

# The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

# Tory wipeout

### Exclusive Telegraph poll gives party just 53 MPs with PM and Chancellor at risk of losing their seats

By Ben Riley-Smith  
POLITICAL EDITOR

RISHI SUNAK is predicted to become the first sitting prime minister ever to lose their seat at a general election.

The Conservatives are also on track to slump to 53 seats, with about three-quarters of the Cabinet voted out, a major opinion poll for *The Telegraph* has revealed.

The Liberal Democrats are on course to be just behind the Tories on 50 MPs, according to the Savanta and Electoral Calculus polling analysis, leaving them in touching distance of becoming the official opposition.

Labour is forecast to have 516 seats and an estimated House of Commons majority of 382 – double that won by Sir Tony Blair in 1997 – as Sir Keir Starmer becomes prime minister.

Meanwhile, Reform, despite a surge in the polls, is predicted to win zero seats. For Nigel Farage, the recently returned Reform leader, it would mean an eighth defeat as a parliamentary candidate in a row.

The SNP, according to the poll, are predicted to slump to just eight MPs, down from 48 in 2019, with Labour once again the dominant party of Scotland it was under Sir Tony.

The polling suggests Tory warnings of a Labour “super-majority” are accurate. It also lays bare the scale of voter disillusionment with the Tories and suggests an uncertain road for the party in the years ahead.

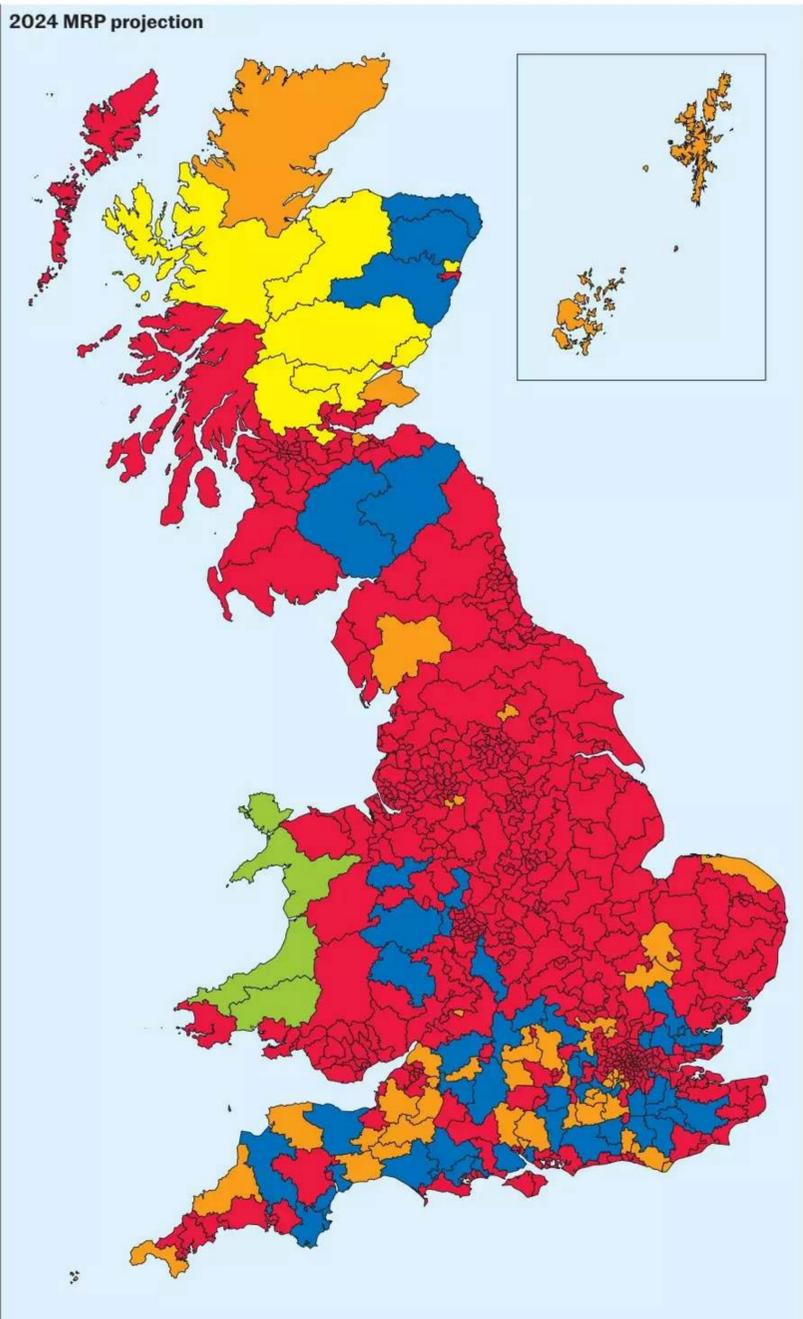
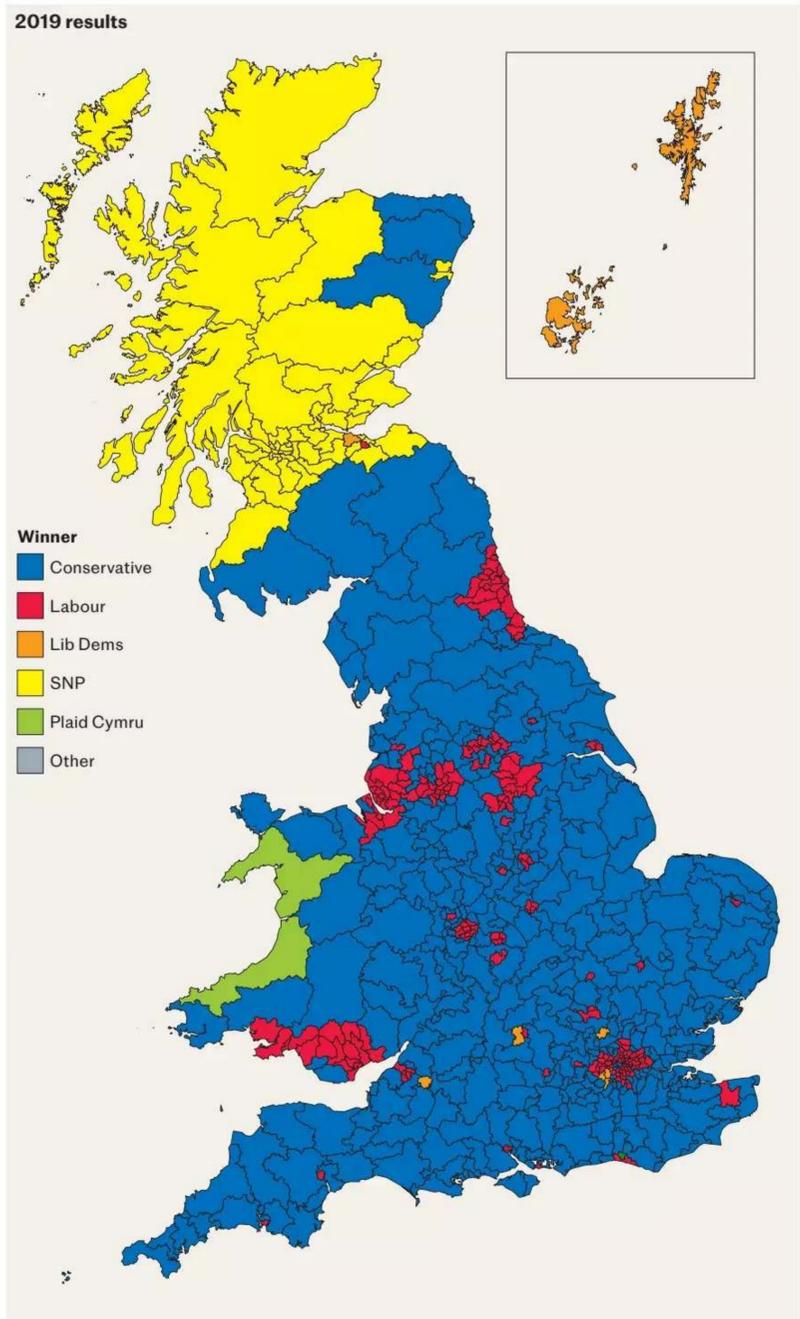
Other polling analyses in recent weeks have had the Tories slumping markedly, sometimes below 100 seats. But none have had them performing quite this badly. This is the first poll of its kind to forecast Labour to win more than 500 seats. No other poll has predicted the Tories would win so few seats. The polling from Savanta for *The Telegraph* consulted about 18,000 people between June 7 and June 18, capturing views throughout the last fortnight of the election campaign.

The analysis comes from a method called Multilevel Regression and Post-stratification, or MRP, which allows pollsters to take survey results and predict results in individual seats.

In simple terms, it involves talking to many more people than a typical poll – around ten times more – and drilling down into the demographic details of both respondents and constituencies.

More than 100 seats are predicted to be won by such narrow margins that the pollster believes they remain up for grabs. A small improvement in the Tory vote share could have a serious impact on their seat total.

But the results make clear that the Tories are facing a defeat of historic proportions from a frustrated electorate. The explanation, according to Savanta, comes in the lead that Labour was found to have had over Conservatives, which was 21 percentage points – a little higher than other recent MRP polls. Savanta’s estimated voting inten-



tion has Labour on 44 per cent, the Conservatives on 23 per cent, Reform on 13 per cent, the Lib Dems on 12 per cent, the Greens on four per cent, the SNP on three per cent and Plaid Cymru on one per cent. The Tories falling so low in nationwide vote share means that not only are they predicted to lose scores of seats to Labour, but also lose out to the Lib Dems in a host of others.

Securing 53 MPs would comfortably be the Conservatives’ worst result in modern history. It would be less than a third of the 165 MPs they got in 1997 when Sir Tony’s New Labour swept to power. It would also amount to a remarkable slump from 2019 when,



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under Boris Johnson, the Tories secured 365 MPs. It would mean the Tories keeping just 13 per cent of their 2019 seats. Mr Sunak is predicted to lose his Richmond seat to Labour, though this race is among those which Savanta says is still in the balance given the close margins. If that were to happen, it would be a moment of history. No prime minister has ever lost their seat at a general election, according to the Institute for Government.

Arthur Balfour is the only prime minister to have come close to losing their seat. He resigned as prime minister in December 1905 and was officially the opposition leader when he lost his seat

in the election at the start of 1906.

The predicted result would also have a major impact on who could follow Mr Sunak as Tory leader, given many of those tipped to run next month if there is a defeat are predicted to lose their seats. Reform, according to the Savanta polling analysis, would not win any seats, though given the rapid recent changes in the party’s profile, an extra element of doubt could apply to them.

Mr Farage only became Reform leader a few days before this polling began, with an uptick in its vote being seen throughout the last fortnight. His impact on the seat of Clacton, where he is standing, is also hard to predict with

**‘No prime minister has ever lost their seat at a general election’**

nationwide polling. Reform’s polling increase means only recently has Savanta started putting it among the list of political parties offered up front as an option to respondents, rather than only after the select “other”. Plaid Cymru would be on four seats. The Greens would get zero seats. Seat projections are not made for Northern Ireland, given polling challenges because of party differences there.

The general election is now just 14 days away.

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## Kemi is the future of the party - but no one else survives this catastrophe

### Analysis



By Gordon Rayner  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

KEMI BADENOCH will be the future of the Conservative Party by default as the only “big beast” left standing after the election, an exclusive poll for *The Telegraph* suggests. Not only most of the Cabinet –

including Rishi Sunak, Jeremy Hunt and James Cleverly – would be wiped out under a Labour super-majority, but also leadership contenders including Penny Mordaunt and Suella Braverman.

Among others said to be contemplating leadership bids, only Tom Tugendhat is predicted to keep his seat, raising the possibility of a Badenoch-Tugendhat run-off as the Right of the party fights the centrist One Nation Tories for control.

The poll makes for terrifying reading for the Conservatives, who are

currently predicted to retain just 53 seats, making them the second-biggest party in front of the Lib Dems on 50. Labour is predicted to take 516 seats, giving Sir Keir Starmer a record-breaking peacetime majority of 382.

Such a scenario would raise the question of whether the Conservative Party, in its current form, could ever win back power, and there is strong evidence that the party would veer to the Right, hoping to win back millions who are expected to vote for Reform UK.

Of the 53 remaining Tories, those on

the Right of the party would outnumber centrists, according to the poll, suggesting Mrs Badenoch, the Business Secretary, could count on more than half of Tory MPs in the first round of a leadership vote, with between 15 and 20 of them likely to back Mr Tugendhat, the security minister, if he ran.

Given that Conservative members chose Liz Truss as their leader when they were last given a choice – having rejected the more moderate Sunak – Mrs Badenoch would surely be in pole position if, as predicted, Mr Sunak

loses the election. Mrs Badenoch has for months been the most popular Cabinet minister among readers of the Conservative Home website, with a net positive rating of more than 56 points, more than double the rating for Mr Tugendhat. Mr Sunak is in negative territory. Mrs Badenoch also receives a rock star welcome from Conservative members at the annual party conference, with standing room only at the events where she speaks.

Whoever became leader would then face the biggest rebuilding job in the party’s history, and they would need to

do it with precious few experienced ex-ministers in their ranks.

Among the current or former ministers predicted to lose their seats are Sunak, Hunt, Mordaunt, Truss and Cleverly, as well as Grant Shapps, Suella Braverman, Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, Dame Priti Patel, Robert Jenrick, Esther McVey, Tobias Ellwood, Thérèse Coffey, Sir Robert Buckland and Gillian Keegan.

The bad news for the One Nation caucus of centrists is that their *Continued on Page 5*

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### NEWS

#### Covid rule breakers in ‘miscarriage of justice’

A former Supreme Court judge has backed calls for an amnesty for people given criminal convictions for breaking Covid rules. Lord Sumption said the criminalisation of more than 29,000 people for breaches of rules in the pandemic was “ridiculous” and a “miscarriage of justice”. But he said he doubted either the Tories or Labour would seek to wipe the slate clean by introducing any statute to grant an amnesty to the 29,383 people so far convicted by the courts. *Page 2*

### NEWS

#### Election bet arrest of PM protection officer

A police officer working in Rishi Sunak’s close protection team has been arrested as part of an investigation into bets placed on the date of the general election. The Metropolitan Police was informed by the Gambling Commission it was looking into the activities of a member of the Royalty and Specialist Protection (RaSP) command. The constable, who has not been named, was yesterday further arrested on suspicion of committing misconduct in public office. *Page 9*

**MATT**

With a surge of support in the next fortnight I'm sure we can overtake spoilt ballot papers'

### WORLD

#### Putin and Kim agree anti-West military pact

Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un held two hours of talks at the dictator’s residence before signing the military agreement that positions Russia and North Korea at the centre of an anti-West axis. The new Russia-North Korea “comprehensive strategic agreement” upgrades a “friendship” deal signed with Kim’s dictator father in 2002. Putin said the “breakthrough document... provides for the provision of mutual assistance in the event of aggression against one of the parties”. *Page 12*

### SPORT

#### Scotland the brave

**McTominay keeps Scottish Euro hopes alive**

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## Ex-Supreme Court judge backs Covid fines amnesty

Criminalisation for breaches of rules in pandemic 'ridiculous', says Lord Sumption

By Charles Hymas  
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

A FORMER Supreme Court judge has backed calls for an amnesty for people given criminal convictions for breaking Covid rules.

Lord Sumption said the criminalisation of more than 29,000 people for breaches of rules in the pandemic was "ridiculous" and a "miscarriage of justice." But he said he doubted either the Tories or Labour would seek to wipe the slate clean by introducing any statute to grant an amnesty to the 29,383 people so far convicted by the courts.

Both Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer failed to back calls for an amnesty on Wednesday.

Lord Sumption, a member of the Supreme Court from 2012 to 2018, was responding to the calls by charities and former Cabinet ministers, including Sir Robert Buckland, the former justice secretary, to wipe their slates clean for offences such as attending gatherings, leaving home during lockdowns and failing to wear face coverings.

Unlike politicians such as Mr Sunak who were handed fixed penalty notices, thousands of people received criminal convictions after being found guilty by courts because they contested the fines or failed to pay them.

These could hamper their job prospects as police can pass on the details to potential employers if they are deemed "relevant" for criminal background checks for sensitive jobs such as teaching, social work and policing.

People are also required to declare Covid convictions when applying for visas to visit countries such as the US and Canada. Both countries reserve the right to permanently ban anyone who fails to reveal a conviction.

Lord Sumption, 75, said: "People were victims of a miscarriage of justice. They were victims of a stupid set of legal priorities." He added that the laws were "absurdly draconian" and criminalised people on a "ridiculous" scale.

"It was a fundamental failure to treat

people as grown-ups with judgments of their own to make," he said.

"The reason I would support [wiping the slate clean] is that I rejected the whole system at the time."

However, he said any attempt to implement an amnesty would require a "statutory intervention", probably by regulation rather than primary legislation. Such a move would probably not be backed by a Tory government, because it would require it to acknowledge that it was "not a sensible way to go about enforcing social distancing".

He predicted it would have "no traction at all" with Labour and was likely to be at the bottom of their priorities. Instead, he said it was important to learn the lessons for next time.

Mr Sunak said yesterday that he was "not familiar" with the calls by Sir Robert, who oversaw the courts during Covid. "This election is about the future," Mr Sunak said. "Covid was a very difficult time for our country, right? And that was followed by a war in

"It was a fundamental failure to treat people as grown-ups with judgments of their own to make"

Ukraine. This election is about how do we build going forward." He added: "When it comes to Covid, it's important we learn all the lessons of Covid and that's why we have a full public inquiry."

Mr Sunak was fined for a Covid rule breach, receiving a fixed penalty notice for attending a "birthday party" for Boris Johnson in the Cabinet room in June 2020. The then Prime Minister was also fined.

Sir Keir dismissed calls for an amnesty, saying: "I mean, seriously? They want Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak's convictions to be removed in some great amnesty? Come on. Many, many people paid a very high price in that pandemic."

"The now Prime Minister and his predecessor bar one were convicted of breaking the rules that they've put in place and if they don't understand how deep that goes for people that just reinforces how out of touch they are."

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Life imitates art Naomi Campbell arrives at the V&A summer party celebrating the Naomi: In Fashion exhibition, at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

### NEWS BULLETIN

#### Seven-month-old baby dies after bite from dog

A seven-month-old baby girl has died in hospital after being bitten by a pet dog and suffering serious head injuries.

Police officers and paramedics were called to a house in Coventry on Sunday afternoon and arrived within minutes, West Midlands Police said. The baby was treated at the scene and rushed to hospital.

In a statement released yesterday, detectives also confirmed the dog was not from a dangerous breed.

The statement said: "A baby has tragically died after being bitten by a pet dog at a home in Coventry."

It added that the dog "was removed from the home on Sunday and humanely destroyed".

#### Acid attacks increase by 75pc in a year, data show

Acid attacks and threats have increased by 75 per cent in a year with women identified as victims in half the cases, police figures show.

The number of offences involving corrosives rose from 701 in 2022 to 1,244 last year, data obtained through Freedom of Information requests show. More than a third consisted of physical attacks against an individual.

The remainder involved threats to attack, carrying corrosives or where they were used in other serious crimes, the charity Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI). Jaf Shah, the executive director at ASTI, said that "we are asking our leaders to take urgent action" against the crimes.

#### Users of high-strength vapes rises tenfold

The number of vapers using high-strength products has risen tenfold in three years, a study has revealed.

Researchers from University College London found a significant increase in the proportion of vapers using e-cigarettes containing the maximum legal amount of nicotine.

The study found the proportion using high-strength vapes rose from 3.8 per cent on average between July 2016 and June 2021, to 33 per cent in January 2024.

More than half of the young adults – 53.1 per cent – were using a high-strength vape, compared with 3.9 per cent before a surge in the availability of disposable vapes.

#### Pleasure boat 'may be a factor' in drownings

A pleasure boat may have been a "contributory factor" in the death of two children off Bournemouth beach, a coroner has heard.

Joe Abbess, 17, and Sunnah Khan, 12, drowned after they were thought to have been caught in a riptide in Dorset on May 31 last year.

At Bournemouth Town Hall, Dorset coroner Rachael Griffin said an expert report found the current was likely "due to a change in the seabed topography ... or possibly the wash of the Dorset Belle".

Dorset Police initially impounded the pleasure cruiser but later said the Dorset Belle was not responsible. The inquest is set to begin on Sept 24.

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## UK has 40pc chance of heatwave as Red Cross warns over potential for sunstroke

By Emma Gatten

THE UK has a 40 per cent chance of a heatwave in some areas next week, the Met Office has said, as promises of summer finally shine through.

After a relatively chilly start to June forecasters now predict a "fine and settled" spell of weather next week, with top temperatures likely to exceed 25C (77F) for at least two or three days.

A heatwave is defined as three or more days of very hot temperatures, ranging from 28C in London to 25C in other parts of the country.

"A gradual trend towards more settled and warmer weather is likely into next week as high pressure extends northeast from the Azores," said Andrea Bishop, a spokesman for the Met Office. "There's a chance that this could per-

sist for several days leading to a spell of higher than average temperatures, however details are likely to become clearer as we move through this week."

She added: "Temperatures are likely to remain above average, but confidence in the forecast is reduced beyond Wednesday. On the whole, this is fairly typical of an early summer high temperature event."

Ms Bishop cautioned that there was still a less than 50 per cent chance that parts of the UK could approach heatwave thresholds. Warmer weather will be a welcome change from the first few weeks of June.

Weather in the UK has been in stark contrast to the rest of Europe, and parts of the Middle East and Asia, which have sweltered in temperatures above 40C. Yesterday, the Red Cross warned

British tourists to beware of heatstroke symptoms, after the deaths of Michael Mosley, the doctor and health broadcaster, and several others in Greece.

More than 550 people have died while on pilgrimage to the Muslim holy site of Mecca in Saudi Arabia as temperatures exceeded 50C.

"High temperatures make it harder for the body to cool itself and we all need to take care to manage the health risks of heat," William Spencer, the climate and first aid product manager at the British Red Cross, said.

"We would advise people to plan ahead for the effects of heat on their trip, making sure they know how to recognise the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heatstroke, and avoiding activities in the middle of the day when temperatures are highest."

## Post Office publishes details of Horizon victims online

By Fiona Parker  
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

NAMES and addresses of hundreds of Horizon scandal victims have been published on the Post Office website.

The company is the subject of a public inquiry after more than 900 sub-postmasters were wrongfully prosecuted owing to faulty software recording shortfalls on their branch accounts.

Yesterday, the *Daily Mail* reported that the Post Office published a list of 555 wronged sub-postmasters who won a High Court battle against it in 2019, in a fight led by Sir Alan Bates.

The dossier showed full names and home addresses of the victims – many of whom are set to receive compensation, the newspaper reports. It is understood that the Post Office removed the docu-

ment – entitled "Confidential Settlement Deed" – from its website after the newspaper alerted it to its existence. Text in the paperwork reportedly made it clear that its contents were private.

The Post Office could now face an investigation by the Information Commissioner (ICO) and a hefty fine if it is found to have committed a data breach.

Wendy Buffrey, 64, prosecuted for a £36,000 shortfall incorrectly recorded at her branch in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, said: "I'm incandescent ... They need to pay for this."

A Post Office spokesman said: "The document in question has been removed from our website. nWe are investigating as an urgent priority how it came to be published." An ICO spokesman said: "We have not received a data breach report on this matter."

# Mrs Brown is no laughing matter for BBC boss

Corporation's head of comedy refuses to answer when asked if he finds the ratings champion funny

By Anita Singh ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

MILLIONS of viewers laugh along with *Mrs Brown's Boys*, but it appears that the BBC's head of comedy is not one of them.

Asked at a BBC comedy showcase event whether he found the sitcom funny and whether he would watch it if he didn't have to, Jon Petrie refused to answer.

Mr Petrie declined to give a response to the question during a Q&A session. The journalist who asked it said: "I'll take that as a 'no, then," to which Mr Petrie laughed.

At the time he was sharing a stage with Michelle de Swarte, a comedian and actress who is starring in a forthcoming comedy for BBC Three. She urged Mr Petrie to avoid answering the question, joking: "This is a trap."

The event was held at London's Soho

House to launch a new slate of comedy programmes on the BBC.

They include *Smoggy Queens*, a sitcom about drag queens and the LGBTQ+ community in Middlesbrough, and *Amandaland*, a spin-off from the hit series *Motherland*. It is co-written by Mr Petrie's partner, Holly Walsh. Mr Petrie said he had recused himself from decision-making about the show.

*Amandaland* will air later this year on BBC One, as will *Only Child*, featuring Greg McHugh as a budding author who moves back in with his ageing, technophobe father, played by *Rab C Nesbitt* star Gregor Fisher.

David Morrissey will star in *Daddy Issues*, as a divorcee so hopeless that he is unable to load a washing machine or boil an egg, but who must take on more responsibility when his daughter (Aimee Lee Wood) announces that she is pregnant.

The new slate also features *Ludwig*, a comedy crime drama

'I'm glad we tried it, it just didn't quite do the job we needed it to'



starring David Mitchell as a man whose identical twin goes missing. *We Might Regret This* explores the life of a Canadian artist and tetraplegic (Kyla Harris), including her sexual relationship with a straight-laced lawyer.

De Swarte writes and stars in *Spent*, a sitcom about a former catwalk model left penniless and homeless at the end of her career.

At a different point during the event, Mr Petrie acknowledged that *Mrs Brown's Boys* is "still getting numbers for us", attracting healthy ratings along with the likes of *Ghosts*, *Motherland* and *Not Going Out*.

He reiterated his recent call for writers to send in new sitcom ideas with "great comedy characters and a high joke rate".

*Mrs Brown's Boys* has been running since 2011, with its Christmas and new year specials becoming a staple of the BBC schedules. It hit a ratings high of 11 million in its early years, but the figure for the 2023 Christmas Day episode – including viewers



Jon Petrie, above, gave no response when asked about *Mrs Brown's Boys*, left

who caught up over the next seven days – was down to four million.

The show, which centres around Mrs Brown and members of her family in the Republic of Ireland, has also had ratings success in Australia, New Zealand and Canada but has repeatedly received poor reviews from critics.

The show's creator, Brendan O'Carroll, 68, has previously said comedy is "very subjective". He told the BBC: "What some people like, other people

just detest. So I don't take it too serious."

The biggest BBC hit this Christmas is expected to be the return of *Gavin and Stacey*. Co-creators James Corden and Ruth Jones are currently working on the script. Mr Petrie said: "James and Ruth won't let us look at it yet. They're really keeping it under wraps and don't want people to see it outside of their very, very tight circle."

One of last year's high-profile launches, Catherine Tate comedy *Queen of Oz*, was cancelled after one series. Mr Petrie said of it: "I'm really glad we tried it, it just didn't quite do the job we needed it to do."

The BBC later said that Mr Petrie had not had a chance to answer the question about *Mrs Brown's Boys* because the host had quickly moved on.

After being contacted by *The Telegraph*, Mr Petrie hailed Mrs Brown as "an iconic comedy character", and said: "*Mrs Brown's Boys* is a Bafta-winning comedy show and one of the BBC's most watched comedies ever. It's made me laugh many times and seeing *Mrs Brown's Boys* live is an unforgettable experience. I feel very lucky that I've had the chance to witness it and I'm proud to have it in the BBC comedy stable."



English Heritage said curators were investigating the extent of the damage to Stonehenge after a pair of Just Stop Oil protesters vandalised the ancient stone circle with orange paint powder

## Rowling leads criticism of Just Stop Oil after attack on Stonehenge

By Max Stephens and Alex Barton

JK ROWLING has criticised Just Stop Oil after two of its protesters sprayed orange powder over Stonehenge.

The pair, named by the climate activist group as Niamh Lynch, 21, and Rajan Naidum, 73, were filmed vandalising the stone circle, near Salisbury, with repurposed fire extinguishers.

A person believed to be a volunteer was seen trying to wrestle the pair away from the monument with the help of visitors. Wiltshire Police arrested the

activists "on suspicion of damaging the ancient monument".

Rowling, the Harry Potter author, joined Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer in condemning the group's actions.

She wrote on X, formerly Twitter: "Public opinion's definitely moving, mostly towards the conclusion that you're funded by Big Oil."

Just Stop Oil, which is calling on the next government to sign up to a legally binding treaty to phase out fossil fuels by 2030, said the substance used to cover the stones was washable orange

cornflour. However, Rowling derided their tactics, commenting: "Let's not target anyone or anything remotely responsible for climate change."

"Let's attack a unique ancient monument to which everyone's hugely attached, incidentally endangering rare lichen that only grows there."

English Heritage said the incident was "extremely upsetting", and that it had instructed its curators to investigate the extent of the damage.

Stonehenge remained open to the public following the vandalism. Mr

'These people do nothing to enhance and everything to alienate any sympathy anyone has for their cause'

Sunak, the Prime Minister, called the incident "a disgraceful act of vandalism to one of the UK's and the world's oldest and most important monuments".

"Just Stop Oil should be ashamed of their activists," he added.

Sir Keir, the Labour leader, said that

"Just Stop Oil are pathetic". Thousands of people are expected to descend on the site today to celebrate the summer solstice.

King Arthur Pendragon, the senior druid and pagan priest, said he "totally" disapproved of the Just Stop Oil protest and that the group's actions "alienate any sympathy" for their cause.

Mr Pendragon, who is standing as an independent parliamentary candidate for the area, said: "Stonehenge is a living, working temple at times of celebration and pilgrimage such as the summer

solstice and, as a well-known protester myself, I totally disapprove of such behaviour as demonstrated by these people who do nothing to enhance and everything to alienate any sympathy anyone has or had for their cause."

A Just Stop Oil spokesman said: "Continuing to burn coal, oil and gas will result in the death of millions. We have to come together to defend humanity. "Stone circles can be found in every part of Europe showing how we've always co-operated across vast distances – we're building on that legacy."

## Pensioner guilty of hiring hitman to kill wife

By Cameron Henderson

A PENSIONER who hired a hitman to kill his wife 43 years ago so he could start again with a new lover has been found guilty of plotting her murder – but the woman with whom he was having the affair has been cleared.

Allen Morgan, 73, was convicted yesterday of conspiring to murder Carol Morgan, who was hacked to death with an axe or machete, so he could continue "a passionate but forbidden" love affair with a new woman, Luton Crown Court was told.

Morgan's now-wife Margaret Morgan, 75, who was then his illicit lover, was found not guilty of the same charge.

Carol Morgan, who was 36 at the time, was attacked and killed on August 13 1981 at a convenience store she ran with her husband, then 31, in Linslade, near Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

Her body was found by Morgan when he returned from the cinema in Luton, 14 miles away, with her two children, giving him a "cast-iron" alibi for the murder, the prosecution said. At the time, detectives believed Carol had



Allen Morgan has been found guilty of conspiring to murder. His now wife, Margaret Morgan, was cleared of the same charge

been the victim of a burglary that had gone wrong, but a cold case investigation which began in 2018 uncovered a witness who revealed that Morgan had wanted to find a hitman to kill Carol.

Jane Bunting met Morgan a few months before the murder. She told the jury she was 17 at the time and was "horrified" when Allen asked if her ex-boy-

friend knew anyone who could kill. She said: "He'd say 'I hate Carol, I don't want to be married to her, I wish she'd die.'"

Det Supt Carl Foster, the senior investigating officer, said: "The key in this case has been a change in people's allegiances and loyalties."

Morgan has been remanded in custody and will be sentenced on July 31.

## Boeing fault leaves astronauts marooned

By James Titcomb

TWO US astronauts will be left on the International Space Station (ISS) for almost two weeks longer than planned because of faults with the Boeing spacecraft designed to return them to Earth.

Nasa said Barry "Butch" Wilmore and Sunita Williams would not return to Earth on the Boeing Starliner until June 26.

The vehicle has been plagued by helium leaks and thruster problems, in the latest setback to Boeing's space programme which has been beset by delays and high costs.

The ISS mission was Boeing's first crewed space launch after more than a decade of planning and two launches that were aborted at late notice.

Mr Wilmore and Ms Williams launched from Earth on June 5 and arrived on the ISS on June 6. They were meant to stay on the station for about seven days but their return to Earth had already been delayed until this week.

Five of the spacecraft's thrusters were shut down by its computers as it neared the space station and four had to

be switched back on, while its propulsion system has suffered minor leaks.

The latest delay means that the pair will be on the ISS for more than twice as long as originally planned before the craft returns to Earth. The craft will land in New Mexico using parachutes.

While the faults are not critical and problems often emerge while testing spacecraft, officials from Nasa and Boeing

'Given that this is a crewed vehicle, we want to make sure that we haven't left any stone unturned'

plan to analyse the vehicle over the coming days before starting preparations for the return journey.

The setback is the latest blow to Boeing amid a safety crisis over its 737 Max aeroplanes after a door blew off a flight over Oregon in January. The company is facing new scrutiny from regulators.

David Calhoun, Boeing's outgoing chief executive, was hounded at a US Senate hearing on Tuesday by families

of those killed in two previous incidents in which 737 Max jets crashed. Mr Calhoun apologised for their losses but said he was "proud" of the company's safety record.

The ISS, which has a longer-term crew of four American and three Russian astronauts, has months' worth of food supplies and the Starliner is able to remain docked for 45 days. If the astronauts' return to Earth is delayed further, they are likely to leave on July 2.

"I think we're taking our extra time, given that this is a crewed vehicle, and we want to make sure that we haven't left any stone unturned," said Nasa's Steve Stich. "So far, we don't see any scenario where Starliner is not going to be able to bring Butch and Sunita home."

Boeing's Starliner programme is meant to provide competition to Elon Musk's SpaceX, which has been used to ferry astronauts to the ISS since 2020. Previously, Nasa had used Russian-made spacecraft.

The company has lost more than \$1.5 billion (£1.2 billion) on the project to date. It is due to complete six Nasa missions under a \$5 billion contract.

# Two-party system is dying – this vote may kill it

Tim Stanley

IF THE Savanta and Electoral Calculus polling proves accurate, then July 4 might be the doomsday event that finally converts conservatives to proportional representation.

Labour – not having cracked 50 per cent of the popular vote – enjoys a Soviet-style majority in the Commons; Tories second in vote share yet almost third in seats; Lib Dems third in vote share yet within a whisker of forming His Majesty's Opposition. Reform on

nothing. For decades, Right-wingers defended first past the post (FPTP) on the grounds that it roots MPs in a local polity while providing stable national government. PR was for foreigners, typically Italian, who like being governed by chaotic coalitions collated from lists.

But what FPTP was never meant to do was create a dictatorship – and a Labour landslide of this size amounts to just that. Under our system, a parliamentary majority can do whatever it wants (see Brexit).

A Left-wing government with barely any opposition means five years of driving the country Left-ward with nary a check nor a balance – even if most of the country will have

**'Britons are voting like they live under PR, seeking new ideas and fresh faces'**

voted against it or abstained. The Lib Dems will say "suck it up: that's what we went through in the 1980s. We got a quarter of the vote; we got a tiny number of seats. When we demanded PR, the Tories laughed at us."

But the situation is now very different. The old SDP/Liberal Alliance came third in the popular vote, not second – and thus its number of seats might have been disproportionately low, but it reflected its failure to beat Labour (still the dominant party of the urban working-class).

By contrast, the present possibility of the Conservatives/Reform together winning almost as many votes as Labour but taking a small/zero

number of seats is patently absurd. It's evidence of a constitution no longer capable of expressing the will of the voters – akin to being governed by a council of bishops long after people stopped going to church.

Here's the fundamental problem: the two-party system is dying, but the constitutional framework props it up. Only five years ago, Labour received historically bad results; now it's the Conservatives' turn. The governing class is incompetent, weird and has zero charisma. Being run by vicars might actually be more compelling.

Smaller parties are emerging to represent the young, the disenfranchised, the discontented – Reform, Lib Dem, Green, SNP, perhaps

**Lucia Hunt, the wife of Chancellor Jeremy Hunt; Akshata Murty, wife of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak; Lucy Frazer, the Culture Secretary; and Susie Cleverly, wife of Home Secretary James Cleverly, on the campaign trail in Fordham, Suffolk**

even the Workers Party. Britons are thus voting like they live under PR, seeking new ideas and fresh faces that ought to result in a kaleidoscopic Commons. Yet they're getting results as if they were living under the mass-membership party system circa 1945 – a Labour landslide that wildly exaggerates the actual level of support for Sir Keir Starmer in the country (he's no Clement Attlee).

Curiously, this is one aspect of our system you can guarantee he won't fix: votes for 16 year olds, Lords reform, yes. But why would any leader tinker with an electoral system that hands him Napoleonic powers even though the public is utterly cynical about his ability to fix anything?



STUART GRAHAM

## Re-elect my Tory friend, he's a bore but he's decent, says Geldof

By Tim Sigsworth

SIR BOB GELDOLF has endorsed a Cabinet minister for re-election in an expletive-laden video.

The Irish rock star and foreign aid activist said he wanted to "big up" Andrew Mitchell, the deputy foreign secretary, because he was "a decent person".

But he admitted that he had "no bloody idea" where the Conservative's Sutton Coldfield constituency was.

"The party that Andrew Mitchell is a member of is not important to me," Sir Bob said.

"What is important is that he's a decent person or else he wouldn't be a friend of mine, I guess."

Sir Bob said he and his wife, Jeanne Marine, were friends with the former secretary of state for international devel-

opment and his wife, Sharon Bennett. Mr Mitchell resigned from the international development role in 2012 after calling police officers "f----- plebs" for asking him to enter Downing Street through a side gate.

In the video, Sir Bob said the Tory MP

**'I have no bloody idea where Sutton Coldfield is. It does tend to spoil the evening. Give it a rest'**

was "a laugh" and felt "a fine human sympathy for those he was trying to help, whether that was in Sutton Coldfield or elsewhere in the world."

"What we so desperately need in our Parliament, whether again in opposition or in government, is clever, com-

mitted, capable people," Sir Bob said. "We have had enough of leery shysters, buffoons and tiresome w-----s."

"We need people who can actually do things and then get it done. Mitchell knows how to do stuff and get it done."

He added that it would be nice if Mr Mitchell would "stop boring the arse off me" over dinner about the charms of Sutton Coldfield and its people.

"I have no bloody idea where Sutton Coldfield is. It does tend to spoil the evening, Andrew. Give it a rest."

Mr Mitchell deputises for Lord Cameron in the House of Commons, where the Foreign Secretary cannot answer questions because he is a peer.

In April, he accused peers of being "patronising" and "bordering on racism" in their demands for an independent monitoring committee to establish if Rwanda was safe for asylum seekers.

## Voters in the home of the Army are turning to Reform

By Amy Gibbons  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DEFENCE minister has said voters in the home of the Army are turning to Reform UK.

Leo Docherty, a former soldier and the Conservative candidate for Aldershot, said "loads" of people in the constituency were supporting Nigel Farage's party.

In an interview with Politico, Mr Docherty said Reform could have "a significant impact in our national politics in a kind of revolutionary way".

He said he would have liked to see Rishi Sunak go further on tax cuts and the UK's membership of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) in the Conservative manifesto.

Asked whether many people in Aldershot would be voting for Reform,

Mr Docherty told Politico: "Yes. Loads of them."

He said he warned them this would play into Sir Keir Starmer's hands, arguing: "If you vote Reform, you get Labour. Keir Starmer wants you to vote



**Leo Docherty said Reform could have a 'revolutionary' impact on politics**

Reform." Mr Farage's party has pledged tax cuts, including to stamp duty, inheritance tax and VAT, and said it would leave the ECHR.

Asked whether he would have wanted the Tory manifesto to include more tax cuts or a harder line on the ECHR, Mr Docherty said: "Personally, I would have liked to have seen that."

Aldershot Garrison, also known as Aldershot Military Town, has been seen as the home of the Army for more than 150 years. Labour won there the first time in May as it seized Rushmoor, the local council, from Tory control.

Mr Docherty, the Armed Forces minister, is running again to be the town's MP on July 4, having won a near-17,000 majority in 2019. He was first elected to represent the constituency in 2017.

He says his time in the Army made him realise "the importance of politics".

## Our poll gives strong sense of how national trends will impact at local level

Commentary

By Chris Hopkins

THESE figures are startling for sure, but perhaps they shouldn't be. We've been conditioned for so long to believe the Conservative Party, as the natural party of government, will always be a major political force.

But that underestimates the almost unique confluence of events conspiring against them this election – from the short campaign effects of the D-Day gaffe and the rise of Reform UK, to the longer-term brand challenges going back to the mini-

Budget and partygate. Their local election results would have been flashing warning signs.

Our MRP projections – in partnership with Electoral Calculus – estimate that Labour could win 516 seats and the Conservatives be left with just 53 MPs. Perhaps just as remarkably, they'd be fighting it out with the Liberal Democrats, on 50 projected seats, to be the official Opposition. The SNP would drop down to just eight seats. Based on these figures, Labour would be on for a majority of 382.

That would be historic. But this MRP is not out of line with what classic national voting intention

**Rishi Sunak's Richmond seat is now 'too close to call'**



polls are saying of around a 21-point Labour lead. That speaks to the fact the Prime Minister is spending his time in seats with 15,000+ Conservative majorities.

Let's talk about how we got to these figures. Multi-level regression and post stratification (MRP) is an advanced statistical modelling technique where we can ask voting intention to a large scale (in this case over 17,000) nationally representative survey.

Using the respondents' demographic and voting data, we can map out how voting patterns of people like them play out across the country. This then allows us to produce predicted vote shares in each constituency and therefore a likely winner in each seat, based

on probability. From there you add up the overall result of the general election.

What MRPs don't do very well is pick up local factors – such as the level of resource a party puts into them, or an incumbency factor if the MP is well

**'The Tories would be fighting it out with the Liberal Democrats to be the official Opposition'**

thought of. But they do give a very good sense of how national trends could play out at a local level.

That may be part of the reason we've ended up in a situation where Rishi Sunak's Richmond and Northallerton

seat is "too close to call", as we have for James Cleverly in Braintree. This would be unprecedented, and emphasises the risk of electoral extinction that the Conservative Party is now having to contemplate.

In our model – with fieldwork completed between June 7-18 – Nigel Farage doesn't pick up Clacton, and the Greens lose Brighton Pavilion. So, it's worth restating that more than 100 seats in our model have less than five percentage points between the parties in first and second place. In other words, they're on a knife edge.

Things can change in campaigns. But if you're the Conservative Party, with postal votes dropping on doormats, you need them to – and fast. *Chris Hopkins is political research director at Savanta UK*

### Conservative collapse could see a 382 seat Labour majority

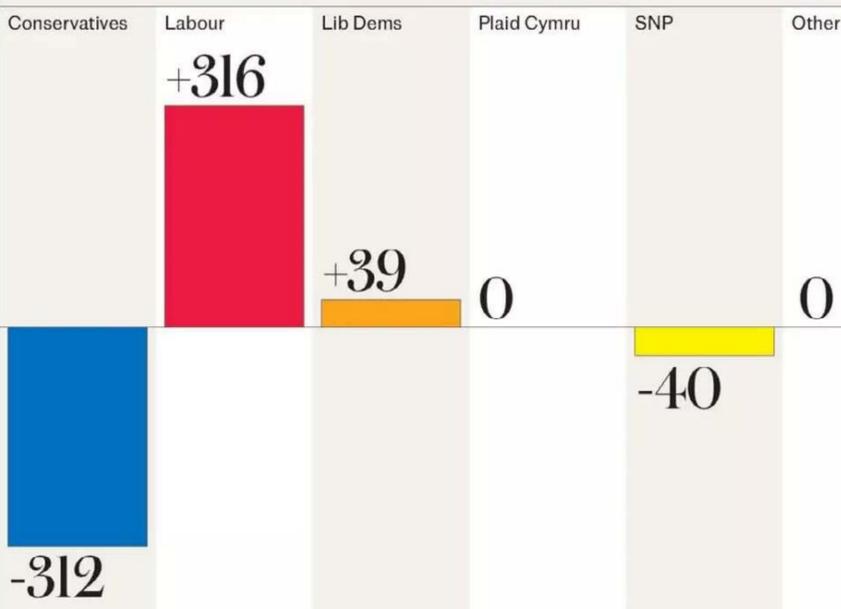
#### Projected 2024 general election results



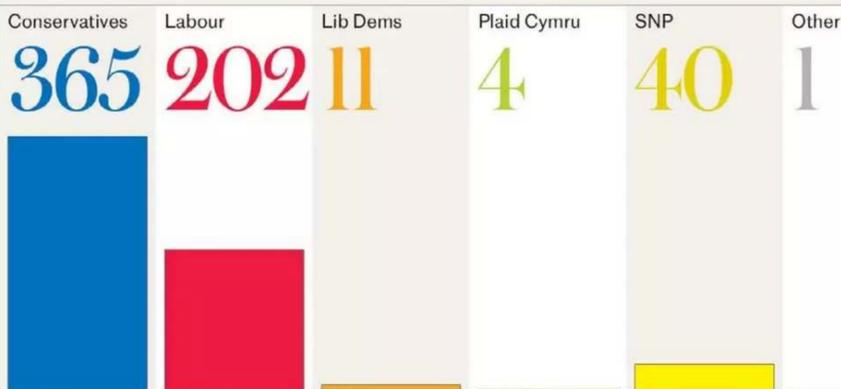
#### How the election map could look

Conservative Labour Lib Dems Plaid Cymru SNP Other

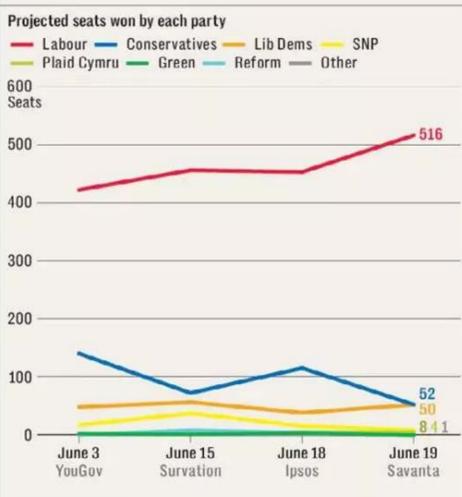
#### Projected seat change 2019 to 2024



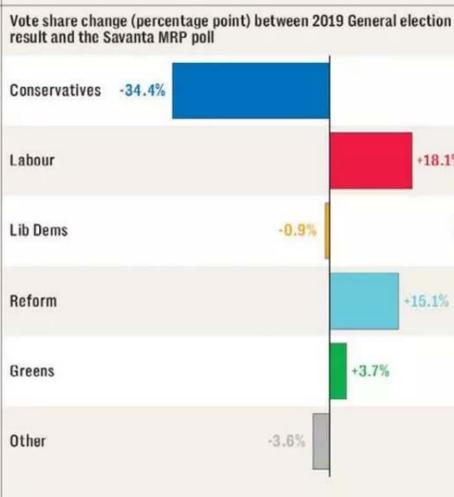
#### 2019 election results



#### Latest MRP poll shows even wider split



#### Rishi Sunak faces landslide loss



## Starmer's new billionaire backers can afford tax rises, says Sunak

By Amy Gibbons  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

RISHI SUNAK has hit back at billionaires Sir Jim Ratcliffe and John Caudwell after the two senior business figures announced they were backing the Labour Party.

The Prime Minister said the pair "can probably afford Labour's tax rises", unlike the "tens of millions" of people "working really hard" who would be stung by a fresh blow to their finances.

Sir Jim, who is the UK's second-richest man and co-owner of Manchester United Football Club, said voters had "had enough" of Mr Sunak's policies.

Mr Caudwell, a lifelong Conservative supporter and the founder of Phones4U, branded the Prime Minister an "absolute dud".

Asked about the endorsements yesterday, the Prime Minister told LBC: "They are two of Britain's richest men, they can probably afford Labour's tax rises, but for tens of millions of people

who are working really hard, they can't." The Tories have put tax attacks front and centre of their campaign, accusing Labour of wanting to increase the burden on families by £2,000.

Sir Keir Starmer has dismissed the figure as "garbage" and claimed Mr Sunak had "deliberately" lied to the British public by repeatedly peddling the claim during a TV debate.

Mel Stride, the Work and Pensions Secretary, earlier said it was "completely wrong" of Mr Caudwell to have called Mr Sunak an "absolute dud", pointing to new figures showing inflation falling back to the 2 per cent target for the first time in nearly three years.

Sir Keir and the Labour Party have spent months courting the business world in a bid to win back support from those spooked by the Jeremy Corbyn years.

Sir Jim, who is based in Monaco, was a prominent Brexiteer but has criticised the Tories' handling of the UK's exit from the EU.

The endorsement of Sir Keir marks a change in attitude for the entrepreneur, who has often criticised Labour in the past.

He said: "The Conservatives now have had a fairly long stint and they've put forward a whole series of prime ministers that haven't been terribly successful.

"Everybody in the UK now, you can see that the mood in the UK is ready for a change, they've had enough.

"I've met Keir Starmer a couple of times, I like Keir. I think he'll do a very sensible job."

Mr Caudwell, who donated £500,000 to the Conservatives ahead of the 2019 election, said he had been "rather despairing" at the party's performance for "many years".

He said he had been impressed when he attended the launch of Labour's manifesto last week and praised Sir Keir for transforming the party "beyond belief" since Mr Corbyn was replaced as leader.

*Continued from Page 1*

chairman, former Cabinet minister Damian Green, is among those expected to lose their seats, along with leading lights such as Ellwood, Keegan, former justice secretary Sir Robert and Bim Afolami, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury.

The news for the Right of the party is not much better. Shorn of well-known names such as Braverman, Dame Priti, Truss and Sir Jacob, a Right-wing leader would need to look to former ministers including Sir John Whittingdale and Ranil Jayawardena and Andrew Griffith, the current science minister, to make up their front bench, with Danny Kruger, Boris Johnson's former political secretary, likely to be given a role.

The Savanta-Electoral Calculus poll was carried out using the multilevel regression and post-stratification method (MRP), considered the gold standard in polling. It breaks down the likely vote share of each party in

individual constituencies, giving a far more accurate picture of the likely makeup of a future parliament than simply comparing nationwide vote shares.

Intriguingly, although it predicts that Reform UK will get nearly four million votes - more than the LibDems

- they will be spread too thinly to translate into individual seats, meaning Reform is currently expected to return no MPs at all.

However, the Clacton seat being fought by Nigel Farage is a tight three-way split between the Tories, Labour and Reform, and some of the

polling of more than 17,000 people was done before nominations closed and Mr Farage announced his candidacy, meaning there is every chance that the Reform leader could yet win election to Parliament at the eighth time of asking. If that were to happen, the remains of the Conservative Party would have a decision to make over whether it allowed him to join its ranks or even merge with Reform UK, perhaps as an entirely new party, with the Conservative brand consigned to history.

Ms Badenoch has already said she would not want to serve alongside him as he wants to "destroy" the Conservative Party. Mr Farage, meanwhile, says he will be running for prime minister as a Reform candidate in 2029. Politics, though, is the art of the possible, and both the Tories and Reform might find, on this evidence, that it is not possible to make progress if they have to expend energy fighting each other.

Danny Kruger, Boris Johnson's former political secretary, may get a front bench role



## Reform UK would be thorny issue for remains of Conservative Party

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**Extinction?** The Tories fearing wipeout

**Rishi Sunak**  
Richmond (Yorks)



First elected 2015  
2019 majority 24,331  
Estimated swing -23.5%  
Predicted winner Labour

**Gavin Williamson**  
Stone, Great Wyrley and Penkridge



First elected 2010  
2019 majority 28,250  
Estimated swing -26.7%  
Predicted winner Conservative

**Suella Braverman**  
Fareham



First elected 2015  
2019 majority 21,276  
Estimated swing -22.5%  
Predicted winner Labour

**Iain Duncan Smith**  
Chingford & Wood Green



First elected 1992  
2019 majority 1,604  
Estimated swing -1.5%  
Predicted winner Labour

**Jacob Rees-Mogg**  
North East Somerset and Hanham



First elected 2010  
2019 majority 16,389  
Estimated swing -14.5%  
Predicted winner Labour

**Penny Mordaunt**  
Portsmouth North



First elected 2010  
2019 majority 15,780  
Estimated swing -17%  
Predicted winner Labour

**Liz Truss**  
South West Norfolk



First elected 2010  
2019 majority 24,180  
Estimated swing -25%  
Predicted winner Labour

**Esther McVey**  
Tatton



First elected 2010  
2019 majority 19,281  
Estimated swing -17.5%  
Predicted winner Labour

**Grant Shapps**  
Welwyn Hatfield



First elected 2005  
2019 majority 10,773  
Estimated swing -10.5%  
Predicted winner Labour



# The Tory big beasts predicted to lose

**Rishi Sunak is among three-quarters of Cabinet doomed by a Labour landslide, poll suggests**

By Nick Gutteridge and Dan Martin

THREE-QUARTERS of the Cabinet are on course to lose their seats in an election bloodbath of senior Tories, a major poll for *The Telegraph* reveals.

James Cleverly, Grant Shapps and Penny Mordaunt are among 21 ministers set for the axe as Conservative leadership hopefuls are felled in a Labour landslide.

Suella Braverman and Robert Jenrick, who worked together in the Home Office, would also lose their seats as would former prime minister Liz Truss.

Even Rishi Sunak would not be safe, becoming the first sitting prime minister in British history to be kicked out of the Commons at an election.

In total, 21 of the 27 members of the Cabinet who are standing at the election would be ousted.

Kemi Badenoch, the Business Secretary, would be the minister with the highest profile of six survivors.

The survey, carried out by Savanta, projects that the Conservatives will be

left with just 53 MPs, only narrowly scraping ahead of the Liberal Democrats.

Here are the biggest names predicted to lose their seats at the general election on July 4.

Mr Sunak whose constituency is Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire, would be the highest-profile casualty of a Tory wipeout.

The only other premier who came close to such ignominy was also a Conservative leader, Arthur Balfour, who fell victim to a Liberal landslide in 1906.

He had, however, resigned as prime minister a month before that election after the Tories quit a decade-long coalition between the two main parties.

Mr Sunak has been an MP since 2015, taking over what was then an ultra-safe Yorkshire seat from the retiring William Hague, his political mentor.

His rise through the ranks has been meteoric, becoming chancellor in 2020 and then Britain's youngest prime minister since 1812 two years ago.

He won his seat, then known as Richmond, with 64 per cent of the vote and a 27,000 majority in 2019, though it has since been affected by boundary changes.

The warning signs were flashing red for him in May's local elections when Labour easily won the first race for the new North Yorkshire mayoralty. But

**'Sunak would be the first sitting PM to be kicked out of the Commons at an election'**

our poll suggests that it will be Reform UK which seals his fate, with Nigel Farage's party securing one in five votes in the constituency.

Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor, whose constituency is Godalming and Ash, would be the second highest-profile casualty.

Mr Hunt is predicted to lose his seat as the Blue Wall falls to the Liberal Democrats. He has also served as foreign secretary, health secretary and culture secretary since first being elected as an MP in 2005.

His constituency has also been affected by boundary changes which have seen his new seat incorporate more Liberal Democrat neighbourhoods.

Mr Hunt won the seat, then South West Surrey, with a 8,800 majority at the last election, making it a top priority target for Sir Ed Davey's party.

The Liberal Democrats have talked about unseating the Chancellor, who is one of the Tories' most recognisable figures, as their "Portillo moment" of 2024.

Ms Mordaunt, the Leader of the Commons, whose constituency is Portsmouth North, has been heavily tipped as a future Tory leadership contender, but on current polling she will no longer be an MP after the election.

The Commons Leader, a centrist, has

represented the Conservatives in two recent TV debates and is seen as one of their best public performers.

She shot to particular prominence last year after playing a starring ceremonial role at the Coronation which included wielding a giant sword.

A former Navy reservist who comes from a military family, she has represented Portsmouth North since 2010 and currently holds a 15,800 majority.

But a combination of a surge in support for Labour and a sizeable swing to Reform, which is polling on 18 per cent, means she is set to heavily lose the seat.

Mr Shapps, the Defence Secretary, whose constituency is Welwyn Hatfield, is a veteran of successive Tory governments, having served in six Cabinet roles under four different prime ministers over the past 14 years.

He was previously transport secretary under Boris Johnson, Tory chairman under David Cameron and home secretary during Ms Truss's tenure.

Considered one of the Government's best communicators, he has also been touted internally as one of the future successors to Mr Sunak as the Tory party leader.

Mr Shapps first won his Hertfordshire seat in 2005 and achieved a high point majority of 17,500 in 2010, though it has since declined to 11,000.

**Jeremy Hunt would be the second casualty, as Blue Wall falls to the Lib Dems'**

His is one of a number of commuter belt seats where families moving out of London post-pandemic has contributed to a surge in Labour support.

James Cleverly, the Foreign Secretary, has the constituency of Braintree. His seat in the Tory heartlands of Essex has been considered one of the safest around, only once falling to Labour during the Blair years.

As such, the Foreign Secretary would be one of the shock scalps of the election, with Sir Keir Starmer's party having to overturn his enormous 25,000 majority.

In doing so, it would also claim the political future of yet another potential future leader, with Mr Cleverly having been heavily tipped for a run at the Tory crown.

He is one of the party's biggest beasts, having served as both education secretary and Conservative chairman under Mr Johnson's stewardship.

Mr Cleverly is yet another senior Tory who looks destined to fall victim to Reform's success, with the party claiming more than one in five votes in his seat.

Liz Truss, the former prime minister, whose constituency is South West Norfolk, is best known for her six-week stint as premier in 2022, which ended in disaster following the fallout from her tax-cutting mini-budget.

**Michael Fabricant**  
Lichfield

First elected 1992  
2019 majority 22,609  
Estimated swing -21.5%  
Predicted winner Labour



**Therese Coffey**  
Suffolk Coastal

First elected 2010  
2019 majority 18,355  
Estimated swing -17.5%  
Predicted winner Labour



**Tobias Ellwood**  
Bournemouth East

First elected 2015  
2019 majority 8817  
Estimated swing -9%  
Predicted winner Labour



**Priti Patel**  
Witham

First elected 2010  
2019 majority 25,669  
Estimated swing -24.5%  
Predicted winner Labour



**Jeremy Hunt**  
Godalming & Ash

First elected 2005  
2019 majority 10,720  
Estimated swing -9.5%  
Predicted winner Lib Dems



**Robert Jenrick**  
Newark

First elected 2014  
2019 majority 21,697  
Estimated swing -19.5%  
Predicted winner Labour



**James Cleverly**  
Braintree

First elected 2015  
2019 majority 25,466  
Estimated swing -24.5%  
Predicted winner Labour



**Kemi Badenoch**  
North West Essex

First elected 2017  
2019 majority 27,594  
Estimated swing -24.2%  
Predicted winner Conservative



**Gillian Keegan**  
Chichester

First elected 2017  
2019 majority 21,490  
Estimated swing -23.6%  
Predicted winner Labour



**Robert Buckland**  
South Swindon

First elected 2010  
2019 majority 6,625  
Estimated swing -19.8%  
Predicted winner Labour



**The Cabinet**

| AREA                        | WINNER        | NAME             | POSITION              | FIRST ELECTED | KEEPING SEAT |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Banbury                     | Labour        | Victoria Prentis | Attorney General      | 2015          | No           |
| Braintree                   | Labour        | James Cleverly   | Home                  | 2015          | No           |
| Devon Central               | Labour        | Mel Stride       | Work & Pensions       | 2010          | No           |
| Dorset Mid and Poole North  | Lib Dems      | Johnny Mercer    | Veterans              | 2015          | No           |
| Ely and East Cambridgeshire | Lib Dems      | Lucy Frazer      | Culture               | 2015          | No           |
| Forest of Dean              | Labour        | Mark Harper      | Transport             | 2005          | No           |
| Godalming and Ash           | Lib Dems      | Jeremy Hunt      | Chancellor            | 2005          | No           |
| Hertsmere                   | Labour        | Oliver Dowden    | Deputy Prime Minister | 2015          | No           |
| Louth and Horncastle        | Labour        | Victoria Atkins  | Health                | 2015          | No           |
| Portsmouth North            | Labour        | Penny Mordaunt   | Leader of Commons     | 2010          | No           |
| Richmond and Northallerton  | Labour        | Rishi Sunak      | Prime Minister        | 2015          | No           |
| Salisbury                   | Labour        | John Glen        | Paymaster General     | 2010          | No           |
| Tatton                      | Labour        | Esther McVey     | No portfolio          | 2017          | No           |
| Welwyn Hatfield             | Labour        | Grant Shapps     | Defence               | 2005          | No           |
| Carmarthen                  | Plaid Cymru   | Simon Hart       | Chief Whip            | 2010          | No           |
| Monmouthshire               | Labour        | David TC Davies  | Wales                 | 2005          | No           |
| Essex North West            | Conservatives | Kemi Badenoch    | Business              | 2017          | Yes          |
| Melksham and Devizes        | Conservatives | Michelle Donelan | Science               | 2015          | Yes          |
| Sevenoaks                   | Conservatives | Laura Trott      | Chief Sec to Treasury | 2019          | Yes          |
| Surrey East                 | Conservatives | Claire Courtinho | Energy                | 2019          | Yes          |
| Tonbridge                   | Conservatives | Tom Tugendhat    | Security              | 2015          | Yes          |



# seats in general election bloodbath

She was succeeded by Mr Sunak in No 10, but has continued to vociferously make the case for a more Right-wing economic approach from the backbenches.

Also a former foreign secretary and international trade secretary, she has held her previously super-safe Norfolk constituency since the 2010 election.

She held on to the seat with a huge 26,200 majority five years ago, but is now set to lose out to Labour thanks once again to a massive swing to Reform.

Mr Farage's party is set to secure almost a quarter of the vote, making Ms Truss one of the most high-profile victims of a Conservative meltdown.

Mrs Braverman, the former home secretary, whose constituency is Fareham and Waterlooville, is one of the most prominent figures on the right of the Tories and has been strongly tipped to run for the leadership post-election.

She has been one of the most strident critics of the Prime Minister and has also openly courted Mr Farage, who she has said should be welcomed into the party.

Previously the home secretary, she resigned last November and accused the Prime Minister of a "betrayal" over his promise to stop the boats.

Her seat, which she won as Fareham with a 26,100 majority, has been heavily

affected by boundary changes that have made it a four-way fight.

Labour, Reform and the Liberal Democrats are all projected to experience a surge in support, slashing her previous 64 per cent vote share by more than half.

Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former business secretary, whose constituency is North East Somerset and Hanham, is another stalwart of the Right, serving as business secretary under Ms Truss and Brexit opportunities minister under Mr Johnson.

A traditional low-tax Conservative, he is one of the party's most recognisable figures and was a key figure in the Vote Leave campaign for Brexit.

His North East Somerset seat, which he won with a 14,700 majority over Labour in 2019, has been abolished as part of the boundary review.

It has been replaced with a new constituency including Hanham, a suburb of Bristol, which is set to heavily tip it in Labour's favour this time round.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, the former Conservative leader, has the constituency of Chingford and Woodford Green.

Sir Iain, an arch-Eurosceptic who led the Tories between 2001 and 2003 and then served as work and pensions secretary under Lord Cameron, was always expected to have a hard task in keeping

**James Cleverly, one of the party's biggest beasts, is set to fall victim to Reform's success'**

his seat. His constituency, on the edge of London, has been getting more and more Labour at every election thanks to demographic change.

Last month he was facing a hard-Left candidate for the seat, but she was removed by the Labour leadership, giving him an even harder climb.

The poll suggests Sir Iain could be swept aside, with more than half of voters choosing his Labour rival.

Dame Priti Patel, the former home secretary, whose constituency is Witham, is seen as a potential leadership candidate in the event of an expected Tory defeat.

But, according to this MRP poll, the Right-wing firebrand may not be on the ballot.

So sweeping is Labour's victory across the country expected to be that even such safe seats like this in rural Essex could tumble to Sir Keir.

Labour's victory would only be marginal but it could see Dame Priti being the Michael Portillo of the 2024 election.

Robert Jenrick, the former immigration minister, whose constituency is Newark, had seen himself as a future leadership contender, positioning himself on the Right and even getting himself a makeover - losing weight and sporting a new buzz cut.

He first won Newark for the Tories in

a by-election in 2013 - a sign that the coalition of which his party was a member was still popular - and was soon picked for ministerial glory.

That popularity seems now to have come to an end, with his vote slumping to second place, just ahead of Reform which, like him, wants to leave the European Convention on Human Rights.

Esther McVey, the common sense minister, holds the constituency of Tatton.

The former children's television presenter looks set to lose what was formerly seen as the safest Tory seat in the north.

Tatton was the seat of former chancellor George Osborne, and before him the independent Martin Bell represented the seat after the other parties withdrew in order to oust expenses cheat Neil Hamilton.

In 2019, Ms McVey had a majority of more than 17,000.

However, this time, she is set to lose it as her voters massively swing to Labour.

When Tobias Ellwood, the former chair of the defence select committee, whose constituency is Bournemouth East, was first elected to Parliament, this Loughborough-educated Tory won in this constituency with 45 per cent of the vote.

**'Kemi Badenoch, the Business Secretary, would be the highest profile of six survivors'**

That is not going to happen again, and he will be lucky to get a quarter of the vote this time.

It brings an end to a parliamentary career replete with gaffes, such as appearing to praise the Taliban and attending a Christmas party during Covid restrictions.

Therese Coffey, the former deputy prime minister, holds the constituency of Suffolk Coastal.

Britain's shortest-lived deputy prime minister - she only had the role for Ms Truss's 49 days in Downing Street - also looks set to lose her seat.

During her time in the Commons, Ms Coffey served as environment secretary, health secretary and work and pensions secretary.

Sir Michael Fabricant, the former vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, holds the constituency of Lichfield.

The flamboyant former economist was elected to Parliament in 1992, taking back a seat which Labour had won in a by-election.

He quickly became a colourful presence on the green benches, and once called for a pact with the Eurosceptic Ukip party.

Now, he is set to lose his seat to Labour, with the Reform party's huge 20 per cent share of the vote standing between him and victory.

# Fly-tippers will clean up mess, says Cooper

Reforms to penalty notice system would give councils powers to track and punish littering offenders

By Charles Hymas  
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

FLY-TIPPERS will be forced to clean up their own rubbish under a reformed penalty notice system introduced by a Labour government, the shadow home and environment secretaries announced yesterday.

Local councils would be required to track down the offenders and given new powers to add clean-up orders to offenders' fixed penalties in an attempt to curb the 1.1 million fly-tipping offences logged each year.

The moves are part of a community payback strategy that would also give victims of anti-social behaviour a say in the type of punishments that should be handed out to offenders such as clearing up fly tips, graffiti or litter.

Yvette Cooper, the shadow home secretary, and Steve Reed, the shadow environment secretary, set out their rural crime strategy in an interview with *The Telegraph* after travelling to Cornwall as part of an attempt to win over voters beyond the party's traditional urban heartlands. Ms Cooper

said: "We have to identify the fly-tippers and issue them not just with penalties but a requirement to clean it up."

Mr Reed said fly-tipping was one of the most common issues raised by farmers forced to pay thousands of pounds to clear up dumped rubbish on their land. He said white goods such as fridges had unique identifiers and household rubbish bags could contain clues to track down the culprits.

"You can't track them all down but you can track enough for it to act as a deterrent to people that want to do this," he said. "There are real concerns about this and the Government's done nothing about it. They just treat it as a low level crime with no consequences."

Labour is proposing community payback panels that would include victims of anti-social behaviour who would have the power to decide how perpetrators are punished whether in urban or rural areas, oversee the community sentences and make sure offenders completed their unpaid work.

"People feel abandoned and if they were able to influence the criminal justice system more, they would get more confidence it's doing the things that will tackle offending and the causes," said Mr Reed.

He also pledged to introduce new legislation giving police powers to seize dogs suspected of attacks on livestock and to take their canine DNA. These



Yvette Cooper announced a number of rural policies during a visit to Fentongollan Farm, near Truro, Cornwall

could then be matched with saliva samples from dead animals collected by farmers using new forensic test-kits being trialled in 10 police forces.

For farmers plagued by thefts of agricultural equipment, Ms Cooper said Labour would introduce legislation that would require manufacturers to put immobilisers into expensive GPS units targeted by criminals in an effort to deter the thefts.

The GPS units can cost more than £10,000 but have become a staple for farm planning, field mapping, soil sampling, crop scouting and guiding tractors.

The same approach could be adopted to tackle phone theft. Ms Cooper hinted the phone manufacturers could be

forced by regulation to introduce technical fixes such as immobilisers and improved location tracking to stem the surge in thefts if they failed to do so voluntarily.

At this stage, we would have serious meetings and try to work with the mobile phone manufacturers in order to do this but we will look at wider measures," she said.

"This is the kind of crime where there are usually hardly ever any consequences at all, where the proportion of crime solved is really low, where the proportion of crimes being charged is tiny. This is consequence-free crime and that is a total disgrace."

The centrepiece of Labour's crime plan is 13,000 more neighbourhood police officers, PCSOs and special constables so all communities have a named officer to contact. Increased patrols in rural areas will be allied to hotspot policing, where officers blitz areas with anti-social behaviour or street crime problems.

Ms Cooper said the expansion of neighbourhood policing would be one of her first two priorities if she becomes Home Secretary.

She said: "The first step in the crime mission is to have increased neighbourhood police, a crackdown on anti-social behaviour and setting up youth hubs across the country as well to tackle the kind of town centre crime and anti-so-

cial behaviour that does mean getting police back on the beat."

The other would be the creation of the new border security command linking M15, Border Force, the National Crime Agency (NCA) and police with new powers to treat people smugglers like terrorists in an effort to stem the Channel crossings.

She was speaking at the 2,500-acre Fentongollan Farm, near Truro, which has been run by farmer James Hosking's family since 1883 and produces vegetable plants from seed for growers, daffodils and sheep.

"Our ask," said Mr Hosking, "is to keep the seasonal agricultural workers scheme going. It works and without that labour, you are not going to be eating cauliflowers next winter."

He employs between 20 and 60 foreign workers at any one time in the picking seasons, drawn from eight nations from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan.

Ms Cooper accepted it was a distinct scheme but said companies in shortage occupations would have to abide by employment laws and train domestic workers to do the jobs before they would be allowed to recruit abroad.

"Employers who want to recruit from abroad will need to abide by those strategies. What we want is for companies to be training and tackling recruitment issues here in the UK. And that's not happening at the moment," she said.

People feel abandoned. If they were able to influence the system, they would get more confidence.

United front  
Sir Keir Starmer joins Gary Neville, football pundit and former Manchester United star, for the party's latest election broadcast, in the Langdale Valley in the Lake District, where the Labour leader spent his holidays as a child.



## Labour's 'first time buyer tax' would cost up to £11,500

By Nick Gutteridge  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR plans to hit young couples with a first time buyers' tax of up to £11,000, Michael Gove has claimed.

The Housing Secretary said the opposition would leave people trying to get on the property ladder worse off by refusing to match a Tory stamp duty cut. Labour dismissed the claims as "baseless mudslinging" that "reeks of desperation".

Mr Gove's warning came as Rachel Reeves was forced to row back on remarks by Sir Keir Starmer over who is at risk of tax rises under a Labour government. The property price threshold at which stamp duty kicks in for first time buyers was temporarily raised by Liz Truss from £300,000 to £425,000.

In their manifesto the Tories have pledged to make the higher rate permanent whilst Labour has not, meaning it would revert to £300,000 next April.

Conservative analysis claimed that reinstating the original threshold would cost 200,000 first time buyers an extra £3,500 in tax on average. For some people getting on the ladder the bill could be as high as £11,250, it added.

Mr Gove said: "Labour's unfunded spending commitments mean they will raise taxes for every working household by £2,094. That includes hammering hundreds of thousands of first-time buyers with a massive stamp duty increase from next April, as well as plans to hit savings with a suite of taxes that will erode the money for a deposit."

Laura Trott, the Chief Financial Secretary to the Treasury, warned that under Labour "instead of a helping hand you will get a stamping foot".

Writing for *The Telegraph*, she said: "Getting people to own their own home has never been a priority for Labour, and it never will be."

Labour said it would help first time buyers by building more homes, introducing a permanent low deposit mortgage scheme and giving young families first dibs on new builds.

"Over 14 years, the Tories have completely failed on housing, and home ownership has become a pipe dream for most working families," a party spokesman said.

"Rishi Sunak has himself admitted it has become 'harder' to own a home under his government and no amount of baseless mudslinging can alter that fact. Labour will turn the page on this Conservative chaos."

# Muslim entrepreneur gives Reform biggest donation

By Gordon Rayner  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

A MUSLIM entrepreneur has donated hundreds of thousands of pounds to Reform UK, saying migrants who came to Britain legally are dismayed that "we have lost control of our borders".

Zia Yusuf, who co-founded the luxury concierge app Velocity Black before selling it last year for £233 million, believes Nigel Farage alone has the policies to heal the "broken" country.

Mr Yusuf's donation to Reform, the biggest of the election campaign so far, is a major coup for a party that faces regular accusations of racism from its critics.

It is also a blow to the Conservatives, as the entrepreneur is a former member of the Tory Party but now believes that the party is unable to make the "hard decisions".

The 37-year-old, whose parents came to Britain from Sri Lanka in the 1980s and forged careers in the NHS, said the "vast majority of Muslims" in the country were patriots who believed net migration was too high.

He told *The Telegraph*: "My parents

came here legally. When I talk to my friends, they are as affronted as anyone by illegal Channel crossings, which are an affront to all hard-working British people but not least the migrants who played by the rules and came legally."

"I think Britain can be an amazing country, it's the country of Dyson and DeepMind, but we have completely lost control of our borders, that is just factually correct."

Mr Yusuf claimed net migration was at 50,000 when his parents arrived in Britain, which made assimilation easier.

"Last year it was 650,000 and that's causing the NHS to buckle under pressure, despite us spending more than we have ever spent on it. We are also not building enough homes to cope with the growing population."

Mr Yusuf was born in Scotland and when his parents moved to the south of England, he won a 50 per cent scholarship to attend the fee-paying Hampton School in Middlesex.

After working for the investment bank Goldman Sachs, he took a gamble by quitting his highly paid job to set up a business with Alex Macdonald, an old school friend.

He says they worked seven days a

week, without holidays, for years to build Velocity Black, an invitation-only travel and events app for the rich and famous.

With pop stars Rita Ora and Ellie Goulding among clients, the company does everything from booking flights to securing Wimbledon centre court tickets.

Last year the pair sold the business to Capital One, the American credit card and banking giant, netting more than £30 million each for their shares in the business.

Mr Yusuf's life story has distinct parallels with another son of migrants with roots in the Indian subcontinent: Rishi Sunak.

Both have parents who came to Britain and worked in the health service,

Zia Yusuf is a former Tory Party member

both went to top private schools thanks to sacrifices made by their parents, both worked for Goldman Sachs and both left to set up their own businesses.

It is no wonder that Mr Yusuf became a member of the Conservative Party, but he now feels let down by Mr Sunak and his team.

He believes the Prime Minister has failed to show the sort of leadership that the country needs, and does not think Sir Keir Starmer will be able to do so either.

"I have paid millions in taxes, created hundreds of jobs," he said.

"I know how important it is to make hard decisions in a timely fashion and that is not what I see from the Conservatives.

"These are incredibly challenging times and whether it's

house prices or rental prices or the NHS, we need courageous, bold politicians who are able to confront these problems and look them in the eye, and Nigel Farage and Richard Tice are the only ones prepared to talk about this."

Mr Yusuf, who is single and lives in Surrey, is still deciding what he wants to do next in life after selling his business, but is passionate about the need to

"We need courageous, bold politicians who are able to confront these problems and look them in the eye"

defend and promote British values across all parts of society.

He said: "I love Britain and I'm a patriot, a British Muslim patriot, which I believe the vast majority of Muslims in the UK are."

"I was profoundly moved by the D-Day commemorations and I'm hugely grateful for the people who laid down their lives - hundreds of thousands of whom were Muslims.

"British values are worth defending

# Sunak protection officer arrested for general election bet

Gambling Commission alerts Metropolitan Police to betting activity by a member of PM's team

By Martin Evans CRIME EDITOR

A POLICE officer working in Rishi Sunak's close protection team has been arrested as part of an investigation into bets placed on the date of the general election.

The Metropolitan Police was contacted by the Gambling Commission last Friday and informed it was looking into the activities of a member of Scotland Yard's Royalty and Specialist Protection (RaSP) command.

The police constable, who has not been named, was immediately removed from operational duties.

On Monday, the officer was further arrested on suspicion of committing misconduct in public office.

He was questioned before being bailed and the matter was also referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). The Met's Royalty and Specialist Protection command is an armed unit which protects members of the Royal family, leading politicians and VIPs.

Many of its members have been with the unit for years and have developed good working relationships with the people they protect. It is regarded as one of Scotland Yard's elite units, with members required to show the utmost

professionalism and integrity. The news of an officer being arrested will rock the tight knit command which has been working flat out protecting politicians during the general election campaign.

Earlier this year, *The Telegraph* revealed that the unit is facing a looming resources crisis with more than 60 members expected to leave next June when a Met retention scheme comes to an end.

Highly-experienced officers who were eligible for retirement have been allowed to remain in their posts while receiving their salary and pension.

But the scheme is ending next summer meaning that many of its most

**'Rishi Sunak must call a Cabinet Office inquiry into what is shaping to be yet another scandal'**

experienced officers will leave.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "We can confirm that on Friday, June 14 the Met was contacted by the Gambling Commission. The matter was immediately referred to officers in the Met's Directorate of Professional Standards, who opened an investigation, and the officer was also removed from operational duties."

"The officer was subsequently arrested on Monday, June 17 on suspicion of misconduct in public office. He was taken into custody and bailed pending further enquiries. The matter has

also been referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct. The Gambling Commission continues to lead the investigation into the alleged betting offences, and our investigation is running in parallel to that."

The development comes after Craig Williams, a senior aide of the Prime Minister, reportedly bet £100 on the date of the election just before it was called. Mr Williams placed a bet on the general election being held in July just three days before the announcement was made, according to *The Guardian*.

Last night, Laura Saunders, a Tory candidate standing in Bristol North West, was reported by the BBC to be under investigation by the Gambling Commission.

A Conservative spokesman said: "We have been contacted by the Gambling Commission about a small number of individuals. As the Gambling Commission is an independent body, it wouldn't be proper to comment further, until any process is concluded." Ms Saunders was contacted for comment.

The reporting has not been disputed by Mr Williams, who admitted that he had a "flutter" on the election a few weeks ago. He has since apologised for a "huge error of judgment".

The Gambling Commission is understood to have sent Mr Sunak a letter about an inquiry into the "flutter".

Daisy Cooper, the deputy leader of the Liberal Democrats, said that "Rishi Sunak must call a Cabinet Office inquiry into what is shaping up to be yet another scandal".



LUC BRAQUET

Party people Emily Maitlis of Channel 4, Kay Burley of Sky News and Mishal Husain, the BBC broadcaster, feature in the August issue of *Tatler* magazine as they prepare to lead coverage of the election.



## Galloway calls for vote on future of monarchy

By Fiona Parker

GEORGE GALLOWAY has called for a referendum on the future of the monarchy and said Princess Anne should be president if it is abolished.

The leader of the Workers Party of Britain made the tongue-in-cheek remark as he launched his party's manifesto yesterday, which includes a call for voters to say whether they think the monarchy should be abolished.

When asked by *The Telegraph* how Mr Galloway felt about raising the issue while the King and Princess of Wales undergo cancer treatment, Mr Galloway said: "Our issue is with unelected power ... it's why we oppose monarchy - nothing personal."

"I happen to know Princess Anne and I'd have backed her for president of Britain any day, an outstanding woman."

The 34-page manifesto contained pledges including the eradication of nuclear weapons, a ban on career politicians from the House of Lords and the option to retire at the age of 60.

In a chapter entitled "Democratic Reform", the brochure read: "Our demand is that the British people be given a

**Workers Party leader would put himself forward to run the realm**



say in the future of the monarchy, and that a referendum be held to decide this.

"We do not seek to set down the precise question, nor propose an ideal form of change to the existing constitution, let that be informed by rational public debate."

Speaking to journalists at the manifesto launch in Manchester, Mr Galloway, 69, went on to add that there was "lots that is wrong with the monarchical system in Britain, even if the Royal family were 'paragons of Olympian virtue and strength'".

He added: "It is a Ruritanian absurdity that the first-born to the existing monarch will automatically become the head of your state."

"Only an infantilised people could possibly regard that in 2024 as a suitable way to run a realm."

The former Labour and Respect Party MP also said there were "many alternatives that are possible" and that this was why the idea had been "treated" in the way it was in the manifesto.

Jokingly, he said: "There could be an indirect election for the head of state, there could be a direct election for the head of state - in which case I declare my candidature."

## Galloway shows Farage who's Britain's answer to Trump

Sketch



By Madeline Grant

DIVA that he is, George Galloway arrived late for his own manifesto launch. "Stuck in traffic" was the official line, inviting us to imagine hordes of beeping jeeps which used to greet his erstwhile pals Gaddafi and Saddam. I suspect he was putting on his make-up.

"We're the name no one likes to mention," the fluffer in charge of buying time for Gorgeous George told journalists when referring to the party's lack of a polling breakthrough, "but we are making waves on the ground." Maybe he's right; there's one thing that really terrifies us journos and that's a mixed metaphor.

Finally the star of the show arrived: dressed in his trademark vanity-reducing hat and a tie that someone had to adjust for him. He looked, ironically, a little like a rabbi. He stood in front of a banner that said "Workers", a PowerPoint which had been formatted by someone who couldn't read or at least didn't want anyone else to read the information on it, and a broken radiator.

Those who say Nigel Farage is the UK's Donald Trump are wrong. Likelihood of winning aside, it's actually Galloway. Certainly, there is exquisite Trumpian absurdism in choosing the ninth floor of a swanky hotel in Manchester's gay district to launch a manifesto deliberately

designed to appeal to disaffected socially conservative Muslim voters.

Of that manifesto, he said it was, "a very beautiful document, a very meaningful document" - Trumpian syntax in a Scottish drawl. He then launched into an extended rant about the narcissism of small differences, about Winston Churchill, about Jim Callaghan, about spirits, about, for some reason, Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte. About, it seemed, literally anything that came into his head.

Even Mr Galloway's private life is Trumpian; involving six children and four marriages (compared with the Donald's five and three). If the style was Trumpian, the substance was harder to pin down, veering as it did between Novara Media and the *Telegraph* leader page. He wanted a referendum on net zero, recognition for families in the tax system, but also nuclear disarmament and a referendum on the monarchy. By far his biggest beef was with Reform UK, who are evidently cannibalising Workers Party support. Mr Galloway was particularly incensed by his non-inclusion in the TV debates between deputy leaders "the seven dwarves" as he called them. The Workers Party had more elected politicians within its ranks, he bellowed, "so why didn't I even make the dwarf speech?!"

MAGA George was on a roll; Joe Biden was "a senile dementia patient who can't control his bodily functions". Unlike Donald Trump, Galloway is unlikely to be anywhere near power after our election. Expect a Scottish-accented round of "stop the steal" at a leisure centre near you.

## Passing on the green thumb

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## Prince Andrew 'to bequeath Windsor home to daughters'

By India McTaggart  
ROYAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of York plans to bequeath the lease of his Windsor home to his two daughters after his death, it has been reported.

Prince Andrew, 64, may leave the rest of the 75-year lease agreement on Royal Lodge to Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie, according to the *Daily Mail*.

The King, who is said to be losing patience with his younger brother, has reportedly threatened to withdraw funds of more than £4million a year which allows Prince Andrew to keep living in the 30-bedroom home in Windsor Great Park which has extensive maintenance requirements.

The terms of the Duke's 75-year lease agreement with the Crown Estate, which was signed in 2003 and runs out in 2079, states he must "renew, uphold, clean and keep in repair and where necessary rebuild" the home.

The King, 75, has made clear that he is not willing to continue to fund his brother's lifestyle at the 93-acre property, which the Duke shares with his ex-wife Sarah, Duchess of York.

It is understood that the Duke would prefer to leave the home to the Duchess, but the lease specifies it can only be passed to his children or his widow.

The King has reportedly told his younger brother, who was forced to step down as a working royal over his association with the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, to vacate the property and downsize to nearby Frogmore Cottage – previously the home of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex.

However, Andrew has been reluctant to vacate the property.

Buckingham Palace has declined to comment.



**Catching up** Prince William chats to Carole Middleton on the second day of Royal Ascot – her first public appearance since their daughter, the Princess of Wales, shared her cancer diagnosis in March. Zara and Mike Tindall were also in attendance along with Princesses Beatrice and Eugenie.

# Gordonstoun a 'dreadfully abusive school'

Pupils were exposed to 'sexual, physical and emotional abuse' at King's alma mater, report finds

By Daniel Sanderson  
SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

THE King's former school was a "dreadfully abusive" and "extremely violent" place which turned a blind eye to paedophile teachers, an inquiry has found.

In a report, children boarding at Gordonstoun in Moray, Scotland, where a

succession of British royals were educated, were found to have been "exposed to the risk of sexual, physical and emotional abuse for decades".

Lady Smith, who is chairing the Scottish child abuse inquiry, said examples of abuse included the repeated rape of a boy by an exchange teacher and multiple indecent assaults by other staff.

She also uncovered evidence of rampant racism and grooming, amid a "code of silence" between pupils, with the situation only improving in the 1990s.

Gordonstoun, which has tried to shake off a reputation for bullying after the King was said to have dubbed it

"Colditz in kilts", described the verdict as "upsetting and shocking" and issued an apology to those abused in its care.

Abuse was also rife at Aberlour House, Gordonstoun's prep school, Lady Smith concluded after hearing evidence from dozens of former pupils and staff across both establishments.

The late Prince Philip was one of the first pupils at Gordonstoun, set up by Kurt Hahn, a German educationalist in 1934. Other royals who were educated there include Prince Edward, Prince Andrew and Zara Tindall.

Earlier this year, the King accepted a patronage at the school while the Prin-

cess Royal served in the honorary role of warden.

Lady Smith said that complaints mainly related to the 1970s to the early 1990s. The King was educated at the school between 1962 and 1967. "I have no difficulty in finding that children were abused at Gordonstoun and Aberlour in a variety of ways over a long period of time," she said.

She said a "dreadfully abusive and extremely violent culture was allowed to take root" with bullying and cruel initiation rituals common. "Abuse was also perpetrated by staff," she added. "There was failure of governance with

no interest in child protection or pastoral care until the 1990s."

Lady Smith said Andrew Keir, a physics teacher between 1983 and 1994, was a "predatory paedophile" who "groomed boys". When complaints reached Michael, the headmaster in 1989, he failed to take appropriate action, meaning Keir continued to abuse pupils until the end of 1991.

Six other teachers sexually abused boys between the 1960s and 1990s, the report said. After girls were allowed to attend the school in 1972, it was "not unusual" for them to begin sexual relationships with older boys as a means of

gaining protection. Ms Kerr issued an open letter, co-authored with David White, the chair of governors, in which they offered a "heartfelt and sincere apology to all those who suffered at the school."

She added: "[The] report is upsetting, and it is shocking to read of the abuse that children in the past experienced and the enduring impact on their lives 30, 40 or even 50 years later."

"Since reports of historic abuse came to our attention in 2013, we have taken a proactive approach, addressing matters openly and offering whatever support possible."

## AI opens conversations between Holocaust survivors and pupils

By Dorjee Wangmo and Poppy Wood

ARTIFICIAL intelligence will allow students to have "lifelike" conversations with Holocaust survivors in a new initiative being rolled out across UK schools.

The Holocaust Educational Trust has "immortalised" survivors of the genocide by capturing their stories to be taught to pupils virtually.

The charity said it comes amid growing anti-Semitism in the UK and when the number of remaining Holocaust survivors is dwindling. Four people who lived through the event have offered their stories to become 3D "talking portraits" that will "extend their legacies beyond their lifetimes".

Using virtual reality (VR) headsets and speech-to-text search technology, students will be able to ask up to 1,000 potential questions and receive survivors' actual recorded answers. Pupils will also be able to explore key sites related to the survivors' testimony, such as concentration camps or ghettos where they were imprisoned.

They include Manfred Golberg, 94, who survived the Stutthof concentration camp, a death march and the Riga Ghetto in Latvia under the Nazis.

While he is used to going into schools to teach children about his experience of the Holocaust, Mr Goldberg spent five days being filmed within a green



Students can explore testimony from survivors of concentration camps and ghettos

screen rig to produce the new programme, which he described as "magic". "Never during those dark days of the Holocaust did I ever imagine that one day I would see myself, and my story, immortalised in this way," he said. "If this is my legacy, it will be a truly remarkable one."

Karen Pollock, chief of the Holocaust Education Trust, said the new Testimony 360 programme would "revolutionise" how young people learn about the Holocaust. "With the threat of anti-Semitism reaching levels not seen

since the liberations of the camps, this programme could not be more vital."

The Holocaust is currently the only historical event which is compulsory within the history curriculum in England, and pupils are usually taught the subject from Year 9.

More than six million Jewish men, women and children and millions of others were killed by the Nazi regime and during the Second World War.

The new scheme from the Holocaust Educational Trust will be open to all schools in Britain from September.

## Police inquiry into rammed calf ruled out

By Connor Stringer SENIOR REPORTER

THE police watchdog will not investigate Surrey Police after an officer was filmed ploughing a vehicle into a 10-month-old calf.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) admitted that an investigation into "whether the methods used to contain the cow were appropriate" was needed but that the matter was for the force's professional standards department to probe.

It comes amid a row over the force used by the officers, in the capture of the calf named Beau Lucy in a residential street in Feltham, west London.

The 10-month-old calf escaped from common grazing land in Staines on Friday evening and was reportedly charging around a residential area.

The officer, who was driving the police vehicle used to ram the calf, was removed from front-line duties on Sunday amid widespread anger over the use

of force. An IOPC spokesman said: "We received two complaint referrals from Surrey Police on 17 June in relation to the actions and decision-making by officers from the force while trying to detain a cow in Feltham on 14 June."

"Footage of the cow being struck by a police car was shared widely on social media and we have examined this along with footage and audio provided by the force from the officers' body-worn videos. They show the animal ramming a police car, charging at members of the public and posing a risk to road users."

"After careful consideration, we have decided that an investigation is required into whether the methods used to contain the cow were appropriate and proportionate in these circumstances, and whether the officers upheld police standards of professional behaviour throughout the incident, including their communication with members of the public who were present. However, we do not consider the investigation

needs to be undertaken by the IOPC so it will be for Surrey's professional standards department to take it forward."

"If the complainants are unhappy with the outcome of the investigation they will have a right of review to the IOPC, providing a level of independent oversight."

Surrey Police insisted officers had spent several hours trying to catch the animal before the decision was made to run it down using a car to keep the public safe. But when footage of the incident emerged, James Cleverly, the Home Secretary, demanded an "urgent explanation" from the force, describing the response as "unnecessarily heavy-handed" while Chris Packham, the wildlife TV presenter, described those responsible as "monsters" and suggested they should be "investigated and prosecuted."

The calf suffered a gash to its leg but is recovering after being treated by a vet.

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# Gentle strolls an effective treatment for back pain

Data show half-hour walks five times a week provides low-cost and accessible relief for sufferers

By Joe Pinkstone  
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE suffering with back pain should go for a gentle stroll five times a week to improve their condition, doctors have found.

A half-hour walk five times a week was found to keep those suffering non-specific lower-back issues pain-free for longer.

In a study of about 700 people with sore backs in Australia, half were left to their own devices and the other half instructed to go for a walk five times a week, alongside physiotherapy sessions and professional support.

Data show that the walkers went more than 200 days without having an attack that left them incapacitated by pain. The control group had attacks after just 112 days, the study found.

Scientists from Macquarie University in Sydney led the research, which is the first time a controlled study has been done specifically looking at the benefit of walking as a treatment for a bad back.

Prof Mark Hancock, the professor of physiotherapy at Macquarie University, said: "Walking is a low-cost, widely accessible and simple exercise that almost anyone can engage in, regardless of geographic location, age or socio-economic status."

About 800 million people around the world have low back pain, and seven in 10 who recover from an episode have flare-ups within a year.

Back-pain management and prevention involves a combination of exercise, therapy and, in some cases, surgery. But researchers said some forms of exercise are not accessible or affordable, and often need supervision.

"The intervention group had fewer occurrences of activity limiting pain compared to the control group, and a longer average period before they had a recurrence, with a median of 208 days compared to 112 days," Prof Hancock said. "We don't know exactly why walk-

ing is so good for preventing back pain, but it is likely to include the combination of the gentle oscillatory movements, loading and strengthening the spinal structures and muscles, relaxation and stress relief, and release of 'feel-good' endorphins.

"And, of course, we also know that walking comes with many other health benefits, including cardiovascular health, bone density, healthy weight, and improved mental health." Dr Natasha Pocovi, a researcher at Macquarie University, said: "It not only improved people's quality of life, but it reduced their need both to seek healthcare support and the amount of time taken off work by approximately half.

"Our study has shown that this effective and accessible means of exercise has the potential to be successfully implemented at a much larger scale than other forms of exercise."

Commenting on the study, Prof Kamila Hawthorne, chairman of the Royal College of GPs, said: "Back pain

**'Walking is a low-cost, widely accessible and simple exercise that almost anyone can engage in'**

affects millions of patients, and can have a serious impact on their quality of life - in some cases to the extent they struggle to carry out everyday tasks without pain.

"We always welcome research into a condition that can be so debilitating, and it's important this is taken on board as clinical guidance is developed and updated. This study backs up what we already know - that walking, even in small amounts, can be helpful for back pain.

"We also know it can have other benefits. For example, for people's mental health and wellbeing, which is often impacted for those living with pain.

"As such, GPs will encourage patients with back pain to take moderate exercise, where appropriate and in line with clinical guidelines, but we know that for some patients this won't be possible, or will be very difficult."

The study is published in *The Lancet*.



**Look what you made me do** Taylor Swift delighted fans by speaking Welsh during her Eras tour show in Cardiff on Tuesday. "Shwmae, croeso i daith Eras," Swift told the crowd, which means, hello, welcome to the Eras Tour, in English.

# British boy, 8, tear-gassed by French police during protests

By Alex Barton

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD British boy was tear-gassed by French police while on a family holiday in Paris.

Lawrence Austin was left screaming in pain after police threw tear gas canisters into a crowd in the French capital on May 27.

Radia Austin, 46, the boy's mother, said her family had been near to a pro-Palestine protest while walking towards their accommodation during their half term holiday.

Mrs Austin, Lawrence and his father Paul Austin, 45, were returning to their apartment when one of the canisters landed at the boy's feet.

Despite approaching the police for help they were told to "wash his eyes".

Two weeks on, she said Lawrence is still struggling with throbbing pain in his eyes and is having to see a specialist.

Mrs Austin, from Betchworth, Surrey, said: "It was scary and traumatic - we felt our eyes burning and it was hard to breathe but my biggest concern was my little one.

"We just had to cross the road to get to our apartment but as we were crossing we heard boom sounds and next thing the gas came out.

"Before you know it you can't breathe and your eyes are burning, people start shouting and my son started screaming.

"All I did was walk back to the police



**Lawrence Austin still has problems with his eyes and nightmares, his mother said**

and said, 'Help us please, my son is in agony,' but he just stared at us and didn't help me. Since then he has had a lot of shouty nightmares at night and keeps asking why the police did this to him."

The mother of one added: "We were walking, holding hands, behind a barrier on the touristy side where people were walking, not on the main road closed off for demonstrators. [When they threw the canisters] there were fumes and gas, it was like a scene of war, it was surreal. We couldn't reach the flat even though it was such a short distance - I didn't know how my son was, he was in tears and shouting in pain because his eyes were hurting. My son cried all night and the tear gas carried

on, I said I was going downstairs but it was impossible to go outside to eat or drink because the tear gas just carried on."

She said police continued to use tear gas on demonstrators throughout the evening.

"When we came back home, he still has some problems with his eye - it could be hay fever but the medicine is not working so we've booked an appointment with a specialist," Mrs Austin added.

Since Hamas's attacks on Israel on Oct 7 tens of thousands of people have marched through Paris calling for an end to what they say is Israel's genocide of Palestinians.

It comes despite a ban on them by Gérald Darmanin, the French interior minister. The protests have been largely peaceful, but there have been some outbreaks of violence.

In one instance, in September, hundreds of hooded people wearing black smashed the windows of a bank branch and threw objects at a police car stuck in traffic.

Paris police said the car was attacked with a crowbar and that anti-riot officers were forced to intervene.

In May, police fired tear gas shells at demonstrators attempting to reach the Israeli Embassy.

French police were contacted by *The Telegraph* for comment.

# Migrant Channel crossings hit daily high

By Charles Hymas  
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

MORE than 800 migrants crossed the Channel on Tuesday, the highest daily total for 18 months, Home Office figures show.

A total of 882 people reached the UK in 15 vessels this year, bringing the number to 12,313 - the highest figure at this point of the year since the first small boats started crossing six years ago.

The number was the highest since November 2022 when 947 people arrived in the UK after crossing the Channel, and surpassed 872 arrivals on Sept 2 last year.

The total is 18 per cent higher than this time last year when 10,472 crossings were recorded, and up 5 per cent on the figure at this stage in 2022, which was 11,690.

Last year, 29,437 migrants arrived in the UK, down 36 per cent on a record

45,774 in 2022. Since 2018, 126,658 people have arrived in the UK after crossing the Channel.

A total of 81,677 people have made the journey since the Government struck the stalled deal to send migrants to Rwanda in April 2022.

**882**

**The number of migrants who reached the UK in 15 boats on Tuesday, bringing the total so far this year to 12,313**

With immigration a key campaign battleground, 2,431 migrants have crossed the Channel since Rishi Sunak made the ballot call on May 22.

The tally of crossings since Mr Sunak, who pledged to "stop the boats", became prime minister in October that year

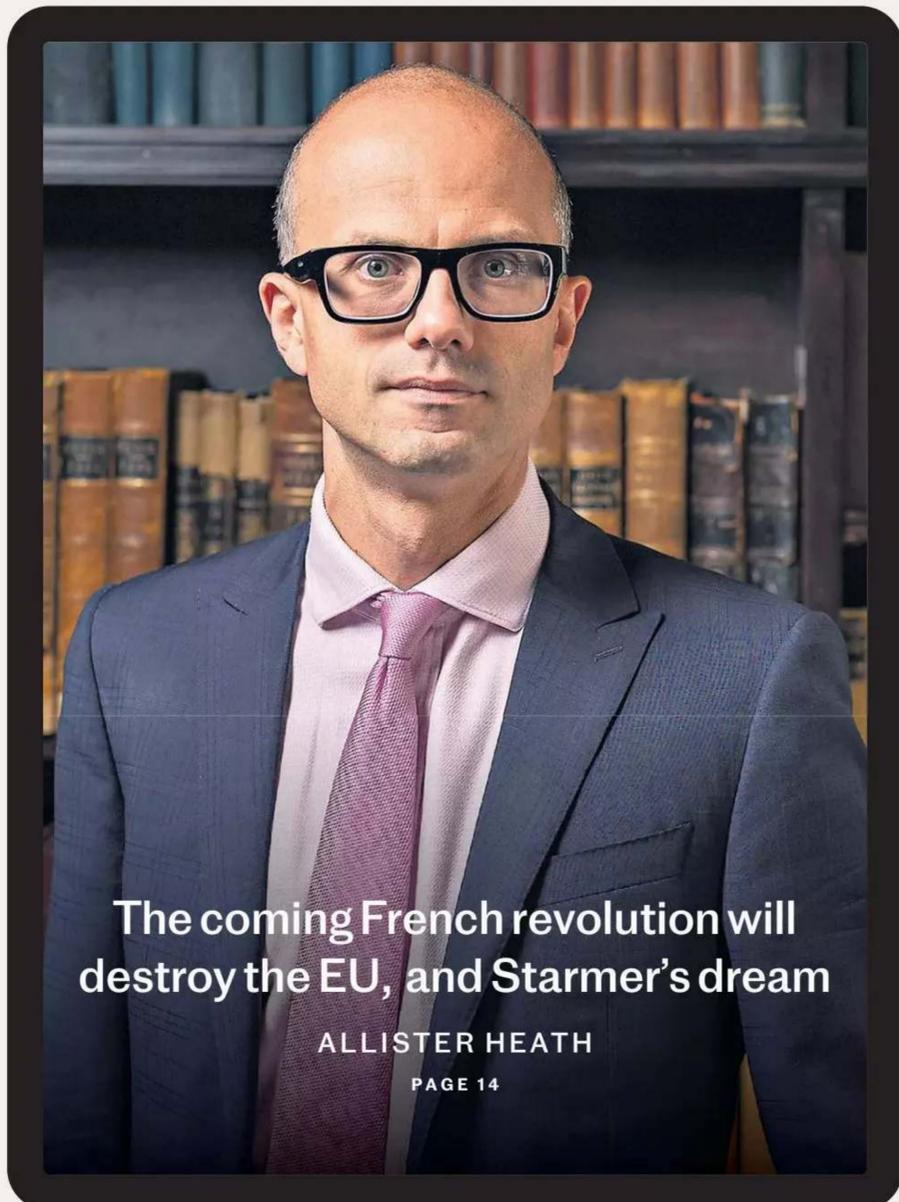
stands at 49,376. Stephen Kinnock, Labour's immigration minister, said: "Far from stopping the boats, Rishi Sunak is presiding over the worst year our country has ever seen for Channel crossings, with an arrivals total yesterday [Tuesday] higher than any day in the last 18 months.

"While he has focused all his efforts on trying to get 300 migrants sent to Rwanda, 40 times that many people have crossed the Channel already this year, the trafficking gangs have got ever richer and the amount the Government is spending on hotels for asylum seekers remains stuck at £8million a day.

"The Labour Party has a comprehensive plan to smash the gangs."

The Government has promised to "stop the small boats", but made clear that does not mean there will be zero crossings. Mr Sunak has not defined any set targets.

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**The coming French revolution will destroy the EU, and Starmer's dream**

ALLISTER HEATH

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# Putin and Kim 'deepen' their military ties

Autocratic leaders 'upgrade friendship' with hugs and gifts in heavily orchestrated state visit

By James Kilner

VLADIMIR PUTIN has driven Kim Jong-un around in a "Russian Rolls Royce" after signing a military pact in a Soviet-style meeting of dictators.

Videos released by Russian media showed Putin climbing into the driver's seat of the black Aurus limousine that he gave to the North Korean leader.

He then beckoned Kim to join him in the front, before pulling off for a drive along roads that past the manicured lawns of the Kumsusan state residence in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital.

Footage showed Kim smiling and pointing at the dashboard while the Russian president gesticulated as he drove. Earlier, the leaders held two hours of talks at Kim's residence before signing the military agreement that positions Russia and North Korea at the centre of an anti-West axis.

The new Russia-North Korea "comprehensive strategic agreement" upgrades a "friendship" deal he had signed with Kim's dictator father in 2002.

Putin said the "breakthrough document... provides for the provision of mutual assistance in the event of aggression against one of the parties to this agreement".

It was not clear what kind of assistance the deal involves.

The pact came in the middle of a carefully choreographed state visit with strong echoes of Soviet history.

Indeed, Kim said Moscow and Pyongyang's "fiery friendship" is now even closer than during Soviet times.

This was Putin's first visit to North Korea since 2000, a trip that highlights the importance he places on North Korea as an ally against the United States.

Putin flew into Pyongyang before dawn yesterday after an eight-hour flight from Moscow, six time zones behind North Korea.

The 71-year-old looked weary listening to translations during the talks. One video caught him playing with a microphone and momentarily closing his eyes, his head drooping slightly.

At their meeting, Putin thanked Kim for sending weapons to Russia and confirmed that the Kremlin was supplying technical support to North Korea, which Western analysts have said is used to accelerate their spy satellite and ballistic missile programmes.

"We highly appreciate your consistent and unwavering support for Russian policy, including in the Ukrainian direction," said Putin.

North Korea has become a vital arms supplier for the Kremlin since Kim visited Russia last year, sending 5 million artillery shells and dozens of missiles to bolster the forces against Ukraine.

Kim had greeted Putin earlier in the day in central Pyongyang on a red carpet laid out in front of thousands of cheering school children. The heavily orchestrated greeting was held in a square ringed by heavy Soviet-style buildings and adorned with Russian and North Korean flags and portraits of the two men.

A slogan emblazoned across one of the buildings said: "North Korean-Russian friendship will be eternal." The two



Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un were driven around the main square in Pyongyang in a heavily orchestrated state visit, the North Korea's first visit from an international leader since Xi Jinping in 1999

men shook hands and hugged as a brass military band played.

Putin took a high-powered delegation to Pyongyang, including five government ministers and several officials charged with running logistics for his war in Ukraine. Footage showed them lining up as the Russian president introduced them briefly to Kim, who shook their hands and looked at them indifferently.

Kim and Putin then stood as the band started up again, dozens of soldiers goose-stepped past in a swift military parade and the school children released colourful balloons into the air.

Other videos showed rows of North Korean generals obediently clapping

and waving flags, with the two leaders standing in the back of an open-topped Mercedes limousine lapping up the applause. Later, Kim gifted the Russian leader with various paintings of the Russian leader, while Putin gave the North Korean leader a tea set, an admiral's dagger and the Aurus limousine.

Russia started producing the Aurus car in 2018 as its answer to the Rolls Royce. Each has a retail price of around £250,000 and only 115 have reportedly been sold.

Putin then headed to a gala concert with Kim where he received thunderous applause from unsmiling grey-suited North Korean bureaucrats and

teenagers all dressed in red t-shirts and red baseball caps.

Russian journalists reported they were flown to North Korea 12 hours ahead of the meeting and given a tour of Pyongyang as it prepared for Putin's arrival. They were told that 400 portraits of Putin had been hung around the city to commemorate the first visit by an international leader since Xi Jinping, the president of China, visited in 2019.

When a Russian journalist asked why there were no people on the streets, one of the North Korean minders replied: "It's just very hot." The journalists also reported they were told to "write that

**'We highly appreciate your consistent and unwavering support for Russian policy, including in Ukraine'**

North Korea is a normal country" and that "America controls the internet".

Putin is due to dine with Kim at a state banquet and listen to a concert before heading to Communist-run Vietnam for a two-day visit, which will focus on "trade and economic, scientific, technological and humanitarian areas".

It will be Putin's fifth overseas trip since he won a presidential election in March, highlighting his emphasis on building up international relations to bolster Russia's position around its war in Ukraine.

Con Coughlin: Page 15

## Trains, space and war: Inside the lonely bromance of the dictators

### Analysis



By Roland Oliphant  
SENIOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

IT IS easy to ridicule. Once a member of the G8, Vladimir Putin is now reduced to making state visits to Kim Jong-un, the eccentric dictator of a hermit state shunned by all but his Chinese patrons.

The pair resemble a "lonely bromance", quipped Dmytro Kuleba, the Ukrainian foreign minister.

But behind the scenes, Western diplomats – and spies – will not be laughing as they try to figure out how this friendship will impact security in Europe and the Pacific. Special

attention will focus on the contents of the "comprehensive strategic partnership", which Putin says includes a mutual defence clause.

Kim said it is "strictly peace-loving and defensive" in nature.

But North Korea is already sending Russia shells and missiles.

Could the "defence" clause be used as an excuse to expand that role? Could it even result in North Korean troops fighting on the front line in Ukraine?

That may sound far-fetched, but we know Russia is already recruiting foreign fighters to replace heavy losses on the battlefield.

Does "strategic partnership" imply Russian assistance with North Korea's nuclear weapons programme?

There has been talk of assistance in "space" technology – a term that in the Cold War often served as a euphemism for intercontinental ballistic missiles.



Vladimir Putin took Kim Jong-un out for a drive in a 'Russian Rolls Royce'

Either move could have serious implications in Ukraine and dramatically alter the delicate balance of force on the Korean peninsula.

But if we have learnt anything over the past few years, it is that anything is possible.

South Korea has already publicly warned Putin not to go too far in wooing Kim. Then there is the question of the Tumen river.

For much of its length, the Tumen marks the border between North Korea and China. But for the last 15 miles before it reaches the sea, it lies between North Korea and Russia. A rusty railway bridge across it marks their only direct border crossing.

When Putin met Xi Jinping in May, they agreed to look at ways to open that stretch of river to Chinese shipping. It would be a big job, probably involving dredging and

widening the river, and raising or entirely demolishing the bridge.

But if Putin and Kim give the green light, they could give China its first outlet to the Sea of Japan since Russia seized Vladivostok in the 1860s.

That has obvious security implications: Japanese media are already pondering how Tokyo's already stretched naval forces would respond to China's very assertive coast guard appearing in yet another part of the western Pacific.

That feeds into a larger question about the balance of power in East Asia.

Russia has for decades resisted Chinese requests to open that last stretch of river, wary of surrendering control of its border to Beijing.

If it goes ahead, it will further confirm Putin's dependence on president Xi.

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## Cult leader who forced followers to pull out teeth and eat faeces is jailed

By Sarah Newey in Bangkok

A CULT leader who forced her followers to eat human faeces and pull out each other's teeth with pliers as punishment has been jailed for 10 years.

Woo May Hoe convinced about 30 people that she was a deity, while subjecting the group to physical abuse and defrauding them of more than \$10 million (£7.8 million).

In a "reign of terror" that began in 2012, Woo forced members of the group to call her "lord" and told them they had to clear their "bad karma" by making regular payments to Sri Sakthi Narayani Amma, a spiritual leader in India.

Many of her followers were seeking cures for themselves or their relatives, so fervently followed the teachings, a court in Singapore was told.

Woo claimed the funds she collected were to be used to buy cows or build

**'Her actions have shattered the lives of her followers, causing disability to some'**

schools and temples. She also made followers take out loans and buy her houses, flats and cars as "a form of worship". Anyone who disobeyed her orders was punished severely.

In one instance, a woman was forced to jump from the second floor of a building and fractured both her ankles.

Woo, a paranoid schizophrenic, also stabbed people with scissors and beat them with canes and paintbrushes.

Some were forced to quit their jobs and about a third were told to move in with her to act as her full-time servants.

She was arrested when some followers complained to the police in 2020. She was jailed yesterday after admitting charges including fraud and assault.

Prosecutors said: "The accused's actions have shattered the lives of her followers, leaving them in dire financial circumstances and causing permanent physical disability to some."

## US politician's bizarre water torture against her rival

By Benedict Smith US REPORTER

A US politician has been caught pouring water into a colleague's bag in a campaign of "torment" that reportedly lasted months.

Mary Morrissey, 67, has since apologised for her "unbecoming" behaviour and admitted to targeting Jim Carroll for five months. Ms Morrissey and Mr Carroll have known each other since childhood, and are both members of Vermont's House of Representatives, representing Bennington town.

Ms Morrissey has not said why she started drenching Mr Carroll's bag and it's not clear if they have had a prior falling out. Mr Carroll, 62, said his bag had been drenched a couple of times a week in January, increasing to almost every day in February. "It was torment," he said. Suspecting it was Ms Morrissey, he set up a secret camera in April behind a

scarf in the cloakroom. On two occasions, it captured Ms Morrissey pouring a glass of water into the bag.

On Monday, Ms Morrissey, who has been a Vermont representative since 1997, said she was "truly ashamed" of her actions. "It was conduct most unbecoming of my position as a representative and as a human being, and is not reflective of my 28 years of service and civility," she told lawmakers. She admitted her behaviour was "disrespectful" and said she had apologised to Mr Carroll privately. Mr Carroll said: "Each time, she didn't choose to either drop it or come to me and say, 'I'm sorry, I screwed up'... And for that I'm really sorry and sad."

A former colleague of both wrote in the *Manchester Journal*: "What the heck has gotten into Mary Morrissey?"

Ms Morrissey has been approached for comment by *The Telegraph*.

# Hundreds die on pilgrimage to Mecca in searing heat

By Jörg Luyken

HUNDREDS of people have died on pilgrimage to Mecca, as temperatures in the Saudi Arabian desert soared above 50C (122F).

More than 550 people have now been confirmed dead after this year's six-day Hajj pilgrimage – a religious duty for many Muslims – took place under a blistering Gulf sun.

Among the casualties were 232 Egyptians, more than 60 Jordanians and a number of Tunisians, officials have said. Deaths have also been reported among pilgrims from Iran and Senegal.

Saudi authorities said they had made efforts to reduce the impact of the heat by setting up air conditioned tents and painting some streets white to reflect more sunlight.

However, the strength of this year's sun was too overwhelming for many. Witnesses described seeing bodies lying on the roadside and emergency services overwhelmed by the number of people in distress.

On Sunday alone 2,000 pilgrims were treated for heat stroke amid unusually high temperatures.

The problem appears to have been exacerbated by the arrival of huge numbers of unregistered visitors who were not allowed access to the rest stations.

The Egyptian death toll was "absolutely" boosted by a large number of unregistered Egyptian pilgrims, one diplomat said.

"The pilgrims went without food, water, or air conditioning for a long time and died because they had no place to take shelter," he added.

About 1.8 million people took part in the pilgrimage to Mecca this year.

Stampedes, tent fires and other accidents have caused hundreds of deaths during the Hajj in the past 30 years.



**Blessing** The Pope greets children during his weekly general audience in St Peter's Square. He also met a group honouring a late Vatican envoy to Beijing, prompting the Pope to call for prayers for the "beloved Chinese people". The Pope has made it a mission to ease relations with the communist state.

# Filipino sailor loses thumb in China clash

Attack by 'axe-wielding' coast guards is the latest violent dispute over sea territory in south-east Asia

By Jörg Luyken

CHINESE coast guards wielded axes and knives in a clash that resulted in a Filipino soldier losing his thumb in the South China Sea.

The Filipino sailor suffered the injury after what its military described as

"intentional-high speed ramming" by the Chinese Coast Guard.

It is the latest outbreak of violence amid heightening tensions over who owns the disputed seas. China claims 90 per cent of the sea as its own sovereign territory but Taiwan and other south-east Asian countries contest that. Both China and the Philippines have accused each other of taking provocative action that infringes on their territory.

Monday's clash occurred when Chinese boats blocked an attempt to resupply a Filipino outpost with food. The Second Thomas Shoal, a submerged

reef in the Spratly Islands, is part of a territory claimed by several nations.

The Philippines say the shoal falls within its internationally recognized exclusive economic zone often citing a 2016 international arbitration ruling invalidating China's expansive South China Sea claims based on historical grounds.

China, meanwhile, also lays claim to it and says the soldiers didn't move out of the way when ordered. The coast guard seized two inflatable boats from the sailors before confiscating weapons that were on board. Pictures released by

the Philippine army show Chinese coast guards threateningly wielding axes, pikes and knives.

One boat can be seen deflated with a long slash in its side. The communications system and windscreen of the other are smashed, the photos show.

Gilberto Teodoro Jr, Philippine defence secretary, said his country would resist "China's dangerous and reckless behaviour", which "contravenes their statements of good faith and decency".

"We will exert our utmost in order to fulfil our sworn mandate to protect our

territorial integrity, sovereignty, and sovereign rights," Mr Teodoro said.

After the incident, the US warned that Beijing was engaged in "dangerous actions that threatened regional peace and stability".

Washington affirmed its commitment to a mutual defence pact with Manila which "extends to armed attacks on Philippine armed forces, public vessels, or aircraft – including those of its coast guard – anywhere in the South China Sea", said Matthew Miller, the State department spokesman. The incidents have led to fears that the US may

be dragged into a war in the region to defend its ally. Antony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, called Enrique Manalo, the Philippine Foreign Secretary, following Monday's incident to discuss China's "dangerous and irresponsible actions".

In April, the Philippines accused China's coast guard of harassment and of damaging two of its boats.

Its task force said a coast guard ship and a fisheries vessel were damaged by water cannons used by Chinese coast guard ships, as the vessels headed to Scarborough shoal.

# US cancels meeting with Israel over withholding arms 'stunt'

By Nicola Smith in Jerusalem

THE White House has reportedly called off a high-level meeting with Israel on Iran after Benjamin Netanyahu publicly accused Washington of withholding arms deliveries.

The Israeli prime minister lashed out at his ally in a video, saying it was "inconceivable" that Washington was withholding weapons and ammunition at a time of war.

The White House expressed surprise at his statement, which came just a week after Antony Blinken, the US secretary of state, had offered assurances on the arms supplies issue to the Israeli prime minister during a visit to Jerusalem.

Karine Jean-Pierre, the White House press secretary, said: "We genuinely do not know what he is talking about."

A White House official told *The Times of Israel*: "As we said in the briefing yesterday, we have no idea what the prime minister is talking about, but that's not a reason for rescheduling a meeting."

"We have been working to find a time to schedule the next SDG that accounts for the travel and availability of princi-

pals, but have not yet fully finalised the details so nothing has been cancelled."

A US official told Axios: "This decision makes it clear that there are consequences for pulling such stunts."

Mr Blinken earlier said that one shipment of 2,000-pound bombs was still under review, but everything else was "moving as it normally would". A senior Israeli official also told Axios: "The Americans are fuming. Bibi's [Mr Netanyahu's] video made a lot of damage."

Washington's annoyance at his public criticisms is said to have been conveyed by Amos Hochstein, an envoy sent to the region this week by Joe Biden, the US president, to try to avert a major conflict on Israel's northern border with Lebanon. Thousands of rockets, anti-tank missiles and explosive drones have been fired into Israel by Lebanon-based Hezbollah since the Oct 7 attacks, prompting the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) to retaliate with strikes against the terror group's commanders.

A recent escalation in the intensity and firepower of the cross-border hostilities has triggered fears of the conflict tipping into a regional war.

On Tuesday, Israel warned Hezbollah of the consequences of an "all-out war" after the group released a nine-minute video.

Israel Katz, Israel's foreign minister, said: "We are very close to the moment of decision to change the rules of engagement with Hezbollah and Lebanon. In an all-out war, Hezbollah will be destroyed and Lebanon will be severely damaged."

Maj Gen Ori Gordin, the head of the IDF's Northern Command, and Maj Gen Oded Basiuk, the head of the Operations Directorate, also revealed that they had approved Lebanon battle plans.

Israel has said it will not tolerate a situation where tens of thousands of people have been forced to abandon their homes in the north under daily bombardment. A similar number have fled on the Lebanese side of the border.

Hezbollah has said it will attack the north as long as the war in Gaza continues.

Yesterday, a senior IDF commander operating in Rafah, southern Gaza, told Israel's public broadcaster Kan he believed the ground manoeuvres there would be concluded within a month.

# Macron accused of 'crass transphobia'

By Vivian Song in Paris

EMMANUEL MACRON has been accused of being transphobic after lashing out at the election manifesto of a new Left-wing coalition.

Attacking the pledges of the New Popular Front, the French president denounced its proposals allowing people to legally change their gender before a town hall official as "completely ludicrous".

Mélanie Vogel, a Green senator said: "Macron is wallowing in crass transphobia."

Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the leader of the far-Left France Unbowed party, was also quick to criticise the president, calling his comments "outrageous".

"The president is unaware of the amount of suffering involved for those concerned," he said.

"Other countries have understood that people must be allowed to come to terms with themselves officially and be recognised as such."

Mr Macron's off-the-cuff remark also provoked indignation from members of his own party.

Clément Beaune, a former transport minister, said: "For trans people, for



Emmanuel Macron has been asked to reflect on his latest remarks

LGBT people, for everyone ... we must reject any stigma in political discourse and advance rights."

During an impromptu conversation with French media on Tuesday, Mr Macron said he did not regret calling the snap election with weeks to go before the start of the Paris Olympics.

"I did not do this lightly. This is one of the most difficult decisions I have made in seven years."

"It's not a solitary decision," Mr Macron said. The 46-year-old president

also admitted being deeply disappointed by the European elections in which the far-Right National Rally trounced his liberal and centrist Renaissance party.

"I understood the message of the defeat of the Europeans and I've drawn the consequences," Mr Macron said.

"If the French trust us again, things won't be the same as before. We'll have to be even more open about the substance of the measures, as well as the way we govern."

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Comment

# Are we really going to drug children not to be so fat?

JEMIMA LEWIS



In 1904, the brusquely named Interdepartmental Committee on Physical Deterioration published a damning report on the health of the British nation. The recent Boer War, it was generally agreed, could have been won much more quickly if Britain's soldiers hadn't been shockingly small and weak compared with the Dutch settlers they were fighting in South Africa. Indeed, the Army had been forced to turn away up to 60 per cent of would-be recruits because they were in such poor physical condition.

The committee identified various factors behind this national enfeeblement, including industrial pollution, alcoholism and the "incurable laziness" of the British housewife – but above all, diet. The working classes were living off tea, white bread and jam, and this was stunting their children. In 1904, boys at public schools were five inches (or 12.7cm) taller than those at free schools for the poor.

More than a century on, *plus ça change*. A report by the Food Foundation has warned that Britain's children are once again shrinking because of bad food. The average height of a five-year-old in this country, which had risen steadily until 2013, is now on a steep downward trajectory. Our five-year-olds are among the shortest in the developed world – 7cm smaller than their Dutch peers.

The cheap, ultra-processed food that makes up around 60 per cent of the British diet has the paradoxical quality that it can make you both undernourished and overweight. Childhood obesity has increased by 30 per cent since 2006, with one in five now obese by the time they leave primary school. Cases of Type 2 diabetes among the young have increased by 22 per cent in just five years.

Childhood ill-health on this scale is creating (along with much personal suffering) a fiscal tsunami.

Around 80 per cent of obese teenagers will remain obese for the rest of their life, massively increasing their susceptibility to heart disease, cancer, diabetes, muscular-skeletal problems and even depression. All of which then has to be treated by our overstretched health services. And of course, ill people can't work, so that means ever-declining productivity and tax receipts. We will keep getting sicker, and less able to afford this sickness.

Successive governments have stood on the metaphorical beach watching this incoming disaster grow bigger and closer, and done nothing. They are afraid to intervene in our malfunctioning food system, in case they are accused of nanny-statism. (Unlike Lord Balfour, who introduced all manner of state interventions to improve the nation's health, including free school meals for the poor.)

Some politicians are clearly hoping that the new generation of weight-loss drugs will save the day. Rather than going to the bother and controversy of changing the food system, why not let individuals inject their way out of trouble? It's certainly true that drugs such as Wegovy can be a life-saver for adults who have failed to lose weight in other ways. But it's expensive (about £175 a month), the side-effects are still unclear, and you may have to stay on it for life if you want to keep the weight off.

Almost 40 per cent of children in this country are overweight. Putting them all on weight-loss drugs would be an unprecedented social and medical experiment. It could also bankrupt the NHS. But that is where political inertia will lead us: to a food system so toxic that even our children have to self-medicate to survive it.

*Jemima Lewis is the co-author, with Henry Dimbleby, of 'Ravenous: How to Get Ourselves and Our Planet into Shape'*



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# The coming French revolution will destroy the EU, and Starmer's dreams

France's election could lead to a financial crisis and a showdown with Brussels that dashes Labour's plans

ALLISTER HEATH



It is a terrifying showdown, an epic moment of truth that threatens to blow up the EU, trigger another Eurozone crisis and, just three days into his prime ministership, throw Sir Keir Starmer's immigration and trade plans into disarray. In two weeks' time, France will have either elected the most radical Right-wing populist government ever to control a nuclear power, opted for a rabidly anti-capitalist, anti-Western, far-Left coalition, or proved itself to be entirely ungovernable.

The centre won't hold. In extremis, President Emmanuel Macron may even have to resign. Chaos could overshadow the Olympics. I fear for the France I love, but above all I am angry at decades of failure by an arrogant, pseudo-meritocratic, overly Cartesian ruling class whose hatred of classical liberalism and disdain for conservative values are forcing the country into such an unpalatable choice.

The election's impact will be explosive. Macron has bequeathed a 5.5 per cent of GDP budget deficit and a 110 per cent of GDP national debt. These have already led to the country's credit rating being downgraded and to the EU launching an investigation for breach of the stability and growth pact. French bond yields are surging in

anticipation of drastic fiscal loosening whoever wins the election, potentially leading to a full-on financial crisis.

The Front Populaire – a miserable alliance of the extreme Left, socialists, communists, greens and assorted misfits – wants an immediate €50 billion a year tax increase and at least €106 billion extra a year in spending. It wants to raise income tax, reintroduce a punitive wealth tax, cap inheritances, jack up the minimum wage to €1,600 after tax a month and the pay of public sector workers by 10 per cent, cancel Macron's few positive reforms, and cut the retirement age to 62.

It will introduce gender self-ID, liberalise immigration, slap an embargo on arms sales to Israel and back the scandalous international court cases against the Jewish state. The manifesto is not just demotivated woke and Israelophobic but would bankrupt France, yet the Front Populaire is at 25 per cent in the polls. Assuming we don't end up with a hung parliament, a Rassemblement National (RN) government led by Jordan Bardella, Marine Le Pen's deputy, remains more likely. It is impossible to exaggerate the scale of the psychological shock that a Le Pen/Bardella victory would cause. The global great and good would be horrified. Swaths of French society, including many in the banlieues and unions, would be enraged.

There could be widespread disorder, violence, looting and strikes, leading to the most dangerous showdown since 1968. Some functionaries would refuse to co-operate. Financial markets would panic. The IMF, World Bank and White House will hate Bardella's net zero-defying tax cuts. He would slash VAT to 5.5 per cent from 20 per cent on carbon-intensive gas, energy and fuel, worth €17-€24 billion a year, and cut contributions to the EU by €2 billion,

both popular moves. But the deficit would rise, and – unlike with Liz Truss's supply-side agenda – there would be no long-term positive, pro-enterprise growth story as the RN is semi-socialist.

The European Central Bank may refuse to buy French bonds to stabilise the markets. The aim would be to humiliate Bardella and terminate Le Pen's presidential aspirations, but the EU may find it harder to defeat France than it was to control the likes of Italy and Greece. France is at the heart of the EU system, and will be backed by Italy's Giorgia Meloni. Bardella and his counter-elites may fight back successfully, threatening to withhold EU funding or cause havoc in other ways if they don't get their way.

Bardella wants to expel foreign criminals, abolish benefits paid to parents of delinquents, and end the practice whereby those born of foreign parents in France are entitled to French citizenship. But the reality is that the RN's broader agenda is incompatible with EU membership. It eventually seeks an immigration referendum that would slash numbers and reject most of the post-war rules on this subject. Le Pen and Bardella no longer say they want to leave the EU: the middle class fears a devaluation of their savings if the franc were reintroduced. But if he doesn't implode in his first few weeks, he will begin a gradual process of Frexit by stealth.

British Brexiters must remember that the RN used to be called the Front National. Its first treasurer was Pierre Bousquet, a former *Rottenführer* in the Waffen-SS Charlemagne Division. Jean-Marie Le Pen, who ran the party from 1972 to 2011, dismissed the Nazi gas chambers as a "detail". The party was racist, anti-Semitic and Vichyite, and a magnet for skinheads and thugs. It was anti-Gaullist and anti-free market

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and obsessed with downplaying *le maréchal* Philippe Pétain's despicable collaboration with the Nazis, France's darkest hour.

But the party has changed dramatically since then, as even Macron has admitted; we can but hope that the transformation is real. Le Pen Sr was purged by his daughter Marine. She has rejected *Pétainisme*, and is now pro-Israel and speaks out against anti-Semitism. She has belatedly turned against Putin. Eric Zemmour's new party now outflanks the RN from its Right. Bardella is the grandson of Italian and Algerian immigrants.

Men and women are now equally likely to vote RN, and 26 per cent of 18- to 24-year-olds backed them in the European elections. Serge Klarsfeld, a Holocaust survivor and France's pre-eminent Nazi hunter – who tracked down Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo butcher of Lyon, in Peru – now says that he will back the RN in the second round because it has changed. He is more afraid of the far Left. We will soon find out whether he is right, or whether he has been duped.

In the short term, chaos in France will be good for Starmer's centrist credentials, though high-tax, post-nom London won't gain from any exodus of French millionaires. In the longer term, a RN victory would be a nightmare for Starmer, exposing Labour's naive love of all things European as nonsensical and toxifying any rapprochement. There will be no deal on Channel crossings, numbers will rocket as migrants flee a crackdown in France and the UK begins to look like a soft touch. Starmer's pro-European Convention views would look outdated as the continent shifts Right-wards, emboldening the Tory or Reform opposition. The tectonic plates are shifting, and not just in France.

**There could be widespread disorder, violence, looting and strikes, leading to the most dangerous crisis since 1968**

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are dependent on government largesse for their incomes – working in a larger public sector, or relying on handouts in cash and in kind – they are unlikely to take kindly to pro-growth, smaller state policies.

Previous rounds of government expansion have already left our fiscal system highly unbalanced; more than half of households received more in benefits and public services than they paid in taxes in the latest figures, while the top 1 per cent of taxpayers provided 29 per cent of income tax revenue.

That squeeze of the productive is about to be redoubled, while more and more voters will find themselves on the dependent side of the ledger. It is, unfortunately, a strategy that is likely to work. That there is a great deal of ruin in a nation is both a positive statement – giving the possibility of recovery – and a negative; you can sustain misrule for a long time before the costs are made clear.

If Labour continues down the path it has begun to set out, we will see the effects phase in little by little: slower growth, and higher taxes for "normal" households as the rich and mobile begin to leave Britain. And unless we are fortunate, by the time we next have a chance to vote, we will find ourselves a considerable way down the road to serfdom.

# Labour will put us on the road to serfdom

Starmer could hardly have made it clearer: his party plans to tax the productive to bribe dependent voters

SAM ASHWORTH-HAYES



Two weeks from polling day, with the manifestos out and the first postal votes already trickling in, the Labour Party is busy engaging in a public debate over what its promises actually mean. Having pledged to avoid raising taxes on "working people", Rachel Reeves and Sir Keir Starmer have now been forced to define this term, offering three explanations in two days.

First, Sir Keir set out a bold definition, suggesting that it meant people who earn a living, rely on public services and don't have savings. Once it was pointed out that this excluded 95 per cent of working-age families, out came Reeves with the tautological "working people are people who go out to work". Finally, Starmer refined

his remarks, noting that he (2022-23 income: £404,000) was "a working person".

So there we are: no tax rises for anyone other than students, the unemployed and pensioners. And if you believe that, I have a bridge to sell you. From where I stand, Sir Keir's first, unguarded reaction was the most informative of the lot: working people use the NHS, rather than private healthcare, and don't save for a rainy day.

This should confirm every concern people have about the coming Labour government: that Starmer and Reeves will tax you and your assets to fund those who don't want to work. Given the emphasis placed on public services, the party's self-imposed fiscal rules and the billions in additional spending needed to prevent real-terms cuts to services, it would be optimistic to the brink of foolishness to believe otherwise.

After all, the last time Labour was in government, it oversaw the largest increase in public spending as a share of GDP in the OECD. Even before the financial crisis, once liberated from the pledge to follow Tory spending plans, it proceeded to spend freely, driving up debt as it fell across the rest of the developed world, and setting the stage for a long and painful period of

austerity as the structural deficit was reduced. Since 1970, no Labour chancellor has left office with the country facing a lower tax burden.

It would be difficult for Starmer to make it any clearer how he believes elections are fought and won. Flick through the Labour manifesto and a pattern quickly emerges: votes are bought bloc by bloc with promises of public money and favourable legal changes until enough are scraped together to form a winning coalition, with the bill to be paid by the losers.

This is not politics as rational government – taking on responsibility for the country as a whole, looking to create economic growth and prosperity across society – but politics as tribalism, with worthy voters rewarded at the expense of the outgroup. And the damage done is likely to be long-lasting.

After a decade out of office, Labour has made it clear that it will do everything in its power to rig the political game in its favour, hiving off powers to quangos and bureaucracies, lowering the voting age in a form of demographic gerrymandering, reshaping the Lords into something more in line with its values and strengthening devolution.

A larger state is just another way for Labour to keep in power. When voters

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ESTABLISHED 1855

## Labour doesn't deserve this lead

Our latest opinion poll makes for grim reading for the Conservatives. The Savanta MRP projections would leave just 53 Tories in the Commons and give Labour 516 seats. The Liberal Democrats would be just behind the Conservatives on 50 and within striking distance of forming the official Opposition.

To call this possible outcome unprecedented would be an understatement. It would be a shattering blow to the most successful political party the world has known. It took four elections, after Labour's landslide in 1997, for the Conservatives to form another government on their own in 2015. After the calamity of 1906, when they won just 156 seats, it was another 16 years (and a war) before the Tories were back in office.

But to be reduced to double figures, with much of the current Cabinet losing their seats, would be a catastrophe. The Savanta projections even suggest that Rishi Sunak would lose Richmond in Yorkshire, the first prime minister ever to be ejected from the Commons in a general election.

This would be a so-called "extinction-level event" from which the Conservatives, as currently structured, may not recover without help from others on the Right, notably Reform UK. Indeed, it is the extent of support drifting to Nigel Farage's party that is one of the main causes of this potential meltdown.

More than that, it is the Reform leader's expressed purpose to destroy the Tories as a functioning political entity, though the poll projects that his party will fail to win a single seat, not even Clacton where Mr Farage is standing. The poll still shows the Tories well ahead of Reform in share of the vote, though some surveys have put them neck-and-neck.

We have been critical of many of the things the Conservatives have done, or failed to do, over the past 14 years. But the idea that they have been so uniquely awful that they merit their virtual destruction is absurd, as is the idea that Labour deserves such a huge majority. Labour constantly attributes the political turmoil of the past few years to some inherent Tory defect when it was largely the function of unusual circumstances, beginning with the political upheaval of Brexit, and followed by the crises triggered by the Covid pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It may be argued that the Conservatives should have handled these with greater acumen, but it cannot be denied that they were exceptional events. Brexit accounts for the ructions inside the party, Covid for the country's deepening indebtedness, and Ukraine for the cost of living crisis. No governing party would have withstood even one of these without being shaken to the core.

The ill-starred administration of Liz Truss and the impact it had on the markets, forcing her resignation, was arguably the worst of all of these occurrences because it has fed a Labour narrative of "chaos". The word was banded around on the airwaves yesterday by Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, to persuade voters that Labour, by contrast, would usher in a period of calm and prudence.

Yet Labour is perpetuating a myth. When Mr Sunak and Jeremy Hunt took over 18 months ago, they steadied the ship, reassured the markets, and sought to rebuild the Tory party's reputation for competent governance.

The inflation rate is now back to 2 per cent – the Bank of England target – for the first time since before Russia's invasion; more people are in work than ever; real wages are growing once more; and there is effectively full employment, with nearly one million vacancies to fill. The economy is doing better than that of Germany or France. Indeed, all political incumbents in Western democratic nations are being punished by voters, as attested by the recent election for the European parliament.

However, under the first-past-the-post system, small percentage shifts in support can lead to dramatic losses. For the Tories, threatened on all sides, this can translate into dozens of seats they would normally have held.

Labour could conceivably win a majority above 350 yet have a smaller proportion of the vote than Jeremy Corbyn in 2017. On a low turnout, it could only have the support of about 30 per cent of the total electorate. This is hardly a mandate for "change". Traditional Tories thinking of deserting the party on July 4 need to think long and hard about the consequences of doing so.

## Wipe the slate clean

Emergency powers taken during the Covid pandemic led to activities being criminalised that would usually be considered perfectly normal. Walking in the street, sitting on a park bench, visiting one's family for Christmas, failing to wear a mask – even joining a few friends for drinks – were subject to penalties depending on the circumstances. Almost 30,000 people received convictions and a criminal record for doing things that by no measure could be regarded as criminal, yet which broke the law in place at the time. People who observed some of these absurd restrictions may say "serves them right"; but Sir Robert Buckland, the former justice secretary, says they should not have their career prospects jeopardised by these exceptional events. We agree. It is time to wipe the Covid slate clean.



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## Labour's message to hard workers is that prudence will be punished

SIR – Now that we finally have an idea of what Sir Keir Starmer means by "working people", we have a very good reason not to vote for the Labour Party on July 4 ("Tax raid fear as Starmer suggests savers are 'not working people'", report, June 19).

My son has had a job since the age of 16, with barely any time off, and worked all through Covid. He is bringing up a family, and he and his wife have saved. They have been prudent to be sure of having money for a rainy day.

Why would anyone seek to succeed and generate wealth under Labour? **Barbara Lloyd**  
*Ossett, West Yorkshire*

SIR – It seems that the kind of "working person" Labour has in mind is someone who has savings of less than £1,000 (report, June 19).

Is Sir Keir Starmer suggesting that anyone trying to better themselves by saving for a deposit for a home, or putting a bit aside for

an emergency, or making sure that they have enough for their care in old age, shouldn't be counted among "working people"?

What utter nonsense. **Francesca Button**  
*Portsmouth, Hampshire*

SIR – I retired from teaching in a state primary school in 1996 and immediately started a tuition-at-home service.

My husband and I spent the money I earned on lovely cruise holidays and upgrading aspects of our home.

Recently, however, holidays have had to be cancelled – first due to the Covid pandemic and then because of illness. Refunds and insurance claims had to be made.

All the money we had saved was from taxed income, but we now have what Sir Keir Starmer might call considerable savings.

Why should we be punished?

**Yvonne Jones**  
*Horley, Surrey*

SIR – As a tax lawyer, I can confirm that wealth is already leaving the country over fear of a headline Labour policy on non-doms (report, June 19).

Neither Labour nor the Conservatives has stated exactly what reforming the non-dom status will look like. This is needlessly putting the financial best interests of our country at risk. For many it's not knowing where they stand that's causing nervousness.

Aside from the changes to taxation for international individuals who have a presence in the UK, there are changes proposed to the long-term taxation of offshore vehicles such as trusts, many of which have been established by people before becoming domiciled in the UK.

It is the possibility of these (as yet unsubstantiated) changes that is causing the most significant concern and upheaval. We need clarity from both main parties quickly.

**Jon Shankland**  
*London EC3*

## Links to fossil fuels

SIR – You report (June 17) that Cambridge University may sever ties with Barclays and Lloyds over links to fossil fuels. I wonder how the colleges heat their huge buildings. If they do so with either oil or gas then, by their own logic, they must stop immediately.

**David Jones**  
*Cambridge*

SIR – Am I right to assume that Cambridge would refuse to accept students who pay fees via these banks?

**Carol White**  
*Northwold, Norfolk*

## Trans children's battle

SIR – I am a 68-year-old grandmother of three, one of whom is trans. Michael Deacon implies I might be a proponent of gender ideology ("Tony Blair's bizarre statement on trans rights sums up the madness of our times", Comment, June 18). I see things differently.

I made the uncomfortable decision to put to one side the sanctity of my own opinions and instead respectfully engage with my trans grandchild. I have gained much as a result.

Significantly, I now understand that my beloved grandchild bears a terrible burden navigating life in a context that is antithetical to their very existence. Consequently, I live daily with a visceral fear for their safety and future.

History, across multiple cultures, demonstrates that gender diversity is not a modern phenomenon; affording any public space to those that embody this reality is new.

My decision to learn to live with my own discomfort and listen has taught me many things, above all, perhaps, humility – a quality we would all benefit from cultivating.

**M McTeague**  
*Bristol*

## Excuses, excuses

SIR – "Chewed by dog" was just one of many excuses (Letters, June 17) I heard from readers during my years as a librarian. I also had "dropped in bath" and "left on tennis court and it rained all night". Of course, this book was a manual on tennis strokes.

**Isabel Wood**  
*Barnoldswick, Lancashire*

SIR – I'm reorganising the books in my study, and am bemused that there seems to be no standardisation of sizes. I can forgive the larger format of art and architecture books, but why are textbooks in so many shapes and sizes?

**Kenneth Preston**  
*Royal Hillsborough, Co Down*



Green spaces: cars parked at the Royal Portbury Dock in Avonmouth, Bristol

## Parking apps driving the public to distraction

SIR – I have three apps on my phone that I use for parking in various parts of the country ("How RingGo took over the high street car park", Business, June 18).

In many places, it is necessary to visit a ticket machine to find out which app to use and the location code. One might as well pay at the ticket machine.

We need better rules for provision of public parking, starting with prominent displays of app names and location numbers.

There should also be no differentials in rates according to method of payment. Charging must be proportional to actual duration on site.

**Dr Andrew McHutchon**  
*Harrogate, North Yorkshire*

SIR – RingGo, and other parking app companies, are the new

highwaymen of our age. These are private companies whose profits derive from monetisation of public space. They should be taxed more to pay back this benefit.

**John Jones**  
*London SW19*

SIR – I am in my seventies and now have seven different apps for parking on my phone. I find the whole system simple and convenient – indeed, I was pleasantly surprised in France last week to discover that I could pay just over €3 to park for three hours using one of them.

If ageing drivers are still capable of negotiating our busy roads and the ever-more complex features in modern cars, surely they can also learn to use simple apps.

**David Barnett**  
*Newark, Nottinghamshire*

## An invitation to lunch with Harold Wilson

SIR – My father had a long stay in a hospital in Oxford, and I promised to take him and my mother to Sunday lunch in my favourite hostelry, close to Chequers, when he was released.

On arrival I was told that the prime minister, Harold Wilson (Letters, June 19), and his wife Mary and their son Robin were having Sunday lunch, and so the restaurant was closed to the public.

I explained how much my parents had been looking forward to their visit, and the situation with my father's illness. The owner went to pass this on to Mr Wilson, who said he would be delighted if we joined them for lunch.

My mother, a staunch Labour supporter, dined out on this story for years.

**Dr Christine Simons**  
*Denbigh*

# Desperation is making Putin even more dangerous

Russia and North Korea are both weak, but their new defence agreement should alarm the Western alliance

CON COUGHLIN



There is nothing "peaceful" about the defence pact that Vladimir Putin signed yesterday with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Jong-un. On the contrary, the comprehensive strategic partnership agreed between the two leaders during the Russian president's visit to Pyongyang demonstrates the deepening bond between two rogue states whose main aim is to forge a new "axis of evil" to confront the West.

As Putin explained in a letter that was published by the North Korean media before his visit, forging a pact between Moscow and Pyongyang is key to confronting efforts by the US and its allies to impose a "neocolonialist dictatorship" around the globe.

At the heart of the agreement is a mutual defence deal that requires both countries to come to one another's aid in the event of them coming under attack. After Kim hailed the signing of the "peaceful and defensive" pact, Putin made clear that it included "the provision of mutual assistance

in the event of aggression against one of the parties".

In what might be called the "poor man's Nato", the fact that both these regimes have felt it necessary to rally to each other's defence is indicative of their fundamental weakness.

The signing ceremony itself had overtones of the Soviet era, when Moscow helped to establish the Kim dynasty in power at the end of the Second World War. The North Koreans did their best to project the importance of their anti-Western agreement, with the carefully choreographed meeting between the two leaders taking place before a massive banner declaring that "North Korean-Russian friendship will be eternal". For his part, Putin tried to impress Kim by giving him a £250,000 Aurus limousine – known as the "Russian Rolls-Royce".

But these conspicuous displays of dictatorial consumption cannot disguise the fact that the increasing military co-operation between Moscow and Pyongyang has been forged out of desperation.

For all Putin's bravado about the progress he claims his forces are making in their military offensive in Ukraine, the stark truth is that the Russians have suffered catastrophic losses – Western intelligence estimates suggest the number of Russian war dead has now passed the 350,000 mark – and are struggling to resupply front-line forces with weapons and men.

If, as Putin would like the world to believe, Russia really has become a military superpower to rival the

Western alliance, then Moscow would not be going cap in hand to a tinpot dictator like Kim begging for arms.

The North Koreans are in an even worse state. Pyongyang is in desperate need of food, fuel, cash and high-end weapons technology to help it survive the economic sanctions imposed over its nuclear weapons programme.

Even so, the danger to international security that deeper co-operation between these two nuclear-armed dictatorships poses cannot be underestimated.

The military support provided by North Korea, together with China and Iran, has proved vital to sustaining Putin's war effort at a time when the Russian military is running short of weapons. Since Kim initiated his closer association with Putin last September, when he travelled in his armoured train to meet the Russian leader at a space-launch base in Russia's Far East, there has been a dramatic increase in the delivery of North Korean munitions.

US officials report that more than 10,000 shipping containers filled with artillery shells, missiles and other weaponry have been sent to Russia, with at least 10 North Korean-made missiles being launched against Ukrainian targets since September. Pyongyang's missile systems are based on Soviet-era designs – as are Iran's – which means they can be easily adapted for Russian firing systems.

What Kim gets in return for providing military support for Putin is more opaque, although the North

## Hidden artefacts

SIR – If Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum decided it could remove Igbo artefacts from display in the interests of "cultural safety" because Igbo culture forbids women from seeing them (report, June 18), then this would beg the question: would the ethnic groups from whom such objects originated be harmed by the millions of women who might have already seen them? Have such groups ever complained?

**Jean-Marc Evans**  
*London N12*

SIR – I am intrigued, and not a little horrified, by the practice of concealing museum artefacts from female patrons "to respect the gender conventions of other cultures" (report, June 19).

The suggestion that female professional museum staff may not see or handle the exhibits is even more disgraceful.

What happened to respecting the gender conventions of our own culture?

**Hilary Aitken**  
*Kilmacolin, Renfrewshire*

## Flawed Troubles Act

SIR – Families who lost loved ones in the Troubles are unanimous in their view that the Legacy Act is an abomination, which would put justice out of reach forever.

The High Court in Belfast ruled earlier this year that core parts of the Act breach human rights.

Far from presenting a danger (report, telegraph.co.uk, June 16), repealing the legislation will contribute to societal healing and help the provision of longed-for answers.

Families deserve the truth of what happened to their loved ones. To characterise due process as vexatious is insulting to victims and undermines the basic tenet of the rule of law.

The next UK government must not only repeal, but also replace this flawed Act with processes that put victims and their rights to truth, justice and reparations at its centre.

**Grainne Teggart**  
*Deputy Director, Northern Ireland Amnesty International UK*  
*London EC2*

## From pillar to post

SIR – The door fell off the pillar box (Letters, June 18) at the end of our street on June 11 2022. Royal Mail wrapped it in black plastic, and so it remained until May 24 this year, when "maintenance" turned up to give it a coat of paint.

It was explained what the problem was, and we were assured that it would be repaired within six weeks. The street waits with bated breath.

**Gill Read**  
*Kelvedon, Essex*

SIR – I've been a professional decorator for 40 years. In 2016, appalled at the condition of the postboxes in Shefford, Bedfordshire, I took it upon myself to paint all seven in order to commemorate Elizabeth II's 90th birthday.

I picked out the crown in gold paint and the ER in black. A year later the Post Office repainted them all, saying that I had not done it to their standard – in other words, not completely red.

The mayor of Shefford at the time wrote to the late Queen saying how appalled he was that the Post Office had done this, as the postboxes looked so good.

The mayor and I received a reply from her personal secretary, saying that she had read the letter, and thanked us for what we had done.

This letter remains my most prized possession.

**Ray Powell**  
*Shefford, Bedfordshire*

Koreans make no secret of their desire to advance their space, missile and nuclear programmes.

It is surely no coincidence that, not long after Kim's return from last September's meeting with Putin at Russia's Vostochny Cosmodrome spaceport, the North Koreans finally managed to launch their first military reconnaissance satellite, the "Malligyong-1", after two previous failed attempts. Having access to such satellites enhances North Korea's ability to target opposition forces more accurately with its missiles.

Pyongyang is also seeking access to Russian expertise in other areas, such as advanced weaponry, nuclear enrichment and atomic propulsion for submarines.

It is a moot point how much technological co-operation Putin is prepared to accept with Pyongyang, especially if it risks alienating another key ally of the Kremlin, China. Because the other consideration Western leaders need to take on board is that the new North Korean-Russian defence pact should not be viewed in isolation. Both countries are also closely aligned with Iran and China, two autocratic regimes that are similarly committed to undermining the Western alliance. And the closer they work together, the more of a risk they will pose to our future security.

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## TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

### KAKURO

To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution tomorrow.*

**TOUGH NO 5057**

### CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*

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

For today's right-hand codewords solutions call 0905 757 0131. For up to five extra letter clues call 0905 757 0130 or text DTCODE (leaving no spaces) to 64343. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri, 9pm - 11pm. Helpline 0333 202 3390.

### NO 3291

DJANGO

- Across**
- Paper announced original recording for Gareth Malone, say (11)
  - Flags up Toyota satnav route errors finally (5)
  - Prime Minister's Eastern philosophy is for everyone (9)
  - Diamond League in Boston or Chicago? (4,5)
  - A book hard men hate (5)
  - Maybe soldier's shot outside hut (6)
  - Essentially find leaving son out of inheritance obscene (8)
  - Rebellious American raced back with it (8)
  - Deliver flower around 12? Quite the reverse! (6)
  - Extremely strange and unusual watery liquid (5)
  - Maintain establishment, putting *Carry On Doctor* on American TV (4,5)
  - Let client supply understanding (9)
  - Medic that is assuming smallest dose of Viagra creates urge (5)
  - Inflamed Liberal axes red tape (11)
- Down**
- Ruin both avocado sandwiches (5)
  - Enlightenment coming soon (7)
  - Weak signal starts when hearing any ship becomes problem for travellers (6,8)
  - Score ninth and Pep Guardiola's head's working out where to spend money? (8,6)
  - Occasionally taking tennis shot near net (7)
  - Excited Spanish gathering in Madrid for the soccer match principally expect this from decent competitors (13)
  - Realise this writer only half read material (8)
  - Fiery sort of drink mixed in proper proportions (5-8)
  - Eagerness of group of drivers touring Latvia's capital city, Riga, initially to go inside (8)
  - See 4 Down
  - Devious pair making posh maiden cross (7)
  - Unusual layer cake ultimately placed on plates perhaps cracked by daughter (7)
  - See 5 Down
  - Squadron supported by European ally (5)

### KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. *Solution tomorrow.*

**TOUGH**

### SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3 x 3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. *Solutions tomorrow.*

**REGULAR NO 6627**

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

**TOUGH NO 6627**

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

**Sudoku Solution** For today's tough sudoku solution call 0905 757 0136. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri, 9pm - 11pm. Helpline 0333 202 3390.

### PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution tomorrow.*

Up to 5 words - Word Finder, 6 - Wordsmith, 12 - Word Wizard, 19 - Word Master, 25 - Word Genius, 32 - Word Perfect

### ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a term relating to cricket. *Solution tomorrow.*

- PERSON I LBW  
VENOMED AIR  
CRY AT DUTIES

### MIND GYM

NO 4349

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. *Solution below.*

| BEGINNER     |    | TRIPLE IT    |  | HALVE IT |  | 6/7 OF THIS |  | 3/4 OF THIS |  | -46   |  | X BY ITSELF |  | ANSWER      |  |        |
|--------------|----|--------------|--|----------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|--------|
| 21           | +3 | x13          |  | -105     |  |             |  |             |  |       |  |             |  |             |  |        |
| INTERMEDIATE |    | 140% OF THIS |  | -81      |  | 3/4 OF THIS |  | √           |  | x7.75 |  | TRIPLE IT   |  | ANSWER      |  |        |
| 56           |    |              |  |          |  |             |  |             |  |       |  |             |  |             |  |        |
| ADVANCED     |    | TRIPLE IT    |  | HALVE IT |  | 6/7 OF THIS |  | -51         |  | x8.4  |  | 60% OF THIS |  | 4/9 OF THIS |  | ANSWER |
| 18           | x9 |              |  | -192     |  |             |  |             |  |       |  |             |  |             |  |        |

### Toughie No 3290

**Help with clues**  
Single clues 0905 757 0126.  
All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127.  
Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Service open Mon-Fri, 9pm - 11pm. Helpline 0333 2023390.

### TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*

### MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

**MODERATE NO 4116**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 6 | 1 |   | 4 |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   | 2 |   |   | 3 |
|   | 5 |   | 4 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 5 |

### PLUSWORD

NO 760

Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword. There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing. *Solution tomorrow.*

- Across**
- Florida city
  - Not together
  - Ruin
  - Transcendental retribution
  - Mistakes; petticoats
- Down**
- They're set by Alex Horne on TV
  - Horror
  - New Zealander
  - \_\_\_ and preen
  - Book of maps

Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code



### WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

- BEACH, SOLE, FELL, PATH, ANSWERED, PROPERTY

## THE SOLUTIONS

**Yesterday's solutions**

**Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6626**

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

**PlusWord No 759**

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| F | R | E | E | D |
| L | A | R | V | A |
| A | I | R | E | R |
| S | T | O | N | E |
| K | A | R | T | S |

**Killer Sudoku**

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

**Mini Sudoku No 4115**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 |

**Codewords 1 and 2**

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

**Kakuro No 5056**

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

**Today's Mind Gym**

Beginner: 64 Intermediate: 364 Advanced: 168

The Telegraph  
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VIP

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# Business



| MARKETS   |   | CURRENCIES   |   | COMMODITIES                                      |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <b>FTSE 100</b><br><br><b>8205.11</b><br>-13.82 (+0.17pc) | <b>BIGGEST RISER</b><br>Smurfit Kappa<br><b>3750p</b><br>+172 (+4.81pc) | <b>BIGGEST FALER</b><br>Berkeley Gp Hdg<br><b>4694p</b><br>-316 (-6.31pc)                        | <b>DOW JONES</b><br><br><b>38834.86</b><br>Closed   | <b>FTSE 250</b> 20381.05<br>-28.88 (-0.14pc)     | <b>£\$</b><br>Rate<br><b>1.2732</b><br>Change<br>+0.42c | <b>GOLD</b><br><b>\$2328.28</b><br>(£1829)<br>-0.92 (-0.04pc)       |
| <b>FTSE All Share</b> 4473.37<br>+5.42 (+0.12pc)          | <b>FTSE All Share Yield</b> 3.68<br>-0.01                               | <b>FTSE Eurotop 100</b> 4077.84<br>-7.30 (-0.18pc)   | <b>Nikkei 225</b> 38570.76<br>+88.65 (+0.23pc)      | <b>EURO STOXX 50</b> 4885.45<br>-30.02 (-0.61pc) | <b>£€</b><br>Rate<br><b>1.1845</b><br>Change<br>+0.28c  | <b>BRENT CRUDE</b><br><b>\$85.07</b><br>(August)<br>-0.26 (-0.30pc) |
| <b>S&amp;P 500</b> 5487.03<br>Closed                      | <b>Nasdaq</b> 17862.23<br>Closed  | <b>52WkHigh</b> 8474.41<br><b>52WkLow</b> 7215.76<br>Yield 3.73pc -0.01<br>P/E Ratio 13.62 +0.03 | <b>52WkHigh</b> 40077.40<br><b>52WkLow</b> 32327.20 | Page 22  | Page 22   | Page 21   |

**Rule bound**  
A post-crisis reckoning has left the City tangled up in red tape — and smothered growth in the process

**Time to cash out?**  
2024 has been a good year for investing so far but a raft of elections threatens to change all that  
*Tom Stevenson*

## Barclay family left £278m black hole in Telegraph

The newspaper's former owners extracted more than £200m in loans that are unlikely to be repaid

By Christopher Williams  
BUSINESS EDITOR

THE *Telegraph* has revealed a £278m black hole in its finances as a result of loans extracted by the Barclay family, which are unlikely ever to be repaid. Attempts to trace the cash via a network of companies controlled by the Barclay family have been unsuccessful as part of a review of seven years of potentially irregular transactions that has drawn interest from criminal investigators. Specialists from HMRC and the National Crime Agency, which acts as an information clearing house for financial authorities including the Serious Fraud Office, have been in contact with the company and its advisers. It has not been disclosed if investigations have been launched and the Barclay family declined to comment. The £278m, recorded as a "provision" in accounts for 2023 newly filed at Companies House, pushed *The Telegraph* to a record loss of £245m last year despite what its leaders said was a strong underlying performance. The sum includes more than £200m extracted as loans on annual amounts in the tens of millions, as well as more than £20m in fees related to the ownership crisis that has gripped the business since last summer. A further £55m relates to a corporate loan. The losses on paper came despite rises in turnover and underlying earnings that were driven by growth in digital subscriptions and advertising. *The Telegraph's* independent directors, brought in when the Barclay family lost control a year ago, said the underlying business remains healthy. Turnover increased by 5pc to £268m, within which digital subscription revenue was up 18pc and digital advertising 33pc. Total subscriptions, which include print and digital, puzzles and "bonus" free subscriptions, topped one million after climbing more than 300,000. Overall, 42pc of turnover was drawn from digital subscriptions and

advertising, up from 28pc in the previous year. Underlying earnings, excluding exceptional costs triggered by the ownership crisis, were £60m, up 28pc. Anna Jones, chief executive of Telegraph Media Group since January, said: "2023 reinforced the strength and resilience of Telegraph Media Group as a business. The substantial growth in our operating profit, pre-exceptional items, last year was driven by significant advances in both digital advertising and digital subscription revenue. "Against a backdrop of uncertainty surrounding its future ownership, the business has continued to excel and be recognised for its successes." In April, *The Telegraph* won news website of the year for the second year running at the Press Awards. The success came after Lloyds Banking Group seized control of the business as part of a dispute with the Barclay family over overdue loans of £1.2bn that were secured against it. The lender then installed independent directors, who still oversee the company and have been aware of the intercompany loan issue for some months. Lloyds planned to sell *The Telegraph* via an auction, which was derailed in December when the Barclay family repaid their debt in full. Most of the cash came from new borrowing from Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, the deputy prime minister of the UAE. The Barclay family regained ownership of *The Telegraph* but not control after ministers intervened. RedBird IMI, a private equity vehicle that acted as a conduit for Sheikh Mansour's money, planned to convert its £600m lending into ownership of *The Telegraph* and *The Spectator* magazine. It was ultimately blocked this year after a cross-party outcry prompted legislation to ban foreign state influence over British newspapers and websites. RedBird IMI is now preparing a second auction for the coming weeks. In the accounts, the independent directors, led by Mike McTigue, the chairman, alongside Stephen Welch and Boudewijn Wentink, said: "As part of the receivership and sale processes in the year, a detailed review of historic transactions was undertaken  
*Continued on Page 18*



**Man vs machine** Elon Musk with his son at the Cannes Lions festival in France. At the event, the Tesla chief predicted the chance of AI-related disaster at "10pc to 20pc".

## Ferrari to launch its first EV – with a premium price

By Matt Oliver

FERRARI is preparing to launch its first electric car with a price tag of more than £500,000 (£422,000). The luxury Italian brand, best known for making petrol sports cars with roaring engines, is preparing to launch the new model next year. It will be one of the most expensive in the marque's line-up, with the headline price tag not including extras that can add up to 20pc to the final cost, according to Reuters. That would easily put it towards the top end of the carmaker's current offering, reflecting the higher costs of making battery-powered EVs. The average sale price of a new Ferrari is currently around €350,000. The SF90 Spider is the most expensive of the existing retail models at around \$575,000 (£452,000), while the special series SF90XX Stradale and SF90XX Spider cost even more at \$844,000 and \$932,000 respectively. Ferrari is said to be working on a second electric model as well. The move will be seen as a vote of confidence in the luxury electric vehicle (EV) market, at a time when other brands such as Porsche and Aston Martin have sounded a note of caution about customer enthusiasm for electric cars. Lawrence Stroll, Aston Martin's billionaire owner and chairman, has previously warned that many drivers still wanted "the sports car smell and feel and noise". In an attempt to replicate the "driving pleasure" of petrol cars, Ferrari has patented technology that will preserve the signature roar of its engines even after electrification. The technology will amplify sounds from the electric motor and drivetrain, adjusting the note and volume to correlate with the power being delivered, according to filings made last year. By the end of this decade, the carmaker has said it wants electric vehicles to account for 40pc of its line-up. It comes as Ferrari is preparing to open a factory that will make its first electric models. The site will be in the brand's Italian home town of Maranello, in Emilia-Romagna, and will also make petrol and hybrid cars. It is expected to boost the company's annual production capacity to 20,000 cars, compared with under 14,000 cars last year. Rival Lamborghini is preparing to put its first EV on sale in 2028. Ferrari's first EV, though pricey compared with mass-market models, is by no means set to be the most expensive electric car yet. Japanese engineering firm Aspark is developing the Aspark Owl hypercar, which will cost \$3.5m and has a top speed of 272 miles per hour. The Lotus Evija also costs more than £2m, while Croatia's Rimac Nevera starts at €2m.

## Sunak promises more tax cuts after inflation falls to 2pc target

By Eir Nolsøe, Chris Price and Joe Wright

RISHI SUNAK has pledged to cut taxes further after inflation fell to the Bank of England's target for the first time in nearly three years. The consumer prices index (CPI) fell to 2pc in May, according to the Office for National Statistics, which was down from 2.3pc in April and in line with economists' expectations. It marks the first time inflation has been at the Bank of England's target since July 2021, before the cost of living crisis saw inflation shoot up to a 41-year high of 11.1pc in October 2022. The Prime Minister, who has built his

election campaign on his economic credentials, said the drop meant a new Tory government would now be in a position to cut taxes further. He told LBC: "It is because of that economic stability that we have restored, which was my priority when I got this job, that we have now been able to start cutting people's taxes. If I win this election, I want to keep doing more of that, cutting people's taxes at every stage of their life." Slowing price rises have also raised hopes in government of a pre-election rate cut. A Tory source said: "Not changing the rate is also a political decision and the case for cutting rates in terms of the economy is indisputable. If they do, it

will be really helpful for us." The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will meet today to decide on interest rates but economists do not expect them to begin lowering borrowing costs. Services inflation, which has been highlighted as a potential hurdle to rate cuts, fell to 5.7pc in May, down from 5.9pc in April. However, this was less than the drop to 5.5pc that economists had predicted. Core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, fell to only 3.5pc. If the Bank of England does hold rates unchanged, it will anger many Tories. Greg Smith, the Tory candidate for Buckingham, said: "The Bank set 2pc as their target, so the Bank needs to deliver

5.7pc  
Services inflation fell from 5.9pc in April. Economists have highlighted this as a potential hurdle to interest rate cuts

on an interest rate cut tomorrow. Anything short of that would be nakedly political." Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a former Tory leader, said: "It's overdue that they should reduce interest rates. They should ignore the election and do what's right by the economy." Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, a former busi-

ness secretary, added: "The Bank needs to remember that inaction when inflation is on target will be seen as a political decision against the Government." Economists still think an August rate cut is a possibility. Martin Sartorius at the Confederation of British Industry, said the drop in inflation "sets the stage" for policymakers to cut rates then. Savers were urged to snap up deals before they disappear as the Bank edges closer to a rate cut. The average rate on an easy-access account was 3.12pc yesterday, down from 3.19pc in November 2023, according to Moneyfacts. Fixed-rate accounts have seen an even steeper fall over the same period — dropping from 5.36pc to 4.58pc.

Meanwhile, NatWest became the first major mortgage lender to cut its rates ahead of the Bank's interest rate decision. The high street bank is lowering fixed-rate deals by up to 0.17 percentage points from today. Separately, the chief executive of one of Britain's biggest housebuilders said Threadneedle Street was "penalising the young" with tough lending rules that keep the cost of 95pc mortgages artificially high. Rob Perrins, chief executive of Berkeley Group, said the Bank had "a moral duty" to relax the rules. The Bank of England declined to comment.

## Guinness fuels Young's record profits

By Daniel Woolfson and Chris Price

SURGING demand for Guinness has helped pub group Young's to a record profit. Sales of the Irish stout rose by 29pc at Young's pubs in the 12 months to the end of March, helping to drive a 9.3pc jump in adjusted profits to £49.4m — a record high. Simon Dodd, the chief executive at Young's, said: "People are looking to, when

they go out, get something they can't get at home — whether that's a really good pint of Deya [a craft beer] or whether that's a really good pint of Guinness." Diageo, the company behind Guinness, said at the start of this year that sales of the stout were surging as women increasingly order a pint of the blackstuff. Enthusiasts such as Kim Kardashian and the Princess of Wales have helped the brand shake off its "rugby lad" image, while it has also developed a "hipster" appeal, according to Debra Crew, Diageo's chief executive. Mr Dodd said Young's, which runs 288 pubs, had also been boosted by people returning to the office. He said: "Post pandemic, our Fridays softened a bit. But Friday is now our second biggest day of the week again, that shows people are definitely back in cities."



# Why the Bank won't ride to Sunak's rescue

Despite inflation falling Threadneedle Street will not cut interest rates before the election, writes *Eir Nolsøe*

The Prime Minister looked visibly relieved yesterday morning after the Office for National Statistics (ONS) confirmed that inflation had fallen to the Bank of England's 2pc target. British households will be hoping that the fall marks the beginning of the end of a painful chapter that has seen them endure prices rising at the fastest level in more than 40 years. But even as inflation falls back to the Bank's target for the first time in three years, Threadneedle Street's policymakers are unlikely to ride to Rishi Sunak's rescue when they meet today by cutting interest rates from their 16-year-high of 5.25pc.

**Headline inflation**  
The headline rate of inflation has eased significantly from a high of 11.1pc in October 2022 to 2pc in the year to May. For the first time in nearly three years, prices in shops are rising at a normal level.

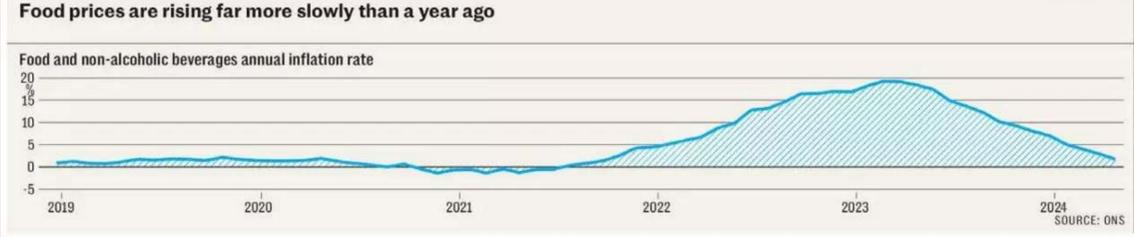
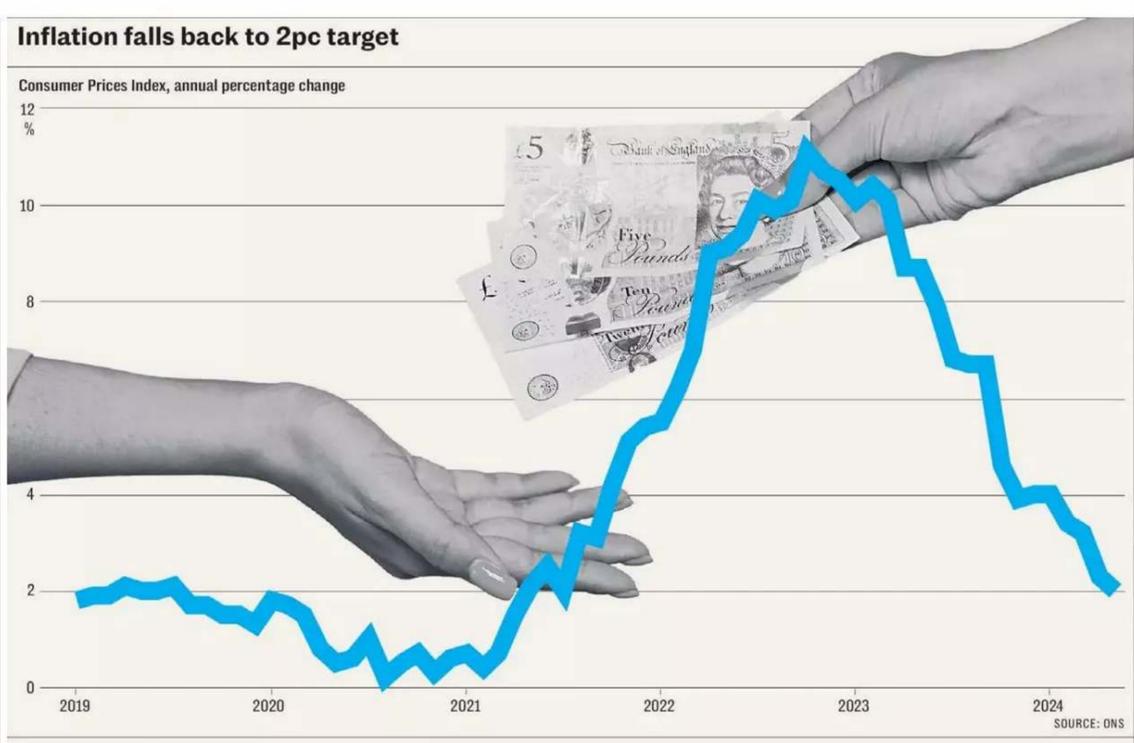
However, this does not mean things are getting cheaper. Average living costs are still up by a fifth since inflation started rising from the Bank's target in July 2021. This has largely been driven by energy prices, which have surged by 66pc, and by food, which is up by 31pc, according to the Resolution Foundation. Meanwhile, many households are struggling with record rent rises and mortgage bills.

James Smith, at the Resolution Foundation, says: "The legacy of a long period of very high inflation means there is unlikely to be much of a feel-good factor among families, as they continue to struggle with the higher cost of essentials."

**Food and energy**  
Food and energy prices were the two main drivers of the surge in inflation over the past three years, largely triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and a jump in spending after pandemic lockdowns ended.

While food price rises have slowed to 1.7pc in the year to May from a high of 19.2pc in March 2023, the cost of many daily groceries is still rising fast.

Dairy products such as eggs, milk and cheese are becoming more expensive, while the price of cooking oils are also rising. The average cost of olive oil is 135pc higher than when inflation was last at 2pc in July 2021.



**'Average living costs are still up by a fifth since inflation started rising above target in July 2021'**

Egg prices have risen by 47pc over the same period.

However, price rises are slowing for most other food items, with the cost of bread, vegetables and chocolate all easing. Meanwhile, lower gas and electricity prices have helped bring down the overall rate of inflation. But the ONS notes that when housing costs are factored in, with rising council tax and mortgage bills, this "more than offset" the decline in food prices.

**Core inflation**  
Food, energy, alcohol and tobacco prices tend to be volatile, so are viewed as crucial by the Bank when it comes to determining whether borrowing costs can be lowered.

Its economists see core inflation, which strips out such volatile prices, as an indicator of underlying price pressures that the headline rate of

inflation sometimes hides. On this front, yesterday's data shows things are moving in the right direction.

Core inflation fell to 3.5pc in line with expectations in the year to May from 3.9pc in April.

One reason is that the average cost of goods such as furniture, clothes and electronics is 1.3pc lower than a year ago.

Rob Wood, the chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, warns that declines of this size are unlikely to be sustained, which may make it difficult to keep inflation at 2pc.

"Food and non-energy goods inflation have no further to fall now they have converged to producer output price inflation," he says.

"Meanwhile, Ofgem will likely hike the utility price cap by 12pc in October after wholesale energy costs have risen." Mr Wood adds that these factors

have helped knock off 9.1 percentage points off inflation since its peak.

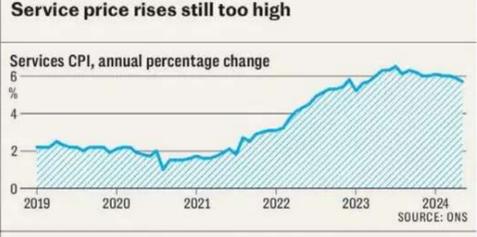
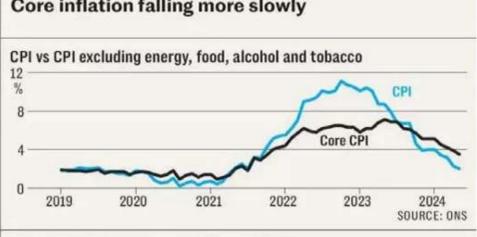
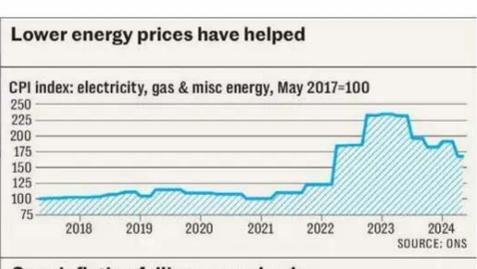
**Services inflation**  
The Bank's biggest concern is now how fast the prices of services such as getting a haircut, hiring a cleaner or enjoying a meal out are rising. This is the fly in the ointment.

Services inflation was still high at 5.7pc in May, easing only marginally from 5.9pc the previous month.

Analysts had expected it would fall to 5.5pc, but this was scuppered by price rises in restaurants and hotels.

It comes after an increase of almost 10pc in the national living wage to £11.44 in April. Analysts at HSBC this week warned that Labour's plans for a "genuine" living wage risked inflating inflationary pressures, ultimately leading to higher mortgage rates.

Sanjay Raja, from Deutsche Bank,



**'The Bank's biggest concern is how fast the prices of services such as getting a haircut are rising'**

says the costs of services will fuel concerns about persistent price pressures, as they are also rising faster than the Bank had predicted.

"This, we think, will raise the bar for an August rate cut," he says. "For now, markets have pared back rate cut bets this year, suggesting a stickier Bank Rate path through the coming months."

**Wages**  
Finally, it is worth noting that the backdrop to the inflation figures is wages, which are still growing fast.

The ONS last week said regular pay, which excludes bonuses, grew at 6pc in three months to March. This was before April's rise in the minimum wage and is far higher than what is seen as consistent with low inflation. A further softening of the jobs market will be crucial to avoid wage rises continuing to spill into higher costs of services.

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## Telegraph 'continues to excel' despite cloud over unpaid debt

Continued from Page 17  
in respect of amounts paid to, and received from, group companies and related parties.

"The review identified potential irregularities in the recording of such transactions and although there have been no changes to the assets and liabilities recorded, there is a potential risk of future possible claims against the company in respect of such transactions."

Nick Hugh, the former chief executive, who was also director of Telegraph Media Group, left before the accounts were prepared. He declined to comment on concerns over the movements of money. He was not a director of any Barclay family companies further up a chain that led to the British Virgin Islands, via Jersey.

The accounts reveal Mr Hugh's overall remuneration doubled to £2m last year, a figure thought to have been boosted by his departure and a bonus scheme linked to a target of one million subscriptions by the end of 2023.

The largest contributor to the increase in subscriptions was the £13m acquisition of the Chelsea Magazine Company (CMC), a specialist publisher of lifestyle titles including *The English Garden* and *Classic Boat*. According to accounts for Press Acquisitions Limited, *The Telegraph's* parent company, CMC made a loss of £500,000 last year.

The independent directors' own investigations have been unable to determine the destination of the cash borrowed from *The Telegraph* outside its immediate ownership chain. The Barclay family are also owners of the online retailer Very Group and until recently Yodel, a heavily loss-making parcel courier.

It is understood that questions to Barclay family executives did not yield answers and uncovered what was viewed as a chaotic approach to book-keeping, in which many ordinarily standard records were unavailable.

The Barclay family has previously responded to questions about their financial practices at *The Telegraph* by referring to the fact that the 2022 accounts were audited and approved by PwC, which also audited the new accounts. A spokesman for the Barclay family declined to comment further.

The "future possible claims against the company" referred to in the accounts include a potential claim of tax fraud from HMRC and a potential claim by the current directors against the previous directors.

In a third scenario, Telegraph Media Group, the current holding company



Former Telegraph chief executives Murdoch MacLennan, left, and Nick Hugh

for *The Telegraph*, is ultimately likely to be liquidated. The liquidators would be required to investigate the affairs of the company and the conduct of the directors, and could choose to make a claim in pursuit of the untraceable cash.

The £278m provision will not have any impact on the future of *The Telegraph* itself, as it is soon expected to break ties with its past in a process called a "hive down". This legal manoeuvre will place the assets and staff into a new, unencumbered holding company to reassure bidders they would not be exposed to Barclay-era controversies.

The overall cost of the crisis in advisory and other fees across the group containing *The Telegraph* was around £22m. This includes an estimated £10m to Goldman Sachs for preparing the aborted auction. Forensic accountants from AlixPartners, lawyers from Linklaters and Goodwin, and financial crime specialists BCL have all also been involved.

The Barclay family bought *The Telegraph* for £665m in 2004. Their ownership was characterised by deep cuts to the newsroom budget as scores of reporters were made redundant to meet profit targets. If the budget for journalism had kept pace with inflation, it would be nearly double its current level.

Murdoch MacLennan, the chief executive who preceded Mr Hugh, was accused of failing to protect editorial independence by turning a blind eye to advertising sales staff who demanded favourable coverage of their clients during his tenure. Mr MacLennan was

replaced by Mr Hugh in 2017. *The Telegraph* employs about 1,100 staff. The Barclay family outsourced printing to Rupert Murdoch's News UK and advertising sales to Lord Rothermere's DMGT. Despite this, *The Telegraph* employs nearly 500 non-journalists.

Raine, an adviser to RedBird IMI, is preparing the second auction by gathering updated financial information from the current year, in which news publishers have faced pressure from a tougher advertising market. Potential bidders have been told to expect an information memorandum, the first step of a sale process, this month. They have also been issued with non-disclosure agreements, although some have so far declined to sign over what they view as onerous terms.

At an industry conference in Dubai last month, Rani Raad, the chief executive of Sheikh Mansour's media business IMI, predicted that *The Telegraph* and *The Spectator* will sell for more than the £600m paid last year.

Despite claiming that the decision to block RedBird IMI would ultimately leave *The Telegraph* "a weaker brand", he said: "We will sell it at a premium. We will make our money back and then some and move on to other markets and focus on other opportunities."

In one sign of *The Telegraph's* resilience, the Companies House filings for its parent company, Press Acquisitions, reveal that it was undervalued in previous years. An independent review led to the reversal of a £196m impairment to the accounting value of the business, which now stands at £361m.

# How red tape became the only growth industry in the City

In the second of our election series, *Eir Nolsøe* and *Michael Bow* look at whether next government can fix regulation

Addressing a room of people who collectively controlled billions of pounds last autumn, Julia Hoggett said “every mother in Cumbria” should care about the stock market.

The London Stock Exchange chief argued that while the market may feel far off to those living by the Lake District, it was investment in stocks and shares that would “fund a start-up in her area”.

“That means her kids can get a high-paying job and afford a house in that area,” she added, addressing a conference of asset managers and other investors.

Yet that link – from stock market investment to job creation and finally to wealth building – is breaking down. London’s stock market is declining in size and, some argue, relevance.

As British voters prepare to head to the polls, this weakness is unlikely to be at the front of people’s minds.

Expensive bills, inaccessible housing, long NHS waiting lists and stagnating wages are all more pressing.

But to meaningfully solve all these issues Britain’s next prime minister must unblock the barriers to growth – and get the stock market firing on all cylinders again.

Some 16 years after the largest global financial crash since the Great Depression, many in the City believe this requires rolling back the blizzard of red tape that has engulfed the City since then.

“There is a bit of a pendulum effect,” says City grandee Sir Philip Hampton. Risk was “largely disregarded” before the financial crisis, but the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction, he says.

Now, politicians, regulators and business leaders themselves have become scared of risk – with rule makers increasingly determined to stamp it out.

Sir Philip was the chairman of the Royal Bank of Scotland from 2009 to 2015, and has also chaired pharmaceutical giant GSK and Sainsbury’s. He has been on the frontline of changing attitudes and believes the financial crisis had “profound regulatory and psychological effects” on the City.

Charles Hall, who heads up research at investment bank Peel Hunt, says there was “understandably” a “knee-jerk reaction to make sure it never happened again” in the wake of the crisis. This took the form of a wave of new regulation meant to prevent similar blow-ups happening in the future.

But this has come with a cost, he says.

“We’ve been far too focused in the UK on excising risk and ensuring security. What that typically means is that you get less growth. Starting to turn the clock back is absolutely essential if we’re going to grow the economy.”

The global financial crisis triggered one of the largest ever overhauls of how the British financial sector is regulated and how risk is policed and rewarded.

Without it, there

would be no Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) scrutinising the City or committee at the Bank of England looking for what will trigger the next crisis.

How much you or your company can borrow, where your pension is invested and what type of advertising for financial products you see have all been influenced by these changes.

In the City, senior managers can now be held personally liable for excessive risk-taking, banks must hold far larger cushions of capital and bonuses were capped for a long time.

It is in part why shocks like Covid, the energy crisis and soaring interest rates have come and gone without anything major breaking in the financial system.

“There is a lot to be said for [the fact] that banks have absorbed a shock in a way that they clearly weren’t able to in 2008, so you got to give the regulators credit for that,” says Karen Ward, at JP Morgan Asset Management. She was among four City veterans advising Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor, on how to help grow the economy.

The problem however is not “necessary controls” protecting consumers but lots of small changes leading to an “asymmetry between risk and reward”, says Simon French, the chief economist at investment bank Panmure Gordon.

The focus has tilted too far in favour of the state trying to shield both people and companies from anything bad, he believes.

As a result when things go well – a bank making money when interest rates rise or oil and gas firms benefiting from soaring gas costs – they are more likely to get hit with windfall taxes.

“You’re chasing your tail the whole time,” he says. “A much more healthy economy allows, in bad times, jobs to be lost and companies to fail. Then on the upside, companies that have taken those risks get the full reward.”

Banks tend to bear the brunt of increased risk compliance. Mountains of paperwork are involved in complying with new initiatives such as the FCA’s Consumer Duty rules, which push up the costs for banks and, ultimately, their customers.

“I respect the fact that we’re a regulated industry and profession, and that’s important – but equally, we’ve seen significant increases in the cost of regulation,” says Mark Mullen, the chief executive of challenger lender Atom Bank.

“I understand why they’re important but let’s not avoid the reality that they’re expensive. It’s not a robot that complies with it. You’ve got to invest in people and processes to comply with it and that’s not free.”

Ultimately someone will have to pay for all of the extra hours of work this leads to. “The reality is that the cost of doing that will be paid for by customers,” he warns.

However, rather than roll back this regulatory burden, watchdogs are intent on increasing it.

Before Rishi Sunak called a snap election, Hunt broke ranks to attack the FCA over its plans to “name and shame” companies under investigation.

The move signalled that the Chancellor had lost patience with the regulator amid criticism that the FCA was launching too many initiatives and tying businesses up in red tape.

Analysis by the Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA), a free-market think tank, has found that enforcing anti-



money laundering rules alone costs lenders £34bn annually. The IEA noted that this is nearly double the total budget for policing across the UK.

It is not just compliance costs which concern bankers: there are fears the UK’s risk-averse culture has led to a decline in the London stock market.

Pensions funds and insurers increasingly shun investments in shares because of regulations.

Individuals are also turning their back on the stock market: only 11pc of people directly hold shares in the UK, marking a decline of 50pc since 2004.

This has damaged the appeal of London as a home for major businesses. Several companies have quit their primary listing on the UK stock market in recent months including Tarmac-owner CRH, Paddy Power-owner Flutter Entertainment and plumbing group Ferguson. A dearth of new listings has also led the market to shrink.

In April, CS Venkatakrishnan, the chief executive of Barclays who advises Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, said he wanted to revive the UK stock market’s “risk culture”.

“A lot has to happen to rebuild that ecosystem,” he said. “It has to be people buying stocks, institutions, bank stocks, some aspects of the listing rules. It is reviving that entire chain of providing early stage finance to companies.”

The Barclays chief’s comments speak to a deeper issue: it is not just red tape holding back the City but a cultural shift.

“The treatment of people who invest

in equities almost suggests that they need protecting, as if they were buying a car and don’t understand the financing,” says Hall.

“Millions of people seem perfectly happy to gamble in crypto, and that’s an unregulated market. Yet the FCA seems to take the view that you can’t afford to lose money if you invest in equities, but it’s absolutely fine to lose money if you trade crypto. So we’ve got lots of things wrong.”

It is hardly surprising that Britain’s productivity growth has slumped since the financial crisis, Hall says.

“The financial sector is one of the most productive sectors of the UK economy. Yet we spent 15 years effectively saying, ‘Oh no, we don’t want to grow that part of the economy.’”

Growth in the UK has been sluggish since the crash, averaging only 1.1pc a year from 2008 compared with 2.8pc in the six decades prior.

Will the red tape problem get any better under the next government?

Reeves has said she wants to attack overlapping rules to slash costs for the financial sector under the banner of “innovative regulation” if she becomes chancellor.

The shadow City minister Siddiq Tulip has, however, said that some measures to roll back regulations by the Conservatives as part of the Edinburgh Reforms are “reckless”.

She insisted in

December there were “no plans” to tax financial services further. This has failed to assuage fears among money managers that they will not be plundered to repair public finances. Reeves has repeatedly failed to rule out an increase in capital gains tax and Labour has been clear that it wants to raise the levy on the so-called carried interest earned by private equity investors.

Dan Boardman-Weston, the chief executive of BRI Wealth Management, says: “I worry if capital gains and inheritance tax rates or taxes on pension contributions change then it will just put more people off or raise the barriers to investing.”

Sir Philip says Labour “have stopped being scary” to businesses, but he adds: “We probably don’t have a political party in this country that is explicitly pro-business. We used to have that with the Conservative Party but I think that’s probably gone.”

French is hopeful that whoever forms the next government will wake up to the problem of red tape strangling growth.

“The longer the data is disappointing on productivity, the more you’re going to think you’ve got the balance wrong,” he says.

The diagnosis has been established, now the cure just needs to follow.

Julia Hoggett, below, has argued for greater recognition of stock markets’ role in funding businesses, while Sir Philip Hampton, right, says regulators have become afraid of risk since the financial crisis



## Canary Wharf architect quits as hub battles bank exodus

By Adam Mawardi

SIR GEORGE IACOBESCU, who masterminded Margaret Thatcher’s vision for Canary Wharf, has quit the developer as it battles an exodus of banks from the financial district.

Sir George will step down as non-executive chairman of the Canary Wharf Investment Group (CWG), the owners and developers of the docklands area, after 36 years with the company.

He will be replaced by City grandee Sir Nigel Wilson, the former chief executive of Legal & General, from July 1.

Sir George, who is the only Romanian-born person to have received a knighthood, led the British property company as chief executive from 1997 and as chairman from 2011.

He is credited with realising Margaret Thatcher’s vision of regenerating London’s depleted docklands into a financial district as part of her free market revolution.

some of the world’s largest banks including HSBC, JPMorgan, Morgan Stanley and Citibank.

The property tycoon also had a hand in redeveloping Shell’s former headquarters on the South Bank and the “Walkie Talkie” skyscraper.

Sir George was one of five executives sent by Olympia & York, then the world’s biggest developer, to inspect the Canary Wharf site in 1987.

In an interview with *The Telegraph* in 2012, he said: “I went all the way from central London to Canary Wharf and I got totally lost. I had never been to London. I got lost on Narrow Street and found out why it is called Narrow Street.”

“When I got to Canary Wharf the structure of the DLR [Docklands Light Railway] was built but it wasn’t working. You wouldn’t have wanted to be there past dark. There was no water and no electricity. There was absolutely nothing. I went back to New York and I wrote a note to my boss saying: ‘Don’t touch it!’”

He said yesterday: “It has been the honour and the challenge of a lifetime to have worked with an extraordinary

group of people transforming a derelict dock into a thriving mixed-use city district. CWG is the first company on the planet to have built an entirely new central business district from scratch.”

His retirement comes amid a wave of financial tenants abandoning Canary Wharf in search of smaller offices in the



Sir George Iacobescu realised Thatcher’s vision for a financial hub in the docklands

City of London following a shift to home working during the pandemic.

The credit rating agency Moody’s in March said it would leave Canary Wharf after more than 15 years having picked a new office near St Paul’s Cathedral. HSBC last year announced plans to ditch its 45-storey skyscraper at 8 Canada Square, which it has occupied since 2002.

The bank will instead move to a smaller base at the former BT head office also near St Paul’s once its Canary Wharf lease runs out in 2027.

Elite law firms Clifford Chance and Skadden have also quit Canary Wharf in favour of the Square Mile.

However, rival banks Barclays and Morgan Stanley have chosen to remain, while fintech company Revolut earlier this month said that it would move its global headquarters to Canary Wharf.

## JP Morgan scraps bonus cap

By Michael Bow

JP MORGAN has scrapped an EU bonus cap for bankers in London, clearing the way for them to earn 10 times their salary.

In a boost for the City, the Wall Street giant has overhauled rules limiting bankers to earn twice their pay, which were introduced by the European Union after the financial crisis.

The post-Brexit move means a JP Morgan employee earning a fixed salary of £200,000 a year can receive a bonus of up to £2m, as opposed to £400,000 previously.

Goldman Sachs became the first Wall Street bank to scrap the EU bonus cap earlier this year by raising the maximum award to 25-times fixed pay.

The new rules will apply to so-called “material risk-takers,” a special classification of bank staff who can pose a risk to the lender’s financial stability.

Salaries have been ramped up in recent years to offset the bonus cap. Bankers have been wary of giving up higher levels of guaranteed fixed pay

for variable bonus payments. This is because there is no guarantee they will receive the same amount per year, meaning things like mortgage agreements can prove harder to obtain.

However, JP Morgan is not expected to cut fixed pay for existing staff and the bonus threshold is intended to give it more flexibility to reward high performers.

The bonus cap abolition will also help London compete with New York for talent.

Wall Street companies have often been wary about moving staff from New York to London, as bankers in the US typically receive less in salary and more in bonuses.

The bonus shake-up could also give London an edge over EU financial capitals such as Paris and Amsterdam.

A JP Morgan spokesman said: “We believe we have developed one of the most attractive and balanced pay structures in the industry. Fixed pay will remain very competitive, and we will have ample room to reward the highest performers appropriately.”

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# We need to tell new story about backing Britain

CYRUS KAPADIA



**Making pension funds invest in equities would help convince investors of the UK's strengths**

Having been in the financial markets advising companies for nearly 30 years, I believe the "UK equity story" needs a sharp refocus. Articulating a clear and powerful narrative about investing in the nation should be a key priority for the next government.

Whoever takes power on July 5 needs to tell a more compelling and positive story about the attractiveness of the UK.

A report this week by the Institute for Public Policy Research rightly said that "if the economy is an engine, then investment is its fuel".

It called on the Government to enact

measures to boost spending on new factories, equipment and innovations to boost economic activity and incomes. The report also, crucially, signalled that the UK is a worthwhile place for private investment to augment public spending.

Undoubtedly, there are challenges facing the UK and in some quarters there is a general downbeat mood relating to the nation's economic prospects and global competitiveness.

Brexit has been a destabilising factor in recent years. The decoupling of the UK from our largest trading partner has unsurprisingly led many international investors to question our position in the wider European corporate and financial ecosystem.

Like a number of fellow European economies, there has been a relative lack of growth and productivity, compounded by increasing demands on public finances. The upcoming general election creates further uncertainty in the system.

So is the UK uninvestable? No. Quite the opposite. But our narrative is not right.

As a leading G7 country, the UK has

a dynamic and relatively stable economy. Britain fosters a unique entrepreneurial culture – a combination of innovation and research that produces leaders in fintech, business services, renewables, technology, healthcare, biotech and artificial intelligence. The UK has also created dozens of unicorns over recent years in these fields.

Our world-leading university system underpins this – producing the graduates and much of the research which drives that innovation forward. It's an exceptional competitive advantage.

As home to a number of the world's top scientific research universities, the UK must now support the expansion of funding and growth capital for the research. It also needs to accelerate the commercialisation of these innovations beyond their academic incubators. OSE and Northern Gritstone are great examples of this.

The UK remains a European leader in financial services and private capital and continues to attract many international pools of investment. Consider how many international

private equity and sovereign wealth funds have their European headquarters in the UK, and in London in particular.

The private capital concentrated in London remains an enormous source of potential for those wanting to do business here.

Notwithstanding such leadership, the UK has suffered a systematic misallocation of pension savings over

**'The UK is a worthwhile place for private investment to augment public spending'**

the last few decades. Regulation and accounting rules have resulted in hundreds of billions of pounds of pension assets being diverted from equities into lower yielding fixed income securities.

This has exacerbated certain pension deficits, but more importantly caused significant impairment in the growth, liquidity and relative attractiveness of the London Stock

Exchange as a destination for leading corporations.

Further, this dynamic has affected the sourcing of private growth capital into the UK's amazing younger companies. It should not be the case that it's much easier to raise capital for flourishing UK firms from Canadian pension funds or Singaporean sovereign wealth funds than from our own significantly endowed pension funds.

This need not be an inevitability. I would encourage the next government to take the sensible and decisive step of, in some form, mandating UK pension funds to allocate a relatively small proportion of their assets into UK companies, both public and private.

Such reform and injection of capital would undoubtedly boost the UK's appeal.

The upcoming changes to the UK listing regime are to be welcomed. But the question remains: are they enough to address the recent drift of companies from the UK to the US?

The UK also needs greater emphasis and recognition of support for wealth

and job creation and a tax and fiscal system to support this.

International markets including the US and India have a more open attitude to risk versus the UK. They have more of a focus on capturing the upside versus protecting the downside. It would do us good to follow their example.

This country's history as one of the leading global financial centres has been one of constant reinvention and renewal, while upholding a reputation for respecting the rule of law and the stability of fundamental systems of governance.

With the election season in full swing, whoever forms the next administration must remember that the City's continued long-term success is not guaranteed but requires a clear-eyed vision of the future.

So the incoming government, of whatever shade, should not lose sight of the underlying qualities of the UK's equity story, and be willing to articulate them clearly – and loudly.

Cyrus Kapadia is chief executive of Lazard UK

## Track kings

Auctioneer Henry Biss with some of the 110 motorcycles and 400 race vests from what is said to be the world's biggest speedway collection. It has been put together by ex-rider Ian Paterson over the past 50 years. The former racer's items, which had been on display at the Cinders to Shale Museum in Edinburgh, are expected to sell for £1m at HJ Pugh & Co in Ledbury, Herefordshire.



# This year has been good for investments so far, but that could be about to change

TOM STEVENSON



**Elections, along with the potential for higher-for-longer interest rates, point to volatility ahead**

If we were playing golf, we would be taking a break at the halfway house. So, as we head towards the end of June, it's time to sit down with a metaphorical cup of tea and a Mars bar to assess how the first few holes have gone and how we might approach the back nine.

The investment course has been kind to us so far in 2024. But there are some tricky holes ahead and achieving a decent score by the end of the year

will require us to address three questions. First up is the politics in this year of the election. There have already been some surprises (India, Mexico, France) but from a pan-Atlantic perspective, it's all still to play for. The vote that matters more is over the pond. Question one, then, is who will win the US election and how will the market respond?

Neither Donald Trump nor Joe Biden is popular. But it's close, and the fate of presidents seeking re-election since Ronald Reagan has been heavily influenced by macro trends in the months leading up to the vote.

Consumption growth, employment data, inflation and GDP are the indicators to watch. There is a clear correlation between positive readings on these and presidents winning a second term. For President Biden to stay in the White House for another four years, the US economy might need either a soft landing (mild

slowdown, falling inflation) or no landing at all (continued growth, moderate price rises). We put a 70pc probability against one of those two scenarios and just 30pc on a mild or more serious recession.

What's less clear is how investors will respond. Our analysis of how the market performs under different electoral outcomes in the US tells a similar story to our number-crunching on the UK market under different governments over the past 60 years. Elections affect sentiment in the short term. But, as we learnt in 2016, they tell us less about the longer-run direction of the stock market.

This year was also expected to be the year of the interest rate pivot, and I expect monetary policy to be a bigger driver than politics. While some countries or regions have started the process of cutting interest rates (the eurozone is the most consequential so far), others have still not begun.

The US is holding fire – and for good reason. The American economy remains stronger than expected at the start of 2024 and a cut in the cost of borrowing is hard to justify.

The second key question is, therefore: will US interest rates start to fall this year, and if so, how far?

Interest rates are likely to stay higher for longer than we hoped six months ago. It's not clear where the neutral rate lies (not too hot, not too cold), but wherever the end point is it will take some time to get there.

We are unlikely to get more than one rate cut in the US before the end of the year. Remember, the market was expecting six quarter-point cuts at the start of 2024. That might be better for share prices than it looks because the incentive to seek other homes for your money is less today than it was.

Yes, you can expect to beat inflation with the income you can earn on a Treasury, or even cash. But the price

you pay for that certainty of income is a lack of capital growth. And if inflation stays persistently higher than target, you will need some growth to keep your head above water in real terms.

Question three focuses on market leadership. Five stocks have accounted for 60pc of the S&P 500's return this year. Microsoft, Nvidia, Alphabet, Amazon and Meta have risen by a collective 45pc and now comprise a quarter of the value of the whole index. That has been justified by earnings growth – up 84pc in the first quarter, year on year, compared with 5pc for the average stock in the US benchmark.

Profit forecasts for those five shares in 2024 have risen by 38pc while those for the other 495 stocks in the index have fallen. But the gap is forecast to narrow, according to Goldman Sachs.

Next year, the "fab five" will grow their earnings by 19pc versus 11pc for the average stock. In 2026 it's 13pc against 9pc.

This matters because the headline S&P 500 trades on 21 times expected earnings while the equal weighted index is valued at just 16 times. If the gap between the two narrows because the expensive market leaders get cheaper (rather than the rest of the market catching up with them) then

the second half of 2024 could be hard work. As we gather our thoughts in the "halfway house", we can look back on a positive start. The best performing stock markets in America and Japan have delivered between 15pc and 20pc in the first six months alone.

The second tier – UK, Europe, emerging markets – have already secured a decent 6pc or 7pc. Even China is back in positive territory. Copper, oil and gold have all provided investors with a double-digit return. Even the laggards – property and government bonds – have not really lost you any money this year.

So, it has been a tidy front nine. The investment equivalent of a couple of birdies and a string of pars. But, as any golfer will know, things can change dramatically at the turn.

A change of leadership could alter the valuation arithmetic of the market.

Higher-for-longer interest rates could be the sign of an economy in good health but also the precursor of a nasty slowdown. The aftermath of elections on either side of the Atlantic may be volatile. It's not over until your card is signed and submitted.

Tom Stevenson is an investment director at Fidelity International. The views are his own

# Barrister banned after punching designer

By Adam Mawardi

A BARRISTER has been banned for 12 months after punching a fashion designer during a performance of Wagner at the Royal Opera House.

Matthew Feargrieve was suspended by a disciplinary tribunal yesterday after being accused of professional misconduct. The Bar Standards Board (BSB) accused Mr Feargrieve of breaching his core duty by behaving in a way that was likely to diminish the trust and confidence the public places in the profession.

The disciplinary tribunal ruled that the BSB cannot issue him a certificate for a 12-month period. The ruling comes after Mr Feargrieve was found guilty of assaulting Ulrich Engler during a performance of Wagner's *Ring* cycle at the Royal Opera House in 2018. The investment funds lawyer struck Mr Engler

after he sat in an unoccupied seat next to his partner, Catherine Chandler, during *Siegfried*, the first section of Wagner's four-part epic.

Mr Engler, a German designer who previously styled the Countess of Wessex and Princess Alexandra, moved from his seat in row B to an empty seat

**'You really should not have behaved the way you did. In my view you lost your temper. It was excessive'**

in row A with a better view. The Royal Opera House's best front row seats in the stalls circle for the performance typically cost £1,200, while seats in row B, where Mr Engler had been sitting, cost £356, according to a previous report by *The Times*. Mr Engler, who specialises

in couture and wedding dresses, asked Ms Chandler if she had bought the spare seat and whether he could move into it.

After she replied "no" to both questions, Mr Engler switched seats and moved her coat on to her lap.

Mr Engler said he then felt "a constant flow of blows", according to a report by *The Times* in 2019, adding that he had "never seen someone looking with so much terror and anger at me".

Mr Engler was left with injuries to his left side and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder following the attack.

Mr Feargrieve was criminally convicted of assault by beating in December 2019 and was sentenced in 2020. Judge John Zani at the time found that Mr Feargrieve used "excessive force".

He said: "You really should not have behaved in the way you did. In my view you lost your temper. It was excessive."

# French chaos makes UK 'island of stability'

By Tim Wallace

BRITAIN could become "an island of stability" in financial markets as France is rocked by Emmanuel Macron's debt binge, UBS has warned.

Shahab Jalinoos, of UBS, said the UK's reputation as Europe's "problem child" could be reversed amid increased political uncertainty in France after Mr Macron triggered a snap election.

Britain's position "is very different to the French case, where there is a risk of a clash with the European Commission, for starters," he said after Brussels criticised Mr Macron's borrowing binge.

The French president announced a snap election following his party's poor performance in the European parliamentary vote, raising fears that the hard-Right under Marine Le Pen will gain more influence. It set off ructions in financial markets as debt investors

fear this risks more borrowing. Mr Jalinoos said the far-Left is also proposing radical policies in France.

"In that context, you could find the UK actually could look like an island of stability, finally, after 10 years of looking like the problem child in Europe, the situation could flip around," he said.

"From the pond's perspective that is probably a good thing."

Britain could become even more appealing if the hard-Right performs well in German elections next year, he said, potentially pushing up the pound by as much as 10pc.

His comments came after the European Commission said France is at risk of fines if the country's finances are not brought back under control.

In an announcement yesterday, policymakers in Brussels said France is among seven nations being monitored for running too large a deficit. This

means France has been put into a so-called excessive deficit procedure, which can result in a fine if borrowing is not scaled back. The prospect of Mr Macron losing to Ms Le Pen's National Rally party has wobbled debt markets, as investors fear the country will face higher interest rates if borrowing rises.

The European Commission warned yesterday that the president's economic plans imply spiralling debts, claiming this demonstrates "high risks over the medium term".

According to its baseline 10-year projection, the EU expects France's debt ratio to rise to about 139pc of GDP by 2034, up from just over 110pc currently.

It said: "The debt trajectory is sensitive to macroeconomic shocks."

France is alongside Italy as countries that have been found in breach of budget deficit rules, which require borrowing to be below 3pc of GDP per year.

# Markets

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### Government securities

| 52 week High | Low    | Stock       | Price (€) +/- | Yld   | P/E  |      |
|--------------|--------|-------------|---------------|-------|------|------|
| 102.30       | 99.20  | Treas 5% 25 | 100.12        | -0.02 | 4.99 | 4.86 |
| 112.21       | 100.63 | Treas 6% 28 | 108.28        | -0.12 | 5.54 | 3.96 |
| 106.59       | 92.22  | Treas 4% 32 | 102.10        | -0.19 | 4.16 | 3.94 |
| 106.09       | 94.06  | Treas 4% 36 | 100.68        | -0.27 | 4.22 | 4.18 |
| 110.73       | 96.88  | Treas 4% 38 | 104.55        | -0.31 | 4.54 | 4.32 |

### Index Linkers

| 52 week High | Low    | Stock          | Price (€) +/- | Yld   | P/E  |      |
|--------------|--------|----------------|---------------|-------|------|------|
| 385.80       | 371.32 | Treas 2% 1L 24 | 385.56        | +0.00 | 6.65 | 2.13 |
| 352.43       | 325.85 | Treas 4% 1L 30 | 344.55        | -0.43 | 1.20 | 0.35 |
| 243.64       | 239.45 | Treas 2% 1L 35 | 248.57        | -0.56 | 8.00 | 0.65 |

The share prices, price-earnings ratios and dividend yields below are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

### 10-year Government Bonds

| Yield%        | Spread vs Bunds | Spread vs 5Ys |       |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-------|
| France        | 3.14            | -0.74         | -1.09 |
| Germany       | 2.40            | -             | -1.83 |
| Japan         | 0.92            | -1.48         | -3.31 |
| Great Britain | 4.07            | -1.67         | -0.16 |
| United States | 4.23            | -1.83         | -     |

### Aerospace & defence

| 52 week High | Low  | Stock       | Price (€) +/- | Yld | P/E |       |
|--------------|------|-------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------|
| 575          | 266% | Baird Int'l | 536%          | -1% | 0.3 | -17.8 |
| 1415%        | 883% | BAE Systems | 1380%         | -6% | 2.2 | 22.0  |
| 464          | 292% | QinetiQ     | 457%          | -6% | 1.8 | 18.9  |

### Banks

| 52 week High | Low  | Stock        | Price (€) +/- | Yld | P/E |       |
|--------------|------|--------------|---------------|-----|-----|-------|
| 474          | 143% | Rollis-Royce | 472%          | +4% | -   | -16.4 |
| 183          | 146% | Senior       | 164%          | +4% | 1.4 | 21.9  |

### Beverages

| 52 week High | Low  | Stock     | Price (€) +/- | Yld  | P/E |      |
|--------------|------|-----------|---------------|------|-----|------|
| 3509         | 255% | Diageo    | 2569          | -1%  | 3.1 | 15.6 |
| 391%         | 27%  | Coca-Cola | 37%           | -0.1 | -   | 8.1  |

### Chemicals

| 52 week High | Low   | Stock       | Price (€) +/- | Yld | P/E |      |
|--------------|-------|-------------|---------------|-----|-----|------|
| 6032         | 4018  | Croda Intl  | 4114          | -27 | 2.6 | 33.6 |
| 1917%        | 1428% | Johnson Mat | 1546          | -54 | 5.0 | 26.4 |

### Construction

| 52 week High | Low  | Stock          | Price (€) +/- | Yld  | P/E |      |
|--------------|------|----------------|---------------|------|-----|------|
| 391%         | 291% | Balfour Beatty | 356%          | -2   | 3.2 | 10.1 |
| 582%         | 384% | Barratt Dev    | 468%          | -13% | 6.0 | 8.8  |

### Winners and losers (pc)

| Category                 | Change |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Telecommunications       | +0.80  |
| Aerospace & defence      | +0.71  |
| Engineering / Industrial | +0.67  |
| Electricity              | +0.65  |
| Mining                   | +0.63  |
| Tobaccos                 | +0.56  |
| Banks                    | +0.53  |
| Information technology   | +0.50  |
| Beverages                | +0.43  |
| Support services         | -0.15  |
| Media                    | -0.16  |
| Food producers           | -0.20  |
| Pharmaceuticals          | -0.40  |
| Chemicals                | -0.66  |
| AIM                      | -1.25  |
| Electricals              | -2.23  |
| Property                 | -2.30  |
| Construction             | -2.63  |

### 52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (€) +/- Yld P/E

|       |       |               |      |      |     |      |
|-------|-------|---------------|------|------|-----|------|
| 88    | 41%   | Costain       | 78%  | +1   | 1.5 | 9.7  |
| 1029% | 737%  | Grafton Grp   | 949% | +5%  | 3.8 | 13.6 |
| 2665  | 1640% | Morgan Sindal | 2630 | -    | 4.3 | 10.3 |
| 1506  | 925   | Persimmon     | 1365 | -39% | 4.4 | 17.1 |
| 1730  | 423%  | Redrow        | 663% | -9%  | 3.8 | 7.3  |
| 153%  | 98%   | Taylor Wimpey | 143% | -3%  | 6.7 | 14.5 |

### Electricals -2.23%

|       |       |              |      |      |     |       |
|-------|-------|--------------|------|------|-----|-------|
| 238   | 135   | Dialight     | 191  | -2%  | -   | -     |
| 944%  | 586   | discover/Grp | 687  | -10  | 1.7 | 42.4  |
| 2711  | 1802  | Halma        | 2616 | -40  | 4.8 | 42.2  |
| 450   | 2823% | Renishaw     | 3890 | -235 | 2.0 | 24.4  |
| 2489% | 682%  | XP Power     | 1476 | +74  | 1.2 | -32.5 |

### Electricity +0.65%

|       |      |            |       |     |     |      |
|-------|------|------------|-------|-----|-----|------|
| 637%  | 395% | Drax Group | 514   | +8% | 4.5 | 3.6  |
| 1020% | 645  | Nat Grid   | 901   | +6% | 6.5 | 15.8 |
| 1932% | 1485 | SSE        | 1805% | +5% | 3.3 | 11.5 |

### Engineering / Industrial +0.67%

|       |      |             |      |      |     |      |
|-------|------|-------------|------|------|-----|------|
| 89%   | 63%  | Coats Group | 81%  | -1%  | 2.8 | 29.4 |
| 870   | 212  | Cropper J   | 345  | -    | -   | 63.9 |
| 7493% | 4200 | Goodwin     | 7200 | -100 | 1.6 | 34.8 |
| 1911  | 1429 | IMI         | 1789 | -11  | 1.6 | 19.6 |
| 1739% | 1291 | Mondi       | 1477 | +3   | 4.2 | 16.2 |

### Food producers -0.20%

|      |       |               |      |     |     |      |
|------|-------|---------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 2765 | 1907% | Ass Brit Fds  | 2476 | -19 | 2.2 | 18.5 |
| 2830 | 200%  | Coca-Cola HBC | 2696 | -2  | 2.9 | 18.4 |
| 4570 | 3158  | Cranwick      | 4435 | -20 | 2.0 | 21.1 |
| 957  | 614   | Hilton Food   | 900  | -12 | 3.6 | 22.2 |
| 99   | 48    | REA Hldgs     | 95   | -   | -   | -    |

### Gas & Water +0.38%

|       |      |               |      |     |     |       |
|-------|------|---------------|------|-----|-----|-------|
| 173%  | 116% | Centrica      | 134% | +1% | 3.0 | 1.9   |
| 775   | 532% | Pennon Grp    | 600% | -3% | 7.4 | 366.8 |
| 2761  | 2243 | Severn Trent  | 2407 | -16 | 4.9 | 41.2  |
| 1139% | 896% | Utd Utilities | 1010 | -4% | 4.9 | 54.3  |

### General financial +0.14%

|      |       |                 |      |     |     |      |
|------|-------|-----------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 234% | 156%  | Ashmore         | 176% | -2% | 9.6 | 14.2 |
| 300% | 154%  | Bridgport Grp   | 219% | -1% | 4.0 | 24.9 |
| 1153 | 676%  | Hargreaves L    | 1153 | -23 | 3.7 | 16.4 |
| 831% | 600%  | IG Group        | 816  | -4% | 5.6 | 9.4  |
| 2448 | 1244% | Intermediate Cp | 2220 | -38 | 3.6 | 13.4 |

### Results Roundup

| Company                         | Turnover(£)         | Pre-tax(£)       | EPS(p)            | DIV(p)          | Pay Day | XD     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------|--------|
| Alliance Pharma                 | Fin 180.7m (167.4m) | -48.8m (-23.3m)  | -6.130 (-3.300)   | 0.000 (1.184)   | -       | -      |
| Berkeley Group Holdings         | Fin 2.5bn (2.6bn)   | 557.3m (604.0m)  | 373.900 (426.800) | n/a (n/a)       | -       | -      |
| Hargreaves Hale AIM VCT         | Int - (-)           | 1.7k (130k)      | - (0.040)         | 1.000 (1.000)   | Jun 26  | Jun 27 |
| NextEnergy Solar Fund           | Fin - (-)           | -8.4m (48.3m)    | -1.420 (8.200)    | 2.090 (1.880)   | Jul 28  | May 23 |
| Personal Assets Trust           | Fin - (-)           | 40.8m (44.3m)    | 8.770 (9.480)     | 1.400 (1.400)   | Jul 31  | Jun 27 |
| Schroder European Real Estate C | Int - (-)           | -2.4m (-8.9m)    | -1.600 (-6.500)   | 1.480 (1.850)   | Aug 12  | Jul 11 |
| Severfield                      | Fin 463.5m (491.8m) | 23.0m (27.1m)    | 5.180 (6.970)     | 2.300 (2.100)   | Oct 11  | Sep 05 |
| Speedy Hire                     | Fin 421.5m (440.6m) | 5.1m (1.8m)      | 0.590 (0.250)     | 1.800 (1.800)   | Sep 20  | Aug 08 |
| Victoria                        | Fin 1.3bn (1.5bn)   | -130.9m (-11.6m) | -93.850 (-79.350) | 0.000 (0.000)   | -       | -      |
| Young & Co's Brewery            | Fin 388.8m (368.9m) | 20.7m (36.2m)    | 18.890 (50.780)   | 10.880 (10.260) | Aug 02  | Jul 04 |

### Major price changes FTSE 100

| Risers 48           | Volume | Close | Change  |
|---------------------|--------|-------|---------|
| Smurfit Kappa       | 1.43m  | 3750  | +4.81pc |
| Beazley             | 1.42m  | 696%  | +2.28pc |
| Hargreaves Lansdown | 2.85m  | 1153  | +2.04pc |
| JD Sports Fashion   | 6.20m  | 119%  | +1.65pc |
| Anglo Amer          | 4.82m  | 2428% | +1.65pc |
| Vodafone            | 74.39m | 71%   | +1.42pc |
| Intl Cons Air       | 13.33m | 170   | +1.19pc |
| Centrica            | 28.53m | 134%  | +1.17pc |
| Rolls Royce         | 10.99m | 472%  | +0.98pc |
| HSBC                | 15.84m | 693   | +0.95pc |
| Aviva               | 4.01m  | 478%  | +0.84pc |
| Natl Grid           | 25.07m | 901   | +0.76pc |
| NatWest Group       | 8.69m  | 312%  | +0.74pc |
| Si                  | 1.61m  | 3100  | +0.68pc |
| Severn Trent        | 0.64m  | 2407  | +0.67pc |
| easyJet             | 2.09m  | 455%  | +0.66pc |
| Brit Amer Tob       | 2.79m  | 2440  | +0.62pc |
| Glencore            | 30.79m | 456%  | +0.60pc |
| Marks & Spen        | 4.01m  | 302%  | +0.56pc |
| Sage Group          | 1.98m  | 1078  | +0.56pc |
| Rio Tinto           | 4.48m  | 5236  | +0.54pc |
| Shell               | 4.33m  | 2748  | +0.53pc |

### Fallers 48

| Volume             | Close  | Change |         |
|--------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| Berkeley Grp Hldgs | 0.62m  | 4694   | -6.31pc |
| Segro              | 1.88m  | 891%   | -3.00pc |
| Spirax Group       | 0.15m  | 8405   | -2.89pc |
| Persimmon          | 1.30m  | 1365   | -2.81pc |
| Barratt Dev        | 4.66m  | 468%   | -2.74pc |
| Taylor Wimpey      | 12.62m | 143%   | -2.49pc |
| Scot Mort Inv Tst  | 2.33m  | 877%   | -2.19pc |
| Land Secs          | 1.64m  | 609%   | -1.85pc |
| Intermediate Cap   | 0.44m  | 2220   | -1.68pc |
| Burberry           | 0.95m  | 964%   | -1.59pc |
| Halma              | 0.56m  | 2616   | -1.51pc |
| Unite Group        | 0.58m  | 894    | -1.32pc |
| Rentokil Initial   | 3.64m  | 450%   | -1.12pc |
| Hikma Pharm        | 0.26m  | 1977   | -1.10pc |
| Intertek           | 0.36m  | 4742   | -1.04pc |
| Melrose Ind        | 2.56m  | 575    | -0.86pc |
| Convatec           | 2.38m  | 243    | -0.82pc |
| Schroders          | 1.31m  | 374%   | -0.79pc |
| Ass Brit Fds       | 0.70m  | 2476   | -0.76pc |
| Airtel Africa      | 1.91m  | 118%   | -0.75pc |
| RS Group           | 0.90m  | 726    | -0.68pc |
| WPP                | 1.29m  | 735%   | -0.67pc |

Net Asset Values © 2024 Morningstar Estimated at previous day's close see www.Morningstar.co.uk

### 52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (€) +/- Yld P/E

|      |      |                      |       |     |      |       |
|------|------|----------------------|-------|-----|------|-------|
| 2450 | 1750 | S&U                  | 1887% | -5  | 6.4  | 9.0   |
| 470  | 346% | Schroders            | 374%  | -3  | 5.7  | 15.2  |
| 200% | 43%  | Vauxhall Banking Grp | 49%   | -1% | 12.1 | -20.7 |

### Healthcare +0.19%

|      |      |              |      |    |     |      |
|------|------|--------------|------|----|-----|------|
| 371% | 306% | Haleon       | 325% | +% | 1.8 | 28.6 |
| 1269 | 887  | Smith & Neph | 990% | +3 | 3.1 | 41.8 |

### Household goods +0.23%

|      |       |               |      |     |     |      |
|------|-------|---------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 2275 | 964%  | Burberry      | 964% | -1% | 6.3 | 13.0 |
| 132  | 81%   | PZ Cussons    | 102% | +%  | 5.1 | 11.8 |
| 6104 | 4102% | Reckitt Benck | 4397 | +20 | 4.4 | 19.2 |

### Information technology +0.50%

|     |      |                  |      |    |     |      |
|-----|------|------------------|------|----|-----|------|
| 389 | 224% | Aptitude Sftware | 370  | +2 | 1.5 | 51.2 |
| 205 | 79%  | Sprint           | 184% | +% | 1.7 | 54.7 |

### Insurance +0.32%

|      |      |         |      |     |      |      |
|------|------|---------|------|-----|------|------|
| 238  | 134% | abrdn   | 144% | -3% | 10.1 | -    |
| 2870 | 2010 | Admiral | 2577 | -12 | 4.0  | 23.2 |
| 501% | 366  | Aviva   | 478% | +4  | 7.0  | 12.7 |

### Investment trusts -0.06%

| 52 week High | Low   | Stock               | Price (€) +/- | Yld | NAV |      |
|--------------|-------|---------------------|---------------|-----|-----|------|
| 3105         | 1837% | Si                  | 3100          | -21 | 2.0 | 2097 |
| 349          | 276%  | Si Infrastructure   | 328           | +3  | 3.6 | 359  |
| 84%          | 60    | Balanced Comm Pp    | 271%          | -%  | 6.8 | 10.7 |
| 207          | 172%  | Bankers Investm Tst | 113%          | +%  | 2.3 | 129  |
| 117%         | 91%   | Bankers Investm Tst | 113%          | +%  | 2.3 | 129  |

### Investment trusts -0.06%

|       |      |                        |      |     |     |      |
|-------|------|------------------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 101%  | 75%  | Baillie Giff Euro Grth | 96   | -%  | 0.4 | 114  |
| 84%   | 60   | Balanced Comm Pp       | 271% | -%  | 6.8 | 10.7 |
| 117%  | 91%  | Bankers Investm Tst    | 113% | +%  | 2.3 | 129  |
| 104%  | 71%  | Biotech Growth         | 95   | -10 | -   | 1029 |
| 127   | 104  | BlackRockEmerg&Rt      | 117  | +1% | 3.8 | 131  |
| 159%  | 131% | BlackRock Frolw        | 142  | -3% | 4.7 | 160  |
| 653   | 457% | BlackRk Grt Euro       | 619  | -4  | 1.1 | 661  |
| 208   | 170  | BlackRk IntlGrth       | 188% | -   | 3.7 | 223  |
| 207   | 172% | BlackRkStkAmrca        | 185% | +%  | 4.1 | 215  |
| 1520  | 1146 | BlackRock Small        | 1468 | +2  | 2.8 | 1633 |
| 344   | 503  | BlackRk Thrg Tst       | 617  | -4  | 2.4 | 689  |
| 635   | 490  | BlackRock Wld M        | 562  | +8  | 6.0 | 569  |
| 1365% | 964  | Brunner                | 135% |     |     |      |

# Buy this property fund that has beaten targets for 11 years but is trading on a 30pc discount

**GAVIN LUMSDEN**  
QUESTOR  
TRUST BARGAINS



**The £525m Picton Property Income could generate higher returns than rivals Custodian and Schroders**

The launch of Special Opportunities real estate investment trust (Reit) that we wrote about two weeks ago has flopped, with the company failing to raise the £250m it wanted to buy commercial property portfolios being sold cheaply by pension schemes.

Investors balked at putting money into a new fund when rates are still high and six existing Reits investing across the UK real estate market can be bought at bargain prices. With that avenue closed, the question is, with shares in generalist listed property funds trading 27pc below asset value, which should you choose?

The abnormally wide discounts present a good opportunity with real estate recovering after a two-year slump. In most areas, commercial property prices are stabilising and rents growing – particularly in industrial parks and warehouses where there is limited new supply – although the office sector remains challenged by working from home and the cost of environmental standards.

Consensus forecasts compiled by the Investment Property Forum predict total annual returns of 7.5pc from UK real estate in the next five years. These range from more than 8pc for industrial properties and retail warehouses, 7.2pc for shopping centres and 5.8pc for offices, though London's West End and City are

**Picton Property Income**  
**BUY**

Picton 'could buy back a significant amount of its own shares' that could help re-rate the stock

expected to do slightly better. There's also the potential for more bids to liven up depressed Reit stocks following UK Commercial Property's acquisition by Tritax Big Box last month and LondonMetric's purchase of CT Property last year.

Analysts recently provided some guidance to the Association of Investment Companies on which UK generalist Reits investors should buy. Yields of 5pc-9pc look attractive but Andrew Rees, of Deutsche Numis, said: "You need to check how they [dividends] are being paid – from earnings or capital – and if they are fully covered."

Emma Bird, at Winterflood Securities, said: "It is important to note that earnings growth is a function of rental growth but also costs, so if they have rising costs (such as vacancies, debt, capital expenditure) this can impact earnings negatively even if rental income is growing."

Surveying the latest financial results from Reits, three generalists stand out. First is Custodian Reit on a 21pc discount after an attempted merger for rival Abridn Property was backed by a majority of shareholders but failed to gain the necessary 75pc support. That looks great value for a diversified £412m portfolio of smaller properties outside London that is 40pc invested in industrials and 23pc in retail warehouses. With a 5.5pc increase in



**Key numbers**

- ◆ Market value: £365m
- ◆ Year of listing: 2005
- ◆ Discount: 30pc
- ◆ Ave discount over past year: 31pc
- ◆ Yield: 5.5pc
- ◆ Most recent year's dividend: 3.5p
- ◆ Gearing: 29pc
- ◆ Annual charge: 1.2pc

covered dividends last year, the company is targeting a 9pc rise in the payout this year to 6p per share. This gives a prospective yield of 8.4pc that shows confidence in the prospects for rental growth.

Next is Schroders Real Estate, a £459m portfolio chasing a "green premium" by making its properties carbon neutral and energy efficient. It also paid a covered dividend in the year to March and with the target lifted to 3.4p per share this year offers a 7.8pc yield. On a 23pc discount the shares look attractive, particularly with a 61.5pc exposure to industrial estates and retail warehouses.

Last, but not least, is Picton Property Income. The £525m portfolio, split into 59pc industrials, 30pc offices and 7pc retail warehouses, is our pick of the crop. Despite beating its commercial property benchmark for 11 years in a row, with 153pc growth in net asset value over 10 years, the shares languish on a 30pc discount. Last year's dividend

**'The £525m portfolio, split into 59pc industrials, 30pc offices and 7pc retail warehouses, is our pick of the crop'**

was 1.1 times covered by earnings and, with the quarterly dividend raised 5.7pc to deliver 3.7p this year, the shares yield 5.5pc. Although below the other two, with estimated rental value 29pc above current rents, Picton's overall growth prospects look brighter.

Marcus Phayre-Mudge, manager of TR Property, which we tipped in April, praised Picton's "fantastic debt structure" with borrowings under 27pc of assets entirely fixed and with its £50m overdraft repaid after the sale of two offices in London and Cardiff. Phayre-Mudge, who holds 2.8pc of his trust in Picton, suggested Picton "could buy back a significant amount of its own shares" that could help re-rate the stock.

**Questor says:** buy Picton Property Income  
**Ticker:** PCTN  
**Share price at close:** 66.7p

Gavin Lumsden is editor of Citywire's Investment Trust Insider website

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules

## Warhammer maker Games Workshop gives £18m to staff

Games Workshop has revealed plans to share £18m among its staff. The Warhammer figurine maker reported a stronger year of sales and profits as it handed out cash payments "on an equal basis to each member of staff" in recognition of their contribution to its financial performance.

The Nottingham-based company has more than 1,500 staff working at its headquarters in the UK, as well as workers based in offices and stores around the world. Last year, it awarded "group profit share" cash payments totalling £11m to its employees.

It said it estimates its pre-tax profit for the year to June to be at least £200m, up from £171m the previous year, while total sales are expected to have jumped from £445m to £490m.

## Debanking review delayed until after election, says FCA

The financial watchdog will wait until after the general election to publish its review into how banks conduct mandatory extra checks on "politically exposed" customers and their families for money-laundering risks.

The review had been expected to be published at the end of June but will now be released after Parliament returns following the vote on July 4, the Financial Conduct Authority said.

The review of rules on politically exposed persons is part of a wider look at "debanking", a topic that came to the fore after the private bank Coutts threatened to close Nigel Farage's account last year. Mr Farage accused the bank, part of partially state-owned NatWest, of discriminating against him because of his political views.

## EasyJet and Ryanair attack Brussels over emissions inquiry

Ryanair and easyJet have lashed out at a decision by the EU to exclude long-haul flights from its crackdown on jet emissions. The budget airlines have said the move, announced yesterday, will make a mockery of Europe's efforts to combat climate change.

It comes after Brussels bowed to pressure from long-haul airlines and dropped plans to include all flights from its study into the effects of non-CO2 emissions.

This means the inquiry will be limited to flights operating solely within the bloc, crucially excluding long-haul carriers such as Lufthansa, which runs flights from Europe to destinations further afield. The focus of the inquiry will be on the by-products of burning jet fuel, such as soot.

## Gas prices spike as France mulls ban on Russian LNG

European gas prices jumped as much as 2.7pc yesterday after a French Senate committee called on the country to stop importing Russian liquefied natural gas (LNG) and pushed for the fuel to face EU sanctions.

The committee's report called for France take a leading position among European nations "by proposing the inclusion of Russian LNG to the list of sanctioned energy products and lead by example by halting as soon as possible the import of Russian LNG into France."

Although deliveries of Russian gas to Europe by pipeline dried up after Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, deliveries of LNG by ship continued, with TotalEnergies transporting the gas from Siberian fields to France.

## Chinese carmakers call on Beijing to hit back over EV tariffs

Chinese carmakers have urged Beijing to hit back against European Union tariffs on electric vehicles (EVs) with the "most severe measures".

At a private meeting organised by China's ministry of commerce, manufacturers reportedly called on their government to retaliate by imposing tariffs on imported European vehicles with high-powered engines.

German marques and Britain's Jaguar Land Rover, which makes Land Rover Discovery and Land Rover Defender models in Slovakia, could be hit along with the Italian luxury brand Ferrari.

Beijing is seeking to put pressure on Europe to overturn a series of EU tariffs that were imposed on leading Chinese EV brands last week.

## Taylor Swift's favourite trainer maker shelves float

Golden Goose, the "dirty" trainers brand loved by Taylor Swift, is to postpone its planned stock market listing after the snap election in France sparked turmoil among European stocks.

The Italian brand, which is owned by the British private equity group Permira, said on Tuesday night that "the significant deterioration in market conditions following European Parliament elections this month and the calling of a general election in France have impacted European markets performance and, in particular, the luxury sector."

The maker of distressed, "shabby chic" trainers had planned to float at least 25pc of its shares on the Milan stock exchange tomorrow.

## The Telegraph

Which party can I trust to protect my assets?

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# Court & Social

## Court Circular



**WINDSOR CASTLE**  
June 19th  
General Sir Patrick Sanders was received by The King at Buckingham Palace this morning upon relinquishing his appointment as Chief of the General Staff.  
The President of the Republic of Zambia visited His Majesty at Buckingham Palace.  
Mrs Hichilema was also received by The King.  
The Queen honoured Ascot Races with her presence today.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
June 19th  
The Duke of Kent, President, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this morning received Mr Mark Dowie upon relinquishing his appointment as Chief Executive and Mr Peter Sparkes upon assuming the appointment, at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1.  
His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon attended a Luncheon at the Royal Thames Yacht Club for former Chairmen of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

### Today's birthdays

The Duchess of Gloucester is 78.

The President of India is 66.

The Earl of Cranbrook, zoologist, 91; Ms Claire Tomalin, writer, 91; Miss Wendy Craig, actress, 90; Sir Michael Buckley, The Ombudsman, 1997-2002, 85; Sir Stephen Frears, film director, 83; Mr Andrew Graham, Master of Balliol College, Oxford, 2001-11, 82; Mr Christopher Scott, President, Prison Governors' Association, 1995-2000, 81; Mr David French, Chief Executive, Westminster Foundation for Democracy, 2003-09, 77; Mr Lionel Richie, singer and songwriter, 75; the Hon Sir Peregrine Simon, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 74; Prof Gordon Marshall, sociologist; Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading, 2003-11, 72; Mr Vikram Seth, writer, 72; Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division, 70; Lord Justice Davis, 70; Mr Allan Lamb, former England cricketer, 70; Air Chief Marshal Sir Simon Bryant, C-in-C Air Command, 2010-12, 68; Miss Nicole Kidman, actress, 57; Mr Mohamed Sadiq, Lord-Lieutenant for Somerset, 54; and Sir Brandon Lewis, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, 2020-22; MP, 2010-24, 53.

Today is the anniversary of the accession to the throne by Princess Victoria in 1837.

### Clergy news

**Retirements and resignations**  
Rev Christine Harding, assoc p, Chadwell Heath St Chad (Chelmsford), retired with effect from May 1 2024; David Spencer ceased as anglican chapl, HMP Fosse Way (Leicester) with effect from May 28 2024, but remains assoc min, Barrow-upon-Soar with Walton le Wolds, Wymeswold and Prestwold with Hoton (same dio).

### Bridge news

The Yorkshire Congress has taken place at the Radisson hotel in York, writes Julian Pottage, Bridge Correspondent. The winners were as follows:

**Teams**  
1st Stuart Davies, Nichola Cockerill-Smith, Gill Copeland, Steve Blackburn -30 IMPs.  
2nd Szczepan Smoczyński, Claire Robinson, Alan Jarvis, Alan Hayward -27 IMPs.  
3rd Alan Brosgill, Robin Jepson, Nick Woolven, Martin Edge -22 IMPs.

**Pairs**  
1st Alan Jarvis and Alan Hayward 60.95%.  
2nd Richard Hilton and Don Hilton 59.39%.  
3rd Matt Brown and Croz Crosswell 58.64%.

**9-High Pairs**  
1st Pauline Stout & Ian Newsham 61.00%.  
2nd-Justine Davies & Rebecca Pullan 57.00%.  
2nd-Linda James & Anne Kimberley 57.00%.

## Bridge Hand

### Boo-boy not silenced

By Tom Townsend

**Dealer North**  
**Vulnerability None**  
♠ 10 8 6 2  
♥ J 4 2  
♦ Q J 9 8 6 2  
♣ A J 8 6 4  
A 4 3  
A 6 3  
A K  
N S E W  
♠ 5  
♥ Q J 9 7 5  
♦ K 10 9 8 5  
♣ 10 4  
K Q 10 9 7 3 2  
K  
Q 7  
7 5 3

**West North East South**  
pass pass pass 3♠(1)  
pass pass dble(2) pass  
pass pass

(1) Pre-emptive weak three  
(2) For take-out

Contract 3♠ doubled  
Declarer South  
Opening Lead ♠K

**NORTH-SOUTH** here were Geoff Hampson and Eric Greco, playing for Nickell in the final of the US Open Team Trials. East-West were Joe Grue and Brad Moss, for the winning Fleisher team. Their teammates were Marty Fleisher and Chip Martel, Kevin Bathurst and John Hurd. They'll play as USA at this autumn's World Bridge Games in Buenos Aires, where they will start as one of the favourites. The England team also looks competitive: Andrew Black and David Gold, Simon Cole and Peter Crouch, Andrew McIntosh and Thomas Paske.

Fleisher ripped the match apart with a 80-15 fourth stanza, ending with an uninterrupted sequence of 76 IMPs in their favour. This was

# ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

## The Daily Telegraph

LONDON, FRIDAY JUNE 20, 1924

### GREAT BRITAIN AND MEXICAN INSULT.

### RELATIONS BROKEN OFF.

### PREMIER'S STATEMENT.

In the House of Commons yesterday afternoon Mr. Ramsay MacDonald made his promised statement with regard to the situation which has arisen between Great Britain and the Republic of Mexico out of the action of President Obregon in ordering the expulsion of Mr. Cummins, the British representative at Mexico City. The Prime Minister read the letters sent to the Mexican Foreign Minister by Mr. Cummins on the subject of the treatment by the Mexican Government of Mrs. Evans, a British subject, which letters formed the basis of the charges brought against Mr. Cummins by the Mexican Government. The Prime Minister informed the House that in view of the attitude of the Mexican Government Mr. Cummins is being withdrawn, and that the American Government will take charge of the Legation and its archives. This, of course, means that diplomatic relations are entirely broken off.

Mr. MacDonald's statement, which was made in answer to a question by Mr. Baldwin, was as follows:

In view of what has been published in the Press, I think His Majesty's Government ought to inform the House of what actually has taken place since the last statement was made. Last Monday I gave an account of the events that led up to the present relations between Mr. Cummins, who has been acting as our Representative in Mexico, and the Government of that country, and I need only remind the House, in view of what I have noticed in the Press since then, that, in order to try and improve relations between Mexico and ourselves, in April I decided to send to Mexico the Hohler Mission, and at once informed the Mexican Government, through its Consul-General here, that such was my intention, and that on the arrival of the Mission Mr. Cummins would have leave. On the 13th of the following month I was informed that Mr. Cummins must be withdrawn at once owing to insulting letters written by him to the Government. The letters were written owing to the Mexican Government seeking to dispossess a Mrs. Evans, a British subject, of her farm. The proceedings, as reported to me, were irregular and illegal, and Mr. Cummins would have been lacking in his duty had he made no representations on her behalf. (Cheers.) I wished, however, to examine the letters complained of. They are brief, and I shall read them to the House. They were addressed to his Excellency General Aaron Saenz, the Mexican Foreign Minister, and the first, which was dated Dec. 19, 1923, was as follows:

My dear General Saenz—In the last paragraph of my Note to Mr. Pani on Jan. 17 last I mentioned that I had been instructed to impress solemnly upon the authorities who exercise power in Mexico that the Government of his Britannic Majesty must hold them responsible for the safety and well-being of Mrs. H. E. R. Evans. I regret to inform you that Mrs. Evans last night received news to the effect that her hacienda of San Pedro, Coxtocan, was being attacked, and the buildings thereon destroyed by fire. This British subject left the capital by train this morning, with the intention of reaching her property by any means that may become available. I beg that your Excellency will take the steps that circumstances may require in order to afford this British lady due protection. I have the honour to be, my dear General Saenz, with the highest consideration, very sincerely yours,  
(Signed) H. A. C. CUMMINS.

The second letter, dated Dec. 31, 1923, was as follows:

Dear General Saenz—The attention of His Majesty's Government has been called to losses that have recently been inflicted upon the Tiahuallo Company, in the State of Durango, and the Salinas of Mexico Ltd., in the State of San Luis Potosi, British enterprises that have been obliged by Federal army officers to deliver to them horses, saddles, and fodder. It is unnecessary to mention to your Excellency that British subjects in this country and Mexican citizens in British territory are exempted by the treaty of 1888 between Great Britain and Mexico from all requisitions of this nature; but his Majesty's Government will be grateful if the Mexican Government will recall these terms of agreement to military and State officials, and instruct them that demands of this character should not be made upon British nationals and their interests. —I have the honour to be, my dear General Saenz, with the highest consideration, very sincerely yours,  
(Signed) H. A. C. CUMMINS.

### CASE OF MRS. EVANS.

That is the second letter which is objected to as being rude. With regard to the third letter, I had to telegraph for a copy of it, and, therefore, I am reading it to the telegraphed copy. It will be seen that certain unnecessary words are omitted, but I will read the text of the telegram, which was dispatched on May 15, 1924. It is as follows:

May 3, 1924.  
My Dear General Saenz—I would by these informal lines make a last appeal to you and General Obregon, on behalf of Mrs. Evans. Also, it is the desire of his Britannic Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that Mexican Government should be made fully aware of the seriousness and dangers of the position in which they have placed this British subject, and I would, therefore, recall to you that not only constitution and law of Mexico forbid the course taken by the Government of Mexico against this person, but surely laws of man forbid the persecution and despoiling of a woman, alone in the world and defenceless. At this moment when armed forces are being sent against her to take away that which she has acquired in accordance with laws of Mexico, authorities are demanding, at the house in which Government soldiers recently employed fire and robbery, immediate payment of large sum of money on account of taxes.

You will be aware of circumstances in which Mrs. Evans's appeals for Amparo are at the moment, and know that on legal grounds acts of authorities cannot be justified, but I would recall to you that President of the Republic has also issued decree expropriating the whole property for national purposes, and that, therefore, Mrs. Evans in resisting occupation by individuals may be said to be defending land which chief of the executive has by decree reserved on the ground of public utility. Whilst also mentioning that Governments of Great Britain and United States have informally made earnest representations on Mrs. Evans's behalf, I would beg you to take into consideration that orders have been issued to military force at San Pedro and Coxtocan to refrain from taking any part in perilous circumstances in which this lady is placed, and that, therefore, she is at this moment left defenceless and alone except for the aid of brave young American who has gone to her assistance. This whole matter is incredible to his Majesty's Government, and more so to me in view of proofs I have had in the past that General Obregon would defend and help any woman, and not set armed and dangerous men against her in district where already landowners have been cruelly murdered. —I have the honour to be, my dear General Saenz, with the highest consideration, very sincerely yours,  
(Signed) H. A. C. CUMMINS.

I see nothing in these letters that is objectionable—(cheers)—and if Foreign Offices objected to such communications there would soon be no diplomatic relations at all. (Cheers.) The behaviour of the Mexican Government has been execrable. After various attempts to get that Government to hold its hand, a message came to the Foreign Office on Saturday, the 14th, that if Mr. Cummins did not surrender himself, his Majesty's Legation would be broken into on the 16th. The Consul-General was warned by me of the gravity of such a step, and I made a final request to the Government to take no further action till the arrival of the Hohler Mission, which I was still prepared to send. Next day I received a refusal, and I requested the American Government to be good enough to arrange for the withdrawal of Mr. Cummins, to see to his safe conduct, and to take charge of the Legation and archives in the meanwhile.

## A COMPLETE RUPTURE.

### FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Mexican Government evidently felt considerable concern when it first learned the intention of the British Government to break off diplomatic relations altogether, and in order to minimise the seriousness of the position caused a further statement to be given to the Press, which misrepresented the facts in a gross, and even comical, fashion. For the statement in question sought to create the impression that the British Government was withdrawing Mr. Cummins in deference to the Mexican Government, and was sending out Sir Thomas Holder at once.

It is well that public opinion in Mexico, as elsewhere, should clearly realise that Mr. Cummins has been withdrawn because Great Britain cannot see her way to maintain any diplomatic relations with a Government which has acted in the way in which the Mexican Government has acted, and that Sir Thomas Holder is not proceeding to Mexico, nor is any other British representative.

## Chess

### Chartres on top

By Malcolm Pein

CHARTRES, playing in their hometown, and led by Vasyi Ivanchuk, won the 2025 French Team Championship, known as the Top 16, in what was a particularly close and hard-fought competition.

The teams were split into two groups of eight, with four teams from each group qualifying for Poule Haute, and taking their scores from seven preliminary matches forward. The other teams went into Poule Basse, from which one team was relegated.

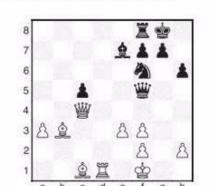
French League matches are over eight boards, and each team must include at least one woman. A match win is worth three points, a 4-4 draw secures two points, and a loss, one point.

Five of the eight teams who qualified for Poule Haute had amassed 18 team points after the preliminary round, having won six matches and lost one. The teams started the final phase with 17 points.

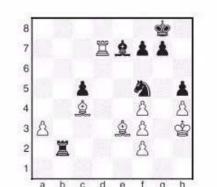
Chartres won all four matches against teams they had not faced in the preliminaries, with 55-year-old Ivanchuk scoring 6/9 on top board. The standout performance came from the Indian Arjun Erigaisi, who scored 7.5/9, and jumped to fourth in the live rankings. Bischofberger came second after drawing 4-4 in the live and final round with my club Asnières, who were third.

V Ivanchuk—J Van Foreest  
Queen's Gambit Accepted  
Ld4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nf6 4.Bxc4 e6 5.Nb3 a6 6.0-0 Be7 7.a3 (impeding b7-b5-b4, giving the bishop on c4 a retreat, and, in an isolated queen's pawn position, ruling out Nc6-b4) 7...Nbd7 8.b4! (impeding c7-c5 as well) 8...b6

9.Nc3 Bb7 10.Rb1 0-0 11.Qe2 c5 12.bxc5 Bxf3 13.gxf3! (Maintaining pressure on a6) 13...bxc5 14.d5! exd5 15.Nxd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 Bb8 17.Rxb8 Qxb8 18.Qxa6 Qe5 19.Rd1 Nf6 20.Bb3 (Black has no real play for the lost pawn) 20...h6 21.Qc4 Qf5 22.Kg2 Qg6+ 23.Kf1 Qf5



24.Ke2! Qe5 25.h4 Qh2 26.Rd2 Ne8 (26...Nh5 27.Qg4 Bxb4 28.Qxb4 Qx2-29.Kd1 is nothing to be worried about) 27.Qf4 (27.Rd1 Bxb4 28.Rf1 Be7 29.a4 was more accurate) 27...Qx4 28.exf4 Nf6 29.Rd5 Nb5 30.Kf1 Rb8 (30...c4 31.Rxb5 (31.Bxc4 Nxa3) 31...cxb3 32.Rxb3 Bxb4 should hold the draw) 31.Bc4 Nd4 32.Kg2 Rb1? 33.Be3 Rb2 34.Rd7 Nf5 (34...Kf8 35.Ra7) 35.Kh3 h5? White to play and win.



Answer: 36...Bd6 loses a piece.

# Announcements

Email: [announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk](mailto:announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk) Book online: [announcements.telegraph.co.uk](http://announcements.telegraph.co.uk)

### Births

**JEWELL.**—On 13th May 2024, to Alexandra Heriot Maitland and Calum Jewell, a son, Fergus Brodie Maitland Jewell.  
Online Ref: W0025697

### Deaths

**CASSIM.**—Julia Kathleen (née Grimble) aged 76 on 16th June. Passed away peacefully after a sudden heart attack in Japan, surrounded by family and friends.  
Online Ref: W0025807

**MILNE HOME.**—John David Arthur peacefully on 16th June aged 84. A much loved husband, father and grandfather. Family funeral to be followed by a thanksgiving service at a later date.  
Online Ref: W0025772

**MINYER.**—Chris aged 91 died peacefully at home on Friday 14th June with his wife Lynda by his side. Chris will always be remembered for his intelligence, kindness, generosity and interest in travel and people from all nationalities and walks of life. His Funeral will take place at Putney Vale Crematorium on Monday 15th July at 12 noon for family and friends. For further details contact Chelsea Funeral Directors. Tel: 020 7352 0008.  
Online Ref: W0025758

**SIMPER.**—Nigel Philip passed away peacefully at home with his family on 14th June 2024, aged 81 years. Devoted husband, caring father and loving grandfather. A Celebration of Life Service will take place on Monday 1st July at 11.15 a.m. at Seven Hills Crematorium, Ipswich. Family flowers only and please wear colourful, comfortable clothes. Donations in memory of Nigel may be made to St Elizabeth Hospice, Suffolk at the service or via [nigelimper.muchloved.com](http://nigelimper.muchloved.com)  
Online Ref: W0025626

**TANDY.**—Virginia Ann O'Connor (formerly Pihlow), beloved mother of Fionn, Tara and Ben, died peacefully on 12th June 2024. She will be fondly remembered by friends, family and colleagues around the world and much missed by her three siblings, three children and eight grandchildren. There will be a small family funeral, and a memorial service later in the year.  
Online Ref: W0025753

**VERNON.**—Roderick (Roddy) William Pomeroy, died peacefully on Friday 14th June, aged 89. Much loved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral at 11 a.m. on Friday 28th June at St Lawrence Church, Chobham, Surrey. No flowers please. Donations are welcome to RNLI.  
Online Ref: W0025808

**WILLIAMS.**—Trevor John, died peacefully on 30th May 2024 at East Surrey Hospital aged 90. Formerly of Slaney, Brasted. Trevor attended Reble College, Oxford, flew in the RAF and was a Patent Agent and partner at J A Kemp & Co for over 30 years. Devoted husband to Breda. He was a much loved father, father in law, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle and friend. A true 'Gentleman' who will be very sadly missed. Funeral service to be held at St Martin's Church in Brasted, TN16 1HZ at 12.15 p.m. on Wednesday 26th June 2024, followed by the committal at the Bluebell Cemetery in Halstead. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to the Alzheimer's Society. Alex Jones Funeral Directors, 1 East Grinstead Road, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6PE.  
Online Ref: W0025770

### Personal

#### Text for the day

**TO MAKE** an apt answer is a joy to anyone, and a word in season, how good it is!  
*Proverbs 15.23 (NRSV)*

#### Birthdays

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY NINA**  
60 years since we met. Not forgotten. Chris (Bournemouth).  
Online Ref: W0025812

#### Legal Notices

CR-2024-002291

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BUSINESS AND PROPERTY COURTS COMPANIES COURT (CBD)**

**IN THE MATTER OF GRAPHCORE LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that His Majesty's High Court of Justice confirmed the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company, whose registered office is at 9th Floor, 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DN, by an Order granted by the Insolvency and Companies Court Judge on 28 May 2024.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the above-mentioned Order and the accompanying statement of capital were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 3 June 2024.

Orrick, Herrington & Stulleiff (UK) LLP, 9th Floor, 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DN, Solicitors for the Company.

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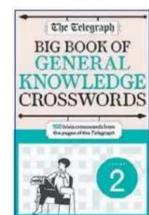
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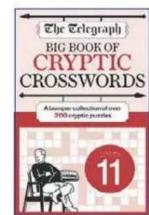
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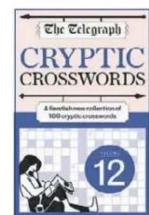
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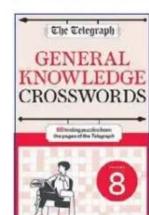
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# Julia Budworth

Co-owner of *The Lady* who had a public bust-up with her new editor over the magazine's revamp

**JULIA BUDWORTH**, who has died aged 92, was co-proprietor of *The Lady*, founded by her grandfather in 1885 as "A Journal for Gentlemen"; in 2010 her formidable character and gift for vivid invective came to public notice in the course of an explosive row with the magazine's editor, Rachel Johnson.

She was born "above the shop" in a house adjoining *The Lady's* offices in Covent Garden, and was devoted to the magazine. But after her father's death in 1955 her brother, Tom Bowles, became the majority shareholder ("He had the lion's share and I had the mouse's share - two-sevenths"), and her influence was limited.

The siblings had a fractious relationship - "My mother and Tom have been squabbling since the age of two," her son Ben Budworth once observed - and for decades Julia Budworth found her ideas for modernising the magazine rejected.

*The Lady* was bought less for its often soporific articles than for its upmarket classified advertisements: it was the go-to periodical for a peer seeking a new butler or a gentlewoman fallen on hard times looking to offer her services as a governess. Members of the Royal family were known to advertise anonymously for staff.

The advent of the internet and the increasing impoverishment of the aristocracy resulted in a disastrous fall in advertising revenue in the new millennium, and in 2008 Tom Bowles announced that he was thinking of euthanising *The Lady*.

By Julia Budworth's account, she raised £500,000 to buy him out, splitting the shares equally between her and her four sons to avoid future death duties.

Her son Ben became managing director, although his uncle Tom continued to live in the 19-room flat above the magazine's office and would periodically emerge in his pyjamas to check on his nephew's activities.

The following year, the journalist Rachel Johnson, sister of Boris (and now the sex and relationships agony aunt of *The Daily Telegraph*), was appointed editor of the magazine.

"The house rules are: no sex, no celebrity, and no politics," Julia Budworth told her; nevertheless Rachel Johnson recalled that she was expected to "double the circulation and halve the average age of the readership (78)".

Although she found her proprietress "beyond terrifying", she was soon defying her. She immediately junked the articles about furry animals and seasonal fruits that filled the submission folders; the traditional illustrated covers were replaced with photographs of the celebrities interviewed within. "What's wrong with some nice flowers in a vase?" was Julia Budworth's horrified response.

Worse was to follow: an interview with Tracey Emin in which she posited "her pet theory that needlework was a substitute through the ages for masturbation"; an article on "the do's and don'ts of bedding the nanny".

Open warfare erupted after Channel 4 broadcast a documentary, *The Lady and the Revamp*, in which Rachel Johnson, sulking after a row with Ben Budworth, called *The Lady* "a piddling little magazine that nobody cares about or buys".

As Julia Budworth recalled, "That's when I waltzed into the office and said: 'I've come to murder the editor. Is she around?' I found her upstairs cowering behind her desk."

Over the next two years she missed no opportunity to denounce Rachel Johnson in public. In 2010 the *Telegraph's* Judith



Julia Budworth: expected Rachel Johnson to double the circulation, but open warfare ensued

Woods visited her at Deerbolt Hall, her home in Suffolk, and was treated to a broadside: "Rachel's not stupid, but she is totally in thrall to celebrities and has gone adrift."

"She seemed the right sort - charming parents, a house in the country, goes walking with her dogs - but she's actually very brash and arrogant."

She went on to accuse Rachel Johnson of being "penis-obsessed": "Why, oh why, must Rachel bring willies into everything? She did it on *Question Time* during a debate on Trident - *Question Time*, I ask you! - but I won't have her doing it at *The Lady*... Maybe she spent too much time in the company of her three brothers, but she seems to think she's a man."

Rachel Johnson took the jibes in good spirit, although she contradicted Julia Budworth's claim that *The Lady's* circulation had "crashed": in fact it rose by 5,000 in the first months of her tenure.

She also enjoyed the continuing support of Ben Budworth, who told the *Evening Standard* that his mother "shouts first and thinks later... There isn't a shopkeeper in Suffolk who hasn't suffered a verbal assault of this sort from her."

Some commentators suspected that this un-*Lady*-like spat was a publicity stunt, but Julia Budworth seemed genuinely upset by being dismissed as a reactionary. "I feel quite dismayed that I'm now being treated like some stick-in-the-mud, when for 25 years I've been trying to move things forward."

In 2011 Rachel Johnson agreed to take on the backroom role of editor-in-chief. Julia Budworth, demonstrating a mastery of the backhanded compliment, declared: "I wish her no ill. She has a darling office dog, Coco, who now features in *The Lady*. And you know, I think Rachel's at her very best when she's writing Coco's diary."

She even acknowledged some points of similarity between them both. "Actually, I like the Johnsons. They are a very colourful family. Life would be so much duller without them. I, myself, come from a similar family and recognise a fellow traveller."

Julia Mary Bowles was born on March 7 1932, the daughter of George Bowles and his wife Madeleine (née Tobin). Her grandfather, Thomas Gibson Bowles, was a Conservative MP and journalist who founded *The Lady* in 1885; according to Julia, he had three children by Rita Shell, the governess to his legitimate children, whom he later installed as the magazine's editor.

Julia's father managed to maintain *The Lady* as a going concern through the Great Depression and the Second World War. His sister, Sydney, went down in history as the vague "Muv", mother of the Mitford Sisters.

Julia would stay with the Mitfords on Inch Kenneth, the Hebridean island they owned. She remembered her cousin Nancy as resembling her black French bulldog Millie - "snappy but curiously endearing" - and was closest to the youngest Mitford sibling, Debo, whose wedding to the future Duke of Devonshire she attended in 1941.

One day Debo told Julia that Nancy was writing another book, "with a silly title ... *The Pursuit of Love*, or something like that". The novel immortalised the Mitford girls' father, David, as "Uncle Matthew"; at one time he had been general manager of *The Lady*, but often turned up at the office with his mongoose before disappearing to go rattling.

In 1952 Julia married David Budworth, who ran an engineering company; he died in 1974 when the private aircraft he was piloting crashed. Her profits from *The Lady* were used to educate her five sons.

The magazine continued to attract controversy after Rachel Johnson stepped down. In 2012 the new editor Matt Warren - the first man to take the role - was reported to be sleeping in his office after his wife discovered that he was having an affair with his secretary.

"My biggest concern would be the upkeep of the bed," Julia Budworth informed the *Telegraph*. "It would need to be aired and pressed correctly."

There were further travails in 2018 when, according to Julia Budworth, her son Ben reported that the business was insolvent, with a £1.2 million debt.

He was said to have bought his mother and brothers' remaining shares for £6,000; he then sold the office that had housed the magazine for 130 years and shifted operations to Borehamwood, with his wife, Helen, becoming acting editor.

In an interview with the *Daily Mail*, Julia Budworth was typically forthright in her assessment of her son - "Crablike, Ben's taken over everything. He's even done down his own mother" - and complained that he kept flying his helicopter near her house. "Notice he doesn't land and come in for a cup of tea. Oh no. He wouldn't dare do that. He runs a mile from me, as well he might." Ben denied any sharp practice.

Julia Budworth did not describe herself as a feminist, but did once observe in the *Telegraph*: "I am happy to stand in the Tube while all the men are sitting. They are in their right place there. I can look down on them."

She is survived by four sons; a fifth predeceased her.

**Julia Budworth, born March 7 1932, died May 19 2024**

# Rose-Marie

Northern Irish country singer and popular television guest

**ROSE-MARIE KANE**, who has died suddenly aged 68, was a red-haired country singer from Northern Ireland who was usually known by her first name; she released 19 albums and became well known as a television personality and all-round entertainer.

The eldest of six children, five of them girls, Rose-Marie Kane was born on February 7 1956, to Owen and Ann Kane, and had a strict Catholic upbringing on the family farm just outside Newry, Co Down.

She and her sister Ann had to milk the cows every morning before school. "We used to sing *Danny Boy* to them because the acoustics were fantastic," she recalled. "Then we'd have to rush back, get our uniforms on and dash for the bus to go to school."

Calling themselves the Kane Sisters, Rose-Marie and three of her siblings would sing at old people's homes and local venues. But her sisters became more keen on boyfriends, so, she said, "I gave it up as a bad job and I thought to myself, 'I want to be a solo singer'."

Her father wanted her to get a "proper job", so she took up hairdressing - but it did not last: "It was pensioner's day and I was cutting the hair of a wee old woman, and then there was blood on the white towel and I had cut off her earlobe. She left screaming... I just realised I am not cut out for this."

Aged 19, she decided to try her luck in England, where she toured working men's clubs, honing a gift for humorous banter between songs, before entering two television talent shows, *Search for a Star* and *New Faces*. She did not win, but her sense of humour led to invitations to appear on the LWT comedy game show *Punchlines*, and then a guest slot on Chas and Dave's television show.

It was her fellow Northern Irish comedian Frank Carson who helped to launch her career as a singer. He persuaded the bookmaker and boxing promoter Barney Eastwood to put up the money for her to record what became her signature song, *When I Leave the World Behind* (1983), and after singing it to Chas and Dave she landed a record deal with Telstar.

Her first album, *Just For You*, followed, and she was soon touring as a support act for such stars as Johnny Cash, Cannon and Ball, and her heroine, Tammy



She sang *Danny Boy* to the cows on the family farm

Wynette. Rose-Marie went on to tour in the UK and Europe and made frequent appearances at the London Palladium, at one of which she met Diana, Princess of Wales, backstage. "I loved your singing, but you made me laugh," the Princess told her.

Rose-Marie became a popular guest on television shows including *The Des O'Connor Show*, *Shooting Stars* with Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer, and *Big Brother's Little Brother* with Dermot O'Leary. She also took guest roles in series such as *Doctors* and won favourable reviews as Mrs Johnstone in the stage musical *Blood Brothers*.

In the early years of this century she spent five years in America, headlining in Las Vegas, where she won a Best New Singer/Entertainer award.

Back in the UK, she made the 10 o'clock news when someone outside a concert hall in Lewisham tore down one of the posters promoting her new album, featuring what she insisted was just "a little bit of bare thigh".

"My manager got me to insure my legs for half a million pounds," she recalled, "and for a while I wasn't allowed to ride a bicycle or a horse or do anything to put them at risk. It was hilarious."

Rose-Marie did much work for charity and was a member of the Grand Order of Lady Ratlings and an honorary member of the Lady Taverners.

She was reticent about her age, telling an interviewer: "I've lied about my age all my life, so much so that I have to go off afterwards and say my Hail Marys." She also refused to be drawn about her love life, though it seems that there was a brief marriage which was annulled.

At the time of her death, Rose-Marie was busy recording her 20th album.

**Rose-Marie, born February 7 1956, died June 5 2024**

# Willie Mays

The greatest all-rounder baseball has ever seen who electrified the sport with his strength and grace

**WILLIE MAYS**, who has died aged 93, was one of the best baseball players in the history of his sport; alongside his fellow black players, Jackie Robinson and Hank Aaron, he also helped to dismantle racial barriers with his grace, power and effervescent personality.

While most observers would probably place him behind Babe Ruth in the baseball pantheon, there was no better all-rounder. Mays was what coaches call a "five-tool player", excelling in the five physical categories of speed, throwing, fielding, hitting for power and hitting for average (the batting average is the number of hits divided by the number of at-bats).

He was named on 24 All-Star teams in 18 seasons (more than one such team was sometimes named each year), and across his 23-year career he hit 660 home runs, had 3,293 hits and a batting average of .301.

But while none of those figures are chart-toppers - he comes in at sixth on the all-time home runs list, though he did score four in one game in 1961 - it was Mays's all-round talents that marked him out. Aside from his hitting prowess and consistency, he had a facility for stealing bases that helped to revive what had been a dying art (a base is stolen when a player manages to progress from one base to the next under the pitcher's nose; with his speed and guile, Mays stole 339 in his career).

Most importantly, he was a centre-fielder with a magic glove and an exquisitely accurate throwing arm, and from 1957 he won 12 consecutive Gold Gloves for defensive excellence.

In 1954 he pulled off what became known simply as "the Catch". In Game 1 of the best-of-seven World Series his New York Giants side were tied 2-2 against the Cleveland Indians in the eighth inning.

With the Indians batting, Vic Wertz released a mighty shot which seemed to be a home run all the way. But Mays made an astonishing on-the-run, over-the-shoulder catch, then whipped the ball with laser-like accuracy to second base, preventing the Indians from scoring.

The Giants went on to win that match, and the next three, for a 4-0 clean sweep - though Mays was annoyed when



A superb fielder, he won 12 Gold Gloves, awarded for defensive excellence, in a row

sportswriters described his throw as merely "instinctive".

"All the while I'm runnin' back, I'm planning how to get off that throw," he recalled. "To keep my momentum, to get it working for me, I have to turn very hard and short and throw the ball from exactly the point that I caught it."

The glove with which Mays made his famous catch and throw was eventually put on display at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

His sunny character made him

immensely popular in the sport and beyond, and he was known as the "Say Hey Kid", for his habitual greeting of "Hey".

Mays's exuberant personality was matched by an undeniable flashiness on the field of play: he would often make unconventional catches, holding his glove at waist level for his trademark "basket catch", and he would slide to the ground as he took the catch to make it look trickier than it was. He admitted to wearing a cap a size too big so it would fly off as he ran for a catch or sprinted round the bases.

He said his showy style stemmed from his days in the Negro leagues: "We were all entertainers, and my job was to give the fans something to talk about each game."

Willie Howard Mays Jr was born on May 6 1931 in Westfield, Alabama, near Birmingham, to unmarried teenage parents; his father, William "Cat" Mays, was a young steelworker and stylish semi-pro baseball player, while his mother, Annie Satterthwaite, was a 16-year-old star runner at high school. When he was a baby she moved away and went on to have 10 more children, though Willie kept in touch with her into adulthood.

Brought up by his father and two aunts, he was, like his mother, a star athlete, at Fairfield Industrial High School. He was also a baseball prodigy, nurtured by his father, and at 17 joined Birmingham Barons in one of the Negro leagues; he was initially unable to join the team on road trips until school was out for the summer.

In 1947 the major leagues began to take on black players, and three years later the New York Giants paid the Barons \$10,000 for Mays, who had just turned 20. He was voted National League Rookie of the Year that season, but with war raging in Korea he was drafted - though he spent the best part of two years in the army playing baseball at an army camp in Virginia.

He returned in 1954 - and after five titles in a row for their city rivals, the New York Yankees, the Giants reached the World Series against the Cleveland Indians, with Mays making his famous "Catch".

In 1957 the Giants moved to San Francisco - and although Mays would soon become revered in the Golden Gate City, his initial

reception was hostile. When he tried to buy a house in a white area there was uproar among neighbours who feared a drop in property prices. The city's mayor offered to put up Mays and his wife in his own home, shaming the house vendors into going ahead with the sale. When the Mays did move in, a Coke bottle containing a hate message was hurled through their front window.

But he was reluctant to make waves, and his hero Jackie Robinson, who did campaign for civil rights, scorned his cosy public image and criticised him for not lending his heft to the struggles for social justice. "I can't stand on a soapbox and preach," Mays responded. "It isn't my nature." He did his bit, he insisted, by mentoring young black players.

If Mays made one mis-step in his career, it was going on too long. By the early 1970s he was one of his sport's best-paid players, earning \$165,000 a year, but his talents were in decline, and he was traded to the New York Mets, who reached that year's World Series - but a Mays error in Game 2 proved crucial in handing the momentum to the eventual champions, the Oakland As. He retired immediately afterwards.

In the 1980s he was banned from the sport for a few years because, along with another legend of the game, Mickey Mantle, he was being paid by casinos to entertain their customers. When the ban was lifted, the Giants gave him a lifetime contract as an adviser.

In 2009 President Barack Obama took Mays with him on Air Force One when he flew to the All-Star Game in St Louis. He told the player that if it had not been for figures like him and Jackie Robinson, "I'm not sure that I would get elected to the White House."

In 2015 Obama presented him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Willie Mays married Marguerite Wendell Chapman in 1956; they adopted a son, who survives him, but divorced in 1963; he married, secondly, Mae Louise Allen, a child welfare worker. She died in 2013.

**Willie Mays, born May 6 1931, died June 18 2024**

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## Television &amp; Radio

## Television reviews Anita Singh



## Affectionate portrait of one of sport's genuine nice guys



The friendship shared between Federer and Nadal is particularly touching

Nice guys do finish first, but they don't make thrilling documentary subjects. Federer: Twelve Final Days (Prime Video) is a respectful valedictory tribute covering the close of Roger Federer's tennis career, from the moment he records his retirement announcement to his final appearance on court at the Laver Cup in London. Behind-the-scenes access will please Federer fans, but the best documentaries are the ones that dig into the angst and the excess, and Federer is just too Swiss for that.

At one point, the eight-times Wimbledon champion recalls being criticised for not putting up more of a fight when losing. "I didn't quite understand what that meant: do I have to grunt, do I have to sweat more, do I have to shout more, do I have to be more aggressive towards my opponents? I tried, but it was all an act. I'm not like that. It's not my personality."

Which is not to say that he gives nothing away here, because he lays his feelings bare over the prospect of leaving the game he loves. He's a crier. The 90 minutes are awash with tears. Federer cries. His wife and children cry. Most of all, Rafael Nadal cries, because he and Federer have a touching bond despite their years of on-court rivalry. Federer gives an emotional speech after playing his final match – a doubles game

with Nadal – and later admits that two things triggered his tears: seeing his wife, and the prospect of not playing with Nadal again.

The documentary is as unshowy as its subject. Half of it consists of interviews with Federer and family, and half follows Team Europe at the Laver Cup in 2022. His teammates include Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray, and they speak about him with generosity. It is enjoyable to watch their dressing room camaraderie and mutual respect. But the other three, you sense, are looking at Federer's retirement and feeling apprehensive about their own.

Federer's No I fan Anna Wintour apparently suggested that this film be made, proposing it as a "private video" and volunteering the services of *Vogue* content creator Joe Sabia. Oscar-winning director Asif Kapadia was then brought in to give it some heft. Kapadia's past films have focused on mercurial characters: Diego Maradona, Ayrton Senna, Amy Winehouse. Here, his touch can only be detected in small stylistic flourishes: slow-motion, grainy archive, melancholic music.

It succeeds as a limited portrait of a decent, deservedly popular champion. And it compares favourably with the recent David Beckham series on Netflix: here are two sportsmen with

millions in the bank and plenty of brand deals, each with a photogenic family. But only Federer comes across as the genuine article.

It's a bit late for me to be saying this but: can we all stop overstating the significance of Barbie? She's a plastic doll, not Emmeline Pankhurst. Barbie doesn't inspire little girls to become doctors or astrophysicists or airline pilots. I loved combing her hair and changing her outfits, but even as a child I realised that she didn't offer much else. Anyway, I preferred Sindy.

**Black Barbie** (Netflix) is a 90-minute documentary capitalising on the interest in last year's *Barbie* movie, and giving us a little piece of history. The original Barbie, blonde-haired and blue-eyed, was produced in 1959. Many iterations followed, but it wasn't until 1980 that Mattel created the first black Barbie.

This was an important development, because children like to play with dolls in their own image. I still remember the delight of finding a brunette Sindy. For black children in the US, the issue went far deeper. Psychologists Kenneth and Mamie Clark conducted an experiment in the 1940s in which they showed a white and a black doll to black children, and asked them to choose the "bad" doll. The majority chose the black one, such was their lack of self-esteem and the level of their internalised shame in an era of segregation.

Mattel comes out of this documentary rather well. First, it helped to finance a community-owned business in Los Angeles that produced black dolls. Then it introduced black friends for Barbie, before hiring the African-American designer Kitty Black Perkins to create a black Barbie.

Writer-director Lagueria Davis has taken what is at times a fun and informative film, and made it self-indulgent and at times ridiculously po-faced. A bunch of academics have an earnest discussion about the cultural significance of the doll, and one speaks of disrupting "the violent institutions, the violent structures, the violent dolls [and] doll-like worlds that exist because of the long legacy of colonialism". Steady on. She's only a doll.

**Federer: Twelve Final Days** ★★★  
**Black Barbie** ★★

## What to watch

## QUESTION TIME LEADERS' SPECIAL

BBC One, 8pm



Rishi Sunak, John Swinney, Keir Starmer and Ed Davey take part in Question Time

From football to political footballs: hot on the heels of England's crucial Euros match against Denmark (see below), another potentially pivotal clash – this one to help us determine who leads our country for the next five years. It's been just over a week since the last leaders' debate, on Sky News (and a fortnight since the BBC's seven-way event, plus Sunak and Starmer's ill-tempered opening round

on ITV) and audience interest might just have revived enough to sustain this gruelling two-hour session. Especially now that all the party manifestos have been published, pored over and analysed, so there should be specific policy points for all the parties to promote and defend. On the panel are the leaders of the four biggest parliamentary parties – representing the Conservatives (Rishi Sunak), Labour (Keir Starmer), Lib

Dems (Ed Davey) and SNP (John Swinney) – and, with just two weeks to go before polling on July 4th, they will all be hoping to score decisive blows – or at least avoid another devastating gaffe that could cost them votes. For the smaller parties this is the final TV-debate opportunity; Starmer and Sunak are due to go head-to-head yet again on the BBC next week. Fiona Bruce chairs from York. **Gerard O'Donovan**

## DOCUMENTARY

**America's Sweethearts: Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders**

*Netflix*  
We've all seen the high-kicking teams of young women who perform spectacular routines to crowds at American football matches. This eye-opening series explores what it takes to make the team of the country's most prestigious squad, the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders – known as "America's Sweethearts". With "unfiltered" access to auditions, training camps and a full NFL season, it's a lot more about talent and ambition than rah-rah-rah.



The Stormtrooper Scandal: curator Ben Moore

**The Stormtrooper Scandal** *BBC Two, 9pm*  
Non-fungible tokens were the South Sea Bubble of the art market, digital artworks in which hundreds of millions were invested in

the early 2020s only to prove almost worthless. This film explores one of the biggest scandals, relating to a series of *Star Wars*-themed NFTs released by curator Ben Moore. They were quickly sold for thousands. But the buyers began to question their quality – and then Lucasfilm got involved, rendering the NFTs worthless.

## FACTUAL

**The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick**

*Channel 4, 8pm*  
A "puppy special" looking back at some of the youngest animals that Noel Fitzpatrick has treated over

the years. Among them, a three-month-old spaniel with leg deformities and a Jack Russell injured in a freak accident.

**George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** *Channel 4, 9pm*  
There's something satisfying about watching a job done well, and this series has that in spades. The architect is back for a 12th series to poke around more clever creations in small spaces. Clarke meets the owner of a bus that featured in series two, and learns that since it was destroyed by a fire, it has been replaced with four shipping containers.

**Outrageous Homes** *Channel 4, 10pm*  
Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen is the perfect host for



America's Sweethearts: Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders

a series celebrating homeowners who take their decor to the max. Tonight he meets a 1970s obsessive in Manchester and takes a dip in a supersized fishtank in a 1920s Nottingham semi.

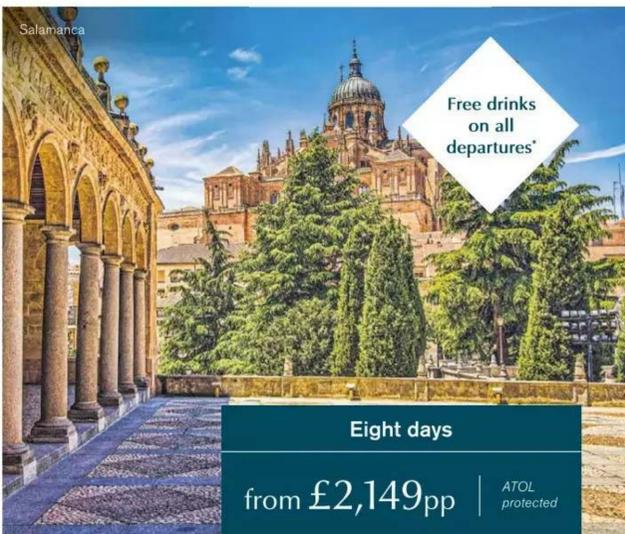
## SPORT

**MOTD Live: Uefa Euro 2024 - Denmark v England**

*BBC One, 4pm (kick-off 5pm)*  
After a not-wholly reassuring 1-0 win against Serbia, England tackle their second group match. They beat the Danes in the Euro 2020 semi-finals, so hopes will be high for renewed success at the Frankfurt Arena, but this should be their biggest challenge during the first stage (they next face Slovenia on Tuesday). Gary Lineker hosts, with commentary by Guy Mowbray and Alan Shearer. **GO**

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Which party can I trust to protect my assets?

## Radio choice

**Middle Men**

Radio 4, 2.15pm

Rarity of the week – ie a radio drama that isn't about author Franz Kafka – is *Middle Men*, Sid Sagar's

## RADIO 1

FM 97.6-99.8MHz

**6.57am** Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Sam and Danni **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Dean and Nat **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 **1.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **2.00** Turn It Up: A Short History of Drum & Bass **2.15** Turn It Up: A Short History of Drum & Bass **2.45** Turn It Up: A Short History of Drum & Bass **3.00** Radio 1's Chillout Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Dance **5.00 - 6.33am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Maia Beth

## RADIO 2

FM 88-90.2MHz

**6.30am** The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** **Vernon Kay** See Radio choice **12.00** Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat **2.00pm** Scott Mills. Music and chat **4.00** Sara Cox. Music and chat **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whaley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whaley. Music and chat **9.00** The Country Show with Bob Harris **10.00** DJ Spoony's Magnificent **7.10.30** DJ Spoony's Rhythm Nation **12.00** DJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s with Fearne Cotton **4.00 - 6.30am** Wynne Evans

## RADIO 3

FM 90.2-92.4MHz

**6.30am** Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00** Composer of the Week: Dvorak **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape. Music chosen for Pride Month by Rufus Wainwright **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert.

gently amusing comedy about football, masculinity and the all-important role of the referee, timed to coincide with rising Euro 2024 fever (and Radio 5 Live's coverage, at 5pm, of

Ryan Wigglesworth conducts the BBC SSO in a concert from Snape **9.45** The Essay: The Sounds of Tyne **10.00** Night Tracks. A soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30 - 6.30am** Through the Night

## RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198kHz

**6.00am** Today **9.00** In Our Time **9.45** NatureBang **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** This Cultural Life **11.45** Book of the Week: The Stalin Affair **12.00** News **12.04pm** The Bottom Line **12.32** Sliced Bread. Acupuncture mats **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Presented by Sarah Montague **1.45** Understand: The UK Election. The impact the smaller UK nations can have on the General Election **2.00** The Archers. Azra's bedside manner is tested **2.15** **Drama: Middle Men** By Sid Sagar See Radio choice **3.00** Rambles. New series. Clare Balding and artist Shelly Perkins paint a field of bluebells in Shropshire **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal. On behalf of the Survivors Fund (Surf) **3.30** Feedback. New series. Listeners' views **4.00** The Briefing Room. David Aaronovitch discusses a story in the news **4.30** BBC Inside Science. The geophysics of Taylor Swift's seismic Eras tour **5.00** PM. Presented by Evan Davis **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** Rhysearch. New series. Comedian Rhys James addresses declining attention spans **7.00** The Archers. Kirsty leads the charge **7.15** Front Row. A review of the film *The Bikeriders* **8.00** The Media Show **9.00** Loose Ends **9.45** Empire of Tea **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Jensen: The Bellevue Poltergeist **11.00** The Today Podcast **11.30** Bonnie Hollywood: 25 Years of Indian Film-making in Scotland **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am** Book of the Week: The Stalin Affair **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30**

England's crucial group game against Denmark; you can also catch it on BBC One from 4pm). Earlier, on **Vernon Kay** (*Radio 2, 9.30am*), Alison Moyet – who rose to fame as half of

News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45 - 6.00am** Farming Today

## RADIO 5 LIVE

MW 693 &amp; 909kHz

**6.00am** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** 5 Live Sport **2.00** 5 Live Sport **7.00** 5 Live Sport Mark Chapman and guests discuss and analyse the Denmark v England game See Radio choice **7.30** 5 Live Sport. Kelly Cates builds up to Spain v Italy in Group B of Uefa Euro 2024 **8.00** 5 Live Sport. Spain v Italy (kick-off 8.00pm) **10.30** 6-0-6 **11.30** Johnny Anson **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00 - 6.00am** Wake Up to Money

## CLASSIC FM

FM 99.9-101.9MHz

**6.30am** Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Sam Pittis **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **12.00** Gordon Smart: Live from Euro 2024 **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00 - 6.30am** Early Breakfast

## WORLD SERVICE

DIGITAL ONLY

**8.00am** News **8.06** The Inquiry **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** The Documentary: Losing Attar **10.00** News **10.06** The Media Show **10.30** Happy News **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** The Food Chain **2.00** NewsHour **3.00** News **3.06** The Inquiry **3.30** World Business Report **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Documentary: Losing



the synth-pop duo Yazoo in the 1980s, before fellow musician Vince Clarke left to form Erasure – is the latest musical star to grace Radio 2's Piano Room. **Gerard O'Donovan**

Attar **8.30** Science in Action **9.00** NewsHour **10.00** News **10.06** The Inquiry **10.30** The Food Chain **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** The Media Show **12.30** Unspun World with John Simpson **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Tech Life **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Heart and Soul **5.00 - 8.00am** Newsday

## RADIO 4 EXTRA

DIGITAL ONLY

**6.00am** Boxer and Doberman **6.30** Letters of Introduction **7.00** Patterson **7.30** Dad's Army **8.00** For the Love of Leo **8.30** Diary of a Young Naturalist **8.45** Exile **9.00** Rhysearch **9.30** Self Drives: The Trabant **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Great Lives **10.30** In Search of Southern Hospitality **11.00** Boxer and Doberman **11.30** Letters of Introduction **12.00** Patterson **12.30pm** Dad's Army **1.00** For the Love of Leo **1.30** Diary of a Young Naturalist **1.45** Exile **2.00** The Unbelievable Truth **2.30** The Leopard in Autumn **3.00** Brideshead Revisited **4.00** Great Lives **4.30** In Search of Southern Hospitality **5.00** Boxer and Doberman **5.30** Letters of Introduction **6.00** Patterson **6.30** Dad's Army **7.00** For the Love of Leo **7.30** Diary of a Young Naturalist **7.45** Exile **8.00** The Unbelievable Truth **8.30** The Leopard in Autumn **9.00** Brideshead Revisited **10.00** Rhysearch **10.30** The Guns of Adam **10.55** The Comedy Club Interview **11.00** Clare in the Community **11.30** And the Winner Is **12.00** Great Lives **12.30am** In Search of Southern Hospitality **1.00** Boxer and Doberman **1.30** Letters of Introduction **2.00** Patterson **2.30** Dad's Army **3.00** For the Love of Leo **3.30** Diary of a Young Naturalist **3.45** Exile **4.00** The Unbelievable Truth **4.30** The Leopard in Autumn **5.00 - 6.00am** Brideshead Revisited

# Today's television

## Main channels

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

### BBC One

**6.00 am** Breakfast (S) **9.30** Morning Live (S) **10.45** Scam Interceptors (S) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (AD) (S)

**12.15 pm** Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S)

**1.00** BBC News at One; Weather (S)

**1.35** Regional News; Weather (S)

**1.45** BBC News at One; Weather (S)

**2.00** Hope Street (AD) (S)

**2.45** Animal Park (AD) (R) (S)

**3.15** Escape to the Country (S)

**4.00** MOTD Live: Uefa Euro 2024 Denmark v England (kick-off 5.00pm). Coverage of the Group C match from Frankfurt Arena, as the two sides meet for the first time since their semi-final battle at Euro 2020 **See What to watch** (S)



Uefa Euro 2024: Denmark v England

### BBC Two

**6.30 am** Scam Interceptors (R) (S) **7.00** Scam Interceptors (R) (S) **7.30** Clive Myrie's Caribbean Adventure (R) (S)

**8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (AD) (R) (S) (SL) **9.00** News (S)

**12.15 pm** Politics Live (S)

**1.00** Tennis: Queen's The cinch Championships (S)

**6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games (R) (S)

**6.30** Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (AD) (R) (S)



Inside the Factory XL: Diggers

### ITV1

**6.00 am** Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** Lorraine (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)

**12.30 pm** News; Weather (S)

**12.50** Regional News; Weather (S)

**1.00** Live Uefa Euro 2024 Slovenia v Serbia (kick-off 2.00pm). Laura Woods presents coverage of the Group C match from Munich Football Arena (S)

**4.15** ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot Francesca Cumani and Ed Chamberlin present further coverage of the third day of the meeting, including feature the 4.25 Gold Cup, plus races at 5.05 and 5.40. Coverage continues on ITV4 (S)

**6.00** Regional News; Weather (S)

**6.20** Party Election Broadcast (S)

**6.30** News; Weather (S)



Uefa Euro 2024: Spain v Italy

### Channel 4

**6.25 am** Cheers (R) (S) **6.50** Cheers (R) (S) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.05** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **9.35** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.05** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.35** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.05** Great Canal Journeys (R) (S)

**12.05 pm** Channel 4 News (S)

**12.10** Help! We Bought a Village (R) (S)

**1.10** Car S.O.S (AD) (R) (S)

**2.10** Countdown (S)

**3.00** A Place in the Sun (R) (S)

**4.00** A Place in the Sun (R) (S)

**5.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses (S)

**6.00** Four in a Bed (R) (S)

**6.30** The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)



Outrageous Homes

### Channel 5

**6.00 am** Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine (S) **11.15** Storm Huntley (S)

**12.45 pm** Friends (AD) (R) (S)

**1.10** Friends (AD) (R) (S)

**1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime (S)

**1.45** Home and Away (R) (S)

**2.20** FILM: Set Up By My Lover (2021, TVM) Drama starring Camille Stoppes (S)

**4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (R) (S)

**5.00** 5 News at 5 (S)

**6.00** Party Election Broadcast (S)

**6.05** Police Interceptors (R) (S)

**6.55** 5 News Update (S)



Happy Campers: The Caravan Park

## Film choice



The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) Film 4, 1.15pm ★★★★★

David Lean's largely fictional telling of the Second World War story of the Thailand-Burma Railway, based on the novel by Pierre Boulle, is wonderfully complex. It features Alec Guinness in his finest performance as Colonel Nicholson, who goes mad after PoWs hack the 255-mile railway out of harsh jungle while battling torture, starvation and disease.



Only You (2019) BBC Three, 9pm ★★★★★

Harry Woolf's debut is an engrossing love story, starring *The Crown's* Josh O'Connor and Laia Costa. He plays the wide-eyed romantic Jake; she is the cynical Elena, 10 years his senior and less convinced that their affair will last after they bump into each other one New Year's Eve while fighting over a taxi. Eventually, a relationship forms, but the strains of beginning a family start to take hold.



Mrs Dalloway (1997) BBC Four, 10.30pm ★★★★★

Virginia Woolf's classic story of a day in the life of a woman giving a party translates surprisingly well to screen. This excellent all-Brit adaptation (written by Eileen Atkins) stars Vanessa Redgrave as our hostess, and Rupert Graves as a shell-shocked veteran, the most interesting of the characters with whom Dalloway's day intersects. Michael Kitchen and Natascha McElhone support.

**7.30** BBC News at Six; Weather (S)

**7.45** Regional News; Weather (S)

**8.00** Question Time Leaders' Special Fiona Bruce presents a two-hour leaders' special from York, with Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer, Ed Davey and John Swinney facing questions from the audience **See What to watch** (S)

**10.00** BBC News at Ten (S)

**10.30** Regional News; Weather (S)

**10.40** The Outlaws Ben is left with a difficult choice (AD) (S)

**11.40** Newscast **12.10am** Rebus **12.55** Euro 2024 Match Replay **2.40 - 6.00am** News

**7.00** The One Show Alex Jones and Vernon Kay present (S)

**7.30** EastEnders The money from Lola's fundraiser is stolen (AD) (S)

**8.00** Inside the Factory XL: Diggers Gregg Wallace and Cherry Healey visit a factory that makes iconic yellow diggers (AD) (R) (S)

**9.00** The Stormtrooper Scandal A controversial Star Wars-inspired art sale **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

**10.30** Newsnight (S)

**11.05** MOTD: Uefa Euro 2024 Highlights **12.05am** Sign Zone: Springwatch **1.40** Classic Emmerdale **1.50** Sign Zone: Doctor Who **1.50** Sign Zone: Lost Boys and Fairies **2.50** Sign Zone: On Thin Ice: Putin vs Greenpeace **3.20 - 6.15am** This Is BBC Two

**7.15** Live Uefa Euro 2024 Spain v Italy (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the Group B match from Arena AufSchalke in Gelsenkirchen, as both sides play their second group game of the campaign (S)

**10.30** News; Regional News; Weather (S)

**11.00** Regional News; Weather **11.15** Emergency Nurses: A&E Stories **12.15am** Made in Britain **12.45** Shop on TV **3.00** Long Lost Family: Born Without Trace **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05 - 6.00am** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show

**7.00** Channel 4 News (S)

**7.55** Party Election Broadcast By Plaid Cymru (S)

**8.00** The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick Stories of some of the youngest animals Noel has treated **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

**9.00** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces New series. George has the idea of turning a rusty scissor lift into a cabin in the sky **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

**10.00** Outrageous Homes New series **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

**11.05** Celebrity Gogglebox **12.05am** 24 Hours in A&E **1.00** Super Surgeons: A Chance at Life **1.55** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back **2.40** The Simpsons **3.05** FILM: Ladies Only (2021, b/w) Documentary following passengers on female-only trains in Mumbai **4.30** Grand Designs Australia **5.20** Frasier **5.45 - 6.25am** Countdown

**7.00** Escape to the Farm with Kate Humble The presenter takes a trip to the Scottish Highlands (S)

**7.55** 5 News Update (S)

**8.00** Happy Campers: The Caravan Park Poor weather at Cornwall's Tencreek Holiday Park tests one newly arrived family (S)

**9.00** Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts Cameras focus on an 83-year-old man suffering from abdominal pain (AD) (S)

**10.00** Cold Call June and Kirk are both pushed to breaking point. Last in the series (R) (S)

**11.05** FILM: Godzilla: King of the Monsters (2019) Fantasy adventure sequel starring Vera Farmiga **1.30am** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.30** Call the Baillifs: Time to Pay Up **4.20** Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb **5.05** Great Artists **5.30** Nick's Quest **5.55 - 6.00am** Entertainment News on 5

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## Freeview, satellite and cable

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

### BBC Four

**7.00 pm** Great British Railway Journeys

**7.30** Villages by the Sea

**8.00** Tales of the Tardis

**9.15** Talking Doctor Who

**10.15** Eileen Atkins Remembers Mrs Dalloway

**10.30** FILM: Mrs Dalloway (1997) Romantic drama with Vanessa Redgrave and Rupert Graves **See Film choice**

**12.05 am** Glastonbury: 50 Years and Counting

**1.45** Great British Railway Journeys

**2.15** Villages by the Sea

**2.45 - 4.00am** Tales of the Tardis

### ITV3

**11.35 am** Heartbeat

**12.40 pm** Heartbeat

**1.40** Classic Emmerdale

**2.10** Classic Emmerdale

**2.40** Classic Coronation Street

**3.15** Classic Coronation Street

**3.50** Inspector Morse

**6.00** Heartbeat

**7.00** Heartbeat

**8.00** Vera

**10.00** Wire in the Blood

**11.45** The Royal

**12.35 am** Upstairs, Downstairs

**1.35** Upstairs, Downstairs

**2.30 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

### ITV4

**11.35 am** The Return of Sherlock Holmes

**12.45 pm** River Monsters

**1.15** British Touring Cars

**1.30** ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot

**4.25** The Derby Through the Years

**4.40** The Sweeney

**5.50** ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot

**6.30** River Monsters

**7.00** The Motorbike Show

**8.00** Junk and Disorderly

**9.00** The 1% Club

**10.00** FILM: Death Race (2008)

**12.10 am** Minder

**1.10** The Chase Celebrity Christmas Special

**2.05** Auto Mundial

**2.30** Motorsport Mundial

**3.00 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

### Sky Arts

**Noon** The Joy of Painting

**12.30 pm** The Joy of Painting

**1.00** Tales of the Unexpected

**2.00** The South Bank Show

**3.00** The Art Mysteries

**4.00** Discovering: Michelle Pfeiffer

**5.00** The Joy of Painting

**6.00** Tales of the Unexpected

**7.00** Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir: Kids Special

**8.00** Bill Bailey's Musical Master Crafters: Juniors

**9.00** Discovering: Mel Gibson

**10.00** Spike Milligan: The Unseen Archive

**11.35** Decoding Turner

**1.30 am** FILM: The Lost Leonardo (2021) Documentary

**3.10 - 4.10am** A Play in a Day

### Sky Atlantic

**11.10 am** Gomorrah

**12.10 pm** Game of Thrones

**1.15** The Sopranos

**2.15** The Sopranos

**3.20** Six Feet Under

**4.25** Six Feet Under

**5.30** Gomorrah

**6.30** Gomorrah

**7.30** Game of Thrones

**9.00** House of the Dragon

**10.10** Band of Brothers

**11.25** Succession

**12.40 am** Watchmen

**1.50** Game of Thrones

**3.25 - 4.00am** In Treatment

### Film4

**11.00 am** Rio Grande (1950, b/w) Western starring John Wayne

**1.15 pm** The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957) Drama with Alec Guinness **See Film choice**

**4.30** Yangtze Incident (1957, b/w) Fact-based naval adventure starring Richard Todd

**6.45** Star Trek: Nemesis (2002) Sci-fi adventure starring Patrick Stewart

**9.00** Venom (2018) Fantasy adventure starring Tom Hardy

**11.10** Angel Has Fallen (2019) Action starring Gerard Butler

**1.30 - 3.25am** Force 10 from Navarone (1978) Second World War adventure sequel starring Harrison Ford

### Drama

**11.40 am** The Bill

**12.40 pm** Classic EastEnders

**1.20** Classic EastEnders

**2.00** London's Burning

**3.00** Lovejoy

**4.10** Tenko

**5.10** Birds of a Feather

**6.40** Are You Being Served?

**7.20** Last of the Summer Wine

**8.00** Father Brown

**9.00** A Small Light

**10.05** New Tricks

**11.25** Soldier, Soldier

**12.35 am** Footballers' Lives

**1.40** Lovejoy

**2.50 - 4.00am** Classic Holby City

### Northern Ireland

**BBC One: 10.40pm** Party Election Broadcast **10.45** The View **11.25 - 12.25am** The Outlaws

**BBC Two:** No variations

**UTV:** No variations

### Scotland

**BBC One: 11.15am** Bargain Hunt **12.00 - 1.00pm** First Minister's Questions **7.55 - 8.00pm** Party Election Broadcast

**10.40** Rebus **11.25 - 11.55** Late Night at the Euros with Compton and Smart **12.25 - 12.55am** MOTD Top Ten: Euro 2024 - Best Matches

**BBC Scotland: 7.30pm** Return to Uist **8.00** Beechgrove Garden **8.30** Landward **9.00** Shetland **10.00** Best of Chewin' the Fat **10.30** Late Night at the Euros with Compton and Smart **11.00** The Firm **midnight** Close

**STV: 4.15 - 6.00pm** STV Racing Live: Royal Ascot **11.10 - 11.15** Party Election Broadcast **3.50 - 5.05am** Night Vision

### Wales

No variations

### ITVI Regions

No variations

### S4C

**6.00am** Cyw **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Bois y Rhondda **12.30** Heno **1.00** Ein Llybrau Celtaidd **1.30** Cerys Matthews a'r Goeden Faled **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhaen Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Cymfin **4.00** Awr Fawr: Tomos a'i Frindiau **4.15** Awr Fawr: Cacamwn **4.30** Awr Fawr: Sam Tan **4.45** Awr Fawr: Sbarc **5.00** Stwmsh **6.00** Dan Do **6.30** Arfordir Cymru: Bae Ceredigion **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Rownd a Rownd **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Am Drol **10.00** Y Llinell **11.00** Grid **11.15 - 11.50pm** Cais Cuinnell

### Dave

**Noon** Storage Hunters UK **2.00pm** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg **6.00** Rick Stein's Secret France **7.00** Would I Lie to You? **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **9.00** Q! XL: With Andy Hamilton, Rich Hall, Phill Jupitus and Alan Davies **10.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40am** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **1.40** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Godish **2.45** Live at the Apollo **3.30 - 4.00am** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA

### GOLD

**Noon** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** My Hero **2.00** Still Open All Hours **2.40** Dad's Army **3.20** Are You Being Served? **4.00** Last of the Summer Wine **5.20** Still Open All Hours **6.00** The Green Green Grass **6.40** Dad's Army **8.00** Only Fools and Horses **8.40** The Thin Blue Line **9.20** dinnerladies **10.00** The Royle Family **10.40** Only Fools and Horses **12.00** Only Fools and Horses **12.40am** The Thin Blue Line **1.20** dinnerladies **2.00** The Royle Family **2.30** Bottom **3.15 - 4.00am** The Office

### ITV2

**Noon** Dress to Impress **1.00pm** Deal or No Deal **2.00** Family Fortunes **3.00** Veronica Mars **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Celebrity Supermarket Sweep **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** Deal or No Deal **8.00** The Masked Singer US **9.00** Love Island **10.05** Tell Me Everything **11.05** Family Guy **12.05am** American Dad! **1.10** Celebrity Karaoke Club **2.10** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

### More4

**11.25am** Find It, Fix It, Flog It

**12.30pm** Come Dine with Me **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Chateau DIY **6.55** Car S.O.S **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** 24 Hours in A&E **10.00** Rescue: Extreme Medics **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E

**12.05am** 999: On the Front Line **1.10** Rescue: Extreme Medics **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.20 - 3.45am** A Place in the Sun

### PBS America

**11.50am** Afghanistan: The Wounded Land **1.00pm** Beautiful Serengeti **1.30** 1945-1953: From World War to Cold War **2.45** SAS: Rogue Warriors **4.00** The War **5.00** Afghanistan: The Wounded Land **6.10** 1945-1953: From

World War to Cold War **7.20** SAS: Rogue Warriors **8.35** The War **9.40** Afghanistan: The Wounded Land **10.50** The Movement and the "Madman" **12.00** 1945-1953: From World War to Cold War **1.15am** Beautiful Serengeti **2.00 - 6.00am** Teleshopping

### Talking Pictures TV

**24 hours, including at:**

**11.30am** FILM: The Night My Number Came Up (1955, b/w) Thriller starring Michael Redgrave **1.30pm** FILM: Saloon Bar (1940, b/w) Mystery starring Gordon Harker **3.00** Crown Court **4.30** Danger UXB **5.35** FILM: Death Goes to School (1953, b/w) Crime drama starring Gordon Jackson **6.50** FILM: Small Hotel (1957, b/w) Comedy starring Gordon Harker **8.00** The Brothers 9.05 Van der Valk **10.10** FILM: The Innocent (1993) Thriller starring Alec Baldwin and Nicole Kidman **2.40 - 4.45am** FILM: The Facts of Life (1960, b/w) Romantic comedy starring Lucille Ball and Bob Hope

### Yesterday

**Noon** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** The World at

War **5.00** World War Weird **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Bangers & Cash **8.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **9.00** Bangers & Cash **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Hornby: A Model World **2.00** Secrets of the Transport Museum **3.00 - 6.10am** Teleshopping

### Sky Sports Main Event

**10.00am** Live Tennis. The Berlin Ladies Open **3.00pm** Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Afghanistan v India **7.00** Live Vitality T20 Blast Cricket. Yorkshire Vikings v Lancashire Lightning **10.30** Live PGA Tour Golf. The Travelers Championship **11.00** Live Women's PGA Championship. The KPMG Women's PGA Championship **3.00 - 5.30am** Live ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Australia v Bangladesh

### Sky Sports Premier League

**Noon** Gary Neville's Soccerbox **1.00pm** Premier League Best Goals **2.00** Premier League Highlights **5.00** Premier League Review **7.00** World Beaters **8.00** SSN Euro Matchday **10.00** SSN Euro Report **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00</**

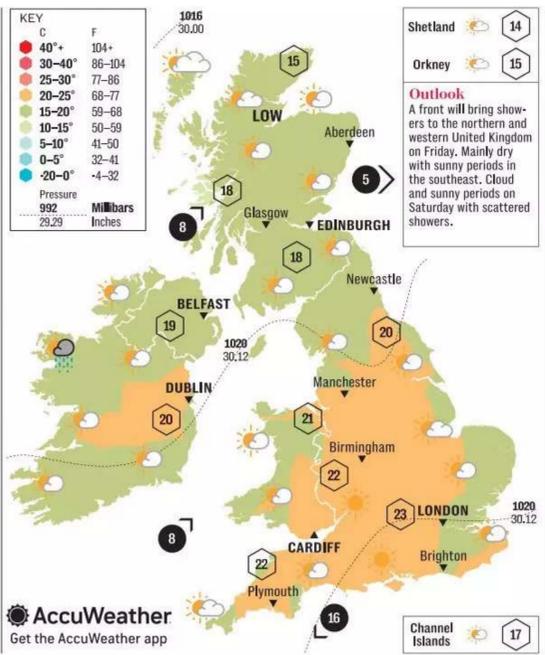
# Weather & Crosswords

## Forecast

### General situation

High pressure will lead to sunny spells and dry and mild weather across much of the United Kingdom today, but there can be the odd shower in northwest Scotland.

- ♦ **London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Prolonged sunny spells and warm today. A light easterly wind. Max 65-73F (18-23C). Clear periods tonight with showers possible in the far southeast late. Min 45-55F (7-13C).
- ♦ **NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Sunny spells and mild today. A light W to SW wind. Max 55-72F (13-22C). Clear spells and dry tonight. Min 45-54F (7-12C).
- ♦ **Wales:** Sunny spells and warm today. A light W wind. Max 55-70F (13-21C). Mainly dry tonight. Min 45-55F (7-13C).
- ♦ **N Ireland:** Sunny spells today. A light to gentle S to SW wind. Max 52-66F (11-19C). The odd shower late tonight. Min 48-55F (9-13C).
- ♦ **SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** Sunny periods today; the odd shower in the northwest. A gentle S to SW wind. Max 48-68F (9-20C). Dry tonight. Min 42-55F (6-13C).



## Four day forecast

- Friday**  
 Sunny spells with showers to the north and western UK. Mainly dry with sunny periods in the southeast. Cloud and sunny periods on Saturday with scattered showers.
- Saturday**  
 Sunny spells with showers to the north and western UK. Mainly dry with sunny periods in the southeast. Cloud and sunny periods on Saturday with scattered showers.
- Sunday**  
 Sunny spells with showers to the north and western UK. Mainly dry with sunny periods in the southeast. Cloud and sunny periods on Saturday with scattered showers.
- Monday**  
 Sunny spells with showers to the north and western UK. Mainly dry with sunny periods in the southeast. Cloud and sunny periods on Saturday with scattered showers.

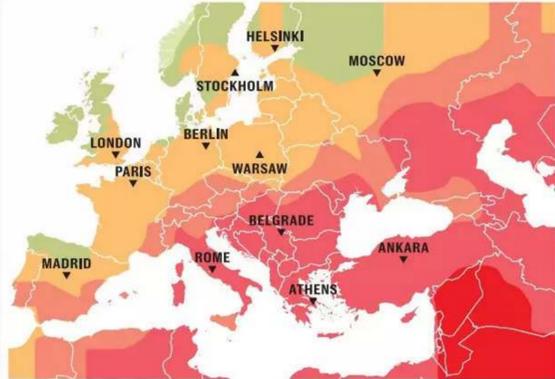
## European readings

| City       | Max | Min | Daytime | City        | Max | Min | Daytime |
|------------|-----|-----|---------|-------------|-----|-----|---------|
|            | °C  | °C  | weather |             | °C  | °C  | weather |
| Akrotiri   | 32  | 24  | sunny   | Frankfurt   | 23  | 17  | showers |
| Alicante   | 28  | 21  | p/cldy  | Funchal     | 23  | 16  | p/cldy  |
| Amsterdam  | 19  | 13  | p/cldy  | Gdansk      | 18  | 15  | showers |
| Athens     | 36  | 28  | sunny   | Geneva      | 29  | 17  | storms  |
| Barcelona  | 24  | 19  | showers | Gibraltar   | 24  | 12  | sunny   |
| Bari       | 32  | 19  | sunny   | Hamburg     | 20  | 12  | p/cldy  |
| Belgrade   | 37  | 21  | sunny   | Helsinki    | 18  | 13  | p/cldy  |
| Benidorm   | 27  | 21  | p/cldy  | Innsbruck   | 32  | 16  | p/cldy  |
| Bergen     | 14  | 9   | windy   | Istanbul    | 30  | 22  | windy   |
| Berlin     | 21  | 14  | showers | Kyiv        | 31  | 18  | p/cldy  |
| Biarriz    | 21  | 15  | p/cldy  | La Rochelle | 21  | 17  | p/cldy  |
| Bodrum     | 39  | 24  | sunny   | Lisbon      | 21  | 14  | showers |
| Bordeaux   | 24  | 17  | p/cldy  | Locarno     | 28  | 17  | showers |
| Brest      | 21  | 13  | p/cldy  | Luxembourg  | 19  | 14  | rain    |
| Brussels   | 19  | 14  | p/cldy  | Madrid      | 26  | 14  | p/cldy  |
| Bucharest  | 38  | 19  | sunny   | Majorca     | 30  | 23  | showers |
| Budapest   | 34  | 16  | sunny   | Malaga      | 38  | 19  | p/cldy  |
| Cagliari   | 37  | 24  | sunny   | Malta       | 28  | 21  | sunny   |
| Chamonix   | 25  | 15  | storms  | Marseille   | 31  | 20  | storms  |
| Copenhagen | 19  | 13  | p/cldy  | Menorca     | 30  | 22  | p/cldy  |
| Corfu      | 37  | 23  | sunny   | Milan       | 31  | 20  | showers |
| Cork       | 19  | 7   | p/cldy  | Monaco      | 26  | 22  | storms  |
| Corsica    | 32  | 23  | showers | Moscow      | 25  | 16  | p/cldy  |
| Crete      | 29  | 25  | sunny   | Munich      | 30  | 15  | sunny   |
| Dublin     | 17  | 5   | p/cldy  | Naples      | 33  | 22  | sunny   |
| Dubrovnik  | 32  | 20  | sunny   | Nice        | 28  | 22  | storms  |
| Faro       | 21  | 17  | windy   | Nicosia     | 39  | 21  | sunny   |
| Florence   | 34  | 18  | p/cldy  | Oporto      | 21  | 13  | showers |

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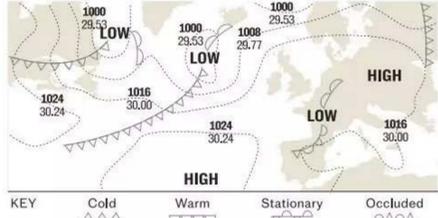
The Telegraph • TRAVEL



## British readings

| City              | Sun  | Rain | Max/Min | Daytime | City    | Sun           | Rain | Max/Min | Daytime |    |         |
|-------------------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|------|---------|---------|----|---------|
| hrs               | in   | °C   | °C      | weather | hrs     | in            | °C   | °C      | weather |    |         |
| Aberdeen          | 8.4  | 0.00 | 18      | 7       | p/ctdly | Chester       | 5.6  | 0.00    | 19      | 12 | cloudy  |
| Aberystwyth       | 5.7  | 0.00 | 19      | 5       | cloudy  | Conventry     | 3.6  | 0.00    | 19      | 10 | cloudy  |
| Antrim            | 9.6  | 0.00 | 13      | 6       | p/ctdly | Doncaster     | 6.3  | 0.00    | 18      | 9  | cloudy  |
| Aviemore          | 5.9  | 0.08 | 18      | 4       | cloudy  | Dover         | 3.9  | 0.00    | 18      | 12 | cloudy  |
| Barnstaple        | 4.0  | 0.00 | 16      | 12      | cloudy  | Dundee        | 3.7  | 0.11    | 13      | 9  | cloudy  |
| Barrow-in-Furness | 6.6  | 0.00 | 17      | 11      | cloudy  | Eastbourne    | 5.5  | 0.00    | 21      | 12 | cloudy  |
| Basingstoke       | 4.8  | 0.00 | 21      | 11      | cloudy  | Edinburgh     | 4.2  | 0.06    | 19      | 9  | cloudy  |
| Bedford           | 2.5  | 0.00 | 19      | 11      | cloudy  | Epsom         | 1.6  | 0.00    | 19      | 11 | cloudy  |
| Belfast           | 10.5 | 0.00 | 19      | 8       | p/ctdly | Falmouth      | 5.2  | 0.00    | 18      | 10 | cloudy  |
| Berwick           | 3.1  | 0.02 | 18      | 9       | cloudy  | Farnborough   | 3.9  | 0.00    | 21      | 12 | cloudy  |
| Birmingham        | 6.1  | 0.00 | 18      | 9       | cloudy  | Fort William  | 2.1  | 0.32    | 16      | 4  | showers |
| Bodmin            | 7.9  | 0.00 | 18      | 8       | p/ctdly | Glasgow       | 3.1  | 0.00    | 18      | 10 | cloudy  |
| Bournemouth       | 6.7  | 0.00 | 22      | 10      | cloudy  | Great Malvern | 4.8  | 0.00    | 20      | 9  | cloudy  |
| Braintree         | 3.3  | 0.00 | 21      | 11      | cloudy  | Grimsby       | 6.9  | 0.00    | 15      | 12 | cloudy  |
| Brecon            | 5.1  | 0.00 | 18      | 7       | cloudy  | Guernsey      | 5.1  | 0.01    | 17      | 13 | cloudy  |
| Bridlington       | 6.2  | 0.00 | 17      | 11      | cloudy  | Hereford      | 4.3  | 0.00    | 14      | 11 | cloudy  |
| Brighton          | 3.7  | 0.01 | 21      | 11      | cloudy  | High Wycombe  | 4.1  | 0.00    | 21      | 11 | cloudy  |
| Bristol           | 4.6  | 0.00 | 20      | 11      | cloudy  | Holyhead      | 7.1  | 0.00    | 17      | 9  | p/ctdly |
| Cambridge         | 4.0  | 0.00 | 17      | 12      | cloudy  | Huddersfield  | 4.6  | 0.05    | 17      | 8  | cloudy  |
| Cardiff           | 10.3 | 0.00 | 20      | 12      | p/ctdly | Ipswich       | 5.5  | 0.00    | 19      | 11 | cloudy  |
| Cardisland        | 3.3  | 0.00 | 16      | 10      | cloudy  | Isle of Man   | 7.6  | 0.00    | 17      | 11 | p/ctdly |
| Catterick         | 4.8  | 0.00 | 18      | 7       | cloudy  | Isle of Skye  | 0.7  | 0.04    | 13      | 7  | showers |
| Cheltenham        | 3.6  | 0.00 | 20      | 12      | cloudy  | Isle of Wight | 5.6  | 0.00    | 18      | 12 | cloudy  |

## Atlantic front



## Sun & moon

(Greenwich)

Sun rises 0444  
 Sun sets 2122  
 Moon rises 2035  
 Moon sets 0251  
 Full moon June 22

**Yesterday**  
 Warmest Bournemouth 22C (72F)  
 Coldest Cairngorm Summit -1C (31F)  
 Wettest Fort William 0.32 in.  
 Sunniest St. Angelo 12.9 hr.

**Lighting up**  
 2209 to 0412  
 Belfast 2205 to 0448  
 Birmingham 2134 to 0445  
 London 2122 to 0444  
 Manchester 2141 to 0441  
 Penzance 2136 to 0512

## High water

Aberdeen 0653 3.7m 1314 3.7m  
 Belfast 1046 3.2m 2308 3.2m  
 Cardiff 0620 10.8m 1949 11.1m  
 Dover 1042 5.9m 2255 6.0m  
 Falmouth 0441 4.5m 1704 4.2m  
 Harwich 1121 3.6m 2342 3.6m  
 Holyhead 1000 4.9m 2222 5.1m  
 Hull 0548 6.7m 1809 6.5m  
 Liverpool 1044 8.1m 2305 8.4m  
 London 0110 6.5m 1336 6.4m  
 Portsmouth 1122 4.2m 2332 4.4m  
 Southampton 0036 3.9m 1008 4.0m

## Sea forecast

**S North Sea:** A light to gentle easterly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be good.

**Dover Strait, English Channel:** A gentle to moderate northeasterly wind today. Seas will be very rough on the east and will be rough on the west. Visibility will be good.

**St. George's Channel:** A light to gentle southwesterly wind today. Seas will be very high. Visibility will be good.

**Irish Sea:** A light to moderate southwesterly wind today. Seas will be high. Visibility will be good.

## Crossword 30,645

1 Turf out of small hospital room (5)  
 4 Tough train set's broken (9)  
 7 Whimper for mercy catching clown, perhaps (9)  
 10 Central character in Medea? (5)  
 11 Rude former pupil facing stage (7)  
 12 Support section of church reflecting gospel (7)  
 13 Orders sex, getting rejected, then wilts (6)  
 15 Completely closed atheist taking Mass (8)  
 18 Check Queen backing melody (8)  
 20 Empty pub about now's opening (6)  
 23 Fast one from con artist, say (7)  
 24 See ever so worried about bishop (7)  
 26 Check pot and stir (5)  
 27 Illiterate mugs on air broadcast (9)  
 28 Snack of fennel, even sesame cakes (9)  
 29 Dalliances and trysts embracing sweetheart, initially (5)

1 Drink after drink for fan (9)  
 2 Lands winning serves holding racket's head (5)  
 3 See over Church saint in decline (7)  
 4 Swindled a politician embraced by socialist (6)  
 5 Checked long passage checking index periodically (8)  
 6 Weapon is excessive in video game (7)  
 7 Ace to grill a fresh snapper? (9)  
 8 Investigate large growth rising (5)  
 14 Turbulent priest due for infamy (9)  
 16 Fake intelligence curtailed American agreement (9)  
 17 Nearly fastens gear for bed (8)  
 19 Regret admitting sweetheart can escort (7)  
 21 Certain fool embarrassed about United (7)  
 22 Issues drinks, possibly purchasing round (6)  
 23 Declared money reserve (5)  
 25 Brief stretch Republican brought up (5)

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## Quick Crossword

**Across**  
 1 Presently (4)  
 4 Military (4)  
 8 Lass (4)  
 9 Thanks (9)  
 11 Avoid (6)  
 13 Debate (7)  
 15 Clasp (6)  
 16 Examined (6)  
 18 Noiseless (6)  
 20 Panoramic (6)  
 22 Enlarge (7)  
 23 Ambrosia (6)  
 25 Strenuous (9)  
 26 Sympathy (4)  
 27 Cure (4)  
 28 Brink (4)

**Down**  
 2 Monster (4)  
 3 Simpleton (6)  
 4 Connect (6)  
 5 Humble (6)  
 6 Resist (9)  
 7 Talon (4)

**10 Spirit (7)**  
**12 Pretends (4)**  
**13 Copy (9)**  
**14 Outrage (7)**  
**17 Wharf (4)**

**19 Harango (6)**  
**20 Saunter (6)**  
**21 Motor (6)**  
**23 Snoozes (4)**  
**24 Suspended (4)**

**Yesterday's Quick Crossword Solution**

**Across:** 1 Warts, 4 Forty, (What's for tea?) 8 Own, 9 Spectacular, 10 Enthrall, 12 Fishi, 13 Sextet, 14 Awning, 17 Radii, 19 Endless, 21 Refrigerate, 23 Pom, 24 Yearn, 25 Scope. **Down:** 1 Waste, 2 Rue, 3 Set free, 4 Fickle, 5 Ruler, 6 Yorkshire, 7 Ongoing, 11 Taxidermy, 13 Scrupuly, 15 Widdgets, 16 Design, 18 Infra, 20 Sieve, 22 Ago.

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

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 Leeds, Spence Lane LS12 1EF  
 Newcastle, Blaydon Trade Park NE21 5TR  
 Preston, 74-76 Blackpool Road PR2 6BY  
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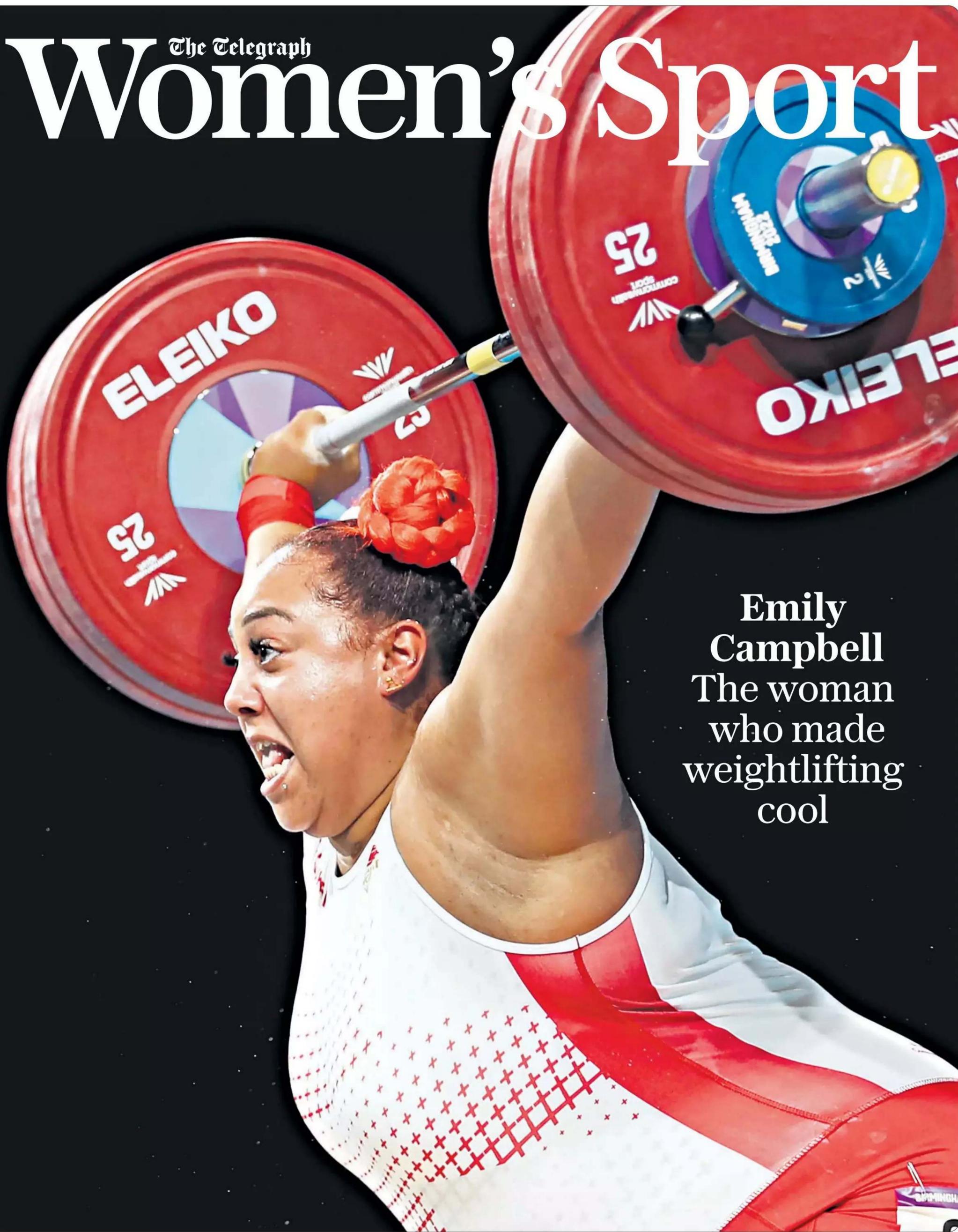
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# Women's Sport



**Emily Campbell**  
The woman who made weightlifting cool

# Interview

## 'It's refreshing to see girls queuing for squat racks'

Emily Campbell winning Olympic silver created a boom in women taking part in weightlifting, she tells *Fiona Tomas*

Emily Campbell sips on a smoothie inside the University of Nottingham gym, watching the scores of students file past on their way to end-of-year exams in the nearby sports hall. Most of them are seemingly unaware that they are walking past Britain's most successful weightlifter of modern times.

Campbell is busy preparing for her own test at this summer's Paris Olympics, where she will be Great Britain's sole weightlifting representative. The bubbly 30-year-old, who wrote her name into the history books at the Tokyo Games when she won a silver medal in the 87kg+ category three years ago, is not daunted by the prospect of flying the flag for the sport by herself. Rather, she is relishing the thought of what she terms a "proper Games experience" after celebrating her career-changing silver in an empty arena at the Covid-hit event.

"I went into Tokyo under the radar," she says. "I didn't have a massive social media following and people didn't know who I was. Now I'm potentially going into the Games as a poster girl. It's been very 360, but it's good."

**Powering up:** Emily Campbell at her Nottingham training base (right); on her way to winning an Olympic silver medal in Tokyo (below); featuring in a giant Team GB display at NatWest Bank in the City of London (far right)

Campbell, who self-funded her way to Tokyo, is used to going it alone. After striking silver she found her calling as a natural spokesperson for body positivity and in an age where it is all too easy for young girls to buy into warped beauty standards on social media, the Nottingham native has been busy evangelising one important message: that big is beautiful.

Having reported an uptick in the number of brands who want to do business with her, she believes that society is starting to embrace plus-sized bodies and more importantly, bigger sportswomen. Red-carpet appearances and invitations to industry events followed in the wake of her Tokyo success but Campbell's personal highlight has been marvelling at the blown-up image of her on the side of NatWest's headquarters near London's Liverpool Street station.

"I actually went to see it myself but I didn't want to be that weird girl trying to take a selfie in front of my own picture," laughs Campbell. "But it's been amazing. I've seen billboards of me cleaning and jerking in the middle of Paddington Station. The other night I was doing my shopping in Aldi and I saw the photo of us all as Team GB ambassadors and I tried not to scream while I was at the till. I had a really humble upbringing, so to see myself achieve those kinds of things is really special."

Campbell takes great pride at being raised on Snape Wood estate in the Nottinghamshire town of Bulwell, where she grew up with her decorator father, Trevor, mother Lynda and sister Kelsie, a swimmer who competes for Jamaica. Incredibly, she only started weightlifting in 2016 during her student days at Leeds Beckett University to improve her strength as a shot putter, but ended up discovering a new superpower.

The road to her first Olympics was a bumpy one. Campbell had to raise £10,000 to enter qualifying competitions to secure her place after British Weightlifting lost its UK Sport funding in the wake of the 2016 Rio Games. Having put the sport back on the map in Tokyo, the road to Paris has been a lot more enjoyable.

She has recently bought her first house and has witnessed first-hand the weight-training



ANDREW FOX FOR THE TELEGRAPH; AFP; GETTY IMAGES



revolution among women that is sweeping across the UK. Data from Sport England shows the number of women weightlifting or powerlifting since the launch of its Active Lives survey seven years ago is at an all-time high, with 1.4 million participating in either activity at least once in the past year. Numbers predictably took a hit during the pandemic with a lack of access to fitness and leisure centres but recovered quickly. The hashtag #strongnotskinny also has 9.4 million posts and counting on Instagram.

'If you want to have a big bum and abs you've got to lift heavy but you've got to eat properly too'

"I am a little bit blind to what goes on commercially as I spent a lot of time in weightlifting gyms but sometimes when I'm in London I'll go to places like GymBox where you can do weightlifting," says Campbell, a huge grin spreading across her face.

"I remember going to the one in Stratford and the girls were queuing for squat racks. That was a real full circle moment because I thought, 'Normally this place would be empty' but the girls are fighting to be there. They're lifting



heavy too. A lot of them are talking about fuelling properly, eating proper food and training properly.

"If you want to have a big bum and abs you've got to lift heavy but you've got to eat properly too. I think it's really refreshing that we're moving in that direction now. I'm not trying to say that cardio is bad - the heart is the strongest muscle in the body and it's got to be fit and healthy. But it's about that combination of training. You can have a bit of everything in your programme and it's good for you."

Campbell has made personal tweaks to her programme too. She recently decided to come off all hormonal contraception because she needed her body "to be as natural as possible while I was putting it through what I was putting it through". She has also welcomed leading performance nutritionist Dr Sinead Roberts into her predominantly male entourage. Campbell, who consumes around 4,200 calories a day to stay on the top of her game, says: "I was having a bit of a moment with my weight - it had



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gone up quite suddenly without increasing my eating - and she managed to stable everything out and give me that confidence again."

There is no doubt Campbell is in the shape of her life. Earlier this year she soared to her fourth European title, overcoming a late adductor injury in the build up, to add to her Commonwealth title she won in 2022. She is accepting of the fact that Olympic gold might elude her again this summer given the small matter of Li Wenwen, China's 24-year-old reigning

### Top tips from the Olympian

## 1

**Find a great gym**  
When you're surrounded by great people and there is lots of help in there with coaching and people to watch you, you definitely progress more and you'll enjoy it a lot more.

## 2

**Always focus on technique**  
You want to lift loads of weight and get really excited and want to get really strong, but if you perfect the technique the weights will come.

## 3

**Warm up and cool down**  
That also means when you're warming up with the weights, lift enough on the lower weights before you start going that little bit heavier. It is really easy to rush up to those weights and you don't want to have to come back down again to go back up.

## 4

**Less is more**  
Don't get carried away by training too many times a week. There are lots of barbell classes at weightlifting and CrossFit gyms; go to one or two of those a week and then if you're starting to feel confident you can go onto training four days a week.



Games champion who is the nailed-on favourite to retain her title, although recent events have given her cause for optimism.

Wenwen's cloak of invincibility evaporated when she missed her first two snatch attempts after injuring her elbow at last year's World Championships in Riyadh. She declined the third and withdrew. To Campbell, who describes her Chinese rival as a "generational talent", it is a reminder that a medal of any colour in Paris is not a foregone conclusion.

"We're starting to see a lot more cracks in the Chinese now than before," says Campbell, matter-of-factly. "I wouldn't say that they've got it completely sewn up this time. Most athletes are already done by the time the Chinese enter their first attempts, so they have control of the time and control of the clock and a nice peaceful warm-up. Now that there are other athletes who are getting closer to them, they're having to make decisions, to compete and react. They're not used to being put under pressure."

As for how long she aims to continue in the sport, Campbell says: "I don't know. I love it. I'd love to keep going for as long as possible. There's a woman in the Solomon Islands who's just qualified and she's been at every single Olympics since the women have been in it. She's done six Olympic Games.

"Women were only allowed to lift in the Olympics since 2000 - a lot of people don't know that. We're one of the oldest Olympic sports for men but women were only introduced into the Olympic programme 24 years ago."

Self-expression is equally important to Campbell, who became an instant hit with her striking red-and-blue hair neatly tied into buns at Tokyo (she signed a deal with a well-known hair dye brand soon after) and fake eyelashes. She is still pondering her hairstyle for Paris, where one of her biggest concerns is sourcing a good braider.

She is also undecided on whether she should embellish the Olympic rings inside her bicep. "Everyone asks if I'm going to add some stuff to it," she says. "I might just get this one brightened...the simplicity of the Olympics rings is enough." Whatever she chooses, Campbell is ready to light up the weightlifting world - again.



# Surfer targeting Paris gold after battling brain tumour

Brisa Hennessy is back on her board, fighting fit and ready to take on 'dangerous' waves in Tahiti at Olympics, writes *Sarah Mockford*

"Salt water is in my veins," says Brisa Hennessy. At three months old, her parents, who ran a surf school, put her on a board for the

first time. By the time she was three years old, she was catching her own waves. Now, at 24, she sits third in the Women's Surf League rankings and is amongst the favourites for Olympic gold.

Yet 18 months ago, her "body was rejecting surfing". Yes, there was the pressure of competing at the top level but it was more than that. She was experiencing brain fog, fatigue, heart palpitations, muscle weakness, inflammation... At first she was told it was hyperthyroidism, when the

**Surfing at Olympics – on the other side of the world**



thyroid gland produces too many hormones that affect things like heart rate and body temperature, but Hennessy felt it was more significant. An MRI scan proved as much: there was a benign tumour on the pituitary gland at the base of her brain that was basically causing it to malfunction.

"The pituitary gland is the epicentre of everything and that [the tumour] was causing the up-and-down cycle of challenges in my life," she explains. Hennessy decided against

surgery – "it was invasive and could cause further damage" – and instead has worked to shrink the tumour, through both medication and lifestyle changes. She took five months off the surfing circuit last year and has worked at ways to reduce her stress: breathing exercises, meditation, yoga, listening to music (she is a big fan of The Beatles and reggae).

"I was pushing too hard and in fight-or-flight mode a lot, which caused a lot of stress on my body and that is a big cause of health issues," she says. "It's about taking more time for myself and really trying to learn how I can live more at peace with my body and my mind, and how I can complement that with being an athlete. I'm still trying to find my way but at the moment I'm feeling the best I have in a long time. I haven't had an MRI in quite a long time but because my symptoms have completely subsided my doctor thinks I have shrunk it. "I didn't want to surf for a long



**Tube journey: Brisa Hennessy takes on 'best wave of my life' in Tahiti**

waves of your life when it's bigger than a feeling, it's everything. It's sensory overload, it makes you feel all the things," she recalls.

"Tahiti is the complete opposite of Japan, which was a beach break with smaller waves. Tahiti is a tropical island, the wave is incredibly dangerous and scary and beautiful. I spent a whole month in Tahiti training, trying to immerse myself in the culture and the wave. It's one of the most dangerous waves in the world, so it can be very emotionally draining, physically draining, and so rewarding. I feel I had some of the worst wipeouts and worst days of surfing there, but with that the best moments and best waves. It's so extreme and that's why we're doing it - it's right on that edge of anxiousness and fear. Tahiti brings that constantly.

"Fear is an important part of growing and embracing becoming a surfer. Can I push past this, is this going to make me grow and is this safe? Or is this dangerous? Fear is always there and it is about embracing it. It's knowing I can't run from it or hide from it, so it's using that energy in the right way."

If she can harness that energy to make the podium this summer, it will be Costa Rica's first Olympic medal in more than two decades, the country's first non-swimming medal and its first not won by the Poll sisters, Silvia and Claudia.

Hennessy spent her formative years in the Central American country, living with her parents in the jungle next to the ocean. They were "fully immersed in nature" and would occasionally find a snake on the dining room table or monkeys in a bedroom as animals made their way into the open structure. Moving to Hawaii aged nine was a shock to the system, switching from a fairly isolated existence to being around more children and people generally. She admits to feeling like "an outsider" and comparing herself to others, which ultimately led to her developing an eating disorder in her mid teens - one that caused her period to stop for two years.

Last year Hennessy decided to share her struggles with body image in an Instagram post in the hope her experiences would help at least one other person and she is quick to highlight the pressures female surfers face "to look a certain way".

"In our sport we're constantly showing our bodies, we're in swimsuits, it's a pretty exposed sport. It's hard to run away from that. I feel like women surfers struggle a lot because we're having to look a certain way and present ourselves a certain way. My personality type, I'm such a perfectionist, I was going through puberty and I latched onto something I could control, within the comparisons and the noise. I took it too far. It was a really hard journey and I don't want any girl to go through that.

"It's a constant struggle. I don't have to love my body every day, but it's having gratitude for it. For the first time I'm seeing my body and what it does. We demand it to do things instantly for us so we need to have the grace to give it compassion too."

# How contraceptive pill almost forced Kinsella to end gymnastics career

**Acne medication was driving the Olympic bronze medallist to depression before mum's intervention, writes Fiona Tomas**

Not so long ago, Alice Kinsella was dragging herself to Park Wrekin Gymnastics Club, completely unmotivated to train. Her confidence was shattered and the Olympic bronze medallist found herself unable to complete routines she had practised her whole gymnastic life.

"I couldn't do certain skills that I'd been doing since I was like 10, 12," Kinsella says. "I started to get really depressed because everything wasn't going right in the gym. I couldn't even do my bar routine from the Tokyo Olympics. The second release of catch... I just couldn't go for it. It would happen every single day and it got to the point where I'd be scared to go to bars."

The "twisties" that United States champion gymnast Simone Biles suffered at the Tokyo Olympics - a mental block that causes a disconnect between the brain and body - showed how even the biggest names can suffer their own setbacks in high-pressured environments.

But Kinsella's personal anguish in the gym was different. She was at a loss to pinpoint the reason behind her mental and emotional dip, to the point when, in February this year, she found herself on the verge of quitting the sport.

"I'd go into pretty much every single piece thinking, 'I don't really know what's going to happen'. It was like my body had forgotten how to do everything," she says. "I started to struggle really bad mentally, to the point I was probably going to give up."

Little did Kinsella realise that the contraceptive pill, which she had started taking towards the end of last year to help with adult acne, was the root cause of her unhappiness.

A common skin condition that occurs when hair follicles get clogged with oil, dead skin cells and bacteria, acne is often thought of as a teenage problem. But it can continue into adulthood and the reason for it is often multifaceted. Kinsella's skin started worsening after a busy 2022 that saw her pick up five medals across three major

championships, including her crowning as a double Commonwealth champion. She believes the trio of events sent her stress levels spiking.

Kinsella started taking medication last December after being prescribed it by a dermatologist. The contraceptive pill, which contains synthetic sex hormones similar to those found in the body, is a tried-and-tested method to help clear up the skin condition. Kinsella noticed a slight improvement in her appearance but, ultimately, the tiny yellow tablets she would take every 24 hours were doing more harm than good.

She had initially held off from telling her coaching duo, Brett Ince and Christine Still, that she had started taking contraception, but they had noticed a deterioration in her mental health and contacted her mother, Karen. She then raised her own suspicions about the impact that taking the pill was having on her daughter.

"I'd started to get depressed and I wouldn't talk to anyone about it because I'm the kind of person that doesn't like to make people stressed," says Kinsella. "I don't like to make a big deal out of things but it got to the point where my coach had to ring my mum. That conversation was probably the best thing to happen. We all came together and decided it was better to come off it."

More robust research is needed to definitively prove a link between the pill and mental health, but it is one Kinsella can vouch for. Within weeks of coming off the pill, she noticed an improvement in her mental well-being and her confidence in the gym returned.

In a sign that she was back to her normal self in May this year, she claimed bronze at the

**'I tell myself that if I was able to get through that situation I feel like I can get through anything now'**

European Championships in Italy as she continued a solid training block ahead of this summer's Paris Olympics, where she will aim to help Great Britain upgrade the team bronze they won four years ago in Tokyo.

Kinsella, who rolled her ankle and tore two ligaments at the start of the Games in Japan, has also dared to dream of a first Olympic individual medal. But after her ordeal with the pill, she has found a renewed sense of purpose in a sport where female athletes face huge pressures to look aesthetically perfect.

"I'm trying to show people that it's OK to have flaws and that acne doesn't have to define who you are," says Kinsella. "I'm just trying to get to a point now where I don't need to look like someone else and be like someone else to get a [sponsorship] deal. Social media can be so fake. People edit their pictures all the time, they smooth out their skin. What's the point of doing that when that isn't what you actually look like?"

It is a positive message that perfectly complements her new-found mental resilience.

"I tell myself that if I was able to get through that situation [with the pill] I feel like I can get through anything now," she says. "So it's kind of a blessing in disguise. It has made me such a stronger person." And that, surely, is worth more than a medal of any colour.



**Emerging stronger: Alice Kinsella performs her floor routine at last year's World Championships**

time. It was so contradicting: how can my happy place, the place that gives me so much peace, be linked to my health issues, my anxiety, my stress? It took time but once I got back into it my body fully reframed what surfing meant to me. Now I know to have that balance: I'm going to have fun but this is my job and I need to be competitive."

With her health much improved, Hennessy is now able to switch focus to the Olympics. She finished joint fifth at Tokyo 2020, when the surfing event took place at Tsurigasaki Beach, more than 60 miles from Tokyo. This year the competition will be even further removed from the host city. Tahiti, the largest island in French Polynesia, is nearly 10,000 miles from Paris but Hennessy cannot wait to return to the reef at Teahupo'o having finished second at last month's WSL event at the venue - and catching "one of the best waves" of her career there.

"You know you're in one of the

# 'New string to my bow makes me feel calmer'

Laura Robson's career on court was ended by injury but now she is revelling in role as a tournament director, writes *Molly McElwee*

Laura Robson is the youngest female tournament director in tennis. She also might be the first to volunteer to personally pick up players' laundry.

"I'm taking Cam Norrie and Heather Watson's laundry back to London, which they forgot here," she says. "Oh, and I spent the first day on-site popping to buy sweets for the player lounge. They went so quickly, I've since had to go five more times, bought about 10 kilos and had to ration them."

With that she offers me a chewy sweet and continues showing me around the grounds.

It is safe to say Robson is taking a hands-on approach at the Nottingham Open. While others might be all right with being the ceremonial figurehead, that is not her style.

Last week marked her second year running the WTA 250 and ATP Challenger events, a role she earned after managing an unglamorous ITF 25k event in Loughborough as well as shadowing tournament directors at Queen's and the Miami Open to learn the ropes.

The experience came in handy. During her first year last summer, there were highs and lows: Andy Murray's wild-card win in the men's draw, close friend Katie Boulter's maiden title, a lightning strike hitting Centre Court and a minute's silence, after a series of fatal stabbings rocked the city midway through the tournament.

This year, *Telegraph Sport* spends day five of the main draw with Robson and the biggest challenge is the weather. She stays remarkably positive despite the deluge of rain and talks through

her favourite weather forecast apps, which she refreshes on her phone all morning.

During our amble around the site, she is stopped by the head groundsman and the WTA supervisor, who both provide differing rain updates; at the player desk, they ask if she knows the owner of an abandoned children's toy and a line judge asks for a signed racket to donate to a charity appeal. She smiles serenely throughout, offering helpful solutions, and sporadically listens to her walkie-talkie radio, which crackles to life every few minutes.

Adaptability is essential. Part of the week in Nottingham was spent quelling tensions, after Harriet Dart's fiery run-in with the line judges ("We took the officials some tea and cakes to boost morale") and she also negotiated a potentially awkward situation, explaining to top seed Ons Jabeur why she was scheduled on an outside court that seated just 398 spectators.

"It's due to the rain delays and how they impact broadcast agreements which we signed off months ago," Robson says. "Ons wasn't that happy initially, but she understood the decision once I set out the reasoning."

Her job has given her a new-found empathy for tournament directors, even Amelie Mauresmo, who was heavily criticised for failing to schedule women's tennis into primetime evening slots at the French Open. "I haven't asked her, but I'm sure being a former player she wouldn't only want men's matches on the night sessions. But you've got so many other factors involved, from TV, federations, hospitality. Even though I would like to think I wouldn't do it the same way, I don't know until I'm in the situation. I think it bothered me more that the women's matches were always in the 11am spot. You know there's going to be a lull until people have finished lunch, so are you giving [women's tennis] the space it deserves?"

Robson is used to offering her opinions on such matters, as a

## Robson's Wimbledon predictions

### Men's champion

I'm going with Jannik Sinner. He made the semis last year, is now world No 1 and I feel like Carlos Alcaraz doing it back-to-back will be even harder.

### Women's champion

Ons Jabeur. Well, my heart says Ons, but my head says Aryna Sabalenka. I don't think Iga Swiatek is quite ready to do it.

### Breakout story

I think Emma Raducanu will have the moment of the tournament. Watching her last few matches in Nottingham, she played really well and was excited to be out there. I could say Katie Boulter, because I do believe that she'll have a great tournament, but that wouldn't be a breakout result considering where she's at this season. So I'm going with Emma and Jack Draper. I've been saying it for so long about Jack - this is the year, especially as British No 1.

pundit on Sky Sports and Eurosport's tennis coverage, as well as commentating for the BBC at Wimbledon. She has another gig managing player relations at SW19 during the upcoming fortnight.

Multitasking and stretching herself has become second nature. Robson was tipped for great things as a teen: she won the Wimbledon girls' title aged 14 and memorably beat Kim Clijsters and Li Na on her way to reaching the US Open fourth round aged 18. She also won Olympic silver in mixed doubles with Murray at London 2012. But her career was effectively ended by injury at 25. To this day, her dodgy hip blocks her from playing much tennis recreationally.

"The fact I can have more strings to my bow makes me feel a lot calmer," she says. "Even if I'm crazy busy and stressed, I prefer it that way. I've been very lucky that I've got Sky, but that can go before you know it and I might never work in TV again. So if things don't go as I'd hope, I know I'll be fine. It's why I sought out these roles, so I'm not relying on other people to pick me."

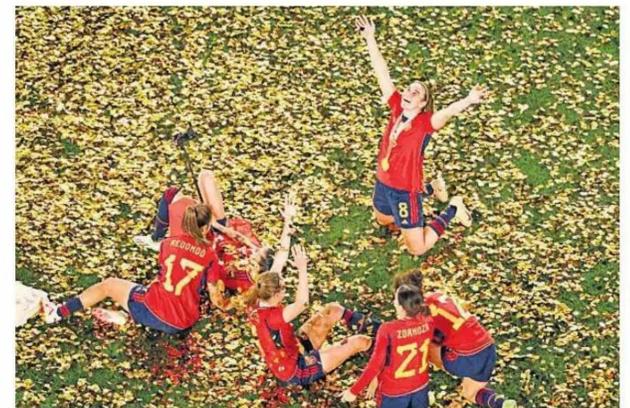
The main challenge she has found is adjusting to an office setting, in particular at the All England Club, where she admits to feeling some imposter syndrome: "Sometimes I do feel a little out of my depth. I don't have a university degree, I was home-schooled from 11 to 16, all the important years! It's normal in the tennis world, but if you're in an office and everyone's really smart, I am still a little afraid to speak up. Even writing a very professionally sounding email, you're really overthinking your sign-off. I wouldn't do that if I was emailing a coach or working in TV, but because it's Wimbledon it's a bit smarter, fancier, which you would expect because the club's got so much history. It's that aura."

There are moments she has felt underestimated too, being a former player or perhaps because she is a young woman. "Maybe a little bit on the player relations side at Wimbledon," she says. "I've known so many people at the club since I was 14, that a lot of them were like, 'You're still a baby'. There was a lot of that."

Did it feel like a bit of an old boys' club when she first got involved? "You're not too far off, but not anymore. It's changed a lot. Female CEO, female chairwoman, female referee at the Championships this year - we've got the trifecta."

She is making her way up the leadership ladder, too, but when the subject of firm career plans pops up, she groans as any 30-year-old might. "I don't want to give anything up unless there's a huge conflict of interest - but tennis has a huge problem with that anyway!" she laughs. "Out of everyone, I'm fine."

## Lights, camera, action... Finalists in World Sports Photography Awards



DARREN STAPLES FOR THE TELEGRAPH

**Holding court:**  
Laura Robson at  
the Nottingham  
Tennis Centre

STEPH CHAMBERS; DAVID GRAY; ANDREW HANCOCK; LEONID DUBOVITSKI; ALESSANDRO TROVATI; ALEX KOHRING

# Serena's husband is helping Sports Bra go boom in the US

A bar specialising in showing women's sport is proving a hit in the US and already has plans to expand, writes *Sarah Mockford*

What happens if you bring together a basketball-loving chef, Serena Williams' husband and women's sport? Well, the result should be a successful chain of sports bars, with a difference.

Before getting to the future, though, let's rewind a few years.

It was in 2018 that Jenny Nguyen, the aforementioned chef, hit upon the idea of a bar showing only women's sport. She and some friends had crowded around a small television (with no sound) in the corner of a bar in Portland, Oregon, to watch a college basketball final, having had to ask one of the staff to change the channel to the women's game.

The experience was far from optimal, hence the discussion around a new type of sports bar. It took four years for Nguyen to get the concept off the ground, what with the pandemic and the need to raise funds. Banks were not forthcoming with loans; they were enthusiastic about the idea but as it had "never been done before" it was considered high risk. Instead, she drew on her own savings, support from family and friends, and a Kickstarter campaign, and in April 2022 The Sports Bra opened its doors.

Of the name, Nguyen says: "One simple change makes all the difference, like changing a channel or flipping two letters in 'sports bar'. It was the first thing I thought of and it really stuck."

Nguyen was unsure whether the bar would be successful but need not have worried. For the first couple of months, there was a queue outside when it opened; the first-come, first-served policy meant people were happy to wait in line to get one of the 40 seats inside, enjoy the live action on one of five televisions and appreciate the plethora of memorabilia adorning the walls. Nguyen is strict about no reservations, too: various teams and athletes have tried to book areas and been turned down. Some well-known names have even joined the queue in order to get inside, with Portland Thorns fixtures in the National Women's Soccer League the most popular among patrons.

It is that level of demand that has seen the bar bring in \$1million (£788,000) in revenue each year.

"It has 1,000 per cent exceeded my expectations," says Nguyen. "I wasn't prepared - I went from zero to 1,000mph. I underestimate everything and things go 1,000



New concept: Founder Jenny Nguyen and Alexis Ohanian in The Sports Bra

times faster than I think they will. Whatever my plan is, it turns out to be dramatically different."

Which brings us on to the recent involvement of Alexis Ohanian, co-founder of Reddit, the other half of tennis great Williams and a long-term supporter of women's sport. Nguyen is not a regular on X but was alerted to the fact that Ohanian had responded to a message on the social platform saying he had been following The Sports Bra since day one and encouraging them to get in touch.

"I tried to be the cool kid so I waited two whole days, liked it and then slid into his DMs to say, 'Thanks for the shoutout, here's my email if you want to connect,'" recalls Nguyen. "Within an hour he'd emailed back, saying he would love to know my plans. Every month or so he'd check in, asking if he could help in any way. Once I decided franchising would be the way forward, I emailed him and he said, 'Let's get on the phone, how can I be involved?'"

The result has been Ohanian's 776 Foundation investing in growing The Sports Bra's footprint, with applications for franchises across the United States to open soon. Nguyen had planned to scale up in year four or five, so to be doing so already illustrates how fast things are moving. They hope to have three or four new sites opened by 2025. All returns on the foundation's investment will also "be donated to advance future generations of women athletes", according to Ohanian.

So what advice would Nguyen give to anyone thinking of setting up a women's sports bar in the UK? "Do it - the more the merrier. Pushing representation and accessibility is not about one person. What's worked best for us is authenticity and staying true to our values. Building communities around the fandom of women's sport, giving that accessibility and representation, is absolutely key."

And it is an approach that has proved hugely successful.



(Clockwise from above) Indiana Fever's Aliyah Boston takes on Seattle Storm in the WNBA; long-jumper Tara Davis-Woodhall celebrates silver at the World Athletics Championships; a diver off the island of Filicudi, Sicily; action from the Judo Grand Slam in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; gymnast Olivia Trautman on the beam; Spain enjoy their Fifa World Cup win



## Women's Sport Monthly



**Pioneering:** Simon Coombes with (from left) students Eden, Kita and Evie at Millfield School

LEE THOMAS FOR THE TELEGRAPH

# How Gen Z is tackling the big taboos in female sport

Getting boys and girls to discuss once-tricky topics is a key part of a trailblazing new school programme, writes *Kate Rowan*

If you want a glimpse of what sport will look like when Gen Z takes charge, Millfield School is a good place to begin.

The largest co-educational boarding school in the United Kingdom is well known for developing sporting talents, particularly in rugby. Its alumni reads like a who's who of the oval-ball game: Sir Gareth Edwards, JPR Williams, Chris Robshaw, Mako Vunipola and Adam Hastings are among those who have graced its classrooms and playing fields. Now the Somerset institution is becoming a trailblazer in girls' sport.

The Girls in Sport Programme, the first of its kind in any school in Britain, is not only growing participation but improving

education around female athlete health. And what makes the school's approach unique is that it involves educating boys as well as girls, with open and frank discussions between classmates.

Take a question-and-answer session on female health issues recorded with Olympic bronze medal-winning pole vaulter Holly Bradshaw on International Women's Day. That film has now been shown in Personal, Social, Health and Economic education lessons and has benefited the boys as much as the girls.

"The progression has been amazing," says Simon Coombes, the teacher and coach who has pioneered the programme. "Within a couple of weeks we got that information being put into the PSHE curriculum and the fact that is now being delivered by teachers into mixed classes across all age groups means that it's not just out there in ether, it's actually being appreciated and discussed openly."

From a student perspective it has encouraged debate and the breaking down of taboos around topics like periods and breast support. "I had my lesson and it

was not like we confronted the boys, but we openly said there is this stigma about it [menstruation] being uncomfortable. But then the boys were all like, 'Well it's just life,'" says Eden, a heptathlete and netball player. "As a collective, as a school, it has adapted that we are now like it's not as embarrassing to talk about female health, the menstrual cycle, being more prone to certain injuries... We're trying to push advocating for girls in sport. And it needs to start with the boys and the girls, so we need to collaborate."

Kita, a footballer, adds: "More importantly, it's to bring the boys and the girls together over this issue and hopefully push it further so we can stand united."

Just as studies have shown this generation is more open to discussing mental health, it would seem the same applies to areas such as menstruation, which until recently were still taboo to discuss.

"I think we've worked really hard to raise awareness and remove stigma to the point where the girls have been able to stand up and say we don't want white shorts or skorts," says Kita. "We've

managed to get the girls their own football kit, the rugby girls' team their own kit – they used to have to play in the boys' kit."

For fencers, menstruation can be tricky to navigate because of the all-white kit and the fact all coaches are being trained in how to best support girls has helped students such as Evie, who is on the hockey team too. She says: "My coaches are all male. As a squad, we can feel comfortable speaking to our coaches about it and if you're in training and you find that you started your period or someone else has started, then you have that support system. The understanding has grown and I think it's becoming more comfortable to speak about it."

The programme also involves students receiving education and support from The Well HQ, which was co-founded by Dr Emma Ross. Formerly of the English Institute of Sport, physiologist Ross developed the ground-breaking SmartHER campaign to support Olympic athletes and encourage more open conversations around female athlete health.

Millfield's programme includes

education on the impact of the menstrual cycle and raising awareness around issues such as anterior cruciate ligament injuries and Red-S [Relative energy deficiency in sport], which can impact not just performance but the general physical and mental well-being of female athletes. Injury prevention programmes akin to those used in professional sport are being implemented, while Ross and her team have spoken in depth with the girls about the importance of not just a well-fitting sports bra but how specific sports require different levels of breast support.

Coombes emphasises that this support is for all students, not only those with elite ambitions. By getting everyone involved, it means future grass-roots participants and coaches, as well as future elite athletes, will have this knowledge.

He took his inspiration for the project from his university days when the men's football team had a Football Association coach while the women had students such as himself taking sessions. He is quick to deflect praise on to the students, saying: "It's great for them and they're going to be the trailblazers of the future."

Kita adds: "There's been a massive shift because initially when this programme started – and I don't want to sound offensive – but I think the boys got a bit scared like, 'Oh, the girls are trying to take things away from us'. Whereas now I think they're starting to realise more that it's just about sharing it."

# No wonder this netball player can pass like Paul Scholes

Only 5ft 4in but with an uncanny ability to find a team-mate, Alicia Scholes is reminiscent of her dad, writes *Jim White*

One thing that is impossible to miss when looking at a photo of the London Pulse netball team is the sudden gap that appears as the eye runs along the squad. That is where Alicia Scholes is standing. You can just about make out the top of her head.

At 5ft 4in, the wing attack is noticeably small for a sport in which height can proffer significant advantage. She is nearly a foot shorter than her team-mate Olivia Tchine; indeed, she cedes more than five inches to the next smallest player on the Pulse roster. And when she speaks about her growing reputation in the game, it is clear that mention of her height – or lack of it – is something she is well used to.

“Loads of people have told me I’m too small to play,” she says. “Always have. From around the time I started in high school, my height was something that was there constantly in the background. If I’m honest, it was always in my head that I’d be too small, that because of that I’d never make an international. I’ve always wanted to prove to people it didn’t matter, because I’m faster, quicker round the court. What I’ve tried to do all my career is use it to prove people wrong.”

Whatever her scale, when it comes to playing netball, Scholes

has a singular advantage. It is there in her surname: her father is Paul Scholes. And seeing her in action, precisely picking out passes, knowing exactly where team-mates are on court, able to spot gaps and spaces others simply cannot see, it is evident she has become heir to much of the extraordinary spatial awareness that made Scholes Snr the finest midfielder of his generation.

“Maybe it’s inherited, I don’t know,” she says of the striking similarity in the way father and daughter are able to read a game and plot its geometry. “People do say after they’ve seen me play that it’s like watching Dad on a netball court.”

Paul Scholes is not the only former Manchester United player to have a family link to netball. His “Class of ‘92” team-mates Gary and Phil Neville’s sister Tracey was a leading player, earning 81 international caps. She was also coach of England for four years, memorably steering the team to gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

“The really weird thing was, when I first started, there was this rumour that she was my godmother,” she says. “She isn’t.”

It was certainly nothing to do with Neville that she became intrigued by the sport. The pair had never even met then.

“It started when I was eight or nine and a friend said come along to the Oldham Ball Hall,” she recalls. “I loved it from the word go. As I got into high school, I started doing better. With me, it was something I was good at, so I stuck with it.”

As she progressed through the game, playing for Oldham Hulme Grammar School, then county and national age-group levels, the family support was unwavering. “The message from my parents was always: do what you enjoy,” she says. “It didn’t have to be sport. If I wanted to play the violin, they would have encouraged that.”

Her father appeared to enjoy her progress almost as much as she

did. “He’d come and watch, though he’d never be right on the touchline shouting out advice like some dads, he always dropped back a bit. He was never too heavy, never interfered, just supported me, wanted me to keep enjoying it.”

He was there when she first broke into the fringes of the first team at her local Super League club, Manchester Thunder, in the 2021 season. And it was while she was there, often on the sidelines, that she recalls her father first giving her a significant piece of advice. She remembers it largely because she decided to do the exact opposite of what he said.

“I grew up with Dad playing for the same team for so many years,” she says of Paul’s one-club career. “And I wanted to be at Thunder all my career. But it was becoming ever more clear, I had to move to get game time. ‘Stay with them, it will come’, that was his advice. But I had to do what’s best for me, I had to get court time, so I signed for Pulse.”

And she has been proved right in making the move to London. This is the third season since she signed semi-professional terms with the club and headed south.

In that time, she has become a regular starter, playing in front of packed crowds at the Copper Box Arena. Last season she was integral to the charge up the Super League, which concluded in defeat in the final against Loughborough Lightning. So good was she, her international debut came against New Zealand last September.

“I think court time is everything for confidence. Having a place, knowing you are going to start, everything just gets much easier,” says Scholes, who is as feisty a competitor as her father was.

The Pulse have made the play-offs this year, too – but coming second again is not something she believes would be good enough. “This season has been the most pressure and

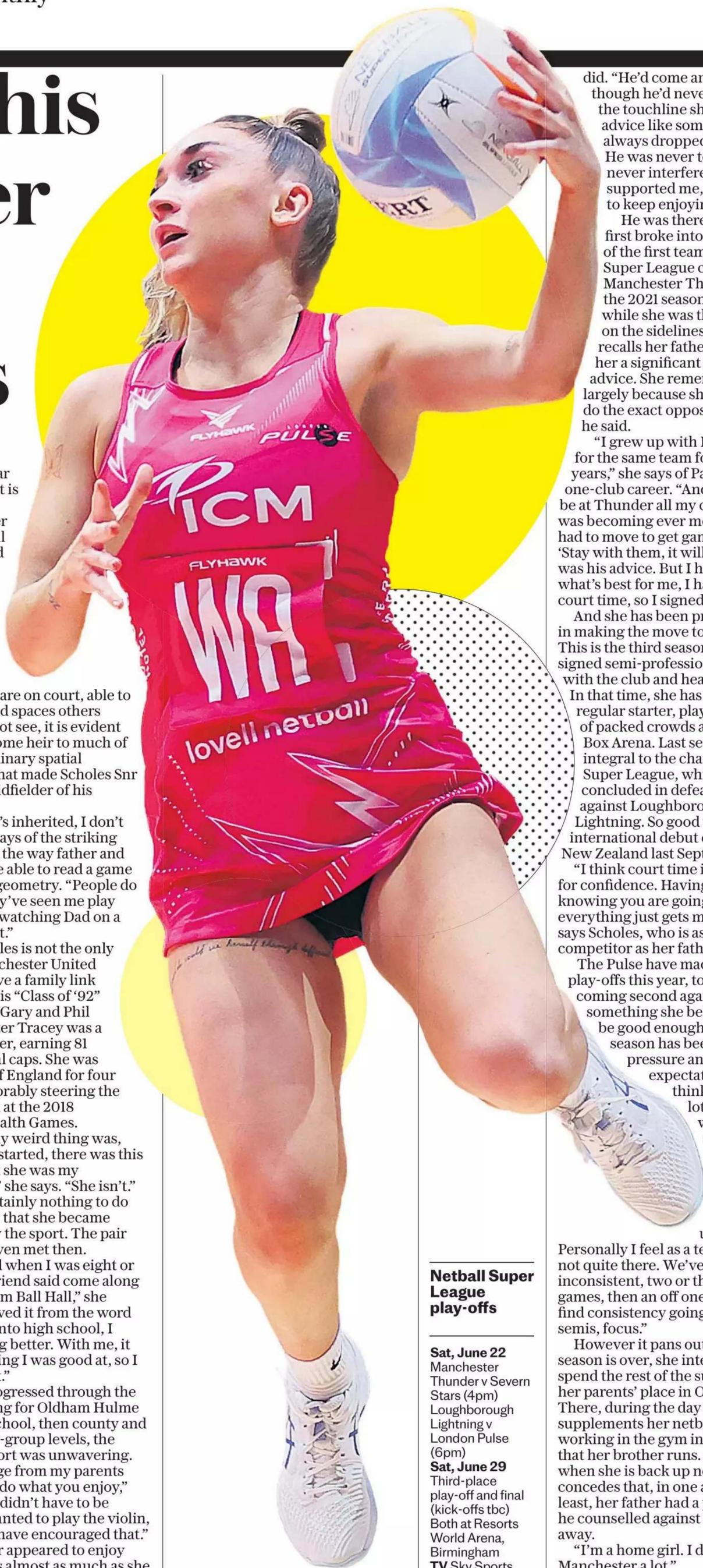
expectation on us. I think last year a lot of people were surprised we came second, so everyone has been gunning for us this year.

Personally I feel as a team, we’re not quite there. We’ve been a bit inconsistent, two or three strong games, then an off one. We need to find consistency going into the semis, focus.”

However it pans out, when the season is over, she intends to spend the rest of the summer at her parents’ place in Oldham. There, during the day she supplements her netball earnings working in the gym in Manchester that her brother runs. And it is when she is back up north she concedes that, in one aspect at least, her father had a point when he counselled against a move away.

“I’m a home girl. I do miss Manchester a lot.”

**On the ball:** Alicia Scholes in action for London Pulse (right) and on the pitch at Old Trafford in 2011 (below) with brothers Arron and Aiden before her father’s Manchester United testimonial



GETTY IMAGES

## Netball Super League play-offs

**Sat, June 22**  
Manchester Thunder v Severn Stars (4pm)  
Loughborough Lightning v London Pulse (6pm)  
**Sat, June 29**  
Third-place play-off and final (kick-offs tbc)  
Both at Resorts World Arena, Birmingham  
TV Sky Sports

## Women's Sport Monthly



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itself," he says. "It's a tough time for rugby at the moment - we can't live beyond our means. What does that look like for scholarships? For accommodation that's linked to academic choice?"

If the professional salaries are not yet there, the infrastructure is. Most clubs have embraced the move to men's Premiership stadiums, with Loughborough Lightning's partnership with Northampton Saints meaning they played all their home matches at Franklin's Gardens this season. The alliance has sparked a groundswell of support for the women's team: a few seasons ago they averaged crowds of around 150 at their university campus. This term, they have averaged around 1,000.

Mark Darbon, the Saints chief executive, says the investment model is a "match made in heaven" because of how the financial burden is spread. Saints provide Lightning with a cash offering and a match-day facility, while Lightning contract the players and staff. Darbon says the club are not a million miles away from breaking even because of their relatively low operation costs (Saints, unlike some clubs, own their stadium).

Saints are already reaping rewards from a merchandising standpoint. "A lot of the stuff that we sell is co-branded," says Darbon. "We sell a lot of half-Loughborough, half-Saints scarves. We love that, because that's the adoption of our joint women's team from our existing fanbase. We're trying to find the things that move the needle."

What would he say to those who accuse men's clubs of hemorrhaging money to support the women's game? "Come and watch," says Darbon. "In the elite women's game we're seeing some fantastic rugby. The feedback we get from people who come is they really enjoy it. They're pleasantly surprised by the quality of games."

Similar initiatives to engage rugby communities have been in full flow at Gloucester-Hartpury in an attempt to drive up revenue streams to help offset costs. The club have sold more than 500 of their alternate "Pink Circus" shirt this season, generating around £30,000. Plans are already in motion for the team to launch their own clothing range next season.

"One of my remits is we grow sustainably," says James Forrester, the Gloucester-Hartpury chief executive. "We've seen really big growth throughout sponsorships and have seen some big local firms getting excited about the team and wanting to support the team."

PWR's YouTube channel has had 5.2 million impressions this season (up from 810,000 last year) while its number of "watch hours" has gone from 2,000 last season to nearly 80,000 this. The hope is that the BBC's coverage of next year's home World Cup will be the catalyst the sport needs to cross into the mainstream.

"Collectively, as a sport, we have to grow the audience for women's rugby, otherwise none of this stuff matters," says Darbon. "It doesn't matter if our team is called Loughborough Lightning or Saints. It doesn't matter how good a campaign we've got about the athletes is. We've got to grow the audience. That drives everything."

# Rugby facing up to pros and cons of professional game

While the Red Roses sweep all before them, English clubs are learning to navigate some tricky waters, writes *Fiona Tomas*

The phone signal is patchy but Dave Ward's pragmatism cuts through almost perfectly. "We'd love to play all of our games at Ashton Gate," says the Bristol Bears women's head coach, "but financially, it doesn't make sense. We lost money on the games there this season."

It might be a bleak outlook, but as the curtain closes on another Premiership Women's Rugby season, there is cause for optimism. Bristol will have a shot at glory in their first PWR final on Saturday at Sandy Park against reigning champions Gloucester-Hartpury. Silverware will be the ultimate marker of a successful season, but Ward is happy to point out the other small wins.

This season, Bristol have started turning a modest profit at their home ground, Shaftesbury Park, the 200-seat stadium they rent from Dings Crusaders. "It's a small

amount, but it's a step in the right direction," says Ward. "It's a real battle, but we're up for the fight."

If navigating the cash-strapped ecosystem of domestic women's rugby is an unenviable task, balancing the books is nigh-on impossible. This season kicked off with a rebrand and new broadcast deal with TNT Sports under PWR chief executive Belinda Moore, who oversaw the eye-catching "Powered Differently" campaign. While the mini makeover was well received, it has not masked the growing pains of professionalism.

On the pitch, the gulf between the best and the rest is widening. A club insider from one of the so-called "Big Four" of Gloucester-Hartpury, Saracens, Bristol and Exeter Chiefs claimed a "bidding war" had opened up among England internationals. Another club

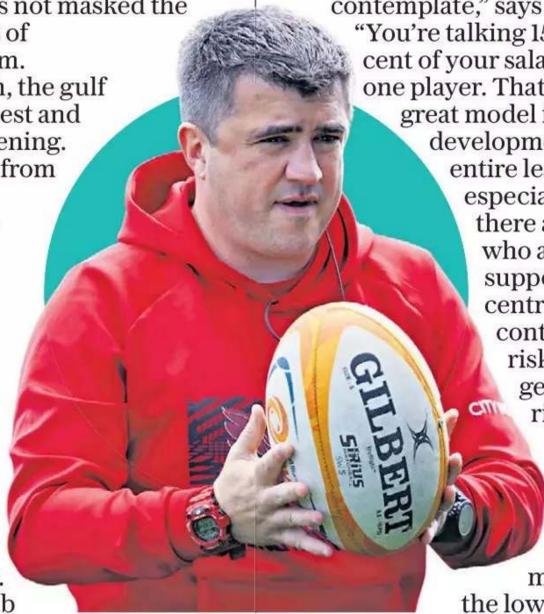
source told *Telegraph Sport* they had received requests from some Red Roses of up to £25,000 for a club contract (on top of existing salaries with the Rugby Football Union, worth up to £47,250 this year). In a league where clubs are governed by a £220,000 salary cap, there are many who question whether generously paying marquee players is sustainable.

"Some figures that I was privy to being offered last season were significantly more than we'd even contemplate," says one coach.

"You're talking 15 to 20 per cent of your salary cap on one player. That's not a

great model for the development of the entire league, especially when there are players who are already supported by central contracts. It risks the rich getting richer."

Most clubs no longer pay players match fees, the low value of



**New territory: Bristol Bears will play in their first PWR final on Saturday**

which means they are no longer compatible with employment law. *Telegraph Sport*, however, has learnt of at least one PWR club who have been paying periphery squad members £50 a game this season. The same club offered an England player a £13,000 salary, £9,000 worth of university fees and free accommodation (the latter is not inside the salary cap).

"England players want more," says another coach. "The gap between your everyday players and the top players is getting bigger and you get angst in your squad. It's really stressful."

Agents are reluctant to get involved in contract discussions at club level, preferring to take a lead on commercial deals and agreements. "The game just isn't at a stage yet where we can have any direct influence," says one. "The drop off from the girls who've signed new Red Roses contracts to what players are picking up domestically is chalk and cheese."

Alex Austerberry (left), the Saracens director of rugby, believes more needs to be done to support semi-professional players. "The league has to grow organically so it doesn't bankrupt

# Inside Track

## Natasha Hunt



**Gloucester-Hartpury scrum-half reveals her chocolate mousse passion and why she wants to swap places with Donald Trump**

**Who is the person you would like to meet, dead or alive?**  
The Queen [Elizabeth II]. I just think she was the absolute boss, I would have loved to pick her brains.

**Describe yourself in three words.**  
Empathetic, I'd like to say, thoughtful and happy.

**If you could have one superpower, what would it be?**  
Definitely teleportation. The amount we travel, the amount of times I've wanted to be in a different place, just to go abroad for the day for some sunshine.

**What is the best compliment you have ever received?**  
These are hard... probably that my smile is infectious, something like that.

**What is your worst habit?**  
I'm an overthinker. I feel like there are issues when there are not.

**If you could switch lives with anyone for a day, who would it be?**  
I can't say that, it's too political. OK, I'm going to say it. I'd love to switch lives with Donald Trump just to see what on Earth he's thinking. Just to understand that thought process.

**What is your favourite childhood memory?**  
My grandma and grandad have had a stationary caravan in Wales for their whole lives, it's on the coast in Pembrokeshire. Just going down there when we were kids and doing Easter egg hunts and stuff like that, it was always awesome. Loved it.

**What is your favourite WhatsApp group chat?**  
"The Circus", our Gloucester-Hartpury groupchat. Especially when the girls are on it, it's very good fun.

**What is your most prized possession?**  
It's not really a possession but I'd say my niece and nephew. They are the people I

want to protect the most.

**What song gets you on the dancefloor?**  
Pretty much anything. I love a dance, me. Anything with a good beat, a bit of rhythm.

**What is your dream three-course meal and dinner guests?**  
Dinner guests, I'd obviously love the Queen, Nelson Mandela would be up there, and I'd love to meet Adele, I think she's brilliant. Great craic. The meal, probably a really good fillet steak and some well-cooked chips or crispy potatoes. Chocolate mousse for pudding - it's light but you still get that chocolate hit. For the starter, I love a Camembert to share, with little bacon bits on top.

**If you could go on any reality TV show, what would it be?**  
*I'm a Celebrity*, but I would be

**Fast feet: Natasha Hunt will 'dance to anything with a good beat'**



horrendously bad at it. I hate eating anything that isn't pretty much chicken, so I wouldn't be able to cope with the eating challenges. I don't like bugs. I feel like everyone would be laughing at me but I'd just love to experience it.

**Do you prefer a night in or a night out?**  
A night out. Depends on my mood though; in-season, I love snuggling up on the sofa.

**What is the best advice you have received?**  
Just to be unapologetically yourself. When you own what you're good at in everything you do, I think people resonate with you so much more than when you try and be somebody you're not.

**What is your karaoke song?**  
(Laughs) It's actually *Laffy*

*Taffy* by D4L, but I won't sing it for you, I'll play it for you after.

**What is the most ridiculous thing you have ever bought?**  
I recently bought a laptop case that charges your phone, watch and laptop at the same time. But it doesn't work, so I threw it away...

**What has been your favourite holiday?**  
I went to Bali with Zo [Zoe Aldcroft] a couple of years ago and it was just epic, I absolutely loved it. We also went to Thailand last year and it was really, really cool.

**What is your biggest non-sporting achievement?**  
It's related to sports, but coaching the BUCS girls [at Hartpury University] to win their league and cup titles, we went back-to-back and then won the league again last year. Being able to help the next generation come through that pathway is definitely up there.

**What is the best book you have read?**  
I don't really read, much to my mum's disgust. She's been making me read Ben Ryan's *Sevens Heaven* for like forever. I am interested in it but I'm a terrible reader.

**What is one law you would like to change in your sport?**  
There are a few. Obviously, I got done for the five-second back-of-the-box ["use it" call at a ruck], so probably that one. Also, how long an opposition can get set to play, like walking back after scoring a try, because I feel like it kills the game sometimes.

**What is the most out-of-character thing you have done?**  
Riding a motorbike in Bali. I'm not allowed to get on a bike, my dad doesn't let me. I'm here to tell the tale, so it's OK.

**If you were not a sports person, what would you be?**  
I would be involved in sport in one way, shape or form. I just think sports people are awesome, they're a different breed.

### Three things to do in the weeks ahead

**Watch PWR final**  
The Premiership Women's Rugby season concludes on Saturday with Bristol Bears facing Gloucester-Hartpury at Sandy Park. Bristol stunned Saracens to reach their first final, but can they overcome a team who have lost only once this season and thumped Exeter Chiefs 50-19 in the semi-finals? The two clubs' meetings in the regular season were relatively close,

Gloucester beating their West Country rivals 12-0 and 24-19, and expect the final to be just as tight. It kicks off at 3pm and is live on TNT Sports and BBC iPlayer.

**Read Other Ways To Win**  
Cyclist Lee Craigie's book is a reminder that finishing first is not the only way to achieve success, although she was a winner at the recent Sports Book Awards. Her

reflections on her career as a competitive mountain bike racer won the Vikki Orvice Award for Women's Sports Writing. Chris Boardman says *Other Ways to Win* "encourages you to see and experience things anew" while adding: "Lee Craigie makes you feel good about life."

Beth Mead's *Roar: A Guide to Dreaming Big and Playing the Sport You Love* won the Children's Book of the Year Award.

**Support Olympic warm-ups**  
Sprinter Dina Asher-Smith, heptathlete Katarina Johnson-Thompson and pole vaulter Molly Caudery will be among the Team GB athletes heading to the London Stadium next month. The one-day London Athletics Meet on Saturday, July 20 (see ticketmaster.co.uk) is part of the Diamond League series and is the final competitive event ahead of

the Olympic Games, which start six days later. Elsewhere, the United States basketball team will take on Germany at London's O2 on Tuesday, July 23 (6.30pm, axs.com for tickets) ahead of travelling to Paris. Caitlin Clark, in her first WNBA season, is not in the squad but 42-year-old Diana Taurasi is heading to a record sixth straight Games, having won gold with the US at the previous five.



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