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Sport

The Daily Telegraph

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Starmer: Corbyn better than Johnson as PM

Labour leader pinned down during debate over support for MP forced out of the party

By **Ben Riley-Smith** *and* **Daniel Martin**

SIR KEIR STARMER has said that Jeremy Corbyn would have made a better prime minister than Boris Johnson.

The Labour leader made the comment in a special BBC *Question Time* programme during which he was pinned down over his past support for Mr Corbyn.

Sir Keir initially refused five times to stand by his comment made in the run up to the 2019 election that Mr Corbyn, his predecessor as Labour leader, would have made a "great prime minister".

At one point the audience burst into laughter.

But he eventually said: "He would be a better prime minister look what we got, Boris Johnson, a man who made massive promises, didn't keep them, and then had to leave Parliament in disgrace."

The comment is eye-catching as Sir Keir has in recent years repeatedly distanced himself from Mr Corbyn, who has since been forced out of the Labour Party.

Mr Corbyn is standing as an independent candidate at this election.

During the show Sir Keir also said landlords would be banned by law from accepting the highest offer of rent from potential tenants in "bidding wars".

The Labour leader, who was booed as he entered the studio, claimed that too many of them were "ripping off" their tenants. Sir Keir said that landlords would not be allowed to go back and forth between potential tenants getting final offers, driving up the rent.

He said that legislation would be tabled to bring about the change if Labour wins office, meaning that the new rules would be legally enforceable.

He said: "We have to stop the landlords ripping off tenants who are doing this bidding war: who'll pay more until people are paying through the roof. We have to end that.

"We can pass legislation to say you can't do it because it's driving rents through the roof and it's not fair. It's taking advantage."

Sir Keir added: "We can't have this bidding war like this. We have to have a scheme in place to stop them driving rents up and up. Lots of renters are paying huge deposits and we have to stop that as well."

Last night, four political leaders were each grilled for 30 minutes on the BBC programme: Sir Keir, Rishi Sunak, Sir Ed Davey, the Liberal Democrat leader, and John Swinney, the SNP leader.

The Labour leader was also questioned about the change of position on trans issues, and faced criticism over his plans to apply VAT on private school fees.

Sir Keir also, after repeated pressing, admitted that NHS waiting lists may not return to normal until five years into a Labour government. He at first declined to answer when asked at what time the public could know they would get an NHS appointment in under a month. Sir Keir said "we will start the work on waiting lists on day one in government", and later "we will get those operations going as quickly as we can with staff".

Asked again for specifics, Sir Keir said the NHS backlogs would be brought down "over the course of the parliament".

A parliament lasts five years, which would mean 2029.

The Labour leader was pressed on his about-turns in policy. Sir Keir has been criticised for ditching many of the 10 pledges that he made in the 2020 Labour leadership contest.

Sir Keir insisted he was a "common-sense politician", arguing he abandoned his plans to nationalise energy firms after concluding it would be too costly and not bring bills down.

On immigration, a policy area that the Tories have said Labour is not tough enough on, Sir Keir said he wanted net migration dropping but refused to put a figure on it.

Sir Keir said: "Migration is at record levels under this government. They've completely lost control. We need to get that number down. We need to get it significantly down

"I'm not going to put an arbitrary figure on it because every single politician who as put a number on it has never met that number."

Reports and analysis: Pages 4-5

Zelenska: 'I'm close to psychological burnout'

Olena Zelenska said she has come close to burnout while trying to maintain a brave face for her children and her country

Danielle Sheridan
DEFENCE EDITOR
in Kyiv

FOR many people in Ukraine, it is not President Volodymyr Zelensky, with his trademark green sweatshirts and regular addresses to the nation, who provides comfort to the war-ravaged country, but rather his wife, Olena Zelenska.

Composed, articulate and by her husband's side on the international stage whenever their conflicting schedules allow, the first lady of Ukraine has inadvertently become a powerful symbol of hope. Yet behind her polished exterior Mrs Zelenska has battled with the same anxieties and vulnerabilities known to ordinary Ukrainians, who continue to suffer the agonising consequences of Vladimir Putin's invasion.

In an interview from the Office of the President in Kyiv, Mrs Zelenska told *The Telegraph* that she had come close to burnout as she struggled to cope with the magnitude of Putin's war, while maintaining a brave face for her country and her children.

"There are moments where I feel I am close to psychological burnout and I understand that I need rest," Mrs Zelenska said.

"I try to use the moment effectively, because sometimes when we think we have rest, we don't."

Since Russia's full-scale invasion began in February 2022, Mrs Zelenska and her husband have been forced to live apart. He stays at the office and she and their two children are at an undisclosed location.

Spending each night alone, she confessed to occasions when she had woken in the middle of the night feeling like she was struggling to cope – the only reprieve being that her children had not seen her in that state.

"Those were the most horrifying moments and it's good it happened at

Continued on Page 3

Huge spike in bets on day before Sunak called election

By **Nick Gutteridge** *and* **Ben Butcher**

A FLOOD of bets was placed on a July election the day before it was announced by Rishi Sunak, data reveal.

A gambling row is engulfing the Tories as several senior Conservatives are facing official investigations by the gambling watchdog over allegations that they placed bets on the July date before it was public.

Analysis of data provided by bookmakers shows more than £2,700 was wagered in the space of a few hours on May 21, including some individual bets of over £400.

At just after 5.15pm the next day the Prime Minister, who had previously suggested he was planning for an autumn poll, shocked the nation by calling the contest on July 4.

Tony Lee, the Conservative director of campaigning, has taken a "leave of absence" while he is investigated over an alleged bet on the date of the election, and his wife, an MP candidate, is also facing an inquiry by the gambling watchdog. Craig Williams, a senior aide to Mr Sunak and an MP candidate, bet £100 on the election date just before it was called and is also under investigation.

Analysis of betting patterns on the Betfair exchange reveals the unusual flurry of wagers placed on a July date in the hours leading up to the Prime Minister's announcement. More bets of over £25 were placed on May 21 than in the entire period leading up to the calling of the election, with 14 of them worth £50 or more.

At just after midday a bet of around £400 was made on the snap summer election, despite the odds of it happening at that point being just 8/1. At 4pm another wager of £425 was placed, by which time the odds had halved to 4/1.

Of the £6,027 worth of bets placed on a July date, some £3,594 was wagered in the five days leading up to the announcement and £2,742 on the day before.

Up until the days before Mr Sunak's big reveal on May 22, the wagers had come in dribs and drabs, which suggests ordinary punters taking a flutter.

The Prime Minister is now under pressure to suspend the two candidates being investigated.

Report: Page 6

NEWS

Labour private school VAT raid late in 2025

Labour's private school tax raid would not kick in until September 2025 at the earliest, party insiders have insisted after Rachel Reeves said it would be in her first Budget. Labour has vowed to add VAT on to private school fees if it wins the general election on July 4, in a policy that has drawn fierce criticism. But it has been unclear when exactly the change would be applied under a Labour government, with uncertainty for parents ahead of the 2024-25 academic year.

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NEWS

Former Covid tsar backs fines amnesty

The Government's former Covid testing tsar has backed calls for an amnesty for pandemic rule-breakers.

In an interview with *The Telegraph*, Sir John Bell revealed that he had opposed fines for breaking the rules. And he said it was not right that people had a criminal conviction "simply because they met six people instead of four". He said he supported calls to wipe the slate clean for the people, who number about 29,000, convicted in the courts for breaching Covid rules.

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MATT

'I'm your Tory candidate. I bet you a tenner that you're not going to vote for me'

WORLD

France shocked by rape of Jewish girl, 12

A 12-year-old Jewish girl was gang-raped by child attackers who taunted her with anti-Semitic slurs in a case that has shocked France. The attack has placed anti-Semitism at the centre of upcoming parliamentary elections. Two teens allegedly approached her and dragged her into a warehouse. A third suspect, 12, joined them, calling her "dirty Jew". Two 13-year-old boys have been indicted on charges of gang rape, death threats, insults and personal violence.

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BUSINESS

Sir Jim: Labour's net zero plan is absurd

Sir Jim Ratcliffe has called Labour's net zero plans "absurd" and warned the party will tax the North Sea "out of existence", just days after the industrialist publicly backed Sir Keir Starmer. The chief executive of chemicals giant Ineos, who also co-owns Manchester United, said Labour's plans to raise taxes on oil and gas producers meant "the North Sea will become extinct relatively soon". He said Sir Keir's plans would undermine Britain's energy security.

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E.coli outbreak linked to salad in meal-deal sandwiches

By **Joe Pinkstone**
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 250 people have now been infected with E.coli linked to lettuce in meal-deal sandwiches, the Government has said.

A total of 45 cases have been identified since last Friday and of the 256 total known cases, more than a third are thought to have been taken to hospital.

All cases are thought to have developed symptoms before May 31 and the rate of known cases is slowing down. Experts are not yet saying the outbreak is over, as more cases could be identified in the coming weeks as complex analysis, including whole genome sequencing, takes place on samples.

Dozens of ready-to-eat sandwiches sold at major shops, including Tesco, Boots and Sainsbury's were recalled as a precaution after people contracted shiga toxin-producing E.coli (Stec).

Questionnaires to sick people revealed many of them had recently consumed sandwiches with lettuce in them, which is now believed to be the source of the outbreak, despite no tests coming back positive for Stec on the recalled products.

Three companies which make ready-to-eat sandwiches, wraps and baguettes issued precautionary recalls of products in the last couple of weeks, including Greencore, a ready-meal food giant that supplies major supermarkets.

Health officials and food safety experts believe salad leaves were the source of the contamination, but it remains unknown where in the supply chain the lettuce became contaminated, when this happened, how this happened, and if it has been resolved.

Darren Whitby, head of incidents at the Food Standards Agency said: "Several sandwich manufacturers have now taken precautionary action to withdraw and recall various sandwiches, wraps, subs and rolls, as food chain and epidemiological links have enabled us to narrow down a range of foods consumed to a small number of salad leaves that have been used in these products.

"This remains a complex investigation and we continue to work at pace with the relevant businesses and local authorities to ensure necessary steps are being taken to protect consumers.

"Work continues to identify the root cause of the outbreak with the growers and manufacturers so that actions can be taken to prevent a re-occurrence. We will remain vigilant until the root cause of the outbreak is confirmed."

Russian NHS hackers issue demand for £40m ransom

Qilian group claims responsibility for cyber attack that crippled three London hospitals

By **Alex Barton**

RUSSIAN hackers who targeted NHS hospitals demanded a £40 million ransom.

A representative of the group, Qilin, claimed responsibility for a cyber attack and apologised for the disruption but suggested its attack on computer systems run by Synnovis, which provides pathology services to NHS hospitals and GP surgeries in London, was justified. They cited the Government's involvement in unspecified wars, according to Bloomberg.

The representative added that it had cut contact with Synnovis because its demand for a ransom payment had not been met within its 120-hour deadline. More than 800 operations were postponed as a result of the attack on June 4 that crippled three major hospitals in the capital. It is understood that the group, which is thought to have links to Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, has threatened to publish sensitive data it stole in the breach.

Ciaran Martin, the first head of GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), has previously said Qilin appeared to be behind the attack.

A Qilin website, which the group used to list its alleged victims, disappeared from the internet in the days after the hack.

Another page remains online but Synnovis wasn't listed, according to Bloomberg.

A spokesman for Synnovis said: "The investigation into the attack continues, including any possible impact to data. Once further information is known we will report in line with the Information Commissioner's Office requirements, and prioritise the notification of any impacted individuals or partners as required.

"We also continue to engage with law enforcement and the information commissioner and are working closely with the National Cyber Security Centre and NHS England's cyber operations team."

Doctors were forced to cancel some 800 planned operations and 700 outpatient appointments, postpone blood tests and resort to completing records by hand, according to the NHS.

The mother of a three-year-old girl whose kidneys do not function and who depends on dialysis said her daughter's treatment was disrupted because of the attack.

Emma, who chose not to give her surname, told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "They are directly attacking and targeting babies, toddlers and amazing children at the Evelina Children's Hospital.

"That hospital is the definition of ... the best of humanity and what they are doing is the definition of the worst of humanity."

Sandra Currie, chief executive of Kidney Research UK, added: "I think it is very frightening and worrying for patients and families, but also, of course, for the clinical teams who are not able to get the really valuable, in-the-moment information."

In March, the hackers claimed responsibility for breaking into the IT systems of the Big Issue Group, a non-profit organisation that helps vulnerable homeless people, and stealing confidential data.

Qilin, named after a hooved creature in Chinese mythology, emerged in 2022 has been responsible for 29 ransomware attacks globally this year, Comparitech, a software company, alleged.

DAVE BENETT/GETTY IMAGES

Mum's the word Jenna Coleman, the *Victoria* actress, revealed she was expecting her first baby when she unveiled her bump at an exhibition at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire.

NEWS BULLETIN

Sunscreen lotions fail Which? protection tests

Three popular sunscreen products have failed an annual safety test by consumer group Which?.

Asda Protect Moisturising Sun Lotion SPF30 High, Calypso Press & Protect Sun Lotion SPF30 and Bondi Sands SPF 50+ Fragrance Free Face Sunscreen Lotion failed the watchdog's tests to assess their SPF (sun protection factor) and UVA (ultraviolet A) protection.

Asda said it did not recognise the results, while Calypso said its product passed EU standards and regulations in independent testing.

Which? said Calypso's Press & Protect lotion, at £8 for 200ml, "barely mustered" two thirds of its claimed SPF30 in both tests.

Schizophrenic Tube pusher found not guilty

A Tube passenger who attacked three people causing one of them to fall onto the tracks has been found not guilty because he was suffering from schizophrenia at the time.

Donovan Kenlyn, 39, punched Samer Jawad, a passenger at Baker Street station, and minutes later caused Angel Cambeiro to fall onto the tracks at Finchley Road, just missing live rails. He travelled to nearby West Hampstead station where he struck Peter Acton on the back of the head.

Kenlyn accepted he was involved in the attacks, but denied attempted murder and causing grievous bodily harm because "active" schizophrenia led him to believe he was under threat.

Nice approves £160,000 cystic fribrosis drugs

Children with cystic fibrosis have been granted access to "life-changing" drugs on the NHS.

Campaigners said the decisionwas a "fantastic moment" which ended uncertainty for families across the country who had been living in limbo.

Last November, Nice deemed the drugs Kaftrio, Symkevi and Orkambi too expensive. But children risked having their lives cut short if access to future patients was denied, a draft report said. Yesterday, Nice announced that it has approved the use of the drugs after a deal on price was agreed.

Research suggests the drugs extend life by an average of 33 years. The drugs cost up to £160,000 per patient.

Songwriter's ex left note on door before suicide

The former partner of James Morrison, the singer-songwriter, left a note on her door saying "don't come in, call the police" before taking her own life, an inquest heard.

Gill Catchpole, 45, was found dead by Mr Morrison at her home in Whitminster, Gloucs, on Jan 5 this year. Gloucestershire Coroner's Court recorded a verdict of suicide after hearing that a friend had gone to Ms Catchpole's home and found the handwritten note. The friend then went to the adjacent property where Mr Morrison lived and alerted him.

The musician used his keys to enter Ms Catchpole's home and found her body.

Glastonbury may be welly weather, predicts Met Office

By **Emma Gatten**
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

REVELLERS planning a trip to the Glastonbury festival have been told that they should bring their wellies as the Met Office warns there may be "heavy and thundery" showers during the four-day event.

Heatwave conditions are expected over the next few days across the UK, with temperatures in the high-20s into the middle of next week, possibly as high as 30C (86F) in some places.

But after Wednesday next week, when the festival officially opens its doors to ticket holders, the Met Office said there was a "strong possibility" of showers in parts of the country.

"Although the set-up for the festival is likely to be in near heatwave conditions, there is a signal for showers, perhaps even heavy and thundery, towards the end of next week," said Met Office spokesman Graham Madge.

The showers may not last long though, before a return to warmer temperatures, but the Met Office said that it was too soon to predict what the weather would do over the weekend.

"For those unsure about what to pack it is best to wait until early next week to take account of the latest Met Office forecast," Mr Madge said.

"What we've got from now is an area of high pressure, which is beginning to build, raising temperature values, so we're in for largely a fine weekend," said Mr Madge. "And by the time we get to the end of the weekend we'll see temperatures start to climb."

But he said: "There is uncertainty over exactly how long this period of fine and settled weather will last.

"At the moment, we are forecasting that it will last into at least the middle of next week. So that will be in situ for when Glastonbury starts to open on Wednesday. Whether we get those conditions lasting into the festival period itself is subject to quite an element of uncertainty at the moment."

Even a short deluge on Glastonbury may bring scenes like those seen at last weekend's Download Festival, in Leics, where attendees were left wading through ankle-deep mud. The warmer weather on the way is a contrast to the first two weeks of June when more than a third of people were forced to switch on their heating due to the cold temperatures, according to a survey from Opinium. The survey, commissioned by Direct Line home insurance, also found that 40 per cent of people put on their winter jumpers over the period, with the worst affected areas in the east and south-west England.

Weather: Page 28

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Fights

good fight Interventions pile on the pressure

July 20 2022
Ms Zelenska appeals to Congress for more weapons after meeting Joe and Jill Biden in Washington.

November 2022
Urges tech workers around the world to create innovations to help save her country.

May 2023
Meets Yoon Suk-yeol, South Korea's president, and asks for non-lethal military assistance for her country.

September 2023
Calls on world leaders to help bring back thousands of Ukrainian children forcibly taken by Russia.

November 2023
In a speech at the Unesco conference in Paris she calls on the organisation to better protect Ukraine's heritage sites.

December 2023
Appeals for more aid in BBC interview, saying Ukraine was in 'mortal danger' without it.

February
Meets Akshata Murty for a tour of Imperial College's blast centre, which develops prosthetics for injured children.

'I hope to stay sane until the moment we win'

Continued from Page 1

night because none of my children saw it. I always have to be a source of confidence for them," she admitted. "Children always look up to their parents and they need to know that everything is going to be OK."

As part of her new commitment to take care of her mental health, Mrs Zelenska said she had occasionally permitted herself to be vulnerable.

"A couple of times I allowed myself to cry when it was unbearably sad but it was something I did consciously because I know I have to dive deep to the bottom to find the power to push and then I can swim again," she said.

"You have to allow yourself an opportunity to cry it all out."

Her greatest hope for Ukraine is that its victory is not pyrrhic and she comes out the other side with her sanity intact.

"I hope to live until the moment of the victory in a sane state of mind and for us to arrive there not so exhausted that we won't be able to enjoy it," she said. "I try to not think about fear, of course, we all in a way have survived our biggest fears in the first month after the invasion. We needed to come to terms with that idea in our head, with the nightmare that's hard to imagine for a modern person. You try not to think about the most awful things, because thinking about them is not helpful."

To ward off such episodes, the first lady has coping mechanisms to ensure her "mental balance" is steady, such as trying not to read the news on her phone before bed, or scrolling through Telegram channels detailing Russia's brutality before falling asleep to the sound of air sirens.

"I think when I am scared I need to physically do something," she explained. "I can compile a list of things that calm me down, and I'll go and do those things."

Another of these activities is cleaning. "This is a recipe for many women I know in the world to calm down, if you don't know what to do just go wash your hair," she said, smiling. "While you are doing something you don't just sit idly and be scared, you do something helpful at this moment."

It is approaching 850 days since Putin launched his invasion of Ukraine, having annexed Crimea in 2014 after declaring he had reversed a historical mistake. Putin famously called the carving up of the Soviet Union "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century".

But in his effort to right this "mistake", the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces has put the number of Russian troops killed since February 24 2022 at 529,750, not to mention the huge amount of military equipment Moscow has lost.

Despite this, Putin's ambitions for reclaiming Ukraine fully as part of Russia remain undimmed, with the most intense fighting of the war taking place in Kharkiv Oblast, which borders Luhansk Oblast in the east of the country. It is therefore crucial that the West does not grow weary of the war.

"We hope that the fatigue of this war will not settle the existential war for us, because our existence depends on it," Mrs Zelenska said.

The recent Peace Conference in Switzerland provided her with some confidence that Ukraine's allies and friends will continue to support it, although she conceded "we sometimes fear that help is arriving more slowly than we expected". "Or not to the extent that we expected," she added.

However, she admitted there was a general feeling of concern about the possible return of a Trump presidency and what that means, not only for Ukraine, but the world.

When Mrs Zelenska's husband announced his intention to run for president in 2019, she was enjoying her life as a successful screenwriter and editor in comedy at Studio Kvartal 95. Her husband had co-founded the production company, named after the comedy group they had performed in as young adults.

Originally from Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, the pair, now both 46, first met as teenagers when they attended School No 95. Their paths crossed again on the KVN circuit, a Russian comedy show which hosted international competitions. They went on to create sketches as part of a group that won comedy competitions across Ukraine and ultimately developed a romantic relationship.

Today, her life in war-ravaged Ukraine could not be further from the one she left behind in 2019, which included a career she loved.

HANNES ALBERT/POOL/GETTY IMAGES

Watch the interview online
To watch the interview visit the Telegraph's YouTube channel on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY2UD11kbmE

"Nobody would ever dream of being a wife of a president at war," she said when asked to explain what it was like being married to Mr Zelensky.

"Of course it's hard, it wasn't my choice and everyone knows it was his decision and I had to choose whether to work as the wife of the president or go into the shadows. I opted for the first option. When you make the choice to become active, you treat it as a job, this is my job now."

Any time they get to spend together is sparse and the "complicated" family dynamic they have is also taking its toll on the president.

"Sure enough we want that to change because family needs normal life, children need their father more often than they can afford seeing him and he is getting tired of that lifestyle," she said. There is also the added pressure of the world's eyes on their marriage. She knows people look to her and Mr Zelensky as a united front who together provide hope that all will be fine with their country. While putting on such a show can be draining, she said, it is also, at times, rewarding.

"You have to understand that people look at you and you have to support them," Mrs Zelenska said.

"You have to give them hope and confidence, regardless of your emotional state. You have to be supportive for the people and at times it really is hard, but in other times it's really inspiring when you see people support you back. I feel such gratitude to be honest that it's worth it."

As testing as her own personal situation might be, Mrs Zelenska conceded people all over Ukraine were suffering from families torn apart by Putin's war.

"At least we can still see each other," she said, adding that she had "a lot of compassion for the wives of our military who sometimes for months go without knowing where their near and dear are, or women whose husbands and sons are prisoners in Russia. They don't give up".

Despite the obstacles that have been put in their way their marriage remains strong. Mrs Zelenska joked this could be because of the infrequency of their encounters as it meant they always had something new to tell each other. "We don't bore each other, we miss each other," she added. "We don't have the time to make each other angry or have a fight, so recently we don't have fights at all."

In her role as the president's wife, Mrs Zelenska has sought to bring about a positive change in Ukrainian culture by getting people to talk about mental health. Last year she launched a nationwide programme called 'How are you?' which, in partnership with the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, aims to encourage Ukrainians to focus on their mental health as part of their daily routine.

And while Mrs Zelenska is a proponent of counselling, the prospect of couples therapy for her own relationship is perhaps a step too far.

"If people are starting to treat individual counselling with more appreciation, that starts happening, more people turn to experts, this is one of the many lines of work that we need to do in our society, but couples counselling we still need to talk about, very few people believe that it works," she said. "Yes, we see it in movies and we understand this is more a Western, cultural story, but I'm confident we need to develop that along with other routines for our people to take care of themselves. I hope that me and Volodymyr won't need that therapy."

In the days after Russia invaded Ukraine, Mrs Zelenska, in a state of composed fear as her family was split up and she and her children were forced into hiding for their safety, turned to literature for help. The first book she picked up was George Orwell's *1984*, using the dystopian narrative to make sense of how so many Russians had been manipulated into believing Putin's justifications.

"There is some sort of psychological paradox," Mrs Zelenska said. "It is probably the same thing when people watch horror movies. When you read something horrible, you understand this isn't real life and maybe it's easier for you to take it in. So, after the beginning of the big war, I caught myself reading things I would stop reading previously because I was scared. For instance, I read again Orwell's *1984*. I don't like the dystopia genre, but at that point in the war I needed that, I needed to read it once again and see how awful the fall of society may be."

She said the novel about the dangers of totalitarian societies reminded her "how people may lose touch with reality".

"Maybe that helps me to react less emotionally to the news on the other side because when you see how much the brains of the citizens of the neighbouring country have been worked on, then you recall Orwell and you come to believe that everything is possible."

Later this year Mrs Zelenksa will host the Summit of First Ladies and Gentlemen, which is in its fourth iteration. What began as a way to unite first couples internationally has garnered practical results for Ukraine. In 2022 the summit led to the purchase of 92 ambulances for the country, last year it established medical partnerships internationally and this year they aim to focus on the safety of children.

"Children are the first victim of any war or any military conflict," she said, citing the militarisation of children, as well as kidnapping, deaths and a lack of access to healthcare and education. With so much of children's education being taught online owing to bombings and missile attacks, the summit will focus on online safety, including how to counter disinformation and cyber bullying.

In the short term, Ukraine is looking at building underground schools so that children can return to classrooms safely. Mrs Zelenska added that her greatest hope was for children to physically return to school.

Despite Russia's unrelenting assault on Ukraine, the first lady still finds moments to be positive about.

"There are always things to be happy about, even in these most horrifying moments that happened to us, we still see the manifestations of humanity around and this is incredibly inspiring," she insisted.

"The most horrifying moments we keep witnessing – the rubble of residential buildings being gone through and people retrieved from there – every time I look at the rescuers who arrive on site, I watch them work and I'm incredibly grateful to those people.

"I just look at their faces.

"I look at them, how concentrated they are and how they work. It inspires even in the worst moments and it doesn't let you succumb to discouragement because you realise you did so little to get tired that you need to go and keep working."

'Nobody would ever dream of being the wife of a president of a country at war'

Olena Zelenska and Elke Badenbender, wife of the German president, visit a Berlin hospital in which Ukrainian soldiers are being treated.
Left, Mrs Zelenska speaks to Danielle Sheridan in Kyiv, and below, her husband President Volodymyr Zelensky

UK and US at odds over Ukraine's 'irreversible' Nato membership

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

THE United States and Germany have derailed a European plan to grant Ukraine an "irreversible" path to Nato membership.

Washington and Berlin have instead thrown their weight behind offering Volodymyr Zelensky a lighter commitment on membership of the military alliance.

A group of European countries, including the United Kingdom, had hoped to describe Kyiv's path to join the alliance as "irreversible" in a communique to be signed off at a summit next month.

The United States is pushing for watered-down language, describing the process as a "well-lit bridge" to membership with no concrete timeline.

The original language was devised as a compromise solution, with the US and Germany reluctant to set out a concrete timeline amid fears the move would trigger an escalation from Russia.

A number of Ukraine's most ardent supporters had hoped to agree "very forward-leaning language" that could be interpreted as an "invitation for membership" in talks over the joint statement, Nato sources said.

Referring to US and German opposition to the enhanced offer, a source close to discussions said: "Those two countries will be mighty relieved if we stay away from an invitation.

"And anything short of that irreversibility, I think that's digestible for them."

At last year's Nato summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, members agreed that Ukraine's "future is in Nato", but declined to offer a deadline for it to join the alliance.

There is an expectation that the language in this year's statement should serve as "Vilnius plus", building on the original pledge to Ukraine and giving greater assurances that it will eventually be protected by Nato's collective defence clause.

The Telegraph understands this year's meeting, to be held from July 9 in Washington DC, will not see any further offerings on the timeline but will involve new security guarantees for Ukraine from members. US officials are reportedly concerned that describing the path to joining the alliance as "irreversible" would be unacceptable to some members, including Hungary.

However, some other members say that Ukraine has yet to meet the criteria for entry by reforming its government.

Joe Biden, the US president, said earlier this month that he opposed the "Natoisation" of Ukraine as part of a peace deal with Russia, pointing to "corruption" in Kyiv.

Antony Blinken, his secretary of state, said Nato would provide "concrete steps to bring Ukraine closer" this year, and create a "bridge to membership...that is strong and well-lit".

Some believe setting a deadline for Ukraine to join the alliance risks dragging the whole bloc into a war with Russia if peace is not achieved by that date.

Under the terms of the North Atlantic Treaty, an attack on one member state is considered an attack on all. If Ukraine joined the alliance while at war with Russia, all other signatories to the treaty would be obliged to come to its aid.

General election

Refusing national service could cost

Rishi Sunak hints that denial of access to student loans could be among sanctions for Tory scheme

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

YOUNG people who refuse to do national service could forfeit their driving licences and be denied access to student loans, Rishi Sunak has suggested.

The Prime Minister said there would need to be "a set of sanctions and incentives" to ensure compliance with a new scheme proposed by the Tories.

Pressed on how he would make youngsters take part he suggested the UK could adopt punitive measures used by other European nations.

The Tories have included plans for a new national service scheme in their manifesto.

Under the plans every 18 year-old would have to spend either a year in the military or the equivalent of one weekend a month in a volunteering role.

Mr Sunak was pressed on how he would enforce the scheme, which the Conservatives say would be compulsory, during a leaders' special of *Question Time*.

He said: "You'll have a set of sanctions and incentives and we will look at the models that are existing around Europe to get the appropriate mix of those."

Asked what that meant, he added: "There's all sorts of things that people do across Europe, whether that's looking at driving licences, other access to finance."

It is understood the Prime Minister was referring to schemes in which people who refuse to do national service cannot face sanctions related to driving licences or student loans. There are 10 European states that have national service – Austria, Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

> 'There's all sorts of things they do, whether that's driving licences or other access to finance'

Mr Sunak said that a Royal Commission would be set up to examine the best options on incentives and sanctions and report back to the Government.

The Prime Minister was one of four main party leaders taking part in the BBC *Question Time* programme last night, hosted by Fiona Bruce.

It came at the end of a very difficult week during which a number of polls showed that the Conservatives would be virtually wiped out at the election on July 4.

During a grilling from audience members Mr Sunak was also confronted over the row over alleged betting on the election date that is engulfing his party.

It emerged this week that a second Conservative candidate and the party's campaigns director were being looked into by the Gambling Commission.

The watchdog is examining bets allegedly placed by Laura Saunders, the Tory candidate in Bristol North West, and her husband, Tony Lee, who is now on leave of absence from his job at party

> 'If anyone is found to have broken the rules I will make sure they are booted out of the party'

The boyband from Heaven's waiting room – together at last

Sketch

By **Madeline Grant**

WELL, what a treat we had this evening, readers. Ed Davey, Keir Starmer, Rishi Sunak – the boyband nobody wanted.

The sort of thing they probably play in the Dignitas waiting room. But don't worry, John Swinney was there to liven things up a bit! Facing the general public first was Sir Ed Davey.

He couldn't avoid them forever no matter how many waterslides he went on. "The Lib Dems are planning to spend five times as much as the Labour Party" asked the first questioner. "Aren't you going to bankrupt the country?" "Thank you for your question, Alison", said Ed Davey, through gritted teeth. He insisted the proposals were "fully-costed".

"This pie is fully sky-worthy!", he might as well have blustered.

Were Davey's paddleboarding antics really "prime-ministerial", asked another guest. Ed gulped. "On the day I went down that slide we were putting forward a very serious policy".

Of course, famously Neville Chamberlain announced we were at war with Germany from the teacup ride at Legoland, so fair play.

"Are you proud of your conduct as Post Office minister?" came the dreaded-question at the end. Davey wriggled like a piglet at a disco. That waterslide had never looked so inviting. Next up, SNP Leader John Swinney. Private Fraser from *Dad's Army* but given control of a massive budget. Except it was less a case of "we're doomed!" (Which if the polls are to be believed, they are) and more a "don't panic". However, as Shakira almost sang, those hip-replacement stats don't lie. Seven thousand people were waiting over two years for hospital treatment in Scotland's devolved NHS compared to 300 in England. When Fiona Bruce purred this at him, he dissolved into a pool of purest grey. Another questioner asked whether the SNP would "keep demanding a referendum until you get the result you want". (Bears, woods and the religious affiliation of the Pope sprang to mind.) Duly skewered by Fiona the Bruce, we moved on to Starmer.

Hilariously the first question was probably the one he least wanted: Jeremy Corbyn. The nutty uncle who just won't go away was back.

"Did you think he'd make a great prime minister?" an inconvenient member of the public asked. Sir Keir scowled. "I didn't think we were in a position to win that election".

"That's not an answer", snapped Fiona. Sir Keir pledged to bring immigration numbers down "significantly", but refused to give a target. Who needs an actual number when a multisyllabic word will do?

Otherwise his approach was one seasoned Westminster-observers know well; waffle, waffle and bore the public into submission. Still, it was all worth it for one moment; Starmer's face when he realised it was "the cervix question". The less said about the PM the better: questions on betting and D-Day: it was live-streamed slaughter. Was there a winner? Undoubtedly anyone wise enough to stick with the football.

On the spot Key quotes from the party leaders

Sir Keir Starmer
Labour Party

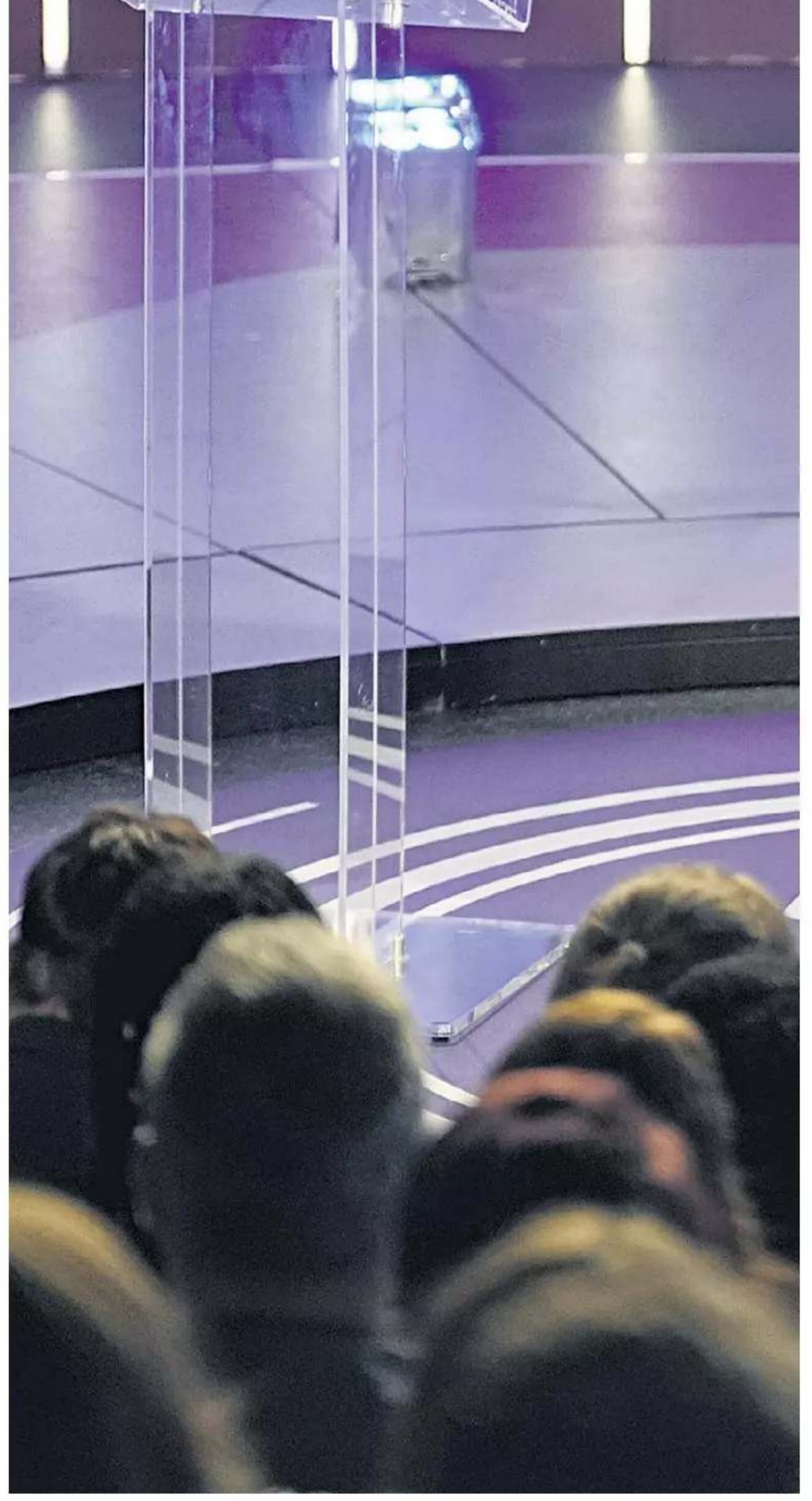
> On private schools, every single parent, every single child, wherever they come from, whatever their background and whichever school they go to, (should) have the same opportunities

Sir Ed Davey
Liberal Democrats

> I understand why [young people] lost faith in us. It was a difficult government to be in.
> The thing I learned from that process was you shouldn't promise what you can't deliver, and I think we did in 2010

John Swinney
SNP

> I honestly believe Scotland would be a stronger country and would have better prospects if we were an independent country. That's been my view for all of my adult life. But I'm a democrat, so I accept that we can't be an independent country until the people of Scotland vote for us to be an independent country



Tories in 'unwinnable' northern seats told to campaign in south

By **Dominic Penna** *and* **Ben Riley-Smith**

THE Tories have told candidates in "unwinnable" northern seats to shift campaigning to the South in an effort to avoid an historic defeat at the general election.

Even Tories trying to win seats that have Conservative majorities of up to 7,000 have been told to effectively give up and help to hold on to safer seats.

It comes after a *Telegraph* poll published on Wednesday predicted the party would retain 53 MPs in an historic defeat. Rishi Sunak would be among those voted out.

The Conservatives trail Labour by some 20 points with slightly less than two weeks until polling day.

One email from a regional Tory head of field operations, seen by *The Telegraph*, was sent last weekend with the subject: "Campaign support – Not in the north". It thanked candidates for standing in northern constituencies but asked them to take a "pragmatic approach" and instead focus their campaigning efforts on seats in the South.

The message, sent to candidates standing in seats held by Labour, read: "Thank you for standing up north. As much as I would like to see you helping a target seat in the North, taking a pragmatic approach, I am sure there is one much closer to home [or] work."

> 'As much as I would like to see you target a seat in the North, I'm sure there is one much closer to home'

It added: "If you feel the need to pop up and shoot a couple of videos, great, but there is no pressure from me. Time is valuable and hours in a car isn't gaining votes, thanks."

The Telegraph has also learned that candidates seeking election in seats with Tory majorities as big as 7,000 at the 2019 election have been effectively told to give up as they will lose, and to campaign elsewhere.

Support for the Conservatives has been damaged by the rise of Reform and Nigel Farage's return. Yesterday, Redfield & Wilton Strategies became the third polling company to indicate that Reform would win a greater share of the vote than the Conservatives.

Mr Sunak, in a speech in Wales, will today deliver his harshest assessment of voters' views about his party so far in this campaign, as he urges them not to let Labour "waltz" to victory. Mr Sunak will say: "I know you are frustrated with our party, frustrated with me. But do not let Labour waltz into office without scrutinising them, without seeing what their policies would mean for our country and your family's security.

"Do you really know what you are going to get with Labour?"

The speech echoes one given by Sir John Major, then Tory prime minister, in the 1992 campaign that urged voters to "wake up" and see the dangers of a Labour government.

He ended up pulling off a surprise victory. Sir John said in that speech: "I warn the people. Don't fall into Labour's trap. Don't sleepwalk into Thursday. This is not a by-election. It will determine who forms a government on Friday and who governs our country for five years." Mr Sunak's admission that voters are personally frustrated with him, rather than merely the Conservative Party, goes further than his usual acknowledgement of voter anger.

The Tory campaign has been marred by mis-steps including a row in which Mr Sunak had to apologise after leaving D-Day commemorations in Normandy early.

A Tory candidate in a Labour-held northern seat said: "Everyone's been given another seat to go and campaign in. If you've got connections elsewhere, go to them – that's the message. More resources are definitely being put into the South." A second added: "If you're in a completely unwinnable Labour seat, you get assigned marginals nearby."

> 'If you're in a completely unwinnable Labour seat, you get assigned marginals nearby

It is not just Tory candidates in Labour constituencies but Tories who won seats who have been asked to abandon them. Some had majorities of 7,000 at the 2019 election, *The Telegraph* understands. This applies only to new candidates. Those who were Tory MPs before the election was called and are seeking re-election have not been given the instructions, it is understood.

One MP fighting for re-election in a Red Wall seat that turned Tory for the first time in a generation in 2019 said he was receiving no support from Central Office. Defenders of the approach told *The Telegraph* it was common for campaigns to make tough decisions about resources as election day nears.

One Tory candidate claimed that the decisions should have been made sooner, saying: "It took too long to make these calls."

people driving licence, PM suggests

headquarters. Last week the Prime Minister's parliamentary private secretary, the Conservative candidate Craig Williams, apologised for placing a £100 bet that the election would be in July.

Mr Sunak said that he was "incredibly angry to learn of these allegations" but refused to say that the two candidates involved should be barred by the party.

He said: "All I can say is they are serious investigations. It's right that they are done thoroughly, confidentially, the integrity of that process should be respected.

"But what I can tell you is that if anyone is found to have broken the rules not only should they face the full consequences of the law but I will make sure that they are booted out of the Conservative Party."

Mr Sunak was pressed by one audience member over his plans to reduce record levels of migration, which includes a clampdown on dependants' visas.

The Prime Minister said that migrants made a big contribution to the UK but that "levels of migration that we have seen are too high and they need to come down".

'People who are going to bring family members here, they need to be able to support them'

He added: "What we have done is say that people are going to bring family members here, they just need to be able to support them.

"I think that's reasonable because anyone who comes to this country obviously adds to the pressure on public services. That is a very common sense measure."

Mr Sunak was then grilled on whether social care staff who come to Britain from overseas should be paid more so they are able to support their families.

He replied: "We have a dedicated visa for social care because we know how important it is and we need to make sure that we do get the right workers."

Mr Sunak's appearance came at the end of a bruising week for the Tories with several polls predicting that the party is on course for an electoral wipeout.

A Savanta MRP poll for *The Telegraph* found the party would be down to little more than 50 seats with more than 20 Cabinet ministers losing their seats.

In that scenario even Mr Sunak would be kicked out of office, becoming the first ever sitting prime minister to lose their seat in an election.

A Tory source said a Royal Commission would look at best practice from other comparable counties and decide on appropriate measures for the UK.

'We have a visa for social care because we know how important it is to get the right workers'

He said other countries had sanctions on student finance and driving licences, and that Mr Sunak was not saying those are good for the UK.

Mr Sunak also said he believed he had chosen the right moment to call the general election.

He told the BBC *Question Time* audience: "It was the right moment to call the election, for the reasons that I have outlined."

Asked if he was glad to have called the election, he added: "I am."

Rishi Sunak
Conservative Party

"If Keir Starmer is your prime minister, the illegal migrants that we've detained will be out on the streets. They won't be on those planes. We will become the soft touch of Europe"

Party leaders in the spotlight, but who was the most convincing?

Tim Stanley

Starmer's conversion from Corbynism is still dubious while Sunak's hands were lively but his face was dead

THIS edition of *Question Time* was the first when a celebrity on the panel might have helped: why not top it off with 30 minutes of Russell Brand?

Absent a good laugh – where was Nigel Farage? – come Keir Starmer's appearance at the halfway mark, the audience at home had probably turned off, while the atmosphere in the studio was somnambulistic. We've heard these Labour lines before; the answers, there come none. Why did he say Jeremy Corbyn was "great"? Keir repeated that he didn't think he'd win an election. Why punish private schools? He likes schools.

When will waiting lists come down? My mum was a nurse. The only illuminating bit was a lecture on why socialism in the energy sector wouldn't work, which highlights his dubious conversion from Corbynism.

The reason why the Corbyn question matters is because Starmer won't say if he's changed his policies because he now sees Corbyn was wrong – or because he doesn't want to lose like his predecessor did.

In short, if he thought he could get away with it, would Sir Keir go full communism? We shall just have to find out.

As for Rishi Sunak, his hands were lively but his face dead. Why is he doing this? I'm surprised he hasn't left for California already. Interrogated, he seemed to switch off and power down – turning back on to issue the standard corporate apology for a service that has not met one's expectations. Why does he want to conscript kids into volunteering? Because he met a boy who worked for St John's Ambulance and enjoyed it. Bravo.

That's an argument for promoting St John's Ambulance, not his bizarre national service plan.

The curious thing is why either man has agreed to these debates. Starmer's strategy is to say nothing, so why not spend the election on a yacht in the Mediterranean, issuing the occasional press release? Sunak believes that he has the intellectual edge, because that's what the man in his bathroom mirror shouts back at him every morning – but the more we see of the Tories, the more it reminds us why they are set to lose.

Sam Ashworth-Hayes

On dry land Davey's limits were painfully clear, while for Swinney the cure for all ills remains independence

IT'S never nice watching someone struggle. While some take pleasure from watching a leader badly out of their depth flounder in a horribly mismanaged campaign, I just feel bad for them. And so it was with a distinct sense of relief that I turned off the England game, and started preparing for the *Question Time* special.

First up was Ed Davey, for once on dry land. Question one: aren't you going to bankrupt the country? It was a hostile start, and an unconvincing answer. The problem for Ed was that his political strategy is to be a decent chap hoovering up protest votes, and this makes policy a tricky subject. Far better to fall off a paddleboard instead.

The audience, however, wanted to know about his record. Hadn't he enabled austerity? Davey conceded he was "not proud" of some of the things the Lib Dems did the last time they were actually relevant, and by the time he'd answered (or failed to answer) questions about potential coalitions, whether he could be prime minister, tuition fees, and the post office, his limits were becoming painfully clear.

Swinney didn't fare any better. Once he had finished his carefully phrased answer on the SNP's scandals, the audience began turning the screws. Question two: are you going to carry on holding referendums until you get the answer you want? His position was: if the SNP gets a majority of Scottish seats in the election, that's a green light for a referendum. And if they don't, it's a green light for a referendum. Indeed, every problem was seen through this prism. How would Swinney help manufacturing? By Scotland rejoining the EU. After independence.

It's not as if the SNP's domestic performance is anything to write home about. Asked how he'd boost the NHS, Swinney blamed a crisis caused by austerity. But Scotland's health service is spending 10 per cent more than it was before the pandemic. At some point, accountability is needed.

That's never been the SNP's strong point. When something goes wrong, it's England, Brexit or the Tories to blame. That's not to say the audience was unmoved: the loudest applause came when Swinney called the Tory government a "calamity". Well then.

General election

Tory campaign chief steps back for bet inquiry

Starmer demands PM explain who knew election plans after surge in wagers before announcement

By **Amy Gibbons** *and* **Nick Gutteridge**

THE Conservative director of campaigning has taken a "leave of absence" while he is investigated over an alleged bet on the date of the election.

Party sources said Tony Lee was on a break from his role after it emerged his wife, Laura Saunders, is also facing an inquiry by the gambling watchdog.

Sir Keir Starmer demanded that Rishi Sunak publicly set out who he told about the election date in advance as the gambling crisis gripped the Tory campaign.

Ms Saunders, the Tory candidate in Bristol North West, previously worked at Conservative Campaign Headquarters in central London.

She is married to Mr Lee, who is understood to have been involved in local campaigning. Both are now being looked at by the Gambling Commission.

It comes after claims that Craig Williams, a senior aide to Rishi Sunak who is also an MP candidate, bet £100 on the election date just before it was called.

A police officer in Mr Sunak's close protection team has also been arrested as part of a separate investigation into bets placed on the election date.

Sir Keir said the Prime Minister should suspend the candidates under investigation and give a full account of who knew he was planning a July 4 poll.

"As a candidate of mine, they'd be gone, their feet wouldn't have touched the floor. It's very telling of Rishi Sunak that he hasn't taken that action," he said.

"He needs to account for exactly who knew what but when you've got a candidate standing for election in two weeks who's involved, they've got to go, they've got to be suspended."

Pat McFadden, Labour's campaign coordinator, also called on Mr Sunak to withdraw support from the two candidates over the allegations.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, he questioned why the police protection officer had been suspended but the two Tory parliamentary hopefuls had not.

"Yet again this looks as though there is one rule for members of the Tory party and another rule for everyone else, specifically on this occasion a serving police officer," he wrote.

"If you can see how wrong that is, will you at the very least remove your support for Mr Williams and Ms Saunders as Conservative election candidates?"

They intervened as Michael Gove, the Levelling Up Secretary, admitted the situation "obviously doesn't look great" for the Tories. He said the alleged bets were a betrayal of trust in the Prime Minister, adding that: "It's beyond embarrassing, it's wrong."

He added: "Obviously if, as a private individual, I put a bet on the Grand National or on the Euros, that's one thing – but using privileged inside information is wrong."

There was a surge of bets the day before the Prime Minister announced the July general election.

Public market data from Betfair Exchange showed thousands of pounds wagered on May 21, the day before the official poll announcement when odds were best to yield big returns.

The gambling company's data, obtained and analysed by *The Telegraph*, show that despite most political pundits being convinced Mr Sunak would choose an autumn election, a flurry of bets totalling £2,742 was placed on May 21. That figure included some large bets, such as £415 at odds capable of returning £2,900 profit, and a later bet of £425 capable of a £1,281 return.

At 5pm on May 21 – 24 hours before the snap poll was announced – the odds implied a 23 per cent chance of an election being called for July. More bets valued in excess of £25 were placed on May 21 than were wagered in all the months previously. In total, 14 bets of £50 or more were placed that day.

Prof Leighton Vaughan Williams, a gambling expert, said the data were "suspicious but not inexplicable" and that comments by Lord Finkelstein, the Tory peer, could have led to a run. "If these bets had been placed in a vacuum it would have been pretty unusual," he said. "But, the question is how much influence Lord Finkelstein may have had among the betting class."

On Times Radio on May 21, the Conservative peer said he had heard "a bit of talk in Government circles" that a July election could be called, although he was convinced it would be in autumn.

Prof Vaughan Williams believes that nugget of intelligence could have led to the bigger bets, prompting odds to fall and then other people spotting the slight trend before themselves having a flutter perhaps convinced someone, somewhere was "in the know". Because Betfair Exchange means people bet against one another, the odds being offered began to tumble fast.

"Odds started to drop," the professor said. "Gamblers may have thought someone knew something or that someone was well informed who was placing these bets. Those who followed may have been just following the herd."

Up until 8am on the day of that announcement, the odds never suggested more than a 1-in-4 chance of it being called in July. But, odds shortened dramatically as the Westminster rumour mill – much of it aired on radio, television, online and in newspapers – became convinced a July election was in the offing. The implied probability crossed 50 per cent – a 1-in-2 chance – by midday, and was just shy of 98 per cent at 4pm, an hour before Mr Sunak stepped into the pouring rain.

However, the professor accepts there could be cause for concern because of the amount bet close to the announcement. *Telegraph* analysis shows that £6,027 worth of bets were made in the period up to and including May 21.

In just the five days leading up to the announcement £3,594 was placed.

A Conservative spokesman said the party had been contacted by the commission about "a small number of individuals". In a statement Ms Saunders' solicitor said she would be cooperating with the investigation.

Laura Saunders

- Conservative candidate for Bristol North West
- Gambling Commission investigating over alleged bet
- Previously worked at CCHQ in central London
- Married to Tony Lee, also under investigation

Craig Williams

- Sunak's PPS and a Tory election candidate
- 'Bet £100' on election date before it was called
- Admitted he had a 'flutter' a few weeks ago
- Apologised for 'huge error of judgment'

Rishi Sunak

- Announced election date on May 22
- Unclear when date was decided
- No suggestion of any wrongdoing

Police officer in Sunak's close protection team

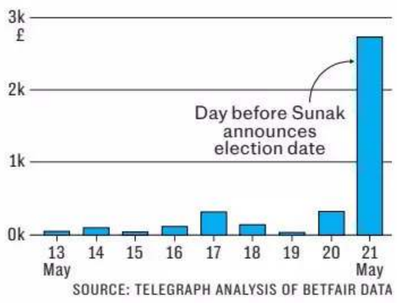
- Arrested as part of investigation into bets
- Removed from operational duties
- Has not been named

Tony Lee

- Conservative Party's director of campaigning
- Gambling Commission investigating over alleged bet
- Took leave of absence on June 19
- Married to Laura Saunders, also under investigation

Bets preceding Sunak's election announcement

Volume of bets placed on Betfair Exchange on a July election



SOURCE: TELEGRAPH ANALYSIS OF BETFAIR DATA

Gove suggests blame lies with Truss if Conservatives lose the election

By **Daniel Martin**
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

MICHAEL GOVE has suggested that Liz Truss is to blame if the Conservatives lose the election.

The Housing Secretary said the Tories' chances of re-election had taken "a bit of a knock" by the previous prime minister's disastrous mini-budget.

However, he refused to name Ms Truss, referring instead to the "period between Boris and Rishi".

Mr Gove, who is stepping down at the election, urged his colleagues not to lurch to the Right if Labour wins. He admitted it would be a "stretch" for the Tories to win, and warned there was a risk that Labour could become a "forever government".

Speaking before a visit to a building site in west London, he said: "One of the challenges in particular that we face is the reputation for sound economic management, which is essential to Conservative success, took a bit of a knock in the period between Boris and Rishi.

"That was undoubtedly a challenge and we've had very good economic management since then...

"I don't want to say I can draw definitive conclusions because votes haven't been cast... but if you ask what made the election more difficult than it might otherwise have been, it's that period.

"There are other challenges that we have as well. There'll be an opportunity after the election, whatever the result, for us to assess where support may have waned, where it held, and where it might have improved."

Appearing at The Times CEO Summit, Jeremy Hunt, the Chancellor, said a Conservative win at the general election was not "the most likely outcome".

Asked if he could win in his constituency, Mr Hunt said his seat was "too close to call" and that he still meets "a lot of people who say they haven't yet made up their mind".

Earlier, Mr Gove said Labour could use a large majority to "rig the system" and create a "forever government". The Housing Secretary told Sky News: "One of the things is that if people do reflect on the polls, they will ask themselves this question: If Labour do have that really big majority, what is to stop them rigging the system?

"What is to stop them giving votes to EU citizens, 16-year-olds, prisoners, and making sure that they could be a forever government."

He also urged colleagues not to turn further to the Right, saying the Tories had to espouse social justice. "Whatever happens – whether we win the election, which I hope we will, or we lose – the Conservative party is at its best when it embraces the spirit that we had in 2010 and 2019 of recognising that you need to be a party that appeals to every part of the country, in background and in geography," he said.

"We can't be a party of just property owners, we need to be a party of renters and those who aspire to own property.

"We can't just be a party that safeguards those who have done well because of hard work, we've got to be a party on the side of those who aspire to both do better economically and contribute to society. In broad terms the Conservative Party succeeds when it believes in hard work and enterprise, and social justice."

He added: "Being in government is about more than just looking after your people, its about governing for everyone."

Michael Gove urged Tories not to lurch to the Right

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

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We won't flatten green belt, Starmer insists

By **Emma Gatten**
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

SIR KEIR STARMER has been forced to deny claims that a Labour official said the party was willing to "flatten the green belt" to build new homes.

An unnamed Labour official was quoted by Politico, the politics news website, yesterday as saying: "I don't care if we flatten the whole green belt, we just need more houses in this country."

Asked about the report, Sir Keir said: "We're not planning to flatten the green belt.

"What we are planning is to build the housing that is desperately needed: 1.5 million homes... That will require tough decisions."

The Labour leader added: "Of course we're going to protect the countryside. We've got plenty of non-green belt areas that we can build on.

"But there are some bits of the green belt, disused car parks... We will take the tough decisions but of course we're going to protect the green belt, as you would expect." Labour has promised to build 1.5 million homes over the course of the next Parliament if it forms the next government, and has said it will focus on what Sir Keir has called the "ugly, disused, grey" parts of green belt land.

The Labour Party is hoping to tap into widespread frustration over house prices and limited supply to overcome opposition from nature and community groups that want to protect open spaces.

However, the plans have already alarmed some campaigners, including the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), which has said that it could lead to more speculative development. A spokesman for the CPRE said: "Sir Keir Starmer is right that there are plenty of non-green belt areas crying out for houses to be built on them: there are enough shovel-ready brownfield sites for 1.2 million new homes in England alone.

"If we didn't already have the green belt we'd want to invent it. Green belt land is the countryside next door for 30 million people in the UK and we welcome Labour's manifesto commitment to protect it."

Michael Gove, the Levelling Up Secretary, said that the comments in Politico suggest that "if Labour win an unaccountable majority, this shows they think they can do whatever they want".

He added that the Conservatives would achieve their pledge of building 1.6 million homes by abolishing stamp duty for the majority of first-time buyers and improving the Help to Buy scheme.

1.5 million

The number of homes Labour is planning to build, which will require 'tough decisions', according to Sir Keir Starmer

'Take a long time to pick Sunak's successor'

By **Daniel Martin**
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

RISHI SUNAK should stay as Conservative leader after the expected defeat in the forthcoming election to oversee a long campaign to replace him, senior Tories have said.

Those involved in the planning of such contests believe it would be a mistake to rush into the choice of a new leader.

Some have raised the prospect of copying Michael Howard, who responded to the 2005 defeat by staying in post for more than six months after the election.

This allowed younger and less well-known candidates more of a chance to shine. David Cameron ended up beating more established figures.

However, such a plan would require Mr Sunak to stay on as Tory leader in the aftermath of what is expected to be a heavy defeat.

He may instead decide to step aside straight away, as Gordon Brown did after his defeat in 2010. On that occasion, Harriet Harman stood in as acting leader for four months, giving way to Ed Miliband when he was chosen.

If Mr Sunak does decide to go, the first choice as interim leader would likely be Oliver Dowden, the Deputy Prime Minister.

One senior Tory said: "More likely there will be a long period to decide who should be the leader of the party like Michael Howard did.

> 'I don't think it would be a bad thing if we have a long period of reflection to test any candidates thoroughly'

"That depends of course if Rishi Sunak were to continue as leader, and whether he would or not, I don't know.

"When the leadership election was held between Rishi Sunak and Liz Truss, there were more than a dozen hustings over several weeks, which many saw as excessive at a time when the party was in government."

The Tory added: "I don't think it would be a bad thing if we are in opposition, to have a long period of reflection to test any candidates thoroughly.

"And I think it would be a sensible thing if Rishi Sunak continues."

It is usual practice for Conservative leaders to stay on until their successor is chosen.

John Major formally lost the 1997 general election on May 2, but he stayed as Tory leader until June 19 when his successor William Hague was elected. The process took six weeks because only MPs had the vote, with party members having no say.

Mr Hague handed the selection of leaders to party members, and when he lost in 2001 he stayed on for three months until Iain Duncan Smith was chosen.

Mr Duncan Smith was ousted in 2003 and was replaced straight away by Michael Howard, without a vote taking place.

School VAT raid will not kick in 'until Sept 2025'

Labour insiders say party's planned taxation change would be too late for the coming academic year

By **Ben Riley-Smith** *and* **Poppy Wood**

LABOUR'S private school tax raid would not kick in until September 2025 at the earliest, party insiders have insisted after Rachel Reeves said it would be in her first Budget.

Labour has vowed to add VAT onto private school fees if it wins the general election on July 4, in a policy that has drawn fierce criticism.

But it has been unclear when exactly the change would be applied under a Labour government, with uncertainty for parents ahead of the 2024-25 academic year.

Ms Reeves said yesterday that the changes would be in her first Budget. That would be in September at the earliest given independent forecasters must be given 10 weeks' notice.

It means that the changes would be formally introduced in Parliament around the same time that children were starting the 2024-25 academic year.

Labour insiders working on the policy insist that means the tax rise will not be applied this coming academic year, so the earliest it would come in is for the 2025-26 year.

Despite the claims, tax experts have warned that Labour could apply the VAT raid to this academic year if they wanted. Ms Reeves told the Times CEO Summit that the private schools tax increase would not be applied "retrospectively" and would be included in her first Budget after a Labour victory.

She said the party was committed to the policy because "the children who are struggling most are in state schools – young people are not getting the chance to fulfil their potential".

Ms Reeves urged private schools to start bracing for the extra 20 per cent levy if Labour wins the general election.

She said: "Over the last 14 years state schools have to make huge efficiencies because of the cuts to real-terms funding over the last few years and I strongly believe that private schools as well will be able to make efficiencies."

Rishi Sunak, who was educated at the Winchester College, a private school, attacked Labour's private schools policy in an interview this week.

The Prime Minister told the *Daily Mail*: "People like my parents are the people who will be most affected by Labour's change. People who are working hard, who are aspiring to provide a better life for their kids. They are the people that will lose out.

"I believe in an aspirational country, I believe if you're working hard and you want to provide a better life for your family, then any government I lead will be on your side. Whether you want to send your kids to a private school, if you want to buy your first home as a young couple. Whether you want to set up a small business on your own or set up in self-employment, which I think is something to be admired.

"Those are all things that speak to the type of country that we are in that I want to support.'

Earlier in the week privately-educated Labour frontbenchers were accused of hypocrisy over the VAT plans. Nearly 25 per cent of the shadow cabinet attended private schools compared with 7 per cent across the country. They include Hilary Benn, Thangam Debbonaire, Louise Haigh and Anneliese Dodds, the party chairman.

John Healey, the shadow defence secretary, Alan Campbell, opposition chief whip in the Commons, and David Lammy, the shadow foreign secretary, were also privately educated.

Rachel Reeves said the private school VAT increase would be in her first Budget

DOMINIC LIPINSKI/PA

Nigel Farage takes part in clay pigeon shooting during a visit to Catton Hall in Frodsham, Cheshire, as he underlined his rural credentials on the campaign trail

Sunak lacks the guts to stop the small boats, says Farage

By **Albert Tait**

NIGEL FARAGE has accused Rishi Sunak of lacking "the guts" to take the UK out of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and stop the small boat Channel crossings.

The Reform UK leader described the ECHR as "no longer fit for purpose" and said the UK must leave it to "take back control" of its borders. He said the Prime Minister would not commit to doing the same as he would "split his own party".

During a visit to a country club in Cheshire, Mr Farage said: "We will never send anybody to Rwanda while we are part of the court based in Strasbourg that was set up with the best intentions immediately after World War Two with huge support from people like Winston Churchill.

"But that court that has now become activist, that court that has now become interventionist, that court is no longer fit for purpose, and that court says we cannot control our own borders, who might be here and who we can get rid of."

Mr Sunak has previously threatened to leave the ECHR if Rwanda flights continue to be blocked, but the pledge was not included in the Conservative manifesto published this month.

Mr Farage said: "Of course the lofty barrister Sir Keir, he loves all these international courts, and Sunak hasn't got the guts to deal with it because it would split his own party. But we are clear: we must leave the ECHR and take back control."

Mr Farage visited Cheshire – more than 250 miles away from Clacton, the seat he is looking to win at the general election – as he looked to target rural voters in a traditional Tory heartland.

Asked by *The Telegraph* about the extent of his rural roots, he said: "I fruit-picked when I was younger. Strawberry picking and the like. It was teenage stuff to get pocket money."

Mr Farage was scheduled to appear in Blackpool last night, and asked why people in one of the most deprived areas in the UK could relate to a man who banked at Coutts, he said: "I'm the most classless person in British politics and I always have been. I get on with everybody and I always have. Actually,

> 'I will have the biggest bet I have ever had in my life with Savanta that Reform will win seats'

one of the reasons some of those communities like me is they think when they talk to me I listen."

Mr Farage claimed earlier in the day that a Conservative wipeout could be even worse than a major poll suggests. He said Tory fortunes were continuing to worsen after polling from Savanta for *The Telegraph* found the party is on track to slump to 53 seats. He also said he was willing to place "the biggest bet in my life" that Reform will win seats on July 4. The constituency-level survey of 18,000 people has predicted it will be left without any MPs.

"On the Tory wipeout, I think it could be even bigger than Savanta suggests," Mr Farage said. "I think things are getting worse and worse for them."

The Savanta poll consulted people between June 7 and June 18, meaning fieldwork started days after Mr Farage returned to the fray.

Under the first past the post system, it is harder for smaller parties to gain ground at general elections.

Insisting he was confident Reform would have a presence in Parliament, Mr Farage said: "There is obviously some of the Farage effect in it, but it's nowhere near as strong as it is today.

"We are the ones with momentum. I will have with Savanta the biggest bet in my life I have ever had that we will win seats."

Johnson's memoir to 'explode like champagne' in the autumn

By **Dominic Penna**
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BORIS JOHNSON has announced the release date for his "unrestrained" memoir in which he will give his account of his time in Downing Street.

The former prime minister's book, called Unleashed , will be published by William Collins on Oct 10 this year, with Harper releasing it in the United States five days later.

Unleashed will cover Mr Johnson's political career from his eight years as mayor of London, to the 'Brexit wars' in parliament and his premiership.

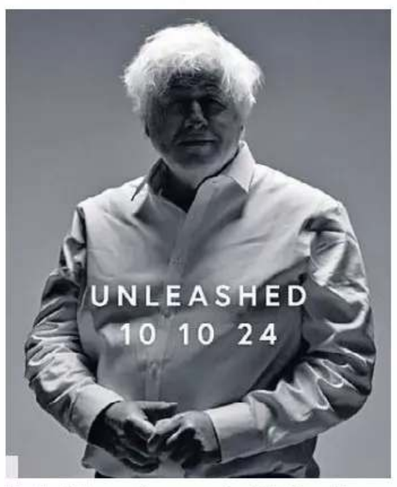
His three years in power saw him win the 2019 general election with a majority of 80, lead Britain through the pandemic and end up ousted by Tory MPs in summer 2022 following a series of scandals including partygate and the Chris Pincher affair.

It will also convey his thoughts on the role he played in Britain's departure from the European Union and the "sea change" that followed in the nation's politics, as well as his experiences of the London Olympics and the 2011 riots, both of which took place during his mayoralty.

Mr Johnson's publisher said *Unleashed* was an "honest, unrestrained and deeply revealing book by the politician who has dominated our times".

Arabella Pike, publishing director at William Collins, said: "Unlike most top politicians, Boris Johnson is also a writer. His book, *Unleashed*, is compulsively readable, stuffed to the brim with serious reflections on his time in office but written with his charismatic trademark wit, his vivid use of language and stories galore. We are delighted to be publishing this autumn."

Mr Johnson added: "I am honoured that HarperCollins is publishing my personal account of the huge realignment that took place in UK politics in the last 15 years - and what may lie ahead. So stand by for my thoughts on Britain's future to explode over the publishing world like a much-shaken bottle of champagne."



Boris Johnson's account of his time in No 10 was described as 'unrestrained'

His successor Liz Truss, who was forced out of power after governing for just 49 days, published her own memoir *Ten Years to Save the West* this year. In the book, Ms Truss claimed to have been "the only conservative in the room" for much of her decade in government.

Since Mr Johnson was ousted from Downing Street, he has made millions from speaking engagements while also writing a column for the *Daily Mail*.

He stood down as an MP in June last year, claiming a Commons inquiry by the privileges committee had been determined to find him guilty over partygate. The committee was said to have been likely to recommend a suspension of 10 days, meaning a recall petition, which in turn would have triggered a by-election.

Mr Johnson has been vocal in criticising Rishi Sunak over his revised Brexit deal, his partial cancellation of HS2 and his decision to delay and dilute a number of net zero targets.

The former prime minister is out of the country for much of the general election campaign but has been drafted in by the Conservatives in an attempt to reverse their plight in recent weeks. *The Telegraph* revealed this week that tens of thousands of letters signed by Mr Johnson, who has been pictured on holiday in Italy, are due to be delivered to voters.

Hunt: Labour needs 'effective opposition'

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

LABOUR will need an "effective opposition" in Parliament if it wins the general election on July 4, Jeremy Hunt has said.

The Chancellor has become the latest senior Conservative to publicly acknowledge his party was on course for defeat.

He urged people not to vote for Reform UK, claiming this would result in fewer centre-Right MPs.

It follows an exclusive survey for *The Telegraph* which showed Rishi Sunak was set to become the first sitting prime minister to lose their seat at a general election. The polling analysis by Savanta and Electoral Calculus showed the Tories slumping to 53 seats, with Labour on 516 and the Liberal Democrats on 50. Mr Hunt made the intervention after comments by Mel Stride, the Work and Pensions Secretary, who said opinion polls suggested Labour was heading towards "the largest majority virtually in the history of this country".

Grant Shapps, the Defence Secretary, last week urged voters not to give Labour a "super-majority" with the party's power "unchecked". In an interview with the BBC, Mr Hunt was asked if the talk of a Labour "super-majority" was an implicit acknowledgement that the Tory campaign had gone badly wrong.

> 'You will have fewer centre-Right MPs and fewer MPs who want to control migration'

"I think it's very important if Labour win, that they have an effective opposition in Parliament," he said. In his own constituency, the Chancellor admitted that he faced a "knife edge" battle with the Liberal Democrats to win the new seat of Godalming and Ash in Surrey.

In the 2019 election Mr Hunt had a majority of 8,817 in his old seat of South West Surrey.

"I do face a fight here, for sure," he told the BBC. "And what I say to people on the doorstep is if you vote for Reform.... Reform aren't going to win but the Liberal Democrats will win.

"You will have fewer centre-Right MPs and fewer MPs who want to control migration, fewer MPs who want to reduce tax, and that isn't what those voters want."

The Savanta and Electoral Calculus poll was one of three published within an hour on Wednesday which suggested the Tories are heading for a landslide defeat.

A bench.

You can find one in just about every park, bus stop and train platform in the UK. They are as functional as they are familiar, but behind their simple design lies something more. An invitation to talk. After all, a bench is made for sharing and when people come together on a bench, it becomes an opportunity for a conversation.

Today, there's a lot to talk about: energy costs, climate change, the cost of living and of course, the weather. But the one thing no one seems to be talking about is living longer and what that means for retirement. As 1 in 3 children born today have a good chance of living to 100, we need to ask ourselves, are we ready?

With a longer life comes a lot more things to think about. Over half of us aren't confident we can afford to retire by 65. It's time we started talking about that. We need to talk about it.

Let's talk about why almost 18 million people don't think they can save for the retirement they want. Let's talk about how more than 750,000 people over 50 are not working but would like to. Let's talk about the 7 million retirees who expect to rely on financial support from a partner, family or friends. It's time we started having these conversations.

Let's talk about savings.

Let's talk about pensions.

Let's talk about retirement.

Let's talk about making the most of living longer.

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TERRY HARRIS

Swimming in shadows Swimmers in Peterborough marked yesterday's summer solstice with a 4am dip. Those who braved the early start enjoyed a warm day with light winds that will continue today with highs of 23C (73F). *Weather: Page 28*

Former Covid tsar backs amnesty for rule-breakers

Sir John Bell says it's a real shame some people have a criminal record if they 'met six people instead of four'

By **Charles Hymas**
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE Government's Covid testing tsar has backed calls for an amnesty for pandemic rule-breakers.

In an interview with *The Telegraph*, Sir John Bell, the leading scientist who worked under Boris Johnson, revealed that he had opposed fines for breaking the rules. And he said it was not right that people had a criminal conviction "simply because they met six people instead of four".

He said he supported calls to wipe the slate clean for about 29,000 people so far convicted in the courts for breaching Covid rules.

"I think it would be a real shame if people ended up perhaps totally accidentally with a criminal record because of the Covid rules," he said.

Sir John, the regius professor of medicine at Oxford University, was responding to the calls by charities and former Cabinet ministers, including Sir Robert Buckland, the justice secretary during the pandemic, to wipe the slate clean for offences such as attending gatherings, leaving home during lockdowns, and failing to wear face coverings.

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

This could hamper their job prospects as police can pass on the details to potential employers. Covid convictions would also have to be revealed 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.

Prof Sir John Bell said ordinary people were treated far harsher than politicians because they contested their fines or penalties

Sir John, who was also a member of the expert advisory group to the Government's vaccine task force, said he disagreed with the prevailing view in Whitehall that lockdowns and other measures needed to carry the threat of criminal prosecution.

"Most people behaved incredibly well. I am not sure a fine was actually going to make that much difference.

"That was my view at the time and is still my view," he said. "What I wasn't aware of was that so many people ended up with a criminal offence because they didn't respond to a letter, or maybe even tore up the letter."

He cited as an example the requirement to report test results. "They didn't report the tests because they didn't need to. If people were tested positive, they didn't go to the pub. They just said: 'I don't want to give my friends Covid'. I would argue that 99 per cent of people behaved pretty well," he said.

"It is quite important that people understand it was a crazy time and that we don't want it to have a long tail to affect people for a long time because people were making decisions quickly and maybe the decisions were not that good. Why someone has to live with that seems beyond me."

Three former Cabinet ministers – Sir Robert, Sir David Davis and Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg and Lord Sumption, the former supreme court judge, have been joined by charities in calling for an amnesty. "I think it's a reasonable argument that Robert Buckland's come up with which is, let's just wipe the slate clean from the point of view of a record. It was never intended to give you a criminal record," said Sir David.

"Truth be told when somebody writes the history of this, they're going to view this whole policy as bonkers because you've got people going on business trips to a country and coming back to the wrong airport because the country's been reclassified while they've been away.

"People being done for exercising and a policeman says you're not exercising, you're not sweating. And that literally happened. Scenes like this, it was a barking mad period of time, really, but the truth is, what can we do? We can stop people having their lives ruined, and we should do that."

'If people tested positive they didn't go to the pub... 99 per cent of people behaved pretty well'

Weight-loss jabs 'need face-to-face checks'

By **Laura Donnelly**
HEALTH EDITOR

NHS chiefs have urged pharmacies such as Boots and Superdrug to stop selling weight loss injections online without seeing patients, after warnings that prescriptions are being issued to those with a healthy weight.

Prof Sir Stephen Powis, NHS England's national medical director, made the intervention after warning that the jabs should not be used as a "quick fix for people trying to get 'beach body ready'."

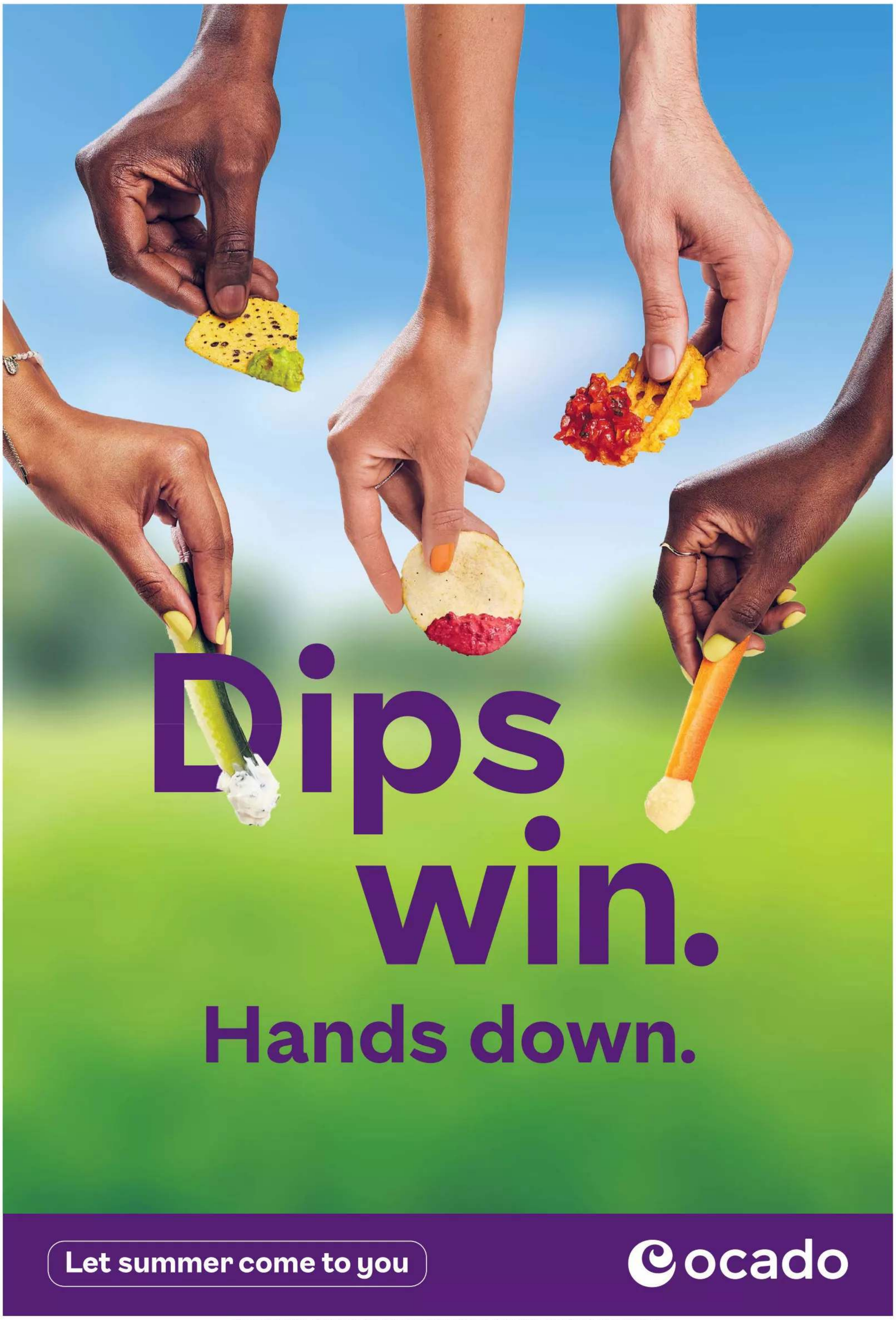
Senior medics warned that A&E units were now treating casualties of Wegovy – marketed as Ozempic or semaglutide for diabetes – on a daily basis. Reports of women obtaining the drug has risen in recent weeks.

The injections are only licensed for those with a BMI of at least 30, the threshold for obesity, or 27, for those with certain health conditions. The drugs have never been tested in clinical trials on those who are a healthy weight. Yesterday, Sir Stephen said: "Online pharmacies and clinics need to act responsibly; they should have safeguards in place, including checking a person's weight in person to keep patients safe."

In response, Boots said that as of yesterday its Online Doctor weight-loss service asks patients to "provide additional photographs of themselves, including front and side full body shots wearing fitted clothing".

A Superdrug spokesman said: "Our safeguarding protocols are designed to be more comprehensive than those typically found in online medical services."

◆ A growing black market for weight-loss drugs risks ending in "tragedy", pharmacists have said. Dr Leyla Hannbeck, of the Independent Pharmacies Association, said a broader shortage of weight-loss drugs meant people were "doing everything they can to get their hands on the jabs" and were bypassing approved routes.



JSO targets Taylor Swift's jet but can't find it

Two climate protesters arrested after breaking into Stansted and failing to locate the pop star's ride

By **Alex Barton**

TWO women have been arrested after Just Stop Oil attempted to spray Taylor Swift's jet with orange paint – but failed to find it.

Demonstrators Jennifer Kowalski, 28, and Cole Macdonald, 22, entered the airfield at Stansted at about 5am yesterday as part of the group's latest stunt.

It is understood they cut the perimiter fence and attempted to find Swift's jet, claiming they knew its tail number, but could not locate it.

Instead, they are accused of spraying two jets at random using adapted fire extinguishers filled with orange paint.

Essex Police later said two women, aged 22 and 28, were arrested on suspicion of criminal damage and interference with the use of national infrastructure.

Swift had landed at the private terminal at the Essex airport hours earlier, Just Stop Oil claimed, with the American singer scheduled to perform at Wembley Stadium for three dates over the weekend, starting this evening.

It has now emerged that Miss Kowalski was previously a fan of Swift, and in 2015 she met her backstage after a show.

In an interview with an environmental magazine, she said: "I was one of 15 people chosen, out of about 14,000 to meet the legend that is Taylor Swift backstage after her show in Glasgow.

" A pretty good achievement if you ask me!"

She added that Swift's song Marjorie, released in 2020, was an inspiration and the lyrics, "Never be so polite, you forget your power; never wield such power, you forget to be polite", was her favourite quote.

On her Facebook page she also shared a collage of her favourite pictures of Swift on Facebook while a biology student at the University of Aberdeen.

In a statement on the Just Stop Oil website, Miss Kowalski, a former sustainability manager from Dumbarton, said: "Over the years, I've had to realise that even working in sustainability provides me with essentially no ability to make the necessary changes to prevent the complete collapse of our natural systems.

"I have to take desperate measures to make my voice heard."

A spokesman for Just Stop Oil told *The Telegraph* Miss Kowalski "remained the biggest Taylor Swift fan".

Ms Macdonald, from Brighton, said: "We're living in two worlds – one where billionaires live in luxury, able to fly in private jets away from the other, where unlivable conditions are being imposed on countless millions.

"Meanwhile, this system that is allowing extreme wealth to be accrued by a few, to the detriment of everyone else, is destroying the conditions necessary to support human life in a rapidly accelerating never-ending 'cruel summer'. Billionaires are not untouchable – climate breakdown will affect every single one of us."

A Just Stop Oil spokesman said: "Whilst governments are allowing oil corporations to run amok, destroying our communities, the actions of individuals mean very little. That's why "Just Stop Oil is demanding that our next government signs up to a legally-binding treaty to phase out fossil fuels by 2030."

Taylor Swift was contacted for comment.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Just Stop Oil attracted a storm of criticism after two protesters sprayed orange powder over Stonehenge on the eve of the summer solstice.

Niamh Lynch, 21, and Rajan Naidum, 73, were filmed vandalising the stone circle, near Salisbury with repurposed fire extinguishers. Several onlookers attempted to tackle the two activists.

Wiltshire Police arrested them"on suspicion of damaging the ancient monument".

English Heritage said the incident was "extremely upsetting", and it has instructed its curators to investigate the extent of the damage. Stonehenge remains open to the public.

GARETH CATTERMOLE/TAS24

Cole Macdonald in front of the private jet on which, Just Stop Oil believes, Taylor Swift (left) flew into Stansted

Dench to join Extinction Rebellion on march to protect nature

By **Emma Gatten**
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

DAME JUDI DENCH has joined ranks with Extinction Rebellion (XR) to call for better protections for nature ahead of the general election.

The actress wants the public to join a protest in London on Saturday alongside XR, the National Trust and other environment groups to demand a greater focus on climate and nature in the election.

Organisers say the Restore Nature Now march will be the biggest in the run up to the election, with more than 50,000 people expected to attend.

Dame Judi has spoken widely about her love of trees, and has previously backed a petition to stop the felling of a poplar in south London which was being occupied by XR activists.

"Despite being a nation of nature lovers, the UK's politicians are failing to protect the wildlife that we love," she said. "Nature needs more than sticking plaster solutions, we need our politicians to deliver a cure for nature's decline. That's why we should all join together to demand that all political parties Restore Nature Now." Emma Thompson, the actress, Chris Packham, the TV naturalist, and Feargal Sharkey, the musician and campaigner, are all expected to attend the protest, which organisers have said will be "family-friendly, peaceful and legal".

In 2023, XR said it would back away from actions that disrupt the public such as roadblocks and focus on "attendance over arrest". In recent months members have interrupted a Science Museum event alongside Greta Thunberg, and formed blockades and protests outside insurance companies across the UK, leading to several arrests.

Campaigners are calling for five main policies to be adopted by the next Government, including doubling the budget for nature-friendly farming.

They also want a right to a healthy environment to be enshrined in a new Act of Parliament along with commitments to insulate homes and support active travel and public transport.

Campaigners point to new polling for Rewilding Britain which shows that 77 per cent of all voters say that politicians should be doing more to reduce the decline of nature in Britain.

McKellan misses final performances of West End show after falling from stage

By **Anita Singh** ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

SIR IAN MCKELLEN will not return to his West End run in *Player Kings* as he continues to recuperate after a fall.

The 85-year-old actor fell from the stage during a performance on Monday and was treated in hospital. He reportedly suffered a fractured wrist and other injuries.

On Tuesday, Sir Ian said he was looking forward to going back to work, raising hopes that he would return to the production at the Noel Coward Theatre.

However, in a new statement he said: "Thank you for the continued support and well wishes and I am pleased to say I am recovering well, but will not be able to play the remaining shows this week."

The play has three performances left in the West End and Sir Ian's role as Sir John Falstaff will be taken by his understudy, David Semark.

"The company, including Toheeb Jimoh, Richard Coyle and my fabulous understudy David Semark, are ready to take you on an epic journey through medieval England and the rise and fall of Henry IV. I urge you all to join them," Sir Ian said.

The producers added: "We look forward to Ian returning to the production, which begins a national tour in Bristol on Wednesday July 3, before visiting Birmingham, Norwich and Newcastle."

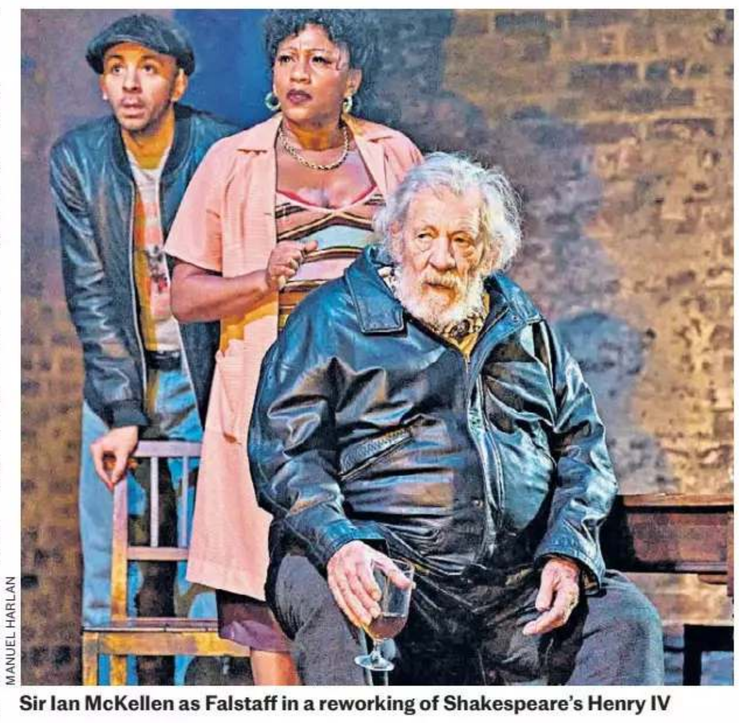
In his earlier statement, Sir Ian thanked fans for their kind messages and support. He said: "Since the accident ... my injuries have been diagnosed and treated by a series of experts, specialists and nurses working for the National Health Service. To them, of course, I am hugely indebted.

"They have assured me that my recovery will be complete and speedy and I am looking forward to returning to work."

Sir Ian also thanked two doctors who were in the audience on Monday and tended to him when he fell.

The actor is said to have lost his footing during a battle scene, falling off the front of the stage, and was heard to cry out in pain.

The acclaimed production began its 12-week West End run in April.



MANUEL HARLAN

Sir Ian McKellen as Falstaff in a reworking of Shakespeare's Henry IV

Ditch Chelsea mentality to enjoy a garden, says Don

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

MONTY DON has said British gardeners shouldn't adopt the "medal mentality" of competitions like the Chelsea Flower Show because they are a "game" and are "completely meaningless" in real life.

Writing in *BBC Gardeners' World* magazine, the 68-year-old said: "The small gardens filled with a personal passion might be joyously inspiring but are they good?

"To be honest I have given up thinking like that. To enjoy a garden you have to let the flower show medal mentality take a hike." The presenter of BBC's *Gardeners' World* added: "I do not disapprove of the competitive, judgmental aspect of a flower show because that is all part of the game – albeit a game that has very high stakes and is taken desperately seriously.

"But it is a game nevertheless. In our real-life gardens, however grand, however expensive, it is completely meaningless."

The Chelsea Flower Show, which takes place every May, is one of the UK's most popular gardening events.

Don, who has fronted the BBC's flagship gardening show for 18 years, added that "no amount of money in the world is enough to make a truly wonderful garden".

"This is because the more money you spend on a garden, the further it tends to take you personally from it.

"Gardens are about people, not plants. You can buy the rarest plants, hire the best gardeners to tend and nurture them, and arrange plants on the grandest of scales but that will only take you so far.

"The real magic comes from the interaction between the people and plants. Every garden is most alive in the space between gardener and garden."

Monty Don:'Let the medal mentality take a hike'

Brontes 'queered' for LGBT celebrations

Authors who adopted androgynous pen names for books given seal of approval by gay community

By **Craig Simpson**

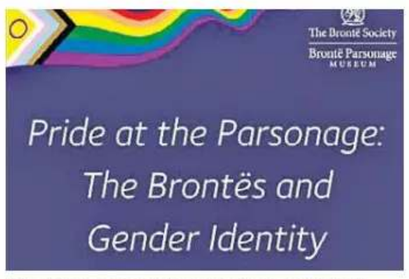
THE Bronte sisters have been included in LGBT Pride events because they wrote under androgynous pen names.

Feminists have reacted angrily to Emily, Charlotte and Anne's inclusion in Pride month material discussing "the Brontes and gender identity" because of the ambiguity over their alter-egos.

Charlotte published her works under the name Currer, Emily under the moniker Ellis and Anne adopted Acton. All three went by the same surname, Bell.

At the time, it was common for female writers to adopt male pseudonyms when publishing their works in order to be taken seriously by the establishment – a practice still employed today by some authors.

Material posted online by the Bronte Parsonage Museum, in Haworth, the one-time Yorkshire home of the



The Parsonage Museum has explored gender identity in the Brontes' work

authors, states that "gender is explored" in their novels, some of which exhibit "gender queerness".

The inclusion of the Brontes in LGBT material has been met with criticism by those who are concerned that gender ideology is being imposed on historical figures.

Joan Smith, the author of *Misogynies*, told *The Telegraph*: "What next, the Bronte brothers? The sisters didn't use androgynous pseudonyms because they were non-binary or wanted to be men, it was because of the prejudice against female authors and the obstacles facing women who wanted to get published. Imposing modern nonsense about gender identity on 19th-century women writers is an insult to what they managed to achieve."

Neither Charlotte, nor her younger sisters Emily or Anne were ever known to have had same-sex relationships, and the younger pair both died in their late 20s without having any recorded romances at all. Charlotte married the curate Arthur Bell Nicholls.

The Parsonage Museum has said that Charlotte created an entire persona for her alias, Currer, and that she was more "assertive" when using it in correspondence.

Her 1853 novel *Villette* is held up as an example of "gender queerness" in one post, which quotes an obscure academic paper.

Responding to an online backlash The museum said: "We remain committed to our Pride at the Parsonage campaign and stand beside all those we seek to include and celebrate."

Lord Tennyson was named as an LGBT historical figure on a tour for schools on the Isle of Wight last year, despite a lack of evidence that the poet had any homosexual relationships.

JASON DAWSON

Shouting herself hoarse The Queen cheers on her horse Gilded Water in the King George V Stakes on the third day of Royal Ascot. It came in 12th despite being a favourite.

School accused of gay Pride 'indoctrination'

By **Cameron Henderson**

AN INFANT school has been accused of "indoctrinating" four-year-old children after putting up Pride flags.

Westmeads Community Infant School in Whitstable, Kent, has put up a large rainbow flag and 10 smaller ones on its outer fence as well as further banners in classrooms to mark Pride month.

The annual event, held in June, celebrates members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

The move was met with an online backlash on Monday after James Esses, a social campaigner, shared pictures of the rainbow coloured flags on social media.

He asked the school: "Could you kindly explain why you appear hellbent on indoctrinating four-year-old children by plastering this ideological symbolism all over your school?"

Dame Jacqueline Foster, a Conservative peer, was among many who criticised the school, describing the display as "wholly inappropriate".

"All materials referring to 'sex education' have to be age appropriate and this is not," she said. "Infants do not come into any category at all ... it should be removed immediately."

Kirsty White, the head teacher, defended the flags, saying the state nursery, which teaches pupils between the ages of four and seven, is "an inclusive school in every sense". "Equity is one of our core school values underpinning everything we do and fundamental to our ethos," she said. "We feel strongly that representation for every member of our community matters. We will always celebrate our diverse community through a progressive curriculum representative of British values."

Chris Cornell, a local Labour councillor, also defended the school's decision, stating: "Our town is a very LGBTQ+ inclusive place

Pride flags on the school gates have caused a stir

and this homophobia is awful."

Some parents have backed the decision to display the flags. Olivia Thomas said: "The school values are a really important part in ensuring our children and next generation grow up understanding and celebrating diversity, feeling safe to be themselves and always welcoming different views."

Ms White took over as head teacher in September 2021 and Westmeads was given its first Ofsted rating in 14 years the following summer.

It was downgraded from "outstanding" to "requires improvement".

Granny trolleys ban after shoplifting spree

By **Madeleine Ross**
and **Dorjee Wangmo**

A SUPERMARKET has banned "granny trolleys" in a crackdown on shoplifting.

Asda's store in Leyton, east London, insists that the wheeled bags, often used by older shoppers, are left at the entrance after they were used to facilitate a spate of thefts. They can be seen lined up at a security desk with numbered labels that enable customers to identify and retrieve them on their way out.

The store says it has seen shoppers place items in the trolleys, before using self-checkout machines to scan some, but not all, of the goods.

One supervisor said that the rule was introduced a month ago after staff became aware that the trolleys were being used to hide items that were then stolen.

They said: "We have seen such cases at least two or four times every week. We have caught people and have taken them to the police.

"We have even banned some people from the store. Because of this rule, we don't have any issues."

Asda supermarkets are allowed to set their own security protocols and a spokesman for the retailer confirmed that the policy was not being rolled out to other stores.

When *The Telegraph* visited the Leyton store, up to 10 of the trolleys were watched over by a security guard at any one time.

One shopper, Wendy Ponting, said that she had arthritis in both knees and her

> 'We hope customers understand the need to keep our stores safe for all'

hands so struggled to lift heavy baskets. She said: "I ... put a basket on top and push it along. If they say anything, I'll say: 'I'm sorry, I can't carry a basket'."

An Asda spokesman said: "Our top priority is to keep our customers and colleagues safe, which is why our stores will implement policies that seek to deter shoplifting, including the use of external trolleys.

"We hope ... our customers understand the need to keep our stores safe for everyone."

Putin and Kim vow to counter 'aggression'

President arrives in Vietnam to subdued reception as details of military pact are unveiled

By **James Crisp** *and* **Katy Wong**

RUSSIA and Vietnam pledged to deepen ties after Vladimir Putin signed a defence pact with North Korea to counter Moscow's growing isolation over the war in Ukraine.

The Russian president and Kim Jong-un vowed to give each other "military assistance" if either is attacked, according to the agreement signed in Pyongyang.

Putin did not get such clear support after travelling on to Hanoi for the second leg of his tour but To Lam, the Vietnamese president, said they would "push up cooperation in defence and security".

The two sides said that was "not directed against any third country" and contributed to "peace, stability and sustainable development" in the region.

The rare state visit came as North Korean state media published a document, which lays out for the first time in black and white the parameters of a new mutual defence deal.

It states that if either country is subjected to "armed aggression" by other countries or finds itself in a state of war, the other shall "immediately provide military and other assistance by all means at its disposal".

The agreement represents the most significant cooperation between the two nations in decades, reviving their 1961 mutual defence pledge from the Cold War era, and raises questions over North Korean involvement in the grinding war in Ukraine.

Observers noted that the deal refers to Article 51 of the UN Charter, which recognises a UN member state's right to self-defence.

The UN reference point is also cited in Nato's Article 5, which says an armed attack against one country is an armed attack against all.

Yu Ji-hoon, research fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, told CNN that the treaty's "automatic intervention clause" meant all military assets will be mobilised, "including the army, navy, and air force".

Western observers will also ponder if the deal means Russia's nuclear umbrella now extends to North Korea, which could become a vassal state to Moscow like Belarus, or if the two countries will hold joint military drills.

Sanctions-hit North Korea is in need of goods and materials from Russia and can offer to supply Russia's war-depleted workforce with labour in return.

The deal also grants Kim influence with Russia, which holds a veto on the UN Security Council.

A US State Department spokesman said the deepening cooperation between the two rogue states was "of great concern to anyone interested in maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, upholding the global non-proliferation regime, abiding by UN Security Council resolutions, and supporting the people of Ukraine".

Lim Soo-suk, South Korea's foreign minister spokesman, said the agreement disregarded repeated warnings from the international community.

Putin lashed out at "the imperialist policy of the United States and its satellites", after signing the deal with Kim.

He received a rapturous reception in the North Korean capital, embraced by Kim as he stepped off his plane and greeted by cheering crowds, synchronised dancers and flag-waving children.

Putin drove Kim around in a "Russian Rolls Royce" after signing a military pact in a Soviet-style meeting of dictators and later the North Korean leader placed himself in the drivers seat for a set-up reminiscent of James Corden's *Carpool Karaoke* as the dictators laughed and joked.

Lam and Putin signed around a dozen cooperation agreements ranging from education to justice and civil nuclear projects but the welcome to Hanoi was more restrained.

Putin held talks with Nguyen Phu Trong, the powerful general secretary of the ruling Communist Party, and laid a wreath at the memorial to independence leader Ho Chi Minh. He told reporters they had "identical or very close" positions on key international issues.

Vietnam has abstained in UN votes condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In an op-ed in the Communist Party mouthpiece *Nhan Dan* newspaper, Putin thanked Hanoi for its "balanced stance on the Ukraine crisis".

The US, among Vietnam's major trade partners, warned the visit risked normalising Russia's "blatant violations of international law".

The Russian president is subject to an International Criminal Court warrant for war crimes but neither North Korea or Vietnam are signatories to it.

The tour came as Western powers stepped up sanctions on Moscow.

STR/KCNA VIA KNS/AFP VIA GETTY

Vladimir Putin's meeting with To Lam, Vietnam's president, left, was much more subdued than the heavily choreographed visit with Kim Jong-un, above

German police arrest suspected Islamic State sleeper agent

By **James Rothwell** *in Berlin*

GERMAN police have arrested a suspected Islamic State agent who was on standby to carry out attacks on behalf of the terrorist group.

The arrest of "Mahmoud A" on Wednesday in Esslingen, near Stuttgart, comes amid fears from Germany's security agency that terrorists could target the Euro 2024 football tournament being staged in the country.

Prosecutors said that they had arrested him on "strong suspicions" that he was a member of Islamic State.

The Iraqi citizen is now facing charges of membership of a foreign terrorist group and for being on standby to launch terrorist attacks in Germany on behalf of the terrorist organisation.

The announcement came just hours before England's Euro 2024 clash with Denmark in Frankfurt last night.

In a statement, German prosecutors said: "Mahmoud A joined the foreign terrorist organisation Islamic State in Iraq in May 2016 at the latest. In the following period, he also worked as a fighter for the organisation.

"After entering the Federal Republic of Germany in October 2022, he was ready to carry out attacks on behalf of Islamic State."

Earlier this week, Thomas Haldenwang, the head of BfV, Germany's internal security agency, warned of a risk of Islamist terror attacks in revenge for the country's strong support of Israel in the war in Gaza.

This risk did not only involve organised groups, such as Islamic State, but also includes so-called lone wolves who have been radicalised at home and are not on the radar of security services.

> 'Our security authorities are extremely vigilant – they follow every tip-off and strike hard to protect'

The arrest on Wednesday was hailed by Nancy Faeser, the German interior minister, as a sign that the security services were being extra cautious during the major internationa football competition. She said: "Our security authorities are extremely vigilant – they follow every tip-off and strike hard to protect our country."

More than 22,000 German police have been deployed nationwide to maintain order during the tournament. Over the weekend, police shot an axe-wielding man who threatened them with a Molotov cocktail in Hamburg, wounding him in the leg.

The incident did not appear to have been terror-related, according to German media reports, which said the man was suffering from mental health problems.

In one of the most serious terror incidents in Germany in several years, an Afghan man stabbed a police officer to death in the southern city of Mannheim on June 4.

Ataee Sulaiman, 25, also targeted a far-Right activist and blogger notorious in Germany for comparing the Koran to *Mein Kampf*. German police said that the attack was an attempt to silence critics of Islam. Days later, an Alternative for Germany (AfD) politician was injured with a knife in the city by a suspected Left-wing extremist.

In a separate incident in Wolmirstedt last week, police shot an Afghan man who fatally stabbed a fellow reveller at a Euro match-viewing party.

Media reports said the men had been arguing prior to the attack, while police said there were no immediate signs of it being terror-related.

Donald Sutherland dies after 'life well lived'

By **Rozina Sabur** DEPUTY US EDITOR

DONALD SUTHERLAND died at the age of 88 after "a life well lived", his son Kiefer said yesterday.

His son, also an Emmy-winning actor, added that his father, who died in Miami, Florida, after a long illness was "one of the most important actors in the history of film".

Donald Sutherland's career spanned more than six decades during which he had roles such films as 1970's *M*A*S*H* and *Pride and Prejudice* in 2005 and the *Hunger Games* series in the 2010s.

Among his many critically acclaimed movies was the 2002 television film *Path To War*, in which he starred with Michael Gambon and Alec Baldwin, and for which he won a Golden Globe. He also won an Emmy for his supporting role in the hit 1990s mini-series *Citizen X*.

He notched up some 200 film and TV credits but did not win a major award for a film role. However, he was presented with an honorary Oscar in 2017.

His son paid tribute to his father yesterday when he tweeted on X: "With a heavy heart, I tell you that my father, Donald Sutherland, has passed away… one of the most important actors in the history of film.

"Never daunted by a role, good, bad or ugly. He loved what he did and did what he loved, and one can never ask for more than that. A life well lived."

Donald Sutherland's agency, CAA, said in a statement: "Acclaimed actor Donald Sutherland died today in Miami, Florida, after a long illness. He was 88 years old."

Born in Canada, Sutherland moved to London in 1957 to train at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art and it was in Britain that his career took off with small roles in West End productions and on the small screen.

His big break in the US came in 1967, when he secured a part in Robert Aldrich's 1967 World War II drama *The Dirty Dozen*. But it was the Korean war comedy *M.A.S.H.* and psychological thriller *Don't Look Now* that catapulted him to fame.

Over the decades, he showed his range with parts in Robert Redford's *Ordinary People* and Oliver Stone's *JFK*, cementing his Hollywood status. He never retired and worked regularly.

"I passionately love to work," he told a TV interviewer in 1998.

"I love to feel my hand fit into the glove of some other character.

"I feel a huge freedom – time stops for me."

The actor's memoir: *Made Up, But Still True*, was due to be published in November.

Sutherland was a giant of acting for six decades

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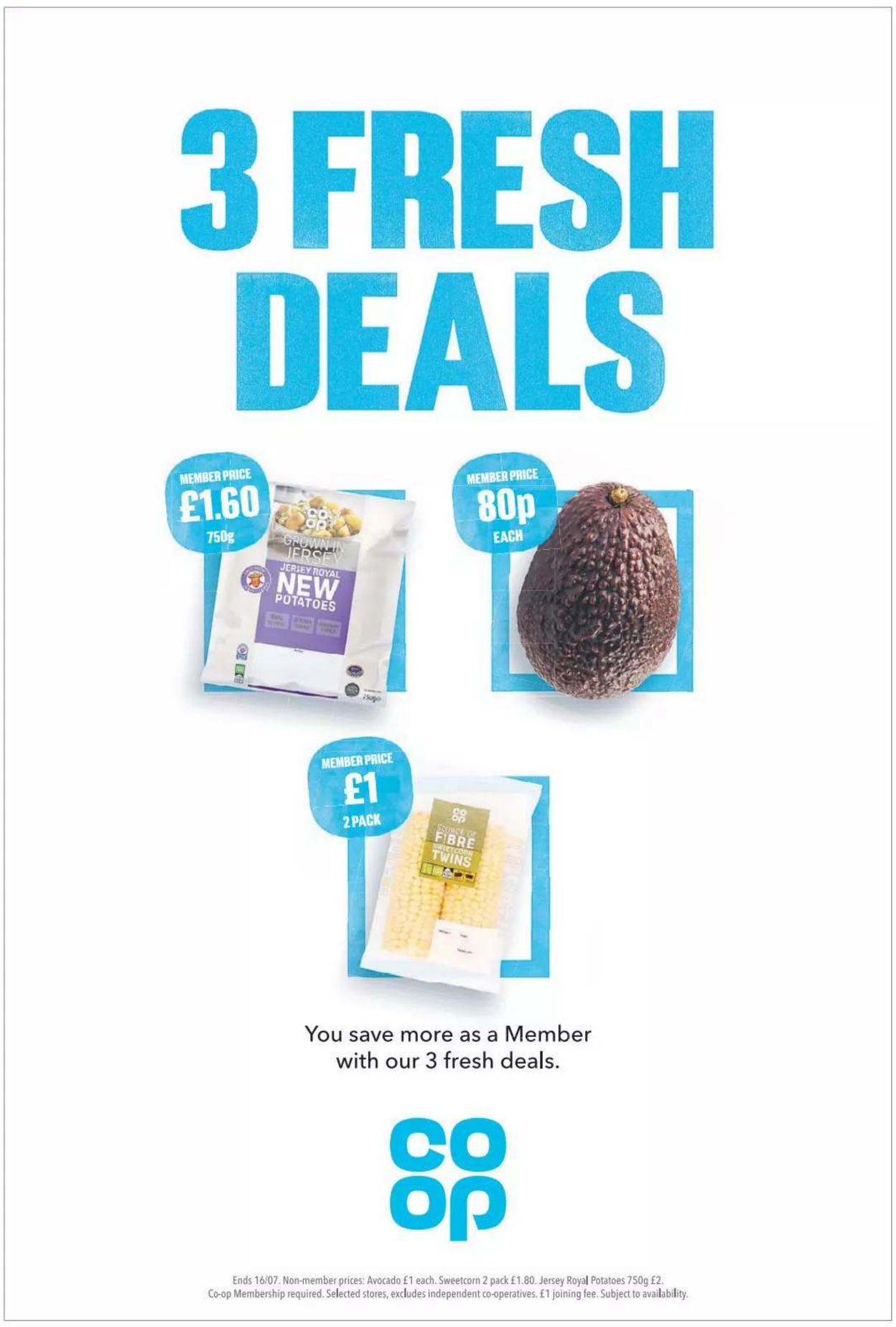


World news

The mothers who could topple Netanyahu

Parents of soldiers 'sacrificed on the alter of politics' lead the charge in anti-government protests

By **Nicola Smith** *in Jerusalem*

THE first time Eliran Mizrahi was injured in Gaza, he refused to leave the battlefield. The reservist wanted to continue defending his country and help search for the missing hostages.

When he was wounded a second time during his seven-month stint in heavy urban warfare, he was told by a doctor he could not return to the front line, partly on account of his PTSD.

But an emergency call-up came again last week for the engineer who had started the war tasked with clearing bodies from the site of the Nova music festival. Before he could be deployed, the 40-year-old father of four killed himself.

The case has shocked a nation where many are starting to question the government's war strategy as the conflict in Gaza enters its ninth month, with no end or "day after" plan in sight, and as casualties in its overstretched defence forces mount.

Anger has boiled over on to the streets, spearheaded by soldiers' mothers, as the war plan is in tatters and Benjamin Netanyahu's grip on power appears increasingly precarious. The protesters are demanding a deal to bring home the remaining 120 Israeli hostages and elections to replace a government they no longer trust.

Many have called for an end to a conflict they say has no clear purpose.

A "week of resistance", which began on Saturday night in Tel Aviv when tens of thousands attended one of the largest anti-government protests since the war began, will continue over the next few days with demonstrations outside the Knesset and prime minister's residence.

On the rally front lines is a group of mothers of troops who have accused Mr Netanyahu of prolonging the war to appease hard-Right and religious members of his fragile coalition to ensure its survival.

"We, the parents of active combat soldiers, blame you for sacrificing our children on the altar of politics," they wrote in a recent letter to the prime minister and his now disbanded war cabinet.

"We blame you for the senseless deaths of soldiers. We blame you for the numerous injuries to our children, both physically and mentally," they said.

The mothers' signature move is to dye their palms bright red to symbolise the blood of dead troops. On Saturday night, they gathered on the Hahalacha motorway bridge. in central Tel Aviv, holding their red hands in the air and holding signs proclaiming: "Parents of combat soldiers scream loudly – enough!" Cars on the busy thoroughfare below tooted their horns in support.

The country was reeling from the news that 10 young soldiers – eight of them in one armoured vehicle – had been killed that morning, in one of the conflict's deadliest days for Israel.

"Shame! Shame! Shame!" the mothers shouted at the government.

Such open dissent is rare in Israel, a security-conscious country that prizes national defence as one of its most important civic duties.

Hagar Moshe Kedem, whose son is deployed with a combat unit in Gaza, explained that while parents had supported the first six months of the war because the country needed protection after Hamas's terror attacks, many no longer understood its goal.

DANOR AHARON

Mothers protest at the defence ministry. Inset: Eliran Mizrahi took his own life after suffering from PTSD

"We want to put pressure on the government to make a settlement that will bring back the hostages and our sons home. We don't want them to still be in Gaza," she said.

"Our prime minister is talking about total victory but there is no such thing. Many people are suffering, also in Gaza, also in Israel. We need a deal now because people are dying every day."

Talks on a US-backed three-stage peace plan that would initiate a limited hostage for Palestinian prisoner exchange during a temporary truce have reportedly stalled over Hamas's demands for concrete guarantees of a permanent ceasefire and Israeli troop withdrawal from Gaza.

Washington has blamed the terrorist group for the impasse and says that Israel has accepted the deal, even though Mr Netanyahu's government has not publicly backed it.

Israelis doubt Mr Netanyahu, goaded by his hard-Right security and finance ministers, who want to continue the war, is committed to securing a deal.

> 'They are ceding to the religious ones whose children are not running from house to house with rifles'

Janna, who asked to remain anonymous as she has three sons in the military, said that the war began as a "fight for our existence" but soldiers were now being "kept captive by politicians, by extremists," whose judgment was in question.

"Now we feel like it is political. [The government] is being led by ceding to the Right-wing parties, the religious ones, all those who don't sacrifice their children. Their children are not running from house to house with rifles," she said.

Israeli public opinion is divided over the war but the mass protests suggest the mothers' views are beginning to strike a chord with growing numbers of the population.

The fate of a draft bill to address exemptions from mandatory military service for ultra-Orthodox, or Haredi, young men has the potential to break Mr Netanyahu's coalition apart.

The contentious policy dates back to the founding of Israel in 1948 when a few hundred students of the Torah were allowed to avoid conscription.

Since then, Haredi communities have boomed to some 13 per cent of the country's nearly 10 million citizens, so tens of thousands escape the draft and receive government subsidies for religious study. An all-time high of 66,000 were exempted over the last year.

Resolving the thorny issue has eluded governments for decades but now, as the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) strains under a lack of manpower, it has deepened the faultlines in Israeli society.

'Illegal' pilgrims denied refuge as 1,000 die in Mecca heat

By **James Crisp**

SAUDI ARABIAN officials shut unregistered pilgrims out of air-conditioned rest areas in Mecca during extreme heat that killed more than 1,000 people on Hajj.

More than half of the deaths were among worshippers who had not bought costly permits for the annual pilgrimage, which all Muslims with the financial means are encouraged to complete at least once in their lives.

The death toll from this year's Hajj exceeded 1,000 as temperatures hit 51.8C (125.2F) in Mecca this week.

"People were tired after being chased by security forces before Arafat Day. They were exhausted," one Arab official said yesterday, referring to Saturday's day-long outdoor prayer meeting that marks the climax of the pilgrimage.

Saudi authorities reported clearing hundreds of thousands of unregistered pilgrims from Mecca earlier this month, but many still participated in the main rites, which began last Friday.

Without official permits, they were not able to access air-conditioned spaces provided for the 1.8 million authorised pilgrims to cool down after hours of walking and praying outside.

> 'People were tired after being chased by security forces before Arafat Day. They were exhausted'

Bodies were seen on the streets and shrouded corpses lined up to be removed. Relatives have been searching for news of missing pilgrims at hospitals and posting appeals online.

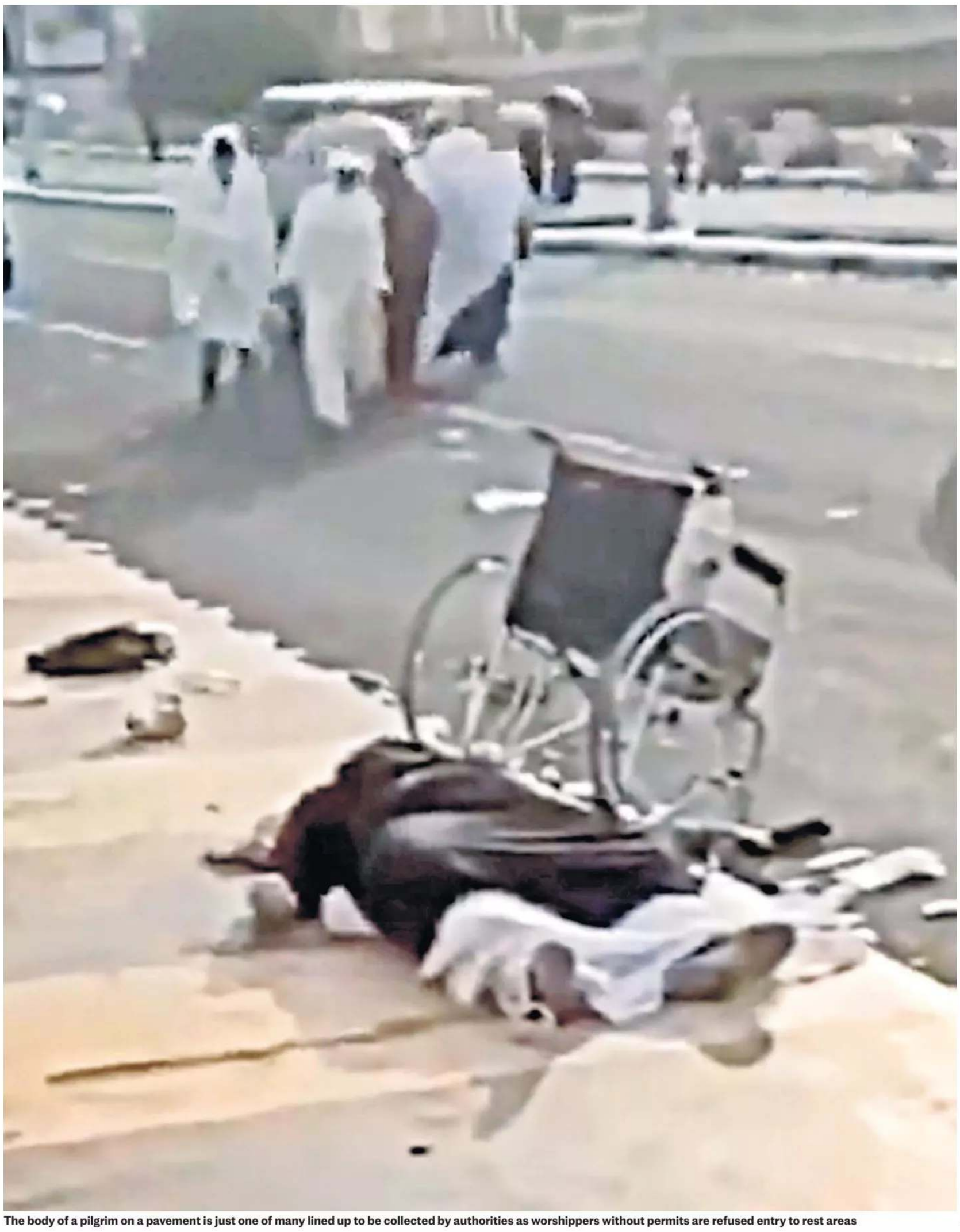
Saudi Arabia has not provided information on fatalities, although it reported more than 2,700 cases of "heat exhaustion" on Sunday alone.

In one clip shared on social media, a pilgrim blamed the "extremely poor management by the Saudi government" for the chaotic scenes. "Ambulances are just standing there doing nothing," he said, adding there had been no buses or taxis, which forced pilgrims to walk on foot through the high temperatures.

Saudi Arabia's extreme heat comes as deadly heatwaves scorch cities in other continents in the Northern Hemisphere.

Countries around the Mediterranean have endured another week of blistering high temperatures that have contributed to forest fires from Portugal to Greece and along the northern coast of Africa in Algeria, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth Observatory.

In Serbia, meteorologists forecast temperatures of around 40C this week as winds from North Africa propelled a hot front across the Balkans. Health authorities declared a red weather alert and advised people not to venture outdoors.



The body of a pilgrim on a pavement is just one of many lined up to be collected by authorities as worshippers without permits are refused entry to rest areas

GPS system on transatlantic flight jammed for first time

By **Benedict Smith** US REPORTER

AN AIRCRAFT'S GPS was jammed for the first time on a commercial transatlantic route, raising fears thousands of other flights are at risk of being deliberately hacked.

The flight from Madrid to Toronto is likely to have been deliberately targeted rather than being accidentally caught in the "usual spillover" of electronic warfare, one analyst said.

The suspected cyber attack happened in the north-east Atlantic when a pilot reported being blocked from ascending to a higher altitude because the GPS of the aircraft above them had been jammed, according to the Institute for the Study of War think tank.

The cause of the jamming has not yet been identified, but GPS jamming has been recently reported over Poland and the Baltic region and attributed to Russian electronic warfare.

The Resilient Navigation and Timing Foundation said the aircraft would have likely flown over the Baltic or Middle East and had not recovered by the time it reached Shanwick Ocean Control, an international airspace zone that handles 80 per cent of transatlantic flights.

If GPS jamming becomes frequent over the Atlantic Ocean then "thousands of flights a day could be impacted", the foundation said.

Todd Humphreys, an expert on satellite navigation, said: "It could be individual hackers who have learned from media reports how vulnerable commercial aircraft are to GPS jamming.

"It's hard to see why a state actor would do this," he added.

Keir Giles, an expert on Russian military strategy, said Moscow's GPS jamming had become "gradually normalised".

It affects the "nuts and bolts of satellite navigation systems", either knocking them offline or giving pilots misleading information, he said.

"Where smaller airports are fully reliant on GPS-based services, landing becomes impossible and flights have to divert or even give up altogether."

In March, an RAF plane carrying Grant Shapps, the Defence Secretary, had its GPS signal jammed while flying close to Russian territory.

Downing Street said the incident did not interfere with the safety of the RAF flight. However, a source told *The Telegraph* at the time: "While the RAF are well prepared to deal with this, it still puts an unnecessary risk on civilian aircraft and could potentially endanger people's lives."

Mr Giles, author of the forthcoming book *Who Will Defend Europe?*, said the West had failed to respond to Russian GPS jamming when it was first detected in the 2010s. "If nothing continues to be done to deter Russia from doing this, the logical next step is for Moscow to attempt to block GPS for road traffic too – which ... could sow chaos on land across the region," he added.

Hezbollah chief threatens to attack Cyprus if it allows Israel to operate from its airports

By **Our Foreign Staff**

HEZBOLLAH'S chief threatened to attack Cyprus if the Mediterranean island lets Israel use its airports.

Hassan Nasrallah said his Iran-backed group had been told that Israel could use the facilities if Hezbollah struck Israeli airports.

Cyprus, an EU member, has good relations with Israel and Lebanon, and lies close to both countries. Britain retained sovereign control over two base areas in Cyprus, its former colony, after the island's independence in 1960.

Nasrallah said in Wednesday's televised address: "Opening Cypriot airports and bases to the Israeli enemy to target Lebanon would mean that the Cypriot government is part of the war, and the resistance will deal with it as part of the war."

He went on to warn nowhere in Israel would be spared if there was a full-blown war with the Lebanese group. "The enemy knows well that we have prepared ourselves for the worst ... and that no place ... will be spared our rockets," he said, adding that Israel must expect "us on land, by sea and by air".

Israel and Hezbollah, a powerful Lebanese movement allied with Hamas, have traded near-daily cross-border fire since the Palestinian militant group's Oct 7 attack on Israel that triggered the war in the Gaza Strip. The exchanges between the foes, which went to war in 2006, have escalated in recent weeks, and the Israeli military said on Tuesday that "operational plans for an offensive in Lebanon were approved and validated".

Earlier, Israel Katz, the Israeli foreign minister, had warned of Hezbollah's destruction in a "total war".

Nasrallah's statements came a day after Amos Hochstein, the US envoy who in 2022 brokered a maritime border deal between Israel and Lebanon called for "urgent" de-escalation, during a recent visit to Lebanon.

He also met senior officials in Israel on his regional tour.

"Everything the enemy says and that the mediators convey, including with threats of war on Lebanon ... this doesn't scare us," Nasrallah said.

On Tuesday, Hezbollah released a more than nine-minute video featuring aerial footage from a drone it said it had flown over northern Israel that included what it said were sensitive military, defence and energy facilities and infrastructure in the city and port of Haifa.

The cross-border violence has left at least 478 people dead in Lebanon, including 93 civilians, according news agency reports.

Israel says at least 15 of its soldiers and 11 civilians have been killed in the north of the country.

Homeward bound
A group of penguins return home, to the Falklands after a hunting expedition. The image, *Gentoo Flying High,* won third place in the Environmental Photography Awards 2024 where contestants were briefed to produce "images that illustrate the richness of our seas and oceans".

ANDREW POLLARD

Girl, 12, taunted as 'dirty Jew' in gang rape

Two 13-year-olds charged in attack that has brought anti-Semitism to the heart of France's political agenda

By **Vivian Song** *in Paris*

A 12-YEAR-OLD Jewish girl was gang-raped by child attackers who taunted her with anti-Semitic slurs in a case that has shocked France.

The attack has placed anti-Semitism at the centre of the country's upcoming parliamentary elections, with political parties across the spectrum condemning the attack, and pointing fingers at one another.

The assault happened on Saturday in the suburb of Courbevoie, north-west of Paris, as the victim was walking home after parting with her boyfriend.

Two teens allegedly approached her and dragged her into a warehouse. A third suspect, 12, joined them, hurling anti-Semitic insults and calling her "dirty Jew" as the other boys beat, threatened, and raped her, and forced her to perform oral sex.

The attackers put a lighter to her cheek, threatened to kill her if she went to the police, and instructed her to return to the same place the next day with 200 euros.

"Otherwise something bad would happen to her and her family because they know where she lives," they said, according to police reports seen by *Le Parisien*.

Two 13-year-old boys have been indicted on charges of gang rape, death threats, insults and personal violence, while a 12-year-old has been placed under the status of assisted witness for rape.

Emmanuel Macron denounced the "scourge of anti-Semitism" during a council meeting on Wednesday. "After a solemn and serious speech, he asked Nicole Belloubet [the education minister] that a time of exchange be organised in all schools on the fight against anti-Semitism and racism," an unnamed source close to Mr Macron told BFM TV.

The rape drew swift condemnation from all political parties but has become an electoral issue, with the president's party attacking the New Popular Front, the recently formed Leftist coalition, for fuelling anti-Semitism in France.

Jean Luc-Mélenchon, the leader of the far-Left France Insoumise (France Unbowed), which is the largest party in the coalition, refuses to characterise Hamas as a terrorist organisation.

In response to Mr Mélenchon's tweet of support to the victim's family in which he said he was "horrified", Eric Dupond-Moretti, the justice minister, said: "Leave this young girl and her family alone. Your recurring comments feed the hatred that leads to the worst… Shame on those who make pacts with you to save their own pockets."

The president of the largest Jewish association in France, the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (Crif), also slammed the far-Left party. "We must fight against this climate of anti-Semitism fuelled by France Insoumise," Yonathan Arfi said.

Marine Le Pen, leader of the far-Right National Rally party founded by her father Jean-Marie Le Pen, who was convicted several times for anti-Semitic comments, condemned both the attack and the Left bloc, whom she called "a real threat to civic peace.".

Jacques Kossowski, the mayor of Courbevoie, said: "This is a 12-year-old girl who had the courage to speak to her father, to go to the police station to file a complaint. She suffered what no one could suffer. Let's try not to politically exploit this affair."

Louisiana orders classrooms to display Ten Commandments

By **Benedict Smith** US REPORTER

THE Ten Commandments will be displayed in all classrooms in Louisiana after a controversial order was signed into law on Wednesday.

The Republican-backed rule, which applies to all state schools and universities, was labelled "blatantly unconstitutional" as it breaks the principle of treating all religions equally.

Critics have vowed to mount a legal challenge, and some believe the move may get a sympathetic hearing from the Supreme Court, which has become more conservative since Donald Trump and more inclined to rule on the side of religious rights in recent years.

According to *The Tennessean,* Jeff Landry, Louisiana's Republican governor who signed the measure into law, said last week: "I can't wait to be sued."

By 2025, every Louisiana classroom will be required to display a poster or framed document, measuring at least 11 by 14 inches, with the commandments in a "large, easily readable font".

Mr Landry argued on Wednesday that the Ten Commandments, which include injunctions against murdering, stealing and adultery, provided valuable life lessons.

"If you want to respect the rule of law, you've got to start from the original lawgiver, which was Moses," he said.

In Stone v Graham (1980), the Supreme Court struck down a similar move in Kentucky, ruling that the Ten Commandments were "plainly religious in nature".

The instructions are not confined to secular matters but also those such as worshipping God and observing the Sabbath, it noted. Commentators have suggested the ensuing legal battle may see the Supreme Court overturn the precedent set by the Stone case.

Critics say ruling to have religious commandments in all state schools and universities is 'blatantly unconstitutional'

In recent years, conservative Christian groups have attempted to bring cases about public expressions of faith to the Court, which has proved more sympathetic to the issue than in the past.

'If you want to respect the rule of law, you've got to start from the original lawgiver, which is Moses'

Charles C Haynes, a senior fellow for religious liberty at the Freedom Forum foundation, told *The New York Times*: "The climate is certainly better."

He suggested Louisiana lawmakers were "overreaching" and that "even this court will have a hard time justifying" the measure. The State's push also reflects a broad scepticism from conservatives about Left-wing ideologies allegedly being put forward in schools.

Critics claim the law breaches the Constitution's First Amendment that decrees a separation of church and state, reading: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." Organisations, including the American Civil Liberties Union, pledged to immediately legally challenge the legislation and accused the state of trampling on religious rights.

"The First Amendment promises that we all get to decide for ourselves what religious beliefs, if any, to hold and practice, without pressure from the government," a joint statement read. "Politicians have no business imposing their preferred religious doctrine on students and families in public schools. [The measure] would require school officials to promote specific religious beliefs to which people of many faiths, and those of no faith, do not subscribe."

Antarctic researchers create cool language

By **Roger Maynard**

IT MAY be one of the coldest, most isolated and largely uninhabited regions on the planet, but the Antarctic is fast developing its own language, a study has found.

Dr Steph Kaefer, a linguistics graduate from the University of Canterbury in New Zealand has uncovered an Antarctic vocabulary exclusive to English speaking stations.

After travelling to Antarctica in 2019, she recorded a number of terms that bear little relation to their English equivalents. Each research station, whether it was run by Americans, the British or New Zealanders, had its own distinct colloquialisms. Britons use the term "fidlet," for new arrivals, a shortened version of "fid" which comes from an acronym of Falkland Islands Dependency, the former name of the station.

The Americans refer to newcomers as "fingies," short for FNG: a US military acronym for "f---ing new guy".

Those wearing big protective gloves in the harsh winter temperatures are said to have "nose wipers" on.

While the last person to put their plate into the dishwasher after a meal is said to be "trayed," because they also have to empty it.

If you were "toasted" it meant you were exhausted after completing a winter posting. "Fod plod" referred to picking up rubbish. A clear blue sky is called a "dingle day," while going for a "gonk" means sleeping.

A "doo" is a snow bike, while a "gash" means washing up after a meal and attending to waste duties.

Dr Kaefer said she wanted to establish how words emerged and developed over time.

"Often when we create words we make them transparent – particularly in a situation where you need to pass on a lot of information easily," she explained.

She described it as a "cool linguistic phenomenon – much like the terrain, which in Antarctic parlance is known as an "ice" environment, short for "isolated, confined and extreme".

Comment

The BBC has now given up any pretence of impartiality

DANNY COHEN

This week, BBC correspondent Sally Nabil appeared live on the BBC News Channel in primetime to report on the tragic death of pilgrims at Mecca due to intense temperatures.

For those unfamiliar with Ms Nabil's work, it is worth reviewing her social media output in the aftermath of the Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel. Ms Nabil has shown herself to be comfortable with sharing anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, most notably the groundless claim that Jewish people were buying up land in northern Turkish Cyprus in order to seize territory for Israel.

Yet this is not the worst of it. Despite being a BBC journalist, Nabil "liked" a number of tweets that appeared to legitimise the targeting of Jewish civilians, including one that called the October 7 massacres a "morning of hope". She also liked a comment on a video that showed footage of vehicles loaded with Jewish bodies and kidnapped civilians.

It is hard to put into words how offensive and distressing this is to many in the Jewish community, and of course, to the decent-minded majority of British people who have sympathy for what Israeli families suffered that day. Many will consider Ms Nabil's apparent support for a message, which described the rape, kidnap, mutilation and murder of innocent people as a source of "hope", as tantamount to showing sympathy for terrorists at their most inhumane.

The real question here is why, eight months later, Ms Nabil is still working for the BBC, her salary paid for by us all as licence-fee payers. But she is a symptom of a problem, not the problem itself.

The fundamental issue is the failure of the BBC's most senior executives to get a grip on anti-Israel bias and anti-Semitism in the organisation. In this case, it seems clear that senior BBC management have made the decision that it is acceptable for staff to endorse a racist massacre without any impact on their employment. Given these circumstances, how on earth can Britain's Jewish community believe that the BBC's leadership takes anti-Jewish racism seriously and is determined to stamp it out?

The BBC likes to hide behind "process" in situations such as this, but I believe the public interest outweighs all other considerations. It should not be possible for our national broadcaster to continue to employ someone in these circumstances without full and transparent public scrutiny.

So here are some questions that senior BBC management should take the trouble to answer directly:

How does the BBC justify employing a journalist who has shown support for the worst massacre of Jewish people since the Holocaust?

Where would the BBC draw the line, in terms of the enthusiasm journalists would need to display before they are deemed to be an unsuitable member of staff?

Why do BBC managers believe that Sally Nabil is able to maintain due standards of impartiality when her anti-Israel views are causing such great offence?

And finally, if an employee's prejudice was instead directed at the black or Muslim community, would BBC executives be so seemingly cavalier?

The BBC's repeated claims that they take issues of anti-Jewish racism seriously are made a mockery of by cases like Ms Nabil. Unfortunately, a pattern has emerged, and it is hard to see it ending any time soon.

Danny Cohen was the director of BBC Television from 2013 until 2015

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Vote Priti, get Boris? The Tories in defeat are dreaming of better times

Conservative candidates are grasping at stratagems for post-election revival. But even these are flaky

FRASER NELSON

It's rare for parties to implode during an election campaign, but the Conservatives do seem to be going through a form of disintegration. Tony Lee, its director of campaigning, has taken leave of absence amid allegations that he and his wife bet on the election date.

Richard Holden, who was supposed to lead troops into battle as party chairman, has instead tried to save himself by heading for a supposedly safe southern seat, which he now looks set to lose. A poll for this newspaper predicts Rishi Sunak may become the first Prime Minister to lose his own seat. This isn't just defeat – it's meltdown.

The odds are that Sunak will resign as party leader at about 9am on July 5 to avoid the Tories' wrath. "He'll have to, for his own safety," says one minister. "He'll be the first ex-PM to need protection inside Parliament, but not outside it."

There will be a postmortem on the campaign, hopefully asking why the Prime Minister ended up with more people willing to bet on the election date than advise him on it.

There should be a second inquiry, looking at the Conservative Party from 2019 and asking how this once formidable election-winning machine came to be wrecked by power.

Such important questions may take a year to answer. Which raises another, more pressing point: what kind of leader will be required next month? A permanent one, who intends to fight the next election – or a caretaker, who will allow the party to pause and reflect?

Liam Fox, a former defence secretary who has made two attempts at the leadership, is being spoken of as someone who might hold the party together while it counts its dead and rethinks. He engineered the Michael Howard caretaker project, which was seen as a successful failure.

The party lost the 2005 election but did so in a way that created space for new talents to develop. This allowed the incubation of David Cameron and George Osborne and, eventually, a return to power. It could be another grandee, of course, but there may not be many to choose from (some polls envisage Dr Fox losing his seat).

Penny Mordaunt polls the best of all potential candidates with the general public, but her chances of keeping Portsmouth North seem slim. Kemi Badenoch is the bookies' favourite, but she'd be looking to keep the job if elected.

Then comes Priti Patel. The former home secretary is understood to be on manoeuvres and is expected to stand with one main pledge: to resign after a year. She could be sold to the membership as a feisty, lightning-rod character likely to win airtime and compete with Nigel Farage (who could have GB News as his main platform).

But already, Ms Patel is being seen as ruse for another agenda: the return of Boris Johnson. "She would let him back in the first by-election that comes along," says one Cabinet member. The theory is that there will be a by-election in a Liberal Democrat or Labour-held seat that would, in any other year, be solidly Tory. This could open the way to a Boris restoration, as he poses as the only man who can eclipse Farage. A campaigner par excellence who saved the Tories before and would do it again – by crushing Reform UK and reuniting the right.

Priti Patel would not have to engineer his comeback: all that's required is that the party leader would not veto it. Almost any other Tory leadership candidate would do.

Most Tory MPs have always hated Johnson – thinking him selfish, undisciplined and uncontrollable. They only adopted him in 2019 when the alternative seemed to be oblivion.

"In the end, we had oblivion postponed," says one minister who backed him. If the membership are still allowed to choose leaders (that may well be in doubt from a post-defeat overhaul), Johnson may be seen as unstoppable.

That is, of course, assuming Johnson wants it. He isn't showing much sign of it at present, holidaying in Sardinia when David Cameron and Theresa May are putting in the hard yards on the election trail. His return would be a disaster for everyone: trapping the party in a time warp and causing misery for Johnson, too. The next Tory leader would likely have a miserable time, facing years of irrelevance, battling Left and Right and engaging in the main, gruelling job of reforming the party machine.

Asking a few Prime Minister's Questions will matter hardly at all – and neither, at first, will the policies.

The main job will be abolishing what is currently called Conservative Campaign Headquarters and building a new, functioning party apparatus in its place. The task is more personnel restructuring than campaigning. It's what Starmer has done with Labour.

It's hard to see Johnson or Farage as the great political repair man that the Tories now require. A good frontman needs something to front. At the moment, it's hard to see much of a Conservative Party. Sunak ended up hijacking himself, calling an election for which his party machine is woefully unprepared. There's no Scottish leader (Douglas Ross has resigned), no campaign director, no real message.

All of this makes an important point: if you take conservatism out of the Conservatives what are you left with?

This goes far deeper than Sunak, who needed a miracle (a far-faster economic recovery or a Labour implosion) that never arrived. The Tory ideology had decayed as much as its machine. Neither were up to this electoral battle – but this was only clear when the election was called.

And what will Farage be left with? Successive opinion polls make clear that Reform's leader will be lucky to have enough MPs to fill a taxi, let alone take the fight to Labour. He serves as a purely destructive force, Starmer's useful idiot. He has ended up being the nemesis of his own Brexit project.

Reform UK will serve only to increase Starmer's majority, giving Labour more latitude to sign up to various Brussels regulations and move the UK back into the EU's tractor beam.

There will probably be another two Tory leaders before the next general election – and the repair work could well take a decade to complete. And that work will have to start two weeks from today.

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The next Tory leader would likely have a miserable time, facing years of irrelevance, battling Left and Right

Lockdown sank both Trudeau and Sunak

They are paying the price for grubby work, while their lucky opponent's keep their hands clean

MICHAEL COREN

If the political world were a little less harsh, or perhaps slightly more bizarre, the British Conservatives and the Canadian Liberals would form some type of alliance. Not that they're politically allied but misery does demand company, and nobody wants to weep alone.

While Canada's Liberals aren't quite as doomed, the latest polls have what is regarded as one of the most successful electoral machines in the Western world trailing by double digits.

There are numerous reasons for each party's decline, but in both cases the evaporation began after the pandemic lockdowns. Many other countries legislated draconian rules and regulations in 2020, but Britain and Canada stand out as being especially harsh.

The jury is still out of course at how effective these responses were, and leaders were for the most part simply listening to the scientific consensus, but a combination of mixed messages, occasional personal hypocrisy, and often unconvincing explanations of the arguments for the lockdowns, all made colossal dents in the parties in power.

There are echoes of Churchill in 1945 in all this. Genuine dislike of the man existed only on the fringes of British society, and his personal popularity was as high as it had ever been. But the overriding perception was that the job had been done, the war won, and it was time to move on.

He'd led a coalition rather than a party during the Second World War and the Conservatives did surprisingly well in the election, but not well enough. Those who didn't vote for him saw their decision not as ingratitude but as realism.

Regarding Covid, my own opinion is that faced with a crisis unprecedented in modern times, both the British Conservatives and Canadian Liberals deserved some leeway. People were drowning in panic and fear, hysteria was never far away, and politicians were constantly reacting to terrifying developments, with only hours to construct detailed policy.

Yet government scandals in Britain relating to the lockdown began the unravelling not just of the Boris Johnson government but of the entire party structure. A whole stew of ideological division, personal rivalry, the rise of people unqualified for high office, and the empowerment of any alternative all played into the hands of the Labour Party.

In Canada the problems were more dramatic. The Christian Right, conservative elements particularly in western Canada, and a visceral dislike of Justin Trudeau – seen by many as the privileged son of privileged father Pierre – all coalesced to build an alliance of discontent. There were evangelical churches that refused to comply with the ban of public meetings, with clergy being arrested, and "F--- Trudeau" signs began to appear on cars and flags.

In 2022, what was known as the Freedom Convoy drove across the country and settled in the capital, Ottawa. There were hundreds of lorries and cars, an enormous police presence and a sense of anarchy and trauma that Canada hadn't seen in generations.

It helped lead to the fall of the moderate, centrist Tory leader, Erin O'Toole, who was unsympathetic to the demonstrations. He was replaced by Pierre Poilievre, from the Right of the party and someone seen as far more acceptable to those who took their grievances to Ottawa. He's the man who seems likely to replace Justin Trudeau.

Neither Poilievre nor Sir Keir Starmer have outlined what they would have done during the pandemic that was fundamentally different from what actually happened. They've alluded to acting more swiftly, being more selective in their targeting and – the easy one – being more efficient.

Canada's Liberals and Britain's Conservatives have both ripped away their chances of electoral success due to any number of failures and foul-ups, but truth be told, when it comes to the lockdowns the main selling points of their opponents are that they weren't the ones who had to do the dirty work. Vote for us, because we weren't there.

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Another blow to our energy industry

One of the supposed benefits of Brexit was the opportunity it provided to ditch EU laws harming growth and innovation. These included a directive requiring an assessment to be carried out before planning permission can be granted for a development project likely to have significant environmental effects, known as an EIA.

This was contained in regulations passed by Parliament in 2017, after the vote to leave the EU, and reinforced later by Theresa May's commitment to net-zero carbon emissions.

The consequences of not repealing this provision became apparent yesterday. The Supreme Court ruled that Surrey County Council had failed to follow the law when granting permission for oil extraction because it had not taken into account the impact of future emissions on climate change.

This extraordinary judgment, taken by a 3-2 majority, would effectively stymie all future oil and gas exploration in Britain. The court said an EIA was necessary "to identify, describe and assess the likely 'direct and indirect significant effects' of the project on the environment, including (among other factors) the impact on climate".

While the legislation does not prevent the planning authority from giving consent for a project deemed to be harmful, it must reach a reasoned conclusion on the impact and take this into account in making its decision. The council thought this applied only to the immediate emissions associated with the scheme. The dissenting judges considered it constitutionally inappropriate for a local planning authority to be expected to take long-term decisions that were usually the responsibility of central government. Moreover, it went beyond the text of the directive and was contrary to the EU principle of proportionality.

But the majority ruling that future emissions from burning oil must be considered adds another layer of uncertainty to an industry already pulling back from investing in extraction under threat of even heavier Labour windfall taxes. We will need oil and gas for the foreseeable future despite the fantasies of net-zero proponents and will either have to produce our own or import it. Without North Sea oil and gas Labour's plan for growth will be hot air.

This damaging ruling can only encourage the Just Stop Oil zealots who have spray-painted Stonehenge and tried to attack the private plane belonging to the pop star Taylor Swift. Their arrogance and self-regard seemingly knows no bounds.

Illegal migration

It is a sobering thought that Sir Keir Starmer may soon be responsible for securing Britain's borders. More than 800 migrants made the crossing on Tuesday in the highest daily total for 18 months, bringing the total for the year so far to 12,313 – a rise of 18 per cent over than in the same period in 2023.

The Labour leader has presented no serious plan for dealing with this crisis, and indeed his manifesto committed to ending the Rwanda scheme – which so worried illegal arrivals that some took the step of fleeing to Ireland to avoid deportation – and processing applications faster.

Sir Keir may argue that he has also committed to tackling criminal gangs operating overseas, and signing returns agreements with third countries, but these are not in his gift to offer.

Does he really believe that the French authorities will be eager to ensure that migration routes end in Paris, taking on the cost and burden of providing for these arrivals, rather than passing them on to Britain? Similarly, does he believe that third countries that have so far refused to cooperate will do so merely because they are confronted with the soaring rhetoric of Keir Starmer KC?

His plan to "end asylum hotels" while increasing the pull factors drawing migrants to Britain is not credible unless he intends to simply wave people in. If he does, this is a scandal; if he does not, then how will we accommodate the new arrivals? Despite his pledge, will we again see weddings cancelled as hotels are commandeered?

Sir Keir – a human rights lawyer who has previously claimed a "racist undercurrent... permeates all immigration law" – may well see these outcomes as not only tolerable but desirable. The electorate will not.

The orange menace

Spare a thought for the custodians of our majestic cathedrals, historic monuments and unparalleled museums. As a class they do their utmost to warn us that we are at the very brink of a climate apocalypse. *Seaview*, an artwork installed in the precincts of Salisbury Cathedral, is described by its creator as "a dramatic visual representation of the sea reclaiming homes from the coastline in Norfolk". Local residents have ungratefully noted its likeness to an unlit bonfire or a pile of fly-tipped debris. As its Christmas installation a few years back, Tate Britain festooned its Thames-facing entrance with what looked like discarded soggy loo paper, an interpretation of what might happen when climate change means the great river overflows its banks. Yet such virtue signalling does our cultural apparatchiks no good. They still face onslaughts from the orange spray paint-wielding eco-zealots.

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Why this Labour voter won't be celebrating a landslide for Keir Starmer

SIR – I'm confused by those former Conservative voters swarming to Reform UK. In doing so they will only hand Labour an even larger majority ("Tory wipeout", report, June 20), which will not be good for either the next parliament or our democracy.

As a Labour supporter I'm strangely hoping that the shy Tory vote will appear at the last minute, as it has done before, and allow the party to provide some sort of opposition.
Christian Froggatt
Reigate, Surrey

SIR – The mandate for Boris Johnson in 2019 should have resulted in Tory government for many years – yet through arrogance, incompetence and lying, the party has achieved the most spectacular reversal. Absolutely criminal, in anyone's book.
Graham Nicholson
Rowlands Castle, Hampshire

SIR – Given the devastating predictions of your survey, it is obvious that Labour is heading for a landslide. The Tory mantra of "Vote Reform, get Labour" therefore has no traction. Conflicted voters are now free to back Reform with a clear conscience.
George Kelly
Buckingham

SIR – A Labour landslide would be preferable to a narrow win, as it would allow Sir Keir Starmer to keep his far-Left in check.

In the meantime, Thatcherite Conservatives can vote Reform in order to send the Tories a badly needed message.
Tony Marshall
Rudgwick, West Sussex

SIR – A Labour landslide with no opposition would be a disaster. After all, "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely".

We may end up looking back on the past 14 years as the good old days.
David Coverdale
Leeds, West Yorkshire

SIR – Now where did I put that "Don't blame me – I voted Conservative" car sticker?
Sue McNaughton
Eastergate, West Sussex

SIR – Throughout my adult life I have held views that would be considered moderately Right-of-centre. I have always voted Tory, believing in compassionate conservatism.

However, at this election there is no party representing my feelings, or those of millions of other people who would class themselves as "soft-Right".

Labour is now reminiscent of Tony Blair's party, but it is still Left-wing. The Liberal Democrats have become a centre-Left party. The Conservatives, through the efforts of people like Suella Braverman, and because of the threat from Reform, have lurched to the Right. This means that a whole swathe of voters like me have effectively been disenfranchised.
Michael Thomas
Uffington, Oxfordshire

Just Stop Oil vandals

SIR – Having no conscience, Just Stop Oil protesters attacked Stonehenge (report, June 20). A line was crossed when Magna Carta was vandalised earlier this year. The courts must protect our heritage by making the punishment fit the crime. This is not protest. It's cultural vandalism – and it won't stop unless we act firmly.
Dr Gerald Edwards
Glasgow

SIR – Cornflour – the substance thrown by Just Stop Oil protesters over Stonehenge – is probably one of the least harmful things for the rocks.

Turning Stonehenge orange scores high on impact and low on damage. Isn't that what we want from activists?
David Burton
Dorking, Surrey

SIR – I assume the Just Stop Oil protesters walked to Stonehenge and used no fossil-fuel-powered transport.
Iain Maitland
Sherborne, Dorset

Education priorities

SIR – There have been many letters objecting to Labour's plan to charge VAT on private school fees.

I have no objection to parents paying for private education, and realise that, for some of them, an increase in costs will necessitate hard decisions. Overall, however, this issue will affect a small proportion of pupils.

Meanwhile, the Government has failed to improve the standard of education for the 93 per cent of pupils in the state system. There is a shortage of teachers, staff are leaving because of dismal working conditions, buildings are in poor repair and promised new schools have not materialised. Surely these problems are of greater concern.
Alan Lloyd
Liverpool

SIR – Michael Deacon's article (Features, June 20) reminded me of Anthony Crosland, the privately educated Labour education secretary from 1965 to 1967, who said: "If it's the last thing I do, I'm going to destroy every last f------ grammar school."

He almost succeeded, and since then Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities have had to tweak their admissions criteria to promote "diversity and inclusion". Labour's measures levelled down opportunities for the children of relatively less well-off parents. Half a century later, they may have the same effect again.
Philip Corp
Salisbury, Wiltshire

SIR – As a young journalist in Edinburgh, my father was reporting on the run-up to the election of 1964.

On passing a fruit machine in the Edinburgh Press Club, he lent a few coins to the soon-to-be prime minister Harold Wilson (Letters, June 20), then watched scornfully as Wilson pocketed his paltry winnings without repaying the initial stake. The Labour Party hasn't changed much since.
Christine Kennedy
Greenock, Renfrewshire

Fixing the fridge

SIR – I have a better remedy for Celia Walden's broken fridge drawer (Features, June 18). These are made from brittle plastic that splits easily; superglue offers only a temporary fix.

Instead, take some staples, a small kitchen blowtorch and a pair of pliers. Grasp the staple with the pliers and heat it until it glows red, then press it flat over the split and push it into the plastic, making a line of staples along the length of the split. The result may not be invisible, but it is effective.
Kate Boydell
Ugborough, Devon

GAMMA-LEGENDS

Anouk Aimée and Pierre Barouh on the set of the 1966 film *Un homme et une femme*

A French cinema classic that never gets old

SIR – I was saddened to read Anouk Aimée's obituary (June 19).

The film *Un homme et une femme* made a great impact on me in the 1960s.

It had a magnificent musical score by Francis Lai, which I still play at home. Incredibly atmospheric.
Robin Beynon
London SW14

Incompetent Britain is failing cancer patients

SIR – How apt that, on the day you report (June 19) that Britain is 20 years behind Europe on cancer care, I went to the pharmacy to collect my prescription for Tamoxifen, only to be told it was out of stock because of a national supply shortage. Again.

After a breast cancer diagnosis, the "predict" tool is used to show your individual likelihood of surviving five years. To calculate your overall chances of survival, the tool considers risk factors and treatment options. Should it now be updated to factor in the risk of a wholly incompetent government?
Sara Price
Poole, Dorset

SIR – My wife suffered from recurring pain after a repair to a broken hip in December 2020. Her subsequent NHS referral to an orthopaedic surgeon took more than a year. He referred her to the pain clinic, which took another six months. In February, she was put on the waiting list for an X-ray-guided injection. No date has been given. The NHS website says there is a 44-week waiting list.

A phone call to the clinic is answered by a recorded message saying that the east and west divisions are being amalgamated to streamline the service. Our GP wrote but received no reply.

My wife's mobility has deteriorated so far that she is now in a wheelchair and needs mobility aids. We've had to put in a shower conversion and a stair climber, and get extra carers – the cost of which must far exceed that of an injection.

We've now resorted to a private appointment next month.
David Leech
Balcombe, West Sussex

SIR – My 95-year-old mother-in-law was referred to the day unit at a major hospital in Wales. After preliminary tests she was required to stay overnight for observation.

The wait for a bed on a hard plastic chair in reception lasted some 14 hours, until, at 2am, a trolley was found and put in an emergency ward. A bed was never allocated, and other patients also waiting for beds were still in reception at 7am. When challenged about the availability of a bed, a member of the medical staff said that "this was the current state of the health service in Wales".

My message to those living in England is: be careful what you wish for when voting Labour.
Trevor Gall
Carmarthen

Parking privileges

SIR – Recently I parked in a disabled bay, as my husband has a Blue Badge. On our return, I was informed by an operative that I was parked illegally, and should pay using the RingGo app (Letters, June 20). As I thought that a Blue Badge allowed me to park in a disabled bay or even on double-yellow lines, I questioned this, and was told that no allowances were made by that company for Blue Badge holders.

If a Blue Badge allegedly gives us easier access for appointments and so on, then I am at a loss as to the legality of RingGo's policies.
Ann Runacres
Ullenhall, Warwickshire

Scotland's pride

SIR – As an Englishman, I am happy to record that Scottish football support has no equal (Sport, June 20).

When the fans paraded through Cologne, led by 20 or so pipers, it was an exhilarating sight. We should all wish them well.
Herbert Chappell
Woking, Surrey

SIR – I have no interest in football, but am surrounded by it. It never ceases, with the European Championship all summer and the English season from August to June the following year.

At school in the 1950s, I was forced to play football, and spent afternoons shivering as a goalkeeper. My best chum was Oliver Reed, the late actor, and like me he often prayed for rain and match abandonment. If this happened, we would take ourselves off to the cinema in Epsom, where in later life he appeared on screen.
Charles James
Bognor Regis, West Sussex

Taste in books

SIR – In 1976 I caused great hilarity at my town library by returning a book chewed by my spaniel (Letters, June 20). The book was *Gundogs: Training and Field Trials* by Peter Moxon.

The librarian allowed me to keep the book, having paid the 80-pence fine. I have it to this day.
Christopher Allen
Swettenham, Cheshire

SIR – I was a librarian for 37 years. One day a reader came with a bag full of paper and card strips that had once been a book. He said he'd put it on a conveyor at the local bakery as the lunch break was ending. The conveyor was turned on, and the book went through the bread slicer set on thick.
Richard Waller
Wigan, Lancashire

Starmer, Corbyn's old ally, is a threat to security

How can we trust a man who wanted to put a Nato-sceptic in No10 with the defence of the realm?

LIAM FOX

While the British election process plays out, Russia continues its cruel and vicious aggression against the Ukrainian people with new war crime allegations continually emerging. A furious Putin threatens to supply Britain's enemies with missiles that can strike the UK itself, in revenge for Britain supplying Ukraine with long-range Storm Shadow weapons.

Iran has just carried out a massive bombardment of Israel, which only avoided mass civilian casualties due to the defensive capabilities of Israel's Western allies. Iran's proxies, Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis continue to destabilise the Middle East with the latter attacking British-linked shipping and Royal Naval vessels.

All the while, China flexes its muscles in the South China Sea and continues its cyber attacks against Western democratic states. Yet the lack of focus on Britain's national security in this dangerous world and the obsession in most of the media with polls and personalities risks turning this into a cartoon election in a hardback world.

The first duty of any British government is to keep the British people safe and this solemn responsibility has weighed heavily on the conscience of every prime minister.

Boris Johnson, as prime minister, gave important international leadership on Ukraine, continued under Rishi Sunak, including at the much under-reported G7 summit last week. As one American colleague on Capitol Hill put it to me, "If Britain hadn't given the leadership it did to the West, the response to Ukraine in the US Congress would have been much more muted." The consequences would have been profound indeed.

Across the world an axis of authoritarian states is causing more instability, more rapidly, in more places and, along with its proxies, is attempting to reshape the world order against the fundamental values our country represents and that our troops have fought and died for – values of democracy, freedom and the rule of law. The ideological imperative is clear, and for the Conservatives it always has been – whether faced with the fascist regimes of the 1940s, the anti-nuclear movement of the 1970s and 1980s or the anti-Nato rhetoric of the Corbyn years.

Which brings us to the current leader of the Labour Party, who would be prime minister in charge of our national security. This is the man who urged the nation to give Jeremy Corbyn the keys to No10.

When Keir Starmer said, "I do think Jeremy Corbyn would make a great prime minister," did he mean the Jeremy Corbyn who said, "I am against the replacement of Trident and the nuclear missile system that goes with it"?

Did he mean the Jeremy Corbyn who said, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if every politician around the world, instead of taking pride in the size of their armed forces, did what the people of Costa Rica have done and abolished their army."

Did he mean the Jeremy Corbyn who said, "Why don't we turn it around and close down Nato" and "I'd rather we weren't in it?"

Maybe he meant the Jeremy Corbyn who said, "It will be my pleasure and my honour to host an event in Parliament where our friends from Hezbollah will be speaking... I've also invited friends from Hamas"?

Having found it acceptable to urge the British people to make Jeremy Corbyn prime minister, how can anyone have confidence in Starmer's judgment on our national security.

Do we want an individual as prime minister who sat pliantly in shadow cabinet meetings, nodding his head to a man who entertained leaving Nato, scrapping the army, or sending chemical weapons back to Russia for analysis after the dreadful Salisbury attack?

Can we risk the most powerful person in the country being someone who sat shoulder to shoulder with Diane Abbott, who once signed a parliamentary motion calling for the "abolition of conspiratorial groups like MI5"? Do we want individuals around the Cabinet table so strategically naive that they voted to scrap our nuclear deterrent?

Remember that both Angela Rayner, Labour's deputy leader and David Lammy, the shadow foreign secretary, voted against the renewal of Trident in parliament.

When disgruntled Tory voters say they want change they need to understand just how dangerous this "change" could be for Britain with a Left-dominated Labour government.

The Prime Minister has rightly committed to raising defence spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP, leading the European Nato nations. Threats will not abate in the coming years, security is not a certainty.

Our adversaries are becoming stronger and more ambitious in their designs. In this complex strategic environment, do we really trust one of Jeremy Corbyn's former lieutenants with British national security? The answer is emphatically and unequivocally no.

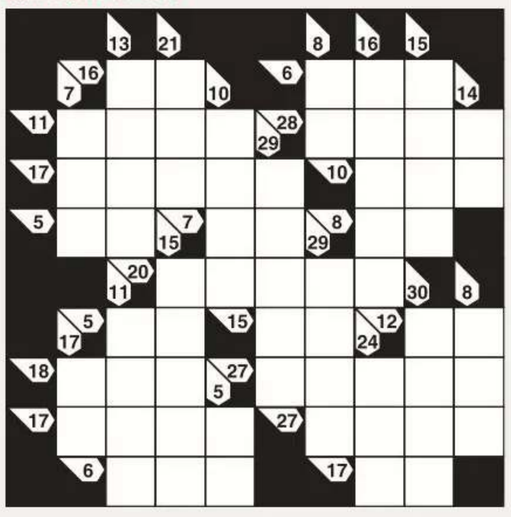
FOLLOW *Liam Fox on Twitter/X @Liam Fox;* READ MORE *at telegraph.co.uk/opinion*

Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

KAKURO

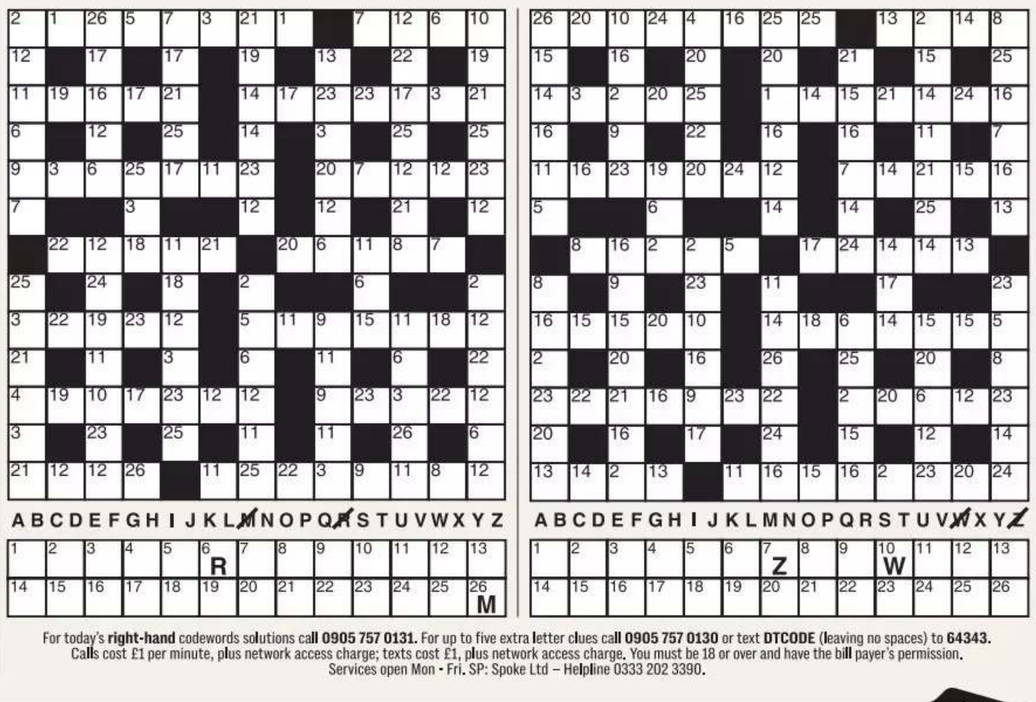
To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution on Monday.*

DIABOLICAL NO 5058



CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. Use the letters already supplied in the key grid as clues, which will let you work out more letters. *Solution for the first Codewords tomorrow and the second on Monday.*

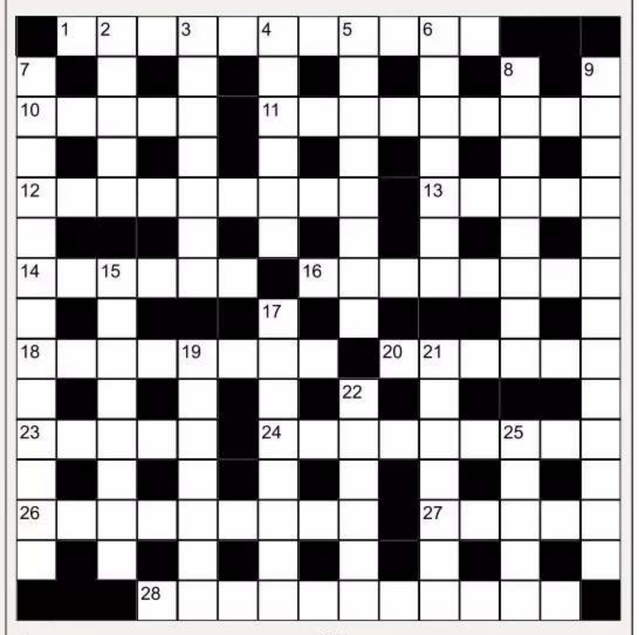


For today's **right-hand** codewords solutions call **0905 757 0131.** For up to five extra letter clues call **0905 757 0130** or text **DTCODE** (leaving no spaces) to **64343.** Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Notes

TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

NO 3292
OSMOSIS



Across

1 Arm slips eating sandwich on counter (11)
10 Career occasionally spent filing daily post (5)
11 Father tours college following light (3,2,4)
12 Basic deli's content with cheese Mike dismissed (9)
13 Stay and live in London district (1-4)
14 Second hotel fitted with power shower (6)
16 Rees-Mogg and nob sharing British archaic clothing style? (8)
18 Set buffet led by nana (5,3)
20 Fruit Charlie fed to horse that's a non-starter (6)
23 Maybe loon who's behind wheel disregarding second (5)
24 I don't agree – that's dreadful clothing, period! (9)
26 Slalom calamity, touching pole, broadcast? (9)
27 Head of government shifting leftward in Red Terror (5)
28 One diverts fledgling aerial carrier near delivery (4-7)

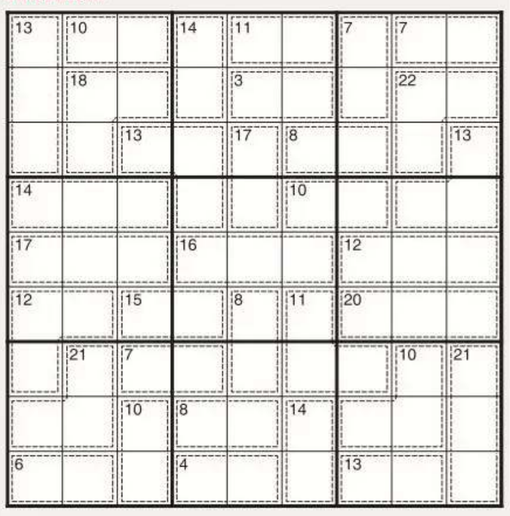
Down

2 Stern of cook to probe previous pancake (5)
3 Current punishment for the wicked thieves warder's topping? (3-4)
4 Final trio of climbers attending Franz's Base Camp for coffee? (6)
5 She dominates baseball club on field in Texas (6-2)
6 Abridged aquatic sport's lower tier discussed (7)
7 Tears perhaps in blue book (9,4)
8 Reserve divine, on vacancy, occupying lead (4-4)
9 Rash language Miles moderates around student (6,7)
15 Trump up again with Republican harangue, ultimately hot air (8)
17 Marine resident can take the wheel in TT (4,4)
19 Before trains, previously you shouldn't have collected boring thing (7)
21 Introduce peace commonly over Ireland once (5,2)
22 Mini designer briefly on energy committee (6)
25 Nothing left, having limited fire (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 on Monday.*

DIABOLICAL



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. *Regular solution tomorrow. Tough solution on Sunday.*

REGULAR NO 6628

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

TOUGH NO 6628

3			9			5		
				7			8	1
			8			2		
	5						4	
	6			1			3	
	2						9	
		2			8			
7	3		2	4				
5		8			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. SP: Spoke – **0333 202 3390.**

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution on Monday.*

Up to 7 words - Word Finder, 8 - Wordsmith, 16 - Word Wizard, 24 - Word Master, 32 - Word Genius, 40 - Word Perfect

Toughie No 3291

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. SP: Spoke Ltd – Helpline 0333 2023390.

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a term related to rugby. *Solution on Monday.*

HOT NUCLEI – – – – – – – – –
YELP TYRANT – – – – – – – – – – –
SAXON SIT IN – – – – – – – – – – –

MIND GYM

NO 4350

Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. *Solution below.*

BEGINNER									ANSWER
35	4/5 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	-48	÷4	X BY ITSELF	+95	HALVE IT	4/11 OF THIS	x2.25	
INTERMEDIATE										ANSWER
9	x13	TRIPLE IT	-183	HALVE IT	5/6 OF THIS	60% OF THIS	x4.5	-61	÷8	
ADVANCED										ANSWER
272	÷17	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	-552	7/8 OF THIS	2/3 OF THIS	+235	√	x12	

The Telegraph
&Extra
VIP
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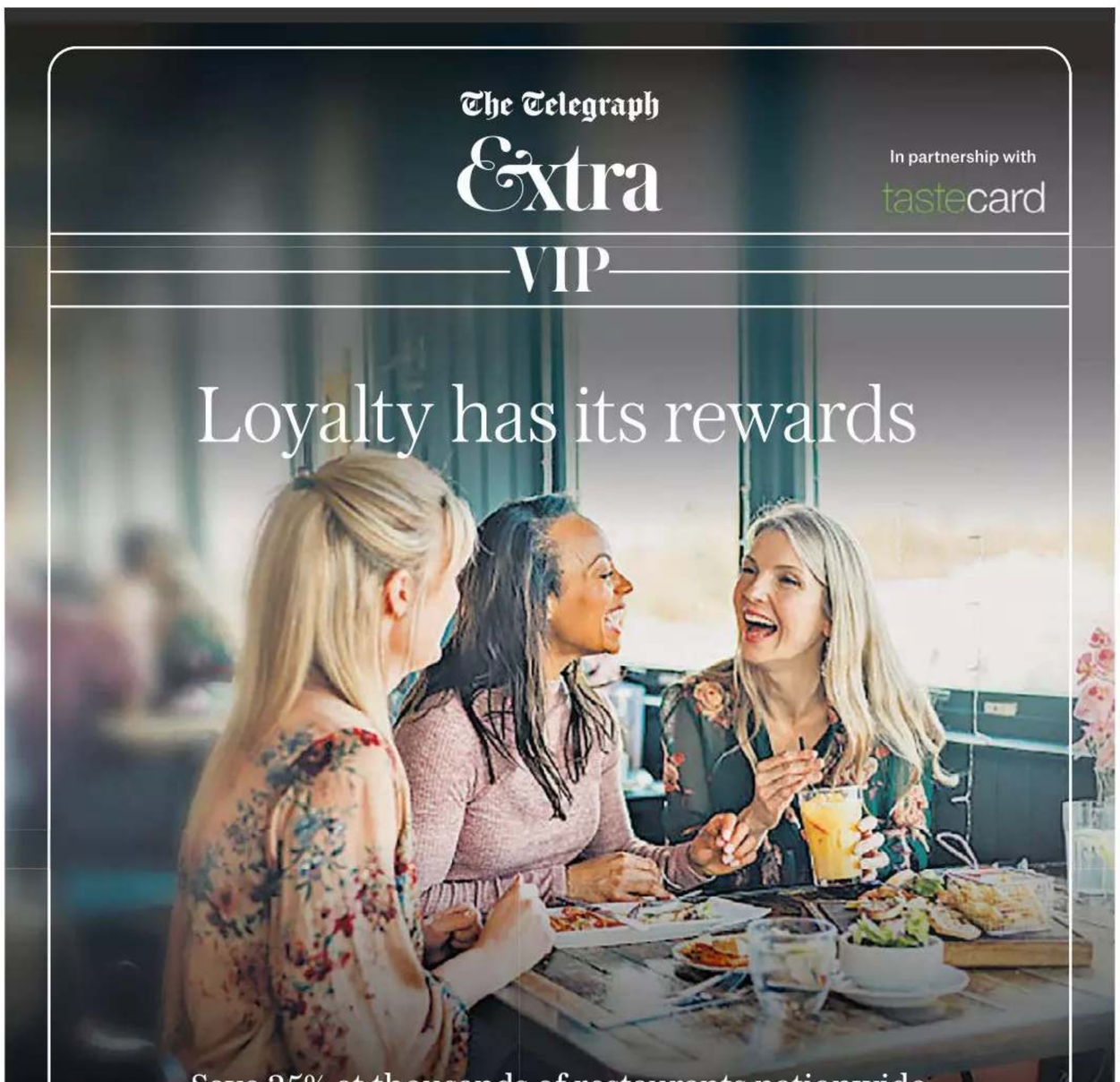

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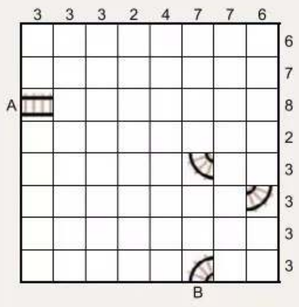
TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution on Monday.*



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 on Monday.*

TOUGH NO 4117

1	2			4	
		3		2	
					5
	4		1		
	1			6	4

PLUSWORD

NO 761

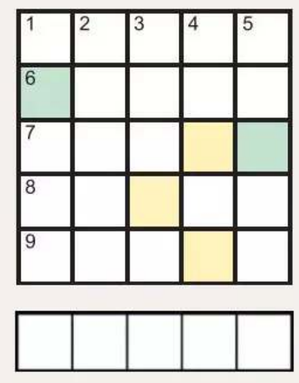
Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword.
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 on Monday.

Across

1 Begin
6 Worse, as an excuse
7 Suggest
8 Food shops
9 Upright

Down

1 Slippy playground item
2 Less wild
3 Plenty
4 Fossil
5 Assignation



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 on Monday.*

NAIL, PLAZA, FOOD, HIGH, CHAT

The Telegraph
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THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6627

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

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

Word Ladder: Long, lone, lane, land, sand, said, slid, slip.

Anagrams: 1. Spin bowler 2. Maiden over 3. Daisy-cutter.

Panagram: Catatonic, toccata, contact, atactic, tactic, octant, intact, cation, atonic, action, tonic, tinct, tacit, cotta, conic, coati, coact, canto, cacao, attic, antic, actin, tact, taco, otic, icon, coin, coca, coat, ciao, cant, acai.

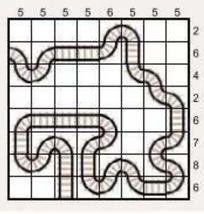
Today's Mind Gym
Beginner: 72 **Intermediate:** 16 **Advanced:** 228

PlusWord No 760

T	A	M	P	A
A	P	A	R	T
S	P	O	I	L
K	A	R	M	A
S	L	I	P	S

Repel

Train Tracks



Killer Sudoku

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

Mini Sudoku No 4116

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

Codewords 1 and 2

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

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

Kakuro No 5057

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

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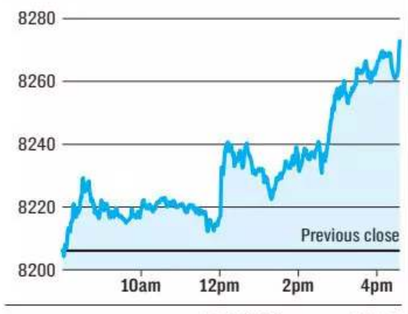
Business

MARKETS

FTSE 100



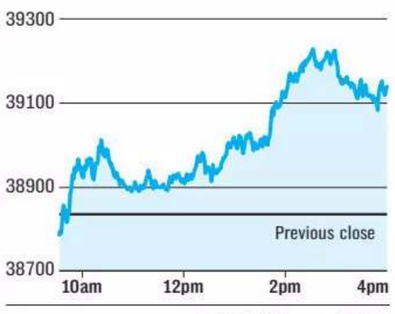
8272.46
+67.35 (+0.82pc)

52WkHigh	8474.41	
52WkLow	7215.76	
Yield	3.70pc	-0.03
P/E Ratio	13.74	+0.12

BIGGEST RISER
JD Sports Fash
125⅞p
+6⅛ (+5.09pc)

BIGGEST FALLER
Ocado Group
310p
-42½ (-12.06pc)

DOW JONES



39134.76
+299.90 (+0.77pc)

52WkHigh	40077.40	
52WkLow	32327.20	

FTSE 250	20498.72	+117.67 (+0.58pc)
FTSE All Share	4508.44	+35.07 (+0.78pc)
FTSE All Share Yield	3.65	-0.03
FTSE Eurotop 100	4112.36	+34.52 (+0.85pc)
Nikkei 225	38633.02	+62.26 (+0.16pc)
EURO STOXX 50	4947.73	+62.28 (+1.27pc)
S&P 500	5473.17	-13.86 (-0.25pc)
Nasdaq	17721.59	-140.65 (-0.79pc)

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Change
-0.47¢

£€
Rate
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Change
-0.14¢

Page 22

COMMODITIES

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$2358.64
(£1859)
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BRENT CRUDE
$85.71
(August)
+0.64 (+0.75pc)

Page 22

Work ethic slump
Next government must get Britain working again after surge in inactivity and decline in ambition

Page 18

Project Fear 2.0
Claims the Right is a disaster for France are falling flat — bosses prefer Bardella to Bolshevism
Ambrose Evans-Pritchard

Page 21

Ratcliffe: Labour's net zero plan is 'absurd'

Industrialist warns party will tax the North Sea 'out of existence' and UK will rely on gas and oil imports

By **Jonathan Leake**

SIR JIM RATCLIFFE has called Labour's net zero plans "absurd" and warned the party will tax the North Sea "out of existence", just days after the industrialist publicly backed Sir Keir Starmer.

The chief executive of chemicals giant Ineos, who also co-owns Manchester United, said Labour's plans to raise taxes on oil and gas producers meant "the North Sea will become extinct relatively soon". He said Sir Keir's plans, which also include slashing North Sea tax allowances, would undermine Britain's energy security and lead to increased imports from overseas.

Sir Jim said: "If we shut down the North Sea, what is that accomplishing? Because we'll just have to import our energy."

The attack on Labour's energy policy comes just days after Sir Jim signalled his support for the Opposition.

Earlier this week, he said: "I've met Keir a couple of times and he's a sensible guy; intelligent, thoughtful. We've not had the most successful patch with the Conservatives so the mood in the country is that we need a change."

Sir Jim's endorsement marks a change in attitude for the entrepreneur, although he remains sceptical of Labour's net zero policies.

This is reflected in his views on Labour's bid to decarbonise the UK's electricity system within the next six years. Speaking at *The Times* CEO summit in London, he described the plan as "absurd", bursting into laughter when asked if the goal was possible.

He said: "Where's it all [electricity] going to come from? Remember, gas is fundamentally important for electricity supply because the wind doesn't blow every day. You can't just run your hospitals on a windy day or go to school on a windy day.

"So when the wind doesn't produce any electricity, we have to switch all our gas-fired power stations on."

Sir Jim warned that the 2030 deadline heightened the risks of power shortages because it coincided with the expected closure of most of the UK's remaining nuclear power stations.

Hartlepool nuclear power station in Co Durham is set to close in 2026, as is

> 'Gas is fundamentally important for electricity supply because the wind doesn't blow every day'

Heysham 1 in the north-west of England. Heysham 2, on the same site, will close two years later – as will Torness, in south-east Scotland.

Unless any secure further extensions, that will leave Sizewell B as the UK's only operating nuclear station from 2028 – with the much-delayed Hinkley Point C nuclear station not expected to be in operation until at least 2031.

Labour has made clear that it plans to retain a number of gas-fired power stations as a back-up source of electricity. They would be available, along with power supplied from other countries via interconnectors, whenever weather conditions or surging demand outstripped production from renewables.

Separately to Labour's looming tax threat, the future of Britain's oil and gas industry was yesterday thrown into doubt after a landmark decision by the Supreme Court.

The court ruled that emissions from burning fossil fuels must be considered when approving new drilling sites. It is the latest development in the case brought by Sarah Finch, a Surrey resident who challenged the local council's decision to allow the expansion of an oil site at Horse Hill in 2019.

Ms Finch, acting on behalf of Weald Action Group, argued that the environmental impact had only considered emissions from the extraction of oil – and wrongly ignored those produced when the oil was burned.

The Supreme Court decision has huge implications for the entire UK oil and gas industry.

Legal experts say the decision could influence the way in which new fossil fuel projects are assessed in the UK, forcing planning officials and energy companies to justify emissions generated by oil and gas.

Complaints to HMRC up by two thirds as service falters

By **Charlotte Gifford**

COMPLAINTS to the tax office soared by two thirds last year as customer service hit an all-time low.

The number of taxpayers complaining to HM Revenue and Customs about long waiting times rose 65pc to nearly 34,000 in 2022-23, up from 20,501 people in the previous year.

Yet only 4,742 were paid compensation, according to official figures.

On average, taxpayers who complained about delays were awarded £136 by HMRC – while those who escalated their complaint got £371.

The data suggest HMRC paid £718,000 to taxpayers in 2022-23, up 94c from the £371,000 in 2021-22.

HMRC must pay redress in cases where taxpayers have suffered distress because of its poor service. The tax office may also reimburse costs incurred by a taxpayer although receipts or invoices are required.

But Graham Boar, of accountancy firm UHY Hacker Young – which obtained the figures, said taxpayers often had to fight hard to get compensation. He said: "Successfully getting meaningful compensation from HMRC for a delay is a very admin-intensive process. Many customers simply give up trying to secure the compensation they deserve."

Customer service at HMRC has fallen to its worst ever level as the under-resourced department struggles to support a record number of taxpayers.

The latest statistics show that the tax authority left around one third of phone calls unanswered between April 2023 and February this year.

A HMRC spokesman said: "We're making strong progress in improving our customer service and we continue to encourage people to save time by using our highly rated online services."

THOMAS KRYCH/STORY PICTURE AGENCY

In the picture
Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor of the Exchequer, stops for a selfie near London Bridge, south London.

Bank of England accused of 'political decision' to hold rates

By **Tim Wallace**

THE Bank of England has been accused of making a "political decision" after holding interest rates at a 16-year high despite inflation falling to its target.

Conservative MPs accused officials on the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of being unfairly and unduly swayed by the forthcoming election. Rishi Sunak's last hope of a cut to borrowing costs before the general election was dashed yesterday after the MPC voted to keep interest rates at 5.25pc.

The decision to maintain borrowing costs at the same level for the seventh consecutive meeting came despite inflation falling back to the Bank's 2pc target this week. Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg, a former business secretary, said: "It is a political decision by the Bank. Inflation is on target and rates need to be cut. That we are in an election period ought to make no difference but the Bank has made a decision based on short-term politics rather than economics."

The minutes of the MPC's latest meeting said the election "was not relevant" to the decision to hold interest rates unchanged. The minutes said: "The committee noted that the timing of the general election on July 4 was not relevant to its decision at this meeting, which would as usual be made on the basis of what was judged necessary to achieve the 2pc inflation target sustainably in the medium term."

Andrew Bailey, the Bank's Governor, said borrowing costs needed to stay higher for longer to squeeze lingering price pressures out of the economy. While headline inflation has fallen back to target, prices in the dominant services sector are still rising faster than officials would like.

Mr Bailey said: "It's good news that inflation has returned to our 2pc target. We need to be sure that inflation will stay low and that's why we've decided to hold rates at 5.25pc for now." The Bank also faced criticism from the Left. George Dibb, an economist at the Left-leaning think tank the Institute for Public Policy Research, said high rates were holding back the economy.

"The Bank of England has tightened the screws too much for too long, holding back the UK's economic recovery. It should have followed the European Central Bank by starting to cut rates today," he said.

Of the MPC's nine members, only two – Swati Dhingra and Sir Dave Ramsden – voted to cut the Bank Rate to 5pc. The remaining seven, including the Governor, voted to hold.

For some of these policymakers, "the policy decision was finely balanced", the minutes of the MPC meeting showed. The remarks will be taken as a sign that cuts could soon be on the way.

Recent falls in the headline rate of inflation have largely been driven by falling energy bills, linked to fluctuating prices in international markets.

Mr Bailey and his colleagues fear underlying price pressures in the domestic economy are still lingering. Services prices are still rising by 5.7pc annually, which the MPC said is "somewhat higher than projected".

No change was made to the pace of quantitative tightening.

The Bank now holds £696bn of government bonds, down from £875bn at the peak of the quantitative easing programme.

Daily Mail sues its noisy neighbours

By **James Warrington**

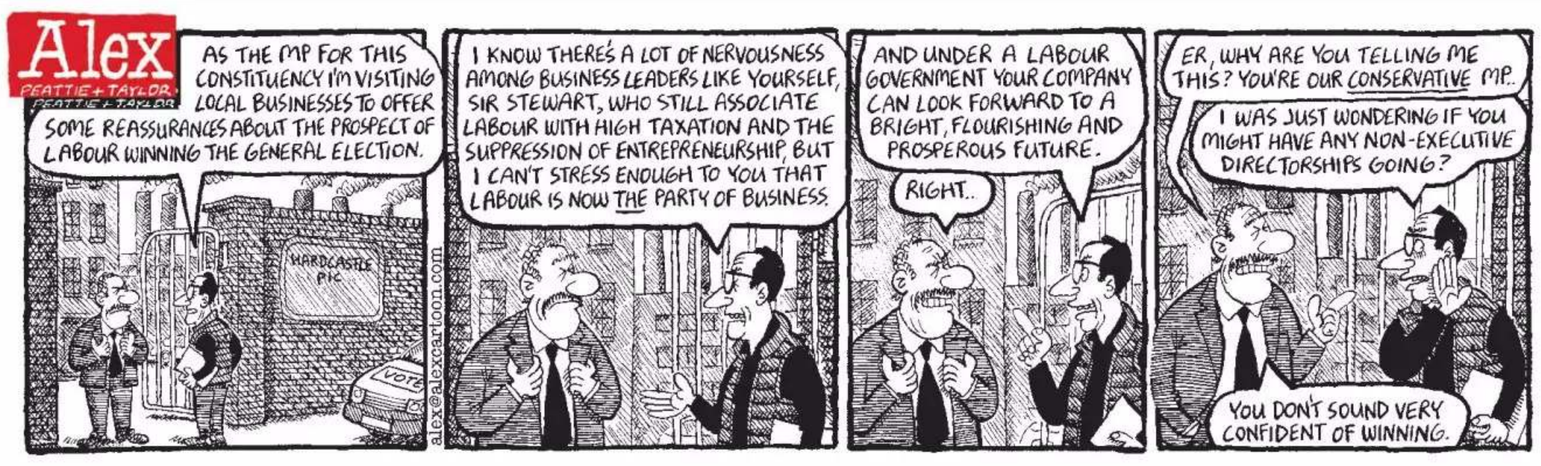
THE publisher of the *Daily Mail* is suing its luxury gym neighbour over complaints that people dropping weights has caused the office's walls to vibrate.

Associated Newspapers, which owns the *Mail* titles as well as *Metro* and the *i*, has filed a High Court claim against Equinox, which occupies the sixth floor of the publisher's Kensington HQ. The newspaper accused Equinox of "excessive and intrusive noise and vibration" caused by gym-goers dropping weights.

In one incident in February, the vibrations caused an air-conditioning unit to fall from the ceiling of the fourth floor, "narrowly" missing an employee. The company said it was forced to ask all staff on the floor to work at home for two weeks to reduce the risk of accidents. On another occasion, artwork fell from the office walls.

New York-based Equinox opened its gym on Kensington High Street in 2012.

It has two other London branches in Bishopsgate and St James's. It is understood that a judge rejected Associated Newspaper's request for an interim injunction at a hearing earlier this month but ruled that the case can proceed. Equinox declined to comment.



How Britain gave up on work and left it to foreigners

Labour shortages are holding back businesses and a lack of skills is hitting growth, writes *Melissa Lawford*

When Stuart Forrester and his wife founded their business and marketing consultancy in 2006, they turned to an unlikely place to source new recruits: the school playground.

The couple began hiring mothers they had met on the school run as freelancers, with the company using eight regular contractors by 2019. However, as their business grew, they hit a wall with recruitment.

The Forrester Corporation needed people to do more work but their freelancers started turning down the hours. "We started to get told, 'I'm at 16 hours [a week], that's where I want to stay'," Forrester says.

Many of their freelancers were on benefits, which they would start losing if they worked more than 16 hours a week, as well as spending less time with their children.

Forrester had to find other ways to fulfil their client contracts. Today, he regularly uses a network of 13 contractors who are based primarily in the Philippines and charge 50pc to 80pc less than their British counterparts. This is emblematic of a deep-seated problem that is crippling British business and poses an existential threat to Labour's headline pledge to achieve the highest sustained growth in the G7 if they win the July election: the UK's workforce has lost its dynamism.

Since the financial crisis, productivity growth has been the slowest since the mid-18th century. The UK has had the lowest business investment in the G7 for three years in a row. And economic inactivity has soared since the pandemic began, with nearly 1.1m working-age adults dropping out of the labour market.

There are now 9.43m people who are neither employed nor looking for work, a 13-year high.

This workforce exodus has left businesses scrambling to find staff. In the spring of 2022, the number of job vacancies in the UK hit a record high of 1.3m, up 59pc since before Covid.

This number has been falling steadily since, but this spring there were still 904,000 unfilled jobs, more than at any point since the financial crisis – and a figure that roughly matches the post-pandemic rise in economic inactivity.

Exasperated employers are increasingly giving up on British workers altogether. According to the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, the number of companies registering to become sponsors to hire from overseas has doubled since 2021, hitting more than 76,000 last year.

Alexandra Hall-Chen, principal policy adviser for employment at the Institute of Directors says: "One of our members said they had 200 applications for one job, but only one was from a British national. They approached the person and they didn't hear back."

In the year to March, the number of work visas granted to main applicants hit 315,018, up 130pc compared with before the pandemic began in 2019. This was largely driven by a boom in carers and healthcare workers.

The lack of skills is hitting growth. "We're absolutely hearing from our members that skills and labour shortages are holding their businesses back," says Hall-Chen. "It is slowly getting worse."

According to the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC), nearly two thirds of firms are struggling with a skills shortage. "The brutal numbers tell the brutal truth," says Baroness Lane-Fox, president of the BCC and co-founder of Last Minute.

What could change under a Labour government? Sir Keir Starmer has outlined a New Deal for Working People, which includes introducing day-one rights, ending the usual qualifying periods for rights such as sick pay and parental leave.

Labour hopes it will encourage more people to work.

"We're talking about jobs where there are enough people who are able to do those jobs, but they just don't want to do those jobs. If you ask why not, it's always about pay and conditions," says Alan Manning, professor at the London School of Economics (LSE) and former chairman of the Government's Migration Advisory Committee.

Businesses are open to reform, but there are concerns about increased costs and reduced flexibility in the labour market, says Hall-Chen.

"From our clients' perspective, the big question is around, 'What is my risk going to look like going forward? How should I manage that risk? And what is going to be my best path to bring in new talent?'" says Michael Stull, country manager at ManpowerGroup UK, one of Britain's biggest recruitment agencies.

Day-one rights will increase the cost of making a hiring mistake, he adds.

Insiders say there will likely be wiggle room during the consultation process as Labour will take pains to avoid unintended consequences. "It's clear that the union-dominated era of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership is very much gone," says one former staffer.

What is clear is that without major intervention, the skills shortage will only get worse.

The number of 16 to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training (Neets) has surged by 137,000 since the pandemic began to hit 900,000 in the first three months of this year, according to the Office for National Statistics.

This was the highest number in nearly a decade and means more than one in every eight people in this age group is participating in neither the workforce nor the education system.

School absence has increased since Covid, while attainment has dropped. The share of pupils meeting expected standards when they leave primary school in England is in decline, falling from 65pc in 2019 to 60pc in 2023.

The skills gap also has an insidious feedback loop. It is taking a toll on the existing workforce. BCC research found that 68pc of companies have increased the workload of their employees.

A lack of skills in a team hits morale and wellbeing, says Lane-Fox.

"If you're working in a team that is not staffed properly, more work might be falling on you, or you can't get things done, or you don't have the skills to do what you need to do. That must be a real confidence knock on you," she says.

A large chunk of the rise in economic inactivity is because Britain is getting sicker. The number of people out of the workforce because they were long-term sick hit a new record high of 2.83m between February and April, up 718,000 since the pandemic began.

Businesses are reporting a rise in staff absence rates, likely tied to employee mental health problems, says Hall-Chen.

"It's harder for young people today, they are just under more stress. The world that they are living in is riskier," says the LSE's Manning.

> 'It's harder for young people today, they are just under more stress. The world that they are living in is riskier'

Lockdowns had a multi-pronged impact on the workforce. Covid made it harder for young people to get work experience and develop soft skills. The shift to remote working meant that people with in-demand skills are now demanding more flexibility in their work life balance, says Stull.

It also means fewer people physically relocate for jobs and it has changed the role of managers, he adds. Some have adapted better than others.

Years of economic and political turbulence have brought stagnation. "In a world where there is more risk and uncertainty, people become reluctant to voluntarily move jobs and find better jobs," says Manning.

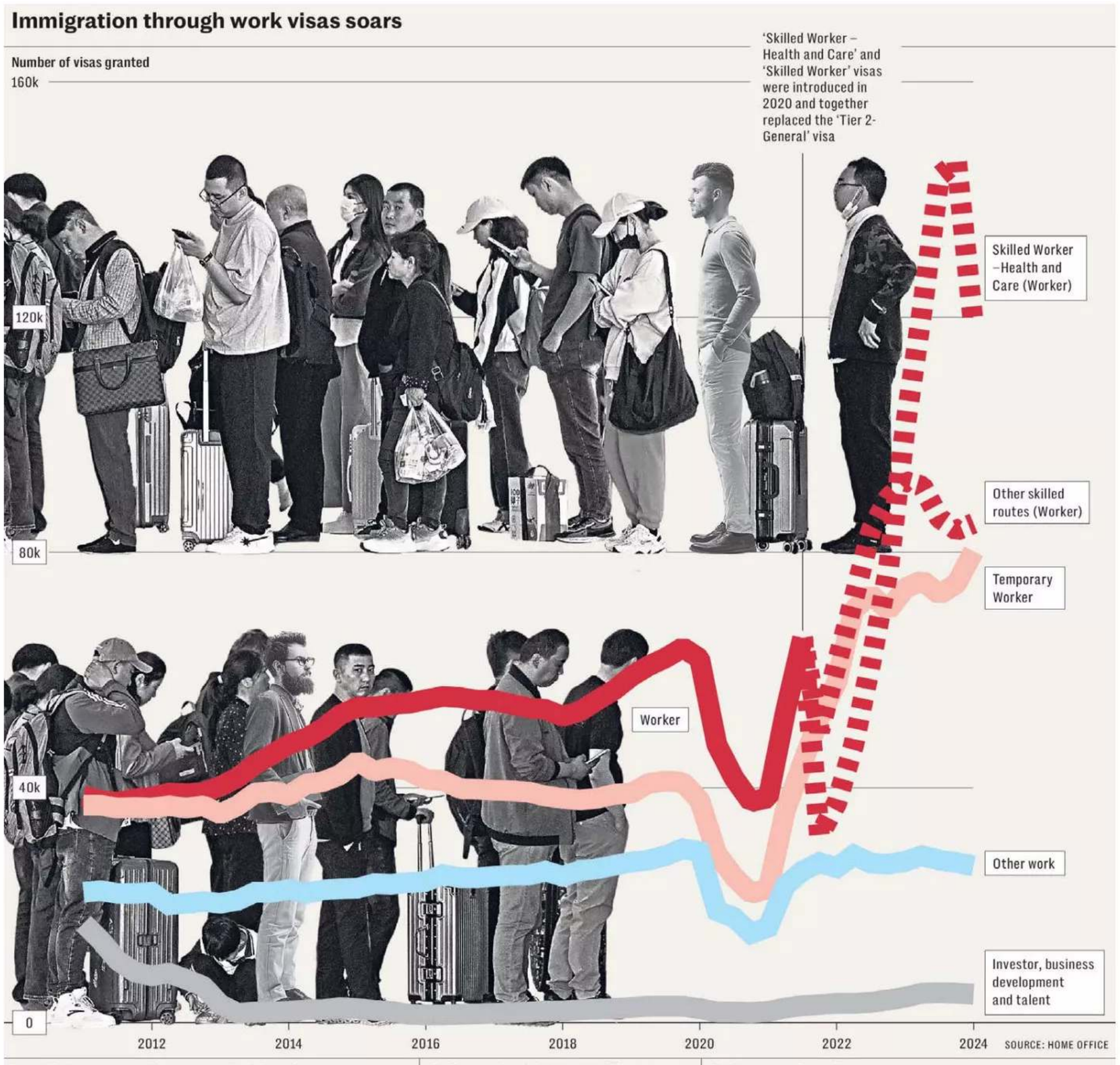
At the same time, businesses have cut back on investment in training up their workforces because they have been firefighting inflation in their supply chains and post-Brexit trade barriers, says Lane-Fox. And attitudes to work are changing. "Younger generations just have higher expectations around work than 10 years ago. There's more of an emphasis on having a purpose and there is more of an emphasis on balance," says Stull.

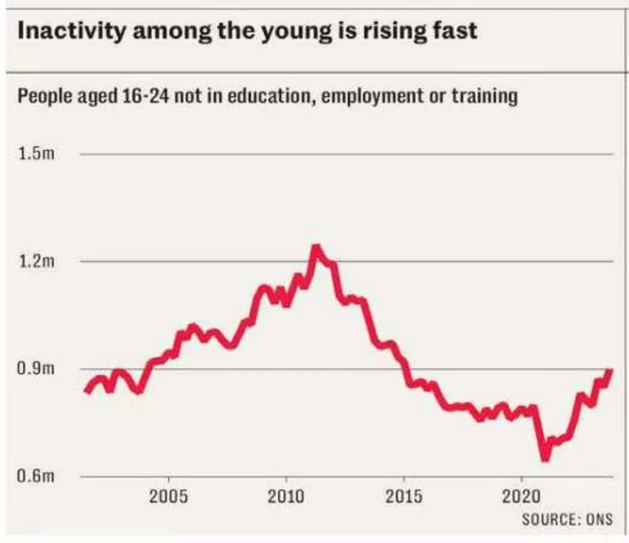
> 'We're not updating businesses and making them productive, so they grow with the economy and be competitive'

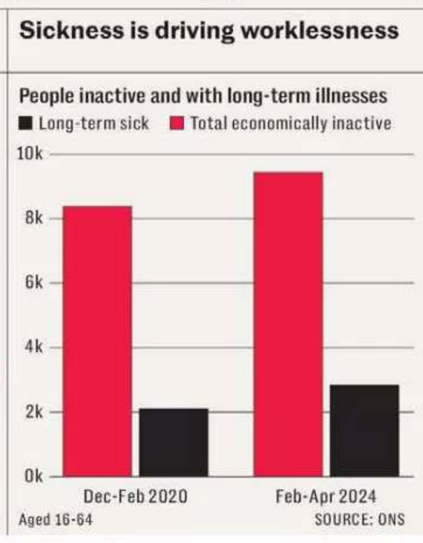
A shortage of digital skills is a particularly worrying drag on business development because it is making it harder for firms to harness new technology such as artificial intelligence, says Lane-Fox. "It means we're not modernising our businesses and making them productive and enabling them to grow in the direction that the economy is naturally tilting in. That really matters because that means they won't be competitive."

British workers may already be uncompetitive. For Forrester, using overseas contractors only works for tasks with very specific briefs.

But the quality of the work is excellent and the time difference often means the turnaround is the next day, he says. "The work ethic seems to be superb."







The 'sticky valve' on Boeing's rocket that left astronauts stuck in space

US aerospace giant facing further scrutiny over safety, report *Matthew Field* and *Matt Oliver*

Boeing's Starliner was sitting on Cape Canaveral's launchpad in Florida when a small but crucial issue with the spacecraft's 191ft booster rocket brought the countdown to a halt. The US aerospace giant had been hired by Nasa to ferry two astronauts – Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore – to the International Space Station (ISS) under a contract worth $4.2bn (£3.3bn).

But on May 6, engineers found that a valve used to regulate the rocket's flow of oxidiser – which is mixed with fuel in a combustion chamber to create thrust – was creating an audible buzzing sound, forcing them abort the mission. This first "sticky valve" has been followed by a cascade of further issues. Yet, on June 5, Nasa and Boeing pushed ahead with the launch anyway.

Now, with the malfunctioning Starliner and its passengers stranded in orbit for two weeks longer than planned, it is a decision they may regret.

"The company is in a deep crisis. The optics of it are terrible," says Rob Adlard, the chief executive of British space launch company Gravitilab. "Space is super hard, but it does contrast with SpaceX's successes."

The Starliner problems are a fresh blow to Boeing, which has been battling a reputational crisis since a major safety failure on one of its 737 Max 9 passenger planes in January.

At 16,000ft, about nine minutes into an Alaska Airlines flight that took off from Portland, Oregon, pilots were forced to turn around and make an emergency landing after a door plug blew out – depressurising the cabin and leaving a hole in the side of the aircraft. In the wake of the incident, Boeing has faced tough scrutiny from regulators and calls from customers to overhaul its approach to safety.

The seemingly small valve issue found on May 6, which affected the Starliner's Atlas V booster rocket (built in a joint venture between Boeing and Lockheed Martin), is typical of the minuscule problems that can play havoc with complex rocket launches.

On spacecraft, these valves control the flow of important gases such as helium, as well as oxygen and other propellants. Boeing was previously forced to fix corroded valves in the Starliner, which were found in 2021 after 13 failed on the launch pad.

Starliner, which was originally commissioned for a crewed mission in 2017, has been plagued with issues that have cost Boeing more than $1bn, from software glitches to parachute problems. The setbacks mean Boeing has fallen behind Elon Musk's rocket company, SpaceX, which has also partnered with Nasa to ferry astronauts into space. SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft has been carrying out regular trips to the ISS since 2020.

MIGUEL J RODRIGUEZ CARRILLO/AFP

> 'The company is in a deep crisis. Space is super hard, but it does contrast with SpaceX's successes'

The United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket with Boeing's CST-100 Starliner spacecraft launches from Cape Canaveral in Florida

After May's discovery of Atlas V's faulty rocket valve, more problems followed. As engineers tackled the problem, they realised that Starliner was suffering from a helium leak.

The gas is used as a pressurant to push propellant into the thrusters, meaning a leak can cause them to fail. Worryingly, during the resulting testing, the leak – which was traced to a bad seal – appeared to worsen, Steve Stitch, Nasa's crew programme manager, said at the time.

Fixing the leak would have required separating Starliner from the Atlas rocket, causing longer delays, and Nasa and Boeing decided it was possible to proceed safely anyway. Mark Nappi, Boeing's Starliner manager, even said the delay had a "silver lining" because the company had discovered the helium issue ahead of the mission.

Starliner eventually launched at 10.52am on June 5. But mid-flight, with its crew sleeping, more helium leaks were detected and five of the spacecraft's 28 thrusters failed as it approached the ISS. Wilmore and Sunita were forced to undertake manual manoeuvres in space in a docking sequence that took an hour longer than planned. A further valve issue was also uncovered, with one valve in the "reaction control system", which helps steer the spacecraft, failing to shut properly. Starliner is now relying on a backup "B valve" instead.Now, Nasa and Boeing have the complicated task of double-checking Starliner's systems and troubleshooting as many of the in-orbit issues as possible to ensure a safe return home.

Starliner had been scheduled to return on June 14, but now will not undock until June 26.

Boeing and Nasa are confident the craft can return, but they are being kept in orbit to conduct more tests on why the problems keep occurring. Stitch said the team wanted to "make sure we're really ready to come home". Nappi, of Boeing, said: "We have a good, safe spacecraft."

Adlard, of Gravitilab, said the issues sounded "fixable", adding that some problems may have emerged as components "perform differently in the absence of gravity".

Should Starliner experience further delays, the ISS has months' worth of food supplies, while the craft can remain docked for up to 45 days.

While helium has been gradually leaking out of the craft, it still has enough for 70 hours of flight – and it only needs seven to make it home.

Nasa, at least, insists its astronauts have confidence in Boeing's craft, with hopes that its next flight can go ahead early 2025. "You can tell every time they get in the vehicle," said Stitch, "they love Starliner."

‘Low fertility future’ looms as births plunge

Birth rate in Britain plunges to a record low, mirroring trend in world’s wealthiest nations

By **Lucy Burton**

BRITAIN’S birth rate has fallen to a record low as a growing number of women shun parenthood. New figures show that UK births have almost halved since 1960, mirroring a broader trend across the world’s wealthiest economies.

The UK’s birth rate is currently 1.53 children per woman, which the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) classes as well below the 2.1 needed to maintain a country’s population at its current level.

Over the past decade the UK’s birth rate has fallen by 20.5pc, which is the largest drop of any country in the G7, according to the OECD. The average number of children per woman across the OECD’s 38 member countries fell from 3.3 in 1960 to 1.5 in 2022.

This led the Paris-based organisation to warn that rich countries must prepare for a “low-fertility future”.

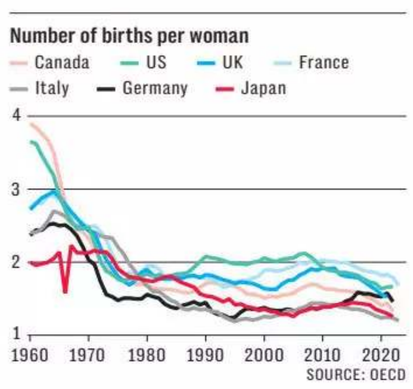
Declining birth rates could lead to a fall in the world’s population by the next decade, the OECD said, warning that deaths could outpace births for the first time in at least half a century. An ageing population could place “significant social and economic pressures on governments”, it added.

The organisation said countries with a falling birth rate must consider ways to mitigate “the economic and fiscal implications of a potentially shrinking workforce”. It said that issues such as a lack of affordable housing could no longer be ignored as a growing number of young people are forced to live with their parents.

Stefano Scarpetta, the director of the OECD, said: “Facilitating parenthood decisions requires comprehensive and reliable support to families.

“This includes affordable housing, family policies that help reconcile work and family life, and coherence with other public policies that promote access to quality jobs and career progression of women.”

G7 fertility rate is falling



There had been hopes that a post-Covid baby boom in 2021 would continue after the pandemic.

However, birth rates have weakened amid growing financial pressures, including high nursery fees, rising house prices and stagnating pay.

Seventeen countries, including the UK, were classed as having record low birth rates, according to the latest data.

However, Britain’s rate of 1.53 remains above Italy (1.2), Germany (1.2), Canada (1.3) and Japan (1.3).

The OECD said recent global crises such as Covid may have spread a “feeling of uncertainty and unpredictability” for young people, adding that “increased labour market and housing insecurities” may complicate a transition to parenthood.

It said that policies that encourage women to combine work and family life “leads to better economic outcomes and higher fertility rates”.

Economists have suggested offsetting the impact of a shrinking working-age population by raising the retirement age or allowing greater levels of immigration. Data show that those in the world’s richest economies are now having their first child on average at the age of 29 in 2022, compared with 26 in 2000.

German drivers shun EVs as sales drop across EU

By **Adam Mawardi**

SALES of electric vehicles (EVs) plunged across Europe last month, fuelled by a sharp drop-off in demand in Germany.

Official figures show that sales for new EVs fell by 30pc in Germany last month, which led to a broader fall of 12.5pc across the Continent.

It comes a week after Brussels launched a crackdown on an influx of cheap EV imports from China, which they claim have benefited from unfair state subsidies. The European Commission unveiled a raft of new trade tariffs of up to 48pc on EVs, including those made by MG, Volvo and BYD – all of which are Chinese-owned.

However, the measures are at risk of increasing EV prices for drivers and sparking a diplomatic row with Beijing, which has threatened to retaliate with its own tariffs. The new duties will come into force from July 5 unless the EU strikes a deal with China. Against this backdrop, data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association yesterday revealed that the year-on-year market share of fully electric cars fell from 13.8pc to 12.5pc in May.

> ‘Europe’s clean car rules are the Continent’s strongest driver of EV sales and more affordable cars’

As well as a drop in demand across Germany, Holland also reported a 12.5pc decline in new EV sales. Belgium and France were the only key markets to increase EV sales in May, growing 44.8pc and 5.4pc respectively.

According to environmental campaign group Transport & Environment, the sales slump is partly driven by carmakers prioritising combustion-engine cars and luxury EVs. The Brussels-based clean group said that carmakers are holding back more affordable EVs ahead of tougher EU carbon emission restrictions coming into force next year.

Lucien Mathieu, cars director at Transport & Environment, said: “Europe’s clean car rules are the Continent’s strongest driver of EV sales and more affordable vehicles.”

CHRISTIAN BRUNA/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Last stand Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Austrian-US actor and ex-governor of California, delivers a speech at the Austrian World Summit. The event focuses on implementing the Paris climate agreement and UN sustainable development goals.

Ocado hit by delay to robot warehouse in Canada

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

SHARES in online grocery group Ocado have slumped after a Canadian supermarket giant that had hired it to build a new automated warehouse paused the launch.

Sobeys, which had been planning to launch its new warehouse in Vancouver, said it had “taken actions to decrease costs and increase its flexibility to serve customers”. The supermarket and Ocado have also agreed to “end terms related to their mutual exclusivity” agreement.

Ocado’s stock fell as much as 18pc yesterday afternoon after revealing the setback.

The two companies first struck a partnership deal in early 2018 that would lead to Ocado building warehouses and powering its online operations through the Ocado “smart platform”.

The Vancouver site was originally planned to launch in 2025.

William Woods, an analyst at Bernstein, said: “We see this as bad news for Ocado as Canada has been performing well and adds to another partner who is pulling back (alongside Kroger and problems at Coles).

“We think this is related to the weak rebound in online volumes across all markets, which is challenging the unit economics of ramping the customer fulfilment centres.”

Ocado said: “As the online channel accelerates, Ocado is supporting its partners to grow volumes and expand profitably, drawing on the experience of more than 20 years operating and growing an online grocery retailer in the UK, one of the world’s most competitive grocery markets.

“As part of this programme, Ocado and Sobeys have decided for now to focus their joint resources into driving order and sales volumes across the current network.”

Ocado added that the launch date for Vancouver was not cancelled and will be under “regular review, and the site will be able to commission and scale quickly when required”.

Empire, the group that owns Sobeys, said it would pay a one-time fee of $11.9m (£9.4m) to end its exclusivity arrangement with Ocado.

Luggage grabbers alarm airline chiefs

By **Christopher Jasper**

AIRLINE passengers have been warned not to grab luggage in an emergency, after dozens of deaths in Russia were blamed on people trying to collect their baggage during an evacuation.

Industry bosses are increasingly concerned about the safety risk posed by people collecting their belongings before evacuating stricken aircraft.

The International Air Transport Association (Iata) called attention to the issue at a recent gathering of airline chiefs, saying a refusal to head straight for the exit may lead to deaths.

Dozens of fatalities in a crash-landing in Russia were partly blamed on passengers ignoring the rules and blocking the aisle as they sought to retrieve their bags while the plane burned.

Regulators require airlines to run test evacuations to establish that a plane can be emptied within 90 seconds.

However, the propensity to reach for cases and laptops stowed in overhead lockers means that real-life evacuations are often very different from the tests.

Nick Careen, head of safety, security and operations at IATA, which represents 330 airlines, said the plethora of mobile phone footage showing people descending escape chutes while clutching their luggage has highlighted the extent of the problem. He said: “We have seen many examples where evacuations have gone very well, actually more of them than not.

“But when they don’t go well – and we do see examples like that becoming pretty prevalent – it’s something we need to latch on to.”

He added: “Fines never work, unfortunately. Despite the fact that this is a global standard and a requirement on every flight, the propensity is that it is still a challenge.

“We need to educate the customer on why the regulations are there.”

Evacuation tests usually assume that the sole motivation is to get to the exit.

However, in real-world cases, passengers often also want their belongings.

In 2015, British Airways passengers were filmed dragging bags away from a jet that caught fire in Las Vegas, while in one of the most shocking incidents in 2019, people grabbed their luggage as an Aeroflot plane erupted in flames on a Moscow runway, leading to 41 deaths.

In January, all 379 people aboard a Japan Airlines jet that burst into flames after hitting a smaller plane at Tokyo Haneda airport were successfully evacuated. Passengers abandoned their hand luggage and even their pets to escape down three emergency slides.

But David Soucie, a former Federal Aviation Administration official, said that had the accident happened in the US, “it would have been a very different scenario”.

People walk away from a crashed Aeroflot plane with their luggage in Moscow in 2019

NatWest buys Sainsbury’s Bank in £2.5bn deal

By **Michael Bow**

NATWEST has snapped up Sainsbury’s Bank in a deal worth £2.5bn, clearing the way for the state-owned lender to pick up an extra 1m customers.

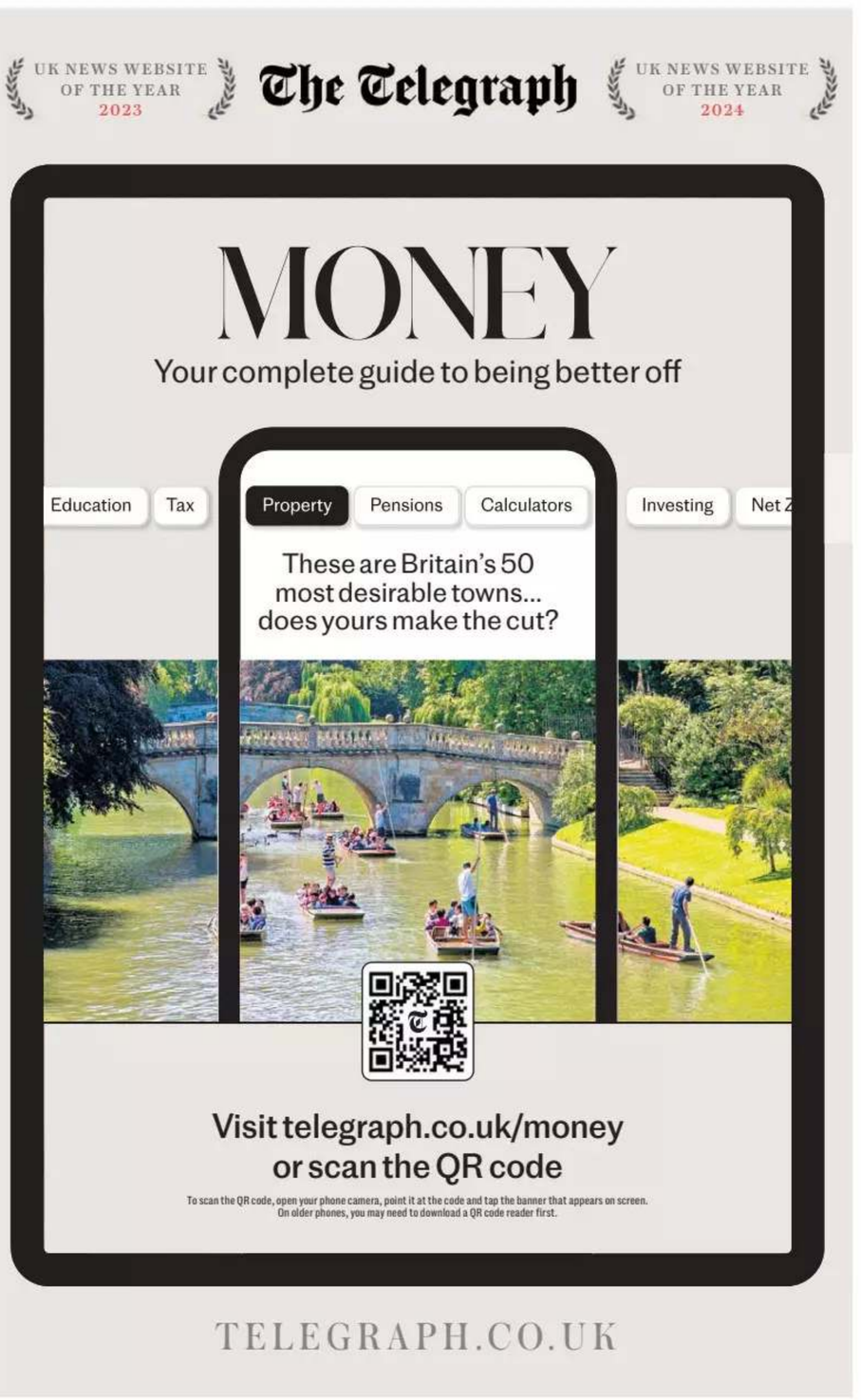
The takeover signals an acceleration of the lender’s growth plans under Paul Thwaite, who was appointed as chief executive this year. Under the terms of the deal, NatWest will inherit £1.4bn of personal loans and £1.1bn of credit card balances, accounting for 1m Sainsbury’s customers. It forms part of a push by NatWest to bulk up in the unsecured personal lending and credit card market.

Sainsbury’s had been seeking a buyer of the bank for some time after indicating its desire to cut exposure to financial services. However, as part of the agreement, Sainsbury’s will pay NatWest a fee of £125m to take on its operations.

> ‘This is a great opportunity to accelerate the growth of our retail banking’

The deal mirrors a similar agreement struck by Barclays, which acquired Tesco Bank earlier this year. Recent consolidation across the sector has also led to Nationwide’s takeover of Virgin Money and Coventry Building Society’s acquisition of Co-operative Bank.

Mr Thwaite said: “This transaction is a great opportunity to accelerate the growth of our retail banking business at attractive returns.”



The Telegraph

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Business is backing the hard-Right in France

AMBROSE EVANS-PRITCHARD

Bosses would rather deal with a Le Pen government than face either of the two ghastly alternatives

French big business has issued the ritual anathema against the hard-Right – but this time its heart is not in it. The signs are ever clearer that corporate bosses would rather deal with a Le Pen government than face either of the two ghastly alternatives. Everybody has written off Emmanuel Macron completely.

The business lobby Medef is more worried about the Gothic fiscal plans of the Left's Front Populaire, running a close second in the polls. It aims to roll back the retirement age to 60 and reverse every economic reform pushed through by Mr Macron since 2017.

"Their programme is an absolute red flag. It would lead to €200bn (£169bn) of extra public spending each year, financed by taxes or borrowing. That will end badly," said Patrick Martin, the group's president. The original Front Populaire of Leon Blum in 1936 triggered systemic capital flight – mostly to London – and forced France off the Gold Standard in short order. The experiment ended two years later in full crisis, a denouement forgotten in the iconography of today's Left.

Medef is just as worried by what it calls the "catastrophe scenario" of another hung parliament, this time dominated by two irreconcilable blocs on each wing, with Mr Macron's dying centre reduced to a skeleton. It is the most likely outcome. The constitution forbids another election for a year.

Europe 1 says Mr Macron is toying with Article 16, which would give him powers of a Roman dictator to uphold the "regular functioning" of the French state, subject to judicial review after 60 days. Charles de Gaulle invoked Article 16 after the Algerian Putsch in 1961. Such drastic action today would risk civil resistance.

French business circles take comfort from the hard-Right template in Italy. Economists warned in late 2022 that Giorgia Meloni was preparing a spending blitz worth 10pc of GDP.

"Lo Spread" jumped 150 points from its Draghi-era nadir. *Corriere della Sera* solemnly predicted a showdown with Brussels.

Nothing of the sort happened. Meloni was astute enough to pick her fights, focusing on migrants and the culture war. She needed money from the EU's pandemic recovery fund, and she needed to keep the European Central Bank sweet so that it would "skew" its balance sheet towards Italian needs. She understood the lesson of the Berlusconi coup, when the ECB manipulated bond yields to force regime change.

France is a different political animal. "It is out of the question that the French will ever follow our path in Italy. Le Pen will never swallow the austerity pill, and the ECB would never dare to play the spread game with France," said senator Claudio Borghi from Italy's Lega party.

Even so, the National Rally has been tactically vague about its economic plan, a fudge that mixes Marine Le Pen's anti-American, protectionist, welfare socialism with the protean market corporatism of the 28-year-old Jordan Bardella, immigrant child of Italian and Algerian origins, and the party's prime minister-in-waiting.

The manifesto lavishes economic confetti. If taken literally, it would add €80bn to the deficit and provoke war with Brussels. It is best understood as mood music.

Mr Bardella has quietly delayed most of the policies until after an audit of the public accounts, giving him political cover for a wholesale retreat later, should he win an absolute majority. "Bardella has already sold out completely. It is not the patriotic economic model that I wanted," said Bernard Monot, a former Euro-MP and once the party's chief economic strategist.

"He's changed the party's position on fundamental positions. He's pro-Zelensky and pro-Nato, just like Meloni. He is entirely compatible with liberal Atlanticism," he said.

Mr Bardella assured business leaders that his party would uphold France's treaty commitments.

His body language all points to a concordat with capital. "I have come to reassure you. Financial constraints oblige us to make choices," he told a Medef forum yesterday.

> 'It is hard to see how Mr Macron can retrieve anything from his act of political vandalism'

To misuse an historical parallel – the National Rally is not fascist – it resembles the courtship between Adolf Hitler and German big business in the wild year of 1932, when corporate barons concluded that they could work with the Nazis after all. Hitler, in turn, dropped the anti-capitalist wing of his movement like a hot potato. The money flowed.

Mr Monot said there is nobody left in the party who understands economics, so it should prove easy for the Medef elites to co-opt the National Rally – but first there may be trouble.

"It is the Liz Truss syndrome, and it is going to lead to a French debt crisis. Bardella used to be my parliamentary assistant and I can assure you that this lad has no training and is not fit to be prime minister at a dangerous moment. That is why I slammed the door and walked out of this sect of know-nothings," he said.

It is hard to see how Mr Macron can retrieve anything from his act of political vandalism. An atmosphere of *sauve qui peut* reigns. His own bitter deputies cannot forgive him for what he has done. They no longer put his picture on their flyers.

"Macron's record is quite remarkable: he has fanned the flames of populism, and broken the responsible parties of Left and Right, without building anything to replace them," said Jean-Louis Debré, a veteran Gaulliste and ex-head of the Constitutional Court.

The Macron meltdown puzzles those who live in a world of macroeconomic data and Excel sheets. France has the lowest unemployment rate for decades. Its growth over the past seven years has outperformed Germany or Italy, though flattered by the worst structural deficit in the G7. It tells us that there are larger matters in the life of a nation than a decimal point of GDP here or there, and one of them is the spirit of democracy.

Mr Macron betrayed this when he refused to accept the loss of his parliamentary majority two years ago, convincing himself that he had a political right to bulldoze his way through as if nothing had changed.

He has governed ever since by decree (49.3), imposing his pension reform against the will of parliament, against all eight trade unions, and against the vast majority of the French public. That is why they have turned on him.

Mr Debré told *Le Point* that the deeper cause is "a worry about uncontrolled immigration, and a palpable sense of national decline, and an intolerable feeling of insecurity that nobody is tackling".

Mr Macron's diminishing band of groupies are still trying to discern some brilliant masterstroke in his snap election. The truth is more banal: he could not bear to be a lame-duck president for three years after his crushing defeat in the European elections. So he has thrown over the tables in a petulant and reckless move. France must now live with the consequences of his heroic narcissism.

Head to head
A farmer soothes her Hereford as it is judged at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh. The event aims to showcase "the best of food, farming and rural life".

JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY

The 'big four' banks have just strengthened their grip on Britain as supermarkets give up

BEN MARLOW

Attempts by minnows and fringe players to break the grip of the high street giants have been a failure

The entry of supermarkets into the world of banking always felt like one of the more implausible business propositions of recent times.

A quarter of a century later, Sainsbury's has finally given up on the idea that it might be able to flog someone a mortgage while they were doing the weekly shop.

As Sir Philip Hampton neatly put it earlier this year: "You wouldn't buy your potatoes from HSBC."

So what possessed the industry's finest minds to think the reverse would be true and families would one day be arriving back from Aldi with a week's worth of baked beans, 12 lavatory rolls and some new home insurance?

Presumably, Sir Philip wasn't always such a non-believer, given that he was chairman of Sainsbury's for five years in the late 2000s.

Yet, if the retailer's decision to offload its banking arm isn't confirmation of this failed foray, then the fact it is being sold to NatWest – one of the very banks it was hoping to unseat – surely is.

What's more, as a measure of just how badly things have gone, Sainsbury's is paying NatWest £125m to get 1m customer accounts off its hands, along with £1.4bn of unsecured personal loans, £1.1bn of credit card balances and about £2.6bn of customer deposits.

It comes just months after Barclays snapped up Tesco's banking operations – £8bn of credit card loans and unsecured personal loans in a £600m deal. This embarrassing retreat is confirmation that the supermarket industry's efforts to expand into financial services has ended in total defeat.

But isn't it also proof of something even bigger: that wider attempts to break the grip of the high street banking giants have been an abject failure?

If a company of Sainsbury's considerable size can't do it – or Tesco, even more so – then what hope is there for the many minions out there still peddling the myth that they might one day shake up the staid world of retail banking?

They are fooling themselves and the rest of us.

The great challenger bank has had several iterations, yet Britain's "big four" remain as strong, if not stronger, than ever.

Part of the reason is because twitchy regulators forced the industry to unwind the empire-building and dizzying overseas expansion that preceded the financial crisis.

As a result, the likes of Lloyds and NatWest have redoubled their efforts at home.

Regardless, new entrants have emphatically failed to weaken the iron grip that the incumbents have on every major aspect of our finances.

The landscape is littered with examples of new ventures that have made little, if any inroads.

There's Metro Bank, which thought it could upset the established order by opening a handful of shiny branches with the help of a few clowns on stilts and free dog biscuits.

A catastrophic accounting crisis in 2019 put an end to that spurious notion.

Then there's a long list of second tier banks who – confronted by the same glaring reality – have been forced into each other's arms in one form or another. This year alone, the Co-op and Coventry building society have had to merge.

Then came Nationwide's tie-up with Virgin Money – itself a Frankenstein mash-up of Sir Richard Branson's offering, Yorkshire and Clydesdale.

Nationwide was so desperate to consummate that union that it was willing to destroy its carefully crafted mutual credentials by refusing to give members a vote on it.

It wasn't that long ago that Branson's people were touting themselves as "a genuine alternative to the large incumbent banks".

Now the mantra appears to be "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em".

That leaves a succession of tech-led start-ups such as Atom, Starling, Monzo and others that have nibbled away at the edges but essentially have remained fringe players.

The basic premise of all these ventures was essentially that sparkling new apps, decent service and providers that weren't tarnished by scandal would persuade hordes of disillusioned customers to jump ship.

Yet, more than 15 years after the financial crash, the hold that Lloyds and its chief rivals have over current accounts, mortgages, and personal loans, remains roughly unchanged.

The unassailable obstacle is that ultimately retail banking is a game of scale. The bigger you are, the cheaper the funding, the easier it is to invest and to sustain on thin margins.

It means the minnows can't compete (these are the same barriers to entry that have blighted the energy market and ended in a catalogue of costly collapses).

In the never-ending yet largely elusive search for meaningful profits, the challengers are forced to explore ever racier areas of finance where risks are much higher.

It is one of the reasons that Revolut – still waiting on a banking licence three-and-a-half years after applying for one – has expanded into crypto-trading and the unregulated buy now, pay later market.

The only thing that can be said about the challenger bank experiment is that it's forced the incumbents to up their game on technology and service, albeit from the lowest of bases.

So in that sense, consumers have benefited from competition – but it hasn't changed the structure of the market.

On the contrary, having sharpened up aspects of their offering, the competition has arguably made the big beasts more formidable.

And that is the precise opposite of what was intended.

Tory peer could move investment company to US in 'a year or two'

By **Michael Bow**

THE Tory peer Lord Cruddas has suggested he is open to shifting the listing of his online trading empire to New York if London's ailing stock market fails to recover.

Lord Cruddas, 70, a former Conservative donor, said a switch for CMC Markets was not on the cards currently but might be considered in "a year or two" if London does not close the valuation gap with the US market.

He said: "We would list in the US if we could get a higher multiple but there's so much going on here we wouldn't have the time [to explore it].

"I'm actually quite confident that the UK markets will recover. If you look at our multiple, it's reasonable. It should be higher, if you put us in the bracket of fintech businesses. We'll get our value from the UK market but everything's on the table. We're here to do business and we're here to drive shareholder value so everything is up for grabs."

The UK stock market has suffered an exodus of companies moving their listing overseas for higher valuations. CMC's shares have nearly doubled in price over the past year but US-listed rivals attract even higher prices, with shares valued at 2.5 times above CMC.

The group has moved away from its UK spread-betting roots to be a global online trading platform with a large presence in Australia and Singapore.

Lord Cruddas, who owns 65pc of CMC, said the recent £5.4bn bid proposal for Hargreaves Lansdown showed signs of recovery for London's moribund stock market.

Shares in CMC jumped nearly 13pc yesterday after it reported a 21pc rise in profits before tax to £63m.

CMC unveiled a major deal with Revolut on Wednesday to connect their two online apps and platforms for customers to trade more.

Lord Cruddas last donated to the Tories three years ago. He said he hoped they would win the election but added he had no major concerns about a Labour government. He said: "I'm an entrepreneur. I'm a businessman.

"This company has operated under Labour governments and under Conservative governments and under coalition governments. It's water off a duck's back to me. I'll get on with it."

Markets

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Government securities

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/-	Flat Yield	Rdm Yield
102.30	99.20	Treas 5% 25	100.15	+0.02	4.99	4.81
112.21	100.63	Treas 6% 28	108.46	+0.14	5.53	3.91
106.59	92.22	Treas 4¼% 32	102.25	+0.12	4.16	3.92
106.09	94.06	Treas 4¼% 36	100.82	+0.11	4.22	4.16
110.73	96.88	Treas 4¾% 38	104.67	+0.09	4.54	4.31
Index Linked Securities						
385.94	371.32	Treas 2½% IL 24	385.58	+0.03	0.65	2.12
352.43	325.85	Treas 4¼% IL 30	344.77	+0.41	1.20	0.36
243.64	239.45	Treas 2% IL 35	248.57	+0.31	0.80	0.66

10-year Government Bonds

	Yield%	Spread vs Bunds	Spread vs T-Bonds
France	3.14	+0.72	-1.13
Germany	2.42	-	-1.85
Japan	0.94	-1.48	-3.33
Great Britain	4.05	+1.63	-0.22
United States	4.27	+1.85	-

The share prices, price-earnings ratios and dividend yields below are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

Aerospace & defence +1.10%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
575	266¾	Babcock Intl ●	538½	+2	0.3	-78.0
1415¼	883¼	**BAE Systems**	1346½	-4	2.2	22.0
464	292¼	QinetiQ ●	452¼	-4¾	1.8	18.7
488½	143¾	**Rolls-Royce**	485½	+13	–	16.8
183	146¾	Senior ●	163	-1¾	1.4	21.7

Banks +0.63%

224¼	128½	**Barclays**	208	+1¾	3.8	7.5
989½	278	Close Bros ●	452	+14¾	–	8.3
725¼	572¾	**HSBC**	697*	+4	7.0	7.7
57¾	39¾	**Lloyds Bk Gp**	56¼	+⅞	4.9	7.4
329¾	168	**NatWest Group**	320½	+8	5.3	6.7
423	257	Santander	371½	-2½	3.2	22.0
796	571	**Standard Ch**	735¼	+13¾	2.9	8.6

Beverages +0.84%

3509	2515½	**Diageo**	2590½	+21½	3.1	15.7

Chemicals -0.11%

6032	4018	**Croda Intl**	4100	-14	2.7	33.5
1917½	1428½	Johnson Mat ●	1551*	+5	5.0	26.5
1632	1114	Victrex ●	1166*	–	5.1	16.4

Construction +0.90%

391¼	291¾	Balfour Beatty ●	362½*	+6	3.2	10.3
582¾	384½	**Barratt Dev**	476¼	+8¼	5.9	9.0
2898	1903	Bellway ●	2562*	+30	4.3	8.6
5360	3634	**Berkeley Grp**	4756	+62	2.6	12.7
234½	170	Boot H	212	-1	3.5	10.8
89¾	63½	Coats Group ●	82¼	+¾	2.7	29.6
870	212	Cropper J	345	–	2.0	63.9
7700	4200	Goodwin	7440	+240	1.5	36.0
1911	1429	**IMI**	1808	+19	1.6	19.8
1719¾	1291	**Mondi**	1502	+25	4.1	16.5
77¾	48¼	Severfield	75¼	+2¼	4.9	14.6
1776½	1517½	**Smiths Gp**	1717	+19	2.5	26.2
415	260½	**Smith (DS)**	362	+10	5.0	12.9
3910	2528	**Smurfit Kappa**	3738	-12	3.5	15.1
11280	7900	**Spirax Gp**	8565	+160	1.9	34.3
2210¼	1652½	**Weir**	2060	+20	1.9	23.4

Food producers +0.12%

2765	1907½	**Ass Brit Fds**	2488*	+12	2.2	18.5
2830	2065	**Coca-Cola HBC**	2710*	+24	2.9	18.5
4570	3158	Cranswick ●	4455	+20	2.0	21.2
957	614	Hilton Food ●	900*	–	3.6	22.2
99	48	REA Hldgs	93	-2	–	-3.6
4463	3680½	**Unilever**	4433	–	3.3	20.3

Gas & Water +0.43%

173¾	116½	**Centrica**	136*	+1¾	2.9	1.9
775	532½	Pennon Gp ●	610	+9½	7.3	-169.4
2761	2243	**Severn Trent**	2441*	+34	4.8	47.9
1139½	896¾	**Utd Utilities**	993¾	-16¾	5.0	53.4

General financial +0.65%

234½	156¼	Ashmore ●	177¾	+¾	9.5	14.3
300¾	164¾	Bridgepoint Grp ●	223¾	+4¾	3.9	24.9
1169	676¾	**Hargreaves L**	1134	-19	3.8	16.6
831½	600½	IG Group ●	821	+5	5.5	9.4
2448	1244¾	**IntermediateCp**	2260*	+40	3.5	13.7
594	419	Investec ●	576½	-3	6.0	5.5
66¾	40	IP Group ●	44¾	+¼	2.8	-2.7
865	519	Liontrust	762	+2	9.4	12.4
60	30	Lon. Fin. & Inv.	55½	–	2.2	12.6
11080¼	7784	**Lon Stock Ex**	9604	+68	1.2	69.1
241¾	181½	**M&G**	206¼	+2¼	9.6	-3.1
279¼	200½	Man Group ●	250¾	+3	5.2	16.0
124½	71¼	Quilter ●	122	-¼	4.3	39.4
2450	1750	S & U	1950	+62½	6.2	9.3
470	346¼	**Schroders**	377¾	+3	5.7	15.3
200½	43½	Vanquis Banking Gp	50	+¾	12.0	-20.8

Healthcare +1.07%

371¼	306¾	**Haleon**	329¼	+3¾	1.8	28.9
1269	887	**Smith & Nep**	999	+8¼	3.0	42.0

Household goods +1.01%

2275	958½	**Burberry**	972¼	+8	6.3	13.1
135	24¼	McBride	135	+6½	–	-20.5
177¾	81½	PZ Cussons ●	103¾	+1¼	5.0	11.9
6104	4102¾	**Reckitt Benck**	4442	+45	4.3	19.4

Information technology +0.45%

389	224½	Aptitude Sftwre	372	+2	1.5	51.5
1285	860¾	**Sage Gp**	1083½*	+5½	1.8	52.2
205	79¾	Spirent ●	184¾	-¾	1.7	54.5

Insurance +1.35%

238	134¾	abrdn ●	148¼	+3¾	9.9	–
2870	2010	**Admiral**	2592	+15	4.0	23.3
501¾	366	**Aviva**	483¾	+5¾	6.9	12.8
702	485¾	**Beazley**	698½	+2	2.0	5.6
240½	132¼	DirectLineIns ●	202¾	+3¾	2.0	12.7
1277¾	926	Hiscox ●	1158	+9	2.6	7.1
690	525	Lancashire Hldg ●	615	+5	2.6	5.8
259	203¼	**Legal & General**	231¼	+3¾	8.8	31.5
564¾	436¾	**Phoenix**	495¾	+10¾	10.6	-35.9
1126	684¾	**Prudential**	712¾	+11¾	2.3	14.6
1185½	393¾	**St. James's Place**	551½	+4½	4.3	-306.4

Investment trusts +1.07%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	NAV
3160	1837½	**3i**	3160	+60	1.9	2062
349	276¾	3i Infrastructure ●	327*	-1	3.6	359
804	528	abrdn New India	804	+10	–	958
1264	978	Alliance Trust ●	1208*	+10	2.1	1269
418	242¾	Allianz Tech Trust ●	407½	+5½	–	437
417½	321¾	Asia Dragon Trust ●	406	-1	1.6	461
243	175	Baillie Giff China	203	-1	1.0	227
101¼	75¾	Baillie Giff Euro Gwth	97	+1	0.4	113
84½	60	Balanced Comm Prp ●77¾*		+½	6.8	107
117¼	91½	Bankers Invstmt Tst ●113¾		+¾	2.3	129
1048	715	Biotech Growth	954	-1	–	1026
127	104	BlackRockEnrgy&Res	118½*	+1½	3.8	130
159¾	131¼	BlckRock FroInv	144*	+2	4.6	161
653	457½	BlckRck Grt Euro ●	624*	+5	1.1	655
208	170	BlckRck Inc&Grth	197	-1½	3.8	223
207	172½	BlckRckSustAmInc	195*	-½	4.1	215
1520	1146	BlackRock Small ●	1472*	-14	2.9	1631
643	503	BlkRk Throg Tst ●	616	-1	2.4	687
635	490	BlackRock Wld M ●	576*	+14	5.8	571
1365½	964	Brunner ●	1315*	–	1.8	1412
3700	3110	Caledonia ●	3500	-5	2.0	5374
429½	371½	City of Lon ●	419½	+2	4.9	430
206	151½	CQS Nat Res G & I	186	+5	3.0	208
255¾	206	CT Glbl Mgd G	253	–	–	262
121	98	CT Glbl Mgd I	115½*	–	6.4	114
516	406	CT Priv Eq Ord	454½	-9½	6.2	685
340	266¾	CT UK Cap & Inc	329*	+1½	3.8	339
95½	71	CT UKHighIncTst	90¾	–	6.2	97
590	448¾	Dunedin Ent	512½	+10	2.0	626
746	612¾	Edinburgh Inv Tr ●	731*	+6	3.7	804
157¾	120¾	Edin Worldwide ●	141¼	-¾	–	160
92¼	73	European Assets	88¾	+½	6.7	100
1058	825¾	**F&C Inv Trust**	1020	+6	1.5	1143
549¾	473¾	Fidelity Asian V	514	-2	2.8	563
246	181¼	Fidlty Chna Sp Sits ●	212	-7	3.0	233
412½	311½	Fidelity Euro Tst ●	395½	+3½	2.1	412
186½	151	Fidelity Japan Tst	169½	–	–	196
316	252	Fidelity Sp V ●	306½*	+2½	3.1	332
920	788¾	Finsbury Gwth ●	852	+6	2.3	929
168¾	128¼	Glbl Small Co Trust ●	162	+¾	1.5	180
177	136	Hend High Inc	159*	+½	6.6	176
175½	148½	Hend Intl Inc	165¾	-¾	4.6	190
902	626	Hend Smaller Co ●	868	+5	3.1	993
238	169	Hend Opp	222*	-4	10.6	247
2230	1590	Herald Inv ●	2200	-20	–	2486
504	348½	HgCapital ●	487	-3	1.3	508
150¾	111	HICL Infrastructure ●	124*	-1¼	6.7	158
1276	1046	ICG Enterprise Tst ●	1254	-4	2.6	1914
748	623	JPM Claverh'se	724	-4	4.8	768
110½	84¼	JPM Eur G&I	106*	+½	4.1	118
553	435	JPM Japanese ●	526	+6	1.2	575
325	283¾	JPM Jpn SmCp G&I	294	+1	4.8	339
729¾	551¼	**Land Secs**	636½*	+27	6.2	–
131½	103¾	Lowland Inv	126½	+1½	5.1	145
254	179	Majedie	240	–	3.1	271
399	294¾	Mtn Currie Port	385	+3	1.1	389
249¾	177¼	Mercantile InvTr ●	236	+1½	3.3	266
593	476	Merchants Tst ●	570	+6	5.0	574
1218	880	Monks ●	1174	+4	0.3	1308
904	766¾	Murray Income ●	868	+4	4.4	965
263¼	218½	Murray Intl ●	252½	–	4.6	281
64¾	52	Northern 2 VCT	54½	–	5.5	57
86¾	82½	Northern 3 VCT	84½	–	5.0	89
60½	54	Nthn Venture	57½	–	5.6	61
390	338	Pacific Assets	378*	-3	1.1	425
336	245½	Pantheon ●	310	+½	–	490
144	87	PremierMitonGlb	105*	–	7.2	120
2030	1696	RIT Cap Ptnrs ●	1826	+2	2.1	2540
288	260¾	Ruffer Inv Pref ●	273½	-1	1.3	286
464	382	Schroder Asian TR	462	+4	2.5	494
540	450	Scot American ●	517*	+3	2.8	565
946¾	632¼	**Scot Mortgage**	897¾*	+20¼	0.5	983
151¼	101¾	Shaftesbury Capital ●	141	+2¼	2.2	3.1
1438	1162¼	Smithson Inv Tst ●	1378	+12	–	1563
227	207	STS Global Income	219*	–	3.0	219
167¾	140¾	Tmpletn Em Mt ●	160¾	-2¼	3.1	188
345	253	TR Property ●	323	+4½	4.9	347
135	121	UIL Fin ZDP 2024	132½	–	–	136
122	105	UIL Fin ZDP 2026	119	+1½	–	135
241	203¼	Utilico Emerg	221*	+2	3.9	268
270	209	Witan ●	264	+2	2.4	283
358½	286	Worldw HealthTr ●	355*	+3½	0.8	388

Net Asset Values © 2024 Morningstar Estimated at previous day's close see www.Morningstar.co.uk.

Media +0.78%

52 week High	Low (p)	Stock	Price (p)	+/-	Yld	P/E
849	580¼	**Auto Trader**	820	+6¾	1.2	29.1
634	365	Bloomsbury	610	-6	2.4	15.3
865¼	684	**Informa**	859¾*	+3¾	2.1	28.6
82½	55½	ITV ●	76¾	+¾	6.5	14.8
1046½	806¼	**Pearson**	968¾	+3¼	2.3	18.2
93¾	58½	Reach	93	+3	7.9	13.7
3622	2432	**RELX**	3608	+21	1.6	38.3
603	457¾	**Rightmove**	565¼	+8¾	1.6	23.1
878½	656	**WPP**	758*	+22¼	5.2	12.2

Mining +1.40%

2613	1630	**Anglo Amer**	2467½	+39	3.1	–
2425	1280	**Antofagasta**	2146	+89	1.3	32.1
2707½	2157	BHP Group	2255	+22	5.5	11.2
132¾	77¼	Centamin ●	115¾*	+1¼	2.7	18.4
81	81	Evraz #	81	–	–	0.5
656¼	435¼	**Fresnillo**	565	+24	0.8	22.6
506¾	365¼	**Glencore**	464	+7¾	2.2	17.3
191⅛	68¼	Hochschild Mng ●	184¾	+7¼	–	-23.4
470	291	Kenmare Res	330	+8½	13.7	3.0
5910	4509½	**Rio Tinto**	5271	+35	6.5	10.8

Oil & Gas +0.74%

562¼	441	**BP**	470½*	+4¾	4.9	6.8
18⅝	11¼	EnQuest	13⅝	+⅜	–	-10.8
461	190	Hunting ●	418½	+12½	1.9	7.2
87½	8¼	Petrofac	14¾	+1¾	–	-0.3
2961	2251	**Shell**	2767½*	+19½	3.8	12.2
211¾	124	Wood Grp (John) ●	197¾	-2¾	–	-15.6

Pharmaceuticals +0.39%

12704	9461	**AstraZeneca**	12398	+58	2.0	41.0
2544	1478	Genus ●	1666	+14	1.9	32.8
1823½	1302¾	**GSK**	1618*	+1½	3.7	13.3
2222	1711	**Hikma**	2000	+23	2.8	29.5
1938	1125	Indivior ●	1285	+20	–	–

Property +0.77%

11	6¾	Alina Hldgs	7	-1	–	22
50⅛	37½	Assura ●	39½*	+⅛	8.5	–
1272	901	Big Yellow Gp ●	1186	+24	3.8	–
446¾	287¼	Brit Land ●	416⅝	-7⅝	5.5	–
63¾	48¾	Cap&Regional	61	-⅛	9.3	–
2452	1766	Derwent Ldn ●	2320	+22	3.4	–
381	291	Gt Portland Est ●	341*	+3½	3.7	–
278¾	215⅝	Grainger ●	240½*	+4½	2.9	68.7
30	20½	Hammerson ●	28	+¼	5.4	–
281¼	181	Helical	229½	+1½	2.1	-1.5
944¾	675	**Segro**	901	+9¾	3.1	–
165	110	Town Centre	147	–	–	–
173	121¼	Tritax Big Box ●	154	+1¼	4.8	180
93	68	Warehouse REIT	79¾	+⅞	8.1	126

Retailers +0.61%

25⅜	13	Brown (N)	20½	+⅜	–	-120.0
81¼	43	Currys ●	78¼	+½	1.3	-1.8
1335½	959	Dunelm ●	1082	+19	7.2	14.4
949½	673	**Frasers Group**	871½	+9	–	8.2
3006	2244	Greggs ●	2858	-2	2.2	20.3
244¾	136	Halfords	140¾	+⅝	7.1	9.0
937	605	**Howden Joinery**	895½	+14½	2.3	19.3
177¾	103	**JD Sports Fash**	125¾*	+6¼	0.7	12.3
274	198¼	**Kingfisher**	252¾*	+4¾	4.9	13.9
314	183¾	**Marks & Spen**	303¾*	+¾	1.0	13.8
8½	3½	Mothercare	4¾	-⅛	–	–
9530	6492	**Next**	9102	+98	2.3	15.9
1017	261¼	**Ocado**	310	-42½	–	-8.1
814	280½	Pinewood Tech	382	-4	–	3.3
161½	100¼	Saga	117⅝	+2	–	-1.5
311⅛	243¾	**Sainsbury J**	265*	+5¾	4.9	44.9
1632	1069	Smith WH ●	1171	-7	2.7	19.3
316⅛	217½	**Tesco**	308⅞*	–	3.9	18.5

Support services -0.01%

6180	4437	**Ashtead Gp**	5434	+14	1.5	18.8
3306	2680	**Bunzl**	3024*	+18	2.3	19.2
31½	12¾	Capita	14¼	–	–	-1.3
20¾	12½	Carillion #	14¼	–	–	0.5
6075	4145	**DCC**	5695*	+50	3.5	17.2
107	29⅛	De La Rue	98	+¾	–	-3.4
191¾	130¼	Essentra ●	167¾*	+3¼	2.1	93.2
3796	2366	**Experian**	3716	+3	1.2	35.9
17810	11545	Ferguson	15580*	-235	1.6	20.3
5145	3746	**Intertek Group**	4822*	+80	2.3	26.1
211	122½	Int'l Workplace ●	176½	-¾	0.6	-8.2
172	99	Johnson Serv	161¼	+3¾	1.7	25.2
125	90¾	MITIE Gp ●	117⅝	-1¾	3.4	12.0
663¾	387¼	**Rentokil**	454½	+3¾	1.9	30.0
619⅜	394	Ricardo Gp	492	-2	2.5	-56.6
472	344	Robt Walters	421	+1	5.6	20.9
193⅜	135¼	Serco Group ●	172¾	+1¾	2.0	9.4
39¾	25¾	SIG	27¼	+¾	–	-7.2
934¼	684¾	Travis P ●	817½	+10½	2.2	45.2

Telecommunications +0.70%

144¼	101¼	**BT Group**	142½	+1¼	5.6	16.4
1932	1356	Telecom Plus ●	1784	-72	4.7	19.8
82½	62¾	**Vodafone**	72¼*	+¾	10.5	20.3

Tobaccos +0.95%

2742	2233	**Brit Am Tob**	2460	+20	9.6	-3.8
2043	1553½	**Imp Brands**	2043*	+28	7.3	8.1

Transport +0.62%

340	209¾	Int'l Dist Services ●	323	+1¾	0.6	-22.1
445	310	ZIGUP ●	413½	+5	6.0	6.9

Travel & Leisure +1.09%

1388	793	Carnival ●	1130	+20½	–	-238.9
591½	350	**easyJet**	451¼	-4	1.0	10.5
1414½	643¾	**Entain**	673	+12	2.6	-4.5
189	131¾	FirstGroup ●	154¾	+1¼	3.6	13.1
17980	12020	Flutter Entrtmt	14725	+255	–	-27.1
742	540	Fullers 'A'	698	-2	2.5	46.0
1875	137	**IAG Intl Cons Air**	171¼	+1¾	–	3.8
8790	5184	**Intercont Hotels**	8300	+48	1.5	23.7
314½	194¾	Mitchells&But ●	294	-4	–	-420.0
112⅞	45½	Mobico Group ●	47¾	+¾	–	-1.6
613	365¾	Playtech ●	471½	+11½	–	16.1
104⅜	60¾	Rank Group	72¾	+¾	–	-3.6
687	375	TUI AG	584	+10	–	8.6
862½	587	Wetherspoon ●	742½	+7½	–	15.6
3714	2848	**Whitbread**	2956*	+16	3.3	18.4

AIM +0.95%

62½	23¾	Afentra	53¾	+¾	–	-56.9
1150	840	Arbuthnot	955*	–	4.9	4.3
2300	1425¾	BrooksMacdonald	2000	+50	3.8	17.4
⅜	⅛	Cambria Africa #	¼	–	–	-9.5
235	150¼	Central Asia Met	209	+9	8.6	12.9
444¾	126¾	Ceres Power	176¼	-1	–	-6.3
1500	947	Churchill China	1175	–	3.1	16.7
470	290	CML Micro	350	–	3.1	11.6
860	430	Cohort	790	+10	1.8	28.3
1⅛	⅛	Deltex Medical	⅛	–	–	-1.1
122⅞	72	Eleco	110½*	–	0.7	34.5
67	23¼	Futura Medical	36½	-⅜	–	-16.3
41¼	14	Hornby	21	–	–	-6.0
228¼	180	James Halstead	187	+1½	4.4	18.3
76¾	33¼	LifeScienceREIT	33⅜	+¼	6.0	81
550	183⅛	Mpac Group	503	+2	–	38.4
1086	522	MS Intl	1010	–	1.6	39.5
89¾	48¼	Premier Miton	70½	+3	8.5	28.2
64	10¾	SRT Marine Sys	24½	-½	–	–
74	37	Tribal Gp	52	–	1.2	20.8
34	14	Union Jack Oil	16¼	–	1.5	21.2
2	¾	Xtract Resources	¾	-⅛	–	-3.6
1240	919	Young & Co – A	958	-8	2.3	50.7
880	580	Young & Co – N/V	630	+14	3.5	12.4

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Americans +0.03%

52 week High	Low	Stock	Price	+/-	Grs Yld	Cvr
45½	23¼	Alcoa $	38¾	+1¾	1.0	9.4
244⅜	140⅜	Amer Express $	228¼	-½	1.2	4.3
40¼	25	BankAmerica $	40	...	2.4	3.0
267½	159¾	Boeing $	174¼	-⅜	–	–
382	223¾	Caterpillar $	327¾	+2¼	1.7	3.9
171¼	139¾	Chevron $	156¼	+2⅜	4.2	1.7
75½	56¼	Coca-Cola Euro $	73¾	+¼	2.8	0.9
97⅛	67¾	Colgate Palm $	96¾	-⅜	2.1	1.6
82⅜	61¼	DuPontDeNemrs $	80¼	-½	1.9	0.6
123¾	95¾	Exxon Mobil $	112	+2¾	3.4	2.1
35⅜	14⅜	Foot Locker $	25¾	+⅜	–	–
180¾	102¾	Gen Electric $	164¾	-¼	0.2	12.0
396⅞	274¼	Home Depot $	350½	-3¾	2.6	1.7
213¾	174⅞	Honeywell $	213⅜	+1	2.0	2.0
39½	25¼	HP $	36¾	-⅜	3.0	2.7
199¾	129¾	IBM $	172⅞	+2¼	3.9	1.3
51¼	29¾	Intel $	30¾	+¼	1.6	1.9
46⅜	30¼	Intl Paper $	46½	+¼	4.0	0.3
205¾	135¼	JP Morgan Ch $	197	...	2.3	3.6
176	143¾	Johnson&John $	146⅞	+1¼	3.4	1.4
35	27¾	Keurig Dr Pep $	34	-½	2.5	1.8
88⅜	67¾	Manpower $	72¾	+⅝	4.1	0.4
30	21¾	Marathon Oil $	27¾	+½	1.5	5.6
302¾	245¼	McDonalds $	253¼	+2¾	2.6	1.8
133⅛	99¼	Merck $	129¼	+1¼	2.4	0.3
451	309½	Microsoft $	443½	-2¾	0.7	3.9
39⅜	25¼	Pfizer $	27¾	+½	6.0	0.0
169	141½	Procter & Gamble $	167¾	-¾	2.4	1.6
108¾	68½	Raytheon Tech $	105½	+⅝	2.4	1.0
348½	249	Rockwell $	260¼	-⅛	1.9	2.1
345½	183	Trane Tech $	336¼	-9¼	1.0	2.8
181⅞	58¼	Wal Mart Strs $	67¾	+⅛	1.2	1.3
123¾	78¼	Walt Disney $	101½	-⅛	0.7	1.2
19¾	12	Xerox Hldgs $	13¾	-⅛	7.5	1.5

Europeans +0.77%

79¾	57¾	AkzoNobel €	59½	+¾	3.3	2.3
115¾	86½	BMW €	88¾	-⅛	6.8	3.1
18¾	13¼	Carrefour €	13¾	...	6.3	2.1
78⅛	54	Continental AG €	54⅜	...	4.0	2.6
77½	55⅛	Daimler €	64⅞	+½	8.2	2.5
63¾	50¾	Danone €	57¾	-1½	3.7	0.6
47	36	Deutsche Post €	38½	+⅝	4.8	2.4
23⅜	18½	Deutsche Tele €	22⅜	–	3.4	1.1
99¼	81½	Heineken €	93⅜	+1¾	1.8	2.7
892¾	644	LVMH €	713¾	+6¾	1.8	2.2
82½	54⅜	LafargeHolcim SFr	81½	...	3.4	1.9
9¾	5¾	Lufthansa €	5¾	-¼	5.2	9.9
4	2¾	Nokia OYJ €	3½	...	3.5	1.0
38½	25¾	Michelin €	37½	+⅝	3.6	2.1
205¾	128½	Pernod Ricard €	131¼	+2¾	3.6	1.3
29

War, a pandemic and inflation haven't stopped this company soaring, so buy for the long term

ROBERT STEPHENS
QUESTOR
WEALTH PRESERVER PORTFOLIO

This trust's past gains highlight the stock market's capacity to generate high returns despite major economic and geopolitical challenges

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules

If you had known in December 2019 that a global pandemic, war in Europe and extreme inflation would occur in the next five years, would you still have invested in the stock market?

This column suspects that most investors would have answered "No". Most likely, they would have decided that those events would cause the stock market to generate extremely disappointing returns over the period.

While that view is entirely understandable given the severity of those challenges, it has proved to be entirely wrong. The S&P 500 index has since delivered a capital gain of 73pc. And Questor's recommendation to purchase the JPMorgan American Investment Trust, which aims to beat the S&P 500 index, has produced a 115pc capital return since it was originally tipped in December 2019.

Indeed, the stock market has proved to be surprisingly resilient over the long run. Even the most challenging economic and geopolitical events have ultimately failed to do more than cause temporary downturns. Therefore, while the next five years will undoubtedly contain a range of difficulties that cause share prices to decline at times, Questor remains hugely optimistic about the future prospects for the stock market.

So we will continue to shift the focus of our Wealth Preserver portfolio towards equities. The JPMorgan American Investment Trust is the latest addition. It has an excellent track record of outperforming the S&P 500, which is its benchmark, with its annualised returns being around 120 basis points higher than those of the index over the past decade.

JP Morgan American IT

BUY

It has an excellent track record of outperforming the S&P 500, its benchmark

Despite this outperformance, the company currently trades at a 3pc discount to net asset value. This suggests it offers good value for money, with its discount being in line with the average recorded over the past five years.

Its gearing ratio of roughly 4pc, while modest in comparison to some investment trusts, means its future returns are set to be magnified. Given the positive long-term track record of the US stock market, gearing is likely to prove beneficial. So, too, is the trust's focus on both value and growth stocks, as well as smaller company shares. That means it may be less susceptible to temporary changes in investor attitudes to future risk.

In terms of its major holdings, there are several familiar names. Microsoft, Nvidia and Meta all feature among the trust's 10 largest positions. Despite this, the company is currently five percentage points underweight to the information technology sector and two percentage points underweight to the communication services sector.

Clearly, some investors will be concerned about the upcoming US election and the potential for elevated stock market volatility. While this is understandable, in this column's view the election is unlikely to cause a worsening in the stock market's performance over the long run. In fact, it could be argued that neither potential winner represents a complete unknown, since they have both already served as president.

Perhaps more importantly, falling US inflation ultimately allows for interest rate cuts and this will act as a significant catalyst for the economy. In turn, this should provide improved operating conditions for a wide range of companies, as well as increasingly buoyant investor sentiment, that together have a positive impact on share prices over the coming years.

'Difficulties will hit share prices at times over the next five years but Questor is optimistic about stock market's future'

To make room for the trust in our Wealth Preserver portfolio, three existing holdings will be sold. They are Worldwide Healthcare Trust, Pollen Street and Real Estate Credit Investments. They have produced total returns of 1pc, -2pc and -1pc, respectively, since being added to the portfolio in the second half of 2021.

In Questor's view, the JPMorgan American Investment Trust offers significant long-term return potential. Its track record of benchmark outperformance and discount to net asset value suggest there are further gains ahead. In addition, impending interest rate cuts could positively catalyse the stock market's performance over the long run.

Of course, there will inevitably be unforeseen challenges ahead that prompt heightened volatility and, at times, bear markets. But as the past performance of the stock market shows, simply buying and holding high-quality companies over an extended period has historically provided stunning returns that are simply too good to miss.

Questor says: buy
Ticker: JAM
Share price at close: £10.04

Key numbers

- Market value: £1.8bn
- Year of listing: 1881
- Discount: 3pc
- Avg discount over past year: 1pc
- Yield (Dec 2023): 0.8pc
- Most recent year's dividend: 7.75p
- Gearing: 4pc
- Annual charge (Dec 2023): 0.38pc

Tate & Lyle buys US ingredient provider CP Kelco for £1.4bn

Tate & Lyle is to buy US ingredient provider CP Kelco for $1.8bn (£1.4bn) as it shifts towards healthier foods.

CP Kelco extracts substances from natural products such as citrus peel, which can then be used to enhance texture and taste. Tate & Lyle, which was originally a sugar refiner, has focused its business on supplying these sorts of ingredients.

The British company helps food and drink manufacturers remove sugar and fat from products by replacing them with healthier alternatives.

Nick Hampton, chief executive, said: "With our portfolio of speciality ingredients and world-class team of food science experts, we will be uniquely placed to provide customers with the solutions they need."

Adnams chairman calls time on family's place on board

Jonathan Adnams, the chairman of brewer and pub owner Adnams, is to step down, marking the end of the family's representation on the board.

The Suffolk-based company said that Mr Adnams would leave before next year's annual shareholder meeting, pencilled in for June 2025.

Mr Adnams is a descendent of George and Ernest Adnams, who founded the cask ale brewer in 1872 in the seaside town of Southwold.

The Adnams family remains a major shareholder in the company.

Adnams said it has "made progress" in its search for fundraising to support "future growth plans".

The brewer booked a pre-tax loss of £4m last financial year after rising inflation hit its bottom line.

OpenAI founder to build rival artificial intelligence start-up

The former chief scientist and co-founder of OpenAI has announced the launch of his own artificial intelligence (AI) company, which he said would focus on safety.

Ilya Sutskever said he was launching Safe Superintelligence and that building safe AI was "our mission, our name and entire product roadmap".

The company said it would approach "safety and capabilities in tandem" as "technical problems to be solved" and to "advance capabilities as fast as possible while making sure our safety always remains ahead".

Critics such as Elon Musk, the Tesla chief executive, have raised concerns that AI companies are too focused on reaping the commercial benefits of the technology and are neglecting safety.

Packaging giant DS Smith seeks to allay buyout doubts

The boss of packaging giant DS Smith has insisted it is pressing ahead with its £5.8bn sale to a US rival as speculation grows that the deal may be in jeopardy.

London-listed DS Smith agreed an all-share takeover by Memphis-based International Paper in April, which would leave its shareholders with 33.7pc of the combined group.

However, International Paper is now reportedly fending off a possible $15bn (£11.8bn) takeover bid from Brazilian pulp and paper company Suzano. It is thought Suzano's potential offer is contingent on the DS Smith deal being abandoned.

Miles Roberts, chief executive of DS Smith, said both sides are still "working very diligently on bringing the businesses together".

China investigates EU pork imports over dumping fears

China may impose provisional anti-dumping measures on pork imports from the European Union, its commerce ministry has said, as it responds to potential tariffs on its electric vehicle industry.

Beijing has opened an investigation into EU pork and its by-products, escalating tensions after the bloc imposed anti-subsidy duties on Chinese-made electric vehicles.

The inquiry is expected to end by June next year, but could be extended by another six months. He Yadong, a commerce ministry spokesman, said: "If, after preliminary investigation, it is determined that dumping has been established and has caused injury to the domestic industry, provisional anti-dumping measures may be taken."

YouGov plunges as demand falls despite being election year

Shares in YouGov nearly halved yesterday after it told investors it expected less demand for its data.

The polling company, which was co-founded by Nadhim Zahawi, the former chancellor, fell by 46pc after it said revenue for the year is expected to be between £324m and £327m, below analyst estimates of £339m. The lower guidance is a blow to investors as 2024 is the biggest election year in history, with more than half the world's population going to the polls.

YouGov said it had invested for growth in anticipation of rising demand but added: "While we have seen an improvement in the second half, growth was below expectations."

Shares ended the day at a five-year low of 440p yesterday.

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- All excursions, tours and entry fees
- Visit to the Glenfinnan Monument
- Free copy of James Crawford's book *Wild History – Journeys into Lost Scotland* (Telegraph subscribers only)

About the expert

James Crawford is a historian and broadcaster who worked for Scotland's National Collection of Architecture and Archaeology for over a decade.

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Court & Social

Court Circular

WINDSOR CASTLE
June 20th
The King and Queen honoured Ascot Races with their presence today.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 20th
The Prince of Wales, President, the Football Association, this evening attended the Union of European Football Associations Euro 2024 Group Game between England and Denmark at Frankfurt Arena, Mörfelder Landstrasse, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 20th
The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Richard III Society, this afternoon received Mr Matthew Lewis (Chairman).

Today's birthdays

The Prince of Wales is 42.

Lord Brooke of Alverthorpe, trades unionist, 82; **Sir Ray Davies**, singer and songwriter, 80; **Lord Saatchi**, advertising executive, 78; **Baroness Hoey**, former Labour Government minister, 78; **Sir Malcolm Rifkind, KC**, former Conservative Cabinet minister, 78; **Mr Ian McEwan**, author, 76; **Lord Kingarth**, a former Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 75; **Sir Nicholas Blake**, a former High Court Judge, 75; **Mr John Agard**, poet, 75; **Lord Etherton**, Master of the Rolls, 2016-21, 73; **Mr Jeremy Coney**, former New Zealand cricket captain, now commentator, 72; **Mr Brian Barwick**, President, Rugby League World Cup; Chairman, Rugby Football League, 2013-18; Chief Executive, Football Association, 2005-08, 70; and **Ms Grace Clough**, former international rower; Paralympic gold medallist, mixed coxed four, Rio 2016, 30.

Today is the anniversary of the Battle of Vitoria in 1813, and of the first television broadcast of the Wimbledon tennis championships, by the BBC in 1937.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.E. Levett-Scrivener and Miss I.M.E. Taylor
The engagement is announced between Alex, elder son of Mr and Mrs Nick Levett-Scrivener, of Sibton, Suffolk, and Iona, third daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Taylor, of Aldeburgh, Suffolk.
Online ref: WO025787

Mr B.C. Hampel and Miss A.V. McIrvine
The engagement is announced between Barnaby, son of Rupert and Charlotte Hampel, of Englefield Green, Surrey, and Alexandra, younger daughter of Jonathan and Sally McIrvine, of Stradsett, Norfolk.
Online ref: WO025667

Other notice

City of London Liverymen
The Brigantes, the City of London Liverymen in the North, held a luncheon yesterday in St George's Hall, Liverpool, attended by Liverymen and their guests.

The speakers were Mr Mark Blundell, Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside; Ald and Sheriff Bronek Masojada; Rt Revd John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool; Her Honour Judge Wendy Joseph, KC; Sir David Wootton, Lord Mayor of the City of London (2011-12); Mr Adrian Waddingham, Chairman of Brigantes; and Mr Nick Gale.

The Carpet Guard was drawn from The Royal Lancers (Queen Elizabeths Own). A donation was made to the Crosby Hall Education Trust. Before the luncheon, Mr Tony Storet presented the annual Brigantes Lecture, entitled "175 Years of the Cunard Line".

Legal news

Judge Southern has retired as a Circuit Judge with effect from June 15 2024.

Bridge news

The English Bridge Union has held a trial to determine the team to represent England in the Senior Teams category at the World Bridge Games in Argentina later this year, **writes Julian Pottage, Bridge Correspondent**.

Two teams competed in the trial, which took place at the West Midlands Bridge Club in Solihull. As only two teams had entered, the format was a head-to-head match of 112 boards.

The team of Malcolm Pryor, David Kendrick, Dave Robinson and Tony Sowter won by the margin of 25 IMPs; runners-up were the team of Gunnar Hallberg, David Mossop, Alan Mould, John Holland, Paul Hackett and Brian Senior.

The four players in the winning team were duly selected. As the winning team consists of fewer than six players, further players may be added with the approval of the EBU selection committee.

Clergy news

Appointments
Can Michael Branch, dn, St George's Roman Catholic Cathedral (Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark), to be ecumenical can, Southwark Cathedral (Southwark); **Ragnild Jepson**, bp, Bergen (Lutheran Diocese of Bjørgvin), to be ecumenical can, Southwark Cathedral (Southwark); **Sandra Schloss**, v, Camberwell St Luke (Southwark), to be commissioned dio chapl to the Mothers' Union (same dio); **Carolyn Madanat**, ac, Kingston Hill St Paul (Southwark), to be p-in-c, Leigh-on-Sea St Aidan and Eastwood St Lawrence (Chelmsford); **Stephen Monk**, r, Darley, South Darley and Winster (Derby), to be p-in-c, Matlock Bath and Cromford (same dio); **Can Michael Cansdale**, tr, Keighley St Andrew (Leeds), to be v, Newby and Scarborough St Luke (York); **Elizabeth Hassall**, p-in-c, York All Saints Pavement with St Crux and St Michael Spurriergate, York St Olave with St Giles, York St Denys, York St Helen Stonegate with St Martin Coney Street (York), to be also assoc adn, York Central (same dio); **Elspeth Cansdale**, ac, Oxenhope St Mary the Virgin (Leeds), to be v, Scarborough St Columba and St James with Holy Trinity (York); **Richard Carew**, v, Dringhouses (York), to be also assoc adn, York West (same dio); **Devin McLachlan**, pto (Ely), to be i (v), Cambridge St Benedict (same dio); **Edward Underhill**, c, the Euston Church (Bishop's Mission Order) (London), to be assoc v for students, Cambridge Holy Sepulchre with All Saints (St Andrew the Great) (same dio); **Joseph Magill**, tv, The Parr Team (Liverpool), to be i (r) The Ramseys and Upwood (Ely); **Deborah Holmes**, ac, Ely St Mary's and Christ Church (Ely), to be v, Waltham Forest (Chelmsford); **Andrew Micklethwaite**, pto (Leicester), to be chapl, Wyggestons and Trinity Almshouse Charity, and assoc p, Leicester Holy Apostles (same dio); **Lisa Harper**, assoc min, East Telford, and Church of England and Schools missr, Telford (Lichfield), to be r, Apedale Group, and tv, Wenlock Team Ministry (Hereford); **Lois Beynon**, c, Hereford West Team Ministry (Hereford), to be v, Clun Valley Benefice (same dio); **Catriona Brinkley**, ac, Blackbourne Team (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich), to be c-in-c, Badwell Ash and Walsham-le-Willows (same dio); **Alexandra Podd**, ac, Orton Goldhay and Orton Malborne Christ Church, Alwalton St Andrew and Chesterton St Michael (Ely), to be v, Woodford Bridge St Paul, and assist dir of ords (Chelmsford); **Elizabeth Blackham**, ac, Leytonstone St John the Baptist (Chelmsford), to be v, Leytonstone St John the Baptist (same dio); **Elizabeth England**, r, Buxton with Burbage and King Sterndale (Derby), to be i, Rural Daneside (Chester); **Louise Petheram**, HfD p-in-c, Hope, Castleton and Bradwell (Derby), to be assist ad, Peak (same dio); **Jennifer Catchpole**, ac (SSM), Wickham Market with Pettistree (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich), to be ac (known as assoc p), Wickham Market with Pettistree (same dio); **Anita Burke**, c, Oxclose (Durham), to be also ac (SSM), New Seaham Christ Church (same dio).

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Daily Telegraph.

LONDON, SATURDAY JUNE 21, 1924

"BLACK CLOTHES CLUB."

COERCION OF BADLY DRESSED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT, PARIS, FRIDAY: A remarkable club has been born in Paris. It is "Le Club des Habits Noirs," and it was founded at midnight not far from the Opera and the Palais Royal. Those who attended the inauguration of the club were masked, and their names will not be made known to the public, nor will those of future members. But why this Black Clothes Club? What is its object? Its founders are shocked at the masculine modes introduced into Paris by foreigners, and they are resolved to banish them. They will act as policemen in theatres on gala nights and exercise a rigorous control on the invasion of foreign masculine fashions. What they will strive to bring about is a revival of French elegance, taking care that it is in keeping with the necessities of modern life. There will be a benevolent side to the club. A propaganda fund will be started, from which poor students, artists, and poets will be assisted. Let a man in careless attire enter a public place where those who frequent it can and should be properly dressed, and he will be promptly shown to the door by the club's policemen. Another aim is to form a committee which shall co-operate with the leading tailors in turning out masculine models. In this part of its work the club will be assisted by artists. Apparently it will not be an easy matter to be admitted to membership of the Black Clothes Club. The moral situation of an aspiring member will be rigorously inquired into, and he must have at least four sponsors. It will not always be a case of wearing black clothes. When autumn has sped and the gloom of winter approaches the club will discuss the possibility of launching in Paris the fashion of wearing coloured capes. As its members will belong to the elegant élite they will not tolerate dictation from the tailors. They will promulgate their own dress laws and will strive to make men who dress badly obey them. This will be done by sticking mocking placards on the houses of those whom they consider are ridiculously dressed. It is proposed to hold a "masculine dress salon" every year.

MURDERED DEPUTY.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT, ROME, FRIDAY: Among the strange situations created in Rome by the murder of Deputy Matteotti was the hurried closing of the Chamber. But after this measure the committee of the Fascist majority which had been named for the purpose of keeping contact between the Chamber and the Government, remained in Rome and held sittings to expedite, as is explained, current affairs. Now this committee has also suspended its meetings, and the leading Fascist organ of Milan, the Popolo d'Italia, has alluded in unpleasant terms to the fact that most of the deputies of the Fascist majority remained in Rome. What is their object, it asks. Is it to constitute a great committee of public safety? Some newly elected deputies, it further declares, have also given a disagreeable impression.

All this seems to indicate that in Fascism circles themselves a ferment is brewing and, to cut the matter short, Signor Mussolini, as is announced by the papers this afternoon, has ordered the under Secretary of State, Signor Acerbo, to issue a convocation to all the Deputies of the Fascist and Liberal majority to meet in Rome on June 25 at the Palazzo Venezia, when Signor Mussolini will preside and make important declarations. This, perhaps, is a wise measure to satisfy both the majority and public sentiment in the country. The Press continues to report sensational stories concerned with the past careers of some of the prisoners lately arrested, and Dumini, alleged to be the principal culprit, is stated to have been one of the most active Fascist leaders in Florence from the start, but 1921 he was expelled for unworthiness. It appears that he was accused of having instigated a raid on a certain house where one Fascist was killed and another seriously wounded. He is also said to have sent two fellow Fascisti to Bologna with a secret hint that they should be "suppressed." How he afterwards obtained readmission into the Fascisti ranks is not made clear.

All these revelations continue to maintain the public in a state of anxiety and perplexity.

STRANGE STORY.

The work of inquiry and examination in the Matteotti case continues calmly and unceasingly. Signor Filippelli, the former editor of the Corriere Italiano, and Signor Marinelli, an ex-member of the Fascist Party Directory, who are now under arrest in connection with the case, have been obliged to submit to rigorous cross-examinations in prison by the examining magistrate.

It is reported that both Dumini and Naldi are plunged in the deepest despair, and the latter spends his time in prison weeping, like the editor of the now defunct Corriere Italiano. Galassi Chirszeel, the police spy, and other lesser delinquents are being transferred to Rome in order to test the validity of their evidence.

The work of justice has been hindered rather than helped by innumerable reports and anonymous letters, as well as by imaginary proofs of the guilt of various persons, and by suggestions which have all so far turned out to be valueless, of spots where amateur detectives think that Matteotti's body may be found. The large sums of money which had been deposited by Filippelli in various banks have been sequestrated, and the offices of the Corriere Italiano have been rigorously searched for incriminating documents.

Reports from all parts of the kingdom from persons who imagine that they have seen Cesare Rossi, the former director of the Press Bureau, have been carefully investigated by the police, but the latter are still unable to find any trace of the fugitive. Many, indeed, believe that he is still in Rome. His office at the Ministry of the Interior has been sealed by the authorities, and his house, as well as those of some of his intimate friends, has been searched.

The aged mother and wife of Signor Matteotti have expressed their gratitude for the many messages of sympathy they have received. They "pray God that Matteotti will be the last victim and that his death will bring redemption and peace."

Bridge Hand

Leave the trumps out

By **Tom Townsend**

Dealer West
Vulnerability All

	♠ A 10 8 ♥ A 9 6 ♦ K J 10 7 5 2 ♣ Q	
♠ 9 7 6 5 4 ♥ K 7 ♦ Q 4 ♣ A J 8 7	N W E S	♠ none ♥ Q J 8 3 2 ♦ 9 8 6 3 ♣ K 9 5 4
	♠ K Q J 3 2 ♥ 10 5 4 ♦ A ♣ 10 6 3 2	

West	North	East	South
pass	1♦	pass	1♠
pass	2♣(1)	pass	4♠(2)
pass	pass	pass	

(1) More constructive than 2♦
(2) Can't miss vulnerable games

Contract 4♠
Declarer South
Opening Lead ♣A

HERE is our final deal from the EBU World Bridge Games Mixed Trials. The conclusion to this was unusual. Nettleton, well clear on victory points, could do nothing to control their destiny in the last 32 boards. The only question was if my team, Knottenbelt, who had already beaten them by eight IMPs, could turn over Seale and Barden. If we did, then we would be the England Mixed team, regardless of VPs. We did beat Seale by 10 IMPs, coming back from 47 down. Barden proved a tougher nut to crack. We led by two IMPs with 16 to play, but lost by 11.

So, Diana Nettleton booked her passage to Buenos Aires. Her partner is Ben Norton, their teammates Marusa Gold and Stefano Tommasini, Frances Hinden and Graham Osborne (very much the form pair that weekend). They all owe Paul Barden's team a good drink.

As a bizarre postscript to the event, tournament director Jonathan Lillycrop, applying the carelessly drafted regulations to the letter, fined us an irrelevant 6.75 VPs (a mere 60 IMPs or so) for slow play. That put Barden second on victory points.

What should West lead to 4♠? A trump looks the natural choice, relying on East for some red-suit stuff. There may be ruffs that need stopping.

West's actual choice of the ♣A, like the ♠A panned in Monday's column, was not correct in my opinion. Aces are for coshing Kings and Queens, not wafting air; unsupported ace leads are not normal.

On sight of the ♣9 (suit preference) from East, West hastily switched to the ♥K. South aced it in dummy, and went about his business. That meant taking ruffs and cashing winners. While there was no evidence of any bad trump break, there was equally no need to touch the suit. Draw trumps for a reason, not through force of habit.

South crossed to the ♦A, ruffed a club, and parked a heart on the ♦K. When the ♦Q fell from West, South dropped the ♥10 on the ♦J. West ruffed and continued with a heart, ruffed with the ♠3 for South's fifth trick.

Five more high trumps doubled the tally, crossruffing. On this line of play, the foul trump break was irrelevant.

Final Result 4♠ made, N/S +620
Par Result same

Chess

Kasparov vs the World

By **Malcolm Pein**

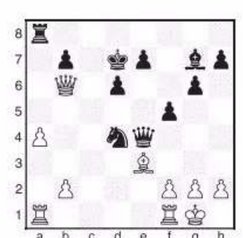
TODAY is the 25th anniversary of the launch of the game between Garry Kasparov, the then world champion, and the World. The contest broke the internet, such was the interest, and the game lived up to the hype:

G Kasparov – The World
Sicilian Bb5+
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.c4 Nc6 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.0–0 g6 8.d4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bg7 10.Nde2 Qe6!? (A novelty at the time) **11.Nd5 Qxe4 12.Nc7+ Kd7 13.Nxa8 Qxc4! 14.Nb6+!?** (After 14.b3 Qd5 15.Qc2 Qe4 Black is slightly better) **14...axb6 15.Nc3 Ra8 16.a4! Ne4?!** (16...Ra5 17.Re1 Rf5 was better) **17.Nxe4 Qxe4 18.Qb3 f5!?**

19.Bg5 (19.Qxb6 Nd4! 20.Kh1 Nc2 21.Qb5+ Qc6 22.Qxc6+ bxc6 23.Ra2 Nb4 gives Black at least a draw and 20.Be3 is today's puzzle) **19...Qb4 20.Qf7 Be5 21.h3 Rxa4 22.Rxa4 Qxa4 23.Qxh7 Bxb2 24.Qxg6 Qe4 25.Qf7 Bd4 26.Qb3! f4 27.Qf7 Be5 28.h4 b5 29.h5 Qc4 30.Qf5+ Qe6 31.Qxe6+ Kxe6 32.g3** (After 32.h6 Kf5 33.Bh4 b4 Black should win) **32...fxg3 33.fxg3 b4 34.Bf4 Bd4+ 35.Kh1! b3!?** (35...Ne5 36.Bxe5 dxe5 37.h6 b3 38.h7 e4 39.Kg2 b2=) **36.g4! Kd5 37.g5 e6!** (Black needs e7 for the knight) **38.h6** (38.Rd1 wins after 38...b2 39.g6 Ne7 40.g7 or 38...Ke4 39.Bxd6 Kf5 40.g6) **38...Ne7 39.Rd1 e5 40.Be3 Kc4 41.Bxd4 exd4 42.Kg2 b2 43.Kf3 Kc3 44.h7 Ng6 45.Ke4 Kc2 46.Rh1 d3 47.Kf5 b1Q 48.Rxb1 Kxb1 49.Kxg6 d2 50.h8Q d1Q 51.Qh7!** (White's pawn is more advanced) **51...b5 52.Kf6+ Kb2**

53.Qh2+! Ka1 54.Qf4 b4?! (54...Qd3 55.g6 Qc3+ 56.Ke6 b4 57.Qf1+ Ka2 58.Qg2+ Ka3 59.g7 Qc8+ draws) **55.Qxb4** (Now it's winning) **55...Qf3+ 56.Kg7 d5 57.Qd4+ Kb1 58.g6 Qe4? 59.Qg1+ Kb2 60.Qf2+! Kc1 61.Kf6 d4 62.g7 1–0** 62...Qc6+ 63.Kg5 Qd5+ 64.Qf5 Qd8+ 65.Kh6 Qg8 66.Qc5+ Kb1 67.Qxd4 or here 65...Qh4+ 66.Kg6 Qg3+ 67.Qg5+.

Black to play and win:



Answer: 20...Ra6 wins the queen.

Announcements

Email: announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk **Book online:** announcements.telegraph.co.uk

Births

JAMES.—On June 12th, to Flavia (née Coppack) and Dan, a son, Kit Louis Monroe, a brother to Gray and Scarlet.
Online Ref: WO025836

Deaths

BULLOCK.—Colin William Vincent LDS RCS. Peacefully at home on 14th June 2024 aged 88. Beloved husband to Yvonne, devoted father to Amanda, Belinda, Matthew and Victoria, adored grandpa and great grandpa. Will live on in our hearts and memories. Private cremation.
Online Ref: WO025792

CAVE-SMITH.—Eleanor Patricia. Died peacefully at home in Salisbury surrounded by family on Sunday 9th June. Much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, she will be hugely missed by her family and friends. Thanksgiving service in Salisbury Cathedral to be announced.
Online Ref: WO025830

EWART-JAMES.—Elizabeth Scott, died peacefully on 18th June after a short illness. Dearly loved wife of Andrew, mother of Lucy, Timothy and Robin and grandmother of five. Funeral arrangements will be announced in these columns.
Online Ref: WO025849

GOWER-JONES.—Rosemary (née Wilks). Peacefully at home on Tuesday 4th June 2024, with her family by her side, Rosemary aged 100 years of Sennen. Beloved wife of the late John Gower-Jones, much loved mum of Chris, Veronica and Tony, and a loving grandmother of 6 and great grandmother of 11. Funeral Service on Friday 28th June 2024, 12.30 p.m. at St Just Parish Church. Family flowers only and donations accepted on behalf of The Salvation Army c/o W.C. Matthews & Son, Funeral Directors, "Rhoc", Maria's Lane, Sennen, Penzance TR19 7BU. Tel: (01736) 871265.
Online Ref: WO025732

IRONS.—Veronica 'VJ' died peacefully surrounded by her family on 16th June. Loving wife to Marriott, wonderful mother to Penny, Rosanda, Justine and Philip and adoring grandmother to Molly, Freya, Jess, Lilly, William, Scarlett, Sebe, Rachael and Alex. Service at St Michael's, Chenies at 2 p.m. on 28th June.
Online Ref: WO025729

MARR.—Wendy (née Livock) died peacefully on 13th June 2024, aged 85. Beloved mother of Andrew and Charlotte, sister of Adrienne, aunt of Beth and granny to Christian and Lara. Funeral to be held at Woking Crematorium, 8th July at 10 a.m.
Online Ref: WO025837

McDONOUGH.—James Thomas 'Jim'. Died on 5th June 2024 aged 91 years. Loving husband, father, brother and son. His Funeral will take place at All Saints Church, Selsley, Stroud, Gloucestershire, on 27th June at 2 p.m. Further details from Michael Gamble Funeral Directors www.michaelgamble.net
Online Ref: WO025796

SEDDON.—(née Bastedo). Penelope 'Penny', aged 75, died on 9th June 2024. Much loved wife of Tony, mother of Amanda, Mark and Peter, and grandmother of nine. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, Ditchling on Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 3 p.m. Family flowers only, donations to The Beacon Parish PCC. For further details contact Bowley Funeral Service. Tel: 01273 841711. Email: funerals@bowleyfuneralservice.co.uk
Online Ref: WO025761

TILEY.—Angie. Died on 18th June 2024. Loving sister of the late Jackie. She will be hugely missed by all her friends. No funeral but donations to St Wilfrid's Hospice PO18 8QB.
Online Ref: WO025804

WRIGHT.—Mavis (née Beard). Died peacefully at home on 9th June 2024, aged 86 years. Beloved wife of Derek, mother of sons Lindsey and Alistair, grandmother of Mollie, Harry and Millie. The Funeral will take place at St Paul's URC Harrogate on Thursday 27th June at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations to Dementia Forward.
Online Ref: WO025816

YOUNGER.—Captain Sir David Younger, KCVO, after a stoic battle with cancer and dementia, died peacefully on Friday 14th June, with family by his side and following the best care his family could ever hope for. Aged 85, a much loved and admired father, grandfather, great grandfather and contributor to life in Peeblesshire, he will be sorely missed. A Thanksgiving Service will be held on Monday 8th July at 2 p.m. at The Old Parish Church, Peebles, EH45 8SW – all are welcome.
Online Ref: WO025857

In memoriam their name liveth for evermore

GUY.—P/O GP (Bill) 57 Sqn RAF, Pilot Lancaster LM580. KIA Wesseling Raid, 21st/22nd June 1944. "He gave his life for his crew". Remembered 80 years on. "Corpus Non Animum Muto".
Online Ref: WO025627

Personal

Text for the day

LET BROTHERLY love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.
Hebrews 13.1-3 (AV)

Birthdays

ANNE HILLIER IS 65! Dearest Annie Happy Birthday. Im sure we will all have a good boogie at your party. Love from Sandy and Carol.
Online Ref: WO025869

EUGENE SMITH To my amazing wife, I want to wish you the best birthday! I am so lucky to have met you. Lots of love, Anthony.
Online Ref: WO025859

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DAVE! To our great friend, we hope you have a good golf trip in Portugal. We look forward to our next tee off with you! All the best your golfing friends.
Online Ref: WO025868

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PAYMENT OUT OF CAPITAL FOR PURCHASE OF OWN SHARES

APPLEDORE DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED

Appledore Developments Limited, registration number 03336512, whose registered office is at 51 St Mary's Road, Tonbridge Kent TN9 2LE hereby gives notice in accordance with section 719 of the Companies Act 2006 that, pursuant to a special resolution dated 17 June 2024, the shareholders of the company have approved a payment out of capital for the purpose of acquiring its own shares by purchase.

The amount of the permissible capital payment is £791,960.52.

The Directors' Statement and Auditor's Report required by section 714 of the Companies Act 2006 are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company as stated above.

Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the said special resolution apply to the Court under section 721 of the Companies Act 2006 for an order preventing the payment.

Yvette Brotherton
Director

For and on behalf of Appledore Developments Limited

18 June 2024

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The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph

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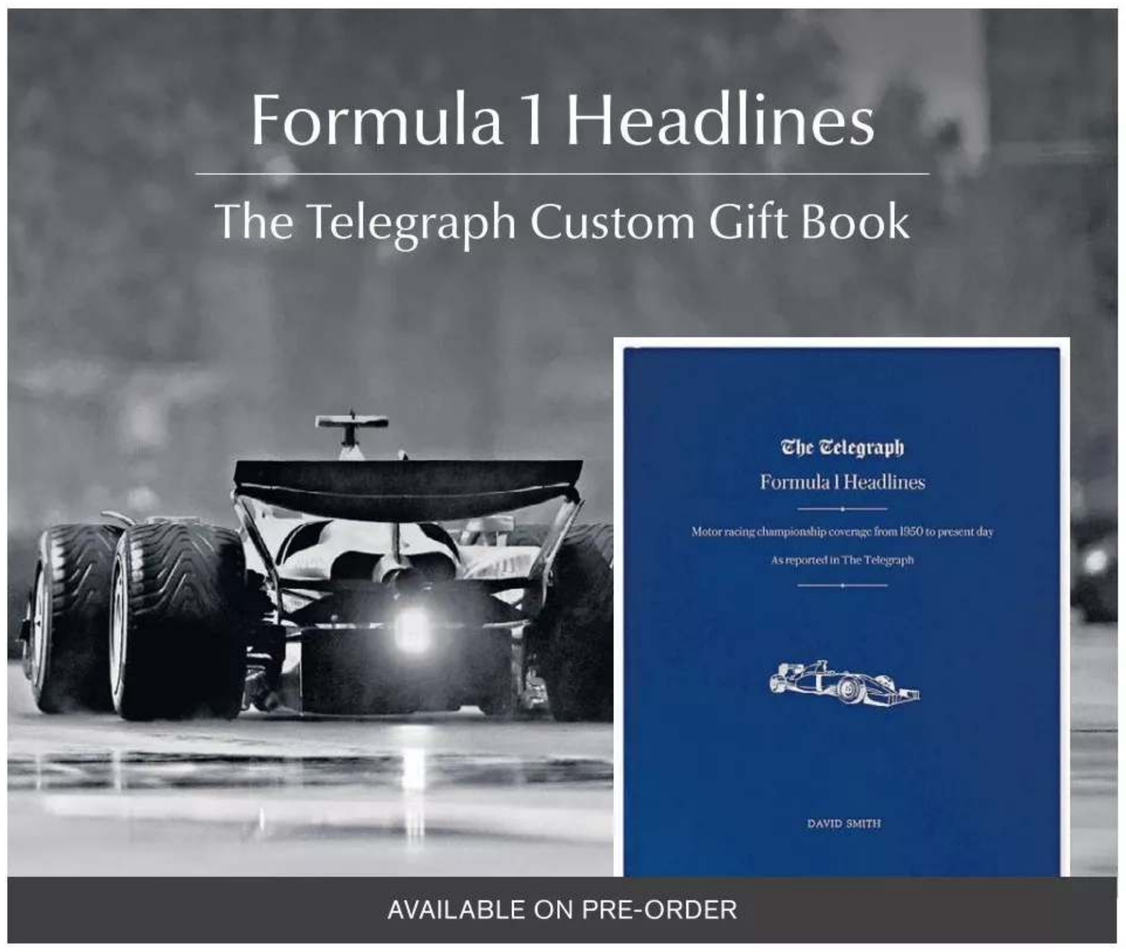

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Donald Sutherland

Magnetic Hollywood star whose 50-year career ranged from *Don't Look Now* to the *Hunger Games*

DONALD SUTHERLAND, the Canadian-born actor who has died aged 88, was one of Hollywood's busiest and most versatile stars, capable of playing everything from comedy to Grand Guignol, and gaining a new audience as the monstrous dictator in the *Hunger Games* film franchise.

Sutherland, who appeared in over 100 films, was one of the most distinctive looking men ever to make it as a leading Hollywood star. A rakish, loose-limbed 6ft 4in, with big ears, a toothy grin, prominent pale blue eyes and a hang dog expression, he might have been called ugly in conventional terms.

At the same time, though, he exerted a brooding sexual magnetism which many women found irresistible, and his lugubrious baritone voice was as instantly recognisable as James Mason's.

He was respected by his peers and by directors for his willingness to accept direction, and for his ability to bring his artistic intelligence to bear on absorbing a director's wishes. He believed that the actor's job is not to argue, but to be manipulated, an unusual view in Hollywood, where stars traditionally behave like autocrats.

Yet at the same time Sutherland was no cipher. Laid-back and likeably eccentric, he always insisted on a no-nudity clause in his contracts, on the grounds that he did not want the sight of his penis to destroy an audience's suspension of disbelief.

Sutherland's easy charm was best expressed in the character of Hawkeye Pierce, the oddball iconoclast in Robert Altman's Korean war satire *M*A*S*H* (1970), the film which catapulted him to stardom. Interestingly, Sutherland did not consider he had made the best of Altman's light-touch directing style, as he had not yet learnt his place as an actor, and insisted on playing the part his own way.

His perception of the actor's role was changed by the British director Nicolas Roeg, for whom he worked in his adaption of Daphne du Maurier's eerie horror tale *Don't Look Now* (1974). Sutherland had read the story and agreed to do it, but suggested to Roeg that it should have a happy ending. "Do you want to do it or not?" Roeg demanded brusquely. "Because that's the film."

Sutherland went on to give one of his most memorable performances as the bereaved father haunted by visions of his recently drowned daughter. The film was particularly memorable for a torrid sex scene between Sutherland and his co-star Julie Christie, which was so realistic it left audiences wondering whether the two had become carried away and had actually done the deed.

In fact, the scene was a very good example of Sutherland's ability to take direction. As he recalled later, the two barely knew each other when they had to walk naked on to the set and lie on the bed: "The director said: 'Right, Julie, pull your knees up to your shoulder. Donald, take your mouth and slide it down the inside of her left thigh.' It went on like this for 12 hours. Neither of us could speak afterwards."

Sutherland worked for some of the greatest directors of the 20th century, including Federico Fellini, Bernardo Bertolucci, Louis Malle, John Schlesinger and Robert Aldrich.

Among other performances, he played the psychopathic private who impersonates a general in *The Dirty Dozen*; the star-struck clerk, Homer Simpson, in Schlesinger's *The Day of the Locust*; a fascist foreman in Bertolucci's *1900*; the title role in *Fellini's Casanova*; the father struggling to keep his family together in Robert Redford's *Ordinary People* (1980); and an Afrikaner teacher who sees the light in *A Dry White Season* (1998).

Yet Sutherland's very versatility sometimes counted against him, and his name was conspicuously absent from the lists of Oscar nominations. His failure to build up a consistent image meant that he never had an identifiable following. Because no two of his roles were alike, audiences never knew what to expect when he was cast and formed no clear view of his personality.

JEAN-LOUIS URU VIA GETTY

Sutherland: tall and loose-limbed, with a hang-dog expression, he exerted a brooding sex appeal

Donald Sutherland was born on July 17 1935 at St John, New Brunswick, and was raised in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia, where his father ran the local bus, gas and elctricity company. As a child he suffered frequent bouts of ill health: he contracted polio when he was two and was confined to bed with rheumatic fever for a year at the age of 11.

Sutherland never visited the theatre as a child and at first he wanted to be a sculptor. But he was soon showing his potential as a performer, becoming Canada's youngest disc jockey aged 14 and winning local acclaim for his vivid radio portrayal of Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*.

He still harboured ambitions to become a sculptor, though his father advised him to get a profession to fall back on and he entered Toronto University to study Engineering. His first taste of theatre came via a variety of roles in campus productions: his performance in *The Tempest* brought the attention of a Toronto *Globe and Mail* critic, who suggested to Sutherland that he consider an acting career.

By the end of his time at the university, he was so involved in acting, he failed his exams in accounting and statistics. He transferred to Victoria College and graduated in English.

Sutherland admired the versatility of British actors such as Laurence Olivier and Alec Guinness and decided to train in Britain, rather than in America, believing that British acting schools instilled better discipline. He arrived in London in 1952 to study at Lamda, but found it "snobby and unwelcoming" and left a year later, after his voice coach advised him to become a lorry driver.

He then auditioned for the Perth Repertory Theatre and was taken on as their second lead, beginning an apprenticeship in British rep which took him all round the country. By 1961 he was appearing in television shows like *The Saint* and in 1963 he made his West End stage debut in *August for the People* with Rex Harrison and Rachel Roberts.

The following year he was cast in his first significant film role, *Il Castello dei Morti Vivi* (Castle of the Living Dead), an Italian horror movie directed by Warren Keifer, in which Sutherland had an early chance to demonstrate his versatility by playing a dual role as a young soldier and an old hag.

His performance in this otherwise unedifying piece was enough to convince various casting directors of his potential – at least for horror movies – and, after moving to America, Sutherland was soon appearing in a number of second-rate examples of the genre, including *Dr Terror's House of Horrors* and *Die! Die! Darling!* (both 1965).

A move into more respectable fare came in 1967, when Robert Aldrich cast him as a slow-witted killer in the highly successful *The Dirty Dozen*. By the early 1970s, Sutherland had become an established star, thanks to his leading roles in *Kelly's Heroes* (1970), *Start the Revolution Without Me* (1969) and *M*A*S*H* (1970).

In 1971 he enhanced his reputation for versatility with a portrayal of a small town private detective in Alan J Pakula's *Klute*, from which his co-star Jane Fonda walked away with an Oscar for Best Actress.

By this time, Sutherland had become something of an idol for younger audiences, due to the kind of roles he took on and to his vociferous opposition to the Vietnam war. He had begun an affair with Jane Fonda during the filming of *Klute* and together they roamed the world, denouncing the war. In 1972 they made the anti-war documentary *FTA*. Sutherland continued his mainstream Hollywood work, enjoying success with *Don't Look Now* in 1973 as well as *The Day of the Locust* (1974) and *Fellini's Casanova* (1976).

In 1978, he won a permanent place in the hearts of ageing hippies with his portrayal of a pot-smoking, metaphysics-spouting college professor in National Lampoon's *Animal House*. Sutherland had been so convinced the film would be a failure that, when offered a percent of the gross profits or an upfront payment of $40,000, he took the upfront payment. Had he taken the gross percentage he would have earned $30-40 million. It was the sort of bad judgment that would be repeated on several occasions during his career.

After the critically acclaimed *Ordinary People* (1980), in which almost the entire ensemble got Oscar nominations except for Sutherland, he entered a relatively unremarkable phase of his career, appearing in one forgettable film after another. He turned down starring roles in *Deliverance* and *Straw Dogs* because he did not agree with the violence, though he later admitted he had been wrong to do so.

In 1989, however, he won ecstatic reviews for his role in *A Dry White Season* and his title role in *Bethune: The Making of a Hero*.

In the 1990s, he was the informant who cried conspiracy in *JFK* (1991), a Van Helsing figure in *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1992), a wealthy New Yorker who gets taken in by con artist Will Smith in *Six Degrees of Separation* (1993), and a general in the virus thriller *Outbreak* (1995).

The same year, he won an Emmy and a Golden Globe for his role in the television drama *Citizen X*. In 1998, he earned a Golden Globe nomination for his performance as the track coach in *Without Limits*, Robert Towne's film based on the life of the runner Steve Prefontaine. He won another Golden Globe in 2003 for the Vietnam-themed TV movie *Path to War*.

In 2000, he enjoyed further critical and commercial success with *Space Cowboys*, a good-natured adventure in which he teamed up with Tommy Lee Jones, Clint Eastwood and James Garner as geriatric astronauts who get another chance to blast into orbit.

Sutherland continued working into old age, his President Snow adding a silky, sinister presence to four instalments of the *Hunger Games* film series (2012-15); and last year he lent gravitas to the acclaimed Paramount+ Western miniseries *Lawmen: Bass Reeves* as "Hanging" Judge Parker.

Sutherland made his Broadway debut in 1981 in *Lolita* and appeared in 2000 at the Savoy Theatre, London, as a reclusive Nobel Prize-winning author in *Enigmatic Variations*, a translation by his son Roeg of a play by the French writer Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt. Neither play was a critical success, however. In the 1970s he had turned down an offer to act in and invest in *La Cage aux Folles* which went on to be a spectacular Broadway hit. The decision was one which, he freely confessed, made him feel "very stupid for a long time".

He was awarded an honorary Academy Award in 2017.

Sutherland enjoyed expensive wines, but only drank claret after finding that Burgundy turned him "into Oliver Reed". He became a crusading non-smoker after discovering that he was allergic to smoke. He was devoted to his (third) family and to his Jack Russell, Ruby.

Sutherland was married three times, first, in 1959 (dissolved 1966) to Lois Hardwick, a Canadian actress whom he met during his time in Britain; secondly, in 1966 (dissolved 1971) to Shirley Douglas, another Canadian actress and daughter of Tommy Douglas, the leader of Canada's centre-left New Democratic Party; and thirdly, in 1990, to Francine Racette, a French-Canadian actress whom he had lived with since 1972.

He had a daughter and a son by Shirley Douglas and three sons by Francine Racette. All his sons (Angus Redford, Rossif, Roeg and Kiefer Sutherland, the actor) were named after film directors.

Donald Sutherland, born July 17 1935, death announced June 20 2024

Doug Ingle

Iron Butterfly organist behind hit single *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida*

DOUG INGLE, who has died aged 78, was the founder, organist, singer and principal songwriter of the Californian hard rock band Iron Butterfly; he wrote and sang their best-known track, the 17-minute epic *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida* – a truncated version of which became their only hit single – and was the last survivor of their classic 1960s line-up.

Ingle wrote the song – "just a guy affirming his love for a girl" – having downed "a gallon of Red Mountain wine" and when the band's drummer Ron Bushy tried to transcribe the lyrics, Ingle was so drunk that his opening line "in the Garden of Eden" came out as "In-A-Gadda-Vida".

With its doom-laden riff and Ingle's gruff, baritone vocal, the song proved the perfect soundtrack as the Sixties hippy dream gave way to something darker. The band were a clear influence on nascent heavy metal giants like Black Sabbath, and the *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida* album sold eight million copies in its first year, with sales eventually passing the 30-million mark.

Douglas Lloyd Ingle was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on September 9 1945; he was exposed to music from the beginning by his father, a church organist. Soon after he was born the family moved to the Rocky Mountains before settling in San Diego.

There in 1966 Ingle founded Iron Butterfly, saying of the name, inscrutably: "We wanted a melodic consciousness contained within the rock format."

They soon decamped to Los Angeles. They secured dates at venues like the Whisky a Go Go, went on tour with Jefferson Airplane (as well as supporting Janis Joplin, the Doors and others) and were signed by Atco, a subsidiary of Atlantic.

They made their debut album, *Heavy*, in the summer of 1967, though Ingle and Bushy had to hurriedly recruit replacements when their bandmates deserted them after it had been recorded. *Heavy* eventually went gold, while the follow-up, *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida*, became the best-selling US album of 1969.

Iron Butterfly were booked for the Woodstock festival, but became stranded at La Guardia Airport in New York. Their manager cabled the organisers demanding that a helicopter be dispatched, but received the following telegram: "For reasons I can't go into/Until you are here/Clarifying your situation/Knowing you are having problems/You will have to find/Other transportation/Unless you plan not to come."

Ingle: his garbled opening line came after 'a gallon of wine'

The words formed by the initial letters of each line underlined the fact that there would be no chopper flying their way.

In 1971, while Iron Butterfly were supporting the prog giants Yes on a UK tour, Ingle decided to call it a day, unhappy with the jazzy new horn-based direction his band was taking. With the taxman on their tails, they decided to split.

Ingle had a brief stint with the evocatively named Stark Naked and the Car Thieves, and, having made more than a million dollars in Iron Butterfly, he bought a 600-acre ranch. But his debts to the Internal Revenue Service racked up – "I didn't involve myself at the business level at all, I took the luxury of playing ostrich," he later admitted – and by the middle of the decade he was managing a car park in the Los Angeles National Forest, later working as a housepainter. It was not until 1986 that he was clear with the taxman.

Iron Butterfly had several reunions over the years, some of which he signed up for, and *In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida* became a go-to track for directors exploring darker themes. A version by Slayer was used in the 1987 film of Bret Easton Ellis's teen-angst novel *Less Than Zero*, while the original was used in the 1986 Michael Mann film *Manhunter* (with Brian Cox as Hannibal Lecter) and in "Bart sells his soul", a 1995 episode of *The Simpsons*.

Doug Ingle was married three times and had six children and three stepchildren.

Doug Ingle, born September 9 1945, died May 24 2024

Courtenay Meredith

Prop forward known as 'Iron Man' in the last Welsh rugby union team to have beaten New Zealand

COURTENAY MEREDITH, who has died aged 97, was the last surviving member of the last Wales rugby union team to have beaten New Zealand, a victory that is now more than 70 years distant.

A prop forward ranked among the finest front-rowers to have played for his country, he featured in Wales's 13-8 win against the All Blacks in Cardiff in late 1953, when Winston Churchill was still prime minister. There have been 33 matches between the two nations since then, and all have gone New Zealand's way.

That 1953 triumph, which came through tries from Sid Judd and Ken Jones, arrived in only Meredith's second Test match, but his contribution on the day helped to secure him a place at the international top table for the next four years, a period in which he played 18 Tests, 14 of them for his home nation and four for the British and Irish Lions on their 1955 tour to South Africa, a classic series that was drawn 2-2.

Packing down for the Lions in an all-Welsh front row with Billy Williams and Bryn Meredith (no relation), he was one of the biggest success stories of the trip, helping the tourists to a 23-22 victory in a nail-biting first Test in front of 90,000 spectators in Johannesburg before they went down 25-9 in Cape Town and then bounced back to win 9-6 in Pretoria.

Although the Lions lost the final Test in Port Elizabeth 22-8, an overall draw was a notable achievement against a strong home side, with Meredith's efforts going a long way to countering the danger of South Africa's props, Chris Koch and Jaap Bekker.

ALAMY

He once played on with a bleeding tongue

A mobile runner in the loose, Meredith was best known for his power and nous in the scrum, where he could play either at tighthead or loosehead, although he was most effective, and feared, in the former position. Nicknamed "the Iron Man", he was renowned for his indestructibility.

The Welsh flanker Clem Thomas recalled how in the third Lions Test in South Africa his team-mate picked up a serious mouth injury just before half-time that began to bleed profusely.

"I took one look at Courtenay's tongue and could see the hole in it," he said. "It looked horrendous, but he was playing so well and doing such a good job on their front row that I told him everything was fine and he should play on. He was spitting out blood for most of the second half and had to have a number of stitches after the game. If he had gone off we wouldn't have won."

Courtenay Charles Meredith was born on September 23 1926 in Hopkinstown, a village near Pontypridd, but was brought up in Crynant, near Neath, where he learnt his rugby at the Crynant club and Neath Grammar School. After National Service in the RAF he went to Cardiff University, switching in 1949 from Crynant, where he had been captain, to Neath, originally in the back row before moving to the front of the scrum.

He made his debut for Wales in the Five Nations Championship at Murrayfield in a 12-0 win against Scotland in early 1953 with his fellow Neath forwards Rees Stephens and Roy John, and the three of them were together again later in the year when Wales beat New Zealand.

He proved himself to be a world-class prop over the next couple of years, so his selection for the British Lions came as a surprise to no one, and aside from playing in all four Tests against South Africa he also appeared in 10 other games on that gruelling 25-match trip.

Tiring as it was, he at least benefited from the fact that the 1955 tour was the first by the Lions to take advantage of air travel, cutting a month off the overall schedule. None the less, with stop-offs in Zurich, Rome, Cairo, Khartoum, Nairobi and Entebbe on the way to Johannesburg, the 36-hour journey by propeller plane was hardly conducive to a relaxed frame of mind on arrival.

Meredith's international career lasted for another two years after South Africa, when at the age of 31 his final game for Wales came at the scene of his debut, in Murrayfield against Scotland in 1957.

He continued to play for Neath for a further season, captaining them in the 1957-58 campaign before retiring after 250 appearances for the club. He had also played six times for Barbarians between 1953 and 1956.

In life outside rugby Meredith worked in the steel industry, first for the Steel Company of Wales and later for British Steel as a production engineer in charge of the huge rolling mill at Port Talbot steelworks.

Generally he chose not to maintain close ties with rugby in retirement, rarely taking up invitations to Wales games or functions, declining the chance to visit Neath when the club inducted him into its hall of fame and politely refusing all interview requests, even in relation to the famous match against the All Blacks in 1953.

With Meredith's death, only one player from that game now survives – the New Zealand flanker Bill McCaw, who is 96.

Courtenay Meredith, born September 23 1926, died May 30 2024

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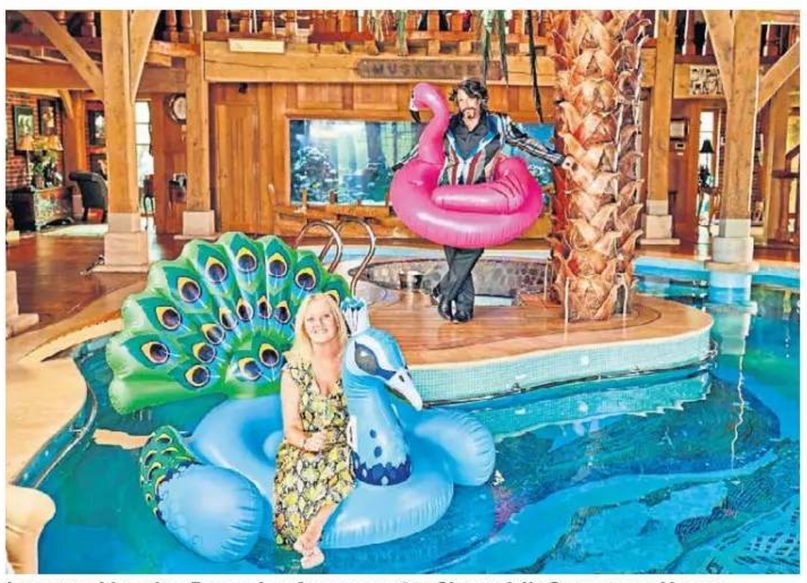
Last night on television Anita Singh

Tedious zaniness made bearable by Llewelyn-Bowen



Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen has fun presenting Channel 4's Outrageous Homes

An Englishman's home is his castle – or, in the case of the late playboy publisher Felix Dennis, a 12,000sq ft pretend pirate ship with an indoor crow's nest and a hatch in the ceiling to facilitate escape via hot air balloon. This Warwickshire pile with a *Treasure Island* theme is now owned by a woman called Dawn, and it is the property that opened **Outrageous Homes** (Channel 4). This is a series presented by Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, and thank goodness for him, because his tone – halfway between admiration and mickey-taking – is the only thing that makes it passable.

I love Llewelyn-Bowen because he is determined never to take things too seriously, and the homeowners seem to be in on the joke. Dawn drifts into shot on an inflatable flamingo. Did I mention that the house has a swimming pool in the middle of the living room? With palm trees? Apparently, Dennis had the fronds preserved in embalming fluid mixed with green dye. He also installed several pirate mannequins in the bedroom, which adds a creepy funfair vibe.

It goes unmentioned in the programme, but the house is up for sale at £3.65 million (down from nearly £10 million when it was advertised in 2015). No word on whether Dawn is taking the pirates with her.

After this property, the others featured in the programme were positively boring by comparison, although I developed a soft spot for the man who said: "I woke up one morning and I thought, 'I want a Western ranch!'" One chap had a lot of fish tanks. A woman covered every wall space in mosaics. Another had a busily decorated but otherwise unremarkable house, and the talking point was that she has a bright orange fridge (unplugged) in the bedroom, in which she keeps her underwear. "We've got a fridge in the bedroom," Llewelyn-Bowen said of his own home, "but it's full of gin, not pants."

The kiss of death for this show is that too many of the contributors are "you don't have to be mad to live here, but it helps!" types. The viewer's sympathy is with a husband who retreats from the madness of his wife's decor to "the room of shame": a beige oasis with magnolia walls.

For anyone who watched the rise of NFTs and thought the whole idea unutterably stupid, **The Stormtrooper Scandal** (BBC Two) is deeply satisfying. An NFT is a non-fungible token – described here as a kind of digital watermark that can be attached to an online work of art. So you buy this artwork, but you can't hold it or put it on your wall, because it exists only in the digital world. And the people dealing these things are laughing all the way to the bank.

Well, they were. According to an estimate at the end of this film, over 90 per cent of NFTs ever issued are worthless. You don't say! But at the height of the boom, in 2021, an art curator called Ben Moore had a whizzy idea. A few years earlier, he had held a charity auction in which artists of note – Damien Hirst and Jake Chapman – decorated *Star Wars* Stormtrooper helmets. His new scheme was to sell these as NFTs: the winning bidders would receive a digital image of them.

Initially, it went well. The lots sold in a matter of seconds, and subsequent trading drove up the price. For every trade, Moore received a cut. "It was just like winning the jackpot, all the money in the casino," he said. But the whole enterprise fell apart within a week of the sale, and Moore was contending with desperate collectors turning up on his doorstep. "I'm 10 grand out of pocket," one man pleaded. "I'm nearly losing the wife here."

The problem was that Moore had failed to tell the artists, all contributing in good faith, that he would exploit their work. Nor had it occurred to him that Lucasfilm, the company behind the franchise, might have something to say about it. Many collectors were 10s of thousands out of pocket after the artists withdrew their work, and Moore was facing legal threats.

Many of those artists appeared here (at least two of them in Spider-Man-style full face masks, adding to the general absurdity). One said of Moore: "I've met his type before: a kind of posh boy chancer." It seemed an accurate description. While the story was generally well-told, watching it was frustrating because the film-makers failed to interrogate anything that Moore was saying. Instead, they indulged him, allowing him to prance about on camera in his pink Stormtrooper helmet and accompany him to webuyanycar.com to flog the Bentley he supposedly bought with the proceeds of the sale. There was a nagging sense that we were being had.

Outrageous Homes ★★
The Stormtrooper Scandal ★★★

What to watch

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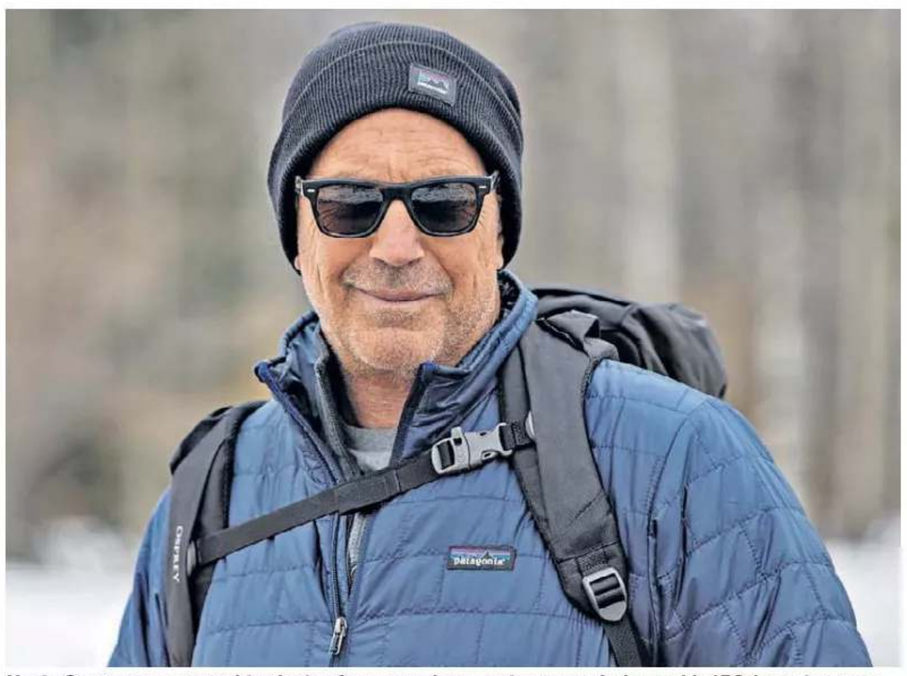

Kevin Costner presents this elegiac four-part docu-series to mark the park's 150th anniversary

In the hugely successful drama series *Yellowstone*, Kevin Costner plays patriarch John Dutton, the ruthless owner of a Montana ranch which borders the Yellowstone National Park. For this elegiac four-part documentary series, the actor ventures deep into the canyons and forests that make up one of America's most awe-inspiring landscapes. Originally airing in the US in 2022, the series is a celebration of the park's 150th anniversary. Thus Costner tells the absorbing story of its birth. He explains how, in 1871, a geologist called Ferdinand Hayden led an expedition to the region on the orders of Congress. His mission was to size up this mysterious new land for potential industry. Instead, the expedition was so overawed by Yellowstone's beauty that Congress eventually made it the world's first national park. Costner does his best man-of-the-woods impression in retracing Hayden's footsteps; fishing in the lake, cooking over the fire. Understandably, he saves his most profound reverence for the Grand Prismatic Spring, a hot spring that shines five different colours. "When I was younger I saw pictures and I thought, 'Could there be a place like this in the world?'" ***Stephen Kelly***

ARTS

Isle of Wight Festival 2024
Sky Arts, 7pm
Sky Arts kicks off festival season with a bang, as UK electronica royalty The Prodigy headline the opening night on the Isle of Wight *(11.30pm)*. Before then, you can catch acts such as Crowded House and The Streets. The weekend's other headliners are Pet Shop Boys and Green Day.

Catch up with the best music from the Isle of Wight Festival

DOCUMENTARY

Dispatches: Rubbish Tip Britain
Channel 4, 8pm
Another terrific *Dispatches* investigation, this time into the putrid world of waste crime. One major landfill site, for instance, is full of banned toxic waste, while new satellite data suggests that hundreds of unregulated waste dumps are being operated in plain sight across Britain. Couple that with the low number of prosecutions for fly tipping and it all starts to stink.

Chinook: Zulu Delta 576
BBC Two, 9pm
The concluding part of the documentary, about the 1994 Mull of Kintyre Chinook helicopter crash, contests the RAF's claim that the fatal accident was due to the "negligence" of pilots Jonathan Tapper and Richard Cook. Instead, evidence points to a potential cover-up of the truth – faulty computer software that made the aircraft unfit for flying.

Paranormal: The Village That Saw Aliens
BBC Three, 9pm & 9.30pm
Is the truth out there? Tonight's concluding two-parter features some titillating claims. Take the multiple people in south Wales who say they have all seen the same cigar-shaped UFO. Yet for all of its contrived mystery and spooky music, there's not much here that will turn a sceptic into a believer. BBC journalist Sian Eleri hosts.

DRAMA

Rebus
BBC Scotland, 9pm
In a TV landscape full of identikit detective dramas, the sheer quality of *Rebus*'s plots and characters blaze bright. Tonight's superb finale continues the show's form for navigating horror with humanity and soul. There is a particularly striking scene in which Rebus's (Richard Rankin) army veteran brother Michael (Brian Ferguson) delivers an impassioned soliloquy about the emptiness of civilian life.

Sister Boniface Mysteries: Mark Heap guest stars

Sister Boniface Mysteries
Drama, 9pm
The writers sure are having a lot of fun this series. A few weeks ago the cosy detective drama (a spin-off from the perennially popular *Father Brown*) opened with a riff on James Bond. Tonight, we meet Kirk Fabricant (guest actor Mark Heap), the kidnapped actor behind cancelled science-fiction show "Professor Y". His spaceship is a telephone box. He travels in time and space. Hmm, Who could that be a reference to? ***SK***

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How will this election affect my children's future?

Radio choice

Communicating with Ros Atkins
Radio 4, 2.45pm

There's a distinct whiff of the self-improver in *Communicating with Ros Atkins*, a series about tweaking your communication skills and featuring, this week, comedian Rob Brydon. More gem-like is the **Antarctic Midwinter Broadcast 2024** (*World Service, 10.30pm*). Hosted by Cerys Matthews, this half-hour show used to be aimed at just the scientists and staff living at remote British research stations in the Antarctic. Having become a cult hit for shortwave radio enthusiasts around the world, however, it's now an annual World Service institution. ***Gerard O'Donovan***

RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHZ

6.33am Radio 1's Best New Pop **6.57** Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Sam and Danni **10.00** Radio 1 Anthems **10.30** Newsbeat **10.32** Radio 1 Anthems **11.02** Danny Beard **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Summer on Radio 1 with Nikita Kanda **3.00** Radio 1's Party Anthems **4.00** The Official Chart on Radio 1 with Jack Saunders **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's Dance Party with Danny Howard **8.00** Radio 1's Future Dance with Sarah Story **10.00** Pete Tong **12.00** Radio 1's Essential Mix **2.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **3.00** Danny Howard Club Mix **4.00** Radio 1 Anthems **5.00 - 6.00am** Radio 1 Relax

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHZ

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits **9.00** The Good Groove with DJ Spoony **11.00** The Rock Show with Johnnie Walker. Seasick Steve reveals his Rock God **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00am** Ray Davies at the BBC **2.00** Tracks of My Years – A Ray Davies Special **3.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco **5.00 - 6.00am** Radio 2 in Concert: Hothouse Flowers

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. Mezzo Jamie Barton chooses music for Pride Month **7.30** Friday Night Is Music Night. Dance-related light music **9.45** The Essay: The Sounds of Tyne. Poet Jake Morris-Campbell evokes the spirit of Newcastle god Antenociticus **10.00** Late Junction. Verity Sharp picks tracks to celebrate the longest day of the year **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** Desert Island Discs **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Food Programme **11.45** Book of the Week: The Stalin Affair **12.00** News **12.04pm** Rare Earth. How wildlife and the environment treated in the election manifestos **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Presented by Jonny Dymond **1.45** Understand: The UK Election. Key elements of the General Election. Last in the series **2.00** The Archers. Kirsty leads the charge **2.15** Drama: The Specialist. By Matthew Broughton **2.45 Communicating with Ros Atkins** **See Radio choice** **3.00** Gardeners' Question Time. Experts answer listeners' queries **3.45** Short Works. The Shooting Drill, by Benjamin Markovits **4.00** Last Word. A selection of obituaries **4.30** More or Less. Numbers and statistics used in everyday life **5.00** PM. Presented by Evan Davis **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** The News Quiz. Andy Zaltzman hosts the topical comedy panel game **7.00** The Archers. Alice makes a shocking decision **7.15** Add to Playlist. With sitar player Jasdeep Singh Degun and composer Anne Dudley **8.00** Any Questions? **9.00** Free Thinking **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Jensen: The Bellevue Poltergeist **11.00** Americast **11.30** The Beauty of Everyday Things **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** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45 - 6.00am** NatureBang

RADIO 5 LIVE
MW 693 & 909KHZ

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** 5 Live Sport **2.00** 5 Live Sport **4.00** 5 Live News **4.30** 5 Live Sport **5.00** 5 Live Sport **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport **10.30** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Lisa McCormick **5.00 - 6.00am** 5 Live Boxing

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** Classic FM at the Movies with Jonathan Ross. Jonathan celebrates the music from some film favourites **9.00** Traditional Tunes with Iona Stephen. Iona celebrates folk music from the Americas **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00 - 7.00am** Sam Pittis

WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News **8.06** HARDtalk **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** Science in Action **10.00** News **10.06** Unexpected Elements **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** Heart and Soul **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** World Business Report **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** BBC OS Conversations **8.30** CrowdScience **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30 Antarctic Midwinter Broadcast 2024** **See Radio choice** **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** Unexpected Elements **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Stumped **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** News **4.06** Unexpected Elements **5.00** The Newsroom **5.30** The Documentary: Whose Truth? Russia vs Ukraine **5.50 - 6.00am** More or Less

RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Boxer and Doberman **6.30** Letters of Introduction **7.00** The Older Woman **7.30** The Burkiss Way **8.00** Says on the Tin **8.30** Diary of a Young Naturalist **8.45** Exile **9.00** Michael Spicer: No Room **9.15** Michael Spicer: No Room **9.30** Self Drives: The Trabant **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Soul Music **10.30** The Number 1 Ladies' Opera House **11.00** Boxer and Doberman **11.30** Letters of Introduction **12.00** The Older Woman **12.30pm** The Burkiss Way **1.00** Says on the Tin **1.30** Diary of a Young Naturalist **1.45** Exile **2.00** Foul Play **2.30** Arrested Development **3.00** Brideshead Revisited **4.00** Soul Music **4.30** The Number 1 Ladies' Opera House **5.00** Boxer and Doberman **5.30** Letters of Introduction **6.00** The Older Woman **6.30** The Burkiss Way **7.00** Says on the Tin **7.30** Diary of a Young Naturalist **7.45** Exile **8.00** Foul Play **8.30** Arrested Development **9.00** Brideshead Revisited **10.00** Michael Spicer: No Room **10.15** Michael Spicer: No Room **10.30** Laura Solon: Talking and Not Talking **11.00** The Problem with Adam Bloom **11.30** The Casebook of Max and Ivan **12.00** Soul Music **12.30am** The Number 1 Ladies' Opera House **1.00** Boxer and Doberman **1.30** Letters of Introduction **2.00** The Older Woman **2.30** The Burkiss Way **3.00** Says on the Tin **3.30** Diary of a Young Naturalist **3.45** Exile **4.00** Foul Play **4.30** Arrested Development **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) (R) (S)
12.15 pm Bargain Hunt (AD) (S)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather (S)
1.15 Regional News; Weather (S)
1.25 BBC News at One; Weather (S)
1.30 MOTD Live: Uefa Euro 2024 Slovakia v Ukraine (kick-off 2.00pm) (S)
4.15 Antiques Road Trip (R) (S)
4.45 Antiques Road Trip (R) (S)
5.15 Pointless (R) (S)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S)
6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)
6.55 Party Election Broadcast (S)

The Panorama Interviews

7.00 The Panorama Interviews with Nick Robinson (S)

7.30 MOTD Live: Uefa Euro 2024 Netherlands v France (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the Group D match from Leipzig Stadium, as two former champions face each other in an eagerly awaited encounter (S)

10.10 BBC News at Ten (S)
10.40 Regional News; Weather (S)
10.50 FILM: Ant-Man (2015) Superhero adventure starring Paul Rudd (AD) (S)

12.40 am Euro 2024 Match Replay **2.30 - 6.00am** News

BBC Two

6.15 am Homes Under the Hammer (AD) (R) (S) **7.15** Escape to the Country (R) (S) **8.00** Sign Zone: Mammals (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)

Chinook: Zulu Delta 576

7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Vernon Kay (S)

7.30 Beechgrove Garden Brian Cunningham and Carole Baxter offer tips on alpines (S)

8.00 Gardeners' World Frances Tophill explores Powderham Castle in Devon (S)

9.00 Chinook: Zulu Delta 576 Part two of two. A look at how the RAF blamed the pilots **See What to watch** (S)

10.00 QI With Rosie Jones, Henning Wehn and Ahir Shah (R) (S)
10.30 Newsnight (S)

11.05 The Stormtrooper Scandal **12.35am** Sign Zone: Panorama: Undercover School: Cruelty in the Classroom **1.05** Sign Zone: Springwatch **2.05** Sign Zone: David & Jay's Touring Toolshed **2.35** Sign Zone: On Thin Ice: Putin vs Greenpeace **3.05 - 6.15am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** Lorraine (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)
12.30 pm Loose Women (S)
1.00 News; Weather (S)
1.20 Regional News; Weather (S)
1.30 ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot Coverage of the fourth day of the meeting (S)
4.15 Live Uefa Euro 2024 Poland v Austria (kick-off 5.00pm) (S)

UEFA Euro 2024: Poland v Austria

7.30 Emmerdale Kerry's plan backfires (AD) (S)

8.00 Coronation Street Kevin gets caught on camera by Stefan (AD) (S)

9.00 Beat the Chasers Contestants from across the UK take on a team of five Chasers (R) (S)

10.00 News; Weather (S)
10.35 Regional News; Weather (S)
10.45 Uefa Euro 2024 Highlights Including Netherlands v France (S)

11.50 Adam Lambert: Out, Loud & Proud **12.50am** Shop on TV **3.00** The Larkins **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05 - 6.00am** Katie Piper's Breakfast Show

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)

Dispatches: Rubbish Tip Britain

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)

7.55 Party Election Broadcast By the Green Party (S)

8.00 Dispatches: Rubbish Tip Britain A look inside the lucrative world of waste crime **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox Shows including Love Island, Bake Off: The Professionals are appraised (AD) (S)

10.00 The Nevermets (AD) (S)
11.05 FILM: The Inbetweeners 2 (2014) Comedy sequel starring Simon Bird **12.55am** FILM: Mortal Engines (2018) Fantasy adventure starring Hera Hilmar **3.00** Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back **3.45** Come Dine with Me **4.10** Come Dine with Me **4.40** Come Dine with Me **5.05** Come Dine with Me **5.30** Come Dine with Me **5.55 - 6.00am** Sunday Brunch Best Bits

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)
2.15 FILM: She Went Missing (2022, TVM) Thriller starring Corbin Reid (AD) (S)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (AD) (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)

Lidl: Middle Aisle Secrets & More

7.00 Lidl: Middle Aisle Secrets & More A behind-the-scenes look at the inner workings of the supermarket (R) (S)

7.55 5 News Update (S)

8.00 Dalgliesh A young doctor is set on fire in the grounds of his family museum. Everyone who works there comes under suspicion - including his own siblings (S)

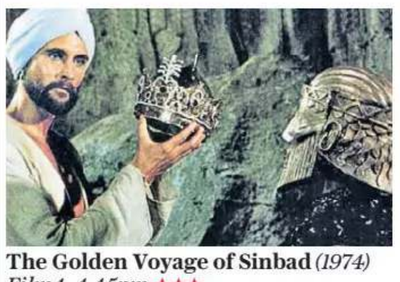
10.00 Live Championship Boxing: Arthur vs Cameron Lyndon Arthur v Liam Cameron (S)

12.05 am FILM: The Warriors (1979) Action adventure with Michael Beck **1.45** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.45** Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb **4.30** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **5.20** Entertainment News on 5 **5.25** Fireman Sam **5.35 - 6.00am** Paw Patrol

Film choice

Bread & Roses *(2023)*
Apple TV+ ★★★★

Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence co-produced this powerful documentary from film-maker Sahra Mani, about the experiences of women in Afghanistan in the aftermath of the Taliban regaining power in 2021. It features footage from Sharifa, an ex-government employee forced to remain indoors, Zahra, organising activists in her dentistry practice, and Taranom, who seeks refuge in Pakistan.



The Golden Voyage of Sinbad *(1974)*
Film4, 4.45pm ★★★

In this Ray Harryhausen stop-motion animated adventure, based on the classic Middle Eastern tale, John Phillip Law plays the intrepid sea-captain who sails to the mythical isle of Lemuria in search of the missing part of an amulet, but it's Tom Baker's splendid display of manic grinning as evil Prince Koura which anchors the film. Look out for Robert Shaw's cameo as an oracle with scary teeth.

Booksmart *(2019)*
BBC Three, 10pm ★★★★

Olivia Wilde's brilliant directorial debut takes place primarily over one night: high-school graduation. It stars Beanie Feldstein and Kaitlyn Dever as nerdy best friends who, on the final day of school, are faced with the awful realisation that while they chose studying to get into college over partying, their classmates managed both. Cue a John Hughesian night of self-realisation and fun.

EDUCATION
Conservatives vow to shut down 'Mickey Mouse' degrees
Join the conversation

BUSINESS
Inside Britain's nursery crisis
Explore

Explore more
Scan the QR code or visit telegraph.co.uk/generalelection

Freeview, satellite and cable

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC Four

FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 108

7.00 pm TOTP: 1996
7.30 TOTP: 1996
8.00 TOTP: 1992. Performances by Take That, the Orb, Sophie B Hawkins and Utah Saints
8.30 TOTP: 1978. Presented by David Jensen. First broadcast June 22, 1978
9.00 Studio 54. The story of the New York City nightclub
10.35 Disco at the BBC: Volume 3
11.35 Disco: Soundtrack of a Revolution
12.35 am Glastonbury Anthems
1.05 Glastonbury Anthems
1.35 Glastonbury Anthems
2.05 We Love Glastonbury
3.05 - 3.35am TOTP: 1978

ITV3

FV 10 FS 115 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117

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 Doc Martin
9.00 Shetland
10.20 Shetland
11.35 Lewis
1.25 am Upstairs, Downstairs
2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118

11.45 am The Return of Sherlock Holmes
12.55 pm Magnum, PI
1.55 Kojak
2.55 Minder
4.10 ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Coverage of the fourth day
6.30 River Monsters
7.00 The Motorbike Show
8.00 Junk and Disorderly
9.00 An Audience with Billy Connolly
10.05 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite
12.05 am Made in Britain
1.05 The Sweeney
2.05 The Protectors
2.30 Unwind with ITV
3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

FV 36 FS 147 SKY 130 VIRGIN 123

Noon The Joy of Painting
1.00 pm Tales of the Unexpected
2.00 National Treasures: The Art of Collecting
3.00 Cleo Laine: The Unseen Home Movies
4.00 Discovering: Mel Gibson
5.00 The Joy of Painting
6.00 Tales of the Unexpected
7.00 Isle of Wight Festival 2024 **See What to Watch**
1.00 Live from the Artists Den
2.15 Led Zeppelin: In the Light
3.30 - 4.30am Cheltenham Literature Festival

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

11.15 am Gomorrah
12.20 pm Game of Thrones
1.50 The Sopranos
2.55 The Sopranos
4.05 Six Feet Under
5.15 Six Feet Under
6.25 Gomorrah
7.30 Game of Thrones
9.00 The Pacific
10.10 House of the Dragon
11.20 The Wire
12.25 am The Time Traveler's Wife
1.25 Euphoria
2.35 - 4.00am Game of Thrones

Film4

FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428

11.00 am Carry On Regardless (1961, b/w)
12.50 pm The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958)
2.35 Jason and the Argonauts (1963) Fantasy adventure starring Todd Armstrong
4.45 The Golden Voyage of Sinbad (1974) **See Film choice**
6.55 Sister Act (1992) Comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg
9.00 Kingsman: The Secret Service (2015) Action comedy starring Colin Firth and Taron Egerton
11.40 Tropic Thunder (2008)
1.45 - 3.40am Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1991)

Drama

FV 20 FS 158 SKY 143 VIRGIN 116

11.40 am The Bill
12.40 pm Classic EastEnders
1.20 Classic EastEnders
2.00 London's Burning
3.00 Lovejoy
4.10 Tenko
5.10 Birds of a Feather
6.00 Waiting for God
6.40 Are You Being Served?
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine
8.00 Father Brown
9.00 Sister Boniface Mysteries **See What to Watch**
10.00 New Tricks
11.20 Soldier, Soldier
12.30 am Footballers' Wives
1.40 Lovejoy
2.45 - 4.00am Classic Holby City

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 Spanish Christmas **7.00** Would I Lie to You? **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Anna Maxwell Martin hosts an extended edition of the satirical panel show, with Steph McGovern and Chris McCausland joining team captains Paul Merton and Ian Hislop **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40am** Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled **1.40** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **2.40** Live at the Apollo: Christmas Special **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** Victoria Wood as Seen on TV **10.00** The Royle Family **10.40** Mrs Brown's Boys **12.00** Only Fools and Horses **12.40am** The Thin Blue Line **1.20** Victoria Wood as Seen on TV **2.00** The Royle Family **2.30-4.00am** Mrs Brown's Boys

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** Catchphrase Celebrity Special **7.00** Deal or No Deal **8.00** The Masked Singer US **9.00** Love Island **10.05** The Stand Up Sketch Show **10.35** Family Guy **11.35** American Dad! **12.35am** The Sex Lives of College Girls **1.40** Celebrity Karaoke Club **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** New Zealand by Train **10.00** 24 Hours in A&E **12.10am** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15-3.40am** The Twelve: Cinderella Murder

PBS America

11.50am Her War, Her Story: World War II **1.00pm** Beautiful Serengeti **1.30** 1945-1953: From World War to Cold War **2.40** SAS: Rogue Warriors **3.55** The War **5.00** Her War, Her Story: World War II **6.15** 1945-1953: From World War to Cold War **7.30** SAS: Rogue Warriors **8.40** The War **9.50** Her War, Her Story: World War II **10.55** Mafia's Greatest Hits **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:
11.10am FILM: River Beat (1954, b/w) Thriller starring Phyllis Kirk **12.30pm** The Four Just Men **1.00** Melvyn's Talking Pictures **1.10 FILM:** Eternally Yours (1939, b/w) Romantic comedy starring Loretta Young and David Niven **2.55** Melvyn's Talking Pictures **3.05** The Stranger Left No Card **3.35 FILM:** The Bargee (1964) Comedy with Harry H Corbett **5.45** Look at Life **6.00** Worzel Gummidge **6.30** Fireball XL5 **7.00 FILM:** The Halfway House (1943, b/w) Thriller starring Mervyn Johns and Glynis Johns **9.00** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **9.05 FILM:** The House on Sorority Row (1982) Horror starring Kate McNeil **10.55** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **11.00 FILM:** Offerings (1989) Horror starring Loretta Leigh Bowman **12.45am** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **12.50 FILM:** The Cat Burglar (1961) Drama starring Jack Hogan **2.10-5.00am FILM:** Strange Days (1995) Sci-fi thriller starring Ralph Fiennes

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** Hornby: A Model World **10.00** 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. England v South Africa **7.00** Live Betfred Super League. Leeds Rhinos v Leigh Leopards (kick-off 8.00pm) **10.15** 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. USA v West Indies

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** Class of '92: Full Time **12.00** PL Retro **2.00-4.00am** Premier League Years

TNT Sports 1

10.15am Live AFL. Carlton v Geelong Cats (bounce-up 10.40am) **1.30pm** Women's One-Day International Cricket **2.30** Uefa Champions League **5.30** MLB: Off the Bat **6.00** MLB Highlights **7.00** Live MLB. Chicago Cubs v New York Mets (start-time 7.20pm) **10.15** MLB Plays of the Week **10.45** Original Documentary **11.30** Inside Serie A **12.00** WWE SmackDown Highlights **1.00am** Live: WWE Friday Night SmackDown. Wrestling coverage **3.00** What Went Down **3.30-4.30am** UFC: The Ultimate Fighter

Discovery

Noon Wheeler Dealers **1.00pm** Barnwood Builders **3.00** Gold Rush **4.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **6.00** Texas Metal **7.00** Bitchin' Rides **8.00** Gold Rush: Parker's Trail **9.00** Moonshiners **10.00** Blowing Up History **11.00** Outback Truckers **12.00** Mystery at Blind Frog Ranch **1.00am** Moonshiners **2.00** Blowing Up History **3.00-4.00am** Gold Rush: Parker's Trail

Sky Cinema Premiere

24 hours, including at:
10.15am American Star (2024) Thriller starring Ian McShane **12.10pm** Five Nights at Freddy's (2023) Premiere. Horror thriller starring Josh Hutcherson **2.10** The Exorcist: Believer (2023) Horror sequel starring Leslie Odom Jr **4.10** The Great Escaper (2023) Drama starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson **6.00** Meg 2: The Trench (2023) Thriller sequel starring Jason Statham **8.00** Five Nights at Freddy's (2023) Premiere. Horror thriller starring Josh Hutcherson **10.00** The Exorcist: Believer (2023) Single parent Victor Fielding battles to save the soul of his daughter Angela, 13 years after the death of his wife. Horror sequel starring Leslie Odom Jr **12.00** American Star (2024) Thriller starring Ian McShane **2.00am** Ruthless (2023) Action thriller starring Dermot Mulroney **3.50-5.30am** The Royal Hotel (2023) Thriller starring Julia Garner and Jessica Henwick

Sky Documentaries

Noon FILM: Busby (2019) A profile of former Manchester United manager Matt Busby **2.00pm FILM:** All That Breathes (2022) Documentary starring Salik Rehman **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Tom Hanks **6.00** The Eighties **7.00** House of Kardashian **10.00** Terry Venables: A Man Can Dream **12.00** The Two Escobars **2.00-4.00am** Sergio Leone: The Italian Who Invented America

Sky History

Noon Secrets in the Ice **1.00pm** Pawn Stars **2.00** Auction Hunters **3.00** Secrets of the Lost Liners **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** American Pickers **7.00** Forged in Fire **8.00** Auction Kings **9.00** Storage Wars **10.00** Kings of Pain. Wildlife biologist Adam Thorn and animal handler Rob 'Caveman' Alleva examine those creature capable of electrocuting their victims **11.00** Evil Encounters **12.00** Pawn Stars **2.00am** Cursed Histories **3.00-4.00am** Auction Kings

Sky Max

Noon The Flash **1.00pm** MacGyver **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 **4.00** S.W.A.T. **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **6.00** Stargate SG-1 **8.00** A League of Their Own: Mexican Road Trip **9.00** The Walking Dead: The Ones Who Live **10.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **10.45** The Walking Dead **11.45** We're Here **1.00am** Road Wars **3.00-4.00am** Hawaii Five-0

Variations

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 10.50pm Party Election Broadcast **10.55** FILM: Ant-Man (2015) **12.45 - 2.30am** Euro 2024 Match Replay
BBC Two: No variations
UTV: 9.00pm UTV Life **9.30 - 10.00pm** Keepers of the Lough

Scotland

BBC One: 10.50pm The Outlaws **11.50** Late Night at the Euros with Compston and Smart **12.20am** Icons of Football **12.50 - 2.35am** Euro 2024 Match Replay
BBC Scotland: 7.30pm Return to Uist **8.00** Michelle McManus: Talent Show Winners **9.00** Rebus **9.45** Still Game **10.15** Late Night at the Euros with Compston and Smart **10.45** Two Doors Down **11.15** Confessions of a Teenage Fraudster **midnight** Close
STV: 1.30 - 4.15pm STV Racing Live: Royal Ascot **10.40 - 10.45** Party Election Broadcast **3.50 - 5.05am** Night Vision

Wales

BBC One: 7.00pm BBC Wales General Election Debate **8.00 - 10.10** MOTD Live: Uefa Euro 2024 **10.50** Paranormal: The Village That Saw Aliens **11.20** Paranormal: The Village That Saw Aliens **11.50** Mavericks: Sport's Lost Heroes **12.25 - 12.40am** Weatherman Walking
BBC Two: 6.30pm Springwatch in Wales **7.30** MOTD Live: Uefa Euro 2024 **8.00** The Panorama Interviews with Nick Robinson **8.30** Gardeners' World **9.30 - 10.30pm** Chinook: Zulu Delta 576
ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITV1 Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cyw **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Bwyd Bach Shumana a Catrin **12.30** Heno **1.00** Cegin Bryn **1.30** Ma'i Off 'Ma **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Y Fets **4.00** Awr Fawr: Timpo **4.10** Awr Fawr: Cymylaubychain **4.20** Awr Fawr: Pablo **4.35** Awr Fawr: Dreigiau Cadi **4.45** Awr Fawr: Awyr Iach **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Gerddi Cymru **6.25** Darlleidiad Etholiadol **6.30** Garddio a Mwy **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Ken Owens: Y Sheriff **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Siwrna Scandi Chris **10.00** Cynefin **11.00 - 11.35pm** Welsh Whisperer – Ni'n Teithio Nawr!

Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

An approaching front will bring showers to Scotland and Northern Ireland today with afternoon showers in Wales and western England. Sunny spells and warm in eastern England.

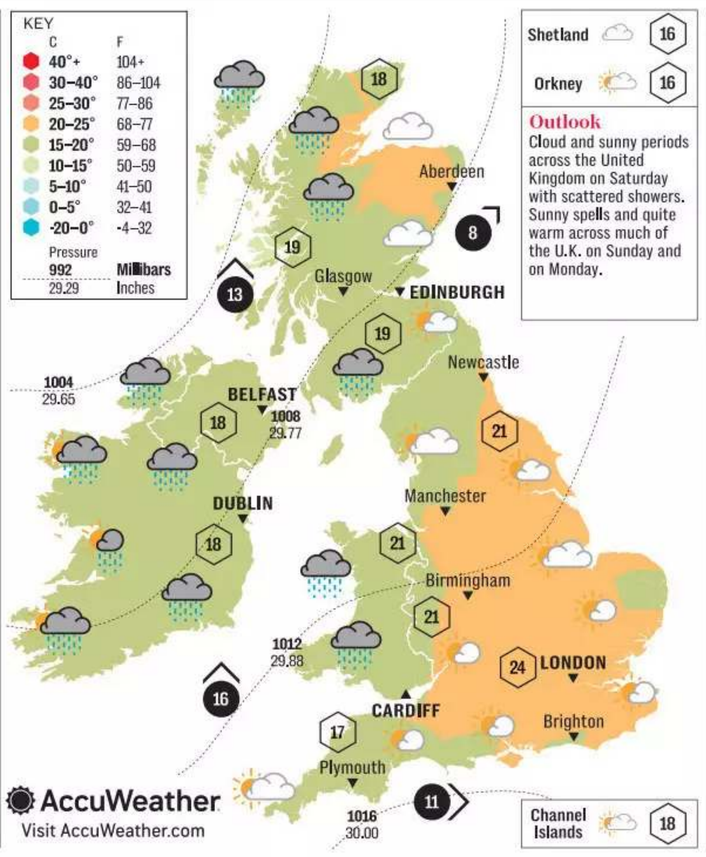
◆London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands: Sunny spells and warm today with the odd shower late. A gentle southwesterly wind. Max 66-77F (19-25C). Broken cloud tonight with showers. Min 52-57F (11-14C).

◆NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England: Sunny periods today with afternoon showers west. A gentle SW wind. Max 57-73F (14-23C). A couple of showers tonight. Min 46-55F (8-13C).

◆Wales: Broken cloud today with afternoon showers. A gentle to moderate SW wind. Max 52-62F (11-17C). Showers tonight. Min 45-55F (7-13C).

◆N Ireland: Scattered showers today. A gentle S to SW wind. Max 50-65F (10-18C). The odd shower tonight. Min 41-52F (5-11C).

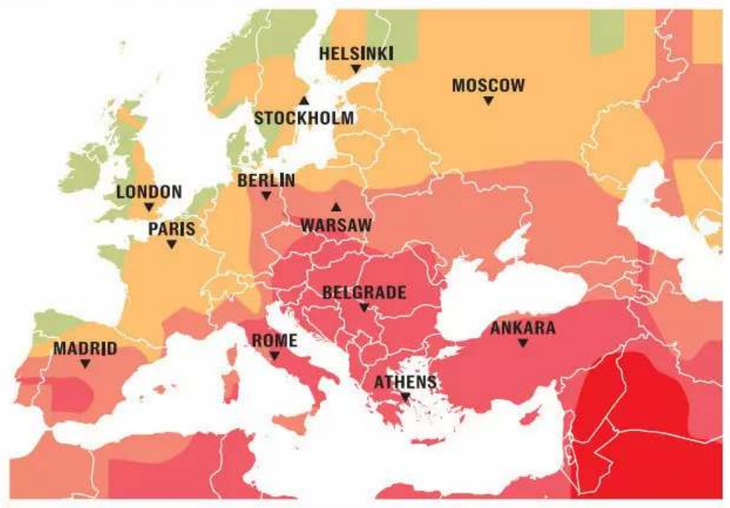
◆SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland: Broken cloud today with scattered showers. A gentle to moderate S to SW wind. Max 48-72F (9-22C). Showers tonight. Min 38-54F (3-12C).



Four day forecast

European readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Akrotiri	32	24	sunny
Alicante	28	20	sunny
Amsterdam	20	10	cloudy
Athens	36	27	sunny
Barcelona	24	19	showers
Bari	35	24	sunny
Belgrade	35	23	sunny
Benidorm	28	19	p/cldy
Bergen	13	11	rain
Berlin	23	11	p/cldy
Biarritz	19	14	rain
Bodrum	38	23	sunny
Bordeaux	22	16	showers
Brest	21	14	p/cldy
Brussels	18	12	showers
Bucharest	39	20	sunny
Budapest	33	18	p/cldy
Cagliari	34	25	sunny
Chamonix	19	15	storms
Copenhagen	20	10	sunny
Corfu	38	23	sunny
Cork	18	9	p/cldy
Corsica	32	24	rain
Crete	29	25	sunny
Dublin	20	10	p/cldy
Dubrovnik	34	27	sunny
Faro	23	16	windy
Florence	35	20	p/cldy
Frankfurt	28	13	p/cldy
Funchal	24	16	p/cldy
Gdansk	23	11	sunny
Geneva	23	19	storms
Gibraltar	25	13	sunny
Hamburg	23	8	sunny
Helsinki	21	12	windy
Innsbruck	32	19	p/cldy
Istanbul	31	22	sunny
Kyiv	23	18	storms
La Rochelle	21	14	p/cldy
Lisbon	21	16	cloudy
Locarno	24	17	showers
Luxembourg	22	13	showers
Madrid	21	13	showers
Majorca	26	22	p/cldy
Malaga	29	16	sunny
Malta	33	24	sunny
Marseille	28	21	showers
Menorca	27	21	haze
Milan	28	21	showers
Monaco	28	21	storms
Moscow	23	13	showers
Munich	26	16	showers
Naples	37	23	sunny
Nice	28	23	cloudy
Nicosia	39	22	sunny
Oporto	20	12	p/cldy
Oslo	23	11	sunny
Palermo	34	23	sunny
Paris	23	16	cloudy
Perpignan	24	19	showers
Prague	23	10	p/cldy
Reykjavik	14	8	rain
Rhodes	35	24	sunny
Riga	23	12	p/cldy
Rome	34	21	p/cldy
Saint Malo	21	15	p/cldy
Salzburg	28	18	showers
Santander	21	14	cloudy
Santiago/Comp.	16	13	cloudy
Sofia	33	18	sunny
St. Petersburg	18	14	p/cldy
Stockholm	26	7	windy
Strasbourg	25	16	showers
Tenerife	25	19	windy
Tirana	39	20	sunny
Toulouse	22	16	showers
Valencia	31	21	sunny
Venice	31	22	p/cldy
Vienna	31	19	p/cldy
Vigo	19	13	p/cldy
Vilnius	23	12	p/cldy
Warsaw	22	12	p/cldy
Zagreb	34	20	p/cldy
Zurich	26	17	p/cldy



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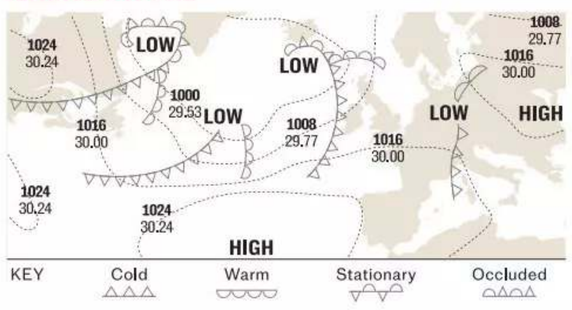
British readings Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm - *estimated readings

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Aberdeen	10.5	0.00	18	11	p/cloudy
Aberystwyth	9.0*	0.00	21	7	p/cloudy
Antrim	2.7	0.00	19	11	cloudy
Aviemore	8.0	0.00	19	11	p/cloudy
Barnstaple	10.7*	0.00	21	11	p/cloudy
Barrow-in-Furns.	9.0*	0.00	17	9	p/cloudy
Basingstoke	13.9*	0.00	21	6	sunny
Bedford	12.4*	0.00	22	7	sunny
Belfast	7.4*	0.06	20*	11*	showers
Berwick	1.0	0.00	18	11	cloudy
Birmingham	12.5*	0.00	21	9	sunny
Bodmin	3.6*	0.00	21	10	cloudy
Bournemouth	11.8	0.00	17	7	sunny
Braintree	12.2*	0.01	20	6	sunny
Brecon	6.6*	0.00	20	6	cloudy
Bridlington	10.4*	0.00	17	10	p/cloudy
Brighton	10.2*	0.00	22	8	p/cloudy
Bristol	9.7*	0.00	21*	11*	p/cloudy
Camborne	3.0	0.00	18	13	cloudy
Cardiff	7.1	0.00	21	12	p/cloudy
Carlisle	3.7*	0.00	18	12	cloudy
Catterick	7.2	0.00	23	8	p/cloudy
Cheltenham	9.7*	0.00	22*	9*	p/cloudy
Chester	9.0*	0.00	21	9	p/cloudy
Coventry	9.8*	0.00	21*	8*	p/cloudy
Doncaster	8.9*	0.02	22*	11*	showers
Dover	7.9*	0.00	19	10	p/cloudy
Dundee	2.9	0.00	19	9	cloudy
Eastbourne	5.1	0.00	23	9	cloudy
Edinburgh	1.7	0.00	19	11	cloudy
Epsom	13.9*	0.00	20	6	sunny
Falmouth	3.2*	0.00	20	13	cloudy
Farnborough	12.7*	0.00	23*	6*	sunny
Fort William	0.0	0.00	16	10	cloudy
Glasgow	2.4	0.00	18	9	cloudy
Great Malvern	8.3*	0.00	22	8	p/cloudy
Grimsby	9.8*	0.00	20	9	p/cloudy
Guernsey	6.9*	0.00	19	13	cloudy
Hereford	7.1*	0.00	18	8	p/cloudy
High Wycombe	12.6*	0.00	23*	6*	sunny
Holyhead	10.7	0.00	18	10	p/cloudy
Huddersfield	8.3*	0.00	20	10	p/cloudy
Ipswich	10.3	0.00	19	6	p/cloudy
Isle of Man	5.2	0.00	17	9	cloudy
Isle of Skye	0.4*	0.07	14*	9*	showers
Isle of Wight	11.3*	0.00	20	11	sunny
Isles of Scilly	13.9*	0.00	18	13	sunny
Jersey	10.3	0.01	21	14	p/cloudy
Keswick	2.5*	0.00	19	9	cloudy
Kew Gardens	11.6*	0.00	22*	11*	sunny
King's Lynn	13.7*	0.00	21	9	sunny
Leeds	8.5*	0.00	21*	9*	p/cloudy
Leek	7.7*	0.00	19	11	p/cloudy
Leominster	3.4	0.00	21	7	cloudy
Lincoln	8.1	0.00	22	9	p/cloudy
Liverpool	13.4*	0.00	21	9	sunny
London	10.2	0.00	24	10	p/cloudy
Manchester	6.7	0.00	22	8	cloudy
Middlesbrough	6.8*	0.00	19	9	cloudy
Newcastle	11.9*	0.00	21	9	sunny
Newquay	3.0	0.00	18	13	cloudy
Nottingham	4.5	0.00	21	9	cloudy
Orkney	2.8	0.01	15	10	cloudy
Oxford	10.3	0.00	22	9	p/cloudy
Perth	2.2*	0.00	18	9	cloudy
Peterborough	8.6	0.00	22	8	p/cloudy
Plymouth	8.4*	0.00	22	11	p/cloudy
Portsmouth*	12.6*	0.00*	21*	8*	sunny
Prestwick	2.3	0.00	16	12	cloudy
Ramsgate	6.0	0.00	17	9	cloudy
Rhyl	9.7*	0.00	20	9	p/cloudy
Rugby	10.3*	0.00	22	8	p/cloudy
Salisbury	13.2*	0.00	23	9	sunny
Scunthorpe	9.4*	0.00	22*	10*	p/cloudy
Sheffield	8.9	0.02	22	11	showers
Shetland	0.0*	0.09	14	10	windy
Shrewsbury	3.1	0.00	22	9	cloudy
Skegness	11.2*	0.01	19	8	sunny
Southampton	13.6*	0.00	23*	9*	sunny
Southend-on-Sea	8.4	0.00	18	6	p/cloudy
Stockport	6.7	0.00	22	8	cloudy
Stornoway	3.5	0.05	15	9	cloudy
Swansea	7.3*	0.00	19*	11*	p/cloudy
Swindon	11.4*	0.00	21	9	sunny
Thirsk	8.6*	0.00	22	8	p/cloudy
Tiree	0.0*	0.04	14	11	showers
Weymouth	12.8*	0.00	19	12	sunny
Whitehaven	9.5*	0.00	16	9	p/cloudy
Windermere	6.1*	0.00	18*	9*	cloudy
Worcester	8.1*	0.00	22	8	p/cloudy
Yeovil	10.7	0.00	22	9	p/cloudy
York	8.5*	0.00	21*	10*	p/cloudy

Atlantic front



Noon today: A cold front will approach the U.K. while weak low pressure moves toward northeast Europe.

Sun & moon (Greenwich)

Sun rises	0444
Sun sets	2123
Moon rises	2146
Moon sets	0326
Last quarter	June 28

Yesterday

Warmest	London 24C (75F)
Coldest	Ben Vorlich 3C (38F)
Wettest	Dundrennan 0.17 in.
Sunniest	Northolt 14.0 hr.

Lighting up

Aberdeen	2209 to 0413
Belfast	2205 to 0448
Birmingham	2134 to 0445
London	2123 to 0445
Manchester	2141 to 0441
Penzance	2136 to 0513

High water

Aberdeen	0131	3.9m	1356	3.8m
Belfast	1127	3.3m	2345	3.3m
Cardiff	0709	11.1m	1934	11.5m
Dover	1122	6.1m	2337	6.2m
Falmouth	0526	4.6m	1745	4.8m
Harwich	--	--	1204	3.7m
Holyhead	1042	5.0m	2300	5.2m
Hull	0630	6.9m	1854	6.7m
Liverpool	1126	8.4m	2345	8.7m
London	0157	6.7m	1422	6.6m
Portsmouth	--	--	1203	4.3m
Southampton	0121	4.0m	1052	4.1m

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Pollen count

Grass and weed pollen are very high. Tree pollen is low and fungal spores are moderate.

Provided by the National Pollen and Aerobiology Research Unit

Sea forecast

S North Sea: A gentle to moderate southerly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be good.

Dover Strait, English Channel: A light to gentle southwesterly wind today. Seas will be high on the east and will be very rough on the west. Visibility will be good.

St. George's Channel: A moderate to strong south-southwesterly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be poor.

Irish Sea: A moderate to strong south-southwesterly wind today. Seas will be moderate. Visibility will be fair.

World readings

	Max °C	Min °C	Daytime weather
Accra	30	24	p/cldy
Addis Ababa	27	14	p/cldy
Adelaide	14	9	showers
Alexandria	30	24	sunny
Algiers	27	20	sunny
Amman	40	25	sunny
Anchorage	12	10	p/cldy
Ankara	32	16	sunny
Ascension Is.	28	24	p/cldy
Auckland	14	8	p/cldy
Baghdad	51	31	sunny
Bahamas	31	26	p/cldy
Bahrain	43	34	sunny
Bamako	36	23	p/cldy
Bangkok	36	26	p/cldy
Beijing	34	24	haze
Beirut	30	26	sunny
Bermuda	26	23	p/cldy
Bogota	18	10	showers
Bridgetown	31	27	showers
Brisbane	24	8	p/cldy
Buenos Aires	15	9	sunny
Cairo	37	26	sunny
Canberra	12	-5	p/cldy
Cape Town	19	5	p/cldy
Casablanca	24	14	p/cldy
Chicago	27	21	storms
Christchurch	10	2	rain
Colombo	29	27	showers
Damascus	43	21	haze
Dar es Salaam	30	22	p/cldy
Dhaka	31	26	storms
Dubai	42	33	sunny
Falkland Is.	4	0	p/cldy
Harare	24	9	sunny
Havana	32	23	storms
Hong Kong	33	29	storms
Honolulu	24	23	showers
Jakarta	33	25	p/cldy
Jeddah	40	31	sunny
Jerusalem	34	22	sunny
Johannesburg	19	6	sunny
Kabul	35	16	sunny
Karachi	35	29	haze
Kolkata	36	26	storms
Kuala Lumpur	32	22	storms
La Paz	9	2	cloudy
Lahore	40	27	rain
Lima	18	15	cloudy
Los Angeles	22	15	sunny
Maldives	33	29	storms
Manila	34	24	p/cldy
Marrakesh	31	14	sunny
Melbourne	13	5	p/cldy
Miami	31	26	storms
Montego Bay	31	26	storms
Mumbai	31	26	storms
Nairobi	22	16	cloudy
New Orleans	29	27	rain
New Delhi	39	30	p/cldy
New York	31	22	sunny
Ottawa	29	23	storms
Perth	19	4	sunny
Port-of-Spain	32	26	storms
Rio de Janeiro	29	21	sunny
Riyadh	45	31	haze
San Francisco	14	11	p/cldy
Santiago	11	6	p/cldy
Seattle	21	14	sunny
Seoul	35	21	p/cldy
Seychelles	31	27	cloudy
Singapore	32	26	rain
Sydney	19	5	p/cldy
Taipei City	34	26	cloudy
Tangier	22	17	sunny
Tel Aviv	34	25	sunny
Tokyo	27	22	windy
Toronto	30	22	storms
Tunis	39	25	sunny
Vancouver	19	11	sunny
Washington	31	23	p/cldy
Wellington	12	7	p/cldy
Winnipeg	22	13	sunny

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2024

Nature Notes

Predators prefer meat to bird eggs

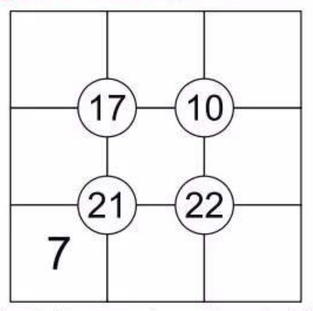
Leaving meat near bird nests to draw away predators increases eggs' chances of survival, a University of Aberdeen study has shown, as hopes rise that the tactic could be used to save the capercaillie from potential extinction.

It is thought the UK's population of the ground-nesting birds has fallen to 500, and its decline has been partly blamed on predators such as the pine marten, itself a protected species.

Researchers seeking non-lethal ways to prevent predators targeting capercaillie placed chicken eggs in artificial nests in the Cairngorms then left venison near half of them. They found eggs in nests that had the meat placed near them had 83 per cent more chance of survival. Forestry and Land Scotland and RSPB Scotland have started to use the strategy.

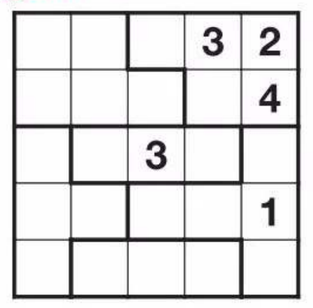
Jack Bamber, the study leader, said: "Lethal predator control isn't desirable for protected species… so diversionary feeding is a potential solution."*

Sujiko® MODERATE NO 4902



To play Sujiko, enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the total in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding squares. Today's solutions on Monday.

Suguru NO 1990



The aim of Suguru is to fill the grid so that no same digit is touching. A two-cell outlined block contains the digits 1 and 2; a three-cell block contains 1, 2, 3; and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

Yesterday's solutions:

Sujiko 4901: 123 / 459 / 786

Suguru 1989:

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

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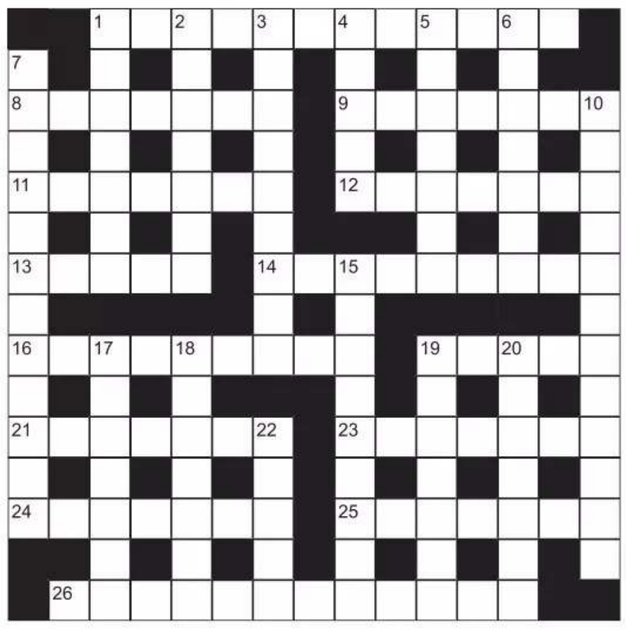


Across

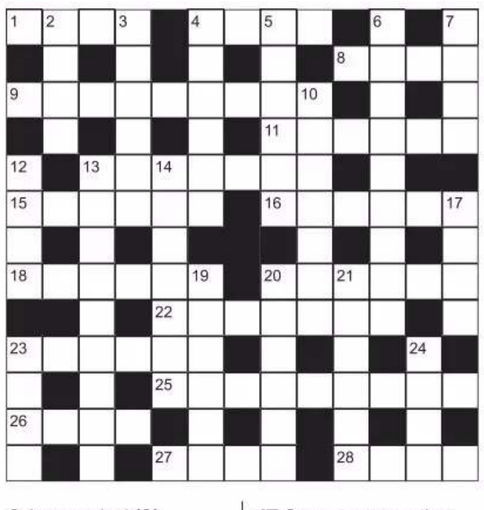
1 Pilot must visit planet and snare dangerous organism (5,7)
8 Energy provider's message for sunbathers? (3,4)
9 Clubs with a bar and French entertainment (7)
11 Food shop design about to be drawn (7)
12 Carve once and you will regularly go for this food (7)
13 Heard satnav directions perhaps in background (5)
14 Hiding in cellar, mad illogical creature (9)
16 Was sock, back to front, in sink? (9)
19 Bound to neglect new branch (5)
21 Evokes breakdown of cities when Left gets in (7)
23 Cockney judge married upper-class females, finding one warmer (7)
24 Clean three articles from France and Germany (7)
25 Delight of Caesar, say, holding united Spain back (7)
26 Deploying map, I pop south to find famous character in Africa (12)

Down

1 We see love endlessly arising – can love erupt like this? (7)
2 Redundant, finally free of small torments (7)
3 Times of innocence and fantasy – add a lass to cuddle up! (5,4)
4 In the middle of July, craft something to wear (5)
5 Paper boat travelling around lake – passport needed? (7)
6 Prince of Wales maybe discussed high post?… (7)
7 …One takes turns traditionally, could be Harry's spin (7,5)
10 Access by retaining old ticket payment (12)
15 Alternative *Of Mice and Men* – half of that is filling (9)
17 Jogs in street, one's hill run oddly being over (7)
18 Boost body with soup? Not so (5,2)
19 Satire showing elite troops holding a Catholic mass (7)
20 University's welcomed in Caruso – unexpectedly rough (7)
22 Band of constituents heading north (5)

Help with today's clues Single clues **0905 757 0120.** All Across/Down clues **0905 757 0121.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke – Helpline **0333 202 3390.**

Quick Crossword



Across

1 *The underworld* (4)
4 *Founder; basin* (4)
8 *Dock* (4)
9 Detainees (9)
11 Slanted (6)
13 Umpire (7)
15 Believe; recognition (6)
16 Embroidery (6)
18 Unnerve; child's toy (6)
20 Late or current (6)
22 Confident; guaranteed (7)
23 Lodger (6)
25 Offspring (9)
26 Wheel's pivot (4)
27 Extinct; very (4)
28 Flat; yet (4)

Down

2 Mid-ranking peer (4)
3 Catalogued; tilted (6)
4 Start of twilight (6)
5 Cares for (6)
6 Astounded (9)
7 Tinted (4)
10 Railway beam; earring (7)
12 Wound mark (4)
13 Celt anger (anag.) (9)
14 European country (7)
17 Germanic invader; Cure fan? (4)
19 Tea set (anag.) (6)
20 Uneven; robust (6)
21 Middle (6)
23 Rend; dash (4)
24 Great Lake (4)

Help with today's Quick Crossword clues Single clues **0905 757 0122.** Solution **0905 757 0123.** Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon-Sat. SP: Spoke – Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Yesterday's Quick Crossword Solution

Across: 1 Soon, 4 Army, *(Tsunami)* 8 Girl, 9 Gratitude, 11 Eschew, 13 Discuss, 15 Clutch, 16 Tested, 18 Silent, 20 Scenic, 22 Distend, 23 Nectar, 25 Laborious, 26 Pity, 27 Heal, 28 Edge.
Down: 2 Ogre, 3 Nitwit, 4 Attach, 5 Modest, 6 Withstand, 7 Claw, 10 Essence, 12 Acts, 13 Duplicate, 14 Scandal, 17 Dock, 19 Tirade, 20 Stroll, 21 Engine, 23 Naps, 24 Hung.

Solution No 30,645

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

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