

The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Crossbow killer executes BBC star's family

Police confront suspect after presenter's wife and daughters killed in daylight attack

By Martin Evans, Charles Hymas and Patrick Sawyer

THE wife and two youngest daughters of the BBC racing commentator John Hunt have been killed in a crossbow attack in their home.

The suspect Kyle Clifford, 26, is a former soldier who was last night detained in a cemetery close to his home in Enfield north London, following a huge manhunt.

Within hours of the tragedy, Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary announced she would urgently examine a ban on the sale of crossbows as weapons to get them off the streets.

Clifford, who had until recently been in a relationship with one of Mr Hunt's daughters, was located by armed officers in Lavender Hill cemetery. Police said no shots were fired and he is being treated for injuries.

The alarm had been raised almost 24 hours earlier when Hertfordshire Police and paramedics were scrambled to a house in Ashlyn Close, Bushey amid reports of screams.

Once inside they discovered Mr Hunt's wife Carol, 61, and their daughters Louise, 25, and Hannah, 28, suffering from serious injuries believed to have been inflicted with a crossbow.

Despite the best efforts of the emergency teams at the scene all three women were declared dead a short time later.

Mr Hunt, who had been working for the BBC at Lingfield Park racecourse on Tuesday, returned home to discover the tragedy. Last night he and his eldest daughter were being comforted by relatives and specially trained police officers. In a note sent to BBC 5 Live staff after the deaths, the broadcaster said: "The news today about John Hunt's family is utterly devastating. Our thoughts are with John and his family at this incredibly difficult time and we will provide him with all the support we can."

The killings have once again ignited a debate about the availability of deadly crossbows, which the previous government had been considering clamping down on. There is currently no registration system in place for owning a crossbow and no requirement for a licence.

The weapons are readily available to buy online and have been used in a number of homicides. Ms Cooper called

for "robust action" to stop the sale of crossbows as weapons while in opposition, and said the party would explore the best way of doing so without inhibiting sporting activities, their use for film and theatre and display as cultural or historical artefacts.

Home Office sources said Ms Cooper will urgently consider the findings from a review which set out proposals for firearms-style restrictions on the weapons.

The review was ordered by Priti Patel when home secretary in 2021 after a man climbed into the grounds of Windsor Castle and declared he wanted to kill the Queen. The Home Office said the triple killing of Mr Hunt's family was "appalling" and Ms Cooper was being kept updated by the police.

"We keep legislation under constant review and a call for evidence was launched earlier this year to look at whether further controls on crossbows should be introduced," said a Home Office spokesman.

A huge manhunt, coordinated by Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit was launched in the wake of the killings with police taking the unusual step of publicly naming the suspect.

The public were warned not to approach Clifford but urged to dial 999 immediately and the police also issued a personal appeal for him to contact them. Just after 6pm, police confirmed that he had been located and was receiving medical treatment having been found with injuries.

A former Queen's Dragoon Guard, Clifford left the Army in 2022 and had been working as a security guard. It is understood he had previously been in a relationship with Louise Hunt, but the couple had split up.

At the start of the 5 Live commentary for England's match against the Netherlands, Mark Chapman, the presenter, said: "This has been a heartbreaking day. John Hunt is our colleague and our friend." Former England striker Michael Owen called on people to "spare a thought" for the Mr Hunt and his family in a post on X, formerly Twitter. He added: "I can't remember feeling so utterly horrified in years. Those poor girls. Truly horrific."

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It's a final countdown



Harry Kane celebrates with Ollie Watkins after the Aston Villa frontman settled the semi-final against the Netherlands with a last-minute strike

Oliver Brown

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER
at BVB Stadion, Dortmund



MONUMENTAL. In scenes of utter pandemonium here in Dortmund, Ollie Watkins, a striker who had been all but invisible at this tournament, pounced with England's goal of the 21st century to propel a jubilant nation to a first ever major tournament final on foreign soil.

Everywhere you looked, joy surged unconfined, with Aston Villa's striker seizing glory thanks to a 90th-minute strike. Gareth Southgate, a manager for so long pilloried for his conservatism, has transported the country to a state of bliss.

Watkins, 28, could barely compute the significance of what he had just

accomplished. He ran in every direction like a dervish, England's bench emptying in ecstasy and Southgate offering a smile of vindication. There was even an understated dance at the end, his triumph forming the starkest contrast with Netherlands players down on their haunches in desolation.

This cavernous Ruhr Valley stadium heaved with the emotion of it all, as Watkins' masterstroke sealed a 2-1 victory and sent his team to a second straight European Championship final. This one deserved a place in folklore all its own. England's only two past appearances in finals came at Wembley. Now they have a third, against Spain at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin on Sunday. And it has never, just as the timeless words of Neil Diamond's *Sweet Caroline* have it – felt so good.

The breakthrough happened in a blur, and it came courtesy of two substitutes. Few can say with confidence now that Southgate is terrified of making changes, or that he is scared of his own shadow. Cole Palmer threaded a sumptuous pass and

'They were unrecognisable from the haunted, frightened side who had laboured to this stage'

Watkins, with his back to goal, responded in a flash, rifling a wonderful low shot into the far corner from the tightest of angles. It was the ultimate proof of the mission England had set themselves. Against opponents awash with talent, they were not about to die wondering.

England were unrecognisable from the haunted, frightened side who had laboured to this stage with a minimum of style. They looked, from the moment Jude Bellingham sang God Save the King with such intensity that you thought he might combust, hell-bent on confounding anyone who had decried them.

Bukayo Saka was creating mayhem on the right. Kobbie Mainoo, who at 19 years and 82 days became the youngest player ever to represent England in the last four of a major tournament, was winning challenges as if his life depended on it.

The entire nation was captivated. Adele and Ed Sheeran perched in the VIP seats to scatter the stardust. "Come on England," tweeted Sir Keir Starmer

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Clooney urges Biden to stand down as world leaders meet

By Tony Diver, Rozina Sabur, Daniel Martin and Joe Barnes

GEORGE CLOONEY called on Joe Biden to end his election campaign as the US president welcomed world leaders to Nato summit in Washington DC.

The Hollywood star, who is a major Democratic donor, said Mr Biden was no longer "the same man" voters saw in 2010, nor the candidate who ran for president in 2020.

Calling for the party to "figure it out" at the Democratic national convention next month, he added: "We are not going to win in November with this

president." His intervention came as Mr Biden welcomed world leaders to Washington for the annual Nato summit, and met Sir Keir Starmer for the first time.

Both leaders will deliver press conferences today, with the spotlight particularly focused on Mr Biden after his recent string of gaffes.

The 81-year-old president is facing growing pressure from figures in his own party to make way for a younger nominee before November's presidential election, following a disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump on June 27. Nancy Pelosi, the

former House Speaker and Democratic grandee, said yesterday that she would support whatever decision he makes on his campaign, ignoring his public insistence that he will fight on.

"It's up to the president to decide if he is going to run," she said. "We're all encouraging him to make that decision."

Mr Biden appeared to have silenced doubters within his own party this week with a forceful letter to his colleagues and an interview with ABC when he said only the "Lord Almighty" could convince him to stand down. But Mr Clooney became the latest high-pro-

file Democrat to use their platform to urge Mr Biden to reconsider his campaign, bolstering concerns about his health on Capitol Hill.

'The Joe Biden I was with three weeks ago... was not the Joe "big f---ing deal" Biden of 2010'

"The one battle he cannot win is the fight against time," Mr Clooney said in an article for *The New York Times*. "None of us can. It's devastating to

say it, but the Joe Biden I was with three weeks ago at [a] fund-raiser was not the Joe "big f---ing deal" Biden of 2010. He wasn't even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate."

In 2010, Mr Biden was caught on a hot microphone telling Barack Obama that his landmark health legislation was a "big f---ing deal."

Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, met congressmen yesterday and said he would pass their concerns to the president. Some Democrats are worried that Mr Biden will not only lose the presi-

dency, but make Democrats in congressional races more unpopular.

They have said that the presidency and both branches of Congress could fall to Trump, making it more difficult for Democrats to oppose his policies.

Ritchie Torres, a Democrat representative in New York, said that Democrats needed to consider the "down-ballot effect of whomever we nominate."

"Blindness is not bliss," he said, "amid the terrifying threat of a Trump presidency."

Mr Biden's presence on the ballot
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Family values

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Brutal truth

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MATT

I was at a Tory Party meeting when someone called for unity ...!

WORLD

Alec Baldwin 'asked for the biggest gun'

Alec Baldwin was playing "make-believe with a real gun" when he shot and killed a cinematographer on the film set of a western, prosecutors said yesterday. The actor is on trial for involuntary manslaughter after Halyna Hutchins was shot dead during the filming of *Rust* in 2021. In opening arguments in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the prosecution said Baldwin asked for the "biggest gun" and asked someone to film him "running around shooting" during a training session.
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BUSINESS

Labour to crack down on water companies

Water bill payers are to get higher compensation for sewage failures and the power to hold executives to account as the Government launches a crackdown on the industry. The Environment Secretary is to tell bosses they must set up customer panels that can scrutinise mistakes, and demand they strengthen legal commitments to protect the environment. It comes as regulator Ofwat prepares to rule on whether companies can increase bills by as much as £300 per year.
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Supporter of pro-Gaza MP on terror charge

Majid Freeman, 36, due in magistrates' court accused of supporting a proscribed organisation

By Amy Gibbons
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who celebrated the victory of a pro-Gaza MP over Labour's Jonathan

Ashworth has been charged with a terrorism offence.

Police confirmed that Majid Novsarka, also known as Majid Freeman, had been charged with encouragement of terrorism and supporting a proscribed organisation.

The 36-year-old has been released on bail and is due to appear at Westminster magistrates' court on July 24.

Mr Freeman shared numerous posts on social media calling on people to

unseat Mr Ashworth, and celebrated the victory of Shockat Adam, the new Leicester South MP, after the election.

During the election campaign, he also challenged the Labour big beast over his stance on Gaza, confronting him while he was out canvassing.

In a video posted by Mr Freeman on social media, the pro-Palestinian campaigner can be heard asking Mr Ashworth if he condemns Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister,

and why he initially failed to back calls for a ceasefire in the Commons.

Mr Ashworth also recorded the confrontation, saying: "I'm not going to have these guys bully me off the street."

Mr Freeman shot back "no one's bullying you", insisting he had a "right to question" the Labour candidate.

He added: "You've got the blood of Palestinian men, women and children on your hands... It's a disgrace."

Mr Freeman captioned the video with the comment: "Bumped into Labour MP @JonAshworth who was canvassing in Leicester."

"Elderly Muslim uncles who prev supported Jon came out to ask why he abstained from the [Palestinian] ceasefire vote so he restored to playing victim by saying we were bullying & intimidating him. We have every right to Q you".

When Mr Adam won in Leicester South, Mr Freeman tweeted: "Remember this from the other week? @JonAsh-

worth will be regretting this right now. The best man @ShockatAdam won and has now replaced him in Leicester South".

Mr Ashworth's loss to Mr Adam, a pro-Palestinian independent candidate, was one of Labour's biggest shocks of the election night.

A spokesperson for Mr Adam said that Mr Freeman had no role in his campaign and was not authorised to campaign on his behalf. Mr Adam condemns terrorism unequivocally.

They added: "Shockat was elected by a diverse coalition of voters in Leicester South. He is focused on delivering for his constituents."

Mr Ashworth, who had been central to the Labour campaign, lost his Leicester South seat by about 1,000 votes to Mr Adam, who ran on a pro-Gaza ticket.

Mr Freeman has been approached for comment.

NEWS BULLETIN

Bus passenger stabbed in row over feet on seats

A bus passenger was stabbed repeatedly after confronting a man who had his feet up on the seats.

The victim was travelling on a number 64 bus through Croydon, south London, when he exchanged words with his fellow passenger.

The pair briefly struggled before the suspect produced a knife and stabbed the man several times in the leg.

The victim, who was in his 50s, took himself to hospital, where police were called. The suspect left the bus at East Croydon train station.

Detectives have issued a picture of a man they want to speak to over the attack which took place at about 3am on Tuesday June 4.

Blunkett: immigration crisis calls for ID cards

Digital ID cards are "inevitable", Lord Blunkett has said as he became the latest New Labour "big beast" to back their introduction to tackle immigration.

The former home secretary said the growth of digital records meant the Government would have to streamline them into a single ID.

His intervention comes after Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, rejected calls for digital ID cards, which Sir Tony Blair said would enable the Government to "know precisely who has a right" to be in the UK.

Lord Blunkett said: "Migration is one of the biggest policy challenges facing this Government."

Murder suspect granted bail to 'grieve' for child

A mother accused of murdering her teenage daughter was today granted bail to "grieve the death" of her child.

Scarlett Vickers, 14, was allegedly stabbed to death in the family home in Darlington on Friday.

Her parents Simon Vickers, 48, and Sarah Hall, 44, have both been charged with her murder.

Hall appeared at Teesside Crown Court via a video link from HMP Low Newton and an application was made for her to be given bail.

Paul Rooney, the barrister appearing for Hall, told the court: "She is a woman of good character and has had no involvement with the criminal justice system or involvement with social services."

'Cultural appropriation' festival clothing ban

Clothing that promotes "cultural appropriation" has been banned by a leading UK music festival.

Wireless Festival organisers have banned dozens of items from this year's three-day event in Finsbury Park, north London, as well as knives and guns.

The Wireless website does not specify which items of clothing fall under the ban – raising questions over whether the prohibition extends to the Keffiyeh, a symbol of the Palestinian cause. It comes after Reading Festival last year banned clothing that may be deemed offensive after rows over the perceived cultural insensitivity of donning sombreros.

Choudary: I conducted wedding of Rigby killer

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

ANJEM CHOUDARY told a court he officiated at the marriage of one of Lee Rigby's killers.

The Islamist preacher is accused of directing Al-Muhajiroun (ALM), a banned international terror organisation, which spread a "warped and twisted view of religion" and proposed the creation of an Islamic caliphate.

Choudary, 57, made the revelation about Fusilier Rigby's killer while he was giving evidence in his defence at Woolwich Crown Court.

He was asked why he had described the killing, filmed by members of the public outside Woolwich barracks in May 2013, as "famous" – to which he replied it had put the area "on the map".

Prosecuting, Tom Little KC asked: "Did you ever meet the killer?"

Choudary told the court: "I was there when he became Muslim. I officiated at



Anjem Choudary is accused of directing a banned international terror organisation

his marriage. I believe then he stopped associating with anyone I know for years before Lee Rigby was killed."

He later said "no" when asked by Paul Hynes KC, his barrister, if he had difficulty describing the killing as murder. "No, I don't believe it was permissible to kill him and I said that at the time," he told the court.

His co-accused, Khaled Hussein, messaged Choudary on July 16 last year as he prepared to fly to London to visit him, the court heard. During their exchange, Choudary asked Mr Hussein: "You are also not too far from Woolwich – the famous Lee Rigby issue", the court was told.

Choudary denies being a member of ALM and addressing meetings to encourage support for the group.

Mr Hussein, who prosecutors say "idolised and assisted" him, has pleaded not guilty to membership of ALM.

The trial continues.



Top heavy A vehicle mocked up to look like a police car sits on top of a bonfire in Moygashel, Co Tyrone. The annual bonfire, sitting about 150 pallets high, has been widely condemned for its political loyalist "toppers" in recent years.

New border commander could earn more than the PM

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

LABOUR'S new border security commander could be paid more than the Prime Minister.

The job, to spearhead Sir Keir Starmer's efforts to tackle the people smuggling gangs behind small boat Channel crossings, pays up to £200,000 – more than £30,000 above the maximum annual pay for Sir Keir of £167,391.

The commander will lead the new UK Border Security Command with officers from the National Crime Agency, Border Force and MI5.

Up to 1,000 extra staff will be recruited with hundreds deployed across Europe to work with Europol and other agencies in Labour's drive to break up the people-trafficking gangs in northern France.

It is being funded in its first year by £75million that was saved by scrapping

the Tory scheme to remove illegal arrivals for processing in Rwanda.

Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, has said she wants a former police, military or intelligence chief to take up the job, reporting directly to her.

Neil Basu, ex-head of UK counter-terror policing, is understood to be a front-runner for the post, as revealed by *The Telegraph*. David Neal, the former chief inspector of immigration and borders, has also been suggested as a candidate.

The advertisement for the job – with a pay range of £140,000 to £200,000 depending on experience – says the successful candidate will be expected to "own the end-to-end strategic direction" for all of the Government's work on border security.

They will have to be an "exceptional leader" and "innovator" with the "vision and drive to create an environment where novel and creative solutions to complex problems can be

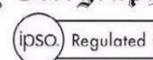
developed and evaluated at pace". The successful candidate will have to work to counter a record 13,639 migrants who have crossed the Channel this year.

The advert warns: "You will be diplomatic, with the skills and credibility to gain the trust and confidence of ministers and senior stakeholders and the resilience to operate under regular political, public and media scrutiny."

But benefits include "flexible working options" and a Civil Service pension.

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Spare me the late drama, pleads King

Monarch sends personal message to victorious England team, urging them to score earlier in final

By Victoria Ward
DEPUTY ROYAL EDITOR

THE King has sent his congratulations to the England team, urging them to beat Spain in the Euro 2024 final without "any last-minute wonder-goals or another penalties drama".

The King conveyed a message to manager Gareth Southgate and his team at 2200, just five minutes after the final whistle blew and England beat the Netherlands 2-1.

He said: "My wife and I join all our family in wishing you the warmest con-

gratulations on reaching the final of the UEFA European Championship – and in sending our very best wishes for Sunday's match.

"If I may encourage you to secure victory before the need for any last-minute wonder-goals or another penalties drama, I am sure the stresses on the nation's collective heart rate and blood pressure would be greatly alleviated! Good luck, England."

The message was signed: "Charles R". A few minutes later, the Prince of Wales, president of the Football Association, hailed Ollie Watkins' extraordinary 90th-minute winner.

He wrote on X: "What a beauty, Ollie! Congratulations England! Finalists W"

Prince William was in Germany to see England win their quarter final match against Switzerland on Saturday. It is thought likely he will return for the

'My wife and I join all our family in wishing you the warmest congratulations on reaching the final'

final on Sunday. Footage from The Killers gig at the O2 in London revealed that the band showed the final moments of the match on a large screen on stage before sending red and white confetti into the air on the final whistle.

As the crowd erupted, the band launched into their hit, Mr Brightside. Sadiq Khan, the London mayor, said that to celebrate England's success, "the capital's largest screening" of the final would take place at the O2 on Sunday.

He said a ballot for tickets would open at 10am on Friday on the City Hall website. Tesco has revealed that it will close its stores early on Sunday to allow staff to watch the match.

It said that if England got through to the final, more than 1,800 Express stores would close at 7.30pm rather than the usual 10.30pm or 11pm.

Sir Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister,

who was able to watch some of the game while attending a Nato summit in Washington DC, has confirmed he will attend Sunday's final in Berlin.

On the final whistle, he tweeted: "What a game @England and what a winner. Berlin here we come!"

At an Oval Office meeting with President Joe Biden, Sir Keir was asked if football was coming home, and said: "It looks like it."

Comedian John Bishop claimed he was going to move his live show in Wolverhampton on Sunday to the afternoon so he could watch the final.

"You're all going to get an email in the morning, telling you the time" he said. "I know it won't suit everybody so anybody who can't make it, we'll give you a refund... There's no chance I'm going to be doing it at 8pm 'cause I'm going to be busy watching these boys." Overjoyed

England fans in Dortmund said they could scarcely believe their eyes after watching the game.

As crowds of Netherlands fans gloomily left the city centre, some stopped to shake hands with their English counterparts over the dazzling 2-1 victory.

"I'm ecstatic," Darren Page, a 34-year-old warehouse clerk, told *The Telegraph* as he headed back to his hotel with his German wife, Anna. "My nerves were really going in the second half but they were absolutely going for it at the end. I was actually starting to feel shaky at one point, but we showed we can play better as a team. I know we can do better in the final – we can go all the way," he said.

Anna, Mr Page's German wife, said she was delighted to see England go through to the final. "I feel really good and I also hope England beat Spain because they kicked us out," she said.

'I encourage you to secure victory before the need for any last-minute wonder-goals'



England fans celebrate after the final whistle in Dortmund



Finally, we discovered how they could play with the handbrake off

Continued from Page 1
from the Nato summit in Washington, with a St George's Cross emoji attached. The Prime Minister confirmed he would be flying to Berlin to savour a final like no other, while the King combined his congratulations with an ironic instruction to England not to leave it quite so late next time.

Southgate's players are making these staggering late flourishes their trademark. Think of Bellingham's 95th-minute penalty against Slovakia, or Trent Alexander-Arnold's nerveless penalty to vanquish Switzerland. Neither could compare, ultimately, to Watkins' coup de théâtre, so improbable it suggested some celestial alignment. "I swear on my kids' lives," he laughed, "that I told Cole, 'We are going to come on today, and you are going to set me up.'"

How Southgate could use this

clairvoyance as he plots to outsmart Spain.

In another first, England came from behind to win for a third time at the same championship. Even the German Embassy in London could not fail to applaud them for defying the old preconceptions, acknowledging that they were beating them at their

'They relieved the pressure by chanting "Southgate, you're the one" at a bemused German policeman'

own game. "Football is a simple game," they said. "Twenty-two men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the English always win." Unconditional praise from Germany? This, if nothing else, should persuade Southgate that his players can go one step further than in 2021 to claim the

most coveted prize, banishing the parallels with 1966 for good.

An electricity pulses around matches of this magnitude. You could sense it not just from the stands but the skies, with a thunderstorm drenching the pitch just as the players emerged for their warm-ups. An ominous portent? England fans could have been forgiven for asking, with 58 years of pain fuelling a suspicion that they were victims of some diabolical curse. In customary style, they relieved the pressure by chanting "Southgate, you're the one" at a bemused German policeman who bore more than a passing resemblance to their manager.

A semi-final magnified a feeling, captured best by the Three Lions anthem, that these players did not need to be defined by a pattern of failure that began long before they were born. More than half the players who started here were also involved

the last time the stakes were this high, conquering Denmark on a delirious Wembley night three years ago to reawaken the spirit of '66. If they had cast the dead weight of history aside once, surely they could do so again?

The air at kick-off was thick with the noxious scent of flares that Dutch die-hards had smuggled into the stadium. It was heavy with expectation, too: Mainoo's family gathered beside the pitch to bask in his glow, while Harry Kane's brother, Charlie, watched anxiously to discover whether the nation's record goalscorer could shrug off his troubles when it mattered most.

Soon enough, the apprehension

A jubilant Gareth Southgate



would turn to horror as Declan Rice, normally England's maestro in midfield, was muscled off the ball by Xavi Simons. The winger did not require a second invitation, barreling forward and leathery a rising 35-yard drive that Jordan Pickford could do nothing to stop. The Dutch, resplendent in their day-glo orange behind him, were in raptures. For England, there was only creeping, nauseous fear.

Still, at least the early goal simplified the equation: England, having lapsed into a habit here in Germany of waiting until they fell behind to play with any purpose, would have to go through the gears quickly. Who else to oblige but the captain? It was Kane who drew the

penalty when Denzel Dumfries was judged, harshly, to have tackled him studs-first. And it was Kane who duly dispatched it, angling the ball beyond Bart Verbruggen even as the goalkeeper dived the right way.

Finally, we discovered how England could perform with the handbrake disengaged. Vibrant, positive, enterprising, they shredded the cautious image that had clung to them after a string of unconvincing displays. Foden, as frenzied as a hornet who had just had its nest disturbed, was tormenting the Dutch defence from all angles. Bellingham, the Real Madrid phenomenon whose reputation preceded him, was asserting himself like the dominant force everyone had hoped he could be in national colours.

It rarely stays this way with England, of course. Free-wheeling in the first half, they were edgy and jumpy in the second, the tension of the scoreline seeping into the players' souls. "Make a change, Gareth," the supporters pleaded. Eventually he relented, having seen an instinctive Saka finish ruled out for offside against Kyle Walker.

On charged Cole Palmer and Ollie Watkins to inject some impetus as Berlin beckoned.

PM tells Nato he is willing to be 'robust' with China

Starmers begins summit with assurance that he will challenge Beijing on human rights and security

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR
in Washington DC

SIR KEIR STARMER has vowed to be "robust" with China, as Nato was set to issue its first official rebuke to Beijing over its military support for Russia.

The Prime Minister, who is in Washington for the Nato 75th anniversary summit, said he was willing to challenge the country strongly on human rights and security concerns.

Nato leaders are preparing to issue the alliance's strongest-ever language condemning China's military support for Russia in Ukraine, it is understood.

The Asian superpower is said to be developing an attack drone for use by Russia in the conflict with Ukraine.

A draft communique shows that Nato is set to describe China as a "decisive enabler" of Russia's war against Ukraine. It details China's supply of dual-use materials such as weapons components, equipment and raw materials that end up being used by Russia's defence sector.

The document is reported to say that Beijing poses "systemic challenges to Euro-Atlantic security", including cyber activities and disinformation, as well as its development of counter-space capabilities.

Speaking about Labour's policy on China, Sir Keir said: "The approach we

President Joe Biden greets Sir Keir Starmer, right, at the Nato summit, left, in Washington DC



will take is the one, again, that we set out during the campaign, which is one of cooperation where it is necessary and it is on issues like climate change for example. But challenge where necessary, equally, and robust challenge with that. One of the first things that we will do is carry out the audit that we set out in our manifesto of relations with China, of UK-Chinese relations. We will get on with that audit and take action accordingly."

This morning the Prime Minister will pledge to "stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes", and matched Rishi Sunak's pledge to give £3 billion a year of military support to the country.

In addition, the UK-administered International Fund for Ukraine will place a new order, worth £300 million, for 120,000 rounds of 152mm Soviet-era ammunition bolstering Ukraine's defences against Russia.

The UK will deliver a new package of artillery and 90 Brimstone missiles in the coming weeks, and will contribute £40 million to help Ukraine protect itself against drones and mines.

Sir Keir is expected to tell Nato leaders: "Nato was founded by the generation who defeated fascism. They understood not just the value of our strength, but the strength of our values."

"Those values are under attack once again. Putin needs to hear a clear mes-

'One of the first things we will do is carry out the audit that we set out in our manifesto of relations with China'

sage ringing out from this summit - a message of unity and determination, that we will support Ukraine with whatever it takes, for as long as it takes to uphold our shared values and our shared security."

Meeting Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky yesterday, Sir Keir said that the country's path to Nato membership was "irreversible". He described this week's Russian attack on a children's hospital in Kyiv as "awful", and said the depraved acts would only serve to steel the international community's resolve to support Ukraine. He added: "I also want to say how awful that attack was ... just shocking."

He told Mr Zelensky that there had been a "change of government but no change in position."

The Prime Minister met US President Joe Biden yesterday for the first time at the welcome ceremony for the Nato summit. He later held a bilateral meeting with him in the White House, before attending a dinner for all Nato leaders.

Earlier at the meeting, Sir Keir met German chancellor Olaf Scholz, and the two leaders agreed to co-operate on defence. A Downing Street spokesman said: "The Chancellor welcomed the Prime Minister's commitment to resetting the UK's European partnerships."

"The two leaders moved on to discuss the need for enhanced defence cooperation in Europe to act as a deterrent for aggression by hostile actors."

The Prime Minister told reporters: "Because of the timing of the election, which was much discussed for other reasons, it has provided a really important window of opportunity for me and my team, because we've got the Nato summit within a week of the election, so we get the opportunity to strengthen our relations with various of the Nato leaders and others obviously that are there, including EU leaders."

Also yesterday, Sir Keir pledged to spend 2.5 per cent of GDP on defence, but did not put a timeline on when the target would be reached.

Earlier, armed forces minister Luke Pollard said the Government would not increase spending on the military unless it was able to grow the economy.

He told BBC Radio 4's *Today*: "The way we deliver increased public spending on defence, on schools, hospitals or prisons, is by growing our economy. If we don't grow our economy, there won't be the money to support those public services and the ambitions that we have - and that includes defence."

But later Downing Street said that defence spending would increase even if growth did not. A senior official said: "I don't accept that we don't have to wait for one, for the other."

The official also said there was "scepticism about whether the maths added up" on the Tories' election pledge to send the money by 2.5 per cent by 2030, following criticism of Labour for not matching the commitment.

Ahead of the summit, the Labour Government pledged a "root-and-branch" strategic defence review which will set out a "roadmap" to achieving the 2.5 per cent goal.

John Healey, the Defence Secretary, confirmed the review, which will be officially launched next week, will be delivered within the year.

Speaking at the NATO Summit, Mr Healey said: "I've said for some time and we said in the manifesto, we will conduct the Strategic Defence review within a year. We will do it properly."

He said the review would include "deep reform" within defence.

Mr Healey added that the Labour government would "secure our role as Europe's leading nation in NATO and make Britain again democracies most reliable ally around the world."

He said the UK's commitment to NATO would be at the heart of the review.



Sir Keir plays at being a statesman while the press pack play a game of softball

Sketch



By Madeline Grant

Sir Keir Starmer began his first foreign funfest as Prime Minister, a Nato summit, looking infinitely relaxed.

He was clearly enjoying being a "statesman" (TM) on the jet over to Washington.

It was as if the British state were flying an exceptionally pleased Cheshire Cat across the Atlantic.

As journalists swarmed around the PM's seat on Keir Force One, the scene resembled a Caravaggio

Adoration of the Magi: gaunt and haggard figures staring adoringly at a fleshy pink lump in the middle.

Except, in this case, nobody could accuse the press pack of containing even one Wise Man.

The love-in was particularly nauseating, featuring softball football questions for the Prime Minister. What had he made of Bukayo Saka's goal against Switzerland, asked Beth Rigby of Sky News. This was proper, hard-hitting journalism, worthy of Woodward and Bernstein.

The Prime Minister reminded the lobby reporters that England had not yet missed a penalty under his Government. Deeply uninspiring but still somehow victorious: one might suggest that the symbiosis



The press pack crowds the Prime Minister on the flight to the US

between Southgate's England and Starmer's Labour goes deeper even than penalties.

Sir Keir had apparently instructed aides to bring him notes with updates from the England-Netherlands match during the Nato summit in the evening.

Presumably, Joe Biden's aides will also be bringing in similar scraps of paper reminding him to keep his mouth closed.

The Prime Minister's first major event was with Jens Stoltenberg, the Nato kingpin. They wore similar sombre suits and matching grey-blue ties. It looked like the world's most boring civil partnership.

There was no real juice; Starmer simply reaffirmed Britain's commitment to Ukraine, while Stoltenberg, who retires in October, stared into the middle distance, thought of fishing back in Norway and perhaps wondered why this little man who appeared to be made of Brylcreem looked so pleased to be photographed with him. As ever, the real highlight was the

surreal photo-call for all the world leaders. Each leader trooped out in school speech day formation to shake hands with Stoltenberg and a rictus-grinning Biden, while what sounded like the theme tune to *Carry On Up The Khyber* reverberated around the hall.

Highlights included the Albanian premier, who was so tall he couldn't wear real shoes and so met the Chuckle Brothers wearing a pair of glorified Nike Airs. Justin Trudeau minced on to the stage like he was at Paris Fashion Week.

Then came our own PM, who attracted by far the most small talk.

Mr Starmer held Mr Biden's arm in either a touching show of bilateral support or - more likely - an attempt to stop the Leader of the Free World leaning into him in the mistaken belief that he was a Filipino carer.

The best was probably Erdogan of Turkey, whose prolonged non-smile at the camera looked like an exhibit from the Great Yarmouth House of Wax. Putin must be terrified.

'Sir Keir had apparently told aides to bring him notes with updates on the England v Netherlands match'

Starmmer: small boats crisis may get worse before it gets better

PM says crossings cannot be stopped overnight as he repeats plan to smash people-smuggling gangs

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR
in Washington DC and Charles Hymas

SIR KEIR STARMER has admitted that the small boats crisis could get worse before it gets better and that the numbers coming across the Channel are going up, not down.

The PM declined to pledge that he would stop the boats or put targets on the reduction in crossings. He made the comments while in Washington for a Nato summit, where he met European leaders, including Emmanuel Macron, the French president, who are crucial to tackling the Channel crossings.

Speaking to reporters, he also warned that Britain's prison crisis was much worse than he thought prior to winning the election, but indicated that criminals convicted of serious violence would not be released early to ease overcrowding.

Asked directly whether his ambition was to stop the migrant boats, Sir Keir did not respond. Pressed again, he said: "Nobody but nobody should be making these crossings. The numbers are going up, not down. That is why we want to smash the gangs to stop those crossings. What I'm not going to do is pick an arbitrary date, an arbitrary number because that hasn't worked in the past."

"But I do want to be clear that my intention is to break down the gangs that are running this vile trade putting people into boats on the coast of France."

Asked whether the situation will get worse before it gets better, the Prime Minister said: "It can't be changed overnight. What we can do is set up our first steps straight away."

Figures showed that 484 migrants have reached the UK since Sir Keir was elected with a landslide 172-seat majority and scrapped Rishi Sunak's Rwanda deportation scheme on day one of his Government. Home Office figures show 419 people made the journey on Tuesday taking the provisional total for 2024 to date to 14,058. That is 10 per cent higher than the number recorded this time last year (12,772) and up six per cent on the same period in 2022 (13,318), according to Government data.

Senior Tories claimed that it showed Labour's election had led to "open season" for Channel migrant crossings.

Robert Jenrick, a former immigration minister, posted on social media: "Scraping Rwanda without a plan was sheer stupidity. Open season has begun. More and more migrants crammed into boats. Smash the gangs?" Sir Keir has surrendered to the people smugglers.

James Cleverly, the shadow home secretary, said: "The illegal migrants who we knew were waiting for a Labour government have got their wish, and at the

'The situation is worse than I thought it was. I'm pretty shocked it's been allowed to get into that situation'

first break in the weather have made their move. [They] are evil but they aren't stupid. They have seen the first steps taken by this Labour government and moved quickly to cash in."

Sir Keir's "first steps" include the establishment of the Border Security Command, announced by Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary. The PM said: "This a Command that will lead on smashing the gangs and as I've said many times before, having been myself part of operations that have taken down gangs. I do not accept these are the only gangs that can't be brought down."

"I'm determined that our Border Security Command working with others will do so. That's why it's got such a rich mix of security and intelligence, alongside prosecutors, alongside law enforcement. And we will get on with the recruitment and setting up that Command at speed."

He added: "I have always said the previous government's Rwanda policy was a gimmick, it wouldn't be a deterrent."

"It clearly hasn't worked, wasn't going to work - we've had record numbers coming over these years. That unfortunately is what we've inherited - we can't change that overnight."

Sir Keir also said it had been "reckless" of the Tories to let the prison service get into such a bad state. Earlier this year the crisis was so acute that there were fewer than 250 spaces left in the men's estate in England and Wales out of a capacity of 85,000. Labour is understood to be considering plans for prisoners to serve just 40 per cent of their sentences to tackle the overcrowding problem.

Asked whether he could guarantee whether any early release scheme would not include high risk prisoners, he said: "We will make a statement in relation to this in the coming days. We're going to have to set out the state of affairs; what we intend to do about it, but it will include this question of risk categories. I did press Rishi Sunak hard I think in relation to someone being released from Lewes prison, if I remember, because there was a threat, considered a risk to children."

"So we will set that all out when we make a statement in the coming days. But you know from my question to Mr Sunak, when he was Prime Minister, where I stand on this."

He added: "The situation is worse than I thought it was. I'm pretty shocked it's been allowed to get into that situation."

Sir Keir also confirmed his plans for upholding standards. Before, Sir Laurie Magnus could only investigate ministers' conduct if the PM asked him to. The Prime Minister said: "I do intend [Sir Laurie] to have an ability to investigate. I'm not quite sure whether that requires a formal change to the rules or not but the intention is clear... we'll find a way to do it, so it's not reneging on that." He added: "I was really clear with the Cabinet that standards apply. That is the standards I expect of them. As I've said throughout, people falling short of the required standards will face consequences."

Biden the Gooner Prime Minister gives US president a personalised Arsenal shirt

Sir Keir Starmmer will give Joe Biden an Arsenal shirt when the pair meet at the White House. The Prime Minister has brought a red shirt emblazoned with the name "Biden" for his meeting with the US President. The number on the football shirt is 46, because Mr Biden is the 46th President. A senior Downing Street official said: "It's his team and he thought it would make a personal gift." Sir Keir is a season ticket holder at the north London club. Sir Keir also gave an Arsenal shirt to French President

Emmanuel Macron when he was in opposition. Downing Street said the Prime Minister had also given Mr Biden a framed copy of the original Atlantic Charter which led to the formation of Nato, with amendments by the then Labour premier Clement Attlee. Speaking before the semi-final match between England and the Netherlands, the Prime Minister wished the squad well. He said his advice to manager Gareth Southgate was: "Win!" He added that although he would not be able to watch the whole



of the match against the Netherlands. He told reporters: "I understand our phones are all taken off us when we go into the Council, so I've no doubt we'll be passed lots of

otherwise. "I've sent a message to the team, obviously I wish them well, I want them to win, and let's hope they can do it tomorrow." Asked about Bukayo Saka's dramatic quarter-final goal which equalised the score against Switzerland, he said: "That was classic Bukayo. He cuts in from the right and that shot is absolutely classic - inside of the post - I've seen it so many times. And I'd remind you, England have not missed a penalty under a Labour Government in 2024."

'The weapons would obviously be used in accordance with international humanitarian law'



Nato discusses Storm Shadow missile attacks inside Russia

Continued from Page 1

Mrs Pelosi, 84, said the critics should wait until after the Nato summit before making any decisions about going public with demands for him to stand down.

So far, seven Democrats have issued public statements, with more speaking to journalists about their concerns behind the scenes.

Mr Clooney said that "every senator and congress member and governor that I've spoken with in private" believed the Biden campaign was headed for disaster.

There is no mechanism for Mr Biden to be deposed by his party, and any change in nomination would be made under a process designed by him.

Sir Keir flew into the Nato summit on Tuesday night after being sworn in as an MP in Parliament and was set to meet Mr Biden in the White House.

Asked what he wanted to get out of the meeting, he said he hoped to build on "a very special relationship we have between the UK and the US".

"We make a unique contribution in Europe to Nato and therefore it's a very good opportunity for me to talk to the President about how we take forward the important work at this summit," he said. He also suggested that Mr Biden was too old for the job, arguing that his own government's pledge to force peers to retire at 80 was not a reflection on the capabilities of any leader.

"We've got 800-plus members of the House of Lords, it's simply too big. We need to reduce it," he said.

"So it doesn't reflect on how other elected representatives are chosen in other countries, it's to do with the size of the House of Lords." Mr Biden's Nato

'It's a very good opportunity for me to talk to the President about how we take forward the important work'

press conference today will be closely watched by critics for gaffes that will spur on their attempts to remove him.

His first event of the summit on Tuesday night appeared to pass without a hitch, and supporters hope that the scripted appearance will enable him to avoid any public mistakes.

Concerns about his age come as Nato members discussed whether Ukraine should be allowed to use long-range missiles to strike military targets inside Russia.

Sir Keir said the UK government would continue to allow its weapons to be used by Kyiv in cross-border attacks, but stopped short of confirming whether that included Britain's air-launched Storm Shadow cruise missiles. He said the weapons would "obviously be used in accordance with international humanitarian law".

Admiral Sir Tony Radakin, the chief of defence staff, had previously said the weapon could only be used inside

"Crimea and mainland Ukraine". Anthony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, separately said that missile-equipped F-16 fighter jets would be delivered to Ukraine imminently, and would "be flying in the skies of Ukraine this summer".

Ruben Brekelmans, the Dutch defence minister, said the discussions were "about the range that those munitions can be used in Russia".

Nato members will today release a communique setting out their joint approach to Ukraine for the next year.

The US and Germany have successfully blocked an attempt by some Eastern European countries to set out a timeline for Ukraine joining the alliance, amid concerns that could draw the West into direct conflict with Rus-

sia. Instead, members will offer more military hardware and a "well-lit bridge" to membership that gives more detail on the criteria for membership than at last year's summit in Lithuania.

In a statement issued by Nato leaders yesterday, they branded China a "decisive enabler of Russia's war in Ukraine".

They added that Beijing's "no limits partnership and large support for Russia's defence industrial base increases the threat that Russia poses to neighbours and euro Atlantic security", according to an unreleased copy seen by *The Telegraph*.

In a nod to the ongoing conflict, Russia served "chicken Kiev" at a dinner to celebrate assuming the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council on July 1. The menu used the Russian spelling of Kyiv's name, which is also commonly used for the dish.

Sergiy Kyslytsya, the Ukrainian ambassador to the UN, said: "The moral decay of Russian diplomacy is glaring."

Braverman rejects claims of 'nervous breakdown'

'Bitter' infighting threatens to fracture already broken party following Badenoch's shadow cabinet comments

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR
and Genevieve Holl-Allen

SUELLA BRAVERMAN hit back at Kemi Badenoch yesterday over her claim that she is having a "very public" nervous breakdown.

A war of words between the two potential Tory leadership rivals flared after Mrs Badenoch suggested to the first meeting of the new shadow cabinet on Tuesday that many colleagues were still traumatised by the size of the Tory defeat.

She said Mrs Braverman, who had criticised Rishi Sunak before the polls closed, appeared to be having a "very public" nervous breakdown.

The former home secretary has now hit back, accusing the shadow housing secretary of failing to speak out about the Tories' doomed bid for re-election before it was too late.

She questioned whether Mrs Badenoch's remarks were appropriate for a prospective leader of their party, adding: "What Kemi says about me says something about her too. I don't think she's going to see what that is any time soon, though."

Mrs Braverman was sacked by Mr Sunak after demanding tougher action over legal and illegal migration and the policing of pro-Palestinian protests.

She suggested Mrs Badenoch was complicit in the Conservative Party wipeout by failing to challenge Mr Sunak earlier.

The election saw the Tories lose 244 seats as Labour gained 209, giving Sir Keir Starmer's party a landslide majority of 172.

Mrs Braverman said: "The people who enabled him before, by saying nothing, are on great form now. You're going to get tired of how beautifully that barn door is closed now."

During the shadow cabinet meeting, Mrs Badenoch said Mr Sunak's decision to call an early election without informing the Cabinet was a mistake and bordered on being unconstitutional.

She also called his decision to return early from D-Day commemorations "disastrous" and was said to be con-

Suella Braverman, left, and Kemi Badenoch

cerned that colleagues were failing to grasp the scale of the Tory defeat. Mrs Badenoch is seen as the frontrunner in the race for the Tory leadership, which has yet to be officially launched.

Both she and Mrs Braverman, along with Robert Jenrick, the former immigration minister, are vying for support on the Right of the party.

She wrote on X, formerly Twitter: "It's a shame our discussions in shadow cabinet were leaked yesterday."

"If there is no private space to discuss our party's challenges, we will never fully address what the electorate told us last week."

"The views of those outside these meetings matter too. Not just backbench MPs, but our party activists, members and friends who lost seats after giving everything to the campaign."

"In government, we had too much nodding along in the room and arguments outside it. That culture needs to change."

Mrs Braverman has been the most outspoken critic of Mr Sunak, warning before the election that his "plan is not working," and forecasting a Tory meltdown.

This week, she said that "smearing" Reform UK and its voters was not an effective strategy for the Conservatives to win back support.

However, she has faced a backlash from some colleagues over her comments and suffered a blow to her prospective leadership bid when Danny Kruger, a campaign organiser in her last challenge for the top job, switched his support to Mr Jenrick.

A poll by JL Partners of 8,030 voters and 502 Conservative members puts Mrs Braverman ahead of any of her potential rivals in match-ups.

The former home secretary beat Mrs Badenoch by 35 per cent to 31 per cent, Tom Tugendhat, the shadow security minister, by 37 per cent to 31 per cent and James Cleverly by 39 per cent to 34 per cent. Yesterday the shadow home secretary spoke out against "bitter" party infighting, telling *The Times* the Conservatives needed to "get our act together". The public polling made Mrs Braverman the top choice to be

the next Conservative leader on 10 per cent of the vote. Mr Tugendhat was close behind on 9 per cent.

An overwhelming 61 per cent answered "don't know".

One ally of Mrs Braverman claimed her support was one reason why a "Get Suella" campaign was "in full swing".

support for such a move was particularly high – at 59 per cent – among Leave voters. Those who supported Liz Truss against Rishi Sunak in the Conservative leadership election of summer 2022 were also more likely to back a merger.

The Party Members Project survey, conducted by YouGov, polled more than 700 Tories on questions about the future of the Conservative Party. Forty-eight per cent said the Conservatives should not merge with Reform, with

members over the age of 65 supporting the move by 52 per cent to 43 per cent. The Tories saw a draining of support to Reform at the general election, with 25 per cent of 2019 Conservative voters switching allegiance to Nigel Farage's party, according to YouGov.

Reform, campaigning on a platform of stricter controls on immigration, among other issues, received 14 per cent of the vote share but returned just five MPs to the Commons. The survey

also looked at who would be the favourite among the Conservative grassroots to succeed Mr Sunak as Tory leader. Under current rules, the party members are the ultimate deciders in the leadership race.

The poll found that Kemi Badenoch, the shadow housing secretary, was the frontrunner at 31 per cent, and had effectively twice the support of Suella Braverman and Tom Tugendhat. Mrs Braverman, the former home secretary,

was the second favourite, then Mr Tugendhat, who is seen as a moderate. Mrs Braverman said last month the Tories "need to" find a way of working with Reform and she would welcome Mr Farage into the party. She told *The Times*: "There's not much difference really between him and many of the policies we stand for." But Mrs Badenoch told the newspaper: "I don't think a party that is over 200 years old should merge with something that was cooked

up last week." Meanwhile, Mr Farage, the new MP for Clacton, said last month he would be willing to lead a merged Reform-Conservative party.

He told LBC radio: "I think something new is going to emerge on the centre-Right, I don't know what it is called. But do I think I am capable of leading a national opposition to a Labour Party with a big majority where I can stand up and hold them to account on issues? Yes."

ment today to speak on behalf of residents in Great Barr at the planning inquiry in relation to the proposed development at Peak House Farm."

The public inquiry into the Peak House Farm proposals began on Tuesday, and is expected to last for six days.

Sandwell council rejected the plans in January, warning the development would be "inappropriate" to the location and harmful to local wildlife. Developers argued it would help the "chronic" shortage of affordable homes.

In order to address Britain's housing crisis, Labour has said it will build on the "ugly" parts of the green belt, such as disused car parks or wasteland, dubbed the "grey belt".

During the election campaign, the party said nature spots would be ruled out of building plans, while work would be done to improve existing green spaces and make them accessible to the public.

Labour's manifesto said while it would prioritise brownfield sites for homes and industries, this will "not be enough to meet our housing need".



BEILINDA JIAO FOR THE TELEGRAPH

You can stand under my umbrella

Michael Gove attended the Spectator Summer Party on Tuesday in the company of Dr Lola Salem a lecturer in music and French at the University of Oxford. The nature of their relationship is unknown. Mr Gove and journalist Sarah Vine separated in 2021 after 20 years of marriage.

No confidence threshold could rise as Tory MPs dwindle

By Dominic Penna POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of no confidence letters needed to trigger a Conservative Party leadership vote could be increased, the new chairman of the 1922 committee has suggested.

Bob Blackman, who was elected to lead the influential group of Tory backbenchers on Tuesday, said he would "examine" whether to increase the existing threshold.

Under the current rules, 15 per cent of the parliamentary party has to submit

a letter to the 1922 committee chairman to trigger a vote on the future of the leader. But this means only 18 letters would currently be enough to trigger a ballot after the Tories were left with 121 MPs following their historic general election defeat last week.

Asked whether he was considering raising the threshold, Mr Blackman told *The Telegraph*: "We will examine this."

It falls to the 1922 committee chairman to deliver the bad news to a leader when the threshold is reached, earning committee members the nickname "the men in grey suits". Boris Johnson won a

leadership vote in June 2022 after 54 MPs submitted letters over the partygate scandal but he was brought down by the Chris Pincher affair the following month.

Senior Conservatives indicated they would welcome Mr Blackman introducing a requirement for more letters as the party seeks to heal its internal divisions in opposition.

Sir Iain Duncan Smith, a former Tory leader, said: "I would be in favour [of raising the threshold]. They've got to decide on what they're doing in terms of the leadership thing and what's going

to happen there before we get round to any other changes."

Sir Iain was ousted himself in 2003 after losing a confidence vote by 90 votes to 75, forcing him to resign after two years.

Greg Smith, the Tory MP for Buckingham, said: "I think it should be raised. We need to unite – a low number like 18 spells trouble."

Morale has been low in parts of the Conservative grassroots since 2022 when Mr Johnson and Liz Truss – both chosen by the members – were ousted by MPs in quick succession.

Half of grassroots Conservative voters would back Reform merger

By Genevieve Holl-Allen
POLITICAL REPORTER

NEARLY half the Tory grassroots would support a merger with Reform UK, a new poll has shown.

Forty-seven per cent of party members said they would back the Conservatives and Reform being a single party.

The survey, conducted for the Party Members Project by Queen Mary University and Sussex University, found

Rees-Moggs feature in their own version of reality show

By Genevieve Holl-Allen

SIR JACOB REES-MOGG and his family are to star in a fly-on-the-wall documentary that promises to "lift the lid on the man behind the public image".

The five-part reality TV series, *Meet the Rees-Moggs*, will be on Discovery+ later this year.

The eccentric former Cabinet secretary, who lost his seat of North East Somerset in the general election, said that the series "may be a bit more *Fawlty Towers* than *Downton Abbey*".

Discovery+ promises the show will offer a "never-before-seen look" into the life of Sir Jacob at his 17th-century house in Somerset, where he lives with his wife and six children.

The series will follow the ex-MP through the run up to the election and its aftermath, as his 14-year tenure in the Commons came to an end.

The show will follow Sir Jacob and his family in the run up to the election. Producers have also said that the series will give viewers an insight into the politician who "divides opinion", as well as

showing what he is like as a husband and father.

Last month, Sir Jacob told *The Sun on Sunday* that it was "very flattering" to have been approached by the channel.

The former business secretary said of the production: "Animals, children, an election and a film crew. What could possibly go wrong?"

"This everyday story of Somerset folk is fun to film but may be a bit more *Fawlty Towers* than *Downton Abbey*."

Sir Jacob, and his wife Helena de Chair, live at the Grade-II listed Gournay Court in West Harptree. The property was used as a military hospital during the First World War.

Their children, Peter Theodore Alphege, Mary Anne Charlotte Emma, Thomas Wentworth Somerset Dunstan, Anselm Charles Fitzwilliam, Alfred Wulfric Leyson Pius and Sixtus Dominic Boniface Christopher will appear in the programme.

Sir Jacob once admitted that he had never changed a nappy, adding: "I've made no pretence to be a modern man at all, ever."



Sir Jacob Rees-Mogg with four of his six children, who will appear in the reality show

Labour MP opposes plans to build homes on green belt

By Amy Gibbons

A LABOUR MP has opposed plans to build on the green belt in her first week despite it being a central part of the government's housing policy.

Sarah Coombes, the newly elected MP for West Bromwich, tuned into a public inquiry from Westminster "to speak on behalf of residents" who are objecting to development at Peak House Farm in Great Barr, on the outskirts of Birmingham.

The inquiry was launched after developers Wain Estates appealed against Sandwell council's decision to refuse permission for its plans to build 150 homes and a countryside park on the site, which is designated green belt land. It is likely to lead to accusations of hypocrisy from Labour, given the party has made building on the green belt a central part of its plans to deliver 1.5 million homes over the course of the next Parliament.

On Tuesday evening, Ms Coombes wrote on social media: "I took a brief break from the proceedings in Parlia-

ment today to speak on behalf of residents in Great Barr at the planning inquiry in relation to the proposed development at Peak House Farm."

The public inquiry into the Peak House Farm proposals began on Tuesday, and is expected to last for six days.

Sandwell council rejected the plans in January, warning the development would be "inappropriate" to the location and harmful to local wildlife. Developers argued it would help the "chronic" shortage of affordable homes.

In order to address Britain's housing crisis, Labour has said it will build on the "ugly" parts of the green belt, such as disused car parks or wasteland, dubbed the "grey belt".

During the election campaign, the party said nature spots would be ruled out of building plans, while work would be done to improve existing green spaces and make them accessible to the public.

Labour's manifesto said while it would prioritise brownfield sites for homes and industries, this will "not be enough to meet our housing need".

We had police screaming 'stay in your house'

Neighbours describe chaotic scenes as officers locked down street after triple crossbow killing

By Henry Bodkin and Patrick Sawyer

THE first indication that something truly awful had happened in Ashlyn Close came when a scream pierced the still suburban surroundings.

It echoed across the cul-de-sac in Bushey, Herts, just as people were starting to come home from work, leading neighbours to rush towards the house where they had heard the cry.

At 7pm John Hunt, the BBC Five Live racing commentator, had returned home from a day working at Lingfield Park racecourse in Surrey to make an unimaginable discovery.

In the house, his wife Carol, 61, and daughters Hannah, 28, and Louise, 25, had all been critically injured after being attacked.

The three women died at the scene shortly after paramedics arrived.

A 46-year-old neighbour, who did not wish to be named, recalled the moment. "It was between 6.30pm and 7pm and it

literally just sounded like kids, somebody, screaming, and then it was more shrill and I was like, 'that's definitely a woman screaming', and within 15 minutes, it was absolute chaos," they said.

"We had armed police running down, screaming 'stay in your house'... they shut us off and basically put us into lockdown."

The resident said multiple ambulances, helicopters and "at least 16 police cars" arrived at the scene, with armed police going from house-to-house to question householders, requesting doorbell camera footage and urging them to stay indoors.

Sarah Fernandez, 52, arrived home just after 7.30pm to find the road swarming with armed police.

She said: "I was the last car allowed into the street before the police closed off access."

"There were about 15 armed police vehicles parked up. It's really frightening. We've never had anything like this before here."

Yesterday morning, police issued the name of a man they wanted to speak to in connection with the killings.

Officers said the man in question, Kyle Clifford, a 26-year-old former serviceman from Enfield, north London,



Police search for Kyle Clifford, right, in Enfield, north-east London, after the deaths of Carol Hunt, below centre, and her daughters, Hannah and Louise, left

was armed and dangerous.

Clifford was believed to be carrying a crossbow but officers said other weapons may also have been used.

Armed police officers and specialist search teams were "responding at pace", police said.

At a press conference held at 12.30pm at Hertfordshire Police HQ in Hatfield, Chief Supt Jon Simpson, addressed Clifford personally, urging him to hand himself in.

Addressing the assembled TV cameras he said: "Kyle, if you're seeing or hearing this, please make contact with the police."

As the police manhunt spread across Hertfordshire and north London, with officers focusing their searches on properties in Enfield, details began to emerge that threw a potentially troubling light on one of Louise Hunt's recent relationships.

Glyn Nicholas, 77, a neighbour of the Hunts said Louise had been left so upset by a recent break up with her boyfriend she had crashed her car into a telegraph pole outside the family home.

He suggested that Louise had been in a relationship with the man now wanted in connection with the murders of the three women.

Just days before the incident Louise had shared a tweet in which the author praised "women who leave" for having the "strength" to choose themselves.

It stated: "I admire women who leave. If you left after the 1st time or the 12th time I admire that shit! If ppl was calling you dumb for 11 years but in the 12th year you decided you was done."

"It takes a lot of strength to break a tie. It takes a lot of self love to choose yo self."

Mr Nicholas added: "This is so sad for everyone," he said. "And to think I only heard John's voice on the radio yesterday morning, commentating from Ling-



'There were about 15 armed police vehicles parked up - it was really frightening'

field, a few hours before all this happened." Lawrence Brass, a local councillor said: "The worst thing that's ever happened in this part of Bushey is a bit of illegal fly tipping and then suddenly we get three murders and we're all a bit shellshocked."

"This is a very traditional, quiet, leafy suburb, we don't get this sort of thing in this area and I want residents to know that the council will be ensuring that the liaison team is down here and doing everything they can to comfort them."

Footage emerged from earlier in the day of armed officers raiding a house close to Enfield's Gordon Hill railway station, the last address of Clifford's older brother, Bradley, who is currently serving a life sentence for murder.

At least one primary school, St Michael's, went into a form of lockdown, according to reports.

As the day wore on officers tracked down Clifford to a cemetery where he was arrested and taken out on a stretcher having been found with injuries.

It is understood the suspected killer joined the Queen's Dragoon Guards in 2019, but despite passing out, quit three years later after struggling to adapt to the disciplined lifestyle.



Calls to submit these deadly weapons to firearms-style restrictions

By Charles Hymas HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

A SERIES of killings and violent threats involving crossbows have previously led to promises of a crackdown.

Firearms-style licensing was among the options set out in a consultation ordered by Dame Priti Patel, the former home secretary, after an attempt to kill Queen Elizabeth with such a weapon.

There is no registration system for crossbow owners, no licence requirement and the powerful, lethal weapons are on sale online and in the high street, with no restrictions other than it being an offence to sell one to a child under 18.

However, anyone carrying a cross-

bow in public without a reasonable excuse faces up to four years in prison.

The triple murders of BBC racing commentator John Hunt's wife and two daughters with a crossbow will accelerate the plans for a crackdown. The Home Office said yesterday that Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, will urgently consider the findings of the consultation ordered by Dame Priti.

In opposition, Ms Cooper called for a ban that would stop their sale but with an exemption for sporting activities, film and theatre and as historical or cultural artefacts. Plans for crossbow owners to face police checks were suggested in the consultation.

Although the Home Office said there

Plans for crossbow owners to face police checks were suggested as part of the consultation

had been fewer than 10 crossbow killings between 2011 and 2021, the department said it was "clear that when used as a weapon, crossbows do pose a risk".

One option was for a registration scheme, which is understood to have been supported by the Conservatives' policing minister Chris Philp. There are estimated to be up to 300,000 crossbows in circulation but there are no figures on ownership because the weapons are not registered.

There are three options for a range of licensing schemes to control the use, ownership and supply of crossbows, with anyone looking to buy one facing police checks - as with firearms.

The prompt for the review was

would-be assassin Jaswant Singh Chail who broke into Windsor Castle on Christmas Day 2021 with a loaded crossbow. He claimed he was encouraged to kill Queen Elizabeth by an AI chatbot. The 21-year-old was jailed for nine years last October and handed a further five years on extended licence after admitting treason, making a threat to kill monarch and having a loaded crossbow.

Other crossbow incidents include convicted stalker Bryce Hodgson being shot dead by police in January after he broke into a London home armed with weapons including a crossbow.

In January last year a domestic homicide review found the Metropolitan Police missed opportunities to protect

There are estimated to be around 300,000 crossbows circulating but no figures on ownership

Sana Muhammad from her ex-husband before he killed her with a crossbow.

The 35-year-old was eight months pregnant when former nurse Raman-odje Unmathallegadoo, then 51, burst into her home and fired an arrow into her stomach in 2018. She died after sustaining catastrophic internal injuries but her unborn son survived.

Unmathallegadoo is likely to die in jail after he was found guilty of murder and handed a life sentence with a minimum term of 33 years in 2019.

The Home Office said: "We keep legislation under constant review ... the Home Secretary will swiftly consider the findings to see if laws need to be tightened further."

The dedicated family man whose life has been devastated by killer

By Martin Evan CRIME EDITOR

JOHN HUNT is familiar to millions of BBC Radio 5 Live listeners as the voice of racing commentary.

A former police officer, he moved into broadcasting when his wife, Carol, spotted a job advertisement in the *Harrow Observer* in the late 1980s for a trainee with Ladbrokes.

Such was his interest in horse racing that he willingly took a pay cut to pursue his passion and, with Carol's unwavering support, carved out a career. In 2004, he was poached by Radio 5 Live to cover racing but soon branched out into other sports including covering equestrianism and the modern pentathlon at the London 2012 Olympics. He later added swimming to his roster of sports and has covered a variety of other events at summer and winter Olympics.

The Hunts married in Harrow in 1991 and had three daughters, born in 1993, 1996 and 1999. Their eldest qualified as a journalist and has worked in the US. Hannah, who was the middle daughter, was a beautician, and Louise, the youngest, ran a dog grooming salon close to the family home.

It is understood Louise was dating



John Hunt was poached by BBC Radio 5 Live but then branched out into other sports including swimming and modern pentathlon

Kyle Clifford, the man who police are seeking in connection with the killings, but the pair had split up in recent days, and she had told neighbours she was very upset at their break-up.

Despite Mr Hunt often being on the road with his job, his wife's social media accounts were full of pictures of the family posing happily on holidays around the world.

On Tuesday, the day of the killings, Mr Hunt was at Lingfield Racecourse

covering a meeting, unaware of the horror unfolding at home. His colleagues at BBC Sport and Radio 5 Live were said to be stunned and devastated by the news.

In a note, shared by corporation bosses with staff, they said: "The news today about John Hunt's family is utterly devastating."

"Our thoughts are with John and his family at this incredibly difficult time and we will provide him with all the support we can."

Suspect's brother was convicted of murder after road-rage attack

By Martin Evans

THE man being sought by police on suspicion of a triple crossbow murder has a brother who is serving life in prison for beating a man to death, *The Telegraph* can disclose.

Six years ago, Clifford's older brother, Bradley, was convicted of murder after a trial at the Old Bailey.

Bradley Clifford, a plumber, was 23 when he chased and deliberately mowed down Soban Khan, 18, and Jahshua Francis, 19, on their moped after they struck his prized Ford Mustang car with a bottle.

Both teenagers were flung from the moped by the impact, and Clifford beat Mr Khan as he lay on the ground fatally injured.

The incident followed a row outside a bar in Enfield, north London, in which Clifford's car was said to have received only superficial damage.

However, he flew into a rage and pursued the pair through Enfield in a 20-minute, high speed chase before crashing into the moped. Clifford was found guilty of murdering Mr Khan and of attempted grievous bodily harm with intent on Mr Francis.

He was jailed for life, and the judge



Bradley Clifford was convicted of murder six years ago for an attack following a traffic incident, left

told him he would have to serve at least 23 years before he would be eligible to apply for parole.

His younger brother, who has links to north London and Hertfordshire, is now being sought by armed officers.

Kyle Clifford, 26, from Enfield, north London, is wanted over the deaths of the wife and two of the daughters of BBC Radio 5 Live racing commentator John Hunt.

Carol Hunt, 61, Hannah Hunt, 28,

and Louise Hunt, 25, were found dead in the family home in Bushey, Hertfordshire, on Tuesday evening.

Naming Clifford as a suspect in the murder investigation, police said he may be in possession of a crossbow, and warned the public not to approach him if he is seen but to dial 999 immediately.

Yvette Cooper, the Home Secretary, said she is being kept fully updated about the inquiry into the "truly shocking" deaths.

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An emotive masterclass in Spielbergian trickery

Robbie Collin
CHIEF FILM CRITIC



Film
Twisters
12A, 122 mins

★★★★★
“WE gotta get everyone in the movie theatre!” somebody yells, as the tornado gouges its way through a small Oklahoman town, chewing up every person, plant and structure in its path. In *Twisters*' climactic set piece, it's a cinema that helps save the day – while doubling as the stage for one of the most inspired action scenes in years. But that shout also feels like a blustery cri de coeur from the film itself, which makes the best argument this year for the enduring power of collective big-screen entertainment.

Jan de Bont's 1996 original, *Twister* – singular – was a diverting (and fondly remembered) summer thrill ride. But this follow-up, directed by Minari's Lee Isaac Chung, vastly improves on it in all regards.

A film many might have written off as a faintly desperate revival of an ageing blockbuster brand – perhaps with some perfunctory climate change finger-wagging thrown in for the likes – is in fact the most wholehearted, warm-blooded, meticulously crafted good time at the movies since *Top Gun: Maverick*.

Neither a remake nor a sequel, it's simply a fresh run at a premise that began life in the early 1990s as a visual effects test at Industrial Light & Magic – can computers generate a photo-real tornado? – around which Michael Crichton and Anne-Marie Michael later built their storm-chaser plot.

Of course these days, the computers' abilities aren't in question: it's the scripts that tend to be the problem. But Mark L. Smith, who wrote *Twisters*' screenplay, and *Top Gun: Maverick*'s

Joseph Kosinski, who devised its story, have come up with something strikingly in keeping with the 90s blockbuster vibe.

Its central personality clash – two breeds of nerd, brow to brow in a crisis – is pure Crichton. One is Kate Cooper (Normal People's Daisy Edgar-Jones), a gifted meteorologist, still cowed by a disastrous field experiment in which a

'Javi's thwarted crush on Kate is a beautifully underplayed detail left to fizz away'

tornado claimed the lives of three friends.

The other is Tyler Owens (Glen Powell), a swaggering self-styled 'tornado wrangler' with a million followers on YouTube, and an ego that could out-blow most of the storms he pursues.

The two descend on Oklahoma for an especially torrid tornado season:

Kate with her former colleague Javi (Anthony Ramos), now head of a hi-tech startup which tracks destructive weather patterns for unscrupulous developers.

Javi's thwarted crush on Kate is a beautifully underplayed detail left to fizz away throughout the film, and the perfect example of the kind of humanising micro-detail *Twisters* gets exactly right.

Anyway, it's science and calculation versus passion and instinct. Now, see if you can guess who eventually switches teams. The visual effects tower and terrify, but crucially, never as effects. The prevailing sense during every chase, escape and scramble for cover, is one of watching real people battle nerve-wilting odds.

The formula is so simple it's amazing it ever fell out of fashion: everyday heroes you can't help but root for (Edgar-



Jones and the never-more-Tom-Cruise-like Powell are both magnetic, with campfire-crackling chemistry), a deep well of fun supporting turns (*Downton Abbey*'s Harry Hadden-Paton is a hoot as a visiting British journalist), and expert, light-touch direction from Chung that foregrounds human experience at every moment.

Time and again, he deploys the classic Spielbergian trick of spending more time watching his actors react to danger – loose-jawed and lantern-eyed – than ogling the danger itself.

And time and again, I caught my own expression mirroring theirs.

In cinemas from next Wednesday



Patients gaslit, dismissed and fobbed off, says safety commissioner

By Michael Searles
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE NHS gaslights patients and paints them as “difficult women” when they raise concerns, the patient safety commissioner has said.

Dr Henrietta Hughes was appointed by the Government in 2022 to help improve patient safety after successive NHS scandals and set out recommendations for Martha's Rule – the new NHS initiative that gives dissatisfied patients the right to a second opinion from a rapid review team.

But she said too often patients were being “gaslighted, dismissed, and fobbed off” when they raised concerns

about the care of themselves or their loved ones.

“The patient's anecdote is the canary in the coal mine,” Dr Hughes, who also works as a GP, told the BMJ. “It's the thing that tells us there's something going wrong. But too often we hear about patients who have raised concerns being gaslighted, dismissed and fobbed off.”

Dr Hughes said she was “swimming against the tide” when trying to implement lasting cultural change in the NHS.

The former medical director at NHS England drew up the proposals for Martha's Rule, named after 13-year-old Martha Mills, who died from sepsis at King's

'The patient's anecdote is the canary in the coal mine telling us there's something wrong'

College Hospital after her parents' concerns about her deterioration were dismissed.

Merope Mills, Martha's mother, revealed how doctors failed to listen to her concerns, while an on-call consultant suggested she was just anxious.

Dr Hughes said this was symptomatic of a wider issue, where women were being patronised, having their concerns dismissed, and too often being passed off as “difficult women”.

“It shows a very dismissive and very old fashioned, patronising attitude to patients who have identified problems and need to have their voices heard,” she said.

Her role is funded by the Department

of Health and Social Care and was created on the back of a recommendation in a report that examined three scandals: hormone pregnancy tests linked to birth defects and miscarriages; the antiepileptic drug, sodium valproate, that can cause birth defects when taken by pregnant women; and serious complications from pelvic mesh implants.

Dr Hughes wants to simplify the way people can access help and make their voices heard.

“There's over 100 patient safety organisations, and one of the things that we'll be working on this year is doing the Patient Safety Atlas of Powers, an easy-to-read guide of the arm's length bodies and regulators and what their

'It shows a very dismissive and very old fashioned, patronising attitude to patients'

roles and remits are,” she said. “As far as I'm concerned, they don't join up. They don't reference the next step in the chain.”

She said NHS trusts are in danger of focusing too much on finances and productivity rather than patient safety, which also makes the working culture “toxic”. She also said it was difficult to make change happen because “people are quite comfortable with the way they do things already”.

An NHS spokesman said: “It's vital that everyone working in the NHS listens to and works with patients to identify and act upon concerns, and learns from experiences so they do not happen again.”

Hip and knee replacements take four times longer than in Italy

By Michael Searles

WAITING times for hip and knee replacements are four times longer in England than Italy post-lockdown, analysis has revealed.

Patients in England are waiting an average of 128 days for hip replacements and 141 days for a new knee on the NHS, which are both up by around 50 per cent since before the pandemic.

It leaves England lagging behind other European countries, with waits that are four times longer than Italy, where hip replacements are completed in 33 days and knees within 30 days, according to analysis by the Nuffield Trust. Experts said it was “striking that in England our pace of recovery [since the pandemic] has been much slower for major surgeries” while waits for smaller operations like cataract surgery had been cut.

The latest available data show average waiting times in Sweden were 81 days for hip ops and 131 days for knees, while in Finland it was 79 and 84 days, respectively.

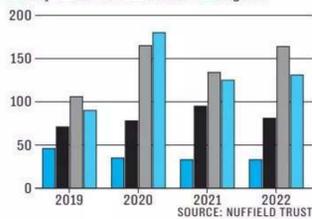
In Spain and Portugal it was similar to England, although they were closer to their respective pre-pandemic levels. Since 2020, waits for knee replace-

ments in Spain, Italy, Portugal and Finland were all similar to or shorter than before the pandemic, suggesting the healthcare systems had recovered.

In Norway, the average waits appeared longer at 151 and 175 days for hip and knee ops, but unlike other countries, it calculates waits from the first doctor referral. Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, all fared worse than England on those two major surgeries, but the authors of the report pointed out that in Australia these elective surgeries tend to be carried out privately.

Global wait times for hip surgery

Median waits (days) for those treated, by year



Sarah Reed, the senior fellow at Nuffield Trust and author of the report, said countries around the world were “dealing with the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, with many still struggling to bring down waiting times”.

“However, it's striking that in England our pace of recovery has been much slower for major surgeries like hip and knee replacements, but for some minor procedures we appear to have improved more quickly than nearly everywhere else,” she said.

“This should raise a host of important questions for the new Government on what it will take to get ahead of the elective backlog and reinforces how for procedures that require the whole system to work well together we're really falling short.”

Waits for cataract surgeries have reduced since the pandemic, the report found, falling from an average of 63 days before the pandemic to 36 last year, shorter than anywhere but Italy that was included in the analysis.

The authors warned that on the whole “long waits remain endemic” with almost 7.6 million on the NHS waiting list. Updated figures showing the backlog at the end of May are due to be published on Thursday morning.

NHS speech therapy ‘as useful as doing nothing’ for Parkinson's

By Michael Searles

NHS speech therapy for patients with Parkinson's disease is as useful as doing nothing, a BMJ study has found.

Researchers compared the standard NHS speech and language therapy offered to patients with a more intensive version called the Lee Silverman voice treatment, as well as taking no action.

The results revealed that the Lee Silverman technique, also known as LSVT Loud because it encourages louder talking, significantly helped patients. However, standard NHS care and no treatment both yielded no benefits.

Parkinson's can affect speech in several ways and many people with the condition speak quietly and in one tone. Sometimes their speech can sound hoarse and lacks emotion. They may also slur words or mumble.

The LSVT works by helping people recognise that their voice is too quiet and trains them to speak more loudly with four intensive 50 minute sessions a week, for four weeks.

Experts led by the University of Nottingham split 388 people with Parkinson's into three groups and assigned each group to either NHS therapy,

LSVT, or nothing. Using a voice handicap index to measure the impact of communication difficulties out of 120 – the lower the better they feel – patients were monitored for up to a year after the trial.

All groups started on a score of around 45 but after three months, the LSVT group had fallen by eight points compared to those who had no treatment, and 9.6 points compared to those receiving NHS speech therapy. A simi-

'It can stop them going out, stop them socialising... which can impact on their quality of life'

lar pattern was maintained during follow ups after six and 12 months, with the LSVT group still seven points better off suggesting their speech and communication skills were less impacted by the disease. In comparison, NHS speech and language therapy was delivered according to what was offered locally, with an average of one session every other week for 11 weeks.

There are NHS speech and language therapy services around the country

but the quality of local provision varies greatly. While NHS care on average was akin to doing nothing, there were improvements experienced by some patients, which were balanced out by others whose condition worsened.

A previous trial estimated NHS cost per patient was £2,033 a year for NHS speech therapy and £1,788 for those receiving other non-speech related support. Around 153,000 people in the UK have Parkinson's and it is the fastest growing neurological condition in the world. Prof Catherine Sackley, from the National Institute for Health Research's Nottingham biomedical research centre, said issues with communicating can leave Parkinson's patients feeling “stigmatised”.

“It can stop them going out, stop them socialising... which can have a detrimental impact on their quality of life. The NHS method as it is currently delivered is not effective,” she said.

Steve Jamieson, the chief executive of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, said that some NHS services offered LSVT but “many are unable to do so due to funding restraints and ongoing speech and language therapy workforce issues”. The findings were published in the BMJ.

Queen joins the stars in Wimbledon's Royal Box

Her Majesty mingles with an array of celebrities such as Keira Knightley, David Suchet and Richard E Grant

By Max Stephens

THE QUEEN arrived at Wimbledon to watch Ukraine's Elina Svitolina face off against Russian born Elena Rybakina in the tournament's quarter-final.

Her Majesty was joined by an array of celebrities in the Royal Box including actors Keira Knightley, David Suchet, Richard E Grant and ABBA guitarist Björn Ulvaeys. Other dignitaries included The Archbishop of Canterbury, Fergal Shearkey, the former punk front-man turned environmental campaigner, and Mark Carney, the former Governor of the Bank of England.

The Queen, wearing a cream dress, was seen shaking hands with ball boys and ball girls as she passed through the gates of SW19. She later met former British tennis players Jamie Delgado and Laura Robson before taking her seat in the Royal Box.

The long shadow of Russia's war with Ukraine was cast over Centre Court yesterday afternoon when Svitolina, 29, faced off against Rybakina, the world number four.

Only two days before, Svitolina had called for the All England Club to ban Russian players from competing after she broke down on court over the bombing of a children's hospital in Kyiv.

Rybakina, 25, from Moscow, had represented

Russia before switching to Kazakhstan in 2018 when she was offered funding and training by the Kazakhstan Tennis Federation (KTF) to support her career.

Svitolina, who has worn a specially approved black ribbon on her chest during her tournament, in solidarity with those killed in Ukraine, said earlier she would shake her opponent's hand after the match, saying: "She changed her nationality, so it means she doesn't want to represent her original country, so it works."

The late Queen had been an infrequent visitor to Wimbledon, making only four visits during her 70-year-long rule. First in 1957, then 1962, 1977 and finally in 2010 when she watched Andy Murray triumph over Finland's Jarkko Nieminen.

Royal biographer Brian Hoey, explaining the infrequent number of visits in his book *Royalty Revealed: A Majestic Miscellany*, wrote: "Tennis is not on the list of royal favourite sports."

The Duchess of Gloucester has been earmarked as a likely candidate to present the Wimbledon trophies this weekend if the Princess of Wales is unavailable, as she continues her recovery from cancer treatment.

Debbie Jevans, chair of the All England Club, said they would give the Princess "as much flexibility as possible" in determining whether she is able to fulfil her ceremonial duties as Club Patron on finals weekend, including leaving a



decision until the morning of the women's final on Saturday.

Meanwhile Novak Djokovic, the seven-time Wimbledon champion, has sailed through to the semi-finals after his opponent, "honorary Brit" Alex De Minaur crashed out of the tournament with a hip injury.

Only an hour and half before they were to meet at Centre Court, De Minaur, the world

number nine, announced his withdrawal at a press conference.

A despondent De Minaur said it would have been "disrespectful" not to face Djokovic while not "100 per cent" ready.

Australia's De Minaur disclosed he had felt a "loud crack" while sliding to win a match point against France's Arthur Fils on Tuesday. He said: "Not an announcement I want to make by any means, I am devastated but had to pull out due a hip injury, a little tear of fibre

The Queen joins in with a Mexican wave during the action on Centre Court at Wimbledon yesterday. Also in attendance was Keira Knightley, left

cartilage, that, kind of at the end connects to the adductor.

"I felt a loud crack during the last three points of my match against [Arthur] Fils, got a scan yesterday and it confirmed that this was the injury, a high risk of making it worse if I was to step on to court."

De Minaur, 25, is seen as much a representative for the UK, as he is for Australia, over his romance with Katie Boulter, the British No 1.

Duke of Sussex to appear in phone-hacking documentary

By Victoria Ward
DEPUTY ROYAL EDITOR

THE Duke of Sussex has taken part in a documentary about phone hacking alongside fellow victims, including Hugh Grant.

The Duke was interviewed about his crusade against the British press for the programme *Tabloids on Trial*, to be

broadcast on ITV on July 25. It comes as he continues to pursue claims against Associated Newspapers Limited, publisher of the *Daily Mail* and News Group Newspapers, publisher of *The Sun*.

The interview will be the Duke's first since his claim against Mirror Group Newspapers concluded last December, when he was awarded £140,600 in compensation after 15 of 33 articles

were found to have been the product of phone hacking or unlawful information gathering.

At the time, the Duke hailed himself a "dragon slayer" as he urged the Metropolitan Police to investigate.

He said the victory justified his "slow and painful" fight for justice in the courts and vowed to plough on. "I've been told that slaying dragons will get

you burned," he said. "But in light of today's victory and the importance of doing what is needed for a free and honest press, it's a worthwhile price to pay."

Seven months on, the Metropolitan Police is still considering the judge's ruling and appears to have made no decision on whether to take action.

The announcement about the docu-

mentary comes after the High Court heard claims that the Duke had "deliberately destroyed" potential evidence relating to his claim against NGN and Mr Justice Fancourt ordered him to explain himself.

The judge said the Duke must personally disclose why and how drafts of his memoir, *Spare*, and messages exchanged with his ghostwriter were

destroyed "well after" he sued the publisher in 2019.

He said it was "troubling" that the documents and conversations, which probably contained references to unlawful information gathering, had been deleted when the case was already well under way and said that efforts must be made to retrieve the exchanges with author JR Moehringer.



The Telegraph



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TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

Mystery surrounds deaths at special school

UK Health Security Agency says fatalities are unlikely to be linked to digestive system infection

By Connor Stringer and Alex Barton

THE grandmother of a six-year-old girl who died amid a suspected infectious bug outbreak at a primary school says she was "special to everyone".

Bethany-Rose Alice Riley was sent home from Millstead Primary School in the Everton area of Liverpool on June 26 and died later that day.

Another child, believed to be five

years old and in the same class, also died after being sent home from the special needs school.

Although the cause of the deaths is not yet known, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) said they were "unlikely" to be due to Giardia, as has been suggested locally. Giardiasis, an infection of the digestive system, is caused by tiny parasites known as giardia lamblia.

The infection can cause symptoms such as diarrhoea, stomach cramps, flatulence and bloating, but is generally not a serious risk to health and can be treated with antibiotics.

It can be spread by direct contact with infected people or animals, or

from swallowing contaminated water, food or drinks.

Any parents concerned that they or their child are displaying symptoms are urged to contact health specialists.

Bethany's heartbroken family said they are still waiting for answers and suggested that an illness contracted from the school may be the cause of her death. Her grandmother Susan Paton told *The Telegraph*: "She was so special to everyone. She wasn't just the size of a normal six-year-old, she couldn't do anything for herself. She's had two post-mortems and it's come back it's not natural causes that she's died of. It's definitely something that's triggered that; that's killed her off."



Bethany-Rose Alice Riley was sent home from Millstead Primary School on June 26 and died later that day

"She means the world to me. She's not the first grandchild I've lost. I've lost two others and I lost a son as well so it's quite heartbreaking. Nobody's coping with it. Nobody's coping with it whatsoever because it's so sudden."

She added: "Bethany passed the same day as she was sent home from school. It's not the first time she's been sent

home from school." Asked if she thought the infectious bug may be the cause of her death, she said: "I do."

In a moving tribute to her daughter, her mother Rebecca Melling said her life has shattered into a "million" pieces.

Millstead Primary School said its community was "devastated" by the deaths, and that the two pupils had "filled their classes with joy".

Michelle Beard, the head teacher, said: "Both children filled their classes with joy during their time with us, and they will forever be in our hearts."

"We are working closely with our families, staff and pupils to support them as we come to terms with this terribly sad news."

The *Liverpool Echo* first reported on the suspected giardia outbreak at Millstead last month, with public health measures put in place to try to tackle the number of infections.

Emma Savage, a consultant in health protection for Cheshire and Merseyside health protection team, said: "Our thoughts are with the family, friends and school community. The deaths are unlikely to be due to giardia. Investigations are ongoing, and we have provided information and advice to the school and parents. Public health measures have been put in place to help prevent further cases."

Millstead Primary declined to comment when contacted by *The Telegraph*.

River dance
London City Ballet dancers pose in front of Tower Bridge to mark the launch of the Resurgence tour and the revival of the company after 30 years under the direction of Artistic Director Christopher Marney.



Geoff Pugh for the Telegraph

Night owls have sharper minds than early birds says new study

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

THE "early bird" may not catch the worm after all because "night owls" are mentally sharper, a study suggests.

Researchers at Imperial College London looked at data from more than 26,000 people in Britain to find out how sleep influences their brain power.

They discovered that those who find mornings a struggle and feel more active later in the day scored 13.5 per cent better on cognitive tests, compared to those who enjoy an early start.

Intermediate sleepers, with no preference for mornings or evenings, also performed around 10 per cent better than "morning people" although not as well as night owls.

Lead author Dr Raha West, from the Department of Surgery and Cancer at Imperial, said: "Our study found that adults who are naturally more active in the evening tended to perform better on cognitive tests than those who are 'morning people'. Rather than just being personal preferences, these chronotypes could impact our cognitive function."

The natural inclination to wake up or fall asleep at a certain time is known as a chronotype. It is strongly genetic and governed by clock genes in the body.

In addition to regulating sleep and wake times, it also influences appetite, exercise and core body temperature, as well as being responsible for feeling alert or sleepy during the day.

While it is possible to shift natural sleep habits by gradually adjusting bedtimes and increasing evening light exposure, it is unlikely a person can ever completely change from a morning to an evening person.

New Chief of General Staff says: nations win wars not armies

By Danielle Sheridan
DEFENCE EDITOR

THE new Chief of the General Staff has said "nations win wars, not armies" in an echo of his predecessor's calls for a citizen army.

General Sir Roland Walker's comments come after the previous army chief, General Sir Patrick Sanders, warned the British public could be called up to fight if the UK goes to war as the military is too small to fight.

Sir Roland, who made the comments in a video address on Wednesday ahead of the upcoming RUSI land warfare conference, said: "Nations win wars, not armies and so this needs to be a discussion with allies, partners, academia, industry and technologists as well as the British Army and RUSI."

A whitehall source said Sir Roland's comments reflected that in war "the whole of society bands together".

The *Telegraph* revealed in January that Sir Patrick was to warn the government it would need to "mobilise the nation" in the event of war with Russia and "train and equip" a citizen army. He suggested Britain should "train and equip" a "citizen Army" to ready the country for a potential land war and urged the government to be "clear-eyed" about Russia, which he said was spending nearly 40 per cent of public money on defence.

He said at the time: "Within the next three years, it must be

General Sir Roland Walker is the new head of the army

credible to talk of a British Army of 120,000, folding in our reserve and strategic reserve. But that's not enough.

"We need an Army designed to expand rapidly to enable the first echelon, resource the second echelon and train and equipped for a citizen army that must follow."

"Our friends in eastern and Northern Europe, who feel the proximity of the Russian threat more acutely, are already laying the foundations for national

'Our friends in eastern and northern Europe are laying the foundations for national mobilisation'



mobilisation." He cited the chairman of the Nato Military Committee, who warned last week of war with Russia within 20 years, and the fact that the Swedish government is preparing for entry to Nato, and said this showed that "taking preparatory steps to enable us to place our societies on a war footing when needed are now not really desirable, but essential".

"We won't be immune," he warned. "And as the pre-war generation, we've got to similarly prepare, and that is a whole nation undertaking."

His comments forced Rishi Sunak, the former Prime Minister, to rule out conscription.

However, during his election campaign Mr Sunak vowed to bring back National Service for 18-year-olds. Sir Patrick later said the Conservatives had "poisoned the debate" by pursuing this pledge.

Sir Roland, who will make his first speech as Chief of the General Staff at the RUSI conference later this month, said: "This year's conference is characterised by increasingly convergent and acute threats."

"Military strategy, deterrents and the use of force are critical components of how nations must respond."

"I look forward to a discussion about how we urgently develop and generate modernised land forces for this context, drawing lessons from wherever and anywhere we can find them."

"The opportunity to my mind is exploiting the promise of powerful technologies to make profound gains in our fighting power and lethality."

Couple fined £1,200 for clearing up rubbish

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A COUNCIL has issued fines amounting to £1,200 to a couple who tidied rubbish outside their home into a cardboard box.

Veronika Mike, 41, and Zoltan Pinter, 46, from Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs, said the street outside their two-bedroom home had been plagued by rubbish for years.

They said they "just wanted to clean" it as people dumped waste around the designated bins that they said was not collected and attracted rats.

On April 29, Mr Pinter decided to clear up his street, filling an old cardboard box with food scraps and discarded packaging to prevent it from blowing around, and leaving it by the bins in the hope that

Stoke-on-Trent City Council would collect it. "I couldn't put it in the bins because they were full, so I left it beside them," Mr Pinter said. He said his name happened to be on the cardboard box and a week later he received a fixed penalty notice for illegal dumping and a £600 fine - as did Ms Mike, despite her name not being on the box.

The pair sent a letter to the council, signed by several of neighbours saying the couple was not to blame and asking it to reconsider. They also tried to appeal the council's decision and contacted Citizens Advice but were told the law is "black and white". The council has not rescinded the fines which the couple is still paying off on a monthly basis. Coun-

cillor Amjid Wazir OBE, cabinet member for city pride, enforcement and sustainability advised: "This matter has been resolved and all liability discharged. We remind residents and businesses that fly-tipping is an offence and all perpetrators will be met with a fixed penalty."

The couple, who have set up a GoFundMe to recoup some of the money lost, said they will never clear their street again "even if the rats come". "We just wanted to clean our street and that's the thanks we get from the council. At first I was very angry and I cried," Ms Mike said. "I have volunteered for litter picking before. I essentially did the same thing and got two £600 penalties for nothing."

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Ford's famous Capri is back – and this time it's electric

By Paul Hudson MOTORING EDITOR

THE Ford Capri is back – and it's had an electric makeover. The rakish fastback, dubbed the “working man's Porsche” from 1969 to 1986, is slated to hit the showroom's later this year.

Ford announced its new Capri EV in March 2023 and it unveiled the new model yesterday – a four-door family car rather than the relatively cramped two-door coupé which became an iconic image of the Seventies.

The new car is a collaboration with Volkswagen, which uses the German firm's battery-specific chassis platform.

Two versions will be available at first, a 282bhp rear-wheel drive (like the original) with a range of 390 miles and a twin-motor 335bhp model with a battery range of 368 miles. Both weigh more than two tons and can be charged from 10 to 80 per cent in less than 30 minutes, the company claims.

The design incorporates a roof that slopes towards the rear to suggest the coupé styling of the original car, as well as a nod to the quad headlights sported by many petrol-engined Capris.

When Amko Leenarts, Ford's European design head, admitted last year that he would love to bring back the Capri name, the internet was awash with polarised views on the car.

Fans point to its “iconic” appearances in film and particularly on television. Dodgy dealer Arthur Daley's protector, Terry McCann (played by Dennis Waterman), drove an Mk2 Capri in *Minder*, while those of a certain age will never forget Bodie (Lewis Collins) vaulting the bonnet of an Mk3 in *The Professionals*. Del Boy drove one in *Only Fools and Horses* and it was a staple of car chases in the police series *The Sweeney*, with Waterman as George Carter alongside John Thaw's Jack Regan.



The new Capri EV is a four-door saloon, unlike the more cramped two-door laddish coupé, inset top right. The 'working-man's Porsche' featured in television series from *Minder* to *Only Fools and Horses*

BA loses court fight over pilot compensation

Flag carrier had refused to pay out when its flights were cancelled because staff were off work sick

By Gareth Corfield
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

AIRLINE passengers are set to receive more compensation for cancelled flights after the Supreme Court ruled that pilot illness is no excuse for carriers to withhold customer payouts.

Kent couple Kenneth and Linda Lipton sued British Airways when their City-flyer flight to Milan was cancelled after the captain called in sick while off duty.

The airline refused to pay €250 (£211) in compensation for the delay under European Union rules known as EU261, arguing that the pilot's illness was an “extraordinary circumstance”, out of its control. Yet, Supreme Court judges said yesterday that it “does not matter” if the pilot was on duty or off duty when he fell ill because he remained an “inherent part of the airline's operation” at all times.

The ruling means more passengers than before will be eligible for compensation if pilot sickness causes their flights to be cancelled for lack of staff.

In a unanimous ruling, five of the court's justices said: “If the pilot drinks so as to be unfit to report for work and the flight is cancelled, then the reason for the cancellation is inherent in the airline's activity and operations. The same is also true of the need for the captain and other cabin crew to ensure that they are properly rested during stopovers. They have numerous obligations both to their employers and to the pub-

lic during those periods. These are all inherent in the carrier's activity and operations and if, for whatever reason, they are unable to attend for work as a result of something going awry during those rest periods, whether it is their fault or not, that failure to attend is not an extraordinary circumstance.”

The long-running legal fight began in 2018, with two courts previously ruling in British Airways' favour.

Court of Appeal judges ruled in the couple's favour in 2021, however, with the airline then taking it to the Supreme Court. Mr and Mrs Lipton, from Wester-

ham in Kent, said in a statement issued by law firm Irwin Mitchell after yesterday's ruling that they “never wanted to be in this position”.

They said: “We see this as not just a win for ourselves but a victory for people who are prepared to fight for common sense and justice against corporate behemoths who have access to every resource. We never wanted to be in this position, but felt we had little choice but to continue our legal case given the stance of the carrier all the way through this. Their insistence to continue this battle to the highest court in the land

has now met with the correct conclusion and our significantly smaller, but no less wily team has succeeded against all odds.”

A spokesman for BA said: “We are disappointed with this decision and respect the judgment of the court.”

EU261 rules were copied in UK law after Brexit, meaning passengers can claim compensation if their flights are cancelled or delayed.

“Extraordinary circumstances” defined in the rules include bad weather, air traffic control delays and strikes, among other reasons.

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Witness called 999 after cyclist ‘hit OAP’, claiming she lost her balance

By Fiona Parker
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A DEFENCE witness rang 999 two days after a cyclist “collided” with an elderly woman, to hit back against a “strong anti-cyclist lobby”, a court heard.

Polly Friedhoff, 81, died 12 days after Edward Bressan, 56, allegedly hit her as he tried to overtake the pensioner on a River Thames towpath.

The elderly woman had been walking with her friend, Ewa Huggins, who described seeing Mrs Friedhoff “basically flying” before hitting the ground.

However, Mr Bressan told Oxford Crown Court he had rung his bell as he approached the pair and was cycling at around “3mph” as he passed Mrs Friedhoff. He also said the pensioner had fallen “flat on her face where she stood”.

Mr Bressan, a university lecturer, is facing one charge of causing bodily harm

by “wanton or furious driving”, which he denies. Giving evidence as a defence witness, Nicholas Proudfoot, a former professor at Oxford, told a court he had witnessed Mrs Friedhoff fall at around noon on Nov 20, 2022.

However, the retired academic – who admitted he himself was “pro-cyclist” – told the court that the elderly woman had simply “lost her balance”.

Prof Proudfoot told the 999 operator: “The media is going on about a cyclist smashing into an old lady but it's not what happened. My impression is not that the bike directly ran into her. She didn't put her hands out at all and unfortunately fell over. My impression is very much that the lady lost her balance.”

Prof Proudfoot then added: “If anything, the biker was more at risk because if you lose your balance, you fall into the water.” When questioned about the phone call by defence barrister

Kuljeet Dobe, Prof Proudfoot said: “It's a response to the newspapers, who tend to criticise the cyclists. There seems to be quite a strong anti-cyclist lobby and I think it's a shame because it is a lovely way to go around.”

Prof Proudfoot was also cycling on the towpath that day and told jurors that he did not see the collision itself, but witnessed the victim fall over.

Prosecutor Andrew Jordan told the jury that Mr Bressan was cycling “far faster than walking speed” before colliding with the OAP.

However, Mr Dobe reminded the jurors of eye-witness evidence which gave a different account of the incident, in which Mrs Friedhoff lost her balance and did not attempt to put her hands out to break her fall. Mr Dobe said: “It is terrible, but it is just one of those things: a horrible and tragic accident.”

The jury has now retired to deliberate.

HMRC pursues Jeremy Vine over disputed tax bills

By Charlotte Gifford
SENIOR MONEY REPORTER

JEREMY VINE is being pursued by HMRC for alleged disputed tax bills incurred while working for the BBC, *The Telegraph* can reveal.

Court documents show that the broadcaster has been locked in a dispute with the taxman since 2018 over whether he should have been classed as an employee or contractor for his work on the TV series *Eggheads* and *Points of View*, as well as coverage of the 2015 general election.

The amount Vine is being pursued for has not been disclosed but it is estimated to run into the thousands of pounds.

He and his defence team had attempted to throw out HMRC's right to pursue the case with a technical argument at a preliminary hearing, which took place in June, but it was rejected by a judge. It is now likely the case will progress to the First-tier Tribunal.

Vine is the latest media celebrity to be

chased by HMRC over disputed back taxes relating to off-payroll tax legislation, known as “IR35”. Gary Lineker won his £5 million tax case in March, while Adrian Chiles's £1.7 million case is still ongoing after 10 years. Despite a judge ruling in his favour in 2022, his case is due to be heard again because of “errors in law” made in a prior ruling.

The rules mean that a worker using an intermediary, such as a limited company, must have their employment status assessed for tax purposes. If they are deemed to be contractors, they pay tax as a self-employed person, meaning they are typically able to pay less National Insurance. But if they are considered to be directly employed by the company using their services, they must pay tax as an employee, usually at higher rates.

The rules were introduced by Gordon Brown to crack down on so-called disguised employees, continuously working at companies as a contractor in order to reduce their tax bills.

Bruce was convinced the BBC would not employ an antique

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

FIONA BRUCE has revealed she took out a private pension when she started broadcasting for the BBC because she thought she'd never be working past 50.

The BBC veteran said she is “astonished” to still be kept on at 60 – but said “nothing lasts forever”.

The *Question Time* presenter went on to speak about the “brutal reality” of TV and said broadcasters rarely leave on their own accord.

Speaking to *Woman's Weekly*, Bruce said: “When I started at the BBC, I took out a private pension, and I remember thinking, ‘Well, I'll never be working past 50. No one will have me past 50.’”

Bruce joined the BBC as a researcher for *Panorama* in 1989 and later became the first female newsreader on *BBC News at Ten*. In 2001, she became the first woman presenter to be part of the BBC's election team and in her career has also hosted flagship programmes such as *BBC News at Six*, *Crimewatch*, *Antiques Roadshow Fake or Fortune?*

“Nothing lasts forever,” she continued. “I've been doing *Antiques Roadshow* for 15 years. Maybe next run, they will decide to ring the changes. I'll be really sad but I will totally accept it... That's the brutal reality of TV. You rarely leave at a time of your own choosing.”

Vine has been locked in a dispute with the taxman since 2018

Doubt surrounding Letby conviction grows

Former Cabinet ministers join the mounting concern over how medical evidence was presented to jury

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR and Dominic Penna

SEVERAL former Cabinet ministers have expressed concern over the conviction of Lucy Letby, the former nurse, with the issue likely to be raised in Parliament, *The Telegraph* understands.

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) has also announced it will “convene a meeting” in the wake of the verdicts, stating that it was aware of “concerns” from RSS members and the wider community regarding the use of statistical evidence in the case.

In August 2023, Letby was convicted of the murders of seven newborns and the attempted murders of six other infants. A retrial, which ended last week, also found her guilty of the attempted murder of another child.

As revealed in *The Telegraph*, doctors, scientists and statisticians have now come forward to challenge how the evidence was presented to the jury.

This newspaper also understands that several former Cabinet ministers are troubled by the conviction and are hoping to take the matter further.

One former Cabinet minister with a legal background told *The Telegraph* that several convictions based on scientific or medical evidence in recent years had troubled him.

Speaking specifically about the Letby trial, he said: “There is an increasing trend towards convictions being secured on the basis of medical evidence.

“Where there is no direct evidence of a person’s guilt, one can understand why there may be some people who are concerned about it.”

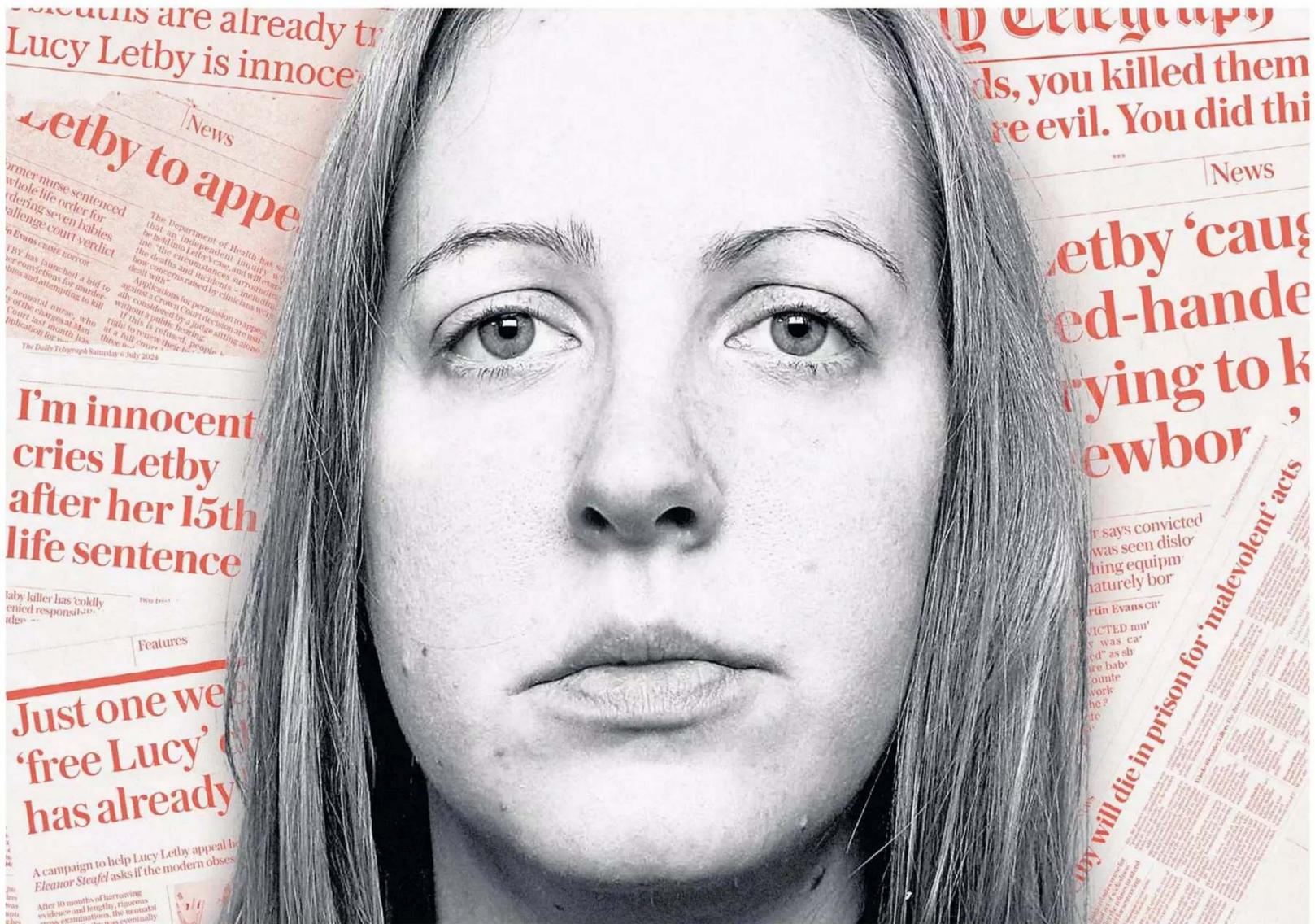
Other former ministers described the verdicts as “unsafe” and have questioned how statistics and scientific evidence was presented to the jury.

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) has previously warned of a lack of knowledge in the legal profession over the interpretation of interpreting statistical evidence and in 2022 released a report specifically setting out how best to deal with cases of medical serial killers.

However, none of the recommendations were followed in the Letby trial.

Experts from several British universities have questioned shift pattern data used in the trial that showed Letby was present at every death and attempted murder.

Dr Alexander Coward, a former lecturer at Oxford and the University of California Berkeley, said that it was possible to take an identical number of nurses and incident rate at a hospital with 170 shifts and place any nurse at



‘Statistical evidence was not questioned in the way statisticians suggested it should have been’

the same number of events as Letby, simply through randomness. The RSS said it was hoping to see more collaboration between statisticians and lawyers in future. A spokesman for the RSS said: “We’re aware of concerns raised by some RSS members and the wider statistical community around the statistical aspects of the Lucy Letby case. “Our 2022 report highlighted the challenges of interpreting statistical evidence in medical murder cases, and it proposed several recommendations

for best practice. We will be convening a meeting to explore how best these recommendations can be put into practice.” Edmund Bulmer, the former chairman of the Herefordshire Health Authority and ex-MP for Kidderminster, said he had contacted Rishi Sunak personally about the matter after Letby was first convicted last year. He said that he believed Letby was “the victim of a monstrous miscarriage of justice”. Francis Hoar, a public law barrister,

‘If a suspect is the only person at each and every murder, that’s compelling evidence’

described the *Telegraph* investigation as “deeply troubling” and said he felt “uneasy” about the trial. “The statistical evidence was not questioned in the way that statisticians suggested it should have been,” he wrote on X. “Were an appeal brought on the basis of new evidence, after a successful application to the Criminal Cases Review Commission, the result may well be different.” The Criminal Cases Review Commission has not yet said whether it will be

looking into Letby’s case. Following the findings published yesterday in *The Telegraph*, readers came forward to voice their views on the verdict. “I have always felt a bit uneasy about this case,” an anonymous reader wrote. They shared that their wife worked in the same hospital until recently, and although she didn’t work with Lucy Letby directly, knows that some of the staff who worked with the former nurse still protest her innocence. Editorial comment: Page 17

‘It will turn out there were no murders... just an overburdened unit’

Readers’ responses
On Tuesday, *The Telegraph* examined the scientific concerns in the arguments used to convict Ms Letby. In response, *Telegraph* readers weighed in on the guilty verdict.

Some readers believe the evidence used to convict Lucy Letby of murder was unreliable:

Stephanie Findlay said: “There seems to be a problem when experts give probabilities. A juror has to be convinced beyond reasonable doubt, but when an expert says the probability is one in 73 million, the juror is virtually bound to accept the expertise. However, one could say that it is statistically improbable that anyone would win the lottery. So perhaps these probabilities should be compared to other improbable events like being run over by a bus or killed in a train crash, so the jurors understand that even if the chance is minuscule, it can happen.”

The reader concluded: “If Lucy is innocent, I hope she gets justice very soon.”

Similarly, David James thought *The Telegraph’s* investigation “hopefully will bring a step towards the case and conviction being reviewed.”

He continued: “It appears Ms Letby has been let down all round by the prosecution, defence lawyers and the appeal judges.”

A few readers were particularly concerned by the statistical evidence used against Ms Letby:

Retired analyst Cassandra Blackley was “glad the DT ran this piece.” Ms Blackley has “repeatedly voiced grave concerns about the use of shift pattern evidence in convicting Letby, and repeated the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) warnings about its validity, often to howls of disapproval from other commentators. This piece is first-rate investigative journalism.”

Richard Martin also pointed to “the statistical problems” which he argues “were absolutely clear at the time of the original trial and conviction, and several people pointed this out.”

“I can not really understand why Letby was not given leave to appeal,” they said.

Meanwhile, T Platt, who is also “uncomfortable” with the guilty verdict, shared his experience as a lawyer: “I could find no evidence that was compelling, and way too much that could be shown to be unreliable.

This doesn’t mean I think she did not do it, more that I can’t see how they can convict on the basis they have.”

One reader suggested there were issues with a trial by jurors as “fellow citizens” rather than “peers”.

Brian Harrington said: “It is very likely that none of the jury members were Ms Letby’s ‘peers’, ie, with equivalent training, qualification, and experience in neonatal medicine. Being ‘fellow citizens’ of Ms Letby in no way makes them qualified to make decisions in this highly specialised field of medicine, and, in addition, the issue, (as pointed out in *The Telegraph’s* analysis), of sophisticated, advanced statistics. Even the judge is not qualified to draw conclusions about the evidence presented. I would hypothesise that the jury’s verdicts are very likely based on which barristers they disliked least.”

E A Harper-Wilkes believed Lucy Letby to be a scapegoat: “This whole business reminds me of Sally Clarke – the solicitor who was wrongly imprisoned for murdering her babies. It was a travesty of justice from which she never recovered and she and her husband were solicitors who knew how the law works.

“I believe it will turn out there were no ‘murders’ just an overburdened, unsanitary and badly managed unit dealing with very fragile babies – and bosses looking for someone to blame.”

Other readers were in little doubt of Lucy Letby’s guilty verdict:

Jon Bolton asserted: “Guilty all day long. Yes, the stats are questionable, but they were not key to the conviction.” R Bernden thought *The Telegraph’s* investigation was “interesting” but wouldn’t rush to

judgment on the basis of this one report. “After all, the trial jury and the Court of Appeal judges did more than read a 2,000-word newspaper article.”

Hans Strand put forward his stance: “Dr Alexander Coward suggests that by showing only the days on which an incident occurred, it is flawed.” “I suggest otherwise,” he asserted. “If a suspect is the only person present at each and every murder, that’s compelling evidence they are the murderer.”

“We’ve been here before, of course, with the media and experts who know a lot about their small specialty but who have no overview of the entirety of the case going off on a wild goose chase.”

Mr Strand reflected on the White House Farm murders. “The media waged a long campaign to free Jeremy Bamber based on the fact that it is possible to chip away at individual bits of evidence and, yes, like Letby (and like most murders), no one actually saw him do it.

“However, take the evidence in its entirety as the jury did, and Bamber is clearly guilty. “The same is doubtless the case here. There was a trial, a jury heard all the evidence, a decision was reached and a sentence passed. That’s how criminal justice works. The media should cease stirring things up for cheap drama and clicks.”



The *Telegraph* feature published yesterday prompted reader responses

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China's secret base to hold back the Taliban

Beijing increases military presence in neighbouring Tajikistan after investing heavily in its economy

By Sophia Yan
SENIOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT
in Ayni

CHINA is constructing a secret military base in Tajikistan, satellite images reveal, as it seizes on the rising threat posed by Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

Beijing has been building the base in one of the most remote corners of the world for almost a decade.

The facility, carved out of mountains that rise 13,000ft, has look-out towers and troops from both countries, which now hold regular joint military drills.

Neither government has publicly acknowledged the existence of the base, which extends a former Soviet outpost but satellites show the steady spread of construction, including access roads.

China has sought to expand its military footprint across its borders, notably pushing into Indian territory in the Himalayas. Beijing has boosted relations with

Tajikistan while Russia, its usual economic and security partner, is distracted by the war in Ukraine.

Last week, president Xi Jinping cemented growing ties with Tajikistan in his third state visit.

"The situation is that of a vacuum, and the vacuum is filled by China," said Parviz Mollojonov, a political scientist and acting director for International Alert, a UK-based NGO that promotes peace. "Since the deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan, China uses the concern of the Tajik government to build in the security sector."

Concern over Tajikistan's 800-mile border with Afghanistan escalated after the Taliban returned to power in 2021.

China is also providing ammunition and technology as part of its broader plans to "create an advanced line of defence", said Mr Mollojonov.

Beijing was the first country to recognise an ambassador appointed by the Taliban and has sought to build ties with the militant Islamic group. It wants to keep a tight lid on Uyghur Muslims in its western Xinjiang region as it continues its economic expansion into Central Asia and Europe.

For Tajikistan, closer ties with China



Satellite images show steady progress in construction of the military base in the Tajik mountains

has also meant adopting the same "counter-terrorism" policy framework that Beijing instituted against the Uyghurs, which included locking upwards of one million people in "re-education" camps.

Tajik authorities outlawed the hijab last month, the latest in a range of 35 faith-related acts, aimed at "protecting national cultural values" and "preventing superstition and extremism".

Police have also reportedly forcibly shaved off men's long beards – consid-

ered a sign of "extremist" views. Hundreds of mosques have been shut, teachings delivered by imams must fall within state-issued guidelines and minors are not allowed to enter places of worship without permission. Parents sending their children to study religion abroad are also penalised.

However, such restrictions are likely to backfire in Tajikistan which is steeped in Islam in both fabric and identity.

Security forces have violently dispersed protests over the reforms, and some women continue to defy the authorities by wearing hijabs.

Tajikistan seeks "good relations with our neighbours – with our bear friend and our dragon friend", said Rustam Azizi, research director of Tahlil, a Tajik-based policy think tank. Tajikistan has also made it a point to highlight links to Iran given a shared Persian heritage. Two years ago, Tehran opened a drone factory in Dushanbe, Tajikistan's capital, its first such facility abroad.

It is important for the country to cast away past Soviet influences and re-establish its Tajik identity but Dushanbe also does not want to be isolated by the West for being too close to Tehran.

However, for many in Tajikistan, it

looks like the "dragon" is in the ascendant. On his recent visit, Mr Xi inaugurated Chinese-funded government facilities in Dushanbe, including a presidential palace and a new parliament building, modelled on the US Capitol. The whole project reportedly cost more than £300 million.

China's presence has increased exponentially in the past decade. It is the largest source of foreign investment and, at one point, held more than 60 per cent of Dushanbe's external public debt.

Beijing has also secured numerous mining rights, as mountainous Tajikistan lacks the infrastructure and expertise to develop its mineral resources.

Sentiments about greater Chinese influence are mixed. In Ayni, a remote town in the north, some, such as Mihirgul Noibova, 56, have benefited. Her canteen enjoys the custom of Chinese workers on a massive road project.

Almost all, however, worry about the long-term impact on their health and the surrounding environment. "There are maybe 300 trucks passing each day here," said a shopkeeper in downtown Ayni. "They're creating so much dust, and I'm concerned about this, because there are no regulations."

'China uses concern of the Tajiks [over the Taliban] to build in the security sector'

'Miss Merkel' joins the ranks of the television detectives

By Josephine McKenna IN ROME

ANGELA MERKEL was one of the world's most powerful and distinctive politicians. So when she ended her term as German chancellor in 2021, many wondered what she would do next.

The answer – according to TV chiefs at least – is to become a super sleuth in northern Italy in a detective series called *Miss Merkel*.

The German show starts after the fictional Ms Merkel becomes bored with life in retirement and decides to embark on a new career. "I was successful as a politician, why can't I do the same as a detective?" she says in a trailer for the first episode, *Death at the Castle*.

Katharina Thalbach, the actress who plays her, has been styled strictly in her image, with cropped hair and collarless jackets. There are jokes about thriftiness and on a few occasions she performs the dismissive eye roll the real Ms Merkel was famous for.

'There could be mileage in a cosy crime series where Theresa May solves murders'

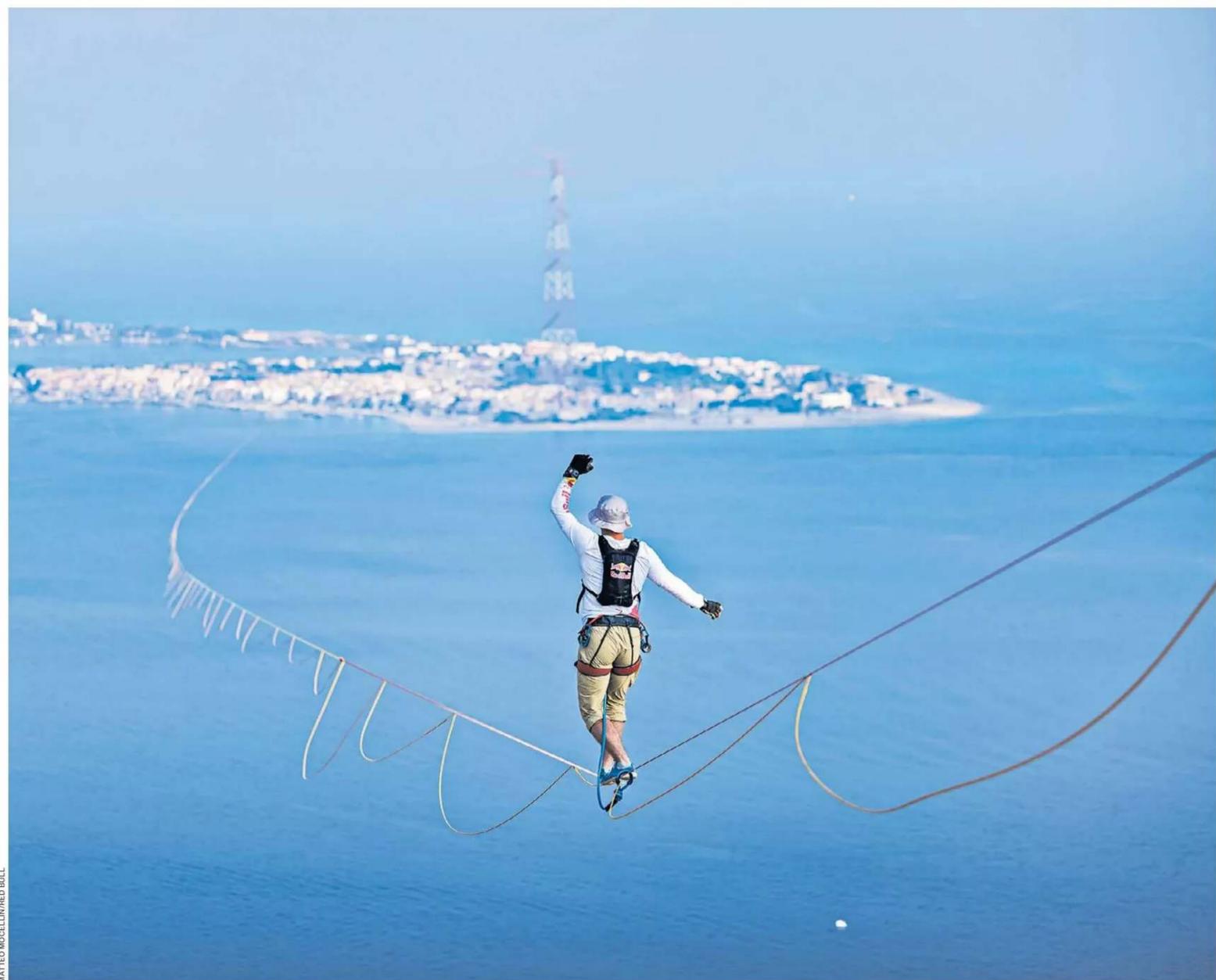
In one scene, the detective is seen looking through a huge magnifying glass. In another, she goes to ground to avoid being hit by a heavy object dropped from a church tower.

The trailer for the show which starts its run in Italy tomorrow has generated a stir on social media. Amanda Knox, who was convicted and later cleared of murdering her British flatmate Meredith Kercher, said on X: "Where were you when I needed you, Angela?"

Others called for the series to be aired in the UK and Francis Young, a British historian, suggested a similar series could be made here.

"I genuinely think there'd be mileage in a cosy crime series where Theresa May solves murders," he wrote on X.

The show is based on a book by David Safier, who said: "The great thing for me is that Merkel is both omnipresent – we've known her for decades – yet we know almost nothing of her life apart from the crumbs her press office gives out, like how she likes to bake."



Don't look down Jaan Roose, the three-time world champion, completed a world record yesterday slacklining 2.2 miles across the Messina Strait, an 870ft high walk from Italy's mainland to Sicily. Mr Roose, a Hollywood stuntman, completed the walk in just over three hours.

'Prosecco Nazis' song telling foreigners to go home is an online hit

By James Jackson in Berlin

A GROUP of well-dressed partygoers dubbed "Prosecco Nazis" have sparked a police crackdown in Germany after they sang a song telling foreigners to go home while one member performed a Hitler salute.

A video shows the revellers in the Pony nightclub on the island of Sylt, a high-end holiday destination, singing

to the tune *L'amour Toujours* by Gigi D'Agostino. "Foreigners out, Germany for the Germans" they sing while one performs the salute and moustache gesture in apparent reference to Hitler.

The clip, which surfaced online in late May has now become so widely shared – with the business magazine *Handelsblatt* calling the revellers "Prosecco Nazis" – that Chancellor Olaf Scholz has been forced to step in.

He called the chants "disgusting", while musician D'Agostino criticised the misuse of his signature song, saying "have [they] truly listened to my song. It's about love and the universal feeling of unity".

Cases of people repeating the chant have been reported at town fairs, discos, private parties and the Austria vs Turkey Euro24 football match.

Police say they have been called over

360 times to reports about the chant, according to the German news agency RND. Arrests have been made.

The phrase "Germany for the Germans, foreigners out" has a long history and was once repeated by Hitler. After it caused controversy by being featured on posters for the neo-Nazi NPD party in the 1980s, Germany's highest court ruled it was not in fact illegal. Nazi salutes, however, are ille-

gal and people have been arrested for making them.

It is not thought that anyone from the video has been arrested though one young woman featured in it was fired from her job and another was banned from attending her university.

Germany has seen a surge of support for the far-Right amid a rise in anti-migrant rhetoric. Towards the end of last month the leaders of the far-Right

Alternative for Germany (AfD) party reported a surge in membership and vowed to build on the party's success in the European Parliament election in June, as they target wins in three state votes in the east this year.

The AfD jumped to second place in nationwide polls last year amid frustration with infighting in Chancellor Scholz's coalition and concern about "uncontrolled" migration.

Leader's daughter defies Cameroon gay ban

By Ben Farmer

THE daughter of Cameroon's long-serving president has come out as a lesbian and said she wants to help change her country's tough anti-homosexuality law.

Brenda Biya caused shock last week when she posted a picture on Instagram of her embracing Layyons Valença, a Brazilian model, captioned: "I am crazy about you, and I want the world to know."

Paul Biya, 91, has been Cameroon's president since 1982 and is one of Africa's longest-serving leaders. Ms Biya, 26, an aspiring rapper, said she went public to help gay and lesbian people who can face heavy punishment.

Cameroon has some of the region's harshest anti-gay laws, which impose up to five years in jail for promoting or engaging in homosexual behaviour. Around two dozen people are in prison under the law.

In an interview with *Le Parisien*



Brenda Biya, left, embraces Brazilian model Layyons Valença on Instagram

newspaper, she said: "Coming out is an opportunity to send a strong message ... this law existed before my father was in power. I find it unfair and I hope my story can make it change."

Ms Biya, who lives in Switzerland, said she had been in a relationship with Ms Valença for eight months and had already taken her to Cameroon three

times, without telling her family they were together. She said she had been attracted to women since she was a teenager. Her announcement had brought relief, she said.

Her brother had called her after she posted her photograph, expressing anger that she had made the move without first telling the family.

She said Mr Biya and his wife, Chantal Biya, had called her wanting her to delete the post. "Since then, it's been silence," she said.

While she said she has received widespread support for her announcement, groups backing the existing legislation have demanded legal action against her.

A group campaigning against decriminalisation has filed a complaint against Ms Biya with the public prosecutor.

Philippe Nsoué, from the DDHP Movement, told the BBC that although Ms Biya was the president's daughter, "no one is above the law".

Man caught with 104 snakes in his trousers

By Our Foreign Staff

A MAN has been caught trying to smuggle more than 100 live snakes into mainland China by cramming them into his trousers, according to the country's customs authority.

The unnamed traveller was stopped by customs officers as he sought to slip out of Hong Kong and across the border city of Shenzhen, China Customs said in a statement on Tuesday.

"Upon inspection, customs officers discovered that the pockets of the trousers the passenger was wearing were packed with six canvas drawstring bags and sealed with tape," the statement said.

"Once opened, each bag was found to contain living snakes in all kinds of shapes, sizes and colours," it added.

Officers reportedly seized 104 of the scaly reptiles, including milk snakes and corn snakes, many of which were



Six canvas bags were discovered in the man's pockets, each one containing living snakes

non-native species. Two border agents were filmed peering into transparent plastic bags filled with squirming red, pink and white snakes.

China is one of the world's biggest animal trafficking hubs, but authorities have been clamping down on the illicit trade in recent years. The country's

biosecurity and disease control laws forbid people from importing non-native species without permission.

"Those who break the rules will be ... held liable in accordance with the law," the customs authority said.

The punishment the man will receive has not been released by authorities.

Alec Baldwin in court over film crew member's gun death on set

Defence says, regardless of veteran actor's behaviour, he cannot be blamed for safety failure while filming

By Benedict Smith US REPORTER

ALEC BALDWIN was playing "make-believe with a real gun" when he shot and killed a cinematographer on the film set of a western, prosecutors said yesterday.

The Hollywood actor is on trial for involuntary manslaughter after Halyna Hutchins was shot dead during the filming of *Rust* in 2021.

In opening arguments in a courtroom in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the prosecution said Baldwin asked for the "biggest gun" he could get and asked someone to film him "running around shooting" during a training session.

His lawyers insisted that Baldwin was "just an actor, acting", and that responsibility for gun safety on the set of *Rust* lay with other crew members.

Prosecutor Erlinda Johnson accused the 66-year-old actor, who faces up to 18 months in prison if found guilty of involuntary manslaughter, of violating the "cardinal rules of firearm safety".

In her statement to the court, she said he had repeatedly failed to conduct safety checks with the armorer – including on the day of the fatal shooting. "When someone plays make believe with a real gun in a real-life workplace and, while playing make believe with that gun, violates the cardinal rules of firearm safety, peoples' lives are endangered, and someone could be killed," Ms Johnson said.

She continued: "The evidence you will see will paint a real-life picture of a real-life workplace where this defendant mishandled this gun. You will see him using this gun as a pointer to point at people, to point at things. You will see him cock the hammer when he's not supposed to cock the hammer. You will see him put his finger on the trigger when his finger's not supposed to be on the trigger. "You will hear about numerous breaches of firearm safety with this defendant and this use of this firearm."

Alex Spiro, defending, countered that Baldwin, who took notes or looked away during the prosecution's statement, could not be

Alec Baldwin, right, is charged with the manslaughter of Halyna Hutchins, inset



accused of violating rules that would not apply to actors on a film set.

"He was an actor, acting, playing the role of Harlan Rust," he said, referring to Mr Baldwin's outlaw character.

"An actor, playing a character, can act in ways that are lethal that just aren't lethal on a movie set."

The defence said the responsibility for the gun lay with the film's armorer, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, who loaded the live round into the gun and has been convicted of involuntary manslaughter, and assistant director Dave Halls, who failed to inspect the gun properly and pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge last year.

Mr Halls handed Baldwin what he said was a "cold gun" – meaning it did not contain a live round – while they were rehearsing the scene that led to the death of Ms Hutchins.

"Cold guns can't hurt people. It's impossible. Literally impossible for a cold gun to hurt somebody," Mr Spiro said, adding: "You don't need to worry even about eye gear or ear plugs for that fake bang."

Baldwin insists he cocked the hammer on the gun but did not pull the trigger when the fatal shot was fired. The prosecution claimed this was impossible, citing testing by an FBI forensic expert that did not show any defects with the Colt .45 revolver.

Mr Spiro claimed it was impossible to establish the state of the gun because it had been broken during the test.

"Even if [Baldwin] intentionally pulled the trigger like the prosecutor just demonstrated, that doesn't make him guilty of homicide," he said.

"None of it speaks to whether Alec knew or should have known those things. He didn't. No one on that set did. It was not foreseeable," he said.

He signalled that members of the crew would give evidence on behalf of Baldwin, and that none of them had known how the live round made its way into the prop gun.

The first witness to give evidence was Nicholas LeFleur, a deputy with the local sheriff's office who responded to the shooting and whose bodycam footage, played to the jury, showed the attempts to save Ms Hutchins' life.

A medic could be heard asking the cinematographer if she could open her eyes after she was wheeled out off the set on a stretcher and loaded into an ambulance.



JIM WEBER/GETTY IMAGES; NEW MEXICO/POOL VIA REUTERS

An actor's tale Alec Baldwin's involuntary manslaughter trial

Oct 21 2021 Alec Baldwin fires a prop gun on the film set of *Rust*, a 19th century western, killing cinematographer Halyna Hutchins and injuring director Joel Souza.

December 2021 Baldwin denies responsibility for

the shooting in an interview with ABC. He said the revolver "went off" on its own, and he did not pull the trigger.

July 2022 The FBI tests Baldwin's gun and finds it "functioned normally". The revolver would not fire from the full

cock position without the trigger pulled.

January 2023 New Mexico state prosecutors charge Baldwin with involuntary manslaughter and a firearm enhancement that carries a potential five-year prison sentence.

January 2024 Baldwin is charged with involuntary manslaughter a second time as a Santa Fe grand jury indicts him.

March 2024 *Rust* armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed is found guilty of involuntary manslaughter by a Santa Fe jury for

mistakenly loading a live round into Baldwin's gun.

April 2024 New Mexico district court judge Mary Marlowe Sommer sentences Gutierrez-Reed to 18 months in jail.

June 2024 Ms Marlowe Sommer

rejects additional Baldwin motions to dismiss the charge based on factors like destruction of the gun during FBI testing.

July 10 2024 Opening statements in the involuntary manslaughter trial. The prosecutor Erlinda Ocampo

Johnson says the gun used to kill Hutchins was a replica of an 1873 single action revolver made by Pietta Firearms in Italy. Owner Alessandro Pietta said the "gun was in perfect working condition" when he sent it to the US, according to Ms Johnson.

Hollywood star's fate hinges on tiny part of the handgun that went off

By Susie Coen

IN THE months after Alec Baldwin's gun discharged in his hands, killing a cinematographer on the set of a church in the New Mexico desert, police focused on whether the actor had properly inspected the weapon beforehand.

His claims that he was told the Colt .45 was "cold" – meaning it did not contain any live rounds – appeared to be crucial to the first criminal prosecution in the fatal shooting.

But during a set-piece TV interview after the dust had settled the star made a claim that would change everything: he never pulled the trigger.

Yesterday prosecutors said Baldwin broke "cardinal rules" of gun safety in the 2021 killing of *Rust* cinematographer Halyna Hutchins while his lawyer said he was failed by firearms experts.

The same bullet also hit Joel Souza, the film's director, when Baldwin's gun fired a live round, inadvertently loaded by Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the armorer. He was not seriously injured.

The 66-year-old, on trial in Hollywood's first on-set shooting fatality in three decades faces up to 18 months in jail if convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

Over the course of about 10 days the jury will be led through every minute

of what happened on Oct 21, 2021. Eventually, they will be taken deep inside the inner workings of the Italian-made Pietta pistol, a replica of a vintage 1873 model, and, crucially, whether it could have gone off without Baldwin pressing the trigger.

Baldwin has said he pulled, then released, the gun's hammer because Mrs Hutchins wanted a close-up camera angle of the gun's loaded barrel.

An FBI analysis of the weapon concluded that the gun would not go off without the trigger being depressed but Baldwin's lawyer's complaint that they had not had a

chance to analyse it before the expert hit the fully-cocked gun with a mallet and broke it as part of the analysis. Baldwin's legal team also alleged the full-cock notch had been filed down, making it easier to fire.

That allowed a mechanical failure or "accidental discharge" without a trigger pull, they claimed.

Prosecutors last year dropped the charges only to have a grand jury reinstate them in January after independent firearms expert Lucien Haag confirmed findings of the FBI examination.

The report examined the gun, safety mechanisms and markings and

concluded the trigger had to be depressed to go off – but it had to rely on replacement parts to carry out some of the tests.

"Although Alec Baldwin repeatedly denies pulling the trigger, given the tests, findings and observations reported here, the trigger had to be pulled or depressed sufficiently to release the fully cocked or retracted hammer of the evidence revolver", Mr Haag wrote in his report.

Zac Sneesby, a crew member who was holding a microphone during the rehearsal, is expected to testify that he saw Baldwin pull the trigger of the revolver. There are two ways

prosecutors can prove the charge. One is based on the negligent use of a firearm.

The other is to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Baldwin acted with total disregard or indifference for the safety of others.

Lisa Torracco lawyer for Dave Halls, the assistant director, told *The Telegraph* he would be called as a witness for the defence.

She said Halls, who last year entered a plea bargain for negligent use of a deadly weapon, receiving a six-month suspended sentence, said he saw Baldwin pull the hammer back, but not the trigger. "There are some nuances

about that I'm sure will be an issue", she said. She believes the prosecution's case will focus on arguments that Baldwin may have been "reckless... [and] may have hurried the schedule and didn't give appropriate attention to detail".

"I think it's kind of like a big, bigger theme than just 'was the trigger pulled or not?... I think they're gonna say that he was reckless and pointed guns at people throughout the filming."

She thinks the defence will argue that it is a "frivolous prosecution" which does not belong in criminal court.

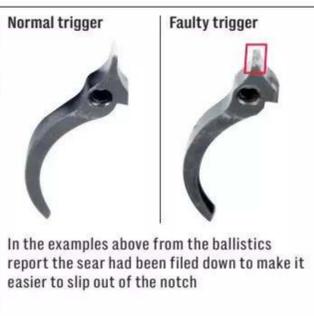
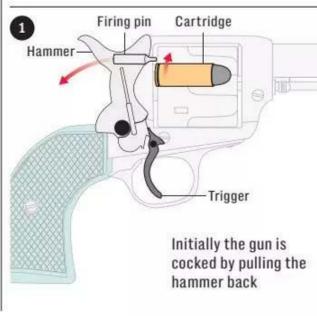
Baldwin has also been accused of neglecting safety protocols on set, with prosecutors expected to depict the atmosphere as "chaotic" and Baldwin as "erratic".

In March, Gutierrez-Reed, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 18 months in prison. She is appealing against the conviction.

The defence is also expected to try and show it is not the job of an actor to make sure a gun is not loaded with live ammunition.

But Dr Ron Martinelli, who has been a technical advisor on Westerns said he thinks Baldwin is "in trouble" because he did not double check whether the gun was loaded. "Pleading ignorance is not going to work," he added.

How the Colt .45 Peacemaker could have misfired



French wary of Leftist taxes, says minister

By Vivian Song

THE French do not want a Left-wing government that would bring in tax rises, a senior member of Emmanuel Macron's party has said.

Aurora Bergé, the gender equality minister, said the centrist bloc was the only alternative to the Left-wing coalition, known as the New Popular Front (NFP), which scored a surprise win in parliamentary elections.

"I think there is an alternative to the NFP," Ms Bergé told France 2 TV. "I think the French don't want the NFP's platform to be implemented, I think they don't want tax increases."

"We are the only ones who can extend [our base]," she said, making the case to split the Left and form a moder-

ate coalition in the National Assembly. To pay for the NFP's costly programme of reforms – which would raise the minimum wage, lower the age of retirement from 64 to 60 and freeze food and energy prices – it proposes to restore the wealth tax scrapped by Mr Macron in 2018.

The NFP – which is composed of greens, socialists, communists and the France Unbowed party (LFI) – also want windfall taxes on "super-profits". Their programme also proposes increased income tax on a sliding scale with five bands. At the top, those with an annual income of more than €400,000 (£337,000) would be subject to a 90 per cent tax rate.

"It's not only the taxes on the richest that will increase but tax on income,

which will be partially modified," Ms Bergé said. "I'm not sure that's what the French want."

She acknowledged that the Macronite centre bloc could not govern alone but said a coalition built with mainstream conservatives, the Republicans, and members of the Socialist Party could become a viable alternative to the NFP.

Party leaders and senior politicians have been scrambling to make deals in a bid to form France's next government after last Sunday's second round of voting saw the NFP defeat the far-Right National Rally (RN) but fail to gain an overall parliamentary majority.

The National Assembly is now divided into three blocs of comparable size – the NFP, Mr Macron's Centrist Ensemble and the RN.

Russia puts chicken Kiev on the UN's table

By Daniel Hardaker

UKRAINE has criticised Russia for serving chicken Kiev at a UN Security Council dinner.

Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ukraine's ambassador to the UN, shared an image of the menu which highlighted "chicken Kiev served with potato paille".

"The moral decay of Russian diplomacy is glaring," he said. He criticised diplomats for attending the dinner, which he described as being funded with "blood money".

The Ukrainian capital was known as Kiev under Soviet rule but Ukrainians call it Kyiv. Since the invasion the name has become even more politically contentious with supporters of Ukraine making a point to pronounce it Kyiv.



Russia's UN Security Council dinner which has chicken Kiev on the menu

Some say the dish was invented in Moscow in a restaurant called 'Kiev', while Ukraine maintains that it adapted it from a French dish.

Russia held the dinner to celebrate assuming the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council on July 1.

The luncheon took place directly after the UN Security Council convened to discuss a Russian missile strike that hit a children's hospital in Kyiv, killing two people and injuring 32 others.

France and Ecuador asked for the session, but Russia led it as holder of the council's rotating presidency, putting ambassador Vassily Nebenzia on the receiving end of the criticism.

US ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told colleagues they were there "because Russia, a permanent member of the Security Council, attacked a children's hospital".

"Even uttering that phrase sends a chill down my spine," she added.

Mr Nebenzia said the criticism was "verbal gymnastics" from countries trying to protect Ukraine's government.

Rats rule our cities. We've just adapted to live alongside them

JEMIMA LEWIS



There must be a piece of ancient evolutionary wiring in the human brain that can identify a rat without even really seeing it. I was walking down our hallway, carrying a tower of newly-folded laundry, when I registered a skittering movement to my left. Something slick and brown and dismayingly large, running into the cupboard containing my children's toys. And in its wake, a smell of sewage so dense as to be almost visible – a cartoon cloud of greenish, fly-blown pong.

According to the pest control man who arrived a few hours later, you can tell when a rat has swum up through the sewers because it leaves brown streaks wherever it touches the walls. That, and the stench. London rats are absolute thugs, he says: big and athletic and totally fearless. They can swim up into toilet bowls, pushing open the lids with their noses. They can squeeze through the outflow pipe behind a dishwasher, nibble through lead and aluminium, and make mincemeat of all the plastic plumbing hidden behind the skirting boards.

Horrifying though all this is (and incredibly expensive to fix), I find myself unable to resist a touch of admiration. London's wildlife – which largely means its pest-life – occupies this city far more effectively than we humans do. There are nine million people in London, compared with roughly 19 million rats, three million pigeons and half a million mice. Tens of thousands of foxes now live in the capital – considerably more per square metre than in some rural areas. Even seagulls, which are in precipitous decline elsewhere in the country, are thriving in London.

It is a measure of human solipsism, and animal stealth, that despite being so comprehensively outnumbered by verminous beasts, we Londoners are always surprised to see one. A couple of weeks ago, as I

ate my breakfast while gazing blankly into the back garden, a fox hopped over the wall. It had a chicken in its mouth – a live, feathered chicken, no doubt pilfered from some Hackney bohemian trying to live like a peasant. It stared insolently at me, all handsome and red like a fox in a children's book, and then trotted on towards wherever it has made its invisible home.

The mayor of New York has announced a plan to combat the city's rat problem by introducing wheelie bins. Declaring a "revolution", Eric Adams promised: "This is a rat-proof container and it is going to do the job." His optimism is touching, but deluded: London's rats mastered the wheelie bin two decades ago. Vermin are the real city slickers; we humans have merely adapted to live alongside them.

Apparently this is not the worst summer in British history – just a fairly bad one. We are predisposed to remember only the sunniest summers of our past, according to the neuroscientist Jon Simons, not least because they are unusual. This "rosy retrospection" means we expect better weather than we are likely to get.

The good thing about always holidaying in Devon is that such self-deceptions are impossible. Over the course of 20 Devon summers, I can only remember once thinking: "Phew, it's almost too hot." In fact, this is partly why we keep going back. Abroad is nearly always too hot; scarily so, what with the droughts and wildfires and deaths by heatstroke. A mild English drizzle, by contrast, makes beautiful landscapes that can safely be walked through. I think you could call that "rosy anticipation".

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The Tories don't deserve to recover until they recognise the scale of their betrayal

Some Conservative MPs will have to leave the party if it is to forge a new, more coherent voter coalition

ALLISTER HEATH



It is time for some brutal honesty. Tories suffered their worst defeat since 1834 because they took their electors for fools, betrayed Britain and plunged our country into a vortex of decline. They broke their promises: where are the 40 new hospitals, lower taxes and reduced immigration? They squandered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reboot Britain after Brexit, sabotaging a historic political realignment, and selling millions of voters down the river.

They lost control of the machinery of government, gave up on growth, stranded millions on welfare, turned their back on the ownership society, taxed and regulated with abandon, shrugged off a baby-bust and rising anomie, and presided over miserable public services and a decrepit infrastructure. They refused to allocate land to housing out of fear of a backlash, and then were wiped out anyway, while ruining the dreams of a generation. They blundered into an extreme version of net zero, and then declined to build the grid infrastructure and nuclear power stations required to prevent blackouts. They slashed the Armed Forces, failed to build enough prisons, imploded the courts system, decriminalised many property crimes and tolerated lax policing. They

accepted radical gender ideology, including operations on children, until they were forced to backtrack by a few heroic feminists and ministers. They allowed critical race theory to run unchecked, leading to the persecution and cancellation of their own supporters and a generalised demonisation of conservative values.

They embraced manifesto-defying levels of immigration, but blocked the construction of the housing and infrastructure required to cope. They took the relative success of Britain's integration model for granted, and allowed a catastrophic regression on extremism, Islamism, anti-Semitism and sectarianism. They sought to out-spend Labour on the NHS, but presided over a collapse in productivity, inhumane waiting lists and scandals. They memory-holed the historic disaster that were lockdowns, learning nothing from the lack of pandemic preparation or the disastrous inflation, debt and labour market implosion.

While the best Conservative ministers were men and women of integrity, too many of their colleagues governed as if politics were a game, a means to status; a significant minority of Tory MPs and advisers could have been members of Labour or the Lib Dems. The party promoted nonentities. The worst offenders combined staggering incompetence and breathtaking insouciance with barely believable levels of self-entitlement.

Some turned out to be insufferably snobby, privately dismissing their more principled activists or colleagues as "nutters". These were often the same people who saw nothing amiss in waging war on core supporters, as with their assault on private cars or the imposition of crippling marginal tax rates on professionals, and would virtue-signal to retain invitations to dinner parties.

Bizarrely, such Tories In Name Only also imagined that they held a natural monopoly over Right-wing voters, and never took Nigel Farage seriously.

More generally, too few Tories engaged with deep ideas: with laudable exceptions, there was little interest in the great works of conservatism or classical liberalism, from Burke and Oakeshott to Hayek and Nozick, and abject levels of ignorance of economic theory, especially the pro-market thinking that inspired every successful recent centre-Right government worldwide. Many couldn't give any kind of answer when asked what their favourite conservative book was, and one former cabinet minister even cited an HR manual as their inspiration.

Little wonder that they often spoke as Right-wingers but governed as social democrats. They deferred to Left-wing (but nominally "neutral") apparatchiks such as Torsten Bell of the Resolution Foundation, Chris Stark of the Climate Change Committee or Sir Patrick Vallance, formerly chief scientific adviser. These three men are now, respectively, a Labour MP; the leader of Starmer's clean energy taskforce; and a Labour minister. Mugs, anybody?

Margaret Thatcher was a conservative-classical liberal fusionist. William Buckley wrote that "a conservative is someone who stands athwart history, yelling Stop"; by that definition, the Tories, 2010-24 weren't conservative. Milton Friedman defined a libertarian as somebody who believed that "a society that puts equality... ahead of freedom will end up with neither equality nor freedom". By that definition, the Tories weren't libertarians, either. So what were they?

Every Tory prime minister since 2010 shares in the blame. All are jointly responsible for the party's lack of any legacy, apart from a *de jure* Brexit. Yet

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despite this unforgivable record, I still don't detect any genuine remorse, any real contrition, any meaningful reflection, any realistic understanding of the scale of the apocalypse.

A necessary, but not sufficient, condition for a Tory rebirth is for the party to reunite the Right. It should be a broadish church, home to a range of opinions, but within narrower centre-Right parameters. There should no longer be room for those who believe in higher taxes, for advocates of extreme gender and woke ideology, for Rejoiners, for the soft on crime, for those too scared to confront Islamist extremism. The Tories must commit to much lower levels of immigration, and a gentler approach to decarbonisation. A small number of Tory MPs may not fit into this new, more coherent coalition: the sooner they leave the better.

Yet adding Conservative and Reform votes together wouldn't have delivered victory. Many Tory sympathisers refused to vote, and others backed Leftist parties. Once they have consolidated their Right-flank with sounder policies, the Tories need to woo aspirational middle England, young and old alike, offering distinctive conservative solutions to the problems of interest to floating voters. They need to ooze competence, honesty and unity.

Three major changes are required. First, the Tories must embrace mass private house building, including new suburbs and towns. Second, they must prioritise growth in every part of the UK and higher GDP per capita: the Tories must learn to love capitalism, the City, small business and investors once again. Third, they need to offer better healthcare, inspired by a more European model.

The Tory party has failed the country, and hasn't reached its electoral floor. It must change in every way, or die.

I don't detect any genuine remorse, any real contrition, any meaningful reflection, any realistic sense of the scale of the apocalypse

The NHS is an international laughing stock

Streeting knows Australia delivers better outcomes for less. Why reject a key plank of its health system?

MATTHEW LESH



When I meet a fellow Aussie in London, our conversation inevitably turns to the most astonishing facet of life in Old Blighty. No, it's not England's awful weather or cricket team. We don't even complain about the (much-improved) coffee and food these days. The most ire is reserved for Brits' unhinged national obsession with the NHS.

Britons treat the health service and its doctors and nurses with extraordinary reverence. People act like they live in the only country in the world that treats ailments without requiring patients to take on crippling debt. They even scoff at anyone who dares to go private.

Australians in Britain do not suffer under these illusions. We have experienced healthcare that is

respected yet not deified. A system that costs less for taxpayers and individuals yet delivers better outcomes. One that has shorter waiting lists, more treatments available and embraces patient choice. We even come from a country where using private healthcare is not seen as sinful or a betrayal.

It had seemed that the new Health Secretary, Wes Streeting, who visited Australia and praised our system, might have seen the light. Within hours of entering the role, he declared that "the policy of this department is that the NHS is broken". Streeting then appeared to suggest that he would be prepared to introduce a key feature of the Australian system: co-payments. According to *The Spectator*, at a Tony Blair Institute conference this week, he seemed to leave open the possibility of introducing charges for using NHS services for people who can afford it.

Is this a new dawn? Perhaps not. Because Streeting has since clarified his comments, saying that there would be no charges. He wants to retain the principle of free at the point of use.

If so, this could be Streeting failing at the first hurdle. The Labour Party may be the only force in British politics that can meaningfully change the NHS. But fixing the system will require more than goodwill or improved leadership. It means deeper structural changes that

embrace expanded private provision and patient choice. The state can do this by purchasing more capacity from the private sector, as was successfully done to reduce waiting lists in the Blair and Brown years. But that will only take us so far unless people who can afford it are incentivised to take more responsibility for their own care.

Australia shows how this could all work in practice. Medicare, a taxpayer-funded national insurer, pays for most healthcare costs. It does not operate a single hospital or doctor's surgery. Rather, it funds provision across the public and private sectors.

Individuals are then encouraged to top up Medicare with their own money or private insurance, which covers most out-of-pocket costs. There are also strong tax incentives and further subsidies for private coverage, in acknowledgement that this takes the pressure off the public system.

Nobody loses out in this system. Australia still has universal healthcare. Like in Europe or Israel, private insurers cannot discriminate based on individual health risk. The quality of the private and public systems are also comparable. You are more likely to get your own room and better food in a private facility. You may even be seen a little quicker, too. But this doesn't mean those without insurance are left

Matthew Lesh is the Director of Public Policy and Communications at the Institute of Economic Affairs

behind. Surgeons and specialists work across both public and private.

The resulting healthcare system costs less – in 2022, Australia spent around 10 per cent of GDP on healthcare, compared to 11.3 per cent in the UK. It also delivers better outcomes. Cancer survival rates are higher and there are lower mortality rates for heart attacks and strokes. If Brits were treated in Australia's healthcare system, around 35,000 fewer people would die each year of preventable causes.

Usually, policy differences are abstract and hard to explain. But for healthcare, Aussies can feel this every day.

There is no mad dash at 8am to get a GP appointment, involving a begging game with a rude receptionist. You can just book a doctor's appointment for the same day via an app in exchange for a small co-payment. The facilities are also often more modern, reflecting big investments in both the public and private sectors.

The result is that no Australian is pining after what might have been had our two healthcare models not diverged in the 1940s. Hopefully, the new Health Secretary, who has praised foreign healthcare systems, will prove far more inquisitive about how they operate before ruling out any more ideas.

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ESTABLISHED 1855

Questions raised over the Letby conviction

Almost from the moment she was arrested, doubts have been raised over the case of the nurse Lucy Letby, convicted last year of the murder of seven newborn babies and the attempted murder of six more. To some, it appeared inconceivable that a seemingly dedicated carer with no history of pathological behaviour could have committed such appalling crimes.

Yet on the evidence presented to the jury, she was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison as the country's most prolific child killer. Just last week, she was convicted of another attempted murder, a charge on which the original jury had been unable to reach a verdict. Her lawyers sought leave to appeal but this was turned down.

There is always a danger in such matters of following the lead of conspiracy theorists. A number of websites have sprung up protesting her innocence, even though the jury had found her guilty. But an investigation published in this newspaper has detailed expert concerns about the safety of this conviction.

This case has provoked concern not just here but across the world. The *New Yorker* magazine carried a lengthy investigation which could not be replicated in this country because the other trial was pending. The silence in the British media was taken by some to be complicity in a flawed process; but it was simply a legal prohibition on the publication of anything that could jeopardise the judicial process. Some might argue that Letby could not receive a fair hearing at the recent trial given her notoriety, of which the jurors were presumably well aware.

To be found guilty of a crime, two things are required. First, it must be shown that an offence has been committed. Second, the case against an accused person must be proven "beyond reasonable doubt". On the first, some have suggested that it was never properly established that there was any crime, as opposed to a tragic spike in the deaths of very ill premature babies in an understaffed neonatal ward at the Countess of Chester Hospital.

The jury was presented with seemingly compelling evidence showing that Letby was present on the ward when each of the babies died, and yet other experts have questioned whether these statistics were misleading. To ensure that she is not the victim of one of the worst miscarriages of justice imaginable, these questions surely need to be answered.

Tory leadership race

Congratulations to Bob Blackman, MP for Harrow East, who has been elected the new chairman of the Tory backbench 1922 committee. It is emblematic of the post-election trauma facing the party that the proceedings were mired in confusion when several MPs missed the vote after being told the wrong time for the ballot. Nonetheless, Mr Blackman received 61 votes, just more than half the parliamentary party.

The election of the chairman and a new committee marks the start of the search for a party leader in succession to Rishi Sunak. The first question to be answered is whether to stick with the rules that currently govern this choice. These require candidates to be whittled down by MPs to two, whose names are then put to party members for a final say.

The recent past chairman of the 1922 committee, Sir Graham Brady, has called the system "crazy" when the party is in power. The drawbacks are obvious: the winner can be someone who has the backing of only a minority of MPs on whose support he or she relies. This was the case with Liz Truss, who came second among MPs but defeated Mr Sunak among members. When she resigned, he became leader and prime minister without a further vote.

But to exclude the members from this decision is to misunderstand the reasons behind last week's calamity. Millions of voters who have in the past supported the Tories deserted for the Lib Dems or Reform. To throw loyal core members overboard risks compounding the error. The party needs to take its time reflecting on the reasons for its defeat before electing a leader they can unite behind. It is a critical decision in which all – MPs and members – need to be involved.

Night mail derailed

The Royal Mail is dropping its trains (with apologies to WH Auden):

*Gone is the night mail crossing the border,
We'll chug in lorries now we can't afford a
Four-carriage train in its livery red
Rushing by night as you lie abed.
Gone is the postman, gone his bike,
Gone all the human things people like.
Never mind Skimbleshanks, the old railway cat,
There's no profit left in stuff like that.
GPO service went out with the ark –
Your post's in a motorway lorry park.
Up goes the postage; we'll make you pay
For delivery long past the following day.
Birthday-girl leaves with a slam of the gate,
Cardless to work since the post is late.*



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The Prime Minister's rhetoric on defence is at odds with the hard reality

SIR – It is becoming clear that Sir Keir Starmer's rhetoric on the need to increase Britain's defence capabilities is not matched by any substantive plan to fund this in the near future (report, July 10). Even if spending were increased to 2.5 per cent of GDP now, it would take years for this to have a positive effect on our ability to wage war.

Let us hope, therefore, that Russia, China, North Korea and Iran give us plenty of time to prepare for any future conflict.

Rear Admiral Philip Mathias (ret'd) Southsea, Hampshire

SIR – The idea that the defence budget should rise to 2.5 per cent of GDP only when we can afford it simply won't do. The equipment needed is not sitting on shelves, and trained personnel are not twiddling their thumbs either.

The world is more dangerous than I can remember in my 72 years. Time is short.

Keith Sumner Derby

SIR – I read carefully the joint statement on defence by the Foreign and Defence Secretaries. They allude to Ernest Bevin, the great post-war foreign secretary, whose energy fired the creation of the North Atlantic Alliance. Nato has a very British foundation. The question is whether those in the Labour Government of today have the vision of their great forebears.

Higher UK defence spending is pivotal to a more self-sufficient Europe. It has to be the way forward, given the American debate. The big prize for us is a new, honoured role in Europe, on good terms with our partners and without compromise to other trade agreements.

Defence is the card the UK has to play. But only if defence spending is increased.

John Barstow Pulborough, West Sussex

SIR – There is much virtuous talk about increasing defence spending.

The main reason that we are having

to do so now is that the West only half-heartedly got behind Ukraine, particularly in 2014 and again in 2022 and beyond. Had we been unequivocal in our support, Vladimir Putin would have been put firmly back in his box.

Jim Sutherland Lauder, Berwickshire

SIR – In warning us that the Nato summit in Washington is the last chance for the alliance to show its strength, Hamish de Bretton-Gordon ends his piece (Comment, July 10) by stating: "If Trump is elected, then all bets are off."

Meanwhile Elbridge Colby, a military strategist who was an adviser in the previous Trump administration, advises Sir Keir Starmer that the ongoing conflict in Ukraine is a European problem and that he should take a "Britain first" approach. Wise words to be borne in mind during the forthcoming defence review.

Brigadier Rod Brummitt (ret'd) Bournemouth, Dorset

Banning smartphones

SIR – Celia Walden (Features, July 9) writes of the "deadening effect of smartphones" and urges more schools to implement bans.

In support of this argument, one survey of parents earlier this year indicated that 83 per cent of parents believe smartphones are harmful to children and 58 per cent would back a ban for those under 16. However, statistics also show that 25 per cent of children aged between five and seven and 90 per cent of 11-year-olds own a smartphone.

It is not the schools that are buying smartphones for their pupils. I suggest more parents need to take the lead.

Mark Mortimer Headmaster, Glenalmond College Perth

Thames Water salaries

SIR – The chief executive of Thames Water, whose total pay for the three months to the end of March was £437,000, has defended his bonus package, saying, "You need to be able to attract the right talent" (report, July 10). How many more times do we have to hear this phrase from highly paid senior executives or members of the remuneration committees?

No one would mind high salaries providing they came with proper, effective and capable management. Thames Water should not be paying a single bonus at present.

Mike Metcalfe Butleigh, Somerset

Frinton's charms

SIR – I would like to reassure readers that Frinton-on-Sea is still very proud of its amenities (Letters, July 8).

The railway station is mostly as it was 75 years ago, with a lovely museum in the former stationmaster's cottage. Next to the station, we house the oldest professional summer repertory theatre in the country, which this week started its run with *Chariots of Fire*. Times haven't changed that much.

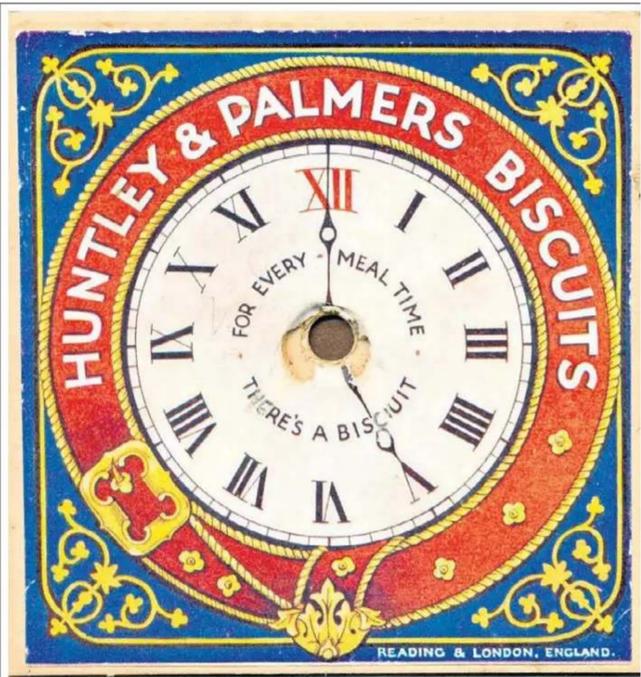
Peter Dias Frinton-on-Sea, Essex

Sight unseen

SIR – On Monday I took my bike back to the repair shop, as it had a puncture in the same wheel that the shop had repaired last week. I gave the manager the receipt.

He very politely handed it back to me, pointing out that it was actually one from Specsavers.

Tom Stubbs Surbiton, Surrey



Crumbs of comfort: Huntley & Palmers advertising with moveable hands

Symbols of hope treasured in a biscuit tin

SIR – In my cupboard I have a small Huntley & Palmers biscuit tin, which contains three wizened tangerines (Letters, July 10).

When my father left home to fight in the Second World War with the Royal Navy, my grandmother sent him off with a packed lunch – but my father left the tangerines

behind. My grandmother chased after him, but he didn't hear her calling.

She kept the tangerines, believing that, as long as they stayed with her, he would come home safely.

I am pleased to say that he did. Jackie Atwell Felbridge, West Sussex

Shouty spectators are spoiling Wimbledon

SIR – Like other readers (Letters, July 10), I've been forced by the tiresome commentators and inane post-match interviews to watch Wimbledon with the sound switched off. But there is another reason to do this: the behaviour of the crowd.

Spectators used to watch in silence, politely applauding after a rally or at the end of a game. Now they seem to think they have a right to chant players' names or even boo.

There is a simple solution: tickets should have a printed notice regarding silence. Stewards could then observe the crowd and throw out anybody who does anything other than applaud.

This would be a first step to making Wimbledon about the appreciation of

the game of tennis rather than a dreary soap opera.

Professor David Silverman Edgware, Middlesex

SIR – On Tuesday, three old pals – John Lloyd, Tim Henman and Andrew Castle – chatted away on the BBC throughout a Wimbledon tennis match. This is infuriating for us fans who know a thing or two about the game and don't need to be told by supposed experts what's happening. Sadly, long gone are the days when the late Dan Maskell was the commentator, whose only exclamation after a good return was: "Oh, I say!"

Marilyn Parrott Altrincham, Cheshire

Starmer is making his most dangerous mistake yet

Labour is refusing to say when it will boost defence. Britain's enemies won't give us the luxury of time

CON COUGHLIN



Sir Keir Starmer's attempts to promote his leadership credentials at the Nato summit would have a great deal more credibility if his Labour government could provide at least some clarity on precisely how it intends to repair the lamentable state of our Armed Forces.

In his first appearance on the world stage since becoming Prime Minister, Starmer has been keen to demonstrate that, under his leadership, Britain intends to fulfil its obligations as a major world power. To this end, he is calling on Nato leaders attending this week's summit in Washington to mark the 75th anniversary of the alliance's formation to increase their spending on defence to 2.5 per cent of GDP.

As David Lammy and John Healey, our newly-appointed Foreign and Defence Secretaries respectively, argued in their *Telegraph* article this week, it was vital that other members of the 32-strong military alliance join Britain in increasing defence

expenditure beyond the minimum 2 per cent Nato requirement.

The only problem with this otherwise laudable ambition is that, in so far as the new Labour Government is concerned, Starmer and co have little idea when, if ever, they will be able to meet the commitment of spending 2.5 per cent of GDP themselves.

The need for Britain to increase military spending as a matter of urgency is not in doubt. The Army is too small and under-equipped to conduct major combat operations over a sustained period; the Royal Air Force is short of warplanes; and the Royal Navy barely has sufficient numbers of operational warships to fulfil its obligations now.

These glaring shortfalls in our military readiness – at a time when the global threat environment becomes more dangerous by the day – received belated recognition in the dying days of Rishi Sunak's administration. The Conservatives pledged to increase defence spending to 2.5 per cent by the end of the decade, the equivalent of investing an extra £75 billion during the next six years.

By contrast, Labour is tying itself in knots over its insistence that it will match Sunak's commitment, without being able to say with any certainty when the target will be met.

The confusion within the Labour ranks was clearly evident in comments made yesterday by Luke Pollard, the new Armed Forces minister, when he suggested that any increase in defence expenditure was dependent on the

new Government achieving economic growth, without which "there won't be the money" for extra funding.

Nor was Starmer able to provide any clarity when questioned on the issue ahead of his visit to Washington. The Prime Minister refused to put a timeline on when the extra funds would be delivered, while still insisting that spending 2.5 per cent of national income on defence was a "cast iron commitment".

To further confuse the picture, Labour is insisting that it first carries out a new strategic defence review before deciding when and where the new money will be spent, a process that could mean no firm decisions are taken until next year at least. As James Cartledge, the shadow defence secretary, commented on Labour's deepening discomfort over its approach to national security, the new Government had failed at the first step to deliver a convincing outline on its future defence plans.

Not that the Conservatives are in any position to criticise Labour. Most of the challenges facing the Armed Forces today stem from more than a decade of drastic defence cuts, dating back to the disastrous strategic defence and security review carried out by the Coalition government in 2010, which effectively cut the nation's war fighting capability by a third. Even when it finally dawned on ministers that the military was in dire need of new investment, especially after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Sunak and his chancellor, Jeremy Hunt,

Help to build your own

SIR – The new Labour Government is understandably keen to increase the housing stock (report, July 8). One way to do this is to actively encourage private individuals to build their own homes. In the UK, the proportion of attractive, well-constructed, self-build houses is far lower than in most parts of the EU.

Let's hope that the new National Planning Policy Framework includes an explicit direction to planning authorities to support self-builds, by granting planning permission exclusively for exception sites where an individual (not a developer) wants to build their own home. This will help increase the housing supply (at no cost to the Government) and provide balanced and incremental growth to support villages in the countryside, where most people would ideally like to live.

I am convinced that existing residents would far rather see small, high-quality homes than swathes of mass-produced, low-quality, developer-built units.

Rupert Osborn Worlington, Suffolk

SIR – Two of your correspondents point out the problems the Labour Party will encounter in building more and more needed housing (Letters, July 9).

One concept that has seemingly never found favour with successive governments is the idea of converting the numerous empty high street shops into housing. Many of these commercial properties already have accommodation above the shop.

Encouraging people back into cities and suburbs could kick-start the reopening of local shops, bring back entertainment facilities and help to cut crime in certain areas.

Audrey Lindsay Over Peover, Cheshire

Reeves's history lesson

SIR – Was Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, asleep during her PPE tutorials at Oxford? She talks about inheriting the "worst set of [economic] circumstances since the Second World War" ("Reeves paves way for tax rises as she orders review of public finances", telegraph.co.uk, July 8).

If she had been awake, she would have known that, in 1976, with inflation spiralling out of control, prime minister Jim Callaghan had to go cap in hand to the International Monetary Fund – to say nothing of the note which the chief secretary of the Treasury left in 2010 to his Conservative successor, admitting there was "no money left".

Christopher Saunders Hayfield, Derbyshire

Faith in the Olympics

SIR – Those looking forward to the 2024 Paris Olympics may enrich their appreciation by recollecting the French Olympiad of 1924, which featured Scottish athlete and preacher Eric Liddell.

Shunning his preferred 100-metre dash because the final occurred on a Sunday, Liddell spent the day preaching in a Parisian church – and was vilified in the UK as a traitor. Opting instead for the 400-metre event held on July 11, Liddell entered the stadium, when a supporter slipped him a note citing 1 Samuel 2:30, where God said, "Those who honour me I will honour."

Though not expected to perform well, he broke the Olympic record and won by five metres.

The traitor became a hero and went on to give his life in mission, eventually dying as a prisoner of war.

David D'Lima Adelaide, South Australia

insisted they would only commit to increased expenditure when the economic outlook allowed.

The trouble with this kind of sophistry, for both Labour and the Conservatives, is that hostile states like Russia and Iran are not going to indulge us in the luxury of rebuilding our military strength before they engage in hostile acts. The worsening global threat environment is reflected in the fact that, twice in the past two-and-a-half years, the stability of the Western alliance has been severely challenged by the eruption of unexpected hostilities, first with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and, more recently, with the Gaza conflict.

The Ukraine conflict obliged the West to display its resilience in defending the principle of territorial integrity, while the Gaza conflict has created a major threat to international trade routes, in the form of attacks against merchant shipping by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in the Red Sea.

Both these conflicts point to escalating volatility in the global security landscape, threats that require an immediate response in terms of rebuilding our military strength, not the politics of procrastination that appears to be the Starmer Government's forte.

The new Labour Government may be desperate to present its leadership credentials to the outside world, but no one is going to take it seriously until ministers have set out a clear and credible programme for safeguarding our national security.

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Labour cracks down on water companies

Customers to get payouts for sewage failures as Ofwat prepares to rule on proposed bill increases

By Michael Bow and Charles Hymas

WATER bill payers are to get higher compensation for sewage failures and the power to hold executives to account as the Government launches a crackdown on the troubled industry.

Steve Reed, the Environment Secretary, is to tell bosses they must set up customer panels that can scrutinise mistakes, and demand they strengthen their legal commitments to protect the environment.

It comes as regulator Ofwat prepares to rule on whether companies can increase their bills by as much as £300 a year, as the industry seeks to steady its finances and invest in upgrading creaking infrastructure.

Ofwat's decision was due to be announced this morning.

Mr Reed will then haul executives into Whitehall for an afternoon meeting to lay out his plans.

The amount of compensation to be paid to customers for water outages and other problems will be doubled to about £50 under the proposals. The trigger for compensation will also be widened to include so-called "boil notices" when water is unsafe to drink.

New "customer panels" will be rolled out to help bill payers hold company bosses to account, and companies will be forced to change their articles of association to make the interests of customers and the environment a primary objective.

Mr Reed said: "We will never look the other way while water companies pump sewage into our rivers, lakes and seas."

"This unacceptable destruction of our waterways should never have been allowed, but change has now begun so it can never happen again."

"I have announced significant steps to clean up the water industry to cut sewage pollution, protect customers and attract investment to upgrade its crumbling infrastructure."

"That change will take time. Over the coming weeks and months, this Government will outline further steps to

reform the water sector and restore our rivers, lakes and seas to good health."

Ofwat is preparing to deliver a draft verdict on business plans put forward by Britain's 16 water companies, all of which are seeking to increase bills between 2025 and 2030.

On average, annual bills could rise by a third under proposals submitted by suppliers, soaring from £440 to £584 a year. Ofwat could accept the proposals, or only allow companies to increase prices by a smaller amount.

Southern Water, which supplies customers in Hampshire, Sussex and Kent, is proposing the steepest increase with a rise of 73pc. If approved, this would increase annual bills from £420 to £726, leaving Southern with the highest bills in the country.

Southern Water is majority owned by Australian investment bank Macquarie, which has come under fire for its previous role running Thames Water.

It has said bills must go up to fund new investment amid problems linked to water scarcity and climate change.

The regulator's draft determination sets limits on how much companies can charge customers, which impacts their investment between 2025 and 2030.

Water companies said they need to increase bills in order to spend £100bn upgrading leaky pipes and crumbling sewers.

Thames Water, Britain's largest water company with 16m customers, wants bills to rise by 44pc to £627 a year.

The embattled company is facing a funding crisis with only enough cash to keep it going until May 2025.

Without an increase in bills to make it "investable", Thames said it could run out of money and face a special administration under the Labour government.

South Staffs Water, which supplies 1.3m in the West Midlands and South Staffordshire, is proposing the lowest increase of 12.5pc. Bills would reach £181 per year under the proposal.

Labour is attempting to avoid the collapse of Thames in a crucial early test of its competence. Ofwat's decision today is a preliminary ruling with a final verdict due in December before the bill rises take effect in April 2025.

Water companies unhappy with the outcome can pursue a legal challenge at the Competition and Markets Authority, further prolonging the process.



Hands on Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, and his fiancée Lauren Sánchez, yesterday attended investment bank Allen and Co's Sun Valley Media and Technology conference in Idaho. It is an annual meeting of media and technology titans.

Monaco-based tycoon closes in on deal for The Body Shop

By Hannah Boland

MONACO-based tycoon Mike Jatania is closing in on a deal for The Body Shop, as he moves ahead in the race to rescue what is left of the stricken high street chain.

Mr Jatania, who resides in Monaco but is British, is understood to be part of a consortium that has entered exclusive talks with administrators overseeing the sale of The Body Shop. His investment firm Aurea Holdings is working

on the acquisition alongside Charles Denton, the former Molton Brown chief executive, according to sources.

The consortium beat rival bidders in the auction process and exclusive talks are expected to run for the next couple of weeks.

News that the prospective deal, first reported by Bloomberg, comes after a flurry of interest in The Body Shop.

The Telegraph revealed last month that Gordon Brothers and Alteri were also in the running, both of which spe-

cialise in buying distressed businesses.

The high street chain collapsed into administration in February following a failed takeover by private equity outfit Aurelius, which bought the business from Brazilian cosmetics giant Natura in a cut-price £207m deal.

Following its collapse, FRP chose to shutter 75 of The Body Shop's worst-performing stores, leaving it with around 100 high-street shops overall.

Mr Jatania is known for having success in the cosmetic industry, having

sold the maker of Lyspysl to rival Li & Fung for almost \$200m (£156m) in 2013.

While he lives in Monaco, Mr Jatania has made a series of property investments in the UK, including at Regent's Crescent in London. Last year, he put his 12-bedroom mansion in Denham for sale in what was expected to be one of the biggest-ever country house deals. At the time, he said he expected an international buyer to snap up the property.

FRP and the consortium both declined to comment.

Minister refuses to back four-day week in blow for campaigners

By Lucy Burton

THE Government has ruled out backing a four-day week in a blow to campaigners who had hoped the Labour Party might pave the way for a radical overhaul.

The 4 Day Week Campaign, which is urging bosses to sign up to its second nationwide trial later this year, said that "with a new Labour Government, change is in the air".

However, Jonathan Reynolds, the Business Secretary, sought to distance himself from the idea yesterday, with a spokesman confirming that "this isn't [the] Government's planned policy". This is thought to be the first time that

Labour has publicly set out its stance on the topic, after facing pressure from unions and activists to adopt a four-day working week as an official policy in the run-up to the election.

Labour sources told The Telegraph at the time that there were "no plans" to do so, as Sir Keir Starmer denied that Labour would lurch to the Left if it won the general election.

Cutting working hours was a flagship policy when Jeremy Corbyn was Labour leader. He vowed to move to a 32-hour week within a decade as part of his manifesto for 2019's election.

In his speech at the Labour Party's conference in Brighton that year, John McDonnell, the then shadow chancellor,

promised that the next Labour government would "reduce the average full-time working week" as Britons "work some of the longest hours in Europe".

Joe Ryle, director of the 4 Day Week Campaign, said that a four-day week with no loss of pay "can be a win-win for workers and employers", adding that the current working week was "invented 100 years ago and is no longer fit for purpose".

He said earlier this week that he hoped a more "sympathetic Labour government" could pave the way for local authorities to switch to a shorter week.

Companies have been asked to sign up to this year's four-day week pilot, which will start in November and will



Jonathan Reynolds, the Business Secretary, says a four-day week isn't the Government's planned policy

also involve testing out other alternative working patterns, such as flexible start and finish times, a nine-day fortnight or compressed hours. More than 3,000 people working for 61 companies were involved in a pilot scheme in 2022, which concluded that a four-day week reduced sick days and boosted revenue. Labour has been supportive of busi-

nesses shifting to a shorter week if it works for them, with Angela Rayner – now Deputy Prime Minister – last year urging hundreds of bosses to consider the results of the trial.

She said: "If you can deliver within a four-day working week, then why not?"

Ed Miliband, the Energy Secretary, has also been an advocate of a shorter working week.

However, some companies which have done their own four-day week trials this year, including Asda and Domestic & General, have dropped their plans after staff claimed the shorter week left them feeling exhausted.

Asda had introduced flexible working arrangements in an effort to stamp out a

revolt among disgruntled store managers. Those involved in the pilot scheme, which took place in 20 Asda stores, worked a 44-hour week over four days instead of five for the same pay.

It comes after Lib Dem-run South Cambridgeshire district council was last year ordered to stop a three-month pilot over concerns the experiment broke the law and deprived taxpayers of essential services.

Independent analysis of the trial published on Monday said that the four-day week resulted in improved productivity and performance, with fewer refuse collectors quitting and planning decisions being made more quickly.

Britain hit by exodus of millionaires

By Eir Nolsøe

BRITAIN is poised to suffer the world's worst exodus of millionaires amid fears Labour that will increase wealth taxes.

The number of UK millionaires is expected to shrink by 17pc from 2023 to 2028, according to Swiss investment bank UBS, which published its research just days after Sir Keir Starmer's landslide victory. Its annual

Global Wealth Report revealed that about 519,000 millionaires are expected to quit the UK over the period, which is the most pronounced drop of all the countries it tracks. This will take the country's tally to 2.5m.

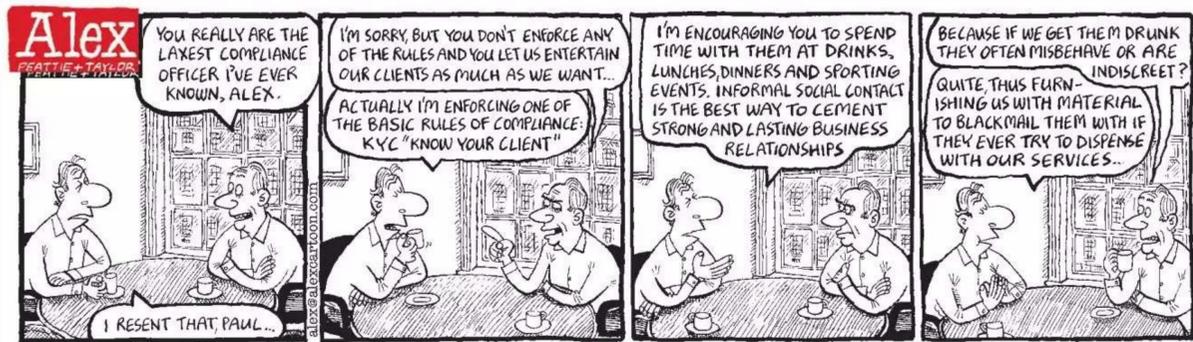
Holland is the only other country expected to post a decline, although its drop is much smaller at 4pc.

By contrast, countries such as Taiwan, Indonesia and Thailand are among

those with the sharpest rises. The projection comes as Britain's high earners fear a series of wealth taxes under Labour, alongside a renewed crackdown on non-doms.

However, Paul Donovan, chief economist at UBS Global, said the reasons for the drop went beyond just higher taxes.

He said: "The non-indigenous millionaire population will be looking for low-tax locations all of the time."



Airbus trials electric motors to power future jets

Aviation giant's move to produce a hybrid A320 engine could cut fuel costs and emissions. By *Christopher Jasper*

Airbus plans to use a series of small electric motors to power its first hybrid airliner as it bids to slash carbon emissions by relying on technology developed for the car industry.

Trials of the motors are already under way on an experimental helicopter that first flew last year, boosting hopes of rolling them out across other types of aircraft.

Karim Mokaddem, the company's head of electrification, told *The Telegraph* that Airbus's approach to building a hybrid successor to the best-selling A320 jet will form a blueprint for all other models.

The strategy will simplify the task of scaling up electrification, he says, as it will mean the plane maker will only need to add or remove motors depending on the size of an aircraft.

Crucially, the deployment of smaller motors and batteries will also help Airbus build on advances pioneered by the automotive sector in its own shift away from fossil fuels.

That will help Airbus access higher volumes of the required hardware without relying on suppliers to develop bespoke technology solely for the aviation industry.

Mokaddem says: "When it comes to batteries and electrical parts we will have to compete with a market that's much bigger than the one we're in today. The beauty of a modular approach is that we can work with the automotive sector and enjoy the benefits of volume production."

While all-electric propulsion may be practical for very small aircraft, batteries lack the energy required to power full-sized airliners such as the 180-seat A320, Airbus's rival to the Boeing 737 and a workhorse on short-haul flights around the world.

Airbus is working on concepts for planes that would use a liquid hydrogen propellant instead of jet fuel, but views hybrid power as a more immediate pathway toward reducing emissions.

A hybrid airliner would use auxiliary batteries to supplement its traditional jet engines, which would continue to provide the bulk of the required thrust. Electric motors would kick in at certain times, such as when the engines were idling during descent.

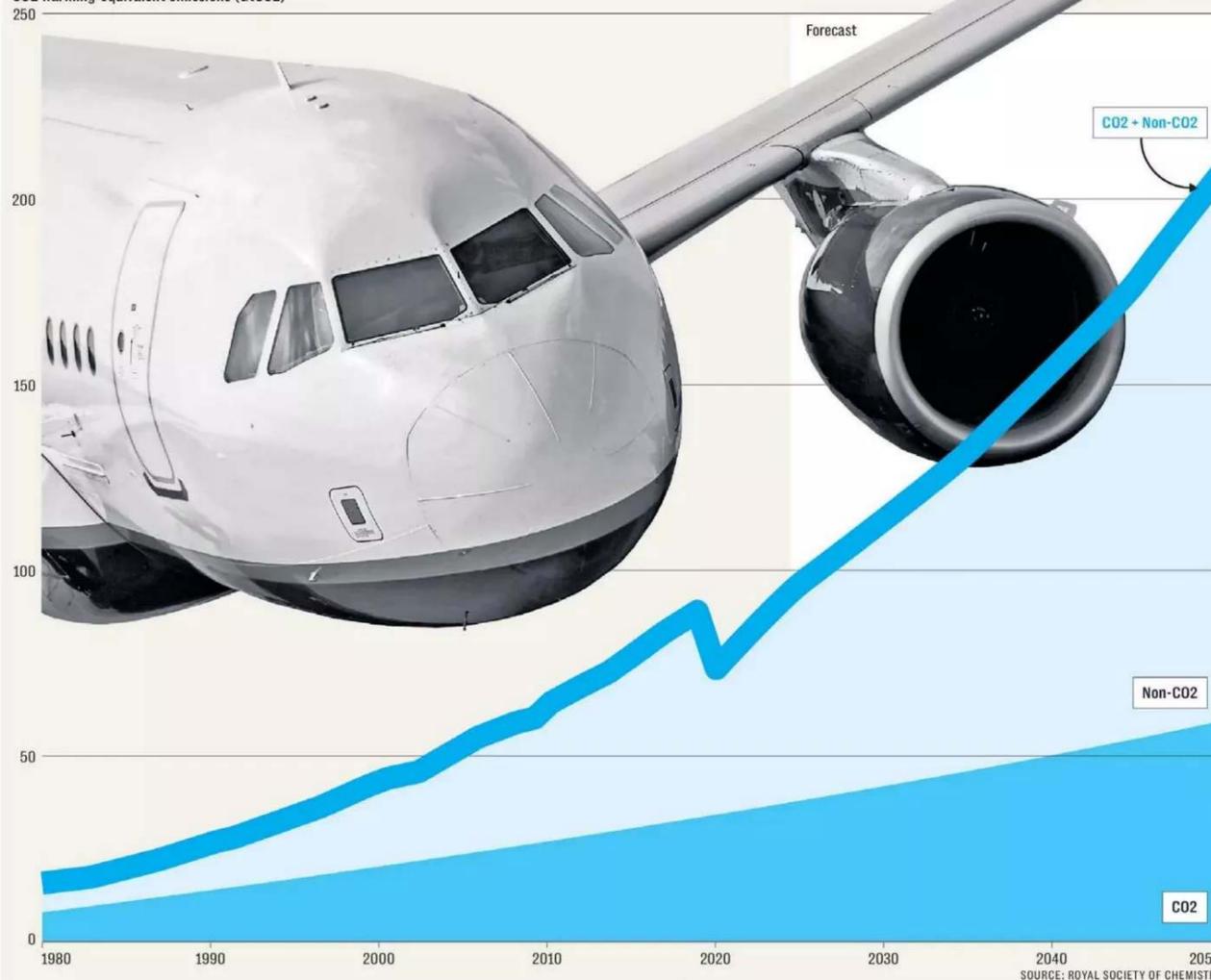
They would also power non-propulsion-related activities, such as taxiing at the airport.

Airbus originally looked at deploying much larger motors and batteries, but changed tack after calculations showed the plan would add too much weight to be viable. It has, instead, settled on a more modest hybrid design that aims to reduce fuel consumption by about 5pc on a standard flight.

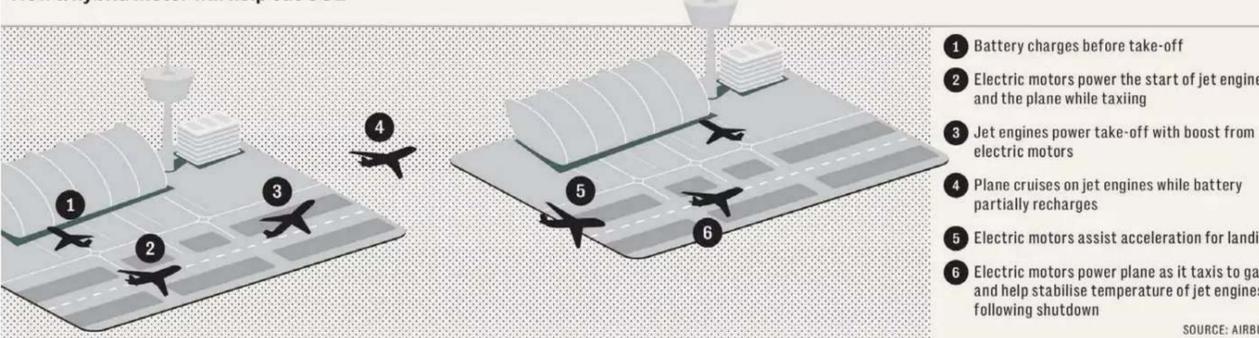
That would be accompanied by savings from other technological advances, including more efficient jet engines and a longer, thinner wing that Airbus is developing in the UK. Combined, the changes should help propel the industry toward a target of

Aviation emissions to soar without industry changes

CO2 warming-equivalent emissions (GtCO2)



How a hybrid motor will help cut CO2



'We have come to realise that in aviation you need to size the battery with frugality'

net zero CO2 emissions by 2050, Mokaddem says, even as airlines' attempts to switch away from kerosene are held back by high prices and low availability of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

He says: "If we know that, ultimately, SAF won't be sufficient and will be costly, we need to increase the performance of the plane. That can only come from the introduction of a new, clean energy, and the only clean energy that we have today is electricity."

Mokaddem says that hybrid technology suitable for future jets is already being trialled on Airbus's experimental DisruptiveLab helicopter, which first flew last year.

While previously described as a stepping stone toward a more efficient helicopter, two or three motors from the model could be combined in a hybrid successor to the A320, he says.

The executive says: "I cannot go too far into the architecture, but the idea is that you size it up two or three times."

In settling on the hybrid strategy, Airbus has had to accept the limits of battery technology for high-powered aircraft.

Mokaddem says: "In the automotive industry, the bigger and more powerful the battery the better, until ultimately it becomes a fully electric car."

"But we have come to realise that in aviation you need to size the battery with frugality. If you try to electrify everything you need almost a nuclear

'Sustainable aviation fuel won't be sufficient. The only clean energy that we have is electricity'

plant inside the aircraft. And when that battery is empty you are flying around a huge weight."

Neither are aircraft able to recover energy through braking like a hybrid car, while the auto industry's view that passengers can evacuate in the event of a battery fire is hardly transferable to those flying at 38,000 feet.

Airbus's path towards electrification has not been straightforward, with some projects taking it down blind alleys before it settled on the plan for what it calls micro-hybridisation.

The company's E-Fan X demonstrator, developed with Rolls-Royce, saw one of four engines on a BAE 146 jet replaced with a 2-megawatt electric motor producing a colossal 3,000 volts. The project was wound up after three years in 2020.

Mokaddem says: "These are limits that we would never reach. The honest feedback is, yes, we learnt a lot. Was it something that could represent a real product? No." Airbus now envisages that an A320 hybrid would require "something of an order of magnitude of one megawatt and 800 volts," he says.

Another project, EcoPulse, developed with jet engine maker Safran, is flight testing a so-called distributed propulsion system that may not feature in a production aircraft.

Mokaddem, who joined Airbus in 2021, spoke at the firm's London offices after making a joint presentation with a Renault executive at a conference on urban mobility.

Earlier in his career he spent 14 years at Peugeot Citroen, where he admits to having been sceptical about the potential for hybrid and electric cars when Renault unveiled the ground-breaking Zoe model in 2005.

He says: "I was among the people saying that it would never happen because the charging ecosystem wasn't there, the car was too expensive and people would never accept a 200km range. And look at what is happening today. It's the exact opposite. But it took a century of hesitation for the automotive industry to get to where they are now."

"We are expecting to do the same exercise in 20 years. That's why we have started to discuss it with the automotive industry."

Even with such collaboration, a hybrid A320 is unlikely to reach the market until the middle of the next decade, when a new generation of batteries with double today's energy density should be available, Mokaddem says.

The batteries must also be of a solid-state design since lithium-ion modules use a liquid electrolyte that poses a fire risk. While under development in China, Europe and the US, such batteries are unlikely to become available soon given the billions of dollars lavished on existing gigawatt factories.

Meanwhile, companies such as Heart Aerospace are developing much smaller hybrid and electric aircraft that should help establish the safety case for the planes, Mokaddem says.

"Not everything will happen the way we see it today. And we need to learn from others," he says.

"But when you look at how the technology is evolving and realise that the same ecosystem could feed the aerospace and automotive industries, you have to say, 'wow, we're writing a completely new story on the future of transportation.'"

Investors slash bets of interest rate cut over fears of high inflation

By *Szu Ping Chan*

INVESTORS have slashed their bets on a summer rate cut after the Bank of England's chief economist warned inflation remained uncomfortably high.

Huw Pill said cutting rates from their current level of 5.25pc was still a question of "when-rather-than-if" amid signs that price pressures were now "contained".

However, Mr Pill warned that underlying inflation was proving "persistent" and possibly permanently harder to

control following a series of post-pandemic economic shocks.

The pound rose against the dollar and investors briefly pared back bets on an August reduction to less than 50pc following his remarks, having previously assumed a reduction at the Monetary Policy Committee's (MPC's) next meeting in August was more likely than not.

It comes after inflation fell back to the Bank of England's 2pc target in May.

The MPC's nine rate setters voted 7-2 to keep interest rates at a 16-year high last month in what it described as a

"finely balanced" decision. But in a blow to Sir Keir Starmer's hopes that borrowing costs will start falling before autumn, Mr Pill said it had become harder to assess the strength of the economy, adding that price rises in Britain's most dominant services sector were showing "uncomfortable strength".

Catherine Mann, another top Bank official, also played down the prospect of an August cut as she warned pay rises remained too high. Speaking at a separate conference, Ms Mann said the rising cost of services such as air fares and

5.25pc

Current interest rate. Huw Pill, the Bank of England chief economist, says a rate cut is a question of 'when, rather than if'

restaurant bills together with ongoing "labour market tightness" meant wages were still increasing at a pace that was not consistent with the Bank's 2pc inflation target. Mr Pill said fresh jobs and

prices data this month were likely to paint a clearer picture of the outlook.

Policymakers believe price rises will pick up again in the coming months as energy costs stabilise. Services inflation, which measures the price of haircuts, airfares and concert tickets, is still rising at an annual rate of 5.7pc.

Speaking at Asia House in London, Mr Pill said: "It is hard to dispute the case that inflation persistence in the UK continues to prove - well - persistent."

"At annual rates still not far from 6pc, annual services price inflation and

wage growth continue to point to an uncomfortable strength in those underlying inflation dynamics.

"But the latest data also remains consistent with the view that these inflationary pressures have now been contained, and may be starting to revert towards levels that are more consistent with the achievement of the inflation target."

"This all said, in the absence of any big new shocks, the 'when-rather-than-if' characterisation of prospective Bank Rate cuts still seems appropriate."

Khan to charge drivers £8 a day to use Blackwall Tunnel

By *Christopher Jasper*

DRIVERS face paying up to £177 a week to drive into central London after Sadiq Khan announced an £8 daily charge to use two tunnels under the Thames.

A fee of £4 each way for cars using the Blackwall Tunnel and the new Silvertown Tunnel will be imposed on motorists at peak times, Transport for London (TfL) revealed on Wednesday.

The charge is partly intended to deter people from using the tunnels and will come into force once the Silvertown Tunnel opens in spring.

It means drivers could pay almost £36 for a daily commute into central London, including the £15 congestion charge and £12.50 Ulez fee.

This amounts to £177.50 a week for those who fall into all categories.

Mr Khan, who oversees TfL, first revealed charges for the Blackwall Tunnel last year, which carries 100,000 cars a day under the Thames and has previously been free.

However, the exact amount for using both Blackwall and Silvertown was only unveiled yesterday. The peak fees will be charged northbound from 6am to

10am and southbound from 4pm to 7pm. Both tunnels will be free to use overnight. However, a £2.50 discount outside those hours will only be available to people who register their vehicle with TfL's auto-pay system. Drivers who fail to pay the right charge face a £180 fine, or £90 if settled within a fortnight.

The tolls could rise in future to keep up with inflation, said Christina Calderato, TfL's strategy director.

Mr Khan said the Silvertown Tunnel will make journeys up to 20 minutes faster and ease "chronic congestion and pollution", adding that local low-income drivers will qualify for a 50pc discount from the charges.

TfL said the fees are necessary to manage traffic and pay back construction costs for the new crossing. It said that because of the tunnels' proximity in east London, the same levies must be applied to both to avoid a huge pile-up in traffic.

Clean Cities, which campaigns against air pollution, questioned the fairness of the charges given Thames crossings in the west of London are free of charge. TfL said it will hold an eight-week consultation on the charges.



Ewe and me Benjamin Brook, six, hugs his Lincoln long wool skylark orange at the 165th Great Yorkshire Show.

CNN cuts 100 jobs as ex-BBC boss faces decline in viewers

By *James Warrington*

THE former head of the BBC is wielding the axe at CNN as the Left-leaning news channel grapples with a decline in traditional television viewing.

Sir Mark Thompson, chief executive of CNN, has outlined plans to cut roughly 100 jobs as the company merges newsrooms across its digital and pay-TV operations.

In a memo to employees, the news chief said the cuts represented less than 3pc of CNN's workforce of about 3,500 people.

Sir Mark, who served as director general of the BBC until 2012, was appointed to CNN last year to lead turnaround efforts at the struggling cable network as it tries to navigate the shift to streaming.

Alongside the job cuts, the broadcasting boss said CNN will launch a new digital subscription business before the end of the year.

He said this service will generate more than a billion dollars in revenue and help to "future-proof" the network. CNN will develop more programming for Max, the streaming platform

owned by parent company Warner Bros Discovery, and launch two new free advertising-supported channels.

The network will also begin a "strategic push" into artificial intelligence, according to the memo, while it plans to expand its offering of ad-sponsored lifestyle stories and features.

Sir Mark said yesterday: "Turning a great news organisation towards the future is not a one-day affair. It happens in stages and over time."

"Today's announcements do not answer every question or seek to solve every challenge we face."

"However, they do represent a significant step forward and I hope you will read about them in that spirit."

CNN has struggled to embrace the shift to the streaming era, while the channel also suffered a collapse in viewing figures following the election of US President Joe Biden.

Sir Mark has been viewed as a strong candidate to revive CNN's fortunes. After leaving the BBC he led a successful turnaround at *The New York Times*, helping to transform the newspaper into a global news brand with more than 10m subscribers.

How pay-per-mile will make your car work for the taxman

The new Chancellor faces pressure to charge drivers of electric vehicles to recoup lost fuel duty, writes *Matt Oliver*

The dawn of the electric car might be good for the environment, but it's about to cause an almighty headache for the taxman. As the years go on and fewer motorists need to buy petrol, around £25bn in fuel duty receipts will vanish. How to address this, experts say, is one of the big decisions facing Labour's Rachel Reeves after taking charge at the Treasury. So, what's a chancellor to do?

The answer, according to think tanks and economists, is conceptually simple but politically explosive: a pay-per-mile tax on electric cars. This would plug the yawning gap in the Treasury's coffers and ensure drivers of all cars – both electric and petrol – pay their fair share, say supporters. Such a scheme was considered under Rishi Sunak when he was chancellor, while Sadiq Khan, London's Labour mayor, has also spent millions of pounds examining how it could work in the capital. And there are good reasons to think the idea will soon cross Reeves's desk as well.

The most widely backed proposal among experts is a fixed per-mile charge on new electric vehicles (EVs). Yet this will only work if it is adopted early when the number of EVs on the roads is still small.

This means most drivers will become used to paying it from the off, argue supporters. But that window of opportunity is closing fast.

By 2030, one in five cars on the road will be electric, compared with one in 25 today, according to forecasts by *Auto Trader*. That means a decision will likely be needed by 2029 – the final year of Labour's current term in power. Meanwhile, with EV drivers

currently paying far less in tax than petrol car drivers, there is an issue of fairness at stake. A typical petrol car driver pays 19p per mile travelled, compared with about 7p per mile paid by EV drivers, according to a report by the Resolution Foundation based on 2022/23 prices.

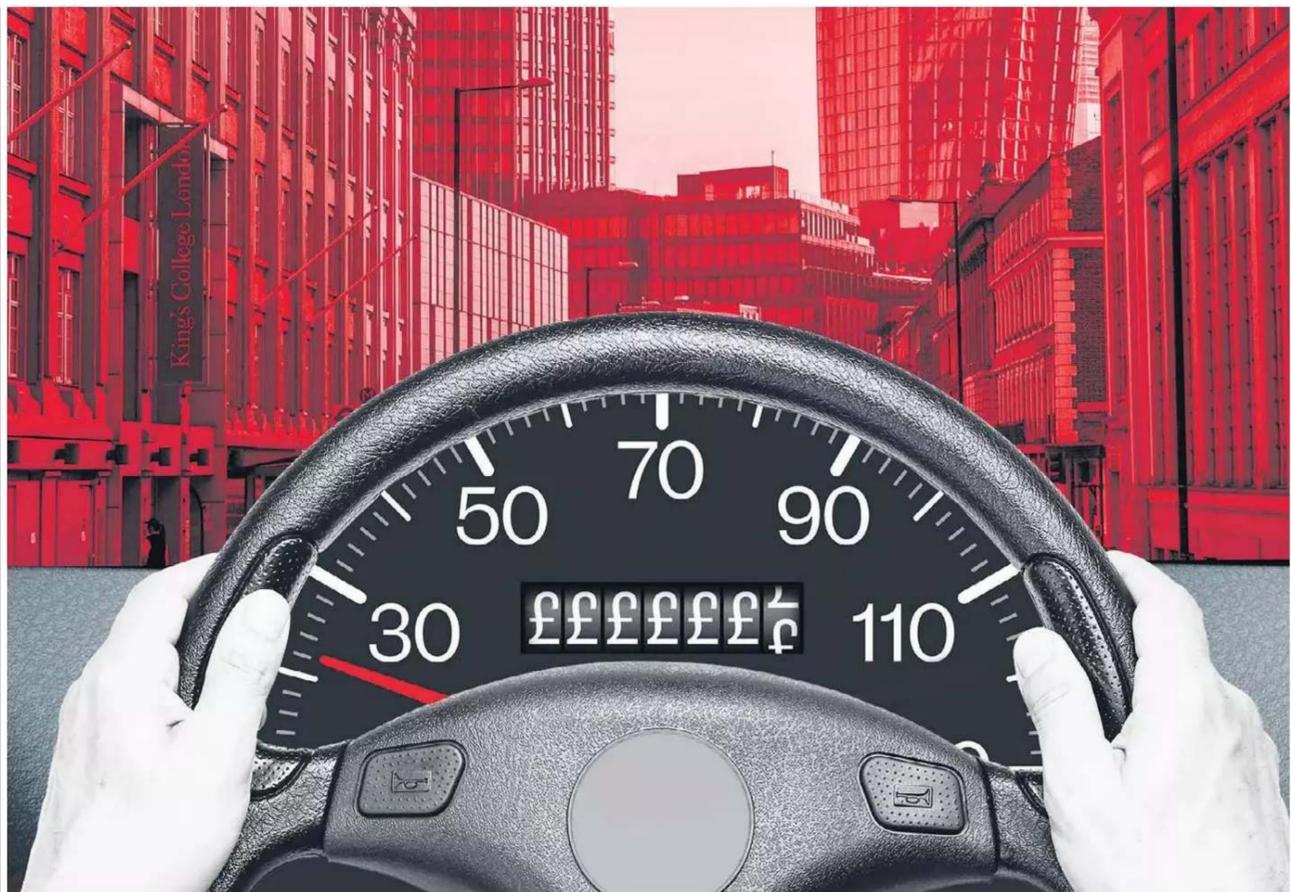
Transport experts say higher taxes are needed to reduce congestion as well – with motorists already wasting one billion hours stuck in traffic every year. "Unless we want to lose an awful lot of tax revenue, we're going to have to move to some way of taxing driving and the obvious way to do that is some kind of road pricing," says Paul Johnson, director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies and author of *Follow the Money*, a book about tax and spend policy in the UK. "My view is that we need to do this relatively quickly. But obviously, that's politically difficult."

Fuel duty, which currently costs 52.95p per litre of petrol, effectively taxes drivers for the distance they travel already: the more you drive, the more fuel duty you end up paying. On top of this, petrol car drivers pay VAT on top of fuel duty and vehicle excise duty, also known as "road tax". There are currently no equivalent taxes on EVs, although they will be charged vehicle excise duty from next year, while VAT is also levied on public charging. Despite this, introducing a pay-per-mile tax scheme for EVs will be fraught with political risk.

Some 55pc of motorists remain opposed to any form of pay-per-mile taxation, a poll by The Green Insurer found in May, with just 17pc saying they were in favour. A further 28pc said they would only support such a scheme if it were introduced in cities only, owing to concerns about poor public transport in rural areas.

So how would a pay-per-mile scheme work in practice? That depends on how complicated you want it to be, says Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation.

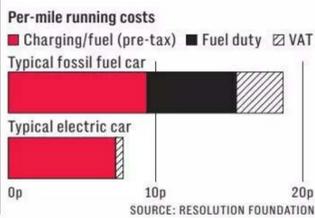
Gooding is a former Department for Transport civil servant who helped work up proposals for road pricing schemes under the previous Labour government which were never fully implemented. The simplest solution by



far, he says, is to charge drivers a flat rate per mile driven, which would then be checked on an annual or more regular basis. This would be relatively simple to administer and is comparable to how energy companies take readings from your gas and electricity meters. Collecting readings could be made easier by incorporating it into a car's MOT check or asking insurers to collect the data as part of getting your cover renewed.

Under this model, HM Revenue & Customs could predict how many miles it expects a driver to travel and then issue rebates or extra bills depending on whether you undershoot or exceed that number,

Electric car drivers pay far less for energy per mile



says Gooding. "You need something that can work for everyone", explains Gooding. "This is potentially a system that is going to have to capture data from millions of drivers, making millions of decisions, smoothly, 365 days a year."

The average private car is driven 6,500 miles per year, according to official data. So for a simple scheme charging 6p per mile, plus VAT – as suggested by the Resolution Foundation – a car would be liable for £468 per year. (The suggested charge should also rise annually with inflation, the think tank suggested.)

This would bring the cost of driving an EV closer to parity with petrol, while still keeping it lower to incentivise EV adoption, the Resolution Foundation added. For comparison, the £25bn collected in fuel duty per year translates to £830 per household.

The Resolution Foundation argued basic pay-per-mile should be adopted largely out of practicality, in conjunction with congestion charging in cities. But the think tank also suggested this vanilla version of road pricing was a "stepping stone" towards the more sophisticated schemes many economists would prefer. These would take account of far more than just the

'My view is that we have to do this relatively quickly. But obviously, that's politically difficult'

number of miles you travel, instead charging you varying rates per mile depending on the roads you used and when you used them. Under such a model, you might be charged a higher rate per mile to use the M1 to drive from London to Leeds than if you had used A-roads and B-roads. Or you might be charged a higher rate to use the roads during rush hour.

And with the amount of technology packed into electric cars, it would be easy to collect the data, says Gooding. "The car knows how many miles it's done, it knows where it has been and it is routinely sharing that information." This data could be beamed from your car – via the internet – to your manufacturer or insurer, before being sent to the taxman.

The most straightforward version of this type of scheme would charge fixed prices for certain roads and times. But an even more sophisticated model would use real-time data to decide how much to charge, based on how busy the roads were at particular times on

particular days – essentially an Uber-style form of surge pricing. Again, this would probably rely on data from your car, as well as public infrastructure, such as cameras.

This sort of approach has been backed by the Campaign for Better Transport and others who say it would incentivise more people to use public transport. Some countries, including several US states and New Zealand, are already introducing per-pay-mile pricing for HGVs, but only a few have done so for cars. But pay-per-mile risks being both politically controversial and fraught with privacy issues, with critics arguing such road pricing schemes amount to a "Big Brother cash grab". How long, for example, before governments start tracking your speeds remotely as well?

Such a market-focused approach could also have unintended consequences for a Labour government's traditional supporters – employees who must physically go to work at certain times and have a limited ability to choose when they use the roads. With the clock ticking down, the Chancellor does not have long to make up her mind. But as Reeves will no doubt learn, pay-per-mile could quickly become a political elephant trap if Labour gets it wrong.

Barratt lowers targets for building homes

By Chris Price

THE developer Barratt yesterday revealed it would build fewer houses this year, and forecast an up to 7pc fall in its construction targets for next year.

Barratt said that amid "a challenging macroeconomic backdrop" it is due to construct 14,004 properties in its 2024 financial year, down from 17,206 but slightly ahead of analyst estimates.

Adjusted profits are also expected to be slightly ahead of expectations, it said in a trading update.

However, shares fell 2.9pc in early trading as it forecast it would complete between 13,000 to 13,500 homes next year.

David Thomas, the chief executive of Barratt, said the company had endured "another year of economic and political uncertainty". It is awaiting competition regulators to give the

go-ahead to its merger with house-builder Redrow.

Separately, Bellway is on track to buy rival housebuilder Crest Nicholson after its board said it would recommend a sweetened offer to shareholders.

The developer submitted a £2.73 per share offer to buy Crest Nicholson, valuing the company at £701m, nearly a month after rejecting an initial approach.

The deal represents a 28.3pc premium on Crest Nicholson's closing price on June 13, before news of the first Bellway offer emerged.

The board said it "would be minded to recommend unanimously to Crest Nicholson's shareholders" the terms of the deal.

It comes amid a broader slowdown in Britain's housing sector, which has been hammered by high interest rates and soaring costs. In its latest half-year results, Crest Nicholson posted a

£31m loss in the six months to May, as it warned that profits for the year were set to be less than expected.

Bellway shares dipped 1.2pc while Crest Nicholson gained as much as 5.5pc.

Under the terms of Bellway's new offer, Crest Nicholson shareholders would receive 0.099 shares in Bellway and a dividend of 4p for each share they own.

This would give the developer an implied value of 273p per share – or £701m – based on Bellway's closing price of 2.718p on June 13, when it first made a takeover approach.

The new proposal, which was submitted on July 3, is 7.9pc above a previously rejected proposal at 253p per share.

Bellway has until Aug 8 to make a firm offer for Crest Nicholson, which would get the deal over the line subject to shareholder approval.

Revolut backer raises £1.8bn to invest in UK tech

By Matthew Field

EARLY Revolut-backer Index Ventures has raised a fresh \$2.3bn (£1.8bn) to invest in fast-growing businesses as the company hailed the prospects of the UK tech sector.

The venture capital fund, which recently expanded its London presence with a new office in Soho, said yesterday it had closed an \$800m venture fund as well as a \$1.5bn fund aimed at more established businesses.

The new funding comes as venture investors pile into artificial intelligence companies amid a groundswell of interest in the technology. Index has backed companies including Mistral, the French OpenAI rival, which was recently valued at \$6bn.

Hannah Seal, a partner at Index, said: "The UK has always been a really important ecosystem for Index. We have invested £1bn into 144 UK start-ups. We expect that will continue. But also we are seeing incredible AI talent coming out of the UK."

Lord Livermore, the Labour growth minister, said: "It's great to see how private investment in the technologies of the future will create thousands of jobs so people across the UK can benefit."

Ms Seal added: "Our incentives and our goals are aligned with the Government – boost the productivity of the UK and make it a powerhouse for start-ups."



Caped crusader A model at the BA graduate show at the Istituto Marangoni London, a fashion design school.

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Wed 18 **Barcelona, Spain ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion★**

Barcelona has numerous attractions, from subterranean Roman ruins to the elegant architecture of the Gothic quarter and the imaginative designs of Gaudi. At the city's heart is Placa de Catalunya, lively La Rambla, the city's main pedestrianised artery and landmark sights include the Sagrada Familia and the 13th century cathedral. Enjoy a short introduction to Barcelona on an included panoramic excursion

Thu 19 **Marseille, France ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion★**

Experience the multi-faceted city of Marseilles, the country's second-largest city, set on the French Riviera. At its centre is the centuries-old Vieux Port filled with fishing vessels and pleasure craft. The city is watched over by the hilltop Basilica of Notre Dame de la Garde, built in the 19th century.

Highlights include the fortresses of Saint-Jean and Saint-Nicholas and the cathedrals of Old Major and Nouvelle Major. Look forward to an included sightseeing excursion in this cosmopolitan city

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Sat 21 **Calvi, Corsica**

Sun 22 **Bonifacio, Corsica**

Tue 24 **Alicante, Spain**

Thu 26 **Lisbon, Portugal ★INCLUDED Sightseeing Excursion★**

The sprawling city of Lisbon is spread across seven hills. It boasts two UNESCO-listed sites: Jeronimos Monastery, where Vasco da Gama is entombed and Bélem Tower, built in his honour. Lisbon's downtown area is a labyrinth of narrow cobbled alleyways steeped in history. An included panoramic excursion is a great way to see some of the highlights



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Industries to invest in for Buffett-level success

TOM STEVENSON



Shares in ventures that we need as humans, rather than high-risk or novelty stocks, can often pay off

Two apparently unrelated announcements this week illustrate how difficult it is to make the big calls that move the dial in investment.

The first was Terry Smith's justification to investors for why he had chosen not to invest in Nvidia. The second was a report on Saudi Aramco's €740m (£623) bet that the internal combustion engine will be around for a lot longer than we think.

Both underline the challenge of allocating capital without the benefit of a crystal ball. They show the importance as well as the risks of being a contrarian. Both calls require other investors to be wrong – about the transformative impact of AI on the one

hand and the rapid demise of petrol and diesel vehicles on the other.

More broadly, they set me thinking about the tendency of investors to prefer novelty to durability and what the opposite approach might look like.

Smith told investors in his half-year update on the Fundsmith Equity fund that he had avoided Nvidia because its outlook was not predictable enough. Obviously in the short term this has been a costly mistake, as Nvidia and four other big US tech stocks have accounted for more than half the S&P 500's nearly 15pc gain so far in 2024. Smith is swimming against the tide. Nvidia briefly became the world's biggest company recently, having grown tenfold in two years.

We don't yet know if Saudi Aramco's equally contrarian investment in a company manufacturing fuel-based car engines will pay off.

It has bought a 10pc stake in Horse Powertrain, a company spun out of Renault and Chinese carmaker Geely. It is betting that as the main carmakers focus on electric vehicles, they will need to outsource production of traditional engines for the 50pc or so of cars that may still run on conventional fuel in 2050. Unlike

Smith and Saudi Aramco, most investors prefer to look for the shiny and new. Familiarity breeds contempt when it comes to constructing our investment portfolios, making us vulnerable to investment manias and bubbles. A compelling growth narrative trumps all other rational considerations, which is why Nvidia's share price chart looks so similar to that of RCA in the 1920s and Cisco's a generation ago.

One investor who has done pretty well out of avoiding this novelty bias is Warren Buffett. Some of his most successful investments have been in dull businesses that had been ploughing the same predictable furrow for years before he jumped aboard.

He started investing in Coca-Cola in 1988, 102 years after it was first drunk at an Atlanta soda fountain. When Buffett bought See's Candies in 1972 for \$25m (£19m), it had been selling sweets for 51 years. His \$600m investment in Gillette in 1989 came nearly 90 years after King C. Gillette invented the safety razor in 1901.

All of these businesses had proved themselves over decades. Buffett's insight was to realise that they would continue to do so because of recurring

demand for their products and the competitive advantage or "moat" that their brands afforded them.

There are two key differences between these investments and one in Nvidia or any other AI-related stock.

First, their businesses were and still are predictable (this is Terry Smith's point). Second, they were so boring that Buffett could pick them up at a price that included little or no hope

'One investor who has done pretty well out of avoiding this novelty bias is Warren Buffett'

value. Nothing needed to go right to make them a good investment. Unlike AI, sugary drinks and daily grooming do not require a revolution to deliver attractive returns to shareholders.

Buffett's success came from favouring the durable over the new and untested. This was why he invested in the unfashionable Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. He identified that railways were an old and cheap solution to a new problem, with cost and environmental

advantages over trucks amid growing demand for freight.

So, as AI stocks continue to part company with the rest of the market – the equal weighted S&P 500 index is down over the past three months – how might investors take a leaf out of the Buffett, Smith, Aramco playbook and bet not on novelty but durability? What products and services do we know for sure we will be using and consuming in 30 years' time?

I think they come in five main categories. They are the things that make us human.

First is food. There aren't many companies that have appeared in the FTSE 100 since its launch in 1984 but among them are Tesco, Sainsbury's and AB Foods.

Next is shelter. One of the sectors being highlighted as a beneficiary of the new Labour government is housebuilding. We have not built enough homes for years.

Third is love and connection. There is a reason why fashion and cosmetics are two of the world's largest industries. A related aspect of humanity is community. The myth that we would all want to work in isolation at home outlasted Covid, but not by

long. There is a future for offices and shops, albeit they are likely to look somewhat different and need to be more environmentally sustainable than in the past.

Fourth, I would continue to bet on human weakness and the need to escape. There is a reason why Imperial Brands and British American Tobacco (BAT) live on in the UK's blue-chip index and why Kweichow Moutai, a popular Chinese drinks company, has compounded its earnings at 17pc a year for the past five years.

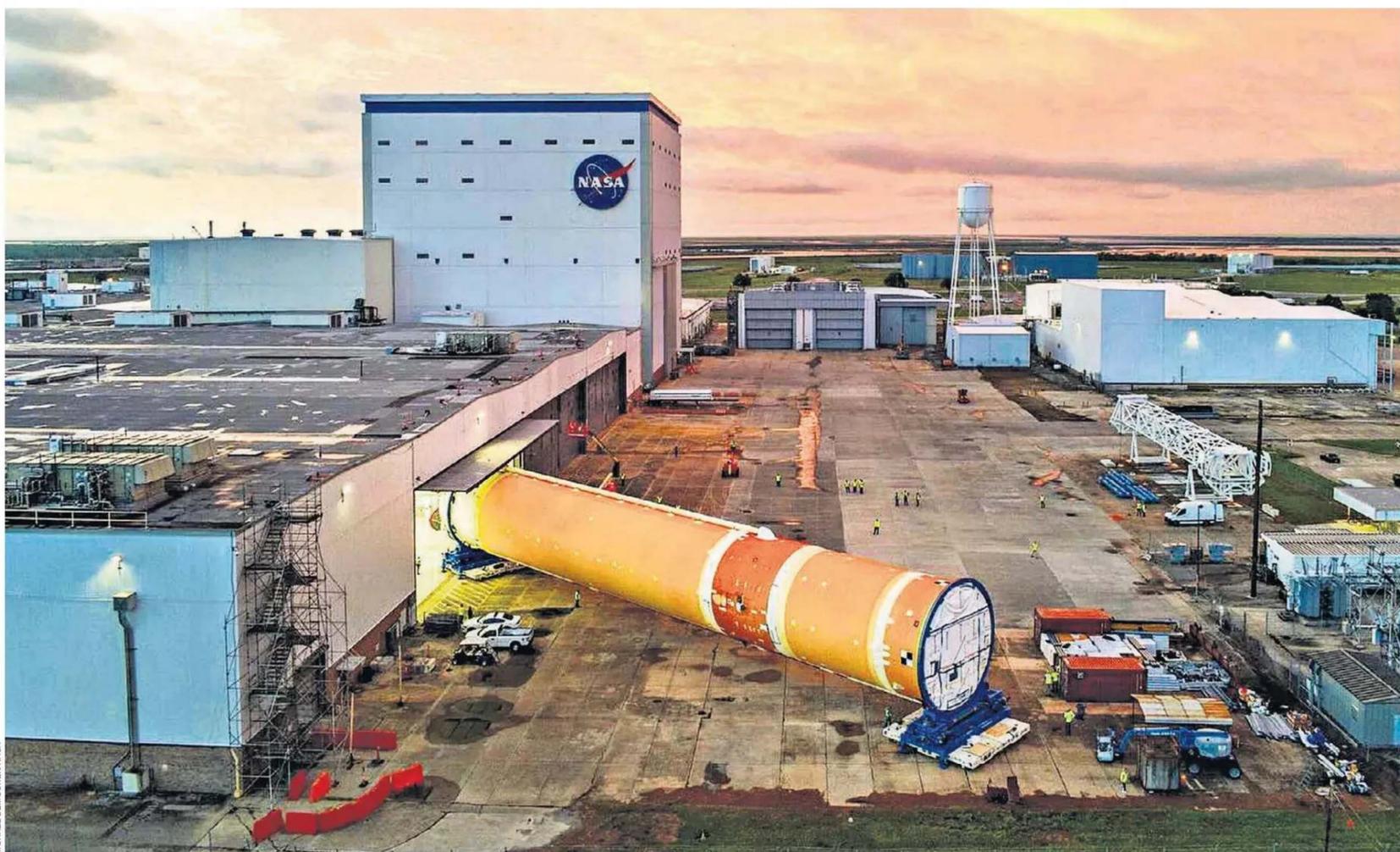
Category number five is, sadly, conflict. The last three years have shown that the need to defend ourselves remains a constant. In the past 10 years, an investment in BAE Systems has performed nearly three times as well as the FTSE 100.

The great thing about investing in the durable rather than the new is that you will be buying shares in unexciting companies in unfashionable sectors. And that means that, unlike the shiny investments that hog the headlines, they will be cheap.

Tom Stevenson is an investment director at Fidelity International. The views are his own.

Fly me to the Moon The 212ft "core stage" of the rocket for the Artemis II mission is worked on at Nasa's Michoud assembly plant in New Orleans.

The core is the backbone of the rocket and includes flight computer systems and four RS-25 engines, enabling launch and flight. Artemis II will be the first Artemis flight with crew. Four astronauts will fly around the Moon in preparation for future landings. The core is to be delivered to Nasa's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida.



Labour's avalanche of soon-to-be tax rises is built on a terrible lie

SAM ASHWORTH-HAYES



Reeves lay the groundwork in her first speech as Chancellor, and it's the Tories who will be blamed

Stop me if you've heard this one before: the Labour Party wins office and immediately sets about preparing the ground for higher taxes. If it sounds familiar, it should: no Labour chancellor since 1970 has left office with the country facing a lower tax burden than when they started.

Rachel Reeves appears to be in no mood to buck this trend. Over the course of the election campaign, the

new Chancellor and her party slowly shifted from denying any "additional" tax rises would be needed beyond those in its manifesto, to a woollier pledge about avoiding taxes on "working people". By the time polling day came around, party figures were making dark noises about what might happen if Reeves were to "open the books and discover the situation is even worse" than suspected.

Now safely ensconced in the Treasury, Reeves is picking up where the campaign left off. In her first speech as Chancellor, earlier this week she claimed to have inherited the "worst set of circumstances since the Second World War", and warned that she had ordered "Treasury officials to provide an assessment of the state of our spending inheritance so that I can understand the scale of the challenge".

This is obviously nonsense. As Institute for Fiscal Studies director

Paul Johnson pointed out last month, the Government's books are "wide open, fully transparent". Everyone – you, me, and most certainly the bond markets – can see exactly what's going on at any given point in time. It would be a brave lender who chose to fund the UK's debt if this weren't the case.

Equally nonsensical is the idea that this is the worst economic inheritance in 79 years and counting of British economic history. You don't have to look back to the Second World War to find a more challenging set of circumstances for an incoming government. You don't even have to look back to the last millennium.

The deficit today stands at around 4.5pc of GDP. In 2010, the coalition government took over a country running a deficit more than twice that ratio at a whopping 10.3pc. It took years of work to bring it back down under control. In contrast, the deficit

inherited by Labour is already due to fall substantially. By 2028-29, the Office for Budget Responsibility estimates that it will be around 1.2pc of GDP. Some of this fall is based on spending assumptions that are, charitably, challenging to meet.

But a good 1.5 percentage points is due to come from increases in revenue and falls in interest rates that are, in the absence of any further bad news, pretty much baked in.

Many of the hard decisions in terms of tax rises and frozen thresholds have already been taken.

It's true that the debt burden is larger than it was in 2010, standing at a little under 100pc of GDP. But it's worth remembering that a good deal of this rise was the result of pandemic measures enthusiastically supported by the Labour Party, which called for extensions to the furlough scheme and bigger pay rises for NHS "heroes".

It is also true that the Labour Party had itself overseen a rise in debt to 65pc of GDP in 2010 from a starting point of 38pc, without the excuse of having put the economy into deep freeze for a year. If Reeves wants someone to blame for Britain's precarious fiscal state, Gordon Brown would be a better target than Rishi

Sunak. As for interest rates, yes Labour will be paying out a higher rate on government debt than the Conservatives were in 2010. But what matters for the sustainability of government debt is the difference between this interest rate and the growth rate of the economy. And just as inflation has led to higher interest rates, it has also pumped up nominal GDP growth. Once this is taken into account, the difference between the two scenarios is substantially reduced.

All this is to say that the Labour Party is not facing a uniquely poor inheritance. It is facing some difficult decisions, with some of the spade work already done for it. Nor is it facing an unexpected set of spending pressures. Instead, it is simply trying to wriggle out of the tax promises it made to win the election because it knows it can't keep them.

Even with the best will in the world, the party's grand plans to improve public services will require money as well as reforms. Money, however, is scarce. Over the next half century, an older population means spending on health, social care, and the state pension are set to eat up another 10pc of GDP, while Labour's plans for energy and defence are likely to

require substantial spending increases of their own. Putting it all on the credit card isn't an option. Our toxic combination of demography and state generosity led the OBR to comment that our fiscal trajectory is "unsustainable" in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 – the 2016 report was cancelled – 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 – 2021's publication focused, understandably, on the pandemic – 2022, and 2023. The 2024 report was delayed by the election, but I can just about guess about what it will say, too.

Reeves knows that abandoning the party's fiscal rules – or trying to get too clever with definitions of "investment" – would spook the markets into a catastrophic backlash. Going through with the cuts pencilled in to public services in the last Budget, meanwhile, is unthinkable for the party of state expansion. And while a burst of economic growth would do a great deal to resolve our problems, Liz Truss is an ever-present warning to those who spend the fruits of such expansions before setting out how they are to be achieved.

This leaves the party with only one palatable choice: break its promise, raise taxes, and try to pin the blame on the Tories.

Don't get hot under the collar about dress codes – stay cool and let common sense rule the day

SIR JOHN TIMPSON



Straight-talking common sense from the front line of management

During spells of hot weather, our office dress code descends into chaos. People come in wearing T-shirts and we even have bosses in shorts. Management has rightly sent out a reminder to ensure some decorum, but they don't play their part by providing air conditioning or at least a fan or two. What are your hot weather tips?

With so many people expecting to work from home you should do all in your power to encourage colleagues to be a true part of your business community and come into the office. So don't deter them during a heatwave by insisting on an inflexible dress code. Rules should never get in the way of common sense.

Statistics consistently show the growing influence of climate change, but we experienced several hot summers many years ago. I had to learn how to help a sweltering workforce when I started running our business in the mid-1970s.

Snow stopped play in a cricket match between Derbyshire and Lancashire at Buxton on June 1 1975, but, within a week, our office team were sunbathing every lunchtime and for the next three months our

warehouse started work at 6am, when it was still cool, and finished at 1.30pm, so colleagues could relax in the sun for the rest of the day.

Summer 1976 was even hotter. Initially the heatwave put customers in a holiday mood and boosted business in our shoe shops. But when the sun still shone in September we had sold out of sandals and our shop windows were full of boots and autumn shoes that no one wanted to buy.

The glorious weather had become a liability and, despite a lengthy hosepipe ban, reservoirs were nearly empty and many people relied on their village pump.

Fortunately, the then sports minister, Dennis Howell, added the role of "minister for drought" to his portfolio. Within days of his appointment the heavens opened and

it rained nearly every day until November. Let's hope our new government can perform a similar miracle for the NHS.

Most of us have vivid memories of blissful summers in our youth. I recall a particularly hot fortnight in Frinton during 1949. Not trusting my memory (I was only six), I checked the records, which confirmed it was indeed a very hot summer – like an unbearably hot day during the Rugby World Cup in 1995, when I watched Jonah Lomu on television scoring four tries for New Zealand against England – funny how things like that stick in one's memory and you can still visualise the experience 30 years later.

Extreme weather provides a chance to pamper your colleagues with consideration and kindness. When it gets really hot, be grateful they

decided to turn up to work, instead of calling in sick and going to the seaside. On the first hot day of summer treat everyone to an ice cream, a cold drink, suspend your dress code until temperatures return to normal and send them home half an hour early. Our branch uniform includes a tie, but every shop has a Tie-ometer (thermometers shaped like a tie that show when it is too hot to wear a tie).

I'm writing this with tiny tears in my eyes, because it may be my last "Ask John" column for some time, after 18 years of weekly words that, hopefully, have made common sense.

I'm grateful to those regular readers who followed my advice on topics that included family succession, acquisitions, the high street and a tricky problem that involved a well-endowed receptionist in a

low-cut dress (my late wife Alex found the common-sense answer to that one).

My chief executive, James, has been head hunted by Sir Keir Starmer to take on the challenging role of prison minister.

As far as I'm concerned James is just on loan and the Prime Minister should be grateful to our amazing senior team, who I trust to grow the business during James's absence.

Being just four months younger than Joe Biden, I'm too old to be a chief executive, but, with James tied up elsewhere, I must take a break from writing this column to spend more time with our family business. That's simply common sense.

Sir John Timpson is chairman of the high street services provider Timpson

Markets

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Government securities

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E	
102.30	99.20	Treas 5% 25	100.13	-0.02	4.99	4.83
112.21	100.63	Treas 6% 28	108.11	+0.13	5.55	3.98
106.59	92.22	Treas 4% 32	101.72	+0.24	4.18	3.99
106.09	94.06	Treas 4% 36	100.14	+0.28	4.24	4.23
110.73	96.88	Treas 4% 38	103.93	+0.38	4.57	4.38

Index Linkers

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E	
386.83	373.48	Treas 2% 1/2 24	386.11	-0.00	0.65	2.66
352.43	327.62	Treas 4% 1/2 30	342.32	+0.12	1.21	4.09
243.64	239.45	Treas 2% 1/2 35	245.38	+0.30	0.82	0.81

10-year Government Bonds

Yield%	Spread vs Bunds	Spread vs 5y Bunds	
France	3.13	-0.62	-1.16
Germany	2.51	-	-1.78
Japan	1.06	-1.45	-3.23
Great Britain	4.12	-1.61	-0.17
United States	4.29	-1.78	-

The share prices, price-earnings ratios and dividend yields below are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

Aerospace & defence

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E	
575	266%	Babcock Intl	539%	+19%	0.3	78.2
1415%	883%	BAE Systems	1280	+11%	2.3	20.9
468%	292%	QinetiQ	468%	+2%	1.8	15.4
488%	143%	Rolls-Royce	454%	+6%	-	1.8
183	146%	Senior	165%	+2%	1.4	22.0

Banks

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E	
225%	128%	Barclays	219%	+2%	3.6	7.9
989%	278	Close Bros	485%	+8%	-	8.9
725%	572%	HSCB	670%	+1	7.3	7.5
58%	39%	Lloyds Bk Grp	58%	+%	4.8	7.8
322%	168	NatWest Group	322%	+%	5.3	6.7
423	278	Santander	372	+8	3.2	22.0
796	571	Standard Ch	721%	+2%	3.0	8.5

Beverages

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E	
3509	2452	Diageo	2502%	+0%	3.2	15.2

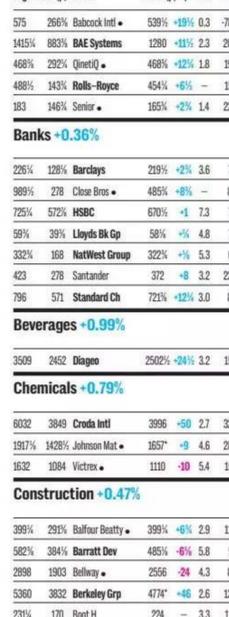
Chemicals

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E	
6032	3849	Croda Intl	3996	+50	2.7	32.6
1917%	1428%	Johnson Mat	1657	+9	6.4	28.3
1632	1084	Victrex	1110	+0	5.4	15.7

Construction

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E	
399%	291%	Balfour Beatty	399%	+6%	2.9	11.3
582%	384%	Barratt Dev	485%	+6%	5.8	9.1
2898	1903	Belvoir	2556	+24	4.3	8.6
5360	3832	Kingsley Grp	4774	+46	2.6	12.8
231%	170	Booth H	224	-	3.3	11.4

Winners and losers (pc)



52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (p) +/- Yld P/E

90%	44%	Costain	87	-1%	1.4	10.7
1029%	737%	Grafton Grp	974%	+33%	3.7	14.0
2765	1555%	Morgan Sindal	2655	+40	4.3	10.4
1506	925	Persimmon	1442%	+23%	4.2	18.0
750	424%	Redrow	682%	+13	3.7	7.5
155%	99%	Taylor Wimpey	151%	+1	6.3	15.3

Electricals -0.04%

238	135	Dialight	206	-4	-	-
900	586	discover:Grp	731	+28	1.6	45.1
2750	1802	Halma	2652	+23	0.8	45.1
4500	2065	Renishaw	3675	+75	2.1	23.0
2489%	682%	XP Power	1500	+8	1.2	33.0

Electricity +1.29%

637%	395%	Drax Group	559%	+26	4.1	3.9
1020%	645	Nat Grid	941%	+11%	6.2	16.5
1932%	1485	SSE	1842%	+17%	3.3	11.8

Engineering / Industrial +0.55%

89%	63%	Coats Group	84%	+%	2.7	30.8
870	212	Cropper J	300	-10	2.1	35.6
8860	4210	Goodwin	8100	+180	1.4	99.2
1911	1429	IMI	1787	+12	1.6	19.5
173%	1304	Mondi	1553%	+21%	4.0	17.1
79%	48%	Sverdrup	78%	+2%	4.7	15.2
1776%	1517%	Smiths Grp	1731	+32	2.4	26.4
430	260%	Smith (DS)	415%	+%	4.3	14.8
3910	2528	Smurfit Westrock	3492	-	-	-
11280	7900	Spirax Grp	8555	+10	1.9	34.3
2290%	1652%	Weir	1958	+27	2.0	22.2

Food producers +0.75%

2765	1907%	Ass Brit Fds	2453	+16	2.2	18.3
2830	2065	Coca-Cola HBC	2700	-2	2.9	18.5
4590	3158	Cranwick	4555	+25	2.0	21.6
957	630	Hilton Food	909	-13	3.5	22.4
99	48	REA Hldgs	88%	-	-	-
4464	3680%	Unilever	4408	+98	3.3	20.3

Gas & Water +2.31%

173%	120	Centrica	139%	+%	2.9	2.0
775	532%	Pennon Grp	619	+15	7.2	171.9
216	2943	Severn Trent	2617	+53	4.5	13.3
1139%	896%	Utd Utilities	1066	+24	4.7	57.3

General financial +0.60%

234%	156%	Ashmore	174%	+2%	9.7	14.1
300%	154%	Bridgeway Grp	245	+6	3.6	27.2
1169%	1096	Hargreaves L	1096	-2	3.9	16.0
850%	600%	IG Group	843%	+1%	5.4	9.7
2448	1244%	Intermediate Cp	2226	+24	3.5	13.5
602	429	Investec	597	+8%	5.8	5.7
66%	40	IP Group	42	-	3.0	-2.5
765	519	Liontrust	636	+32	1.1	116.5
73%	30	Lon. Fin. & Inv.	64%	+%	1.9	14.7
1180%	778%	Lon Stock Ex	9216	+18	1.2	66.3
241%	182%	M&G	211%	+2%	9.3	3.2
279%	200%	Man Group	257%	+9%	5.0	-16.6
124%	71%	Quilter	121	+2%	4.3	39.0

52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (p) +/- Yld P/E

2450	1750	S & A	1910	+0	6.3	9.1
1970	346%	Schroders	376%	+9%	5.7	15.3
150%	43%	Vauxhall Banking Grp	50%	+%	12.0	-20.9

Healthcare +0.93%

371%	307%	Haleon	334%	+2%	1.8	29.3
1215%	887	Smith & Neph	1092	+14	2.8	46.4

Household goods +1.63%

2275	844%	Burberry	860%	+3%	1.1	11.6
145	25	McBride	137%	+3%	-	-20.8
169%	81%	PZ Cussons	104%	+2%	5.0	12.0
6006	4102%	Reckitt Benck	4321	+74	4.5	18.9

Information technology +1.81%

389	224%	Aptitude Sftware	380	+12%	1.4	52.6
105%	899%	Sage Grp	1033	+21%	1.9	49.8
205	79%	Spirant	181	-1	1.7	54.0

Insurance +1.84%

238	134%	abrdn	185	+6	8.8	-
2870	2010	Admiral	2624	+31	3.9	23.6
501%	366	Aviva	483%	+7%	6.9	12.8
715	485%	Beazley	681	+2%	2.1	5.5
240%	135%	DirectLifeIns	199%	+6%	2.0	12.5
1282	926	Hiscox	1254	+15	2.4	7.1
690	527%	Lancashire Hldg	618	+8	2.6	5.9
259	203%	Legal & General	232	+3%	8.8	31.6
564%	436%	Phoenix	549	+7%	8.7	-39.3
1102%	684%	Prudential	755%	+20	2.2	15.2
1185%	393%	St. James's Place	561	+14%	4.2	-31.7

Investment trusts +0.98%

3180	1853%	SI	2180	+42	2.0	2065
349	289	SI Infrastructure	333	+4	3.6	360
826	528	abrdn New India	810	-6	-	985
1264	980	Alliance Trust	1226	+10	2.1	1274
418	242%	Alliartech Tech	410	-%	-	440
423	321%	Asia Dragon Trust	421	+2	1.6	649
243	175	Baillie Giff China	190%	+%	1.1	215
101%	75%	Baillie Giff Euro Growth	96%	+%	0.4	113
85%	60	Balanced Comm Pp	82%	+%	6.4	291
171%	91%	Bankers Invest Int	116%	+%	2.3	130
1048	715	Biotech Growth	1002	+12	-	1075
127	104	BlackRockEmerg&Res	118	-	3.8	113
159%	131%	BlackRock Fndm	145%	+%	4.5	161
653	457%	BlackRock Grt Euro	627	+%	1.1	654
208	170	BlackRock IntGrth	195	-	3.8	221
207	172%	BlackRockSustAmric	193	-1	4.1	214
1520	1146	BlackRock Small	1486	+6	2.8	1640
643	503	BlackRock Thng Trst	631	+5	2.3	685
635	490	BlackRock Wld M	585	+4	5.7	581
1370	964	Bramer	1355	+10	1.8	1411
3700	3110	Calendia	3525	+2	5.0	5443
432	316	City of Lon	432	+6	4.8	432
206	151%	CQS Net Res & G	187%	+%	3.0	211
257%	206	CT Gld Mgd G	257	-	-	265
121	98	CT Gld Mgd I	115%	+%	6.4	116
516	406	CT Priv Eq Ord	440	+3	6.4	619

Net Asset Values @ 2024 Morningstar Estimated at previous day's close see www.Morningstar.co.uk.

52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (p) +/- Yld NAV

340	266%	CT UK Cap & Inc	333	+3	3.7	341

This investment trust has risen like a phoenix from the ashes – and is now one to snap up

GAVIN LUMSDEN
QUESTOR TRUST BARGAINS

With so much uncertainty over recent months, former bond trader turned value investor Gary Channon's handling of the Aurora fund offers hope for the markets

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: [telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules)

Will Labour's landslide election victory be the catalyst to bring the UK stock market back from the dead?

After five years of underperforming the rest of the world, both the FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 have perked up in the past 12 months, with the indices rising a respective 13pc and 16pc in price terms, not including dividends.

The jury is out on whether Chancellor Rachel Reeves's plan to attract billions in infrastructure investment through the National Wealth Fund will bring undervalued UK equities in from the cold after nearly three years of divestment by investors. The question is: will Labour's huge parliamentary majority bring the stability that investors crave or will the party hit them with the tax rises that its Conservative opponents claimed it would?

With so much uncertainty, this column is looking for fund managers who not only know how to buy good shares cheaply but can get their hands dirty and create value even when stock markets are subdued.

One such is Phoenix Asset Management Partners in west London. This column has monitored its progress since the firm, led by Gary Channon, a former bond trader turned value investor, took over the Aurora investment trust in January 2016. At the time, Aurora was the UK's worst-

Aurora BUY

Aurora has generated a total investment return of 80.7pc since Gary Channon took over in 2016

performing fund but Channon promised to revive its fortunes, phoenix-like, by investing its assets in a small number of well-researched stocks he believed to be trading well below their "intrinsic value".

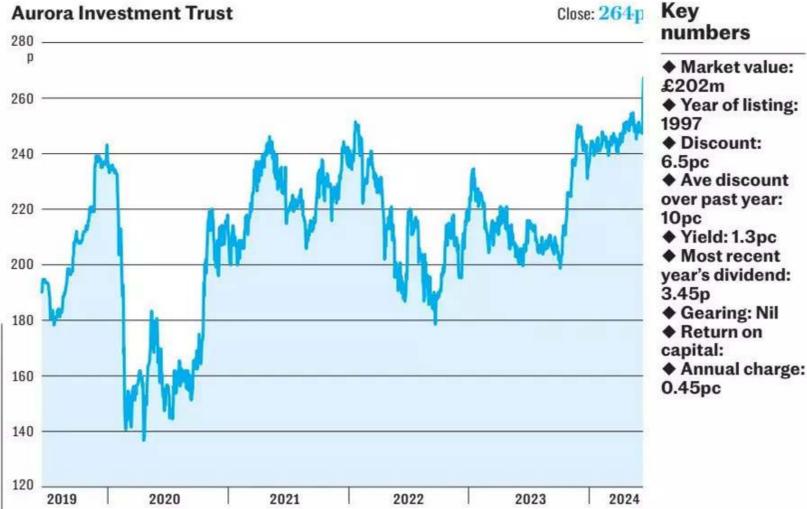
Channon achieved this aim with the now £202m portfolio, which includes big holdings in sports retailer Frasers Group, house builder Barratt Developments and – unusually for a UK equities fund – Netflix, the US streaming service.

It has also disclosed a new stake in Hargreaves Lansdown, the investment broker whose shares have shot up 55pc this year on a £5.4bn approach from private equity bidders.

As of the end of June, Aurora generated a total 80.7pc investment return since Channon took over, falling just shy of the FTSE All Share's return of 86.2pc, although the shares did less well, returning 81.6pc.

The difference reflects the discount to net asset value, at which they have traded for the past three years as the UK stock market fell out of favour.

We tipped Aurora in November 2018 at 202p, encouraged by the fund manager's high-conviction approach and his firm's unusual performance-only fee. Phoenix only gets paid if its underlying annual returns beat the FTSE All-Share, with the money subject to a claw-back over three years if the gains are subsequently lost. Since



Key numbers

- ◆ Market value: £202m
- ◆ Year of listing: 1997
- ◆ Discount: 6.5pc
- ◆ Ave discount over past year: 10pc
- ◆ Yield: 1.3pc
- ◆ Most recent year's dividend: 3.45p
- ◆ Gearing: Nil
- ◆ Return on capital: Annual charge: 0.45pc

then, the shares have generated a 43.1pc total return, just ahead of the All-Share's 41.9pc.

We were reminded of Channon's success last week when shares in another of his funds, Castelnau, soared 30pc over election week.

This was in response to news of a 46pc increase in the value of Dignity, the funeral services group which Channon and Direct Line founder Sir Peter Wood took private over a year ago and which accounts for the bulk of its £312m size.

Using surpluses from the £1bn trust that Dignity operates for customers saving for funerals, the company has repaid £100m of its £540m debt pile.

This is the first sign of progress in the turnaround of Dignity, which slumped to a £10m loss in 2022 but is back in profit.

At 97.5p, Castelnau shares are a fascinating investment, virtually back to where they started nearly four years ago but with plenty of upside if

"The question is: will Labour's huge majority bring the stability that investors crave?"

Dignity's resurrection goes to plan. Channon has said the investment company could be worth £4.36 a share if Dignity fulfils its potential. However, the other smaller businesses in this special situations fund – including Strand Collectibles, the former Stanley Gibbons stamp dealer, Hornby, the model train maker, and Rawnet, a digital marketing agency – are not doing so well.

Nevertheless, we view Castelnau's revaluation as an endorsement of Channon's approach and reiterate our belief in Aurora, which is 13.5pc invested in the sister fund, giving it a decent exposure to Dignity amid a more balanced portfolio that the manager believes could grow a further 130pc before being fairly valued.

Questor says: buy
Ticker: ARR
Share price: 264p

Gavin Lumsden is editor of Citywire's Investment Trust Insider website

Microsoft steps down from board of ChatGPT owner

Microsoft has given up its seat as an observer on the board of ChatGPT-owner OpenAI amid fears of a crackdown by competition regulators.

The US tech giant, which has invested \$13bn (£10bn) in the company, said in a letter to OpenAI that it would withdraw from the board "effective immediately," according to the *Financial Times*. Apple had been expected to take up a similar role as part of a landmark agreement to add ChatGPT to hundreds of millions of iPhones, but now it is not expected to do so.

There is mounting pressure from competition regulators about the development of AI, which they fear could be concentrated in the hands of a few hugely wealthy companies.

Upper Crust owner boosted by rebound in leisure travel

Upper Crust owner SSP has said it saw "positive momentum" in the latest quarter as more people travelled for leisure and fewer train workers went on strike.

The company, which specialises in food outlets at travel locations, said it is on track to meet financial targets for the year as a result, sending shares up 12pc to the top of the FTSE 250.

SSP told shareholders yesterday: "The second half of the financial year has started well, with the positive momentum continuing into the third quarter." It said sales grew by 16pc in the third quarter, from April 1 to June 30. Sales were up by 27pc in North America and in the UK by 12pc, driven by more air passengers and fewer train strikes compared with last year.

Wetherspoon sales at 'record levels' – but with fewer pubs

JD Wetherspoon has revealed "record sales at fewer pubs" as the Euros ensured football fans kept drinking despite bad weather.

The pub giant reported that life-for-like sales increased by 5.8pc in the 10 weeks to July 7, despite unseasonably wet weather.

Like-for-like sale have also increased by 7.7pc over the year to date.

Wetherspoon has opened two pubs this year, but sold or surrendered the lease on 26 sites. It added that a further 10 trading pubs are either on the market or under offer.

Tim Martin, chairman of JD Wetherspoon, said: "Total sales are, again, at record levels, with fewer pubs." Sales per pub are roughly 21pc higher than pre-pandemic levels.

End of the line for Royal Mail's fleet of freight trains

Royal Mail will ditch its fleet of trains as part of major changes to how it delivers post.

The postal service said that its almost 30-year-old freight trains are at the end of their operational lives and that it will not be buying new trains.

The company will instead use a combination of commercial rail services, its existing road network and reduced air services to transport mail.

Royal Mail announced plans over the weekend to halve the number of domestic flights it runs to cut carbon emissions and improve efficiency.

Only 3pc of mail is currently transported by rail and the additional driving workload will create more than 30 full-time driving jobs nationally, the company added.

BP, Shell and Total take stake in UAE energy project

British energy giants BP and Shell, and France's TotalEnergies, will each take a 10pc stake in a liquefied natural gas project in the United Arab Emirates, state energy giant Adnoc has said.

Japanese trading company Mitsui will also acquire 10pc of the Ruwais LNG plant, scheduled to come online in 2028, Adnoc said. Adnoc, the UAE's key revenue-earner, will retain a 60pc majority stake.

The plant, under development in Abu Dhabi, is expected to produce about 9.6m metric tonnes a year, more than doubling the company's LNG production capacity in the UAE.

Gas is being touted as cleaner than other fossil fuels as countries around the world strive to reduce their emissions and slow global warming.

Green investment will cut household bills, says Carney

The former governor of the Bank of England has insisted that green energy investment will lead to lower energy bills towards the end of this decade.

Mark Carney asserted that the cost of renewable energy is lower, and said the Government would attract new investment into the sector if its initial investments are successful.

The Canadian former central bank chief has become a member of the new National Wealth Fund Taskforce which will invest £7.3bn on key projects.

He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "The marginal cost of renewable energy is lower."

"There's an initial investment clock cost, but then the actual household bills that we pay, go down as we move towards the end of this decade."

The Telegraph

Money Confidential

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Ken L

★★★★★

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WINDSOR CASTLE

July 10th
The King this afternoon gave a Luncheon for Members of the Order of Merit at Windsor Castle. The following had the honour of being invited: Professor Sir Roger Penrose and Lady Penrose, Sir David Attenborough and Ms Susan Attenborough, Sir Timothy Berners-Lee and Lady Berners-Lee, the Lord Rees of Ludlow and Dame Caroline Humphrey, Mr Neil MacGregor, Mr David Hockney and Mr Jean-Pierre Gonçalves de Lima, the Hon John Howard and Mrs Susan Howard, Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub and Miss Lisa Yacoub, the Lord Darzi of Denham and the Lady Darzi, Professor Dame Ann Dowling and Professor Thomas Hynes, Sir James Dyson and Lady Dyson, Sir David Adjaye and Lady Adjaye, Professor Dame Elizabeth Anionwu and Miss Nina Patel, the Baroness Benjamin and Mr Keith Taylor, Professor Margaret MacMillan and Ms Ann MacMillan, Sir Paul Nurse and Lady Nurse and

the Lord Janvrin (Secretary and Registrar of the Order of Merit). His Majesty held a Council at Buckingham Palace at 4.30pm. There were present: the Rt Hon Lucy Powell MP (Lord President), the Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP, the Rt Hon Edward Milliband MP and the Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP.

Ms Anneliese Dodds MP, Ms Louise Haigh MP, Mr Richard Hermer, Mr Darren Jones MP, Mr Peter Kyle MP, Mr Ian Murray MP, Ms Bridget Phillipson MP, Mr Steven Reed MP, Mr Jonathan Reynolds MP, Ms Joanna Stevens MP and Mr Wesley Streeting MP were sworn in or made affirmation as members of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

The following took the Oath of Office or made affirmation, kissed hands upon appointment and received the Seals of Office: the Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP (as Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government), the Rt Hon Wesley Streeting MP (as Secretary of State for Health and Social Care), the Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP (as Secretary of State for Education), the Rt Hon Edward Milliband MP (as Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero), the Rt Hon Jonathan Reynolds MP (as Secretary of State for Business and Trade and President of the Board of Trade), the Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP (as Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology), the Rt

Hon Louise Haigh MP (as Secretary of State for Transport), the Rt Hon Steven Reed MP (as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), the Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP (as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland), the Rt Hon Ian Murray MP (as Secretary of State for Scotland) and the Rt Hon Joanna Stevens MP (as Secretary of State for Wales).

Mr Richard Tilbrook was in attendance as Clerk of the Council. The Rt Hon Sir Clive Alderton (Principal Private Secretary to Their Majesties) was in attendance. The Rt Hon Lucy Powell MP had an audience of His Majesty before the Council.

The Queen this afternoon attended the Lawn Tennis Championships at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, Wimbledon, London SW19.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 10th
The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem, this evening attended the Grand Prior Dinner at St David's Hotel, Davanah Street, Cardiff, and was received by Colonel Kevin Davies (Deputy Lieutenant of South Glamorgan). The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Friends of St Paul's Cathedral, this afternoon attended the Annual Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral, London EC4.

Today's birthdays

Sir John Blofeld, a former High Court Judge, is 92; **Mr Giorgio Armani**, fashion designer, 90; **Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock**, Air Member for Logistics and AOC-in-C RAF Logistics Command, 1994-96, 88; **Mr John Swift**, KC, Rail Regulator, 1993-98, 84; **Lord Levy**, President, Sense and Sense International, and Life President, Jewish Care, 80; **Mr John Orr**, President, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 2006-09; consultant paediatric surgeon, 79; **Prof Sir Drummond Bone**, Master of Balliol College, Oxford, 2011-18, 77; **the Rt Rev Dr Lord Chartres**, Bishop of London, 1995-2017, 77; **Dame Janet Gaymer**, KC, Commissioner for Public Appointments, 2006-10, 77; **Prof Baroness Brown of Cambridge**, Vice-Chancellor of Aston University, 2006-18, 70; **Mr Mark Lester**, actor and cost-path, 66; **Miss Caroline Quentin**, actress, 64; **Mr Craig Charles**, actor and broadcaster, 60; **Ms Rachael Blackmore**, jockey; Grand National winner, 2021, 35; and **Mr Chris Ryan**, wheelchair rugby player; Paralympic gold medalist, Tokyo 2020, 33.

Today is the anniversary of the birth of James McNeill Whistler, artist, in 1834.

Clergy news

Appointments
Rev Johnny Lawes, c, Laleham All Saints (London), to be assoc v, Laleham All Saints (same dio); Nicholas Morris, c (SSM), Kensington St Clement and St James (London), to be assoc v (SSM), Kensington St Rosemary and St James (same dio); Clementary Morton, pto (London), to be c, Bethnal Green St Matthew (same dio); Paul Adlington, c, Lee Good Shepherd and St Peter (Southwark), to be p-in-c, West Holloway St Luke (London); Tom Smith, Chesham Side St Andrew (London), to be v, London Colney St Peter (St Albans); Ven Richard Frank, adn, Middlesex (London), to be also p-in-c (SSM), West Kensington St Mary (same dio); Edward Underhill, c, Euston Church (London), to be assoc v for students, Holy Sepulchre with All Saints (known as St Andrew the Great) (Ely); Margaret Ayo, c (SSM), Earls Court St Philip (London), to be also mother's union chapl, Kensington Episcopal Area (same dio).

Retirements and resignations
Rev Canon Dr David Primrose, canon treasurer, Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Chad (Lichfield), retired on April 30 2024; Preb Philippa Thornycroft, int min, Tong (Lichfield), retired on May 31 2024; Valerie Pitt, ac (known as assoc min), Meole Brace (Lichfield), retired on June 2 2024; Terence Brown, r, Sandon St Andrews (Chelmsford), retired on June 5 2024; Caroline Brown, p-in-c, North Springfield (Chelmsford), retired on June 14 2024; Mark Binney, r, Bengeworth and Hampton with Scdgberrow & Hinton-on-the-Green (Worcester), retired on June 30 2024.

Bridge news

The highest scores each day last week in the English Bridge Union's open 12-board online matchpoint duplicate pairs games were as follows, writes **Julian Pottage**, Bridge Correspondent:

Monday
72.45% scored by Nichola Cockerill-Smith and Paul Murphy in Game 2 (3.30pm).

Tuesday
75.19% scored by Gulden Kesimoglu and John Dakin in Game 3 (7.30pm).

Wednesday
74.85% scored by Kay Preddy and Norman Selway in Game 3.

Thursday
77.60% scored by Frank from Ireland and Amit Shah in Game 1 (2pm).

Friday
74.68% scored by Rhona Goldenfield and Marianne Farr in Game 3.

Saturday
70.54% scored by Kevin Clark and Graham Johnston in Game 1.

Sunday
73.01% scored by Ian Blackburn and an Advanced BBO Bot in Game 3.

Bridge Hand

Wide awake club

By Tom Townsend

Dealer East E/W vulnerable
K Q J 5 4
Q J 9
J 6
Q 10 6
♠ 8 7 6 3
♥ A 8 4 3 2
♦ 5
♣ 9 4 3

♠ A 10 9
♥ K 10
♦ K 9 8 7 3
♣ A 5 2

West **North** **East** **South**
pass 1♣ pass 1♦
pass 3NT pass INT
pass

Contract 3NT by South
Opening Lead ♠3

OVER the next few days and weeks, we'll look back at the 56th European National Team Championships in Herning, Denmark. This is an unremarkable conference venue town on the Jutland peninsula. The playing conditions at the Kongrescenter were perfect, the food and weather acceptably English in character. Only the England hotel was unsuitable, two-thirds of my Open team checking out on their day of arrival. The rooms were too noisy for some, too hot for others. To survive an 11-day bridge event, it's important to get good sleep.

Alternative accommodation sourced, England played Spain in round one. We started rather slowly, but picked up towards the end. Amassing 37 IMPs on the final four boards, we won 51-24 overall. This was Board 16, the last of the set. David Gold, North for England,

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Daily Telegraph

LONDON, FRIDAY JULY 11, 1924

GOLF MATCH FOR £500.

BRITAIN'S USEFUL LEAD.

By GEORGE W. GREENWOOD.

Duncan and Mitchell, representing Great Britain in the international match for a stake of £500, finished the first half of the contest, at the St. George's Hill course, Weybridge, yesterday, with the very useful lead of four holes against the American players, Hagen and Macdonald Smith.

Owing to the great heat the four players were attired in the lightest garb. Hagen played in a white silk shirt, light grey knickers, and white buckskin shoes. As is his custom, he never wears a hat, whether it rains or the sun beats fiercely upon his head. His partner, Macdonald Smith, wore a pale-green sleeveless jumper and fawn knickers with a silver check. Duncan was resplendent in a canary-coloured sleeveless jumper and dark grey knickers. Mitchell was the most sombre member of the quartette. He wore a dark grey woollie and dark grey knickers and stockings. Mitchell was the most anxious and the most worried-looking of these four world-famous golfers. He tried his very hardest to give of his best, and although his good intentions were not always fulfilled, one must give him his due - he did his bit nobly. Duncan played the most sparkling and the most dazzling golf of the four, and, without doing Mitchell an injustice, I think it will be generally admitted that to Duncan we owe the fact that Britain is placed in what should be a winning position.

When the British players had thrown away a two-holes lead obtained only after a terrific struggle, and given the Americans the chance they were praying for, it was Duncan who came again with a wonderful burst - three magnificent "birdies" in four successive holes - and re-established confidence in the side. Hagen was the great dominating personality in the match, but he could not battle single-handed against the two Brits. In a four-ball match of this character one is entitled to expect that when a member of a side comes to grief his partner will keep the flag flying. In this respect it was not an ideal combination. When Hagen drove into a bunker Macdonald Smith followed suit. Hagen was not altogether blameless, for once or twice he committed the same tactical error. They certainly combined better when it came to the putting. Smith made certain of being down in two putts, so giving Hagen a chance of having a shot at the hole. This was their deliberately-conceived plan of procedure when on the green, and on the whole it worked well. Hagen putted and played the little chip shots as he always does - with crushing efficiency.

HAGEN "WOOL-GATHERING."

Britain drew first blood by winning the short third, a hole of 178 yards, with the pin stuck on the lower half of a terraced green, making the shot an extremely difficult one. Duncan was the only one

who was not bunkered, and he won the hole in 3. At the next we had further proof of Hagen's marvellous qualities as a "recovery" player. Smith hooked his drive into a wood, and Hagen was also dangerously near the trees, but in long grass. He played a perfect mashie-niblick pitch, with the maximum amount of "stop," and then holed a putt of four yards for a 3. The sixth, a hole of 447 yards, was halved in a great 3, both Smith and Mitchell placing their iron shots about three yards from the flag and then holing out. Hagen made his first real mistake at the ninth, where, having seen his partner slice into the heather, and deciding to give that side of the course a wide berth, he went to the opposite extreme and hooked into a lake. Smith, to give him his credit, did come to the rescue, for he slashed the ball out of the heather and up the steep slope leading to the green. Out in 32, as against the American's 33, the British pair turned one up. They became two up at the twelfth, where Hagen, for once in his life, went "wool-gathering."

Believing, for some unknown reason, that his partner had obtained the necessary half in 4, he went for a 3 and slipped a yard past. He then came to his senses, and the thought that after all he might miss the putt so prayed upon him that he did miss it. However, he won the next hole, where the Britishers fumbled about on the green and took three putts each. Hagen was certainly justified in thinking that he had won the fourteenth, a one-shot hole of 198 yards, where he ran down a tricky putt of eight yards over a "hog's back" for a 2. Mitchell replied with a 2 also, but from a much easier position. The Americans did square the match at the long fifteenth - 525 yards - where they both found the green with two full wooden club shots, while the British players were floundering about in bunkers and in heather. Duncan won the sixteenth in 4, and the remaining holes being halved the Britishers went into luncheon a hole to the good. Their better-ball score was 68, as against the Americans' 69.

BRILLIANT PLAY.

Duncan placed the side two up again by holing a five-yards putt for a "birdie" 3 at the very first hole. The short third was halved in 2, Mitchell holing a putt over a slope, and Hagen, unperturbed, following suit with a putt slightly less in distance. It is rather remarkable that two holes in a match should each be halved in 2. Hagen drove the fourth green, 275 yards, and, obtaining a 3, reduced the Britisher's lead to one hole. Mitchell got home a thrust at the next hole, and so they went on, accomplishing 3's and 4's until the ninth hole was reached, when the Britishers met a serious reverse. Duncan missed a putt, and Mitchell did exactly the same thing at the tenth, and so their lead was wiped out.

It was then that Duncan made his wonderful effort. He accomplished the next four holes in 2, 3, 4, 3, and won three of them. At the short eleventh he put his mashie-niblick shot a foot from the pin, holed a five-yards putt for a 3 at the next, and at the fourteenth he had another 3. Mitchell rubbed it in with a glorious 3 at the last hole, where, after a prodigious drive, he put a mashie shot a yard from the flag. The Britishers' better ball score was 65, and the Americans' 68.

The second half of the match will be played at Oxhey to-day, the times of starting being 10.45 a.m. and three p.m.

Chess

Firouzja held

By Malcolm Pein

RAMESHBABU Pragganandhaa's save against Alireza Firouzja in the last round of the Superbet Chess Classic in Bucharest, which deprived the latter of outright first, was instructive. In the position below, it appears that Firouzja should easily convert the material advantage of two rooks vs rook and knight, as he possesses a passed f-pawn. Note how Pragg anchors the knight on d4, then pushes a3-a4 to exchange pawns and try to create a passed pawn of his own on c3.

In some lines, Pragg can give up his knight for the f-pawn and secure a draw by advancing his queenside pawns supported by the king. As Bent Larsen used to say, "passed pawns must be pushed". Firouzja's failure to get his f-pawn going leads to it being blocked by the rook and knight.

R Pragganandhaa - A Firouzja, after 40.Nc3-f5 Kf8-e8:

8 ♠ none ♠ none
7 ♠ none ♠ none
6 ♠ none ♠ none
5 ♠ none ♠ none
4 ♠ none ♠ none
3 ♠ none ♠ none
2 ♠ none ♠ none
1 ♠ none ♠ none

41.Nd4 Rc4! (Donating a tempo, Pragg stabilises his knight. 41...Rcd6 42.c3 Rf1 43.Kb3 f6 44.a4 bxa4+ 45.Kxa4 Rf7 46.Rc5 Kg6 and pushing the passed f-pawn was the way) 42.c3 Rg6 43.Rh3 Rc7 44.Kb3 Rc7 45.a4 Re7 (The b5-pawn will be isolated, weak and under fire from the white knight.

45...bxa4+ 46.Kxa4 Re5 prepares f7-f5, although after 47.Rf3, it's still tough to win. Black would try 47...Rd6 to prevent c3-c4, then 48.Kb3 f5 again planning Ke8-f7-g8) 46.axb5 axb5 47.Rh8+ Ke7 48.Rb8 f5 (48...Rgg5? 49.Nf3) 49.Rb7- f6 50.Nxb5 (50.Rxb5?? Rxb5 51.Nxb5 f4 wins) 50...f4 51.Nd4 Rg3 52.Rb8 Kf7 53.Rb7-Re7 54.Rb5? (54.Rxe7+ also draws after 54...Kxe7 55.Kc4 Kd6 56.b5 Kd7 57.Nf5 Rg1 58.Kd4 f3 59.Kc3) 54...Kg6 55.Rb6- Rf7 (If 55...Kg5 56.Rb5- Kg4 57.Nf5 Re4 58.Nxg3 f5g3 59.Rd5 g2 60.Rd1 Kg3 61.c4 Rf4 62.Rg1 Rf1 63.Rxg2- Kxg2 64.b5 Rf3 65.Kb4 Re4 66.b6 Ra1 67.Kc5 shouldering the black king draws) 56.Rh6 Ree3 (If 56...f3 57.Rh7- Rf6 58.Rxe7 f2 59.Re8 draws) 57.Rh4 Rxc3- 58.Kb2 (Keeping the Rc3 under observation and ensuring the f4 pawn falls. Not 58.Ka4 f3 59.Rf4- Ke8 60.b5 Rc4- 61.Kb3 Rxd4 62.Rxd4 f2) 58...Rf6 59.Rf4- Kf5 60.Rb4 Rf5 61.Nb5 Rb8 62.Nc3 Re8 63.Rh5- Black has five squares for the king, four lose, one draws:

8 ♠ none ♠ none
7 ♠ none ♠ none
6 ♠ none ♠ none
5 ♠ none ♠ none
4 ♠ none ♠ none
3 ♠ none ♠ none
2 ♠ none ♠ none
1 ♠ none ♠ none

Answer: 42.c3 Rg6 43.Rh3 Rc7 44.Kb3 Rc7 45.a4 Re7 (The b5-pawn will be isolated, weak and under fire from the white knight.

Announcements

Email: announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk Book online: announcements.telegraph.co.uk

Deaths

BECHAM.—Pamela June (née Shaw) died peacefully at Mulberry Court Care Home, Chalfont St Peter on 23rd June 2024 with son David and daughter Penney at her bedside. Funeral Service will be held at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham (Milton Chapel) at 1 p.m. on 18th July 2024. No flowers please but donations to June's favourite charities Chiltern Open Air Museum and/or People's Dispensary for Sick Animals. Online Ref: W0026516

DUNN.—Major (Ret'd) Richard 'Rick', peacefully on 3rd July 2024, aged 83 of Bedale. Much loved husband, father and grandfather. Service at St Gregory's Church, Bedale, Thursday 18th July at 11.30 a.m. Donations if desired for St Gregory's Church and the Royal British Legion. All enquiries to Keith Parlou Funeral Director. Tel: 01677 426185. Online Ref: W0026519

EWBANK.—Michael William Francis (Will/Bill) died on 3rd July 2024, aged 77. Adored husband of Heather, brother of Christopher and loving uncle. Funeral Service to be held at 12 noon on 1st August 2024 at Mortlake Crematorium, TW9 4EN. Family flowers only. Donations to Parkinson's UK. Enquiries to Ernest Larner Funeral Directors. Tel: 020 8788 2942. Online Ref: W0026484

HENDERSON.—Margaret Alison died peacefully at home on 30th June 2024. Sadly missed by Alastair, Rosemary, family and friends. Private family service at Chichester Crematorium at 1.30 p.m. on Wednesday 17th July, followed by a Remembrance Service at St Mary's, Funtington at 3 p.m. No flowers, donations to Alzheimer's Society. Online Ref: W0026506

JAMES.—John Robert, loving husband of Donna passed away at Kent and Canterbury Hospital aged 77 years. Much loved father and grandfather who will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him. Funeral to be held at Thanet Crematorium, 26th July at 1.45 p.m. followed by a wake at The Charles Dickens, Broadstairs. Online Ref: W0026515

JARVIS.—Marcus died peacefully at home on 28th June 2024 having suffered for several years with MSA. He will be sorely missed by his husband Tony, for all but 50 years. Online Ref: W0026504

LUSHINGTON.—Diana, died peacefully on 23rd May 2024, aged 85. Much loved Mum to Hazel, Daphne and Veronica, and Granny to Duncan and Lucas. Funeral at St John's Church, Hythe at 12 noon on 25th July. Donations in lieu of flowers to Age UK or St John's Church via dianalushington.muchloved.com Online Ref: W0026478

General personal

The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph

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NATOLIE.—Evelyn Molly, (Molly) died peacefully on Friday 28th June, aged 95. Beloved wife of Frank (deceased). Devoted mother to Susan, David, Paul, Derek and Jane. Mother-in-law of David, Isabel, Maggie, Grace and Chris. Adored by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Much loved and sorely missed. Funeral Service at Charing Crematorium on 1st August at 11.30 a.m. No flowers, please. Donations, if desired, to Alzheimer's Society. Online Ref: W0026518

PETTIT.—James (Jim) died peacefully at home on 20th June, aged 87. He was much loved and will be greatly missed by his wife Jane, his children Jo and Chris and their families, and his sister Ann. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Mary's Church, Hampton, TW12 2EB on Tuesday 23rd July at 2.30 p.m. No flowers please. Enquiries to Lodge Brothers. Tel: 020 8941 4022. Online Ref: W0026479

PRINCE.—Margaret Elizabeth 'Margot' (née Garlic) 1950-2024. Wife of the late John Prince, mother of Trudy and Adrian, loving Granny and GG. Funeral Service to take place on Wednesday 17th July 2024 at Oakley Wood Crematorium, North Chapel at 11 a.m. Flowers welcome or donation to Alzheimer's can be made using the following link: margaret-elizabeth-prince.muchloved.com Online Ref: W0026508

REDGATE.—Caroline Anne. On 2nd July in Truro, Cornwall, aged 75. Much loved sister to Paul and John, devoted aunt to Jack and Lowday and great aunt to George, Beatrice and Remy. Fiercely independent to the end. A private cremation service will take place at Penmount Crematorium, Truro. Funeral Director W J Beswetherick and Son Ltd, Central House, Fairmante Street, Truro TR1 2EQ. Tel: 01872 74021. Online Ref: W0026503

Personal

Text of the day

BE NOT hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. Ecclesiastes 7:9 (AV)

Birthdays

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Personal

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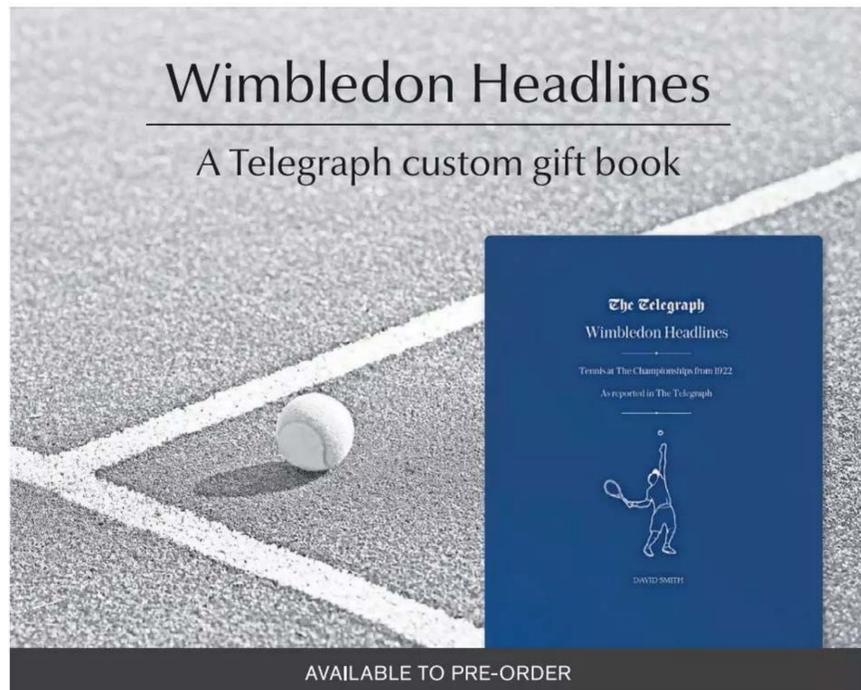
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Baroness Ewy von Korff-Rosqvist

Rally driver known as 'the Baroness of Mercedes-Benz' who beat 250 men to win a gruelling race

BARONESS EWY VON KORFF-ROSQVIST, who has died aged 94, was, as Ewy Rosqvist, a pioneering rally driver in the postwar era. Known as "the Baroness of Mercedes-Benz", she rose to fame in the mid-1950s and was Ladies European Champion for three consecutive years between 1959 and 1961, beating Stirling Moss's sister Pat to the first of those titles.

While she was a heroine for women drivers, she happily described herself as a "leggy Swedish blonde" and was not adverse to using her femininity for commercial and media purposes.

Ewy Rosqvist's name resounded around the world in November 1962 when, with her co-driver/navigator Ursula Wirth, she won the sixth Argentine Touring Car Grand Prix ahead of more than 250 men. They were the first all-female crew to win an international race and the first to win every stage of a world-class rally event.

"They said I could never finish, so I finished first," Ewy Rosqvist said, after the international media had sneered at the two women. At the start of the race, the crowd had assumed that they were models working for Mercedes.

The gruelling drive on rural roads was a formidable test for any driver, yet Rosqvist and her partner stormed to a famous victory that humbled their talented male counterparts: their large Mercedes 220SE saloon, weighing more than two tons, finished three hours clear of the field, and besides winning every stage they set an event record for the fastest average speed.

Mercedes had hired the five-time Formula One world champion Juan Manuel Fangio as an adviser, and he had told Rosqvist never to steer around hazards, as the car would skid and crash. Despite such advice, Ewy Rosqvist's Mercedes teammate Hermann Kühne was killed after overturning while trying to avoid a herd of goats in the road.

A farmer's daughter, Ewy had been a confident horse rider from childhood, while her skills behind the wheel had been honed on the rough roads of postwar Sweden, where she had learnt to drive before becoming a veterinary assistant at the start of the 1950s. Her driving instructor, horrified at her speed, had jokingly asked her if she thought she was a rally driver.

Speeding from farm to farm to attend animals, and to deliver time-sensitive frozen bull semen for artificial insemination, she became the fastest junior vet around, driving long distances to appointments in a Mercedes-Benz 170S saloon provided by her father, and she began timing herself between farms.

In her 1963 autobiography *Driving Through Hell* she wrote: "After two years, I was driving so well that I often finished for the day one and a half to two hours before my female colleagues despite all my stops at the farms."

Her skill in controlling a car on slippery winter ice and gravel roads, when time was of the essence, gave her confidence at high speeds.

As the celebrated Swedish rally driver Erik Carlsson put it, "money cannot buy such experience, and Ewy made the most of it – she was so very



Ewy Rosqvist in 1960 and, right, winning the Argentine Touring Car Grand Prix in 1962: she had learnt to drive fast delivering frozen bull semen as a vet's assistant on icy Swedish roads. Far right, the Matchbox-Mattel model of the car she had driven in Argentina



fast, yet rarely had an incident. She never had a big crash".

She was born Ewy Jonsson on August 3 1929 at Stora Herrestad, near Ystad in southern Sweden, where her parents ran the family farm. Of five children, she was the only girl.

In 1954 she married Ynve Rosqvist, a keen motorcyclist and car racer, who introduced her to rallying. The couple entered local rallies with Ewy driving many of the stages. She teamed up with her sister-in-law, Anita Rosqvist-Borg, and the pair won several local rallies in the most nimble car of its era, the front wheel-drive Saab 93, and then took victory in the Norway Rally.

A rally drive in a small Fiat 1100 did

not produce the speed she required so Ewy Rosqvist bought her own rear-driven Volvo PV544 and began rallying as a part-time passion. She entered the 1957 Rally of the Midnight Sun with co-driver/navigator Maybrit Clauson but the car broke down.

She went back the following year to take the female class victory, and went on to win the Women's Cup four times at the Midnight Sun Rally. She won the 1000 Lakes Rally in Finland – and just three years after her first rally became the 1959 Ladies European Champion.

Pat Moss, a show jumper as well as rally driver, lost the 1959 title to Ewy, but they shared the 1960 championship before the Swede

won it outright the following year. Pat Moss, who won it again in 1962, 1964 and 1965, would go on to marry Erik Carlsson, to whom she had been introduced by Ewy's friend, the English driver John Sprinzel.

Ewy Rosqvist had still been working part-time as a veterinary assistant until she joined the official Volvo rally team for the 1960 season; she won nine major rallies as well as her third European title in 1961. She was named Sportswoman of the Year that year by the *Stockholms-Tidningen* newspaper, and by the end of the following year she had been poached by Mercedes-Benz for their emerging rally team, buying out her Volvo contract.

She was sufficiently well-placed in the 1963 Monte Carlo Rally to become the first Swedish woman to win the Coupe de Dames trophy there. She was fifth in the Acropolis Rally and won her class in the six-hour race at the



Nürburgring circuit in the Rhineland, demonstrating that she could race on tarmac as well as rally on dirt. She then took second place at the 1963 Argentine Touring Car Grand Prix that she had won the previous year.

Ewy Rosqvist's first marriage was dissolved, and in June 1964 she married the Latvian-born German Baron Alexander von Korff, the motorsport director for Mercedes-Benz in Stuttgart. He was descended from a line of medieval Prussian and Russian nobility from St Petersburg and the Duchy of Courland (now the Dobeles region in central Latvia). The stylish couple were married in Stuttgart's Old Castle chapel.

Mercedes closed their rally team in 1965, and after freelancing for a couple of years Ewy von Korff-Rosqvist retired from competitive driving to care for her husband, who had become seriously ill.

After his death in Germany in 1977 she went home to Sweden, but retained a relationship with Mercedes-Benz as a roving corporate ambassador and as a guide at the company's Stuttgart museum. She reckoned she could walk into any Swedish Mercedes dealership and walk out with a sports car. Her partner later in life was Karl Gustav Svedburg, the official importer of Mercedes-Benz cars into Sweden.

A Matchbox-Mattel scale model of the car Ewy Rosqvist had driven to victory in Argentina in 1962 was released in 2020.

Karl Gustav Svedburg died in 2009.

Ewy von Korff-Rosqvist, born August 3 1929, died July 4 2024

Norman Carol

Violinist who played for Nixon and Mao in Beijing in 1973

NORMAN CAROL, who has died aged 95, was an American orchestral violinist who led the Philadelphia Orchestra when they accompanied President Nixon's 1973 visit to China; their repertoire in Beijing included Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*, for which Madame Mao had a fixation.

Western music had been forbidden in China since the start of the Cultural Revolution in 1966, and conservatory musicians were publicly shamed. The ban would only properly be lifted on Mao's death, in 1976. One Chinese pianist in the audience recalled that many of his fellows, starved of music, had tears in their eyes during the Philadelphia's 1973 performance.

Musical diplomacy was part of China's drive to thaw relations with the West, and the Philadelphia Orchestra represented a big prize, as they had just played at Nixon's inauguration, and had a solid "pro-China" record, having given a China Relief concert in 1940. Their six-concert programme, however, represented a minefield.

"We were told that we could not play any Tchaikovsky because the Chinese and the Russians were at loggerheads," Carol recalled. Beethoven was the obvious choice because, though temporarily forbidden, he held the status of a Confucius-like sage in China, and his *Pastoral Symphony* could be interpreted as depicting a peasant society which passes through turmoil to serenity.

As a counterpoint, the orchestra played *Yellow River Concerto*, written during the Cultural Revolution by a committee of composers. Carol did his bit for the entente by temporarily swapping his instrument for a committee-built Chinese violin, played by Situ Hua-cheng, leader of the Central Philharmonic Orchestra of Peking.

Carol had joined the Philadelphia Orchestra as leader in 1966, spending 28 seasons under Eugene Ormandy, Riccardo Muti and Wolfgang Sawallisch. On at least five occasions he had to step up because the soloist cancelled.

Members of the orchestra recalled Carol as a "dashing, comfortable, even swashbuckling leader" whose playing was "bold, expressive and hall-filling". He embodied the rich "Philadelphia sound" for which they are still known.



'A swashbuckling leader'

Norman Carol was born in Philadelphia on July 1 1928, the son of Max Carol, a Ukrainian immigrant whose love of music outclassed his talent, and Anna. Norman performed a Mozart concerto in public aged nine.

He outgrew violins as fast as other boys outgrew shoes. By 1939 he was on his fourth, a 1784 seven-eighths-size Gagnani insured for \$2,000, though he cheekily told a newspaper he would rather be playing baseball.

While at Gratz High School, Philadelphia, he had lessons with Efrem Zimbalist at the city's Curtis Institute, where he later taught. On one occasion he was chosen to turn pages for the visiting Jascha Heifetz, who "was everybody's god".

Serge Koussevitzky heard the 17-year-old perform Lalo's *Symphonie espagnole* at Tanglewood summer festival and invited him to play with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. During the Korean War he was conscripted and wound up in the Sixth Army Band with the jazz trumpeter Chet Baker and the conductor and pianist André Previn.

On demobilisation he spent three years as leader of the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra followed by six years with the Minneapolis Orchestra. In 1966 Ormandy recruited him to his hometown band. The Philadelphia Orchestra returned to China in 1993 but Carol retired the following year because of damaged nerves in his bowing arm. He turned to chamber music, observing: "You never retire from music. They haven't yet found a place to send music addicts."

In 1952 Norman Carol married Elinor Trobbe, whom he had met during military service. He is survived by a son and a daughter, whom he would summon to dinner by whistling the opening theme of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.

Norman Carol, born July 1 1928, died April 28 2024

Sir Peter Hall

Ambassador who represented British interests during the troubled break-up of Yugoslavia

SIR PETER HALL, who has died aged 85, served as ambassador in Belgrade during the early years of the break-up of the former Yugoslavia.

When he was appointed in November 1989, cracks were already beginning to show in the country's federal structure. In January 1990, when the Slovenes and Croats walked out of the annual congress of the governing League of Communists, the cracks became a chasm.

In Hall's view, blame for what happened in the 1990s had to be apportioned widely, though he singled out the German foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher for particular criticism. Against the advice of the German ambassador in Belgrade, Genscher had been "almost fanatical in his support for an independent Croatia", Germany having, as Hall put it, a "rather unappealing connection [with Croatia] from the Second World War".

Although Hall regarded some sort of Croatian independence as inevitable, he believed that pressure should have been applied on Croatia to assuage the fears of the substantial Serbian minority. Instead, encouraged by Germany, "there was a sort of triumphalist new Croatia using the sort of chequerboard symbols that had been so popular there in the Second World War. Indeed, everything was done to make the Serbs in Croatia alarmed. They were a tough, gun-happy mob anyway, so the mixture was an extremely dangerous one."

If Croatia was difficult, Bosnia, as Hall recalled in a 2002 interview with the British Diplomatic Oral History Programme, was "an absolute bonfire waiting to be lit". It was a cauldron of ethnic hatred: Croats, Muslims and Serbs all had "a well-justified loathing" of each other, and "with historical justification".

Hall had frequent dealings with Slobodan Milosevic, whom he regarded as "evil", but he felt the president of Serbia was less driven by virulent nationalism than by an addiction to



Peter Hall in 1995 with Diana, Princess of Wales, during his time as ambassador in Buenos Aires: he found Argentina 'enormously welcoming' despite the rumbling issue of the Falklands

power, which made him more open to reason than the Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Asked whether he thought membership of the EU might eventually help the component parts of the former Yugoslavia to live together, Hall was not optimistic. "Slovenia will, I think, have no difficulty [and] will be, in economic terms, a sort of colony of Austria. Croatia will be largely dependent on Germany. [But] it's very difficult to see Bosnia, Montenegro or Serbia ever functioning inside the EU."

Peter Edward Hall was born on July 26 1938 in Peterborough to Bernard Hall, a bank manager, and Monica, née Blackburn. He grew up near Spalding in Lincolnshire, then Portsmouth.

From Portsmouth Grammar School he won a scholarship to read modern and medieval languages at Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Russian – but "rather bizarrely", he recalled, he chose Serbo-Croat as his second language.

Joining the diplomatic service after graduation in 1961, Hall had to mug up Polish in a few months for his first overseas posting, to Warsaw in 1963. A Pole told him: "You speak quite good Polish but you have got this dreadful Russian accent." He found that this made him an object of suspicion: "The loathing for anything to do with Russia was so marked and so strong."

From 1966 to 1969 he was in Delhi, noticing that the chip on the shoulder that some Indian officials bore about the colonial past seemed to be deepest among the more Anglicised ones who wore Savile Row suits and sent their children to British public schools.

He admired Britain's High Commissioner, the former MP John Freeman, whose no-nonsense approach was demonstrated in a terse telegram he sent to London after carrying out instructions to call on India's prime minister Mrs Gandhi to argue against nuclear development in India on the grounds of non-proliferation: "I saw Mrs Gandhi this afternoon and spoke in accordance with instructions. Her manner was frosty and unhelpful throughout and I am convinced my representations will have no influence on Indian policy. Freeman."

From 1969 to 1972, back in London, Hall was involved in Britain's efforts to join the EEC, specialising in the agricultural aspects of the negotiations and relations with Australia and New Zealand. He particularly admired the New Zealand negotiators, who fought very hard for good terms for lamb and dairy products "and got them, to put it bluntly, at our expense". The Australians, by contrast "appeared not to wake up to the implications until a hopelessly late stage and then started to complain loudly and publicly with many references to Gallipoli".

He admired Sir Geoffrey Rippon, who had the responsibility of negotiating Britain's entry. Hall recalled

how when he presented Rippon with draft minutes of meetings after Rippon had enjoyed "a pretty good lunch with a very large cigar", Rippon would tell him: "I'm not sure that is precisely what I said, but it is certainly what I ought to have said."

Hall felt that France's leader Charles de Gaulle had not been wildly wrong in claiming that "British history was not entirely or easily compatible with a European continental association."

After a short posting in Venezuela, Hall spent five years (1978-83) with the British Information Services in New York and Washington, where he was involved, under Britain's ambassador Sir Nico Henderson, in trying to get American public and political opinion on side during the Falklands War with Argentina.

Hall was concerned that Americans would regard the conflict as "a faintly ludicrous Gilbert and Sullivan cocked-hat thing", but, he observed, Britain was lucky "because, putting it in very broad terms, the Left-leaning wing of US opinion, to the extent that there is such a thing... regarded the Galtieri regime as dreadful, jackbooted dictators, whereas the Right wing of American opinion regarded the conflict as a monstrous insult to their kin and kin in the UK."

Back in Britain, Hall served as head of the Foreign Office's research department then chief of assessments staff in the Cabinet Office before being posted as ambassador to Belgrade in 1989, following a sabbatical year at Stanford University.

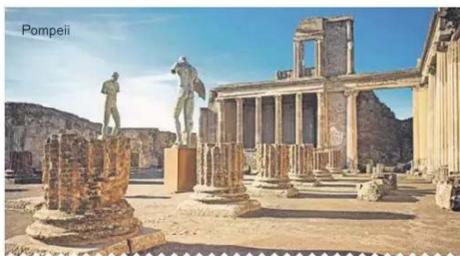
His final posting, from 1993 to 1997, was as ambassador to Argentina, which, despite the rumbling Falklands issue, he found "enormously welcoming". Hall was appointed CMG in 1987 and KBE in 1993.

In 1972 he married Marnie Kay, and after his retirement they bought a house in France and went travelling. She survives him with a daughter.

Sir Peter Hall, born July 26 1938, died June 12 2024

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Television & Radio

Television reviews Anita Singh



Apple's middling sci-fi drama feels all too familiar



Rashida Jones stars as a woman who is gifted a robot following a family tragedy

Stop me if you've heard this one before: a woman who believed she was happily married is forced to reassess everything after her husband dies/disappears and dark secrets emerge. This feels like the basis for roughly 20 per cent of all TV drama, and it's disappointing to find it propping up *Sunny*, Apple TV+'s latest sci-fi thriller.

It's not the only familiar theme. Robots with a mind of their own. The dangers of AI. The weirdness of Japan, as experienced by Westerners (vending machines! Instructions that aren't even written in English!). It's a slick series, competently produced, but if you watch it you will find yourself wishing that it offered something more. *Sunny* isn't a patch on *Severance*, another retro-futuristic Apple TV+ thriller that had smarter things to say and delivered actual thrills.

Rashida Jones is the lead actress, appearing in pretty much every scene. Her Suzie Sakamoto is an American who settled in Japan after meeting and marrying Masa (Hidetoshi Nishijima), who told her he designed fridges for a living. When we first meet Suzie, she is processing the news that Masa and their young son are missing, presumed dead, in a plane crash.

A man arrives at Suzie's house bearing a gift: a robot named Sunny, with a beach ball-sized head and various emojis for a face. The man

explains that Masa made robots, not fridges, and he programmed this one to keep Suzie company.

At first, Suzie wants nothing to do with Sunny. She hates robots, and this one is so relentlessly upbeat that it drives her mad. But she has no friends in Japan, and soon comes to rely on Sunny for companionship. Is Suzie right to place her trust in this seemingly sweet-natured machine?

As a plot, this is fine, if familiar (inevitably, the Yakuza make an appearance). The main problem with *Sunny* is its tone. It's billed as being "darkly comedic" but it doesn't go hard enough on the darkness or the comedy. Suzie has regular flashbacks featuring her son, but she comes across as misanthropic or flatly furious rather than grief-stricken. As Suzie's mother-in-law, Judy Ongg does a nice line in disapproving looks and tart comments, but otherwise the comedy extends to the robot's sassy delivery or Jones running out of loo roll and tripping over while trying to shuffle to the cupboard with her trousers around her ankles.

The opening titles promise a kookiness that appears only in brief flashes during the story. Apple TV+ continues its policy of releasing shows in weekly instalments. I'm sufficiently interested to come back for more, but have a feeling it won't improve.

How many loyalty cards do you possess? I lost my Sainsbury's Nectar card long ago, have never understood the point of a John Lewis card, and refused to get an M&S Sparks card because I was so annoyed at being hectoring to use one by a disembodied voice at the self-service checkouts. But I do have a Tesco Clubcard, and I'm not alone. It is "Britain's most successful membership scheme ever," according to Harry Wallop, consumer expert and contributor to *The Big Loyalty Card Rip-Off* (Channel 5).

The Nectar card isn't far behind, and this programme promised an investigation into both Sainsbury's and Tesco's offerings. Are the deals too good to be true? What are these high-street giants really doing with our data? "Could it be that there's a lot about loyalty cards we just don't know?" it asked at the outset.

Now, if you're going to call your programme *The Big Loyalty Card Rip-Off*, you're making a pretty big claim. You're also giving lawyers for Tesco and Sainsbury's something to get their teeth into. And the title over-egged the pudding. There was no proof of a rip-off here, only a suggestion - strongly denied by both retailers - that discounts for loyalty card holders aren't what they're cracked up to be because the "normal" price has been inflated prior to the deal.

In theory, loyalty card data could be used for good: the programme highlighted an Imperial College London study in which doctors hope to spot early signs of ovarian cancer by noting women who are frequently purchasing certain types of over-the-counter medication and pain relief.

Mostly, though, it's to tell the supermarkets how many Hobnobs you buy. They also learn how loyal and valuable a customer you are, which allows them to target their advertising to your habits and tastes. The clearest part of the show was a simple shopping test: presenter Alexis Conran spent around £65 on basic items, and an identical shop by someone with a loyalty card cost £15 less. Channel 5 deserves credit for continuing to run consumer affairs programming in primetime, where its rivals have pretty much given up.

Sunny ★★★
The Big Loyalty Card Rip-Off ★★★

What to watch

THE GENTLE ART OF SWEDISH DEATH CLEANING

W, 9pm



Johan Svenson, Katarina Blöm and Ella Engström help Americans to declutter their homes

Swedish Death Cleaning - is a variation on the ongoing decluttering craze, its founding principle concerning why one should keep only truly valued possessions to avoid burdening your heirs in the event of your death. Although, as *Parks and Recreation* star Amy Poehler's pathologically perky narration underlines: "This is not a show about death, it is a show about life."

COMEDY

Douglas Is Cancelled

ITVI, 9pm

After two episodes of sharp satire, Steven Moffat's comedy-drama takes a gut wrenching swerve into the latter with a flashback: three years prior to Douglas's (Hugh Bonneville) gaffe, Madeline (Karen Gillan, superb) has an encounter in a hotel room which does much to explain what we have seen so far.

Coupling

BBC Two, 10pm

While Steven Moffat's latest series continues on ITVI, BBC Two shows an episode from the second series of his

sending three empathetic but unsentimental Swedes into the frequently sappy world of US reality television (this is made by NBC's streaming spin-off Peacock) is a smart move, and the culture clashes prompt both jovial humour and frank, emotional truth-telling. First up for designer Johan, psychologist Katarina and organiser Ella is 75-year-old Suzi, a brashly charming "turkey vulture" (20 years older than a "cougar") who

is finding her attachment to the past is stopping her from engaging with the present or imagining a future. Yet who else, she wonders, could possibly want her many photos from her past as a singing waitress, or walk-in wardrobe of sequins and gold lame? You'd be surprised. The Swedes find answers to all the above and more over the course of a genuinely life-affirming hour. *Gabriel Tate*

DOCUMENTARY

Mastermind: To Think Like a Killer

Disney+

The FBI's pioneering behavioural science specialist Dr Ann Burgess - the inspiration behind Netflix's *Mindhunter* - is profiled over three gripping episodes, which reveal how her focus on the victims as much as the perpetrators helped the former find closure and the latter be brought to justice.

Los Angeles: Stories from the City

PBS America, 8.55pm

Hollywood, with its promises of escape and



riches, is as good an emblem as any for the illusions and realities of the American Dream. This solidly informative two-part documentary explores how the myths underpinning LA were established centuries earlier when it was nothing more than a dusty outpost, seized from Spain by Mexico after the latter won its independence.

DRAMA

So Help Me Todd

Alibi, 9pm

The second and final series of CBS's amiably unchallenging legal procedural begins with wily attorney Margaret (Marcia Gay Harden) and her firm's loose-cannon PI, Todd (*Pitch Perfect*'s Skylar



So Help Me Todd: Skylar Astin and Marcia Gay Harden star

Astin), dealing with the unexpected reappearance of her ex-husband (Mark Moses) and a murder on the local morning news.

FACTUAL

Tom Kerridge

Cooks Britain

ITVI, 8.30pm; UTV/Wales, 10.45pm; not STV

Having long ago taken his role of good egg seriously enough to start resembling one, Tom Kerridge is back on the road in his vintage food truck to champion more seasonal British ingredients. This week he visits the Pennines in search of locally-reared British beef to make a lip-smacking steak Diane. His next stop is Lancashire for tomatoes, to help rustle up a tomato and feta flatbread - another appealing combo of technological boundary-pushing and home cooking. *GT*

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The Telegraph

Money Confidential

Radio choice

Reflections

Radio 4, 9am

Those suffering politics withdrawal in the wake of the General Election can turn to a new run of

Reflections, in which Peter Hennessy talks to former senior politicians about the highs and lows of their careers. This first episode sees former Michael Portillo discuss his early days of

working for Margaret Thatcher and the famous "Portillo Moment" - when he lost his seat. That's followed by Rory Stewart's *The Long History of Ignorance* (Radio 4,

9.30am), in which the former MP turned podcast supremo (with *The Rest is Politics*) explores the notion that human ignorance is not necessarily always a bad thing. *Gerard O'Donovan*

RADIO 1

FM 97.6-99.8MHz

6.57am Newsbeat 7.00 Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James 11.00 Rickie, Melvin and Charlie 12.45pm Newsbeat 1.00 Matt and Mollie 3.00 Radio 1's Pop Anthems 3.30 Newsbeat 3.32 Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio 1 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders 8.00 Radio 1's Rave-Up with Arielle Free 10.00 BBC Introducing Dance 11.00 Radio 1's Residency 1.00am Radio 1 Dance Presents 2.00 Radio 1 Happy 3.00 Radio 1's Chillout Anthems 4.00 Radio 1 Dance 5.00 - 6.57am Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Sam and Danni

live from Norwich Cathedral 9.45 The Essay: Michael Longley's Life of Poetry. Featuring the poems *The Leveret*, and *Remembering Carrigskewna* 10.00 Night Tracks 11.30 Round Midnight 12.30 - 6.30am Through the Night

World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.30 News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 - 6.00am Farming Today

The Newswroom 7.30 Sport Today 8.00 News 8.06 The Documentary: Suicide's Silent Survivors 8.30 Science in Action 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.06 The Inquiry 10.30 The Food Chain 11.00 The Newswroom 11.30 World Business Report 12.00 News 12.06am The Media Show 12.30 Happy News 1.00 News 1.06 Business Matters 2.00 The Newswroom 2.30 Tech Life 3.00 News 3.06 Outlook 3.50 Witness History 4.00 The Newswroom 4.30 Heart and Soul 5.00 - 8.00am Newsday

RADIO 2

FM 88-90.2MHz

6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show 9.30 Vernon Kay 12.00 Tina Dabeley. Tina Dabeley sits in for Jeremy Vine 2.00pm Scott Mills. Music and chat 4.00 OJ Borg. OJ Borg sits in for Sara Cox 6.30 OJ Borg's Half Wower. OJ Borg plays the biggest and best tunes to get listeners dancing 7.00 Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist 7.30 Jo Whitley. With Natalie Jamieson 9.00 The Country Show with Bob Harris 10.00 Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 10.30 Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of soulful tunes 12.00 The Reverend Kate Bottley 3.00am Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary 4.00 - 7.00am Owain Wyn Evans

RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198kHz

6.00am Today 9.00 Reflections See Radio choice 9.30 The Long History of Ignorance - from Confucius to Q-Anon See Radio choice 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 The Infinite Monkey Cage 11.45 Book of the Week: The Third Information Crisis 12.00 News 12.04pm The Bottom Line. Business issues that matter 12.32 Sliced Bread. Greg Foot questions DNA ancestry tests. Last in the series 12.57 Weather 1.00 The World at One. Presented by Sarah Montague 1.45 Ten Second Showdown. The explosive drama of the 100 metres sprint 2.00 The Archers. Denise has a confession to make 2.15 Drama: Faith, Hope and Glory. By Carol Russell. Last in the series 3.00 Ramblings. Clare Balding explores a stretch of Ireland's Atlantic coastline 3.27 Radio 4 Appeal. On behalf of Cure Parkinson's 3.30 Feedback. Listeners' views with Andrea Catherwood 4.00 The Briefing Room. David Aaronovitch and guests discuss promising developments in cancer care 4.30 BBC Inside Science. The latest scientific research 5.00 PM. Presented by Evan Davis 5.57 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Rhysearch. Rhys James considers cross-national pride 7.00 The Archers. Stella finds herself fighting a losing battle 7.15 Front Row 8.00 The Media Show 9.00 Loose Ends 9.45 Empire of Tea 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Glorious Exploits 11.00 The Today Podcast 11.30 Three Million 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: The Third Information Crisis 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW 693 & 909kHz

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast 9.00 Chris Warburton 11.00 Tony Livesey 1.00pm Tennis 5.00 5 Live Drive 7.00 5 Live Sport: The Euro Leagues Podcast. Steve Crossman and guests review the Uefa Euro 2024 semi-finals 8.00 6-Love-6. John McEnroe answers listeners' calls 9.00 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Rugby Union 9.30 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket. A review of day two of the First Test between England and West Indies at Lord's 10.00 Lisa McCormick 1.00am Dotun Adebayo 5.00 - 6.00am Wake Up to Money

RADIO 4 EXTRA

DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Dover and the Smoking Gun 6.45 A Small Town Murder 7.00 Patterson 7.30 Dad's Army 8.00 For the Love of Leo 8.30 The Last Champion: The Life of Fred Perry 8.45 Valley of the Dolls 9.00 Rhysearch 9.30 The Test of Time 9.45 Daily Service 10.00 Great Lives 10.30 Sexton's Tales 11.00 Dover and the Smoking Gun 11.45 A Small Town Murder 12.00 Patterson 12.30pm Dad's Army 1.00 For the Love of Leo 1.30 The Last Champion: The Life of Fred Perry 1.45 Valley of the Dolls 2.00 Genius 2.30 The Philanthropist 4.00 Great Lives 4.30 Sexton's Tales 5.00 Dover and the Smoking Gun 5.45 A Small Town Murder 6.00 Patterson 6.30 Dad's Army 7.00 For the Love of Leo 7.30 The Last Champion: The Life of Fred Perry 7.45 Valley of the Dolls 8.00 Genius 8.30 The Philanthropist 10.00 Rhysearch 10.30 Knowing Me, Knowing You 11.00 Detective Sergeant Nick Mohammed 11.30 I've Never Seen Star Wars 12.00 Great Lives 12.30am Sexton's Tales 1.00 Dover and the Smoking Gun 1.45 A Small Town Murder 2.00 Patterson 2.30 Dad's Army 3.00 For the Love of Leo 3.30 The Last Champion: The Life of Fred Perry 3.45 Valley of the Dolls 4.00 Genius 4.30 - 6.00am The Philanthropist

CLASSIC FM

FM 99.9-101.9MHz

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker 9.00 The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker 10.00 Aled Jones 1.00pm Anne-Marie Minhall 4.00 Margherita Taylor 7.00 Relaxing Evenings 10.00 Calm Classics 1.00am Bill Overton 4.00 - 6.30am Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE

DIGITAL ONLY

8.00am News 8.06 The Inquiry 8.30 Business Daily 8.50 Witness History 9.00 The Newswroom 9.30 The Documentary: Suicide's Silent Survivors 10.00 News 10.06 The Media Show 10.30 On the Podium 11.00 The Newswroom 11.30 The Global Story 12.00 News 12.06pm Outlook 12.50 Witness History 1.00 The Newswroom 1.30 The Food Chain 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.06 The Inquiry 3.30 World Business Report 4.00 BBC OS 6.00 News 6.06 Outlook 6.50 Witness History 7.00

Today's television

Main channels

FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **9.30** Morning Live (S) **10.45** Homes Under the Hammer (AD) (S) **11.45** Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S)

12.30 pm Wimbledon 2024 Coverage of day 11 (S)

1.00 BBC News at One; Weather (S)

1.35 Regional News; Weather (S)

1.45 BBC News at One; Weather (S)

2.00 Wimbledon 2024 Further coverage of day 11 (S)

6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S)

6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

BBC Two

6.25 am FILM: The Velvet Touch (1948, b/w) Thriller starring Rosalind Russell (S) **8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (R) (S) (SL) **9.00** News (S)

12.15 pm Politics Live (S)

1.00 Wimbledon 2024 The opening ladies' singles semi-final (S)

3.00 Wimbledon 2024 Further coverage of day 11 (S)

ITVI

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** Lorraine (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)

12.30 pm Loose Women (S)

1.00 News; Weather (S)

1.25 Regional News; Weather (S)

1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket Coverage of the opening day of the July Festival (S)

4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S)

5.00 The Chase (R) (S)

6.00 Regional News; Weather (S)

6.30 News; Weather (S)

Channel 4

6.30 am Cheers (R) (S) **6.55** Cheers (R) (S) **7.20** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **7.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.10** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **8.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.10** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **9.40** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.10** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **10.40** Frasier (AD) (R) (S) **11.10** Undercover Boss USA (R) (S)

12.05 pm Channel 4 News (S)

12.10 Help! We Bought a Village (R) (S)

1.10 Car S.O.S (AD) (R) (S)

2.10 Countdown (S)

3.00 A Place in the Sun (R) (S)

4.00 Renovation Nation (AD) (S)

5.00 A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? (R) (S)

6.00 Four in a Bed (R) (S)

6.30 The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)

Channel 5

6.00 am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine (S) **11.15** Storm Huntley (S)

12.45 pm Friends (AD) (R) (S)

1.10 Friends (R) (S)

1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (S)

1.45 Home and Away (AD) (R) (S)

2.20 FILM: My Fatal Memory (2022, TVM) Premiere. Thriller starring Kate Watson (S)

4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (R) (S)

5.00 5 News at 5 (S)

6.00 Police Interceptors (R) (S)

6.55 5 News Update (S)



A Good Girl's Guide to Murder



Coupling



Douglas Is Cancelled



George Clarke's Amazing Spaces



Susan Calman's Grand Day Out

7.00 The One Show Live magazine show, hosted by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp (S)

7.30 Question Time Fiona Bruce hosts the political debate from Colchester

8.15 EastEnders Stevie makes plans to leave Walford (AD) (S)

8.45 EastEnders Phil continues to drive a wedge between himself and everyone he loves (AD) (S)

9.15 A Good Girl's Guide to Murder Crime drama starring Emma Myers (AD) (R) (S)

10.00 News; Weather (S)

10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

10.40 A Good Girl's Guide to Murder Pip and Ravi turn their attention to Andie's best friends (AD) (R) (S)

11.20 The Traitors US **12.20am** Match of the Day Top 10: Moments of Euro 2020 **12.55 - 6.00am** News

8.00 Today at Wimbledon Highlights of the 11th day's play (S)

9.00 Sacred Rivers with Simon Reeve How iconic waterways have shaped the lives of the people who live along them (AD) (R) (S)

10.00 Coupling Jeff worries about his pulling technique See What to watch (AD) (R) (S)

10.30 Newsnight (S)

11.05 Today at the Test **12.05am** Colin from Accounts **12.35** Sign Zone: Springwatch **1.35** Sign Zone: D-Day: The Unheard Tapes **2.35** Sign Zone: The Bidding Room **3.20 - 6.15am** This Is BBC Two

7.30 Emmerdale Kim covers for Billy's absence (AD) (S)

8.30 Tom Kerridge Cooks Britain The chef offers tips on cooking with steak and tomatoes See What to watch (AD) (S)

9.00 Douglas Is Cancelled There are explosive consequences for Madeline and Douglas See What to watch (AD) (S)

10.00 News; Weather (S)

10.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

10.45 Regional Debate (S)

11.15 FILM: The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) James Bond adventure starring Roger Moore and Christopher Lee See Film choice **1.25am** Shop on TV **3.00** Tour de France Highlights **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05 - 6.00am** The Chris McCausland Show

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)

8.00 The Supervet: Noel Fitzpatrick A toy poodle needs treatment for a damaged hip joint. Last in the series (AD) (S)

9.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces Combining an army lorry and an old caravan to create the ultimate off-roader (AD) (S)

10.00 Outrageous Homes (AD) (S)

11.05 Celebrity Gogglebox **12.05am** Gogglebox **1.00** 999: On the Front Line **1.55** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **2.45** Super Surgeons: A Chance at Life **3.35** Come Dine with Me: The Professionals **4.25** Jamie's One-Pan Wonders **4.50** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free **5.00** Frasier **5.25** Frasier **5.50 - 6.30am** Countdown

7.00 Happy Campers: The Caravan Park An ex-army sergeant arrive at Tencreek Holiday Park (S)

7.55 5 News Update (S)

8.00 Supermarket Own-Brands: The Big Taste Test Luxury own-brands are put through their paces in a series of tests (S)

9.00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out The comedian explores Nottinghamshire (S)

10.00 Truth or Dare: The Murder of Mary Gregory A harmless game of truth or dare leads to a tragic confession (R) (S)

11.30 Cold Case Killers **12.25am** Traffic Cops **1.20** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.20** Great British Gardens with Carol Klein **4.05** Great British Gardens with Carol Klein **4.50** Wildlife SOS **5.15** House Doctor **5.40** Entertainment News on 5 **5.45 - 6.00am** Paw Patrol

Film choice



Vanished into the Night (2024) Netflix

Renato De Maria's Italian crime thriller follows a father (Riccardo Scamarcio) whose children are abducted. Annabelle Wallis is his American ex-wife who is convinced a shady group of loan sharks is responsible. What ensues is a tale of how far ordinary people will go to protect those they love; like Taken, with the spires of Paris swapped for Puglia's sprawling green hills.



The Lodge (2019) Film4, 10.50pm ★★★

Richard Armitage stars in the sort of knotty, atmospheric thriller that has made him a mainstay of British TV (Fool Me Once, The Stranger). When his ex-wife Laura (Alicia Silverstone) kills herself, he and new girlfriend Grace (Riley Keough) are handed custody of their kids. But then an idyllic getaway goes horribly wrong, and Grace's murky past threatens to wreck all of their lives.



The Man with the Golden Gun (1974) ITV1, 11.15pm ★★★

Christopher Lee steals the show as Scaramanga in this classic Bond, director Guy Hamilton's last. Roger Moore's 007 must pursue him with the help of sidekick Mary Goodnight (Britt Ekland); they head off to the villain's island to prevent him harnessing the power of the Sun. Moore and Lee's duels are crackling; Lulu's theme song is still among the franchise's finest.

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with Katie Morley



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BBC Four

7.00 pm Today at the Test

8.00 Killer Storms and Cruel Winters: The History of Extreme Weather - Timewatch

9.00 FILM: The Woman in Black (2012) Supernatural horror

10.30 Mark Kermode's Secrets of Cinema: Horror

11.30 Talking Books

11.55 The Sky at Night

12.25 am Killer Storms and Cruel Winters: The History of Extreme Weather - Timewatch

1.25 Full Circle with Michael Palin

2.15 - 3.15am Sleuths, Spies & Sorcerers: Andrew Marr's Paperback Heroes

ITV3

11.35 am Heartbeat

12.40 pm Heartbeat

1.40 Classic Emmerdale

2.10 Classic Emmerdale

3.15 Classic Coronation Street

3.50 Inspector Morse

6.00 Heartbeat

7.00 Heartbeat

8.00 Vera

10.00 Trigger Point

11.00 Trigger Point

11.55 The Royal

12.45 am Upstairs, Downstairs

1.35 Upstairs, Downstairs

2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

Noon BattleBots

1.00 pm Tour de France Highlights

2.00 Tour de France Live. Coverage of stage 12

5.00 Great Racehorses

5.25 Mr Bean

5.55 BattleBots

7.00 Tour de France Highlights

8.00 FILM: Jaws: The Revenge (1987) Thriller sequel starring Michael Caine

9.50 FILM: Rocky II (1979) Boxing drama sequel starring Sylvester Stallone

12.10 am The Professionals

1.10 Minder

2.05 Auto Mundial

2.35 Motorsport Mundial

3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

2.00 pm The South Bank Show Originals

2.30 South Bank Show Originals

3.00 Hepworth

4.00 Discovering

5.00 The Joy of Painting

6.00 Tales of the Unexpected

7.00 Battle of the Bagpipes

8.00 The Directors

9.00 Discovering: Tom Cruise

10.00 Sherlock Holmes vs Arthur Conan Doyle

11.00 Comedy Legends

12.00 The Pilgrimage of Gilbert & George

2.00 am FILM: Burning Man: Art on Fire (2020)

3.15 Auction

3.45 - 5.00am National Trust

Sky Atlantic

11.10 am Gomorrah

12.15 pm Game of Thrones

1.20 The Sopranos

2.25 The Sopranos

3.30 Six Feet Under

4.35 Six Feet Under

5.40 Gomorrah

6.45 Gomorrah

7.55 Game of Thrones

9.00 House of the Dragon

10.05 Succession

11.15 Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty

12.25 am Watchmen

1.30 The Leftovers

2.50 - 4.00am Game of Thrones

Film4

11.00 am Comanche Station (1960) Western with Randolph Scott

12.35 pm The Iron Petticoat (1956) Comedy starring Bob Hope and Katharine Hepburn

2.25 The Ten Commandments (1956) Biblical epic starring Charlton Heston

6.45 GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra (2009) Action adventure starring Channing Tatum

9.00 A Quiet Place Part II (2020) Horror starring Emily Blunt

10.50 The Lodge (2019) Premiere. Horror starring Riley Keough See Film choice

1.00 - 3.50am Mother! (2017) Thriller starring Jennifer Lawrence

Drama

11.40 am The Bill

12.40 pm Classic EastEnders

1.20 Classic EastEnders

2.00 London's Burning

3.00 Born and Bred

4.20 Tenko

5.20 Birds of a Feather

6.00 Waiting for God

6.40 Are You Being Served?

7.20 Last of the Summer Wine

8.00 Father Brown

9.00 A Small Light

10.10 New Tricks

11.30 Soldier, Soldier

12.40 am Footballers' Wives

1.40 Born and Bred

2.50 - 4.00am Classic Holby City

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 10.40pm The Crime I Can't Forget **11.40** A Good Girl's Guide to Murder **12.25am** The Traitors US **1.25** Match of the Day Top 10: Moments of Euro 2020 **1.55 - 6.00am** BBC News **BBC Two:** No variations **ITV: 10.45 - 11.15pm** UVTV Life

Scotland

BBC One: 7.00 - 7.30pm River City **12.20am** The Traitors US **1.25 - 6.00am** BBC News **BBC Scotland: 8.00pm** Beechgrove Garden **8.30** Hidden Lives **9.00** Noteworthy with Chris McCue **10.00** The Karen Dunbar Show **10.30** The Firm **11.30** David Wilson's Crime Files: Cold Cases **midnight** Close **STV: 1.30 - 4.00pm** STV Racing: Live from Newmarket **7.00 - 7.29** Animal 999 **10.45 - 11.15** Sean's Scotland **3.50 - 5.05am** Night Vision

Wales

BBC One: 10.40pm Walescast **11.10** A Good Girl's Guide to Murder **11.50 - 12.50am** The Traitors US **BBC Two:** No variations **ITV: Wales: 10.45 - 11.15pm** Fishlock's Choice

ITVI Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cwyl **12.00** Newyddid S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Bois y Rhondda **12.30** Y Byd ar Bedwar **1.00** Prynhawn Da **1.55** Newyddid S4C a'r Tywydd **2.00** Seiclo: Tour de France **4.40** Sali Mail **4.45** Crads Bach y Traeth **4.50** Ston y Cherf **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Dan Do **6.15** Sgorio **8.30** Rownd a Rownd **9.00** Newyddid S4C a'r Tywydd **9.30** Seiclo: Tour de France **10.50** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer **11.00 - 11.35pm** Cais Quinell

Dave

Noon Storage Hunters UK **2.00pm** James May's 20th Century **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure **6.00** Rick Stein's Spain **7.00** Would I Lie to You? **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Have I Got a Bit More News for You **11.00** Taskmaster **12.00** Mock the Week **12.40am** Would I Lie to You? **1.20** QI XL **2.30** Room 101 **3.00-4.00am** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA

GOLD

Noon Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** My Hero **2.00** Still Open All Hours **2.40** Dad's Army **3.20** Are You Being Served? **4.00** Last of the Summer Wine **5.20** Still Open All Hours **6.00** The Green Green Grass **6.40** Dad's Army **8.00** The Thin Blue Line **8.40** The Vicar of Dibley **9.20** Harry Enfield and Chums. Mr Cholmondley-Warner offers his idiosyncratic views on madness, while Stan and Pam flush their cash in Spain. Kevin refuses to go to bed and Tim gets engaged to a royal **10.00** Paul Whitehouse's Sketch Show Years **10.40** The Fast Show **11.20** The Fast Show: Just a Load of Blooming Catchphrases **1.20am** Bottom **2.00** Harry Enfield and Chums **2.30** The Fast Show **3.15-4.00am** Bottom

ITV2

Noon Dress to Impress **1.00pm** Wheel of Fortune **2.00** Supermarket Sweep **3.00** Charmed **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.00** The Masked Singer US **9.00** Love Island **10.05** Tell Me Everything **11.05** Family Guy **12.05am** American Dad! **1.05** Don't Hate the Playaz **1.45** Shopping with Keith Lemon **2.45** Unwind with ITV **3.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4

11.25am Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Chateau DIY **6.55** Car S.O.S **7.55** Grand Designs **9.00** Perfect Pub Walks with Bill Bailey **10.00** 24 Hours in A&E **12.05am** 999: On the Front Line **1.10** 24 Hours in A&E **3.20-3.50am** Food Unwrapped

PBS America

11.55am Lincoln: Divided We Stand **1.00pm** Grand Tours of Scotland **1.35** The Vietnam War **3.55** Los Angeles: Stories from the City **5.00** Lincoln: Divided We Stand **5.55** Grand Tours of Scotland **6.30** The Vietnam War **8.55** Los Angeles: Stories from the City See What to watch **9.55** Lincoln: Divided We Stand **10.50** A War on Trial **12.00** Los Angeles: Stories from the

City 1.00am Grand Tours of Scotland **2.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at: **10.50am** FILM: The Adventures of PC 49: Investigating the Case of the Guardian Angel (1949, b/w) Crime drama starring Hugh Latimer **12.15pm** FILM: The Stranger Came Home (1954, b/w) Mystery starring Paulette Goddard **1.55** FILM: River Patrol (1948, b/w) Crime drama starring John Blythe **3.00** Crown Court **4.30** Enemy at the Door **5.35** FILM: It Always Rains on Sunday (1947, b/w) A mother-of-three must decide where her loyalties lie when her former lover escapes from prison and comes to her for sanctuary. Crime drama with Googie Withers and John McCallum **7.30** Take Two: Nanette Newman Interview **8.00** The Brothers **9.05** Van der Valk **10.10** The Place of the Dead **12.15am** FILM: Hi Mom! (1970) A Vietnam veteran develops an uneasy fascination with his neighbor. Comedy, directed by Brian De Palma, starring Robert De Niro and Allen Garfield **1.55** FILM: A Reflection of Fear (1972) A girl tries to win her estranged father's affections by killing his new girlfriend. Thriller starring Robert Shaw, Mary Ure and Sondra Locke **3.40-5.30am** FILM: Double X:

The Name of the Game (1992) Thriller starring Norman Wisdom

Yesterday

Noon Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **4.00** The Buildings That Fought Hitler **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **8.00** Bangers & Cash **9.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics **11.00** Abandoned Engineering **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Secrets of the Transport Museum **3.00-6.10am** Teleshopping

Sky Sports Main Event

10.15am Live Test Cricket. England v West Indies **6.30pm** Live Women's International T20 Cricket. England v New Zealand. Coverage of the third match of the five-game series, held at The Spitfire Ground in St Lawrence, Canterbury **10.00** Live PGA Tour Golf. The ISCO Championship **12.30-6.00am** SSN Euro Report

Sky Sports Premier League

Noon Gary Neville's Soccerbox **1.00pm** Premier League Best Goals **2.00** Premier League Highlights **5.00** Premier League Review **7.00** Premier

League Icons **7.30** Premier League Stories **8.00** SSN Euro Report **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00** Class of '92: Full Time **12.00** PL Retro **2.00-4.00am** Premier League Years

TNT Sports 1

11.30am World Championship of Legends Cricket **1.30pm** International Rugby Union **3.00** Premier League Mystery to Blind Frog Ranch **4.30** Flying Wild Alaska **5.00** Salv

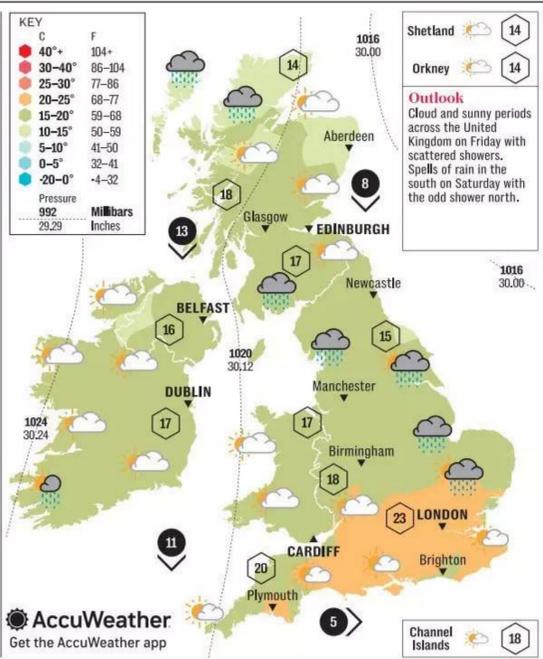
Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

Scattered showers in southern Scotland, northern England and the Midlands today. Sunny spells elsewhere with the odd shower in Wales and northern Scotland.

- ♦ **London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Showers in the Midlands and E Anglia today; sunny spells southeast. A light and variable wind. Max 58-73F (15-23C). Broken cloud tonight with a shower or two. Min 50-57F (10-14C).
- ♦ **NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Broken cloud today with scattered showers. A light NE wind. Max 48-62F (9-17C). Mainly dry tonight. Min 42-54F (6-12C).
- ♦ **Wales:** Sunny spells today with the odd shower. A gentle NW wind. Max 52-68F (11-20C). The odd shower tonight. Min 42-55F (6-13C).
- ♦ **N Ireland:** Sunny spells today. A gentle N to NW wind. Max 46-62F (8-17C). Clear spells and dry tonight. Min 41-52F (5-11C).
- ♦ **SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray, Fife, Orkney, Shetland:** Showers south today; the odd shower north. A gentle wind to moderate variable wind. Max 41-65F (5-18C). Dry tonight. Min 36-52F (2-11C).



Four day forecast

- Friday** [Weather icons]
- Saturday** [Weather icons]
- Sunday** [Weather icons]
- Monday** [Weather icons]

European readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

	Max	Min	Daytime	weather
Akrotiri	31	26	sunny	
Alicante	33	21	sunny	
Amsterdam	22	17	showers	
Athens	38	29	windy	
Barcelona	27	21	sunny	
Bari	32	23	sunny	
Belgrade	38	23	sunny	
Benidorm	33	21	sunny	
Bergen	19	13	showers	
Berlin	31	21	showers	
Biarritz	26	18	p/ckly	
Bodrum	38	26	sunny	
Bordeaux	28	17	showers	
Brest	19	15	cloudy	
Brussels	25	16	p/ckly	
Bucharest	40	23	showers	
Budapest	36	21	p/ckly	
Cagliari	35	22	sunny	
Chamonix	23	16	storms	
Copenhagen	25	18	showers	
Corfu	38	25	p/ckly	
Cork	19	11	windy	
Corsica	31	20	sunny	
Crete	31	26	sunny	
Dublin	15	11	rain	
Dubrovnik	33	27	sunny	
Faro	27	20	sunny	
Florence	36	20	sunny	
Frankfurt	28	19	p/ckly	
Funchal	26	20	sunny	
Gdansk	31	15	storms	
Geneva	26	18	showers	
Gibraltar	29	20	sunny	
Hamburg	25	20	showers	
Helsinki	23	11	sunny	
Innsbruck	31	17	storms	
Istanbul	35	25	sunny	
Kyiv	33	22	p/ckly	
La Rochelle	22	18	showers	
Lisbon	29	19	p/ckly	
Locarno	31	17	showers	
Luxembourg	24	17	p/ckly	
Madrid	35	20	sunny	
Majorca	31	20	sunny	
Malaga	35	17	sunny	
Malta	35	26	sunny	
Marseille	33	20	sunny	
Menorca	29	21	sunny	
Milan	33	20	sunny	
Monaco	33	23	sunny	
Moscow	26	17	p/ckly	
Munich	29	18	rain	
Naples	33	24	sunny	
Nice	28	24	sunny	
Nicosia	37	25	storms	
Oporto	22	18	p/ckly	
Oslo	15	8	rain	
Palermo	32	23	sunny	
Paris	27	19	p/ckly	
Perpignan	31	20	sunny	
Prague	32	18	showers	
Reykjavik	14	8	rain	
Rhodes	33	25	sunny	
Riga	29	14	p/ckly	
Rome	34	20	sunny	
Saint Malo	22	15	cloudy	
Salzburg	29	18	storms	
Santander	24	16	p/ckly	
Santiago/Comp.	20	16	showers	
Sofia	32	16	sunny	
St. Petersburg	24	14	sunny	
Stockholm	21	12	p/ckly	
Strasbourg	28	21	rain	
Tenerife	30	20	windy	
Tirana	38	23	sunny	
Toulouse	30	18	p/ckly	
Valencia	33	22	sunny	
Venice	36	25	sunny	
Vienna	35	21	p/ckly	
Vigo	23	17	showers	
Vilnius	27	17	sunny	
Warsaw	35	22	p/ckly	
Zagreb	39	21	sunny	
Zurich	25	18	showers	

Nature Notes

Next few weeks 'critical' for terns

National Trust rangers watching over Britain's largest mainland colony of Arctic terns say the next few weeks will be "critical" for its survival as a breeding species in the UK.

More than 1,000 Arctic tern chicks died from bird flu last year at Long Nanny, on the Northumberland coast, one of the seabird's last strongholds.

Long Nanny is also home to a small colony of little terns, which were similarly affected by the flu outbreak.

This year, the number of adult breeding birds is lower, probably as a result of the flu outbreak, with the amount of nests with eggs down by 20 per cent compared with last year.

James Porteus, an area ranger, says rangers are "on tenterhooks to see if the chicks survive" what the weather and predation throws at them. "The good news is that the number of returning adults, while down, is higher than we feared, with more than 2,000 breeding adults recorded," he added.

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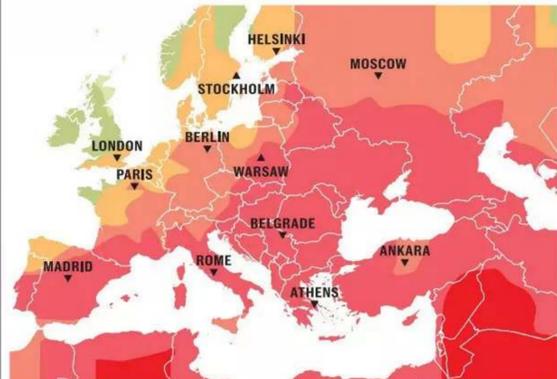
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British readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm - *estimated readings

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	weather
Aberdeen	0.0	0.98	15	12	rain
Aberystwyth	0.0	0.12	20	13	showers
Antrim	0.0	0.58	14	12	showers
Aviemore	0.0	0.46	17	9	showers
Barnstaple	0.5	0.00	19	14	cloudy
Barrow-in-Furness	0.0	0.47	17	14	showers
Basingstoke	1.9	0.04	21	14	cloudy
Bedford	0.5	0.04	21	15	showers
Belfast	3.7	1.60	14	12	showers
Berwick	0.0	0.79	17	12	showers
Birmingham	1.9	0.03	19	14	cloudy
Bodmin	0.5	0.04	17	13	cloudy
Bournemouth	5.9	0.01	21	16	windy
Braintree	0.4	0.10	21	15	cloudy
Brecon	0.0	0.00	17	11	cloudy
Brighthelm	0.0	0.04	21	14	showers
Brighton	0.8	0.08	19	15	showers
Bristol	0.4	0.07	21	14	showers
Cambridge	9.9	0.02	17	14	p/ckly
Cardiff	1.9	0.05	19	14	showers
Cardiswell	0.4	0.08	15	13	showers
Catterick	0.1	0.63	19	14	showers
Cheltenham	0.3	0.03	21	15	cloudy
Chester	1.5	0.57	21	16	rain
Coventry	0.6	0.01	23	14	cloudy
Doncaster	0.0	0.25	22	16	showers
Dover	2.9	0.00	18	15	cloudy
Dundee	0.6	0.25	17	11	showers
Eastbourne	1.0	0.11	20	15	showers
Edinburgh	0.0	0.35	16	11	showers
Epsom	0.0	0.13	19	14	cloudy
Falmouth	5.2	0.01	19	14	cloudy
Farnborough	0.0	0.05	22	15	cloudy
Fort William	0.0	0.11	17	10	cloudy
Glasgow	1.0	0.27	19	12	cloudy
Great Malvern	0.5	0.00	20	15	cloudy
Grimsby	1.1	0.00	21	16	cloudy
Guernsey	0.0	0.06	19	14	showers
Hereford	0.3	0.01	19	14	cloudy
Hereford	0.3	0.01	19	14	cloudy
High Wycombe	0.2	0.04	21	15	cloudy
Holyhead	0.3	0.26	17	13	showers
Huddersfield	0.0	0.15	19	14	showers
Ipswich	2.3	0.16	21	16	cloudy
Isle of Man	0.0	0.14	17	14	showers
Isle of Skye	0.0	0.24	16	11	cloudy
Isle of Wight	3.1	0.22	17	14	windy
Isles of Scilly	0.0	0.00	19	14	cloudy
Jersey	1.6	0.05	19	14	showers
Keswick	0.4	1.80	17	13	rain
Kew Gardens	0.4	0.09	21	16	cloudy
King's Lynn	1.4	0.10	21	16	windy
Leek	0.3	0.64	19	15	showers
Leeds	0.0	0.51	18	14	showers
Leominster	0.6	0.01	19	14	showers
Lincoln	1.9	0.01	20	16	cloudy
Liverpool	1.6	0.57	21	16	showers
London	1.4	0.05	22	16	cloudy
Manchester	0.1	0.12	22	16	showers
Middlesbrough	0.0	1.90	18	12	rain
Newcastle	1.2	0.46	15	13	rain
Newquay	9.9	0.02	17	14	p/ckly
Nottingham	0.4	0.00	21	16	cloudy
Orkney	0.0	0.18	15	12	showers
Oxford	4.4	0.03	21	14	cloudy
Perth	0.0	0.40	16	11	showers
Peterborough	4.0	0.04	21	15	cloudy
Plymouth	1.0	0.00	19	14	cloudy
Portsmouth	2.5	0.06	22	15	cloudy
Prestwick	0.0	0.62	18	12	showers
Ramsgate	2.3	0.01	20	16	cloudy
Rhyl	0.1	0.49	20	14	showers
Rugby	1.2	0.00	20	15	cloudy
Salisbury	0.4	0.02	20	14	showers
Scunthorpe	0.0	0.14	21	16	cloudy
Sheffield	0.0	0.25	22	16	showers
Shetland	0.4	0.03	14	7	showers
Shrewsbury	0.3	0.00	21	15	cloudy
Skegness	1.5	0.03	21	16	windy
Southampton	3.9	0.26	20	16	cloudy
Southend-on-Sea	4.7	0.01	22	16	cloudy
Stockport	0.1	0.12	22	16	showers
Stornoway	2.4	0.00	16	12	cloudy
Swansea	0.0	0.11	19	13	showers
Swindon	0.5	0.00	18	14	cloudy
Thirsk	0.0	0.70	19	15	showers
Tiree	0.0	0.02	17	12	showers
Weymouth	4.8	0.00	18	15	cloudy
Whitehaven	0.5	0.20	17	13	showers
Widmerere	0.0	1.07	19	14	rain
Worcester	1.2	0.00	20	15	cloudy
Yeovil	3.4	0.00	21	15	cloudy
York	0.0	0.41	22	16	showers



World readings

	Max	Min	Daytime	weather
Accra	29	24	cloudy	
Addis Ababa	25	13	showers	
Adelaide	16	5	p/ckly	
Alexandria	32	26	sunny	
Algiers	30	23	p/ckly	
Amman	36	25	sunny	
Anchorage	15	13	cloudy	
Ankara	31	16	p/ckly	
Ascension Is.	27	23	p/ckly	
Auckland	14	6	sunny	
Baghdad	50	31	haze	
Bahamas	33	27	storms	
Bahrain	40	34	sunny	
Bangkok	31	27	storms	
Beijing	36	20	storms	
Beirut	31	26	sunny	
Bermuda	28	25	sunny	
Bogota	19	11	rain	
Bridgetown	31	26	showers	
Brisbane	24	14	showers	
Buenos Aires	10	3	sunny	
Cairo	39	26	sunny	
Canberra	13	3	p/ckly	
Cape Town	16	10	rain	
Casablanca	29	18	windy	
Chicago	26	19	p/ckly	
Christchurch	12	1	cloudy	
Colombo	30	27	storms	
Damascus	39	18	sunny	
Dar es Salaam	30	22	cloudy	
Dhaka	34	27	storms	
Dubai	44	35	haze	
Falkland Is.	5	3	flurry	
Harare	26	8	sunny	
Havana	32	25	storms	
Hong Kong	34	29	storms	
Honolulu	26	24	showers	
Jakarta	32	26	p/ckly	
Jeddah	44	32	sunny	
Jerusalem	33	22	sunny	
Johannesburg	20	2	sunny	
Kabul	30	20	sunny	
Karachi	36	29	p/ckly	
Kolkata	35	29	cloudy	
Kuala Lumpur	29	26	storms	
La Paz	12	0	windy	
Lahore	38	27	sunny	
Lima	17	15	p/ckly	
Los Angeles	26	18	sunny	
Makives	31	29	sunny	
Manila	31	26	cloudy	
Marrakesh	42	21	sunny	
Melbourne	17	8	p/ckly	
Miami	32	27	storms	
Montego Bay	32	27	storms	
Mumbai	32	25	storms	
Nairobi	24	15	cloudy	
New Orleans	31	26	storms	
New Delhi	36	28	p/ckly	
New York	32	26	p/ckly	
Ottawa	21	18	rain	
Perth	17	9	showers	
Port-of-Spain	32	25	p/ckly	
Rio de Janeiro	25	20	p/ckly	
Riyadh	45	31	sunny	
San Francisco	18	14	mist	
Santiago	7	3	p/ckly	
Seattle	25	17	sunny	
Seoul	31	23	p/ck	