

The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Le Pen: I have wiped out Macron

President's election gamble backfires as hard-Right National Rally wins first round

By Henry Samuel in Paris and Joe Barnes

MARINE LE PEN declared her party had "practically wiped out" Emmanuel Macron after winning the first round of voting in the French election.

Ms Le Pen's National Rally (RN) trounced Mr Macron's ruling centrist alliance, exit polls last night showed, raising the prospect of an anti-immigration, anti-Brussels government in Paris.

Mr Macron's gamble to call a snap vote after a bruising defeat to Ms Le Pen's party in the European election appears to have spectacularly backfired. The nationalist leader's party was seen as winning about 34 per cent of the vote, while the Left-wing New Popular Front came second with about 29 per cent and Mr Macron's Together coalition third with 20.5-23 per cent, according to various polls. Speaking after results were declared, Ms Le Pen said she was seeking an "absolute majority" in the second round of voting next Sunday.

"Democracy has spoken and the French have put the RN and its allies at the top, practically wiping out the Macron camp," Ms Le Pen told supporters after the polls closed. "We need an absolute majority so that [RN leader] Jordan Bardella can be appointed prime minister in a week's time."

The first round of the voting saw the biggest turnout for a parliamentary vote in nearly four decades, in what was considered a referendum on Mr Macron's leadership. But with France having a two-round system, the final results will not become clear until next Sunday's run-off vote.

Last night's result left the French president and the country's Left-wing bloc plotting strategies to stand down candidates in the hope of beating National Rally in the second round of voting. Mr Macron called for the creation of a "broad alliance" to block a hard-Right victory. "Faced with the National Rally, it is time for a large, clearly democratic and republican rally for the second round," he said.

His prime minister, Gabriel Attal, said: "Not a single vote must go to the National Rally."

"The far Right is at the gates of power," he warned, saying his party

would desist in 60 constituencies to support "republican" candidates against the RN.

Edouard Philippe, the ex-prime minister, urged prospective MPs who finished third to withdraw to prevent wins for candidates from the hard-Right and hard-Left. "I therefore consider that no vote should be cast on the candidates of the National Rally or those of rebellious France, with whom we diverge, not only on programs, but on fundamental values," he said in a televised statement.

Projections put National Rally potentially winning between 230 and 280 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly, with an outside chance of an absolute majority. The Left-wing alliance was on course to win between 115-145 seats and the Macron camp between 115-145 seats. The Right-wing Republicans could win 30-50 seats. If the hard-Right party can achieve an absolute 289-seat majority, it would force Mr Macron into an awkward power-sharing arrangement known as "cohabitation", when two opposing parties govern together.

Ms Le Pen was re-elected MP in Hénin-Beaumont in the first round after winning more than 50 per cent of the vote. Yesterday's results have been described as "a political earthquake" putting France on the brink of hard-Right leadership for the first time since the Vichy regime collaborated with Nazi Germany. Ms Le Pen has spent the last decade trying to "detoxify" National Rally by shedding its hard-Right and anti-Semitic roots.

A National Rally victory, with Mr Bardella, 28, becoming prime minister would create untold headaches for Mr Macron. Mr Bardella has promised to challenge his authority on defence and foreign affairs if he wins power. Mr Bardella called for voters to "remain mobilised in a final effort" to send his party to power. He branded the second round as "one of the most decisive votes in the history of the Fifth Republic".

The prospect of a National Rally government has spooked France's fragile financial markets. Investors fear that the government risks being pushed to borrow more by the hard-Right party.

Analysis: Page 13
Kamal Ahmed: Page 16

Hooray Jude



Jude Bellingham keeps England's Euro 2024 hopes alive with a spectacular overhead equaliser in injury time, watched by Harry Kane who would go on to score the winner against Slovakia in Gelsenkirchen last night. While it was far from a brilliant display, the team now play Switzerland on Saturday. Fans ready for the final, page 3; Sport, pages 1-7

Putin is hoping for Labour victory, says Sunak

By Daniel Martin and Amy Gibbons

RISHI SUNAK today warns voters that Vladimir Putin is hoping for a Labour victory as the general election campaign enters its final week.

Speaking to *The Telegraph*, the Prime Minister says the UK's staunch support of Ukraine means that "Russia does not want us to be re-elected". In a final appeal to stave off a Labour supermajority, he accuses Reform leader Nigel Farage of "appeasing" Moscow and claims that Sir Keir Starmer would cut defence spending "on day one".

Mr Sunak said: "The Conservatives have stood up to our adversaries to protect British interests and British values time and time again. We have stood shoulder to shoulder with Ukraine against Russian aggression and we will

keep doing so if re-elected. It is clear from the evidence, Russia does not want us to be re-elected.

"Putin would like nothing more than for Britain to step back, to appease his aggression rather than face it down and that is what will happen with another party in power.

"Nigel Farage has talked of appeasing Russia which will only play into Putin's hands and Labour will cut UK defence spending on day one. This will embolden our enemies and send a signal to our allies that Britain is not with them anymore.

"We cannot allow that to happen. Vote Conservative on 4th July."

The last-minute intervention comes amid reports that Russia is attempting to bolster Reform's prospects on July 4 with a coordinated social media cam-

paign. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) claims to have uncovered a network of five Facebook pages "spreading Kremlin talking points" ahead of the UK election, with some encouraging support for Nigel Farage's party.

It is understood that Richard Holden, the Conservative chairman, has written to Simon Case, Britain's top civil servant, and Sir Tim Barrow, the national security adviser, urging them to investigate.

It comes as the polls show the Tories are heading for a landmark defeat. They go into Thursday's election 20 points behind Labour, and face being reduced to just 100 seats in the House of Commons.

The intervention is a sign of a change of policy at Conservative party head-

quarters, moving from ignoring the threat posed by Reform to attacking Mr Farage's party.

Mr Farage dismissed claims that Russian-inspired bots are interfering in the election as "cobblers".

The Tories are also keen to highlight what they see as Labour's failings on defence.

Although the party has pledged to increase defence spending to 2.5 per cent of national income, it has not put a date on it, unlike the Conservatives.

Yesterday, interviewed by the BBC's Laura Kuenssberg, the party's election coordinator Pat McFadden was unable to explain why Labour had not made the commitment on defence.

Reports: Pages 4-7
Editorial Comment: Page 17

INSIDE

Puzzles	18
Obituaries	23
TV listings	25
Weather	27

Steaming ahead
Starlight's
grand return
Features



Nick Timothy
Labour must be
honest on tax
Page 16



NEWS
Summer wave of new
Covid variant building

A summer Covid wave is "building", scientists have said, following a rise in the new "Flirt" variant. The prevalence of illness caused by Covid is harder to quantify since widespread testing was axed, but hospital admissions indicate a summer wave was underway by mid-June. The number of people who needed hospital treatment for Covid was 3.31 per 100,000 in the week up to June 16, up from 2.67 the week before, and was even higher among the elderly, peaking at 34.70 in over-85s. Page 12

WORLD
Democrats push for
Biden's 'dignified exit'

Democrats are laying the groundwork for Joe Biden to make a "dignified" exit from the presidential race. Following his disastrous performance against Donald Trump in Thursday's debate, the Biden family gathered in Camp David, the president's country retreat, where they are expected to discuss his future. One Democrat official said the US president could not be "dragged off stage", and needed relatives and trusted advisers to convince him to "walk off" on his own terms. Page 14

BUSINESS
Apprentice fall threat
to net zero plan

Labour's plan for a net-zero economy powered by wind turbines and electric vehicles risks being thwarted by a drop in apprenticeships, manufacturers have warned. Sir Keir Starmer's manifesto promises to reinvigorate growth and launch an unprecedented construction programme to make the country's power grid net zero by 2030. However, 27 industry associations have jointly warned the UK faces a shortage of skilled workers needed to make it happen. Page 19

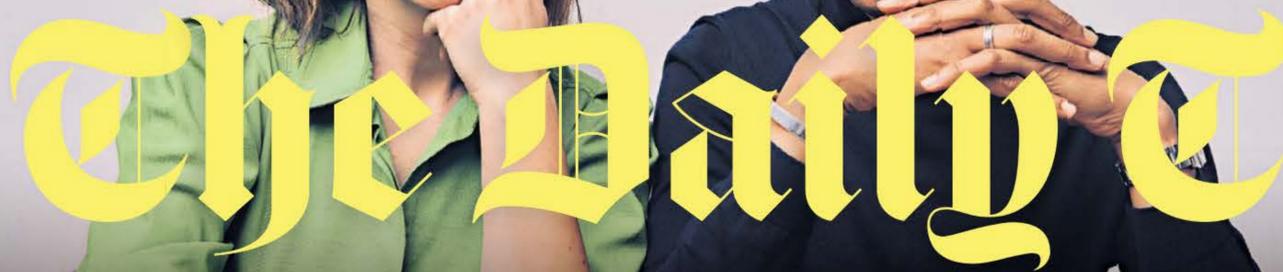
GUCCI
is a feeling

Jannik Sinner by Riccardo Raspa

Get the inside track on the general election

with
Camilla
TOMINEY

and
Kamal
AHMED



A Telegraph podcast

Telegraph app Podcasts Spotify



Listen now

Cleverly points finger at Banksy over stunt

Home Secretary claims the artist's use of dinghy at Glastonbury trivialises issue of migrant boats

By Amy Gibbons and Lauren Shirreff

JAMES CLEVERLY has condemned Banksy's migrant boat stunt at Glastonbury, claiming it trivialised the issue.

A black dinghy, meant to look like a small boat used to make the perilous crossing from France, was launched into the crowd that came out to see British rock group Idles play on Friday.

Mr Cleverly, the Home Secretary, said it was "awful" to see festival-goers "cosplaying as migrants".

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, he said: "Small-boat crossings are deadly and have cost the lives of too many people. Festival-goers cosplaying as

migrants, and celebrating the actions of people smugglers, while they party is awful.

"Whatever your political views, this isn't something we should trivialise."

Oliver Dowden, the Deputy Prime Minister, also criticised the stunt, telling Times Radio: "I was really saddened by it, actually. If you look at what happens with men, women, children being shoved onto those dinghies – the criminal gangs only fill them half with petrol,

so they run out halfway across the English Channel and start to sink, endangering people's lives.

"I don't think this is the sort of thing to joke around with at Glastonbury."

Members of the audience could be seen sitting on each other's shoulders to get a better look at the small boat, which was passed around the middle of the crowd.

There were at least seven dummies meant to represent migrants, all in orange high-visibility life jackets, who sat atop it with their hoods up or their heads down. One small figure in a grey sweatshirt at the end appeared to represent a child.

It was launched during the song Danny Nedelko, which opens with the lyrics: "My blood brother is an immigrant, a beautiful immigrant."

Idles, from Bristol – also home to Banksy – have said that they were unaware that the stunt would happen,

although many fans assumed it to be part of their act.

The rock band took a political turn with their performance, leading the crowd with chants of "F-the King" and with vocalist Joe Talbot singing an "anti-Farage song".

It is not the first time that Banksy's work has made an appearance at Glastonbury.

In 2019 he designed the stab-proof vest worn by Stormzy at his headline set, and in 2014 he set a farm animal van loose around the site that dropped soft toys to revellers.

It was among a number of stunts themed around migration at Glastonbury year.

The Terminal 1 art installation was intended to be a reference to the Rwanda deportation policy and other anti-immigration measures. Visitors to the site had to answer a question from the British citizenship test to get in.

NEWS BULLETIN

Wikipedia writes people of colour 'out of history'

Wikipedia is too white, QI host Sandi Toksvig has claimed.

The broadcaster says that there is a "serious issue" with the online encyclopaedia that she claims is "unfixable" and writes women and people of colour "out of history."

Toksvig has taken up a fellowship at Cambridge University to try to "change the world" by combatting the under-representation of women within Wikipedia. The 66 year old says women are "victims" of "drive-by deletion" on the site, with men supposedly removing articles because they are "not important enough".

She told the *Stirring It Up* podcast: "This is history being written today and we are disappearing."

Eat more baby carrots, research recommends

Eating baby carrots three times a week provides "significant" health benefits, according to a study.

Researchers presented the study at the American Society for Nutrition's annual meeting in Chicago. It found snacking on carrots increased skin carotenoids, associated with a lower risk of heart disease and some cancers, in young adults. Sixty young adults in groups received either apple slices, baby carrots, a multivitamin supplement with beta carotene, or a combination of carrots and the supplement for a month. Skin carotenoid scores rose 10.8 per cent in the baby carrots group and 21.6 per cent in the carrots/supplement group.

Hit-and-run driver kills foal on New Forest road

Animal lovers have criticised a hit-and-run driver who left a six-week-old foal to die at the roadside in the New Forest.

Residents say many motorists use the forest's roads as a racetrack, with dozens of ponies killed or maimed each year. The latest victim was found with a broken back on the B3078 near Fordingbridge, Hants.

Gilly Jones, the co-ordinator of Operation Mountie, a police operation to improve road safety across the New Forest, said: "Someone out must have the guilt that they know they've done this. And if you don't care about the animals ... think of the consequences for your vehicle, for your passengers."

Swift's cowboy boots to go on display at V&A

Cowboy boots on loan from Taylor Swift's personal archive are among the items that will go on display temporarily at the Victoria and Albert Museum this summer.

Taylor Swift: Songbook Trail, which opens on July 27 and has free entry, will feature 16 looks worn by the Grammy-winning singer, 34, who is currently on her blockbuster Eras Tour with performances in Edinburgh, Liverpool, Cardiff, London and Dublin.

Visitors will see costumes and archival material up close, with many items on display for the first time. Costumes will sit alongside music awards, storyboards and previously unseen items from Swift's archive.

Charge tourists to visit British Museum, says former chief

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A FORMER boss of the British Museum has said foreign visitors should be charged entry to the London attraction.

Sir Mark Jones led the institution as the interim director following the furore over thefts from its collection in 2023. He also called for the disputed Elgin Marbles to be shared with Greece.

He told *The Sunday Times* that "some of the buildings are in a poor state" and sometimes during heavy rain there are leaks in galleries.

Sir Mark also said: "The way we are going to benefit from, rather than falling out, over the different claims to different objects is by creating partnerships around them, instead of creating conflicts around them. That's expensive. At the moment, that work is entirely funded by private philanthropy, but in the long run, it would make more sense to use some of the funding that would come in from charging overseas visitors to create a better-funded system of global partnerships.

"If we were ever to find a way to create a partnership with the Greeks over the Parthenon Marbles, we would need to find a way to fund it."

The marble statues came from friezes on the 2,500-year-old Parthenon temple and have been displayed at the museum for more than 200 years since they were removed by Lord Elgin in the early 19th century.

Some of the temple statues are on display in the Acropolis Museum in Athens and Greece has long called for the collections to be reunited. Greece alleges the marbles were illegally acquired during a period of foreign occupation – which the UK Government and British Museum rejects.

Sir Mark, also a former head of the V&A, said that British people contribute in the form of taxes so should not have to pay to visit the British Museum.

However, he said that the "money has to come from somewhere", adding: "Either a major part of the funding has to be found out of taxation, which is difficult as the public finances are very stressed, or we need reasonably to charge [tourists]."

Jane Shilling: Page 16



Honey, I'm Home Canadian singer-songwriter Shania Twain, the Queen of Country Pop, who has sold more than 100 million records, takes to Glastonbury's Pyramid Stage to perform in the Legends slot yesterday. *Review: Features, page 10*

Frankenstein screams frighten passers-by into 999 call

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

POLICE were called to a rehearsal of *Frankenstein* after a couple heard screams during a late-night walk.

They were walking past the 14th-century Tithe Barn in Bradford-on-Avon, Wilts as darkness fell at 10pm. Thinking someone had come to serious harm, they dialled 999 and officers from Wiltshire Police arrived.

They found a cast of thespians from

the Bradfordians Dramatic Society rehearsing a stage adaptation of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel.

Cast members were in the middle of performing one particularly gruesome scene in which the Frankenstein monster bludgeons and batters a screaming victim to death.

A Wiltshire Police spokesman said officers were called because of "concerns for the welfare of individuals" after screaming was heard coming from

"They were pretty scared – I felt a bit guilty actually, because it can't have been much fun for them"

inside the old barn. "Officers attended the scene and found the screaming was, in fact, part of a theatrical group rehearsing inside the venue" the spokesman added.

Andrew Morrison, the director of the Bradfordians Dramatic Society, said: "As you can imagine, in *Frankenstein* there's a few scenes that are quite dark.

"It's quite scary, there's a couple of deaths, it's violent in places as well."

He said that the group wanted to rehearse at the time of night they would be performing the scene, and that probably contributed to the couple's concern.

"They were pretty scared – I felt a bit

guilty actually, because it can't have been much fun for them.

"However, they were really good about it and they saw the funny side almost immediately. With hindsight, we should notify the police in advance of future rehearsals."

Wiltshire Police added: "We'd like to thank the members of the public who did the right thing by reporting this information so we could ensure nobody was at risk of harm."

The Daily Telegraph

is a member of the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) Regulated

and we subscribe to its Editors' Code of Practice. If you have a complaint about editorial content, please visit www.telegraph.co.uk/editorialcomplaints or write to 'Editorial Complaints' at our postal address (see below). If you are not satisfied with our response, you may appeal to IPSO at www.ipso.co.uk.

The Daily Telegraph, 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London, SW1W 0DT

Three Lions fans put their shirts on Berlin

Forever optimistic (when not being pessimistic) some are already planning to meet Germany in final

By Neil Johnston SENIOR NEWS REPORTER in Gelsenkirchen

WITH less than two minutes of added-on time to go against Slovakia, England fans had that familiar feeling of disappointment, heartbreak and despair.

But in the dying moments, Jude Bellingham scored an overhead bicycle kick that cemented his place as England's new superstar. This came as a particular relief to optimistic Three Lions fans who had already bought tickets for the Euros final.

It may have been jittery but England have booked their place in the quarter-finals thanks to the young star - who celebrated his 21st birthday just this Saturday - and a header by captain Harry

Kane to make it 2-1 in extra time.

The streets of western Germany were already being treated to renditions of *Hey Jude* in praise of the star midfielder last night. As England fans hoped for a more confident performance against Switzerland next week.

It had been a dismal fortnight with just two goals and one win in the group stage, and at half time, in this round of 16, there was talk of "Iceland vibes" from Gary Neville, referring to England's disastrous loss to the Nordic country in Euro 2016.

However, after going 1-0 down in the first half before Bellingham's heroic equaliser, England fans now have a quarter final against Switzerland to look forward on Saturday.

Despite England's far from convincing performance, some fans are already planning their trip to Berlin in two weeks time for the final, which would mean beating Switzerland, and then one of either Romania, the Netherlands, Austria or Turkey in the semi-finals.

Among those heading to the German



Fans are beside themselves at the BOXPark in Wembley after Jude Bellingham equalises

capital are Richard Roberts and Richard Brookes, from Stratford-upon-Avon, who were at last night's game. They will fly home today only to return for the final where they hope to see England.

"We are hoping for a Germany and England final in Berlin. To come over for that would be something special,"

Mr Roberts, 42, an engineer, said. "We have got some very good footballers but it has been disappointing." The draw has been tremendous for England. It could not be better."

It is thought they are among hundreds who have blind faith in the team and snapped up tickets to the final when they first went on sale.

"We have got the best players but the performances have been poor," Gary Mosey, from Leics, said.

Others who descended on Gelsenkirchen yesterday included Tony Walker, 60, a driving instructor from Bristol, who was dressed as a medieval knight. "It's not very comfortable," he said as he pointed at his mock armour.

"And England haven't been very good so far either. We will win the tournament now though, I know after we've won today, we will get going."

Some fans had also taken a gamble they would be celebrating England's success last night including Dale McCairn, 29, a metal spinner from Birmingham, and his grandmother Linda,

'We'll be better, we have been lulling everyone into a false sense of security... it's all part of Gary's masterplan'

77, who came out at the last minute for her birthday. "I just don't know what to think, I was nervous before it started," Mr McCairn said. "But we are going to go all the way. It's going to be England against France in the final, I'm saying it now. I'm not getting tickets but I'll be going to the fan park in Berlin, it's the best place to be."

"It was pretty much the last minute today for my nan's birthday. She loves football."

His grandmother added: "Just as well it wasn't penalties, that wouldn't be the best birthday present because we'd be out."

England's performance may have been far from impressive but other fans joked it may fool teams that are better than Slovakia, who are ranked 45th in the world.

"We still have to turn up at some point," Jason Andrews, 52, semi-retired, said. "Hopefully we will be better the rest of the competition. We've been taking it easy, let's say we have been lulling everyone into a false sense of security."



England fans, including Ed Sheeran, far left, celebrate the victory in Gelsenkirchen yesterday

Gabby Logan: I feared my menopause was early onset dementia

By Michael Searles HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

GABBY LOGAN has said she thought she had "early onset dementia" when menopause symptoms first appeared four years ago.

The TV sports presenter revealed that the shock of struggling to recall words and names left her fearing the worst before she sought help.

As well as brain fog and forgetfulness, the 51-year-old became short-tempered, telling colleagues to "f--- off"

and threatening to move out of her family's house. Mrs Logan eventually went to the doctor's, was put on hormone replacement therapy (HRT) and "felt different within days", but wished she had "insight" into what was coming earlier in her 40s.

"There was a feeling of, am I sliding into some kind of early onset?" she told *The Sunday Times Magazine*. "Because my grandma, who was in her 90s, was dying of dementia at the time."

"I said to her once, 'Just think of it like you've got so many amazing

memories and you've just not got enough space for these new words and new things.' And then I remember thinking, 'Oh gosh, is my hard drive full now too?'"

The menopause typically occurs between the ages of 49 and 52 when menstruation has completely stopped, but the perimenopause, when hormonal changes and symptoms first start to occur, can begin from three to five years earlier.

According to the NHS, common symptoms of menopause and perimen-

opause include low mood, anxiety, mood swings, low self-esteem and issues with memory and concentration.

Physical symptoms include hot flushes, difficulty sleeping, heart palpitations, muscle and joint pain, and weight gain.

Mrs Logan said her

18-year-old twins Lois and Reuben, who were then 14, were left close to tears by an outburst that she described as her "lowest point", which prompted her to seek help.

"It was over something small, like the kids not clearing up after breakfast," she said. "I had this absolute meltdown, sat everybody down and launched into this off-the-cuff 'I'm going to get myself a flat in Beaconsfield and

move out and let you all just get on with it.' It was totally random."

Colleagues at work also saw Mrs Logan become short-tempered.

Mrs Logan is presenting the BBC's Euro 2024 coverage in Germany and will also be covering the Olympic Games in Paris from next month.

She has written a book, *The Midpoint Plan*, which includes advice for midlife women and men, covering sex, sleep, friendship, family, alcohol and illness - notably the prostate cancer diagnosis of husband Kenny Logan in 2022.



Gabby is currently presenting the BBC's Euro 2024 coverage

IAN HIGGSON/DANNY LAWSON/PA, PAUL EDWARDS

'Pay £635 more for migrants under Starmer'

Conservatives claim Labour will be forced to spend billions on housing asylum seekers in hotels

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

HOUSEHOLDS would have to pay an extra £635 a year to fund hotels for asylum seekers under a Labour government, James Cleverly has claimed. The Home Secretary said that, without a deterrent such as the Rwanda

scheme, Labour would be forced to spend billions of pounds to house migrants. Sir Keir Starmer has said his party would not use the overseas aid budget to pay for asylum seeker hotels – a decision the Tories claim would leave a multi-billion black hole because the money would have to be found from elsewhere. The Labour leader has said he would scrap the Rwanda plan, which he called “the wrong policy” and “hugely expensive”. The Refugee Council estimated the move would lead to 60,000 people earmarked for deportation being granted asylum instead.

The Tories have claimed that the cost of housing asylum seekers is set to rise to at least £11.6 billion a year by 2026, by which time a night in a hotel plus other support costs would rise to £178. The figures are contained in the impact assessment for the Illegal Migration Act. Divided by 18.4 million working households, that would work out at £635 each. A record number of migrants crossed the Channel in the first six months of this year, with 12,901 reaching the UK – up 17 per cent on last year and an 8 per cent increase on the previous record in 2022.

'Right now, Keir Starmer would stand on the cliffs of Dover to do a rain dance to stop the boats'

Mr Cleverly said Labour had no credible plans to deter Channel crossings, adding: “Right now, all we know is that Keir Starmer would stand on the cliffs of Dover to do a rain dance and hope that stops the boats. “There would be no deterrent under Labour, and that means the business model for people smugglers would still

be viable – boats would cross the Channel in droves. There are thousands waiting in Calais for a Labour government so they can make the crossing. We simply cannot give them that incentive by surrendering our borders to Labour.” The Home Secretary said the alternative to spending so much on housing asylum seekers was granting amnesty to tens of thousands. The Conservatives have returned to the attack on immigration after Sir Keir refused nine times last week to explain how he would tackle the small boats problem. On Sunday, it was reported that the

Labour leader was “praying for rain” to deter large numbers of migrants from crossing the Channel in the days after his expected election victory. One shadow minister told the *Mail on Sunday*: “Keir’s team see that weather forecast [for the days after the election] as the most important since D-Day. “If it’s sunny, with calm seas, there’s going to be a surge of migrants, and that could set the tone for the first 100 days. It could falsely make it look like we’ve lost control.” D-Day, in 1944, was delayed from June 5 to June 6 after the weather forecast predicted a sunnier day.

Sunak: 'We've left Britain a better place than in 2010'

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

BRITAIN has become a better place to live under a Conservative government, Rishi Sunak has said. Speaking on the BBC's *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg*, the Prime Minister said: “It’s a better place to live than it was in 2010.”

He said he “wholeheartedly rejected” the “declinist narrative” of many commentators – and insisted he still expected to be in No10 on Friday. Mr Sunak said that although the past few years had been difficult, thanks to Covid and Ukraine, Britain was now on the right track.

“Of course I understand that the last few years have been difficult for everyone,” he said, adding: “Inflation is back to normal, the economy is growing again, wages rising, energy bills set to fall again just next week, and now we’re able to start cutting people’s taxes.”

When it was put to him that the country has become poorer by many measures since 2010 and public services are worse, Mr Sunak said: “I just don’t accept that.”

“Thanks to the reforms of the Conservative government, our schoolchildren are now the best readers in the Western world.”

“Nine out of 10 schools are good or outstanding – a huge improvement compared to what we inherited.”

“Where Labour are in charge of education in Wales, you haven’t seen that improvement.”

Asked whether Britain had lost its standing in the world because of Brexit, the Prime Minister said: “That is completely and utterly wrong.”

He said Britain had signed the Hiroshima Accord with Japan last year “unequivocally stating that we are their closest ally in Europe”.

Mr Sunak added: “We’re building a new generation of nuclear submarines with Australia and America. It has never happened before that we have shared technology on that scale.”

“People are queueing up to work with us because they respect what we do. So I just completely reject that. It’s entirely wrong.”

“This sort of declinist narrative that people have of the UK I wholeheartedly reject.”

Mr Sunak said a vote for the Tories was a vote for lower taxes.

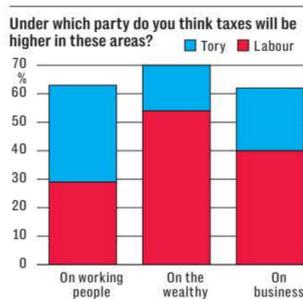
He told Laura Kuenssberg: “We will continue to cut taxes for people at every stage of their lives, giving them the financial security that they rightly want and deserve after what has been a difficult few years.”

“None of those things are going to be made any easier by a Labour govern-

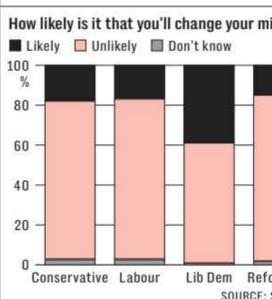


Rishi Sunak visits Machzike Hadath Synagogue in Golders Green, London

Public believe Tories more likely to raise taxes on working people



4 in 5 Reform voters say they won't change their minds



ment that would whack up everyone's taxes by thousands of pounds.”

He said the use of the “P-word” by a Reform UK canvasser in Clacton was “deeply inappropriate and racist”. The Prime Minister said any politician expects a degree of criticism because it “comes with the territory”.

Yet he went on: “But in this instance, you know, what was said was deeply inappropriate and racist.”

Mr Sunak said he hated having to repeat the phrase used about him but thought it was important to call it out. He said that Britain is “the most successful multi-faith, multi-ethnic democracy anywhere in the world”, adding: “That’s why views like this are so damaging and so wrong.”

“They belong to a minority of people and they deserve to be called out for what they are, and that’s what I did.”

The Prime Minister claimed he was “proud” of the Tory campaign, despite mistakes such as leaving a D-Day commemoration early and having senior party figures questioned over insider betting.

And asked whether he thinks he will still be PM on Friday, Mr Sunak said: “Yes, I’m fighting very hard, and I think people are waking up to the real danger of what a Labour government means.”

“I don’t want people to surrender their pension, their finances, our borders, their security to a Labour government.”

GENERAL ELECTION 2024

Use your smartphone to scan the QR code below for all our coverage

Gun tax plan will wage war on countryside, claim Conservatives

By Amy Gibbons
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR has been accused of waging a “war on rural communities” by hiking charges for gun owners.

In its manifesto, the party says it expects to raise £20 million per year by making the firearms licensing process cost-neutral, with the proceeds funnelled into crime prevention schemes.

The Tories claimed the change would cost gun owners “hundreds of pounds” in additional fees, warning voters “if you don’t want to see your taxes hiked, vote Conservative”.

As it stands, firearms licences are issued by individual police forces, in what campaigners describe as a “hugely inefficient” system.

The cost of issuing the licences exceeds the amount recuperated from

owners in fees. Labour has pledged to change this, so each force is fully reimbursed for the expense.

Tim Bonner, the chief executive of the Countryside Alliance, said this would necessarily involve charging gun owners far more to renew their permits.

There were more than 500,000 active shotgun licences in England and Wales last year. The permits have to be renewed every five years, at a cost of

around £50. If Labour makes the process cost-neutral for the police, Mr Bonner said the price for renewal could potentially soar to around £400.

He told *The Telegraph*: “Many of the people who have those licences need those licences to carry out their jobs... the idea that they can simply be tapped for a few 100 quid here or there is naive. And, frankly, it shows a lack of understanding of the countryside.”

Asked how the change will be perceived by the community, he said: “I think there will be anger that they are paying for a system which is patently inefficient. Many people, I think, will think that at least in part this is because there is a prejudice that some in Labour have against gun ownership as a whole. And I think some of us would think that at least part of this is about a wider attack on gun ownership.”

Labour has said the cash raised from the change would be used to pay for youth workers and mentors in A&E facilities, pupil referral units and custody centres.

A Tory spokesman said: “You name it, Labour will tax it. This is just another example of Keir Starmer’s war on rural communities. His plans would see gun owners paying hundreds of pounds in additional fees to renew their licences.”

Don't let anger with the Tories usher in a catastrophic Labour government

Commentary



By Ken Costa

MANY Conservative supporters, activists, business owners, donors and core voters are angry and frustrated. Most grapple with being supportive of Tory policies but are furious with the party for not implementing truly conservative values.

The Prime Minister has been honest and bold enough to recognise this pent-up discontentment.

It runs deep and is looking for an outlet to seek vengeance for the cumulative past failures of Tory governments.

As Rishi Sunak has repeatedly said, however, the great danger now is that

this simmering anger will be directed against the wrong target.

Traditional party faithful and undecideds are threatening to punish the Conservatives by either not voting or by backing the Liberal Democrats or Nigel Farage in protest.

And the beneficiary of both will be Labour. We will be surrendering the nascent but clear upward turn in the economy to the most Left-wing, high-tax government in a generation.

I understand the anger and the visceral desire to assuage it but, misdirected, this gut reaction will facilitate a landslide super-majority victory for Sir Keir Starmer.

In the many recent discussions I’ve had with aggrieved Conservative supporters and businesspeople, I have had one message: vent, but vote. And vote Tory.

It’s understandable to want to let off steam, but that must not lead to cutting

off your angry nose to spite your political face. A vote for Labour or, even worse, not voting at all will simply mean that we will surrender any hope of restraining a rampant super-majority hellbent on driving through an as-yet-undefined agenda of change. But change for change’s sake makes little sense and is pointless unless it’s clear what the change leads to. And Starmer has been avoiding revealing his plan.

I am reminded of the words of Nelson Mandela that maintaining anger and bitterness towards others is like taking poison and hoping that the other person dies.

The political equivalent of this is allowing poisonous anger at the prodigious activities of previous Tory governments to express itself in a vote for Labour and hoping for the demise of the Tory party as a result.

The net result of this would be the

very opposite from that intended, ushering in increases in taxation, changes for the worse in employment law, burdensome regulations and the resultant crushing of growth for small and medium-sized businesses.

The other question I ask of those wanting to exact punishment is simply this: if Labour is selling, why are you buying? It’s the traditional business quip when being offered a duff prospectus.

Labour is selling an unquantified but skilfully disguised socialist policy. Strip away the spin and, whichever way you look at it, these policies will be detrimental to a flourishing economy.

Talk of a 2.5 per cent economic growth rate without any back-up as to how this will be achieved is taking the electorate for fools.

We know that Labour has not ruled out increases in capital gains tax, property taxes and a wealth tax. These would not just soak the rich, but reach all the way to those of modest incomes.

Last week, we learnt that, far from the reduced costs of around £5 billion a year publicly announced, Labour was expecting its net zero plans to cost “hundreds of

'I ask of those wanting to exact punishment: if Labour is selling, why are you buying?'



billions”. Another burden will be forced onto the business community and ordinary taxpayers. This is the last chance to make a clear voting choice, not out of anger but rationally.

We should not surrender the hard-won post-pandemic economic strength and reduction in inflation that Sunak’s administration has begun to establish during the last 18 months.

The future under Labour is not uncertain. We know what it will look like. It’s clear, even if for temporary electoral advantage, the party has sought to hide it from the people.

It would be a tragedy if a Starmer government were returned with a majority of such a magnitude as to allow it to indulge in every socialist plan. Venting against politicians’ failures is understandable. Looking back in anger is forgivable. But voting for Labour, or not voting at all, will result in installing a Starmer government with an unprecedented majority. That will be catastrophic.

Ken Costa is a veteran investment banker and the author of *The 100 Trillion Dollar Wealth Transfer: How the Handover from Boomers to Gen Z Will Revolutionize Capitalism*

Labour to review claims for benefits by killers

Valdo Calocane is among dozens of violent criminals receiving allowances because they are 'patients'

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE Nottingham killer Valdo Calocane is among dozens of convicted violent criminals currently in a secure hospital allowed to claim state benefits under a policy that the Labour party has pledged to review.

Calocane, 32, is one of nearly 80 convicted killers, rapists and violent criminals at Ashworth secure hospital, in Merseyside, who are able to claim thousands of pounds in Universal Credit payments and employment and support allowance, according to a Freedom of Information request by *The Telegraph*.

Responding to the request, the hospital that held Ian Brady, the Moors murderer, said it was "standard practice" for criminals like Calocane to get benefits because they had not been handed prison sentences and instead were treated as patients because of their mental disorder.

Unlike prisons where benefit claims are banned, the £390-a-month Universal Credit payments enable convicted criminals to build up savings amounting to thousands of pounds before release because their basic bed and board is already covered by the state.

Over a period of 20 years, that could amount to £93,000 at the current Universal Credit rate.

One woman, Nicola Edgington, who killed her mother, got £8,000 in back payments in benefits on release after three years in a secure psychiatric unit. She then killed a woman with a butcher's knife in a street in London.

Paranoid schizophrenic Calocane was originally charged with the murders of 19-year-old students Barnaby Webber and Grace O'Malley-Kumar, and school caretaker Ian Coates, 65, but these were downgraded by the Crown Prosecution Service to manslaughter due to diminished responsibility. He received an indefinite hospital order instead of a prison sentence because he was judged to be in the "grips of a severe psychotic episode" on June 13 last year.

Victoria Prentis, the Attorney General, secured a review of the "unduly lenient" sentence by the Court of Appeal, but the judges upheld the

original ruling on the basis that there was "no error" in law. If it had been upgraded to a jail sentence, it would have barred Calocane from claiming benefits.

A Labour spokesman told *The Telegraph*: "If we are privileged to come into power, Labour would urgently look at this case, including talking to the victims' families." It is understood work and pensions secretary Mel Stride was "very concerned" about the case and had also ordered a review of it.

Emma Webber, mother of Barnaby, speaking on behalf of three families, said it was "absolutely disgraceful" that killers such as Calocane could "stockpile benefit money into his bank account whilst all of us fight on a daily basis to try and begin to rebuild our lives. "The criminal justice system in this country is broken and support offered to victims and their families is woefully inadequate at best. We support any incoming government to address these as a matter of urgency," she told *The Telegraph*.

Julian Hendy, from the Hundred Families charity, which supports families after mental health related homicides,



Valdo Calocane is one of 80 criminals at Ashworth secure hospital claiming thousands of pounds in Universal Credit

said: "It's indefensible for convicted dangerous offenders who have committed the most serious of crimes to be rewarded with benefit payments. It's particularly wrong that such offenders can, over the years, accrue many thousands of pounds in taxpayer-funded payments when they have no expenses, whilst their victims struggle to access effective long-term care and support.

"It is a slap in the face for bereaved families. It's not right and needs to change. We are calling on the new government to commit to correcting this wrong. By our calculations many millions of pounds could be saved and much better spent on victim services or more assertive care for people with serious mental illness to prevent further, avoidable tragedies."

Len Hodkin, a lawyer, whose mother was killed by Edgington, said: "I would understand paying benefits if they were living in the community, but it cannot be right when they are being housed, fed and looked after at taxpayers' expense."



On the slide Sir Ed Davey, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, heads downwards during a visit to Sandford Parks Lido, where he also took part in a water aerobics class with Max Wilkinson, the party's candidate for Cheltenham.

Tory trans policy appeals to rival voters

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

LABOUR voters are more likely to agree with the Tory position on trans rights than that of their own party, a poll has found.

A survey of 2,146 voters by People-Polling found 48 per cent of those who backed Labour in 2019 supported the Tory manifesto pledge to amend the Equality Act to protect single-sex spaces such as lavatories and changing rooms. Just 20 per cent opposed it.

Meanwhile, more Labour voters rejected than supported the party's manifesto proposal to amend the law to make it easier for people to change sex on birth certificates, with 40 per cent opposing it and 35 per cent in support.

Overall, 57 per cent supported the proposal to clarify that "male" and "female" in the Equality Act mean biological sex, with 10 per cent opposing.

Labour and the Lib Dems plan to make it easier for people to change sex on birth certificates, which 53 per cent opposed and 20 per cent supported.

Maya Forstater, the chief executive of Sex Matters, the campaign group that commissioned the PeoplePolling survey, said: "This election campaign has proved that women's sex-based rights can no longer be dismissed as a fringe issue.

"These results show firm support for policies that protect those rights.

48 per cent

Proportion of surveyed Labour voters from 2019 supporting Tory manifesto pledge to protect single-sex spaces

"If parties putting themselves forward for government want to represent the mainstream, they should take serious note of the overwhelming support for sex-based rights across the political spectrum."

The poll also found that Gen Z voters – those aged between 18 and 24 – were more supportive of sex-based policies

than millennials aged between 25 and 44, suggesting support for gender identity ideology among young people has passed its peak.

Women and men were more supportive of the proposal to clarify the Equality Act than to make it easier to change sex on birth certificates, but men were more supportive of protection for sex-based rights than women overall.

Helen Joyce, the director of advocacy at Sex Matters, said: "Whichever party forms the next government needs to understand that the public strongly supports protections for sex-based rights and is increasingly concerned about the legal falsification of records about people's sex.

"What some politicians refer to as a 'toxic debate' will only end when they clarify laws and policies to centre the biological reality of sex and to reject invented notions of gender identity."

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has previously said the "safety of women and girls" meant the "current confusion around definitions of sex and gender" cannot be allowed to continue.

Badenoch: I want apology from Tennant

By Daniel Martin

KEMI BADENOCH has demanded a personal apology from David Tennant after the actor told her to "shut up" and said he wished she "did not exist any more".

After the Doctor Who star's comments at an LGBT awards ceremony in London, Mrs Badenoch, the equalities minister, said she would not be silenced by a "rich, Lefty, white male celebrity".

Asked yesterday whether she thought Tennant should personally apologise to her, she told GB News: "I think he should.

"I think he's probably regretting making those remarks given the uproar all across the country.

"It's had a lot of cut through, but it also shows the scale of the problem we have."

Tennant played the Tenth Doctor in the BBC series from 2005 to 2010, returning last year to play the Fourteenth Doctor.

Last week, Sylvester McCoy, who

played the Seventh Doctor from 1987 to 1989, joined the row, writing on X, formerly Twitter: "Bravo David. Don't let the Badenochs get you down".

Mrs Badenoch said Sir Keir Starmer had refused to condemn Dawn Butler, a Labour candidate who tweeted that she agreed with the actor.

"I keep telling people that it's not just Keir Starmer that you're going to get when you get Labour, you're going to have all these MPs with very, very bad politics, really dangerous stuff, wishing another MP doesn't exist," she said.

"And if you remember how they reacted when there were comments which emerged several years later that have been made in private about Diane Abbott [by Frank Hester, a Tory donor], we

hearing about it for well over a week. "So it's one rule for them and another rule for everyone else. They don't really care about racism. They just care about their own people."

Mrs Badenoch again refused to rule out standing to be the Tory leader after the election, saying that future the party "needs to be one that occupies the whole of the centre-Right, not just the centre, because that's where we're losing to Reform".

"There needs to be some kind clarity that comes into place – people need to know that we are conservative, people need to know that we are on their side, that we will defend them, that we will not let the Left-wing activists come for them, we won't let Just Stop Oil block the roads and stop them from going about their daily business," she said.



Kemi Badenoch, the equalities minister

Rushed leadership contest would not best serve the party – or country

Commentary



By Jesse Norman

IT is not given to mere mortal human beings to predict the future. But you don't have to be the Oracle of Delphi to suspect, as the polls are suggesting, that we may have a Labour government on Friday.

If that happens, we will doubtless be inundated by a vast tide of analysis offered by every would-be pundit, from pub bore to party activist to academic expert.

We can safely leave any post mortems to another day. But there is one thing that we can say now with absolute certainty. If the worst happens, the Conservative Party must have a functioning front bench from the start, because the biggest changes from a Labour government will come in the first 100 days.

But the Conservative Party should not rush into another leadership election. On the contrary, it should think slowly, deeply and carefully about what has gone wrong, who will be best placed to take the party forward, and how.

Much ink has already been spilled on the question of the right way to choose a new leader. One option, not yet considered, would be for MPs to take the final decision but for each MP to have to justify their preferred choice of leader to their local party members before the final vote. This would increase accountability while preserving the representative principle.

There are three other fundamental questions to be addressed. The first is, does the party as it is presently constituted really believe in the idea of conservatism? Conservatism in the English tradition is a reforming and not a radical disposition: an instinct to preserve what is best in human society, to curb injustice and celebrate the rule of law, and to improve people's

lives and enhance their freedom, in particular from the excessive burdens of state regulation and tax.

These are the wellsprings of the party's collective instincts when it is at its best: for a strong nation state, for the institutions of civil society, for entrepreneurship and business growth, for fiscal probity and care in spending the public's money.

This disposition does not exclude radical ideas or policies. It merely demands that they are properly based on effective prior consideration and preparation.

After all, the radicalism of Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s, with privatisation and home ownership, did not spring fully formed like Athena from the head of Zeus. Those policies were the vigorous extension of good ideas that had already proved their worth. The same was not true of the poll tax, which was genuinely revolutionary, and disastrous.

The second question is this: is the Conservative Party doing a good enough job of recruiting talented

individuals who can be candidates for public office?

One of the principal functions of a political party is to act as a conduit for people of ability to enter public life. That means recruiting those with real life experience – not merely Westminster insiders, but those who have, crucially, demonstrated that they believe in conservative principles, and have evinced a clear commitment to public service, before they ever considered entering politics.

Such people will come from any background and walk of life. The idea that councillors and other people well known to local Conservative associations are to be rejected in favour of those known to the central party is an embarrassingly facile and foolish one. And selecting people en masse in the heat of a snap general election is far from the careful sifting and selection that is required.

The third question is this: can the Conservative Party articulate over time a new programme of government which is intellectually compelling,

practically achievable and inspiring to others?

Such a programme will draw on the answers already given to questions one and two above. Radicalism will have to be earned through the hard grind of proper policy work.

This will take considerable time, effort and investment, as it should. By contrast, to attempt to spring back immediately would suggest that the last few years had taught the party nothing.

All of this implies a leadership election process which is steady, deliberate and wide-ranging. Anyone who knows the Prime Minister will know he is driven by an acute sense of public duty. When and if he decides to step down as leader, to facilitate a process of this kind will be a last great service – not merely to his party but, since our democracy demands an effective opposition, to the nation as well.

Jesse Norman is standing for re-election as Conservative MP for Hereford and South Herefordshire

'Anyone who knows the Prime Minister will know he is driven by an acute sense of public duty'

'The radicalism of Margaret Thatcher did not spring fully formed like Athena from the head of Zeus'

Farage whips up Trump treatment for the faithful

Special report

By Tim Stanley

Reform pledge to 'Make Britain Great Again' at Birmingham rally echoes ex-US president's mantra

PUFF! Flash! Bang! Nigel Farage almost danced between smoke and sparklers at the last Reform UK rally of the campaign, in an extravaganza that was pure Donald Trump.

A new poll, he said, shows Reform winning more ethnic minority voters than the Lib Dems. "So, Channel 4, put that in your bloody pipe and smoke it!" The crowd of thousands clapped their hands and stomped their feet. What many dismissed at the beginning of the election as a one-man fan club has turned into the closest thing we've got to a political mass movement.

Reform is very real. The location was the Birmingham NEC, normally home to bridal wear and best in shows, and the queue to enter was serenaded by protesters chanting: "Reform UK! Racist Party!" Inside the cavernous exhibition hall - about nine-tenths full - sat a double-decker bus, parked between the largest Union Jack known to man and, for the short-sighted, an enormous sign for the loo.

The audience was all ages; lots of Brummies; hats ranging from cowboy to pirate to bowler. Most people I met were ex-Tories (one called Rishi an "oik"). I positioned myself close to the stage, a few chairs down from a gentleman in a farmer's gilet who was having a love affair with a Mr Whippy cone.

"Ladies and gentlemen," said a voice that sounded like it had launched a thousand boxing matches, "please take your seats. The rally for Reform is aaaa-bout to begin."

The party's chief executive, Paul Oakden, lashing out at "nannying" and "toxic targeted takedowns", pledged to "Make Britain Great Again." (The Donald would approve). Ann Widdecombe - the closest thing to Melania Trump the British will ever get - delivered a clarion call for "common sense", punctuating every sound idea with a swing of her arm, as if smacking the collective bottom of Westminster.

I followed her offstage to ask why she left the Tories. "I waited for them to get their act together," she said, but "it just didn't happen"; now it's a party "I don't recognise." Could she give an example of where they went wrong? "They embraced woke... Mrs Thatcher would've had a fit!"

Ms Widdecombe stood on the top deck of the bus and waved at us like a queen on tour.

Back at the podium, Zia Yusuf, an entrepreneur, said Nigel "will not be stopped by slurs or milkshakes". Richard Tice, who I'm guessing paid for much of this event, asked: "Are you having fun!" - "YES!" - and



would have probably liked to remind us that we need to be out of here by 2pm. Then it was hammer time. Farage bounded on to a catwalk, shadowed by two security guards - let's call them Tintin and Pickles - and bid us "welcome to our alternative to Glastonbury!" The ice-cream eater had produced a Union Jack from thin air, as if a conjurer, and was waving it joyously. Here follows the Nigel narrative that those who've been tasked with following him have learnt by heart. He was happily retired ("life has

'If anybody is motivated in this room by hatred for anyone who is different, I invite you to leave'

been pretty good"), but he "could not stand aside" when he saw the "lack of choice" in this election. It's "slippery Sunak" vs boring Keir Starmer ("the charisma of a damp rag"), with nary a fag paper between them. And, "quite frankly" - he always says, "I have to say" - "...the Conservatives deserve to lose this election, but Labour doesn't deserve to win."

While other leaders read speeches from autocues, Farage extemporises like a jazz musician - on a tune in the key of Trump. There's Trump's

apocalyptic language ("societal decline... cultural decline... People are getting poorer"). His humour (the Tories are a "broad church without any religion!"). And the same swipes at everyday annoyances (a big cheer for saying the Left have "completely ruined Doctor Who", a show he "used to love").

The personal is political. Much of the speech was a takedown of people Nigel feels have screwed him over, from the BBC to Channel 4 - the latter accused of so many things, it's hard not to see lawyers becoming involved (one weeps for Richard's account).

I met the so-called Reform activist who was caught on tape being racist, said Farage, and he was clearly an act, for he walked into the Clacton office

Reform enthusiasts, above and left, await Nigel Farage at the rally in Birmingham yesterday

using "the most extraordinary cockney accent I've ever heard." From the audience someone shouted "Cor blimey love!"

"That's right," beamed Nigel: "Cockles and muscles, alive, alive o!" Reform, he said, is utterly opposed to racism, and "if anybody is motivated in this room by hatred for anyone who is different, I invite you to leave the room now." Nobody moved, except for a fellow who was already on his way to the lavatory - for whom I felt very sorry indeed.

Reform won't form the next government, Farage concluded, but "we will get seats, we will. Believe it, it is going to happen." As the crowd exploded with approbation, and paper streamers flared through the sky, it felt entirely possible.

Disillusioned Reform candidate quits over 'sexism and racism'

By Amy Gibbons and Daniel Hardaker

A REFORM UK candidate has stepped down and endorsed the Conservatives, accusing Nigel Farage of failing to "fundamentally address" allegations of racism and sexism in the party.

Liam Booth-Isherwood, who was standing in Erewash, said yesterday he was suspending his campaign and backing Maggie Throup, the Tory candidate, in order to "stop Labour".

The Conservatives seized on the resignation, saying that if 130,000 people intending to vote Reform switched to back the Tories, it "would be enough to stop Labour's super-majority".

In a statement, Mr Booth-Isherwood said he had become "increasingly disillusioned" with Reform's conduct,

which he suggested pointed to "a significant moral issue" in its ranks.

He accused the party's leaders of failing to "fundamentally address" reports of "widespread racism and sexism" that have plagued Reform in recent days, with one canvasser secretly recorded calling Rishi Sunak a "F-ing p---" in a racial slur.

Because nominations for the July 4 election have closed, Mr Booth-Isherwood will still appear on the ballot paper.

He said: "Over the past few weeks, I have been increasingly disillusioned with the behaviour and conduct of Reform."

"Whilst I have campaigned alongside many decent, honest and hard-working people during the course of the general election campaign in



Nigel Farage said someone 'should get the sack' over the smiling Putin poster descending behind him

Erewash, the reports of widespread racism and sexism in Reform have made clear that there is a significant moral issue within certain elements of the party.

"The failure of the party's leadership to not only take this matter seriously, but also to fundamentally address it, has made clear to me that this is no longer a party I want to be associated with. As a result, I am announcing my endorsement of the Conservative Party candidate, Maggie Throup, for Erewash. Only she can stop Labour."

Mr Booth-Isherwood had previously said he was disillusioned with the Conservatives and that Reform "better represents the values I wish to campaign on".

It came as Mr Farage dismissed claims that "Russian-inspired" bots

were interfering in the election as "cobblers".

Mr Farage was caught off guard at the event in Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex, when a banner showing a smiling Putin dropped down behind him on stage.

The Reform leader asked: "Who put that up there?" and said someone at the venue should "get the sack" after the poster slowly descended from the ceiling as he spoke.

Yesterday, he batted away the suggestion that Moscow was attempting to influence the vote on July 4 after an Australian broadcaster claimed to have uncovered a network of five co-ordinated Facebook pages "spreading Kremlin talking points" ahead of the election, with some encouraging support for Reform.

TikTok accused of 'outrageous biased attack' for cutting Widdecombe speech

By Amy Gibbons and Daniel Hardaker

REFORM UK has said it will be lodging a complaint against TikTok after the video sharing app shut down a livestream of its campaign rally.

Richard Tice, the Reform president, accused the platform of an "outrageous biased attack" on his party and claimed it is "in hoc to ridiculous wokery" after yesterday's stream was suspended during a speech by Ann Widdecombe, a Reform campaigner.

He speculated that the decision to cut the feed was down to Ms Widdecombe pointing out that "there are only two genders" and has complained to the video sharing app.

Nigel Farage, the Reform leader, later made reference to the incident in his own speech.

TikTok confirmed the stream was suspended but put this down to a moderation error, insisting that access was restored within 30 minutes.

Ms Widdecombe, a former Tory minister, said she had "absolutely no

idea" why the feed was shut down, adding: "I was pronouncing party policy and not saying anything that Nigel or Richard haven't said before."

Isabel Oakeshott, the political commentator, claimed the content had been branded "hate speech" by the platform.

She tweeted: "Breaking: TikTok suspend @reformparty_uk rally live stream"

'They lost out as more than 300,000 people watched the livestream across multiple other platforms'

[sic] while Ann Widdecombe speaking, declaring it 'hate speech?! Widders? WTF?!'

Mr Tice told *The Telegraph*: "This is an outrageous biased attack on a major political party because we pointed out that there are only two genders."

"Evidently TikTok is in hoc to ridiculous wokery. They lost out as more than 300,000 people watched the livestream

across multiple other platforms - quite astonishing numbers for a political party rally."

He confirmed that Reform would be lodging a complaint against TikTok.

The interruption came during Reform's rally to 5,000 supporters in Birmingham. Paul Oakden, the party's chief executive, spoke first, followed by Ms Widdecombe; Zia Yusuf, one of Reform's biggest financial backers; Mr Tice; and Mr Farage.

Elsewhere in his speech, Mr Farage claimed that footage of a Reform canvasser using a racial slur against Rishi Sunak had been used as a "smear campaign" against his party.

The party's leader said: "Look, Reform is a new organisation. It's a start-up and there were requests put out for candidates to stand."

"Have we had a few bad apples? We have, although to my knowledge nobody involved in an organised betting ring is standing for us, which is something ... I have to say, the bad apples are gone. We'll never have them back."

Tory university group members forced to apologise for Nazi song at black tie event

By Danielle Sheridan

A CONSERVATIVE university student group has been forced to apologise after its members sang and danced to a Nazi song at a black-tie event.

Members of Warwick University Conservative Association were seen dancing to *Erika*, a song composed in 1938 by Herms Niel, who served in the Nazi Party's paramilitary wing, after an event to raise money for the charity Help for Heroes.

In leaked footage obtained by *The Sunday Times*, students are seen dancing to the music after the group's annual "chairman's dinner" at Wroxall Abbey, near Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

The song, which has been associated with the far-Right because it was used as a marching song for the Nazis, was requested by a student at the event, according to the newspaper. Within the footage of those dancing, someone can be heard saying "Don't film".

The Sunday Times also claimed that some members later allegedly chanted "Kill the Hughs", changing the word

"Jews" with the first name of the recently departed association chairman Hugh Herring. They were also said to have declared: "Heil the chairman."

In a statement the group said it "wholeheartedly condemns the behaviour exhibited during this video and apologises for any offence caused".

It added: "We are committed to ensuring that anyone else we find to



Students provoked outrage after singing and dancing to Nazi marching song Erika

have knowingly engaged with the song is no longer welcome at events."

The song, *Erika*, has been used by white supremacists such as Thomas Sewell, the founder of the National Socialist Network.

A spokesman for Warwick University described the video as "troubling."

They added: "Behaviour like this is reprehensible and we are disappointed to see our students involved."

The Union of Jewish Students and Warwick Jewish Society told *The Sunday Times*: "The blatant and unchallenged support for Nazism at the Warwick Conservative Association 'chairman's dinner' is utterly abhorrent."

"Glorification of the Nazis has no place in our society, especially on campus. It is in no way acceptable and must be widely condemned. We expect swift and decisive action from the University of Warwick and the Conservative Party. Actions must have consequences."

Earlier this year Olaf Scholz, the German chancellor, warned of a rise in anti-Semitism and the "dark methods of neo-Nazis".

Police dropped an investigation every 13 seconds last year

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE police abandoned an investigation every 13 seconds last year without finding a suspect, according to research.

An analysis of Home Office statistics shows that more than 2.3 million crime investigations by police in England and Wales were closed last year without a suspect being identified. This amounts to more than four every minute, and nearly 6,500 every day.

The number of crime investigations dropped without a suspect being found

increased by 30 per cent from two years ago – nearly 550,000 – while the proportion rose to just under 44 per cent in the year ending December 2023

Last year the police were seven times more likely to drop an investigation without finding a suspect than to charge one. The proportion of offences resulting in a charge has fallen from 15.5 per cent in 2014-15 to 6.2 per cent in the year ending December 2023.

For some crime types including robbery and criminal damage, more than 50 per cent of investigations ended with no suspect being identified.

Last year the police were unable to find a suspect in more than 80 per cent of residential burglary investigations, and nearly 80 per cent of theft investigations. Last year the police closed just under 18 per cent of violent assault cases without finding a suspect, while in 17.8 per cent of sexual assault cases closed the criminal got away without being tracked down.

This means that criminals went unidentified after 350,000 violent assault investigations. In addition, nearly 33,000 sexual assaults cases were dropped without a suspect, and a whop-

ping 1.4 million theft offences. Police chiefs have pledged to investigate every crime where there is a reasonable line of inquiry – and to attend the scene of every domestic burglary.

Andy Cooke, the chief inspector of police, has previously warned that failure to tackle thieves and burglars threatens forces' bond of trust with the public. He said police were "setting themselves up to fail" from the point of taking a 999 call from a victim to finalising a case because they were missing opportunities to gather vital evidence and identify offenders.

This ranged from 999 call staff failing to tell victims how to preserve evidence to burgled homes not being visited by police, inexperienced officers leading investigations that were then unsupervised and householders not being told how to prevent thefts.

Labour has pledged to put 13,000 more officers on the beat to boost detection rates for high volume crimes such as theft and burglary.

The pledge involves hiring 3,000 new officers and 4,000 police community support officers. The rest would be made up of special constables and

officers from the Government's recent uplift. Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, has pledged to recruit an extra 8,000 "bobbies on the beat" to tackle car thefts, burglaries and anti-social behaviour.

The number of officers and police community support officers assigned to neighbourhood roles has plummeted by 10,000 since 2015 as the Conservatives decimated neighbourhood policing.

Both parties have insisted that police should investigate every crime where there is a reasonable line of inquiry.

Family stands firm as search is called off for Jay Slater

Relatives who have flown out to Tenerife will be continuing the hunt for the missing 19-year-old

By Albert Tait in Tenerife

JAY SLATER'S family will remain in Tenerife despite Spanish police ending its search for the missing British teenager, *The Telegraph* understands.

The Guardia Civil called off its search for the 19-year-old on Sunday, almost two weeks after he disappeared while on holiday on June 17.

A force spokesman said: "The search for Jay Slater ended yesterday. The case remains open and any new clues will be investigated."

But it can be revealed that Mr Slater's family, who have flown out to Tenerife, will continue their search for him.

Rachel Hargreaves, a close family friend who has joined them on the Canary Island, told *The Telegraph*: "Nothing has changed. We will continue to search for him."

Ms Hargreaves' son, Brad, had partied with Mr Slater the night before he vanished and is one of his best friends.

Former British police officer turned TV investigator Mark Williams-Thomas, who is working with Jay's family, has urged them to use the GoFundMe money to pay for further investigations.

He said: "The police have put considerable resources into searching for Jay and of course it is very disappointing for the family that the search by the police has now ended."

"I have advised the family to use the GoFundMe money to bring in a large team of experts to flood the area from where we know Jay last was."

The search for Mr Slater had focused on the barren and rugged valleys that surround the mountain village of Masca. Police have combed the area each day of the search, starting from 9am and often not finishing until late in the evening.

Two shacks, just a few hundred metres from where the teenager's phone last pinged, were scoured repeatedly. *The Telegraph* visited one of the run-down buildings and found a mattress and women's clothes inside. But

police seemingly believe the properties are not relevant, having not returned to them in the last week.

As the search became more desperate, the force brought in specialist sniffer dogs from Madrid and began to search caves on the coast. They also seized CCTV from Santiago Del Teide, a town a few miles from Masca, after grainy footage of a figure walking through the town was speculated to be Mr Slater. There were also reported sightings of him watching the Euro 2024 tournament in a bar in another nearby town, Puerto de Santiago.

The force's lack of communication about its search, including with Warren Slater, who said he felt left in the dark by the police, meant wild conspiracy theories were allowed to spread online about Mr Slater's disappearance. Mr Slater's family has been on the target end of some of the online speculation. Debbie Duncan, his mother, claimed she had been compared to Karen Mat-



Warren Slater, the father of Jay, says that he feels left in the dark by Spanish police around the search for his son

thews, who faked the kidnapping of her daughter Shannon 16 years ago.

Questions have also been asked about a GoFundMe page set up by Lucy Law, a friend of Mr Slater, which has now reached £43,000. Ms Duncan said she felt "let down" by the speculation.

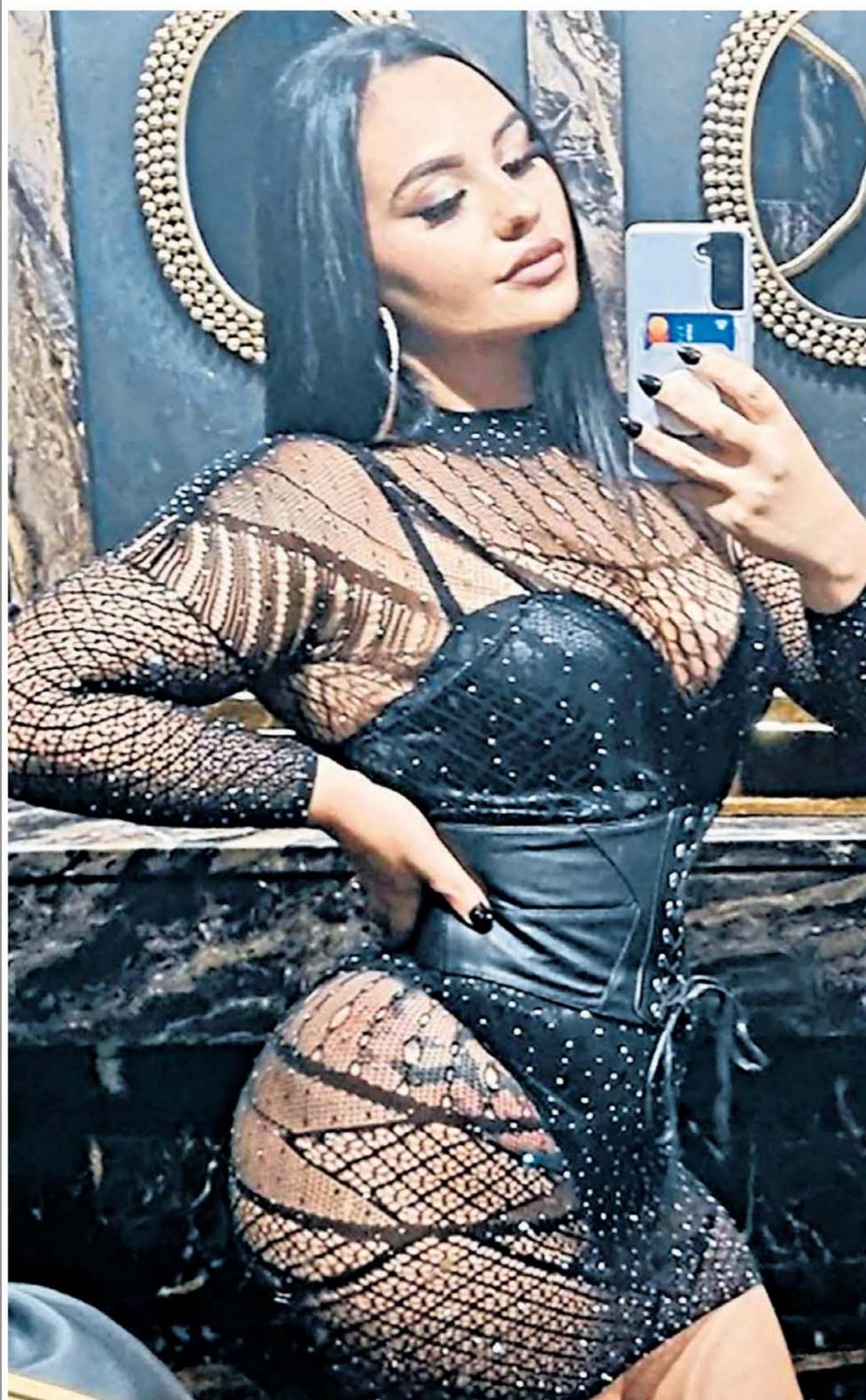
A source close to the investigation said: "The daily operation which has been going on in and around Masca close to where Jay was last seen has been brought to an end."

"If any information comes in that merits a new search though it will be acted upon."

"My understanding is Jay's parents have been informed of what obviously is a major development."

"Nothing of any relevance was found during yesterday's large-scale search."

A Guardia Civil spokesperson said: "The search for Jay Slater ended yesterday. The case remains open and any new clues will be investigated."



Linda De Sousa Abreu, 30, from Fulham, in south-west London, has been charged with misconduct in public office

Woman, 30, charged after video emerges of sex in prison

By Fiona Parker
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A WOMAN has been charged after a video emerged which allegedly showed a prison officer having sex with an inmate in a jail cell.

Linda De Sousa Abreu, 30, was charged on Saturday with misconduct in public office and will appear in court today. The arrest came after a video was shared widely on social media which allegedly showed a female prison officer engaging in sexual intercourse with a prisoner at HMP Wandsworth.

A Met Police spokesman said: "A police investigation was launched on June 28 after officers were made aware of a video filmed inside HMP Wandsworth. A woman was arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office."

"Linda De Sousa Abreu, 30, of Fulham, was charged with misconduct in public office. She will appear in custody at Uxbridge magistrates' court [today]." An HM Prison Service spokesman said: "Staff corruption is not tolerated and the former prison officer allegedly featured in this video has been reported to the police. It would be inappropriate to comment further."

The incident is only the latest scandal to hit the south-west London prison, which came under scrutiny last year

"Staff corruption is not tolerated and the former prison officer allegedly in this video was reported"

when terror suspect Daniel Khalife allegedly escaped from its grounds.

Mr Khalife is said to have strapped himself to the bottom of a delivery truck with a harness made from bedsheets in order to escape from the Category A prison.

A former British Army soldier, he was originally arrested in January on terror charges after allegedly plotting a fake bomb hoax at MoD Stafford. He is also accused of spying for an enemy state.

Mr Khalife, who will stand trial this year, denies one charge of escape, one of committing an act prejudicial to the state, one of eliciting information about members of the Armed Forces and another of perpetrating a bomb hoax.

In May, Charlie Taylor, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, wrote to the Secretary of State for Justice to issue an "urgent notification" for improvement for HMP Wandsworth.

The notice followed an inspection of the prison, which found failings in security, severe overcrowding, vermin, drugs, violence and rising self-harm.

Seven prisoners had also taken their own lives in the institution over the 12 months prior to the inspection.

Dogs taking a bite out of posties as serious attack incidents double

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE number of attacks by dogs on postal workers has increased by 15 per cent in the past year, with 42 incidents every week, new research reveals.

Royal Mail said there were 2,206 dog attacks in the year to March.

The research found a larger rise in attacks causing serious and significant injury to postal workers, totalling 82 compared to 33 the previous year.

Some of the dog attacks had caused

permanent and disabling injuries to postmen and women.

One in five incidents happened through letterboxes, even though dog owners (or those in care of a dog) can be prosecuted if their pets have free access to the letterbox and cause injury to any delivery worker whether the owner is at home or not.

Portsmouth, Belfast, Bristol, Brighton and Plymouth were found to be among the highest-risk locations.

Most dog attacks took place at the

'Dog attacks have a devastating effect on our people and we appeal to owners to think twice'

front door, followed by the garden, drive or yard, while some happened in the street or road.

Dog attacks resulted in more than 2,273 days of absence from work in 2023-24, with the longest period of absence being 197 days.

Lizz Lloyd, Royal Mail's health and safety director, said: "We are saddened and disappointed to see attacks on our staff continue to increase."

Dog attacks have a devastating effect on our people, and we are appealing to

dog owners to think twice when the postman calls.

"All dog attacks can have life-changing consequences for victims, even when the physical injury is not significant."

"Almost half of attacks happen at the front door and over a quarter in the front garden, so this is not just a Royal Mail issue, many other organisations face the same problem."

Dave Joyce, health and safety officer at the Communication Workers' Union,

'Biting incidents and attacks constitute a growing risk and safety problem'

said: "Dog-bite incidents and severe dog attacks are continuing to experience a very concerning increase and upwards trend across the UK and that constitutes a growing risk and occupational safety and health problems for postal workers."

"The key objective of Dog Awareness Week is primarily to remind the public to be aware of their legal and moral responsibilities to control their dogs and prevent dog attacks on postal workers who are providing them with a great public service."

'Al Capone' tax evader goes on run after skipping court

By Fiona Parker
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

POLICE are hunting for a tax evader likened to gangster Al Capone who escaped court during his sentencing hearing.

Nigel Harker, 47, made £30,000 in cash via an illegal trading enterprise from his prison cell at HMP Northumberland – but did not pay income tax on his earnings, the BBC reported.

Last week, Harker, of Hartlepool, pleaded guilty to tax evasion and a dangerous driving offence. The convict was set to be sentenced at Newcastle Crown Court on Friday, but left the building during a break in the hearing, according to the broadcaster.

Handing Harker a 19-month sentence and three-year driving ban in his absence, the judge presiding over the case likened the defendant to the notorious US gangster. Capone was sentenced to 11 years in prison in 1931 after

failing to file tax returns. Michael Cahill, prosecuting, told the court: "In 2020, the defendant was a serving prisoner in HMP Northumberland where he was a wheeler dealer and trader."

"Named individuals and others purchased items from him by way of trading and debts accrued."

"Had he been paying tax on that, allowing for base rate allowances, it would have been around £3,080."

Harker was initially charged with blackmail, which he denied, the broadcaster said, but prosecutors accepted a guilty plea to income tax evasion. The dangerous driving offence was said to relate to the defendant "flying through red lights" in his BMW while driving on the wrong side of the road in Hartlepool in 2022. In mitigation, his barrister David Hall said he had health problems.

In his sentencing remarks, Judge Stephen Earl said: "I think I've seen this film actually, in 1931, when finally the FBI got Al Capone for his dealings."



Wallflower Suzy Jackson completes a display of 3,500 crocheted flowers at St Peter's church, Titchfield, Hants.

Rapist behind acid attack on Katie Piper in bid for parole

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE stalker who arranged for acid to be thrown in the face of TV star Katie Piper could be freed by parole chiefs.

Daniel Lynch, 47, was jailed for life in 2009 for organising the horrific attack which scarred her for life.

The rapist faces a two-day hearing from July 23 where they will assess the risk he faces if he was to be released.

The *Loose Women* star was 24 in March 2008 when her ex-partner Lynch plotted the acid attack which left her face severely burned. He was sentenced to life in prison in 2009 after being found guilty of rape and inflicting grievous bodily harm (GBH) and admitting inflicting actual bodily harm.

Stefan Sylvestre, then 19, who threw the acid, was given life after admitting GBH and was released in 2018. He fled and breached his conditions in 2022 and is still at large amid fears organised criminals are hiding him abroad.

Former Metropolitan Police detective Peter Blesksley said: "There is absolutely no justice for the poor victim in this case. How many times have we heard the words 'life should mean life' but then it comes to nothing."

He added: "There will be underworld criminals who have knowledge of his whereabouts. A priority should be finding him... every effort should be made in bringing him back."

A source said: "Katie has had this hanging over her since 2009. It is an awful situation. The idea Lynch could soon be out is horrendous."

After she ended their relationship, Lynch bombarded her with phone calls. He was on the phone to her as she walked down a street in Golders Green, north London, when Sylvestre threw sulphuric acid in her face.

In June last year, Piper said: "The people that attacked me will be released. Are they going to kill me? I'm not sure."

ADVERTISEMENT

LET'S REBUILD BROKEN BRITAIN

ONLY REFORM UK WILL:



**Stand up to Starmer
as a real Opposition**



**Freeze immigration
and Stop the Boats**



**Scrap tax on income
under £20,000**



**End the bonkers Net
Zero rules**

Dear Voter,

The corrupt Conservative Party has lost its soul, betrayed Britain and deserves to lose the election. Labour means more of the same but even worse. They don't deserve to win.

The old parties have broken Britain. That's why support for Reform UK has surged. We have one chance to make our own history and choose a different future for our great nation. I'm asking you to vote with your heart and join the revolt.

Are you a Tory voter who believes Britain has wasted Brexit, and has watched in horror as the party implodes? If you want a real opposition to Keir Starmer, you need to vote Reform UK this time.

Are you a Labour voter who voted for Brexit, wants the Tories out, but worries about Labour's lack of patriotism and obsession with wokery? You need to break with the rotten two-party system and vote Reform UK this time.

For once, your vote won't be wasted. This is a real chance to use it, to hit back hard at the establishment politicians and media who have taken you for granted for too long. We can shake up their world on 4th July.

I am ready to lead the opposition. Talk of a Labour 'super-majority' doesn't scare me. I took on the European Union, I took on the big banks. I believe I can stand up to a Labour government that has no idea how to rebuild broken Britain.

Something remarkable is happening out there. If you love your country - as I do - vote with your heart. Vote Reform UK.

**Yours,
Nigel Farage**

**'IF YOU LOVE YOUR COUNTRY,
VOTE WITH YOUR HEART.
VOTE REFORM UK.'**

**REFORM
UK**

David Beckham's daughter-in-law sues groomer for chihuahua death

Heiress Nicola Peltz says her pet Nala was healthy and she is determined to find truth about her loss

By David Millward
US CORRESPONDENT

NICOLA PELTZ, the daughter-in-law of David Beckham, is planning to sue a New York dog groomer after her beloved chihuahua Nala died suddenly, according to reports in the US.

The 29-year-old heiress and actress, who is married to Brooklyn Beckham, the former footballer's oldest son, said she was heartbroken after Nala suffered what has been described as a medical emergency.

The dog was rushed to an emergency vet after a visit to the groomer, who has not been named, in upstate New York, but died a few hours later, according to the showbusiness website TMZ.

"This has been the hardest month of my life," Ms Peltz wrote on Instagram.

"I can't even find the words to describe my heartbreak on so many levels. Nala was perfectly healthy when she went to the groomers yesterday but came out hyperventilating and couldn't catch her breath.

"We rushed her to the vet and she passed hours later.

"I'm sharing this in hopes that it might prevent this from happening to other dogs.

"Her life was taken away from her way too soon. She was my beautiful queen and stayed by my side for nine years through everything.

"Please be careful who you send your dogs to because you don't know what goes on behind closed doors. One day without Nala on earth feels like an eternity.

"I wish I could have her back in my arms. I pray she's with my Naunni. I hope I see them soon."

TMZ reported that the dog had fluid in its lungs, a rapid heart rate and neurological problems.

Friends of the family say Ms Peltz's motivation to sue is to prevent the same thing from happening to other pet owners.

In a further Instagram post, she said that she knew that other people had suffered similar experiences with dog groomers.

"I am relentlessly investigating the situation to find out exactly what happened in that groomer's van. I am doing everything I can to uncover the truth," she added.

The photograph Nicola Peltz posted on Instagram, right. Below, Brooklyn Beckham with Nala

She added that the groomer was not co-operating with the family.

Brooklyn Beckham, 25, a former model who has also pursued a career in photography, paid tribute to the dog on social media.

"Dear Nala, we miss you so much, you were unexpectedly taken from [us way] too soon and hope others don't experience a loss after something as simple as a grooming," he wrote.

"You were the cutest little baby girl and we will always think of you. We know you are looking and barking down on us.

"We love you so much and miss you beyond."

Chihuahuas bought from a breeder cost from \$500 to \$2,000 (£395 to £1,580), while a shelter would look for donations ranging from \$100 to \$600 (£79 to £474) for an adoption.

The groomer saga is not the couple's first involvement in a high-profile legal dispute.

Ms Peltz's father Nelson, a billionaire investor, sued the Miami-based event-planning firm Plan Design Events (PDE), which had been hired to orchestrate the couple's wedding on his ocean-front estate in Palm Beach in April last year.

He accused the company, run by Nicole Braghin and Arianna Grijalba, of failing to return a \$159,000 deposit.

The event planners countersued, describing Mr Peltz as a "billionaire bully" and accusing the family of putting them through "wedding planning hell".

The planners were hired six weeks ahead of the wedding and sacked nine days before the event.

The billionaire's legal team alleged that the planners "viewed this as an opportunity to take advantage of Peltz by making material misrepresentations on both their website and in person regarding their experience, expertise, and capability of planning the wedding".

The dispute was settled out of court in September with the agreement being confirmed by the company in a statement to *People* magazine.

"As part of the settlement, PDE will make a donation in the name of Nicola and Brooklyn to the CARE Ukraine Crisis Fund", it said.

Ms Peltz wrote and directed the 2024 film *Lola*, which tells the story of a woman who works in a pharmacy during the day and as a stripper at night. The film, in which Ms Peltz also starred, was panned by critics.



Ultra-processed jam and cereals 'no worse' than more natural foods

By Michael Searles
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THERE is no need to cut out jam or cereal for breakfast, scientists have said, despite growing fears about ultra-processed foods (UPFs).

Experts at the United States Department of Agriculture (Usda) analysed breakfast menus with different amounts of "processed" foods and found that the nutritional values were the same.

The breakfast menu with a higher quantity of UPFs was also cheaper and had a longer shelf life. UPFs have been condemned by medical experts including Prof Tim Spector and

Dr Chris van Tulleken for being unhealthy, because they can contain high amounts of saturated fat, sugars and salt.

But the American scientists concluded the level of processing a food has been through does not equate to how healthy or nutritious it is to eat. In the study, scientists looked at a "less-processed" breakfast menu, which featured homemade jam and bread, and poached egg with bacon, and derived 20 per cent of its calories from UPFs.

They compared this with a "more processed" breakfast, which contained shop-bought jam and bread, egg



toast made with ham, and hash browns, and derived 67 per cent of its calories from UPFs.

When checked against the Health Eating Index, a measure used to assess diet quality in relation to the US health department's Dietary Guidelines for Americans, they both scored a "low" 43-44 out of 100.

The menu with less processed food was twice as expensive, though, and reached its expiry date more than three times faster without delivering any additional nutritional value.

Dr Julie Hess, a research nutritionist at Usda, presented the findings at

the American Society for Nutrition conference in Chicago.

She said: "This study indicates that it is possible to eat a low-quality diet even when choosing mostly minimally processed foods. It also shows that more processed and less processed diets can be equally nutritious, but the more processed diet may have a longer shelf life and be less costly."

Dr Hess added: "The concepts of 'ultra-processed' foods and 'less processed' foods need to be better characterised by the nutrition research community."

If a food is classed as a UPF is currently determined by a system called Nova, which categorises food based

upon the way it is prepared and the amount of processing it has undergone. UPFs typically include crisps, sweets, breakfast cereals, and breads, but the researchers pointed out that filtered milk and some brands of canned tomatoes can be classed as ultra-processed, even though they are "nutrient dense".

Dr Hilda Mulrooney, from London Metropolitan University, said the US study "illustrates a major problem many dietitians and nutritionists have with the Nova classification system, namely that it distinguishes foods only on the basis of their degree of processing and not on their nutritional value".

'Pro-Putin' Kanye West mobbed during surprise visit to Moscow

By James Kilner

THE rapper Kanye West has made a surprise visit to Russia where he was mobbed by fans and seen shopping in Moscow.

The 47-year-old, who has praised President Vladimir Putin in the past, was seen walking with an entourage in baggy white trousers and a white hoodie.

He is not thought to be performing a show but there to celebrate the 40th birthday of Goshu Rubchinskiy, a Russian fashion designer.

"Hello, Moscow," he wrote in Russian at midday on the VKontakte website, Russia's state-monitored answer to Facebook.

Videos shot by fans on their mobile phones showed West striding through a Moscow underpassage, walking across a hotel lobby, shopping in the upmarket GUM mall and admiring Red Square from a viewing station.

He is reportedly staying at the Four Seasons Hotel next to the Kremlin in

the centre of Moscow, where the 212sq m presidential suite costs around £10,000 a night and comes with its own sauna and a "luxurious marble bathroom".

West's visit comes as most celebrities have distanced themselves from Russia

£10,000

Nightly rate for the presidential suite at the Moscow Four Seasons, where Kanye West is staying

following its invasion of Ukraine.

But the music star is no stranger to controversy. In 2022, adidas dropped a partnership deal with West after he praised Adolf Hitler and denied the Holocaust.

The rapper is also a supporter of Donald Trump and has also previously said that he was "pro-Putin".

Fans rushed to catch a glimpse of one

of the world's biggest-selling artists as word spread of his presence in the capital.

Russian social media channels quickly filled up with people begging West to extend his visit to Russia's regions.

"Please come to Perm," said one Russian social media user. Another said: "Konye, are you planning a concert in Kaluga?"

Rumours have been circulating for weeks that West would visit Moscow and possibly perform a concert, although this has now been denied.

Of the few Western celebrities who have sided with the Kremlin over its conflict with Ukraine, perhaps the highest profile is Steven Seagal, the martial arts film star who now lives in Moscow and has been given a state award by Putin.

The French actor Gérard Depardieu, who was awarded Russian citizenship in 2013, also recently praised Putin and said his political opponents offer no real alternative.



Navratilova: I'm not backing down on trans athlete 'cheats'

By Max Stephens

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA has said she is on the "right side of history" after calling transgender athletes "cheats".

Navratilova, the nine-time Wimbledon champion and BBC commentator, has come under fire in recent years for arguing that people who are born male should not be allowed to compete in women's sports events.

On the eve of this year's tournament, Navratilova, 67, made it clear that such online abuse will not sway her beliefs.

Sitting next to her former rival Chris Evert at a press conference, Navratilova said: "I'm right on most people's opinion about women's sex-based spaces, and especially sports. They need to stay female."

Navratilova admitted the online backlash from activists has been "pretty rough" and claimed she had been "jettisoned" by many LGBT groups.

She said: "I've been speaking my mind for a long time. I'm not going to change that. Yes, it's been pretty rough. "But I know I'm on the right side of history."

Martina Navratilova said that she had been jettisoned by many LGBT groups

Fight to save Dunkirk ship from going under

Trust must raise £150,000 for essential repairs or historic HMS Wellington is bound for the scrapyard

By Patrick Sawyer
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

FROM patrolling the far-flung reaches of the Empire to escorting vital merchant convoys and evacuating British forces from Dunkirk, HMS Wellington has more than a few tales to tell.

But unless the trust which runs the veteran ship can raise £150,000 for essential repairs, she faces being scrapped.

It would be an undignified and sad ending to the life of Britain's last surviving escort ship, a veteran of the Battle of the Atlantic whose service spanned eight decades and saw her involved in some of the most significant episodes of Britain's wartime history.

During her time on active duty, she saved the lives of dozens of sailors and passengers in her role as an escort to the country's merchant ships.

A Grimsby-class sloop launched from Devonport in 1934, HMS Wellington spent the pre-war years patrolling the British Protectorates in the south Pacific as part of a small naval fleet.

In the words of the Wellington Trust set up to maintain her in later years, the white-painted warship – fitted with two 4.7in guns, one 3in gun and anti-submarine depth charges – was “a small but potent symbol of British authority over an Empire which was thought that the sun would never set [on]”.

During a cruise lasting around 10 weeks, the 1,200-ton Wellington could visit around 15 islands then still owing allegiance to the Crown, scattered over some several million square miles of ocean.

The late Prof Eric Grove, of Salford University, told the documentary film about HMS Wellington, *The Good Shepherd*: “In these far-flung reaches the only way you could get around really was by sea, and to maintain any kind of imperial presence you needed a ship looking very smart, white hull, yellow formal, that could come along with his smart crew, perhaps with some dignity or other to make the point that these islands were part of this great global British Empire.”

“Without ships like this maintaining presence, it would have been much more difficult for these islands to have been maintained, and somebody else might have thought, well, perhaps we can maintain order better.”

During these tours it was customary for the commander and his officers to entertain local dignitaries aboard Wellington, with the ship's crew taking part with the islanders in games of cricket or football.



Schoolchildren from the islands were often welcomed on board for educational purposes and given the chance to experience day-to-day life on board a British warship.

The patrols came to an end on August 21, 1939, when the ship was ordered to return to Auckland “with despatch” as war clouds were gathering across Europe.

Soon she was recalled for active duty and ordered home via the Suez Canal. Having reached Aden, Wellington – which had a cruising speed of 10 knots and a maximum speed of 16 knots – was redirected to Freetown in Sierra Leone to undertake convoy duties, escorting 10 merchant ships back to the UK.

It was a vital role that she was to play

Clockwise from top: the Wellington on active service off the coast of Algeria; Christmas greetings from King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 1939; hunting down a German U-boat in the Western Approaches; on Victoria Embankment, London

almost uninterrupted for the next five and a half years and on three occasions her crew were instrumental in saving the lives of many of the passengers and crews of merchant ships that had been torpedoed by U-boats.

“Ships like Wellington were the best escorts in many ways that the Royal Navy had, and they were crucial to winning the Battle of the Atlantic. There were many merchant ships I think that survived World War 2 because of the escort of this sloop,” said Prof Grove.

“Wellington was typical of the unspectacular way in which the escort forces of the Royal Navy carried out their function, and their primary function was the safe and timely arrival of the convoy. If you could sink U-boats

well and good, fine, but the main task was to get the ships through,” added Prof Grove.

“What we tend to forget is that most convoys in the Second World War were not attacked. They were routed around known threats. The numbers of ships lost by convoys escorted by Wellington was very, very small, and that was a great success, but a success that tends to be unsung because it's not spectacular.”

Griff Williams, who served on the Wellington, later told of the drama and fear her crew experienced on those protective voyages.

“If she was being pushed forward fast enough in bad weather, she could drop over a big wave fast enough to

‘Ships like the Wellington were crucial to winning the Battle of the Atlantic’

leave the propellers out of the water, and the wind of the turbines would rise to a scream as her screws freewheeled. Then she shuddered as if she was laughing as they bit into the sea again.”

In a recent speech for the 90th anniversary of the launch of the ship, Prof Dominic Tweddle, trustee at The Wellington Trust, urged that it must be saved, saying: “Most people say it is a question of cost, but it is no more difficult to maintain, no more cost to maintain that say, York Minster.”

“Very few of us these days are around or in ships, nor will not perhaps appreciate their importance. They are. They are our lifeline to the world. So I think it is a question of what we are familiar with and value.”

UK NEWS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR 2023 The Telegraph UK NEWS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR 2024

HEALTH

Your complete guide to living well

Conditions Fitness **Diet** Wellbeing Parenting Guides

Transform your breakfast with these healthier alternatives

Visit telegraph.co.uk/health or scan the QR code

To scan the QR code, open your phone camera, point it at the code and tap the banner that appears on screen. On older phones, you may need to download a QR code reader first.

Saddam made us dig our graves, say airline passengers suing UK

By Patrick Sawyer
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

BRITISH airline passengers and crew taken hostage by Saddam Hussein have accused the then UK government of treating them like “pawns” as they revealed they were forced to dig their own graves.

Nearly 100 former British Airways (BA) crew and passengers today launch legal action against the UK Government and BA, claiming their civilian flight was used as cover to get British special forces on the ground ahead of the Gulf War, 34 years ago.

Their claim outlines some of the horrors they were subjected to after being held as human shields by the Iraqi regime when the Foreign Office ignored a warning from its own ambassador that Saddam's troops had already invaded Kuwait.

Instead of diverting flight BA149, the authorities allowed the plane to land at Kuwait airport, in order to allegedly transport a special ops team to the battlefield, regardless of the risk this posed to civilians.

Once in the hands of Saddam's troops the hostages were held captive for up to five months, during which time they were subject to torture, rape and sexual assault, mock executions and starvation by Saddam's notorious Mukhabarat secret police.

The hostages – who were held at strategic locations in Kuwait and Iraq to act as human shields – became convinced that they would be murdered and never return home.

Documents lodged in the High Court in London reveal that several of the total 367 captured passengers and crew were forced to dig their own graves in preparation for their murder.

According to lawyers for 95 of them taking action this week, evidence shows that BA and the then UK government knew the invasion had taken place while the plane was still in the air on the night of Aug 1 1990, but did nothing to divert it from its before its scheduled stop over in Kuwait en route to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Lawyers say there is also evidence that BA149 was used to secretly transport a special forces operative team for “immediate and covert deployment to the battlefield, regardless of the risk this posed to the civilians on board”.

Barry Manners, a passenger on BA flight 149 who now lives in Kent, told *The Telegraph*: “We were not treated as citizens, but as expendable pawns for commercial and political gain.



A Kuwaiti official seated among the wreckage of British Airways flight BA149

“A victory over years of cover-up and bare-faced denial will help restore trust in our political and judicial process.”

Matthew Jury, managing partner of McCue Jury and Partners LLP, said: “The lives and safety of innocent civilians were put at risk by the British government and British Airways for the sake of an off-the-books military operation. Both have, we believe, concealed and denied the truth for more than 30 years. The victims and survivors of flight BA149 deserve justice for being treated as disposable collateral.”

He added: “[The then UK government] and BA watched on as children were paraded as human shields by a ruthless dictator, yet they did and admitted nothing. There must be closure and accountability to erase this shameful stain on the UK's conscience.”

There have been previous attempts to sue the British authorities and BA, but hard evidence on which to base such a claim only began to emerge in 2021, when secret files were released by the National Archive under the 30-year rule.

These showed that Sir Michael Weston, the British ambassador to Kuwait, called the Foreign Office duty clerk around midnight on Aug 1 1990 to warn that some kind of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was under way. His

Barry Manners feels he was used as a pawn

warning was then relayed across Whitehall, including to Downing Street, the Foreign Office and the intelligence services, 73 minutes before flight 149 eventually landed – enough time for it to be diverted. But this message was not passed on to BA.

Lawyers for the 95 claimants, who are made up of nine nationalities, claim this was because flight 149 was being used to insert the black ops team known as the “Increment” or “Inc.”, into Kuwait.

Some passengers and crew claim nine “military-looking” men boarded the flight shortly before the departure, while others heard the crew debating whether it should proceed with the leg of its flight to Kuwait. The nine men were allowed first off the flight on landing at Kuwait Airport and were not seen again by their fellow passengers.

The former hostages are claiming an estimated average of £170,000 each in damages for the personal injuries and ongoing psychiatric harm they suffered as a result of serious negligence and joint misfeasance in public office by officials at the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence and BA.

The UK Government and British Airways are expected to challenge the claims. Both have rejected similar claims, maintaining that Saddam was solely responsible for the hostages' treatment.

Mother fumes at war hero son's award for Harry

Family of late Afghan campaign soldier stunned as 'controversial' Duke to receive sports honour

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE decision to give the Duke of Sussex a sports award named after an American war hero killed in Afghanistan has been criticised by the soldier's mother. The Duke will receive the Pat Tillman Award at the ESPY awards, a sports event run by TV network ESPN, for his work with injured veterans with the Invictus Games. The Office of the Duke and Duchess

of Sussex publicised news that Prince Harry had won the award on their website, saying he was one of the "esteemed recipients" of the prize that recognised "exceptional individuals who exemplify courage, perseverance, and service".

The mother of Pat Tillman, Mary, has now criticised the decision, reportedly telling the *Mail on Sunday*: "I am shocked as to why they would select such a controversial and divisive individual to receive the award. There are recipients far more fitting. There are individuals working in the veteran community that are doing tremendous things to



assist veterans. These individuals do not have the money, resources, connections or privilege that Prince Harry has. I feel that those types of individuals should be recognised."

Tillman was an American football player who gave up his professional career after 9/11 to enlist in the US army.

He served in Iraq and then Afghanistan, and was killed by friendly fire in 2004 and posthumously awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart for bravery.

Previous winners of the ESPY named in his honour include the team of training staff at US football team the Buffalo Bills, who saved the life of a player who had a cardiac arrest on the field. Marcus

Rashford, the British football player and campaigner, is also a previous recipient, along with retired US Army Sergeant Major Gretchen Evans, who suffered traumatic brain injury and founded adaptive racing squad Team Unbroken.

Announcing that Prince Harry would this year be one of the "incredible individuals" honoured by the ESPY awards, Kate Jackson of ESPN said: "These honorees have used their platforms to change the world and make it more inclusive for marginalised and suffering communities, demonstrating incredible resilience, positivity and perseverance."

The decision has become a talking point in America, with Pat McAfee – a former NFL player who worked for ESPN – saying: "Why does the ESPYs do



Pat Tillman, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2004, gave his name to the award to be presented to Prince Harry, left

this ----? "I don't know anything about him except for the *South Park* episode and what I have learnt from *The Crown*."

"But like, did his people know like 'You publicly put me up for this award! You're just asking basically every person that considers themselves American like saying 'This is bulls----'."

"Especially at a sports award type of thing... I assume he knew that. They didn't expect that?" A second pundit called Boston Connor called it "probably the most embarrassing thing I've seen in my entire life".

The ESPY Awards will be held on July 11 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles and will be hosted by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's friend, tennis champion Serena Williams.

Queen serves tea for children who missed palace party

By Hannah Furness ROYAL EDITOR

ONE child missed the Buckingham Palace garden party after his family got stuck in a motorway traffic jam. The other, who has a rare brain tumour and suffers seizures, was too poorly to go.

Now Tony Hudgell and Lyla O'Donovan have more than made up for it with a special tea party thrown by none other than the Queen, complete with a ride in a royal carriage and a military band playing songs by Taylor Swift.

Tony, nine, and Lyla, 11, were welcomed to the Summer House in the Buckingham Palace garden by the Queen, sitting down with their parents and siblings for sandwiches, cakes and iced biscuits decorated to look like the King's Guard.

The children watched the Changing of the Guard from inside the palace forecourt, arriving at the party in a horse-drawn carriage from the Royal Mews. The Queen told them it was "really nice to get you here today", adding, "We thought we'd give you a special garden party" before they settled down to tea.

She also presented Tony, of West Malling, Kent, with his British Empire Medal. He is the youngest ever recipient of the BEM, awarded to him for services to the prevention of child abuse.

The schoolboy was so severely tortured by his birth parents that he had both his legs amputated as a baby. After being adopted, he has since raised £1.8 million for the Evelina London Children's Hospital in London, striking up a friendship with its patron the Princess of Wales and getting a personal Christmas card from Prince George.

In June 2020 at the age of five, he walked 10km on his prosthetic legs, inspired by Captain Tom Moore's fundraising walk and has a law named after him, Tony's Law, to allow tougher jail sentences for those convicted of child cruelty and neglect.

Paula Hudgell, Tony's adoptive mother, said: "We were all extremely honoured to have been invited to Buckingham Palace for afternoon tea with the Queen – an experience we would never have dreamed of. Everyone was so kind and thoughtful and made us feel comfortable and relaxed. Tony chatted to the Queen as if they were old friends

and she was lovely with him and it was an exceptionally very proud moment when the Queen gave Tony his BEM.

"We would like to thank everyone who made this one of the most memorable days we will ever have."

Lyla, of Catterick, North Yorkshire, who was diagnosed with pilocytic astrocytoma, a slow-growing tumour, aged three, and has undergone 20 operations in her young life so far, has also raised funds for seriously ill children.

Her father, Corporal Paul O'Donovan, serves with The 6 Rifles. The Queen has been Colonel-in-Chief of The Rifles since July 2020, and its band played a selection of music including songs from *The Lion King*, *Frozen*, *Mary Poppins* and Taylor Swift at the party.

Lyla said: "Everyone made us feel so comfortable and made me feel super special so thank you for this."

"A massive thank you to everyone involved yesterday, we are so grateful and feel so lucky to have been invited."

'Tony chatted to the Queen as if they were old friends, and she was lovely with him'

Paul O'Donovan, Lyla's father, said: "Last week was an amazing moment for us as a family. Lyla's health hasn't been good over the past few weeks, and she's been having so many more seizures and up to eight a week in school, so we always cherish everything we do."

"For us to come and have an experience like this was incredible and Lyla loved every second of our trip."

"Lyla was gutted about missing the original garden party but she said she's glad she missed it now as she's got to meet the Queen and there's no one else more important than her, apart from the King of course."

In May, Tony's family made headlines when they shared his disappointment about missing the formal garden party after being stuck in a motorway traffic jam on his X account, formally Twitter.

The Royal family account replied saying: "Sorry to hear this, Tony! We were looking forward to seeing you too. Fancy trying again another day? Leave it with us."



The Queen with Lyla O'Donovan and Tony Hudgell in the Buckingham Palace garden. She told them it was 'really nice to see you here today'

Daddy's girl
The Duke of Edinburgh presents his 20-year-old daughter, Lady Louise Windsor, with second prize for the novice pony event at the Sandringham Horse Driving Trials in Norfolk yesterday.



BAW MEDIA

Christie helped Elizabeth II out of a 'pickle'

By Hannah Furness ROYAL EDITOR

THE late Queen's private secretary has revealed how he averted a "constitutional pickle" for Elizabeth II – with inspiration from an Agatha Christie murder mystery.

Sir Edward Young, who was the late Queen's final principal private secretary, has told how the palace and Downing Street were faced with an "unexpected" issue in May 2015, when the Conservative Party won a majority under David Cameron.

"Opinion was divided" on whether Lord Cameron, who until then was prime minister of a coalition government, should be "invited" to form a new government, or would simply continue in the role, Sir Edward has said.

So, as lawyers disagreed up until the

last moment, they turned to Agatha Christie and the literary device of her "unarticulated ellipsis".

The "unspoken three dots", in which information is simply left out, was made famous in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, a Christie murder mystery.

'Time was short. The PM's convoy was speeding up the Mall. A solution had to be found'

Christie's novel in which the identity of the murderer was protected by his careful omission of information.

In an article for the *Heywood Quarterly*, Sir Edward, said a "solution" to the wording of the Prime Minister's victory speech had to be found quickly to solve

the "unexpected constitutional pickle".

"Opinion was evenly divided as to whether the PM should say: 'I have just been to see Her Majesty The Queen who has invited me to form a majority Conservative Government' or 'I have just been to see Her Majesty The Queen to inform her that I will form a majority Conservative Government'", he writes.

"Time was short. The PM's convoy was speeding up the Mall. A solution had to be found. We found it by taking a leaf out of Agatha Christie's book."

"Thus, the PM's words were: 'I have just been to see Her Majesty The Queen ... and I will now form a majority Conservative government'. We were quietly pleased with those unspoken three dots. It was a reminder that, when navigating an unwritten constitution, sometimes one must think on one's feet."

Available now on **sky**

sky & NETFLIX

In one simple subscription.

£26
£22
a month

Prices may change during 24-month contract.

sky.com Visit a Sky store

BRIDGERTON

Watch now on **NETFLIX**

Summer Covid wave building amid rise of Flirt variant

Scientists fear that existing vaccines may not provide same levels of protection against new outbreak

By Michael Searles
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

A SUMMER Covid wave is “building”, scientists have said, following a rise in the new “Flirt” variant.

The prevalence of illness caused by Covid is harder to quantify since widespread testing was axed, but hospital admissions indicate a summer wave was underway by mid-June after the number of cases rose by a quarter in a single week.

The “Flirt” derives from the technical names for the variant’s spike protein mutations or amino acid changes.

Prof T Ryan Gregory, of University of Guelph in Ontario, told Today.com: “Each amino acid has its own letter abbreviation. Flirt is F456L + R346T, or phenylalanine (F) to leucine (L) at position 456 and arginine (R) to threonine (T) at position 346,” he said.

The number of people hospitalised with Covid was 3.31 per 100,000 in the week ending June 16, up from 2.67 the week before, and was even higher among the elderly, peaking at 34.70 in the over-85s.

There was also a 29 per cent surge in positive cases in the week to June 22, although the majority of testing is now

in hospital and healthcare settings.

Dr Jamie Lopez Bernal, consultant epidemiologist for immunisation at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), said it was “seeing an increase in Covid-19 across all indicators, including hospitalisations”.

Experts fear the existing vaccines may not provide the same level of protection against new variants, which are several mutations away from those that initially spread.

The main Flirt variants are known as KP.2 and KP.3, and accounted for a combined 40 per cent of Covid in April.

Prof Steve Griffin of Leeds University said: “This is clearly early days, but it certainly looks as though yet another Covid wave is building. If the rise in hospitalisations continues, this is obviously worrying. Although we’ve just had a spring booster campaign for vulnerable populations, the uptake was lower than in 2023.

“There is a considerable difference between the current vaccines and circulating viruses,” he added.

About 4.1 million of the seven million eligible for a spring Covid booster took up the offer, which ends on Sunday, meaning 40 per cent won’t get the extra protection despite being deemed the most vulnerable.

UKHSA said it still needed “more data” on the new variants to understand how severe and transmissible they might be, and that it was “impossible” to tell at this stage if these variants were behind the rise in hospital admissions.



Digging it Final preparations are put in place for the RHS Britain in Bloom 60th Anniversary: Gardening for People and Planet feature garden, before the doors open tomorrow for this year’s RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival.

Patients ‘suffer and are left to die alone’ because of lack of nurses

By Michael Searles
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS are being “left to die alone” because of a dangerous lack of nurses, it has been claimed.

Around two thirds of hospital shifts have fewer than the planned number of registered nurses working, according to an analysis by the Royal College of

Nursing (RCN), which has called for urgent action.

A fifth of A&E nurses are having to care for more than 50 patients on their own, the RCN said.

It has urged that a legal limit on the number of patients a nurse should be expected to care for is introduced.

The college said patients were being put at risk by the shortage as the figures

also revealed four in five nurses believe that safety is being compromised by a lack of staff.

A survey of more than 11,000 nursing staff found that 68 per cent of those working in hospitals were on shifts with fewer than the planned number of registered nurses.

Half of these, or a third of the total, were understaffed by at least a quarter.

In community services, there were similar issues, with 64 per cent of shifts missing nurses, and 40 per cent missing more than half of the required number to care for patients.

A nurse in a hospital in the West Midlands said: “I have not been able to sit with patients who are dying, meaning they have been left to die alone.

“I have not had the time to make sure

patients are fed properly and have adequate drinks.”

Another nurse in the West Midlands said patients were not getting the proper level of care because of the staff shortages.

“Medications have been hours late, leaving patients in severe pain,” they said. “Patients have not had their personal care done as often as is necessary

to keep them clean after episodes of incontinence.”

The RCN is calling for “safety-critical limits” and it wants the next government to legally enforce rules to protect patients.

Prof Nicola Range, the RCN’s acting general secretary and chief executive, said nurses were “fighting a losing battle to keep patients safe”.



O₂

Lots of storage for lots of photos.

Our lowest ever price

From £42.55 a month

Monthly airtime price will increase each April by RPI +3.9%

£30 upfront | 30GB data

In-store | Online | 0800 089 0702

Representative Example	Duration of Device Plan	Upfront Cost	Monthly Device Payment	Credit Amount	Total Amount Payable for Device	Interest Rate	Representative APR	Cash Price	Airtime Plan	Airtime Plan April 2025 – March 2026	Airtime Plan April 2026 – March 2027
iPhone 15	36 months	£30	£18.56	£668.32	£698.32	0%	0%	£698.32	£23.99	£23.99 + RPI% announced in Feb 2024 + 3.9% = Price A	Price A + RPI% announced in Feb 2026 +3.9%

RPI rate is announced in February each year. Data allowances must be used within the month and cannot be carried over. Subject to availability. £18.56 Device Plan for 36 months and £23.99 monthly rolling Airtime Plan. £30 upfront. Your UK data allowance applies at no extra cost in our Europe Zone subject to a 25GB limit where UK data allowance is 25GB or more. Roaming then £3.50 per GB afterwards. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/roamingterms. Devices subject to availability. 0% APR. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct Debit. Credit provided by Telefonica UK Ltd. RG2 6UU. Telefonica UK is authorised and regulated by the FCA for consumer credit and insurance. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/terms

Horse trading could bar Le Pen's path to power

Analysis



By Henry Samuel
in Paris

An electoral slam-dunk for the French hard-Right in the first round may still be scuppered by tactical votes

THERE is no doubt that the outcome of the first round of voting in France's general election is a huge slap in the face to president Emmanuel Macron. His party is languishing in third place and his bet to call a snap vote after being trounced in European elections now appears a misguided act of vengeful pique. Last night was also undoubtedly a major victory for Marine Le Pen's RN, which clearly came first in terms of the number of votes, at around 33-34 per

cent – an all-time record. However, the outcome of round two on July 7 of this lightning contest is far from an electoral slam dunk for the hard-Right. First, the Left-wing New Popular Front (NFP) alliance – a mix of hard-Leftists, Socialists, Greens and Communists – has fared strongly, approaching 30 per cent, while Mr Macron's Together alliance is way back in third on around 20 per cent. And while some pollsters forecast that an absolute majority of 289 seats could be within the RN's grasp, which would see the 28-year-old Jordan Bardella become prime minister, such predictions appear hazardous at best, for one simple reason. Historically most second-round run-offs in French parliamentary elections are between two finalists, namely any candidate who gains more than 12.5 per cent of the registered vote. But this time there will be a record number of "triangular" three-way run-offs in round two, at least 243 out of 577 constituencies. What will now follow is a complex



Emmanuel Macron greets an elderly supporter during the campaign

game of horse-trading and tactical voting. The situation is relatively simple for the RN, whose only allies are renegade members of the conservative

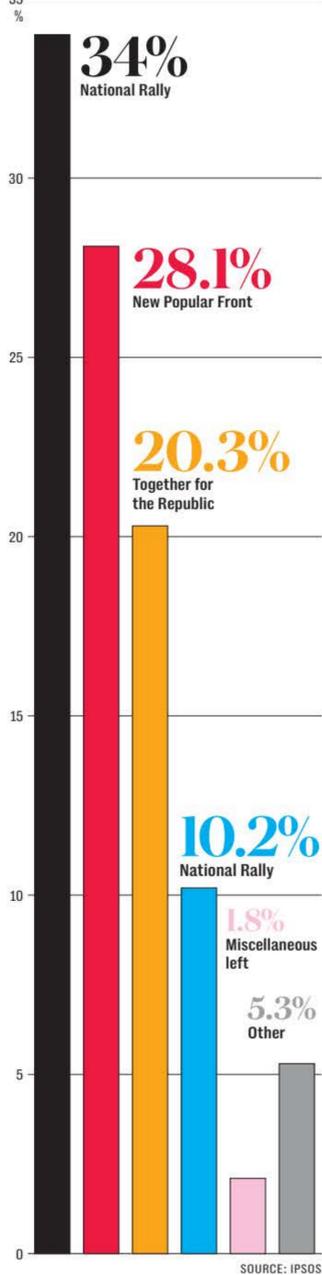
Republicans party, which broke ranks with most of the movement to forge an alliance with Le Pen's camp. But when it comes to all the other parties, the question is, who is prepared to step down for who, and that remains unclear. Republicans unallied to Ms Le Pen gave no guidance. Jean-Luc Mélenchon, the volcanic figurehead of the France Unbowed (LFI), which is part of the Left-wing alliance, announced that its candidates would systematically step down if in third place in round one and call for voters to back any candidate against RN. His Socialist allies issued the same call, but the pro-Macron centre was more nuanced. Edouard Philippe, a Right-wing former prime minister and part of Mr Macron's Together alliance, refused to be categorical, calling on voters to block both RN and Mr Mélenchon's LFI party. In other words, he made a distinction between the Mélenchon "extremists" and the rest of the

Left-wing alliance, which has divvied up constituencies across the country. For his part, Mr Macron was far hazier, merely saying he hoped to forge "a large, clearly democratic and republican rally for the second round". His prime minister, Gabriel Attal, later made it clear his party would desist if in third place in round two on a case-by-case basis. He may be on the ropes, but Mr Macron clearly still hopes that the French will in his view come to their senses and vote intelligently for centre-ground candidates whenever possible. That would leave the small but not impossible prospect of him forging a coalition within parliament to keep out both the National Rally and the hard-Left. As France has found out to its dismay, the president is fond of gambling with the country's future. This latest bet may have the longest odds of all and end in him being a lame duck for the next three years alongside the first hard-Right government since the Second World War.

'He may be on the ropes, but Mr Macron still hopes that the French will come to their senses'

Far right makes big gains exit polls show

French election exit polls



Rising temperatures take hiking in southern Europe 'off limits'

By Nick Squires in Rome

RISING temperatures mean swathes of southern Europe is effectively off limits for walkers at the height of summer, experts say. The dangers posed by extreme temperatures have been vividly illustrated this month with the deaths of several hikers, most of them in Greece.

August because of the danger posed by high temperatures, particularly to elderly people. Travel firms are having to adapt to rapidly changing climatic conditions, offering more trips in the spring and autumn and pivoting to cooler destinations in the north like Scotland and Scandinavia. "We've made some significant changes to our hiking offerings in southern Europe," said Hazel McGuire, general manager for Europe at Intrepid

Travel. "We've stopped offering hikes in July and August in Portugal, Spain and Greece. It has happened over the last couple of years and it is linked to the rising temperatures. "The heat presented a danger," Ms McGuire added. "Scientific studies consistently show that adults older than 65 years, people with cardiopulmonary and other chronic diseases, and very young children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of heat," *The Lancet*, medical

journal, noted in a recent report. Greece registered its earliest recorded heatwave last week, forcing the closure of the Acropolis and some schools as the temperature rose to 43C (109F) in Athens. Greece is expected to record the warmest June ever. The country now has a heat-related health warning system called Heat-Alarm, launched last year after scien-

Locations where elderly have died on holiday this year



tists said "the eastern Mediterranean is facing an increased occurrence of intense and long-lasting heatwaves. Such extremes will be the norm." "In the summer we are going north, to Norway, which has become very popular, and Scotland. These are now our biggest destinations for summer hiking," said Ginny Lunn, the owner of hiking travel company WalkingWomen. "The heat is arriving earlier. You just have to rethink how you plan your holiday." Age has appeared to be a significant factor in recent hiking deaths – most were in their sixties and seventies. Michael Mosley, the 67-year-old health journalist died last month after going for a walk on Symi, a Greek island in temperatures of 38C, while, on Friday, a 70-year-old British man was found dead in the Spanish Pyrenees.

Meanwhile a Dutch hiker, 74, was found dead on Samos, Greece, and earlier this week a 67-year-old German walker died while hiking in Crete. Also, a 55-year-old American tourist died on Mathraki near Corfu, and Albert Calibet, a 59-year-old American, went missing on Amorgos, in Greece, and has not yet been found. Intrepid Travel said it registered 121 more climate-related incidents affecting its clients last year than in 2022, including extreme heat, floods and wildfires. "Climate change is having a meaningful impact on itineraries. We have to be mindful of people's enjoyment: hiking when it's 40C is not much fun," said Ms McGuire. The global tour operator saw a 61 per cent increase last year in "shoulder season" bookings – between peak and off-peak – in western Europe.

Far-Right politician bites protester on leg

By James Jackson

A FAR-RIGHT German politician bit a protester on the leg as tens of thousands gathered for a march against his party. Stefan Hrdy of the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party was driving to an event in the west German city of Essen when the street was blocked by some 150 protesters. The former parliamentary candidate was filmed being told by police he should find an alternative route. However, disregarding the advice, he went on to thrust himself into the protest and grapple with several people. "Someone kicked me in the calf from behind, I fell and then had three or four people on top of me," Mr Hrdy, 67, told the German tabloid *Bild*. "The man

whose leg I then bit in self-defence had previously kicked me in the face. Then the police came and freed me," he added. The protest was one of a number across Essen that drew some 50,000 people looking to express their anger over the rise of the AfD. The party was meeting after its record European Union election result earlier this month. It came second nationally in parliamentary elections. It was first in all of the eastern German states except for Berlin and is poised for victory in upcoming elections in the states of Thuringia, Saxony and Brandenburg in September. The party has been accused of racism for its hardline views on immigration, claims that its leaders deny. On

Saturday, protesters projected the anti-Nazi slogan "Never again" on the Grugahalle building, where the party was meeting, and attempted to block members from entering. Several clashes broke out with police, who used tear gas to disperse the crowds. Two officers were hospitalised and 28 were injured. The congress went ahead half-an-hour later than scheduled owing to the protests. "We are here and we will stay," said the AfD co-president, Alice Weidel. "We have the right, like all political parties, to hold a congress." The AfD ended its second day of conference early to watch Germany defeat Denmark in the Euro 2024 tournament.

Gunmen open fire at wedding in France

By Vivian Song

ONE person was killed and another three were in critical condition after masked gunmen opened fire at a wedding reception in north-eastern France early on Sunday. Police believe the attack outside the Eden Palace hall near Thionville was a targeted assassination, with some sources pointing to drugs. Around 100 guests were in attendance when a car pulled up at around 1am local time and three masked men got out carrying automatic weapons. The masked gunmen opened fire in the direction of three guests standing outside the hall smoking, killing one person and injuring five others, before fleeing.

"Several dozen rounds of ammunition were fired," said a statement from the local prosecutor's office. According to the local paper *Republicain Lorrain*, a man in his 30s died while being transferred to hospital, and three other victims were left in critical condition. A fifth victim, a pregnant woman, suffered minor injuries, as did a sixth person who was injured by shards of broken glass. The shooting is being treated as murder and attempted murder by an organised criminal gang. The victims were guests at a Turkish wedding. Pierre Cuny, the mayor of Thionville, wrote that the participants were from the metropolitan area of Metz and were not local.

Unconfirmed reports from police sources said the attack was related to drug crime. "Clearly, we are heading towards a settling of scores against a backdrop of drug trafficking," one unnamed police source told French media. "The wedding was not targeted as such, it was people who were at the wedding." Police said the vehicle was probably a four-wheel-drive BMW, but that its origin has yet to be confirmed. Thionville is close to the Germany and Luxembourg borders. Drug trafficking has recently become a big problem in the border region of Lorraine. In the neighbouring town of Villerupt, shootings between rival gangs left five people injured in May 2023.

Democrats create path for Biden 'dignified' exit

US ELECTIONS 2024

US president is at Camp David for family gathering as clamour for him to stand aside reaching a crescendo

By Benedict Smith US REPORTER in Washington

DEMOCRATS are laying groundwork for Joe Biden to make a "dignified" exit from the presidential race.

Following his disastrous performance against Donald Trump in Thursday night's debate, the Biden family gathered in Camp David, the president's country retreat, where they are expected to discuss his future.

One Democrat official said the US president could not be "dragged off stage", and needed relatives and trusted advisers to convince him to "walk off" on his own terms. Senior Democrats and friends of Mr Biden pushed for this conversation to happen over the weekend. However, his family are said to have urged him to stay in the race when they met yesterday, while expressing frustration with aides who prepared him for the debate.

Mr Biden was expected to spend yesterday and today surrounded by members of his immediate family, including Jill Biden, the first lady, and their granddaughters, Finnegan and Natalie Biden. Among those pushing Mr Biden to keep fighting was his son, Hunter, who wants to repair the damage done to his reputation by Thursday's debate, *The New York Times* reported. A Biden campaign source downplayed the significance of the gathering, insisting the stay had been planned some time in advance, adding that discussions about his re-election bid would be "informal or an afterthought". However, Mr Biden has previously said he would not run a political campaign without the support of his family. "We do everything by family meetings," he said in 2019.

The 81-year-old president repeatedly mumbled, veered off topic and froze while speaking in front of an estimated 50 million viewers during the first showdown against Trump hosted by CNN. Mr Biden made another gaffe over the weekend as he sought to calm nerves of anxious donors at a campaign reception in New York.

The US president claimed Trump referred to America's war dead as "losers" and "suckers" when he cancelled a visit to Aisne-Marne American Cemetery, near Paris, in 2018. Mr Biden mistakenly said the cemetery was located in Italy - remarks that were later corrected on the official White House transcript.

One Democratic official said Mr Biden's sister, Valerie Biden Owens, who ran his campaigns for office for 40 years, and a longtime friend and



The Biden family disembark at Hagerstown airport, in Maryland, which is close to the presidential retreat Camp David

confidante Ted Kaufman, should urge him to "walk off" with "dignity".

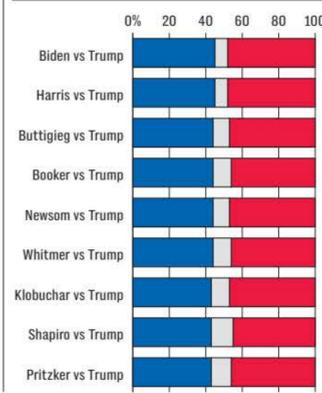
The individual, who is not part of the Biden campaign or White House, told Axios: "This is not about him submitting to the will of others yelling at him that he failed. Joe Biden is too proud for that argument. He will not be dragged off the stage."

"The goal is to let him walk off the stage... He got rid of Trump; helped prepare America through his legislation for the future; and, under his tenure, a generation of new Democrats have emerged."

Democratic donors, strategists and politicians have urged Mr Biden to drop out of the race for a younger candidate who could block Trump from reclaiming the White House.

Michael LaRosa, a former press secretary to the first lady, said the Biden family would seek to "defy gravity and defeat the doubters" instead of bending to outside pressure.

Biden camp shares polling showing he is best placed Democrat to beat Trump



Referring to Mr Biden's first presidential run, he told *The Telegraph*: "They're almost in an identical situation from 1987, when they were forced out by the press and the polls and the pundits... And I think they learned long ago through that formative experience that they weren't going to let outsiders push them out of the race... their natural instinct is not to let their hand be forced."

In an email to supporters at the weekend, the president's campaign claimed he was the only Democrat capable of beating Trump.

It published polling that shows Mr Biden performs better against Trump than potential successors, but still loses in a head-to-head match-up, by 45 per cent to 48 per cent. Gavin Newsom, the California governor, took 44 per cent to Trump's 47 per cent, and Gretchen Whitmer, the Michigan Governor, took 44 per cent to Trump's 46 per cent, according to the data.

'For weeks and months, in private, they have all said what we saw - Joe is not as strong as he was a couple of years ago'

Nate Silver, a prominent pollster, noted that the other candidates performed marginally worse despite having a much smaller profile than Mr Biden. "That this is the best talking point they can come up with indicates how poor their argument is," he said.

A campaign email called Mr Biden's critics a "bedwetting brigade" made up of "self-important podcasters", and "Maga [Make America Great Again] uncles". "Joe Biden is going to be the Democratic nominee, period," it added.

The Democrats' "big beasts", including Barack Obama, the former president, and the former House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi, have been outwardly supportive of Mr Biden.

Notably, they have avoided making public criticisms of the US president - possibly hoping he will be convinced to stand aside after taking stock of his campaign this weekend.

New York police shoot dead boy, 13, carrying replica handgun

By Our Foreign Staff

NEW YORK police have fatally shot a 13-year-old boy who was carrying a replica handgun only capable of firing pellets.

A video released late on Saturday showed an officer in upstate New York firing on the youth, who had been tackled to the ground. Police said he pointed the replica gun at officers.

The teen was killed a little after 10pm local time on Friday Utica city, about 240 miles north-west of Manhattan. He was one of two youths stopped by officers in connection with an armed robbery.

Both 13, they matched descriptions of the suspects and were in the area at around the same time on the following day, police said. One was also walking in the road, a violation of state traffic law.

The body-worn camera video released by police captured an officer saying he needed to search the boys to ensure they did not have any weapons in their possession.

Immediately, one of the two, identified by police as Nyah Mway, ran away. A still from the video prepared by the police appears to show Mway pointing the gun at the pursuing officers while running.

Police also edited the video to insert a red circle around the weapon to highlight it for viewers. The officers believed it was a real handgun, police said, but it was later determined to be a replica of a



Bodyworn camera video purports to show boy pointing a gun at police officers

Glock 17 Gen 5 handgun with a detachable magazine.

"During a ground struggle" with the teen, one officer fired a single shot that struck the boy in the chest, Mark Williams, chief of Utica police, said.

Mway was given "immediate" first aid by the officers and taken to Wynn Hospital, where he died.

The replica gun carried by the teen "is in all aspects a realistic appearing firearm with Glock markings, signatures, detachable magazine, and serial numbers," Lieut Michael Curley, a police spokesman, said via email.

A video posted to Facebook by a bystander showed one of the officers chasing after Mway and tackling him to the ground.

It also showed the officer punching the teen. A shot rang out as the teen was on the ground.

The officer who fired his gun was identified as Patrick Husnay. He and fellow officers Bryce Patterson and Andrew Citriniti have been placed on administrative leave with pay.

Hurricane Beryl to hit Caribbean amid fear of catastrophic damage

By David Millward

AN UNSEASONABLY early hurricane is gathering strength as it bears down on the Caribbean amid fears it could cause 9ft waves and catastrophic damage.

Hurricane Beryl is on the cusp of becoming the earliest category four storm - the second highest category - in history as it reaches wind speeds of 120mph and possibly exceeds them over the next 24 hours. Hurricane warnings have already been issued for Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Tobago.

Martinique - a beloved private getaway among the rich and famous - is under a tropical storm warning, while Dominica and Trinidad are under a tropical storm watch.

"Potentially catastrophic wind damage is expected where the eyewall of Beryl moves through portions of the Windward Islands, with the highest risk of the core in St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada," the US National Hurricane Center warned.

"Beryl is expected to rapidly strengthen and be a major hurricane when it reaches the Windward Islands late Sunday night or Monday, bringing destructive hurricane-force winds and life-threatening storm surge," it added.

Forecasters have predicted waves could be 9ft high when Beryl makes landfall.

'Please take this very seriously and prepare yourselves. This is a terrible hurricane'

Long queues have already been forming at filling stations and grocery stores as people living in the region batten down the hatches ahead of Beryl.

"Please take this very seriously and prepare yourselves," said Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines. "This is a terrible hurricane."

The timing of the first major

hurricane is ringing alarm bells among hurricane experts.

It is unusual for hurricanes to form in this part of the Atlantic so early in the year because ocean temperatures are not warm enough to trigger activity.

But rising sea temperatures have brought the hurricane season forward.

"Beryl has found an environment with very warm ocean waters for this time of year," Dr Mike Brennan, the director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Hurricane Center, told CNN.

"These are ocean waters you'd normally see like in August or September, but now we're seeing them in late June," he added.

"It's kind of opening up more of the deep tropical Atlantic for formation before we get to what would be the traditional peak of the hurricane season."

Phil Klotzbach, a hurricane expert and research scientist at Colorado State University, said that this was evidence that this year will have a hyperactive hurricane season.

SAMSUNG
Galaxy Tab S9 Ultra

Save
£528

Save £432 on data + £96 on device
Ends 25.07

Galaxy AI is here

BIG DEALS FOR ALL
On The Nation's Network

Terms apply: vodafone.co.uk/terms. Vodafone EVO: Device Plan Credit Agreement with a Data Plan. You can pay off your Device Plan early, and if you do, keep your Data Plan on a 30-day contract or leave. Save £528: £432 Data saving achieved over 36 months* (was £18, now £6 subject to April Annual Price Rise) & £96 device saving (was £1,296, now £1,200). The Nation's Network: Vodafone - the nation's most valuable brand, verified by Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable UK Brands Report 2023. *Supporting the nation since 1984 through to 2024's major summer events. Learn more at vodafone.co.uk/network. Samsung account login is required. Samsung AI available on Galaxy Tab S9, S9+, S9 Ultra only. Credit by Vodafone. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct debit required. Credit provided by Vodafone Limited. FCA Number: 712210, Vodafone House, The Connection, Newbury, RG14 2FN.

How Gen Z started a revolution across Kenya

Dispatch



By Adrian Blomfield in Nairobi

Protesters seized control of parliament and set it ablaze during riots which rocked the government

THEY were the generation that could be taken for granted – or so Kenya's government thought.

When, earlier this month, young Kenyan professionals took to social media to call for a "Gen Z uprising" over proposed tax hikes, the inner circle of William Ruto, the country's president, responded with thigh-slapping derision.

Kenya's middle class youth had barely bothered to vote, the thinking went. It seemed unlikely that they would ever do more than whinge from the sidelines. They were just after TikTok views, scoffed Rachael Nyamai, an MP allied to Mr Ruto.

After protesters briefly seized control of parliament and set it ablaze on Tuesday and following a week of countrywide riots that have killed at least 27 people, such complacency has given way to panic.

Already forced into a humiliating climbdown over his tax policies, the president is now fighting for his political survival. Fresh protests, this time to demand his resignation, have been called for next week. In an extraordinary display of his own vulnerability, Mr Ruto has had to order the army on to the streets to protect him from his own people.

Nor is it just Mr Ruto who is running scared, with protesters attacking the businesses, constituency offices and even the homes of MPs, who were forced to flee Parliament through an underground tunnel after its seizure.

Kenya, despite its reputation, is no stranger to protests and political unrest. Deadly violence, often

inflamed by politicians stoking ethnic divisions, has often broken out at election time. These protests are different, however, led by an organic and seemingly leaderless movement that has rendered the old ethnic divisions politicians used to manipulate meaningless.

For the first time, too, anger is directed at the entire political class, rather than just portions of it. There is for the first time a whiff of the atmosphere of the Arab Spring uprisings or the coloured revolutions that spread across former Soviet states 20 years ago.

"There is no greater danger than underestimating your opponent," wrote the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, a truism that should be blindingly obvious to any self-regarding politician.

That Kenya may have reached a watershed is the result of Mr Ruto's catastrophic underestimation of his opposition, which consists not of politicians, who have proved easy enough to co-opt, but of the middle class. In order to pay off the vast debts his government inherited after coming to power in 2022 and in order to pursue a pro-poor agenda, Mr Ruto reckoned he could afford to alienate middle class Kenyans by ruthlessly taxing them.

It seemed a reasonable calculation to make. The middle class never liked Mr Ruto to begin with, viewing him as a populist strongman-in-the-making with a chequered record on human rights and corruption.

With just 17 per cent of Kenyans in salaried employment, the middle class also seemed electorally expendable. Mr Ruto won power by becoming the first presidential candidate to appeal beyond ethnicity to Kenya's masses.

The president planned to double down on this strategy through expensive low-cost housing and subsidised fertiliser schemes that would be funded by tax rises primarily shouldered by the middle class, who – so it was believed – had too much to lose by taking to the streets.

But as salaried Kenyans saw their monthly pay packets shrink after the 2023 budget and then witnessed



A protestor stands in front of the water cannon in Nairobi as a clash breaks out during a protest against tax hikes proposed by the Kenya government

another sharp hike being proposed in the 2024 budget, patience snapped.

Yet Mr Ruto's government seemed unable to take the threat seriously, failing to see the serious message that underpinned the social media memes which transformed cabinet ministers into yapping dogs.

The movement seemed too amorphous, leaderless and shadowy to take seriously, even when a poster advertising "Seven Days of Rage" that would culminate with plans to #OccupyParliament began to circulate widely online and the demonstrations started to grow.

"They come to the demonstrations by Uber," Kimani Ichung'wah, majority leader in the lower house of Kenya's parliament, sneered in a televised speech. "Afterwards they go to KFC and eat chicken. They even drink bottled water."

Once again, the political elite had

miscalculated. Not only did the protests not fade away, they attracted to their ranks poorer Kenyans who are yet to see any benefits from a Ruto presidency to anybody but the political class.

Ostentatious Instagram videos showing Mr Ruto's allies showing off their fleet of Range Rovers and

'Where the protests go from here is unclear. The movement behind them seems divided'

expensive watches have done little to help the president show he is a man of the people.

He did little to help his own cause either by flying to the United States in a private jet last month and appearing in public wearing a £2,600 belt – more

than the average annual salary of a typical Kenyan.

The protesters also proved far more resilient and determined than the authorities anticipated. Some danced amid the tear gas, even picking up still fizzing canisters to smoke them, while others stood stock-still with their arms outstretched as they were soaked with pink chemicals fired from the water cannon.

Where the protests go from here is unclear. The movement behind them seems divided. Some quietly confess that the scenes in parliament were too redolent of the assault by Trump supporters on Congress in January 2020 for comfort. Not everyone agrees.

"I would say that the storming of the Bastille is a better comparison to make," said Phyllis Ochieng, a pharmacist.

Whatever happens, despite the

bloodshed and chaos, whether Mr Ruto survives the coming months or not, the protesters have already won.

Forced to withdraw the finance Bill which underpinned his proposed tax rises, Mr Ruto has effectively vetoed his own budget. It is a humiliating climbdown which will surely weaken his ability to rule.

Shinning up a lamp-post on one of the streets leading to parliament on Tuesday, Philip Mulwa, a 26-year-old software engineer, sang snatches from Les Miserables in the direction of the riot police: "Do you hear the people sing? Singing the song of angry men? It is the music of the people who will not be slaves again."

Kenya's protesters have tasted people power, dangled the threat of revolution in front of their leaders and humbled their president. Things in Kenya are unlikely to go back to the way they were.



The Telegraph



MONEY

Your complete guide to being better off



Visit telegraph.co.uk/money or scan the QR code

To scan the QR code, open your phone camera, point it at the code and tap the banner that appears on screen. On older phones, you may need to download a QR code reader first.

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

Teach a man to sew, and you'll never look shabby again

JANE SHILLING



You are about to step on to the Oscars red carpet when the zip on your fancy frock chooses this moment to break. What's a girl to do? When it happened to the actress Elisabetta Canalis in 2010, her date George Clooney stepped in with needle and thread. With the words every woman in such a plight yearns to hear – "I have experience with this" – he sewed her back into her dress. Would that he had been on hand with his sewing kit when the same thing happened to Emma Stone at this year's Academy Awards.

These days George and his sewing skills are spoken for, but a remedy is on the way (albeit in less glamorous form) for lost buttons, unstitched hems and torn linings. This summer Marks & Spencer is launching a repairs service: the initiative joins the firm's existing clothes recycling scheme as part of its plan to reduce textile waste. But it is also an adroit response to a change of mood among customers.

Nostalgia for the Second World War "Make Do and Mend" campaign might seem an unlikely swerve for sophisticated 21st-century consumers. But the success of shows such as the BBC's *Great British Sewing Bee*, together with a more cautious attitude to household spending, and dismay at the mountains of discarded clothing that despoil Chile's Atacama desert and the Ghanaian coastline, have all encouraged the unlikely renaissance of repairs.

A surreal 1943 Ministry of Information film in the Imperial War Museum's archive shows an assortment of old garments lecturing a beleaguered housewife about how to make them into new clothes for her coupon-deprived family.

But sewing was a skill historically practised by both sexes, and *Esquire* magazine recently identified the rise of a group it named the Sew Bros, whose celebrity members include Clooney ("I used to work in suits"); David Beckham – pictured on Instagram by his wife, Victoria (a successful clothes designer), sewing a doll's dress for his daughter; and Chris Martin of Coldplay, who apparently sews as a bonding activity with his band.

It is striking that these chaps are wielding the needle themselves, rather than outsourcing their stitching to professionals. And there lies the flaw in

M&S's otherwise admirable plan. Its repair service starts from £5 for sewing on a shirt button, so it is only worth using for quite expensive garments. But it takes five minutes to sew on a button, and requires almost no skill beyond that of threading a needle.

If the Sew Bros can accomplish an emergency zip repair at the Oscars, the rest of us could surely manage the odd missing button or drooping hem. But not all of us who cherish our shabby old clothes have the confidence to set about mending them. So if M&S is really committed to a circular textiles economy, it should consider offering workshops for home menders: the joy of restoring a beloved garment is redoubled when you do it yourself.

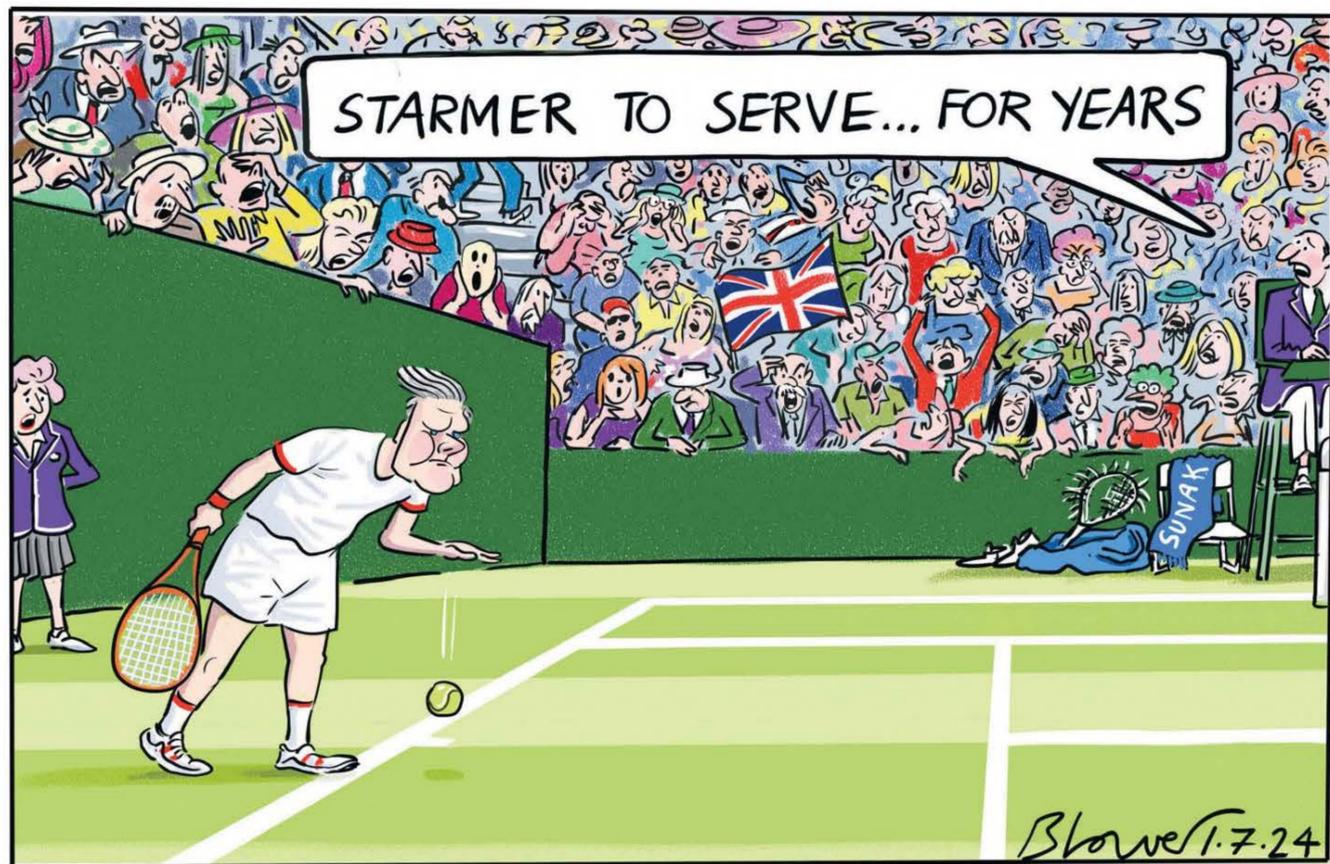
Most large arts institutions are beset with troubles, and with its recent theft scandal and the perennially simmering issue of the Parthenon sculptures, the British Museum has more than its share. As the interim director, Sir Mark Jones, hands over to his successor, Nicholas Cullinan, he has made a bold suggestion: with refurbishment costs estimated at £400-500 million, the museum should consider charging overseas visitors.

In 2001, 13 national museums scrapped admission charges. The move was immensely popular: over a decade, visitor numbers rose from seven million to 18 million. For residents, the freedom to make a lunch-hour visit to a great museum never stopped feeling like a glorious gift.

But with funding cuts and increasingly fierce public scrutiny of their sponsors, British museums have to find money from somewhere. Their sister museums, from the Uffizi in Florence to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, charge visitors around £20 for entry. Sir Mark's idea of charging overseas visitors, while keeping the British Museum free to visit for British and under-25 foreign visitors, would raise revenue and reduce crowds. Which sounds like a rare victory for culture and common sense.



READ MORE at [telegraph.co.uk/opinion](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion)



To order prints or signed copies of any Telegraph cartoon, go to [telegraph.co.uk/prints-cartoons](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/prints-cartoons) or call 0191 603 0178 ♦ readerprints@telegraph.co.uk

Labour has given the game away: it isn't being honest about its plan to hike taxes

Even the party admits that it will go further than its manifesto, risking huge tax rises and a debt crisis

NICK TIMOTHY



You may not have heard of Nick Thomas-Symonds. But if Labour wins the election on Thursday, he will become an important figure in Sir Keir Starmer's new government. And last week, he let the cat out of the bag. He told us, quite clearly, that Labour is planning to adopt completely different plans to tax and spend than those the party has told the country.

"The Government hasn't conducted a spending review," he said during a radio interview. "We obviously can't do that from opposition, and we've also been open, always, that we may open the books and discover the situation is even worse than it is at the moment. We've never hidden from that."

This is, of course, arrant nonsense. As Paul Johnson, who runs the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies, said, "The books are wide open, fully transparent. That really won't wash." Starmer and his team have all the data they need to judge their approach to fiscal policy now. Yet Thomas-Symonds was quite openly preparing the ground for a raft of Labour tax rises, starting this autumn.

Rachel Reeves, the shadow chancellor, has previously admitted

that the excuse used by Thomas-Symonds is ridiculous. "We've got the OBR now," she has said, referring to the Office for Budget Responsibility, which publishes detailed accounts of the public finances. "You don't need to win an election to find that out."

And yet we know that Reeves is planning exactly what Thomas-Symonds suggested. Sources from the shadow cabinet have already told *The Guardian* that, if Labour wins the election, there will be an emergency budget towards the end of the year. And in that budget Reeves wants to "take a 'kitchen sink' approach in order to raise tax income". The Labour Party source was frank: "That is not what they are presenting the public with right now."

There has been precious little scrutiny during this campaign of Labour's policy positions or true intentions, but it all stacks up. Wes Streeting, the shadow health Secretary, has admitted his party has spending plans that go beyond those set out in their manifesto. Upon publication of the manifesto, Paul Johnson – him again – said Labour "offers no indication that there is a plan for where the money would come from" to pay for its policies.

The implication is always that the supposedly few tax rises Labour wants will hit only the rich and privileged. But this is not going to happen. One of the startling facts of the past 14 years of Conservative government is that, while the overall tax take is up – unsurprisingly given our ageing society and high levels of debt – the average earner has the lowest effective personal tax rate since 1975, lower than the equivalent in any G7 country. In other words, higher earners have already been

squeezed enormously. Labour's tax rises are coming not for the rich – but for you.

The claims simply do not add up. We are promised that the NHS will improve beyond all recognition, all with additional funding derived from the closure of some tax loopholes. We are told that the power grid will be decarbonised by 2030 – at only one fifth of the cost Labour originally said it would take to achieve it.

This policy is particularly reckless. The country's leading energy experts say the objective is impossible anyway, whatever the budget. But having once said it would require an additional £28 billion every year, Reeves and Starmer are now saying it can be achieved by spending a total of £23.7 billion over the whole five-year parliament.

Darren Jones, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, has been recorded saying that even the original £28 billion is a "tiny" sum and that Labour would need "hundreds of billions of pounds" more. Saying that Labour's changed account of how it would fund the policy "made it sound as if we basically junked the whole thing but we definitely haven't", Jones confirmed – like Thomas-Symonds and Streeting – that Labour's plans to tax and spend are not what they are saying they are.

And tax is not the only way Labour will load costs on to the public. Pressed on what Jones had said, Starmer suggested that the additional funds would come from the private sector. Private investment can achieve many things, but asking investors to decarbonise the grid – which is not something that will unleash huge or early productivity gains – will only mean they earn their



READ MORE at [telegraph.co.uk/opinion](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion)

There has been precious little scrutiny during this campaign of Labour's policy positions or true intentions

returns through higher bills for customers.

According to Bloomberg Economics, Labour has a £20 billion gap in its spending plans, and party sources have told the media that they are effectively planning to reprise the Blair and Brown era policy of the Private Finance Initiative. PFI was abandoned by the coalition government after being described as "one of the costliest experiments in public policy making ever attempted".

It is easy to see why PFI appeals to Starmer and Reeves in the same way it appealed to Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. PFI borrowing was not included on the Treasury balance sheet, but it allowed immediate cash injections that built up huge long-term public debt. Its use in the New Labour era multiplied by 10 times in 10 years, leading to £200 billion of public debt, or £8,000 for every household in the country. Starmer's party – which never misses an opportunity to hark back to the Blair years – seems ready to do it all over again.

This is Labour's fatal flaw that it cannot escape. Every Labour government in history has ended with unemployment higher than when it started for the simple reason that it always taxes and spends and borrows too much. Even the tax rises that Labour is honest about mean Starmer and Reeves would take Britain's overall tax burden to the highest it has ever been.

But we know that the party is not telling us the truth because – incredibly – it has been open about its dishonesty. A Labour government will risk another debt crisis – and plans to rinse ordinary families with tax rises.

Emmanuel Macron's fate is a warning to Sir Keir Starmer

Labour's support is wide but shallow. Nigel Farage's Reform Party will be waiting for its opportunity

KAMAL AHMED



In the upper-echelons of the Labour Party, as they consider a UK run by them (and such is their confidence, the urinal-equipped chancellor's loo is being reassessed ready for the first female occupant of the role), a name is whispered with a worried nod of the head and a concerned frowning of the brow.

The rise and calamitous fall of Emmanuel Macron has become the scary bedtime story for Sir Keir Starmer's closest team – the type of tale a concerned parent might tell their children to stop them scrumping apples. "Don't do that, or you will suffer the same fate as Monsieur Le President!"

A centrist, pro-European leader, Macron won the 2017 French

presidential election on a wave of "change" rhetoric. For a period, he could do no wrong, as hyper-low interest rates and strong growth cemented the idea that En Marche! (the new party he founded) was going to solve the age-old problems of establishment, out-of-touch politics and, even worse, corrupt, idiot politicians. He was welcomed as a breath of fresh air, an antidote to the chaos of busted governments that had run out of ideas.

Then came Covid, the Ukraine-related energy shock, and controversial attempts at public sector and policy reform, particularly to the pension age. Being pro-EU (with the sticky insistence on remote rule-making from Brussels) suddenly became a hindrance, not a help. After rising so high, Macron has fallen to the humbling low of having to call an early election on the core question of what kind of France voters want. When Edward Heath tried a similar "Who governs?" strategy in 1974, it did not end well for the Conservatives.

Macron has been assaulted from the Right and the Left for failing to seal the deal he put before the French electorate. He is the Sun King turned to Mr Bean, to paraphrase Sir Vince Cable's deadly description of that other fallen giant, Gordon Brown.

But whereas Brown came up against a rather gentlemanly One Nation Tory in the form of Lord Cameron, Macron's challenge is dressed very differently. Tweeds have been replaced by stilettos. The man "who was the future once" has been humiliated not only by a coalition of the Left but also at the hands of a hard-Right, charismatic leader who sniffed an opportunity (immigration) and turned it into a political attack super-virus. Marine Le Pen is not just a threat to Le President. She is a threat to the established order.

Just as Nigel Farage would like to be here. Both gladly dabble with the dark forces of "culture" and "patriotism" to gather support.

What does France and more specifically Macron have to do with Sir Keir Starmer? Lots, as it happens. Macron won two thirds of the votes in 2017, 30 per cent more than Le Pen's Front National. It was a clear victory which appeared to prove that France wanted him, and not the alternative. But rather than deal with the alternative, Macron has now been surrounded by it. An economy in a funk, immigration continuing to worry enough voters to matter, and a leader who confused winning big with political righteousness.

And that has become Labour's bedtime story. On Thursday, Starmer is

set to land what appears to be a game-changing majority. But he will do so without convincing the voters that Labour is actually the answer. For a period, benign economic tailwinds (next week energy prices will fall by 7 per cent, by the end of the year 1.5 million homeowners are likely to see their mortgage repayments drop, real incomes will continue to rise) will hide a myriad of rocks under the surface.

Will Labour's policy of return agreements really stop the boats? Will Wes Streeting, all set to be the next health secretary, put in place the right policies to start turning around the NHS and social care? Will the unions wear it? Will voters remain silent in the face of the pro-building revolution Labour has promised?

And if growth stutters, the public finances will turn against Rachel Reeves and the bond markets will start charging the UK more to fund the increased borrowing that will be necessary to hide the holes. Taxes will rise and Starmer's support – wide but always shallow – may disappear.

And Farage, the new MP for Clacton, will be waiting.

Labour is a tribe that tends towards panic. You don't lose as many elections as the party has managed in its 124-year history without sensing disaster around every corner – because it so often is.

Where the Right are mostly furious when voters turn against them and shout that it is everyone else's fault, the Left disappear into months, sometimes years, of introspection and "why are we so useless?" narratives.

In government, the same emotions prevail. It can lead to caution, paralysis and poor policy-making. Particularly if you have, like Starmer and Brown, a rather dogmatic tendency to believe that pulling the levers of the state can solve problems. Starmer, unlike Brown, also sees the EU as a route to greater prosperity, a policy push laughingly dismissed by one seasoned EU negotiator I know as "delusional, they are never going to give us anything of any real economic value, we've left".

And Farage will sniff his opportunity. "On July 5, we are going to have to think immediately about Reform," one senior Labour figure told me. "If we leave it, think the threat will go away, then we will only have to look across the Channel for what could happen."

Starmer makes a lot of the fact that he only recently came into politics. But what he thinks is a strength is actually a weakness. Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair were political to their fingertips, able to marshal arguments that convinced electorates for nearly all of their political careers. Blair, whom Starmer admires, had

the political instincts to rise above controversies, even when, as in the case of his enthusiasm for open borders with the EU and the Iraq war, he created them. People often forget that he won his third election in a row after the controversy over non-existent weapons of mass destruction.

Starmer lacks the political nous to see traps before they form. He does not suffer hubris, at least. And in Reeves he will have an able chancellor who is likely to help him out of a number of bear pits. Streeting is another strong performer who wants to reform the health service and not just give it more money.

Starmer will need to discover a new gear once in No10 – market orientated, non-ideological, willing to listen. Drift to his instinctive Left and he will allow space for Farage to pounce, particularly if whatever is left of a bloodied and bowed Conservative Party tries to do a deal with the private-school educated banker from leafy, suburban London who likes to pretend he is in some way a "man of the people".

If Starmer does not learn that being prime minister is different from leading (and liking) a cosy club of liberal progressives, then the seeds of his destruction will soon become apparent. Just as they have for the President of the Fifth Republic.



ESTABLISHED 1855

The choice for voters couldn't be clearer

Six long weeks of election campaigning are coming to an end, with the polls showing hardly any change in Labour's lead from when the contest was called on May 22. Sir Keir Starmer is still on course to become prime minister on Friday with one of the biggest parliamentary majorities in history.

But while his party remains 20 points ahead of the Tories, this gap flatters to deceive. The polls have also shown a steady fall in support for Labour, from around 44 per cent of the vote share to as low as 38 per cent. Labour has maintained its distance from its opponents because Reform UK has been siphoning support from the Conservatives. If some of those voters return to the fold on Thursday, Sir Keir is still likely to win but by less of a margin than predicted.

If there were to be a uniform swing from Tory to Labour, then 38 per cent of the vote would not be enough to secure a Labour victory. It would be the largest party but would need deals with others.

But the presence of Reform and tactical voting in Tory-held seats could hand dozens of constituencies to Labour and the Lib Dems, much as in 1997 when the Tories were reduced to around 160 MPs. Some in the party now think that would be a good result on Thursday and confound predictions of a total wipeout.

Undecided voters need to consider the consequences not only of giving a party with no popular mandate such a large majority, but of wrecking the one party that will provide any opposition. The Lib Dems or Scottish Nationalists (who face their own reckoning) will back most of what Labour is planning. It really will be a one-party state.

Some on the Right want to punish the Tories for failing over 14 years to challenge the social democratic consensus. They hope then to see the party rebuild in opposition. Yet by voting Reform, or not at all, they risk seeing all the things they criticise the Tories over – from climate change policies to immigration and tax rises – worsen under Labour.

On the BBC yesterday, Rishi Sunak remained combative and hopeful, as indeed he must. He said that he was proud of his campaign, despite the troubles it has faced.

It has alerted the electorate to the dangers of Labour and the stark choice the country faces. If voters are not persuaded yet, they will find out soon enough.

Builder shortage

A new Labour government will prioritise house building, we are told. In the first few weeks should they win office on Thursday, ministers will "turbocharge" policies intended to see the shortage of new homes addressed. They will include a review by local authorities of development opportunities within the green belt and a draft national framework reimposing building targets on councils.

This is a central part of any growth strategy. House building boosts many sectors, from suppliers and legal conveyancing to the construction industry itself. Sir Keir Starmer said he wanted "to make a start on this from day one" including on the plan for the first new towns since the 1960s.

No one denies the importance of this matter, not least for young people. Indeed, the Conservatives have made a number of attempts to kick-start building and reform planning laws. These have partly run into resistance on their own side, which would not concern a Labour government unless the party wins seats in green-belt areas.

But there is another barrier rarely mentioned by politicians as they bandy around ever more ambitious targets – a shortage of builders. The number of construction workers from EU countries has fallen sharply. The Government has had to put building skills on the shortage occupation list to allow in migrants with relevant expertise.

The Construction Industry Training Board has said an extra 225,000 workers will be needed by 2027. Yet nowhere near enough has been done to boost apprenticeships. The biggest challenge for a new government is not to set a meaningless target for houses but to find the people to build them.

Summer traditions

As if on cue, the few warm sunny days that promised the arrival of summer have given way to forecasts of showers just as Wimbledon begins. Traditionally, the championships always started in the last week of June, but they were moved in 2015 to extend the gap with the French Open and, it was hoped, to tap into better weather.

Moreover, there always used to be a rest day on Sunday to let the courts recover, but advances in maintenance mean that this is no longer necessary. It also gives more time to get through the matches if it rains. But it wouldn't be Wimbledon without fickle weather. Like the strawberries, grass courts and the insistence on players wearing white, some traditions need to be upheld.



We accept letters by post and email. Please include name, address, work and home telephone numbers.

111 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0DT

EMAIL dletters@telegraph.co.uk

NEWSLETTER Sign up to receive Letters to the Editor every Friday at telegraph.co.uk/letters

FOLLOW [@TelegraphDesk](https://twitter.com/TelegraphDesk)

Voters should think hard before handing Labour an unearned majority

SIR – If Sir Keir Starmer does not have the courage to clearly set out his intentions for government, he does not deserve a single vote – never mind a "super-majority".

Such an approach demonstrates contempt for the electorate.

Chris Davies
Woking, Surrey

SIR – If the electorate votes as predicted, we can expect five years of chaos and misery.

Granted, the Conservative Party has made a hash of things, but a Labour victory will send us straight back to the 1970s.

In the words of Ronald Reagan: "You ain't seen nothing yet."

Robert Abel
Tenterden, Kent

SIR – This Government has not covered itself in glory, but it has steered the country through two major crises, and voters should look before they leap. Only two parties have a realistic

chance of forming the next government. The others are a distraction.

Labour has no coherent policies. Besides decrying "14 years of Tory chaos", it has nothing to say.

Weak though Rishi Sunak has been, he offers some hope for the future, and things are beginning to move in the right direction. Better the devil you know.

Jeremy Parr
Suckley, Worcestershire

SIR – It is evident that Sir Keir Starmer, once in power, will be too weak and indecisive to resist the hard-Left elements in his party. They will destroy the British economy, just as they have done before.

The problem is that too few people today can remember what those times were like.

Peter Ogilvy
Froxfield, Hampshire

SIR – Robert Jenrick's article

(Comment, June 29) warns that Sir Keir "will transform Britain into a high-migration, low-growth, bureaucrat-led nation".

Perhaps he has not noticed that he and his fellow Conservative MPs have already achieved this.

Ian Buckley
Fareham, Hampshire

SIR – Could someone from the upper echelons of the Conservative Party please explain to me how the pitiful state of this country's infrastructure and public services can be remedied by cutting taxes?

Steve Hodgson
Bolton, Lancashire

SIR – In our close last week, a schoolboy delivered leaflets for three different parties running in the North Cotswolds constituency – Labour, Green and Independent.

Whatever happened to canvassing?
Dave Alsop
Churchdown, Gloucestershire

Jill Biden's error

SIR – I wonder what is behind Jill Biden's desire to see her husband stand again in the US presidential election ("Jill Biden takes flak for urging president on", report, June 30). She must know full well that he is not up to the job.

It's appalling advice for her to give, and demonstrates little regard for her country.
Muriel Allen
Coventry, Warwickshire

SIR – Joe Biden's incapacity was obvious during the 2020 presidential campaign, when his aides regularly "called a lid" on his appearances early in the day to conserve his limited energy.

The journalists who failed to report on this – whether from a misplaced sense of decency or a determination to prevent Donald Trump's re-election – did us a disservice.

David J Critchley
Buckingham

SIR – Sandy Gemmill (Letters, June 30) believes Joe Biden should resign so that his replacement can "save us all from a second term in office for Mr Trump".

I do not need to be saved from Mr Trump; indeed, I would welcome his re-election. Better to have a friend of Britain in the White House than people who despise us.

Richard Scott
Kirkbride, Cumbria

Home-school success

SIR – Ian Duckworth (Letters, June 29) suggests that home-schooled children may miss out on a social and emotional education.

My granddaughter was home-schooled for several years. In addition to her studies at home, she attended farm school and forest school. She joined groups for art and crafts, sport and science. She was taught piano by an A-level music student.

Home-schooling was a co-operative undertaking organised by parents who employed group tutors for any area of learning not covered by the existing framework.

My granddaughter and her friends grew up sociable, friendly and confident.

Christine Russell
Dorchester

SIR – The socialisation referred to by Ian Duckworth is only ever viewed as a good thing.

However, I have never in my life heard the parents of a teenager say: "I'm so pleased with the way that John has started speaking, now that he's started secondary school". Or: "Mary has picked up some wonderful habits from her school friends."

In these contexts, socialisation is usually referred to as "peer pressure" and regarded in something of a negative light.

Simon Webb
Loughton, Essex

Warmed by Coldplay

SIR – At 82 years old I am frequently depressed about the state of our country.

However, the sheer joy and exuberance of Coldplay's performance at Glastonbury on Saturday evening (Arts, June 30), and the technical excellence of this globally televised event, left me with a feeling of hope. There are positives out there, if we can only summon the will to embrace them.

Music can have an impact on people's happiness and wellbeing that transcends the bleak outlook we continue to face.

Mike Drury
Knutsford, Cheshire

Farage and the BBC

SIR – At the start of the special episode of *Question Time* involving Reform UK's Nigel Farage and the Green Party's Adrian Ramsay (report, June 30), we were informed by the moderator, Fiona Bruce, that supporters of the Greens and Reform would be well-represented in the audience.

During the time allocated to each leader, Mr Ramsay enjoyed applause as he made his pitch. However, apart from in the opening and closing sections of the programme, Mr Farage was received in silence. I'm not sure where those Reform supporters were.

Robbie Browne
Burton Bradstock, Dorset

SIR – Nigel Farage's suggestion that the Channel 4 programme in which a Reform volunteer used a racial slur to describe Rishi Sunak was a "set-up" (report, June 29) sounds very similar to Donald Trump's reaction to being found guilty by a New York court.

I was already concerned by Mr Farage's claim that Mr Sunak "doesn't care about our culture" during the row over D-Day.

Peter Lewis
Rayleigh, Essex

Churchill and PoWs

SIR – After the Second World War, Winston Churchill employed several German prisoners of war (Letters, June 29) as gardeners on his Chartwell estate. One of them, Albert, met and married a local girl, and continued working in the area as a gardener when his employment at Chartwell ceased.

My wife once met him. Albert told her of his time working for Churchill, including an occasion when other staff complained about having to work with "the enemy". This was before the Cold War was in full swing.

Churchill reprimanded them, saying they should be more worried about the enemy of the future: the Russians.

Roger Brine
Sevenoaks, Kent

SIR – Margaret Vince (Letters, June 29) asks if British PoWs worked on German farms during the Second World War. The answer is yes.

My wife's late uncle, Raymond Wallwork, was captured at the fall of Crete while serving with the Royal Marines. He worked on an Austrian farm, and late in life he told some tales. One was about the difficulty of ploughing with a team of only a horse and an ox. He was very careful not to speak German even though he could. At least he was better fed than many.

Terry McDonald
Derby



A cashier's counter, painted by the French artist Gabriel-Germain Joncherie (1829)

Local banks complicit in the cashless drive

SIR – Geoff Pringle's letter ("Cash-poor banks", June 29) struck a chord. When I requested £1 coins for a charity-event float at my local bank, the cashier told me: "We're trying to get away from using cash altogether."

Nick Perry
Lincoln

SIR – Reading of Mr Pringle's difficulty in obtaining £1 coins from his local branch, I found myself wondering, once again, why such

banks exist. The last time I visited mine, in East Grinstead, was more than 50 years ago. And that one is now due to close.

Hugh Sawyer
Basingstoke, Hampshire

SIR – Geoff Pringle should have visited the Post Office for his £1 coins. Our church banks more than £200 in these coins from collections every week.

Peter J Gallivan
Wakefield, West Yorkshire

The sound of a solitary summer visitor

SIR – Sadly, like Ann Woodings (Letters, June 29), I have noticed an absence of butterflies this summer.

There is, however, a solitary bumble bee that visits our garden daily. I hear when it buzzes in.

Kate Pycock
Ipswich, Suffolk

SIR – There is no dearth of bees (Letters, June 27) where we live.

Earlier this year we noticed a stain on our ceiling beneath a flat roof extension. We called in a roofer; he said the covering was sound. So we called in a plumber.

He advised that there were no pipes in the vicinity. A friend then suggested we taste the liquid seeping through. It

was honey. The bees are in our disused chimney.

Peter Fineman
Barrow Street, Wiltshire

SIR – Regarding the lack of swallows and house martins (Letters, June 27), I have just been on a cruise in the Aegean, which also stopped in Corfu and Montenegro.

These birds are happily residing in the ports I visited; midges were present for food, and the bees were a-buzzing.

Alas, here in Kent, the swifs have not returned for two years, and hardly a bee or butterfly has visited.

John Pell
Herne, Kent

Biden's presidency has been a conspiracy against the world

The administration and the media closed ranks to pretend that the US wasn't being led by a zombie

TIM STANLEY



Joe Biden might not remember his debate performance, but the world does, and it's etched on our memory as a symbol of national decline. As the Democrats discussed who might replace him on the ticket – "Can Jimmy Carter still walk?" – I thought, "They'll have to prise it from his cold dead hand." For this tragedy is about a man in total denial, enabled by a system steeped in paranoid fantasy. The Democrats kept us distracted with Russiagate, January 6 and "Trump humped a porn star" while the world's last superpower was being run by a zombie.

The American empire looks old. Old and tacky. If Ronald Reagan was, to quote Gore Vidal, "a triumph of the embalmer's art", Joe resembles an ostrich stuffed by an amateur – his eyes black marbles, the sharp teeth set in an alarming grin. The president belongs to a vain generation that thinks it figured out how to run the world in 1968 and now won't let go. Senator Dianne Feinstein passed away in office

at 90. Nancy Pelosi stepped aside as Speaker at the tender age of 82. Biden, 81, has done nothing but politics, having entered the Senate in 1973 and run for the presidency three times – dropping out on the first go because he was caught stealing his lines rather than fluffing them.

So, we are where we are because of Joe. Feel no pity: he's a narcissist who can't see his limits. A truly wise, compassionate and patriotic man, to borrow some of the titles bestowed on this Caesar Arthritis by his courtiers, would've settled for one term and used it to groom a successor. Instead, he insisted on entering the 2024 primaries practically unopposed, putting him in control of almost every delegate at the August convention.

This left no practical way to remove the old fool from the nomination without his consent. Even if he gave it, the prospect of an unplanned "open" convention has long filled the Democrat leadership with dread. They are control freaks. They fear the delegates who hate Netanyahu and love Bernie Sanders. But most importantly, they've seen the polling and know that, even on a sad day, Biden polls slightly better than Kamala Harris, Gavin Newsom et al. That's why they've stuck with him for so long.

The party that thought Hillary Clinton could beat Donald Trump in 2016 prefers mediocrity to risk. Besides, nobody wants to pick a fight with Jill, Joe's terrifying, Cerberus-like wife. She introduced him to a post-debate crowd with the words: "You did

such a great job, you answered every question!" He also finished his cookies and went to the bathroom all by himself.

Jill reminds one of Edith Wilson, the wife of president Woodrow Wilson, who, when Woodrow had a stroke, locked her husband in the bedroom, pretended he was fine, and took over the management of the country. All government, one might say, is a conspiracy – power consolidated, hoarded and clouded in spin. Biden's White House is run by a tiny group of fierce loyalists. They have disagreements but circle the wagons once policy is decided, which is why they stunk so doggedly and stupidly to Joe's bungled dash from Afghanistan.

Of the debate, they said immediately that "he had a cold": a bad night, yes, but we've months to recover. Someone tipped off journalists that the president gets tired after 4pm, a detail published as if it were a stunning revelation.

We've known his work patterns via the White House logs for ages. There's a reason why Trump nicknamed him "Sleepy Joe" in 2020 and accused him of hiding in his basement – but the US media joined the administration in closing ranks. People who pointed out the president's obvious decline were accused of taking moments out of context, being mean or even displaying an anti-age prejudice akin to racism (yes, that card was played).

Journalists gaslit America. TV host Joe Scarborough described Biden four months ago as "far beyond cogent, in fact I think he's better than he's ever

been, intellectually, analytically". Only after the debate did he suggest that his friend consider retirement.

The U-turn is as preposterous as the original direction. A thousand articles have been published to say "Dear Joe, we love you so, but you need to go – to save the world from Trump." But wasn't the time to tell grandpa he needs to take a rest before he secured his delegates for renomination?

The "be kind" crowd has participated in one of the most shocking cases of elder abuse in history, driven by the lunatic consensus that even someone incapable of doing the job would be better than a Republican nominee. They have charged the GOP with cowardice for sticking with Trump, yet done exactly the same themselves – labelling anyone within their own ranks who dared to question Biden's faculties a far-Right stooge.

A *New York Times* editorial finally argued, long after the damage was done, that Biden should step aside. It also said that if he didn't, it would still support him "unequivocally" over Trump, preferring senility to criminality – a new twist on "Better Dead than Red." With such low expectations, why not hand the nomination over to Jimmy Carter? He has the age of an Old Testament prophet, yes, but also the wisdom and character, having spent his retirement building houses and overseeing elections. A man from a better age, when public servants put the people first.

HERCULIS
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
CROSSWORD

WIN A £25 BOOK TOKEN

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____

Solutions in the tinted squares with highlighted clues join with solutions in Saturday's Giant GK Crossword to make four well-known words or phrases. You can get Saturday's linked clues by phoning 0905 757 0140. Lines open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390. Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. For more information about how we use your data, please visit: telegraph.co.uk/privacypolicy.

ACROSS
6 Title of Toni Morrison's 1977 novel that follows the character Macon "Milkman" Dead III (4,2,7)
8 A failure to attain, catch, hit or reach; a flop, as opposed to a smash; or, a joke or remark that caps the one before (6)
9 An edible seed, such as the garden or marrowfat variety, often crushed, mushed or made into a fritter (3)
10 Ogres, titans or other superhuman beings of fairy tales and folklore; or, large companies/things generally (6)
11 Word for a holder or carrier of something, such as a cheque, cup, message or some bad news (6)
13 Italian and Spanish word for "one", given as the name of a card game (3)
14 School slang for homework; or, an informal word for mise en place (4)
15 A witticism; or, a pithy poem (7)
18 Word for the contrary or opposite; the back of a coin; an untoward change of fortune or other setback; a backhanded sword stroke; or, a backwards direction (7)
20 Deep dish resembled by a natural basin or a ladle's scoop (4)
21 Name of a river or a town in Scottish bard Robert Burns's birth county (3)
22 Word for cabbage, cole, collard, kale and other virent leafy vegetables collectively; or, environmentalists (6)
24 Another word for a bookworm (6)
26 The herbaceous plant baldmoney, bearwort or spignel, with umbrella-shaped sprays of white flowers (3)
27 From "slice", name of a variety of brined white cheese, often served cubed in Greek salad (4)
28 System of communication by means of "talking drums" or by the gossip network with far-reaching branches known as the grapevine (4,9)

DOWN
1 Latin word for "burden, load, weight", hence used to describe a duty, legal obligation, responsibility etc (4)
2 A good sort; a stovepipe or silk hat; a mattress cover; or, a pass of a card through a payment terminal (5)
3 Prince of Verona in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, whose name alludes to balance and justice (7)
4 A staff upon which a burgee, colours, ensign, standard or other vexillum is displayed, flown or hoisted (8)
5 The abbreviated name of a welfare movement that inspired a Village People anthem (1,1,1,1)
6 A grab or snatch; a gulp; a wallop; a stroke of a touch screen; or, a pass of a card through a payment terminal (5)
7 Makers of drifts, seines, trawls etc; anglers who use these to catch fish; lawn-tennis players; or, users of the World Wide Web (7)
12 Word for the kindly, princely, queenly etc; or, a small portable reed organ (5)
14 A detached portion; a coin; or, a token or "man" in a board game (5)
16 From "words put forth", a term for an adage, paroemia, saw or saying (7)
17 Word, from Latin for "brisk", for cheerful readiness or liveliness (8)
19 A bellyache, complaint or grouse; or, a low murmur, as in the sound of thunder or a hungry stomach (7)
22 A word for grime or gunk; or, a genre of rock music with so-called dirty sounds and gritty vocals (6)
23 A nick on a tally stick; a hole on a belt for a buckle's tongue; a degree in a scale; a level or step; or, a gorge (5)
25 A prescribed quantity of a drug; or, a bout of something unpleasant (4)
27 Word for something level, such as a suite of rooms on one floor (4)

To enter by post Mark your envelope Herculis 13,052, Telegraph Media Group, 111 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 0DT. To enter by email Scan your filled-in grid, linked solutions and coupon, and send by email to: prize-puzzles@telegraph.co.uk with Herculis 13,052 in the subject field. Entries must reach us by 5am Friday. Entry terms and conditions: telegraph.co.uk/prize-terms. Solution and winner's name next Monday.

CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*

ABCDEF GHIJK LMNOPQR STUVWXYZ

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

Key grid: 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
K Z
S L

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. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390.

KAKURO

To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution tomorrow.*

GENTLE NO 5068

SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3 x 3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. *Solutions tomorrow.*

REGULAR NO 6638

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

TOUGH NO 6638

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

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. *Solution tomorrow.*

GENTLE

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution tomorrow.*

Up to 9 words - Word Finder, 10 - Wordsmith, 20 - Word Wizard, 30 - Word Master, 40 - Word Genius, 50 - Word Perfect

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a synonym of the word prestige. *Solution tomorrow.*

NIECE MEN
GNATS DIN
OPEN AIR TUT

MIND GYM

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.*

NO 4356

BEGINNER	32	3/4 OF THIS	x2.25	+9	X BY ITSELF	+52	7/11 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	-51	+13	ANSWER
INTERMEDIATE	15	x11	80% OF THIS	-41	12/13 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	-174	+6	X BY ITSELF	DOUBLE IT	ANSWER
ADVANCED	216	+12	x9.5	TRIPLE IT	-275	+17	X BY ITSELF	275% OF THIS	-387	7/8 OF THIS	ANSWER

The Telegraph

Subscription prices frozen until 8 July

Subscribe now to save on your Telegraph newspapers



Secure a 7-day Print Subscription for just £19 per week, saving you £6.50 on the cover price¹.

Enjoy your Daily Telegraph and Sunday Telegraph newspapers, seven days a week
Gain unlimited access to telegraph.co.uk - the News Website of the Year
Follow the latest news updates, plus podcasts and newsletters in the Telegraph app
Play our full range of Puzzles online, wherever your day takes you.
Be quick: This offer must end on 8 July.



Scan the QR code to subscribe or visit telegraph.co.uk/2024sale

To scan the QR code, open your phone camera, point it at the code and tap the banner that appears on screen. On older phones, you may need to download a QR code reader first.

¹Collected as £82.37 for your first month and then £83.33 each month thereafter

TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*

MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

GENTLE NO 4123

		1	5	2	
4			6		
		5			3
	1	2	3		
				6	

PLUSWORD

NO 771

Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword. There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing. *Solution tomorrow.*

Across
1 Makeshift boats; lots
6 Informed
7 ___ Curie, Nobel Prize-winning scientist
8 Dough
9 Strangely

Down
1 Sylvester Stallone character
2 Oscar or Tony, perhaps
3 Coped; fader (anag.)
4 Court case
5 Disreputable; like some grapes?

Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code



WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

NAME, BLUE DYE, PARTNER, PUT ON, PROD, FLEX

LIFE

GOAL

THE SOLUTIONS

Friday's solutions
Train Tracks
Codewords 2
Word Ladder: Bulb, bulk, buck, luck, lock, loom, loam.
Panagram: Terrarium, tarrier, muriate, marrier, trimer, retrim, matier, iterum, irater, imaret, atrium, artier, urari, trier, timer, terai, remit, ramie, mitre, merit, irate, airer, aimer, trim, tire, time, tier, rite, rime, rami, mite, mire, item, etui, emit, emir, amir, amie.

Kakuro No 5065

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

Killer Sudoku

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

Mini Sudoku No 4122

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

Sudoku Tough No 6636

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

Friday's Mind Gym
Beginner: 9 Intermediate: 338 Advanced: 133

PlusWord 768
Hubby
Anagrams
1. Leaf mould
2. Propagation
3. Landscaping

Saturday's solutions
Codewords 2
Sudoku Tough No 6636

Last week's Herculis solution
Linked Solutions:
BEDFORD; PAPER CHASE; POPPET; SOAP FLAKES.

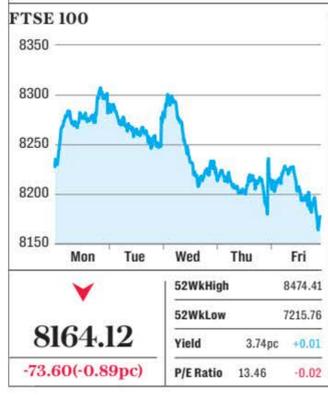
Last week's winner:
Stuart Robertson, East Bridgford, Nottinghamshire.

Sunday's Sudoku Regular No 6637

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

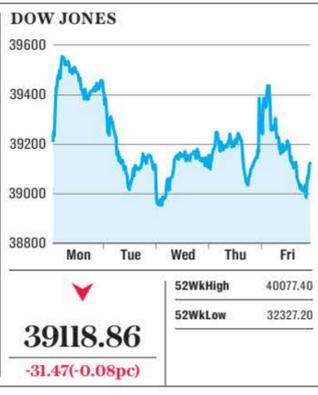


MARKETS Week-on-week change



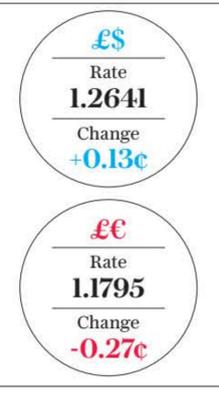
BIGGEST RISER
Smith (DS)
42lp
+59% (+16.49pc)

BIGGEST FALLER
Burberry
877¾p
-107% (-10.88pc)



FTSE 250	20286.03	▼	-156.32 (-0.76pc)
FTSE All Share	4451.92	▼	-39.00 (-0.87pc)
FTSE All Share Yield	3.70	▲	+0.03
FTSE Eurotop 100	4061.19	▼	-20.35 (-0.50pc)
Nikkei 225	39583.08	▲	+986.61 (+2.56pc)
EURO STOXX 50	4894.02	▼	-13.28 (-0.27pc)
S&P 500	5460.48	▼	-4.14 (-0.08pc)
Nasdaq	17732.60	▲	+43.24 (+0.24pc)

CURRENCIES Friday close



COMMODITIES Week-on-week change



Trouble at Northvolt
Mystery deaths are casting a shadow over Sweden's \$12bn electric car battery champion

Page 21

No excuses
The next government cannot blame inherited economic woes for failing to deliver on its pledges

Roger Bootle

Page 20

Apprentice fall threatens Labour's net zero plans

Fears of skill shortage as the number of people starting manufacturing courses almost halves

By Matt Oliver

LABOUR'S plan for a net-zero economy powered by wind turbines and electric vehicles (EVs) risks being thwarted by a huge drop in factory apprenticeships, British manufacturers have warned.

If Sir Keir Starmer's party wins power on Thursday – as polls predict – his manifesto promises to reinvestigate growth and launch an unprecedented construction programme to make the country's power grid net zero by 2030.

However, 27 industry associations have jointly warned the UK faces a shortage of skilled workers needed to make Labour's proposals happen, which includes investing in a series of gigafactories to accelerate the move away from petrol and diesel cars. The trade bodies have blamed Britain's skills shortage on a 41pc drop in the number of people starting manufacturing apprenticeships over the past seven years.

In letters to Jonathan Reynolds, Labour's shadow business secretary, and Kemi Badenoch, the Conservative Business Secretary, the industry has called for urgent reforms to the way apprenticeships are funded and for an industrial strategy to make training "a national endeavour".

It is the latest sign that Labour's plan to make the electricity grid carbon-free by 2030 will raise significant challenges. The letters also warn that current skills shortages will hold back a host of other manufacturing sectors as well.

The signatories include Make UK, the Confederation of British Metalformers, TechUK, the British Coatings Federation and the Food and Drink Federation.

Stephen Phipson, the chief executive of Make UK, warned the recruitment issue at factories posed a particular barrier to Sir Keir's green energy mission.

He told *The Telegraph*: "The net zero transition relies on basic engineering skills – you need technicians to fix the robots that make EVs, you need tool makers to make the tools that make wind turbines, small modular reactors and carbon capture. But what we're seeing in the country at the moment is a gradual

erosion of those skills. The Government needs to get a grip. This is about the army of basic skills you need – on top of all the clever engineering design and artificial intelligence stuff – without which these things simply cannot happen."

There are currently about 70,000 vacancies in manufacturing, costing the economy billions of pounds in lost output, according to Make UK. While industry is also having to compete with other sectors for talent, at least one-third of the roles are hard to fill because they require skilled workers.

Ideally apprenticeships would help to plug these gaps. But the number of people entering manufacturing apprenticeships since 2016 has plunged from about 79,000 per year to 46,000.

Make UK has blamed a lack of proper funding for level 2 and 3 apprenticeships in manufacturing and engineering roles, leaving colleges that want to offer them short-changed. While the true cost of a three-year training course is estimated to be about £36,000, providers only receive £26,000 from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education, a government-funded body.

Cash for apprenticeships comes from a pot funded by the "apprenticeship levy", a tax on companies with annual pay bills of more than £3m introduced by the then chancellor George Osborne. However, many firms say the system is too bureaucratic and needs reform.

Labour has promised to establish an industrial strategy council for Britain that will be enshrined in law, bolstered by a "green prosperity plan" that will pump £24bn into green technologies and infrastructure over the next parliament. It has also vowed to reform apprenticeship funding without setting out details on how it will do so.

As well as skills shortages, the head of the Confederation of British Industry has warned that the grid also needs upgrading to hit net zero goals. Rain Newton-Smith said that tens of billions of pounds of investment in a greener electricity grid are being blocked by "Nimbies" – campaigners against construction, known by the acronym for "not in my back yard".

"Recent attempts to expand and upgrade it [the grid] have run up against Nimbyism," she said. "This matters. Tens of billions of pounds of net zero investment hinge on the grid. Without that, there's no net zero, no green growth."



Material girls Women use boats to hang out yards of colourful fabric to dry on a waterside building in the city of Bogor in western Java, Indonesia, after dyeing them vibrant colours.

Japanese deal for British AI champion faces security review

By James Titcomb and Matthew Field

A PROPOSED Japanese takeover of the British artificial intelligence (AI) company Graphcore is facing a national security review amid growing concern over foreign buyers targeting sensitive UK technology.

The inquiry has emerged in the wake of SoftBank, the Tokyo-based tech conglomerate that owns a majority stake in semiconductor company Arm, striking a deal for Graphcore. It is understood the government review is the final hurdle to the tie-up being announced.

The deal is expected to be worth more than \$500m (£400m), but substantially less than the \$2.8bn the Bristol-based microchip company was valued at in 2020.

Multiple sources said the takeover was being scrutinised by the Business Department's investment security unit (ISU), which monitors investments in companies involved with cutting-edge technology.

Hundreds of transactions are reviewed each year by the ISU, which was set up in 2022 under national security laws. The majority are cleared without restrictions.

Potential deals are often reviewed before investments are agreed, and the Cabinet Office can in some circumstances apply conditions to takeovers.

Semiconductor and artificial intelligence technologies have faced increasing national security scrutiny in recent years because of their importance to defence and critical infrastructure.

One City lawyer said: "It would be shocking if the Government wasn't looking at this given the nature of Graphcore's business and the sensitivity that the UK has had about acquisitions for UK companies in this sector."

SoftBank and Graphcore have not yet confirmed takeover talks and employees at the company are also believed to have been kept in the dark about developments but senior investors are understood to have been kept informed.

Graphcore, which develops semiconductors designed for AI software, has been struggling to gain traction in the Nvidia-dominated market.

Nvidia's graphics processors have proved critical for developing and powering AI software, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT technology. Demand for its chips has sent the US company's valuation soaring to more than \$3 trillion, and it briefly became the world's most valuable business in June.

Despite raising more than \$700m from investors last year, Graphcore said in its latest accounts it needed further funding to keep operating. Its revenues fell by 46pc to \$2.7m in 2022 as the company battled export controls in China.

The talks with SoftBank are believed to have reached a breakthrough recently after wavering for months.

'Emergency' hydrogen to be stored in huge undersea salt caverns

By Jonathan Leake

VAST salt caverns designed to store hydrogen are to be excavated under Britain's biggest former naval base as part of plans to bolster the country's energy security.

Each the size of St Paul's Cathedral, the 19 caverns will be dug under Portland Harbour in Dorset and filled with enough hydrogen to fuel a power station for days.

The gas will be reserved for emergency use and called upon when wind and solar farms are not generating enough energy to meet demand.

Claire Coutinho, the Energy Secre-

tary, is said to have backed the scheme and altered the Government's hydrogen storage business policy to ensure it can secure taxpayer subsidies.

UK Oil and Gas (UKOG), the company behind the scheme, has said it will seek planning permission within months.

Stephen Sanderson, UKOG's chief executive, has said he plans to make the application under the Government's nationally significant infrastructure system, enabling it to bypass potential local opposition.

He said: "Portland Port is ideally situated for the construction of large salt caverns as it overlies a 450-metre thick [layer of] high-quality rock salt."

Mr Sanderson added: "I have enjoyed one-on-one meetings with the three key figures from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, including Secretary of State Claire Coutinho; Lord Callanan, minister for energy efficiency and green finance; and Graham Stuart, minister for energy security and net zero."

Portland Harbour, in Weymouth Bay on England's south coast, was first used as a naval base in the 16th century by Henry VIII.

It was massively expanded during the 20th century to accommodate steam-powered warships and became one of the Royal Navy's biggest bases

until it was closed in 1995. It remains one of the UK's largest harbours and is the training centre for the UK's Olympic sailing teams.

Its anticipated new role storing hydrogen relies not on the famous Portland stone but on halite or rock salt, a massive layer of which has been found

two miles beneath the sea. It is at least 200 million years old.

Salt is highly soluble so the fact it has lasted so long proves the rock has no water running through it, which makes it highly stable and suitable for storing hydrogen.

Matt Cartwright, UKOG's commercial director, said the caverns would be created by drilling wells into the salt and then injecting fresh water to dissolve the rock.

UK Energy Storage, a wholly owned subsidiary of UKOG, will oversee the project. Each cavern will be 85 metres in diameter and 90 metres high with a capacity of 320,000 cubic metres,

roughly twice the volume of St Paul's Cathedral.

UKOG is facing a series of controversies over its involvement with onshore oil and gas developments around the UK. It currently has interests in five oil and gas fields within the Weald and Purbeck areas of southern England but its attempts to exploit them have been subject to repeated court battles.

UKOG won the right to drill in the Loxley gas field near Horsham in Surrey, which is expected to start producing next year.

A spokesman for UKOG said it was moving away from oil and gas towards a future dominated by renewable energy.

'Too soon to declare inflation victory'

By Tim Wallace

COUNTRIES must be prepared to raise interest rates again if inflationary pressures return, a top central bank has warned.

The Bank of International Settlements (BIS), which often referred to as the central bank for central bankers, and is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, said "it is too soon to declare victory" in the battle against price

rises, and urged central banks to set a "high bar" for lowering rates.

Agustin Carstens, its head, said: "Central banks have shown they can take forceful action to head off the most dramatic increase in inflation in a generation. However, it is too soon to declare victory. The job is not yet done – central banks need to persevere in their key objective of bringing down inflation."

It comes as financial

markets and economists increasingly expect the Bank of England to cut its headline interest rate from 5.25pc to 5pc in August now that inflation has hit its 2pc target.

It has also been predicted that the US Federal Reserve will follow suit to lower its rate from 5.5pc to 5.25pc as soon as September.

However, BIS said a spike in wages could lead to a renewed burst of price rises, as could geopolitical turmoil.

320,000

Cubic metres: the capacity of each of the caverns being created – twice the volume of St Paul's Cathedral



The next government has no economic excuses

ROGER BOOTLE



Leaders cannot blame well-reported and improving finances if they fail to deliver on pledges

The timing of this week's general election has seemed extraordinary ever since the date was first announced. Admittedly, there is more to politics than mere economics but the improving outlook makes the choice of a July date all the more quixotic. It looks likely that the economy will be improving from now to the end of the year – which is when the election could have been held. If Labour wins on Thursday, it is not going to be able to wheel out the time-honoured excuse of new governments, that is to say: "We have looked at the books and we find things are an awful lot worse than we had been told."

The big change since Labour was last in power is the establishment of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) in 2010. It has been producing forecasts of the fiscal position continuously since then. So the current fiscal situation cannot create any big surprises.

When it comes to the economy itself though, there is plenty of scope for surprises. And I reckon that most of them are going to be favourable. The upward revision on June 28 to the first quarter's GDP growth sets the tone.

Now don't get carried away. I am not suggesting that we are about to enter any sort of boom. It is rather that we are just emerging from a ghastly period when just about everything seemed to go wrong and there was an intense squeeze on living standards. Against that backdrop, you don't need the situation to be amazingly good for things to feel a lot better.

The starting point for this improvement is inflation. It has come down from a peak of 11.1pc in October 2022 to 2pc in the latest figures. I reckon that there is a good chance that the rate will fall further to about 1.5pc in the next few months.

This is not to say that there is no inflation danger going forward. Pay inflation has come down only slowly and under a Labour government, the position of the trade unions would probably be strengthened, along with workers' rights. There could be a further large increase in both the national minimum wage and the national living wage. So it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that inflation will resurge at some point and require a further dose of medicine for it to be suppressed all over again.

But for the time being at least the fall in inflation is bringing a big improvement in personal finances. Real personal disposable incomes may grow by about 3pc both this year and next. Unsurprisingly, this improvement is leading to increased consumer spending.

Even though official interest rates have not risen any further this year, the previous phase of rising interest rates has continued to exert a drag on households' spending as people came off previous fixed-mortgage deals and had to refinance at higher interest rates. This drag is now reaching its peak.

The favourable short-term picture of inflation should allow interest rates to fall a bit, with the first reduction perhaps coming in August.

Against this background, consumers have been cautious and the savings ratio has risen significantly. That may now change. As people become a bit more confident, they are likely to increase their spending in line with their incomes. Consumer spending

'The fall in inflation is bringing a big improvement in personal finances'

may increase this year by about 1pc and I reckon that it could rise by 2pc next year and in 2026.

Overall GDP should probably increase this year by about 1pc and by about 1.5pc both next year and in 2026. This is no bonanza but against the mood of gloom and doom that has prevailed over the past couple of years, things will seem a lot better.

These growth rates would be higher than what is experienced in the

eurozone, which may grow by only 0.7pc this year and just over 1pc in the following two years.

Yet after the initial wave of euphoria has subsided, Labour will have to confront some harsh realities. The inflation crisis may be over but the fiscal position will be very tight. The new government could decide to reform the fiscal rules so as to give itself more fiscal headroom. But I do not think this is likely.

And it would not be advisable. The financial markets would take any such move pretty badly, as they would any attempt to rejoin the Bank of England's mandate, designed to bring looser monetary policy. The lingering memory of the Truss/Kwarteng debacle should serve as a warning.

Within the fiscal rules, Labour will be able to fund some increased spending by introducing some selective tax rises. But these will not raise much money. Realising Labour's ambitions depends upon achieving faster economic growth. And that depends upon improving the supply side of the economy, boosting investment and increasing productivity. This is easier

said than done. Granting further rights to workers and strengthening the position of trade unions won't help at all.

Perhaps Labour thinks that by cosying up to the EU without actually rejoining it, we will be able to improve business performance here. If so, it is set for a rude awakening. The EU is not up for any cosy deal with the UK. If there is any deal to be done, it will be on their terms. In any case, the EU is in serious trouble economically and politically. There is no problem to which the solution is to try to become a country member of a failing club.

One area where Labour could make a big difference is the reform of our planning system with a view to increasing the rate of housebuilding. Mind you, it would take many years of increased levels of housebuilding to make a dent in this problem. It is possible to transform our economic performance. But it will take years of hard graft sustained over more than one parliament.

Roger Bootle is senior independent adviser to Capital Economics. roger.bootle@capitaleconomics.com



Feathers in her cap Members of the Boi Bumba Caprichoso association retell the Boi Bumba myth via elaborate dances and music. In this Brazilian folklore tale, a magical bull called Boi Bumba comes to life and brings joy to the people, but a greedy landowner tries to capture him. The annual three-day Boi Bumba festival, which is held in the enormous Bumbódromo stadium in Parintins, Amazonas State, central Brazil, celebrates the themes, costumes and songs of the indigenous cultures of the Amazon rainforest.

Microsoft's obsession with artificial intelligence could be its downfall

ANDREW ORLOWSKI



Machine learning is enabled by disregard for security and privacy for little return so far

Twenty years ago as internet music piracy raged, I received a very unusual email from a primary school pupil in Kentucky.

I have retained the original spelling: Downloading unlicensed MP3s was "legal", the child insisted, before offering a couple of reasons why acquiring the pirate content was morally justifiable.

"The bible dont say thou shall not download", he argued (correctly). Then came the clincher: "Its not stealing its in the air." If I can see it, the child argued, then I can take it.

But compared to the brazen heist

Big Tech is perpetrating today, MP3 sharing was small beer. The generative artificial intelligence (AI) models scrape up every song, image and thought we've ever recorded just so they can burp it back up to us.

Last week Microsoft's head of artificial intelligence echoed the child's amoral argument.

Mustafa Suleyman is the Londoner who oversees Microsoft's AI efforts across vast areas of the company's consumer and search products.

This ingestion and reproduction has prompted a huge grassroots protest from digital creators of all kinds, with music companies joining the fray last week. It worries businesses, too. Give AI access to your company's documents, and expect your confidential marketing plan to pop out in front of somebody else on the other side of the world.

Generative AI is a machine for erasing human originality – and replacing it with a bland derivative digital paste. It rewards the lazy and the dishonest while punishing the talented.

So Suleyman was asked: have the AI

companies effectively stolen the world's IP?

No, he replied, explaining that "with respect to content that is already on the open web, the social contract of that content since the Nineties is that it is fair use. Anyone can copy it, recreate with it, reproduce with it: that has been freeware, if you like."

There you go: everything is in the air, and everything is free.

Not free for us but for Suleyman and his employer, a company worth \$3trillion (£2.4trillion).

However the argument is as baseless that offered to me from Kentucky. The doctrine of "fair use" is not what Suleyman thinks it is.

It's a peculiarity of US law, an affirmative defence, rather than a formal copyright exception. It only applies in quite narrow circumstances, and it's meaningless in most other countries.

Even more remarkable is the "social contract" that Suleyman evokes.

Judges are rarely impressed with defendants bringing their own, imaginary laws into the courtroom as

they are obliged to interpret what's on the books.

Microsoft employs a great many thoughtful people, who deliberate about the ethics of and consequences of their actions. Suleyman does not appear to be one of them.

The Londoner dropped out of Oxford where he was studying philosophy and theology because "it felt so abstract and impractical to me," he once said.

Luck intervened: his brother was best friends with Demis Hassabis, the chess prodigy, former games entrepreneur and neuroscientist. Along with Kiwi developer Shane Legg, they founded DeepMind, with Suleyman providing the hustle. It was great timing as DeepMind was acquired by Google in 2014.

However, DeepMind was soon in trouble for an ethical violation: scraping millions of NHS health records it shouldn't have used.

Suleyman himself was relieved of management duties in 2019 after allegations of bullying which led to him later issuing a public apology.

However, once again luck intervened as he was personally headhunted by Satya Nadella, Microsoft chief.

Two things annoy people intensely about performances like Suleyman's.

One is the sense of entitlement. As the former AI developer and musician Ed Newton Rex explains: "Companies need three things for generative AI, and pay billions for the first two: AI talent and computing power. But they now expect to get the third, training data, for free."

The other is the complete absence of boundaries. We need boundaries to respect human dignity, but Microsoft seems to have lost any sense of where these might be. For example, Microsoft recently introduced a feature into the pre-release version of Windows that surreptitiously captured your screen every few seconds.

It didn't matter if what was on your display was your banking password or pornography, it was all caught and stashed away in a giant archive for Microsoft's AI to use. It could be opened up and shared with the world with ease.

Microsoft took a long time to acknowledge the security concerns before removing the feature.

It appears that Microsoft has forgotten the primary rule of business, which is keeping your customers happy. Instead it has been sidetracked by stuffing AI into every corner of every product with a maniacal zeal.

If it paid more attention to its customers, it may notice that business seems to be losing faith in the utopian promises of AI.

Early trials are proving to be underwhelming. *The Wall Street Journal* last week reported first-hand from a range of large companies who had all found AI to be too error-prone to be useful.

A recent survey found that the financial returns from early test projects were "dismal". Up to 42pc said it had no payback at all and fewer than 15pc of the trials were successfully completed.

For Microsoft to retain its customers' trust, Mr Suleyman needs to go.

And Microsoft needs its AI to start showing some real results.

Campaigners for four-day weeks are focusing too much on cosy white-collar office jobs

LUCY BURTON



Front-line staff such as NHS workers would be left behind if the government mandates fewer hours

Having enjoyed the benefits of a shorter working week for the past seven months thanks to childcare, I am not at all surprised by the countless studies showing how a four-day week makes employees happier, healthier and more productive.

The only pain, and it's a biggie, is that shrinking hours tend to mean shrinking pay.

So how's this for a pitch to the next

prime minister: longer weekends for all but with the major bonus of keeping a full-time salary?

It sounds like a utopia, so no surprise that there's a growing number of people gunning for the next government to make this official policy.

It's not a complete fantasy, given that Labour remains comfortably ahead in the polls.

And it was only in 2019 that John McDonnell, the former shadow Labour chancellor, promised "the next Labour government will reduce the average full-time working week to 32 hours within the next decade".

Although it was Jeremy Corbyn's flagship policy when he was Labour leader, Sir Keir Starmer's party certainly hasn't scoffed at the idea. "If you can deliver within a four-day working week, then why not?" Angela Rayner, the deputy leader, asked a room full of business leaders last year,

urging them to consider if such a move would be feasible.

"Wahey", we office workers shout from the sidelines. A better work-life balance here we come.

As we edge closer to polling day on July 4, calls for a four-day week have only grown louder. One of Labour's biggest backers Unison has urged the next government to take legal action to support an official shift to a shorter week, while 40 company bosses wrote a joint letter to party leaders last week with the same message.

I'm all for a shorter week for the companies that can manage it. But a government mandate is a different matter. Aside from the fact that Labour insiders say there are zero plans to follow Corbyn's proposed policy, there doesn't seem to be enough consideration for those who would be left behind by a four-day week. This is a perk that has been viewed

through the lens of a white-collar worker. The huge divisions in our society will only get wider if working life tilts much further towards suiting the white-collar office worker, a group already benefiting from post-Covid perks such as home working and who typically earn more.

An Ipsos poll this year found 63pc of US employees who make \$100,000 (£79,000) or more report being able to work from home, compared to just 32pc of those making less than \$50,000.

While the HR departments of blue-chip businesses have been hosing down their office staff with benefits ever since the pandemic, NHS rotas are now so chaotic that doctors have been asked to work on their wedding days.

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine has said NHS pressures are no longer confined to the winter as the health service is suffering a "year-round crisis in emergency care". Although four-day week campaigners have argued that a shorter week will stop NHS staff from leaving and improve morale, it is almost impossible to see how the idea would work in practice amid chronic staff shortages. Far more likely to happen, at least in

the short-term, is that office workers cash in while those we rely on the most get left behind. Anyone who is paid hourly could find themselves with less pay and less stability.

A Welsh Government report into the four-day week warned earlier this year that the idea could discriminate against front-line public sector employees and risk "widening existing inequalities".

The Welsh Government consultation was made up of a working group of senior civil servants and public sector bosses. One manager said that allowing staff to have an extra day off would require them to hire an additional 179 staff on full-time equivalent contracts to maintain the same levels of service.

In the private sector, industries with a large portion of staff on their feet all day are also unlikely to find the majority of workers cheering for this. Builders under deadline pressure have already said they would rather have flexible hours than a fixed short week.

Resentment could build in sectors such as construction if back-office staff switch to a shorter week on the same salaries, while those on the front line continue to toil away.

The proportion of our lives devoted to work does need a rethink as robots shrink the length of time it takes to complete many office jobs. But a government-mandated four-day week isn't the answer.

A spokesman for the official 4 Day Week Campaign has sought to argue that claims a shorter week widens inequality is "wrong and way off the mark", particularly as those who stand to benefit most include disabled people and those with caring responsibilities.

But the argument here is not that the vulnerable won't benefit, more that a large proportion of front-line workers who have already missed out on various perks such as home working would once again be left behind.

There are ways to improve work-life balance in a way that includes everyone, such as encouraging more flexible hours and increasing salaries.

It is telling that Unite, Labour's biggest backer, is focusing its efforts on improving pay for members rather than joining the push for a four-day week.

Front-line workers deserve more and there are far better places to start than enforcing a shorter week.

Deaths cast a shadow over Sweden's battery start-up

Customers are losing patience over delays as police investigate demise of five people with links to plant, reports *Matthew Field*

It is 13 degrees below zero in Skellefteå in Sweden's far north. Arvid Öhgren, a contractor at Northvolt's battery factory, tries to pull himself off the freezing ground. He looks down and tries to pick up his left arm with his right hand. The limb is hanging by a thread of skin.

A sudden crane accident moments before has killed his co-worker, a man in his 60s. As he waits for an ambulance, a panicked security guard tells Öhgren: "It's just a small fracture." "I didn't really think much about the fact that the arm wasn't there anymore," he told *Noran*, Skellefteå's local newspaper. "All I really felt was that it hurt a hell of a lot."

Öhgren lost his arm and suffered a crushed foot. It is just one of a series of tragic events to have plagued Northvolt, the Swedish battery start-up and European technology champion, in recent months.

As well as the death of Öhgren's co-worker on Dec 14, a 25-year-old employee died as a result of an explosion on Nov 4. Following news of the deaths, Peter Carlsson, the former Tesla executive leading Northvolt, said in December it was a "dark day" for the company.

Since his remarks, it has emerged that police are investigating three further "mystery" deaths linked to the factory.

In January, a 33-year-old cleaner died shortly after his shift while a month later, a 19-year-old employee died at home in bed. This month, a 59-year-old was found dead on his balcony.

A Northvolt spokesman said: "It is tragic that colleagues have passed away and our thoughts are with the families."

In a further bizarre twist, it emerged last week that Northvolt's chairman, Jim Hagemann Snabe, has been on sick leave since the start of the year after cutting himself when open water swimming in January.

He told Denmark's *Borsen* newspaper that the cut resulted in a severe infection that had required several operations.

The accidents and unexplained deaths have cast a shadow over Northvolt, which has raised more than \$13bn (£10bn) to build a European battery giant to take on China.

Founded in 2015, the company markets its Skellefteå facility – located just outside the Arctic Circle – as "Europe's first home-grown battery factory".

Powered by renewable energy from a hydroelectric plant, it is seeking to sell lithium-ion batteries that reportedly have a 90pc lower carbon footprint than its leading rivals.

It has also pledged to recycle the vast majority of its components and "close the loop" on the rare materials – such as manganese and nickel – that are used to make batteries.

EU-made batteries present an alternative to those exported from China, which often carry political risk and dubious green credentials.

Carmakers have placed orders to the tune of \$50bn with Northvolt, with customers including BMW, Siemens, Scania and Volkswagen.

Growing demand has allowed the company to expand its operations rapidly and air plans to create thousands of jobs at further battery factories in Germany and Canada. It has also attracted heavyweight investors such as Blackrock, Goldman Sachs and Baillie Gifford.

Faith in the business is so strong it was able to secure a \$5bn loan from a consortium of banks earlier this year, including \$1bn in financing from the EU.

This has fuelled reports of a potential \$20bn stock market listing in 2025, which would propel the company beyond its current \$12bn valuation.

However, despite raising vast sums and enjoying generous support from Brussels, recent obstacles have flagged up the scale of the task ahead.

Whether it is slowing demand for electric cars or the overall complexity of its product that is causing issues, Northvolt is battling hard to maintain momentum.

Simon Moores, the chief executive of Benchmark Mineral Intelligence, says the concept of relying on recycled materials was a "big win" for European car marques. "The need to be green was paramount to the entire concept of electric cars and gigafactories in Europe," he says. But the key barrier is that "making sustainable, quality lithium-ion batteries is hard".

As proof of this, he claims it took "Tesla and Panasonic the best part of a decade" to get their shared battery facility in Nevada functioning properly.

The recent setbacks at Northvolt's site have led to some of its biggest customers not receiving batteries on time.

Scania, the Volkswagen-owned truck maker, was forced to slow the roll-out of its fleet of electric HGVs because of delays to expected deliveries of Northvolt batteries.

The company subsequently sought to ease concerns and in June claimed that it was producing 16,000 cells per week.

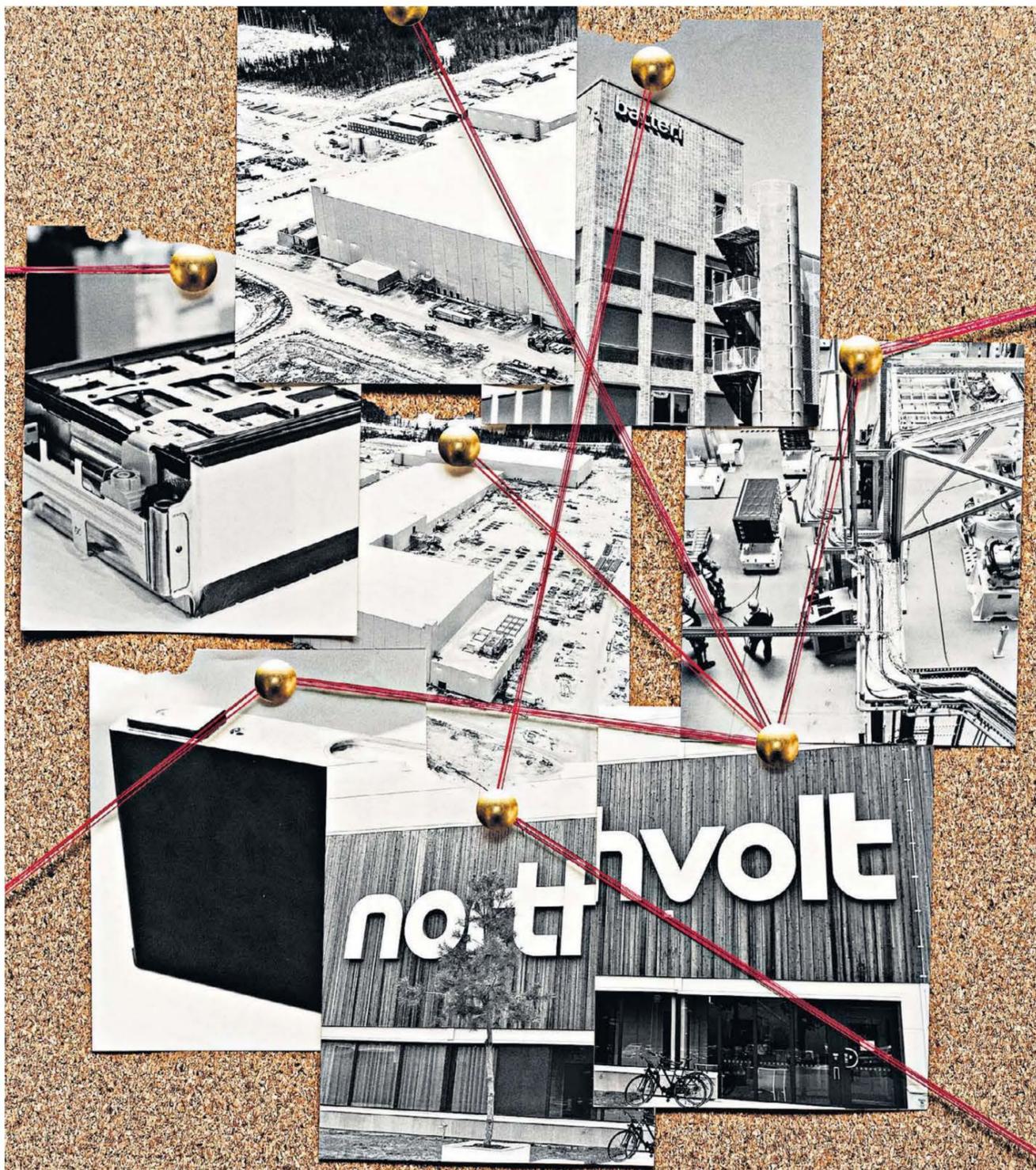
However, other customers appear to have run out of patience.

BMW reportedly pulled out of a €2bn contract for Northvolt batteries this month after it fell behind schedule. The deal represents less than 5pc of the company's order book.

In a statement, Northvolt and BMW said the companies had "jointly decided to focus Northvolt's activities on the ambition of developing the next generation of battery cells".

Industry sources say the company's production woes are well-known in the sector.

"It isn't a huge surprise," a source says. "They've obviously done



A stock market listing planned for next year could raise Northvolt's valuation from \$12bn to £20bn

incredibly well raising capital, but we have known for a while Northvolt has had issues scaling."

A key challenge for battery companies is getting their production lines optimised to ensure the cells they produce have minimal defects.

James Frith, European head at Volta Technologies, says: "It is clear that the company has faced problems producing high-quality cells at acceptable yields."

The delays "may well slow down some of the company's aggressive expansion plans to refocus on the basics," says Andy Leyland, co-founder of supply chain analysts SC Insights.

A spokesman said: "Production at Northvolt Ett has improved significantly and production rate has increased from thousands of cells per week to tens of thousands."

It is not just in Sweden where Northvolt has faced hurdles. In Canada, where the company is planning a 30GW battery plant near Quebec, eco-activists have targeted the company despite its green credentials.

In January, vandals buried nails in trees that the company planned to fell,

creating a risk to workers trying to clear them. In May, incendiary devices were found hidden on the construction site.

More broadly, Northvolt must contend with the wider shocks to the electric vehicle sector, which is grappling with a slowdown in demand in Europe and a flood of new competitors from China.

Still, the threat from the Far East could help solidify investor and government support for Northvolt, which promotes itself as being Europe's only large-scale battery start-up.

"Without Northvolt, the EU will be reliant on battery supply from China and Asian cell suppliers," says Moores, of Benchmark.

Carlsson, Northvolt's chief executive, previously told *Manager Magazin*, a German monthly business magazine, he believed the company was "past the point where we could fail like a start-up" by running out of cash.

Back in Skellefteå, a town of 74,000 people that at this time of year basks in more than 21 hours of daylight, the latest deaths at Northvolt's plant are being investigated by police

'Without Northvolt, the EU will be reliant on battery supply from China and Asian cell suppliers'

investigation. Authorities sought to ease worries on Thursday, saying there was "no concrete connection" between the deaths, nor "suspicion of crime". However, the investigation remains live: "As the three deaths have similarities and the people worked at the same workplace, the workplace is also an aspect that is looked at in the investigation."

A line of inquiry has been opened into whether "one of the persons may have been exposed to a substance at their workplace", police said, adding that they are conducting further interviews.

Unsurprisingly, the deaths have raised concerns among shop floor workers, although union officials said they welcomed the investigation because they "want to be able to rule out that the deaths have anything to do with Northvolt".

As for the company itself, Northvolt said its internal investigations "did not indicate any accidents or exposure of toxic materials for the individuals".

A spokesman added: "These facts collectively suggest this is a tragic coincidence. We will of course support the investigation in any way we can."

Addison Lee joins black cabs in legal fight against Uber

By James Titcomb

ADDISON LEE has sided with London taxi drivers in a £250m lawsuit against Uber over claims the US company illegally obtained its licence in the capital.

The minicab company and its subsidiaries launched their claim in London's commercial court last week.

Addison Lee, which has more than 7,500 minicab, taxi and courier drivers, confirmed it was joining a case launched by thousands of black cab drivers earlier this year.

The case claims that drivers' earnings

£25,000

Amount of damages being sought by each of more than 10,000 London cabbies in their lawsuit against Uber

have been harmed because Uber improperly obtained a private hire licence in 2012.

More than 10,000 black cab drivers have joined the claim, seeking compensation of around £25,000 each.

It is unclear if Addison Lee is seeking compensation for each of its drivers or for loss to its business.

It has launched the claims along with Green Tomato Cars, Brunel and Comcab, private hire companies that it has acquired in recent years.

"We can confirm that Addison Lee has joined the BULit 21 claim against Uber along with London's black taxi

drivers," an Addison Lee spokesman said. "However, we are unable to provide any further details at this time."

The claim, announced in May, alleges an illegal conspiracy by Uber to mislead Transport for London about its business model, which resulted in lost earnings for taxi drivers.

An Uber spokesman pointed to comments made at the time of the black cab lawsuit, when it said: "These old claims are completely unfounded. Uber operates lawfully in London, is fully licensed by TfL, and is proud to serve millions of passengers and drivers."

The lawsuit covers the years 2012 to 2018, after which Uber has made changes to its business model.

Addison Lee reported a 41pc increase in adjusted profits last year and a slight increase in turnover to £225m. Uber's UK revenues from its minicab business were £4.1bn.

The legal action is being brought by claims management company RGL, represented by the law firm Mishcon de Reya.

Uber has sought to build bridges with taxi drivers, recently offering rides on its app featuring black cabs. Addison Lee has been a frequent critic of Uber.

The business is owned by Liam Griffin, the son of Addison Lee founder John who launched it in 1975, along with investors Cheyne Capital.

He bought back the company from its previous owners, the private equity giant Carlyle Group, in 2020 in a £125m deal and has since sought to expand the business in the UK with a series of acquisitions.



For art's sake Sport-themed images appeared on walls in Montmartre ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

British graduates suffering as internships dry up

By Eir Nolsøe

YOUNG people trying to secure an internship are facing the toughest market in at least seven years, as high interest rates hammer the jobs market.

Figures from Indeed reveal that the number of internships relative to job openings has fallen sharply in recent months and is trending lower than at any year since at least 2018.

At the start of the year there were around 4,000 internships advertised per million jobs, but this figure has now more than halved.

While the number of internships typically rises around the turn of the year and falls towards summer, the dip in 2024 is on course to be deeper than in previous years.

It comes amid a wider slowdown in the jobs market as high borrowing costs and wage pressures force employers to slow or freeze hiring.

Separate figures from Indeed this week showed job adverts falling below their pre-pandemic level for the first time since the economy reopened in 2021. It means the post-Covid hiring boom has run out of steam, with vacancies concentrated in lower-paying sectors such as retail, hospitality and care.

British graduates are not alone in struggling to find internships. In the US jobs platform Handshake recently found many white-collar sectors had registered large falls in advertised internships.

Professional services were down 16pc in the year to May, tech 14pc and financial services 13pc. The drops occurred

even though the US jobs market has held up better than the UK's.

Jack Kennedy, Indeed economist, said that while hiring in the UK remains robust for many lower-paid in-person roles, higher-paid sectors are experiencing a more pronounced slowdown. He added: "We have heard quite a lot about a kind of white-collar recession. Our sectoral job-posting data would largely corroborate that."

Hiring for software development roles remains 36pc lower than before the pandemic in the UK, underlining how tough the market is even for those looking for full-time roles.

'We have heard a lot about a white-collar recession. Our sectoral job-posting data corroborate that'

Large accountancy firms are also seeking to reduce headcount after a bout of hiring post-Covid, and KPMG and PwC recently completed several rounds of redundancies.

Students and graduates squeezed by the cost of living crisis may also be more tempted to take jobs in bars, restaurants or retail, where wages have risen significantly and hiring remains strong.

A survey of 10,000 students by the Higher Education Policy Institute earlier this year found a record 56pc of students were employed. Experts at the time attributed it to lower maintenance loans and rising rents, amid strong demand for staff in lower-paid sectors.

Captain Richard Sharpe

Submariner who led the way in moving under-sea Cold War operations into the nuclear age

CAPTAIN RICHARD SHARPE, who has died aged 87, was one of Britain's leading submariners during the Cold War and for 14 years editor of *Jane's Fighting Ships*.

In March 1975, Sharpe was commanding the nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarine *Courageous* in the Mediterranean when he was cued to intercept a Soviet Echo-class submarine.

Sharpe later explained that detecting and remaining in contact with a Soviet submarine was the most important and obscure of the submariner's black arts – extremely difficult, nowhere near as simple as portrayed in Cold War fiction or Hollywood films.

A simple analogy, Sharpe wrote, was crossing a field through a herd of cows in pitch darkness, when "you could hear munching, the swish of tails, footfalls and the occasional stomach rumble, but only a fool would claim that he knew the exact location of all the cows."

"It was difficult enough when the noise source is constant like a cavitation of a surface ship's propeller, but you really do need first-hand experience of submarine operations to understand what is happening."

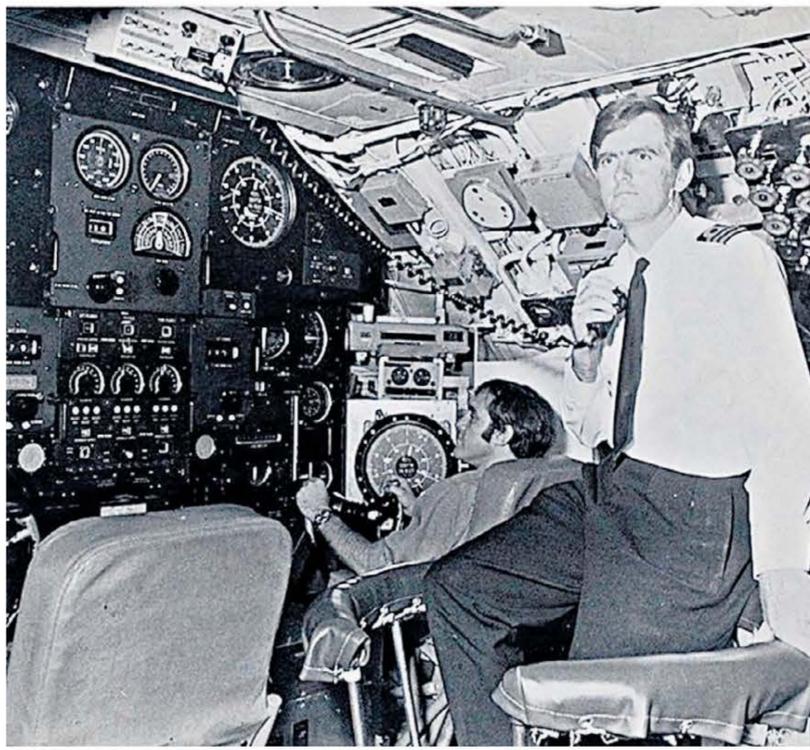
"Even so, you only have bearings and range analysis to help, and active sonar is no good because it instantly gives away your own position."

Nevertheless, Sharpe covered 300 miles underwater in 17½ hours to intercept his target in a known homeward-bound lane of the Soviet northern fleet.

He detected the Echo-class boat at eight miles range and trailed it into Soviet waters covertly, remaining at a range of between 10 and 15 miles and at speeds up to 15 knots, while keeping a running commentary on his target:

"Target clearing stern arcs to port. Compressed cavitation. Changing blade nosing position. Rattles and bangs. Ringing tones."

As a result of this successful operation, *Courageous* won the coveted US Navy "Hook Em" award for excellence in anti-submarine warfare.



Sharpe, above, in the control room of the nuclear submarine *Courageous*; below, as CO of the sub *Aeneas*, a testing command

For this and other submarine operations, Sharpe was appointed OBE.

Richard Grenville Sharpe was born on August 10 1936 into a naval family, and educated at Parkfield prep school in Haywards Heath. He rated the headmaster the most influential man in his early life, and left after six years with a good grounding in religion, leadership and self-discipline, without having been taught to work, but with a scholarship to Sherborne.

Sharpe joined Dartmouth as a 16-year-old cadet; always good at games, he played for the college rugby XV and cricket XI, but found the academic courses unchallenging and, though criticised for his insouciance, rose effortlessly to be a House Cadet Captain.

His 18 months as a midshipman in a cruiser in the Far East, which he likened to a modern student gap year, included some weeks seconded to the Gurkhas on jungle patrols in Malaya.

This was followed by four months in an elderly submarine based in the Clyde, and eight months at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, doing an undemanding junior staff course and with easy access to the lights of London.

Early on, Sharpe found that "to me it was curious that although I was never in any sense a 'clubbable' man, I seemed effortlessly able to exercise authority over my peers."

In the late 1950s, he chose to become a submariner, and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 found him in a boat loaned to the Royal Canadian Navy and deployed into the Atlantic to intercept Soviet merchant ships: it was

a timely reminder that the Navy was not all peacetime exercises and cocktail parties.

Returning to the UK he became first lieutenant of the submarine *Talent*, and soon afterwards of the Singapore-based *Oberon*, and he saw action during the Indonesia-Malaysia *Konfrontasi*.

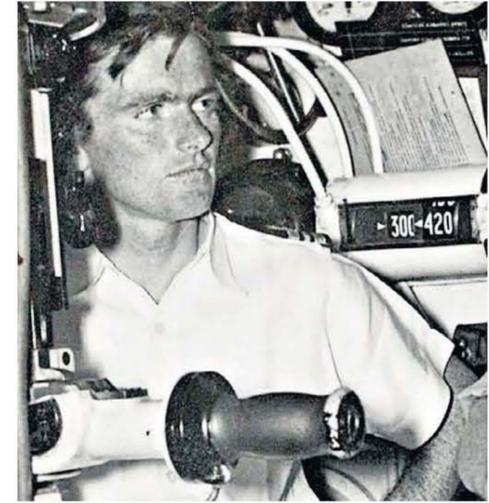
Sharpe passed the make-or-break "Perisher" course in 1966 and gained command of the conventionally propelled Malta-based boat *Aeneas*. *Aeneas* was in Haifa when the Six-Day War of June 1967 erupted, and Sharpe hurriedly sailed.

Running submerged across a bay of the Ionian Sea at night, he made a rare navigational mistake. *Aeneas* grounded and slid inadvertently up to periscope depth. It was still dark, but the view through the periscope suggested land on all sides except astern: he hurriedly surfaced and made a stern board out of the bay.

His reconstruction showed that he had passed between two rocky headlands and had grounded on the only stretch of sand in 10 miles of coast. "You have to be lucky," he noted.

On the passage home *Aeneas* took part in the filming of *You Only Live Twice*, when at the end of the film a submarine is shown surfacing under a yellow dinghy holding Sean Connery and his Japanese co-star.

He noted: "As this manoeuvre is impossible, what you are actually seeing is the submarine diving astern and floating the dinghy off the casing. The film is then run backwards. The two people in the dinghy were an engineer officer and a Wren borrowed from the Gibraltar garrison."



John Barth

Author whose novels *Giles Goat-Boy* and *The Sot-Weed Factor* fuelled a cult of Barthomania

JOHN BARTH, who has died aged 93, was the American author whose books – *Giles Goat-Boy*, for example, or *The Sot-Weed Factor* – earned him a particular place in the world of offbeat writing; he gained enormous critical and popular attention with nearly two dozen novels and collections of essays and short stories.

Curiously, Barth seemed to be read as much by those who failed to grasp what he was on about, as by admirers who really believed they had a handle on what he was saying. Reviewers likened him to Swift, Rabelais, Nabokov or Joyce, but some simply labelled him incomprehensible. Of the 700-page *Giles Goat-Boy*, Jane Shilling, writing in *The Daily Telegraph* in 1991, remarked: "There were many uses for this tome – doorstep, table mat, offensive weapon – but I do not recall ever seeing anyone actually read it, or ever meeting anyone who could give a coherent account of what it was about."

Yet from the outset Barth's work attracted the kind of acclaim that leads to literary prizes. He became a cult in the US where his birthday was marked by an outpouring of letters from his fan club, The Society for the Celebration of Barthomania.

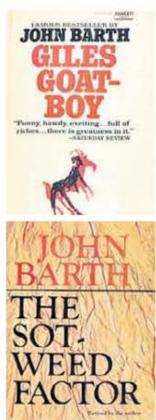
Barth liked to quote Horace in *Ars Poetica*, enjoining a young writer to use stories familiar to his audience. Thus, they would not be distracted by having to follow strange plots and would have time to appreciate the spinning afresh of a thundering good yarn.

Following this principle, he dug into the classics of the Middle Ages and antiquity, tearing legends and fables apart, reusing them in different settings with his own casts of insane characters.

In the Johns Hopkins University library in Baltimore, Barth experienced the excitement of discovering *The Arabian Nights* and *The Decameron*. He pored through *The Panchatantra* and his eye was caught by *Gesta Romanorum*, medieval tales



Barth: works that were wild, bawdy and often incomprehensible



of chivalry, and the lives of the saints. The Old Testament he found to be a bottomless well of themes, while a favourite character was Scheherazade, perhaps because she, like him, was a storyteller. He was endlessly diverted by the stories of Ali Baba, Sinbad the Sailor and the rest, with which Scheherazade entertained her murderous husband for 1,001 nights.

While turning the classics to his use, Barth employed a wild writing style all his own, full of epigrams, word plays and tortuous plot diversions. Barth once said he found it difficult to write realistic dialogue and therefore decided that it was a bad thing to attempt it.

John Simmons Barth was born at Cambridge, Maryland, on May 27 1930. After high school he attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York but left to study journalism at Johns Hopkins; he took his BA in 1951 and an MA the following year.

He had gone to the Juilliard intending to study orchestration, and later on he would refer to himself as an arranger, a reference to his method of

using classical themes as the foundation for his stories. In *The Friday Book: Essays and Other Non-Fiction* (1984), he noted that his "chief pleasure is to take a received melody – an old narrative poem, a classical myth, a shopworn literary convention – and, improvising like a jazzman within its conventions, reorchestrating it to its present purpose."

Barth taught at Pennsylvania State University and at the State University of New York, returning to Johns Hopkins in 1973 as Alumni Centennial Professor of English and Creative Writing. His first novel, *The Floating Opera*, full of characteristic linguistic exhibitionism and games-playing, appeared in 1956. A lawyer, bored with it all, is on the verge of suicide until it strikes him that suicide would be about as pointless as everything else in his life. It was a runner-up for the National Book Award.

His next, the nihilistic *The End of the Road* (1958), was followed by the 800-page *The Sot-Weed Factor*, set in colonial Maryland and voted one of the 20 best post-war novels in a poll of authors and critics. A parody of 17th-century picaresque novels, it had a bawdy plot which some readers found reminiscent of *Tom Jones*.

Giles Goat-Boy or *The Revised New Syllabus of George Giles our Grand Tutor* (1966) did indeed have passages about a boy brought up as a goat but who eventually discovers he is a boy, but the work was characterised by dozens of wild and often incomprehensible subplots.

He once told an interviewer that he had set out to write a new, comic Old Testament. What emerged was certainly comic. Two campuses at a single college, representing East and West, are each under the control of computers. Giles is raised as a goat on the farm of the college's agricultural department and finally discovers he was conceived by a virgin with the help of the West's computer, reckoning he must be The Saviour – or at least a Saviour.

The book spent three months on the

Between 1968 and 1970 Sharpe worked in naval intelligence. He liaised with the US Navy, spent some weeks in a specially fitted intelligence-gathering submarine in the Arctic, and, when he learnt that a Soviet submarine would be open to visitors in Casablanca, he flew there.

He found that the submarine backwater which he had joined in the 1950s had been swept by the nuclear age into the front line of naval affairs in the Cold War. On the nuclear engineering course at Greenwich, he stretched his brain for the first time since leaving school and found the course "a real pleasure, back to maths and science with a clearly defined end product".

Promoted to commander in 1972, after further submarine appointments in 1977-78, Sharpe became the first operations officer of the newly created Task Force 311 at Northwood, where he successfully moved submarine warfare tactics and operational control into the nuclear era.

Sharpe's luck changed, however, after he took command (1980-81) of the guided missile destroyer *Norfolk*, when he fell out with two successive senior officers who flew their flag in his ship. He had not served in the surface fleet since he had been a midshipman, had no time for the niceties of being flag-captain, and bluntly told the first senior officer that his priority was improving the ship's operational performance, which was not up to Sharpe's standards.

The second senior officer did not share Sharpe's teetotal habit at sea, and Sharpe made his disapproval clear.

As for the ship, he proved "a hard taskmaster," said Alan West (Lord West of Spithead), the future First Sea Lord, who was *Norfolk's* operations officer. "[Sharpe] didn't suffer fools gladly, be they senior or junior to him. His absolute priority in command was the fighting capability of the ship."

Nevertheless, two adverse reports sank his career, and though Sharpe fulfilled further high-profile shore appointments, he was not promoted to admiral.

From 1987 to 2001 he edited *Jane's Fighting Ships*, the encyclopaedia of navies; he excelled at this, and was admired across the world's navies, even by those not too friendly to the West.

His list of worldwide contacts was vast, and he cultivated many collaborators among the presumed enemy, who respected his integrity. His annual 20,000-word executive overviews were always balanced, accurate, highly detailed and yet fair and honest when highlighting defects – poor procurement decisions, for example.

He was saddened to catalogue the decline of the Royal Navy and chagrined to become better known in Washington than in London.

In 1961 Sharpe married Joanna Mansfield, the daughter of a naval engineer, who survives him with their two daughters and two sons.

Captain Richard Sharpe, born August 10 1936, died June 22 2024

Eric Hazan

Surgeon-turned-radical writer on Paris's 'psycho geography'

ERIC HAZAN, who has died aged 87, was a paediatric surgeon before founding La Fabrique, a French Leftist imprint that has published Edward Said and Zahra Ali; in later life he wrote a series of erudite "alternative" guides to Paris.

Beginning with *The Invention of Paris*, published when he was 66, Hazan dwelt on the historical significance of street signs, plaques in memory of men shot for joining the Resistance, and the "psycho geography" of the streets and *arrondissements*. The Champs-Élysées he saw as the principal axis of Collaborationist Paris, while the classical lines of the Rue de Rivoli testified to the absolutism of Napoleon and the Bourbon kings who preceded him.

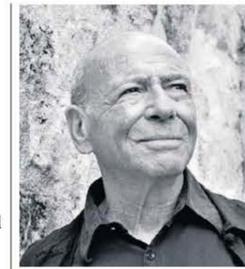
But his main goal was to record and celebrate enclaves of vitality holding out against the gentrification and "museumification" of his city. His own multicultural neighbourhood of Belleville, once an independent commune and the birthplace of Edith Piaf, which had mostly been spared the architectural modernisation efforts of the 1960s and 1970s, represented the "authentic" Paris he loved.

He celebrated its prostitutes, immigrant schools, cafés full of card-playing Tunisian Jews, Chinese supermarkets – and the modest coffee shop from which, in 1871, the revolutionary Jules Vallès shot at government troops during the insurrection of the Paris Commune, the revolutionary government that held power from March 18 to May 28 that year.

Hazan looked forward to a time when capitalism would be in retreat, and "everything will become possible again, including the return of the excluded, the overcrowded, the despised". Until then, he argued, "we must keep a grip on the city, know its history and its vagaries, so that when the time comes it can regain its colours and its glory."

Eric Hazan was born to Jewish immigrant parents on July 23 1936 in the Paris suburb of Neuilly-sur-Seine, to Fernand Hazan, a Cairo-born publisher of art books, and his wife, Blanche, née Pascal.

After the German invasion in 1940 the family moved to Marseille, where Fernand established a sweet factory using imported honey, made,



He celebrated places holding out against 'museumification'

Eric Hazan claimed, by spiders. The money from this enterprise enabled the family to buy a house in Antibes, then under Italian jurisdiction, where the family remained hidden until the end of the war. "My family was not religious," Hazan recalled. "But to be forced to hide during the war, that's something a child never forgets."

After the war he attended the Lycée Louis-le-Grand in Paris, after which he trained as a doctor and paediatric surgeon. After working in hospitals in Paris, he spent time in newly independent Algeria and in Lebanon, where he worked in Palestinian refugee camps.

But at 47 he decided to give up medicine and take over his father's publishing business. In 1992 he sold it to Hachette and in 1998 he founded La Fabrique.

Its involvement with the radical Left sometimes brought La Fabrique to the attention of the police. In 2008, when anarchist revolutionaries sabotaged some rail lines, a copy of the La Fabrique-published *The Coming Revolution* by the mysteriously named "Invisible Committee" was found on one of those arrested. Hazan was interrogated by the police; sales of the book shot up.

In April 2023 La Fabrique again made headlines when British police officers detained its foreign rights manager, Ernest Moret, in St Pancras Station in an operation apparently related to his participation in strikes against French government plans to increase the retirement age from 62 to 64.

Hazan's other books include *Paris in Turmoil: A City Between Past and Future*; *A Walk Through Paris: A Radical Exploration*; *A History of the Barricade*; and *Balzac's Paris: The City as Human Comedy*.

Eric Hazan, born July 23 1936, died June 6 2024

TRAVEL SOLUTIONS BY TELEGRAPH MEDIA GROUP

Tours from our trusted partner Riviera Travel



Lake Garda, Venice and Verona

Eight days from **£1,109pp** ATOL protected
Departures in September and October 2024
and from April to October 2025

Cruise across sparkling Lake Garda, see the vast peaks of the Dolomites, and taste wine at a vineyard. Discover the magic of Venice and the Roman relics of Verona.

What's included

- ◆ Return flights from the UK plus transfers
- ◆ Three- to four-star accommodation with breakfast and dinner! ◆ Tours and excursions ◆ Tour manager

◆ telegraph.co.uk/tt-lakegarda
◆ 0330 828 0421

Terms and conditions: 1 Stays at the Portici and Antico Borgo hotels are on a bed-and-breakfast basis only. Calls are charged at local rates. Lines are open Mon-Fri 9am-6pm, Sat 9am-5pm and Sun 10am-4pm. Prices are based on two sharing and cannot be split. Supplement may apply for a single room. Travel insurance not included. Holiday provided by Riviera Travel (co. no. 1869298; ABTA V4744 & ATOL 3430 protected), a company wholly independent of Telegraph Media Group Ltd. Terms and conditions apply. For full deposit details and all terms and conditions, visit telegraph.co.uk/tt-traveltics. See the Data Protection Notice in today's Personal Column.



New York Times bestsellers list, though one critic said: "There is something here to offend everyone."

Among his other novels were *Sabbatical: A Romance* (1982); *Tidewater Tales* (1987); and *Don't Count On It: A Note on the Number of the 1,001 Nights* (1984). *Lost in the Funhouse: Fiction for Print, Tape and Live Voice* (1968), a collection of short pieces for various media, was nominated for a National Book Award.

The award finally went to Barth for *Chimera* (1972), three related novellas retelling myths in which he drew on the stories of Perseus, Scheherazade and Bellerophon.

Letters (1979) was a huge, dense novel of 800 pages, in which characters from his previous novels write to Barth. One reviewer admitted: "I don't know what it's about," while another called it "brilliant and witty and damn near unreadable."

In 1991 came *The Last Voyage of Somebody the Sailor*, in which a 20th-century navigator sails back and forth between present-day Maryland and the medieval time when Sinbad was spinning his fables. "It is possible to dimly perceive the plot, concealed beneath thickly encrusted layers of Eastern-style verbiage," wrote Jane Shilling in the *Telegraph*.

Three years later, *Once Upon a Time: A Floating Opera*, revisited his 1956 novel *The Floating Opera*: sailing in Chesapeake Bay, Barth encounters scenes and characters from his previous novels. He drew on the 1956 book again in *Coming Soon!!!* (2001). His final novel was *Every Third Thought: A Novel in Five Seasons* (2011), about a creative writing professor planning to visit Shakespeare's birthplace.

John Barth married, in 1950, Harriette Anne Strickland; they had two daughters and a son. The marriage was dissolved in 1969, and the following year he married Shelly Rosenberg; she survives him with his children.

John Barth, born May 27 1930, died April 2 2024

Television reviews

Teenage crime-solving for lovers of lightweight fiction



Emma Myers stars as amateur sleuth Pip Fitz-Amobi in A Good Girl's Guide to Murder

Need refuge from all the football? Take heart because TV drama's favourite sport, the ever-popular game of murder, can be relied on to lift the spirits if you find the beautiful game to be deadly dull. A Good Girl's Guide to Murder (BBC iPlayer), the latest in a long line of cold-case mysteries and based on Holly Jackson's bestselling novel series, plays out as a kind of Young Adult Miss Marple as tiny but intrepid teenage detective Pip Fitz-Amobi distracts herself from Cambridge entrance tests by digging into the ghosts of a crime that haunts her sleepy home town. Emma Myers, blessed with a cool line in perplexed frowns, makes for an appealing Pip, a character who could come off as an irksome goody two shoes given her innate inability to tell a lie. Myers musters up Pip's inner steel, pulling us through some of the plot's more implausible moments. Of which there are plenty. But that scarcely matters because A Good Girl's Guide to Murder is the TV equivalent of a summer page-turner, teasing you on with its next curious clue even though you know it scarcely hangs together. You can play spin the bottle when it comes to picking your wrong 'un from the plethora of suspects lurking in the well-heeled streets of the fictional market town of Little Kilton (Axbridge

from different houses were arguing over who was the rightful monarch, Aegon or Rhaenyra, just like kids today might squabble over whether Messi or Ronaldo is the best. The difference here was that within seconds the squabble had escalated into a pitched battle between their respective Houses (Bracken vs Blackwood) that had many thousands butchered. But the message was clear - boys like to fight; they're not too bothered about why. Spuming testosterone and its consequences was the story of the whole episode (and yes, it was a little one-dimensional). Aegon (Tom Glynn Carney) was desperate to strap on his armour and take the fight to Rhaenyra (Emma D'Arcy) himself; it took all of Lord Larys's (Matthew Needham) magnificent weaselling to gently suggest that this was a terrible idea. Over at Dragonstone, Rhaenyra's Privy Council were of the collective opinion that a massive pre-emptive strike led by the full dragon cavalry was the only way forward. In both factions most of the sensible voices were female. Between them Rhaenyra, Alicent (Olivia Cooke) and Rhaenyra's (Eve Best) all attempted to suggest that maybe, just maybe, it might be better to try and talk to the other side first in the hope of avoiding generations of pointless tit-for-tat carnage. Naturally this was greeted with total derision by all the men with their oversized, plainly compensating-for-something broadswords. So it was left to Rhaenyra to head to King's Landing herself and engineer a secret one-to-one with her childhood friend. In an episode that was still essentially padding before the inevitable trans-global slash-fest, this was the best scene (run close, though, by the arrival of the great Shakespearean Simon Russell Beale in a bizarre two-hander with Matt Smith about poisoned peas). And its outcome proved that talking is better than fighting. It was evidence of what seems to be a founding precept of House of the Dragon - if you could just get a woman on the throne, life expectancy in Westeros would rise dramatically. But that ain't gonna happen, or not if the men can help it. Benji Wilson

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder ★★★
House of the Dragon ★★★

What to watch



WIMBLEDON 2024
BBC One & Two, from 10.30am



Last year's men's singles champion Carlos Alcaraz begins his campaign on Centre Court today

Summer arrives on the BBC as the All-England Club opens its doors for the next fortnight to the world's greatest grass-court tennis tournament. This year marks the 137th Wimbledon Championships, and the now familiar slogan - "Always like never before" - neatly sums up the sense of anticipation that the tournament generates. Last year was one of upsets as 20-year-old Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz secured his

first Wimbledon title, and the Czech Republic's 24-year-old Markéta Vondroušová became the first unseeded player to clinch the women's singles final. Now, 2024 promises to be just as wide-open, as the old guard in both the men's and women's game fall still further away. Alcaraz begins the defence of his title on Centre Court today. Coverage is extensive across BBC One, Two, iPlayer and the Red Button (as well as

radio and online), with Clare Balding being joined by co-anchor Isa Guha, who will cover the morning sessions. John McEnroe, Martina Navratilova and Billie Jean King are in the pundit seats, with Tim Henman, Johanna Konta and Annabel Croft on hand. Australian stars Nick Kyrgios and Ash Barty also join the team. Qasa Alam hosts Today at Wimbledon on BBC Two. Gerard O'Donovan

just because they love the music.

The Sympathizer
Sky Atlantic, 10.20pm
It's the penultimate episode of the Vietnam War-era spy drama and the Captain (Hoa Xuande) is beginning to buckle under the burden of his secret. Convinced the General's (Toan Le) plan for a refugee army is doomed to fail, he begins the search for a way out. Robert Downey Jr co-stars - repeatedly.

ENTERTAINMENT

Paddy & Molly:
Show No Mersey
BBC Three, 9pm
A new reality series for fans of mixed martial arts follows "proud Scousers and best



Cameras follow UFC fighters Molly and Paddy McCann

mates" Paddy "the Baddy" Pimblett and "Meatball" Molly McCann as they pursue careers in the tough arena of the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship). Tonight's double opener (boxedset on iPlayer) takes them to Las Vegas for the biggest fights of their lives, with Pimblett preparing to take on an American MMA superstar.

FACTUAL

Bake Off: The Professionals
Channel 4, 8pm
It's down to the final six bakers as the winners from the heats gather for a chocolate-fuelled face-off. The challenges include batch-baking gourmet chocolate bars and engineering a large, elaborately decorated chocolate mobile that can survive being hung from a ceiling. GO

DOCUMENTARY

Abandoned Engineering
Yesterday, 8pm
This week's episode flies through another series of awe-striking abandoned structures. Most impressive: the ruins of Tunisia's El Jem Amphitheatre - the largest colosseum in North Africa - a spectacular 3rd-century, 35,000-capacity venue that was modelled on the Coliseum of Rome.



Hoa Xuande stars in The Sympathizer on Sky Atlantic

Skint: The Truth About Britain's Broken Economy with Tim Harford
Channel 4, 9pm
A hero to many for his efforts on Radio 4's More or Less - which brings errant

the main things needed to fix its growth.

DRAMA

Hunting Venus
Talking Pictures TV, 9.05pm
For a bit of 1990s nostalgia from the archives, Talking Pictures TV have dug out this fun feature-length comedy-drama starring Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey. Clunes, who also directs, plays the former star of a 1980s new-romantic pop group - now making his money conning old ladies out of their pensions - who is kidnapped by two fans (Jane Horrocks and Esther Coles) who force him to reform his old band: and not

How will this election affect my children's future?

Radio choice



Behind the Crime
Radio 4, 11am
Forensic psychologists Dr Sally Tilt and Dr Kerensa Hocken return with a fourth series, in which they

help ex-prisoners get to the root of their offending. In this first episode they meet Liam, a young transgender man who was arrested for possession of cannabis and a blade while on his way to

take his own life. Elsewhere, on BBC 6 Music at 11pm, Hrishikesh Hirway's fascinating Song Exploder podcast is given a BBC radio airing. The broadcast takes separate interview episodes

and splices them together, with this first featuring in-depth chats with New Order, Kate Tempest and Flaming Lips who reveal how they made their songs. Gerard O'Donovan

RADIO 1
FM 97.6-99.8MHz

6.57am Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 1 Breakfast with Sam and Danni 11.00 Rickie, Melvin and Charlie 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Matt and Mollie 3.30 Newsbeat 3.32 Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders 8.00 Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri 10.00 Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri 11.00 Rock Show with Daniel P Carter 1.00am BBC Introducing Rock on Radio 1 with Alyx Holcombe 2.00 Radio 1's Future Alternative 3.00 Radio 1 Relax in Love 4.00 Radio 1 Dance 5.00 - 6.57am Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

Mixtape. A sequence of music 7.30 Radio 3 in Concert. The BBCSO performs Berio, Nono, Maderna and Dallapiccola 9.45 The Essay: Forever Songs. The power of music to connect, soothe, honour and remember 10.00 Night Tracks 11.30 'Round Midnight 12.30 - 6.30am Through the Night

News and Weather 12.30am Obsessed with the Quest 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.30 News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 - 6.00am Farming Today

Correspondent 8.30 Discovery 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.06 HARDtalk 10.30 The Conversation 11.00 The Newsroom 11.30 World Business Report 12.00 News 12.06am The History Hour 1.00 News 1.06 Business Matters 2.00 The Newsroom 2.30 Assignment 3.00 News 3.06 Outlook 3.50 Witness History 4.00 The Newsroom 4.30 In the Studio 5.00 - 8.00am Newsday

RADIO 2
FM 88-90.2MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Vernon Kay 12.00 Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat 2.00pm Scott Mills. Music and chat 4.00 OJ Borg. OJ Borg sits in for Sara Cox 6.30 OJ Borg's Half Wower. OJ plays the biggest and best tunes to get listeners dancing 7.00 Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist. Jo plays her favourite album tracks and musical gems rarely heard on Radio 2 7.30 Jo Whitley. Music and chat 9.00 The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Uplifting tunes and essential throwbacks 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of soulful tunes 12.00 Phil Williams 3.00am Pick of the Pops 4.00 - 6.30am Owain Wyn Evans

6.00am Today 9.00 Start the Week 9.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Behind the Crime See Radio choice 11.45 Obsessed with the Quest 12.00 News 12.04pm You and Yours. Consumer affairs 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Buried: The Last Witness. Dan rushes to a site where PCBs are reportedly escaping 2.00 The Archers. Susan reaches the end of her tether and Chris has a brainwave 2.15 Fags, Mags and Bags. Bishop Briggs must convince Lovely Sue he can perform her marriage 2.45 Gambits. Check by Eley Williams 3.00 A Good Read. Tessa Hadley and Sebastian Faulks discuss their favourite books 3.30 The Failure of the Future. Johnny Pitts reflects on how Japanese artists' alternative visions of the future 4.00 The Deadly Business of Democracy. Ways to ensure the safety of MPs 4.30 Rewinder. Taylor Swift's first radio appearance and the first days of election broadcasting 5.00 PM. News headlines with Evan Davis 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Mark Steel's in Town. Mark visits the Malvern Hills in Worcestershire 7.00 The Archers. The Carters face some home truths and Josh makes a point 7.15 Front Row. Arts programme 8.00 The Briefing Room 8.30 BBC Inside Science 9.00 Start the Week 9.45 Assume Nothing: The Shankill Gold Rush 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Glorious Exploits 11.00 The Sunday 11.30 Split Ends 12.00

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1.00pm Tennis 4.00 5 Live News 4.30 5 Live Sport 5.00 5 Live Sport 7.30 5 Live Sport. Mark Chapman builds up to commentary on Portugal v Slovenia 8.00 5 Live Sport. Portugal v Slovenia (kick-off 8.00pm) 10.30 Gordon Smart 1.00am Dotun Adebayo 5.00 - 6.00am Wake Up to Money

RADIO 4 EXTRA
DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Monk's Hood 6.30 Bolt 7.00 Minor Adjustment 7.30 Stop Messing About! 8.00 In and Out of the Kitchen 8.30 The Confession 8.45 Valley of the Dolls 9.00 Mark Steel's in Town 9.30 Parkmasters 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 Radiolab 10.55 Inheritance Tracks 11.00 Monk's Hood 11.30 Bolt 12.00 Minor Adjustment 12.30pm Stop Messing About! 1.00 In and Out of the Kitchen 1.30 The Confession 1.45 Valley of the Dolls 2.00 Just a Minute 2.30 Snap 3.00 The Jester of Astapovo 3.45 This Sentence Does Not Consist of Eight Words 4.00 Radiolab 4.55 Inheritance Tracks 5.00 Monk's Hood 5.30 Bolt 6.00 Minor Adjustment 6.30 Stop Messing About! 7.00 In and Out of the Kitchen 7.30 The Confession 7.45 Valley of the Dolls 8.00 Just a Minute 8.30 Snap 9.00 The Jester of Astapovo 9.45 This Sentence Does Not Consist of Eight Words 10.00 Mark Steel's in Town 10.30 Rudy's Rare Records 10.55 The Comedy Club Interview 11.00 The News Quiz 11.30 Danny Robins Music Therapy 12.00 Radiolab 12.55am Inheritance Tracks 1.00 Monk's Hood 1.30 Bolt 2.00 Minor Adjustment 2.30 Stop Messing About! 3.00 In and Out of the Kitchen 3.30 The Confession 3.45 Valley of the Dolls 4.00 Just a Minute 4.30 Snap 5.00 The Jester of Astapovo 5.45 - 6.00am This Sentence Does Not Consist of Eight Words

RADIO 3
FM 90.2-92.4MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1.00pm Classical Live 4.00 Composer of the Week: Richard Strauss 5.00 In Tune 7.00 Classical

WORLD SERVICE
DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News 8.06 HARDtalk 8.30 Business Daily 8.50 Witness History 9.00 The Newsroom 9.30 CrowdScience 10.00 News 10.06 The History Hour 11.00 The Newsroom 11.30 The Global Story 12.00 News 12.06pm Outlook 12.50 Witness History 1.00 The Newsroom 1.30 The Conversation 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 8.06 From Our Own

PAPER & BIODIVERSITY

Forests cover 31% of the world's total land area and contain most of the world's earthly biodiversity. To ensure the long-term health of forests, the European paper industry counts on sustainable forest management as a source for its main raw material.

Source: FAO and UNEP, The State of World's Forests, 2020

Scan for paper facts, activities, blogs and much more!

LOVE PAPER
www.lovepaper.org

Main channels

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 Wimbledon 2024 Coverage of play on the outside courts on day one See What to watch (S) 1.00 BBC News at One; Weather (S) 1.35 Regional News; Weather (S) 1.45 BBC News at One; Weather (S) 2.00 Wimbledon 2024 Further coverage of day one See What to watch (S) 6.00 News (S) 6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

BBC Two

6.30 am Garden Rescue: Top of the Plots (R) (S) 7.15 Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S) 8.00 Sign Zone: The Repair Shop (AD) (R) (S) (SL) 9.00 News (S) 10.30 Wimbledon 2024. The opening day of the tournament (S) 12.15 pm Politics Live (S) 1.00 Wimbledon 2024 Further coverage of day one (S)

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) 9.00 Lorraine (S) 10.00 This Morning (S) 12.30 pm Loose Women (S) 1.30 News; Weather (S) 1.55 Regional News; Weather (S) 2.00 Cooking with the Stars (AD) (R) (S) 3.00 Catchphrase (R) (S) 3.45 Live Uefa Euro 2024 France v Belgium (kick-off 5.00pm) (S)

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 (AD) (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 Renovation Nation (AD) (S) 5.00 A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? (R) (S) 6.00 Four in a Bed (R) (S) 6.30 The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)

Channel 5

6.00 am Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (S) 11.15 Storm Huntley (S) 12.45 pm Friends (R) (S) 1.10 Friends (R) (S) 1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (S) 1.45 Home and Away (AD) (R) (S) 2.15 FILM: Twisted House Sitter (2021, TVM) Thriller starring Crystal-Lee Naomi (S) 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (R) (S) 5.00 5 News at 5 (S) 6.00 Party Election Broadcast (S) 6.05 Police Interceptors (AD) (R) (S) 6.55 5 News Update (S)



Uefa Euro 2024: Portugal v Slovenia



The Peanut Butter Falcon



Coronation Street



Bake Off: The Professionals



Motorway Cops



Match Point (2005) Great! Movies, 9pm ★★★

Few Woody Allen films have proved as divisive as this London-set melodrama. A tennis coach (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) gets engaged to an upper-crust Brit, but he falls for her brother's American girlfriend (Scarlett Johansson), which leads to murder. Allen's grasp of how the English speak and behave is tenuous, but you'll have fun spotting all the British comedians cast in small supporting roles.



LaRoy, Texas (2023) Sky Cinema Premiere, 10pm ★★★

Shane Atkinson's blackly comic crime-drama is terrific fun, full of twists and Western references. Dylan Baker plays hit man Harry, sent to the tiny rural town of LaRoy, Texas, for a job; a quietly commanding John Magaro is Ray, a local hardware store owner who is devastated by the news his beauty-queen wife (Megan Stevenson) is cheating on him, and is accidentally lured into Harry's murky world.



My Week with Marilyn (2011) BBC One, 11.50pm; Wal, 12.15am ★★★

An all-star cast features in this movie about the time that film-maker Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne) assisted Marilyn Monroe (Michelle Williams) on The Prince and the Showgirl. Like many others, Clark ends up falling for the star. Williams's admirable performance explores the balance between Monroe's fragile vulnerability and public glamour; it's wholly more nuanced than Ana de Armas's attempt in Blonde.

7.00 The Bidding Room (S) 7.30 MOTD Live: Uefa Euro 2024 Portugal v Slovenia (kick-off 8.00pm) (S)

7.00 Wimbledon 2024 Continued coverage of day one See What to watch (S)

7.30 Regional News; Weather (S) 7.45 News; Weather (S)

7.00 Channel 4 News (S) 7.55 Party Election Broadcast (S)

7.00 Traffic Cops A woman is suspected of drink-driving at 10am (R) (S) 7.55 5 News Update (S)

10.10 BBC News at Ten (S) 10.40 Regional News; Weather (S) 10.50 Peacock Comedy starring Allan Mustafa (R) (S)

9.00 Today at Wimbledon Highlights of the opening day's play See What to watch (S)

8.00 Emmerdale Cain and Moira reconcile (AD) (S) 8.30 Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad The duo conclude their European adventure (AD) (R) (S) 9.00 Coronation Street Kit goes behind Bernie's back to introduce himself to Paul and Gemma (AD) (S)

8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals The best three teams from each set of heats come together in a chocolate challenge See What to watch (AD) (S) 9.00 Skint: The Truth About Britain's Broken Economy with Tim Harford The Financial Times writer provides a fresh analysis of the economy See What to watch (AD) (S)

8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders PC Martain Anderson hunts for a van linked to drug dealing and organised crime (S) 9.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts An 82-year-old is rushed in after they were found collapsed at home (S)

11.20 Peacock 11.50 FILM: My Week with Marilyn (2011) Fact-based drama starring Michelle Williams See Film choice 1.20am MOTD Top Ten - Defenders 1.50 Euro 2024 Match Replay 3.45 - 6.00am News

10.00 The Royle Family Denise is a bag of nerves as her wedding day finally arrives (AD) (R) (S) 10.30 Newsnight (S) 11.05 FILM: The Peanut Butter Falcon (2019) Light-hearted adventure starring Shia LaBeouf 12.35am Sign Zone: The Panorama Interviews with Nick Robinson 1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile 2.00 Sign Zone: Springwatch 3.00 - 6.30am This Is BBC Two

10.00 News; Weather (S) 10.30 Regional News; Weather (S) 10.45 Uefa Euro 2024 Highlights France v Belgium and Portugal v Slovenia (S) 11.45 Boris Becker: The Rise and Fall 12.40am Shop on TV 3.00 Tour de France Highlights 3.50 Unwind with ITV 5.05 - 6.00am Ainsley's World Cup Flavours

10.00 24 Hours in A&E A 79-year-old is rushed in with signs of a stroke (S) 11.05 The Killer Nanny: Did She Do It? 12.05am The Killer Nanny: Did She Do It? 1.00 The Killer Nanny: Did She Do It? 1.55 Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back 2.40 The Simpsons 3.05 Car S.O.S 3.55 Grand Designs 4.00 Escape to the Chateau 4.55 Frasier 5.20 Frasier 5.45 - 6.25am Countdown

11.05 Police: Suspect No 1 12.05am Traffic Cops 1.00 PlayOJO Live Casino Show 3.00 Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up 3.50 Incredible Reunions: Pets & Their Owners 4.40 Wildlife SOS 5.05 House Doctor 5.30 Entertainment News on 5 5.35 Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures 5.45 - 6.00am Paw Patrol

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 Sicily: The Wonder of the Mediterranean 8.00 Digging for Britain 9.00 Archaeology: A Secret History. Discovering more about the ancient common man. Last in the series 10.00 Stonehenge: The Lost Circle Revealed 11.00 Art on the BBC: The Story of the Nude 12.00 Treasures of the Indus 1.00 am Sicily: The Wonder of the Mediterranean 2.00 Archaeology: A Secret History 2.55 - 3.55am Digging for Britain

ITV3

FV 10 FS 115 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117

11.40 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 McDonald & Dodds 10.00 Wire in the Blood 11.50 The Royal 12.40 am Upstairs, Downstairs 1.30 Upstairs, Downstairs 2.25 Unwind with ITV 3.45 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118

Noon BattleBots 1.00 pm Tour de France Highlights 2.00 Tour de France Live. The third stage, from Plaisance to Turin 4.45 Hot Shots 4.55 The Sweeney 6.00 BattleBots 7.00 Tour de France Highlights 8.00 MotoGP Highlights 9.00 River Monsters 10.05 FILM: The Expendables 3 (2014) Action thriller sequel starring Sylvester Stallone 12.30 am Motorsport UK 1.30 Auto Mundial 1.55 Motorsport Mundial 2.25 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 The Sky Arts Book Club Summer Reads Special 3.00 Harold Lloyd: Hollywood's Timeless Comedy Genius 4.00 Discovering: Tim Robbins 5.00 The Joy of Painting 5.30 The Joy of Painting 6.00 Tales of the Unexpected 6.30 Tales of the Unexpected 7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 8.00 Andre Rieu: Love in Venice 11.20 Darbar Festival 2023 12.20 am Isle of Wight Festival 2024 2.20 Nina Simone: The Lost Album 3.45 5.00am National Trust: National Treasures

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

11.10 am Gomorrah 12.15 pm Game of Thrones 1.20 The Sopranos 2.25 The Sopranos 3.30 Six Feet Under 4.35 Six Feet Under 5.45 Gomorrah 6.50 Gomorrah 7.55 Game of Thrones 9.00 House of the Dragon 10.20 The Sympathizer See What to watch 11.25 House of the Dragon 12.45 am Succession 1.55 The Deuce 3.05 - 4.05am Game of Thrones

Film4

FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428

11.00 am El Dorado (1966) 1.35 pm Father Brown (1954) Comedy drama starring Alec Guinness 3.20 Storm Over the Nile (1955) Period adventure starring Laurence Harvey 5.30 7th Cavalry (1956) Western with Randolph Scott 7.05 Clueless (1995) Comedy starring Alicia Silverstone 9.00 Colombiana (2011) Action thriller starring Zoe Saldana 11.10 Office Christmas Party (2016) Festive comedy starring Jason Bateman 1.20 - 3.40am Another Round (2020) Comedy drama starring Mads Mikkelsen

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 5.15 Birds of a Feather 6.00 Waiting for God 6.40 Are You Being Served? 7.20 Last of the Summer Wine 8.00 The Brokenwood Mysteries 10.00 New Tricks 11.00 Soldier, Soldier 12.10 am Footballers' Wives 1.15 Call the Midwife 2.15 - 4.00am Classic Holby City

Variations

Northern Ireland

BBC One: No variations BBC Two: 10.00 - 10.30pm Peatail UTV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: No variations BBC Scotland: 7.30pm The Hair Bikers Go Local 8.30 Designing the Hebrides 9.00 Facelift 10.00 River City 10.30 The Scotts 11.00 The Scotts 11.30 Roaming in the Wild midnight Close STV: 3.50 - 5.05am Night Vision

Wales

BBC One: 7.00 - 7.30pm Wales' Home of the Year 10.50 - 11.20 The Abuser Headteacher 11.50 Peacock 12.15 - 1.50am FILM: My Week with Marilyn (2011) BBC Two: No variations ITV1 Wales: 11.45 - 12.40am Sharp End

ITV1 Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cyw 12.00 Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 12.05pm Caru Siopa 12.30 Heno 1.00 Prynhawn Da 1.55 Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 2.00 Seiclo: Tour de France 4.25 Anffiliaid Bach y Byd 4.35 Dreigiau Cadi 4.45 Dal Dy Ddanedd 5.00 Stwns 6.00 Cegin Bryn 6.30 Rownd a Rownd 6.57 Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 8.00 Y Byd yn ei Le 8.25 Garddio a Mw 8.55 Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 9.00 Ffermio 9.30 Rallio - 10.00 Seiclo: Tour de France 10.30 Gerddi Cymru 11.00 - 12.05am Prosiect Pum Mil

Dave

Noon Storage Hunters UK 2.00pm Extreme Fishing with Robson Green 3.00 Top Gear 5.00 Hairy Bikers Everyday Gourmets 6.00 Rick Stein's Long Weekends 7.00 Would I Lie to You? 7.40 Would I Lie to You? The Unseen Bits 8.20 Richard Osman's House of Games 9.00 QI XL. With Robert Webb, Phill Jupitus and Ronni Ancona 10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Naga Munchetty hosts an extended episode of the satirical quiz 11.00 Taskmaster 12.00 Mock the Week 12.40am Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled 1.40 Dave Gorman: Modern Life is Goodish 2.45 Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA 3.35-4.00am Travel Man: 48 Hours in Berlin

Lenny Henry Show

1.00am Only Fools and Horses 1.40 The Young Ones 2.25 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV 3.00-4.00am The Lenny Henry Show

ITV2

Noon Dress to Impress 1.00pm Deal or No Deal 2.00 Supermarket Sweep 3.00 Charmed 4.00 Dawson's Creek 5.00 Dress to Impress 6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase 7.00 Deal or No Deal 8.00 The Masked Singer US. This episode recaps the ninth series so far 9.00 Love Island. The pressure rises for the islanders 10.05 Olivia Attwood: The Price of Perfection. Olivia meets brave women willing to discuss their vaginas 11.05 Family Guy 12.05am American Dad! 1.05 Celebrity Karaoke Club 2.05 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.40 Unwind with ITV 3.00-6.00am Teleshopping

More4

11.25am Find It, Fix It, Flog It 12.30pm Come Dine with Me 3.10 Four in a Bed 5.50 Chateau DIY 6.55 Car S.O.S 7.55 Grand Designs 9.00 PopMaster TV. Ken Bruce presents the last episode before the grand final 10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. With David Mitchell, Katherine Ryan and the Brett Domino Trio 11.05 24 Hours in A&E 12.10am 999: On the Front Line 1.15

Emergency Helicopter Medics 2.20 24 Hours in A&E 3.25-3.55am A Place in the Sun

PBS America

11.40am Inside Japan's War 1.00pm Beautiful Serengeti 1.30 The Vietnam War 3.20 Drednought Destruction: Sinking the German High Seas Fleet 4.30 Inside Japan's War 5.35 After Chaos 6.45 The Vietnam War 8.35 Drednought Destruction: Sinking the German High Seas Fleet. An examination of the decision to sink the German High Seas Fleet 9.40 Inside Japan's War. An insight into Imperial Japan's military motives and culture 10.50 After Chaos. The reconstruction of Berlin after the Second World War 12.00 Drednought Destruction: Sinking the German High Seas Fleet 1.10am Beautiful Serengeti 2.00-6.00am Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at: 11.35am The Outer Limits 12.40pm What's On TPTV with Noel 12.55 FILM: Cannon for Cordoba (1970) Western starring George Peppard 3.00 The Saint 4.05 FILM: An Inspector Calls (1954, b/w) Drama starring Alastair Sim 5.45 FILM: Sherlock Holmes: Terror By Night (1946, b/w) Mystery starring Basil

Rathbone 7.00 The Footage Detectives 8.00 Enemy at the Door 9.05 Hunting Venus See What to watch 11.10 FILM: Gloria (1980) Neo-noir crime thriller starring Gena Rowlands 1.35am Look at Life 2.00 Mairget 3.50-4.00am 1964 in Church Street Market

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 Abandoned Engineering See What to watch 9.00 American History's Biggest Fibs with Lucy Worsley 10.00 Bangers & Cash 11.00 Abandoned Engineering 12.00 Great British Railway Journeys 1.00am Train Trunkers 3.00-6.10am Teleshopping

Sky Sports Main Event

Noon SSN Euro Matchday 10.00pm SSN Euro Report 10.30 Back Pages Tonight 11.00-6.00am SSN Euro Report

Sky Sports Premier League

Noon Gary Neville's Soccerbox 1.00pm Premier League Best Goals

2.00 Premier League Highlights 3.30 Premier League 4.00 Premier League Highlights 5.00 Premier League Review 7.00 Premier League Icons 7.30 Premier League 100: Darren Bent 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

1.00pm Training Day 1.30 Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union 2.00 Uefa Europa League & Conference League Magazine 4.00 ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Highlights 6.00 WRC Review 7.00 MLB Highlights 8.00 Live MLB. Toronto Blue Jays v Houston Astros (Start-time 8.07pm). Coverage of the American League match from Rogers Centre 11.15 MLB Plays of the Week 11.45 What I Wore 12.00 WWE SmackDown Highlights 1.00-4.15am Live: WWE Monday Night Raw. Watch CM Punk, Drew McIntyre, Seth Rollins, Rhea Ripley, Becky Lynch and your favourite WWE Superstars face-off inside the ring on WWE Monday Night Raw

Discovery

Noon Wheeler Dealers 1.00pm Railroad Alaska 3.00 America's Backyard Gold 4.00 Flying Wild Alaska

5.00 Homestead Rescue: Raney Ranch 6.00 Texas Metal 7.00 Bitchin' Rides 8.00 Garage Squad 9.00 Wheeler Dealers World Tour 10.00 Roadworthy Rescues 11.00 Outback Truckers 12.00 Mystery at Blind Frog Ranch 1.00am Wheeler Dealers World Tour 2.00 Roadworthy Rescues 3.00-4.00am Gold Rush

Sky Cinema Premiere

24 hours, including at: 10.55am A Sacrifice (2024) Drama starring Eric Bana 12.50pm The Great Escaper (2023) Drama starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson 2.30 LaRoy, Texas (2023) Comedy crime caper starring Steve Zahn 4.25 Drift (2023) Drama starring Cynthia Erivo 6.00 A Sacrifice (2024) Drama starring Eric Bana 8.00 Meg 2: The Trench (2023) Thriller sequel starring Jason Statham 10.00 LaRoy, Texas (2023) Comedy crime caper starring Steve Zahn See Film choice 11.55 Five Nights at Freddy's (2023) Horror thriller starring Josh Hutcherson 1.50am The Royal Hotel (2023) Thriller starring Julia Garner 3.25-5.15am American Star (2024) Thriller starring Ian McShane

Sky Documentaries

Noon Brazil 2002 1.45pm My Icon: Kelly Smith 2.00 Icahn: The Restless

Billionaire 4.00 The Directors 5.00 Discovering: Ed Harris 6.00 The Nineties 6.55 Shaq 8.00 Stax: Soulsville USA 9.00 Janet Jackson 10.00 FILM: Love to Love You, Donna Summer (2023) Profile of the singer 12.00 King in the Wilderness 2.10-4.00am A Crime on the Bayou

Sky History

Noon Secrets in the Ice 1.00pm Salvage Kings 2.00 Swamp People: Serpent Invasion 4.00 Pawn Stars 6.00 American Pickers 7.00 Forged in Fire 8.00 Container Wars 9.00 Cursed Histories 10.00 The Unexplained with William Shatner 11.00 Alien Autopsy: The Search for Answers 12.00 Pawn Stars 2.00am History's Greatest Mysteries 3.00-4.00am Container Wars

Sky Max

Noon The Flash 1.00pm MacGyver 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 4.00 S.W.A.T. 5.00 SEAL Team 6.00 Stargate SG-1 8.00 Rob & Roshes w/ Ballet 9.00 The Walking Dead. A familiar face becomes the unlikely hero 10.00 Flintoff: Lord of the Fries. Andrew Flintoff and Rob Penn explore the West Country 11.00 The Force: North-East 1.00am Brit Cops: Law & Disorder 2.00 Road Wars 3.00-4.00am Hawaii Five-0

The Telegraph

🔍 How will this election affect my children's future?

BUSINESS

Inside Britain's nursery crisis

Explore



EDUCATION

Conservatives vow to shut down 'Mickey Mouse' degrees



Join the conversation

MONEY

How parents can dodge Labour's private school fees raid – and save £60,000

£ Annual fees



Explore more

Scan the QR code or visit telegraph.co.uk/generalelection

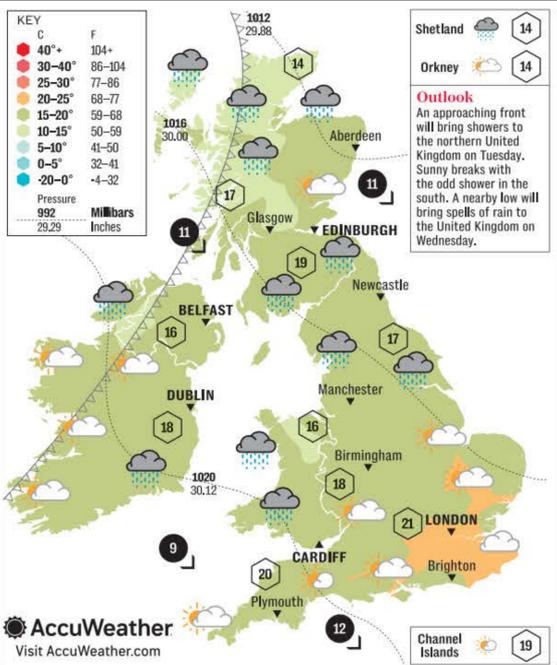
To scan the QR code, open your phone camera, point it at the code and tap the banner that appears on screen. On older phones, you may need to download a QR code reader first.

Forecast

General situation

A front will bring showers or spells of rain to Scotland, northern England, the Midlands and Northern Ireland today. Sunny breaks in southern England with an afternoon shower.

London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands: Cloud and sunny breaks today with an afternoon shower. A gentle W to NW wind. Max 62-72F (17-22C). Broken cloud tonight with the odd shower. Min 50-57F (10-14C).
NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England: Mostly cloudy today with rainy spells. A gentle W to NW wind. Max 54-65F (12-18C). A shower tonight. Min 41-54F (5-12C).
Wales: Broken cloud today and tonight with a few showers. A moderate W wind. Max 54-65F (12-18C).

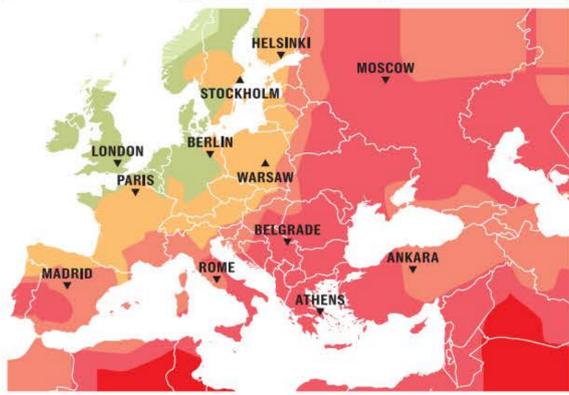


Four day forecast

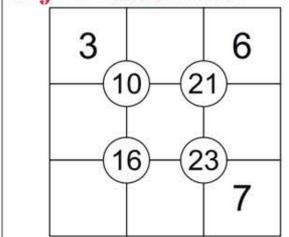
Tuesday: Partly cloudy with showers. Wednesday: Partly cloudy with showers. Thursday: Partly cloudy with showers. Friday: Partly cloudy with showers.

European readings

Table with 3 columns: City, Max temperature, Min temperature, Daytime weather. Lists cities like London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, etc.

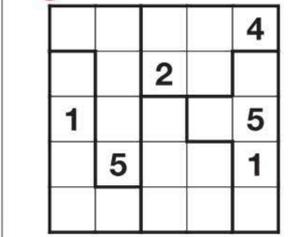


Sujiko GENTLE NO 4908



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.

Suguru NO 1996



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.

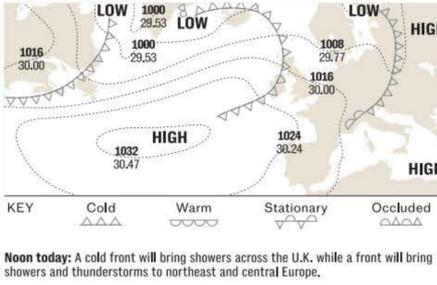
MAKE THE WORLD YOUR OWN

Expert opinion, trusted reviews and travel planning advice • telegraph.co.uk/travel

British readings

Table with 4 columns: City, Sun hrs, Rain in, Max/Min temp, Daytime weather. Lists cities like Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

Atlantic front



Sun & moon

Sun rises 04:49, sets 21:22. Moon rises 01:16, sets 16:56. New moon July 5.

High water

Aberdeen 09:50, Belfast 07:28, Cardiff 03:07, Dover 07:43, Falmouth 01:21, Harwich 08:11, Holyhead 06:43, Hull 02:44, Liverpool 07:29, Portsmouth 07:54, Southampton 06:51, Prestwick 2.2.

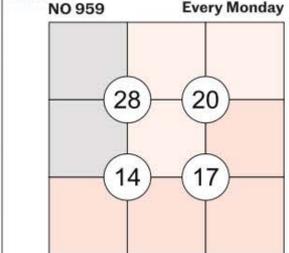
Sea forecast

S North Sea: A gentle to moderate west-northwesterly wind today. Seas will be rough. Visibility will be fair.

World readings

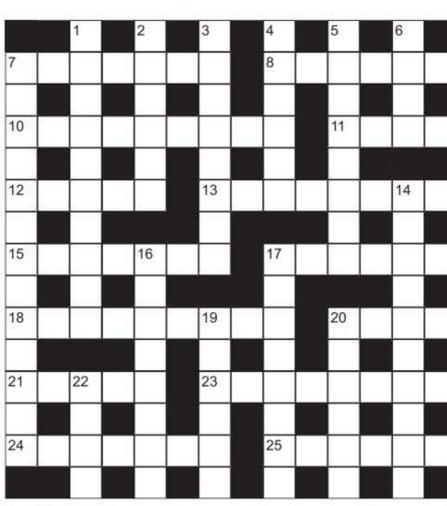
Table with 3 columns: City, Max temperature, Min temperature, Daytime weather. Lists cities like Accra, Addis Ababa, London, New York, etc.

Suko



To play Suko, place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces. Today's solutions appear tomorrow.

Crossword 30,654



- Across: 7 New business celebrity with Trump, oddly (5-2); 8 Garfunkel's playing good, serious composition (3-4); 10 Sun ruined ground without cover (9); 11 Goods vehicle set off (5); 12 Sunglasses son removed for underworld boss (5); 13 Having no will to be seen in main test at Edgbaston (9); 15 The setter, having debts, is making beastly noises (7); 17 Immoral person's fling with virtuous person? I'm not sure (7); 18 Are decent plays performed again? (2-7); 20 Tips of great Alpine mountains upon this range (5); 21 Prickly sorts caught first part of drama (5); 23 Fictional web designer in US city (9); 24 Need law reforms for presidential policy (3,4); 25 Horses sheltering among soldiers (7).
Down: 1 Maybe Hannah's daughter hosted by friend in Italian city (10); 2 Stagnant situation taken by economist as issue (6); 3 Make vocal music including e.g. Scarborough Fair (8); 4 Outlaw - outlaw pursued by detective over time (6); 5 Supports criticism over leader in Sunday Times (6,2); 6 Express disapproval of right philistine (4); 7 Perhaps Lionel Messi in a Euros match, strangely (5,8); 9 Del and Rodney, for instance, behind London theatre - they travel a lot (13); 14 Trying case of assault, then appealing (10); 16 Fancied a strong drink, tucking into one beside sea (8); 17 Team member wants intro from Sex Pistols? (8); 19 Approach large deer and tiger, say, from the south (6); 20 AI Gore eats in great quantities (6); 22 Possibly lower large hood (4).

Advertisement for Homelifts by pollock, featuring a lift and contact information: 0800 472 5001.

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.

Quick Crossword



Saturday's Quick Crossword Solution. Across: 7 Bridle, 8 Sweets, (Bridal suites) 9 Once upon a time, 10 Virtuosi, 12 Lash, 13 Fair, 15 Pendulum, 17 Class struggle, 19 Kermit, 20 Swoons. Down: 1 Brunel, 2 Adventuresome, 3 Weep, 4 Asuncion, 5 Dental surgeon, 6 Stumps, 11 Opposite, 14 Allied, 16 Upland, 18 Risk.

Help with today's Quick Crossword clues Single clues 0905 757 0122. Solution 0905 757 0123. Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge.

The Telegraph PUZZLES. Try our new Puzzles website with one month free. Play on for £3.99 a month. telegraph.co.uk/puzzles

SUMMER SALE ENJOY 3 ISSUES FOR JUST £6. Advertisement for The English Garden, English Home, and Artists & Illustrators magazines. Includes subscription information and a prize solution for June 22.



GUCCI

is a feeling