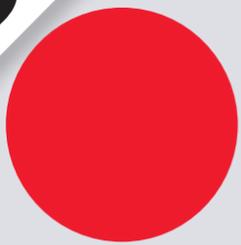


90p



1

2024 NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

MONDAY
1 JULY 2024
Number 4,245

CULTURE



Why Glasto gets better with age

P17

EURO 2024

Saved by the Bellingham

Southgate 85 seconds from England exit... before his star man's bicycle kick



» Quarter-final vs Switzerland, 5pm Saturday

SPORT

LIFE

I met a Reform UK candidate to see if he could win over Gen Z



P34

Your (essential) voting guide

Where each party stands

Part 4 - Democracy

P26

The best opinion

Anne McElvoy + Ian Birrell
Isabel Hardman + Kate Maltby



UK heading for 'stagnation' after election, Labour and Tories told

- » Dozens of economists warn that Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer are failing to offer a 'serious plan' to grow the UK economy - with lack of investment set to choke recovery, **i** is told
- » Labour and Conservatives are signed up to plans that squeeze public spending and must explain how they will reverse 'austerity-era cuts', according to open letter from 65 experts
- » Paul Johnson, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, also tells **i** 'there will be no avoiding tax rises or spending cuts' if the economy doesn't improve as he answers readers' questions
- » Starmer vows to build thousands of homes if elected, as Sunak makes final plea to voters

P6

OPINION

How to make better conversation
by Lucy Mangan

P21

INTERVIEW

I've met more sociopaths in TV industry than in prisons
Rob Rinder



P40

WORLD

Historic victory for French far-right in first election round

P4



9 772045 492614 27

The News Matrix

The day at a glance



MONDAY

1

JULY

Quote of the day



It is no good to try to stop knowledge from going forward. Ignorance is never better than knowledge
ENRICO FERMI



Birthdays

John Farnham, singer, 75; Léa Seydoux (below), actress, 39; Dan Aykroyd, comedian/actor, 72; Debbie Harry, musician, 79; Missy Elliott, rapper, 53



Anniversaries

Monday 1 July 2002
Six postage stamps designed by Paul McCartney go on sale on the Isle of Man, with proceeds from their sale going to his charity Adopt-a-Minefield.

SUBSCRIBE NOW
and get this paper for 72p

inews.co.uk/subs
(Offer not available in Republic of Ireland or the Channel Islands)

index

Crossword.....25
TV & Radio.....36
Puzzles.....27
Arts.....40
Business.....42
Weather.....46



Why are spirits soaring over take-off of superjumbos?
See p.14

AVIATION

Two-seater plane crashes on estate

A two-seater plane has crashed at a country estate. The accident happened in the grounds of Heveningham Hall near Halesworth in Suffolk. A Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service spokesperson said a man and woman received minor injuries in the crash and were taken to Ipswich hospital.

EMERGENCY

Blaze breaks out at derelict hotel

Firefighters from across Cornwall were called to the Hotel California, in Newquay, yesterday afternoon. Devon and Cornwall Police closed roads around the area and warned residents to keep windows closed and stay away from the area. The hotel has been derelict since it closed in 2021.



The List

The Big Apple's most snapped spots

Data has revealed the most Instagrammable New York City summer hotspots. Research conducted by Westgate New York Grand Central Hotel analysed the number of posts each of New York City's most popular landmarks had been tagged in to determine the top 10 most Instagrammable locations and attractions:

- 1 Central Park 8.76 (million posts)
- 2 Times Square 5.39
- 3 Empire State Building 5.31
- 4 Brooklyn Bridge 3.94
- 5 Chrysler Building (pictured) 2.68
- 6 Statue of Liberty 2.46
- 7 Top of the Rock 1.69
- 8 Bryant Park 1.43
- 9 Rockefeller Centre 1.16
- 10 Madison Square Garden 1.01



CARIBBEAN

Category 4 hurricane threatens islands

Hurricane Beryl has become a dangerous category 4 storm in the Atlantic Ocean with wind speeds of 130mph. It is expected to bring life-threatening winds and flash flooding to the Caribbean's Windward Islands as it rapidly strengthens into today, the US National Hurricane Centre said.



ENERGY

Coal-fired power plant's last order

The UK's last remaining coal-fired power station has had its final order of coal delivered by rail, marking the end of an era for the site. The Ratchliffe-on-Soar site in Nottinghamshire is set to shut in September. The 1,650 tons of coal delivered on Friday is expected to be the final fuel shipment sent there.

PEOPLE

TV comedy actor Mull dies aged 80

Television star Martin Mull, best known for his roles in the hit comedy series *Arrested Development*, *Roseanne* and *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, has died aged 80 after an unknown illness, his family said. His career spanned decades and encompassed hundreds of credits in television, film and music.

MILITARY

Suspected grenade found at bungalow

A "suspected grenade" which was found at a bungalow has been destroyed in a controlled explosion, a fire service has said. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service said after reports of a device being found, two fire engines were sent to a house in Bury, yesterday. Army bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion.

SCOTLAND

Residents facing 450% rise in gas bills

Residents of affordable housing developments in Edinburgh have said they are "living in a horror story" after being hit with a massive rise in their gas bill.

The Harvester's Way development has 180 properties which are all connected to a district heating system.

It is billed as a greener and more efficient way to heat their homes but it also means residents are unable to shop around for the best prices.

Places For People Scotland has told residents the tariff for gas will jump 450 per cent from 1 August, meaning people in a two-bedroom flat could be paying £400 a month.

POLICE

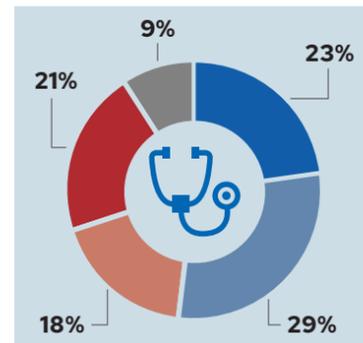
Girl, 17, dies after visit to Dreamland

A 17-year-old girl has died after becoming unwell at Dreamland in Margate. She was assisted by medical teams at the site in Kent and later taken to the Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Hospital, where she died on Saturday afternoon. Kent Police are carrying out enquiries to establish the circumstances surrounding her death.

Junior doctors on strike

Do you support or oppose junior doctors going on strike over pay and working conditions?

■ Strongly support ■ Somewhat support
■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose
■ Don't know



6,121 GB adults surveyed; 28 June 2024
SOURCE: YOUNG&Rubicam

ThePage3Profile

CATE BLANCHETT, THE RETURN OF GALADRIEL

Is this the hour when Galadriel signals her return?

Double Oscar-winner Cate Blanchett has said she would return as royal elf Galadriel for the upcoming *The Lord of the Rings* spin-off.

It was announced in May that Andy Serkis is to direct a new film about Gollum, his character in the films. Sir Peter Jackson, the director of the original trilogy, is to return as producer alongside his partners Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens. The film has the working title *The Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum*.

Blanchett played Galadriel in the trilogy, which is based on the epic fantasy by JRR Tolkien, as well as in *The Hobbit* films.

What did Blanchett say about possibly returning to Middle-earth?

At the Glastonbury festival in Somerset over the weekend, Blanchett was asked if she would be keen to star as Galadriel in the movie - which is set for release in 2026.

"I would do anything with Andy Serkis, anything, I love him to death," she said. "That bunch of people have been like a life raft for me, and I adore Andy, so yes."

"I finagled my way into *The Hobbit*. [Serkis] is here [at Glastonbury]... so I will go and hunt him down."

She added that she had not yet had any discussions with him about the project.

Who else could return?

Serkis recently revealed a little more about the film explaining it would be a "deep dive where we investigate Gollum's character".

According to the website Popverse, Serkis hinted during ACE Superhero Comic Con last month that there could be some cameos in the film. "There may be characters that we recognise that might be coming back. I'm not going to say who," he added.

Jane Clinton

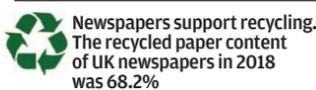
TURKEY

Protesters held at Istanbul Pride rally

Turkish police detained at least 15 protesters in Istanbul yesterday for participating in a banned LGBT Pride rally, a witness said.

The Istanbul governor's office said that the Pride march would not be permitted, and Turkish police closed access to central Istanbul to prevent the march from taking place, shutting down metro stations and blocking traffic.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Islamic-rooted AK Party has toughened its rhetoric against the LGBT community over the past decade and has banned Pride marches since 2015, citing "security reasons".



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

© Published by Harmsworth Media, 9 Derry Street, London, W8 5HY. Registered in England and Wales No. 00084121. Printed at Newsprinters (Brockbourne) Ltd; Newsprinters (Knowsley) Ltd; KP Services (Jersey) Ltd; Reach Printing Services Ltd, Cardonald Park, Glasgow; Associated Print (Carn), Ireland. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 0844 770 7684. Monday 1 July 2024. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.



LEISURE

Egg throwers have a crack at world title

Teams from across the globe took part in the world egg throwing championships in Lincolnshire yesterday. The annual competition, first staged in 2004, took place at the Swaton Vintage Day, and involves an egg first being thrown to a “catcher” 33ft (10m) away. The distance is then increased when the egg is caught.

CHARITY

Elmer elephants raise £143,000

A sale of patchwork Elmer elephants has raised thousands of pounds for a hospice. Artworks from Blackpool's Elmer's Big Parade earned £143,550 for Brian House Children's Hospice, in Bispham, Lancashire. More than 40 elephants, inspired by author David McKee's children's character, were auctioned at Blackpool Tower.

PEOPLE

'King of the Fells' Naylor dies aged 88

The record-breaking fell runner Joss Naylor, known as the “King of the Fells”, has died aged 88. The sheep farmer broke the Lake District 24-hour record three times and ran the fastest-known times on the Three Peaks, Welsh 3000s and Pennine Way. The Fell Runners Association said that he “inspired so many”.

TELEVISION

'Toady' set to leave 'Neighbours' cast

The *Neighbours* stalwart Jarrod “Toadfish” Rebecchi is leaving Ramsay Street. Ryan Moloney has played the Australian soap character since he was brought in as a guest in January 1995. The actor, 44, said he was unsure “what would happen to the character” but hinted at a potential future return.

Letter from the Political Editor
Hugo Gye
i@news.co.uk

*Parties talk the talk on growth but lack detail*

Unless the polls are wildly wrong, Keir Starmer will be the UK's prime minister by the end of this week.

He has promised “a decade of national renewal”. Voters seem to be sick of paying ever higher taxes for public services that are not improving, while overall GDP growth is persistently sluggish.

Both Labour and the Conservatives recognise the problem. Rachel Reeves and Jeremy Hunt talk in remarkably similar terms about the importance of growing the economy: this is the only way to drive up living standards, and the only way to get better public services over the long run.

But both parties – and in particular Labour, as the front-runners – are frustratingly vague about how they will achieve this. Future years of “renewal” will not come simply through a change of government, nor simply by sticking with what we already have.

That is why dozens of economists have signed an open letter, revealed today by **i**, warning that Britain is heading for stagnation without a clear plan to fire up the growth engines. They recommend a ramping up of capital spending by the Treasury, saying that will encourage the private sector to invest too.

Other groups have different solutions – whether radical deregulation, an overhaul of our tax system or the nationalisation of key industries. There is no definitive answer to which would work best; the important thing is just to have a plan.

To be fair to Labour, Starmer and Reeves are ambitious on the question of planning and building, which is one possible solution to the growth puzzle.

As Jane Merrick reports, the party is preparing to overrule local councils which try a go-slow on new construction – an aggressive approach, but maybe a necessary one.

Whoever is running the country by Friday must show a similar level of ambition across all areas of the economy. Britain has been treading water for long enough.

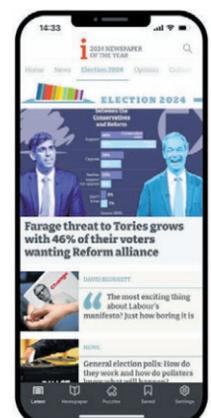
Only one newspaper has never supported a political party



Join 8m digital readers this election who demand intelligent, impartial journalism – only £1 for one month.

Search

i newspaper



SPAIN

Police call off search for British teenager missing in Tenerife

By Kyriakos Petrakos

The search for a British teenager missing in Tenerife was called off yesterday by Spanish police.

Jay Slater, 19, from Oswaldtwistle, near Blackburn, had been missing since 17 June, when he vanished the morning after a rave.

The Civil Guard called for volunteers to join a new search in the Masca area, near his last-known location, on Saturday. Police are

keeping their investigation open and could follow up with new searches in the south of the island, but have not yet offered an update.

Mr Slater (*inset*) had been on holiday with friends on the Spanish island and was last pictured at the Papayago nightclub, which hosted the end of the NRG festival, late on 16 June. After the event



ended, he travelled in a car to a small Airbnb property in Masca with two men, who officers said were “not relevant” to the case.

Mr Slater’s last known location was the Rural de Teno park in the north of the island, which is about an 11-hour walk from his accommodation. The apprentice bricklayer

called a friend who was with him on holiday at 8.30am on 17 June and said that he was going to walk back to Los Cristianos, where he was staying, after missing the bus.

He also said that he was lost, in need of water and had only 1 per cent battery charge left on his phone.

Mr Slater’s friend Brad Hargreaves told ITV that he received a video call from Mr Slater in which he appeared to be sliding off a path.

He said: “I didn’t think anything of

it, I just thought he was going to get a bus home or a taxi home because that’s what he says he is going to do.

“Next thing you know his phone dies and it’s 10 days on now and nothing since.”

The last person to speak to Mr Slater was his friend Lucy Law.

Debbie Duncan, Mr Slater’s mother, told the BBC: “He’s just an all-round nice, bubbly guy with hundreds of friends who love being in his company.”

FRANCE

Le Pen heads for victory as voters flock to the polls

By Layli Foroudi and Mimoso Spencer

IN PARIS

President Emmanuel Macron urged voters to rally behind “clearly republican and democratic” candidates as the far-right National Rally (RN) party was on course for a historic win in the first round of France’s parliamentary elections last night.

According to exit polls, Marine Le Pen’s party was ahead with about 34 per cent of the vote, with a hastily arranged left-wing coalition, the New Popular Front, on 29 per cent. Mr Macron’s Together alliance was languishing at between 20.5 per cent and 23 per cent.

Voters flocked to the polls yesterday in the first round of a snap

election that could usher in the country’s first far-right government since the Second World War.

President Macron (*inset*) stunned the country when he called the vote after his centrist alliance was crushed in European elections in June by Ms Le Pen’s RN. Her Eurosceptic, anti-immigrant party was a long-time pariah but is now closer to power than it has ever been.

Participation in the ballot was high, underlining how political crisis has energised the electorate. By 3pm yesterday, the turnout was nearly 60 per cent, compared with 39.42 per cent two years ago – the highest comparable turnout figures since 1986.

France’s electoral system can make it hard to estimate the precise distribution of seats in the 577-seat National Assembly, and the final outcome will not be known until the end of the second round of voting next Sunday.

The RN is widely predicted to win the most seats in the assembly, but only one pollster – Elabe – had the party winning an absolute majority of 289 seats in the run-off ballot.

After the exit polls were pub-



The French far-right leader Marine Le Pen has predicted that her National Rally party will win an absolute majority YVES HERMAN/REUTERS

lished, the RN’s president, Jordan Bardella, said he was ready to serve as prime minister if his party finished with an absolute majority after second-round ballot.

He declared: “I will be a ‘cohabitation’ prime minister, respectful of the constitution and of the office of President of the Republic, but uncompromising about the policies we will implement.”

The New Popular Front was pre-

dicted to come second overall in yesterday’s first round. But it said that in areas where it finished third it would withdraw its candidates in from the run-off ballot so that voters were more likely to turn to Mr Macron’s party to keep out the far right.

Jean-Luc Melenchon, the leader of one of the coalition’s member parties, France Unbowed, said: “Our guideline is simple and clear: not a single more vote for the National Rally.”

PEOPLE

Britons in France fear for future under far right

By Melissa Chemam

British expatriates and other foreigners living in France fear that their rights could be eroded under a potential far-right government after the National Rally (RN) pledged to crack down on immigration.

The party led by Marine Le Pen and its president, Jordan Bardella, has said it would ban dual nationals from holding key “strategic positions” in the defence sector, as well as scrap the right of nationality for children born in France and raised by foreign parents. It also plans to restrict welfare and healthcare access for foreigners and give preference to some people for welfare payments in a breach of EU rules.

David Schischka Thomas, an art dealer and DJ from Birmingham, has been living in France for eight years with his wife near Limoges. He said the current election had led them to think about their future in the country.

“We have lived through the rise of the far right in the UK with all the racism, hatred, misinformation, and then the polarisation caused by Brexit,” he told *i*. “I am now worried that France will go the same way.”

Sarah Barden, another Briton, has not become a French citizen despite years spent in Paris. Now she is worried that she will not be able to plan her future in the country.

“This campaign [is] only about blaming immigrants,” she said.

i Marine Le Pen has a history of pro-Russian sentiment. While the party now says it would help Ukraine defend itself against Russian invaders, it has also set out red lines, such as refusing to provide long-range missiles.

Analysis

National Rally party has transformed itself into a mainstream political force

Leo Cendrowicz



The far right has not scented power in France since the Second World War. So how did the country swing so far to the extreme right? The answer is partly down to Emmanuel Macron’s unpopularity and the dramatic decline in the traditional parties. But it is also

due to the transformation of the National Rally (RN) from a crude, bigoted party on the political fringes to a formidable contender.

The main driver of the cleanse is Marine Le Pen, the party’s run-off candidate against Mr Macron in the 2017 and 2022 presidential elections.

The RN’s success results from her calculated strategy to detoxify the party’s image and broaden its appeal.

When she took over the leadership of the party from her

father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, in 2011, the party – then known as the National Front – was synonymous with xenophobia, antisemitism and Holocaust denial.

Ms Le Pen recognised that if the party were to become a significant force, it needed to shed its poisonous image.

She embarked on a strategy of *dédiabolisation*, or detoxification, aimed at rebranding the party as a more palatable right-wing alternative.

This included expelling her

father from the party in 2015, changing its name in 2018 to the National Rally and moderating its rhetoric.

The party’s new image focused on nationalism, economic protectionism and law and order while downplaying the overt racism and antisemitism of the past.

By the time of her third presidential campaign in 2022, Ms Le Pen had shed her previous hostility to the euro and focused instead on cost of living issues.

Jordan Bardella is a crucial figure in the rebranding. As Ms Le Pen’s protégé and the party’s president and candidate for prime minister, he represents the youthful, media-savvy face.

Mr Macron’s political manoeuvres have also played into the RN’s hands: his decision to dissolve the National Assembly and call for snap elections after the RN’s success in the European Parliament elections was a gamble that appears to have backfired.

FOOTBALL



England fans watching at BoxPark in Wembley, north-west London, celebrate Jude Bellingham's 95th-minute equaliser against Slovakia
PAUL CHILDS/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

Oh, England! Fans endure 95 minutes of agony before Lions' stunning comeback

By Jane Clinton

England fans were made to suffer in typical fashion last night as their side left it late to complete a dramatic comeback against Slovakia at Euro 2024, winning 2-1 to avoid the humiliation of an early exit and going through to the quarter-finals.

Little-fancied Slovakia were just seconds from eliminating England from the tournament with a 1-0 victory until a spectacular bicycle kick equaliser from Jude Bellingham rescued the team in the 95th minute.

A second goal scored by skipper Harry Kane 52 seconds into extra time brought the Three Lions out

of the doldrums. England now face Switzerland in the quarter-finals in Düsseldorf on Saturday.

Until the late turnaround, fans inside the stadium had grown increasingly frustrated at the laboured performance. Some fans were even spotted leaving the Arena AufSchalke in Gelsenkirchen early to beat the post-match rush.

But as England salvaged a win, crowds at fan zones in Germany and at home celebrated wildly as the goals went in, sending beer and glasses flying through the air.

Speaking after the game, manager Gareth Southgate said: "I've been involved in enough England games to

know that nights like tonight have everyone on the edge of the sofa and behind the sofa and over the sofa. That's what makes international football so special."

The Prince of Wales said that he was on an "emotional rollercoaster" as he watched the game. William, who is president of the English

{i} Rishi Sunak posted a picture on social media of him cheering England, with the words "It's not over till it's over," while Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer wrote: "Never in doubt."

Football Association, retweeted a photograph of England's goal heroes Bellingham and Kane. Next to the image of Bellingham planting a kiss on his captain's forehead, William wrote: "Emotional rollercoaster! Let's go @England! Quarter finals here we come!"

More relaxed was Idris Elba, who missed the game because he was speaking on stage at the Glastonbury Festival about knife crime while the match was still taking place. Told the Three Lions had won, Elba said: "I heard it's 2-1, did we win? Hey congratulations – very good England."

Sport, back page

News in brief

PARENTING

Baby-led weaning 'is ample nourishment'

Baby-led weaning – where infants are encouraged to feed themselves whole pieces of food – provides ample nutrients to support growth, early research suggests.

Babies who self-feed with finger foods were found to roughly have the same energy intake as infants who were spoon-fed on purées.

The findings were presented at the American Society for Nutrition conference in Chicago.

CULTURE

Museum showcases Swift memorabilia

A number of objects including costumes and awards on loan from Taylor Swift's personal archive will go on display temporarily at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London this summer.

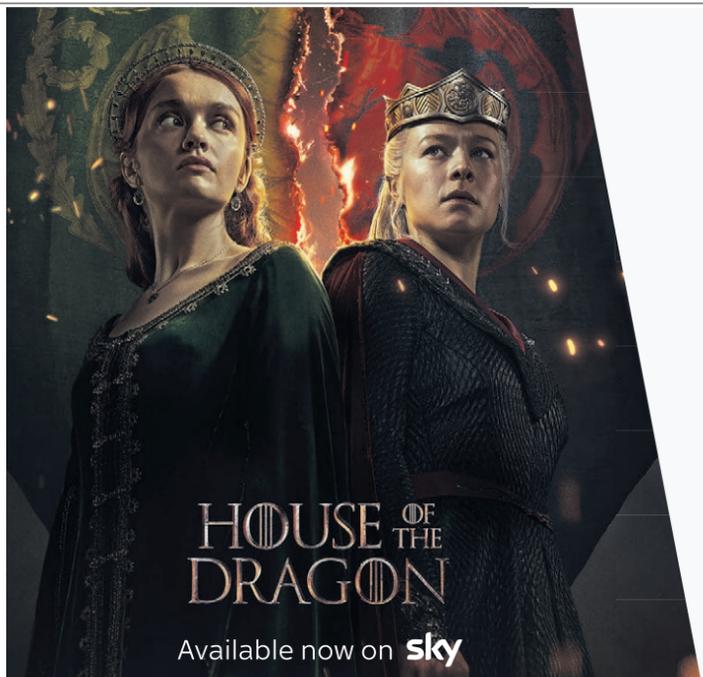
Taylor Swift: Songbook Trail, which opens on 27 July and is free to visit, will feature 16 outfits worn by the Grammy-winning singer, who is currently performing on her blockbuster *Eras Tour*.

PEOPLE

Triple amputee aims for Pacific crossing

A triple amputee is aiming to become the first to sail across the Pacific Ocean non-stop, solo and unsupported to "change the perception of what is possible as a disabled person".

Craig Wood, 33, from Doncaster, is a former Army rifleman who was 18 when he lost both legs and his left hand in a bomb blast in Afghanistan in 2009.



HOUSE OF THE DRAGON

Available now on **sky**

sky & NETFLIX

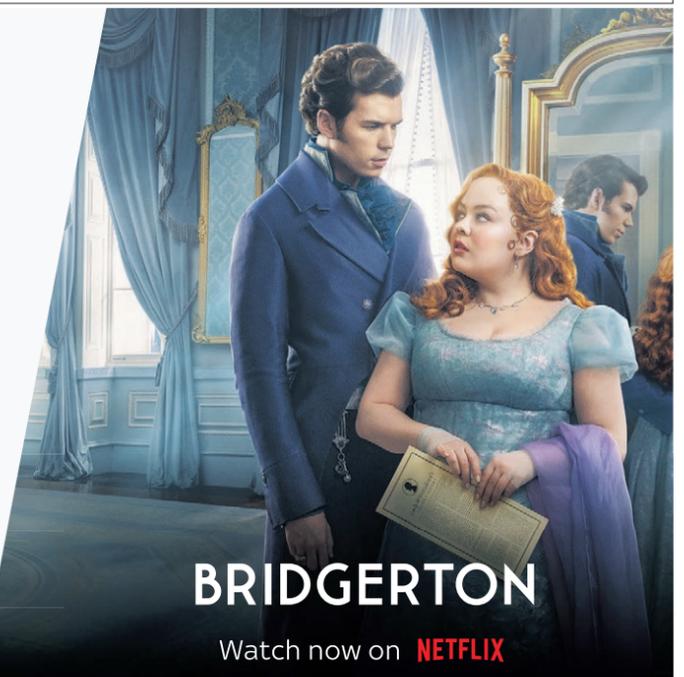
In one simple subscription.

£26
£22
a month

Prices may change during 24-month contract.

sky.com

Visit a Sky store



BRIDGERTON

Watch now on **NETFLIX**

COVER STORY

Tories and Labour lack 'serious plan'

Exclusive
By Hugo Gye

POLITICAL EDITOR

Dozens of economists have warned that Labour and the Conservatives have failed to offer a "serious plan" to invest in the economy, which they said is "a recipe for further stagnation".

In an open letter seen by **i**, 65 economic experts called on Sir Keir Starmer and Rishi Sunak to explain whether and how they would reverse austerity-era cuts to the capital investment made by the state and provide "fuel for growth".

Both of the main parties are signed up to spending plans that imply a further squeeze on public investment from next year onwards.

Sir Keir and Rachel Reeves, who

are expected to become prime minister and chancellor within days if opinion polls are correct, have said they want the private sector to ramp up investment in Britain but refused to commit to more state spending other than on green infrastructure.

The group of economists, coordinated by a new campaign, Invest in Britain, warned: "The UK has consistently seen some of the lowest levels of public investment in the G7, and has been well below the OECD average."

"This lack of investment starves our economy of the fuel for growth and prosperity, whether that is infrastructure and innovation or a healthy and skilled population. Given our low levels of investment, it is no surprise the economy has performed so poorly in recent years."

They warned that "we are heading into this election without a serious plan to raise public investment", which would be "a recipe for further stagnation".

The International Monetary Fund, usually known for its caution on public spending, has called for greater state investment in sectors such as transport, health, communications and energy, arguing that more cash from the Treasury could encourage private firms to invest too.

Tom Railton of Invest in Britain said: "The UK economy is stuck in a doom loop of low investment, low growth and falling living standards. The cause is clear: for decades we have not been investing enough."

"There is a growing consensus among economists that serious action on public investment is imperative if we are going to reboot our economy, restore our public services, raise living standards and tackle the unacceptable squeeze on household incomes. With just days to go until a decisive election, it's time we got some serious answers on public investment, because further cuts simply aren't credible."

Among the economists who signed the letter are Lord Skidelsky, University of Warwick, Professor Paul Ekins, of University College London, Professor Diego Sánchez-Ancochea, of the University of Oxford, and Professor Elisa van Waeyenberge of SOAS University of London.

i Jeremy Hunt has announced a five-year freeze to investment while Labour has scaled back its own infrastructure plans significantly, leaving investment on course to fall as a share of the economy if the Opposition wins.

Growth fears Economic downturn threatens spending

Any economic downturn will be disastrous for government spending plans, the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies think-tank has warned.

Paul Johnson says that whichever party wins the election on Thursday, budget plans will be heavily dependent on the economic forecasts being accurate if spending cuts or tax rises are to be avoided.

"All of this depends on what the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) says about growth," he told **i**. "Currently they're very optimistic. That's not good news, in a way, for the new government, because all of the forecasts at the moment are made off the basis of these forecasts."

"If the OBR changed its mind and said it now thinks things will look worse for growth, then you've really got some difficult choices."

"This is what is going to be interesting about the first Budget,

which we're expecting in the autumn. One scenario is where growth is much stronger. In that world, everything's not easy. You won't need to be cutting spending and you don't need to be doing much to raise taxes but it's going to be quite tight. Just about avoiding cuts is probably not quite where a new government's going to want to be."

However, if the reality is worse than the OBR expects, the chancellor's choices are going to be unpopular. "You are either absolutely going to have to raise taxes, cut spending or say that your fiscal rules no longer bind," Mr Johnson warned.

"Rachel Reeves wants to see fiscal austerity and if she's serious about that, then there will be no avoiding tax rises or spending cuts. Let's hope that doesn't happen."

Your questions answered, page 8

ECONOMY

Labour insiders deny that Reeves would raise capital gains tax

By Hugo Gye

Labour is still hoping to avoid tax rises in its first Budget this autumn if the party wins the general election.

Party insiders have rejected reports that Rachel Reeves is eyeing up a policy of hiking capital gains tax to the same rate as income tax as a way of dodging cuts to public spending.

The shadow Chancellor has previously laid out a plan to increase taxes by £8.5bn a year through a small number of targeted measures such as charging VAT on private school fees and further cracking down on non-dom tax status.

Ms Reeves has said that balancing the books would not require any further tax rises although the only

hikes she has definitively ruled out are to income tax, national insurance and VAT.

Experts have warned that if the economic outlook for the coming years deteriorates before Labour's first potential Budget - expected to take place in September or October - then the party would need to find additional revenue or spending cuts in order to meet its borrowing rules.

Even if existing projections from the Office for Budget Responsibility are restated in the autumn, Ms Reeves (*inset*) would need to outline details of cuts to the spending of



most Whitehall departments because of a squeeze on budgets previously announced by Jeremy Hunt.

But Labour sources said the shadow Chancellor still believed it would be possible to deliver better public services through a boost to long-term growth.

Ms Reeves told the *Sunday Times*: "The debate around tax and spend is very frustrating because it misses out on the most important part of the economy, which is the growth in the economy."

The party's campaign chief, Pat McFadden, said that he would not rule out each individual taxation option, telling GB News: "You could go through, there are probably 200 different taxes. This is the Tory tactic to raise a scare story about Labour."

The Treasury minister Bim Afolami responded: "It's in their DNA - Labour will tax your pension, increase your council tax, tax your home, your car. You name it, they will tax it."

Sir Keir Starmer and his wife, Victoria, pose for a selfie after a Labour rally in London on Saturday
STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA



PEOPLE

May's Brexit negotiator in line for top civil service role

By Hugo Gye

Sir Keir Starmer will hold an open application process to replace the UK's top civil servant if he steps down under a Labour government.

Simon Case, the Cabinet Secretary, is reported to be considering resigning early next year if there is a change of government this week, allowing the new prime minister to choose his own candidate to be the most powerful official in Whitehall.

The *Sunday Times* said that Sir Oly Robbins, the former civil servant who led Brexit negotiations for Theresa May, is regarded within Labour as a leading candidate.

But **i** understands that in the event of a vacancy, Sir Keir would invite applications from qualified individuals.

He has often criticised the Tories for circumventing proper processes and Whitehall ethics rules.

Mr Case became Cabinet Sec-



Olly Robbins is regarded as a strong contender to replace Simon Case

retary in 2020 after being hand-picked by Boris Johnson and Dominic Cummings.

The job is usually held by someone who has run a Whitehall department, with possible contenders including Dame Antonia Romeo of the Ministry of Justice and Tamara Finkelstein who runs the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

to invest in growth, warn economists



HOUSING

Starmmer braced for 'Nimby' opposition over home plans

By Jane Merrick
POLICY EDITOR

Sir Keir Starmer would put himself on a collision course with “Nimby” councils within days of taking office, pushing ahead with radical plans to build 1.5 million homes during the first term of a Labour government.

Local authorities would be blocked from “stonewalling” developments on newly designated “grey belt” land, party insiders said.

Councils would be able to democratically approve new homes in the best places but it would be a case of “how” they are built, not “if”, the sources added.

If Labour wins the election on Thursday, the new deputy prime minister Angela Rayner is set to unveil the government’s new house-building programme within days.

This would include reclassifying supposedly poor quality areas of the green belt to “grey belt” – identified as car parks, scrubland and former tips – to free them up for development. She would write to local authorities to instruct them to review their green belt land to identify potential grey belt areas to be reclassified and developed.

Labour insiders said the “smarter” release of green belt land would allow local people to get on the housing ladder and that low-quality, ugly areas should not be protected from development.

The party would not apologise for ensuring homes get approved where councils “stonewall”, sources said.

In a joint interview with Sir Keir in yesterday’s *Sunday Times*, the shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves,



Labour would look to accelerate the building of thousands of new houses

Housing plans Where would Labour build?

Labour has pledged to build 1.5 million new homes over five years if it wins office this week.

This target would require a radical reform of planning rules to free up land – including reclassifying low-quality green belt land which is ripe for development, such as old car parks, scrubland and former tips, as “grey belt”.

This could lead to a Labour government pushing ahead with existing plans which have been so far limited – such as Michael Gove’s project to build 150,000 homes near Cambridge.

There has also been speculation about developments in the Midlands, including areas near Nottingham, Stafford and Northampton close to the M1 and M6 motorways.

Land near the Thames estuary in Essex and Kent could also be identified for new developments.

said that there was an “urgency” for Labour to become the party of housebuilders because “we know that for kids like us today [from working-class backgrounds], some of those opportunities [to own a home] don’t exist”.

A tougher approach is likely to be resisted by some councils, particularly those in Conservative and rural areas with large swathes of greenbelt land. But the Tory government has failed to achieve its annual target of building 300,000 homes, in part because of delays in the planning system.

Labour has pledged to match the 300,000-a-year target, although Sir Keir admitted in the interview that this might not be achieved in first year but that the overall total of 1.5 million would be reached by the end of a five-year Parliament.

Searchland, a specialist development site sourcing company, estimates that reclassifying just 1 per cent of green belt land could free up space for 738,000 new homes. But the Tories warned that the move would damage the environment.

Appealing to voters who are planning to desert the Conservatives for Labour or Reform this Thursday to return to his party, the Deputy Prime Minister, Oliver Dowden, told Sky News: “The alternative is Keir Starmer, who has a plan that will involve putting up people’s taxes.”

“Whether you are a pensioner paying tax on your basic state pension, whether you are a first-time buyer, paying tax on your first home and plans that will involve less control of migration and building on our green belt.”

MEDIA

Murdoch’s ‘Sunday Times’ backs Labour

By Adam Sherwin

Labour hopes to win *The Sun*’s backing next after *The Sunday Times* became the first Rupert Murdoch-owned newspaper to switch allegiance from the Conservatives and endorse Sir Keir Starmer.

An editorial in the broadsheet said the Conservatives had “forfeited the right to govern” and it was “the right time for Labour to be entrusted with restoring competence”. It has endorsed the Tories since 2005.

The *Sunday Mirror*, as expected, urged readers to vote Labour, along with *The Observer* and *The Independent*. The *Financial Times* has also announced its support for Labour.

The Sunday Express and *Sunday Telegraph* lined up for the Tories, as has *The Mail on Sunday*.

Sir Tony Blair convinced Mr Mur-

doch to back New Labour at the 1997 election after years of wooing.

But *The Sun*’s full-throated backing for Labour at the launch of its 1997 election campaign has not been repeated for the party under Sir Keir, who sanctioned prosecutions of a number of tabloid journalists over hacking claims when he was director of public prosecutions.

The lukewarm support from *The Sunday Times* does not necessarily mean all News UK titles will urge readers to vote Labour, *i* understands. However, while newspaper circulations have declined, reducing their influence, the Murdoch papers have traditionally sought to back the winning side in elections.

Labour welcomed *The Sunday Times* switch, which accompanied an exclusive joint interview with the party’s leader and his shadow Chancellor, Rachel Reeves. But winning the support of *The Sun*, which has backed the Conservatives for the past 15 years, is seen as a symbolic prize by the leader’s team.

i is unique among national newspapers in refusing to endorse a party.

WELFARE

Areas worst hit by child benefit cap are ‘safe seats’

By Jessica Rawnsley

The areas worst hit by the two-child benefit cap are safe Labour constituencies, in a finding set to heap pressure on Sir Keir Starmer to reverse his backing for the policy.

The top five constituencies with the highest numbers of children adversely affected by the cap – shown to have a strong correlation to child poverty – were held by Labour at the 2019 election and likely to be retained by the party on Thursday.

Among them are, according to analysis by Loughborough University and the End Child Poverty Coalition (ECPC), the constituencies where senior Shadow Cabinet members are seeking re-election.



The seats of Diane Abbott and Jess Phillips may be hit hardest by the cap

Data shared with *i* show that 28 per cent of children – the highest level in the UK – in Diane Abbott’s Hackney North and Stoke Newington constituency, and Graham Stringer’s Blackley and Middleton South constituency, are affected by

the two-child limit. Other notable hotspots include shadow justice secretary Shabana Mahmood’s constituency of Birmingham Ladywood where 25 per cent of children are affected by the cap, Jess Phillips’s Birmingham Yardley seat with 24 per cent, and shadow Foreign Secretary David Lammy’s Tottenham seat with 21 per cent.

Ms Abbott is among those who have called for the policy to be scrapped, claiming the move was “easily affordable”.

Other senior Labour figures to have criticised it include deputy leader, Angela Rayner, who called it “cruel and inhumane”, and the shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, Jonathan Ashworth.

Labour has been under sustained pressure to commit to abolishing the cap but Sir Keir has said he will keep it in place, albeit reluctantly, citing the need for fiscal prudence.

News in brief

SCOTLAND

'No solution to missing votes'

Scotland's First Minister, John Swinney, said there was "nothing that can be done" about postal votes that have not yet arrived for voters who are now overseas.

The SNP leader said he had "made it very clear some people will be disenfranchised" if their postal votes cannot be filled out and returned on time.

Mr Swinney said there had been "significant reports of people who were trying to vote by post who had applied properly before the deadline of 19 June".

Local councils are responsible for sending ballot forms to voters.

ENVIRONMENT

UK 'must prepare for more wildfires'

Firefighters are urging the next government to prepare for the affects of rising temperatures in the wake of the latest heatwave.

The Fire Brigades Union said there had been wildfires across much of the country, warning that the fire and rescue service was "fragmented, overstretched and chronically underfunded".

The union called for urgent investment to prevent a repeat of fires in the summer of 2022, when it claimed the emergency services were pushed to breaking point.

EMPLOYMENT

Security guards strike over pay

Jobcentre security guards are set to begin a week-long strike today in an escalation of a pay dispute.

The GMB said 1,500 of its members employed by G4S will walk out. It added that 90 per cent of the guards are paid the minimum wage.

A G4S spokesman said: "We urge the GMB to present our offer to our employees, which is both above minimum wage and inflation."

The strike will continue until Saturday.

ECONOMY

'Mortgages set to stay high': what election will mean for our money

IFS director Paul Johnson answers **i** readers' queries. By **Grace Gausden**

Mortgages will remain high in the future but that could help first-time buyers, Paul Johnson, the director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), has said.

Interest rates are likely to fall this year but will remain much higher than they have for most of the past 16 years and this is likely to keep house prices in check, he said as he answered **i** readers' questions about what the election means for them.

He also suggested that raising council tax for people living in the most expensive properties could be an effective way to raise money to fund public services.

Mr Johnson, head of one of the UK's leading economics research institutes, has been vocal throughout the election campaign, examining what the parties' manifestos really mean for voters. He has cast particular doubt on any new government's spending plans, warning that they would be dependent on economic growth.

Here Mr Johnson answers the readers' questions.

Do any of the parties have a sensible offer for the future funding of social care? Paul Wheeler

The straightforward answer is no. Nobody has got anything to say about putting more money into the social care system.

Many people need social care and it's taking up more and more of local authorities' budgets. It's one reason why some authorities have gone bust. I've not heard any party say there's more money available.

Then there's the second issue, which is about whether people who have assets or income should pay for social care at all. The proposition from the current Government was that if you have spent up to £86,000 on personal care over your lifetime, the state would pick up the rest of the costs.

My understanding is that the two bigger parties are still committed to achieving that.

What would be the best way to alter or replace council tax to make it fairer but also to raise more money for local government? Helene Grygar

Council tax is definitely one tax that needs changing. We're in the absurd situation where the amount of tax you pay is based on what your house or flat was worth in 1991.

The Government should revalue homes. However, this is favourable to people in London and the south and unfavourable for people in the North and the Midlands as property values are a lot higher in the south.



Paul Johnson, the head of the Institute for Fiscal Studies

**It's Sir Ed Wavey**

Liberal Democrats leader Sir Ed Davey (centre) takes part in a water aerobics class while campaigning in Cheltenham yesterday. MATTHEW HORWOOD/GETTY

The other obstacle is that the system is essentially regressive, so the more valuable your house, the lower the fraction of the value you pay in council tax. Put all that together and you'll find that Buckingham Palace has less council tax on it than many three-bed properties in Blackpool.

If you wanted to raise more money for local government, I think you would increase the amount that you're asking people in more expensive properties to pay.

Labour suggests it would fund its pledges through economic growth and chasing down tax dodgers, both of which seem vague at best. If their plans failed, would this mean a massive addition to our huge national debt pile? Michael McErlean

I don't really know what a Labour government would do if growth doesn't rise. The issue is that unless we get considerably more growth than we're expecting with taxes at the present level, there is basically going to be no more money for most public services.

At worst, it means further cuts to some public services.

However, the amount of money you can get from clamping down on tax avoidance is fairly small.

Ultimately, my answer is – and I think this is my beef with all the manifestos – that we don't know whether this would add to our national debt pile.

Is the cost of Brexit standing at £150bn? Assuming we had stayed in the EU would this cost have been avoided and cleared the UK's public sector financial black hole? Tim White

There have clearly been costs to leaving but the question is whether some of those are actually just created by the political chaos that we have had.

I think that even if we stayed in the EU, the difference might have been less than people expect.

That said, we've clearly made trade with our biggest, nearest and richest trading partner more expensive. The trade intensity of the UK economy has dropped in a way that it hasn't in other economies.

How much effect has this had on the size of the economy? Well, the Office for Budget Responsibility thinks that in the long run our economy might be about 4 per cent smaller as a result of Brexit, roughly £125bn. Whether we've lost that amount already is uncertain.

So, yes, we would be somewhat better off had Brexit never



Are you being informed or influenced?



LABOUR

Labour drops Blair spin but discipline will be tested

Isabel Hardman



When Tony Blair held his first cabinet meeting as prime minister in May 1997, he set out some rules. There had been too much chattering to the media. Every interview had to be cleared with his spin doctor, Alastair Campbell.

They weren't going to be like the shambles of the last Tory government. Campbell had already noted in his diaries a few days previously that the media could see New Labour had "quickly established control".

Control was one of the big themes of that Labour government. This time next week, Keir Starmer could probably be at that very same stage as Campbell was recalling. Ministers confirmed, agenda under way and the first cabinet meeting looming.

Freshly elected Labour MPs would be coming into Parliament for the first time. He'd also be working out what "control" looks like in 2024, and how to maintain it.

The Starmer Labour Party doesn't have the overbearing spin doctor of the Blair years. That era of total control has well and truly passed. MPs are much more likely to say something daft on Twitter, or to feel the pressure of voters on particular issues such as the war in Gaza or welfare reforms so acutely that they decide to step outside the party line. It's not so much a call from a newspaper political editor that politicians fear now as it is a social media storm.

Early on, Starmer will have to decide how controlling he wants to be over his MPs when it comes to key decisions on benefits, including whether Labour really is going to retain the controversial two-child benefit limit. There was no promise to scrap this policy in the party's manifesto, and the Labour leader has taken a lot of heat for saying that he will only do things the

country can afford. But there is still a very strong belief among his backbenchers that he might change his mind once the hurly-burly of an election campaign is over.

Starmer himself has said he is "not immune" to arguments about scrapping the cap, which means that if he decides not to get rid of it, he will still disappoint his MPs. At that point, he will have to decide how difficult he should make life for members who sound off in the media or on Twitter about the cap.

An early mistake that the Labour whips made in the late 1990s was that they largely let the hard left of the party do as it pleased. Starmer hasn't totally abolished that wing of Labour, and it will still be able to make a fair bit of noise about welfare policy and other emotive issues, to the extent that softer-left members feel under pressure to speak out and even rebel early on. The Labour whips will need to decide how tough their discipline should be in response to these early rebellions.

Whipping in the 2020s is very different to the operations back in the 1990s – and that's largely a good thing. It is much harder for a whip to threaten an MP in the way it used to be, and the threshold for the media printing leaked salacious stories is far higher than it was



Early on, Starmer will have to decide how controlling he wants to be over his MPs

30 years ago, when sexuality and marital problems were considered fair game.

Patronage isn't what it was, either: there are opportunities for MPs to get a profile as campaigning backbenchers or on select committees to the extent that being a junior minister is less attractive than it used to be.

Anyway, there won't be enough jobs to go round a huge Labour Party in Parliament. Starmer's allies have been briefing heavily that they won't make the same mistake as Blair did in reshuffling his ministers too often.

That is good for government – or will be if Starmer manages it – but it also means that the promise of promotion will still require quite a bit of patience for a new MP who will know they might not make it into a government department for quite a few years.

Many Labour candidates are top-notch and have done some very impressive things outside Parliament, so they will resent any attempt by the party leadership to patronise them and treat them as mere lobby fodder: Starmer will need to work out ways of making his backbenchers feel useful.

The Labour leader has shown he can be ruthless in changing the party, but getting rid of candidates who don't share your values is a very different sort of control to governing. Along with many other things, we still don't know how much of a control freak Starmer would be.

Isabel Hardman is the assistant editor of 'The Spectator' magazine

occurred. I don't know by how much though.

What will happen to interest rates? How long will it take for the property market to rally and sale prices to improve after the election, if at all?

BM Shaughnessy

I think we could expect interest rates to start falling after the election, but I'd be very surprised if they fall anywhere near back to where they were in the 2010s.

This means mortgage rates won't go down to where they were over the last period, when rates were as low as 1 per cent, which probably means that house prices are not going to grow much at all. Mortgages are going to be more expensive than they were.

But I think there are some real upsides to this. More than a decade of zero-interest rates was very damaging to the British economy and to the distribution of assets between older and younger generations.

In a strange kind of way, higher interest rates might help younger people get on the housing ladder.

If house prices don't go up or

even come down, that makes it a bit easier to scrape that deposit together.

Given the recent answers from Labour concerning taxation, placing a reliance on growth, how realistic is the achievement of its objectives in a period of five years?

Brian Blackshaw

Labour's manifesto is interesting in the sense that it hasn't got very much at all in terms of specific spending commitments.

There's no money committed, for example, to reducing child poverty but there is a clear ambition to reduce it. The manifesto has lots of strategies, for example to get rid of waiting lists – but that's really hard to achieve unless you're going to spend a lot of additional money.

They have been careful not to be precise about exactly what they want to achieve.

You get the sense that they want to deal with big issues but haven't given very precise numerical targets.

They haven't allocated any cash to achieving those things.

£125bn

The amount Brexit is forecast to cost the UK economy; it is not clear how much has already been lost

Join 8m digital readers this election who demand intelligent, impartial journalism - only £1 for one month.

Search **i newspaper**



New Labour, under Tony Blair (left) and his spin doctor Alastair Campbell, 'quickly established control' after the 1997 general election victory PA

CONSERVATIVES

'Defeated' Sunak in final appeal to limit damage

By Arj Singh

DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

Rishi Sunak will today make a last-ditch plea to traditional Tory voters to stay loyal rather than back Reform, in language bordering on an admission of defeat.

He will urge voters to return Conservative MPs to "make sure your voice is heard" against a Labour government with a large majority.

While Tory campaign messaging shifted two weeks ago to warn against giving Sir Keir Starmer a "blank cheque", this is the clearest admission yet from the Prime Minister that his party is on course to lose Thursday's poll.

Mr Sunak is expected to warn that a big Labour victory "would be a disaster from which it would take decades to recover", while promising that every Tory MP elected "will stand up for you and make sure your voice is heard, your values represented" – the first time he has mentioned being in opposition.

His comments appear targeted at around 130,000 voters considering backing Reform or the Liberal Democrats, who could prevent a big Labour majority if they vote Tory,



Rishi Sunak on the BBC's 'Sunday With Laura Kuennsberg' yesterday

POLITICS

Leadership hopefuls risk losing allies

By Hugo Gye and Arj Singh

The future of the Conservative Party leadership could be heavily dependent on the result of the general election – with a number of contenders to replace Rishi Sunak likely to lose key Commons allies, according to **i** analysis.

Possible leadership candidates, including Kemi Badenoch (*inset*), Dame Priti Patel and Tom Tugendhat, may be left without their existing supporters if current polling proves accurate.

Manoeuvring for the leadership is understood to be largely on hold, despite the expectation in Westminster that Mr Sunak will resign if the



Tories suffer a massive loss. "No one knows who's going to survive," one MP told **i**. Uncertainty also remains over the make up of any future contest and whether it would use the same rules.

Most of those who are tipped to stand for the leadership also ran in 2022, when Liz Truss defeated Mr Sunak, or considered running.

Many Westminster observers have long predicted that the next Tory leader would come from the right of the party.

But one MP insisted that a more centrist figure like Mr Tugendhat could unite the party, saying that activists "just want a no-nonsense military guy".

i Mr Sunak will also claim that a Starmer government would look to entrench power by **extending the vote to 16-year-olds**.

according to analysis highlighted by the Conservative Party.

Mr Sunak admitted yesterday that he was "fighting very hard" for votes but when asked whether he thought he would still be in Downing Street after the election, he told the BBC's *Sunday with Laura Kuennsberg*: "Yes."

Speaking later today at a rally, the Prime Minister will repeat contested claims that Labour would put up taxes by £2,094 for all families and that Sir Keir's desire for closer EU ties could mean as many as 100,000 extra immigrants to the UK annually.

Mr Sunak will say: "If they get the kind of majority, the supermajority the polls suggest, they will set about entrenching themselves in power."

"They will rewrite the rules to make it harder for anyone to replace them."

"I tell you this: once you have handed Keir Starmer and Labour a blank cheque, you won't be able to get it back."

"A Labour government would be bad for our country, and an unchecked Labour government would be a disaster from which it would take decades to recover."

"We Conservatives will stand up for you and make sure your voice is heard, your values represented."

Fact checkers have said the £2,000 claim is misleading as it would be spread over four years.

Senior figures in the Treasury also said the figure "should not be presented as having been produced by the Civil Service".

ENVIRONMENT



Farmers issue warning to Starmer over lack of funding promises

By Lucie Heath

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

Cutting agricultural funding could put farms out of business and thwart efforts to reduce pollution in rivers, farmers have warned, as they fear Labour could be about to slash their budget.

In an interview with **i**, Rachel Hallos, the vice president of the National Farmers Union (NFU), said there were "real concerns" about Labour's manifesto that could leave the industry "going backwards".

It is the only major party that failed to mention the agricultural budget in its manifesto, with the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Green Party all promising to boost the money given to farmers by varying degrees.

Labour also made no mention of the budget in its National Policy Forum, a package of policies published in October.

The omission has led to fears in the agricultural industry that funding could be reduced, as Labour looks to prioritise other areas such as the NHS and education.

Ms Hallos said Labour's lack of commitment to date on agricultural funding is "a big, big concern".

Parts of the UK farming industry are facing scrutiny over the pollution



of rivers. While the NFU has lobbied against tougher environmental regulations on farmers in the past, Ms Hallos insisted the sector was serious about tackling pollution, but needed funding from Government.

Asked whether a funding cut under Labour would jeopardise work to tackle pollution, Ms Hallos said: "It's logical... If you're doing an action on your farm, which is of course the right thing to do, to stop



Rachel Hallos says farmers are serious about tackling pollution

water pollution, to stop any pollution... where is the margin in your business to invest in that? Because there's no return.

"There may be a return in other ways, as in reducing pollution, enhancing the environment, but that's not a monetary return and businesses can't run on nothing."

Just 14 per cent of our rivers are in good ecological health, far from the Government's legal target of 77 per cent by 2027.

According to The Rivers Trust, agriculture is the largest driver behind the demise of our rivers, even greater than sewage pollution.

Agricultural pollution is typically caused by fertiliser and animal waste washing into rivers when it rains. The nutrients in this waste can cause algal blooms, restricting oxygen levels in the water and killing aquatic life.

In response to growing public anger over the state of Britain's waterways, **i** is calling on all the political parties to commit to a five-point manifesto to protect our rivers.

It includes the pledge that farmers must be better funded to improve water quality and face enforcement action from the Environment Agency when they flout environmental regulations.

The NFU has previously been



The Rivers Trust says agriculture is a major contributor to pollution in rivers GETTY

Budget Farming funds

Farmers are given funding from the Government to help them with food production and investment in their businesses.

Before Brexit, this money came from the EU and was linked to how much land a farmer owned. Now it comes from the UK Government for farmers in England, and the devolved Governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This funding is now contingent on farmers making environmental improvements on their land.

The farming budget currently sits at £3.6bn across the UK, but the NFU has argued this must be increased to £5.5bn if farmers are to meet food demand and make environmental improvements.

A 2023 study commissioned by the National Trust, the Wildlife Trusts and the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) found the Government must invest at least £4.4bn a year in nature-friendly farming to meet the UK's environment goals.

But Labour's manifesto contained no mention of the agricultural budget, beyond a promise to make environmental land management schemes "work for farmers and nature".

In comparison, the Tories vowed to increase the farming budget by £1bn over five years, or £200m per year – an amount described as "modest" by wildlife charities.

The Liberal Democrats said that they would increase the budget by £1bn per year, while the Green Party said it will almost triple financial support for farmers to help them produce food in a more sustainable manner.

Labour, which polls suggest is almost certain to win the election, has largely avoided making spending promises in its manifesto, arguing that it does not want to make unfunded pledges. The party has set itself tight fiscal rules on spending and borrowing.

Lucie Heath

Save Britain's Rivers – 2024 manifesto

-  **#1 Improve river health**
-  **#2 Cut sewage spills**
-  **#3 Tougher watchdog**
-  **#4 100 clean bathing sites**
-  **#5 Responsible farming**

accused of lobbying against tougher regulations that could reduce pollution in rivers.

Asked what she would say to critics who think the environment is not a priority for the NFU, Ms Hallos said: "We're a member organisation. We've got to look at everything that happens, and look at what this means for our farmers."

She insisted that farmers "care about the quality of water in rivers and take their environmental responsibilities seriously", but said they need "further support" from Government to help them farm in a nature-friendly manner.

There are many things that can be done on farms to reduce their impact on rivers, including the creation of "buffer strips" that slow the flow of run off into waters.

Farmers can already access funding to do this type of work through the Government's post-Brexit Environmental Land Management schemes.

These have been brought in as the old EU basic payment system for farmers is phased out. But they have been repeatedly delayed and farmers have complained about struggling to access the funding.

A spokesperson for the Conservative Party said it has "backed British farmers with more money, more choice and more trust", saying Labour has "refused to commit to a single penny for agriculture".

A Labour spokesperson said: "Labour has been clear that we are committed to the Environment Land Management schemes."

"We will cut through the Tory bureaucracy that has blocked farmers from receiving funding for work that strengthens domestic food security, and protect nature on their land."

£4.4bn

Amount that a 2023 study recommended be invested by the Government in nature-friendly farming

LIVERPOOL

Starmmer vote should be assumed... but isn't

Anger at austerity in traditional Labour-voting area. By **Steve Robson**

Down at Liverpool's North Docks, Everton football club's new £800m stadium appears tantalisingly close to completion. It is a symbol of the city's regeneration, but may mask deep-rooted economic problems which must be tackled by whichever party wins the election next week.

In the shadow of this monument to Liverpool's cultural and sporting excellence live some of the poorest people in the country.

Liverpool Riverside – stretching for eight miles along the Mersey – is the most deprived of the 543 constituencies in England according to a briefing paper produced by the House of Commons Library which measured indices such as income, employment and health outcomes.

It takes in the luxury apartments and attractions of the city centre, and neighbourhoods such as Toxteth and Vauxhall where communities have never recovered from the post-industrial decline accelerated by the premiership of Margaret Thatcher.

Voting Labour here has historically been non-negotiable and Kim Johnson is defending a majority of more than 37,000 votes. But when I visited last week there were signs of discontent that should worry the party.

In Dingle, a working-class area in south Liverpool viewed as a traditional Labour heartland, voters told Ms Johnson they do not trust Keir Starmer and several said they would be voting for Reform instead.

Ms Johnson is in a battle with Reform UK's Gary Hincks for the seat, with several other candidates also standing. But even the Labour candidate has shown little enthusiasm for her party's leader. She is disappointed that Sir Keir will not commit to scrapping the two-child limit on benefits which would lift an estimated 300,000 children out of poverty.

"Kids are going to school with empty bellies," she said. "[Removing the limit] would be a starting point."

"From my point of view it's a nasty policy of punishment that the Tories brought in."

Ms Johnson also raised concerns about the Labour leader's judgement, criticising his decision to place an advert in *The Sun* newspaper, which remains deeply unpopular in Liverpool because of its coverage of the Hillsborough football stadium disaster.

Vowing to stand up to Sir Keir from the back benches, Ms Johnson said: "You have to be brave. From my point of view, agreeing with everything the leadership says is not going to be good for the party – we've always been a broad church."

Listening to people in Liverpool, it is easy to understand why Ms



Kim Johnson campaigns in Dingle to be re-elected Liverpool Riverside MP

Johnson might feel she needs to take a more radical stance than the party leadership.

At Rotunda, a charity based in Kirkdale just a short stroll from the new Everton stadium, food bank volunteers are handing out bags of shopping to a steady stream of visitors.

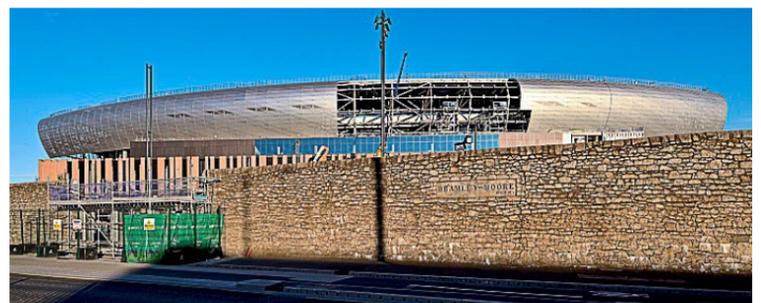
"It's not means tested, we're like a family," the charity's chief executive Maxine Ennis said. "Once they walk through the door, which is the hardest thing, once we've got them we can help them, we can build up their self-esteem."

"People will come and say 'I've got no gas [because I can't afford to top up the meter] can you help me?' and we can. 'Nobody wants to be in that position. People want to be able to afford their rent, to feed their children and that's not happening.'"

People want to be able to afford their rent, to feed their children and that's not happening



Maxine Ennis, the chief executive of the Rotunda charity in Kirkdale



Everton stadium in Liverpool's North Docks TONY McARDLE/EVERTON FC/GETTY

During the austerity years, Ms Ennis said she saw local government retreat from places such as Kirkdale and the charity has had to expand its provision.

Rotunda started out 40 years ago as a small educational provider and when Ms Ennis joined in 2009 it had only four staff and a turnover of £150,000 a year.

It now employs 30 members of staff, has a turnover of £1.5m a year and helps local people with everything from childcare to fuel vouchers to teaching courses.

"When people have nowhere else to turn because services have been slashed, we've had to step in," Ms Ennis said. "When the Tory government came in, these services just withdrew. 'I would say that people have felt disenfranchised, disengaged, disillusioned by the decisions being made about them.'"

Labour has refused to commit to more funding for local councils if it is elected on Thursday and continues to insist there will be no tax rises, amid fears there will be fresh cuts to public services to balance the books.

For Ms Ennis, that would be, she said, devastating. "We need to see a change," she added. "People want to work, they don't want to walk into that shed and take a loaf of bread."

Not far from Rotunda, Scott, a 35-year-old father of two, said the problem is that working simply doesn't pay enough.

"My gas and electric has gone up from £70-90 a month to £200, then you've got council tax, fuel, it's like, where does it stop?"

Back in Dingle, friends Irene and Karen gave Ms Johnson and Labour councillor Steve Munby a laundry list of complaints they want to see sorted out before they will commit to voting for the party.

"I go to work full-time but at the end of the month I'm borrowing," said Irene. "Starmer, I don't trust him. There's got to be change, Labour need to stand up for working-class people."

Another friend, who declined to give her name, said she had already sent off her postal vote.

"I've voted Reform instead of Labour," she admitted. "My mother will be rolling in her grave. They've done f**k all for this area so I've taken a chance on Reform."

LABOUR

Fudge is no substitute in power for foreign policy

Anne McElvoy



This time next week, Britain will have a new government and there is not much need for a spoiler alert warning about its likely complexion. The conch is likely to pass to Sir Keir Starmer's Labour Party – and so will responsibility for Britain's security, international outlook and its place in the world.

The delivery of a “safe campaign” has meant that many arguments about this have gone untested.

Foreign policy in Keir-world is handled with blandness and occasionally policy shuffles on questions like Gaza, where the party's base is now considerably more hostile to Israel than the Labour leadership – at least as far as we know.

This is unlikely to remain fudgeable when Sir Keir and his foreign secretary designate, David Lammy, rule the foreign policy roost. One big factor will be decisive, namely that a Labour government looks increasingly likely to be facing Donald Trump in the White House – a misalignment of centre-left and right-wing politics which will test the transatlantic relationship.

The lamentable performance of President Biden in the TV debate last week suggests the chances of him surviving the summer months as candidate for the White House, let alone being re-elected, have plummeted.

So Labour has to start thinking about how its choices on the international stage can withstand a less dependable key ally. The main risk to this is that on a number of key issues, the Starmer-Lammy



Donald Trump could prove a difficult ally for a future Labour government AP

approach risks appearing so fungible that it throws into doubt the strongest card Britain can play: reliability.

Having spoken to Starmer last year in his first major foreign policy interview, I experienced him as an earnest if nervous domestic politician, consulting copious notes before giving answers. I have also charted Lammy's journey from a punchy “whatever it takes” support for Israel after 7 October to a convoluted stance on the terms of ceasefires and broader policy today.

Lammy's interview in *The Sunday Times* alerts us to a tendency to be opaque: “People were calling for a ceasefire at the end of October. Our view was we were not going to see a ceasefire at that point. We should call for a pause. And guess what? We got that pause.”

This is the kind of small-bore debate technique that serves to deal with calls in Labour for a more

overtly hostile treatment of Israel. It is a word salad with no very clear edge about what the UK should do or not do. Labour will have to step out of that zone – and the tendency to say one thing which in a few weeks turns out to mean entirely another or not much at all.

Some strains are already emerging around their slipperiness. When Starmer, keen to cauterise Gaza as an electoral threat, included a manifesto pledge to recognise a Palestinian state, this was a red flag to the Biden administration, which has made

clear that it intends this goal to be pushed unilaterally and not by spontaneous declarations.

Messages from the UK embassy in Washington DC were, I gather, “salty”, according to one source. Starmer has since made clear that this is more aspiration than pledge, which effectively makes it a non-statement.

Beneath the surface, there are incongruities in Labour's views. The US ambassador Jane Hartley indicated that while Lammy has effectively backed calls for Israel's leader Benjamin Netanyahu to face an arrest warrant over alleged war crimes, his leader has not supported this view: “I don't think Keir Starmer has said that, has he?” Touché. In opposition, this doesn't matter; in government, it matters a lot.

Labour has a solid, experienced incoming defence secretary in John Healey, but little sense so



Lammy's Israel stance is a word salad with no clear edge about what the UK should do

far of joined-up thinking which links the defence and foreign policy arguments.

How far, for instance, do Starmer and Lammy want to engage with China, which is what more alignment with the EU's position suggests? Or are they more inclined to follow a lead from the US (which is likely to become more insistent whoever wins in November) that allies should separate themselves from supply-chain reliance on Beijing?

A Trump administration may not bail on Ukraine – though the knee-jerk language of Trump about “sorting it” fast if he wins suggests he does not intend to hang around spending more on shoring up Volodymyr Zelensky's government without some change in the recipe.

Sticking close to the Government's approach will not fend off tricky questions then – there is still no timeline on matching the 2.5 per cent defence spending rise, which Washington regards as the basic satisfactory level for a key ally.

Given that Starmer blocked a Sunak appointment to Washington as ambassador, he must have some idea of what kind of diplomacy he would like in DC – but few have much idea what that could be.

A poll by Public First this weekend suggests the opposition leader remains a mystery for much of the population.

As soon as the congratulatory calls from the world capitals have made their way through the Downing Street switchboard, expectations of more clarity will be pressing.

That is the thrill and responsibility of real power – and also the place where a benign interest in a new leader morphs rapidly into the question around the summits: “What is that new guy from Britain really for?”

Anne McElvoy hosts the 'Power Play' podcast for the 'Politico' website

150GB
half price
for the first six months

Ends 25.07



Scan to shop

BIG DEALS FOR ALL
On The Nation's Network



Delegates wear Nigel Farage masks at a Reform UK rally in Birmingham yesterday
HOLLIE ADAMS/REUTERS



DIPLOMACY

The new transatlantic axis may be forged by Farage and Trump

Populists could feed off each other and cause difficulties. By **Arj Singh**

The startling decline of two of the mainstays of British and American politics – the Conservatives and Joe Biden – has opened up the prospect of a new alignment between the UK and US.

But instead of the next prime minister forming bonds with the presidential candidate, insiders say it is Reform UK's Nigel Farage who will be the "natural ally" of Donald Trump.

Farage and Trump have already worked in tandem to create issues for the British prime minister of the day.

One well-placed former diplomat said the Reform leader "pumped up" Trump to criticise Theresa May during Brexit negotiations, with the then president in 2018 saying the UK prime minister "didn't listen to me" on how to conduct the talks, including his idea to "sue the EU".

A year later, Trump also remarked on "how badly" May handled the negotiations, warning it was "tearing a country apart".

Farage went on to embarrass the then prime minister by becoming the first global politician to meet Trump after his 2016 election win at a time when the UK Government was prioritising a US trade deal as the major prize of Brexit.

Now, amid a Tory collapse, Farage looks on course to finally become an MP at the eighth attempt, with a YouGov poll putting him 20

points ahead of Rishi Sunak's party in Clacton.

Meanwhile, Trump is narrowly ahead in several US polls looking ahead to November's presidential election, a position bolstered by President Biden's shaky performance in the first head-to-head presidential debate in which he lost his train of thought, slurred his words and stared open-mouthed while waiting to speak.

It raises a prospect that will be cheered by populists on both sides of the Atlantic – Trump in the White House at the same time Farage sits in the Commons.

It is a scenario that diplomats, former government insiders and foreign policy experts say could lead to the two outspoken politicians "feeding off each other", potentially causing embarrassment for the



Nigel Farage and Donald Trump could egg one another on

likely prime minister Sir Keir Starmer. Paul Harrison, May's former press secretary, said: "Working with President Trump as an international partner obviously posed some very significant and quite visible challenges to Theresa May when she was PM."

Being second or third or even further down the line to meet Trump may prove beneficial to Starmer, given how many Labour MPs will be opposed to the Republican's presidency, Harrison added.

"But we shouldn't forget that what underpins this is a really serious national collaboration, particularly on security policy, that is fundamental to the safety and wellbeing of both countries."

Starmer will face "much more significant" challenges than May "because of the way that lots of Labour MPs will be disposed towards Trump", he said, and Farage in the Commons "probably" makes it even harder.

"Farage has made a political career of being a nuisance-maker and Parliament will give him a new platform, so it does add to the awkwardness for a new Labour administration," said Harrison.

He raised the prospect of Farage holding "back-channel" discussions with Trump that could lead to the potential president hearing different messages from the UK than those approved by the Labour government. While

high-level diplomacy can only be conducted leader to leader, "if both Trump is elected and Farage gets into the Commons, Trump will see him as one of his most natural allies in the UK".

"Trump and Farage do have a rapport, at the same time as Keir Starmer is maybe trying to establish one," Harrison said.

When it comes to the issue of Russia, the Conservative former foreign secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind said that Trump would be more of a "problem" than Farage because the Republican could upset Western unity on Ukraine, whereas the Reform leader is merely a "nuisance".

But Bronwen Maddox, the director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, a think-tank, suggested that Farage could inspire Trump into a more hardline position on Ukraine.

She said populist figures like Trump, Farage and France's Marine le Pen, whose party could be in government in France after its current parliamentary election, "feed off each other, they gain energy from each other".

"Will he inspire Trump to do wild things, particularly on Ukraine? Possibly," Maddox said.

"I don't think he [Trump] will but [he may think] 'Here are some people in Europe that aren't completely hostile to Putin'. It's possible [Farage] would reinforce Trump."

REFORM UK

Candidate quits over 'failure of leadership'

By **Nina Lloyd**

A Reform UK candidate has criticised a "failure of leadership" over allegations of racism within the party as he stepped down and backed the Conservatives in another blow to Nigel Farage's campaign.

Liam Booth-Isherwood, who was standing in the seat of Erewash, said he was endorsing Tory contender Maggie Throup to "stop Labour".

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

But he has urged voters in the Derbyshire constituency to support Conservative Ms Throup, who has represented Erewash since 2015.

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

"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, and 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."

It comes after Mr Farage faced accusations of failing to tackle the allegations of racism within Reform that have engulfed the party.

At a Reform rally in Birmingham yesterday he insisted that "the bad apples are gone" after withdrawing support for three candidates.

Campaigners for Reform in the Clacton seat Mr Farage hopes to win in Essex were also recorded by an undercover journalist from Channel 4 making racist comments, including about the Prime Minister, who is of Indian descent.

The footage showed canvasser Andrew Parker using a slur about Mr Sunak and suggesting migrants should be used as "target practice".

Another activist described the Pride flag as "degenerate" and suggested members of the LGBT community are paedophiles. Mr Farage suggested that Mr Parker, an actor, was used as a "plant" by Channel 4 in its investigation – a claim the broadcaster strenuously denies.

Reform has dropped support for candidates Leslie Lilley in Southend East and Rochford, Edward Oakfull in Derbyshire Dales, and Robert Lomas in Barnsley North.

They will appear on the ballot paper but have lost party backing.



Anti-racism protesters were escorted away from the Reform rally

HEALTH

Eating too much processed food linked to risk of early death

By Tom Bawden
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

People who eat large amounts of ultra processed foods (UPFs), such as processed meat and soft drinks, are considerably more likely to die early than those who eat smaller amounts, a study has suggested.

Researchers from the National Cancer Institute in the US found that older adults – aged between 50 and

71 – who consumed higher amounts of UPFs were about 10 per cent more likely to die over an average follow-up period compared with those who consumed less processed food.

High UPF consumption “was associated with modest increases in death from any cause and from deaths related specifically to heart disease or diabetes”, but no association was found for cancer-related deaths, researchers said.

The research drew data from more than 540,000 people who provided information about their eating habits and health in the mid-1990s, when they were between 50 and 71 years of age. Over half of the participants have since died.

“Our study results indicate that ultra-processed food intake adversely impacts health and longevity,” said Erika Loftfield, of the National Cancer Institute.

She and other experts recommend limiting sugar-sweetened beverages and processed meats such as hot dogs, sausages and deli meat.

The study was “observational” meaning that it did not definitively prove UPFs caused early deaths, allowing for the possibility that there may be another reason for the link although the data showed an increased likelihood.

Professor Rosie Green, of the Lon-

don School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who was not involved in the research, said: “This study adds to the evidence on relationships between UPFs and health by following up a very large cohort over more than 20 years after measuring their diets.

“However, the diets of the participants were measured 30 years ago and so it’s difficult to say how dietary habits might have changed between then and now.”

We’ve designed a new logo especially for our customers

Specsavers

TRAVEL



The A380-800 aircraft has returned to favour with several operators AFP

Soaring demand sees superjumbos make a comeback

By Caolan Magee

The world’s largest passenger airliner – otherwise known as the “super-jumbo” – is making a swift comeback after production was halted in 2021.

During Covid-19, many A380s worldwide went into storage, with industry experts predicting the planes would be scrapped in the years to come.

But with the production expansion of Boeing’s 737 Max halted, while Heathrow is recording its highest ever passenger numbers and as industry booms in the developing world, airlines are reviving their reliable stock of A380s, to the delight of the aviation community.

Comments this week from the head of Airbus’s civil aircraft division, Christian Scherer, sparked excitement when he told *Hamburger Abendblatt* that: “The door is closed, but it is not locked. In industry, nothing is ever ruled out.”

He was discussing the possibility of the company restarting production, though he noted that the likelihood was slim.

“The A380 is an iconic aircraft in the aviation industry, one of a kind, and due to its ‘double-decker’ passenger decks,” said Kata Cserep,



A lavatory and shower inside an Emirates ‘superjumbo’ GETTY

i BA is in discussions with Airbus about **potentially acquiring new A380-800s**, according to sources reported by Bloomberg news.

global head of aviation, PA Consulting. “Plus due to its rarity, it is a plane spotter’s favourite.”

An Emirates A380 offers seat capacity for 519 passengers, with 14 in first class, 76 in business class and 429 in economy class.

According to Airbus, this makes it the world’s largest and most spacious passenger aircraft, which has flown more than 800,000 flights carrying more than 300 million passengers since its entry into service.

It had cost \$25bn (£19.7bn) to develop by 2014. While the aim had been to challenge the dominance of the Boeing 747 in the long-haul market, it failed to reach similar levels of popularity, and only around 250 A380s were built, compared with over 1,500 of the 747s.

But since the pandemic, the airline industry has been booming.

In 2022, global air traffic passenger demand grew by over 64 per cent compared with the previous year.

This figure is forecast to grow by 9.8 per cent by the end of 2024.

Ms Cserep said: “Post-pandemic air travel recovery has seen a significant increase in passenger numbers, especially on high-density routes like London to Dubai, London to Los Angeles, Dubai to Sydney, London to Singapore; it makes the A380’s large capacity advantageous.”

Etihad airlines restarted flights with the A380 in 2023.

UNITED STATES

Debate disaster leaves Democrats split over Biden

By Victoria Crow

US President Joe Biden's family and an inner "troika" of advisers will be critical to any decision over whether he stands aside as Democratic candidate in a move that could come as early as this week, a US political expert has said.

It comes as Democrats appear divided on whether Mr Biden should remain in the 2024 White House race as he attempted to shake off concerns over his rambling performance in last week's debate.

Top democrats such as Raphael Warnock and Hakeem Jeffries have insisted he stay in the race, yet high-profile political operatives, the *New York Times* editorial board and Atlanta Journal-Constitution have called for him to step aside with five months until election day.

Democratic National Committee (DNC) members described feeling "gaslit" after a call to discuss the subject raising fears the performance was not being taken seriously enough.

"I was hoping for more of a substantive conversation," said Joe Salazar, an elected DNC member from Colorado. "There were a number of things that could have been said in addressing the situation. But we didn't get that. We were being gaslit."

Donors are also making discreet inquiries about the little-known rules for how a replacement might be chosen, according to US media reports. Reid Hoffman, a co-founder of LinkedIn and one of the Democratic Party's most influential donors,

wrote in an email that he had been inundated with queries.

"I got a lot of emails in the last 24 hours asking whether there should be a public campaign to pressure President Biden to step aside after his (very) bad debate performance last night," he wrote in the email, which was seen by Reuters.

"It certainly delivered a blow to the mood among donors and organisers."

University of Nottingham's Associate Professor of American History, Christopher Phelps said Democrats will be carrying out secret polling in key swing states that could determine the election result.

First Lady Jill Biden, Joe Biden's younger sister Valerie Biden Owens and an inner "troika" of long-standing and close-knit advisers including former White House chief of staff Ron Klain, strategist Mike Donilon and former US Senator Ted Kaufman will be his closest and most trusted confidants on the issue and will also probably be fielding calls from top Democratic donors, he said.

"If it's clear that Biden is going to drag down the whole ticket... then the family might say, you know, let's not go through with it."

i Professor Phelps said while candidates such as Gavin Newsom and Gretchen Whitmer may be working behind the scenes, this will not be "detectable" as they will not want to undermine Mr Biden.



President Joe Biden with his wife Jill in New York on Saturday EVAN VUCCI/AP

Replacing Biden The options

Mr Biden's faltering performance at Thursday's debate has led to questions as to whether he should be replaced as the Democratic candidate. There is a process for doing so, but it would be messy.

Elaine Kamarck, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Brookings Institution think-tank, said he ran virtually unopposed for the party's presidential nomination this year but that there is still time to make a change.

Mr Biden could decide himself to step aside before he is nominated; he could be challenged by others who try to win over the delegates he

has accrued; or he could withdraw after the Democratic convention in Chicago next month, leaving the Democratic National Committee to elect someone to run against Trump in his place.

Right now, the process largely depends on the President. So far Mr Biden has shown no indication of wanting to step aside and no opponents have challenged him directly.

Some of his top potential replacements – Vice President Kamala Harris (inset) and California Governor Gavin Newsom – spoke passionately in his defence after the debate. REUTERS



Comment

Americans 'heartbroken' by President's woeful performance

Simon Marks
IN WASHINGTON, DC

The UK is managing to hold an election in a time frame of six weeks. The French will soon have accomplished theirs – in just one month. India, with 969 million voters, wrapped everything up in a mere 44 days.

But here in America, with six weeks until the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, the country's political pundits are again speculating about replacing President Joe Biden as the party's standard-bearer.

Watching Americans grapple with their utterly woeful election campaign, it's almost hard to remember Ronald Reagan's 1989 borrowed phrase that the United States was a "shining city on the hill", a democracy so resilient

that it should be emulated by other countries.

"We're the envy of the rest of the world," barked Biden during Thursday's debate, an event which served as all the proof you could need that his claim was demonstrable nonsense.

"I had to switch it off," one Democrat-supporting friend told me. "I am heartbroken," another said. "That's literally the only word that adequately describes my feelings."

For senior figures within the permanent, unelected elite, the debate also served as a way-too-late wake-up call. *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman (also "heartbroken") and Nick Kristof joined the newspaper's entire editorial board and cashed in their Biden chips.

Over at *The Washington Post*, David Ignatius (inset) – high

priest of the city's commentariat – engaged in his own Roman emperor thumbs-down moment. "Biden's closest counsellors... have an obligation to be honest with him," he opined.

The country is now at a dramatic and foreboding crossroads: some observers think Biden will lose in November, and yet Democrats fret that four months is insufficient time to defenestrate him and present voters with a viable alternative to save American democracy.

If anyone still wonders whether the machinery of America's electoral process is broken beyond repair, that situation alone makes the case. Other indicators of America's dysfunction also ring clear. Even before Biden's performance last week, the US was facing four more months of



News in brief

EUROPE

EU populists form far-right alliance

Austria's far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ), Hungarian prime minister Viktor Orbán's Fidesz and the Czech ANO party are forming an alliance in the European Parliament.

The move may split nationalist forces if four more parties join.

Parties from at least a quarter of the 27 EU states are needed to officially form a political group.

While Fidesz has remained outside larger groupings since 2021, the FPÖ is part of the Identity and Democracy group, with Marine Le Pen's National Rally party in France. ANO is not part of a political group. REUTERS

PEOPLE

Bacon backs swing to Democrats



The actor Kevin Bacon has said he is unsurprised by the prospect of another polarising

US election.

In January, Bacon and his wife, actress Kyra Sedgwick (both inset) became spokespeople for Swing Left, aiming to encourage swing states to vote Democrat.

"There's a lot of kids these days who aren't [OK]," Bacon told *The Guardian*. "The pandemic was extremely tough on people. 9/11. Covid. Trump. It's one thing after another."

SCIENCE



Volcanoes 'may provide lithium'

Researchers in the UK are looking to a volcano on the Caribbean island of Montserrat (pictured) to provide answers about where metals vital for batteries and electric cars can be found, and how power can be generated from its heat.

Volcanoes emit copper, lithium, gold and other critical metals in their volcanic plumes in similar quantities to those mined every day around the world, according to experts from Oxford Martin Programme on Rethinking Natural Resources, part of the University of Oxford.

CULTURE

British Museum 'should charge overseas visitors'

By Charlotte McLaughlin

A former boss of the British Museum has called for the disputed Elgin Marbles to be shared with Greece and said foreign visitors should be charged entry.

Sir Mark Jones led the institution as interim director following the furore over thefts from its collection in 2023. 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.

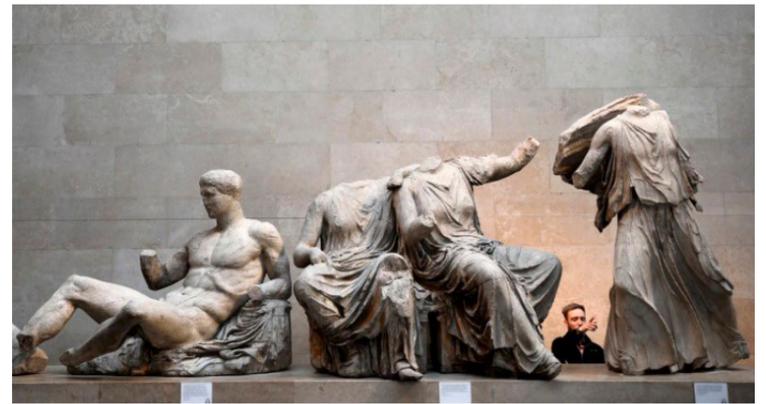
Sir Mark also said: "The way we are going to benefit rather than falling out over the different claims to objects is by creating partnerships around them, instead of conflicts."

"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."

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

Greece alleges the marbles were illegally acquired – a claim which the UK Government and the British Museum rejects.



Greece wants the Parthenon Sculptures to be returned DANIEL LEAL/AFP/GETTY

GIVE THEM THE GIFT OF CHOICE

Spend on big brands with EVERYWISH – the perfect gift! Get 10% back in your Asda Rewards Cashpot until Wednesday 3rd July 2024.



Selected stores. Subject to availability. Gift card detail £25 and £50, plus 10% in your Asda Rewards Cashpot. Offer ends 3rd July 2024. App and mobile data required. Full terms and conditions at www.asda.com/rewards *Asda pounds added to your Asda Rewards Cashpot to be spent in store or online. Excludes George.com May exclude small stores: asda.com/smallstores

HEALTH

NHS 'needs an official strategy' to deal with increase in UTI cases

By Connie Dimsdale

Doctors have called for an official strategy for diagnosing and treating chronic urinary tract infections (UTIs) as fresh estimates show there could be four million sufferers in the UK.

During the last government, the NHS formally recognised the condition on its website, and treatment guidelines for UTIs were changed, recognising that some current tests and techniques are outdated.

However, there is still only one NHS treatment centre in the UK – the Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (Luts) Service at London's Whittington Hospital – and the waiting list is more than a year long.

Dr Rajvinder Khasriya, an NHS consultant urogynaecologist at the specialist clinic, called for an urgent "strategy for management" to help doctors diagnose and treat patients in the interim while new tests and treatment options are developed.

Specialists say the infections, which often begin as an acute bout of cystitis, can occur when bacteria become embedded within the bladder wall and become difficult to treat with short courses of antibiotics.

The illness commonly affects women and can leave them unable to work, sleep, go out of the house or

socialise with friends and family, and in some cases can even lead to people feeling suicidal.

Dr Khasriya said: "Whilst we now acknowledge and accept that the diagnostics for UTI are not great, we need some sort of strategy for management while we try and sort out a new diagnostic."

Dr Khasriya said chronic UTI affects approximately four million women in the UK.

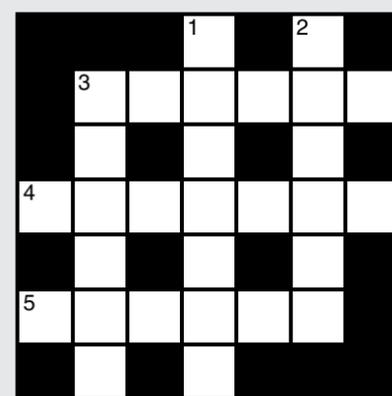
With the condition affecting so many women across the country, Dr Khasriya urged a new government to fund and develop nationwide "provision of care".

The vice-president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), Hassan Shehata, called on a new government to include chronic UTI in the women's health strategy.

The NHS has been contacted for comment.

i The Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) introduced the 129-page strategy in July 2022, meaning it will enter its third year this summer. **But chronic UTI has not been included in the strategy**, despite calls from doctors and campaigners.

The Five-Clue Cryptic Crossword No 4245



- Across**
- 3 Litter of piglets in distant line (6)
 - 4 Vehicle turning back, initially using roads badly surfaced in outlying areas (7)
 - 5 A guy not standing to attention (2,4)
- Down**
- 1 Stimulation in a part mostly outside America (7)
 - 2/3 Doubtful ales served up, which you'll see many times this fortnight (6,6)

Solution, page 45

Review

At 58, Twain shows Glastonbury what musical legends are really made of

Shania Twain
GLASTONBURY
★★★★★

Glastonbury is a weekend of highs and high emotions and the Sunday afternoon Legend slot is the biggest nostalgia rush of them all: a great icon transports you through time and forces you into your feelings.

Last year at Cat Stevens I wept watching a family clutch each other close during "Father and Son"; the year before that Diana Ross's set spanned hit after hit of Motown and disco; the festival before that Kylie Minogue threw the biggest party of the weekend.

When Shania Twain skipped on to the stage to "That Don't Impress Me Much" – not on a horse, despite her now infamous request, but with just as much flamboyance in a rhinestone cowboy hat and a pink ruffled coat – it was 1997 again, when that stratospheric country-pop single made superstars of her and her leopard-print suit, paved the way for crossover artists like Taylor Swift, and *Come on Over* became the bestselling album from a female artist of all time.

Judging by the size of the cowboy-hatted crowd singing their hearts out at the Pyramid Stage, everyone here had a copy.

Twain's music has been ubiquitous for nearly 30 years. At 58, Twain embraces her oldest

and best work (released between 1995 and 2002) and often styles her live shows as a camp cabaret.

I had expected her to assume the role of grand diva at Glastonbury; instead she gave us something a little more intimate, her stage set up as the "Twain Town Saloon", with her nearly all-female band – divine fiddlers, searing guitars and lush harmonies.

Rather than Nashville novelty act it felt like a nod to her roots, playing in open mic nights as a teenager in rural Ontario, earning money to support her younger brother and sister after her parents were killed in a car crash. Twain has known so many tragedies, though they are seldom mentioned in her songs.

Instead her music endures for its universality and simplicity, for how it speaks to women, especially. Insecurities, exposing desires for love, and sometimes sheer naughtiness. She has a command and stage presence that make it impossible not to envy her confidence – "I'm Gonna Getcha Good" had a menace that felt genuinely thrilling, "Any Man of Mine" asserted her dominance with just the right level of tongue-in-cheek, and then came the emotional wallops of torch songs like "You're Still the One" and "From This Moment On", its final long note glorious and impassioned.



Cape of good fun: Shania Twain on the Pyramid stage yesterday JOE MAHER/GETTY

Twain's voice does not have the same power it had in her earlier career: after contracting Lyme disease in 2003 her vocal cords were damaged so severely she feared she would never sing again. But its timbre is still

beautiful, it is deep and throaty, and adds a new rawness to her music that compensates for the moments it can't project.

Twain herself is a legend: an icon of strength and resilience and of pure fun. "You are country

music fanatics," she screamed into the crowd. If anyone could convert you, it's Shania – she converted the world three decades ago.

Sarah Carson

PEOPLE

'I'd fallen in love with the place even before the first act'

Glastonbury newbie **Fiona Whitty** now gets what all the fuss is about

"Why do I come? It gives you a completely different time to normal life. It's pure escapism," says Glastonbury fan Jane.

She's now 66, but she caught the festival bug alongside her husband John in the 90s when their two children were teenagers.

"They started going to Reading Festival and we'd drop them off and pick them up," she adds.

"So we ended up getting day tickets to see what it was like. We wouldn't have known what type of music they liked if we hadn't engaged with it ourselves.

"I suppose it gave a better

glimpse into their lives. When they moved on to Glastonbury we decided to try it too."

Jane and John, from Uxbridge, west London, are at Glastonbury for the third time since 2017. Their daughter is here too, but they're not camping in the same area as her as they want to give each other space.

The acts the couple want to see most, however, are the ones recommended to them by their children, groups they've never listened to before, such as The Last Dinner Party and Bombay Bicycle Club.

"I suppose it's quite a bonding experience," says Jane.

She's not alone in being a more mature festival-goer. Data released



Fiona Whitty in front of the Pyramid stage where she enjoyed Squeeze

earlier this year by Statista revealed that more than two in five attendees are over 44, with 11 per cent being part of Generation X – those people who, like me, were born between 1965 and 1980. Back in 2016, only around 30 per cent

were in the 40-plus age bracket, so the popularity among mid-lifers is clearly growing.

Having somehow crawled into my fifties without ever having been to a festival, despite being a die-hard music fan who's happy to travel around the UK for gigs, I was keen to uncover exactly what I'd been missing. Call it a mid-life crisis. And I decided to throw myself in at the deep end with the mother of them all.

I'd fallen in love with the place even before the first act struck up a chord on Friday at noon. One of my favourite bits has been dancing on tables to a DJ set at a bar pulsating with the sounds of my youth – from Joy Division's "Love Will Tear Us Apart" to Madonna's "Like a Prayer". I also had a samba lesson and joined in a Joe Wicks fitness class, then slept it off in a hammock.

It was music veterans Squeeze

who opened the performances on the Pyramid Stage and announced that it was 50 years since they'd started. Judging by the age and enthusiasm of the crowd, many of them clearly remembered their heyday.

Glastonbury maintains that its diverse entertainment attracts every age group and it's true that all are here, from babies to baby-boomers. But an industry insider suggested that the rising proportion of mid-lifers among UK festival attendees could be down to youngsters being particularly affected by the high cost of living.

Nikki, 66, first came in 1982 and vowed never to return. She relented in 2017 and has come ever since. This year she's here with her daughter, Siobhan, and her two grandchildren, aged three and five. "There is just so much for everyone nowadays," she says.

The Opinion Matrix

COMMENT FROM HOME AND ABROAD

Opinion

DOCTORS' STRIKES



Hard not to see timing as political

Sunday Mirror

Today is the fourth day of the junior doctors' strike and, coming after the first-ever strike by RCN nurses, it tells you all you need to know about how Tories treat NHS staff. By contrast, last Saturday I was with Wes Streeting as he listened to the concerns of overseas nurses. I left feeling worried. But the fact we have a shadow Health Secretary prepared to listen to them gave me hope. (Andy Burnham)

Sunday Express

Doctors' union, the BMA, says this strike's timing is not political. Can we get a second opinion? (Nick Ferrari)

JOE BIDEN'S HEALTH



He can't finish a sentence, let alone a term

The Sun on Sunday

It is impossible to imagine how Joe Biden could successfully complete a second term in the White House when he sometimes struggles to complete a coherent sentence. They must be laughing themselves sick in Moscow, Beijing, Pyongyang and Tehran. (Tony Parsons)

Sunday Telegraph

Trump was no altar boy, just his usual boastful, bragging, prevaricating self, but Biden's performance panicked his fellow Democrats. How many will want to risk jumping off the cliff with him leading their ticket? (John Bolton)

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL



Colourful characters add zest

The Sunday Times

I spent an afternoon sitting in the stone circle, watching teenagers do handstands on the rocks. Then I chatted with a couple who have been doing guided meditation at the festival for 30 years, and finally bought supper from some friendly Hare Krishnas, which I ate while watching the fireworks. (Hadley Freeman)

Euronews

Alongside the punters in levels of festival garb are countless performers without a stage. A big part of the atmosphere comes from the range of characters you can bump into. (Jonny Walfisz)

STARMER IN NO 10?



He is trying not to look complacent

The Observer

On Thursday, voters will have a historic opportunity, not just decisively to evict one of the worst governments this country has ever endured. They will have the chance to replace it with something altogether different: a Labour administration characterised by integrity and a respect for public office. (Editorial)

The Mail on Sunday

Professional radicals such as Sir Keir Starmer keep their glee under control. They know that you can lose elections in the last 36 hours if you look too sure of yourself. (Peter Hitchens)

ANDY MURRAY



Last chance to appear at Wimbledon

Eurosport

Murray has been public about his intention to retire after this summer's Paris 2024 Olympic Games, meaning that this could well be his final opportunity to grace Wimbledon, a tournament where he has been twice champion. (Sam Rooke)

The New York Times

At 37, he is saying goodbye to a tournament he conquered not once, but twice. Three years elapsed between his first victory in 2013 and his second in 2016, when his proud country rewarded Murray with a knighthood. (Christopher Clarey)

BETTING FARCE



Final grubby nail in the Tories' coffin

Daily Star Sunday

Not only have these clowns gambled with the lives of the country with austerity, Brexit, lockdowns, an economy-crashing budget, tax rises and public services cuts – some have been trying to make a few extra quid from bets on the election. But you can bet your life they'll be obliterated in the polls. (John Ward)

The Independent

The betting scandal is embarrassing and damaging to the Conservative campaign because, although novel, it is entirely consistent behaviour from a government that brought us Partygate. (Editorial)

Quote of the day



I live with my mum and dad, my older brother and two younger brothers. To them I am just a normal guy

Carlos Alcaraz
The tennis superstar is keeping his feet firmly on the ground

Life In Brief

BILL COBBS ACTOR

Bill Cobbs, the veteran actor who became a ubiquitous and sage screen presence as an older man, has died. He was 90.

Cobbs died at his home in the Inland Empire, California, surrounded by family and friends, his publicist said.

He appeared in such films as *The Hudsucker Proxy*, *The Bodyguard*, *Demolition Man*, *That Thing You Do!* and *Night at the Museum*.

He made his first big-screen appearance in a fleeting role in 1974's *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three*, becoming a lifelong actor with around 200 film and TV credits.

The lion's share of those came in his fifties, sixties and seventies, as filmmakers and TV producers turned to him again and again to imbue small but pivotal parts with a wizened and worn soulfulness.

Cobbs appeared on television shows

including *The Sopranos*, *The West Wing*, *Sesame Street* and *Good Times*.

He was Whitney Houston's manager in *The Bodyguard* (1992), the mystical clock man of the Coen brothers' *The Hudsucker Proxy* (1994) and the doctor of John Sayles' *Sunshine State* (2002).

He played the coach in *Air Bud* (1997), and the security guard in *Night at the Museum* (2006).

Cobbs rarely got the kinds of major parts that stand out and win awards. Instead, Cobbs was a familiar and memorable everyman who left an impression on audiences, regardless of screen time.

He won a Daytime Emmy Award for outstanding limited performance in a daytime programme for the series *Dino Dana* in 2020.

Wendell Pierce, who acted alongside Cobbs in *I'll Fly Away* and *The Gregory Hines Show* remembered Cobbs as "a

father figure, a griot, an iconic artist that mentored me by the way he led his life as an actor", he wrote on the social media platform X.

Wilbert Francisco Cobbs was born in 1934 in Cleveland, Ohio. His mother Vera worked in domestic service, while his father David worked in construction. He served eight years in the US Air Force after graduating from high school in Cleveland.

In the years after his service, Cobbs sold cars. One day, a customer asked him if he wanted to act in a play. Cobbs first appeared on stage in 1969.

He began to act in theatre in Cleveland and later moved to New York where he joined the Negro Ensemble Company, acting alongside Ossie Davis, who would later appear in Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing*, and the actress, poet and writer Ruby Dee.

Cobbs later said acting resonated



with him as a way to express the human condition, in particular during the civil rights movement in the late 60s.

"To be an artist, you have to have a sense of giving," Cobbs said in a 2004 interview. "Art is somewhat of a prayer, isn't it? We respond to what we see around us and what we feel and how things affect us mentally and spiritually."

Cobbs never married, and is survived by his brother Thomas. AP

Born 16 June 1934
Died 25 June 2024

My View

Ian Birrell



Tories deserve what is coming

Sunak was right. We need change, but his party can't be trusted

When Rishi Sunak stood before the dwindling band of Tory faithful at their party conference last

year, he spoke about the urgent need for change in our country. He talked of vested interests frustrating reform, politicians who placed rhetoric before reality and ministers who spent more time campaigning for change than delivering it.

His analysis was correct – Britain is a nation in desperate need for change. We can see this all around us with the sluggish economy, filthy rivers, creaking public services and shortages of homes. His message is underlined by the latest scandal at Westminster involving insiders betting on the election date, corroding a little more trust in our leaders and system of government.

Yet the people who personify this need for change were the politicians cheering him on – along with the third-rate strategists who dreamed up the idea for such a daft address that condemned their own years of failure (before the floundering Prime Minister asked a predecessor, David Cameron, back into government).

Sunak's speech exposed the circles of absurdity into which this pathetically self-absorbed party has slumped, betraying both its past and the people of Britain. The simple truth is that the dismal Conservative Party has failed our country over the past 14 years – and now deserves to be kicked as hard as possible into the history books.

I write these harsh words as someone who played a minuscule role in their return to power in 2010 by serving briefly as Cameron's speech-writer.

Yet the disaster of Brexit unleashed six years later, following his over-enthusiastic imposition of austerity, has not just harmed the nation but transformed the party.

It was claimed that holding that toxic referendum would crush the threat from the right. Instead, it pushed the Tories down the dead end path of hard-right populism, and they ended up showing contempt for voters by empowering Boris Johnson and Liz Truss.

Now Sunak is the fall guy, menaced again by Nigel Farage to his right along with the rejuvenated Labour Party to his left, although he has not helped his cause by adopting a shrill tone, silly stunts and support for Brexit. The



Despite an increase in spending, the NHS still suffers from long waiting lists and poor treatment outcomes GETTY

predictability of these events does not diminish their tragedy after the Tories turned into English nationalists. Some centre-right moderates dismayed by this transformation remain infected by tribalism, unable to bring themselves to back Labour.

They clutch at straws, pointing to their side's laudable stance on education and Ukraine along with recent economic stability. Such folks pray their party can avoid crushing defeat, then return to its senses in shrivelled opposition. But I hope voters punish this party that has treated them and their country with such disdain.

The United Kingdom – still the world's sixth biggest economy – feels in a sorry state, something that strikes me each time I return

home from a reporting job abroad. The legacy of misrule, tainted by the whiff of corruption, is despair and division while too many public services are in pitiful condition.

Look at police facing their lowest levels of trust in history, prisons swamped with damaged individuals stuffed behind bars for longer and longer sentences, even the potholes on roads symbolising how local government is starved of sufficient funds with dire consequences for social care.

But it is not just about cash. Health spending surged under the Tories, soaring up the European rankings according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies. The number of doctors and nurses rose more than 15 per cent between 2019 and 2023. Yet the NHS remains

sick with swollen waiting lists and comparatively poor treatment outcomes, while ministers focus their fire on a few transgender citizens instead of tackling systemic problems.

Even blatant failures drag on without resolution, such as the costly and abusive detention of autistic people and citizens with learning disabilities in psychiatric units that almost everyone accepts is medically and morally wrong. Or the disturbing maternity negligence cases that cost the state almost three times as much as the NHS spends on maternity care.

Few issues sum up the Tories more than migration, exposing their illiberalism and ineptitude in equal measure. This inflames distrust with Westminster while

I hope voters punish this party that has treated them and their country with such disdain

assisting the ugly politics preached by Farage. It is no coincidence, of course, that Reform attracts bigots and racists to its ranks. I hope voters reject this group led by a self-promoting demagogue propagating Kremlin propaganda.

Instead, I urge people to cast their vote tactically this week for whichever Labour or Liberal Democrat candidate seems most likely to defeat the Tories.

I have been critical of the Lib Dems in the past. But they have fought a colourful battle under a leader who deserves credit for trying to force rivals to focus on social care. Labour's campaign has been bland and dull, intended not to scare the voters even as Tory warnings of imminent danger grow daily more ridiculous.

Their caution does a disservice to the electorate – and may come back to bite them if they win a hefty majority and try to drive through any of the radical reforms so badly needed in our public space.

Sir Keir Starmer remains a mystery to many voters. Yet he has changed his party, driven out intolerant extremists who grabbed control and is offering the country competence after several years of destructive chaos.

I suspect few voters really believe Starmer will solve the country's glaring problems. But, unlike his predecessor as Labour leader, he can be trusted with our country in turbulent times and at the very least will deliver a break from those selfish and fractious Tories.

If he wins a spectacular majority, aided and abetted by the Lib Dems, he will have no excuse if he does not try to grow the economy, build homes, salvage public services and seek to restore trust in a political system that has gone woefully astray.

As Sunak himself said last year, we need to change the direction of our country and build a better future.

@ianbirrell

@thepaper
 facebook.com/thepaper @i@inews.co.uk
 Please include a contact address with all correspondence



Your View

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

Private school issue is simple

Two letters (Your View, 28 June) in response to David Benson's column ('Why private school tax is destructive', My View, 27 June) sum up the issue with private and state education.

According to the writers we should be grateful for the crumbs that fall from the table of the privileged elite. It's

trickle-down education. As a former secondary school teacher and lifetime member of the now-defunct NUT I believed in the union mantra: A good local school for every child.

Campaigning for Labour in 2015 I asked Tristram Hunt, then shadow education secretary, why the party couldn't accept this as their aim. I was told it was "more complicated

than that." It isn't, but requires political will.
CAMPBELL RUSSELL
 CHESTER

Take control of Thames Water

As a Thames Water customer, the only way I would willing to pay more for water and sewage is if Thames Water is taken back into public hands.

I am not willing to

continue paying money to elusive shareholders. Labour's proposed stronger regulations for Thames Water are not enough. It is legally possible to take back control of Thames Water; it is a matter of having the will to do so.

Then, paying a bit extra to get a decent water supply and sewage system for the future makes sense.

ROSANNE BOSTOCK
 OXFORD



A doctor's tip not to dry washing outside – so clothes are not covered in pollen – has riled a Bristol reader

Farage splits opinion, again

Nigel Farage has introduced some much-needed life into what was becoming a boring election campaign, headed by two uninspiring candidates whose policies, when they are ever mentioned, are almost identical.

I, like so many others, do not want any more of the Labour-style governance we have had from Boris Johnson and then Rishi Sunak.

I intend to vote for Reform because Farage has widened the debate to include those concerns which neither Starmer or Sunak dare to mention.

I am referring to the overwhelming number of immigrants, excessive taxation, unreasonably high energy costs, the ruinous net zero strategy, the shambles which is the NHS, and the urgent need to strengthen our Armed Forces.

WILLIAM BLAKE
 ALTON, HAMPSHIRE

I am now more inclined to agree with Nigel

Farage's critics than I was three weeks ago.

Like the established politicians that he claims to be a real alternative to, Farage doesn't appear to have any workable or realistic solutions to the numerous problems facing Britain today.

STEFAN BADHAM
 PORTSMOUTH, HAMPSHIRE

Small boats talk is a distraction
 In 2022, 685,000 people immigrated to the UK, of whom 45,000 – fewer than 7 per cent – arrived by small boats.

Could the Conservative and Reform parties' obsession with this tiny minority be a smokescreen to deflect attention from the fact that they haven't the slightest idea what to

do about the other 93 per cent?
PETER MARTIN
 CODICOTE, HERTS

Doc's drying tip made no sense

I was disgusted by "advice" not to dry washing outside ("Summer health hacks doctors live by and what to avoid", **i** weekend 29-30 June).

I guess if you suffer horribly with hay fever it might be valid, but I love it when I can finally ditch the damp clothes drying very slowly in my small kitchen for drying within a few hours in my equally small garden.

Worse is if people waste energy using dryers when air dries clothes at no cost to the planet or consumer.
RACHEL HALL
 BRISTOL

Award-winning local estate agents
Fair fixed fees from £999

Book your free valuation with your local Yopa agent today

0333 305 0202

yopa.co.uk



Our commitment

We take very seriously our responsibility to maintain high editorial standards, and are grateful to readers for pointing out any errors. **i** adheres to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO) code of practice. If you wish to complain about our editorial coverage, especially

with relation to inaccuracy or intrusion, please write to The Editor, **i**, 9 Derry Street, London W8 5HY, or email reader@inews.co.uk. You can contact ipso directly at Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG, telephone 0300 123 2220, or by email on inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

MORE COMMENT on inews.co.uk



IN TOMORROW'S

ARTS
Zac Efron
 Hollywood heartthrob tells how unconventional romcom 'A Family Affair' felt like living the dream

Why I want a kitten - and what to read this summer

SOCIETY

Lucy Mangan



It's the general election on Thursday! Let's talk about absolutely anything else! What do you fancy? We've got:

1. The fact that summer reading list season has finally arrived.

This is my Glastonbury. I love seeing how many of the 100 best novels of all time I've read (never more than 20, but I live in hope).

I love seeing the same recommendations pop up in slightly different places each year - who gets the *Cazalet Chronicles* this time? Who's doing Rose Tremain? Who thinks they're being edgy by announcing they're fans of Jack Reacher? And who's nabbed *I Capture the Castle* as their top comfort read? Who has the

confidence to recommend a genuine beach read and who cannot bear to lower themselves and pretend the lightest they go is Olga Tokarczuk's *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead*?

I like seeing books I've read and loved make the list - but not quite as much as I love seeing books I've read and hated make the list. You need some grit in your enjoyment oyster.

And of course I love taking note of new potential treasures too and compiling my own suggestions. In case this is your favourite time too, here they are: Julius Taranto's *How I Won a Nobel Prize*, *The King's Mother* by Annie Garthwaite, Rufi Thorpe's *Margo's Got Money Troubles*, *You'd Look Better as a Ghost* by Joanna Wallace and many, many more.

2. The unwarranted labour now needed to accomplish even the simplest task.

I had to book a table for dinner with a friend a few days ago. I filled in the online form with my name, the number of guests and the required time. Then the dietary requirements box ("Food"). Then the reason for our attendance ("Hunger"). Then my credit card details. Then a recent photo and utility bill so that they

could come round to my house and shoot me on sight if I failed to attend. Then I replied to seven increasingly threatening reminders about where we were supposed to be and when in the countdown to our mealtime.

And then we had our meal. Then I returned home to an avalanche of emails asking me to rate our experience (food, service, ambience... I don't care! I'm just glad to get out of the house) and whether we would be likely, very likely or very unlikely to return.

And then I got an email from the company that runs the booking service asking me to comment on the ease of use of the form provided. And there I draw the line. Enough with the futile feedback. Enough pretending that you give a shit about anything but my money. Just take it, and thereafter leave me be.

3. Getting beach body ready.

Here's the best way: have a body; take it to the beach. I mean, I do my bikini line in preparation. I don't like scaring children, plus if I went swimming in full possession of everything I would quickly become waterlogged and drown. It is a matter of self-preservation rather than bowing to the patriarchy.



Talking about getting a rescue cat could distract from all the noise around the election on Thursday

I returned to an avalanche of emails asking me to rate our experience

But you do you and if you feel best with a full depilation after six months on a diet and three weeks of intensive exfoliation and fake tan build-up, go for it. But if you are doing all this, you are probably young and, by any rational standard, already beautiful. You are trying to rip out, scrub away and cover up your insecurities, not your body - and it won't work. Only time does that. Don't miss out on all the beaches while you wait.

4. Whether you should get a rescue cat, kitten, dog or puppy.

I think I should get a cat or a kitten. But I don't know about you.

5. Why the fact that Marks & Spencer has remembered how to provide attractive, wearable clothes for ordinary women provides a far greater feeling of delight and optimism than the prospect of a new government does.

But we're swerving into election territory again - away, away! (Though before we do, let us also pledge to make it known in four years' time that we will vote for any party that promises to ban televised election debates.)

iFinance | TRAVEL INSURANCE
Provided by Staysure

Get up to 20% off the UK's Best Travel Insurance*

- Pre-existing medical condition cover
- Up to £10,000 cancellation cover**
- 24/7 medical emergency helpline
- Over 370,000 Trustpilot reviews more than any other provider!

SALE
Up to
20% off*
Quote:
INEWS20



Call us **FREE**
7 days a week

0808 134 2288

Or visit **inews.co.uk/travel-insurance**



*Discount does not apply to medical screening costs or add-ons. New policies only. T&Cs apply. Sale ends on 31/08/24. Trustpilot rating correct at the time of print. *UK's Best Travel Insurance as voted by the public at the British Travel Awards - 7 times in a row **On Signature policies.

Time for Starmer to apologise to silenced women

GENDER

Kate Maltby


In October 2019, the Labour MP Rosie Duffield went viral. Duffield had been in Westminster for only two years, although her campaign to win the seat of Canterbury had impressed Blairites with its broad coalition of both union and cross-party support. It took a charged debate in the Commons for Duffield to find herself trending on social media for the first time.

Duffield's breakthrough speech wasn't about transgender people. It wasn't about access to toilets, and it wasn't about cervixes. It was about domestic abuse. It was about her experience of domestic abuse, by a partner she described as coercive and controlling, whom she had eventually been able to leave with the support of friends.

In the years since, Rosie Duffield has found herself trending much more frequently, often as a *bête noir* of transgender activists. Many now may know her name only as a by-word for an intemperate "debate" on sex and gender.

When Labour leader Keir Starmer faced voters on BBC *Question Time* last week, he was tripped up not, as some male pundits predicted, by a question about his equivocations on Jeremy Corbyn, but by one about his equivocations on Duffield – which provoked an explosive intervention by JK Rowling. Debating Rishi Sunak on Wednesday, Starmer had refused to even respond to a direct question about Duffield from chair Mishal Husain.

To understand the depth of Rowling's anger, and of women who share her perspective, we need to go back to that parliamentary speech. It should have been the defining moment of Duffield's career.



Rosie Duffield during her emotive speech in the Commons in 2019 about surviving domestic abuse PARLIAMENT TV

Colleagues wept. The Commons speaker, John Bercow, termed it "simultaneously horrifying and as moving a contribution" as he had heard in his 22 years in parliament. Harriet Harman, the godmother of the Labour women's movement, said of Duffield: "What she said just now will save lives. We are incredibly proud of her."

Within a year, Duffield was a pariah. Her first crime was to press the "like" button on a Piers Morgan tweet in August 2020, in which the broadcaster had responded to a CNN article about "individuals with a cervix" at risk of cervical cancer, with the phrase "do you mean women?" A local opponent of Duffield – a Corbyn supporter named Sarah Cundy, formerly notorious for expressing "solidarity" with North Korea – highlighted this activity on her own feed, tweeting "add to the list of reasons Rosie Duffield needs

booting, she's a transphobe too". Duffield challenged her, raising a question: "I'm a 'transphobe' for knowing that only women have a cervix...?!"

All hell broke loose. LGBT+ Labour called for Starmer to take "swift action" against Duffield. Two of Duffield's staffers resigned. A year later, Starmer was finally pinned down by Andrew Marr, who asked specifically if it was transphobic to say "only women have a cervix". Starmer replied: "It is something that shouldn't be said. It is not right."

Critics of Duffield will say that since then her language has hardened. Her later interventions include mainstream assertions – such as referring to transwomen as "male-bodied biological men" – but also sharing platforms with more controversial figures.

But this was not what Starmer was asked about when Marr simply

asked him in September 2021 whether it was "transphobic" to say "only women have a cervix". None of this was at issue when Starmer replied: "It is something that should not be said." None of it explains why he changed tack this April, accepting when asked on ITV about Duffield's cervix comment that "biologically, she of course is right".

That is why it was so galling to Duffield's supporters when Starmer recently told *Question Time* last week that he had chosen his words to Marr because he was "worried at the time... about how the debate was being conducted, because it got very toxic, very divided, very hard line". To JK Rowling, as she later wrote in *The Times*, "the impression given by Starmer at Thursday's debate was that there had been something unkind, something toxic, something hard line in Rosie's words".

Like Duffield, Rowling is a survivor of domestic violence. Like

Feminists worry that Starmer still doesn't grasp their concerns

Duffield, she now faces violent threats. No wonder that neither woman reacts warmly to men telling them their own language is the problem. But Starmer's answer also rankled with other gender-critical women who were amazed to hear him suggest he was detoxifying this debate by adding to the pile-on.

Starmer seems not to understand this anger. After his *Question Time* appearance, a male friend asked me if there was any answer Starmer could have given to the question about Duffield to satisfy other gender-critical women. There was such an answer: Starmer needed to acknowledge that Duffield's original tweet in August 2020 was legitimate speech in a free society.

Instead, Starmer made things worse by framing his position as an endorsement of Tony Blair's views "with regard to men having penises and women having vaginas".

Gender-critical feminists have plenty of reason to worry that Starmer still doesn't grasp their concerns. Yet what women want in Labour most of all is an acknowledgement that they have been punished for stating facts which men – like Blair, like Starmer – now freely assert.

Women resent being ordered not to speak. This is why the actor David Tennant caused such anger last week when he said of Kemi Badenoch, the gender-critical equalities minister, "I just want her to shut up". That is why this issue will continue to dog Starmer. He needs to apologise to Duffield, as Wes Streeting did so admirably last year, for his failures to respect her voice. That kind of apology might look like leadership.

Don't write off the Conservative party – it will rebuild

POLITICS

Henry Hill


The guillotine is about to fall on this period of Conservative government – and, some think, the party itself.

We won't know how credible that latter fear (or hope) is until Friday. However, two things suggest that those reading the last rites over the

Conservative and Unionist Party (1834-2024) will be disappointed by history. First, the Tories will almost certainly remain the official Opposition in the next Parliament; second, they will definitely be the largest right-wing party.

If both of those things are true this time next week, the Conservatives will have the foundations for a recovery. The Tories have many more MPs than Reform UK in even the bleakest scenarios, and Nigel Farage (*inset*) has spent the campaign inadvertently fortifying the *cordon sanitaire* between the two parties.

His comments on Russia, absurd conspiracy-mongering, and shameful reluctance to expel openly

racist candidates has so toxified his brand with leading Conservatives that behind the scenes, those vying to replace Rishi Sunak as leader are reassuring people that they won't countenance a deal.

It's a remarkable step backwards from the Farage of 10 years ago, who understood the vital importance of keeping Ukip respectable.

Not that the looming civil war inside the Tory party will be any less vicious for that. Each faction is busy marshalling its excuses for the orgy of bloodletting and blame-shifting that will begin on Friday morning. It

will be neither edifying nor helpful.

The first step towards a real recovery will be every faction accepting its share of the blame.

This country's fundamental problems predate both Brexit and, indeed, the Conservatives' return to office: growth in productivity, real wages, and per-capita GDP growth fell off before the financial crisis, whilst the housing crisis really started to bite in the mid-90s.

Whatever their differences, every iteration of Toryism this country has experienced over the past 14 years has stuck to most of

the policy consensus underpinning this; even Liz Truss's unfunded tax cuts were an attempt to kick-start growth without confronting the vested interests that defend cheap wages, expensive housing, and ever-rising pensions. Fortunately for the party, if not the country, Labour doesn't look ready or willing to challenge this consensus in any fundamental way. Perhaps Sir Keir Starmer and Rachel Reeves will discover radicalism in office. If not, the Conservatives may have a shot at returning to office much sooner than many think.

Henry Hill is the deputy editor of *ConservativeHome*, a blog that is independent of the Conservatives



MEDIA

Election predictions were strictly forbidden when Andrew Marr was the face of politics on the BBC. Now the veteran broadcaster is free to share his belief that – as the polls suggest – Labour is set to win a sizeable majority. He also thinks Sir Keir Starmer will regret not being more open with voters about the tough policy choices ahead.

Marr quit the BBC in 2021 to “get my voice back” after complying with rules restricting presenters from expressing personal opinions for more than two decades.

Now hosting a nightly politics show on LBC, as well as its election night coverage, the journalist is revelling in his new-found freedom.

“For better or worse, I am now completely unfiltered. I think there will be a Labour majority of more than 100. It could be a lot more than that, or I could be wrong.”

Some polls suggest Labour will take a much higher majority of about 200 seats.

“The untold story of this campaign is that the Lib Dems will come back with a large chunk of MPs,” he adds.

“The size of a Labour majority could almost be unseat-making and the Lib Dems would play an important part of the opposition. That’s where I am at the moment.”

Marr joined a BBC News exodus, including Emily Maitlis and Jon Sopel, whose podcast *The News Agents* found a wide audience for political discussion that rejects the BBC interpretation of neutrality.

“We don’t want to be too constrained and corseted by balancing every single phrase with a phrase implying the opposite,” Marr says. “I think all those type of things, people have got sick of. On my show I say what I think.”

The former editor of *The Independent* newspaper says of his own political persuasions: “I lean slightly to the left.” His admission will surprise few.

Marr believes his former BBC colleagues are shackled by overly cautious managers. “It must be quite tough for them. Is there a parallel with Keir Starmer of not dropping the vase?” he asked of the corporation’s election coverage.

“It’s about getting to the end of the week without getting too many complaints, without having offended anyone. And if you’re thinking mainly about not offending people, it’s really hard to do salty, effective broadcasting.”

Despite Marr’s views, the BBC has broken significant stories during the election campaign, including reporting that figures close to the Prime Minister allegedly bet on the election date.

And Nick Robinson’s *Panorama* interview with Nigel Farage, in which the Reform leader appeared to suggest the West had provoked Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, led the news agenda.

If he thinks politicians have let people down, Marr can now give them a real roasting. “When I had Sir Ed Davey on the show a couple of days ago, I was able to say to him that I strongly thought he had it far too easy over his role in austerity and he got away with



Andrew Marr hosts a nightly politics show on LBC, and will be presenting its election night coverage

‘I am now completely unfiltered’: Marr revels in post-BBC freedoms

Corporation’s coverage is not ‘salty’ enough, LBC host tells **Adam Sherwin**

that far too easily.” Davey was a Cabinet minister in the coalition government, which introduced tough spending cuts after the 2010 general election.

“I gave him quite a cross-questioning and that’s the sort of thing on the BBC where I’d have had to watch my language. You wouldn’t have had the directness of what I was able to put across on LBC.”

With the nation offered election night alternatives ranging from George Osborne and Ed Balls’s “frenemies” double act on ITV, to Maitlis’s opinion-led results show on Channel 4, Marr doesn’t believe radio will be a secondary choice.

“There’s lots of people getting the

“If you’re thinking mainly about not offending people, it’s really hard to do salty, effective broadcasting”



Jon Sopel and Emily Maitlis left the BBC for ‘The News Agents’ podcast

news on the move. There is nothing like live radio for immediacy and you want an outfit that’s going to deliver unfiltered, unvarnished and very fast results and commentary on it,” says the broadcaster, who will be joined by Sopel and his News Agents colleague, Lewis Goodall.

“You want a programme that is going to be salty and not afraid of its own shadow.”

The Scot, 64, who presented the BBC’s *Sunday Morning* politics show for 16 years, has known Starmer across his legal and political career. What is the putative next PM really like?

“He’s a genuine, genial, friendly guy. He’s the sort of person who’d help you with the guttering, he’d help you with the bins. He’d always be friendly.”

“I don’t think he’s the greatest story-teller in the world and I don’t think he’s the greatest opposition campaigner in the world, but that’s not his strength.”

“I hope he’ll be a much better prime minister than opposition leader. He’s got a good grasp of running an administration and how to deal with difficult people. Handling egos, making priorities, all of that – he’s good at.”

But Marr predicts Labour will struggle to maintain support in office, however big its parliamentary majority.

“They haven’t laid the groundwork. The biggest story about this election is that Labour has run an almost flawless electoral campaign but I wonder how

sensible it has been in terms of its political campaign? It has not been an election that has widened the national conversation about public services about the NHS, for any of the things a Labour government might have to do.

“It’s been fought on a narrow band of tax rises or no tax rises, immigration, ‘stop the boats’. We haven’t really moved off that narrow ground to a really good national conversation or argument about the big issues facing the country.”

“I think that’s a huge wasted opportunity for which we in the media are, of course, partly responsible. But above all the leadership of the two biggest parties.”

The attention swallowed up by TV debates hasn’t helped, according to Marr.

“I think there is nothing like a long-form interview to actually elucidate and uncover truth from politicians. I don’t really like these head-to-head debates.”

“There was a lot of shouting. The last [BBC] one was particularly tetchy and irritating for viewers.”

Although the public may not be better informed, Marr has found it “a fascinating, exhilarating, exciting six weeks”.

“We’ve seen some very good journalism like Nick Robinson’s *Panorama* interviews and Beth Rigby’s handling of the Sky News debate, and we’ve seen some extraordinary things go wrong.

“It’s been a campaign marked by pratfalls and gaffes. But in terms of

a proper national conversation, it’s been a wasted six weeks.”

Marr will be fuelled by “sugar and carbohydrates” to keep him alert during his marathon 10pm-5am election shift. But having called the result, will he bet on the outcome?

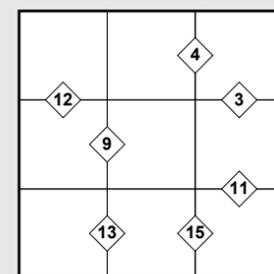
“I’ve never bet on any political outcomes. I know enough about politics to know all the uncertainties and I’m a rather timid creature when it comes to that kind of thing.”

The BBC declined to comment on Marr’s claims about its election coverage.

Andrew Marr and Shelagh Fogarty present ‘Britain Decides’ on LBC from 10pm-5am on 4 July along with Jon Sopel and Lewis Goodall from ‘The News Agents’, who will analyse results as they come in a show live on TikTok, YouTube and simulcast on LBC News

One-minute Wjuko

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



Solution: page 45

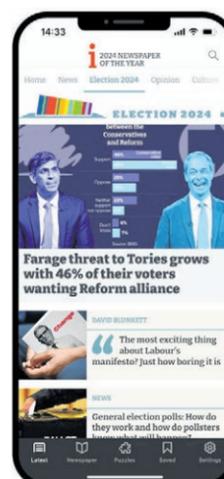
Impartial election news across the whole political spectrum.



Join 8m digital readers this election
who demand intelligent, impartial
journalism - only £1 for one month.

Search

i newspaper



SCIENCE

Moss discovered with potential to survive on Mars

By Jane Clinton

Scientists have found a moss that can survive harsh Mars-like conditions, including drought, high levels of radiation and extreme cold.

The study of the moss, *Syntrichia caninervis*, which is found in regions including Antarctica and the Mojave desert, could lay the foundations for "outer space colonisation".

Researchers in China said their work is the first to look at the survival of whole plants in such an environment.

They are also studying the potential to grow plants on the planet's surface, rather than in greenhouses, *The Guardian* reported.

Writing in the journal *The Innovation*, the scientists described how the desert moss survived but also quickly recovered from near-complete dehydration.

It also regenerated under normal growth conditions after spending up to five years at -80°C and up to 30 days at -196°C and, after exposure to gamma rays, with doses of around 500Gy (50,000 rad) even promoting new growth.

The team wrote: "The unique insights obtained in our study lay the foundation for outer space colonisation using naturally selected plants adapted to extreme stress conditions."

"Looking to the future, we expect that this promising moss could be brought to Mars or the moon to further test the possibility of

plant colonisation and growth in outer space."

Professor Edward Guinan of Villanova University in the US welcomed the study, acknowledging that this moss "could be a promising pioneer plant for Mars colonisation."

He added: "We have a long way to go. But this lowly desert moss offers hope for making small portions of Mars habitable for humankind."

Professor Stuart McDaniel, an expert on moss at the University of Florida and who was not involved in the study, said: "These experiments represent an important first step, but they do not show that the moss could be a significant source of oxygen under Martian conditions, nor do they show that the desert moss could reproduce and proliferate in the Martian context."

He added that cultivating terrestrial plants is an "important part of any long-term space mission" because plants efficiently turn carbon dioxide and water into oxygen and carbohydrates - the air and food needed by humans to survive.

"Desert moss is not edible, but it could provide other important services in space," he said.

i Other scientists have suggested the moss could transform the rocky and inhospitable material found on the surface of Mars to enable other plants grow.



All the colours of the rainbow

A huge rainbow banner leads the way for thousands of people in the annual Pride Parade in London on Saturday, a celebration of the LGBT+ community HENRY NICHOLLS/GETTY

SCOTLAND

Acclaimed violinist warns of funding crisis in arts sector

By Ryan McDougall

The award-winning violinist Nicola Benedetti has warned of a crisis in the arts sector which would amount to a "major identity shift" if the Scottish Government fails to provide £100m in funding.

Benedetti (*inset*) told *Holyrood* magazine that the culture sector in Scotland is facing a "very trepidatious time" due to funding issues. She said that arts and culture were

key to the "wellbeing and health of the nation".

Last year, the then first minister Humza Yousaf told the SNP conference that he was pledging the additional funding for Creative Scotland by 2028.

Creative Scotland, the country's development body for the arts and creative industries, had its budget cut

by £6.6m in December 2022, before the amount was reinstated in February 2023 and then cut again in September.

However, it remains unclear when the additional funding promised by Mr Yousaf will be granted to Creative Scotland.

The Scottish Government was contacted for comment.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD No 4181 BY TEES

ACROSS

- 1 Bloomer from servant in base with Poles touring States (5-4,5)
- 8 Epitaph for cricket side in Harrogate location? (5)
- 9 Pretty good UN school assembly (2,6)
- 11 Mistakenly call the malignant hag (7)
- 12 Nocturnal creature needs attention following an illness (3,4)
- 13 Improvised German newspaper article sent over (2-3)
- 15 Found priest quiet, nursing wound (9)
- 17 Can it go on spreading? (9)
- 20 Tennis call Don overturned (3,2)
- 21 Material broadcast in disputed region (7)
- 23 Noble having sex with French philosopher (7)
- 25 He has dog rolling barrel (8)

- 26 Rasta unity also seen in i twice (1-3-1)
- 27 Business leaders sincere: mikados corrupt (8,6)

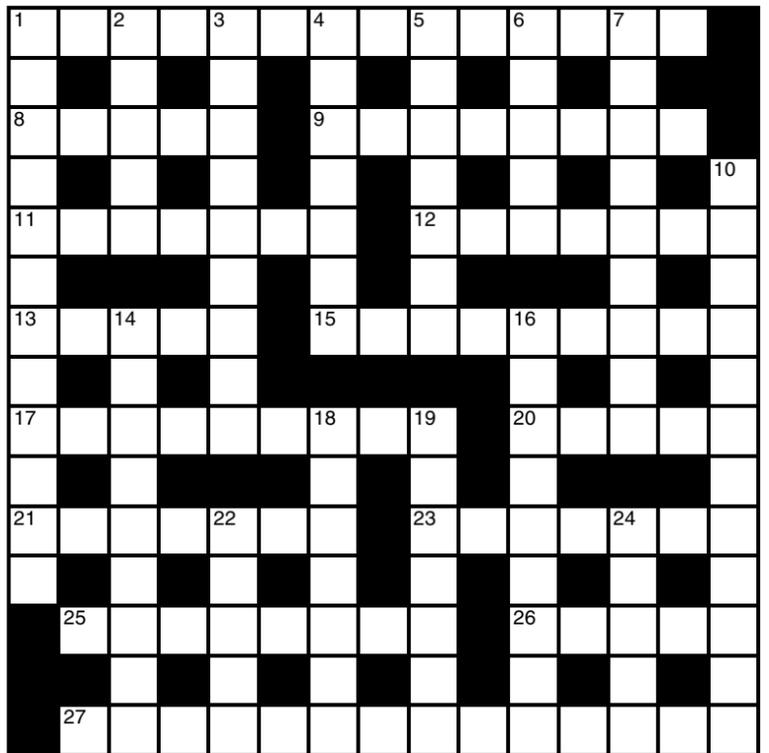
DOWN

- 1 This as basis for the annual blow-out? (8,4)
- 2 Very quietly brought into AA, left in dismay (5)
- 3 Venomous type, man attracting firm support (4,5)
- 4 Any degenerates get involved with Zulu banker? (7)
- 5 Cold as princess taken with street worker (7)
- 6 Main threat stole lead from trader with uranium (1-4)
- 7 The claims that could be made by such as Paracelsus (9)
- 10 Doctor has pie prepared as medical speciality (12)

- 14 Yearns to have house on or very close to sea (9)
- 16 Bachelor, single friend, providing skeleton service? (4,5)
- 18 National Prime Minister twice having day out (7)
- 19 Nothing venerable arising from Las Vegas? (7)
- 22 African male in perfect health ingests arsenic (5)
- 24 The London Eye? (5)

Solution to Saturday's Cryptic

E M W N C A E
 EXHALE APOPLEXY
 P N S M N E P
 COEXISTENT XRAY
 S E E A N
 MUSKOXEN XANADU
 R I E T D
 MERC TEXAS RUTH
 K O U I E
 EGGBOX SEXUALLY
 A O I Y E
 FLEX COMPLEXITY
 A E I O O M E
 EXCRETED ICEAXE
 Y S Y E D N T



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

Full terms and conditions can be found on page 29

2024 VOTING GUIDE **PART 4** Democracy

PARTY	SCOTLAND	WALES	NORTHERN IRELAND
Conservative and Unionist 	Against Scottish independence, believing the Edinburgh government has 'the right balance of powers to deliver for people there'. They pledge support for the oil and gas industries, as well as farming and fishing.	The Conservatives are against further devolution to Cardiff. The party would override the Welsh 20mph speed limit and backs improvements to the M4 and a new Menai crossing. It highlights plans for a new nuclear power plant on Anglesey.	The Tories will 'never be neutral' in their support for Northern Ireland's place in the UK. The party pledges to implement in full the Windsor Framework, with its 'unique advantages', and to strive to 'end all forms of paramilitary activity for good'.
Labour 	Against Scottish independence, but vows to 'reset relations' between London and Edinburgh, with new work to clarify the division of powers between them. The £8bn state-owned power company, Great British Energy, would be based in Scotland.	Promises a 'reset' in relations between London and Cardiff, with Sir Keir Starmer saying they would share decisions over spending millions of pounds of grants replacing EU funds. He will consider devolving responsibility over probation and youth justice to Cardiff.	Saying Northern Ireland needs 'stability and long-term certainty', Labour commits itself to implementing the Windsor Framework and promises to uphold the 'letter and spirit' of the Good Friday Agreement. It would repeal the Legacy Act, which 'denies justice to the families and victims of the Troubles'.
Liberal Democrats 	Against Scottish independence, believing voters do not want a second referendum. They want to focus on sharing power more evenly around the UK, with better co-operation on areas such as industrial strategy and climate change.	In a drive to share power better round the UK, the Liberal Democrats would give more responsibility to Cardiff, including over prisons, policing, rail services and broadcasting. The party would also increase the Welsh government's borrowing powers.	The party would reduce barriers to trade involving Northern Ireland by 'fixing the UK's broken relationship with Europe' and work with the Northern Ireland Executive to 'build a permanently peaceful Northern Ireland' and improve its economy.
Reform UK 	Independence would amount to 'political, economic and cultural vandalism', according to its Scottish manifesto. It wants powers devolved from Holyrood to councils and communities, and for farmers to be liberated from 'mad Net Zero' regulations.	Nigel Farage chose to launch his UK manifesto in Wales 'because it shows everyone exactly what happens to a country when Labour is in charge'. It would fast-track housing on brownfield sites and infrastructure in Wales, and improve its road and rail links.	Reform UK would immediately scrap the Windsor Framework which has left the UK 'partitioned down the Irish Sea'. It says Northern Ireland is still in the EU single market and is therefore 'ruled by EU laws'.
Green Party of England and Wales 	Supports Scottish independence, but concedes more work needs to be done to make the case for leaving the UK. The party wants more devolution to Edinburgh, including full control over taxes, including environmental levies, and greater borrowing powers.	The Greens support more devolution, with the Welsh Government given the same devolved powers as the Scottish Government. The party is "committed to campaigning for an independent Wales with its own democratic constitution".	The Green Party Northern Ireland, which is fielding a record 11 candidates, says it resolutely opposes sectarianism, is committed to equal rights, fair trade, ethical foreign policies and devolving decision making to the 'lowest effective level'.
Scottish National Party 	It says independence would 'strengthen our economy, tackle the cost of living and bring about a fairer country'. Leader John Swinney says he would be 'empowered' to begin negotiations on a new independence referendum if it wins a majority of Scottish seats.	The party's only reference to Wales is to point out Scotland's better record on housebuilding than in Wales and to call for the 'disparity of esteem' between Gaelic and Welsh broadcasting to be corrected. The SNP retains friendly links with Plaid Cymru.	Northern Ireland is not specifically mentioned in its manifesto, but the anti-Brexit party has attacked Rishi Sunak for not allowing Scotland the same trading relationship with the EU that Northern Ireland receives under the Windsor Framework.
Plaid Cymru 	Backs the cause of Scottish independence. It argues many powers devolved to Scotland - such as over income tax, justice, benefits and rail infrastructure - should be given to Cardiff.	Supports Welsh independence as the 'best way to deliver real fairness and ambition for Wales' and would set up consultation on the best approach to independence. In the meantime it supports far greater devolution of powers.	It complains Wales has been an 'afterthought' in negotiations with the EU over the Windsor Framework despite it affecting the port of Holyhead. Plaid's manifesto calls for the powers over justice and rail infrastructure wielded by Stormont to be given to Cardiff too.
In summary	Most of the UK-wide parties oppose Scottish independence, although Labour and the Lib Dems both promise to improve relations between London and Edinburgh, as well as review the balance of powers.	No party wants to scrap the Senedd but there are divisions over the devolution of further powers to Cardiff. Plaid Cymru has softened its stance on independence, dropping its timetable for leaving the UK.	There is widespread backing for the Windsor Framework on Northern Ireland's trading relationship with the European Union, with only Reform UK breaking from the consensus.



Dominoes

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

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

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

Journey Finder

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

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

Train Tracks

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

5	5	5	2	2	2	4	5	
								7
								3
								2
								3
								8
								4
								2
								1

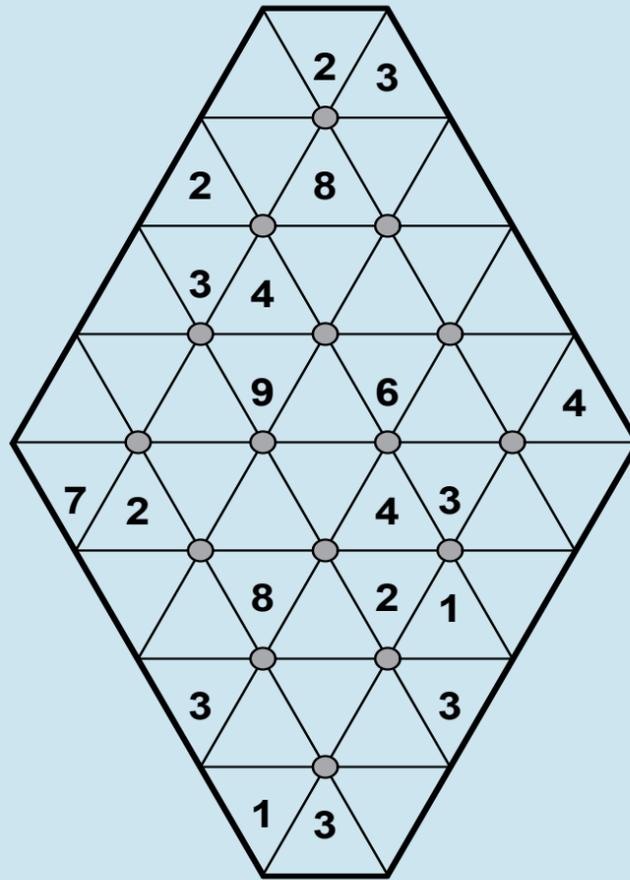
Binary

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

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

Number Hexagon

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



Pathfinder

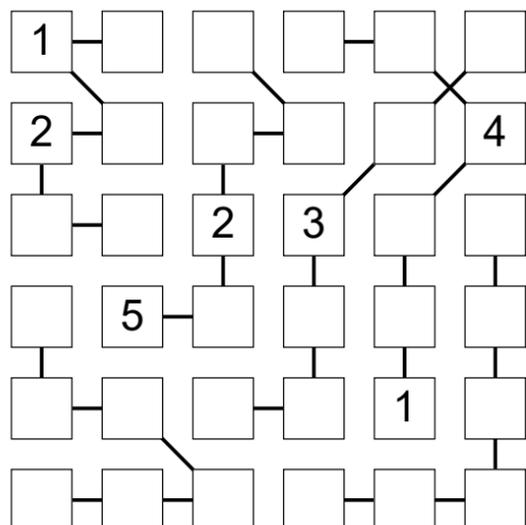
How to play Moving from letter to adjacent letter, can you create a continuous path that visits every square once and spells out all the words listed to the right of the grid? Start on the shaded square.

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

- Assistant
- Backspin
- Biplanes
- Lifeblood
- Liked
- Morose
- Panacea
- Parson
- Realm
- Rhombus
- Sizing
- Thematic
- Uncouth
- Underfoot

Chain Link

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



Daily Quiz

1. What animal was caught on film recently treating a facial wound with a jungle-plant remedy?
2. Which Swiss psychologist gave his name to a personality test featuring ink blots?
3. What name is given to the ornamental multicoloured gourds originally from South America that have 10 protruding points?
4. Which skilled and cultured empire preceded that of the Aztecs in pre-Hispanic Mexico?

Answers, page 45

Battleships

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

	▲				▲				3
									2
									4
									0
								●	2
									4
									0
									4
									0
									1
2	5	2	2	0	0	3	2	1	3



Vegan Jersey royal black bean tacos



VEGETARIAN MONDAY

SERVES 4

For the filling

- 1tbsp olive oil
- 2 shallots, diced
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- 300g Jersey royal potatoes, diced
- 300g tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 1tsp chipotle paste, add more to taste
- 120g black beans, drained and rinsed

To serve

- Little gem lettuce leaves
- 2 avocados, peeled and sliced
- Edible flowers (we used violas) and tiger pink lemons to serve

For the pickles

- 75ml red wine vinegar
- 1tbsp sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 1 large red onion, thinly sliced
- 6 radishes (recommend breakfast and watermelon), thinly sliced

Warm the vinegar with the sugar and salt and stir until dissolved. Bring up to the boil then pour over the onions and radishes. Leave to steep and cool for at least 15 minutes.

To make the filling, heat the oil in a pan, add the shallots and cook gently for five minutes until completely softened. Stir in the garlic and cook for another minute, then add the potatoes, tomatoes and chipotle paste with 100ml water.

Bring to the boil, cover and simmer gently for 15 minutes until the potatoes are tender. Stir in the beans and cook uncovered for another five minutes. Cool slightly.

To serve, spoon the potato mixture into the lettuce leaves, top with avocado slices, a few pickles and a lemon wedge for squeezing over. Garnish with edible flowers and extra lemon wedges.

Recipe from Jerseyroyals.co.uk

Tomorrow

Zingy barbecue lemon chicken



Games & Puzzles

Kakuro

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

			13	15				
		3				28	17	
	24				16			
	6				17			
11				11				
17			6				32	10
6			15					
11			3	20				
				24				
		14				10		
	5			13				
	4			23				

Jigsawdoku

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

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

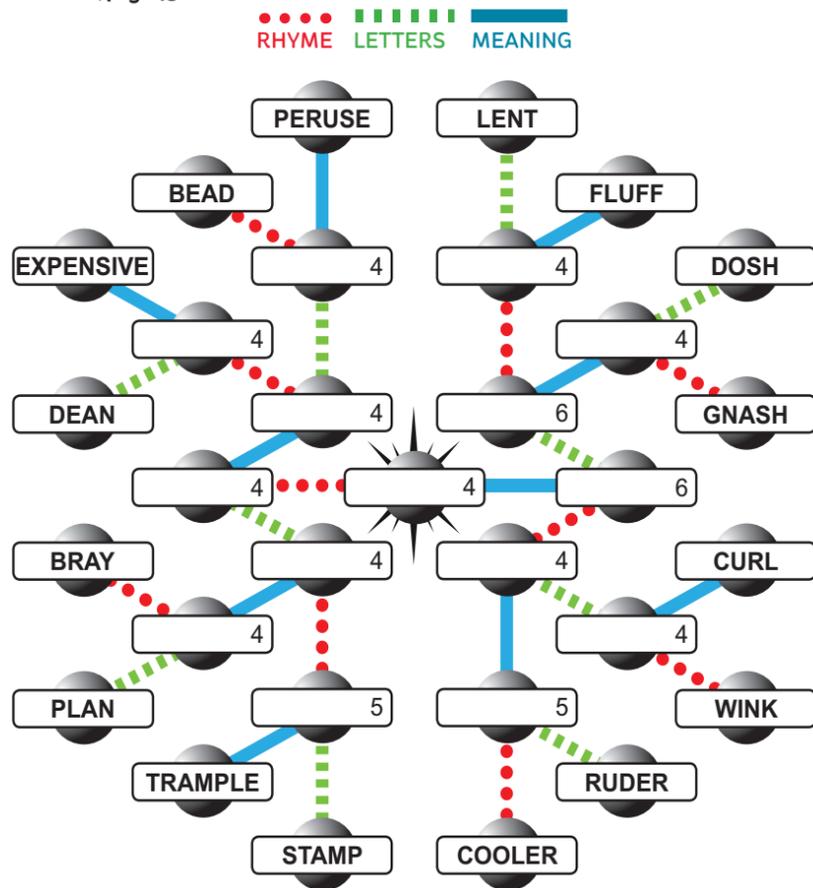
Killer Sudoku

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

20	9		5	10		12	12	
		11		9			3	14
8	12		21		9			
		5		7		15		10
16			12			8		
	9		13		12		15	12
8	8	12				8		
		16	14		9		14	
5			14			8		

Zygolex® In i every day

Find the missing words by following the RHYME, LETTERS and MEANING links – eg, a word that rhymes with 'cheek', has one letter different from 'pear' and has the same meaning as mountain, would be 'peak'. Full rules at zygolex.com. Solution, page 45



Futoshiki

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

	>			>	2	
	v			^		
	<					3
		v				v
		>			>	
				<		
				^		
	>		<	4		

Minesweeper

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

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

Number Square

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

Easier

	+		x	9	117
x		x		x	
	x		-		5
-		+		x	
	+		-	6	5
12		22			54

Harder

	x		-		19
÷		x		+	
2	-		x		-1
+		+		-	
	x		+		79
10		27			-1

Codeword No 3923

How to play The numbers in the grid correspond to the letters of the alphabet. Solve the puzzle and fill in the letters in the key as you discover them. Three letters are provided to give you a start. The solution will be printed in tomorrow's paper, the solution to Saturday's codeword is on page 45.

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

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

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



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

Word Ladder

How to play

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

JIVE
FURY
LIMP
TEXT

idoku Exclusive to i

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

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

Sudoku Harder

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

Tomorrow: Easier

ABC Logic

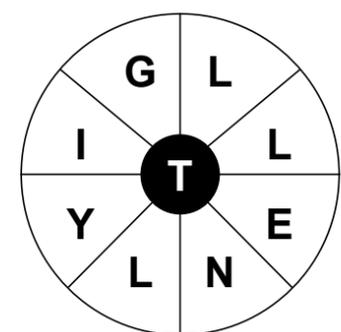
How to play

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

	A	C		C
B				
C				
A				B
B				B
	B		B	

Word Wheel

How to play This is an open-ended puzzle. How many words of three or more letters, each including the letter at the centre of the wheel, can you make from this diagram? We've found 29, including one nine-letter word. Can you do better?



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

Terms & Conditions

By using i's text services, you are agreeing to receive occasional SMS messages from DMG Media. You will not be charged for receiving these messages and may opt out at any time by texting STOP to the originating number. SMS services on this page are provided by BBA Digital Ltd, KT18 5AD, helpline: 0333 335 3351. Phone services on this page are provided by Spoke AL10 9NA, helpline: 0333 202 3390, and by Advanced Telecom Services, EC1M 4BH. Helpline: 0330 333 6946.

Concise Crossword No 4245

ACROSS

- Foot part (4)
- Replete (4)
- Common analgesic (7)
- Magnanimous (5)
- Prison rooms (5)
- Perfect example (7)
- Show (11)
- Retrieve (7)
- Effrontery (5)
- At no time (5)
- Dribble (7)
- Once more (4)
- Kill (4)

DOWN

- In short supply (6)
- Jacket part (5)
- Mushrooms, toadstools, etc (5)
- Doctor's garment (3,4)
- Wall painting (6)
- Scatter between (11)
- Unit of heredity (4)
- Animate (7)
- Haphazard (6)
- Annual (6)
- Of sound mind (4)
- Pointer (5)
- Dissident (5)

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

Solution to Saturday's Concise Crossword

ACROSS 1 Fir, 3 Meant (Ferment), 8 Defunct, 9 Cairn, 10 Troublemaker, 11 Seethe, 12 Glossy, 14 Repercussion, 18 Nares, 19 Chevron, 20 Hedge, 21 Nye.
DOWN 1 Fade, 2 Referee, 3 Metal, 4 Accomplished, 5 Thick, 6 Unauthorised, 7 Energy, 11 Sarong, 13 Sporrán, 15 Perch, 16 Uncle, 17 Once.

i PUZZLE BOOKS

Our range of puzzle books includes crosswords, codewords, jigsawdokus, children's games, sudokus and more. Available on Amazon for £4.99 each

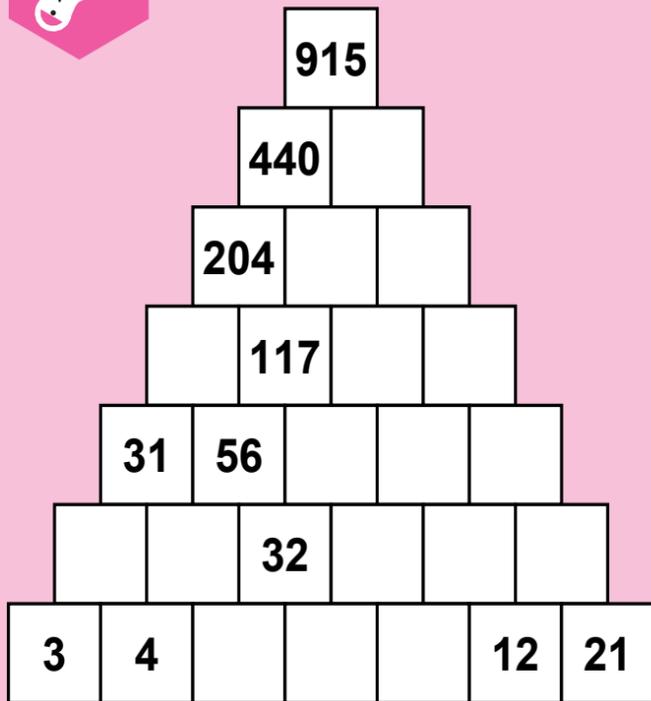
See the full range at minURL.co.uk/ibooks

Today's other puzzles Cryptic Crossword, page 25
Five-Clue Cryptic, page 16; One-Minute Wijuko, page 23
Puzzle solutions See page 45

Children's Corner Number Tower



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



Knight's Tour

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

7		65			25	11	
	85	53		79			
51	6		89	55	14	17	12
		63	82	80			23
		88		21			28
68	91	98	93		76	29	35
	4	69	96				
		1	71	74			
		43		45			58
100	41	47			59	32	37

Rectangles

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

			6				
3	2		2				3
						2	
	8	7					16
2						4	
		10	10				
2							
3			2	7			
		3	3			2	
			3				

Word Fit

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

5 letters

- Chill
- Cross
- Faint
- Links
- Paves
- Wiles

6 letters

- Become
- Expend
- Folder
- Invoke
- Motion
- Organs
- Tumult

7 letters

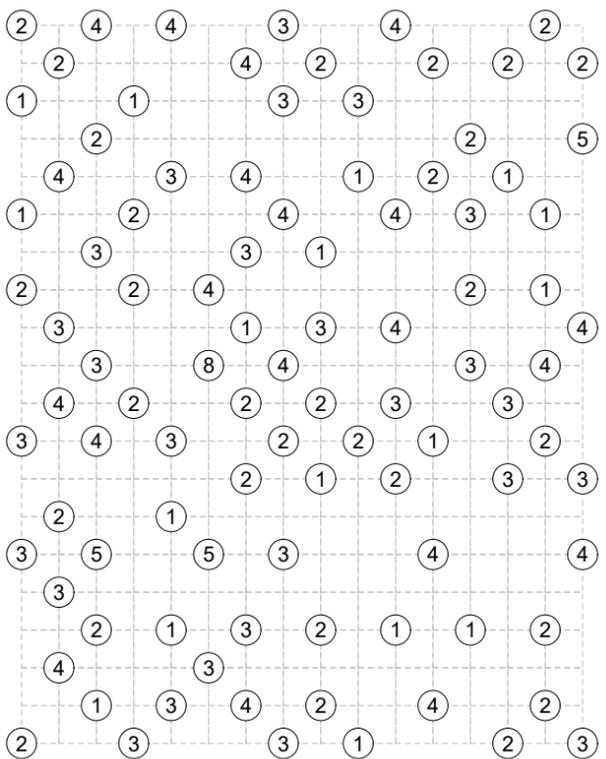
- Objects
- Piglets
- Slipway
- Verdure

8 letters

- Alkaline
- Capsicum

Bridges

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



Word Search

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

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

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| BAMBERGA | HEKTOR |
| CAMILLA | HERCULINA |
| CERES | HYGIEA |
| CYBELE | JUNO |
| DAVIDA | PALLAS |
| DORIS | PATIENTIA |
| EUGENIA | SYLVIA |
| EUNOMIA | THISBE |
| EUPHROSYNE | URSULA |
| EUROPA | VESTA |

Solutions: page 45

Word Square

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

				Drains of energy
				Song for a solo voice
				Hogs
				Cloth worn around the waist

Calculudoku

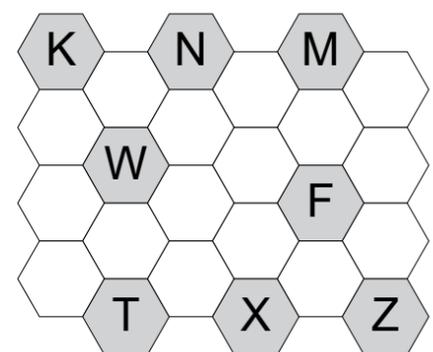
How to play Place the numbers 1-6 once in each row and column, obeying sums in bold-lined regions. The number in each region indicates the total for the region, and the symbol shows which type of operation should be applied to the numbers: addition, subtraction, division or multiplication. Numbers may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

7+		13+		12+
3-		6x		11+
9+			4+	
		3-		1-
8+			24x	
5-		12+		

Hexalex

How to play Place each of the letters below once into the empty hexagons, crossing them off as you do so. Enter the letters in such a way that it is possible to find all the words listed alongside the grid by moving from hexagon to adjacent hexagon to spell out each word.

A C D E G H I J L O P R S U V Y



- FAX
- FILM
- FJORD
- HAZY
- ONRUSH
- PECK
- PEG
- SUP
- VIM
- WEPT

What have the main political parties promised voters on the future of the UK and its institutions? These are their manifesto pledges



In tomorrow:
Economy and growth

NORTH AND THE REGIONS	PR AND VOTING AGE	CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM	MONARCHY
<p>The Conservatives are promising more devolution and new powers for communities. They would give extra cash to revive high streets and enable more local people to take over assets such as pubs, music venues and libraries. They would create more Freeports and Investment Zones to encourage local growth.</p>	<p>The Conservatives remain committed to the existing first past the post voting system because of its 'direct link with the local voter' as well as requiring people to show ID at polling stations before casting their votes. The party would leave the voting age at 18.</p>	<p>There is no mention of reforming the House of Lords. The Tory manifesto is equivocal over quitting the European Convention on Human Rights, saying "our security" should always take priority over a foreign court's jurisdiction, such as The European Court of Human Rights.</p>	<p>The party has long supported the monarchy strongly and hopes to have put behind it some apparent tensions with Buckingham Palace when Boris Johnson advised the Queen to prorogue Parliament during battles over Brexit. Rishi Sunak has praised the King's 'long-standing track record' championing green issues.</p>
<p>Labour's 10-year infrastructure strategy to stop the UK 'grinding to a halt' would include improving rail connectivity across northern England, as well as new roads and reservoirs. Councils would get powers to operate bus services, and mayors able to design integrated transport systems.</p>	<p>Although there is strong support for introducing proportional representation within the Labour Party, there is no mention of it in the manifesto. Labour would reduce the voting age to 16 for all UK elections to boost 'engagement of young people in our vibrant democracy'.</p>	<p>Labour would reform the House of Lords immediately, including removing the 92 hereditary peers, with the eventual aim of replacing it with an elected second chamber 'more representative of the regions and nations'. MPs would be banned from accepting paid advisory or consultancy roles.</p>	<p>Sir Keir Starmer's apparent republican sympathies are decades behind him – he introduced the singing of the national anthem at Labour conferences and paid full tribute to the Queen after her death. There is no mention of reforming the monarchy in his manifesto.</p>
<p>The Lib Dems would continue to support the Northern Powerhouse initiative, review the cancellation of the northern leg of the HS2 scheme, 'significantly extend' railway electrification, boost rural bus services and eliminate regional differences in energy prices.</p>	<p>The party repeats its long-standing support for proportional representation for electing MPs and councillors for a 'truly fair democracy'. It supports lowering the voting age to 16 for general elections and English council elections.</p>	<p>The Lib Dems would 'reform the House of Lords with a proper democratic mandate'. They want to cap donations to parties to 'take the big money out of politics', tighten rules on lobbying and set up national and local citizens' assemblies.</p>	<p>The party has long supported a constitutional monarchy on the basis of democratic consent (although a 2013 poll suggested a minority of activists supported its eventual abolition) and Sir Ed Davey praised the late Queen as 'our nation's constant'. The manifesto makes no reference to the issue.</p>
<p>The party pledges to get Britain's infrastructure 'back on its feet', focusing on coastal areas, the North of England, the Midlands and Wales. Planning would be streamlined to boost housing, businesses and housing in those areas. The rest of the 'bloated vanity project' of HS2 would be scrapped.</p>	<p>Reform UK favours proportional representation for electing MPs to prevent new parties being 'shut out of the political system' – a move it claims would boost voter turnout by around 10 per cent. It would severely curb postal voting to combat electoral fraud.</p>	<p>The party would, within 100 days, leave the European Convention on Human Rights, replace the 'crony-filled' House of Lords with a smaller, more democratic second chamber and replace senior civil servants with 'successful professionals from the private sector'.</p>	<p>Nigel Farage has previously taken pot-shots at some senior royals, including 'Charlie Boy', but fiercely defended the Royal Family from accusations of racism. His prospectus makes no reference to his vision of the monarchy's future.</p>
<p>The Greens would spend £10bn on setting up regional mutual banks to champion decarbonisation schemes and give local authorities £2bn per year to help companies decarbonise. They support faster electrification of railways and giving councils powers over bus services.</p>	<p>The party supports replacing first past the post with a 'fair and proportional voting system' for parliamentary and council elections, and want to give 16- and 17-year-olds the right to vote and to stand for Parliament and other elected offices.</p>	<p>The Greens describe replacing the House of Lords with an elected second chamber and beginning work on a 'new constitutional settlement' as priorities. They advocate 'a fair system of state funding for political parties' and unlimited fines for parties which breach electoral law.</p>	<p>Historically, the Greens have supported stripping the monarchy of its powers as "the hereditary principle should have no place in government". But the policy has taken a back seat and there is no mention of the Royal Family in their English and Welsh manifesto.</p>
<p>The SNP promises financial relief to parts of the Highlands and Islands facing high energy prices and to build on a £500m scheme to help the north-east of Scotland move away from industries based on oil and gas.</p>	<p>The party wants first past the post replaced with the single transferable vote form of PR. It backs reducing the general election voting age to 16 – as is already the case for the Edinburgh Parliament and Scottish councils – and extending the vote to foreign residents.</p>	<p>The SNP wants Scotland to become independent and to rejoin the European Union. In the shorter term, it is calling for greater devolution of powers to cover such areas as tax, immigration and energy. It argues for the 'undemocratic' House of Lords to be abolished.</p>	<p>Following the Queen's death, John Swinney, now the Scottish First Minister, confirmed that King Charles would be head of state in an independent Scotland, mirroring its position during the 2014 referendum on leaving the UK.</p>
<p>Denouncing levels of inequality across the UK, Plaid says levelling up has to be more than a 'political slogan'. It wants the 'outdated' Barnett funding formula to be scrapped and Wales given the £4bn it is 'owed' from the 'England-only' HS2 rail scheme.</p>	<p>Plaid Cymru advocates the single transferable vote to choose MPs so that 'a greater proportion of votes are used to elect representatives rather than wasted' and backs voting at 16 for Westminster elections in line with Senedd and Welsh council elections.</p>	<p>The party ultimately advocates Welsh independence, but does not put a timetable on its ambition. It condemns Brexit and wants to rejoin the EU 'at an appropriate point in time', but believes the UK should re-enter the European Single Market and Customs Union 'at the earliest opportunity'.</p>	<p>There is a strain of republicanism within the party – former leader Leanne Wood was once kicked out of the Senedd chamber for calling the Queen 'Mrs Windsor' – but the issue does not surface in its manifesto.</p>
<p>The parties agree more needs to be done on 'levelling up' and are vying with each other to boost the economy and transport links. They broadly agree over devolving more decision-making to local communities.</p>	<p>The smaller parties who suffer from the first past the post system concur on the case for proportional representation, while the Tories disagree and Labour won't be drawn. Most want the voting age to be 16.</p>	<p>Six of the seven parties support reform or abolition of the Lords, with several supporting moves to 'clean up' politics by stopping MPs taking consultancy posts or by taking big money out of funding parties.</p>	<p>Speculation before the Queen's death that the arrival of a new sovereign would spark debate over the monarchy's future has proved unfounded. The parties are not going there.</p>

Panorama

Around the world in 10 stories



SWITZERLAND

Four dead after Alpine landslide

A landslide in southern Switzerland left four people dead, one missing and caused a river bridge to collapse, police said yesterday.

Storms affected southern and western Switzerland, with the worst-hit areas in the Italian-speaking Ticino canton, on the southern side of the Alps. The landslide was in the Fontana area of Maggia valley, near Locarno. Three bodies were recovered and rescuers were searching for another. A man was also found dead in a hotel in Saas-Grund. AP

SUDAN

Paramilitary opens new front

Fighting has raged between Sudan's military and a paramilitary group in a city in a central province, officials said yesterday, opening another front in a 14-month war.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces began an offensive on Sennar province last week, before moving to the city of Singa, the provincial capital.

RSF fighters on pick-up trucks carrying automatic rifles rampaged through Singa, about 200 miles south east of the capital, Khartoum, over the weekend.

They looted houses and shops and took over the main hospital. AP

GREECE

Crews battle blazes fanned by gale-force winds

By Angeliki Koutantou
IN ATHENS

A wildfire fanned by gale-force winds raged uncontrolled on the Greek island of Serifos yesterday, forcing the evacuation of several hamlets.

Nearly a dozen firefighters

battled the blaze on the Aegean island that broke out on vegetation but spread quickly amid strong winds, and more were expected to join them.

No homes were threatened.

Amid hot and windy conditions across the country about 50 fires broke out on Saturday and people were advised to stay out of forests.

A blaze near Athens had eased but 160 firefighters were still battling the flames, officials said.

Gusts exceeding 62mph hit efforts on Mount Parnitha, 12 miles north of Athens. REUTERS

Postcard From... San Francisco

In an increasingly divisive political sphere, Becca Robbins focuses on what she knows best: books.

Operating out of a tiny room in Fabulosa Books in San Francisco's Castro district, one of the oldest gay neighbourhoods in the US, Ms Robbins uses donations from customers to ship boxes of books across the country to groups that want them.

In an effort she calls "Books Not Bans", she sends titles about queer history, sexuality, romance and more - many of which are increasingly hard to come by in the face of a

rapidly growing movement by conservative advocacy groups and lawmakers to ban them from public schools and libraries.

"The book bans are awful, the attempt at erasure," she said. She wondered how she could get these books into the hands of those who need them the most.

Ms Robbins started raising money and looking for recipients. Her books have gone to places including a Pride centre in Texas and an LGBT+-friendly secondary school in Alabama.

Over 40 per cent of all book bans from July 2022 to June 2023 were in Florida, more than any other state. Texas and Missouri were next, according to PEN America, a nonprofit literature advocacy group. AP

Jaimie Ding and Haven Daley

FRANCE

One dead and five injured after gang storm wedding

By Kyriakos Petrakos

Police are investigating after a masked gang killed one and wounded five in an attack involving two Kalashnikovs and a shotgun at a wedding ceremony in France.

The attack took place at the Eden Palace in the north-eastern city of Thionville into the early hours of yesterday morning.

Around a hundred people, reportedly members of the local Turkish community, were in attendance when the gunmen arrived at the event in a 4x4 car, French media said.

Three of the victims were said to be standing outside the venue, while two



Police officers at the site of a fatal shooting in Thionville, eastern France

were in the entrance hall, when the gunmen opened fire, shooting more than 15 rounds at the wedding guests. Police said that a pregnant woman

was among the wounded and three of the injured are reportedly in a critical condition at the Bel-Air hospital nearby.

"At a quarter past one in the morning, a group of people went outside to smoke in front of the hall, and then three heavily-armed men opened fire in their direction," a police source told AFP.

Prosecutor Nancy Francois Capin-Dulhoste said in a statement: "Several dozen rounds of ammunition were fired. Four people were hit by bullets.

"One has died, three others are in a state of absolute emergency."

She added that the victims are thought to be aged between 25 and 50.



Steeped in folklore

Members of the Boi Bumba Garantido association perform during the Boi Bumba folklore festival in Parintins, Amazonas State, Brazil. The event celebrates the indigenous cultures of the Amazon rainforest.

MICHAEL DANTAS/AFP/GETTY

SOUTH AFRICA

ANC and DA 'close to reaching deal' on cabinet roles

By Tim Cocks
IN JOHANNESBURG

South African parties are close to reaching a deal on who gets which cabinet posts, the last hurdle to setting up a government after the ruling party lost its majority in an election for the first time in three decades.

The country's *Sunday Times* and *City Press* both reported that Presi-

dent Cyril Ramaphosa's African National Congress (ANC) was broadly in agreement with the main opposition Democratic Alliance (DA), after the latter backed down on a demand to take the trade and industry portfolio.

"We are cautiously optimistic there could be an agreement before the end of the weekend," the senior DA politician Helen Zille was quoted as saying.

The ANC was forced to join forces

with the DA and other parties in a government of national unity after receiving fewer than half the votes for the first time in an election on May 29.

Voters furious at the ANC's poor record on delivering basic services, as well as widespread unemployment, poverty and corruption, deserted Nelson Mandela's legacy party, leaving it with just 40 per cent of the vote. REUTERS

MAURITANIA

President in lead at election count

Mauritania's President Mohamed Ould Ghazouani held a steady lead in the West African nation's presidential election with just over half of votes counted, the provisional results showed yesterday.

He had 54.87 per cent of the vote, ahead of anti-slavery activist Biram Dah Abeid, at 22.86 per cent, with 50.32 per cent of votes counted, electoral commission figures showed. REUTERS

INDIA

Flooding death toll rises to 11

The death toll from this week's sudden heavy rain has climbed to 11 in Delhi, including four citizens who drowned in submerged underpasses, while flight operations stuttered in the Indian capital.

Delhi, which endured one of its worst heatwaves in history earlier this month, faced the biggest downpour in decades on 28 June, with rainfall in a single day surpassing the city's average for the entire month. REUTERS

NORTH KOREA

'Asian Nato' drills are lambasted

North Korea criticised a military exercise by South Korea, Japan and the United States, which began on Thursday, saying it showed "the Asian version of Nato" had been created.

The three countries' joint drills - "Freedom Edge" - involving navy destroyers, fighter jets and a nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier, aimed to boost defences against missiles, submarines and air attacks. REUTERS

UKRAINE

Children among victims in Russian missile strikes

By Victoria Crow

A day of mourning was held yesterday after Russian missiles killed seven people, including children, and wounded dozens of others after slamming into a town in southern Ukraine, local authorities reported.

Ukrainian officials published photos of bodies stretched out under picnic blankets in a park in Vilniansk, and large craters in the earth next to the charred remains of a building that appeared to have been struck by a missile. At least 38 people were wounded in the attack on Saturday evening, authorities said.

Vilniansk is in the Zaporizhzhya region, less than 20 miles from the local capital and north of the front lines, as Russian forces continue to occupy part of the province.

Local governor Ivan Fedorov said that three children were among the dead and nine more were among the 38 wounded.

He said the strike damaged a shop, residential buildings, and an unspecified "critical infrastructure" facility in Vilniansk, a town which had a population of around 14,300 before Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

It comes as Russia's defence min-

istry claimed its forces had taken over the villages of Spirne and Novoleksandrivka in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, according to the RIA Russian news agency.

It also said four employees of Russia's ministry of emergency situations were injured in the Ukrainian army's shelling of the Donetsk region yesterday.

"In the Petrovsky district, department firefighters (the employees) were extinguishing a fire that occurred after [Ukrainian] shelling," the ministry said on the Telegram messaging app. "The shelling hit them as they were evacuating."

The ministry said Russia's air defences also destroyed 36 drones that Ukraine launched overnight targeting Russia's southwest regions.

Fifteen drones were destroyed over the Kursk region that borders Ukraine as well as nine over the Lipetsk region, several hundred kilo-

metres south of Moscow, the defence ministry said on the Telegram messaging app.

Four drones were destroyed each over the Voronezh and Bryansk regions in south-western Russia and two each over the nearby Oryol and Belgorod regions.

The reports could not be independently verified.

Russia has stretched Ukraine's defence forces in several areas along the 600-mile front line. Moscow has also stepped up air strikes in a bid to drain Ukraine's resources, often targeting energy facilities and other vital infrastructure.

{i} Elsewhere in Ukraine, Russian shelling killed one civilian and wounded five more on Saturday in the southern Kherson region, its governor reported on Telegram.

LEBANON

Israeli attack 'risks Iranian response'

The top US military officer warned yesterday that an Israeli military offensive into Lebanon would risk an Iranian response in defence of the Hezbollah militant group there, triggering a broader war that could put US forces in danger.

General CQ Brown, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, said that Tehran would give greater backing to Hezbollah "if they felt that Hezbollah was being significantly threatened". AP

WEST BANK

Bank co-operation deal extended

Israel's finance minister has extended a waiver that allows co-operation between its banking system and Palestinian banks in the West Bank, a spokesperson said.

The waiver, due to expire at the end of June, allows Israeli banks to process shekel payments for services and salaries tied to the Palestinian Authority. Without it, the Palestinian economy would have taken a hit. REUTERS



Temperatures passed 40°C in Izmir's Selcuk district MEHMET EMIN MENGUARSLAN/ANADOLU

TURKEY

Firefighters take to the air to battle wildfires after severe heatwave

By Emilia Randall

Wildfires sparked chaos in Turkey after temperatures passed 40°C following a severe heatwave.

Blazes tore through Kusadası, a beach resort on the Aegean coast in the south-east. Helicopters and planes were deployed over the

Diyarbakir and Mardin inland provinces to extinguish the flames while some hotels were evacuated.

Elsewhere, on Saturday night, aircraft equipped with night vision cameras in Izmir's Selcuk district worked to combat fire, with ground and air efforts resuming yesterday.

Authorities are looking into the

cause, with interior minister Ali Yerlikaya citing "stubble burning", where farmers remove crop residue, as a possible cause.

According to the European forest fire information system, Turkey has had at least 75 wildfires so far this year, with 31,900 acres of land destroyed by June.

MIDDLE EAST

PM 'committed to eliminating Hamas' as troops advance

By Nidal al-Mughrabi and Kamel Hamdan

Israeli forces advanced further yesterday into the Shejaia neighbourhood of northern Gaza and also pushed deeper into western and central Rafah in the south, killing at least six Palestinians and destroying several homes, residents said.

Israeli tanks fired shells towards several houses, leaving families trapped inside and unable to leave, the residents said.

Speaking at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting yesterday, the Israeli prime minister Benjamin Ne-

tanyahu repeated his position that there was no substitute for achieving victory in the war against Hamas.

"Our forces are operating in Rafah, Shejaia, everywhere in the Gaza Strip. Dozens of terrorists are being eliminated every day. This is a difficult fight that is being waged above ground, sometimes in hand-to-hand combat and below ground as well," Mr Netanyahu said.

"We are committed to fighting until we achieve all of our objectives: Eliminating Hamas, returning all of our hostages, ensuring that Gaza never again constitutes a threat to Israel and returning our residents



Activists protest against the Israeli government in Tel Aviv on Saturday

securely to their homes in the south and the north," he added.

The Israeli military said forces operating in Shejaia had over the past

day killed several Palestinian gunmen. Israeli forces located military infrastructure inside a United Nations school, the military said.

On Saturday the military announced the death of two Israeli soldiers in northern Gaza.

At another raid in Shejaia, the forces located a "terrorist war room" at a clinic, said the military, which again accused Hamas of "embedding itself in civilian structures for terror purposes".

Hamas denies using civilian sites such as schools and hospitals for military purposes.

The armed wing of Hamas and

the allied Islamic Jihad reported fierce fighting in both Shejaia and Rafah, saying their fighters had fired anti-tank rockets and mortar bombs against Israeli forces.

In Rafah, Israeli tanks pushed deeper into several districts in the east, west and centre of the city, and medics said six people had been killed in an Israeli strike on a house.

The six bodies from the Zurub family were transferred to Nasser Hospital in the nearby city of Khan Yunis. Yesterday, dozens of relatives paid their respects before the bodies and then carried them to their graves. REUTERS

POLITICS

I met a Reform UK candidate to see if he could win Gen Z over... It didn't go well

Kia-Elise Green, 21, goes to an Abingdon pub with James Gunn, 62 – who is outspoken on feminism, Covid and 'wokery'

I'm 21 and this is the first general election in which my friends and I will vote. The feeling among us all is disillusionment with the Government and a deep fear for the economy and where it leaves our future – we're particularly stressed about the housing crisis.

So it doesn't surprise me that an increasing number of Gen Zers are rejecting the Tories and Labour. Some are instead planning to vote for Reform, which claims it is offering the public an alternative to traditional parties.

Reform has experienced the biggest surge among young voters since the election campaign began. It has overtaken the Tories among 18- to 24-year-olds: a YouGov poll from mid-June had Reform capturing 15 per cent of this age group (up from 4 per cent at the start of May), almost double the Conservatives at 7 per cent. Of course, this is dwarfed by the 47 per cent who said they were planning to vote Labour on Thursday, yet it feels significant.

Could I be swayed by Reform? To find out more about the party and what it is offering young people, I sat down with James Gunn, the Reform candidate for Oxford West and Abingdon.

We meet at The Flowing Well, one of Mr Gunn's local pubs in Abingdon. He's wearing a smart suit and a large hat. As a 62-year-old with two daughters aged 30 and 27, Mr Gunn is well aware that Gen Z is a generation he'll need on side.

"They feel they've been very indoctrinated over their lifetimes," Mr Gunn tells me when we talk about the increase in young male voters to his party. "All this wokery – they don't buy it."

Reform's anti-woke message is reaching young people through social media. Although he doesn't download TikTok on his own "machine" and has little to do with other platforms, he's well aware that Gen Zers are being politically influenced by what they see online.

I've noticed a lot of young people posting in support of Reform over the past few weeks. Its leader, Nigel Farage, has racked up more than 790,000 followers on TikTok and his videos, including lip-syncing to Eminem and commenting on melons in supermarkets, have amassed more than 14 million likes.



Mr Farage has also appeared on podcasts including *Strike It Big*, on which he spoke in favour of influencer Andrew Tate for defending "male culture".

Mr Tate, who since December 2022 has faced charges in Romania of human trafficking and rape, which he denies, has aired strong opinions on women, claiming they are the property of men and belong in the home. Mr Gunn says he doesn't know much about Mr Tate, but he does have some thoughts on young people and gender roles.

"I think girls should be aware promiscuity is not attractive to young men, or even old men," he tells me. "They've been taught by feminism that men and women can behave in the same way and, I'm sorry, but it ain't true."

As a 21-year-old in a world where women are still objectified and harassed daily, I'm unconvinced – and a little shocked – by his take. It's incredibly old-fashioned and sexist.

I'm unconvinced – and a little shocked – by his old-fashioned, sexist take on gender roles

Mr Gunn's views on the transgender debate are also out of step with what I and many of my peers believe. Mr Gunn says any promotion of transgender ideology should be banned. "We've allowed the schools to brainwash them," he says. "We're the ones who should be telling the schools, 'this is nonsense, you can't rewrite history like this'."

Mr Gunn's views on Covid are also contentious, as reported in Saturday's weekend. An ex-Conservative, he decided to throw his lot in with Reform during the pandemic, which he believes was handled ineptly.

"You do not need to quarantine the healthy, you quarantine the sick," he says. "Lockdown was quarantining the healthy. It's much easier to get something really nasty into a body, past the immune system, through a hypodermic than it is through some random virus – if it was indeed some random virus."

He then launches into an impassioned defence of disgraced MP Andrew Bridgen, who was kicked out of the Conservative Party after comparing Covid vaccines to the Holocaust.

"The NHS overreacted to lockdown and as a result we've got



itravel OFFER

SAVE UP TO 15%*



Ancient Greece Uncovered

8 days from **£1,229pp***

What's included:

- Selected departures between September 2024 and October 2025
- Return flights, coach travel and transfers
- Seven nights' bed-and-breakfast accommodation plus two dinners
- Tours & visits to Athens, Corinth Canal and Epidaurus, Delphi (Temple of Apollo), Mycenae, Olympia and Nafpaktos on the Gulf of Corinth
- Escorted by a tour manager

Call us **FREE** on **0808 239 3561**
Visit **www.inewstravel.co.uk**



Holidays are operated by Newmarket Holidays ABTOT 5509, ATOL 2325, ABTA V7812, a company wholly independent of Associated Newspapers Limited and I Travel. Price based on two people sharing. Single supplement applies. Prices correct at the time of print. *From price based on September 4, 2024 from London Luton. ^Save up to 15% offer applies to new bookings by July 31, 2024. This offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other discount, promotion, or concession. This offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time.



Kia-Elise Green with James Gunn; the candidate questions the official narrative on Covid TOM PILSTON

a lot of people who are still needing treatment after that," Mr Gunn says. "We have a lot of people who are having some sort of unexplained increase in cancers and cardiac problems, which the Government refuses to investigate.

"I'm with Andrew Bridgen on this – it's time to look into it. I think I know where it came from, but I have no evidence because the Government doesn't want me to have any evidence."

Mr Gunn also says US infectious diseases chief Anthony Fauci admitted that the "Covid-19 virus was the result of his [Dr Fauci's] gain-of-function work, which was subcontracted out to Wuhan". Dr Fauci has vehemently denied this.

Deep breath. We move on to immigration. Mr Gunn believes Reform's policies in this area are appealing to young voters.

"They feel that mass immigration is reducing their life chances," he says. "If you're competing against 500,000 in each school year that's one thing, but if you've suddenly got another 685,000 men of roughly the same age... it's more than twice as difficult to get a job."

He adds: "We're happy to accept genuine refugees and asylum seekers who come to this country... Anyone coming from France is

an economic migrant – nobody is persecuted in France. There's no reason for any of these people in boats coming to us.

"The Border Force should not be picking them up and bringing them here. We will pick them up and take them back. Anyone that comes on a boat, we will take their DNA and fingerprints and we will put them on a list of people never to be allowed into Britain."

Another priority for young people, Mr Gunn believes, is the housing crisis. "They see that by the time they're 40 they may have saved a deposit but who knows what a house will cost," he says.

I have lived at home and rented a flat, and the hope of buying a home in my early twenties has seemed impossible. The mortgage hikes and the need for a huge deposit are a burden for a Gen Zer like me looking to purchase alone. It seems hopeless trying.

Mr Gunn says Reform is planning to solve the crisis by building more homes and introducing a new planning permission system.

"At the moment it's very clumsy and it takes years to get approval," he says. "All this stuff where people have to get council permission to extend their kitchen is stupid. This state control has

gone much too far."

NHS waiting lists are his priority, though: "Waiting lists appear to have more or less collapsed post lockdown. People can't see a GP."

During his campaign, he's attended multiple hustings across Oxford and Abingdon. One, at a local sixth-form school, opened his eyes to what Gen Z cared about – especially climate change. According to polls, the environment and the climate are on Gen Z's list of priorities and that chimes with my own worries.

Yet Reform is strongly opposed to net zero efforts. Mr Gunn says:

"Whatever someone thinks about climate change, net zero isn't the answer. Shutting down our economy is going to be a disaster. "I don't want to go to the well twice a day with two buckets and fill them up and carry them back to my house... Poor people can't afford luxury ideas like green policies and net zero".

Mr Gunn says he has been "astonished" at the warm reception he's had while running for Reform UK. Though a smart social media strategy and some radical ideas have convinced some of my peers to vote for the party, after this conversation I won't be one of them.

Will Abingdon swing behind Reform? We'll find out this week.

15%

Proportion of voters aged 18-24 who told a survey they were planning to vote Reform

WELLBEING

Why the health experts don't take a multivitamin

It is better to get nutrients through food, **Sadhbh O'Sullivan** is told

For many of us, multivitamins are a basic insurance policy. This is unsurprising given how heavily they are marketed, from child-friendly "gummy" versions with cartoon endorsements to varieties sold as being good in menopause. Popping a daily supplement is an easy way to feel like you're looking after yourself – and nearly half the population take multivitamins or dietary supplements.

But how much good are multivitamins actually doing us? A recent major US study that analysed the health records of almost 400,000 adults found that multivitamins did not help people to live longer – and people who took daily multivitamins were actually slightly more likely than non-users to die in the study period.

The largest random clinical trial study so far (the gold standard for research quality) was published in 2012. Multivitamins were found to result in modest reductions in cancer and cataracts and gave no protective effect against heart disease or mental decline.

So should we even bother? I spoke to health experts about why they don't take multivitamins – and what they do instead.

'Multivitamins can lead to a false sense of security'

Dr Lawrence Cunningham, GP and contributing medical expert at UK Care Guide

I don't actually take vitamins myself. I, like many GPs, recognise that a balanced diet typically provides all the necessary vitamins and minerals required for good health.

The body is adept at absorbing nutrients from whole foods, which also offer the added benefits of fibre and various bioactive compounds that supplements cannot replicate.

In my experience, an overreliance on multivitamins can lead to a false sense of security. People may neglect their dietary choices, thinking that supplements will cover their nutritional gaps.

The supplement industry is not as tightly regulated as pharmaceuticals, which means the potency and purity can vary widely. Some may contain ingredients that interact negatively with prescribed medications or exacerbate existing health conditions.

People risk neglecting dietary choices, thinking that supplements will cover their nutritional gaps



Popping a daily supplement can feel beneficial, but studies question this

Having dealt with patients who have experienced adverse reactions or no noticeable benefits from multivitamins, I always recommend focusing on a nutrient-dense diet as the primary source of vitamins and minerals instead.

'I would take a vitamin D supplement over a multivitamin'

Nichola Ludlam-Raine, dietitian

I do take multivitamins when I remember, but mainly it's for the 10mcg of vitamin D. I would take a vitamin D supplement over a multivitamin – I work full time so don't see the sun quite as much as I would like – but it honestly depends on what I have in the house.

I eat a pretty healthy and balanced diet and know that I get the recommended nutrient intakes across the week for vitamins and minerals. For example, just a handful of berries provides all the vitamin C you need in a day.

If I'm ever poorly I do choose to take a high-dose vitamin C, as there is some evidence a higher dose can help to shorten the duration of cold symptoms. I also take a probiotic, such as Optibac, if I ever need to take antibiotics.

'They often contain a small amount of a lot of nutrients'

Thalia Pellegrini, registered nutritionist

I don't take multivitamins because they often contain a small amount of a lot of nutrients. You should always think "food first" – with myself and my clients, I prefer to focus on ways to improve dietary intake of nutrients.

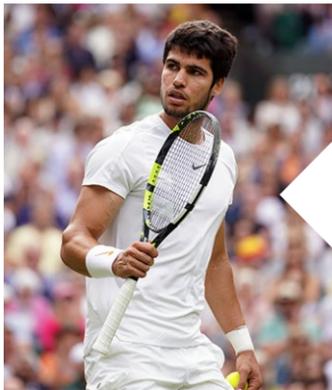
If a blood test shows a deficiency, then I recommend taking those nutrients as a supplement.

There are complexes that are very useful – vitamin D with K2 for example, or iron with vitamin C, or a B complex – as some vitamins work best in synergy with others. I tend to take single nutrients in a larger dose if I think they're required.

Television Monday 1 July

CRITIC'S CHOICE

GERARD GILBERT



PICK OF THE DAY

Live Wimbledon 2024

10.30am, BBC Two; 2pm, BBC One
It's mostly about football, politics and tennis this week – the latter as Wimbledon fortnight returns to dominate the BBC schedules, with Isa Guha and Clare Balding presenting. Reigning champion Carlos Alcaraz (left) gets proceedings under way on Centre Court, having ended Novak Djokovic's four-year winning streak, while Andy Murray should hopefully be fit again for his final hurrah in SW19. Markéta Vondrousova is the reigning women's champion, but a likely challenger is Coco Gauff. She won her maiden Grand Slam at the 2023 US Open and also reached the semi-finals of both the Australian and French Opens this year.

===

Live Uefa Euro 2024

3.45pm, ITV1; 7.30pm, BBC One
France play Belgium in the first of today's round of 16 matches, with Kylian Mbappé presumably again donning his face mask after receiving a broken nose playing Austria (kick-off is at 5pm). Meanwhile, Portugal take on Slovenia in this evening's game in Frankfurt (kick-off at 8pm). As they showed against an admittedly unimaginative England, the doughty Slovenians are not easy to break down.

===

Bake Off: The Professionals

8pm, Channel 4
Liam Charles and Ellie Taylor welcome back the best three teams

from each set of heats for a chocolate-fuelled pursuit to reach the final. For their first challenge, the chefs create two batches of chocolate bars, after which they must create a hanging showpiece made entirely from chocolate and delicately suspended from the ceiling, inspired by a mythical beasts theme. What could possibly go wrong?

===

Skint: The Truth About Britain's Broken Economy With Tim Harford

9pm, Channel 4
The *Financial Times*'s "undercover economist" and presenter of Radio 4's *More or Less* (a programme about the accuracy of statistics) provides a fresh analysis of Britain's broken

economy ahead of the general election. Featuring real-life stories and testimony from expert witnesses, Harford sets out to examine the impact the financial crisis is having on the public, before presenting ideas on how to fix it.

===

House Of The Dragon

9pm, Sky Atlantic
Two familiar faces join the cast of the *Game of Thrones* prequel this week. Simon Russell Beale, who can also be seen in *Douglas* is *Cancelled* on Thursday, plays Sir Simon Strong, lord of Harrenhal. He receives a surprise visit from Daemon (Matt Smith) and his dragon Caraxes – rarely a positive experience. And then there is Freddie Fox (*Slow Horses* and *The*

	BBC ONE	BBC TWO	itv1	4	5	BBC FOUR	FILM	itv2
Daytime	6.00 Breakfast (S). 9.30 Morning Live (S). 10.45 Scam Interceptors (S). 11.15 Homes Under The Hammer (R) (S). 12.15 Wimbledon 2024 Coverage of play on the outside courts on day one (S). 1.00 BBC News At One; Weather (S). 1.35 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 1.45 BBC News At One; Weather (S). 2.00 Wimbledon 2024 Further coverage of day one (S).	6.30 Garden Rescue: Top Of The Plots (R) (S). 7.15 Bargain Hunt (R) (S). 8.00 Sign Zone: The Repair Shop (R) (S). 9.00 BBC News (S). 10.30 Wimbledon 2024 The opening day of the tournament (S). 12.15 Politics Live (S). 1.00 Wimbledon 2024 Further coverage of day one (S).	6.00 Good Morning Britain (S). 9.00 Lorraine (S). 10.00 This Morning (S). 12.30 Loose Women (S). 1.30 ITV News; Weather (S). 1.55 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 2.00 Cooking With The Stars (R) (S). 3.00 Catchphrase (R) (S). 3.45 Live Uefa Euro 2024 France vs Belgium. Kick-off is at 5pm (S).	6.25 Cheers (R) (S). 7.15 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 8.35 Everybody Loves Raymond (R) (S). 9.05 Frasier (R) (S). 9.35 Frasier (R) (S). 10.05 Frasier (R) (S). 11.05 Great Canal Journeys (R) (S). 12.05 Channel 4 News Summary (S). 12.10 Help! We Bought A Village (R) (S). 1.10 Car 5.0.S (R) (S). 2.10 Countdown (S). 3.00 A Place In The Sun (R) (S). 4.00 Renovation Nation (S). 5.00 A New Life In The Sun: Where Are They Now? (R) (S).	6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (S). 11.15 Storm Huntley (S). 12.45 Friends (R) (S). 1.10 Friends (R) (S). 1.40 5 News At Lunchtime (S). 1.45 Home And Away (R) (S). 2.15 FILM: Twisted House Sitter (Courtney Miller 2021) Thriller, starring Crystal-Lee Naomi (S). 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits In The Sun (R) (S). 5.00 5 News At 5 (S).	 Liam Charles co-hosts as three teams return to 'Bake Off: The Professionals' 8pm, Channel 4	 Matt Smith stars in 'House Of The Dragon' 9pm, Sky Atlantic  MMA fighter Paddy Pimblett goes to Vegas 9pm, BBC Three	6.00 CITV 9.00 World's Funniest Videos (S). 9.30 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S). 10.00 Love Bites (S). 11.00 Love Bites (S). 12.00 Dress To Impress (S). 1.00 Deal Or No Deal (S). 2.00 Supermarket Sweep (S). 3.00 Charmed (S). 4.00 Dawson's Creek (S). 5.00 Dress To Impress (S).
6pm	6.00 BBC News (S). 6.30 BBC Regional News; Weather (S).			6.00 Four In A Bed (R) (S). 6.30 The Simpsons Homer gets trapped in a cave (R) (S).	6.00 Party Election Broadcast (S). 6.05 Police Interceptors (R) (S). 6.55 5 News Update (S).			6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (S).
7pm	7.00 The Bidding Room (S). 7.30 MOTD Live: Uefa Euro 2024 Portugal vs Slovenia. Kick-off is at 8pm (S).	7.00 Wimbledon 2024 Continued coverage of day one (S).	7.30 ITV Regional News; Weather (S). 7.45 ITV News; Weather (S).	7.00 Channel 4 News (S).	7.00 Traffic Cops A woman is suspected of drink-driving at 10am (R) (S). 7.55 5 News Update (S).	7.00 Sicily: The Wonder Of The Mediterranean Michael Scott traces the history of Sicily (S).	7.05 FILM: Clueless (Amy Heckerling 1995) Comedy, starring Alicia Silverstone and Stacey Dash (S).	7.00 Deal Or No Deal Game show, hosted by Stephen Mulhern (S).
8pm			8.00 Emmerdale Cain and Moira reconcile (S). 8.30 Bradley & Barney Walsh: Breaking Dad (R) (S).	8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals Liam Charles and Ellie Taylor welcome back the best three teams (S).	8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (S).	8.00 Digging For Britain The discovery of an 8,000-year-old Neolithic underwater settlement (S).		8.00 The Masked Singer US This episode recaps the ninth series so far (S).
9pm		9.00 Today At Wimbledon Highlights of the opening day's play (S).	9.00 Coronation Street Kit goes behind Bernie's back to introduce himself to Paul and Gemma (S).	9.00 Skint: The Truth About Britain's Broken Economy With Tim Harford (S).	9.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts An 82-year-old is rushed in after they were found collapsed (S).	9.00 Archaeology: A Secret History Last in series (S).	9.00 FILM: Colombiana (Olivier Megaton 2011) Action thriller, starring Zoe Saldana (S).	9.00 Love Island Week five in paradise and the pressure is rising for the islanders (S).
10pm	10.10 BBC News At Ten (S). 10.40 BBC Regional News; Weather (S). 10.50 Peacock Comedy (R) (S).	10.00 The Royle Family (R) (S). 10.30 Newsnight (S).	10.00 ITV News At Ten (S). 10.30 ITV Regional News (S). 10.45 Uefa Euro 2024 Highlights (S).	10.00 24 Hours In A&E A 79-year-old is rushed in with signs of a stroke (S).	10.00 Trauma Room One Surgeons act fast to remove bone from a man's neck. Last in series (R) (S).	10.00 Stonehenge: The Lost Circle Revealed A hidden secret of the bluestones of Stonehenge (S).		10.05 Olivia Attwood: The Price Of Perfection (S).
11pm	11.20 Peacock (R) (S). 11.50 FILM: My Week With Marilyn (Simon Curtis 2011) Fact-based drama (S).	11.05 FILM: The Peanut Butter Falcon (Tyler Nilson, Michael Schwartz 2019) Light-hearted adventure (S).	11.45 Boris Becker: The Rise And Fall (R) (S).	11.05 The Killer Nanny: Did She Do It? Re-examining the trial of Louise Woodward 25 years on (R) (S).	11.05 Police: Suspect No 1 A man is found badly beaten at the side of the road (R) (S).	11.00 Art On The BBC: The Story Of The Nude How television has influenced understanding of the arts (S).	11.10 FILM: Office Christmas Party (Josh Gordon, Will Speck 2016) Festive comedy (S).	11.05 Family Guy Peter decides to live upstairs permanently after a series of accidents (S). 11.35 Family Guy (S).
Late	1.20 MOTD Top Ten - Defenders (S). 1.50 Euro 2024 Match Replay (S). 3.45 BBC News (S).	12.35 Sign Zone: The Panorama Interviews With Nick Robinson (R) (S). 1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile (R) (S). 2.00 Sign Zone: Springwatch (R) (S). 3.00 This Is BBC Two (S).	12.40 Shop On TV 3.00 Tour De France Highlights (S). 3.50 Unwind With ITV (S). 5.05 Ainsley's World Cup Flavours (R) (S).	12.05 The Killer Nanny: Did She Do It? (R) (S). 1.00 The Killer Nanny: Did She Do It? (R) (S). 1.55 Ramsay's 24 Hours To Hell And Back (R) (S). 2.40 The Simpsons (R) (S). 3.05 Car 5.0.S (R) (S). 3.55 Grand Designs (R) (S).	12.05 Traffic Cops (R) (S). 1.00 PlayOJO Live Casino Show (S). 3.00 Call The Bailiffs: Time To Pay Up (R) (S). 3.50 Incredible Reunions: Pets & Their Owners (R) (S). 4.40 Wildlife SOS (R) (S).	12.00 Treasures Of The Indus (S). 1.00 Sicily: The Wonder Of The Mediterranean (S). 2.00 Archaeology: A Secret History (S). 2.55 Digging For Britain (S). 3.55 Close	1.20 FILM: Another Round (Thomas Vinterberg 2020) Comedy drama, starring Mads Mikkelsen (S). 3.40 Close	12.05 American Dad! (S). 12.35 American Dad! (S). 1.05 Celebrity Karaoke Club (S). 2.05 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (S). 2.40 Unwind With ITV (S). 3.00 Teleshopping

Gentlemen) as Alicent's brother, Sir Gwayne Hightower, an entitled sort who nearly leads Ser Criston Cole's troops to disaster.

=== Paddy & Molly: Show No Mersey

9pm, BBC Three
"This isn't Made in Chelsea," says Paddy "the Baddy" Pimblett of a new reality series following this mixed martial arts fighter and his fellow cage-combatant "Meatball" Molly McCann. "Proud Scousers and best mates", Pimblett and McCann are shadowed as they make their mark on the Ultimate Fighting Championship world, the former heading to Vegas where he is due to face off against American MMA star Tony Ferguson.

FILM CHOICE

LAURENCE PHELAN



FILM OF THE DAY Another Round

1.20am, Film4
(Thomas Vinterberg, 2020)
An unusual and welcome addition to cinema's short list of pro-drinking films, this Danish dramedy follows four teachers who conduct a formal experiment into secret daily daytime drinking. In effect, they actively become functioning alcoholics and arrive with open eyes at a place where most addicts only find themselves after years of self-deception. There are some (very funny) scenes of embarrassment and, sure, they don't all survive the experiment unscathed. But their hypothesis that alcohol is a valuable social lubricant, relationship aid and mood enhancer seems sound. Mads Mikkelsen (left) stars.

=== Match Point

9pm, Great! Movies
(Woody Allen, 2005)
Psychological drama about an aggressive social climber (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) who inveigles his way into the English upper classes, but risks his position for an affair with an actress (Scarlett Johansson).

=== My Week With Marilyn

11.50pm, BBC One
(Simon Curtis, 2011)
Michelle Williams is terrific as Marilyn Monroe in this comedy-drama with melancholy undertones, set during the making of *The Prince and the Showgirl*. Kenneth Branagh shines as her director, Laurence Olivier. Eddie Redmayne also stars.

ON DEMAND

Star Trek: Prodigy Netflix

Season two of the animated spin-off that sees aliens board an abandoned ship.

Shark Beach With Anthony Mackie Disney+

The New Orleans angler uncovers shark stories.

Reel Stories: Shania Twain BBC iPlayer

Dermot O'Leary sits down with the Canadian singer.

itv3

ITV

More
ITV

sky max

sky atlantic

6.00 Classic Emmerdale (S) 6.35 Classic Emmerdale (S) 7.00 Classic Coronation Street (S) 7.35 Classic Coronation Street (S) 8.05 Agatha Christie's Poirot (S) 9.10 Agatha Christie's Poirot (S) 10.30 The Royal (S) 11.40 Heartbeat (S) 12.40 Heartbeat (S) 1.40 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.10 Classic Emmerdale (S) 2.40 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.15 Classic Coronation Street (S) 3.50 Inspector Morse (S)

6.00 Hollyoaks (S) 7.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 8.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 9.00 The Goldbergs (S) 9.30 The Goldbergs (S) 10.00 Young Sheldon (S) 10.30 Young Sheldon (S) 11.00 Modern Family (S) 12.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 2.00 The Goldbergs (S) 2.30 The Goldbergs (S) 3.00 Modern Family (S) 3.30 Modern Family (S) 4.00 Young Sheldon (S) 4.30 Young Sheldon (S) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 5.30 The Big Bang Theory (S)

8.55 A Place In The Sun (S) 9.30 A Place In The Sun (S) 10.25 A New Life In The Sun (S) 11.25 Find It, Fix It, Flog It (S) 12.30 Come Dine With Me (S) 1.00 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.05 Come Dine With Me (S) 2.35 Come Dine With Me (S) 3.10 Four In A Bed (S) 3.40 Four In A Bed (S) 4.15 Four In A Bed (S) 4.50 Four In A Bed (S) 5.20 Four In A Bed (S) 5.50 Chateau DIY (S)

6.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 7.00 SEAL Team (R) (S) 8.00 The Flash (R) (S) 9.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 10.00 Stargate SG-1 (R) (S) 11.00 NCIS: Los Angeles (R) (S) 12.00 The Flash (R) (S) 1.00 MacGyver (R) (S) 2.00 MacGyver (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T. (R) (S) 5.00 SEAL Team (R) (S)

6.00 Fish Town (R) (S) 7.00 Fish Town (R) (S) 7.55 Six Feet Under (R) (S) 9.00 Six Feet Under (R) (S) 10.05 Gomorrah (R) (S) 11.10 Gomorrah (R) (S) 12.15 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 1.20 The Sopranos (R) (S) 2.25 The Sopranos (R) (S) 3.30 Six Feet Under (R) (S) 4.35 Six Feet Under (R) (S) 5.45 Gomorrah (R) (S)

6.00 Heartbeat Miller's former Army captain turns up to offer him a business proposition (S).

6.00 The Big Bang Theory (S) 6.30 The Big Bang Theory (S)

6.55 Car S.O.S The boys head to Somerset to restore a Jeep Grand Cherokee (S).

6.00 Stargate SG-1 The team encounters a crystal skull. Sci-fi drama, starring Michael Shanks (R) (S).

6.50 Gomorrah Ciro calls a meeting to divide the turf. Marco D'Amore stars (R) (S).

7.00 Heartbeat Helen and Rob's wedding day arrives. Rural drama, starring Jonathan Kerrigan (S).

7.00 Hollyoaks A shooting in the village throws suspicion on Freddie (S) 7.30 Come Dine With Me (S)

7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud meets retired racehorse breeder John and his wife Helen (S).

7.00 Stargate SG-1 Artificial organisms attack Earth. With Richard Dean Anderson (R) (S).

7.55 Game Of Thrones Ned searches for the truth about Jon Arryn's death. Starring Sean Bean (R) (S).

8.00 McDonald & Dodds The duo are sucked into the fast and furious world of Formula 1 (S).

8.00 Dance Moms Cathy seeks revenge on Jill and Kendall (S).

8.00 Rob & Romesh vs Ballet (R) (S).

8.00 The Walking Dead A familiar face becomes the unlikely hero (R) (S).

9.00 House Of The Dragon Fantasy drama, starring Matt Smith and Emma D'Arcy (S).

10.00 Wire In The Blood Feature-length episode. Tony is suspected of murder (S).

10.00 Naked Attraction A model and a veterinary student choose dates (S).

10.00 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown With David Mitchell and Katherine Ryan (S).

10.00 Flintoff: Lord Of The Fries Andrew Flintoff and Rob Penn explore the West Country (R) (S).

10.20 The Sympathizer The Captain tries to trace the funding for it the General's plan (S).

11.50 The Royal Matron is forced to change her plans after a tragic turn of events (S).

11.05 First Dates A reiki healer is set up on a date with a children's entertainer (S).

11.05 24 Hours In A&E (S).

11.00 The Force: North East The cells fill up during a busy Saturday night in Newcastle (R) (S).

11.25 House Of The Dragon Fantasy drama, starring Matt Smith (R) (S).

12.40 Upstairs, Downstairs (S) 1.30 Upstairs, Downstairs (S) 2.25 Unwind With ITV (S) 2.30 Teleshopping

12.10 The Big Bang Theory (S) 1.05 Brooklyn Nine-Nine (S) 2.05 Modern Family (S) 2.55 Dance Moms (S) 3.45 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S) 4.35 The Neighborhood (S)

12.10 999: On The Front Line (S) 1.15 Emergency Helicopter Medics (S) 2.20 24 Hours In A&E (S) 3.25 A Place In The Sun (S) 3.55 Close

12.00 The Force: North East (R) (S) 1.00 Brit Cops: Law & Disorder (R) (S) 2.00 Road Wars (R) (S) 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 (R) (S) 4.00 S.W.A.T. (R) (S) 5.00 Highway Patrol (R) (S) 5.30 Highway Patrol (R) (S)

12.45 Succession (R) (S) 1.55 The Deuce (R) (S) 3.05 Game Of Thrones (R) (S) 4.05 Fish Town (R) (S) 5.00 Fish Town (R) (S)

Radio

BBC Radio 1

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 1am 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 Radio 1 Early Breakfast With Dean McCullough

BBC Radio 1Xtra

6.33am 1Xtra Playlists 7.00 Nadia Jae 10.00 DJ Day Day 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Kaylee Golding 4.00 Remi Burgz 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Remi Burgz 7.00 DJ Target 9.00 Sian Anderson 11.00 Snoochie Shy 1am 1Xtra's Rap List 3.00 1Xtra Salutes. 4.00 Battle Of The Mixes 4.30 1Xtra's R&B Chill Mix 5.30 1Xtra's Throwback Party

BBC Radio 2

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Vernon Kay 12noon Jeremy Vine 2.00 Scott Mills 4.00 OJ Borg 6.30 OJ Borg's Half Wower 7.00 Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whitley 9.00 The Blues Show With Cerys Matthews 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation 12midn't Phil Williams 3.00 Pick Of The Pops 4.00 Owain Wyn Evans

BBC Radio 3

6.30am Breakfast 9.30 Essential Classics 1pm Classical Live 4.00 Composer Of The Week: Richard Strauss. Donald Macleod explores key figures in the composer's life. 5.00 In Tune. Music and arts news. 7.00 Classical 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. A soundtrack for late-night listening. 11.30 Round Midnight. Hiromi picks the first of her Flowers. 12.30am Through The Night

BBC Radio 4

6am Today 9.00 Start The Week 9.45 Oliver Burkeman's Inconvenient Truth 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Behind The Crime 11.45 Obsessed With The Quest 12noon News 12.04 You And Yours 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World At One 1.45 Buried: The Last Witness 2.00 The Archers 2.15 Fags, Mags And Bags 2.45 Gambits 3.00 A Good

Read 3.30 The Failure Of The Future 4.00 The Deadly Business Of Democracy 4.30 Rewinder 5.00 PM 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. The civil war currently raging in Sudan. 8.30 BBC Inside Science. The latest scientific research. 9.00 Start The Week. Kirsty Wark explores the art of creation. Last in the series. 9.45 Assume Nothing: The Shankill Gold Rush. The fate of the recovered gold. Last in the series. 10.00 The World Tonight. News round-up, presented by James Coomarasamy. 10.45 Book At Bedtime: Glorious Exploits. By Ferdia Lennon. 11.00 The System. By Ben Lewis. 11.30 Split Ends. Kitty Perrin speaks to the original female members of Liberty X. 12midn't News And Weather 12.30 Obsessed With The Quest 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.30 News Briefing 5.43 Prayer For The Day 5.45 Farming Today

BBC Radio 4 Extra

6am 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 12noon Minor Adjustment 12.30 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

BBC 5 Live

6am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 11.00 Naga Munchetty 1pm Tennis 4.00 5 Live Sport 5.00 5 Live Sport 7.30 5 Live Sport 8.00 5 Live Sport 10.30 Gordon Smart 1am Dotun Adebayo 5.00 Wake Up To Money

BBC 6 Music

7am The Morning After Glastonbury 10.00 The Morning After Mix 11.00 The Morning After Mix 1.00 Chris Hawkins 4.00 Huw Stephens 7.00 New Music Fix Daily 9.00 Riley & Coe 11.00 Song Explorer 12midn't Oasis At The BBC 1.00 Oasis Live At Knebworth 2.00 Oasis: What's The Story? 3.00 Oasis: What's The Story? 4.00 The Oasis Playlist 5.00 Chris Hawkins

Classic FM

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast With Dan Walker 9.00 The Classic FM Hall Of Fame Hour With Dan Walker 10.00 Alexander Armstrong 1pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1am Bill Overton 4.00 Early Breakfast

Absolute Radio

6am Dave Berry 10.00 Leona Graham 1pm Ben Burrell 4.00 Bush And Richie 7.00 Danielle Perry 10.00 Jay Lawrence 1am Dan Noble

Heart

6.30am Heart Breakfast With Jamie Theakston And Amanda Holden 10.00 Pandora Christie 1pm Matt Wilkinson 4.00 JK And Kelly Brook 7.00 Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Dev Griffin 10.00 Fia Tarrant 1am Heart's Feel Good Weekend With Jonny Meah 4.00 Early Breakfast With Lindsey Russell

TalkSPORT

6am TalkSPORT Breakfast With Jeff Stelling 10.00 Euro GameDay Warm Up 1pm Euro GameDay Live 4.00 Euro GameDay Live 7.00 Euro GameDay Live 10.00 Euro Sports Bar 1am Extra Time 5.00 Early Breakfast

Pick of the day



Jeremy Vine 12pm, BBC Radio 2
Jeremy Vine (above) is back on the airwaves and ready for another packed show from noon today. As always, he is joined by guests to discuss current affairs and other hot issues.



AMBASSADOR™
CRUISE LINE

SECOND GUEST SAILS HALF PRICE

NO-FLY GEMS OF THE CARIBBEAN

**UPGRADE TO
ALL-INCLUSIVE
& SAVE 15%⁺⁺**

**EXCLUSIVE
READER OFFERS
PROMOTION ENDS
8PM 7TH JULY 2024**

**FROM ONLY
£61PP PER NIGHT**

39 NIGHTS DEPARTING 5TH JANUARY 2025

JANUARY 2025

- Sun 5 **Embark *Ambience* and depart London Tilbury**
- Fri 10 **Funchal, Madeira**
- Fri 17 **King's Wharf, Bermuda**
With its unique pink sand beaches and azure waters, its not surprising that Bermuda is a highly sought-after destination. As well as tropical landscapes like no other, expect to experience some of the best seafood around
- Mon 20 **Philipsburg, Saint Maarten**
- Tue 21 **Road Town, Tortola**
- Thu 23 - Fri 24 **Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (overnight)**
- Mon 27 - Tue 28 **Cozumel, Mexico (overnight)**
- Wed 29 **Costa Maya, Mexico**
Costa Maya offers a pristine waterfront away from the tourist trail. Its lagoons, hidden archaeological sites and sunny climate give you a taste of this vibrant country

- Fri 31 **George Town, Cayman Islands**
George Town offers plenty of things to see and do against the backdrop of sandy beaches and turquoise seas. Not only is it a tropical paradise, but this colourful city also hosts a variety of beautiful art galleries, rum distilleries and eateries for you to enjoy

FEBRUARY 2025

- Sat 1 **Montego Bay, Jamaica**
Sailing to the Caribbean wouldn't be complete without a visit to one of the most famous islands - Jamaica. Renowned for being the birthplace of reggae music, the lively rhythm of this iconic nation is sure to inspire, and sampling some traditional Jamaican rum is a must
- Sun 9 **Ponta Delgada, Azores**
- Thu 13 **Arrive in London Tilbury**
Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

**WHAT'S INCLUDED
IN YOUR READER OFFERS LTD SALE**

- 39 nights full board premium adults-only cruising on board *Ambience*, including:
 - All meals on board including breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner
 - A wide range of entertainment, including evening shows, plays, cabarets, live music & classical interludes
 - Use of gym, swimming pool and hot tubs
 - The currency on board is pound sterling so you won't be affected by any foreign exchange rate fluctuations
- **PLUS**, book an Oceanview or above by 8pm 7th July 2024 to receive a **FREE Bettys Gift Bag***

EARN EXCLUSIVE CRUISE MILES®

Up to 11,828 Cruise Miles®, worth £118, only when booking with Reader Offers Ltd^{††}



YOUR BUY ONE GET ONE HALF PRICE FARES

CABIN	1 ST GUEST FARE FROM	2 ND GUEST FARE FROM
Standard Inside	£3,179	£1,589
Oceanview [†]	£3,849	£1,919
Balcony	£6,159	£3,079
Suites	£7,889	£3,939

Single Ocean View cabins are available from £7,459

JUST A DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO SECURE YOUR CABIN

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE AMBASSADOR EXPERIENCE...

Journey to new lands to explore landscapes, cultures and cuisines on board Ambassador Cruise Line's stylish, environmentally-conscious ships. Enjoy a social, warm and relaxing atmosphere on board, one that brings out the best in each of us. Be a part of a friendly community where there is something for everyone. Delight in premium value, no-fly cruising where service is high-quality and friendly but not pretentious.

- ✓ Comfortable accommodation in your chosen cabin category
- ✓ Captain's Welcome & Farewell cocktail party
- ✓ Captain's Gala Dinner and Baked Alaska Parade
- ✓ Daytime activities, quizzes, dance classes and outside deck games
- ✓ Informative guest speakers
- ✓ Porterage of luggage between the port and cabin
- ✓ All port taxes, fees and charges



Eddie and I were beginning to get along. I had been unsure at the start – he wasn't my usual type: portly, grumbling, quite hard to handle. But once I got used to his moods, I softened. As we journeyed together, through bright sun and pelting rain, via Broads and beaches, I came to like him a lot.

Eddie, named after St Edmund, last King of East Anglia, is a 2014 Land Rover Defender – “one of the last old Defenders off the line,” owner Isobel Finbow told when we met at King's Lynn station. “The new ones look like a Playmobil.”

With his fat tyres, rooftop tent and classic styling, he looked ready for the African savannah. However, I would be driving him around the wilds of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Isobel and her husband, Mark, have kitted Eddie out with everything a camper might need – from binoculars and road sweets to stoves and bivvy loo (a pop-up potty I prayed I wouldn't have to use). They're renting him out for the first time this year. They've also just created the EA350, a road trip route around East Anglia that favours backroads and links the best bits.

“You can wiggle about, explore,” Isobel said, as she handed me a hot-off-the-press map and Eddie's keys. “He's fun,” she added. “Enjoy him.”

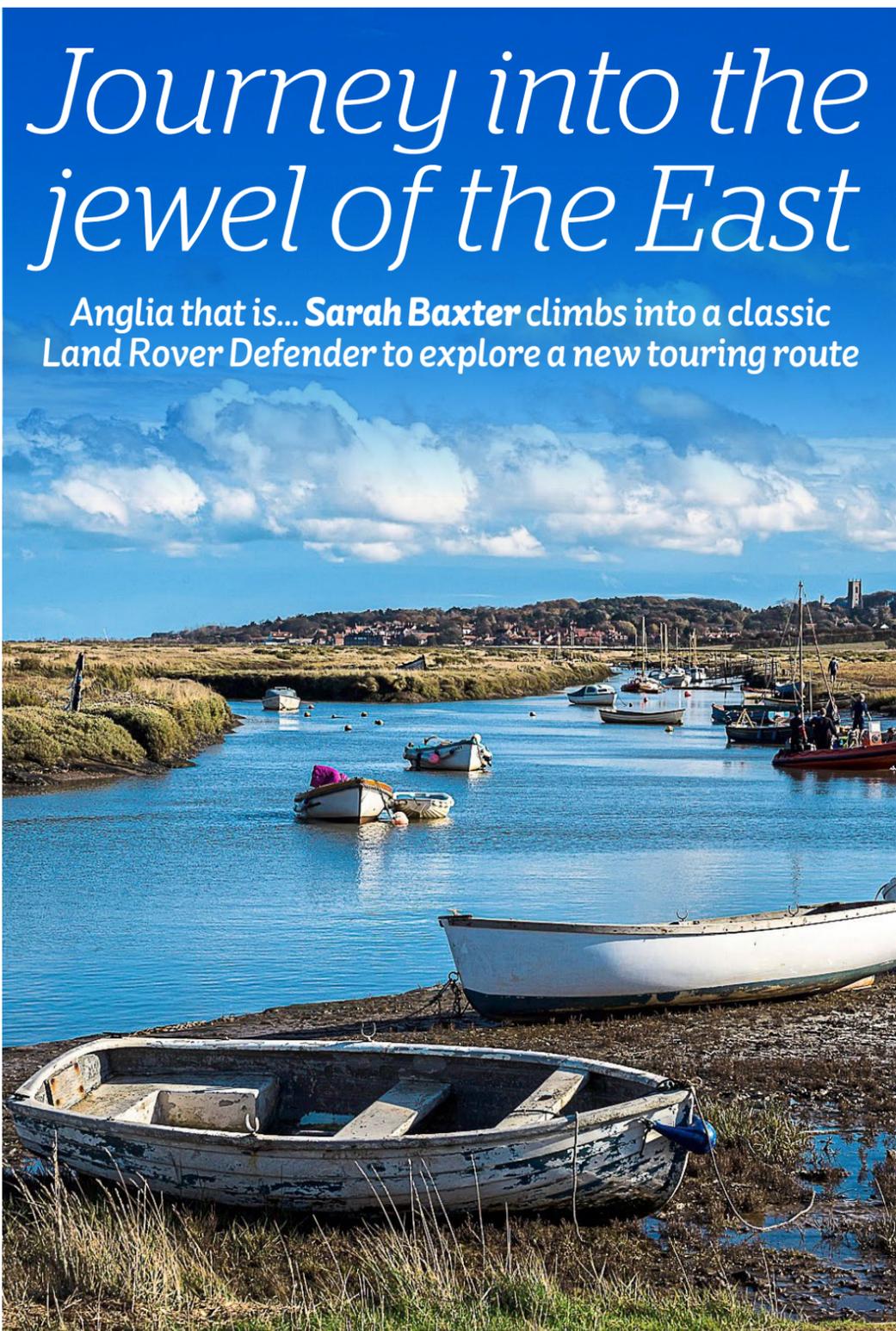
And so he was. Once beyond the town's one-way system and off the A-roads, Eddie and I were soon bouncing around Sandringham's rhododendron-lined lanes and through village after village of comely brick and flint.

The weather turned atrocious but Eddie lapped it up, splashing through puddles like a gleeful child, waves spraying cinematically over his sides.

The rain was disappointing, as this was supposed to be an out-in-nature sort of trip. The EA350 has partnered with wild “campsite” portal Wild With Consent, and I planned to stay at three of its sites en route. These secluded patches of private land have minimal – possibly no – facilities.

But you have the permission of the landowner to be there and, as they only take one booking at a time, a scenic spot all to yourself.

My first pitch was at Manor Farm, near East Winch, where I spent a damp night with cows for neighbours and no bathroom – unless you count the private lake. I took an atmospheric dip in the morning drizzle, before heading off, having decided to start



The village of Blakeney (above); Eddie the Land Rover Defender (top right); Cley Windmill (below)
GETTY IMAGES; SARAH BAXTER

I popped open my tent and laid looking out at the big, sunset-blush skies



Journey into the jewel of the East

Anglia that is... Sarah Baxter climbs into a classic Land Rover Defender to explore a new touring route

Travel essentials

Staying there

A three-night off-grid self-drive East Anglia 350 Experience, including Land Rover Defender camper hire, costs from £875 via Wild With Consent (wildwithconsent.com).

More information

eastanglia350.com
visitnorfolk.co.uk
visitsuffolk.com



As we'd say, Normal for Norfolk.

I was almost in Suffolk now, but not quite. Campsite two, at Lily Meadow, was still north of the Waveney. I had my own field – half-mown, half wild – and the excellent Wheatacre White Lion. After a delicious pub dinner I popped open my tent and laid looking out at the big, sunset-blush skies.

The next morning I had a mission. Having had no bathroom for a couple of days, I needed a wash. Legendary writer and wild-swimmer Roger Deakin would have advised getting into the Waveney – his preferred spot – but I opted for the heated water of Beccles Lido instead. The pool, built on the riverbank in the 50s, was a lovely way to start the day – I felt revived. And was revived further by breakfast at Etude Coffee, an incredibly cool café in a post-industrial grain silo, close by.

Eddie and I had another good day. We parked up in Covehithe so I could walk through Benacre Nature Reserve to the cliff-backed beach, only accessible on foot. And we had a lovely time in Aldeburgh, where we parked right outside the Harris & James ice cream parlour; I bought a cone and wandered the pebble strand.

The highlight, though, was my final campsite. Maple Farm, hidden down leafy lanes near Kelsale, is an organic farm producing spelt and wheat, an array of fruit and veg, and free-range eggs. Catherine Supple met me at the on-site shop and café; she showed me the loo I could use, then led me past the chockleberries and rhubarb to my spot, out of sight, near a pond, in an orchard. Idyllic.

I fired up Eddie's wood stove and fried mushrooms and asparagus in butter. I had a glass of wine, listened to a symphony of birds, watched the light fade. Then I climbed up to bed, and was about to zip the flaps and go to sleep when I saw a light in the distance. A building of some sort? No, the moon – rising, massive – perfectly framed by the tent door.

East Anglia might not be Africa. But Eddie and I still had quite the wild-ish adventure.

with RSPB Snettisham, where I walked along the Wash, watching oystercatchers peep and hueep above the mudflats.

My plan for the day was to follow the EA350 around Norfolk, tracing the north coast before veering towards the Broads. The highlights came thick and fast: the quayside Crab Hut at Brancaster Staithe; immense

Holkham Beach; Wells Harbour; cute Stiffkey. Eddie was a large lad, so my stops were partly dictated by where I could easily park. Fortunately this included St Nicholas church, Blakeney, where I climbed the 137 spiralling steps up the tower for one of Norfolk's best views: to the windmill at Cley, out to Blakeney Point, across the salt marshes.

Eddie and I turned inland, whizzing through touristy Wroxham to one of my favourite parts of the Broads. Roads barely a size up from footpaths, overhung with trees and ticklish with cow parsley, lead me between Salhouse, Ranworth and South Walsham – I grew up around here, but it was nice to show Eddie.

It was great to take him on the Reedham Ferry, a dinky, chain-hauled vessel that offers the only crossing of the River Yare between Norwich and Great Yarmouth, saving 30 miles. On the two-minute journey, I learned the ferryman's full medical history (“I've nearly died four times!”).

Subscribe now to our exclusive newsletter

Great Escapes

A weekly dose of inspiration for trips that are closer than you think

inews.co.uk/sign-up

Arts



Podcast Fesshole



Users of X (formerly Twitter) may already be familiar with the guilty pleasure that is Fesshole, the million-follower account on which anonymous users own up to cringe-worthy private humiliations, amorous misdeeds, acts of petty revenge – and sometimes moments of private pain.

This new podcast version, hosted by the account's creator Rob Manuel and his friend Dave Stevenson, asks whatever possesses people to share their shame with the whole internet.

The psychotherapist Philippa Perry gamely offers her theories. We also hear from some of those who have confessed.

Like the account that spawned it, it's mostly raucous fun, laced with moments of poignancy.

Louisa Saunders

“I’ve seen much more sociopathy working in TV than I did visiting my clients in HMP Belmarsh,” says Rob Rinder. “Most of the criminals I’ve met end up inside because of poor choices, or because they’ve had no choices. But people in TV? Well..”

It’s an observation that the barrister-turned-TV-presenter, 46, explores with delicious wit in his latest murder mystery novel *The Suspect*. A sequel to 2023’s *The Trial*, it follows the trainee barrister Adam Green, who this time finds himself plunged neck-deep in media sociopathy when the UK’s favourite breakfast TV host dies live on air.

The celebrity chef who prepared and served her a fatal meal in full view of the camera is the obvious suspect, but Adam Green doesn’t think he’s guilty, and turns detective to prove his hunch.

“People often ask me what it’s like to defend people when I think they’re guilty,” he tells me over the phone from his home in Islington.

“I’ll always answer that it’s because I think the equal right to justice is sacred – essential for people to have faith in their community and their democracy. But nobody ever asks what it’s like to defend somebody when I think they’re innocent, because that can be equally complicated..”

Rinder, whose cheek and heart have charmed the nation during appearances on *Strictly Come Dancing*, *Celebrity Gogglebox* and most

“My mother was limitlessly culturally curious, but we bonded over soaps

recently the BBC’s *Rob and Rylan’s Grand Tour*, first appeared on our screens back in 2014.

While still a practising barrister, he hosted ITV’s courtroom reality show *Judge Rinder*, in which he was entertainingly forthright in cross examinations (he called one claimant “stupid” and told another “if you had been at the last supper you’d have asked for ketchup”), but he delivered verdicts with real integrity and compassion.

Because he sounds posh, viewers assumed he was. But Rinder’s father is a taxi driver who split up with his mother when he was four years old. It was around this time, he says, that he started talking like a man in a cravat. “I think I was realising I was different, realising I was gay, and I thought: why not have an accent to go with the costume?”

Rinder was raised by his single mother “in a relatively small house in Southgate”, he says. “She was in her early twenties when I was born and so in some ways we grew up together. She started a business when I was 10, from the top floor of our home, and became an extremely successful business woman. My mother was limitlessly culturally curious, but we bonded over newspaper columns and soap operas.”

Born in 1978, Rinder points out that he was just coming of age when the first gay characters started appearing on those soaps. He was a child when the dashing Steven Carrington in ABC’s *Dynasty* came out.

In the same year, 1987, was the



‘I’ve met more sociopaths in TV than in prisons’

Barrister, television presenter and author Rob Rinder talks to **Helen Brown** about his friend Rylan Clark, the pain of divorce – and where he got his posh accent

Rinder presenting 'Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour' with Rylan Clark (right) and 'Judge Rinder' (below)

BBC/REX TV/ZINC MEDIA/LANA SALAH; ITV

first same-sex kiss (on the forehead) on *EastEnders*, with the first kiss on the lips following in 1989, watched by 17 million viewers.

At the time, the scene was blasted by UK tabloids, with Piers Morgan, then writing for *The Sun*, describing the brief lip-lock as a "homosexual love scene between yuppie p***s" that was "screened in the early evening when millions of children were watching". Morgan has since apologised for what he said, but Rinder recalls the sting of scandal.

Back then, he notes, "it never ended well for the gay characters on TV, did it? You got HIV if you were a guy, or if you were a woman you got handed a copy of *The Well of Loneliness* [Radclyffe Hall's 1928 novel about the suffering of female sexual "inverts"] and told: 'Read that love, there's no happy ending for you!'"

He sighs, then perks up to point out how far we've come. "The gay sex in [HBO drama] *The White Lotus* was just incidental, wasn't it? And in the programmes with Rylan [Clark], the focus is on us exploring the art and culture of Italy together while talking about the pain of our divorces. The gender of our ex-partners isn't relevant, really.

"And I think it's been watched by people who might otherwise have struggled with the LGBTQ issues, but have responded with very touching love, openness and enthusiasm."

The series features deeply touching scenes in which Clark describes feeling suicidal following his 2021 split from his husband of six years, Dan Neal. Rinder married fellow barrister Seth Cummings in a ceremony officiated by their friend Benedict Cumberbatch in 2013, but they divorced five years later.

"I was once so in love when I was in my early twenties," he said on the show, "but it wasn't reciprocated. And it never has been."

The delight of *Rob and Rylan's Grand Tour*, though, is the way the Oxford-educated Rinder comes armed with all the knowledge of the treasures they witness – from Caravaggios to the Colosseum – but steps back to relish Rylan's direct, human responses to the art.

Despite hints of flirtation between the pair – my 12-year-old daughter really wanted them to get married "because they're just perfect together!" – Rinder laughs off my queries about a romance.



"Rylan jokes we're already like a married couple, because we row all the time and we don't have sex," he says. "Maybe we should get married when we're old. But now we're really good friends."

Rinder's most recent triumph is winning the *Radio Times* Reader's Choice Award for his two-part BBC documentary *The Holy Land and Us – Our Untold Stories*. As viewers of his heartbreaking 2018 episode of *Who Do You Think You Are?* will know, Rinder's Holocaust-survivor grandfather Maurice lost every member of his family to the gas chambers at Treblinka.

But Rinder is dedicated to hearing all sides of the story and so co-presented this documentary with British actress Sarah Agha (of Palestinian descent) to ensure we heard the human consequences for those affected by the foundation of a Jewish state in 1948.

We heard from the descendants of Jews displaced by the Holocaust and seeking sanctuary. And from the descendants of Arabs displaced by the creation of that sanctuary.

Painfully aware that the debate around Israel's right to exist has become even more polarising since the Hamas attack of 7 October and the subsequent Israeli bombing in Gaza, Rinder regrets the loss of "humane nuance in our dialogue".

He fears that "so much of the world's current political debate is limited by how many characters you're allowed on Twitter. People don't want to sit with the complexity of controversial subjects."

While he doubts that watching his documentary will change anyone's position on borders in the Middle East, he believes it will "en-

able them to see the human impulses behind somebody else's views and activism. And once you've understood that – once you're able to meaningfully hear somebody – it's very difficult to maintain that level of antipathy."

I can't help noticing that as the global mood darkens, so we're seeing a rise of cosy crime fiction like Rinder's *The Suspect*. Clever comics like Richard Osman, Richard Coles and Graham Norton are all at it.

I worry that the last time this happened – during the so-called Golden Age of Crime Writing in the 1930s dominated by Dorothy Sayers, Margery Allingham and Agatha Christie – people were distracting themselves from the rise of fascism in Germany and communism in Russia. Are we doing the same now? Looking for reasons to rake through fictional people's dirty laundry and then having our problems solved by an all-knowing detective? "You could be right," mulls Rinder. "People really do feel in need of solutions."

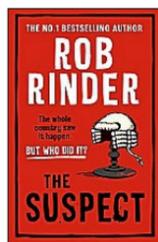
Rinder, for one, has put his skin in the game. He has two Hebrew tattoos on his arm that he has never spoken about before. Today he tells me that the words are "simhah", meaning joy, and "tikkun clam", meaning repairer of the world.

"Simhah is a word with a spiritual dimension," he explains. "When Jewish people share our story, much of it is about catastrophic tragedy and we can forget the element of joy."

"So for example if somebody dies you are supposed to mourn for a set period of time unless you've booked a party in which case you're not only supposed to go – you're supposed to celebrate with gusto. Because there are few moments of joy."

"When I am talking to people getting married and they say they don't want a big wedding, I say: 'Yeah, but it's not entirely about you is it? It's a moment to bring the community together in a moment of unfettered delight in a world where there are limited opportunities for that.'"

And repairing damage? Rinder steps out of his polemic mode and softens. "That's essential. We are all flawed. But we all have the capacity to be thoughtful, to really listen, in our every encounter."



'The Suspect' is out now (Penguin, £20)



Today's television

SERENA SMITH



Fast-paced, frothy murder mystery is cosy crime for Gen Z

» **A Good Girl's Guide to Murder** BBC iPlayer,

Streaming now ★★★★★

The BBC adaptation of Holly Jackson's young adult mystery thriller *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* has been hotly anticipated by millions of dedicated fans. First published in 2019, the novel has sold around seven million copies worldwide and become a firm favourite among young readers on TikTok – no wonder TV execs wanted to cash in on its success.

The story follows 17-year-old Pip Fitz-Amobi (Emma Myers) as she attempts to uncover the true perpetrator of a murder that rocked the chocolate-box town of Little Kilton five years prior.

The victim was popular, pretty Andie (India Lillie Davies), and the crime was pinned on her boyfriend, Sal (Rahul Pattni), after he appeared to confess shortly before dying by suicide. But Pip is not convinced that Sal really killed Andie, and so teams up with his brother Ravi (Zain Iqbal) to uncover the truth under the guise of a school research project.

Right from the jump, the drama asks us to suspend our belief to almost impossible extremes. Why does no one – bar Pip's mother (Anna Maxwell Martin) – seem to think it's seriously weird that Pip wants to investigate the violent murder of a schoolmate?

Pip's unethical approach to finding answers is, for the most part, glossed over too: we're just expected to go along with it as she



Emma Myers as Pip Fitz-Amobi BBC

between Andie and Sal. It also faithfully captures what it's like to be a teenager growing up in rural Britain. In one episode, Pip and her longtime best friend Cara (Asha Banks) bundle into a car with their other mates for a camping trip to celebrate Cara's birthday.

The chemistry between the group is palpable, and it's refreshing to watch a realistic, measured portrayal of how most Gen Z kids dress, talk, and behave. It helps that the fictional Little Kilton is an entirely believable English town too, with its poky local corner shop, cosy pub, and picture-perfect town square.

Less convincing is the episode in which Pip confronts a drug lord at a dodgy rave, inexplicably held inside a network of underground caves. It's the kind of scene *Skins* or *Euphoria* could just about get away with, but in a series this kitschy, it's jarring and cringeworthy.

Similarly, there are a handful of moments which attempt to acknowledge the racism faced by black or Asian characters, but these feel shoehorned in.

On one occasion, Ravi reveals that Andie's father never warmed to Sal because he hated the thought of "his little blonde angel going out with a brown boy" – but all Pip can muster up in response is a brief grunt of disgust before turning the conversation back to the murder.

Given how knotty the story is, there's hardly any room to give these weightier, nuanced topics the space they deserve.

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder is at its best when it leans into being a fast-paced, frothy whodunnit. If you go into it expecting an epic and intricate Wilkie Collins-style thriller, you'll be sorely disappointed. But if you're looking for an easy, breezy binge-worthy murder mystery, prepare to be glued to your screen.

@serenathsmith

It faithfully captures what it's like to be a teenager in rural Britain

essentially stalks Ravi, ghoulishly harasses grieving witnesses, and on one occasion breaks into the Bell family home (and Andie's room).

Why is Pip so invested in the crime in the first place? She tells Ravi it's because Sal was "always nice" to her – but it's an explanation that feels a bit pat. It's difficult to ever really root for Pip when her motivations are so unclear. At best she comes across as an arrogant know-it-all and a prurient true crime obsessive at worst.

But once you accept this is ultimately an adaptation of a twee cosy crime novel as opposed to a work of gritty realism, the series makes for compelling viewing. It's neatly plotted and peppered with twists that keep you guessing about what really happened

Quote of the day



Central banks have shown they can take action to head off the most dramatic increase in inflation. However, it is too soon to declare victory.

Agustín Carstens
The head of the Bank of International Settlements

@theipaper
+4420 7361 5718
business@inews.co.uk

ENERGY

Price cap falls but price is 40% higher than before

By Grace Gausden

The energy price cap will fall by 7 per cent today but experts have warned that households are still paying around 40 per cent more than they were before the gas crisis.

The average UK household will now pay £1,568 per year, the lowest level in two years under the energy regulator Ofgem's new cap.

However, consumers will not be much better off than in the first three years of the gas crisis (running to this September), when they have paid almost £2,000 more, or an average of £650 a year, for energy, according to analysis by the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU).

Furthermore, analysts have warned that rising wholesale prices are set to push the price cap up again in October, with the latest figures

issued from Cornwall Insight forecasting an increase of more than £150 to £1,723. This would be much higher than the pre-crisis average of about £1,150 per year.

Simon Cran-McGreehin, the head of analysis at ECIU, said: "The UK's high dependence on gas for electricity generation and heating has cost bill payers £2,000 so far during the gas crisis and the economy as a whole tens of billions of pounds."

The ECIU found that households whose homes had worse than average

energy efficiency were being hit even harder.

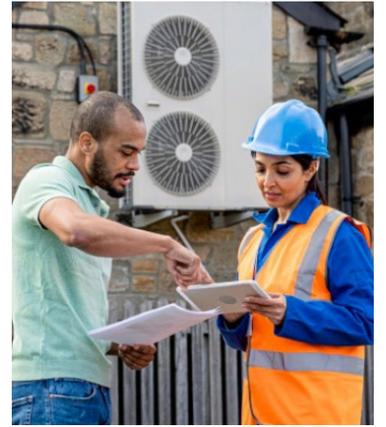
Heating a home rated E for gas and power will cost about £2,060 over 12 months when prices rise again in October – £300 more than a typical home. Heating a property rated F will cost £2,250, almost £500 more than a typical home.

Mr Cran-McGreehin added: "Common sense measures like investing in insulating the poorest homes, switching to electric heat pumps and fast-tracking British renewables will leave us less vulnerable to the whims of the international gas markets."

Separate research from the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, a campaign group, suggests that the price cap could have been £500 lower had measures been taken to mend Britain's broken energy system.

The change in the price cap will

{i} Households on prepayment meters will pay slightly less than those on direct debit under the new cap, with a typical bill of £1,522, a drop of £121.

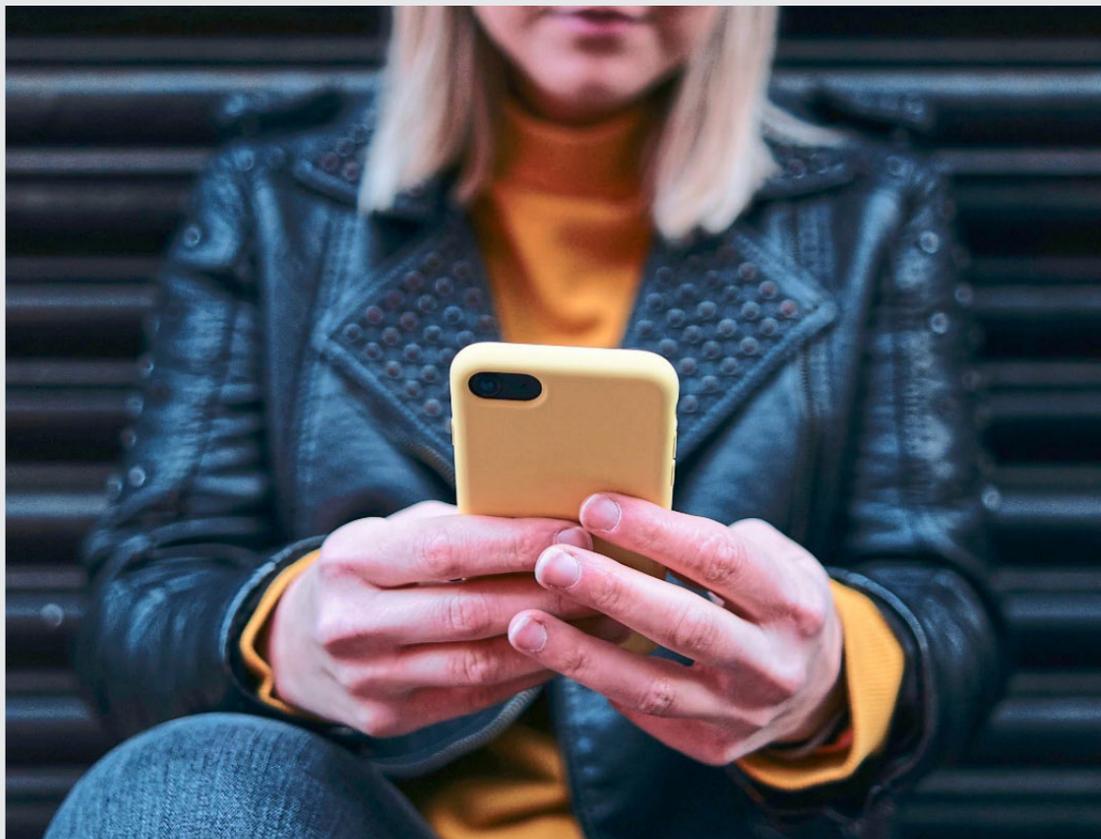


Switching to electric heat pumps can make consumers less vulnerable to the whims of the gas markets

leave many consumers wondering whether to switch energy supplier.

Emily Seymour, the energy editor at *Which?*, said: "The first step is to compare your monthly payments on the price cap to any fixed deals to see what the best option is for you."

"As a rule, if you want to fix, we would recommend looking for deals as close to the July price cap as possible, not longer than 12 months and without significant exit fees."



The 30 Second Briefing

FRAUD

Is the rate of fraud still high?

It certainly is. About one in 10 Britons has been targeted by phone thieves in the past five years, a survey by the money insights provider Intuit Credit Karma has found. And with the levels of fraud spiralling across the country, banks are taking steps to try to prevent

people losing their savings to scammers. More than £1bn was stolen through unauthorised and authorised fraud last year, according to the trade body UK Finance.

So what are banks doing to help?

Monzo has unveiled new app-based features to help prevent criminals from raiding people's savings after stealing their mobile phones. The digital bank said that the security control tools were the first of their kind to be launched across mobile banking.

The features are designed to prevent criminals transferring or withdrawing money from customers' accounts, either as a result of phone theft,

impersonation scams or stealing personal information.

How will it work?

Monzo's new "known locations" feature will give customers the option to choose a location, such as their home or workplace, that they need to be in when transferring money or withdrawing savings over a certain limit. If the phone is not in that location, tracker technology will block any attempted transactions.

Customers can also select a trusted friend or family member, who also has a Monzo account, to be notified before they send or withdraw money. That person can then review whether they think the payment looks safe or is suspicious.

EQUALITY

Wellness firm boss says that financing can be sexist

By Holly Williams

The founder of one of the UK's fastest-growing companies, the wellness brand Ancient and Brave, has hit out at sexism in the financing sector and the difficulties that are faced by female entrepreneurs.

Kate Prince, who founded Ancient and Brave in 2018 to sell collagen and dietary supplements, has been ranked fifth in the *Sunday Times* 100 list of fastest-growing companies after its sales rose to more than £10m in 2023 from £1.3m the year before.

The ex-media lawyer, 51, raised £7m in venture capital last year from the consumer investor Piper to help the business, based in Maresfield, East Sussex, to expand. She plans to launch in Germany by September.

Ancient and Brave has amassed a raft of celebrity followers, including retired sportswoman Dame Kelly Holmes and pop star Ellie Goulding. It employs 55 staff, all of whom – bar one – are female, and its board is headed by the former Wagamama chief executive Emma Woods.

But Ms Prince said that she had witnessed at first hand the barriers faced by female founders in securing investment.

The issue was highlighted in a government-commissioned report this year, which indicated that 2 per cent of equity investment in the UK went to female founders.

The research, released in February, found that for every £1 of equity investment in Britain, 2p went to fully female-founded businesses – a proportion which had shown "no improvement in the past decade".

POLICY

How state pension could rise after Tories and Labour make triple lock promise

Set to stay until 2030, some think it is unsustainable, and its cost unknown. By **Callum Mason**

The Conservatives and the Labour Party have committed to keeping in place the triple lock on the state pension if they win Thursday's election. The triple lock mechanism ensures that state pensions rise by whichever is the highest out of inflation, average earnings growth, or 2.5 per cent each year. And the commitments from the major parties mean that the policy is likely to stay in place until 2030 at least.

A key issue surrounding the triple lock is that it is hard to forecast in advance how much the state pension will rise by, given it is data-dependent. The full new state pension is £11,542 per year, although some pensioners receive less and some get more.

Many will hope that the triple lock stays in place for years to come, ensuring they will see their retirement income grow – but the pension could change by the time 2030 comes around.

Exactly what the state pension will be by 2030 depends on how high inflation and average earnings growth is over the next five years. When calculating the annual rise, which kicks in from April each year, the previous September's inflation figure is used.

Calculations for **i** from Hargreaves Lansdown highlight what the full new state pension could be in 2030 under three different scenarios. The first of these is when inflation and wage growth is very low, at 2.5 per cent each year. In the second scenario, inflation or average wage growth is 4 per cent each year, and in the third, it is 5.5 per cent.

Should it increase by 2.5 per cent,



If the triple lock rose by 2.5 per cent, pensioners could expect to receive £13,013 a year as of 2030
DAN MULLAN/GETTY

pensioners could expect to receive £13,013 a year as of 2030.

However, if there was a 4 per cent rise, it would be worth £13,992. If the state pension was to increase by 5.5 per cent, it would be £15,031 a year.

Helen Morrissey, of Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "We have had a torrid time with the triple lock in

recent years as sky-high inflation and runaway wages have pushed increases to eye-watering levels. This makes it incredibly difficult to plan how much the state pension is going to cost [in the] long-term.

"These large spikes will happen from time to time and push up the cost but even increases that are

relatively low by the standards we have recently seen will also have a huge impact over time, especially as the number of people reaching state pension age continues to rise."

Experts have previously criticised the triple lock because it is difficult to predict what it will do to the state pension. Last year, a report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, an independent think-tank, said that the triple lock "ratchets up the value of, and spending on,

the state pension over time in a way that creates uncertainty around its level relative to average earnings, and for the public finances".

It proposed that the Government should give a figure for what it believes to be an appropriate level for the new state pension – when compared to average earnings – and come up with new laws for how to get it to this level by a specific point in the future, instead of continuing with the triple lock.

£15,031
Projected full state pension in 2030 if it were to rise by 5.5 per cent a year

Danny Rogers



on PR and advertising

Tennis stars hope for a Wimbledon bounce

Wimbledon fortnight begins today. It is one of the most-watched sporting events of the year and the peak of "the summer season" in Britain.

It is also the tennis authorities' big opportunity to

grow the sport and a chance for players such as Emma Raducanu and Sir Andy Murray to build as much sponsorship value as they possibly can.

But 2024 looks challenging in this respect. The Queen's and Wimbledon tournaments are always available via the BBC, with limited commercial opportunities, and this year the championships coincide with the Euro 2024 football tournament, shown on both BBC and ITV.

There is also a perceived dearth of British stars to invest in. Murray has dominated the British tennis conversation for more than a decade but he is on the verge of retirement and unlikely to progress far this Wimbledon, if he even plays.

Brands need inspiring ambassadors to justify their investment as we can see in football, where Jude Bellingham



If Britain's Emma Raducanu has a run at Wimbledon, she could regain her lustre as a brand proposition

is appearing in a number of huge brand campaigns.

However there is still hope in tennis. By winning the US Open in 2021, Raducanu succeeded in winning British hearts and becoming a household name. She signed a litany of lucrative commercial deals in the aftermath of her New York success. But her performance at tournaments ever since has been massively disappointing, with the commercial tie-ups even blamed by some people for her lack of form.

This is probably unfair. Still only 21, Raducanu appears to be coming through "a difficult time" personally and starting to play well again, having beaten the world No 5 Jessica Pegula last week at Eastbourne.

If Raducanu makes a run at Wimbledon, she could regain her lustre as a brand proposition

and possibly even polish it. Elsewhere, current British women's No 1 Katie Boulter has major PR and advertising potential, while the 15-year-old Hannah Klugman looks to be a natural successor to both.

On the men's side, despite the decline of Murray and Dan Evans, the 22-year-old Jack Draper has bags of brand appeal, particularly having defeated the reigning Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz at Queen's the previous week.

So the tennis establishment is hoping that, over the next two weeks, we will all settle down with our Pimms – one brand that has truly benefited from the sport – to enjoy Wimbledon and be able to toast a bright future for these potential stars.

Danny Rogers is group editor-in-chief of Brand Republic Group



The Business Matrix

The day at a glance

ECONOMY

Firms' confidence dipped last month

The Institute of Directors' Economic Confidence Index, which measures business leader optimism in prospects for the UK economy, fell in June. Anna Leach, the institute's chief economist, said: "This may reflect a pause in decision-making ahead of the election, but there are broad-based indications of softer activity in this month's data."

ELECTION

Young directors switch their votes

Young entrepreneurs could be a key voting demographic as the election approaches, research has revealed. Ahead of voting on Thursday, 23 per cent of microbusiness owners under 30 said they plan to change the way they vote compared to just 9 per cent of over-60s. A quarter said they had changed the way they vote since becoming a business owner.

WHAT THE SUNDAY PAPERS SAID

Airport operators set for dogfight

The owner of Manchester and Stansted airports is among suitors weighing up a swoop of more than £1.3bn for Aberdeen, Glasgow and Southampton airports. Manchester Airports Group is set for a dogfight with Spain's Aena, the operator of Luton Airport, and Aéroports de Paris, according to City sources.

The Sunday Times

Labour rejects four-day week call

Labour is resisting union demands to champion the four-day working week as calls grow for staff to spend fewer hours at work without a hit to their pay. The party has faced pressure to adopt a four-day week as an official policy but insists it will not do so despite it being a key policy during the 2019 general election.

The Sunday Telegraph

Wages growing faster for low-paid

Britain's lowest-paid workers are experiencing the fastest levels of wage growth, according to data from hiring platform Indeed. It said that, for the bottom third of earners in sectors such as hospitality and childcare, wages were currently rising at 7.3 per cent because of a shortage of available workers.

Sunday Express

Weight-loss drugs set to prosper

Weight-loss drugs are tipped to boom after generic versions hit the market at a lower cost than the originals. The injections can help people to lose more than 10 per cent of their weight. They include Wegovy and Saxenda, and the diabetes drugs Ozempic and Victoza, which can be prescribed "off-label".

The Observer

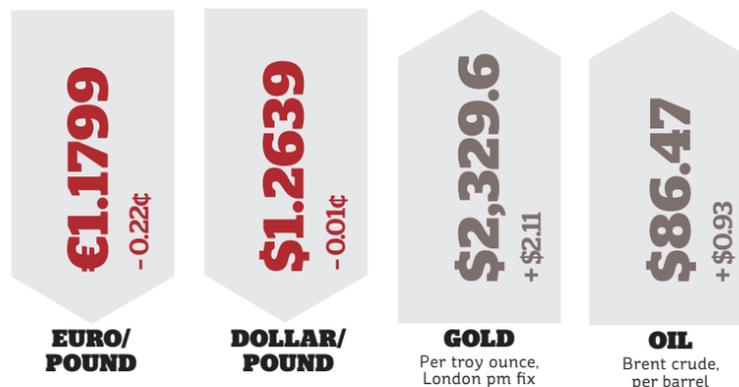
FTSE 100 down -0.89% at 8,164.1

* last week's changes

Company	Price	Wk +/-	Yield	P/E	Company	Price	Wk +/-	Yield	P/E	Company	Price	Wk +/-	Yield	P/E
3i Group	3066.0	-2.67%	2.0	7.7	GSK	1529.5	-4.35%	3.9	12.6	Rio Tinto	5201.0	-0.63%	6.6	10.6
Admiral	2615.0	+1.99%	3.9	23.5	Haleon	322.6	-3.41%	1.9	28.3	Rolls-Royce	456.8	-3.47%		15.8
Airtel Africa	120.1	+1.35%	3.9	-34.5	Halma	2706.0	+1.84%	0.8	43.6	Sage	1088.5	+0.69%	1.8	52.5
Anglo Amer	2502.0	+1.19%	3.1		Hargreaves Lans	1132.0	-0.13%	3.8	16.6	Sainsbury(J)	255.0	-2.82%	5.1	43.2
Antofagasta	2110.0	+2.53%	1.3	31.5	Hikma Pharma	1891.0	-4.06%	3.0	27.8	Schroders	363.8	-3.35%	5.9	14.8
AB Foods	2474.0	+0.24%	2.2	18.4	Howden Joinery	878.5	-0.40%	2.4	18.9	Scot Mort Inv Tst	884.2	-0.50%	0.5	
Ashtead Group	5282.0	-2.08%	1.6	18.3	HSBC Hldgs	683.9	+0.03%	7.1	7.5	Segro	898.2	+0.58%	3.1	-43.4
AstraZeneca	12356.0	-0.93%	2.0	40.7	IAG	162.2	-4.02%		3.6	Severn Trent	2380.0	-3.41%	4.9	46.7
Auto Trader Group	801.2	-1.33%	1.2	28.5	IMI	1764.0	-1.23%	1.6	19.3	Shell	2834.0	+2.05%	3.8	12.4
Aviva	476.6	-0.67%	7.0	12.6	Imperial Brands	2024.0	-0.59%	7.3	8.0	Smith&Neph	980.6	-2.43%	3.1	41.0
BAE Systems	1320.0	-1.42%	2.3	21.5	Informa	855.8	-0.49%	2.1	28.4	Smith (DS)	421.0	+16.49%	4.3	15.0
Barclays	208.9	+1.98%	3.8	7.5	IntCont HtIs	8326.0	+0.73%	1.5	23.7	Smiths Gp	1705.0	-0.12%	2.5	26.0
Barratt Dev	472.2	-0.42%	5.9	8.9	Intermediate Cap	2182.0	-2.59%	3.6	13.2	Smurfit Kappa Grp	3530.0	-3.50%	3.7	14.2
BAT	2430.0	-2.33%	9.7	-3.8	Intertek	4794.0	+0.33%	2.3	26.0	Spirax Group	8480.0	-1.51%	1.9	34.0
Beazley	708.0	+1.87%	2.0	5.7	JD Sports Fashion	119.5	-5.23%	0.8	11.7	SSE	1789.5	-1.89%	3.4	11.4
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4588.0	-3.00%	2.7	12.3	Kingfisher	248.8	-0.04%	5.0	13.7	Stan Chart	716.0	-0.97%	3.0	8.3
B&M EurValRtl	437.2	-6.78%	7.9	11.9	Land Secs	619.5	-0.96%	6.4	-14.4	Taylor Wimpey	142.2	-1.28%	6.7	14.4
BP	475.2	+0.89%	4.8	6.8	Legal & Gen	227.0	-1.77%	9.0	30.9	Tesco	306.0	-0.84%	4.0	18.3
BT	140.3	-0.88%	5.7	16.1	Lloyds Bk Grp	54.7	-1.48%	5.0	7.2	Unilever	4345.0	-2.01%	3.4	19.9
Bunzl	3010.0	-0.13%	2.3	19.2	LondonMetric Prop	193.4	-0.77%	5.3	18.2	Unite Group	892.0	-0.67%	4.0	36.1
Burberry	877.8	-10.88%	6.9	11.8	Lon Stock Ex	9400.0	-2.63%	1.2	67.7	United Utilities	982.6	-2.66%	5.1	52.8
Centrica	134.9	-1.28%	3.0	1.9	M&G	204.0	-1.50%	9.7	-3.1	Vodafone	69.8	-2.60%	10.9	19.5
Coca-Cola HBC	2698.0	-0.07%	2.9	18.4	M&S	286.5	-3.86%	1.0	13.1	Vistry	1183.0	-0.17%	2.7	18.3
Compass	2160.0	-4.38%	2.0	28.6	Melrose Ind	553.4	-3.62%	0.9	-7.3	Weir Group	1984.0	-2.65%	1.9	22.5
Convatec	234.8	-1.01%	2.1	46.4	Mondi	1518.5	+1.33%	4.1	16.6	Whitbread	2975.0	+0.81%	3.3	18.5
Croda Intl	3948.0	-2.49%	2.8	32.2	National Grid	882.6	-1.80%	6.6	15.5	WPP	724.4	-3.10%	5.4	11.6
Darktrace	576.6	-0.10%		81.0	NatWest Group	311.8	-0.95%	5.5	6.5					
DCC	5540.0	-0.98%	3.5	16.8	Next	9036.0	-1.14%	2.3	15.8					
Diageo	2489.5	-3.43%	3.2	15.1	Pearson	990.8	+1.83%	2.3	18.7					
Diploma	4148.0	+0.53%	1.4	45.7	Pershing Square	4182.0	-1.04%	1.1	4.0					
easyJet	457.7	+1.96%	1.0	10.6	Persimmon	1352.0	-0.26%	4.4	16.9					
Entain	630.0	-4.98%	2.8	-4.2	Phoenix	521.5	+1.07%	10.1	-37.8					
Experian	3686.0	+0.03%	1.3	35.5	Prudential	718.4	+1.58%	2.3	14.6					
F&C Inv Trust	1012.0	-0.39%	1.5	63.9	Reckitt Ben	4282.0	-3.30%	4.5	18.7					
Fraser's Group	882.5	+1.44%		8.3	RELX	3639.0	+1.08%	1.6	38.7					
Fresnillo	562.0	+0.99%	0.8	22.4	Rentokil Initial	461.2	+1.70%	1.9	30.5					
Glencore	451.1	-0.79%	2.3	16.8	Rightmove	537.0	-4.65%	1.7	21.9					

Markets

FTSE 100	8164.1	-0.89%
FTSE 250	20286.0	-0.76%
FTSE All Share	4451.9	-0.87%
FTSE Eurofirst300	2031.8	-0.62%
Dow Jones *	39179.9	+0.08%
S&P 500 *	5483.6	+0.35%
Nasdaq *	17836.8	+0.83%
DAX	18235.5	+0.40%
CAC 40	7479.4	-1.96%
Hang Seng	17718.6	-1.72%
Nikkei	39583.1	+2.56%



THE WEEK AHEAD

Stock market unfazed by vote

A study of all 16 of the UK elections held since the inception of the FTSE All-Share in 1962 shows that the UK stock market is not frightened of a change in government. On average, the FTSE All-Share has recorded a double-digit percentage gain in markets in the first year after an election.

Nationwide looks at house prices

Nationwide's latest house price index will be published today. The last data showed that house prices rose by 0.4 per cent between April and May. The annual growth rate picked up to 1.3 per cent, which is up from 0.6 per cent in April, with experts saying that the market was showing signs of resilience.

US recruitment may be reined in

Data on how US jobs, wages and unemployment will be released tomorrow, Wednesday and Friday, respectively. American employers are expected to have tempered their hiring, and wages growth is predicted to have moderated in June, according to economists.

Sainsbury sales figures due out

Sainsbury releases its first-quarter trading update tomorrow. Its shares have made no real progress over the past year, despite an easing in food price inflation, an improvement in wider consumer confidence, according to data from the consultancy GfK, and market share gains cited by Kantar.

Today's Weather

Quite a cloudy and wet day in the UK, as a band of light showers will move east over the course of the day. Sunny intervals in the evening.

Today's high

20°

Today's low

9°

Moon Phase



Sunrise

04:48

Sunset

21:20

Around Britain

City	Temp (Midday yesterday)	Rain (mm)	Sun (hrs)
Aberdeen	14	C	0.0
Aberporth	13	C	4.0
Aberystwyth	14	C	4.1
Aviemore	14	C	0.0
Belfast	14	C	0.8
Birmingham	14	C	1.0
Bournemouth	16	C	0.2
Bridlington	16	F	2.0
Bristol	16	C	0.9
Cardiff	17	C	0.0
Cromer	15	C	1.4
Durham	15	SH	0.2
Eastbourne	17	C	0.0
Edinburgh	15	C	0.0
Eskdalemuir	15	C	0.0
Glasgow	16	C	0.0
Holyhead	15	C	0.2
Hove	17	C	0.0
Hull	16	SH	1.8
Huntingdon	16	C	0.2
Ipswich	18	F	0.0
Isle of Man	14	C	0.0
Isle of Wight	17	C	0.0
Kinlochewe	13	SH	0.6
Kirkwall	12	C	2.2
Leeds	15	C	0.1
Lerwick	11	C	0.6
Leuchars	17	C	0.0
Lincoln	14	C	2.0
Liverpool	15	SH	0.9
London	18	F	0.0
Manchester	14	C	2.6
Margate	17	R	0.4
Milford Haven	15	C	2.4
Morecambe	16	C	0.3
Newcastle	15	SH	0.9
Norwich	16	C	0.8
Nottingham	15	C	0.7
Okehampton	17	F	0.0
Oxford	16	C	0.0
Plymouth	19	S	0.0
Portland	16	C	0.0
Portsmouth	17	C	0.0
Prestwick	15	C	0.0
Rhyl	14	C	3.2
Sheffield	14	C	0.1
Shrewsbury	15	C	1.0
Skegness	15	C	0.5
Southend	17	C	0.0
Stoke	13	C	0.1
Stornoway	14	F	2.0
Swansea	16	C	0.3
Tiree	14	F	0.0

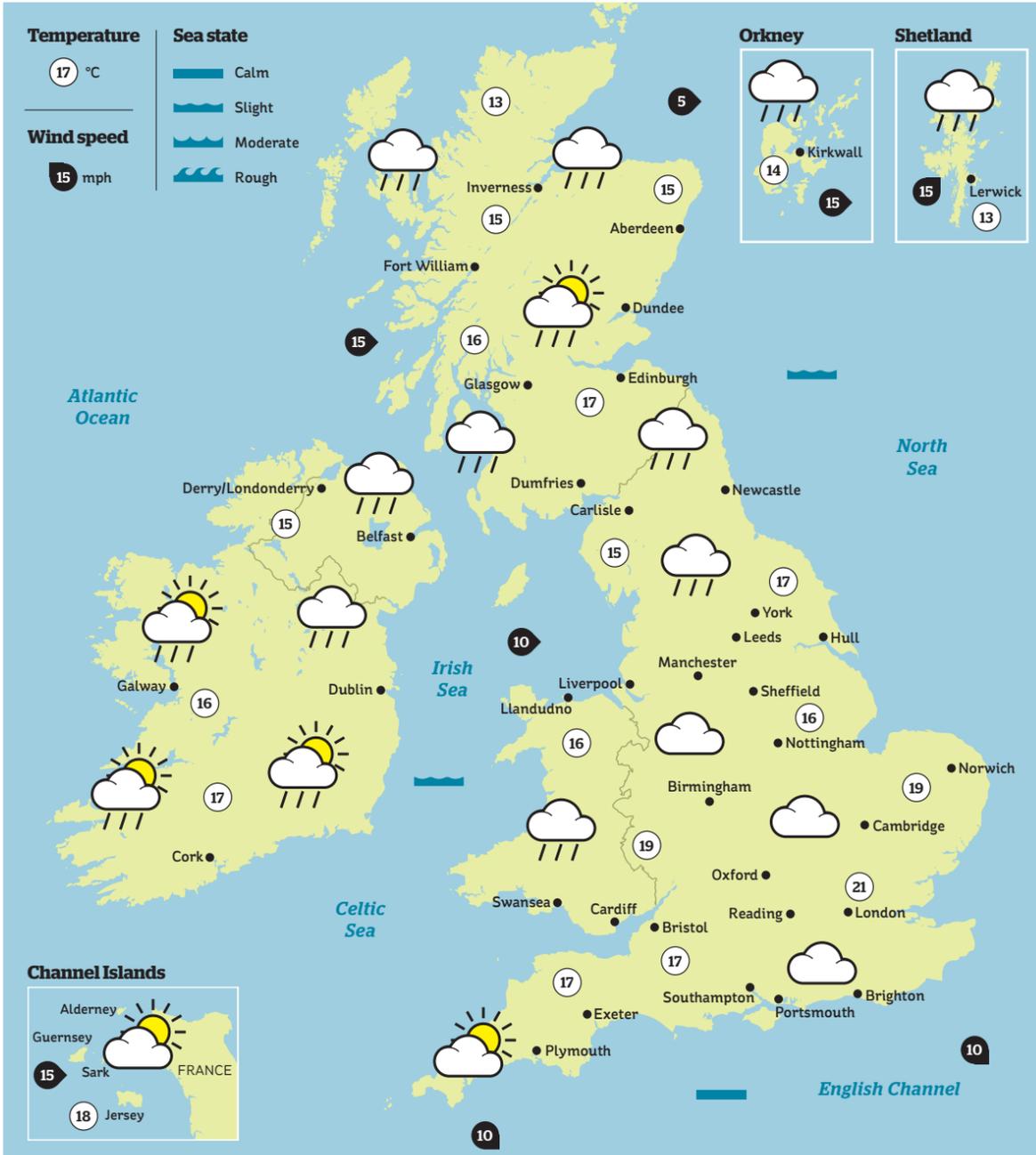
Global

City	Temp (in °C)	Cond	City	Temp (in °C)	Cond
Abu Dhabi	42	S	Miami	31	F
Abuja	28	TH	Milan	28	F
Alicante	29	S	Moscow	27	S
Amsterdam	20	C	Mumbai	30	TH
Athens	32	S	Munich	23	DR
Bangkok	33	R	New York	26	F
Barcelona	24	F	Nice	25	S
Beijing	30	S	Palma	27	S
Berlin	25	F	Paris	22	F
Brussels	20	C	Prague	27	F
Budapest	32	S	Reykjavik	14	DR
Chicago	29	F	Rio	29	F
Delhi	34	R	Rome	29	S
Dubai	39	S	Stockholm	18	R
Dublin	14	C	Strasbourg	20	R
Frankfurt	19	R	Sydney	14	R
Geneva	20	DR	Tenerife	25	S
Helsinki	22	F	Tokyo	28	C
Hong Kong	31	TH	Toronto	23	R
Istanbul	30	S	Vancouver	19	F
Johannesburg	17	S	Vienna	32	S
Lisbon	21	SH	Warsaw	33	S
Los Angeles	22	S	Washington	31	F
Madrid	23	F	Wellington	13	C

Key: C=Cloudy, DR=Drizzle, F=Fair, FG=Fog, H=Hail, M=Mist, R=Rain, S=Sunny, SH=Showers, SL=Sleet, SN=Snow, SS=Sandstorm, TH=Thunderstorm

Air Pollution Index

Region	Today	Tomorrow
Highlands	2	2
North East Scotland	2	2
Central Scotland	2	2
Scottish Borders	2	2
Northern Ireland	2	2
North West & Mersey	2	2
North East	2	2
Yorkshire & Humber	2	2
North Wales	2	2
West Midlands	2	2
East Midlands	2	3
South Wales	2	2
South West	2	2
South East	3	3
Eastern	3	2
Greater London	3	3



GENERAL SITUATION Areas of low pressure will be located to the north and west which will create a westerly and north-westerly airflow across the UK. Mild temperatures with considerable cloud cover are anticipated. Occasional breezes and a chance of light showers might occur throughout the morning. Bands of cloud and rain will continue to sink south and eastwards. Fresher and brighter behind, with some sunnier spells ahead of this in the south.

SE England, London, E Anglia, Cen S England: Mild temperatures with a significant chance of clouds and light winds. Occasional showers

might occur, keeping the atmosphere cool and moderately damp. A dry evening with late spells of sunshine. There will be light westerly winds. Max temp: 20C. Tonight, mostly cloudy. Min temp: 12C.

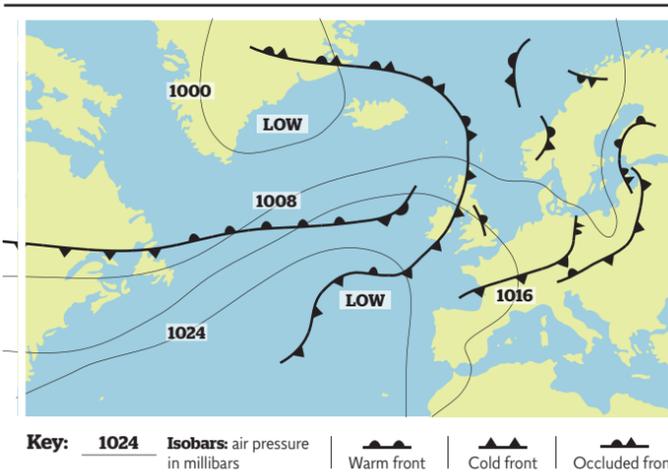
Channel Is: Partly cloudy with sunny spells across the Channel Islands today will see a dry and bright start, but cloud in the west will spread across the area with some patchy rain possible. In the early afternoon, there remains a small chance of the odd shower pushing in from the north-west. Max temp: 18C. Tonight, mainly dry. Min temp: 10C.

NW Scotland, N Isles: Tomorrow morning will remain overcast with showery rain continuing to advance from the west, falling heavy in places. In the afternoon, it will turn dry and breezy as sunny spells develop with perhaps the odd light shower. There will be moderate to brisk south-westerly winds. Max temp: 13C. Tonight, chance of showers. Min temp: 9C.

SW England, Midlands, E England, NE Scotland: A dry and bright start, but cloud will quickly build with some patchy rain advancing from the west. The odd heavier burst is possible, but skies will turn brighter again throughout the afternoon and some sunny spells will develop.

There will be gentle to moderate south-westerly winds. Max temp: 20C. Tonight, chance of showers. Min temp: 10C.

N Wales, S Wales, NE England, NW England, Republic of Ireland, N Ireland, SE Scotland, SW Scotland, W Isles, IoM: A cloudy day for many with periods of sunshine. There will be large areas of cloud cover around at times bringing a threat of showers which may merge into longer spells of rain during the morning. Mainly dry with variable cloud during the afternoon. There will be gentle to moderate westerly winds. Max temp: 20C. Tonight, chance of showers. Min temp: 10C.



SYNOPTIC PRESSURE A low over Iceland will begin to fill, though its trailing front will cause some unsettled weather conditions for the UK. Another low will develop in the path of the aforementioned low, deepening over the next few days. A broad region of high pressure will remain stationary across much of the northern Atlantic.

HIGHS AND LOWS (Yesterday, up to 2pm)

Warmest: Frittenden, Kent, 21C

Coldest: Redesdale, Northumberland, 4C

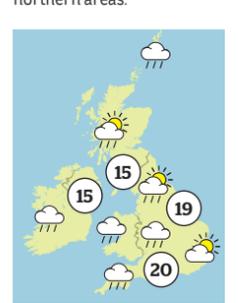
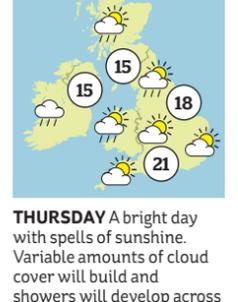
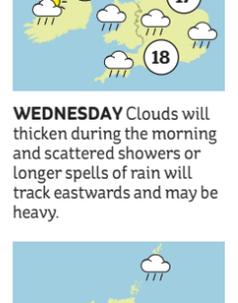
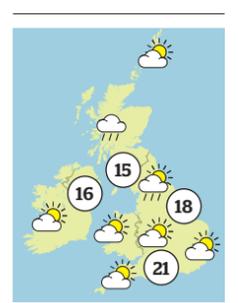
Wettest: Elphin, Sutherland, 14.0mm

Sunniest: Jersey, Channel Islands, 8.1hrs

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Aberdeen	22.08-04.18
Birmingham	21.33-04.50
Bristol	21.30-04.58
Cardiff	21.32-05.00
Glasgow	22.04-04.37
Hull	21.34-04.36
Inverness	22.19-04.20
Liverpool	21.43-04.48
London	21.20-04.48
Manchester	21.40-04.45
Stornoway	22.33-04.26
Swansea	21.36-05.03
York	21.39-04.37

Five-day outlook



FORMULA ONE

Norris hits out at 'reckless' Verstappen after collision

By Philip Duncan

Lando Norris has demanded an apology from a "reckless, stupid and desperate" Max Verstappen following their dramatic collision in the closing stages of yesterday's Austrian Grand Prix.

George Russell took advantage of the coming together to claim just his second career victory and Mercedes' first in nearly two years.

But the race here at the Red Bull Ring in Spielberg will be remembered for Norris's electrifying duel with Verstappen which ended with the British driver out of the race and Verstappen's driving - blasted as "dangerous" by his rival - back in the spotlight.

Prior to yesterday's 71-lap race here in Spielberg, Norris might have considered Verstappen his closest ally. But when asked if their friendship might now be affected, Norris replied: "It depends what he says. If he says he did nothing wrong, then I will lose a lot of respect for that.

"If he admits to being a bit stupid, running into me, and just being a



George Russell is in good spirits following his victory in Austria

On lap 55, Norris made his first bid for the lead at Turn 3 but Verstappen put his Red Bull on the apex to stay ahead. "He reacted to my move and you are not allowed to do that," protested Norris.

Three laps later Norris launched his McLaren down the inside of Verstappen at the third bend but he carried too much speed, and the Red Bull man swooped back ahead.

"He cannot keep moving after I move," said the Englishman. "It is just dangerous. We will have a big shunt."

With eight laps to run, Norris tried for a third time. Verstappen ran off the road at the third corner, and he rejoined the asphalt with his lead still intact. Norris was now on the ragged edge, and about to be handed a five-second penalty for repeatedly exceeding track limits.

On the next lap, the inevitable happened as the two drivers collided. Verstappen suffered a left-rear puncture and Norris's tyre was also shredded. The two limped back to the pits for repairs and Russell charged into the lead.

bit reckless, then I will have a small amount of respect for it.

"I expected tough, fair, respectful on-the-edge racing, and I don't feel like that is what I got. It seemed a little bit desperate from his side and it didn't need to be that way."



Pogacar takes yellow jersey

Tadej Pogacar moved into the leader's yellow jersey as Kevin Vauquelin (above) won stage two of the Tour de France from a break-away in Bologna.

Pogacar, a little over a month after his dominant victory in the Giro d'Italia, ignited his bid to double up in the Grand Tours with an attack late on the second ascent of the steep San Luca climb.

Defending champion Jonas Vingegaard was the only man who could initially follow, although Remco Evenepoel battled back on the descent to avoid any time losses to his main rivals.

Primoz Roglic could not do the same, among a group to concede 21 seconds to the new leader, with Carlos Rodriguez, Egan Bernal and Simon Yates among that number.

RACING

Los Angeles seizes chance to steal the limelight from rival

By Jon Freeman

RACING EDITOR

Another Derby, but a twist in the result as Los Angeles, three lengths behind Ambiente Friendly when they were placed at Epsom a month ago, turned the tables in yesterday's Curragh classic.

The suspicion - in both camps really - was that the outcome might be different, with the emphasis a little more on stamina. Ryan Moore was confident that the Irish track would play more to the strengths of the stoutly-bred Los Angeles, while Ambiente Friendly's trainer James Fanshawe had stated publicly that his colt's optimum trip might be 10 furlongs, rather than 12.

And so it proved. Los Angeles had three stablemates to force the pace and though Ambiente Friendly eased through to take a narrow lead early in the home straight, he was never in command and in the end was simply outstayed by his Ballydoyle rival.

"He didn't stay, 100 per cent," raved his jockey Rab Havlin. "We got the position we wanted and sneaked through on the inside to challenge the winner. But the red light was starting to come on inside the final furlong and in the end we needed the line. But there are still some good days in him, possibly back over a mile and a quarter."

David Menuisier's Sunway finished with a flourish to pinch the runner-up spot from Ambiente

1 top tips

BEST BET

Andaleep (7.45, Windsor) Smart handicapper on his day and running back into top form. Has a good record here.

NEXT BEST

Shagraan (7.15, Windsor) Fine effort at Royal Ascot last time. This is far less competitive.

ONE TO WATCH

Nothing went right for Northumberland Plate favourite **Trooper Bisdee**. He's not finished yet.



Ryan Moore rides Los Angeles to victory at the Curragh yesterday

Friendly and Roger Varian's Matsuri did likewise to finish close up in fourth, despite a troubled passage - an exceptional effort from one thrown into the deep end after winning a modest Leicester novice contest.

So, a two-three-four for the British raiding party, but for a 16th time, the Irish Derby went to Ballydoyle and Aidan O'Brien.

The Doncaster St Leger would now seem a natural target for Los Angeles and sure enough he is now a strong favourite for the final classic of the season.

PONTEFRACT GOOD TO FIRM

3.15 TATTERSALLS 40,000 EBF SPINDRIFTER FILLIES' NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) (CLASS 2) 2YO £40,000 added 6f	
1	41 ARDEUR (CD) R Beckett 9 7 Rossa Ryan 4
2	4 GUNS FIRING R Fahy 9 2 B Garritty 2
3	24615-1 INDY'S ANGEL P Kirby 9 2 C Beasley 3
4	2 SHE WENT WHOOSH R Hannan 9 2 C Rodriguez 1
5	27 SUNSHINE SOUL G Boughey 9 2 Billy Loughnane 5
6	321 UNSPOKEN LOVE K R Burke 9 2 D Tudhope 6

BETTING: 11-8 Ardeur, 3-1 Unspoken Love, 5-1 Guns Firing, 11-2 Sunshine Soul, 8-1 She Went Whoosh, 33-1 Indy's Angel.

3.45 BETTINGSITES.CO.UK BETTING SITES HANDICAP (CLASS 4) £10,000 added 1m	
1	200-07 BENNETOT D O'Meara 5 10 4 D Tudhope 6
2	-51279 ON THE RIVER (CD) H Bethell 5 9 12 J Fanning 2
3	24615-1 TELE RED (CD) K R Burke 7 9 10 S Feilden (7) 3
4	19397-7 FREEDOM DAY (D)(BF) M Walford 4 9 9 J Garritty H 7
5	061-0 MAGNUM OPUS (D) S & E Crisford 3 9 6 Billy Loughnane 9
6	411 OLD COCK (D) E Bethell 3 9 5 C Rodriguez T 1
7	2-15 SAVVY EXCHANGE (CD) S Woods 3 9 2 Rossa Ryan 5
8	022 AVIEMORE C Johnston 3 9 1 J Hart 8
9	241-46 COLORADA DANCER (D)(BF) R Fahy 3 8 12 B Garritty 4

BETTING: 9-4 Old Cock, 4-1 Aviemore, 11-2 Savvy Exchange, 7-1 others.

WORCESTER GOOD

2.55 GET BEST ODDS GUARANTEED AT PLANETSPORTBET HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4) £8,900 added 2m 7f	
1	2PP-P2 AJP KINGDOM (CD) F O'Brien 7 12 0 C Brace
2	1433-4 GOOSE MAN J Snowden 12 11 13 G Sheehan
3	42414-4 HIDDEN DEPTHS N Mulholland 9 11 13 J Bowen C,T
4	33-331 BBOLD (D) Daisy Hitchens 10 11 10 H Reed B
5	6222-1 ALMAZHAR GARDE (D) C Longsdon 9 11 10 Paul O'Brien C,T
6	P448-4 YES INDEED Jonjo & A O'Neill 7 11 9 Jonjo O'Neill Jr T,V
7	611-32 URBAN GRIT Mrs L Hill 7 10 5 H Cobden T

BETTING: 3-1 Ajp Kingdom, 7-2 Bbold, 4-1 Almazhar Garde, 7-1 others.

WINDSOR GOOD TO FIRM

5.45 COLENKO FAST TRACK HANDICAP (CLASS 5) 3YO £8,400 added 5f	
1	68-127 CLOUD KING (D)(BF) R Cowell 9 10 O Murphy H 3
2	3-2145 MAKE IT EASY (D) N Tinkler 9 8 R Scott 5
3	01-210 LAW OF AVERAGE (D) C Banham 9 7 J Haynes 4
4	589-2 BIG TIME RASCAL P & O Cole 9 6 W Buick 2
5	94-5 PORT HEDLAND H Candy 9 0 T Whelan T 6
6	243-45 PERSIAN BLUE W Haggas 8 13 T Marquand H,T 1

BETTING: 11-4 Big Time Rascal, 10-3 Cloud King, 7 others.

6.15 BRITISH EBF RESTRICTED MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE) (CLASS 4) 2YO £9,950 added 5f	
1	84 BALZARINI S C Williams 9 7 S M Levey 1
2	7 EIGHTEENCARAT GOLD E J Houghton 9 7 C Bishop 3
3	1 FOLLOW RIVERS R Spencer 9 7 R Hornby 12
4	JR CLIMBS P Evans 9 7 G Downing 11
5	27 MISTER MCGREGOR A Balding 9 7 O Murphy 8
6	MONTBELIARDE G Boughey 9 7 W Buick 13
7	THE LAST TIME R Spencer 9 7 G Wood 15
8	33 INVINCIBLE CROWN (BF) R Hughes 9 5 R Kingscote 2
9	DUBAI MAGIC J Tate 9 2 N Callan 9
10	7 GLAMOROUS JEWEL C Mason 9 2 W Cox 5
11	25 WOODHAY WHISPER T Ward 9 2 T Marquand 14
12	00 ANGEL AT MIDNIGHT M Murphy & M Keady 9 0 Sorcha Woods (7) 6
13	NANNA WESTERN G Nicholls 9 0 C Fallon 4
14	PURE LIBERTY S C Williams 9 0 C Shepherd 10
15	6 RUBY RASCAL J Parr 9 0 Alice Bond (7) 7

BETTING: 7-2 Invincible Crown, 9-2 Woodhay Whisper, 5-1 Montbeliarde, 13-2 Mister Mcgregor, 8-1 Dubai Magic, 12-1 others.

7.15 FITZDARES SPRINT SERIES HANDICAP (CLASS 2) £30,000 added 6f

1	10-545 ROHAAN (D) P Evans 6 10 2 N Callan 3
2	32-282 ARAMIS GREY (CD) R Guest 7 9 10 C Shepherd 4
3	21-00 WALLOP (D) R Hannan 4 9 6 S M Levey 6
4	51-157 UNDER THE TWILIGHT (CD) M Blake 6 9 3 H Davies 1
5	05-211 HAYMAKER (CD) H Morrison 5 9 2 R Hornby 7
6	432-14 KATEY KONTENT (CD) C Cox 4 9 2 R Kingscote 5
7	65-235 SHAGRAAN (CD) M Appleby 3 9 2 T Marquand 2
8	1-7713 AMAZONIAN DREAM (CD) B Millman 5 8 12 O Murphy 8

BETTING: 10-3 Shagraan, 4-1 Haymaker, 9-2 Katey Kontent, 5-1 Rohaan, 6-1 Amazonian Dream, 10-1 Aramis Grey, 12-1 Wallop, Under The Twilight.

7.45 DOWNLOAD THE FITZDARES APP NOW HANDICAP (CLASS 3) £18,400 added 1m 2f	
1	167521 COMPOSITE G Boughey 4 10 4(Sex) W Buick B 5
2	31162 AEROSPACE (D) A Watson 5 9 13 H Doyle C 3
3	513395 ANDALEEP (CD) D & C Kubler 8 9 12 T Marquand T 4
4	85-247 WISPER (CD) M Tregoning 6 9 8 D Costello 6
5	136-38 CRYSTAL MARINER (D) Sir M Stoute 4 9 6 R Kingscote 7
6	7080-7 SPIRIT OF THE BAY (D) J & R Flint 6 9 4 W Cox C 2
7	-00535 WOODSTOCK CITY (D) J Williams 4 9 4 O Murphy 1

BETTING: 6-4 Composite, 7-2 Aerospace, 6-1 Andaleep, Crystal Mariner, 8-1 Wisper, Woodstock City, 50-1 Spirit Of The Bay.

8.45 MAGNET FORENSICS EUROPE HANDICAP (CLASS 5) £8,400 added 6f

1	412657 AIRSHOW (D) B Millman 9 10 3 O Searle (5) H,C 6
2	5568-5 HELLO ZABEEL (D) M Blake 6 10 3 O Murphy 4
3	04-12 LIPSINK (CD)(BF) M Appleby 7 10 2 A Rawlinson 5
4	14-076 PRINCE OF BEL LIR (D) J Parr 6 10 1 Alice Bond (7) C 10
5	-912-8 DIAMOND DREAMER (D) P Chamings 4 9 11 H Davies B 9
6	5919 NEVERNAY R Hannan 3 9 11 S M Levey 12
7	49259 WHOOP WHOOP T Ward 3 9 9 T Marquand 1
8	865-17 ALL IN THE HIPS (CD) P Evans 4 9 9 R Kingscote 3
9	5-808 GREATEST TIME P Evans 4 9 9 G Downing 11
10	04-742 LAHINA BAY (CD) R Cook & J Bridger 4 9 6 R Clutterbuck 7
11	58757 KAPPARIS KID (D) A Carroll 3 9 1 W Carson 2
12	2928-0 MEIMUN JOHNNY (D) Craig Benton 7 9 0 C Bennett B 8

BETTING: 7-4 Lipsink, 6-1 Lahina Bay, 15-2 Hello Zabeel, 8-1 Whoop Whoop, 10-1 Airshow, Diamond Dreamer, 12-1 Nevernay, 16-1 Kapparis Kid, All In The Hips, Prince Of Bel Lir, Greatest Time, 50-1 Meimun Johnny.

WOLVERHAMPTON STANDARD

6.00 FREE DIGITAL RACECARD AT RACEDAY-READY.COM NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) (CLASS 5) £7,300 added 5f	
1	71 ACCRUAL (D) D & C Kubler 3 9 11 S Osborne 4
2	0 ROBESPIERRE D Shaw 4 9 9 C Hardie 3
3	13 CAPO VATICANO (D) A Balding 3 9 6 D Probert 5
4	SPELLBINDING A French 3 9 4 Dylan Hogan 1
5	ANGEL PASS Sir M Prescott 3 8 13 L Morris 2

BETTING: 4-7 Capo Vaticano, 4-1 Accrual, 5-1 Angel Pass, 10-1 Spellbinding, 66-1 Robespierre.

6.30 DOWNLOAD THE RACEDAY READY APP HANDICAP (CLASS 4) £9,500 added 5f

1	8-0663 READY FREDDIE GO (CD) O Pears 6 10 2 H Russell B 2
2	221540 NIGHT ON EARTH (CD) I Williams 6 10 1 C J Todd T 8
3	26-205 TSUNAMI SPIRIT K P De Foy 3 9 9 B Sayette 5
4	6-12 BLAZES BOYLAN (D) R Cowell 3 9 8 J Mitchell 4
5	81-475 BOANN (D) Ollie Sangster 3 9 8 David Egan B,T 6
6	5-1522 INVINCIBLE SPEED (C) J Tate 3 9 7 R Havlin 3
7	022366 REIGNING PROFIT (CD) R Carr 5 9 6 L Morris V 7
8	94-624 POPULAR DREAM D Shaw 4 8 12 C Hardie 1

BETTING: 3-1 Night On Earth, 4-1 Blazes Boylan, 5-1 Invincible Speed, Reigning Profit, 8-1 Ready Freddie Go, Tsunami Spirit, 10-1 Popular Dream, 14-1 Boann.

CRICKET

Bairstow, Foakes and Leach the big casualties in Test series shake-up

By Chris Stocks

England have dropped Jonny Bairstow, Ben Foakes and Jack Leach for the upcoming Test series against the West Indies as they look to refresh the team ahead of next year's Ashes in Australia.

The changes include three uncapped players – wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith and seam bowlers Gus Atkinson and Dillon Pennington – in a 14-man squad for the first two Tests at Lord's and Trent Bridge.

Young off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who took 17 wickets at 33.75 on the tour of India earlier this year, is included ahead of Leach, who missed the final three Tests of that series with a knee injury. Leach has since returned for Somerset but has only taken four wickets at 72 in three County Championship matches.

The series opener at Lord's, which starts on Wednesday 10 July, will be the final match of James Anderson's glittering career, with the 41-year-old told by coach Brendon McCullum last month he would not be considered beyond this series as England plan for the 2025-26 Ashes series Down Under.

To that end Bairstow, who failed to reach 40 in any innings of that series in India, was informed on his return from England's T20 World Cup campaign in the Caribbean over the weekend that he was dropped.

The 34-year-old's final innings of that tournament, a three-ball duck in the semi-final defeat by India in Guyana last Thursday, could well be his last in international cricket, although England may yet decide he still has a role in white-ball cricket.

Smith, 23, is an interesting pick for the wicketkeeping role, chiefly because he rarely keeps wicket in first-class cricket for his county Surrey, given Foakes is first choice at The Oval. He is an aggressive batter who averages 40.80 in first-class



Jamie Smith has been picked as a wicketkeeper for the Windies Tests

England squad

For opening two Tests against West Indies

BA Stokes (Durham; capt)
JM Anderson (Lancashire)
[First Test only]
AAP Atkinson (Surrey)
S Bashir (Somerset)
HC Brook (Yorkshire)
Z Crawley (Kent)
BM Duckett (Nottinghamshire)
DW Lawrence (Surrey)
D Pennington (Nottinghamshire)
OJD Pope (Surrey)
MJ Potts (Durham)
JE Root (Yorkshire)
JL Smith (Surrey; w-k)
CR Woakes (Warwickshire)

Schedule

First Test 10-14 July, Lord's
Second Test 18-22 July, Trent Bridge
Third Test 26-30 July, Edgbaston

cricket and fits the Bazball profile to a tee. This summer he is averaging 50.70 and has hit five 50-plus scores already, including one century.

Smith also kept wicket in two ODIs against Ireland at the end of last summer, but doing it at Test level with all the accompanied scrutiny will be a huge step up.

Foakes is undoubtedly the best wicketkeeper in the country but his limitations with the bat were exposed during the 4-1 series defeat in India, where his inability to counter-attack often left England unable to fight their way out of tight situations.

This was most acute during the second innings of the fourth Test in Ranchi, when Foakes, who has admitted: "I'm not very Bazball", scored 17 in 76 balls when England were fighting to set India a challenging total to stay in the series.

Pennington, who joined Nottinghamshire this year from Worcestershire, has taken 29 Championship wickets this summer at an average of 23.03.

Surrey seamer Gus Atkinson is the only other uncapped player included but he was an unused squad member on that tour of India earlier this year.

Durham seamer Matt Potts is also recalled, as is Chris Woakes for the first time since he starred during last summer's home Ashes series.

England's director of cricket Rob Key, said: "The first Test of the summer is always a special moment, but it will be extra poignant with it being Jimmy's [Anderson] last Test before he retires. He has given everything to the sport since his Test debut in 2003. We all would like to wish him well as he walks out at Lord's for the last time for England."

T20 WORLD CUP



Jasprit Bumrah with the T20 World Cup trophy and (opposite, left to right, top to bottom) the remaining members of our team of the tournament in order listed below GETTY

Stars – and a few gripes – as cricket and India said Yanks for the memories

After a month of fun, sun and captivating cricket in the US and West Indies, the T20 World Cup is over.

India won a memorable, nerve-shredding final in Barbados on Saturday, but there was plenty more to this tournament than the men in blue breaking their 13-year World Cup duck and South Africa reaching a first final.

Here follow's highlights of the ninth Men's T20 World Cup.

Player Jasprit Bumrah

The best T20 bowler of all-time and one of the greatest to ever play the game across all formats. India don't win the final without his haul of 2 for 18. Took 15 wickets in the tournament at 8.26 with a staggering economy rate of 4.17.

Match Pakistan losing to USA

This shock result lit a fire under the tournament as the co-hosts

Chris Stocks

IN BARBADOS



pulled off a super over win having tied Pakistan's total of 159 in their chase in Dallas. A team who had only played their first T20 four years earlier had beaten the runners-up from the last World Cup. Monank Patel (right), with 50, and Saurabh Netravalkar, the seamer who saw out the super over, were heroes.

Innings Rohit Sharma, 92 India v Australia

India's captain had a relatively quiet World Cup before bursting into life with this incendiary 41-ball knock in St Lucia that sealed Australia's Super Eight exit.

Bowling spell Gulbadin Naib, 4-20 Afghanistan v Australia

The Aussies were 71 for 3 and looking good to chase down 149 on a tricky St Vincent pitch before the medium-pacer, unused as a bowler in four of Afghanistan's five matches before this, ripped out Marcus Stoinis, Tim David, Glenn Maxwell and Pat Cummins in the space of 19 balls.



Flop Australia

Having trolled England in the first round – Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood intimating they may go easy on Scotland in their final group match to knock

Jos Buttler's team out – Mother Cricket bit back with a vengeance in the Super Eights.

Australia had looked strong, winning five from five before their surprise defeat to Afghanistan led to their tournament unravelling.



Four Indians, one Aussie and no Englishmen - our team of the tournament

Quinton de Kock (South Africa)
Brilliant at the top of the order. Scored 243 runs despite his team playing most of their early games on bowler-friendly pitches.

Rohit Sharma (India, captain)
Nerveless captaincy and set the example with the bat at the sharp end of the tournament.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan)
World Cup's top runscore and essential to his team's fast starts, with Gurbazball sparking wins against Uganda, New Zealand, Australia and Bangladesh.

Nicholas Pooran (West Indies, wicketkeeper)
His 98 in 53 balls against Afghanistan was a highlight of the tournament. Nobody hit more than his 17 sixes.

Suryakumar Yadav (India)
Relay catch in the last over of the final was one of the greatest of all-time. Decent with bat, too, with 199 runs from 147 balls overall.

Hardik Pandya (India)
Underrated all-rounder key to India's

success, bowling the key overs and producing crucial cameos with the bat from No 7. Stood up again in the final, with 3 for 20.

Marcus Stoinis (Australia)
Got 169 runs at a strike-rate of 164 plus took 10 wickets at 15. His team went out early but the all-rounder had a fine tournament.

Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
Took 14 wickets at 12 and an economy rate of six. The leg-spinner's captaincy inspired his team to an historic semi-final.

Anrich Nortje (South Africa)
His 15 wickets and economy rate of 5.74 did so much to get his team to a first World Cup final.

Jasprit Bumrah (India)
World Cups become a lot easier when you have the best bowler on the planet. Proved time again he was just that in this tournament.

Fazalhaq Farooqi (Afghanistan)
The left-armed 4 for 17 against New Zealand defined his team's tournament.

SECOND WOMEN'S ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

Bouchier's maiden century helps England to crushing win

England breezed to an ODI series victory over New Zealand with Maia Bouchier making a maiden professional century in an eight-wicket win at Worcester.

The second game of the three-match series followed an identical script to the first as the White Ferns - bowled out for 156 in the Chesterle-Street opener - could only manage 141 this time from 41.5 overs.

New Zealand's fate was sealed by losing their last seven wickets for 27 runs in a disastrous collapse that saw Sophie Ecclestone again spin her web of tricks.

Ecclestone finished with 5 for 25 from nine overs, and England reached their target comfortably as Bouchier reached three figures.

The 25-year-old, who made an unbeaten 100 from 88 balls and struck 17 fours, was helped to her landmark century by Nat Sciver-Brunt who showed no interest in scoring runs in the closing overs.

Tammy Beaumont was the only other England batter to reach double figures, the opener having made 28 before being run out.

After England had won the toss, Kate Cross and Lauren Filer struck



Maia Bouchier celebrates her century after hitting 17 fours off 88 balls PA

early to remove Georgia Plimmer and Suzie Bates and leave New Zealand floundering at 10 for two.

Amelia Kerr (43), Maddy Green (30) and skipper Sophie Devine (28) offered some resistance as the innings recovered to 114 for 3.

But Jess Kerr (14) was the only other batter to make double figures with Ecclestone once again playing

a prominent role. Ecclestone broke a third-wicket partnership of 46 in 72 balls between Devine and Amelia Kerr to turn the tide England's way.

Amelia Kerr passed 2,000 ODI runs in her 86-ball stay before offering Charlie Dean a return catch, and the carnage continued as Ecclestone removed Izzy Gaze and Molly Penfold.

Results Service

CRICKET

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - DIVISION ONE

HAMPSHIRE V KENT

THE ROSE BOWL (Day 1 of 4): Hampshire have scored 301 for 3 wickets against Kent

Kent elected to bowl

HAMPSHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Min
T E Albert c Leaning b Evison	20	0	4	64	83
F S Middleton c Finch b Stewart	13	0	3	26	32
N R T Gubbins b Stobo	1	0	0	8	11
*J M Vince not out	149	0	22	201	269
T B C Brown not out	106	0	11	201	231
Extras (lb7 w1 nb4)	12				
Total (for 83 overs)	301				

Fall: 1-19, 2-24, 3-56

Bowling: G Stewart 18-7-55-1, C H Stobo 17-5-50-1, N N Gilchrist 12-1-60-0, J D M Evison 9-0-48-1, M W Parkinson 21-2-64-0, J A Leaning 6-0-17-0.

Umpires: P R Pollard and B J Debenham.

LANCASHIRE V NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

SOUTHPORT (Day 1 of 4): Lancashire have scored 344 for 8 wickets against Nottinghamshire

Nottinghamshire elected to bowl

LANCASHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Min
L W P Wells b Paterson	7	0	0	38	45
*K K Jennings not out	183	4	26	258	398
J J Bohannon c Clarke b Stone	25	0	4	52	64
G Bell c Harrison b Pennington	8	0	2	39	58
T M Hurst c Stone b James	2	0	0	30	30
G P Balderson c Harrison b Paterson	41	2	5	76	79
C J Green lbw b James	9	0	2	24	27
T E Bailey lbw b James	20	0	4	43	45
W Williams c Clarke b Pennington	0	0	0	3	4
N M Lyon not out	8	0	1	19	35
Extras (lb2 lb27 nb12)	41				
Total (for 8, 96 overs)	344				

Fall: 1-26, 2-67, 3-111, 4-120, 5-208, 6-228, 7-292, 8-293.

Bowling: O P Stone 20-4-93-1, D Pennington 23-5-70-2, D Paterson 22-7-53-2, L W James 17-5-53-3, C G Harrison 9-1-20-0, L A Patterson-White 5-1-26-0.

Umpires: M J Suggers and T Lungley.

SOMERSET V WARWICKSHIRE

TAUNTON (Day 1 of 4): Warwickshire have scored 373 for 8 wickets against Somerset

Warwickshire won toss

WARWICKSHIRE - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Min
R M Yates c Aldridge b Pretorius	15	0	2	38	49
*A L Davies c Abell b Davey	9	0	2	9	19
W M H Rhodes c Umeeed b Leach	63	0	9	106	154
S R Hain b Pretorius	0	0	0	5	8
D R Mousley c Aldridge b Pretorius	2	0	0	4	3
E Barnard b Leach	92	0	12	159	208
J Bethell c Rew b Overton	1	0	0	7	3
T M G K Burgess not out	126	3	14	167	202
C R Woakes c Umeeed b Pretorius	39	0	5	68	92
M Booth not out	13	0	2	17	15
Extras (lb4 lb1 nb8)	13				
Total (for 8, 96 overs)	373				

Fall: 1-19, 2-34, 3-36, 4-40, 5-144, 6-145, 7-244, 8-354.

Bowling: J H Davey 18-2-71-1, C Overton 19-2-61-1, M Pretorius 20-2-72-4, K L Aldridge 14-0-74-0, M J Leach 20-2-59-2, A R I Umeeed 10-11-0, T A Lammonby 4-1-10-0.

Umpires: R J Bailey and M Newell.

SURREY V ESSEX

THE OVAL (Day 1 of 4): Surrey have scored 248 for 8 wickets against Essex

Essex elected to bowl

SURREY - First Innings

	Runs	6s	4s	Bls	Min
*R J Burns c Pepper b Walter	26	0	3	76	113
D P Sibley c Elgar b Bosch	24	0	5	42	60
D W Lawrence c Harmer b Bosch	6	0	1	14	10
J L Smith b Critchley	100	2	14	133	192
T B T Foakes c Pepper b Bosch	7	0	1	18	30
R S Sudharsan c Harmer b Walter	14	0	2	47	82
R S Patel b Snater	26	0	4	55	61
J Clark c Stubbs b Harmer	7	0	0	22	20
T Lawes not out	13	0	1	30	42
J P A Taylor not out	11	0	2	38	38
Extras (lb5 lb7 nb2)	14				
Total (for 8, 79 overs)	248				

Fall: 1-41, 2-47, 3-67, 4-100, 5-170, 6-203, 7-224, 8-224.

To Bat: D J Worrall.

Bowling: J A Porter 15-3-3-43-0, S Snater 19-4-49-1, E Bosch 13-2-52-3, P I Walter 10-3-2-43-2, S R Harmer 16-5-32-1, M J J Critchley 5-0-17-1.

Essex: D Elgar, N L J Browne, P I Walter, J M Cox, M J J Critchley, *T Westley, S R Harmer, T M K S Pepper, E Bosch, S Snater, J A Porter.

Umpires: P J Hartley and G D Lloyd.

DIVISION TWO

Derbyshire v Yorkshire, Chesterfield: Derbyshire 76

(27.4 overs; M V T Fernando 5-30, J A Thompson 4-31).

Yorkshire 283-5 (58 overs; J H Wharton 116no).

Gloucestershire v Glamorgan, Cheltenham:

Gloucestershire 179 (44.4 overs; T van der Gugten 5-59).

Glamorgan 133-7 (45.1 overs).

Leicestershire v Middlesex, Leicester: Leicestershire 179

(49.3 overs; T S Roland-Jones 4-63, R F Higgins 4-35) & **40-1** (9 overs).

Middlesex 86 (32.3 overs; B Mike 5-22, B G F Green 4-28).

Sussex v Northamptonshire, Northampton: Sussex 143

(47.2 overs; C I White 4-23) & **83-2** (23.0 overs).

Northamptonshire 97 (45.1 overs; O E Robinson 4-42).

SECOND WOMEN'S ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL

New Zealand v England, New Road: New Zealand 141

(41.5 overs; S Ecclestone 5-25).

England 142-2 (24.3 overs; M E Bouchier 100no).

England beat New Zealand by 8 wickets.

FORMULA 1

AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX, RED BULL RING, SPIELBERG, AUSTRIA, (70 laps): 1 G Russell (GB) Mercedes GP

1:24.22.798, 2 O PIASTRI (Aus) McLaren +1.906, 3 C Sainz Jr. (Sp) Ferrari +4.533, 4 L Hamilton (GB) Mercedes GP

+23.142, 5 Max Verstappen (Neth) Red Bull +37.253, 6 N Hulkenberg (Ger) Haas F1 +54.088, 7 S Perez (Mex) Red Bull +54.672, 8 K Magnussen (Den) Haas F1 +1:00.355,

9 D Ricciardo (Aus) RB +1:01.169, 10 P Gasly (Fr) Alpine +1:01.766, 11 C Leclerc (Monaco) Ferrari +1:07.056, 12 E Ocon (Fr) Alpine +1:08.325, 13 L Stroll (Can) Aston Martin at 1 lap, 14 Y Tsumoda (Jpn) RB at 1 lap, 15 A Albon (Thai) Williams at 1 lap, 16 V Bottas (Fin) Kick Sauber at 1 lap, 17 G Zhou (Chin) Kick Sauber at 1 lap, 18 F Alonso (Sp) Aston Martin at 1 lap, 19 L Sargeant (US) Williams at 2 laps. **Not Classified:** 20 L Norris (GB) McLaren. **Fastest Lap:** Alonso (Sp) 1:07.694 on lap 70.

Standings: 1 Verstappen 237, 2 Norris 156, 3 Leclerc 150, 4 Sainz Jr. 135, 5 Perez 118, 6 Piastri 112, 7 Russell 111, 8 Hamilton 85, 9 Alonso 41, 10 Tsumoda 19, 11 Stroll 17, 12 Hulkenberg 14, 13 Ricciardo 11, 14 Bearman 6, 15 Gasly 6, 16 Magnussen 5, 17 Ocon 3, 18 Albon 2, 19 Zhou 0, 20 Bottas 0, 21 Sargeant 0. **Manufacturers:** 1 Red Bull 355, 2 Ferrari 291, 3 McLaren 268, 4 Mercedes 196, 5 Aston Martin 58, 6 RB 30, 7 Haas F1 19, 8 Alpine 9, 9 Williams 2, 10 Kick Sauber 0.

CYCLING

TOUR DE FRANCE, ITALY, Stage 2 (Cesenatico - Bologna, 200km): 1 K Vauquelin (Fr) ARKEA-B&B HOTELS

4hrs 43mins 42secs, 2 J Abrahamsen (Nor) Uno-X

Mobility +36s, 3 Q Pacher (Fr) Groupama-FDJ +49, 29 S Yates (GB) Team Jayco-AlUla +242, 30 T Pidcock (GB) INEOS Grenadiers, 32 A Yates (GB) UAE Team Emirates both at the same time. **Overall:** 1 T Pogacar (Sloven) UAE Team Emirates 9hrs 53mins 30secs, 2 R Evenepoel (Bel) Soudal Quick-Step, 3 J Vingegaard (Den) Team Visma | Lease a Bike, 4 R Carapaz (Ec) EF Education-EasyPost at the same time.

Overall: 1 T Pogacar (Sloven) UAE Team Emirates 9hrs 53mins 30secs, 2 R Evenepoel (Bel) Soudal Quick-Step, 3 J Vingegaard (Den) Team Visma | Lease a Bike, 4 R Carapaz (Ec) EF Education-EasyPost at the same time, 5 R Bardet (Fr) Team dsm-ferminich PostNL +6s, 9 T Pidcock (GB) INEOS Grenadiers +21, 20 S Yates (GB) Team Jayco-AlUla, 23 A Yates (GB) UAE Team Emirates both at the same time.

GOLF

ITALIAN OPEN, MILANO MARITTIMA, RAVENNA, FINAL ROUND (GB & Irl unless stated): 274 M Siem (Ger) 69 68 66 71 (wins Play-off on the 1st hole); T McKibbin 71 70 68 65; 275 S Crocker (US) 66 71 70 68; J De Bruyn (Ger) 67 67 72 69; 276 A Arnaus (Sp) 66 71 70 69; A Rozner (Fr) 69 72 62 73; S Sharma (India) 68 68 67 73; A Pavan (It) 64 73 69 70; J Nicholas (US) 67 70 69 70.

WIMBLEDON

ORDER OF PLAY - SHOW COURTS, Centre Court (13:30pm): (3) C Alcaraz (Sp) v M Lajal (Est), (22) E Alexandrova (Rus) v E Raducanu (GB), C Dolehide (US) v (2) C Gauff (US). **Court 1 (1pm):** A Kovacevic (US) v (5) D Medvedev (Rus), E Bektas (US) v (3) A Sabalenka (Bela), (1) J Sinner (It) v Y Hanfmann (Ger). **Court 2 (11am):** (10) G Dimitrov (Bul) v D Lajovic (Serb), S Wawrinka (Swit) v C Broom (GB), N Osaka (Jpn) v D Parry (Fr), (16) V Azarenka (Bela) v S Stephens (US). **Court 3 (11am):** A Bolt (Aus) v (8) C Ruud (Nor), (7) J Paolini (It) v S Sorribes Tormo (Sp), M Trevisan (It) v (12) M Keys (US), (12) T Paul (US) v P Martinez (Sp). **Court 12 (11am):** M Kessler (US) v (9) M Sakkari (Gr), M Berrettini (It) v M Fucsovics (Hum), B Van de Zandschulp (Neth) v L Broady (GB), B Fruhvirtova (Cz Rep) v (24) M Andreeva (Rus). **Court 18 (11am):** G Minnen (Bel) v H Watson (GB), G Monfils (Fr) v (22) A Mannarino (Fr), (8) Q Zheng (Chin) v L Sun (NZ), M Bellucci (It) v (14) B Shelton (US).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND OF 16

France v Belgium (5)

Portugal v Slovenia (8)

TENNIS

ALL ENGLAND LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS (Wimbledon)



Cycling: Tour de France

Eurosport 1, 10am

Tennis: Wimbledon

BBC One/BBC Two, from 10.30am

Football: France v Belgium

ITV1, 4pm

Football: Portugal v Slovenia

BBC One, 7.30pm



Andy Murray puts himself through his paces during a warm-up GETTY

Murray to decide on Wimbledon farewell after injury struggle

By Eleanor Crooks

Andy Murray expects to decide this evening whether or not he will make a final singles appearance at Wimbledon.

The two-time former champion has been in a race against time since struggling with a back problem at Queen's Club that led to weakness in his right leg, resulting in him undergoing surgery last weekend to remove a spinal cyst.

On Thursday, Murray rated it unlikely that he would be able to play singles, with an appearance in doubles alongside his brother Jamie more probable, but he gave a more upbeat assessment yesterday.

"It's been a tough 10 days or so since Queen's," he said yesterday. "I had the operation on the back, which wasn't insignificant. I've just been trying to do everything that I can to try and get ready to start the tournament here.

"I don't know if that's going to be enough. I've been practising for the last few days. I played a set today. It went pretty well, but I still don't have 100 per cent feeling and sensation in my leg yet.

"It's getting better every single day. Like I said a few days ago, I want to give it every chance that I can to get there.

Osaka eager to experience SW19 with baby daughter

By Eleanor Crooks

Naomi Osaka feels like a different player and person on her return to Wimbledon and is looking forward to sharing the experience with her baby daughter.

The Japanese player has not appeared at the All England Club for five years having struggled with her mental health and injury before giving birth to Shai last July.

Osaka (*above*) has never been past the third round of Wimbledon



but has returned to the sport with a renewed sense of commitment.

Becoming a mother has been central to her change in mindset and Osaka is looking forward to celebrating Shai's first birthday in London tomorrow.

"It's been a journey but I've also been really lucky and blessed because I'm able to bring someone that also helps me take care of Shai," she said. "It's a bit of a dream to be here with her now. She turns one on Tuesday so that's going to be a really exciting day."

'Queuing is easier now that Federer has retired'

The Wimbledon queue is a British tradition and **Michael Hincks** gets the top tips from the SW19 experts

The Wimbledon queue is oh so quintessentially British, an art that requires patience but rewards fans with a seat on Centre Court or at the very least a spot on Henman Hill. And yes, it is still Henman Hill.

Arriving at Wimbledon Park, those hoping to join the Wimbledon queue must head to the back of the line (because of course that is how one should queue), where you will be issued with a Queue Card, which is both numbered and dated.

You may not reserve a place for somebody else in the queue, and should you leave the queue for a toilet break or refreshments, you are advised this temporary absence should not exceed 30 minutes.

It is serious business, the Wimbledon queue, and is therefore monitored by stewards 24-7 once up and running.

This year, it officially opened yesterday at 2pm, and for the first time features the Queue Village, where, after collecting their tickets – which start at £30 for a ground pass – supporters are encouraged to enjoy this new space, featuring a large screen and seating, before heading over Church Road and on to the grounds.

And at some point in the first week, Wimbledon queue expert Mark Martin will head to SW19 for what he thinks is "at least" the 300th time.

"It's the whole sort of magic of Wimbledon, it is a unique experience," he tells *i*, having caught the Wimbledon bug in 1978 when in attendance for Martina Navratilova's victory over Chris Evert in the women's final.

"I became hooked after that," he adds, and he soon developed a love for the queue: "It's not just about the tennis, it's about the people you meet. You become friends for life.

"The accessibility of the Wimbledon queue is quite remarkable because it is different to the US Open or Paris or Australia.

"The uniqueness about Wimbledon is that you can go



It's the magic of Wimbledon. It's not just about the tennis, it's about the people you meet

queue up and you can see those players that you desperately want to watch."

For Martin, an eagerness to watch Andy Murray in action ultimately meant he witnessed history in 2013.

"The best experience in the queue, and probably at Wimbledon, was 2013," Martin says. "It was quite remarkable in the sense I saw all seven matches that Andy played



Mike Martin (left) gets a snap with Novak Djokovic in the SW19 queue

and I managed from the queue to get a resale ticket for the final and sat a row back from the front, so that was pretty phenomenal."

Murray won that final in straight sets against Novak Djokovic, ending Britain's 77-year wait for a men's singles champion at Wimbledon.

"That was quite something to see," adds Martin, who was also on Centre for the 2012 final that Murray lost to Roger Federer.

Martin had been based in the south of England but now lives in the Hebrides, making for a "flipping long jaunt" down to Wimbledon. Nevertheless, he is a keen camper, and would encourage any queue first-timer to do the same.

Camping overnight offers fans in the queue the best opportunity of securing tickets for the show courts, and is also Martin's best piece of advice – as well as bringing a decent sleeping bag – for anyone hoping to watch a specific player.

That is because the following day's schedule is typically released the evening before, meaning supporters can all-but guarantee their chances of getting on to said court by joining the queue early.

Campers will be woken up by



Fans camping out in yesterday's queue and (below) a scene from last year's tournament GETTY



stewards at 6am and told to pack away their stuff in order to shorten the length of the queue. There are then "left luggage" facilities, with a charge of £5, where fans can leave their overnight equipment.

For those against camping, Martin's top tip is to beat the first Tube that arrives at the nearby Southfields station, which Monday to Friday is 5.44am when taking the District line from central London.

There are also Tubes arriving from Wimbledon at Southfields at 5am, 5.17am and 5.35am, although if in Wimbledon town at that point already, fans may be better off getting a bus or taxi.

"Obviously as soon as that Tube arrives at Southfields people begin to pile in, so if you can beat that rush you've got a chance of a ticket on the show courts," says Martin.

Other tips from Martin include packing a power bank to charge your phone and a decent waterproof, as well as plenty of fluids and snacks. The nearby main road boasts a Sainsbury's Local that opens at 7am on weekdays, likewise a Greggs at 6am, while there are also several coffee shops on the walk from the station to the park.

Why queue?

There are a limited number of tickets made available for those in the Wimbledon queue for Centre Court, No 1 Court and No 2 Court, while ground passes are most likely for those joining the queue in the morning.

Prices start at £70 for Centre Court, £65 for No 1 Court, £50 for No 2 Court, with ground passes priced at £30.

There is also the resale queue once inside, which Martin has also used, located near Court 18. There, and not before 3pm, it is possible to buy returned tickets for just £15 for Centre Court, and £10 for No 1 and No 2 Court.

For anyone fearing mega-long queues, while it will get into the thousands each day of the opening week at least, Martin says the numbers have dwindled a little due to the cost-of-living crisis and Federer's retirement.

"It has changed significantly post-Covid, that's for sure," says Martin. "It's certainly significantly

less. I don't know if that's because of the cost of living.

"Tickets have gone up massively over the last 15 years. And you take the Federer effect out of it as well, because from around 2008 to 2019 you had this real dedicated fan base that would basically queue up two days before to watch Roger, wherever he was.

"As soon as that match was over, they went straight out and back in the queue for the next Federer match. So, they were always taking up those first 500, 600 spots. For the average fan, it was a bit of a nightmare."

For anyone seeking a calmer experience, perhaps unbothered by players and just eager to get a spot on Henman Hill and walk around the grounds, Martin would recommend the second week.

He adds: "If you're a casual fan, if you want the Wimbledon experience without Centre or No 1 Court, the second week is much nicer because it's much slower.

"You've got no singles matches on the outside courts anymore but you've got plenty of doubles, you've got the juniors, and it's a very laid back, very chilled experience."

Ten British wild cards who hope to wow the home crowds this year

There are 19 British players pencilled in to play the opening round of the singles at Wimbledon this week.

The pencil largely applies to Andy Murray, who will make a late decision ahead of this scheduled first-round match against Tomas Machac, set for tomorrow.

Murray is hoping to make his final grand slam appearance at SW19 before retiring, although he could yet feature at the Olympics.

Elsewhere, Emma Raducanu is in action today against No 22 seed Ekaterina Alexandrova. Dan Evans and Cam Norrie take on Alejandro Tabilo and Facundo Diaz Acosta respectively in the first round.

Jack Draper and Katie Boulter are also seeded at Wimbledon for the first time. Boulter plays Tatjana Maria tomorrow, when Draper is in action against Elias Ymer.

Meanwhile, Heather Watson plays Greet Minnen today. Liam Broady takes on Botić van de Zandschulp today Harriet Dart plays Zhuoxuan Bai tomorrow.

Below are 10 more British wild cards and qualifiers in action this week.

Charles Broom

Plays Stan Wawrinka today

At 26 he is making his Wimbledon debut. Broom hails from St Albans and is yet to play on the ATP Tour. He reached a career-high No 183 in the world in May.

Jan Choinski

Plays Luciano Darderi tomorrow

German-born Choinski stands at 6ft 5in and enjoyed his Wimbledon debut last year, beating Dusan Lajovic in the opening round. Choinski went on to reach a career-high 126 in the world.

Jake Fearnley

Plays Alejandro Moro Canas tomorrow

It's a Wimbledon singles debut for Fearnley. The 22-year-old was born in Edinburgh and played college tennis at the USA for Texas Christian University. He made his ATP debut at Eastbourne recently.

Arthur Fery

Plays Daniel Altmaier today

Born in France, 21-year-old Fery makes his second Wimbledon appearance after his debut last year, where he lost in the opening round to Daniil Medvedev.

Billy Harris

Plays Jaume Munar tomorrow

Nottingham-born Harris will make his Wimbledon debut aged 29. The 6ft 4in right-hander reached a career-high world No 139 in June after recording two wins on the ATP Tour at Queen's Club, where he beat world No 32 Tomas Martin Etcheverry before overcoming Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard.

Michael Hincks



Fran Jones

Plays Petra Martić tomorrow

It is a second Wimbledon appearance for 23-year-old Jones. She reached a career-high ranking of 149 in 2022, and she recently reached the quarter-finals at Nottingham, where she was forced to withdraw before playing Raducanu due to a shoulder injury.

Paul Jubb

Plays Thiago Seyboth Wild tomorrow

A third Wimbledon appearance awaits 24-year-old Jubb, who lost in the first round back in 2019 and 2022. He broke into the top 200 in 2022, and last week enjoyed an incredible win over USA's Ben Shelton at the Mallorca Championships.



Sonay Kartal

Plays Sorana Cirstea (29) today

This will be a third straight Wimbledon appearance for 22-year-old Kartal as she looks to reach the second round for the first time. Kartal will hope to have momentum with her after coming through qualifiers.

Lily Miyazaki

Plays Tamara Korpatsch today

Miyazaki (above) made her Wimbledon debut in 2022, losing in the first round, but then enjoyed the first slam win of her career at the US Open last year.

Henry Searle

Plays Marcos Giron tomorrow

The 18-year-old won the Wimbledon boys title last year. He is making his grand slam debut at Wimbledon this year, having just made his bow on the ATP Tour at Eastbourne.



Henry Searle has high hopes after winning the Wimbledon boys title

FOOTBALL

Luiz swaps Villa for Juve on PSR's big deadline day

By Phil Blanche

Douglas Luiz left Aston Villa for Juventus on a day when a flurry of transfers had been forecast due to the Premier League's profitability and sustainability regulations (PSR).

With clubs needing to comply with PSR and not make more than the permitted £105m loss over a rolling three-year period, yesterday was destined to take on special significance as it was the cut-off date between accounting periods.

Villa had been prominent in recent days with various additions and departures, and 26-year-old Luiz's stay in the West Midlands came to an end after five seasons and over 200 appearances.

Archie Gray also seems set to move after Leeds United rejected a bid in the region of £35m from Brentford for the 18-year-old. The Yorkshire club were unwilling to accept the structure of the deal for the England Under-21 international and will only sell on their terms.

Chelsea - who are understood to be close to landing Leicester City midfielder Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall for around £30m - and Tottenham Hotspur are among those tracking Gray, who only signed a new long-term contract in January.

West Ham United winger Said Benrahma completed a permanent transfer to Lyon in France, for a fee in the region of £13m.

There were also departures on the continent as Barcelona announced the return of Joao Cancelo to Manchester City. The Portugal defender spent last season on loan in Catalonia after falling out with City manager Pep Guardiola, having made 42 appearances and scored four goals in Spain.

Barcelona also confirmed former Chelsea forward Joao Felix's return to Atletico Madrid after his season on loan, while Spain full-back Marcos Alonso, also once of Chelsea, is leaving after two years at the club.



Douglas Luiz has spent the past five seasons at Villa Park

FRANCE v BELGIUM

Mbappé expecting to play the pain game for Les Bleus

By Philip O'Connor

Kylian Mbappé will not be surprised if his broken nose is targeted by Belgium today but the France captain insists he is prepared to push through the pain.

Mbappé (right) broke his nose in the opening game but returned to score in the draw against Poland last week, wearing a mask he described as "annoying"

"If you're playing with a broken nose and haven't had your nose operated, you're a target," he said. "I knew what I was signing up for when I decided I wasn't going to go home and get the operation."



"Maybe I'll get muscled a little bit and it might hurt. But I'm ready to give everything for this jersey to help France go as far as possible. If this means someone's going to hit my nose, so be it. It's already broken."

Belgium midfielder Orel Mangala believes fans are behind the team, despite captain Kevin De Bruyne leading team-mates away from jeering fans after last week's 0-0 draw with Ukraine.

"I believe that has been cleared up," Mangala said.

"We were all frustrated. Now we are facing a new match and I hope that all the fans stand with us and we'll play with a lot of imagination."

NETHERLANDS

Memphis far from grizzly despite Dutch struggles

By Mark Gleeson

The Netherlands have been through a renewal process after analysing their poor performance in the group stages at the European Championship, forward Memphis Depay said, as they look ahead to their last-16 clash with Romania.

The Dutch had a thorough post-mortem after losing their final group game last Tuesday against Austria in Berlin, a result that dropped them to third in the group, sending them through to tomorrow's match in Munich.

"The tournament is only starting now," Depay, the former Manchester United man, said. "We must ensure that we learn from our mistakes. We had discussions and criticised each other and it is normal that there is friction if the

results do not go as you want them to go. It's logical that there will be irritations. But that's behind us now. There's a good spirit among the group."

Against Austria, where he scored a fine goal to briefly restore parity for the Netherlands, Depay played his first 90 minutes this season after an injury-filled campaign at Atletico Madrid.

"It has to be better, but I was satisfied in the last match," he added. "I won my duels, although I didn't get much of the ball. It can only get better from here."

The Dutch have failed to make the last eight of the Euros since 2008 - when Marco van Basten's side lost 3-1 to Russia after extra time. That appearance was their sixth successive Euros quarter-final.

SWITZERLAND 2-0 ITALY

Spalletti to stay on despite Azzurri's shock early exit

By Trevor Stynes

Italy will keep Luciano Spalletti as coach until 2026 as planned despite their Euro 2024 campaign ending in the last 16, Italian FA president Gabriele Gravina said.

Spalletti's side were beaten 2-0 by Switzerland on Saturday, but the coach (right), who replaced Roberto Mancini last August on a contract until 2026, will be given more time.

"Yesterday there was a long chat with the coach and it is unthinkable to solve problems by abandoning a project that is

multi-year, you cannot abandon the project after eight or nine months," Gravina said. "A coach who has been in charge for nine or 10 games is central to the project, and he cannot always have all the players available."

"[Spalletti] has our confidence. He must work because in 60 days there is already a new challenge."

Gravina reflected on the disappointment of Euro 2024, saying: "What unfortunately remains is the disappointment of not having been able to demonstrate to those who followed us everything that has been done."



GERMANY 2-0 DENMARK

German shapeshifter Havertz holds key to aspirations of hosts

Joachim Andersen has had better three-minute periods during his career than the 180 seconds that ultimately decided the fate of Saturday's last-16 tie in Dortmund, Germany's first knockout win at a major tournament since 2016. From ecstasy to ignominy to agony, Denmark were somehow both comfortably beaten and left to rue that they could have caused deep German regret.

Daniel Storey

CHIEF FOOTBALL WRITER



The two incidents were marginal, because football is increasingly destined to live on the edge and be best watched in freeze frame. Andersen

PORTUGAL v SLOVENIA

Old habits die hard: Why Martinez must drop petulant Ronaldo for last-16 clash

He had us all fooled. Clean through on goal, with the opportunity to break his tournament duck, Cristiano Ronaldo caused stars to fall out of the sky as he squared for Bruno Fernandes to put Portugal 3-0 up against Turkey in Group F.

His former Manchester United teammate looked equally perplexed, hugging his country's all-time top goalscorer especially tight, just to check it was really him.

Such a move was in-keeping with Ronaldo 4.0, who had this writer similarly convinced his latest incarnation was that of a team player, 39 years in the making.

In both of Portugal's opening two group games, Ronaldo seemed fully aware that he no longer needed act like the alpha in such a multi-faceted group. There were no tantrums, applause for teammates attempts to pick him out rather than death stares.

But we should all have known better. All it was going to take was one flashpoint to unleash those inner demons bursting to get out. And after his booking for dissent on the half-hour mark in defeat to Georgia, Ronaldo plunged to new lows.

A water bottle got the brunt of his frustration as he was substituted, before

Pete Hall



he sat on the bench head in hands trying to quash the anger, having spent the rest of his time on the pitch in Gelsenkirchen gesticulating so much his limbs looked to be becoming detached from his body.

This wasn't the Champions League final but a group game that had no bearing on Portugal's progress to the last 16. The petulant Ronaldo of old, one damaging to those teammates around him, was back and more cantankerous than ever.

What makes Ronaldo getting up to his old tricks especially harmful is this is one of the greatest-ever Portuguese squads in history, one with more than enough quality in the ranks to bring the Iberian nation its second European Championship crown.

When Ronaldo was busy throwing toys out of the pram at every given opportunity in previous years, such frustration bore from the fact he was having to shoulder much of the goalscoring burden himself,

and on the rare occasion when he didn't fire, neither did Portugal.

With Liverpool's Diogo Jota on one side of him in attack in Germany and AC Milan's Rafael Leao, arguably Serie A's brightest star, on the other, as well as one of the Premier League's best creators, Fernandes, behind, Ronaldo had a role to play like any other central striker in any other team – a vital cog in the Portuguese attacking juggernaut. He seemed more than at home fulfilling such a requirement, too.

Those demons, however, were harder to suppress than we thought. Portugal coach Roberto Martinez

will be more concerned than any going into tonight's last-16 clash with Slovenia, as he is in danger of flattering to deceive with his second successive "golden generation".

The Belgium you have seen limp through the group stages is one at the end of its cycle. There is young talent coming through, but not in great enough a number to replace their best-ever crop of elite superstars.

Martinez (above), however, had Kevin De Bruyne, Romelu Lukaku, Vincent Kompany and Eden

Hazard, among others, at the peak of their powers, a group who produced one of the most blistering World Cup displays in recent memory to defeat Brazil at the quarter-final stage in 2018, but the Catalan could not quite inspire them to a maiden major tournament crown.

The former Wigan and Everton boss has won widespread acclaim with how he reintegrated Ronaldo into the group after it appeared he was beyond the goalscoring phenomenon, following a dreadful 2022 World Cup and his move to Saudi Arabia.

There was no pandering to the ego. Ronaldo fit into Martinez's system, no questions asked and a comfortable, tantrum-free Euro 2024 qualification campaign ensued.

Old habits die hard though. Now Martinez has a situation he must meet head on. However many selfie-hunters he may alienate, dropping Ronaldo has to be considered, given the myriad of attacking options available.

Few coaches have had the chutzpah to do that and Martinez is unlikely to buck the trend, but he has to do something to stop Ronaldo dragging this star-studded Portugal team down with him.

was a toenail straying across a line from Denmark taking a lead. The ball then nicked off his outstretched hand and feathered the ball to first slip. Snickometer says: heartbreak.

This was not your normal knock-out match, and not only because of a 25-minute meteorological delay. With Dortmund sent into darkness by storm clouds, thunder, lightning and hail, referee Michael Oliver took the players from the pitch.

Around it, the match was open and aesthetically pleasant. Germany seized advantage, desperate not to get sucked into the same lethargy as beset them against Switzerland the weekend before. Jamal Musiala, Kai Havertz and Leroy Sané stretched the game and Denmark too. Marking those three at once is like being told to monitor six cats and three toddlers at once.

But Denmark are resilient beasts. At the moment they were able to slow down the game they began to pass between the lines and find spaces in midfield. One does not like to pick on a young striker, but Rasmus Hojlund had three chances and missed them all. His time will come but they desperately needed it to come now.

The game changer and game winner for Germany was Havertz (right). There has been an ongoing debate in Germany about whether he or Niclas Füllkrug should lead the line from the start, and Füllkrug has

done nothing wrong. But this is surely the best combination: Havertz dipping and dropping into space to give defenders twisted blood, Füllkrug coming on when they're tired. Float like a butterfly, charge like a bull.

Havertz remains eminently, impossibly fascinating. His game was distilled in fewer than 180 seconds, one move in the second half when he controlled the ball and played his own through ball to himself in one touch and then

missed the subsequent one-on-one. So beautiful, so infuriating.

But beauty wins out when Havertz has such a difference on those around him. With two of Musiala, Sané and Florian Wirtz flitting around him, Havertz is a shapeshifter. He played as a central forward, wide right and wide left. He is front and centre of Germany's attack yet spends little time there.

You sense that Germany's tournament, as public emotion starts to build via replica shirts and flags on cars, may well be defined not by the old timers seeking to leave their righteous legacies: Manuel Neuer, Toni Kroos, Ilkay Gündogan. Instead, it will be their No 7, he of the grace and panache and magnificent movement. Either that will make Germany's home tournament, or an inopportune miss will break it.

ROUND OF 16

Silky Spanish bide time to sink gallant Georgia

SPAIN

Rodri 39, Ruiz 51, Williams 75, Olmo 83

4

GEORGIA

Le Normand og 18

1

By James Mariner

Spain may be into the last eight of a European Championship for a second time in three years but it is a gallant Georgia who will again be on everyone's minds.

Ranked 74th in the world, the Euro debutants qualified through the back door but more than earned their place in the last 16 and again caught the eye here.

Spain were the only side to complete the group stages with a 100 per cent record, keeping three clean sheets. That record was gone within 18 minutes last night.

After a ferocious start from the Spanish, Georgia held firm before growing in enough confidence to launch attacks of their own.

Otar Kakabadze was afforded space on Spain's left and swung in for Khvicha Kvaratskhelia. The Napoli man terrorised Portugal last week such that Robin Le Normand felt he had to get to the ball first, but could only divert past Unai Simon.

Spain had to wait until five minutes before half-time to finally break down Georgia's masses, Rodri trading passes with Nico Williams, switching feet and drilling past Giorgi Mamardashvili.

Kvaratskhelia went close with an audacious effort before Fabian Ruiz finally put Spain ahead, nodding in a fine cross from Lamine Yamal. Williams fizzed in a solo third and Dani Olmo stroked home the fourth as Georgia wilted in the rain.

Despite reaching the semi-finals in 2021 Spain were not among most observers' favourites here.

Winners in 2008 and 2012, it will take a brave person to bet against this exciting, vibrant La Roja lifting a third Euros crown in five – despite a resurgent Germany lying in wait next. The Armada sails on – but it is the midnight train (to Georgia) that will take home the memories.



Nico Williams celebrates his solo effort, which sealed Spain's passage



From zeros to heroes - Bellingham and Kane turn box-office flop into blockbuster

ENGLAND
Bellingham 90, Kane 91

2

SLOVAKIA
Schranz 25
After extra time

1

Sam Cunningham

CHIEF FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
AT VELTINS-ARENA,
GELSENKIRCHEN



It was like something out of a Marvel film. England a goal down, in stoppage time, no shots on target, within seconds of a humiliating exit.

It was from a long throw, too. And

England never do long throws. It was a scrappy flick-on. And there, in the middle, was Jude Bellingham, who soared through the air, gold-lined cape trailing glittering stars in its wake, twisting his body into a physics-defying bicycle kick to send the ball out of the goalkeeper's reach and haul England into extra time.

England's players celebrated like they had won Euro 2024, the whole squad, substitutes rushing from seats, joined in a giant hug. And why not? Avoiding the abject slaughter that was coming their way is almost as rewarding as lifting the trophy.

England had gone 252 minutes without a goal and Bellingham had pretty much gone missing, but

Gareth Southgate had ignored calls to drop the young Real Madrid midfielder and that was, precisely, why. You can't drop the rare players who possess that magic.

Southgate had said he would resist throwing everything out the window, making only one change to the starting line-up, but in the end he demolished the entire house to somehow keep England in the tournament.

Bewilderingly, they then took the lead a minute into extra time - substitute Eberechi Eze flicking the ball to substitute Ivan Toney, who nodded it into the path of Harry Kane to head England in front.

This was all in another realm to the 90 minutes that had come before,

when England played over 500 passes without a shot on target and were within minutes of being eliminated in the last 16 by a country ranked 45th in the world.

Everyone had been waiting for it to click - like the heady days of those first 20 minutes against Serbia when Bellingham put England in front.

Surely it would come against Denmark? Surely it would come against Slovenia? Surely it would come against Slovakia?

But before England clicked, they cracked. There had been signs of fissures in the defence before Slovakia took a first-half lead.

David Strelec had acres of space on the edge of England's penalty area and nobody followed the run of Ivan Schranz, who was played through on goal fairly simply and finished passed Jordan Pickford.

Slovakia could almost smell the nervousness emanating from England's three yellow cards in the opening 17 minutes - the quickest three players have been booked for one team at a European Championship since records began in 1980.

Nothing England did fitted together.

From a rapid counter attack Phil Foden crossed from the left but no England player was in the box - Kane still getting out of his seat somewhere around the halfway line.

In another move the ball rolled

across to Trippier, with time and space, coming from the left it was perfect for his right foot ... no more should ever be said of that shot.

At a goal down England just passed the ball slowly around the back.

If games were decided by the amount of passes played between defenders England would surely be World and European champions. As it is, they aren't, and England fans - understandably - booed and jeered. All that slow passing creating a vortex that sucked the life out of everybody.

At one particularly painful point admittedly of many, John Stones passed to Pickford, who passed back to Stones, who, devoid of any options, went back to Pickford.

Southgate made no substitutions at half-time, seeing something that no other fan or pundit could see - but whatever he said at the break least revived the faintest of heartbeats.

Foden scored, and there was a brief collective sigh of relief until it was ruled out after a VAR check for what was, in hindsight, a clear offside.

England had loads of the ball, but England having the ball wasn't the problem. Declan Rice hit the post late on, but England looked beaten.

And then in that moment when heroes are made Bellingham flew to the rescue.



Jude Bellingham watches his equaliser for England in stoppage time PA

Southgate's shambles progress despite doing bare minimum

Daniel Storey

CHIEF FOOTBALL WRITER
AT VELTINS-ARENA



England's players go towards the largest concentration of their support and they are cheered, not booed. Gareth Southgate heads there next, surely a little sheepish after last week and the last two hours; he is treated as a hero. This is proof of one of two things: either "Sweet Caroline" contains hypnotic magic within its lyrics and melody – or it really does not matter how you perform if you win.

Analysis? England are baffling and flawed and frustrating and imbalanced and ultimately unexplainable because they are still in the European Championship. At least we can delete our career obituaries of the man in charge. The faintest pulse is enough to prove life and while you are still alive nothing else registers.

If strength being gleaned through adversity is not a myth, England are in rude health. It would scarcely be possible to edge closer towards the precipice, to offer fewer signs of their major tournament capabilities, and still retain a chance of winning it. They were wretched until they weren't and the first part lasted 98 per cent longer than the second.

The saving moment at least was wondrous, one of those that you will watch back in one, five and ten years from now and still remember your dejection before it and ecstasy afterwards. Was Jude Bellingham lucky to still be on the pitch after a wholly dreadful performance? Yes. Is there anyone else in this team who seems so capable of dragging narrative towards him as if it were weightless? No.

We saw the worst of Southgate's England; all of it. For almost all of



Phil Foden endured a frustrating evening against Slovakia

normal time this was one of those grainy 1990s VHS tapes of calamity and despair that dared you to laugh, so parodic was their performance – Southgate's own goals and gaffes.

It started in possession, where England were painfully slow. During the tournament, their typical method of building attacking play has been to pass the ball slowly across defence, at one point or another returning it to Jordan Pickford. He then knocks the ball long to either of those two noted target men, Bukayo Saka or Phil Foden.

What happened next will shock you: England struggled to create chances from these long balls and even longer spells of sterile possession. They had two shots on target in 132 minutes of football and they scored them both. Kings of efficiency? Good luck trying that angle with your mates and work colleagues this week. They floated cross after cross into the box and looked shocked when all were cleared.

Of greater frustration was the inability to shift the game off its seemingly inevitable axis. One of the most eminent criticisms of Southgate is his conservative use of substitutes, but this felt like inertia to the point of negligence. England had made one change while Slovakia had made four. It was begging for something different and white shirts simply did the same thing on repeat.

Ready for the punchline? England used those same flaws, those same maddening indecipherables, to win the tie. Those interminable crosses that did nothing? They scored from two crosses. That luxury midfielder who had looked haunted since the first half of the first game? He scored. The captain and striker who barely had a touch? Him too. As for the lack of substitutes, England suddenly had greater options and energy to win the game in extra-time, and the changes Southgate did make worked well. No wonder everybody has a headache.

There is a tendency to make all this come full circle. Squeeze through in the dying seconds, despite yourself rather than because, and fate becomes subconsciously dragged towards you. We have all been there before: It has been so bad that we will probably win the thing now. England can at least brand themselves as the team that never knows it is beaten and never looks capable of winning well.

That is the only viable conclusion, the deep mystery of all this. England are the cohesive group of friendly, talented players with the long-serving manager, who spend the majority of their matches appearing as if they have never met. We ache when watching them and then ache as soon as the game has finished in anticipation of how they might extricate themselves from the self-created crisis. Same time next Saturday, against the Swiss, then?

but that's what they are capable of and that's why we stuck with them. We have a little bit of a problem with our balance. We want to be better, I'm not going to hide from that, but we are still there fighting."



Gareth Southgate salutes England supporters after beating Slovakia

England player ratings

By Pete Hall

Jordan Pickford 6/10

Powerless for the Slovakia opener and did his best to get attacks going quickly. Passing a little wayward, but showed urgency.

Kyle Walker 4

Appalling in the first half. Ran ragged at times by players he would nullify with ease had he been wearing a Manchester City shirt.

John Stones 7

Composed on the ball as usual and let his irritation be clear for all to see as few options presented themselves.

Marc Guéhi 7

Caught out for the goal but battled well after earning an early yellow card that will rule him out of the quarter-final next weekend.

Kieran Trippier 5

Got forward well on occasion but was exposed too often defensively. Should have done better with England's best chance of first half.

Kobbie Mainoo 7

The one player willing to take the attack to Slovakia. Showed his class with some nice touches, but could only do so much.

Declan Rice 6

Unfortunate to see his drilled attempt come out off the post and tried, in vain, to get England moving all match. Cut a frustrated figure.

Bukayo Saka 5

Ian Wright got his wish as Arsenal man was moved to left-back late on, but do not think that experiment will continue. Tired quickly.

Jude Bellingham 7

Was very fortunate to still be on the pitch, given how ineffective he was, but that Hollywood equaliser will stand the test of time.

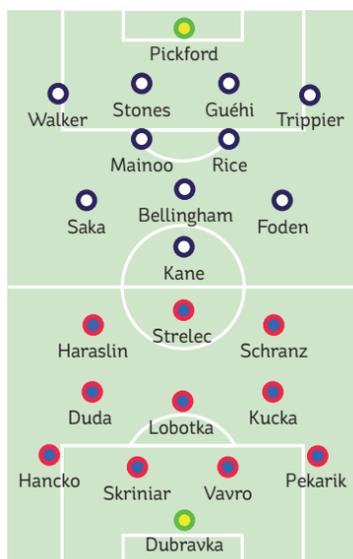
Phil Foden 3

Could have timed his run better for what England thought was their equaliser early in the second half, but otherwise non-existent.

Harry Kane (capt) 6

A long season has clearly taken its toll, but all he needs is a sniff. Has to now dig deep and find a second wind for the last eight.

England



Slovakia

Substitutions: England Palmer (Trippier, 66), Eze (Mainoo, 84), Toney (Foden, 90), Konsa (Bellingham, 105), Gallagher (Kane, 105); Slovakia Suslov (Haraslin, 61), Bozenik (Strelec, 62), Benes (Duda, 81), Bero (Kucka, 81), Gyomber (Schranz, 90), Tupta (Pekarik, 109).

Player of the match

Jude Bellingham

Gets the award for one moment only – but what an incredible sight it was.

Manager: I wasn't ready to go home and neither were players

» Continued from back page

to earn Slovakia a famous victory in Gelsenkirchen.

He lives to fight another day, but he is aware he and his side got out of jail at the Veltins-Arena.

"I wasn't ready to go home yet, and clearly neither were the players," Southgate added. "I can imagine how everyone is going to react to that, even though we won.

"We showed the players a presentation about 1966 [ahead

of the tournament] and how Geoff Hurst did not play until the quarter-finals and the difficult route the team had. And all along this summer, the players that have come into the games have had a big impact, been ready and played important roles in either creating goals or steadying the ship – that's the spirit that we have and that's what got us over the line today.

"The two players who get the goals you could arguably take off, as they looked out on their feet,



P49

CRICKET

Bouchier ton helps England seal series win over Kiwis



P48

CRICKET

The best, worst and most surprising in T20 World Cup

FORMULA ONE

Verstappen collision hands Russell win in Austria GP

P47



Murray leaves it late

Two-time champion will decide tonight if he is fit to play



The art of queuing

SW19 veterans divulge secrets to making it through long line

P50



Harry Kane celebrates his extra-time winner in the 2-1 victory over Slovakia, following Jude Bellingham's injury-time equaliser GETTY

Never in doubt*

**after 95 minutes of uncertainty*

Bold Bellingham hits back despite England being 85 seconds from exit

By Pete Hall
AT VELTINS-ARENA, GELSENKIRCHEN

Jude Bellingham insisted his sensational overhead kick that saved England from an humiliating early Euro 2024 exit was extra special as it offered the perfect response to his side's growing army of critics.

Slovakia, the team ranked 45th in the world behind Panama and Algeria, led 1-0 in their last-16 clash in Gelsenkirchen with 94 minutes on the clock before Bellingham scored the kind of goal normally reserved for comic book heroes.

That dramatic reprieve was followed by a Harry Kane winner in

extra time to book England a quarter-final clash with Switzerland, by the barest of margins.

Bellingham (*below*) seemed to be irked by something as he celebrated his nation-saving strike, admitting the criticism that has come his and England's way following an underwhelming group stage is hard to ignore.

"People talk a lot of rubbish so it's nice when you deliver, you can give them a little bit back," Bellingham said. "You're 30 seconds from going home and having to listen to all the rubbish and feeling like you've let a nation of people down, in one kick everything can change. It is right up there with my best goals of my career."

"Playing for England, it should be one of the proudest things in a foot-

baller's career. But often at times it is quite difficult. The fans expect a lot from us, regardless of what happened in recent tournaments. People talk a lot, I think you do have to take it personally. We work so hard at this game.



"We try put on performances and sometimes it doesn't go well, and sometimes it feels like there's a bit of a pile on. It's not nice, but you can always use it. And for moments like that, it's nice to throw it back to some people."

Gareth Southgate was surely less than a minute and a half from having to seek alternative employment as it looked like Ivan Schranz's first-half finish was going

» Continued on p55