4	6	7
6	3	9	7	5	2	1	4
8	4	7	9	1	6	3	5

	2	8	1	6	5	7	4	9	3
	4	5	9	3	1	2	8	6	7
	3	7	6	4	9	8	1	2	5
	9	4	8	7	6	1	5	3	2
	7	2	5	9	3	4	6	8	1
	1	6	3	8	2	5	9	7	4
8	1	5	9	2	1	8	3	7	4
7	6	8	3	4	5	7	6	2	1
3	5	6	1	7	2	4	9	3	5

KILLER

1	5	4	8	7	9	3	6	2
8	6	9	2	3	1	4	5	7
3	7	2	5	6	4	1	9	8
5	3	1	9	8	7	6	2	4
6	4	7	3	5	2	8	1	9
9	2	8	1	4	6	5	7	3
7	1	5	4	2	8	9	3	6
4	9	6	7	1	3	2	8	5
2	8	3	6	9	5	7	4	1

SUKO

TRAIN TRACKS

FUTOSHIKI

5 3 4 1 2
 1 < 4 2 3 5
 4 2 < 3 5 1
 v v ^
 2 1 5 4 3
 3 5 1 2 4

CODEWORD

V	I	C	I	O	U	S		M	I	S	E
I	H	V		M	O	Q	U	N			
E	V	O	K		U	N	W	O	N		
W	S		R		D	N	A				
I	D	E	O	L	O	G		B	L	U	
N					E	R		I			
G	I	B	B	O	N		S	E	L	D	O
		L	K		S						
S	T	E	P		G	U	T	T	U	R	A
H	E	J		P		R	O		O		
E	X	P	L	O		R	A	M	B	E	
A	E	K		I		I		I			
F	U	D	G		R	O	N	A	N	Z	

This new approach to the D-Day story hit hard

Carol Midgley TV review



D-Day: The Unheard Tapes

BBC2

★★★★★

All the years of training he'd put in to do a job ... it only lasted 20 seconds." This sentence, spoken by a survivor in **D-Day: The Unheard Tapes** about his friend, who was killed by German gunfire immediately after they landed in a glider in occupied France, was somehow one of the most affecting of the episode.

It encapsulated the sheer, brutal speed at which sons, husbands, fathers and fiancés were cut down, some literally as they touched French soil. (Others didn't make it that far, drowning in the water.) So Lt Den

Brotheridge died in the road during the operation to capture Pegasus Bridge, the first Allied soldier killed in combat on D-Day, his bloodied head held by his friend Wally Parr. His heavily pregnant wife back at home gave birth two weeks later.

Just like the glorious dead, these stories never grow old. But, as we saw, new life can be breathed into them by the increasingly used documentary method of actor lip-syncing. I am not always a fan, sometimes finding it distracting and a little "AI" as you look for mouths and words not matching. Yet it was used to great effect in *Aids: The Unheard Tapes* in 2022 and here it probably worked even better.

We are used to seeing such words come from old veterans in their nineties, but here actors had been cast to resemble them in 1944, giving a sense of the youthfulness of men sent full pelt into waves of bullets on beaches with no natural cover, their first taste of combat being full-on screaming war. Extra texture came from the inclusion of German voices, young enemy soldiers describing their terror and awe as they saw just how very many Allies were approaching.

One German said he thought, "Why do they keep coming? They can see how many [bodies] there are on the beach." He referred to them as "poor guys". This was powerful. What



JUSTIN DOWNING/BBC

Actors gave a sense of the youthfulness of these men sent into war

unimaginable bravery it took to keep going even when you were running to probable death. And this German soldier, ordered to "fight to the last cartridge" and never surrender, acknowledged that.

We heard too from American soldiers sent to Omaha beach. One was asked if it felt like hell. "Well, I've never been there, but if it's like that I certainly don't want to go," he said. Of the 17 men in a landing boat only five survived.

The best details, which carved a fuller picture of humans sent headlong into horror, came from the soldiers. Frank Kelly, who had a lovely old-fashioned Liverpool accent, described the self-heating soup they were given to eat en route and the desire to vomit it up on the landing craft.

Parr took a piece of white chalk and wrote Lady Irene on the side of his glider, Irene being the name of his wife. Kelly told how, after getting off the beach, he tried to lift his injured friend to safety and found himself laughing and crying simultaneously like a "frightened child".

There is a danger as D-Day recedes further and further into history that these heroes will be seen as statistics more than people with lives, children, jobs, spouses. Lip-syncing is a potent way to bring them alive as individuals. And never let us forget our monumental debt of gratitude.

Radio choice

Ben Dowell



Composer of the Week

Radio 3, 4pm

Donald Macleod is joined by the musician Jennifer Martyn to explore the story of Amanda Maier-Röntgen, above, a gifted Swedish violinist and composer (1853-94). This opening episode follows her early life. She was born in a provincial Swedish town, miles from the musical centres of Stockholm and Copenhagen, into a family known for baking. Soon she would find herself at the top of her class and on her way to one of the centres of European musical culture. The programme includes excerpts from Maier's exquisite Piano Trio, lost for 150 years and only recently rediscovered.

OUR TV NEWSLETTER

Sign up to a weekly briefing of the only shows you need to watch [thetimes.co.uk/bulletins](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/bulletins)

Times Radio

Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast
6.00am Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00am** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Andrew Neil. News-making interviews, comment and analysis **2.00pm** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **4.00pm** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. Analysis of the day's news **7.00pm** Kait Borsay. Thoughtful debates **8.00pm** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation **10.00pm** Carole Walker **1.00am** The Story **1.30pm** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00pm** The Best of Times Radio

Radio 2

FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show. The line-up for Radio 2 in the Park when it is staged in Preston **9.30am** Vernon Kay. Tim Booth reveals his musical inspirations this week **12.00pm** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** DJ Spooky **4.00pm** Sara Cox **6.30pm** Sara Cox's Half Hour **7.00pm** Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30pm** Jo Whitley **9.00pm** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews. With the Blues guitarist and singer-songwriter Joanne Shaw Taylor **10.00pm** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30pm** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00am** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg **3.00pm** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00pm** Jason Mohammad

Radio 3

FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
 Petruc Trelawny presents Radio 3's classical breakfast show. Including **7.00am**, **8.00am** News. **7.30am**, **8.30am** News headlines
9.30am Essential Classics
 Ian Skelly presents music and features **1.00pm** Classical Live
 Tom McKinney showcases the best performances by BBC orchestras, choirs, ensembles and other great performing groups from Europe and around the globe. Hannah French begins today's programme by presenting a live recital from London's Wigmore Hall with Angela Hewitt. Haydn (Variations in F minor, Hob. XVII:6); Mozart (Rondo in D, K485; and Fantasia in D minor, K397); Schubert (Impromptu in G flat, Op. 90 No. 3); Beethoven (Sonata No. 14 in C sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 2, Moonlight); Rossini (Overture from *The Barber of Seville*); Tchaikovsky (*The Nutcracker*, Suite No. 1, Op. 71a); Caroline Shaw (*And the Swallow*); Mendelssohn (Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64); and Stravinsky (Agnon)

4.00 Composer of the Week:

Amanda Maier-Röntgen (1853-1894)
 Donald Macleod is joined by Jennifer Martyn to explore the life and work of the Swedish violinist and composer Amanda Maier-Röntgen, who was one of the 19th century's most brilliant musicians, yet whose story was almost lost to history. They begin by looking at her early life in Sweden. Maier-Röntgen (Violin Concerto — opening; Violin Sonata in B minor — 3rd mvt; Preludes in E, G sharp minor and E flat; Violin Sonata in B minor — 2nd mvt; *Ungt Mog — Young Courage*; *Den sjuka flickans sång — Song of a Sick Girl*; and Piano Trio in E minor — 3rd and 4th mvts); and Reinecke (Symphony No. 2 — *Hakon Jarl* — 1st mvt). See *Radio Choice*

5.00 In Tune

A selection of music, arts news and guests. Including **5.00pm**, **6.00pm** News

7.00 Classical Mixtape

A selection of classical favourites mixed with jazz, folk and music from around the world

7.30 Radio 3 in Concert

Martin Handley presents a concert from London's Barbican with Martyn Brabbins conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* with the BBC Symphony Chorus joining for Nunes Garcia's *Missa de Santa Cecilia*. Nunes Garcia (*Missa de Santa Cecilia*); and Mussorgsky (*Pictures at an Exhibition*, orch. Ravel)

9.45 The Essay: EarthWorks

The archaeologist and artist Rose Ferraby explores traces of human history in different landscapes around the British Isles, beginning with the chalk hills of the Yorkshire Wolds. She describes her involvement in a dig at a Romano-British farmstead, a site that interacts with much older patterns of habitation (r)

10.00 Night Tracks

An adventurous, immersive soundtrack for late-night listening, from classical to contemporary and everything in between **11.30pm** Round Midnight
 Soweto Kinch presents, and Tom Skinner picks a record from his record collection **12.30am** Through the Night
 A sequence of music, beginning with soloist Seong-Jin Cho joining the Monte-Carlo Philharmonic and conductor Leonard Slatkin in Prokofiev's Second Piano Concerto (r)

Radio 4

FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43pm Prayer for the Day
5.45pm Farming Today

6.00 Today

9.00 Start the Week
 A discussion on indigenous stories of the natural world at the Hay Festival (10/14)

9.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth

Oliver Burkeman explores how convenience has warped humankind's existence (1/5) (r)

10.00 Woman's Hour

Nuala McGovern presents the magazine

11.00 The Tourist Trap

Rajan Datar visits Paris as authorities use the Olympics as a catalyst to make a transition to a greener city. Last in the series

11.45 Book of the Week:

Night Train to Odesa
 The journalist Jen Stout reads from her first-hand account of the war in Ukraine. Abridged by Rosemary Goring (1/5)

12.04pm You and Yours

1.00 The World at One

1.45 Thief at the British Museum

The museum shares details about how they think the thief covered their tracks (6/10)

2.00 The Archers (r)

2.15 Fags, Mags and Bags

Malcolm decides to practice her counselling skills on Sanjay and Grebo. Comedy written by Donald Mcleary and Sanjeev Kohli (1/6)

2.45 Gambits

The Board, by Eley Williams (1/10) (r)

3.00 A Good Read

Kathryn Hughes and Dan Schreiber discuss their favourite books (1/9)

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 (r)

4.30 The Kitchen Cabinet

Jay Rayner presents the culinary panel show from Gloucester (4/7) (r)

5.00 PM

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 (4/6)

7.00 The Archers

Fallon springs a surprise

7.15 Front Row

Arts programme

8.00 The Briefing Room

David Aaronovitch and guests assess the latest developments in Ukraine (9/14) (r)

8.30 BBC Inside Science

The reasons people need sleep to survive (r)

9.00 Start the Week

A discussion on indigenous stories of the natural world at the Hay Festival (10/14) (r)

9.45 Assume Nothing:

The Shankill Gold Rush
 Glenn Patterson examines the discovery of a hoard of gold sovereigns in Belfast (1/5) (r)

10.00 The World Tonight

With James Comarassamy

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Long Island

By Colm Toibin (6/10)

11.00 Harland

Supernatural thriller by Lucy Catherine.

A mysterious man in a hare mask appears to guide DI Ward to the missing Evie Bennett.

With Ayesha Antoine (3/5) (r)

11.30 Soul Music

True stories of what Kate Bush's song *Running Up That Hill* means to people, including a marathon runner, a record producer and a trans activist (1/6) (r)

12.00 News and Weather

12.30am Book of the Week:

Night Train to Odesa (r)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra

Digital only

8.00am A Short Gentleman

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.**

Stars Hugh Bonneville **7.30 These Days.** By Lucy Caldwell **7.45 D-Day** Minus 6: Putting You Through. Short dramas about D-Day

8.00 Just a Minute. From the Rose Theatre, Kingston-upon-Thames. Last in the series

8.30 The Nimmo Twins In... Comedy with Karl Minns **9.00 Blood Count.** By Ian Smith

9.45 Madame Zilensky and the King of Finland. By Carson McCullers **10.00 Comedy Club:** I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. With Marcus Brigstocke, Tony Hawks, Vicki Pepperdine and Henning Wehn **10.30 Goodness**

Gracious Me **10.55 The Comedy Club Interview** **11.00 Dead Ringers.** Last in the series **11.30 Dave Podmore's Cricket Night**

Radio 5 Live

MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 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: England vs Bosnia & Herzegovina (Kick-off 7.45). At St James' Park **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT

MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Breakfast with Jeff Stelling **10.00** Sam Matterface **1.00pm** Shebba Aherne & Perry Groves **4.00** Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Live Kick Off: England vs Bosnia & Herzegovina (Kick-off 7.45) **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

Talk

Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** Mike Graham **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Monologues and debates **4.00** Jeremy Kyle **7.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music

Digital only
5.00am Nathan Shepherd **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles. With guest Gary Numan **4.00** Steve Lamacq's Teatime Session **7.00** New Music Fix Daily **9.00** Riley & Coe **11.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence: Bloc Party **12.00** Pet Shop Boys at the BBC **1.00am** Pet Shop Boys Live **2.00** Pet Shop Boys, Documentary **4.00** The Pet Shop Boys Playlist

Virgin Radio

Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with weebuyany **10.00** The Ryan Tubridy Show **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM

FM: 100-102 MHz
6.30am 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** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide

Ben Dowell

Lost Boys and Fairies

BBC1, 9pm

Top pick Gabriel (*Slow Horses* star Sion Daniel Young) and his partner Andy (Irish actor Fra Fee) are a sweet gay couple who want to adopt a child in

this well-meaning and tender drama by the Welsh writer Daf James and loosely inspired by his own experiences adopting. As with any committed pairing with similar aspirations they are subject to lengthy social services checks and are lucky that their assigned professional is the dry, enlightened and laid-back Jackie (Elizabeth Berrington).

Only this is no ordinary story. Gabriel works as a drag queen (though he doesn't like the term) in a Cardiff club where he sings with gusto while wearing some of the most colourful outfits seen on a television screen. Unlike Andy, who seems to have a more straightforward past, flashback scenes show Gabriel's many

childhood difficulties. He adored his loving mother, who died in front of him when he was young, and his chapel-going father, Emrys (William Thomas), clearly has problems with his son's sexuality. A scene where young Gabriel puts on his mother's dresses and lipstick and is admonished violently by Emrys is

stark and brutal, as are scenes where he is bullied horribly at school. He wants to present a happy and contented front with Jackie and is reluctant to let her dive into his past. But she is probably wiser than he gives her credit for and, over the course of the series, secrets need to be told and difficulties overcome.

Panorama BBC1, 8pm
Ruja Ignatova, the Oxford-educated alleged architect of the OneCoin crypto scam, boarded a Ryanair flight from Sofia to Athens in 2017 and hasn't been seen since. The FBI offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to her capture, but as this

programme suggests, it may never be claimed. Ignatova's whereabouts are unknown, but speculation has increased that she may have been murdered having managed to evade police via mafia contacts. The con is estimated to have brought in up to \$4 billion (£3.2 billion) for Ignatova and her associates.

	BBC1	BBC2	ITV1	Channel 4	Channel 5
Early	6.00am Breakfast 9.30 Rip Off Britain. A couple let down when their coach transfer took a turn for the worst 10.15 The Moment of Proof. An ice pick found on the roof of a pub brings a murderer to justice (r) 10.45 Expert Witness. Police turn to a footprint analyst and pollen expert to help solve a murder in Manchester (r) (AD) 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in Newport, Durham and London (r) 12.15pm Bargain Hunt: All About D-Day. An episode to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day 1.00 BBC News at One; Weather 1.35 BBC Regional News; Weather 1.45 BBC News at One; Weather 2.00 Doctors. Part two of two. Zara meets an intriguing GP (AD) 2.30 Clean It, Fix It. In Bristol, the team helps a family struggling to house their bikes (r) 3.00 Escape to the Country. A young couple want to swap their London flat for something bigger in the East Midlands 3.45 Garden Rescue. Lee Burkhill and Chris Hull head to Runcorn, Cheshire, to create a stylish wildlife haven from a bland back garden (r) 4.30 The Finish Line. Quiz show 5.15 Pointless. Quiz show (r) 6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather 6.30 BBC Regional News; Weather 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. By the Conservative Party (r)	6.45am Bargain Hunt (r) 7.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (r) 8.00 Sign Zone: Our Changing Planet — Restoring Our Reefs (r) (AD, SL) 9.00 BBC News 12.15pm Politics Live 1.00 Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the quiz (r) 1.45 Mastermind. Specialist subjects include Edith Cavell and La Vuelta a España (r) 2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo begin a trip along the south coast of Wales (r) (AD) 2.45 Five Bedrooms. Ben and Heather are "helped" to create dating app profiles, while Liz admits to mixed emotions (r) (AD) 3.30 The Farmers' Country Showdown. Donna and her sons go to sell their bacon butties, pulled pork wraps and burgers at Cullumpton Food Festival (r) 4.15 Monkey Planet. George McGavin explores the world of primates, from strange lemurs and acrobatic monkeys to enigmatic apes (r) 5.15 Flog It! A look at some of the best finds during the programme's visits to Edinburgh, Wallasey, Southwell and Dunster Castle (r) 6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games. With contestants Ashley John-Baptiste, Simon Rimmer, Esme Young and Claire Sweeney (r) 6.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure. Clive has a Jamaican family reunion and dishes up a curry goat	6.00am Good Morning Britain. News, current affairs and lifestyle features 9.00 Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories. Presented by Lorraine Kelly 10.00 This Morning. Chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions 12.30pm Loose Women. Studio discussion from a female perspective 1.30 ITV News; Weather 1.55 Regional News; Weather 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and his team assess items in Coventry, where Stewart Hofgartner is very taken by some spoons and Beatles memorabilia is a hit in the saleroom (r) (AD) 3.00 Lingo. A daughter and her dad from Blackpool, a yo-yo lover and his father, and a Hertfordshire couple take part (r) 4.00 Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) 5.00 The Chase for Soccer Aid. Bradley Walsh hosts a special edition as Danny Jones, Martin Bell, Sarah Jane Mee and Michael Sheen come together in a bid to take down a Chaser (r) 6.00 Regional News; Weather 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. By the Conservative Party 6.30 ITV News; Weather	6.30am 3rd Rock from the Sun (r) (AD) 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) 9.40 Frasier (r) (AD) 11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A struggling Italian restaurant in Philadelphia (r) 12.05pm Channel 4 News Summary 12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. Gordon Ramsay revisits three previous restaurants he tried to save (r) 1.10 Car SOS. Fuzz Townsend and Tim Shaw secretly restore an extremely rare and valuable AC Aceca (r) (AD) 2.10 Countdown. Krishnan Guru-Murthy is in Dictionary Corner 3.00 A Place in the Sun. Ben Hillman meets a hairdresser and a builder who are searching for a holiday home for the whole family to enjoy in Alicante, Spain (r) 4.00 A Place in the Sun. Sara Damergi helps a woman from Doncaster find her dream holiday home so that she can live the high life on the western Costa del Sol 5.00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. New series. Helping sisters from Castle Douglas find a dream holiday home in the Spanish sun for a maximum budget of 75,000 euros 6.00 Four in a Bed. The week begins at the Dog Inn in Longridge, Lancashire. A married couple hope to impress their guests with a trip to a farm to see some lambs 6.30 Channel 4 News	6.00am Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster discusses the issues of the day 11.15 Storm Huntley. Storm carries on the discussion and takes your calls to discuss the biggest stories of the day 12.45pm Friends. Phoebe spends a surreal first day at work (r) (AD) 1.10 Friends. The pals celebrate Rachel's 30th birthday and reminisce about their own, including Monica's attempt to hide her intoxication from her parents (r) (AD) 1.40 5 News at Lunchtime 1.45 Home and Away. Tane loses the will to fight, Eden is broken by Levi's lies, and Mali makes a decision (r) (AD) 2.15 FILM: Murders to Die For (PG, TVM, 2023) A true-crime podcaster discovers an unsolved local murder and finds herself entangled in a deadly game of cat and mouse. Thriller starring Kate Miner and Matthew MacCaull 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Documentary following Brits who moved to Spain, swapping the damp and grey conditions of the UK for a new "cheap-as-chips" life in the Spanish sun (r) 5.00 5 News at 5 6.00 Police Interceptors. A German shepherd is sent in to search when a dog handler and the firearms team find themselves in a tense stand-off with suspected drug dealers (r) 6.55 5 News Update



The King and the

In April, the King's invitation to The Emperor and Empress of Japan to pay a State Visit to the UK in late June was accepted. But after the surprise decision to call an election, what now happens to the soft power of a State Visit and why do they actually matter?

7PM	7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas present the usual mix of topical stories and celebrity chat 7.30 EastEnders Cindy and George try to help Anna after her mugging. Meanwhile, Ravi is suspicious of Vinny's true intentions (AD)	7.00 Your Garden Made Perfect Garden designers Helen Elks-Smith and Manoj Malde pitch for the chance to redesign a lacklustre garden in Hertfordshire. Presented by Angela Scanlon (1/6) (r)	7.30 Emmerdale Billy breaks down, Dawn is anxious and Charles struggles (AD)	7.00 Live England International Football: England v Bosnia & Herzegovina (Kick-off 7.45). Jules Breach presents all the action from the friendly at St James' Park in Newcastle. This is the first of two friendlies the Three Lions will play before their Euro 2024 campaign gets under way in Germany, with the second seeing them face Iceland at Wembley Stadium on Friday night. This evening, they take on a team that are looking to recover from the disappointment of missing out on the Euros after losing 2-1 at home to Ukraine in a play-off. With analysis provided by Joe Cole, Jill Scott and Asmir Begovic	7.00 Traffic Cops In North Yorkshire, officers are out in force on a bank holiday weekend, while a biker takes a tumble down a steep embankment after losing control on a bend and somehow escapes serious injury (r) 7.55 5 News Update
8PM	8.00 The Missing Cryptoqueen: Dead or Alive? — Panorama Current affairs report. See Viewing Guide 8.30 The Bidding Room Items brought in by the public include an unusual piece of Japanese design, a jade mirror and a transforming bookcase (r)	8.00 Springwatch Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan are at RSPB Arne with an update on the weekend's wildlife. Iolo Williams is at Martin Down in Dorset, where rare orchids thrive and turtle doves are making a comeback, and Megan McCubbin is on the banks of Loch Lomond (5/12)	8.00 Coronation Street Bethany sends Craig on a wild goose chase, Abi fears that her life is ruined, Adam accuses Bobby and Carla of landing Daniel in trouble with the police, and Leanne arrives home to find Simon about to leave the country (AD)		8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders PCs spot a driver with his foot down, weaving in and out of lanes. When the officers catch up to motorist, they discover he is a Geordie celebrity. In Sunderland, PCs are on the hunt for a BMW driver with no insurance (8/10)
9PM	9.00 Lost Boys & Fairies New series. Drama starring Sion Daniel Young and Fra Fee. Queer performance artist extraordinaire Gabriel and his partner long to adopt a child. But Gabriel's own history of childhood trauma threatens to completely derail the process. See Viewing Guide (1/3) (AD)	9.00 D-Day: The Unheard Tapes Hundreds of thousands of Allied troops land on five beaches along the Normandy coast — as told by those who were there in interviews lip-synced by actors (2/3) (AD)	9.00 Love Island New series. A new group of singletons arrives at the luxury villa in search of love — and the chance to win the £50,000 prize. Hosted by Maya Jama. See Viewing Guide		9.00 The Hospital: Life on the Line New series. A look inside Clydebank's NHS Golden Jubilee University National Hospital, following staff as they mend hearts, physically and metaphorically
10PM	10.00 BBC News at Ten 10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather 10.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Victoria Coren Mitchell hosts this extended edition with guest panellists Chris McCausland and Sophy Ridge joining team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop (9/10) (r)	10.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul and Bob head to a lake in the Surrey Hills, and set their sights on catching big carp (5/6) (r) (AD) 10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events with Victoria Derbyshire	10.30 ITV News at Ten	10.00 Football Cops New series. The challenging work of officers from the UK Football Policing Unit. Match day brings a punch-up in a car park and pyros in the stands. Dog handlers are called in when some fans start throwing metal barriers at the police. See Viewing Guide (1/4) (AD)	10.00 Serial Killer Wives Exploring the lives of serial killers through the lens of their partners, with first-hand testimonies from those who loved these murderers. This edition hears from Kathy, who entered a romantic relationship with Stephen Griffiths, the Crossbow Cannibal (1/6) (r)
11PM	11.25 I Kissed a Girl The women decide whether to continue their relationships as they near their final kiss-off. Hosted by Dannii Minogue (9/10) (r) (AD)	11.05 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust A look at some of the treasures at Cambridgeshire mansion Anglesey Abbey, a collection once owned by Urban Huttleston Rogers Broughton. In Workshop, a modest family home is a perfectly preserved time-capsule of early 20th century life (4/6) (r) (AD)	11.00 Regional News 11.15 Instagram's Worst Con Artist The investigation reveals that Belle Gibson has a history of health lies dating back to her teenage years. Her brother and stepfather talk for the first time about a strange childhood with murky characters in her past (2/2) (r) (AD)	11.05 Kingpins Ben Zand meets gang members in northern England's crack-cocaine trade, uncovering the inner workings of their operations and the impact on their communities. Last in the series (AD)	11.05 999: Critical Condition Following a car crash, a 26-year-old is rushed into hospital suffering from a potentially life-threatening aortic tear. After falling backwards on an escalator, a man impaled his head on a metal step, and a student is rushed in to have a tumour removed (1/8) (r)
Late	12.15am I Kissed a Girl: The Reunion Dannii Minogue gets the women back together eight months on from the end of the show to unpack the drama and find out all the gossip since their summer. Finding out whose love has lasted the distance, and if anyone has made any shocking U-turns. Last in the series (r) (AD) 1.10-6.00 BBC News	12.05am Race Across the World: The Reunion Six months after finishing their race, the five teams reunite (r) (AD) 1.05 Sign Zone: Countryside. Adam Henson and Charlotte Smith explore the Camel Trail in north Cornwall (r) (SL) 2.00-3.00 The Great British Sewing Bee. Challenges inspired by the world of sport (r) (AD, SL)	12.05am Shop on TV 3.00 My Mum, Your Dad. The parents prepare for a school disco-themed party (r) (AD, SL) 3.50 Unwind with ITV 5.05 Gino's Italy: Like Mamma Used to Make. Gino explores Tuscany (r) (AD, SL) 5.35-6.00 Gino's Italy: Secrets of the South. Gino travels on his Vespa along Puglia's heel to Salento (r) (AD, SL)	12.05am England International Football 1.00 Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back (r) (AD, SL) 1.50 The Simpsons (r) (AD) 2.15 FILM: Swan Song (12, 2021) Comedy drama starring Udo Kier (SL) 4.00 Iris Prize Best British Shorts (AD) 4.15 FILM: Shankar's Fairies (PG, 2021) Drama 5.50-6.30 Countdown (r)	12.05am Ultimate Police Interceptors (r) (AD) 1.00 PlayOJO Live Casino Show 3.00 Secrets of Your Supermarket Food (r) 3.50 How to Give Up Sugar (& Lose Weight) (r) 4.40 Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) 5.05 House Doctor (r) (SL) 5.30 Entertainment News on 5 5.35 Fireman Sam (r) (SL) 5.45-6.00 Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

television & radio

Love Island

ITV, 9pm

ITV is bringing out the suntan lotion, budgie smugglers and intense social media activity once again with more sexy fun in the sun designed to lure the all-important 16-24 age bracket that TV commissioning editors so desperately want. If you don't

know the format by now, this is probably not for you. We're on series 11, after all. But for middle-aged folk it is definitely something to tune into if you want to know what the adolescents in your household are watching. Or you could embarrass yourself by discussing it with them. Maya Jama presents once again.

Vasa: The Ghost Ship

BBC4, 9pm

The Vasa, one of the most majestic galleons to put to sea, sank just a few minutes after leaving Stockholm harbour on its maiden voyage in 1628 in a mishap that dealt a severe blow to Sweden's maritime ambitions. The wreck was

recovered in 1961 and was remarkably well preserved. However, there are still more treasures and secrets to recover from the cold depths. I am not sure about the project leader's claim that this find ranks alongside the Tutankhamun hoard, but it's still a fascinating story nicely told.

Football Cops

Channel 4, 10pm

If you're a police officer who loves football, being a dedicated officer assigned to a professional club sounds like a dream job. It certainly is for Stu Spencer, the dedicated football officer (DFO) for Coventry City, who is affectionately known

by colleagues as "Cardio" after suffering a heart attack while chasing a handbag thief. There is a lot more police banter in this film alongside many reminders of how unpleasant the football world can be. Because when fans start chucking metal barriers at officers you have to (quite literally) call the dogs in.

Film Gangs of New York

Film4, 9pm

Martin Scorsese's film charts the rise of criminal gangs in 19th-century New York, with Leonardo DiCaprio and Daniel Day-Lewis two men harbouring deadly grudges. There are moments of greatness, usually featuring Day-Lewis. (167min)

Sky Max

6.00am NCIS: Los Angeles (r) 7.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) 8.00 The Flash (r) 9.00 Stargate SG-1 (r) 11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (r) 12.00 The Flash (r) 1.00pm SEAL Team (r) (AD) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (r) 4.00 S.W.A.T (r) (AD) 5.00 DC's Legends of Tomorrow. The team heads to 1942 (r) (AD) 6.00 Stargate SG-1. Jack and the team are pulled into a virtual reality loop (r) 8.00 Flintoff's Road to Nowhere. Former cricketer Andrew Flintoff and Rob Penn cycle through the Amazon (1/2) (r) (AD) 9.00 FILM: Game of Death II (18, 1980) Martial arts crime adventure starring Bruce Lee 11.00 The Walking Dead. A prison provides an opportunity to establish a new base camp (r) 12.00 Hold the Front Page (r) (AD) 1.00am SEAL Team (r) (AD) 2.00 A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip. The gang takes MLS-style penalties 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (r) 4.00 S.W.A.T (r) (AD) 5.00 Highway Patrol (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Urban Secrets (r) 7.55 True Blood (r) 10.05 Billions (r) (AD) 12.15pm Game of Thrones (r) (AD) 1.20 The Sopranos (r) 3.30 True Blood (r) 5.45 Billions (r) (AD) 7.55 Game of Thrones. An old foe returns to the great game, and Arya faces a difficult choice. Meanwhile, Gilly meets Sam's family, and Jaime faces off with the High Sparrow (r) (AD) 9.00 The Sympathizer. As he adjusts to life in Los Angeles, the Captain is forced to find someone to implicate when the General begins to suspect there is a mole 10.15 Succession. Ship shows up in search of answers when Kendall and Roman head to the UK to negotiate with their mother. Greg goes to great lengths to protect himself (7/10) (r) (AD) 11.30 The King. Bruno gains Mancuso's trust and manages to get him to talk, allowing him to discover state secrets (5/8) (r) 12.30am The King (r) 1.30 The Newsroom (r) 2.40 Game of Thrones (r) (AD) 3.40 In Treatment (r) 4.10 Urban Secrets (r)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The Guest Wing (r) (AD) 7.00 Discovering: Alan Rickman (r) (AD) 8.00 The Directors (r) 9.00 The Seventies (r) (AD) 10.00 The Great Rhino Robbery (r) (AD) 11.00 The Man Who Bought Cricket (r) (AD) 12.00 FILM: McQueen (15, 2018) The fashion designer Alexander McQueen (AD) 2.00pm FILM: Tread (15, 2020) A man who wreaked havoc in his town in a customised bulldozer (AD) 3.45 My Icon: John Amaechi (r) (AD) 4.00 The Directors (r) 5.00 Discovering: Alan Rickman (r) (AD) 6.00 The Seventies (r) (AD) 7.00 The Great Rhino Robbery (r) (AD) 8.00 The Man Who Bought Cricket (r) (AD) 9.00 FILM: Tina (15, 2021) A celebration of Tina Turner's life and career (AD) 11.15 FILM: Hitsville — the Making of Motown (12, 1977) The history of Motown 1.15am FILM: Lennox — The Untold Story (15, 2020) The life of former boxer Lennox Lewis (AD) 3.15 Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth (r) 5.00 Discovering: Alan Rickman (r) (AD)

Sky Arts

6.00am HMS Pinafore with ENO 8.00 The Joy of Painting 9.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 11.00 Discovering: Daniel Day-Lewis 12.00 The Joy of Painting (AD) 1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 2.00 Cold War & Cinema (AD) 3.00 Lenny Henry's Got the Blues (AD) 4.00 Discovering: Robert Donat 5.00 The Joy of Painting (AD) 6.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD) 7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents. A visitor is intrigued by an old man's collection of clocks 7.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents. A couple thinks their lonely daughter is possessed by a spirit 8.00 André Rieu: Falling in Love — Live in Maastricht 2016. The Dutch violinist performs romantic favourites in his home town 11.00 Shakespeare: Macbeth. An RSC production of the tragedy starring Christopher Eccleston 1.10am Will's Book 2.25 Bring Me the Head of Alfred Hitchcock (AD) 3.50 Cheltenham Literature Festival 4.50 Auction: David Bowie Collector 5.20 Auction 5.50 Arts Uncovered

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News 7.00 Good Morning Sports Fans 8.00 Good Morning Sports Fans 9.00 Good Morning Sports Fans 10.00 Sky Sports News 11.00 Sky Sports News 12.00 Lunchtime Live 1.00pm Lunchtime Live 2.00 Sports Desk 3.00 Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup: Sri Lanka v South Africa. Coverage of the Group D encounter from Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York 3.30 Live World Pool Championship. Coverage of day one of the tournament, which takes place at Green Halls in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia 9.30 Sky Sports News. A round-up of the day's sports news, featuring interviews and highlights 10.00 Sky Sports News at Ten 10.30 Back Pages Tonight. A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers 11.00 Sky Sports News 12.00 Sky Sports News 1.00am Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup: Afghanistan v Uganda. Coverage of the Group C match from Providence Stadium in Guyana 5.30 Sky Sports News

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland 6.55pm-7.00 A Party Election Broadcast By The Democratic Unionist Party 10.40 The Emerald Isles 11.30 Have I Got a Bit More News for you (r) 12.15am I Kissed a Girl (r) (AD) 1.10 I Kissed a Girl: The Reunion (r) (AD) 2.00-6.00 BBC News

BBC1 Scotland 6.55pm-7.00 Party Election Broadcast 8.30-9.00 Scotland's Home of the Year (AD) 10.40 Sportscentre 11.25 Have I Got a Bit More News for you (r) 12.10am I Kissed a Girl (r) (AD) 1.00 I Kissed a Girl: The Reunion (r) (AD) 1.50 Weather for the Week Ahead 1.55-6.00 BBC News

BBC1 Wales 6.55pm-7.00 A Party Election Broadcast By The Welsh Labour Party

BBC2 N Ireland 6.55pm-7.00 Ag Amach. As BBC2 except: 10.00pm-10.30 Bog Amach. A retired teacher who wants to move (r)

ITV1 Wales 6.25pm-6.30 Party Election Broadcast. By The Welsh Labour Party

STV 6.20pm-6.29 Party Election Broadcast. By The Scottish National Party 9.00-10.30 STV Leaders' Debate 11.00 STV News 11.15 Absolutely India: Mancs in Mumbai (r) (AD) 11.40 Sorry, I Didn't Know (r) 12.05am-3.00 Shop on TV 3.50-5.05 Night Vision

BBC Scotland 2.00pm Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) 2.30 Sign Zone: Landward (r) 3.00-4.00 Sign Zone: This Farming Life (r) 7.00 The Hairy Bikers Go Local (r) (AD) 8.00 Designing the Hebrides (r) (AD) 8.30 Boots and Beards — Our Lives (r) (AD) 9.00 The Nine 10.00 Scotland's Biggest Families (r) 11.00-12.00 Inside Central Station (r) (AD)

BBC Alba 6.00am Alba Today 5.00pm Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) 5.15 Na Cànainearan 5.30 AH-AH/No-No (r) 5.40 Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) 5.45 Daolag-bhreach is Seillean (r) 5.50 Meaban is Mòr (r) 5.55 Stiòraid (r) 6.00 Belle agus Seoab 6.15 Stri (r) 6.20 Bogaigean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles (r) 6.35 Na Dana-thursan aig Tintin (The Adventures of Tintin) (r) 7.00 Thar na Loidhne/Crossing the Line (r) 7.30 SpeakGaelic (r) 8.00 An Là (News) 8.30 Duibhlain Dìg (Discussions Not Included) 9.00 Trusadh — Bardach Ghaidhlig (Gaelic Poetry) (r) 10.00 An Clò Mòr (r) 10.30 Eòrpa (r) 11.00 Cuir: Celtic Connections at 10 (r) 11.30 Mach a Seòl — An Roinn Eòrpa (r) 12.00-6.00am Alba Today

S4C 6.00am Cyw: Olobobs (r) 6.05 Digbi Draig (r) 6.20 Cymyulaubchain (r) 6.30 Patrol Pawennau (r) 6.45 Dathlu 'Da Dona (r) 6.50 Brethyn a Fflwff 7.05 Patrol (r) 7.20 Caru Canu a Stori (r) 7.30 Crawl a' Ffrindiau (r) 7.45 Sigldigwt (r) 8.00 Timm (r) 8.10 Amer Maith Maith yn Oi (r) 8.25 Jambori (r) 8.35 Octonots (r) 8.45 Ahoi! (r) 9.05 Odo (r) 9.10 Anffailaid Bach y Byd (r) 9.20 Dreigiau Cadri (r) 9.30 Pentre Papur Pori (r) 9.40 Delan a Loll (r) 10.00 Olobobs (r) 10.05 Digbi Draig (r) 10.20 Cymyulaubchain (r) 10.30 Patrol Pawennau (r) 10.45 Dathlu 'Da Dona (r) 11.00 Caru Canu a Fflwff (r) 11.05 Patrol (r) 11.20 Caru Canu a Stori (r) 11.30 Crawl a' Ffrindiau (r) 11.45 Sigldigwt (r) 12.00 News; Weather 12.05pm Sain Ffagan (r) 12.30 Heno (r) 1.00 Dan Do (r) 1.30 Welsh Whisperer — Nŷn Teithio Nawr! (AD) 2.00 News; Weather 2.05 Prynhawn Da 3.00 News; Weather 3.05 Wrecsam — Cwbl Ni! (r) 4.00 Brethyn a Fflwff (r) 4.05 Caru Canu a Stori (r) 4.15 Dreigiau Cadri (r) 4.25 Patrol (r) 4.40 Ne-wff-ion (r) 5.00 Ol! Osgr (r) 5.10 Lego Ffrindiau: Andani Ferched! (r) 5.20 Prys a' Pryfed 5.30 Cer I Grew (r) 5.45 News Ni 6.00 Colleen Ramsey: Bywyd a Bywd (r) 6.30 Rownd a Rownd (r) (AD) 6.57 News Heno 7.30 News; Weather 8.00 Y Byd ar Bedwar 8.25 Garddio a Mwy 8.55 News; Weather 9.00 Ffermio 9.30 Rallio+ 10.00 Gerddi Cymru (r) 10.30-11.35 Iaitn ar Dailth (r)

Emperor

Listen for free via the QR code, on the Times Radio app or wherever you find your podcasts

BBC3

7.00pm Phoenix Rise. Summer's anxiety is high, while Darcy struggles with his guilt (7/10) 7.30 Phoenix Rise. A fire breaks out in the boiler room during a celebration (8/10) 8.00 Shark Tank. A line of beauty products formulated for melanin-rich skin 8.40 Becoming — Dumbledore. Jude Law talks to Ali Plumb about how he took on the role of Professor Albus Dumbledore 9.00 Peacock. Comedy starring Alan Mustafa 9.25 Peacock. Andy applies for the head trainer role and tries to get serious with Carly 9.55 Peacock. New "authentic" Andy is set to go on a second date with Georgia. Last in the series 10.20 Dubai Hustle. Natasha and Eddie clash, and Jake meets up with girlfriend Mouna (3/8) 10.50 Dubai Hustle. Jessica's client relationship takes an interesting turn (4/8) 11.20 I Kissed a Girl. The women decide whether to continue their relationships. Hosted by Danni Minogue (AD) 12.10am I Kissed a Girl: The Reunion. Danni Minogue gets the women back together (AD) 12.55 Peacock 2.15 Mobility 2.25 Dubai Hustle 3.25-3.55 Doctor Who: Unleashed (SL)

BBC4

7.00pm Great British Railway Journeys. In Blackburn, Michael Portillo catches a rare glimpse of Edwardian life on celluloid (AD) 7.30 War Walks. Richard Holmes visits the beaches and breakwaters of Dunkirk (AD) 8.00 Britain's Lost Masterpieces. In Belfast, the experts assess what were thought to be low-value imitations at the Ulster Museum, and examine a controversial painting (3/3) (AD) 9.00 Vasa: The Ghost Ship. Following the work of archaeologists, divers and historians as they make new discoveries about the Vasa, a Swedish Navy flagship — built in 1628, the height of Sweden's military expansion. See *Viewing Guide* 10.00 D-Day: The Untold Story — Journeys to the Bottom of the Sea. A look at the potential outcome of the invasion if a secret weapon had made it to the beach (AD) 11.00 Double Cross: The True Story of the D-Day Spies. The true story of five of the double agents who helped to make D-Day such a success (AD) 12.00 D-Day: The Last Heroes. Lost in the series (AD) 1.00am Great British Railway Journeys. In Blackburn (AD) 1.30 War Walks (AD) 2.00-3.00 Britain's Lost Masterpieces (AD, SL)

Talking Pictures

6.00am Stagecoach West (b/w) 7.00 FILM: Escape by Night (PG, 1953) Crime drama starring Bonar Colleano (b/w) 8.35 What's On TPTV with Noel 8.45 Stage 7 (b/w) 9.15 FILM: Jet Storm (U, 1959) Thriller starring Richard Attenborough (b/w) 11.00 Time to Remember 11.35 The Outer Limits (b/w) 12.40pm FILM: Stagecoach (PG, 1966) Western remake starring Bing Crosby 3.00 The Saint (b/w) 4.00 FILM: Beach Red (12, 1967) Second World War drama with Cornel Wilde 5.50 Look at Life 6.00 The Road to D-Day. Double bill 7.00 The Footage Detectives. Featuring footage of a trip to Southgate in the 1950s 8.00 Enemy at the Door. The aftermath of a raid has devastating repercussions 9.05 Into the Blue. John Thaw stars as a failed businessman who travels to the island of Rhodes to live in a friend's villa, where he is embroiled in the mystery of a missing woman 11.15 FILM: Rage (18, 1966) Thriller starring Glenn Ford and Stella Stevens 1.20am Terminus (b/w) 2.00 Maigret 3.50 Look at Life 4.00 Justice 5.00 The Lloyd Bridges Show (b/w) 5.30 Honey West (b/w)

Film4

11.00am 40 Guns to Apache Pass (PG, 1967) Western starring Audie Murphy 12.55pm A Lawless Street (U, 1955) Western starring Randolph Scott 2.30 Ten Tall Men (U, 1951) Foreign Legion comedy adventure starring Bull Lancaster (AD) 4.30 Dr Who and the Daleks (U, 1965) Sci-fi adventure starring Peter Cushing (AD) 6.20 First Knight (PG, 1995) A wandering swordsman is made a knight at King Arthur's court, where he falls in love with the monarch's queen. Adventure starring Richard Gere 9.00 Gangs of New York (18, 2002) An Irishman in 19th-century New York is taken under the wing of the ruthless gang leader who killed his father. Starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Daniel Day-Lewis (AD) See *Viewing Guide* 12.20am 47 Metres Down (15, 2017) Two sisters vacationing in Mexico are trapped in a shark cage at the bottom of the ocean. Horror starring Mandy Moore and Claire Holt 2.05-3.55 Downhill (15, 2020) A couple's near-death experience on a family ski trip forces them to re-evaluate their relationship. Comedy with Julia Louis-Dreyfus

More4

8.55am A Place in the Sun 10.25 A New Life in the Sun 11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It 12.30pm Come Dine with Me (AD) 3.10 Four in a Bed 5.50 Château DIY. Converting a cow shed (AD) 6.55 Car SOS. Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend work on a 1972 Renault Alpine A110 (AD) 7.55 Grand Designs. Kevin McCracken meets a couple planning to create a hybrid structure by slotting in a new home within the walls of a former blacking mill in Cumbria (AD) 9.00 PopMaster TV. Contestants from Poole, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham and Shrewsbury compete to recall facts and stats about their favourite chart-toppers and beyond in this fifth heat round. Ken Bruce presents 10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Catherine Ryan and David Mitchell join team captains Jon Richardson and Sean Lock for another round of words-and-numbers fun with Nick Helm in Dictionary Corner 11.05 24 Hours in A&E. A cyclist has severely damaged his ankle after coming off his bike (AD) 12.10am PopMaster TV 1.15 999: On the Front Line. A boy has a major epileptic fit 2.15 24 Hours in A&E (AD) 3.20-3.50 A Place in the Sun

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping 7.15 London's Burning 8.05 Doctors 9.20 Classic Holly City 10.40 Classic Casualty 11.40 The Bill 12.00pm Classic EastEnders 2.00 London's Burning 3.05 Lovejoy 4.15 Tenko 5.20 Birds of a Feather 6.00 Watling for Good 6.40 Are You Being Served? Pilot episode of the vintage comedy starring John Inman 7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. Combo competes in a fitness challenge (AD) 8.00 The Brokenwood Mysteries. When an animal activist is killed on the first day of duck-hunting season, Mike and the team must determine whether it was an accidental shooting, or something more sinister (3/4) (AD) 10.00 New Tricks. The investigators reopen the 15-year-old case of a vagrant who was strangled on a train, when DNA tests on a suspected robber reveal the man to be the victim's son. With Peter Davison and Keith Allen (2/10) (AD) 11.20 Soldier, Soldier. Dave, Paddy, Tony and Luke plan a wild night out in Amsterdam 12.30am Lovejoy 1.40 Call the Midwife (AD) 2.50 Classic Holly City (SL) 4.00 Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Scouting for Toys (AD) 8.00 Abandoned Engineering (AD) 10.00 Adolf Hitler's War 11.00 World War Weird 12.00 Great British Railway Journeys 1.00pm Antiques Roadshow 2.00 Bangers & Cash (AD) 4.00 Adolf Hitler's War 5.00 World War Weird. Sightings of UFOs 6.00 Antiques Roadshow. The programme embarks on its 40th anniversary tour 7.00 Canal Boat Diaries. New series. Robbie Cumming journeys through Royal Leamington Spa and the town of Warwick (1/10) (AD) 8.00 Abandoned Engineering. Air Studios, on the Island of Montserrat, which became a mecca for rock legends (1/8) (AD) 9.00 The Witch Hunters: Lucy Rowland Investigates. The historian examines four dramatic chapters in British history (1/4) 10.00 Bangers & Cash. Derek heads to Scotland in a raincoat to pick up a Jaguar E-type and a rare MGC convertible (AD) 11.00 Abandoned Engineering (1/12) (AD) 12.00 Great British Railway Journeys 1.00am Hornby: A Model World (AD) 2.00 Abandoned Engineering (AD) 3.00 Teleshopping

ITV2

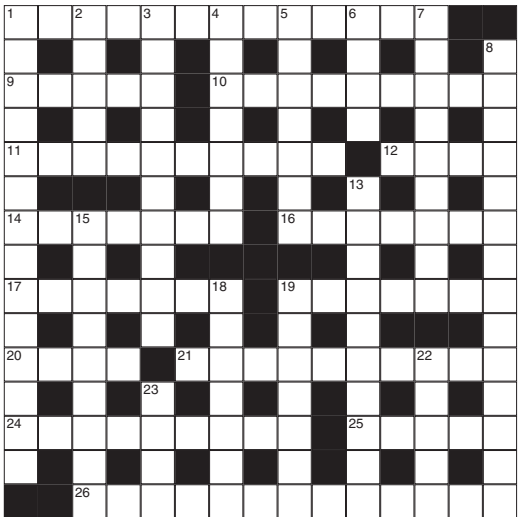
6.00am CITV 9.00 World's Funniest Videos 9.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 9.40 Love Bites (AD, SL) 11.45 Dress to Impress 12.50pm Wheel of Fortune (AD) 1.55 Family Fortunes: Gino's Best Bits 2.25 Veronica Mars 3.25 Britain's Got Talent: The Final 6.00 Catchphrase. Stephen Mulhern hosts 6.45 FILM: Pitch Perfect 2 (12, 2015) The singers try to win the a cappella world championships after being beset by scandal. Comedy sequel starring Anna Kendrick 9.00 Love Island. New series. Everyone's favourite villa is ready and waiting packed with brand-new sexy singles for the return of Love Island hosted by Maya Jama 10.30 Family Guy. Part one of two. The residents try to solve a murder mystery (AD) 11.00 Family Guy. Part two of two. Everyone struggles to identify the killer among them (AD) 11.30 American Dad! Roger kisses Francine in a drunken moment at a wine-tasting event (AD) 12.00 American Dad! (AD) 12.30am Bob's Burgers (AD) 1.30 Hey Tracey! (SL) 2.30 Unwind with ITV 3.00 Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (AD) 8.05 Endeavour (AD) 11.10 The Royal 11.15 Heartbeat (AD) 1.30pm Classic Emmerdale 2.35 Classic Coronation Street (AD) 3.50 Agatha Christie's Marple (AD) 5.55 Heartbeat. Double bill of the drama (AD) 8.00 McDonald & Dodds. The detective duo investigate the murder of a wealthy patient at a private clinic — an investigation made all the more difficult by the complex relationships of the other residents (2/2) (AD) 10.00 Wire in the Blood. Part one of two. Tony investigates when a body is dragged from a lake, while Carol tries to catch a stalker playing a pair of famous faces — and the two cases turn out to be linked. Don Mackichan guests (3/6) 11.00 Wire in the Blood. Part two of two. Beth's murder provides fresh clues for Tony and Carol to follow up, but it soon becomes clear time is of the essence when another girl with a resemblance to the victims goes missing (4/6) 12.00 The Royal 12.50am Bless This House 1.15 Upstairs, Downstairs 2.10 Unwind with ITV. Daily escape 2.30 Teleshopping

MindGames

General Knowledge Crossword No 236



- Across
- 1

Old-fashioned type of boat associated with the Mississippi (6,7)
- 9

Lean cut of meat from the thigh of cattle (7)
- 10

Greek counterpart of the Roman goddess Venus (9)
- 11

Former name for a female flight attendant (3,7)
- 12

Feudal worker who was bound to the land (4)
- 14

Lean cut of meat from the thigh of cattle (7)
- 16

Swedish name for Sweden (7)
- 17

— stone, artefact that was the key to deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics (7)
- 19

Novelist born Elizabeth Cleghorn Stevenson in 1810 (7)
- 20

Any of the four most ancient scriptures in Hinduism (4)
- 21

— Poe, US author of *The Fall of the House of Usher* (5,5)
- 24

1986 fantasy film featuring David Bowie in a lead role (9)
- 25

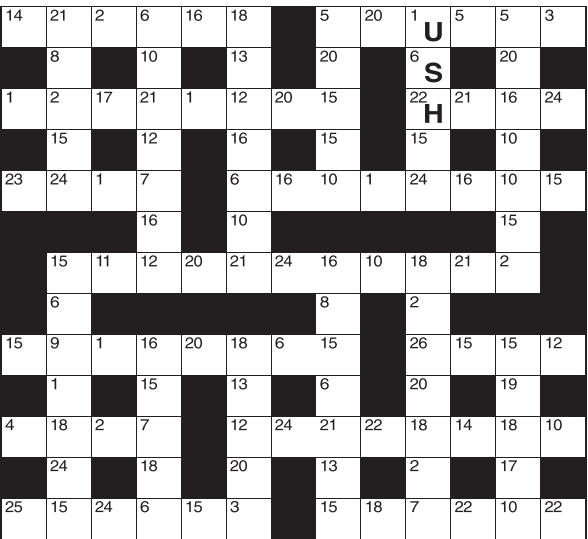
British bird with meadow, tree and rock species (5)
- 26

TV presenter who founded the charity Childline (6,7)

Last week's solution

S	A	L	T	M	A	R	S	H	B	R	O	O	M
T	E	O	O	O	R	A	O	G	D	E	N		
U	Z	A	E	V	E	G							
T	H	E	T	R	U	M	P	E	T	M	A	J	
P	C	A	R	I	A	E							
S	A	P	P	H	I	R	E						
A	E	Y	S	I	H								
C	A	L	L	A	S								
R	I	X	C	R	A	J							
A	I	N	S	L	E	Y							
M	R	N	P	E	P	E							
E	T	H	I	O	P	I	A	N					
N	E	S	C	E	I	M							
T	E	N	S	E									

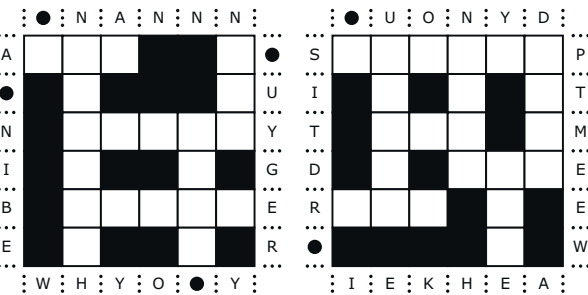
Codeword No 5231



Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

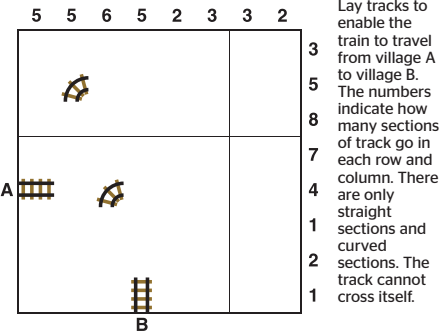
Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Lexica Easy No 7449 Hard No 7450



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 2260



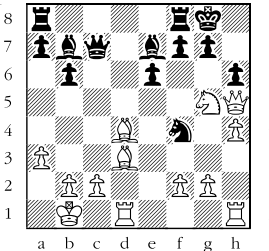
Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

- 1
- Pass over rubbish location (4)
- — — —
- 2
- Price to take in a shoreline (5)
- — — — —
- 3
- Offer to nurse (6)
- — — — —
- 4
- Soak horse, covering in a blanket finally (8)
- — — — —
- 5
- Fool spoilt men badly (9)
- — — — —

A	A	A	C	D	E	E	E
E	I	I	I	K	L	M	M
N	N	N	O	O	P	P	R
R	S	S	S	T	T	T	T

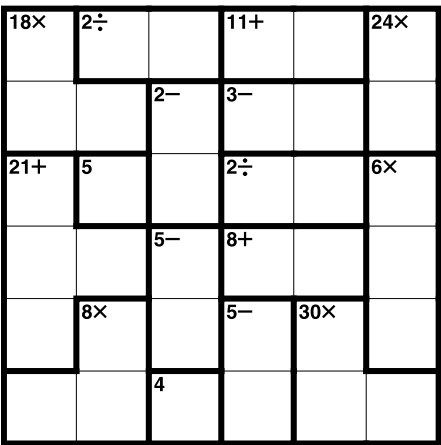
Winning Move



White to play. This position is from Duda-Cremisi, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2024.

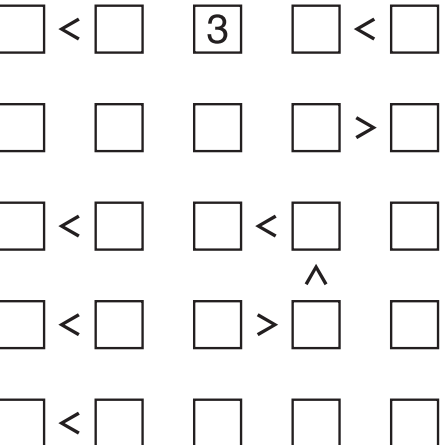
White has the so-called "Horwitz bishops". These are two bishops on adjacent diagonals pointing at the enemy king. As here, they can be lethal. Can you spot White's fine finish?

KenKen Easy No 6223



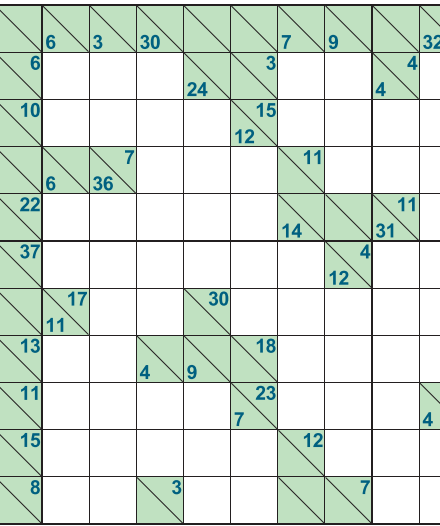
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4771



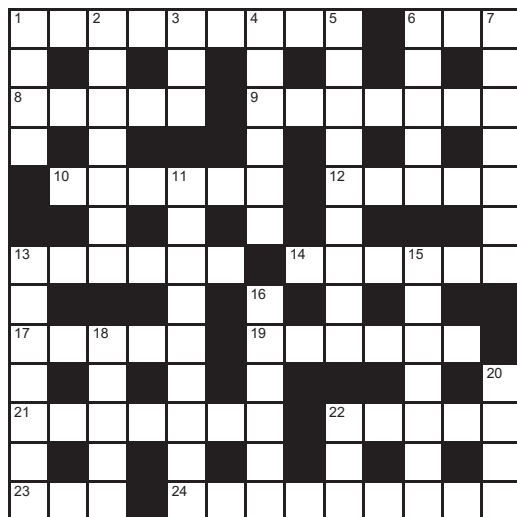
Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3730



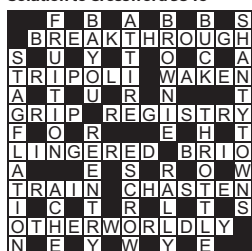
Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

times2 Crossword No 9547



- Across**
- 1 Brief preview or sample (9)
6 Firm whose shares may be freely sold and traded (1,1,1)
8 Frequently (5)
9 Responsible for an error (2,5)
10 Tight item of neckwear (6)
12 Pub drink (I, not Y) (5)
13 Get to the bottom of (6)
14 Sporting competition (6)
- Down**
- 17 Of the olfactory organ (5)
19 Forbidden via legislation (6)
21 Stepped (on) (7)
22 Dutch cheese (5)
23 Actor's prompt (3)
24 Involved in difficulties or complications (9)

Solution to Crossword 9546



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

I can't lie, the Mind Sports Games Open Trials did not go particularly well for your columnist and partner. Here, though, our very last board, was something to enjoy.

What do you think West should lead to 4♠ on the auction given? The board was played four times, and all four suits were chosen.

(1) The jack of spades. This gave nothing away, declarer drawing trumps and having to lead diamonds out of hand. His main hope was a short ace and had led the nine. West won the jack and switched to a heart, to the king, ace and ruff. Declarer led the eight of diamonds (paying off to the doubleton queen-jack, the queen-low holding not possible as West would have played low last time from ace-jack-low). East won the now-bare ace and switched to a club but, even though declarer's finesse lost, the diamonds were good and that was ten tricks made.

(2) The four of hearts lead. Declarer played dummy's king, ruffing away East's ace. He drew trumps then led the nine of diamonds. West won the jack but had no safe exit. Best was a second diamond (then a club through the ace-queen). In practice, West switched to a club. Declarer won the queen, followed with the eight of diamonds — to the bare ace — and was soon chalking up the overtrick.

(3) The eight of clubs lead. Being the unbid suit, this was a tempting choice but declarer was happy to win the first trick with the queen. He drew trumps, played for the short ace of diamonds and was soon making 11 tricks.

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams

♠ 53 ♠ KQ1063

♥ 1062 ♠ 972

♣ 1042 ♠ A982

♦ J754 ♠ A5

♣ KJ98 ♠ 7653

♠ AKQ1064

♥ K9873

♣ AQ

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	End		

Contract: 4♠, Opening Lead: ?

(4) A diamond lead — but not just any old diamond. West tried the deceptive jack. East won the ace and returned a diamond and, falling for West's ruse (playing for the jack to be singleton), declarer played low from hand. West won the queen and promptly led his third diamond. East ruffed, switched to a club, and when declarer's finesse lost to West's king, that was one down.

My team, Knottenbelt, finished third (out of the seven teams) in the round robin. The top two teams, Black and Leslie, contested the final, with Black taking a whopping 62-imp carry-over (their margin of victory in the round-robin head-to-head match). Amazingly, after 48 of the 64 boards, Leslie had clawed their way back to lead by six imps. However, in the end it was the pre-tournament favorite, Black, who prevailed, by 28 imps.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY 60 $\div 12 \times 3 + 21 \div 9 \times 6 + 12 + \frac{1}{4} \text{ OF IT} - 6 \times 2$ **ANSWER**

MEDIUM 28 $\times 7 + 68 + \frac{1}{8} \text{ OF IT} \times 3 - 96 \times 2 \frac{90}{100} \text{ OF IT} - 97 \div 2$ **ANSWER**

HARDER 144 $\times 8 + 746 \frac{50}{100} \text{ OF IT} + 887 \times 2 \frac{5}{12} \text{ OF IT} \frac{70}{100} \text{ OF IT} \times 3 + 985$ **ANSWER**

Polygon

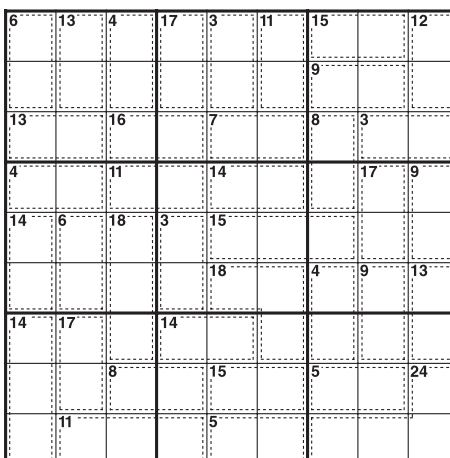


From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives. **How you rate** 12 words, average; 16, good; 19, very good; 23, excellent

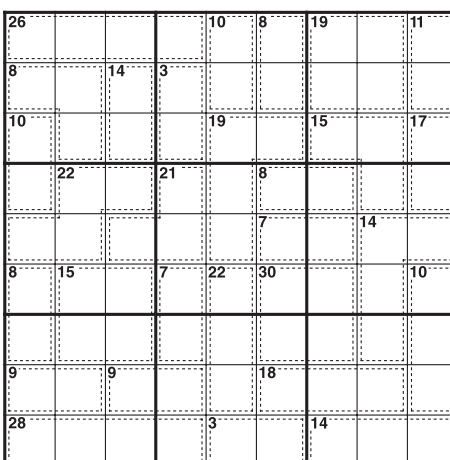
Saturday's answers

achievable, achieve, alive, avail, behave, bevel, calve, cava, cave, cavil, chav, cleave, evil, halva, halve, have, haveli, heave, helve, hive, lava, lave, leave, live, vail, vale, veal, vehicle, veil, viable, vial, vibe, vice, vile, vie

Killer Gentle No 9500



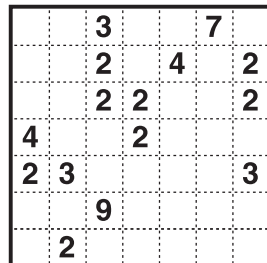
Killer Tricky No 9501



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Cell Blocks No 5114



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

Set Square No 3733

$$\begin{array}{rcl} - & + & 5 = 1 \\ + & \times & \times \\ \times & 8 & \times = 288 \\ \times & \div & - \\ = 77 & = 48 & = 17 \end{array}$$

Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Solutions

Quick Cryptic 2690



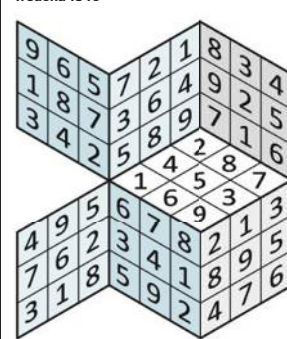
Codeword 5230



Kakuro 3728



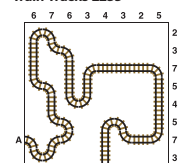
Tredoku 1840



Square Routes 273



Train Tracks 2259



Set Square 3731

$$\begin{array}{rcl} 8 - 2 \times 6 \\ + & + & - \\ 9 \times 5 + 3 \\ - & + & \times \\ 7 \times 1 - 4 \end{array}$$

Lexica 7443



Cell Blocks 5113



Futoshiki 4769



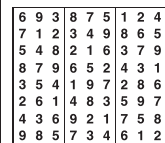
KenKen 6222



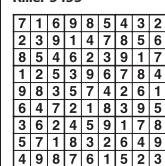
Lexica 7444



Sudoku 14,960



Killer 9499



Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Taxi
2 Pile
3 Sunday
4 Back seat
5 Designated

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Skip
2 Coast
3 Tender
4 Marinate
5 Simpleton

Suko 4132
3 7 4
2 2 5
6 9 5
2 8 1

Brain Trainer
Easy 788
Medium 667
Harder 4,198

Word watch

Hyaline (c) Transparent (Collins)
Poliorectics (b) The art of conducting sieges (OED)
Dalt (c) A foster child (Chambers)

Chess - Winning Move
1 Qxh6 finishes abruptly as 1...gxh6 2 Bx7 is mate

Quiz

1 Ribena 2 Sussex
3 November 11 4 Saturn
5 Ghostbusters 6 Marilyn Monroe 7 Iran 8 Brian May
9 Count Binnace, aka comedian Jon Harvey
10 Sicily 11 Dan Leno
12 Rubicon 13 Bioko, in Equatorial Guinea's capital city Malabo 14 Filipino Ganna 15 Sam Matterface

MindGames

For extra
puzzles
See page 10

Word watch

David Parfitt

Hyaline

- a Salty
b A reddish semiprecious gemstone
c Transparent

Poliorcetics

- a The practice of law enforcement
b The art of conducting sieges
c The study of government

Dalt

- a Colour-blind
b To intimidate or dispirit
c A foster child

Answers on page 15

Sudoku Easy No 14,961

			8	9		4		
			6	2	4	7	8	
	7	3			8	9		1
	8	2					7	
		4	9					3
	3	9	4				1	
		1		3		5		6
			5		2		9	8

Difficult No 14,962

	2	7				1	8	
			9		1			
		1				6		
			5		2			
9	5		6		7		3	2
3		5	4		9	2		7
	8	4		7		3	9	

Fiendish No 14,963

			7		1			
				5				
		2				3		
			5		2			
		6	3		8	2		
9	2			7			8	6
	3	5				9	1	
2		9				8		3
	7			3			2	

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 Launched in 1938, which drink derives its name from the blackcurrant's Latin name, *Ribes nigrum*?

2 St Richard of Chichester is the patron saint of which historic county?

3 The National Service of Remembrance takes place on the Sunday nearest to which date?

4 The Colombo Gap is a division about 100km wide near the inner edge of which planet's C ring?

5 Huey Lewis sued Ray Parker Jr for plagiarising which 1984 movie theme from *I Want a New Drug*?

6 Pauline Boty depicts which Hollywood star



in her painting *The Only Blonde in the World* (1963)?

7 The Stuxnet computer worm did terrific damage to which country's nuclear program?

8 Which English guitarist is the only

PhD astrophysicist in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame?

9 Which London mayoral candidate vowed to rename London Bridge after Phoebe Waller-Bridge?

10 In 1166, William the Bad was succeeded by

his son William the Good as king of where?

11 In 1901, which music hall star performed his "Huntsman" sketch at Sandringham for Edward VII?

12 Which 2003 history book by Tom Holland is subtitled *The Last Years of the Roman Republic*?

13 One of Africa's most feared prisons, Black Beach is located on which island?

14 Which Italian cyclist set a new world hour record of 56.792km in 2022?

15 ITV's lead football commentator, which broadcaster is this? Answers on page 15

Suko No 4132

	25		25	
	25		23	
12		16		17

Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic No 2692 by Breadman

1		2		3		4		5	6		7
8					9		10				
		11									
12											
13						14			15		
					16						
17		18									
											19
20						21					
22					23						

Across

- Commotion about king affected community labour force? (4,4)
- Poor average (4)
- That Parisian behind investigator's animosity (5)
- Chat following rugby player's ailment (7)
- Mathematician's ISA account recently opened with large amount (5,6)
- Last pair leaving Anglican service regardless (4,2)
- Rex and Victor in east somehow go without food (6)
- Accept dog finds butterfly (11)
- Mentally assessed one final letter by editor during drink (5,2)
- African resort's influx orderly, to an extent (5)
- Small loft and lounge (4)
- Relative beginners in glam rock and pop (8)

Down

- Cried, recalling exercises restrained by weight (4)
- Need about one twentieth of a ream of paper (7)
- Dictator, unfortunately upset, finally spurned cold food (6,5)
- Hate macho guards in charge (6)
- Fool taking ecstasy twice and joint regularly (5)
- It isn't surprising, these days, nitrogen in European river (2,6)
- Depressed broadcasting centres about to collapse (11)
- Papa with wayward sisters continues resolutely (8)
- Loosened the Spanish guitar during record peripherally (7)
- Perhaps thief initially steals device for windscreen (6)
- Article I love involving unknown World War II battle (5)
- Reminder for daughter (4)

Friday's solution on page 15

Let's talk about money with Bread & Honey

How much money would you need to make you happy? Are couples always better off financially? Why don't we all just escape to the country? And is the second wine on the menu really the worst?

Join hosts Georgie Frost and Martyn James, plus special guests, as they delve into the thornier money issues for the brand new video series from Times Money Mentor - where nothing is off the table.



To watch our **Bread & Honey** series go to the **Times Money Mentor** YouTube channel or scan the QR code



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
wealthify

THE TIMES
money mentor