

SUNDAY EXPRESS



JULY 14, 2024

express.co.uk

£2.50

After 58 years of hurt, can England bring it home?

**WE
KANE
DO
IT!**

**Harry all fired up
for Euros glory**



Picture: ANDY STENNING

**SEE PAGES 2,3,4,5,
BACK PAGE AND
SPORT PULLOUT**

ENGLAND EURO 24 FINAL

‘Three Lions are best example of British diversity’

By **Elizabeth Ivens**

TV HISTORIAN David Olusoga believes the England team are the “best role models for diversity” we have in the UK.

David, who hosts BBC series such as *Union* and *A House Through Time*, also said Gareth Southgate and his squad have “shown more leadership than most of our politicians”.

The broadcaster and writer, *below*, who has a Nigerian father and a British mother, is calling for a reform of schools’ history curriculum.

Declaring that Parliament “doesn’t reflect” UK multiculturalism, Olusoga told Wellington College’s Festival of Education: “The best British institution that does reflect this is the England football team.

England football team.

“If somebody had told me in the 1980s that I would be looking to the England team as a model of diversity, and that the England manager would be the greatest spokesman for diversity and inclusion,

I’d have thought they had been smoking their own supply.

“But the team is made up of players from Jamaica, St Kitts, Trinidad and Tobago, Ireland and Nigeria.

“It is a team whose family histories are those of the Commonwealth. Their goals are the fruits of diversity, migration and movement.

“For example, Bellingham’s mother is Nigerian and Kane’s ancestors are from Ireland.”

Olusoga – who has claimed the UK is “less equal” now than the 1970s Gateshead he grew up in – added that a narrow school history curriculum “is damaging for everyone, not just the black or Asian or whatever child whose history is not recognised”.

Two million to take sickie

TOMORROW has been dubbed “Hangover Monday”, with an estimated two million workers calling in sick, experts warn.

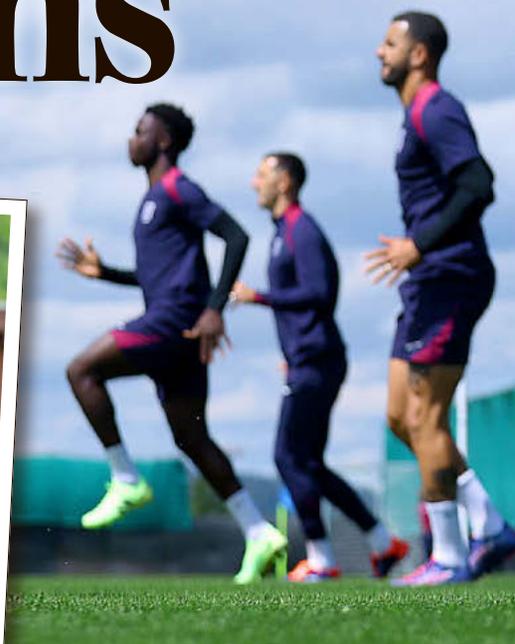
A further three million will have a day’s holiday and 10 million will work at home, it is forecast. Hundreds of thousands will arrive at work late.

Sickness absence rocketed 232 per cent the day after England’s last Euros final in July 2021, according to data from BrightHR, which monitors absence among over a million staff at 50,000 UK firms. Annual leave for Monday is up 126 per cent, it says.

Lidl is opening an hour late to give 30,000 staff a lie-in and thousands of schools have told their pupils they can come in two hours late tomorrow, too.

Patrick Kennedy, head of St Charles RC Primary School, Rishton, Lancs, said “the national anthem, players’ responsibility and respect for the opposition” made the Euros final an educational experience for children.

‘We don’t believe in fairy tales... we do believe in dreams’



GARETH Southgate promised to make the nation’s dreams come true today when the Three Lions aim to make history in the final of Euro 2024.

The England boss declared he is “not a believer in fairy tales but a believer in dreams” and assured fans that his players have “big dreams” for today.

Speaking ahead of tonight’s crucial clash against Spain in Berlin where England could lift a trophy for the first time in 58 years, he added the squad were “excited for the challenge”.

Southgate said: “We’re excited for the challenge. Clearly the team have improved over the last few weeks, shown incredible character and resilience.

“I have to say they have been a pleasure to work with every day on the training pitch.”

Referring to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar when England was knocked out by France in the quarter finals he added “now we have a fabulous opportunity to achieve tomorrow what we set out from the moment we left Qatar earlier than we’d have liked.”

He added: “I am not a believer in fairy tales but I am a believer in dreams.

“We’ve had big dreams, but you have to make those things happen. Fate, the run that we’ve had, the late goals, the penalties – it doesn’t equate to it being our moment.

By **Jerry Lawton** IN GERMANY

We have to make it happen tomorrow and perform at the level we need to. Of course, it would be a lovely story and it’s in our hands, but the performance is the most important thing.”

He continued: “When you’re trying to create dreams, you’ve got to have a clear picture of what you want to see at the end of it. That lights a small fire for some people but we know what it would mean to everybody at home, we know what it would mean to us as a squad, the hard work that has gone in.

“Not just this group, but players who have been with us the past six or seven years and played a really big part.

“The staff with us, it’s been a huge team effort and all of those people have helped create the culture we have and we would love to give everyone a special night again tomorrow.”

The Prince of Wales led the nation in urging the team to glory with a rousing message ahead of the final declaring, “We believe”.

William, who is president of the Football Association, and will attend the match said: “We are so proud of you all, just one last push to finish the job!

“Go out there and show the world what you’re made of. We believe.W.”

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer also told

A wealth of options when

Both ITV and BBC are offering live coverage of tonight’s historic match, which kicks off at 8pm.

The action comes from the famous Olympiastadion in German capital Berlin where the BBC studio is based.

Gary Lineker will again lead the coverage, from 6.30pm, on BBC iPlayer and BBC One, with punditry expected from Micah Richards, Alan Shearer and Rio Ferdinand. You can watch in HDR on iPlayer if you have a 4k TV.

Radio presenter Mark Chapman will

England’s footballers they have “made the country proud’ ahead of tonight’s match.

And captain Harry Kane added the team “are really desperate to go one step further than we did last time” when they lost the Euro 2020 final to Italy at Wembley.

He said: “Of course, before every tournament you have to believe you can win it, otherwise there’s no point being in the tournament. That belief has grown as we’ve gone through the tournament.

“I think what we’ve been through with the late goals, penalty shootout – it builds resilience, it builds belief.”

Manager for the last seven years and former England player Gareth Southgate said: “I don’t have any fear about tomorrow as I’ve been through everything. I want the players to have that fearlessness. If we’re not afraid to lose it gives us a better chance of winning. I’m personally excited.”

Kane added: “We were all England



FOCUSED: A relaxed Gareth Southgate speaking yesterday

Picture: EDDIE KEOGH/THE FA/GETTY

UNISON: Joe Gomez, Cole Palmer and the England squad training in Blankenhain yesterday



Gareth's 'bible' study to break habit of losing

GARETH Southgate has lifted the lid on the motivational 'bible' that has helped him get to the brink of glory.

When the Three Lions boss began preparing for a post-playing career, he sought the teachings of a book called *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, written by practising Mormon and business and management professor Stephen Covey.

Among its lessons were skills like being a good listener, the importance of winning jointly as a team and learning from past experiences, which he's used to end England's penalty shoot-out losing habit.

Southgate has admitted his penalty miss that saw England lose the Euro 96 semi-final against Germany continued to haunt him. But he later found humour from it in a self-mocking Pizza Hut advert.

Southgate, 53, said: "I'm always

'Search for small messages to help'

relating everything I read to 'how would this work with the team or how would this work with my kids?'. So there is almost never a switch-off which is a bit sad. You're watching a film and you think 'oh, that might be like a relationship thing'.

"You're searching for small messages that can help you improve."

Covey emphasises how winning for everyone is better long term than winning alone – manifested in how England now call subs "finishers" whose job is to win games late on.

A second habit is to focus on what you can influence and take responsibility for your reaction to your experiences – relevant to Southgate's lessons from his Euro 96 penalty pain.

In 1996, Covey was named by *Time* magazine as one of the 25 most influential Americans, and sold 20 million copies of his bestseller before he died in 2012 after a bike accident.

Luke: 'To win is everything'

LUKE Shaw said winning Euro 2024 is all that matters, even if England play "bad football".

The full-back, *inset*, said he could not understand criticism levelled at Gareth Southgate earlier in the tournament about the Three Lions' playing style. "I don't really understand the criticism," he said. "What he has done for the country, for us as players as well, he has really taken us to the next level.

"No manager has really been as successful as him in what he's done recently.

"Whether you play good or bad football, the most important thing is winning games," he said.

"At the moment we're doing that. That's all that matters."



it comes to watching (or listening) to the big match



BERLIN-BASED: Lineker and Shearer

also be on BBC Radio 5 Live and BBC Sounds for the build-up from 7pm before the live commentary begins at 8pm.

You can also watch the match on the BBC Sport website and app.

TV Coverage on ITV also gets under way at 6.30pm. Mark Pougatch will helm the big night, with contributions expected from Gary Neville, Ian Wright and Roy Keane.

If you don't like football, Channel 4 is showing the Oscar-winning film *Titanic* from 6.15pm.

fans growing up. We know, we've had some great moments in tournaments, but couldn't quite get there. With a fan's head on, I know it would be an incredible night if we achieve what we want to achieve tomorrow."

Last night Sir Keir writing to "Gareth and all the England team," said he wished the squad "the very best".

Sir Keir said the players had got to the final because of their "graft and hard work" and the whole country was behind them. The PM, who will also be at the match, said: "On behalf of the whole nation I wanted to wish you all the very best ahead of today's final.

"You should all be proud of what you've achieved so far and I hope you can take some strength from

the millions at home kicking every ball alongside you. You don't need a running commentary from a politician on what you should or shouldn't do.

"You're here not because of luck but because of your graft and hard work. You've earned it. As you did three years ago you've made the country proud.

"Whatever happens you should know that you have united the country and we are all behind you. So enjoy tonight. I know that up and down the country we all will."

Former PM and Conservative leader Rishi Sunak added: "Over the last few weeks the team have brought us joy, drama and inspiration – and perhaps one too many nerve-racking moments.

"But they've kept their focus

BELIEVE: Prince William issued a rallying cry



ENGLAND EURO 24 FINAL

A record-breaking Super England fans settle in for

Paying a heavy price for a slice of the action

WELL-OFF England fans can bag a VIP spot if they have £8,500 to spend or are prepared to pay a tout 42 times a ticket's face value.

Uefa are selling an exclusive fine-dining lounge package at Berlin's Olympic Stadium for that eye-watering price.

They had also offered a Skybox package for groups of 10 fans for a staggering £337,000 – but they have already been snapped up.

It included a private chef, four-and-a-half hours of drinking, and seats with a great view of the on-pitch action at tonight's final.

Regular tickets sold out months ago but Category 1 £840 tickets are being touted for up to £35,000.

Category 3 tickets priced at £252 are up for sale for £7,500 on secondary selling sites.

But fans risk being turned away at the turnstiles if they buy spots from unauthorised sellers.

Uefa says resales should take place via its official channels and not third-party firms.

It advises: "A ticket resale platform will allow fans to offer their tickets for resale at face value via EURO2024.com/tickets."

"This will enable fans to safely purchase tickets from other fans."

Supporters go 'tattoo crazy'

ENGLAND'S Euro 2024 success is set to be inked into the nation's history – with fans getting Three Lions' tattoos, writes *Jerry Lawton*.

Google searches for "England tattoo" exploded by 2,010 per cent after Ollie Watkins' last-minute winner against the Netherlands in Wednesday's semi-final.

Web trawls for "tattoo shops near me" were up 1,226 per cent and simply "tattoo" by 126 per cent.

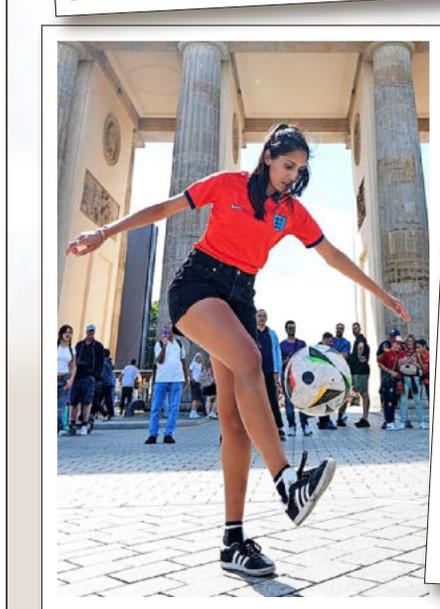
Adam Parker, of NZCasinoClub, which carried out the research, said that fans are ecstatic after England's last-minute win over the Netherlands secured their place in the Euro final. "This huge victory has filled England supporters with pride and joy."

"It's normal for die-hard fans to show their loyalty in various ways including getting tattoos."

"The explosion in Google searches highlights just how much this win means to the fans and their dedication to the team."



GETTING IN THE ZONE: Excitement rises in Berlin, not least from the Choudhury family, right



ENGLAND fans will make today a record-breaking Super Sunday by downing an incredible 46 million pints during the Three Lions' historic Euro showdown with Spain.

In a much-needed boost to the economy, £300million will be splashed out on food and drink as Gareth Southgate's squad bids to end 58 years of football hurt.

With shops closing and music festivals cut short, an expectant nation will grind to a halt in readiness for the 8pm kick-off.

The National Grid is braced for the biggest power surge in three years as a nationwide half-time dash for cuppas sees many of the expected record 33 million TV audience turn on kettles at the same time.

And other passionate supporters have forked out £150million in a mad dash to Berlin in a bid to see history being made.

More than 100,000 are expected to arrive in the German capital for the match.

England's place in the final has also provided a much needed boost for Britain's struggling pubs and bars.

More than 3.5 million people are expected to squeeze into the nation's 35,000 pubs to watch the action, with analysts predicting 22 million pints will be downed. One of the final acts of the Tory government was to grant bars special 1am

From **Jerry Lawton** IN BERLIN

licence extensions. Kate Nicholls, chief executive of trade body UKHospitality, said: "It will be a Super Sunday for pubs and bars, with a 50 per cent increase in sales."

"Venues will be packed to the rafters with an unrivalled atmosphere and licensing hours extended."

Steve Haslam, landlord of the Bread & Cheese

pub, in South Benfleet, Essex, added:

"We could have sold out five times over."

"It'll be electric."

The action will also be screened in football clubs and fan zones across the country, nearly all of which are sold out.

In London, more

CHEERS: Mike and Rowan Armstrong

than 300,000 applied for 15,000 tickets to a free screening of the game at the O2.

Rap, R&B and hip-hop fans will also be able to watch the game after organisers of the Wireless Festival in Finsbury Park, north London, announced it will end at 7pm rather than 9.30pm to allow the 50,000 revellers time to get to a screen.

Analysts also reckon 24 million pints will

be drunk at home as fans splurge £80million stocking up on food, booze, TVs, flags, bunting and shirts for parties.

Tesco will sell four million packs of beer, while Iceland said beer sales have already soared by 250 per cent.

With roads,



Sunday as ever-hopeful nail-biting historic final



Pictures: ANDY STENNING; PA

So close to tasting glory after 1966 but penalties have piled on pain

BEFORE today's final, England only made it to two tournament finals, both on home soil.

Gareth Southgate took the Three Lions to the pandemic-postponed Euro 2020 final against Italy at Wembley on July 11, 2021. After a 1-1 draw in extra time, England had a 2-1 advantage in the shoot-out after the first two takers to miss. Italy came back to win 3-2.

Before that, England last reached a major final in the 1966 World Cup, again at Wembley, nearly 58 years ago on July 30, 1966. Sir Alf Ramsey's squad famously thrashed West Germany 4-2 after extra time, with Geoff Hurst scoring the fourth goal, *inset*.

England has also made it to three major semi-finals. The first was under Bobby Robson at the 1990 World Cup

against West Germany in Turin. The score was 1-1 at full time, with no goals in extra time. Germany then won the shoot-out 4-3 and ultimately lifted the World Cup. England came fourth.

Under Terry Venables, the team faced Germany again at Wembley as England held the first Euros tournament to feature 16 finalists in 1996.

It was 1-1 after extra time. Both sides scored their first five penalty kicks but in the sixth round, Gareth Southgate's was saved, allowing Andreas Möller to score the winning goal.

Alan Shearer was given the golden boot for top tournament scorer, with five.

Southgate then led the team to the semis at the 2018 Russia World Cup, his maiden tournament as a manager.

England lost 2-1 to Croatia after extra time. They finished fourth while Harry Kane was top scorer, with six goals.



railway stations and convenience stores expected to be deserted, Tesco and Sainsbury's will shut 3,600 locals supermarkets at 7.30pm.

That will allow store staff to get home and enjoy the match.

With fans enjoying a drink or two, hundreds of extra police officers have been drafted in to try to ensure that any trouble is kept to a minimum.

The final is also expected to be the most watched match yet, beating the TV record of around 33 million for the Euro 2020 final – which England lost on penalties to Italy.

It will also eclipse the 32.3 million who watched the 1966 World Cup final.

A TV ratings insider said: "The Euro final will be right up there with the most-watched events. It's in prime-time and on both major channels."

Fans caught up in the football mania also wanted to soak up the atmosphere in person in Berlin, with some travelling from as far as Australia.

Officially, England fans only have 10,000 seats in the 75,000-capacity Olympiastadion but another 30,000 are believed to have spent thousands buying up illicit tickets on secondary selling sites.

Around 60,000 have also made the trek

to Berlin without a chance of seeing the action live.

Analysts estimate they have forked out £1,000 on travel and hotels, and those with tickets will have spent a further £1,000.

Julian Pottle, 52, flew from Sydney with wife Helen, 47, son Charlie, 17, and daughter Summer, 13, having paid the face value of £450 each for final tickets six months ago.

QPR fan Julian said: "We can't wait."

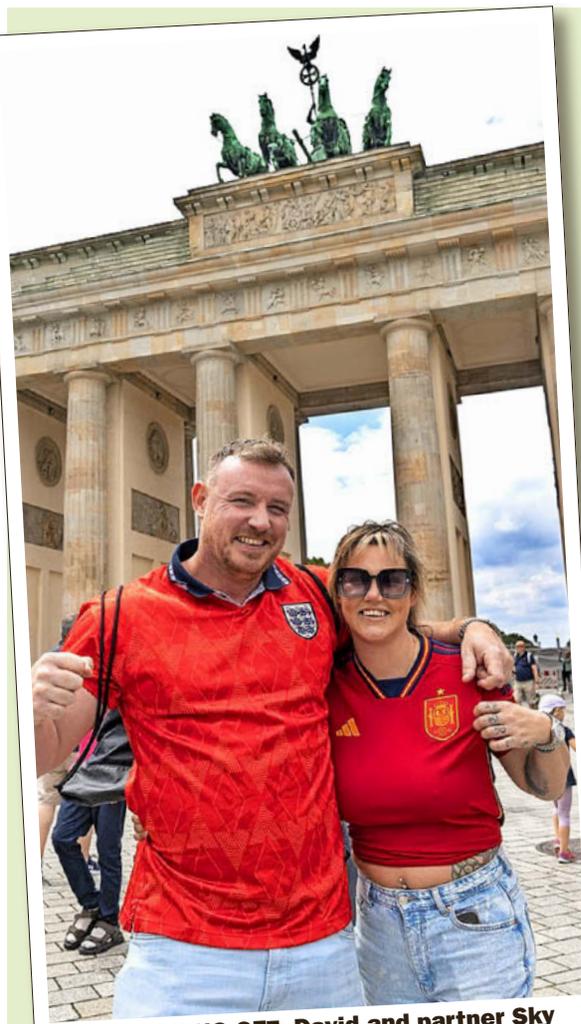
Laurissa Cummings, 33, booked her flight on Thursday to join her brother Chris, 30, from Horsham, West Sussex, who has been to every England game of the tournament.

She said that her bosses encouraged her to go and added: "They aren't really into football but I think they got caught up in the whole feeling of excitement."

Jamie Nash, 33, from Northampton, missed out on going to Berlin because it clashes with his wedding.

But he said: "The wedding will just add such an amazing atmosphere."

"If England wins, everyone will remember the wedding and where they were when England won."



ALL KICKING OFF: David and partner Sky

We're rivals but a perfect love-match

A COUPLE with split loyalties have revealed what it's like to be rivals for tonight's big game, writes Zak Garner-Purkis.

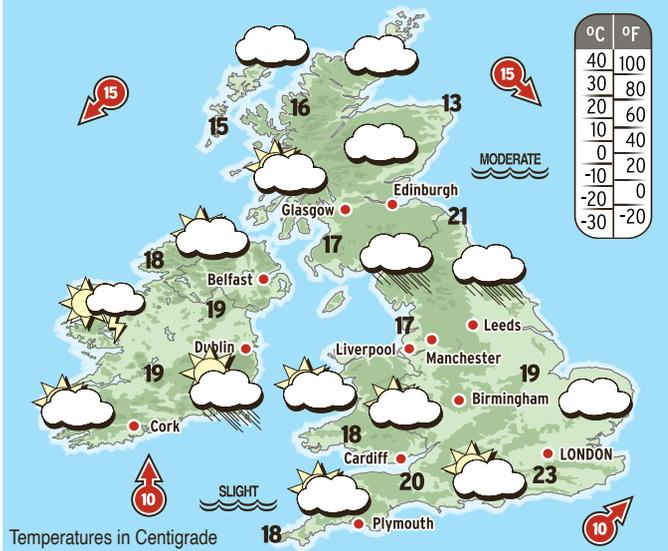
Sky Rodriguez, 40, and David Butler, 37, from Cornwall knew they had to travel out to Berlin as soon as it became clear Spain and England would play each other in the final.

Speaking from Berlin's fanzone Sky, who is also an Arsenal fan, explained: "My dad is Spanish and I spent a lot of time in Spain growing up so they're my team. I love England as well – although Spain has the edge."

Asked whether facing off in the final would be a test for their relationship Sky replied: "I can't really lose."

And David – a Spurs fan – was magnanimous about the prospect of an England defeat: "The Spanish team is really good, you can't hate them. So I'll say 'congratulations'."

Weather forecast



Today's summary: Mainly dry but cloudy

North West: Cloudy, with light rain for a time and showers later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 17C (63F).

Northern Ireland: Mostly bright and dry but the small chance of a shower developing. Light winds. High 19C (66F).

Wales: Cloudy with a risk of showers. Brighter or sunny spells later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 19C (66F).

Midlands: Mainly dull and cloudy with light rain, especially later. Gentle north-westerly winds. High 19C (66F).

North East/Yorks: Cloudy with rain or drizzle, mostly quite light. Moderate northerly winds. A cool day. High 16C (61F).

Scotland: Cloud breaking to give sunshine and isolated showers. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 20C (68F).

East Anglia: Mostly dull and cloudy with light rain, mainly later. Moderate westerly winds. High 20C (68F).

London/South East: Dry with sunny spells, especially after midday. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 23C (73F).

South: A dry day with spells of sunshine and patchy cloud. Gentle south-westerly winds. High 20C (68F).

South West: Dry and bright with sunny intervals breaking through by the afternoon. Light winds. High 20C (68F).

Channel Isles: Dry and fine with sunny spells and variable amounts of patchy cloud. Light winds. High 19C (66F).

Sea: North Sea: Moderate. Irish Sea: Slight. Channel: Moderate.

UK OUTLOOK TOMORROW: Clouds will build in from the south tomorrow and showery outbreaks of rain will spread across the south-west and may be locally heavy.

SIX-DAY FORECAST

	MON		TUE		WED		THU		FRI		SAT	
	min	max										
London	14	21	13	23	14	22	12	22	13	25	13	24
Belfast	12	19	12	18	11	16	11	17	11	17	11	17
Birmingham	12	20	11	20	13	20	10	20	11	22	12	20
Cardiff	13	19	13	20	12	19	11	19	12	21	12	19
Glasgow	12	18	12	18	12	18	12	17	12	18	11	17
Manchester	13	20	12	20	13	20	11	18	12	21	12	18
Newcastle	13	19	12	19	12	20	11	18	11	20	11	19
Norwich	14	22	13	21	13	22	11	21	12	22	13	21
Plymouth	13	18	13	20	12	18	11	19	13	20	13	19

Britain yesterday Moon, sun and tides

24 hours to 5pm: SUN (hrs), RAIN (ins), TEMP (min) (max)

Aberdeen	0.0	0.01	11	13
Aberporth	4.3	0.00	10	16
Ainwick	0.2	0.36	11	12
Belfast	0.4	0.00	12	18
Birmingham	1.2	0.02	12	19
B'mouth	5.0	0.44	12	19
Bristol	5.7	0.05	10	19
Cardiff	5.5	0.02	11	18
Durham	0.3	0.13	11	13
Edinburgh	0.6	0.03	11	13

Britain Warmest: Southampton 21C (70F)
Extremes: Coldest: Whitechurch 7C (45F)
 Wettest: Kintbury Point 0.39in.
 Sunniest: Jersey 8.8hr.

Lighting-up times
 Belfast 9.51pm-5.08am
 Birmingham 9.23pm-5.03am
 Bristol 9.21pm-5.11am
 Glasgow 9.53pm-4.53am
 London 9.12pm-5.01am
 Manchester 9.30pm-4.59am
 Newcastle 9.36pm-4.48am

MOON rises: 2.22pm, sets: 12.01am
 SUN rises London: 5.00am, sets: 9.12pm
 Manchester rises: 4.58am, sets: 9.30pm
 Full Moon 21 July

HIGH TIDE
 London B'ge (7.52am), (8.06pm)
 Liverpool (5.11am), (5.43pm)
 Greenock (6.15am), (7.20pm)
 Dover (5.18am), (5.33pm)

Europe forecast

City	Forecast	Temp
Amsterdam	Fair	20C/68F
Brussels	Fair	22C/72F
Dublin	Showers	18C/64F
Frankfurt	Fair	26C/79F
Geneva	Fair	26C/79F
Lisbon	Sunny	25C/77F
Madrid	Sunny	34C/93F
Paris	Cloudy	23C/73F
Rome	Sunny	32C/90F

Around the world yesterday

City	Forecast	Temp
Amsterdam	Thndr	15 59
Athens	Sunny	37 99
Barcelona	Sunny	25 77
Berlin	Fair	20 68
Budapest	Sunny	32 90
Cairo	Sunny	34 93
Cape Town	Rain	13 55
Casablanca	Sunny	24 75
Corfu	Sunny	33 91
Dublin	Fair	17 63
Dubrovnik	Sunny	30 86
Faro	Sunny	24 75
Florence	Sunny	31 88
Gibraltar	Sunny	26 79
Guernsey	Fair	18 64
Hong Kong	Shwrs	30 86
Istanbul	Sunny	29 84
Jersey	Fair	18 64
Lamaca	Sunny	34 93
Las Palmas	Sunny	26 79
Los Angeles	Fair	21 70
Luxor	Sunny	43 109
Malaga	Fair	28 82
Malta	Sunny	30 86
Malta	Sunny	32 90
Melbourne	Fair	13 55
Miami	Shwrs	29 84
Moscow	Fair	25 77
Nairobi	Shwrs	19 66
New Delhi	Fair	33 91
New York	Thndr	27 81
Nice	Sunny	27 81
Nicosia	Sunny	36 97
Perth	Sunny	18 64
Prague	Fair	22 72
Singapore	Shwrs	31 88
Stockholm	Sunny	21 70
Sydney	Fair	16 61
Tel Aviv	Sunny	34 93
Tenerife	Sunny	27 81
Toronto	Sunny	27 81
Tunis	Sunny	35 95
Venice	Sunny	30 86
Vienna	Fair	26 79
Warsaw	Fair	27 81

LIVE WEATHER SERVICE
 0906 156 0206

CALL OUR WEATHER LINE WHERE YOU CAN SPEAK LIVE WITH OUR EXPERTS FOR UP-TO-DATE FORECASTS. CALLS COST £1.50 PER MINUTE PLUS YOUR TELEPHONE COMPANY'S NETWORK ACCESS CHARGE. SERVICE OPEN 8AM - 6PM DAILY. SP. PRICE: 0333 202 3390
 Supplied by **MeteoGroup**



GRIEF: Theatre director Michael Rudman and Felicity Kendal

Felicity: I can't listen to Michael's final voicemail

By **Karen Rockett**

ACTRESS Felicity Kendal has revealed she still cannot listen to her late husband's final voicemail message, which he recorded from his hospital bed last year.

The *Good Life* star, 77, is grieving for Michael Rudman, 84, her long-term partner who died in March last year.

Felicity described him as the love of her life and said of the message: "I can't listen to it, not just yet. But I'm not deleting it. I have thousands of emails from Michael too but I'm not looking at those either."

The US theatre director suffered health issues including a heart attack, bypass surgery and Covid. He then broke his back in a fall.

Labour ousts last hereditary peers

By **David Williamson**
 POLITICAL EDITOR

PLANS to oust surviving hereditary peers from the House of Lords will be set out this week in a landmark King's Speech.

The move is expected to be a key item in Sir Keir Starmer's programme for government, unveiled at the State Opening of Parliament on Wednesday.

There are 92 remaining hereditary peers in the unelected House of Lords, which dates back to the 11th century.

They are expected to retain access to the Palace of Westminster and its restaurants and bars as a compromise.

The change is seen as finishing Tony Blair's reform of 1999, when he cut the several hundred blue-blooded peers with seats down to 92.

In the long term, Labour wants to replace the Lords with an "alternative second chamber that is more representative of the regions and nations".

Officials are at work on more than 35 Bills. Measures to "turbocharge" economic growth are also promised.

Controversially, the Government will beef up the role of the Office for Budgetary Responsibility, which scru-

Six measures to look for in King's Speech

- HOUSEBUILDING BILL** – Sir Keir wants to deliver the "biggest increase in social and affordable housebuilding in a generation".
- DEMOCRACY BILL** – This could include Labour's pledge to introduce votes at 16.
- WORKERS' RIGHTS BILL** – Tories fear Labour will introduce "French-style" labour laws.
- TAKE BACK CONTROL BILL** – Mayors and councils are expected to gain new powers over skills, transport, planning and energy.
- HILLSBOROUGH LAW** – Labour has a manifesto pledge to introduce a "legal duty of candour on public servants" and provide legal aid for victims of disasters.
- BORDER SECURITY BILL** – This would allow people smugglers to be treated like terrorists.

tinises tax and spending plans. A Bill will enforce "tough new spending rules" to avoid the "chaos which left families with spiralling bills and wreaked misery on people's lives", in a clear reference to former premier Liz Truss's 2022 mini-Budget.

Action is also promised to speed up the construction of housing and infrastructure, as well as changes to boost jobs, transport, devolution and energy.

Sir Keir said: "Our work is urgent,

there is no time to waste. We're hitting the ground running by bringing forward the laws we need to rebuild our country for the long term – and our ambitious, fully costed agenda is the down payment on that change.

"From energy to planning, to unbreakable fiscal rules, my government is serious about delivering the stability that is going to turbocharge growth that will create wealth in every corner of the UK."

The National Lottery

JACKPOT £3.9 MILLION
 22 27 37 38 49 51 BONUS BALL 59
THUNDERBALL
 1 22 27 28 36 THUNDERBALL 8



The Health Lottery

SATURDAY JULY 13: BIG DRAW
 5 6 19 21 37 BONUS BALL 9
2ND CHANCE DRAW
 11 18 20 33 34 (WINNER GETS £100K)

Subscribe to the Sunday Express and save 20%.
 Call **0345 1494848** or visit **newspapersubs.co.uk**

INSIDE: Comment 14 Nick Ferrari 17 Jennifer Selway 33 Review 35-40 Stuart Winter 42 Health 44,45 Travel 47-49 Finance 53-56 Letters 59 Puzzles 66,67 PLUS YOUR 12-PAGE SPORT PULLOUT

ipso Regulated **CORRECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS:** If we've published anything factually inaccurate, please contact the readers' editor by email at expressletters@express.co.uk or you can write to **Readers' Editor**, Sunday Express, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP and, once verified, we'll correct it as soon as possible. The Daily Express and Sunday Express are published by Express Newspapers, a subsidiary company of Reach PLC, which is a member of IPSO, the Independent Press Standards Organisation. We adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice as enforced by IPSO, which is contactable for advice at IPSO Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, EC4A 7LG; website www.ipso.co.uk; call 0300 123 2220; email advice@ipso.co.uk. If you have a complaint concerning a potential breach of the Code of Practice, we will deal with your complaint directly or IPSO can refer your complaint to us. Go to www.reachplc.com/how-to-complain where you can view our Complaints Policy and Procedure. A How To Complain pack is also available by writing to the Legal and Compliance Department, Reach PLC, One Canada Square, London E14 5AP. **MISSING SECTIONS:** If you are missing any part of your newspaper including the magazine, please email missingsections@express.co.uk

Strictly curse? No, it was a blessing to meet my Rachel

By **Julia Kuttner**

BALLROOM dancer Pasha Kovalev feels he has benefited from a Strictly blessing rather than its famed curse.

The BBC contest is known for causing the breakdown of relationships for both its celebrities and professionals.

But Pasha met his wife, Countdown co-host Rachel Riley, on the show and after more than a decade together says they are happy and still very much in love.

The Russian pro, 44, was paired with Rachel, 38, on Strictly in 2013, losing a dance-off in week six to eventual series winner Abbey Clancy and Aljaz Skorjanec.

At the time, Rachel was married to Jamie Gilbert, who she had met while studying maths at Oxford University.

Their 15-month marriage ended in November 2013, soon after her stint on Strictly and has been cited as another example of the Strictly curse.

A month later, Pasha and Rachel started dating and they married in Las Vegas in June 2019, with their first daughter Maven born in December of that year.

Rachel gave birth to their second daughter Noa in November 2021.

Pasha said: "The show was over before the romance started flourishing. I can't complain, I wouldn't change a thing."

He believes the show has been blamed for relationship breakdowns because it magnifies any pre-existing problems.

He said: "I know from my experience if people are unhappy at home and during Strictly that just magnifies and then things happen."

"In a way it's more because people become more confident."

"People realise 'I can do this'."

This new thing I've never done before, so I'm better than I thought I was and I enjoy myself now, so why would I go back to something I don't enjoy. That's how I see it."

Pasha will next be seen in 18-date touring stage show Legends of The Dance Floor in autumn, with former Strictly professionals Brendan Cole, James Jordan, Vincent Simone and Ian Waite.

But he has ruled out returning to Strictly while his daughters are young, saying: "Rachel and I schedule it so if she is away with work I can be at home."

● For tickets visit legendsofthedancefloor.com



DANCE FLOOR LEGENDS: Vincent Simone, Brendan Cole, Pasha Kovalev, Ian Waite and James Jordan are going on tour with their show

PERFECT PARTNERS: Rachel and Pasha. Far left, with daughter Maven and on Strictly in 2013



'If people are unhappy at home then during Strictly that magnifies, and then things happen'

PASHA KOVALEV

By **Tony Whitfield**

STRICTLY professional Graziano Di Prima last night said he "deeply regrets events" that led him to be sensationally axed from the BBC show.

He added that his "intense passion and determination to win might have affected" his training regime.

The Italian dancer, 30, had his contract terminated after accusations of misconduct towards reality TV star Zara McDermott, his dance partner last year.

Just last month, he was named in the line-up for 2024's 20th anniversary series. His social media posts from just a week ago suggested this was the case.

But he was dropped last week after an internal probe into a number of alleged incidents involving former Love Island star Zara, 27, it is understood.

Calling it a "challenging time", Di Prima said: "I deeply regret events that led to my departure from Strictly."

"My intense passion and determination to win might have affected my training regime. Respecting the BBC HR

process, I understand it's best for the show that I step away.

"While there are aspects of this story involving external influences that I can't discuss at this time, I remain committed to being strong for my family and friends."

"I wish the Strictly family and the BBC nothing but success in the future. When the time is right, I will share my story."

A BBC spokesman

said: "If issues are raised we will always take them seriously and act swiftly", while a source added: "Graziano had to go. It has been awful."

Graziano – who has also danced with DJ Vick Hope, TV star Judi Love and actress Kym Marsh on Strictly – is now in his native Sicily with his wife and fellow

ballroom dancer Giada Lini, celebrating their second wedding anniversary.

It comes after it was confirmed fellow Sicilian Giovanni Pernice, 33, will not be part of the 2024 line-up amid allegations about his methods, which he rejects.

He is accused of bullying actress Amanda Abbington, 50, leading her to quit midway through the 2023 series.

A Strictly source said: "It is incredibly brave of Zara to have come forward."

Last week the BBC announced that dancer Aljaz Skorjanec, 34, will this year rejoin the show after a two-year hiatus.

Graziano's 'regret' after shock sacking



ALLEGATIONS: Zara and Graziano were paired up last year

HEALTH SERVICE REVIVAL PLAN

The NHS may be broken...but it's not beaten

COMMENT

By Wes Streeting

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SECRETARY



THIS is a tough time for the NHS, its staff and the patients waiting to be treated. I was honest with the public before the election that we wouldn't be able to wave a magic wand on day one of a Labour government and fix it. It's going to take time.

That's why I appointed Lord Darzi, an NHS surgeon for more than three decades, to lead an independent investigation into the health service.

He will ask the hard questions, leave no stone unturned and speak truth to power.

As Lord Darzi said himself, to find the cure you've first got to get the diagnosis. His findings will be the first step on the road to recovery and will be the basis from which we begin to draft the NHS 10-year plan – the road map to an NHS fit for the future.

When I was first appointed Shadow Health and Social Care Secretary, I was told the worst thing I could say to staff was the word "reform". The truth is, it's the complete opposite.

Staff are crying out for change and are full of ideas to improve the service. I want everyone to share their ideas. That's how we will write the plan that will see it treat more patients in their own neighbourhood,

'It will be a long road to recovery'

take advantage of tech and prevent people falling ill in the first place. As we look ahead to securing the NHS's future, I've been taking action to get patients treated on time right now, and to make sure we keep the promises we made to Sunday Express readers before the election.

We promised 40,000 extra appointments a week, including more at evenings and weekends, and NHS leaders are pulling together a plan to deliver them as soon as possible. We met the British Dental Association last Monday, and it is standing ready to deliver the 700,000 extra urgent and emergency appointments pledged in our manifesto.

I also promised to reopen talks with the BMA Junior Doctors Committee, with the aim of ending the crippling strike action. I met junior doctors this week to get negotiations up and running at pace.

I have been upfront and honest with them – taxpayers cannot afford a 35 per cent pay rise. But we got off on the right foot and I'm optimistic that there's a deal to be done.

The challenges are huge but if we make the right long-term decisions now, we can have an NHS, free at the point of use for the next 75 years, as we have for the last 75 years.

The NHS saved my life, and I can't think of a better way to repay my debt than by saving the NHS. It may be broken, but it isn't beaten.

Pay our hospitals when ill get back to work

HOSPITALS would be paid when they get patients "back to work" under radical plans to slash waiting lists and boost the economy.

A senior aide to Health Secretary Wes Streeting said the policy would tackle the "national crisis" of 2.8 million people out of a job due to poor health.

Professor Paul Corrigan, who last week was appointed strategic adviser to the Department of Health, said the NHS should be paid by results to ensure it made better use of funding.

He warned: "There is no experience on the National Health Service of actually doing something for an output. And the output isn't the person getting better, it's the person getting a job."

"So we could construct a system where NHS England is paid to do that if the person gets the job."

Setting out the plan in a podcast with think-tank the Health Foundation, Prof Corrigan said the measure "would be in the national interest" adding: "We do need these people in work."

Mr Streeting argues that reforms to the NHS can help the Government grow the economy by cutting the numbers off sick as well as creating jobs directly in the NHS and helping attract investment in life sciences.

But he is gearing up for a battle with left-wing critics after vowing to increase the use of the private sector.

The Health Secretary pointed out that people who can afford it are already using private healthcare.

And he said: "One of the reasons I was determined in opposition to take on the Left on this issue is this isn't simply a pragmatic argument that says 'well, we can get waiting lists down faster if we use spare capacity in the private sector', though that's important. It was also a principled argu-

By Jonathan Walker

DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

ment that said 'why should those without means wait longer while those who have means are seen faster?'"

Mocking opponents for attacking him on social media services such as X, owned by billionaire Elon Musk, he said: "If you're using Elon Musk's platform to complain that I want to privatise the NHS, irony rolled over and died."

As well as bringing in Prof Corrigan, who previously advised former Prime Minister Sir Tony Blair, Mr Streeting has recruited former Health Secretary Alan Milburn to drive through reforms.

An independent investigation led by NHS surgeon Lord Darzi will produce a report in September, with the findings forming the basis of a 10-year plan for changing the service.

Writing in today's Sunday Express, Mr Streeting pledged: "He will ask the hard questions, leave no stone unturned, and speak truth to power."

"I've instructed my department to hand over any information he asks for, and NHS England will do the same."

He insisted NHS staff welcome the prospect of reforms, saying: "Staff working on the front line are crying out for change and are full of ideas to improve the service."

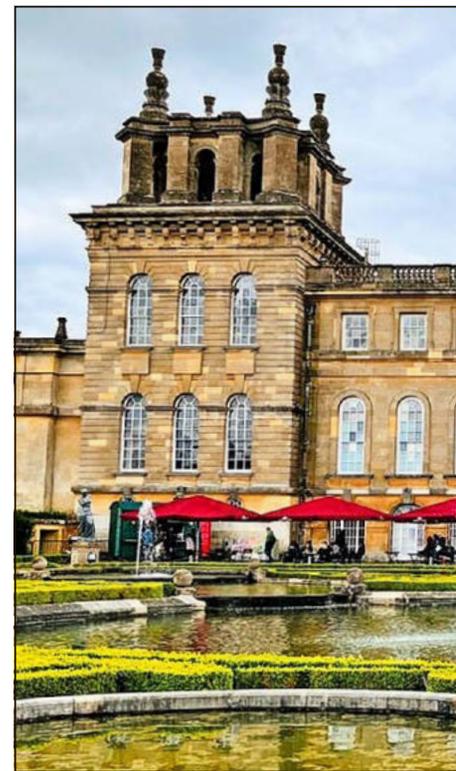
However, Mr Streeting warned junior doctors they will not get the huge increase they demand to end industrial action, as he prepared to hold further talks this week.

"This government has inherited the worst economic circumstances since the Second World War, and taxpayers cannot afford a 35 per cent pay increase," he said.

OPINION: PAGE 14



DISPUTE: Junior doctors protest over pay last month



Emily is

EMILY Thornberry is likely to cause problems for Sir Keir Starmer after she was snubbed for a role in government, Labour insiders fear.

She is the most senior of 22 shadow ministers who loyally served Sir Keir in opposition but were denied a ministerial job following the election.

Ms Thornberry, 63, who was shadow attorney general for England from 2021, said joining the backbenches left her "sorry and surprised". But now

Picture: STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA



EMERGENCY TREATMENT: Wes Streeting and Keir Starmer visit a hospital in Worksop, Notts, last month

Wrestle power back from 'blob' of Whitehall

By **David Williamson**

POWER must be taken from the civil service "blob" and put in the hands of ministers to change the country for the better, a major report argues.

Figures from across the party divide have come together in support of a bold overhaul of decision-making at the heart of the Government.

There is deep concern that power has seeped away to unelected bodies and advisers, with government decisions subject to judicial review.

Former Labour Cabinet minister Jim Murphy welcomed the new Policy Exchange report, *Getting a Grip of the System*, saying: "A democratically elected government, with a clear mandate, has the responsibility to govern.

"Ministers must be able to make a difference."

And ex-Tory Levelling-Up Secretary Michael Gove praised the report for pushing "back hard on the pretensions of those who believe whole areas of public life and decision-making should be fenced off and left in the hands of technocrats beyond any political accountability".

Iain Mansfield, research director at Policy Exchange, said: "If the Government is serious about getting things done, it will need to tackle the bureaucracy that puts process and paperwork ahead of real-world results – the so-called 'blob'."

'Long game' for Tory leadership

By **Jonathan Walker**

CANDIDATES hoping to become the next Tory party leader will spend the summer break campaigning across the country after MPs decided to hold a lengthy contest.

And they are considering a radical plan to cut the number of contenders to four before Parliament breaks up for the summer, to avoid the "chaos" of a larger number vying for support.

Suggestions that party members could be excluded have been ruled out, with senior MPs determined to avoid a "coronation or stitch-up".

Under party rules, MPs will whittle the candidates down to two, who will be put to a vote of party members.

In theory, this stage of the contest could be completed before the House of Commons breaks up for summer recess at the end of July, but a consensus has emerged among MPs that they will take their time.

It means they are unlikely to pick the final two before Parliament returns in September, but they are considering a plan to eliminate "no hoper" candidates quickly, so only frontrunners remain. This would leave around four candidates.

A senior Conservative said: "The party membership will get a choice. We are not going to go down the route of a coronation or a stitch-up."

Candidates expected to stand include Kemi Badenoch, Tom Tugendhat, James Cleverly and Robert Jenrick.



Starmer: 'Euro leaders face greatest challenges'

By **David Williamson**

EUROPEAN leaders will converge on Blenheim Palace, left, this week to debate the challenges of illegal immigration and the defence of Ukraine.

The Prime Minister has called on fellow leaders to "do more and go further" ahead of the meeting of the European Political Community on Thursday.

Sir Keir Starmer will separately meet with Irish Taoiseach Simon Harris and French President Emmanuel Macron in a bid to "rebuild relationships".

The PM wants to demonstrate "ironclad" support for Ukraine and will push for military and financial support ahead of what is expected to be a "difficult" winter.

Sir Keir said: "Europe is at the forefront of some of the greatest challenges of our time.

"Russia's barbaric war continues to reverberate across our continent, while vile smuggling gangs traffic innocent people on perilous journeys that too often end in tragedy. We cannot be spectators in this chapter of history."

More than 45 European leaders will meet at the event. When not focused on the challenges facing the continent, they will enjoy Oxfordshire strawberries and cream, and more than 800 scones will be served during afternoon tea.

berry much Thorn in PM's side

By **Jonathan Walker**

Labour sources foresee a comeback as the chair of a cross-party committee that dissects government policy.

One said: "Emily is fearless and has the skills to forensically examine what the Government is doing.

"She'll want a big job and most people will agree she deserves one.

"She'd be an effective chair of the Commons Treasury Committee or

another big committee." Before she became an MP, Ms Thornberry was a barrister trained in human rights law.

Ms Thornberry's spokesman insisted she does not intend to create issues for the Government, saying: "She has shown complete loyalty to Keir Starmer since he became Labour leader and will continue to do so."

Some MPs elected to Parliament for the first time, such as Cabinet Office Minister Georgia Gould and Energy

SNUBBED:
Emily Thornberry



Minister Miatta Fahnbulleh, did get key jobs, ruffling some feathers.

The Prime Minister also handed Jess Phillips a Home Office post, even though she quit the front bench over Labour's stance on Gaza last year.

But some have praised Sir Keir for appointing experienced figures such as former home secretary Jacqui Smith and former international development secretary Douglas Alexander.

STARS OUT AT WIMBLEDON 2024

Kate is final ace up sleeve of Wimbledon

By **Nathan Kay** and **Jaymi McCann**

THE Princess of Wales will make an eagerly awaited appearance in the Royal Box at Wimbledon today.

Kate, who is patron of the All England Club, will attend the men's singles final at 2pm, and will present the winner's trophy to either Novak Djokovic or Carlos Alcaraz, Kensington Palace has confirmed.

The announcement comes days after Wimbledon said they were working on "back-up plans" in case the Princess, who is undergoing preventative chemotherapy, was unable to attend.

The 42-year-old has remained mainly out of the public spotlight since her cancer diagnosis earlier this year, but made a surprise appearance at Trooping the Colour last month alongside the rest of the Royal Family. It was the first time Kate had been seen since Christmas Day.

She was expected to attend the tennis tournament yesterday but Wimbledon chairwoman Debbie Jevans presented the women's trophy to Czech player Barbora Krejčíková on her behalf.

But there were plenty of other famous faces at Centre Court, including Hollywood star Tom Cruise, Dame Helen Mirren, Bridgerton's Nicola Coughlan, former Bond Pierce Brosnan, and Greatest Showman star Hugh Jackman who sat next to actress Kate Beckinsale.

Meanwhile, broadcaster Andrew Castle has said commentating on the tennis is easier than presenting the news. The former player, 60, who also hosted GMTV and a show on LBC, is a long-standing member of the BBC's Wimbledon presenting team.

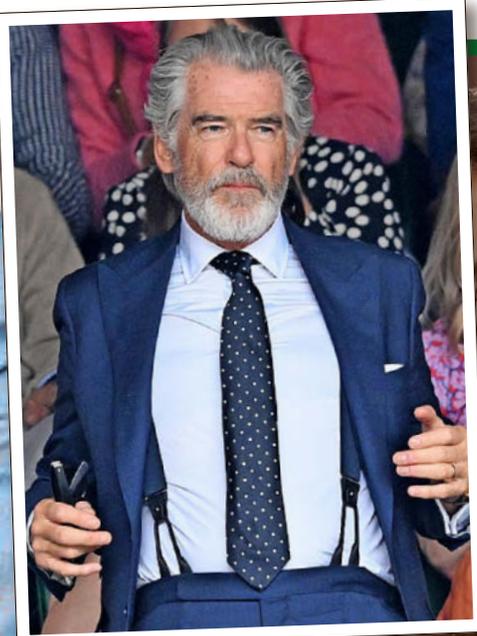
He said: "It's just easy. Having done every major news story, tennis commentary is easy."

"If you're having a crack at a Cabinet minister, you've got to know your stuff. With tennis commentary, if you get it wrong, what's the worst thing that can happen?"

ROYAL COURT: Kate last year



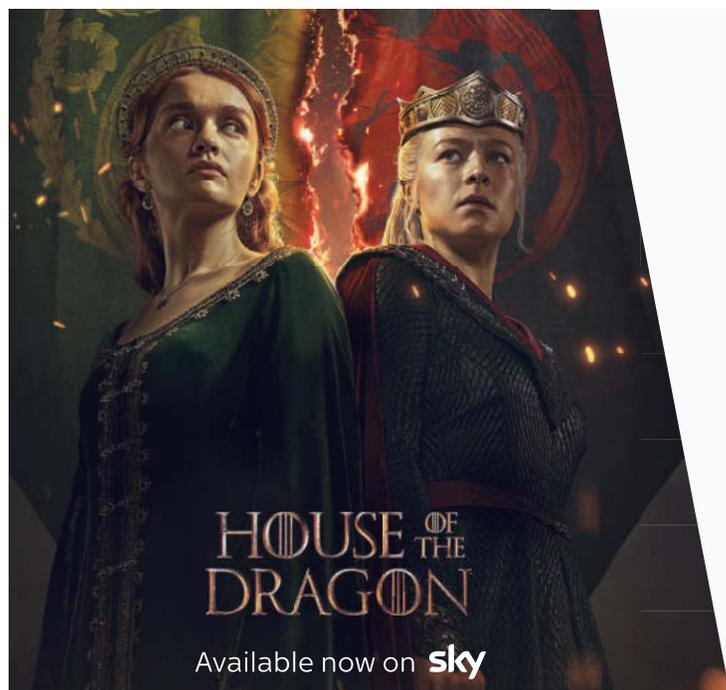
ANYONE FOR TENNIS?: Tom, Dame Helen, Hugh and Kate at the All England Club



Pictures: PHIL HARRIS, REX, GETTY, WIREIMAGE



STARS ON SHOW: Pierce Brosnan, and Nicola Coughlan



HOUSE OF THE DRAGON

Available now on **sky**

sky & NETFLIX

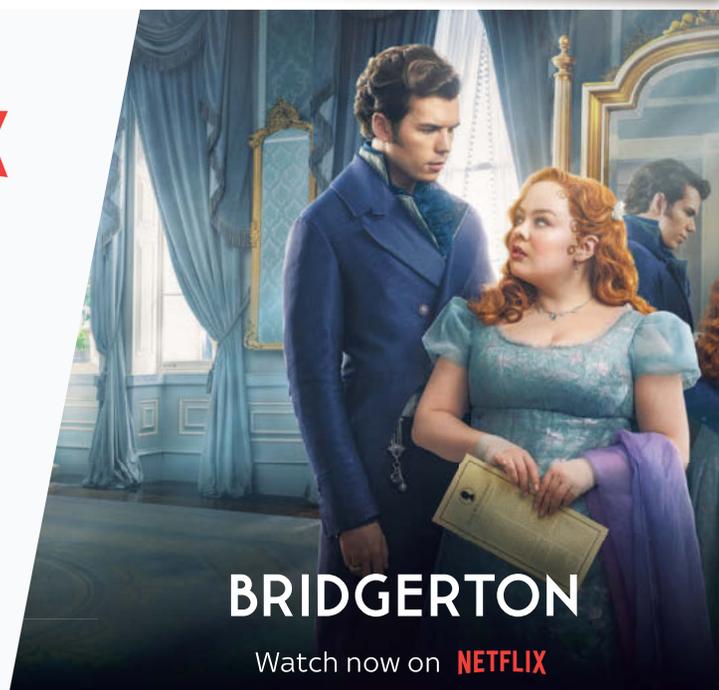
In one simple subscription.

£26
£22
a month

Prices may change during 24-month contract.

sky.com

Visit a Sky store



BRIDGERTON

Watch now on **NETFLIX**

New Sky TV customers only. Offer ends 31/07/2024. Requires Sky Stream and Sky Ultimate TV subscription £22pm on new 24-month minimum term, standard price applies after 24 months (currently £31pm on 31-day rolling contract). Price and services may change. Upfront fee £0 (usually £20). Requires TV with HDMI port and broadband minimum recommended speed 25Mbps. Third party subscriptions may be required for apps. 18+. UK, CI and loM residential customers only. Maximum 6 Sky Stream Pucks per account. Sky Stream Pucks are loaned to you at no cost and must be returned when they are no longer registered on your account. Streaming TV account required, manage online at sky.com or via the My Sky app. Email address required for account login. Includes Netflix Standard with Ads (RRP: £4.99). Netflix Terms of Use Apply. House of the Dragon © 2024. Home Box Office. All Rights Reserved.

DIANA'S BROTHER ON FAMILY MISSION

Picture: CHRIS WOOD

Now Earl hopes to heal 'rift' with his children

By **Nathan Kay** ROYAL CORRESPONDENT

EARL Spencer is looking to rebuild his relationship with his children after a rift that has lasted decades.

He has seven children but has grown apart from the four eldest – whom he shares with first wife Victoria Lockwood – in recent years.

Rumours of a rift due to tensions over his third marriage, to Countess Karen Spencer, are being blamed for the distance between the Earl and his children. The Sunday Express can now reveal that this includes his eldest daughter Lady Kitty Spencer, with whom Charles Spencer, 60, once shared a very close bond.

The source says now Charles has initiated divorce proceedings against Canadian philanthropist Karen, he can start to rebuild the shattered relationship with his children.

"Charles and Kitty used to be very close so it's extremely sad," said the source.

"Kitty stayed at Charles's flat when she was studying at Regent's University in the city, and she regularly flew back and forth between South Africa and London to see him. But they haven't seen each other much in recent years. Unfortunately that was down to Karen. Kitty and the rest of the children weren't really fans."

Earl Spencer announced last month that he and his wife were ending their 13-year marriage. "It is immensely sad," he said.

"I just want to devote myself to all my children, and to my grandchildren, and I wish Karen every happiness in the future."

Charles is rumoured to have hired Fiona



BROKEN BONDS: Above, Earl Spencer with Victoria and their daughters Kitty and twins Amelia and Eliza. Right, with Karen. Left, Kitty



Shackleton, the lawyer who represented King Charles during his tumultuous split from the Earl's sister, Princess Diana, to finalise his divorce.

Karen, 52, married Charles in 2011, and has joined him at a number of royal events, including the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle.

She appeared in shock at the Earl's announcement ending their marriage last month as she posted on social media she was still "processing" the news. She said: "Just wanted to say I have been overwhelmed by the messages of love and support. It has really meant a lot to me."

Little was known about the former

model before she married into the Spencer family, who made plans to move her life from Los Angeles to the Althorp family estate in Northamptonshire.

Countess Spencer remodelled the island in the middle of the manor's ornamental lake where Diana is buried and made other changes around the estate which seemed to anger the Earl's eldest children.

"Let's just say when Karen moved in and started putting her stamp on things it was the beginning of the end," said the source. "She was very determined to make her mark as Countess Spencer and do things her way. That's where the rift began."

It is also believed part of the reason Charles and Karen's relationship broke down was due to the psychological strain the Earl felt while writing his memoir, *A Very Private School*, which gave a rather harrowing account of alleged sexual abuse during his boarding school years.

In the acknowledgements for the book, Charles thanked Karen and his family for supporting him when he became "tetchy and wrung out" during the writing process.

But the source added "the straw that broke the camel's back" was the ever-growing distance between the Earl and his children, which Charles was desperately keen to repair so he could be present in his children and grandchildren's lives. Most notably, Kitty, 33, and her daughter, Athena.

Charles missed Kitty's lavish Italian wedding in 2021 due to the rift, said the source. "Kitty wasn't sure about having Karen at her wedding which meant the Earl had to choose. It was a very difficult position for him to be in."

"Everyone's hoping that things will get back on track now that Charles has decided to move on from Karen and focus on his children and grandchildren. We all think it's a very commendable thing to do to put your children first."

Earl Spencer was approached for comment. Lady Kitty Spencer's spokesperson declined to comment.



SNUB: Harry on the day

Harry was 'kept away from King and Coronation photos at Palace'

PRINCE Harry was refused access to King Charles on Coronation Day, a well-placed source has claimed.

The Duke of Sussex, 39, arrived at Buckingham Palace shortly after his father, 75, was officially crowned at Westminster Abbey, but was "turned away" from seeing his relatives.

He remained in the Palace for just 30 minutes and did not join working royals for the official portraits.

The source revealed: "He was guided away from where the Royal Family were congregating and

preparing for the photographs. He was kept completely separate from where the Royal Family were set to celebrate, which included a private area behind the balcony."

At the time, it was reported that the Duke went to the Palace for "logistical reasons".

But the source notes that those closest to Harry found it astonishing the King's second son was not in the photographs at such a historic moment, adding: "It certainly raised a few eyebrows in royal circles and

signalled to everyone that it was a turning point for the Sussexes.

"He was booked on a flight back to LA that afternoon but there was still enough time to shake hands and to extend his best wishes."

Harry stayed at Frogmore Cottage in Windsor and was assigned a Scotland Yard protection squad for his safety during his 36-hour visit in May last year, less than four months after his memoir *Spare* came out.

The Palace and the Duke declined to comment.



CROWNED: Charles III

Baldwin breaks silence on manslaughter case

ALEC Baldwin has broken his silence after his trial was halted by a judge who ordered the case be dismissed “with prejudice”.

In legal terms, it means the Hollywood star cannot be tried again over the fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins, 42, on the set of his western movie *Rust* in October 2021.

Father-of-eight Baldwin, 66, wrote on Instagram yesterday: “There are too many people who have supported me to thank just now. To all of you, you will never know how much I appreciate your kindness toward my family.”

Baldwin had wept as the involuntary manslaughter case was dismissed early on Friday evening in a court in Santa Fe, New Mexico, just miles from where the tragedy happened. His lawyers

From **Mike Parker** IN LOS ANGELES

alleged police and prosecutors withheld key evidence – a batch of bullets that could have been connected to the shooting – from his trial.

He could have faced 18 months in prison if convicted. He later celebrated at a nearby restaurant with his actor brother Stephen.

Baldwin could now make millions from his family’s upcoming reality TV series *The Baldwins*, featuring scenes of them preparing for his court ordeal. But he and fellow producers still face civil lawsuits from Ms Hutchins’ parents and sister.

The film’s rookie armorer, Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, is serving 18 months in a federal prison after being convicted of involuntary manslaughter in March.



RELIEF: Actor Alec Baldwin hugs a member of his legal team. Inset, Halyna Hutchins



Battle of the First Ladies as Melania enters fray

MELANIA Trump is set to ignite a battle between past and present First Ladies when she joins her husband on the US presidential election campaign trail.

The former model, 54, who has rarely been seen in public since Donald Trump lost to Joe Biden in the 2020 election, is due to attend the Republican National Convention that begins tomorrow in Milwaukee.

Melania’s presence at the event – where Mr Trump, 78, will be confirmed as his party’s nominee – represents a huge “unifying boost” to Republicans and comes as President Biden faces an increasingly uncertain future as the Democratic Party candidate.

As of last night, 19 Democratic law-makers in Congress and the Senate had publicly called on Mr Biden, 81, to step down from the election amid increasing concerns about his cognitive abilities.

His wife Jill, 73, now regularly attends Oval Office meetings and has joined him on the campaign trail since his rambling performance in last month’s live TV debate with Mr Trump.

Now the Bidens could face further hostility from Jill’s predecessor, although it has not yet been revealed if Melania intends to deliver a speech of her own during this week’s convention. Her office told reporters

From **Mike Parker** IN LOS ANGELES

to “stay tuned” when they asked about her specific plans at the gathering of Republican delegates, where her husband has said that he will reveal the identity of his choice of running mate and potential vice-president.

Meanwhile, at a rally in Detroit, Michigan, on Friday night, Mr Biden drew cheers from supporters – some carrying placards saying: “Don’t you quit” – as he defiantly declared: “I am running and we’re going to win. I’m not going to change anything.”

But in another public gaffe he got a local politician’s name wrong barely 24 hours after stunning world leaders at a Nato summit by introducing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as Russian premier Vladimir Putin, before hurriedly correcting

himself.

These further slips followed an unexpected intervention from life-long Democrat George Clooney just weeks after the actor had held a glittering fundraiser for Mr Biden.

The double Oscar-winning star, 63, declared: “I love Joe Biden. But we need a new nominee.”

“In the last four years, he has won many of the battles he has faced.

“But the one battle he cannot win is the fight against time.”



TEAM: Melania Trump will campaign with her husband Donald

Save up to
£250
per booking*

Final boarding call for holidays this summer.



FREE KIDS' PLACES STILL AVAILABLE^

Offers are correct at time of going to print 08/07/2024. *Save up to £250 per booking on TUI and First Choice package holidays. Price will automatically be applied on site and is valid for holidays with a TUI flight departing between 1st May 2024 – 31st October 2024. Saving is based on a minimum of 2 adults sharing between 1st May – 31st October 2024 for holidays that are 7, 10, 11 or 14 nights. No minimum spend required. Offer is valid from 1st June – 31st July 2024 across all sales channels. Offer does not apply to accommodation only, flight only, solo travellers or 3rd party flight bookings. Offer is only valid for new bookings. Offer is for TUI and does not include Crystal Ski, Marella or River Cruise. See www.tui.co.uk, www.firstchoice.co.uk or the relevant brochure for booking terms and conditions. Offer is subject to availability and may be amended or withdrawn at any time without notice. ^Free kids' place offer applies to new bookings only, on selected holidays subject to limited availability. Only 1 free kids' place is available in each selected hotel room or selected apartment type or villa with a minimum of 2 full paying adults. Other children must pay the full brochure price. You'll need to pay a deposit, but we deduct this from your final balance and will refund this when you pay for your holiday in full. If you change your booking, free child places on your new booking will depend on availability. Please see www.tui.co.uk or the relevant brochure for full booking terms and conditions that apply. All the flights and flight-inclusive holidays are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: www.caa.co.uk. TUI is a trading name of TUI UK Limited, a member of the TUI Group. Registered office: Wigmore House, Wigmore Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 9TN. Registered in England No: 2830117. ATOL 2524, ABTA V5126.

CALLS FOR CROSSBOW CRACKDOWN 'IGNORED'

Grieving dad: My pain can't be put into words

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

GRIEVING father John Hunt says the "devastation" he feels after his wife and two of their daughters were killed with a crossbow "cannot be put into words".

His wife Carol, 61 and daughters Hannah, 28 and Louise, 25, were found fatally injured at their home in Bushey, Hertfordshire, just after 7pm on Tuesday.

They were still alive when paramedics arrived but they could not be saved.

In an emotional tribute yesterday, Mr Hunt, a BBC Radio 5 Live racing commentator, said: "The devastation that we are experiencing cannot be put into words.

"We would like to thank people for their kind messages and for the support we have received in recent days.

"These have provided great comfort to us, for which we are very grateful."

In a further statement read by colleague Matt Chapman, Mr Hunt added: "Notwithstanding the horrid evil that's swept through our lives, reeking devastation on an unimaginable scale, Amy, my eldest daughter, has been magnificently inspirational with her control and support for me, which I am trying, trying so hard,



TORN APART: John Hunt with late wife Carol; left, Louise and Hannah, two of the pair's three daughters, who were also killed; below, street in Bushey

has now said it is looking at the evidence regarding the possible need for tighter regulations around crossbow sales.

"We call on them to consider with urgency what controls can be put in place to ensure these powerful weapons can no longer be purchased easily in person, or online, by those who would use them to commit harm to others, in line with licensing for other offensive weapons."

A Home Office spokeswoman said: "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.

"The Home Secretary will swiftly consider the findings to see if laws need to be tightened further."

A Tory spokesman said: "The Conservative government published proposals on crossbow regulation in February.

"The awful events in Bushey reinforce the need to consider tighter controls and Labour Ministers now need to build on the action of the Conservative government."

Former soldier Kyle Clifford, 26, the ex-boyfriend of Louise Hunt, has been arrested on suspicion of all three murders, after he was found with suspected self-inflicted injuries in Enfield, North London, on Wednesday.

Timeline of terror

EIGHT people have now been killed in crossbow attacks in Britain since 2018. Home Secretary Yvette Cooper has ordered a review of the law on possession of the weapon – as demanded by the Sunday Express campaign launched days before the attack which left a mother and her two daughters dead. Here is the timeline of terror.

December 2010: Stephen Griffiths, dubbed the "Crossbow Cannibal", admitted killing Shelley Armitage, Susan Rushworth and Suzanne Blamires between 2009 and 2010.

January 2018: Crossbow killer Anthony Lawrence killed Shane Gilmer before shooting his pregnant girlfriend Laura Sugden in the head. She miraculously survived.

July 2018: Mark Waterfall walks into his GP's office and fires a bolt into the doctor's stomach. The doctor, who Waterfall blamed for "killing" his father, survived as it was warm in the room and he had loosened his shirt.

December 2018: Former nurse Ramanodge Unmathallegadoo broke into his ex-wife Sana Muhammad's home and killed her by firing an 18in bolt into her stomach.

April 2019: Terence Whall, 39, killed retired lecturer Gerald Corrigan using a crossbow at his home in North Wales.

February 2020: Drug-dealer Saghawat Ramzan, 47, kills kickboxer Khuzaimah Douglas after fatally injuring his younger brother

Waseem Ramzan, 36, by mistake in a raid on the family's cannabis factory.

December 2021: Would-be assassin Jaswant Singh Chail broke into Windsor Castle on Christmas Day with a loaded crossbow intending to kill the Queen.

January 2024: Convicted stalker Bryce Hodgson was shot dead by police after he broke into a London home armed with weapons including a crossbow.

July 2024: BBC racing commentator John Hunt's wife Carol, 61, and daughters Louise, 25, and Hannah, 28, died at their home after allegedly being shot with a crossbow.

SUNDAY EXPRESS
CRUSADE

CRACKDOWN ON CROSSBOWS

to replicate. Every message has felt so important, the same as a reassuring hug.

"We know people are worried about us, we will get through this."

The savage attack came just two days after this newspaper launched a campaign calling for tough new restrictions on the sale of crossbows.

Our special investigation revealed that anyone over 18 can buy a crossbow online for as little as £50, simply by sending in a photo of their passport or driving licence, with no further checks carried out.

The deadly weapon was later delivered to our reporter's door – and the probe led to urgent calls for a new licensing system.

In a new development we can reveal that police chiefs called for action to stop crossbows getting into the wrong hands two months ago, but the then-Tory government ignored their plea. Back in May, the National Police Chiefs' Council, made up of chief constables, sent a response to a Home Office consultation about potential new restrictions on the sale and ownership of crossbows, which called for a licensing scheme similar to that used for firearms.

Rishi Sunak's government failed to respond before the General Election.

A NPCC spokeswoman said: "We made a broad recommendation that crossbows should be regulated in a way that is similar to firearms licensing.

"We also recommended that any future licensing should include requirements around storage, which would ensure that

only the registered licence holder could access the crossbows."

Former Met Police DCI Dave McKelvey, who concluded the crossbow we bought would be lethal in the wrong hands, said: "It is unbelievable that within two days of your report being published, this tragedy unfolded, highlighting even more how important these restrictions are brought in.

"To hear that the former government was asked to do something about this two months ago, but ignored it, is a concern."

Simon Foster and Matthew Barber, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners joint leads on serious violence, said: "This week's shocking and tragic events serve to remind us of the terrible harm that can result from malign and wrongful use of a crossbow. The public must be protected and the Government





SUNDAY EXPRESS OPINION

Streeting faces huge task to revive ill NHS

IT WILL take much more than another cash injection to return the NHS to health.

What is required is nothing short of major surgery for a public service on life-support.

Politicians have shied away from reforming the broken system for fear of a backlash from Left-wing activists and vested interests.

As a result, we are left with a service which forces patients to wait more than a year for an operation, where people cannot see their GP and if they call an ambulance they do not know if or when one will arrive.

It is heartening to hear Health Secretary Wes Streeting declare that he is ready to grasp the nettle and set about overhauling the NHS.

The proposal to pay a back-to-work bonus to hospitals which get patients back into work will help clear the backlog for treatment, cut benefits and boost the economy.

Mr Streeting is also right to tell junior doctors that taxpayers cannot afford the 35 per cent pay rise they are demanding. We wait with interest to see whether the BMA is prepared to continue its strike now there is a Labour government.

Mr Streeting must not allow the NHS, and the country, to be held to ransom by unions.

He has shown a similar determination with hospital trusts, telling them extra funding will only come when they agree to perform operations at evenings and weekends.

Next he must torch red tape, stand up to vested interests, harness the power of innovation and the private sector.

Mr Streeting has embarked on a task fraught with danger that previous Labour and Conservative governments have feared to tread.

But he has brought in an experienced and determined team who might help him achieve the measures needed for the NHS not only to survive but to thrive.

Crossbow tragedies

THREE people have died in crossbow attacks since we launched our campaign to ban these hideous weapons last week.

It is frighteningly easy to buy a powerful crossbow, and action is required to stop more people being intimidated, maimed or killed by the thugs wielding them.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper will shortly decide whether a change in the law is needed. She must act to protect the public and keep these killing machines off our streets.

Complacency would be a dereliction of duty.

Bring it home, Gareth!

TODAY is already etched in football history.

We are thrilled that England have reached the finals of the Euros but we want so much more.

Now is the moment for Gareth Southgate's men to finally bring home that gleaming trophy. Surely, the years of hurt must end tonight?

Last week's thrilling match against the Netherlands demonstrated that international showdowns do not have to end in penalties.

So, come on, England – deliver a stunning victory over Spain.

Give fans in Berlin one of the best nights of their lives. And send millions of us watching at home jumping off the sofa in joy.

We must rebuild then fight for the centre ground

COMMENT

By Andy Street

FORMER WEST MIDLANDS MAYOR

LOSING hurts a lot (sadly, I know), and right now across the Conservative Party there is a lot of hurting going on. From former MPs and their staff, to local associations and their volunteers, a general election defeat leaves many out of work – and even more with a bad taste in their mouth.

The normal emotional reaction is to try to bounce back rapidly.

You think you know what went wrong, so you try to fix it as quickly as humanly possible.

The Conservative Party lost a lot of votes to Reform, therefore the instinctive conclusion might be that we should have a swift leadership election to appoint a candidate from the Right – and even look at how we better integrate with Nigel Farage and Reform.

But life isn't that simple.

In this case I believe a knee-jerk reaction would be a grave error that leaves the party out of power for over a decade.

If you're a Conservative activist or MP, chances are you spent the best part of six weeks knocking on doors of people who were Conservative/Reform waverers under Rishi Sunak's core vote strategy.

Against this backdrop, of course many are going to have the warped view that Reform are an existential threat to the Conservative Party.

But that's not representative of the real world, and ignores the enormous ground lost to the Lib Dems and directly to Labour.

Ultimately, the Conservative Party lost votes in every direction as this became a "get the Tories out" election. Why? Because my party stopped delivering for the citizens of the UK and spent too much time listening to itself.

In recent years did we really tackle immigration, improve public services and build more homes to help people on to the housing ladder? They're the people's priorities but we failed to match them.

I knocked on a lot of doors to support those MPs who supported me, and that story came up time and time again – a failure to deliver. The notion that we weren't ideological enough? Not once.

Yet despite this, many of my colleagues are now obsessing over ideology, and obsessing over



Picture: ROWAN GRIFFITHS

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Former Tory mayor Andy Street offers his rebuilding plans

“
The Tory Party lost votes in every direction as this became a 'get the Tories out' election
”

Reform. To them I would urge: slow down (there is no rush for a new leader, an autumn contest is fine), recognise that Reform is a protest movement and not a potential party of Government, and properly diagnose what has happened and how the Conservatives can rebuild.

Look at modern-day British society. It's more diverse, tolerant, compassionate and socially liberal than perhaps it has ever been. This is where the majority are, and it is they who decide who has the privilege to lead our nation.

So we Conservatives must show that we can deliver on their priorities and concerns. Yes, that means we need to succeed on taxation and immigration where the Conservative administration has faltered, but we also need credible plans for the NHS, for housing and for net-zero – to name just three priority areas.

And we could even look to the West Midlands as an example. It is the most diverse place in Britain, home to some of the most affluent and most deprived areas of the country, boasting the youngest city in Europe alongside an ageing population in its towns, and a blend of beautiful countryside alongside dense urban industry.

It is a microcosm of the country – and historically a staunch Labour heartland. Yet for seven years I was the Conservative Mayor here, defeating Labour twice.

Under our brand of Conservatism there was no culture war

or inflammatory rhetoric. Instead we got on and delivered what people wanted and needed. Doubling housebuilding, reconnecting communities through public transport, attracting record foreign investment and vastly improving people's skills and qualifications.

Underpinning all of this was a mission to use our region's diversity as a strength, uniting rather than dividing.

ULTIMATELY, a damaged Conservative brand meant my record wasn't enough to secure a third election win but we ran Labour close, with a less-than four per cent swing compared to a national swing of 20 points.

This approach, rooted in the centre but with a broad church uniting left and right, is consistent with the lessons of history.

From Baldwin to Chamberlain, Blair to Cameron, all the big inflection points in political history have come when a challenger party takes the middle ground from the government of the day, and repositions their party to exploit it.

History also teaches us that populists don't deliver, they are masters of exploiting problems but offer no plans to solve them.

There is no question that this ceding of the centre ground is exactly what has happened again. The challenge for the Conservative Party's new leader will be to wrestle it back. Without it, there won't be a return to government.

Hit by Israel on 'safe' aid site kills 71, injures 289

At least 71 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli air strike on a designated humanitarian safe area.

More than 289 people were injured in Friday's attack, the Hamas-run health ministry said.

UK-based aid group Al-Khair said a senior worker, Husam Mansour, died as its warehouse was struck in the al-Mawasi area near Khan Younis, southern Gaza – an Israel-declared safe zone.

Three other aid workers from other groups died.

A witness said it looked like an "earthquake" had occurred, with dozens of bloodied casualties being loaded on to stretchers.

The Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis is "overwhelmed" and no longer able to function, British charity Medical Aid for Palestinians reported.

Israel said it targeted senior Hamas chiefs such as Mohammed Deif, the head of its military wing – thought to be one of the masterminds behind the October 7 massacre – in an "open area" where there were "no civilians".

They also claimed Mr Mansour was in fact a senior Hamas militant who used his role in Al-Khair to raise money for Hamas.

Rafa Salama, the Hamas commander for Khan Younis, was also targeted, with the Israeli official calling intelligence behind the strike "accurate".

But last night Hamas said: "It's not the first time Israel claims to target Palestinian leaders only to be proven false."

Child dead and 5 hurt after blaze

A CHILD died and five adults were taken to a hospital's major trauma centre after a house fire yesterday morning.

Police were searching for the child's next of kin last night. Six fire engines and about 40 firefighters rushed to the scene just before 8.30am.

Half of the ground floor and first floor of a terraced house in East Ham, Newham, were damaged.

The flames were under control by 9.10am, the London Fire Brigade said.

Patrick Goulbourne, its assistant commissioner, called the East London incident "terribly sad".

The cause of the fire was being investigated.

My perfect proposal ..thanks to the police!

EXCLUSIVE

By **Indigo Stafford**
and **Eve Macdonald**

EASTENDERS siren Shona McGarty has revealed she has a new fiancé – who had to get through the police to make his romantic proposal.

With an emerald and diamond ring in his pocket, David Bracken thought he had planned out the perfect occasion to pop the question.

But recalling entering Holland Park in London with her, David – of the Irish band Blessed – said: "The police said, 'Sorry we are just closing up the park'."

"I said, 'Would you mind giving me five minutes as I am about to propose to my partner?'"

"He looked at his watch and said, 'Of course, and best of luck'."

"So, I told Shona to go stand at the waterfall, I put on our favourite song and had a dance with her before getting down on one knee."

The location of the proposal, a tranquil corner of the park called Kyoto Garden, was well chosen.

Shona, 32, who played Whitney Dean in the BBC soap until leaving this year, said: "I love Japanese cul-



ture and the spirituality of it. He brought a picnic which was really sweet. I was in my element but I didn't think he was going to propose at all."

Despite being on Albert Square for 16 years, Shona reveals David had "no clue" about her TV fame.

It was their love of music that united them last year through TikTok, after David discovered a video of Shona singing and plucked up the courage to message her.

David, who asked her if she wanted to do a duet, explained: "I saw she had a blue tick on TikTok, but I just assumed that she must be a really good singer or something."

Shona added to OK! magazine: "I remember him asking me, 'So what do you do? Do you gig or sing?'"

"I said, 'Well not really, I'm not allowed at the moment'."

"He didn't even know I was in EastEnders – he had never watched it! He doesn't care what I do for a job and it can be hard in this industry to find someone who actually likes you for you."

Shona, who joined the show at age 16 in 2008, has left to spend more time with loved ones.



LOVE IS IN THE SQUARE:
Shona and her fiancé David. He had no idea she was a star of soap EastEnders as Whitney, seen inset right with co-star James Farrar



Read the full interview in this week's OK! magazine, out nationwide on Tuesday

Photography by ALAN KEVILLE assisted by KRIS HAND
Styling by MEGAN FOX assisted by ELLA MCCARTHY
Make up by MICHELLE KINSELLA using Charlotte Tilbury
Hair by BERNADETTE BYRNES of Hairpeople Dublin
Shot on location at THE ODEON

By **Tony Whitfield**

Pink uniform banned for young Girl Guides

THE Girl Guides have vetoed pink as the main colour for its new uniforms for their youngest members because it “reinforces gender stereotypes”, despite nearly half voting for the colour.

The Girlguiding group, called Rainbows, are redesigning and refreshing their outfits for the first time in more than 30 years.

A survey asked for views on what the girls want their new look to be and 7,422 girls aged four to seven chose pink.

Feedback, including from parents and leaders, found 28 per cent wanted pink with the rainbow stripes and 18 per cent wanted plain pink, making the total of pink preferences 46 per cent.

Rainbow uniforms are currently predominantly red, with a



red, yellow and blue logo. But the design team opted to continue with gender neutral red as the main colour, despite it being least popular with 24 per cent voting for it.

Responding to the survey Girlguiding acknowledged that “pink is having a moment” but a spokesperson said: “We also

explored other perspectives by asking for non-members’ opinions and it showed that parents felt more confident in identifying Girlguiding with the red Rainbows uniform.

“We always take girls’ preferences seriously and as lots of girls loved pink, we need to listen to that, which is why pink will be incorporated within the uniform. We also plan to keep our iconic red colour too.

“We received feedback from parents and

carers that they feel the prevalence of pink in toys and clothes for girls reinforces gender stereotypes. So we needed to consider this too and ensure a good balance of colours. All this being said, we want to make it clear that there’s nothing wrong with loving pink!

“At Girlguiding, we’re all about empowering girls’ and young women’s choices.”

The designs will be finalised this month and introduced from 2026.

Seeing is believing.

Carrie dazzles at ‘wedding of the century’

CARRIE Johnson stunned in a sari while husband Boris looked scruffy in a suit as they headed to the “wedding of the century” in India. The former Prime Minister, 60, and his wife were among the guests at the marriage of Anant Ambani, the son of India’s richest man, to pharmaceutical heiress Radhika Merchant in Mumbai on Friday. The Johnsons’ three children, Wilf, four, Romy, two, and Frank, one, *inset*, wore traditional Indian dress to the lavish ceremony at the 16,000-capacity Jio World Convention Centre. Tony Blair and his wife Cherie also attended, alongside reality TV stars Kim and Khloe Kardashian, wrestler John Cena and singer Nick Jonas with his actress wife Priyanka Chopra-Jonas. The glamorous event comes after seven months of extravagant pre-wedding festivities and is reported to have cost £250million.

■ IT WAS the first day back at school for the hundreds of MPs who have been elected to the House of Commons for the first time. Heady times I am sure, as they find their own clothes peg and cubby box. Meanwhile, one “new boy” MP stepped up to the plate with all the assurance of an old hand. Make no mistake, Reform leader Nigel Farage will provide the electricity this parliament needs. And as one party struggles to find a leader for its blue army, and another dries out their boss who spent much of the campaign under water, the fireworks from Farage will light up the house.

NICK FERRARI

Conservatives hunting a new leader surely just need someone who's Dad was a toolmaker?

■ THE wine in France is far better, the food in Italy tastier, the beaches in Portugal more inviting and the people in Greece way more pleasant. So it might just be time for Spain to reconsider its ugly hostility towards tourism and tourists. Otherwise, let's just say “adios” to those surly Spaniards.

Not the time to be cagey on defence

THEY certainly can't be accused of hanging around. The new Labour government appears to want to give off the vibe it's running as smoothly as a Cole Palmer pass to Ollie Watkins, and then a strike on goal.

But while their determination to move at pace is to be warmly welcomed, one part of their decision making doesn't seem to be quite so red hot.

First, consider this tally...

- They saw fit to scrap the Rwanda deportation deal within hours.
- They speedily lifted the ban on building more wind farms.
- They let some prisoners out of jail.
- They imperilled parts of the Green Belt.
- They launched a massive devolution programme.
- They promised a total review of how the NHS functions, including more co-operation with the private sector.

'The essential duty of every government'

- They launched a new Border Command structure costing millions to combat illegal boat crossings.
- They promised to build houses at a rate of about 350,000 a year.

It's quite a list and, let me make it plain, so long as this government is delivering policies that improve the lives of everyone in this country, while neither unduly punishing nor neglecting any particular sector, then this column will offer fulsome support. It is in all our interests.

But just before you get out the bunting, let's consider one area where the new government's intentions are still as clear as a dense autumn fog, and it's a big one.

Defence.

We all know how crucial that is – the essential duty of every government to protect its citizens. Yet this (very new) government swerves the question of exactly when we can get spending on defence to the totemic figure of 2.5 per cent of our GDP on every single occasion they're asked.

From Prime Minister to defence secretary to armed forces minister, no one will commit to a definitive timeline.

Instead, we hear a “Strategic Arms Review” will be launched that might, yes



■ FEW OF you will need reminding how we now live in a world with a bizarre obsession with celebrity. Which makes the standing of US President

Joe Biden even more vulnerable after Hollywood giant George Clooney weighed in on the debate as to whether his mental agility is up to running for, and delivering on, a second term.

While confirming his friendship and admiration for the 81 year-old, Clooney spoke last week of “the one battle he cannot win is the fight against time”.

Time for “Sleepy Joe” to wake up to reality?

■ AMID THE endless bleating about “needing time to reflect on the scale of our defeat” and “working to rebuild the trust in our party,” Conservatives have now been coming forward to condemn the lacklustre campaign that has left many of their chums out of work. While their criticism is entirely merited, where was that streak of defiance for the last six or so weeks? Delayed pitiful point scoring from a party riven with dissent.



■ THE GOVERNMENT is said to be prepared to look at possible criminal prosecutions against water company bosses who continue to pour sewage into our rivers and seas, fail to fix leaks and charge ever increasing prices.

Jailing them is indeed one option. Or making them drink a pint of the water their failing firms produce would be another.

that's “might,” deliver its findings by the end of the year. This is not acceptable.

The whiff of hypocrisy must have hung heavy over conversations in Washington last week as Sir Keir Starmer lectured other Nato members about the importance of committing two per cent of their own GDP on defence, while he was plainly unable to give a date as to when we will reach our promised goal.

Instead, he tells us it will be when it is “within our fiscal rule” and “as soon as resources allow”.

Meanwhile, vile Putin's Russian regime sanctions the bombing of a children's hospital in Kyiv where children suffering from cancer and other life threatening condi-

tions were being treated. Allowing for the fact Russia has allowed the raping of women in Ukraine to be used as a tactic of subjugation, the dangers their desire of expansion poses are close to unimaginable.

Other nations such as China and North Korea continue to explore an axis of evil that sends chills down most spines.

And we've not even touched on the ceaseless assault of cyber attacks that rain down on many of the nation's key institutions on a daily basis.

While ambitions for the best hospitals, finest schools and an endless supply of new houses are all admirable, defence of the realm is a must. And a timeline to safety is not too much to ask.



CHANGE: Alexandra

SAS torture saved me, says Burke

SINGER Alexandra Burke has admitted struggling with fame after winning The X Factor – but says taking part in Celebrity SAS saved her career.

The 35-year-old, now starring in Sister Act: The Musical in the West End, won the fifth series of the ITV singing show in 2008.

She said: “I was singing with Elton and Beyonce but inside I was falling to pieces. I felt like I was having a breakdown.”

But taking part in Celebrity SAS in 2021, where she was gassed and water tortured, made her the woman she is today.

Alexandra said: “I walked out of there a changed woman. I realised I don’t want to take any more **** from anyone. I realised my worth.”



SURVIVOR: Westheimer

Tiny sexpert Dr Ruth dies at age of 96

WORLD-FAMOUS sex therapist and Holocaust survivor Dr Ruth has passed away aged 96.

German-born Ruth Westheimer died on Friday at her Manhattan home, surrounded by her family.

The Jewish therapist, famous for demystifying sex and for her tiny 4ft 7in stature, was a best-selling author after hosting radio show Sexually Speaking throughout the 1980s.

She once said: “I still hold old-fashioned values and I’m a bit of a square.”

Her parents were killed in Nazi death camps and, after studying in Paris at the Sorbonne, in 1956 she emigrated to the US. The mother-of-two lost third husband Manfred in 1997 after 36 years of marriage.

CHILD STAR GARY WARREN AT 70

The ‘Railway Child’ different track after

Gary Warren was one of Britain’s most successful child actors after starring in the 1970 classic film *The Railway Children*. But in his first major interview for more than four decades, he tells PETER ROBERTSON why he walked away from fame

AFTER celebrating his landmark 70th birthday last week Gary Warren is excited to have embarked on a new career as a writer. His debut novel 1961 *Greenwich Village – A Fable*, and his autobiography, *If My Memoir Serves Me Well*, have just been released.

Yet for the former child star of family favourite *The Railway Children*, as well as children’s TV show *Catweazle* and sitcom *Alexander The Greatest*, this marks a return to public life for the first time since 1977.

When asked where he has been for almost half a century, he says: “There’s no dark side to this. It’s odd because, with any other career you leave, people go ‘Oh fair enough’.

“But the entertainment business seems to have this thing ‘Why did you leave it?’

“I’d love to give you a deep Freudian answer but there isn’t one. I gave it up, or it gave me up, depending on which way you want to look at it.

“I had an awful, difficult transition between youth and adult professionally. The truth is I didn’t make it. I couldn’t crack the barrier of

‘I gave it up, or it gave me up. I didn’t make it’

being typecast and was always looked at as a kid in short trousers.

“I didn’t want to do bit parts in *The Sweeney*,” he adds, referring to the 1970s police drama.

“It just didn’t happen, that was basically it, and pragmatically I went ‘fair enough’. My mum always wanted me to carry on though.”

Gary was born in Neasden, north-west London, on July 5, 1954, as an only child.

His father Michael was a furrier and his mother Adele a dancer in the 1930s troupe Terry’s Juveniles.

His first acting job was in a film called *The Silent Playground*, aged seven.

He reveals: “I’ve always loved singing and acting, I found fascinating. And of course it took me out of school, which was great.”

Gary trained at the Aida Foster stage school from 13 until 15, when he appeared with the iconic dancer/actress Ginger Rogers, in the West End musical *Mame*. “I danced with Ginger Rogers, so I have something in common with Fred Astaire”, Gary jokes.

“She was the epitome of a Hollywood star. At the opening, she bought everybody a box of chocolates and bought me a travel Scrabble set.”

Then came his role in *The Railway Children*, which starred established actors like Iain Cuth-



bertson, Bernard Cribbins and Dinah Sheridan.

The young siblings were Jenny Agutter, then 17 as Bobbie, Sally Thomsett, 20, as Phyllis and Gary, 15, as Peter.

While Sally and Jenny famously went to a club in Leeds after a day’s filming, Gary recalls: “I didn’t go because I was too young. They got found out because director Lionel Jeffries was in the club with the producer.

“We all got into trouble pony-trekking on the Moors because it could have been dangerous if we’d fallen off. In fact, my pony bolted but I

managed to hold on.” Gary adds: “It’s lucky we all got on because we were thrown together in virtually every scene. I hit it off with Sally – we used to joke around together. Jenny was a little more serious, more of an older sister, ironically.”

When asked if he was among Jenny and Sally’s many male admirers after the film was a hit, he says: “No. I didn’t fancy either of them at all. They were my sisters!”

Gary admits to being surprised by the success of *The Railway Children*: “When we saw the first screening, we were blown away and thought ‘This could be quite successful’. But it turned into an iconic film. I must have seen it hundreds of

who followed a iconic hit movie

Picture: GETTY



ICONIC FILM: Gary Warren, Jenny Agutter, and Sally Thomsett, above, in *The Railway Children*. Catch up with Jenny, left. Catweazle with Geoffrey Bayldon, right



times. So many times that I couldn't watch it with any great emotion anymore.

"I watched it two years ago with my four-year-old granddaughter Frankie. She couldn't understand that the little boy was me. Halfway through she got bored and ran off."

Despite it becoming a classic, the film did not make him rich: "People I've known have assumed I made a fortune from it. Not true, but I don't resent it. I probably got paid a couple of grand."

"I do get paid every three months for *Catweazle* and that's been shown all over the world, but that's not enough to even buy a meal."

Catweazle was an early 1970s children's fantasy about a time-travelling wizard. In its second series Gary played Cedric Collingford.

"I never thought I'd be a movie star. The one TV series I did that could potentially have become big was *Alexander The Greatest*," he adds of the 1971 ITV sitcom in which he starred as Alexander Green. "I was perfect casting for that – like me he was 16, Jewish, the son of a furrier and supported *Queens Park Rangers*."

GARY reveals he declined a role "as The Artful Dodger's number two" in the Oscar winning movie musical *Oliver!* from 1968. "That was the only thing I turned down that was fairly major."

He even recorded a single aged 17, *Lucky Guy*, but it failed to chart. Although he did have his own fan club for a while. His last acting appearance was in the BBC play *Sea Tales* in 1977.

Gary says: "I thought, 'this is not going to parlay up into a career like Jenny Agutter's. She's a brilliant actress. Even Sally Thomsett was struggling. She didn't really do anything much after *Man About The House*," he says of the ITV sitcom that ran from 1973 to 1976.

He adds: "I just wanted to live a normal life. I had fun driving around Europe in a campervan with a friend. I've always loved America, it's a magical place and in 1979 I moved to Los Angeles to gain 'life experience'."

"I met my wife Laura in LA in 1982. We were Brits together out there and absolutely hit it off. We returned to the UK in 1984 and got married."

"Laura and I had a clothing retail business for many years. It was great, very successful financially, but it wasn't glamorous or exciting."

"I didn't go to premieres and stuff like that, it was very low-key. We closed the business about 10 years ago. It was not sold on. I've led a normal life and we've been very happy."

Six years ago they moved from Henley-On-Thames to upstate New York to be nearer their son Jake, 37 and daughter Georgia, 38.

Gary says: "Jake is a musician in LA and has worked with Simon Cowell on *America's Got Talent*. When Georgia was about seven she had a small part in the film *A Pin For The Butterfly*, starring Joan Plowright and Hugh Laurie."

A new TV adaptation of *The Railway Children* aired in 2000 and a sequel titled *The Railway Children Return* in 2022. Both starred Agutter.

Gary says: "Jenny is the iconic *Railway Child*. I wasn't asked and if I was I'd probably have said, 'No, let sleeping dogs lie.'" He adds: "The older I've got the less I'm recognised, but I can't hide the fact that I was a *Railway Children* kid."

"I've lived with that for over half a century. It's part of me and I don't resent it in any way."

● *If My Memoir Serves Me Well* by Gary Warren is available on Kindle and Audible audiobooks.

Jo Brand: I've never forgotten how I was humiliated by teacher

By Elizabeth Ivens

COMEDIAN Jo Brand has revealed "the most humiliating episode of her life" was when a teacher embarrassed her in front of the entire class when she was only seven.

The 66-year-old, who grew up in Kent, said she has remembered, for her entire life, what happened in the classroom when she asked to go to the loo during one lesson.

"I put my hand up twice to go to the toilet and the second time I asked, she said to me 'you better bring a potty in to school tomorrow'. Everyone laughed, of course."

"I have never been so humiliated in my life."

The *Bake Off Extra Slice* host said it was "really weird" the incident had stayed with her for so long.

Speaking to an audience of teachers and heads at an education conference, Jo said: "I was only seven but I still remember so well what that cruel teacher said."



Terror fears over lost MoD passes

By Matthew Davis

BUNGLING Ministry of Defence officials have admitted losing a record number of security passes for key buildings and Whitehall HQ.

Over the last five years employees have reported losing almost 14,000 permits – with another 1,000 logged as having been stolen.

It means these MoD passes which give access to the nation's defence institutions are vanishing at the rate of more than 50 every week.

And security experts fear it could pose a security or terrorist risk if they fall into the wrong hands.

The figures, issued by the MoD in a Freedom of Information Act response, show the number of lost passes surged 38 per cent in the last five years – from 2,550 in 2019 to last year's tally of 3,488. The number of stolen passes almost doubled – from 141 to 276.

A security industry expert, who did not want to be named, said many organisations have opted for pass system called "Exchange Badging".

This means the employee leaves their HQ with a blank plastic card that has no markings to reveal either the staff member's identity or that of their employer.

He said: "If a card is lost it is just a blank piece of plastic and the security ramifications are much less."

William Yarwood, media campaign manager of the *TaxPayers' Alliance* blasted what he called "the bone-headedness of Whitehall bureaucrats".

"It is clear common sense has gone AWOL in the Ministry of Defence. New government ministers must ensure civil service sloppiness does not compromise our national security."

Last night, a MoD spokesperson said: "If any assets are reported lost or missing due to suspected criminal activity, we take the necessary steps to investigate, prosecute and recover the items."

Copeland recalls Police brutality all in name of art

THE Police drummer Stewart Copeland has revealed he and Sting "tore each others throats out" in the studio and admits he once even broke the lead singer's rib.

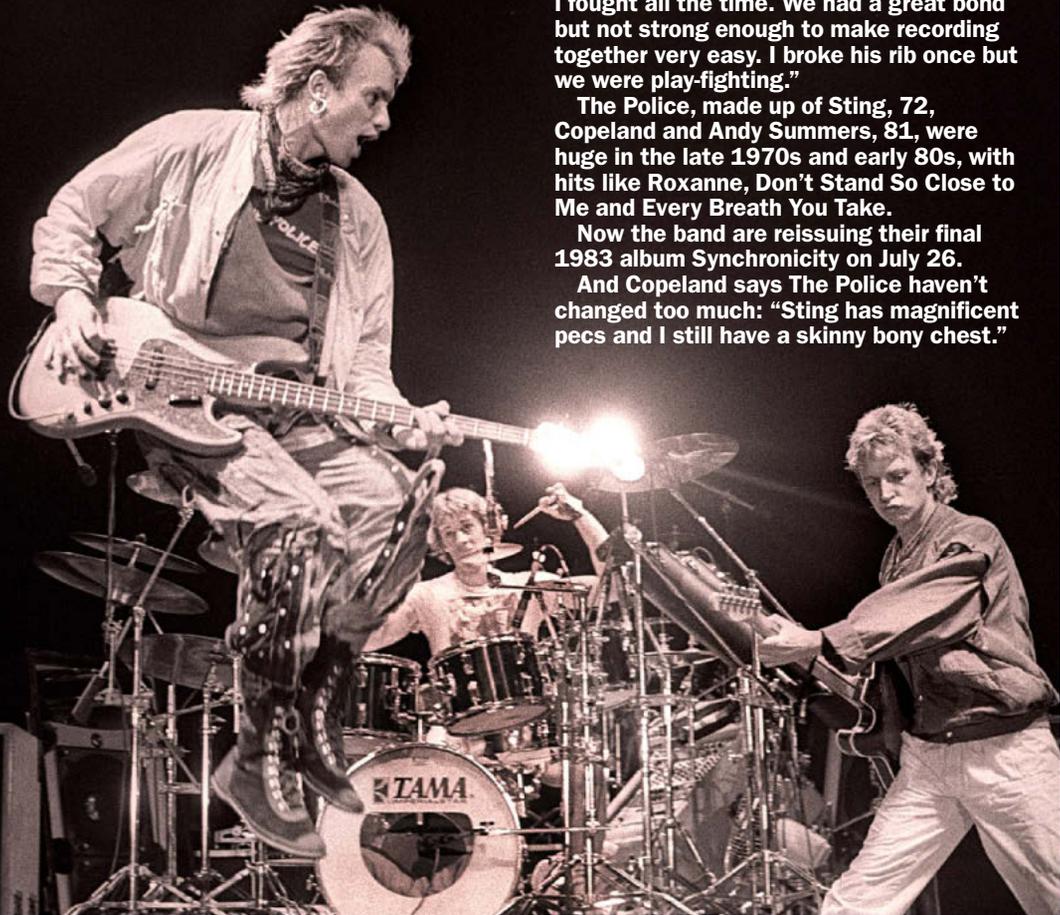
But the 71-year-old musician insists they remain good friends today "sending each other dumb Instagram clips".

Copeland said: "It's a myth that Sting and I fought all the time. We had a great bond but not strong enough to make recording together very easy. I broke his rib once but we were play-fighting."

The Police, made up of Sting, 72, Copeland and Andy Summers, 81, were huge in the late 1970s and early 80s, with hits like Roxanne, Don't Stand So Close to Me and Every Breath You Take.

Now the band are reissuing their final 1983 album Synchronicity on July 26.

And Copeland says The Police haven't changed too much: "Sting has magnificent pecs and I still have a skinny bony chest."



Man arrested in 'human remains' case

DETECTIVES have arrested a man whose image was released in connection with the discovery of human remains in two suitcases on Clifton Suspension Bridge.

The man, 34, who was named by police on Friday as Colombian national Yostin Andres Mosquera, was arrested in the Bristol area early yesterday. It came as more human remains, thought to be from the same two unidentified people, were found at an address in Shepherd's Bush, West London.

Police say the body parts are thought to have come from two men. A post-mortem examination was inconclusive.

The Metropolitan Police and Avon and Somerset Police had launched a joint operation to detain the suspect. A Met spokesman said: "The man, whose image had been released by officers on July 12, was safely detained by Avon and Somerset armed officers at (Bristol) Temple Meads station and was taken into custody, where he remains. He will

By **Jon Austin** CRIME EDITOR

be taken to London for questioning. Extensive enquiries are ongoing, however at this stage police are not looking for anyone else."

On Friday, another man, 36, was arrested in Greenwich, South-east London. He was later released with no further action taken.

'A significant development'

Forensics officers were seen at the Shepherd's Bush address yesterday morning and were searching the bushes

of a neighbouring house while another took photographs of the area, including of bins outside the road.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Andy Valentine said: "This is a significant development in our investigation and I would like to thank the public for their support. We understand the concerns of local communities in both Bristol and London, and officers will remain in the areas over the coming days to reassure those affected."

In your best interest.

Sign up to SavingsWatch and we'll tell you when we have new savings accounts or better rates.

 **nationwide**
A good way to bank



PROM QUEEN: Katie Derham, main picture, has no issue with Florence + The Machine performing



No Rules with Proms... just go with Flo!

THE traditional Last Night of the Proms, with Rule Britannia! and Pomp & Circumstance, may soon be a thing of the past, predicts Katie Derham.

The 54-year-old *Strictly* star, now in her 15th year presenting the classical music festival, said: "I'm sure things will change."

But she stressed there needs to be a "sensible, nice, calm conversation", which might involve the commissioning of modern patriotic tunes.

In an exclusive interview with the Sunday Express ahead of Friday's First Night, she said: "Even the bits which we call the traditional parts of the Last Night haven't always been there."

"I was interested to read an obituary of Scottish conductor James Loughran, who introduced Auld Lang Syne."

"I vaguely assumed it had been there for 100 years but it has only been there for about 30 or 40 years."

The second half of the Last Night line-up traditionally includes Elgar's Pomp & Circumstance March No 1 (when Land of Hope and Glory is



EXCLUSIVE

By David Stephenson TV EDITOR

sung), Henry Wood's Fantasia on British Sea Songs followed by Rule, Britannia!

The concert concludes with Hubert Parry's famous Jerusalem, and the National Anthem.

But this year's Proms season, which runs until September 14, will once again see crossover with popular music.

Sam Smith will be performing for a broadcast on BBC Two, presented by Clara Amfo. Other features include Florence + The Machine.

Katie said: "Things get introduced and they come and they go. To have a discussion about what should or should not be in the programme is completely reasonable."

"There's always new commissions for the Proms."

● *First Night of the Proms*, BBC Two, Friday, 7pm. *Last Night of the Proms*, BBC Two and BBC One, September 14

Pressure on Cooper over Rwanda loss

LABOUR stand accused of lacking respect for an ally and the taxpayer by axing the multimillion-pound Rwanda deportation deal.

The African nation has said it has "no obligation" to return the £270million the UK had put into it.

Former Home Secretary James Cleverly has written to successor Yvette Cooper to ask if Labour cancelled the contract without any assurances on repayment.

He also asked how many flights were scrapped and what impact advisers think the lack of "deterrent" will have on Channel crossings.

A Conservative source said: "Building partnerships with allies such as Rwanda, as well as others in the Commonwealth, will be vital to handling the global challenge of migration."

"Labour clearly have as little regard for that as they do for the British taxpayer."

Calling Mr Cleverly's interest in value for money "a joke", Labour accused him of grandstanding with the Tory leadership in mind.

Migrant surge under Labour, warns France

EXCLUSIVE

By Isaac Crowson

BRITAIN faces a record influx of 60,000 migrants arriving by small boat this year, officials and experts have warned.

People smugglers are telling them it is now "open season" as a result of the Government scrapping the Rwanda plan, as they bid to send 400 across the Channel each day.

Already more than 14,000 have come to the UK this year, with officials bracing for a surge.

Gangs have already started to increase the number of migrants being put on boats since Labour came to power nine days ago.

One French prosecutor source in Calais said around 400 migrants are likely to try to make the perilous journey daily for the next few months.

Around 70 were seen packed on just one boat which made it to Britain last week, part of a group of 419 which arrived on Tuesday. Another 126 were rescued and returned to France.

Four migrants died after a boat capsized in the Channel off Boulogne on Friday, according to the French coastguard.

In all, at least 177 migrants have died in the Channel since 2018, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

And on June 18, 882 people crossed on 15 small boats, a new record for the year. It comes



INFLUX: Warning of rise in arrivals by dinghy

as French police brace themselves for the Olympics, which start on July 26. There are fears this will take resources away from policing the coast to stop gangs sending over boats.

The prosecution source said of the escalating migrant crisis: "This is deadly serious. It has a real risk of overthrowing the systems in place and will become impossible to stop. It is being discussed to prepare for 60,000 this year."

"We are fearing the worst. It's a deadly mix of warm weather, the Rwanda deterrent being removed, growing confidence and fewer police securing the borders. It's a recipe for disaster."

Alp Mehmet, chairman of Migration Watch

UK, said: "Labour's intention to abandon the Rwanda scheme before any flights take off is baffling and a poke in the eye for taxpayers."

"It is also a signal to the criminal gangs and would-be migrants that it's OK to come illegally."

"It will lead to a huge influx in dangerous criminals arriving in Britain."

"Sir Keir Starmer's intention to 'smash the gangs' is pie in the sky. He won't do anything of the sort and numbers will keep going up."

Robert Bates, research director at the Centre for Migration Control, which campaigns for the taxpayer to have a greater voice in the immigration debate, said he is concerned at Labour's crackdown plans.

And he said: "Their plans to scrap Rwanda are akin to rolling out the red carpet, and make it very clear to those considering the journey there is no risk of them being deported."

"The Government seems more concerned with appeasing international opinion and liberal sentiment than with ensuring the security of Britain."

Last night, a Home Office spokesperson said: "We have received reassurances from our partners in France on the maintenance of resource along the coast over the course of the Olympics."

"We are also taking action to smash the people-smuggling gangs, establishing a Border Security Command to bring together our intelligence and enforcement agencies, with counter-terror-style powers and hundreds of personnel."

Save 25%

when you buy 3 or more bottles of selected Taste the Difference wine.



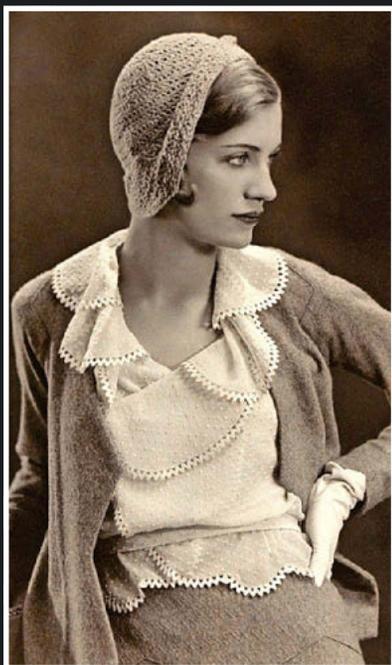
Taste
THE DIFFERENCE



Sainsbury's

Pictures: ANDREAS RENTZ/GETTY; KIMBERLEY FRENCH

Snapper Lee puts pain in the frame for Kate



FOCUS: Elizabeth 'Lee' Miller

KATE WINSLET believes she was haunted by the ghost of legendary photographer Lee Miller after developing a similar back injury the day before filming her biopic.

The Titanic star, 48, took on the role of Elizabeth "Lee" Miller, a fashion model who became an acclaimed war correspondent for Vogue magazine, in the movie Lee.

Kate said: "Those battle sequences physically actually were difficult, because I injured myself the day before we started filming."

"I slipped and really injured my back very badly and I thought, 'Oh God, are we in trouble?'"

"But then I thought, 'Well, we can't call an insurance day, what are we going to do? I'm just going to keep going'."

"I was really in a lot of pain and just carried on but then I did think to myself, 'Well, this is probably Lee', like she's probably doing this to me because she very famously went through the war with chronic

By **Marc Baker and Jaymi McCann**

back pain and talked about it. So I thought, 'Right, OK, she was in pain, I'm in pain, let's go, OK let's go'. Sometimes it's just what you have to do."

The Reading-born actress has been heavily involved in the making of Lee – to be released later this year – also serving as producer.

She added: "It is hard to make films as a woman and it is hard to make films about women."

"It is changing a bit but I hope with this film people will be more open-eyed and open-eyed to absorb films about historical figures like the formidable Lee Miller."

"There is nobody like her in the world."



STEP BACK IN TIME: Kate plays Lee Miller in the biopic about the Second World War photographer

Reform sets its sights on town hall revolution

By **David Williamson**
POLITICAL EDITOR

NIGEL Farage has set Reform UK's sights on a town hall revolution by storming local government in next year's council elections.

He said the aim is to win "hundreds of seats" in election battles "all over England".

The veteran Brexiteer made history this month when he led a group of five Reform MPs into Westminster, as the party won over four million votes – more than the Liberal Democrats, the Greens and the SNP.

Winning council seats would help the fledgling party put down roots in local communities ahead of the next general election. Mr Farage said the opportunity in next year's council vote is "far bigger" than anything that lay before Ukip in its heyday.

He told the Sunday Express: "In 2013, Ukip fought a huge number of seats in the English county council elections."

"Most of our candidates were purely paper ones but we managed to win 147. It catapulted Ukip to major party status and changed my life for ever."

"I have been unable since that to ever use public transport. The opportunity at these elections in 2025 is far bigger



LOCAL VOTE: Nigel Farage

than anything Ukip had before them over a decade ago."

Confident that Reform can deliver further blows to the Tories, he said: "The Conservative Party itself is wasted in the countryside in terms of enthusiasm and energy. My primary focus as party leader, despite my responsibilities in Clacton and in Parliament, is to get us fit and ready with active campaigns all over England."

"We aim to fight and win hundreds of seats. If we can succeed with this, we will genuinely overtake the Conservative Party as the voice of opposition out in the country."

He said Reform chairman Zia Yusuf has been "tasked with the

restructuring, professionalising and democratising at branch level with one eye on the first week of May next year".

Conservative Party chairman Richard Fuller said the local elections were "not about Nigel Farage getting another notch in his political belt".

"The general election showed us that a vote for Reform is a vote for a Labour government."

"Likewise, a vote for a Reform local government candidate risks further embedding radical socialism at a local level and removing excellent local leaders who look after residents rather than pursuing ideological whims," he said.

Greg Smith, the Conservative MP for Mid Buckinghamshire, doubted Reform would succeed in becoming a major force in local government.

He believes many people voted Reform in the general election because they wanted to give the Tory government "a good kicking" but did not want to vote Labour.

Mr Smith said in future elections people are less likely to be in "protest voting mode" but added: "I certainly am not complacent about Reform."

"I am certainly of a mind that we've got to keep a very firm eye on what it is they are up to and what they are doing."





Lewis driving force behind Pitt's F1 film

SIR Lewis Hamilton has become a major driving force in Hollywood, to help steer Brad Pitt's new motor racing movie into pole position at the box office.

Britain's Grand Prix icon joined Pitt's team last year as a consultant and co-producer of the big-budget action film *F1*, which is expected in cinemas in June 2025.

And director Joseph Kosinski, 50, has revealed the seven-time world champion, 39, has proved a real winner in the advisory role.

The film-maker said: "Lewis has

been an incredible partner. He jumps on Zooms with me between races to go through the script line by line to make sure we are getting the details right. On a creative and story level, he also has input.

"He's the first person I contacted three years ago and I knew that to make it as authentic as possible, someone on the team who lives it day-in and day-out would be invaluable."

In *F1*, Pitt, 60, plays a driver forced into retirement after a horrific crash, who returns to mentor a rookie prodigy.



GRAND PRIX PARTNERS: Sir Lewis, left, is guiding Brad Pitt, above, and director Joseph Kosinski, inset left, through technical details for new movie
Pictures: APPLE TV; GETTY

Bercow teaches crooks art of public speaking

By **Jonathan Walker** DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

FORMER Commons Speaker John Bercow has found a new role helping criminals to develop the gift of the gab.

He is aiming to assist prisoners in rebuilding their lives by giving a course on public speaking in Pentonville jail.

But last night critics said the move could be more about his own rehabilitation rather than that of the inmates.

They believe the initiative is clearly aimed at currying favour with the Labour government, in a bid to make a return to public life.

One source went further, claiming that learning to imitate Mr Bercow's plummy accent may help old lags argue their case in court, but added: "I don't know if victims of crime will feel much better if their mugger has a posh voice."

Another Westminster source quipped: "Bercow is such a weird public speaker that no one takes him seriously. If your average mugger or shop-lifter tried to speak like plummy Bercow, he would soon come a cropper. I'm not sure he's the right man to bring 'order, order' to prisons, either."

Mr Bercow, 61, missed out on a seat in the Lords after being investigated over allegations of bullying. One MP said: "This all reeks of an attempt by Bercow to wheedle his way back into



ROAD TO REHABILITATION: John Bercow

public life. He backed Labour at the election and perhaps he's pinning his hopes on Sir Keir Starmer nominating him for a peerage after all."

The former Conservative MP joined Labour in 2021 but was suspended from the party, and banned from the Parliamentary estate for life, in 2022 after a Parliamentary inquiry found he had been "a serial bully" towards staff.

A report published by the Independent Expert Panel said his behaviour "fell very far below that which the public has a right to expect from any

Member of Parliament". The event at HMP Pentonville, a prison for men and young offenders in north London, is expected to be attended by Prisons Minister James Timpson, providing an opportunity for Mr Bercow to build bridges with Sir Keir's government.

Mr Bercow made himself unpopular with Tories as Commons Speaker when he was seen to be siding with Labour during debates on Brexit after the 2016 referendum.

A former Number 10 source said: "John clearly likes being in the spotlight and wants to return to public life but I don't fancy his chances."

Mr Bercow took part in the US version of TV show *The Traitors* earlier this year, which is now available on BBC iPlayer. The source said: "The *Traitors* is exactly the right show for him."

Tomorrow's event is designed to publicise training initiatives at the prison and will be compered by Jonathan Aitken, 81, the former government minister who served seven months in jail for perjury and became a campaigner for prison reform.

There will be demonstrations of music, art and writing involving prisoners.

Other speakers include Charlie Taylor, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, and Pentonville's governor Simon Drysdale. The Ministry of Justice was approached for comment.

Hoyle loses sleep over MP danger

CONCERNS about MPs' safety keeps House of Commons Speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle up at night.

He feels that improving security in the Commons will be the "top priority" in the coming years.

He said: "Democracy matters to me. That is a constant worry. If there's something that keeps me awake at night, it is the safety of MPs."

On other challenges for democracy, including cyber-attacks by "foreign actors" to influence voting, he added: "The amount of intimidation and threats, and the way it's carried out, is much greater than anybody can imagine."

"None of this should happen, so I work very closely with all the agencies to make sure we are on top of our game."

He also shared his hope for a "nicer Parliament", saying: "How we treat each other in Parliament is reflected by the public."

The Romans gave us medicine, law, sanitation and roads, not to mention wine and cheese. But, writes JAMES RAMPTON, a vigorous streak of cruelty ran through this exalted civilisation, epitomised by the 'Games'

THE GAMES were remorselessly barbaric. It is thought more than 400,000 people and a million animals were killed in Rome's Colosseum during the 400 years it was active.

Across the Roman Empire, several hundred thousand more unfortunates perished in multiple arenas for the delectation and delight of the baying crowds.

The fate of the combatants frequently depended on the whim of a capricious Emperor. A casual thumbs-down from the Roman leader could signal their demise.

The savagery of the Games reached levels beyond our comprehension.

For the entertainment of the assembled masses, for instance, the Romans would throw slaves into the arena to "fight" a pack of hungry lions.

The Romans would also roast captives alive over an open fire in metal pots.

Yet the sheer barbarity of the Roman Games maintains a certain allure to the modern mind. And this dark fascination is reflected in a compelling new Amazon Prime Video drama *Those About to Die*.

This was the phrase gladiators used to hail the Emperor ahead of their life-or-death battles.

Directed by Roland Emmerich – best known for blockbuster movie *Independence Day* – and starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and Iwan Rheon, from *Game of Thrones*, this epic 10-parter takes place in

'Victims were seen as lesser human beings'

the spectacular arenas of gladiatorial combat and chariot racing in Ancient Rome.

Set in the decadent era of Emperor Vespasian, portrayed by Sir Anthony Hopkins, in 79 AD, the series conjures up the blood-thirsty collision of sport and politics.

This will be followed on November 15 by the release of *Gladiator II*, Ridley Scott's hotly anticipated sequel to his Oscar-winning movie.

Beginning several decades after the original 2000 film, *Gladiator II* focuses on Lucius – played by Normal People star Paul Mescal – the grandson of Rome's former emperor Marcus Aurelius.

Captured by the Roman army in North Africa, Lucius is forced into slavery and made to fight as a gladiator.

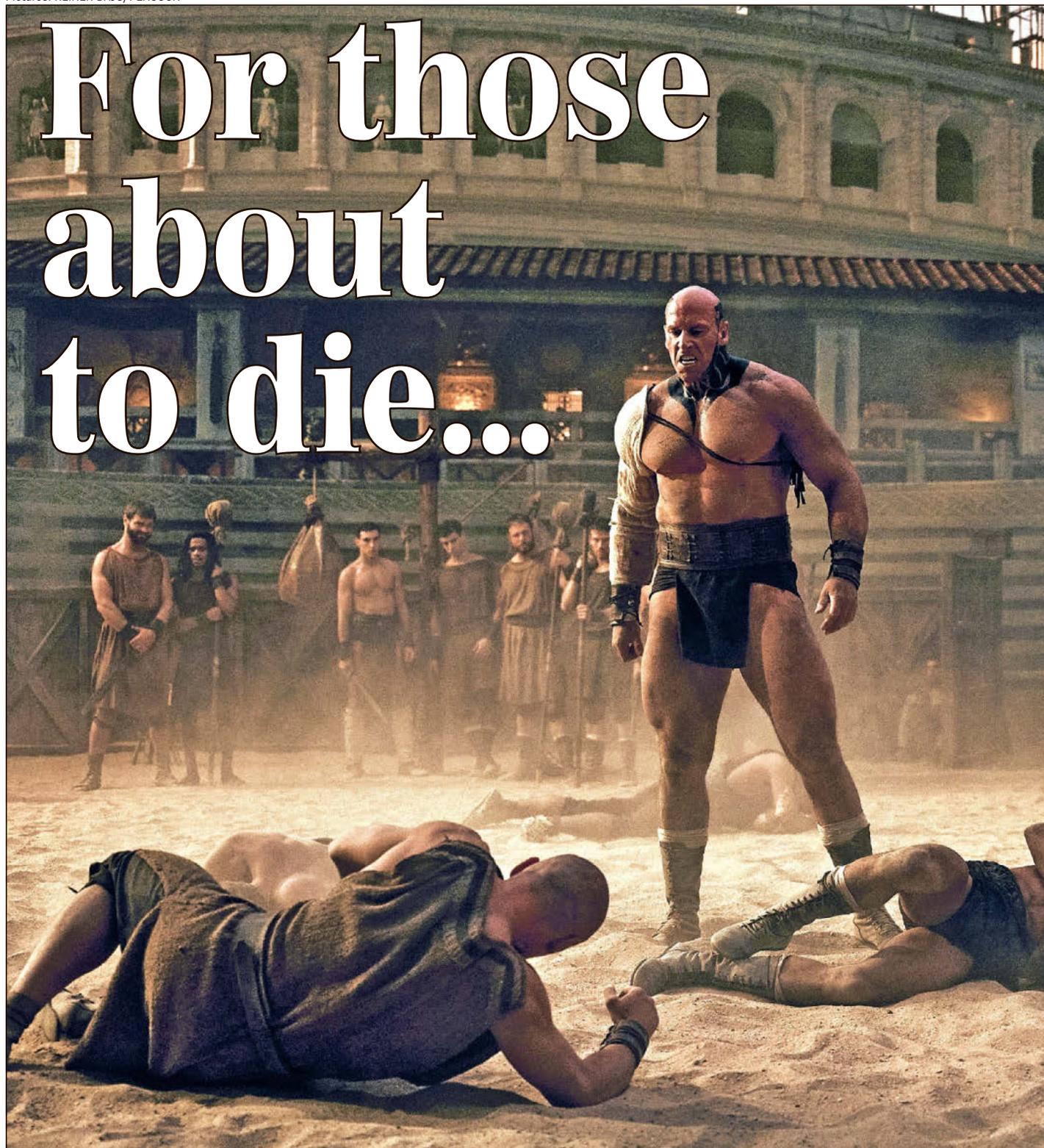
Other recent TV shows to depict the Roman Games include *Spartacus: Arena of the Gods*, *Domina* and the mini-series of *Ben Hur*.

Justin Pollard, historical consultant on *Those About to Die*, explains: "There's always been a fascination with the death cult of Roman gladiatorial games. That's clear in *Gladiator* and also in science fiction films such as *The Hunger Games*,



Pictures: REINER BAJO/PEACOCK

For those about to die...



DYING TO ENTERTAIN: A scene from *Those About to Die*, starring Sir Anthony Hopkins and Iwan Rheon, inset

where you have sports played to the death. We also have a fascination with the sort of people dragged into the Games.

"We now have an empathy for those captives, criminals and slaves who were kicked into the arena to face almost certain death – which a Roman audience really didn't have."

The reality of the Games was often more brutal than these films and TV shows suggest, with the authorities continually having to up the ante to feed the masses' thirst for violence.

Justin, who has advised on *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Vikings*, says: "The Romans were obliged to constantly feed the beast. They had to find ever more elaborate and awful ways to stimulate the audience.

"When you go to gladiato-

rial combat regularly you become inured to it all. So they ended up with things like flooding the Colosseum and staging an entire naval battle where they had to fight to the death."

The crowds also began to clamour for more outlandish battles between humans and wild animals. Justin says: "It was a huge and a very valuable business but, like modern entertainment, the audience always wanted something new.

"So you have always got to provide the next incredible thing. Once everyone has seen a giraffe, they say, 'Now we want to see a rhinoceros'. And once everyone has seen a rhinoceros, what else is out there?"

"There used to be lots of lions across North Africa but there are none left now.

"All of those easily accessible animals were driven to extinction by the Romans, because they were so in demand.

"The Romans altered the entire ecosystem around the Mediterranean with their insatiable demand for novelty."

This inhumanity stemmed from Roman citizens viewing the lives of those beneath them in the social hierarchy as worthless.

Justin, 56, says: "Rome as a society is based on the idea of us and them. Its engine is slavery. Everything runs on slavery. The result is that not all human life is worth the same.

"The Games become a form of morbid

spectacle and it is acceptable because the people being killed don't particularly matter in Roman society. They are lesser human beings. To the Romans, it's not much different from watching animals fight."

The Games were also set up as a cynical means of exerting social control: "The problem Roman society has is, how do you control the large underclass? What is to stop the poor just saying, 'We have had enough. Let's charge into the Emperor's palace and get rid of him?'"

"The best way of keeping large numbers of people in check is to distract them.

"So the authorities provide the 'Cura Annonae', which is a free wheat ration, and free sporting entertainment."

Justin adds: "It is not that long ago people went to public executions in this country. If you look at accounts of executions at Tyburn, there was a festival atmosphere. It was not terribly sombre. It was a day out.

"There is an element of us still ghoulishly attracted to that sort of spectacle."

He says he would not be surprised if people flocked to gladiatorial combat if it took place today: "If you said, 'I'm going to hold a gladiatorial combat tomorrow and the tickets are free', how many people do you think would turn up?"

● *Those About to Die* streams on Amazon Prime Video from Friday



Another last minute winner!

Save up to £400 on large screen TVs, and **bring it home today** in time for the big game.



Order & Collect

Order online and collect in-store today.

Stevie puts on Style-ish tribute to her lost pal Christine

A HUG FROM HARRY: Styles and Nicks at BST festival in Hyde Park. Inset left, Christine McVie



FLEETWOOD Mac star Stevie Nicks paid tribute to Christine McVie at the British Summer Time festival by bringing out Harry Styles for a surprise rendition of Landslide.

The American star, 76, and Styles, 30, performed the song while pictures of McVie played on a screen behind them, on the day Nicks' former band member would have turned 81.

Speaking to the crowd about McVie, who died aged 79 in 2022, Nicks said: "I asked Harry

By **Julia Kuttner**

to do this, and it's always heavy to ask somebody to come and sing a song with you that you're singing about your best friend that died so suddenly."

She added: "Today was her birthday so it's taken me all this time to be able to even try to deal with this situation."

"But one thing my mum used to say to me when I was little was, when I was hurt, she would go, 'Stevie when you're hurt you

always run to the stage'." Nicks said that since Chris passed away she's been "running to the stage, because the only people who have been able to help me get over this has been all of you."

The pair also treated music fans in London's Hyde Park to the song *Stop Draggin' My Heart Around*, which Nicks originally recorded with Tom Petty, who died aged 66 in 2017.

Earlier in Friday night's show Nicks paid tribute to her friend by playing his hit song *Free Fallin'*

and told the audience she could feel his presence.

"The last time I was here I came on stage with Tom Petty and we did the songs that we always loved to do," she said.

"And that was the last time that I saw him, so this is a special day for a lot of reasons for me to be back here, because I feel his presence and I know he's with us."

Last night's BST festival headline was Aussie pop icon Kylie Minogue, 56.

Body found in river is missing boy

POLICE have confirmed a body found in the Mersey is that of missing 14-year-old Daniel Halliday.

The teenager was identified after "extensive forensic examinations".

The schoolboy had been jumping waves off Crosby beach at 7pm on Sunday, June 30, before getting into difficulty.

He was lost to a strong current despite his older brother trying to save him, said his family who described him as a "loving son, brother, cousin, nephew and grandson".

His body was found by coastguards on Monday in the river at New Brighton.

The death is not being treated as suspicious.

Teen faces court over disturbance

A TEENAGER has been charged after an attack at a Sikh temple.

The 17-year-old, who cannot be named, appeared at Maidstone Crown Court in Kent to face charges including attempted grievous bodily harm, and threats to kill.

He was bailed by the court and immediately detained by officers for a mental health assessment.

The teenager will next appear at Medway Youth Court on Thursday.

Police were called to the Sri Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara in Gravesend on Thursday after reports of a disturbance inside the temple and two women being assaulted outside.

Spanish in search for missing Brit

MOUNTAIN rescue police have joined the search for a missing British man in the north of Spain.

The 48-year-old was last seen on Thursday after arguing with his wife.

Authorities said they are concerned for his safety after he reportedly left her in a garage following a row and dumped personal belongings before abandoning his car.

Mountain experts from the Civil Guard's Greim unit, the same type of team that searched for Jay Slater, 19, in Tenerife, have been sent to Cremones, in the province of Leon.

Drones, a helicopter and a specialist sniffer dog were also being used.

Why 'hippy tree hugging' may not be barking mad

IT MAY have been widely ridiculed but it appears that tree hugging might, in fact, relieve stress and lead to a longer life, says a new study.

Roaming through woods and forests while tuning in to the birdsong actually releases chemicals which improve our immune system, it is claimed.

Dr Tara Swart, lecturer at The Sloan School of Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said new physiological evidence suggests people live longer just by living closer to trees.

Dr Swart, author of best-selling neuroscience book *The Source*, said: "Time in nature literally changes your lifespan and your health."

"Any trees really, but particularly cedars, pines and cypresses release compounds called phyton-

By **Ross Kaniuk**

cides that trigger the release of natural killer cells in our immune systems. So it basically boosts our immunity. We've all been thinking tree-hugging hippies are a 'woo woo' thing.

"But now it turns out these trees are secreting chemicals that interact with our immune systems."

Inhaling the chemicals that trees release into the air is even said to raise the levels of anti-cancer proteins.

Chemicals emitted by plants, to defend against decay or attack by herbivores, are known as "anti-microbial allelochemical volatile organic compounds".

Dr Swart added that a new field of research called neuroaesthetics, about the impact of beauty and creativity on the brain, has also

found that simply spending time in nature is also mentally "calming" – due to in-built evolutionary survival factors. She explained: "The beauty and the awe of it have an effect on us mentally."

She added in an interview to be released later this week on the *High Performance* podcast: "The reason birdsong reduces our blood pressure, our

'Trees trigger the release of natural killer cells'

breathing rate and our stress levels is because if there was a predator around, birds wouldn't sing.

"So the fact they're singing means we're safe."

She also told the podcast "positive, meaningful relationships" boost physical and mental health. She said: "Older people who are still social live longer and get less dementia. And it also counts for younger people in terms of mental health."



NATURE BOOST: Author and lecturer Dr Tara Swart

FRIENDLY IRE:
Dame Maureen Lipman has different views to Miriam, inset below, over Israel's actions



Miriam: Jewish people loathe me over Gaza war

VETERAN Jewish actress Miriam Margolyes has revealed how she fell out with her friend Maureen Lipman over the war in Gaza.

And the 83-year-old admitted it was not only the Coronation Street star who took offence at her views on the conflict.

Miriam said her family were also "disgusted" after she made a video condemning Israel over its response following the October 7 outrage.

The Harry Potter star said: "Jewish people regard me with loathing, as someone who betrayed my nation and aligned myself with the Devil."

She told Saga magazine: "That is also the opinion of my erstwhile friend Dame Maureen Lipman, who is horrified by my attitude."

But Miriam added: "I have no doubt I am right. I am convinced that killing women and children is totally wicked, does not help Israel or anybody. It's just vile."

By **Malcolm Tattersall**

How it has been allowed to go on for so long, I don't know."

Last month, the Call the Midwife star claimed Charles Dickens would probably also have supported the Palestinian cause.

She said: "I am very pro-Palestine, I just want that to be very clear, and so would Dickens be if he was here."

The Saga article also reveals how the late Queen Elizabeth II once ordered Miriam to shut up. It happened after she had been invited to Buckingham Palace as part of British Book Week.

As another guest was telling the monarch how he sold colourful books for dyslexic children, Miriam butted in: "How wonderful."

She added: "Her Majesty, understandably piqued by this interruption, turned to me and said 'Be quiet'."



EX-FBI DIRECTOR JAMES COMEY

I just hope the voting public will avoid this Trump cult

REVENGE will be top of Donald Trump's agenda if he is re-elected in November, warns lawyer-turned-crime writer James Comey. And the returning President will have in his sights the officials who prosecuted him for covering up his affair with Stormy Daniels. "He will surely be vengeful and has committed to being the 'retribution' President.

"He rarely fulfils policy or financial promises but he always follows through on threats because he fears looking weak," explains Comey, who remains sanguine about his own position, despite having been an outspoken critic since leaving the FBI seven years ago.

In his 2018 autobiography, *A Higher Loyalty*, Comey recalled how Trump demanded personal fealty during a private White House dinner, describing the then-President as "unethical, and untethered to truth and institutional values".

Today he smiles: "I seem to be a relationship he can't get over. But I'm over it and I'll be fine. I worry more about the career civil servants who are less able to defend themselves."

Having been fired four years into his 10-year term as FBI director for refusing to ignore alleged collusion between Trump's campaign and Russian officials, Comey has first-hand experience of the former – and possibly future – US leader. So how did it feel watching the 45th President charged with criminal offences and humiliatingly dragged to court in New York earlier this year?

"Uplifting, depressing and frustrating," he sighs. "Uplifting, because I think one of the parts of America that has passed its stress test is the legal system. Seeing a former President held accountable is inspiring and a great lesson about the vital importance of the rule of law.

"But it's also depressing, because our former President and current presidential candidate is a criminal – literally – and frustrating because significant cases against Trump may not be resolved quickly."

An example, perhaps, of the best – and worst – of the US then? "Yes, the Manhattan case was a great civics lesson for America and also became the latest rallying cry for his followers."

On that point, claims of "lawfare" against the former President – suggestions the legal system is

Former FBI director James Comey has described Donald Trump's conviction on 34 charges of illegally influencing the 2016 presidential election as a great civics lesson for America. But he tells MATT NIXSON the unprecedented case will become a 'rallying cry' for his followers...

being exploited by his Democrat opponents to try to take him out of the presidential race – appear to have fired up his supporters.

"A bit, but his base, as cults always are, is hungry for ways to portray the leader and themselves as persecuted," continues Comey, who lives in Virginia with his wife Patrice, a therapist.

"They would have found something else. "My hope is that enough of the voting American public is able to avoid the cult and judge the candidates by merit."

Comey, 63, is among the star guests at the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate, north Yorkshire, later this week. He will appear on a panel with barrister-authors Tony Kent, Imran Mahmood and Harriet Tyce, plus courtroom thriller writer Kia Abdullah, on Friday before a series of UK events for his new novel, *Westport*.

We first talked in June last year when Comey visited London to promote his debut crime novel, *Central Park West*.

The highly authentic thriller introduced his dogged New York prosecutor Nora Carleton – inspired by his oldest daughter, Maurene, who prosecuted Ghislaine Maxwell in 2021 – and Justice Department colleague Benny Dugan, based on Kenny McCabe, a famed New York anti-Mafia investigator and friend.

"Kenny died in 2006 from melanoma and I helped carry his coffin at the funeral but I can close my eyes and hear him when I write Benny Dugan," he says today.

Apart from being relaxed, friendly and very recognisable – he stands 6ft 8in tall – Comey distinguishes himself from many writers by



Picture: JONATHAN BUCKMASTER



APPEALING TO VOTERS: James Comey hopes a second Trump term in the White House can be avoided



YOU'RE FIRED!: Trump and then-FBI boss Comey

'I think the danger of making a lot of money is that it can warp one's view of the world in general, and morality in particular...'

legal counsel but when a colleague is killed she finds herself the target of a murder investigation.

Comey says: "My family lived in Westport for five years and there's a reason [businesswoman] Martha Stewart called it home for many years – it's a beautiful community where most people have a lot of money.

"That's why this story was so fun to write. Benny and Nora are accustomed to the world of mobsters in tracksuits. But in the world of high finance people are much smarter."

Despite the company's claim to be utterly ethical, it soon emerges that Saugatuck Associates is anything but: "I think the danger of making a lot of money is that it can warp one's view of the world in general, and morality in particular.

"Until I left government I'd never known rich people or had much money myself. I discovered that being very wealthy forces a choice – either you acknowledge luck has played a huge role in your privilege and use that sense of guilt to help others, or you suppress it and convince yourself you're awesome and deserve every penny."

He adds: "I've always loved to write and am very glad I was talked into trying crime fiction. Through it I can show people worlds I've known and, I hope, entertain."

But back in the real world, I wonder if he's able to call the US election?

"Joe Biden will be re-elected," he insists. "Although it will be closer than it should be. I'm drawn to one of Lincoln's favourite lines – 'There was always just enough virtue in this republic to save it – sometimes none to spare but still enough to meet the emergency'."

But why didn't the framers of the US Constitution exclude convicted criminals from serving as President? "I doubt it occurred to them. How on earth could it have? If you put it in a novel, your editor would strike it out as wildly unrealistic," adds Comey.

And he doesn't see Biden's age or infirmity as an issue. "US presidential elections are choices between two people," he adds. "Whatever the challenges of age, there is no possible reason not to vote for Biden when the alternative is Donald Trump. It's that simple."

● To order a copy of *Westport* by James Comey (Bloomsbury, £20), visit expressbookshop.com or call 0203 176 3832. Free UK P&P on orders over £25. For more details on the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival call 01423 562 303 or visit harrogateinternationalfestivals.com

knowing his subject intimately. Aged 16, he and his younger brother were held at gunpoint by an intruder at the family home in New Jersey.

They managed to smash a window and escape as the man, who was never caught, ransacked the house. "I didn't worry about a lot of things that bothered my peers after that," he told me. "It's hard to describe but I knew I was going to get killed, and that was life altering."

The horrific burglary would make him a better investigator when dealing with victims of crime, and certainly influenced his choice of career.

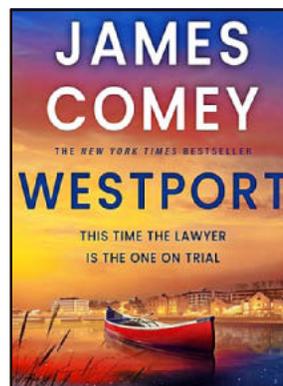
In 1992 as US attorney in New York, he jailed the notorious Gambino Family boss John Gotti for extortion, robbery and murder. In 2013, he

was appointed by Barack Obama to a decade-long term as the seventh director in the history of the FBI. But fired four years later by Trump, he is now enjoying an entirely new career as a crime writer, rather than a crime fighter.

Westport, the second in his trilogy, takes inspiration from the three years he spent pre-FBI working for a hedge fund in Westport, Connecticut, before being brought back to government service by Obama.

"I found the fund work fascinating – and much, much better paying – but I missed having the mission of the Department of Justice," he admits.

In his new thriller, Nora goes to work at the fictional Saugatuck Associates in Westport as lead



IT'S COMING HOME AND SO ARE THE PIZZAS

Get
£2
in your
Cashpot

PRICE DROP

~~£14~~

£12

24 x 300ml

Offer ends 14th July



24x
300ml

EXCLUSIVE

PRICE DROP

~~£3~~

£2

each

2 FOR
£7

Diet
Coke

8x
330ml

Coca-Cola

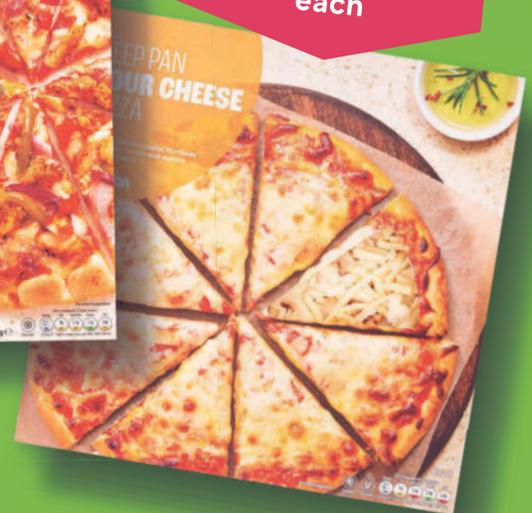
ZERO SUGAR

8x330ml



STONEBAKED
SPICY FAJITA
CHICKEN
PIZZA

Offer ends 17th July



DEEP PAN
FOUR CHEESE
PIZZA

GET
MATCH
Ready

ASDA

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT



Download
ASDA Rewards
to earn pounds,
not points



CAN BUY ME SEAT: Paul

No need to rob Peter to see Paul

SIR Paul McCartney is the best value for money star out of the world's biggest-earning touring acts right now, data reveals.

An average ticket to see the former Beatle, 82, costs less than £80, making his prices cheapest among the biggest-earning music megastars so far this year.

Audiences pay £76.59 to attend his concerts, which often last over two-and-a-half hours, on average.

That is more than three times less than costliest act U2, whose fans paid £272 for their Las Vegas Sphere gigs on average, analytics firm Pollstar found.

Following the Irish band are Bad Bunny on £222, George Strait on £220 and The Eagles on £218 – but Police frontman Sting is the dearest English star to see, as it cost £199 to go to his joint show with Billy Joel in the US on average.

Quest for alpaca perfection breeds health fear

ALPACAS are being bred in this country with flatter faces which can cause rickets, breathing difficulties and eye injuries.

Experts fear cross-breeding of the camelid mammals, which are native to South America, has introduced serious health issues into its UK population.

Many of these stem from a shift towards alpacas with flatter facial features, which are seen as more aesthetically appealing.

Now the owners of English alpacas are being urged to join a

By Jaymi McCann

study to find out if these animals are becoming brachycephalic, with shortened snouts.

Vets have reported cases of rickets and dental issues that could be connected to facial shortening, according to the Farmers Guide.

The project is being led by Dr Ami Sawran, from Westpoint Farm Vets and VetPartners, who said: "Farm veterinary practitioners continue to report cases of

rickets, dental disease, improper halter positioning that could impinge on nasal cartilage, eye injuries, and other conditions that could potentially be linked to a shortened snout.

"Our study, inviting as many owners as possible to take part, will help advance knowledge and understanding of the current landscape in regard to potential brachycephalic traits."

Alpacas have increased in popularity in recent years, with

farms across the country breeding them. The British Alpaca Society says it has 1,800 members and that they farm about 45,000 in the UK.

They are primarily kept for their fur, which is said to be prized for being strong, warm and breathable, but many farms also offer visitor experiences to meet the animals.



POPULAR PET: Alpaca population is growing but so too is the market in changing their looks

Jails staffing crisis 'could spark a riot'

BRITAIN could see another prison takeover on the scale of the infamous Strangeways riots due to staff shortages, insiders have warned.

An over-reliance on inexperienced officers meant that inmates were getting too much control, with drugs and mobile phones plentiful, it is claimed.

The Prison Officers' Association recently warned about chronic staff shortages and retention problems.

The alert came days after Justice Secretary Shabana Mahmood unveiled plans for the early release of up to 20,000 inmates to ease chronic overcrowding.

Jo Taylor spent five years as a senior prison officer at HMP Wakefield, dubbed "Monster Mansion" because it houses many notorious killers such as Levi Bellfield and Ian Huntley.

She said last month's incident – when a male convict filmed another having sex with a female prison officer while he smoked cannabis at Wandsworth jail – showed the system is out of control.

She asked: "How was she in there and where were the other staff?"

"When I left the service in 2012, they were starting to get rid of experienced officers, to

By Jon Austin CRIME EDITOR

replace them with cheaper staff. Over the past 12 years they have lost much of the experience. So staff come in with no life experience and no life skills, and at 18 they are telling a hardened criminal to 'get in your cell' and it just won't work.

"It won't be long before they will probably lose a prison. Something will happen. If you

'Cons will take over and riots will happen again'

reduce staff to next to nothing, the cons will take over and you can imagine something like Strangeways happening again."

The Strangeways riots ran from April 1, 1990 for 25 days when inmates at the Manchester jail took control of the chapel and then the rest of the building. There were also rooftop protests.

One prisoner died and 147 warders and 47 inmates were injured. Building

repairs cost £55million. Last week Ms Mahmood blamed the previous government for the current overcrowding of the system, which left her with no choice but to begin releasing some inmates who have served 40 per cent of their sentence.

However, last night a former Scotland Yard officer warned releasing prisoners is not the answer. Ex-Det Chief Insp Dave McKelvey said: "This sends the wrong message. There are plenty of facilities that could be used to detain low-risk prisoners, reduce pressure and keep criminals locked up while they build more prisons."

Last month the Prison Governors' Association wrote an open letter to political leaders warning prisons were almost full. It said lack of investment put prisoners and staff at risk of injury.

Even former criminals have expressed their shock at standards in our jails in the wake of the Wandsworth viral video incident and an alleged prison break from there last September.

Reformed crook Samson Bee now tries to steer others from crime through a YouTube channel. In a recent video he spoke of his shock and said the establishment should be closed.

Soldier Daniel Khalife, 22, is accused of escaping from Wandsworth by strapping himself to the underside of a food lorry. He is also accused of leaking sensitive information to Iranian intelligence and is set to face trial in October.

'Deport all foreign criminals'

SIR Keir Starmer faces calls to send 10,000 foreign prisoners languishing in crammed UK jails back to their home countries.

Figures from the Ministry of Justice show there are 10,422 foreign nationals in custody. Of these, 6,632 have been convicted while others are on remand.

The Home Secretary has a legal duty under the UK Borders Act 2007 to deport those sentenced to at least 12 months, unless it would breach their human rights.

They also have the power to deport any non-British person when it would be "conducive to the public good".

Reform deputy leader Richard Tice said: "It is clearly 'in the public good' to deport all 10,000 nationals in our jails."

The most common nationality is Albanian, with 1,273 inmates, Polish, with 906, and Romanian, with 750 inmates.



RISKS: Ex-prison officer Jo Taylor issued warning

Dancing away my hostage hell

A FORMER Israeli hostage who spent 129 days held captive by Hamas is now rebuilding his life through the power of dance.

Luis Har, 71, and fellow Argentine Israeli Fernando Marman were seized from the idyllic kibbutz Nir Yitzhak on October 7.

Rampaging gunmen and Gaza locals smashed through a border fence and killed 117 inhabitants, as well as more than 1,000 other Israelis.

Now his ordeal is over, Luis has joined a folk dance troupe, gives lessons and dances whenever he can with his family.

"While in captivity I never thought I would be dancing again," Luis said. "Now I just can't stop dancing – with my daughter, my grandchildren. I go to dance classes, I speak at theatre schools. It has given me new strength and vigour in my life."

Despite his Argentinian roots, Luis prefers traditional folk to the Tango. He also teaches classes, sometimes online: "It is a new chapter. Dancing gives me life."

Recalling that fateful day, Luis said: "The

By **Marco Giannangeli** and **Paul Cainer**

terrorists, who I am sure from their eyes were on drugs, fired shots inside my house.

"As I hid, I overheard them saying they had received orders to take their pills at 5am. They found me and I expected to die.

"I realised we were being taken captive when they bundled us into a pick-up truck.

'An act of defiance against Hamas'

"We were treated like dogs. I was forced to sit on top of a rocket-propelled grenade-launcher and explosives. Four other people plus my dog, Bella, were taken at gunpoint to a tunnel inside Khan Younis, a town inside Gaza close to our kibbutz's fence."

After a couple of days the captives were frogmarched for hours to an apartment in

Rafah, Gaza's southern-most city. "We ironically called our captor 'the master of the household'. He told us we'd be exchanged and promised to make sure we would be OK."

Their captor said he was angry Luis and Fernando had moved from Argentina to Israel. They said: "You must go back there. Palestine is not your home."

Despite languishing in captivity, the hostages would still joke with each other in Spanish, but only in whispers.

Finally, on February 12, they were jolted awake by the sound of gunfire. To their shock uniformed men burst in.

Luis recalled: "They told us, 'We're from the IDF and we're here to rescue you'.

"There was gunfire everywhere, it was like a scene from Rambo."

They were then flown to Tel Aviv for hospital check-ups. Both men were

nurtured back to health with a gradual increase in their food intake.

Feeling healthy again, Luis has chosen to support the remaining missing hostages.

He is publicising their plight using his speaking and dancing skills, visiting schools and talking to visitors to the Hostages Forum. "My dancing is also intended as an act of defiance against Hamas," Luis insists.

"More than 300 were killed at the Nova music festival. The motto we have adopted is: We Will Dance Again."



NEW CHAPTER: Luis folk dancing with his troupe; above, Luis and Fernando reunite with their relieved families

Picture: REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

No plaiice like home!

HOLIDAYMAKERS are choosing staycations over trips abroad, to feast on good old British grub!

A study from online supermarket Ocado and cottages.com has revealed that 66 per cent of people are ditching foreign holidays because of their love of local delicacies.

Top of the list of favourites is fish and chips, with 62 per cent agreeing it's Britain's best dish. Other popular fare includes scones with jam and cream (31 per cent), ice cream (30 per cent) and local seafood (27 per cent).

Ocado's Laura Harricks said: "Food and drink is a key part of our holiday experience."



SPECIAL: Singer Andrea Bocelli

Andrea's triple treat for fans

ITALIAN tenor Andrea Bocelli is celebrating the 30th anniversary of his career with three star-studded concerts in his Tuscan birthplace this week.

Stars such as Ed Sheeran, Shania Twain, Brian May, Johnny Depp, Plácido Domingo and Jose Carreras will also descend on Lajatico to perform at the Teatro del Silenzio from tomorrow.

The concerts will be filmed for global release in cinemas later this year. Andrea,

65, said: "To celebrate the 30th anniversary of my career at Teatro del Silenzio – a place that means so much – with artists and friends, is an honour."

He has also unveiled his album Duets, which will be released on October 25.

It includes songs with Céline Dion, Sarah Brightman and Dua Lipa.

The singer added: "Something intimate and deep is established between the two voices that sing a duet."



CONCERTS: Ed Sheeran will star

■ **AGREED**, he can be a charmless git at times. But Noel Gallagher's post-Glastonbury growl at the expense of pop's pious and preachy tendency made me laugh. Political statements had come thick and fast about Palestine, the Tories... the usual suspects. And, as grumpy old Noel pointed out, there were all those middle-class kids who wanted to tell everyone that war is bad. "Just play your ****ing tunes and get off," he recommended. Genius.

■ **I KNOW I** can moan about the dismal quality of TV commercials – which once upon a time were little gems of witty film-making. But here I go again. My latest gripe is over ads for laundry products.

In real life people simply do not go around sniffing their laundry. But in adverts, noses are inexplicably buried deep in piles of soiled T-shirts, which are then swooned over once they come out of the washing machine because of their heavenly fragrance.

I like clean sheets as much as the next person, but I don't feel the need to scamper around examining everything like a sniffer dog on a drugs bust.

■ **IT IS SAID** that six million Brits plan to work from the beach this summer as they take advantage of employers' work-from-anywhere policies. This is a terrible idea. Apart from the hazard of sand in your laptop (more costly than sand in your sarnies) this assumes your cool new working practice doesn't inconvenience anyone else.

Could there be anything more annoying than finding that your partner has to work and has no time to play with the children, go on that boat trip you planned or have lunch at that nice taverna?

Many couples already indulge in competitive bragging about their workloads and stress levels. The point of a holiday is to put all that to one side for a week. "Sorry darling, I have to work," is no kind of break – for anyone.

JENNIFER SELWAY



■ **THE KING** has requested a win but no last minute dramas or penalties in tonight's Euros final against Spain, to spare the nation's blood pressure. With respect, sir, any sort of win would be absolutely blooming marvellous.

Picture: JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY



■ **"THIS IS** the night mail crossing the Border, Bringing the cheque and the postal order..." Those familiar rhythmic lines open W.H. Auden's 1936 poem Night Mail.

It was written to accompany a public information film made by the General Post Office (GPO) Film Unit, which followed the route of the train which travelled overnight from London Euston to Glasgow, carrying only mail, no passengers.

Last week it was announced that the Royal Mail – about to be sold off to a Czech billionaire – will no longer use freight trains and will transport all mail by road. This is a complete U-turn as only two years ago the Royal Mail said it was going to treble the volume of post delivered by rail. What happened to reducing road use for environmental reasons?

These days, our post (when we get any at all) seldom includes cheques or postal orders.

The "timid lovers' declarations" in Auden's poem mostly get sent by text and "applications for situations" must always be emailed.

At every turn we are invited to go "paperless". The film and the poem were partly conceived as a morale booster for postal workers during the economic downturn of the 1930s. Britain was just three years away from war. Troubled times.

Yet if you read the poem (a lot of us did it at school) you can't help being impressed by that sense of a proud public service, of a country where things were solid rather than "broken", and where great talents such as Auden would be called on without anyone being accused of elitism.

End this hug fest ...let's get to work

PLEASE make it stop...the endless hugging. This photograph of Chancellor Rachel Reeves being clamped in a bear-like embrace by the bearded Business Secretary, Jonathan Reynolds, made me feel quite queasy.

The poor woman is surely smiling through gritted teeth and there's a real risk her rather impressive dark bob might be mussed up.

Put her down, man!

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't believe Sir Stafford Cripps had to put up with this kind of manhandling when he was Chancellor.

And who would have laid a finger on Denis Healey who had seen active service in North Africa and in the Italian campaign and – notwithstanding those avuncular eyebrows – was basically a trained killing machine?

As for hugging Mrs Thatcher, a woman with (as Francois Mitterrand said) the eyes of Caligula but the mouth of Marilyn Monroe.

Nobody would have dared.

When not bungee jumping, dad dancing or throwing himself in a river, Ed Davey hugged anything with a pulse. Though to be fair, he

looks like one of the world's instinctive rather than calculating huggers.

But there was more than enough of Angela Rayner and Keir Starmer moving in for a clinch with ear-to-ear grins, as though they had been joyfully reunited after a long and painful separation, rather than having just emerged from the same people carrier.

Perhaps all these public displays of affection will come to an end now Labour has its landslide and the Prime Minister will merely hold his wife's paw when he is on manoeuvres. (By the way can everyone stop calling her Lady Victoria? She is not the daughter of a duke, marquess or earl. So it's plain Lady Starmer.)

How can one account for this nauseating epidemic of hugging which afflicts Westminster?

We live in an age when telling a woman she looks nice can

get you the sack, so why are MPs so free with their embraces? It must be one of the consequences of the mistaken belief that a lack of formality in public life is a good thing.

But while MPs have had a lot of stick in recent years for inappropriate behaviour (cue all those handsy Tory politicians patting knees) I'd argue the current fashion for public grappling is down to self-interest and sycophancy rather than lust. With so many senior women MPs, male MPs now assume cocktail party rules apply, where you can start mwah-mwahing anyone of the opposite sex.

Hugging those above your pay grade (ie Reynolds hugging Reeves) is an attempt to suck up to them and demonstrate to the cameras what great friends you are.

Right now everyone wants to be Rachel Reeves' bestie. She must put her foot down.



CAMERA SMILES: Rachel Reeves and Jonathan Reynolds

THE FINAL DONE RIGHT

2 PIZZAS & 4 BEERS

Shop in-store or online



MEMBER PRICE

£5

OUR MEMBERS
SAVE MORE
THIS SUMMER



co
op

be [drinkaware.co.uk](https://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

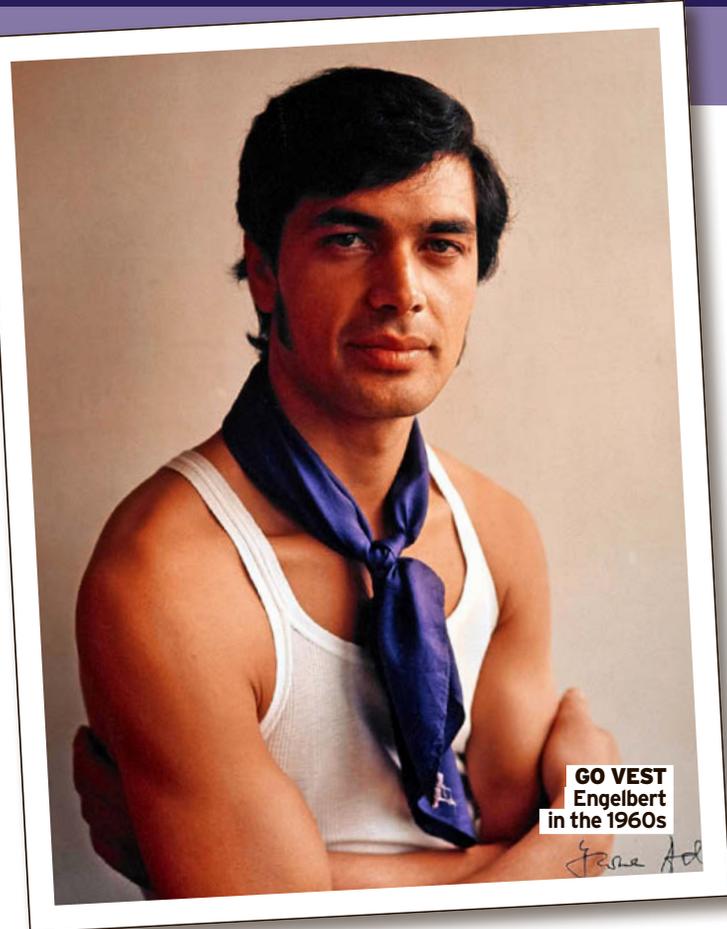
Non-Members £6. Ends 16/7. Selected products & stores, excludes independent Co-operatives. Co-op Membership required. £1 joining fee. Subject to availability. 18+ Please drink responsibly.

REVIEW

Edited by GARRY BUSHELL

After selling 150 million records across seven decades Engelbert Humperdinck tells **Garry Bushell** he is proud of the journey he's taken

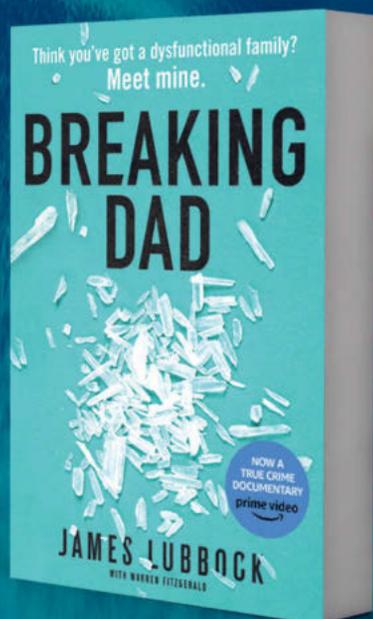
HOW HUMPY CONQUERED THE WORLD



England was a thrill for me... I saw snow for the first time!

NOW A MAJOR
AMAZON PRIME
VIDEO TRUE CRIME
DOCUMENTARY
RELEASED JUNE 2024

How my
mild-
mannered
father
became
Britain's
unlikeliest
drug dealer



prime video

ON SALE NOW FROM
AMAZON.CO.UK

HE IS CALLING his latest show The Last Waltz tour, but is it really the end for Engelbert Humperdinck? "Well you know what the lyrics say," the showbiz legend replies. "The last waltz should last forever..." Down the line in Los Angeles, those big brown eyes are twinkling like fireflies.

The Last Waltz was the third hit single of 1967 for the star born Arnold Dorsey, and his second Number One. It topped the UK charts for five weeks, selling more than a million copies here alone.

His first chart-topper Release Me was even bigger, but Hump's timeless interpretation had been running out of steam until singer Dickie Valentine dropped out of TV's Sunday Night At The London Palladium.

"I got the opportunity to take his place," he says. "The record sold 80,000 copies the next day..." — and became the biggest-seller of 1967, keeping the Beatles' Penny Lane off the top slot. The follow-up, There Goes My Everything, peaked at No 2.

In an incredible career the 88-year-old has sold 150 million records and amassed 65 gold and 24 platinum discs. He has also survived tuberculosis, Covid, and an unfortunate altercation with the Venezuelan police. But he tells me the closest he came to death was in India, aged six.

“It was a miracle... I wasn't meant to die”

"My father was a British Army engineer and we lived in a bungalow near the harbour in Madras. We kids were playing down in the timber pond, where they stored the logs for the

shipping. I was walking on one of the logs when it turned over and I went in.

"The other kids ran away except for my brother who swam hard and pulled me to safety. He saved my life.

"The next day we walked back and there was a shark in the water exactly where I'd been the day before. I'd had a lucky escape... It was a miracle; I wasn't meant to die."

Born in Madras on May 2, 1936, Engelbert was the ninth of ten children.

The staunchly Catholic family moved to Leicester when he was eleven.

"England was a culture shock and a thrill for me. Seeing snow for the first time, playing in it, having snowball fights...it was exciting. I only knew the sunshine."

He left school at 15 to start an engineering apprenticeship on 28 shillings a week.

His German mother Olive had a powerful operatic voice but never sang professionally.

Young Arnold had learnt saxophone, but in his mid-teens he realised that what he wanted

to do was sing. Encouraged by his sisters, he entered a hotel talent concert on holiday in the Isle of Man, and won a free week's break. He would return years later as Gerry Dorsey for a three-month season.

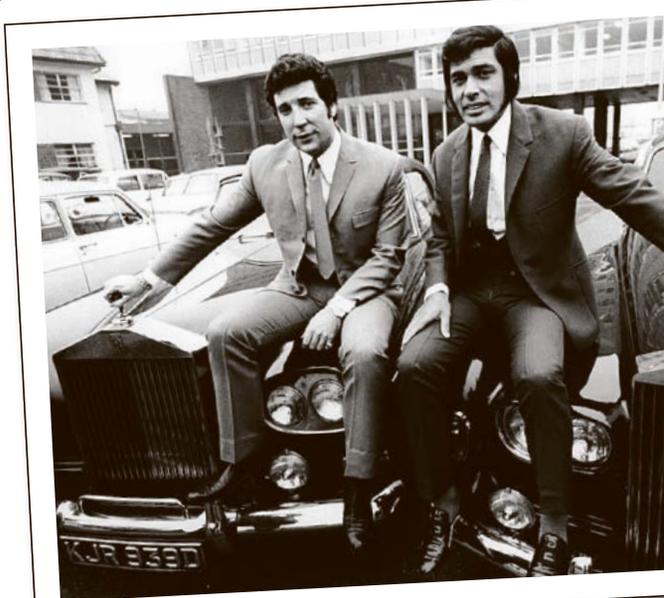
That first stage name was inspired by his love for US comedian Jerry Lewis.

"We couldn't afford a record player but I remember hearing Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis on the radio and dreaming about being like them. I started doing impressions, I did a very good one of Jerry Lewis and people started calling me Jerry."

Eventually he befriended his childhood heroes. Only Sinatra was cold. "He didn't show much affection to people with big voices. He was a great artist, though."

Engelbert's three-and-a-half octave range got noticed when he chanced into a working men's club audition night.

"Everyone was getting up and singing so I got up and sang too. Suddenly I was

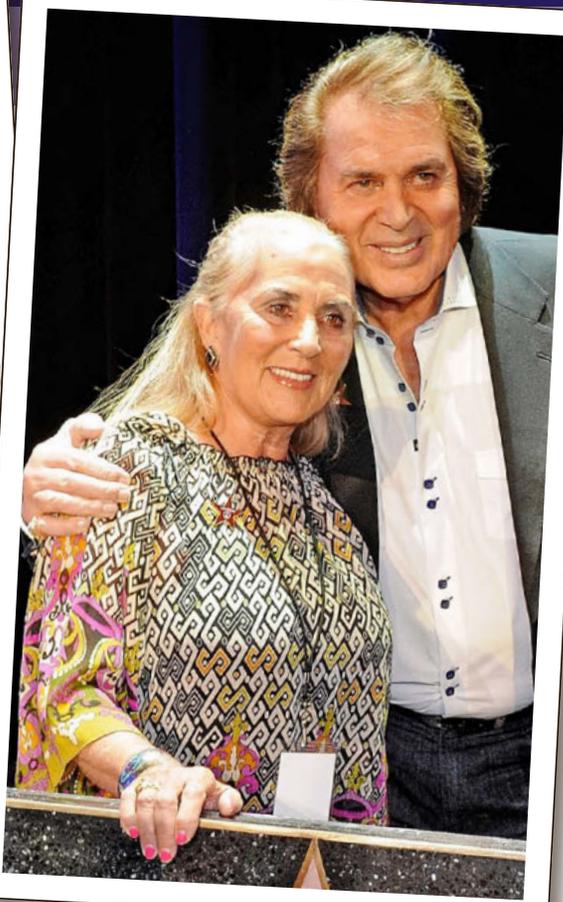




SUITED AND BOOTED
Engelbert
with 'rival'
Tom Jones



FAMILY AFFAIR: Engelbert with wife Patricia and children in 1968; right, the couple in Las Vegas in 2011



surrounded by people asking 'Who's your agent?' I wasn't even in showbusiness.' After National Service in Mulheim, Germany, he made his pro debut at Bond Street Working Men's Club in Leicester.

"It gave me an apprenticeship in the business. If you can win over working men's club crowds, you can entertain anyone."

His dream was "to make it, to be somebody".

It took a while. Dorsey half-starved for years. He met his late wife Patricia in a Leicester nightclub when she was 16 and he was 20. They waited seven years before they married – "I wanted to be able to afford to keep her." They lived in a council flat in Hammersmith, West London which had "no curtains, no carpets, no light shades, nothing – except love". And eventually four children.

It was a far cry from his mansion home in LA and lavish Leicestershire estate.

AS GERRY, he was starring on TV show *Song Parade*, when at 24 he was hospitalised with tuberculosis. "I told my mother a priest had come to visit me and been really kind.

She said: 'Son, he was giving you the last rites.'" His luck changed in 1965.

Manager Gordon Mills signed him and changed his name to Engelbert – after the 19th century German composer of children's opera *Hansel & Gretel*.

The name spawned scores of jokes but nobody forgot it. Hump played up to it, quipping, "You can call me Enge. You can call me Humpy. Just don't call me Dinky."

He became a global sex symbol, in dangerously tight trousers. "Women asked 'How does one get into those?' and I'd say, 'You start off with a kiss!'"

Over the years, Engelbert had more paternity suits than stage suits.

But he never loved anyone like his dear wife who passed in February 2021 after a heart attack following Covid. She'd had Alzheimer's for years.

Every night on tour, he dedicates his song *Everywhere I Go* to her.

Enge has had his share of career lows, including being slung into a cell at Caracas airport because over-zealous Venezuelan police suspected his medical case was packed with illegal drugs. It wasn't. He and Gordon Mills's other star

Tom Jones became bitter rivals and he fell out with Mills, losing a fortune in royalties when they split.

But perhaps oddest of all was the strange case of Elvis's ghost. The stars first met in Las Vegas, at what became the Hilton Hotel. Presley was so impressed with Enge's sideburns that he grew his own.

After Elvis died in 1977, while headlining at the Hilton and staying in Presley's favourite suite, Engelbert decided to learn the Hawaiian Wedding Song from Elvis's film *Blue Hawaii*.

"I was sitting there alone with a pen and paper to write down the lyrics and the machine ate the tape; the whirlpool bath started switching itself on, the lamp kept switching off...I said, 'Elvis, why are you doing this, I'm your friend.'"

"I was scared to death. I slept with all the lights on."

Enge never stopped working, reinventing himself for different generations.

His freshly recorded version of West Ham's anthem *I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles* featured in Brad Pitt's 2022 movie *Bullet Train*.

His 1968 hit *A Man Without Love* had 16million Spotify streams after appearing in Disney+ drama *Moon Knight*, and Netflix's *The Umbrella Academy* played his *Quando, Quando, Quando* cover during a fight scene.

He attributes his success to his father Mervyn, "a very disciplined man who taught me to work hard".

Hump still looks after himself.

"I keep active. A body is like a car – you have to maintain it or it'll conk out.

"I do martial arts workouts. I exercise in the swimming pool.

"I'm on the road still, doing the job I love."

A five-date UK tour opens at the London Palladium in September, and his remastered first and third albums, 1967's *Release Me*, and 1968's *A Man Without Love*, are re-released on coloured vinyl on Friday.

He's proud he says that "I came from nowhere, took years and years to get somewhere, and I was up among the Beatles and the Rolling Stones and other major stars and holding my own.

"At one point in my early years, I had records at one, two and three in the charts.

"I'd like to thank people who took the time to go out and buy them. Thank you very much for your support.

"I'll keep doing it until God calls me."

● *Engelbert Humperdinck's reissues of Release Me and A Man Without Love on coloured vinyl/CD/digital are out July 19 on Decca Records. He tours the UK in September, tickets available from aegpresents.co.uk'*

“
I was up among the Beatles and the Rolling Stones...

JOIN THE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL REVOLUTION



JULY ISSUE ON SALE NOW ONLY £3

BUY NOW

AT [REACHSHOPS.CO.UK/WOMENSFOOTBALL](https://reachshops.co.uk/womensfootball)

AVAILABLE IN MOST SUPERMARKETS, HIGH STREET RETAILERS & INDEPENDENT NEWSAGENTS ACROSS THE UK



SCAN ME

Online orders postage and packaging applies.

EXPRESS | GARDEN

ONLY **£19.99** EACH!



G4017 - Flamingo



G4018 - Peacock



G4019 - Pheasant



G4020 - Cockerel



G4021 - Heron

METAL GARDEN ORNAMENTS

Add some playful colour to your garden or outside area with these charming garden ornaments. Sure to become a talking point of any garden.

You can fix the ornament to soft ground (fixings not included), making it perfect for borders and flowerbeds or even decorating the edge of a garden pond, they will certainly add some life and colour to your garden.

- ADD A SPLASH OF COLOUR TO YOUR OUTSIDE SPACE
- GREAT FOR GARDENS, FLOWERBEDS & BORDERS
- DESIGNED FROM DURABLE, STURDY METAL & PAINTED
- L61 X W14 X H25CM

ONLY **£19.99** EACH!

(G4017) **Metal Flamingo**

(G4018) **Metal Peacock**

(G4019) **Metal Pheasant**

(G4020) **Metal Cockerel**

(G4021) **Metal Heron**

WAS £34.99

£19.99 EACH + £6.99 p&p

www.thompson-morgan.com/TM_RE3535 0871 664 2458* Quote TM_RE3535

*Calls cost 12ppm plus your phone company's access charge. Lines open 7 days a week, 9am-6pm. Please note your contract for supply of goods is with Thompson & Morgan. Subject to availability. To find out exactly how we store and use the data you give us please visit www.thompson-morgan.com/privacy. Delivery to UK addresses only. We are unable to ship seeds or plants to EU countries and Northern Ireland. Images for illustration purposes only. Despatched from July onwards. Offer closes 28/07/2024.

REVIEW: MUSIC



with JAMES CABOOTER

TRAVIS LA Times ★★★★★

Their finest collection in decades, LA Times remoulds the band's sound with subtle American adventure. Gospel touches drizzle over all-star singalong Raze The Bar and Fran's lyrics are amusingly on point, with I Hope That You Spontaneously Combust, a brilliant anti social media anthem. Best of all is Live It All Again, perhaps the happiest-sad break-up song ever.



BERWYN Who Am I ★★★★★

His unique spoken word flow made a huge impact a couple of years ago and now Berwyn has added more musicality to what is a powerful debut. His work with Fred Again influences the smooth Love Is Blind, while stirring guitars add rock drama. But it's his honesty on addiction diary I'm Drowning and acapella rap Dear Immigration which stay with you long after the record's over.



GRIFF Vertigo ★★★

Griff conquers self doubt, while finding beauty in solitude on a set that's crying out to be loved on a grand scale. Many of the newer tunes owe a debt to her famous friend Taylor Swift, certainly the title track and Miss Me Too. Griff has a thing for soundscapes but her super power is the textural quality of her voice and phrasing. She's not far off the dizzy heights.



CAT BURNS Early Twenties ★★★

Incredibly it's four years since her gorgeous breakthrough Go, and Cat seems caught in two minds on a belated debut perhaps containing a few too many older tunes. The newer stuff moves away from acoustic balladry with People Pleaser and No More satisfying summer bops. Stand out moment Healing suggests an even more epic mid twenties could follow.

REVIEW: STAGE



with STEFAN KYRIAZIS

SLAVE PLAY ★★★

Noel Coward Theatre to September 21
slaveplaylondon.com

Grimy plantation overseer Jim (Kit Harington) ravages slave Kaneisha (Olivia Washington). She then subjugates a strapping mixed-race Phillip (Aaron Heffernan) in her four-poster, before a male slave and indentured white man writhe in the fields.

A barrage of bare buttocks, dirty talk and dirtier N-bombs, dodgy accents and dodgier acting leave us to squirm and snigger. Is this for real?

The title of Jeremy O Harris' divisive 2018 Broadway play is a double-entendre, a black latex dildo and snatches of Rihanna are further clues...

Three mixed-race couples are in X-rated slave role-playing therapy for the Black partners' loss of sexual desire.

Themes of racism, sex and power erupt in the central group session.

Lacerating revelations, crises and catharses are beautifully performed, but everyone is thinly sketched while uneven humour and mockery of the therapists jar.

Jim and Kaneisha's solo finale hits hardest - dark and disturbingly thought-provoking.

Across two hours with no interval, the mirrored backdrop pointedly reflects our predominantly white gaze.

And a show about facing our darkest depths remains an entertaining surface shimmering with big ideas that hide a slightly hollow heart.



INTRIGUING Washington and Harington star

MEAN GIRLS ★★★

Savoy Theatre to February 2025
MeanGirlsMusical.com

On Wednesdays they wear pink. The Plastics rule North Shore High, where the social (wild)life is more savage than the savannah, and Georgina Castle's queen bee Regina's big hair is "full of secrets."

Handy, then, that brainiac new girl Cady (Charlie Burn) was home-schooled in Kenya. Poised to bring the pack down, she's seduced by the thrill of the kill and falls for Regina's jock ex.

Tina Fey's iconic 2004 film's scything social commentary and razor-sharp wit are slightly blunted by this slickly staged 2018 musical, but the peppy cast and bombastic score blast out frothy fillers and a few killers like the epic Apex Predator and Someone Gets Hurt.

Cady's outsider friends, rebel Janis (Elena Skye, scorching vocals) and "too gay to function" Damian (scene-stealing Tom Xander), plus ex-Six star Grace Mouat's deliciously dumb Karen all delight.

The overall message is overegged and undercooked but it's all huge fun.



BRAINIAC Burn as Cady

REVIEW: CINEMA

STAR RATINGS ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★ Good
★★★ Worth a look ★★ Poor ★ Don't bother

Psycho thriller



TERROR
Maika Monroe as psychic FBI agent hunting a serial killer

LONGLEGS

Cert 15 ★★★★★
In cinemas now

Forget the liver, fava beans and glass of Chianti. Writer-director Osgood Perkins, son of Psycho star Anthony Perkins, serves his 1990s-set FBI hunt for a twisted serial killer as an exceedingly bloody and rare three-course meal.

From the outset, the screen ratio alternates to distinguish claustrophobic flashbacks to a creepy childhood encounter between the tightly wound heroine and the titular predator.

Sound designer Eugenio Battaglia and composer Zilgi are diabolical collaborators, repeatedly terrorising frayed nerves with plucks of discordant strings, jolting thuds on a wooden front door and unexpected

creaks of floorboards in a supposedly empty house.

The Silence Of The Lambs is a clear inspiration for Perkins, most notably in nail-biting scenes of a rookie FBI agent staring directly into the camera, gun unholstered as she moves breathlessly from room to room in search of a suspect.

Maika Monroe is haunting as the socially awkward investigator with psychic abilities, estranged from a devoutly religious mother (Alicia Witt) who believes that "our prayers protect us from the Devil".

Those prayers go unanswered in a lip-smackingly oppressive first hour.

The devil in question is a virtually unrecognisable Nicolas Cage, rendered grotesque by facial prosthetics. When the



Silence Of The Lambs a clear inspiration in nail-biting scenes of a rookie agent

camera finally lingers on his distorted features for a repulsed closer inspection, the Oscar-winner unleashes a caterwaul of crazy from his vast repertoire that almost tips the film over the edge into absurdity. Monroe's committed performance grounds these wilder moments in a woozy, heightened reality.

Longlegs is a relentlessly grim psychological thriller, which exerts a chokehold until Perkins almost loses control at the wheel. Cage is scariest when he dials down the volume and settles into giggling delirium.

Static scenes are intentionally prolonged to suggest something wicked is about to manifest. Evil bides its time and when the screaming begins, it pierces to the bone.

FLY ME TO THE MOON

Cert 12A ★★★★★
In cinemas now

The brightest stars in director Greg Berlanti's nimble romantic comedy based around the 1969 moon landing are not the luminous balls of flaming gas that burn fiercely in the night-time sky and twinkle around Earth's only natural satellite.

The honour is reserved, instead, for the celestial pairing of Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, who create their own fireworks with a delightfully old-fashioned and chaste courtship reminiscent of duelling sexes in screwball comedies from the 1930s and 1940s.

Heartfelt and witty repartee in Rose Gilroy's script is the rocket fuel and

the two leads ignite when they verbally spar as a publicity shy NASA launch director and flashy New York marketing executive, punctuating playful gibes with longing glances.

Buttons remain tightly fastened - Tatum is snug in a vest and sweater for most of the picture - and Berlanti makes us wait well into the second hour before lips touch.

Documented history is rolled in glitter and sent into crowd-pleasing orbit with a colourful supporting cast to safely land the one-liners. Woody Harrelson and Jim Rash are the big bangs.

Fly Me To The Moon doesn't take one giant leap for rom-comkind but does achieve that winning combination of charm, humour and heartfelt emotion.



CELESTIAL
Love blossoms for Johansson and Tatum

DESPICABLE ME 4

Cert U ★★★
In cinemas now

If it's true that insanity is the act of making the same mistakes but expecting a different outcome, then Despicable Me 4 is certifiably mad for dipping into the same pick 'n' mix of half-formed ideas as the underwhelming third film and expecting a more coherent or emotionally satisfying experience.

Every frame of this fourth computer-animated romp feels achingly predictable and familiar, garnished with intergenerational angst borrowed from The Incredibles. Comic interludes featuring the Minions also seem to have run out of ideas and recycle cartoonish violence.

The weakest instalment of the highest-grossing animated film franchise in history still manages a few moments of mild merriment. The 94-minute running time is a blessing for families with short attention spans and the quality of the animation is exemplary, particularly in frenetic action sequences.

The introduction of five superpowered sidekicks - the Mega Minions - is a merchandising dream but haphazard storytelling doesn't support the quintet's potential. Director Chris Renaud and co-director Patrick Delage career between loosely interconnected vignettes, milking final droplets of goodwill from characters we have grown to love since supervillain Gru (voiced by Steve Carell) schemed to steal the moon in the original film. Disappointed Us.



BACK
Even Gru can't save this outing

SADISTIC

Johnny embarks on a murderous spree



IN A VIOLENT NATURE

Cert 18 ★★★
In cinemas now

The enigmatic title of Canadian writer-director Chris Nash's slasher horror warns us to expect carnage, and when it comes to splatter and gory injuries, In A Violent Nature doesn't disappoint. A vengeful antagonist wearing an antique firefighter's mask brandishes a large metal dragging hook and an axe with sadistic glee, forcibly altering the anatomy of victims including one outrageously brutal kill that treats a yoga-loving damsel as a human pretzel.

The hulking monstrosity is a merchant's son named Johnny (Ry Barrett), who was tricked into climbing a fire tower and subsequently fell to his death. A locket by the grave supposedly keeps Johnny's spirit at bay so when a teenager (Liam Leone) steals the trinket, unaware of its supernatural power, it's only a matter of time before Johnny crawls out of the earth and embarks on a murderous rampage.

Nash shoots his killer from behind in pedestrian single takes, shadowing Johnny as he traipses through sunlit woods and casually closes in on unsuspecting prey. An immersive soundscape of chirruping birds and buzzing insects enhances the naturalistic aesthetic, recalling Gus Van Sant's stylish 2002 walkabout Gerry starring Matt Damon. Darkness wanders slowly and deliberately into the light.

REVIEW: TELEVISION



Julian Norton

Julian, 52, is an English veterinary surgeon and author, best known as Channel 5's *The Yorkshire Vet*.

What was your first TV memory? Playschool with Brian Cant and Floella Benjamin when I was about four. TV was a special treat rather than a ubiquitous presence. Then it was *Blue Peter*.

Who was your first TV crush? Maggie Philbin on *Tomorrow's World* - she was an inspiration. And Brooke Shields in *The Blue Lagoon*.

What was your first TV appearance? The first proper one was when we started filming *The Yorkshire Vet* in 2015. I remember thinking six episodes and that'll be it, yet here we are at series 18. It all came about by accident. I don't like being in the limelight.

What is your favourite current show? I always make time for *Have I Got News For You*. The rotating presenters keep it



feeling fresh. The final episode of *The Piano* had me in tears.

Which TV show would you take to a desert island?

Probably *The Fast Show* - that was top quality and the cast all brought a different style. *Smack The Pony* was always funny too.

What TV show would you like to put out of its misery?

Things like *Britain's Got Talent*. It's had its day but they keep twaddling on with fake enthusiasm...I can't stand *The Apprentice* either.

Guiltiest TV pleasure?

Dirty Dancing. It's regularly repeated and I always watch it, even though I know exactly what's going to happen.

What are you up to at the moment?

My latest book *Ruminations Of A Yorkshire Vet* is out, and we're filming series 19 of *The Yorkshire Vet* at the moment. Otherwise I'm just a normal vet.

● *Ruminations Of A Yorkshire Vet* by Julian Norton (Great Northern Books, £14.99 is available at gnbooks.co.uk)

GARRY BUSHELL



with DAVID STEPHENSON

East End boy Jay ventures Up West

STEP ASIDE Simon Schama. The new history man is Jay Blades, he of *The Repair Shop* and other TV adventures. **The West End Through Time** (C5, Sat night) was engaging, informative, and a thoroughly entertaining piece of television for a Saturday night. I may have learned something, too. Ask me tomorrow.

It wasn't a game show either, a format that is spreading like Japanese knot weed across the channels. My only criticism: it should have been called, *How the West End was Won*, with shots of Jay stepping from a carriage on Piccadilly, dressed like dandy Beau Brummell.

Jay has a lot going on in his life (so I read), but he concentrated on the task at hand by chatting to a clutch of local historians and experts. He is a very personable chap, which shines through in his frank, interviewing style.

In the ever-so-posh surrounds of Fortnum & Mason he was tasting an original flavour of black tea, "Ooh, it smells like dust... this is lost on me." Make him a judge on *Masterchef* immediately!

Cockney Jay told us he "has been Coming Up West for years", and ironically he sounded more and more like an East End boy as the show went on. Let's face it, cockney is the new posh...ish.

He was most excited about the original tailor from Savile Row, called Henry Poole & Co, where he was given the trusted job of cutting some cherished fabric.

After he'd finished, he asked, "When do I start?" Replied the tailor, "Nine am!" Don't be surprised if Jay turns up.

The second episode is next Saturday. Don't miss it!

Don't panic - but we have another fish-out-of-water detective show. You would think the well had run dry by now, but we tend to like them.

After *Death in Paradise*, and its forthcoming spin-off, *Return to Paradise* set in Australia, the BBC has bought in **The Turkish Detective** (BBC2, Mon & Tues).

The show, during which I didn't see a single flash of much-discussed "Turkey Teeth", is based on *The Inspector Ikmen Mysteries*, by author Barbara Nadel.

Ikmen has two sidekicks. Ethan Kai plays Detective Mehmet Suleyman while Yasmin Kay Allen is the second string, Detective Aysel Farsakoglu.

Ikmen is played by Haluk Bilginer. So that's three detectives to be getting on with. Make a note. Oh, and we also met the glamorous Madame Prosecutor - that's the next spin-off.

A typical lawyer, she appears when all the



IF THE CAP FITS
Jay Blades in
The West End
Through Time

STEPHENSON'S ROCKET

How does the BBC come up with such mind-boggling ideas for comedy? It's a special talent. **Spent** (BBC Two, Mon) was certainly different. The show involved a model from Brixton who had returned here as a bankrupt. She wasn't the only thing that was bankrupt. The plot was invisible. It involved her finding out there was no work and having to look after a lady's dogs, only she had other things in mind for our Mia (Michelle de Swarte). The weirdest scene involved some sordid activities by car light in woodland. Is this really for a mainstream audience? Surely, we can do better than this?

work is done and demands a fee. Rather like Istanbul itself, there was a little too much happening for my liking. Inspector Ikmen found a novel way of dealing with this. After he collected his new charge Mehmet from the airport he drove like a maniac on a three-lane motorway weaving his way through the traffic like it wasn't there. Like to see him try that on the M25.

Mehmet was returning to live in Istanbul from London to start a new life because he didn't feel at home in the UK.

We clearly weren't busy enough for him. But it's

Bilginer who steals the piece, channelling his cab firm experience from *EastEnders* back in the day.

A Turkish gangster has nothing on Phil Mitchell, even with the benefits of modern dentistry. Still, it's all good fun and Inspector Ikmen manages to make it home for his dinner, just like *Maiquet*.

One show that did tickle me this week was **Sunny** (Apple TV). It was the episode title which drew me to it - "He's in refrigeration." Unless it's a heatwave, it's generally a conversation stopper.

In this case, it wasn't true, either.

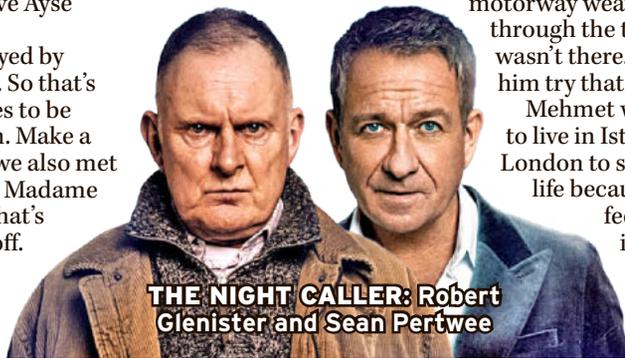
Indeed, nothing was straightforward about this dark comedy.

After Suzie's (Rashida Jones) husband and son apparently disappear in an aircraft accident, his work presents her with a fancy robot, Sunny. The bot proves to be very high functioning, and just when you think you've turned it off, it would start up again. If you put it in the cupboard, it would escape.

It's why I always go to the checkout in supermarkets now rather than self-serve. Sunny will be serving us all one day...

Elsewhere, **The Night Caller** (C5, Mon & Tues) was a depressing piece rescued by two excellent actors, Robert Glenister, and Sean Pertwee. Glenister was an ex-teacher turned cabbie who gave us the saddest face on television since Martin Freeman in *The Responder*. While a cheerier Pertwee was a broadcaster on talkback radio.

It all got messy when Glenister ran down a man whom he believed was a love rival. This show will do nothing for ailing teacher recruitment.



THE NIGHT CALLER: Robert Glenister and Sean Pertwee



The cordless super lightweight Hedge Trimmer LHT50

WAS £219.99
NOW £149.99
**SAVE
£70**
FREE NEXT
DAY DELIVERY

Use code: **UC68**

Keep your shrubbery in shape with the LHT50 – Gtech's ultra lightweight cordless hedge trimmer.

Super light, super powerful

The LHT50 is a third lighter than the HT50 - Gtech's original HT50 hedge trimmer however, with the same powerful motor and 10-ft reach, stunning results are still easily achievable. With seven different head positions, rotating 140°, getting your shrubbery in shape isn't a chore.

Superior design

We've combined premium quality materials and the best British design to create a superior

hedge trimmer. Crafted from aluminium tubes, reinforced handles and with an ultra-sharp carbon steel blade, the LHT50 is cordless, hassle-free to use – and looks great too.

Impressive run time

A full charge will give you up to 60 minutes of run time*, providing the freedom to get the job done and then enjoy your garden. What's more, the battery pack is interchangeable between other Gtech gardening equipment giving you ultimate flexibility.

"Light as a feather"

I was pleasantly surprised as to how light the pole trimmer is. It must be the lightest one on the market.

Brian G ★★★★★

"Brilliant Hedge Trimmer"

Excellent Hedge Trimmer. Makes job of trimming and shaping hedges fast, accurate and enjoyable. I love this tool.

Louise W ★★★★★

"Excellent purchase"

It's easy to use and assemble, I am in my mid seventies and it is brilliant for the trees and hedges I couldn't reach. Much better than climbing on ladders.

Patricia B ★★★★★

Get the **LHT50** for just **£149.99** (RRP **£219.99**) saving **£70** if you order before 31/08/2024. Order now at **www.gtech.co.uk** call **0800 030 81 24** or scan the QR code:



Offers valid until 31/08/2024 or while stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 30-day money-back guarantee, excluding £10 collection fee. * Runtimes quoted may vary depending on condition of hedges being cut.

Inventor & Owner, Nick Grey

"The LHT50 is the ultimate lightweight hedge trimming solution. We've kept the power and reach of our previous HT50 model but reduced the weight of the blade by one third to provide a lighter, and easy to manoeuvre trimmer."



www.gtech.co.uk

★ Trustpilot ★★★★★

Gtech's rating is 4.8 out of 5 after 130,000 reviews



Free tracked next day delivery and 2-year warranty

5737

EXPRESS GARDEN



A

BUY 3 AND
**SAVE
£5**



B



C

GROW YOUR OWN BLUEBERRY COLLECTION

Our amazing Blueberries are delicious and make for an attractive feature in any garden. Blueberries have increased in popularity recently because of the huge health benefits that they offer. Fated as a modern super food, Blueberries are high in vitamin C and easy to grow with their compact habit. They produce white flowers in spring, fruit in summer, followed by effective reddish-green foliage in autumn. Height 1m. 9cm pot plants supplied.

A. Blueberry Earliblue £5.99 (EP148)

B. Blueberry Herbert £5.99 (EP150)

C. Blueberry Coville £5.99 (EP152)

**3 BLUEBERRY COLLECTION
£12.97, SAVE £5 (EP154)
ONE EACH OF A-C**

Please add £4.99 delivery per order.

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to 'Express Garden'. Please write your name and address on the back of your cheque and use blue or black ink.

Or please debit my credit/debit card for the sum of £

Card no Exp date

Title First Name Surname

Address

Postcode Tel No (for queries only)

Name on Card

Email.....

ITEM	CODE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
VARIETY:			£5.99	£
VARIETY:			£5.99	£
3 BLUEBERRY COLLECTION - SAVE £5	EP154		£12.97	£
			P&P	£4.99
			TOTAL DUE	£

www.expressgardencentre.co.uk

0871 664 1469

Quote EX7431

Post to: **Express Blueberry Collection (EX7431),
14 Hadfield Street, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9FG**

Call charges can vary so please check with your network provider. These goods are sold and supplied by J. Parker Dutch Bulbs (Wholesale) Ltd. with whom you contract when you accept this offer. Please note delivery to England, Wales and Scotland only. Please do not send cash in the post. Payment is by card, cheque or postal order only. Delivery within 28 days.

WINTER'S WILDLIFE

with STUART WINTER



**RARE
SIGHT**
Zitting
cisticola



Zit's hop too far across Channel

The English Channel remains one of the most formidable natural barriers on the planet despite all the controversy about it being the UK's leakiest border.

Twenty miles of unforgiving seas at the narrowest pinch point in the Straits of Dover have long been a daunting obstacle for a host of birds.

Drive less than 30 minutes from the Channel Tunnel into rural France and you can encounter several species either rarely seen on British soil or never before at all.

Both black and middle-spotted woodpeckers nest deep in the forests of Pas de Calais yet they have achieved legendary status by virtue of their glaring absence in our ornithological record books.

Similarly, the short-toed tree creeper and crested lark are both lauded with "mega" status by the rarity information services whenever a waif condescends to hop over

“

**30 minutes
drive into
France and
you can spot
birds rarely
seen here**

the waves to the wilds of southern England every few years or so.

While the four species mentioned above have never been expected to mount full-scale invasions of Britain, another Gallic speciality was once predicted to become an established colonist in an age of climate change. The zitting cisticola has a name as buzzy as its flight call, a squeaky sound that floats across scrubby areas the length and breadth of the Mediterranean and beyond.

Over the past few decades, the cisticola's onomatopoeic "zits" have rung out increasingly northwards as the species spread its stubby wings to inhabit new territories along the Atlantic coastline.

Today there are more than a thousand pairs breeding across France, with concentrations in Brittany and Normandy and extending northwards as far as the Belgian/Dutch border.

Although cisticolas (the name derives from the scientific names for the rock rose) may well be one of the first birds encountered after leaving the Channel Tunnel, on the English side they remain an elusive rarity.

Only the ninth ever confirmed sighting came last month when a sharp-eyed birder managed to snatch a fuzzy image of one as it flitted over the clifftops near South Foreland Lighthouse on the outskirts of Dover.

FOLLOW STUART ON TWITTER:
@BIRDERMAN

IN THE

SWEET PEA



**CUP AND
SAUCER VINE**



**PURPLE BELL
VINE**

Take your pick of these beautiful clambering gems for speedy results

Part of the magic of gardening is the amazing growth achieved by some species in a couple of seasons.

One of the most prized plants in the British garden is the sweet pea. In general these are grown every year from seed or from young plants. They go through their whole life cycle within a couple of seasons

which means sweet pea when planted out in early summer will clamber up fences or

supports or through other plants.

As they go they shoot out the most delightful scented flowers. At the end of the season you can collect seed for next year's planting.

It is even better with sweet peas because they are the perfect cutting flower and as you

“

**They grow
up fences,
shooting out
the most
delightful
scent**

GARDEN



with **DIARMUID GAVIN**

gardening@express.co.uk
Sorry, Diarmuid cannot reply personally



**MORNING
GLORY**

PLANT of the week



Salvia 'Strawberry Lake'

Ornamental salvias are hard working perennials and will deliver flowers throughout the summer. They're very popular so no surprise that breeders are busy producing new varieties to whet our appetites. 'Strawberry Lake' is one such salvia, a good compact variety suitable for growing in pots for your patio garden. You and the bees can enjoy the bright pink tubular flowers until October and then move to a frost free position for over winter.

JOBBS for the week

- Deadhead roses to tidy up and encourage new flowers.
- In the veg garden, keep sowing seeds - lettuce, beetroot, Swiss chard, spring onions, swede and spring cabbage. Feed crops with liquid fertiliser.
- Keep an eye out for potato blight. The main symptom is leaves turning brown and rotting so you need to cut off the foliage and burn if possible to stop disease spreading. If caught early, tubers may be unaffected and edible so dig them up.
- Aerate your compost heap by turning it over. If it seems too dry, then add some water.
- Lemon trees and other citrus fruits trees need feeding throughout the summer.
- Houseplants such as the umbrella tree, Kentia palm and



philodendron can be brought outside for fresh air and good hose down to get rid of dust.

■ Make a note of what's working in the garden and what could be changed next year.

■ Strawberry plants that are sending out runners can be pegged down to create new plants for next year if your current plants are ageing. Otherwise remove the runners.

■ Take time to relax and enjoy your outdoor space.

Instant social climbing



**BLACK-EYED
SUSAN**

remove some for vases in the house, it just encourages them to flower more.

They're easy - they like a nice sunny place, some support and off they go.

Nasturtiums are another clambering gem. They will shoot up or ramble around on the ground or trail over raised beds.

Their golden hued flowers aren't long lasting but they don't need to be - there's always another to take over.

Nasturtiums are also a culinary plant with both flower and leaf, adored by chefs for summer recipes.

One of the delights of the summer garden is morning glory (Ipomea), a



NASTURTIUMS

relative of bindweed. However this isn't the hooligan type that smothers everything in its rapid growth. Ipomea will clamber up supports and produce the most wonderful trumpet-like flowers in shades of blue.

Thunbergia alata which is commonly known as black-eyed Susan, is a vigorous climber. If you plant it in a sheltered sunny spot it will really take

off and produce these striking, stary yellow flowers with a dark eye. 'Lemon Star' is a more gentle yellow variety.

Rhodochiton atrosanguineus (purple bell vine) is grown for its striking pendulous flowers. The dark burgundy

tubular flowers emerge from magenta bells and the foliage is a pretty light green heart shaped leaves.

The flowers appear in late summer, a welcome sight when much of the garden's blooms have gone over.

Cobaea scandens is one of the most vigorous climbers and is also called the cup and saucer vine because of its delightful cup flowers nestling in a ruffled "saucer".

These start off white but mature to a rich purple and have a sweet nighttime fragrance. In its native Mexico this nocturnal scent will attract pollinators such as bats.

With the exception of sweet pea, these climbers are not hardy so you plant them out after any danger of frost is gone and the ground is warm.

Rhodochiton, thunbergia and Cobaea are perennials in their native habitats so if you have a conservatory, these could be grown over many years.



"Hi, Rupert! Bring that thing ashore!"
Cries Podgy. "Tell us what it's for!"



The little pals get such a fright,
As all at once the globe takes flight!

Rupert

Rupert and the
Rolling Ball
EPISODE 28

Podgy is the first to reach the edge of the lake and get a closer look at the big globe. "I believe it's glass and there's something inside. Why, it's Rupert!" he cries. "Hi, Rupert! What are you playing at? Come ashore and show us that thing." The globe is already drifting downstream, out of the lake. But when Rupert has got over the shock of his long drop, he pulls the handle back to its first position and instantly leaves the water almost as fast as he entered it.

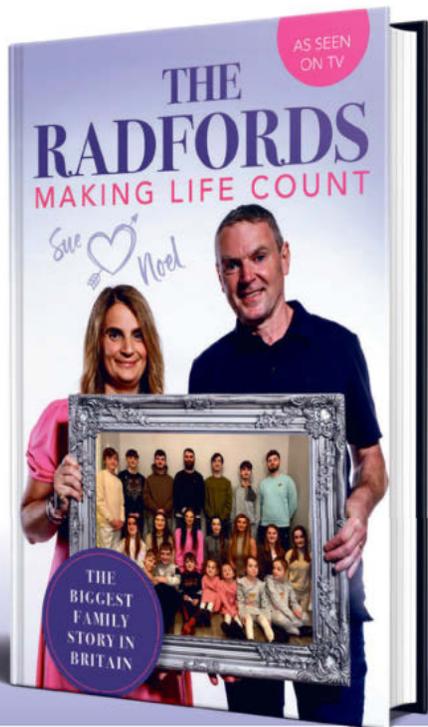
To order a copy of the Rupert Annual 2024 (£10.99) visit www.expressbookshop.com or call Express Bookshop on 020 3176 3832. Free UK P&P on online orders over £25.



THE RADFORDS

'We are Britain's biggest family, and proud of it'

The Radfords are a family like no other. Take a look behind the scenes of Britain's biggest family in this love story about endurance and conquering the odds.



Available from Amazon, selected supermarkets and all good bookshops. Also available in ebook.

For great deals on kitchenware and cleaning appliances

visit shop.express.co.uk

EXPRESS

IN GOOD

Subtle symptoms you should never shrug off

From swollen feet to a sore throat each morning, **Lucy Gornall** asks the experts about the innocuous symptoms that you should never ignore

Morning sore throat

Waking up with a rough, grating throat might not just be a sign you need to drink more water.

According to pharmacist Dr Richard Middleton, you might have reflux issues. "Night-time reflux, sometimes called silent reflux, can occur without waking you, leaving you wondering why your throat is sore in the morning," he says. "It occurs at night when lying down as gravity no longer helps keep stomach acid in place.

"Production of saliva, which helps neutralise acidity, also decreases during sleep and you tend to swallow less too, which would normally help push stomach acid downward. If this is left untreated it may lead to more serious complications such as oesophagitis, Barrett's oesophagus and, over time, can even increase your risk of oesophageal cancer."

Dr Middleton recommends eating smaller meals later in the day. "Your evening meal should be eaten at least three hours before bed, and don't drink before going to bed as this also makes reflux more likely," he advises. "Sleep on your left side and raise the head of your bed or use pillows to ensure your chest and shoulders are elevated, so gravity can help."

A pharmacist can offer advice and over-the-counter medicines to help if night-time reflux is still troublesome after this. See your doctor if, despite making these changes, symptoms continue for more than three weeks.

Swollen feet

Feet puffer for more than a few days? "Swollen feet can be caused by various factors, including standing or sitting for long periods and pregnancy, but certain serious medical conditions such as heart failure, kidney disease or venous insufficiency can also have this symptom," says GP Dr Ann Nainan.

It's essential to check for any accompanying symptoms and consider factors like recent travel, medication changes, or injuries. "If you notice new one-sided swelling, redness, chest pain or shortness of breath then see a doctor to rule out heart failure or deep vein thrombosis (DVT)."

If your swelling doesn't

improve, see your doctor, who can assess you and may recommend tablets, diuretics, lifestyle modifications or treatment to address the underlying cause.

Lifestyle modifications can include elevating the feet when possible and avoiding sitting or standing for extended periods. "Compression stockings may improve circulation but avoid excessive pressure, which can affect circulation. It's also useful to monitor your fluid intake and limit salt intake as excessive salt can exacerbate swelling," says Dr Nainan.

Often feeling faint

Feeling lightheaded and needing to sit or lie down can be due to many simple reasons, from low blood sugar to shock, but there are some more serious underlying causes if it happens regularly. Dr Brendan Khong says there are many causes. "It could also be down to anaemia or more sinister issues such as cardiac or neurological issues." Feeling faint can be caused by postural hypotension, which occurs

when going from sitting to standing. "Vasovagal syncope is a very common cause of fainting and this can be triggered by dehydration, staying upright for long periods of time or an emotional response to something upsetting such as seeing blood."

If it happens regularly, Dr Khong says, "Ask your GP to measure your blood pressure as well as blood sugar and advise on the best course of action."

"You should seek medical attention if you faint regularly or have a family history of any cardiac or neurological disorder or have a history of head injury. Cardiac conditions such as rhythm problems (arrhythmias), aortic dissection and valve problems are serious conditions that will require medical input," he adds.

Grey discharge

Typically, vaginal discharge should be clear or white, so grey discharge could indicate bacterial vaginosis (BV).

Dr Jo Bailey, consultant gynaecologist at VJJ Health, says: "Just like your gut, your vagina contains an ecosystem of millions of microbes including bacteria and yeasts that make up the vaginal microbiome. If there is an imbalance, the pH of your vagina rises and bad bacteria dominate and you can experience symptoms such as a change in discharge colour and a fishy smell, which is



HEALTH



with **AMY PACKER**



commonly due to BV. It's not an STI, but it is more common in women who are sexually active."

The primary treatment is antibiotics prescribed by a GP or sexual health clinic.

"To help sidestep another bout, avoid perfumed soaps because they can irritate, wear cotton underwear rather than synthetic fabric, and don't use vaginal douches," says Dr Bailey.

Look after your vaginal microbiome too. Eating probiotic foods such as sauerkraut, kombucha and live yogurt can help. You could also try taking a vagina specific probiotic supplement.

Gritty eyes

A dry, gritty and scratchy sensation in your eyes can be irritating, but if it is an ongoing issue, you may have dry eye syndrome.

Ophthalmologist Ian White says that this occurs when either you don't produce enough tears or your tears evaporate too quickly.

"To alleviate this condition, try using artificial tears and/or eye drops, especially those containing hyaluronate," says Ian. It's also wise to

stay well hydrated and maintain a healthy diet which is rich in omega-3 fatty acids.

Oily fish such as sardines, mackerel and salmon are good dietary options, however, an omega-3 supplement can help too.

Staring at a screen all day? "Taking regular breaks from screen time, reducing exposure to air conditioning, and avoiding air pollution can decrease dryness.

"If you experience persistent dry eye issues, consult your optometrist for professional advice," says Ian.

Constant runny nose

It can be very annoying when your nose just doesn't seem to ever stop dripping. According to GP Dr Tom

Jenkins, there are a few reasons for chronic rhinorrhoea, the fancy name for persistent discharge of a thin mucus fluid from the nose.

"Allergies, such as hayfever, are the most frequent reason for a non-stop drippy nose, especially at this time of year.

"When your immune system reacts to harmless substances like pollen or dust, it triggers rhinorrhoea.

"People often experience additional symptoms like sneezing, chronic cough, and itchy eyes or throat," he says.

However, an infection of the sinuses could also be to blame, as could non-allergic rhinitis, which as the name suggests, isn't caused by allergies.

"This occurs due to nasal irritation and can be triggered by changes in weather, exercise, exposure to substances such as smoke and

perfume, hormonal changes and medications including ACE inhibitors, beta blockers, aspirin and anti-inflammatory painkillers," explains Dr Jenkins.

"In each case, looking at other associated symptoms, medication you may be taking, or the timing of your symptoms with your activity can give valuable clues regarding the likely cause and helpful treatment."

Eye floaters

Dr Khong says that floaters in your vision are generally harmless and not a sign of concern if they have been there for a long period of time, have not affected your vision and aren't getting any worse.

"The most serious condition which requires immediate medical attention is retinal detachment, which manifests as suddenly having increased floaters or flashes, a dark "curtain" obstructing your vision and/or blurred vision.

"Retinal detachment often requires emergency surgery performed by an ophthalmologist," adds Dr Khong.

Always seek urgent medical attention if you experience any of the above.



RETAIL THERAPIES



■ Forgotten to stock up the essentials for your Wimbledon finals viewing this afternoon? Get your fresh fruit sent straight to your door with a punnet or two of 'by Amazon' Strawberries (£2.20 for 400g, plus delivery; Amazon.co.uk/byamazon). Stock up on your kitchen essentials at the same time to avoid spending Sunday in line at the supermarket.

■ Or for something decidedly different, sausage makers Heck are serving up a limited-edition Pork, Strawberry & Black Pepper banger (£3; heckfood.co.uk). Perfect for picnicking or to soak up a glass of Pimms, the gluten-free summer sizzlers are high protein and made using only British pork shoulder - get them before they're gone.

■ Looking for an uplifting scent for summer? Promising 24-hour lotion soft skin, Dove Men+ Care Mint and Eucalyptus Body Wash (£3.50; Boots) has a long lasting scent and leaves skin hydrated and nourished. The 3-in-1 hair, body and face wash is the perfect space-saver when filling your suitcase for those summer getaways.

■ Offering instant relief from eczema and psoriasis itch, Westlab Skin Repair Bath Salts (£14.99, westlabsalts.co.uk) is a magic mix of magnesium and colloidal oatmeal which reduces the urge to scratch and creates long-term comfort for dry, itchy skin. It won't treat the skin conditions, but it does the trick when it comes to reducing the impact they have on your day.



Travel Insurance | No Age Limits

You're good to go!

Save money on your travel insurance with our spring offer!

- ✓ Experts in cover for medical conditions
- ✓ 24/7 medical emergency assistance

Don't let your age or medical condition hold you back!



Call us FREE for an instant quote - it's easy!

0800 038 5558

Open 7 days a week



AS SEEN ON TV

goodtogoinsurance.com

Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority No. 471641. Terms & Conditions apply. *Discount applies to base premium only. Discount valid until 30th June 2024.

Travel Insurance

Medical conditions? No Problem!



We do medical screening differently. Give us a try, you could get a better price!

- + Cover for all types of conditions
- + No upper age limit

Call free:

0808 175 4459

totaltravelprotection.com



Total Travel Protection is a trading name of Ancile Insurance Group Limited. Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority - No. 471641. Terms & Conditions apply. *Discount applies to base premium only and not to any medical screening premiums or optional extras. Discount valid until 30th June 2024.



Travel Insurance for Over 50s

All ages. All conditions. All destinations.

- ✓ Voted UK's No.1 for Customer Care²
- ✓ 24/7 English speaking emergency helpline with unlimited medical cover available
- ✓ Up to £25K cancellation cover available
- ✓ Trusted by millions for 20+ years



Over 50s Travel Insurance with no upper age limits

- ✓ 24/7 English speaking emergency helpline
- ✓ Unlimited medical cover available¹
- ✓ Trusted by 27 million travellers for 20+ years



INSUREANDGO

Go without the doubt

Call our UK Call Centre FREE

0800 640 4816

InsureandGo.com

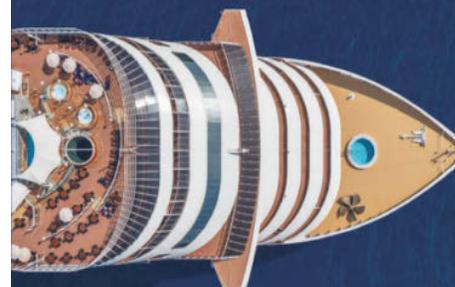
¹ InsureandGo Gold achieved a Which? Best Buy. ² Unlimited emergency medical expenses available on Black policies. *Discount applies to base premium of policies only and expires at 23:59 on 05/08/24. See website T&Cs for more details.

Call our UK Team 7 days a week FREE

0800 640 4872

AllClearTravel.co.uk

AllClear



If joining millions of cruise lovers floats your boat, you'll love Travelzoo

TRAVELZOO

We are the club for travel enthusiasts



TO ENTER OUR GREAT PRIZE DRAW CAST YOUR VOTES AT

britishtravelawards.com



AllClear Gold Plus achieved a Which? Best Buy. *Discount applies to base premium of AllClear branded policies only. Discount expires at 23:59 on 05/08/24. ² Based on The Broker Innovation Awards 2023. For more information please refer to T&Cs at allcleartravel.co.uk

TRAVEL



Edited by
**NIGEL
THOMPSON**
@TravelEdNigel

email traveldesk@reachplc.com
twitter @TravelEdNigel
@LissamanVicky
online express.co.uk/travel
instagram.com/dailyexpresslifestyle

Slow boat to bliss

Johnny Goldsmith
sails a narrowboat
on a family voyage
in Cambridgeshire



AT THE TILLER
Johnny with
his son Henry

We were about to board Laila, our 44ft-long narrowboat that we would call home for the next few days, and with no previous experience and two children under six on board, it was safe to say I was a little nervous.

Callum, from the Black Prince hire team in Ely, showed us around the boat and gave us a demo of how to operate it, which eased our concerns, and then before I knew it we were off into the flatlands of Cambridgeshire.

We took it slow to get used to steering the vessel but we soon came to our first lock which, as feared, proved a bit of a challenge. My wife Sally and eldest son hopped off the boat to open it but we didn't have much luck at first.

Some advice from a local resident helped as we realised the other side of

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE

CHARM
The River
Cam

Cruise news

BY VICKY LISSAMAN

The Northern Lights has topped a wishlist of natural wonders passengers want to see on a cruise.

In a survey by cruise.co.uk, 33% opted for the Aurora Borealis which can be seen on cruises to Norway, Iceland, Alaska, Greenland, Canada and the Arctic. It was followed by 29% who want to see whales and marine wildlife.

Whale watching is a cruise favourite, with ships travelling to Alaska, Norway, Iceland, Antarctica, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii all offering ethical vantage points.

Getting to see coral reefs came third - offered by lines that prioritise sustainable tourism, with destinations including Australia, the Caribbean, French Polynesia, Maldives, Hawaii and Fiji on offer. And 58% said they were likely to book a cruise specifically to see a natural wonder within the next two years.

Slope off with a money-saving BOGOF from Crystal Ski Holidays this winter. The 2-for-1 lift pass deal is available for all European packages on getaways through to April, 2025. Book by July 31. Solo skiers can also bag a £100 discount using the code SOLO100. crystalski.co.uk

Air update

BY NIGEL THOMPSON

Get a high-street barista-style brew on board easyJet flights from late summer.

The budget carrier has teamed up with Costa Coffee to offer cappuccinos, lattes, salted caramel lattes and decafs, all created specifically for a tasting as good at 38,000ft as it is on the ground.

It's part of an upgrade to its Eat. Drink. Shop range, which also includes

new fresh food and snacks, as well as a selection of children's products for the summer. An easyJet spokesman said: "We are always looking for ways to enhance our customers' onboard experience, which includes offering great quality brands they know and love." easyjet.com

■ Finnair has completed the rollout of its new long-haul Premium Economy cabin and the refreshed economy class across its fleet of Airbus A350 and A330 jets. finnair.com

payingtoomuch



Your next holiday just got cheaper
Save up to £28 on single trip travel insurance

Comparing prices for single trip travel insurance with PayingTooMuch, 40% of consumers can save up to £28.61

Independent research by Consumer Intelligence from 1 Oct – 31 Dec 2023

Call FREE

0800 069 6117

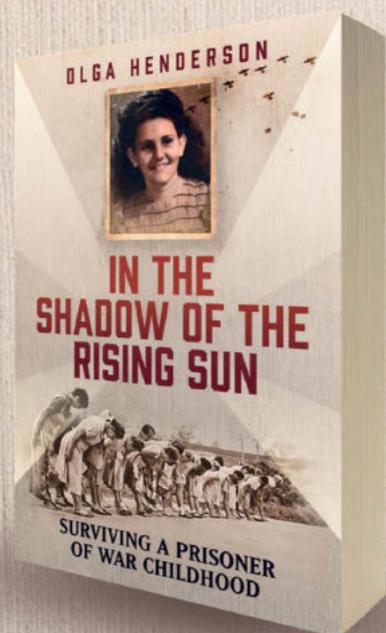
payingtoomuch.com



Rated Excellent | 70,000 reviews



Don't miss
POW survivor
Olga
Henderson's
inspirational
story



Available from Amazon, selected
supermarkets and all good bookshops.
Also available in ebook

TRAVEL

Hotel of the week

BY PETER MILBY



Bodysgallen Hall and Spa, Llandudno, Conwy

WHERE AND WHY

Nestled in a quiet corner of North Wales, around two miles south of Llandudno, sits Bodysgallen Hall and Spa. One of the National Trust's three Historic House Hotels, the hall boasts 31 rooms and suites, 15 in the main house and 16 cottages in the grounds, all set within 200 acres of parkland.

We received the warmest of welcomes at reception before handing our bags over to the porter, Gareth, who showed us to our superior Snowdonia-view room. With the kind of charming decor you'd expect from a National Trust property, this is the ideal place to relax and get away from it all.

The room boasted a king-size bed, comfy chairs to enjoy the views of Snowdonia and Conwy Castle, plus tea and coffee-making facilities (including Nespresso machine). The ensuite included a bath and separate shower, plus Penhaligon's Quercus toiletries.

ON THE MENU

Bodysgallen Hall boasts a three-AA Rosette restaurant, the Dining Room, with food courtesy of head chef Abdalla Ahmed El Shershaby, where we enjoyed a delicious dinner (three courses £85; two courses including main course £67.50). Our starters of sea scallop with hand-picked white crab, and heritage beetroot with goats cheese were a wonderful way to begin the feast.

Mains of slow-cooked chicken breast with king oyster mushroom, roasted onion and salsify, dauphinoise potatoes and mushroom sauce, plus Creedy Carver duck with maple soy glaze, dauphine potato, caramelised onion, red cabbage, carrot puree and Madeira sauce continued the fine-dining experience.

We followed these with a delightful dessert of white chocolate delicade for me, while my partner opted for cheese and biscuits.

The next day we had a traditional cooked Welsh breakfast and a wonderful Welsh afternoon tea of sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and strawberry conserve, plus homemade cakes and a slice of bara brith.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Take a relaxing walk in the hotel's extensive gardens or indulge in the on-site spa, complete with swimming pool. Llandudno is just a short drive away, while Snowdonia National Park is also within reach.

WAKE-UP CALL

B&B is priced from £275 per room per night including use of the spa facilities.
bodysgallen.com

BIRD SPOTTING
A mallard heads to the reeds



FILM STAR
Ely Cathedral



CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

the lock, which was electronic, wasn't totally shut, preventing the other side from opening. A minor hiccup but once we'd achieved it we both felt much happier.

After that we really started to enjoy cruising along the River Great Ouse at the gentle pace of 4mph, which allowed us to take in the panoramic landscape and give the boys a chance to start enthusiastically spotting wildlife.

Armed with their wildlife spotting sheets we had printed for them, Henry, five, and Ethan, three, were fascinated as they checked off the list which included swans, herons, cormorants, grebes, a variety of geese breeds and even cows, sheep and horses.

Our next challenge was to successfully moor the boat for the first time. Now on the River Cam, slowly cruising towards the bank with only a minor bump, we found a pub called Five Miles From Anywhere No Hurry Inn in Upware to stop for the evening.

We enjoyed a drink and planned our next day as the kids blew off some steam running around the large riverside garden.

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve was the destination but it took us down a part of the river labelled "narrow but navigable" on the map. So as I turned into Wicken Lode off the Cam I knew it was going to be tight (Cambridgeshire's lodes are man-made waterways, thought to have been dug by the Romans).

Making the turning into the lode was tricky, you needed to pass

email traveldes@reachplc.com
 twitter @TravelEdNigel
 @LissamanVicky
 online express.co.uk/travel
 instagram.com/dailyexpresslifestyle

Fen-tastic time



WILD
Konik
ponies on
the Wicken
Fen reserve

GLIDING
PAST
Swans with
cygnets



under a narrow pedestrian bridge and it took us a while to get the boat in a position we were happy with, but from there on we took the speed right down as we plodded towards Wicken Fen.

I was in full concentration at the tiller to make sure we stayed on course, while Sally and the boys were at the bow fascinated by the vast amount of fish they could see as they continued their wildlife spotting adventure.

The wetland nature reserve soon came into sight – it's run by the National Trust and is its oldest reserve. Spanning 629 acres, more than 9,000 species have been recorded, including rare butterflies, dragonflies and birds. The best way to view it is from the 4.6-mile, family friendly raised boardwalk (£22.50 for a family ticket).

We also took time to look around Fen Cottage, a time capsule of how Fen-dwellers would have lived and had a light lunch in the on-site Docky Hut cafe before setting off towards Cambridge.

Our boat was one of the smallest of the Black Prince fleet but the newest; with one bedroom towards the front with a cosy double bed, and the living room area smartly converted

MOORED
Johnny
with Henry
and Ethan



HEAVE
Johnny and
the boys
pull the
boat in

from table to bed to make sure there was enough room onboard for everyone to sleep comfortably.

At the front is a kitchen, with a microwave, oven and a fridge with a small freezer compartment – plenty of room for the supplies we needed over the four nights.

“
The boys
checked off
grebes and
herons on
their wildlife
spotting lists

Every bit of space on the boat was used to its maximum potential, with plenty of storage for all of our clothes – being May it was hard to know what weather to pack for! And we did have a real mixture of sunshine and showers. Heading to Cambridge,

we knew from a briefing with Callum that the lock into the city was out of action, unfortunately, and undergoing maintenance for subsidence. So we went as far as we could before mooring for the night at The Bridge pub at Waterbeach.

However, a short walk next morning took us to Waterbeach station for the nine-minute journey into Cambridge.

We spent the day exploring the historic university city, strolling alongside the Cam's banks to admire the colleges and looking around the market.

Sailing back from Cambridge towards Ely, the weather was calm, and we took a moment to admire the mighty Ely cathedral – dating from 1083.

Next morning we took the opportunity to visit, and its unique 171ft Octagon Tower is a spectacular sight. The cathedral has

been used frequently for filming some well-known TV shows and films including *The Crown*, *The King's Speech* and most recently *Maestro*, Bradley Cooper's biopic of Leonard Bernstein.

Then it was time for our final night as we moored up on the Great Ouse in Littleport where we had a lovely dinner at a pub, *The Swan On The River*. The food was excellent, serving pub classics – with the authentic Sri Lankan mutton curry the standout.

On the final morning we had just an hour's sailing to get back to base in Ely. The conditions for a novice were tricky as the wind was very strong, but advice about sailing in these conditions from someone else moored in Littleport put my worries at ease.

From the first lock to the final morning, the communities

BOOK IT

Black Prince operates canal holidays from nine bases across the UK. A three-night weekend or four-night midweek short break from Ely, Cambridgeshire, in August starts from £1,105 for up to four sharing a Signature narrowboat. Diesel is extra and costs around £18 per day. black-prince.com

MORE INFO

visitley.org.uk, visitcambridge.org

on the rivers were incredibly friendly and always willing to help. I was nervous but that help was so vital and welcome.

We loved our journey on these Cambridgeshire waterways but it's worth bearing in mind very young children might get a bit restless at times. If we were to go again we'd wait until they were a little bit older, six or more feels ideal.

Yet, nevertheless, this was a slow paced adventure to be embraced and one the whole family will always remember.

OAR-SOME
Look out
for people
punting





HOME

with HANNAH BRITT

Ride-on inflatable, £25, John Lewis



Picnic jug, £8, bmstores.co.uk



Hooks (set of three), £23.85, melodymaison.co.uk



Full bloom print, from £20, lola.designltd.com



Mug, £2.99, homehardware.direct.co.uk



Coir doormat, £8 (dunelm.com)

Brightly coloured flamingos bring a touch of fun this summer



Reversible duvet cover and pillowcase set, £20, dunelm.com

SENSATIONAL PART EXCHANGE DEALS. DON'T DELAY. CALL ELITE TODAY.



THE MINI CROSSER EXTREME SERIES

- Scandinavian engineering at its best
- Luxury multi-adjustable Ergo seat
- Independent all-round suspension
- Designed for on and off-road use

Stay warm and dry with the **HEATED CABIN** option →

FOR A FREE HOME DEMONSTRATION, CALL 0800 169 5910 TODAY



FROM BIG TO SMALL WE'VE GOT THEM ALL HUNDREDS OF NEW & USED SCOOTERS



LARGE 13" WHEELS

THE ELITE E-FOLD POWERCHAIR

INDOOR & OUTDOOR USE

THE NEW ZEO AUTOFOLD

WITH SHOCK ABSORBING FRONT & REAR SUSPENSION

- ← Key fob touch button technology →
- ← Auto-folds in just a few seconds →
- ← Super lightweight →
- ← Car boot friendly →
- Light-up information screen →
- LED front headlight →
- With suspension →



ELITE Mobility 0800 169 5910
www.elitemobility.co.uk

Think pink

Soap dish, £4.99, therange.co.uk



Felicity garden decoration, £25, argos.co.uk

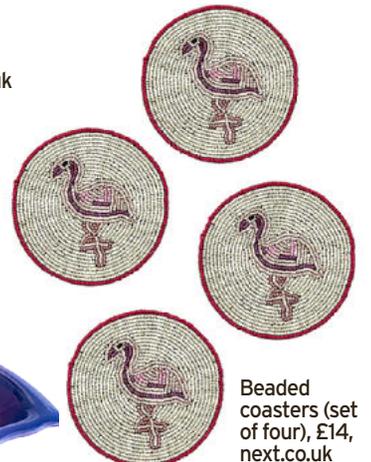


Inlight Atlas bronze-effect lamp, £35, diy.com



Outdoor cushion (pack of four), £40, argos.co.uk

Picnic serving bowls (set of two), £18, next.co.uk



Beaded coasters (set of four), £14, next.co.uk

FULLY FITTED
WAS £995 NOW FROM

~~£995~~
£895*

JOB DONE!



UNBEATABLE VALUE ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

- ✓ FREE installation
- ✓ FREE 5 year warranty
- ✓ Manufactured in the UK
- ✓ Fitted by a local Garolla engineer
- ✓ The UK's No.1 recommended

GAROLLA
ELECTRIC GARAGE DOORS

Checkatrade
9.8 out of 10

★ Trustpilot
★★★★★
4.7 out of 5

BOOK A FREE SURVEY TODAY

0800 118 2692

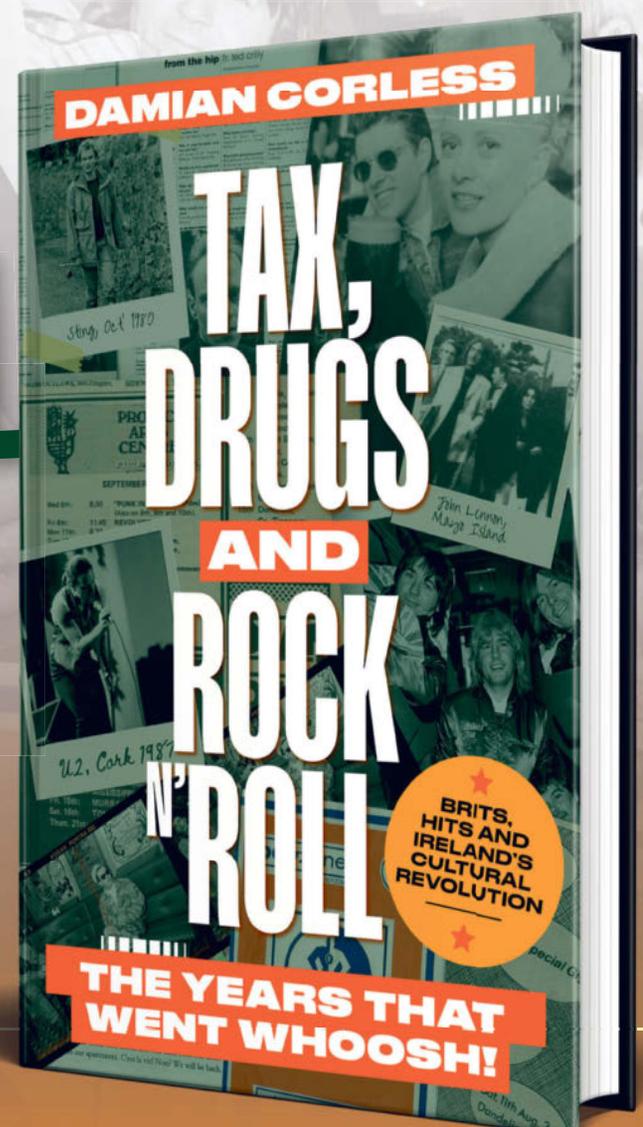
GAROLLA.CO.UK

*Terms & conditions apply, see website for details. Offer extended until 31st August.

BRITS, HITS AND IRELAND'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION

The book that explores how
an influx of British pop stars
in the early 1980s kick-started
a cultural transformation
in Ireland

On sale from all good bookshops and Amazon, ebook also available.



FREE FAMILY DAY PASS



National Trust



©National Trust Images/Arnhel de Serra



©National Trust Images/Annquna Mellor

WORTH UP TO
£50

**TWO ADULTS
AND UP TO
3 CHILDREN**

Fancy a day out with your partner to visit a woodland you love to walk in or even spot your favourite birds – or do you enjoy taking your friends and family somewhere new surrounded by nature?

Summer is here and what better way to enjoy time with family and friends than with a trip to a National Trust property for FREE.

With this amazing offer, up to 2 adults and up to 3 children or 1 adult and 4 children can enter a National Trust site for free in England, Wales and Northern Ireland until Sunday September 1, 2024. Some date exclusions apply, see reachforms.co.uk/nationaltrust.

Get outdoors this summer with the National Trust and connect with nature as blossom bursts into life at many National Trust locations. You can use your FREE family pass at a National Trust place of your choice.

HOW TO CLAIM

Cut out the voucher below and present at your chosen National Trust location by Sunday 1 September 2024. Some National Trust properties require advance booking, please check the property website for full details. Some date exclusions apply, see voucher below for full details. Certain places are excluded from this promotion, details can be found at www.reachforms.co.uk/nationaltrust

FREE National Trust FAMILY PASS

VALID UNTIL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

1. This pass is single-use and is valid once from the date of issue through to **Sunday 1 September 2024 inclusive, excluding bank holidays and bank holiday weekends (24-26 August inclusive)**.
2. This pass allows free admission at participating National Trust places for 2 adults and up to 3 children, or 1 adult and up to 4 children. Adults are aged 18 or over; children are aged 5-17 inclusive; under 5s receive free admission. 3. This pass is for standard admission only and excludes parking, group entry, paid transport, and any paid events. 4. This pass is valid at participating National Trust places within advertised opening hours. Opening hours may be subject to change at any time and should be checked at nationaltrust.org.uk. 5. Present this pass to receive free admission at participating places. **Passholders who cannot present the pass, or visit an exempt place, will be charged the full admission price.** 6. This pass cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and has no cash value. It cannot be redeemed against the cost of National Trust membership, is not for resale, and is non-transferable. 7. Only one pass per household will be permitted. 8. There are some exclusions on National Trust places included in this promotion. Some places require advance booking. For a link to the excluded places, as well as details of how to book certain places in advance, visit www.reachforms.co.uk/nationaltrust



©National Trust Images, Chris Lacey

DONATE TO THE NATIONAL TRUST'S PLANT A TREE APPEAL

The National Trust is a charity that cares for nature, beauty and history across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Trees are essential for life. They clean the air we breathe, lock up carbon as they grow and provide homes for wildlife.

Donate to the National Trust's Plant a Tree Appeal today and help plant and establish 20 million trees by 2030, benefiting wildlife, people and the climate for years to come. You can dedicate your donation to a loved one either in memory or as a gift and get a customisable certificate to share with them.

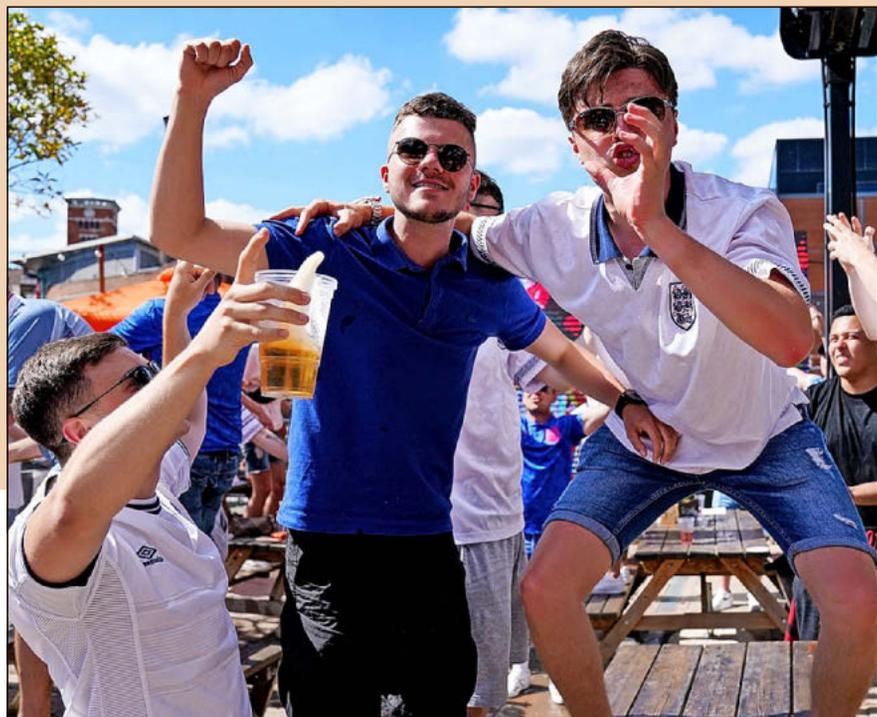
To make your donation you can visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/plant-a-tree-now or scan the QR code here.

One hundred per cent of your donation will go towards the planting and maintenance of new trees at National Trust places. This can include the cost of the trees, tree guards, stakes, tools and mulch. The cost of the trees differs according to the size and species, and trees are chosen according to what is in keeping with the area and what will benefit local wildlife at that location. National Trust registered charity number 205846.



FINANCIAL

SUNDAY EXPRESS POWERED BY CITY A.M.



Inn it to win it as pubs score £48m boost

PUBS and supermarkets are hoping England's appearance tonight in the Euro 2024 final will lead to a bumper payday.

Landlords are hoping for a nearly £48million boost, with an expected 10 million extra pints being poured in the build-up to the final whistle.

Thousands of those pints will flow during the late night licensing hours, with pubs in England allowed to stay open until 1am for fans.

British Beer And Pub

Association chief executive Emma McClarkin said: "Fans have shown us during this tournament that there is no better place to watch our teams than the British pub."

Trade body UK Hospitality said England's performance in the tournament would see the entire sector benefit from an sales increase of £800million.

While some supermarkets are shortening their opening hours – Tesco and Sainsbury's are closing their convenience

stores in England early to allow employees to watch the game and Lidl is opening an hour later tomorrow to let theirs recover – they are still expecting bumper sales.

Tesco said it had launched a "major operation" to make sure stores were fully stocked for the anticipated surge in food and drink for parties.

Tesco store ordering manager Jason Binks said: "England reaching the final is a huge feelgood factor."

SALES GOALS:
Millions of pints will be consumed as England play in the final

Wetherspoons opening time for 200 venues

JD WETHERSPOON remains committed to opening another 200 pubs but its customers will have to be patient for the new sites, boss Tim Martin has said.

The pub giant said it has not dropped its long-term goal of expanding to 1,000 venues across the UK, despite shrinking its pub estate in recent years.

JD Wetherspoon currently runs 801 pubs across the country, having slipped from around 950 venues at its peak size in 2015.

The group has sold or surrendered the lease on 26 of its pubs since November last year, and opened only two sites in the meantime. It also has another 10 pubs on the market or under offer as part of plans to shed sites in order to bolster its finances and cut its hefty debts.

But Wetherspoon chairman Tim Martin said he hopes the business can get back on the expansion trail after completing

By **Henry Saker-Clark**

its disposal programme: "The industry was traumatised by the pandemic and its impact, and a lot will still depend on how things go over the next few years. I'm optimistic that we can invest and expand pubs, and we can still open another 200.

"But there is definitely patience needed. Once we get through this current programme we will look at how we can get these pubs but we know there might be a little bit more circumspection needed."

The founder and chairman of the pub group, who became well known for supporting Brexit in 2016, was optimistic that opening and refurbishment plans could also be supported by the change in government.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves has announced aims to overhaul UK planning rules in order to help build more homes, drive

infrastructure projects and allow businesses to grow more quickly.

Mr Martin hailed the move as "pro-business" and said it could boost investment plans: "I think she got it bang on, to be honest. Planning delays harm British business, so it was good to see a Chancellor want to tackle it head-on.

"It might mean we can move quicker with some projects, or it might just be that we benefit from other benefits in our communities from this, but whatever happens I think it is a good thing."

It comes amid a busy period for pubs, with England's successes at Euro 2024 helping to boost the sector. In its update earlier this month, the company reported like-for-like sales grew by 5.8 per cent over the 10 weeks to July 7. It said this meant its total sales hit "record levels" despite running fewer pubs than it did a year earlier.

EXPRESS
WIN!

WIN A
NINJA
CREAMI
THIS
SUMMER!



ENDS
31/07/2024

TO BE IN WITH A CHANCE OF WINNING:

TEXT

NINJA1 to 61011

Texts cost £2.00 +
1 standard network
rate message



CALL

0903 681 6810

Calls cost
£2.00 + network
access charge



POST

NINJA1 + your name
and phone number

Express Win, PO Box
8162, Derby, DE1 9GU



ENTER ONLINE

at express.win



SCAN ME

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: To refuse marketing messages, end SMS with NO INFO. SP: Mi Telecom Ltd. Helpdesk 0330 880 6060. Min age 18+. All entries after lines close at midnight on the last day of the month will not count and may still be charged. Postal entries close at midnight on 5th of the following month. One winner will be selected at random from all correct entries after the closing date and will be contacted by phone. Full T&Cs at express.win/terms. Surname and county of the winner will be published. If you object to your information being made available please see our privacy notice online at www.reachplc.com/site-services/privacy-policy. This prize draw is syndicated across other Reach titles. For a full list of our brands see www.reachplc.com/our-brands

Switch accounts and take a holiday from fees

HOLIDAYMAKERS heading overseas this summer are being urged to consider current account and credit card options that could help them save money on fees and charges.

Some current accounts will charge customers to use cards abroad, but several providers have removed such fees and will not charge for using a cash machine abroad or charge debit card fees overseas, financial ratings company Defaqto said.

For people who travel abroad frequently, it could be useful to open a new account or even switch banks. Using a suitable card abroad could also make it

easier for holidaymakers to avoid having to withdraw and carry large amounts of cash.

Current accounts highlighted by Defaqto which may help people save on fees abroad include those offered by Chase, First Direct, Starling Bank, Kroo and Virgin Money.

Katie Brain, a banking expert at Defaqto said: "If you're happy to pay a monthly charge in exchange for things like travel insurance then you could look into added value current accounts which don't charge fees overseas. Two-thirds of all added value accounts in the UK offer no fees abroad now."



Pictures: GETTY

FEE-FREE: Shop around

EXPRESS TRAVEL

Sardinia: Alghero, Costa Smeralda and Corsica



EIGHT DAYS FROM
FROM
£1,429
PER PERSON

Signature tour available with three extra excursions from only
£1,929

Experience another side of Italy that's vastly different, where pristine beaches nestle on dazzling coastlines and across the unspoilt hinterland are prehistoric settlements, as well as traditional villages inhabited by fiercely independent yet wonderfully warm locals – even the cuisine has its own identity.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights from a selection of regional airports with hotel transfers
- Seven nights in four-star accommodation, with daily breakfast and four dinners
- Services of our experienced and insightful tour manager

YOUR INCLUDED EXPERIENCES

- Two guided tours of Alghero and Bonifacio
- Visit Santu Antine Nuraghe, Costa Smeralda's picturesque villages and inland Sardinia
- Visit a family-owned agriturismo for a traditional Sardinian dinner
- Enjoy a wine tasting in one of the finest wine-growing areas in Sardinia

MAKE IT A SIGNATURE TOUR:

- Absorb the magnificent views over Alghero's old town and dazzling bay from the fabulous viewpoint of the town's only skybar
- An exhilarating cruise to the magnificent Neptune Caves with their spectacular 'rooms' and myriad of fascinating and beautiful rock formations
- Relax over drinks and typical Sardinian specialities in the elegant ambience of the Vigneti Surrau, amidst a stunning landscape of vineyards and rolling hills

Departures September to October 2024 and May to October 2025

CALL US ON 01283 901 382

OR VISIT RIVIERATRAVEL.CO.UK/EXP



TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Calls cost 13p p/min from a BT landline. Mobile and other providers' costs may vary. Prices are based on two people sharing and are correct at time of print. Single supplements may apply. This holiday is operated by and subject to booking conditions of Riviera Travel, ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430 protected. Subject to availability. Additional entrance costs may apply. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. For further information please write to Riviera Travel, New Manor, 328 Wetmore Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE14 1SP. For any queries regarding placed orders call: 01283 901382. See website for full details.



Gig tickets a Taylor-made bind for BoE

TAYLOR Swift could be among the dilemmas facing the Bank of England this summer, as economists predict the US singer's arena tour could have put some pressure on UK inflation.

A busy week for economic data will shed more light on the economy after inflation returned to the Bank's 2% target in May.

It marked a milestone after nearly three years of above-target inflation, thanks largely to food prices rising at a much slower rate than before.

Economists are widely expecting the rate of Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflation to have stayed at, or close to, 2% in June.

Analysts for Investec and Deutsche Bank are predicting CPI to have stayed put, while Pantheon Macroeconomics expects it to have dipped to 1.9% for the latest month, below the Bank's target level. Experts said it will be the finer details of the inflation data that could be more relevant for the central bank.

Deutsche Bank senior economist Sanjay Raja, said services inflation – an important gauge which looks only at service-related categories such as hospitality, culture and housing – could drop to 5.6% from 5.7% in May as it continues its "slow descent" toward target

levels. He cautioned, however, over one-off pressures such as live music price rises, driven by Taylor Swift's UK tour.

The pop superstar, who performed in Edinburgh, Liverpool, Cardiff and London in June, may have pushed up average concert prices in the month.

This is because prices for event tickets are collected by the Office for National Statistics during the month that the event happens, rather than when tickets go on sale.

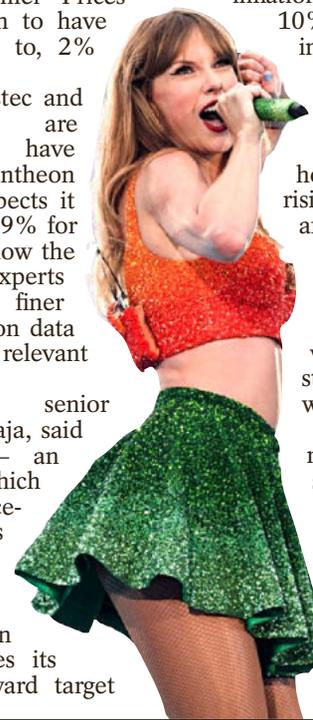
Mr Raja said he expects live music inflation to nearly double to around 10% in June from 5.7% in May.

Meanwhile, economists will also be watching new labour market data released on Thursday to see how fast averages wages are rising in the UK, especially after the National Minimum Wage rose in April.

The Bank of England has repeatedly pointed to services inflation and rising wages as key indicators still putting pressure on wider inflation.

James Smith, developed market economist for ING, said: "Policymakers are still almost exclusively focused on services inflation, and it's the release of this data that will determine whether the Bank can cut rates in August."

UK TOUR: Taylor Swift



GSK is taking HQ to the West End

DRUGS giant GSK is set to move its global headquarters back to central London, ending more than two decades at its Brentford base.

Around 3,000 employees will work from The Earnshaw building on the corner of New Oxford Street in the West End from Tuesday. It marks the end of its time at Brentford, after the £315 million building there was officially opened in 2002 by then prime minister Tony Blair.

GSK's new HQ will house the firm's leadership team – headed by chief executive Dame Emma Walmsley – plus its research and development units, supply chain, commercial operations, corporate functions and its ViiV Healthcare specialist HIV joint venture.

Dame Emma said: "We are proud to call London our home."

A Dream result as Chinese EV adverts net a win at the Euros

INTEREST in Chinese-built electric cars due to advertising at Euro 2024 matches has surged, figures show.

Online vehicle marketplace Auto Trader said it has recorded 189,387 views of its adverts for BYD – Build Your Dreams – vehicles since the start of the tournament on June 14.

This is up 33%, from 142,537 the previous month, with the Seal saloon the most popular model.

BYD has bought prominent slots on pitchside advertising boards at matches in Germany, which have

all been broadcast on free-to-air television in the UK.

That included England's semi-final victory last Wednesday night, for which ITV said a peak of 21.6 million people tuned into ITV1 and ITVX to watch, making it the most-viewed television programme of the year so far.

AutoTrader editorial director Erin Baker said: "England and Spain may be fighting for the trophy tonight, but it's already clear that China's BYD is a big winner off the pitch."

By **Harvey Jones**

A CHIEF Labour government adviser has floated the idea of means-testing the state pension so that better off pensioners get less in a move that would terrify millions of retirees. The suggestion came from Sir Edward Troup, a former head of HM Revenue & Customs, who is now sharing his wisdom with new chancellor Rachel Reeves.

Last week, in a radio interview, Sir Edward called for pensioners to “contribute possibly more” than Britons of working age in some circumstances. His suggestion: “If the public finances are in a bit of a state, perhaps wealthy pensioners should be giving up their full state pension.”

He has previously called for the over-75s to lose their free TV licences and inheritance tax to be increased.

So will Reeves listen to her adviser and what would that mean for you?

ENTITLED

Many believe the state pension is an entitlement, because they have paid for it over their working lifetime.

Sadly, it isn't. There's no pot of cash belonging to you. It's a benefit like any other, as the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has previously made clear. That means the government decides how much you get and how to tax it, too.

Plenty of other benefits are already means tested, including Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, Tax Credits and Income Support.

The state pension could join that list, if Sir Edward gets his way.

TESTING

Today, how much you get depends on your how many national insurance (NI) contributions you made during your working lifetime. Under means-testing, what you get will also rest on your income and wealth from other sources.

Andrew Tully, technical services director at Nucleus Financial, said it would be possible for Labour to extend the means-testing process to the state pension.

“However, this would dramatically increase its scope and scale,” he said.

The means-test takes into account your income and maybe your partner's income, too. Plus the value of your savings, stocks and shares, Premium Bonds and property other than your main home.

It would be an administrative nightmare, said Tully: “It would be a massive ongoing exercise to obtain all pensioners' details on a regular basis, to work out whether they qualified for a full state pension or not.

“As asset values change all the time, they would probably have to be assessed every year. With 12.6million now receiving the state pension, this would be very costly,” he added.

The DWP would also have to work out how this interacted with housing benefit claims and social care if required. It could prove difficult for the DWP and pensioners to keep up with all of the paperwork involved, Tully warned.

Pensioners shouldn't worry too much. The sheer cost and complexity of means-testing the state pension is likely to deter Labour. “It would have

Will tax tsar's hints lead to a means-tested state pension?



to issue a period of notice, meaning the Treasury would be unlikely to benefit for some years.”

FRAUD

Means-testing would have one obvious benefit for Labour. It has committed to maintaining the state pension triple lock annual uprating for the lifetime of this Parliament, but that's an expensive commitment. Means-testing could help reduce the bill. Retirement specialist Just Group's Stephen Lowe said: “Supporters of the idea think the country can no longer afford to give wealthy retirees such a valuable handout when the money could be targeted at the poorest pensioners.” But as well as creating another layer of bureaucracy, it would raise scope for errors and fraud. “Vulnerable pensioners may struggle to supply details and lose money as a result.”

It would also make it harder for everybody to plan their retirement.

“It could create huge uncertainty, as people won't know whether saving today might disqualify them for state pension later.”

Means-testing could backfire badly, by deterring people from putting money aside for retirement today. Why save and build wealth if your reward is to get a lower state pension?

‘It would be a massive and costly ongoing exercise and many elderly may struggle to provide details’

PRIDE

People accept they may lose access to state benefits if they have money of their own. But they view the state pension as a right, whatever the DWP says, and would be furious to see a chunk of it withdrawn.

Sir Edward Troup may want to see the state pension means-tested but Lowe reckons it's unlikely Reeves would act upon this. “It would be very hard, in both practical and political terms, in the short run. After that, who knows? Circumstances could force the government's hand if public finances deteriorate badly.”

TAXED

In one respect, the state pension is already means-tested. The amount you receive is added to your earnings for that year, with everything above the £12,570 personal allowance potentially subject to income tax.

With an inheritance tax, capital gains tax and a potential pensions tax raid on the horizon, one thing seems certain; pensioners will pay more to HMRC. The means-test is alive and well, just in a different form.

SUNDAY EXPRESS

**CELEBRATE
OUR AMAZING
TEACHERS
WITH moonpig**

Send a **FREE** Personalised Thank you card **Plus** Free Delivery!

Hey parents! Teachers across the nation do an amazing job and we want to help you recognise their incredible efforts.

We're giving you a **FREE** card to say a huge 'Thank you!' for the school year.

And here's the best part.

Your kids can help personalise the card with photos, stickers and even a handwritten message.

It's a keepsake their teacher will cherish forever. Not sure where to send it? No worries, just have it delivered to you and your child can hand it to their teacher in person.

HOW TO CLAIM

Simply visit:
www.moonpig.com/uk/thank-you-teacher/

or scan here



Add Code **THANKYOU** at the checkout to get your free card with free delivery before midnight Monday July 15th 2024

SCAN ME

Don't forget, with Moonpig you can add a lovely box of chocs or spectacular flowers, too!

They're all about celebrating moments that matter, so let's give teachers a nationwide standing ovation - they deserve it!



Terms & Conditions: Offer ends 15.07.24. Standard card size only. This code cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotional code. Excludes other categories and brands including sale, clearance and promotional lines. For full T&Cs see: www.reachforms.co.uk/moonpig

State of rental health

FIVE-MINUTE GUIDE TO...

BUY-TO-LET PROPERTY

By **Harvey Jones**

BUY-TO-LET was a brilliant investment for more than 20 years as landlords benefited from rising property prices and rental incomes, but lately the going has been tough.

Investors have been hit by repeated Treasury tax raids, while rising mortgage rates and stagnating property prices have eroded returns.

They have been selling up in droves, tired of being scapegoated for housing shortages and the failings of a small minority of rogue landlords.

Many were concerned by the Conservative Party's Renters Reform Bill, but this fell by the wayside when former PM Rishi Sunak called a snap election.

They fear the new Labour government will revive the bill in a tougher form and make it even harder to get rid of problem tenants by scrapping controversial Section 21 "no fault" evictions.

Just one-in-10 landlords voted Labour in the recent election, with many viewing the party as "anti-landlord", according to research by Landbay.

What was once seen as a great way for ordinary people to top up their pension income now seems more trouble than it's worth. So is there still life in buy-to-let?

Over the last few years landlords have lost higher rate tax relief on mortgage interest, seen "wear and tear" allowances



FEWER OPTIONS: Tenants in search

reduced, and been forced to pay a three per cent surcharge on property purchases, squeezing margins.

Almost a third plan to reduce their rental portfolios and only nine per cent say they are likely to invest more, a National Residential Landlords Association (NRLA) survey found.

This is backfiring on tenants, as more than 2,000 households a month face homelessness in England due to private landlords giving up, official figures show.

Anna Clare Harper, chief executive of sustainable investment adviser GreenResi, said regulations aimed at helping tenants often backfire. "The planned end to no-fault evictions was intended to protect the right of tenants. In practice, landlords who fear they won't be able to access their property

are evicting tenants while they can." Labour may also require private landlords to investigate and fix reported health hazards within specified timeframes, something that only applies to the social housing sector today.

Keir Starmer has pledged to "empower tenants to challenge unreasonable rent increases". He also said Labour would pass new laws to end rent "bidding wars", banning landlords from pushing tenants to offer higher rents to secure a property. He has yet to say how he would do this.

Richard Rowntree, managing director of mortgages at Paragon Bank, said the majority of landlords have accepted that Section 21 will be going, but the new version of the Renters Reform Bill must ensure landlords have "robust grounds" to gain possession of a property if required. "They should also expect a functioning and resourced justice system to cope with the increased number of cases that will be heard by a court."

Labour must balance the needs of both landlords and tenants, he added. "This could provide the clarity and certainty landlords require to invest in the sector."

But Rowntree warned: "If Labour gets it wrong, we could have a clogged-up court system and landlords out of pocket if they need to evict a tenant."

Landlords should not be too gloomy, said Emma Cox, managing director of real estate at Shawbrook Bank. "Property prices are expected to continue rising, and rental yields remain strong."

Landbay sales and distribution director Rob Stanton said: "Landlords should remember that buy-to-let has survived countless crises, regime changes and new governments, and has thrived."

RECYCLING PAPER



Test your knowledge

- Can paper be recycled for ever? Yes No
- Does recycled paper need new fibres? Yes No
- How much recovered paper do newspapers contain? 100% 49% 80.6%
- How is the raw material in your newspaper sourced? Economically Responsibly
- What should you do with your newspapers? Burn them Recycle them

To find out more about recycling newspapers contact: The Newsprint & Newspaper Industry Environmental Action Group (NNIEAG) on 01793 889637 or www.nnieag.org.uk



Issued by the Newsprint & Newspaper Industry Environmental Action Group

IMPORTANT NOTICE

EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS does not endorse and has no responsibility or liability for products, services or any other matter advertised on these pages. Readers are firmly advised to take legal, financial or other appropriate advice before entering into any commitment in connection with a published advertisement.

Best personal finance and mortgage deals

Source: Moneyfactscompare.co.uk

Rates correct at 8:00am 12th July 2024

Current Accounts

CURRENT ACCOUNTS WITH CREDIT INTEREST OR REWARD

Provider	Account	AER or Amount Paid
Halifax	Reward Current Account	£5 pm A
TSB	Spend & Save Plus	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	FlexDirect	5.00% B
Kroo Bank	Current Account	4.35%

Personal Loans

PERSONAL LOANS - BASED ON £10,000 OVER 5 YEARS

Provider	APR	Monthly Repayment	Total Amount Repayable
TSB	6.2%	£193.47	£11,608.20
M&S Bank	6.2%	£193.47	£11,608.20
Santander	6.2%	£193.47	£11,608.20
Tesco Bank	6.5%	£194.79	£11,687.40

Credit Cards

PURCHASE CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	APR
Barclaycard	Platinum All-Rounder Visa	21 mths	24.9%
Lloyds Bank	Platinum 0% Purch & BT CC MC	20 mths	24.9%
NatWest	Purch & Balance Transfer CC MC	19 mths	24.9%
Royal Bank of Scotland	Purch & Balance Transfer CC MC	19 mths	24.9%

Mortgages

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Barclays Mortgage	4.71%	to 30.9.26	60%	-	to 30.9.26
first direct	5.24%	for 2 yrs	90%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	4.64%	for 3 yrs	60%	£490	1st 3 yrs
West Brom BS	5.07%	to 31.12.27	90%	£999	to 31.12.27



Moneyfacts
compare.co.uk

A = Paid net of income tax. **B** = Introductory rate for a limited period.

All rates and terms are subject to change without notice and should be checked before finalising any arrangement. No liability can be accepted for any direct or consequential loss arising from the use of, or reliance upon, this information. Readers who are not financial professionals should seek expert advice. Visit Moneyfactscompare.co.uk for full details.

Reader Offer in partnership with **Yimbly.com**

WARMTH AND AMBIANCE



Transform your garden, patio, or decking area into a warm and inviting haven with the Livivo Iron Fire Pit Bowl. Available now through our exclusive reader offer, this Moroccan-inspired fire pit is designed to be a simple yet striking focal point for any outdoor space.

Crafted from solid iron with a powder black matt finish, the Livivo Fire Pit Bowl exudes both durability and elegance. Its grand design introduces an exotic Moroccan touch to your garden, making it the perfect asset for outdoor gatherings and cosy evenings.

The fire pit features sturdy tripod iron legs with anti-skid feet, ensuring stability on any surface. Assembly is a breeze with no tools needed, allowing you to set up and enjoy your new fire pit in no time.

Whether you're hosting a summer barbecue or simply relaxing under the stars, the Livivo Iron Fire Pit Bowl adds warmth and style to any occasion.

Don't miss out on this fantastic offer – order your Livivo Iron Fire Pit Bowl today and create a stunning focal point in your outdoor space!

www.yimbly.com/Offer13 ☎ 0871 664 2450
Quote Offer13

Offer subject to availability. Free Delivery over £50. Customer service 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday - Friday. See website for full details see, yimbly.com/terms. For queries, contact support@yimbly.com

Reader Offer in partnership with **Yimbly.com**

ULTIMATE RELAXATION



Upgrade your relaxation game with the ICON® Dolce Lounger Bean Bag, available exclusively at Yimbly. This stylish bean bag chair is the perfect blend of comfort and aesthetics. Its vibrant color adds a splash of personality to any room, making it a standout piece of furniture.

The Dolce Lounger Bean Bag is designed for ultimate comfort, with a supportive shape that conforms to your body. Its soft, durable fabric ensures a cozy seating experience that lasts. Lightweight and easy to move, this bean bag fits seamlessly into any space, whether you're reading, watching TV, or simply relaxing.

ICON® is a Trusted Yimbly Partner, known for delivering high-quality, innovative products. This bean bag reflects their commitment to enhancing your living experience with practical and stylish solutions.

At Yimbly, we strive to bridge the gap between quality, lifestyle, and affordability. Our curated marketplace offers a perfect blend of style, value, and practicality, making us the go-to destination for modern living. Transform your relaxation space with the ICON® Dolce Lounger Bean Bag. Experience curated living, crafted for all, with Yimbly.

Shop the range • More Colours available

www.yimbly.com/Offer4 ☎ 0871 664 2450
Quote Offer4

Offer subject to availability. Free Delivery over £50. Customer service 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday - Friday. See website for full details see, yimbly.com/terms. For queries, contact support@yimbly.com

HELEN LEDERER
NOT THAT I'M BITTER

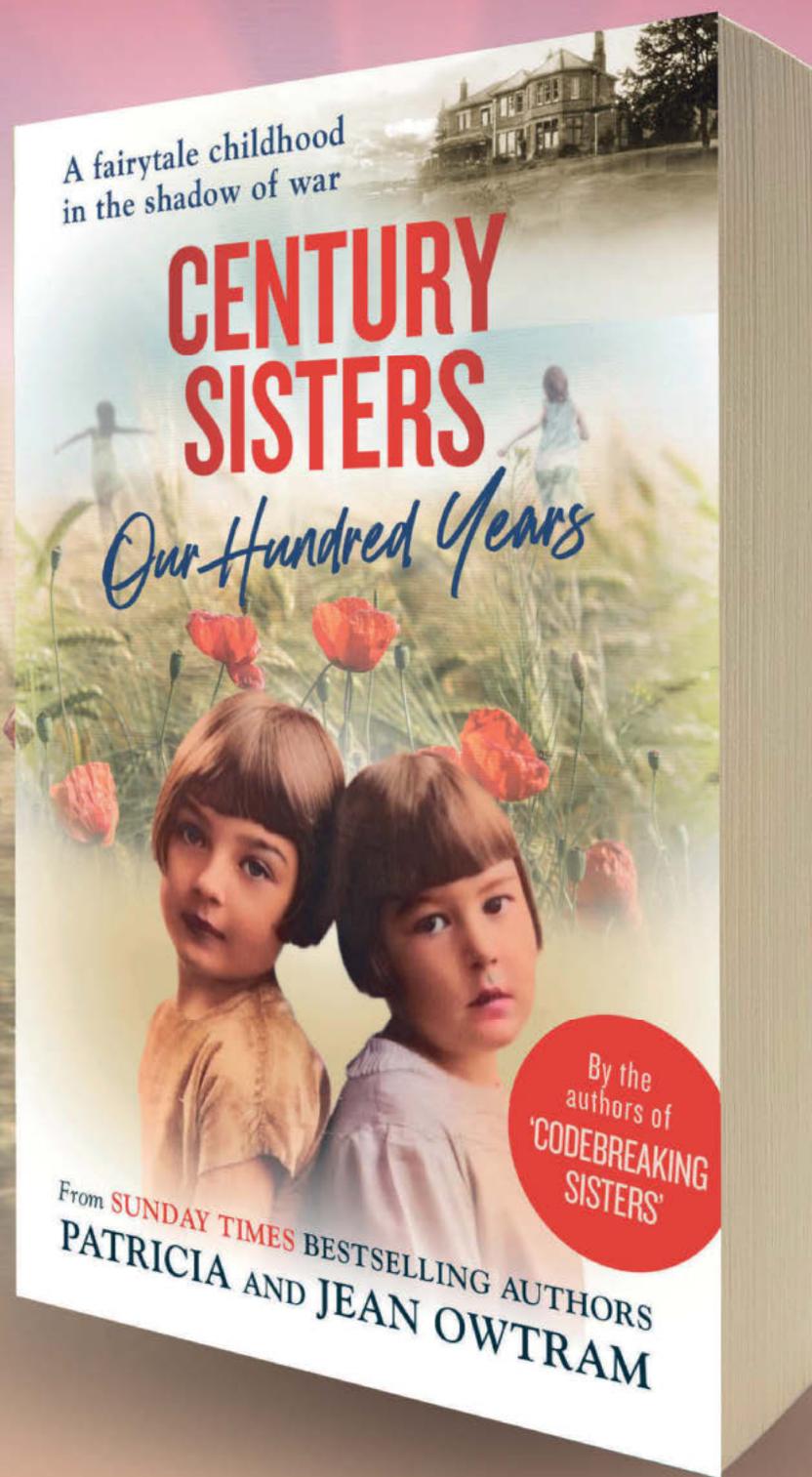
'Funny, wise, brilliant and brave.
Just like its author'

Ben Elton



Available from Amazon, selected supermarkets and all good bookshops. Also available in ebook

A fairytale childhood in the shadow of war



**A new book from the Sunday Times
bestselling authors of 'Codebreaking Sisters'**

Available from Amazon, selected supermarkets
and all good bookshops. *Also available in ebook*

ON THIS DAY WITH SHAUN WALLACE

July 14,
1960



P RIMATOLOGIST Jane Goodall arrived at the Gombe Stream Game Reserve on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania.

Aged just 26, her groundbreaking observations of chimpanzees overturned conventional thinking about the primates.

She witnessed them hunt and eat meat, strip leaves from sticks to “fish” for termites and noted they were capable of rational thought and emotions.

She also witnessed “human behaviours” such as hugging, kissing, patting on the back and even tickling.

Dr Jane is now considered the world's foremost expert after 60 years studying the social and family interactions of wild chimpanzees. At 90 she remains a vocal advocate for their conservation.

Such is her influence, a Dr Jane Goodall Barbie doll was released in 2022.

Growing up in Bournemouth, when her father gave her a stuffed toy chimpanzee

Also on this day...

1862: Austrian artist Gustav Klimt, who painted *The Kiss* in 1908, was born

1881: Outlaw Billy the Kid was shot and killed in Fort Sumner, New Mexico

2013: Last telegram sent in India was dispatched from the city of Nagpur.

named Jubilee instead of a teddy bear, it sparked her interest in African animals.

Before she entered the forests of Gombe little was known about chimpanzees or their genetic kinship to humans.

Having had no university education, Goodall adopted an unorthodox approach in field research. She immersed herself in their habitat after being accepted by the Kasakela troop, when an older chimpanzee whom Jane named David Greybeard began to allow her to watch him.

She first came to global attention when National Geographic published its first cover story about her research in 1963.

Two years later its film “Miss Goodall and the Wild Chimpanzees” brought her work into the international spotlight.

In 1974 she observed the start of the four-year war between the main Kasakela group and the Kahama splinter group.

In response to the threat of hunting and deforestation, the Jane Goodall Institute was founded in 1977.

She was made a Dame in 2004.

Question: Which Englishman was the first to climb the Matterhorn on this day in 1865?

Last week I asked: Which islands discovered by Capt James Cook in 1778 were annexed by the US on this day in 1898? HAWAII

LETTERS

Write to: The Editor, Sunday Express,
One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP

Email: sunday.exletters@express.co.uk

Please include your name, address and daytime telephone number

Starmer wrong to write off £270m Rwanda deal

Labour has only been in power for a matter of days and already, by cancelling plans to send migrants to Rwanda, it has wasted £270million which was spent setting it up (“PM: Rwanda plan ‘dead and buried’”, July 7).

Of course Sir Keir Starmer had previously said that if he was elected he would scrap the idea. It was due to the opposition of Labour and legal challenges that the process was not able to happen during the last parliament.

So now the plan is to find a new border security commander to lead the crackdown on the crossings, well let's watch this space. Apparently 13,600 people have arrived in small boats this year, what will that cost the country?

We are an island unable to house our own people. So, Sir Keir, where are all these people going to live?

Shirley Bere,
Torrington, Devon

Reform natural home for abandoned Tory stars

I very much doubt the Conservative Party will heed professor of politics Matthew Goodwin's sage advice following Labour's landslide victory (“Tories must learn the lessons from this ‘punishment’”, July 7).

With very few genuine Conservatives left among the party's depleted numbers, it will continue to languish in the centre ground and achieve nothing in opposition, regardless of who the next leader is.

Reform UK is now the only natural home for centre-right MPs such as Suella Braverman, and Nigel Farage is the only persuasive champion for the millions of dejected Tory and Labour voters.

Matthew Batson,
Coventry

Conservatives paid high price for Boris betrayal

What damaged the Conservative Party was “the enemy within” when the political elite who enjoyed the trappings of the EU got rid of Boris Johnson by the back door because he dared deliver Brexit.

As a consequence, they made themselves unelectable by ignoring the voters at the ballot box.

The Conservative Party was punished for its betrayal and not honouring the democratic vote. What's the point of voting if the ballot box is ignored?

Ray Leyden,
Morden, Surrey

JACOB'S WEEKLY WISDOM

'Atque in perpetuum, frater, ave atque vale!'

And so, my brother, hail and farewell evermore!

CATULLUS, 87-54 BC

Jacob Rees-Mogg says:
“It has been an absolute joy finding a weekly quotation but the time has come to stop. My good wishes to all Sunday Express readers.”



'Rules are for thee, not for me' alienated voters

Labour hasn't won on policies, it won on a campaign of “change”. The Conservatives lost as the public decided that “one rule for us (Tories) and one rule for the rest” is not tolerable.

Labour promises the world to the working people, let's see it now deliver, or will it be a case of “everything is against us so we won't be able to do what we said we would”? Labour did not convince the people of its ideas, it has very few concrete policies, its percentage of the vote did not increase as the results suggest – it's the system that is wrong.

David Hardman,
Morley, Derbyshire

It won't be long before Corbyn's back in fold

As Jeremy Corbyn has won his seat as an Independent, how long will it be before his supporters, who have kept their heads down during this farce of an election, reinstate him to the Labour Party?

As he had a larger share of the vote in 2019 than the son of a tool worker has now, what is to stop him being put in to No.10 in the same manner Boris Johnson was usurped by the so-called Tories?

John Kennedy,
Hornchurch, Essex

Unfair electoral system delivered this landslide

Analysing the statistics of the General Election reveals that Labour only got 1.6

per cent more votes than it got in 2019, when it suffered a massive defeat.

Meanwhile the Conservatives lost 19.9 per cent of its 2019 vote that had given the party an 80-seat majority.

Reform had a 12.3 per cent increase in its vote which undoubtedly contributed to the Government's downfall.

With proportional representation, the Tory and Reform votes combined would have given them 247 seats, while Labour would have only had 220.

So was it really a landslide Labour win?

Bryan Goodwin,
Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire

Ed Davey's stunts kept difficult questions away

The biggest masterstroke of the general election was not from Sir Keir Starmer, but from Lib Dem leader Sir Ed Davey.

Davey spent his entire campaign acting like a big kid on a permanent all-action escapade, not stopping to face up to personal scrutiny.

His strategy achieved two things: firstly, keeping political commentators away from his personal involvement in the Post Office scandal. Secondly, then sitting back and watching his party get around 14 times more MPs than Reform UK, despite accomplishing 2 per cent fewer votes than Nigel Farage and Co.

Jim Sokol,
Minehead, Somerset

Frankly Mr Shankly was destined for greatness

I read the article on the great Bill Shankly with much interest (“When a legend's shock exit rocked the Reds”, July 7). In the 1940s I worked at Preston Hippodrome and I showed Shankly, who then played for Preston, and his wife, to their seats on a number of occasions.

I remember then being struck by his personality and his charisma and so it was no surprise to me that he went on to become a legendary football manager, inspiring all his players to great success.

He always had something about him.

Joan Clark,
Oxford

TELEPHONE VOTE RESULT

Last week we reported Tories lambasted Rishi Sunak and his team as the blame game began over the General Election bloodbath, and we asked:

Is it right to blame Rishi Sunak for the landslide?

YES: 50% NO: 50%

JAMES BOND in LIVE AND LET DIE by Ian Fleming DRAWN BY JOHN McLUSKY

© Ian Fleming Publications Ltd 1953/The James Bond Strip © Express Newspapers Ltd 1987.



MOTORING



with COLIN GOODWIN

email express.motors@reachplc.com
 X @expressmotoring

Bikers like to think they're Marlon Brando, as in *The Wild One*, but sometimes they're more like Goldilocks, as in *The Three Bears*.

Take Triumph Tigers, for example. I rode a Tiger 955i from Chile to Alaska for my book *The Road to Gobblers Knob*, and a 1050 around Australia for my book *Oz*. My only complaint was the anodyne whine of the smooth triple engine sounded like a giant sewing machine running late for a giant sewing machine conference.

Other riders felt the same about the subsequent Tiger 800 and 1200 Explorer so in 2020, Triumph fitted the new Tiger 900 with a T-plane crank and gave it an uneven firing order for a more gnarly character.

They did the same to the Tiger 1200 in 2021, at which point riders complained it was now so vibey their fingers went numb and they couldn't see anything in the mirrors at over 50mph, plus it was too easy to stall at low speed.

So far, so Goldilocks. At this point, the Triumph boffins rolled their eyes, rolled up their sleeves, and set to designing the new Tiger 1200.

They redesigned the balancer shaft to smooth vibrations, and added 1kg to the crankshaft and flywheel to increase momentum and stop the engine stalling.

There are four models in the range – the road-focused GT Pro and GT

So hot... just right



RALLY PRO



GT EXPLORER

THE FACTS

Triumph Rally Explorer.

Price: £19,695

Engine: 1160cc liquid-cooled inline triple

Power: 148bhp @9,000 rpm

Torque: 96 lb ft @7,000 rpm

Colours: red; sand



GT PRO

Explorer, with 19in front wheels and a 20-litre or 30-litre tank respectively, and the on and off-road capable Rally Pro and Rally Explorer, with a 21in front wheel, longer travel suspension and the same two tank sizes.

I started on the Rally Explorer, and even climbing aboard makes you feel like a Master of the Universe, with that lofty riding position, wide bars, brilliant mirrors and superb 7in TFT screen.

It also has blind spot radar, in which a little light at the bottom of the

mirrors comes on if a killer granny in a Nissan Micra is sneaking up behind you.

Ride off, and within 30 seconds I was loving it, with gloriously seamless grunt even in Road Mode, and that engine a perfect marriage of smoothness and gnarliness.

Handling, always a Triumph ace card, is superb, even with that 21in front wheel and a hefty wet weight of 261kg, the plush suspension soaked up all Scotland's roads could throw at it, and braking is as smooth and brutal

as acceleration, with perfect feel and bite from the rear.

The quickshifter is a work of genius, even in first and second gear, and Road mode is so good that Sport isn't really necessary.

On the three other models – the 246kg GT Pro with its 19in front wheel, the 256kg GT Explorer and the 250kg Rally Pro – the handling is very slightly sharper and the ride firmer. But the Rally Explorer, with its plush ride, better mirrors, sporty performance and long range, is the best

Tiger yet and a better bike than the market-leading BMW R 1300 GS, which is the highest praise possible – especially since the entire ride was in torrential rain.

Goldilocks would love it, never mind Marlon.

■ *Geoff Hill is supported by Vanucci motorcycle kit, exclusively available in the UK online at Louis Moto, louis-moto.co.uk/en, which stocks 55,000 motorcycle and leisure products from more than 500 leading brands, including exclusive motorcycle kit brands like Vanucci.*

osram.co.uk

NEW



See and be seen with NIGHT BREAKER® 220

The world's first +220% bulb

Enter the next light level with NIGHT BREAKER® 220 – the brightest halogen automotive light from OSRAM! These cutting-edge headlight lamps impress with up to 220% more brightness¹ and up to 20% whiter light compared to the minimum legal standard and generate an up to 150m long beam.

Insist on OSRAM – the No. 1 in Automotive Lighting. Available at:



Light is OSRAM

OSRAM

¹ Compared to minimum ECE R112/R37 requirements

EXPRESS TRAVEL

JustGo!
Holidays



14 DAYS
FROM ONLY
£1,249
PER PERSON

Star Value
ALL INCLUSIVE

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR IN BENIDORM

Departs 22nd December 2024

If you've ever dreamed of a warmer climate during the festive season, join us on a yuletide break to Spain's east coast. With excursions and time to enjoy the all-inclusive festivities at the hotel, this is a delightful way to spend Christmas and the New Year.

YOUR BREAK INCLUDES

- Return coach travel* & ferry crossings
- First & last night on a bed & breakfast basis in France
- Additional overnight stays on outward and return journey on a half-board basis on the Costa Brava
- 9 nights at your all-inclusive chosen hotel in Benidorm (JG3 rating) (Includes Christmas lunch on Christmas Day & a gala dinner on New Year's Eve)
- Buffet breakfast, lunch & dinner
- Selected local brand alcohol, soft drinks, tea & coffee (10am-11pm)
- Entertainment some evenings
- Excursions to Valencia, Denia, Javea & Guadalest
- Services of a resort representative on selected days

Optional excursion to Alicante (£19pp)

Single supplement £350



Hotel Port Fiesta Park



Hotel Port Vista Oro

YOUR CHOICE OF HOTEL

Hotel Port Fiesta Park, Benidorm

This 338-room hotel is located just 650 metres from Poniente Beach and within walking distance of the Old Town restaurants and bars. The hotel features a restaurant, bar, lounge, gym, outdoor swimming pool and an indoor rooftop pool.

Hotel Port Vista Oro, Benidorm

Located in Benidorm's Old Town and with the beautiful Levante Beach only 350 metres away, the Hotel Port Vista Oro offers comfortable accommodation, a restaurant, bar, sun terrace, swimming pool and free Wi-Fi.

justgoholidays.com/expc

03332 342 477 Quote EXPC

*Return coach travel from an extensive network of pickup points in England & Wales. Pickup point locations vary and are subject to departure date. Please note that a small number of pickup points will incur a supplement of £15 or £30pp. Operated by Just Go Holidays Ltd. Coach package holidays and short breaks are subject to Just Go! Holidays terms and conditions. Your booking is protected by Bonded Coach Holidays (BCH) and the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT); this is a government approved consumer protection scheme. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices are correct at the time of printing and will be honoured for bookings made on or before 21.07.2024. Prices after this date are subject to fluctuation. Prices are per person, based on two people sharing a double/twin room. Single supplements apply. Calls to 033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply. Please see website or call for further details. Please note: the excursion order is subject to change.



Reader Offer in partnership with

Yimbly.com

ECO-FRIENDLY DESIGN



20%
off

Kitchen
Essential
Savings!

Scan me



Upgrade your kitchen sustainably with the Reborn Recycled Washing Up Bowl. Crafted from recycled materials in the UK, this eco-friendly bowl features a generous 9-litre capacity, perfect for all your dishwashing needs. Its durable construction ensures longevity while supporting environmentally conscious practices. The sleek, modern design not only enhances your kitchen's aesthetic but also promotes a greener lifestyle. The Reborn range blends seamlessly into any kitchen decor, offering practicality and style.

DURABLE AND STYLISH

Ideal for daily use, its ergonomic designs make washing up effortless and efficient. The Reborn Recycled

Washing Up Bowl is designed with functionality and sustainability in mind, making it a smart choice for eco-conscious consumers. By choosing Reborn, you're not only investing in high-quality kitchen essentials but also contributing to reducing environmental impact.

Join countless others in embracing eco-friendly living with Reborn — where sustainability meets sophistication. Discover how these innovative kitchen essentials can transform your daily dishwashing routine while making a positive impact on the planet. With Reborn, every wash-up becomes a statement of style and sustainability, ensuring your kitchen remains eco-friendly without compromising on quality or design.



www.yimbly.com/Offer17



0871 664 2450

Quote Offer17

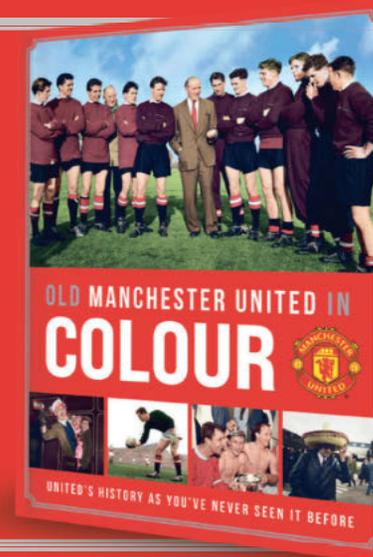
Offer subject to availability. Free Delivery over £50. Customer service 9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday - Friday. See website for full details see, yimbly.com/terms. For queries, contact support@yimbly.com

OLD MANCHESTER UNITED IN

COLOUR



UNITED'S HISTORY AS YOU'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE



Available from Amazon, reachsportshop.com and all good book shops

DAILY EXPRESS SUNDAY EXPRESS

GET YOUR PAPERS

HALF PRICE FOR SIX MONTHS*

OFFER CODE: SUM24



Delivered to your home OR vouchers to use at your newsagent

VISIT express.reachsubs.co.uk OR CALL US ON 0345 149 4848

Phone lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. Standard call charges apply



SCAN ME

*Terms and conditions: Offer open to new subscription customers only. This offer entitles you to receive both your Daily and Sunday papers at a 50% discount rate per day for 26 weeks and then a 15% discount thereafter. This offer is redeemable by direct debit (taken by a monthly payment plan). Home Delivery orders via our direct service: A daily charge will apply, delivery charges vary and the service is not available in all postcodes. Voucher orders: You will be sent individually dated pre-paid vouchers (to redeem at the retailer) within 14 days by post and use the vouchers as payment, a delivery charge will apply. Not all retailers offer home delivery, please check directly with them. Phone lines are open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, (closed on Bank Holidays), standard call charges apply. Offer valid until Sunday August 4, 2024.

EXPRESS SHOP

CORDLESS PORTABLE PRESSURE WASHER

PUT PORTABLE PRESSURE WASHING POWER IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND!

Take cordless pressure washing wherever you go: Jet Hawk draws water from any source so you can clean your car, your bike, your boots, your patio, windows, doors, fences, walls and more – all without a power source or outdoor tap!

No tap, no problem! Jet Hawk's water syphoning technology means you can use any water source. Fill a bucket, fill a washing up bowl you can even use a river for a powerful clean.

No power source, no problem! You're as free as a bird with Jet Hawk. The high capacity battery gives you a full 45 minutes of portable pressure washing.

5x more powerful than a standard garden hose: For a powerful clean.

Features a fine mesh filter: To keep your Jet Hawk – and whatever you're washing – safe from debris and detritus.

Perfect for cleaning cars, bikes and more while you're away from home: If you're on a long distance bike ride, have driven on some muddy tracks or just want to clean your wellies before putting them back in your boot you can get a deep pressure washed clean in moments without looking for a power source.

Lather up with the included Soap Dispensing Bottle: Water, air and detergent are combined into a cleansing foam that helps you shampoo bikes, cars and more!

Connects to your outdoor hose, too: If you're pressure washing at home you can choose to connect Jet Hawk to your hose for even more convenient cleaning.

Set Includes: Jet Hawk Cordless, Pressure Washer, Rechargeable Battery, Flat Spray Nozzle, Jet Spray Nozzle, 6-in-1 Multi Nozzle, Soap Dispensing Bottle, 5m Water Syphoning Hose, Hose Connector, Hose Water Filter, Metal Extender Pipe, Battery Charger & BONUS Hard Shell Carry Case



Jet Hawk £59.99 +£3.99 P&P

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to HIGH STREET TV (GROUP) LIMITED. Please write your name and address on the back of your cheque.

Or please debit my... Visa MasterCard Maestro card

Card no Iss no (if Maestro)

Valid from Exp date Security code

Mr Mrs Ms First name Initials

Surname Address

Postcode Daytime tel no

Signature Date

[highstreettv.com/ROEX3676](https://www.highstreettv.com/ROEX3676) 0871 664 3474 Quote ROEX3676

Post to DAILY EXPRESS, READER OFFER ROEX3676 PO BOX 769, HARROGATE, HG1 9QY

This offer is provided by High Street TV (Group) Limited (company number 6577510) Central House, Beckwith Knowle, Otley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UF. Offer subject to availability. For queries on refunds please contact High Street TV. Calls cost 12p per minute from a BT landline plus network extras. Calls from other networks and mobiles may cost more. Please see High Street TV's Terms and Conditions for further details (<https://www.highstreettv.com/terms-and-conditions>). Offer ends 30/08/2024. Tick the box to agree that Daily Express, and other Reach websites, may also contact you about future offers and promotions like this. Sometimes they'll include recommendations for other related newsletters or services we offer. Our privacy notice explains more about how we use your data, and your rights. You can unsubscribe at any time. []

EXPRESS TRAVEL

ELVIS PRESLEY'S MEMPHIS, NEW ORLEANS & NASHVILLE

DEPARTS SEPTEMBER 2024 TO DECEMBER 2026

Journey through America's musical heartland, from the birthplace of jazz and the cradle of rock 'n' roll to the undisputed capital of country music.

OUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Seven nights' room-only accommodation at a series of good-quality hotels in Montgomery or Birmingham (1 night), New Orleans (2), Memphis (2) and Nashville (2), plus one night on the aircraft
- Return flights to Atlanta
- Comfortable, air-conditioned coach travel and transfers throughout
- Fully escorted by a friendly, experienced tour manager

[EXC.NEWMARKETHOLIDAYS.CO.UK](https://www.exc.newmarketholidays.co.uk)
0333 344 0035 QUOTING EXC

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: *Save 15% on iconic landmark holidays offer applies to all new bookings made for 24-26 tours in our iconic landmark category between 8 July 2024 and 23 July 2024. Save 15% discount applies to specific holidays and tours only. 15% off must be redeemed through the use of the promo code ICONIC15. Prices correct at time of going to press. This offer does not apply to child prices/child pricing. This offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time. Newmarket Holidays reserves the right to cancel, change or amend any tour. These holidays are organised and operated by Newmarket Holidays Ltd. ABTOT 5509. ATOL protected 2325. ABTA V7812.



LIMITED TIME OFFER | USE CODE ICONIC15

ON SALE NOW



AVAILABLE IN SHOPS, AND AT
ok.co.uk/thebeckhams

Online purchase price excludes P&P. See website for details.



SCAN ME

**NOW AVAILABLE
 IN PAPERBACK**

**'I hope you enjoy
 reading this as much
 as we did living it'**

JÜRGEN KLOPP

The Sunday Times bestseller from inside Liverpool Football Club

Available from reachsportshop.com and all good book shops



EXPRESS OFFERS



FREE 2 YEAR WARRANTY
 (WORTH £42.90)

2 SIZES
 AVAILABLE

VIDEO
 AVAILABLE
 ONLINE

CREATE AN INSTANT COOL BREEZE WITH THE NATURAL POWER OF WATER. JUST FILL AND CHILL!

2-in-1 fan and air cooler: It's a 3-speed Tower Fan and it's a Smart Air Cooler using evaporative hydro cooling technology that actively chills the air while it passes through a special water curtain. Just add water!

Large, easy-refill 5L water tank: The large capacity water tank can last up to 10 hours and is so easy to remove and refill. Add one of the ice packs for an even cooler air flow.

Enjoy the benefits of air conditioning: without the messy exhaust pipes or vents.

60° oscillation to cool any room: Whether you want cool, fresh air circulated around your whole room or need a cool breeze directly at you on a hot summer's day, you'll have refreshing air exactly where you want it.

Cool air, don't just move it around: Most other fans just push air around the room. Fast Chill actively chills the air as it passes through a natural water curtain to keep you nice and cool.

Dual function auto-shut off and delay timer: Choose when you want Fast Chill to start or when you want it to end, and in up to seven hours it'll start up or shut off.

Not just for summer: Keep your home gym cool while you work up a sweat, keep your workshop cool while you're hard at work or you could just use Fast Chill as a normal fan.

Three fan speeds: Whether you want a gentle breeze or a faster, stronger airflow there's a perfect setting for you.

Easy to remove water curtain: In seconds you can take the water curtain out for a quick clean so you've always got a breath of fresh air.

Three wind modes: puts you in complete control.

- **Day mode** is a faster, more powerful air flow designed to keep you cool when it's warm.

- **Calm Sleep mode** alternates between a medium and low air flow for a natural, relaxing breeze.

- **Baby mode** is a low, slow, and quiet speed to keep a room cool without disturbing you.

Easy to use touch panel controls: Adjust any of the settings in seconds with no fiddly dials or buttons, simply touch the touch pad.

Water Window: You always know exactly how much water is in the easy-refill tank thanks to the handy water window on the front of Fast Chill.

Adjustable directional air flow: Toggle the air flow from high or low and aim it exactly where you want to keep cool.

BONUS Remote control: Adjust your Fast Chill without getting up!

Includes 2 BONUS ice packs, for an extra cool breeze: You'll always be cool, even in the height of summer. While you're using one the other can be in the freezer, ready to go!

Unit Dimensions 5L 29.5cm x 23cm x 85cm. Unit Dimensions 7L 33cm x 34cm x 105cm. **Run Time:** 6 hours.

Also available: The 7L SmartAir Fast Chill Tower XL is larger, more powerful and thanks to a longer run time, you can enjoy even more of a refreshingly cool breeze. (£149.99)

SmartAir Fast Chill Tower 5L	£99.99 FREE P&P	QTY
SmartAir Fast Chill Tower 7L	£129.99 FREE P&P	QTY

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to HIGH STREET TV (GROUP) LIMITED. Please write your name and address on the back of your cheque.

Or please debit my... Visa MasterCard Maestro card

Card no Iss no (if Maestro)

Valid from Exp date Security code

Mr Mrs Ms First name Initials

Surname Address

Postcode Daytime tel no

Signature Date

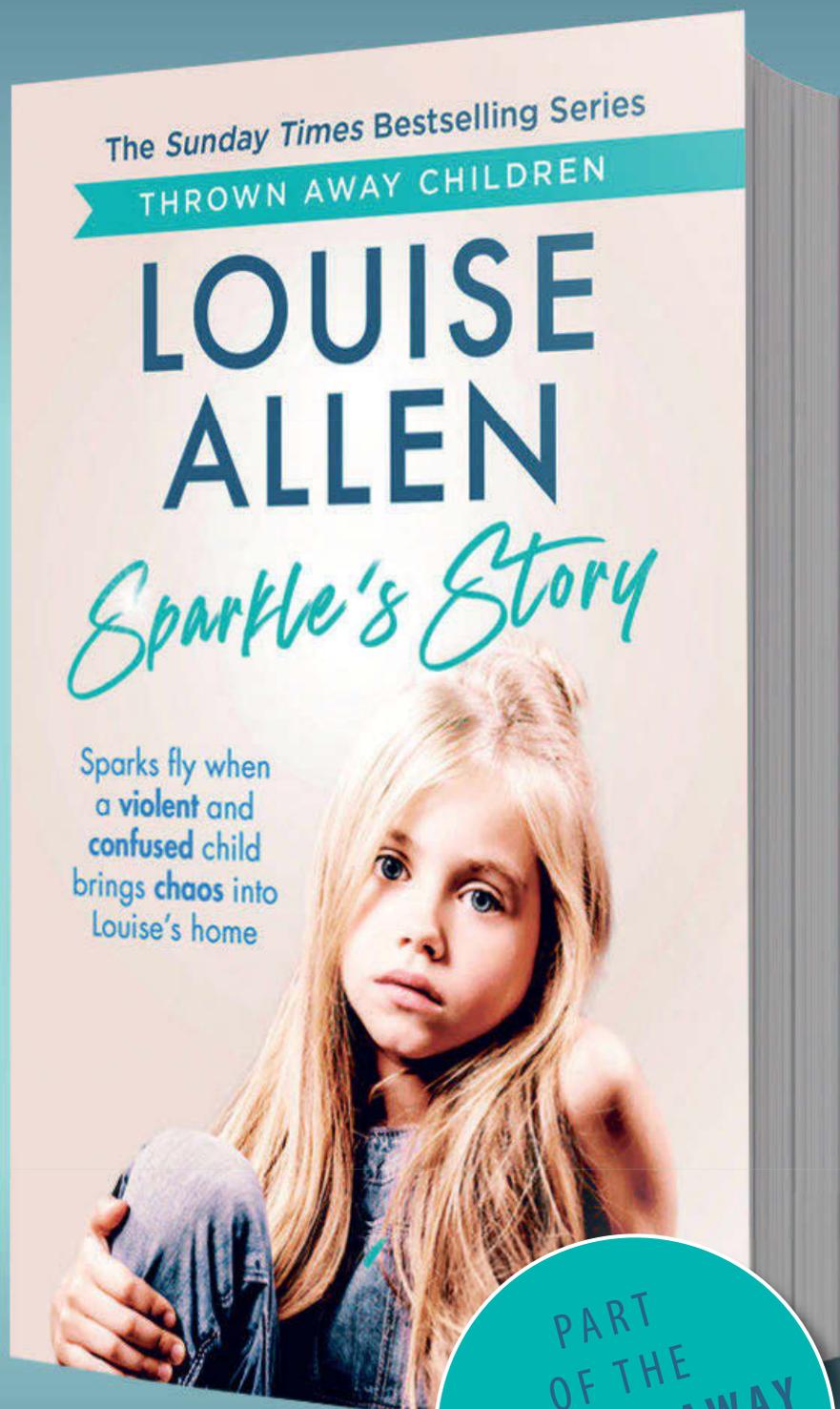
highstreettv.com/ROEX3687 0871 664 3474 Quote ROEX3687

Post to POST TO DAILY EXPRESS, READER OFFER ROEX3687 PO BOX 769, HARROGATE, HG1 9QY

This offer is provided by High Street TV (Group) Limited (company number 6577510) Central House, Beckwith Knowle, Otley Road, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1UF. Offer subject to availability. For queries on refunds please contact High Street TV. Calls cost 12p per minute from a BT landline plus network extras. Calls from other networks and mobiles may cost more. Please see High Street TV's Terms and Conditions for further details (<https://www.highstreettv.com/terms-and-conditions>). Offer ends 30/08/2024. Tick the box to agree that Daily Express, and other Reach websites, may also contact you about future offers and promotions like this. Sometimes they'll include recommendations for other related newsletters or services we offer. Our privacy notice explains more about how we use your data, and your rights. You can unsubscribe at any time. []

A BRAND NEW BOOK FROM THE SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

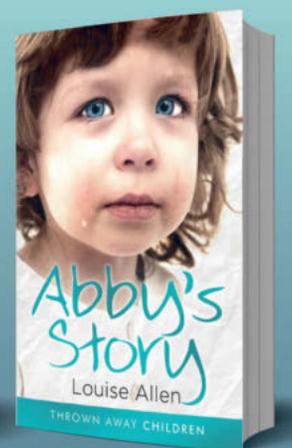
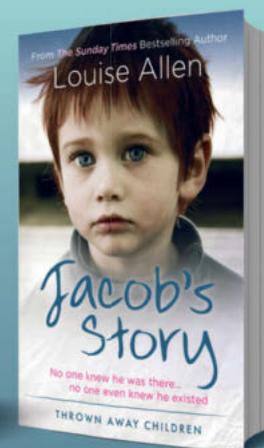
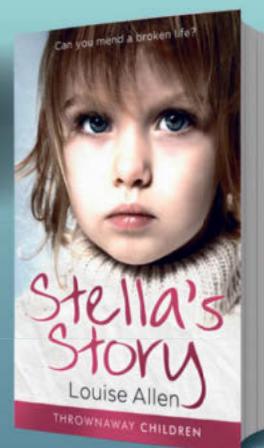
LOUISE ALLEN



Sparkle begins to question her gender identity.

A revolution is under way in the Allen household...

PART OF THE
THROWN AWAY
CHILDREN
SERIES



Available from Amazon, selected supermarkets and all good bookshops. Also available in ebook



Maguire on mission

HARRY MAGUIRE is going nowhere this summer – as he fights for his Manchester United career.

The England international, 31, who missed out on the Euros through injury, has returned for pre-season at Old Trafford ready for action.

Maguire (right), with one year left on his current deal, looks certain to start against Norwegian club Rosenborg tomorrow in United's opening friendly.

The £80million

By Harry Pratt

former Leicester man is determined to force his way back into Red Devils boss Erik ten Tag's thinking for the new season.

That is a far cry from this time last year when the central defender, stripped of the captaincy, looked to be on his way.

However, Ten Hag was impressed by Maguire's form last season and is happy to keep him rather than let him leave on the cheap.



Erik wants Simons

ERIK TEN HAG is considering whether to continue his 'Oranje Revolution' at Manchester United with a loan move for Holland midfielder Xavi Simons.

Ten Hag has already lined up deals worth a combined £76million for Joshua Zirkzee and

By Simon Mullock

Matthijs de Ligt, with Bologna and Bayern Munich respectively.

And the United boss has now praised Paris Saint-Germain's Simons. He said: "The passion with which he conquers balls and situations are top."

THE FINAL: SPAIN v ENGLAND TODAY, 8PM

SUPER SUBS TO SCUPPER SPANIARDS

Shearer loves bench options

T R S
 I T'S
 P O H A
 P N A W
 I E S
 R

P I K O M I N G
 C O M E
 K O N S A
 F O R D
 G O M E Z
 G U É H I
 K A N E
 G O R D O N
 H E N D E R S O N
 B O W E N
 R A M S D A L E
 W A L K E R
 B E L L I T'S
 N R E A K A
 G H N A
 H A M
 R I C E
 F O D E N
 P A L M I N G
 W A T K I N S
 D U N K
 G A L L A G H E R
 W H A R T O N
 T H O M A S
 A I N O O
 E Z E

2024



FOOTBALL SPORT

THREE LIONS LEGEND IS BACKING WATKINS AND CO

Alex
WOOD
REPORTS

ALAN SHEARER has urged England's new golden generation to take the bull by the horns tonight.

Gareth Southgate's men are looking to end 58 years of hurt – but they face a huge test against a dynamic Spain side in the Euro 2024 showpiece final in Berlin.

Last time round England fell at the final hurdle on home soil at Euro 2020 after losing on penalties to Italy.

And the Three Lions were dumped out of the 2022 World Cup at the quarter-final stage, losing to France in Qatar.

Southgate's talented squad have grown into this tournament, though, and were much improved against Holland on Wednesday.

Aston Villa ace Ollie Watkins, who was introduced late on, was the game changer with a cool last-minute winner.

Former England captain Shearer reckons there's more than enough quality off the bench to derail Spain – but someone will have to step up to the mark again.

"We've got several options and Watkins is obviously one of them," said Betfair ambassador Shearer.

"Ivan Toney has come on and done the job asked by the manager. Cole Palmer is without doubt also one.

"England have options in almost every position and my guess is that someone along the line will have to come on at some point to do something, whether that be to protect the game if England are winning or whether we have to chase the game and do something in front of goal.

"It's a great strength of ours now because we have great talent on the pitch and off it.

"Players can come on and do the business for the country. That's the thing with having a good squad."

Bayern Munich talisman Harry Kane looks set to lead the line for England once again.

And although the 30-year-old has three goals to his name during this tournament, he hasn't shone.

The former Tottenham ace has



KANE AND ABLE: Shearer (left) says England's captain will fire

faced criticism for dropping too deep.

But Shearer

believes the skipper has played his part all over the pitch.

"I think everyone appreciates what he does for the team," added the Newcastle legend, who scored 30 goals in 63 games for England.

"If you watch the games, you'll appreciate and realise that



IMPACT: Semi-final hero Ollie Watkins and fellow striker Ivan Toney (below) could be key to success



FINAL FOCUS



Visit Express Sport online for a Euro final live blog

okay, he hasn't been as sharp but he's played his part in getting England to where they are.

"He's England's record goalscorer, he's the captain, he doesn't have any point to prove.

"There's enough pressure on the players as it is and I don't think there's extra on Kane."

● For the final, Betfair have superboosted Marc Cucurella to commit one or more fouls to evens.

Crouch hails squad goals as crucial to final chances

ENGLAND'S stars are all in it together, says former Three Lions striker Peter Crouch.

Gareth Southgate has avoided unnecessarily rotating his squad at Euro 2024 – but his substitutes have made an impact.

Ollie Watkins and Cole Palmer combined after coming off the bench against Holland for the Aston Villa man to slot home a decisive

By Alex Wood

winner. However, despite his historic strike, the former Exeter and Brentford star isn't expected to start against Spain in Berlin.

But Crouch (right), who was capped 42 times for England, insists the whole squad is pulling in the right direction.

He said: "Watkins got the

goal but I can't see Southgate changing the team much for the final.

"Luke Shaw, potentially, could come in at left-back for Kieran Trippier, who has done a good job.

"I've been in the position before where you go into a tournament being on the bench but you just don't know what's going

to happen with injuries, suspensions and the like. You can be the man to turn it all around – that's the way you have to look at it."

He added: "I've felt it myself, warming up and you say to someone, 'We can get on and make an impact here'.

"I've come on for 10 minutes in games and scored the winner. It's good to see everyone's buying into it."



FOOTBALL NEWS

Toon keen to Gnab Bayern star Serge

By Clive Hetherington

NEWCASTLE are weighing up a £40million move for Bayern Munich winger Serge Gnabry.

The former Arsenal reject – 29 today – faces an uncertain future after new Bayern boss Vincent Kompany beat off Manchester United and several others to land Michael Olise, 22, from Crystal Palace in a £50m

deal. Recruiting a right winger is one of Newcastle boss Eddie Howe's priorities this summer and Toon believe Gnabry (left) is now available to buy. A recurrence of a hamstring injury in May ruled Germany's Gnabry out of Euro 2024 and he is currently working his way back to fitness.



Villa swoop to net Everton ace Onana

By Neil Moxley

ASTON VILLA have completed a £50million capture of Amadou Onana from Everton.

The Belgian midfielder (below) comes in as a replacement for Douglas Luiz who left the club for Juventus.

Onana, 22, has spent two seasons at Goodison after signing from Lille in a deal worth £33m with add-ons.

The capture is a major statement of intent from Villa manager Unai Emery, who is aiming to build a squad that can compete on both domestic and European fronts.

Villa owners Nassef Sawiris and Wes Edens managed to skirt around any Financial Fair Play issues before June 30.



Saints marching on Oxlade-Chamberlain

By Ryan Taylor

ALEX OXLADE-CHAMBERLAIN has been told he can leave Besiktas this summer.

The former Liverpool midfielder (below) moved to Istanbul on a free last year and won the Turkish Cup in his first season.

But he has been left out of the club's pre-season training camp and the player's agents are exploring the prospect

of a return to English football, even though his contract still has two years left to run.

Sources suggest former employers Southampton are interested.

The player has been apart from his fiancée, Little Mix star Perrie Edwards, and son Axel during his time with the Turkish giants.



Craig's warning Bell for young coaches

By Graham Thomas

CRAIG BELLAMY swears he's a reformed character – but the new Wales boss has urged young coaches to mind their manners.

The former Burnley assistant manager has been appointed successor to Rob Page.

But his road to international management has not been without bumps – most notably a spell at Cardiff City Under-18s,

when he left following investigations into allegations of bullying.

No one was named but Bellamy (below) said: "The message for every young coach who goes into youth coaching is, 'Please, be mindful.

'Please'. Really do your homework and the levels you're going into and what you allow."



SPORT FOOTBALL



EURO



MEMORABLE: Ashes heroes

Rice desperate to emulate nation's sporting legends

DECLAN RICE has revealed how boss Gareth Southgate has shown his England team footage of the country's great sporting heroes in a bid to inspire them to Euro 2024 glory.

The Three Lions squad will have an open-top bus parade through London on Tuesday if they beat Spain in Berlin tonight and Southgate has given them a video of how they can lift the country.

"Gareth put up special moments, like when England won the Ashes and when England won the Rugby World Cup," said Rice (below).

"He wanted us to get that feeling of how we could impact the nation."

"Without question, this is a massive moment for our nation – it is a moment in history, it's a chance to create history."

Remarkably, Rice will be playing his SIXTY-SIXTH game of the season for club and country and, in the early stages of the tournament, some



By Andy Dunn

observers wondered whether he was feeling the effects of such a gruelling year.

But the Arsenal midfielder, 25, insists that he is now firing on all cylinders.

He said: "In the first couple of games, I probably felt more tired than I do now."

"But as the adrenaline kicks in, there's that extra bit of energy, that extra bit of fire."

And while Harry Kane has not reached top form, Rice would not swap his skipper for anyone.

He added: "He has got every quality under the sun."

"The way he leads as England captain is amazing. He deserves to win that trophy as

England captain – he deserves to have his name in history."

If Rice ends up celebrating tonight, he has promised to sing to the country.

He said: "I'd give a rendition of 'Rice, Rice, Baby' to the nation. Hopefully I can do that."

THE FINAL: SPAIN v ENGLAND TODAY, 8PM

CHERISH THIS

Past is history – now Gareth



LEADER: Boss Gareth Southgate can't hide his delight as England beat Holland in the semi-finals

Simon MULLOCK
REPORTS FROM BERLIN

GARETH SOUTHGATE only has eyes on the prize – not redemption for the moment that has haunted him for the last 28 years.

The irony isn't lost on the England manager that he has the chance to make history on German soil given it was his penalty miss in a Euro semi-final shootout at Wembley that allowed the old enemy to shatter dreams of a home triumph in 1996.

But Southgate doesn't see the point in looking back when he has the chance to become the first Three Lions manager to win a major trophy on foreign soil.

Spain stand between England and a place alongside Sir Alf Ramsey's World Cup-winning boys of 1966 – and the 53-year-old insists that prospect means so much more than settling personal scores.

"Look, I kind of get it," said Southgate. "But there are so many other things that this game is more important for than that."

"I agree that sounds like a lovely story but I haven't been at home thinking for 18 months 'yeah, Berlin... that's redemption'."

"But to be able to lead this group, for what they've given and how they have handled



WWW.BETMGM.CO.UK

18+, begambleaware.org. Max £5 stake. Selected customers only. Promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers



taketimetothink.co.uk

|| TAKE TIME TO THINK

2024



FOOTBALL SPORT

THREE LIONS BOSS HAS NO TIME FOR LOOKING BACK

ACHIEVEMENT

wants to write a new chapter



MOMENT TO FORGET: Southgate's penalty against Germany in 1996 is saved

this, is brilliant. There has been such an incredible commitment from these players.

"They've all done brilliantly and to see the way they celebrated in the dressing room together after the semi-final on Wednesday – that hit us all as a group when you saw how deep it has become.

"Part of it is the adversity they've been through in the last few weeks. You can't replicate that and coming through that is more powerful for bringing people together than anything."

The pride of the Three Lions has

been hurt by criticism levelled against them for the standard of their performances.

But Southgate believes an unbreakable spirit has been forged in the toughest moments.

Southgate's team have shown the character to beat Slovakia, Switzerland and Holland in the knockout stages despite going behind in all three games.

There has been Jude Bellingham's sensational overhead kick equaliser, Jordan Pickford's shootout save and a brilliant late finish against the Dutch from Ollie Watkins (right).

Southgate knows his team will have to dig deep again against Spain, who have been outstanding from their first game.

He said: "The players have been through such a lot already.

"I love the way we have kept our composure when we've been behind.

"There is a belief in how we are playing and a belief in what we are doing and there is an understanding of what is needed to work back into those sorts of games."



Southgate in no rush to decide his future plans

GARETH SOUTHGATE has revealed he hasn't made a decision about his future – after midfielder Declan Rice urged the England manager to take the Three Lions to the next World Cup.

Southgate, who is out of contract at the end of the year, says he will reveal his plans after the Euro 2024 Final against Spain.

He admitted he would have been sacked if England had gone out of the tournament in the group stages.

But the pressure is now on the FA to convince him to stay after Arsenal star Rice confirmed that the whole squad wants him to have another crack at conquering the world in Canada, Mexico and the United States in 2026.

Southgate said: "The way my emotions have gone over the last five weeks, it would be ridiculous for me to think about anything beyond this game.

"We've got time to make decisions – and I won't need weeks – but also I think I've earned the right to give myself a few days just to think things through. I know where

By Simon Mullock

it would have been if we went out in the group stage, that's for sure.

"I don't think that would necessarily have been my choice."

But Rice has left the manager and FA bosses in no doubt about where the players' loyalties lie.

The midfielder said: "This journey he has been on has been so special.

"And hopefully we can do something special for Gareth.

"The lads would love him to stay on until 2026."

Southgate has seen youngsters like Kobbie Mainoo and Marc Guehi (above) come of age in Germany. And with the likes of Jude Bellingham, Phil Foden and Bukayo Saka still years away from their peak, the future is bright.

But Southgate said: "There are lots of players who are going to be there for a long time.

"But that doesn't mean that it is just going to happen.

"Other countries progress. Not all of ours might progress.

"This is why you have to take these moments when they come."

ENGLAND

WEAR WHITE



NOW

EVENTS

SUNDAY sundayexpress.co.uk/sport
Express
SPORT



EURO 2024 FINAL SPAIN V ENGLAND



Today, 8pm, Olympiastadion, Berlin

BRINGING FOOTBALL HOME!

Harry and Gareth believe

HARRY KANE believes it's time to make England great again.

Kane is still haunted by the devastation of defeat to Italy in the last Euro final – but has promised that England are now ready to deliver on Gareth Southgate's dream of putting pride back into the Three Lions.

England meet Spain in the Olympiastadion – and skipper Kane said: "Over the years we've done fantastically well in a lot of tournaments – but now it's time to get over the line."

"A lot of us were heartbroken three years ago and it's been a long journey back."

"It would mean everything. It

From **Simon Mullock** in Berlin

would be the most incredible feeling a professional footballer could get – and to give the fans a moment in history and something to celebrate would be very special."

Southgate (below) revealed his message to his players has been that dreams can come true, with the Three Lions looking to lift their first trophy since the 1966 World Cup.

He said: "I'm not a believer in fairy tales – but I am a believer in dreams. We have to make it happen."

EURO FINAL SPECIAL: SEE PAGES 68, 69, 70 & 71, SPORT PULLOUT PAGES 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6, PLUS YOUR SUPER EIGHT-PAGE EURO 2024 FINAL PULLOUT



CAPTAIN, LEADER, LEGEND?
Harry Kane



2 PULLOUTS INSIDE TODAY



Kova the moon
WIMBLEDON: SEE SPORT PULLOUT P8-9

BETMGM

ENGLAND TO WEAR WHITE

NOW EVENS

WWW.BETMGM.CO.UK

18+, begambleaware.org. Max £5 stake. Selected customers only. Promotion cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers

SE1ST 140724
9 770039 519873
28
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNRS+TUVW1234WBD

Published by Reach plc, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP. Registered in England & Wales No. 02548. Printed by Reach Printing Services, St Albans Rd, Watford, Hertfordshire WD24 7RG, Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 8EP, Interpress, 140 Duncruce Street, Belfast BT3 9AQ, KP Services (Jersey) Limited, La Rue des Pres Trading Estate, La Rue Martel, St Saviour, Jersey JE2 7DR, Miller Newsprint Ltd, Miller House, Triq L-Esportaturi, Zone 2, Mriehel, Birkirkara CBD 2040, Malta, Milkro Digital Cyprus, Nissou Industrial Area, Old Nicosia, Limassol Road, 2571 Nissou, Cyprus, Milkro Hellas Publisher Services Ltd, 2nd Kilometer Peanias Markopoulou Ave., Position Nisiza, 19441 Koropi, Greece.

SUNDAY EXPRESS

Sport

FULL STORY
SEE PAGES
2-3

LET'S MAKE SHAW THIS TIME!

Luke's final rallying call for Southgate's Lions

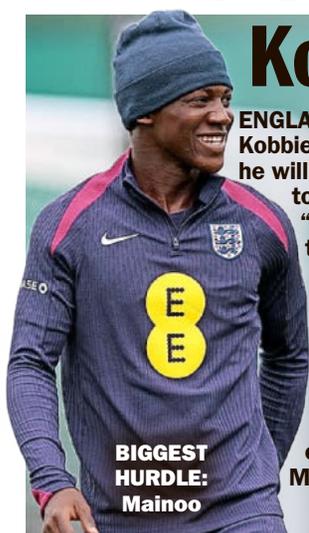


GLORY BOYS:
Luke Shaw and Bukayo Saka celebrate after the win over Holland to reach the final

2 FOOTBALL



EURO



Kobbie keeps eyes on prize

ENGLAND midfielder Kobbie Mainoo admitted he will not be happy to reflect on his "crazy" first tournament until "the job" is done.

Mainoo, 19, only made his international debut in March after a breakthrough campaign at Manchester United. Following two

substitute appearances in the group stage, he has started the last three matches in Germany.

This time last year, Mainoo was playing in United's pre-season friendly against Leeds in Norway, but today he will do battle with Spain in the Euro 2024 Final.

"We've come so far but this is the biggest hurdle yet," he told Lions' Den. "It's been good to play my part when called

upon. To represent my country and to be in the final of the Euros is crazy.

"But I can't look back on it too fondly until the job is finished and we have lifted the trophy."

Phil Foden also insisted England must remain calm in Berlin.

He said: "It's important not to let the emotions get the better of you. "You have to stay relaxed and really focus on the details."

Didn't see us getting this far?

Should've



THE FINAL: SPAIN v ENGLAND



TIME TO Shaw has learned



DANGER MAN: Nico Williams poses a big threat to England



SO NEAR AND YET... Luke Shaw scored first in the last Euro final

Simon MULLOCK
REPORTS FROM BERLIN

LUKE SHAW says he has never been in more pain than when England lost the final of the last Euros – which for a player who almost lost a leg playing for Manchester United in 2015 says everything you need to know.

Shaw joined Sir Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters in a select band of England internationals who have scored for their country in a major final when he fired Gareth Southgate's team into an early lead against Italy three years ago.

It was all in vain. The Three Lions lost on penalties – and Shaw now admits his moment of glory means nothing to him as he contemplates having another shot at making history when England go again against Spain here tonight.

"I definitely wasn't thinking that it could be the winner when I scored, but at that moment it was a very special feeling," said the left-back, who turned 29 on Friday.

"It's quite bitter-sweet considering what happened with the result. The goal didn't really matter, if I'm honest.

"After that game, it was the most hurt I've ever been. It was very hard to take, even more so given the fact I'd scored.

"But I think we learned a lot from that night and things have been really calm in the last couple of days. I think everyone is ready to go now.

"This feels a little bit different. The experience of going through this before has definitely helped. I think everyone feels a lot more calm now.

"We know about the game we're going into, the occasion – we've been here before.

"It would mean everything to win. I think the bond we have here is extremely special. It's not one I've been a part of before.

"I think everyone is so together, everyone is really close and it feels like a big family.

"For all of us to win it together would be a very special feeling."

Shaw has waged a constant battle to stay fit in the nine years since suffering a horrendous double fracture of his leg playing in the Champions League.

He missed the last four months of the season with persistent hamstring problems but Southgate

2024



FOOTBALL 3



TODAY, 8PM INJURY-PLAGUED LUKE SHAW AND RARING TO GO

END OUR PAIN

lessons from most hurtful night



READY FOR BATTLE: Shaw and his England team-mates prepare for showdown in Berlin

felt Shaw's inclusion in the England squad was worth the risk – and he has featured as a substitute in the last two games.

Asked about the possibility of playing 120 minutes against teenage sensation Lamine Yamal, he said: "It's a case of taking it as it comes. I said before the semi-final that I was ready to go – and we will just have to wait and see what happens with that."

The Spaniards have the outstanding Nico Williams on the

opposite flank and it promises to be a tough evening against a nation who have won their last 26 finals at World Cup, European Championship, Champions League and Europa League levels.

Shaw (right, after the last Euro final) said: "Maybe Spanish teams are built on belief, knowing they have won a lot of trophies over the past years.

"Spain are always an extremely good side, very well drilled. You know what you get from them –

they are extremely good in possession.

"They have quality players all around the pitch so they are always a tough team to play against.

"We know it will be extremely tough but we have to leave absolutely everything on the pitch. That is all we can do. We know it is going to



be tough but for us it is a final and a chance to make history. We have to give it everything we have got.

"I think Spain's wingers have been unbelievable at this tournament, massive credit to them.

"But I don't think we can focus too much on them – I think we have to focus on the whole team. We understand their threats."



EZE DOES IT: Eberechi Eze

EZE CAN BE NEXT HERO OF SUB CLUB

By Ian Baker

EBERECHI EZE has been backed to be England's latest supersub at Euro 24 – by one of the men who knows him best.

Cole Palmer, Ollie Watkins and Ivan Toney have all starred off the bench for the Three Lions.

Crystal Palace ace Eze, 26, has been given his chance too and showed glimpses of his class against Slovakia and Switzerland.

And one of his first bosses, Gareth Ainsworth, reckons he is the man to deliver on the biggest stage in Berlin tonight.

He said: "In the final, he could play that part as a sub if we need that bit of magic.

"Toney's done his bit, Watkins has done his bit and Palmer's done his bit.

"There may still be a role for Eze to have his starring moment. In the final that would be super to see."

Ainsworth gave Eze his league debut by taking the then QPR attacking midfielder to Wycombe on loan in 2017.

And he could not believe what he saw.

Ainsworth said: "Within 10 minutes of watching him for QPR Under-23s I said, 'We need to get this boy'.

"We used to do a bit of keep-ball in training to get them moving. He would send people the wrong way.

"As a professional footballer, you think you have a good touch until you see Eberechi play.

"He sees things quicker than everyone."

Could Eze end up taking a tournament-winning spot-kick?

Ainsworth said: "He's not fazed. You don't want to put any extra pressure on but I would back Ebs."

The out-of-work boss has experienced England glory himself – he was part of the 2014 World Cup-winning Seniors team.

But he added: "That is a million miles away from where the boys are now!"

4 FOOTBALL



EURO

Exclusive by Richard Edwards

A WING and a prayer – that was all England could cling on to as the clock ticked down on their Euro 2024 fate against Slovakia in the round of 16.

Now, two weeks on, Darren Anderton believes the introduction of wing-backs has transformed this side – and could see them bring it home against Spain in Berlin this evening.

Whoever Gareth Southgate opts to play in those key positions, their main job will be to shackle Spain's dangerous wide men and put the Three Lions on the front foot.

"Playing as a wing-back is tough," said Anderton (right).

"Myself and Steve McManaman played there for England under Terry Venables



MAGIC: Saka shone against Swiss at wing-back

Anderton's backing wing kings to win it

(in Euro 96) and for an attacking footballer it's something you really have to work hard at.

"We've seen Bukayo Saka play in that position and you've got to say that against Switzerland he was our best player by a million miles.

"He looked like he was the only one who

was capable of doing something that would create or score a goal.

"He was magic. Honestly, playing as a wing-back isn't a lot of fun.

"If you are a winger like Saka or myself or McManaman, whoever it is, I wanted a full-back behind

me, I wanted that protection. When you don't have that, you find yourself in an area of the pitch where you feel uncomfortable defensively.

"But if your team is built on a certain way of playing and you're being used for your strengths, which is going forward, then it's perfect.

"It's about getting possession and dominating the game so you get the best out of your wing-backs."

Has Saka got one more big game in him? Will the final be decided by penalties like it was against Switzerland?

No-one knows but one thing is certain – England have got most things spot-on since Jude Bellingham's last-ditch salvation act against Slovakia.



BETFRED

COME ON ENGLAND

FREE £5 BET

if you bet £10 on the Final in our shops



|| TAKE TIME TO THINK™

taketimetothink.co.uk

BeGambleAware.org 18+

THE FINAL: SPAIN v ENGLAND

MASTER But starboy Yamal

Ryan TAYLOR

REPORTS FROM BERLIN

LAMINE YAMAL is unfazed by comparisons with Lionel Messi because in his view he will never be as good as his idol.

Spanish newspaper SPORT recently published images of eight-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi holding Yamal as a baby.

But Spain and Barcelona's 17-year-old attacking sensation was always keen to keep those childhood snaps under wraps.

Yamal said: "I saw the photo for the first time because my father showed it to me but we wanted to avoid comparisons and we did not spread it."

"Comparisons with the best player in history do not bother anyone. They will always remain but ultimately you will never be like him. I have never spoken to Messi but I hope I can."

The scintillating teenager, who is out to stop England ending 58 years of hurt, put his name in lights by scoring a 25-yard stunner in the semi-final against France.

Yamal also has three assists to his name and has taunted full-backs in Germany with his body feints, fast feet, slick dribbling and electric speed.

But for all his brilliance, he refuses to watch video footage of his markers – even if Kieran Trippier and Luke Shaw will be doing their homework on Yamal.

He explained: "If I look at things, it will be their highlights. I prefer to go thinking that I can do what I want, go with more confidence and catch them off guard."

Yamal has little interest in pre-match mind games. France

midfielder Adrien Rabiot took a swipe at the winger and the Juventus man was made to look foolish by Yamal's remarkable long-range equaliser.

"There is no need to tease anyone from England," said the speedster. "After the match against France, I went to bed to rest. I've been answering messages little by little but I was able to sleep very well. I was tired."

"My Instagram was flooded but I don't think it's pressure. People are happy, they support me and I try to enjoy it."

Blending Yamal's raw talent with the experience and winning pedigree of Dani Carvajal and Rodri could prove a perfect cocktail for boss Luis de la Fuente.

Real Madrid right-back Carvajal is yet to taste international glory and is on a mission to protect Yamal.

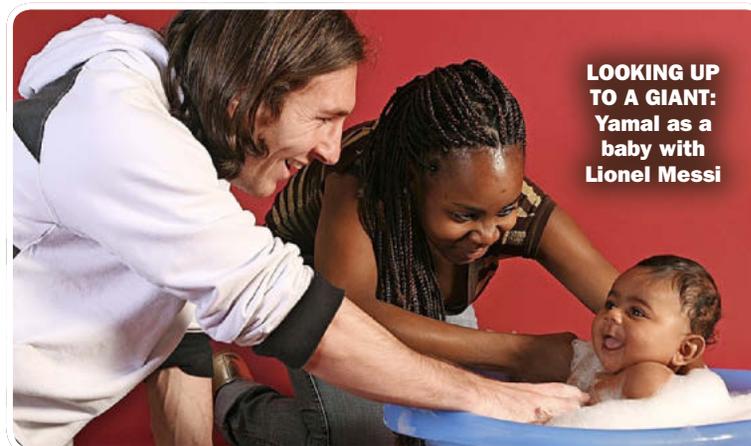
Carvajal said: "I think he's not aware of what he's doing right now. He's focused on playing the games and he does it as if he were playing with his friends. That self-confidence is contributing a lot."

"We have to look after him. It's not easy to manage at this age all the impact he's having."

"There have been many cases in football of young players who at 20 years old didn't give anything more."

"We also have to have a certain patience with Lamine Yamal and look after him so that he marks an era."

ENGLAND could be heading to play Argentina in Buenos Aires for the first time since the Falklands War. If the Three Lions beat Spain in today's Euro final and the Argentines overcome Colombia in the final of the Copa America, they will be scheduled to meet each other in the CONMEBOL-UEFA Cup of Champions next summer, with the game heading for the Argentine capital.



LOOKING UP TO A GIANT: Yamal as a baby with Lionel Messi

Place a bet of £10 or more on the EURO 2024 Final to receive a £5 free bet. Qualifying bets must be placed on single match coupons. £10 or more must be a single bet placed in one transaction at odds of 1/2 or greater. Free bets non-refundable, have no cash alternative and must be used over-the-counter on sports within 7 days (dates will be stated on the receipt). Bets placed using free bets won't count. One free bet per customer, per match. Doesn't apply on the Sports Betting Terminal. Betfred rules apply.

2024



FOOTBALL 5



TODAY, 8PM TEEN SENSATION READY FOR FINAL TEST

& APPRENTICE

vows: I'm no new Messi



DESTINED FOR GREATNESS: But Yamal has played down comparisons with Messi (far left)



ORDER THE OFFICIAL EURO 2024 SPAIN v ENGLAND FINAL PROGRAMME FROM reachsportshop.com



SCAN ME



TYKE THAT: Stones rose to the top from Barnsley

Clark's rock-solid Stones friendship

JORDAN CLARK would love nothing more than for his great mate John Stones to win Euro 2024 with England tonight.

The pair have known each other since they were kids coming through the Barnsley Academy.

They have remained close friends since departing Oakwell and pitting their talents against each other in the Premier League last term.

Clark won promotion to the top flight with Luton two seasons ago, while Stones has established himself as one of the best centre-backs in world football.

"I've known John since he was seven or eight. He's one of my best friends," said Clark. "I'm so proud of him and what he's achieved. I speak to him a lot."

"He's come such a long way since we were at Barnsley together. But he's not changed at all despite all his success."

"John's still a really humble, great lad – and he's still as daft as ever!"

"It would be amazing if John and England could win the Euros. I'd just be so happy for him."

"I don't really watch England to be honest. He is probably the only reason I watch them, really."

"I like to see how he gets on."

Midfielder Clark's career was at a crossroads after leaving the Tykes back in 2014.

But Clark (right), 30, proved "hard work" brings big rewards and, having played in all three tiers of the EFL and the National

EXCLUSIVE by Neil Goulding

League, his crowning glory was winning promotion to the Premier League with the Hatters.

He enjoyed his maiden season in the Premier League, testing himself against top stars including the likes of Kevin De Bruyne, Martin Odegaard and Bruno Fernandes.

Clark said: "Me and John have both found our way to the Premier League. What he has achieved with Manchester City is really amazing."

"But you could see when he was in the Academy he was very special. He's just got so much quality on the ball and going forward."

"He used to play at right-back. I remember his first game. "He got booked and should have probably been sent-off."

"But boss Keith Hill kept faith with him and he just got better and better. "He's obviously been really successful at City but if he can win the Euros with England, that would definitely be the biggest achievement of his career."



6 FOOTBALL

EURO 2024

THE FINAL: SPAIN v ENGLAND TODAY, 8PM EAGLE HAS LANDED

GUEHI'S MADE HIS MARC AT THE TOP

STEPPING UP: Marc Guehi in action at the Euros



Alex WOOD
EXCLUSIVE

Maguire was fit, he would have been playing but he doesn't have pace. So overall, Guehi has done well.

"He got that booking and had to miss the game against Switzerland but generally he can be very happy with how he's played and his contribution to the side.

"The defence have done well and we've not conceded a lot of goals. I think they've been a decent part of this team."

England underwhelmed in the group-stage fixtures and last-16 showdown with Slovakia.

But Southgate looked to shake things up tactically against Switzerland in the quarter-finals and Holland in the semis.

And in both matches the team has looked far more cohesive in attack.

Thompson reckons Southgate deserves praise for switching it around. "We have to give him credit for changing the formation," he added.

"He's gone from a 4-2-3-1 to a 3-4-3 and I think that has suited everybody much better.

"It's given us more flexibility going forward. Bukayo Saka has come into his own on the right and then there's Kieran Trippier on the left, with Luke Shaw coming on, too.

"In midfield, Southgate has the two that he likes in Declan Rice and Kobbie Mainoo, so with those

four runners in midfield and the central two pushing on, I think we look far better, giving teams more to think about. It's been a good change of tactics."

● Thompson was speaking to Paddy Power: Visit paddypower.com/football

crowntrade.co.uk

there's no better paint

97% of painters & decorators agree*

CROWN TRADE

It's not just paint, it's personal.

*Survey of 187 professional decorators who use Crown and competitor products.

CRYSTAL PALACE star Marc Guehi has been one of England's brightest sparks this summer after taking advantage of injured Harry Maguire's absence.

And former Liverpool centre-back Phil Thompson, who was capped 42 times for the Three Lions, believes the youngster can be proud of his performances.

Central defender Guehi, 24, was not a regular starter for the Three Lions prior to Euro 2024.

But he's shone in Germany, with England looking solid across their back line for most of the tournament.

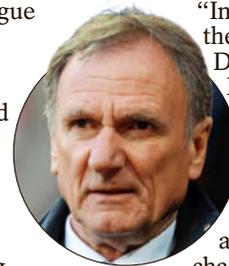
Guehi represented England from Under-16s to Under-21s level before winning his first full cap in March 2022, in a 2-1 friendly victory over Switzerland at Wembley.

Now it's understood a host of the Eagles' Premier League rivals are eyeing his availability.

Anfield legend Thompson (right), hailed the player's impact in Germany.

"Guehi has done really well in this tournament," he said.

"I think one of the big things that Gareth Southgate wanted was pace with John Stones at the back. If Harry



CRICKET: England great Joe has no plans yet to take it easy

ROOT RELISHING THE YEARS AHEAD

Mike
WALTERS
REPORTS

JOE ROOT is planning to defer English cricket's next passing-out parade for a legend "a long way down the road".

After an emotional send-off for Jimmy Anderson at Lord's, Root and Ben Stokes are next in line for a carriage clock and superannuation.

At 33, and with 140 Test caps on the clock, the former England captain has already stamped his name among the game's greats.

Another 150 runs this summer will take Root into the top seven all-time scorers in Test cricket above West Indies deity Brian Lara.

And Sir Alastair Cook's England record of 12,472 runs will be within reach, if the finest batsman chiselled from Yorkshire grit since Sir Geoffrey Boycott enjoys a prolific summer.

Root was part of the honorary sentry guard when Cook signed off with a century at The Oval in 2018, Stuart Broad's final delivery in first-class cricket clinched an Ashes Test win and Anderson waved goodbye by downing a pint of Guinness in one on the Lord's balcony on Friday.

But he has no thoughts yet of hanging up his bat. He said: "I'd like to think I'll be playing for a good while yet. When that day comes, I'm sure I'll figure something out. Hopefully that's a long way down the road."

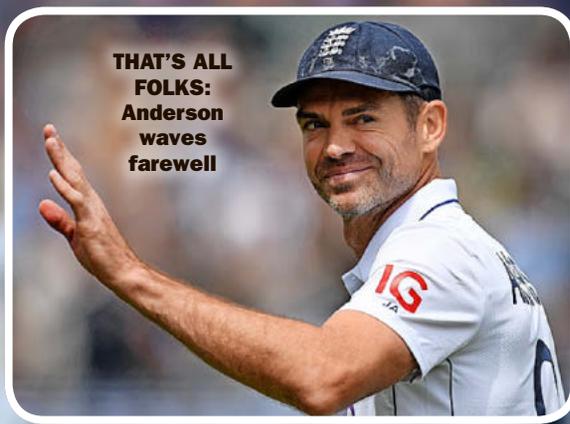
"But you've got to earn the right to have that sort of fairytale ending like Jimmy, Stuart and Cookie have had."

"My focus is purely on scoring as many runs for this team as I can."

Like Stokes, his successor as captain, Root is already casting an eye towards the 2025-26 Ashes series – with a fierce resolve to settle the account after England's 4-0 defeat, under suffocating Covid strictures, Down Under in 2021-22.

He said: "As a player, they are

THAT'S ALL FOLKS:
Anderson waves farewell



the series you're always looking forward to and building towards.

"In retrospect, arguably we shouldn't have gone last time. "We did what we thought was the right thing at the time, but we'll be in a completely different place next year."

Shorn of Anderson and Broad's 1,308 Test wickets between them, it will be a new-look England attack in Oz – but Root believes they are in good hands after Gus Atkinson's match figures of 12-106 in England's crushing innings victory in the first Test.

He said: "What you need is someone like Gus, who can bowl at high 80s and 90mph and still move the ball around and make things happen at high pace."

England, meanwhile, have called up Durham pace bowler Mark Wood for the second Test at Trent Bridge, starting on Thursday.

■ ESSEX were inspired by an heroic innings of 120 not out by Michael Pepper to record an improbable Vitality Blast victory over Sussex, who had fired 207-2. Essex won by five wickets, with nine balls to spare, in front of a sell-out County Ground crowd.



STILL GOING STRONG:
Joe Root in action against West Indies

TOUR DE FRANCE STAGE 14



DOMINANT: Tadej Pogacar

POGACAR CLIMBING CLEAR OF THE PACK

TADEJ POGACAR took a big step towards a third Tour de France title as he won stage 14 to extend his advantage in yellow while defending champion Jonas Vingegaard moved up to second overall.

On the first of four summit finishes in this Tour, Pogacar attacked five kilometres from the top of the climb to the ski resort of Pla d'Adet to win by 39 seconds from Vingegaard, who was at least able to take 31 seconds on Remco Evenepoel to move up a step on the podium.

Pogacar made a significant statement with his second stage win of this Tour, one that sees his lead grow to one minute 57 seconds, with Vingegaard 25 seconds ahead of Evenepoel.

Pogacar's team-mate Adam Yates had attacked from the group of favourites just before Pogacar's move, putting pressure on Vingegaard's Visma Lease-a-bike team.

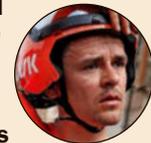
"We tried to go for the stage but more in a sprint – but in this kind of situation Adam attacked and I could see that if I bridge to Adam with a gap he can pull me and this was really perfect," Pogacar said.

"It was a little bit of improvisation," Yates explained. "I was ready to do the pacing like normal but he told me to attack."

It was another day where concerns over Covid-19 within the peloton grew.

Tom Pidcock (above) – who is 16 days out from his planned defence of his Olympic mountain bike title – did not start the stage after testing positive and showing symptoms, instead returning home to recover.

Pidcock's team-mate Geraint Thomas said he had also tested positive but rode on after speaking to the team's medical staff, albeit being dropped early on the Tourmalet.



Heathcote aims to sail off in style to career as a surgeon

VITA HEATHCOTE will soon shift focus from chasing medals to a career in medicine.

The Hampshire sailor, 23, plans to retake her university entrance exam a couple of weeks after the Paris Olympics – having delayed enrolling to focus on striving for glory.

And Heathcote, who will be at the helm alongside Chris Grube in the 470 event, hopes to follow in the footsteps of family both on the water and in the NHS.

Her mother Kate is an Ear, Nose

OLYMPICS
By Alan Smith

and Throat surgeon who used to take her daughter on hospital ward rounds at a young age.

Uncle Nick Rogers won silver in the same event at Athens and Beijing – although she credits her boat-building grandfather as the earliest influence.

Indeed, the connection towards sailing is so strong that Heathcote claims something inside her feels off if she finds

herself far from a coastline.

"I really struggle when I go somewhere not near the water," she said. "I've been next to it all my life."

"My whole family are sailors, both sides, and my grandpa built a lot of different vessels."

"But I always wanted to do medicine since I was a kid. Sailing was my hobby, I loved it, but medicine was always what I wanted to be my career."

Heathcote has felt compelled in the past five years to give an

Olympic cycle her full attention, which has meant delaying her commitment to healthcare.

She has trained as an oral nurse and had a number of work experience placements but, after the Games, the long path to becoming a surgeon will begin.

"I want to be a surgeon because of the manual skills, problem-solving and team element," she said. "The high-pressure environment is where I want to be."



HEATHCOTE

8 SPORT

RUGBY LEAGUE



LATE SHOW: Minchella crosses to kill off Hull

Humber-dinger as Minchella delivers

HULL KR captain Elliot Minchella went from zero to hero as the Robins held off a Hull fightback in the Humber-side derby.

The combative loose forward, who earned his England debut last month, was yellow carded in a chaotic contest – one of FOUR players binned.

But he returned to score the clinching try at the death after Hull's spirited youngsters had threatened to rally from 18-0 down.

Rovers, who lost full-back Niall Evals to a groin issue early on, moved up to joint-second.

Minchella had a running battle with Hull FC skipper Brad Fash throughout – and it was no surprise when both ended up in the sin-bin.

Rovers raced 18-0

Hull FC 10 Hull KR 24
By David Craven

up inside just 17 minutes after Sauaso Sue, Mikey Lewis and Matty Storton all surged over for tries and Lewis added the conversions.

Rovers winger Joe Burgess was sin-binned for an alleged professional foul in the 55th minute.

But the hosts weren't complaining.

They scored just seconds later, Lewis Martin going over on Burgess' vacant right flank for Liam Sutcliffe to convert.

And then, just like buses, another came along almost immediately.

Davy Litten made a brilliant break and 18-year-old full-back Logan Moy marked his derby debut with a quality finish.

Salford feel the heat

SALFORD were given a roasting by Catalans Dragons in heatwave conditions in the south of France.

And Red Devils' coach Paul Rowley's post-match verdict was: "They cooked us."

Les Dracs bullied their way to victory in a one-sided romp.

Two first-half tries from Arthur Romano and a strike by

Catalans 20 Salford 0
By Steve Brady

Cesar Rouge put the Dragons 20-0 ahead at the interval.

Salford tried to mount a second-half revival in front of their 1,000 travelling fans but couldn't break through.

Rowley said: "We got pushed around and bullied a bit but Catalans can do that."

Andre off-day again

ANDRE SAVELIO was sent off for the second time in four games for Huddersfield as Leigh came from behind three times to boost their play-off hopes.

Luke Robinson took charge of the Giants after the sacking of head coach Ian Watson and they were tied at 8-8 when Savelio saw red on 58 minutes for dangerous contact on Rob

Leigh 20 Hudd'field 16
By Adrian Stiles

Mulhern. Leopards made the most of their extra man with tries by Kai O'Donnell and Zak Hardaker.

Elliot Wallis and Jake Connor had given Huddersfield an 8-6 lead, ex-Giant Darnell McIntosh replying. A second by Wallis kept the visitors in the hunt until the finish.



TENNIS – WIMBLEDON 2024: DJOKOVIC HAS

THE GREATEST Novak out to wreck a dream



OLD MASTER: Djokovic is out to bag a record 25th Slam

NOVAK DJOKOVIC plans to destroy Carlos Alcaraz's dream of a Spanish sporting double today – but insists he is no heartbreaker.

After his semi-final victory over Daniil Medvedev, Wimbledon champion Alcaraz admitted he is eyeing up a spectacular Super Sunday.

Firstly, he wants to retain his SW19 title. Then, he hopes Spain beat England in the Euros final.

Djokovic, of course, has other ideas as he looks to secure a record-equalling eighth

Wimbledon title – and avenge his five-set defeat by Alcaraz in last year's final.

The Serbian is also desperate to put his name alongside Roger Federer's at the top of the men's honours board at the All England Club, but denied he will take extra pleasure by raining on Alcaraz's parade.

Djokovic, 37, said: "I'm not sure if I'm going to break his heart. I'm not intending to do that."

"He is so young yet he has three Grand Slams under his belt and is going for his fourth. It's so impressive what he's done at just 21."

He's going to win a lot more but I hope he's going to give me this one."

Djokovic could be forgiven for being a tad jealous of Alcaraz, given the super-popular

Harry PRATT
REPORTS

world No.3 seems to get all the love from an adoring tennis public.

That is one ingredient still missing from Djokovic's glittering career – as highlighted at the Championships amid several clashes with heckling, booing fans.

However, as Euro fever grips the nation – and with a Spaniard on the other side of the net – there is a chance a partisan Centre Court crowd may favour him for once.

History-chasing Djokovic, one short of a record 25th Slam, went on: "The English crowd will have the best of both worlds because the Euro final is at night. They have plenty of time to enjoy the tennis and football."

Reigning French Open champion Alcaraz, meanwhile, says coping with the stress of being red-hot favourite wherever he goes is a huge battle and makes every match a sporting "war".

He said: "I try not to think that I'm the defending champion. I just go into every match thinking I have chances to lose. It's a war."

"Obviously, having nerves is normal, but you have to control it."

This is something I am working on because, if not controlling it, it's difficult."



TROPHY HUNTER: Alcaraz



YOUNG GENIUS: Alcaraz is aiming to retain his title

HEART SET ON BEING A PAIN ACROSS SPAIN



SHOWDOWNS

as ace Barbora lifts trophy



BARBORA KREJCIKOVA fought back the tears as she was crowned the new queen of Wimbledon.

The Czech, a pre-tournament outsider ranked at world No.31, kept her composure in a rollercoaster final yesterday to see off crowd favourite Jasmine Paolini.

At the conclusion of her 6-2 2-6 6-4 triumph over the electric Italian seventh seed, Krejčíková, arms raised aloft, looked towards the heavens.

It was her way of saying thank you to late, great compatriot Jana Novotná – the 1998 ladies' champion responsible for igniting her professional career.

Emotional Krejčíková, 28, who first exploded on the singles scene by taking the French Open three years ago, said: "Before she passed away, Jana told me I could win a Slam.

"I achieved that in Paris in 2021 – but never did I dream I'd hold this same trophy as Jana.

"I do dream about her a lot. I think she'd be very proud of me.

"This is the best day of my life. It's unbelievable I've won Wimbledon. I have no idea how it's happened."

If Krejčíková, watched here by another Czech-born tennis legend in Martina Navratilova, was full of happiness as she clutched the Venus Rosewater dish, it was a contrasting

Harry PRATT

REPORTS FROM CENTRE COURT

picture with Paolini. This was her second Grand Slam final defeat in five weeks. Understandably, the French Open runner-up struggled to flash her trademark smile.

But ever-gracious Paolini (below), also 28, said: "To see this stadium full and play this final is a dream. But Barbora was unbelievable and played such beautiful tennis.

"The last two months have been crazy for me.

"I'm a little sad but I know it has been a beautiful, positive tournament."

On physical stature, this looked a complete mismatch. The 5ft 10in Krejčíková

towered over her 5ft 3in opponent at the coin toss.

And when she broke Paolini's serve in the first and third games, blitzing the first set inside 30 minutes, it seemed the writing was on the wall.

At that stage, Krejčíková was in total control. A two-time Wimbledon doubles champion, her all-court game was too hot to handle.

Time for Paolini to take a 'comfort break' and launch a comeback.

It was not long before the dynamic baseline pocket-rocket levelled at a set apiece – breaking three times.

The shift in momentum had the Centre Court faithful, rooting for Paolini from the off, roaring in utter delight.

Time for Krejčíková to take her own comfort break, although it did not

produce the same dramatic turnaround. Yet, midway through the decider, she crucially took Paolini's serve and edged 4-3 ahead.

The only question now was could she hold her nerve and serve – twice – to bank the £2.6million winner's cheque. Krejčíková took the first to love but the next was much harder, requiring an 108mph rocket to seal it on the third match-point.



GOLF SCOTTISH OPEN



MIXED BAG: Fleetwood after finishing round

Final hole double bogey frustrates Fleetwood after early birdie blast

TOMMY FLEETWOOD was left "disappointed and frustrated" after seeing his Scottish Open charge halted after a blistering start to the third round.

The 33-year-old shot a 66 to move to 10 under going into today's final round.

He made a flying start, with five birdies in the first six holes followed by seven straight pars, before a double bogey on the last left a sour taste.

He said: "I am playing great, it's just the last two days I have gifted shots away to the course, which you can't really do.

"The ideal scenario is that you score better than you play and I am scoring much worse than I am playing so I have to sort that out."

Meanwhile, Viktor Hovland admits he is struggling to find the right route to form.

The Norwegian star has not been able to hit the heights at The Renaissance Club in North Berwick.

Hovland is out of title contention going into the final round and confessed there's no easy solutions.

The Ryder Cup hero and Fed-Ex Cup champion said: "I'm not playing very good. I'm just not hitting it very well and I am trying to figure out my swing a little bit.

"The ball is not going super-far off line, but it is not doing what I expect it to be

By Craig Swan

doing, so it's hard to play with that every single day.

"It feels like I am having to make 15 or 20 footers to make birdies. It's what I used to do so well.

"I'd go nine holes giving myself looks on every hole and I haven't done that in a long time. That's the frustrating part.

"Overall, I know what I need to be doing, but it's what exactly and how exactly to do it to get there that has been the tricky part."

Hovland is fighting to get it right for The Open at Royal Troon having been in Ayrshire last Monday for a knock with Sweden's Ludvig Aberg.

Hovland said: "I really liked the course. The front nine kind of eases you into it.

"Then the course turns into something completely different.

"I think the back nine is going to be tough if we get some weather."

In the Evian Championship in France, Australia's Stephanie Kyriacou will take a one-shot lead into the final round.

She shot a third-round 67 to finish 14-under par and edge ahead of American Lauren Coughlin and Japan's Ayaka Furue. Scotland's Gemma Dryburgh is on seven under.

TONY JACKLIN ON RORY McILROY

See Page 12

10 SPORT

SPORT IN BRIEF

CYCLING

TOUR DE FRANCE, Stage 14 (Pau - Saint-Lary-Soulan, 151.9km): 1 T Pogacar (Slo) UAE Team Emirates 04hrs 01mins 51secs, 2 J Vingegaard (Den) Team Visma | Lease a Bike +39secs, 3 R Evenepoel (Bel) Soudal Quick-Step +01:10, 7 A Yates (Gbr) UAE Team Emirates +01:23, 13 S Yates (Gbr) Team Jayco-AlUla +01m 33s, 16 B Healy (Irl) EF Education-EasyPost +03:27, 51 S Williams (Gbr) Israel-Premier Tech +17:22, 52 O Onley (Gbr) Team dsm-firmenich PostNL at same time. **Overall:** 1 T Pogacar (Slo) UAE Team Emirates 56hrs 42mins 39secs, 2 J Vingegaard (Den) Team Visma | Lease a Bike +01min 57secs, 3 R Evenepoel (Bel) Soudal Quick-Step +02:22, 7 A Yates (Gbr) UAE Team Emirates +08:32, 14 B Healy (Irl) EF Education-EasyPost +15m 45s, 17 S Yates (Gbr) Team Jayco-AlUla +24:17, 33 G Thomas (Gbr) INEOS Grenadiers +01h 08m 26s.

FOOTBALL

FRIENDLIES: Ajax 2 Rangers 1, Boreham Wood 2 Arsenal U23 4, Farnborough 3 Sutton Utd 1, Gateshead 2 Sunderland XI 1, Harrogate Town 2 Huddersfield 3, Mossley 0 FC Halifax 1, Oldham 1 Stockport County 0, South Shields 0 Sunderland 5, Stevenage 2 Watford 2.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betfred Super League
CATALANS DRG... 20 SALFORD 0
Catalans Dragons—T: Rouge, Romano (2), G: Mourgue (4).
HULL... 10 HULL K R 24
Hull—T: Martin, Moy, G: Sutcliffe.
Hull K R—T: Sue, Lewis, Storton, Minchella, G: Lewis (4).
LEIGH... 20 HUDDERSFIELD... 16
Leigh—T: McIntosh, O'Donnell, Hardaker, G: Moylan (3), Hardaker.
Huddersfield—T: Wallis (2), Connor, G: Connor (2).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wigan	16	14	0	2	443	182	28
Warrington	17	12	0	5	436	231	24
Hull K R	17	12	0	5	421	226	24
St Helens	17	11	0	6	441	186	22
Catalans Drg..	17	11	0	6	323	234	22
Salford	17	11	0	6	317	328	22
Leeds	17	9	0	8	309	316	18
Leigh	16	6	1	9	290	266	13
Huddersfield	17	6	0	11	314	385	12
Castleford	17	5	1	11	280	455	11
Hull	17	2	0	15	228	520	4
Ldn Broncos	17	1	0	16	176	649	2

Betfred Championship—Whitehaven 24 Toulouse 34.

RUGBY UNION

International Match
ARGENTINA.....L FRANCE L
AUSTRALIA.....36 WALES 28
Australia—T: Daugunu (2), J. Gordon, Alaalatoa, C: Lolesio (2), P: Lolesio (3), Donaldson. **Wales**—T: Lake (2), L. Williams, Dyer, C: B. Thomas (3), Costelow.

NEW ZEALAND... 24 ENGLAND 17
New Zealand—T: Teale (2), C: McKenzie, P: McKenzie (4). **England**—T: Feyi-Waboso, Freeman, C: M. Smith (2), P: M. Smith.

SOUTH AFRICA... 24 IRELAND 25
South Africa—P: Pollard (8).
Ireland—T: Murray, C: Crowley, P: Crowley (4), DG: Frawley (2).

TENNIS

ALL ENGLAND LAWN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS (Wimbledon, London, England)—**Women's finals:** (31) B Krejčíková (Cze) bt (7) J Paolini (Ita) 6-2 2-6 6-4.

Boys' Singles Semi Finals: N Kjaer (Nor) bt N Honda (Jpn) 6-3 6-2, M Rottgering (Ned) bt T Papamalamis (Fra) 6-4 7-5.

Doubles Semi Finals: A Razeghi (USA) & M Schoenhaus (Ger) bt K Bigun (USA) & J Leach (USA) 7-6 (7-2) 6-3, J Klimas (Cze) & J Kumstát (Cze) bt M Exstedt (USA) & C Woestendick (USA) 6-4 7-5.

Girls' Singles Semi Finals: E Jones (Aus) bt I Jovic (USA) 7-5 6-1, R Jamrichova (Svk) bt V Valdmannova (Cze) 6-0 6-2.

Doubles Semi Finals: M Stojisavljevic (Gbr) & M Xu (Gbr) bt J Pastikova (Cze) & J Stusek (Ger) 6-4 6-1, T Grant (USA) & I Jovic (USA) bt E Jones (Aus) & V Paganetti (Ita) 7-5 7-6 (7-5).

TODAY'S DIARY

European Championships Final
Spain v England (8pm).....
(Live on BBC 1)

CRICKET

Fifth Twenty20 International: Zimbabwe v India (Harare, 12am).

T20 Blast - North Group: Durham v Northamptonshire (Riverside, 2.30pm). Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire (Grace Road, 2.30pm). Warwickshire v Derbyshire (Edgbaston, 2.30pm). Worcester-shire v Yorkshire (New Road, 2.30pm). **South Group:** Essex v Surrey (Chelmsford, 2.30pm). Gloucestershire v Glamorgan (Cheltenham, 2.30pm). Hampshire v Somerset (The Rose Bowl, 2.30pm).

TENNIS

All England Lawn Tennis Championships (Wimbledon, London).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Betfred Championship (3pm): Batley v Barrow, Bradford v Wakefield, Halifax v Featherstone, Sheffield v Swinton, Widnes v Dewsbury, York v Doncaster.

RUGBY UNION: New Zealand 24 England 17



GEORGE IS FOCUSING ON NOVEMBER REIGN

Adam HATHAWAY

REPORTS FROM AUCKLAND

JAMIE GEORGE threw down the gauntlet to New Zealand after suffering another gut-wrenching defeat, saying: "We'll see you at our place in November."

Skipper George's England side were agonisingly close to an historic win at the Kiwis' spiritual home in Auckland before falling just short.

But the hooker, who was denied a try late on by the TMO, puffed out his chest as he eyed up their match at Twickenham in the autumn.

Like their 16-15 win in Dunedin last week, the All Blacks got away with one.

And George reckons England can turn the tables later this year.

This performance was a million miles from the shambles of the World Cup warm-up games in August and England have got better every month.

George said: "The big message from me is we will never start from zero again.

"I spoke about the journey the team has been on, where we've come from throughout this pretty long season to where we are now.

"We've got a great opportunity when we next come together – the All Blacks at Twickenham – and that's a hugely exciting prospect."

England might have lost two out of two in New Zealand but if they didn't have the respect of the



NO TRY: Jamie George is given the bad news by the referee

Ciaran Frawley coolly landed a last-gasp drop goal as Ireland weathered a second-half storm to pull off a stunning 25-24 victory in Durban and secure a 1-1 series draw against South Africa.



UNITED FRONT: England went agonisingly close

locals before the match, they do now.

Boss Steve Borthwick (right) said: "The team kept on coming at New Zealand, kept fighting."

England led 14-13 at half-time after Marcus Smith had made tries for wings Immanuel Feyi-Waboso and Tommy Freeman, both with cross

kicks. Fly-half Smith had his best game in an England shirt and Feyi-Waboso was electric, but the tourists had trouble in the scrum again and that cost them.

They also lost Freddie Steward and replacement hooker Theo Dan to head injury assessments, meaning George had to go the distance. But with Maro

Toje on the rampage, dominating the All Blacks at lineout time and in the maul, Eden Park went very quiet before Beauden Barrett changed the game off the bench.

In his 125th international, Barrett burst through the English defence to put wing Mark

Tele'a away for his second try and then was part of a defensive rearguard that foiled George at the death.

England thought they had got the ball over but Ollie Lawrence was penalised and the Kiwis frantically kicked the ball into touch.



Warren: We've Got to stop errors

WARREN GATLAND says Wales must "learn some tough lessons" after suffering a ninth successive Test match defeat.

But he insists the future is bright heading for the 2027 World Cup in Australia. It was a 15th defeat in 21 Tests

Australia 36 Wales 28

since Gatland returned for a second stint and Wales are now just one loss away from equalling their record run of 10 Tests in 2002 and 2003.

The head coach said: "Test match rugby is about being accurate in

those big moments and that's where we need to improve.

"But I'm confident that this team is going to be a really good team."

Captain Dewi Lake claimed two tries for Wales. Liam Williams and Rio Dyer also went over for tries in Melbourne.



SERIES GONE: Filipo Daugunu scores a try for Australia

RACING 11

Enfjaar proves up for the Cup at York

ENFJAAR continued his rise through the ranks to lead home a one-two for trainer Roger Varian (right) in the prestigious John Smith's Cup at York. The four-year-old won his first two career starts but a disappointing run in the Jersey

By Melissa Jones

Stakes at Royal Ascot last summer was followed by two more below-par efforts. Having been gelded in the off-season, Enfjaar won nicely on his return at Chelmsford last month.

And a 15-2 shot to follow up in one of the feature handicaps of the season on the Knavesmire, Jack Mitchell triumphed by a length and three-quarters, with stablemate and 9-2 favourite Botanical pipping Tony Montana to the runner-up spot.



WILL HAS A WAY TO WIN

MILL STREAM headlined a stunning 909-1 four-timer for reigning champion jockey William Buick in the July Cup. The 35-year-old went into Newmarket's feature £600,000 sprint on a roll after a treble for his boss Charlie Appleby. But the odds to land his 100th Group One were stacked against Buick (right), with impressive three-year-olds Inisherin and Vandeeek in opposition. Both were battling for the £340,000 My Pension Expert-sponsored prize with a furlong to run. But Mill Stream (11-1), trained locally by Jane Chapple-Hyam, got up to deny fellow

By Melissa Jones four-year-old Swingalon. The first two, placed in Royal Ascot's Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Stakes last month, were ahead of third-placed Vandeeek this time. "This horse is so genuine, he really wants it," said Buick. "Jane has always had massive belief in him. It's my first July Cup and I'm absolutely thrilled." Two-time champ Buick had earlier guided Ancient Truth to victory in the Superlative Stakes, while Bet365 Mile scorer First Conquest (12-1) and juvenile debutant Desert Flower made it a day to remember for the Godolphin team.



STRATFORD (RTV)

THE SCOUT: 1.30 Frompostopillar, 2.00 EAGLE'S REALM (nap), 2.30 GENTLE CONNECTIONS (rb), 3.00 Mill Street, 3.30 Electric Eddy, 4.00 Finest View, 4.30 Absolutely Fine, 5.00 Borderline.

1.30 HANDICAP CHASE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

BLINKERS: Nos. 10, 12 VISOR: 6 TONGUE STRAP: 2, 9, 12 CHEEK PIECES: 1, 3, 5, 7, 8. Forecast: 3 Gambie Tiep, 7-2 Mystic Man, 5 Go Fox, 6 Conceal, 10 Blaze A Trail, Admiral's Sunset, 12 Who's the Guv'nor, 16 Buck Of Maine, 20 Others. 2023: Arcade Attraction 9-11-9, Brian Hughes 4-1 (Mrs S Leech), 9 ran.

2.00 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

BLINKERS: No. 10 VISOR: 6 TONGUE STRAP: 2, 3, 5 CHEEK PIECES: 3, 4. Forecast: 9-4 Star Legend, 4 Pak Army, 5 Eagle's Realm, 8 Queen Of Steel, Just The Man, Beholden, 14 Fenna's Loss, 16 Outback Frontiers, 20 Others. 2023: Nadim 4-11-1, Bradley Harris(3) 2-1 Fav (M Harris), 8 ran.

2.30 BARBARA SHEPHERD HANDICAP CHASE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

TONGUE STRAP: Nos. 2, 4, 8, 10, 12 CHEEK PIECES: Nos. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12. Forecast: 11-4 Gentle Connections, 4 Coconut Twist, 9-2 Unwanted Attention, 8 Dusky Days, 10 Hollington, 12 Hobie, Awitosea, 14 Others. 2023: Steel Wave 13-11-8, Tabitha Worsley(3) 4-1 (G Hamner), 7 ran.

3.00 MALCOM WHEELER JUVENILE HURDLE 3YO

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

Forecast: 9-4 Play Pretend, 5-2 Mill Street, 6 Rogue King, 8 Scottie's Sister, 10 Kalkaroo, 12 Masonbrook Meadow, Happy Place, Battle Of Omdurman. 2023: Vitani 10-7, Lee Edwards 33-1 (A West), 11 ran.

3.30 JEBBO 'NH' MAIDEN HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

2.45 MACBET HANDICAP CHASE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

4.00 BARRY THE BUTCHER HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

4.30 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP HDL (DIV 1)

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

5.00 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP HDL (DIV 2)

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

PERTH (RTV)

THE SCOUT: 2.15 STEP OUT (nb), 2.45 Garde Des Champs, 3.15 Condesa, 3.45 Half Shot, 4.15 Fever Dream, 4.45 Jysius.

2.15 PARKLANDS HOTEL PERTH NOVICES' HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

4.45 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

3.15 MACBET HANDICAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

3.45 MACBET SINCE 1972 HANDICAP CHASE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

4.15 SCOTTISH RACING ACADEMY H'CAP HURDLE

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

4.45 CHESTER: Good to soft

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

5.30-SEA GREY (F Norton, 8-1); Gibsie (8-1); Gifted Angel (25-1); 3. 10 ran. (D McCain; 7-2 fav Rich Bellef). Non-runner: Chase The Dollar.

6.05-AL SHABAB STORM (Jason Watson, 6-4 fav); Breege (7-1); 2; Valfortino (18-5 2nd fav); 3. 6 ran. (A Balding). Non-runners: Pogo, Streets Of Gold.

6.35-STOP THE CAVALRY (E Greatrex, 11-1); Balon D'or (8-1); 2; Eye Of Dubai (5-2 fav); 3. 10 ran. (R Beckett).

7.10-KING OF TONGA (Z Wheatley, 14-1); Count D'Orsay (11-1); Kitaab (25-1); 3. 8 ran. (D Carroll; 10-11 fav Dickieburd). Non-runners: Grace Angel, Love Wars. Placepot: £873.10 (Race 1) 7, 8, 2; (2) 7, 2, 1; (3) 6, 9, 10; (4) 7, 1; (5) 1, 8, 2; (6) 7, 4, 9. Quadpot: £349.10

7.40-SALISBURY: Good-to-good to firm in places

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse name, jockey, and odds.

8.00-GAINSBURG (A Mullen, 8-1); Hetter Skeller (6-1); 2; Classy Boy (4-1 2nd fav); 3. 8 ran. (D Bourke; 11-4 fav Mysteryofthesands). Non-runner: Thewind Cries Marfy.

RED HOT BOOKIE BASHER SUPERB WINNERS MONTH AFTER MONTH FROM MY WELL CONNECTED CONTACTS BIG WINNING DAY > LINED UP TODAY Call 0906 174 9390 Line updates at 10am and 4pm daily

OFFICIAL HORSE RACING COMMENTARY AND RESULTS Call 0905 817 2637 Calls cost 80p per min plus your telephone company's network access charge. 18+ only. Must have the bill payer's permission. Helpline 0333 202 3390

Horse Racing & Sports Tips ALEX GORRIE HE IS THE MAN IN THE KNOW!

+++ YESTERDAY'S RESULTS +++ YESTERDAY'S RESULTS +++ YESTERDAY'S RESULTS +++

NEWMARKET: Good 1.40-DESERT FLOWER (W Buick, 5-2 2nd fav); Flight (2-1 fav); Bintabuha (5-1) 3. 10 ran. (C Appleby). 2.12-ASIAN DAZE (Billy Loughnane, 9-1); Lou Lou's Gift (15-8 fav); Arisaig (4-1) 2nd fav; 3. 9 ran. (J Chapple-Hyam). Non-runners: Key To Cotai, Rochelle. 2.50-FIRST CONQUEST (W Buick, 12-1); Treasure Time (6-1); Liveandletlive (8-1) 3. 13 ran. (C Appleby; 7-2 jtfav Oirat, 7-2 jtfav Volterra). Non-runners: Candonomore, Local Hero, The Camden Colt. 3.25-ANCIENT TRUTH (W Buick, 4-6 fav); Seagulls Eleven (5-1) 2nd fav; 2; Wimbledon Hawkeye (20-1) 3. 6 ran. (C Appleby). Non-runners: Paoli's Turf, Pentle Bay, The Parthenon. 4.00-AALTO (Rossa Ryan, 15-2); Lethal Levi (18-1); Summerghand (22-1); Carrythere (5-1 fav); 4. 20 ran. (I Williams). 4.35-MILL STREAM (W Buick, 11-1); Swingalong (22-1); Vandeeek (4-1 2nd fav); 3. 11 ran. (J Chapple-Hyam; 11-8 fav Inisherin). Non-runner: Regional. 5.10-LORD OF LOVE (K Shoemark, 5-1); Wonder Kid (3-1) jtfav; 2; Goodwood Odyssey (5-1) 3. 11 ran. (J & T Gosden; 3-1 jtfav Potinos). Non-runner: Ciro Di Marzio. Jackpot: Not won, pool of £12,404.45 carried over. Placepot: £48.00 (Race 1) 4, 7, 2; (2) 1, 9, 8; (3) 5, 14, 8; (4) 1, 7; (5) 18, 9, 13, 3; (6) 4, 7, 12; Quadpot: £24.40

YORK: Good to soft 2.00-BLUE FOR YOU (D Tudhope, 4-1 2nd fav); Northern Express (13-2); 2; Ron O (17-2) 3. 14 ran. (D O'Meara; 11-4 fav Telemark). Non-runners: Einajmm, Stone Soldier. 2.35-STARLUST (H Crouch, 13-8 fav); Rogue Lightning (7-2 2nd fav); 2; Democracy Dilemma (12-1) 3. 7 ran. (R Beckett). Non-runners: Emaratai Ana, We Never Stop. 3.10-ENFJAAR (J Mitchell, 15-2); Botanical (9-2 fav); 2; Tony Montana (28-1) 3; Kingfisher King (12-1) 4. 20 ran. (R Varian). Non-runners: Flying Frontier, Marhaba The Champ, Scamp. 3.45-ALSABIK (P J McDonald, 6-1); Al Oareem (10-3 2nd fav); 2; Wise Eagle (50-1) 3. 8 ran. (A Balding; 3-1 fav Klondike). 4.15-EAST TYRONE (S Gray, 16-1); Sir Palamedes (11-1); 2; Atomic Mass (4-1 2nd fav) 3. 13 ran. (K Ryan; 10-3 fav Alashos). Non-runner: The Flying Seagull. 4.50-ZIMMERMAN (S B Kirrane, 8-1); Valley Of Flowers (11-1); 2; Letsbefrank (6-4 fav) 3. 14 ran. (T Easterby). Non-runners: Duke Of Verona, Red Force One, Tailorman. 5.25-RAY VONN (H Crouch, 11-1); Maxi Boy (20-1); 2; Rebel Path (20-1) 3; Trilby (11-2) 4. 18 ran. (B Brookhouse; 4-1 fav Dark Side Thunder). Non-runners: Kuwait City, Sibyl Charm. Placepot: £53.30 (Race 1) 8, 1, 6; (2) 7, 5; (3) 7, 2, 20, 11; (4) 2, 1, 8; (5) 11, 9, 10; (6) 5, 9, 8; Quadpot: £18.00

ASCOT: Good-to-good to soft in places on round course 1.45-FAIR WIND (P Dobbs, 17-2 2nd fav); 1; Albasheer (10-1); 2; Haymaker (17-1) 3; 4; Dream Composer (14-1) 4. 12 ran. (Owen Burrows; 9-2 fav King's Lynn). Non-runners: Danger Alert, Prince of Zenda. 2.20-QUDDWAH (C Shepherd, 5-4 fav); Ancient Rome (18-1); 2; Embesto (9-1) 3. 7 ran. (S & E Crisford). Non-runners: Epictetus, Sparks Fly. 2.57-TIGER MASK (P-L Jamin, 11-4 2nd fav); Parole D'oro (28-1); 2; Accentuate (18-1) 3. 12 ran. (K R Burke; 7-4 fav Big Sip). 3.32-DANCING IN PARIS (D Probert, 15-2); Tactician (11-8 fav); 2; Manxman (13-2) 3. 11 ran. (I Williams). Non-runners: Iron Lion, Wind Your Neck In. 4.07-PASSION AND GLORY (R Dawson, 7-1); Ziggy (7-2 fav); 2; Tarjeen (20-1) 3. 13 ran. (S bin Surroor). Non-runners: Euchen Glen, L'astronome. 4.42-SURVEYOR (C Shepherd, 11-2); Queen Of Atlantis (11-1); 2; Fair Point (9-4 fav) 3. 11 ran. (J Fanshawe). Non-runners: Mercury Day, My Shadow. 5.17-KODI LION (C Shepherd, 3-1 fav); Pedro Valentin (7-2 2nd fav); 2; Burdett (9-1) 3; Billy Mill (14-1) 4. 16 ran. (C Fellowes). Non-runner: Lord Rapsallion. Placepot: £105.70 (Race 1) 12, 2, 13, 8; (2) 6, 1; (3) 3, 8, 1; (4) 8, 13, 9; (5) 2, 7, 14; (6) 13, 12, 5; Quadpot: £17.40

MORE THAN 30 YEARS TIPPING AND STILL GOING STRONG. TOP CLASS INFORMATION SHARED ON OUR LINE DAILY. DURING THE FLAT SEASON WE GIVE 2 OR 3 SOLID BETS MOST DAYS. 0906 150 5912 *Calls will cost £1.50 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. 18+ only. SP: Spoke. Helpdesk: 03332023390.

12 EXCLUSIVE

RORY McILROY may be one of the longest hitters in golf but he should not be “greedy” and endeavour to keep the driver in the bag this week, says 1969 Open champion Tony Jacklin.

The 35-year-old Northern Irishman will be back in the Major championship spotlight for the first time since a late meltdown cost him the US Open crown last month.

World No.2 McIlroy showed a lot of patience before missing two short putts in the closing holes as Bryson DeChambeau won at Pinehurst, and he needs to produce the same sort of overall approach in the final Major of the year.

“One thing Rory has mastered is the ability to drive the ball,” Jacklin said.

“He is one of the longest in the game and he’s developed a wonderful swing.

“Rory’s whole game hinges on him being able to drive the ball straight, and if he putts well he will be hard to beat. But you don’t need the driver on a layout like Royal Troon.

“The modern-day player hits his four-irons 250 yards these days. That’s all you need on a links course because it is imperative to stay out of those fiendishly difficult pot bunkers on the fairways.

“If you can stay out of the bunkers you are going to be a factor. It’s about not being greedy.

“Staying out of the hazards will be all-important. Patience is key as well and Rory played very patiently at Pinehurst until the last few holes.”

Jacklin believes McIlroy will be going into the unknown at Troon, not knowing whether there has been any lasting impact from his agonising late collapse.

“It’s difficult to know how he is going to react – we are going to have to wait and see,” said Jacklin, who also won the 1970 US Open and is the most successful European Ryder Cup captain of all time.

“Take my situation back at The Open at Muirfield in 1972. I was only 28 and that was my Major championship terminator.

Amazingly, Lee Trevino chipped in five times that week and I never really recovered from the blow.

“I was in the box seat and it looked like I would be leading going down the last.

“But when he holed out from off the green yet again I said to myself, ‘You son of a gun, you’re not going to beat me like this’.

“It was time for patience, I didn’t show it and three-putted from 15 feet for a bogey.

“I still won a lot of other tournaments through the 70s, some by substantial margins, but I never contended again in a Major and the Majors are the only ones that count when it comes to looking back on a career.”

Jacklin (right) says that still being able to think clearly when the heat is on coming down the stretch is crucial.

“A lot of it is down to patience under pressure,” he added.

“The pressure is what can get to a player.

“My mind goes back to 2012 when Adam Scott blew it at Royal Lytham over the last four holes and

‘IF RORY PUTTS WELL, HE WILL BE HARD TO BEAT’

Says Tony Jacklin

Tony JIMENEZ
REPORTS

opened the door for Ernie Els to win.

“He ran out of patience and when that happens the nerves get on top of you.

“All the Majors are supposed to represent a full examination but The Open is the ultimate test.

“Everybody is going to get a bad bounce on those links courses at some stage. You can’t even predict good shots will end up having a good result.

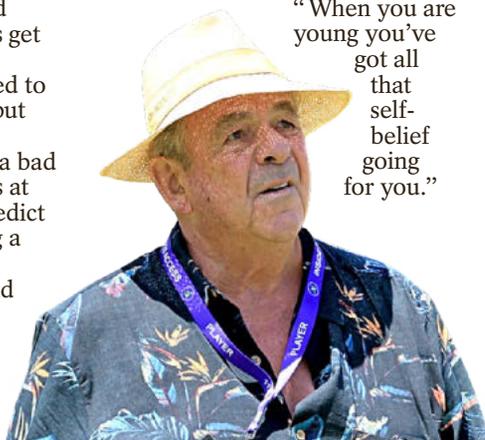
“Sometimes being older and more experienced doesn’t necessarily help you either.

“Rory has got scars from the past whereas the youngsters are just full of

vim and vigour. They’ve got relatively clean sheets to write on compared to Rory. In many respects it is easier for them.

“It all comes down to being that showman who is showing off in front of people.

“When you are young you’ve got all that self-belief going for you.”



EYES ON THE PRIZE: McIlroy during implosion at Pinehurst and (above) feeling the pain

England expects yet again...

TONY JACKLIN believes England might struggle to have an Open winner at Troon.

Nick Faldo is still the last Englishman to lift the Claret Jug, back in 1992.

Jacklin is far from optimistic about the title chances of European Ryder Cup stars Tommy Fleetwood (top), Matt Fitzpatrick (middle) and Tyrrell Hatton (bottom).

“Tommy should be a candidate at Royal Troon this week but

we have been saying that about him for getting on for 10 years,” said the winner of the 1969 Open and the 1970 US Open.

“Fitzpatrick doesn’t spring out to me as someone who is going to do it.

“Tyrrell’s obviously a very good player but he doesn’t jump out either – there’s just too much oddball in him for me. He is fun

for the galleries to watch to see what he’s going to do next but I don’t see him being a big threat.

“I can’t see him being a sort of Pied Piper by starting out well and being able to carry it on for all four rounds.

“But it would be great to see a British or European winner. “That would be my dream scenario for Troon.”



EURO 2024 Sport

SUNDAY EXPRESS

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

William HILL



**SPAIN v
ENGLAND
TODAY,
KO 8PM**

ONE MORE TO GO

BET BUILDER XTRA

Spain v England 8pm | Live on BBC One and ITV

Win 50% more on the final

Tap boost on **YOUR BET**

Prepare for
Greatness

it's who you play with

HILL



**TAKE TIME
TO THINK**

taketimetothink.co.uk

18+

BeGambleAware.org

Online only. Valid on Bet Builders of 3+ selections at 3/1+. Boost on winning bets only. Pre-match singles only. 1x per customer per match. Available from day prior to match. Max stake £20. Country restrictions & full T&Cs apply. Over 18s only. For advice & information visit begambleaware.org. National Gambling Helpline 0808 8020 133.



HOW THEY GOT HERE..

GROUP C Sunday, June 16
Serbia 0 England 1

Gareth Southgate's England got their Euro 2024 bid off on the front foot - for the first 20 minutes, anyway.

But a header from Jude Bellingham (left) from Bukayo Saka's cross after 13 minutes was as good as it got against Serbia, with the Three Lions content to sit back and soak up the pressure when needed.



GROUP B Thursday, June 20
Denmark 1 England 1

Harry Kane got his name on the scoresheet as England took a deserved lead in Frankfurt.

But they reverted to the cautious side from the first game of the tournament after that and were punished by a Morten Hjulmand piledriver before half-time.



FINISH: Kane

A disjointed performance, but a result which ultimately proved enough for a place in the knockout phase.

GROUP B Tuesday, June 25
England 0 Slovenia 0

The Three Lions were already through courtesy of results in other groups, so this was a chance for a statement of intent.

But it was another tough watch as Southgate's charges again failed to live up to the pre-tournament hype.

Another draw, but another point and with it, top spot in Group C and a place in the 'easier' side of the draw.



Last 16 Sunday, June 30
England 2 Slovakia 1 (AET)

Behind for the majority of the game thanks to Ivan Schranz's opener, England looked dead and buried. But cometh the hour, cometh the Bellingham.

England's talisman fired home a stunning overhead kick (above) five minutes into injury time to save Southgate & Co, and when Kane nodded in one minute into extra time, it was effectively game over.

Quarter-final Saturday, July 6
England 1 Switzerland 1

(AET, England win 5-3 on pens)

Another game, another performance which had England fans on the edge of their seats for all the wrong reasons.

There were flashes of things starting to piece together, but after Breel Embolo gave the Swiss the lead, it took a brilliant shot from Saka (left) to keep England in it.



Then came penalty shootout glory... just for a nice change!

Semi-final Wednesday, July 10
Holland 1 England 2

England went behind as Xavi Simons lashed home past Jordan Pickford.

That was the kick-start the Three Lions needed, though, as their best performance in the tournament - by a mile - saw them roar back in fine style.

Kane slotted home a penalty to level and Ollie Watkins was the hero as his turn and shot late on powered Southgate into his second major final as England boss.

THE FINAL



SPAIN v ENGLAND

OLYMPIASTADION, BERLIN › TODAY, KO 8PM › BBC ONE & ITV

100 per cent

IT'S NOT HOW YOU START, IT'S HOW

WHEN England won the World Cup in 1966, their triumph was described by Pele "as the day football stopped being an art".

And the greatest player on the planet at the time later added: "England won the tournament but, in my opinion, she did not have the best team on the field".

Gareth Southgate might have used a similar theme as his Class of 2024 have battled towards the European Championship over the last four weeks.

England have not been the best team in Germany in the first six games of the Euros. Spain have - and by some margin.

But tournament football has never been about how you start. It's how you finish that counts.

And often, it isn't the superior team that leaves the field as champions.

Think of Brazil in 1982 and the Italian team that lifted the World Cup. Even further back, Hungary beat West Germany 8-3 in the group stages only to lose to the same team in the final.

Channel 4 is showing the game which ended with Bobby Moore lifting the Jules Rimet Trophy in the hours before the Class of 2024 take on the Spanish in Berlin.

It will show a contest with the Germans that was played at a painfully slow pace by modern standards.

Every Englishman knows how it ended, though, with people on the pitch and Geoff Hurst becoming the first player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup Final.

England's third goal in a 4-2 win came when Hurst lashed a

Simon Mullock

REPORTING FROM BERLIN

shot against the underside of the German crossbar and Azerbaijan linesman Tofiq Bahramov advised referee Gottfried Dienst that the ball had crossed the line.

Goalline technology would have probably come to a different conclusion.

It was the first World Cup tournament televised in colour, the first when drug tests became mandatory and so prompted Brazil to ask FIFA whether they would still be allowed to drink their favourite coffee.

The road to the final was tortuous for England. Does that sound familiar?

For a 1-0 win over Serbia in Gelsenkirchen, swap a goalless draw at Wembley with a physical Uruguayan team who were the first to show that South America's finest were also experts

when it came to sticking the boot in.

Fans of the host nation were already starting to question Ramsey's wingless wonders when Bobby Charlton's 25-yard rocket put England on their way to a 2-0 victory over Mexico.

France were beaten by the same score, although Roger Hunt's first goal should perhaps have been disallowed for offside and his second was scored with Jacques Simon rolling around the famous turf in agony after being nailed by a Nobby Stiles tackle that ended his night.

One FA official suggested Stiles should be axed from the squad. Ramsey threatened to quit if the decision was made for him



J-OLLIE GOOD: Super sub Ollie Watkins scores deep into added time against Holland to send England through to the Euro final



ROCKET: Bobby Charlton scores in the 80th minute against Portugal in the World Cup semi-final in 1966

- but in the quarter-final against Argentina he was forced to replace the injured goal-machine Jimmy Greaves with Hurst.

Unlike Southgate with Harry Kane, Ramsey suspected Hurst (above left) was a better fit than Greaves for a team that was solid rather than spectacular.

Kane scored his first goal of the Euros in a 1-1 draw with Denmark in Frankfurt but his sluggish performance led to suggestions that England would be better without their record goalscorer - and the noise around the captain only increased when travelling fans threw plastic

pint pots at Southgate following a goalless stalemate with Slovenia in Cologne.

England were moments from being eliminated in the last 16 when Jude Bellingham's brilliant overhead kick broke Slovakian hearts in Gelsenkirchen before Kane's headed winner in extra-time secured a place in the quarter-finals.

Back in 1966, Hurst illustrated that he was much more than a workhorse by heading the late goal that beat the 10-men of Argentina.

Nearly six decades later, the Three Lions were staring down the barrel of defeat

when Bukayo Saka cancelled out Breel Embolo's opener for Switzerland with 10 minutes left and England prevailed 5-3 on penalties after extra-time failed to produce a winner.

England's best performance of their World Cup triumph arguably came in the semi-final when Bobby Charlton's two goals were enough to edge past the Eusebio-inspired Portugal.

It was the same this summer, with Ollie Watkins coming off the bench to score the last-minute goal that took the Three Lions to Berlin after an accomplished display against Holland.

MOMENT: Watkins



■ There have been 114 goals scored in the tournament so far this year, with an average of 2.28 goals per match.

■ Finalists Spain have scored the most goals (13), two more than hosts Germany, with Turkey and Switzerland on eight.

■ No team has kept the ball better than Portugal at Euro 2024 so far. They had possession for 64.8 per cent of their games.

■ Slovenia have crunched into more tackles than any other side at the finals. They made 79 tackles, two more than Turkey.

endurance!

YOU FINISH, JUST LIKE BOYS OF 66

TEARS OF JOY:
Watkins overcome with emotion after his late semi-final goal against Holland



HOW THEY GOT HERE..

GROUP B Saturday, June 15
Spain 3 Croatia 0

La Roja started their Euro 2024 finals campaign in emphatic style - at the same stadium they will play today's final. Luis de la Fuente's side were 3-0 up at the break thanks to goals from Alvaro Morata (left), Fabian Ruiz and Dani Carvajal.



GROUP B
Thursday, June 20
Spain 1 Italy 0

A statement win against the defending champions secured a spot in the knockout stages as Spain dominated an underwhelming Italian side. Gianluigi Donnarumma in the Italy goal managed to keep it goalless for nearly an hour as the Spaniards created chance after chance.

But he was finally undone when Morata's flick hit Riccardo Calafiori's knee and went in.

GROUP B Monday, June 24
Albania 0 Spain 1

Ah, the tournament rest game.

With a place in the last 16 already secured, boss De La Fuente made 10 changes to his starting line-up which meant each of his outfield players got on in the group stage.

Ferran Torres netted early on in this meaningless encounter.



GOAL:
Torres



Last 16 Sunday, June 30
Spain 4 Georgia 1

Spain finally conceded a goal but Georgia were still no match for them.

Robin Le Normand's own goal after a great breakaway gave the tournament debutants hope of a giant-killing, but in the end, it proved fanciful.

Rodri levelled before the break and in the second half it was all Spain, with Fabian Ruiz, Nico Williams and Dani Olmo (above) all getting on the scoresheet.

Quarter-final Friday, July 5
Spain 2 Germany 1 (AET)

Arguably one of the games of the tournament as Spain knocked out the hosts.

Olmo gave Spain the lead just after the break but they nearly paid the price after sitting back and inviting Germany on.

Florian Wirtz netted in the 89th minute as the Germans piled on the pressure. But Mikel Merino's (above) header in the last minute of extra time saved his side from penalties.

Semi-final Tuesday, July 9
Spain 2 France 1

Kolo Muani's header gave France the perfect start but this game will be remembered for teenage superstar Lamine Yamal's curling, long-range strike which levelled the game and turned the tie.

Olmo smashed home in the 25th minute and Spain held on in this nervy clash.



CLASS:
Yamal

THE FINAL



SPAIN v ENGLAND

OLYMPIASTADION, BERLIN | TODAY, KO 8PM | BBC ONE & ITV



HIS FINEST HOURS (SO FAR)

Southgate's key moments

GARETH SOUTHGATE'S eight-year England reign, bar some occasional turbulence, has been a remarkable path of persistent progress.

Truly unprecedented on so many levels, Southgate's Three Lions have constantly rewritten the history books by setting so many unwanted records straight.

Now, as his new class of 2024 stand on the brink of becoming the first England side to lift silverware since 1966, we pick Southgate's fab five career-defining matches from his 101 so far in the hot seat.

2018 WORLD CUP, ROUND OF 16: ENGLAND 1 COLOMBIA 1 (ENGLAND WIN 4-3 ON PENS)

Eric Dier steps up to convert the penalty that ends 22 years of relentless shootout misery for England at major tournaments. The nation's wild relief and delight at finally seeing our 12-yard, sudden-death curse broken in Russia is massive – and Southgate's inspired sizzlers go on to reach a first semi-final anywhere since Italia 90.

NATIONS LEAGUE GROUP STAGE, 2018: SPAIN 2 ENGLAND 3

Few cared about the competition but this explosive,

Harry Pratt REPORTING

stylish triumph over Spain in Seville signalled England's recent World Cup exploits were no flash in the pan. Spain had won the reverse meeting at Wembley a month earlier. But here they were simply blown away as Raheem Sterling's double, either side of Marcus Rashford's strike, made it 3-0 after 38 sensational minutes. Not even a late Spanish fightback could remove the gloss of England's potential becoming reality.

EURO 2020, ROUND OF 16: ENGLAND 3 GERMANY 1

Another game, another embarrassing record bites the dust. England had never defeated a renowned superpower in the knockout stages of a tournament. Germany – under Joachim Low (above with Southgate) – were not vintage but you can only beat what is in front of you. Deadly Sterling put the hosts in front. Then, after Thomas Muller missed a sitter, Kane broke to wrap up victory at Wembley.

EURO 2020, SEMI-FINAL: ENGLAND 2 DENMARK 1 (AET)

Expectations were on the rise throughout the land, growing with every victory en route to a last-four showdown against Denmark. A first major final in 55 years awaited the Three Lions. It would be a formality, most assumed, before the Danes grabbed the lead. England, though, rose to the occasion as Sterling levelled to force extra time before Kane scored – on the rebound – from his penalty saved by Kasper Schmeichel.



EURO 2024, SEMI-FINAL: HOLLAND 1 ENGLAND 2

Southgate's troops go where no Englishman has gone before as they reach their second Euros final in a row and the country's first-ever showpiece on foreign soil. Following desperately dull displays, Southgate switched to three at the back to see off the Swiss in the last eight. It worked well against the Dutch, too, but it was his late double change that inspired a glorious triumph. At 1-1, in the dying seconds, Cole Palmer fed fellow sub Ollie Watkins who let rip into the far corner.

CHEWED BACCA: Pickford save in 2018 and Kane goal against Danes (right)



BET BUILDER XTRA

Spain v England

8pm | Live on BBC One and ITV

Win 50% more on the final

Tap boost on **YOUR BET**

it's who you play with

HILL



TAKE TIME TO THINK™
takimetothink.co.uk

Online only. Valid on Bet Builders of 3+ selections at 3/1+. Boost on winning bets only. Pre-match singles only. 1x per customer per match. Available from day prior to match. Max stake £20. Country restrictions & full T&Cs apply. Over 18s only.

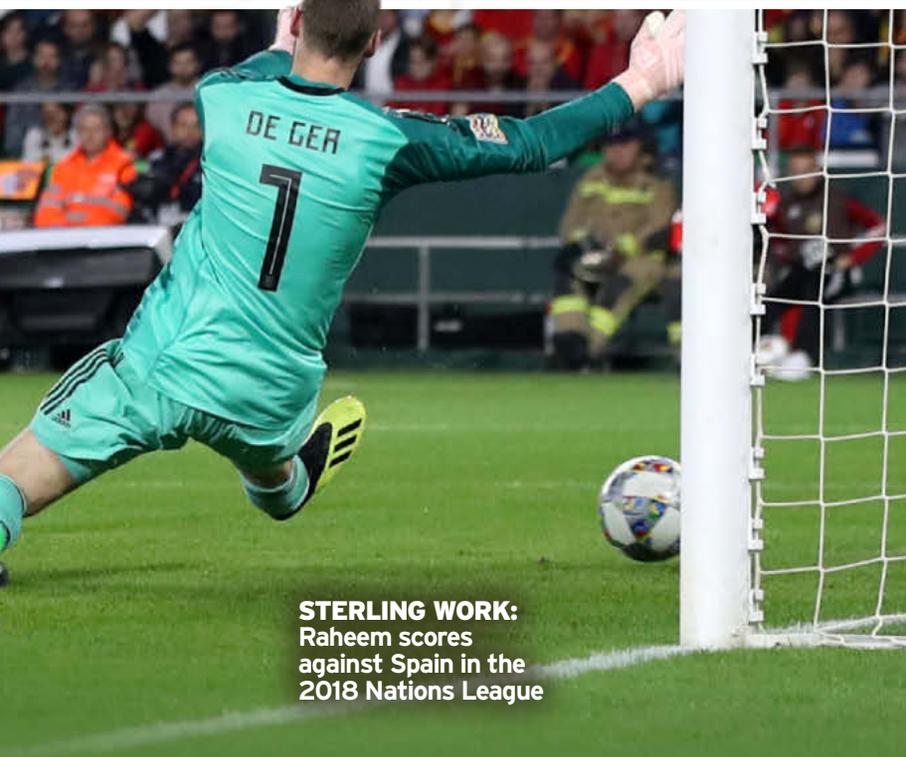
■ Six players sit top of the goalscoring charts with three each. Harry Kane and Dani Olmo from the finalists are two of them in the lead.

■ Spain's teenage superstar Lamine Yamal has more assists at the finals than any other player so far, with three.

■ Didier Deschamps' France side kept four clean sheets at Euro 2024, one more than Spain and Portugal who are on three each.

■ Scotland had the least shots on goal at the finals, with 16 in their three games - 10 fewer than the next lowest (Serbia, 26).

■ There have only been six red cards at Euro 2024 so far, with two of them going to Czech Republic in their three group matches.



STERLING WORK:
Raheem scores against Spain in the 2018 Nations League



SHAW THING:
Luke Shaw scores early in the 2021 Final against Italy



2020 VISION: Pickford saves, Southgate ponders and Chiellini consoles Kane



Five things..

HOW LIONS MUST LEARN FROM 2020 FINAL

A FINAL. On the verge of the ultimate prize. So tantalisingly close to glory, yet still so far.

England have been here before, of course. Three years ago, to be exact, in the Covid-delayed Euro 2020 Final - against Italy at a rammed Wembley.

And we all know how that infamous evening, which promised victory for so long, eventually turned sour on the pitch amid crushing penalty shootout heartbreak.

Yet, no matter the agony of losing out at the death in such a manner, there are always lessons to be learned in defeat.

Here we look at five things from that night which England must heed going into battle against Spain in Berlin.

LUKE SHAW

The Manchester United defender made his mark with a stunning second-minute strike - the fastest goal in a Euro final. He positively crashed home a superb crossfield ball from Kieran Trippier to set the match alight. Shaw has three England goals in

Harry Pratt REPORTING

total but this belter shows why, when fit, he is the man for the biggest occasion.

HUMAN NATURE

There is never a bad time to score but grabbing an early lead - after one minute and 58 seconds of a massive game - has a flip side. It can spread anxiety throughout the team for what is ahead. England soon started thinking of what they had to lose rather than what victory would bring. They slowly retreated, allowing Italy more and more possession. By half-time, they conceded control. The rest is history.

TOUCHLINE TACTICS

Gareth Southgate was castigated for his substitutions in the final. They were left too late, made no sense and ultimately were the reason for our demise, screamed the critics. They had a point. Muddled thinking and seemingly gambling on penalties

to land the trophy backfired badly. It's not a problem completely solved, either.

DARK ARTS

Beware the world-class cynic. Italy were a hard team, with their experienced central defensive hatchet duo, Giorgio Chiellini and Leonardo Bonucci kicking lumps out of Harry Kane and others from the first whistle. Neither were booked until the second half, by which time they had done their job of suppressing England's creativity. It was a case of old heads getting away with football's dark arts. England must be on their guard tonight.

PENALTY KICKS

Jordan Pickford's sensational heroics, saving two Italian penalties, proved in vain as Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka missed one by one in a 3-2 sudden-death reverse for the shattered hosts. The first two had been sent on in the 120th minute - specifically for the task of converting from 12 yards. They had barely touched the ball.



Prepare for **Greatness**

THE FINAL

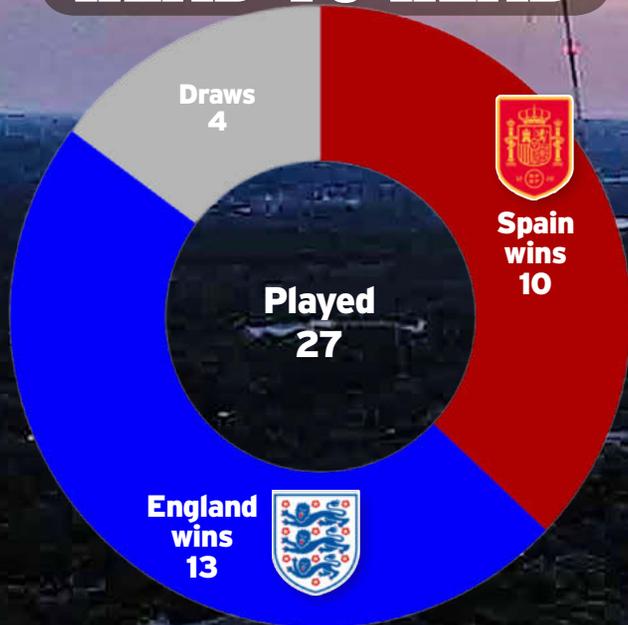


SPAIN v ENGLAND

OLYMPIASTADION, BERLIN › TODAY, KO 8PM › BBC ONE & ITV



HEAD TO HEAD



THE BOSS

Luis de la Fuente

The Spanish uncle. Took over when high-profile appointment Luis Enrique stepped down as the team fractured. After bossing the youth set-ups, is seen as a safe pair of hands. Record: P20 W16 D2 L2



23 Unai Simon

Age.....27
Caps.....45
Club Athletic Bilbao

Position
KEEPER

Two clean sheets and three goals conceded in five games at tournament is impressive but yet to be genuinely tested.

Euro mins played480
Euro rating7



14 Aymeric Laporte

Age.....30
Caps.....34
Club Al Nassr

Position
DEFENDER

Former Man City star with his experience and composure is proving Saudi league no obstacle to performing well on world stage.

Euro mins played435
Euro rating7



5 Robin Le Normand

Age.....27
Caps.....16
Club Real Sociedad

Position
DEFENDER

Missed semi-final through suspension but likely to return as he provides a ball-playing pillar to team's defensive spine.

Euro mins played360
Euro rating7



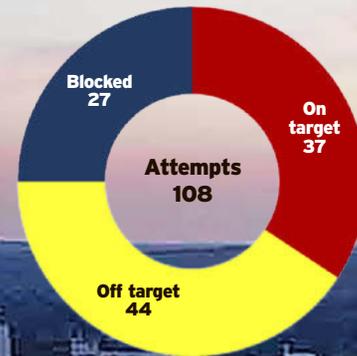
2 Dani Carvajal

Age.....32
Caps.....48
Club Real Madrid

Position
RIGHT-BACK

Champions League winner is back after suspension in semis. Crafty, hard as a rock at back and total menace on counter.

Euro mins played381
Euro rating7



8 Fabian Ruiz

Age.....28
Caps.....28
Club Paris Saint-Germain

Position
MIDFIELD

Alongside Rodri, he provides the perfect cover for defence while constantly keeping creative side ticking ahead of him.

Euro mins played452
Euro rating7



17 Nico Williams

Age.....22
Caps.....19
Club Athletic Bilbao

Position
FORWARD

Provides the flair on the left that, allied to Yamal, enables Spain to attack in such deadly fashion. Vital to the press.

Euro mins played404
Euro rating8



10 Dani Olmo

Age.....26
Caps.....38
Club RB Leipzig

Position
MIDFIELD

One-time Barcelona youth product has made loss of crooked Pedri pretty irrelevant with his tenacity, creativity and goal threat.

Euro mins played341
Euro rating8



7 Alvaro Morata

Age.....31
Caps.....79
Club Atletico Madrid

Position
FORWARD

Skipper divides opinion but cannot be underestimated. He has scored 36 international goals - and has the ability to hold and link.

Euro mins played386
Euro rating7



16 Rodri

Age.....28
Caps.....55
Club Man City

Position
MIDFIELD

Always in right place at right time. World-class star has lost only once in 90 minutes this year - the FA Cup final.

Euro mins played476
Euro rating8



19 Lamine Yamal

Age.....17
Caps.....13
Club FC Barcelona

Position
FORWARD

At 16, he became the youngest ever scorer at a major tournament with his semi-final scorcher. He turned 17 yesterday.

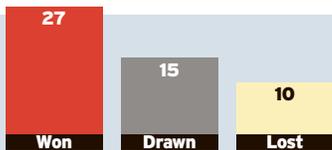
Euro mins played418
Euro rating9



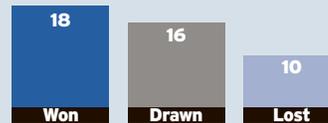
TROPHY CABINETS

England, famously, won the Jules Rimet Trophy in 1966 but the country has been bereft of silverware ever since - though they did lose the Euro 2020 final to Italy at Wembley.

The Spanish took their first European Championships win in 1964, as the hosts of what was then called the 'European Nations Cup', beating the Soviet Union 2-1 in the final.



EUROS ALL-TIME RECORD



THE BOSS

Gareth Southgate

Eight years at helm. So close to ending the drought at the World Cup in 2018 and the 2020 Euros. After a barrage of criticism for poor displays in the early stages, has turned the team around.

Record: P101 W61 D24 L16



LINE-UPS AND PEN PICTURES



7 Bukayo Saka



Age..... 22
Caps..... 39
Club Arsenal

Position WING-BACK

Has produced world-class moments in spurts but there is more to come from the versatile, creative, free-scoring star boy.
Euro mins played..... 545
Euro rating..... 7

2 Kyle Walker



Age..... 34
Caps..... 89
Club Man City

Position DEFENDER

Started finals slowly but lightning quick vice-skipper is motoring now, covering in inimitable style at back and overlapping in attack.
Euro mins played..... 600
Euro rating..... 7

10 Jude Bellingham



Age..... 21
Caps..... 35
Club Real Madrid

Position MIDFIELD

Last-16 hero, yes, but truly gifted La Liga star still to produce a persistently classy 90 minutes. Time to deliver in Berlin.
Euro mins played..... 581
Euro rating..... 6

26 Kobbie Mainoo



Age..... 19
Caps..... 8
Club Man United

Position MIDFIELD

Undoubtedly Gareth Southgate's find of the finals. Calm and collected beyond his years, the way he dictated semi-final was immense.
Euro mins played..... 300
Euro rating..... 8

9 Harry Kane



Age..... 30
Caps..... 97
Club Bayern Munich

Position FORWARD

England skipper and record scorer, with 66 goals, is bidding to win silverware for first time ever - with club or country.
Euro mins played..... 544
Euro rating..... 6

1 Jordan Pickford



Age..... 30
Caps..... 67
Club Everton

Position KEEPER

England's No.1 for six years may not produce worldie saves but mistakes are scarce beyond belief. Revels in big matches.
Euro mins played..... 600
Euro rating..... 8

11 Phil Foden



Age..... 24
Caps..... 40
Club Man City

Position MIDFIELD

Magical playmaker is starting to hit heights that earned him Premier League and FWA Player of Year awards. Due a goal.
Euro mins played..... 533
Euro rating..... 7

4 Declan Rice



Age..... 25
Caps..... 57
Club Arsenal

Position MIDFIELD

Perhaps not at brilliant box-to-box best but the nation's engine room, with massive experience, never hides in battle.
Euro mins played..... 600
Euro rating..... 6

6 Marc Guehi



Age..... 24
Caps..... 16
Club Crystal Palace

Position DEFENDER

England's player of the tournament. In first major finals, Eagles skipper has made seamless transition to world stage.
Euro mins played..... 480
Euro rating..... 8

12 Kieran Trippier



Age..... 33
Caps..... 54
Club Newcastle

Position WING-BACK

Has put last season's injury and poor form behind him with solid, albeit unspectacular displays out of position on left side.
Euro mins played..... 453
Euro rating..... 6

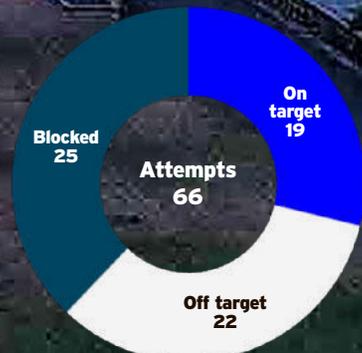
EURO 2024 STATS

Spain	England
6	6
6	3
0	3
0	0
6	4
11	6
1	1
57	59
90	90
28	35
46	35
34	22
3	2
16	14



England won the pre-tournament warm-up for the 1998 World Cup at 'Le Tournoi' in France. They finished top in a round-robin event also featuring Brazil, France and Italy.

Spain won back-to-back Euros in 2008 and 2012 - and sandwiched a World Cup win in between them - cementing that side's spot in football history.



GROUP A		GERMANY, SCOTLAND, HUNGARY, SWITZERLAND	
GERMANY Wirtz 20, Musiala 19, Havertz 45+1 pen, Fullkrug 68, Can 90+3	5	HUNGARY Varga 66	1
SCOTLAND Rudiger 87 og	1	SWITZERLAND Duah 12, Aebischer 45, Embolo 90+3	3
GERMANY Musiala 22, Gundogan 67	2	SCOTLAND McTominay 13	1
HUNGARY	0	SWITZERLAND Shaqiri 26	1
SWITZERLAND Ndoye 28	1	SCOTLAND	0
GERMANY Fullkrug 90+2	1	HUNGARY Csoboth 90+10	1

GROUP B		SPAIN, CROATIA, ITALY, ALBANIA	
SPAIN Morata 29, Ruiz 32, Carvajal 45+2	3	ITALY Bastoni 11, Barella 16	2
CROATIA	0	ALBANIA Bajrami 1	1
CROATIA Kramaric 74, Gjasula 76 og	2	SPAIN Calafiori 55 og	1
ALBANIA Laci 11, Gjasula 90+5	2	ITALY	0
CROATIA Modric 55	1	ALBANIA	0
ITALY Zaccagni 90+8	1	SPAIN Torres 13	1

GROUP C		SLOVENIA, SERBIA, DENMARK, ENGLAND	
SLOVENIA Janza 77	1	SERBIA	0
DENMARK Eriksen 17	1	ENGLAND Bellingham 13	1
SLOVENIA Karnicnik 69	1	DENMARK Hjulmand 34	1
SERBIA Jovic 90+5	1	ENGLAND Kane 18	1
ENGLAND	0	DENMARK	0
SLOVENIA	0	SERBIA	0

GROUP D		POLAND, HOLLAND, AUSTRIA, FRANCE	
POLAND Buksa 16	1	AUSTRIA	0
HOLLAND Gakpo 29, Weghorst 83	2	FRANCE Wober 38 og	1
POLAND Piatek 30	1	HOLLAND	0
AUSTRIA Trauner 9, Baumgartner 66, Arnautovic 78 (pen)	3	FRANCE	0
HOLLAND Gakpo 47, Depay 75	2	FRANCE Mbappe 56 pen	1
AUSTRIA Malen 6 og, Schmid 59, Sabitzer 80	3	POLAND Lewandowski 79 pen	1

GROUP E		BELGIUM, SLOVAKIA, ROMANIA, UKRAINE	
ROMANIA Stanciu 29, Marin 53, Dragus 57	3	BELGIUM	0
UKRAINE	0	SLOVAKIA Schranz 7	1
SLOVAKIA Schranz 17	1	BELGIUM Tielemans 2, De Bruyne 80	2
UKRAINE Shaparenko 54, Yaremchuk 80	2	ROMANIA	0
SLOVAKIA Duda 24	1	UKRAINE	0
ROMANIA R Marin 37 (pen)	1	BELGIUM	0

GROUP F		TURKEY, GEORGIA, PORTUGAL, CZECH REPUBLIC	
TURKEY Muldur 25, Guler 65, Akturkoglu 90+7	3	PORTUGAL Hranac 69 og, Conceicao 90+2	2
GEORGIA Mikautadze 32	1	CZECH REP Provod 62	1
GEORGIA Mikautadze 45 (pen)	1	TURKEY	0
CZECH REP Schick 59	1	PORTUGAL Bernardo Silva 21, Akaydin 28 (og), Bruno Fernandes 56	3
CZECH REP Soucek 66	1	GEORGIA Kvaratskhelia 2, Mikautadze 57 (Pen)	2
TURKEY Calhanoglu 51 Tosun 90	2	PORTUGAL	0

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	GROUP E	GROUP F																																																																																																																																																																																																																																										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>P</th><th>W</th><th>D</th><th>L</th><th>F</th><th>A</th><th>Pts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Germany</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>8</td><td>2</td><td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Switzerland</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hungary</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scotland</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>7</td><td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Germany	3	2	1	0	8	2	7	Switzerland	3	1	2	0	5	3	5	Hungary	3	1	0	2	2	5	3	Scotland	3	0	1	2	2	7	1	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>P</th><th>W</th><th>D</th><th>L</th><th>F</th><th>A</th><th>Pts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Spain</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Italy</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Croatia</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Albania</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Spain	3	3	0	0	5	0	9	Italy	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	Croatia	3	0	2	1	3	6	2	Albania	3	0	1	2	3	5	1	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>P</th><th>W</th><th>D</th><th>L</th><th>F</th><th>A</th><th>Pts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>England</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denmark</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slovenia</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Serbia</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	England	3	1	2	0	2	1	5	Denmark	3	0	3	0	2	2	3	Slovenia	3	0	3	0	2	2	3	Serbia	3	0	2	1	1	2	2	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>P</th><th>W</th><th>D</th><th>L</th><th>F</th><th>A</th><th>Pts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Austria</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>France</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holland</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Poland</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Austria	3	2	0	1	6	4	6	France	3	1	2	0	2	1	5	Holland	3	1	1	1	4	4	4	Poland	3	0	1	2	3	6	1	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>P</th><th>W</th><th>D</th><th>L</th><th>F</th><th>A</th><th>Pts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Romania</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belgium</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slovakia</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ukraine</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>4</td><td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Romania	3	1	1	1	4	3	4	Belgium	3	1	1	1	2	1	4	Slovakia	3	1	1	1	3	3	4	Ukraine	3	1	1	1	2	4	4	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>P</th><th>W</th><th>D</th><th>L</th><th>F</th><th>A</th><th>Pts</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Portugal</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turkey</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Georgia</td><td>3</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>1</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Czech Rep</td><td>3</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Portugal	3	2	0	1	5	3	6	Turkey	3	2	0	1	5	5	6	Georgia	3	1	1	1	4	4	4	Czech Rep	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
Germany	3	2	1	0	8	2	7																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	5	3	5																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Hungary	3	1	0	2	2	5	3																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Scotland	3	0	1	2	2	7	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
Spain	3	3	0	0	5	0	9																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Italy	3	1	1	1	3	3	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Croatia	3	0	2	1	3	6	2																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Albania	3	0	1	2	3	5	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
England	3	1	2	0	2	1	5																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Denmark	3	0	3	0	2	2	3																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Slovenia	3	0	3	0	2	2	3																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Serbia	3	0	2	1	1	2	2																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
Austria	3	2	0	1	6	4	6																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
France	3	1	2	0	2	1	5																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Holland	3	1	1	1	4	4	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Poland	3	0	1	2	3	6	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
Romania	3	1	1	1	4	3	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Belgium	3	1	1	1	2	1	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Slovakia	3	1	1	1	3	3	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Ukraine	3	1	1	1	2	4	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
Portugal	3	2	0	1	5	3	6																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Turkey	3	2	0	1	5	5	6																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Georgia	3	1	1	1	4	4	4																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
Czech Rep	3	0	1	2	3	5	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								

ROUND OF 16

GAME 37 GERMANY 2 DENMARK 0 Havertz 53 (pen), Musiala 68	GAME 38 SWITZERLAND 2 ITALY 0 Freuler 37, Vargas 46
GAME 39 SPAIN 4 GEORGIA 1 Rodri 39, Fabian Ruiz 51, Williams 75, Olmo 83	GAME 40 (AET) ENGLAND 2 SLOVAKIA 1 Bellingham 90 +5, Kane 91 (ET)
GAME 41 (AET) PORTUGAL 0 SLOVENIA 0 Portugal win 3-0 on pens	GAME 42 FRANCE 1 BELGIUM 0 Vertonghen 85og
GAME 43 ROMANIA 0 HOLLAND 3 Gakpo 20, Malen 83, 90 +3	GAME 44 AUSTRIA 1 TURKEY 2 Gregoritsch 66

QUARTER-FINALS

GAME 45 (AET) SPAIN 2 GERMANY 1 Olmo 51, Merino 119 (ET)	GAME 46 (AET) PORTUGAL 0 FRANCE 0 France win 5-3 on pens
GAME 47 HOLLAND 2 TURKEY 1 De Vrij 70, Muldur 76og	GAME 48 (AET) ENGLAND 1 SWITZERLAND 1 Saka 80, Embolo 75, England win 5-3 on pens

SEMI-FINALS

GAME 49 SPAIN 2 FRANCE 1 Yamal 21, Olmo 25	GAME 50 HOLLAND 1 ENGLAND 2 Simons 7, Kane 18 (pen), Watkins 90
--	---

FINAL

GAME 51 **SPAIN** **V** **ENGLAND**
Olympiastadion Berlin **TODAY, KICK-OFF 8PM**



THE WILLIAMHILL 5

TOP TIPS FOR POSITIVE PLAY

Find out more about our Safer Gambling tools on the app or at williamhill.com

Safer Gambling

HILL

it's who you play with

18+

BeGambleAware.org

||

TAKE TIME TO THINK

taketimetothink.co.uk