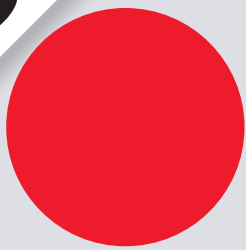


90p



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2024 NEWSPAPER
OF THE YEAR

WEDNESDAY
5 JUNE 2024
Number 4,223

FILM

*Move over,
Mrs Robinson*
The older female
lover has a new
golden age



P38



MODI HAS SLIM MAJORITY IN ELECTION SHOCK

P23

LEGAL - AMANDA KNOX RETURNS TO ITALIAN COURT

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PUZZLES

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**Farage mobbed
then shaken**

Special report
from Clacton by
Kitty Donaldson



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EXCLUSIVE

**Tory Cabinet
in talks over
quitting ECHR**

» Ministers discuss
potential election
pledge on referendum
to leave, **i** learns

P6

OPINION

Emily Maitlis

This time,
it's nearly
impossible
for Farage
to lose



P19



2024 election ignites during angry TV clash



- » Ill-tempered contest between Tory and Labour leaders sees them both falter under pressure
- » Starmer is slow to deny Sunak's claim about £2,000 tax hikes - to dismay of Labour colleagues
- » Prime Minister is jeered by studio audience for his false claim that NHS waiting lists are falling
- » Snap poll on which of them 'won' last night's debate suggests that Sunak edged it 51% to 49%
- » They also clash on state pensions, immigration, human rights, schools and building homes
- » Sunak interrogates Starmer on his plan for power and accuses his rival of lacking big ideas
- » Starmer claims PM is 'ashamed of the last 14 years... we can't have five more years of this'

P11

HEALTH

**NHS hospital patients hit
by major cyber attack**

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HISTORY

**D-Day veterans sail
back to Normandy,
80 years on**

P13

FOOTBALL

**Man City launch
legal battle with
Premier League**



P56

Quote of the day

Do not speak of your happiness to one less fortunate than yourself
PLUTARCH

Birthdays

Ken Follett, novelist, 75; Nina Conti, ventriloquist, 50; Mark Wahlberg (below), actor, 53; Dave, rapper, 26; Baroness Fox of Buckley, writer/politician, 64; Emma Crosby, journalist, 47



Anniversaries

Monday 5 June 1916
Lord Kitchener, the British Secretary of State for War, drowns when HMS Hampshire sinks just west of the Orkney Islands. He was on his way to a secret meeting with the Russians at Petrograd.

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The News Matrix

The day at a glance

NHS

£130m spent on Scots agency workers

NHS Scotland's spending on agency staff has reached its highest level in a decade, according to the BMA Scotland, which warned of a "crisis" in the workforce. In the 12 months to 31 March, £129.6m was spent on locums, an increase of 8.3 per cent on the previous year – and a 92 per cent increase compared with March 2014.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Man, 85, in dock over woman's murder

An 85-year-old man has been remanded in custody charged with murdering an 81-year-old woman. Jim Moore, from Bangor, appeared in Newtownards magistrates' court yesterday charged with the murder of Patricia "Patsy" Aust. The body of Ms Aust was discovered in a house in Bangor on Sunday.



The List

Life's not always as beach on holiday

More than two-thirds of Britons (68 per cent) are likely to take a beach holiday this year, but 94 per cent have previously had their seaside relaxation ruined by poor beach behaviour, research reveals. A survey by easyJet Holidays found that portable speakers, reserving sunbeds and feeding seagulls were among UK travellers' top beach annoyances when on holiday.

- 1 Noisy kids
- 2 Litterbugs
- 3 People playing loud music
- 4 Unruly dogs
- 5 Raucous stag or hen parties
- 6 Being hit by a football or frisbee
- 7 People making loud phone calls
- 8 People feeding seagulls
- 9 People shaking sand off towels
- 10 Sun lounge reservers



Newspapers support recycling. The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2018 was 68.2%

CRIME

Real Madrid security guard to face court

A member of Real Madrid's security team has been charged with common assault after a confrontation with a steward at Wembley. Maria Hernandez, 52, is due to appear at Willesden magistrates' court on Tuesday 18 June over an incident during the Champions League football final last Saturday.



SCIENCE

Space telescope suffers malfunction

The Hubble Space Telescope has temporarily stopped observing the cosmos. Nasa said the telescope slipped into a hibernating state more than a week ago, when one of its three remaining gyroscopes, part of the pointing system, malfunctioned. Hubble remains safe but inactive as flight controllers work out how to proceed.

SCOTLAND

Boxer dies after motorcycle crash

A boxer has died in hospital after being injured in a motorbike crash. Andrew Tham, 28, was riding a Kawasaki when it was involved in a collision with a Hyundai Tucson car in Cumbernauld, North Lanarkshire, last Thursday. Mr Tham was taken to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow, where he later died. The boxer, from Cumbernauld, became the Scottish featherweight champion in 2023. He was managed by St Andrew's Sporting Club, which paid tribute to him yesterday and said that its members were "devastated" by his death.

POLICE

Man arrested after reports of gun fired

Bomb disposal experts were called to an abandoned vehicle yesterday after a 25-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm. Leicestershire Police said officers were notified of a report that a gun had been fired in The Glade area of Braunstone Town, near Leicester, shortly before 10am.

MUSIC

Cowell 'praying' for next One Direction

Simon Cowell said he was "praying" that he finds a group as talented as One Direction as he launched a UK-wide search for a boyband yesterday. The music mogul (left) said he wanted the hunt to go "back to basics", in contrast to *The X Factor*, but the process will be filmed for a potential documentary series.

GERMANY

Police raid far-right sites amid coup plot

Police in three German states have searched properties associated with two suspects from the far-right Reichsbürger movement that plotted to overthrow the federal government. Searches were carried out at sites linked to a man of 73 and a 63-year-old woman in Baden-Württemberg, who are suspected of providing facilities to recruit new members.

World's largest armies

Top 10 countries by military personnel as of May 2024



Includes active and reserve personnel, as well as paramilitary forces. Figures are estimates.

SOURCE: GlobalFirepower.com via Visual Capitalist

Why has this ceramic goat got more than royal approval?
See p.5

ThePage3Profile

LIAM BROADY, CAR BOOT PUTS HIM OUT OF ACTION

Game, set, crash...

The British tennis player Liam Broady has pulled out of next week's Rothesay Open in Nottingham after his car boot gave the world No 145 a concussion. He told his social media followers that he had some "bad

HISTORY

WWII bravery of Irish nurses recalled

A new book is shining a light on the contribution of nurses from across Ireland working in dangerous conditions in the Second World War. Memories and records of nurses have been compiled by the Royal College of Nursing Northern Ireland for *Nurses' Voices From The Second World War: The Ireland Connection*. The nurses followed thousands of ships of Allied troops who landed in Normandy on 6 June 1944. The medical staff endured the same conditions as the troops, sleeping under canvas in frequently flooded and cold accommodation while working around the clock to treat the many casualties. **PAGE 13**



news", adding: "Was on track for next week but I hit my head on my car boot on Sunday evening quite hard."

After trying to practice on court yesterday, he started getting a migraine. "Turns out I have a concussion!" Broady revealed.

The 30-year-old, who is Britain's fifth-ranked male player, has not entered a tournament since March and had hoped to return to competition in the East Midlands.

Did he get any sympathy?

Former British No 1 Sir Andy Murray replied to Broady's news

20 minutes later, without offering much pity. "Think this is the first time I've read one of your tweets and believed it," Murray said.

One fan replied to Murray's comments, asking: "Why do you despise this bloke so much?"

Another wrote: "No sympathy just caustic wit from Andy. Typical."

In January, Murray and Broady were involved in a social media spat in which the Scotsman labelled the Stockport-born player a "walking contradiction" after they disagreed about the mental strength of Russia's world No 38 Mirra Andreeva.

Can Broady get his head back in the game soon?

Broady will now look to the Challenger Tour event in Ilkley, West Yorkshire, beginning on 17 June, as he looks to build his fitness before the Wimbledon championships start on 1 July.

Meanwhile, Murray, 37, is expected to retire at some point this season, but not before trying to compete at Wimbledon for the last time. Could it be a chance for Broady and Murray to settle a score?

Sam Rucker

PEOPLE

Heskey is told to pay £200,000 to taxman

The former England footballer Emile Heskey has been told to pay almost £200,000 to His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. It took action against the former England striker in 2017 over an unpaid tax bill of £1.637m. Mr Heskey, 46, was due to face trial in 2019 but this did not take place after he admitted liability for the debt.

SCIENCE

Goosebumps 'may not always be obvious'

You may be experiencing goosebumps more often than you think – and not always where you are used to seeing them. Durham University academics found that people are not always aware of when they have goosebumps, or where they appear, especially if they form away from the forearm area most associated with the phenomenon.

UNITED STATES

Funeral home finds woman, 74, is alive

A woman pronounced dead at an American nursing home was later found to be alive. Staff at a funeral director's near Lincoln, Nebraska, noticed that Constance Glantz was still breathing and resuscitated her. Ms Glantz, 74, had been pronounced dead by staff at a nearby care home two hours earlier.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Star Trek' actor is banned from bistro

A *Star Trek* actor has been banned from a restaurant in Toronto after he allegedly reprimanded staff and reduced the host to tears. Zachary Quinto, known for playing Spock in the reboot of the sci-fi franchise, allegedly yelled at staff in Manita "like an entitled child" while seeking a table at the bistro.

Letter from the Editor
Oliver Duff
i@inews.co.uk



'Gentlemen, please...'

TV debates don't decide general elections. Plenty of British voters say they have made up their minds on Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer – and previous UK debates had no lasting impact on voter intentions.

Yet the timing of last night's ITV clash was loaded, after Nigel Farage's explosive intervention. The debate will also be the moment that millions of people started paying attention to this contest.

Both men were nervous. Starmer sometimes came across as evasive – such as his hesitation on how to end NHS strikes. He was terribly slow to rebut Sunak on the £2,000 tax claim, which hardly suggests a champion fighter skipping around the ring.

Sunak was slicker but often tetchy, and looked untrustworthy when he tried to evade responsibility on the NHS and economy. The audience jeered him for claiming NHS waiting lists have gone down, when the numbers show the opposite.

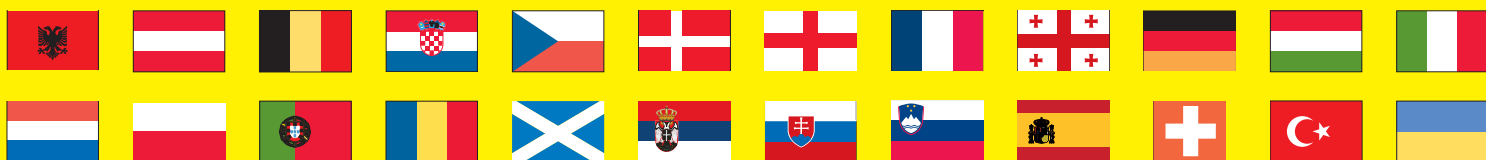
He repeatedly talked over host Julie Etchingham – angering some viewers – and by constantly interrupting Starmer he let the Labour leader off the hook a few times when he hadn't looked able to answer the question.

The format was at fault too, with neither man given enough time to answer questions well.

Ultimately this debate failed to answer some of the biggest questions Britain faces, not least the elephant in the Treasury: where is either party's plan for economic growth? In 29 days we are going to the polls. The public has a right to know how the next government plans to spend our money; where it will cut public services to balance the books; and how it intends to reignite growth and build prosperity. How do they plan to pay for the rocketing demands of health and social care? It's a conspiracy of silence.

Inside Friday's i

FREE EURO 2024 WALL CHART



ENVIRONMENT

Earth 'hurtling towards runaway climate change'

By Tom Bawden

SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

The planet is warming faster than ever and is hurtling towards runaway climate change, scientists warn.

But there is a glimmer of hope in the new findings – that greenhouse gas emissions could be close to peaking, though they need to drop rapidly before temperatures will fall.

A UK-led report involving 50 scientists from 26 institutions around the world found the average temperature globally rose by 0.26°C over the past decade as a result of human-induced climate change from rising carbon dioxide emissions.

This is the highest rate of global warming since records began in the 19th century, and compares to a 0.20°C rise from 2004 to 2013.

"Global temperatures are still heading in the wrong direction and faster than ever before. Sadly this was entirely predictable," said Professor Piers Forster, of Leeds University, which led the study.

He added: "Our analysis shows that the level of global warming caused by human action has continued to increase over the past year, even though climate action

has slowed the rise in greenhouse gas emissions."

The Global Climate Change report reveals that human-induced warming increased the temperature by an average of 1.19°C between 2014 and 2023 – with warming caused by human activity reaching 1.3°C in 2023 in isolation.

The report comes as the world battles to limit global warming to no more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels and, if at all possible, 1.5°C.

Beyond this level, every fraction of a degree of temperature increase causes ever greater numbers of storms, droughts and other extreme weather events that can kill people, cause health problems and damage infrastructure.

Global greenhouse gas emissions

rose by 1.1 per cent last year to a new record, according to the world's main monitoring group, the Global Carbon Project.

While most of the human-induced temperature increases came from burning more fossil fuels, a small portion was the result of countries cleaning up air pollution, the report found.

This pollution adds to global warming by reducing the cooling of aerosol particle pollutants, which would have reflected some sunlight back into the atmosphere.

Professor Pierre Friedlingstein, of Exeter University, said: "The situation on greenhouse gas emissions is urgent."

The study is published in the journal *Earth System Science Data*.

0.26°C
The average temperature increase globally over the past decade

Free
varifocal
lenses

with one pair of
glasses from £70



Read this offer. Then look
into the distance thinking
how much you've saved

You're better off with

Specsavers

SOCIETY

Baby Elsa is third abandoned by the same parents

By Alannah Francis

DNA testing has shown that a newborn baby left in a plastic bag in January has a brother and sister who were also abandoned.

The baby, named Elsa by hospital staff, was about an hour old when she was found by a dog walker in east London.

Testing has now revealed that a boy, named Harry, abandoned in 2017 and a girl, named Roman, dumped in 2019 are Elsa's siblings.

Police are still trying to identify the parents of the three children, who were all abandoned within about a mile and a half of one another.

Their relationship was made public yesterday after a judge at the East London Family Court lifted reporting restrictions because of the need for "openness of justice".

Judge Carol Atkinson said on Monday: "The abandonment of a baby in this country is a very, very unusual event and there are years where there are no children abandoned, and because of that it is the story of the abandoning of a child that is of public interest.

"It is for the same reason, in our current society, of enormous interest and importance that people know that there is a mother and father out there who felt the need to relinquish their children in this way, three times, and that is of considerable interest, it seems to me."

Barrister Kate Claxton, representing Newham London Borough Council, previously told the court that the investigation means Elsa's birth cannot be registered, so no decision re-



Roman (top) and Harry are siblings of Elsa, who was also deserted

garding her care can be made. Police believe a woman seen in the area just before Elsa was found on 18 January may have vital information.

The woman was wearing a large dark-coloured coat with a light-coloured scarf or hood around her neck, and was carrying a rucksack.

The Met said it has made extensive inquiries including media appeals, analysing CCTV, going door-to-door and examining forensic evidence.

Met Detective Inspector Jamie Humm said: "Our work has focused on trying to locate the mother and provide support to her.

"We have worked 24/7 in each of these three cases to identify the parents, so far without success."

NHS

Critical incident declared at major London hospitals after cyber attack

By Sam Rucker

Major hospitals in London declared a critical incident yesterday after a cyber attack led to the cancellation of operations amid fears that the disruption for tens of thousands of patients could last weeks.

King's College Hospital, Guy's St Thomas's – including the Royal Brompton and the Evelina London Children's Hospital – and primary care services across the capital were all affected by the attack on the pathology services provider Synnovis.

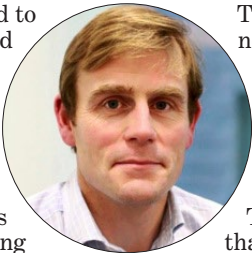
Cancer-related operations are among those understood to have been cancelled and urgent and emergency care at the hospitals, while remaining open, was affected because departments were unable to access quick-turn-around blood test results and had to revert to using paper records.

NHS England said the ransomware attack was having a "significant impact on the delivery of services" and that they were working with the National Cyber Security Centre to understand its full impact.

Affected patients were referred to different hospitals amid chaotic scenes, with emails from senior staff suggesting the attack took place on Monday when departments were not able to connect to the main server.

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

Senior sources said it could take "weeks, not days" to access pathology results again, so disruption to a wide range of procedures and operations would continue, affecting tens of thousands of patients.



A spokesperson for NHS England London region said: "Emergency care continues to be available, so patients should access services in the normal way by dialling 999 in an emergency and otherwise using 111, and patients should continue to attend appointments unless they are told otherwise."

Oliver Dowson, 70, was prepared for an operation from 6am on Monday at the Royal Brompton Hospital when he was told at about 12.30pm it would not be going ahead. The staff on the ward didn't seem to know what had happened," he said.

The chief executive of Synnovis, Mark Dollar (*inset*), said it had affected all of the company's IT systems, adding: "It is still early days and we are trying to understand exactly what has happened. This is a harsh reminder that this sort of attack can happen to anyone at any time and that, dispiritingly, the individuals behind it have no scruples."

Philip Quirke, a professor of pathology at Leeds University, said access to pathology results was fundamental for the day-to-day running of a hospital, saying: "Very few individuals do not have pathology tests if they come to hospital, so there is disruption right across the hospital."

{i} As well as serving King's and Guys' and St Thomas's hospitals, the pathology service caters for South London and Maudsley and Oxleas NHS trusts, GP practices, clinics and other community services in the boroughs of Bromley, Lambeth and Southwark.

Hacking the NHS Health under attack

The NHS has been the target of various cyber crimes in recent years, including the WannaCry attack in 2017, when hackers encrypted patient data and demanded a ransom in cryptocurrency, and a ransomware attack on NHS's 111 helpline in 2022.

David Atkinson, a former Ministry of Defence officer who founded the cyber security firm SenseOn, said the NHS was a "particularly attractive" target for hackers.

"The NHS holds a vast amount of sensitive data, including patient records and personally identifiable information (PII), which can be used for fraud or identity theft," he added. "The headlines [about attacks on the

NHS] increases the likelihood of the victim paying the ransom."

Another cyber security expert, Steve Sands of BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, said: "This incident reminds us that the ransomware threat is now an ever-present danger to critical institutions from schools to hospitals."

"We need to ensure that all public sector organisations have contingency plans in place to manage cyber attacks..."

"Whoever forms the next government needs to make sure the NHS has this resource and that it is spent correctly, to ensure that lives are not put at risk."

Sam Rucker



Getting the King's goat...

A pottery goat made by King Charles when he was a university student more than half a century ago has sold at auction for more than £11,000.

The ceramic animal was given to Raymond Patten 55 years ago by his great-aunt Helen "Nellie" Patten (*below*). She was a cook at Cambridge University, where the King studied from 1967 to 1970.

Believed to be the only known piece of pottery by the monarch in existence, it sparked a bidding war before selling to a private US buyer yesterday. Mr Patten, 76, from Canada, was given the work on his 21st birthday.



BOOKS

Mr Fib and Little Miss Surprise join 'Mr Men'

By Laura Harding

Mr Fib and *Little Miss Surprise* are the latest titles to join the *Mr Men Little Miss* children's book series, it has been announced.

The stories will be published on 12 September, more than 50 years after *Mr Tickle*, the first *Mr Men* book. The series was conceived by illustrator Roger Hargreaves, who died in 1988, and continued by his son Adam.



Mr Fib fibs to impress people, but one day he goes too far, according to publisher Farshore and toy company Sanrio.

Little Miss Surprise loves nothing better than surprises, and never knows what each day may bring.

Mr Hargreaves said: "It's always fun creating new characters to add to the series, although I've got a way to go to catch up with my dad."

EDUCATION

Imperial rises up university tables

Imperial College London has placed higher than the universities of Oxford and Cambridge in global academic rankings.

It rose from sixth to second place in the Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings, ending years of Oxbridge dominance at the top.

Cambridge fell from second to fifth place, while Oxford remains in third place. Only Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the US – which took the top spot again – outperformed Imperial College.

SCIENCE

Menstruating women 'more accurate'

By Jane Kirby

Women make fewer mistakes while having periods despite feeling less capable at the time, a study has suggested.

Experts found that women experience fluctuations in mental agility throughout their menstrual cycle, with faster responses and fewer mistakes when they are on their periods.

A team from University College London and the Institute of Sport, Exercise and Health studied 241 men and women, who completed online

tests and whose mood was recorded, together with their symptoms.

Period-tracking apps were also used to estimate which phase of their cycle women were in when they took the tests.

There was no difference in reaction times and accuracy between men and women, but women were found to perform better during their periods than any other phase of their cycle, with faster reactions and fewer errors. This was despite women reporting feeling worse while on their periods.

CONSERVATIVES

Senior Tories hold talks over pledge to leave European court

By Arj Singh

DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

Rishi Sunak's team has held talks with Cabinet ministers on adopting a more hardline approach to European judges, including leaving the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), as Tories look to counter Nigel Farage's attacks on migration.

A senior Conservative source said there have been discussions with senior ministers on taking a tougher line on the ECHR, which blocked the first attempt at a Rwanda deportation flight in 2022.

The Prime Minister has passed laws that would allow him to ignore ECHR interim injunctions if they continue to block removal flights to Rwanda. But he has faced calls to go further, either by quitting the Strasbourg court or holding a referendum on membership, with Tory right-



Conservatives could take a harder line in the ECHR in Strasbourg

wingers arguing Mr Sunak's laws are still not strong enough.

Mr Farage, who disrupted the Tories' embattled election campaign

on Monday by announcing he was taking over Reform UK as leader and standing to become an MP, has called for a referendum on quitting the ECHR.

Allies of Mr Sunak said they would not comment on what may or may not be in the Tories' election manifesto. But Home Secretary James Cleverly signalled yesterday that the Tories' election manifesto would leave the door open to leaving the ECHR, with aides close to Mr Sunak said to want a tougher line.

One cabinet minister not consulted on the idea signalled they would oppose a referendum on membership or quitting the court.

Other moderate cabinet ministers are also believed to be strongly opposed to leaving the court.

Mr Cleverly himself has previously pushed back on the idea, arguing it would jeopardise co-operation with European allies on tackling illegal migration on the Continent.

However, the Home Secretary refused to rule out such a move yesterday. Asked by reporters whether the Conservatives could pledge to withdraw, Mr Cleverly said: "We have absolutely made the point that the ECHR needs reform and we have driven reform."

"We have already driven reform of the ECHR which demonstrates that it can be done."

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

Mr Cleverly also insisted that a tougher approach would not be driven by concerns about the threat posed by Mr Farage and the Reform party, insisting "Conservative policies are created with the British people in mind".

But it comes after the Tories appeared to respond to Mr Farage's decision to stand to become MP for Clacton, in Essex, by promising a hardline annual cap on legal migration on Monday night.

Quitting the ECHR would probably mean that the UK would be forced to leave the Council of Europe, joining Russia and Belarus.

i A Tory insider, who has advocated quitting the ECHR in the past, said it is "too late" for Rishi Sunak to make the pledge to leave the court as he claimed his emergency Rwanda laws would be enough to get flights off the ground. "So he now admits it doesn't work? That he lied? It's too late," they said.

POLITICS

'Johnson should have given Farage a peerage in 2019'

By Richard Vaughan

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Senior Tories have hit out at the party leadership's failure to agree a deal with Nigel Farage after the Brexiteer announced his decision to stand in the general election.

The new leader of Reform UK dealt a blow to Rishi Sunak's election plans when he revealed that he will stand as a candidate in Clacton, Essex.

The decision has left several Tories fearing for their political futures, with many believing Mr Farage's decision to stand will galvanise support for Reform and peel away potential Conservative voters.

One former minister lamented Boris Johnson's refusal to hand the Reform leader a seat in the House of Lords after the 2019 election, when Mr Farage stood down his Brexit Party, opening the way for a commanding victory for the Tories.

"Boris should have given him a peerage a few days after that election," the Tory said. "Boris wouldn't have anything to do with him even though they agreed a deal behind the scenes and he should have done."

A peerage would have made Mr Farage ineligible to stand as an MP.

Another Conservative warned the presence of Reform at the bal-

lot box will hammer the party come election day.

"Even if they don't put out a single leaflet, [if they stand] they will get 1,000 or 2,000 votes and that is going to cause us enormous damage. If the Reform candidate gets a couple of thousands votes that will really make a difference in some seats and that is going to hurt us."

But a minister insisted the former Ukip leader would not be bought off with an agreement, even if one could be agreed.

"I don't think Farage has any interest in deals," the minister said. "He seems only concerned with himself – and the increased likelihood of a Labour victory."

Another Tory candidate added: "No one should do deals to avoid electoral contests. Farage needs to be defeated at the ballot box."

The grumblings within the Tory party came as Mr Farage set out his plans to effectively take over the Conservative Party after the election. The veteran Eurosceptic claimed that a "chunk" of Tories could join his party now that he has decided to stand.

He compared the situation to Canadian politics, where Stephen Harper had been elected as a Reform MP but went on to head a "new Conservative" government.



ECONOMY

Parties are warned over cutbacks and pledges on spending

By Hugo Gye

POLITICAL EDITOR

Labour and the Conservatives are effectively committed to "sharp spending cuts" and will struggle to meet their promises on the public finances, two reports warn.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) research group said the two parties were not "serious" about cutting the size of the public debt despite being publicly signed up to it.

And the Resolution Foundation think-tank forecast a £12bn hole in the public finances for whichever party wins the general election.

The IFS concluded that even with a looming squeeze in public spending, there is only a 50/50 chance of the current "fiscal rules" being met

without further cuts or tax hikes. Isabel Stockton of the think-tank said: "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."

The think-tank added that, while there are "good reasons" to want debt falling over the medium term, it described the current "fiscal mandate" as "arbitrary and gameable".

This makes it a "poor guide to the health of public finances", the IFS said.

While Labour is committed to the overall debt rule, the party is proposing to change the "supplementary" fiscal target in the future to focus on the current balance of borrowing and spending, rather

£12bn

Estimated cost of the hole in public finances for whichever party wins the election



The Home Secretary, James Cleverly, speaks to journalists on the Tory battle bus in Kent yesterday
BELINDA JIAO/REUTERS

SOCIETY

Where are you? Voters are split into six groups

By David Lynch

The electorate is made up of six distinct groups of voters, including “Middle Britons” and “Left-Behind Patriots”, according to voting experts.

Analysis from the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) has divided voters into groups based on their answers to key questions on a broad range of topics. The largest group of voters have been dubbed Middle Britons, making up 26 per cent. Other groups each make up 12 to 17 per cent of the electorate.

Middle Britons are mostly in the middle ground across different issues, are closest to the typical voter, with no clear political affiliation, hard to win over and not that likely to vote.

Well-Off Traditionalists are politically engaged and likely to vote, many living in the rural South East, with socially conservative views that align with Conservative policies.

Apolitical Centrists are the least politically engaged, and are generally on the right on economic issues but more centrist on social issues. They are relatively young and low income.

Left-Behind Patriots are identified as patriotic, and mostly voted for Brexit. They are opposed to economic inequality but are conservative in their social outlook. They are more likely than other groups to support Reform.

Urban Progressives are typically university-educated professionals, lean strongly to the left on economic issues and in a liberal direction on social ones. They are likely to support Labour or the Greens, and are highly likely to vote.

The final group, the Soft-Left Liberals are university educated, politically engaged, liberal on social issues but more centrist on the economy. They are likely to vote for Labour, the Greens or the Lib Dems.

i The Resolution Foundation's research director, James Smith, said “inevitable arguments over how each spending pledge is funded” risk “distracting the electorate from the bigger question of how each party manages uncertainties facing public finances”.

POLITICS

Sunak's main focus should be to avoid Tory annihilation

Anne McElvoy



It's a lot easier to say what Rishi Sunak should not do right now than what he should. The Tories have been further dented by the news of Nigel Farage's late run for Reform in Clacton and its possible Viagra effect for Reform in vulnerable “Red Wall” and coastal seats.

They would love to see their leader finally inflict damage on his challenger, Sir Keir Starmer. It would give wavering voters on the right a reason not to throw in their lot with Farage.

Sunak's rueful aides acknowledge worries about being seen as purely reactive, either to Labour's strong position or to “whatever is happening in Reform this week”, as one irate official puts it.

Sunak's social media presence is a case in point. One recent TikTok post suggested that Sunak's six pledges would really amount to a blank sheet of paper.

Not everyone loved that on Planet Sunak because, in essence, it acknowledged that the Prime Minister has moved to the position of underdog.

The opposite problem comes with Reform's resurgence, namely that the policies Sunak (*inset*) is being pressed to avoid in response – the tentpole one is leaving the European Convention on Human Rights and its associated court to help address immigration pressures and a further distancing of the UK from non-native institutions – signal to Conservative voters that long-held Reform talking points are where the action is.

In fairness to Sunak's instincts and temperament, he is wary of the kind of “Hail Mary” thinking many on his own benches would like as remedies for the doldrums – whether it is the missing big tax cut to head off Labour, the ECHR flounce or more culture wars (though I would bank on a few more skirmishes on gender in the weeks ahead).

As Lynton Crosby, mentor to Isaac Levido who is running Sunak's campaign, memorably put



A wipeout would create an existential crisis – and a Tory takeover opportunity

it, making a campaign work is like cooking a stir-fry – you only get a certain number of ingredients, and there is no point in saying you would prefer prawns to chicken at this point. The aim is to make the best out of what you have.

So Sunak cannot round out a shallow political biography or significantly alter his slightly awkward manner with voters. But he can focus on where the likely voters are – the over-55s.

The “grey vote” category is now so broad that it includes a generation that grew up with The Jam and one that remembers a time before The Beatles.

The reason for the lower age threshold in strategists' flow charts is that people's growing awareness of retirement from 50 onwards – and the slowing down of the amount of earned income we tend to see from our mid-sixties – coupled with a greater likelihood of owning property, means people in their mid-fifties and older have more resources, and fret more about taxation and passing money on to their children.

That's a dividing line with Labour, which is happier to ring-fence the state pension but much less keen on shielding inheritance.

So the Sunak focus is about targeting a combination of those voters most likely to turn out and those most susceptible to either sticking with the devil they know, or flirting with a switch to Starmer and then ditching the idea as too risky at the last minute.

The other consideration is minimising the scale of defeat, when even loyal MPs and staffers factor it in. This week's Tory whispering is about whether the Sunak strategy can leave a sizeable enough rump to be back in the game in a reasonable amount of time, allowing for a Labour honeymoon.

That would, by rule-of-thumb calculations, be anything over 200 MPs. A wipeout would create an existential crisis – and a Tory takeover opportunity for Farage – and earn Sunak hefty criticism for forcing an early vote most of his own side did not expect or want.

A Sunak rally looks unlikely. But margins of defeat are important and when you are on a losing streak, it matters a lot whether you're heading for big thumbs down from the voters – or an annihilation.

In Sunak's head and his targeting, it's not about the hope of skirting a disaster with the Conservative Party intact after 4 July – but that's the battle in front of us.

Anne McElvoy is executive editor at Politico and host of the website's ‘Power Play’ podcast

REFORM UK

Farage's party is still short of 80 to 100 candidates

By David Parsley and Rob Hastings

Nigel Farage grabbed the headlines with his surprise decision to stand for Parliament in Clacton. But Reform UK is not a one-man band – and it is in a race against time to register candidates before nominations close at 4pm on Friday.

The party has between 80 to 100 seats left to fill if it is to achieve its aim of contesting every constituency in England, Scotland and Wales, Reform UK sources have told *i*.

Nomination papers were said to be in the post and arriving with candidates yesterday, giving a tight 72-hour window for the paperwork to be returned.

Suggestions that six prospective Conservative candidates are considering defecting to Reform could further complicate the process.

But Richard Tice, the party chairman and former leader, who resigned to make way for Mr Farage on Monday, is confident that it will be able to fight every seat.

"We have effectively filled the seats unless someone cocks up the paperwork," he said.

"Basically, we've got a plan A and a plan B... we are still confident that we will field 630 candidates and I've got plenty of spare candidates over and above the 630 should we need them."

Mr Tice, a multi-millionaire property mogul who has loaned Reform UK at least £1.4m since 2021, is standing in the Boston and Skegness constituency in Lincolnshire. The deprived coastal district voted overwhelmingly for Brexit – just like Mr Farage's target seat, Clacton.

Chris Hopkins, a polling expert at Savanta, said he believed that Mr Farage had a strong chance of winning in the Essex town, adding: "This could be the best chance he has ever had of becoming an MP."

The former Ukip leader's presence could also help Reform UK nationwide, Mr Hopkins said, adding: "I also think his arrival boosts the chance of Tice winning in Boston and Skegness, and maybe a handful of other candidates."

Mr Tice said he was "absolutely convinced" that Reform UK would pick up "six or so" seats. But even where it does not win, the party under Mr Farage could "take a lot of second places and run the Tories a lot closer", according to Mr Hopkins.

He said: "Farage will be able to fish a disgruntled pool of Tory voters, and he's got real charisma. A down-the-pub vibe, very much the

antithesis of Rishi Sunak. He is a huge headache, borderline disaster for the Conservative Party. This is the last thing their already stuttering campaign needed... His return is about as good as it gets for Labour."

Some within Reform believe that Mr Farage's 11th-hour "emergency announcement" was always part of a plan in a bid to drum up "free publicity". One said: "Nigel and Richard knew he would [stand]. We've only got, what £2m, £3m at most to spend on the campaign. What Nigel gives us is tons of free publicity."

"Don't be surprised if he somehow gets himself into the leadership debates that are currently reserved for just Sunak and Starmer."

"It is undemocratic that these two boring men are the only two party leaders on our screen and Nigel will point that out, I'm sure."

Ann Widdecombe, a former Tory minister who is now a member of Reform, said she believed that Mr Farage's candidacy would lead to a surge in support for the party.

Ms Widdecombe, who is not standing for election, said Mr Tice had performed well as leader but Mr Farage would make a "huge difference" as he was an "inspirational figure".

Ms Widdecombe said that her new party aimed to become the "effective opposition" by winning over moderate Tory voters. But she added that the Conservatives "have got to be pulverised", saying: "They deserve all that's coming to them."

This election will be Mr Farage's eighth attempt at becoming an MP. Even if the party wins millions of votes, he may end up being Reform's only representative in Parliament.

But he has been clear about his ultimate aim: a "reverse takeover" of the Conservative Party.

The insider said: "Nigel is back... We do need [him] in Parliament kicking up a storm, getting some of the few remaining Tories to come over to us. If we are in Parliament we can have those talks. [And] before you know it, we could have more MPs than the Tories. That's the plan."

Opinion, page 19

i Ms Widdecombe said: "The fact is that Labour is going to win. There is no possibility of the Tories winning. So the question is: why waste a vote on the Tories when you could actually vote for change?"



Nigel Farage has a drink tossed in his face in Clacton yesterday
BEN STANSALL/GETTY

DISPATCH

'We're finished': Tories fear worst as Farage channels Trump in Clacton-on-Sea

Kitty Donaldson



Nigel Farage, mobbed by selfie-hunters and cheered on by a swelling crowd of curious pensioners, strode to the pier at Clacton-on-Sea for his candidate speech to tell the crowd exactly what they wanted to hear. "Is this not the most patriotic

town in the whole of our country?" the new Reform UK leader asked the delighted crowd, who having put on their reading glasses to find the button to video Farage with their phones, were thoroughly enjoying themselves.

"Yeah!" they cried. "Fifty per cent of 18- to 34-year-olds have never heard of D-Day," Farage declaimed. "Boo!" the crowd replied.

While Clacton in Essex is best known for its pier, sandy beaches and annual air show, it is also fertile ground for Farage's brand of pint-swilling underdog populism. The only constituency to elect a

Ukip MP at a general election in 2015, its electorate is largely white and retired.

The constituency is also home to seaside village Jaywick, frequently cited in government statistics as one of the most deprived areas in England, with a high proportion of adults unable to work from health problems and children on free school meals. Clacton High Street has a higher than average proportion of people on mobility scooters.

Locals appeared cheered by Farage's appearance. Less pleased were Conservative strategists who had until Monday thought





You need a local connection. This is not America with Donald Trump; this is England

Ashfield, where Lee Anderson is defending his seat, could be in play.”

Farage had been telling reporters all year that his plan was to hold off from the UK elections, which had been expected this autumn, to focus on the US election in November to help his “friend” Donald Trump or to earn money from punditry.

Yesterday, he told reporters that he had had a message of support from Trump’s team, dropping into a passable Trump impression. “So great, unbelievable,” he said, with roars of laughter at his own joke.

The crossover with Trump’s freeform stump style is undeniable. Several supporters in the Clacton crowd wore Maga caps and “Trump for President” T-shirts. They greeted Farage with whoops, claps and shouts of “Nigel for prime minister”.

As Farage left the pier for Wetherspoons for a lunchtime Ruffles bitter at only £1.79 a pint, some pensioners quaintly shouted “hip-hip-hooray”. A woman, clearly not a fan, chucked a milkshake over Farage as he departed the pub an hour later. A woman was later arrested.

In the town centre, other locals were nonplussed. Retired painter and decorator Brian Kiely, 66, said: “He’s not as popular as he thinks he is. He thinks some people will say: ‘Oh, it’s Nigel Farage’ and roll over. You need a local connection. This isn’t America with Donald Trump; this is England.”

Several passers-by claimed they had never heard of Farage at all.

The Conservative candidate Giles Watling, the MP in Clacton until the election was called, reacted with incredulity and sarcasm.

“He doesn’t give two hoots about my electorate and I’m worried they’re being sacrificed on the altar of Nigel’s vanity,” Watling said.

Watling said he had lived in the area for more than 30 years and understood issues affecting voters, adding: “Nigel doesn’t understand local issues such as the march of the pylons across the countryside.”

In his stump speech under wheeling seagulls, Farage urged the crowd: “Send me to Parliament to be a bloody nuisance.”

He promised to bring investment and jobs to the area. But the biggest cheer came when he told the crowd that, as an opposition MP to a probable Labour government, he would campaign against schools “poisoning” children’s minds with “woke nonsense”.

“I do know one thing – a woman can’t have a penis!” Farage shouted, then paused and gurned as if trying to get the word out his mouth and to allow titters to die down. “I’ll make you a promise, we are here as a party to stand up for the little guy, to stand up for the little woman who has had enough for the Government that bows down to big business.”

Friday night. That is likely to be a tougher crowd than in Clacton, but it could also give Tice a boost in Lincolnshire.

“A Reform victory in Clacton is now the most likely outcome but more broadly, the publicity, focus and momentum Farage brings with him may provide a significant boost for other areas in which Reform are standing,” according to Joe Twyman, co-founder of Deltapoll.

“While most constituencies will still be out of Reform’s reach, places like Boston and Skegness, and



Farage poses with drink similar to the one thrown at him earlier yesterday

Kitty Donaldson is **i**s chief political commentator

BORDERS

How Conservatives and Reform differ on immigration

By Jessica Rawnsley

Nigel Farage’s decision to stand as a candidate in the election has renewed the focus on immigration, and brought with it a head-on clash between the Conservatives and Reform UK.

Within hours, the Conservatives announced plans to introduce a cap on visas, while Mr Farage went further, pledging to reduce net migration to zero.

Here are some of the other immigration promises they have made:

Conservative plans for legal migration

The Home Secretary, James Cleverly, announced a visa crackdown last year that banned social care workers from bringing their dependants to the UK and increased the salary thresholds for skilled-worker visas.

Under the changes, which came into effect on 4 April, the skilled worker income threshold rose from £26,200 to £38,700 and the threshold for family visas was increased from £18,600 to £29,000. The family visa threshold is expected to rise to £38,700 in 2025.

The party replaced the short-age occupation list with a new “immigration salary list” to stop employers paying migrants less to plug shortages.

Conservative plans for illegal migration

A central tenet of the Tories’ plan to

tackle illegal migration is the Rwanda asylum policy, whereby those arriving illegally in the UK would be deported to the East African country for processing and resettlement.

In 2024, the Government passed the Safety of Rwanda Act and established a new treaty with Rwanda to combat future legal challenges.

A human rights charity and a union have launched fresh legal action against the scheme.

Reform UK plans for legal migration

It wins the election, Reform has set out a series of “critical reforms” to be accomplished in its first 100 days in order to curb immigration.

One plan is to “freeze non-essential immigration” and employ “smart” immigration to target those with essential skills, such as doctors, nurses and “successful business people”.

When pressed on the meaning of “non-essential” immigration, Mr Farage defined it as “unskilled labour”.

Reform aims to restrict families and dependants moving to the UK with international students.

Reform UK plans for illegal migration

Reform UK has also promised to “stop the boats” within 100 days of it coming to power with a six-point plan.

This includes recognising small boats crossing the Channel as a “national security threat”.

£38,700

The skilled worker income threshold as of 4 April, which is up from £26,200

Timeline Immigration over the past 20 years

Migration started to rise in the New Labour years after Tony Blair’s government lifted restrictions on migrants from countries in Eastern Europe that joined the EU in 2004.

2010 David Cameron said: “We would like to see net immigration in the tens of thousands.” In their election manifesto the Conservatives promised to limit the number of migrants from the EU. Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures showed net immigration across 2010 was 256,000, a record at the time.

2013 The Prime Minister said the UK was “rolling out the red carpet” to EU migrants from Romania and Bulgaria, which had recently joined the EU. Data from the ONS showed that net migration across 2013 was 208,000, a rise of 47,000 from the previous year.

2015 The Prime Minister announced

a new immigration bill to increase deportations. ONS figures for 2015 showed that net migration rose to 329,000.

2017 Prime Minister Theresa May said: “Leaving the European Union enables us to control our borders.” Statistics showed net migration fell to 249,000.

2019 Boris Johnson promised an Australian-style points-based system to cut migration. Net migration for 2019 was 184,000.

2022 Mr Johnson unveils the Rwanda deportation scheme. A record 45,756 people reached the UK in small boats. ONS figures revealed that net migration, which refers only to legal migration, hit a record 745,000.

2023 Rishi Sunak pledged to “stop the boats”. Small boat crossing figures fell to 29,437.



Eleanor Langford

Lib Dem Leader Sir Ed Davey knocks down a blue Jenga tower with Tom Morrison, the party's candidate in Cheadle, who is seeking to topple a slim Tory majority

PETER BYRNE/PA



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Party calls for mental health 'MOTs'

By Richard Wheeler

Regular mental health "MOTs" should be offered at key points in people's lives when they are most vulnerable, according to the Liberal Democrats.

New parents, children and young people, men in their forties, carers and retirees should be offered the checks, the party said yesterday, provided

they are at high risk of mental ill health.

The Lib Dems want a £70m funding boost for NHS talking therapies to ensure they are available to an extra 100,000 people over the next five-year parliament.

They propose raising the funds by clamping down on tax evasion.

The Lib Dems also released analysis which claims that lost tax revenue over the next five years if levels of inactivity due to ill health do not change could amount to an estimated £18.3bn.

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey said: "Rishi Sunak's failure to cut NHS waiting lists is damaging the economy and

blowing a hole in the public finances. Years of Conservative chaos have left us with a sick economy and a health service on its knees.

"Millions of people are struggling to see a GP, waiting months in pain for hospital treatment or struggling to access mental health support, leading to record numbers on long-term sick leave.

"The country cannot afford another five years of Conservative failure on the NHS.

"The Liberal Democrats would fix the NHS crisis to get the economy firing on all cylinders again, including through regular mental health checks to help support people at vulnerable points in their lives."

SCOTLAND

Swinney 'here to make sure SNP wins election'

By Neil Pooran and Rebecca McCurdy

John Swinney has said he plans to win the general election in Scotland despite polls suggesting the SNP could suffer significant losses.

The SNP leader and First Minister said during a campaign visit in Edinburgh that he was determined to keep building support for his party before the 4 July vote.

A YouGov poll for Sky News suggested Mr Swinney's party could be overtaken by the Liberal Democrats as the third largest party at Westminster.

The poll suggested the SNP would win 17 seats at the election, compared to 34 Scottish Labour MPs.

It would be the party's worst result at Westminster in 14 years, when just six MPs were returned in 2010, and compares to a record 56 SNP MPs in 2015 and 48 at the last election.

Speaking at Bonnington House Nursery in Edinburgh yesterday, Mr Swinney said: "I didn't expect to be leading the SNP election campaign, but I am – and I'm here to make sure that we win this election in Scotland."

He would not be drawn on whether his party will drop its presumption against new oil and gas licences in the North Sea.

Labour's shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, was also in Edinburgh yesterday and insisted that Scottish



Rachel Reeves with Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar yesterday

Labour leader Anas Sarwar did not change Labour's fiscal policy during Monday night's STV election debate.

Ms Reeves said there would be "no return to austerity under a Labour government" as she visited RBS' offices in Edinburgh with Mr Sarwar.

The SNP accused Mr Sarwar of "blowing apart" Labour's fiscal plan during an exchange with John Swinney at the STV debate, where they discussed Labour's proposals for taxation, spending and borrowing.

Ms Reeves said this was not the case, adding: "Labour would bring down debt as a share of our economy.

"We would balance day-to-day spending through tax receipts and... we'd be able to borrow to invest in things that improve our country's growth and productivity.

"What John Swinney needs to explain is why he's opposed to an extension of the windfall tax that will enable that investment in infrastructure here in Scotland."

Asked if she would ever extend borrowing powers for the Scottish Government, she said her focus was on "growing the economy" and lowering taxes.

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i Speaking to BBC Scotland News yesterday, Ms Reeves she had **voted against Brexit and that she would do so again** but added: "That deal is done. That ship has sailed."

COVER STORY

Sunak and Starmer trade blows as gloves come off in first live debate

By Chloe Chaplain

SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer clashed last night over human rights, taxes, the National Health Service and education as the political rivals went head to head in the first televised debate of the general election campaign.

The prime minister did not rule out removing the UK from the European Convention on Human Rights and its associated court if it was necessary to get his Rwanda deportation policy working, saying he would “choose our country’s security ahead of membership of a foreign court every single time”.

But Sir Keir insisted he would “not pull out of international agreements and international law” under Labour, because he wants the UK to be “respected on the world stage” and not a “pariah”. The Labour leader attacked Mr Sunak’s record, accusing the Tories of losing control and leaving voters “paying the price”.

Mr Sunak, meanwhile, accused Labour of planning on “raising your taxes and raiding your pensions” and lacking in any other concrete policies. Taking questions from a live audience, they both confirmed that, if elected, they would not increase national insurance or income tax during the course of the next Parliament. And both said that they would not raise VAT other than Labour’s plan to impose the levy on private schools.

But the two accused each other of talking “nonsense” about their taxation and spending policies. Mr Sunak claimed that Labour would tax pensioners and hit every family with £2,000 of tax rises. Sir Keir appeared slow to deny the line of attack to the dismay of Labour colleagues.

The Labour leader later said it was “garbage” and the calculations include costing for a Tory policy that does not belong to Labour. And he



Keir Starmer (left) accused Rishi Sunak of presiding over a declining NHS, while the Prime Minister said Labour planned to raise taxes and raid pensions

said the Conservatives had “clocked up billions” of unfunded spending commitments.

The debate got off to a spiky start when Sir Keir claimed Mr Sunak had called an early election because he believed the economic situation will worsen. Mr Sunak claimed that a Labour government would not have a plan to deal with challenges. “You are going to hear a lot about the past in this election,” Mr Sunak said. “This election is about the future and I’m

clear that I’m going to keep cutting people’s taxes, as we now are.”

Mr Sunak defended his government’s record on healthcare and blamed staff strikes for rising NHS waiting lists. But Sir Keir drew a laugh from the audience when he mocked Mr Sunak’s claim that NHS waiting lists were coming down.

Asked how long it would take to fix the “broken” NHS, the Prime Minister pointed to the damage done by the coronavirus pandemic. He ac-

knowledgeed that it would take time to recover but insisted: “We are now making progress: waiting lists are coming down.”

The Leader of the Opposition said: “They [waiting lists] were 7.2 million, they are now 7.5 million. He says they are coming down, and this is the guy who says he is good at maths.”

Mr Sunak then blamed industrial action, eliciting groans from the audience of the ITV debate. “It’s somebody else’s fault,” Sir Keir said.

Pressed on how they would tackle education, Mr Sunak said that Tory reforms had made British children the best readers in the world.

Sir Keir said Labour would recruit 6,500 new teachers to resolve this “mess”, and he believed that levying VAT on private schools would give children “changes they need”.

In a snap poll from YouGov published immediately after the debate viewers gave Mr Sunak a narrow 51/49 win.

Q&A From pensions to climate change and Brexit

We asked readers to send in questions they wanted party leaders to answer. Here are some of them, answered by **i**s Political Editor **Hugo Gye** and Policy Editor **Jane Merrick**.

Q Which party has a stronger plan for social care reform?
Via live *i* blog

A Social care has not featured in either party’s election campaign so far – despite it being one of the biggest issues for many voters. This is likely because it dominated the 2017 Tory election campaign, and cost Theresa May her majority. It has taken a question in this TV debate to get Starmer and Sunak to say what they will do about this thorny issue. Sunak said the Government had given £8bn to social care, and that there are more plans to come. Starmer also says he has a plan for social care. We can expect these

“plans” when they launch their manifestos next week, although it remains to be seen whether they will be detailed, fully costed policies.

Q We know our children are going to have a very different future from us because of our ferociously changing climate. Why isn’t either party openly addressing it?
Dr Kara (@1pluseipi)

A Climate change has not been on the main parties’ agenda so far, despite a recent YouGov poll which showed that a majority of voters are in favour of green policies. Both parties are sticking to a very narrow policy agenda to target floating voters in the “Red Wall” and other marginal seats: the economy and NHS for Labour,

and security, the economy and immigration for the Tories.

Q Labour and the Conservatives have committed to the state pension triple lock. Does this make it more likely the state pension age will have to rise faster?

Tom Selby, of investment firm AJ Bell

A Yes. Given the UK’s ageing population and sluggish economic growth, the amount of money the Government is spending on the state pension is set to increase significantly – according to the OECD, going from 7.2 per cent of GDP to 9.3 per cent of GDP by 2060 (the year that someone now aged 32 would get their pension). With both parties promising above-inflation increases in the state pension, that

may leave a hike in the pension age as the only way of cutting the bill. But it is very likely that any decision on this will be delayed as long as possible.

Q Why is there no one talking about Brexit?
Angela Huskisson @angiwrites

A Many Conservatives regard Brexit as their greatest achievement over their 14 years in power, despite economists’ consensus that leaving the EU has been a brake on growth. Labour is reluctant to reopen the argument on the topic, given the hefty defeat it suffered in the “get Brexit done” election of 2019. It is worth noting that many crucial swing seats were heavily pro-Brexit in the EU referendum. But there is little doubt that the next government will have to rethink our relationship with the continent in some way.



Host Julie Etchingham opens the ITV live debate at MediaCity in Salford

£8bn
The amount Rishi Sunak said the Government had given to social care, and that there were plans for more to come

EDUCATION

Private school claims 'do not reflect statistics'

By **Connie Dimsdale**

EDUCATION AND NEWS REPORTER

A claim that nearly half of private school pupils would leave the sector if a Labour government levied 20 per cent VAT on their fees is "too high" and "not statistically representative", the consultants behind the study it was based on have said.

Their research was portrayed as "polling" on the front page of a national newspaper in a story last week that also included a response from Education Secretary Gillian Keegan who said it was "proof" that Labour's tax would "overwhelm our state schools".

But inquiries by tax lawyer Dan Nield have revealed that it was based on self-selecting surveys rather than a representative poll.

Baines Cutler, the consultants behind the study, are understood to be concerned about the way their findings were presented as showing that Labour's tax would "force"

out 224,000 private school pupils – representing 42 per cent of the whole sector.

The issue of how many pupils would leave if the tax was levied is a key question for one of Labour's flagship policies during the run-up to the election. If it leads to an exodus of former fee-paying pupils then the cost of educating them in the state sector would eat into the £1.6bn Labour hopes it can raise from the tax.

Last week's 42 per cent claim was the highest estimate yet. Figures from Baines Cutler are understood to have been passed to the *Daily Mail* by the Independent Schools Council, which has been lobbying hard against the tax.

It has now emerged that the findings were not based on a conventional opinion poll but on a series of surveys conducted over the course

of two years. Conversations between Mr Nield, a Labour party member, and Baines Cutler, have uncovered other shortcomings.

The consultants have said the data are representative of the views of 30,000 parents but admit they are not "statistically representative of the entire sector" and of the parents of more than half a million UK private school pupils.

"It was never designed to be grossed up to the entire population of pupils," they have told Mr Nield. "The 224,000 number has never been published anywhere in our reports and is in our eyes too high for many reasons."

One reason is understood to be the fact that some of the opinions of parents were gathered when the cost-of-living crisis was more acute and money worries were greater.

42%

The percentage of private school pupils said to be 'forced out' – a figure that is now being disputed

Tax relief Teachers question pension limits plan

Headteachers have joined senior doctors in calling on Labour to reveal its plan to reinstate limits on the amount people can build in pension savings and still receive tax relief, warning that reintroduction could lead to a "surge in retirement" among top staff members.

Labour has committed to reintroducing the lifetime allowance cap but has said it will do this while "retaining public service leaders", adding its solution will cover doctors and "other public sector leaders".

No extra detail has yet been provided and those in the schools sector have said "urgent" clarity is needed on how the scheme will work.

This follows similar calls from senior staff in the NHS last week.

"We are concerned that the reintroduction of the lifetime allowance could lead to a surge in retirement of the most senior and

experienced school and college leaders," said Julie McCulloch of the Association of School and College Leaders. "We urgently need... assurance that the mooted public sector exemptions will apply to the education workforce."

Labour has outlined plans to recruit 6,500 state school teachers, but Ms McCulloch said the recruitment "crisis" would not be solved "by giving with one hand and taking away with the other".

Until recently, the lifetime allowance capped the amount of pension savings that qualified for tax relief at £1,073,100, but at the Budget in 2023, the UK Government announced plans to abolish it, and did so in April this year.

Financial advisers have said senior schools staff were often "impacted" by the limit before it was scrapped.

Callum Mason

Comment

Wavering voters could be swayed by the polls

Vernon Bogdanor



Imagine this election without opinion polls. How would we predict the likely result? I suspect most of us would speculate that Labour was ahead – but not that it had the vast lead of around 20 per cent it now appears to enjoy.

In consequence, a left-wing voter who might have supported the Liberal Democrats, Greens or Workers Party in the local elections, and was now considering whether to vote for one of these parties rather than Labour, might believe that it was too much of a risk. But, with the polls as they are, it seems much less of a risk.

Keir Starmer, such a voter might think, could well do with a jolt so that a Labour government doesn't move too far towards the centre. So Labour's large lead in the polls might actually lower its vote in the election.

In contrast, a right-wing voter might, in the absence of opinion polls, be unwilling to risk a vote for Reform UK, believing that the Conservatives are within striking distance of Labour. But, with the polls suggesting the Tories have little hope, voting Conservative might seem a wasted vote.

So the low standing of the

A right-wing voter might, in the absence of opinion polls, be unwilling to risk a vote for Reform UK

Conservatives in the polls could have a reinforcing effect, further decreasing their vote.

In 2017, the campaign began with Theresa May's Conservatives 18 per cent ahead. Centre-left voters, even if they believed that Jeremy Corbyn would be a disastrous prime minister, could nevertheless safely vote Labour since Corbyn clearly had no chance of winning. Yet, in the event, Labour ended up just 2.5 per cent behind the Conservatives, who lost their overall majority. In 1992 and 2015, polls indicated either a Labour victory or a hung parliament probably resulting in a Labour minority government. But in both elections, the Conservatives unexpectedly won an overall majority.

Perhaps voters reacted against the uncertainty of a hung parliament? Had the polls not yielded evidence that a Labour victory was likely, might the Conservative vote have been lower?

In both cases the polls underestimated the Tory vote. Some psephologists indeed have suggested that in 1992 the Conservatives were in fact in the lead throughout the campaign, perhaps because "shy" Conservatives would not admit to pollsters that they were intending to vote for an unfashionable party.

The same may be true of intending Reform UK voters today.

Vernon Bogdanor is professor of government at King's College London



A thorn in Labour's side?

The Green Party's Siân Berry helps out with weeding duties in the Rose Garden in Brighton's Preston Park yesterday.

Brighton Pavilion is the only Green Party-held seat in England.

The incumbent, Caroline Lucas – who retained the seat with a 34 per cent majority in 2019 – is standing down and Ms Berry, a former party co-leader, is running to succeed her. DAN KITWOOD/GETTY

PEOPLE

Abbott to stand as a candidate for Labour

By **Sam Rucker**

Diane Abbott will stand as a Labour candidate in Hackney North and Stoke Newington, the party confirmed yesterday.

Labour's National Executive Committee (NEC), the body responsible for giving its election candidates final approval, has given Ms Abbott the green light to stand in the seat she has held for 37 years.

The Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer, backed down last week over what was seen as a deliberate attempt to cull left-wing candidates, including Ms Abbott. He denied there was a cull.

Questions over whether she would be able to stand stemmed from the Labour Party removing her whip last year while she was being investigated for suggesting Jewish, Irish and Traveller people experience prejudice, but not racism "all their lives" like black Britons do.

She apologised for the comments and withdrew them the same day, but it sparked a long-running process that resulted in her sitting as an independent MP.

Ms Abbott (*inset*) had the whip restored last week.

Mr Starmer has repeatedly said it was not up to him to decide whether she could be a candidate.

The NEC published a list of approved candidates yesterday, with Ms Abbott's name on it, ahead of the deadline for nominations on Friday afternoon.





Veterans Jim Grant (second left) and Charles Horn (right) with Commander Glen Hinson and Commodore John Boyce on the 'Mont St Michel' ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

ARMED FORCES

'Mixed feelings' for D-Day veterans as they mark the 80th anniversary

By Ted Hennessey and Ben Mitchell

D-Day veterans experienced "mixed feelings" as they set sail for Normandy for the 80th anniversary commemorations.

Several were on board Brittany Ferries ship *Mont St Michel* yesterday morning, many in good spirits, though one was seen teary-eyed.

The ship was accompanied by Royal Navy patrol vessels *Trumpeter*, *Medusa* and *Basher* as well as HMS *Cattistock* and the Training Ship *Royalist*, with tugs spraying water as it travelled out of Portsmouth.

Several small boats and yachts also waited outside the harbour to see the ferry off on its journey to Caen. The Jedburgh Pipe Band

played the ferry out on its way and a Royal Air Force flypast circled low overhead.

Crowds waving Union and D-Day flags gathered on the Round Tower and harbour walls in Old Portsmouth and cheered and clapped as the ferry passed, with the veterans waving back from the ship's decks.

Arnie Salter, 98, from Bedworth, Warwickshire, said: "I've got a lot of mixed feelings: I'm glad to go, it brings back memories, but I'm also sad. We lost a hell of a lot of good men."

Mr Salter, who helped ferry hundreds of troops across to the Normandy beaches during D-Day, added: "The flypast was lovely and the pipers were wonderful."



Veterans and their families wave to the crowds as they leave the harbour

Jack Mortimer, 100, from Leeds, who landed on Sword Beach, said: "When I go back there, I cry. I saw bodies being brought off that beach."

Later, Donald Jones, 99, who landed on the same beach 80 years ago,

sat in his wheelchair on the beach and wept as local people shook his hand and thanked him.

Ken Hay, 98, who was captured as a prisoner of war just weeks after D-Day said: "To go back to France is important, to see the cemeteries, the monuments, it's always good to see."

John Dennett, 99, from Wallasey, Merseyside, said: "At my age now, I'm a bit more expecting it to be emotional... we must always remember them."

The Royal British Legion is escorting just 22 D-Day veterans to Normandy, compared with 255 who travelled to commemorate the 75th anniversary in 2019.

Another 10 are travelling with the Spirit of Normandy Trust.

MONARCHY

King and Queen film tribute

By Laura Elston

The King and Queen hosted four D-Day veterans at Buckingham Palace to mark the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings.

Football boots carried on the straps of a military backpack, dog tags still bearing blood and photographs of a much-cherished wife were among the mementoes shared with Charles and Camilla.

Charles, in turn, read aloud from his grandfather's handwritten diary, recounting George VI's D-Day entry about the breaking news of the "successful landings" in June 1944.

The meeting was filmed and will be broadcast on BBC One's *D-Day 80: Tribute to The Fallen* on 5 June.

The King and Queen listened intently as Arthur Osborne, 100, of the 49th Division of the 6th Battalion Duke of Wellington's Regiment, told how he was shot in the lung, three days after arriving on Gold Beach.

HERITAGE

D-Day story told using 80 objects

By Claudia Tanner

A new book tells the story of D-Day through 80 objects ranging from a special suit worn during secret reconnaissance of the landing beaches, to the boots worn by an American Ranger during the assault on Omaha Beach.

D-Day in 80 Objects has been created by The D-Day Story museum in Portsmouth and the D-Day Museum Trust, in collaboration with museums across the UK and US.

Cathy Hakes, head of museums at Portsmouth City Council, who came up with the concept for the publication, said: "D-Day was the day that changed the world."

"Of course it wasn't all down to the one day – the campaign went on for months afterwards. But it was the pivotal moment."

MILITARY

Runaway horses ready for King's parade

By George Lithgow

Three military horses seen galloping through central London earlier this year will likely take part in Trooping the Colour after making a remarkable recovery, the Army has said.

The horses bolted after being spooked by rubble being dropped through a plastic tunnel while on an exercise in Belgravia on 24 April.

The Life Guards soldiers and five military working horses injured in the incident "are continuing to make remarkable progress", the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment

said. Three of the horses injured – Trojan, Tennyson and Vanquish – are back on duty and "against all expectations, are looking likely to take part in the King's Birthday Parade on 15 June," the regiment said.

The celebration, held on Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall, will be attended by the King after he returned to public duties.

The remaining two injured horses – Vida and Quaker – are "enjoying a summer holiday" in the

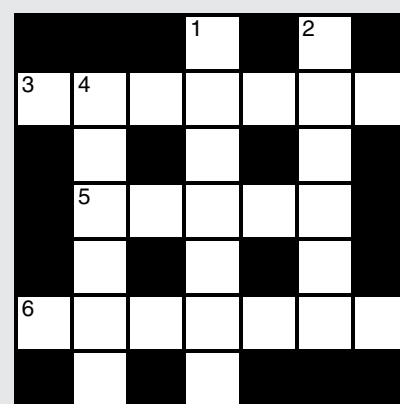
country but look set to return to work in due course.

Ambulance crews treated four people in three separate incidents in Buckingham Palace Road, Belgrave Square and at the junction of Chancery Lane and Fleet Street, in the space of 10 minutes.

Vida and Quaker are at the Horse Trust in the Chilterns and are making "a remarkable physical recovery and showed great enthusiasm and joy upon their arrival".



The Five-Clue Cryptic Crossword No 4223



Across

- 3/5 Blur's attempt misguidedly to create a very short bit of music (7,5)
6 Regularly allows to be involved in remedy – which might resolve a traumatic experience (7)

Down

- 1 Stalemate reached as I am behind the times (7)
2 Bully boy (6)
4 Coarse lad out of order, getting close to the bone (6)

Solution, page 49

ISRAEL

Biden suggests Israeli PM may be prolonging war 'for his own ends'

By Isabella Bengoechea
ACTING DEPUTY WORLD EDITOR

Joe Biden has suggested that the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, may be trying to postpone the end of the war in Gaza for his own political ends, after Israel said it believed that more than a third of hostages in Gaza were dead.

The US President gave a newly published interview to *Time* magazine on 28 May, a few days before he outlined a three-phase plan for a Gaza ceasefire and hostage return deal.

Asked whether he thought Mr Netanyahu was prolonging the war for political reasons, Mr Biden said: "There is every reason for people to draw that conclusion."

Polls have shown that most Israelis blame their prime minister for the security failings that led to Hamas's massacre in southern Israel on 7 October last year, when more than 1,100 people were killed.

Were his government to collapse and his premiership end, polls show that the war cabinet member Benny Gantz is far more likely to replace Mr Netanyahu as prime minister.

Last month, the International Criminal Court's prosecutor requested arrest warrants for Mr Netanyahu and his defence minister, as well as three Hamas leaders, over alleged war crimes.

Mr Netanyahu is also charged with fraud, bribery and breach of trust in cases filed in 2019, in a trial which is ongoing.

The White House said yesterday that it would continue to work with Mr Netanyahu to try to get the ceasefire proposal approved.

Officials added that the US envoy to the Middle East, Brett McGurk, would travel to the region this week to push for the deal.

However, a Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, said that it could not agree to a ceasefire that did not secure a clear Israeli position on a permanent ceasefire and withdrawal from Gaza.

"We asked the mediators to get a clear Israeli position to commit to a permanent ceasefire and a complete withdrawal from Gaza," he added.

Mr Netanyahu has continued to rule out any permanent ceasefire until achieving the total elimination of Hamas. However, yesterday one of his coalition partners, the ultra-Orthodox Jewish party Shas, said it would support the prospective deal, following similar remarks on Monday by the leader of another party in the coalition, United Torah Judaism.

Shas pledged "full support" to the proposal, and encouraged Mr Netanyahu and his war cabinet to "withstand all pressures for the end of returning the hostages".

The Israeli government believes that more than a third of the hostages remaining in Gaza are dead.

Of the roughly 250 who were taken into the enclave by Hamas on 7 October, 120 remain in captivity, 43 of whom have been declared dead in absentia by Israeli officials. Some officials have privately said that the number of dead could be higher.

{i} On Monday, four more hostages were added to Israel's list of fatalities, including British-Israeli hostage Nadav Popplewell, 51. Chaim Peri, 79, Yoram Metzger, 80, and Amiram Cooper, 85, were also confirmed dead. The Israeli military said they were **killed during an Israeli operation** in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza, but gave no further details.



Palestinians inspect damage from an Israeli attack on Deir al-Balah yesterday



MIDDLE EAST

Is building in Gaza a clue to Israel's post-war vision?

Israeli military engineers are constructing watchtowers, outposts and roads in the territory. By **Kieron Monks**

Satellite imagery shows that, as the Israeli military reduces much of Gaza to ruins, it is also building watchtowers, outposts and roads across the occupied territory, offering possible clues to its post-war vision. Army engineers have been constructing extensive infrastructure and creating a "buffer zone" that stretches around the enclave's perimeter.

The most significant new landmark is the Netzarim Corridor, a highway through the centre of the Gaza Strip, from Israeli territory to the coast, which has been under development throughout the war. The corridor has steadily expanded with paving, fortifications, and supply roads. Military bases have been established with accommodation and power lines.

Israel says that construction inside the enclave is temporary. But Palestinians and independent analysts see echoes of Israel's methods in the occupied West Bank and believe that it may be planning for the long term. The subject has become critical in ceasefire talks as the US pushes for an end to the war.

A spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said that the army had built "temporary and rudimentary structures in the Gaza

Strip in order to meet the logistical needs". They did not comment on the extent of construction or if the corridor would be dismantled.

The question has become more urgent in recent negotiations, with Hamas pressing for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Strip and for "all military sites and installations

to be completely dismantled" – with a specific reference to the Netzarim Corridor – according to leaked draft agreements.

Israel has resisted calls for a full withdrawal and the country's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, insists that it must retain "indefinite security control" of Gaza.

The US President, Joe Biden, appeared to muddy the waters in a speech on Friday as he called for an end to the war with an "Israeli withdrawal from all populated areas of Gaza". The corridor and other areas of intensive development have been depopulated for months.

The "buffer zone" created by destroying thousands of residential buildings near the border fence – which international law scholars believe may be a war crime – extends up to 2km into Gaza, said Khalil Abu Shammalah, a media consultant who was displaced from northern Gaza to Khan Yunis.

He added: "It seems they will take more than 30 per cent from Gaza."

Palestinians who approach the Netzarim Corridor have been fired upon, he said. The IDF told *The Washington Post* only that it had used "cautionary fire".

Yaakov Amidror, a former national security adviser who is now a military analyst at the Jerusalem



Sources: Planet Labs, Haaretz, Washington Post, Gaza War Unit Tracker



Hotels destroyed by Israeli forces in Gaza City's centre
DAWOUD ABO ALKASI/
ANADOLU/GETTY

options are " Hamas rule in Gaza or Israeli military rule in Gaza".

The latter option has support, including from senior politicians. Itamar Ben-Gvir, the far-right national security minister, has called for a permanent occupation and the return of Israeli settlements to Gaza.

Residents in West Bank settlements – illegal under international law – are campaigning for a return and have even broken into the enclave and briefly established structures.

Soldiers in Gaza have posted social media messages promising a permanent return and showing the establishment of ad hoc synagogues. A march in the Israeli town of Sderot, near the Gaza border, drew thousands calling for new settlements in the territory.

A prominent West Bank settler, who did not wish to be named, told *i* that the IDF could expect to be fighting off settlers as well as Palestinian militants the longer it retains control of the Strip.

Mr Amidror believes the eventual post-war model will be similar to the West Bank administrative divisions that resulted from the Oslo Accords, the basis of the now dormant peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

This left the PA largely in control of Area A, where the main towns and cities are located, with limited powers in Area B, and Israel in full control of Area C – about 60 per cent of the territory that is largely rural and the location of most settlements.

Mr Amidror said that Area A was "the responsibility of the Palestinians, but whenever we have a military need we know how to go in and out". He added: "This is the kind of presence Israel will have in Gaza... not relating to the civilian side but to fight terrorists and destroy what they are building."

Dr Andreas Krieg, a Middle East security analyst and lecturer at King's College London, suggested that while much of Israel's construction in Gaza could be swiftly disassembled, the Netzarim Corridor appeared to be more entrenched.

"They have created forward operating bases there, which I would consider to be semi-permanent," he said. "If you look at the structures, you have high walls, watch towers, barriers, and somewhat of a moat that runs along the corridor."

This does not suggest that they are doing this to support the current campaign."

He said the construction was ongoing despite withdrawal talks and appeared to be "part of some sort of governance infrastructure".

Dr Krieg noted that Israel had entrenched one of the world's longest-running occupations in the West Bank by establishing temporary infrastructure and civilian settlements that were never withdrawn, and in many cases retroactively formalised.

"We know that over time the Israelis have used 'temporary' structures and then made them permanent, creating a fait accompli," he said. "I think that's what they are doing in Gaza."

MILITARY

Russia's rapid rebuild is a huge worry for Nato states

By Kieron Monks

Russia is rebuilding its armed forces at a rapid rate despite catastrophic losses in Ukraine and could be in a position to threaten Nato states by 2026, according to Norway's top defence official.

The estimated window is shorter than previous assessments. Germany's defence minister, Boris Pistorius, said in January that Russia could be ready to attack a Nato country in "five to eight years".

"At one point someone said it'll take 10 years, but I think we're back to less than 10 years because of the industrial base that is now running in Russia," General Eirik Kristoffersen, head of the Norwegian Armed Forces, told Bloomberg.

"It will take some time, which gives us a window now for the next two to three years to rebuild our forces."

Russia has lost more than 3,000 tanks during the war in Ukraine, according to open-source investigators, and hundreds of thousands of soldiers, including much of its professional force, which has been supplemented with mobilised civilians, prisoners, and mercenaries.

But Western analysts have watched with concern as Moscow

has shifted its economy to a war footing for mass production that is out-producing Nato in several key areas.

Nato estimates that Russia is manufacturing about three million artillery shells a year, one of the war's most vital currencies, almost three times what the US and Europe produce combined.

Russia also claims to be producing and refurbishing more than 2,000 tanks per year to replace losses, dwarfing the stocks and manufacturing capacities of Western nations.

While independent analysts are sceptical of Russian figures, Moscow is known to have vast stocks of tanks in storage.

The Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a US military think-tank, estimates that Russia could "resurrect" more than 1,000 old tanks per year.

Dr Kristian Gustafson, a professor of intelligence and security studies at Brunel University, suggests Russia could struggle to replace quality if not quantity over the next two to three years. "They definitely have enough manpower," he said.

"The next question is, could they reconstitute sufficient officer corps... probably less so."

"And then all the technicians they

would need to train is a little harder, but it's feasible."

The Russian industrial base is churning out vast quantities of equipment but could be held back by shortages of specialised technology that have been restricted by sanctions, he suggests, such as chips for precision-guided weapons and tooling equipment for T-90 tanks.

An attack on Nato in the time frame suggested by General Kristoferson is "not likely but it is plausible", said Dr Gustafson, suggesting this would probably focus on relatively vulnerable areas of eastern Europe rather than Western capitals, such as territory around the exclave of Kaliningrad.

Dr Marina Miron, of the defence studies department at King's College London, says General Kristoffersen is right to raise concerns over Nato readiness, noting recent reports suggesting that Nato has just 5 per cent of air defences required to secure its eastern flank, which could allow Russia to "better allocate resources to the production of specific missiles".

1,000+

The number of old tanks Russia could bring back into service, according to a US think tank

i Moscow has also been able to **effectively mobilise manpower and recruits about 30,000 soldiers per month**, according to a recent defence ministry assessment.

Prayer for children

Priests in the Ukrainian city of Lviv pray yesterday for children who have died during the Russian invasion. The International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression is marked on 4 June. According to Ukraine, 551 children have died.

LES KASYANOV/GLOBAL IMAGES UKRAINE/GETTY



UKRAINE

Using Western weapons 'is a game-changer'

By Yuliia Dysa and Olena Harmash
IN KYIV

Using Western weapons to strike inside Russia is a vital decision that will affect Moscow's tactical aviation and its capability to operate in border areas, the Ukrainian President's chief of staff said yesterday.

Following pressure from Ukraine and European allies, the US changed its policy last week, allowing Kyiv to strike inside Russia with weapons supplied by its Western allies.

Kyiv said the step would help push

back Russian advances and better defend territory in Kharkiv.

"Permission to use Western weapons on the territory of the Russian Federation is a vital decision," said Andriy Yermak. "This will impact the conduct of the war, planning of counteroffensive actions, and will weaken Russians' abilities to use their forces in the border areas."

The decision would also help to better fend off Russian aerial attacks, Mr Yermak added.

But outgunned and outmanned on the battlefield, Kyiv pleaded with

Washington to allow it to strike targets on Russian soil with US-made weapons, as Moscow launched a new front in the Kharkiv region.

Kharkiv, the country's second largest city, is just about 30km from the Russian border.

US officials said that the latest decision was narrowly tailored to the battle in the Kharkiv region.

They said it allowed Kyiv to use US-supplied weapons to fire back against Russian forces "attacking them or preparing to attack them" from across the border.

Institute for Strategic Studies, a think-tank, says Israeli construction in Gaza serves several purposes.

"There are three efforts," he said. "The Netzarim Corridor, which is to separate the north from the south to ensure that terrorists don't move [between them]... the corridor will also allow Israel to go into Gaza in future in an easier way and to bring forces to the middle of the Strip."

"Second is the many pipelines and roads constructed to serve humanitarian needs, for example to bring water to ["humanitarian zone"] al-Mawasi, and to allow aid trucks to the north."

"The third effort is local roads, which are serving the needs of particular brigades or divisions."

Mr Amidror, a former IDF general, claims Israeli construction will not interfere with post-war reconstruction or the plans of any future administration in Gaza, and could help to facilitate development.

He acknowledges that Israel's plans remain opaque. Mr Netanyahu insists that Hamas will be "eliminated" but has ruled out handing Gaza to the Palestinian Authority (PA) – which exercises limited self-government in the West Bank – as it the preferred option of the US and its allies.

Mr Netanyahu has come under pressure from his military, with the IDF chief of staff, Herzi Halevi (*inset*), stating that Israel will be forced to keep fighting indefinitely in Gaza until a new regime replaces Hamas. The defence minister, Yoav Gallant, has said that without a new Palestinian administration the only





SHOP IN STORE, ONLINE OR ON THE APP

16

NEWS

TELEVISION

Hit dinosaur series returns to BBC after 25 years

By Charlotte McLaughlin

The award-winning BBC series *Walking With Dinosaurs* is to return to TV a quarter of a century after it was first broadcast.

The programme, originally narrated by the film-maker and actor Sir Kenneth Branagh, brought the reptiles to life for audiences in a new way in 1999, recreating how they lived, ate and slept.

The natural history-style documentary, which included computer simulations of dinosaurs such as *Tyrannosaurus rex* and *Stegosaurus*, won multiple awards – including Emmys and Baftas. It was also a ratings hit, with 13.2 million viewers watching the first episode.

Each episode of the new six-part series, which starts next year, will look at one individual dinosaur whose remains are being unearthed by palaeontologists.

The programme will use “cutting-

edge science” to show, through the latest visual effects, how they lived, hunted, fought and died.

Stories being told include that of the herbivore *Lusotitan*, which lived in Portugal, and would have been seeking a mate; the largest carnivorous dinosaur so far discovered, the *Spinosaurus*, found in Morocco; and a *Triceratops* in North America, which the programme will show trying to battle a *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

Jack Bootle, a spokesman for the BBC, said: “A whole new generation of viewers is about to fall in love with *Walking With Dinosaurs*.”

“The original series was one of the most exciting factual shows of all time, and this reinvention builds on that amazing legacy. Each episode is underpinned by the very latest science but is also filled with drama, making this a series for both dino lovers and people who just want to be told a great story.”

It is a BBC Studios production for



The original series of 'Walking With Dinosaurs' was a ratings hit worldwide BBC

the BBC and PBS, co-produced with ZDF and France Televisions.

Andrew Cohen, the head of the science unit at BBC Studios, said: “There is no bigger science series than *Walking With Dinosaurs* and we are incredibly excited to be bringing

this much-loved brand to a whole new generation of audiences around the world.

“It is the ultimate dinosaur show, where you will be hiding behind the sofa one moment and having your mind blown the next.”

HEALTH

Weight-loss jab Mounjaro given NHS approval

By Storm Newton

The type 2 diabetes drug Mounjaro has been recommended to help obese people lose weight on the NHS.

Mounjaro – also known as tirzepatide and made by Eli Lilly – is a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) agonist, a family of medications that help manage blood sugar. Other GLP-1 agonists include semaglutide – sold under the brand names Wegovy, Ozempic and Rybelsus.

In September, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommended Mounjaro as an option for type 2 diabetics who could not tolerate metformin.

It has now issued draft guidance, applying to England and Wales, saying the drug should also be an option to help people manage obesity.

It comes after the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) authorised Mounjaro to be used to help obese adults with weight loss in November. Subject to final guidance, the weekly jab will be recommended for patients with a body mass index of 35 with at least one obesity-related condition.

ITALY

Knox challenges slander conviction

By Colleen Barry
IN MILAN

Amanda Knox will be back in an Italian courtroom this week to defend herself against a 16-year-old slander conviction that she hopes to beat once and for all.

Her chance was made possible when a European court ruled that Italy violated her human rights during a long night of questioning over the murder of Meredith Kercher in November 2007.

The slander conviction for accusing a Congolese bar owner in the killing is the only charge against Ms Knox that withstood five court rulings that ultimately cleared her in the murder of her 21-year-old roommate in the apartment they shared in the central Italian university town of Perugia.

A verdict in the slander case retrial ordered by Italy's highest court is expected today, with Ms Knox, 36, appearing in an Italian court for the first time in more than 12 years.

The slander charge was largely based on two statements typed by police that Ms Knox signed during the early hours of 6 November 2007, under extended questioning in Italian from police without a lawyer or a competent translator.



Amanda Knox at her appeal hearing in Perugia in 2011. She was acquitted of Meredith Kercher's murder in 2015, but a slander conviction remained GETTY

The European Court of Human Rights ruled that the conditions violated her human rights.

Suspicion for Ms Kercher's murder

fell on Ms Knox, then 20, and her then-Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, with whom she had been involved for about a week.

i Guede served 13 years of a 16-year prison sentence handed down after a fast-track trial that foresees lighter sentences under Italian law.

Ms Knox and Mr Sollecito were convicted in their first trial, but after a series of flip-flop verdicts, they were ultimately exonerated by Italy's highest court in 2015.

However, the slander conviction against Ms Knox endured – despite the conviction of Rudy Hermann Guede, a man from Côte d'Ivoire whose DNA was found at the crime scene.

Based on the ruling by the European court, Italy threw out Ms Knox's slander conviction in November, and ruled that the two statements typed by police were inadmissible.

It ordered a new trial, instructing the Florence court to consider only a handwritten statement that Ms Knox wrote in English hours later.

"In regards to this 'confession'... I want to make it clear that I'm very doubtful of the verity of my statements, because they were made under the pressures of stress, shock and extreme exhaustion," the statement said. AP

PEOPLE

West sued by former assistant for harassment

By Joel Taylor

The American musician and entrepreneur Kanye West is being sued by a former assistant for sexual harassment, breach of contract and wrongful termination, it has been reported.

Lauren Pisciotto alleges the star sent her lewd texts and performed sex acts while on the phone with her, according to the celebrity news website TMZ.

And she claims she was fired in 2022 and that a \$3m (£2.4m) severance package was never honoured.

The court papers were reportedly filed on Monday.

The documents show she met and was hired by Mr West (*inset*) in 2021 to work on his Yeezy fashion line and that she collaborated on three tracks from his *Donda* album, without any formal credits.

She was subsequently hired as his personal assistant on an annual salary of \$1m (£782,000) and asked to delete her OnlyFans account.



FATHER'S DAY | SUNDAY 16 JUNE



M&S

ORDER BY 10PM, COLLECT IN STORE TOMORROW

Opinion

Quote of the day



By the end, I was hanging out by the baked beans in the English shops, which was quite tragic

Sienna Miller
The actress missed home while living in New York during the pandemic

The Opinion Matrix

COMMENT FROM HOME AND ABROAD

FARAGE RUNS AS AN MP



It's a worry for Tories rather than Labour

Politico

A revamped Reform UK is more of a headache for the Conservatives than for Labour. The Tories' dire position owes partly to the number of voters they have lost to Reform: 21 per cent of those who voted Conservative in 2019 say they now intend to vote for Reform, compared [with] 3 per cent of Labour voters. (Esther Webber)

Daily Express

His antennae are telling him that British politics is at a major turning point. Mr Farage can not only give himself a great chance of entering the Commons, but also of amplifying Reform UK's vote share. (Patrick O'Flynn)

ROYAL MAIL SELL-OFF



Ministers have not paid much attention

Daily Mail

Such a sale, with a huge impact on the NHS and the operations of His Majesty's Revenue and Customs, should have commanded the attention of government and opposition. Instead, there have been mealy-mouthed words from the Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, and waffle about the UK's need to attract overseas capital. (Alex Brummer)

The Daily Telegraph

There is no denying the postal service has struggled. Yet, the idea that loading a relatively debt-light business up to the eyeballs with billions of pounds in fresh loans is likely to be beneficial is nonsense. (Ben Marlow)

NUCLEAR WEAPONS



A potential headache for Starmer

BBC

Just eight years ago under Jeremy Corbyn, around a dozen Labour figures who are now frontbenchers voted in the Commons against maintaining the UK's nuclear weapons. It suggests that there are figures who could soon be hugely influential in government who are at best equivocal or uncomfortable about the UK's nuclear arsenal. (Chris Mason)

The Sun

Have they all changed their tune, alive to the realities of the global threat? Or would they be lobby Starmer, as PM, to change tack? This question could not be more crucial. (Editorial)

TIANANMEN SQUARE



China tries to reshape the world

Bloomberg

The West condemned the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989, but still went on to continue to trade with China. That led to a symbiotic relationship that has been so hard to unpick. There was a belief that as China grew rich, it would become more free. The opposite has happened. (Karishma Vaswani)

The Spectator

[The date of the massacre] 4 June 1989 planted the seeds of a darker, more complicated world. Beijing waited, and learned, and gathered strength. It first emerged as the world's workshop. But it was a matter of time before it made its bid to reshape the world. (Sergey Radchenko)

SHEIN FLOTATION



Online store set to become major firm

Sky News

There will doubtless be some cynicism about Shein's decision to list [its shares] in London, rather than New York. It will be suggested that British regulators – and politicians – are less hawkish on China and less likely to ask questions about Shein's supply chain. (Ian King)

The Times

The numbers are dazzling, with the Chinese online retailer expected to be valued at more than \$60bn. That would make it one of the biggest firms in London. No wonder the two main political parties have welcomed Shein with open arms. (Tracey Boles)

MEXICAN ELECTIONS



New leader needs strategy to govern

The New York Times

Violence is the most formidable challenge that Claudia Sheinbaum, whom Mexico has just elected to be its first female President, will have to confront. And yet she has not laid out a clear strategy to govern a country bathed in blood. (Joan Grillo)

Financial Times

Voters looked past alarming levels of violent crime and worries about the erosion of democratic institutions. Instead they rewarded Sheinbaum for promises to crusade for social justice in a country beset by high levels of poverty. (Michael Stott)

Life In Brief

DAME ELIZABETH FRADD NURSING ADMINISTRATOR

Professor Dame Elizabeth Fradd, who held a number of senior administration roles in a career dedicated to nursing and healthcare, has died. She was 75.

Fradd came to public attention when she advised the NHS after the conviction of Beverley Allitt in 1993. The nurse was given 13 life sentences for murdering four infants in her care, attempting to murder three others and causing grievous bodily harm to six more at Grantham and Kesteven Hospital in Lincolnshire.

Fradd was asked to take over management of the unit where Allitt had worked to try to restore public confidence, and help to support staff.

It was a successful appointment and when the Commission for Health Improvement (later the Care Quality Commission) was formed in 2000, Fradd was appointed its nurse director and lead director for its inspection and

review programme. During her four years in the role, she oversaw 7,000 clinical governance reviews and helped to develop the systems used for the commission's work.

Elizabeth Harriet Birtwhistle was born in Worcester Park, Surrey, the third of four children. Her father, Norman, was a Methodist minister and her mother, Harriet (née Abey), was a former teacher.

Fradd did not excel at school, but when she trained as a nurse at Westminster Hospital she graduated top of her class of 88 students. She held various posts as a nurse, midwife and health visitor before her move into nursing administration.

While she was working as a paediatric nurse, one of Fradd's patients was Anthony Nolan, who died of a rare blood disorder in 1979 before a bone marrow donor could be found.

She went on to help his mother found the Anthony Nolan Trust, a charity which runs an international register of bone marrow donors.

Fradd graduated with an MSc in health care policy and organisation from Nottingham University in 1994, and in 1995 became director of nursing and education at the NHS Executive's West Midlands regional office. In 1999, she was appointed assistant chief nurse at the Department of Health.

She chaired the Government's health visitor task force, launched in 2011, and served on the Prime Minister's commission on the future of nursing and midwifery in 2009–10. Her recent roles included being a commissioner on the Midlands Engine Health Inequalities Post-Covid Commission and vice chairman of the children's charity Together for Short Lives.

Fradd received honorary doctorates



from the universities of Central England, Wolverhampton and Nottingham, where she had a special professorship. She was made a fellow of the Royal College of Nursing in 2004.

Fradd was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2009 for services to nursing and healthcare.

She married Dr Simon Fradd in 1976 but the marriage ended in divorce.

Born 12 May 1949
Died 12 May 2024
Veronica Lee

My View

Emily Maitlis



Will it be eighth time lucky for Farage?

Reform UK's new leader has a history of not winning seats

At the end of the day," Rishi Sunak is explaining to a Sky News reporter, "one of two people will be prime minister. Either Keir Starmer or me. A vote for anyone who's not a Conservative candidate is just a vote to put Keir Starmer in No 10."

He's sitting in front of some small boats. Canoes this time, in a rowing club in the usually safe Tory seat of Henley, Oxfordshire. The fact that Sunak is even having to campaign here in week two tells you everything you need to know about the state of the Conservatives right now. They are not happy bunnies. And things are about to get a whole lot worse.

Sunak has just been asked if he is worried that Nigel Farage will stand as an MP. And while his words suggest the easy manner of a football manager, his eyes make him look like a kidnap victim.

There is fear there. And Farage has smelled it, and gone for the kill.

At 4pm on Monday, after what was billed as an emergency press conference, Farage announced what was in effect a coup. He would be taking over the leadership of Reform UK, and standing as an MP in the Clacton seat in Essex.

Farage owns "Reform UK" as a private company. So technically he can pretty much do what he wants. Though thoughts and prayers must go to Richard Tice – who presumably before the weekend thought that he was the nailed-on leader for the short duration of this election. And to the actual Reform candidate who had similarly started to build the framework of a Clacton election campaign before Farage swung through the walls on a wrecking ball.

Farage painted a bucolic picture in his press conference of a decision made while fishing and wandering in and out of the pub. A decision born, he insisted, of fruitful thought and loyalty to his legion supporters whom he did not wish to disappoint.

Cynics among us may wonder if it was actually a decision born of pique and machismo – after a public goading from Piers Morgan who essentially called him spineless.

And so, in a massive show of strength, Farage has decided to stand in a seat that it is almost impossible for him to lose. Clacton voted for the previous incarnation of Reform, Ukip, as long ago as 2015. It remains the only constituency in the country that has returned a Ukip MP at a general election.



According to recent research, only 35 per cent of Nigel Farage fans who support Reform UK are women AFP/GETTY

So this is not really a novelty for voters there. It's merely a return to older times.

And nostalgia, as we know, never goes amiss in a Ukip seat. There are voters here who left the Conservatives long, long ago – and see the current crop of Tories as the

essence of their disappointment. If Farage cannot win in a place where Reform is already virtually neck and neck with the Tories, in an election campaign he has already described as "over", his party cannot win anywhere.

But Farage – lest we forget – has

a history of not winning seats, which is perhaps worth taking into consideration. Because the truth is that every time he has gone to the electorate and asked voters to make him their MP, they have said "no".

He lacks neither profile, nor media attention, nor name

In a show of strength, he has decided to stand in a seat that it is almost impossible for him to lose

recognition. So the fact that he has tried to get elected seven times – in five general elections and two by-elections – suggests that the more people see of him on their doorstep, the less they want him to represent them in Parliament.

I am struggling to think of another independent figure who has stood so many times, so unsuccessfully. Despite this calculable electoral failure, Farage is frequently hailed as "the most important politician of his generation" for convincing the country to leave the European Union – a decision that a majority of UK voters now regrets.

According to *The Economist* magazine, between 16 to 20 per cent of Leave voters have now changed sides: the balance has swung against Brexit. Perhaps the slipperiness of Farage's promises has been clear all along to the people who were asked to vote for him in Eastleigh, Salisbury, Bexhill, Bromley, Buckingham, South Thanet... I could go on.

But Nigel Farage does have one constituency that adores him. His is an old man's vote. According to research by More in Common, only 35 per cent of Farage fans in Reform UK are women. And the average Reform voter is just short of 70 years old.

There's a reason why you will hear him bang on about the fishing and the pub. There's a reason you will hear him pretending to fall asleep when he is asked an accountability question. There's a reason he can't get a sentence out without invoking a war won. Why he can't take a walk in summer without a greatcoat.

Clacton has the second-oldest population in England and Wales. Perhaps Farage's time has finally come.

Emily Maitlis is a journalist, broadcaster and a co-host of the podcast 'The News Agents'

i@inews.co.uk

@i Your View

Tweets, emails
and letters to:
The Editor, **i**,
9 Derry Street,
London W8 5HY

Maintain choice in education

Glad to see a bit of sensible talk about the VAT on private schools at last ("Private school tax may be a costly piece of red meat", **i** 3 June).

There is a general view that all private schools are about privilege and class. For many this may be true but there are also schools that are small and offer a kinder, less

competitive place for some children to thrive.

As the principal of AS Neill's Summerhill School, I see another side. Many parents both at our school and other small schools send their children there not to get an "advantage" academically but to have a happier childhood.

We are extremely worried about the implications to this unique place as our fees

(among the lowest in the country) cannot sustain the business with the addition of VAT.

Is Sir Keir Starmer really going to put wonderful places like this, that give parents and children a real alternative choice from the mainstream, at risk of closure? I am sure this is not what the general public wants.

ZOE READHEAD
LEISTON, SUFFOLK

What legacy can Farage offer?

This week, Rob Burrow and Nigel Farage made the news for very different reasons. One was a giant of a man, yet stood only 5ft 5in tall. His life and legacy will give so much strength to so many. What can we say will be the legacy of Mr Farage?

RORY WADDELL
SHEFFIELD

Anti-trans laws help no one

The article about how women are being killed because police ignore concerns about domestic violence ("The women who asked for help because they knew they'd be killed", **i** 4 June) shows just how ridiculous and cruel Tory proposals for a new round of discrimination against trans people are.

I'm a cis woman. There are lots of genuine dangers we women face. Trans people just getting on with their lives in peace most certainly is not one of those dangers. I've been in the same space as trans people many times and never once have felt in danger.

Please can those who want to discriminate stop trying to dress up persecuting trans people (a group which is already more likely to face violence) under the cloak of "protecting women"?

You are not protecting us. Discrimination against trans people won't make cis women safer – it will make trans people's lives harder.

JO SELWOOD
OXFORD



i reader Rory Waddell believes the late rugby star Rob Burrow's legacy will last longer than Nigel Farage's

Intelligent and decent Christian

Thank you for the intelligent and decent article by Michael Coren ("Christians should not condemn Pride", Opinion, 4 June).

As a heterosexual Christian, I am consistently dismayed by the hateful and the mindless who abuse Christianity to justify their hatred towards gay people.
HUGH LOGAN
VIA EMAIL

I'm a Christian too, one with nowhere near the learning Rev Coren has. But for so many years I have been confused and unhappy when I have heard many of those with whom I share my faith speak in dogmatic and derogatory terms, quoting biblical references to substantiate their

unloving stance on same-sex couples.

We are all neighbours. Let us accept our differences and embrace each other lovingly.
JUDY SLAWINSKI
BARNES GREEN,
WEST SUSSEX

The delights of dunking

As an expert, I have to say that The List on page 4 on Monday (**i** 3 June) missed the main point about dunking biscuits.

It's not about how long they last before they disintegrate. It's about the flavour and feel as the biscuit dissolves on to your tongue.

In that respect, I would nominate the digestive as the champion, closely followed by the chocolate chip cookie and the Bourbon.
ROB BARRATT
LAUNCESTON,
CORNWALL



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THE BIG READ
'I took magic mushrooms to help with my menopause'
Can a scientific, drug-assisted therapy retreat for women really work?

IN TOMORROW'S

Brothers arguing at a wedding? Nothing is more British

PEOPLE

Rebecca Reid



You could be forgiving for assuming that you don't have much in common with the UK's richest man under the age of 40. The Duke of Westminster, otherwise known as Hugh Grosvenor (or "Hughie"), is a 33-year-old billionaire who owns vast amounts of property across the world, including 50 per cent of Mayfair and 300 acres of prime real estate in Belgravia, central London. So far, so deeply not relatable.

But Hughie has one problem that a lot of us are going to be able to understand: a guest-list nightmare for his wedding.

He is making an honest woman of his fiancée, Olivia Henson, 30, this Friday (I've found that very posh people usually get married on Fridays, but when they do it is not because the venue hire is cheaper; it

is because they don't have to abide by the concept of a weekend.) And the wedding is set to be attended by one of his best friends, but not the other, because said friends cannot be in the same room together.

Now in Hughie's specific case, the friends we are talking about are a fairly well-known pair named Harry and William. The three men grew up together and have been mates since childhood. King Charles is Hughie's godfather and the Duke is godfather to both Prince George and Prince Archie.

Under normal circumstances, it would have been expected that a full complement of young royals would have attended the wedding, where the Prince of Wales will be an usher.

But according to a report in *The Times*, Harry and Hughie have reached a "civil understanding" that the Duke of Sussex will not attend the wedding, apparently because his attendance might threaten to overshadow the marriage.

All very noble, I'm sure, but I think it's the wrong call. It is far too grown up and mature and, honestly, what is a wedding without a bit of drama?

Like most brides, I had to wrestle with table plans which kept non-speaking family members

away from each other and gave the greatest chance of my university friends not admitting that they had always thought the other one was a massive dick.

Putting together a seating chart for your wedding feels a bit like the parts of *Game of Thrones* where they put all the little soldiers on the map table and then move them around trying to plan a war. Who has snogged whose boyfriend? Who brings out other people's worst drinking habits? Who still hasn't made up from an argument about a borrowed dress in 2012?

I understand that Olivia and Hugh might be seeking to enjoy a relaxed, tasteful wedding among the global elite, but that's not what anyone actually wants. Even if you are so rich that you could pay Taylor Swift to sing the communion Mass and have Morgan Freeman do a reading, there are some universal aspects that they all need, and one of those is a bit of drama.

Wedding tension is an essential aspect of the package deal. Allegedly, Meghan and Harry used Princess Eugenie's wedding to announce that Meghan was pregnant with Archie – and that's exactly the kind of rumour mill-grinding, gossip-



The Duke of Westminster, a 33-year-old billionaire, will marry Olivia Henson this Friday

If there is no fight on the dance floor, is it really a wedding at all?

generating, generic debate fodder that these events need.

If there is no fight on the dance floor, no one standing at the edges and slagging off someone else, no scrappy chats in the loos, then is it really a wedding at all?

Next you will be telling me that they have dispensed with the warm Prosecco or the best man will not be overusing the word "stunning" to describe the bride.

So congratulations to Hugh and Olivia, given that they have probably spent more on this wedding than I will make in the course of my life, I entirely understand why they have decided to play it safe. But I do think it's rather a shame.

Like much of the UK, while I joke about the William and Harry schism, I think it's all rather sad.

The Royal Family has, by all accounts, had rather a rough year. Surely the best possible antidote to all of this would be for Harry and William to be arm in arm on the dance floor, screaming along to Robbie Williams's song "Angels" with their ties around their heads?

Weddings might be the best place for drama, but they are also the perfect place to thrash out the pain and find forgiveness nine pints deep.



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GET OFFER



Give yourself a little boost and help a tourist today

SOCIETY

Tom Nicholson



You're meant to loathe tourists. When you live near a hot spot, you're supposed to show just how local and unimpressed you are by shoving past their gigantic rucksacks with an exaggerated sigh-grunt.

You have to roll your eyes at how gauche they are – getting a photo pretending to take a call in a red phone box? Groundbreaking! – and also get annoyed when they do their homework and start clogging up the actually good places.

I grew up near Chester and Liverpool, two tourist magnets. The more you seethe, the more of a local you are.

It was in this spirit that I joined Reddit's UK travel subreddit. It's peak tourist season out there right now, and Reddit is full of prospective

holidaymakers to the UK asking for advice on whether their trip itineraries make sense.

Most are completely insane. An American will announce that during their London trip, they will get round Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, London Zoo, the Tower of London and Madame Tussauds on the first day, then for a change of pace they will take a day trip to Aberdeen.

On day three they will hit up Stonehenge, Bath's most *Bridgerton* bits and Cheddar Gorge (Americans are obsessed with Cheddar Gorge) before a whirl around Cotswold – always singular, no definite article – en route back to Heathrow.

And let me be clear: this is still very funny. But I could still see that the replies on Reddit were condescending and mean.

I remembered my younger self telling a few Beatles fans from Pennsylvania who were looking for The Cavern that, actually, it's not even the real Cavern – that one got filled in with rubble by British Rail in the 1970s – and winced.

Then about six months ago, on the train to work one morning, I met a very sweet Canadian kid. He and his mate were in a flap about whether they were going to Heathrow,

or would end up being spat out in Ruislip.

I reassured the Canadian boys that they would be OK, and went to put my earphones back in. Before I could do that, though, one of them introduced himself. His name was Eli, and he wanted to know everything. Where was I going? Did I take this train often? Did I live in London? Did I like it?

Eli liked it. Eli liked it a whole lot. The history, the architecture, the parks, the food – everything. Eli was hyped to be in London. "Man!" he bellowed. "Everything is just so old!"

Obviously I was mortified. The Tube *omerta* had been shattered. But Eli – this sweet summer child – shook me out of the reflexive grump that I'd always had toward tourists.

Yes, their habit of checking Citymapper immediately after going through Tube gates makes me want to punch them in the back of the head. But they are excited, bless them, and I want them to have as good a time in the UK as possible. So I decided, from then on, I would try to help every tourist I could.

I started small. "Try Avebury stone circle rather than Stonehenge," I told a peppy Californian. "You can touch the stones!"



Tom Nicholson advises visitors to avoid Stonehenge and head to nearby Avebury instead

I'm hanging around near big Tube maps hoping someone will ask for help

Someone else asked for cool pubs; I pointed them toward the Southampton Arms near Dartmouth Park, and suggested a route from their hostel across Hampstead Heath. It felt good.

Now it's getting a bit out of hand. I'm hanging around near big Tube maps hoping someone will ask for help. I scan for massive rucksacks on public transport which might need shepherding. If someone folds out a map of central London (a literal paper map! In the year of our Lord 2024!) I'm there in a heartbeat.

Of course, there are places where tourists and tourism create chronic problems. But since I started looking at places I know through visitors' eyes, it's made me so much happier.

The country feels very rundown and tired. Who wouldn't prefer being around people with a genuine enthusiasm for the UK to counting the ways in which we are ruined?

It is impossible to ignore all of that; irresponsible to pretend that it's not there. But if we could all look at the places we are from through tourists' eyes occasionally, we might be a bit more content.

Everything is broken and there are no quick fixes – and we are so, so lucky.

An URGENT appeal to i readers

In just **one day**, people can lose everything and become refugees...

MAKE TODAY THE DAY YOU DECIDE TO HELP.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, exists to protect refugees. The number of people needing protection is growing rapidly, leaving UNHCR's lifesaving humanitarian work seriously underfunded. Recent years have seen multiple emergencies where, in just one day, people's lives have changed forever as they were forced to flee their homes and become refugees.

On **24 February 2022** Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, displacing millions of people. Tatiana, from Kharkiv, describes the scene she woke to:

"We looked out the window and saw smoke, fire, explosions. In an hour or two there were tanks under our windows. We realised we had to leave but had nowhere to go. We didn't know what to do. We didn't know where we were going."

On **6 February 2023**, a series of earthquakes killed over 55,000 people in Türkiye and Syria, and destroyed tens of thousands of homes. UNHCR teams on the ground sprang into action, providing items such as 31,600 tents, 45,000 sleeping bags and over 100,000 thermal blankets in Türkiye.

Just two months later, on **15 April 2023**, the escalation of conflict in Sudan saw millions forced to flee in fear of their lives. UNHCR's emergency response teams welcomed refugees at Sudan's borders, providing them with shelter and lifesaving essentials.



A UNHCR team member leads Rohingya refugees to safety after they were forced to flee their homes in Bangladesh to escape violence.

Türkiye/Syria and Sudan were amongst 43 emergencies declared in 2023. Many, such as Sudan, are continuing to force more people from their homes. That's why **UK for UNHCR is asking i readers if you will make today, 5 June 2024, the day that you take action to help refugees.**

A gift of £96 today could provide a family of four with a lifesaving Emergency Rescue Kit containing the essentials they need to survive far from home.

When bombs are falling and bullets flying, people often escape with only the clothes on their backs. Your support today can ensure that the next day people are forced to flee, UNHCR can be there to provide the humanitarian aid that could save their lives.



£96

could help provide a family of four with a lifesaving Emergency Rescue Kit, containing essentials such as warm clothes, shoes, bottled water and high-energy food.

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Supporters of Narendra Modi's party, the BJP, outside its headquarters in New Delhi yesterday
MONEY SHARMA/AFP/GETTY



INDIA

Modi claims victory for alliance as parliamentary majority is slashed

By Krutika Pathi And Sheikh Saaliq
IN NEW DELHI

India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, claimed victory for his alliance in the country's general election as votes were still being counted last night, but the results showed that his majority was massively reduced.

Mr Modi faced a stronger than expected challenge from the opposition, which rejected his mixed economic record and polarising politics.

The prime minister, 73, said that his National Democratic Alliance would form the government for a third consecutive time. "Today's victory is the victory of the world's largest democracy," he added.

Last night, India's election authority confirmed that the coalition led by Mr Modi had secured the 272 seats needed for a majority in the lower house of the country's bicameral parliament, the Lok Sabha.

It is only the second time that an Indian leader has retained power for a third term, after Jawaharlal Nehru, the country's first prime minister.

However, Mr Modi looked set to be well short of the landslide 400 seats he vowed to win, and his own Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) looked unlikely to secure more than 240 seats.

Since he took power 10 years ago, riding his Hindu nationalist base, Mr Modi has been the ruling alliance's unquestioned leader, with concerns growing about what his opponents

see as a slide towards authoritarianism. The reduced mandate for Mr Modi's alliance makes it much harder for him to make changes to India's secular constitution that opposition groups had warned against.

Any such measures require the support of two-thirds of members of parliament. Concerns have grown in recent years that the BJP's Hindu nationalist agenda has polarised the

country with Mr Modi himself turning up the rhetoric, accusing the main opposition Congress party of appeasing Muslims to win votes.

The opposition alliance is projected to win 230 seats but final figures are not expected until today.

"This is public's victory and a win for democracy," said Mallikarjun Kharge, president of Congress.

Mr Modi pledged to make good

on his election promise to turn India into the world's third-biggest economy, from its current fifth place. He said that he would advance defence production, boost jobs for youth, raise exports and help farmers.

"This country will see a new chapter of big decisions," he added.

"We will continue the good work done in the past decade to keep fulfilling the aspirations of people."

Analysis

Shock result will weaken PM's personal brand

Michael Day

CHIEF FOREIGN COMMENTATOR



India's authoritarian prime minister, Narendra Modi, appears to be heading for a third term in office. But he's lost face – or more specifically, dozens of seats and his big majority, as millions of Indians desert his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), angered by its nationalist propaganda, corruption and surging unemployment.

The serious setback, and revival of the opposition, may also curb Modi's bombast on the international stage.

Modi likes to present himself as a *vishwaguru*, or teacher to the world, as a result of the crushing electoral mandates he's previously enjoyed in the world's most populous country – and democracy – with

950 million registered voters. But in a symbolic reversal of Modi's fortunes, yesterday the BJP conceded a constituency where the inauguration of a grand Hindu temple just months ago by the premier was regarded as an event that would cement his legacy and another steamrolling BJP victory.

The Hindu nationalist party also looks set for heavy losses in the bellwether northern state of Uttar Pradesh, as the opposition socialist Samajwadi Party and the Indian National Congress, fronted by Rahul Gandhi, of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, raced ahead in more than half of its 80 seats.

Two regional allies in Modi's coalition, the Telugu Desam Party and Janata Dal (United), say they will still back him. So although Modi's party looks like it will have a greatly reduced majority, the coalition, is in a much stronger position now.

But it's not the same as the BJP claims that it would romp to a win. Chietigj Bajpae, a senior

research fellow for South Asia at London's Chatham House think-tank, said: "Falling well short of its 370-seat target (400 with coalition partners) will make the BJP more beholden to coalition partners in the National Democratic Alliance that it leads. It is also likely to dent the Modi brand to some degree."

Dr Subir Sinha, director of the SOAS South Asia Institute in London, told i: "It will be interesting to see how Modi (*inset yesterday*) reacts when he has been used to big majorities.

Domestically, large parts of his programme – like labour forms – will be put on hold.

"Internationally, a lot of his bluster was about the fact that he had a massive mandate from the world's biggest population.

"That was how he was pressing his claims for things like a permanent seat on the UN Security Council." He added: "This bluster was built on weak foundations, and these look even weaker now."



MEXICO

Town mayor shot dead

By Isabella Bengoechea

The mayor of a town in Mexico has been killed in a shooting only hours after the country celebrated the election of its first female president.

Yolanda Sánchez Figueroa, the mayor of Cotija in Michoacán, was gunned down alongside her bodyguard in the town centre on Monday.

Local media said Ms Sánchez was shot 19 times and died in hospital shortly after the attack, which is suspected to have been perpetrated by an organised crime group.

She had reported receiving death threats since she took office in September 2021. Media said the Jalisco New Generation cartel (CJNG) was suspected to be behind the shooting, having allegedly threatened her. She was kidnapped last September, apparently by CJNG.

Authorities said an operation had been launched to arrest the killers.

Mexico's election was won by Claudia Sheinbaum, who will be sworn in on 1 October.

GEORGIA

MPs debate 'LGBT propaganda' ban

By Mark Trevelyan

Georgia's parliament will begin debating a "family values" bill that would include bans on "LGBT propaganda" and gender reassignment surgery, the speaker of parliament was quoted as saying yesterday.

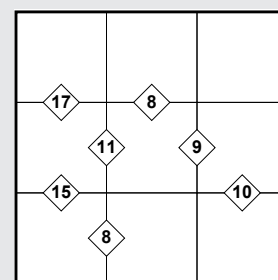
The first of three required readings would take place during the current spring session of parliament, the Interpress news service quoted the speaker, Shalva Papuashvili, as saying. The ruling Georgian Dream party announced the bill in March, drawing condemnation from LGBT activists and human rights groups.

The debate over the bill will take place at a moment of high political tension in the South Caucasus country after weeks of protests against a bill on "foreign agents" that was finally signed into law this week.

The bill would ban "LGBT propaganda" in the education system and stop broadcasters from showing intimate scenes involving same-sex relationships. REUTERS

One-minute Wjuko

How to play Place 1 – 9 once in the grid, obeying the sums between pairs of squares



Solution: page 48

i Mr Modi's critics say his **Hindu-first politics** have bred intolerance and the economy, the world's fifth-largest and one of the fastest-growing, has become more unequal.

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giftaid it

187726

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TELEVISION

Public broadcasting on 'red alert' globally, says BBC boss

By Charlotte McLaughlin

The director-general of the BBC has warned that public broadcasting is in a "red alert situation in many markets around the world".

Speaking at the Media and Telecoms 2024 and Beyond Conference in London yesterday, Tim Davie

said he was feeling "more positive and confident" about public service broadcasting in the UK but warned that this was not the case elsewhere.

"I don't want to be a market failure," Mr Davie added. "And that's what is happening around the world."

"I would suggest a... bit of time lecturing on what's happening in

the rest of the world. It is scary. It is really problematic. I mean, not marginally troublesome, I would say we are in a red-alert situation in many, many markets.

"And as politics gets more polarised, we have got to decide where we want to be."

Mr Davie also said the situation was a "real challenge for us", before adding: "This is not a criticism – news organisations trying to make their economics work will go for polarisation."

The chief executive on Channel 4, Alex Mahon, told the conference: "Lots of people don't necessarily seek out trust and truth, and that's a battle we are engaged [in]."

She added that she was "hard-pressed" to find a show from a streaming platform which had "impact", saying that she could only think of Prime Video's *Clarkson's Farm* – which follows the tribulations of former *Top Gear* presenter Jeremy Clarkson on his agricultural estate in Oxfordshire – for opening up conversations about farming in the UK.

"We are not thinking about maximisation of dwell time as the soul of success, because... that only leads to things that are more salacious," Ms Mahon said.

The chief executive of ITN, Rachel Corp, used the conference to warn that channels would not be able to alert viewers about fake news and misinformation on election day.

She said that "we're going to be flooded" with artificial intelligence-created propaganda and that ITN had been raising this topic with Government for more than a year.

TECHNOLOGY

Netflix chief admits algorithm is not flawless

By Charlotte McLaughlin

The boss of Netflix has admitted that its algorithm for deciding which shows to make is not flawless.

Greg Peters, a co-chief executive of the streaming site, was speaking at the Media and Telecoms 2024 and Beyond Conference yesterday.

He cited the crime drama *Top Boy* (originally broadcast on Channel 4), the teenage comedy *Sex Education* and First World War film *All Quiet On The Western Front* as examples of the company's shows that were given the go-ahead because they were "unique" and did not rely on data.

Mr Peters said: "If it was just as simple as great algorithms, then we would have no flops."

He also said that viewers of the historical drama *The Crown* were



Jasmine Jobson, one of the stars of the hit Netflix series 'Top Boy'

twice as likely to enjoy the legal documentary *Pepsi, Where's My Jet?*, which suggested that the Netflix algorithm did not always give viewers "obvious" suggestions of what to watch.

Separately, Chris Bird, the boss of Prime Video UK, said that more of its viewers were paying for subscriptions with advertisements after it changed its service earlier this year.

Customers now pay an extra £2.99 per month to go ad-free.



The Zutons will close the festival on the Other Stage on Sunday 30 June GETTY

MUSIC

Glastonbury reveals its full line-up

By Naomi Clarke

Glastonbury has announced its full line-up ahead of the festival opening its gates later this month, with Nigerian pop star Tems and indie rockers The Zutons among the acts added to the bill.

Pop star Dua Lipa, rock band Coldplay and American soul singer Sza were previously announced as this year's headliners, while Canadian singer Shania Twain will play the coveted legends slot.

Scottish indie rockers The Snuts, Liverpool singer Jamie Webster, rock duo Soft Play and rising star Rachel Chinouriri are also

among the acts who have been added to the line-up.

Yesterday's announcement also included stage times for all of the artists, talks and events that will be taking place across the festival, which will run from 26 to 30 June.

Rock band Squeeze will open the Pyramid Stage on the Friday at noon, followed by rising star Olivia Dean (pictured), K-pop group Seventeen and singer Paul Heaton.

Other highlights on Friday will include D-Block Europe and Idles playing the Other Stage, while Jungle top the bill on the West Holts stage and Fontaines DC head up the Park Stage.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No 4159 BY TEES

ACROSS

- Oil firm going about work on well, rapidly moving object (4-4)
- Bacon pieces? (6)
- Instrument at home opening red wine (8)
- Bartok perhaps eating sides off enormous whale (6)
- As in Rome to stop the Spanish getting even (5)
- Mum, not married, sensible under different conditions (9)
- Tour de force from principal oarsman (12)
- Knock back drink on bar (12)
- Wise man having confrontation in plant (9)
- English monarch beheaded calculating Swiss (5)
- Please to be cooked like kippers (6)
- Lowly nobles in pub on time (8)

- Longshanks in some measure unleashed war dogs (6)
- Gateau served with red meat in hunks (8)

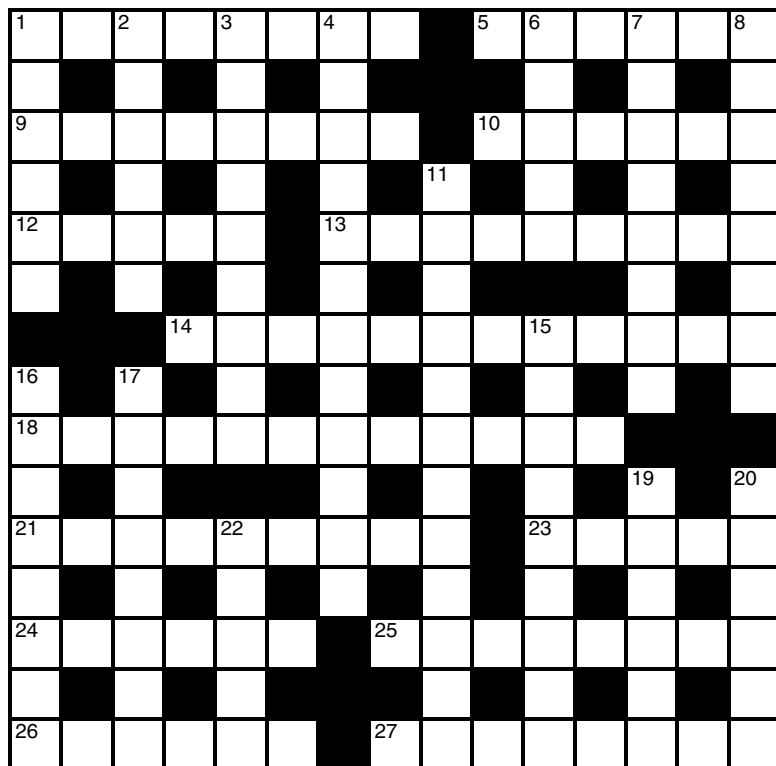
DOWN

- Game and wine upset old solvers (6)
- French article put forward case: right to leave union (6)
- Fantastic fish brought to one worker (9)
- Ridiculous trousers start to expand, and pop undone (12)
- Bayonet in male side (5)
- Flowering maple left in U-boat at sea (8)
- Rise in this? Flood barriers up to protect nearly everything (3,5)
- After wasted hour go a long way in the road (12)

- Reprimanded and removed from list (6,3)
- Fish beneath rocks to glide on frozen pond (3,5)
- House one French girl in Cockney district (8)
- Mountain, cold in two areas, and beast there? (6)
- Picnic in light wind (6)
- Dim market speculator holds onto pound (5)

Solution to yesterday's Cryptic

MISTLETOE EARTH
O H O O N Y A E
UBOAT PIG HEADED
T U U S L S I G
HOLY SPIRIT NOSE
D E D S M R
GRENADE HEAVE HO
L R T T N W
OBSCENE SOCIALS
B R P O H C
EARS DIPLOMATIC
F E T C F A M O
INCLOSURE KNEES
S T E R G E N T
HEADS EXECRATES



Stuck on the cryptic crossword? For today's solutions, call 0905 789 3580. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your network access charge. If you are having trouble accessing this number, please call our helpdesk on 0333 202 3390.

Full terms and conditions can be found on page 29

Television Wednesday 5 June

CRITIC'S CHOICE

GERARD GILBERT



PICK OF THE DAY

D-Day 80: The Allies Prepare/ Tribute to the Fallen

10.15am and 8.30pm, BBC One
Helen Mirren hosts this morning's commemorative event from the seafront in Portsmouth, where the D-Day landings began 80 years ago, paying tribute to the bravery and achievements of veterans and recognising the invaluable work of those on the Home Front who helped make the wartime invasion possible. And then this evening, Kirsty Young (left) presents a live broadcast from both Normandy and Portsmouth. In France, the 4,600 headstones of those who fell on D-Day will be individually illuminated across the Bayeux War Cemetery, accompanied by readings and music. It promises to be an incredibly poignant day.

The Misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan

9pm, BBC Two
The comedian continues his travels by crossing the border from Uganda into Rwanda. His guide is Hyppo, a genocide survivor and peace activist who initiates Ranganathan into the significance of sharing milk. Hyppo, who experienced the terrible events of 1994 as a child, also provides personal memories on a visit to Kigali's Genocide Memorial Museum.

Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir

9pm, Sky Arts
You would expect nothing less from Jim Moir than that he would don a kilt during a visit to Scotland. He and

wife Nancy are heading to the Cairngorms in the hope of spotting some crested tits – "the punk rockers of the bird world," says Jim, who also describes them as "Art Deco" with "crests like the Chrysler Building". But having climbed Cairn Gorm itself and promised Nancy "a smorgasbord of British birds", the summit is shrouded in dense fog.

Alaska Daily

9pm, Alibi
The latest in a long line of fish-out-of-water dramas from the US boasts an eye-catching lead in Hilary Swank, who plays a disgraced reporter who leaves her high-profile New York life to join a daily paper in Anchorage. Needless to say, personal and professional redemption awaits.

Inside No 9

10pm, BBC Two
"The Curse Of The 9th" is the title of this penultimate (ever) episode of the unexpected – referring to a classical music superstition that a composer is ill-fated after writing his ninth symphony. Reece Shearsmith plays a talented piano tuner called to adjust a Bechstein grand that belonged to a recently deceased composer and forced to face up to this supposed curse. Also featuring are Natalie Dormer as the composer's flirtatious widow.

Queenie

10pm, Channel 4
Candice Carty-Williams's adaptation of her debut novel continues with

Daytime	6.00 Breakfast (S). 9.30 Rip Off Britain (S). 10.15 D-Day 80: The Allies Prepare (S). 1.00 BBC News At One; Weather (S). 1.35 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 1.45 BBC News At One; Weather (S). 2.00 Doctors (S). 2.30 Clean It, Fix It (R) (S). 3.00 Escape To The Country (R) (S). 3.45 Garden Rescue (R) (S). 4.30 The Finish Line (S). 5.15 Pointless (R) (S).	6.30 Homes Under The Hammer (R) (S). 7.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (R) (S). 8.00 Sign Zone: See Hear (S). 8.30 Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Food Stories (R) (S). 9.00 BBC News (S). 12.15 Politics Live (S). 1.00 Impossible (R) (S). 1.45 Mastermind (R) (S). 2.15 Great Coastal Railway Journeys (R) (S). 2.45 Five Bedrooms (R) (S). 3.30 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R) (S). 4.15 Ocean Giants (R) (S). 5.15 Flog It! (R) (S).	6.00 Good Morning Britain (S). 9.00 Lorraine (S). 10.00 This Morning (S). 12.30 Loose Women (S). 1.30 ITV News; Weather (S). 1.55 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal (R) (S). 3.00 Lingo (R) (S). 3.59 ITV Regional Weather (S). 4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S). 5.00 The Chase For Soccer Aid (R) (S).	6.30 3rd Rock From The Sun (R) (S). 7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 9.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 9.40 Frasier (R) (S). 10.40 Frasier (R) (S). 11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S). 12.05 Channel 4 News Summary (S). 12.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) (S). 1.10 Car 5.0.5 (R) (S). 2.10 Countdown (S). 3.00 A Place In The Sun (R) (S). 4.00 A Place In The Sun (R) (S). 5.00 Sun, Sea And Selling Houses (S).	6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (S). 11.15 Storm Huntley (S). 12.45 Friends (R) (S). 1.10 Friends (R) (S). 1.40 5 News At Lunchtime (S). 1.45 Home And Away (R) (S). 2.15 FILM: Living Next To Danger (John Murlowski 2023) Premiere. Thriller, starring Kristi Murdock (S). 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S). 5.00 5 News At 5 (S).	 Hilary Swank plays a disgraced journalist looking to rebuild her life in 'Alaska Daily' 9pm, Alibi	 Piano tuner Jonah has to confront a curse 10pm, BBC Two Roy Clarke recalls his comedy from 1993 10pm, BBC Four	6.00 CITV 9.00 World's Funniest Videos (S). 9.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S). 10.00 Love Bites (S). 11.00 Love Bites (S). 12.00 Dress To Impress (S). 1.00 Wheel Of Fortune (S). 2.00 Family Fortunes (S). 3.00 Veronica Mars (S). 4.00 Dawson's Creek (S). 5.00 Dress To Impress (S).
6pm	6.00 BBC News At Six; Weather (S). 6.30 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 6.55 Party Election Broadcast (R) (S).	6.00 Richard Osman's House Of Games (R) (S). 6.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (S).	6.00 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 6.30 ITV News; Weather (S).	6.00 Four In A Bed (S). 6.30 The Simpsons Bart becomes convinced he is a faith healer (R) (S).	6.00 Police Interceptors (R) (S). 6.55 5 News Update (S).		6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (S).	
7pm	7.00 The One Show – D-Day Special (S).	7.00 Your Garden Made Perfect (R) (S).	7.30 Emmerdale Will is unconvinced by Rose's attempt to make amends (S).	7.00 Channel 4 News (S).	7.00 Nick Knowles In South America New series (S). 7.55 5 News Update (S).	7.00 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 7.30 Cornwall's Red River (S).	6.10 FILM: Cast Away (Robert Zemeckis 2000) Drama, starring Tom Hanks (S). 7.00 Family Fortunes The Karunwis go up against the Keelers (S).	
8pm	8.00 EastEnders (S). 8.30 D-Day 80: Tribute To The Fallen (S).	8.00 Springwatch The over 18 Wildlife Hero winner is announced (S).	8.00 Coronation Street Dee-Dee endures a difficult first meeting with Joel's parents (S).	8.00 Location, Location, Location (S).	8.00 The Motorway A four-vehicle pile-up causes chaos on the Spaghetti Junction (S).	8.00 Full Circle With Michael Palin (S). 8.50 Michael Palin: The Art Of Travel (S).	8.00 Bob's Burgers (S). 8.30 Bob's Burgers Part two of two. Felix puts Bob in danger (S).	
9pm		9.00 The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan (S).	9.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? Celebrity Special (R) (S).	9.00 24 Hours in Police Custody Bedfordshire Police investigate a knife and gun attack (S).	9.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts (S).	9.00 The Jet Stream And Us Documentary examining how the jet stream influences weather (S).	9.00 FILM: Flag Day (Sean Penn 2021) Crime drama, directed by and starring Sean Penn (S). 9.00 Love Island The series continues and there are plenty more surprises in store (S).	
10pm	10.00 BBC News (S). 10.30 BBC Regional News 10.40 FILM: The King's Speech (Tom Hooper 2010) (S).	10.00 Inside No 9 (S). 10.30 Newsnight (S).	10.00 ITV News At Ten; Weather (S). 10.30 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 10.45 Peston (S).	10.00 Queenie (S). 10.35 Queenie Feelings she's been trying to suppress overwhelm Queenie (S).	10.00 Trauma Room One A race to save patient's eye-sight, life and spine (R) (S).	10.00 Roy Clarke Remembers – A Foreign Field (S). 10.15 FILM: A Foreign Field (Charles Sturridge 1993) (S).	10.05 G'wed Comedy, with Jake Kenny-Bryne (S). 10.40 Family Guy Part one of two (S).	
11pm		11.05 Unspun World With John Simpson (S). 11.30 D-Day: The Unheard Tapes (R) (S).	11.40 British Touring Car Championship Highlights Action from Snetterton (S).	11.10 24 Hours In A&E An elderly woman is admitted with two severe leg fractures (R) (S).	11.05 999: Emergency Call Out An unconscious woman is found on the street (R) (S).	11.45 Parkinson Interviews Alec Guinness Tribute to Alec Guinness (S).	11.15 FILM: Bad Boys (Michael Bay 1995) Action thriller, starring Will Smith and Martin Lawrence (S). 11.10 Family Guy Part two of two (S). 11.35 American Dad! (S).	
Late	12.30 Celebrity Bridge Of Lies (R) (S). 1.20 BBC News (S).	12.30 Sign Zone: See Hear (R) (S). 1.00 Sign Zone: Cold Case Investigators: Solving Britain's Sex Crimes (R) (S). 2.00 Sign Zone: Saving Lives At Sea (R) (S). 3.00 This Is BBC Two (S).	12.55 Shop On TV 3.00 My Mum, Your Dad (R) (S). 3.50 Unwind With ITV (S). 5.05 Wheel Of Fortune (R) (S).	12.10 The Piano (R) (S). 1.05 FILM: God's Own Country (Francis Lee 2017) (S). 2.50 FILM: Stage Mother (Thom Fitzgerald 2020) (S). 4.25 Iris Prize Best British Shorts (S). 4.55 Grand Designs Australia (R) (S).	12.05 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (R) (S). 1.00 PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S). 3.00 Center Parcs: Britain's Poshest Holiday Camp (R) (S).	12.25 Alec Guinness: Talking Pictures (S). 1.10 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 1.40 Just Barbara (S). 2.45 The Jet Stream And Us (S). 3.45 Close	1.35 FILM: Bombshell (Jay Roach 2019) Drama, starring Charlize Theron (S). 3.50 Close 12.05 American Dad! (S). 12.35 Bob's Burgers (S). 1.05 Bob's Burgers (S). 1.35 Extraordinary (S). 2.10 World's Funniest Videos (S). 2.40 Unwind With ITV (S). 3.00 Teleshopping	

Games & Puzzles

4-page
pull-out

Dominoes

How to play All of the 28 domino pieces from 0-0 through to 6-6 have been placed once into the grid. Can you work out where each of them is placed?

2	4	4	5	0	0	3	6
3	5	1	5	1	5	5	6
0	5	4	4	2	0	2	6
0	6	2	2	3	3	3	3
4	2	0	1	6	1	1	2
6	4	0	4	3	2	3	4
6	0	6	5	5	1	1	1

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
6							
5							
4							
3							
2							
1							
0							

Journey Finder

How to play Move between the numbers in order 1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4 and so on, starting with the grey 1 and ending with the grey 4. On each step you may move one square in any direction (including diagonally). You must form a continuous path that visits every square exactly once.

1	2	1	4	3	3
4	3	2	2	4	2
1	4	3	1	1	4
2	1	4	1	3	2
2	3	1	2	1	3
3	4	2	3	4	4

Train Tracks

How to play Numbers around the outside indicate how many squares in each row and column the track passes through between A and B. The track either passes straight through a square or turns at right angles in it.

1	2	1	4	5	7	7	
							5
							5
							4
							3
							2
							3
							6
							6
A							B

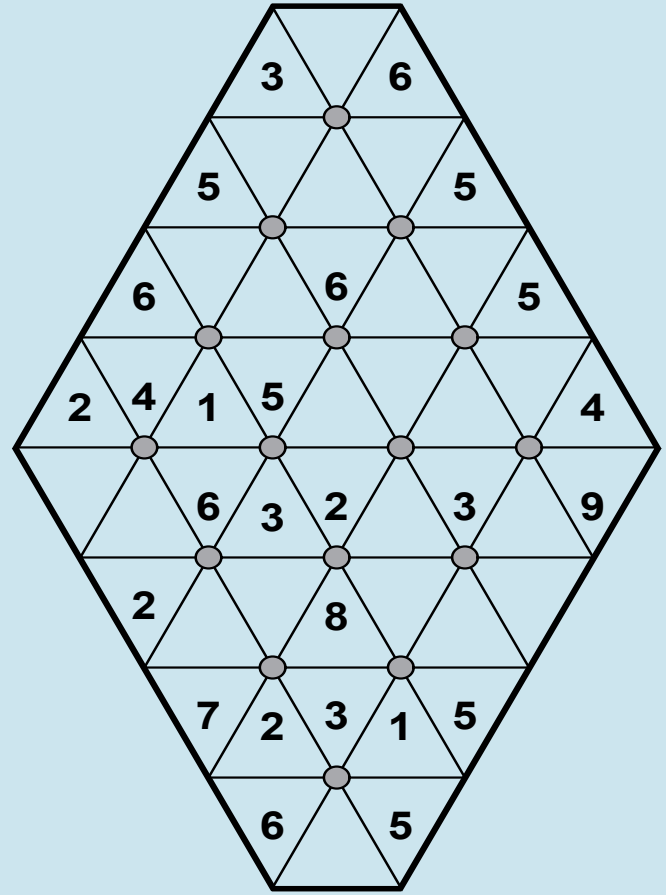
Binary

How to play Complete the grid so that each row and column contains five 0s and five 1s. The same number cannot appear in more than two consecutive squares in any row or column. In the finished puzzle, each row must have a different sequence of 0s and 1s to any other row, and likewise for each column.

				0		1	1
0		1	0	0		0	
	1	0			1		
	1						
0							
0				1	1		
			0	0			
1							
		0				0	0
	0	0				0	

Number Hexagon

How to play Each hexagon is divided into six triangles. The sum of these six triangles is always 25. Place a number from 1-9 in each empty triangle to complete the puzzle; you cannot repeat a number within a hexagon.



Pathfinder

How to play Moving from letter to adjacent letter, can you create a continuous path that visits every square once and spells out all the words listed to the right of the grid? Start on the shaded square.

B	E	D	G	N	I	T	S	U	R
U	U	T	T	E	N	G	L	E	T
T	L	E	L	R	I	H	C	A	R
O	G	N	A	T	G	U	T	T	O
B	S	E	G	I	N	I	C	I	B
S	E	V	E	R	U	R	H	H	I
V	R	A	P	S	D	S	E	N	I
I	D	E	O	O	G	E	N	M	E
N	E	R	E	N	R	A	L	O	S
G	C	A	P	S	L	O	A	T	H

Altering
Capered
Debut
During
Eaves
Enlarges
Gluten
Hutch
Inhibit
Loathsome
Observing
Oracle
Spoons
Tiger
Trusting

Chain Link

How to play Place the numbers 1-6 in each row, column and along each series of squares linked by the chain.

4	2				6
				1	
				2	
					5

Daily Quiz

- English trumpet soloist, arranger and producer Alison Balsam is married to which film director?
- What was introduced by Harold Macmillan, as chancellor of the exchequer, in his 1956 Budget in a bid to control inflation and encourage people to save?
- The National Robotarium, the UK centre for robotics and artificial intelligence, is based at which British university?
- Which major tributary of the River Trent runs through the city of Leicester?

Answers, page 48

Battleships

How to play Locate the position of each of the ships listed below in the grid. Numbers around the edge tell you the number of ship segments in each row and column of the puzzle. Ships are surrounded on all sides by water, including diagonally.

									2
									4
									1
									3
									4
									1
									2
									1
									1
									1
4	3	2	1	1	5	1	2	0	1
◀	■	■	▶			◀	▶	◀	▶
◀	■	■	▶	◀	■	■	■	■	



Asparagus and sorrel
puff pastry tart



SERVES 1

500g asparagus (medium-fine
thickness spears)
50g sorrel leaves
200ml full fat crème fraîche
25g Parmesan cheese, finely grated
1tbsp light olive oil
320g ready-rolled all-butter
puff pastry sheet

Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas
mark 6. Place a wide saucepan of well-
salted water over a hot hob and wait for it
to come to the boil.

Meanwhile, snap the woody ends from
the asparagus, discard them and set the
spears to one side. Chop three-quarters
of the sorrel leaves very finely.

Decant the crème fraîche into a
bowl and stir the chopped sorrel and
Parmesan through it.

Once the water is at a rapid boil, add
the asparagus spears and blanch them for
30 seconds. Drain the asparagus through
a sieve, chill completely under running
cold water, then leave to dry for one to
two minutes. Finally, roll the asparagus
in the olive oil so each spear is glossy.

Unroll the pastry sheet (if your pastry
is not ready-rolled, set the pastry block
on a lightly floured surface and roll it out
to a rectangle around 2-3mm thick).

Put a sheet of baking parchment on a
large baking tray that will comfortably fit
the pastry. Lay the pastry flat on top, then
lightly score a border 3cm from the edge
using the blunt edge of a knife.

Spread the crème fraîche and sorrel
paste over the top, right up to the edges
of the border, then arrange the asparagus
spears across the middle. The tart looks
good and cuts well if they are lined up
in a neat row, standing to attention
like soldiers.

Put the baking tray towards the top
of the hot oven and bake for 20 to 25
minutes, until the pastry edges are
puffed and golden, the crème fraîche
base bubbling and burnished and the
asparagus slightly charred.

Allow to cool for five minutes, then
finely shred the remaining sorrel and
sprinkle over the top.

Serve with a sharply dressed green
salad and some tomatoes in good olive
oil on the side. The tart is also enjoyable
if left to chill to room temperature.

Recipe and image by Ed Smith for
boroughmarket.org.uk

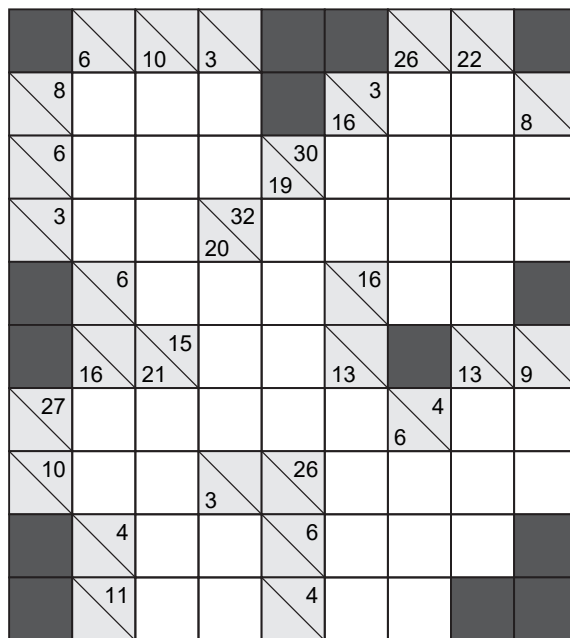
Tomorrow

Tagliatelle with mushroom,
courgette, pea and herbs

Games&Puzzles

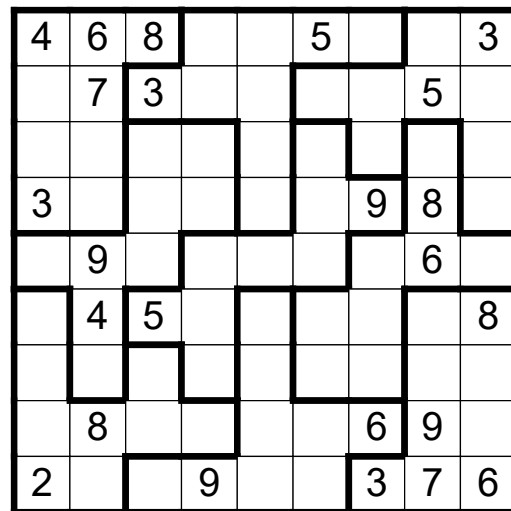
Kakuro

How to play Fill the white squares so that the total in each
across or down run of cells matches the total at the start
of that run. You must use the numbers from 1-9 only and
cannot repeat a number in a run.



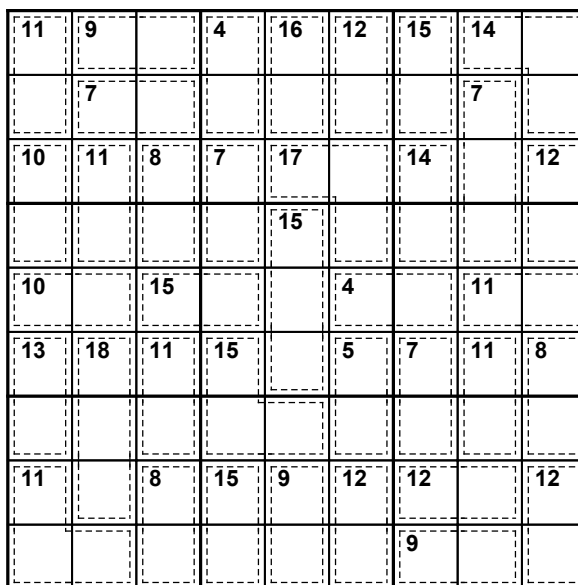
Jigsawdoku

How to play Place the numbers 1-9 once in each row, column
and bold-lined jigsaw region.



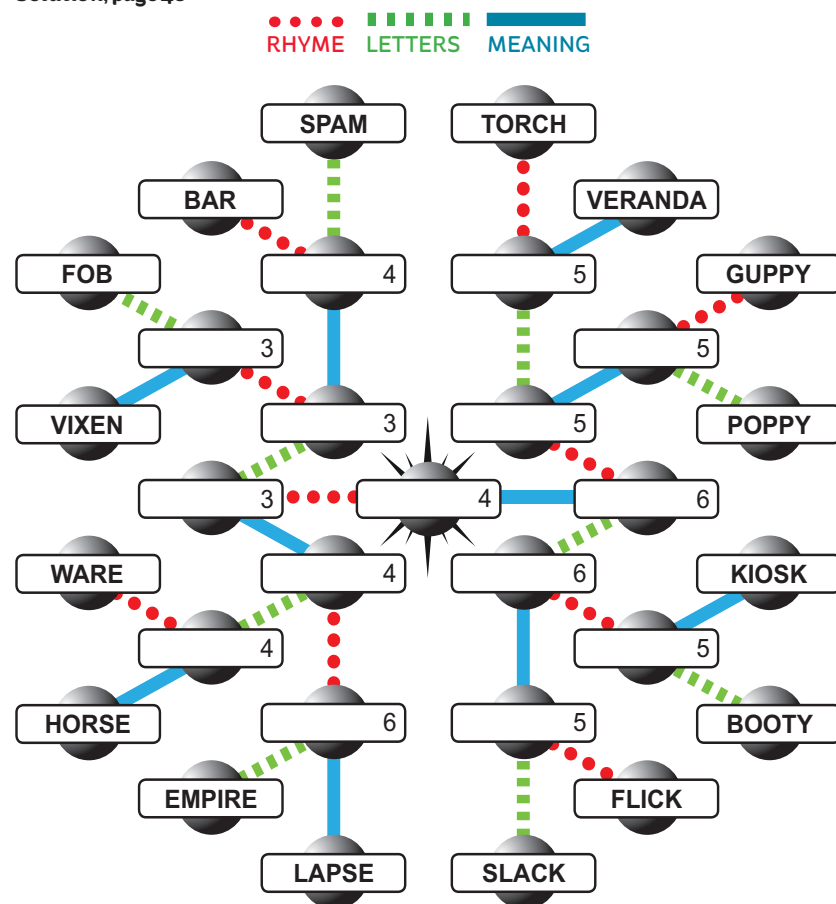
Killer Sudoku

How to play Each row, column and 3 by 3 box must contain
each number (1 to 9) only once. The sum of all numbers
contained in a dotted area must match the number printed in
its top-left corner. No number can appear more than
once in a dotted area.



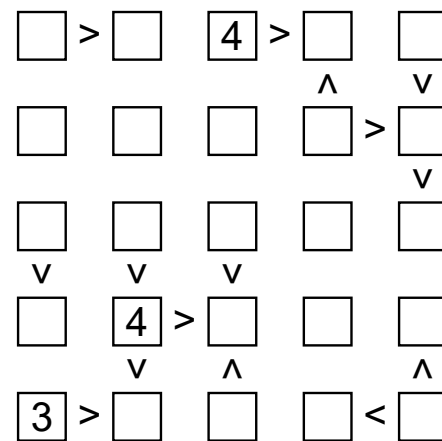
Zygolex® In i every day

Find the missing words by following the **RHYME**, **LETTERS** and **MEANING** links
– eg, a word that **rhymes** with 'cheek', has one **letter** different from 'pear' and
has the same **meaning** as mountain, would be 'peak'. Full rules at zygolex.com.
Solution, page 48



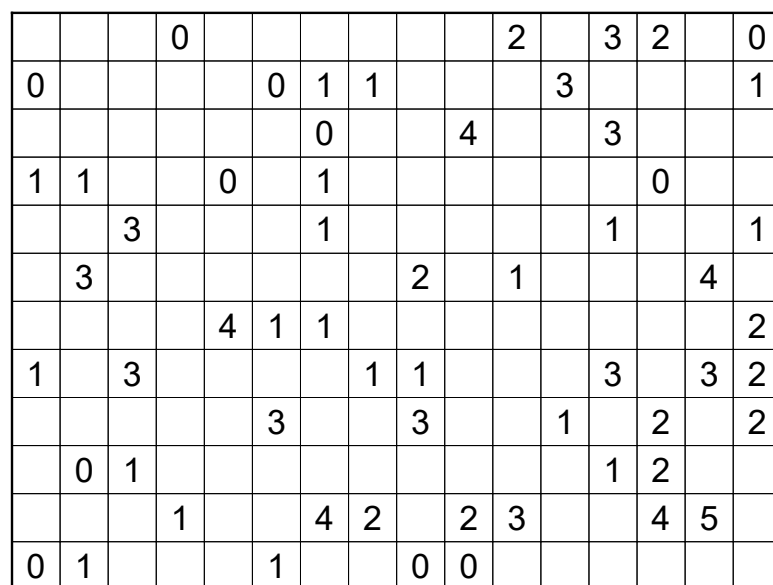
Futoshiki

How to play
Place the numbers
from 1-5 exactly
once in each row
and column. The
greater than and
less than signs
('>' and '<') indicate
where one cell is
greater/less than
the adjacent
cell indicated.



Minesweeper

How to play Find all the mines in the grid. Numbers in certain squares indicate how
many mines there are in the neighbouring squares, including diagonally touching
squares. Mines cannot be placed in squares with numbers.



Number Square

How to play Fill the empty squares with numbers that will make the across and down calculations produce the results shown in the grey squares. Each numeral from 1 to 9 must only appear once. The calculations should be performed from left to right and top to bottom, rather than in strict mathematical order.

Easier

3	+		-	8	-3
x		÷		+	
	-		-		-2
-		+		x	
	+		+		18
9		7		60	

Harder

	x	9	+		12
+		-		x	
	-		x		-10
x		-		x	
	+		x		104
18		-2		120	

Codeword No 3901

How to play The numbers in the grid correspond to the letters of the alphabet. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key as you discover them. Three letters are provided to give you a start. The solution will be printed in tomorrow's paper, the solution to yesterday's codeword is on page 48.

25	19	22	4	25	15		6		9	4	1
	22			3		22	10	22	4	21	15
25	22	20	15	17	22	23		26	5		25
	21			15		5		9	4	2	5
21	15	26	18	20	5	26	12			22	22
	25			18		12		4		12	14
25	9	5	26	9	25		15	26	7	11	20
9		26		18		8		22		5	
18		9			13	4	20	19	5	15	25
20	15	15	9	25		5		15		25	
5		26		19		3	22	26	13	22	5
26		25	23	18	26	14		15		16	
18	24	15		26			18	10	18	12	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			C									
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
						M		O				
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z



Need a little help getting started? Then call for up to four extra clue letters on **0901 292 5204**. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge (if you are having trouble with the phone service, call the helpline: 0333 202 3390). Or text **THE CLUE** to **85100** to receive your clues. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge (if you are having trouble with the text service, call the helpline: 0333 335 3351). Clues change each day at midnight.

Word Ladder

How to play

Convert the word at the top of the ladder into the word at the bottom of it, using only the four rungs in between. On each rung, you must put a valid four-letter word that is identical to the word above it, apart from a one-letter change. There may be more than one way of achieving this.

GOLD
BUNS
MARK
PINS

idoku Exclusive to i

How to play Each numeral from 1 to 9 must appear (once only) in the squares forming the red letter i.

	8		6		2			
		6	9	8				4
					5		1	
				3			2	7
	2						8	
3	9			6				
	6		5					
8				2	7	5		
			8		6		4	

Sudoku Harder

5	6			2				
2	9		7			5		
	3	7		5				
9			6					
7			4		1			6
					5			8
				4		9	5	
		5			8		2	3
				6			8	1

Tomorrow: Easier

ABC Logic

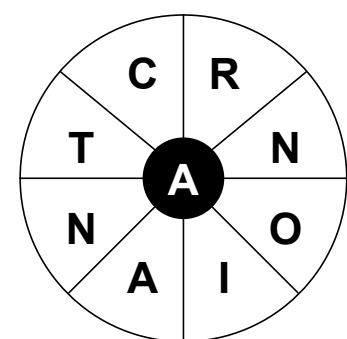
How to play Place the letters

A, B and C only once in each row and column. Each row and column has two blank cells. The letters at the edge of a row/column indicate which of the letters is the first/last to appear in that row/column.

		A		B	B	
						B
A						B
B						A
C						A
	B	C	B			

Word Wheel

How to play This is an open-ended puzzle. How many words of three or more letters, each including the letter at the centre of the wheel, can you make from this diagram? We've found 55, including one nine-letter word. Can you do better?



Number Square, Word Ladder, Word Wheel, Kakuro, Minesweeper, ABC Logic, Killer Sudoku, Futoshiki, Codeword, Jigsawdoku and Wjuko created by Clarity Media. **For more puzzles, see clarity-media.co.uk**

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Concise Crossword No 4223

ACROSS

- Place (3)
- Vocalise musically (4)
- Tipped off (7)
- Tendon (5)
- Weighed down (5)
- Fast sailing ship (7)
- Promotion (11)
- Herb (7)
- Arbour (5)
- Part of a step (5)
- Blend (7)
- Bridge (4)
- For instance (3)

DOWN

- Answerable (6)
- Surrender (5)
- Japanese food (5)
- Skittle (7)
- Immediately (2,4)
- Instructive (11)
- Hospital room (4)
- Put on special clothes (5,2)
- Underground passage (6)
- Sullen (4)
- Peevish (6)
- Forestage (5)
- Pay (5)



Stuck on the concise crossword? For today's solutions, call **0905 789 3590**. Calls cost 80p per minute plus your network access charge. If you are having trouble accessing this number, please call our helpdesk on 0333 202 3390.



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1		2				3		4			
				5		6					
7								8			9
10						11					
	12	13						14			
15											16
17					18			19		20	
21						22					
	23										24

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword

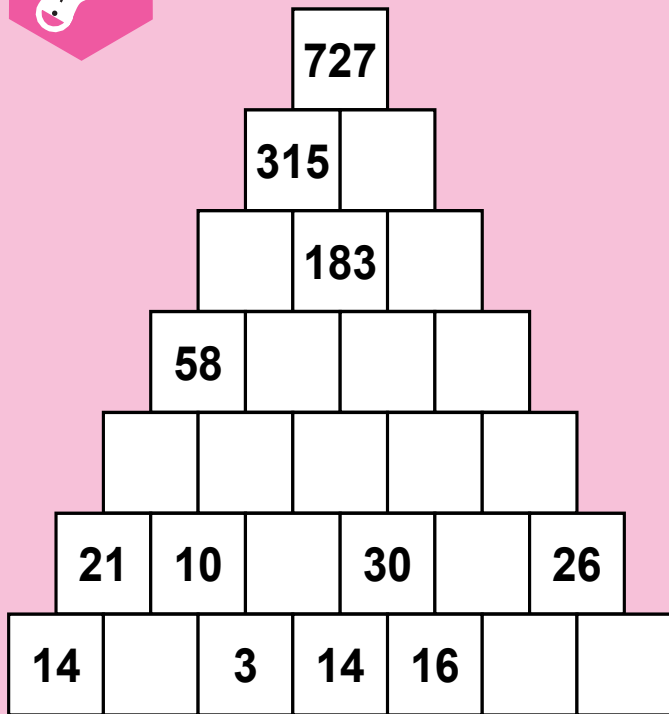
ACROSS 1 Berry, 4 Bury (Beriberi), 7 Summon, 8 Acquit, 9 By the side of, 11 Aries, 13 Folly, 16 Sycophantic, 18 Give in, 19 Decree, 21 Byre, 22 Nares.
DOWN 1 Blurb, 2 Rim, 3 Yonder, 4 Banie, 5 Roquefort, 6 Wilful, 10 Treachery, 12 Rustic, 14 Sponge, 15 Pardon, 17 Cress, 20 Cur.

Today's other puzzles Cryptic Crossword, page 25
Five-Clue Cryptic, page 13; One-Minute Wjuko, page 23
Puzzle solutions See pages 48-49

Children's Corner Number Tower



How to play The value of each square in the number pyramid is the sum of the two squares directly under it.



Knight's Tour

How to play A chess knight visits each square of the grid exactly once, starting at 1 and ending at 100 (these squares are shaded). Deduce the whole path of the knight - some of which is already given - and thus complete the grid. The knight moves either two squares horizontally followed by one square vertically, or two squares vertically followed by one square horizontally.

61			36	55	74			53	50
58									
63	60				72		86		
34		70				76	83	40	
			66		82		98		48
	29			18		78	1	88	41
11		19	32	67			94	47	
28				100	25		5		
15		23			8	91			
		16					7	90	43

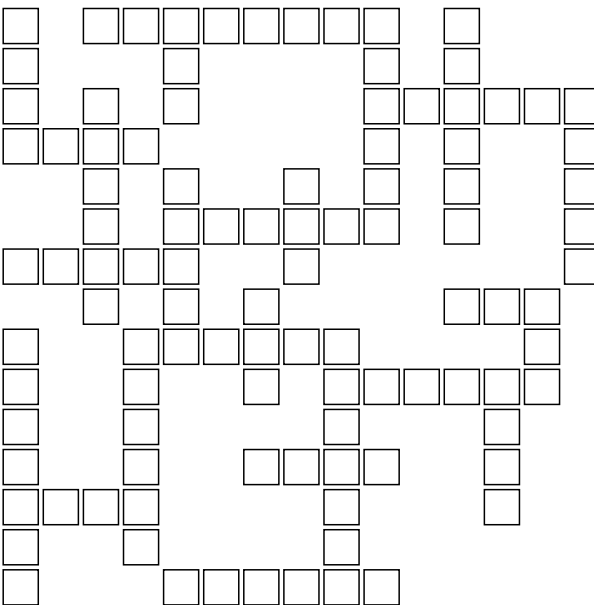
Rectangles

How to play Divide the grid into a series of rectangles or squares, such that every cell in the grid is in exactly one region. Numbers indicate the size of each region: for instance a "7" in a cell means that cell is part of a region that contains seven cells in total. There is only one number in each region.

			8						
			4					10	
			14						
		2	4				8		
		2							
	14	2							
								20	
		6							
2	2			2					

Word Fit

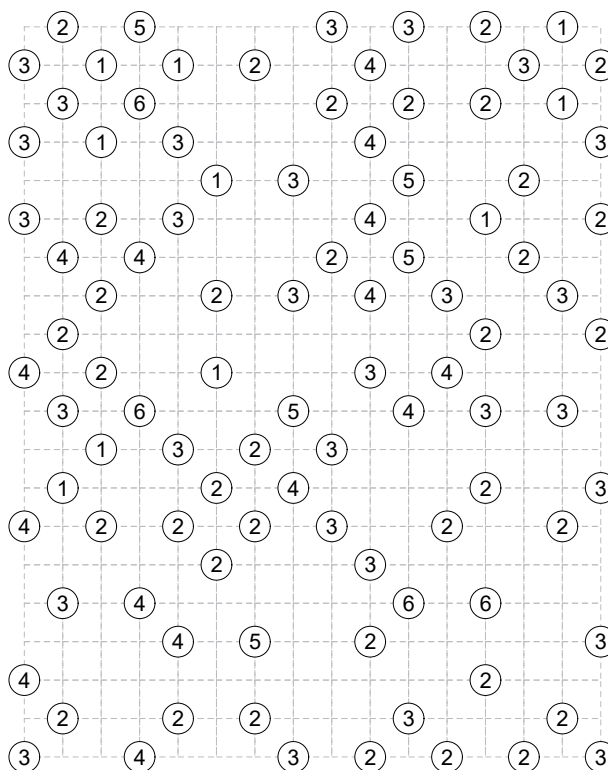
How to play Can you fit all the words into the grid to complete the puzzle? Some words may initially fit in more than one place, but there is only one way to fit all the words together to complete the grid.



- 3 letters**
Bit
Ilk
Irk
Mob
Sec
- 4 letters**
Made
Opus
Save
Seem
Woes
- 5 letters**
Ensur
Serve
Weeks
- 6 letters**
Hopped
Ingest
Justly
Merged
Neural
Paired
Peeled
Rushes
Shrill
- 7 letters**
Divulge
Pyramid
- 8 letters**
Mistakes

Bridges

How to play Connect every island (represented by circles) into a single interconnected group. To do this draw bridges between islands. The number in each circle states how many bridges must be connected to that island. Bridges cannot cross each other, can only be drawn horizontally or vertically, and there can be a maximum of two bridges between any pair of islands.



Word Search

How to play The classic word-search puzzle: find all the words in the grid. Words may be hidden horizontally, vertically or diagonally and in either a forwards or backwards direction.

Z	Y	B	R	O	W	N	D	T	G	I	Z	Q	W	T
B	Y	S	M	Z	X	D	P	R	S	J	A	V	I	D
V	T	S	A	V	A	P	G	U	P	D	N	D	I	Z
G	F	P	C	R	N	L	N	Z	U	F	D	A	P	N
F	G	P	L	K	G	A	I	T	S	K	E	L	L	H
A	X	I	E	Z	K	M	L	V	A	N	R	T	D	H
E	N	R	O	B	S	O	D	L	A	W	S	O	N	X
G	N	C	D	K	J	N	U	L	I	C	O	N	S	V
T	G	P	P	C	O	T	A	M	Y	M	N	Q	D	Q
N	G	K	Z	M	L	W	M	E	Z	L	C	T	N	C
Z	A	U	M	E	C	A	L	L	A	G	H	A	N	B
D	E	A	E	P	J	A	R	W	H	P	Y	Z	M	X
G	H	A	Q	O	E	N	S	K	K	J	K	E	J	U
J	E	Z	R	H	X	G	B	W	E	L	L	W	K	X
O	H	O	W	E	G	S	G	A	H	K	N	M	E	Y

ANDERSON
BROWN
CALLAGHAN
CLARKE
CRIPPS
DALTON
DARLING
GAITSKELL
HAMMOND
HEALEY

HOWE
JAVID
LAMONT
LAWSON
MACLEOD
MACMILLAN
MAJOR
MAUDLING
OSBORNE
SUNAK

Word Square

How to play Simply answer the clues alongside the grid, writing the answers in the respective rows. The solution must read the same horizontally in each row as it does vertically in each column.

- Jumps on one foot
State of the US
Unit of type size
Fly high

Calcudoku

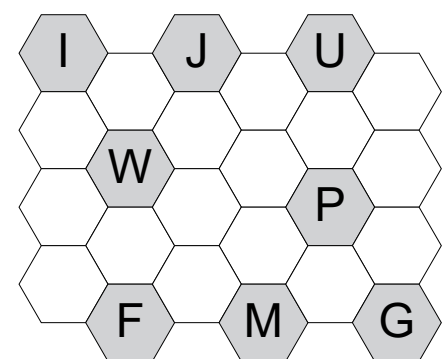
How to play Place the numbers 1-6 once in each row and column, obeying sums in bold-lined regions. The number in each region indicates the total for the region, and the symbol shows which type of operation should be applied to the numbers: addition, subtraction, division or multiplication. Numbers may repeat within bold-lined regions. With subtraction always take the lower numbers away from the highest number in a region, and with division divide the highest number by the lower numbers.

7+	5-	24x		7+	90x
		1-			
4÷	7+	5+	4+		
			15+		
9+	7+	14+	3÷		1-

Hexalex

How to play Place each of the letters below once into the empty hexagons, crossing them off as you do so. Enter the letters in such a way that it is possible to find all the words listed alongside the grid by moving from hexagon to adjacent hexagon to spell out each word.

A B C D E H K L N O R S T V X Y



CEP
FAD
GLYPH
JOB
KIN
THE
TOWNS
TUX
VOW
WARMLY
WAVY

Solutions: pages 48-49

another double bill. Using men as a distraction from her heartbreak, Queenie (Dionne Brown) settles in to peak fun mode. However, her demons soon catch up with her. And then in the second episode, she has to spend Christmas with her mum.

===
Roy Clarke Remembers – A Foreign Field

10pm, BBC Four
Writer Roy Clarke introduces his 1993 comedy drama in which an assortment of British and US Second World War veterans return to the beaches of Normandy, now as old men. Alec Guinness, who leads the cast, is later remembered in a fascinating Michael Parkinson interview (11.45pm) and a special edition of *Talking Pictures* (12.25am).

FILM CHOICE

LAURENCE PHELAN



FILM OF THE DAY

Bones and All
10pm, BBC Three
(Luca Guadagnino, 2022)
Taylor Russell and Timothée Chalamet (left) play a couple of star-crossed teenage lovers on the run in this very stylish take on the cannibal-horror road movie from the director of *Challengers*, *Suspiria* and *Call Me By Your Name*. Being that the young couple are what it calls "eaters", the film doesn't stint on gore – nor on its consideration of the ethics of meat-eating for that matter. But it is mainly a mood piece about doomed romanticism and teenage outsiderdom, evocatively soundscaped and photographed, and set in the 1980s in the margins of US society, among the drifters, outcasts and economically dispossessed.

===
Back to the Future
8pm, Sky Cinema Greats

(Robert Zemeckis, 1985)
Regular 1980s teenager Marty McFly (Michael J Fox) drives back to the mid-1950s, disrupting the space-time continuum by forming an oedipal triangle with his then teenage parents and inadvertently giving birth to rock 'n' roll music.

===
God's Own Country
1.05am, Channel 4

(Francis Lee, 2017)
A Yorkshire *Brokeback Mountain* about a hardworking farmer's son who seems to live a life without any pleasures or tenderness – let alone romance – until the arrival of a handsome Romanian farmhand.

ON DEMAND

Under Paris
Netflix

French horror pits a marine biologist against a hungry shark in the River Seine.

The Gathering
Channel4.com

Knotty whodunit set amid the world of aspiring teen gymnasts in Liverpool.

Star Wars: The Acolyte
Disney+

The latest episode of the spin-off series following a Jedi crime investigator.

itv3		More	sky max	sky atlantic
6.00 Classic Emmerdale (S) 6.35 Classic Emmerdale (S) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (S) 7.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 8.05 Endeavour (S) 10.15 The Royal (S) 11.20 Heartbeat (S) 12.25 Heartbeat (S) 1.40 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.10 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.40 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.10 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.40 Agatha Christie's Marple (S) 5.45 Heartbeat (S).	6.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 9.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 9.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 10.00 Young Sheldon (S) 10.30 Young Sheldon (S) 11.00 Modern Family (S) 11.30 Modern Family (S) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 2.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 3.00 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Modern Family (S) 4.00 Young Sheldon (S) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 5.30 The Big Bang Theory (S).	8.55 A Place In The Sun (S) 9.30 A Place In The Sun (S) 10.25 A New Life In The Sun (S) 11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (S) 12.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.00 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.05 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.35 Come Dine With Me (S) 3.10 Four In A Bed (S) 3.40 Four In A Bed (S) 4.15 Four In A Bed (S) 4.50 Four In A Bed (S) 5.20 Four In A Bed (S) 5.50 Chateau DIY (S).	6.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 7.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S) 8.00 The Flash (R) (S) 9.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 10.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 12.00 The Flash (R) (S) 1.00 SEAL Team (R) (S) 2.00 SEAL Team (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S) 5.00 DC's Legends Of Tomorrow (R) (S).	6.00 Urban Secrets (R) (S) 7.00 Urban Secrets (R) (S) 7.55 True Blood (R) (S) 9.00 True Blood (R) (S) 10.05 Billions (R) (S) 11.10 Billions (R) (S) 12.15 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 1.20 The Sopranos (R) (S) 2.25 The Sopranos (R) (S) 3.30 True Blood (R) (S) 4.35 True Blood (R) (S) 5.40 Billions (R) (S).
6.55 Heartbeat Festive special, guest starring veteran singer Alan Price (S).	6.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory Leonard's mother visits (S).	6.55 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz head to Leicester to pick up a Mk 3 Ford Cortina (S).	6.00 Stargate SG-1 An alien orb takes the team hostage (R) (S).	6.45 Billions A discovery sets off chaos at Michael Prince Capital (R) (S).
8.00 Midsomer Murders (S).	8.00 Dance Moms Abby's star dancer leaves the troupe in disarray (S).	7.55 The Dog House (S).	7.00 Stargate SG-1 Teal'c's son is kidnapped (R) (S).	7.50 Game Of Thrones Tyrion's plans bear fruit (R) (S).
10.00 Wire In The Blood A friend of one of Tony's students is abducted (S).	10.00 Gogglebox Opinions on Squid Game: The Challenge and The Couple Next Door (S).	9.00 Building The Billion Pound Cruise Ship (R) (S).	9.00 FILM: Escape From New York (John Carpenter 1981) Action adventure, starring Kurt Russell (R) (S).	9.00 The Sympathizer The General begins to suspect there is a mole (R) (S).
11.50 The Royal An armed man strikes at the hospital (S).	11.05 First Dates A 90-year-old visits the restaurant (S).	11.05 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown (S).	11.00 Resident Alien Harry and Asta team up with an unlikely ally. Last in the series (S).	11.10 The King Bruno decides to risk everything to save himself. Last in the series (S).
12.40 Bless This House (S) 1.05 Upstairs, Downstairs (S) 2.00 Unwind With ITV (S) 2.30 Teleshopping	12.10 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.15 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.10 Modern Family (S) 3.00 Dance Moms (S) 3.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 4.40 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S).	12.05 Emergency Helicopter Medics (S) 1.10 999: On The Front Line (S) 2.15 24 Hours In A&E (S) 3.25 A Place In The Sun (S) 3.55 Close	12.00 The Walking Dead (R) (S) 1.00 Ted (R) (S) 2.00 Brassic (R) (S) 3.00 Banshee (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S) 5.00 There's Something About Movies (R) (S).	12.10 The Pacific (R) (S) 1.15 The Newsroom (R) (S) 2.25 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 3.35 In Treatment (R) (S) 4.05 Urban Secrets (R) (S) 5.05 Urban Secrets (R) (S).

Radio

BBC Radio 1

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 1am 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 Radio 1 Early Breakfast With Arielle Free

BBC Radio 1Xtra

6am 1Xtra Playlists 7.00 Nadia Jae 10.00 DJ Day Day 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 DJ Target 9.00 1Xtra's AfroSounds Show With DJ Edu-The AfroSounds Mix 10.30 1Xtra's AfroSounds Show With DJ Edu-The AfroSounds Mix 11.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix 12midn't Throwback Thursday 1.00 1Xtra's Throwback Party 2.00 1Xtra's R&B Slow Jamz Mix With Chuckie 2.30 1Xtra's R&B Slow Jamz Mix With Chuckie 3.00 Battle Of The Mixes 3.30 Battle Of The Mixes 4.00 1Xtra Salutes. 5.00 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix

BBC Radio 2

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Gary Davies 12noon Jeremy Vine 2.00 Scott Mills 4.00 Sara Cox 6.30 Sara Cox's Half Wower 7.00 Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whitley 9.00 The Folk Show With Shaun Keaveny 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 12midn't OJ Borg 3.00 Dance Sounds Of The 90s With Vernon Kay 4.00 Owain Wyn Evans. Music and chat.

BBC Radio 3

6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm 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 10.00 Night Tracks 11.30 Round Midnight 12.30am Through The Night

BBC Radio 4

6am 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 12noon News 12.04 You And Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At One 1.45

Thief At The British Museum 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Drama: The Interrogation 3.00 The Law Show 3.30 The Artificial Human 4.00 The Media Show 5.00 PM 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Robin Ince's Reality Tunnel 7.00 The Archers 7.15 Front Row. Arts programme. 8.00 AntiSocial. Last in the series. 8.45 Uncharted With Hannah Fry. A student who went head to head with two of the greatest economic minds in modern times. 9.00 Being Roman With Mary Beard. Allison Emmerson joins Mary Beard as they delve into the life of Allia Potestas. 9.30 All In The Mind. The limits and potential of the human mind. 10.00 The World Tonight. With James Coomarasamy. 10.45 Book At Bedtime: Long Island. By Colm Toibin. 11.00 Bunk Bed. Comedy, written by and starring Peter Curran and Patrick Marber. 11.15 Chloe Petts' Toilet Humour. New series. The comedian explores the history of the toilet. 11.30 Soul Music 12midn't News And Weather 12.30 Book Of The Week: Night Train To Odesa 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.30 News Briefing 5.43 Prayer For The Day 5.45 Farming Today

BBC Radio 4 Extra

6am 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 12noon Winston In Love 12.30 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

Pick of the day

Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist
7.00pm, BBC Radio 2
The presenter (above) serves up some of her favourite album tracks and musical highlights unlikely to be heard on the station elsewhere.

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 9.30 Comedy Club: Robin Ince's Reality Tunnel 10.30 Comedy Club: I Think I've Got A Problem 11.00 Comedy Club: Chain Reaction 11.30 Comedy Club: Big Booth Too 12midn't What If 1.00 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 Wallis – The Life And Legends Of Wallis Simpson

BBC 5 Live

6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1pm Nihal Arthanayake 4.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport 7.30 Tennis 10.30 Gordon Smart 11am Dotun Adebayo 5.00 Wake Up To Money

BBC 6 Music

7.30am Lauren Laverne 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1pm Craig Charles 4.00 Huw Stephens 7.00 New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 6 Music Artist In Residence: Bloc Party 12midn't Freak Zone Playlist 1.00 The Story Of Pop 2.00 The Story Of Pop 3.00 6 Music Live Hour 4.00 6 Music's Jukebox 5.00 Chris Hawkins

Classic FM

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Dan Walker 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour With Dan Walker 10.00 Alexander Armstrong 1pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Bill Overton 4.00 Early Breakfast

Absolute Radio

6am Dave Berry 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Ben Burrell 4.00 Bush And Richie 7.00 Danielle Perry 10.00 Emil Franchi 1am Dan Noble

Heart

6.30am Heart Breakfast With Jamie Theakston And Amanda Holden 10.00 Pandora Christie 1pm Matt Wilkinson 4.00 JK And Kelly Brook 7.00 Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin 10.00 Fia Tarrant 1am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Jonny Meah 4.00 Early Breakfast With Lindsey Russell

TalkSPORT

6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Alan Brazil 10.00 Sam Matterface And Danny Mills 1pm Shebahn Aherne & Jacobs 4.00 TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent 7.00 Kick Off 10.00 Sports Bar 1am Extra Time 5.00 Early Breakfast. The sports news.

Panorama

Around the world in 10 stories



HAITI

New PM urges political unity

Haiti's new interim prime minister has said members of the new administration are setting aside their differences to work for the good of the country, which is battling a crisis fuelled by gang wars.

"We are going through an interesting moment for the Haitian people, a moment of political groups putting aside their differences for the interest of the nation," Garry Conille told a swearing-in event in Port-au-Prince, the capital. "We have no time to lose." REUTERS

SPAIN

Judge summons Sánchez's wife

A Madrid court has summoned Begona Gomez, wife of the Spanish prime minister, to appear before a judge on 5 July over allegations of corruption and influence peddling that spurred premier Pedro Sánchez to consider resigning in April.

The request was made as part of a preliminary inquiry into whether she had used her position to influence business dealings, the investigations court said yesterday.

Mr Sánchez said late in April he would remain in office, after a five-day hiatus from duty to ponder resigning amid the court investigation of his wife. AP

UNITED STATES

State passes bill to castrate child sex offenders

By Sara Cline
IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Judges in Louisiana could order surgical castration for people convicted of sex crimes against young children under new legislation. The state could become the first to order the

punishment if the Republican governor signs it into law.

The Republican-controlled legislature passed the bill giving judges the sentencing option after a person has been convicted of certain aggravated sex crimes against a child under 13. Other states allow chemical castration, often at the offender's request, but Louisiana's law is believed to be the first to allow judges to impose it.

Republican state senator Valerie Hodges said the bill was "a step over and beyond just going to jail and getting out". AP

Postcard From... Santiago

Luisana Gil, a dog groomer in Santiago, Chile, has a lot of hair on her hands – she throws away bags and bags of her clients' hair, which until recently went straight to landfill.

Now she is connecting her discarded pet hair with Matter of Trust Chile, a group that uses human and animal hair to make tools which use the natural absorbent qualities of hair to clean waterways of oils, heavy metals and bacteria.

The project, Petropelo, employs tube-like booms – made of mesh and filled with hair – to attract and trap oil in lakes, streams, coasts

and other waterways. "A single kilogram of hair can clean on average five litres of hydrocarbons," said Mattia Carenini, general manager of Matter of Trust Chile.

"The impact is very powerful," he said. "We can all be part of it." The mesh booms are placed in waterways for up to 50 days.

In the town of Laguna Verde, near Chile's port city Valparaíso, the group placed four booms and a hair mat in a stream carrying domestic wastewater to the ocean. After about a month, the devices had collected 15kg of contaminants.

"For something we throw away every day, it's a very worthwhile thing to do," Ms Gil said. "It's impressive how much we can help the environment." REUTERS

Rodrigo Gutierrez

BELGIUM

500 tractors enter Brussels to oppose EU green policies

By Kate Abnett, Bart Biesemans and Hicham Oulichki
IN BRUSSELS

Farmers drove hundreds of tractors into Brussels yesterday to protest against the European Union's environmental policies, but the action was shunned by mainstream farming groups which said it did not reflect their members' concerns.

A few days before the European Parliament election on 6-9 June, farmers from the Netherlands, Belgium, Poland and Germany travelled to Brussels to take part.

It was the latest in a months-long wave of farmers' protests across



Tractors under the Atomium in Brussels at yesterday's protest GETTY

Europe, where agricultural workers have denounced low food prices, excessive regulation and free-trade deals they say leave them struggling

to compete with cheap imports. The protest was organised by Dutch lobby group Farmers Defence Force and supported by right-wing and far-right groups. With police counting around 500 tractors, it was smaller than previous farmers' protests in Brussels this year.

Europe's biggest farming lobby Copa Cogeca and farming association La Via Campesina said their members would not participate.

"We reject this attempt by small groups that have no concrete proposals to address farmers' issues to hijack farmer concerns to push their own party interests," a spokesman for Via Campesina said. REUTERS



Holocaust survivor honoured

A 102-year-old German Holocaust survivor, Margot Friedländer, is presented with the Mevlüde Genç Award at the Bode Museum in Berlin yesterday. The award honours people who work for understanding and integration. ANADOLU/GETTY

GERMANY

'Islamic extremist motive' in fatal Mannheim attack

By Conrad Smith

German authorities say they have uncovered evidence of an Islamic extremist motive in last week's knife attack in the city of Mannheim in which a police officer was killed.

Germany's justice minister Marco Buschmann wrote on X, formerly Twitter that "there are now clear indications of an Islamist motive" for

the attack and federal prosecutors, who are responsible for terrorism and national security cases, are taking over the investigation.

The prosecutor's office confirmed it had taken on the investigation, citing the significance of the case and the suspicion that it was religiously motivated.

Investigators have said the suspected assailant, a 25-year-old man

from Afghanistan who has lived in Germany since 2014 and reportedly had his asylum application rejected, stabbed several members of a group that describes itself as opposing "political Islam".

Five members of the Pax Europa group were injured along with a police officer who tried to stop the attack. The 29-year-old officer died of his injuries on Sunday. AP

CHINA

Self-driving car tests approved

China has granted approval to a first group of nine carmakers to carry out tests on vehicles with advanced autonomous driving technologies on public roads, as part of a plan to accelerate adoption of self-driving cars.

The tests of so-called level three autonomous driving technologies will be carried out by automakers as well as major state-owned manufacturers, according to the industry ministry. REUTERS

NEW CALEDONIA

Protesters keep blockades up

New Caledonia's pro-independence political party has told the French President, Emmanuel Macron, that it cannot persuade protesters to remove roadblocks across the territory.

That is because activists are not convinced Mr Macron will drop a contentious electoral reform.

"Despite several meetings with activists... this message is still hardly heard," the Socialist Kanak National Liberation Front (FLNKS) said in a letter to Mr Macron. REUTERS

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC considers coalition options

The African National Congress held internal talks yesterday about which parties it should approach to form a government, with diametrically opposed Marxists and free marketeers among the options.

Voters punished the party for high levels of poverty, joblessness and inequality, rampant crime, rolling power cuts and corruption. It will have 159 seats out of 400 in the new National Assembly.

CHINA

Security tight for
Tiananmen date

By Laurie Chen and Jessie Pang
IN BEIJING AND HONG KONG

Security was tight and access to Beijing's Tiananmen Square was restricted yesterday, the 35th anniversary of a crackdown on protests.

In Hong Kong, police detained several activists, as cities in Taiwan marked the date with vigils.

Chinese tanks rolled into the square on 4 June 1989 to end weeks of pro-democracy demonstrations.

Rights activists say the demonstrators' goals including freedom of speech remain distant, and that 4 June is still a taboo topic in China.

"The memory of June 4th will not disappear in the torrent of history," Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te said.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said Beijing "firmly opposes anyone smearing China and using this [4 June] as a pretext to interfere in China's internal affairs".



Hong Kong police in the Causeway Bay area yesterday PETER PARKS/AFP/GETTY

CHINA

Lunar probe
lifts off from far
side of Moon

By Eduardo Baptista and Liz Lee
IN BEIJING

China's *Chang'e-6* probe has lifted off from the far side of the Moon on its journey back to Earth, China's national space agency said yesterday.

The spacecraft's successful departure means that China is closer to becoming the first country to return samples from the far side of the Moon, which permanently faces away from the Earth.

Chang'e-6, which left the Moon at 7.38am local time (23.38pm GMT) successfully completed its sample collection from 2-3 June.

Chang'e-6 displayed China's national flag for the first time on the far side of the Moon, *Beijing Daily* said.

The small flag, which the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said was made of special



The ascender and lander captured by the *Chang'e-6* lunar probe

composite materials, emerged on a retractable arm deployed from the side of the lunar lander and was not placed onto the lunar soil.

"Mission accomplished!" a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Hua Chunying, wrote on social media. "An unprecedented feat in human lunar exploration history!"

The probe is now in lunar orbit and will join with another spacecraft in orbit, the space agency said.

The container will be transferred to a re-entry capsule that is due to return to Earth in the deserts of China's Inner Mongolia region on or around 25 June. REUTERS

UNITED STATES

President's son 'not above
the law' as trial begins

By Tom Hals and Jack Queen
IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

Hunter Biden's criminal trial on gun charges have kicked off with a government lawyer telling jurors that President Joe Biden's son is being prosecuted for lying on a form he filled out to purchase a handgun and is not above the law.

Derek Hines, a Department of Justice lawyer, began his opening arguments by walking jurors through the events of October 2018, when Hunter Biden purchased the gun but allegedly lied on his background check about his drug use.

"It was illegal because he was user of crack and a drug addict," Mr Hines told the jury. "No one is above the law."

Hunter Biden (*inset yesterday*), 54, pleaded not guilty to the three felony charges accusing him of failing to disclose his use of ille-



gal drugs when he bought a Colt Cobra .38-caliber revolver and of illegally possessing the weapon for 11 days in October 2018.

"Hunter bought a small handgun. It was never loaded. He never used it. It was thrown out 11 days later by the person he was dating at the time. Just 11 days later," Abbe Lowell, Hunter Biden's attorney, told jurors. "For this, three felonies."

The trial at the federal courthouse in the Bidens' home town of Wilmington, Delaware, gets under way just days after the Republican Donald Trump, who is challenging Joe Biden in the US election in November, became the first former president found guilty of a crime.

Hunter Biden's trial gives Republicans a chance to shift attention away from Trump's recent legal troubles.

Hunter Biden has discussed publicly and in his 2021 autobiogra-

phy, *Beautiful Things*, his years-long crack cocaine use and addiction.

He told US District Judge Maryellen Noreika at a hearing last year that he has been sober since the middle of 2019. REUTERS

LEGAL

Trump aides face
forgery charges

Wisconsin's attorney general has filed felony forgery charges against two lawyers and an aide who worked for Donald Trump related to their roles in submitting paperwork falsely saying that Trump had won the state in 2020.

Josh Kaul filed the charges against Kenneth Chesebro, Jim Troupis and Mike Roman, who allegedly delivered Wisconsin's fake elector paperwork to a Pennsylvania congressman's staffer to get them to the vice president on 6 January 2021.

AUSTRALIA

Britons offered chance to serve in Australian forces

By Rod McGuirk
IN MELBOURNE

Britons will be able to serve in the Australian military from next year after the country's government said it would begin recruiting non-citizens in a move to boost troop numbers.

Only people from other mem-

bers of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing partnership (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the UK and the US) who hold Australian permanent residency will be eligible.

The move is part of a push to build a military that can resist foreign coercion through blocked trade routes, Australia's Defence Minister Richard Marles said.

Mr Marles, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, said the change was a major step towards addressing a 4,400-person shortfall in the Australian Defence Force, whose target strength is 63,600 full-time personnel.

The government intends to increase that number to 80,000 by 2040. AP

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CONSUMER

How to make the six-to-one shopping method a success

Simple system uses basic arithmetic to save time, stress and money for a weekly food shop. By **Sadhbh O'Sullivan**

When did grocery shopping get so hard? I know that it should be possible to have a week of meals that are varied, healthy and budget-friendly from one carefully planned grocery shop. I manage it from time to time, when a quiet weekend has given me enough mental space to want to make it happen. But mostly, the time and mental power needed eludes me.

When it's the weekend, I want to spend my time on impromptu plans and lie-ins and working on erstwhile projects, so usually settle for buying a vague assortment of "staples".

By 6.05pm on Monday, I am immediately facing the consequences of my actions: scrabbling together a meal idea as I walk into the tiny supermarket near the office; trying to turn the impulsive contents of my fridge into something palatable; or opting for an overpriced and unappetising dinner meal deal.

And that's to say nothing about unintentional food waste or the number of times I've regretted some of the choices I've made.

So when I heard about a grocery shopping method that promised to save time and money, I was intrigued.

The six-to-one grocery method is very simple. Popularised by US chef Will Coleman (*inset*) on TikTok, it's a way to plan your weekly shop using basic arithmetic: you pick up six vegetables, five fruits, four proteins, three starches, two sauces or spreads and one treat.

This is theoretically for any household – the bigger the house, the more you buy of each. In the end, the volume of each item goes up but the number of different items stays the same. That's it.

Some of these numbers may seem excessive, but you'd be surprised how quickly you run out of slots. If you grab the fundamentals of onions, garlic and ginger you're already halfway to the veg count. Tomatoes, cucumbers and avocados are all fruits.

Any veggie or vegan will tell you that protein doesn't just mean meat. Legumes, cheese, tofu, eggs – they're all protein, baby. And as Coleman himself emphasises, no one's going to tell you off for categorising beans as a starch over a protein – whichever configuration works for you is the one that works.

There's a lot that's appealing about this framework. It reduces reliance on UPFs, takeaways and ready meals, cuts down the hemming and hawing about what to make for dinner and helps to keep costs down.

But the beauty for many people is that you theoretically don't have to do any planning at all – not even a shopping list. You can just swan into any supermarket and peruse each section, picking up what you fancy, maybe even be inspired by the produce on display or chase a particular flavour craving.

At the end of it you will have the building blocks for all sorts of stress-free meals, whether your



Sadhbh O'Sullivan found that using the six-to-one method was not entirely foolproof

own recipes or those found by plugging your items into Google.

At first, my attempt to six-to-one shop didn't go well. I had made a list of what I thought would be good to pick up but challenged myself to be lackadaisical. As a result I dithered throughout the produce section, hovering over some bell peppers while clutching a packet of cherry tomatoes, and anxiously deliberating whether lime or lemon would be a more useful citrus. It was an entirely stupid and unnecessary level of stress, but a reminder that if you're not built to live without a plan, it's in no one's benefit to try to function without one.

I shook my funk off after I'd finalised my selection of plants, (tomatoes, lemon, bananas, blueberries and apples for fruit, and broccoli, kale, carrots, garlic, onion, ginger and mushrooms for veg). The rest of the shop was far easier. I went for kefir yoghurt, eggs, chicken and beef mince for protein, fresh gnocchi, butter beans and rice for starch, soy sauce and passata for sauces and my treat was the expensive peanut butter. I fully acknowledge that the treat is a bit of a cop-out, but the heart wants what the heart wants.

Once I was home, I was delighted to not have to think about meals until dinner approached. And when

The beauty for many people is that you theoretically don't have to do any planning at all



The method starts with six vegetables and works down the numbers, ending with one treat

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it came to meal times, feeding was undeniably easier.

What I really enjoyed was that this shop was only a base and should therefore be treated as one: I felt encouraged to properly check our cupboards and use what we already had – I made an odd but fairly delicious sausage, bean and kale stew with hotdogs subbed in, and assembled my own “muesli” with the cereal, oats and dried fruits we had leftover from baking.

It also made me think “food first” rather than “recipe first” – perhaps unsurprisingly as a fan of plans I tend to seek out and follow recipes, but this week I improvised and threw things together in a way that was generally successful.

And because the whole shop came to a tidy £44, buying outside the framework was both permitted and budget-friendly. At various points I picked up posh rye bread from a Danish bakery, chocolate (lots) on my period, and tea and coffee.

Instead of mulling over meals or buying expensive and disappointing sandwiches at lunch, I had that time back. It was a genuine relief from a stress I could only see in its absence. But it wasn't foolproof.

For one thing, it was hard to

account for portion sizes when you don't know what you're making. If I'd bought more of certain items I would have lasted to the end of the week never darkening Sainsbury's doors. As it was, we got to a respectable Saturday morning before having to shop again, though I did have enough of some things (rice and carrots, delicious) to tide me through.

Some fresh items didn't last the week. One broccoli head went yellow without my noticing and as I'm in the office three days a week I didn't have the wherewithal to resurrect it. Those excess carrots also became limp and mealy, neglected at the back of the fridge. But these are problems you'd be able to avoid the more often you shopped this way.

And then there's the way life plays little jokes on you. This week, my 10-month-old puppy snuck in a lap at some standing water before I could pull her away, forcing us all to deal with the gastrointestinal consequences. She ended up eating half of the chicken, boiled with rice, until her stomach settled. What we lost in a meal staple we saved by avoiding the vet.

All things being equal, I'd call this a success, yellow broccoli and all.



CLIMATE

Why long-term weather forecasts can't be trusted

The Met Office's summary until August says the chances of a wet or dry summer 'are fairly balanced', writes **Etan Smallman**

In July 1949, the BBC launched regular TV weather forecasts – featuring a map of the British Isles with individual words stuck on. “Becoming. Cloudy. With. Slight. Drizzle” was tacked over the Hebrides, while the Scottish mainland was destined for “Sunny. Periods”.

The technology used to compile the predictions was more advanced, but not by all that much. In 1955, the chief forecaster at the Central Forecasting Station in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, admitted: “Very little degree of accuracy can be guaranteed for any forecast issued more than 24 hours ahead.”

Now the Met Office is able to give three-month outlooks – though still not with the certainty some might desire. The UK's national weather service last week had to debunk tabloid headlines that we face one of the soggiest summers on record – with 50 days of rain in just three months.

“In fact, we would never give any specific details on the forecast for the whole season, any specific details of exactly how many days of rain we can expect,” said meteorologist Annie Shuttleworth.

When it comes to predictions of more than a couple of weeks, scientists make sure to hedge their bets. The Met Office's summer summary for June to August in fact says the chances of a wet or dry summer “are fairly balanced”, though the chance of a hot summer “is higher than normal but similar to recent years”. So don't give up hope – we could definitely still be in for plenty of warm, dry days.

Its forecasters have also said that Sunday's high of 24°C (75°F) was only a “taste of summer”. There will be cooler, wetter conditions before a prolonged period of sun starting in the final week of June.

“As we go to these longer timescales, the predictions become more probabilistic in nature,” Pier Luigi Vidale, professor of climate system science at the University of Reading and senior scientist at the National Centre for Atmospheric Science, tells *i*. “So, we can have a probability of something happening; we cannot say this is exactly what's going to happen.”

That may be disappointing for headline writers, but “the quiet revolution of numerical weather prediction” is still a marvel, according to an article published in the journal *Nature*.

“The impact is among the greatest of any area of physical science,” and factors in “dynamic, thermodynamic, radiative and chemical processes working on scales from hundreds of metres to thousands of kilometres and from seconds to weeks”.

It is all thanks to the combination



The Met Office has debunked claims that we face the soggiest of summers PA

of hundreds of billions of global observations per day combined with a dizzying increase in supercomputing capacity.

Meteorologists first measure what is happening right now, when it comes to temperature, rainfall, pressure, wind and humidity. The Met Office – founded in 1854 – has more than 200 automatic weather stations spread across the land surface of the UK. It launches thousands of weather balloons every year containing observation devices sent to the edges of space, while satellites provide a 3D picture of the whole globe.

Meteorologists probe the sea too, to measure heat, salinity and currents. “If you're aiming for a long-term forecast, you need information from the deep ocean, not just its surface,” says Professor Vidale. Warmer water comes our way from the Gulf of Mexico via the Gulf Stream, around which cyclones form.

This vast quantity of observations is then put into some of the world's largest computers. The first attempt to use one for weather prediction was in 1950. Today, the Met's system is in the top 50 of the world's most powerful computers and is capable of more than 14,000 trillion arithmetic operations per second. National meteorological services also send their forecasts into an international database so they can all be crunched together.

The Met Office warns that a long-range forecast “is useful to assess likelihood and risk, but not for warning of definite events”, which is why its forecasts for anything beyond five days are written on the scale of the UK as a whole and why current methods of forecasting can never be 100 per cent accurate. This uncertainty is also partly down to the “butterfly effect” – the idea that when a butterfly flaps its wings

So don't give up hope – we could definitely still be in for plenty of warm, dry days

in Brazil, it can cause a hurricane halfway across the world.

“There are a number of natural systems that are chaotic by nature,” says Professor Vidale. “The system rapidly evolves in such a way that these tiny differences in the initial conditions will lead to entirely different states.”

To include this in their calculations, computer models produce a large number of long-term forecasts – each from slightly different starting conditions – and look for averages. “That's why we always run an ensemble – we never just run a single forecast.”

All of this effort is not just so you know whether to pack a swimsuit for your holiday. Reliable forecasts save the UK billions of pounds a year, allowing government contingency planners to manage the risk of weather emergencies, energy companies to make sure there is no breakdown in power generation, airlines to de-ice their planes, councils to grit their roads and farmers to know when to sow and harvest their crops.

On average, the predictability of our weather forecasts has improved by a day every decade since the middle of the 20th century. The Met Office says its four-day forecast is now as accurate as the one-day forecast 30 years ago.

And the University of Reading is embarked on a £30m project to improve predictions yet further. The research programme on Advancing the Frontiers of Earth System Prediction (AFESP) says it will “deliver a new class of accurate, reliable and usable forecasts”, in part by assimilating observations from the stratosphere (the layer above where planes fly) and from the deep soil (among tree roots). It aims to double the “medium-range predictability limit” from the current two weeks to at least four within the space of 15 years.

The prospects for our climate may be bleak. But the future of weather and climate forecasting is looking fine and bright.

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Fife's coast is back on track

Scotland's first new railway in almost a decade opened at the weekend. **Robin McKelvie** boarded the first train to visit the reconnected coastal communities

This train is long overdue. When services were axed to the Fife resort town of Leven in 1969 they also severed the rail link into the tourist temptations of the fishing villages in Fife's East Neuk.

On Sunday 2 June, they were brought back into action with much fanfare, reconnecting the East Neuk and raising hopes of regeneration in Leven. This is the first new railway line in Scotland for almost a decade and cost £116m to bring back to life.

I was on the first ScotRail passenger service from Edinburgh to Leven, and the two-car train was packed with notepad-toting rail enthusiasts and curious locals. It's a spectacular journey that cranks into gear crossing the Forth Bridge, that great red iron Victorian levitation that surged from the tumultuous waters in 1890. The train skirted the Forth's northern shores, with views opening up across to Edinburgh as I scanned for cetaceans.

Then we left the main line to join the new Levenmouth Rail Link, eight miles of freshly-laid track east of Kirkcaldy that includes two new stations. The smooth rails eased through a tree-lined route: the Forth shimmered on one flank, the volcanic hulk of Largo Law on the fringes of the East Neuk on the other. Half a dozen wind turbines vaulted above the abandoned coalfields, signs of renewal alongside the Highland cow-dappled fields of this fertile corner of Scotland.

We were greeted in Leven, 69 minutes after leaving Edinburgh Waverley, by a toot from one of the steam trains at the Fife Heritage Railway, which has vintage locomotives that shunt around the adjacent tracks.



The harbour in Pittenweem, above, and Elie, below
STEPHEN BRIDGER

Ross Bennett, treasurer of the Levenmouth Rail Campaign, which was instrumental in bringing back the new trains, smiled as he surveyed the new station. "It's a delight to see trains again. It's given Leven a boost."

He gave the Heritage Railway next door as an example. It is expanding into the Network Rail base used during construction of the new railway.

Co-ordinated efforts are working towards making sure the new line – on which there are 37 trains a day (and almost double that next year) – is a success. Leven station has electric vehicle charging and bike storage racks by a cycle and walkway, which runs down to Leven's 2km-long sandy beach.

I wandered down it, thinking about the days when Glaswegians took their summer holidays here. The romance of this period is immortalised by local artist Jack Vettriano in his 1992 painting *The Singing Butler* – a couple, dressed in formal wear, dancing on the beach under umbrellas.

There was a tangible buzz on the beach. Wild swimmers were out in force and a yoga group was making moves on the sand.

Postie was enjoying the sea air and attention. He is a microcosm



of Leven's determination to push on from the industrial decline of the 1980s. The statue was part of a temporary art trail, but the community clubbed together to keep their beloved oversized Scottie dog for good.

More positivity hung on the salty air amid the squawking gulls around Leven's compact core. Artisan coffee roaster Colliers sits close to an old-fashioned butcher and a fishmonger. I heard news of a new taco bar, Italian restaurant and a whisky and gin haunt; an optometrist is being reborn as a cocktail bar.

On the high street, a flurry of stalls welcomed our arrival. Sam Green of community environmental regeneration charity Clear beamed from behind a feast of community orchard apple juice, jams and chutneys. "It's a joy to see things growing. The train will bring in more businesses and employment," he told me.

Community is a buzzword here. The Together Levenmouth project had stalls set outside its Tardis-like hub. Inside it packs in a café (coffee and cake with change from £5), crazy golf and an escape room. All profits are ploughed back into the community. One of

its volunteers said: "What benefits Leven benefits us all."

Investment is filtering out along the coastline too. New bus services scoot off from Leven station into the more gentrified East Neuk. Phil Clark, the project manager of Levenmouth Reconnected, said the aim is to connect Levenmouth – the towns of Leven, Methil and Buckhaven on the banks of the River Leven – and deeper into Fife: "We've got £15m of government funding for developing active travel, the most ever spent in Scotland on a community this size. This was the largest community [in Scotland] without a rail link."

While the villages west of Leven have lesser-known charms, Fife's big hitters tempt visitors east. From Leven's beach, I peered into the East Neuk, a sweeping beach walk away along the Fife Coastal Path. It cuts through Levenmouth to the eastern fringes of Fife. I've walked it several times

I've walked the path often and always meet more seals than people

Travel essentials

Getting there

ScotRail trains serve Leven from Edinburgh in around an hour. Return fares from £13.60.

Staying there

The Ship Inn Elie has doubles from £216, shipinn.scot.

More information

welcometofife.com
visitscotland.com



The Levenmouth Rail Link has been welcomed by locals
SCOTRAIL

and always meet more gannets and seals than people.

Those empty sands lead to the village of Elie – its clean, golden beach is home to a sauna and the only UK cricket team with a home ground on sand. It's overlooked by the excellent Ship Inn, where you can wash down local langoustines with a Fife craft ale from St Andrews.

If Elie has the airy feel of a well-to-do holiday escape, so do its siblings: Anstruther, with its award-winning fish and chip shops, pretty Pittenweem and relatively unsung St Monans ripple with beaches, artist studios and fresh seafood. In the extreme east, Crail is a final flourish, before the path turns north towards St Andrews. You can now make a loop from Edinburgh via Leven that reconnects with the rail network again at Leuchars for St Andrews, then back to the capital.

I ended my journey on Elie's beach with a dip in the Forth followed by a session in the Elie Seaside Sauna. Owner Judith Dunlop said: "I'm looking at opening another sauna – and that just wouldn't have happened without the new train connecting us all again."

Arts

The misogynistic 'mif' era of cinema is over. The latest romcoms are placing older women in more nuanced romantic roles. By Francesca Steele

No more Mrs Robinson



Podcast
Move to Live



From a spiritual mind-body connection to the science of endorphins, movement is an underexplored topic.

On his new podcast *Move to Live*, the dancer, choreographer and director Akram Khan investigates its transformative power.

Of course, all of us move – but what does it mean about us? Can it help us to communicate, or to understand ourselves better?

On the podcast Khan interviews actors, artists, musicians and dancers on how and why they move, and what their ways of moving say about them.

He speaks to actor Andy Serkis, Royal Ballet principal Francesca Hayward and stage designer Es Devlin – you'll leave inspired to think about life in motion.

Emily Bootle

In 1967, Anne Bancroft became cinema's original "mif". She played Mrs Robinson, the unhappily married older woman intent on seducing wide-eyed 21-year-old Benjamin Braddock (Dustin Hoffman), in *The Graduate*. She was sophisticated, world-weary and deeply manipulative. In the end, she was too demanding, too married, too old, and Benjamin left her for her daughter, Elaine.

Mrs Robinson has been the cinematic template of the older female lover: a predatory seductress, all too often with her eye on a teenage boy. The film that popularised the term "mif" was 1999's *American Pie*, in which Jennifer Coolidge played Stiffler's mum, a character straight from the Mrs Robinson

playbook. "Aged 18 years, the way I like it," she purred over whiskey at gawky virgins at prom parties, not so much an actual woman as a teen fantasy. Someone with lots of sexual experience but no emotional needs.

The classic image of the "mif" has been a predator, a joke, or (often) a combination of both. Female dominance is often a key (and negatively interpreted) characteristic. In *Notes on a Scandal* (2003), Cate Blanchett's 37-year-old Sheba is a teacher who seduces her 17-year-old student. And even when the age gap isn't illegal, dominance is often still played as negative and fetishistic. In Michael Haneke's *The Piano Teacher*, for example, which won the Grand Prix at Cannes in 2001, Isabelle Huppert's Erika is

the thirty-something professor in more ways than one as she seduces Walter (Benoît Bagimel), a decade younger than her, and her student.

It all feels particularly offensive, when relationships between older men and younger women have been par for the course for so long, but a universally accepted norm. People barely blinked at the 20-year age gap between Sam Neill and Laura Dern in *Jurassic Park* (1993). Jennifer Lawrence was 21 when she played the then-37-year-old Bradley Cooper's love interest in *Silver Linings Playbook*. And of course, in one of the most famous romances of all time – *Casablanca* – Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman are 16 years apart.

It seems until recently, cinema-goers had an appetite for watching unpleasantly forceful older women going for innocent younger men. While *Notes on a Scandal* was a major commercial success and, like *The Piano Teacher*, earned its stars award nominations and prizes, films that tried to view age differentials through a gentler and more optimistic lens had a far harder time pleasing the public.

Though it's now considered a cult classic, *Harold and Maude*, in which a 19-year-old man develops a friendship and eventual romantic rela-

I can't think of a better basis for a new era of films that make women the star again

tionship with a 79-year-old woman, bombed at the box office when it came out in 1971. We haven't, as audiences, given the impression that older women and younger men having sex or falling in love is plausible or morally acceptable.

But recently there's been a shift. Take the upcoming romcom *A Family Affair*, starring Nicole Kidman and Zac Efron. At first, it plays on the old tropes. A daughter catches her widowed mum (Kidman) and her arrogant celebrity boss (Efron) in bed together. She's so horrified that she spins immediately on her heels and bashes her nose on the door frame. And why wouldn't she, you might initially think. Kidman is 56, Efron 20 years younger.

But hold on: "I'm worried she's going to get hurt," Zara, the daughter, tells her grandmother, played by Kathy Bates. "Ahh, but your mum," the grandmother informs her, "she might also be a woman."

As (literally) on the nose as these scenes might be, there has been a growing appetite for films featur-



Emma Thompson starred in 'Good Luck To You, Leo Grande' LIONSGATE



Main: Nicole Kidman and Zac Efron in 'A Family Affair', available on Netflix from 28 June; **above,** Anne Bancroft and Dustin Hoffman in the 1967 film 'The Graduate' TINA ROWDEN / NETFLIX; UNITED ARCHIVES/GETTY

her first orgasm. The two become more vulnerable with each other, emotionally as well as sexually.

"In a funny sort of way, young men and older women have something in common," says Katy Brand, the comedian and writer, who wrote the screenplay, "which is they are two groups who seem to be ignored when they try to talk about what they really want and feel. If we look at a lot of the films of the last decade, they have focused a lot on people in their thirties, forties and fifties and somehow the groups at either end have fallen off the edge."

"Leo and Nancy find they have something in common: a need for a person who will really listen to them, and pay attention to what they want, possibly for the first time," she tells me. "I have read a lot of articles recently about older women and younger men dating, and the thing that is most consistent is how much these couples find they have in common, sometimes to their great surprise – a shared outlook on life."

She adds that romcoms have also gone through a cultural shift, where, for a couple of decades they started to star "men being crazy, being drunk, being nagged by their girlfriends, trying to recapture their lost youth" (*Knocked Up*). This, she says, took the focus away from great parts for women of all ages, but now Hollywood is producing more roles for older women again. Not just within this sub-genre of

older women/younger men dramas but also in other genres typically very wedded to youth.

Take for example, the older couple romcoms of recent years (*Ticket to Paradise* with Julia Roberts and George Clooney or *What Happens Later* with Meg Ryan and David Duchovny). "I can't think of a better basis for a new era of films that make women the star again," says Brand. "I want to write these women, I want to watch these women, I want to be these women."

A study by economists from Clemson University in the USA looking at cinematic gender imbalances between 1920 and 2011 found that, after the age of 40, four-fifths of lead roles are played by men. At 20, when women's looks are most valued, they by contrast got the leads. There's not yet an equivalent study of the past decade but it feels like there are better roles for women over 40 now, roles that even allow them to sleep with younger men without being a joke.

Of course, it's not automatically empowering for older women to seduce younger men, as we saw with some of the seductress/teen storylines. But given that older man/younger woman age gaps have been so normalised in Hollywood for so long – Maggie Gyllenhaal was once told she was too old at 37 to play the love interest of a 55-year-old man – it's about time we started exploring the opposite dynamic.

It's been a journey for Nicole Kidman and Zac Efron, who have been paired together before. In 2012's polarising *The Paperboy*, Kidman's character, a fading southern belle in love with a convict, urinates on Efron's character Jack, who is head over heels in lust with her, after he gets stung by jellyfish.

And now here they are playing more conventional lovers in a film that feels pleasingly like a subversion of some sexist cinematic tropes.

Does this tell us something about what audiences want compared with a decade ago?

Perhaps it's just that given enough time and sufficient on-screen variety, we will allow beautiful actresses and teen stars to age gracefully, and to make jokes rather than be the butt of them.

Anne Hathaway and Nicholas Galitzine in 'The Idea of You' PRIME VIDEO / PA



ing more emotionally complex older women/younger men relationships. Indeed, *A Family Affair* is so strikingly similar to another film released this year that it has been accused by online commentators of "copying" it. *The Idea of You* (based on the 2017 novel by Robinne Lee) features Anne Hathaway as a single mum who starts secretly dating a much younger celebrity (Nicholas Galitzine), causing tension for her daughter at school.

What's more interesting than the films' similarities is how different they are from the *American Pie* era. These women are not just lying around semi-clad. These are human beings with wants and needs.

Could it be that we... respect older women now? *The Idea of You* and *A Family Affair* certainly feel more compassionate, and they aren't alone. The comedy-drama *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande* (2022) features Nancy, a woman in her sixties (Emma Thompson), who hires a sex worker (Leo, played by Daryl McCormack) in his twenties in an attempt to have

Last night's television

AMON WARMANN



'Star Wars' prequel is full of action but lacks a little force

» **The Acolyte** Disney+, Streaming now ★★★★★

For all of the many *Star Wars* stories we've been told across the franchise's 47-year history, precious few of those tales have been from the perspective of the bad guy. But the new Disney+ series, **The Acolyte**, does exactly that, putting us firmly in the POV of the Sith as they hunt and murder the Jedi.

The brainchild of *Russian Doll* creator Leslye Headland, it takes place 100 years before Anakin Skywalker became a Padawan in 1999's *Episode I: The Phantom Menace*. The Jedi are in power and there is seemingly more star peace than star wars. *The Acolyte*, then, is concerned with how the dark side came to make its presence felt across the galaxy.

The series starts off on a blistering, attention-grabbing note, as Carrie-Anne Moss's Jedi Master Indara goes full "force-fu" against Mae (Amandla Stenberg), a dangerous, vengeful assassin. The shocking outcome sets the plot in motion, as Master Sol (*Squid Game*'s Lee Jung-jae) leads an investigation into the murder of a Jedi. Along the way, he teams up with Mae's twin, Osha (also Stenberg), who also happens to be his former Padawan. Can they stop Mae before she kills again?

The Acolyte has been partially billed as a murder mystery, but there's little detective work required from the characters (or the audience) before the killer is revealed.

The third episode is where it finds its footing and the fresh ideas start to coalesce

It's frustrating that the revelations come so quickly, and as a result the first two episodes feel imprecise and unfocused. Thankfully, the far more intriguing larger mystery soon begins to take hold. Who is the lightsaber-wielding Sith ordering the assassin to kill Jedi? And what really happened on Mae and Osha's homeworld all those years ago to set them on different paths?

Of the four episodes Disney allowed me to watch, the third is where the series really finds its footing and Headland's fresh ideas start to coalesce. Many of *Star Wars*' best stories come when it strays from black and white storytelling, and – like *Andor* before it – *The Acolyte* thrives when it exists in the grey.



Amandla Stenberg impresses as Mae and her twin in 'The Acolyte' DISNEY+

The issue of who gets to control power and what that means for the Jedi, Sith and everyone caught in between is thought-provoking and challenging. If you're worried the series might change the *Star Wars* canon, don't be – Headland hints smartly at how the galaxy will arrive at *The Phantom Menace* without altering what's come before.

The wars in *The Acolyte* aren't fought in the galactic stars. They're personal, with Mae and Osha at the centre of the conflict. Stenberg is especially impressive in the dual role of the twins. Both women feel distinctly different from each other: Mae is intense and stern; Osha appears capable but timid.

The rest of the cast are on good form, too. Once you get used to his slightly stilted delivery, Jung-jae shines as the experienced Master Sol. Jodie Turner-Smith makes a huge entrance and leaves a big impression as the twins' mother in episode three.

But *The Acolyte*'s most exciting element is the action. Few lightsabers have been drawn four episodes in, but each battle is as impactful as it is necessary, with story and character being conveyed just as much as the skilful martial arts (Moss, Jung-jae, and Stenberg all do much of their own stunt work, and it shows).

So far, *The Acolyte* is a couple of rungs below the best *Star Wars* live action series – *Andor* and *The Mandalorian* deserve that accolade – but it's on the right trajectory. Our new hope is that the back half of the season sticks the landing.

Arts review

COMEDY

Punt and Dennis: We Are Not A Robot

RICHMOND THEATRE, LONDON

★★★★★

Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis have been friends and comedy colleagues since 1983, and it's the sweet warmth of that bond that drives tonight's show. They first met at university in Cambridge, and after performing together with the Footlights, formed a double act.

They have said in the past that Punt's writing and Dennis's talent for voices and physical comedy slotted together seamlessly from the start. That dynamic is still on show as they take to the stage together for the first time in a decade with their new tour, *We Are Not a Robot*. Punt is our narrator, keeping the ship on course; Dennis is cheekier, throwing his pal off with bits of off-script improv.

The Now Show has just ended

after a 25-year run on Radio 4, which cemented Punt and Dennis's double act in the national consciousness, and the tour draws heavily on the rhythms established on radio.

Their familiar topical two-hander is extended here – Punt's the straight man, sharing facts and snippets from the news, while Dennis steps in with his impressive array of accents to bring those stories to life.

The pair take us on a whistle-stop tour of what's happened in politics and society in the past 10 years. We cover public transport, strikes, the media, Trump, Brexit, the pandemic, sewage, and there is time for a couple of punchlines at Rishi Sunak's expense.

Between this they weave jokes about ageing – a running joke about Dennis undergoing a colonoscopy returns ever-increasing laughs, as does Dennis retreating to a table to make a note every time a joke either exceeds expectations or flops.

The pair have fun with list-based jokes – reminding us of the best placards from British protests, imagining titles of



Light topical comedy with a comfortable friendship at its heart: Punt (left) and Dennis TONY BRIGGS

TV shows adjusted for today's attention-poor audiences.

A couple of sketches switch us out of *Now Show* mode. In *World of Wines*, we're reacquainted with Michael (Punt as the professional host) and Tarquin (Dennis as his perpetually drunk sidekick), who appeared in the duo's 1994 BBC series, *The Imaginatively Titled Punt & Dennis Show*.

They have now been cancelled by the BBC after Tarquin made a misjudged remark about Pudsey the Bear, and have transferred to

YouTube, where they assure us they will have freedom to speak their minds.

Dennis still excels at drunk acting – watching him stagger his way through the recipe for duck à l'orange with a wine glass swaying precipitously in hand is delightful. A few more sketches sprinkled throughout could have offered welcome breaks to our stomp through the news cycle.

There have been a number of nostalgia-trip comedies on stage this year – from *An Evening*

With *The Fast Show* and *Drop the Dead Donkey: The Reawakening*, to *Fawlty Towers*' West End debut. They are fan-pleasing reunions, serving up greatest hits and *We Are Not a Robot* fits comfortably in this territory.

Fans of the duo's past work will get what they are expecting, and will not be disappointed. It's a cosy evening of light topical comedy with a comfortable friendship at its heart.

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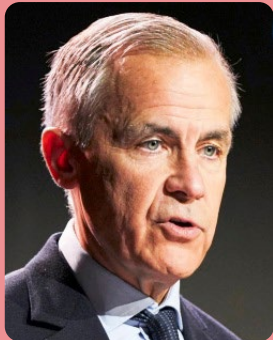


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Quote of the day



Traditionally the UK has led on global financial developments, but it hasn't been leading as much of late. It's had other things on its mind

Mark Carney
Former Bank of England governor on a lack of UK leadership in green finance

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+4420 7361 5718
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ENVIRONMENT

2030 energy target set to be missed 'across the world'

By David Connett

The world is set to miss the target of tripling renewable electricity generation by 2030 laid out at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai last year, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Official commitments by countries to build renewable energy sources currently amount to 1,300 gigawatts (GW) – just 12 per cent of what is required to meet the goal set at last year's Dubai Summit to increase global renewables capacity threefold.

The IEA found that if countries match construction with their ambitions for renewables they would hit almost 8,000GW, or nearly 70 per cent of the target, by 2030.

The IEA stressed countries needed to accelerate renewables deployment further to meet the new target.



The IEA's Fatih Birol says the tripling target is 'ambitious but achievable'

"At COP28 (Dubai), nearly 200 countries pledged to triple the world's renewable power capacity this decade, which is one of the critical actions to keep alive hopes of limiting global warming to 1.5°C," said IEA executive director Fatih Birol.

"This report makes clear that

the tripling target is ambitious but achievable – though only if governments quickly turn promises into plans of action."

The IEA said more countries are turning towards renewables such as solar and wind following a sharp drop in costs over the past decade and renewed efforts by governments to build resilient energy systems with lower emissions.

According to the report, the amount of renewable power capacity added worldwide each year has tripled since the Paris Agreement was signed in 2015.

It said there was a record increase in renewable capacity last year with about 560GW added in 12 months – a 64 per cent increase on the new capacity added in 2022.

Policy support, economies of scale and technological progress had driv-

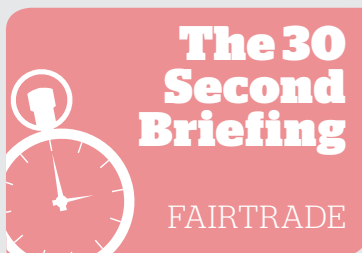
en down the cost of solar panels and wind by more than 40 per cent over the same period and made them competitive with fossil fuel generation.

But the report also warned that lengthy wait times for project permits, inadequate investment in grid infrastructure, the need to quickly and cost-effectively integrate variable renewables onto existing grids, and high financing costs for renewables projects were all hindering uptake. Heymi Bahar, a senior analyst with the IEA, said: "There is a gap, but the gap is bridgeable."

A UN climate meeting began in Bonn, Germany, this week to work on the new round of plans, among other issues such as climate finance.

Simon Stiell, head of the UN climate arm, called for governments to make "serious progress" towards setting a new climate finance goal for after 2025.

The goal is one of the main decisions expected from the COP29 UN climate summit in November in Azerbaijan's capital. "We cannot afford to reach Baku with too much work to do. So please, make every hour here count," said Mr Stiell.



A fair wind for Fairtrade

British shoppers have continued to support Fairtrade despite the cost of living crisis, the organisation said, as it turns 30 years old. Fairtrade has been supporting farmers around the world with fairer prices since it launched its first certified products, including Green & Black's chocolate.

Premium payments

Marking its 30th anniversary today, the certification body said UK consumers helped to generate approximately £28m in premium payments last year, cash that goes directly to farmers to use for business and community projects.

Growing volumes

The 2023 results showed UK cocoa sales volumes grew by 6 per cent and tea by 5 per cent. There was also growth in smaller categories, with gold volumes up 25 per cent, fresh vegetables by 15 per cent and nuts and oil seeds by 12 per cent. Total incoming resources to the Fairtrade Foundation, a charity, rose 11 per cent to £13.4m from £12.8m in 2022.

Trading up not down

Michael Gidney, Fairtrade's chief executive, said the results showed that "UK shoppers do not trade down on their values when times are tough".

He added: "It was a very challenging year for the UK economy, following the pandemic, inflation and the cost of living crisis and the impact of the climate crisis on supply chains."

"In this climate, Fairtrade sales volumes continued to hold up well thanks to the support of shoppers and businesses," he said, and urged businesses to increase Fairtrade sourcing commitments and to collaborate on approaches that promote sustainability.

ECONOMY

Fewer UK companies acquired by foreign firms

By David Connett

Fewer British companies were taken over by foreign firms between January and March, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

There were 144 completed takeovers of UK companies in the first quarter, down from 171 in the previous quarter and 184 in the period a year earlier, the ONS said.

The total value of inward merger deals, where overseas businesses acquire British firms, declined by 39 per cent to £6.1bn, the lowest figure since late 2020. Italian oil group Eni's £3.9bn takeover of UK firm Neptune Energy was one of the biggest deals of the period. The total value of outward mergers and acquisitions – UK companies acquiring foreign companies – was £4.4bn, up £0.9bn on the previous quarter (£3.5bn).

Deals involving domestic mergers and acquisitions – UK companies acquiring other British companies – were valued at £3bn.

James Wild, mergers and acquisitions head at consultants RSM, said: "UK merger and acquisition activity has been subdued this past 18 months but glimpses of an improving market are appearing as investor confidence makes a comeback."

"With the UK's economic recovery on the right path, inflation set to fall back to 2 per cent and interest rate cuts on the horizon, this will provide further certainty to the mergers and acquisitions market – which is crucial to getting deals done. Plus, with the announcement of the general election... this may prompt some sellers and buyers to get deals over the line."

POLITICS

The manifestos young people need to stop becoming poorer

The major parties should be looking at housing, tax and student debt in their election campaigns, says **Liz Emerson**

So far during this election campaign, while older people have been offered bigger tax allowances in the form of the triple-lock plus, younger people have been told they will have to do national service.

At some point in the next month, you have to hope that something more positive will come from the major parties' manifestos.

And if that is the case, here are some of the key areas politicians need to focus on, if they want to stop millions of young people's living standards sliding further behind those of their parents.

HOUSING - WE NEED MORE OF IT!

It's all about housing! There isn't enough of it, landlords and sellers charge too much for it and young people's incomes are not high enough to be able to buy or rent it.

There are now 4.9 million younger adults living back at home – that is, if they have a family home to go back to.

Young people who are left to navigate the Wild West of the rental market have faced a 9 per cent increase in rents in the past year alone. In London, renters have faced a 29 per cent increase in rents over the past three years.

Young people need political parties to commit to building new housing across all tenures, at scale, across the country, near to existing infrastructure and public transport and close to commercial centres. We have unprecedented levels of homelessness and not enough temporary accommodation.

In 2022, one million children experienced destitution. Investment in Housing First programmes is therefore desperately needed to protect the youngest in society. We need political parties to build up, build out, increase density and build on green and grey belts as well as encourage brownfield development.

While increasing the supply of housing through planning reform will help to bring down prices, it does not necessarily deliver security of tenure. Political parties also need to: strengthen renters' rights; remove landlord tax incentives; and better protect leaseholders from extortionate feeding off ground rents and service charges.

MAKE TAX FAIRER ACROSS GENERATIONS

Young people also face very high tax rates. This is because income



Young people are struggling with bills and face having their living standards lag well behind those of their parents GETTY

from work has been taxed much more highly than “unearned” income from savings, rents, shares and other investments. To be intergenerationally fair, political parties need to grapple with unearned income, largely earned by older, wealthier people, and tax it at the same rate as earned income.

Another solution would be to more equitably share national insurance contributions (NICs) across generations by removing the exemption from paying it from over-65s who continue to work.

Far from manual and low-paid workers, it is wealthy professionals who tend to stay on in the same highly paid jobs. On intergenerational fairness grounds, why should they receive an 8 per cent pay rise over younger colleagues? Alternatively a moderate wealth tax could help to reduce the income tax burden on young people.

Intergenerational Foundation (IF) figures suggest that at least £18bn a year could be raised from 1 per cent

of the population who have wealth of more than £2m if wealth were taxed at a very low rate of 0.8 per cent.

REDUCE STUDENT DEBT

We are told that free higher education is too expensive or that providing free tuition helps the rich while passing costs on to the poor.

But the current system is far from fair since the 10 per cent wealthiest students escape it entirely because they pay their fees upfront and their families subsidise their living costs. That leaves middle- and lower-income students taking on the most debt and paying back that debt for longer than their wealthier peers.

Political parties need to roll back the many unfairnesses imposed on students: the tripling of tuition fees; reneging on increasing the repayment threshold in line with inflation; or reducing the 9 per cent repayment rate. Today's students face the worst of all worlds: 7.7 per cent interest rates; a reduced threshold of repayment; and now another decade of student loan repayments. New graduates will lose 9 per cent of income more than £25,000 every year until they are 61.

Investing in free higher education is a political choice, as is investing in apprenticeships. Paying for both is

affordable by spreading the tax base more fairly across generations.

HELP YOUNG PEOPLE TO SAVE

Making housing cheaper and reducing tax rates for the young will help young people to save. Unless political parties offer change, we risk generations of young people today entering their own old age in poverty, having been unable to build up their own savings.

STOP INFANTILISING THE YOUNG

From compulsory national service to means-testing student maintenance loans, banning smoking or making car insurance unaffordable for most, successive governments have taken adulthood away from the young. They have created a period of creeping “adulthood” during which young adults have to go cap-in-hand to their parents to be guarantors to landlords even when well into their twenties. So let's forget national service and let's give them a housing affordability service.

What young people need are decent, well-paid jobs, secure, affordable housing, investment in their education and the ability to save for their own old age with a welfare safety net that catches them when things go wrong.

Liz Emerson is chief executive of the Intergenerational Foundation

From the business pages

Discounts on cars return for motorists

The New York Times

Car deals vanished during the pandemic – now they're coming back. Automakers and dealers are starting to offer discounts, low-interest loans and other incentives to lure buyers as the supply of cars grows. Dealers say cash-back offers, subsidised loans and other deals are important tools for selling cars and needed as a way of making vehicles more affordable for consumers.

Boost for the 'low-altitude economy'

Nikkei

The Chinese city of Guangzhou will invest more than \$1.4bn (£780m) in the “low-altitude economy” – services that operate in airspace well below regular commercial aviation – by 2027 as the Chinese government seeks new engines to speed up sluggish growth. The money will go toward building infrastructure for flying vehicles, such as air taxis.

South Korea to lend billions

The East African

Tanzania and Ethiopia signed accords with South Korea for loans of billions of dollars, part of broader deals that will give the Asian nation access to Africa's crucial mineral resources and vast export market. South Korea is hosting at least 30 heads of state, including Tanzania and Ethiopia, at a South Korea-Africa summit this week.

Employment hits record levels

El País

In Spain more people work every day. Those in employment reached a new record of 21.3 million in May, the highest reported since records began. And 10 million are women, again a new record. The country created 220,000 new jobs in May compared with April. More than a third of the boost is explained by the booming hospitality industry, with the Balearic Islands experiencing the highest level of growth.

9%

The proportion of income over £25,000 that new graduates will lose every year until they are 61

The Business Matrix

The day at a glance



AVIATION

BA to hire 350 additional staff

British Airways is to hire 350 additional staff at Heathrow in London to avoid the summer airport chaos of two years ago. The carrier, owned by IAG, will recruit workers in customer services and ground handling as well as upgrading some of its computers.

DEFENCE

Ongoing conflicts boost Chemring

Defence firm Chemring said rising conflict levels will lead to a decade of rearmament, boosting its sales. One of the UK's largest weapons manufacturers said half-year sales to 30 April rose 8 per cent to £223.4m. It said it wants them to rise to nearly £1bn by 2030. Its pre-tax profits fell a third to £15.2m after one-off costs.

INVESTMENTS

Under-fire fund boss pockets £14m

Nick Train, a UK fund manager who last week apologised to investors for poor returns from his investment strategy, has himself enjoyed a £14m dividend payout from the investment firm Lindsell Train, which he part owns. The fund manager was among beneficiaries of £39m of annual company dividends.

SERVICES

Getir losses widen as UK exit looms

Delivery firm Getir suffered a pre-tax loss of £168m after having previously lost £116.1m in 2021. The 2022 losses came despite its turnover rising from £26.4m to £80m. It announced this April it planned to exit the UK as part of a restructuring plan to operate exclusively in its home base of Turkey.

PROPERTY

Vistry in £580m new homes deal

Housebuilder Vistry is to sell 1,750 new homes to the private equity group Blackstone and Regis for rent in a £580m deal. Vistry said the homes in 36 developments in the South East of England will be managed by Leaf Living, backed by Blackstone and Regis.

CURRENCY

Royal Mint to expand into US

The Royal Mint has struck a deal to expand its commemorative coin business into the US, a move it says will bring in an extra £100m over the next three years. The Mint, which is owned by the Treasury, will send UK-made coins to the Rare Coin Company of America, a distribution group, to sell them.

MARKETING

Takeover bid for Mission increased

Digital marketing firm Mission Group said it is considering a £32.3m takeover approach from rival Brave Bison but said it is inclined to reject the proposal. An original bid valued Mission at about £27m. Mission said its preliminary view was the offer "does not reflect Mission's contribution to the proposed combined group".

TOBACCO

Rise of illegal vapes hurts BAT

British American Tobacco said falling sales of cigarettes and the rise of illegal vapes in its key US market will probably dent its half-year earnings. The Dunhill and Lucky Strike maker said traditional tobacco and new products such as vapes are struggling as users switch to illegal disposable vapes.

FTSE 100 down 0.37% at 8,232.04

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
3i Group	2942.0	+0.55%	2995.0	1837.5
Admiral	2699.0	-1.35%	2870.0	2010.0
Airtel Africa	121.1	-2.73%	135.8	90.2
Anglo Amer	2403.5	-3.98%	2813.0	1630.0
Antofagasta	2135.0	-3.61%	2425.0	1280.0
AB Foods	2566.0	+0.20%	2765.0	1824.5
Ashtead Group	5460.0	-1.16%	6180.0	4437.0
AstraZeneca	12404.0	+0.47%	12488.0	9461.0
Auto Trader Group	825.8	-0.19%	849.0	580.2
Aviva	475.2	-0.98%	501.4	366.0
BAE Systems	1385.0	-0.75%	1415.2	883.4
Barclays	215.0	-1.92%	224.3	128.1
Barratt Dev	506.8	+0.40%	582.6	384.1
BAT	2422.0	-0.53%	2742.0	2233.0
Beazley	673.5	-1.46%	701.5	485.8
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5255.0	+0.29%	5360.0	3634.0
B&MEurValRtl	546.4	-0.94%	618.2	484.1
BP	462.9	-3.80%	562.3	441.1
BT	133.3	+0.49%	150.7	101.7
Bunzl	2950.0	-0.67%	3306.0	2680.0
Burberry	1037.0	-0.81%	1289.0	1016.0
Centrica	142.2	+0.74%	173.7	115.0
Coca-Cola HBC	2690.0	+0.07%	2830.0	2065.0
Compass	2180.0	+0.55%	2332.0	1940.5
Convatec	248.0	+0.16%	295.2	195.1
Croda Intl	4404.0	-3.72%	6286.0	4018.0
DCC	5770.0	+0.96%	6075.0	4145.0
Diageo	2639.5	+0.02%	3509.0	2563.0
Diploma	4122.0	+0.63%	4340.0	2772.9
easyJet	485.5	+2.12%	591.1	350.0
Entain	714.0	+1.22%	1414.5	643.4
Experian	3700.0	+1.93%	3796.0	2366.0
F&C Inv Trust	994.0	-1.19%	1058.0	825.7
Fraser's Group	897.0	-0.06%	949.5	671.0
Fresnillo	568.5	-7.79%	697.6	435.2
Glencore	468.4	-2.72%	506.7	365.3
GSK	1615.0	+1.06%	1823.5	1302.6

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
Haleon	322.7	-1.13%	371.2	306.8
Halma	2290.0	+2.23%	2500.0	1802.0
Hargreaves Lans	1062.0	-0.19%	1151.0	676.4
Hikma Pharma	1984.0	+1.28%	2222.0	1711.0
Howden Joinery	912.0	+0.16%	937.0	605.0
HSBC Hldgs	690.2	-0.45%	725.2	572.9
IAG	175.2	-	187.7	137.0
IMI	1843.0	-1.44%	1911.0	1429.0
Imperial Brands	1953.0	+0.80%	2006.0	1553.5
Informa	848.6	+0.09%	865.2	684.0
IntCont Htlis	7954.0	+0.03%	8790.0	5184.0
Intermediate Cap	2266.0	-0.87%	2448.0	1244.9
Intertek	4878.0	+1.92%	5145.0	3746.0
JD Sports Fashion	132.3	-1.19%	177.8	103.0
Kingfisher	270.4	+0.93%	274.0	198.3
Land Secs	658.5	-1.72%	729.4	551.2
Legal & Gen	250.8	-0.44%	259.0	203.1
Lloyds Bk Grp	55.6	+0.43%	57.4	39.4
Lon Stock Ex	9282.0	+1.44%	9696.0	7784.0
M&G	200.7	-1.28%	241.1	181.6
M&S	311.6	+1.80%	313.6	182.1
Melrose Ind	629.2	+2.44%	681.2	445.4
Mondi	1546.0	-0.29%	1719.8	1290.9
National Grid	911.8	+2.91%	1052.8	645.0
NatWest Group	313.5	-1.94%	329.8	168.0
Next	9416.0	+1.01%	9498.0	6362.0
Ocado Group	353.7	-7.58%	1017.0	332.7
Pearson	941.6	+1.01%	1046.5	802.8
Pershing Square	4096.0	+0.05%	4268.0	2682.0
Persimmon	1484.5	+0.88%	1501.0	925.0
Phoenix	493.6	-0.92%	573.2	436.4
Prudential	749.8	-0.71%	1161.5	684.7
Reckitt Ben	4507.0	+0.45%	6346.0	4102.6
RELX	3487.0	+1.90%	3542.0	2432.0
Rentokil Initial	424.0	+1.05%	663.8	387.8
Rightmove	546.6	+0.37%	603.0	457.7
Rio Tinto	5352.0	-1.51%	5910.0	4509.5

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
Rolls-Royce	448.0	-2.80%	468.1	143.8
RS Group	697.5	-1.06%	852.6	551.2
Sage	1025.0	+0.49%	1285.0	855.2
Sainsbury(J)	278.6	-0.29%	311.2	243.8
Schroders	393.8	-0.56%	470.0	346.2
Scot Mort Inv Tst	881.2	+0.99%	946.1	632.2
Segro	930.4	+0.87%	944.8	675.0
Severn Trent	2406.0	+2.08%	2800.0	2243.0
Shell	2723.0	-2.14%	2961.0	2222.5
Smith&Neph	995.2	+1.12%	1269.0	887.0
Smith (DS)	376.2	-1.62%	415.0	260.5
Smiths Gp	1732.0	-0.06%	1776.5	1517.5
Smurfit Kappa Grp	3840.0	-0.57%	3910.0	2528.0
Spirax-Sarco Eng	8805.0	-0.56%	11480.0	7900.0
SSE	1793.5	+0.90%	1932.5	1485.0
Stan Chart	735.2	-5.31%	796.0	571.0
St. James's Place	502.0	-4.02%	1185.5	393.6
Taylor Wimpey	149.8	+0.71%	150.8	98.9
Tesco	312.0	-0.03%	316.1	217.5
Unilever	4367.0	+1.39%	4389.0	3680.5
Unite Group	939.5	-0.42%	1069.0	834.3
United Utilities	1022.0	+1.59%	1139.5	896.8
Vodafone	76.8	+0.44%	82.6	62.7
Weir Group	2082.0	-1.14%	2210.2	1652.5
Whitbread	2992.0	+1.29%	3714.0	2848.0
WPP	812.0	-0.54%	889.8	656.0



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Markets

FTSE 100	8232.0	-0.37%
FTSE 250	20718.0	-0.87%
FTSE All Share	4496.9	-0.45%
FTSE Eurofirst300	2047.7	-0.48%
Dow Jones *	38576.2	+0.01%
S&P 500 *	5272.0	-0.22%
Nasdaq *	16797.5	-0.18%
DAX	18405.6	-1.09%
CAC 40	7937.9	-0.75%
Hang Seng	18444.1	+0.22%
Nikkei	38837.5	-0.22%

€1.1751

+0.04¢

EURO/
POUND

\$1.2785

-0.08¢

DOLLAR/
POUND

\$2,328.0

-\$15.00

GOLD
Per troy ounce,
London pm fix

\$77.28

-\$1.17

OIL
Brent crude,
per barrel

the markets

The **FTSE 100** fell 30.71 points, or 0.37 per cent, to close yesterday at 8,232.04. The biggest risers were **National Grid**, up 25.8p at 911.8p, and **Melrose Industries**,

up 15p at 629.2p. The biggest fallers were **Fresnillo**, down 48p to 568.5p, and **Ocado**, down 29p to 353.7p. In Germany, the **DAX** fell by 1.09 per cent, while the **CAC 40** was down 0.75 per cent in France. The price of **Brent crude** oil fell to \$77.28 a barrel.

The **pound** fell 0.08 cents against the **dollar** to be worth \$1.2785, but was up 0.04 cents on the **euro** to be worth €1.1751 at London's close.

BANKING

UK bank accused of funding Hamas and al-Qaeda

By David Connnett

A UK bank has been accused in US court papers of helping to fund terror groups such as Hamas and al-Qaeda by carrying out financial transactions involving more than \$100bn (£78bn).

Standard Chartered is accused of funding the groups from 2008-2013 despite the US imposing sanctions on Iran. The lender had been facing prosecution for money laundering by the US government, but was saved from a court ordeal after the intervention by David Cameron's government in 2012, the documents claim.

The bank was initially fined \$227m by the US Justice Department for illegally moving millions of dollars

through the financial system between 2001 and 2007 on behalf of groups in Iran and other sanctioned countries.

However, the bank has subsequently been fined again after prosecutors found additional wrongdoing.

The London-based bank has reportedly paid well over \$2bn to settle US and UK charges that it repeatedly breached sanctions by clearing millions of dollars for clients. It has not admitted conducting transactions for "terrorist" organisations.

In the latest allegations, a whistleblower who worked for the bank claims it carried out billions of dollars in banking transactions for Iran, international terror groups, and "the front companies for those groups", long after claiming to have stopped business there in 2007.

The whistle-blower, former bank executive Julian Knight, claims he provided the US government with evidence of wrongdoing more widespread than the bank has acknowledged, with officials failing to act on it, then denying its existence.

{i} The bank denies the whistle-blower's claims, saying the previous allegations had been "thoroughly discredited" in the US and that it was confident the case would be dismissed.



Dior back in bonnie Scotland

French fashion house Dior returned to Scotland for its first catwalk show in more than 60 years. Stars including Jennifer Lawrence and Rosamund Pike watched models

parading around Drummond Castle near Crieff in Perthshire. Landscaped gardens were used to highlight the luxury firm's latest couture collection. AFP

SERVICES

Super-ATM for multiple banks trialled

By Vicky Shaw

An initiative for people to use a "super-ATM" to make deposits with multiple banks is being trialled, with a first machine in Atherstone, Warwickshire.

The machines, which are connected to the Link network, offer access to cash services such as withdrawals and balance enquiries. They will also enable free cash deposits to customers of Bank of Scotland, Barclays, Halifax, Lloyds, NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland and Ulster Bank.

According to Cash Access UK, a body set up to help plug gaps in cash access, more banks are expected to be added soon.

Martin McTague, of the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "The decline of the bank branch network has left many without vital services, in particular the ability for small business owners to deposit takings for the day safely without shutting the small business early..."

"The ability to deposit in a super-ATM that works for multiple banks is an important innovation and could make a real difference."



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Fri 14 - **Penang, Malaysia** (overnight)
Sat 15
Sun 16 **Phuket, Thailand**
Wed 19 **Hambantota, Sri Lanka**
Thu 20 **Colombo, Sri Lanka**
Fri 21 - **Cochin, India** (overnight)
Sat 22
Mon 24 **Goa (Mormugao), India**
Tue 25 **Mumbai, India** (overnight)
Wed 26 **Mumbai, India**

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Today's Weather

Bright today with sunny spells however there will be scattered showers across Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England, some heavy.

Today's high

20°

Today's low

5°

Moon Phase



Sunrise

04:46

Sunset

21:12

Around Britain

City	Temp (Midday yesterday)	Rain (mm)	Sun (hrs)
Aberdeen	14 F	2.4	4.7
Aberporth	13 R	1.5	1.4
Aberystwyth	14 R	6.9	1.3
Aviemore	10 SH	1.6	4.8
Belfast	13 F	1.1	4.7
Birmingham	16 R	1.9	1.8
Bournemouth	17 C	0.3	0.1
Bridlington	15 R	1.4	2.8
Bristol	15 C	0.4	1.3
Cardiff	16 C	0.2	0.4
Cromer	19 C	1.9	1.2
Durham	14 R	2.2	3.7
Eastbourne	16 F	0.1	3.5
Edinburgh	12 SH	1.0	7.3
Eskdalemuir	12 SH	6.7	6.4
Glasgow	12 DR	0.7	5.9
Holyhead	13 R	3.0	3.1
Hove	16 F	0.1	3.5
Hull	16 R	1.2	2.9
Huntingdon	18 C	0.6	1.4
Ipswich	21 C	0.7	0.5
Isle of Man	13 SH	4.2	4.3
Isle of Wight	15 F	0.1	5.2
Kinlochewe	9 SH	9.9	1.3
Kirkwall	10 SH	1.5	5.5
Leeds	15 R	1.0	2.8
Lerwick	10 F	3.0	9.4
Leuchars	14 F	0.3	7.6
Lincoln	16 R	2.0	0.3
Liverpool	14 R	3.7	1.4
London	19 C	0.2	1.0
Manchester	14 R	2.6	1.2
Margate	19 F	0.4	4.5
Milford Haven	14 R	0.7	2.5
Morecambe	13 R	3.0	2.4
Newcastle	15 SH	1.5	3.7
Norwich	20 SH	1.8	1.2
Nottingham	16 SH	1.4	0.8
Okehampton	15 C	0.5	0.2
Oxford	17 R	0.3	0.6
Plymouth	16 C	0.2	1.0
Portland	15 F	0.1	4.5
Portsmouth	17 C	0.4	3.7
Prestwick	12 SH	3.6	3.6
Rhyl	14 R	2.1	1.9
Sheffield	15 R	0.5	1.6
Shrewsbury	15 R	2.4	1.0
Skegness	17 C	3.1	1.6
Southend	20 F	0.4	0.7
Stoke	13 R	3.6	1.1
Stornoway	9 SH	2.4	5.2
Swansea	14 SH	1.2	0.9
Tiree	10 SH	2.3	6.3

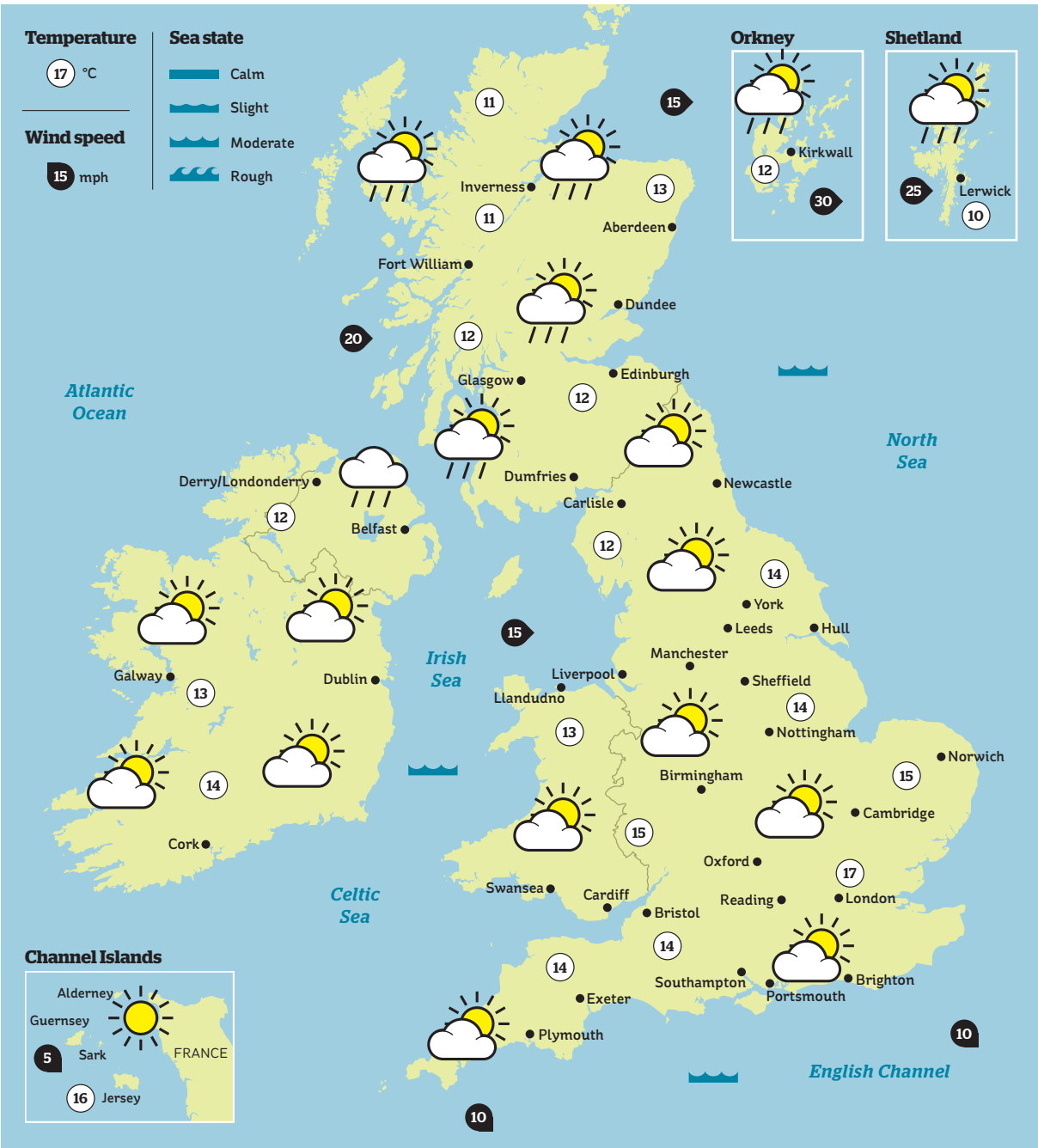
Global

City	Temp (in °C)	Cond	City	Temp (in °C)	Cond
Abu Dhabi	35	S	Miami	29	F
Abuja	31	F	Milan	21	F
Alicante	26	S	Moscow	22	F
Amsterdam	20	C	Mumbai	35	F
Athens	32	S	Munich	18	F
Bangkok	34	SH	New York	28	S
Barcelona	23	S	Nice	22	F
Beijing	29	F	Palma	24	S
Berlin	18	C	Paris	22	C
Brussels	19	C	Prague	17	C
Budapest	21	R	Reykjavik	8	SH
Chicago	28	F	Rio	26	S
Delhi	38	S	Rome	24	S
Dubai	36	S	Stockholm	20	S
Dublin	16	SH	Strasbourg	21	F
Frankfurt	19	F	Sydney	16	S
Geneva	20	S	Tenerife	25	S
Helsinki	24	S	Tokyo	22	F
Hong Kong	26	SH	Toronto	21	C
Istanbul	29	S	Vancouver	12	SH
Johannesburg	10	S	Vienna	19	C
Lisbon	26	S	Warsaw	19	C
Los Angeles	19	S	Washington	28	F
Madrid	27	S	Wellington	13	F

Key: C=Cloudy, DR=Drizzle, F=Fair, FG=Fog, H=Hail, M=Mist, R=Rain, S=Sunny, SH=Showers, SL=Sleet, SN=Snow, SS=Sandstorm, TH=Thunderstorm

Air Pollution Index

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



GENERAL SITUATION An area of low pressure will be located to the north of Scotland and an area of high pressure will be centred to the west of Ireland, out in the Atlantic Ocean. This will generate a north-westerly air flow across the UK which will bring below average temperatures, especially across northern areas. It will be a bright day with spells of sunshine but a scattering of showers will develop and these will be mostly in the north.

N Isles, W Isles, NW Scotland, SW Scotland, NE Scotland, SE Scotland: There will be mixed weather today as it will be bright with spells of sunshine, however

there will also be a scattering of showers which will be locally heavy bringing a threat of hail and thunder. A breezy day with a moderate to brisk westerly wind which will be locally strong. Max temp: 20°C. Tonight, dry for most. Min temp: 9°C.

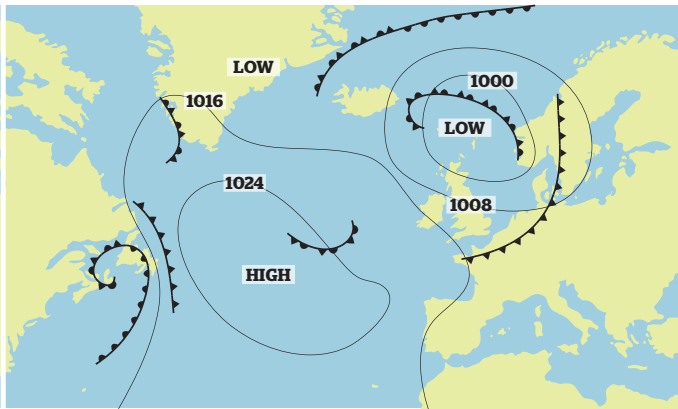
N Ireland, NE England, NW England, IoM: A largely dry and bright start to the day with early sunny spells. It will continue to be bright during the day with spells of sunshine, however a scattering of showers will develop, these mostly light and patchy. A mainly dry evening. A breezy day with a moderate to brisk westerly wind. Max temp: 19°C. Tonight, largely dry. Min temp: 11°C.

Republic of Ireland: A dry and sunny start. Clouds will tend to build during the day bringing a chance of some light and patchy showers from time to time, these mostly during the morning. It will be largely dry during the afternoon and evening but with lots of cloud. There will be gentle to moderate westerly winds. Max temp: 15°C. Tonight, clear spells. Min temp: 5°C.

E England, E Anglia, Midlands: A dry and bright start to the day with early spells of sunshine. It will remain bright for much of the day with lengthy spells of sunshine, however there is a threat of a few light and patchy showers

developing. A dry evening with late sunshine. There will be gentle to moderate westerly winds. Max temp: 20°C. Tonight, clear spells. Min temp: 10°C.

SW England, N Wales, S Wales, Cen S England, Channel Is, SE England, London: There will be fine weather today as for most it will be dry and bright with lengthy spells of sunshine and just a little patchy cloud cover around at times. The odd isolated shower may develop, but for the majority it will stay dry. A fine and sunny evening. Gentle to moderate westerly winds. Max temp: 20°C. Tonight, dry and clear. Min temp: 10°C.



Key: 1024 Isobars: air pressure in millibars Warm front Cold front Occluded front

SYNOPTIC PRESSURE Low pressure will be located to the north of Scotland today and will remain in the same location but the central pressure will increase and the low will fill. There will also be a large area of high pressure, to the west of the UK, out in the Atlantic which will spread eastwards towards Ireland but also decline.

HIGHS AND LOWS

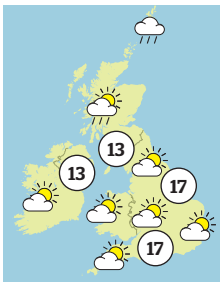
(Yesterday, up to 2pm)

Warmest: Shoeburyness, Essex, 21C
Coldest: Baltasound, Shetland, 8C
Wettest: Kinlochewe, Wester Ross, 7.6mm
Sunniest: Lerwick, Shetland, 9.2hrs

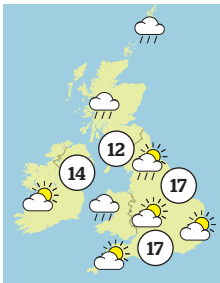
HOURS OF DARKNESS

Aberdeen	21:59-04:16
Birmingham	21:25-04:47
Bristol	21:22-04:55
Cardiff	21:24-04:57
Glasgow	21:56-04:34
Hull	21:26-04:33
Inverness	22:10-04:18
Liverpool	21:35-04:45
London	21:12-04:45
Manchester	21:32-04:42
Stornoway	22:24-04:24
Swansea	21:28-05:00
York	21:30-04:35

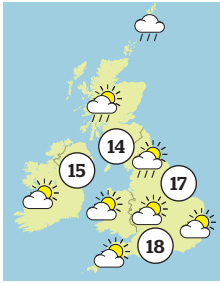
Five-day outlook



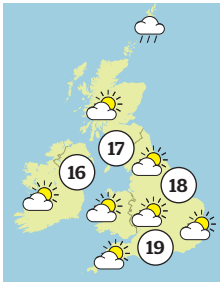
THURSDAY Mixed weather as there will be lengthy spells of sunshine but with a threat of showers across northern areas.



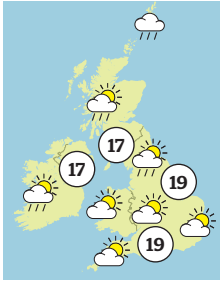
FRIDAY There will be more cloud around, however sunny spells will still break through. A threat of showers or longer spells of rain too.



SATURDAY Sunny spells and showers across northern and central areas, some heavy and thundery. Staying largely dry across the far south.



SUNDAY Bright with periods of sunshine, scattered showers will track southwards during the day. Some showers may be heavy.



MONDAY A drier and brighter day for many areas with spells of sunshine and variable amounts of cloud. Showers are possible too.

Results Service

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING									
GROUP A3									
Sweden (o)	1	Rep of Ireland (o)	0						
France (o)	1	England (2)	2						
Dani 72 (pen)		Stanway 21, Russo 35							
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
France	4	3	0	1	5	3	9		
Sweden	4	2	1	1	5	2	7		
England	4	2	1	1	6	4	7		
Rep of Ireland	4	0	0	4	0	7	0		

GROUP B2									
Israel (o)	0	Scotland (2)	5						

GROUP B3									
Northern Ireland (1)	1	Portugal (2)	2						

GROUP B4									
Ukraine (1)	2	Wales (o)	2						

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES									
Rep of Ireland (1)	2	Hungary (1)	1						
Idah 36		Lang 42							

Parrott 90									
Austria (2)	2	Serbia (1)	1						
Italy (o)	0	Turkey (o)	0						

Portugal (2)	4	Finland (o)	0						
Romania (o)	0	Bulgaria (o)	0						
Slovenia (1)	2	Armenia (o)	1						

Switzerland (1)	4	Estonia (o)	0						
-----------------	---	-------------	---	--	--	--	--	--	--

CRICKET									
T20 WORLD CUP, GROUP C, PROVIDENCE:									
Afghanistan 183-5	(20.0 overs, Gurbaz 76, I Zadran 70)	Uganda 58	(16.0 overs, Farooqi 5-9)	Afghanistan win by 125 runs.					

T20 WORLD CUP, GROUP C, PROVIDENCE:									
Afghanistan 183-5 (20.0 overs, Gurbaz 76, I Zadran 40, Ghani 34, Asghar 29, Gerdar 29, Farhat 29, Ghani 29, Ghani 29, Ghani 29, Ghani 29)									

RACING RESULTS									
LEICESTER: 4.03 1. Spaceport (T Marquand) 17-2 4.38									
1. Metabolt (Kossa Ryan) 3-1	SOUTHWELL: 2.15 1. Legend Day (B Hughes) 11-1 2.45 1. Do No Wrong (C Bewley) 14-1	Lingfield: 7.15 1. Laolsman (R Haylin) 5-4							

fav. 7.45 1. Queen's Guard (James Doyle) 2-1	fav.								
--	------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TENNIS									
FRENCH OPEN, ROLAND GARROS, PARIS.									

Men's Singles Quarter-finals: (7) C RUUD (Nor) bt (1) N DJOKOVIC (Serb) w/o, (3) C ALCARAZ (Sp) bt (9) S TSITSIPAS (Gr) 6-3 7-5 (7-3) 6-4, (2) J SINNER (It) bt (10) G DIMITROV (Bul) 6-2 6-4 7-6 (7-3)									
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Women's Singles Quarter-finals: (1) I SWIAITEK (Pol) bt (5) M VONDROUSOVA (Cz Rep) 6-0 6-2, (3) C GAUFF (US) bt (8) O JABEUR (Tun) 4-6 6-2 6-3									
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals: (4) D KRAWCZYK (US) & K SKUPSKI (GB) bt S Zhang (Chin) & M Arevalo (Esa) 7-6 (8-6) 6-4.									
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

TODAY'S FIXTURES									
------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES: Denmark v Sweden (6), Norway v Kosovo (6), Belgium v Montenegro (7.30), France v Luxembourg (8), Spain v Andorra (8.30).									
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

UEFA UNDER-17 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL: Italy v Portugal (6.30).									
---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

CRICKET									
T20 WORLD CUP, GROUP A: India v Ireland (3.30, New York) GROUP C: Papua New Guinea v Uganda (Providence, 12.30am Thursday).									

RUGBY LEAGUE									
STATE OF ORIGIN: New South Wales v Queensland (11.05am).									

Sport on TV



Tennis: French Open
Eurosport 1, 9.30pm
Hockey: Great Britain v China
TNT Sports 1, 11am
Hockey: Great Britain v Spain
TNT Sports 1, 1.15pm
T20 cricket: India v Ireland
Sky Sports Cricket, 3pm
T20 cricket: Australia v Oman
Sky Sports Cricket, 1am (Thu)

TENNIS

Djokovic forced out of French Open after 'slippy clay' knee injury

By James Gray

AT ROLAND GARROS

Novak Djokovic has pulled out of the French Open after tearing the meniscus in his right knee.

The 37-year-old twisted his knee during the second set of his epic fourth-round win over Francisco Cerundolo on Monday, a match that went five sets and lasted more than four-and-a-half hours.

But Djokovic admitted afterwards he did not know he would be able to "step out on the court and play" and an MRI scan yesterday confirmed significant damage to the joint.

The Serbian later posted on Instagram: "I am really sad to announce that I have to withdraw from Roland Garros. I played with my heart and gave my all in yesterday's match and unfortunately, due to a medial meniscus tear in my right knee, my team and I had to make a tough decision after careful consideration and consultation.

"I wish the best of luck to the players competing this week and sincerely thank the incredible fans for all of the love and continued support."

The 24-time grand slam champion (*right*) is now a major doubt for Wimbledon, which starts in less than four weeks, news that left Djokovic's former coach Boris Becker "speechless".

"It's a serious injury and it won't go away tomorrow,"

said Becker, now an pundit for Eurosport. "That leaves me a bit speechless. You need your knees on grass, you really do slip all the time.

"A torn medial meniscus is a serious injury and the question naturally arises as to whether surgery is necessary."

Djokovic's withdrawal means Jan-nik Sinner, who beat Grigor Dimitrov yesterday to reach the semi-finals, will become world No 1 next week.

The Serb had been unhappy with the state of Court Philippe Chatrier during his fourth-round match, asking the grounds staff during warm-up whether they could sweep the court more often during the match.

He repeated the request to umpire Aurélie Tourte during the first set because he was already slipping, and then suffered the injury a few minutes later, after his request was turned down.

"I don't know what exactly they have done. It seems like that some of the clay was removed, so there was very little, almost no clay on the court," Djokovic said.

"Because of the drier conditions and sun and warmer conditions, it affects the clay in such a way that it becomes very slippery.

"So the injury that I had today with the knee happened exactly because of that, because I slipped, and I slide a lot," Djokovic added.



Gauff recovers from early troubles to set up semi-final with Swiatek

By Andy Sims

AT ROLAND GARROS

Coco Gauff survived an Ons Jabeur onslaught to set up a French Open semi-final against the world No 1 Iga Swiatek.

Third seed Gauff fell a set behind as Jabeur, looking to reach the last four for the first time, went after the American's serve from the start and broke for 4-3.

Gauff saved two set points on her own serve but Jabeur hammered down an ace to clinch it.

Jabeur retrieved an early break in the second but Gauff hit straight back when the Tunisian drilled a forehand wide.

The balance of power had shifted when Jabeur dunked a forehand into the net to hand Gauff the double break and the second set.

When US Open champion Gauff

Puzzle solutions

Dominoes

2	4	4	5	0	0	3	6
3	5	1	5	1	5	5	6
0	5	4	4	2	0	2	6
0	6	2	2	3	3	3	3
4	2	0	1	6	1	1	2
6	4	0	4	3	2	3	4
6	0	6	5	5	1	1	1

Binary

0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1
0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1

Yesterday's Codeword 3900

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	B	O	Q	N	J	G	D	U	A	Y	T	I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
X	S	M	V	W	F	E	L	H	K	P	C	Z

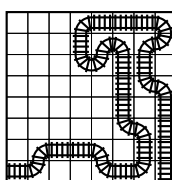
Journey Finder

1	2	1	4	3	3
4	3	2	2	4	2
1	4	3	1	1	4
2	1	4	1	3	2
2	3	1	2	1	3
3	4	2	3	4	4

Number Hexagon

		3	9	6		
	5	4	1	2	5	
	6	7	2	6	3	8
2	4	1	5	8	1	6
3	9	6	3	2	5	3
2	4	1	8	6	2	8
7	2	3	1	5		
	6	8	5			

Train Tracks



Zygolex

LEFT TO RIGHT:
spar; porch; fox;
puppy; box; pooch;
bog; **snog**; smooch;
mire; smooth; mare;
booth; expire; slick

Word Wheel

NINE-LETTER WORD carnation

OTHER WORDS acorn, act, action, actor, air, anion, anoint, anon, ant, antic, aorta, aortic, arc, aria, art, cairn, can, cannot, canon, cant, canto, canton, car, carat, cart, carton, cat, cation, ciao, coat, contain, contra, incant, iota, nation, oar, oat, ocarina, orca, rain, raincoat, ran, rant, rat, ratio, ration, ria, rota, tan, tannic, tar, tarn, tiara, train

Number Square

3	+	2	-	8	-3
x		+			
6	-	1	-	7	-2
-		+		x	
9	+	5	+	4	18
9		7		60	

Daily Quiz

- Sam Mendes
- The Premium Bond
- Heriot-Watt, Edinburgh
- River Soar

Word Ladder

GOLD	MARK
BOLD	PARK
BOND	PACK
BONG	PICK
BUNG	PINK
BUNS	PINS

idoku

1	8	3	6	4	2	7	9	5
5	7	6	9	8	1	2	3	4
9	4	2	3	7	5	8	1	6
4	5	8	1	3	9	6	2	7
6	2	1	7	5	4	3	8	9
3	9	7	2	6	8	4	5	1
2	6	4	5	9	3	1	7	8
8	1	9	4	2	7	5	6	3
7	3	5	8	1	6	9	4	2

Sudoku

5	6	1	3	2	4	8	7	9
2	9	8	7	1	6	5	3	4
4	3	7	8	5	9	1	6	2
9	8	4	6	3	7	2	1	5
7	5	2	4	8	1	3	9	6
6	1	3	2	9	5	7	4	8
8	2	6	1	4	3	9	5	7
1	4	5	9	7	8	6	2	3
3	7	9	5	6	2	4	8	1



"Honestly, everything worked," Swiatek said.



Guaranteed No 1 spot for Sinner after pull-out

Sinner has a perfect record in grand slams this year but a trickier test could be on the cards, however, as he faces the winner of last night's match between fellow young gun Carlos Alcaraz and Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Burrow tributes at Twickenham



The Leeds Rhinos great died at the age of 41 on Sunday, after having Motor Neurone Disease diagnosed four-and-a-half years ago.

Scheffler keen to move past detention



"That mugshot I'm sure is not going anywhere any time soon."

*top
tip*

BEST BET
International Girl
(7.55, Ripon)
Had consistent 2023 campaign.

2	5	4	1	9	8	7	3	6
9	1	6	3	7	4	8	2	5
3	8	7	5	2	6	9	1	4
7	3	1	2	6	9	5	4	8
4	6	8	7	5	1	3	9	2
5	9	2	8	4	3	1	6	7
8	7	9	4	3	2	6	5	1
6	2	5	9	1	7	4	8	3
1	4	3	6	8	5	2	7	9

			0				●			2	●	3	2		0
0					0	1		●		3	●	●		1	
								4			3				●
1	1			0		1		●	●				0		
	●	3				1		●				1			1
	3	●	●					2		1			●	4	●
●				4	1	1						3	●	3	2
1		3					1	1					3	3	2
			●		3			3			1		2	●	2
	0	1			●	●	●		●			1	2		
0	1	●				4	2		2	3			4	5	
					1			0	0		●	●	●	●	

727

315 412

132 183 229

58 74 109 120

31 27 47 62 58

21 10 17 30 32 26

14 7 3 14 16 16 10

2	1	6	4	3	5
5	6	1	2	4	3
4	5	2	3	1	6
1	2	3	6	5	4
3	4	5	1	6	2
6	3	4	5	2	1

H	O	P	S
O	H	I	Q
P	I	C	A
S	O	A	R

8				10
14	4		8	
	2	4		14
	2	2		
	6			
	2	2	2	20

B	E	D	G	N	I	T	S	U	R
U	U	T	T	E	N	G	L	E	T
T	L	E	R	I	H	C	A	R	E
O	G	N	A	T	G	U	T	T	E
B	S	E	G	I	N	I	C	I	E
S	E	V	E	R	U	R	H	H	I
V	R	A	P	S	D	S	E	N	I
I	D	E	O	G	E	N	M	E	I
N	E	R	E	N	R	A	L	O	S
G	C	A	P	S	L	O	A	T	H

A 6x6 grid of numbers from 1 to 6. The grid is as follows:

4	2	1	3	5	6
1	6	2	5	3	4
3	5	4	2	6	1
5	3	6	4	1	2
6	4	5	1	2	3
2	1	3	6	4	5

Connections between adjacent numbers (horizontal, vertical, and diagonal):

- Row 1: 4-2, 2-1, 1-3, 3-5, 5-6
- Row 2: 1-6, 6-2, 2-5, 5-3, 3-4
- Row 3: 3-5, 5-4, 4-2, 2-6, 6-1
- Row 4: 5-3, 3-6, 6-4, 4-1, 1-2
- Row 5: 6-4, 4-5, 5-1, 1-2, 2-3
- Row 6: 2-1, 1-3, 3-6, 6-4, 4-5

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 \boxed{2} > \boxed{1} & \boxed{4} > \boxed{3} & \boxed{5} & \\
 \boxed{5} & \boxed{3} & \boxed{1} & \boxed{4} > \boxed{2} & \\
 \boxed{4} & \boxed{5} & \boxed{3} & \boxed{2} & \boxed{1} \\
 \downarrow & \downarrow & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 \boxed{1} & \boxed{4} > \boxed{2} & \boxed{5} & \boxed{3} & \\
 & \downarrow & \uparrow & \uparrow & \\
 \boxed{3} > \boxed{2} & \boxed{5} & \boxed{1} < \boxed{4} & &
 \end{array}$$

W M I S T A K E S J
O E H U
E M C R U S H E S
S E E M I L T E
G E I L L V
W E E K S K Y R
D U I M O B
P P E E L E D I
Y A K I N G E S T
A I R V A
M A D E O P U S A
I D L E
D H O P P E D

61	64	59	36	55	74	85	38	53	50
58	35	62	73	80	37	54	51	84	39
63	60	65	56	75	72	97	86	49	52
34	57	70	81	96	79	76	83	40	87
69	12	33	66	71	82	93	88	77	48
20	29	68	13	18	95	78	1	88	41
11	14	19	32	67	92	99	94	47	2
28	21	30	17	100	25	46	5	42	89
15	10	23	26	31	8	91	44	3	6
22	27	16	9	24	45	4	7	90	43

Z	Y	B	R	O	W	N	D	T	G	I	Z	Q	W
B	F	S	M	X	Z	P	R	I	J	A	V	I	
V	T	S	A	V	A	P	G	U	P	D	A	I	
G	F	P	C	R	N	L	U	N	Z	F	D	A	
F	G	P	L	K	G	I	T	S	K	E	L	L	
A	X	E	Z	X	L	A	V	A	N	R	I	D	
E	N	R	O	B	S	S	O	L	A	W	S	N	
G	N	C	D	K	J	M	U	L	C	O	N	S	
T	G	P	P	C	O	T	A	M	E	N	G	D	
N	G	K	Z	M	L	M	W	E	Z	L	C	N	
Z	A	U	M	E	C	A	L	L	A	G	H	A	
D	E	A	E	P	J	A	R	W	H	P	Y	Z	
A	G	A	Q	O	E	S	K	K	J	K	E	J	
J	E	Z	H	X	G	B	W	E	L	W	K	E	
O	H	O	W	E	G	S	A	H	K	N	M	E	

Across: 3/5 Trumpet blast*, 6 C-l-o-s-ure
Down: 1 l'm-passé, 2 Hector, 4 Rib-ald*

OLYMPICS

Page plans to join circus after winning trampoline gold

By Jonathan Veal

Bryony Page is targeting a gold medal at the Paris Olympics before embarking on a dream career in Cirque du Soleil.

The 33-year-old became the first British trampolinist to win an Olympic medal when she claimed silver at Rio 2016 before following it up with bronze at Tokyo last time out.

The trampolining squad has yet to be announced but Page is all-but guaranteed a spot as she is the reigning world and European champion and has hit the scores required for qualification.

She has not ruled out competing beyond Paris this summer, and has the 2028 Los Angeles Games in mind, but wants to realise a childhood dream of performing in the global contemporary circus show.

"I am continuing trampolining after the Paris Olympics, but for how long is a bit up in the air," she said.

"I really want to join Cirque du Soleil as an acrobat performer and use my trampoline skills for that.

"If I left that until after the



Bryony Page is aiming for gold in Paris but will be happy with a medal

LA Olympics I might miss my opportunity. Speaking with the talent scouts, the opportunity is still there, so it is about talking to them and seeing if there is anything for me to go in and get a short-term contract and do that.

"If I love it I will stick with that but if I love it and also feel like I can make a comeback in trampolining, I will do that. But LA is still on the table, even if I do that.

"I have wanted to do it since I was a kid. The trampolining is a performance of what you have been training. I love the idea of the performance and the costumes and using trampolining in different ways.

"If something crops up that the talent scout thinks will suit them, there might be an invitation.

"It depends on the show and what they are looking for."

If she is selected for this summer's Games, Page travels to the French capital without any internal pressure.

She wants to win gold, and her form suggests that is a possibility, but is more interested in taking in the experience of a third Olympic Games.

"It would be really nice to win gold," she said. "Anyone going into the Olympics wants to do that – it's the dream.

"But I'd be happy with a medal. I have got different targets and it's my third Olympics, so I want to take everything in.

"It could be my last one, I don't know, but I want to experience every moment and cherish being part of Team GB again, if I go.

"It would be a huge achievement to be a three-time Olympian. I want to enjoy every moment.

"It's nice going into a third Olympics knowing I have already had a success story so the pressure will be off. The pressure in Tokyo was higher because I wanted to prove that Rio wasn't a fluke.

"This feels like I have dealt with the pressure and it is a bonus. It feels exciting."

PARALYMPICS

Athletes reunited is amazing – Tanni

By Ed Elliot

Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson has hailed the launch of an initiative to unite every athlete who has competed at a Paralympic Games for Great Britain and Northern Ireland as an "amazing opportunity".

With Paris 2024 on the horizon, the new ParalympicsGB Athlete Community will allow former teammates to reconnect and new bonds to be formed between sporting greats across the generations.

Wheelchair racer Grey-Thompson, who won 11 Paralympic golds between 1992 and 2004, believes the scheme will provide

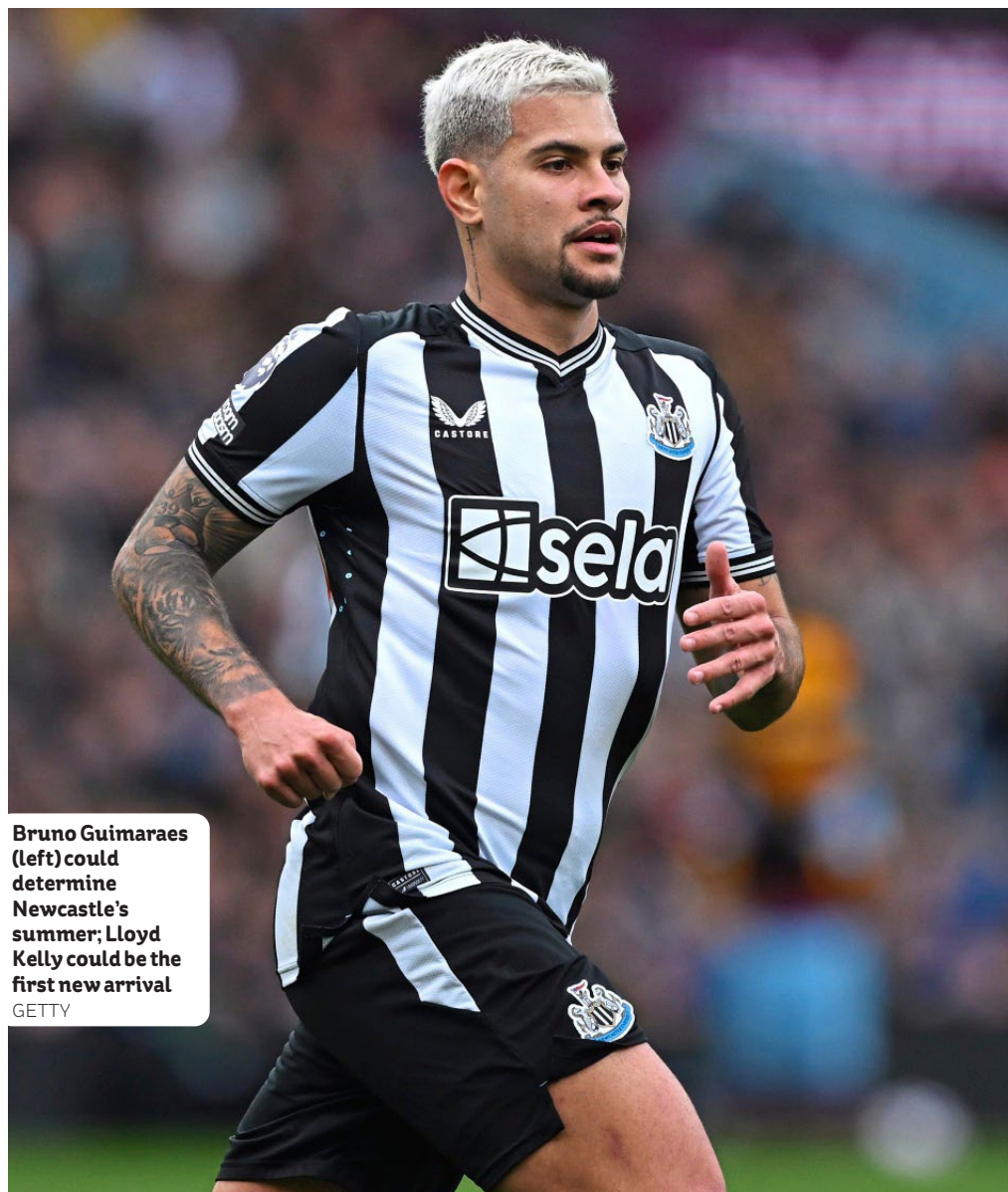
"context" and recognise the "trajectory" of disability sport.

"It's really important to know where you've come from and where you're going," she said. "Just knowing who came before you gives you context for where you are now and it shows the maturity of the Paralympic movement in the UK that they're at a point that they can do this.

"We know more recent history about medallists, which is nice, but actually competing for GB is a massive privilege and so few get to do it.

"To try and find people who have come before us is really important. That trajectory is important to recognise."

FOOTBALL



Bruno Guimaraes (left) could determine Newcastle's summer; Lloyd Kelly could be the first new arrival
GETTY

How Newcastle will navigate their most difficult window yet

Recruitment needs ramping up to the next level, says **Mark Douglas**

Eddie Howe's third full season at Newcastle United sees the club at a crossroads. Seventh was a par finish given their problems but pressure is on to improve. And that means navigating the summer nimbly. Here's how they plan to do it.

What would success look like this summer?

Some Newcastle insiders believe this might be the most difficult transfer window since the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund (PIF) took over as the club balance several competing priorities that have the potential to cause friction.

Everyone knows they need to get better but there's divergence

on how. Eddie Howe has spoken about tweaking things but a radical overhaul becomes the direction of travel if midfield talisman and Manchester City target Bruno Guimaraes departs.

There is a school of thought that they need to be bolder anyway, which is not something Howe has talked up publicly. When asked about some of those who could probably be sold for decent chunks of money to create room to spend – think Callum Wilson or Sean Longstaff – he has spoken effusively. But Newcastle do need to get better in several areas, which is impossible without player trading under profitability and sustainability rules (PSR).

Injuries were mitigation for

failing to challenge last season but there are areas where they desperately need to upgrade. Club sources suggest right wing, a right-sided centre-back, back-up striker and a goalkeeper to challenge Nick Pope are the bare minimum.

And we're not talking making up the numbers here. "Simple: taking us up another level," was what one source told *i* when asked about criteria for recruits.

The majority of the targets who have emerged have Premier League experience on their CVs but the club have been scouting in France, Italy and Germany over the past 12 months. A potential "July surprise" – think Sandro Tonali's move from AC Milan which blindsided many – is more likely than not.

But so much is still unknown at St James' Park, where even the identity of the next director of football is unclear. Add into the mix PSR, Guimaraes and whether



CHELSEA

Pochettino: I'm happy to have left Blues in a stronger position

By Robert O'Connor

Mauricio Pochettino believes he left Chelsea in a stronger position than he found them in the wake of his Stamford Bridge exit.

Addressing the Blues' ownership and supporters via social media, the former Chelsea manager used his first public comments since his departure two weeks ago to highlight improvements made during his single season, after signing off his tenure with five consecutive Premier League wins to qualify for Europe.

It was decided in the days immediately following the campaign that the Argentinian would not continue in the role, after failing to reach agreement with the owners and sporting directors over the limit of his responsibility for football matters.

Despite what was at times a tumultuous year, there were clear signs during Pochettino's final months in charge that a young, inexperienced team were progressing.

Having taken over following a 12th-placed finish the previous season, he had helped turn a disjointed and unbalanced squad into a coherent team following a £1bn transfer outlay by co-owners Todd Boehly and Behdad Eghbali, finishing sixth off the back of a string of excellent displays, most notably in wins at home to Everton, Tottenham and West Ham.

"To the owners, the sporting di-



Mauricio Pochettino led Chelsea to five straight wins to end the season

rectors we appreciate the opportunity to return to the Premier League at this great club Chelsea and for the support you gave us, as well as from all the players, staff and fans - thank you," Pochettino posted on Instagram. "We understand how important this football club is to you all and that is why we work so hard to give you a Chelsea you can be proud of.

"I am so pleased with the level the team reached and the way the players and staff have all worked so hard

I am so pleased with the level the team reached and the way the players and staff have all worked so hard

to increase their standards, they deserve great credit and I hope you felt that too in how they performed on the pitch.

"We know there have been ups and downs but we always believed in this team and that we would arrive at a consistent level.

"I believe the experiences of this season and big improvement we saw, I hope will only make the players stronger for the future. It has been a pleasure to work with them all and we appreciate the strong bonds we created in this last year together."

Chelsea appointed Pochettino's successor, ex-Leicester boss Enzo Maresca, on a five-year deal on Monday. The Italian will formally start work on 1 July, after the owners agreed unanimously with co-sporting directors Paul Winstanley and Laurence Stewart that Maresca was their man.

Pochettino added: "I want to wish all of you the best for next season and beyond. It is great that we have the chance to return to Stamford Bridge so soon with SoccerAid this weekend and I hope that we get to see some of you there too."

they'll be able to sell players they'd let go and there could be moments of tension in the close season.

Is anything imminent?

After the blow of missing out on Tosin Adarabioyo, the Magpies have turned their attention to wrapping up a deal for Lloyd Kelly.

That hasn't been done yet - some details need to be ironed out - but Kelly's enthusiasm for linking up with Howe (*below*) is cause for optimism. He was on Tottenham and Liverpool's radar so a move for the defender would represent a solid start to the window.

Spanish reports claim Newcastle have lodged a formal offer for Valencia goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili - which has been played down in the North-East. They also like Burnley's James Trafford, who is a cheaper alternative.

But given the financial year ends on 30 June, and a new PSR calculation starts, it feels like things will really rev into gear next month.

Is there any help coming down the tracks, PSR-wise?

Newcastle's powerbrokers will be watching developments in Manchester City's explosive case against the Premier League over associated party transactions (APT) keenly.

That case, to be heard over a fortnight from 10 June, could

potentially rip up regulations surrounding commercial deals signed with companies linked to the club's owners. It is those rules which have helped limit Newcastle's ability to turbocharge their revenue by signing deals with companies linked to PIF's sprawling business empire.

At the moment any commercial deal has to go through fair market value rules which have been tightened in the years since Newcastle's takeover.

City's case - if successful - would obliterate those. Getting more freedom on Saudi-related commercial deals would be hugely controversial but also a potential game-changer for a club hemmed in by PSR.

New deals, anyone?

Initial talks over a new deal with Alexander Isak's representatives are motivated by the club's view of him as priceless this summer. Arsenal - his most

interested suitors - have "no chance", insiders insist.

Below him there are a crop of players with contracts expiring in 2025: Wilson, Fabian Schär, Dan Burn, Kieran Trippier, Martin Dubravka, Emil Krafth and Jamaal Lascelles. Some are key men but if Newcastle are to move definitively to the next stage, others will surely leave in this most pivotal of summers.



WATFORD

Hornets aim to raise £17.5m by selling shares to fans

Watford are hoping to raise £17.5m by selling a 10 per cent stake in the club to fans and other investors. Some of the funds raised will go towards strengthening their playing squad as they bid to return to the Premier League.

A club statement read: "We have decided to take the exciting and innovative step of becoming one of the first major English clubs to offer true ownership to fans and investors alike.

"Put simply, we are aiming to offer approximately 10 per cent of the club at a value of £17.5m, on the basis of a valuation of £175m.

"Having posted a pre-tax profit of £24.1m for the last financial year, reported to be the highest in the EFL, we believe this is a fair valuation."

The Championship club said the minimum investment is four shares priced at £12.44 each.

Watford added: "Part of the funding will be channelled into recruitment to strengthen Tom Cleverley's playing squad as we seek a return to the Premier League.

"We believe this project can form a key strand of football's future finance, where investors and supporters alike can



Tom Cleverley is Watford's ninth manager since the summer of 2020

enjoy the fruits of the club's future success."

Cleverley is the ninth permanent manager since Nigel Pearson left in July 2020. The Hornets were taken over by the Italian Pozzo family in 2012 and since 2014 Gino Pozzo has been sole owner. They have twice been to the Premier League under Pozzo and were FA Cup finalists in 2019, but finished 15th in the Championship this season.

MANCHESTER CITY

'Incredible sums' lure De Bruyne towards Saudi

» Continued from back page

German side Wolfsburg. And he said the "adventure" and "incredible sums" are attractive to him at the current stage of his career.

"For Michele [his wife], an exotic adventure is OK," he said. "These are also conversations we are having more and more as a family.

"I have one more year of contract, so I have to dwell on what could happen. My eldest son is now eight and knows nothing but England. He also asks how long I will play at City.

"Once the time comes, we will have to deal with it in a certain way."

Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in sports like Formula One, golf, boxing and football over the last few years, with the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo, Neymar and Karim Benzema, among big names - along with others such as former England midfielder Jordan Henderson - signing lucrative deals in the Saudi Pro League.

"At my age, you have to be open to everything. You talk about incredible sums in what might be the end of my career. Sometimes you have to think about that," De Bruyne added.

De Bruyne will win his 100th cap against Montenegro tonight.

Football in brief

WALES

Kozlova cannot halt Wales play-off spot



A late Ukraine equaliser denied Wales victory in their Euro 2025 qualifier in Poland last night.

But Rhian Wilkinson's team still managed to secure a Group B4 play-off spot with a 2-2 draw.

Yana Kalinina struck first for Ukraine after 33 minutes with a tap-in against the run of play. Kayleigh Barton equalised from the spot after 74 minutes. Then Jess Fishlock (*above*) had Wales in front with a bit of magic to hammer home from 25 yards.

But Wales could not hold out and eight minutes into extra time, Ukraine's Nicola Kozlova thumped a header past keeper Olivia Clark.



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Parrott comes off bench for winner

Troy Parrott (*above*) scored a 92nd-minute winner for the Republic of Ireland in their 2-1 victory over Hungary, his low shot insufficiently halted by goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi.

Adam Idah had struck for a short-lived first-half lead for the Dublin hosts in the friendly, reaching Will Smallbone's cross to head in the 35th minute. However, his side conceded only five minutes later when Adam Lang met a Dominik Szoboszlai deep free-kick.

In Women's Euro 2025 qualification, Sweden beat the Republic of Ireland 1-0 with an 84th-minute winner from Magda Eriksson in Stockholm.

SPAIN

United's Casemiro on Marbella board



Manchester United midfielder Casemiro has joined the board of directors at Marbella after becoming a stakeholder in the Spanish fourth-tier club.

Marbella have announced the 32-year-old Brazilian's "incorporation into the club's shareholding structure" on social media.

The club said: "The confirmation of Casemiro as a new member of the board of directors is an historic opportunity for the club to continue projecting its institutional and sporting strategy in elite football."

EURO 2025 QUALIFIERS

Alessia Russo beats Pauline Peyraud-Magnin for England's second REUTERS



Lionesses roar back into form and look like champions again

FRANCE
Diani pen 72

1

ENGLAND
Stanway 21, Russo 34

2

Katherine Lucas

AT STADE GEOFFROY-GUICHARD



In the back streets of Saint-Étienne, England's travelling fans spent a day defying the blistering heat by serenading the locals with songs of their status as champions of Europe. As the Lionesses shattered France's 100 per cent record in Group A3, they finally looked a little more like it.

Sarina Wiegman will hope a pivotal victory can now prove a turning point in what had been an underwhelming Euro 2025 qualifying campaign, her side taking a significant step towards the automatic spots as they fight to avoid the play-offs.

When so much of the football has been scrappy, unenticing, perhaps what England needed was just one moment to smash away the cobwebs.

There are rarely goals as aesthetically pleasing as the one Georgia Stanway leathered first time past Pauline Peyraud-Magnin. Alessia Russo had scanned the danger, turned her back and found Lauren Hemp, who teed up Stanway to hit it through Sakina Karchaoui's legs from 25 yards out.

Stanway's celebrations did not appear to go down well with the home crowd, which was vociferous if relatively small. English fist pumps and roars are never going to be happily received this side of the Channel, but it was telling of the pressure that has been building.

In the return match last Friday – a 2-1 defeat at St James' Park – England had lost momentum after taking the lead. Not this time. Hemp was involved again for the second, providing a dipping cross that Russo just managed to get her head on to. Only when Grace Geyoro's footing got the better of Leah Williamson in the box – Kadidiatou Diani converted the penalty – did France seriously threaten a revival.

For Wiegman, the result will ultimately have felt like a vindication. Despite the clamour for her to make changes, she had named exactly the same outfield starters (with Hannah Hampton replacing Mary Earps in goal due to a hip injury) as last week. Russo, keeping her place as the lone striker, excelled; first, she missed from yards out, then directed one header straight at the keeper, but the goal eventually came and her

hold-up play was instrumental to England's success.

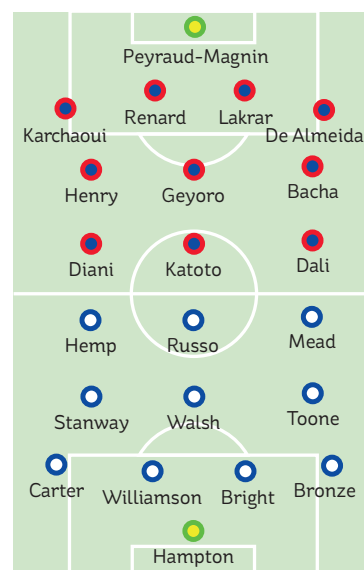
On the nights when it does not work, Wiegman's resoluteness can be interpreted as a refusal to shift gear; when it comes off, her ability to remain unflinching in the face of scrutiny is one of her greatest assets.

It is why those supporters still wearing their "Champions 2022" shirts are so confident that they will be booking flights to Switzerland in good time. France had planned to invite them on and hit them on the counter. Instead it was the hosts who at times lapsed into chaos.

England knew that they had to keep pace with Sweden, who had done their part by beating the Republic of Ireland 1-0 in the group's other match. Beth Mead had conceded that as champions, England have a target on their backs, but there can be no question marks over how they handled the weight of that tag – even as they had to sit deep when France finally sprung into life, Hampton's late one-handed save from Marie-Antoinette Katoto a heroic moment.

The damage a play-off would do cannot be underestimated, given the risk of missing out on seeding at next summer's tournament or even failing to qualify altogether. England are not out of the woods yet but they looked much more recognisable as the side that everyone once feared.

France



England

Substitutions:
France Toletti (Henry, h-t), Cascarino (Karchaoui, h-t), Périset (Lakrar, 73), Bêcho (Dali, 90), Baltimore (Bacha, 90).
England Kelly (Mead, 75), Kirby (Toone, 90).

Player of the match

Lauren Hemp Two assists and did not stop running, making France's back line look amateurish at times

LEAGUE B GROUP 2

Four-star
Thomas leads
the way for
Scots in rout

ISRAEL

0

SCOTLAND

Thomas 14, 37, 74, 77, Cornet 86

5

By Anthony Brown

Martha Thomas scored four goals as Scotland defeated Israel in an empty stadium in Budapest to remain unbeaten atop their Women's Euro 2025 qualifying group.

It was the second time in quick succession the sides had faced each other after Pedro Martinez Losa's side won 4-1 at Hampden on Friday.

And yesterday's rematch on neutral territory in Hungary proved similarly comfortable for the Scots, who have now taken 10 points from a possible 12 in their quest to qualify for the finals in Switzerland.

The visitors started on the front foot and threatened in the eighth minute when Claire Emslie's low ball across goal was deflected on to the post.

The opener came six minutes later when Thomas drove home a low shot from 12 yards out after being released by a through-ball from Emslie.

The Scots doubled their lead in the 37th when Thomas headed home Lisa Evans's cross from the right.

The visitors changed their goalkeeper for the start of the second half, with Eartha Cummings replacing Lee Gibson between the sticks.

However, the majority of the action continued to be played out at the other end of the pitch, and Thomas sealed her first international hat-trick in the 74th minute when she guided home another Evans cross with her knee from the edge of the six-yard box.

The Tottenham striker was on target for a fourth time just three minutes later when she glanced home Nicola Docherty's cross from the left.

Chelsea Cornet sealed a convincing victory for Scotland with four minutes remaining when she lashed in the rebound after Jane Ross saw a header cleared off the line.



Martha Thomas scored her fourth three minutes after her hat-trick

ENGLAND

Southgate ponders
the finishing touches
to Euro 2024 squad

By Simon Peach

England boss Gareth Southgate says he has a lot to consider as he prepares to name his final Euro 2024 squad straight after Friday's last warm-up friendly against Iceland.

The build-up to this summer's tournament in Germany continued with Monday's 3-0 win against Bosnia and Herzegovina at a sold-out St James' Park.

England immediately left for London as attention turns to facing Iceland in a final friendly before kicking off their campaign against Serbia on 16 June.

But Friday is about far more than their Wembley send-off as, just over an hour after the final whistle, Southgate has to cut his 33-man training group to a tournament squad of 26.

"We're still discussing that as a staff," Southgate said when asked about the plans around submitting his selection by Uefa's 11pm deadline.

"In terms of Friday, obviously we have another three players (Kobbie Mainoo, Phil Foden and Kyle Walker) who report when we get down to London.

"We didn't think there was any point in them reporting earlier and then being able to do very little and then travelling again, so we gave them an extra day.

"They'll all come into the reckoning for the game on Friday and similar objectives. We want to build on the performance. Physically it's an important game for players, even players that have played a lot of foot-

ball. They still need that rhythm of playing matches, so Friday becomes an important exercise for us."

Pushed on whether he will tell players after the game, Southgate (below) said: "I'll work that through with the staff over the next few days and we'll decide what we think is the best way of doing that."

Southgate is looking to strike the right balance with his final cut. Whether to take long-serving defenders Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw is a big decision as the pair recover from respective muscle injuries, so too how best to fill attacking slots.



Jack Grealish's place has come under pressure during a frustrating season at Manchester City, but he produced a lively performance off the bench against Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"There's 33 who are desperate to be involved and we know the qualities that he has," Southgate said. "That's not in any question. He's a player that we love having with the group and, for us, he's a great character to work with."

The players still need the rhythm of playing matches so Friday becomes an important exercise for us

As part of shaping his selection, Southgate has actively tried to manage expectations of younger players in a training squad featuring five uncapped members.

Adam Wharton was among them and, like Jarrad Branthwaite, made his senior England debut off the bench against Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 20-year-old has shone since joining Crystal Palace from Blackburn in February and the midfielder has underlined his credentials during an impressive first England camp.

"Well, there's no question he's impressed us," Southgate said. "Why did we bring him in? We saw things in his performances for his club."

"The biggest thing for us is that ability to see a picture and play forward early. That sounds really simple but that hasn't been so simple for us over seven, eight years, that type of player."

Wharton well worth a gamble if England want to open up unambitious opponents

Mark Douglas

NORTHERN FOOTBALL
CORRESPONDENT



There should be some Premier League scouts getting a flea in their ears this morning.

How Adam Wharton was on the market for a mere £18m in January and got just one serious offer from Crystal Palace should prompt deep inquiries in recruitment circles.

In an era when data and technology allow crisper insights than ever, perhaps some recruitment gurus should have trusted their instincts a bit more on a player who turned 20 in February.

One club apparently weren't sure about his off-the-ball movement. Another doubted whether he had the athleticism to adapt immediately to the rigours of the Premier League. For those who had watched him regularly at Ewood Park, those hot takes will prompt jaws to drop.

Now Blackburn's best-kept secret is dominating pre-tournament talk and making a serious case to be England's Euro 2024 bolter. For while the Three Lions are uniquely blessed with talent in attacking areas, there are few with Wharton's gifts who could drop so seamlessly into midfield.

"There's no question he has impressed us," Gareth Southgate said on Monday night when he raised Wharton's chances of



Adam Wharton did not misplace a single pass in the victory over Bosnia GETTY

making the plane. "We saw things in his performances for his club. The biggest thing for us is that ability to see a picture and play the ball forward early."

Wharton consistently looked to get England on the front foot against obdurate Bosnian opponents

"That sounds really simple but that hasn't been so simple for us over seven or eight years, that type of player. There's a lot still ahead of him, a lot of adjustment, but the [other England] players have recognised his quality."

That is no small feat for a player of Wharton's limited experience. It is just six months since he was playing in a

Championship relegation battle for an unremarkable Blackburn Rovers side – less than two years since he made his professional debut.

But some players are able to make an instant impact and Wharton is one of those for whom a bigger stage seems to suit him. Playing alongside better players seems to emphasise his quality.

"When you see the positions the other players take, the way they interact with on the training pitch, you know the players have seen something in him," Southgate said. "Whenever we call a new player in they always doubt what we're doing but then they work with these

youngsters and they see why we've called them up.

"He showed in his little cameo what we've seen in training in the last week and what we've seen when we've watched him for his club. He's adapted to everything really well."

Those words suggest that Wharton is seen as central to England's plans post-Germany. But why can't he be an option now?

For 28 minutes in England's 3-0 win on Monday night he looked like he belonged. His pass completion was 100 per cent and these weren't simple, sideways balls to pad stats. Wharton consistently looked to get England on the front foot against obdurate Bosnian opponents.

Granted, England have experience and excellence in the engine room. Every nation heading to Germany would crave a box-to-box midfielder of Declan Rice's calibre and experience when the margins for error reduce in the tournament's latter stages.

But England's mission is to navigate a group where teams are likely to spoil and try to spring counter-attacks. Denmark are the toughest Group C opponents, but expect Serbia and Slovenia to try and frustrate the Three Lions.

England have struggled in those kind of contests. Think the USA and Scotland at the last World Cup and European Championship; they were matches that cried out for a player with Wharton's vision to alter things from the bench.

Southgate hinted on Sunday that the seven cut from the squad would be the players with least experience. Sometimes, though, it pays to take a chance. Just ask those Premier League scouts who will be ruining their hesitancy.

England look washed up in washout to increase the heat on Mott

ENGLAND

SCOTLAND

90-0

No result, match abandoned

Chris Stocks

AT KENSINGTON OVAL



If you were being overly critical, you might argue the weather saved England from yet another humiliating World Cup defeat because for the 10 overs possible before the rain in Barbados proved terminal they were well off the pace against Scotland.

You could have been forgiven for thinking you had been transported back to the shambolic 50-over campaign in India last autumn as George Munsey and Michael Jones hit England's attack to all parts in this T20 World Cup opener.

For the first 6.2 overs it was particularly chastening for the defending champions as the Scots struck 51 before rain triggered a delay of three hours and 10 minutes.

When the teams eventually returned for a match reduced to 10 overs per side, Scotland hit a further 39 from 22 balls to leave England a Duckworth-Lewis-Stern-adjusted target of 109.

At that stage, the WinViz algorithm used by TV broadcasters gave Jos Buttler's men an 83.63 per cent chance of victory. Perhaps they'd missed England's doomed 50-over World Cup campaign in India, where

Bridgetown scoreboard

TWENTY20 WORLD CUP - GROUP B

ENGLAND V SCOTLAND

BRIDGETOWN: Match abandoned, no result.

1st each.

Scotland won toss

SCOTLAND

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Min
H G Munsey not out	41	2	4	31	47
M A Jones not out	45	2	4	30	47
Extras (lb2 w1 nb1)	4				
Total (for 0, 10 overs)	90				
Did Not Bat: B J McMullen, *R D Berrington, †M H Cross, M A Leask, C N Greaves, M R J Watt, C B Sole, B T J Wheel, B J Currie.					
Bowling: M A Wood 2-0-11-0, J C Archer 2-0-12-0, M M Ali 2-0-15-0, C J Jordan 2-0-24-0, A U Rashid 2-0-26-0.					
Umpires: M A Yaqoob and N N Menon.					

six defeats in their first seven games saw them crash out in the first round.

England's confidence is fragile after that ordeal, with the tetchy media appearances by Buttler on the eve of this match a sign that the captain is well aware that his job and that of coach Matthew Mott hinges on the outcome of this tournament.

To that end, this no result against a team they were widely expected to beat was not ideal. Indeed, if they were to now lose Saturday's match against Australia back here at the Kensington Oval, England really would be at the mercy of the weather again in their remaining group matches against Oman and Namibia.

In that scenario, another washout would probably see them crash out in the first round having been paired in a group where three of their four opponents were associate nations.

It's a prospect that would usurp even that car crash in India and would almost certainly lead to Buttler and Mott being toppled.



It's easy to be pessimistic about England's chances because they really didn't start well here, appearing particularly nervy as they failed to take a single wicket against a team ranked 14th in the world.

Maybe we should have seen the signs before this match, with England's failure to beat a fellow European nation at a T20 World Cup now extended to five matches - with defeats by the Netherlands in

2009 and 2014, another by Ireland in 2022 and a washout against the same opposition in 2010 before this.

Scotland's opening pair were certainly in no mood to take a backward step against a team littered with Indian Premier League millionaires, racing to 51 without loss before the first lengthy stoppage.

The highlight of this passage of play was the giant hit from Jones off Chris Jordan that broke a solar

panel on top of the Greenidge and Haynes Stand.

Jordan, who has fought his way back into the XI after being recalled for this tournament at the age of 35, went for 15 in his first over. His second, after the resumption, went for 10. An improvement of sorts.

He was not alone in failing to deliver the goods, with numerous misfields, poor bowling and Mark Wood having Munsey caught off a no-ball

We have to make a statement against Australia, says coach

By Chris Stocks

England limited-overs coach Matthew Mott admits his team need to produce a statement performance against Australia on Saturday.

The no result against Scotland leaves the defending champions on one point with three matches left to play - with the next against the Aussies back at the Kensington Oval this weekend.

With Oman and Namibia left to come after that in Antigua next week, England should still finish in the top two of Group B and qualify for the Super Eight stage of the tournament even if they were to lose to the Australians.

Yet after a rain-stalled beginning when his team were nervy and sloppy in the field, Mott knows a confidence-boosting performance against another of the leading contenders for the

tournament would kickstart his team's campaign.

"We're looking to do that definitely, put on a statement performance," said Mott. "We match up really well against Australia. Whatever the result of this game was, it was going to be a big game. I think anytime you only get one point, you're disappointed."

"Going to the next game against Australia, we've said from the



Jos Buttler said the washout was a 'disappointment for everyone'

If we'd got back out there, it would have been tough on Scotland. It would have been well within our grasp

start we want to play each game in isolation and not get ahead of ourselves so we quickly turn our focus to that.

"Hopefully the weather gives us a bit of a breather over the next couple of days so we can get some good hits in and come out firing against Australia."

Mott added of the damp squib that was finally put out of its misery after England were set 109 to win in 10 overs: "We had all the advantage in that. A wet



AUSTRALIA v OMAN

Green eager to play wherever needed after shining in IPL

By Ian Ransom

Australia all-rounder Cameron Green says he is ready to bat up and down the order at the T20 World Cup after being utilised in several roles during this year's Indian Premier League season.

The right-hander had a slow start batting at number three for Royal Challengers Bengaluru but thrived when slotted into the middle order after being dropped for a few games.

Australia's batting lineup at the World Cup, which is being co-hosted by the United States and West Indies, is well set but Green's versatility could come in handy if selectors opt for a second all-rounder.

Green may also be called into action while captain and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh is unable to bowl as he recovers from a hamstring strain.

"That's the beauty of what I've been exposed to in the last few years," Green said in Barbados in the lead-up to Australia's opener against Oman in Barbados.

"It's not always been a consistent spot that I've locked into.

"But at the same time, I'm also thankful for that. I feel like I can jump in at many different roles.

"That's where I see myself this tournament, maybe plugging holes in the team."

Green is not the only Australian player to notice improvement after an IPL spell.

Fast bowler Pat Cummins savoured a successful tournament



Cameron Green (right) thrived in the middle order for the IPL's Bengaluru

as captain of Sunrisers Hyderabad, helping his team to the final. Cummins said his T20 bowling was probably as good as it has ever been over the last 10 years.

"We played 17 games straight [at the IPL]," the Test and one-day captain told Cricket Australia's website.

"For the most part, international T20s are after the Test series, and you've got to try and hit a yorker or a slower ball, and then go back to a Test series.

"So just getting the pace of the game and executing some of those balls that you need more in T20 cricket than in other formats, I feel really well placed."

Reigning Test and one-day world champions Australia are bidding to become the first team to hold all three of cricket's major global trophies with victory in the T20 World Cup, with the final at Kensington Oval on 29 June.

I can jump in at many different roles. That's where I see myself in this tournament, plugging holes in the team

in those first 6.2 overs. Jofra Archer, playing his first international on the island of his birth, also had a poor start, his second over going for 10. But he did come back well in his next over, the fourth of the innings, as he restricted Scotland's openers to two runs.

Wood, playing ahead of Reece Topley, was probably the best of the bowlers, conceding 12 from his two overs. That he was denied the wicket

of Munsey because of a sloppy no-ball summed up England's malaise.

Once play resumed, Munsey and Jones picked up where they left off, with the eighth over bowled by Adil Rashid clubbed for 18, including a brilliant switch-hit six from Munsey.

Scotland managed 90 from their 10 overs – leaving England a target that would have potentially troubled them. Instead, everyone was left frustrated.

Clockwise from top left: Scotland's George Munsey manages 41 not out before rain intervenes; a few England supporters in the stands; Michael Jones hits 45 not out; ground staff rush on with the covers; Chris Jordan sends down a delivery at Kensington Oval AP: AFP/GETTY; GETTY

ball, 10 wickets in hand. If we'd got back out there, it would have been tough on Scotland. I think



i Max O'Dowd hit an unbeaten half-century to guide the Netherlands to a six-wicket victory over Nepal in their T20 World Cup opener in Dallas. O'Dowd (above) saw the Dutch over the line with eight balls left.

it would have been well within our grasp to get that. We were very confident.

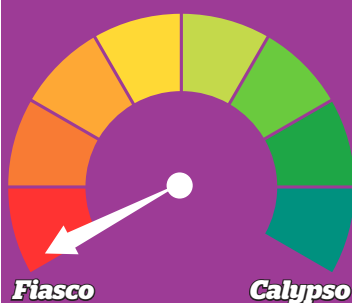
"Incredibly frustrating for both teams. It seemed a bit inevitable when the squalls kept coming in. We've waited a long time to be able to put our best foot forward and we didn't get that opportunity today.

England captain Jos Buttler added: "It's disappointment for everyone. There were a couple of balls here and there we'd want to tighten up on, but we scrapped hard and we were confident of chasing that score down.

"We just wanted to have a full game, but that's the situation. Hopefully we get a dry day and we can get into the tournament."

TWENTY20 VISUALISER

Rating the action in Barbados



It wasn't the worst start possible for England but a rain-ruined no result in which they were decidedly average in the 10 overs played runs it pretty close

AFGHANISTAN v UGANDA



Afghanistan beat Uganda by 125 runs

Afghanistan opened their T20 World Cup campaign with a 125-run victory over Uganda in Guyana. Debutants Uganda opted to bowl

first with Afghanistan's opening pair putting on 154, Rahmanullah Gurbaz (above) making 76 off 45 balls while Ibrahim Zadran hit 70 off 46. Afghanistan finished on 183 for 5 and two wickets in the first three balls ensured Uganda were always up against. Rashid Khan and Naveen Ul Haq took two wickets each to bowl Uganda out for 58 in 16 overs.



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CRICKET

England's T20 World Cup starts off with a damp squib

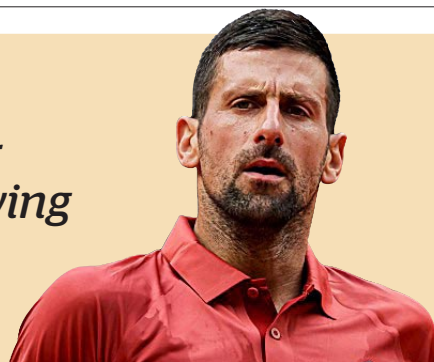
FOOTBALL

Newcastle are at crossroads at start of difficult summer

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Novak out

Djokovic a major doubt for Wimbledon after withdrawing from French Open with twisted knee



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On point

Stanway sparks welcome win for Lionesses

Katherine Lucas, p52



Georgia Stanway celebrates scoring England's opening goal in their 2-1 Euro 2025 qualifying win over France GETTY

City's legal case over Premier League rules to start on Monday

By Pearl Josephine Nazare

A legal challenge by Manchester City claiming they are "victims of discrimination" over Premier League rules will be heard next week.

The Times reports an arbitration hearing will start on Monday over a claim made by Premier League champions City against the top flight's associated party transaction (APT) regulations.

The APTs are designed to ensure that all deals between a club and entities linked to that club's owners are done at fair market value.

It has been reported that a 165-page claim was issued by lawyers representing City.

If the action is successful, it could have a huge knock-on effect for City in their defence of their case against 115 Premier League charges laid in February 2023, because some of the charges relate to alleged attempts to disguise owner funding as sponsorship in breach of league rules. City deny any wrongdoing.

The Premier League declined to comment on the matter. Manchester City have not yet responded to a request for comment.

It is understood that clubs were told at a league shareholders' meeting in February about a threat of legal action by one club – at the time reported to be City – against the APTs. That did not stop a majority of clubs voting to strengthen those rules at that meeting.

The other 19 Premier League clubs have been asked to join it in defence of its case against City.

Meanwhile, Manchester City midfielder Kevin De Bruyne is keeping an open mind over a potential move to the Saudi Pro League, as nears the final year of his contract.

The 32-year-old Belgian has six league crowns and one Champions League title, as well as two FA Cups and five Carabao Cups to his name since his 2015 switch from

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Inside Friday's **i**

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