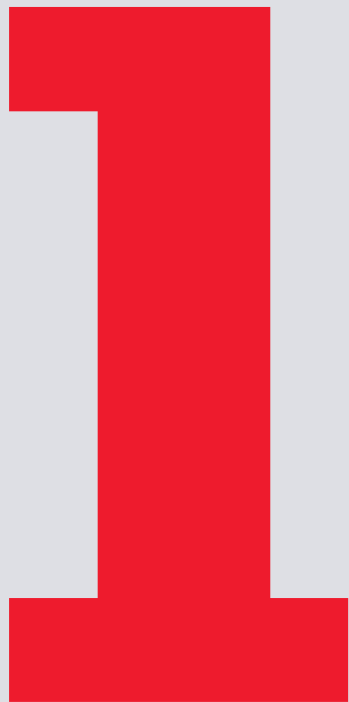


90p



2024 NEWSPAPER
OF THE YEAR

THURSDAY
13 JUNE 2024
Number 4,230

SOCIETY

Disaster proof

I took £57 evening
classes to prepare
for the end of
the world



P38



LIFE - I'M NOT ASHAMED OF USING PLASTIC SURGERY TO LOOK GOOD **P34** | HEALTH - WHY SUMMER COLDS CAN LAST SO VERY LONG **P35**
RELATIONSHIPS - WHAT COUPLES MUST CONSIDER BEFORE DIVORCE **P25** | HISTORY - SHACKLETON'S FINAL VOYAGE: WRECK FOUND **P17**

Labour's £5m donor Dale Vince urges Starmmer to Save Britain's Rivers

» Entrepreneur
calls on the party
to back i manifesto



P5

OPINION

Politicians are not all as bad as each other

by Victoria
Derbyshire
- in her new
column for i



P19

POLITICS

Sunak aide investigated for placing late bet on election date

P11



Labour set to announce big cuts to public services in UK

- » Labour is braced to announce significant spending cuts in many Whitehall departments if the party wins power at next month's general election, after repeatedly ruling out major tax rises
- » Today's manifesto will not include new spending promises, amid caution on public finances
- » Rachel Reeves will be forced into 'really difficult' decisions on services in this autumn's Budget if she becomes Chancellor, say party sources, amid protection for NHS, childcare, defence and aid
- » Tories face same choice - and local government, courts, prisons and police remain unshielded
- » Labour insists 'no return to austerity' after 'worst economic inheritance since Second World War'

P8

IN DEPTH

Lebedev closed daily 'Evening Standard' after pressure from Saudi investor



P14

SPORT

New twist to Man Utd- Newcastle saga Dan Ashworth visit to Wolves while on gardening leave



P55

Quote of the day

There is nothing like the razor-sharp tongue of a good friend to cut through the lies we tell ourselves
LAURA MONCUR



Birthdays

Kathy Burke, actress, 60; Charlotte Wells, film-maker, 37; Malcolm McDowell (below), actor, 81; David Gray, singer, 56



Anniversaries

Monday 13 June 1842
Queen Victoria travels by train for the first time, from Slough to Paddington. The engine driver was assisted by the civil engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

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The News Matrix

The day at a glance

GHANA

Britons held 'trying to smuggle cocaine'

Two British citizens have been arrested after being accused of attempting to smuggle £5m worth of cocaine from Ghana to London. Around 166kg of the substance was seized at Kotoka airport in Accra on Monday. The Narcotic Control Commission alleges that the pair hid the cocaine across six suitcases.

PEOPLE

Bereaved father calls for better bike safety

A father who lost his partner and two children in a fire a year ago is calling for urgent e-bike safety measures. The blaze was caused by a lithium-ion battery bought online. Scott Peden, 30, of Cambridge, and Electrical Safety First want independent certification for e-bikes, e-scooters and batteries.



The List

Top buys for a summer of sport

England and Scotland fans are getting to cheer their teams on at Euro 2024, Wimbledon is just around corner, and the Olympics are heading to Paris. Ahead of the spectacle, many of us have been treating ourselves as we get ready for hours spent in front of the television. According to KPMG, these are the top 10 purchases:

- 1 Television
- 2 Mobile or tablet device
- 3 Barbecue
- 4 Garden furniture
- 5 Extra snacks to eat at home
- 6 Branded alcohol
- 7 Own-brand alcohol
- 8 National team shirt
- 9 More home-cooked food to eat
- 10 More soft drinks for home

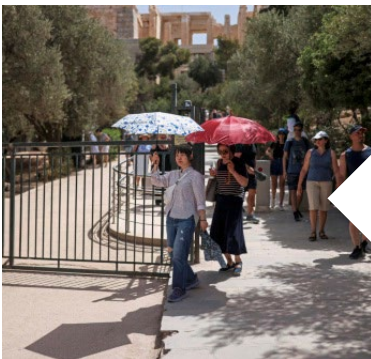


Newspapers support recycling. The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2018 was 68.2%

COURTS

Damages awarded for implant rupture

A woman from Belfast who was left scarred after her breast implants ruptured is to receive £250,000 in damages, the High Court has ruled. She was awarded the compensation in a negligence claim against the cosmetic surgeon involved. The 36-year-old underwent surgery at a clinic in England in 2009.



DENMARK

TikTok trend leads to spicy noodles ban

The Danish government has banned several flavours of spicy instant noodles due to the risk of "acute poisoning" in children after a TikTok challenge went viral. The food agency warned that children are being drawn to the brand, produced by company Samyan, by a TikTok trend challenging them to take on the extreme levels of spice.

NORTH KOREA

Kim welcomes close ties with Moscow

Kim Jong-un has hailed North Korea's expanding relationship with Russia, as reports suggest that Russian President Vladimir Putin will soon visit the country for his third meeting with Mr Kim. Military, economic and other co-operation between North Korea and Russia have sharply increased since Mr Kim visited Russia last September to meet Mr Putin. The US, South Korea and their allies believe North Korea has supplied artillery, missiles and other conventional weapons to Russia to support its war in Ukraine in return for advanced military technologies and economic aid.

MALAWI

Late vice president given state funeral

Malawi's late vice president, Saulos Chilima, is to be honoured with a state funeral following his death in a plane crash. President Lazarus Chakwera had already announced 21 days of national mourning on Tuesday, when the wreckage of a military aircraft carrying Mr Chilima and nine others was found.

GREECE

Acropolis site shuts amid heatwave

Greece has shut the ancient Acropolis tourist site, suspended schools and stationed medics across Athens as it faced the first heatwave of the summer. Temperatures were expected to hit 43°C yesterday and today in parts, driven by southerly winds bringing hot air and dust from North Africa.

EUROPE

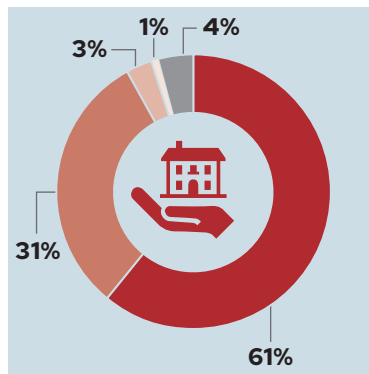
Climate change fuels rise in dengue fever

Cases of dengue fever in Europe are rising as climate change fuels the spread of invasive mosquitoes, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The number of people catching dengue from within the Continent jumped from 71 to 130 between 2022 and 2023. There were 73 cases between 2010 and 2021.

The housing ladder

How difficult or easy do you think it is for people to get on the housing ladder in Britain today?

Very difficult Somewhat difficult
Somewhat easy Very easy Don't know



6,733 GB adults surveyed; 11 June 2024
SOURCE: YOUNG&Rubicam

ThePage3Profile

KEVIN, THE WORLD'S TALLEST DOG

A gentle giant

At 3ft 2in tall, Kevin, the tallest living dog, is a gentle giant. Hailing from West Des Moines, Iowa, the three-year-old Great Dane was officially verified as the Guinness World Record holder in March. His owner, Tracy Wolfe, recalled that he grew quickly – "not out, but up". By the time he was a year old, the family was sure he was one of the tallest dogs they had seen.

He is "the epitome of a gentle giant", Tracy said. "In fact, he is scared of most things. He is terrified of the vacuum. He won't let it come within six feet of him! He will jump and run to get away from it."

Don't leave him Home Alone

He manages to stick out in a large family, consisting of four humans (Tracy, Roger, Alexander and Ava Wolfe), three dogs (including his best friend, Tuck the Decker Rat Terrier), four cats, chickens, goats and horses. He joined the Wolfe clan when they were least expecting it.

After recently losing a Great Dane, a replacement was far from their minds – until a friend posted about the last puppy in a litter. Kevin was promptly adopted. As the family debated what to name him, they happened to watch the 1990 classic Home Alone. Macaulay Culkin's on-screen shenanigans perfectly match their puppy's antics. "We love his name, and he [really] lives like a Kevin," Tracy added.

The couch buddy

Given his stature, other dogs can be nervous around Kevin – but his kind nature soon sets them at ease. He has been known to crouch and crawl to appear less intimidating.

He has a great relationship with all the family members, but shares a particularly strong bond with Alexander, 12. "They have been pals since the start," Tracy said. "They lay on 'Kevin's couch' many evenings."

Euan O'Byrne Mulligan

IRELAND

Church arsonist ruins medieval mummies

Five medieval mummies preserved in the crypt of a Dublin church have probably been damaged beyond repair by a fire and the water used to douse the flames.

The five sets of remains, preserved for hundreds of years at the 11th-century St Michan's Church, include the body of a crusader.

An intruder broke in on Tuesday and started the fire. Michael Jackson, the Archbishop of Dublin, said. "The combination of fire and water have done significant damage to the mummies... I honestly don't know exactly what the extent of that is, but my fear – like that of others – is that the damage is irreparable."



PEOPLE

Chippy pulls out stops for wedding

A fish and chip shop came to the rescue of a Devon couple who were let down by their wedding caterer less than 24 hours before their big day. The mother of the bride rang Krispies in Exmouth last Friday to order 110 portions of fish and chips for the next day, which they successfully delivered.

PETS

Dog saves owner's life after car crash

A dog saved its owner's life after a serious road accident in Oregon last week. Brandon Garrett, 60, said he was injured along with three of his dogs. One of them – named Blue – ran four miles and found a friend of Mr Garrett, who realised there was a problem and began a search with the police. Mr Garrett is recovering.

COURTS

EasyJet gives band hard time over name

A Leicester indie band formerly known as Easy Life have changed their name to Hard Life following a legal battle with the owner of easyJet. EasyGroup had accused the band of being “brand thieves”. Their new song “Tears” includes the lyrics: “It was easy in my twenties, now I got to lawyer up. Give me air-miles.”

SOCIETY

Half of teenagers fear knife crime

Hundreds of teenagers have told the BBC they are concerned about knife crime in everyday life. Nearly half (46 per cent) were worried about knife crime in their area and 31 per cent in schools, in a survey of 2,000 people aged 13-18. Twenty-three per cent agreed that smartphones should be banned for under 16s.

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

*Time for Tories and Labour to come clean on cuts*

There will be significant cuts to some public spending after the election. You know this, because we have been reporting it for months.

The Treasury knows this.

The Conservative Party knows this.

The Labour Party knows this.

Yet neither the Tories nor Labour has been willing to discuss it.

Both parties have colluded in what the IFS calls a “conspiracy of silence”, refusing to acknowledge tens of billions of pounds in tough tax and spending choices, required in order to protect the NHS, childcare, defence and aid.

So today's cover story – where Labour sources admit this reality – is a welcome step (page 8).

Of course, the Conservatives face the same choice between raising taxes or finding real-term cuts of up to £20bn. Rishi Sunak's manifesto pledge to cut £17bn of taxes appears to rely a little too much on rainbows and unicorns for economists' comfort. (Beware any mention of “cracking down on tax avoidance and evasion”, when it comes to funding giveaways.)

If Labour wins power, its economic inheritance will be rough. A grown-up debate about the compromises we face would be risky. Yet research this week shows that public trust in government has fallen to a record low. So the next PM and Chancellor must ignite growth, revive ailing public services and also hope that they can restore some faith in the UK's system of government, after the turmoil of recent years.

Whither growth? Regardless of your view on Brexit, it is a simple fact that in the UK, business investment cratered after 2016. Firms did not know what Brexit would look like. Nor did plenty of Brexit's architects, so long-term planning was put on hold. And as Brexit has taken shape, new frictions have made our goods (if not our services) less attractive to European buyers.

Labour will not magically fix this impasse. In Brussels, the UK must be seen to be punished for its insolence. So do also beware of suggestions that sudden economic growth will rocket us out of trouble, since the things that might ignite growth are either complex (planning changes), slow (productivity reforms) or unlikely (a fundamental change to Brexit trading).

The truth is tougher. Some voters won't want to hear it. But we still need our future leaders to talk openly about their plans for Britain's economy and public services. **X: @olyduff**

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GET OFFER



INQUEST

Teenager's killer 'drove like an American', court hears

By Josh Payne

A US government worker "drove like an American", on the wrong side of the road, an inquest into a crash that killed a 19-year-old British motorcyclist heard yesterday.

Anne Sacoolas apologised for her "tragic mistake" that resulted in the death of Harry Dunn (right). She declined to give live evidence, providing two written statements that were read out. In one, she said:

"I made a tragic mistake that I will live with every single day for the rest of my life. There is not a single day that goes by that Harry is not on my mind."

When Sacoolas (left) was asked what she believed caused the collision, she told police: "I drove like an American and drove on the American side of the road."

The US State Department as-

serted diplomatic immunity on her behalf and she left the UK 19 days after the collision in Northamptonshire in 2019.

She appeared before an Old Bailey judge via video link in December 2022, where she pleaded guilty to causing death by careless driving and was handed an eight-month prison sentence, suspended for 12 months. The inquest continues.



HEALTH

Overburdened cancer care faces 'toxic cocktail'

By Paul Gallagher

HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

Severe treatment delays and an ongoing workforce crisis have created a "toxic cocktail" in cancer care, two major reports reveal today.

More than 380,000 cancer patients have not been treated on time since 2015, according to data analysed by Cancer Research UK.

The charity looked at the number of patients starting treatment for their conditions in England more than 62 days after being referred urgently for suspected cancer.

This key NHS target – where 85 per cent of people start treatment for their cancer within 62 days – was last met in December 2015.

The Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) warned that delays in cancer care were becoming "routine", with nearly half of cancer centres experiencing weekly delays to giving people treatment.

The college also pointed to what it called a "staggering" 30 per cent shortfall in clinical radiologists and a 15 per cent shortfall in clinical oncologists – figures which are projected to worsen over the next few years.

The RCR's reports were based on 100 per cent response rate surveys of cancer centre executives and clinical directors of radiology departments across the UK.

The data showed that the number of cancer centres experiencing severe delays has almost doubled in a year, with 47 per cent facing weekly delays in administering treatments such as chemotherapy, up from 28 per cent the previous year.

The situation is similar for radiotherapy, with weekly treatment delays nearly doubling from 22 per cent



The target of having 85 per cent of people start treatment for cancer within 62 days was last met in 2015

in 2022 to 43 per cent in 2023. Almost all (97 per cent) clinical directors surveyed said workforce shortages were causing backlogs and delays at their place of work.

The RCR said that demand "vastly outstrips" the capacity of the cancer workforce.

Amid the data, the typical age of consultants leaving the workforce has fallen, from 57 in 2021 to 54 in 2023. The RCR said one-third of consultants leaving the workforce are under 45.

The RCR's president, Dr Katharine Halliday, said: "Today's reports reveal a stark reality: the crisis in the radiology and oncology workforce is jeopardising patients' health."

"The immense strain on an overburdened system, coupled with exhausted staff and increasing demand, creates a toxic cocktail for our NHS."

In its election manifesto, the Conservative Party said that it was committed to reducing cancer waiting times. The Labour Party, which will publish its manifesto today, was also approached for comment.

62

Number of days within which 85 per cent of people are supposed to start their cancer treatment

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COURTS

Letby caught 'red-handed', retrial told

By Steve Robson

The convicted murderer Lucy Letby was caught "red-handed" attempting to kill a premature baby by removing her breathing tube, a jury has been told.

Letby, 34, denies a single offence of attempted murder in relation to the collapse of a girl born at 25 weeks gestation at the Countess of Chester Hospital in February 2016.

Jurors at Manchester Crown Court have been told that Letby was convicted of murdering seven babies and attempting to murder a further six while working as a neonatal nurse.

None of the babies or their families can be identified for legal reasons.

The previous jury failed to reach a verdict over the alleged attempted murder of Baby K and Letby now faces a retrial.

Opening the prosecution, barrister Nick Johnson, KC, told jurors that Letby's "status as a multiple murderer and attempted murderer is an important piece of evidence".

"It was Lucy Letby... who had displaced the tube... Lucy Letby was caught red-handed by Dr Jayaram and this was not the only time Baby K desaturated and displaced her tube on that shift."

The trial continues.

CONSUMER

Water firms face £1.5bn lawsuit over sewage spills

By Kyriakos Petrakos

Six of Britain's biggest water companies are being sued on behalf of customers for £1.5bn over sewage discharges.

The companies have been accused of under-reporting the number of raw sewage discharges they have made into canals and rivers, allowing them to charge customers more than they would had they reported an accurate number.

Executives at the firms have de-

nied the claims and vowed to defend themselves "robustly" in the legal challenge.

Leigh Day Solicitors, the legal firm overseeing the six claims, said that between them the companies may have to pay anywhere between £878m and £1.5bn in damages.

The companies are Thames Water, Severn Trent Water, Northumbrian Water, Unit-

ed Utilities, Anglian Water and Yorkshire Water.

Environment Agency data show that these six firms dumped sewage more than 330,000 times for a total of 2.4 million hours last year, with the largest number of spills recorded along the River Severn.

The case stems from figures collected by Professor Peter Hammond, a mathematician

who records illegal spills using sewage discharge monitoring data and environment information requests.

He said his findings revealed that water companies across the country "were under-reporting their spills of untreated sewage".

Severn Trent disputed the claim brought against it, while Thames Water said it would "defend the claim robustly". The other water suppliers have yet to respond.

Carolyn Roberts (*inset*), an environmental consultant who is bring-

ing the legal challenge, said the intention was to win compensation for unfair charges on customers.

Water firms must report sewage discharges to the regulator Ofwat.

i While water companies are allowed to discharge untreated or partly treated sewage into waterways, they **may only do so during exceptional periods of heavy rain.**

ENVIRONMENT

Labour donor urges Starmer to back i's campaign to save rivers

By Lucie Heath

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

One of Labour's biggest donors urged Sir Keir Starmer to endorse i's manifesto to Save Britain's Rivers as he warned that the party needed a stronger message on fixing the crisis.

The green energy tycoon Dale Vince called on the party to back the "simple, strong" blueprint for rescuing Britain's waterways and stop them from "being polluted for the sake of money".

He urged Labour to clamp down on water firms if it wins next month's general election, saying the health of our rivers, lakes and seas were "one of the most important things".

Amid growing public anger at the health hazards from sewage and other pollution – and the cost to wildlife – i has created a five-point manifesto to reverse the damage to the UK's waterways.

i has challenged all of the political parties to sign up to the blueprint, which has been backed by more than 20 leading environmental groups and campaigners, such as Chris Packham and Deborah Meaden.

It includes policies to improve river health, cut sewage spills, implement a tougher watchdog, create more clean bathing sites and minimise the impact of farming.

Mr Vince, who has donated about £5m to Labour since 2020, urged it to include i's five-point plan to fix the rivers crisis when Sir Keir unveils his election manifesto today.

"I don't see why it shouldn't because it is a simple, strong manifesto that we need," he said. "Post the election, I'm hoping we will see Labour clamp down on the water companies."

"My favourite policy is: don't allow any more dividends until they fix the problem. Make them spend that money on fixing the problem."

When asked which political party had the strongest message on water pollution, Mr Dale said he had not



How you can help

■ If you care about Britain's rivers and want the next Government to act to protect them, you can support i's manifesto by doing the following:

■ Write to the general election candidates in your local constituency, asking them if they will support i's five-point plan and push for it to be incorporated into their parties' manifestos in time for next month's ballot.

■ Write to your local water company, urging it to sign up to the pledges and to be part of the solution to Britain's polluted rivers, not part of the problem.

■ Share i's manifesto on social media and among your local community.

■ Get involved with the groups supporting i's manifesto, which are already doing incredible work to conserve precious waterways across the UK.

■ If you have a story about a local river that you think should be featured in our campaign, please email lucie.heath@i.co.uk



Dale Vince, founder of Ecotricity, says Labour should back i's blueprint for rescuing Britain's waterways TOM PILSTON

"really seen a lot of strength from anybody", joking: "I would say that probably the i party has got the strongest message."

The Liberal Democrats and the Green Party of England and Wales have pledged their support for the blueprint. The Conservative Party has not backed it in full, but included some of the policies in its manifesto, such as reforms to the regulatory process for water companies and increased farmer funding.

The shadow Environment Secretary, Steve Reed, said a Labour government would "put the water companies under special measures to force them to clean up their act".

He added: "We will give the regulator tough new powers to make law-breaking water bosses face criminal charges and ban the payment of their multimillion pound bonuses until they clean up their toxic filth."

Labour has also said it would introduce severe, automatic fines for illegally sewage discharges.

i's manifesto includes a call to give the regulator Ofwat tougher powers.

While Labour's policies align with this, the party has yet to say whether it will set tougher targets on sewage spills, increase numbers of clean river bathing spots and boost funding for farmers to tackle pollution.

It is also yet to set out fully how it will meet a Government legal target for 77 per cent of rivers to be in good ecological health by 2027.

Mr Dale said the state of Britain's rivers was "one of the most important things", adding: "It's not just about the fact that we can't swim and wildlife can't thrive in them. Rivers are an important part of the ecology of our country and they're being polluted just for the sake of money."

Mr Dale, who owns the energy firm Ecotricity, has made large donations to environmental groups, including Just Stop Oil and Extinction Rebellion, and has previously given money to the Green Party.

Despite his belief that Labour needs a tougher message on tackling the sewage crisis, he said that the party, if elected, would "be the greenest government we have ever had".

Save Britain's Rivers – 2024 manifesto



#1 Improve river health



#2 Cut sewage spills



#3 Tougher watchdog



#4 100 clean bathing sites



#5 Responsible farming

For the full manifesto see i.co.uk/rivers

TELEVISION

Starmer refuses to rule out future

By Jane Merrick
POLICY EDITOR

Sir Keir Starmer last night refused to rule out further tax rises beyond his manifesto plans if Labour wins the election, as he and Rishi Sunak were grilled by members of the public.

The Labour leader repeated his party's "triple lock" pledge not to increase income tax, national insurance or VAT over the next five years.

He also said that there were "no tax rises needed in the plans for our manifesto" beyond existing measures for a windfall tax on oil and gas, closing loopholes for tax avoidance and making private schools pay VAT.

But during a Sky News live interview with Beth Rigby, Sir Keir refused to rule out increases to council tax, capital gains tax, fuel duty and other levies at some point during the next parliament if Labour forms the next government.

During the 90-minute election special, both Sir Keir and Mr Sunak faced a series of tough questions from Rigby and a live studio audience over whether the tax burden would rise by 2028, given the already tight public finances.

The Prime Minister said that "taxes for working people will come down" but admitted: "I don't have a forecast for the next five years".

He conceded that the overall tax burden was "high" but that this was the result of "difficult decisions" he had been forced to take as chancellor during the pandemic.

Sir Keir was put on the spot by a working parent over his plans to levy VAT on private schools, replying: "I have nothing against private schools. I recognise many parents work hard and save hard because they have aspirations for their children."



Sir Keir Starmer defended his change of policies after becoming leader

Sir Keir's defence against one audience member's claim that he was a "political robot" was: "I've had this constant theme in my life of trying to serve the public. I took the decision because I couldn't make the changes I thought were necessary unless I went into politics."

He also revealed that his greatest fear was how his two teenage children, a son aged 15 and a 13-year-old daughter, would cope with the transition into Downing Street.

Sir Keir campaigned for former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn to be prime minister in 2019 and then ditched several of his left-wing policies after he had used them as his own to be elected leader in 2020.

Asked to explain his disavowal of his former leader, Sir Keir said: "I honestly didn't think we had a chance of winning [the 2019 general election]. I wanted to campaign for our colleagues."

"I decided to step up to lead the

party, not something I had planned to do... and to change it.

"I did campaign for Labour, of course I did... I wanted good colleagues to be returned. I wanted a party capable of being changed."

Before the debate, Mr Sunak – whose campaign has been hit by gaffes and missteps over the past three weeks – had said that there was still everything to play for.

The day had started with his Defence Secretary, Grant Shapps, appearing to concede defeat by appealing to voters to avert a "super-majority" for Labour.

Asked by Rigby if he could guarantee that taxes would be lower, the Prime Minister said: "Taxes for people will continue to come down."

"I don't have a forecast for the economy in five years' time, but what I can tell you is: stamp duty for first-time buyers – abolished; national insurance for self-employed – abolished."

Asked if Brexit promises had been broken, Mr Sunak said he could "understand people's frustration", mentioning the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, but "this election now is about the future and we've turned a corner. You don't get any change unless you've got a plan."

Mr Sunak repeated his apology for leaving last week's D-Day commemorations in Normandy early, saying: "I hope people can find it in your hearts to forgive me."



A snap poll by YouGov for Sky News revealed that **two-thirds of voters believed that Sir Keir "won" the election special**, on 64 per cent ahead of Mr Sunak on 36 per cent.



Rishi Sunak is questioned about his record by Sky's political editor Beth Rigby, in Grimsby last night
STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA

Analysis

PM lost audience when he quibbled over the figures

Kitty Donaldson

CHIEF POLITICAL COMMENTATOR



Sir Keir Starmer won Sky's battle for No 10 last night, but questions remain from a sceptical public, angry with a political class so out of touch with their needs.

Half-way through this seemingly endless general election campaign, Sky's debate in the key marginal constituency of Great Grimsby and Cleethorpes – where turnout is historically low – was a key test for the two men vying to be Prime Minister.

Up first, Starmer. Sky's political editor, Beth Rigby, put the Labour leader through the ringer, asking him to account for backing Jeremy Corbyn in 2019.

Like a gym resistance band, Starmer stretched himself into two positions: "I was certain we would lose" but "of course

I campaigned for the Labour Party", so good Labour colleagues would return as MPs, he argued. The audience mutters suggested that they didn't really buy it.

Starmer's Achilles' heel, at which the Tories have jabbed throughout the campaign, is what he is planning on tax.

Rigby rattled through a list of possible tax increases that are not covered by what Starmer has said already. Would there be rises in council tax, fuel duty and capital gains tax?

"There is nothing in our manifesto that requires us to raise tax," Starmer told her. "No tax rises for working people."

A riposte from Rigby: "When a politician says 'no plans' they mean 'I might'."

The audience applauded, fed up with politicians as an entire class.

Taking direct questions, Starmer dealt with the crowd with respect. His reasonableness went a long way in presenting hard truths to the junior doctor

You ask the questions Readers enquire about what matters most to them

How can shared owners trapped in unaffordable and unsellable flats due to sky-high service charges and onerous ground rent clauses escape what a recent Commons committee report called the 'unbearable reality' of shared ownership?
Sophie Taylor

A number of readers got in touch on leasehold reform – a huge issue for those affected.

The Leasehold and Freehold Reform Act, which became law in England and Wales on the last day Parliament sat before the election, is intended to stop this being a problem in future because it makes leasehold sales of new homes illegal in most circumstances.

It also expands the rights of existing leaseholders, putting curbs on the behaviour of freeholders.

Labour has promised to go further, abolishing the system of leasehold altogether – raising the prospect of further legislation if the Opposition wins the election. **Hugo Gye**

What are the leaders' policies on the environment and climate change?
John Ramsbottom

Climate change is one of the biggest priorities for voters yet arguably has been under-represented in this election campaign.

Both Sir Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak have said that they will stick to the target to reach net zero by 2050 – but neither man will be in Downing Street in the run-up to that deadline.

The Tory manifesto says that net zero will be achieved using a "pragmatic, proportionate and realistic approach" including spending £6bn to make households more energy efficient – but solar and onshore wind in England face greater planning restrictions.

They have also pledged to decarbonise electricity by 2035.

Labour says it will achieve that by 2030, using its new publicly owned Great British Energy.

2050

Year by which both Labour and Tories have committed that the UK should reach net zero emissions

tax rises in leaders' TV debate



who won't get the 35 per cent pay rise he's demanding, or the aspirational parent who will not get Starmer to change his mind on adding VAT on to private school fees.

In the next moment, though, a young man accused him of being a "political robot".

Starmer took a sharp intake of breath and froze – and then gave one of his better answers, saying he is not "tribally Labour" and wants to allow people to "live and let live."

The young man was not convinced. "You don't seem to answer the question," he told Starmer, which prompted a ripple of applause.

A short advert break before Sunak was up. While the received wisdom is that the incumbent has more to lose from a TV joust, starting from a position where voters have started to feel sorry for you probably isn't great either.

Sunak just had to start the debate gaffe-free, without being filmed kicking a Labrador puppy or writing graffiti on Grimsby's war memorial.

He started off hangdog, begging again for forgiveness for last week's D-Day debacle. "I was incredibly sad to cause people upset and hurt," he said.

"I've got to say it hasn't been an easy 18 months in general, but what I've done, though, is just keep going to try and do my best for people – and that's what I'm doing in this campaign."

Sunak was the most likeable when he was frank. He admitted that the Tories had "not made as much progress as I would have liked" on NHS waiting lists, which was honest but probably not much comfort if you are waiting for a hip replacement.

But he turned the audience against him when he quibbled with the exact figures.

Sunak is also a victim of his political inheritance. Liz Truss, the ever-present ghost at the feast, was brought up to spook him. The Prime Minister kept asking voters to judge him on his 18 months in office and to look to his plans for the future.

Mortgage rates may have gone up, Sunak argued, but his planned stamp duty cut and new Help to Buy scheme would help home-buyers.

"I don't have a forecast for the economy in five years' time," Sunak said, in the closest either leader got to admitting they really don't know what's coming down the track.

"Your problem is broken promises and it's not just over the last couple of years, it's Brexit, it's migration and the NHS was meant to get better," Rigby told him, and the audience clapped.

Asked to show his more likeable side, Sunak said people were genuinely shocked by how many Haribo and Twix he gets through.

To deal with the stress of this election campaign, he must have ransacked a sweet shop.

COMMENT

We have a clear vision for tackling a dangerous world

Grant Shapps



Today I am throwing down the gauntlet to the Labour Party. Show us your plan. Set out your vision for how Britain should face up to a world more dangerous and insecure than we've ever known.

Its leadership is split on the key question of our nuclear deterrent, where we are united. It won't put a time frame on increasing defence spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP, whereas we are committed to doing so by 2030. This lack of clarity means Labour cannot credibly campaign for other Nato countries to increase their defence spending, whereas we can and will.

Either Labour doesn't have a plan for our nation's security, or it doesn't understand the scale of the challenge facing our country. Neither are acceptable.

Around the world, democracy is in retreat while autocracy is on the march. Our adversaries openly challenge the values we cherish. They attack our ships in the Red Sea. They wage war in Europe. We have a clear vision for coping in a

dangerous world, but Keir Starmer seems to be blind to the red lights flashing on the dashboard.

Our nuclear deterrent is a great example. Not only did many of his front bench consistently vote against Trident in the past, but his own deputy leader, Angela Rayner, says she hasn't changed her mind since she last voted against renewing it.

Where Labour can't get its house in order on Trident, we have backed up our strong words with bold action. We will build four new Dreadnought nuclear-armed submarines and, together with private companies, invest almost £800m in our nuclear skills base.

Starmer has been saying what he thinks people want to hear now on nuclear arms, but it wasn't long ago he was campaigning on Jeremy Corbyn's anti-nuclear manifesto. Given his track record with everything else, I just don't trust him not to flip-flop again.

Around the world this Conservative Government has

fostered new partnerships and enhancing relationships with our long-time allies.

We were the first country to send long-range weapons and modern tanks to Ukraine. We have also pledged £3bn of military support this year to Ukraine and will continue with at least that level of support until the end of the decade, or for however long is necessary.

We have degraded the capabilities of the Houthis and upheld freedom of navigation in the Red Sea. We have brought Aukus to life, signed the Hiroshima Accord with Japan, and we want to sign new defensive treaties with Germany and Poland.

For reasons known only to the Labour leadership, it has failed to so far match our defence spending commitment. In a time of danger and insecurity, having no plan is having no credibility. Standing for nothing is not an option.

A secure future has always been important. But now it feels like it is in jeopardy unless we take active steps to secure it ourselves. For that you need vision to understand the task at hand and a clear plan to deal with it. Rishi Sunak has both and Keir Starmer has neither.

Grant Shapps is the UK's Defence Secretary

Around the world, democracy is in retreat while autocracy is on the march

DEFENCE

Tories aim to boost arms exports to increase jobs and security

By Richard Vaughan
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The UK will aim to become the biggest exporter of arms in Europe by 2030 under a Tory government, as the party attempts to boost its credibility on the issue of defence and security.

The Conservatives have pledged to increase defence spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP by 2030, while urging other Nato countries to do the same in the face of aggression from Russia and a threat from China.

In their manifesto, the Tories have put forward an "ambition" to turn the UK into the biggest defence exporter in Europe to boost jobs.

It also vows to sign more defence treaties with countries across Europe, similar to that signed

with France, while it also pledges to ring-fence 5 per cent of the UK defence budget for research and development.

The Conservatives hope to use the issue of defence and security as a clear dividing line with Labour, which it dismisses as having "no plan" when it comes to protecting the UK.



The Foreign Secretary, Lord Cameron (*inset*), said: "Red lights are flashing on the global dashboard."

"The world today is more dangerous, more volatile than many of us have ever known. And what happens abroad matters here at home."

"In a time of danger and insecurity, Rishi Sunak and I are clear that we must adopt a harder edge for a tougher world. We can determine our own destiny if we have the cour-

age to act – and we have demonstrated that courage.

"Labour has shown us no plan or vision for how Britain should face up to a more confrontational, contested world."

In an attempt to pile pressure on Labour, the Defence Secretary, Grant Shapps, accused Sir Keir Starmer of not being "serious about security". Mr Shapps sparked confusion over his party's manifesto pledge to introduce national service for all 18-year-olds, stating that teenagers who complete military service under the scheme will only serve in the Armed Forces for 25 days.

This is despite the manifesto document describing the military option as "a year-long full-time placement in the Armed Forces or cyber defence".

Labour frontbencher Jonathan Ashworth said Mr Shapps had "completely blown up" the Prime Minister's manifesto commitment.

COVER STORY

Labour set to announce cuts to public services in pledge to balance books

Rachel Reeves will be forced into 'really difficult' decisions if she becomes chancellor, party sources say. **Hugo Gye** reports

Labour is braced to announce big spending cuts in most Whitehall departments if it wins power at the next election after repeatedly ruling out tax rises.

There will be no further spending promises in the party manifesto unveiled today and insiders admit they would be forced into "really difficult" decisions about public services in the first Budget that Rachel Reeves would deliver should she become chancellor.

While Labour will not say where cuts could fall, experts believe services such as local government, police and immigration officials are most at risk.

The Conservatives would face the same choice between increasing taxes or finding real-terms spending cuts which could add up to £20bn.

Economists have said that Labour would face "pretty unappealing" choices as a result of the decision to sign up to most of the Government's existing spending plans – and many believe the party would end up increasing taxes on savers and businesses to pay for the funding needed to improve services.

Under plans set out by Jeremy Hunt at the last Budget, public spending will rise by 1 per cent a year in real terms from 2025. But

with a significantly more generous increase promised for the NHS and childcare in England, defence and international development, the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has calculated that all other – so-called "unprotected" – departments would face a cut of 3.5 per cent, a squeeze comparable to the austerity era after 2010.

Ms Reeves has announced some limited tax rises, including charging VAT on private school fees and further tightening the rules on "non-dom" status for wealthy expats living in Britain, which she would use to fund specific projects include breakfast clubs in schools and more medical appointments.

Because nearly all of Labour's promised extra spending relates to protected departments, it would not help shield services such as courts, prisons, local government, job centres, police and immigration officials from real-terms cuts.

Asked this week whether he would revisit the party's spending

plans, Sir Keir Starmer said: "It is always tempting for a government to go for tax and spend – but I'm not going to pull those levers."

Pushed on whether this would mean a return to austerity, he replied: "I care about public services, we are not going back to austerity."

Ms Reeves has also said: "There will be no return to austerity with a Labour government."

But she has also said she will not make "unfunded commitments" and promised not to increase income tax, national insurance or VAT during the next parliament.

A Labour spokesperson said the party would be taking on the "worst economic inheritance since the Second World War", but added: "With Labour, there will be no return to austerity. Labour's manifesto is fully costed and fully funded."

Labour sources said that the party was not able to spell out any specific cuts without carrying out a comprehensive spending review once in office.

Carl Emmerson, deputy director of the IFS, said: "Unless they get lucky on growth, they would either have to do more on tax rises that they haven't told us about, or they would have to deliver cuts to public services that have already been hit by the austerity of the 2010s."

"I don't think it's plausible to deliver those cuts and not see a deterioration of quality in those services."

James Smith, of the Resolution Foundation, said it would cost around £20bn a year to avoid having to cut public spending.

He added: "I think that whoever wins this election probably has a choice... and Labour have ruled out something like three-quarters of all taxes in terms of increases."

Julian Jessop from the free-market Institute of Economic Affairs predicted that Labour would be forced into pushing up taxes to fund higher spending.

It is even more difficult for Labour to rule out tax rises given the pressure for more spending from backers



The shadow Chancellor says that there would be 'no return to austerity' PA

EDUCATION

Think-tanks warn VAT plan not sufficient

By **Connie Dimsdale**

Labour's plan to impose 20 per cent VAT on private schools may not be enough to avoid school budget cuts, leading economists have told **i**.

The party's manifesto, due to be released today, will include its tax raid on independent schools, estimated to raise £1.3bn to 1.5bn for the state sector in England.

Labour's leader, Sir Keir Starmer, said that the manifesto will set out a "serious, practical plan for the country".

But policy researchers have warned that funds raised are unlikely to be enough to prevent cuts to the overall schools budget in real terms.

Maxwell Marlow, director of research at the right-leaning free mar-

ket Adam Smith Institute, said that there was "no money left" and questioned where Labour would find additional funds to "maintain current standards or per pupil funding and index it to inflation".

Luke Sibiet, a leading economist at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, said that if Labour wanted to "implement a more generous settlement, they'd have to find cuts elsewhere".



LABOUR

Manifesto aims to 'get people back to work' and create wealth

By **Chloe Chaplain**

SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Labour will try to appeal to pensioners and young families with an election promise to boost wealth and escape the "high tax, low growth doom loop".

Today, Sir Keir Starmer will "speak directly" to these two groups of voters as he unveils Labour's election manifesto in Manchester.

The Labour leader is expected to promise "change" for voters if he becomes prime minister, with a plan "rooted in the realities of people's lives", a shadow minister has told **i**.

And he will push back against con-

cerns over real-terms spending cuts, saying growth mirroring that seen under the last Labour government could add £70bn to public services.

Writing for **i** ahead of the launch, the shadow Paymaster General, Jonathan Ashworth, said Sir Keir would set out a "bold vision for growth and wealth creation" promising "stability, investment and reform".

Mr Ashworth said there are "everyday working families struggling to get by" and accused Rishi Sunak of being out of touch with the reality.

He accused the Conservative Party of offering up unfunded policies in the form of a "wish list", and said Labour would "break out of



Keir Starmer and shadow Transport Secretary Louise Haigh visit Grimsby Institute, a technical training college, yesterday
STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA

the high tax, low growth doom loop the Tories have us stuck in, with detailed, costed plans to change the country”.

Labour has not set out any plans to cut taxes. But Sir Keir, and the shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, have said they would not raise income tax, national insurance or VAT. Sir Keir has not ruled out raising other taxes, such as capital gains or inheritance tax, if elected – but said there will not be “fiscal surprises” in the manifesto.

Mr Ashworth said Labour would create jobs, invest in clean energy, and reform welfare and public services to “get people back to work”.

The party will maintain the state pension triple lock, ensuring it increases each year in line with the cost of living or wage growth, and introduce free breakfast clubs in primary schools, he said.

Sir Keir has promised to cut NHS waiting times, launch a Border Security Command to tackle small boats, crack down on antisocial behaviour and recruit more teachers.

He has, however, come under pressure over the prospect of real

terms spending cuts for public services due to a promise to stick to the fiscal rules which prevents further borrowing for day-to-day spending.

Doubling down on his plans, Sir Keir will say: “If we could grow the economy at anything like the level the last Labour government did, that’s an extra £70bn worth of investment for our public services.”

He will describe Labour as “the party of wealth creation” and “pro-business and pro-worker”, adding: “Wealth creation is our number one priority. Growth is our core business – the end and the means of national renewal. The mandate we seek from Britain at this election is for economic growth.”

Sir Keir will pledge to “reform the immigration and skills system to ensure Britain is developing home-grown skills with workforce plans to meet the needs of industries and the economy”. He revealed the manifesto will contain a promise to bring down net migration but without a target.

And it is expected to pledge to recognise a Palestinian state before the end of peace negotiations.

£70bn

The amount Keir Starmer says will be created if the economy grows like it did under his predecessors

PARLIAMENT

Starmer plans to force peers to retire at 80

By Eleanor Langford
POLITICAL REPORTER

Hundreds of peers could be forced to retire under Labour plans to introduce an age cap to bring down the size of the House of Lords.

Currently, there are 784 sitting members of the Lords, making it the largest upper house of any parliament worldwide.

Reforms brought in under Tony Blair slashed the size of the House from more than 1,300 to 690 by removing the vast majority of hereditary peers.

But numbers have risen to just below 800 as prime ministers have appointed life peers.

To counteract this, Labour will spell out proposals in its manifesto to bring in a new cap for peers which would require them to retire at 80, should it win the general election on 4 July.

It is expected that the cut-off would apply from when the next general election is called. The party is also said to be proposing banning by-elections for hereditary peers.

Under current rules, when one of the 92 hereditary peers dies or retires, a replacement can be elected to fill their seat from a pool of 800 dukes, earls, viscounts and barons.

Labour had initially planned to go further, with former prime minister Gordon Brown (*inset*) leading a review in 2022 that recommended replacing the Lords with an elected

assembly. However, the party has since backtracked on its pledge to pursue these changes in its first parliamentary term.

This watered-down alternative, however, could have a major effect on both the composition and size of the upper house. Analysis by *i* suggests that if the next election is held in 2029, at least 346 peers could be required to step down.

Labour would be disproportionately affected under these proposals, losing just under 100 peers. The Conservatives would lose fewer than 90.

But while reducing the size of the Lords is politically popular, the plans have raised concerns that Labour could use it as an opportunity to appoint more peers to rebalance the upper house.

Currently, Labour has 172 peers, significantly less than the Tories on 275, which could create a headache for Sir Keir Starmer in government if he tried to pass difficult legislation.

The Electoral Reform Society’s chief executive, Darren Hughes, said the fact that Labour might need to appoint new peers to pass laws “underscores the absurdity” of the system.

“However, we do have concerns about an arbitrary age cap at 80 for peers, as some are still making valuable contributions over that age.”

“Also, for peers starting their career in their late twenties and early thirties, that is still a guaranteed 50 years of unelected legislating.”



News in brief

CULTURE

Creator of Jonathan Pie will ‘miss’ Tories

The creator of the satirical journalist Jonathan Pie has said that he and other comedians will “miss” the Conservative Party if it loses the general election.

Tom Walker, who rose to fame on social media ranting about politics as the fictitious news reporter Pie, said that the lead-up to the election was a “last chance” for comedians to poke fun at Tory politicians before what he believes will be a Labour victory.

He said: “[The Conservatives] have been throwing us pearls for six, seven, eight years now. Satirically and comedically, I think we’re going to miss them a bit.”

TRANSPORT



Labour ‘could tear up Avanti contract’

Labour has said it would urgently consider stripping Avanti West Coast of its train operating contract if it wins the election.

The shadow Transport Secretary, Louise Haigh, accused the company of providing “woeful service” on the West Coast Main Line.

Figures from the Office of Rail and Road show that Avanti West Coast had the third-worst reliability of all operators in Britain in the year to the end of March, with one in 15 trains cancelled.

The Government has awarded Avanti West Coast a new long-term contract, starting in October.

Comment

Our plans are rooted in reality – and will change the country

Jonathan Ashworth

SHADOW PAYMASTER GENERAL



After 14 years of chaos and decline under the Conservatives, it’s time for change. Today, Sir Keir Starmer will outline what that change looks like.

Sir Keir changed the Labour Party with strong leadership; today, he will speak directly to Britain’s families and pensioners and explain how he will change the country. The Labour manifesto will be rooted in the realities of people’s lives.

Rishi Sunak simply doesn’t get it. At the Conservatives’ manifesto launch, he said with a straight face that the economy “is getting healthier every week”. But, less than 24 hours later, the wheels have fallen off.

Sir Keir will set out a bold

vision for growth and wealth creation for families. We will turn the tide and deliver stability, investment and reform.

We will break out of the high-tax, low-growth doom loop the Tories have us stuck in, with detailed, costed plans to change the country.

Our industrial plan will create good, well-paid jobs for people while our investment in clean, renewable energy sources will cut energy bills for good.

We will get people back to work with a programme of welfare, skills and public service reform.

We will guarantee increases in the state pension through the triple lock. And families with young children who have been abandoned for so long will benefit from free breakfast clubs.

Sir Keir has changed the Labour Party – now he is ready to change the country. Today’s manifesto is our plan for change.

CRIME

Suspect held in PPE investigation

A 46-year-old man has been arrested as part of an investigation into the procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE) contracts during the pandemic.

The suspect, from Barnet, north London, was held at his home yesterday morning, the National Crime Agency said.

It is carrying out an investigation into the procurement of PPE contracts by PPE Medpro.

Baroness Mone, 52, and her husband, Doug Barrowman, 59, have faced controversy over the so-called “VIP lane” contracts granted during the pandemic.

Both Lady Mone and Mr Barrowman deny any wrongdoing.

CONSERVATIVES

Sunak rejects suggestion he has given up hope of winning election

By Richard Vaughan

CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Rishi Sunak has rejected suggestions that he has given up hope of winning the general election, despite a major shift in his party's messaging urging voters against giving Labour a massive majority.

The Prime Minister insisted yesterday that he had "absolutely not" thrown in the towel amid warnings from cabinet ministers about the risk of Labour gaining "unchecked" power.

His comments come after a distinct change in tone from the Tories, which has moved from calling on the electorate to vote the party back in to see through its plan to urging voters to try to reduce Labour's margin of victory.

The failure to make any dent in Labour's lead has left many Tories in despair, with one telling *i*: "I am bitterly disappointed the polls haven't narrowed."

"There is no point in me saying it's all going to be really bad, because that doesn't help. But the vast majority of my colleagues are working so hard to get the Conservative message across."

The Defence Secretary, Grant Shapps, said yesterday that the Tories were now in a battle to prevent a 1997-style landslide defeat, insisting it would be "very bad news"



The Prime Minister on the Tory campaign bus yesterday OLI SCARFF/AP

for the country if Sir Keir Starmer were to enter No 10 with his power "unchecked" by Parliament.

The new strategy has been backed by a social media advertising campaign aimed at persuading would-be Reform UK voters not to risk handing Labour a majority that could eclipse even Tony Blair's victory.

The online advert highlights a sce-

nario suggesting the Tories could be reduced to just 57 seats in Parliament, behind the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Shapps told Times Radio that to ensure proper accountability "you don't want to have somebody receive a supermajority".

Asked by journalists if the change in campaign tone showed the Tories had conceded defeat, the Prime

Farage snap Tory leaflet

The Conservative candidate Andrea Jenkyns has been canvassing with leaflets showing her alongside the Reform UK leader Nigel Farage rather than Mr Sunak, and her team has said the Tories must regroup after an expected defeat.

"Conservative MPs will need to work with a wider conservative movement to achieve their goals and Andrea is one of the best-placed conservatives... to help facilitate this," her team said.



Minister said: "No absolutely not. What you saw yesterday is we've put a manifesto forward which has got a very clear set of tax cuts for the country, tax cuts at every stage of your life."

"And I'm really energised to now have a chance to put a very clear plan to the country and talk about all the things I want to do."

RWANDA

50 migrants lined up for deportation are freed on bail

By Flora Thompson

Dozens of migrants who were detained to be sent to Rwanda have been freed on bail, lawyers claim.

Duncan Lewis Solicitors said it represents 50 people being held ahead of deportation flights the Government wants to see take off in July and that they had all been granted bail in the wake of court hearings.

It comes after campaigners called last month for asylum seekers due to be sent to the east African country to be freed immediately from detention after the Prime Minister said flights would not take off before the general election.

The firm said: "We represent 50 of those detainees and can confirm that they all now have bail. Many clients are survivors of torture and trafficking. The tribunal, in granting bail, rightly assessed them to not carry a risk of absconding, reaching the rational view that removal was not imminent."

The Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said the "preparation work" was already in motion and that the plan would deter Channel crossings once in action but conceded that deportations would only take place "after the election", adding: "If I'm elected, we will get the flights off."

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats have vowed to scrap the Rwanda plan if elected.

The Home Office has been contacted for comment.

POLITICS

Mordaunt faces an uphill battle in Portsmouth

Candidate will hope loyalty will help her to retain seat. By Rachel Wearmouth

Portsmouth is the home of the Navy and, it is often predicted, the next leader of the Conservative Party. That is, if Penny Mordaunt, the candidate for Portsmouth North, can survive the red wave polls suggest will wash away the Tories on 4 July.

The Commons Leader has failed twice to take the Tory crown in leadership contests. And now some believe Rishi Sunak's decision to leave D-Day commemorations in Normandy early could sink her re-election hopes.

"I will probably vote for the Conservative Party, but I'm not impressed," says Stephen Greenwood, a retired industrial roofer, out shopping in Cosham high street. "Penny is a good MP for us but what Rishi Sunak did this week will hurt her."

Mordaunt's team will hope that remaining high profile – taking part in two TV debates opposite foes such as Angela Rayner and Nigel Farage – will help her fight off a challenge from Amanda Martin, the single mother of three standing for Labour.

Martin, a former teacher who first stood in 2019, is a well-known community activist, sitting on the board of the Pompey Supporters Trust, which represents fans of the city's football club.

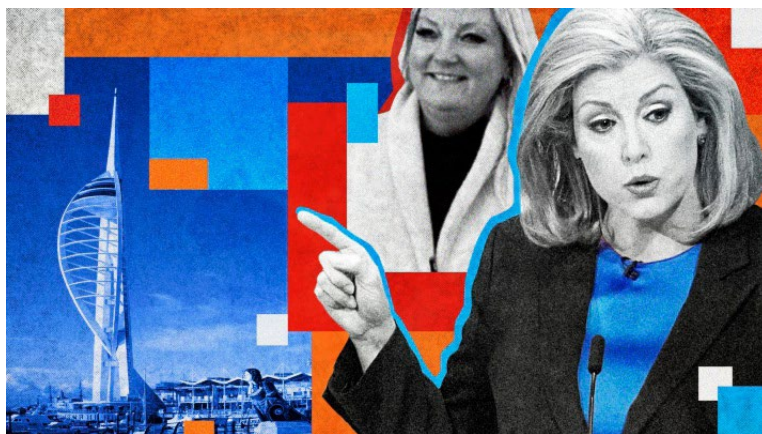
Central to her campaign is Sir Keir Starmer's pledge to raise defence spending. She also promises no "second job", regular coffee mornings and pub chats, and an office on the high street (Mordaunt's is in a business park you access by car).

It feeds on the perception that Mordaunt, who has served as a minister since 2018, has become remote to locals, many of whom are grappling with the cost of living.

"I'm under no illusions about the scale of the challenge," says Martin, who points out she had barely seen her opponent on the campaign trail. "Penny has been an MP for a long time and she has a large majority."

Martin says Starmer's cautious set of policies inspire trust in a community increasingly sceptical about politics.

Mordaunt, an ex-communications professional, clinched victory in her seat at the second time of asking in



Amanda Martin and Penny Mordaunt are vying for Portsmouth North

2010, having come within 1,139 votes of ousting Labour in 2005. Since then, she has more than doubled her majority to 15,780.

In normal circumstances that would be a safe seat. But after Brexit, Covid and the disaster of Liz Truss's premiership, the Tories' popularity has nosedived – and Sunak's recent policy blitz, which includes mandatory

The Conservatives have done enough damage to themselves; I don't think they are credible any more

national service for 18-year-olds, is provoking some of the people it is designed to keep inside. Even before the D-Day row, a YouGov first MRP projection of the campaign suggested that Mordaunt was likely to lose her seat.

Janice Welsh, 68, a retired cleaner with relatives in the Navy, has voted Tory all her life but has lost patience. "I won't vote Conservative if that idiot [Sunak] is going to bring in national service," she says. "If young people want to join the forces, they can do what they want regardless of what the government says."

For Nick Gibson, a magistrate and retired consultant, 65, his chief concern is the level of immigration. He believes the media has blown the D-Day misstep "out of proportion" but is minded to vote for Reform now Mr Farage has returned to frontline politics.

"For me, it's whether Reform can get enough votes to be a strong opposition," he says. "The Conservatives have done enough damage to themselves; I don't think they are credible any more."

Mordaunt, an ex-Navy reservist, has a strong personal vote among some in Portsmouth North.

Beverly Mos, who owns Strawberry Lemonade Boutique clothing store, says: "I quite like her and will be voting Conservative. She cares about small businesses like mine and has been here before."

But Mordaunt faces an uphill struggle. "A lot of people are ready for change," says Karen Vine, a retired carer, who says she plans to vote Labour.

"You can't get a GP appointment and carers don't make enough to live on so we are hiring foreign workers. For a lot of people, the real issue is the cost of living."

i tried to contact Mordaunt numerous times, but she was unavailable for interview.

CONSERVATIVES

PM's close aide faces probe over election bet

By Euan O'Byrne Mulligan

One of Rishi Sunak's closest parliamentary aides is facing a Gambling Commission investigation after he "put a flutter" on when the general election would take place.

Craig Williams, who served as the Prime Minister's parliamentary private secretary and is the Conservative candidate for Montgomeryshire and Glyndwr, admitted to placing a bet on when the poll would take place "some weeks ago".

The Conservative former MP, who represented Montgomery until the election was called, wrote on social media: "I've been contacted by

a journalist about Gambling Commission inquiries into one of my accounts and thought it best to be totally transparent.

"I put a flutter on the general election some weeks ago. This has resulted in some routine inquiries and I confirm I will fully co-operate with these. I don't want it to be a distraction from the campaign. I should have thought through how it looks."

The Guardian reported that Mr Williams placed a £100 bet on a July election – at a Ladbrokes in his constituency – just days before Mr Sunak named the date as 4 July.

As a parliamentary aide, Mr Williams acted as a go-between for the



Craig Williams was Rishi Sunak's parliamentary private secretary

Prime Minister and his MPs, and is understood to be a trusted member of Mr Sunak's team.

It would, it is believed, have led to

a payout of £500 based on 5/1 odds. The bet is believed to have been placed on 19 May, three days before Mr Sunak publicly called the election in a rain-soaked appearance outside No 10.

A Conservative Party spokesperson said: "We are aware of contact between a Conservative candidate and the Gambling Commission. It is a personal matter for the individual."

"As the Gambling Commission is an independent body, it wouldn't be proper to comment further, until any process is concluded."

A Gambling Commission spokesman said: "The Gambling Commission does not typically confirm or

deny whether any investigations are under way unless or until they are concluded, or if arrests are made or charges are brought during a criminal investigation.

"If someone uses confidential information in order to gain an unfair advantage when betting, this may constitute an offence of cheating under Section 42 of the Gambling Act, which is a criminal offence."

Labour's Jonathan Ashworth, the shadow Paymaster General, said: "After all the Tory financial scandals, this is more evidence that the Tories have learned nothing, haven't changed and, if given five more years, the chaos will just continue."

Analysis

Greatest risk for all politicians is the loss of voters' trust

Sir John Curtice



As the politicians argue with each other in search of our votes, the latest British Social Attitudes (BSA) report from the National Centre for Social Research has delivered a stark message to all of them: There is a greater risk than ever before that voters will not believe any of you.

According to the latest BSA survey, which has been charting the public mood for more than 40 years, trust and confidence in government and politicians is now as low as it has ever been.

As many as 45 per cent now say they "almost never" trust governments of any party to put the nation's needs above the interests of their own political party, 11 points above the 34 per cent who said the same before the last election – and a record high since the question was first asked in 1986. Even more, 58 per cent, say they "almost never" trust politicians of any party to tell the truth when they are "in a tight corner", a figure topped only by the 60 per cent who expressed that view in the wake of the MPs expenses scandal in 2009.

Meanwhile, 79 per cent believe Britain's system of government needs "quite a lot" or "a great deal" of improvement – equal to the record set during the Brexit stalemate in 2019. It is reflected in another headline figure from this year's survey: 53 per cent support the introduction of proportional

representation. Britain has, of course, been through a tough time in the past five years. Dissatisfaction with the health service is at a record high.

And doubtless the views of some are influenced by the political turmoil of the past couple of years – including, not least, the reasons behind the downfall of Boris Johnson.

However, this lack of trust is also a story about Brexit and, in particular, disappointment with the fallout among many of those who voted for it in 2016.

Between 2019 and 2020 the proportion who said they trusted governments to put the nation's needs first "just about always" or "most of the time" rose

dramatically from 12 per cent to 31 per cent. Twenty-four per cent now feel the system of government needs little or no improvement. Trust and confidence among Leavers voters is little different from that among Remain supporters.

It has long been apparent that whoever forms the next government will face a formidable challenge in improving the country's economic health and public services. However, it will have to do so at a time when the credibility of politicians is doubted like never before – a mood that will not make the job any easier.

John Curtice is professor of politics, University of Strathclyde, and senior fellow, National Centre for Social Research and 'The UK in a Changing Europe'. He is co-host of the *Trendy* podcast

Victoria Derbyshire, page 19



Nigel Farage arrives at a fundraiser for Donald Trump in London yesterday
JAMES MANNING/PA

BROADCASTING

Leaving Farage out of debate 'fails voters'

By David Parsley

CHIEF NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The BBC would be "failing the people" if it does not include Nigel Farage in its leadership debate with Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer this month, Reform's Lee Anderson has claimed.

The Tory defector said the polls were showing that the party could overtake the Conservatives in popular support within days and that the corporation would not be serving its

viewers if Reform's leader were to be left out of the debate on 26 June.

"If we're polling just 1 per cent behind the Conservative Party nationally the BBC should put Nigel on that stage with them," said Mr Anderson, who is contesting his Ashfield seat for Reform UK at the election.

The debate is scheduled to be another head-to-head between Mr Sunak and Sir Keir only.

Mr Anderson said: "People are more interested in what Nigel has got to say than in anything Starmer

or Sunak do because they just don't believe that pair.

"If Nigel is not in the debate then the BBC will be failing the people."

On Tuesday, the latest poll from YouGov showed Reform just 1 point behind the Tories on 17 per cent of the popular vote.

A spokeswoman for the corporation said: "We have no plans at all to change our debate schedule, which we believe complies with our own editorial guidelines and guidance."

GREEN PARTY

Labour 'treats environment policy as a bolt-on extra to be abandoned'

By Chloe Chaplain

SENIOR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The Green Party of England and Wales accused Labour yesterday of treating its environmental policy platform as a "bolt-on extra" which the party would scrap under pressure if it won power.

In a direct pitch to disgruntled left-wing voters, the Greens' co-leader, Carla Denyer, claimed that Sir Keir Starmer's party was "not taking the climate crisis seriously".

She said Labour's watering-down of its £28bn "Green Prosperity Plan" showed that it treated environment policies as extras to be dropped "when the going gets tough". And she said Labour's plan to launch Great British Energy would "not touch the sides" of the green transition needed.

Ms Denyer and co-leader Adrian Ramsay vowed to ramp up pressure on any future Labour government to implement more radical policies.

Speaking to **i** after the launch of the party manifesto at Sussex County Cricket Club in Hove, Ms Denyer said there was a "good idea" behind Great British Energy and it was



A girl attends the Green Party's manifesto launch in Hove yesterday GETTY

"something personally that I would support". But she added: "It doesn't touch the sides of what is needed for decarbonising our energy system or in our society as a whole."

She said transport and home heating were the hardest sectors to de-

carbonise and that is why the party was focusing on "a nationwide home installation programme" and "helping people to transition to fossil fuel-free heating as quickly as possible".

She argued that this "shows voters that Labour are not taking the

{i} Mr Ramsay said the Greens were fielding 572 candidates in England and Wales – suggesting that the four who had been forced to step back were a very small proportion of the total.

crisis seriously – they are treating it as a bolt-on extra that they abandon when the going gets tough."

Asked if she would support Labour's plans to build new towns, she said a focus on energy efficiency must be part of the plan.

"Our focus on that will be on creating affordable social homes – council housing association – and that will be through a mixture of new builds and supporting councils to buy the supply of private markets."

Ms Denyer claimed it was misleading to suggest that the Greens had blocked developments in areas where they were in local government.

The co-leaders were pressed on whether the party had a problem with antisemitism after four candidates were dropped due to accusations about social media activity.

The Greens' key proposals

Housing

Housebuilders would have to include solar panels and heat pumps on all new homes where appropriate, and £33bn would be invested in insulating homes and other buildings in the first five years of a Green Party government. It also promised to provide 150,000 social homes every year and a "fair deal for renters" by giving powers to local authorities to introduce rent-control measures.

Energy

The party said that, if elected, it would "accelerate clean energy investment and delivery" by cancelling recent oil and gas licences such as those for the Rosebank oil and gas field, removing all oil and gas subsidies and stopping all new fossil fuel extraction projects.

The party's co-leader, Carla Denyer (inset), said it wanted to see "the phase-out of all nuclear energy" and would push for wind power to provide 70 per cent of UK energy by 2030.

Transport

The Greens plan to cut carbon emissions by increasing subsidies for rail and bus travel to £10bn and investing an extra £19bn in transport.



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ECONOMY

Wet April dampens consumer spending and thwarts growth

By Alex Daniel

Britain's economy did not grow at all in April because the wet weather dampened consumer spending, according to figures released yesterday by the Office for National Statistics.

In a setback for Rishi Sunak and his Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, gross domestic product (GDP) stayed flat during the month, after a 0.4 per cent rise in March. The figure was in line with economists' expectations.

The figures present a headache for the Prime Minister, who has pegged much of his general election campaign on a recent record of an economic bounceback under his Conservative Government.

The sluggish momentum follows an estimated 0.6 per cent GDP growth in the first quarter of 2024,

pulling the UK out of a small recession at the end of last year.

It also comes just over a week before the Bank of England makes its next decision on interest rates.

Experts have predicted that the Monetary Policy Committee is unlikely to lower interest rates without further progress on inflation and a cooling in the labour market.

Rob Wood, the chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said: "These growth data further complicate the MPC's interest rate decisions. Rate-setters will keep rates on hold in June, but now a cut in August looks a little less likely."

On a quarterly basis, GDP is estimated to have grown by 0.7 per cent in the three months to April, compared with a fall in the three months to January 2024.

Luke Bartholomew, the deputy chief economist at the asset management firm Abrdn, said monthly GDP data could be volatile and urged people to "look at the broader trend across several months".

He added: "And on that measure, a picture of solid recovery from last year's recession emerges."

"This should continue as the year progresses as households benefit from strong real income growth amid falling inflation."

The Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokeswoman, Sarah Olney, said the lack of growth in April showed that the Tories had "utterly failed" to deliver on their promises.

However, Mr Hunt said: "There is more to do, but the economy is turning a corner and inflation is back down to normal."

HOUSING

Tories warned over landlord tax plan 'loopholes'

By Callum Mason and Vicky Spratt

The Conservative Party's plan to allow landlords to sell their properties to tenants without paying capital gains tax (CGT) could be exploited by those not selling to genuine renters, experts have warned.

Its manifesto includes relief from CGT for two years for landlords who sell to their existing tenants.

But tax experts warned that unless the legislation was drafted carefully, "loopholes" in the policy could be "exploited" and also used to "preserve generational wealth".

Rowan Morrow-McDade, a senior tax manager at the chartered accountant Alexander & Co, said: "Without proper drafting of the legislation, landlords could exploit this relief to avoid paying CGT when selling their properties, even when not selling to genuine tenants."

"Sales of properties with large capital gains could be structured as a short tenancy to the purchaser followed by a sale. The buyer and seller could agree a lower price, sharing the saving from the CGT exemption."

Mr Morrow-McDade warned it was possible that landlords "would choose tenants based on their ability to buy the property, rather than their ability to pay rent, leaving less well-off individuals unable to rent".

Justin Bates KC, a property barrister at Landmark Chambers, said that "the devil would be in the detail" of the policy because there were obvious ways that it could be exploited.

"It will be very difficult for His Majesty's Revenue and Customs to spot frauds," he said. "Staff at HMRC don't see tenancy agreements, so they won't necessarily know if something dodgy has occurred."

How it works

Capital gains tax

Exactly how much capital gains tax is paid on a property depends on multiple factors.

Landlords who are basic rate taxpayers – those with an annual income of between £12,571 and £50,270 – have to pay 18 per cent CGT on profit made from residential property they sell or dispose of, but those with higher income pay more.

This higher rate was previously 28 per cent but was reduced to 24 per cent this April.

Sales can attract tax bills for thousands or even tens of thousands of pounds.

Mr Bates (*inset*) said he was also concerned about how easy it would be to use this exemption to "preserve inter-generation wealth".

"Can I grant a tenancy to my son and sell the home to him?" he asked. "Could my parents gift me a property, I grant them a tenancy and then buy it from them, avoiding capital gains tax?"

He said that unless the Government "massively funded" an HMRC strategy to stop this exemption from becoming a "loophole", it would "be taken advantage of" given the amounts of money involved.

Dan Wilson Crow, a spokesman for the campaign group Generation Rent, said: "To really have an impact, a portion of this tax break would need to go towards a discount on the price for the tenant, otherwise few will be able to afford to buy out their landlord."

The Tory manifesto has also pledged not to increase CGT.



Doing the Lambeth walk... again

Queen Camilla is welcomed by TV expert Alan Titchmarsh to the Garden Museum in Lambeth, south London, yesterday.

She joked that she wanted to "nudge" the King from his position as patron of the

attraction as she made her third visit in just over a year, calling it "such a special place". She was shown a new exhibition about gardens linked to women in the Bloomsbury group of artists. THE SUN/PA

PROPERTY

Confidence in housing market plunges

By Vicky Shaw

Confidence in the UK's housing market is starting to dip, despite an improving outlook in recent months, according to surveyors.

A net balance of 8 per cent of property professionals said that demand from home-buyers fell in May rather than rising. It was the weakest reading since November 2023, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Rics) found.

Buyer demand was weakest in the south-east and south-west of England, the report said.

Amid softening demand, the latest data suggest that house prices fell slightly in May, the Rics said, with a balance of 17 per cent of profession-

als seeing prices fall. Scotland and Northern Ireland bucked the trend, with house prices continuing to rise.

Survey participants also reported a fall in the number of sales agreed during May, although sales volumes are expected to rise modestly over the next three months, the Rics report said.

The outlook 12 months ahead remains relatively upbeat, with 43 per cent of survey participants anticipating an uplift in sales activity, rising from 33 per cent in April.

Tarrant Parsons, a senior economist at the Rics, said: "The recent

recovery in the UK housing market appears to have slipped into reverse of late, with buyer demand losing momentum slightly on the back of the upward moves seen in mortgage rates over the past couple of months.

"Expectations point to this delaying, rather than derailing, a modest improvement going forward."

"Respondents continue to envisage a more positive trend in sales activity coming through over the year ahead, although this is likely predicated on the Bank of England being able to start lowering interest rates in the coming months."

8%

Proportion of estate agents who reported that demand for home-buying fell in May

WALES

Plaid leader calls for 'billions owed in rail funding'

By George Thompson

Plaid Cymru will pledge to secure fairer funding for Wales and get hold of the billions that it says the country is owed in railway funding.

Windfall taxes, fighting for money "owed to Wales" in rail funding and devolving the Crown Estate should be used to create green jobs and build prosperity, the party said.

Ahead of its manifesto launch in Cardiff today, the leader of Plaid Cymru, Rhun ap Iorwerth,

said that his party would "fight every day" for the billions owed to the country from the High Speed II rail project, and for a fair funding model which "funds our country according to need, not population".

It will also call for extra investment in the National Health Service to enable more GPs to be recruited and for a new cancer strategy to be drawn up to end "Wales's postcode lottery for treatment".

Mr ap Iorwerth said: "This election is about one thing – the economy."

"What sets Plaid Cymru apart is a record of not taking Wales for granted and always putting the interests of our communities and nation first. We offer a real alternative for Wales."

News in brief

UNITED STATES

Hot dog eating champion banned

The reigning champion of a hot dog eating competition has been banned for endorsing a vegan brand.

Joey “Jaws” Chestnut (below) will not be allowed to compete at Nathan’s Hot Dog Eating Contest in Coney Island, New York, next month after agreeing a sponsorship deal with plant-based Impossible Foods.

George Shea, the chairman of the governing body Major League Eating, said that competitors could “not represent a rival hot dog brand”.



ARTS

Colman attacks shocking funding



The Crown stars Olivia Colman and Imelda Staunton are calling for more funding of the arts in the UK after “shocking” levels of neglect were found across the country.

Oscar-winner Colman (inset) was reacting to a report commissioned by the actors’ union Equity which said financing fell by 16 per cent in real terms between 2017 and 2022.

She said: “We are living in a golden age of drama. But too many places in the UK have been left without arts funding, depriving audiences and performers alike.”

PEOPLE

People invade my space, says Comer



Jodie Comer is concerned about the “lengths people will go to to invade” her personal space. The fame of the Liverpool-born actress (inset) has risen since she starred in the BBC’s *Killing Eve* as a Russian assassin known as Villanelle.

The 31-year-old told *Elle UK*: “Going to things for the sake of it and losing my anonymity – I really don’t enjoy that. In fact, it makes me incredibly anxious.”

“I don’t think you can underestimate the lengths people will go to to invade that space.”

MEDIA

Pressure from Saudi investor led to ‘Standard’ daily closure

Insiders say Lebedev prevaricated on title’s future. By **Adam Sherwin**

Evgeny Lebedev agreed to axe the *Evening Standard*’s daily print edition after bowing to pressure from his Saudi investor, **i** understands.

The Russian-British businessman prevaricated over the brand’s future for years, insiders claim.

Each time Lord Lebedev came close to pulling the plug, he retreated, fearing that the London newspaper – which punched above its weight and awarded the media mogul a central role in London’s cultural and political scene – could lose status and influence.

However, he has listened to calls for change from the Saudi investor he brought in six years ago.

The story behind the closure of the daily *Evening Standard* – told here by Lord Lebedev’s current and former employees – paints a portrait of a media owner with a reputation for prevaricating on big decisions, who was loyal to the print format and his staff, and reluctant to relinquish the clout of a mass-circulation paper.

Lord Lebedev’s Saudi co-investor has become a decisive influence in the future of the brand. Sultan Mohamed Abuljadayel, who hails from a family with major international property investments, bought a 30 per cent stake in the *Standard*’s parent company for £25m in 2018.

Yet with losses amounting to £84.5m over the past six years, Lord Lebedev finally agreed to a cost-cutting plan to shut down daily publication of the paper, which is just three years shy of its 200th anniversary. He intends to replace it with a single weekly edition, backed up by a digital platform.

“It wasn’t clear what Evgeny wanted for some time; there was indecision,” one insider said. “The Saudis were influential in pushing for a change. Evgeny came to the conclusion that closing the daily had to happen.”

Radical ideas have been

discussed for several years, including closure of the title, which was picked up by commuters in London and the surrounding areas and, owing to its late edition, was responsible for breaking news. Lord Lebedev was presented with options that he found unpalatable, but ultimately unavoidable.

Just last year, **i** understands, the peer agreed to provide loans to keep the *Standard* afloat for a further 12 months.

For Lebedev, “shutting the daily paper could mean a loss of influence and prestige,” one ally said. “So he was reluctant to make that move. When he did appear to make decisions, there was often a change of mind. But the Saudis wanted to see the portfolio change.”

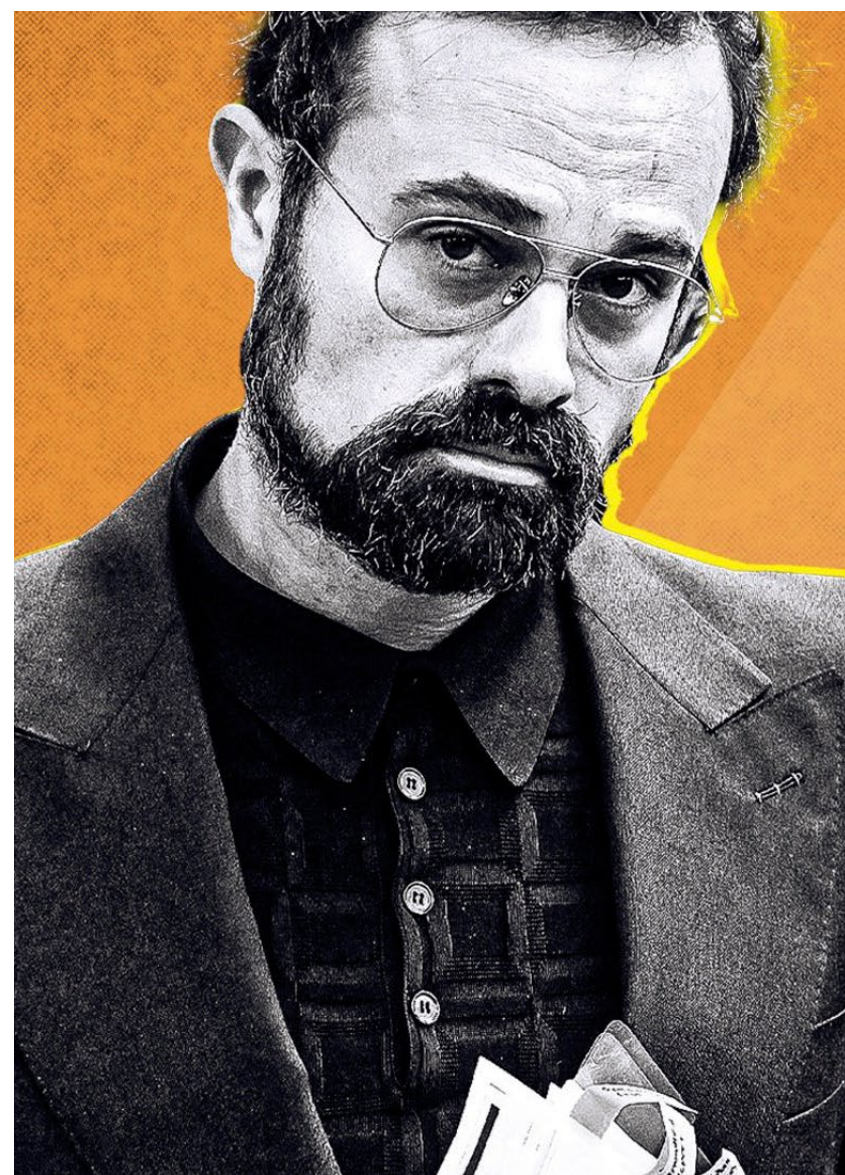
Another source said: “Evgeny wanted to keep the print side going. He was also hoping for more investment from the Saudis.”

Other associates dispute the characterisation that he dithered, insisting he was right to take his time in coming to such a major decision.

In 2017, Lebedev sold a 30 per cent stake in the digital-only *Independent*, which he also owns, to the same Saudi businessman.

£84.5m

This is the amount of losses incurred by the *Evening Standard* over the past six years



An Ofcom probe concluded that none of the funds used to buy shares in the *Standard* and *Independent* came from Saudi royals. There are no plans to increase the Saudi equity stake in the titles, insiders believe, although further investment from a number of other sources could follow.

A consultation process for the *Standard* has begun. A substantial proportion of the 120 editorial staff are expected to lose their roles when the weekly edition – dubbed the “one-night *Standard*” – hits streets.

Since the pandemic, Lord Lebedev has grappled with the challenge of reversing what appeared to be a terminal decline in the fortunes of a paper that delivered agonising eyewitness accounts of the Grenfell fire, and which has won awards for its

investigations into child poverty. As the paper’s financial outlook worsened, consultants presented Lord Lebedev with numerous proposals to reimagine the title.

In 2016, he took the bold decision to turn the *Standard*’s stablemate, *The Independent*, into a digital-only brand. It has a global reach and turns a small profit, after closing its print edition eight years ago. (Until then he also owned **i**, which after being sold became a successful standalone publisher.)

But getting the proprietor to agree to a similar radical initiative to revive the ailing *Standard* proved frustrating for colleagues, several said. “The digital plans languished and print continued to decline, but Evgeny didn’t seem to want to take a decision,” a former executive claims.

“He had numerous opportunities to come up with a long-term sustainable plan – so many proposals from so many editors, CEOs and consultants. He wanted to keep the print set-up.”

“This has also been a difficult time for Russians working in London against the backdrop of Putin’s wars.”

Lord Lebedev also felt a particular loyalty to the print product and its team.

The peer, a lover of the arts and a socialite, has certainly benefited from a high profile as a consequence of owning the *Standard*. In 2020, he became Lord Lebedev, receiving a peerage from Boris Johnson.

Losses have mounted since 2016 under a series of editors, including Lord Lebedev’s pick,



Reduced commuter numbers post-Covid hit the business CARL COURT/GETTY



former chancellor George Osborne. Brought in to revive the Standard's commercial fortunes, Osborne left after three years, with losses adding up to £37m over that period.

Staff learned about the paper's future last month, at its City headquarters. Some say they remain angry and baffled, with one arguing: "Cutting the daily in the middle of an election feels bizarre."

"Those are the stories people expect the *Standard* to tell you in-depth, what's happening on the ground."

Lord Lebedev, the son of Russian oligarch Alexander Lebedev, supported the *Standard* with millions of pounds in personal loans.

One ally said: "Evgeny accepted it can't just carry on like this. And being bold worked for *The Independent*. There is now a plan to take the *Standard* forward."

But his personal resources are "not limitless", the figure added.

His father's wealth was estimated by Forbes in 2012 to be \$1.1bn, down from \$3.1bn in 2008. In October 2008, Alexander Lebedev claimed in an interview with *The Guardian* that the value of his stocks had fallen from \$1bn to \$300m.

One former executive said: "The plans had been discussed over years. It's wrong to say Evgeny had been sitting on his hands. He's the guy who bought the paper when it was loss-making and invested in it."

"The *Standard* has maintained its dominance in the capital and its campaigning role – even last Christmas its Surviving Winter appeal raised more than any other national title (£2.45m)."

There was probably little the management could have done to stop the paper's daily demise

There is no firm date as yet for the launch of the weekly *Standard*, expected to hit the streets each Thursday or Friday and to include the *ES* magazine.

Yet it is now an "open question" whether Lord Lebedev himself retains the passion for newspaper ownership that has driven him for the past 15 years, one ally suggested.

The change is likely to hit the *Standard*'s network of distributors, famed for thrusting the paper into the hands of passing commuters.

And the *Standard*'s only London rival, *City A.M.*, is poised to take advantage by positioning itself as London's only dedicated newspaper.

After years of fighting for its own survival, *City A.M.* emerged from

administration and has broken even this year, with additional reporters hired under editor Andy Silvester.

At the *Standard*, there is some optimism among remaining staff around prospects for a revitalised version. "The weekly print edition means more in-depth news and analysis. The digital proposition has already been relaunched," a senior source said.

Although there are no plans to payroll content, there are commercial opportunities in areas such as food, drink, property and lifestyle that the digital *Standard* will explore. The brand's podcasts attract 500,000 listeners a month.

One former executive, the investigative and finance journalist Chris Blackhurst, who was City editor at the *Standard* for a decade, as well as the editor of *The Independent*, said: "In truth there was probably little the management could have done to stop the paper's daily demise. It lost readers and advertising, and found itself in a downward spiral."

Blackhurst added: "The new weekly and website duo will only work with resources. Weekly news demands exclusives and they are expensive to produce. If they don't go down the news route but stick to features, comment, analysis – a *London New Yorker* – that will require must-read writers."

And media analyst Alex DeGroote said: "It seems hard to believe a city of London's size cannot sustain a daily newspaper. But that is the reality."

Lord Lebedev was approached for comment.



George Osborne was hired by Evgeny Lebedev to be the *Standard*'s editor

UNITED STATES

Trump's claim he was singled out 'may have some truth'

Law has never been used this way before, says legal expert. By **Rob Hastings**

The statistics don't look good for Donald Trump. The former president has vowed to continue fighting against his hush-money conviction, but appeals rarely succeed. In New York, only about one in 20 ever lead to verdicts being overturned.

Yet some legal experts – even those who despise Trump – think he may have a much better chance of winning an appeal than expected.

Ty Cobb served as a lawyer in Trump's White House for several months in 2017, defending the president during the Mueller inquiry. He is frank when asked what he thinks of his former boss.

"I view Trump as the greatest danger to democracy since the founding of the republic," the legal veteran says. Trump's conduct has often been "bizarre, reprehensible and shocking," he believes. Still disgusted by Trump allegedly inciting an insurrection – which he denies – to overturn the election result on 6 January 2021, Mr Cobb is "horrified Americans would vote for a convicted felon or somebody who acted treasonously."

Following Trump's recent trial, however, Mr Cobb still had deep misgivings.

These weren't about the jury. Nor does he have a problem with the judge. He accepts that Donald Trump did what he was accused of doing.

The issue is that he's not sure what Trump did actually amounted to a crime. He believes that legislation was twisted in a unique and ultimately unfair way to prosecute the former president. Both the indictment and the legal theory behind the case had "serious deficiencies", he argues. The statute that was applied is probably "unconstitutional".

Mr Cobb explains that falsifying



Ty Cobb, a Trump lawyer in 2017, said the trial had 'serious deficiencies'

business records is a minor crime – and normally Trump could not have been tried for this because its two-year statute of limitations had passed.

What made the allegations reach "felony" level, allowing him to be charged, was the claim that Trump did this to hide payments he made to the porn star Stormy Daniels – to stop her revealing their affair, which could have lost him votes in the 2016 election. It's a legal combination that had never been used before.

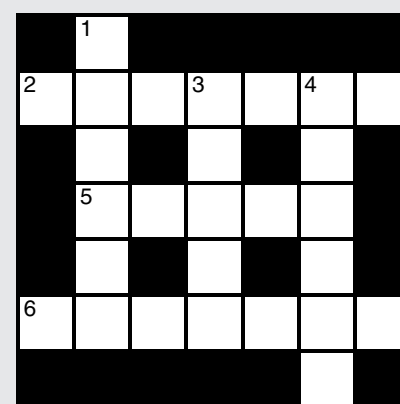
Mr Cobb points out that details of this "second crime" were not included in the indictment, preventing his legal team from preparing properly, and that the allegation was only explained at the very end of the trial, making it hard for his defence to argue against it.

He is doubtful "whether it was a crime and whether those charges would have been brought against any other human being".

"That's a problem," says Mr Cobb, making Trump's "ridiculous persecution claims" appear true.

Some legal experts remain confident that Trump's arguments will be dismissed. Roger Stavis, an appeals lawyer, thinks the Republican presidential nominee's chances "are not good". However, even he admits that the legal theory used by the prosecution was "novel and unprecedented".

The Five-Clue Cryptic Crossword No 4230



Across

- 2 Placate wild animal eating vegetables (7)
5/6 Lisp severely affected singer (5,7)

Down

- 1 Seem a very quiet listener (6)
3 Foliage not left in overhanging part of roof (5)
4 Limits of security stop complex of methods (6)

Solution, page 49

NINJA

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HISTORY

Wreck hunters find Shackleton's final ship 'Quest'

By Euan O'Byrne Mulligan

The ship on which the famous explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton made his final voyage has been found on the ocean floor, more than 60 years after it sank.

The vessel, called *Quest*, was located by wreck hunters in the Labrador Sea off the coast of Newfoundland in Canada.

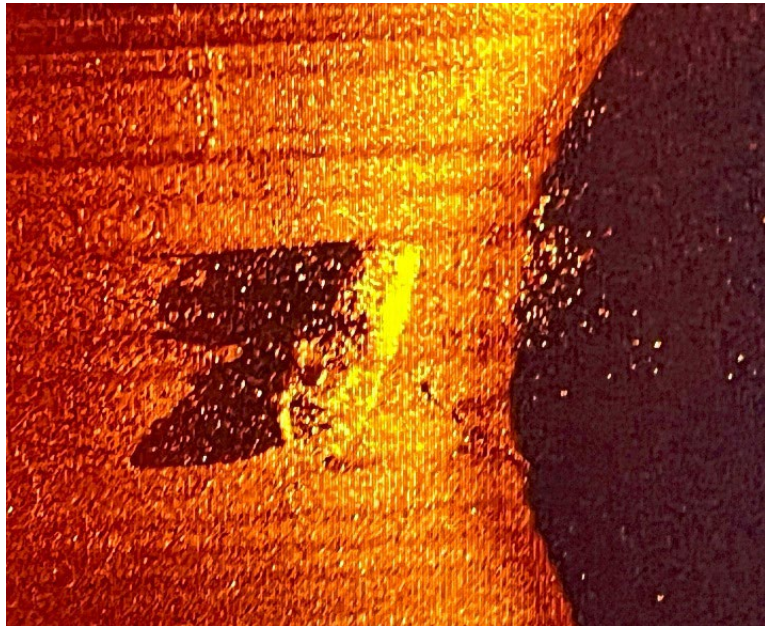
Sir Ernest suffered a fatal heart attack on board on 5 January 1922, aged 47, while trying to reach the Antarctic.

Following his death, *Quest* was acquired by a Norwegian company and involved in a series of expeditions until 5 May 1962, when it was damaged by ice and sank. All of the crew survived.

The Shackleton Quest Expedition, led by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS), said that the schooner-rigged vessel was found "intact" and lying at a depth of 390 metres (1,280ft).

The expedition leader, John Geiger of the RCGS, said: "Finding *Quest* is one of the final chapters in the extraordinary story of Sir Ernest Shackleton. Shackleton was known for his courage and brilliance as a leader in crisis.

"The tragic irony is that his was the



A sonar image of 'Quest' (above), Sir Ernest Shackleton's (above right) ship that was found in the Labrador Sea off the Canadian coast PA



i The crew used sonar equipment to aid the discovery, which falls in the 150th year after Sir Ernest's birth.

only death to take place on any of the ships under his direct command."

The search director, David Mearns, said of the ship: "She is intact. Data from high-resolution side-scan sonar imagery correspond exactly with the known dimensions

and structural features of this special ship. It is also consistent with events at the time of the sinking."

Sir Ernest, who was born in Ireland in 1874 but spent most of his life in England, was one of the leading figures of the "heroic age" of Antarctic exploration.

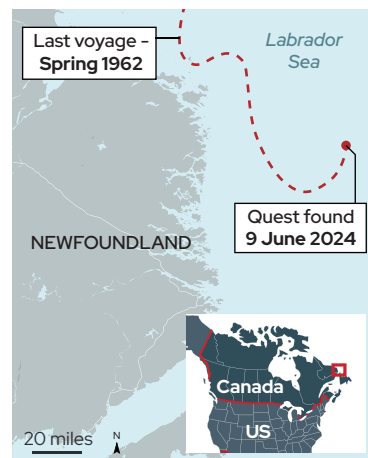
He led three British expeditions to the Antarctic, at a time when little was known about the frozen expanse.

In 2022, a British-led expedition located his ship *Endurance*, which in 1915 became stuck in pack ice and sank in the Weddell Sea.

Sir Ernest and his crew managed to make a miraculous escape, drifting hundreds of miles in small boats before eventually reaching a whaling station on the British Overseas Territory of South Georgia.

Many of the men who escaped the *Endurance* sinking signed up for Sir Ernest's last polar mission in 1921-22, using *Quest*. But Sir Ernest never made it to the Antarctic, suffering heart failure in the port of Grytviken on South Georgia – the last stop before his was due to head south.

Martin Brooks, of the expedition and apparel company Shackleton, said: "The finding of *Quest* is an important new chapter in the story of Ernest Shackleton and polar history."



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Opinion

Quote of the day



One person tried to make a racist remark but it was drowned out by comments complaining about my hair

Eva Gilles
The current Miss France has received abuse over her pixie cut

The Opinion Matrix

COMMENT FROM HOME AND ABROAD

TORY PARTY MANIFESTO



PM tries to hold off threat from the right

The Spectator

The best Rishi Sunak can hope for is that voters walk into their polling stations angry with the Conservatives but with their heads full of so much doubt about Labour that they can't bring themselves to vote for Sir Keir Starmer's party. That's not particularly inspiring, and neither is the manifesto. (Isabel Hardman)

Politico

The PM's strategy is to hold his party together while trying to shore up his exposed right flank. And so signals are sent, culture wars stoked, TikToks made. Privately, few Tories seem convinced by the strategy. (Bethany Dawson)

RACHEL REEVES



Hands tied by pledges not to raise taxes

New Statesman

Labour has ruled out increases in income tax, national insurance, VAT and corporation tax in the next parliament. But Rachel Reeves has chosen not to extend this pledge to capital gains tax or to rule out new council tax bands. Tellingly, Reeves is sympathetic to both ideas. (George Eaton)

UnHerd

She cannot invest or cut taxes. She cannot make economies elsewhere. Her only course is to fire up the moral economy anew. This is the meaning of "Securonomics": a return to moral order after self-inflicted calamity. (Travis Aaroe)

HEALTH MoT AT HOSPITALS



Brilliant idea or a sticking plaster?

Daily Express

It is a brilliant idea to offer "health MoTs" to older people in A&E to make sure they get the right care and are not simply funnelled into the hospital system where they can often lose mobility. People's independence must be a priority. (Editorial)

Daily Mirror

The initiative is a sticking plaster when major surgery is required to revive access to GP and social care services. The decline of parts of the health network and welfare state over the past 14 years is a shocking Tory legacy Labour would need to work overtime to fix. (Editorial)

HONG KONG JUDGES



City state has become totalitarian

Financial Times

Jail sentences are dished out to people publishing "disloyal" cartoon books, or organising vigils for the victims of Tiananmen Square. Hong Kong is becoming a totalitarian state. The rule of law is compromised in any area about which the government feels strongly. (Jonathan Sumption)

The Guardian

The government may be concerned that foreign businesses are drawing their own conclusions about the state of rule of law. The real blow to the city is that so many of its own people believe they can only thrive elsewhere. (Editorial)

HUNTER BIDEN



Verdict will not change US poll result

BBC

Hunter's verdict is unlikely to change how Americans vote. His father's name will be on the ballot, not his. There's no evidence connecting the President to his son's offences. And there has been scant polling evidence that the public is following this trial closely. (Anthony Zurcher)

The New York Times

You break the law, you face the consequences. Even if you're the President's son. Even if you're the former president. It was only two weeks ago that Republicans were thundering about the injustice of a different guilty verdict. (Jesse Wegman)

ROYAL ACADEMY



Exhibition is more swollen than ever

The Times

The Royal Academy Summer Exhibition doesn't have to be a slog. Last year it felt fun and festive. The rooms were bright and brimful of surprises. Grayson Perry curated the summer show with impish pizzazz in 2018. Why is this year's summer show – the 256th – such a dirge? (Laura Freeman)

The Daily Telegraph

Usually, I find a few fond words for the Summer Exhibition, for which many have a soft spot. Yet, the 256th edition – more swollen than ever, with 1,710 works – is a heap of shambling parochialism and humdrum bilge. (Alastair Sooke)

Life In Brief

JANIS PAIGE AMERICAN ACTRESS AND SINGER

Janis Paige, a Hollywood and Broadway actress who danced with Fred Astaire, toured with Bob Hope and continued to perform into her nineties, has died at the age of 101.

Paige passed away on Sunday of natural causes at her home in Los Angeles, her friend Stuart Lampert said.

Paige starred on Broadway with Jackie Cooper in the mystery-comedy, *Remains to be Seen* and appeared with John Raitt in the hit musical *The Pajama Game*. Her other films included a Hope comedy, *Bachelor in Paradise*, and *Please Don't Eat the Daisies* with Doris Day.

Paige's big break came in wartime when she sang an operatic aria for servicemen at the Hollywood Canteen. MGM hired her a day later for a brief role in *Bathing Beauty*, then dropped her. The same day, Warner Brothers signed her and cast her in a dramatic segment of the all-star 1944 movie

Hollywood Canteen alongside Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Jack Benny.

The studio kept her busy in lightweight films such as *Romance on the High Seas*, which marked Day's film debut. Meanwhile, she adopted her grandfather's surname of Paige and took her first name from Elsie Janis, famed for entertaining troops during the First World War.

Paige's contract expired in 1949. "That was a jolt," she said in 1963. "It meant I was washed up at 25."

She took her talents to Broadway and starred in *Remains to be Seen* and *The Pajama Game* in 1954, though Day would take her role in the film version of the latter.

MGM producer Arthur Freed caught her nightclub act at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles and offered her a part opposite Astaire in the 1957 film *Silk Stockings*. It is famous for

her and Astaire's Cole Porter number "Stereophonic Sound", in which they swing from a chandelier.

"I was one mass of bruises. I didn't know how to fall," she said later.

In May 2003, Paige resumed entertaining after a long absence. She opened a show she called *The Third Act* at San Francisco's Plush Room. She told stories about Astaire, Frank Sinatra and others and sang tunes from her films and musicals.

Donna Mae Tjaden was born in Tacoma, Washington state, in 1922. Her father deserted the family when she was four, and her mother eked out a living working at the Bank of Tacoma.

"We always had enough to eat," Paige said in 1963, "but nothing to spare. My mother worked so hard."

"And she used to keep saying that she wished I'd been born a boy, so I could help out more. I always wanted



to be a success for her, to make up for my father."

In 2020, her autobiography, *Reading Between the Lines: A Memoir*, was published, recounting her connections with Sinatra, Davis, Crawford, David Niven, Henry Fonda, Clark Gable and Lucille Ball.

She had two brief marriages, to a San Francisco restaurateur, Frank Martinelli, and to writer-producer Arthur Stander, before in 1962 marrying songwriter Ray Gilbert, who won an Oscar for the song "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" from Disney's *Song of the South*. He died in 1976. AP

Born 16 September 1922
Died 2 June 2024

My View

Victoria Derbyshire



Trust me, politicians are not all the same

Voters are wrong to complain that candidates 'are all as bad as each other'

They are called vox pops – that bit on the news where TV journalists ask a random member of the public in the street for a snap opinion on the topic of the day – and they are very popular during election campaigns.

As a reporter I used to love doing them, and I can only apologise if in years gone by you were quietly going about your shopping somewhere in Manchester only to find me pointing a microphone into your face and asking you about a big news story.

Brenda from Bristol struck a chord with the country when she was pressed for her views on the 2017 election “You’re joking – not ANOTHER one,” she said before declaring that there was “too much politics at the moment”.

What you hear more and more in vox pops is people of all ages and from right across the UK telling the media that “politicians are all the same”, or that “they’re all as bad as each other”.

So here’s something as a journalist who interviews politicians for a living on BBC Two’s *Newsnight* that you might not expect me to write: I think the people who say that are wrong. Of course, they are perfectly entitled to say that. It’s just that in this case, my experiences run counter to that.

Now I don’t know any MPs well enough to call them friends. I don’t mix in their circles. But I have met and interviewed hundreds of them over the years. Some of the more robust encounters are on YouTube and TikTok and I’ll admit that occasionally I have raised an eyebrow at some of the evasive answers I’ve received. But are they really “all the same”?

Years ago, when I was presenting on BBC Radio 5 Live, I became a little emotional on air and listeners picked up on it. My next interview was Lord Blunkett (he was plain David Blunkett then, the home secretary). A few days later, I received a handwritten letter from him checking I was OK and praising me for keeping it together. There was no publicity in that for him, he was just being a kind human being.

When I decided to share the news that I had been diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015, I received private messages of goodwill from MPs from all corners of the political landscape.

I host a podcast series for anyone who has been touched by the disease, called *And Then Came Breast Cancer*. Tracy Crouch,



Election time requires campaigners and candidates to go out among the people, as the Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey seems extremely willing to do GETTY

the former Conservative sports minister, shared her story with the listeners in a compelling and powerful way.

Of course, I can hear the cynics say they’re being nice with me so I will go easy on them when I next interview them. But, can you think of an example where I’ve “gone easy” on a politician?

Last month, I attended the funeral of Lord Field of Birkenhead, better known to his former constituents as Frank Field, the Labour MP. I didn’t know him as a friend but had interviewed and probably crossed swords with him on occasion, and when his cancer diagnosis became public two years or so ago, we would exchange emails about how he was doing.

When I took my seat at the service at the Holy Trinity Church in Sloane Street, London, I was alongside fellow mourners from across the media and political spectrum, including the former Conservative prime minister Theresa May.

I wouldn’t want the prospect of being assaulted regarded as some kind of built-in risk for doing my job

His life and work had clearly touched many. All of us were saying goodbye to a decent man who just happened to be a politician.

Election time sees campaigners and candidates out among the people. As we saw with Nigel Farage, it means they can be vulnerable to milk shake attacks – in previous campaigns, eggs were a favoured “weapon”.

Some may find such things amusing, others will see them as frightening. I wouldn’t want the prospect of being assaulted regarded as some kind of built-in risk for doing my job, and neither should they.

So describing politicians as all the same, can in turn without too many leaps, lead to the sort

of hatred that forces Members of Parliament to provide security at their constituency surgeries.

The tragic loss of Jo Cox and David Amess was devastating not only for their families and loved ones, or for politics, but for Britain.

Therefore can I make an appeal for a little tolerance? It’s mildly irritating when I see that all members of one profession – say social workers, or bus drivers or even journalists – are generally dismissed as worthless, so shall we stop doing it with politicians?

Victoria Derbyshire is a journalist, broadcaster and the host of the BBC’s *Newsnight* and *UkraineCast*

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Disability is no lifestyle choice

I notice in the Conservative manifesto that they propose to "tighten the work capability assessment (WCA) process" which considers whether a person is fit for work.

Are the public not aware that this was done from 2010? The WCA, brought in under the last Labour government,

was tightened up in the austerity measures of David Cameron and George Osborne.

This Government changed the disability living allowance (DLA) to the personal independence payment (PIP) and many who were eligible under the criteria for DLA were no longer eligible for PIP – again a saving for the welfare budget.

Sickness and disability

is not a lifestyle choice, it is a constant struggle to get through each day. Being viewed as a work-shy malingeringer adds to already mounting distress leaving many feeling they have a "duty to go" to relieve the state of the burden they have become.

I will be voting Labour on 4 July as we desperately need a change of government

for our broken country, but I will have absolutely no hope whatsoever of the sick and disabled being treated more fairly and compassionately under Labour.
JACQUI ENNIS
VIA EMAIL

Energy drinks ban is overdue

I often notice children buying energy drinks from my local shop in the morning before school. The sad thing is that it suggests that they are probably not eating a good breakfast before leaving home, so then rely on these awful, unhealthy cans of apparent energy boosters. I'm in agreement with Labour's proposed ban on them.
SIÂN LYALL
CARDIFF

School fees tax destined to fail

I agree in principle with charging VAT on private school fees. The idealistic aim is for state education to be on a par with private, resulting in equal opportunities for everyone regardless of wealth or location.

Like all idealistic aims, however, that won't happen; there will probably be chaos in applications, bullying of "posh" kids, a dramatic fall in results and then some unforeseen disaster. Meanwhile, the wealthy will simply absorb the increase and the "top end" will continue to thrive.

I'm a grandparent who has contributed for years now towards fees for two grandchildren, both of whom are neurodiverse.

They attend a wonderful school that has good academic outcomes and a gentle, nurturing philosophy, small class sizes and specialist staff trained to support and teach children with dyslexia and neurological problems.

For a young person with chronic anxiety, undiagnosed dyslexia, or mobility problems, for instance, to be suddenly forced into a huge comprehensive with class sizes of 30 and more and the (sorry, but probably unavoidable)



i reader Steve Wood was intrigued by our list of the UK's favourite sandwich fillings; his is ham and cheese

attendant bullying of so called "posh" kids, could be truly disastrous.

At the very least the policy should be delayed until the state schools are ready, repaired, enlarged and staffed before implementation.
NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

Obsessed with our aristocrats

What a great piece of writing from Tanya Gold on the British aristocracy ("The British aristocracy is a national obsession", Opinion, 11 June). Uncomfortable reading for some, but very difficult to argue with.
PETER CANNON
EDINBURGH

Let's follow the Nordic example

Jane Rodway (Your View, 12 June) is absolutely correct to say that we could learn a lot by comparing our systems in education, health, social care and housing with other comparable countries. From personal experience, all Scandinavian countries have better health and social care services.
DR MICHAEL REYNOLDS,
CONSULTANT PAEDIATRICIAN (RET.)
BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE

We need all who can to vote

I heard Grant Shapps say he didn't want Labour to win a big majority as big majorities are bad for Britain. Of course they are – his government has

proved it. But neither Labour under Blair or Brown or the Tories under Johnson, Truss or Sunak have had the guts to bring in proportional representation.

At the 2019 election more than 15 million people did not vote. Out of a population of about 65 million people, about 47 million people are registered to vote.

We need proportional representation, and we need everyone who can to vote.

MARY DE VERE
WRENTHORPE,
WEST YORKSHIRE

Filling me with interesting facts

I was interested in your list of the most popular sandwich fillings (The List, 12 June).

I like to mix fillings. Ham and cheese is always a favourite, but I avoid chicken and egg because I can never work out which to put in first.

I must get out more.
STEVE WOOD
BREDGAR, KENT

North-South language bias

This southern dominance of our culture has got to stop. Up here in the East Midlands life is tough enough without the Concise Crossword being biased against us. Wednesday's pun was "darn" "Saul" – which turned out to be "dance hall". You 'avin' a larf?
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THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

If you look under 25 and want to buy alcohol you will need to prove your age. Challenge 25. No I.D. No sale. You must be 18 or over to purchase alcohol. Selected stores. Subject to availability. Polaroid 55" ROKU UHD TV, was £349 (02/05/24 – 22/05/24), was £279 (23/05/24 – 19/06/24), now £265. Budweiser Lager Beer Bottles 24x300ml, was £18 now £14 (£1.94 per litre). Price and offer may vary in Wales. Asda Stonebaked Spicy Fajita Chicken Pizza 355g and Asda Deep Pan Four Cheese Pizza 355g, was £3 now £2 (56p per 100g). Asda Deep Pan Four Cheese Pizza 425g, was £3 now £2 (47p per 100g). May exclude Asda Express and small stores, see ASDA.com/smallstores



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HERITAGE

I'm trying to get back the Welsh accent I ditched

Rhys Thomas



Your voice is one of the most wonderful things about life, and the most telling. Accents are a fascinating component of that. They are a product of where we come from geographically, economically, and more.

I grew up in west Wales, and I had an accent from the area. My accent could have been loosely considered softer than Rhod Gilbert's, harsher than Rob Brydon's, but with those same musical qualities, varying pitch, extended vowels, a rrrr-roll of the "r" now and again. Beautiful and unique. But, when I was 18, I started to hate it.

I was at a university open day where tall, beautiful boys and girls kept asking "Ooh, are you from Way-als?". I felt like this meant, in their eyes (or ears), I was more comparable to a golden retriever than a potential fellow classmate.

When I got to university, in Nottingham (another place with a lovely strong accent) most of the people around me were from Sussex, or had grown up close to London.

Sometimes they struggled to understand me or derailed conversations because the novelty of how I spoke was apparently really funny.

Wanting to be taken seriously is something with which I still often struggle. This is definitely a class issue at heart, and not helped by being the only person in my family to do A-levels, let alone go to university, but as soon as I realised my accent was an obstacle to fitting into university life, I wanted it gone. I wanted to denounce who I was. And so I did.

I started catching my speech, doing my best to emulate those around me who sounded "proper". I started trying to mumble less, speak slower, and forced my mouth to move in different ways.

Speaking felt like giving a presentation or having to make a formal phone call, although more accurately I was playing a character,

and playing that character until it stuck.

The shift happened gradually over time, but now, nine years on, my accent has people assuming I am "posh northern", or from the south of England somewhere.

I think this has done me favours. I'm sure I was right that a booming Welsh accent would have been discriminated against, or at least worsened my self-esteem about fitting in and doing well in my career, to the point where this would have sabotaged my chances to do well anyway. But now I dearly miss my Welsh accent.

Since that realisation, I've been facing a moral and ethical dilemma: do I simply just start speaking with a Welsh accent again? A made-up one, an approximation of how I might have sounded had I stuck to my guns?

The people I mention it to say that I could, but to me it feels like it's a form of appropriation. In the end, I decided that it would be appropriating myself, if anyone, and so it is probably fine.

Therefore I've started trying to get Welshness back into my voice. It's quite difficult. My inner monologue has shifted, so I do have to think about how I'm sounding.

Allowing vernacular back in isn't as difficult: I say "tidy" instead of "nice", and "buh", which is a very specific (probably pin-pointing me to my exact village) twist on "butt", which would be used in lieu of "mate" or "pal", for example. And my sentence structure occasionally remembers to rearrange the words in the way Welsh people do. But an accent is more difficult to hold.

I had my first test a few weeks back, when I phoned a councillor from Wales for an article. Here, I figured, if I sounded more Welsh I would also get more friendliness from them – I wouldn't be read as some English journalist.

I loosened up my voice and they didn't hesitate or suspect I was putting it on. I felt a sense of calm, of acceptance for who I am.

Then my friend said: "Did you do that on purpose? You sounded really Welsh then."

I thought I would feel embarrassed at that. But, instead, I began to smile, I did.



Laugharne in Carmarthenshire was for a time the home of writer Dylan Thomas, who some critics considered to be too English for the Welsh and too Welsh for the English

GETTY

In tomorrow's

FRIDAY edition

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Paloma Faith

The singer talks about the loneliness of single motherhood, and why 'have it all' feminists are fooling themselves



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Our pick of this week's film, music and book releases

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THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

Selected stores and lines. Subject to availability. Pringles Sour Cream & Onion Sharing Crisps 185g and Pringles Salt & Vinegar Sharing Crisps 185g, was £2.25 now £1.50 (81p per 100g). Coca-Cola Zero cans 8x330ml and Diet Coke cans 8x330ml £4.25 (£1.61 per litre). England and Scotland decorations £1 each. May exclude Asda Express and small stores, see ASDA.com/smallstores

All Sunak, exemplar of privilege, lacks is political nous

POLITICS

Ian Dunt



There seems to be no end to Rishi Sunak's failures. Each day of this interminable election campaign he's provided us with some startling new example to add to the collection.

On Tuesday, it was a comment about Sky TV and perhaps the most unconvincing account of deprivation any of us have ever heard.

It took place during an interview with ITV News – and not just any interview. This was the interview he left the D-Day celebrations to participate in.

He torpedoed his own election campaign in order to attend an interview in which he could say these things. He is the square root of political error.

The Prime Minister was asked the type of question which politicians plan for. How can someone with your level of wealth understand what it's like for everyday people? Have

you ever gone without something? If you're a very wealthy man who happens to be prime minister, you'll have workshopped your response to this inquiry. After all, it is one of your chief vulnerabilities. Sunak is literally richer than the King.

His team must have sat down and tried to formulate a response for what to say if it comes up, yet Sunak's answer showed no sign of that whatsoever. It involved hesitation, bluster, nonsense and outright preposterousness.

"What did you go without as a child?" he was asked. "Lots of things," the Prime Minister replied, "because my parents wanted to put everything into our education and that was the priority."

There is a story being insinuated here, that people can struggle and pay school fees and help their kids get on in life. It's a story of hardship and determination in a meritocratic society. And it suggests that those who do not do so have simply not made their children's education a priority.

In reality, Sunak's school fees would have been beyond the realm of most people's understanding. The price of a year at Winchester College, which he attended, is

currently £49,152 for boarding students – well above the average income.

It will have been much lower when he went, of course, but the basic dynamic was the same. Winchester competes only with Eton for the affection of the super-rich. It's a petri dish of supreme privilege.

He was repeatedly asked what he went without. He settled on this response: "There are all sorts of things that I would have wanted as a kid that I couldn't have. Famously Sky TV. That was something that we never had growing up, actually."

There are at least 2,800 food banks in this country. People out there are going without much worse than satellite television. They are going without daily necessities.

They are going without the small pleasures that make life worth living: a family trip to the cinema, a Friday night down the pub, a date night.

That is happening under his Government, because of the choices his Government has made. His comments have revealed precisely the qualities he sought to dispel: of being profoundly out of touch.

For what it's worth, I think it's also utter hogwash. I grew up in the same part of the country as



Satellite dishes were associated with the working classes in bourgeois circles

There's no denying the social milieu he comes from. He cannot seriously pretend otherwise

Sunak, at roughly the same time, in the same sort of circles. Posh kids never had Sky because the big satellite dishes were considered uncouth and working class – the urban totem of the council estate. They were indicators of low social standing, poor spending habits and cultural degeneration.

It was the worst kind of cultural elitism, but that was the bourgeois view of the time – grounded in a suspicion of television in general and football in particular. What Sunak's pointing to isn't hardship. It's snobbery.

There's no denying the social milieu Sunak comes from. He cannot seriously pretend otherwise. Doing so inflicts more damage on his reputation than simply embracing it.

The very obvious answer to this line of questioning is simply that he has lived a life of privilege and he wants every child in Britain to have the same good fortune.

By desperately scrambling away from the obvious truth about himself, Sunak succeeded only in looking absurd, deceptive and disconnected.

The honest truth about him is this: he has never wanted for anything, except political talent.



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Children square up for Rubik

Hungarian pupils pose with Rubik's Cubes during a flashmob to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hungarian architect Erno Rubik's invention, in Budapest yesterday.

In 1974, Professor Rubik created the first prototype of a movable cube made out of small wooden blocks and held together by a unique mechanism.

More than 500 million copies of the cult object have been sold, not counting the myriad of counterfeits.

The Rubik's Cube has remained one of the world's top-selling puzzle games.

FERENC ISZAJ/AP



SOUTH KOREA

K-pop star Jin promises 1,000 hugs for BTS fans

By Conrad Smith

Jin, the oldest member of the K-pop group BTS, will celebrate completing his military service by hugging 1,000 fans in Seoul.

The 31-year-old (*inset*) was discharged from the South Korean army yesterday. He is the first band member to complete his compulsory 18-month military service.

In a three-hour "hugathon", 1,000 fans chosen by raffle will queue up to embrace the singer. In a separate event, he will perform songs on request for 3,000 fans and answer messages.

Announcing his return, Jin said: "Thank you for waiting for me, I love you. I will try to express my feelings tomorrow."

Jin was drafted in December 2022 and served as an assistant drill instructor at a military training centre.

The other six members of BTS – J-Hope, V, RM, Jimin, Jungkook and Suga – are still serving, and the band are not expected to reunite until next year.



PEOPLE

Dion reveals dependency on drugs to treat rare neurological disorder

By Ellie Iorizzo

Celine Dion has said she became dependent on life-threatening doses of medication to help ease muscle spasms in the years leading up to her diagnosis of stiff person syndrome (SPS).

The Canadian singer, whose best-known hits include "My Heart Will Go On", "Think Twice" and "It's All Coming Back to Me Now", revealed her diagnosis in 2022 as she cancelled her *Courage World Tour*.

SPS is a rare neurological disorder that causes progressive muscular stiffness, including spasms that can be "abdominal, can be in the spine, can be in the ribs", Dion said.

Dion told *Today* host Hoda Kotb on NBC that prior to her diagnosis, she was taking diazepam, a drug



Singer Celine Dion was diagnosed with stiff person syndrome in 2022

commonly known as Valium, to help relax her "whole body" in order to perform on stage – but that she was not aware of the consequences.

"I did not know that it could kill me," she said in her first broadcast interview since her diagnosis.

Dion said as her body became accustomed to the medication, she would feel her symptoms again after 20 minutes and began to raise her dosage. "You get used to it; it doesn't work," she told the US broadcaster.

The singer revealed she was taking up to 90 milligrams a day, an amount that can "kill you", she said.

With the help of doctors, Dion weaned herself off the medications, "especially the bad ones", during the pandemic.

On reflection, Dion said she should have taken the time to "figure it out" instead of pushing through performances, however it coincided with the period in which her late husband, René Angélil, was terminally ill.

He died in January 2016 of throat cancer. "I had to hide. I had to try to be a hero," Dion said.

Despite her diagnosis, Dion said she plans to perform again. "I'm going to go back onstage, even if I have to crawl. Even if I have to talk with my hands. I will. I will," she said.

"I am Celine Dion... today my voice will be heard for the first time, not just because I have to or because I need to. It's because I want to. And I miss it."

Dion has documented her health battle on Prime Video film *I Am: Celine Dion*, due to air on 25 June.

i The main symptoms of SPS are muscle stiffening and spasming and there is currently no cure. Ways to treat it include **through the use of muscle sedatives and relaxants.**

SCIENCE

Fossil find by avocado farmer was a pterosaur

By Isabella Bengoechea

An avocado farmer who stumbled across a fossil while walking in the Australian outback has discovered a new species of pterosaur, scientists have confirmed.

Kevin Peterson, 43, who has a deep interest in paleontology, discovered the bones in a fossil-rich area of Queensland in 2021.

"I was checking another fossil and walking back to the car when I noticed bones sticking out of the ground," he said. "I instantly knew what it was. Pterosaur bones are super rare and distinctive."

Scientists from Curtin University in Western Australia said yesterday that the remains belonged to a previously unknown species of pterosaur – winged reptiles that ruled the skies in the dinosaur age.

In a nod to Mr Peterson's discovery, the new species was named *Haliskia petersoni* (*below*).



MUSIC

French singer Hardy, muse to Dylan and Jagger, dies at 80

By Laura Harding

The French singer-songwriter Françoise Hardy has died at the age of 80.

She was a fixture of pop culture in the 1960s and a muse to stars such as Bob Dylan and Sir Mick Jagger.

Hardy was also a model for designers including Yves Saint Laurent and Paco Rabanne. Thomas Dutronc, her

son with ex-husband and French musician Jacques Dutronc, announced her death on Instagram.

Alongside a photo of himself as a baby being held by her, he wrote: "Maman est partie..." which translates as "Mum has gone".

Hardy was one of the most familiar faces of the 1960s and women around the world imitated her androgynous



Sir Mick Jagger said Françoise Hardy (above in 1960) was his 'ideal woman'

style, while Sir Mick famously described her as his "ideal woman".

Dylan wrote several love letters to her and addressed her in a poem on the back of his 1964 album *Another Side of Bob Dylan*.

Hardy first found fame with her debut single "Tous les Garçons et Les Filles (All the Girls and Boys)", in which she lamented being single.

Her other hits included the ballad "Mon Amie la Rose (My Friend the Rose)" and "Comment te Dire Adieu (How to Say Goodbye)", which featured lyrics by Serge Gainsbourg.

Over the course of her career she released almost 30 albums.



FATHER'S
DAY SUNDAY
16 JUNE

M&S

ORDER BY 10PM, COLLECT IN STORE TOMORROW

Another
ViewDr Julie
HannanWhat
couples
should
consider
before
getting
divorced

The golfer Rory McIlroy has called off his divorce from his wife Erica, announcing they have “resolved their differences”, they are looking to a “new beginning” and their best future is as a “family together”.

On the surface this sounds great: they’ve turned things around, they’re going to give it another go. In reality, people file for divorce believing they would be happier alone or with someone else and that the grass is greener outside of the marriage. So deciding to do a U-turn and reconcile with the spouse they wanted to leave can be an enormous emotional challenge for both parties.

Rory’s 360° about turn will no doubt resonate with unhappily



The golfer Rory McIlroy filed for divorce from his wife, Erica, in May, but they have since announced they have ‘resolved their differences’ GETTY

married people as they consider: is the marriage worth saving? Have we given up too soon? Should we work harder at saving the relationship or is it beyond repair?

Making the decision to end your marriage and divorce your spouse can be one of the biggest emotional and financial decisions you’ll ever make. Recently, divorce rates in the UK have fallen to their lowest levels for decades. These figures haven’t been attributed to couples reconciling their differences, but something far more practical – the cost of living crisis.

People get divorced for many reasons, the most common being because they feel they have grown apart from their partner, lost themselves in the relationship, emotional or physical infidelity, lack of emotional support, increasing arguments and conflict, a lack of passion, sex or intimacy, or boredom.

So is reconciliation possible, or is it just an easier choice than going through the upheaval of a divorce?

Well, whether you stay or go, here are some factors to consider.

The first is clarity. Be clear about your reason(s) for leaving. Very often we can become obsessed by the 10 per cent imperfect part of our partner that drives us crazy, without appreciating the 90 per cent that works for us.

Successful conflict resolution takes time, mutual respect, listening and brainstorming in a calm environment at a time when you can both fully engage without distractions.

Conversely, be clear about the reasons you are staying. Are you staying for the kids or are your reasons more fear based such as being alone, coping alone or a fear you may never find happiness

**It takes two
people to make
a relationship
and... to break it**

again? As human being we are not built for change and it causes us anxiety, but professional support can help you move towards a new life together or apart.

The second factor to consider is responsibility. It takes two people to make a relationship and two people to break it. Both partners need to take responsibility for their part in the relationship breakdown and cultivate an awareness of why you reached this point.

For example, if you didn’t get your needs met, did you clearly ask for them? People aren’t mind readers, no matter how long you’ve been together. Understanding why the relationship broke down reduces the chances of it happening again.

Motivation must also be considered. If you decide to try again, identify what will have to be different this time and what has been lacking. You will both need to be on the same page and committed and motivated to change.

If the two of you are no longer in love with each other, but chose to stay together for the family, then be realistic. It’s unlikely all of your intimacy and emotional needs will be met at home but they still need attending to through social networks and friendships.

And for a successful future together, you are going to need shared values. Committing to support each other to achieve individual goals is important.

Like any relationship, marriages need constant attention, love and tending to. Reconciliation after ending divorce proceedings is possible but isn’t an easy option. For Rory and Erica, like any other couple in a strained relationship, to stay together is going to take motivation, consideration and negotiation.

Dr Julie Hannan is a chartered psychologist, psychotherapist and author of ‘The Midlife Crisis Handbook’ (Morency: £10.88)

ROYAL FAMILY

William to watch
England at Euros

The Prince of Wales is to travel to Germany to cheer on the England men’s football team as they face Denmark in Euro 2024.

William, the president of the Football Association, will watch Gareth Southgate’s side in their second Group C stage match at the Frankfurt Arena on 20 June – the day before his 42nd birthday.

He visited the squad (*below*) to wish them good luck on Monday. William faced criticism in 2023 for missing the England women’s World Cup final match in Sydney.

Sport, back page



SPORT

Loss of pitches a
‘depressing legacy’

Almost 1,000 public football pitches have been lost in the UK since 2010, a study by the GMB union suggests.

The research, after a Freedom of Information request, found there were hundreds fewer local authority-owned or operated football pitches today than in 2009-10.

Rachel Harrison, the GMB’s national secretary, said: “Losing almost 1,000 council football pitches is another depressing legacy of the Conservatives’ austerity mission.”

i CRYPTIC CROSSWORD
No 4166 BY TEES

ACROSS

- 1 Free NHS to be mauled further? Do this and feel better (7,2)
6 Matured making appearance in teenage dream (4)
10 Not appropriate to have forty winks in it (5)
11 One lunatic, our son, holds party presenting no bouquet (9)
12 Interrogators make move, receiving directions to bug (7)
13 Crime committed by stolen goods receiver (7)
14 Old PM with charisma making attractive point (8,5)
17 Star, protecting a chum, being disciplined killer (10-3)
21 American hippy? Not the first Charlie from the continent (7)
22 Exhibiting culture, having dropped channel’s latest repeat (7)
24 In bed, encouraged to introduce unknown plant (9)

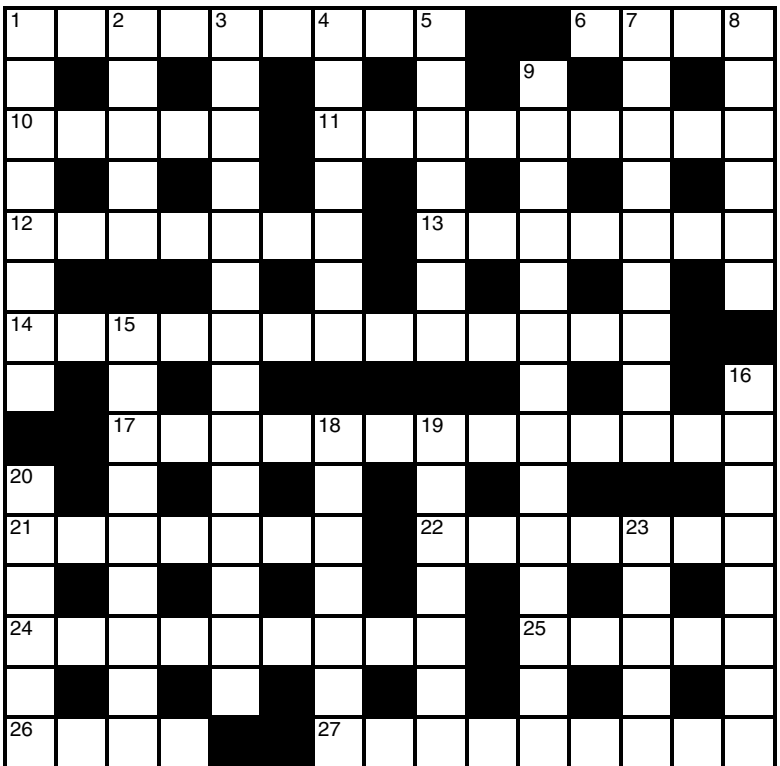
DOWN

- 25 Short man needs time to receive oxygen at height (5)
26 Lightly cooked part missed in savoury dish (4)
27 Offensive weapons bringing malevolence into main thoroughfare (9)
1 Reasonable target in coconut shy? (4,4)
2 Small space in church given up for Welshman (5)
3 Trouble with heart or comfort in retirement? (3-5,6)
4 New look needing sash from Japan’s capital (7)
5 Statement not binding: I say (7)
7 Ruin surrounds husband immersed in drink, the rodent (9)
8 20’s colleague initially denied Jewish tribe (6)

- 9 Pear drop in line to be shared (10,4)
15 Rabbit more appropriate for one to put in oven? (3-6)
16 Tyres can burst in race (8)
18 Song about deceiver in rural idyll (7)
19 Overhead protection from the rain (7)
20 Performer in north circled by fish on river (6)
23 Love makes an entrance we hear (5)

Solution to yesterday’s Cryptic

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



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

Dear brands,

Can we be real for a minute? Social media is powerful.
In both brilliant and terrifying ways.

It's a mirror to society, reflecting the light and the dark.
It can make or break you *and* your followers.

Social media platforms collectively made over
\$200 billion from ad revenue alone last year.

That makes YOU, brands, the ultimate influencers 🙌

Every decision you make, every post you share,
every platform you fund, gives you the power to
make social a safer, happier, and more connected place.

Let's make social 'social' again, the place it was built to be.
Less doom-scrolling and trolling, more togetherness and joy.



It's time to change social for good.

👉 Join the social revolution.

Yours sincerely, Social Element

#MakeSocialBetter



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

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

	3	5	8	6	3	1	5	4	
									4
									3
									6
									6
									4
									3
									6
									3

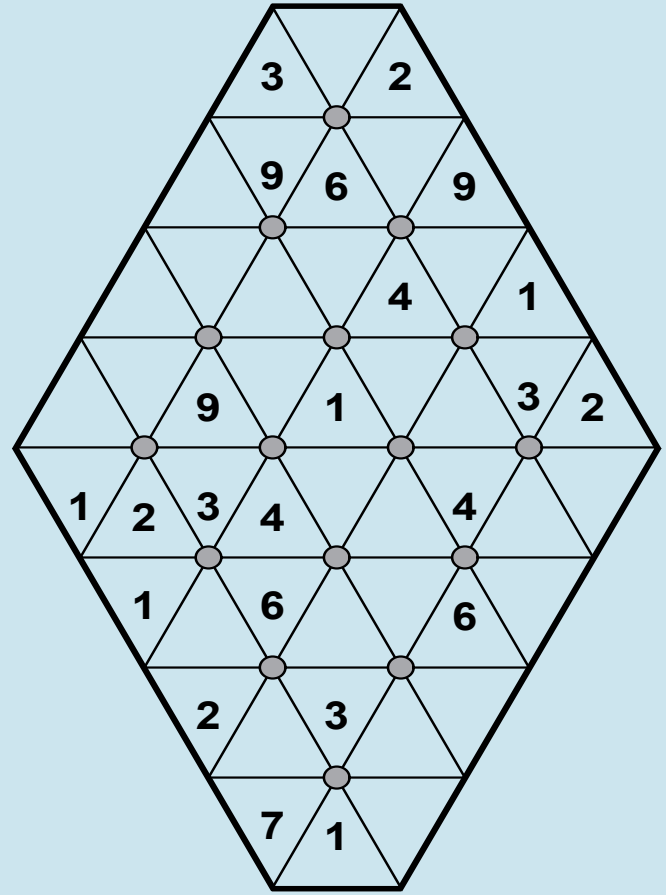
Binary

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

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.

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

Budgets
City
Drip
Equity
Exists
Gambit
Gilt
Girder
Itemised
Manyfold
Ogres
Pint
Several
Shriek
Under
Waste
Watershed

Chain Link

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

		5					2
						1	
		3					
			6	4			5

Daily Quiz

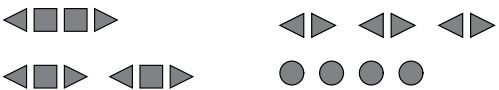
1. The centenary of the birth of which English conductor and founder of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields in London was celebrated this year?
2. The Act of Settlement passed in 1701 barred members of which religion from ascending to the British throne?
3. What kitchen implement was first patented in the UK in 1855 by the surgical instrument-maker Robert Yeates?
4. Which folk music group from Port Isaac in Cornwall have had two feature films made about their career?

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.

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





Baked citrus salmon
with tomato rice



SERVES 4

- 2tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1tsp dried oregano
- 1tsp smoked paprika
- 1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 350g basmati rice
- ½ seedless easy peeler or small orange, zested and juiced, plus a few slices, halved
- ½ lemon, zested and juiced, plus a few slices, halved
- 1 x 240g pack salmon skin-on fillets
- 1 small handful basil (or parsley), torn, to serve (optional)

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas 4 and line a baking dish with baking paper.

To make the rice, heat one tablespoon of oil in a large pan and fry the onion over a medium heat for eight minutes, until softened. Add the garlic, oregano and paprika, cook for one minute, then stir in the tomatoes and cook for five minutes until thickened; then season.

Add the rice with 500ml boiling water and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to low, cover and cook for 15 to 20 minutes.

In the baking dish, combine the citrus zest and juice with the remaining one tablespoon of oil and some seasoning.

Add the fish, turn to coat, top with the extra citrus slices, then cover with foil. Bake for 15 minutes or until it is just cooked through.

Flake the salmon over the rice, scatter over the baked citrus slices and basil or parsley, then divide between bowls – or bring the pan to the table.

Recipe from Ocado.com

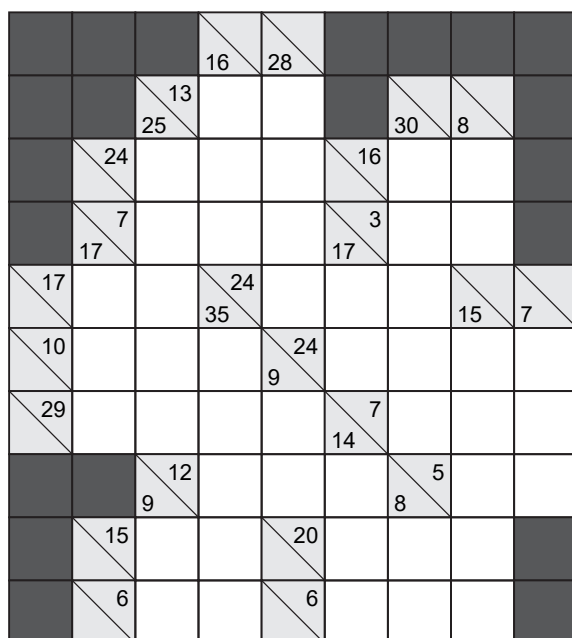
Tomorrow
Black bean and garlic
chicken stir-fry



Games&Puzzles

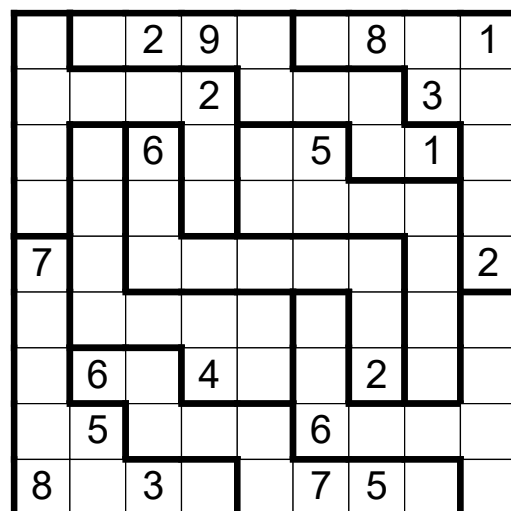
Kakuro

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.



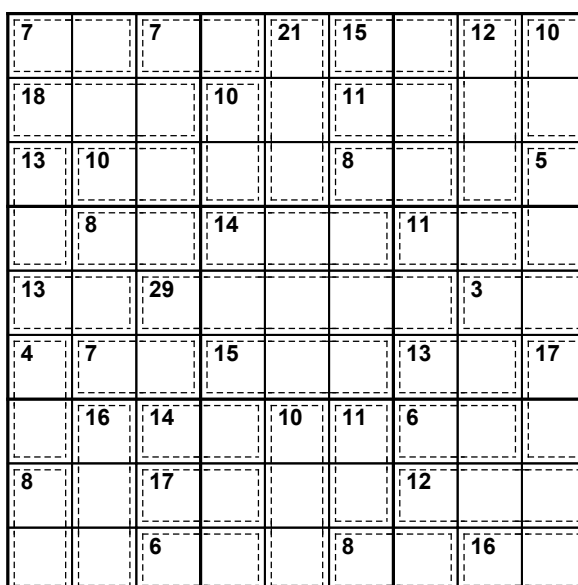
Jigsawdoku

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



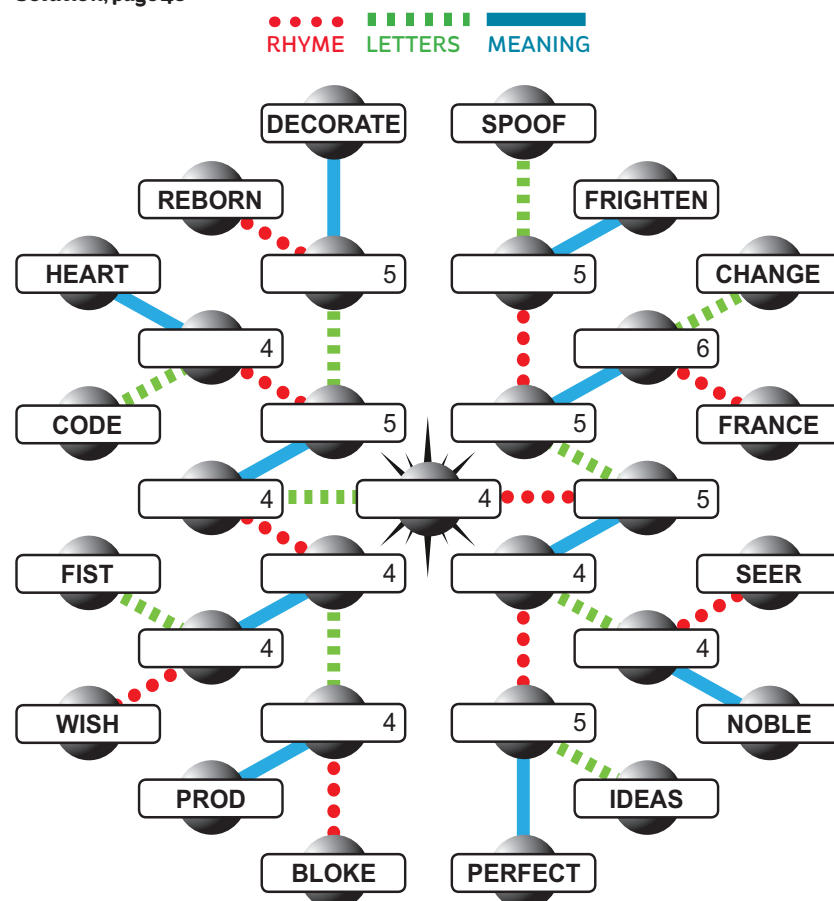
Killer Sudoku

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

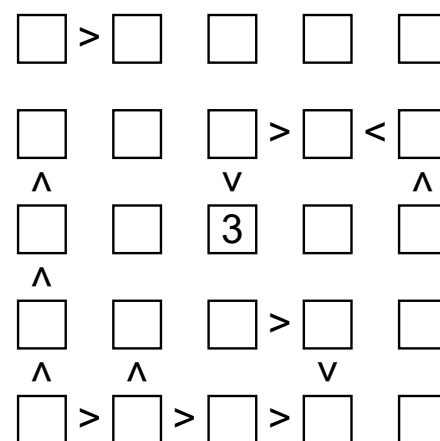
Find the missing words by following the **RHYME**, **LETTERS** and **MEANING** links – eg, a word that **rhymes** with 'cheek', has one **letter** different from 'pear' and has the same **meaning** as mountain, would be 'peak'. Full rules at zygolex.com. **Solution, page 48**



Futoshiki

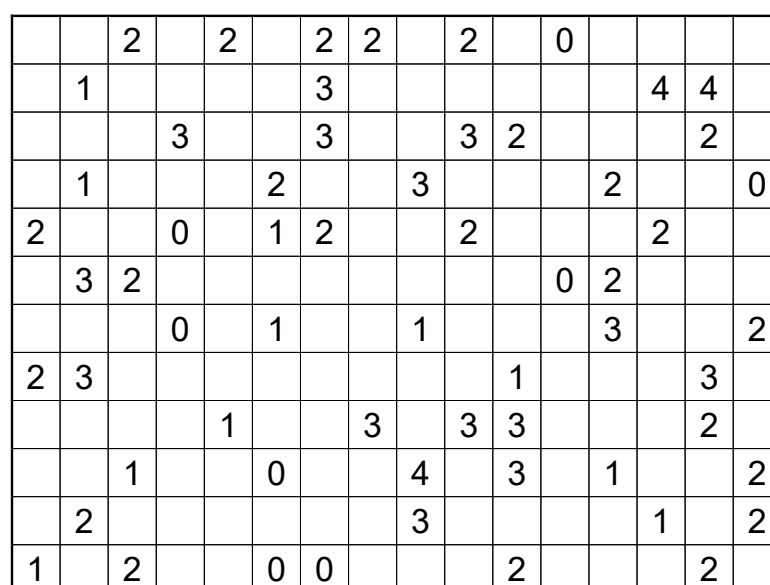
How to play

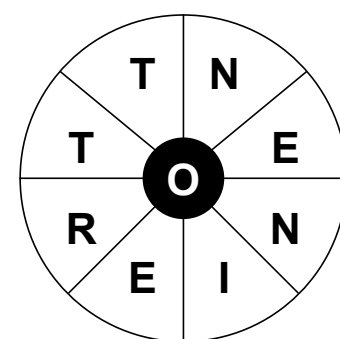
Place the numbers from 1-5 exactly once in each row and column. The greater than and less than signs ('>' and '<') indicate where one cell is greater/less than the adjacent cell indicated.



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.

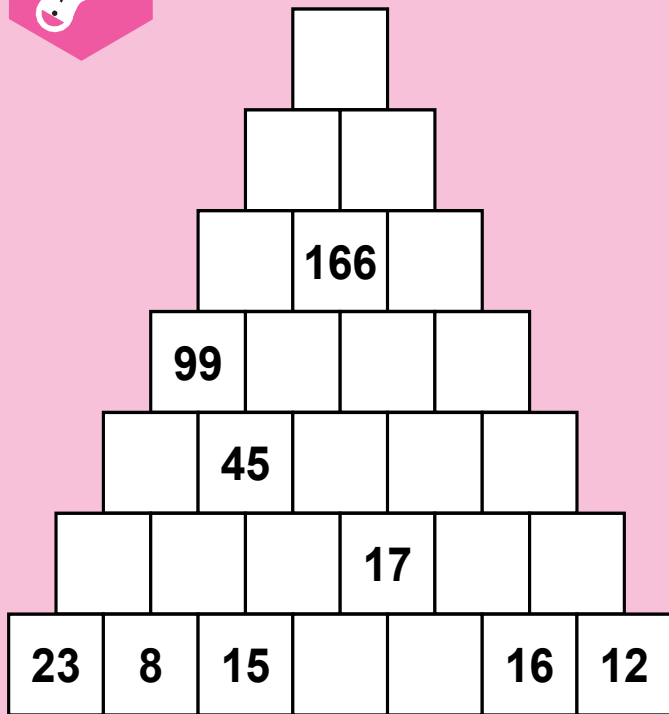




Children's Corner Number Tower



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.

	3		65	72	17				
		75		79	64		16		20
		68	71		23		27		29
				1			30		
	5		89	86	81	22		62	13
		83	52		92	87			
	41	46			59	94			
47			42	51	96				
		36				34		56	11
		39	8			57			100

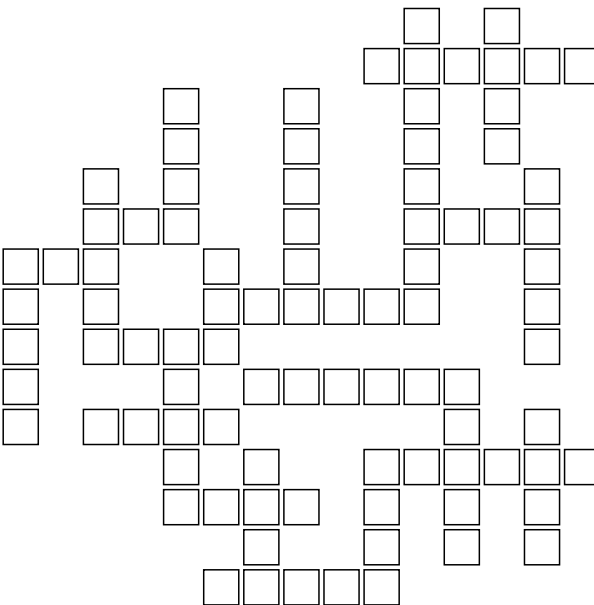
Rectangles

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.

						5			
3	2		5				2	2	2
				9					
	2							6	
				2				12	
					4				
6						5			3
	5		12	2	2				3
						6			

Word Fit

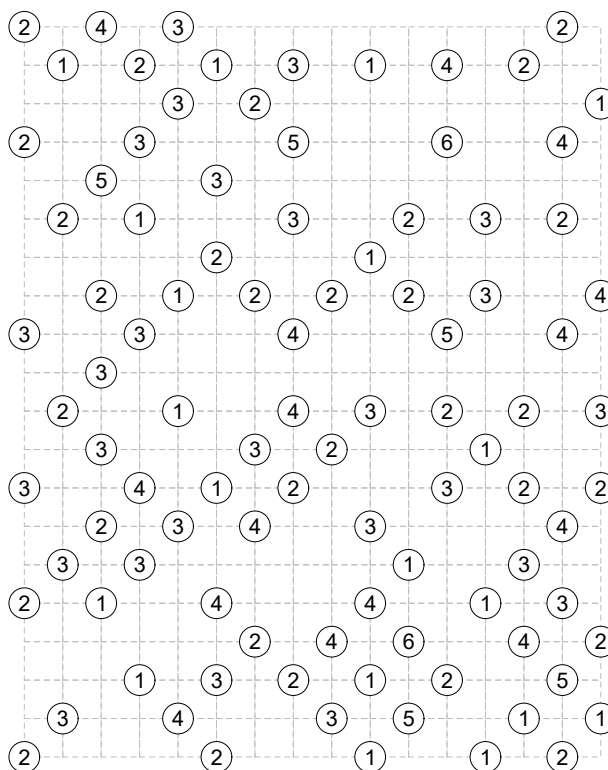
How to play Can you fit all the words into the grid to complete the puzzle? Some words may initially fit in more than one place, but there is only one way to fit all the words together to complete the grid.



- 3 letters**
Ark
Cat
Fed
- 4 letters**
Abet
Both
Drat
Hide
Lend
Must
Oven
Peek
Trot
- 5 letters**
Alert
Chart
Faded
Fiefs
Rated
Unzip
- 6 letters**
Allows
Busier
Lively
Matrix
Pencil
- 8 letters**
Liaisons

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.

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

- BINDWEED
BRACKEN
CHICKWEED
COLTSFOOT
COMMON POPPY
COW PARSLEY
DAISY
DANDELION
FIELD PANSY
FLEABANE
- FORGET-ME-NOT
HEMLOCK
HOGWEED
IVY
KNOTGRASS
MUGWORT
NETTLE
PETTY SPURGE
RAGWORT
YARROW

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.

- Adult male deer
A group of three
Helper, assistant
Departs

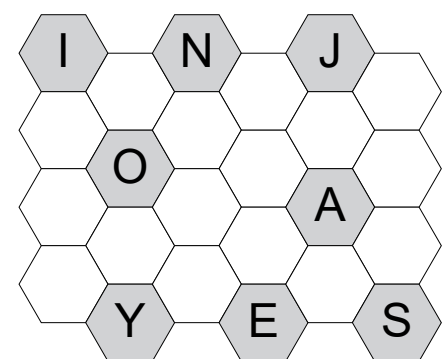
Calcudoku

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.

5+		2-	5-		5x
30x			7+		
8+			100x	4-	
72x	13+				5+
			4+		
	8+			10+	

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.



- APEX
FLOWN
FOLK
FORK
IVORY
JUMP
LODGE
SCAMP
TAP
THUMB

B C D F G H K L M P R T U V W X

Solutions: pages 48-49

BOOK WITH READER OFFERS LTD, THE UK'S NO.1 INDEPENDENT CRUISE SPECIALIST



THE NO-FLY 2024 VOLCANIC ISLANDS OF THE AZORES & MADEIRA PRICE DROP



Fred. Olsen Cruise Lines

YOUR VOYAGE HIGHLIGHTS

EXPLORE VERDANT VOLCANIC VISTAS

This itinerary has been hand-crafted to allow you to discover the volcanic vistas of the Azores. From Ponta Delgada, you are perfectly placed to explore the mysterious Sete Cidades crater lakes, or perhaps embark on a special tour of the Furnas Valley, taking in sights of hot sulphur springs and steaming fumaroles. In Praia da Vitória, you can explore the magma chambers and extraordinary caves of the Algar Do Carvão Volcano.

SEEK OUT WHALES & DOLPHINS

Ocean Conservationists ORCA will be on board for this cruise. They will be lead wildlife spotting sessions out on deck, helping you to identify the various species that can be found here. The Azores are well-known for being a leading whale-watching part of the world, as they are home to Atlantic-spotted dolphins and sperm whales. Any species you spot will feed into ORCA's Cruise Conservation Programme and their vital data collection.



14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 28TH AUGUST 2024

AUGUST 2024

Wed 28 Embark *Borealis* and depart Southampton

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sun 1 Praia Da Vitória, Azores, Portugal

Mon 2 Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal

Cruising by Santa Maria

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Wed 4 - Funchal, Madeira, Portugal (overnight)

Thu 5 Take advantage of your overnight stay in Madeira and explore the vibrant capital of Funchal, with its historic charm and scenic beauty. Immerse yourself in local life as you wander through the colourful Mercado dos Lavradores

Sat 7 Lisbon, Portugal

Cruise Mouth of River

Tagus, Belém

Tower & Discovery

Monument

Cruise by Cristo

Rei & Abril 25 Bridge



Sun 8 Leixões, Portugal

Leixões is a delightful town to explore, where an autumnal stroll along the promenade offers a laid back atmosphere, and just outside the town is a lovely beach at Matosinhos

Wed 11 Arrive in Southampton

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Panorama

Around the world in 10 stories



SAUDI ARABIA

Pilgrims flock to Mecca for Hajj

Muslim pilgrims have been streaming into Saudi Arabia's holy city of Mecca before the start of the Hajj this week, as the annual pilgrimage returns to its monumental scale.

Saudi officials say more than 1.5 million pilgrims from across the world had arrived in the country by Tuesday, the vast majority by air. The number is expected to exceed 2023 levels of 1.8 million people.

Hundreds of thousands of Saudis and others in the country will join them when the Hajj officially begins tomorrow. AP

FRANCE

Macron 'will not resign'

The French President has reaffirmed that he will not resign if his camp does not win a snap parliamentary election.

"I want to nip that idea in the bud – [the chance of that happening] never existed", Emmanuel Macron told journalists at a press conference yesterday.

He also said announcing a snap election was the only possible response after France's far-right trounced his own party in the European Parliament election.

"Returning to the sovereign people is the only republican decision in this context," he said. REUTERS

VATICAN

Pope urges priests to keep homilies snappy

By Cristina Carlevaro
IN VATICAN CITY

Priests should keep their homilies short and speak for a maximum of eight minutes to prevent members of the congregation from nodding off, Pope Francis has said.

The homily, or message by

a celebrant during a service, "must be short: an image, a thought, a feeling", the Pope, 87, said during his weekly audience.

It should not last longer than eight minutes "because after that time attention is lost and people fall asleep, and they are right," he said. "Priests sometimes talk a lot and you don't understand what they are talking about."

A homily in a Roman Catholic service usually follows a Bible reading and is used to reinforce the teaching. REUTERS

Postcard From... California

For stuntwomen, Hollywood does not have a good track record, particularly when it comes to driving.

That has prompted a group of women to form the Association of Women Drivers, the first stunt group for professional female performers.

Olivia Summers, who spearheaded the organisation, has been doing stunts for 20 years, with credits, including films like *Bridesmaids* and *The Flight Attendant*. But she was disappointed by male stunt drivers being cast to double for female actors and remembers

a disastrous meeting with a commercial producer.

"That producer said, 'Oh I didn't know there were female drivers. We just put a guy in a wig', and I was super frustrated because I'm like, how does this person not know this?"

Men comprise three-quarters of stunt performers and women one quarter, according to the Screen Actors Guild. "It has to change," said Naoki Kobayashi, owner of Drift 101, the training track for stunt performers. "It should be based on their talent."

Inequality also hits their pay, said stunt performer Ashlei Tave.

"I have seen males get way more or [a] bigger adjustment than women do for doing the same exact thing," Ms Tave said. REUTERS

Rollo Ross

SWITZERLAND

Parliament rejects order to do more on global warming

By Emma Farge
IN BERN

The lower house of the Swiss parliament has voted to reject a ruling ordering Switzerland to do more to combat global warming in a move that could encourage others to resist the influence of international courts.

In April, the European Court of Human Rights issued an unprecedented judgment that said Bern had violated the human rights of a group of older Swiss women by failing to tackle climate change.

But Bern's lower house followed in the steps of the upper house yesterday and passed a non-binding motion



Women for Climate Protection at the European Court of Human Rights

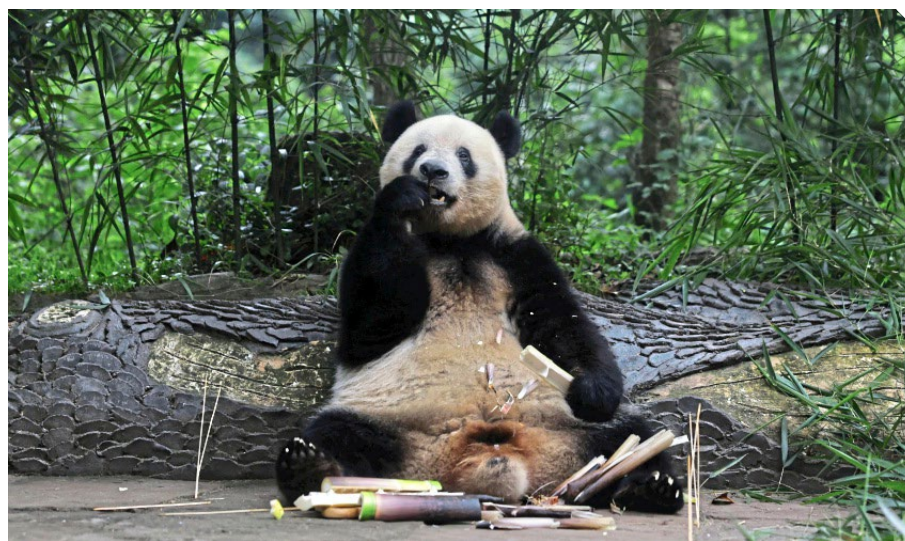
with 111 votes in favour and 72 against criticising the court's "judicial activism". It argued there was no reason to take further action because

Switzerland, warming at more than twice the global rate, was already doing enough.

During the debate, politicians denounced the court's "interference" in Swiss democracy and one called the ruling "erroneous" as several women who brought the case looked on.

One of the MPs from the right-wing Swiss People's Party appeared to mock the women, criticising them for bringing a case "because they are a bit too hot in the summer".

"It's really disgraceful what just happened," Stefanie Brander, 68, said after the vote. "It's a lack of respect of our rights which were confirmed by an international court." REUTERS



A treat for Xiang Xiang

Xiang Xiang eats her seventh birthday treat at Ya'an Bifengxia Base of China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda in Ya'an, Sichuan province, China. The giant panda was born in Japan in 2017 and transferred to China in 2023. TINGSHU WANG/REUTERS

SOUTH KOREA

Opposition chief indicted in bribery claim

By Jack Kim
IN SEOUL

South Korea's main opposition leader Lee Jae-myung has been indicted on bribery charges connected to an alleged scheme involving transferring funds to North Korea.

Mr Lee, of the Democratic Party, is accused of using an underwear maker to make the transfers and

facilitate a visit to Pyongyang when he was a provincial governor.

Mr Lee's deputy when he was Gyeonggi province governor had already been found guilty of bribery and transferring funds in a conspiracy involving Ssangbangwool Group to send \$8m (£6.3m) to North Korea.

It started making underwear before expanding. Mr Lee has denied any involvement or knowledge of the

scheme, which dates to 2019 and 2020 and was aimed at promoting a commercial project with North Korea and a visit to Pyongyang, which would have burnished his status.

"I am not that foolish," he said last year, calling the charges against him "fiction" as a court denied a warrant for his arrest. After the indictment, he said: "The prosecutors' creativity is getting worse." REUTERS

HONG KONG

Activist passports are cancelled

The Hong Kong government has cancelled the passports of six overseas-based activists under the new national security law, stepping up its crackdown on dissidents who moved abroad.

Those affected were ex-pro-democracy legislator Nathan Law, unionist Mung Siu-tat and activists Simon Cheng, Finn Lau, Johnny Fok and Tony Choi – all accused of endangering national security by the authorities. AP

SOUTH AFRICA

First death from mpox infection

A 37-year-old man has become South Africa's first recorded death from mpox after five laboratory-confirmed cases of the viral infection were recorded in the past month.

He died in Tembisa Hospital on Monday. "All five cases were classified [as] severe... requiring hospitalisation," the health minister, Joe Phaahla, said. The disease, formerly known as monkeypox, spreads through close contact, causing flu-like symptoms and lesions. REUTERS

KUWAIT

At least 35 die in building fire

At least 35 people have died in a building fire in Kuwait, the state-run news agency has said.

Kuna reported that the blaze broke out early yesterday in the southern Mangaf district. Another 15 people were injured.

The fire has been brought under control and authorities are combing the area for evidence, Maj-Gen Eid al-Oweihan, head of forensic evidence at the interior ministry, was quoted as saying. AP

ITALY

G7 leaders will discuss how to use Russian assets

By Kieron Monks

World leaders are gathering in southern Italy for the G7 summit today, with the top item on the agenda the question of how to appropriate frozen Russian funds for Ukraine while minimising the risk of unintended consequences.

The EU agreed last month to send Kyiv the “windfall profits” generated from about \$300bn (£233bn) in Russian assets held in European financial institutions which Moscow has been denied access to since the invasion of Ukraine.

The EU has estimated the total profits from the assets would be between €15bn and €20bn (£12bn and £16bn) by 2027, including around €3bn this year.

Talks are ongoing over providing a loan to Ukraine of about \$50bn, to be paid back in instalments through the profits from frozen Russian assets.



The cruise ship hosting police officers ahead of the G7 in Italy yesterday

But there is said to be disagreement between the US and EU over who would guarantee the loan.

“What Washington is proposing is, ‘The US takes a loan, Europe takes all the risk, Europe pays the interest, and the US uses the money for a US-Ukraine fund’,” an unnamed senior European diplomat told *Politico*.

“We might be stupid but we’re not that stupid.”

Ahead of the summit, a group of

European MPs and officials – including the chairman of the UK’s Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Alicia Kearns – signed an open letter calling for all of the Russian funds in Europe to be appropriated.

“The ultimate objective must be to fully confiscate all Russian assets and transfer them to Ukraine, ensuring that this process adheres to international law,” the officials argued.

The stakes are heightened in Italy as it is the last summit before the US election in November, which could bring the return of Donald Trump and his isolationist agenda, and Hungary’s accession to the EU Council presidency in July, which could grant Viktor Orbán’s regime opportunities to continue to thwart aid packages.

Dr Anton Moiseienko, a senior lecturer in law at the Australian National University and a sanctions specialist, suggests the outcomes are unpredictable.

\$300bn

Value of Russian assets held in European banks that Moscow has been denied access to

“We have as the status quo the EU’s commitment to taking the profits generated on frozen Russian assets and allocating those profits to a special fund that will be used, among other things, to enable the supply of military equipment to Ukraine,” he said.

“You could take that as a stepping stone towards a more far-reaching approach in future – so first you go after the profits and then the totality of those assets.

“Or you could say it’s just a way to satisfy some critics and then kick the issue into the long grass.”

While some concerns over the legal basis for appropriations have been assuaged, there is still widespread fear of stepping too far into the unknown, Dr Moiseienko said.

The UK announced a new £242m funding package for humanitarian, energy and stabilisation needs in Ukraine, with Rishi Sunak travelling to the summit.

Mr Sunak will “work with partners to agree a way to use immobilised Russian assets to support Ukraine”, No 10 said. “Russia must pay for the damage it is causing.”

i Russia began its **second stage of tactical nuclear weapons drills** yesterday with troops from its northern district, which borders Nato members Norway, Finland, Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

DIPLOMACY

Blinken urges Israel and Hamas to stop haggling on ceasefire

By Taz Ali

SENIOR WORLD REPORTER

Israel and Hamas have been urged to “stop haggling” and accept a ceasefire proposal to end the fighting in Gaza, with the US saying a plan will be released in the coming weeks on the post-war governance of the occupied Palestinian territory.

Hamas has responded to the US-backed proposal that was submitted almost two weeks ago, saying it has made “amendments” to the deal.

While it is unclear what changes Hamas has made, an Israeli official told *The Times of Israel* that the group’s response “changed all of the main and most meaningful parameters”, which they said amounted to a rejection of the proposal.

Michael Milshtein, of the Palestinian Studies Forum at Tel Aviv University, said Hamas has signalled that it accepts the proposal in principle but is demanding a “clear commitment [for] the end of the war”.

The three-stage ceasefire proposal publicly endorsed by the US President, Joe Biden, on 31 May envisions a phased release of Israeli hostages in Gaza in exchange for Palestinians jailed in Israel, ultimately leading to a permanent end to the war.

Mr Biden said at the time that the proposal was an Israeli initiative. While the US says Israel has accepted it, the Israeli PM, Benjamin Netanyahu, has given conflicting statements, saying his country is still intent on destroying Hamas.

His far-right coalition allies have rejected the proposal and have

threatened to bring down Mr Netanyahu’s government if he ends the war leaving Hamas intact. But the Israeli leader is also under mounting pressure to accept a deal to bring the hostages back.

“The main problem for both parties is the definition about the end of the war,” Dr Milshtein said. “I assess that there is a possibility to arrive to an agreed version which will satisfy both Israel and Hamas.

“Otherwise there are no options, other than war which will not bring [Israel] closer to the two strategic goals: erasure of Hamas’s governmental and military capabilities and the release of all hostages.”

The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken (inset, in Doha yesterday), who is touring the Middle

East for an eighth time, said Hamas’s response included some amendments that are not workable, but declined to say what changes the group was seeking.

“Hamas could have answered with a single word – ‘yes’. Instead, Hamas waited nearly two weeks and then proposed more changes, a number of which go beyond positions previously taken and accepted,” he said, adding that the US and fellow mediators Qatar and Egypt would keep trying to “close this deal”.

“It’s time for the haggling to stop and the ceasefire to start,” he said.

The White House National Security Adviser, Jake Sullivan, said that many of the changes proposed were “minor. Others differ more substantially from what was outlined in the UN Security Council resolution”.



Mourners attend funerals for three Palestinians killed in a raid on Kafr Dan in the West Bank REUTERS

ISRAEL

Hostages ‘threatened with execution’

By Isabella Bengoechea

Three of the hostages freed from Hamas captivity in a raid last weekend were repeatedly abused and threatened with execution by their captors, according to relatives of the men and Israeli officials.

Almog Meir Jan, 22, Shlomi Ziv, 41, and Andrey Kozlov, 27, who were taken captive from the Nova music festival on 7 October, were held together for six months in a dark room in Gaza. They had no contact with anyone apart from guards who brought them food and inflicted punishments if they did not obey strict rules, including locking them in a bathroom and putting blankets over them during hot weather, according to *The Wall Street Journal*.

Their captors repeatedly threatened to kill them and told them no one was coming to save them, the paper added.

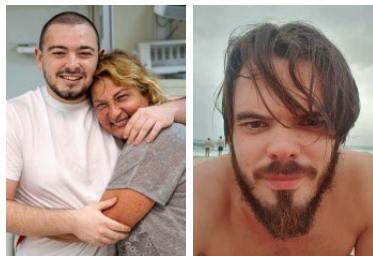
However, one day they were allowed to watch an Arabic broadcast from Al Jazeera, which showed a rally in Tel Aviv by families of hostages. One saw a picture of his face held among the crowd.

“It made him feel he hadn’t been

forgotten,” said Aviram Meir, the uncle of Mr Meir Jan.

The fourth hostage rescued was Noa Argamani, 26, who was being kept in a building 200 yards away.

A doctor who treated the hostages after their rescue said they had endured “physical and mental torture”.

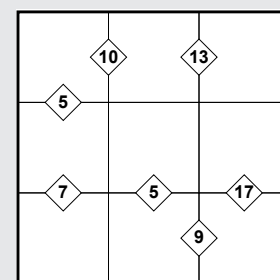


From left: Almog Meir Jan, Andrey Kozlov and Shlomi Ziv were rescued during a raid in Gaza on Saturday



One-minute Wjuko

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



Solution: page 48

SOCIETY

'I don't think a boob job is for me, but I can see myself having a facelift'

In our looks-obsessed society, it is a shame people deny having 'tweakments', says **Kate Lister**

I bumped into someone I went to school with a few weeks back and, after a rapid catch-up, we both said something to the effect of "you haven't changed a bit". Whereupon I joked, "Well, that's what we pay the aesthetician for, right?" She looked shocked. Well, not shocked exactly because her eyebrows didn't move, but as shocked anyone can look when the top half of their face is paralysed.

"You've never had Botox?" I asked, suspiciously. Maybe that was too personal, but I couldn't help it. I was staring at the flawless forehead of a 42-year-old woman who had quite clearly had Botox. Flustered, she swore she had not. She just had a good skincare routine and drank a lot of water.

I tried to raise my eyebrow at her, but she wouldn't admit to it. I realised I was on dangerous ground, so we said our goodbyes, and I walked away feeling a bit guilty for putting her on the spot.

I do have a habit of oversharing personal information. If you have read my other columns, you may have arrived at a similar conclusion. So I accept that not everyone is as open as I am about personal things, but I am always genuinely baffled by the culture of silence and shame that still exists around cosmetic surgery and "tweakments": Botox, fillers, microneedling, fat transfer – the list goes on. Why should anyone feel embarrassed by what they have done to look as good as they do?

There seems to be an unspoken sliding scale of beauty treatments that people will admit to. Make-up, fake tans and hair dye are all fair game – very few people lie about those. But this changes as we start moving into more permanent or semi-permanent treatments, your teeth whitening or eyebrow microblading (tattooing, for those who don't know). In my experience, people are reasonably happy to own up to these, but there may be a little bit of hesitation.

When we get into Botox, filler, and hair transplant territory, suddenly everyone is a natural beauty. This is all before we get to the surgeries proper: your nose jobs, tummy tucks, facelifts, breast

enlargements. I have a friend who doesn't tell her husband she gets Botox! Quite where he thinks the money and his wife's smile lines are going is beyond me.

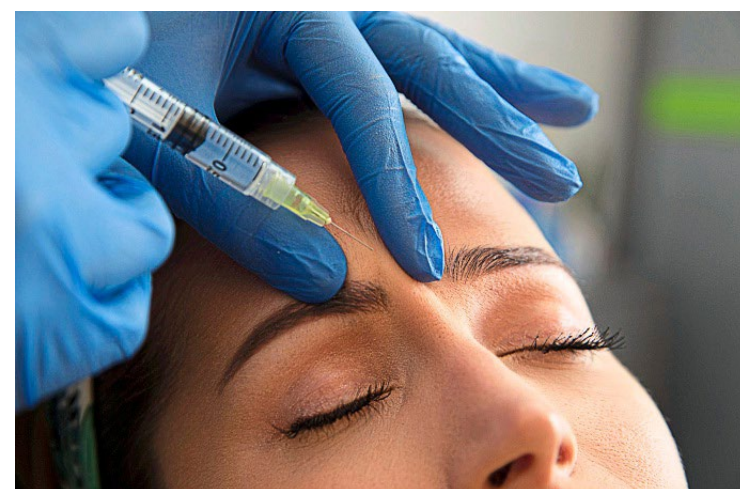
Why all the secrecy and shame? For better or worse, we live in a society that values looks. Surely, we don't need to make that worse by pretending we haven't had a little help here and there. I've had Botox in my forehead and around my eyes. I've had filler to get rid of the dark circles under my eyes and, earlier this year, I had an upper blepharoplasty because I didn't like the fact my eyelids had drooped to the point where I couldn't do a winged liner anymore. Am I supposed to pretend I haven't done any of these things and that my

wrinkle-free face is all down to a good soap?

It's not just my school friend who is in the cosmetic closet. I've lost count of how many celebrities flatly denied they had anything done at all, only to later admit that this wasn't the case.

I suspect the reason people deny having anything done is because admitting it may reveal a preoccupation with their appearance, which then feels like a vulnerability. No one wants to be accused of being vain, but I don't see investing in your looks as vanity so much as pride.

Perhaps there is also a sense of shame in not being 100 per cent "natural", but who is? Which celebrity is heading down the red carpet looking exactly as they did



People will admit to having certain procedures done but not others GETTY

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Dr Kate Lister is happy to admit to having procedures, including Botox
STEVE MORGAN

HEALTH

Why colds can last so long in the summertime

Bugs are circulating, the rain is keeping us indoors and then there's the Covid effect, writes **Sadhbh O'Sullivan**

Summer colds are a buzzkill. At least in the autumn and winter months it's not a surprise to find yourself coughing through a sore throat, runny nose and dragging tiredness. But in the months you're meant to be frolicking in the sun? Outrageous.

And yet it's mid-June and everyone seems to be under the weather. I'm recovering from a cold virus and on my London commute, people are coughing openly and sneezing; a GP friend tells me she is seeing tons of patients with colds they just can't shake.

The latest data from the UK Health Security Agency confirms there are bugs around: with several viruses in circulation which can cause respiratory tract infections, colds and influenza-like illnesses, particularly rhinovirus (the common cold virus).

There are a few potential reasons why, explains Dr Jake Dunning, consultant in infectious diseases and director of NHS England's High Consequence Infectious Diseases Network at the University of Oxford – the main ones probably being that any protection we've built up through exposure in the winter months is fading, while more people are travelling in and out of tropical climates and bringing all sorts of bugs back.

"Some of these viruses seem to do better – in terms of their replication and survival – in summer and autumn than in the winter," he says.

Then there's the weather. While viruses such as colds and flu survive less well in very hot weather, "when there is a lot of UV from sunlight", the recent rain in Britain may have had a counter effect, he says. When it's cold and damp, we spend more time indoors with windows closed, meaning they can spread from person to person more easily.

Some research has shown that the pandemic and ensuing lockdowns disrupted the seasonal cycle of viruses and affected our immunity, making us more susceptible or just perceiving symptoms of viruses to be more significant. But Dunning points out that viruses circulating in summer months is nothing new.

"There is a tendency to forget that we do see odd behaviour of respiratory viruses in some years anyway and immediately blame everything on Covid," he says. "It's probably going to turn out to be a mixture – some of the odd patterns we see will be to do with the Covid pandemic, whereas others are just respiratory viruses continuing to be odd and unpredictable from time to time."

Coronavirus itself is also still prevalent with the new FLiRT variants growing dominant in



It is worth ruling out hay fever when suffering from cold symptoms

recent months. They are more infectious and their share of UK infections have risen to about 78 per cent vs a few per cent two months ago. Many symptoms – including coughing, a runny nose and a sore throat – are shared between colds, Covid and flu and people are largely advised to treat Covid like any other respiratory infection, although the Government recommends trying to stay home for five days.

What we do know in the wake of the pandemic is that Covid and other respiratory infections often last far longer than a few days. A study by Queen Mary University in October 2023 found that "long colds" are not uncommon – and 22 per cent of Covid and non-Covid infections last longer than 28 days.

Dr Nabeel Arshad, A GP from the Brooke Surgery in Hyde, Manchester, adds that colds may take longer to shift in the summer months because the body has to

work harder to fight it – or because at this time of year people are prioritising their plans (such as holidays, weddings and social events) over rest.

"If a cold is lingering this can be because your body has been exposed to a virus that it isn't accustomed to, so your body is still working out how to fight the virus. Or it can be that you haven't created the right environment for your body to fight the virus, so you might not be sleeping well or drinking enough water. You need to have the optimal environment to fight it."

If you're experiencing a summer cold, it's also worth ruling out hay fever. The best way to tell the difference, advises Dunning, is to remove yourself from any potential trigger (staying in and avoiding gardens and parks) and see if your symptoms persist. A cold will just hang around no matter what, while hay fever "typically improves by removing yourself from the trigger". Then you can treat the hay fever with antihistamines, while the cold requires other interventions.

Treating a summer cold is no different to treating a winter one: you need plenty of fluids, plenty of rest and to eat healthily, he says, with plenty of vitamin C from green vegetables, citrus fruit and berries, or a supplement.

Vitamin D is vital for immunity and it's worth considering additional supplementation, especially while resting. If you have a high temperature – above 37.5°C – and if you've had it for more than three days, or if your symptoms are getting worse, especially your respiratory symptoms, he recommends seeing a GP.

when they rolled out of bed? Aren't we all trying to look the best we can? For some, that means having a shower and popping a breath mint. For others like me, it's a bit more elaborate, and I'm not ashamed of that.

Many aestheticians on social media's whole shtick is to zoom in on the faces and bodies of celebrities and confidently declare the work they have had done. Of course film stars have had work done! I just take that as a given. These people are under enormous pressure to look incredible and have enough money and resources to do it. Why should they feel embarrassed?

I just wish they would be a bit more honest about it. How many celebrity diets, make-up lines, skincare routines, and shapewear products are being flogged to the masses with no hint of a disclaimer to let you know that the person endorsing it did not get to look like that without a lot of help?

I don't feel remotely ashamed of the work I've had done. Looking as good as I can boosts my confidence. I quite like getting the treatments done, which I admit sounds bizarre when what we're talking about is an injection in the face. I like going to the clinic and getting a cup of tea and a nice biscuit while I wait. I enjoy being made a fuss of. I like chatting away about all the new treatments that are out and what I can try next. But, most of all, I like the results. I don't see why I should keep them a secret. That's the bind, isn't it? We're supposed to get

No one wants to be called vain, but I don't see investing in your looks as vanity so much as pride

older, but not actually look older, a feat that can only be achieved by a tweakment or two, but you are not supposed to ever admit to that.

I say that enough is enough. I think we should be as open about what work we've had done as we are about where we got an outfit from or how we styled our hair. I will get more work done in the future if I fancy it and I'm sure I'll tell everyone about that as well. I don't think a boob job is quite for me, but I can definitely see myself getting a facelift or liposuction further down the line.

Maybe I am totally wide of the mark on my high school friend and she really has never had any work done. Maybe her smooth forehead and pouty lips are all down to good genes and getting a solid eight hours of sleep a night. But I doubt it.

Of course, no one has to reveal personal medical information if they don't want to, but imagine a world in which no one felt the need to lie about it. Wouldn't that be a more positive world? One where young women aren't beating themselves up about their looks because they don't know the celebrities they idolise have had surgery.

I don't think that will ever happen but, I for one, will not be lying about what work I have had done just to save face.

Treating a summer cold is no different to treating a winter one: you need plenty of fluids, plenty of rest

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Television Thursday 13 June

CRITIC'S CHOICE

GERARD GILBERT



PICK OF THE DAY

The Truth vs Alex Jones
9pm, Sky Documentaries
On the day of the tragic 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, in which 20 young children lost their lives, far-right radio shock-jock Alex Jones (*left*) began questioning the veracity of the attack – describing it as a “false flag” operation which had been perpetrated by gun control advocates and claiming that nobody had actually died. His conspiracy theory turbocharged traffic to his Infowars website, generating millions of dollars in revenue. Filmed across a period of four years, this documentary chronicles the courtroom drama of two defamation lawsuits brought by the victims’ families against Jones – and the historic outcomes they achieved.

The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick
8pm, Channel 4
A new series begins with what’s being called a “rescue special” – that’s to say, quite a lot of recycled pet action. Animals featured include rescue whippet Wobble who, at only a year old in 2015, was wobbling due to a compression fracture in her neck, and rescued German shepherd Bran, who featured in 2019 receiving an innovative total hip replacement.

The Fall: Skydive Murder Plot
9pm, Channel 4
The final part of this in-depth true-crime docu-series looks back at the first trial of Emile Cilliers and how it collapsed. In court, his wife Victoria contradicted what she initially told

the police, even claiming that she had cut her own parachute. This bizarre about-turn seemingly came from some sort of residual loyalty to her murderous spouse. Luckily, the police were not satisfied and pushed again to secure a conviction.

The Outlaws
9pm, BBC One
While the plot thickens on the thriller front (DS Selforth having found that burner phone and those Swiss bank statements in his partner Sergeant Haines’s desk drawer), the best of the comedy involves Gabby (Eleanor Tomlinson) and her attempt to get pregnant. Told at the fertility clinic that there was a national sperm shortage, she wonders: “How? This country is full of wankers.”

Chinook: Zulu Delta 576
9pm, BBC Two
This year is the 30th anniversary of the devastating helicopter crash that wiped out a generation of Northern Ireland’s top intelligence personnel. The families of the victims are still on the hunt for answers and this documentary allows them to share their stories, while experts offer their thoughts on what went wrong that fateful night.

King Otto and Football’s Greek Gods
9pm, BBC Four
With Euro 2024 kicking off tomorrow in Munich, here’s a look at how German football coach Otto Rehhagel took charge of the Greek

Daytime	6.00 Breakfast (S). 9.30 Morning Live (S). 10.45 Scam Interceptors (S). 11.15 Homes Under The Hammer (S). 12.15 Bargain Hunt (R) (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 Rip Off Britain (S). 2.30 Animal Park (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).	6.45 Escape To The Country (R) (S). 7.30 Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (R) (S). 8.00 Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (R) (S). 9.00 BBC News (S). 12.15 Politics Live (S). 1.00 Impossible (R) (S). 1.45 Mastermind (R) (S). 2.15 Mastermind (R) (S). 2.45 Five Bedrooms (R) (S). 3.30 Stanley Tucci: Searching For Italy (R) (S). 4.15 Great Bear Stakeout (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 (R) (S).	6.30 Cheers (R) (S). 6.55 Cheers (R) (S). 7.20 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.10 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 9.10 Frasier (R) (S). 9.40 Frasier (R) (S). 10.10 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: The Gold Digger Killer (Robin Hays 2020) Thriller, starring Julie Benz (S). 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S). 5.00 5 News At 5 (S).	 Amina decides to give Billy another chance after his attempted kiss in 'We Are Lady Parts' 10pm, Channel 4	 Noel Fitzpatrick hosts a pet rescue special 8pm, Channel 4 Gabby considers the upsides to motherhood 9pm, BBC One	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 Deal Or No Deal (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 (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 (R) (S). 6.30 The Simpsons Spoof behind-the-scenes special (R) (S).	6.00 Party Election Broadcast 6.05 Police Interceptors (R) (S). 6.55 5 News Update (S).		6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase With Kelvin Fletcher, Chris Ramsey and Heather Small (S).	
7pm	7.30 EastEnders It's the day of Keanu's funeral (S).	7.00 Mississippi: Earth's Great Rivers A journey along the American river (R) (S).	7.30 Emmerdale Belle finds herself in danger (S).	7.00 Channel 4 News (S).	7.00 The Motorway Hotel Elton John tribute act Paul is expected to drop in (S). 7.55 5 News Update (S).	7.00 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 7.30 Villages By The Sea (S).	6.20 FILM: Only The Brave (Joseph Kosinski 2017) Biographical drama, starring Josh Brolin (S). 7.00 Deal Or No Deal Game show, hosted by Stephen Mulhern (S).	
8pm	8.00 Question Time Fiona Bruce hosts the political debate from Edinburgh (S).	8.00 Springwatch The team looks back on highlights of the series. Last in the series (S).	8.30 The ITV Election Debate 2024 Julie Etchingham hosts a multi-party debate (S).	8.00 The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick New series (S).	8.00 Happy Campers: The Caravan Park (S).	8.00 A House Through Time Last in the series (S).	8.00 Bob's Burgers Tina teams up with Darryl at the school dance (S). 8.30 Bob's Burgers (S).	
9pm	9.00 The Outlaws The police close in on the gang (S).	9.00 Chinook: Zulu Delta 576 Part one of two. A look at the 1994 helicopter crash in the Mull of Kintyre (S).		9.00 The Fall: Skydive Murder Plot The trial reaches a dramatic conclusion. Last in the series (S).	9.00 The Hotel Inspector Alex Polizzi returns to Loughborough Grange (S).	9.00 King Otto & Football's Greek Gods (S).	9.00 FILM: Scream (Matt Bettinelli-Olpin, Tyler Gillett 2022) Horror sequel, starring Neve Campbell (S). 9.00 Love Island The temperature rises for the couples (S).	
10pm	10.00 BBC News At Ten (S). 10.30 BBC Regional News (S). 10.40 Not Going Out Lee and Lucy go quizzing (R) (S).	10.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing (R) (S). 10.30 Newsnight (S).	10.10 ITV News; Weather (S). 10.40 ITV Regional News (S). 10.55 Emergency Nurses: A&E Stories (R) (S).	10.00 We Are Lady Parts The band record their debut album (S). 10.35 We Are Lady Parts (S).	10.00 Belmarsh: Serial Killers & High Security (R) (S).	10.15 FILM: The Graduate (Mike Nichols 1967) Comedy drama, starring Dustin Hoffman (S).	10.05 Tell Me Everything Naisha comes under severe pressure (S).	
11pm	11.05 Newscast (S).	11.05 The Misadventures Of Romesh Ranganathan (R) (S).		11.20 Celebrity Gogglebox A rolling cast of famous faces appraise the week's television (R) (S).	11.05 FILM: King Of Thieves (James Marsh 2018) Fact-based crime drama, starring Michael Caine (S).	11.15 FILM: Monster (Patty Jenkins 2003) Fact-based drama, starring Charlize Theron (S).	11.05 Family Guy Chris meets a puppeteer with a dark past (S). 11.35 Family Guy (S).	
Late	11.35 Rebus (R) (S). 12.25 Weather for the Week Ahead (S). 12.30 BBC News (S).	12.05 Sign Zone: The Panorama Interviews With Nick Robinson (S). 12.35 Sign Zone: Blood On The Dance Floor - Spotlight (R) (S). 1.35 Sign Zone: Doctor Who (R) (S).	12.00 Shop On TV 3.00 In For A Penny (R) (S). 3.35 Unwind With ITV (S). 5.05 Katie Piper's Breakfast Show (R) (S).	12.25 Sky Coppers (R) (S). 1.15 Ramsay's 24 Hours To Hell And Back (R) (S). 2.00 Queenie (R) (S). 2.30 Queenie (R) (S). 2.55 Queenie (R) (S). 3.20 Queenie (R) (S).	1.15 PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S). 3.15 Secret Scotland With Susan Calman (R) (S). 4.05 The Railways That Built Britain With Chris Tarrant (R) (S). 4.50 Wildlife SOS (R) (S).	12.00 The Sky At Night (S). 12.30 Queen Victoria's Letters: A Monarch Unveiled (S). 1.30 Great British Railway Journeys (S). 2.00 A House Through Time (S). 3.00 Close	1.25 FILM: To Live And Die In LA (William Friedkin 1985) Crime thriller, starring Willem Dafoe (S). 3.50 Close 12.05 American Dad! (S). 12.35 American Dad! (S). 1.05 Bob's Burgers (S). 1.35 Bob's Burgers (S). 2.05 Don't Hate The Playaz (S). 2.45 Unwind With ITV (S). 3.00 Teleshopping	

national football team to take down the giants of world football and in 2004 in Portugal, become the unlikeliest European champions.

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We Are Lady Parts
10pm, Channel 4
Saira (Sarah Kameela Impey) wonders whether the band's "funny Muslim songs" are enough to succeed and whether they ought to be "saying something real". Elsewhere, their manager Taz (Lucie Shorthouse) has returned to her Birmingham roots, and Amina (the splendid Anjana Vasan) decides to give Billy another shot after his unwanted advances. "I'm sorry that I attacked your face with my face," is how he describes his attempted snog. That's one way of putting it...

FILM
CHOICE

LAURENCE PHELAN



FILM OF THE DAY
The Graduate
10.15pm, BBC Four
(Mike Nichols, 1967)
Dustin Hoffman (left, with Anne Bancroft) was actually 29 when he gave his star-making performance as the nebbish young graduate Benjamin, who is "a little worried about his future". Bancroft, playing Benjamin's girlfriend's seductive mother, Mrs Robinson, was only six years older, but all the same, this iconic comedy perfectly described the widening of the generation gap that was a characteristic of late-60s America. The Simon & Garfunkel soundtrack also helps fix it as a very 60s artefact. Even if it is showing its age, the film is still as bittersweet as it ever was. And was there ever a more subtly undercut happy ending?

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Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa
9pm, BBC Three
(Declan Lowney, 2013)
This feature-length outing for Steve Coogan's inane and socially inept broadcaster has the trappings of a *Dog Day Afternoon*-style siege drama but remains parochial, with only the most bathetic action sequences.

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Monster
11.15pm, Film4
(Patty Jenkins, 2003)
Charlize Theron serves up an Oscar-winning performance in this powerful film about Aileen Wuornos, an abused sex worker whose murder spree in 1989-90 turned her into America's most infamous female serial killer. Christina Ricci co-stars.

ON DEMAND

The Boys
Prime Video
A new season of the hit US satirical superhero drama about a group of vigilantes.

Bridgerton
Netflix
The second half of Netflix's flagship historical romance set in Regency-era London.

The Wrong Man: 17 Years Behind Bars
BBC iPlayer
A documentary following a major miscarriage of justice.

itv3		More	sky max	sky atlantic
6.00 Classic Emmerdale (S) 6.30 Classic Emmerdale (S) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (S) 7.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 8.05 Agatha Christie's Poirot (S) 9.20 Agatha Christie's Poirot (S) 10.35 The Royal (S) 11.35 Heartbeat (S) 12.40 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 Inspector Morse (S) 5.55 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 The Goldbergs (S) 2.30 The Goldbergs (S) 3.00 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Modern Family (S) 4.00 Young Sheldon (S) 4.30 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 MacGyver (R) (S) 2.00 MacGyver (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 The Guest Wing (R) (S) 7.00 The Guest Wing (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 Six Feet Under (R) (S) 4.35 Six Feet Under (R) (S) 5.40 Billions (R) (S)
6.55 Heartbeat Peggy gets into trouble again (S)	6.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory Leonard and Sheldon fight for control of a project (S)	6.55 Car S.O.S Tim and Fuzz take on carpenter Mike's 1980 Ford Escort RS2000 (S)	6.00 Stargate SG-1 An alien civilisation faces extinction (R) (S)	6.45 Billions Chuck, Axe and Wendy square off against Prince (R) (S)
	7.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.30 Come Dine With Me Teacher Jo is the fourth to host in Brighton (S)	7.55 Grand Designs A couple building a curved glass family home in Manchester (S)	7.00 Stargate SG-1 Invisible aliens plot to destroy mankind (R) (S)	7.50 Game Of Thrones Daenerys makes an offer to the Lords of Westeros (R) (S)
8.00 Vera A popular local GP is found murdered (S)	8.00 Dance Moms The mothers fight over a vacancy among the studio's coveted trio (S)		8.00 A Discovery Of Witches (R) (S)	
	9.00 Gogglebox Appraisals of Sitting On A Fortune, Close To Me and Nadiya's Fast Flavours (S)	9.00 24 Hours In A&E Karan is rushed to St George's after being injured in a football match (S)	9.00 The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live Michonne finds help from an unexpected source (R) (S)	9.00 House Of The Dragon: War Room Sue Perkins presents a look ahead to season two (R) (S)
10.00 Wire In The Blood The team struggles to build up a criminal profile (S)	10.00 Naked Attraction Featuring a 24-year-old martial arts instructor from Hull (S)	10.00 Rescue: Extreme Medics (S)	10.00 A League Of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip Jamie, Jill, Micah and Mo explore the city of La Paz (R) (S)	10.00 Band Of Brothers Easy Company reaches breaking point (R) (S)
11.50 The Royal The hospital is evacuated (S)	11.05 First Dates Diners include a 65-year-old dominatrix (S)	11.05 24 Hours In A&E (S)	11.00 The Walking Dead Rick tries to rescue Daryl (R) (S)	11.20 Succession The entire Roy clan travels to Logan's hometown of Dundee (R) (S)
12.45 Upstairs, Downstairs (S) 1.50 Unwind With ITV (S) 2.30 Teleshopping	12.10 The Big Bang Theory (S) 12.40 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.15 Rick And Morty (S) 1.45 Smiling Friends (S) 2.00 Smiling Friends (S) 2.10 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S)	12.10 24 Hours In A&E (S) 1.15 Rescue: Extreme Medics (S) 2.20 24 Hours In A&E (S) 3.25 A Place In The Sun (S) 3.55 Close	12.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S) 12.55 Entourage (R) (S) 1.30 Entourage (R) (S) 2.05 Road Wars (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T (R) (S) 5.00 Highway Patrol (R) (S) 5.30 Highway Patrol (R) (S)	12.30 The Pacific (R) (S) 1.40 The Wire (R) (S) 2.50 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 4.00 The Guest Wing (R) (S) 5.00 The Guest Wing (R) (S)

Radio

BBC Radio 1
6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast With Matt Edmondson **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Rickie, Melvin And Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Dean And Vicky **3.00** Radio 1's Pop Anthems **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 Rave-Up With Arielle Free **10.00** BBC Introducing Dance **11.00** Radio 1's Residency **1am** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems **2.00** Turn It Up: A Short History Of Drum & Bass **2.15** Turn It Up: A Short History Of Drum & Bass **2.30** Turn It Up: A Short History Of Drum & Bass **3.00** Radio 1 Relax **4.00** Radio 1 Dance **5.00** Radio 1 Early Breakfast With Maia Beth

BBC Radio 1Xtra
6am 1Xtra Playlists **7.00** Nadia Jae **10.00** DJ Day Day **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Rakeem Omar **4.00** Fee Mak **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Fee Mak **7.00** DJ Target **9.00** Seani B **10.30** Seani B **11.00** 1Xtra's Throwback Party **12mdn't** Throwback Thursday **1.00** Throwback Thursday **2.00** 1Xtra's Rap List **4.00** 1Xtra Salutes. **5.00** 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix

BBC Radio 2
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **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 Country Show With Bob Harris **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent **7.10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12mdn't** OJ Borg **3.00** Sounds Of The 90s With Fearnie Cotton **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC Radio 3
6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer Of The Week: Gibbons **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape. A sequence of music. **7.30** Radio 3 In Concert. The BBC NOW with works by Jennifer Higdon and William L. Dawson. **9.45** The Essay: Bohemians In T-Shirts. Michael Goldfarb on the importance of Charlie Parker and Miles Davis. **10.00** Night Tracks. A soundtrack for late-night listening. **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30am** Through The Night

BBC Radio 4
6am Today **9.00** In Our Time **9.45** NatureBang **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** This Cultural Life **11.45** Book Of The Week: All That Glitters **12noon** News **12.04** The Bottom Line **12.32** Sliced Bread **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World At One **1.45** Understand: The UK Election **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: The Queen Of The Isle Of Wight **3.00** Open Country

3.27 Radio 4 Appeal **3.30** Word Of Mouth **4.00** The Briefing Room **4.30** BBC Inside Science **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** Rhysearch. Comedian Rhys James privacy issues and technology. Last in the series. **7.00** The Archers. Debate rages at Grange Farm. **7.15** Front Row. Reviews of films Sasquatch Sunset and Ama Gloria. **8.00** The Media Show. The latest news from the fast-changing media world. **9.00** Loose Ends. With guests Caitlin Moran, Laura Smythe and Alex Lowe. **9.45** Empire Of Tea. Sathnam Sanghera tells the story of Britain's national drink and its imperial past. **10.00** The World Tonight. News round-up, with Anna Foster. **10.45** Book At Bedtime: The Photographer. By Max Porter. **11.00** The Today Podcast. The biggest news stories of the week. Last in the series. **11.30** The Bottom Line: The Decisions That Made Me A Leader **12mdn't** News And Weather **12.30** Book Of The Week: All That Glitters **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 Paul Temple And The Gilbert Case **6.30** A Change In The Weather **7.00** Patterson **7.30** Dad's Army **8.00** The Break **8.30** These Days **8.45** Exile **9.00** Rhysearch **9.30** Soundstage **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Great Lives **10.30** Shakespeare In India **11.00** Paul Temple And The Gilbert Case **11.30** A Change In The Weather **12noon** Patterson **12.30** Dad's Army **1.00** The Break **1.30** These Days **1.45** Exile **2.00** The Unbelievable Truth **2.30** The Leopard In Autumn **3.00** Thackeray **3.45** Monsoon Selection Board **4.00** Great Lives **4.30** Shakespeare In India **5.00** Paul Temple And The Gilbert Case **5.30** A Change In The Weather **6.00** Patterson **6.30** Dad's Army **7.00** The Break **7.30** These Days **7.45**

Pick of the day



Open Country
3pm, BBC Radio 4
Anneka Rice
(above) travels to Suffolk to explore the picturesque landscapes and seascapes that have inspired the local artist Maggi Hambling – a trip which includes Hambling's garden.

Exile **8.00** The Unbelievable Truth **8.30** The Leopard In Autumn **9.00** Thackeray **9.45** Monsoon Selection Board **10.00** Comedy Club: Rhysearch **10.30** Comedy Club: The Guns Of Adam Riches **10.55** Comedy Club: The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Comedy Club: Clare In The Community **11.30** Comedy Club: And The Winner Is **12mdn't** Great Lives **12.30** Shakespeare In India **1.00** Paul Temple And The Gilbert Case **1.30** A Change In The Weather **2.00** Patterson **2.30** Dad's Army **3.00** The Break **3.30** These Days **3.45** Exile **4.00** The Unbelievable Truth **4.30** The Leopard In Autumn **5.00** Thackeray **5.45** Monsoon Selection Board

BBC 5 Live
6am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **9.00** 5 Live Golf **10.00** Gordon Smart: Live From Euro 2024 **11.30** Johnny I'Anson **1am** 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 **6.00** Huw Stephens' Roundtable **7.00** New Music Fix Daily **9.00** 6 Music's Loud And Proud Double-Headers **11.00** 6 Music Artist In Residence: Bloc Party **12mdn't** New Music Fix Playlist **1.00** New Album Fix **2.00** 6 Music's Jukebox **3.00** 6 Music's Jukebox **4.00** 6 Music's Jukebox **5.00** The Remix With Chris Hawkins **5.30** 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** Ben Coley

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** Jim White And Simon Jordan **1pm** Hawksbee And Baker **4.00** TalkSPORT Drive With Andy Goldstein And Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1am** Extra Time **5.00** Early Euro Breakfast

Art

Reclaiming blackness

The photographer Zanele Muholi shines a light on queer life in South Africa

►► Page 40



Opera

'The Merry Widow'

This snazzy, frothy tune-fest casts its magic at Glyndebourne

►► Page 42



I'm on foodbunker.co.uk choosing some dinner for a survival emergency. Would I want the freeze-dried pouches of beef stew, scrambled egg with cheese or the chicken tikka with rice? I should probably focus on the food's shelf life, rather than the flavours, because at the end of the world, I might not notice whether the chicken was well spiced or a bit bland.

All of these pouches have a seven-year shelf life, but, ooh, there's a carrot stew here, which would last up to 25 years. On thebugout.co.uk, a prepper supplies shop in Wales, I spot a freeze-dried pepperoni pizza slice (£8.99) – comforting in adversity, perhaps? – but it's sold out.

Why am I spending my evening looking up military-grade ration packs instead of going to the pub with friends or to the cinema? Because I am doing a £57 course in how to be a survivalist, otherwise known as a prepper. "Some sort of disaster is coming," says my teacher, "so prepping now is important, not crazy."

Still, it feels a bit crazy at first, because I have never even been camping (except for festivals, and boy, was I glad to get home), and my prerequisite for anywhere I live is that it must be within two minutes of a well-stocked corner shop. I don't own a spanner, a car or a cupboard big enough for the 120-serving emergency breakfast meals package I'm eyeing up for £175. When I watch dystopian survival films, I look at the hero and think, "why are they bothering, this seems very stressful?"

All the same, it's precisely because I am such a useless urbanite Londoner with zero survival skills – and because the Government has suggested households ought to become more self-sufficient – that I've embarked on this three-week course. In May this year, Oliver Dowden, the Deputy Prime Minister, encouraged families to stock up with enough food and water to survive for three days in the event of an emergency.

In 2022, in the wake of the pandemic, supply-chain breakdowns, the aftermath of Brexit and energy companies warning of power outages, the Government launched its "resilience framework", to ensure the whole of society is better prepared for events such as (another) pandemic, a cyber attack, disruption to space systems that affect GPS signals or, in extreme cases, a nuclear attack.

My guru for all this is Lisa Bedford, known in the prepping community as Survival Mom and author of *How to Prepare Your Family for Everyday Disasters and Worst-Case Scenarios*.

In the US, survivalism has had its devotees since the 1970s, particularly after 9/11. Many

I didn't want to be a helpless victim and to wait to see what might happen to us

I took a £57 prepping course to get ready for the end of the world

If supply chains break down, as they did during the pandemic and after Brexit, it's good to be ready. By **Kasia Delgado**



embody extreme stereotypes – billionaires in off-grid bunkers, biblical preppers preparing for the end of the world – but preppers increasingly come in all shapes and sizes, different backgrounds, jobs and political leanings.

There are also a growing number in the UK and across the world. Bedford (right) has developed such a following she now runs a survival prepping course, which has modules on everything from stocking up on essentials to survival refuge. I'm doing the fast-track version, which should teach me the basics.

Living outside Houston, Texas, with her husband and two children, she began prepping in 2009 when the recession meant the economy tanked, her husband lost his job and she realised her family was entirely unprepared for a financial crisis, natural disaster or anything else that could arise unexpectedly.

"I saw people losing their homes," Bedford tells me, "and they were working people who had done everything

'right'. It was a wake-up call. I didn't want to be a helpless victim and wait to see what might happen to us."

She discovered the doomsday prepping world and began to pick up tips. "My emergency food supply began to grow and, in a single day, I assembled a vehicle emergency kit and a few supplies to help us deal with power outages."

She has, over the years, built up stocks of food, hundreds of loo rolls and tins, and first aid, which she keeps around the house – including one big storage bunker, which is more like a huge pantry. She has a generator and emergency kit bags for her family in case they need to escape.

She knows how to make a composting toilet, how to whip up something delicious from that freeze-dried



scrambled egg pouch I have my eye on, how to harvest drinkable water from the pipes before the pressure goes and how to sanitise whatever water remains drinkable.

The mother-of-two, who says she is "over 50", hasn't followed the advice of the more extreme, macho preppers, who build nuclear bunkers in the desert in which to hide, and who store stockpiles of weapons. She instead aims to live self-sufficiently within her home, like her grandparents or great grandparents might have before the convenience of same-day Amazon orders or a sense of abundance everywhere you turn.

"They'd have prepared for different seasons, checking before winter that they had enough firewood, setting food aside for the cold weather, planning ahead in general. With drive-throughs and stores everywhere and all the tech, we've got complacent."

Her main piece of advice is: "Don't be a 'French toast person' – someone who rushes to the store in a panic for bread, eggs and milk". I am absolutely a "French toast person" who doesn't think ahead, but will go to the shop down the road three times in one day to get ingredients for something I decide last-minute I fancy making for dinner.

My first task in the course is to fill in the risk assessment worksheet so I can identify what I think is



FAST FACTS THE PREPPERS

- In a 2023 Finder survey, roughly one-third of the US adult population now identifies as preppers – spending some \$11bn (£8bn) annually to get ready for the breakdown of society. That figure is up from just 6 per cent 15 years ago.
- In the UK, since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, YouTube has been awash with advice on how to prepare for the end of the world, and the internet is full of "new preppers" googling survival techniques.
- Dr Chris Ellis, a doctor of philosophy at Cornell University, researches the phenomenon of disaster preparedness. He created an academic definition of a prepper: a Resilient Citizen, someone who can handle at least a 31-day emergency or self-reliance scenario.
- A favourite phrase in the prepping community is: "Fail to prepare is to prepare to fail".

the greatest threat to my life. I am feeling overwhelmed, because how do I begin preparing for all the possible disasters that could befall me? The prepper community deals in acronyms. There's WSHTF (When Shit Hits the Fan) and TEOTWAWKI (The End of the World as We Know It), and EMP (Electromagnetic Pulse), which would occur as a side effect of the launch of a massive bomb, nuclear or otherwise.

"Instead of living in fear of everything," says Bedford, cheerfully, "you have just a single event to prep for, and that prepping will overlap and help you be prepared for other events."

I think, in the short term, it might be best to focus on something like my local tap water being bacteria-filled and undrinkable, as happened last month in Brixham, Devon.

For such an event, Bedford recommends at least 10 litres per person per day for drinking and sanitation. I fill up some old bottles with tap water, and then buy a few glass ones, and try to shove them in between the bottles of wine and vodka and half-finished bottles of sangria from summer barbecues. While many preppers tend to focus on heading for the hills, Bedford is more concerned with how to survive in one's home and encourages me

to get to know my neighbours – but her course covers escape plans too.

"We have hurricanes here, and last year I almost had to get the family out of the home," says Bedford. "But in the city it could be because you have a house fire, or there's a mob coming down the street because crime has taken over."

If I'm going to escape my flat, I'll need a bug-out bag or grab bag. "The first rule for a bug-out bag is that it suits you – your age, health, mobility and physical abilities, finances, family members," says Bedford. The bag must fit into the eight S's: sustenance (high-calorie energy bars and meal pouches), sanitation (military wet wipes etc), seasonal (a dry bag to protect your goods from the rain, high-level sun cream in extreme heat etc), security ("What might you pack if heading into an unsafe situation?" asks Bedford). Then there's strength (first aid/medicines), sundries (paracord/knife/duct-tape), shelter (tent/rollmat/sleeping bag), and sanity (headphones or anything that may bring calm).

I leave the suggested self-defence weapons out of it. Plus I only have one good knife, and I need it for chopping my veg for tonight's dinner.

"Finally, not to be a fear-monger," says Bedford, "but there's always the chance you'll be stranded far from any bathroom facilities. A five-gallon bucket, equipped with a portable potty lid is a big improvement over squatting by the side of the road. Be sure to include toilet bags, and there are even chemicals to have on hand that keep the odours down." Gosh.

Some preppers talk of packing goods – a bottle of booze for example – with which to barter during civil unrest, but Bedford prefers the idea of offering up her skills, such as sewing. What can I offer? Almost being able to juggle, grade six saxophone, doing a vaguely convincing Australian accent? Hmm, I'd better add "learn to sew" to my prepper to-do list or I'll be toast.

A lot of preppers talk of "getting ahead of the competition" and I've seen enough post-apocalyptic disaster films to be aware how humans can turn on each other. Even the panic-buying in the pandemic gave a sense of how quickly things can escalate.

"That's not how I think," says Bedford. "Part of this is so that if emergency strikes, I don't have to scramble for bottled water or groceries, and that leaves more for others – it frees up resources and makes it easier for government entities and charitable organisations to reach the people who need it the most."

All the same, thinking about all the ways society might break down is giving me a sense of doom.

At the end of the course, I decide to forgo the military-grade meal pouches, but I do chuck out the old sangria to make room for bottles of water. I admire my well-stocked little cupboard of tinned goods I will vow not to touch unless I'm really hungover and in need of baked beans, and check there are batteries in the head-torch I took to Glastonbury last year.

For now, that's enough for me, but I'll just have to hope the calm, savvy and very well-prepared Bedford takes my call WSHTF.



A close-up of queer black lives

A major exhibition of the work of South African photographer and LGBT+ activist Zanele Muholi is frank, tender and troubling. By **Florence Hallett**

Tate Modern is known for its enthusiastic use of trigger warnings, but this really is an exhibition to approach with caution. Let's not worry too much about the image of a woman wearing a generously sized strap-on dildo in the first room, or the Vaseline-smeared sex scenes, or the colossal bronze sculpture representing the full magnificence of the clitoris. These moments of frank humour and tenderness are a relief from the overwhelming horror of queer black experience in South Africa, as described by the exceptional eye of the photographer and visual activist Zanele Muholi.

Some images are more overtly troubling than others: a thigh is marked with a vast, vertical scar, inflicted with neat efficiency as the prelude to an unnamed but evidently hate-filled sexual atrocity; elsewhere, a naked figure crouches over a basin of soapy water.

Moving easily between the cool even-handedness of documentary, and the richly meaningful language of Western art history, Muholi's black and white photographs of people washing themselves after a sexual assault summon the bathing women of Degas with considerable impact.

Muholi, who uses they/them pronouns, shields their subjects with anonymity, sparing them from the voyeurism implied by Degas's women. The horrific concept of corrective rape looms so large here that Muholi's consideration for the dignity of their subjects feels so much more than an act of decency, and stands instead as a lone marker of faith in the goodness of people.

Through 300 images, taken over the past 20 years, and accompanied by films recording individual testimonies, this chronological survey presents the major projects of Muholi's career to date, and is an expanded version of the first UK survey of their work at Tate Modern in 2020-2021.

In photographs, and only recently in sculptures, Muholi explores the representation and experiences of black queer South Africans, whose persecution perpetuates the dehumanising abuses of apartheid. In 1996, South Africa became the first country in the world to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, and yet queer black people, falling outside ideals of "African-ness" that derive from the belief that homosexuality was introduced from the West, continue to experience the trauma of segregation and stigmatisation.

Born in 1972, Muholi grew up under apartheid, and the history



Above, 'Miss D'vine II'; below, 'Khumbulani II Room 2005 Hotel Riu Times Square New York'

of brutal marginalisation hangs heavy over their portraits and self-portraits, in which they attempt to assert the presence of black LGBTQIA+ people in South African society, without either characterising them as victims, or minimising their traumatic experiences.

Though necessarily rooted in the present moment, Muholi's project *Faces and Phases*, begun in 2006, is already a living historical archive. The project comprises more than 600 portraits of black lesbians and transgender and gender non-conforming people, the individual "Faces" often photographed more than once as they enter different "phases" of gender identity or sexual expression, or life more generally.

The portraits cover two walls of a single gallery, and the pleasure of looking at them is undercut by the nagging unease that wells up in intermittent white spaces where a portrait ought to be. Sometimes the space indicates a photograph yet to be taken; often, it marks the death of a participant, one of whom, the writer, poet and activist Busi Sigasa (1982-2007), is commemorated nearby with their poem "Remember Me When I'm Gone".

The twin seams of sadness and menace that run through Muholi's photographs contrast with the exuberance of love expressed in their series *Being* (2006-present), and in the more formal portraits of transgender women and beauty queens in the series *Brave Beauties*.

In *Being*, Muholi introduces colour photography alongside black and white, an aesthetic choice



Podcast Nature Table

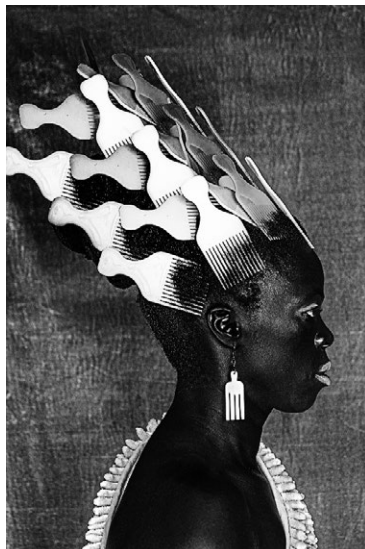


Part comedy panel show, part popular science podcast, Sue Perkins' *Nature Table* is back for a fourth series. Celebrities and nature pundits join host Perkins at the Natural History Museum to celebrate the wonders and quirks of our planet's flora and fauna.

It's an enjoyable nature show-and-tell that has previously examined items from lesbian albatrosses' eardrums, and enlightened listeners as to how the giant water lily changed modern architecture.

Guests this time are comedian Desiree Burch, meteorite researcher Dr Natasha Almeida and wildlife broadcaster Jules Howard. Curious about ducks' vaginas? You're in the right place.

Louisa Saunders



Above, 'Qiniso, The Sails, Durban'; left, 'Melissa Mbambo, Durban South Beach' (2017) ZANELE MUHOLI

nisers. The portraits make us walk a tightrope of our own preconceptions, the unrelenting beauty of the pictures – one of them, *Qiniso, The Sails, Durban* (2019), in which Muholi's hair is embellished with Afro combs, is used as an exhibition poster – a constant temptation to exoticise, idealise and erase.

Nolwazi II, Nuoro, Italy (2015), hanging nearby, is a case in point, its title translating as "knowledge", the many pens woven into Muholi's hair a reference to the "pencil test". This was a "test" used by the South African government under apartheid in cases where the authorities were unsure of someone's ethnicity. If on pushing a pencil into the hair it fell out, the person would be considered white due to their straight, European hair.

Since then, other symbols of violence and oppression have joined the lexicon – latex gloves, and even medical face masks representing indignities and injustices ranging from stop and search, disparities in health and living standards, and disproportionate contact with the police.

Somnyama Ngonyama inevitably makes you think of Cindy Sherman, famous for her chameleonic reinventions. And yet, Muholi's project is of an entirely different order: where Sherman rendered herself a blank canvas on which she superimposed identities (including using blackface), in *Somnyama Ngonyama*, Muholi is always Muholi, switching between the constructions of blackness that belong (or have been imposed on) all black people.

There is little doubt that the series will come to stand as one of the great moments of portraiture, and it will be hugely exciting to watch it develop. Sadly, the two bronze sculptures that are among recent additions are not worthy of it.

One, of Muholi as a water bearer, echoes a vast blown-up photograph nearby, elevating them to a mythical, godlike being, which, while impressive, destroys the sense of connection that makes the photographs so compelling.

Muholi's project is as urgent as it gets, and their representation of queer black experience loses none of its power or significance by transcending questions of race, gender and sexuality to speak to the humanity we share.

To 26 January 2025, Tate Modern

Last night's television

NEIL ARMSTRONG



Grown-up, classy, psychological thriller is utterly gripping

» **Presumed Innocent** Apple TV+, Streaming now ★★★★★

Chief deputy prosecutor Rozat Sabich is enjoying some downtime with his wife Barbara and their two teenage children when he gets a call from his friend and boss, district attorney Ray Horgan. Their colleague, Carolyn Polhemus, has been murdered, bludgeoned to death with a fire poker in her own home. Sabich finds the shaken Horgan sitting on the curb outside Carolyn's apartment while the forensics team do their work. "You don't wanna go in there," he warns Sabich. "It's bad." Sabich goes in there. It is bad.

Sabich is assigned the investigation and if he appears particularly devastated by the death of his colleague, it's because their relationship was more than just professional. They had a passionate affair. "We were very physical," he tells his therapist. "I can't stop thinking about her." He was angry when Carolyn finished it... angry enough to kill her?

This is merely the beginning of Apple TV+'s twisty series **Presumed Innocent**, an utterly absorbing and gripping combination of psychological thriller, courtroom drama and whodunnit. Set in a sombre, rain-drenched Chicago, the eight episodes are based on the 1987 novel of the same name by lawyer Scott Turow, which has already been turned into a 1990 film starring Harrison Ford as Sabich.

But this is no copy and paste



Sabich (Jake Gyllenhaal) and Carolyn (Renate Reinsve) in AppleTV+ drama

with new revelations about her husband after their marriage barely survived his affair with Carolyn. Gyllenhaal keeps us guessing as to the guilt of Sabich – a supposedly doting family man who was obsessed with his lover and who, we eventually learn, can be provoked to great violence.

That we're so invested in such a flawed, unsympathetic character is testament to the actor's pitch-perfect performance and his ability to keep his audience on their toes.

The supporting cast are also superb. Bill Camp is brilliant as the irascible Horgan. "Just shut the f**k up," he snaps when colleague Tommy Molto chastises him for behaviour that is "beneath us". "Nothing's beneath me. I once f**ked an ottoman." He's swears and vulgar but a man of integrity. Horgan's relationship with his wife Lorraine (played by Camp's real-life spouse, Elizabeth Marvel), whom he adores, feels completely authentic. Meanwhile, Peter Sarsgaard (married to Gyllenhaal's sister, Maggie) is mesmerising as Molto, a conniving, slimy lawyer who is Sabich's rival and obsessed with taking him down.

Kelley has said that he hopes *Presumed Innocent* will be "a callback to appointment television" and that's exactly what it is. Had this series been broadcast in the days when TV was limited to a handful of terrestrial channels, everyone would have been arguing about it at work the next day, picking holes in the case for the prosecution or the defence and speculating on the implications of the cliffhanger in every episode.

Unlike your standard issue by-the-numbers thriller, this is classy, captivating, grown-up entertainment.

@_neilarmstrong

Best of all, the female characters here are given much more attention

adaptation – this time we learn much more about Sabich's home life and about the impact of the case on his family. In fact, Apple TV+'s version is so different to the source material that I wondered if the eventual dénouement would be the same. Best of all, the female characters are given much more attention – as you would expect from showrunner David E Kelley, creator of *Big Little Lies*, another propulsive drama revolving around a murder investigation.

Oscar nominees Jake Gyllenhaal (for 2005's *Brokeback Mountain*) and Ruth Negga (for *Loving* in 2016) are the big names here, and they're both excellent. Negga balances vulnerability with steeliness as Barbara, the wronged wife struggling to deal

that signals joyous intimacy, as opposed to the more journalistic and monumental style of her black and white work.

Still, if *Ncinda* (2023), the enormous sculpture representing the entire structure of the clitoris, is meant to emphasise this section's focus on pleasure and sexual love, it is more a puzzling and comic distraction. I wanted so much to love it, but it is more angry duck than erotic.

So much of Muholi's work is founded on trust and intimacy, and yet the aesthetics of street photography are at the heart of their practice, which is unexpected considering the need for discretion and secrecy among this persecuted group.

This sense of community and intimacy is both strengthened and subverted in the exhibition's show-

The twin seams of sadness and menace contrast with the exuberance of love

stopper, installed to spectacular effect in the hangar-like space of the penultimate gallery. *Somnyama Ngonyama* (2012-present) is a series of self-portraits, taken in various locations around the world and using materials and props found locally. Translated from IsiZulu, South Africa's most widely spoken indigenous language, the title means "Hail the Dark Lioness".

In it, Muholi has said: "I'm reclaiming my blackness", the exaggerated contrast of the images making their skin appear much darker than it actually is. It's a strategy that, combined with Muholi's direct and often confrontational gaze, puts their blackness up front, giving us no option but to consider their colour as the most significant aspect of the picture.

In this series, Muholi moves away from the journalistic style favoured elsewhere, demonstrating instead their ability to handle visual tropes. Here, Muholi adopts the language of fashion photography, and the anthropological photography of the colonial era, confronting us, as well as themselves, with the attributes of racism and gender discrimination, accumulated over centuries.

Often, Muholi poses with elaborate hairstyles, jewellery and head-dresses: in one, they wear a footstool as a headdress, the skeins of dried grasses worn around their neck parodying the "exotic" appearance of African people fetishised by colo-



Arts review

OPERA

The Merry Widow

GLYNDEBOURNE

★★★★★

"What are you going to do with all those millions, Frau Glawari? Build an opera house?"

The in-jokes come thick and fast in Glyndebourne's first-ever staging of Franz Lehár's operetta, *The Merry Widow*.

Everything has been thrown at this snazzy, frothy tunefest; direction by comedy king Cal McCrystal, conducting by the multiple award-winning John Wilson, and glorious designs by Gary McCann, who must have seen the date 1905 and decided to have the most fun one can have with silk and scissors.

And in the title role, Danielle de Niese, the chatelaine of Glyndebourne, bravely dons a can-can costume alongside the troupe of Maxim's high-kicking Grisettes.

Our heroine, Hanna Glawari,

is a simple country girl from the fictional Balkan land of Pontevedro; she married money, inherited the lot, and is now the most eligible woman in her country's Paris embassy – but she only wants Danilo, the man she lost long ago...

The premise is simple, but staging it is a taller order than it sounds, and not just because social mores and humour have changed in the intervening 119 years. It's more that a light piece needs to be light, and British opera houses sometimes have a funny way of showing it. A few years ago, a London staging stressed the idea of Hanna being "common as muck". At Glyndebourne, the jokes are about financial crashes, tax havens and horseradish.

Inside this very good show, an excellent one is desperately trying to get out. The new English-language version by Stephen Plaice and Marcia Bellamy is occasionally wordy, but great fun. Some gags are a tad overstated; Act I could use tightening up.

But the magic comes from Wilson's conducting. He really does "get it": Lehár's score, played



Hanna Glawari (Danielle de Niese) and Count Danilo (Germán Olvera) in 'The Merry Widow' TRISTAM KENTON

by the London Philharmonic, floats up silky, seductive and sophisticated, the textures transparent and the tempi spot-on, crowned by the earworm waltz. And yes, it is "light".

De Niese brings Hanna irresistible charisma and a bright-glinting voice – and it's not every diva who could or would do that dancing (with demanding choreography from

Carrie-Anne Ingrouille). As her dissolute Danilo, Germán Olvera sings and dances remarkably well, especially after his first entry has him tumbling down a very long staircase.

There are fine supporting performances from Soraya Mafi and Michael McDermott as the illicit lovers Valencienne and Camille, comedy actor Tom Edden as Njegus and Glyndebourne's

super chorus. But it's the veteran baritone Thomas Allen as Zeta, the ambassador, who seems to be having the time of his life. You could almost wish Hanna would go off with him instead.

It's not perfect – and there are a few tweaks to be made. But Glyndebourne has here the making of a classic.

To 28 July (glyndebourne.com)
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Today's Weather

Cloudy and wet as a band of rain pushes eastwards bringing heavy bursts but will turn increasing patchy as it reaches eastern areas later.

Today's high

20°

Today's low

5°

Moon Phase



Sunrise

04:43

Sunset

21:18

Around Britain

City	Temp (Midday yesterday)	Rain (mm)	Sun (hrs)
Aberdeen	10	C	0.1
Aberporth	12	F	0.0
Aberystwyth	13	F	0.0
Aviemore	11	C	0.0
Belfast	12	C	0.0
Birmingham	14	C	0.0
Bournemouth	15	C	0.0
Bridlington	12	C	0.5
Bristol	14	C	0.0
Cardiff	14	C	0.0
Cromer	12	F	2.7
Durham	13	SH	0.4
Eastbourne	14	SH	0.0
Edinburgh	13	C	0.0
Eskdalemuir	12	C	0.0
Glasgow	14	C	0.0
Holyhead	13	C	0.0
Hove	14	SH	0.0
Hull	14	SH	1.6
Huntingdon	14	SH	0.1
Ipswich	14	SH	0.2
Isle of Man	11	C	0.0
Isle of Wight	14	F	0.0
Kinlochewe	12	C	0.0
Kirkwall	11	SH	3.2
Leeds	14	SH	0.2
Lerwick	9	R	2.7
Leuchars	13	C	0.0
Lincoln	14	SH	0.1
Liverpool	12	C	0.0
London	16	C	0.0
Manchester	13	C	0.0
Margate	15	F	0.0
Milford Haven	15	F	0.0
Morecambe	13	C	0.0
Newcastle	13	C	0.6
Norwich	14	SH	2.6
Nottingham	15	SH	0.0
Okehampton	14	C	0.0
Oxford	14	C	0.0
Plymouth	16	C	0.0
Portland	14	F	0.0
Portsmouth	15	F	0.0
Prestwick	12	S	0.0
Rhyl	12	C	0.0
Sheffield	14	C	0.0
Shrewsbury	14	C	0.0
Skegness	14	SH	0.3
Southend	14	F	0.1
Stoke	13	C	0.0
Stornoway	13	C	0.0
Swansea	13	C	0.1
Tiree	11	C	0.0

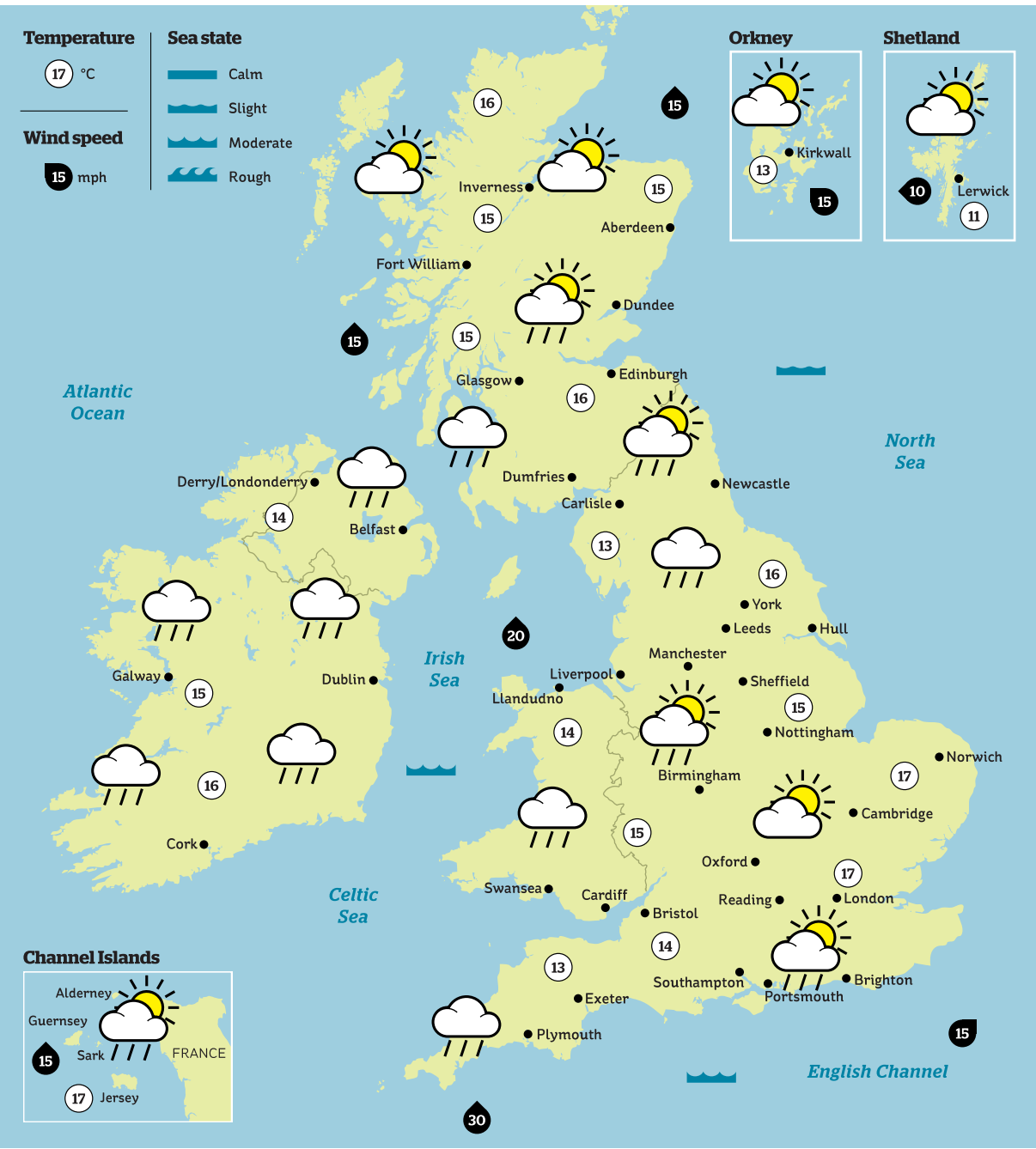
Global

City	Temp	Cond	City	Temp	Cond
Abu Dhabi	43	S	Miami	27	R
Abuja	30	F	Milan	22	F
Alicante	22	TH	Moscow	24	F
Amsterdam	13	SH	Mumbai	32	TH
Athens	33	S	Munich	17	F
Bangkok	33	DR	New York	22	F
Barcelona	22	SH	Nice	22	F
Beijing	33	S	Palma	21	C
Berlin	13	F	Paris	18	F
Brussels	14	C	Prague	17	F
Budapest	20	SH	Reykjavik	11	C
Chicago	23	S	Rio	29	S
Delhi	41	S	Rome	23	S
Dubai	41	S	Stockholm	18	SH
Dublin	12	C	Strasbourg	19	F
Frankfurt	16	F	Sydney	18	F
Geneva	18	S	Tenerife	24	F
Helsinki	17	SH	Tokyo	28	S
Hong Kong	30	TH	Toronto	16	F
Istanbul	29	S	Vancouver	18	F
Johannesburg	13	S	Vienna	15	C
Lisbon	22	S	Warsaw	18	C
Los Angeles	17	S	Washington	23	F
Madrid	23	F	Wellington	12	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	2
South East	3	3
Eastern	3	3
Greater London	3	3

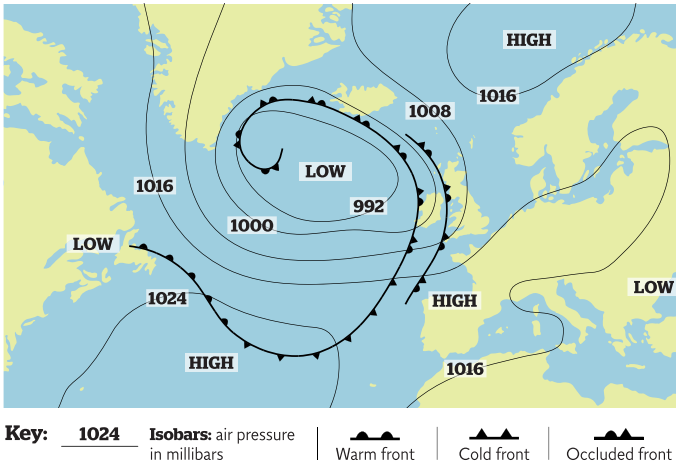


GENERAL SITUATION An area of low pressure will be centred to the west of the United Kingdom today and an associated occluded front will push in from the west. This front will bring heavy rain and strengthening winds across Northern Ireland, Wales and western Britain during the morning. Rain will track northwards and eastwards during the afternoon but will be mostly patchy across eastern England by the evening. Staying unsettled for Scotland. **Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** An unsettled start to the day with thick cloud cover and widespread rain which will be locally heavy. Rain will gradually clear from the west

during the morning but will linger in the north during the afternoon. Largely dry during the evening with late sunny spells. A breezy day, with brisk southerly winds. Max temp: 20C. Tonight, staying mainly dry. Min temp: 9C. **N Isles:** Early patches of cloud will break to reveal a generally fine day, as it will be dry with periods of sunshine, variable amounts of patchy cloud cover and the chance of some light showers. The best of the sunshine will be during the afternoon. Gentle easterly winds will strengthen and become brisk by the evening. Max temp: 13C. Tonight, spells of rain. Min temp: 5C.

SW Scotland, IoM, NW England, NE England, SE Scotland, W Isles, NE Scotland, NW Scotland: A dry but dull start to the day with cloudy skies and gentle southerly winds. A band of rain will push in from the west during the day and will be locally heavy and persistent. Turning breezy as winds strengthen to become brisk or locally strong. Staying cloudy and wet into the evening. Max temp: 17C. Tonight, cloudy and wet. Min temp: 5C. **N Wales, S Wales, SW England, Channel Is:** A dry but dull start to the day with gentle southerly winds. A band of rain will push from the west during the morning to become widespread and locally heavy and

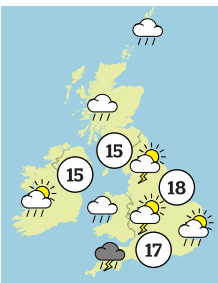
winds will become brisk or locally strong. Wet in the afternoon too with some heavy bursts although rain will turn increasingly patchy. Max temp: 14C. Tonight, a few showers. Min temp: 9C. **Midlands, Cen S England, SE England, London, E Anglia, E England:** Clouds will soon thicken during the morning, however it will stay dry with gentle southerly winds. Outbreaks of patchy rain will push in from the west during the afternoon and evening, mostly light and patchy but some heavier bursts cannot be ruled out. Winds will become moderate later. Max temp: 17C. Tonight, largely dry. Min temp: 6C.



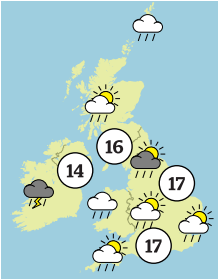
SYNOPTIC PRESSURE Low pressure to the east of the UK, over Norway and Sweden will fill during the day and clear. There will also be a large area of low pressure in the Atlantic which will track eastwards and split in two, one central pressure will deepen and the other will fill. High pressure to the north of Scotland will intensify.

HIGHS AND LOWS	HOURS OF DARKNESS
(Yesterday, up to 2pm)	
Warmest: Southampton, Hampshire, 17C	Aberdeen 22.07-04.11
Coldest: Bala, Gwynedd, 1C	Birmingham 21.31-04.44
Wettest: Kirkwall, Orkney, 3.0mm	Bristol 21.28-04.52
Sunniest: Camborne, Cornwall, 13.4hrs	Cardiff 21.30-04.54
	Glasgow 22.03-04.31
	Hull 21.32-04.30
	Inverness 22.18-04.14
	Liverpool 21.41-04.42
	London 21.18-04.43
	Manchester 21.39-04.39
	Stornoway 22.32-04.19
	Swansea 21.34-04.57
	York 21.37-04.31

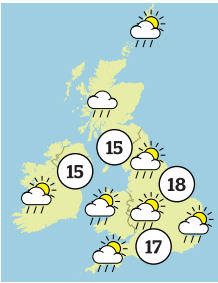
Five-day outlook



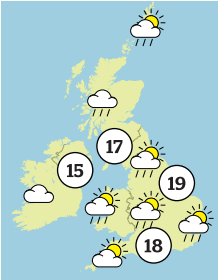
FRIDAY Early rain will gradually clear from Scotland during the morning. It will then be bright with periods of sunshine and showers.



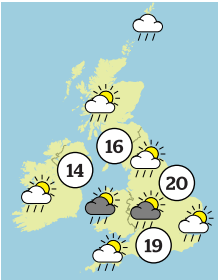
SATURDAY A bright day with spells of sunshine and scattered showers. Showers will track northwards during the day and some may be heavy.



SUNDAY A bright start. Showery outbreaks of rain will develop and track southwards during the day. Clouds will thicken in the north later. Breezy.



MONDAY Clouds will break during the day to reveal long sunny spells during the afternoon. There is also the threat of showers - some could be heavy.



TUESDAY Early sunny spells, however, clouds will thicken from the north and rain will sink south-eastwards across Scotland by the evening.

Quote of the day



The stagnation in GDP in April doesn't mean the economic recovery has been extinguished, but it's hardly great news for the Prime Minister

Paul Dales
Chief economist at Capital Economics on news the UK economy stagnated in April

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UNITED STATES

Fed votes to hold rates for sixth time in succession

By David Connett

The US Federal Reserve last night voted to keep its interest rates steady amid stubborn inflation.

The central bank decided unanimously to leave the benchmark borrowing rate at 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent, the highest since 2001, for a sixth straight meeting.

The rate sets what banks charge each other for overnight lending but feeds through to many forms of consumer borrowing such as car loans and mortgages – and has a big influence on the world economy.

It said inflation remains “elevated” and that progress bringing it down to the Fed’s target rate of 2 per cent has been “modest.”

The decision signalled that it believes they are on course to cut rates once this year instead of three indi-

cated at its last meeting. Earlier, US shares rose with the both the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq stock markets touching fresh record highs after lower inflation figures lifted hopes for central bank rate cuts.

US inflation slowed last month. The consumer price index was unchanged on a monthly basis in May, after economists had forecast it would rise. It rose 3.3 per cent over the same period last year.

Core inflation, which leaves out volatile food and energy prices and is

closely watched by the central bank, rose 0.2 per cent in May and were up 3.4 per cent from a year ago.

“This continues the process of inflation slowly coming down. The \$64,000 question is, going forward, how quickly it will keep coming down,” said Sameer Samana, at the Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

Bank officials said they have been looking to regain confidence that inflation is slowing after several disappointing figures at the beginning of the year.

After carrying out a rapid series of sharp rate rises last year, the central bank has since decided the best thing to do was nothing but monitor the impact of their actions.

The US President, Joe Biden, welcomed the inflation figures, saying it showed “progress on lowering inflation.”

{i} The US Fed will meet four more times this year. Markets believe **the first cut will come in September** boosting President Biden's chances of winning the election.



The decision by the Federal Reserve signals a rates cut to come this year

The Fed decision will ease pressure on the Bank of England's rate setting Monetary Policy Committee to cut UK interest rates when it meets to make its decision next week.

The Bank is widely expected to start cutting interest rates in August, according to all but two of 65 economists polled, and most of them expect at least one more reduction this year despite persistently high pay and services inflation.



The 30 Second Briefing

ELON MUSK'S PAY

A billionaire's pay package?

Tesla shareholders vote today on whether to reinstate chief executive Elon Musk's \$56bn (£43bn) pay package. It was shot down by a US judge who ruled that the Tesla shareholders – who in 2018 voted in favour of the bumper sum – were not fully informed on how

beholden many directors were to Mr Musk and how this affected the compensation negotiations.

An appealing route?

Tesla hopes that if shareholders approve the deal it can go before the same judge and ask her to change her ruling – as the decision has not yet been made effective. If they fail either with shareholders or the judge, they insist they will appeal to the Delaware State Supreme Court.

Attention and motivation?

The electric vehicle company says it is “determined” to pay Mr Musk for his previous work to ensure he devotes his time and energy to the company. Chair Robyn Denholm

said that reinstating the pay package was necessary for “retaining Elon's attention and motivating him”.

The \$56bn question?

Will he walk away or not? Sceptics say Mr Musk's 13 per cent stake in Tesla, worth \$75bn and accounting for a big chunk of his wealth, as well as his two decades at the company, make it unlikely that he will walk away if he doesn't get what he wants.

Others say Mr Musk, who draws no salary, is hard to predict and could easily walk away from the firm he co-founded. He has threatened on X/Twitter, his social media platform, to develop artificial intelligence elsewhere if he doesn't get a 25 per cent stake.

AUTO

Europe to impose extra duties on Chinese EVs

By Philip Blenkinsop

The European Commission told car-makers it would impose extra duties of up to 38.1 per cent on imported Chinese electric cars from July, in a move that China called protectionist.

Brussels said it would set additional tariffs of 17.4 per cent for BYD, 20 per cent for Geely, and 38.1 per cent for SAIC, on top of the existing 10 per cent, over what it said were excessive subsidies.

Shares in some of Europe's biggest carmakers that make a large portion of their sales in China fell on fears of Chinese retaliation.

That equates to billions of euros of extra costs for the carmakers at a time they are struggling with slowing demand and falling prices at home.

Carmakers are already being challenged by an influx of lower-cost electric vehicles from Chinese rivals.

“This anti-subsidy investigation is a typical case of protectionism,” said the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian. He added that the tariffs would damage China-EU economic and trade co-operation and the stability of the global car production and supply chain.

He said China urged the EU to support free trade, adding that Beijing would take all necessary measures to “firmly safeguard” its interests.

Margaritis Schinas, a Commission vice president, said Chinese-built cars were benefiting from unfair subsidies, threatening EU producers.

“The Commission has reached out to Chinese authorities to... explore possible ways for resolving the issues,” he said.

TECHNOLOGY

Apple knows what people want then makes it. Is it right about AI?

The iPhone maker and Microsoft are in a fight for the future. How do they stay ahead, asks

Hamish McRae



Will artificial intelligence (AI) enable Apple to triumph again? The financial markets certainly seem to think so. The announcement that the company will bring generative AI to your iPhone powered the share price up by more than 7 per cent, taking the company's market value back above \$3trn (£2.34trn) and close to that of its arch-rival Microsoft.

But there have been a string of examples of high-tech companies whose fortunes have faded and, ahead of its annual Worldwide Developers Conference this week, some had wondered whether Apple's glory days were past.

The genius of its co-founder Steve Jobs was to understand what people wanted from technology before they did themselves, and then create a beautiful product that met those desires. It is still worth watching his launch of the iPhone in 2007, starting with the words: "Every once in a while, a revolutionary product comes along that changes everything..."

It certainly changed Apple from being a computer company worth \$78bn (£61bn) at the end of 2006, to the \$3.18trn company it is now. Even now the iPhone generates 58 per cent of the company's total revenue, and is arguably the most important product developed so far this century.

I'll come back to Apple's future in a moment, for there is a wider issue here about the changing fortunes of high-tech enterprises in general: how some manage to retain their primacy, while others fade or, worse, collapse.

Take Vodafone, here in the UK. It is still a huge mobile phone service, worth nearly £19bn or \$25bn. But, back in 2000, it was worth more than \$100bn. By contrast, Apple was worth just \$7.5bn in 2001.

The fate of Finland's Nokia, which dominated mobile phone handsets, is remarkably similar. It still exists, mostly as a maker of network equipment. It is now worth \$21bn, much the same as Vodafone but, in 2000, also like Vodafone, it was worth more than \$100bn.

There are many other examples of apparent commercial success stories that don't really last. There is the BlackBerry, once dubbed



The late Apple CEO Steve Jobs showing off the new iPhone in 2007

PAUL SAKUMA/AP

The most extreme riches to rags story was that of Nortel Networks, which employed 90,000 people

the BlackBerry because it was so addictive. The company is now a cyber security specialist.

But the most extreme riches to rags story in the high-tech world, however, was that of Nortel Networks. It was a Canadian telecoms company that at its peak employed more than 90,000 people worldwide and was worth nearly

\$400bn in Canadian dollars (more than \$300bn in US ones).

It accounted for more than one-third of all the corporations traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange and was the ninth most valuable company in the world. And it went bankrupt in 2009.

There have been allegations that some of Nortel's technologies were stolen by the Chinese company Huawei in 2004 – allegations strenuously denied by Huawei – but actually Nortel was already in trouble following the bursting of the dot-com bubble in 2000, before the alleged industrial espionage is said to have occurred.

The world of business is, of course, full of examples of companies that soar and crash – think of the banking collapses of 2007 and 2008 – but that makes the durability of Apple, and in a slightly different way, Microsoft, all the more remarkable. Both raced on from being worth \$1trn to \$2trn on to \$3trn, and every time those milestones were passed, people wondered how they could keep it up.

They seemed, at least to the outside world, to be struggling to maintain momentum, until ChatGPT burst onto the scene in November 2022.

Microsoft was quick to see the potential of AI developments, having invested in ChatGPT's creator, OpenAI, in 2019. Apple seemed to be lagging behind and, in their brutal way, the markets downgraded Apple shares and pushed up those of Microsoft, which passed it in value.

Now, with Apple Intelligence (as it calls its version of generative AI) the two companies are neck and neck. They are joined, at currently just under \$3trn, by Nvidia, which produces the kit to help data centres manage the huge computing demands of AI.

That leads to a string of questions that will be crucial to the future growth of Apple. How much computing power can you put into a mobile phone? What can Apple Intelligence do that is better than the competing AI services that will be available on an Android handset? Will Apple be able to make the daily chores of life easier for us all?

Examples of what it might do include prioritising incoming messages, tips on how to improve your writing and correct spelling (useful for journalists?), generating your own emoji to attach to a message and so on.

All this leads to the biggest question of all. Is this what we want?

We know that generative AI will, in Jobs's words, "change everything"; we don't know how.

But the past two decades have taught the global investment community never to underrate Apple's ability to understand what we want before we do.

From the business pages

Police investigate PwC tax leaks

Sydney Morning Herald

PwC faces 10 investigations, including a police inquiry, over its tax leak scandal, which a government agency revealed went beyond tax avoidance schemes in North America. The final report from a Senate committee investigating consultants comes after emails revealed dozens of PwC staff were involved in an attempt to use confidential government tax plans to create fresh business.

Chiquita must pay \$38m over killings

Tampa Bay Times

Banana giant Chiquita Brands must pay \$38.3m (£30m) to 16 family members of people killed during Colombia's long civil war by a right-wing paramilitary group funded by the company, a federal jury in Florida decided. The verdict by a jury in West Palm Beach marks a rare finding that blames a private US company for human rights abuses in other countries.

Lufthansa to expand flights

Handelsblatt

Lufthansa wants to expand its network of feeder flights to long-haul connections and make them more cost-effective with the airline City Airlines, which will launch to Birmingham at the end of June. The airline is not exploiting its potential in the growing European market, director Jens Fehlinger said. The airline wants to grow at its hubs in Frankfurt and Munich.

Call to force local sale of emeralds

Zambia Daily Mail

A mining union has appealed to ministers to make players in the gemstone industry sell some of their emeralds to local processors to help grow the value chain. The union said emeralds are highly sought after on the jewellery market. Processing some precious stones locally would help improve the livelihood of small-scale processors but most of the emerald mines sell the stones internationally.

The Business Matrix

The day at a glance



FTSE 100 up +0.83% at 8,215.5

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
3i Group	3082.0	+3.77%	3083.0	1837.5
Admiral	2576.0	+0.51%	2870.0	2010.0
Airtel Africa	118.5	+0.68%	135.8	90.2
Anglo Amer	2374.5	+0.66%	2813.0	1630.0
Antofagasta	2073.0	+0.25%	2425.0	1280.0
AB Foods	2506.0	-0.44%	2765.0	1849.5
Ashtead Group	5760.0	+2.93%	6180.0	4437.0
AstraZeneca	12466.0	+0.73%	12704.0	9461.0
Auto Trader Group	827.2	+1.60%	849.0	580.2
Aviva	476.7	+1.75%	501.4	366.0
BAE Systems	1388.5	+0.33%	1415.2	883.4
Barclays	208.7	-0.17%	224.3	128.1
Barratt Dev	509.8	+2.68%	582.6	384.1
BAT	2381.0	-0.29%	2742.0	2233.0
Beazley	673.0	+1.28%	701.5	485.8
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	5210.0	+1.96%	5360.0	3634.0
B&MEurValRtl	473.3	-2.41%	618.2	471.4
BP	464.9	-0.74%	562.3	441.1
BT	129.4	+1.09%	147.8	101.7
Bunzl	2988.0	+1.01%	3306.0	2680.0
Burberry	1031.0	+2.13%	2289.0	1002.5
Centrica	132.1	-0.19%	173.7	115.0
Coca-Cola HBC	2706.0	-0.07%	2830.0	2065.0
Compass	2239.0	+2.00%	2332.0	1940.5
Convatec	253.8	+2.09%	295.2	195.1
Croda Intl	4270.0	+0.40%	6032.0	4018.0
DCC	5680.0	+1.43%	6075.0	4145.0
Diageo	2611.0	+0.64%	3509.0	2563.0
Diploma	4234.0	+3.42%	4340.0	2772.9
easyJet	464.8	+1.20%	591.1	350.0
Entain	690.2	+0.12%	1414.5	643.4
Experian	3779.0	+2.72%	3796.0	2366.0
F&C Inv Trust	1006.0	+1.41%	1058.0	825.7
Fraser's Group	874.0	+1.10%	949.5	673.0
Fresnillo	554.5	+0.64%	679.9	435.2
Glencore	462.9	-0.57%	506.7	365.3
GSK	1605.0	-0.62%	1823.5	1302.6

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
Haleon	320.8	-0.09%	371.2	306.8
Halma	2350.0	+3.34%	2463.0	1802.0
Hargreaves Lans	1064.0	+0.47%	1151.0	676.4
Hikma Pharma	2010.0	+1.88%	2222.0	1711.0
Howden Joinery	895.0	+4.07%	937.0	605.0
HSBC Hldgs	681.8	+0.62%	725.2	572.9
IAG	169.8	+1.59%	187.7	137.0
IMI	1841.0	+0.82%	1911.0	1429.0
Imperial Brands	1990.0	+0.61%	2006.0	1553.5
Informa	847.0	+2.47%	865.2	684.0
IntCont Htlis	8194.0	+2.42%	8790.0	5184.0
Intermediate Cap	2352.0	+3.61%	2448.0	1244.9
Intertek	4862.0	+1.59%	5145.0	3746.0
JD Sports Fashion	124.4	+0.65%	177.8	103.0
Kingfisher	263.2	+3.30%	274.0	198.3
Land Secs	642.5	+2.23%	729.4	551.2
Legal & Gen	229.8	-5.47%	259.0	203.1
Lloyds Bk Grp	55.0	+3.00%	57.4	39.4
Lon Stock Ex	9404.0	+0.66%	11080.2	7784.0
M&G	203.9	+2.13%	241.1	181.6
M&S	302.3	+1.92%	314.0	183.8
Melrose Ind	632.4	+1.61%	681.2	445.4
Mondi	1469.5	-0.61%	1719.8	1290.9
National Grid	877.6	+1.72%	1052.8	645.0
NatWest Group	310.1	+2.07%	329.8	168.0
Next	9176.0	+1.57%	9530.0	6362.0
Ocado Group	348.9	-0.68%	1017.0	332.7
Pearson	960.6	+1.41%	1046.5	806.2
Pershing Square	4322.0	+1.65%	4368.0	2682.0
Persimmon	1498.0	+3.88%	1506.0	925.0
Phoenix	490.8	+1.24%	564.8	436.4
Prudential	725.4	+2.26%	1153.0	684.7
Reckitt Ben	4390.0	+0.05%	6104.0	4102.6
RELX	3572.0	+2.32%	3573.0	2432.0
Rentokil Initial	472.2	+13.73%	663.8	387.8
Rightmove	573.0	+3.69%	603.0	457.7
Rio Tinto	5249.0	-0.04%	5910.0	4509.5

Company	Price	Chg %	High	Low
Rolls-Royce	469.4	+0.95%	472.1	143.8
RS Group	730.5	+3.11%	852.6	551.2
Sage	1048.0	+1.11%	1285.0	860.6
Sainsbury(J)	256.4	-0.23%	311.2	243.8
Schroders	382.2	+2.52%	470.0	346.2
Scot Mort Inv Tst	903.0	+1.21%	946.1	632.2
Segro	914.0	+2.03%	944.8	675.0
Severn Trent	2419.0	+1.55%	2770.0	2243.0
Shell	2744.5	-0.22%	2961.0	2251.0
Smith&Neph	1015.5	+0.69%	1269.0	887.0
Smith (DS)	358.6	+0.73%	415.0	260.5
Smiths Gp	1724.0	+1.11%	1776.5	1517.5
Smurfit Kappa Grp	3542.0	-1.34%	3910.0	2528.0
Spirax Group	8695.0	+0.93%	11480.0	7900.0
SSE	1771.0	+0.06%	1932.5	1485.0
Stan Chart	741.8	+2.86%	796.0	571.0
St. James's Place	533.0	+4.92%	1185.5	393.6
Taylor Wimpey	152.4	+2.80%	153.4	98.9
Tesco	302.1	-0.07%	316.1	217.5
Unilever	4393.0	+0.83%	4418.0	3680.5
Unite Group	904.0	+2.44%	1069.0	834.3
United Utilities	1019.5	+2.20%	1139.5	896.8
Vodafone	69.0	-1.57%	82.6	62.7
Weir Group	2090.0	+1.16%	2210.2	1652.5
Whitbread	3004.0	+0.74%	3714.0	2848.0
WPP	764.0	+1.46%	878.8	656.0



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Markets

FTSE 100	8215.5	+0.83%
FTSE 250	20497.4	+1.14%
FTSE All Share	4482.4	+0.86%
FTSE Eurofirst300	2073.8	+1.03%
Dow Jones *	38792.3	+0.12%
S&P 500 *	5434.4	+1.10%
Nasdaq *	17650.8	+1.77%
DAX	18630.9	+1.42%
CAC 40	7864.7	+0.97%
Hang Seng	17937.8	-1.31%
Nikkei	38876.7	-0.66%

€1.1838

-0.13¢

EURO/
POUND

\$1.2841

+1.21¢

DOLLAR/
POUND

\$2,336.02

+\$25.99

GOLD
Per troy ounce,
London pm fix

\$82.31

+\$0.21

OIL
Brent crude,
per barrel

DEVELOPMENT

Failure to invest hurts British cities

The UK's failure to invest in its regional cities is hindering economic growth, resulting in lower standards of living compared to G7 nations, a report by the Centre for Cities think-tank said. The report says the next government must commit £15.9bn over 10 years in Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester and Leeds (*left*).

MINING

Tungsten West granted licence

Mining firm Tungsten West said it had been granted an Environment Agency licence to process tin and tungsten at its mine in Devon. The company believes the mine, at Hemerdon near Plymouth, is capable of producing 3.5 million tons a year. The miner was carrying out a feasibility study but hoped to restart operations in 2026.

ARCHITECTURE

Lime Street wins Carbuncle Cup

Liverpool's Lime Street redevelopment has won the Carbuncle Cup, the award given to the worst new building in Britain. The building, home to a 412-bed student accommodation block and a hotel, displayed "such banality that the only option is to cover it with a screen" said judges.

PROPERTY

Legal & General to be slimmed down

The new boss of Legal & General plans a shake-up of the firm. António Simões is to slim the £14bn business from four to three divisions with a focus on corporate pension deals. He said he would put Cala Homes, its housebuilding business, up for sale.

ECONOMY

Starling Bank pessimistic on UK

Starling Bank is "pessimistic" about the UK economy's outlook despite reporting pre-tax profit up 55 per cent to £301.1m in the year to 31 March, boosted by high interest rates. Customer accounts also increased to 4.2 million from 3.6 million, but the bank said the poor outlook meant it was making bigger provisions for bad debt.

ENERGY

Oil surplus expected by 2030

The world faces a "staggering" surplus of oil by 2030 the International Energy Agency warned. Global demand is expected to slow amid the switch to renewables while producers increase production. The energy advisory group said demand will "level off" at 106 million barrels per day (bpd) as supply reaches 114m bpd.

TRADE

Forth Green Freeport opens

The Forth Green Freeport (FGF) said it is officially open for business after approval from the Scottish and UK Governments of its Outline Business Case and the designation of its three tax sites located in Grangemouth, Rosyth and Mid-Forth (Leith and Burntisland).

INVESTMENT

Real estate trust pulls flotation

Special Opportunities Reit, a property trust, has pulled its London flotation after the owners said they failed to reach the £250m minimum demand required, amid ongoing investor concern about strains in the UK commercial real estate market.

the markets

The **FTSE 100** rose 67.67 points, +0.83%, to end at 8,215.5. Elsewhere in Europe Germany's **Dax** was up 1.49 per cent and France's **Cac 40** rose 0.97 per cent.

Against the **dollar** the pound rose 1.21 cents to be worth \$1.2841.

Against the **euro** the pound fell 0.13 cents to be worth €1.1838.

PROPERTY

Politicians urged to do more for renters or suffer consequences

By David Connett

Politicians need to do more for renters or suffer the consequences at the ballot box, a leading property professional group has warned.

"Greater attention must be paid to improving conditions for 'generation rent', who are faced with rising rents and a lack of suitable options," Justin Young, chief executive of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), said.

"This particular demographic – typically made up of people aged between 18 and 40 – has doubled in the last two decades, so politicians need to focus on them, as well as homeowners, as a means of gaining the support of a growing portion of the electorate.

"The housing market needs poli-

cies that think longer term, not short, and awareness that the different tenures are interlinked, so there is no one solution that will fix the situation.

"With the market under strain, the supply and demand gap in both lettings and buy side continues to create issues."

The latest Rics survey found private renters continue to see high demand outstrip supply, leaving renters tackling rising living costs as rents rise.

More than a third (35 per cent) of professionals saw tenant demand rise rather than fall.

Campaigners have urged all political leaders to act to protect renters.

Both the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives have included plans to end no-fault evictions in their manifestos, with Labour expected to follow suit.

Campaigners also want ministers to create a detailed national register of private landlords and a plan to increase energy efficiency standards for private rented homes to EPC C as soon as possible.

{i} Tarrant Parsons, of Rics, said: "The recent recovery across the UK housing market **appears to have slipped** into reverse."



DFS issues profit warning

Furniture group DFS has warned its profits will be lower than forecast because of higher freight costs due to shipping disruption by Houthi rebels in the Red Sea. It said delivery delays and subdued

demand meant it now expected pre-tax profit to be £10m to £12m for the year to the end of June, down from a forecast of £20m to £25m. The brand has around 128 sites across Europe. GETTY

TRANSPORT

'Competition needed' for rail catering outlets

By David Connett

The rail regulator wants greater competition for railway station catering outlets to improve travellers' food options and generate more money for rail operators.

The Office of Rail and Road (ORR) recommended more competition for food outlets. It found that almost half of all UK stations only had one catering option for customers, with those outlets staying in the same hands for extended periods because their leases were protected.

Station operators had less income to invest in improving stations and services as a result, leading to an increased need for taxpayer support.

Lack of competition meant people travelling by rail are paying 10 per cent more than at High Street outlets for something to eat and drink.

The ORR has called for simpler and standardised contracts to make it easier for new firms to compete.

Will Godfrey, of the ORR, said: "The railway station catering market isn't working as effectively as it should be. More competition between companies to operate at stations would bring real benefits."

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TENNIS

Queen's members plan legal action after 'secret' LTA deal

Exclusive
By James Gray

A group of furious Queen's Club members are preparing legal action to block a women's tournament from being held at the club in 2025.

It was revealed last month that a deal had been done between the club and Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to hold a WTA tournament at the west London venue the week before the existing pre-Wimbledon event.

However, the club's members were not consulted before the announcement, one board member has already resigned in protest and hundreds more ordinary members have been left fuming that they were not given the chance to vote on the contract.

At a fractious Extraordinary General Meeting last Friday, I understands members of the exclusive club, which costs £15,000 to join, aired grievances for more than two hours before passing motions that would force the board to consult the membership on all such issues in the future.

But the deal has already been signed to inaugurate the women's tournament in 2025 and efforts to block the competition taking place by a portion of the membership risk the Queen's Club breaching a

contract which they have already entered into with the LTA.

An LTA spokesperson told i: "We have full confidence in the agreement we already have in place and look forward to staging the first women's tour event in London for over 50 years at the club next year."

I understands the legal challenge will involve a close reading of the club's constitution to ascertain whether the board has acted beyond its remit in agreeing the deal, as one source put it, "in secret".

Simon Greenwell, chair of the Queen's Club, told i: "We are not aware of any litigation and as this is a private members club we do not comment on internal club matters."

"The Queen's Club is delighted to be hosting a leading women's tournament after a 52-year absence. We are very proud to be hosting both WTA and ATP 500 tournaments."

Tensions stem from the fact that the tournament is seen as a significant disruption to the members' enjoyment of their club, which the LTA sold to the members back in 2007.

There are around 4,000 members, although it is understood that only around 700 regularly use the facilities, and it is from that more active portion of the membership that many of the objectors come.

Olympic doubles 'dream' for Evans with Murray is far from certain

James Gray

SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT
IN NOTTINGHAM



Dan Evans says he will tell his grandkids about playing doubles with Andy Murray at the Paris Olympics – if they get in.

Murray, 37, said he was "not 100 per cent sure" he would play the Olympic Games later this summer because of concerns he would not get into the doubles.

Team GB have had to change their plans after Neal Skupski dropped out of the doubles top 10 on the eve of the entry deadline, losing his automatic place.

It means Iain Bates, head of the GB's Olympic tennis team, has had to re-shuffle the pack, abandoning the idea of Skupski playing with Evans and instead pairing him with world No 5 Joe Salisbury.

Evans (above) is now expected to be nominated on Sunday with Murray, reprising the partnership they formed at the French Open last month.

"Playing with him any time is special. I'll have to improve a bit from the French, I imagine!" said Evans. Murray and Evans lost in the first round at Roland Garros.

"He's a legend of the sport so to team up with him would be the stuff dreams are made of, in the Olympics representing Great Britain. I've

never had the the chance in Davis Cup [to play with Murray]. If I did get a chance that would be something to tell the grandkids about and hopefully get a medal."

There is no guarantee that Murray and Evans will get in though, with only 32 teams accepted into the doubles draw.

"I don't know the ins and outs but I think it goes on accreditations, something nuts like if two singles players are ranked higher, they get in over singles and doubles," Evans added. "I've paid no attention to that. I've been trying to win tennis matches."

But if they do not get into the doubles as a team, Murray says he may not play the Olympics at all, a decision which has implications for his retirement plans. "I'm not 100 per cent sure what the situation is with the doubles there yet, if I just get in the singles whether or not I will play. I don't know," Murray said after defeat in Stuttgart on Tuesday, his third straight loss. "My body didn't feel great playing on the clay. I had quite a few issues with my back, so I don't know if I would go just for singles."

Murray has already said he will "probably" not play longer than this summer, and if he does not end up playing the Olympics then Wimbledon would feel like a natural endpoint.

However, the US Open at the end of the summer is also a tournament where he has a considerable amount of history, having won there as a jun-



Queen's Club will host WTA and ATP 500 tournaments next year GETTY

Puzzle solutions

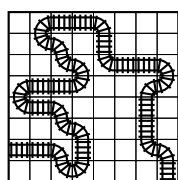
Dominoes

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

Journey Finder

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

Train Tracks



Number Square

4	+	3	+	2	9
-	+	+	+	+	+
5	-	1	x	9	36
+	+	-	-	-	-
6	+	8	-	7	7
5	-	4	+	4	+

8	+	6	x	2	28
+	+	+	+	+	+
4	+	5	+	1	9
-	+	+	+	+	+
7	+	9	+	3	19
-	+	+	+	+	+

idoku

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

Kakuro

13	28	16	6	7	30	8
25	7	9	8	16	9	7
17	7	2	1	4	3	2
17	9	8	24	9	8	7
10	1	3	6	9	8	5
29	7	5	9	8	4	2
12	8	1	3	8	5	1
15	8	7	9	7	4	3
6	1	5	2	1	3	8

Wijuko

3	7	6
2	4	9
5	1	8

Binary

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

Number Hexagon

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Zygolex

LEFT TO RIGHT:
adorn; spook; core;
chance; adore; fluke;
like; lake; flake; pike;
peel; fish; peer; poke;
ideal

Daily Quiz

1. Sir Neville Marriner
2. Roman Catholics
3. Can opener
4. Fisherman's Friends

Word Ladder

LAUD	LOST
LAI	LOUT
LAIR	LOUD
HAIR	LAUD
HEIR	LAI
WEIR	RAID

Sudoku

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

Jigsawdoku

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

ABC Logic

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

Yesterday's Codeword 3907

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

Word Wheel

NINE-LETTER WORD retention

OTHER WORDS eon, into, intone, ion, iron, neon, none, nor, not, note, one, ore, orient, otter, riot, roe, rot, rote, rotten, tenon, tenor, toe, ton, tone, toner, tonne, tor, tore, torn, tort, tot, trio, trot



Boulter eases into last eight

Katie Boulter's dream of a second successive title at her home event is firmly alive after breezing into the quarter-finals.

Victory at the Nottingham Open last year kick-started an impressive year which has seen her surge into the world's top 30.

And she is looking good again on home turf after easing past Rebecca Marino 6-4, 6-3 to book a quarter-final spot.

Boulter (left) said: "I have some of my childhood memories here so I always get that warm fuzzy feeling every time I come out here."

Heather Watson was unable to follow her compatriot into the last eight as she lost to 2016 champion Karolina Pliskova. Watson competed well against the sixth seed but went down 6-4, 6-4.

My body didn't feel great on the clay. I had issues with my back, so I don't know if I would go just for singles

partner – saw him slip to 12th in the world. It means he will have to rely on the combined ranking with his partner being high enough to get in.

However, a third complicating factor is the quota; no more than 86 male players may enter the Olympics, so if that figure is reached (when taking into account the 64-man singles draw) by the time 24

teams have been accepted, players already entered into the singles are given priority to fill up the draw.

That quota is almost always reached, which is why GB have chosen to change their approach ahead of nominations to maximise their chances of having two medal-contending teams in the draw.

There will be no shortage of high-profile doubles teams at the Games either after 22-time major champion Rafael Nadal and French Open winner Carlos Alcaraz were confirmed as a Spanish entry into the men's doubles.

RACING

Notable Speech eyes Ascot and Newmarket feat

By Jon Freeman

RACING EDITOR

Every horse that should be there, will be there at Ascot for the St James's Palace Stakes next Tuesday, including the winners of the English, Irish and French 2000 Guineas.

Notable Speech, Rosallion and Haatem, the first three home in Newmarket's classic, are set for another clash in the Royal meeting's opening-day highlight.

So, too, are River Tiber and Unquestionable, who finished third and fourth behind Rosallion and Haatem in the Curragh equivalent, while Metropolitan, the shock winner of the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2000) and not originally entered, has been supplemented for a fee of £46,000.

Godolphin's Notable Speech is a firm favourite to complete a Newmarket-Ascot double achieved by many of the best in the business down the years, including Frankel and Kingman in recent times.

But Richard Hannon's Rosallion is close behind in the betting and Henry Longfellow, one of four from Ballydoyle standing their ground at yesterday's entry stage, has been well backed to make up for his luckless run behind Metropolitan at Longchamp.

Seven Questions has also been supplemented for the King Charles III Stakes (formerly the King's Stand) after delighting connections in a gallop yesterday morning.

Seven Questions sprang a 33-1 surprise in the Palace House Stakes at Newmarket early last month and followed up with a fine placed effort in Haydock's Group Two Temple Stakes.

Trainer George Scott said: "We have to be realistic. We're not supplementing a 6-4 shot (most bookies have him at 16-1). But in an open race we feel it's worth taking a chance."

1 top tips

BEST BET

Yorkshire

(3.45, Nottingham)

First try at a mile, but strong at the finish when dead-heating, and then just missing out, on his two starts this season.

NEXT BEST

Zouzanna

(4.30, Newbury)

In good form last autumn and conditions in her favour again.

ANTE-POST

Inspiral is favourite

with all firms to win Royal Ascot's curtain-raiser Queen Anne Stakes next Tuesday.



William Buick celebrates aboard Notable Speech after the 2000 Guineas

NEWBURY GOOD TO FIRM

4.00 DARLEY EBF FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (STR) (CLASS 2)
3YO £40,000 added 1m

1	AMONGST THE STARS	D & C Kubler 9 2	R Kingscote 8
2	BERNALDA	J Ferguson 9 2	D Muscutt 3
3	5-32 CLOVE HITCH	A Balding 9 2	O Murphy 6
4	DESERT TIME	H Candy 9 2	T Whelan 11
5	FIOR DI BOSCO	W Haggas 9 2	T Marquand 2
6	HEAVEN BLESSED	W Haggas 9 2	W Buick 4
7	0-6 HECKMONDWIKE	Harry Eustace 9 2	C Bishop 12
8	ICECAP	P Owens 9 2	B Sayette 10
9	2-7 IZIPIZI (BF)	J & T Gosden 9 2	R Havlin 7
10	38- NO MISCHIEF	J Portman 9 2	R Hornby 5
11	3 SAMBUCUS	E Walker 9 2	S Osborne 1
12	7- UPLIFT (BF)	J & T Gosden 9 2	K Shoemark 9

BETTING: 5-2 Clove Hitch, 4-1 Izipizi, 5-1 Sambucus, 6-1 Uplift, Fior Di Bosco, 10-1 Bernalda, 12-1 Heaven Blessed, 25-1 Desert Time, Amongst The Stars, 50-1 others.

4.30 RACEHORSE SHARES FROM 25 AT RACINGCLUB.COM
HANDICAP (CLASS 3) £27,500 added 7f

1	251-15 UNDER THE TWILIGHT	(D) M Blake 6 9 9	T Marquand 7
2	343690 NIBRAS ANGEL	(D) I Mohammed 4 9 9	S D Bowen (s) T 8
3	230-24 HICKORY	(D) J Fanshawe 6 9 8	W Buick C 1
4	13-004 PEARLE D'OR	(CD)(BF) D O'Meara 5 9 6	Jason Watson H 5
5	35-306 STERLING KNIGHT	(D) E Dunlop 5 9 6	Rossa Ryan C 11
6	0136-9 ZOZANNA	(D)(BF) Harry Charlton 4 9 3	O Murphy 4
7	113-7 GAME SET	(D) Owen Burrows 4 9 3	J Crowley 10
8	117-43 BE FRANK	H Candy 4 9 2	T Whelan 2
9	61452 METAVERSE	(D) D Menuisier 4 9 1	K Shoemark H 9
10	311739 EPSOM FAITHFUL	(D) P Phelan 7 8 11	P Bradley C 6
11	00-000 BOOK OF LIFE	(D) I Williams 4 8 10	David Egan T 3

BETTING: 4-1 Hickory, 9-2 Pearle D'Or, 5-1 Be Frank, 6-1 Metaverse, 7-1 Under The Twilight, 8-1 Game Set, Zouzanna, 14-1 Sterling Knight, Nibras Angel, 25-1 others.

NOTTINGHAM GOOD

3.45 FOLLOW US ON X AT BETRHINO HANDICAP (CLASS 3)
£18,000 added 1m

1	39-300 BENACRE	C Johnson 4 9 9	James Doyle 2
2	255-12 YORKSHIRE	(BF) E Bethell 4 9 9	C Rodriguez T 5
3	54-100 SUDDEN AMBUSH	(D) A Balding 4 9 5	D Probert T 7
4	60700 MASTER ZOFFANY	(D) R Fahey 6 9 5	O McSweeney (s) C 3
5	560-00 OBELIX	(D) J Camacho 4 9 5	Ryan Sexton 4
6	2399-0 ACOTANGO	(D)(BF) Harry Charlton 4 9 3	F Marsh 1
7	521112 GREAT BLASKET	(D)(BF) Dr R Newland & J Insole 4 9 1	H Doyle B 6

BETTING: 15-8 Great Blasket, 2-1 Yorkshire, 2-1 Benacre, 10-1 Acotango, Sudden Ambush, 12-1 Master Zoffany, 16-1 Obelix.

WORCESTER GOOD

6.50 JENNINGSBET IN PELSALL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 3) £11,700 added 2m 7f

1	4U5-5P PARTY BUSINESS	I Williams 8 12 0	C J Todd C
2	935F7 DUBLIN FOUR	D Killahena & G McPherson 10 11 10	K Woods T
3	35P42- PERCUSSION	L Morgan 9 11 7	A Wedge C, T
4	12335- TIGER ORCHID	(CD) Dr R Newland & J Insole 9 11 7	C Hammond C
5	5335-6 HITCHING JACKING	D Skelton 7 11 6	H Skelton C
6	3/25- P AMRONS SAGE	N Henderson 7 11 6	N De Boinville
7	2623-1 SCRUM DIDDLE	Harry Derham 6 11 6	Paul O'Brien C
8	4P44-2 MORNING SPIRIT	Jonjo & A O'Neill 9 11 4	Jonjo O'Neill Jr C
9	12PP-P AJP KINGDOM	(CD) F O'Brien 7 11 1	C Brace
10	P/P2-5 ONE MORE FLEURIE	I Williams 10 10 11	S Bowen
11	31-313 JESSIE LIGHTFOOT	Henry Oliver 10 10 2	D Noonan

BETTING: 7-2 Scrum Diddle, 6-1 Hitching Jacking, Morning Spirit, 13-2 Amrons Sage, 8-1 Percussion, 10-1 Jessie Lightfoot, Party Business, One More Fleurie, 12-1 others.

7.25 FBC MANBY BOWDLER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 3)
£10,700 added 2m 7f

1	P012P/ COLTOR	D Pipe 7 12 0	J Tudor B
2	3370-0 FLIGHT DECK	Deborah Cole 10 11 13	C Ward (s) B
3	9113P- BRIEF TIMES	N Mulholland 8 11 7	H Cobden T
4	858-04 JUDICIAL LAW	(CD) Jonjo & A O'Neill 7 11 4	Jonjo O'Neill Jr
5	1/180-4 PEKING ROSE	F O'Brien 9 11 3	J J Burke C, T
6	31120- BUCKO'S BOY	J Snowden 9 11 0	G Sheehan
7	6P50-3 LALLYGAG	P Nicholls 7 11 0	Miss Olive Nicholls (T) T
8	1/114-3 NORTON HILL	(BF) A Honeyball 8 10 10	S Twiston-Davies T, V
9	2263-6 MR YEATS	H Dickinson 7 10 4	B Harris (s) C
10	P23-PP SPORTY JIM	B Summers 7 10 3	P Armson (s) C

BETTING: 4-1 Bucko's Boy, 9-2 Lallygag, 5-1 Coltor, 6-1 Norton Hill, Brief Times, 8-1 Peking Rose, 10-1 Judicial Law, Mr Yeats, 20-1 others.

Killer Sudoku

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

Minesweeper

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

Number Tower

694
349 345
183 166 179
99 84 82 97
54 45 39 43 54
31 23 22 17 26 28
23 8 15 7 10 16 12

Calcudoku

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

Word Square

S	T	A	G
T	R	I	O
A	I	D	E
G	O	E	S

Rectangles

3	2	5	2	2
2	9	6		
6	12	2	2	3
5	12	2	2	3
6				

Pathfinder

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

Chain Link

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

Futoshiki

5	>	4	1	3	2
1	5	4	>	2	<
2	1	3	5	4	
3	2	5	>	4	1
4	>	3	>	2	>

Hexalex

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

Word Fit

P	E	N	S	I	D	U
F	E	A	R	K		
F	E	D	R	A	T	
F	S	A	B	E	T	

Knight's Tour

76	3	78	65	72	17	24	19	28	15
69	66	75	2	79	64	73	16	25	20
4	77	68	71	74	23	18	27	14	29
67	70	85	80	1	88	63	30	21	26
84	5	44	89	86	81	22	93	62	13
45	90	83	52	43	92	87	60	31	98
6	41	46	91	82	59	94	97	12	61
47	38	53	42	51	96	55	58	99	32
40	7	36	49	54	9	34	95	56	11
37	48	39	8	35	50	57	10	33	100

Battleships

▲									
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Bridges

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

Word Search

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

Sport in brief

SWIMMING

Peaty now a more dangerous athlete



Adam Peaty will head into Paris 2024 at peace with himself after a battle with his demons – and

the three-time Olympic champion believes that makes him a more dangerous opponent for his rivals.

The 29-year-old (above) faced huge challenges since winning double gold and a silver at the Tokyo Games in 2021, and last year climbed out of the pool to deal with mental health and alcohol issues.

“As soon as you stop running from yourself, that’s when you start living your true self and true life,” he said. “That’s when you’re most dangerous for everyone else.”



ATHLETICS

Hodgkinson a back to back champion

Keely Hodgkinson last night retained her European 800m gold from Munich two years ago with a 1min 58.65sec in the final in Rome.

The British runner led from the start and held control despite a late charge from Gabriela Gajanova of Slovakia, with France’s Anaïs Bourgoïn taking the bronze.

Despite her strong performance, it had been reported that she had been ill in the run-up to the race, and the 22-year-old did not look comfortable in the aftermath. The gold, which marked Great Britain’s third of the Championships, will give Hodgkinson confidence for the Olympics in Paris after a 400m PB of 51.61sec earlier this season.

BASKETBALL

James leads tribute to a Lakers legend



Jerry West has been described as a “basketball genius” and a “defining figure” in the NBA following his death at the age of 86.

West (above), whose silhouette is considered the basis of the NBA logo, was most closely associated with the Los Angeles Lakers, where he spent 14 years as a player, three as coach and 21 as an executive during which time he helped build the team’s “Showtime” dynasty of the 1980s. Lakers star LeBron James, the all-time leading scorer in NBA history, posted: “Will truly miss my dear friend. Rest in paradise, my mentor, my friend!”

CRICKET T20 WORLD CUP

Buttler’s men cannot rely on Australia favour ahead of Oman

Chris Stocks

IN ANTIGUA



England know victory against Oman today is non-negotiable. They also have to produce a statement performance to resuscitate their faltering T20 World Cup campaign if they are to extend their interest in this tournament beyond the weekend.

Under-fire coach Matthew Mott has played down fears that Australia may stitch them up in their final group match against Scotland on Saturday.

But Jos Buttler and his players can make talk of that moot if they hammer both of the weakest two teams in Group B over the next three days.

Oman are first. Scotland showed the gulf nation’s limitations on Sunday, cantering to a seven wicket win as they cruised to a target of 153 at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

That boosted the Scots’ net run rate to a level where England know even winning both of their final games might not be enough.

They really need to get ahead of Scotland’s run rate before that Group B finale in St Lucia the Australians are threatening to manipulate. If that’s the case any margin of defeat for the Scots would see Buttler’s men through.

England have been here before,

Antigua details

Probable North Sound teams:

England JC Buttler (w-k/capt), PD Salt, WG Jacks, JM Bairstow, HC Brook, LS Livingstone, MM Ali, CJ Jordan, JC Archer, AU Rashid, RJW Topley.

Oman PS Athavale (w-k), MN Khushi, A Ilyas S (capt), Z Maqsood, K Kail, AM Khan, M Khan, Rafiullah, S Ahmed, Kaleemullah, B Khan.

Umpires L Rusere (Zim) & A Yaqoob (Pak).

Weather Hot and sunny, max temp 30C

TV 8pm BST, Sky Sports Cricket

England’s Group B schedule

4 June No result v Scotland

8 June Lost to Australia by 36 runs

Sat Namibia (North Sound)

sneaking through to the semi-finals of the last T20 World Cup in Australia two years ago on net run rate after losing their second match of the tournament to Ireland.

Once they got into the last four, with wins against New Zealand and Sri Lanka confirming their place, they hammered India in the semi-finals and went on to win the tournament.

The hope is they can engineer a similar escape act now, but the format of this tournament in the USA and

7

Scotland showed Oman’s limitations with a seven wicket victory last Sunday

AUSTRALIA

‘It’s in our best interest to get England out’

» Continued from back page

today and Namibia on Saturday, by big margins to pip the Scots on run rate, assuming their neighbours lose to Australia.

Given Australia and Scotland play in St Lucia later on Saturday after England’s final match, it means both teams will know exactly what is required to help wreck England’s chances, something Hazlewood was well aware of following his team’s win against Namibia in Antigua on Tuesday evening.

“We can ease off a little bit over the next few days,” he said. “In this tournament you potentially come up against England at some stage again and as you said

they’re probably one of the top few teams on their day and we’ve had some real struggles against them in T20 cricket, so if we can get them out of the tournament

To take confidence from winning well is almost more important than trying to knock someone out

that’s in our best interest as well as probably everyone else. But yeah, it’ll be interesting to see. We’ve never really been in this position before as a team, so whether we have discussions or not, we’ll just try and play it again the way we did tonight. Yeah, that’ll be up to people, not me.”

Asked how they might scupper England, Hazlewood added: “Not too sure really, whether you get close and you just knock it around and drag it out. There’s a few options there, but as you said, to take confidence



Caribbean leaves them vulnerable. It’s not just that Scotland and Australia will know exactly what they will have to do, because their match is the last one in the group.

It’s the fact there is nothing for already-qualified Australia to gain by winning and topping Group B because their Super Eight group is already pre-ordained regardless of where they finish and no points are carried through to the next stage.

Unlike major football tournaments, cricket does not play the final

group matches concurrently. Maybe if the Aussies blatantly conspire to oust Buttler’s men from this one, the International Cricket Council will be forced to think again.

Despite all this, England just need to win today, with Mott admitting: “That’s all we can do, regardless of any outside noise, qualification, run-rates. If we get in a dominant position and can push hard we will but if we have to scrap and fight to get the two points we will as well.”

“Hopefully there’s still a lot of



Josh Hazlewood said Australia have a few options when they face Scotland

from winning and winning well, I think that’s almost more important than potentially trying to knock someone else out. They’ve still got a lot to do on their behalf as well, so I think it’ll become clearer the closer we get to that sort of stuff.”

The problem for England is that it would be very hard for the ICC to prove Australia have eased off against Scotland. i understands the ICC are not concerned Marsh’s team will manipulate the result.

But there is a precedent, with Australia captain Steve Waugh conducting a deliberate go-slow to manipulate the net run rate during a match against the West Indies during the 1999 World Cup in England, to ensure New Zealand did not qualify for the next stage of the tournament.



Yadav and Dube see India through

India qualified for the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup with a seven-wicket win over the United States, with a fifty by Suryakumar Yadav (left) and Arshdeep Singh's four-wicket haul helping them clinch their third win in a row.

The USA, second in Group A after suffering their first loss in three matches, will also ensure qualification for the next round if they beat Ireland tomorrow.

Nitish Kumar was the Americans' top scorer with 27 but Arshdeep picked up his crucial wicket when Mohammed Siraj took a stunning catch near the boundary as the US finished on 110 for 8.

India got their chase off to a shaky start but Yadav (50no) and Shivam Dube (31no) built an unbeaten partnership of 72 runs and got India over the line with 10 balls to spare.

If we get in a dominant position and can push we will but if we have to scrap and fight we will as well

cricket left for us and the challenge ahead is something we're excited by. We're not daunted by it, we're excited. That's genuine."

England's hopes of smashing a big total if they bat first today have been enhanced by news this match will

SRI LANKA

Ex-champions need a 'miracle' to avoid exit

By John Mehaffey

Former champions Sri Lanka are on the brink of an early exit from the T20 World Cup after heavy rain washed out their Group D match against Nepal in Florida yesterday.

The 2014 champions badly needed a win to keep their tournament hopes alive after defeats by South Africa and Bangladesh in their first two matches. Wanindu Hasaranga's team are bottom of the group with just one point and look certain to crash out unless other results go their way. "It's not going to be easy for us and



be played on a fresh pitch at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

They look unlikely to make many changes but if training yesterday was anything to go by, it looks like Reece Topley will be picked in place of Mark Wood.

The left-arm-er was unlucky to miss out on the first two matches against Scotland and Australia, the results of which have left England in this situation. Bringing in a bowler who can swing the ball early on now is the smart call.

it would be a miracle actually," Sri Lanka spinner Maheesh Theekshana said of their chances of advancing.

They will conclude their group campaign against the Netherlands on Sunday and Theekshana (below) acknowledged nothing had clicked for them in the tournament. "We didn't bat

well, we didn't assess the conditions well and our plans, everything went wrong," the off-spinner said.

Nepal are also winless after two matches and tomorrow they face unbeaten group leaders South Africa, who sealed their place in the Super Eight after three straight victories.

"We want the sun to shine and have a proper game," Nepal coach Monty Desai said.

GOLF US OPEN



Rory McIlroy chips out of a bunker during practice at Pinehurst REUTERS

Scheffler is in 'relentless' form, admits McIlroy

By Phil Casey

AT PINEHURST

Only four players have finished under par across the three US Opens staged at Pinehurst and, if the hype is to be believed, that figure is not set for a significant rise this week.

Defending champion Wyndham Clark set the tone on Monday by describing some of the greens as already being "borderline", while Tiger Woods was unusually quotable in predicting bouts of "ping-pong" as players chip from one side of the domed greens to the other.

Bryson DeChambeau and Rory McIlroy both used the word "boring" to describe the kind of golf they think is necessary to win a US Open, with the biggest danger of such an outcome coming in the shape of Scottie Scheffler repeating Martin Kaymer's runaway victory a decade ago.

After Payne Stewart edged out Phil Mickelson by a shot in 1999 and qualifier Michael Campbell held off Tiger Woods in 2005, Kaymer's eight-shot victory in 2014 came as a shock, despite the Ryder Cup star having also led from start to finish to win the Players Championship five weeks earlier.

A sixth win of the year for Scheffler would be no surprise given the form of the Masters champion, who could have travelled to North Carolina halfway towards an unprecedented calendar-year grand slam if not for the surreal events of 17 May.

"The only thing that took him from winning a golf tournament was going into a jail cell for an hour," was how McIlroy summed up Scheffler's arrest, and subsequent release, following an incident with a police officer

as he tried to get into Valhalla ahead of his second round of the US PGA.

Scheffler carded a 66 that day but struggled to a third-round 73 as the seriousness of the charges against him reportedly hit home.

The world No 1 bounced back with a closing 65, finished second in his next event and then won the Memorial Tournament on Sunday to become the first player to win five times before the US Open since Tom Watson in 1980.

"The word that I describe it as is relentless," McIlroy said. "It seems like every time he shows up, he is the guy to beat, and deservedly so.

Scheffler is undoubtedly the best player in the world at the minute by a long way. It's up to us to try to get to his level

This run that he's been on, I think he's played 13 times this year, only once out of the top 10. Seems like he's always in contention. Undoubtedly the best player in the world at the minute by a long way. It's up to us to try to get to his level."

The prospects of McIlroy getting to that level in pursuit of an overdue fifth major title have surely been boosted by the news that the divorce petition he filed in a Florida court last month has been voluntarily dismissed.

McIlroy looked relaxed in his press conference at Pinehurst, where he will play alongside Scheffler and US PGA winner Xander Schauffele in the first two rounds.

Jon Rahm would have been in that group a year ago but has slipped to eighth on the back of a move to LIV and poor results in this year's majors. The Spaniard's season has gone from bad to worse when he was forced to withdraw from a tournament he won in 2021 due to injury.

Even without Rahm, the stage is set for a third major championship in the space of 10 weeks and one which promises to be anything but boring.

Results Service

ATHLETICS

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, ROME, Men's, Javelin Throw: 1 J Vadlejch (Cz Rep) 88.65m, 2 J Weber (Ger) 85.94, 3 O Helander (Fin) 85.75. **4x400m relay:** 1 Belgium 2mins 59.84secs, 2 Italy 3:00.81, 3 Germany 3:00.82, 7 GB & N.I. 3:01.89. **Women's, 4x400m relay:** 1 Netherlands 3mins 22.39secs, 2 Ireland 3:22.71, 3 Belgium 3:22.95. **800m:** 1 K Hodgkinson (GB) 1min 58.65secs, 2 G Gajanova (Slovak) 1:58.79, 3 A Bourgoin (Fr) 1:59.30.

CRICKET

ICC WORLD TWENTY20 - GROUP A

United States v India, New York: United States 110-8 (20.0 overs; A Singh 4-9); **India 111-3** (18.2 overs). **India win by 7 wickets.**

GROUP B

Namibia v Australia, North Sound: Namibia 72 (17.0 overs; A Zampa 4-12). **Australia 74-1** (5.4 overs). **Australia won by 9 wickets.**

T20 BLAST - NORTH GROUP

Leicestershire v Durham, Riverside: Leicestershire 140-8 (20.0 overs). **Durham 130-8** (20.0 overs; G Clark 53no). **Leicestershire (2pts) beat Durham by 10 runs.**

CYCLING

UCI WORLD TOUR DE SUISSE, Stage 4 (Ruschlikon - San Gattardo, 170.5km): 1 T Treen (Nor) Bahrain Victorious 4hrs 10mins 21secs, 2 A Yates (GB) UAE Team Emirates +23secs, 6 O Onley (GB) Team dsm-firmenich +4min 27secs, 19 T Pidcock (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +1:54, 27 F Pickering (GB) Bahrain Victorious +2:15, 33 S Williams (GB) Israel-Premier Tech +3:10, 37 E Hayter (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +3:17, 40 J Shaw (GB) EF Education-EasyPost +3:37, 42 H Wood (GB) Cofidis +4:02. **Overall:** 1 A Yates (GB) UAE Team Emirates 11hrs 50mins 8secs, 6 O Onley (GB) Team dsm-firmenich +1min 17secs, 11 T Pidcock (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +1:42, 29 S Williams (GB) Israel-Premier Tech +2:49, 31 E Hayter (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +2:52, 32 F Pickering (GB) Bahrain Victorious +2:57, 44 B Tulett (GB) Team Visma | Lease a Bike +4:49.

DARTS

PDC PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP 12, HALLE 39, HILDESHEIM, Quarter Finals:

M Razma (Lat) bt M van Gerwen (Neth) 6-3, D van den Bergh (Bel) bt B Krckmar (Cro) 6-3, D Noppert (Neth) bt K Barry (Rep Ire) 6-4, M Campbell (Can) bt R Veenstra (Neth) 6-5.

Semi Finals: D van den Bergh (Bel) bt M Razma (Lat) 7-3, M Campbell (Can) bt D Noppert (Neth) 7-4. **Final:** D van den Bergh (Bel) bt M Campbell (Can) 8-3.

DARTS

Fontwell - Good

2.43 1. KITESURFER (G Sheehan) 11-1. **2. Sea The Clouds** 12-1. **3. Paddy De Pole** 15-8 fav. **6 ran.** 4/4, 1/4, (J Snowden) 4. **13 1. VILLAGE MASTER** (J Bowen) 7-4 fav. **2. Jigginstown King** 5-2. **3. Dickey Rielly** 9-2. **6 ran.** 1/4, 1/4, (W Greatrex). **Placepot:** £501.60. **Quadpot:** £18.00. **Place 6:** £477.48. **Place 5:** £400.41.

Yarmouth - Soft-good to soft in places

4.00 1. MAGIC MEMORIES (T P Queally) evens fav. **2. Lough Leane** 13-2. **3. Lakota Brave** 7-2. **5 ran.** 1/4, 1/4, (G & J Moore). **Placepot:** £26.10. **Quadpot:** £5.60. **Place 6:** £16.01. **Place 5:** £5.72.

Hamilton - Good to firm-good in places

7.20 1. MOYOLA (Oisin Orr) 17-2. **2. Pals Battalion** 5-1. **3. Mr Irrelevant** 5-1. **6 ran.** 9-4 fav Angel Of England (5th). 2/4, 1/4, (L Russell). **7.50 1. JORDAN ELECTRICS** (P Mulrennan) 9-4. **2. Winter Crown** 7-2. **3. Sacred Falls** 13-8 fav. **6 ran.** 1/4, 1/4, (J Goldie). **Placepot:** £1.873.40. **Quadpot:** £159.00.

Kempton - Standard to slow

6.40 1. DRAMA (T Marquand) 18-1. **2. City House** 10-3. **3. Blue Day** 11-8 fav. **10 ran.** nk. 1/4, (J Ferguson). **Jackpot:** £10,000.00. **Placepot:** £30.80. **Quadpot:** £16.60. **Place 6:** £19.36. **Place 5:** £11.63.

TENNIS

ATP BOSS OPEN STUTTGART, Second round: J Draper (Gbr) bt M Giron (USA) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; L Musetti (It) bt D Koepfer (Ger) 6-7 (9-11), 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; F Tiafoe (US) bt V Hanfmann (Ger) 7-5, 7-6 (7-5), A Bublik (Kaz) bt H Medjedovic (Serb) 6-1, 7-6 (7-4).

ATP & WTA LIBEMA OPEN, 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH, Men's, Second round: G Brouwer (Neth) bt A Mannarino (Fr) 6-3, 6-3; T Griekspoor (Ned) bt M McDonald (USA) 6-3, 7-6 (7-5), U Humbert (Fra) bt A Fils (Fra) 6-3, 7-6 (7-1). **Women's, First round:** J Niemeyer (Ger) bt C Tauson (Den) 6-4, 6-7 (3-7), 6-4; L Samsonova (Rus) bt A van Uytvanck (Bel) 6-1, 6-3; V Kudermetova (Rus) bt Z Bai (Chin) 7-5, 6-1; R Montgomery (US) bt M Linette (Pol) 6-7 (4-7), 6-3, 7-5. **Second round:** B Andreescu (Can) bt Y Yuan (Chin) 6-4, 6-4; G Minnen (Bel) bt D Vekic (Cro) 6-1, 0-6, 7-5; N Osaka (Japan) bt S Lamens (Neth) 6-2, 6-2.

WTA ROTHESAY OPEN NOTTINGHAM, Second round: K Birrell (Aus) bt L Stefanini (It) 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-0; D Parry (Fr) bt D Saville (Aus) 6-4, 6-1; K Boulter (GB) bt R Marino (Can) 6-4, 6-3; K Pliskova (Cze) bt H Watson (Gbr) 6-4, 6-4.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

(7.45pm unless stated)

INTERNATIONAL

USA v Brazil (12midnight).....

CRICKET

ICC WORLD TWENTY20 - GROUP B:

England v Oman (North Sound, 8.00pm).

T20 BLAST - SOUTH GROUP: Glamorgan v Hampshire (Sophia Gardens, 6.30pm). Middlesex v Essex (Lord's, 6.15pm).

GOLF

THE 124TH U.S. OPEN

(Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, North Carolina).

LPGA MEIJER CLASSIC (Massachusetts).

Sport on TV



Tennis: Nottingham Open

BBC Red Button, 11.20am

Golf: US Open

Sky Sports Golf, 1.30pm

Cricket: Bangladesh v Netherlands

Sky Sports Cricket, 3pm

Cricket: England v Oman

Sky Sports Cricket, 7.30pm

Cricket: Afghanistan v PNG

Sky Sports Cricket, 1am (Fri)

EURO 2024 ENGLAND

VAR calls to be explained on big screens to aid fan communication

By Sam Cunningham

CHIEF FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Fans will be shown detailed explanations of VAR decisions on big screens at Euro 2024 in a move that it is hoped will improve communication with supporters inside grounds.

State-of-the-art motion sensors inside match balls will also assist VAR decisions for the first time at a European Championship. The “connected ball technology” uses a chip inside the Adidas balls that tracks touches 500 times per second and will enable VARs to quickly assess contentious handball decisions.

Roberto Rosetti, in charge of the referees at the tournament, said a frame-by-frame replay of an incident will be accompanied by a visualisation showing if contact was detected.

A major complaint about VAR in the Premier League is that match-going fans are left unclear on decisions made, as TV viewers get clearer explanations.

In Germany, detailed summaries of VAR rulings will be shown in stadiums throughout the event in a change that, if successful, could be replicated in England.

A theoretical example for a penalty awarded for a handball was described as: “Germany No 9 touched the ball with left arm which was in an unnatural position, above the shoulder and making his body bigger.”

The introduction of a connected ball that links to computers inside a central hub, will also improve semi-automated offside technology. It provides a precise location of the ball on the pitch and, using artificial intelligence, combines with position data to speed up and improve the accuracy of VARs making offside calls.

Uefa has 10 specialist cameras at each venue, that track 29 body parts. The sensor inside the ball will be able to determine with unprecedented accuracy when a pass was played.

Uefa, under Rosetti’s guidance, is introducing other tweaks. Only captains are permitted to discuss decisions with referees during matches and any other player attempting to argue will be shown a yellow card.

Where the captain is a goalkeeper and it is not feasible to communicate, a representative will be selected.

“Explaining a decision with up to 22 players mobbing you is impossible. It can lead to a breakdown in communication, with the beautiful game turning very ugly, which is bad for the image of football,” Rosetti (left) wrote in an open letter.

“Decisions will always be debated. In a bid to improve the status quo we want referees to explain more of their decisions to all teams competing.”

Changes were shown to coaches and players as well as officiating teams in a presentation of 20 video clips, including England refereeing pair Michael Oliver and Anthony Taylor.

Participants have been reminded of approaches that may differ from club football, including the awarding of red cards for any tackle that endangers the health of a player, so it is not excusable even if a player attempted to, or did, play the ball first.

Officials will also keep a eye on holding in the box at dead ball situations. England manager Gareth Southgate sought clarity from Fifa at the Qatar World Cup after the same directive was given in a pre-tournament briefing only for England to be denied a penalty in their opener with Iran when Harry Maguire was dragged to the floor.



‘Get behind the team and support us in the right way’

» Continued from back page

the tournament, the largest deployment since the federal force was formed in 1951.

Though England’s reputation has improved of late, perceptions have yet to catch up and the presence of 500 ultras among Serbia’s contingent has increased fears of a return to darker days. As a precaution only low alcohol beer will be served on the day.

“Over the last few years our fans have been brilliant, particularly in the stadium,” added Bullingham. “There are a lot of people going to come out.

The best thing fans can do to help us is be a tribute to their country. In 2006 we were the fans of the tournament. They were brilliant.

“We’ve got the environment to do that. The German police have proved they are really good at policing football tournaments. The main message is get behind the team, support in the right way.”

Bullingham also disclosed an initiative to combat cyber abuse of England players in Germany. “In the past we put together all the data to give to the police but this time we are actually funding, within the British Police, a unit that will then prosecute.”



Dunk believes he can take centre stage as concern on Stones increases

Kevin Garside

CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT IN BLANKENHAIN



England’s only tournament-primed centre-half, John Stones, did not appear on the second day of practice. Though his exclusion was explained by sickness, it did little to ease concerns over defensive frailties just four days before Sunday’s opener with Serbia, the more so after Stones limped out of the final warm-up with Iceland last week.

The Manchester City defender was confined to his room yesterday to prevent his sickness spreading. His lack of training and game time make it unlikely he will complete 90 minutes on Sunday, should he start at all. Gareth Southgate’s first choice centre-half, Harry Maguire, did not make the squad. His only left-footed defender, Luke Shaw, is not fit enough to start. Of the four centre-halves other than Stones,

Lewis Dunk, Marc Guéhi, Joe Gomez and Ezri Konsa, none have been tested at a major tournament.

England arrived at their bucolic training base in the former East Germany on the back of two underwhelming warm-ups at Wembley, one of which they lost to Iceland. Preparations have been disturbed by speculation surrounding Southgate, whose regeneration of England has made him a target of Manchester United.

This was supposed to be the moment the most talented England squad since 1966 emulated their World Cup winning forebears at a major tournament. Progress has been sustained and obvious under Southgate, who has transformed the culture of the England experience with commensurate results. Reports in *Bild* suggests even he understands his England leadership is at a pivotal point.

The sense that circumstances are beginning to crowd the Three Lions is hard to ignore despite upbeat soundings from the players. Asked about England’s supposed issues in

defence, Dunk bristled impressively. “That’s your opinion, you’re entitled to it. But inside the camp we’re confident as ever and we wouldn’t be here if the manager didn’t think we could play for England.”

At 32, Dunk has the greater Premier League experience in the centre of defence and should Stones fail to recover would be an obvious pick alongside Guéhi, despite the error against Belgium in March that allowed Romelu Lukaku to score Belgium’s second goal.

“It is not nice making a mistake in club or international football. No one wants to do that,” Dunk said. “But that is part of football and it is how you deal with that mistake. After that I felt I did all right.”

There is about Dunk an undeniable positivity. He appears as uncomplicated a human as he is a footballer. He points out that though this is his first tournament, as a veteran of more than 450 games he has marked some of the best in the world without feeling second best.

“I bring my style of play and my experience of football,” he added.



Lewis Dunk (right) trains with his England teammates yesterday REUTERS

SCOTLAND

Gilmour hoping for 'unbelievable' Kroos test in Euro opener

By Ronnie Esplin

IN GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN

Billy Gilmour admits it would be the "stuff of dreams" to be picked for Scotland's European Championship opener against Germany.

The Scots get the competition up and running when they take on the host country in Munich tomorrow night and the Brighton playmaker is one of several strong midfielder options available to Steve Clarke, who also has to negotiate Switzerland and Hungary in Group A.

Gilmour, who turned 23 on Tuesday, said: "It is a competitive midfield. We all want to play every game, fighting against each other, but it is a good competitiveness."

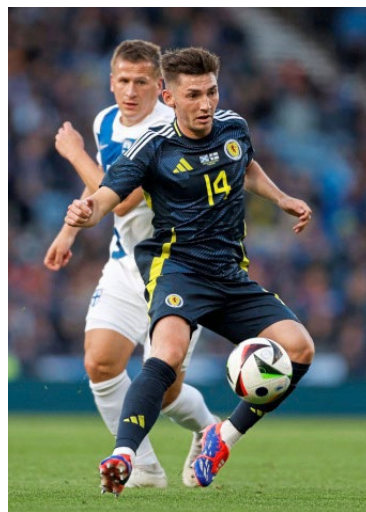
"Everyone wants to start and at the end of the day it is up to the manager, and you just need to do your best in training and see what the manager thinks."

"Of course I want to start the game and play every game possible. If I did get the opportunity, to walk out would be an amazing feeling."

Gilmour knows that if he does get the nod from Clarke, he could be up against one of the great midfielders in Toni Kroos. The 34-year-old returned to the fold with Germany and will play one last tournament before he calls time on a trophy-laden career.

Kroos recently won the Champions League with Real Madrid to collect the sixth winners medal in that competition and Gilmour is aware of his quality.

He said: "Toni Kroos is unbelievable, you have seen what he has done in the game and just to watch him, he is unbelievable. The way he passes it,



Billy Gilmour would love to be picked for tomorrow's Germany game

he makes the simple things 100 per cent perfect. Of course [he is] one of the greatest midfielders of the game and to test myself and compete would be a great opportunity."

The former Chelsea player, who started out as a youth player at Rangers before moving to Stamford Bridge, made his first start for Scotland in a goalless group-stage draw against England at Wembley in the delayed 2020 Euros and was awarded man of the match.

He said: "I have matured a lot. I was a kid the first time at the Euros and I would say I am not a young kid any more. I grew up a little bit. But it's all part of the journey."

"Of course, looking back, the game against England, my first competitive game, a really good game for us all and that is the test you want as a footballer."

GERMANY

Scotland should be wary of 'variable' hosts, warns Musiala

By Ronnie Esplin

Jamal Musiala has insisted Scotland should be worried about Germany if the hosts hit form straight away in tomorrow night's Euro 2024 opener.

Steve Clarke side are the underdogs in the first game of the competition in Munich.

Musiala, the 21-year-old Bayern Munich midfielder, who represented both England and Germany at youth level, spoke about the challenge posed by the Scots in the Group A encounter.

"We are variable, can change teams and cause problems for the opponent," he said. "It is important that we focus on playing well ourselves, then Scotland will be more worried about us than we are about them."

"Since the last World Cup, I have made physical progress and

improved my game as a whole. It is my goal to continue to develop."

"I like it best when I have the security of being protected by the defence and being able to move freely. I felt really comfortable in the last few internationals."

Musiala's Bayern team-mate, Aleksandar Pavlovic, has been ruled out of tournament due to illness, with Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann calling up Emre Can of Borussia Dortmund as a replacement.

Nagelsmann said: "We wanted another defensive midfielder in our squad and have therefore decided to call up Emre."

"He made it clear that he was excited and ready to join the squad right away. We wanted another player in the squad with experience and one that knows how to deal with pressure. He fits that profile nicely."

NETHERLANDS

Koeman blames De Jong and Barça over injury

By Mark Gleeson

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman said both Frenkie de Jong and his club Barcelona were culpable for the persistent ankle injury which has ruled the team's playmaker out of the European Championship.

At the team's base in Germany four days before they play their first game at the tournament against Poland in Hamburg, Koeman sought to end persistent questioning about the loss of the midfielder.

"There is little point in answering questions about topics that are no longer current. We haven't talked about it since we got here," he said of the dropping of De Jong after doctors said it was unlikely he would be fit enough to play.

The news came directly after the Dutch completed their warm-up programme with a 4-0 win over Iceland in Rotterdam and Koeman blamed Barcelona for persistently playing De Jong despite his struggles with the ankle injury throughout the season.

"Of course, it also depends on the player himself. I have also spoken to Frenkie about this, but that remains between me and the player. I have a little more inside information, but I'm done with it now," Koeman said.

Midfielder Teun Koopmeiners was also out due to a groin injury.

Koeman only called up one replacement in Borussia Dortmund's Ian Maatsen because he did not want to disturb squad dynamics. "Ian Maatsen was already in the pre-selection, he is a multi-functional player who has only been out of action for a week. All other options have been gone for three weeks, I don't know where they all are."

"Within these 25 remaining players we can go in any direction. We play with three midfielders and we have five. And you can always move someone one spot back or someone from the back one line forward. It will never be an excuse in this tournament, no matter what happens, not to have called up a 26th player," Koeman said.



Ian Maatsen trains with his Dutch teammates in Wolfsburg yesterday

"Just because I have not played a tournament does not mean I'm not experienced at football."

"I have probably come up against every scenario in football. Obviously this tournament is of a different magnitude. The Europa League experience this year would have helped me a lot. Playing against European teams and coming up against different players. I'm just going to bring me to this camp and hopefully I'm there when called up to help the squad."

Though Southgate has not addressed Sunday's defensive alignment directly the team focused on defensive planning during yesterday's session. Whoever lines up in the middle of the defence, the absence of Shaw forces Southgate to continue the awkward compromise at left-back where the limitations of right-footed alternatives proved problematic in both warm-up games.

The selection of Kieran Trippier at left-back against Iceland was compounded by the deployment of his equally right-footed Newcastle team-mate Anthony Gordon in front of him. As a result England's left side was an offensive dead zone, with England unable to get around

the back of the well-marshalled Iceland defence. The return of Bukayo Saka on the right would at least permit the selection of Phil Foden on the left. Given the attacking alternatives available to Southgate, England could even experiment with Saka in the left-back role, a position he fulfilled earlier in his Arsenal career.

It is in the depth of England's attacking options that Dunk and his teammates are ultimately invested,

the belief that the talent pool is rich enough to prevail whatever problems they encounter.

"Gareth has top, top players that allow us to play with a bit more freedom," Dunk said. "Once you let these attacking players play with freedom they can be frightening."

If Dunk's insouciance is reflected on the pitch then England might yet reach promised heights. England were unfortunate to lose to France in the World Cup quarter-finals in Qatar, a display of more authority than the semi-final defeat against Croatia in Russia six years ago or the Euro 2020 final against Italy. However the build-up has not been without tension, and defensive issues remain a worry.

I will bring my style. Just because I have not played a tournament does not mean that I'm not experienced at football

MANCHESTER UNITED

Ten Hag needs a chance to work in new structure, owners decided

Pete Hall



To go from talking to numerous candidates to offering Erik ten Hag a new contract at Manchester United is quite the turnaround, but Ineos has its reasons for sticking by the Dutchman.

After waiting over two weeks for the new co-owners to conduct an end-of-season review, the shock news that Ten Hag will be staying emerged late on Tuesday night, much to the delight of the majority of the club's fan base.

The fact that Thomas Tuchel, Mauricio Pochettino, Kieran McKenna and Thomas Frank were all spoken to as potential replacements, either directly or via their representatives, shows that Sir Jim Ratcliffe, American majority owner Joel Glazer and Ineos' head of sport, Sir Dave Brailsford, who conducted the review, are not completely convinced by Ten Hag.

However, **i** understands they feel the Dutchman at least deserves a chance to work within a proper footballing structure, which they plan to implement.

That means, going forward, Ten Hag's role will change. Sources said the new technical director Jason Wilcox and director of football negotiations Matt Hargreaves will lead this summer's transfer window activity, with Ten Hag taking a back seat from now on to focus on coaching. He had initially been prominent in identifying targets, with limited success.

It took over two weeks, following the FA Cup final victory over Manchester City, to decide the manager's fate, which insiders said was a reasonable amount of time to conduct the review – even if it left Ten Hag feeling in a state of flux.

It is understood such reviews will take place yearly under Ineos.

Despite Ineos initially insisting the cup final would have no bearing on its final decision, the manner of United's victory over City on 25 May and their dominant performance over their all-conquering rivals played a huge part in swaying opinion.

How Ten Hag came out fighting, amid the rumours, also impressed the new overlords. The way he con-

ducted himself in the final months of the season, with "dedication and dignity", stood him in good stead.

Sources said that no other candidate that Ineos held talks with convinced it that change was needed.

Gareth Southgate, who is unavailable currently, is the top pick in the eyes of Ratcliffe, Brailsford and incoming sporting director Dan Ashworth, and a future move cannot be ruled out if United endure more Premier League misery next season, though it is understood that not everyone in the hierarchy is convinced by the England coach.

Ten Hag's work in developing young players including Alejandro Garnacho and Kobbie Mainoo has been described as "excellent", creating potential for the squad to improve next season and beyond. That played its part too.

Several mitigating factors that led to United's lowest-ever Premier League finish last term were also taken into account, including the sheer number of injuries, especially in key positions. New signings, made for the long-term – André Onana, Rasmus Hojlund and Mason Mount – have also needed time to bed in.

Ten Hag's current contract ends at the end of next season, with the club having the option of extending it by a further 12 months. A manager at a club of United's stature needs more security than that, which is why talks will begin over a new deal.

Now the focus can shift to re-vamping the squad. Player sales are key to this process. One figure who can generate plentiful funds to reinvest is Jadon Sancho (above) and he is now almost certain to be moved on, given that his relationship with Ten Hag has been described as "irreparable" after the pair's very public falling out last September.

The 24-year-old had been open to giving his United career another shot after returning to the club following a loan spell at Champions League finalists Borussia Dortmund last season, but his chances of being given a fresh start by Ten Hag are slim.

i understands there is interest from clubs across Europe, but Dortmund themselves are struggling to get the funds together to make Sancho's return to Germany a permanent one.

Mason Greenwood is another who could be moved on quickly by United, with Juventus reportedly readying a £30m plus bonuses offer.

Ten Hag by numbers

68

Wins in 114 matches at Manchester United – only Sir Alex Ferguson has a better win percentage at the club

2

Trophies won – 2023 Carabao Cup and 2024 FA Cup (right)

375

£m spent on transfers during his tenure, for a £306m net spend

14

Premier League defeats suffered last season – United's most in a single top-flight season since the 1989-90 campaign (16)

United finally accept they have bigger problems than the man in the dugout

Daniel Storey

CHIEF FOOTBALL WRITER



We can choose one of two broad judgments here, one generous and the other cynical. The generous take is that Manchester United – by which we mean the hierarchy of the club and Ineos – see Erik ten Hag as the long-term answer.

And so the destiny is fulfilled, as it was written long ago: Mark Robins (and a marginal VAR-inspired offside line) shalt save another Manchester United manager and he shalt become The Chosen One that stops everyone talking about The Cliff like it's Narnia crossed with Mordor.

The cynic – and probably a hefty

proportion of realists too – would conclude that Manchester United spoke to five other managers who either did not impress enough or were not impressed enough. And so United have stuck with Ten Hag until something better comes along or they have solved more of the 782 other problems within the club and thus the manager nudges higher up the to-do list.

United's entire existence is powered by these two conflicting theories. The suspicion is that the club's match-going supporters will be fairly content with this news, albeit caveated by United's own limitations.

If you know that your club is unlikely to win league titles again yet or soon or goodness knows when, the formation of your experience immediately shifts to cherishing individual moments or

matches. Ten Hag has fitted that brief. Winning the EFL Cup in 2023 was something, but beating Manchester City in the FA Cup final as emphatic underdogs was as close to everything as United have

come since Fergie left (although beating Ajax in the Europa League final in 2017 came close).

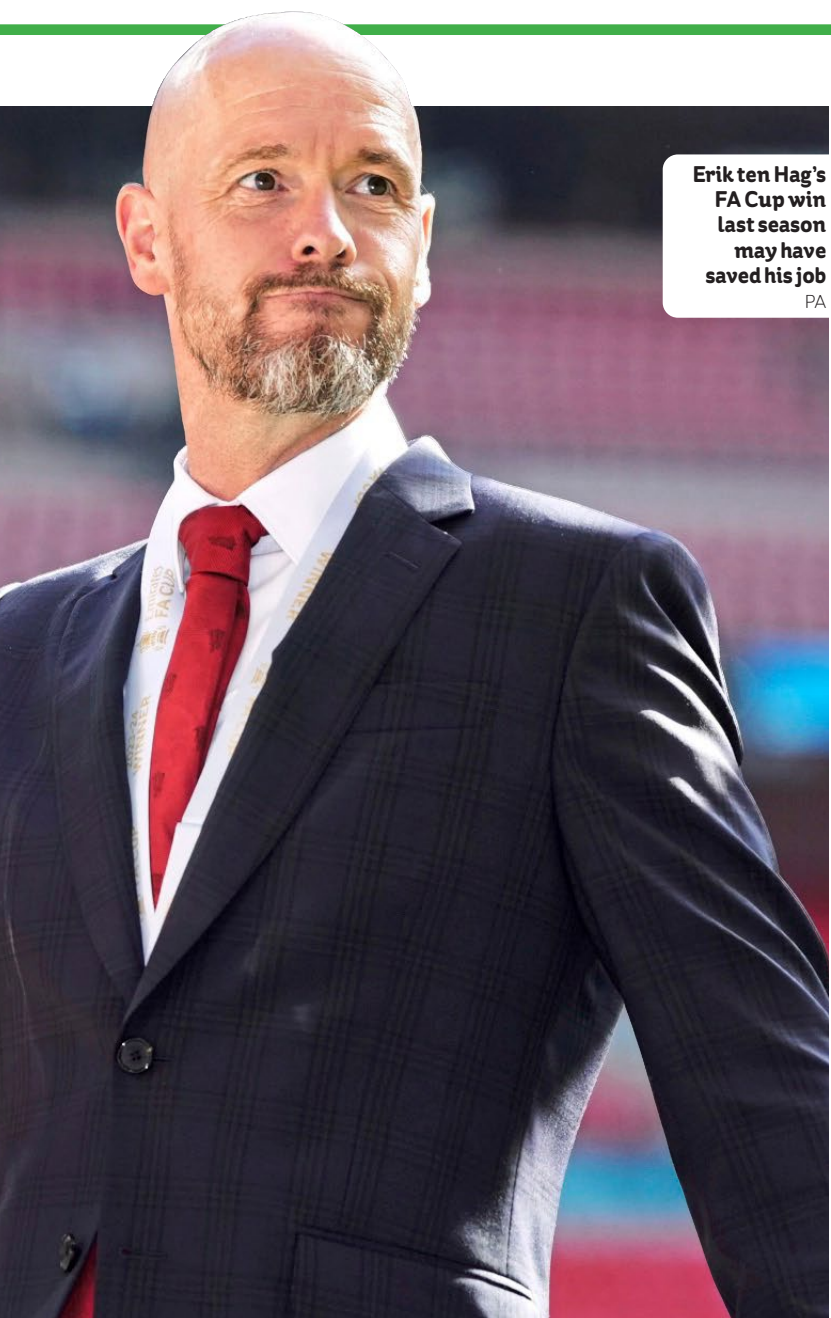
It saved his job, but it also presented Ten Hag to supporters as someone capable of rising up to meet their highest standards. For now, for many, that's enough.

And then the cynical view rushes back in. Had Thomas Tuchel (right,

top) expressed a strong public call-to-arms about taking Manchester United forward, or Zinedine Zidane decided that he was ready to end his sabbatical, do we honestly think that Ten Hag staying would have been as popular? Rough translation:

Have Southgate linked to your superclub and sit back as the current incumbent rises in the opinion polls





Erik ten Hag's FA Cup win last season may have saved his job
PA

Ashworth's meeting with Wolves adds to confusion amid his messy Newcastle exit

Exclusive
By Matt Hughes

Dan Ashworth is understood to have had a meeting at Wolves' training ground after being placed on gardening leave by Newcastle earlier this year without informing his employers. **i** has learned that Ashworth met with Wolves' sporting director Matt Hobbs at the club's Sir Jack Hayward Training Ground in March, several weeks after leaving Newcastle.

Ashworth was placed on gardening leave on 19 February a few days after he informed Newcastle he wanted to leave to join United, but the two clubs have yet to reach an agreement. Newcastle are understood to be demanding £20m in compensation for their sporting director which United are refusing to pay, with Ashworth, who remains an employee at Newcastle for the time being, taking his old club to arbitration in an attempt to resolve the dispute.

The revelation that Ashworth met a senior figure at another Premier League club while on gardening leave could complicate an already acrimonious matter even further as Newcastle look to defend their position at an arbitration hearing.

Manchester United sources insist that Ashworth's meeting at Wolves had nothing to do with them and that he was acting in a personal capacity, as his teenage son is an academy player at the club. During his visit to Wolves, Ashworth is also understood to have had a fleeting conversation with manager Gary O'Neil following a chance encounter.

Ashworth's family home is close to Wolves' training ground, as his first job was sporting director at West Brom before he went on to take similar roles at the FA, Brighton and Newcastle. Sources at Wolves have indicated that as sporting director Hobbs is not in the habit of having one-on-one meetings with the parents of academy players as his main remit is the first team, although he is understood to have a good professional relationship with Ashworth (right).

i understands United were made aware privately of Ash-

3 Matt Hobbs is not in the habit of having one-on-one meetings with the parents of academy players

worth's visit to Wolves sometime after the event following reports linking O'Neil to a potential coaching role at Old Trafford. There is no suggestion Ashworth was involved in or even aware of any discussions at United about O'Neil. Manchester United and Newcastle have been approached for comment.

In another twist, the *Daily Mail* reported last month that Newcastle discovered emails from Ashworth to United's incoming chief executive Omar Berrada from early February in which they discussed the sporting director vacancy at Old Trafford before the two clubs had held formal talks. In an embarrassing gaffe, Ashworth blind-copied the emails to his official Newcastle account, which alerted his employers to the possibility that he had been tapped up.

United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe (below) labelled Newcastle's demands for £20m in compensation for Ashworth as "silly" in February, but has since made attempts to try and resolve the dispute. The Ineos founder invited Newcastle director Amanda Staveley for a meeting to broker a deal in April, which she attended, but no progress was made.

United confirmed last night Erik ten Hag will stay as manager next season following a review, although there may be some changes made to the Dutchman's coaching staff.



20

Newcastle are understood to be demanding £20m in compensation for Dan Ashworth

have Gareth Southgate (below) linked to your superclub and sit back as the current incumbent rises in the opinion polls.

At the root of this tussle is an ironic truth. Ten Hag's life at Manchester United has irrefutably been made more difficult by the state of the club in general, first decaying under pure Glazer ownership and now in flux as Ineos aims to change the structural framework.

And yet this structural mania is the only thing that has saved him. Were everything else in position, you would not keep the coach who oversaw the worst league finish since 1990. There's the slogan for the advertising campaign: "Ten Hag - hey, he's not the biggest problem yet".

More than anything, this saga reflects upon just how bizarre life must be as the manager of a flailing superclub fallen on self-inflicted hard times. In the space of five weeks, Ten Hag has gone from rock bottom, a 4-0 defeat at Crystal Palace, to a report that claimed he would be sacked whatever the result of the FA Cup final.

He was then on top of the world after winning that final, pushed into an extensive performance review without his input, heard

his employers talking to potential replacements and was then being backed and potentially being offered a new contract. All the while, everything is in the public eye and every movement over-analysed as proof of your excellence or brainlessness.

Those of a nervous disposition need not apply.

Perhaps we're looking at this all wrong, then. For all those interminable "this is Manchester United we're talking about" punditry auto-reactions that discuss 1995 as if it were last Wednesday, if United are anything at all they are a highly expensive mess that occasionally flickers into life before the wastage drags everything down to expose the long-term reality.

Having a manager who has won trophies but failed in the league, who even after two full seasons we can't work out if he's any good or not, who perennially feels no more than six weeks from the sack, isn't an oddity.

It's the perfect fit for Manchester United in the 2020s. Give him a new deal now and then get rid of him in six months.

Let us never know what is happening next and yet still angrily disagree over all of it.



Football in brief

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR Spurs call it quits with dud Ndombele



Midfielder Tanguy Ndombele has left Tottenham Hotspur by mutual consent. The Frenchman

(above) joined from Lyon in 2019 as a club-record signing in a deal which could have risen to £63m.

He failed to ever settle and has departed after only 91 games, his last outing back in January 2022.

After signing an original six-year deal he left for three loan spells. In a difficult debut season, Ndombele played 29 games but had issues with form and fitness under Mauricio Pochettino and Jose Mourinho.

He also struggled under Nuno Espirito Santo and Antonio Conte before being loaned to Lyon in 2022.



GERMANY Prem target Sesko to remain in Leipzig

Benjamin Sesko has ended speculation about his future by extending his stay at RB Leipzig.

The Slovenian, 21 (above), had been linked with Arsenal and Chelsea with a mooted release clause of £55m, but has committed himself to the German club until 2029, extending his deal by a year.

Sesko scored 18 goals in all competitions last season in an impressive debut campaign after moving from Red Bull Salzburg.

"I had a good first year and am incredibly happy to be here," he said. "Team, club, city, fans - the overall package is simply outstanding. The early contract extension was the logical next step."

WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE Pelova joins long list of WSL ACL KOs



Victoria Pelova (left) has become the latest leading women's player to suffer an anterior

cruciate ligament (ACL) rupture, the Arsenal midfielder hurt on duty with the Netherlands.

Compatriot Vivianne Miedema, England duo Beth Mead and Leah Williamson and Canadian Janine Beckie all missed the 2023 Women's World Cup due to ACL injuries.

In April, Fifpro, the Professional Footballers' Association, Nike and Leeds Beckett University announced a three-year project to conduct research into ACL tears.

13.06.24

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FOOTBALL
Scotland's
Gilmour lines
up Kroos for
'brilliant' test



P48

TENNIS
Evans relishes
Paris match
with Murray -
if they make it

GOLF
Scheffler in
relentless form
for US Open,
says McIlroy

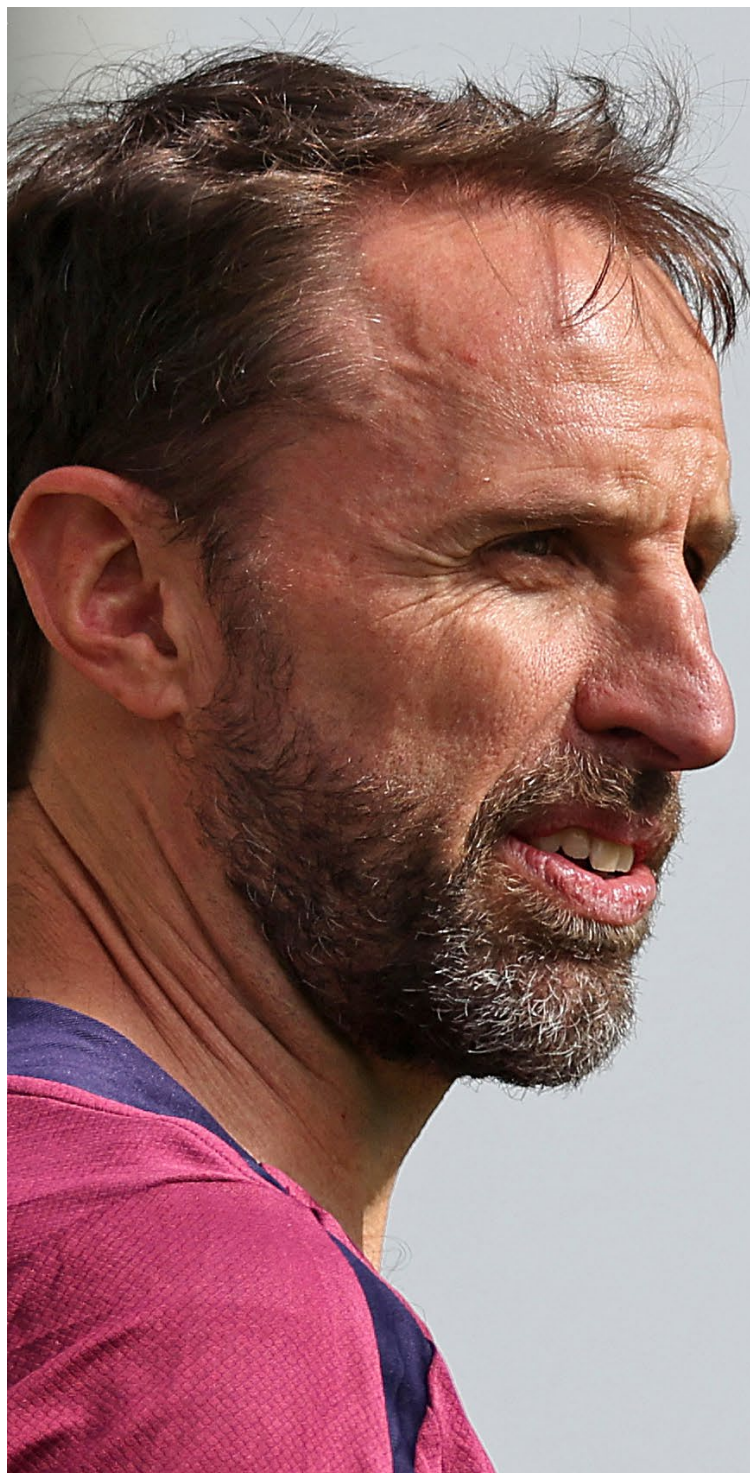
P51

Revealed: Ten Hag to lose transfer powers

Plus: New twist in Ashworth's move to become United sporting director



News Pete Hall | Analysis Daniel Storey | Ashworth exclusive Matt Hughes >> P54-55



England plan for life after Gareth

By Kevin Garside
CHIEF SPORTS CORRESPONDENT
IN BLANKENHAIN

FA chief executive Mark Bullingham has revealed that a succession plan is in place should Gareth Southgate choose not to continue as England manager when his contract runs out in December.

Bullingham also dismissed concerns about the behaviour of England fans at Euro 2024, despite the German authorities classifying as high-risk their opening match, against Serbia in Gelsenkirchen on Sunday.

Of more concern to Bullingham is retaining the services of manager Southgate amid reports of Manchester United's interest, despite the

reprieve handed to present incumbent Erik ten Hag.

"Gareth has been clear that he wants to talk about that after the tournament. I don't want to provide any distraction for him and the team," Bullingham said.

"Any organisation has a succession plan for their top employees, and we are no different to that. This includes everything from what you do for short-term cover, through to a process you follow to candidates."

As many as half a million fans from the UK are expected to converge on Germany during the month-long tournament, which starts tomorrow night. The German government has committed 22,000 officers a day to police

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1 day
until the start
of Euro 2024

Mott: Aussies won't cheat us out of World Cup

By Chris Stocks
IN ANTIGUA

England coach Matthew Mott has played down fears that Australia will manipulate their final group match against Scotland this weekend to knock the defending champions out of the T20 World Cup.

It comes after Josh Hazlewood suggested the Aussies could do just that in a match that is played after England's final Group B encounter with Namibia, stating it would be in his team's "interests" to help knock out Jos Buttler's holders.

Such talk risks inflaming tensions between the Ashes rivals, with

last summer's Lord's controversy, when Alex Carey stumped Jonny Bairstow, and the 2018 ball-tampering scandal in South Africa still fresh in the minds of England fans.

Mott knows his team will be out if Scotland beat Australia on Saturday (Sunday morning, UK time) or they avoid a big enough defeat in that game to qualify for the Super Eights on net run rate.

Australian Mott, who coached Hazlewood at New South Wales, said: "I haven't heard the comments in context. I was told this morning. Knowing Josh has got a pretty dry sense of humour, I am hoping it was very much tongue in cheek."

"I actually don't think it is ever going to play out. Having grown up in Australia and the will to win every game, I am sure they will come to the fore. I am very much hoping it was an off-hand remark by a really good bloke who is having fun."

The Bairstow stumping during last summer's second Ashes Test had an outraged Lord's crowd chanting in unison: "Same old Aussies, always cheating."

Now having already qualified for the Super Eights after winning their first three games, Australia can ease off against Scotland to help knock Buttler's men out of the tournament, with the maxi-

mum punishment available to the International Cricket Council a two-match ban for Aussie captain Mitchell Marsh and a fine of 100 per cent of his match fee if found guilty of manipulating a match. This would not fall under the ICC's anti-corruption code, rather it would be a breach of their code of conduct.

England's hopes of progressing to the Super Eights are hanging by a thread after a washout against Scotland and a 36-run defeat by Australia in Barbados last week.

It means they must win their final two group matches, against Oman

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