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NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Starmer on the ropes over tax



PHOTOGRAPH: JONATHAN HORDLE/ITV/PA WIRE

Sir Keir Starmer faced questioning over taxation plans from his opponent in the hour-long ITV debate last night

Poll shows Sunak as winner of first TV debate as Labour leader fails to spell out his plans

By **Ben Riley-Smith** POLITICAL EDITOR

SIR KEIR STARMER will raise taxes for every working household by 2,000, Rishi Sunak said repeatedly in the first TV election debate as he pinned his rival down on his plans for government.

The Prime Minister highlighted Treasury analysis that suggested there was a major black hole in Labour's spending approach, arguing it would inevitably lead to higher taxes.

Throughout the hour-long ITV debate, Mr Sunak repeatedly challenged Sir Keir for more details on his proposals, including those on social care, ending strikes and tackling immigration.

The Labour leader in turn often pivoted to talking about the Conservatives' 14-year record in office, painting it as a period of failure and saying it was time to "turn the page". The debate saw the Prime Minister on the front foot, launching repeated political attacks against the Labour leader.

A snap YouGov debate poll handed the narrowest of victories to Mr Sunak, with 51 per cent of respondents saying he performed best overall and 49 per cent saying Sir Keir did.

A breakdown of the poll found Mr Sunak was judged to have done better on tax and, narrowly, immigration. Sir Keir was seen to have done better on the NHS, education, cost of living and climate change.

Tax clashes dominated the debate. Mr Sunak said: "Mark my words, Labour will raise your taxes. It's in their DNA. Your work, your car, your pension. You name it, Labour will tax it."

At another moment the Prime Minister said of Sir Keir: "He is going to put up your taxes, put up your bills, as clear as night follows day." At a third point he warned: "If you think Labour are going to win, start saving."

Sir Keir countered the criticism: "He is a British expert on tax rises. They're at the highest level for 70 years."

The Labour leader also repeatedly made referecne to the fall-out from Liz Truss's mini-Budget.

Mr Sunak's tax hike claim came from Treasury analysis, based on assumptions put forward by Tory special advisers, which was released by Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor. It claimed Labour had made £38.5 billion in unfunded spending commitments – the equivalent of costing every working household £2,094 over the next four years.

Labour at the time rejected the analysis, claiming there were 11 errors in the assumptions. Sir Keir, after repeated pressing by Mr Sunak, eventually rejected the figures, calling them "false".

But Sir Keir did admit that some taxes would rise under his government, noting he would add VAT on private schools and abolish the non-domiciled tax status.

And the Labour leader appeared to accept that the state pension would be taxed for the first time ever by his government, after the recent Tory pledge ruling out such an approach.

The exchanges on tax set the tone for the debate which saw the Prime Minister repeatedly pressing Sir Keir on his plans. Mr Sunak tried to get the Labour leader to spell out his solution on ending strikes, tackling the social care crisis, ending the small boat migration crossings.

Sir Keir often pivoted back to the Tories' 14-year record in office. On social care, he said a proposal would be contained in his election manifesto.

Sir Keir said in his opening statement: "This election is about a choice: more of the chaos and division of the past 14 years or turn the page and rebuilding with Labour."

Mr Sunak said in his opening statement: "Beyond raising your taxes and

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GENERAL ELECTION 2024

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Rishi takes home a cash prize in a debate resembling a game show

Sketch



By **Tim Stanley**

KEIR STARMER is still going to be prime minster, the ITV debate didn't change that. But now we know he's going to be a bad one. Nervy, shouty, easily flummoxed, he insisted being a nurse is "in my DNA", and appeared to claim responsibility for stopping a terror attack on several airplanes. Not only did he appear pettier than the PM, but thanks to the magic of TV, he managed to look smaller – and Rishi shops at Mothercare.

Fans of *Love Island* will have been disappointed to find their regular viewing had been cancelled, though relieved that the two party leaders didn't take off their tops and play spin the bottle. Instead, they smiled creepily in waxwork poses on a set that screamed mid-Nineties game show. In the US, presidential debates are conducted against the backdrop of the Constitution. Here, we brace for a "starter for 10" and an assault course with Anneka Rice.

Julie Etchingham hosted, very professionally. Questions were asked by a succession of voters who were a total hot mess: taxpayers who've had both legs amputated on a kitchen table because the ambulance blew out to sea. Paula – a hard-working mum working hard to make work *work* – told the leaders she had to do "batch cooking" to save money. Rishi, who assumed this was some form of sushi, fumbled his response and told her had a "clear pan" to deal with the economy. The plan featured a lot, and though he didn't elaborate on what it was, we gained the impression that he deserves extra points for having one. What about Starmer? To quote the sound effect on *Family Fortunes*: "Na-naaaa."

The problem with Sir Steer Calmly is he's been getting a good reception because he's limited himself to meeting pre-selected groups of Labour voters. He talked about the Government's failures, which is fair enough. He frequently sounded like a Tory, which is wise. But as Sunak hammered home, there's a troubling absence of any positive agenda for the country, which isn't just level-headedness but outright cynicism.

The NHS is in a mess because staff went on strike, said Sunak – and Starmer accused him of blaming it on other people. OK, replied Rishi, so would you have agreed to their eye-watering pay demand? Significantly, this won the first round of applause of the show, and Starmer never regained momentum.

I'm not sure how many people will have stayed tuned. *Vinnie Jones in the Country*, on Quest TV, probably received an audience spike that will fox the producers. But for those who stuck it out, Sunak 1 and Keir 0. Rishi takes home a cash prize and some happy memories.

Biden opposes 'Nato-isation' of Ukraine in blow for Zelensky

By **Tony Diver** *and* **Joe Barnes**

JOE BIDEN has ruled out Ukraine joining Nato in the aftermath of a ceasefire with Russia in a major blow to Volodymyr Zelensky.

Ahead of Nato's annual summit on July 9, the US president said Ukraine would have to rely on supplies of Western weapons to ward off a second Russian offensive.

Peace, he said, "doesn't mean Nato".

He added: "It means we have a relationship with them like we do with other countries, where we supply weapons so they can defend themselves in future."

Mr Zelensky has pushed for Ukraine to be granted swift entry to Nato after the war is over, arguing Vladimir Putin is likely to stage another invasion before long.

Membership of the alliance would compel the US and western nations to come to the defence of Ukraine in the event of any Russian attack, under Article 5 of the Nato treaty.

Mr Biden said "I am not prepared to support the Nato-isation of Ukraine", adding he had seen "significant corruption" in Ukraine when he visited as vice president.

However, he warned that the West still has a duty to prevent Kyiv falling to Russia, as it would quickly see Poland and other bordering nations "go down" too.

The possibility of Ukraine joining the alliance has become a major sticking point between Nato members since Russia's invasion in February 2022.

At last year's summit in Lithuania, member states agreed to a joint communique stating that "Ukraine's future is in Nato", but refused to move forward with an accelerated membership plan supported by some Eastern European countries.

German and American diplomats have recently expressed concern about moving further along the path to Ukraine's membership at next month's meeting in Washington, DC. Russia has recently made advances in the Kharkiv region and is expected to launch a major summer offensive in the near future.

Last week, Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, said that members would "put in place the bridge to bring Ukraine closer and ultimately into Nato," but did not give detail on the conditions required for membership or on a timeframe.

Mr Biden's intervention expunges any hope for Ukraine to be offered Nato membership in exchange for ceding territory to Moscow in a peace deal.

In the absence of a concrete offer on membership plans are being drawn up for Nato to take over control of the US-led Ramstein group that has coordinated much of the western military aid for Kyiv.

Jens Stoltenberg, Nato's secretary-general, has also proposed a commitment to maintain at least €40 billion in annual support for the war-torn capital, as part of the plan to make the country more compatible for a future membership bid.

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Summer fashion

Eight under-the-radar labels

Features



WORLD

Modi loses his majority in India election

Narendra Modi's party was set to lose its majority for the first time after falling well short of an expected election landslide, hampering ambitious plans to change the Indian constitution and cement his grip on power. Mr Modi's BJP party is projected to win the election in the world's largest democracy, early results showed, but lose dozens of seats in parliament. He will now have to rely on alliances with smaller parties to secure a majority.

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MATT



'Make Clacton Great Again'

BUSINESS

IFS warns Labour over net zero borrowing

Labour has been warned that its plans to borrow billions of pounds to fund net zero will make it harder to cut Britain's sky-high debt pile. The Institute for Fiscal Studies said that the plans to invest £23.7bn over five years would hinder aims to reduce the country's debt. It said in a briefing note: "Whatever the intrinsic merits of borrowing to invest for these or other worthy purposes, borrowing for Labour's Green Prosperity Plan will make the debt rule harder to meet."

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Sir Keir Starmer

Kids must learn about D-Day

Comment





Turkey supports Greece over return of the Elgin Marbles

Experts in the country say the British Museum was never given permission to hold on to the sculptures

By **Craig Simpson**

TURKEY has made a surprise intervention to support Greek efforts to claim the Elgin Marbles from the "colonialist" UK. The Greek government maintains that Lord Elgin stole the ancient sculptures from Athens in the 19th century, while British Museum bosses claim he was given written legal permission to take them.

Turkish experts have now spoken out in the row to support Greece, saying no such permission was ever given.

The licence or firman was purportedly granted to Lord Elgin by the Ottoman Turkish authorities who ruled Greece at the time, but the modern Turkish state's antiquities specialists have said they have no knowledge of this document.

The intervention by Turkey was made at a Unesco summit during which Greece once again demanded that the British Museum return the Marbles to Athens, where they were created 2,500 years ago.

Zeynep Boz, a Turkish culture ministry representative, told delegates: "We not aware of any document that legitimises the purchase by colonialist UK at that time.

"I don't think that there is room to discuss its legality, even under the law of the time."

She added: "We wholeheartedly look forward to the return of the Parthenon Sculptures. We believe it will mark a change of behaviour toward the protection of cultural property."

The claim attacks the legal argument deployed by the British Museum, which contends that Lord Elgin, the British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire in the early 1800s, received written legal permission to remove statues from the Parthenon.

Greece has long contested this, suggesting that any legal documentation could be a forgery as the firman exists only in Italian translation.

The Greek position is that Lord Elgin simply took the ancient sculptures which were sold to the British Museum after being shipped to the UK.

However, the British delegate to Unesco said that a firman was issued in 1801, and then a further document pausing Elgin's removal - and therefore giving evidence that he had been acting legally - was issued in 1805.

The return of the Marbles to Athens would depend on Parliament changing the law, which the Tory Government has said it has no interest in doing.

Pick of the bunch
A flower arranger puts the finishing touches to more than 60 displays in Chichester Cathedral for the four-day flower festival that starts today.



RUSSELL SACH

Cyber attack causes havoc at London hospitals

By **Will Bolton, Alex Barton** *and* **Joe Pinkstone**

A CYBER attack has crippled three major London hospitals, causing operations, blood tests and transfusions to be delayed for weeks.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) is investigating the source of the ransomware attack, which led to chaos in A&E departments yesterday.

NHS leaders said there had been a "significant impact" on King's College Hospital, Guy's and St Thomas' and GP services in south-east London.

The Telegraph understands that security sources believe the hack to bear the hallmarks of a criminal activity. The attackers behind the attack are believed to be based in Russia.

The Department of Health and Social Care said it was working with the NCSC following the attack on Synnovis, a private company that provides pathology services to large hospitals and GP surgeries in the capital.

Pathology services help with the diagnosis and treatment of illnesses and infections by analysing samples, including blood and tissue.

Patients awaiting operations and other tests have been hit by last-minute cancellations or redirected to other NHS providers as hospital bosses try to establish what work can be carried out safely. It is understood that blood tests and transfusions have been most severely impacted.

At King's College, elective surgeries have been cancelled and there are delays of up to 10 hours for blood tests in A&E.

The Telegraph has been told the delays are a result of lab workers being ordered to manually enter blood test results into the system. NHS staff are understood to have been told to only carry out emergency blood tests and to turn people away from emergency departments if they attend after their routine appointments are cancelled.

There are also severe delays to discharging patients, with staff warned that the disruption is likely to continue for several weeks rather than days.

Pride flag next to war memorial torn down

By **Samuel Hudson**

A ROW has broken out in a military town after the council erected an LGBT flag next to a war memorial.

Residents of Ludgershall, in Wilts, branded the positioning of the flag an "insult" to veterans, and two people tore it from its post and vandalised it.

The removal of the flag followed posts on Ludgershall's Facebook group accusing the council of "pointless virtue signalling" and disrespecting D-Day commemorations.

One post said it was "out of order" for the flag to be flying by the war memorial, especially as the 80th anniversary of D-Day approached.

The flag had been due to be replaced later this week by a flag to commemorate D-Day, but after the rope was damaged by the vandals, it will no longer be possible to fly the memorial flag.

Owen White, the mayor and chairman of Ludgershall council, said yesterday that they had wanted to "show they were a progressive council in a progressive town" but it seemed the town "had a long way to go".

Ludgershall has long standing connections with the military housing Army depots during the Second World War, where the US army prepared vehicles for the D-Day invasions.

After the war, the Corunna barracks housed soldiers of the 26 Engineer Regiment before they were demolished in 2015 to make way for military houses.

Mr White told *The Telegrap*h the backlash was a "kick in the teeth", and called the vandalism a "hate crime".

He added that the flagpole could cost up to £400 to repair. The vandalism is now under investigation by Wiltshire Police.

The council insisted the flag's proximity to the war memorial was simply a coincidence.

A spokesman for Ludgershall council claimed that the flagpole was positioned where it was merely because it was "more central for the town" and a "good visual place", with no connection to the war memorial itself.

Spudman pitch is hot potato

By **Blathnaid Corless** CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

A FOOD truck owner whose jacket potatoes became an internet sensation has been kicked off his trading spot by the council.

Ben Newman, better known as "Spudman" to his 3.5 million TikTok followers, has attracted fans from around the world keen to try his £5 stacked jacket potatoes. But the trader has now been told by Tamworth borough council in Staffordshire that he must leave his pitch outside St Editha's Church, along with other food vendors, as the area is under redevelopment.

The council has requested he relocate to the high street, but Mr Newman says he is unhappy about the decision as he does not want to hinder other traders with his high footfall.

"We are getting kicked off our pitch by the council," he said. "I love this spot by the church absolutely beautiful. We knew it was coming because they are redeveloping the square, we didn't realise it was going to happen this soon.

"Where are we going to go and what are we going to do, I don't know yet."

Stephen Gabriel, chief executive of Tamworth council, said: "All market traders using St Editha's Square are being temporarily moved to other parts of the town while we refurbish and improve the square."

NEWS BULLETIN

Watch dealer robbery victim 'died next day'

A watch dealer who was the victim of a £2.8million robbery died in a "woodland area" the next day, an inquest heard.

Oliver White, 27, was working at 247 Kettles, in Richmond, south-west London, on May 25 when two men posing as customers raided the store.

CCTV appeared to show Mr White being placed in a headlock by one of the two assailants. Police found him dead a mile from his family home in Shepperton at 8.15pm the next day.

His parents said it was their belief that their son "took his own life due to the anguish and distress of this terrible incident". The inquest was open and adjourned yesterday at Surrey Coroners' Court.

Killer SUV driver crashed turning on heated wheel

A driver killed another motorist in a head-on collision while trying to switch on the heated steering wheel of her new £50,000 SUV.

Lynn Worgan, 66, took her eyes off the road for up to five seconds while trying to activate the device just yards from her home in Poole, Cheshire, on May 15 2023.

Her Volvo veered on to the wrong side of the country lane and hit an Audi being driven by Christopher Allen, 47, a guitarist with Indie rock group Green Bullet. He died two days later, Chester magistrates' court heard.

Worgan admitted causing death by careless driving and was handed a 26-week suspended prison term.

Sword attack officers in fear of investigation

Police who tackled the Hainault sword attacker feared being investigated by their "bureaucratic" watchdog, the Met commissioner has disclosed, as he warned that officers were losing the confidence to keep the public safe.

Sir Mark Rowley said the current regulatory approach to policing was "misplaced", making it hard to get rid of corrupt officers, while discouraging others from doing their job properly.

He told yesterday how Dame Lynne Owens, the deputy commissioner, had spoken to the team on duty that day. "The first thing on their mind was, 'Are we going to be in trouble, are we going to be investigated over the way it was dealt with?', he said.

Royal College offers course on 'whiteness'

Royal College of Music students are being offered a course on the "whiteness and racism" of classical music.

The conservatoire in west London has introduced a module titled "Music and Racism", which aims to address a "Eurocentric" view of musical education and performance.

They are further educated on the whiteness and "heteronormativity" expected of classical musicians.

Other courses in recent years have focused on themes such as "Music and Power" and "Music and Empire".

It is taught outside the college by Marko Kölbl of the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna.

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Remote tribe gets hooked on internet porn

Indigenous Marubo people in Brazil were given satellite network access less than one year ago

By **Susie Coen** US CORRESPONDENT

TEENAGERS in a remote Brazilian tribe have become hooked on pornography months after they were given high-speed internet access via Elon Musk's Starlink.

The indigenous Marubo people, who for hundreds of years have existed in small huts along the Itui River, were connected to the billionaire's satellite network in September.

The community embraced the technology, marvelling at the life-saving ability to call for immediate help when grappling with venomous snake bites as well as being able to remain in contact with faraway relatives. But since a group of men arrived at the camp with antennas strapped to their backs to connect the remote tribe of 2,000 people to the internet, there have been some less desirable consequences. Critics warn that tribe members have become "lazy", reclining in hammocks all day glued to their phones to gossip on WhatsApp or chat to strangers on Instagram.

There have been reports of young men engaging in aggressive sexual behaviour after exposure to pornography, Alfredo Marubo, the leader of a Marubo association of villages, told *The New York Times*.

Young men brought up in a culture where kissing in public is seen as scandalous have been sharing explicit videos with one another in group chats, he said, adding: "We're worried young people are going to want to try it."



The Marubo tribe (below) have gained internet access via Starlink, which is run by Elon Musk (inset)

Alfredo also warned that members of the tribe have stopped speaking to their own families since they have gained access to the internet. Tribe elder Tsainama Marubo, 73, said while everyone "was happy" when the internet arrived, "now things have got worse".

"Young people have gotten lazy because of the internet," she said, adding: "They're learning the ways of the white people."

Kâipa Marubo, a father of three, said he was concerned about his children playing first-person shooter video games, fearing they might want to mimic the attacks.

Another leader, Enoque Marubo, 40, said the tribe has started limiting the hours members could access the internet because its introduction had "changed the routine so much that it was detrimental".

Members can browse the internet for two hours in the morning and five hours in the afternoon and all day on Sundays.

"In the village, if you don't hunt, fish and plant, you don't eat," Enoque said.

Enoque worked with Flora Dutra, a Brazilian activist, to bring the internet to the tribe. They contacted Allyson Reneau, an American philanthropist who reportedly donated 20 Starlink units to the Marubo tribe.

Musk's Starlink owns about 60 per cent of the roughly 7,500 satellites orbiting Earth and has helped bring connectivity to some of the trickiest places in the world. Its technology was first made available in Brazil in 2022, but only reached the more remote areas of the Amazon last year.

The region was the last frontier of the clash of civilisations that began in 1492, when Europeans first started arriving en masse in the Americas, conquering indigenous peoples with force and overwhelming them with technology such as metal swords. Thanks to its dense vegetation and sheer size, the world's largest rainforest remained cut off from that process until the rubber boom of the late 19th century.

'Things have got worse ... Young people have gotten lazy because of the internet'

But in recent decades, various commodities, above all oil, timber and land for ranching, have seen more and more isolated tribes enter into contact, some willingly, others reluctantly, with the outside world for the first time.

That has brought them the benefits of modernity, such as the internet and Western medicine. But some have suffered from new diseases to which they have no immunity, as well as alcoholism, racism, sexual exploitation, enslavement and massacres.



EU's crisp flavouring ban could create 'smoky bacon border'

By **James Crisp** EUROPE EDITOR

NORTHERN Irish crisp-makers will be subject to an EU ban on smoke flavourings because of post-Brexit trading arrangements that could create a "smoky bacon border" with Britain.

The EU's food safety authority said toxicity concerns about eight smoke flavourings, including those used for smoky bacon crisps, were "either confirmed or can't be ruled out." As a result Brussels has not renewed market authorisations for the flavourings.

Under the Windsor Framework, Northern Ireland continues to follow hundreds of EU rules and has access to the EU's single market unlike the rest of the UK. It means manufacturers such as crisp giant Tayto cannot now use the affected smoke flavourings at its County Armagh headquarters in Northern Ireland. However, Tayto Group, which bought Edinburgh-founded Golden Wonder in 2006, would still be able to use them in smoky bacon crisps made at its British factories.

Opponents of the Windsor Framework hit out at the prospect of a smoky bacon border, saying it was an example of sovereignty being eroded in Northern Ireland.

Lord Dodds, the DUP peer, said: "It's another reason EU law in Northern Ireland has to go along with the Irish Sea Border it creates. EU diktats are reaching into every aspect of daily life causing competitive disadvantages for NI manufacturing in its biggest market."

Jim Allister, the MLA and the Traditional Unionist Voice leader, said: "It all flows, of course, from the abandonment of sovereignty over many facets of Northern Ireland's economic life to the EU through the iniquitous protocol.

"A protocol which carries the absurdity of this situation even further in that smoky bacon crisps produced in GB can come to NI, but we cannot produce them here."

Customs checks on British goods and animals entering Northern Ireland were introduced to ensure they met EU standards to prevent a hard border on the island of Ireland. But Rishi Sunak's Brexit deal also means British manufacturers could take advantage of the Irish Sea border "green lane" to sell the banned smoky bacon flavour crisps in Northern Ireland.

EU sources confirmed the lighter touch fast-track for goods deemed not at risk of crossing into Ireland could be used to export the smoky snacks. There are fears the flavourings for meats, sauces and crisps could cause cancer, but snack companies deny this. It is unclear if Tayto uses the affected smoke flavourings in Northern Ireland and the company was asked for comment.

The EU has given crisp manufacturers two years to phase out the flavouring. Producers using flavouring to replicate the traditional smoking process for hams, fish and cheese have five years because of the expense of changing production processes.

Ireland, which has its own version of Tayto crisps, was lobbied by the Kerry Group of food manufacturers over the ban, *The Irish Times* reported.

The company wrote to Leo Varadkar, the Irish prime minister at the time, saying it was "profoundly concerned" about the decision not to renew the market authorisation, which it said would cause "major economic harm".

The UK inherited the decade-long market authorisation for the flavourings from its EU membership. Brexiteers have regularly lambasted the EU for its "precautionary principle" on food health warnings, which they see as an over-cautious approach to regulation. Bans are placed on items thought to cause harm, even in cases where proof of harm is yet to be put forward.

No decision on renewing the licences in Britain has yet been made. They are due to expire on July 1.

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Ridiculous restrictions How EU rules have split Northern Ireland from the rest of UK



The breakfast border
Marmalade will have to be renamed "citrus marmalade" in Northern Ireland under EU reforms to its "breakfast directives" for jams, jellies and marmalades. The European Commission proposed that for the first time, jam can be labelled marmalade, which in Britain is always made with citrus fruits. The Italian, German and Spanish words for jam are marmellata, marmelade and mermelada respectively, but those words cannot be used on the supermarket shelves. Marmalade will now be called citrus marmalade instead.



The capybara border
In August, three people were convicted of charges related to smuggling the South American rodent from England to Northern Ireland. Rules meaning they had to obtain a vet certificate and notify the authorities in Northern Ireland of the import from Cambridge did not exist before Brexit. Sadly, the capybara – which was called Queen Elizabeth and became a social media star on TikTok – died.



The mini shampoo border
Hotel room shampoo bottles will be banned in Northern Ireland but not in the rest of the UK under EU net-zero rules, it was revealed in March. New laws from Brussels on packaging waste go further than the UK's ban on single-use plastics but will apply in Northern Ireland.

'Dishonest' Madri angers Spanish beer boss

By **Daniel Woolfson**

THE boss of Estrella Galicia has accused British brewers of "dishonesty" for selling beers that appear Spanish but are brewed in the UK.

Aitor de Artaza, the international managing director of the Spanish brewer, said a "lack of transparency" among UK beer companies was confusing consumers in pubs and supermarkets alike.

His criticism comes after the recent success of Madrí Excepcional, a lager that is marketed as "the soul of Madrid".

However, critics point out that Madrí is brewed in Yorkshire by Molson Coors, the same company that owns Doom Bar and Carling.

Estrella Galicia has brewed beer in the Spanish region of Galicia for more than a century.

Mr de Artaza said: "There is a lack of transparency because they use a big famous city in Spain, but they don't produce here. This is confusing for the consumer."

Since its launch in British pubs in 2020, Madrí has quickly become one of the UK's best-known beers.

Its website claims Madrí lager is made in collaboration with La Sagra, a Spanish brewery owned by Molson Coors since 2017.

However, the beer itself is only brewed at several sites across the UK, including Tadcaster in Yorkshire.

Mr de Artaza added: "They did a very nice job in terms of marketing, that's for sure. But it's a little bit tricky because people think they are drinking a Spanish beer but it's not. They are not very clear and not very honest."



Madrí Excepcional is marketed as 'the soul of Madrid'

Sales of Madrí have soared since its launch, with supermarket purchases of the larger recently topping £100 million.

Its success stems from growing demand for "world lagers", which often have a higher alcohol content than traditional rivals, such as Foster's.

However, while many world lagers are marketed as exotic imports, the majority are actually brewed in the UK. This includes beers such as Birra Moretti and Corona.

M&S to make meals for food waste charity

By **Hannah Boland**

MARKS & SPENCER is to make special pizzas, curries and soups for food banks and homeless shelters in a boost to the King's anti-waste scheme.

The retailer has developed a range of meals that can be made using surplus ingredients from its food factories that it will then deliver to the food waste charity FareShare.

M&S is making a £1million investment in the project, under which it will produce more than 1.5 million freshly prepared meals for FareShare to distribute among charities and community groups across the UK.

The three different meals – vegetable curry, carrot and coriander soup, and family-sized pizza – will be freshly made at M&S's supplier factories and will have a guarantee of four days' life from when they are donated.

M&S said they were designed to feed between two and four people, and were nutritionally balanced.

Alex Freudmann, the head of food for M&S, said: "By utilising ingredients, capacity and time available within our supply chain, we're able to donate so much more product and ultimately help more people."

The retailer has unveiled the investment as part of the Coronation Food Project, which was launched by the King in November to help reduce food waste.

The legacy project, which was first revealed by *The Telegraph*, was prompted by the King's "increasing concern" over the cost of living crisis.

Its launch coincided with his birthday, with the King wanting to use the milestone to "shine a light" on a cause close to his heart.

It followed fears that pressures on households were making it more difficult for people to donate food to charity, while demand at food banks was surging.

The King's scheme is aiming to help increase the proportion of meals circulating to charities by joining the dots between the food waste generated by supermarkets and food producers, and the organisations that can help get meals out to people in need.

It said it would be establishing up to eight new food hubs where it could store food and package it before distributing to food banks and community kitchens.

The Coronation Food Project is aiming to circulate 200 million meals a year in the long-term. It would mark a significant increase on the 125 million distributed by FareShare.

M&S donated more than 25.3 million meals through its supply chain over the last year, distributing them through FareShare and Neighbourly, another food charity.

General election

Fiscal focus gives Sunak the edge in feisty debate

Party leaders clash on schools, security and strikes as they make their cases to the nation

By **Daniel Martin**
and **Nick Gutteridge**

SIR KEIR STARMER was accused by Rishi Sunak of failing to have a plan for some of the key issues facing Britain in the first head-to-head debate of the general election. The two men clashed on policies including tax, ending the junior doctors' strike, social care and immigration. Here are the key moments from the debate:

Immigration
On immigration, Mr Sunak repeatedly asked Sir Keir what he would do to stop small boats crossing the Channel, but the Labour leader failed to give a specific answer.

He instead pointed to his background as director of public prosecutions for the Crown Prosecution Service and said he would break up the criminal gangs.

He said: "We do have to deal with this problem, we have to smash the gangs that are doing it. I've taken down terrorist gangs in my past, I've seen how it can be done."

However, the Prime Minister said: "Immigration is too high and we will need to take bold action to bring it down. We have got the numbers down by a third and now we have a deterrent ready to go. The flights will go in July but only if I am prime minister.



Julie Etchingham had to interrupt repeatedly as the two leaders spoke over each other

"If Keir is prime minister, there will be no deterrent to stop people coming in boats."

Sir Keir also ruled out leaving the European Convention on Human Rights. "I want the UK to be respected on the world stage and not a pariah," he said.

In contrast, Mr Sunak said he would always choose securing the UK's borders above a foreign court.

However, Sir Keir, who has said he would scrap the Rwanda deportations policy, said that if the international courts allowed it, he would process asylum seekers in other countries. He said: "Yes, if it is possible to do so in compliance with international law."

The Labour leader added that Mr Sunak was "the most liberal prime minister we have ever had on immigration".

Asked by an audience member why either should be trusted to do anything about illegal immigration, Mr Sunak said deportation flights would take off to Rwanda "in July, but only if I'm your prime minister".

"Stick to our plan and illegal migrants will be on those planes. With Labour, they will be out on our streets."

A £2,000 tax rise?
Sir Keir refused eight times to deny Labour would put up tax.

The leaders responded to a question from Paula, from Huddersfield, who said she had found it very difficult to make ends meet. "All I do is work to live – what can you do about that?" she asked. In response, the Prime Minister said Labour would increase taxes by £2,000 – saying it was "in their DNA".

The Labour leader pointed out that the tax burden had increased under the Tories, however he refused to deny that he would increase taxes.

Mr Sunak said: "I know how much of a strain the last few years have put on your family finances.

"My priority has been to come up with bold action like the furlough scheme and bringing inflation back to normal.

"Now, wages are rising and we can start to cut taxes. We are only just starting to see the benefits."

He said there was a choice between "clear plan or £2,000 of higher taxes under Labour."

Sir Keir said: "I'm really sorry to hear of the problem you are in on a daily basis. Millions of others feel that the cost of living crisis is bearing down on them. This Government has lost control, it has crashed the economy... Rishi Sunak is putting Liz Truss forward at the next election."

Mr Sunak then said: "Keir Starmer would put all that progress at risk and put up everyone's taxes by £2,000 after all the hard work."

Sir Keir replied: "This is the Prime Minister who has been part of a government that has put up tax 26 times, the last manifesto said it wouldn't put up National Insurance and this man did put it up. Tax is at the highest level for 70 years."

Mr Sunak said: "Mark my words: Labour will raise your tax. It's in their DNA – £2,000 of tax rises is not going to help."

The figure of £2,000 emerged in an analysis by the Treasury that looked at 15 Labour policies. Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor, said it showed that the party's spending plans would lead to a £38billion black hole.

He said the gap between what Labour would spend and the measures it has announced to raise money was £2,100 per working household.

State pension tax
Sir Keir repeatedly refused to deny accusations from Mr Sunak that he was preparing a tax raid on the state pension.

The Tories have pledged to bring in a pension "triple lock plus", which means retirees never pay income tax on the state pension.

At the same time, Sir Keir ruled out real-terms cuts to ring-fenced budgets such as defence after the election, whereas Mr Sunak failed to do so.

Mr Sunak said: "It's very clear pensioners under Keir Starmer will pay tax on the state pension for the first time in our country's history. Keir Starmer can talk about the past all he wants but in the future pensioners have got a tax rise coming. Why do you want to do that, why do you want to tax pensioners?"

Sir Keir accused the Prime Minister of announcing a series of "desperate gimmicks" and added: "The big problem with Liz Truss is that she made unfunded tax cuts."

Junior doctors' strike
Sir Keir could not say how he would end the junior doctors' strike as he was challenged by Mr Sunak in a fiery exchange.

The Labour leader said he would "go in the room and resolve it" but insisted he would not agree to the unions' 35 per cent pay rise demands because it was unaffordable.

He also insisted that he would not use private healthcare even if he had a relative stuck on the NHS waiting list for life-saving care.

Sir Keir made his remarks after the Prime Minister blamed long-running junior doctors' strikes for hampering efforts to bring down NHS waiting lists.

To applause from the audience, Mr Sunak said of the unions' pay demands: "I don't want to raise your taxes to pay for that – I don't think that's right."

Accusing Mr Sunak of trying to shift the blame, Sir Keir said: "You've got to get in the room, you've got to resolve it because the NHS has got to get back to work." The Prime Minister hit back: "How would you resolve it? Just standing there and saying you'd resolve it – that's not a plan."

Julie Etchingham, the ITV host, had to repeatedly interrupt as the two leaders spoke over each other.

Social care
The leaders were asked: Will there be a fully funded solution for social care?

Mr Sunak said the Tories had given an extra £8billion to social care, because the "pressures are immediate". He said they had already implemented reforms.

Sir Keir said Labour would bring forward a plan that would be fully costed, but did not explain what it was. He said: "We will have a plan for social care and, like everything else in our manifesto, it will be fully costed and fully funded.

"It starts with the workforce because, as you know, one of the biggest problems in social care is the workforce is fragmented, poor conditions and many, many people leave."

Earlier in the debate, the leaders were asked a question by an audience member called Janet about how they would fix the NHS.

Mr Sunak responded to Sir Keir: "There is no way to get Janet and everyone else the care they need without a workforce, but the British Medical Association has warned that Keir Starmer's pension tax risks an exodus of doctors from the NHS."

Sir Keir responded that "we're talking about social care", to which Mr Sunak insisted that "it's all joined up".

Private school VAT raid
Mr Sunak attacked Labour over its plan to put VAT on private schools – potentially raising fees – saying those who work hard should not be prevented from doing so.

"I don't agree with it: people who work hard should have that freedom," he said. "He is going to raise taxes. That's just that the start."

Defending the policy, Sir Keir said: "I believe every child should have the teachers they need.

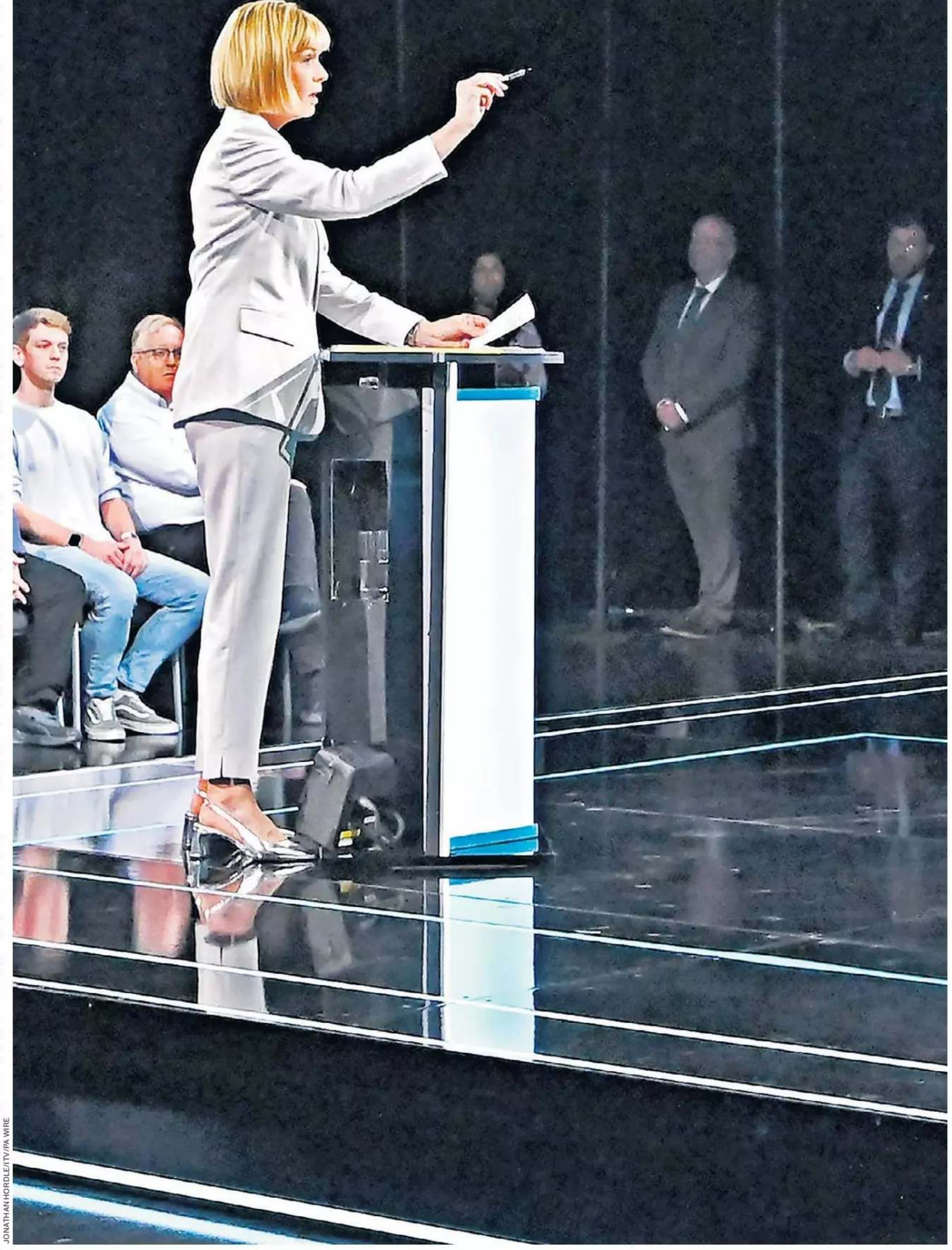
"For a child in a state secondary school who doesn't have a core teacher in maths they will live with that for the rest of their lives. It's tough."

The Labour leader added: "When it

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'If you think Labour is going to win, start saving. He is going to put up your taxes'



JONATHAN HORDLE/ITV/PA WIRE

PM urged to raise inheritance tax to £5m

By **Nick Gutteridge**
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE inheritance tax threshold should be raised to £5million to free 25,000 middle-class families from death duties, senior Tories have said.

Rising property prices have sucked thousands of middle-class families – many of whom are of modest means in cash terms – into paying inheritance tax.

Three former Tory chairmen are among those calling on the Prime Minister to reform the "unfair" and unpopular tax to win back vital support.

The number of estates subject to the levy every year has risen by more than 11,000 since 2010, and surged by a fifth in 2020-21 alone. It has been predicted that, by 2032, one in eight people will be liable for the tax, which was introduced to target the richest households.

Sir David Davis, who served as Tory chairman and as Brexit secretary, said the threshold should be raised from £1million at present to £5million.

"Inheritance tax was never intended for the middle classes, but now it's focused on the middle classes," he said. "The very rich have 101 ways of avoiding it, but middle-class people are now automatically facing inheritance tax on the family house."

He said soaring property prices meant that many young people's only realistic hope of getting on to the housing ladder was inheritance. "We should raise normal middle-class families out of paying inheritance tax completely so they don't have to worry about it," he added.

Tory MPs are urging the Prime Minister to make a bold offer to voters by pledging to increase the value at which the levy kicks in. They said the move would draw a dividing line with Labour.

HMRC figures from 2020-21 – the most recent available – show that 27,000 estates paid death duties of which just 550 were worth more than £5 million. Yet those 550 estates paid one fifth of the entire takings from that year, stumping up £1.25billion of the £5.76billion that the levy raised.

Leaders told off by ITV host over squabbles

Continued from Page 1

raiding your pensions, no one knows what Labour would actually do. I'll cut your taxes, protect your pension and reduce immigration."

During the debate it was Mr Sunak who most often went on the political attack. At points, the Prime Minister was told off by the moderator Julie Etchingham for interrupting. Sir Keir complained at one point: "Can I just get a word in edge-ways".

On the NHS, there were groans in the audience as Mr Sunak blamed industrial action when explaining why he had failed to hit his promise to reduce NHS waiting times in office.

Sir Keir responded by saying it "is somebody else's fault". Mr Sunak said he had to reject a 35 per cent pay rise demand from junior doctors and would not raise taxes.

But, Mr Sunak accused Sir Keir of not having a plan to solve the strikes: "Just standing there and saying 'I'll resolve it' is not an answer. It's not a plan."

On immigration, there were clear differences between the two party leaders on whether they would consider pulling the UK out of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

Some political figures on the Right have argued the ECHR is making it harder to tackle the small boat crossings.

Mr Sunak said: "I've been crystal clear. I will choose our country's security ahead of membership of a foreign court every single time."

Sir Keir said: "If I'm prime minister we will not pull out of international agreements and international law that is respected the world over."

Nigel Farage, the newly announced Reform leader, yesterday called for the UK to leave the ECHR. It was notable that he was barely mentioned in the hour-long debate.

Richard Holden, the Conservative Party chairman, said after the debate: "Tonight demonstrated the clear choice voters face at this election.

"Keir Starmer has no plans for our country, no plan and no ideas. He's asking for a blank cheque."



comes to schools, we desperately need more teachers. On maths we have lessons taught by PE teachers not maths teachers. We will recruit thousands more."

Climate

Rishi Sunak said Labour's green policies would cost thousands of pounds.

The Prime Minister said he was prioritising energy security and bills, defending his "bold decisions" on green policy while still meeting net-zero targets.

"The contrast is clear at this election because Keir Starmer will reverse all the changes I've made. That is going to cost you all thousands of pounds."

Sir Keir said renewable energy was a "huge opportunity ... That means cheaper bills, renewables are cheaper not just in the short-term but in the long-term. It also gives us the next generation of jobs. Other countries have realised renewables is the future, they're in the race, I want us to win the race... The question I ask is, why not Britain?"

Mr Sunak was applauded when he said "if you think Labour is going to win, start saving".

Sir Keir Starmer cited analysis that suggested the 2030 net-zero plan would be cheaper under Labour than the Tories.

"I said it before, I am going to say it again, he will put up your taxes as sure as night follows day," Mr Sunak said, to which Sir Keir muttered "utter nonsense".

Defence

Rishi Sunak attacked Angela Rayner's opposition to nuclear weapons as he accused Labour of being a threat to Britain's security. The Prime Minister said Sir Keir Starmer would not keep the UK as safe as the Tories because it had not matched his plans to raise defence spending to 2.5 per cent by 2030.

He said: "I don't think the Labour Party can be trusted to keep this country as safe as the Conservatives.

"The world is a more dangerous place than at any point since the end of the Cold War.

"The person who would be deputy prime minister does not believe in our nuclear deterrent, the ultimate guarantor of our security. You can trust the Conservatives with the security of our country."

Sir Keir said the accusations were "shocking" and added that as director of public prosecutions he had helped keep the UK safe from terror attacks.

He said: "For the Prime Minister, who was at the time making money betting against the country during the financial crisis, to now say national security is safer in his hands is insulting and it's childish."

Both leaders were also asked about the conflict in Gaza, saying that they supported a ceasefire and working towards a two-state solution.

Trump

Both Mr Sunak and Sir Keir said the UK's special relationship with the US would continue if Donald Trump re-entered the White House. The Labour leader said: "If he's elected president of the US, then we will deal with him.

"The special relationship transcends whoever fills the post of prime minister and president because it's such an important strong relationship."

The Prime Minister said: "Yes, because having a strong relationship with our closest partner and ally in the United States is critical for keeping everyone in our country safe."

Clash over national service

Sir Keir Starmer accused the Prime Minister of being "ashamed" of the Tories' record in power as he attacked his plan to introduce national service.

The Labour leader said that during the debate Mr Sunak had been unable to name a single achievement from the Conservatives' decade and a half in office. "All he can do is say please look at the future, please don't look at what we've done the last 14 years. We cannot have five more years of this," he said.

Mr Sunak hit back, arguing that his national service proposals would be "transformational" and telling Sir Keir: "You don't have big ideas like that."

They also clashed over plummeting home ownership among the young, with Sir Keir saying it was "shocking" that people were living with their parents well into their 30s. The Prime Minister warned Labour's plans would mean "concreting over the countryside", and said keeping taxes down would help people save for a deposit.

Advice for Gareth Southgate

At the end of the debate, the pair were asked by "Gareth on his way to Germany" whether their leadership style was to play it safe or go for the win.

"You need to have a clear plan and take bold action," said Mr Sunak.

Sir Keir said: "You need to have a strategy for winning," adding that England manager Gareth Southgate had "built a good squad just like I have with the shadow cabinet".

Head to head What leaders said about the hot topics

Sunak on the ECHR
If I am forced to choose between securing our borders and our country's security, I'm going to choose our country's security every time.

Starmer on the ECHR
We will not pull out of international treaty... I want the UK to be a respected player on the global stage, not a pariah.

Sunak on the NHS
We're putting record funding in... The NHS is safe in my hands and I want to give you the peace of mind that it will be there for you and your family when you need it.

Starmer on the NHS
It's unforgivable what has happened to the NHS. To come into government and leave the NHS in a worse state than you found it after 14 years is unforgivable.

Sunak on taxes
He would put everyone's taxes up by £2,000, I am going to keep cutting taxes and you're going to put them up. Mark my words, Labour will raise your taxes. It's in their DNA. Your work, your car, your pension. You name it, Labour will tax it.

Starmer on taxes
He's the British expert on tax rises, and he's got the gall to say the other people will put up taxes... He knows inflation is going to go back up, he knows energy prices are going to go back up.

'One of the PM's best displays for a decade': What our columnists thought

Labour leader intent on change, but to what we have no idea

Janet Daley



THEIR opening facial expressions said it all. Starmer looked nearly paralysed with nerves. Sunak seemed extraordinarily (under the circumstances) confident – and he gave one of the best performances I have seen in an election debate.

Perhaps it was that unnerving calm that made Keir decide that he would rather run against Liz Truss – whom he insisted on bringing into the discussion repeatedly.

This was, of course, consistent with his determination to talk only about the past and never about the future. Over and over again – on almost every question and every problem that faced the country – Sunak had to ask: "What are you going to do?"

And over and over again Starmer would not provide an answer. Instead, he insisted on reiterating his one and only message: the chaos and division of the last 14 years, blah-blah.

There was one word that he wanted

> 'Over and over again, on almost every question, Sunak had to ask: "What are you going to do?"'

to plant in your mind: change, change, change. But change to what? The frustration sounded genuinely sincere when Rishi demanded to know: "But what are you going to do?"

We all want to know.

Starmer strikes a real chord as rivals display passion and anger

Tom Harris



PRIME ministerial debates used to be boring, pre-rehearsed affairs, with every exchange having been carefully and assiduously prepared beforehand.

The ITV debate felt different. While the general public may not yet be engaged in this election so far, Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer appeared passionate, even angry. Neither had any hesitation in interrupting and haranguing their rival, despite repeated pleas from moderator Julie Etchingham.

It was the Labour leader who made more of the opportunity, effectively skewering the Prime Minister on his party's record in government.

And under pressure to take responsibility for the Conservatives' failures in the past 14 years, Sunak's almost automatic response was to invite us to consider the future, not the past – and also to seek credit for introducing the furlough scheme four years ago.

Starmer was no less stiff and dull than he has always been, but that didn't matter when he proved more effective than Sunak at relating to the various members of the audience who were posing the questions, channelling Bill Clinton in 1992 ("I feel your pain"). In the past his recitation of his working class credentials – father was a tool-maker, mother a nurse, etc – has sounded contrived and insincere. This time he struck a real chord with an audience that seemed predisposed to be sympathetic to the Labour leader rather than the Prime Minister.



‘Dead and buried – the Tories have

‘Tormentor in chief’ Farage takes to the pub to pour scorn on party whose factions ‘hate each other’

By **Ben Riley-Smith** POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservative Party as a political force is already dead, Nigel Farage has claimed as he insisted he would deliver a better opposition to Labour than the Tories after the general election.

Speaking to *The Telegraph* in Clacton during his first visit since announcing he would run to be its MP, the newly installed Reform leader warned of more Tory in-fighting to come.

He said different factions in the Conservatives “hate each other” and predicted “worse” internal battles after a general election defeat than the recent feuding which saw two changes of leader in 2022.

Mr Farage forecasts that Reform will win more votes at the election than the four million which Ukip – the insurgent party of the Right he once led – secured in the 2015 election.

And, in an attempt to end doubts about his trustworthiness after his volte face on standing in this campaign, he vowed to serve every day of the five-year term if elected as an MP.

“They’ve killed themselves already. It’s got nothing to do with me,” Mr Farage said when asked if he wants to make the Tories extinct after his surprise return to the political front line.

“Just look at the MRP polls,” he added, making reference to the so-called “mega polls” which crunch data and forecast the result. One from YouGov on Monday gave Labour a 194-seat majority.

“Some say the Tories will win 140 seats, some say they’ll win 80 seats. It’s over. Labour have won. This is about building a voice of opposition.

“And a very, very big Reform vote – if we can get some of the Labour switchers as well – says to Keir Starmer ‘be very careful on the European Union with what you’re doing. Very careful indeed.’”

The 60-year-old, dubbed the “Tory tormenter in chief” on the BBC this week, was chatting in what he has projected as his safe political space: inside a Wetherspoons, pint of amber ale in hand.

It was thrust his way by an aide before the cameras were switched on. Mr Farage, a third of the way through, admitted he does not know what beer it is he is supping.

Mr Farage and his small band of loyal aides and security staff had taken over a corner of the Moon & Starfish, bar stools lined up to keep back supporters, after his packed public rally.



Hundreds gather before Nigel Farage (top) falls victim to a protester’s milkshake

Hundreds of locals had gathered on Clacton pier to see Mr Farage as he clambered on to a park bench to cries of “we love you Nige!” and “become Prime Minister!”

A tub-thumping address, with one Reform press officer resting a loud speaker on their head so it could be heard over the crowd, saw Mr Farage declare: “Send me to Parliament to be a bloody nuisance.”

In the pub, Mr Farage, who has not contested a parliamentary seat since 2015, sounded surprised by the size and boisterousness of the crowd,

“It was rather exciting, wasn’t it? A bit overwhelming, actually,” he said.

“There was an emotion as I left, people shaking hands. It was an emotional moment because this is an incredibly

Are you a Middle Briton or a Left-Behind Patriot? The tribes deciding the election

By **Gabriella Swerling**
SOCIAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

“MIDDLE BRITONS” with no political affiliations are the biggest voter group in the country, a think tank has suggested.

According to analysis by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), the electorate comprises six distinct groups of voters.

One of them, described as “Middle Britons”, makes up a quarter of the electorate and is hard for political parties to win over.

The other groups are “Well-Off Traditionalists”, “Apolitical Centrists”, “Left-Behind Patriots”, “Urban Progressives” and “Soft-Left Liberals”.

The groups have shared characteristics including class, gender, education and location, as well as similar views on political issues such as the economy, immigration and climate change.

The analysis is based on the British Social Attitudes survey, which randomly selects members of the public across the country rather than gathering data from people who opt in. This is aimed at generating a representative picture of the electorate, and avoiding biases around political engagement or affiliation.

‘Middle Britons are mostly in the middle ground, will be hard to win over and are not that likely to vote’

Middle Britons are the largest cohort of voters, making up more than a quarter of the electorate (26 per cent). NatCen said these people were “mostly in the middle ground across issues”, are closest to the typical voter, have “no clear political affiliation”, are going to be “hard to win over and not that likely to vote”.

The Apolitical Centrists make up 17 per cent of the electorate. This group are the “least politically engaged, generally on the Right on economic issues but more centrist on social issues”. They are also generally “relatively young and low income. Many will likely not vote, but those that do will probably choose either Conservative or Labour”. The Urban Progressives comprise 16 per cent of the electorate. NatCen researchers describe this group as “typically university-educated professionals; leaning strongly to the Left on economic issues and in a liberal direction on social ones”. They added that this group was “likely to support Labour or the Greens, and highly likely to vote”.

The Left-Behind Patriots make up 15 per cent of the electorate. This group are “patriotic, mostly voted for Brexit, opposed to economic inequality but conservative in their social outlook”. They also have “no strong allegiance to any party but are more likely than any group to support Reform”.

The Soft-Left Liberals make up 14 per cent. This group are “university-educated, politically engaged, liberal on social issues but more centrist on the economy” and likely to vote for Labour, Greens or Liberal Democrats.

The Well-Off Traditionalists

‘Many people are not especially interested in politics. This is hard for the two main parties’

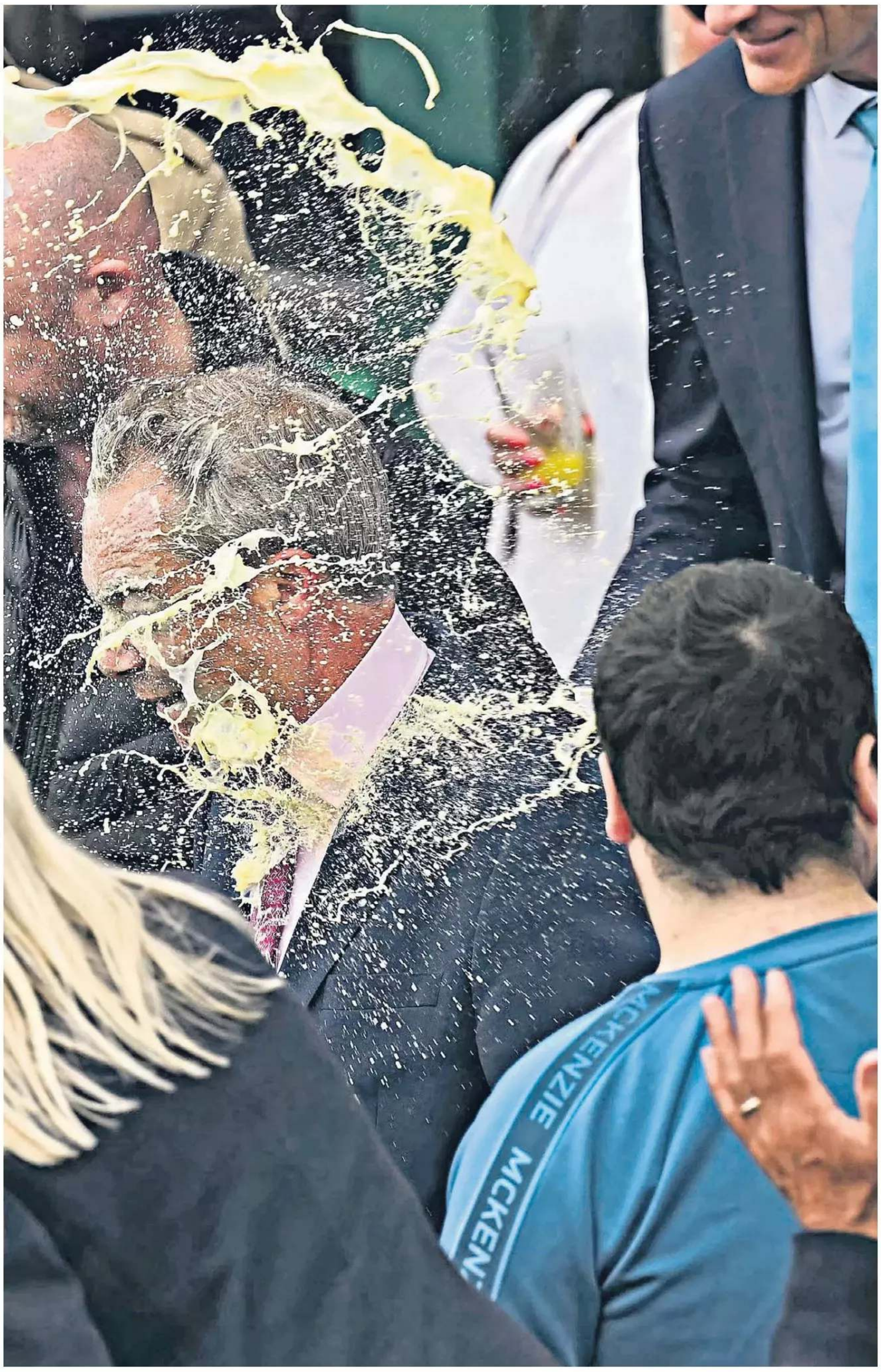
comprise 12 per cent of the electorate. NatCen said this cohort were “highly politically engaged and likely to vote, many living in the rural South East, with socially conservative views that align with Conservative policies”.

Prof Sir John Curtice, a senior research fellow at NatCen and professor of politics at Strathclyde University, said: “Much of the commentary on the election focuses on questions of performance. But elections are also influenced by voters’ values and their perceptions of politics and politicians.

“The electorate is not just divided between Left and Right, but also between ‘liberals’ and ‘authoritarians’, while many people sit in the middle and are not especially interested in politics.

“This poses particular challenges for the two main parties, who will have to reach out to voters well beyond their own comfort zones to succeed.”

Messiah returns bathed in glory – and a milkshake for good measure



JAMES MANNING/PA/STEPHEN LOVEKIN/IMAGES

By **Tim Stanley**
in Clacton-on-Sea



Newly crowned Reform leader makes a splash he hadn't quite intended among adoring throng

NOW, this is what I call an election! While other candidates meet select voters in empty hangars, Nigel Farage made a triumphant, uncensored return to Clacton-on-Sea – the Trafalgar of Brexit.

The folks came by their hundreds, by foot or mobility scooter, cramming the cliff and the path that leads down to the pier. The candidate had to force his way through to the stage. Was this Nigel Farage or Tom Jones? Thankfully, no one threw any knickers.

He was introduced by Richard Tice, who has learnt to keep his remarks short – they're not here for you, Dickie – then Nigel was helped by burly handlers up on to a table so he could survey the masses.

"We love you!," they shouted. "Welcome back!," said a fellow whose T-shirt bore a picture of Donald Trump and the words "WANTED FOR PRESIDENT." Over Farage's head, a merry-go-round turned peacefully. Two Union flags fluttered in the wind.

Love him or loathe him, I've not seen anything like this in politics since Jeremy Corbyn. The Reform campaign is visceral, popular, authentic. "Is this not the most patriotic town in the whole of this country?" he asked. Much of the crowd said, "What?" – for the PA system was too quiet. So Gawain Towler, the Reform media guru, lifted up a speaker and balanced it on his head.

"I am proud of this country," Nigel now boomed, evoking the golden memory of D-Day, "proud to be British." But fings ain't what they used to be. Labour thinks women can be men! "Schools are poisoning the minds of your children ... What do I have to offer you?" From the back, a man shouted, "F---- all." But that, sir, is plainly untrue. He's already brought London tourists to Clacton for the day; on July 4, Clactonites can return the favour. "Send me to Parliament to be a bloody nuisance."

"It's about time someone stood up for us," cried a woman. A sign read "Save Clacton and Save Britain."

There were some doubters in the swarm: the sweary critic asked, "how do you make your money?", which drew the angry reply from a supporter: "The same as everyone else, I suppose."

But as Farage asked if there were any GB News fans, they roared approvingly, and when he asked them to raise their hands to volunteer, those that didn't risk falling over did so. A sea of Spartacuses; a "people's army" (to quote their liberator). "I will do my best," he promised solemnly, then nipped off to the pub.

You might recall that back in 2014, when Ukip took Clacton in a by-election, the columnist Matthew Parris described the town as "Britain on crutches", on its way out. Well, the Moon and Starfish was heaving with life, packed with supporters. How to describe them? White, Essex accents, working class.

I found the man with the Trump T-shirt, William Hones, who told me he used to drive limos in America in the 1980s and saw how Trump built New York up. "I wasn't going to vote for anybody," he said, then he heard Farage announcing his shock candidacy and decided to jump onboard. Why? "Nothing works in this country, if you can't see that, you're a f------ idiot – or really wealthy so it doesn't affect you."

Class is a running theme in Reform circles. "The country is fed up with these old fuddy-duddies sitting in Parliament, nodding off half the time," said David Nunn. "We've had all these old Etonians for donkey's years ... they're not in the real world."

He concluded: "We need England back to English." What has changed? "The national dish now is curry."

Sitting in a corner, enjoying a very English pint of beer, was Farage basking in the attention of journalists, occasionally breaking off for a selfie with fans who, as they grew drunker, became disturbingly amorous. I asked him what would he say to my mother, a voter who is sick of the Tories but worried about Labour and fearful that a Reform vote might let them into power? "When she has breakfast in two weeks' time," he said, "and she realises it's over" – meaning the election – "she will find it much easier to vote with her conscience".

Has he had any messages from Donald Trump? No, but he has had



Nigel Farage is targeted by a young protester who threw a milkshake over him

them from "his staff": they think his candidacy is "bold", he said, which is the same word Cameron used to describe Sunak calling this suicidal election.

The Donald "would be loving this?" I suggested, and Nigel laughed, put on "the voice" and growled, "It's sooo great!"

Another journalist asked if he'd been doing any work on the Reform manifesto? Farage mimed writing out policies on the back of his fag packet – the kind of unfiltered fun that hacks love and voters, sick of voting for robots, shine to as well. But it comes with risks. Starmer and Sunak won't go outdoors for fear of assassins, or bumping into a voter. Nigel came face-to-face with a projectile milkshake.

I was standing by the Reform battle bus when it happened, begging to be let aboard, when the crowd screamed and I saw a flash of liquid. A young woman had thrown something in Farage's face. He walked quickly into the bus, covered in foam, and through the tinted windows I could see on his face a look of irritation and anxiety. This is not funny. We're not far from Southend, where Sir David Amess was murdered at a constituency surgery.

So, his campaign is hazardous, but it's worth it. At Nikki's Cafe, Anthony Swash, a swing voter, told me "we want someone with a pair of balls", someone like Maggie Thatcher. "She certainly had balls," I said, and he laughed. He'd been watching the D-Day commentary on TV and was struck by the national loss of nerve.

"One of the old boys" – a veteran – "said, 'I'm not the hero. The heroes are out there, dead."

That's the Britain we miss.

killed themselves'

patriotic place. Look at the number of people wearing regimental shirts or badges, a lot of ex-Army types.

He added that "mass immigration" has changed the area and led to disillusionment. He claimed too many politicians – Mr Farage always paints himself as being outside the Westminster bubble – dismiss Clacton as being at "the end of the line, who cares?".

It is that issue – immigration – which is at the heart of Reform's pitch. Both Mr Farage and Richard Tice, his predecessor now shunted to the side, have dubbed this an "immigration election". Some of those who attended the speech made reference to concerns on migration.

Yet for all the crowds at Clacton pier, there are others in the country who wince at his rhetoric, seeing a populist willing to tap into darker instincts. His claim last week that some Muslims "do not subscribe to British values" triggered a backlash.

What does he say to those who called the remarks offensive? "I'm really sorry but, I mean, just look at the photographs," he said, an apparent nod to pro-Hamas banners on marches. "Look at the images. Look at what happened in the local elections this year. We have sectarian politics in England, people voting along religious lines. I think that's terrible."

One unknown remains how high Reform can rise after Mr Farage's return.

Britain's first past the post election system is brutal for smaller parties, essentially creating 650 mini election contests with only first place finishers becoming MPs.

Mr Farage predicts a big Reform vote: "I led Ukip in 2015. We got four million votes. We are going to get a lot more than four million votes. A lot more. That I'm really confident of."

> 'It was an emotional moment because this is an incredibly patriotic place'

But seats? He will not be drawn on numbers: "Look, ask me in a week's time. We've literally just launched this thing [on Monday]. I sense there's momentum out there."

And that challenges his claim that Reform can meaningfully replace the Conservatives and become the main opposition party after the election should Labour win.

He raises another spectre, however: more Tory civil wars. "They are just warring tribes, they hate each other," Mr Farage said.

"We have literally had a government that for the last four years has spent more time fighting amongst itself, subjecting all of us to this never-ending row, not actually standing up for the country and getting on with the job."

Clacton's choice The four would-be MPs standing in Reform's way

Nigel Farage will have to see off at least four other would-be MPs to win in Clacton on July 4, including the Tory incumbent.

The Essex seaside constituency is the only one to ever elect a Ukip MP, Douglas Carswell, in 2015.

Now Mr Farage, the former Ukip leader, will hope to be elected there for Reform UK.

Here are the would-be MPs who Mr Farage faces in the race to win Clacton:



Giles Watling
Conservatives
Giles Watling has been the MP for Clacton since being elected in 2017. His majority was more than 24,000 at the last election, an increase on his previous majority when he took over from Mr Carswell. Mr Watling describes himself as a "local chap" having lived in the constituency since the early 1990s, and serving as a councillor. He wants to increase defence spending to 3 per cent of GDP and reform the Civil Service.





Jovan Owusu-Nepaul
Labour
Trade unionist and campaigner Jovan Owusu-Nepaul has said that he will be "the fresh start Clacton and the villages need" after "the Tories have taken our country for granted".

He was policy officer for the all party parliamentary group for reuniting britain post-Brexit.



Natasha Osben
Green Party
Natasha Osben has lived in Clacton her whole life and completed a PhD in government, specialising in "social justice".

In response to Mr Farage announcing he would stand in Clacton, Ms Osben said: "The people of Clacton deserve better than to be used as a springboard for career politicians like Farage."

Matthew Bensilum
Lib Dems
Matthew Bensilum, a councillor, is a managing director of a financial services consultancy firm, and is also from Clacton.

Ousted Westminster candidate 'surprised and disappointed'

By **Neil Johnston** *in Clacton-on-Sea*

THE Reform UK candidate forced to make way for Nigel Farage has told supporters the decision "came as a surprise".

Tony Mack, who was campaigning to be the next MP for Clacton-on-Sea, said he was "disappointed" to no longer be standing.

However, he said he would support Mr Farage and tell his campaign team to put aside any disappointment.

The Brexiteer is standing in Clacton, which voted 70 per cent in favour of leaving the EU during the 2016 Brexit referendum and is currently held by Conservative Giles Watling, who has a majority of 25,000.

On Monday night, Mr Mack expressed his shock at Mr Farage's announcement. He said: "Whilst it came as a surprise to me and I am obviously disappointed to no longer be the parliamentary candidate in my hometown of Clacton I believe that Reform UK have the right policies to guide our nation going forward and would be the best government for our country.

"I will do all I can to ensure Nigel's victory in Clacton and will be urging my team to overcome any disappointment and unite behind Nigel and me as we continue to strive for a better future for the Clacton constituency and the United Kingdom."

Mr Mack's biography and campaign details have been removed from Reform UK's Clacton constituency webpage and replaced with information about Mr Farage.

General election

Cleverly: Tories will quit ECHR without revamps

Home Secretary insists party is putting protection of UK borders ahead of 'views of a foreign court'

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE Conservative Party is prepared to quit the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) if their demands to reform it are rebuffed, James Cleverly has suggested.

Speaking during an election campaign visit in Kent, the Home Secretary said his party would always put the "protection of UK borders" ahead of the "views of a foreign court" as part of its efforts to tackle illegal migration. It leaves the door open for a threat to leave the ECHR to be included in the manifesto. Mr Cleverly denied that the Conservatives' plans – which include an annual cap on worker and family visas – were being dictated by Nigel Farage and Reform UK's manifesto pledge to freeze "non-essential" migration and withdraw from the ECHR.

It comes amid speculation that Rishi Sunak is considering hardening the Tories' stance on ECHR membership amid demands by senior Right-wing MPs for Britain to quit the convention to stop small boat crossings.

Asked if the party would leave open the possibility of leaving the ECHR if it did not reform, Mr Cleverly said: "We've absolutely made the point that the ECHR needs reform and we have driven reform. We've already driven reform of the ECHR which demonstrates that it can be done.

"But the Prime Minister has been absolutely clear, I've been absolutely clear that our priority is to protect our borders, to defend our nation. If we are presented with a choice between defending ourselves or the views of a foreign court, we will always choose to defend our borders and defend our country."

Asked again if that meant he was prepared to leave open the door to quitting the ECHR, he said: "The point that the Prime Minister has made consistently, one that I've made consistently is when presented with a choice, one of which is about not protecting our borders, and the other is about protecting our borders, we will always choose to protect our borders."

He said Britain was not the only member country to believe some of the recent decisions by the ECHR were "really wrong and overstepped the remit of the ECHR".

The European Court of Human Rights' ruling imposing a duty on Governments to achieve net zero and its rule 39 injunction blocking deportation flights to Rwanda have triggered calls from Tory MPs to quit the ECHR.

However, Mr Cleverly denied that the party was lurching to the Right in its policies in the election campaign because of the threat from Reform. He said: "Our policies are not dictated by any party.

"The thinking that we're doing about our immigration policy is based on longstanding conversations I have with the PM. We will be releasing their manifesto soon and our immigration plans and policies on both illegal and legal migration are based on our thoughts and our priorities and the stuff that British people have told us rather than anything that Reform or Nigel Farage might say.

"Because ultimately Nigel Farage and Reform are not going to form a Government. They're not going to set immigration policy. What they're looking to do is grab headlines."

Mr Sunak would face a backlash from the centre-Left One Nation group of Tory MPs if he opted to include a pledge to quit the ECHR or a referendum on membership. A Tory former Cabinet minister on the Right of the party said the Conservatives should make a commitment to renegotiate the UK's participation in the ECHR and withdraw if there was no satisfactory outcome.

They said: "I don't think that the issue lends itself to a referendum. It is highly technical and legalistic and very different from a simple yes/no vote on EU membership."

A former senior Cabinet minister suggested that the party leadership was so rattled that they could opt for a referendum. But the MP said: "They should just commit to leaving. The case has been made even stronger by the delays to the Rwanda scheme which has effectively failed due to legal challenges, limitations on bail, the Supreme Court decision, the rule 39 order.

"Politically speaking, it would be better for them to remain silent on the issue if they cannot go as far as Reform on the policy. A review, reform or referendum is just more meaningless talk."

Some Right-wing MPs fear the measures including the cap are too little, too late. A senior Tory said: "It's really tricky. I don't think they will be rewarded for anything at this point as they've lost all credibility. Trust is gone. Nothing they say now will be believed. If they were going to commit to leave the ECHR they needed to roll the pitch for at least six months."

'I've been absolutely clear that our priority is to protect our borders, to defend our nation'



James Cleverly, the Home Secretary, speaks with journalists in a Tory campaign bus en route to Kent, where he spoke about his party's ECHR plans

BELINDA JIAO/REUTERS

Starmer's poll lead shrinks by three points to give Sunak hope

By **Daniel Martin**
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour Party's poll lead has shrunk by three points in the past week, offering a glimmer of hope to Rishi Sunak.

According to Savanta, Sir Keir Starmer's party is now 14 points ahead of the Conservatives – down from 17 at the start of the campaign. The poll of 2,209 people found that Labour support stands at 42 per cent (down two points) while the Tories are on 28 (up one). Both changes are within the margin of error.

Reform UK increased its showing by one point, to 9 per cent, although the poll was carried out before Nigel Farage said he would stand as an MP. However, the survey still suggests Labour is on course for a majority of more than 100, meaning Mr Sunak has a long way to go to change the picture.

Chris Hopkins, Savanta's political research director, said: "This poll is a rare bit of positive news for Rishi Sunak ahead of his television debate with Sir Keir ... Labour's lead is at its lowest and the Conservative vote share at its highest in a Savanta poll since February, although all changes are within the margin of error. That's where the good news ends for the Prime Minister – even with these slightly more favourable numbers, Labour would still be on track for a three-figure majority.

"These figures won't include Farage's return to front-line UK politics, which may well cut the legs off any potential Conservative recovery."

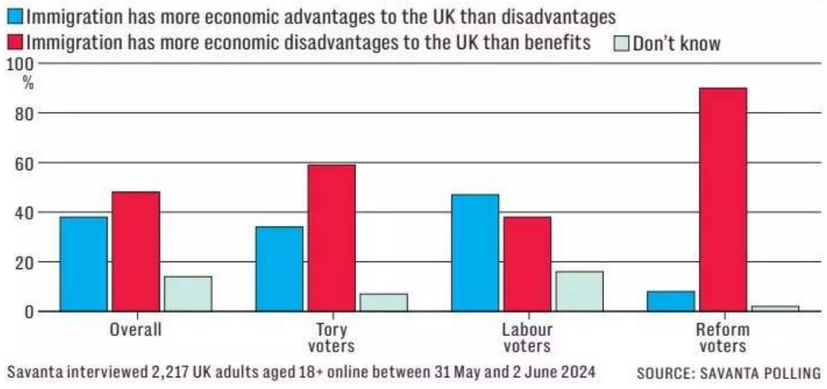
The survey, published a day after Mr Farage said he would throw his hat into the ring for Reform, also showed nearly half of respondents said immigration was bad for the economy. Some 48 per cent said immigration delivered more economic disadvantages than benefits, with 38 per cent believing the opposite.

The poll found that Conservative voters were much more likely to take the negative view (59 per cent) than Labour supporters (38 per cent). It said 41 per cent of people believed immigration had been bad for the UK in the last 10 years, compared to 31 per cent who said it had been good. The rest said it had been equally good or bad, or did not know. There was a clear age divide, with those 45 and over significantly more likely than younger age groups to say immigration had been bad for Britain.

Asked to rank up to 12 possible impacts of immigration in terms of importance, UK adults were most likely to select immigration increasing the pressure and demand on public services (45 per cent) within their top five.

Other commonly selected answers included immigration increasing housing pressure and demand (43 per cent), allowing in people with extremist views (40 per cent) and allowing in people to claim welfare for themselves and their family (40 per cent).

Nearly half of voters say immigration is bad for the economy



Savanta interviewed 2,217 UK adults aged 18+ online between 31 May and 2 June 2024

SOURCE: SAVANTA POLLING

Confusion over Labour plans to shut private school tax loophole

By **Amy Gibbons**
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has sown confusion over whether it plans to close a potential loophole allowing private school parents to avoid its VAT raid.

Sir Keir Starmer has sparked fears of a pupil exodus by pledging to impose VAT on private school fees as soon as possible if he wins the election on July 4. Some schools have told parents that they could sidestep the extra costs by paying for years of their child's education in advance, before legislation comes in.

In January, Bridget Phillipson, the shadow education secretary, implied Labour would block parents from paying in advance to avoid the tax.

She insisted the party would ensure its new laws left no loopholes.

But yesterday, Peter Kyle, the shadow science secretary, said the party had made no commitments beyond its headline pledge of adding VAT to fees.

Critics said the "confused messages" showed the "only clear" aspect of the plan was its "ill-informed" motivation.

Asked if Labour stood by its previous suggestion it would close "fee in advance" schemes to stop parents avoiding the tax raid, Mr Kyle told *The Telegraph*: "Part of the change that we want to bring to our country is to invest in our state schools, and to do so we've been really upfront about the challenges that our country faces and the fairness we want to bring in... wherever we'll raise money from ... Therefore closing the tax gap with private schools with VAT is a fair way of getting money into [state] schools so we can hire, as a first step, 6,500 extra teachers.

"From there, we've not made any other commitments on private schools."

This was despite the fact in January, Ms Phillipson said: "We would make sure that the legislation is drawn in such a way to ensure that avoidance can't take place."

Yesterday, Labour sources insisted the party's position had not changed.

However, Andrew Lewer, a former member of the education committee who is standing again to be the Tory MP for Northampton South, said: "The confused messages coming from senior Labour people today show the only thing clear about their attack on independent schools is the motivation: ill-informed and class-based envy."



Sir Keir Starmer, campaigning in Bolton yesterday, wants to impose VAT on fees

When George Osborne, the Tory chancellor at the time, raised the standard rate of VAT to 20 per cent from 17.5 per cent in 2010, he introduced "anti-forestalling provisions" aimed at preventing people applying the lower rate for goods and services to prepayments.

A similar policy for school fees would mean VAT would still be due on payments made before Labour abolished the tax exemption if they applied to schooling taking place after the policy was introduced.

Mr Kyle also claimed evidence suggests Labour's tax raid "won't be as disruptive as some people have said", as he argued the party's previous interventions in the sector have not led to any kind of pupil "exodus".

He said: "When it comes to the fear that some have articulated in that sector, just bear in mind that when Labour was last in power, we passed the Charities Act in 2007. That brought into statute a public benefit test.

"As a result of that a third of private schools left the charitable register ... We didn't see private schools closing. We didn't see an exodus of private school students going into the state sector."

Crossing the Channel again in remembrance

D-Day veteran recalls historic journey to shores of Normandy 80 years ago to fight against Nazis

By **Dominic Nicholls** *and* **Danielle Sheridan** *on board Mont St Michel*

HE THOUGHT the invasion would go through Norway. For weeks, Alec Penstone, a 19-year-old sailor on board HMS Campania, had been exercising up and down the Scottish coast in his escort carrier, transporting the swordfish submarine hunting planes that would protect the allied seaborne assault into occupied Europe.

The allies knew that any invasion of Normandy could be seriously jeopardised by German U-boats, so Mr Penstone's job was to find the submarines and steer the Swordfish to their targets.

It came as shock, then, when after hours below deck he came up on deck on June 4 1944, to see The Needles off the coast of the Isle of Wight in the distance.

"Nobody told us where we were going, we had no idea at all," remembers Mr Penstone, a 99-year-old veteran of the Arctic convoys.

He asked his mates where they were. Everywhere he looked were warships and, though he realised the D-Day invasion was on, he had no idea where or how it would take place.

It was all a long time ago, he says, while he remains "full of wonder" that he is still alive.

Some 80 years ago he made the same crossing to Normandy to fight. This time he was making the same journey to remember lost fellows.

As the final notes of Edward Elgar's *Nimrod* played by the central band of the Royal British Legion, Mr Penstone and a fellow veteran cast a wreath into the still French waters.

As the wreath disappeared from viewers gathered on the back deck of the Brittany Ferries ship, Mont St Michel, which was taking 40 veterans back to Normandy, the Kohima Epitaph was read.

"When you go home, tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

The Rev Mandy Reynolds, chaplain of the Spirit of Normandy Trust, who led the service explained that the wreath was an act of remembrance for all those who didn't make it onto the beaches.

"They came off the landing craft and were killed before they could get onto the beaches," she said. "We remember them because there may be a plaque somewhere with their names on, but there are no graves.

"We remember all those who were lost at sea."

Ms Reynolds added: "It's very poignant for the veterans because although we are celebrating them while we are here, they are here to remember their mates who never came home."

Earlier this week, a survey by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission found nearly half of young adults do not know what D-Day was, raising concerns that the event, which was imperative for the liberation of occupied Europe, would be forgotten.

Ms Reynolds said: "We have to keep telling people. It's not going to be long now before there are no veterans left, sadly. But we have to keep telling the story because it's thanks to these people that you and I can stand here today, chatting, and have the freedom to move around. If it wasn't for these guys that we are honouring then we wouldn't have that."

The support for the veterans was felt from the moment Mont St Michel pulled out of Portsmouth, which was accompanied by Royal Navy patrol vessels Trumpeter, Medusa and Basher as well as HMS Cattistock and the Training Ship Royalist.



JORDAN PETTITT/PA

Harry Birdsall and Alec Penstone, both 98, on the Mont St Michel ferry with the wreath they cast into the Channel to remember those who never made it to shore

Crowds waving Union and D-Day flags and serving navy personnel gathered in Old Portsmouth on yesterday morning to see the flotilla off. One of those veterans who waved back from the ship's decks included Albert Keir, a sailor who was part of a Royal Navy crew escorting US troops on to Utah Beach.

Speaking to *The Telegraph*, he grew emotional as he spoke of seeing serving sailors salute him.

"There's something amazing when you see the sailors going out and saluting, because it makes you think of it having been you once," he said.

Mr Keir, originally from the Scottish Highlands, was on the guns on the front of his escort vessel on D-Day providing cover to the landing crafts approaching the beach.

"When you are in action you aren't scared, you do what you have to do in the moment," he said.

"It's only after that you realise the importance of what you did."

Mr Keir will turn 99 later this month. He said he is "happy" he was healthy enough to return to France, having attended numerous D-Day commemorations over the years. "I like coming back here," he said, adding that whilst the celebrations are always enjoyable, he never fails to forget those servicemen who did not make it out of the war alive.

> 'When you are in action you aren't scared, you do what you have to do. It's only after you realise the importance of what you did'

"Those poor devils," he said.

As the service finished Mr Penstone took his seat with quiet nobility, as the Normandy coastline came into view.

A bugler sounded the *Last Post* followed, after a minute's silence, by *Reveille*.

As a piper played *Flowers of the Forest*, the menacing grey clouds that threatened rain during the service parted allowing the sun to break through as the beaches of Normandy came into view.

D-Day veterans share moving memories with King and Queen

By **Hannah Furness** ROYAL EDITOR

THE King and Queen have been shown the priceless personal keepsakes that helped British D-Day veterans through the Second World War in an moving meeting at Buckingham Palace.

Ahead of the 80th commemoration of the landings, four veterans, aged 99 and 100, were invited to the palace to reminisce with the King, who read aloud from the diary of his grandfather, George VI, alongside an emotional-looking Queen.

After being shown a pair of century-old football boots Bernard Morgan carried with him through the war, playing in 12 matches including one on the landing craft ahead of D-Day, the King exclaimed: "I don't believe it."

When Mr Morgan, a codebreaker and the youngest RAF sergeant to land in Normandy (Gold Beach), told him the items were "a bit past it", the King tapped his arm and looked him in the eye to call both boots and player "remarkably well-preserved".

He also exclaimed over a story from John Dennett, 99, a Navy gunner, who nearly missed his D-Day boat after being at the local dance hall where he met a young lady.

He and three friends eventually climbed the anchor before the landing craft left, earning a week of "jankers" (naval slang for punishment) for their antics.

As the King laughed over the exploits and tutted at the punishment, Mr Dennett showed him a photograph of him and the same girl that he carried through the war. He married Joyce, who kept all of his letters, in 1947.

The visit, which saw much laughter and some solemn reflection, was filmed for the BBC's *D-Day 80: Tribute to The Fallen* and will be broadcast tonight on the eve of the 80th anniversary.

It features the King showing items from the Royal family archive, including a photograph of George VI walking with Field Marshal Montgomery on a Normandy beach shortly after the invasion, and the former King's diary.



CHRIS JACKSON/GETTY IMAGES

The King speaks with Bernard Morgan and John Dennett as part of the visit to Buckingham Palace by four D-Day veterans

He has opened the diary before for important national moments, including to read VE Day recollections.

The neatly handwritten account begins: "The news was given out at 8am that the invasion of the continent of Europe had started last night. The airborne troops had made successful landings in the night and had captured their objectives."

"So that was something," the King added. Showing the photograph of Field Marshal Montgomery, the King said "funnily enough I remember very well" before asking the veterans about their experiences meeting Sir Winston Churchill in Normandy.

> 'Remembrance is so important. The younger generation must learn about it and take it to heart'

"Was Sir Winston still smoking a cigar at that stage?" he wondered.

"My grandfather was so determined to go," the King added. "He got very frustrated because they wouldn't let him go until several days later."

He told all four veterans: "It's so good of you to make the effort to come today, it really is."

The Queen added it was "very, very nice to see you".

Arthur Oborne, 100, showed the blood-stained dog tags from his time with 49th Division of the 6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's, which included being shot in the chest in Tilly-Sur-Seulles after landing on Gold Beach.

His best friend saved his life, but was himself killed along with the entire unit the next day.

"As a family we will never forget it," said Mr Oborne.

"Will you be remembering him this D-Day?" asked the Queen. "Will you go and pay respects to him?"

"Oh yes I've visited his grave a number of times," he replied.

The Queen, speaking gently as both looked emotional, said: "It must be very difficult recollecting it all."

Jim Miller, 100, who was part of the reconnaissance regiment the 11th Hussars, said: "Remembrance is so important. The younger generation must learn about it and take it to heart."

The film is part of D-Day 80: Tribute to The Fallen, which will be broadcast on BBC One at 8.30pm tonight.

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Heroism of RAF medic who landed on Normandy's bloodiest beach 'by mistake'

By **Gareth Corfield**

THE extraordinary heroism of a Royal Air Force doctor who saved the lives of Allied soldiers on D-Day's bloodiest beach can now be recounted 80 years on from the Normandy invasion.

Flt Lt Richard Rycroft was one of very few RAF personnel to land on D-Day itself, and was attached to his unit just a week before the Allied invasion of occupied France.

Rycroft and his orderly were the only medics to remain on Omaha Beach until June 7, fearlessly attending to wounded soldiers while under heavy German fire and saving many lives.

The 29-year-old was married three days before landing into the carnage of Omaha beach on June 6 1944. The involvement of RAF personnel is little-known among the general public. The job of Rycroft's unit, 21 Base Defence Sector (21 BDS), was to set up a radar station and it was supposed to have landed on Omaha after American infantry had cleared it.

> 'They are dashing about everywhere with panniers. No plan. No exit. Duggie was killed next to me'

The RAF doctor's presence was accidental, his son Richard Rycroft told *The Telegraph*, explaining that strong tidal currents pushed their ship off course as it crossed the Channel.

Richard, 79, said: "Without putting words into his mouth, he felt the whole thing was rather a cock-up. The RAF unit actually landed about a mile down the beach from where they should have been landed, which was an unfortunate accident."

Although Flt Lt Rycroft became one of a handful of RAF officers to be awarded the Military Cross, traditionally seen as an Army decoration, his heroism on D-Day has received little public attention until now.

A Cambridge graduate and Rugby School alumnus who trained in medicine at Birmingham Hospital, Flt Lt Rycroft had spent most of the Second World War up to that point as a base medical officer. He was drafted to 21 BDS just days before the unit embarked for Normandy after one of their number, Flt Lt Douglas "Duggie" Highfield, suggested they ought to have a doctor with them. Flt Lt Rycroft's diary, hand-written under German fire on D-Day, hints at the grim reality of what he faced after landing on the beach.



Flt Lt Richard Rycroft was drafted in to his unit only days before it flew to France

The entry for June 6 reads: "Hole in shingle would be 'safe as houses'. Quickly disillusioned. American wounded too. Dashing about everywhere with panniers. 'Only a matter of time'. No plan. No exit. Duggie killed next to me under lorry. Miraculous escape. "Felt it to be last night on earth."

Once on the beach, Flt Lt Rycroft and his orderly tended to wounded Americans, after the US army's medics were killed by German fire.

The doctor said in his official after-action report: "During the treatment of these freshly-wounded personnel, it was discovered that there were about 20 American soldiers, who had been wounded in the early morning assault, lying in holes in the shingle. They had only received elementary first aid and after twelve hours in the open were in some cases severely shocked." Together with Geoffrey Harding, 21 BDS's padre, Flt Lt Rycroft treated the wounded and helped rally the shell-shocked Americans. The padre led them in a charge that secured the main exit from Omaha Beach into the hamlet of Les Moulins – clearing the path for the liberation of occupied Europe.

Dr Sebastian Ritchie, the deputy head of the RAF's Air Historical Branch, said that 21 BDS's history had "faded from view" for around half a century until historians started looking afresh at the Normandy landings.

"RAF people landed there on D-Day and found themselves facing a very perilous situation," he said.

Of the 64 men who landed with 21 BDS's advance party, 47 were killed or wounded.

Out of 10,386 Military Crosses awarded during the Second World War, Flt Lt Rycroft and Padre Harding became two of the 69 RAF recipients of the medal.

Portable knife scanners to keep our streets safe

Police trial technology that can detect blades through people's clothes without need for stop and search

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

PORTABLE KNIFE scanners enabling police to detect weapons hidden on people at a distance are to be trialled on British streets.

Chris Philp, the policing minister, has said the Home Office is looking at versions of the technology developed by five different companies with a view to police officers trying it at knife crime hot spots by the end of 2024.

One model, already demonstrated to ministers and officials, uses radar imaging to detect weapons at a distance of 10ft. Developers say it can distinguish between knives and keys or mobile phones through people's clothes.

How portable knife scanners will work



Officers would use the scanners to sweep people walking past them on the street without requiring the same permissions as a physical stop and search or the knowledge of a member of the public. If they were alerted to a weapon by their device, they could use that evidence as "reasonable" grounds to stop and search the individual to check if they had a knife or gun on them.

Mr Philp said it offered the potential to be less intrusive and could boost the proportion of positive stop and searches from the current rate of 25 per cent to 30 per cent.

"We could target physical stop and searches at those people who are very likely to be carrying knives," he told *The Telegraph*. "This could have a revolutionary impact in the fight against knife crime. It's not taking personal details. It is just scanning for whether they have got a knife or not.

"This could significantly increase the accuracy rate and therefore makes it less intrusive and it could take hundreds if not thousands of knives off the street.

"Yesterday [Monday] I was with families of murder victims killed with knives. There was strong support in that room for knife scanning. If it had been available, they might still have their loved ones alive today."

Knife crime nationally has risen by 7.2 per cent to nearly 50,000 offences, close to the past record high of 51,200, according to the Office for National Statistics. In London, which accounts for more than a third of all knife crime in England and Wales, it hit a record high of more than 14,500 offences in 2023.

Police stops and searches have fallen by 46 per cent to 547,000 since 2013/14 when Theresa May, then home secretary, curbed powers amid concern that forces were discriminating against black people who were stopped seven times more than white people.

Although stops and searches have increased from a low of 280,000 in 2017 after successive home secretaries have reversed the restrictions, they have continued to drop in the Metropolitan Police to 137,059 in 2023/24, the second lowest on record.

The handheld device - the size of a large mobile phone with a scanner and digital screen - which was demonstrated to the Home Office in May, was developed by US firm Lassen Peak, which has as an adviser Graham McNulty, the former National Police Chiefs' Council's lead on knife crime.

The firm says it uses terahertz frequency imaging radar to detect hidden weapons such as knives or guns and "other unknown objects". It is the same technology used in airport body scanners at security gates but the firm said it had been distilled into a single microchip. Any suspicious objects are displayed on the device's screen.

Mr Philp said there was still work to be done on the technology but it was "getting there".


PA

Girl who died at Florida sea park was charity fundraiser

By **Connor Stringer** SENIOR REPORTER

THE family of a 13-year-old girl who died while on holiday in Florida have paid tribute to her as a "beautiful soul" who "will never be forgotten".

Anna Beaumont, from Wales, was found unresponsive in a pool at Discovery Cove in Orlando – a resort popular with tourists looking to swim with dolphins – on Tuesday last week but died the next day.

The medical examiner's office in Orlando said on Thursday that she had drowned accidentally, it was reported.

A keen cyclist, Anna took on an Ironman bike ride during lockdown in an effort to raise money for Noah's Ark Children's Hospital Charity. She finished her challenge in 16 days, after 13-and-a-half hours in the saddle, raising nearly £900 for the charity.

At the time, Anna wrote on a fundraising page that the youngster was "inspired" by seeing her father complete Ironman Copenhagen "at a time when the focus is on Covid-19 but many children still need help for other reasons'."

Her family said yesterday that they were "devastated by her loss". They said: "Anna was a beautiful soul who has been taken from us in a tragic accident.

"We are devastated by her loss, but she will never be forgotten.

"We would like to thank the emergency response teams and hospital staff in Orlando who tried so hard to save Anna's life. We will not be making any further statements and ask for privacy at this incredibly difficult time."

Anna Beaumont, 13, from Wales, died at the resort, inset, last week. Her family said she would 'never be forgotten'

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

The company released a statement about the incident, which said: "Our staff responded to an emergency involving a guest yesterday.

"Our team provided care and contacted Orange County Fire & Rescue. When emergency personnel arrived, they took over care and transported the guest to a nearby hospital.

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



Three abandoned babies over seven years have the same DNA

By **Cameron Henderson**

THREE newborn babies who were abandoned in east London over the last seven years all share the same parents, DNA tests have revealed.

A judge ruled on Monday that the press was allowed to report the link between the three children, who were left in parks in Plaistow and Newham.

Their mother and father have not yet been identified, with the Metropolitan Police reiterating their call for anyone with information to come forward.

It comes after a baby girl was found by a dog walker in a shopping bag in Newham on a freezing night in January this year. The child, called Elsa – after the character from Disney's *Frozen* – by hospital staff, was believed to be just one hour old when she was found and still had her umbilical cord attached. She was not injured in any way.

Police are still looking for a woman who was spotted in the area wearing a dark coat with a light-coloured scarf or hood around her neck and rucksack on her back shortly before Elsa was found. It is thought the woman could hold important information about how the child came to be abandoned. DNA tests have since shown that the girl is the biological sibling of Harry, who was found abandoned in a park in Plaistow in 2017, and Roman, who was discovered in a park in Newham in 2019.

Judge Carol Atkinson on Monday amended restrictions at East London Family Court to permit the familial link between the three children to be reported, following an appeal by PA news agency and the BBC. She said that it was needed for the "openness of justice" as there is "enormous interest" in identifying the children's parents.


Harry, the oldest of the three siblings, was found in Plaistow, east London, in 2017

The oldest child, known as Harry, was abandoned in a park close to Balaam Street in Plaistow, east London, on September 17, 2017. His sister, Roman, was found in similar circumstances in a play area off Roman Road, Newham, at around 10.15pm on January 31 2019, amid freezing temperatures and heavy snow. She was wrapped in a white towel inside a shopping bag and then placed on the ground next to a bench in the small children's playground. No attempt had been made to hide her.

Dog walker Rima Zvaliauskas, who found Roman, told the BBC in 2019 that she was "shocked and stressed" by the discovery after hearing a noise coming from a bag. Harry and Roman, which are not their real names, have since been adopted.

Elsa was found in a reusable shopping bag at the junction of Greenway and High Street South in East Ham at 9.13pm on Jan 18. Police said at the time that it was "highly likely" she was born after a "concealed pregnancy".

The woman who left her was spotted entering the Greenway from the High Street South entrance at around 8.45pm.

A court-appointed guardian asked the court at a previous hearing to change Elsa's name, but Judge Atkinson refused the request as it gave the child something to "hang on to".

Victoria Wood statue toppled in taxi crash

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

A STATUE of the late comedian Victoria Wood has been toppled after a taxi smashed into it.

The sculpture was erected at Library Gardens in Bury, Greater Manchester, five years ago in memory of the *Dinnerladies* creator.

But it was knocked down by a silver people-carrier shortly after 10pm on Monday night.

Images show the front end of the car was destroyed in the collision. The statue appears to be in relatively good condition despite the crash.

A Greater Manchester Police spokesman said: "We were called shortly after 10pm.

"No arrests. Driver went to hospital with injuries but not believed to be serious or life-changing."

The Bafta-winning actress and writer, who died in April 2016 aged 62, was born in nearby Prestwich.

Bury council has been approached for comment.


The crash in Bury, Greater Manchester, occurred late on Monday night

Injured horses back to join King's birthday celebrations

By **Max Stephens**

THREE of the five Household Cavalry horses injured when they bolted and ran wild through the streets of London are expected to join the King's Birthday Parade after recuperating.

Meanwhile, the two horses most seriously hurt in the incident are continuing their recovery, the Ministry of Defence said yesterday.

Vida, Quaker, Trojan, Tennyson, and Vanquish were on a training exercise in Belgravia on April 24 when they were shocked by the noise of rubble crashing down on a building site.

Throwing off their riders, the horses careered through the streets during the morning rush hour, smashing into several vehicles including a double-decker tour bus and a Mercedes people carrier.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Defence said all five horses had been making "remarkable progress" under the care of staff at the Horse Trust, a Chilterns-based charity, and are expected to fully recover from their injuries.

Trojan, Tennyson and Vanquish are back on duty and are expected to participate in Trooping the Colour on June 15.

The five soldiers riding the horses were injured, but three have now recovered and are back on duty. The other two are continuing to convalesce but are also expected to make a full return to service.

Jeanette Allen, of the Horse Trust, said: "It has been a privilege to provide these wonderful horses with the space and time needed to fully recover."





Vida on the charge through London in April after being spooked during a training exercise; left, with Quaker during the pair's recovery

Imperial knocks Oxbridge off global top spots

London-based university overtakes illustrious rivals in world rankings to secure second place

By **Poppy Wood** *and* **Ben Butcher**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON has bumped the universities of Oxford and Cambridge off their top positions in global rankings for the first time, in part thanks to its green credentials.

The London university, which focuses on science, engineering, medicine and business, is now second in the world behind the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), according to the QS World University Rankings for 2025.

It marks an end to more than a decade of Oxbridge dominance at the top of the league table, and makes Imperial the highest-ranked university in both the UK and Europe.

Cambridge slipped from second place to fifth place this year, while Oxford remains third. It is the first time that neither of the two leading Russell Group institutions has taken the top spot among UK universities since the global rankings began 20 years ago.

University College London (UCL) retained ninth position in the latest update, meaning four British universities now sit among the top 10 in the league table.

The QS World University Rankings, the most comprehensive of its kind featuring 1,500 universities, analyses a range of measures including academic reputation, employer reputation and faculty-student ratios.

This year's league table placed Oxford as second-best in the world for academic reputation behind Harvard University in the US, with Cambridge in third place.

MIT, a science and technology-focused university in the US, has retained its crown as the world's best university for the thirteenth year in a row.

Imperial, which previously ranked joint second with Cambridge in the overall rankings 2014, said its elevation to the UK top spot this year was partially due to its focus on sustainability.

The QS university tracker introduced three new metrics last year in deciding its rankings: sustainability, employment outcomes and international research network, measuring how universities collaborate with others across the world.

QS said that although these were given less weighting than some other metrics, it "did not make these changes lightly" and did so to "reflect the shifts in higher education" and "changing priorities of students".

Sustainability is measured in two ways: the commitment of the institution to "the climate crisis" and how its research aligns with the climate goals of the United Nations.

Imperial has previously carried out research on Ulez and air pollution in London as well as the effect of climate change on food security.

Ben Sowter, senior vice-president of QS, said it comes as the role of universities as centres for "research hubs and centres for discussions on climate responsibility cannot be overstated".

The 2023 QS International Student Survey showed that 41 per cent of prospective students around the world are now actively researching the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) strategies of universities.

Prof Hugh Brady, president of Imperial College London, said: "Imperial's ranking is a testament to the quality and commitment of our entire community.

"It is inspiring to see our students, staff, and partners come together every day to interrogate the forces that shape our world and address the challenges facing humanity and our planet."



Representative Example	Duration of Device Plan	Upfront Cost	Monthly Device Payment	Credit Amount	Total Amount Payable for Device	Interest Rate	Representative APR	Cash Price	Lead airtime allowance	Airtime Plan	Airtime Plan April 2025 – March 2026	Airtime Plan April 2026 – March 2027
iPhone 15 Pro Max	36 months	£30	£29.69	£1,069.00	£1,099.00	0%	0%	£1,099.00	1GB	£17	£17 + RPI% announced in Feb 2025 = Price A	Price A + RPI% announced in Feb 2026

RPI rate is the Retail Price Index rate of inflation announced in February each year. £29.69 Device Plan for 36 months and £17 monthly rolling Airtime Plan. Lowest monthly price [ever] based on spreading Device Plan payment over 36 months and making an upfront payment of £30. £335 saving consists of £191 discount applied to device plan (total cost of device was £1,290 now £1,099) and further £144 saving achieve by £4 per month discount on the airtime plan over 36 months. Ends 3 July 2024. Data allowances must be used within the month and cannot be carried over. Subject to availability. **O2 Refresh custom plans:** Direct purchases only. Pay the cash price for your device or spread the cost over 3 to 36 months (excludes dongles). The device cost will be the same whatever you choose. There may be an upfront cost. You can pay off your Device Plan at any time and choose to keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade it, or leave. If you are in the first 24 months of your Device Plan and you cancel your Airtime Plan you will have to pay the remainder of your Device Plan in full. After 24 months you can keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade it, or end it without affecting your Device Plan. 0% APR. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct Debit. Credit provided by Telefónica UK Ltd, RG2 6UU. Telefónica UK is authorised and regulated by the FCA for consumer credit and insurance. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/terms

News

Women's brain works better on their period

By **Sarah Knapton** SCIENCE EDITOR

IT IS a tired old trope that women on their period are irrational, volatile and unable to function effectively. But a study from University College London (UCL) has demolished the myth, suggesting that women have quicker reactions, have better mental agility and make fewer mistakes, during menstruation.

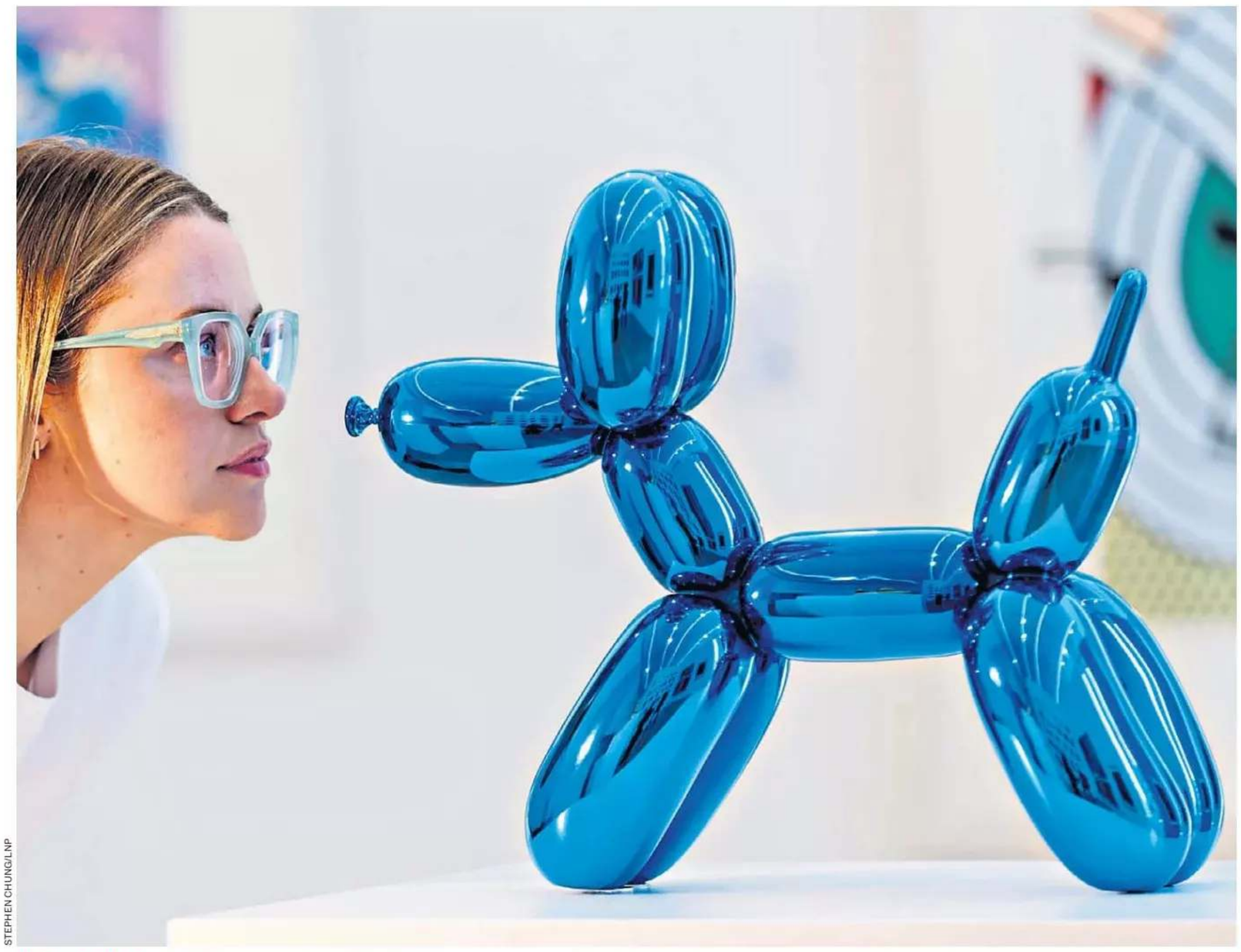
The study, with the Institute of Sport, Exercise & Health (ISEH), assessed sport-related cognition in the menstrual cycle as part of a larger project supported by Fifa. It found women were 12 per cent more accurate in a moving balls task and made 25 per cent fewer errors in attention and accuracy.

Dr Flaminia Ronca, the study's first author from UCL Division of Surgery and Interventional Science and ISEH, said: "What is surprising is that the participants' performance was better when they were on their period."

The research was prompted by concerns from female football players and their coaches that injuries were more likely during their periods. More injuries seem to occur during the luteal phase, the time between ovulation and menstruation, and experts were keen to find out if fluctuating levels of mental agility could be behind the increased risk. For example, if women were less able to gauge the speed of a ball, or judge a tackle, it may result in an injury that would not normally occur.

Although the women reported feeling worse during menstruation, believing performance would be impacted, reaction times were faster and they made fewer errors. In contrast, reaction times were slower in the luteal phase, although the women did not make more errors.

The research was published in *Neuropsychologia*, an online journal.



STEPHEN CHUNG/LNP

Price inflation *Balloon Dog (Blue)* by Jeff Koons goes on display ahead of an auction at Phillips, in central London, tomorrow. The sculpture has an estimate of £12,000 to £18,000 and forms part of the Evening and Day Editions sale.

Ozempic could cut cancer risk by half

By **Michael Searles**
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT *in Chicago*

WEIGHT-LOSS jabs such as Ozempic could cut the risk of cancer by up to half, according to research.

The GLP-1 agonist drugs, which are licensed to treat obesity and diabetes, could revolutionise cancer care after studies found they reduce the risk of obesity-related cancers, such as breast, pancreatic and liver, by a fifth and bowel cancer by half. Experts said the injections, which include semaglutide used in brands Ozempic and Wegovy, could "delay or prevent" cancer.

Scientists believe there are "additional mechanisms" at play beyond the weight loss such as reducing a patient's desire to smoke or drink alcohol, as well as provoking an immune response and preventing inflammation.

A landmark trial presented at the ASCO annual conference by researchers from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in the US analysed more than 34,000 obese patients whose BMI was over 35 and found the pioneering injections reduced the risk of developing 13 types of obesity-related cancers.

It compared cancer rates among patients who had used a weight-loss jab for at least a year to those who had undergone bariatric surgery, and those who had no treatment, over a 15-year period.

The researchers found that the risk of cancer fell by 19 per cent in those who used weight-loss jabs and those who had undergone bariatric surgery, despite the latter losing "significantly" more weight. The authors also found patients on the weight-loss jabs were half as likely to die over the 15 years.

They said the findings suggest the class of drugs act in a way that directly prevents cancer.

Lockdown and WFH may have reduced sperm quality

Motility falls significantly in past four years but sperm count remains at pre-pandemic levels

By **Joe Pinkstone**
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

LOCKDOWN and working from home may be to blame for the quality of sperm decreasing by almost a quarter, a study suggests. Pandemic lifestyle changes mean people are working remotely more, exercising less and eating poorer diets. It is thought all these factors may have contributed to a deterioration in sperm motility, which is used as a proxy for quality.

However, the average sperm count has not dropped, data show, contradicting previous research.

Scientists at the University of Manchester studied sperm of more than 6,700 men who donated at four Cryos sperm banks in Denmark between 2017 and 2022.

They found that from 2017 to 2019, sperm count and motility both increased steadily, but that after 2019 there was a significant decline of 22 per cent in the amount of sperm that can move on their own.

The research disputes a high-profile claim from a study published last year that sperm count was decreasing by more than 2 per cent every year. Prof Allan Pacey, study co-author and deputy vice-president of biology, medicine and health at the University of Manchester, said the drop in sperm quality was a surprise. "We saw quite a precipitous decline in sperm motility which we weren't expecting. Given that the change happens between 2019 and 2020, we hypothesised that the only thing that happened at that point of any external significance was the Covid pandemic," he said.

"We're not suggesting that it's the virus that is the cause, because there's not really a lot of evidence that the virus affects sperm. But we thought about what else changed at that time and of course, everybody's sitting at home, not going to work, probably doing less exercise, watching more Netflix or eating different stuff. It just seemed to be fairly plausible that it was a lifestyle change.

"Pre-pandemic, I suspect people in Denmark commuted on a bike or on a train which involves walking. But if all you have got to do is get up from your bedroom and walk to your front room, then you know that the exercise level is less. So that's a suggestion for a reason."

The scientists intend to follow the same sperm donors for the next few years to see if the decline in sperm standard was temporary or permanent.

The findings suggest the ramifications of lockdown on male health are still being felt, but Prof Pacey says individual men should not be worried about their own fertility.

The study is published in the journal *Human Reproduction*.

BJP suffers shock loss of majority in election

Prime minister's party still projected to win but setback hampers his plans to rewrite constitution

By **George Johnson** *in New Delhi*

NARENDRA MODI'S party was set to lose its majority for the first time after falling well short of an expected election landslide, hampering ambitious plans to change the Indian constitution and cement his grip on power.

Mr Modi's BJP party is projected to win the election in the world's largest democracy, early results showed, but lose dozens of seats in parliament. He will now have to rely on alliances with smaller parties to secure a majority.

Stocks slumped as speculation grew over the results, which could hamper Mr Modi's ability to push through reforms. Shares in the main listed unit of Adani Enterprises – owned by key Modi ally Gautam Adani – dropped by almost £10 billion, before recovering.

Despite the results, Mr Modi said India had placed its faith in the ruling coalition "for a third consecutive time".

"We will continue the good work done in the last decade to keep fulfilling the aspirations of people," he added.

Mr Modi has been credited with transforming India in his image as the country has become the largest by population and is projected to become the third-largest economy. Critics say he has used Hindu nationalism to charge his populism.

The BJP was forecast to win a landslide "super majority", which would have enabled Mr Modi to change the constitution to move India away from a secular state. Although the broader alliance that the BJP is part of has surpassed the majority threshold of 272 seats, the BJP's own seat count has dropped to around 238, way short of its 303 seats in 2019. This has made the party dependent on the alliance partners to form the government.

Narendra Modi's party will win the election but it shall be forced to rely on the support of other parties

This prospect is alien to a party that has enjoyed carte blanche over governance of the country for the past decade. It ushered in far-reaching constitutional and legal changes, reorienting the country away from its secular roots and towards Hindu nationalist agenda.

It did away with the semi-autonomous position of Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim majority state, it passed the Citizenship Amendment Act that made religion a basis for acquiring Indian citizenship and it built a temple dedicated to Ram, a Hindu deity.

However, early election results suggest the sweeping changes have come at a cost. "Prime Minister Modi and his party struggling to cross the simple majority of 272 is a sign of fatigue with the Hindu nationalist, communal rhetoric and is also a verdict on the economy," said Praveen Donthi, a senior analyst for International Crisis Group.

The opposition Congress Party, the party of the Gandhi dynasty, was expected to gain seats in another remarkable turnaround from the weekend, when exit polls predicted a dismal performance. It called the strong showing a "moral and political loss" for Mr Modi even though he is expected to be re-elected.

The BJP was forced to concede in a constituency where the inauguration of a grand Hindu temple just months ago by Mr Modi was seen as an event that would cement his legacy and the party's poll victory. The BJP looked set for heavy losses in the bellwether northern state of Uttar Pradesh, as the opposition Samajwadi Party and Congress raced ahead in more than half of its 80 seats, including in Ayodhya city in the Faizabad constituency, where Mr Modi inaugurated the temple in January.

> 'Modi and his party struggling is a sign of fatigue with the Hindu nationalist, communal rhetoric'

And in Punjab, Mr Modi's party suffered another humiliating blow, with Amritpal Singh, the jailed separatist Sikh leader, winning a seat from prison.

Similarly, the party didn't win along the expected lines in West Bengal, with 42 seats, and Maharashtra, with 48 seats.

"PM Modi will be sworn in for the third time. Congress will sit in opposition for the third time," said Jaiveer Shergill, the BJP spokesman, in defiance at the string of unexpectedly poor results.

"Introspection about the slide and the decrease in the seats will be done threadbare. We will put our ear to the ground," he said.



ADNAN ABIDI/REUTERS

India and the world may have reached 'peak Modi' after surprise result

Analysis

By **Chietigj Bajpaee**

THE shock result of India's general election has dented the brand of Narendra Modi whose party fell well-short of its target for seats in parliament.

A coalition will give the prime minister the number of seats to form another government. But the damage has been done.

Given that his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fought the election with the prime minister as the face of the campaign, its poor performance raises questions about whether India has reached "peak Modi".

There are four factors that explained Modi popularity – his development and economic reform-driven agenda; his party's Hindutva (Hindu nationalist) ideology; a more assertive and muscular foreign policy; and finally, the Modi brand, which like many populist leaders, alludes to his charisma and man of the people persona.

The election result shows that all four factors have run their course and are losing momentum.

The government tried to leverage India's rising global stature – from last year's G20 presidency to its space programme. And it also tried to use its Hindu nationalist credentials, as evidenced by the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya in January, for electoral gain. But ultimately, it was local livelihood concerns that drove voters away.

Efforts to promote India's economic accomplishments – as the world's fastest growing major economy – was countered by high levels of inequality and youth unemployment. Despite promoting the nation as a potential beneficiary of the West's efforts to disconnect supply chains from regional rival China, manufacturing as a share of GDP has stalled while foreign investment inflows have been declining in recent years.

To be sure, it is too soon to write off Modi. The BJP is likely to form the next government and Modi will be only the second prime minister in India's history to secure three consecutive terms in office.

Moreover, while the election result is a defeat for Modi it does reaffirm India's democratic credentials, thought to be on the wane under pressure from the BJP machine.

> While the election is a defeat for Modi, it is a win for India's democracy and secular credentials

The election has shown that democracy remains well-entrenched and cannot be easily overturned in a country of India's size and diversity.

The price is perhaps the country's policy-making efficacy as India returns to the era of unwieldy coalition governments. As far as India's global aspirations go, the Modi government planned for the country to emerge as a developed nation by 2047 and a core component of this is making it into a more attractive investment destination.

This will require progress on a string of ongoing free trade negotiations with several countries, including the UK. This will continue, although in the context of a weaker coalition government in New Delhi and a possible change of government in Westminster.

India's assertive foreign policy, as seen during its G20 presidency where it facilitated the membership of the African Union, will continue, although perhaps with less bluster as the government turns inward after its poor electoral performance.

Moreover, some of the more controversial elements of its more muscular foreign policy, as noted by allegations of Indian complicity in assassination plots in Canada and the United States, are likely to be toned down. In this context, while the election is a defeat for Modi, it is a win for India's democracy and secular credentials, and arguably a win for the nation's global role in the context of a more moderate and benign foreign policy. India may have reached "peak Modi" but we have not yet reached "peak India".

Chietigj Bajpaee is senior research fellow for South Asia at Chatham House

South Korea blasts K-pop across border with North

By **Our Foreign Staff**

SOUTH KOREA has launched a campaign to blast K-pop music across the border with the North in response to a bombardment of rubbish-carrying balloons sent by Pyongyang last week.

Yoon Suk Yeol, South Korea's president, fully suspended a 2018 tension-reducing military deal yesterday. The move will allow the South to resume live fire drills and re-start loudspeaker propaganda campaigns along the border with the North.

Seoul has used the loudspeaker campaigns – considered a psychological warfare tactic dating back to the 1950-53 Korean War – as a counter-measure to what it deems serious North Korean provocations. It last deployed them in 2016, after Pyongyang conducted its fourth nuclear test, until calling them off days before the 2018 inter-Korean summit where the tension-reducing military deal was signed.

South Korea has used large megaphones to broadcast everything from K-pop to anti-regime propaganda into areas close to the demilitarised zone separating the two countries.

The broadcasts infuriate Pyongyang, which has previously threatened artillery strikes against the speaker units.

The 2018 agreement, signed during a period of warmer ties, was already largely void as Seoul had partially suspended it last year in response to North Korea putting a spy satellite into orbit.

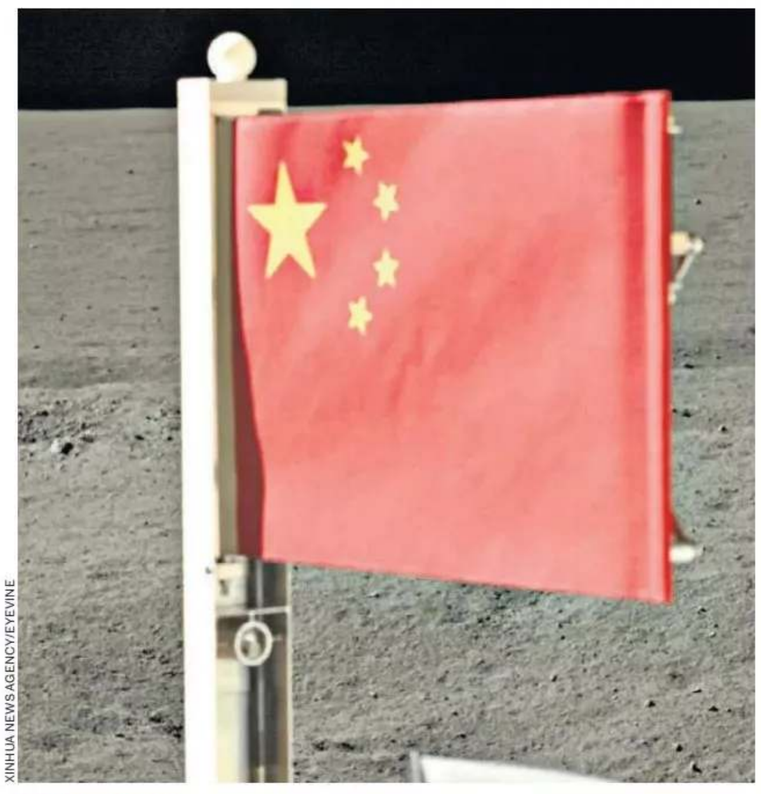
Seoul has now said that respecting even some portions of the deal was hindering its ability to defend against the North's provocations, which include floating nearly 1,000 balloons carrying rubbish, cigarette butts and manure across the border last week.

Pyongyang said the balloons were retaliation for similar objects sent northwards by South Korean activists.

On Monday, an anti-Pyongyang group in the South revealed they had sent balloons carrying about 2,000 USB flash drives containing K-pop and K-dramas, into the North on May 10.

The hermit country is extremely sensitive about its people gaining access to South Korean popular culture.

According to a UN report, Pyongyang enacted a law in 2020 to punish anyone possessing or distributing a large amount of media content from the South with life imprisonment or even the death penalty.



XINHUA NEWS AGENCY/EYEVINE

Flying high The national flag of China is unfurled on the dark side of the Moon yesterday, as part of a successful lunar mission carried out by the country's Chang'e-6 craft.

Italy minister: 'If you're going to smoke a joint, do it right'

By **Our Foreign Staff**

A DRUG-TAKING tip from Italy's agriculture minister went viral yesterday, when he scoffed at "cannabis light" and said that if you were going to smoke a joint, "do it right".

Giorgia Meloni's hard-Right government is considering banning so-called "cannabis light", a weaker form of the drug containing less than 0.5 per cent of the psychoactive compound THC that has been legal in Italy for production and sale since 2019.

During a rally on Monday before this weekend's European Parliament elections, a journalist handed Francesco Lollobrigida, the agriculture minister, a joint, saying it was "cannabis light" and asking him if he would like to sample it.

"No, light, no. If you're going to smoke a joint, do it right," said Mr Lollobrigida.

The minister, who is a member of Ms Meloni's hard-Right Brothers of Italy party and is also her brother-in-law, had just stated his opposition to the widespread cultivation of cannabis.

"I don't plan to transform our fields of grain, our crops, into fields of cannabis light," he told the La7 television journalist. "On the contrary, I think we can survive without it."

Ms Meloni's coalition government is considering an amendment to a security bill currently under discussion in parliament that would ban the sale of the weaker cannabis, according to Italian news reports.

The far-Right League party of Matteo Salvini, a coalition member, has reportedly filed its own amendment that would forbid images of cannabis in advertising, punishable by up to two years in jail and a fine of €20,000 (£17,0000).

Responding to Mr Lollobrigida's gaffe on X, formerly Twitter, Riccardo Magi, the secretary-general of the centrist +Europa party, commented that "it's better to make it legal. And millions of Italians think the same as I do."

Mr Lollobrigida also made headlines two weeks ago over his light-hearted comments to a television reporter, defending "conviviality" as a vehicle for peace.

He asked: "How important it is to be at the table, to discuss, to reason, to drink a glass of wine, to converse. How many wars could have been avoided over a well-organised dinner?"



MOHAMMED SABER/SHUTTERSTOCK

War and peace
An Israeli missile strike hits buildings around the al-Bureij refugee camp, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday before Israeli Defense Forces and Hamas fighters clashed during an Israeli ground assault. The latest attack came as Joe Biden, the US president, proclaimed that he 'expects Israel to say yes' to his three-point plan to end the war in Gaza.

Spain to test children for addiction to smartphones

By **James Badcock** *in Madrid*

DOCTORS in Spain will check children for signs of mobile addiction once a year under a new government plan to improve safety online.

Under the draft law, which was approved by Spain's cabinet yesterday, paediatricians will be trained to identify symptoms of children spending excessive amounts of time on screens when they see children during periodical health check-ups or for vaccinations.

Félix Bolaños, Spain's justice minister, said that once the law is passed by parliament, probably later this year, the government will create special centres to treat mobile addiction and related pathologies in children.

"The health of our children is on the line," Mr Bolaños said as he presented the draft law, drawn up jointly by several ministries with help from a committee of experts the government has tasked with creating a national strategy for child online safety.

Schools will be obliged to carry out awareness campaigns and teach children about the danger of improper internet behaviour.

The law will also change regulations and introduce new criminal laws aimed at preventing children from falling prey to dangerous individuals and inappropriate influences.

The age at which a person can give consent to the use of their personal data will be raised from 14 to 16, which, if enforced, would put social media out of bounds for the under-16s.

Democrats rebel over Trump-style asylum cap

President faces mutiny over restrictive border policy said to resemble those of his predecessor

By **Susie Coen** US CORRESPONDENT

TOP Democrats have turned on Joe Biden over his sweeping order to stop migrants seeking asylum at the US border, likening the measure to the policies of Donald Trump.

Yesterday the US president issued an executive order that bars migrants from seeking asylum at the US-Mexico border when illegal crossings exceed 2,500 per day for seven days.

The measure, the most restrictive border policy introduced by any modern Democrat, is intended to address the country's immigration crisis, a key concern among voters ahead of the November election.

The move comes weeks before the first presidential debate in which Mr Biden will likely be attacked on the border crisis by his rival Trump.

Mr Biden had previously said that he had done all he could on the border and called on Congress to pass new laws to address the situation.

After a bipartisan border deal fell apart when Republicans blocked the bill at the behest of Trump, the White House explored additional actions that it could take.

But key players from within Mr Biden's own party denounced the move as "a return to the same policies that were proven to fail in the Trump administration".

Addressing his critics yesterday, Mr Biden said: "For those who say the steps I've taken are too strict, I say to you that be patient."

He said "goodwilled American people are... wearing thin right now", adding: "Doing nothing is not an option."

Mr Biden also criticised Trump and the GOP's "extremely cynical political move" to get Republicans to vote against the bipartisan border bill.

"The border is not a political issue to be weaponised," Mr Biden said.

He added that Republicans "have left me no choice" and he is seeking to "do what I can on my own to address the border." He said he acted to restrict asylum to help "gain control".

The new order allows border officers to return migrants across the Mexican border or to their home countries within hours or days when the number of border encounters between ports of entry hits a seven-day average of 2,500.

It means the measure should take effect immediately, because daily averages already exceed that figure. Border authorities encountered around 3,500 migrants crossing the border illegally on Monday, a Homeland Security official told CNN.

Democrat Senator Alex Padilla told the broadcaster it was "disappointing to see an attempt to return to the same policies that were proven to fail in the Trump administration."

The Democrat on the House homeland security committee also criticised the policy.

While he said Mr Biden had been acting in the face of "cynical" Republicans who blocked legislation earlier this year.

But he criticised the policy for the impact it would have on "vulnerable people coming to the United States for safety and protection."

Bennie Thompson called on Republicans to work with Democrats to "pass real, lasting solutions to strengthen border security".

Meanwhile, congressional progressive caucus chair Pramila Jayapal said the move was "very, very disappointing", adding: "We should be distinguishing ourselves from Donald Trump on immigration".

The GOP Right, led by Trump, was also quick to lambast Mr Biden's order.

The Republican nominee denounced the policy as "weak" and "pathetic" and said it would "make the invasion worse".

He accused Mr Biden of "pretending to finally do something about the border... because he knows we have a debate coming up in three weeks."

In a joint statement, House Speaker Mike Johnson, House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, Tom Emmer and Elise Stefanik called the move a "desperate political stunt to try and stabilise his [Mr Biden's] plummeting poll numbers."

Under the order, border restrictions would remain in effect until two weeks after the daily encounter numbers are at or below 1,500 per day between ports of entry.

There are some exceptions to Mr Biden's block on asylum seekers, such as unaccompanied children, victims of a severe form of trafficking, and those who present an acute medical emergency or an imminent and extreme threat to life and safety are among the exemptions.



Biden son's 'crack superpower' back to haunt him as trial opens

By **Rozina Sabur** DEPUTY US EDITOR
in Wilmington, Delaware



Hunter Biden arrives at court with his wife Melissa Cohen

HUNTER BIDEN'S description of his "superpower of finding crack" cocaine was used against him by prosecutors in the opening of the federal gun trial against the US president's son.

Mr Biden Jr, 54, pleaded not guilty to two charges of lying about his crack cocaine addiction on forms to buy a Colt Cobra .38 handgun, and one charge of possessing a firearm while using drugs.

"No one is above the law, it doesn't matter who you are or what your name is," prosecutor Derek Hines said as he opened the government's case yesterday.

Mr Hines played lengthy excerpts for the jury of Mr Biden Jr narrating his 2021 autobiography, *Beautiful Things*, in which he details his drug addiction.

Mr Hines told the jury Mr Biden Jr was attempting to buy drugs just days after lying on a gun background check, and showed texts he sent calling himself "a liar and a thief".

At one point, Mr Biden Jr turned to look at the First Lady, Jill Biden, who sat in the front of the public gallery along with Mr Biden Jr's half-sister, Ashley, and his wife, Melissa Cohen Biden.

Ashley appeared to grow emotional as graphic details about her brother's drug use were shared in court, wiping her eyes with a tissue. She eventually left the court and did not return.

The First Lady returned to the White House to host an event with the President in the afternoon.

During a break in proceedings, Mr Biden Jr's wife confronted Garrett Ziegler, a former White House aide to Donald Trump, and called him a "Nazi piece of s---", according to NBC News.

The first witness called by the prosecution was FBI agent Erika Jensen, who read out dozens of emails and texts detailing Mr Biden Jr's drug addiction between 2018 and 2019. They included numerous exchanges with a drug dealer, as well as bank records showing him making near daily cash withdrawals, totalling around $151,000.

The messages included a bitter exchange between Mr Biden Jr and Hallie Biden, his brother's widow with whom he had a brief romance.

He texted her to tell her she was "unhinged" and "totally insane" after she discovered and disposed of his gun, triggering the federal investigation.

"The f---ing FBI, Hallie? It's hard to believe anyone is that stupid," he said.

The case continues.

French PM in 'sexist' faux pas after 'manterrupting' colleague

By **Peter Allen** *in Paris*

GABRIEL ATTAL, the French prime minister, has been accused of sexism after "manterrupting" a female colleague during a European parliamentary election debate.

The 35-year-old caused outrage when he jumped into the debate on live radio "to encourage" Valérie Hayer, 38.

Ms Hayer is the lead candidate for Mr Attal's Renaissance party coalition in this weekend's poll to choose 81 French MEPs, but the prime minister suggested she could not do the job without him.

"Hello, sorry, I'm bursting on to the stage," he said, during the event organised in Paris on Monday by FranceInfo.

Beyond kissing Ms Hayer on both cheeks and hugging her, he largely ignored her, before launching into a speech about multiple issues that "can only be tackled through Europe". Asked by the host if he was worried about having Ms Hayer as a candidate, given her low popularity ratings, Mr Attal evaded the question, and simply said he was "worried about Europe".

He was finally encouraged to end his monologue, so that the audience, mainly made up of young people including students, could carry on questioning Ms Hayer.

Manon Aubry, an ardent feminist and leader of the Left Group (Groupe de la Gauche) in the last European Parliament, described Mr Attal's sudden intervention as the "definition of mansplaining".

She was supported by Raquel Garrido, MP in the France Unbowed party, who described it as "mansplaining or, to be more precise, manterrupting".

Conservatives also mocked Mr Attal, comparing his behaviour to a stunt straight out of the quiz show, Who Wants to be a Millionaire.

"This is the new Phone-a-Friend lifeline," said François-Xavier Bellamy, of the Republican party.

"Clearly people around her think they're better at campaigning - there's a bit of a macho aspect to all this," Mr Bellamy added.

Marine Le Pen, runner-up in the last two French presidential elections as candidate for the National Rally (RN) said the incident was "truly shameful" and that Mr Attal "would never have allowed that to happen if the candidate was a man".

Mr Attal was first accused of "eclipsing" Ms Hayer when he took part in a TV debate last month with Jordan Bardella, lead European election candidate for the RN.

Macron split leaves Von Der Leyen in peril

The self-styled 'Queen of Europe' may be at risk of an unexpected coup as EU heavyweights turn on her

By **James Crisp, Meike Eijsberg** *and* **Joe Barnes**

URSULA VON DER LEYEN'S chances of a second term as president of the European Commission are in doubt amid claims EU heavyweights are turning against her and an outbreak of infighting among the Brussels institutions.

The European Parliament elections this weekend will be the prelude to an intense period of horse-trading over the EU's top jobs for the next five years and how they are shared out among the bloc's political families.

Until recently, Mrs von der Leyen's coronation for another five years was seen as a foregone conclusion. Leaders were expected to be reluctant to make big changes while Europe was dealing with the cost of living crisis and the war in Ukraine. But the Brussels rumour mill is now abuzz that she has lost the support of Emmanuel Macron and Olaf Scholz, and that other EU leaders are exasperated at what they see as her high-handed posing as the "Queen of Europe".

The mutual antipathy between Mrs von der Leyen and Charles Michel, the European Council president, was no secret even before hostilities erupted again yesterday. With days to go to the crucial elections, Mr Michel attacked Mrs von der Leyen's record, accusing her of turning the commission into an overtly "political" body with herself front and centre. "The impartiality of the commission should be an absolute priority," Mr Michel said.

Mrs von der Leyen's early support of Israel's war against Hamas left the EU open to accusations of double standards over its reaction to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, he said.

It certainly infuriated pro-Palestinian Spain and Ireland, while other member states saw it as a pattern of repeated overreach. From the headquarters of the commission, there was a swift and tart reply to Mr Michel.

'If there is anything EU can't afford, it's a chief diplomat who hates the commission president'

"The commission acts in an impartial manner for the benefit of the general interests and we expect all other institutions to do so as well," the commission's chief spokesman said.

Mudslinging between Mrs von der Leyen and Mr Michel's teams has been de rigueur since "sofagate" erupted during a joint visit to Turkey in 2021. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan offered Mr Michel a chair, relegating Mrs von der Leyen to a distant sofa.

Some see Mr Michel's intervention as revenge, and he has been accused by diplomatic sources of trying to land the plum job of the EU's foreign affairs chief.

"If there is anything EU foreign policy can't afford these days, it's a chief diplomat who hates the commission president," one source said.

Mr Michel's spokesman insisted: "He is not a candidate" and added that he is "entirely focused" on his current job.

The council president has calls scheduled with a string of EU leaders to discuss the allocation of top jobs this week, and has called a June 17 meeting on the issue, which he will chair.

Mrs von der Leyen's European People's Party (EPP) is predicted to shrink after the elections. But it will remain the largest group in the parliament. However, it is the 27 prime ministers and presidents in the European Council who will decide who leads the commission.

It was Mr Macron, a leader with a track record and a taste for disruption, who severed the link between the results of the European elections and the presidency of the commission in 2019. He rejected the EPP's victorious lead candidate and came up with the surprise nomination of Mrs von der Leyen, who was fresh from a failed stint as Germany's defence minister.

He also placed Mr Michel, the former Belgian prime minister, into his post. While Mr Michel remains a close Macron ally, the French president appears to have gone cold on Mrs von der Leyen. Macron allies are talking up Mario Draghi, the former Italian prime minister and European Central Bank chief, as a replacement.

'It's very likely there will be another candidate who will come out'

Sources said Mr Scholz, who knows Mr Draghi well, could consider getting rid of Mrs von der Leyen. Removing a compatriot as head of the commission would be a big step for the German chancellor, but Mrs von der Leyen is not popular in Germany.

Mr Draghi, an independent widely admired for his handling of the eurozone crisis, would need Italian premier Giorgia Meloni's support, but that was not impossible, EU sources said.

Mrs von der Leyen's courting of the Eurosceptic Ms Meloni has cost her support in the European Parliament, and is one reason her reappointment could be opposed by other pro-EU parties.

Karel Lannoo, the managing director of the Centre for European Policy Studies think tank, said: "It's very likely there will be another candidate who will come out unexpectedly, like five years ago with von der Leyen. She was not expected until she was announced."



DAVID ROSE FOR THE TELEGRAPH

'Everything was on fire: on the left of me, on the right. There was heavy shelling'

Valentina, 84, and her friend Klaudia, 82, at a processing centre for residents coming in from Vovchansk and surrounding villages in Ukraine

The pensioners that Ukraine forgot: 'I had to swig cologne to ease pain from my wounds'

Dispatch



By **Ben Farmer**
in Kharkiv

AS SHELL blasts thundered around him and drones whirred overhead, Stanislav put his head down, hunched his shoulders and carried on pushing his bike.

Nervously walking through the ruins of his home town, the 78-year-old retired driver feared one of the explosions could finish him at any moment.

Yet police had also told residents by telephone that their best hope of surviving the devastation engulfing Vovchansk was to reach the collection point where they could be evacuated.

For more than three weeks he had been sheltering in his basement, rarely daring to go above ground except to go to the lavatory. In that time, the town outside Kharkiv and only a few miles from the Russian border had been hammered by shelling and missiles from Moscow's renewed offensive against northeastern Ukraine.

The town, which four years ago had a population of 17,000, is now largely destroyed and almost empty. By some estimates, 50 to 80 per cent of the buildings have been destroyed.

On Monday morning, Stanislav, who declined to give his full name, decided to make a break for it. Police said they could not get to his home and he would have to make his own way.

He packed two small bags with shirts, socks, tea and tinned food, perched them on his handlebars and began a terrifying two-hour journey from what was left of his home to the meeting point.

"Everything was on fire: on the left of me, on the right. There was heavy shelling. I just pushed my bike," he told *The Telegraph* hours later, having reached safety and been embraced by tearful relatives who had fled weeks ago. "The skies were buzzing. I thought the drones were watching me and they were going to kill me," he said at a refugee registration centre in a Kharkiv suburb.

Earlier in the Russian attack on Vovchansk, Stanislav had learnt the dangers of being caught in the open. Hitching up his shirt, he showed a bandaged shrapnel wound on his belly.

He had been forced to clean the wound himself by dousing it with cheap aftershave and said he had taken swigs of the cologne to dull the pain.

"It was 60 per cent alcohol. It wasn't bad," he joked.

Large numbers of residents either fled or were evacuated in the early days of the Russian onslaught. However, small numbers of the elderly, vulnerable and infirm, or smallholders worried about leaving their livestock, are thought to remain. Valentina, 84, another Vovchansk evacuee, had made a four-mile trek to the collection point on Monday morning with her friend and neighbour Klaudia, 82.

Valentina said: "I have been in my basement since it since the attacks started. I just came out of the basement and called the police to tell them I was still alive. The police said, if you manage to get to this place, maybe you will be saved. Everything was exploding. Shells were flying. Overhead there was the constant sound of drones." The pair had shared a basement for three weeks, eating cold food because they could not cook.

Klaudia said: "Even going to the toilet I was afraid because I thought if I came out, the drones would see me and then they would start firing at me."

Ukraine has come under intense pressure since Russia launched its renewed Kharkiv offensive in the early hours of May 10. Kyiv has had to rush reinforcements to the area while ceding ground on other areas of the front.

Ukraine says its forces still control some 70 per cent of Vovchansk but it is under heavy fire.

The Institute for the Study of War, a think tank and research group monitoring battlefield movements, said in its latest update that Russian forces had "marginally advanced" in fields south-west of the town.

Washington last week gave Ukraine limited permission to use Western-supplied weapons to strike some military targets on Russian territory as part of Kyiv's efforts to fend off attacks on Kharkiv.

For many in the region it is the second time the war has come to their villages and towns.

Towns outside Kharkiv were occupied in the early stages of the Russian invasion in February 2022, only to be liberated by Ukrainian forces months later.

Galina Revenko and her family had fled their home in Kozacha Lopan after deciding the shelling had become intolerable.

She said: "I never thought that the Russians would come back like this."

Meanwhile one person was killed and two wounded in a Russian rocket attack in the Kharkiv region. Russia targeted Slobozhanske, southeast of the city, Governor Oleg Synegubov said.

"Houses were damaged. One man died. Another man and a woman were wounded," he said.



Elderly residents who could not leave Kharkiv have now been forced to flee

Push to send 1,000 UK drones to front line

By **Joe Barnes**

BRITAIN is pushing to deliver 1,000 first-person view drones to Ukraine as part of an international coalition in support of Kyiv.

According to a tender notice posted on the UK Government's website, providers have been invited to submit bids to provide drones and equipment that can be fitted with armour-destroying munitions.

The appeal, worth £300,000, calls for the procurement of up to 15 batches of 20 "first-person view racing quadcopter-style drones". Ukraine's troops would often modify commercially available products to deliver RPG anti-tank rockets and smaller hand-held grenades to targets.

Their creations have been credited with destroying items of Russian kit, such as tanks and helicopters, worth millions. The drones must be "capable of carrying varying payloads depending on their propeller size", the notice added.

After initial testing, which is expected to be concluded by mid-August, successful applicants could be offered future order contracts to supply "up to circa 1,000 drones per month".

Britain and Latvia launched the Drone Capability Coalition for Ukraine in February in the hope of surging supplies of the unmanned aerial vehicles to the front lines.

"Together with the UK and as part of the Drone Coalition we have launched an industry competition to provide FPV drones for Ukraine," Andris Spruds, Latvia's defence minister, said.

The scheme promised to provide Ukrainian forces with more drones to target "enemy positions, armoured vehicles, and ships with explosive ordinances" by leveraging Western firms for their production.

Iranian general killed in 'Israeli air strike'

By **Melanie Swan** *in Tel Aviv*

AN IRANIAN general has been killed in a suspected Israeli air strike near the Syrian city of Aleppo, nearly two months after the Islamic republic warned it would retaliate against attacks on its interests.

Saeed Abyar, described as a military adviser, was targeted in a yesterday morning, resulting in the death of several civilians and "material losses", according to Syria's official Sana news agency.

The alleged assassination comes just weeks after a suspected Israeli air strike on Iran's consulate in Syria that killed several Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps officials, including two commanders. In response to the attack, Tehran launched an unprecedented direct attack on Israel as the decades-old shadow war between the two countries exploded briefly into open conflict.

Iran fired a barrage of more than 350 drones and missiles, most of which were intercepted by Israel, with help from its allies including the US and UK.

Since Syria's civil war erupted in 2011, Iran has sent military advisers to support president Bashar al-Assad's regime, leading to regular suspected Israeli strikes against Iranian military targets.

Israel's air operations in Syria have picked up since the Oct 7 attacks by Hamas, which is backed by Iran.

Alongside the war in Gaza, Israel has since been targeted by Iran's proxies from Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon.

Israel rarely acknowledges strikes it carries out in Syria. The two countries have been at war since the founding of the Jewish state in 1948.

It is the second strike within a week. Last week, the Sana news agency quoted a military source who said an attack took place from the direction of the occupied Golan Heights, targeting some areas in the vicinity of Damascus.

Comment

Britain risks being taken over by a devastating foreign species

JAMIE BLACKETT



We have become accustomed to headlines about invasive species coming across the Channel and threatening our native wildlife. Often there is shoulder-shrugging and recitations of the long list of species brought by the Romans or the Normans or eccentric Victorian collectors and now happily integrated into British ecosystems.

But this year's invasive species should not be treated glibly, as we already know that it won't integrate without doing terrible damage. It may or may not be as a direct consequence of climate change that the Asian hornet has established a bridgehead on the south coast; certainly a lack of hard weather could have helped them to overwinter.

The fact that we know from genetic analysis that hornets found this spring are related to last year's at least gives us some confidence in our greater ability to monitor what is going on. But the damage they are capable of doing to our native honeybees and other pollinators means that this is one invasion we need to take very seriously indeed. And unfortunately our record of dealing with the spread of invasive species is deplorable.

Analogous to the fatal consequences of mixing Asian hornets with honey-bees is the plight of the red squirrel when confronted by the non-native grey.

I am feeling especially raw about that as this may be the year, here in Dumfriesshire, when we declare defeat. We held the line for two decades and showed that it was possible to keep grey squirrels at bay by ruthless culling. Had everyone been as dedicated as our local volunteers the war could have been won. But, nationally, society had lost the will to succeed.

The bounties paid at post offices for grey squirrel tails ended a generation ago and there is now lobbying from faux environmentalists to protect the grey squirrel.

Similarly, American crayfish have wreaked havoc in our aquatic environment. They are very good to eat and that may have provided the financial incentive to wipe them out. But there was a bureaucratic reluctance to issue the necessary licences and now it is probably too late.

Meanwhile, small numbers of escaped parakeets have been allowed to get out of control in the south of England with bad consequences for our native birdlife.

The lessons are clear: problems with invasive species have to be nipped in the bud early before they get out of control, and there has to be a sustained campaign.

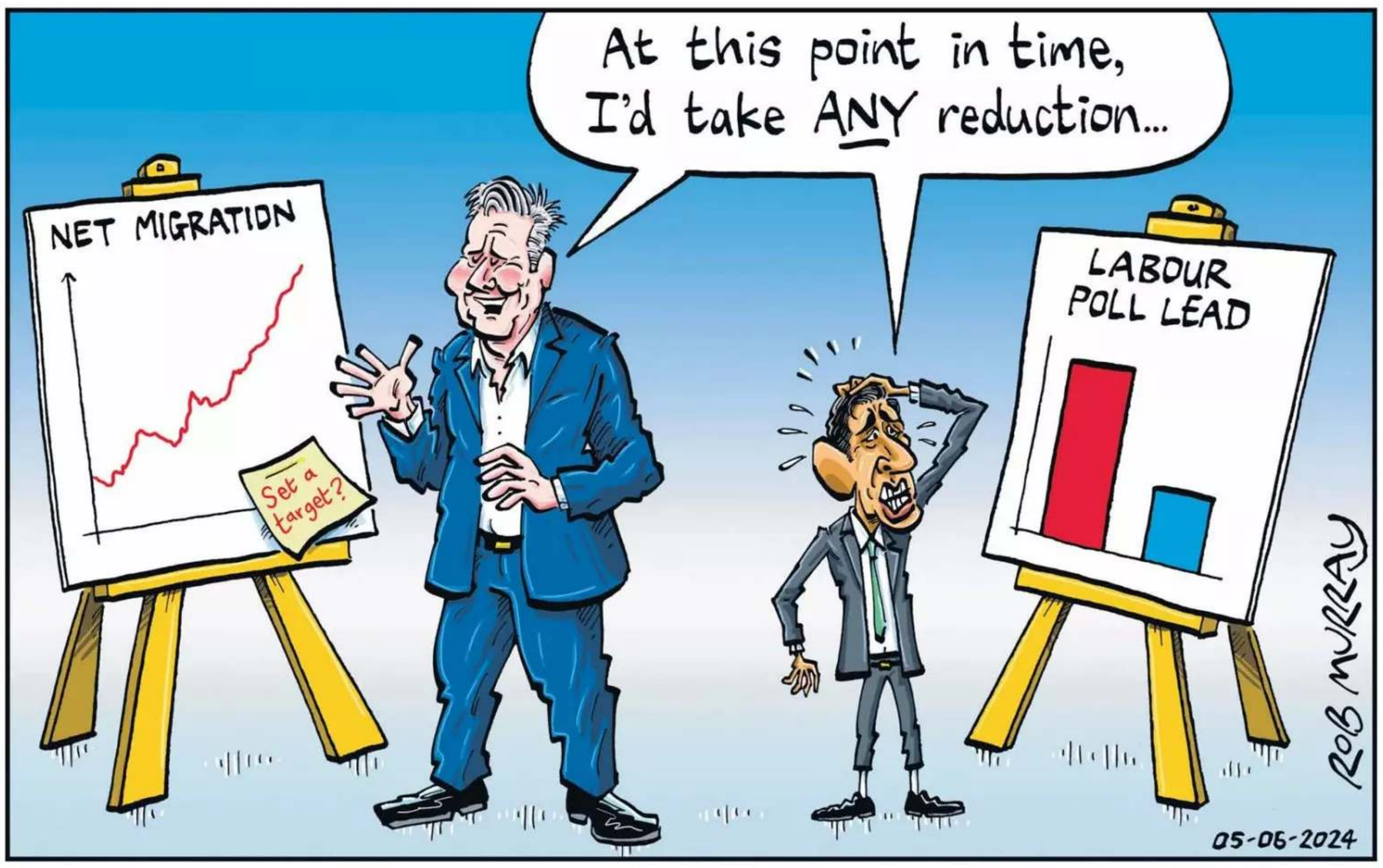
In the case of defending our bees, and by extension our beekeeping industry, it is vital that Defra strains every sinew to stop the spread of the hornets – and critical that ministers focus on the challenge immediately after the election and provide the resources to help find innovative solutions. Critically for the rural economy, beekeeping is still genuinely a cottage industry. Losing our bees would be unthinkable.

Fortunately, there is more chance of a citizen army forming to combat the hornet threat than there has been for other invasions.

A generation of schoolchildren has grown up being terrified by scenarios where the bees die out. Many people have phones capable of identifying hornets. And there should be less squeamishness about destroying hornets' nests than grey squirrel dreys.

This time we must prevail over an alien invader. Action stations!

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Nigel Farage has set out to destroy the Tories – and history may be on his side

The parallels with Canada in 1993 are uncanny, but the Conservatives have revived themselves before

PHILIP JOHNSTON



He's back, only this time he really means business. Nigel Farage is presenting himself in this general election campaign not as the great disruptor but as the Terminator. Just a week after he ruled out playing a central role, he has not only taken over the reins of Reform and announced his candidacy in Clacton, but also believes he can supplant the Tories as the main opposition party.

That is quite a claim and one that risks puncturing the Farage legend if he now fails to pull it off.

There is a playbook for this, which is what happened in Canada in 1993, an election that has acquired a near mythical status on the populist Right. The parallels are uncanny. A Conservative administration in office for 10 years and led by a relatively new prime minister, Kim Campbell, lost 154 seats, retaining only two. What had been the governing party was reduced to the fifth largest in the parliament.

Partly this was the consequence of uniquely Canadian matters, notably arguments over regional policy and the position of Quebec. These tensions led to the rise of a party to the Right of the Progressive Conservatives calling itself Reform – indeed, Farage deliberately named his new party after the Canadian insurgents.

An economic recession, unpopular tax rises, and a splintering of the vote on the Right led to the electoral destruction of the Progressive Conservatives in 1993. They had appointed Campbell because they imagined she would stave off defeat, yet they won just 16 per cent of the votes while Reform won 19 per cent. The Tories hoped Rishi Sunak would steady the ship here by being more popular and less reckless than Liz Truss. Yet he has failed to do so.

Reform UK also sprang from a constitutional issue – getting Britain out of Europe. But, as in Canada, it has morphed into an ideological challenger to mainstream conservatism. In 2019, Boris Johnson managed to unite the centre and the populist Right by embracing Brexit and securing a deal with Farage to stand aside his Brexit Party candidates in Tory-held seats. That has now broken down and no pact is possible.

Farage argues that he will take votes from Labour as in 2015, when Ukip helped secure David Cameron an outright majority by allowing the Tories to fend off Ed Miliband's party in a number of key seats. But because the Tories won so emphatically in 2019, the impact of a resurgent Reform Party will fall disproportionately on them.

The YouGov MRP projection published on Monday night and based on a 60,000-voter sample suggested that Sir Keir Starmer could be heading to Downing Street with a historic majority of 194. That would be bigger than Tony Blair in 1997 and represents a net gain of more than 220 seats, which would be extraordinary if it happened. The Tories would retain just 140 seats, their fewest since the 1906 catastrophe when Balfour lost 246 seats, reducing the parliamentary party to 156.

It will be noted that, while these results were appalling, they were not so-called ELEs, or extinction-level events. The Conservatives recovered from both calamities, though it took them years to do so, just as they did from the great split of 1846 over the Corn Laws.

The Conservative Party is the oldest and most resilient political movement in the world. The idea that it will be supplanted by a populist upstart seems fanciful. Indeed, although YouGov shows Reform performing strongly in a number of seats, it is still a long way off winning any. It is in second place in 27, including 11 in Yorkshire.

But the fieldwork for this poll was conducted before Farage's dramatic re-emergence into the political limelight. Has he really got the personal magnetism to push the party's vote up from around 11 per cent to the 20 per cent or more it would need to overtake the Conservatives?

He would be the first to admit that he is a Marmite politician – just as many voters hate him as love him. There will be many centrist Tories planning to vote Lib Dem or stay at home on election day who might now return to the fold precisely because Farage is back in the fray.

Moreover, the Tories must surely have planned for this eventuality, though you do wonder given the way Rishi Sunak sprang this election on everyone, even wrong-footing many in his own party. The initial rollout of policies is designed to appeal precisely to those Tories who might vote Reform – the return of national service, a new crackdown on legal immigration, hints of tax cuts, a reaffirmation of the triple lock on the state pension.

The problem is no one seems to be listening. Moreover, the Tories are merely highlighting their own shortcomings by promising policies they singularly failed to deliver when in office for 14 years. Farage is articulating that frustration rather than offering any solutions.

READ MORE *at telegraph.co.uk/opinion*

Many centrist Tories might now return to the fold precisely because Farage is back in the fray

As he wrote in this newspaper yesterday: "There is deep anger that public services, from healthcare to housing, are disintegrating even as record peacetime taxes are levied on pitifully stagnant wages. And there is utter despondency among the electorate that neither Labour nor the Tories can put forward a plan – let alone a leader – that offers just a shred of hope that things might improve." However, blaming the chattering classes, Whitehall blobs and metropolitan elites does not amount to a prospectus for government.

But so deep is the disaffection with the Tories that it is not impossible Reform could gain more votes than them. The first polls to take into account Farage's return will be a critical insight into whether this is at all likely. A poll of polls published by Politico already puts the Conservatives as low as 23 per cent. If that falls further, they could be overtaken.

It almost happened in 1983, when the SDP came within 2 per cent of becoming the second largest party yet won just 23 seats while Labour won 209. Even if Reform manages more than 20 per cent across the country, the diffused spread of its support may translate into only a few seats.

One of those gains must include Clacton-on-Sea to give Farage a foothold in Westminster if he is to follow the Canadian template. After their 1993 debacle, the Conservatives were gradually rebuilt under Stephen Harper, who had previously been a leader of Reform. In 2006, he became prime minister, serving for 10 years. Is that Farage's ultimate goal?

Children must learn about the heroism of D-Day

Young people today should know about the sacrifices that were made to secure our freedom

KEIR STARMER



As dawn broke over Portsmouth on June 5 1944, it cast light on a scene which will never be replicated: thousands of ships setting sail from across the south of England, bound for the coast of Normandy and the turning of the tide in the Second World War.

Today, the same city will host the first of two days of national commemorations for the anniversary of D-Day. Eighty years on from that defining moment in Britain's national story, it is more important than ever that we remember the sacrifices that were made to defeat fascism and win the freedoms that too many take for granted today.

There's no doubt that D-Day was the greatest combined operation in our nation's military history. Servicemen from across the UK – and the Commonwealth – stood shoulder to shoulder with our allies to deliver a decisive blow against Nazi Germany.

They fought in the skies and on the seas. They fought on the beaches and in the hedgerows of France. Their heroism in the Battle of Normandy set the course for victory on the Western Front. It must never be forgotten.

When I think about D-Day, I imagine how it must have felt to be one of the 60,000 British servicemen who landed in Normandy that day.

To pack your parachute as you prepare to jump behind enemy lines. To strap on your helmet as you ready yourself to storm a beach under machine-gun fire. To know that, if you make it through, you still have months of bitter fighting ahead.

The courage shown by our troops on that day is almost incomprehensible. And it must never be forgotten.

Today and tomorrow, in England and in France, we will honour them. We will honour those young men who gave their lives so that generations could live in freedom. We will honour those who returned home to rebuild Britain and have since died.

And we will honour those veterans who remain with us. With incredible longevity, they have kept the memory of their fallen comrades alive through their stories and their teachings.

I agree with those veterans who have recently spoken out to ensure that the story of D-Day is not forgotten. The generation growing up today should know about the sacrifices that were made so that they can enjoy the freedom and tolerance of modern Britain.

So, on behalf of the Labour Party, I wholeheartedly back the call from our D-Day veterans to ensure schools are teaching our children about the Normandy landings.

The courage shown by our troops on that day is almost incomprehensible. It must never be forgotten

This is beyond party politics. Whoever forms the next government on July 5, we must never allow that generation's heroism to be forgotten.

That's why, if I am privileged to serve our country as prime minister, I will ensure that current and future generations of British schoolchildren are taught the lessons of D-Day.

This is not simply about respect for our past – important though that is. It's about preparing for our future.

There is no greater example of Western co-operation. No greater example of what we can overcome in defence of our shared values. D-Day showed the strength of our joint endeavour in the face of fascism and aggression.

That message resonates as strongly today as it ever has. In the face of rising global threats, Putin's aggression and growing instability, commitment to our allies and robust defence against aggression have rarely been more important.

We must never underestimate the service and sacrifice shown by all British veterans and our serving Armed Forces personnel. We owe them a huge debt. That's why Labour will bring forward a package of support for our veterans, our service personnel and their families, including a new Armed Forces Commissioner and bringing the Armed Forces Covenant fully into law.

Amid this insecure world, our future generations should carry the memory of D-Day forward – the memory of those who showed such immense individual courage and collective strength to deal a vital blow against Hitler. We will remember them.

Sir Keir Starmer is the leader of the Labour Party

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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
WAS IS & WILL BE LONDON 1855
ESTABLISHED 1855

Rishi Sunak exposed Keir Starmer's flaws

One of the two party leaders who featured in last night's televised election debate, the first of the campaign, will be prime minister on July 5. That is the choice before the electorate, however loud other noises are off-stage.

The aim of such debates, a relatively recent addition to British elections, is to give voters their first real chance to see and hear the main candidates set out their stalls for the next five years. Inevitably, both leaders had their carefully rehearsed lines and were intent on sticking to them. The format of the debate, with constant interruptions and the participants unable to make their points, did not help.

But it did mark a good evening for the Prime Minister, who has struggled to make inroads in the polls and has been frustrated at not getting his message across. He said he had a plan to cut taxes, protect pensions and reduce immigration, whereas Labour was an unknown quantity.

Sir Keir Starmer, well ahead in the opinion polls, was desperate not to make a mistake or say anything injudicious – or, indeed, anything much at all. He reprised his call for change and an end to the "chaos" of Tory rule, but we learnt little new.

Rishi Sunak needed a good performance in order to narrow the gap in the polls, and he was both confident and assured, while Sir Keir was uncertain and evasive.

The Prime Minister pointed out that inflation was back to normal, wages were growing and taxes had been cut in the last two Budgets. He was also anxious not to dwell too much on his party's 14 years in office. "This election is about the future," he said.

Sir Keir suggested that he knew better about the difficulties people faced because of his upbringing, a deliberate attempt to imply Mr Sunak is too wealthy to understand this. But while the Opposition leader criticised the Tory record, there was little that we learnt about what he would do to improve the NHS, build more homes, make the streets safer, or reform social care.

Sweeping promises are not a prospectus for governing. Mr Sunak is right to say Labour dwells too much on the past but has no big plans for the future.

One issue that does keep recurring is immigration, once a taboo subject at an election and now a central worry of voters. Net legal immigration was more than 750,000 last year, nearly 10 times greater than the level to which the Tories promised to reduce it at successive elections. They are again pledging to place caps on work visas and point to a fall in numbers recently as restrictions on students and their families take effect.

But the decline is from record levels that occurred on their watch. The credibility problem they face is: why should anyone believe they will do in future what they failed to do in the past? But Labour is equally hamstrung since net migration took off in 1997 when Tony Blair assumed office and has been on an upward trajectory ever since.

Nigel Farage, the Reform UK leader, said his party wanted "zero net migration", which is an example of the party promising what people want to hear rather than what is feasible. Mr Sunak has suggested that the Conservatives could make leaving the European Convention on Human Rights a manifesto commitment. Yet similar hints have been dropped for years to no avail.

The focus on immigration is a double-edged sword for the Conservatives given their poor record. An annual cap on visas and giving Parliament a vote on the limits is a good idea, though not a new one.

It exposes Labour's weakness on the subject but also opens a line of attack from Reform who will always outflank the Tories with more extravagant promises, deliverable or not.

Even though he did not take part in the debate last night, Mr Farage has emerged as the third most important participant in this election. Mr Sunak hoped a snap election would catch Reform napping but his task has become infinitely harder with the re-emergence of Mr Farage to take the helm of the party.

Nevertheless, the polls are pointing to a huge Labour majority. Sir Keir's one-dimensional performance last night demonstrated he does not deserve it and Mr Sunak's combative approach shows this election is far from over.

Smoking Ulster fries

Soon, like trespassing charcoal-burners or poachers of salmon preserving their catch, secret hideouts in the wilds of Northern Ireland may be sending a smudge of smoke into the sky. Their product would be smoky-bacon crisps, a food to be banned by EU regulations. As Northern Ireland labours under the burden of that strangely named mechanism the Windsor Framework (which sounds half like a tourist souvenir, half an instrument of torture), no one there will be allowed to make smoky-bacon crisps. Mainland British factories would be able to export them to Northern Ireland if there was no risk of their being sold on to the Republic or covertly freighted to crisp-addicted clients in Luxembourg. When bonfires are lit for the Twelfth of July parades, watch out for crisp-smugglers smoking their wares by the embers.

Letters to the Editor

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The election debate won't have convinced voters that change is coming

SIR – No matter what Rishi Sunak may promise in an election debate, the fact remains that the Conservatives have had 14 years to enact the measures that they now say are vital.

Making pledges after such prolonged failure demonstrates contempt for the electorate.

I will be voting for Reform UK – not as a protest, but because both Labour and the Conservatives have shown themselves to be untrustworthy.

The only real prospect of change lies with Nigel Farage's party.
Mike McKone
Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria

SIR – I've decided I'm going to vote for whoever says: "I'm going to do X, and this is how I will finance it, and this is how and when it will happen." I clearly won't have much of a choice.
Joyce Wotherspoon
Morpeth, Northumberland

SIR – Why oh why can't the moderator at election debates have a switch to silence the candidates to stop their excessive interrupting?
Rob Dorrell
Bath, Somerset

SIR – Debates would be far more relaxed and informative if the candidates sat down. British politics could benefit from a conversation rather than a confrontational debate. It would make for better television, too.
John Eifion Jones
London SW19

SIR – Is having a moving background at a political debate intended to distract us from what is being said?

If so, it works.
Janet Stukins
Wigton, Cumbria

SIR – While opinion is divided on the return of Nigel Farage to front-line politics (Letters, June 4), its impact cannot be denied.

That the decision of one man to stand for Parliament has created such a storm is a sad reflection of the fact that all the mainstream parties have failed to understand the deep resentment and despair felt by the electorate.
Andrew Beevers
East Bergholt, Suffolk

SIR – Alison Levinson (Letters, June 4) was depressed by the hostile media questioning of Nigel Farage after he announced his candidacy. But the hostility was really a tribute to his importance as the most serious threat to the liberal consensus since the days of Margaret Thatcher. By addressing the concerns of ordinary people in everyday language, he too makes his opponents "frit", and so they lash out.

The unpleasant behaviour of Mishal Husain towards him on the *Today* programme yesterday – hectoring, interrupting and even making references to his children – shows how low the BBC is prepared to sink. Such attacks will only strengthen his arm.
Francis Bown
London E3

Private school benefits

SIR – Labour's promised VAT charges on private schools can only stem from envy rather than good policy (report, June 4).

In the 1970s, as a boarding pupil at Reed's School, I had my fees and uniform paid for in full from the age of 13 to 18, not because I was academic or a brilliant sportsman, but because I was potentially vulnerable as an only child in Kilburn being brought up by a single mother who had to go to work.

Hundreds of "Foundationers" received a good all-round education in a secure environment. I only wish that I'd shown more gratitude while I was there for the principles of fairness and equality that were in evidence daily.

Before doing irreversible damage to private schools, would it not make more sense to establish what benefits they offer to vulnerable children and how these might be increased?
Simon Taylor
Poringland, Norfolk

D-Day courage

SIR – As time passes, inevitably those of us who have memories of D-Day become fewer (report, June 4). I was 13 at the time, living on the north Kent coast, and I remember watching a constant stream of planes with distinctive black and white stripes on their wings and fuselages, flying over the Thames Estuary towards France, from early morning until late evening.

Current television programmes commemorating D-Day are stark reminders of the horrors of that day and the outstanding courage of those who made the ultimate sacrifice or who survived to fight on, many just a few years older than I was at the time. We owe them our enduring thanks.
Michael Weeden
Ascot, Berkshire

SIR – Even though I was an 11-year-old schoolboy at the time, I still vividly recall the events of June 6 1944.

At school that morning there was great excitement at the breaking news. In those days we had no radio at home, so at dinner time I ran back to our house. "Mummy, Mummy, the second front has started," I cried. She was eager to hear the details and was a little bewildered when I told her that it was happening in Norway, not Normandy.

Throughout that day my excitement was intense at the thought that the whole operation had been planned and executed in order to free my dad from Stalag 383, where he was a PoW.

Thankfully, he was eventually freed.
Victor Thompson
Ferndown, Dorset


Lit match: Dortmund supporters ignored FA warnings over pyrotechnics at Wembley AP

Time for zero tolerance of flares in stadiums

SIR – Seeing the terrifying pictures of Borussia Dortmund fans with flares at Wembley during the Champions League final (Sport, June 3) immediately reminded me of the Bradford City stadium fire, which left 56 people dead and a further 265 injured.

As a relatively newly qualified Bradford GP, the ongoing suffering of many victims and their families left a lasting impression on me.

While I understand that Valley Parade in 1985 was a tinderbox waiting for a spark, surely it is totally inappropriate for flares to make it through security at any crowded venue.
Dr David Shoesmith
Acklington, Northumberland

Britain's unpopular double-decker trains

SIR – Jeannette Meyers (Letters, June 4) is correct that Britain once had double-decker trains. Two experimental units were built in 1949, and ran on lines to Charing Cross until 1971. I once had the misfortune to travel on one between Blackheath and London Bridge.

I can vouch for their unpopularity with commuters. In hot weather the temperature became unbearable, as the upper-deck windows could not be opened. The seats were also marginally narrower and had less depth of padding than normal.

However, I believe the main reason for their lack of success was the increased "dwell time" at intermediate stations – there being the same number of doors as on a standard commuter train, but more than 40 per cent more passengers.
Charles Nevick
Taverham, Norfolk

SIR – The reason that Britain's railways do not operate double-decker trains is that the loading gauge is lower here than on the Continent, a consequence of Britain's railways being the earliest in the world to be built.

The trains that Jeannette Meyers refers to, designed by Southern Railway, were not true double-deckers, but had a compromise split-level design with alternate high and low compartments owing to height restrictions. The upper compartments were cramped and uncomfortable, and only two sets were built.
Mike Finnis
Esher, Surrey

SIR – The French and German railways were bombed heavily by Allied forces. These countries could then start from scratch – building new tunnels and bridges – with the help of Uncle Sam through the Marshall Plan.

We, on the other hand, had to soldier on with what we had and start making Lend-Lease repayments, with America wanting to finish off the British Empire by any means possible.
Nick Levett-Scrivener
Saxmundham, Suffolk

The decline in housing

SIR – As a Tory foot soldier, I knock on doors and deliver leaflets, and as a chartered surveyor, I notice the condition of properties.

In respect of new-build properties, the ingenuity of the developers in squeezing more homes into smaller spaces never ceases to surprise me. As each election passes, the design of the houses becomes more bland and featureless, and the quality of the workmanship gets worse.

Council houses from the 1960s are better built than today's "luxury" homes. I don't walk away from them with the letterbox still in my hands.
Jonathan Yardley
Wolverhampton

'Twixt cup and lip

SIR – In Athens recently I ordered two G&Ts and was rather surprised to get two green teas.
Ian Cribb
Poole, Dorset

Reforming healthcare

SIR – Health and social care are critical components of a functional society, yet their management often falls prey to political manoeuvring. This necessitates a paradigm shift to extricate these services from the political arena. The frequent changes in policies and priorities due to electoral cycles lead to instability and inefficiency in service delivery, undermining public confidence and compromising care quality.

To address this, health and social care should be governed by an independent management structure. This body would focus solely on the needs and best practices for healthcare and social services. Such an approach prioritises long-term planning and consistent service improvement over short-term political gains.

Funding for these services should be sourced from taxation and ring-fenced to guarantee dedicated financial support. Doing so would protect funds from being reallocated for other purposes, maintaining the integrity and sufficiency of health and social care budgets. Government scrutiny would ensure transparency and accountability, while the independent structure would handle operational and strategic decisions.
Richard Ogden
Bacup, Lancashire

From reader to author

SIR – I am saddened but not surprised to read that research by the National Literacy Trust shows that children are abandoning writing for pleasure as a hobby (report, June 4).

The desire to write creatively is linked directly to a love of reading, and the appreciation of books for many of us started with having stories read to us at bedtime. The NLT's previous research revealed that bedtime reading by parents was on the decline, and was often being replaced by pre-sleep screen time. Creative writing is dependent on creative thinking – and that creativity is being stifled.
Stuart Harrington
Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset

Baby on board

SIR – When my daughter was a baby, she was a very poor sleeper (Letters, June 1). My parents had a pub in west Wales with a small motorboat moored at the end of their jetty. We would pop her in the cabin and gently chug out to sea to help her nod off, catching mackerel at the same time.

The fresh mackerel were an absolute joy, even though I had to gut and bone them.
Jacqueline Davies
Faversham, Kent

In a Parliament of dullards, mavericks will win

Great speeches could once be heard in the Commons. Now bland management babble is all that is left

MADELINE GRANT



Not since the days of vaudeville has a man at the end of a pier attracted quite so enthusiastic a crowd. Hundreds flooded into Clacton to watch the Nigel Farage show. It's quite a rare sight; we are used to our politicians being boring. Trust me, I watch them every week in the House of Commons, so I know whereof I speak.

It looks as if things will only get worse. Sir Keir Starmer has spent the past few months quietly – or in the case of Diane Abbott, not so quietly – trying to purge anyone who looks like they might disagree with him in favour of what has to be the greyest field of election candidates in British history. It is no surprise that Farage draws a crowd, along with the occasionally chucked milkshake: there's almost nobody else worth throwing a flavoured milk product at.

As a result of this draw, Farage has a near-unique ability to annoy the professionally "sensible" commentariat. A typical Centrist Dad take is "haha – multiple election-loser Nigel Farage". What this ignores is Farage's rare talent for accomplishing his political goals without actually needing legislative power, making him one of the most consequential British politicians of our times. He achieved this through direct engagement with the public and old-fashioned public speaking. The rest of our political class seem to be allergic to the former and incapable of the latter.

Parliamentary oratory has been in decline for many years. There was a time when even the use of notes was a rare thing in the Chamber, punishable by a heckling from the Speaker; now MPs bask on the green benches looking at their phones. Specific backbenchers would draw in members of all sides, such were their powers of persuasion. Now you can count on the fingers of one hand those capable of delivering a speech with even a single watt of energy to it; a total that does not include the PM or Leader of the Opposition.

Both specialise in managerial gobbledegook; the language of the corporate away-day. Sunak waffles about "delivery" while Starmer favours a "mission-driven" approach.

The Labour leader recently spoke of "leveraging the power and potential of dynamic government" to solve the small boats crisis. Rachel Reeves deploys equally gnomic phrases, describing her flagship "Securonomics" thus: "providing the platform from which to take risks; not to retreat from an uncertain future, but to embrace change and the opportunities it brings with clarity of purpose and stability of direction". We've gone from Marcus Tullius Cicero to Consultio/Consultius.

There is a sense in which the "medium is the message"; the consistent failure to say anything meaningful is an admission that nothing meaningful can be done. Just as postmodern academics such as Judith Butler hide their substandard thinking in a tangled thicket of impenetrable jargon, I wonder if the vacuous language of contemporary politics serves a similar function – namely, to bore the listener into submission.

There will soon be even fewer accomplished Commons speakers left, with the departure of Michael Gove (and potentially Penny Mordaunt). A few outliers such as Sir Geoffrey Cox, Tom Tugendhat, Hilary Benn may remain – and that's about it. In theory, impressive untested people could rise through the ranks, but given the chaos of many Tory selections, and Labour HQ's systematic eradication of all personality from their lists, this seems a remote possibility. It's highly conceivable that the two great speakers of the next Commons will be Farage and George Galloway; both mavericks, both operating outside the mainstream.

Some will say that politicians have always been full of meaningless hot air, but a cursory look at even the immediate past shows it really has been a rapid and recent decline. Consider Michael Foot's masterful lampooning of Margaret Thatcher and David Steel before the no-confidence vote in 1979, or Tony Benn's speech against the bombing of Iraq in 1998. Whatever your politics, these were substantial people with rich hinterlands. Watching old interviews is similarly jarring; politicians of past eras speak in fully formed sentences and choose their words carefully.

Today, however, debate quickly reverts to the trivial and personal. Perhaps the Commons's worst offender here is Jess Phillips, who rarely answers a policy question without somehow bringing it back to her favourite topic (Jess Phillips). While old copies of Hansard are replete with references to poetry, history and the classics, just about the one thing reliably invoked by many politicians today is football. Is this their only cultural reference point? Is it to avoid accusations of elitism, or simply because everything they say has been sifted through several "focus groups" for maximum "cut-through"? All options are equally depressing.

The decline of parliamentary debate also mirrors a shift towards a more remote politics in which decisions are increasingly made extra-democratically, through arm's-length bodies and expert committees. The Conservatives' latest bright idea was to hand over decision-making power on net migration to a quango. Labour plans to set up even more of them. When asked whether he preferred Davos or Westminster, naturally Starmer chose Davos.

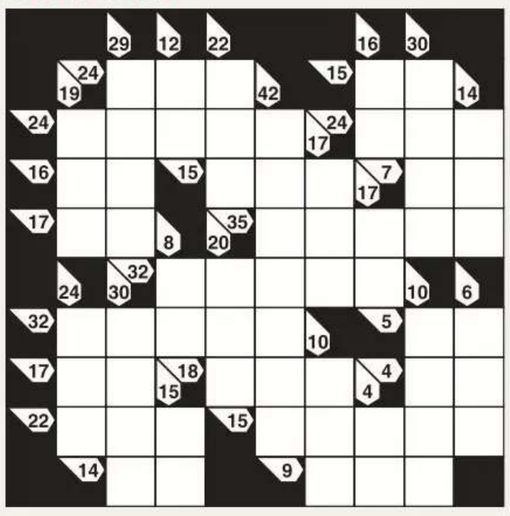
Barring a massive surprise, the result of the election seems clear. It will doubtless be claimed as a great victory for the sensibles. But a Commons full of uninspiring yes-men is a recipe for alienation, which may give more power to demagogues than ever before.

Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

KAKURO

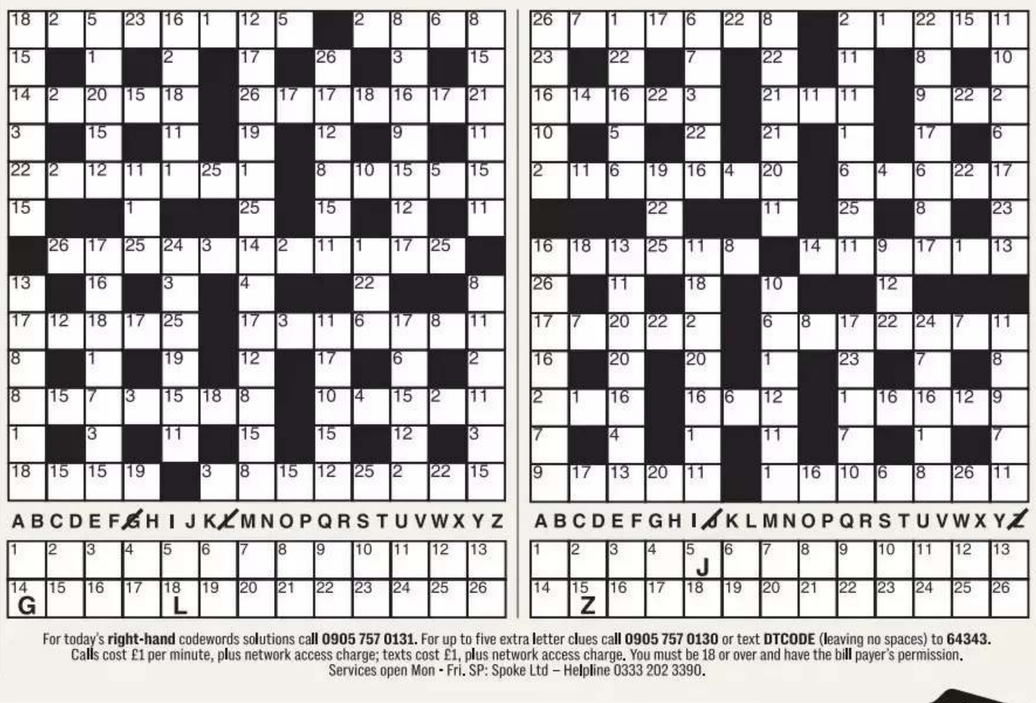
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution tomorrow.*

MODERATE NO 5042



CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*

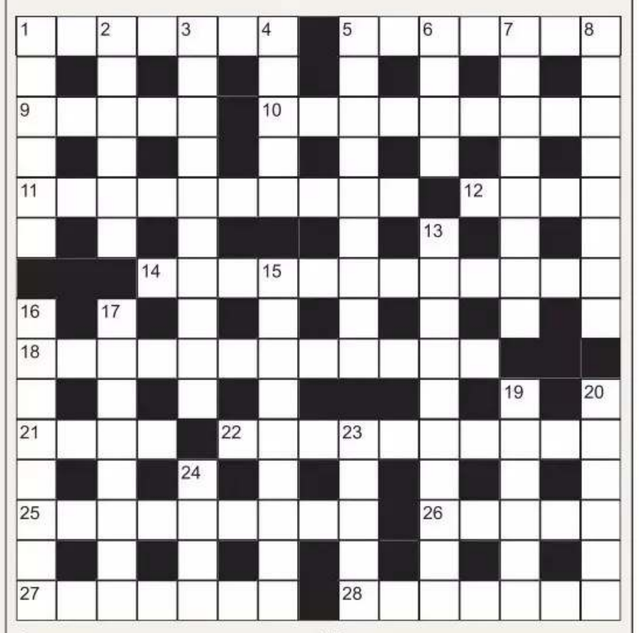


For today's **right-hand** codewords solutions call **0905 757 0131.** For up to five extra letter clues call **0905 757 0130** or text **DTCODE** (leaving no spaces) to **64343.** Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Notes

TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

NO 3282
DHARMA



Across

1 Clearly public divided by bishop getting attached to repellent fellow (2,5)
5 Perhaps ginger daughter seen cuddling student will get married (7)
9 Prominent leader of union interrupting small strike? (5)
10 City's hot food attracting call for extra (9)
11 The setter's left a new clue lacking in body and gravity (10)
12 Scrap iron used only at the edges (4)
14 Reportedly soaring mishandling of tin-openers is risk to health (12)
18 Agreement to ignore unlimited bans involved danger for London area (6,6)
21 Giant howler at Anfield? Reds' second half written off (4)
22 According to commentators, deliberately lost fight, nullifying bookie's tip completely (10)
25 Guardiola essentially having big impact after relative sporting success (5,4)
26 Naked adulterers possibly getting intimate (5)
27 Has an aversion to some in France sheltering tax (7)
28 Expensive protein product picked up for main course (7)

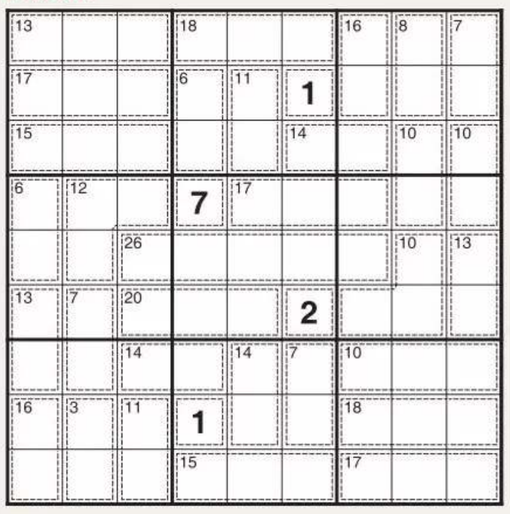
Down

1 Wipe pot on the counter at home, grabbing Kleenex to begin with (6)
2 Hanging very poor designer clothes up (6)
3 Root, close to victory carried by inferior player? (10)
4 Best part coming up – showing some leg! (5)
5 "Cool it, Sir!" blasted highly paid counsellor (9)
6 Check after voiding punter's first bet (4)
7 Street noise should be restricted (6,2)
8 Not looking forward to Democrat coming under scrutiny? Quite the opposite (8)
13 Chic performing live gig around November, it's alluring (10)
15 They delicately cover, say, outbreak of general strikes (9)
16 Work by rogue brought up unforeseen event (3,2,3)
17 Lead-free roof on shed could be grey (8)
19 Pro tasted success when making a comeback temporarily (3,3)
20 Powerful runner finally reigned in by Cram (6)
23 Go round park if you want to do this (5)
24 Conservative abandons principles to produce works of art (4)

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. *Solution tomorrow.*

MODERATE



SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3 x 3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. *Solutions tomorrow.*

REGULAR NO 6612

5	1				9		4	3
						8		
					6	9		
8	3		5					
		7	2		1	5		
					3		7	4
		2	3		4			
		8						
3	7		9				5	6

TOUGH NO 6612

7							5	
			9	3				
3		6		5		7		9
	7				4			
5						1	3	2
			3				9	
2		9		8				5
				7	1			
	5							1

Sudoku Solution For today's tough sudoku solution call **0905 757 0136.** Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon – Fri. SP: Spoke – 0333 202 3390.

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution tomorrow.*



Up to 8 words - Word Finder, 9 - Wordsmith, 18 - Word Wizard, 27 - Word Master, 36 - Word Genius, 46 - Word Perfect

Toughie No 3281



Help with clues
Single clues 0905 757 0126.
All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127.
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ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spell out the name of an invertebrate. *Solution tomorrow.*

LEARN ABC – – – – – – – –
ACHY FIRS – – – – – – – –
PEN DECEIT – – – – – – – – –

MIND GYM

NO 4338

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. *Solution below.*

BEGINNER										ANSWER
56	4/7 OF THIS	x2.25	÷12	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	-56	3/4 OF THIS	+35	HALVE IT	

INTERMEDIATE										ANSWER
9	x7	TRIPLE IT	-46	÷13	X BY ITSELF	x5	-269	HALVE IT	11/14 OF THIS	

ADVANCED										ANSWER
378	÷3	6/7 OF THIS	x5.75	-349	HALVE IT	÷8	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	-585	

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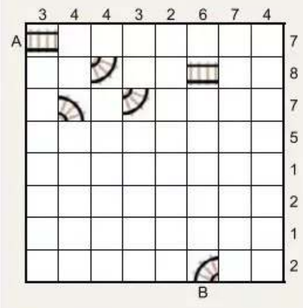
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TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*



MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

MODERATE NO 4105

				3	
			5		6
		2			5
4			3		
3		6			
2					

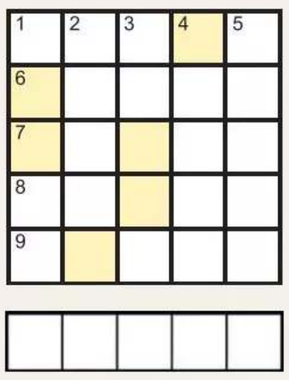
PLUSWORD

NO 745

Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword.
There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing.
Solution tomorrow.

Across
1 Game, normally with balls
6 Farewell!
7 Ceremonies
8 Like the Vikings?
9 Girder material

Down
1 Farm buildings
2 ___box, television
3 Saltpetre
4 Birds that honk
5 Old name for a blackbird; louse (anag.)



Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

FLAT
WORM

KEEP, WINE, SHAPE,
DEED, COCKY, COMPOST

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THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6611

5	3	7	6	1	8	4	9	2
9	8	1	5	2	4	7	6	3
6	4	2	3	7	9	5	1	8
7	6	9	4	8	2	1	3	5
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1	8	2	9	5	3	7	6	4
3	7	4	6	2	1	9	8	5
2	3	9	1	4	6	5	7	8
4	1	7	8	3	5	6	2	9
5	6	8	7	9	2	4	3	1

Word Ladder: Your, tour, tout, taut, tart, mart, mark.

Anagrams: 1. Barcelona 2. Strasbourg 3. Montpellier.

Panagram: Animality, matinal, intimal, manila, mainly, layman, lamina, intima, animal, tamal, minty, matin, manta, manly, mania, manat, malty, limit, lamia, atman, anima, amity, myna, mity, mint, mini, mina, milt, maya, many, mana, malt, main, mail, limy, lima, lama, amyl, alma.

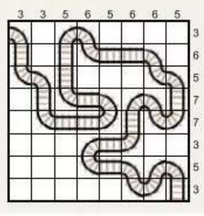
Today's Mind Gym
Beginner: 37 **Intermediate:** 132 **Advanced:** 282

PlusWord No 744

C	R	E	P	E
L	E	V	E	R
O	P	E	R	A
D	O	R	I	S
S	T	Y	L	E

Valid

Train Tracks



Killer Sudoku

6	4	9	2	3	5	7	1	8
5	2	7	1	8	4	3	6	9
8	3	1	6	9	7	2	4	5
4	1	5	8	7	3	6	9	2
9	7	6	4	2	1	8	5	3
2	8	3	9	5	6	4	7	1
7	9	8	5	4	2	1	3	6
1	5	4	3	6	8	9	2	7
3	6	2	7	1	9	5	8	4

Mini Sudoku No 4104

6	1	5	2	3	4
4	2	3	6	1	5
1	6	2	4	5	3
3	5	4	1	2	6
5	4	1	3	6	2
2	3	6	5	4	1

Codewords 1 and 2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
L	J	M	C	D	P	K	U	W	X	T	H	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
B	Z	R	G	F	Q	V	O	Y	A	S	E	I

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	M	C	N	W	Z	U	K	A	L	P	D	X
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	O	Q	B	I	Y	S	E	J	H	G	V	F

Kakuro No 5041

	2	8		7	8		9	6
	1	7	8	9	6		3	1
		9	7			5	8	7
			9	5	7	8		9
	7	9		3	9	7		2
	9	6		1	6	9	5	
	5	7	8	9			6	1
	8	4	9		7	5	9	3
		1	2		8	7		6

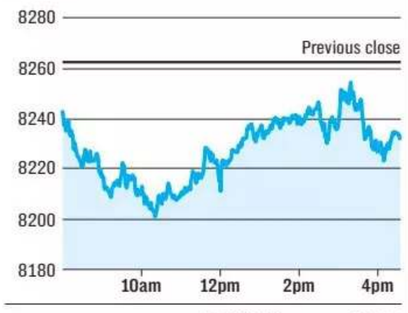
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Business



MARKETS

FTSE 100



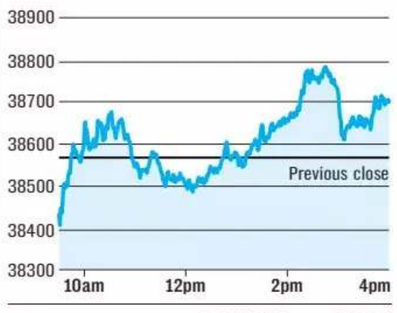
8232.04
-30.71 (-0.37pc)

52WkHigh	8474.41	
52WkLow	7215.76	
Yield	3.68pc	+0.01
P/E Ratio	13.67	-0.05

BIGGEST RISER
Natl Grid
911¾p
+25¾ (+2.91pc)

BIGGEST FALLER
Fresnillo
568½p
-48 (-7.79pc)

DOW JONES



38711.29
+140.26 (+0.36pc)

52WkHigh	40077.40	
52WkLow	32327.20	

FTSE 250	20717.99	-182.50 (-0.87pc)
FTSE All Share	4496.88	-20.15 (-0.45pc)
FTSE All Share Yield	3.63	+0.02
FTSE Eurotop 100	4069.89	-16.85 (-0.41pc)
Nikkei 225	38837.46	-85.57 (-0.22pc)
EURO STOXX 50	4953.37	-50.17 (-1.00pc)
S&P 500	5291.34	+7.94 (+0.15pc)
Nasdaq	16857.05	+28.38 (+0.17pc)

CURRENCIES

£$
Rate 1.2780
Change +0.07¢

£€
Rate 1.1746
Change -0.05¢

Page 24

COMMODITIES

GOLD
$2326.62
(£1821)
-22.58 (-0.96pc)

BRENT CRUDE
$77.52
(August)
-0.84 (-1.07pc)

Page 24

Dark legacy
Why Standard Chartered got involved with Iran – and how George Osborne intervened to

Page 21

Stateside slowdown
The great American boom is finally running out of steam, leaving mountains of debt
Ambrose Evans-Pritchard

Page 23

IFS warns Labour over borrowing to meet net zero

Plans will make it harder to cut burgeoning debt pile as next government faces potential budget shortfall

By **Szu Ping Chan**

LABOUR has been warned that its plans to borrow billions of pounds to fund net zero will make it harder to cut Britain's sky-high debt pile, amid a separate caution that whichever party wins power may face a huge budget black hole.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said that Labour's plans to invest £23.7bn over five years in areas such as clean energy would hinder aims to reduce the country's debt.

It said in a briefing note: "Whatever the intrinsic merits of borrowing to invest for these or other worthy purposes, borrowing for Labour's Green Prosperity Plan will make the debt rule harder to meet."

Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, has watered down Labour's £28bn-a-year green prosperity pledge, blaming rising interest rates and the economic "damage" done by the Tories for the about-turn.

Just under half of the £23.7bn that Labour said it would invest will be funded by a windfall tax on oil and gas giants. The remainder would be borrowed. Calculations by the IFS suggest Labour's plan will mean debt rises from just under 92pc of gross domestic product (GDP) this year to 93.6pc by 2028, before only barely falling in the final year.

The think tank said Labour's net zero drive would lift growth and tax revenues, but not in a way that meaningfully pushed down debt as a share of the economy. More borrowing would result in higher debt interest costs.

While Ms Reeves has pledged to abide by "iron-clad" fiscal rules, IFS analysis suggests there is a high chance she could miss her primary target to reduce debt within five years, which she adopted from the Tories.

Looser annual borrowing rules would allow Labour to increase the deficit to invest in the economy. However, the IFS said its forecasts suggested whoever was the chancellor would need to be "fortunate" to get debt falling by 2030, which Labour and the Conservatives have committed to.

In a withering assessment, economists said neither Labour nor the Tories appeared "serious about the underlying principle of getting debt falling".

Isabel Stockton, senior research economist at the IFS, said the debt rule had enabled Mr Hunt to ramp up spending for three years provided he exercised fiscal restraint over the following two years.

She said: "It is eminently gameable – and has already been gamed almost to irrelevance by the current government.

"It is the loosest debt rule we have had in the past 30 years – and yet it is currently so constraining that it will either be breached, or will result in policies in practice quite different to those currently being peddled.

"This has led to both parties avoiding the reality that they are effectively signed up to sharp spending cuts, while arguing over smaller changes to taxes and spending."

It came as the Resolution Foundation warned that the next government faced a potential £12bn black hole in the public finances if the Bank of England keeps interest rates higher for longer or growth disappoints.

It warned that likely £10bn compensation for victims of the infected-blood scandal and around £4bn of extra spending on policies aimed at curbing immigration would pile pressure on the public finances over the next few years.

If an adverse scenario arose in which these costs arise and growth disappoints, the think tank warned that the Treasury's £8.9bn buffer could swing to a £12bn shortfall.

Mr Hunt has £8.9bn of headroom to meet his goal of reducing debt within five years. However, the Resolution Foundation said "significant uncertainty" about the economic outlook could easily erode this slim breathing space. Delays to interest rate cuts imply that "borrowing would be just over £2bn a year higher on average between 2024-25 and 2026-27", it said.

James Smith, research director at the Resolution Foundation, said the potential £12bn fiscal hole could rise to more than £33bn "if today's uncertainties turn into bad news after the election. And if the next government wants to avoid a fresh round of austerity."



Making a mark Jensen Huang, the Nvidia chief executive, signs a woman's chest during Computex 2024 in Taipei. The world's most valuable chipmaker said it plans to roll out its next generation of AI processors in two years.

Stellantis and Mercedes pause factory plans as EV sales dip

By **Adam Mawardi** *and* **Matt Oliver**

FIAT-OWNER Stellantis and Mercedes-Benz have paused plans to build gigafactories in the EU amid slowing electric vehicle sales and rising costs.

Automotive Cells Company (ACC), a joint venture between the carmakers, has stopped construction on battery plants in Germany and Italy.

ACC, which is also owned by France's Total Energies, had planned to develop three electric car battery gigafactories across Europe amid pressure from the bloc to end reliance on Asian rivals.

Yet Chinese electric car sales in Europe are "screeching to a halt" amid the growing threat of a trade war between Beijing and Brussels, experts warn.

Asked if ACC still supports the gigafactory plans, Carlos Tavares, the Stellantis chief executive, said: "We are going to adjust our investment plans on EVs to the pace at which market sales of EVs grow. We do not control that speed."

ACC's €7bn (£6bn) gigafactory plan involved constructing sites in Kaiserslautern, south-west Germany; Termoli, on Italy's southern Adriatic coast; and a location in France.

It planned to employ 2,000 people at each site, bringing the company's total headcount to 8,000 people. ACC has now reportedly decided to review its strategy for the Kaiserslautern site, which was supposed to become operational next year and reach full capacity in 2030.

Yann Vincent, the chief executive of ACC, said one of the proposals includes making cheaper lithium-iron-phosphate battery cells.

The Kaiserslautern factory will be ACC's second gigafactory after opening its first in France's so-called "battery valley" in the Billy-Berclau Douvrin region last year. ACC will revisit plans for its Termoli gigafactory in late 2024 or early 2025, as reported by German newspaper *Rheinpfalz*.

Meanwhile, new data show that only 116,100 new Chinese-branded cars were registered across Western Europe in the first four months of 2024, accounting for just 2.9pc of the new vehicle market.

This was down slightly from their 3pc share during the same period a year earlier, according to analysis by consultancy firm Schmidt Automotive.

Founder Matthias Schmidt said that Chinese brands appeared to have "hit the buffers". Although they sell large numbers of hybrids at home, they are largely focused on selling EVs in the UK and Europe.

Brussels is investigating claims that China's EV industry receives colossal state subsidies. Beijing has accused the EU of "protectionism" and threatened to retaliate if it imposes trade tariffs.

Thousands of UK rental homes to be taken on by US private equity

By **Melissa Lawford**

US PRIVATE equity giant Blackstone has agreed to acquire a raft of new homes across the UK as it looks to cash in on soaring rents.

Up to 1,750 homes have been snapped up by Blackstone after it struck a £580m deal with developer Vistry.

The agreement marks Blackstone's second with Vistry in less than a year, as it pushes further into Britain's rental sector. So far it has agreed to spend £1.4bn on more than 4,500 homes across the UK, supported by its investment partner Regis.

It is the latest sign that Britain's rental sector is attracting greater levels of investment from private equity groups and pension funds. The likes of Aviva Investors, Legal & General and Axa have all piled cash into the build-to-rent sector, building rental properties to be managed long-term by institutional funds rather than buy-to-let landlords.

They are looking to capitalise on the extreme imbalance between supply and demand across Britain's rental sector, which has been fuelled by private landlords selling up just as high levels of immigration push up demand.

National rent growth peaked at a record 9.2pc in March, before cooling to 8.9pc in April, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). However, price rises have been even more extreme in London, with rents climbing by 10.8pc year on year in April.

Previously, investment in the build-to-rent sector was concentrated heavily on city flats that were let out primarily to graduates or white-collar workers.

However, funds are focusing increasingly on rental homes in suburban locations, targeting families unable to buy.

Blackstone's deal with Vistry is for a portfolio of homes concentrated in the South East. It will be managed by Leaf Living, set up by Blackstone in 2021 to manage single-family homes to rent.

James Seppala, head of European Real Estate at Blackstone, said: "Institutional private capital can play an important role in providing high-quality housing stock across the UK, particularly in the private rented sector, which is significantly undersupplied today.

"Partnerships such as these can meaningfully accelerate the delivery of new homes and help alleviate structural undersupply across the sector."

The first homes will be completed this month, with the majority finished in two years. Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager, handles more than $1trillion (£782bn) in assets. Single-family homes are the fastest-growing part of Britain's build-to-rent sector in terms of investment.

While investment in build-to-rent flats roughly halved from 2021 to 2023, shrinking from £4.6bn to £2.6bn, investment in single-family homes nearly doubled from £1.1bn to £2bn, according to analysis by JLL property consultants. In the first three months of this year, single-family homes accounted for the largest share of investment in the build-to-rent sector.

Investors piled £620m into build-to-rent family homes, £170m more than they spent on build-to-rent flats. The single-family build-to-rent sector is expanding at a time when overall house building has slumped, as high mortgage rates squeeze demand.

In the last three months of 2023, the number of starts on new homes slumped by 51pc year on year to 19,080, government data show.

Greg Fitzgerald, Vistry chief executive, said: "By working in partnership with organisations like Leaf Living we can maximise the number of high-quality homes we deliver every year.

"This year we are on track to deliver more than a 10pc rise in new homes, playing a key part in helping to address the UK's acute housing shortage."

9.2pc
National rent growth peaked at a record in March before cooling to 8.9pc in April, when London rents climbed by 10.8pc

AI to help Asda bosses make decisions

By **Hannah Boland**

THE billionaire Issa brothers have turned to AI to improve boardroom decision-making at Asda, as they address a sales slump at the struggling supermarket chain.

The retail giant has tasked London start-up Harley with developing technology to help its executives make "quicker and more informed decisions". Bosses will be able to use AI to ask questions at boardroom meetings, such as how the weather affects sales at specific stores.

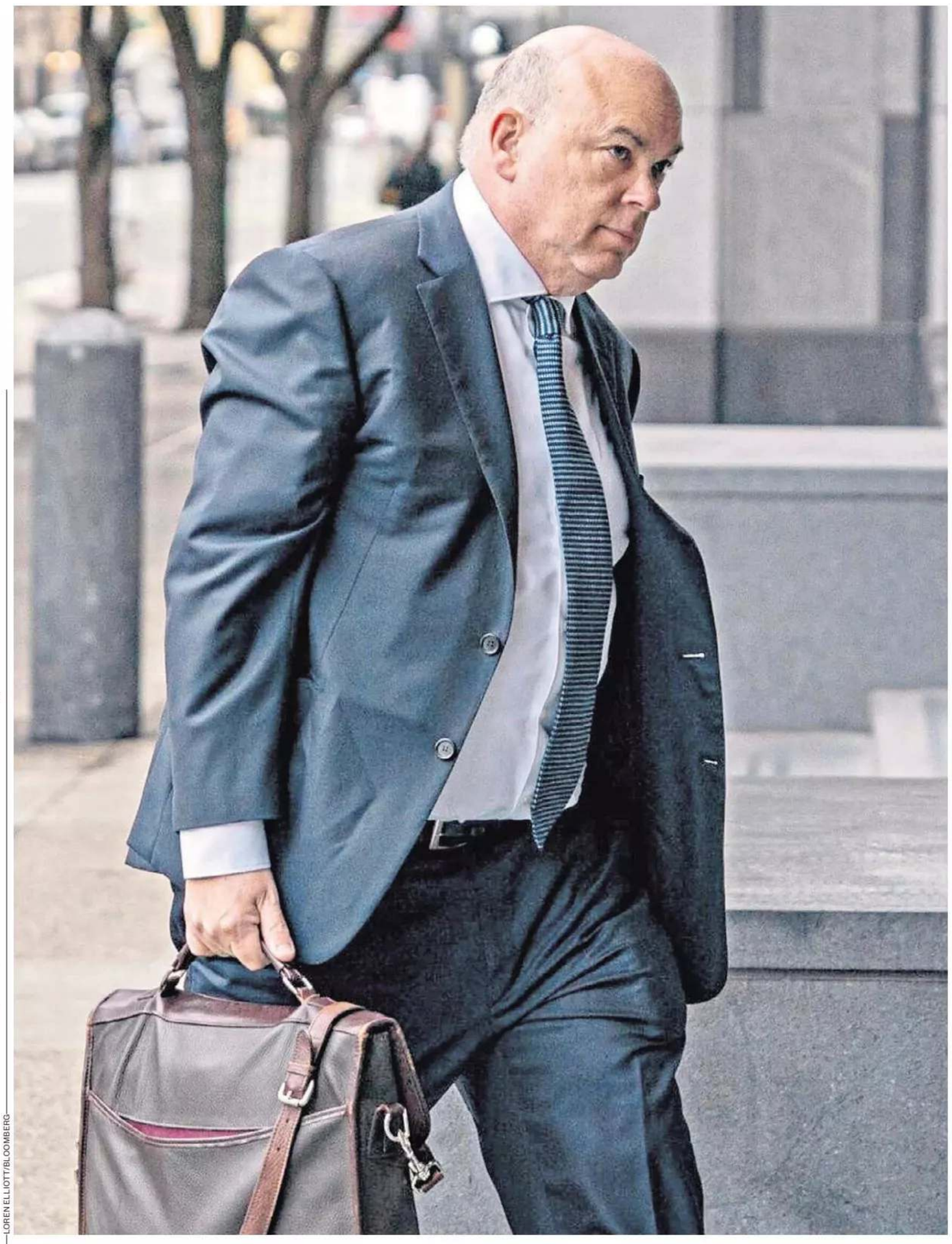
Harley said it had fed in data on availability across Asda's stores, so its AI system could also map what happened to sales if stocks of certain items ran low. Hayley said yesterday its AI would initially focus on supporting "executive decisions in high-pressure environments, like board meetings". Alex Banks, the start-up's chief executive, said "generative AI" tools would give Asda an advantage over its rivals as it pushes through changes to boost its dwindling market share.

Figures from NIQ, an industry group, last week revealed Asda's sales fell 2.7pc in the 12 weeks to May 18, compared with a year earlier. It was the only grocer to record a drop in sales. Its market share slipped to 12.4pc, from 13.3pc.



Mike Lynch stares into the abyss as jury decides fate of 'Britain's Bill Gates'

Autonomy founder wanted to give evidence at trial as he was 'dying to tell his story', reports *James Titcomb*


LOREN ELLIOTT/BLOOMBERG

Mike Lynch, British tech company Autonomy's co-founder, could be jailed for 25 years in the US if he is found guilty of false accounting

Alleged fraudsters do not usually give evidence at their own criminal trials. Just ask Donald Trump.

"The theory is, you never testify," the former president said last week after he was declared guilty in a New York courtroom, complaining that he had not had a fair hearing. "As soon as you testify ... they'll get you on something that you said slightly wrong."

If Mike Lynch's lawyers gave him similar advice, he did not listen to it. The British technology tycoon sat on the witness stand for four days in the closing sessions of his 12-week trial in San Francisco, as part of a case prosecutors called the largest fraud in Silicon Valley history.

Lynch, 58, is accused of masterminding a false accounting operation before his software company Autonomy was sold for $11.7bn (£9.2bn) to Hewlett Packard in 2011.

During the trial, which was expected to wrap up yesterday lunchtime in the US, Lynch was accused of a "multi-year, multi-layered fraud" that inflated the former FTSE 100 software company's revenues through illegal accounting methods.

If found guilty, a man once dubbed "Britain's Bill Gates" faces up to 25 years in a US prison. Lynch and Stephen Chamberlain, the former Autonomy finance director who has also been charged, have pleaded not guilty. But while Chamberlain declined to take the stand, Lynch was always expected to testify. It was a bold gambit, not least because Lynch suffers from hearing difficulties that mean he often resorts to reading lips.

Many defendants wilt under intense cross-examination from prosecutors. But Lynch, who has spent more than a decade fighting fraud claims, has never been a shrinking violet.

"Mike was dying to tell his story to you," Brian Heberlig, Lynch's lawyer, told jurors during closing arguments on Monday.

For two months, Lynch had sat in the San Francisco courtroom, usually with his wife Angela while his two daughters sat university and A-Level exams in England. He watched on as US government lawyers laid out their case calling a string of witnesses, including former Autonomy executives, City analysts and customers, most of whom Lynch says he did not recognise.

"It's surreal," Lynch said when asked by his lawyer, Chris Morvillo, what his reaction to the trial had been.

"I've heard comments from people that just don't paint the picture of the company that I and my colleagues and friends worked at for 15 years.

"I've sat and watched a parade of witnesses that I've never met and some that I may have just shaken their hand, and I've heard about a series of transactions I have no involvement in."

In closing arguments on Monday, US lawyers said Lynch was "at the top" of a fraud conspiracy in which Autonomy concealed less profitable hardware sales and engaged in "round-trip" deals in which it paid its own customers.

"He [Lynch] was in control, he domineered over Autonomy," assistant US attorney Robert Leach told jurors.

He cited Joel Scott, Autonomy's general counsel, who testified that Lynch had boasted of running Autonomy like the mob, saying: "We're like the mafia, you can't leave."

Other witnesses included Autonomy's former US finance chief, Brent Hogenson, who was paid a $750,000 settlement on being fired days after alerting regulators to alleged accounting improprieties (Lynch's lawyers said they had shown Hogenson to be dishonest and incompetent).

The defence sought to refute allegations that Autonomy was cooking the books but also presented Lynch as an engineer who spent little time on accounting matters.

"My role was always the vision of the technology and where that would lead," Lynch told the court. "I'm not an accountant. I don't get involved in accounting decisions, and I'm not a salesperson ... I can write pretty good code, even now, but I can't sell for toffee."

Lynch's evidence went into great detail on his back story and personal life. He said his teenage summer job cleaning hospitals had made him a "demon mopper" and waxed lyrical about the rare pigs and cows he keeps on his Suffolk farm, saying: "The medieval breeds of pigs are really robust."

The level of detail earned a modest rebuke from District Judge Charles Breyer, overseeing the trial, who said the court had heard "enough farm stories".

Lynch acknowledged that Autonomy had not been perfect, saying that certain evidence presented during the trial was "extremely disappointing to hear" but that he was not aware of it at the time. "The reality of life is that it is nuanced and it is messy, and sometimes you do your best to get through it, and companies are just like that," he said.

It's 'messy'
Lynch on the 'reality of life'

Mike Lynch: "The reality of life is that it is nuanced and it is messy, and sometimes you do your best to get through it, and companies are just like that"

Assistant US attorney Adam Reeves: "He was a dominating, controlling, intimidating boss. For many years he ran Autonomy with an iron fist"

Defence lawyer Brian Heberlig: "The prosecutor didn't lay a glove on Mike. If this was a prize fight, they would have called it by noontime last Wednesday"

Former executive Brent Hogenson: "The questions I raised... were so wrong that I couldn't ... squeeze them into a grey area. They were black-and-white wrong"

District Judge Charles Breyer, after hiring a trainer to help jurors relax during the trial: "I think that we all might benefit from a little exercise. It's totally voluntary"

He instead claimed HP had experienced buyer's remorse after agreeing to acquire Autonomy.

Leo Apotheker, the HP chief executive who pushed through the takeover, was sacked before the deal was completed, after which the US company changed strategy.

Lynch told the court that he had sat outside HP's boardroom as Apotheker was being removed, ready to talk through the deal with directors, only to be sent home. "[There was] total chaos and paralysis for weeks," he said.

Last week, the defence secured a small victory, when one of the 16 charges levelled at Lynch was dropped, and his lawyers appeared pleased with the tycoon's decision to testify.

"The prosecutor didn't lay a glove on Mike, if this was a prize fight, they would have called it by noontime last Wednesday," Heberlig said. "The government has fallen woefully short of its burden [of proof]."

Whether a jury agrees will be another matter. A verdict is expected in the next few days. Sushovan Hussain, Autonomy's chief financial officer, has already served a prison sentence over the sale. Prosecutors said there was "no reasonable doubt that there was a fraud at Autonomy", with both Lynch and Chamberlain involved – pointing out that the former made £500m from the sale.

"Dr Lynch had 500 million reasons to defraud HP. It tells you volumes about who was in charge and who benefited from this," Leach, the prosecutor, said.

Whatever the decision, Lynch wished to put his side of the story on the record.

During the trial, Autonomy's founder said the company would go down as one of the most examined businesses ever. All he can do now is wait to see how the story ends.

Shipping giant Maersk predicts Red Sea disruption at Christmas

By **Melissa Lawford** *and* **Chris Price**

MAERSK has warned that Iran-backed rebel attacks in the Red Sea could hit global shipping routes until the end of the year, disrupting Christmas trade.

The Danish container operator said it expected to earn an extra $3bn (£2.4bn) than previously expected as the Red Sea crisis will bring more port congestion and higher freight charges this year. Vincent Clerc, the chief executive, warned that companies are already shipping goods early for the Christmas season, and the race to avoid delays could bring further bottlenecks.

He told the *Financial Times*: "At this stage the thing that can really make things worse for the global supply chain is this rush for the door where everybody starts to order more than they need. You get this bullwhip effect."

He added: "As things are today, we're of the opinion [that the disruption is] likely to last the year out." In its second upgrade to its forecasts in little over a month, Maersk said it now expected its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (Ebitda) to be $7bn (£5m) to $9bn this year, up from $4bn to $6bn.

In a trading update yesterday it said strong demand for container shipping and Red Sea disruptions was causing further port congestion, particularly in Asia and the Middle East, and additional

'What can make things worse for the global supply chain is this rush for the door – a bullwhip effect'

increases in freight rates. Maersk said: "This development is gradually building up and is expected to contribute to a stronger financial performance in the second half of 2024."

Shipping costs between the Far East and Europe have roughly tripled in the past year, says freight analyst Xeneta.

Houthi rebels have been attacking container ships transiting through the Red Sea to the Suez Canal since November in response to Israel's war in Gaza.

The attacks have pushed Western shipping giants such as Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd to reroute goods travelling between Europe and Asia around the Cape of Good Hope, adding weeks to journey times, removing capacity from the global fleet and driving up costs.

Before the Houthi attacks began last year, Maersk had been grappling with falling demand and lower freight rates.

By last November, it had cut 10,000 members of staff across the year after its profits had slumped by 92pc.

In the first three months of this year, its profits before tax totalled $328m, down by 87pc compared with the start of 2023.

Bigger-than-expected rise in German unemployment

By **Chris Price**

GERMAN unemployment has risen by more than expected in a blow to hopes that it is recovering from a downturn.

There were another 25,000 people out of work in May, data from the Federal Employment Agency (BA) show, which was well ahead of Bloomberg expectations of a gain of 7,000. The unemployment rate held at 5.9pc.

The BA's head Andrea Nahles said: "The spring recovery hasn't really taken off this year."

There were 702,000 job openings in Germany in May, 65,000 fewer than a year ago.

According to a labour office analysis, the number of professions with a pronounced shortage of skilled workers has fallen slightly, to 183 affected occupations from 200.

The shortage has eased for skilled labour in structural engineering and facade construction, as well as engineers in aerospace technology, the office said.

However, this is not indicative of a long-term trend, according to Ms Nahles.

She said: "Due to demographic developments, many well-qualified and experienced skilled workers will continue to leave the labour market in the coming years." Germany is recovering from an economic contraction at the end of 2023. The Munich-based Ifo Institute said in March that Germany will be the worst-performing rich economy in the world for the second year in a row as Chancellor Olaf Scholz battles a property downturn and uncertainty over net zero targets.

Its economic recovery hit the buffers last month as business confidence stopped growing. The Ifo Business Climate Index held steady in May, ending a three-month run of rises that had boosted expectations of a solid economic recovery.

Germany's Dax stock market fell as much as 1.3pc yesterday amid concerns that the US economy is also not as strong as thought.

In a separate development, the European Central Bank is expected to soon push several German banks to build up higher reserves to protect themselves against property defaults, according to Bloomberg News.

German banks with large real estate portfolios have seen their profitability hit as they increased their reserves in case of loan losses amid a housing downturn, where falling property prices have forced developers to cancel projects. Eleven of Germany's biggest banks set aside €2.5bn (£2.1bn) last year to offset loan defaults on commercial real estate.

Tesco's new Amazon rival to sell furniture and baggage

By **Hannah Boland**

TESCO has rolled out a digital "marketplace" to sell products ranging from office furniture to giant chess sets, as the supermarket giant seeks to challenge Amazon.

Around 9,000 new products have been added to its website, as Tesco tries to attract shoppers with third-party items, such as Hornby jigsaws and Beko air fryers.

Tesco said it was seeking to become a "one-stop shop for everything customers need".

Peter Filcek, the retailer's marketplace director, said it wanted to give customers more choice. He said: "We're constantly looking at ways to improve the shopping experience for our customers, and our new marketplace offers them the same great quality and value they have come to expect from Tesco across an even bigger range of products, from our specially selected partners." The range would be expanded in the coming months, he added.

The products appear alongside Tesco groceries on the website but orders will be fulfilled by third-party suppliers.

The move to expand its range comes amid a push among supermarkets to draw in more shoppers online. Sainsbury's recently set up hubs to sell third-party fashion brands. M&S, meanwhile, has also been focusing on growing sales of other high-street brands. Its executives are understood to be targeting as much as £1bn in revenues from third-party lines in coming years.

Morrisons also trialled the launch of more general merchandise in its stores earlier this year, selling low-priced luggage and jewellery.

It was viewed as an attempt to emulate the success Aldi and Lidl have had with their "middle aisles" that feature limited edition general merchandise.

9,000

New products added to Tesco's website as it challenges the digital dominance of Amazon

Tesco's renewed push into consumer goods comes years after it retreated from its attempt to launch a digital marketplace. The Tesco Direct website was launched in 2012 but ceased trading six years later.

Analysts have suggested the latest move by Tesco comes in response to Amazon's attempt to steal shoppers from traditional British supermarkets with the launch of its Amazon Fresh stores.

MailOnline chief warns AI tie-ups cannot save industry

By **Matthew Field**

THE BOSS of MailOnline has warned that newsroom tie-ups with artificial intelligence (AI) companies "will not be enough to save the industry", as he raised concerns over tech giants stealing website traffic.

Rich Caccappolo, chief executive of Lord Rothermere's DMG Media, told a gathering of media industry executives in London that the rise of AI-powered internet search could be "devastating" for some publications. It comes after the likes of *Business Insider*, the *Financial Times* and *The Atlantic* all recently inked licensing deals with OpenAI, the developer of ChatGPT.

Publications are exploring partnerships with tech companies amid concerns that readers could seek out AI-generated summaries of stories rather than news published by independent media outlets.

This is against the backdrop of some publishers criticising AI companies for scraping newspaper content to train their technology. The debate has led to *The New York Times* suing OpenAI for copyright infringement in the US. It has described the case as "without merit".

Mr Caccappolo, who was appointed chief executive of DMG Media in 2021, told a conference hosted by Deloitte and Enders Analysis that the rise of "generative AI answering questions in search" would result in the "taking of traffic" from news publications.

Appearing on a panel alongside Anna Jones, *The Telegraph*'s chief executive, as well as senior executives from *The Sun* and ITN, he said: "That is going to be devastating for some publishers who are very dependent on search."

As for licensing deals, he said: "I fear whatever payment that comes about is not going to be enough to save the industry or many of the participants."

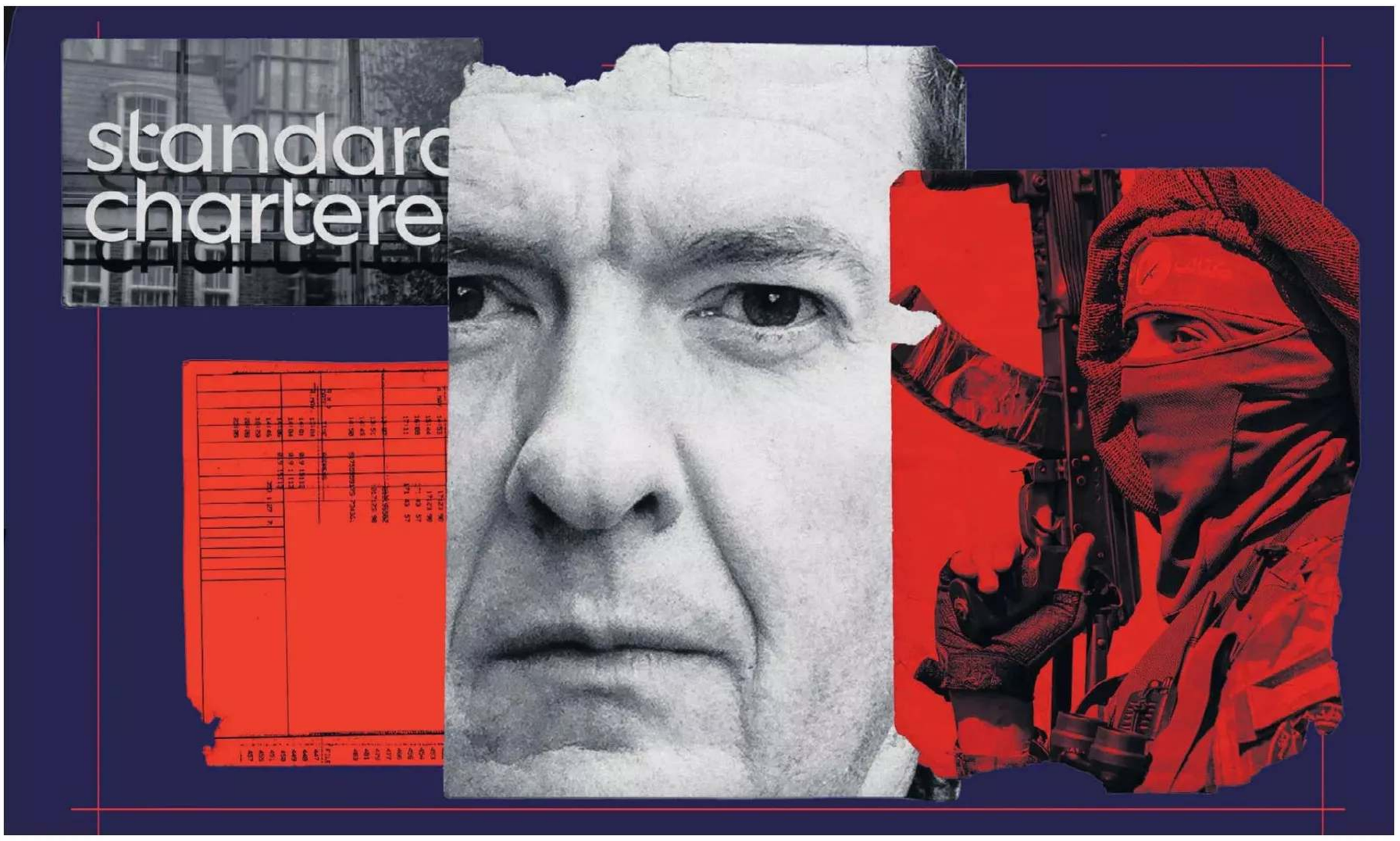
DMG Media, which owns MailOnline, the *Daily Mail* and *The Mail on Sunday*, has been investing in MailPlus, a paid-for product aimed at boosting subscribers. Other newspaper groups, including *The Telegraph*, have in recent years shifted towards an online paywall model to survive declining print and advertising revenues.

Mr Caccappolo said MailOnline was less reliant on Google search than some of its rivals, claiming that readers often come directly to its website or app: "If you don't have direct traffic you are in real trouble."

Anna Bateson, the chief executive of the Guardian Media Group, said she was open to a licensing agreement with OpenAI but only on the right terms. She said: "The technology businesses do seem to believe they are exceptional and that they don't have to pay."

Osborne support in question after Hamas claims

New court filing raises doubts about former chancellor's backing of Standard Chartered, writes *Michael Bow*



When George Osborne travelled to New York to meet then Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke in 2012, he had one topic on his mind: Standard Chartered.

A growing scandal was engulfing the British bank, which was founded with a Royal Charter in 1858. The lender was facing a ballooning US legal crisis over alleged sanction-busting in Iran.

The UK government was increasingly alarmed by a threat from New York banking regulator Benjamin Lawsky to withdraw Standard Chartered's US licence over the scandal, effectively shutting the bank out of the international payments system.

Osborne, the then chancellor, was dispatched to meet Bernanke and raise questions over the perceived "hostility" of New York regulators to London as a financial centre. He sought assurances that the treatment of British banks would be "fair".

Two months after Osborne's visit, in a sign that his diplomatic mission had worked, Standard Chartered escaped prosecution and kept its US licence.

The bank had already made an agreement with Lawsky to pay a $340m (£266m) civil penalty to settle the matter. The bank also agreed to forfeit $227m to the Department of Justice and signed a deferred prosecution deal, meaning it avoided criminal action.

The bank escaped prosecution after the bank "accepted responsibility for its criminal conduct and that of its employees", and took remedial action over the matter, a statement said at the time. However, more than a decade later, fresh questions are emerging over the UK government's judgment in helping Standard Chartered with its apparent get-out-of-jail-free card.

A new US court filing has alleged that Standard Chartered helped to facilitate payments to funders of Iranian-linked terrorist groups. A whistleblower in the US claimed the British banking giant carried out more than $100bn of transactions between 2008 and 2013 with Iranian-backed entities.

Julian Knight, a former Standard Chartered executive who wants the US government to bring a fresh case after it failed to prosecute the bank in 2012, claims that terrorist groups including Hamas, Hezbollah, the Taliban and al-Qaeda benefited from Standard Chartered's dealings with Iranian groups. Knight alleges that previously undisclosed transactions show the bank helped Iranian-linked terrorist groups on a larger scale than previously thought. "Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) transacted with Iranian entities and foreign terrorist organisations for years after it claimed to have stopped," the claim alleges.

"SCB facilitated many billions of dollars in banking transactions for Iran, numerous international terror groups, and the front companies for those groups." The bank has called the claims "fabricated", and pointed out that the whistleblowers have already tried to get the case heard in US courts but have consistently been rejected. However, the new allegations raise questions about Osborne and the UK government's judgment in the case.

> 'Those with a desire for a light-touch deregulatory agenda to boost the economy are playing with fire'

Andy Agathangelou, head of campaign group Transparency Taskforce, said the UK government and Osborne had questions to answer.

He said: "This is another example that shows those with a desire for a light-touch deregulatory agenda to boost the economy are playing with fire."

Osborne stands by his actions in 2012. A spokesman said: "The UK did not try to stop the US authorities investigating or prosecuting anyone for terrorist financing – but the public threat from a New York state regulator to remove the entire dollar licence from Standard Chartered sent the share price plummeting and threatened an imminent and disorderly bank failure, which would potentially require a Bank of England rescue and cost the UK taxpayer billions of pounds.

"Both at the Treasury and at the Bank of England we contacted our US counterparts on behalf of the UK that the Federal US authorities step in to bring the state-level regulator under control, which they did – and the crisis was averted. It was exactly what you would expect any competent government to do, and we did it successfully."

Standard Chartered, best known in the UK as the shirt sponsor of Liverpool FC, has now been dealing with the fallout from its alleged business with Iran for more than 10 years.

US sanctions against Iran have existed for decades but were beefed up by Bill Clinton in the late 1990s after Iran failed to ditch its nuclear project. Problems arose for Standard Chartered as a result of activities at its New York branch, which was used to clear about $190bn of dollar payments per day for clients in Europe and the Middle East.

According to the 2012 allegations, the bank disguised Iranian payments flowing through the New York office by illegally altering the details contained in wire transfer messages. The bank would allegedly strip the payments of Iranian data and replace them with false data that hid the true identity of the clients, helping the bank move money around for sanctioned entities and helping keep the Iranian regime afloat.

These alleged practices were uncovered in the wake of the financial crisis, as US regulators toughened their scrutiny of banks. The job of clearing up this situation fell to Peter Sands, an Oxford and Harvard-educated Briton who ran the bank from 2006 until 2015. In 2012, the bank agreed to the $227m forfeit to the Department of Justice for illegally moving cash for sanctioned entities through the US financial system between 2001 and 2007. After 2012, prosecutors extended the deferred prosecution agreement after finding even more alleged wrongdoing by the bank over the issue. In total, Standard Chartered paid $1.7bn in fines for money laundering, ultimately avoiding criminal prosecution by the US authorities. Knight is bringing a fresh claim saying he has more evidence of wrongdoing than US authorities or Standard Chartered have previously acknowledged.

The claim, brought by Knight's firm, Brutus Trading, alleges he gave the US government reams of banking data in 2012 and 2013 showing how the bank allegedly facilitated Iranian-linked payments beyond the period when StanChart was supposed to have stopped in 2007. It is alleged that the bank helped facilitate transactions for a Pakistani fertiliser company that sold material to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, which was used for bombs that killed British troops in Afghanistan. Brutus alleges the US government perpetrated a "colossal fraud" by ignoring the data and failing to thoroughly investigate the matter. Forensic investigator David Scantling, who is part of the claim, analysed about 900 Iranian-related transactions undertaken between January 2008 and March 2012 worth $9.6bn which involved entities under US sanctions, the filing says. Daniel Roth, director of research at United Against Nuclear Iran, said: "Having already been fined well in excess of one billion dollars by US authorities over the past decade – for multiple separate breaches – the latest revelations may not come as too big a shock to close observers."

> 'We are confident the courts will reject these claims, as they have already done repeatedly'

A Standard Chartered spokesman called the filing "another attempt to use fabricated claims against the bank, following previous unsuccessful attempts". They added: "The false allegations underpinning it have been thoroughly discredited by the US authorities who undertook a comprehensive investigation into the claims and said they were 'meritless' and did not show any violations of US sanctions. We are confident the courts will reject these claims, as they have already done repeatedly."

Numerous rulings have gone against Brutus's claims over several years. Most recently, the US Supreme Court denied a request to hear the case in February, ending the appeal process.

The new Brutus filing, which was made in New York on Friday, is an attempt to revive the case.

Defence giant predicts decade of rearmament amid rising tensions

By **Matt Oliver**

CHEMRING, the British defence contractor, has racked up its biggest-ever order book amid predictions that tensions with Russia and China will result in a decade of rearmament by the West.

The FTSE 250 company, based in Romsey, Hampshire, yesterday revealed that its pipeline of work had grown to more than £1bn – up from £922m in October and £500m in 2021. It supplies so-called countermeasures for aircraft, such as flares, decoys and "chaff", small pieces of metal or glass fibre that are dispersed in the atmosphere with the aim of confusing radar and incoming missiles.

The devices are used by the Royal Air Force's Typhoon fighters and F-35 stealth jets and by aircraft operated by the US and other Nato countries.

Its sensors and information division also provides electronic warfare software that is used to jam communications and devices for detecting chemical and biological hazards. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has spurred a wave of rearmament across the West, and the company's order book has also been swollen by a large number of US-made F-35 jets being bought by allies such as Britain, Australia and Germany.

Michael Ord, the company's chief executive, said yesterday: "The momentum seen in 2023 has continued with another period of record order intake and an order book of over £1bn, the highest in Chemring's history.

"The increase in geopolitical tensions around the world is driving a fundamental rearmament upcycle,

> 'Record sales have led to an order book of over £1bn – the highest in Chemring's history'

which is expected to last for at least the next decade.

"This visibility, together with the support of grant funding and our customers' desire to move to long-term partnering agreements, gives us the confidence to invest further in capacity and capability, reinforcing Chemring's position as a key supplier to Nato, and positioning the group well for the future."

Following the results, Chemring said it would raise its dividend by 13pc to 2.6p per share.

The company reported first-half sales of £223m for the six months to the end of April, up 8pc compared with a year earlier.

But profits fell 24pc to £18m, with Chemring blaming "adverse weather conditions" that had affected the operations of its countermeasures division in the American state of Tennessee.

Countermeasures and energetics remain the largest part of the company's business, bringing in 60pc of sales last year.

It is likely to benefit from additional orders for F-35s as the US Department of Defence is preparing to buy 2,456 of the jets through to 2044.

The UK's Ministry of Defence has also confirmed that it intends to buy a further 74 of the F-35B variant but is yet to set out timescales.

Airbus unveils stealth combat drone to back up fighter jets

By **Matt Oliver**



Airbus unveiled its Wingman concept drone at the Berlin Air Show

AIRBUS has unveiled an unmanned combat jet potentially capable of acting as a "loyal wingman" to RAF pilots flying Eurofighter Typhoon jets.

The European aerospace giant unveiled the sleek-looking concept drone at the Berlin International Airshow, where defence companies are this week showing off their wares.

On the tarmac at the event, the company is exhibiting a 1:1 scale "show car" version of the machine. According to Airbus, the Wingman drones will be used as affordable "force multipliers" that will controlled by a pilot flying a nearby manned aircraft.

Their tasks could include carrying out reconnaissance, jamming targets and attacking ground or airborne targets with guided weapons in high-risk missions deemed too dangerous to be attempted by pilots. However, the company stressed that pilots controlling them would always act as "the final decision-making authority".

Airbus said it was working to have the drone operational by the early 2030s, and was exploring the concept with the German air force. It is designed to be compatible with manned Eurofighter Typhoon fighter jets used by the UK, German, Italian and Spanish air forces.

It is thought they could also team up with RAF Typhoons, but a decision on whether to request the capability would be made by the Ministry of Defence.

Airbus said it was talking to Germany and Spain about possible purchases but would not comment on whether the UK was interested. Its spokesman added: "The Wingman project is Airbus's concept of a next-generation, high-performance, autonomous, collaborative platform.

Michael Schoellhorn, chief executive of Airbus defence and space, said: "The German air force has expressed a clear need for an unmanned aircraft flying with and supporting missions of its manned fighter jets."

The machine is one of several drones being developed by defence companies, as militaries look for ways to bulk up their fleets with nimbler, more affordable aircraft that can complement more expensive and advanced machinery such as F-35 stealth jets.

Boeing is developing its unmanned Ghost Bat for the Royal Australian Air Force, while the US has been trialling the Kratos XQ-58 Valkyrie stealth jet drone. Britain scrapped its own loyal wingman – the unmanned Spirit Mosquito fighter – in 2022 after air force chiefs said they wanted to pursue "smaller, less costly, but still highly capable additive capabilities".

Mark Carney rules out job in future Labour government

By **Eir Nolsøe**

MARK CARNEY, the former governor of the Bank of England, has ruled out playing a role in a Labour government.

Asked if he would accept such role and whether there had been any offers, Mr Carney laughed and said: "My time in UK officialdom is over."

Mr Carney, who ran the Bank of England from 2013 to 2020, has provoked speculation about a potential political career in the UK after formally endorsing shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves at the party's conference last autumn. The former central banker is also advising her on creating a National Wealth Fund.

The Canadian financier has been touted as a potential successor to Justin Trudeau to lead the Liberal Party in his home country.

Mr Carney has so far avoided frontline politics, instead focusing on coordinating efforts to finance net zero around the world since leaving the Bank.

Speaking at an event hosted by Deloitte at the London School of Economics yesterday, Mr Carney said the Government should change the rules to make the Bank of England and City regulator, the Financial Conduct Authority, play a role in net zero.

Mr Carney said: "The remit of financial authorities, including the Bank of England, the FCA, should be refreshed to ensure that they in a hierarchical way support the Government's net zero objective."

His remarks come after Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor, downgraded the emphasis on climate change in the Bank of England's objectives last year, a decision Ms Reeves has vowed to reverse.

Mr Carney made a point of focusing on climate change and green finance while at the Bank. However, another former governor, Lord King, has claimed a focus on net zero distracted the Bank in its fight against inflation.

Mr Carney warned that global shocks had left the UK economy 40pc smaller than it would have been if it grew at the same rate as before the financial crisis.

The UK and other countries face "clearly the biggest regime change in geopolitics but also in economic policy since the fall of the Berlin Wall", he said.

Sluggish growth from such pressures means private capital would have to lead the net zero transition, Mr Carney added, warning the UK against trying to match the US's Inflation Reduction Act, saying it did not have the fiscal headroom to do so.

Mr Carney said: "Budget constraints require a targeted approach and striking the right balance. These are big judgments to be made about encouraging domestic activity and lower-cost solutions through imports."

Get the inside track on the election

with
Camilla
TOMINEY

and
Kamal
AHMED



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Revolt against migration will soon spread to UK



JEREMY WARNER

Britain is not immune to forces that drive political debate in all the major economies of Europe

While much of the rest of the continent shifts to the Right, Britain is busy going its own way by turning Left. OK, so this may be an exaggerated description of the change in government that is about to take place in Britain.

A better way of characterising it would be as a quite marginal shift from the soft Centre-Right to a not wholly dissimilar form of ill-defined "Third Way" Blairite managerialism, with much the same positioning and outlook.

The choice between Sunak and Starmer is little different than between Sainsbury's and Tesco.

It's merely one of tone, branding and buy-one-get-one-free price promotion.

Labour's seemingly unassailable lead in the polls, moreover, is driven not by some sudden ideological transformation in the electorate's mentality, but merely by the unremitting power of the electoral cycle. After 14 years of Tory-led drift and chaos, pot-marked by a number of exceptionally challenging economic shocks, it's time for a change.

People are fed up with the incumbents. Simple as that. None the less, the contrast with Europe could, on the face of it, scarcely be greater. Marine Le Pen, France's *enfant terrible* of the political Right, and Giorgia Meloni, Italy's firebrand populist prime minister, are expected to be the big winners in next weekend's European parliamentary elections. Both are as Eurosceptic and nativist in their leanings as Britain's Nigel Farage and Holland's Geert Wilders. Both are on a mission to overturn what Le Pen has called the "disastrous policies" of Ursula von der Leyen's European Commission.

While Starmer wants partially to reverse Brexit by getting closer to the EU, Le Pen and Meloni seek to diverge from it and/or significantly curb its powers. We seem to be completely out of sync. Yet the forces that drive political debate in the major economies of Europe, including the UK, are not so very different. In no particular order, they are sluggish economic growth, squeezed living standards, overstretched healthcare, broken public services and immigration. The most recent YouGov poll puts immigration a close third after the economy and the NHS as an electoral issue, and though not nearly as big a concern to voters as it was ahead of the EU referendum eight years ago, one which is way ahead of other electoral issues such as crime, housing and the environment.

This should come as no surprise. Over the past two years, net immigration has risen off the scale. If Brexit was in part a vote to stop the migrants, it has failed miserably.

If anything, Britain has even more of an open-doors immigration policy today than it did before the referendum, at least from the rest of the world if plainly not the EU.

Whatever one might think of Lee Anderson, the former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party and now a Reform candidate, he was correct in claiming that he spoke for "millions" when he gave voice to the old refrain of "I want my country back".

And yet we are about to elect a party to government which has no meaningful immigration policy at all, and what's more seemingly remains wedded to the old orthodoxy of immigration as an economic good, a humanitarian obligation, and a welcome infusion of cultural diversity.

This is a curiosity, to put it mildly, but I doubt it owes much to the idea of Britain as a haven of liberally minded decency amid the rising tide of nationalistic, Continental populism.

As luck would have it, the very high levels of net migration seen over the past two years is set to decline substantially this year and next. As on the economy and NHS waiting lists, Labour is poised to take the credit for trends that are already pre-baked.

Policies already in place to cut net migration include a ban on most international students' dependants, a ban on care workers' family members,

> 'Net immigration has risen off the scale – if Brexit was in part a vote to stop that, it has failed miserably'

higher salary thresholds for workers outside of health and social care, and a minimum income threshold for spouse/partner visas.

Meekly hiding behind these pre-existing reforms, Labour will be hoping they'll be enough of themselves to reduce the numbers to tolerable levels.

Mathematically, you would expect the post-pandemic surge in overseas students to subside as past arrivals complete their studies and return home.

Judging by the number of work visas being issued, there has also been a marked slowdown in migration for employment in health and social care. It may well be, then, that the worst of the surge is already over.

All is nevertheless relative, and even an annual fall of say 300,000 from last year's level of 685,000 would still leave net migration somewhat higher than it was immediately before the referendum eight years ago.

Go back to 1997, the year Tony Blair became prime minister, and net immigration was just 48,000. Since then, the country has changed beyond recognition, with population growth of more than 8m, nearly all of it migrants.

Labour ignores this influx at its peril. Look across the Channel, and you immediately see the consequences of failure to act.

All over the shop, the political centre ground is either collapsing or has already done so.

With explosive population growth in Africa and beyond, the pressures at our borders are set to only get worse. The country's ability to absorb such numbers has meanwhile already been stretched close to breaking point.

The great irony is that in order to maintain the "progressive" politics it champions, Labour will need to hold its nose and become less tolerant on immigration. It almost beggars belief that business is still recruiting from abroad in a country where nearly 11m people of working age are not in any form of employment.

If only a third of such people were available for work, it would surely be enough to satisfy the demand from employers. And yet many companies have become addicted to the cheap labour they can get from overseas for jobs that the locals won't do, and squeal loudly whenever ministers threaten to cut off the supply.

Society cannot have it both ways. It cannot meet Farage's target of "zero" net immigration while simultaneously carrying on with support for the millions who for one reason or another cannot or will not work.

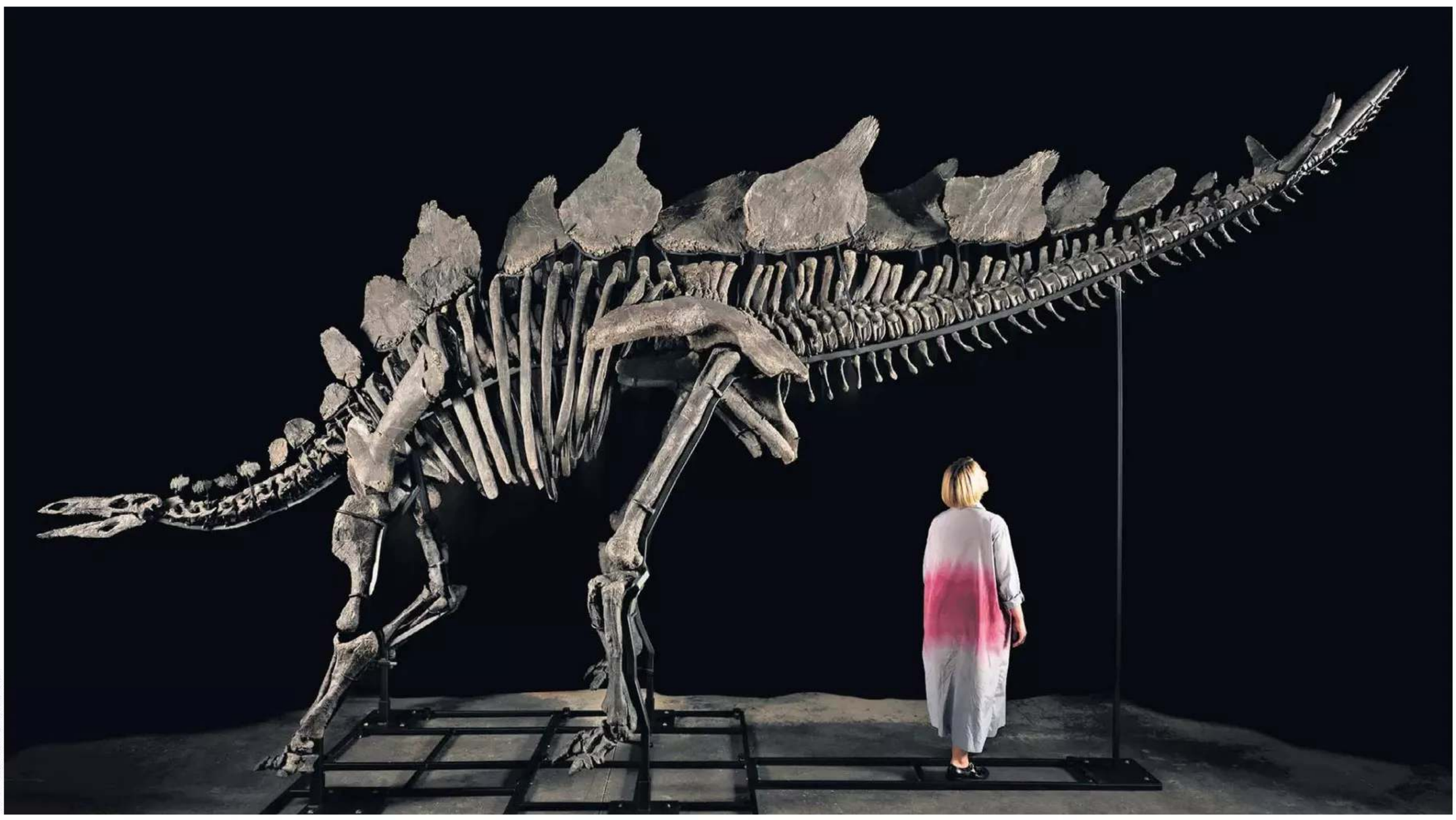
If we did, we would immediately have a contracting economy unable to provide the public services with which it already struggles.

Solutions lie as much with measures to address "workshy" Britain as they do with better controlling our borders.

On that, the two main parties have finally seen sense, even if the remedies they propose look half-hearted and unconvincing.

As it is, we remain very much part of the wider European disease on migration. If Labour doesn't get a grip, there are other forces waiting in the wings only too happy to give it a go.

Timeless treasure
Apexa, the 150m-year-old Stegosaurus fossil, is poised to make history as one of the most expensive ever sold when it goes under the hammer at Sotheby's on July 17. The 11ft tall, 20ft-long dinosaur is believed to have lived a long life as its 247 bones show signs of arthritis. The specimen, which was discovered in May 2022 in the US state of Colorado, is expected to sell for up to £4.7m.



MATTHEW SHERMAN/ JAM PRESS

The great American boom is finally running out of steam, leaving mountains of debt



AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD

As US economy contracts, the Fed will have to move fast to stop unemployment spiralling out of control

The American economy is not as strong as we all thought. Growth has slowed to stall speed over the past four months. It looks like there is a hardish landing after all.

Citigroup has become the first big American bank to warn that the US has tipped into a recession. Once this process begins, it can snowball very quickly into mass layoffs, unless the Federal Reserve moves fast. There is no sign of that. Some Fed officials are breathing fire about inflation, judging that their survival as an independent institution depends on out-Volckering even the great inflation-slayer Paul Volcker.

"The US economy is clearly slowing down, and in our base case it is headed for an outright contraction," said Andrew Hollenhorst, Citigroup's US chief economist.

If so, US treasuries, bonds, and gilts are massively mispriced. As are BBB junk bonds trading at an average wafer-thin spread of 1.09pc, matching the extreme complacency seen before the global financial crisis.

Mr Hollenhorst has pencilled in a contraction of 0.3pc and 2.1pc (annualised) over this quarter and next, with double digit falls in business equipment investment. That in turn would push unemployment to 5.5pc by the end of the year. Citigroup says the Fed will have to cut interest rates in July and at every meeting until mid-2025.

An outcome of this severity would spread to Britain almost instantly through the world's dollarised credit system and via contagion effects, leaving the new government facing an immediate economic crisis. Its chancellor would be compelled to cut spending and tighten budget policy, in a destructive pro-cyclical fashion, unless they could summon the courage to ditch our toxic, anti-investment fiscal rules and re-establish macroeconomic sovereignty.

A US recession would probably snuff out the eurozone's fledgling recovery. Private credit is barely alive under the monetary overkill of the European Central Bank, again under German control, and clearly geared for German political needs.

Investors must navigate these treacherous waters with great care. Well-timed, calibrated Fed rate cuts and a soft landing can be a tonic for stock markets. It is a different matter if the Fed is behind the curve, cutting rates after recessionary forces have metastasised. In normal times, the worst adage in the investment universe is "sell in May and don't come back until Labour Day". You end up chasing equities higher after months of frustration, bleeding money with two sets of transaction costs along the way. This year it may be worth paying the insurance premium.

Andrew Hartnett, of Bank of America, says equity breadth on the S&P 500 is the worst since the depths of the global financial crisis in March 2009. His advice: "buy bonds in the second half"; sell equities and credit as soon as the Fed starts to cut rates. Yes, the world is choking on the scale of bond issuance, but flight to safe havens trumps structural worries about solvency in a recession.

Labour economists have been warning that the US jobs market is breaking down. The trouble always starts with millions of "marginally attached" workers, mostly off the radar. Revised data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis suggests that the labour specialists were right. The rise in salaries and wages in the first quarter was less than half earlier estimates. The annual rate of economic growth has fallen from 4.8pc, to 3.4pc, to 1.3pc, over the last three quarters. April was undoubtedly even weaker. The ISM manufacturing index contracted further in May.

Mr Hollenhorst said the hiring rate is the weakest for a decade. Firms are hoarding labour but once confidence snaps and the lay-offs start in earnest, the process takes on a life of its own. "The history of economic cycles suggests this will not be smooth," he warned.

Simon Ward, of Janus Henderson, says there are two additional monetary effects to worry about. The US Treasury has cut reliance on short-term bills to fund the deficit, and this slows money growth. It has also been draining liquidity by rebuilding its cash balance at the Fed. Those effects are likely to turn "significantly contractionary".

The great American boom ended some time ago despite a turbo-blast from the Inflation Reduction Act. The record does not look so good when adjusted for immigration. Disposable income per capita is down 0.5pc over the last year, which may explain why so many voters are in such a bad mood.

Americans have depleted their excess savings from the pandemic and are depleting their credit lines. The Fed says the percentage with delinquent credit card debt has hit double digits and is approaching the peak seen at the end of the dotcom bubble. Delinquency rates have risen to 17.4pc in poorer zip codes, but have also soared to 7.4pc among the richest decile.

It is sobering to think that the US economy is running out of steam even though the personal savings rate has fallen to historic lows of 3.8pc of GDP, four percentage points lower than the pre-Covid average. This is a coiled-spring in waiting. Consumers will retrench suddenly and en masse when they start to worry about their jobs.

It is even more sobering that a cyclically-adjusted fiscal deficit of 6.7pc of GDP at the top of the cycle is no longer gaining traction. The fiscal multiplier has collapsed. Torsten Slok, of Apollo Global Management, said the nominal deficit could exceed 10pc of GDP when recession hits.

America's debt accumulation over the last seven years is akin to the costs of a world war. The IMF says the US gross debt ratio has risen from 105pc of GDP to 123pc under the Trump-Biden spending blitz. It is heading for 134pc by 2029, and that assumes no recession.

We could be talking about 140pc plus before long. Pessimists say there is little to show for it. Strategic optimists say the money has been well spent launching America's industrial rearmament and preventing China running away with clean-tech supremacy. It is a wartime cost. You cannot defeat autocracies on the cheap.

The jury is out. The debt remains.

I have already had enough of the election and started playing soundbite bingo



SIR JOHN TIMPSON
ASK JOHN

Straight-talking, common sense from the front line of management

Q How much notice will you take of what is said during the election campaign? Do you think the debates and media interviews will make a big difference to how the electorate will vote on July 4?

A I was watching Paula Vennells being quizzed during the Post Office inquiry when transmission was interrupted by breaking news. Rishi Sunak was about to call the election. After a 20-minute discussion between an expert panel and Sunak's presentation in the rain, I had already heard enough of the soundbites, warm words and promises that will be repeated until election day.

We face weeks of familiar phrases that trip easily off politicians' tongues. It is a soundbite campaign, with rhetoric and vote-winning words more important than any policies in parties' manifestos. To stay engaged I started to play soundbite bingo, listing the most popular phrases and noting which worked well, and which were most irritating.

"Fully funded and fully costed" established an early lead in both categories, but was quickly overtaken by "hard-working families", "the cost of living" and "tax bombshell". But it wasn't long before "in crisis" jumped up my chart – a phrase used to describe "our NHS", schools, social services, railways, pot holes, local government and of course "hard-working families".

Soundbites are easier for parties in opposition, so as expected the first week of the campaign brought "time for a change" "14 years of" just about anything from "misrule" to "total irresponsibility" "a country on its knees" "out of touch", " letting the country down" and "chaos".

All were capped with the statement "You can't trust the Tories", who as expected replied with their own catchphrases – from "same old Labour" to claims that "signs of green shoots" show "the plan is working". Regardless of party, everyone, Tories, Labour, Lib Dems, Reform and even the Green Party stand for a "brighter future".

Every party has our "interests at heart", with plans to "level up", "beat climate change", create "a modern industrial strategy", "give children the education they deserve", "put money into our NHS" and "take families out of poverty". They become particularly animated when attacking "an uncaring government" that has "lost touch with reality" and "doesn't have a plan", while claiming they are "one of us", "will do what is right for British people" and will "hit the ground running" "at scale and pace".

Despite being "under no illusion as to the enormity of the task ahead" they are prepared to make "difficult decisions" and ("this is an important point") "bring hope to Britain's hard-working families. It's reassuring to know that politicians want to "leave a legacy," stating "honestly" that they "passionately believe" "an uncaring government" has "failed to deliver", "trashed the economy", "broken promises", "let the country down" and "put the economy in freefall".

At the beginning of July, when most of the debating has been done, we will enter the final phase with the leading party enjoying a significant swing in the opinion polls while "taking nothing for granted". Those trailing behind will point out that the election itself is "the only poll that really counts".

When the polls finally close, it will be a great night for the next prime minister.

But it will also be a good night for the "great British public" – we will finally get a break from political debate and irritating soundbites.

Markets

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Tradeweb

Government securities

52 week High	Low (£)	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Flat Yield	Rdm Yield
102.30	99.20	Treas 5% 25	100.07	+0.01	5.00	4.94
112.21	100.63	Treas 6% 28	107.79*	+0.16	5.57	4.09
106.59	90.79	Treas 4¼% 32	101.34*	+0.33	4.19	4.05
106.09	94.06	Treas 4¼% 36	99.73	+0.47	4.26	4.28
110.73	96.88	Treas 4¾% 38	103.62*	+0.58	4.58	4.41

Index Linked Securities

385.41	371.32	Treas 2½% IL 24	385.16	+0.02	0.65	2.08
352.43	325.85	Treas 4⅛% IL 30	344.41	+0.13	1.20	0.36
243.64	239.45	Treas 2% IL 35	248.03	+0.52	0.81	0.66

10-year Government Bonds

	Yield%	Spread vs Bunds	Spread vs T-Bonds
France	3.01	+0.48	-1.33
Germany	2.53	-	-1.81
Japan	1.02	-1.51	-3.32
Great Britain	4.18	+1.65	-0.16
United States	4.34	+1.81	-

The share prices, price-earnings ratios and dividend yields below are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

Aerospace & defence -1.71%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
575	266¾	Babcock Intl ●	553½	-11½	0.3	-80.2
1415¼	883¼	**BAE Systems**	1385*	-10½	2.2	22.6
456⅞	292¼	QinetiQ ●	451¼	-4	1.8	18.6
468⅛	143¾	**Rolls-Royce**	448	-12⅝	–	15.5
183	146¾	Senior ●	161¼	-2¼	1.4	21.5

Banks -1.18%

224¼	128⅛	**Barclays**	215	-4¼	3.7	7.8
998½	278	Close Bros ●	475¾	-20%	–	8.8
725¼	572⅛	**HSBC**	690½*	-3⅛	6.9	7.7
57⅛	39¼	**Lloyds Bk Gp**	55¾	+¼	5.0	7.3
329¾	168	**NatWest Group**	313½	-6¼	5.4	6.5
423	257	Santander	401	-6	3.0	23.6
796	571	**Standard Ch**	735¼	-41¼	2.9	8.7

Beverages +0.02%

3509	2563	**Diageo**	2639½	+½	3.0	16.0

Chemicals -2.59%

6286	4018	**Croda Intl**	4404	-170	2.5	36.0
1917½	1428¼	Johnson Mat ●	1735	-17	4.4	29.6
1632	1152	Victrex ●	1280*	-10	4.7	18.1

Construction +0.30%

391½	291½	Balfour Beatty ●	369*	-6	3.1	10.5
582¾	384½	**Barratt Dev**	506¾	+2	5.5	9.5
2898	1903	Bellway ●	2750*	+18	4.0	9.2
5360	3634	**Berkeley Grp**	5255	+15	1.8	12.3
245	170	Boot H	211	+4	3.5	10.7

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
88	40⅞	Costain	82¾	-¾	1.4	10.2
1028⅞	737¼	Grafton Gp ●	1013¾	-¾	3.6	14.6
2605	1640½	Morgan Sindall ●	2535	-5	4.5	10.0
1501	925	**Persimmon**	1484½	+13	4.0	18.6
750	423⅝	Redrow ●	715	-2	3.5	7.8
150¾	98⅞	**Taylor Wimpey**	149¾	+1	6.4	15.1

Electricals +1.12%

240	135	Dialight	179	–	–	–
958	586	discoverIE Grp ●	742	-12	1.6	33.3
2500	1802	**Halma**	2290	+50	0.9	36.9
4500	2823¾	Renishaw ●	3975	-60	1.9	24.9
2489¼	682⅞	XP Power	1598	+28	1.1	-35.2

Electricity +2.00%

637⅝	395¼	Drax Group ●	503	-13	4.6	3.5
1052⅝	645	**Nat Grid**	911¾	+25¾	6.4	16.0
1932½	1485	**SSE**	1793½	+16	3.3	11.4

Engineering / Industrial -0.76%

89⅜	63½	Coats Group ●	84¼	-¾	2.7	30.8
870	212	Cropper J	330	–	2.1	61.1
7300	4200	Goodwin	6040	-160	1.9	29.2
1911	1429	**IMI**	1843	-27	1.5	20.1
1719⅝	1291	**Mondi**	1546	-4½	4.0	16.8
76¼	48¼	Severfield	72⅝	+¼	4.8	10.4
1776½	1517½	**Smiths Gp**	1732	-1	2.4	26.4
415	260½	**Smith (DS)**	376¼	-6¼	4.8	10.5
3910	2528	**Smurfit Kappa**	3840	-22	3.4	15.4
11480	7900	**Spirax**	8805	-50	1.8	35.3
2210¼	1652½	**Weir**	2082	-24	1.9	23.6

Food producers +1.03%

2765	1824½	**Ass Brit Fds**	2566*	+5	2.1	19.1
2830	2065	**Coca-Cola HBC**	2690*	+2	2.9	18.3
4570	3158	Cranswick ●	4415	-50	2.0	21.0
957	614	Hilton Food ●	893*	-4	3.6	22.0
94	48	REA Hldgs	93	+5½	–	-3.6
4389	3680½	**Unilever**	4367*	+60	3.4	19.9

Gas & Water +1.43%

173¾	115	**Centrica**	142¼*	+1	2.8	2.0
802	532⅞	Pennon Gp ●	618½	+7½	7.2	-171.8
2800	2243	**Severn Trent**	2406*	+49	4.9	47.2
1139½	896¾	**Utd Utilities**	1022	+16	4.9	54.9

General financial +0.45%

239¾	156¼	Ashmore ●	194¼	-4	8.7	15.7
300¾	164¾	Bridgepoint Grp ●	223¾	-6	3.9	24.8
1151	676¾	**Hargreaves L**	1062	-2	4.0	15.5
831½	600½	IG Group ●	822½	+½	5.5	9.4
2448	1244⅞	**IntermediateCp**	2266	-20	3.5	13.7
567	419	Investec ●	526	-4	6.6	5.0
66⅝	40	IP Group ●	52¾	-1¼	2.4	-3.2
865	519	Liontrust	765	-33	9.4	12.4
60	30	Lon. Fin. & Inv.	50½	–	2.4	11.5
9696	7784	**Lon Stock Ex**	9282	+132	1.2	66.8
241⅛	181½	**M&G**	200¾	-2¾	9.8	-3.0
279¼	200½	Man Group ●	263¾	+1¾	4.9	16.9
124½	71¼	Quilter ●	120⅞	-2¼	4.3	39.0

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
2490	1750	S & U	1970	–	6.1	9.4
470	346¼	**Schroders**	393¾	-2¼	5.5	16.0
231½	43⅓	Vanquis Banking Gp	58	+¼	10.3	-24.2

Healthcare -0.63%

371¼	306¾	**Haleon**	322¾	-3¾	1.9	28.3
1269	887	**Smith & Nep**	995¼	+11	3.1	42.1

Household goods +0.24%

2289	1016	**Burberry**	1037	-8½	5.9	14.0
128	24¼	McBride	128	+2	–	-19.4
195¼	81½	PZ Cussons ●	113	+⅝	4.6	13.0
6346	4102⅝	**Reckitt Benck**	4507	+20	4.3	19.7

Information technology +0.40%

389	224½	Aptitude Sftwre	374*	-6	1.4	51.8
1285	855¼	**Sage Gp**	1025*	+5	1.9	49.4
205	79¾	Spirent ●	184½	-¾	1.7	54.7

Insurance -1.10%

238	134⅞	abrdn ●	151½	-4¾	9.6	–
2870	2010	**Admiral**	2699*	-37	3.8	24.3
501⅝	366	**Aviva**	475¼	-4¾	7.0	12.6
701½	485¼	**Beazley**	673½	-10	2.1	5.4
240½	132⅛	DirectLineIns ●	209⅞	-3	1.9	13.2
1277⅞	926	Hiscox ●	1145*	-6	2.6	7.1
690	525	Lancashire Hldg ●	618*	-19	2.5	5.9
259	203¼	**Legal & General**	250¾*	-1¼	8.1	34.1
573¼	436¾	**Phoenix**	493¾	-4¾	10.7	-35.8
1161½	684¾	**Prudential**	749¾	-5¾	2.2	15.4
1185½	393¾	**St. James's Place**	502	-21	4.7	-278.9

Investment trusts -0.36%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	NAV
2995	1837½	**3i**	2942	+16	2.1	2094
349	276¾	3i Infrastructure ●	336½	-4	3.5	364
774	528	abrdn New India	728	-36	–	900
1264	978	Alliance Trust ●	1184*	-24	2.2	1257
368½	242¾	Allianz Tech Trust ●	347½	-2½	–	393
417½	321¾	Asia Dragon Trust ●	393	-6	1.7	444
243	175	Baillie Giff China	208	+1	1.0	230
101¼	75¾	Baillie Giff Euro Gwth	99¾	–	0.4	116
84½	60	Balanced Comm Prp ●	78¼	-2¼	6.8	107
117¼	91½	Bankers Invstmt Tst ●	112⅝	-¾	2.3	126
1048	715	Biotech Growth	955	-5	–	1039
127	104	BlackRockEnrgy&Res	119	-2¾	3.8	136
159⅜	131¼	BlckRock FroInv	148¼	+¼	4.4	160
653	457½	BlckRck Grt Euro ●	622*	-3	1.1	649
208	170	BlckRck Inc&Grth	202	-2	3.7	224
207	172½	BlckRckSustAmInc	198½	-1½	4.0	220
1520	1146	BlackRock Small ●	1484*	-28	2.8	1681
643	503	BlkRk Throg Tst ●	634	-7	2.3	706
644	490	BlackRock Wld M ●	571*	-19	5.9	605
1365½	964	Brunner	1325	-20	1.7	1400
3700	3110	Caledonia ●	3540	-5	2.0	5348
429½	371½	City of Lon ●	421½	-1	4.9	434
206	151½	CQS Nat Res G & I	202¼	-1¼	2.8	222
255¾	206	CT Glbl Mgd G	254	–	–	260
121½	98	CT Glbl Mgd I	119	–	6.1	117
516	406	CT Priv Eq Ord	467½	-6½	6.0	683

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	NAV
340	266⅝	CT UK Cap & Inc	332	-1½	3.7	347
95½	71	CT UKHighIncTst	92¼	-½	6.1	98
590	448⅜	Dunedin Ent	500½	–	2.0	625
746	612¾	Edinburgh Inv Tr ●	734	-7	3.7	815
157¾	120¾	Edin Worldwide ●	142¾	-1¾	–	163
92¼	73	European Assets	90	-⅝	6.6	103
1058	825⅝	**F&C Inv Trust**	994	-12	1.5	1113
549⅞	473¾	Fidelity Asian V	514	-14	2.8	562
246	181¼	Fidlty Chna Sp Sits ●	222	-1	2.8	246
412½	311½	Fidelity Euro Tst ●	400	-2	2.1	414
187	151	Fidelity Japan Tst	174½	-½	–	195
312½	252	Fidelity Sp V ●	309*	-2	3.1	339
920	788¾	Finsbury Gwth ●	833	+1	2.3	915
168¾	128¼	Glbl Small Co Trust ●	164¾	-1¾	1.4	182
177	136	Hend High Inc	164½	+2	6.4	180
176	148½	Hend Intl Inc	165¾	+¼	4.6	189
902	626	Hend Smaller Co ●	882	-8	3.0	1013
236	169	Hend Opp	231*	-3	3.1	260
2230	1590	Herald Inv ●	2160	-30	–	2473
504	348½	HgCapital ●	481	-8½	1.4	508
150⅜	111	HICL Infrastructure ●	124*	-1	6.7	158
1276	1046	ICG Enterprise Tst ●	1250	+12	2.6	1912
748	623	JPM Claverh'se	730*	-2	4.8	774
110½	84¾	JPM Eur G&I	106½*	-1	4.1	120
553	435	JPM Japanese ●	526	+2	1.2	578
337	283¾	JPM Jpn SmCp G&I	296	+2	4.8	336
729¼	551¼	**Land Secs**	658½	-11½	6.0	–
131½	103¾	Lowland Inv	130	–	4.9	148
254	179	Majedie	239*	-5	3.1	273
399	294⅝	Mtn Currie Port	372	-1	1.1	380
249⅞	177¼	Mercantile InvTr ●	240	-4	3.2	274
593	476	Merchants Tst ●	579	-3	4.9	590
1218	880	Monks ●	1160	-4	0.3	1285
904	766⅝	Murray Income ●	861*	-1	4.4	967
269⅝	218½	Murray Intl ●	247½	-2	4.7	272
64¾	52	Northern 2 VCT	56	+1½	5.5	59
86¾	82½	Northern 3 VCT	84½	–	5.3	92
60½	54	Nthn Venture	57½	–	6.3	63
390	338	Pacific Assets	360	-10	1.1	405
336	245¼	Pantheon ●	325	-1½	–	490
145	87	PremierMitonGlb	104*	–	7.3	123
2030	1696	RIT Cap Ptnrs ●	1812	-12	2.1	2511
290	260⅞	Ruffer Inv Pref ●	274	-½	1.3	286
464	382	Schroder Asian TR	438	-8	2.6	473
540	450	Scot American ●	509*	-2	2.8	554
946⅛	632¼	**Scot Mortgage**	881¼	+8¾	0.5	963
151¼	101⅞	Shaftesbury Capital ●	144⅜	-1⅜	2.2	3.2
1450	1162¼	Smithson Inv Tst ●	1378	-4	–	1545
227	207	STS Global Income	218	–	3.0	220
167⅜	140⅞	Tmpletn Em Mt ●	154⅜	-1⅜	3.2	182
345	253	TR Property ●	340½	+1½	4.6	366
135	121	UIL Fin ZDP 2024	132½	–	–	136
120	105	UIL Fin ZDP 2026	116½	–	–	135
241	203¼	Utilico Emerg	221	-5	3.9	272
270	209	Witan ●	257*	+1	2.4	282
355⅞	286	Worldw HealthTr ●	349	–	0.9	383

Net Asset Values © 2024 Morningstar Estimated at previous day's close see www.Morningstar.co.uk.

Media +1.16%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
849	580¼	**Auto Trader**	825¼	-1¾	1.2	29.3
620½	365	Bloomsbury	604	–	2.4	15.2
865¼	684	**Informa**	848¾	+¾	2.1	28.2
82½	55½	ITV ●	78¾	-½	6.4	15.1
1046½	802¼	**Pearson**	941¾	+9¾	2.4	17.7
88¼	58½	Reach	85¾	-¾	8.6	12.6
3542	2432	**RELX**	3487*	+65	1.7	37.1
603	457¾	**Rightmove**	546¾	+2	1.7	22.3
889¾	656	**WPP**	812	-4¾	4.9	13.1

Mining -2.40%

2613	1630	**Anglo Amer**	2403½	-99½	3.2	–
2425	1280	**Antofagasta**	2135	-80	1.3	32.2
2707½	2157	BHP Group	2264	-44	5.4	11.3
132¾	77¼	Centamin ●	117*	-1¾	2.7	18.8
81	81	Evraz #	81	–	–	0.5
697⅞	435¼	**Fresnillo**	568½	-48	0.8	22.9
506¾	365¼	**Glencore**	468¾*	-13¾	2.2	17.6
190¾	68¼	Hochschild Mng ●	184	-4	–	-23.5
470	291	Kenmare Res	350	-7	12.9	3.2
5910	4509½	**Rio Tinto**	5352	-82	6.4	11.0

Oil & Gas -2.67%

562¼	441	**BP**	462¾*	-18¾	4.9	6.7
18¾	11¼	EnQuest	15¾	-⅜	–	-12.3
461	190	Hunting ●	413½	-8½	2.0	7.2
87½	8¼	Petrofac	13½	+3	–	-0.3
2961	2222½	**Shell**	2723*	-59½	3.9	12.1
211¼	124	Wood Grp (John) ●	180¼	+1¼	–	-14.3

Pharmaceuticals +0.60%

12488	9461	**AstraZeneca**	12404	+58	2.0	41.3
2572	1478	Genus ●	1832	-36	1.7	36.1
1823½	1302¾	**GSK**	1615*	+17	3.7	13.3
2222	1711	**Hikma**	1984	+25	2.8	29.5
1938	1125	Indivior ●	1418	-27	–	–

Property +0.03%

11	7	Alina Hldgs	8	–	–	22
50¾	37½	Assura ●	42	-⅜	8.0	–
1272	901	Big Yellow Gp ●	1246	-18	3.6	–
446¾	287½	Brit Land ●	442¾	-1¾	5.1	–
63¾	48¾	Cap&Regional	60½*	+¾	9.4	–
2452	1766	Derwent Ldn ●	2306	-34	3.4	–
423⅞	291	Gt Portland Est ●	335½*	-6½	3.8	–
278¾	215¾	Grainger ●	252*	-3	2.7	72.0
30	20½	Hammerson ●	28¼	-½	5.3	–
284½	181	Helical	214½	-8	2.3	-1.4
944¾	675	**Segro**	930⅝	+8	3.0	–
165	110	Town Centre	153*	–	–	–
173	121¼	Tritax Big Box ●	165¼*	+3	4.5	180
106⅞	68	Warehouse REIT	83½	+⅜	7.7	126

Retailers -0.16%

29	13	Brown (N)	14¼	-⅜	–	-1.3
80¼	43	Currys ●	79¾	-⅜	1.3	-1.8
1335½	959	Dunelm ●	1087	-13	7.2	14.5
949½	671	**Frasers Group**	897	-½	–	8.5
2996	2244	Greggs ●	2938	–	2.1	20.9
244¾	136	Halfords	153	+¾	6.5	9.8
937	605	**Howden Joinery**	912	+1½	2.3	19.6
177¾	103	**JD Sports Fash**	132¾	-1¾	0.7	12.9
274	198¼	**Kingfisher**	270¾*	+2½	4.6	14.9
313⅜	182⅛	**Marks & Spen**	311¾*	+5½	1.0	14.2
8½	3½	Mothercare	4½	...	–	–
9498	6362	**Next**	9416	+94	2.2	16.4
1017	332¾	**Ocado**	353¾	-29	–	-9.2
814	280½	Pinewood Tech	380	+9	–	3.2
161½	100¼	Saga	136¾	-2¼	–	-1.7
311¼	243¾	**Sainsbury J**	278¾	-¾	4.7	47.2
1675	1069	Smith WH ●	1143	-14	2.8	18.8
316⅛	217½	**Tesco**	312*	-½	3.9	18.6

Support services -0.09%

6180	4437	**Ashtead Gp**	5460	-64	1.5	18.9
3306	2680	**Bunzl**	2950*	-20	2.3	18.8
35⅞	12¾	Capita	14¾	-⅛	–	-1.4
20¾	12½	Carillion #	14¼	–	–	0.5
6075	4145	**DCC**	5770*	+55	3.4	17.5
107	29¼	De La Rue	96⅜	-2¼	–	-3.4
191¼	130¼	Essentra ●	166¼*	-5	2.2	92.3
3796	2366	**Experian**	3700	+70	1.2	36.0
17810	11375	Ferguson	15575	-330	1.6	20.4
5145	3746	**Intertek Group**	4878*	+92	2.3	26.5
211	122½	Int'l Workplace ●	184½	+2¾	0.5	-8.6
172	99	Johnson Serv	164¾	+2¾	1.7	25.7
124¼	89¼	MITIE Gp ●	119¾	-2	2.7	17.6
663¾	387¼	**Rentokil**	424	+4¾	2.0	28.0
619⅝	394	Ricardo Gp	495	+3	2.5	-56.9
490	344	Robt Walters	420	+1	5.6	20.9
193⅜	135¼	Serco Group ●	177⅞	-1¾	1.9	9.7
39⅜	25⅞	SIG	27½	-⅝	–	-7.2
934¼	684¾	Travis P ●	861	-7	2.1	47.6

Telecommunications +0.44%

150⅝	101¼	**BT Group**	133¾	+⅝	6.0	15.3
1898	1356	Telecom Plus ●	1876	+4	4.4	21.7
82½	62¾	**Vodafone**	76¾	+⅜	10.0	21.4

Tobaccos -0.24%

2742	2233	**Brit Am Tob**	2422	-13	9.7	-3.7
2006	1553½	**Imp Brands**	1953*	+15½	7.6	7.7

Transport -0.36%

340	194¼	Int'l Dist Services ●	335¾	+¼	0.6	-23.0
445	310	ZIGUP ●	430½	-7½	5.8	7.1

Travel & Leisure +0.73%

1388	793	Carnival ●	1173½	+79½	–	-250.0
591½	350	**easyJet**	485½	+10¾	0.9	11.3
1414½	643⅜	**Entain**	714	+8¾	2.5	-4.7
189	109⅞	FirstGroup ●	170½	-2½	2.6	14.4

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
17980	12020	Flutter Entrtmt	14900	+70	–	-27.6
724	520	Fullers 'A'	720	–	2.3	55.5
187⅝	137	**IAG Intl Cons Air**	175¼	–	–	3.8
8790	5184	**Intercont Hotels**	7954	+2	1.5	22.9
314½	194¾	Mitchells&But ●	312½	+4½	–	-446.4
120	51½	Mobico Group ●	52¾	-⅝	–	-1.7
620	365⅝	Playtech ●	480½	+½	–	16.3
104⅜	60⅝	Rank Group	79	-2¼	–	-3.9
687	375	TUI AG	587½	+12	–	8.6
862½	587	Wetherspoon ●	767	-3	–	16.1
3714	2848	**Whitbread**	2992*	+38	3.2	18.6

AIM -0.30%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Grs Yld	Cvr
61¼	23⅝	Afentra	57	-2¼	–	-60.7
1150	840	Arbuthnot	987½	-5	4.8	4.4
2300	1425¾	BrooksMacdonald	2060	+10	3.7	18.0
⅛	⅛	Cambria Africa #	¼	–	–	-9.6
235	150¼	Central Asia Met	210½	-9	8.6	13.1
444¾	126⅝	Ceres Power	224	+6¼	–	-8.0
1508	947	Churchill China	1165*	+25	3.1	16.6
470	290	CML Micro	355	-5	3.1	11.7
860	430	Cohort	804	-4	1.7	28.8
1¼	⅛	Deltex Medical	⅛	–	–	-1.1
122⅞	72	Eleco	117	-2	0.7	36.6
67	23¼	Futura Medical	37½	-¼	–	-16.8
41¼	14	Hornby	24½	–	–	-7.0
228½	185	James Halstead	191*	-1	4.3	18.7
77⅞	33¼	LifeScienceREIT	33⅜	-⅛	6.0	81
550	183½	Mpac Group	502	+7	–	38.3
1040	519½	MS Intl	1005	–	1.6	39.3
90	48¼	Premier Miton	72½	–	8.3	29.0
69	18	SRT Marine Sys	18½	-1	–	–
74	37	Tribal Gp	53¾	+½	1.2	21.5
34	14	Union Jack Oil	18¾	-⅛	1.3	23.7
2	¾	Xtract Resources	1	+⅛	–	-4.7
1240	919	Young & Co – A	990	–	2.1	19.5
902	580	Young & Co – N/V	630	+10	3.4	12.4

The Alternative Investment Market is for young and growing companies. Shares may carry higher risks than those with a full quotation, and may be difficult to sell.

Americans -0.38%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Grs Yld	Cvr
45½	23⅛	Alcoa $	41½	-2%	1.0	9.4
244⅞	140⅞	Amer Express $	236¼	-⅝	1.2	4.3
40¼	25	BankAmerica $	39½	-⅜	2.4	3.0
267½	159¾	Boeing $	185¼	+½	–	–
382	214	Caterpillar $	326	-5¾	1.6	4.3
171¼	139⅝	Chevron $	155⅞	-2	4.2	1.7
75½	56¼	Coca-Cola Euro $	73¾	...	2.7	0.9
95⅝	67⅜	Colgate Palm $	93¾	+1¼	2.1	1.6
82⅞	61¼	DuPontDeNemrs $	80¾	-¼	1.9	0.6
123¾	95¾	Exxon Mobil $	112¼	-2%	3.4	2.1
35⅞	14⅜	Foot Locker $	27⅛	-⅜	–	–
180⅜	102¾	Gen Electric $	159¾	-1¾	0.2	12.0
396⅜	274¼	Home Depot $	327¼	-¾	2.8	1.7
210⅞	174⅜	Honeywell $	205½	+3	2.1	2.0
39½	25¼	HP $	35½	+¼	3.1	2.7
199⅛	129¼	IBM $	165⅞	+½	4.0	1.3
51¼	29¾	Intel $	30¼	-⅛	1.7	1.9
46⅛	29½	Intl Paper $	44¼	-1¼	4.2	0.3

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Grs Yld	Cvr
205⅞	135¼	JP Morgan Ch $	199	-2¾	2.3	3.6
176	143¾	Johnson&John $	146⅞	-1¾	3.4	1.4
34⅜	27¾	Keurig Dr Pep $	34½	+¾	2.5	1.8
88⅛	67¾	Manpower $	73¾	...	4.0	0.4
30	21¾	Marathon Oil $	28	-½	1.5	5.6
302⅞	245¼	McDonalds $	260¼	+¾	2.6	1.8
133⅛	99¼	Merck $	128¾	+½	2.4	0.3
433¾	309½	Microsoft $	412¾	-1¼	0.7

We made a 100pc return on shares in this defence company – and we are still buying



ROBERT STEPHENS
QUESTOR
SHARE TIPS

Military supplier QinetiQ's long-term growth potential and modest valuation point to further gains ahead

It is always tempting to sell a holding that has risen sharply in value. For instance, shares in defence contractor QinetiQ have soared by 100pc since Questor first advised readers to purchase them in September 2017. In doing so, it has outperformed the FTSE 100 index by 89 percentage points and beaten the FTSE 250 index by 93 percentage points.

This year alone, the company's share price has surged 45pc. However, it continues to offer a potent mixture of long-term growth potential, solid fundamentals and a wide "margin of safety". Selling now, therefore, would be a rather illogical move likely to sacrifice further gains.

Indeed, the company's recently released full-year results showed that it is making encouraging progress in implementing its growth strategy.

Revenue rose by 21pc, 14pc on an organic basis. And with a stable operating profit margin of 11.3pc, the company's operating profits were up 20pc versus the prior year. Its order intake of £1.74bn, meanwhile, was a new record.

Alongside improved financial performance, the firm upgraded its financial guidance.

It expects to generate high single-digit organic revenue growth and to maintain operating profit margins at their present level in the current financial year to March 2025.

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules

QinetiQ

BUY

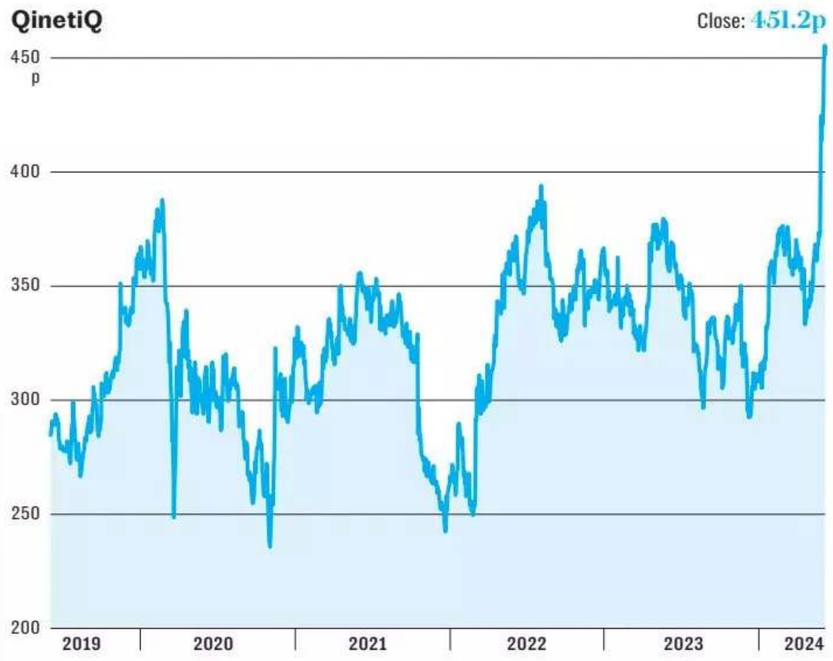
Investors should not be tempted to crystalise gains yet

It also expects to post organic revenue of £2.4bn in the 2027 financial year, which would represent a 26pc increase on its latest year and an annualised growth rate of some 7.9pc. In addition, it forecasts that operating profit margins will rise by 0.7 percentage points to 12pc over the next three years.

The company's solid financial position means it has the capacity to bolster its organic growth prospects via acquisitions. The integration of Avantus, a cyber-security specialist, is complete, with QinetiQ's net gearing ratio of 16pc and net interest cover in excess of 15 highlighting its ability to increase leverage to make further purchases. And with return on equity amounting to 18pc last year, despite the presence of very modest debt levels, the company has a clear competitive advantage that bodes well for the future.

Of course, the prospects for the wider defence industry have dramatically improved in recent years. Geopolitical risks have risen to a level not seen for many years, or even decades, which suggests that demand for the firm's products and services is likely to increase.

Indeed, defence spending among Nato members is rising. Among its European members, military spending is expected to reach 2pc of collective GDP this year. This is up from less than 1.5pc a decade ago. And with the prospect of a new US administration that adopts a tougher stance on spending levels among Nato members, as well as an improving global economic outlook amid falling inflation and interest rate cuts, the outlook for the wider sector appears increasingly upbeat.



Key numbers

- Market value: £2.6bn
- Turnover (Mar 2024): £1.9bn
- Pre-tax profits (Mar 2024): £227m
- Yield (Mar 2024): 1.8pc
- Most recent year's dividend: 8.25p
- Net debt (Mar 2024): £151m
- Return on capital (Mar 2024): 13pc
- Cash conversion ratio (Mar 2024): 100pc
- p/e ratio (Mar 2024): 15.3

Separately, QinetiQ's share price continues to offer a margin of safety. Despite its massive outperformance of the FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 indices, the company trades on a rather modest price-to-earnings ratio of 15.3. This suggests there is scope for an upward re-rating to complement a likely rise in profits over the coming years. In Questor's view, investors are only gradually realising that the fundamentals of the defence sector have materially changed and that it offers substantial growth potential over the long run.

> 'Its appeal is its potential for capital growth. Its valuation suggests investors have not yet priced in its long-term prospects'

A modest market valuation means that the company's £100m share buyback programme is highly logical. And while a dividend yield of 1.8pc is likely to be too low to pique the interest of income investors, dividend cover of 3.6 last year and an improving outlook for profitability suggest it could become a worthwhile dividend stock.

QinetiQ's central appeal, though, is its potential for capital growth. The firm benefits from solid fundamentals and a buoyant industry outlook, while its market valuation indicates that investors have not yet fully priced in its long-term prospects.

So, while some investors may naturally be tempted to sell after such large gains, it is more logical to buy the company's shares. Questor expects further capital gains, as well as index outperformance, as rising defence spending leads to improved financial performance and greater growth opportunities.

Questor says: buy
Ticker: QQ
Share price at close: 451.2p

US job openings fall to lowest in more than three years

US job openings fell to a three-year low in April in the latest sign that the world's largest economy is cooling.

Drops in health care and local government roles led to vacancies declining to 8.06m, well below the 8.34m forecast by analysts.

It was the fewest openings since February 2021. The US has shed 1.85m vacancies in the past year and hiring is likely to slow, easing pressure on the Fed to keep interest rates high.

Thomas Ryan, North America economist at Oxford Economics, said: "The leading indicators all point to wage growth cooling."

However, Nancy Vanden Houten, lead US economist at Oxford Economics, said the figures would not be enough to bring forward a rate cut.

Kremlin accuses Microsoft of slander over Paris warning

The Kremlin has accused Microsoft of "absolute slander" after Russia was accused of launching a disinformation campaign against France and the upcoming Paris Olympics.

The Microsoft Threat Analysis Center last Sunday warned that the online disinformation was designed to denigrate the reputation of the International Olympic Committee and create the expectation of violence breaking out during games.

It said the campaign included falsified news websites and a sham documentary film narrated by an AI-generated deep fake of Hollywood actor Tom Cruise.

The campaign was launched, it said, in retaliation for the ban on a Russian team competing in the Games.

Netflix algorithm is not flawless, admits chief executive

The boss of Netflix has admitted that its algorithm for deciding which shows to produce is not flawless.

Greg Peters, the co-chief executive, said that the streaming giant cannot easily "manufacture" hit programmes because of the difficulty predicting what viewers want to watch.

He noted that viewers of Netflix's historical drama *The Crown* were twice as likely to enjoy legal documentary *Pepsi, Where's My Jet?*, according to the company's own data.

The Netflix chief argued this shows that the company's algorithm does not always provide "obvious" suggestions.

Speaking in London yesterday, Mr Peters said: "If it was just as simple as great algorithms, then we would have no flops."

Tata steelworkers back strike action at Port Talbot

More workers have backed industrial action in protest against Tata's controversial plans to close two blast furnaces in Port Talbot, South Wales.

The GMB union said its members voted by 72pc in favour of strikes. The closure plans are part of Tata's net zero drive and involve 2,800 job losses.

Tata Steel is moving to a greener form of steel production, using an electric arc furnace, which needs fewer workers.

A Tata Steel spokesman said the strikes were "disappointing", adding that the company is considering its legal options over the ballot's legality.

Unite members at Tata's Port Talbot and Llanwern steelworks will ban overtime and begin work-to-rule action later this month.

British American Tobacco expects hit from 'illicit' vapes

British American Tobacco (BAT) has warned that the rise of "illicit" disposable vapes will dent its financial performance this year.

The tobacco titan expects revenue and adjusted profit during the first half of 2024 to fall between 1pc and 5pc compared with last year.

It also said that consumers are spending less on cigarettes because of the cost of living crisis.

Tadeu Marroco, BAT's chief executive, said: "Our guidance also reflects ongoing macro-economic pressures, particularly in the US."

The London-based company called for greater regulation to tackle illegal, single-use vapes in the US. BAT predicts its performance will improve in the second half of the financial year.

OpenAI insiders call for transparency over 'serious risks'

Insiders at ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and Google DeepMind have called for greater transparency in relation to the "serious risks" around artificial intelligence.

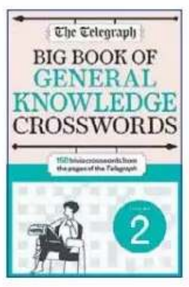
In an open letter, current and former workers at the US tech giants warned that AI companies have "strong financial incentives" to avoid oversight and cannot be relied on to voluntarily share risk-related concerns with governments or wider society.

They said that only whistleblowers can hold AI companies accountable to the public but lack protection and fear retaliation. The group urged AI companies to support a "culture of open criticism" and allow employees to anonymously share concerns with board members and regulators.

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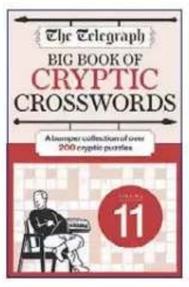
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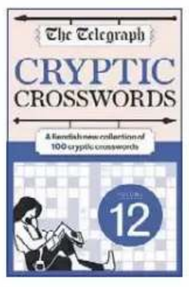
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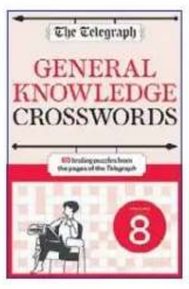
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Court & Social

Court Circular

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
June 4th
The Governor-General of Solomon Islands was received in audience by The King this afternoon.

Lady Vunagi was also received by His Majesty.

The King later received representatives and supporters of His Majesty's Coronation Food Project.

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of The King, held an Investiture at Windsor Castle this morning.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 4th
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, this morning visited the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain at the National Creative Production House for Young People, 443-445 Holloway Road, London N7, and subsequently attended a Lunch with alumni.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 4th
The Princess Royal, Master, the Corporation of Trinity House, this morning attended the Trinitytide Anniversary Annual Court Meeting, Church Service and Luncheon, Trinity House, Tower Hill, London EC3.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Corps of Signals, this afternoon inspected The Queen's Gurkha Signals Regiment on public duties at St James's Palace.

The Princess Royal, Chairman, International Olympic Committee Members Election Commission, later held a Members Election Commission Meeting at St James's Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 4th
The Duke of Gloucester and The Duchess of Gloucester, President, this evening attended a performance by the Royal Academy of Music at Apsley House, Hyde Park Corner, London W1.

For more details about the Royal family visit the Royal website at www.royal.uk

Today's birthdays

Miss Moira Anderson, singer, is 86; **Dame Margaret Drabble**, author, 85; **Lord Rooker**, Chairman, Food Standards Agency, 2009-13, 83; **Mr Nigel Rees**, journalist and broadcaster, 80; **Sir David Hare**, playwright and screenwriter, 77; **the Earl of Dundee**, Chairman, Council of Europe Education Committee, 75; **Mr Ken Follett**, novelist, 75; **Dame Elizabeth Gloster**, a former Lady Justice of Appeal, 75; **Baroness Fox of Buckley**, writer and broadcaster, Director and Founder, the Academy of Ideas, 64; **Ms Morag Ellis**, KC, Dean, Arches Court of Canterbury, and Auditor, Chancery Court of York, 62; **Mr Alex Ellis**, High Commissioner to India, 57; **Lord Vaizey of Didcot**, former Conservative Government Minister, 56; **Dame Siobhan Keegan**, Lady Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, 53; **Mr David Weir**, wheelchair athlete; six-times Paralympic gold medallist and eight-times winner of the London Marathon, 45.

Today is the anniversary of the death of Lord Kitchener, who died aboard HMS *Hampshire* when it struck a German mine in 1916.

Bridge news

Last week the highest score in the English Bridge Union's High Noon Fast Games was 86.46%, **writes Julian Pottage, Bridge Correspondent**. The pair achieving this score was Peter Aughterson partnering a BBO Robot on Saturday.

The highest score in the EBU morning Relaxed Games was 78.75%, which June Homes and Carol Olivier achieved on Friday. The highest score in the EBU evening Relaxed Games was 75.89%, achieved by Sylvia Phillips and Judy Holcombe on Sunday.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Daily Telegraph.

LONDON, THURSDAY JUNE 5, 1924

GETTING TO EPSOM.

HUMOUR ON THE WAY.

AN OPTIMISTIC FRIEND.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

I suppose that the majority of my fellow-Londoners will regard it as being hardly credible or creditable that I should have reached the age of – well, the very advanced age which I reached yesterday – without ever having been to a race meeting. Such, however, was my curious case; and, that being so, you will at least admit that I made a good start in my career as a racegoer by attending "Derby's Derby."

I would not have you think, however, that I was the complete innocent in this matter. The soul of an Englishman is not so dead within me that I have never betted on races, have never flung away an evening paper with a cry of despair after a hurried glance at its stop-press column. Nor was I ignorant, when I approached the race train at Charing-cross yesterday, that I must be careful of my company.

I think now that I may have got into the wrong train; anyhow, there were fifteen of us in the compartment when we left Charing-cross, and if anybody had wanted to do the three-card trick he would have had to get up on to the rack to do it. But we were not at all that kind of party. At London Bridge three more people got into the compartment. I now felt able to relax my vigilance against pickpockets, feeling that, even if a specially dexterous performer managed to get his hand into my pocket unobserved, he would certainly not be able to get it out again till we reached Epsom. At in East Croydon two more people got in, heaven knows how, and the problem of where to put one's feet became acute.

UNLOVELY EELS.

However, all things have an end. We reached Tattenham Corner Station at last, and disembarked painfully – to find it was now raining. I limped across the road to the course, where hordes of people hawking race-cards at a shilling each were competing in the most barefaced way with others who were selling exactly the same article at sixpence. Clutching my money tightly, I plunged into the crowd, where raucous-voiced men shouted mysterious things about "4 to 1 bar one" and "6 to 4 the field." I heard one of them explaining to a dear old lady exactly what these expressions meant, and I should have liked to stop and listen too, but I did not dare for fear of exposing my ignorance. Then another voice spoke in my ear, nearly perforating the ear-drum, "Lovely eels," it said; "I'm selling the lovely eels." I moved on quickly. I have never eaten an eel, and I hope never to have to. I won't tell you what these looked like, because if I did squeamish readers would read no further; but you can take it from me that they were not lovely at all.

I pushed on in the general direction of the Grand Stand, and the bookies went on shouting and the rain went on raining. I began to consider my own modest little flutter on the Derby. I had quite made up my mind before starting forth that I would pay a delicate compliment to my distinguished colleague "Hotspur," and put half-a-crown (which they call half-a-dollar at Epsom) on each of the three horses he had mentioned favourably in yesterday morning's Daily Telegraph – namely, Diophon, Sansovino, and Woodend. What I now wanted was a "bookie" with a nice, kind face and a generous nature. I walked on for some time without finding the paragon I sought. I came across a generous nature, as it happened, but it was not a bookmaker's. It belonged to a gentleman who, to my first astonished glance, appeared to be giving away gold watches, fountain-pens, and bank notes with a lavishness that one would hardly have expected in one of his rather dingy appearance. He caught my eye, and I hastily moved on before he could land me with any of his embarrassing gifts; and so I have no idea now how his particular little ramp was worked. When I reached the Grand Stand it was still raining, and my quest of the perfect "bookie" was still unfulfilled. I decided to discontinue the search until I had had something to eat. I entered the Grand Stand, and there, most unfortunately, I met a Friend.

He was a very cheerful fellow; he was very glad to see me (and I him), and we lunched together in the most perfect amity. For a time, since he had been abroad for two years, we exchanged news concerning ourselves and our families; but then the talk turned to the Derby and what to back. It appeared that he had inside information concerning Optimist, which was going to win the race at 40 to 1 if the weather was bad and the going heavy. He had adventured his shirt upon this animal, and while he carefully refrained from saying anything that would influence my decision he was obviously of the opinion that now was my chance.

A NICE, KIND FACE.

I looked at the weather, and I pictured my triumphant return to my home in the evening bringing with me forty shirts. Then I thought of "Hotspur," and I wavered, but finally I went out into the paddock and approached a superbookie, and offered him my shirt. He did not appear to think much of it. In fact, he waved it away in a lordly manner, saying that he was for the moment only taking bets concerning the Wallington Plate. This, as I now see, was a warning to me from Fate; but I was blind. I hung about in the offing until the horses had whizzed by in a green lane between two forests of umbrellas, and then I tried again. This time he took my bet with, I thought, a certain lack of empressement, and then, feeling reckless, I went once again to the outer regions, among the barrels of lemonade and the jellied eels, to find somebody less grand with whom I might enter into a transaction on a half-dollar basis concerning Woodend. I picked a jovial worthy with the nearest approach to a nice, kind face that I could see; but I must be a poor physiognomist, for he gave me scandalously short odds. However, that did not matter, as it turned out.

By the time I had worked myself back into the paddock again, and near enough to my chief bookmaker to be able to collect my forty shirts immediately Optimist had won, it was time for the parade. For some time I could see nothing but umbrellas, because it was still raining; but eventually I saw Optimist go by. He seemed a little thoughtful, and oppressed by his responsibilities – I expect they had told him about me – but I was pleased to notice that his jockey had a fine, striking yellow get-up, easily recognisable when it came to cheering him down the straight. Then they went away, and off to the start; and for ten minutes or so we waited tensely, while the water from somebody's umbrella dripped down my neck, and a bookie near by, in an ecstasy of generosity, offered me 300 to 1 on a horse I had never heard of. Then the crowd gave a splendid concerted shout of "They're off!" – an effort which was rather wasted, I thought, because they weren't; and when the real start came, ten minutes later, and the crowd did it again, the effect was spoilt – an anticlimax. Then all the people put their umbrellas down, and we watched some insignificant dots careering round the horizon, while a man behind me with a husky voice and (apparently) the gift of second sight told a friend exactly who was leading and who was going to win. He did not seem to have heard of Optimist.

Then they came round the corner, and I could not see any yellow anywhere. A jockey in black, with a white cap, was leading; and when the people round me began to shout about a Sansovino I reflected sadly concerning the mutability of the human will, and how much finer a fellow was "Hotspur" than my Optimistic Friend. They began to cheer Lord Derby, but I was in no mood for cheering. I gave a hurt look at Optimist, who was strolling in twenty-sixth with a happy smile, as though I had never existed; and then, pausing only to strangle the miscreant who had brought about my ruin, I pushed my way out of the enclosure and through the stream of traffic to Tattenham Corner Station, resisting the blandishments of a gipsy woman with a baby in a shawl, who wanted to tell my fortune. I knew my fortune. In the train, this time, there were only twelve of us in a second-class compartment; but as I was the twelfth I had to stand just the same, and my feet foundered finally about the neighbourhood of Purley. I am now back at my desk, and thankful as never before for the chance to sit down. I am tired to death, I have been damp all day, my boots are oozing with Epsom mud, I saw practically no racing, and I have lost my shirt. And yet I think – yes, I really believe I have enjoyed myself.

It is very queer, but there you are.

Clergy news

Appointments
Revv Rachel Marszalek, v, Ealing All Saints (London), to be p-in-c, Bermuda St Anne and St James (Bermuda); Christine Britton, c, Northwood Emmanuel (London), to be v, Ickenham St Giles (London); Jody Stowell, v, Harrow Weald St Michael and All Angels (London), to be also bp chapl (London); Sarah Howard-Jones, c, Kensal Rise St Martin (London), to be v, Ealing St Barnabas (same dio); Simon Walsh, c, Highgate St Anne (London), to be c, Kilburn St Augustine with St John (same dio); Clare Shepherd, p-in-c, Canonbury St Stephen (London), to be chapl, Cumbria University (Blackburn).

Bridge Hand

Shi's back in the game

By **Tom Townsend**

Dealer East
Vulnerability All

	♠ K Q 9 4 3 ♥ none ♦ A K 10 8 6 5 ♣ J 8	
♠ J ♥ A K 10 9 6 5 4 ♦ 2 ♣ K 9 5 3	N W E S	♠ 10 6 5 ♥ J 7 2 ♦ J 9 7 4 3 ♣ Q 6
	♠ A 8 7 2 ♥ Q 8 3 ♦ Q ♣ A 10 7 4 2	

West	North	East	South
		pass	1♣
4♥	5NT(1)	pass	6♣
pass	6♦(2)	pass	6♠
pass	pass	pass	

(1) "Pick a slam, partner"
(2) Implying spades

Contract 6♠ by South
Opening Lead ♥K

THE US team trials have concluded in Schaumburg, Illinois. The winning Mixed team, beating Stewart Rubenstein in the final, was Susan Zhang's. Zhang was the protégé of Kathie Wei-Sender, first lady of Precision Club, who passed last month aged 93. Her teammates were Daniel Korbel, Eddie Wold, Janice Seamon-Molson and Sylvia Shi. They'll add a third man for the World Bridge Games in Buenos Aires.

Does the name Sylvia Shi ring a bell? Former cover girl of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin, Shi confessed to cheating online in the early pandemic, and was suspended for three years from July 2020. She remains on probation, not in good standing until July 2026.

Shi's win, and her imminent selection, has raised some hackles. While her ban was substantial, who wants to see her representing her country?

In England, under the current rules, she'd be banned from this until July 2030. She did, on the other hand, confess and take the rap. Many worse cheats did neither, through inability or disinclination of their federations to act, and got away scot-free.

North-South here for Rubenstein were Zach Grossack and Giorgia Botta; East-West were Wold and Seamon-Molson. Faced with a guess in the bidding, Zach went typically large – insisting on a slam in one of his suits. Nothing else was satisfactory.

Botta (South) played 6♠ on the ♥K lead. She ruffed on board, tested trumps with the ♠K, and crossed to the ♦Q. The ♠A next cost the contract. Botta drew the last trump with the ♠Q, tested diamonds with the ♦A, and led the ♣J when West showed out. This fetched the ♣Q from Wold, aced in hand.

The ♣10 then endplayed West, but that for one down. South ruffed the ♥A in dummy, cashed the ♦K, and conceded a club.

That might have been made. South ruffs the ♥K, unblocks the ♦Q, and crosses to the ♠Q. The odds are the ♠J is singleton. South ruffs a diamond with the ♠7, intending to claim if West follows. When West shows out, South is still home when East has three hearts. She ruffs a heart, ruffs a diamond, cashes the ♣A, and ruffs a heart with the ♠9. Three rounds of diamonds seal the slam.

Final Result 6♠ off one, N/S -100
Par Result 6♠ made, N/S +1430

Chess

Liren's struggle

By **Malcolm Pein**

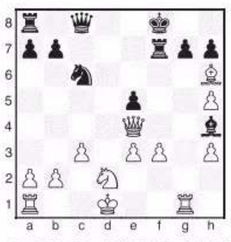
ALL three Classical games ended decisively in the fourth round at Norway Chess. Magnus Carlsen defeated Fabiano Caruana with the black pieces, while Hikaru Nakamura refuted a knight sacrifice from Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa and supplanted him as leader. There was an amusing moment when Pragg went into the confessional booth to describe his thoughts mid-game and realised he had miscalculated. Nakamura gradually converted the advantage of knight for two pawns.

World champion Ding Liren has struggled this year after a prolonged absence. He quickly subsided against Alireza Firouzja, who commented: "Normally, I should be happy after a win, but of course, clearly he's not playing his best. I hope he finds his shape because I didn't do anything particular today."

A Firouzja – Ding Liren
London System
1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Bg4 6.c3 e6 7.Qb3 Qc8 8.h3 Bh5 9.Be2 Be7 10.g4 Bg6 11.Nh4 Be4 12.f3



12...Nh5 (White was a little better after 12...c4 13.Qd1 Nh5 14.gxh5 Bxh4+ 15.Kf1 Bd3 16.Bxd3 cxd3 17.Kg2 in Firouzja – Caruana from round two) **13.gxh5 c4 14.Qa4 Bxh4+ 15.Kd1 Bd3 16.Bxd3 cxd3 17.Qb5 0–0 18.Qxd3 f6?!** (Better 18...h6 19.Rg1 Kh8) **19.Rg1 e5?** (Losing) **20.dxe5 fxe5 21.Bh6 Rf7 22.Qxd5 Kf8 23.Qe4!**



23...Qxh3? (23...Bf6 24.Qxh7 Qd7 25.Qh8+ Ke7 26.Qxa8 Rf8 27.Qxf8+ Kxf8 offered some practical chances) **24.Qxh7 Rd8 25.Rxg7 Rxg7 26.Qxg7+ Ke8 27.Qg6+ Ke7 28.Bg5+ Bxg5 29.Qxg5+ Kf7 30.Qg6+ Ke7 31.Kc2 Qh2 32.Rd1 Qe2 33.Qh7+ Ke6 34.Qe4 1–0**

Vaishali Rameshbabu – Koneru Humpy. Norway Chess Women's tournament. White to play and win:



Answer: 45.Rd7 1-0 the queen is trapped.

Announcements

Email: announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk **Book online:** announcements.telegraph.co.uk

Births

MARTIN.—On 15th May 2024, at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Georgina (née Cartwright) and Edward, a son, Harry Robert.
Online Ref: WO025258

POBAR.—On 21st May 2024, in the RBWH Brisbane, to Laura McPhee (née Crichton) and Dan, a daughter, Zoe May, a sister for Charlie and Jack.
Online Ref: WO025217

TYERS.—On 23rd April 2024, at 2 p.m., to Tiffany (née Tsang) and Alan, a daughter, Lily-Rose Yan-Yee Tsambika.
Online Ref: WO025210

Deaths

BUTTON.—Dr Robert Ian, aged 82, died peacefully on May 25th. Dearly loved husband of Rosemary, much loved father of Andrew, Charles, Mark and Adam (deceased) and loving grandfather. He will be sadly missed. The Funeral will be held at the Arun Crematorium, Climping on June 21st at 1 p.m. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to the Lewy Body Society. Enquiries to Darren Miles, Felpham.
Tel: 01243 828210.
Online Ref: WO025251

CLAPPERTON.—Alexander Wallace Ford, passed away peacefully on 31st May 2024, aged 89. Beloved husband to Cathy, dear brother to Anita, devoted father to Alison and Graeme, and proud grandfather of James and Olivia.
A Service of Thanksgiving will be held at St Mary's Church, Wendover HP22 6NL on Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 2.30 p.m. Family flowers only please. Enquiries to Wright Funeral Directors, Great Missenden HP16 0BE.
Online Ref: WO025248

GALE.—Michael Alan, died peacefully at home on May 23rd 2024 aged 88 years. Loving husband of Penny, father to Andrew and Sarah, grandfather to Annabel and Fiona. Public Funeral to be held at St Mary's Church, Bishops Lydeard, TA4 3AT at 12 noon on June 18th 2024. Donations for St Mary's Church, Bishops Lydeard can be left within the retiring collection at the church or sent c/o the Funeral Directors, E. White & Son (Taunton) Ltd, 138-139 East Reach, Taunton, TA1 3HN.
Online Ref: WO025279

HYRAPIET.—Arthur Vardon passed away peacefully in his sleep on 24th May, reunited with his beloved wife Heather Laura who passed away on 15th April. Funeral on 17th June at 10.30 a.m. at Eastbourne Crematorium. Enquiries to Co-op Funeral Directors, Polegate, East Sussex.
Online Ref: WO025074

JONES.—Pamela (née Evans). Died peacefully on 26th May 2024, aged 87. Beloved wife of Professor Ronald Jones, OBE, loving mother of Rachel and the late Alison, proud grandmother of Rebecca and Duncan. All enquiries to Charles Stephens Funeral Directors.
Tel: 0151 645 4396.
Online Ref: WO025246

MARSH.—Gwendoline Mary (née Ewen), died peacefully on May 23rd. Lover of life and mistress of revels, beloved mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, life companion and lady of Milton Manor. Will be sorely missed. Service to be held at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath at 11.30 a.m. on June 20th. Kindly contact halamars@yahoo.com if you wish to attend. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.
Online Ref: WO025276

OPPE.—Lucy died peacefully at home on 15th May after a long illness. Sister of John, Charlotte and Mary. A private family funeral will be followed by a service of thanksgiving on a date to be announced.
Online Ref: WO025295

WAKEMAN.—Alan passed away peacefully on 24th May 2024 in Torbay, Devon. Beloved father, grandfather and brother. Enquiries to Stockman & Loram, 230 Torquay Road, Preston, Paignton, TQ3 2HN. Tel: 01803 552112.
Online Ref: WO025224

WARD.—Sheila Anne (née Warne) on 8th May, aged 88, died peacefully at home with her family. Adored wife of the late Brian. Much loved mother of Frances and admired mother in law of Tshephang Morupisi. A housewife that enjoyed gardening and socialising. During her adult life she played an active role for the Conservative party. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Funeral at Guildford Crematorium on Tuesday 11th June at 1.30 p.m. No flowers. Donations for Cancer Research UK. Enquiries to Godalming Funeral Service.
Tel: (01483) 970610.
Online Ref: WO025278

WATSON.—Richard James. Peacefully at home on 1st June 2024. Beloved husband of Maureen. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. His career in the NHS spanned 40 years, from Norfolk to Bath, Harrogate and St Helens. All enquiries to Dean Brothers Independent Funeral Directors, Deans Court, Formby, Liverpool, L37 7DF. Tel: 01704 872023. www.deanbros.co.uk
Online Ref: WO025290

SESSIONS HODGE.—Dearly loved Peter Henry Sessions Hodge (1936-2020). Estate Manager (Cornwall) will be laid to rest with his family by his family at St Mary's Church, Stoke St Mary, Somerset, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday 5th June 2024.
Online Ref: WO025286

Personal

Text for the day

THE LORD God put the man in the Garden of Eden to take care of it and to look after it.
Genesis 2.15 (CEV)

Birthdays

HEATH JOHNSON Happy Birthday to our dear friend and great cricketer! See you soon for your next friendly. All the best from your friends and the team.
Online Ref: WO025303

MARGARET BRAY IS 90 TODAY
Congratulations and Happy Birthday. Lots of Love, Steve xx
Online Ref: WO025280

General personal

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Legal Notices

CR-2024-001001

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS COMPANIES COURT (ChD)

IN THE MATTER OF PROJECT PISCES TOPCO LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Claim Form has been issued in His Majesty's High Court of Justice seeking the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above-named Company whose registered office is at 25 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0EX.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the final hearing of the Claim is directed to be heard before the Insolvency and Companies Court Judge at The Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Building, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NL on 18 June 2024. The hearing may take place virtually.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the reduction of share capital should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the Claim Form will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DWF Law LLP,
1 Scott Place, 2 Hardman Street,
Manchester, M3 3AA,
Solicitors for the Company

The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph

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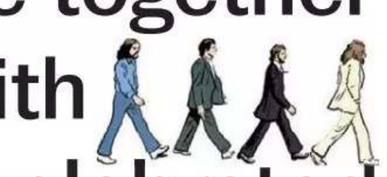
The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph

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John Burnside

Writer whose poetry was vivid and lyrical but whose prose was influenced by his brutal childhood

JOHN BURNSIDE, who has died aged 69, was one of the most acclaimed writers of his time in both prose and verse, equally compelling whether his subject was the beauty of the natural world, or the drink-fuelled years in which he would habitually begin the day by "hauling myself out of a skip behind a pet shop".

Burnside seemed a Jekyll and Hyde figure in his early career: his poetry, as he put it, tended to be "celebratory and lyrical", while his novels, in the view of one critic, displayed "a livid streak of psychopathy" with a focus on murder, rape and torture.

Three superb volumes of memoir – *A Lie About My Father* (2006), *Waking Up in Toytown* (2010) and *I Put a Spell on You* (2014) – eventually accounted for this seemingly split personality. A traumatic childhood, followed by years of mental illness and drink and drug abuse, explained his preoccupation with the darker aspects of life. But his tribulations had also led him since boyhood to seek refuge in the wonders of nature, which he duly hymned in verse.

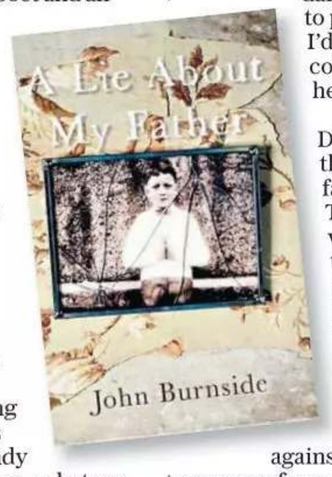
In his poem "Lost" Burnside recalled roaming Beath woods, near his childhood home in Cowdenbeath, Fife, "where I was gone/for ages, on those Sunday afternoons/lost on purpose, looking for the lithe/weasel in the grass... I wanted the pink-toothed/killer... who slips into the chicken runs of mind/and works his way with something of my own/bright rage towards the folly of the damned."

The boy's "own bright rage" is explained in his memoirs' depiction of his drunken father, who once threw John's sister down the stairs, and threw his favourite teddy bear into the fire.

The young John's misery was compounded by the family's relocation to the soulless Midlands new town of Corby when he was 11. "I gave up on social engagement altogether. Now all that remained was the consolation of ecology."

For many years he lived a rackety existence peopled by oddballs. (One of his memoirs bore the disclaimer: "Some of the characters, especially the homicidally inclined, have been camouflaged for their own protection.") He "tried to be normal, and... failed – not because I hadn't tried hard enough, but because, unlike madness, normal was a lie."

In later life, despite having some claims to respectability as a garlanded poet and an academic – from 2009 he was Professor of Creative Writing at the University of St Andrews – Burnside remained a committed anarchist. His novel *Glister*, he noted, featured, as a representative of capitalism, "a one-dimensional man who only cared about money. Some people criticised me. And then 2008 happened. Sorry, but I rest my case."



Burnside strove to be less didactic in his poetry than in his prose, but he often lamented in verse the growing disconnect between humans and the natural world: "a steady delete/of anything that tells us what we are,/a long/distaste for the blood warmth and bloom/of the creaturely."

Burnside was a lapsed Catholic, but he found a purely rational approach to life limiting, and his work was populated by angels and other evanescent presences. Certain images served as motifs: the *Daily Telegraph* critic Robert Hanks admitted to a "temptation to play Burnside bingo – a point for every ghost, vanishing or snowfall".



CHRIS WATT

Burnside's memoirs recall his father throwing his sister down stairs and burning his teddy bear

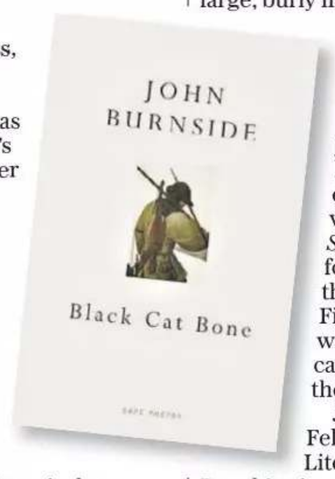
He would feed his imagination with solo walking jaunts in the Arctic Circle; once, he got lost in a snowstorm and only stumbled on his almost-buried rental car by chance. "That wasn't the dangerous part. The dangerous part was when I had to phone my wife and tell her I'd been out on foot without a compass while it was snowing," he told the *Telegraph*.

John Burnside was born in Dunfermline on May 19 1955, the son of George Burnside, a factory worker, and his wife Theresa. He recalled lying in wait one night, as a teenager, to stab his hated father as he returned from the pub. Burnside Sr's life was saved by his happening to be accompanied by a friend.

"What he wanted," Burnside wrote, "was to warn me against hope, against any expectation of someone from my background being treated as a human being in the big, hard world. He wanted to kill off my finer – and so, weaker – self." And yet the son's portrayal of his father was full of sympathy for him and the many working-class men like him. "In a society that worked so hard to keep us from loving, or even liking, ourselves, expecting us to love somebody else... was a bit much to ask."

After being expelled from school in Corby in Northamptonshire for smoking cannabis and fooling around with girls, Burnside found refuge in LSD and books. He studied at the Cambridge College of Arts and Technology, but went on to take menial jobs while drinking and gambling with abandon.

A slide into mental illness, fostered by "the constant tension of the household when I was in my teens", was exacerbated by his mother's death from cancer: his father accused him of killing her through worry. Burnside began "seeing things that weren't there. Hearing voices in the background static. Finding God or the devil in the last scrapings of Pot Noodle."



After treatment at Fulbourn Mental Hospital he decided to pursue an ordinary life in suburbia – "a perfect banal" among "those isolates who make clockwork of their existence" – hoping he might settle down with a woman who resembled his television crush, the arch suburbanite Margo as played by Penelope Keith in *The Good Life*.

In 1985, aged 30, Burnside moved to Surrey and worked as a civil servant and later as a computer software engineer. Yet he continued to drink to excess and to find himself in unsuitable relationships: a liaison with a woman who would dope her children with Valium and leave them to go out on the town; a friendship with a fellow drinker who invited Burnside home one night and then begged him to murder his sleeping wife; an unconsummated *amour fou* for a 15-year-old girl when he was 38.

He had started to write poetry to provide himself with some intellectual stimulation at work, and his first collection, *The Hoop*, was published in 1988.

He began to move in London literary circles, and although initially his drunken rages caused some alarm, he began to curb his excesses in his 40s. He married Sarah Dunsby in 1996 and eventually settled quietly in rural Fife.

The books began to pour from him, and he won the Whitbread poetry book of the year award for *The Asylum Dance* (2000). His collection *Black Cat Bone* (2011) received both the Forward Prize and the TS Eliot Prize.

Of Burnside's first three novels, *The Dumb House* (1997) was narrated by a Mengele-like scientist who carries out horrifying experiments on his own children; *The Mercy Boys* (1999) was a portrait of the violent Scottish pub culture his father had been part of; and *The Locust Room* (2001) was inspired by the Cambridge Rapist, who had been at large when Burnside lived in the city in the mid-1970s.

Many readers found his early novels hard to stomach, but his fiction became noticeably less macabre after he had exorcised some of his demons in writing his memoirs.

Later novels such as *A Summer of Drowning* (2011), set on a small island in the Arctic Circle, were characterised by the same shimmering lyricism and awestruck sense of beauty as his verse.

Burnside also published collections of short stories and essays, and was a nature columnist for the *New Statesman*. *The Music of Time* (2019), an idiosyncratic history of 20th-century poetry, excoriated modern vices, among them "the feckless amateurism of unchecked 'self-expression'".

With an accent described by one interviewer as "a curious hybrid of Cowdenbeath and Corby", Burnside was a large, burly man with, in his later years, a gentle manner.

He suffered for years from insomnia, and in 2020 almost died from heart failure: "There was light, but I didn't just see light: I was in light, of light," he recalled. His experiences inspired his 2021 verse collection *Learning to Sleep*. The abiding inspiration for most of his poetry remained the fauna to be found near his Fife fastness in the local woods, with their silence "like the caught breath of the choir before they sing the Kyrie".

John Burnside was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in 1998 and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2016. Last year he was awarded the David Cohen Prize for his body of work.

His wife survives him with their two sons.

John Burnside, born March 19 1955, died May 29 2024

Marian Robinson

Michelle Obama's mother who came to live in the White House

MARIAN ROBINSON, who has died aged 86, was the mother of Michelle Obama, the former First Lady of the United States.

Marian Robinson's own father, the grandson of a slave in Georgia, had grown up in segregated Alabama in the Jim Crow era. In 2008 she was sitting on the sofa with her son-in-law Barack Obama when he was declared America's first black president.

The Robinsons had raised their daughter Michelle and her elder brother Craig on Chicago's South Side in a rented one-bed flat smaller than the White House's master suite. Marian gave up her career as a bank secretary to bring up their children, while her husband Fraser, who never missed a day's work despite suffering from multiple sclerosis, was a pump operator for the city's water company.

They lived on a single working-class salary, but kept an immaculate Buick, forced their children to eat broccoli, and expected them to go to university – a reality-check to the stereotype, as Michelle Obama put it, that "African-Americans primarily live in broken homes, that our families are somehow incapable of living out the same stable, middle-class dream as our white neighbours".

Marian Robinson taught Michelle to read before kindergarten. Later, when she was stuck with a dud teacher, Marian marched down to the school and had her moved up a year. At home, the children were treated as adults. Sex, drugs and politics were debated at the kitchen table. "Make sure you respect your teachers, but don't hesitate to question them," said Marian. "Don't even allow us to just say anything to you. Ask us why."

To save money, Marian sewed all her daughter's clothes, made Muppet toys out of socks and dyed her own hair (on one occasion, accidentally, green). When Michelle neglected to tell her parents about an expensive school trip to Paris, assuming it was not an option, they were hurt.

"Neither one of them had ever vacationed in Europe," wrote Michelle Obama. "They never took beach trips or went out to dinner. They didn't own a house. We were their investment, me and Craig. Everything went into us." Michelle was sent to Paris.

To Barack Obama, the child of a Midwestern mother and a Kenyan father who had vanished from his life, this tight-knit family was a wonder. When politics took its toll on the Obamas' own marriage, it was the widowed Marian who stepped in, even though she had resumed full-time work, arriving at 4.45am to help with the children, but she insisted: "I am *not* going to be one of those old ladies who won't leave their kids alone just because they've got nothing better to do."



Marian with young Michelle

When Michelle begged her to move to the White House, Marian refused, telling a reporter: "I love my own house. The White House reminds me of a museum... How do you sleep in a museum?" Later she relented, becoming "First Granny" and accompanying her granddaughters to school every morning, but insisted on doing her own laundry, eating television suppers and moving without a security cordon. Strangers would tell her she looked just like Michelle Obama's mother. "Yeah, I get that a lot," she would reply.

When people gushed to her about Michelle and Craig's achievements (he got a basketball scholarship to Princeton), Marian would say: "They're not special at all. The South Side is filled with kids like that." Obama described her as "a living, breathing reminder of who we were and where we came from, a keeper of values we'd once thought ordinary but had learned were more rare than we had imagined".

Marian Lois Shields was born on July 30 1937 in Chicago, one of seven children, to Purnell Shields, a construction worker who made do with lower-paid work because the white-controlled unions denied him a union card, and his wife Rebecca Jumper, a nurse; they later divorced.

In 1960 Marian married Fraser Robinson, who died in 1991; her son and daughter survive her.

Marian Robinson, born July 30 1937, died May 31 2024

Werner Spitz

Forensic pathologist who probed the deaths of JFK, Martin Luther King and Mary Jo Kopechne

WERNER SPITZ, who has died aged 97, was a pioneering US forensic pathologist who was consulted by Congressional committees investigating the assassinations of President John F Kennedy and Martin Luther King, and testified as an expert witness in high-profile murder cases including those involving OJ Simpson and Phil Spector.

Spitz began his career in Israel, where in 1951 he observed his first autopsy – that of Morris Meyerson, husband of the future Israeli prime minister Golda Meir, who had been found dead aged 57 in a Tel Aviv flat. As it turned out, he had died of a heart attack.

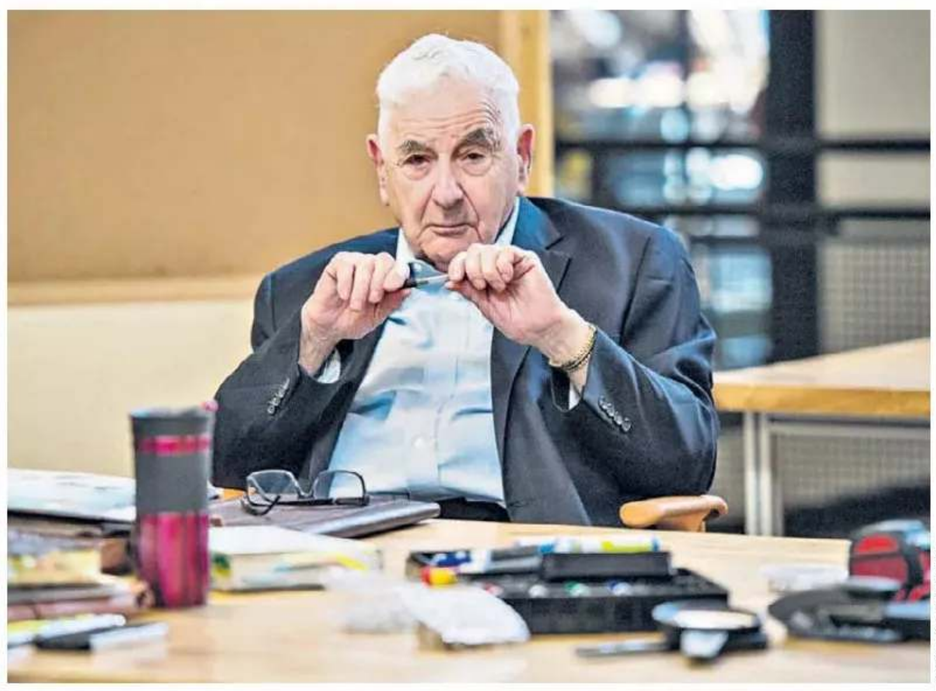
Young Spitz was hooked, but he was disappointed with the cases that came his way. "In seven years in Israel, there was only one murder," he complained. In 1959 he decided to emigrate to the US.

He went on to serve as Deputy Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore, Maryland, and Chief Medical Examiner for Wayne and Macomb counties in Michigan (with Detroit falling in both counties), claiming to have been involved in more than 60,000 autopsies.

Forensic pathology when he arrived was in its infancy and Spitz was among those who led its development, teaching at Wayne State University, Detroit, and at the University of Windsor in Canada, and co-editing Spitz and Fisher's *Medicolegal Investigation of Death: Guidelines for the Application of Pathology to Crime Investigation* (1972), the "Bible" of the profession, now in its fifth edition.

Spitz began his foray into prominent cases in 1969, testifying for the parents of Mary Jo Kopechne, the political worker who had been found dead in an Oldsmobile sedan that had overturned into a pond on Chappaquiddick Island. A week later, Senator Edward Kennedy pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident after causing injury, receiving a two-month suspended sentence.

Questions about the exact circumstances of her death, however, led officials to press for a full autopsy, but Spitz helped persuade a Pennsylvania judge to agree to her parents' wish that her burial site should not be disturbed. In 1975 Spitz reviewed the assassination of John F Kennedy, determining that while the post mortem, carried out by military pathologists, had been "botched", the conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald was the killer was the right one. In 1979 he reviewed the killing of Martin Luther King, confirming the findings of the original autopsy that James Earl Ray was the man responsible.



CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE

Spitz: his testimony that cuts on OJ Simpson's hand were fingernail gouges swayed the civil jury

To a wider public, it was as an expert witness in murder cases that Spitz became familiar, "booming his certainties", as the *Los Angeles Times* once put it, "with the same kind of stentorian, accented baritone that Edward Teller used to proclaim his convictions about nuclear conflict".

When the occasion demanded, Spitz was not above a bit of showmanship. During the 1988 trial of Robert Chambers, "the Preppy Killer", on charges of murdering 18-year-old Jennifer Levin, Spitz, for the prosecution, demonstrated his theory of how the victim had died from strangulation after a prolonged struggle, with her blouse being twisted into a noose. Chambers had claimed that her death had occurred by accident during "rough sex".

Spitz was forced to put on his demonstration twice because each side brought its own blouse and its own volunteer "victim". The result was inconclusive, as while the prosecution's volunteer obligingly gagged and turned red, the volunteer for the defence showed no reaction. Chambers later pleaded guilty to manslaughter after the jury failed to reach a verdict.

Spitz's testimony was more effective during the 1996-97 civil lawsuit against OJ Simpson after the American football star had been acquitted of the murder of his former wife Nicole Brown Simpson. His testimony that small semi-circular cuts on Simpson's left hand were fingernail gouges that could have been inflicted by Nicole helped the jury to find him responsible for her death and that of her friend Ronald Goldman.

Spitz's claim for the defence, at the 2007 murder trial of the music producer Phil Spector, that his alleged victim, the actress Lana Clarkson, had shot herself, no doubt contributed to the jury's failure to agree a unanimous verdict, though Spector was convicted of murder in a 2008 retrial.

It appeared that Spitz may have gone too far in 2016 when he alleged, in a CBS documentary, that the person responsible for the brutal 1996 killing of six-year-old beauty queen JonBenét Ramsey was probably her nine-year-old brother, Burke Ramsey. In 2008, based on DNA evidence, Burke and his parents had been cleared of her murder by a prosecutor, and in response to Spitz's claims Burke Ramsey launched a £120 million lawsuit which was eventually settled on undisclosed terms. The crime remains unsolved.

The son of a doctor, Werner Uri Spitz was born on August 22 1926 to a Jewish family in Stargard, Germany (now in Poland). The family moved to British Mandate Palestine before the Second World War.

Werner Spitz embarked on medical studies in Switzerland, but graduated from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. His father landed him a job at a local medical examiner's office and it was there that he became fascinated by forensic pathology.

In one of his last cases, Spitz was hired to carry out a second autopsy by the family of Patrick Lyoya, the unarmed 26-year-old refugee from Congo whose fatal shooting in April 2022 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, by a white police officer triggered public protests.

Spitz confirmed that Lyoya had been killed by a single shot to the back of the head but found no other injuries consistent with police claims that he had been violently resisting arrest. In June 2022 the officer, Christopher Schurr, was charged with second-degree murder; the case has yet to come to trial.

Werner Spitz is survived by his wife, Anne, and by two sons and a daughter.

Werner Spitz, born August 22 1926, died April 14 2024

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The week in radio Tristram Fane Saunders



Easy like a Sunday morning for Ball's Love Songs debut



Michael Ball has taken over the late Steve Wright's classic Radio 2 show

Like its owner, my washing machine has a breakdown roughly once every 10 months. This has led me to devise the Laundrette Test for Radio 2 presenters.

Radio 2 isn't like other stations. It's the most popular in the country, and inescapable. It's not enough for its DJs to please people who listen voluntarily. Their show must also be bearable to those who passively endure it – in cafes, waiting rooms, laundrettes.

So, here's what makes a good Radio 2 DJ: if you can listen for a full two hours, with no other distraction than your socks going round the tumbler, and *not* want to throttle them, they've passed the Laundrette Test.

On Sunday morning, **Michael Ball** had the daunting task of taking over *Love Songs* from the show's creator, the late and much-missed Steve Wright, to whom he sweetly dedicated a closing song (*Wichita Lineman*, one of Wright's favourites).

Ball passes the Laundrette Test, barely. When he's not giggling – he giggles too much – he is a smooth, capable, don't-startle-the-horses broadcaster. This show, he said, is "all about family. Friendship. Romance. Memories". There was much talk of hugging. He began with Wet Wet Wet – well, start as you mean to continue.

Love comes in many forms, and he welcomed phone-ins about any kind of love, even non-human variants. ("Colin, my parrot, sat on my shoulder and said, 'I love you…'")

And then there were his own sweet-nothings to the listener. "I'm going to be waking up with you, making the breakfast with you…" The idea of waking up beside Ball will doubtless leave many listeners misty-eyed. I'm not one, but this show isn't *for* me. It's for Jane, who was celebrating her 70th birthday, and whose husband phoned in to say: "Jane's been a fan of you since seeing you in your tighty-whiteys in *Aspects of Love*." Gosh.

The music was blandly inoffensive – apart from one hilariously misjudged bit of modern pop. For two honeymooners, he lined up Taylor Swift's lyrically grim recent single, *Fortnight* – because "that's probably how long the honeymoon's going to be". Yes, a song that goes: "My husband is cheating, I wanna kill him!" Perfect for newlyweds.

If Wright's are big shoes to fill, Ball's move meant his own more modestly sized old loafers were left vacant in the lunchtime studio for the Sunday 11am-1pm slot. Enter **Paddy McGuinness**, clearly thrilled to get his own show after stints sitting in for others.

He was funny, enthusiastic and just scattershot enough to sound authentic. A quiz segment drolly mixed topical news with whimsy ("What colour socks am I wearing?").

The music helped, too. Of course, everyone's taste in music is subjective – except mine, which is correct. Guinness's choices – Aretha Franklin, Dusty Springfield, Blondie – categorically beat *Love Songs*' bland line-up of McFly, Will Young and Shania Twain. I might listen again.

Tuesday brought big news for potential Reform voters: the party is shaping its immigration policy purely to please the BBC – more specifically, one BBC presenter. At least, that's what Nigel Farage told Mishal Husain on **Today** (Radio 4).

Reducing the number of people coming into this country is at the core of Reform's campaign. So, Husain, quite reasonably asked, how many people *would* he like to see coming in? He tried miserably to change the subject, but Husain was unshakeable. Would Reform accept 600,000 as a target? "If it makes you happy, that's what we'll do," he said. It was a petulant answer, but with a sweaty undertone of desperation.

I expected Farage to have ideas about dealing with immigration. He had none, U-turning on key manifesto pledges from one sentence to the next.

When a man stands for election, voters have a right to take him at his word. Farage's final word on his party's central policy was – apparently – that immigration targets will be set at whatever number means Husain will let him leave the studio alive.

Aside from one question about his children, which was a bit of a cheap dig, this was a masterclass in political interviewing. Husain put policy first, drilling into detail: how will Reform's manifesto pledges be put into practice? To whom will they apply? Do the numbers add up?

Too often, politicians get away with empty bloviating. But anyone standing for election ought to be able to give serious answers when asked what their party wants to achieve, and how they plan to achieve it. If the leader of every party gets this kind of incisive questioning over the next few weeks – and they should – then *Today*, and our democracy, will be the better for it.

What to watch



STAR WARS: THE ACOLYTE
Disney+



Rebecca Henderson and Lee Jung-jae star in Disney's latest addition to the Star Wars universe

The Disney era of *Star Wars* finds itself in something of a creative rut. Having seemingly given up on new movies, it has retreated into nostalgia: safe small-screen bets featuring familiar characters such as Obi-Wan Kenobi and Boba Fett. Few of which have inspired critical acclaim (*Andor* is an honourable exception). *The Acolyte*, however, represents a reset – an entirely new story featuring an entirely new cast of characters. It is set during the High Republic, which takes place 100 years before the events of the Skywalker family saga. This is the galaxy's golden age, in which the Jedi Order are at the peak of their powers. Yet today's two-part premiere suggests that something is amiss: a mysterious assassin (Amandla Stenberg) is killing Jedi one by one. In response, Jedi Master Sol (Lee Jung-jae, best known for *Squid Game*) has been assigned to investigate. This is *Star Wars* as detective drama – and a pretty good one too. Sure, there are a couple of pacing problems, but the story and characters are compelling enough to stand on their own. The force is particularly strong with the second episode, in which Sol faces a mysterious figure from his past. For our full review, see Features, p11. ***Stephen Kelly***

ARTS

Let the Canary Sing
Paramount+
This boisterous music documentary charts the life, career and activism of popstar Cyndi Lauper, best known for 1980s hit *Girls Just Want to Have Fun*. Expect archival footage from her early years, along with the likes of Boy George and Patti LaBelle on talking-head duties.

Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir
Sky Arts, 9pm
The couple's avian model this week is the elusive crested tit, which hides in the forests of the Cairngorms in Scotland. According to Jim it is "the punk rocker of the bird world". The couple are also joined by Ronni Ancona, who gives them a lesson in Japanese ink.



Let the Canary Sing: dive into the life of Cyndi Lauper

COMEDY

Inside No 9
BBC Two, 10pm; NI, 11.05pm
There is a superstition in classical music that a composer's ninth symphony is likely – and fatally – to be their last. The penultimate episode of Reece Shearsmith and Steve Pemberton's series spins this "curse" into a spooky ghost story set around an Edwardian piano tuner (Shearsmith), who is hired by the wife (Natalie Dormer) of a dead composer (Eddie Marsan). The composer's oeuvre? Eight-and-a-half symphonies…

FACTUAL

Nick Knowles in South America
Channel 5, 7pm
Professional cheeky chappy and DIY soul-saver Nick Knowles journeys through South America in this fairly familiar three-part travelogue (stripped across this week). He begins at the self-styled "end of the world" in Chile, which offers him the opportunity to pet penguins, learn weaving and climb the "baby slopes" of the Andes.

D-Day 80: Tribute to the Fallen
BBC One, 8.30pm
It is the eve of the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings. This memorial event, broadcast from Bayeux War Cemetery in Normandy, pays tribute to the 4,600 Allied soldiers who lost their lives in the assault. Earlier, at 10.15am, BBC One broadcasts **D-Day 80: The Allies Prepare**, a tribute hosted by actress Helen Mirren live from Portsmouth, and a special D-Day edition of **The One Show** at 7pm.



Nancy and Jim Moir head to the Cairngorms in Scotland

The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan
BBC Two, 9pm
The second week of the comedian's African travelogue reaches the timely destination of Rwanda. He does an admirable job balancing fun with sobriety – especially regarding the country's 1994 genocide and Rishi Sunak's proposal to use Rwanda as an immigration deterrent. He is broadly charmed by its people, although unnerved by its oppressive approach to dissent. ***SK***

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The Daily T
A new Telegraph podcast

Radio choice



Whose Truth?
BBC Sounds

If you can't wait a fortnight for the World Service to air Babita Sharma's essential-listening series *Whose Truth?* – in which Nobel laureates discuss how to combat conspiracy theories and disinformation – it's available to stream on BBC Sounds from today. In the opener, Nobel-winning vaccine developer Katalin Karikó talks about what it was like being at the centre of a disinformation storm during the pandemic. Other episodes, featuring laureates Oleksandra Matviichuk, Paul Nurse and Maria Ressa, explore Russia's devastating war in Ukraine, how to combat climate change and the dangers of online hate and trolling. ***Gerard O'Donovan***

RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHZ

6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Dean and Vicky **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Pop with Mollie King **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Benji B **1.00am** Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets **1.30** Radio 1's Big Weekend-Live Sets **2.00** The Radio 1 Interview **2.15** Radio 1 Playlists **2.30** 6 Degrees from Jamie and Spencer **3.00** Radio 1 Relax **4.00** Radio 1 Dance **5.00 - 6.57am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Arielle Free

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHZ

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat **2.00pm** Scott Mills. Guest Nick Grimshaw is in the studio for Scott's first show back **4.00** Sara Cox. Music and chat **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower. Sara plays the biggest and best tunes to get listeners dancing **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist. Jo plays her favourite album tracks and musical gems rarely heard on Radio 2 **7.30** Jo Whiley. Crowded House play a Sofa Session **9.00** The Folk Show with Shaun Keaveny **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **4.00 - 6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4MHZ

6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **3.00** Choral Evensong **4.00** Composer of the Week: Amanda Maier-Rontgen **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape. A sequence of music **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert. Music by Strauss, Beethoven and Berg from Manchester's Bridgewater Hall **9.45** The Essay: EarthWorks. Archaeologist Rose Ferraby climbs a Lake District peak to visit a Neolithic quarry **10.00** Night Tracks. Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents a soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30 - 6.30am** Through the Night

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-94.6MHZ; LW 198KHZ

6.00am Today **9.00** More or Less **9.30** To Catch a Scorpion **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Today Debate **11.45** Book of the Week: Night Train to Odesa **12.00** News **12.04pm** You and Yours. Consumer affairs **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Presented by Sarah Montague **1.45** Thief at the British Museum **2.00** The Archers. Joy attempts to make amends and trouble brews for Lilian **2.15** Drama: The Interrogation. By Roy Williams **3.00** The Law Show. Weekly conversation on the laws making the news **3.30** The Artificial Human. Discussing why people project human like qualities onto AI **4.00** The Media Show. The latest news from the fast-changing media world **5.00** PM. Presented by Evan Davis **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** Robin Ince's Reality Tunnel. Robin discusses appreciating art and his favourite creatives **7.00** The Archers. Freddie has a dangerous idea and George is feeling the pressure **7.15** Front Row. Arts programme **8.00** AntiSocial **8.45** Uncharted with Hannah Fry **9.00** Being Roman with Mary Beard **9.30** All in the Mind **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Long Island **11.00** Bunk Bed **11.15** Chloe Petts' Toilet Humour **11.30** Soul Music **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am** Book of the Week: Night Train to Odesa **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45 - 6.00am** Farming Today

RADIO 5 LIVE
MW 693 & 909KHZ

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport. Katie Smith presents the day's sports news, plus the latest from the French Open **7.30** Tennis. Commentary on day 11 of the French Open **10.30** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00 - 6.00am** Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM
FM 99.9-101.9MHZ

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings. Presented by Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00 - 6.30am** Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News **8.06** HARDtalk **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** The Climate Question **10.00** News **10.06** World Book Club **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Documentary: Things Fell Apart **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** World Business Report **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Climate Question **8.30** Health Check **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** The Documentary: Things Fell Apart **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** World Book Club **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Documentary: Gaming Africa **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Food Chain **5.00 - 8.00am** Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Hercule Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead **6.30** The Great Impersonation **7.00** Winston in Love **7.30** Hancock's Half Hour **8.00** Hazelbeach **8.30** These Days **8.45** D-Day Minus 4: Harry and Gloria **9.00** Robin Ince's Reality Tunnel **9.30** A British History in Weather **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** What If **11.00** Hercule Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead **11.30** The Great Impersonation **12.00** Winston in Love **12.30pm** Hancock's Half Hour **1.00** Hazelbeach **1.30** These Days **1.45** D-Day Minus 4: Harry and Gloria **2.00** Dilemma **2.30** Two Doors Down **3.00** Wallis – The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson **4.00** What If **5.00** Hercule Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead **5.30** The Great Impersonation **6.00** Winston in Love **6.30** Hancock's Half Hour **7.00** Hazelbeach **7.30** These Days **7.45** D-Day Minus 4: Harry and Gloria **8.00** Dilemma **8.30** Two Doors Down **9.00** Wallis – The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson **10.00** Robin Ince's Reality Tunnel **10.30** I Think I've Got a Problem **11.00** Chain Reaction **11.30** Big Booth Too **12.00** What If **1.00am** Hercule Poirot: Mrs McGinty's Dead **1.30** The Great Impersonation **2.00** Winston in Love **2.30** Hancock's Half Hour **3.00** Hazelbeach **3.30** These Days **3.45** D-Day Minus 4: Harry and Gloria **4.00** Dilemma **4.30** Two Doors Down **5.00 - 6.00am** Wallis – The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson

Today's television

Main channels

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **9.30** Rip Off Britain (S) **10.15 D-Day 80: The Allies Prepare See What to watch** (S)
1.00 pm BBC News at One; Weather (S)
1.35 Regional News; Weather (S)
1.45 BBC News at One; Weather (S)
2.00 Doctors (AD) (S)
2.30 Clean It, Fix It (R) (S)
3.00 Escape to the Country (AD) (R) (S)
3.45 Garden Rescue (R) (S)
4.30 The Finish Line (S)
5.15 Pointless (R) (S)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S)
6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)
6.55 Party Election Broadcast (R) (S)



D-Day 80: Tribute to the Fallen

7.00 The One Show – D-Day Special Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas join in the D-Day commemorations **See What to watch** (S)

8.00 EastEnders George offers to become a silent partner on Junior's business deal (AD) (S)

8.30 D-Day 80: Tribute to the Fallen Events commemorating the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings **See What to watch** (S)

10.00 BBC News at Ten (S)
10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)
10.40 FILM: The King's Speech (2010) Fact-based drama starring Colin Firth **See Film choice** (AD) (S)

12.30 am Celebrity Bridge of Lies **1.20 - 6.00am** News

BBC Two

6.30 am Homes Under the Hammer (R) (S) **7.30** Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (R) (S) **8.00** Sign Zone: See Hear (AD) (S) (SL) **8.30** Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Food Stories (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **9.00** News (S)
12.15 pm Politics Live (S)
1.00 Impossible (R) (S)
1.45 Mastermind (R) (S)
2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) (R) (S)
2.45 Five Bedrooms (AD) (R) (S)
3.30 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R) (S)
4.15 Ocean Giants (R) (S)
5.15 Flog It! (R) (S)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games (R) (S)
6.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (S)



Inside No 9

7.00 Your Garden Made Perfect Transforming a couple's garden in St Albans, Hertfordshire (R) (S)

8.00 Springwatch The over 18 Wildlife Hero winner is announced (S)

9.00 The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan Romesh crosses the border from Uganda into Rwanda **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

10.00 Inside No 9 A talented piano-tuner is forced to confront a centuries-old curse **See What to watch** (AD) (S)
10.30 Newsnight (S)
11.05 Unspun World with John Simpson **11.30** D-Day: The Unheard Tapes **12.30am** Sign Zone: See Hear **1.00** Sign Zone: Cold Case Investigators: Solving Britain's Sex Crimes **2.00** Sign Zone: Saving Lives at Sea **3.00 - 6.45am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** Lorraine (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)
12.30 pm Loose Women (S)
1.30 News; Weather (S)
1.55 Regional News; Weather (S)
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (AD) (R) (S)
3.00 Lingo (R) (S)
4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S)
5.00 The Chase for Soccer Aid (R) (S)
6.00 Regional News; Weather (S)
6.25 Party Election Broadcast (S)
6.30 News; Weather (S)



Coronation Street

7.30 Emmerdale Will is unconvinced by Rose's attempt to make amends (AD) (S)

8.00 Coronation Street Dee-Dee endures a difficult first meeting with Joel's parents (AD) (S)

9.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Celebrity Special With Joel Dommett and Chris Kamara (R) (S)

10.00 News; Weather (S)
10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)
10.45 Peston Political magazine show, hosted by Robert Peston (S)

11.40 British Touring Car Championship Highlights **12.55am** Shop on TV **3.00** My Mum, Your Dad **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05 - 6.00am** Wheel of Fortune

Channel 4

6.30 am 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) **6.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun (AD) (R) (S) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.40** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.10** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.40** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S)
12.05 pm Channel 4 News (S)
12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S)
1.10 Car S.O.S (AD) (R) (S)
2.10 Countdown (S)
3.00 A Place in the Sun (R) (S)
4.00 A Place in the Sun (S)
5.00 Sun, Sea and Selling Houses (S)
6.00 Four in a Bed (S)
6.30 The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)



Queenie

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)

7.55 Party Election Broadcast

8.00 Location, Location, Location Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer catch up with couples who they had to get onto the same page (S)

9.00 24 Hours in Police Custody Bedfordshire Police investigate a knife and gun attack on the doorstep of a man's house (AD) (S)

10.00 Queenie (AD) (S)
10.35 Queenie (AD) (S)

11.10 24 Hours in A&E **12.10am** The Piano **1.05** FILM: God's Own Country (2017) Drama starring Josh O'Connor and Alec Secareanu **2.50** FILM: Stage Mother (2020) Comedy drama starring Jacki Weaver **4.25** Iris Prize Best British Shorts **4.55** Grand Designs Australia **5.50 - 6.30am** Countdown

Channel 5

6.00 am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine (S) **11.15** Storm Huntley (S)
12.45 pm Friends (AD) (R) (S)
1.10 Friends (AD) (R) (S)
1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (S)
1.45 Home and Away (AD) (R) (S)
2.15 FILM: Living Next To Danger (2023, TVM) Premiere. Thriller starring Kristi Murdock (S)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (R) (S)
5.00 5 News at 5 (S)
6.00 Police Interceptors (R) (S)
6.55 5 News Update (S)



Nick Knowles in South America

7.00 Nick Knowles in South America New series. Nick Knowles sets off on an ambitious adventure around the continent **See What to watch** (S)

7.55 5 News Update (S)

8.00 The Motorway A four-vehicle pile-up causes chaos on the Spaghetti Junction (S)

9.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts An influx of patients causes a longer wait time at the hub (AD) (S)

10.00 Trauma Room One (R) (S)

11.05 999: Emergency Call Out **12.05am** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Center Parcs: Britain's Poshest Holiday Camp **3.50** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **4.40** Wildlife SOS **5.05** House Doctor **5.30** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** Fireman Sam **5.45 - 6.00am** Paw Patrol

Film choice



A Foreign Field *(1993)*
BBC Four, 10.15pm ★★★★

At 10pm, writer Roy Clarke introduces the classic war comedy (originally broadcast as a TV film) that earned him and director Charles Sturridge critical acclaim. The film itself is a moving rumination on the passing of time, and is anchored by fine lead turns from Alec Guinness, Edward Herrmann and John Randolph. They play Second World War veterans returning to the beaches of Normandy as old men.



The King's Speech *(2010)*
BBC One, 10.40pm; Wales, 11.10pm; NI, 11.40pm ★★★★★

Tom Hooper's stirring film about the future King George VI's struggle to overcome his stammer won multiple Oscars, including Best Actor for Colin Firth. But it's his double-act with Geoffrey Rush, as the King's speech therapist Lionel Logue, and their doubleheaders, courtesy of screenwriter David Seidler, that give the film its heart.



Bad Boys *(1995)*
Film4, 11.15pm ★★★★

Alongside the Spice Girls and Britpop, this debut from Michael Bay truly epitomises the Nineties cultural zeitgeist. Will Smith and Martin Lawrence star as Miami cops who get caught up in a dense tangle of vice, corruption and smuggling when $100 million of confiscated heroin goes missing. Sequel *Bad Boys II* is on tomorrow (Film4, 11.10pm); the fourth instalment is in cinemas now.

with Camilla TOMINEY   *and* Kamal AHMED

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BBC Four

FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 108

7.00 pm Great British Railway Journeys
7.30 Cornwall's Red River
8.00 Full Circle with Michael Palin
8.50 Michael Palin: The Art of Travel
9.00 The Jet Stream and Us
10.00 Roy Clarke Remembers – A Foreign Field
10.15 FILM: A Foreign Field (1993) **See Film choice**
11.45 Parkinson Interviews Alec Guinness
12.25 am Alec Guinness: Talking Pictures
1.10 Great British Railway Journeys
1.40 Just Barbara
2.45 - 3.45am The Jet Stream and Us

ITV3

FV 10 FS 115 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117

11.20 am Heartbeat
12.25 pm Heartbeat
1.40 Classic Emmerdale
2.10 Classic Emmerdale
2.40 Classic Coronation Street
3.10 Classic Coronation Street
3.40 Agatha Christie's Marple
5.45 Heartbeat
6.55 Heartbeat
8.00 Midsomer Murders
10.00 Wire in the Blood
11.50 The Royal
12.40 am Bless This House
1.05 Upstairs, Downstairs
2.00 Unwind with ITV
2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118

11.25 am Isle of Man TT
12.25 pm The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes
1.35 Magnum, PI
2.40 Kojak
3.40 Minder
4.50 The Sweeney
6.00 BattleBots
7.00 Cycling: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights
8.00 British Rally Championship
9.00 Isle of Man TT
10.00 No Room For Error
11.05 All Elite Wrestling: Collision
1.00 am Isle of Man TT
1.55 The Protectors
2.25 Unwind with ITV
3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

FV 36 FS 147 SKY 130 VIRGIN 140

2.00 pm FILM: South Pacific (1958)
4.50 The Joy of Painting
6.00 Tales of the Unexpected
7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
8.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2022
9.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir See What to watch
10.00 The Eighties
11.00 Greatest Albums Live
12.00 More Than This: The Story of Roxy Music
1.00 am Bryan Ferry Plays Baloise Session
2.15 Wonderland: From JM Barrie to JRR Tolkien
3.15 - 4.15am Cheltenham Literature Festival

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

11.10 am Billions
12.15 pm Game of Thrones
1.20 The Sopranos
2.25 The Sopranos
3.30 True Blood
4.35 True Blood
5.40 Billions
6.45 Billions
7.50 Game of Thrones
9.00 The Sympathizer
10.10 The King
11.10 The King
12.10 am The Pacific
1.15 The Newsroom
2.25 Game of Thrones
3.35 - 4.05am In Treatment

Film4

FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428

11.00 am The Sound Barrier (1952, b/w) Drama starring Ralph Richardson
1.20 pm The Sons of Katie Elder (1965) Western starring John Wayne
3.45 Von Ryan's Express (1965) Adventure with Frank Sinatra
6.05 Mission: Impossible – Fallout Interview Special
6.10 Cast Away (2000) Drama starring Tom Hanks
9.00 Flag Day (2021) Crime drama, starring Sean Penn
11.15 Bad Boys (1995) Action thriller starring Will Smith **See Film choice**
1.35 - 3.50am Bombshell (2019) Drama with Charlize Theron

Drama

FV 20 FS 158 SKY 143 VIRGIN 116

11.40 am The Bill
12.40 pm Classic EastEnders
1.20 Classic EastEnders
2.00 London's Burning
3.00 Lovejoy
4.15 Tenko
5.15 Birds of a Feather
6.00 Waiting for God
6.40 Are You Being Served?
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine
8.00 The Bletchley Circle
9.00 New Tricks
10.00 New Tricks
11.20 Soldier, Soldier
12.30 am Lovejoy
1.40 Call the Midwife
2.50 - 4.00am Classic Holby City

Dave

2.00pm Extreme Fishing with Robson Green **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British **6.00** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul **7.00** Would I Lie to You? At Christmas **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Mad Dogs **11.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40am** Would I Lie to You? At Christmas **1.20** Live at the Apollo **2.30** Meet the Richardsons **3.00-4.00am** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA

GOLD

Noon Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** Keeping Up Appearances **1.20** My Hero **2.00** Porridge **2.40** Dad's Army **3.20** Are You Being Served? **4.00** Last of the Summer Wine **5.20** Porridge **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.35** Dad's Army **8.00** Still Open All Hours **8.40** The Thin Blue Line **9.15** dinnerladies **10.00** The Royle Family **10.40** Harry Enfield and Chums **11.20** The Office **12.00** Still Open All Hours **12.40am** The Thin Blue Line **1.15** dinnerladies **2.00** The Royle Family **2.35** Harry Enfield and Chums **3.15-4.00am** The Office

ITV2

Noon Dress to Impress **1.00pm** Wheel of Fortune **2.00** Family Fortunes **3.00** Veronica Mars **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Family Fortunes **8.00** Bob's Burgers **9.00** Love Island **10.05** G'wed **10.40** Family Guy **11.35** American Dad! **12.35am** Bob's Burgers **1.35** Extraordinary **2.10** World's Funniest Videos **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4

11.25am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Chateau DIY **6.55** Car S.O.S **7.55** The Dog House **9.00** Building the Billion Pound Cruise Ship **10.00** 999: On the Front Line **11.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.05am** Emergency Helicopter Medics **1.10** 999: On the Front Line **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.55am** A Place in the Sun

PBS America

11.55am WWII in Color: Road to Victory **1.00pm** Nazi Town, USA **2.05** The Soviet Union: 100th Anniversary 1922 **3.05** Normandy '44: D-Day and the Battle for France **4.15** Three Days in June: The Story of the D-Day Forecast **5.20** WWII in Color: Road to Victory **6.25** The Soviet Union: 100th Anniversary 1922 **7.30** Normandy '44: D-Day and the Battle for France **8.35** Three Days in June: The Story of the D-Day Forecast **9.40** WWII in Color: Road to Victory **10.50** Nazi Town, USA **12.00** The Soviet Union: 100th Anniversary 1922 **1.00am** Normandy '44: D-Day and the Battle for France **2.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at:
11.05am FILM: Tokyo Joe (1949, b/w) Drama starring Humphrey Bogart **12.50pm** Tour of Scotland in 1958 **1.10 FILM:** It's Great to Be Young! (1956) Comedy starring John Mills **3.00** Saddle Up **3.05 FILM:** Way of a Gaucho (1952) Western starring Rory Calhoun **4.55** Saddle Up **5.00** Johnny Ringo **5.30** Bonanza **6.30** The Road to D-Day **7.00** Dixon of Dock Green **8.00** The Human Jungle **9.05** Gideon's Way **10.10 FILM:** The Cater Street Hangman (1998) Victorian thriller starring Eoin McCarthy and Keeley Hawes **12.15am** Look at Life **12.30** Maigret **1.35 FILM:** Out of Bounds (1986) Thriller starring Anthony Michael Hall **3.25-5.25am FILM:** Vanishing Point (1971) Thriller starring Barry Newman

Yesterday

Noon Great British Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** The World at War **5.00** World War Weird **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Canal Boat Diaries **8.00** Great Coastal Railway Journeys **9.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **10.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Hornby: A Model World **2.00** Abandoned Engineering **3.00-6.10am** Teleshopping

Sky Sports Main Event

10.00am Live State of Origin Rugby League. New South Wales Blues v Queensland Maroons (kick-off 10.05am) **1.00pm** Live World Pool Championship. Coverage of the first session on day three of the tournament **3.00** Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup. India v Ireland **7.30** Live World Pool Championship. Coverage of the second session on day three of the tournament **9.30** Sky Sports News **10.00** Sky Sports News at Ten **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Papua New Guinea v Uganda **1.00-5.30am** Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Australia v Oman

Sky Sports Premier League

Noon Gary Neville's Soccerbox **1.00pm** Premier League Best Goals **2.00** Premier League Highlights **5.00** Premier League Review **7.00** Premier League Stories **8.00** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **9.00** Newcastle – The Entertainers **9.30** Southgate: Life As England Manager **10.00** Class of '92: Full Time **11.00** PL Retro **1.00am** Premier League Years **3.00-4.00am** PL Greatest Games

TNT Sports 1

11.00am Live Hockey. Great Britain v China (push-back 11.00am) **1.00pm** No Filter Football **1.15** Live Hockey. Great Britain v Spain (push-back 1.15pm) **3.15** MotoGP Rewind **3.30** Live Hockey. United States v Germany (push-back 3.30pm) **5.30** Badminton Weekly **5.45** Live Hockey. Ireland v Germany (push-back 5.45pm) **7.45** MotoGP Highlights **8.45** No Filter Football **9.00** Live MLB. Washington Nationals v New York Mets (start-time 9.05pm) **12.15am** MLB Plays of the Week **12.45** MotoGP Rewind **1.00** Ligue 1 Highlights **2.00** TNT Sports Goals Reload **3.00-4.00am** Premiership Women's Rugby

Discovery

Noon Wheeler Dealers **1.00pm** Barnwood Builders **3.00** Gold Rush **4.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **6.00** Demolition Down Under **7.00** Kindig Customs **8.00** Supertruckers **9.00** Border Control Poland **11.00** Combat Dealers: Reloaded **12.00** Gold Divers **1.00am** Border Control Poland **3.00-4.00am** Gold Rush

Sky Cinema Premiere

24 hours, including at:
Noon Boonie Bears: Guardian Code (2023) Animated adventure with the voice of Joseph S Lambert **1.40pm** Ride On (2023) Action drama starring Jackie Chan **4.00** Bonus Track (2023) Comedy starring Joe Anders **5.45** Blue Beetle (2023) Fantasy adventure starring Xolo Maridueña **8.00** The Exorcist: Believer (2023) Horror sequel starring Leslie Odom Jr **10.00** Cult Killer (2023) After a private investigator is murdered, his protégé discovers the grisly secrets of their town. Thriller, with Antonio Banderas **12.00** Some Other Woman (2023) Thriller with Ashley Greene **1.35am** Force of Nature: The Dry 2 (2024) Thriller starring Eric Bana and Anna Torv **3.35-5.15am** The Inseparables (2023) Animated adventure with the voice of Monica Young

Sky Documentaries

Noon FILM: Transhood (2020) Documentary following four children as they redefine "coming of age" **2.00pm** Jealous Guy: The Assassination of John Lennon **3.50** My Icon: Kadeen Corbin **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Meryl Streep **6.00** The Seventies **7.00** The Great Rhino Robbery **8.00** The Man Who Bought Cricket **9.00 FILM:** Amy (2015) Documentary portrait of singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse **11.30** Music Box **1.30am FILM:** The Go-Go's (2020) The history of the American new wave band **3.30-5.00am** The Unbreakable Tatiana Suarez

Sky History

Noon The UnXplained with William Shatner **1.00pm** Pawn Stars **2.00** Ancient Skies **3.00** Bomber: Terror of WWII **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** American Pickers **7.00** Forged in Fire **8.00** Mysteries from Above **9.00** The Curse of Oak Island **10.00** Deadman's Curse **11.00** Paranormal: Caught on Camera **12.00** Pawn Stars **2.00am** Royal Kill List **3.00-4.00am** Mysteries from Above

Sky Max

Noon The Flash **1.00pm** SEAL Team **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T. **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **6.00** Stargate SG-1 **8.00** A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip **9.00 FILM:** Escape from New York (1981) Sci-fi action adventure starring Kurt Russell **11.00** Resident Alien **12.00** The Walking Dead **1.00am** Ted **2.00** Brassic **3.00-4.00am** Banshee

Variations

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 6.55 - 7.00pm Party Election Broadcast **10.40** Nolan Live **11.40** FILM: The King's Speech (2010) **1.30 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Two: 10.00 - 10.30pm Spotlight **11.05** Inside No 9 **11.35** Unspun World with John Simpson **12.00 - 1.00am** D-Day: The Unheard Tapes
UTV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: 2.30pm Politics Scotland **3.15 - 3.45** Clean It, Fix It **12.30am** Debate Night **1.30** Celebrity Bridge of Lies **2.20 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Scotland: 7.00pm This Farming Life **8.00** Life on the Bay **8.30** Scotland's Home of the Year **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Two Doors Down **10.30** Debate Night **11.30** Icons of Football **midnight** Close
STV: 10.40pm Scotland Tonight **11.05** Peston **12.00 - 3.00am** Shop on TV **3.50 - 5.05am** Night Vision

Wales

BBC One: 6.55 - 7.00pm A Party Election Broadcast **10.40** BBC Wales Live **11.10** FILM: The King's Speech (2010) **1.00am** Celebrity Bridge of Lies **1.45 - 6.00am** BBC News
BBC Two: 7.00pm Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure **7.30 - 8.00pm** Beechgrove Garden
ITV1 Wales: 6.25 - 6.30pm Party Election Broadcast

ITV1 Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cyw **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Richard Holt: Yr Academi Felys **12.30** Heno **1.00** Codi Hwyl **1.30** Garddio a Mwy **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Nôl i'r Gwersyll **4.00** Awr Fawr: Timpo **4.10** Awr Fawr: Octonots **4.20** Awr Fawr: Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd **4.30** Awr Fawr: Crawc a'i Ffrindiau **4.45** Awr Fawr: Kim a Cet a Twrch **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Darllediad Etholiadol gan Plaid Cymru **6.05** Pêl-Droed Rhyngwladol **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Ma'i Off 'Ma **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Y Gymraeg: Hawl Pob Plentyn **10.00** Rownd a Rownd **10.30 - 11.35pm** Yr Anialwch

Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

Low pressure north of the United Kingdom will produce blustery showers in Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland today. Sunny spells in southern England and Wales with the odd shower.

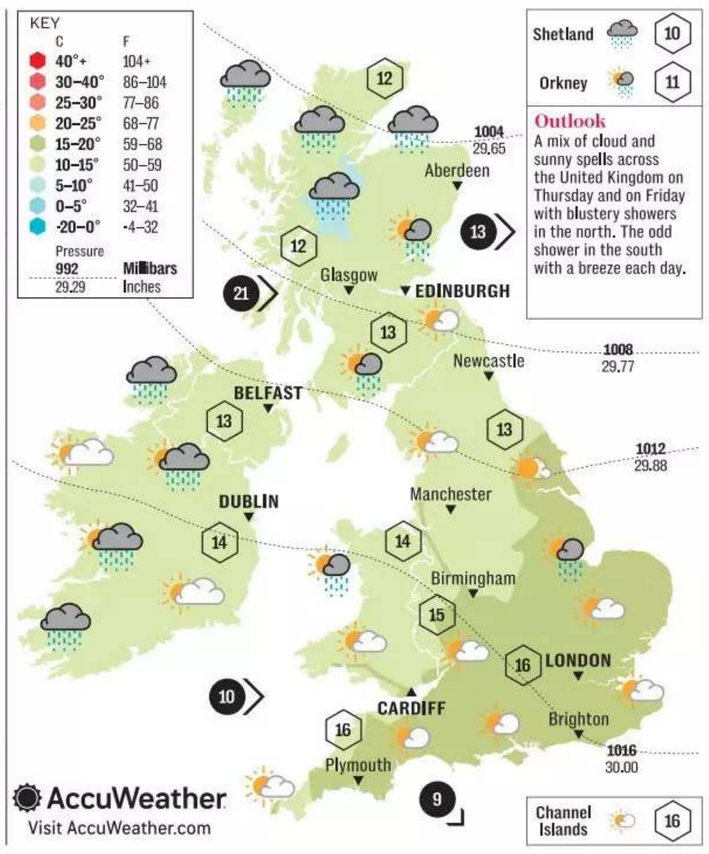
◆**London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Sunny spells today with the odd shower, especially in the afternoon. A gentle W to NW wind. Max 58-65F (15-18C). Clear spells and mainly dry tonight. Min 41-50F (5-10C).

◆**NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Blustery showers today. A gentle to moderate W wind. Max 42-57F (6-14C). The odd shower tonight. Min 34-48F (1-9C).

◆**Wales:** Sunny spells today with the odd shower. A moderate W to NW wind. Max 42-58F (6-15C). Mainly dry tonight. Min 36-50F (2-10C).

◆**N Ireland:** A couple of blustery showers today. A gentle to moderate W wind. Max 52-57F (11-14C). The odd shower tonight. Min 34-46F (1-8C).

◆**SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Broken cloud with blustery showers today and tonight. A moderate W to NW wind. Max 38-57F (3-14C). Min 33-48F (1-9C).



Four day forecast

Thursday

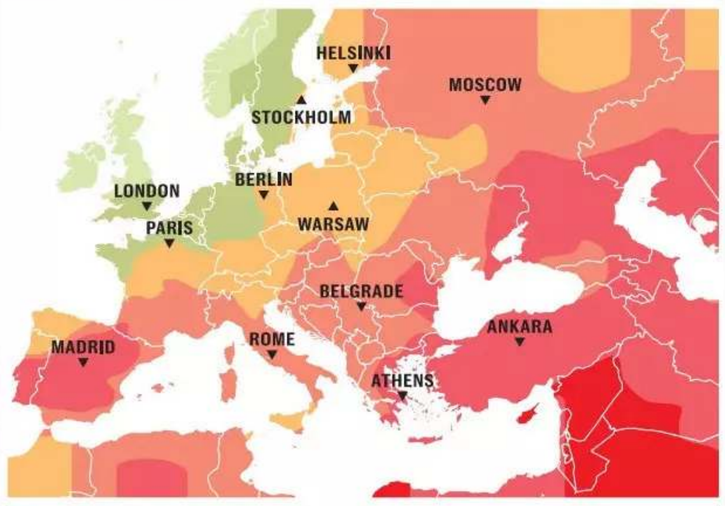
Friday

Saturday

Sunday

European readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Akrotiri	36	24	sunny
Alicante	25	16	sunny
Amsterdam	21	12	showers
Athens	38	21	sunny
Barcelona	23	17	windy
Bari	25	17	sunny
Belgrade	26	14	p/cldy
Benidorm	25	16	sunny
Bergen	14	9	showers
Berlin	21	13	p/cldy
Biarritz	22	16	p/cldy
Bodrum	36	21	sunny
Bordeaux	26	10	sunny
Brest	18	13	cloudy
Brussels	21	13	p/cldy
Bucharest	32	17	p/cldy
Budapest	23	15	storms
Cagliari	27	14	p/cldy
Chamonix	19	10	p/cldy
Copenhagen	19	11	p/cldy
Corfu	29	18	sunny
Cork	16	11	windy
Corsica	24	15	p/cldy
Crete	33	21	sunny
Dublin	17	12	showers
Dubrovnik	26	16	p/cldy
Faro	24	19	p/cldy
Florence	27	14	p/cldy
Frankfurt	23	8	p/cldy
Funchal	23	17	showers
Gdansk	23	12	sunny
Geneva	24	15	p/cldy
Gibraltar	23	19	sunny
Hamburg	19	14	showers
Helsinki	26	15	sunny
Innsbruck	26	12	p/cldy
Istanbul	32	22	sunny
Kyiv	28	16	storms
La Rochelle	21	12	sunny
Lisbon	28	18	p/cldy
Locarno	23	13	showers
Luxembourg	19	9	cloudy
Madrid	32	15	p/cldy
Majorca	26	14	p/cldy
Malaga	29	16	sunny
Malta	29	21	showers
Marseille	27	14	sunny
Menorca	24	16	p/cldy
Milan	25	15	showers
Monaco	22	17	storms
Moscow	24	15	showers
Munich	21	12	p/cldy
Naples	25	14	sunny
Nice	22	18	cloudy
Nicosia	42	25	sunny
Oporto	26	14	p/cldy
Oslo	19	8	windy
Palermo	26	20	p/cldy
Paris	24	11	p/cldy
Perpignan	26	17	sunny
Prague	18	9	cloudy
Reykjavik	8	5	showers
Rhodes	36	23	windy
Riga	25	14	p/cldy
Rome	24	12	p/cldy
Saint Malo	20	10	cloudy
Salzburg	21	13	p/cldy
Santander	19	11	p/cldy
Santiago/Comp.	28	13	sunny
Sofia	28	15	p/cldy
St. Petersburg	24	15	p/cldy
Stockholm	24	13	sunny
Strasbourg	24	10	p/cldy
Tenerife	26	19	windy
Tirana	31	16	sunny
Toulouse	26	13	sunny
Valencia	26	16	storms
Venice	24	16	p/cldy
Vienna	21	14	cloudy
Vigo	27	16	sunny
Vilnius	23	15	p/cldy
Warsaw	20	15	cloudy
Zagreb	24	15	showers
Zurich	23	12	p/cldy

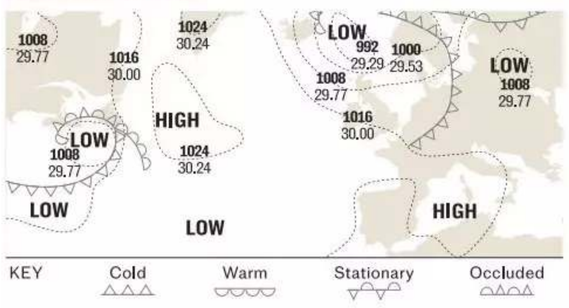


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British readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm - *estimated readings

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Aberdeen	2.2	0.08	21	11	showers
Aberystwyth	0.3*	0.26	15	9	showers
Antrim	3.9	0.04	17	12	showers
Aviemore	3.7	0.06	18	8	showers
Barnstaple	0.0*	0.02	17	14	showers
Barrow-in-Furns.	0.3*	0.15	16	11	showers
Basingstoke	0.5	0.00	19	13	cloudy
Bedford	0.7*	0.01	18	13	showers
Belfast	4.7*	0.00	17*	12*	windy
Berwick	3.6	0.27	19	9	showers
Birmingham	2.1*	0.05	18	12	showers
Bodmin	0.8*	0.02	19	11	showers
Bournemouth	0.1	0.00	21	12	cloudy
Braintree	0.3*	0.14	18	14	showers
Brecon	0.7*	0.11	16	8	showers
Bridlington	4.2*	0.04	18	11	showers
Brighton	0.5*	0.00	21	12	cloudy
Bristol	1.8*	0.05	18*	12*	showers
Camborne	0.0	0.00	17	13	cloudy
Cardiff	0.0	0.00	18	12	cloudy
Carlisle	0.7*	0.06	16	12	showers
Catterick	0.2	0.01	19	12	showers
Cheltenham	1.4*	0.13	20*	13*	showers
Chester	0.3	0.10	17	12	showers
Coventry	0.2*	0.15	18*	13*	showers
Doncaster	1.6*	0.10	21*	12*	showers
Dover	1.9*	0.00	16	13	cloudy
Dundee	4.8	0.01	21	11	showers
Eastbourne	0.9	0.00	21	13	cloudy
Edinburgh	4.4	0.03	19	11	showers
Epsom	0.2*	0.00	19	13	cloudy
Falmouth	0.0*	0.00	19	13	cloudy
Farnborough	0.4*	0.07	20*	12*	showers
Fort William	2.6	0.19	16	6	showers
Glasgow	3.9	0.07	18	9	showers
Great Malvern	0.2*	0.01	20	13	showers
Grimsby	2.0*	0.00	19	11	cloudy
Guernsey	1.6*	0.00	18	12	cloudy
Hereford	2.3*	0.02	21	11	showers
High Wycombe	0.8*	0.07	20*	11*	showers
Holyhead	1.4	0.12	16	12	showers
Huddersfield	0.7*	0.02	14	9	showers
Ipswich	0.5	0.01	19	13	showers
Isle of Man	2.8	0.16	17	12	showers
Isle of Skye	2.7*	0.18	12*	6*	showers
Isle of Wight	0.7*	0.00	16	13	cloudy
Isles of Scilly	2.3*	0.00	18	13	cloudy
Jersey	1.2	0.00	18	12	cloudy
Keswick	0.0*	0.21	16	11	showers
Kew Gardens	0.4*	0.04	21*	16*	showers
King's Lynn	0.3*	0.04	19	12	showers
Leeds	0.8*	0.28	16*	11*	rain
Leek	0.7*	0.03	14	9	showers
Leominster	0.0	0.02	19	9	showers
Lincoln	0.2	0.04	18	12	showers
Liverpool	0.3	0.10	17	12	showers
London	0.3*	0.00	21	15	cloudy
Manchester	0.4	0.11	16	12	showers
Middlesbrough	1.6*	0.08	20	10	showers
Newcastle	3.1*	0.06	19	11	showers
Newquay	0.0	0.00	17	13	cloudy
Nottingham	0.8	0.05	17	12	showers
Orkney	3.7	0.05	13	8	showers
Oxford	0.3	0.01	19	12	showers
Perth	2.1*	0.06	19	9	showers
Peterborough	0.7	0.05	18	11	showers
Plymouth	0.5*	0.00	20	13	cloudy
Portsmouth*	0.4*	0.03*	19*	14*	showers
Prestwick	2.2	0.15	15	10	showers
Ramsgate	4.4	0.00	20	14	cloudy
Rhyl	0.8*	0.08	16	11	showers
Rugby	0.1*	0.05	18	13	showers
Salisbury	1.2*	0.01	20	11	showers
Scunthorpe	1.7*	0.11	19*	12*	showers
Sheffield	1.6	0.10	21	12	showers
Shetland	2.4*	0.09	13	8	windy
Shrewsbury	0.4	0.07	18	10	showers
Skegness	1.2*	0.08	20	9	showers
Southampton	3.0*	0.01	21*	14*	showers
Southend-on-Sea	0.6	0.00	21	13	cloudy
Stockport	0.4	0.11	16	12	showers
Stornoway	4.9	0.07	13	7	showers
Swansea	0.1*	0.00	18	13	cloudy
Swindon	1.9*	0.00	19	12	cloudy
Thirsk	1.7*	0.03	21	8	showers
Tiree	1.4*	0.09	14	8	showers
Weymouth	1.3*	0.00	17	13	cloudy
Whitehaven	0.9*	0.17	15	10	showers
Windermere	0.5*	0.35	17*	10*	rain
Worcester	0.2*	0.01	20	13	showers
Yeovil	0.0	0.00	20	11	cloudy
York	1.2*	0.17	19*	12*	showers

Atlantic front



Noon today: A slow-moving low will remain just east of Iceland with a front pushing into central Europe.

Sun & moon (Greenwich)

Sun rises	0447
Sun sets	2114
Moon rises	0333
Moon sets	2043
New moon	June 6

Yesterday

Warmest	Weybourne 22C (71F)
Coldest	Aonach -2C (29F)
Wettest	Leuchars 0.80 in.
Sunniest	Lerwick 8.0 hr.

Lighting up

Aberdeen	2158 to 0417
Belfast	2155 to 0451
Birmingham	2125 to 0447
London	2114 to 0447
Manchester	2132 to 0444
Penzance	2127 to 0514

High water

Aberdeen	0056	4.0m	1310	4.1m
Belfast	1053	3.5m	2316	3.4m
Cardiff	0641	11.7m	1904	11.7m
Dover	1100	6.3m	2319	6.5m
Falmouth	0451	4.9m	1716	4.9m
Harwich	1131	3.9m	2345	3.9m
Holyhead	1001	5.4m	2229	5.4m
Hull	0558	7.1m	1811	7.4m
Liverpool	1048	9.0m	2316	9.0m
London	0108	6.8m	1343	6.7m
Portsmouth	1101	4.5m	2328	4.7m
Southampton	0041	4.3m	1010	4.2m

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Pollen count

Grass and weed pollen are very high. Tree pollen is low and fungal spores are moderate.

Provided by the National Pollen and Aerobiology Research Unit

Sea forecast

S North Sea: A gentle to moderate westerly wind today. Seas will be moderate. Visibility will be good.

Dover Strait, English Channel: A light to moderate west-northwesterly wind today. Seas will be very rough on the east and the west. Visibility will be good.

St. George's Channel: A gentle to fresh westerly wind today. Seas will be rough. Visibility will be good.

Irish Sea: A moderate to strong westerly wind today. Seas will be rough. Visibility will be good.

World readings

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Accra	31	25	p/cldy
Addis Ababa	31	15	p/cldy
Adelaide	14	7	cloudy
Alexandria	31	23	haze
Algiers	26	14	p/cldy
Amman	38	24	sunny
Anchorage	12	8	p/cldy
Ankara	31	15	p/cldy
Ascension Is.	29	25	showers
Auckland	17	9	p/cldy
Baghdad	44	28	sunny
Bahamas	30	24	rain
Bahrain	38	30	sunny
Bamako	39	24	p/cldy
Bangkok	35	28	p/cldy
Beijing	33	18	haze
Beirut	28	24	haze
Bermuda	26	21	p/cldy
Bogota	19	11	rain
Bridgetown	30	27	storms
Brisbane	24	7	sunny
Buenos Aires	12	9	p/cldy
Cairo	38	23	sunny
Canberra	14	0	p/cldy
Cape Town	18	14	rain
Casablanca	24	16	p/cldy
Chicago	28	22	storms
Christchurch	14	1	p/cldy
Colombo	31	27	showers
Damascus	41	20	haze
Dar es Salaam	31	22	sunny
Dhaka	36	27	storms
Dubai	39	30	sunny
Falkland Is.	7	3	showers
Harare	29	12	sunny
Havana	32	23	storms
Hong Kong	28	25	rain
Honolulu	25	24	showers
Jakarta	33	27	p/cldy
Jeddah	38	30	haze
Jerusalem	34	21	sunny
Johannesburg	13	-3	sunny
Kabul	34	16	p/cldy
Karachi	35	28	windy
Kolkata	37	27	p/cldy
Kuala Lumpur	33	26	storms
La Paz	15	-6	sunny
Lahore	41	27	haze
Lima	18	16	p/cldy
Los Angeles	18	15	p/cldy
Maldives	31	28	p/cldy
Manila	34	26	p/cldy
Marrakesh	31	17	p/cldy
Melbourne	15	8	cloudy
Miami	31	24	p/cldy
Montego Bay	31	25	storms
Mumbai	35	29	rain
Nairobi	27	16	storms
New Orleans	32	25	storms
New Delhi	44	30	haze
New York	24	20	p/cldy
Ottawa	28	14	p/cldy
Perth	22	11	cloudy
Port-of-Spain	32	26	storms
Rio de Janeiro	26	21	rain
Riyadh	44	28	haze
San Francisco	19	12	sunny
Santiago	14	8	cloudy
Seattle	14	10	showers
Seoul	28	15	sunny
Seychelles	32	28	cloudy
Singapore	32	26	p/cldy
Sydney	21	9	p/cldy
Taipei City	28	22	cloudy
Tangier	25	19	p/cldy
Tel Aviv	31	23	sunny
Tokyo	23	16	p/cldy
Toronto	25	15	p/cldy
Tunis	28	18	p/cldy
Vancouver	13	10	rain
Washington	31	21	storms
Wellington	14	7	windy
Winnipeg	21	16	storms

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2024

Nature Notes

Beavers settle in cathedral city

Kent now has the biggest beaver population in the country – and they can even be spotted in the centre of Canterbury, close to the cathedral.

Hunted for their fur, beavers were extinct in the UK for more than 400 years. But a survey has found hundreds of the wild variety in Kent, where they were reintroduced in 2001.

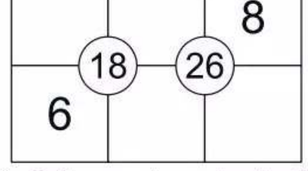
Across southern England, 10 other thriving populations also have been identified.

One of the report's authors, Ben Morris from the Environment Agency, said: "We don't count individual beavers because it is very difficult. We count territories using field signs like chewed wood, for example, to estimate the number."

The survey, by the Beaver Trust and Kent Wildlife Trust, recorded 2,157 field signs – mostly chewed wood.

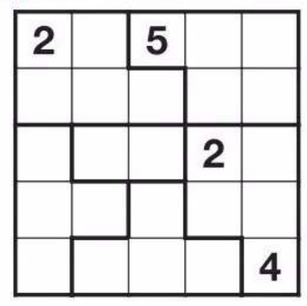
Mr Morris said: "Beavers help with biodiversity, improving water quality and they can help alleviate flood risk."*

Sujiko® MODERATE NO 4890



To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares. Today's solutions appear tomorrow.

Suguru NO 1978



The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

Yesterday's solutions:

Sujiko 4889: 143 / 567 / 982

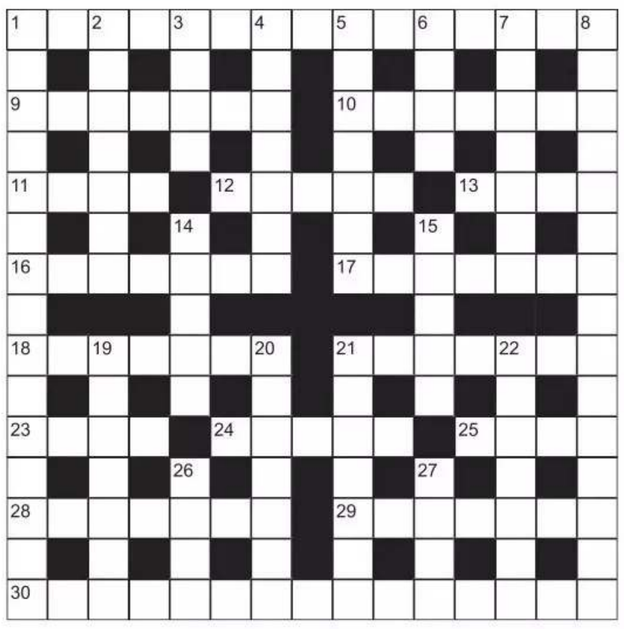
Suguru 1977:

1	3	2	3	2
5	4	1	5	4
1	2	3	2	3
3	4	1	4	1
1	2	3	5	2

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Crossword 30,632 telegraph.co.uk/puzzles



Across

1 Pointers ahead of reads relaxed serious actress (7,8)
9 Lectures in Zoom meetings at last (7)
10 Some sort of clip showing Barker (7)
11 Vermouth setter brought back for couple (4)
12 In the middle, awful field with small biting insects (5)
13 Note cracking piece of wood, pine (4)
16 Underheats takeaway, partly in danger? (2,5)
17 Morale slipping when duke initially visits Huntingdon, perhaps (7)
18 Withdrawing rubbish chapter, editor is fired (7)
21 Man wearing cloak gets new discount (7)
23 Caring family accompanying daughter (4)
24 Transport vehicle rarely cleared out (5)
25 Drop of Assam perhaps given stir at the end (4)
28 Manage ball games with pace (7)
29 Stand-up Jimmy, performing after one, getting something to eat on the road? (7)
30 E.g. 11 and 3 = 14 (4-6,5)

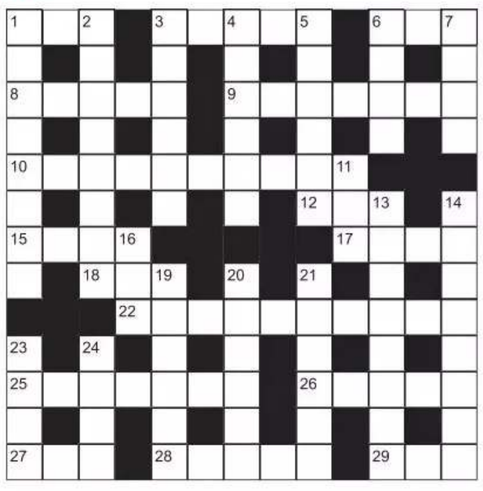
Down

1 Fighting evil attacker away, helicopter is capable of this (8,4-3)
2 Singer Stevie invests the Spanish coins (7)
3 Small building in Slough (4)
4 Discharge sailor on crack (7)
5 Welcome English couple when taking Mass (7)
6 Pigeon or rook or seabird (4)
7 Type of phone, with one for staff to keep (7)
8 Bands that show promise? (10,5)
14 Curses cereals, hard inside (5)
15 French cheese fine for lawyer (5)
19 Worked on a rude poem (7)
20 Barking lad cited briefly in local speech (7)
21 You might have a row in this about fortune-teller (7)
22 Occasionally, Des Moines Republican supports spin for chief (7)
26 Graduate beginning to love line dance (4)
27 Sketch extract (4)

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Help with today's clues Single clues **0905 757 0120.** All Across/Down clues **0905 757 0121.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke – Helpline **0333 202 3390.**

Quick Crossword



Across

1 *Bird, a corvid* (3)
3 *Bites* (5)
6 *Racket* (3)
8 Beast (5)
9 Rectify (7)
10 Coastal beacon (10)
12 Droop (3)
15 Roost (4)
17 Rip (4)
18 Drag (3)
22 Assembly (10)
25 Sloping text (7)
26 Singing group (5)
27 Neckwear (3)
28 Lawn (5)
29 Spring (3)

Down

1 Overjoyed (8)
2 Most junior (8)
3 Salutes (6)
4 Mooring; presenter (6)
5 Emphasise (6)
6 Tinted (4)
7 Memo (4)
11 Consume (3)
13 Lavish (8)
14 Standards for judgement (8)
16 Peak (3)
19 Brandishing (6)
20 US state (6)
21 Tango and waltz, e.g. (6)
23 Clue (4)
24 Overdue (4)

Help with today's Quick Crossword clues Single clues **0905 757 0122.** Solution **0905 757 0123.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Sat. SP: Spoke – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Yesterday's Quick Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Poe, 3 Cap, 5 Layer, *(Poker player)* 8 Leave, 9 Retreat, 10 Emit, 11 Corridor, 13 Pretty, 14 Friend, 17 Reflects, 19 Bets, 22 Thumped, 23 Image, 24 Signs, 25 Oar, 26 Tip.
Down: 1 Pulse, 2 Examine, 3 Chew, 4 Pardon, 5 Literary, 6 Yield, 7 Retired, 12 Attempts, 13 Pirates, 15 Elegant, 16 Studio, 18 Flung, 20 Steep, 21 Liar.

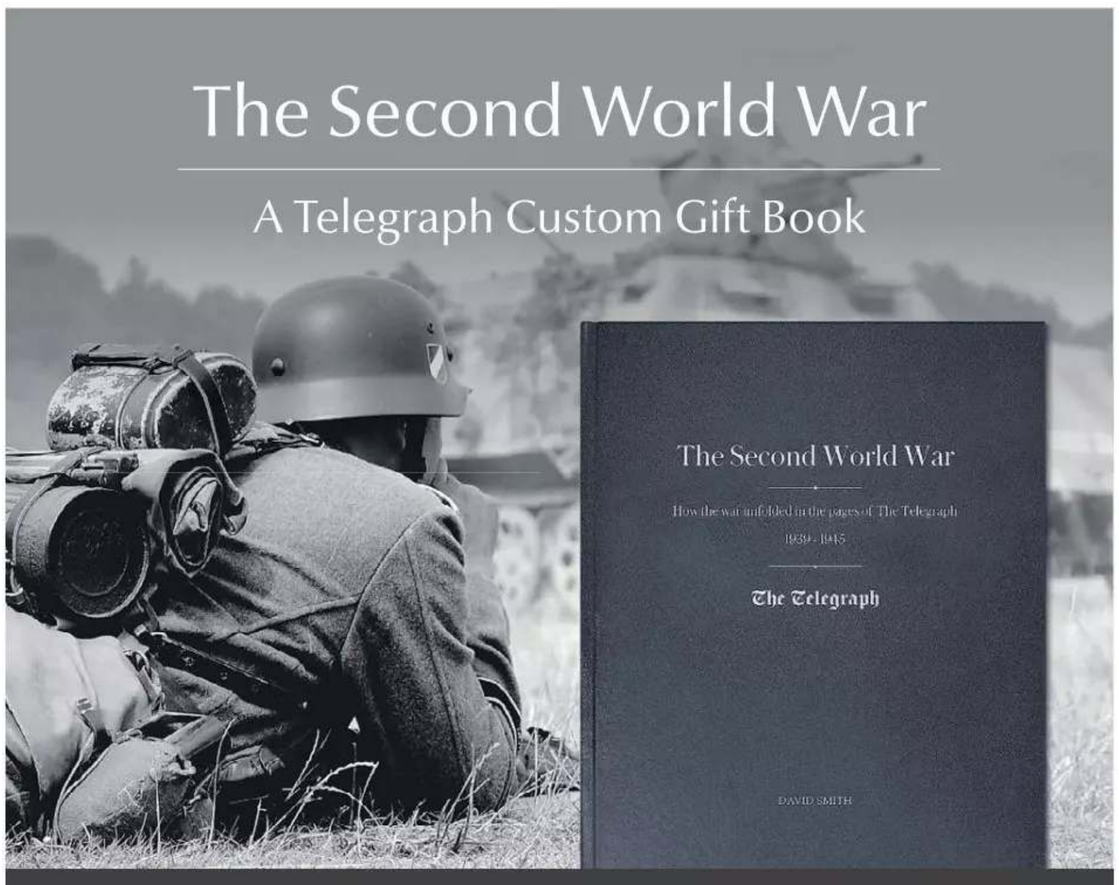
Solution No 30,631

R	U	B	B	I	S	H	■	S	E	C	U	R	E	D
E	■	A	■	D	■	A	■	T	■	O	■	O	■	E
C	O	N	C	E	R	N	■	U	N	U	S	U	A	L
O	■	A	■	A	■	D	■	N	■	N	■	T	■	I
V	A	N	I	S	H	I	N	G	■	T	H	I	N	G
E	■	A	■	■	■	C	■	■	■	L	■	N	■	H
R	A	S	P	S	■	A	G	R	E	E	M	E	N	T
■	■	■	■	W	■	P	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	■
A	D	D	R	E	S	S	E	S	■	S	A	V	E	S
P	■	E	■	L	■	■	■	P	■	■	■	I	■	Y
P	U	P	I	L	■	E	X	E	R	C	I	S	E	S
E	■	O	■	I	■	N	■	C	■	R	■	I	■	T
A	B	S	E	N	C	E	■	T	H	E	A	T	R	E
R	■	I	■	G	■	M	■	E	■	W	■	O	■	M
S	A	T	I	S	F	Y	■	D	E	S	I	R	E	S

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