DAILY NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

THE TIMES

Monday July 22 2024 | thetimes.com | No 74467

SL

£2.80 £2.00 to subscribers
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# Biden quits the race

## ● US president bows to pressure and ditches election campaign ● He backs Kamala Harris to take on fight against Trump

**Alistair Dawber, David Charter**
**Hugh Tomlinson** Washington

YVES HERMAN/REUTERS

President Biden will stay in office until his successor is inaugurated in January. Until yesterday he had insisted he was the candidate best placed to beat Donald Trump

President Biden has abandoned his campaign for re-election and endorsed Kamala Harris, the vice-president, to succeed him after mounting pressure from his Democratic Party to pass the torch to a younger generation.

Biden, 81, posted a letter on social media saying he believed "it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as president for the remainder of my term".

In a statement last night, Harris, 59, said she was "honoured to have the president's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination".

Selected as Biden's running-mate after losing the 2020 Democratic primaries against him, she became America's first woman of colour to serve as US vice-president.

She praised Biden's "remarkable legacy of accomplishment", which she said "is unmatched in modern American history, surpassing the legacy of many presidents who have served two terms in office".

The president's sudden announcement was the culmination of weeks of consternation in his party after the poor television debate performance on June 27 against Donald Trump that led to his low poll ratings dropping further, fuelling a widespread belief that he could no longer win a second term.

"It has been the greatest honour of my life to serve as your president," Biden wrote. "I believe today as I always have: that there is nothing America can't do — when we do it together. We just have to remember that we are the United States of America."

Trump, 78, reacted by calling Biden "the worst president in the history of our country" and claimed that Harris would be "easier to beat", although his team had shown signs of wanting Biden to remain their opponent.

Harris will now be the favourite for the Democratic nomination, but some of her main party rivals did not follow Biden's endorsement as they calculated whether to stage a challenge leading up to the convention, starting on August 19 in Chicago.

The president will stay in office until January, when his successor will be inaugurated. Until yesterday he had insisted that he would stay in the race because he was the person best placed to beat Trump.

Holed up at his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, while recovering from coronavirus, he was still adamant on Saturday night that he wanted to continue, it is understood. It was only yesterday afternoon that he reached the conclusion that he could not carry on.

It was reported that the president informed his senior staff of his intention to stand down at 1.45pm , with the tweet that made public his decision being posted at 1.46pm.

Barack Obama praised his former vice-president, saying that his decision was testament to Biden's "love of country". He warned, however, of a difficult path to the November 5 election. Unlike Biden, Obama did not endorse Harris. Biden had "every right" to run for re-election, Obama said in a statement, lauding his record and calling him a "patriot of the highest order".

"We will be navigating uncharted waters in the days ahead. But I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges," he said.

Obama favours an open primary for the selection of a new candidate, but another former president, Bill Clinton, endorsed Harris. Along with his wife, Hillary — the only woman to date to be selected as candidate for either main party — he joined "millions of Americans in thanking President Biden for all that he accomplished".

The collapse of Biden's leadership has been spectacular. Before the debate against Trump many harboured private doubts over whether he could continue as the Democratic candidate and serve another four-year term. His woeful debate performance allowed those doubts to burst into the open, with increasingly senior figures saying that he should quit.

Fears were heightened as his campaign responded with a series of set-piece television interviews, in which Biden fluffed some of his lines, and on the last day of a Nato summit earlier this month he described Harris, his deputy, as "Vice-President Trump" and introduced President Zelensky of Ukraine as "President Putin".

Last week it became clear that Obama and other party grandees, such as the former House speaker Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats' two congressional leaders, Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries, wanted him to go.

Behind the scenes, donors were getting skittish as polls, especially those focused on the seven or eight key swing states, showed that Trump was pulling ahead. A new poll for the Detroit Free Press published yesterday showed Trump ahead by seven points in Michigan, where Biden won by almost three points four years ago.

Sir Keir Starmer, who met Biden in Washington this month, said: "I respect President Biden's decision and I look forward to us working together during the remainder of his presidency."

**Full report and analysis, pages 4-7**

## IN THE NEWS

### Labour migrant plan

Illegal migrants who arrive from "safe" countries will have their asylum applications given priority under plans to be announced by Labour this week. **Page 10**

### Bosses work flexibly

Nine in ten chief executives regularly work from home, suggesting hybrid working is set to stay despite efforts by some companies to force staff back to their desks. **Page 13**

### Tourism warning

Residents and officials in Greece's Cycladic islands, where a record number of visitors are expected this summer, warn that tourism is out of control. **Page 28**

### Royal Mail meeting

Daniel Kretinsky, the Czech energy tycoon who is seeking to take over the Royal Mail, will meet the leader of the postal workers' union for the first time tomorrow. **Page 31**

### Verstappen loses plot

A frustrated Max Verstappen swore at his critics after an eventful Hungarian Grand Prix in which he collided with Lewis Hamilton and his lead in the title race was cut. **Page 62**

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News

# Today's highlights

7am **Bridget Phillipson**, education secretary
8.15am **Chris Whipple**, friend and biographer of President Biden
9.30am The chief executive of BAE Systems, **Charles Woodburn**
12.30pm The comedian **Rosie Jones**, right, on what she would do if she ruled the world
2.45pm **Evan Vucci** who took the photo of Donald Trump raising his fist after he was shot at during a political rally

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## TODAY'S EDITION

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Six-time world snooker champion and former miner
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**481** days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia
#FreeEvan

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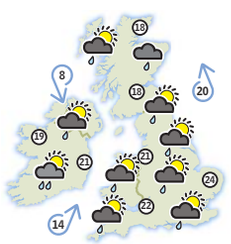
**THE WEATHER**




Patchy cloud and sunny intervals with scattered showers further west and north. **Full forecast, page 47**

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# Reeves ready to offer teachers and nurses 5.5% pay increase

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor

Rachel Reeves is preparing to hand millions of public sector workers an above-inflation pay rise and attempt to blame the Conservatives for any tax rises needed to fund it.

The chancellor is understood to be minded to accept recommendations for a 5.5 per cent pay rise for teachers, nurses and other NHS workers, with similar deals in prospect for other public sector staff.

Reeves said there was a "cost to not settling" in terms of strikes and a loss of experienced frontline staff, saying that this exodus of workers "has an impact on our economy". Accepting pay recommendations across the board would require her to find about £8 billion from within spending plans that already suggest further cuts to unprotected departments, raising the prospect of further austerity or increases in tax.

Jeremy Hunt, the shadow chancellor, said yesterday that he had calculated while in office that "restraint on public sector pay" was needed to avoid tax rises in the autumn. Reeves is planning to use a review of public finances to blame the funding black hole on the Conservatives, claiming her predecessors left "a mess" for Labour to clear up.

While Reeves has ruled out increasing income tax, VAT or national insurance, she has left herself space for other revenue-raising measures, with government sources stressing that decisions would be taken as part of preparations for a budget expected in October.

The Times reported on Saturday that independent pay review bodies covering half a million teachers and more than 1.3 million NHS staff had recommended a 5.5 per cent increase, significantly more than the 3 per cent budgeted for. Other pay awards for the rest of the six million public sector workers, including doctors, police, members of the armed forces and civil servants, are understood to be similar.

In a hint that she would accept these recommendations, Reeves stressed the need to recruit and retain teachers, doctors and nurses. An exodus of experienced staff is understood to be one of the key reasons for suggested pay increases in line with the private sector.

"I really value public service workers, in our schools, in our hospitals, in our police as well. At the moment we are looking at those pay review body recommendations," Reeves told *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg* on BBC1. She promised more announcements before the end of the month.

"We also know that there is a cost to not settling, a cost of further industrial action, a cost in terms of the challenge that we face in recruiting, retaining doctors and nurses and teachers," she added. "The cost of this ongoing industrial action, the cost of failing to be able to recruit and retain the doctors, the nurses and teachers — that also has an impact on our economy."

While experts have been sceptical of Labour's claim that it found its inheritance worse than it looked from opposition, others say there is "some ground" for Reeves's claim.

Ben Zaranko, of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, said: "The recommended pay award is above what most people were expecting." But he said that this was only "a symptom of the broader problem — that the spending plans they've inherited and implicitly signed up to are very tight, and unlikely to be compatible with their broader objectives for public services."

**Pay rises must be combined with reforms, leading article, page 27**

# Public services 'will be worse by next election'

**Oliver Wright** Policy Editor

Public services in Britain are worse than in 2010 and under present plans will deteriorate further by the end of this parliament, a report has concluded.

A study by the Institute for Government into health, education, councils and the criminal justice system found that across a wide range of measures services had gone backwards.

The report warns that the government faces a "poisoned chalice" and that its spending plans will not only fail to improve services but will leave them worse off by the next general election.

It says that despite increasing NHS funding by 12 per cent and hiring 20 per cent more doctors and nurses, the health service is carrying out only 2 per cent more procedures than it was in 2010. It blames this productivity crisis on cuts to management budgets, buildings that have been allowed to decay and a lack of experienced staff.

It says that local councils' spending power is 22 per cent lower in real terms than when the Conservatives came to power, with the biggest falls in the poorest areas. Cuts have fallen disproportionately on libraries, youth clubs, waste collection and road maintenance.

The legal system is getting worse, with 27 per cent of crown court trials and 22 per cent of magistrates' court hearings being delayed owing to factors such as a lack of lawyers. Two thirds of local authorities have cumulative schools budget deficits.

The institute said that Labour's spending plans were less generous than reviews undertaken by the Blair and Brown governments between 1998 and 2007, and the tightest since 2015.

It said that the new government would have to reform urgently the provision of public services and provide a short-term increase in spending if it wants to see better access to higher quality services more quickly.

# CrowdStrike crash to affect GP appointments for days

**Mark Sellman**
Technology Correspondent

Patients have been warned that delays in accessing information at GPs' surgeries because of the world's biggest global IT failure are likely to continue.

The technology meltdown, caused by a software update on Friday, has caused a considerable backlog, the British Medical Association said.

It added that the outage was "one of the toughest single days in recent times for GPs" after surgeries were unable to book appointments or open patient records. Many had to return to using pen and paper.

Dr David Wrigley, deputy chairman of the BMA's general practitioners' committee, warned of a "considerable backlog" caused by the outage of the patient record system. "Even if we could guarantee it could be fully fixed [today], GPs would still need time to catch up from lost work over the weekend, and NHS England should make clear to patients that normal service cannot be resumed immediately," he said.

Dr Fari Ahmad, from Wilmslow, Cheshire, told BBC Breakfast that "everything went down" in her surgery and the disruption would cause "a lot more issues later on in the week".

Cancer patients were also warned of disruption after the Varian system that delivers radiotherapy was affected.

The failure was caused by a faulty update, or patch, issued by the US cybersecurity company CrowdStrike for its Falcon software. This caused 8.5 million computers running Microsoft Windows to crash, grounding flights, taking broadcasters off air and clogging up health systems around the world.

The co-founder of the government's digital service has highlighted the threat from having one software company provide too many services. Dafydd Vaughan, chief technology officer at Public Digital, said: "Emis, a major provider of services to GP surgeries, handling health records, appointment bookings and more, is used in more than 60 per cent of GP surgeries in England and Wales.

"The government needs to consider the risk that comes with so few companies controlling so much of our essential infrastructure."

Peter Kyle, the science and technology secretary, said a "learning exercise" would be carried out.

**Lessons to be learnt, letters, page 26**

# Disciplinary plan 'chaos' in some schools

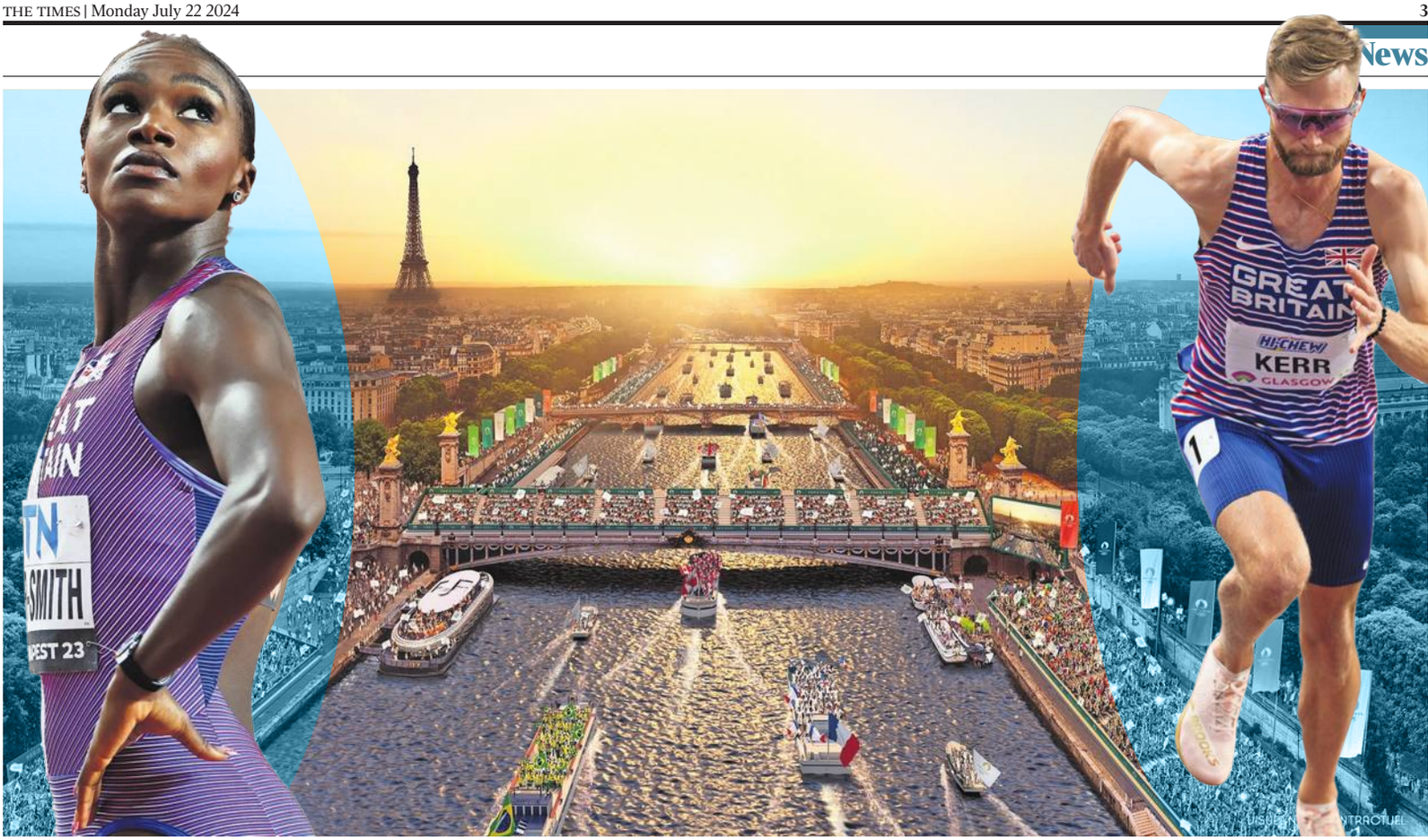
**James Beal** Social Affairs Editor

The head teacher of a state school ranked best in the country for pupil progress last year has criticised Labour's proposals to soften measures that tackle bad behaviour in class.

Katharine Birbalsingh, the head of Michaela Community School in north-west London, said that disadvantaged children would pay the price.

Ministers are said to be planning to stop schools from repeatedly suspending children with special educational needs who failed to meet strict behaviour rules. However, head teachers are concerned that the result would be "more chaotic and dysfunctional schools", with less-advantaged children bearing the brunt. Birbalsingh said on Twitter/X: "Disadvantaged kids are set to suffer if Labour do what they are saying they will do."

The Department for Education said it was determined to get to grips with the causes of poor behaviour, adding: "But there will always be a need for exclusion and expulsion as a last resort, and this government backs head teachers to make those decisions."




Tickets are available for the opening ceremony on the Seine on Friday and finals that could involve the British sprinters Dina Asher-Smith, left, and Daryll Neita, below, and the 1,500m runner Josh Kerr, right,

# With days until the Olympics the race is on… to sell tickets

**Martyn Ziegler** Chief Sports Reporter
Paris

Roll up, roll up to see the greatest show on earth. Hundreds of thousands of tickets for the Paris Olympics, including for the 100m finals and the opening ceremony, remain unsold less than a week before the Games begin.

Organisers said between 500,000 and 600,000 tickets were available, including for blue riband events that usually sell out well in advance.

Last night tickets for the athletics evening session on Sunday, August 4, when the men's 100m final will take place, were available, priced between €295 and €980. There were tickets priced as low as €195 for the evening session on Saturday, August 3, which includes the women's 100m final and the climax of the men's decathlon.

As at previous Olympics, the majority of unsold tickets are for the football tournament, but that the more popular events still have lots of seats available has been a surprise. Most sports, including cycling, swimming, rowing, rugby sevens, gymnastics and other athletics finals, also had tickets available last night.

There are also 4,000 seats for Friday's opening ceremony on the River Seine, priced from €900 to €2,700. The cheapest seats, at €90 each, were sold out. A further 200,000 people have been allowed free tickets to access the river bank.

The Paris ticket prices — adjusted for inflation — are cheaper than those for the London 2012 Olympics, where tickets for most events, and especially the athletics finals, were very hard to come by and usually allocated via a ballot.

Even in London there were 250,000 unsold tickets by the end of the Games, the vast majority for football. In Rio 2016 more than a million tickets were left unsold, while the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 had to restrict spectators because of the pandemic.

Tony Estanguet, the head of the Paris 2024 organising committee, dismissed suggestions that the availability of tickets for usually high-demand events reflected diminished interest. He pointed out that 8.8 million tickets had already been sold, the highest number for an Olympics, meaning that the organisers had achieved their income target.

He added that some tickets were being released only now after being held back until the seating plans had been finalised. "That's why there are still tickets available one week before, because now we have the final plan of the delivery," he said. "We are now at 8.8 million tickets sold and we still have 500,000 to 600,000 tickets available."

Estanguet also defended the decision to nearly double the price of tickets on Paris's public transport for the duration of the Olympics and Paralympics. A single ticket on the Metro has risen from €2.15 to €4 and will remain at that level until September.

Parisians were encouraged to buy travel cards at the old price in advance.

Estanguet said capacity on the transport network has been increased by 15 per cent. Spectators will be able to buy a daily travel card for €16.

Iron curtain falls in Paris, page 30
Paris 2024, pages 52-53

# It's getting too hot for a summer Games, warns Boardman

**Adam Vaughan** Environment Editor
**Charlotte Alt**

In the past year world temperatures have been at record highs and athletes preparing for the Paris Olympics are taking heat adaptation seriously.

Chris Boardman, a former Olympic cycling champion and chairman of Sport England, said that despite athletes' attempts to adapt or acclimatise to higher temperatures — by using frozen water in cycle races or heat chambers during training — some endurance sports would eventually become limited to cooler evenings, winters and the northern hemisphere.

Chris Boardman said adapting sport for extreme weather had its limits

Adapting sport to climate change had limits, he said. "There are steps you can take. But you're managing a bad situation. The focus needs to be on 'Let's not have the bad situation'."

Boardman, 55, was speaking during his Pedal to Paris, an eight-day ride from Manchester, to send a message about climate change before the Olympics. He told The Times he was concerned about how extreme weather is affecting sport, particularly at grassroots level. "We know there's 120,000 grassroots football games lost every year because of flooding," he said. "Seven out of ten kids think climate change is already affecting their ability to be active. We've got extreme heat, which is becoming normal. You can't ride a bike all day in 40C."

The Paris Olympics open on Friday amid warnings from top athletes that competitors' health could be at risk from extreme heat. The city is 3.1C warmer in July and August now than a century ago when it last hosted the Games. Some scientists have expressed concern at the timing of the Olympics, with events in the same months as some of the city's worst heatwaves.

Leslie Mabon, lecturer in environmental systems at the Open University, said that heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are all risks for competitors. Madeleine Orr, founder of the Sport Ecology Group, said: "We are starting to see real existential threats to sport. Our bodies are actually really inefficient at dealing with heat."

News Biden quits the race

# A disaster debate and three

**Hugh Tomlinson** Washington

At "watch parties" across America, Democrats looked on with horror as President Biden limped through the opening exchanges of his primetime debate with Donald Trump three weeks ago.

Rasping and inarticulate, the 81-year-old president trailed off and garbled answers. At one point, in front of a TV audience of more than 50 million people, he ground to a halt completely.

Even Trump, 78, appeared caught off-guard by his opponent's collapse, but issued a lacerating reply to one early fumble by Biden. "I really don't know what he said at the end of that sentence," Trump said. "I don't think he knows either."

By the time Biden was helped offstage by the first lady 90 minutes later, knives were being sharpened, with open discussion on whether he should quit the race. It was the beginning of the end of the president's re-election campaign.

Biden attempted to revive his campaign by appearing energetically at a rally, giving a meandering televised interview and confronting disloyal members of his party behind the scenes. One strategist admitted that the president's performance was the worst debate of the televised era. Others described it as "our worst nightmare".

Biden's team had sought a June debate, the earliest in modern history, in an attempt to get ahead of the narrative that he was too old and tired for another four years in office. A repeat of Biden's fiery state of the union address in March would finally put to bed voters' concerns about the president's age and put the focus back on Trump, now a convicted felon.

Instead, Biden's failure to make the case against Trump on the biggest platform of the campaign opened a civil war within the party.

Party leaders rallied to Biden's side the next day. Barack Obama backed his former vice-president. "Bad debates happen. Trust me, I know," he tweeted, referring to his own lacklustre performance in his first debate against Mitt Romney in 2012. It would be the last public show of support from the former president.

Meanwhile, other Democrats were already breaking ranks. In an early sign of trouble, the former Iowa senator Tom Harkin, a Senate colleague for two decades, declared the debate "a disaster from which Biden cannot recover".

Concern simmered that Biden's campaign was not taking the impact of the debate seriously enough. Pundits noted that after his own poor debate in 2012, Obama had hit the campaign trail hard, holding up to four events a day to get back in the race. Biden, by contrast, remained cloistered from view having disappeared for a weekend of fundraisers and a photoshoot with his family at Camp David.

At a fundraiser in the Hamptons the weekend after the debate, Biden sought to allay the concerns of nervous donors, declaring: "I promise you we're going to win this election." Instead, the campaign continued to drift while a New York Times/Siena College poll found that three quarters of voters saw Biden as too old to serve as an effective president. In the same poll before the debate, Trump was already beating Biden by three points among likely voters and six points among registered voters. In the post-debate poll, the former president extended his lead to six points among likely voters and nine among registered voters.

On July 2, Lloyd Doggett of Texas became the first Democrat in Congress to publicly call for Biden to drop out. Party members urged the president to prove himself at unscripted events to curb the damage. But the dilemma surrounding the president's team was clear: doing more public events increased the likelihood of gaffes.

Biden sat down for his first unscripted appearance since the debate eight days later, in an interview with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News. He was defensive, insisting that only "the Lord Almighty" could persuade him to drop out of the race. When Stephanopoulos asked how he would feel if Trump was sworn back into office, Biden said: "I'll feel as long as I gave it my all."

Democratic strategists and pundits were appalled. For a party that feared Trump as an existential threat to American democracy itself, Biden's fatalism appeared self-serving and out of touch with his own warnings about the dire consequences of defeat in November.

As the next week began, the president issued an angry letter to House Democrats insisting that he was going nowhere. On July 10, the president was dealt another blow when George Clooney wrote an opinion piece in The New York Times calling on the president to quit the race. The same morning, the former House speaker Nancy Pelosi, considered one of the most influential Democrats on Capitol Hill, went on *Morning Joe* urging Biden "to decide if he is going to run".

At a press conference to close the Nato summit, Biden confused President Zelensky of Ukraine with President Putin, and Kamala Harris with Trump. By the next day, donors were threatening to withhold $90 million in donations from the campaign unless Biden dropped out. More would follow.

The drumbeat only intensified in what would be the final week leading to Biden finally dropping out of the race, with Chuck Schumer, the Senate majority leader, and Pelosi privately increasing the pressure on Biden as panic set in that the crisis could not only cost Democrats the White House, but the House and Senate as well.

In the end there was no one final blow to Biden's re-election campaign, but his Covid diagnosis, which confined him to Delaware for the weekend, made it clear that after a thousand proverbial cuts, his position was now untenable.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

July 21, 2024

My Fellow Americans,

Over the past three and a half years, we have made great progress as a Nation.

Today, America has the strongest economy in the world. We've made historic investments in rebuilding our Nation, in lowering prescription drug costs for seniors, and in expanding affordable health care to a record number of Americans. We've provided critically needed care to a million veterans exposed to toxic substances. Passed the first gun safety law in 30 years. Appointed the first African American woman to the Supreme Court. And passed the most significant climate legislation in the history of the world. America has never been better positioned to lead than we are today.

I know none of this could have been done without you, the American people. Together, we overcame a once in a century pandemic and the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. We've protected and preserved our Democracy. And we've revitalized and strengthened our alliances around the world.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to serve as your President. And while it has been my intention to seek reelection, I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as President for the remainder of my term.

I will speak to the Nation later this week in more detail about my decision.

For now, let me express my deepest gratitude to all those who have worked so hard to see me reelected. I want to thank Vice President Kamala Harris for being an extraordinary partner in all this work. And let me express my heartfelt appreciation to the American people for the faith and trust you have placed in me.

I believe today what I always have: that there is nothing America can't do – when we do it together. We just have to remember we are the United States of America.

A Covid-stricken President Biden leaves Air Force One last week, days after he vowed to fight on during a visit to Wisconsin, top. He seemed much more frail when his wife, Jill, helped him from the stage after the debate with Donald Trump than at his 2021 inauguration

# Amtrak Joe nears the end of his political journey

**Josie Ensor, David Charter**

Joe Biden has always had an eye on his place in history.

"Presidential historians said we've gotten more done of consequence than any president since Franklin Roosevelt," he said last week, referring to the wartime Democratic president.

Biden has always engaged in a bit of myth-making about a presidency that was greater in his telling than in reality but he nevertheless clocked up some real achievements considering how difficult it is to pass anything of consequence in Washington these days.

From the moment he set out on an extraordinary political journey, improbably winning a Senate seat aged 29 thanks to an insurgent campaign that brought early comparisons with John F Kennedy, another Irish-heritage Catholic who burst on the scene at a young age, Biden has felt underestimated.

A scrappy son of Pennsylvania with a speech impediment, Biden saw a Washington class that scoffed at him, Democratic donors that doubted him and a media that never gave him a fair shot.

"You've been wrong about every-

# weeks when Biden fell apart

MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP; STEVE APPS/EPA; GERALD HERBERT/AP; BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP

thing so far," Biden told a group of reporters who asked him why he still felt he was the best person to defeat Trump after the debate. "You were wrong about 2020. You were wrong about 2022 [a midterm election where the Democrats unexpectedly pummelled the Republicans]. We were going to get wiped out — remember?"

After graduating from law school aged 27, he won a seat on Delaware's New Castle county council. Two years later, in 1972, he became one of the youngest senators in US history when he defeated the Republican incumbent, J Caleb Boggs.

Weeks after the victory, Biden's wife, Neilia, and their 13-month-old daughter, Naomi, were killed in a car accident. He resisted calls to step aside and ended up being sworn in at the hospital where his sons were treated. He would go on to represent Delaware in the Senate for 36 years until his departure in 2009. He was given the nickname Amtrak Joe for commuting daily by train. He married again, to a teacher, Jill Jacobs, with whom he had a daughter, Ashley.

Biden became the top Democrat on the Senate judiciary committee and then the panel's chairman. He immersed himself in foreign policy, rising to serve as chair of the Senate foreign relations committee. He voted to authorise the war in Iraq, a decision that he later regretted.

He made a bid for president in 1987, but dropped out after it emerged he had plagiarised a speech by Neil Kinnock, then the leader of the Labour Party.

Biden took another punt at the White House job in 2008, running against Barack Obama, but was no match for his charisma. Obama asked Biden to join him on the ticket. "What mattered most," Obama said later, "was what my gut told me: that Joe was decent, honest and loyal. I believed that he cared about ordinary people and that when things got tough, I could trust him."

In 2015, Biden's son Beau died of brain cancer. He would later be dogged by scandals involving his surviving son, Hunter.

As vice-president, Biden's ambition for the top job was met with resistance from Democrats coalescing behind Hillary Clinton. "The increasing pushback made everybody a little bit angry, and a lot determined," he wrote in his 2017 memoir *Promise Me, Dad*.

Biden decided to put his hat in the ring again after he heard President Trump describe the torch-wielding white supremacist mob marching through Charlottesville, Virginia, as "very fine people".

He contested a once-in-a-generation general election in 2020 that played out as the Covid pandemic and racial protests dominated American life. Yet he won 81 million votes — the most of any presidential candidate in US history. He was sworn in after a deadly insurrection at the Capitol led by Trump supporters trying to stop the certification of the vote. In his inauguration speech he promised the "unity" of a country that had never been more divided. He repeated his pledge to be a "president for all Americans".

During his first 100 days, he concentrated on less headline-grabbing legislative agendas than his predecessors. He passed some of the most consequential bills in decades — the bipartisan infrastructure law, the Inflation Reduction Act and the CHIPS and Science Act. Over three years he brought about modest gun reform, action on climate change, and led a western alliance against the invasion of Ukraine. He was buoyed by his party's success at the 2022 midterms. But it was Trump's decision to run once more that cemented Biden's own.

His campaign team stonewalled questions that the president was too old and too unfit even as video after video emerged of Biden stumbling up stairs, struggling over words, and calling to the stage long-dead politicians. Concerns were dismissed as ageism.

The presidential debate in Atlanta — the first between Biden and Trump this year — was a tipping point. The American public was given its first unfiltered look at Biden's mental and physical decline. His candidacy became untenable.

Biden will be placed somewhere below FDR in the pantheon of US leaders. Single-term presidents who bow out or lose elections tend not to feature high up the list, but he probably makes the top 20 of the 45 men who held the top office, partly because of legislation that will make its mark on America's infrastructure and manufacturing capacity long after he has gone and partly because of his decision to stand aside.

## There will be fury that it took him so long to go

**Analysis**

**There will be celebration. There will be excitement. There will be a sudden giddiness about the Democratic Party. For all the dangers of the path ahead, this is freedom, this is a reset (Justin Webb writes).**

**But with the joy there will be deep, deep anger. For every one of the heartfelt encomiums, the "history will be kind" tweets, there will be a private bashing of heads against walls. Why did you do this to us, Joe?**

**And much more so: why did Jill, his wife, and his top aides in the White House not ring the alarm bells earlier? Why did they put so much pressure on pliant journalists to say things about Joe Biden?**

**As ever it was Jon Stewart, part comedian, part commentator on American life, who took them down most effectively. On his show a few months ago he played a montage of Biden cabinet members talking about how tough/strong/fit/on the ball the president was. At the end of the montage Stewart turns to the camera and says slowly: "Do you think ... they might ... have ... recorded any of this?"**

**Of course they had not. Because it was garbage. Stewart knew this and his laughing TV audience knew it too. Heck, I knew! On *Panorama* in February I said I thought it was highly unlikely that Biden would be the candidate. I had a conversation with a Democratic fundraiser in Los Angeles who told me that at a meeting last year Biden had seemed out of it and "not really zoned in". He thought it unlikely that Biden would last.**

**To be clear, I said both men, Donald Trump and Biden, would drop out and that is not going to happen now. A withdrawal with a decent period of time to go would — I believe — have galvanised the anti-Trump forces in the Republican Party to mount a much more effective campaign based on winnability against the younger person the Democrats could then have selected. In other words a timely withdrawal could have pushed out Trump too.**

**For all the discipline of Trump's speech to his convention — at least the early part of it — the man seems hugely capable of imploding. The economic populism of his running-mate, JD Vance, may not sit well with the tech bro libertarians who are expected to fund this campaign. It could blow up. But now the Democrats are faced with having to light that fuse.**

***Justin Webb presents the Americast Podcast on BBC Sounds***

# After her many stumbles, Harris is ready to fight

The vice-president and likely frontrunner to be Democratic nominee enjoyed a stratospheric rise to power but has floundered in high office, write **Harriet Alexander** and **Alistair Dawber**

Kamala Harris's propulsion to the verge of the Democratic Party's presidential nomination caps a rollercoaster career in which she has soared to great heights and plummeted to record-breaking lows before emerging now as the favourite to take on Donald Trump.

The California-born vice-president, who was endorsed by President Biden yesterday as his successor, faces the daunting task of uniting the party, energising voters, crafting her own message and defeating Trump. All in the space of four months.

Harris, 59, needs to convince a sceptical party and dubious electorate that she is the best person to lead the country — an unprecedented demand, not least because her time as vice-president has not been easy. Once a formidable prosecutor, she was suddenly unable to hold her own in interviews. On her first trip abroad, to Guatemala, she was asked why, as Biden's border tsar, she had yet to visit crisis-hit areas on the frontier with Mexico.

"I mean, I don't understand the point that you're making," she answered, leading to a torrent of criticism. Her remarks — "it's time for us to do what we have been doing, and that time is every day" — were a gift for late-night comedy shows and the Trump campaign will surely highlight them.

Palace intrigue dominated headlines about her. Thirteen senior aides quit her office in the first 18 months. She was described as difficult to brief, and presiding over an unhappy team in an office that was "rife with dissent," sources told Politico in June 2021. One called it "an abusive environment".

At times as second-in-command of the US, she appeared rudderless. In June last year, an NBC News poll found her to be the most unpopular first-term deputy since polling began in 1989.

In recent months, though, she appears to have found her stride, becoming the main defender of abortion access, to largely favourable reviews. But abysmal approval ratings, as low as Biden's at about 38 per cent, must have come as a shock to the once high-flying prosecutor and senator, who became the first female vice-president and first person of colour to hold the office.

Kamala Harris studied law in California

Even as a child, she told The New York Times, she had the "radical notion" that she could do anything she set her mind to. "I grew up when Aretha Franklin was telling me I was young, gifted and black," she said in October. "I have never believed that I don't belong somewhere, and I was raised to believe that I belong anywhere I choose to go."

Her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a scientist who researched breast cancer, moved to the United States from India at the age of 19. Her father, Donald Harris, a Stanford University professor of economics, moved to the US from Jamaica in 1961.

They met as students at the University of California, Berkeley, and married in 1963. Kamala was born in Oakland the following year, and her sister Maya in Illinois two and a half years later. The couple divorced in 1971 and the three women moved back to California; Gopalan died in 2009, aged 70.

Harris studied law and became the district attorney for San Francisco, then California's attorney general. In the mid 1990s she had a year-long relationship with Willie Brown, 31 years her senior, who later served as San Francisco mayor. He had been separated from his wife for a decade but was still married.

In 2003 she became district attorney in the city, while he was still mayor, leading to accusations, repeated to this day, that she "slept her way to the top". She has since described him as "an albatross hanging around my neck".

Brown, now 90, said in January 2019: "I certainly helped with her first race for district attorney in San Francisco. I have also helped the careers of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Dianne Feinstein and a host of other politicians."

Newsom, like Harris, counts Brown as a mentor. And the pair, in the past seen as rivals for the presidential nomination, remain on cordial terms, having known each other for decades.

Harris campaigned on being tough on crime, or "smart on crime" as she described it. She wrote a book in 2009 of the same title, arguing that parents should be prosecuted for chronically-truanting children, the police should be celebrated and arrests still made for drug use and prostitution. Left-wing Californians derided her as "a cop".

Her time as California's attorney-general coincided with the president's eldest son, Beau Biden's tenure as Delaware's attorney-general, with the pair becoming friends.

In another book, *The Truths We Hold*, she wrote that Beau, who died of brain cancer in 2015, aged 46, was "an incredible friend and colleague" who had the "principle and courage" to take on banks in Delaware, during the 2010 house repossession crisis. "There were periods, when I was taking heat, when Beau and I talked every day, sometimes multiple times a day," she wrote. "We had each other's backs."

She said that it was Beau who informed her opinion of his father. "He spoke with so much love about the father that raised the man who he was," she wrote.

Elected to the Senate in November 2016, she impressed with her grilling of witnesses during committee hearings, including Donald Trump's nominees to the Supreme Court. Harris used that prosecutorial skill against Biden in June 2019, when she challenged him for the nomination and attacked him over the issue of race.

"There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bused to school every day," Harris told him on the debate stage. "And that little girl was me." Biden, wounded, reportedly leaned over to Pete Buttigieg — his rival, now his transportation secretary — and whispered: "That was some f***ing bullshit."

By December 2019, she had dropped out of the race. The following March Biden said his running mate would be a woman, and by August 2020 he had named Harris. Her move back into the Biden fold will be another line Republicans to use. They will hope to nullify attacks on JD Vance, Trump's running-mate, who once described the former president as "America's Hitler".

When the 2020 presidential election results were announced, Harris was out running and stopped to speak to Biden. "We did it, Joe!" she says, in a viral moment videoed by her husband, Doug Emhoff. An entertainment lawyer, he married Harris in 2014, and she became stepmother — or "Momala" — to his two children: Cole, 28, and Ella, 25. He became the first "first gentleman", and first Jewish spouse of a president or vice-president and gave up his law practice to Washington and support her.

Jill Biden, previously "second lady" during the Obama administration, praised Emhoff. "I think he likes people, he likes dealing with people, he connects with people, and I think that is really important," she said.

The first lady, however, has never been close to Harris — indeed, some claim she has held a grudge against Harris since the fateful debate clash.

Yet since the disastrous June 27 debate, and the frenzy of calls for Biden to step down, Harris has seen her popularity increase. An Economist-YouGov survey last week found that 79 per cent of Democrats would support her as their nominee, if Biden withdrew.

It looks increasingly likely that she will be only the second female nominee of one of America's two main parties. The last, Hillary Clinton, beat Trump in the popular vote, but lost in the electoral college. Harris has 105 days to turn the tables.

Kamala Harris must convince a sceptical party she is the best person to lead the country

# ‘Slow Joe’ makes up his mind but delay robs party of time

**Analysis**

**Joe Biden has long had a reputation for taking an age to make decisions, agonising over problems until the very last minute. He really outdid himself this time (David Charter writes).**

**All US presidential candidates by definition possess a giant ego but Biden’s stubborn insistence that he was the only person capable of defeating Donald Trump deprived the Democratic Party of valuable time to introduce some new, younger, faces to America.**

**He began his first presidential campaign by declaring that he wanted to act as a “bridge” to “an entire generation of leaders” while campaigning in March 2020 with Kamala Harris, who became his vice-president; Gretchen Whitmer, the governor of Michigan; and Cory Booker, a senator for New Jersey and former city mayor.**

**His insistence on seeking a second term while his team did their best to conceal his mental and physical decline meant that those three were unable to compete with others in the usual primary process.**

**The party was so badly wounded by the titanic primary battle between President Carter and Senator Edward Kennedy in 1980 — often given as a reason for Carter’s narrow defeat to Ronald Reagan — that no senior Democrats were prepared to challenge Biden.**

**Now the party is looking at a truncated selection process which could go one of two ways.**

**Thanks to Biden’s endorsement, it could be a coronation of Harris. Biden won almost every delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago and one of them told The Times that this would be seen as a vote for the Biden-Harris ticket that she should inherit.**

**But the delegates are not legally bound to back Harris in the formal roll call of state delegation votes.**

**If one candidate steps forward to oppose her, several others could be encouraged to throw their hat in the ring.**

**This may be messy but could prove to be the most cathartic outcome for the party and the nation, although the Democratic Party is feeling rather bruised and may not have the stomach for another potentially divisive contest.**

**One thing in their favour is the way the Democrats have responded to the national yearning for some fresh blood in politics. A majority of all voters were unhappy at a choice between two elderly candidates.**

**Harris turns 60 before the election, and the Democrats have just earned a boost with the electorate that may motivate the undecideds. They could play the age card against a candidate who would be the oldest ever to take the oath of office.**

**Possible candidates**

## JB Pritzker

JB Pritzker, 59, the second-term governor of Illinois, built a strong profile nationally campaigning for Democratic candidates in the 2022 midterm elections. An heir to the Hyatt Hotels fortune whose net worth is estimated at $3.6 billion, he has overseen codification of the right to abortion in Illinois after the US Supreme Court ended it, saying Illinois will become a “sanctuary state”. Under Pritzker, Illinois has legalised recreational marijuana use and expunged criminal records for personal possession. He has overseen a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, mirroring the federal curbs that expired in 2004.

## Gavin Newsom

The energetic California governor said he was “all in” for Biden after he emerged as the favourite to replace the president, telling CBS News that he was giving “no daylight” to requests from fellow Democrats asking him to enter the race. Yesterday, however, Gavin Newsom, 56, did not rule himself out of the running in his first post welcoming Biden’s decision. He wrote: “President Biden has been an extraordinary, history-making president — a leader who has fought hard for working people and delivered astonishing results for all Americans. He will go down in history as one of the most impactful and selfless presidents.”

## Gretchen Whitmer

Gretchen Whitmer, 52, who was on Biden’s shortlist for running-mate in 2020, was re-elected governor of Michigan in 2022. She showed her mettle during her first term by resisting armed anti-lockdown protesters. Last night she appeared to rule herself out of the race. She tweeted: “My job in this election will remain the same: doing everything I can to elect Democrats and stop Donald Trump, a convicted felon whose agenda of raising families’ costs, banning abortion nationwide, and abusing the power of the White House to settle his own scores is completely wrong for Michigan.”

# What happens now with Biden out of the running?

**Explainer**

Democrats are now in uncharted waters as they race to replace the 81-year-old president at the top of the ticket with less than four months until polling day (Hugh Tomlinson writes).

Biden’s endorsement of Kamala Harris, his vice-president, should make the process smoother but a string of potential hurdles remain.

Democrats will hold their national convention in Chicago from August 19, where Biden was set to be nominated as the party’s candidate for president. Instead, the convention now becomes an open contest at which 4,700 party delegates will vote for their leader to take on Donald Trump in November.

Biden easily won the Democratic primary race, losing only the Pacific territory of American Samoa. At least 3,896 delegates were pledged to him. Those delegates do not automatically pass to Harris even though she was his running-mate, however. Party rules do not allow the presumptive nominee to transfer his committed delegates. But his endorsement makes her the clear frontrunner.

Harris, 59, could still face a challenge. Even before Biden announced his decision, some Democrats had floated candidates, including the California governor Gavin Newsom and Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer. Influential black leaders have already warned that passing over the first African-American woman to be vice-president would be disastrous.

Given how vital black voters are to Democratic hopes in November, and Biden’s endorsement yesterday, a move to replace Harris with a white candidate would be fraught with risk. Millions of black voters could simply stay home in protest on election day. Whitmer had already appeared to rule herself out of the running after Biden’s announcement.

Even so, some of Harris’s strongest supporters have suggested that a “mini primary” before the convention would confer greater legitimacy on her ascent to the nomination and persuade Biden’s delegates to vote for her. An open debate would re-energise the campaign and voters, the argument goes. Anyone who can gather 300 signatures from delegates can seek the nomination.

If Harris does get the nod, her choice of running-mate would be critical to shaping the campaign. But the vice-presidential nomination is a separate vote and could become the focus of horse-trading on the convention floor in Chicago.

Above all, Democrats agree that the convention must be a platform for party unity and a springboard for the frantic final weeks of the campaign against Trump. Anything less and Democrats could face catastrophe.

News

# Record 487,000 people given dementia diagnosis by their GP

**Eleanor Hayward** Health Editor

Nearly half a million people in England have had dementia diagnosed, NHS figures show.

Getting a diagnosis is vital to enable patients to access treatment, support and social care, but many older patients are never properly assessed because of a lack of NHS services. In June a record 487,000 people had received a formal dementia diagnosis via their GP, up from 466,000 last year.

Estimates suggest that there are another 240,000 people in England with dementia who have not had a diagnosis. The NHS has set a target of diagnosing 66.7 per cent of the estimated total; the present figure is 65 per cent.

Dementia is the general term used to describe symptoms caused by damage to brain cells, including memory loss, confusion, language problems and changes in behaviour. Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, which is the country's biggest cause of death. Patients can get a diagnosis after being referred by their GP to a memory clinic, where a specialist will carry out tests and may also offer brain or blood scans.

Dr Jeremy Isaacs, NHS England's national clinical director for dementia, said: "Getting a diagnosis is the first step in supporting people, with a wide range of NHS services able to help." He said common early symptoms included forgetting bits of information, saying the same thing repeatedly, struggling to follow a conversation or find the right word and being confused about time and place. Usually, these problems will be more obvious to family and friends than to patients themselves.

"If you have noticed that someone has symptoms, please encourage them to visit their GP for an assessment — the sooner someone is seen the quicker the NHS can help," he said.

To improve diagnosis rates, NHS staff are proactively assessing care home residents to identify those who have dementia.

Alex Osborne, policy manager at the Alzheimer's Society charity, said: "It's great to see the progress being made on diagnosing more people with dementia in England, and we welcome the NHS's acknowledgment that there's still more to do.

"An early, accurate diagnosis is vital for unlocking care, support and treatment. A third of people living with dementia in England don't have a diagnosis, meaning they're missing out on the benefits it can bring. There's also significant regional variation in diagnosis rates. This needs to change.

"We encourage anyone worried about their memory, or the memory of a loved one, to speak to their GP."

Speeding up diagnosis is vital to enable patients to access a new generation of Alzheimer's drugs, which are expected to be approved for use on the NHS within months.

Two breakthrough drugs, donanemab and lecanemab, have been shown to slow the progress of Alzheimer's disease in its early stages and up to 280,000 patients in the UK could be eligible for them. However, patients need to undergo "gold standard" diagnostic tests in the early stage of the disease in order to benefit, and at present only 2 per cent of patients get these tests.

## Implant frees children from incontinence

**Eleanor Hayward**

Children who suffer from distressing conditions that cause a lack of bladder control will be fitted with "bladder pacemakers" to give them freedom to get on with their lives.

The treatment, which has been available for adults, involves surgically implanting an electrical stimulator device — similar to a pacemaker — into the lower back. The device sends electrical impulses to change the nerve messages going to the bladder, blocking those that cause incontinence or stop people being able to empty their bladder without a catheter.

Jenny Allan, 17, is the first person under 18 in the UK to have received the bladder neuromodulation treatment at Evelina London Children's Hospital. Jenny, from Thanet in Kent, has a rare condition that has left her unable to pass urine, and had to "self-catheterise" every few hours to empty her bladder. She said the implant had given her freedom to pursue her dream job in ecology.

## Quintagram® No 2000

**Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only**

**1** Lucky (5)

_ _ _ _ _

**2** Mountain pinnacle (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

**3** Became less bright or clear (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

**4** --- up, recapping the main points (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**5** Trade, business (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | C | C | D | D | E | E | E |
| G | I | I | I | J | M | M | M |
| M | M | M | M | M | M | M | N |
| O | R | S | S | T | U | U | Y |

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### £20k tooth extraction

A student was awarded £20,000 because the wrong tooth was extracted when she was 13 due to an administrative error. Courtney Monksfield, 20, from Faversham, Kent, was left with a gap after two upper teeth were taken instead of one upper and one lower. She reached an out-of-court settlement with the dental practice in Margate.

### AI abuse of children

Artificial intelligence is being used to generate deepfake images of real victims of child sex abuse. The charity Internet Watch Foundation has called for changes in the law to make it illegal to use personal information to create AI abuse images. The government said it would consider the charity's recommendations.

### Remand 'doesn't work'

Almost two thirds of the 1,009 children remanded to youth detention centres did not later receive custodial sentences, and 126 had their cases dropped or were acquitted, The Times Crime and Justice Commission was told. Nine in ten were in their exam years. "All the research has told us prison doesn't work," said Paul Carberry of Action for Children.

### Skills training plan

Sir Keir Starmer is expected to launch a body to deal with Britain's "fragmented and broken" skills training system. Skills England, included in Labour's manifesto, will bring together government, businesses and training providers to understand the nation's "skills gap" better. It will also aim to reduce reliance on overseas workers.

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FRED MACGREGOR/CAMERA PRESS; CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES

Dr Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason and her husband, Stuart, sent their seven children, who include the BBC's Musician of the Year, Sheku, to Trinity Catholic School in Nottingham. Kanneh-Mason, left, credits the state school as the reason why all her children have become classical musicians

# Musical family joins protests over scale of teaching cuts

**Nicola Woolcock** Education Editor

The seven Kanneh-Mason siblings have won numerous awards and performed at a royal wedding and the Royal Albert Hall. All of them attended a state school in a disadvantaged area in Nottingham that their mother credits with having developed their prodigious musical talent.

Now Trinity Catholic School is making cuts that teachers say will reduce its music and arts provision, triggering strikes.

The move is symptomatic of a wider national problem of music teaching. Only 32,000 pupils in England took GCSE music this year — fewer than almost any other mainstream subject — and only 27 per cent of the required number of trainee music teachers were recruited in the past academic year.

Some of the Kanneh-Mason siblings and their mother joined teachers on the picket line this month over plans that would increase workload and class sizes. The youngest of the family, Mariatu, is in Year 10 at the school and Aminata recently completed her A-levels there.

Their mother, Dr Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason, a former university lecturer, said the school had a designated specialism in performing arts when her first child joined. Isata, now 28, played piano at the Proms last year.

"It's in a disadvantaged area of Nottingham but had outstanding results and it was because music was absolutely at the centre, along with drama, dance and sport," she said. "Every single child who went to the school had to learn two instruments in Years 7, 8 and 9." Music lessons were subsidised.

She added: "There were lots of ensembles, three orchestras, several bands and choirs, big concerts, dance competitions and drama groups. There was a sense of bonding — it just proved what music can do in a school."

Kanneh-Mason said the school reduced its focus on music and the creative arts after joining a multi-academy trust in 2018, and that since then it had been a "battle" to keep music in place. She said: "They lost their performing arts status and now this is the latest swathe of draconian cuts to music."

The Kanneh-Mason children all play violin, piano or cello. Six of the seven reached the semi-final of *Britain's Got Talent* in 2015. Sheku, the third eldest, won BBC's Young Musician of the Year and played at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. They have also played at the Baftas and the *Royal Variety Performance* and released an album.

Kanneh-Mason said the cuts had been proposed from September, prompting teachers to strike for two days this week. "[Trinity are] saying they will still have music but at a reduced status. There won't be enough resources and there won't be the uptake from the pupils coming in. Most of the music teachers are now going to be forced to teach other subjects."

Kanneh-Mason joined the strike, as did three of her daughters. "It ended up being a huge celebration of the school. Music was played. All my children loved their school, they're heartbroken that it might change." She added that despite her children also having had private music lessons, the school was the reason they became musicians. "If they hadn't had Trinity, where they could take their instruments into school every day and had a peer group who were also playing music, they would not have become musicians. I think, particularly, the boys would have given up much sooner."

The school's website says that beyond the curriculum it offers "unrivalled opportunities in music, where all students take up an instrument, play in an orchestra and learn to read music". One of its teachers told The Times that the trust's decisions had led to significant changes. "The cuts have reduced the orchestra curriculum by 50 per cent across years 7, 8 and 9. While funding remains a major issue for schools, reducing arts provision is short-sighted."

The Nasuwt teaching union said it had entered negotiations with the trust and teachers, and had made "considerable concessions" in relation to teachers' planning time and those teaching outside their specialisms. However, it said the cuts to staffing that the trust wanted to impose were unacceptable.

A letter to parents from James McGeachie, chief executive of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust, said: "The dispute stems from measures that we are having to take in all of our secondary schools to ensure they are closer to a financially viable model. It is disappointing that the staff have taken the decision to strike, but we do understand that the measures taken to reduce financial pressures have resulted in changes for the school."

# Wealthy private schools could get even richer under VAT plan

**Nicola Woolcock** Education Editor

Wealthy private schools may make a profit from the government's introduction of VAT on fees and could defer large capital projects until the new rules are imposed, analysis suggests.

The richest independent schools will be able to claw back hundreds of thousands of pounds from building projects once the new plans come in. They are also the most likely to pass on the full cost of VAT on fees to parents, who are generally more affluent than those at smaller schools.

A VAT expert says the changes could even allow elite institutions to change into large profit-making corporates.

Smaller private schools have begged Labour not to impose VAT on fees, saying it will force closures. The heads of the most prestigious independent schools have yet to speak publicly on the issue.

Private schools that are required to charge VAT will be able to change their status and recover the tax, David Gage, head of VAT at Old Mill, a financial advisory firm, said.

"If schools defer any large capital expenditure, for example, property projects or large IT projects, until after the rules come into effect, they will be able to benefit from full or near full VAT recovery which, assuming inflation doesn't rise significantly, could mean savings of up to 20 per cent."

Schools will also be able to claw back VAT on historical expenditure going back ten years.

This scheme allows businesses to adjust the amount of VAT they have recovered on the purchase of certain high-value capital assets over a period of time. It applies to land and buildings with a value of £250,000 or more, excluding VAT, and single items of computer hardware with a value of £50,000 or more, excluding VAT. The adjustment period is ten years for land and buildings and five years for computer hardware.

Gage added: "Most private schools get no or limited VAT recovery on their costs. This rule change will switch their position completely, and the vast majority of VAT on costs will be recoverable, when factoring in non-business use."

Schools that own a lot of land and property or invest heavily in their estates will benefit more from the VAT change, while smaller private schools — unlikely to have large listed building estates or campuses — do not have the same recoverable VAT expenditure. They may also find themselves having to subsidise the VAT element of the fees to reduce costs to families over fears some will have to withdraw their children if unable to pay.

At present schools must be non-profit making bodies that reinvest surpluses into the further provision of education, to qualify for VAT exemption. Most private schools are charities managed by trustees. However, when the VAT exemption is removed, richer institutions could also choose to become large profit-making corporates, which prioritise paying shareholders instead of reinvesting funds in schools.

Gage added: "With the removal of the exemption, profits could in theory go to anyone or anywhere."

Eton spent more than £20 million on a sports centre last year, and Winchester College spent £15 million on capital projects the year before. Radley College, in Oxfordshire, says its "major strategic projects include plans for a 20-acre solar farm and a 40-acre woodland". Charterhouse, in Surrey, built two boarding houses in 2021 and is developing a theatre and lecture hall.

# Migrants from 'safe' countries to be processed first

**Matt Dathan** Home Affairs Editor

Illegal migrants who arrived from "safe" countries will have their asylum applications prioritised under plans to be announced by Labour this week that will process claims from more than 100,000 small boat arrivals.

Yvette Cooper, the home secretary, will announce a change in the law that will enable Home Office caseworkers to process the claims of migrants who arrived illegally over the past 18 months. It is estimated the move will lead to up to 70,000 migrants being granted asylum in the UK.

The plans form part of Sir Keir Starmer's pledge to "restore order" to the asylum system, which is costing taxpayers £5 billion a year with more than 35,000 migrants in hotels.

Labour will reverse a crucial provision in Rishi Sunak's Illegal Migration Act that has barred anyone arriving illegally since March last year from being granted asylum. Sunak had pledged to "detain and swiftly remove" all those arriving illegally but the plans never got off the ground owing to his stalled Rwanda plan.

Labour has scrapped the Rwanda scheme, arguing that it was unworkable because it had capacity to remove only 1 per cent of migrants. Instead, Starmer has promised to process their asylum claims, end the costly use of asylum hotels, clear the backlog of 120,000 claims and focus on returning rejected claimants to their home countries.

Cooper has set up a new rapid returns unit that has so far redeployed 200 officials from the Immigration Enforcement agency. The officials had previously been tasked with operating Rwanda removals and will now be deployed to deport failed asylum seekers to their home countries.

She has set a target to recruit or redeploy a further 800 officials by the end of the year as part of her plans to focus the Home Office's resources on returning as many failed asylum seekers to "safe" countries in a shift from the previous government's efforts on removing migrants to Rwanda.

In her announcement, which could come as early as today, the home secretary will also update parliament on progress setting up a new Border Security Command, with about 100 officers from the National Crime Agency already deployed to deliver Starmer's pledge to "smash the gangs".

An estimated 101,000 migrants who have arrived in the UK by small boats and other illegal routes have been barred from gaining asylum under the provision in Sunak's migration law. Cooper will scrap this provision through secondary legislation.

Estimates from the Refugee Council suggest that Labour's policy would lead to about 70,000 people being granted asylum. This is based on the proportion of people being granted asylum in the past year, which was 62 per cent.

Claims from migrants who come from "safe" countries such as India, Vietnam and Albania, whose nationalities have a low asylum acceptance rate in the UK, will be prioritised because it will be easier for them to be returned home, unlike those from unsafe countries, such as Afghanistan or Syria.

Only 3 per cent of asylum seekers from India had their applications accepted, according to the Home Office, along with 7 per cent of Albanians and 46 per cent of Vietnamese. Asylum seekers from Vietnam made up the largest number of migrants in small boats in the first three months of this year, with 1,060 arrivals.

Home Office officials believe migrants from certain regions of Iraq can be returned home more easily. Some 24 per cent of Iraqis are granted asylum, compared with 99 per cent from Syria, 97 per cent of Afghans and 84 per cent from Iran. In the first three months of this year, these three groups made up more than 2,100 arrivals. There are an estimated 12,000 migrants from these three countries in the backlog who will not be able to be returned home. Labour has yet to say what it will do with migrants from unsafe countries who are rejected for asylum.

Britain cannot return migrants to these countries because of domestic legislation and international law such as the European Convention on Human Rights, as well as the UN Refugee Convention, which prevents migrants being returned to countries where they may face torture or persecution.

Cooper will not set a target for clearing the remaining asylum backlog because the sticking point is the appeals system for rejected asylum claims, part of the wider criminal justice system that is beset with backlogs and a lack of staff.

A Home Office source said: "None of this is easy, but the prize is significant in terms of the amount being spent on asylum hotels and the amounts forecast for future spend are mind-boggling." The Home Office said: "We are enhancing the ability to fast-track removals to safe countries for people without the right to be here, as well as co-ordinating action upstream to stop the gangs through a new Border Security Command."

Jeremy Hunt, the shadow chancellor, arriving with his daughter for an interview

# Curbs on second jobs to combat sleaze

**Chris Smyth**

A clampdown on MPs' second jobs will be launched this week as Labour begins a review of Commons rules designed to counter perceptions of Westminster sleaze. An immediate ban on consultancy roles for MPs and fines for ex-ministers who breach lobbying rules are expected to be among measures set out by a "modernisation committee" to be created this week.

Lucy Powell, the leader of the Commons, is due to announce reforms to Westminster procedures that could also make it easier for MPs to be suspended over sexual misconduct allegations.

Sir Keir Starmer promised on entering Downing Street that he would "restore service and respect to politics", as his government emphasises the need to rebuild trust among voters.

While ministers are wary of setting themselves up as moral paragons, fearing that claims to virtue in politics tend to backfire, they plan to press ahead this week with an overhaul of standards.

Labour's manifesto pledged this would focus on "driving up standards, and improving working practices", with a decision on MPs' second jobs one of the most difficult it will have to make.

Starmer has backed away from a full ban on outside earnings after objections that doctors or other NHS staff would no longer be able to practice if elected to parliament. Instead he is promising an immediate ban on MPs "taking up paid advisory or consultancy roles".

The modernisation committee will be asked to propose restrictions "to prevent MPs from taking up roles that stop them serving their constituents and the country". This could include time limits on outside work or rules on which jobs are acceptable to supplement MPs' salary of £91,346. Paid speeches, broadcasting or newspaper articles are unlikely to be banned: Starmer continued practising law after being elected as an MP.

Analysis last year showed MPs earned more than £17 million from outside work during the last parliament. Boris Johnson headed the list, declaring £4.8 million in earnings from speeches and writing after leaving Downing Street before quitting as an MP, according to analysis by Sky News and Tortoise Media. Theresa May earned more than £2.5 million while Sir Geoffrey Cox, the former attorney-general, earned more than £2.2 million from his work as a barrister. David Lammy, the foreign secretary, was the highest-earning Labour MP with an income of £238,000 over three years.

Labour vows "meaningful sanctions" for former ministers who break lobbying rules. The advisory committee on business appointments has proposed making those leaving government sign a contract pledging to abide by its decisions. If they ignored its advice, or failed to consult it, they would have to repay up to three months' salary.

Lucy Powell is due to announce reforms to Westminster procedures

# Panic alarms for new MPs after campaign trail threats

**Chris Smyth**

All new MPs have been offered panic alarms amid increasing concerns about threats and intimidation of politicians.

An upgrade of "welcome packs" for the 334 newly elected MPs has included a standard offer of security advice and protection, alongside advice on IT and hiring staff.

Devices containing GPS trackers and alarms to alert police response units have been available to MPs on request since the murder of Jo Cox in 2016 but have now been offered to all new MPs, The Mail on Sunday reported.

The parliamentary authorities recommended that MPs take up the offer after Sir Lindsay Hoyle, the Commons Speaker, said that threats to their security kept him awake at night.

Naz Shah, Labour MP for Bradford

ELLIOTT FRANKS

at the BBC's headquarters, has urged Tories to return to the centre ground

# Conservatives turn on Braverman as they reject a tack to the right

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor

Jeremy Hunt has urged the Tories to return to the centre ground as party big beasts turn against Suella Braverman.

The shadow chancellor said that the Conservatives had "lost our reputation for calm competence" and he urged the party not to imitate Nigel Farage in trying to win back voters.

Hunt ruled himself out of standing to be the next Tory leader and said the party should "take our time" even if that meant not finding a replacement for Rishi Sunak until next year.

Braverman, the former home secretary, has been planning a leadership run while urging a tougher line on issues such as immigration and gender, but has irked colleagues by suggesting that the Tories should embrace Farage. At the weekend, she hit out at "centrist cranks" for being "smug and self-righteous" about voters' concerns.

Ben Houchen, the mayor of Tees Valley and the most senior elected Conservative outside Westminster, urged her to "conduct this leadership contest with civility" and avoid "blue on blue attacks", which he said were a key cause of Tory defeat.

He said the party had "lost its sense of duty and direction", criticising constant infighting for repelling voters.

"What we had were numerous different prime ministers, infighting, U-turns and a party that lost its sense of duty and direction as a government," he told *Sunday Morning with Trevor Phillips* on Sky News. "What we saw was people going out to vote, to actively vote against a Conservative government; they felt that we'd failed them. They felt we weren't competent any more."

Houchen also said it would be "madness" to ally with Reform, saying Farage's party was "a symptom of the problem. They are not the cause of the problem for the Conservative Party."

Without endorsing a candidate, he said Sunak's replacement should "understand we have to have a sensible hold on economics, understand that people want, by and large, relatively low taxes. They want good services and they also want somebody that they can trust, and they also want a party that isn't going to fight like cats in a sack."

Sir Robert Buckland, the former justice secretary, also told Braverman to "stop talking and to start listening. My advice here is that a period of silence would now be appropriate and it might be a good thing. Not just for Suella, but for all colleagues who seem to think they've got a very quick and glib solution to what is the mother of all problems."

Hunt also rejected Braverman's argument, telling *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg* on BBC One: "In a two-party system, in the UK, as we have, elections are always won from the centre ground."

Voters "want controls on migration. They want the government to show restraint on spending and keep taxes down. They want welfare to be reformed so it's fair to people who get up early in the morning and work hard", he said. "I think that is the centre ground. I think that is where the Conservatives should be."

He acknowledged his party had "decisively lost the trust of the British people" and "didn't show that united front that people want to see".

Citing Partygate and Liz Truss's mini-budget, Hunt said: "We lost our reputation for calm competence, which is the main reason that people vote for Conservatives. We also didn't bring immigration down by anything as much as we wanted to."

He added: "Also I had to put taxes up to pay for the pandemic and I don't think we succeeded in convincing people that we had a plan to bring them back down again and we now need to be very honest about those failures."

The Tories are debating whether to aim to have a new leader in place for the party conference in October or to use the event as a platform for contenders to face off. The decision is complicated by the party's dire financial position, which is expected to be worsened by a long leadership battle, and Sunak's reluctance to stay on deep into the autumn.

Hunt urged colleagues not to rush a decision, saying: "This time next year, the only thing that will matter is not whether we had a new leader in place by October or December, but whether we have the right leader in place, someone who can earn back that trust that we lost. So, I think if we need to, we absolutely should take our time."

LOUIS WOOD FOR THE SUN

Suella Braverman was urged to conduct the leadership contest "with civility"

West, said she had witnessed "pure hooliganism" during the election campaign, with several prominent candidates reporting that they had been subjected to intimidatory behaviour.

"Never before did I think I would be physically attacked like I did on this campaign," she said.

Jess Phillips, the victims minister, was among those who detailed harassment of staff members during the campaign, including incidents of people screaming at volunteers and slashing their tyres. She said it had been "the worst election I have ever stood in".

Shabana Mahmood, the justice secretary, said the campaign had been sullied by harassment and intimidation" of her family and campaigners, with such behaviour an "assault on democracy itself". She added: "British politics must soon wake up to what happened at this election, in [her constituency Birmingham] Ladywood, and a handful of other seats across this country. While it will always be acceptable to disagree passionately, it is never acceptable to intimidate and threaten."

Hoyle told the BBC after being re-elected as Speaker that he had "never seen anything as bad" and that the level of hostility directed at MPs was "much greater than anybody can imagine. That is a constant worry. If there's something that keeps me awake at night, it is the safety of MPs."

# Sixth of Tories 'to die before election'

**Chris Smyth, Tom Calver**

One in six Conservative voters are likely to die before the next election, according to analysis that highlights the party's challenge in appealing to younger people as it prepares to choose a new leader.

Labour's younger voter base means that only one in 19 people who voted for the party this month are not likely to be alive to cast a ballot in 2029, in a demographic swing that could add dozens of seats to Sir Keir Starmer's majority.

More than a million Tory votes are likely to be lost by 2029 purely as a result of population change, while Labour adds nearly 300,000 as younger people, who are more likely to back the party, become eligible to vote.

Senior Tories are concerned about how to appeal to younger voters after a defeat in which they became even more dependent on older people. It is now not until people reach the age of 64 that they are more likely to vote Tory than Labour, up from the age of 42 in 2019, according to analysis by Focaldata.

The question has become central to the party's response to Labour's house-building programme, as the Conservatives seek to speak out on behalf of members who oppose new developments without repelling younger people who are struggling to afford their own home.

About one in ten of those who voted for Boris Johnson in 2019 have since died, and analysis by The Times using Office for National Statistics population estimates shows that the trend is likely to accelerate over the course of this parliament.

By 2029 about 1.2 million people who voted Conservative this month will have died, about 17 per cent of the Tories' vote, against only about 500,000 Labour voters, about 5.3 per cent of the party's backers.

Labour can also expect to pick up the support of about 800,000 new voters over the next parliament, against only 160,000 for the Tories, given that young people are far more likely to vote Labour. The net effect is the Tories losing a million votes while Labour gains 300,000.

The analysis does not account for people becoming more likely to vote Conservative as they age, but this traditional trend has begun to break down among younger generations.

If nothing else changed, this swing would result in Labour gaining 29 seats and the Tories losing 34.

Labour is also expected to give the vote to 16 and 17-year olds, which could add about a dozen seats for the party.

Sam Bidwell, director of the Next Generation Centre at the Adam Smith Institute, said that Tory reliance on older voters was "an existential challenge" for the party. "If it continues along its current trajectory, the party is at risk of literally dying out," he said.

"Though there is certainly a degree of cultural disillusionment with the [Tory] party amongst younger people, the primary reason for their dissatisfaction is economic. Our anti-risk, anti-growth economic model has failed to give younger people the opportunities that their parents enjoyed, while home-ownership has started to fall."

Bidwell said that the revival of conservative parties in Canada and New Zealand showed that it was "perfectly possible for centre-right parties to reinvigorate their support amongst younger voters".

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TESCO

Every little helps

# Britons turn up their nose at cheddar in favour of stinkier cheese

**Katie Gibbons**

Britain has long had a love affair with cheese — with cheddar often being the trusted choice. But now more adventurous varieties are appearing from across the UK.

Experts have said that British people are adding stinkier, softer cheeses to their plates. Jonny Crickmore, a Suffolk dairy farmer, creator of the Baron Bigod brie and chairman of the UK's Specialist Cheesemakers Association (SCA), said that for 40 or so years the British cheese scene had been "boring", dominated by cheddars or Red Leicesters. But tastes had changed.

**Baron Bigod is a creamy white bloomy-rind cheese**

"We started making a brie-style cheese because we saw that even though brie sales were growing year on year, no one was making a similar soft cheese," he told The Guardian. "Lots of small specialist cheesemakers across the UK are creating versions of classic international cheeses."

Ocado, the online grocer reported that feta sales had risen by 23.3 per cent in the past year, halloumi was up by 17.4 per cent and burrata by 17 per cent.

The Times recently reported that Tesco, the UK's biggest supermarket, was experiencing an increase in sales of all cheese, with continental cheese as the fastest-growing category. Its most popular cheese over the past year has been Triple Crème Brie, sales of which have almost doubled. The next bestseller is Ossau-Iraty, which is up by 80 per cent, and Morbier, up by 70 per cent.

A report in The Grocer, published last month, found that almost 506 million kg of cheese was bought in the past year, an increase of 0.4 per cent. Of this, the strongest growth was in soft white cheese, up 4.5 per cent in volume on values up 15.3 per cent.

The nutritional repositioning of cheese could contribute to the increase in consumers expanding their cheese intake. Professor Ian Givens, the director of the Institute of Food, Nutrition and Health and vice-chairman of a UK Food Standards Agency advisory committee, said: "Now there is a range of things we know for dairy foods that either compensate or reduce risks. Milk proteins can reduce blood pressure. Constituents of cheeses reduce the amount of fat we absorb, which, of course, moderates blood lipids responses — including cholesterol."

**It's hard to imagine a more satisfying end to a meal, leading article, page 27**

# Nine in ten chief execs often work from home

**Andrew Ellson**
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Nine in ten chief executives regularly work from home, suggesting that hybrid working is likely to stay despite efforts by some companies to force staff back to their desks.

A survey of more than 500 bosses found that 90 per cent split their time between head office, flexible workplaces and home, with only 7 per cent working from a central office location five days a week.

However, bosses are more likely to be in the office than not, with the study finding that only 2 per cent spent most of their week working at home.

Avoiding a long commute was the main attraction of working from home, according to the research. Most bosses said that hybrid working was also allowing them to keep hold of their best people. Two thirds said they would lose key staff if they insisted on employees being in the office every day, while three quarters said that hybrid working had helped them to attract the best talent.

**Sir Jim Ratcliffe told Manchester United staff to return to the office**

More than two thirds said that offering increased flexibility meant they had been able to consider and offer roles to a more diverse range of candidates.

The research comes as some businesses try to force workers back to their desks. A growing number of employers are monitoring office attendance, with some reviewing swipe-card entry data.

Last month Sir Jim Ratcliffe, the billionaire industrialist and co-owner of Manchester United, ordered the club's staff to return to the office full time or seek alternative employment.

Political leaders have been trying to get civil servants back to their desks. Jeremy Hunt, the former chancellor, said last year that companies faced a "loss of creativity" if office working did not become the "default" again. In the public sector, working from home has, in some cases, been associated with reduced productivity. In a study this month, most staff admitted to watching television while working from home.

This year The Times revealed that the Land Registry was trying to force staff back into the office amid delays of up to two years for registrations to complete.

Labour is expected to continue to push for civil servants to spend more time at work. Jonathan Ashworth, the former shadow paymaster-general, who is now chief executive of the think tank Labour Together, said before the general election that Labour wanted civil servants to spend most of their time in the office.

However, the study found that private sector bosses to be more relaxed about hybrid working. Three quarters of chief executives said that forcing staff back was not a priority.

Mark Dixon, chief executive of International Workplace Group, which commissioned the survey, said: "The uptake of hybrid working is continuing to increase as companies of all sizes understand its importance in creating an optimal environment for both the productivity of the business and the happiness of its employees to thrive.

"Furthermore, this latest research convincingly demonstrates that chief executives appreciate the critical role that hybrid working has in not only attracting but retaining the highest quality talent."

Despite evidence that flexible home working enhances productivity, many companies are pushing to get employees back in the office on set days for most of their working week.

Aviva, Britain's biggest insurer, lured staff back to the office last year with the perk of free parking, while adding the ability to secure an office-based team to managers' bonus criteria.

Bruce Carnegie-Brown, the chairman of Lloyd's of London, the insurance market, told staff to be in the building most of the week and hinted at a crackdown on those people taking "long weekends" by working from home on Mondays and Fridays.

R J JONES

**When knights were bold** **Jousts worthy of Henry VIII returned to Hampton Court at the weekend to thrill scores of visitors**

# China artefacts 'were a gift to museum'

**Debbie White**

The Chinese government willingly facilitated the removal of ancient treasures to the British Museum decades ago while seeking closer ties with the West, an academic has claimed.

Justin M Jacobs, a history professor at American University in Washington, said he had "found new evidence that hasn't been looked at before that will change our view of objects in the British Museum and other institutions".

Britain and Greece have long been embroiled in a diplomatic row over the ownership of the Elgin Marbles, while Beijing is pushing for the return of "all cultural relics".

However, Jacobs told The Observer that in the last century the Chinese government "willingly and enthusiastically helped them remove treasures from their lands. These things did not have priceless valuations that we project on to them today."

He cited "letters and recollections of Chinese officials, dealers and scholars" which referred to visiting western archaeologists who had "removed tens of thousands of objects".

The British Museum has the biggest collection of Chinese antiquities in the West — about 23,000 objects spanning the Neolithic age to the present, according to its website.

Jacobs said the permitted removal of antiquities was seen as a necessary tool to help forge a "friendship and connections with a foreign scholar" and such items "should be categorised as a form of diplomatic gift". He added: "I conclude that most of today's moral outrage over western museums and their collections is the result of projecting today's values backward in time to an era in which our values today were not shared, either by westerners or non-westerners."

His book *Plunder? How Museums Got Their Treasures* will be published next week.

Last year the Global Times, President Xi's English-language mouthpiece, formally requested that the British Museum "return all Chinese cultural relics acquired through improper channels to China free of charge".

The newspaper's push came after it was revealed that about 1,500 items were missing or had been stolen from the institution. The British Museum has been contacted for comment.

News

# Riot city residents urged to unite against 'racial hatred'

**Constance Kampfner**
Northern Correspondent

A councillor who tried to stop violence escalating during riots in Leeds last week has urged residents to come together as "outsiders" try to whip up "racial hatred".

Mothin Ali, who was filmed acting as a "human shield" to protect police in the district of Harehills on Thursday night, has accused the far right of trying to "sow division" after the rioting.

A bus was set alight, a police car overturned and a delivery van ransacked after an incident involving social services. The attendance of West Yorkshire police to support child protection workers prompted outrage and claims of underlying prejudice against Roma and Romanian communities in the multicultural district.

Iustin Dobre, 37, of Harehills, has been charged with violent disorder and arson in connection with the bus fire and will appear at Leeds magistrates' court today.

Tensions have calmed in the days since the unrest, with members of the Roma community gathering on Friday and Saturday nights for vigils on the red-brick streets of Harehills. Many spent yesterday morning at church "praying for the family" at the centre of the incident, according to Terezia Rostas, the founder of a charity supporting young Roma people.

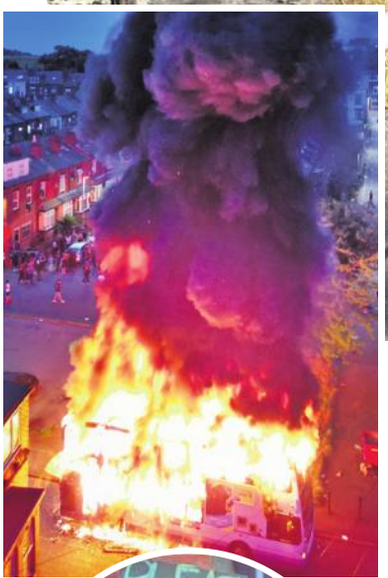
Richard Burgon, the Labour MP for Leeds East, told The Times that people in the area were "devastated at the events of Thursday night" but relieved that there had been no repeat of the disorder.

"People are very much reflecting on the great positives in this community," he said. "Obviously like many communities, it has its problems. But what happened on Thursday night cannot and does not define it."

Ali, a Green councillor elected in May, said Harehills needed to "heal". He urged residents to ignore those who "want to come down and cause trouble", after the far-right activist Tommy Robinson used Twitter/X to call on people in Leeds to join a "peaceful protest" yesterday against "mass immigration in our local community". Many of those who attended the small lunchtime rally in the suburb of Gipton, however, were from further afield including Sheffield, Bradford and Castleford. The gathering lasted about 40 minutes before dispersing.

Robinson, the founder of the English Defence League, whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, was accused of inflaming the situation after falsely claiming on social media last week that Ali was one of the rioters, despite pictures showing the councillor trying to stop rioters throwing wooden pallets and other objects on to fires.

GLEN MINKIN



**Mothin Ali, who was filmed acting as a "human shield" to protect police, says Harehills needs to heal. A bus was set alight after an incident involving child protection workers prompted claims of prejudice against Roma residents**

Local residents blamed the disruption on a small number of people spreading disquiet via social media.

Kurd Apso Guli, 33, who lives close to where the double-decker bus was set ablaze, said there were "ten or 20 who were trying to cause trouble", adding: "Everybody round here just wants it to stay quiet now."

A shopkeeper who did not want to be identified said things only escalated thanks to people "turning up to try and make money out of possible trouble" by livestreaming the events. Disinformation about the incident involving social services had been circulating on various platforms. "There were young people on their phones filming it all and celebrating getting likes for what they were sharing," the shopkeeper added.

Martin Bryant, a technology consultant, said that while it was difficult to moderate content in real time, social media companies had a responsibility to try to "minimise the harm" caused by livestream features.

"Rumours, half-truths, and outright lies have always circulated among communities during times of stress. The difference now is the amplification social media can provide to it," he said.

"Events like those in Leeds recently are a reminder that social media companies have a responsibility to society as well as their shareholders."

**Riot policing, letters, page 26**
**Those exploiting the violence discredit themselves, leading article, page 27**

# Villagers see red over infestation of green bins

**Debbie White**

Old wheelie bins are clogging up the streets of a Cornwall tourist destination, prompting thousands of complaints over its ugly transformation to a village "binhole".

The bins have become a blight upon the picturesque fishing village of Mousehole, near Penzance, according to angry residents, who said it was an unacceptable "health hazard" in a tourist village struggling for space.

Cornwall council introduced new waste bins to increase recycling but failed to collect the old green ones, reported Cornwall Live. Rubbish is now collected fortnightly instead of weekly.

Kim Hambleton, a resident and founder of the jewellery and gifts shop company Just Lily, accused the council of "bad management", adding: "You'd think it would make sense to drop a new bin in and take one away at the same time, but no — our village is looking very sad right now. I call our village 'binhole' [as] there are bins everywhere: some of these bins are covered in seagull poo, others have festering stinking rubbish in them."

After complaints by residents on social media, Cornwall Recycles, which has been contracted to remove the old green bins, told locals they belonged to the property owners, who must register to have them collected free of charge.

However, it is believed that some second-home owners may not be aware of this requirement. Owners are able to have old bins recycled by August 18, the firm said. But Hambleton said this restricted time frame was "unacceptable" and although she had registered for her old bin's removal, it has still not been collected from her property.

Cornwall Recycles said: "The service to have your old bin collected and recycled in your area for no charge has passed. However, you can take it to one of our household waste recycling centres that has a recycling bank for bulky plastic.

Another resident, Jane Johnson, said it was a "bloody nightmare" as Mousehole now features "bins of all colours strewn everywhere". Tim Pullen told Cornwall Live that the old bins have "already been here for about two weeks ... whole streets are blocked".

There have been more than 10,000 requests for the removal of old bins, according to Thalia Marrington, a Cornwall councillor.

A spokesman for Cornwall council said: "Our contractor has already started clearing the bins that households have asked us to collect. Due to the high number of bins in the area, this will take several weeks to complete."

# It's time to bring back the lawnmower, advises Monty Don

**Peter Chappell**

The lawn has gone out of fashion in recent years, damned by environmentalists as bad for pollinators and for needing too much water. The popular No Mow May campaign encourages gardeners to let their grass run wild.

But those who swap their manicured lawns for wildflower meadows do so at their peril, according to Monty Don. The BBC *Gardeners' World* presenter has suggested that people should not forget the benefits of the old-fashioned tightly clipped lawn, pointing out that his own provides an excellent space for his grandchildren to "bomb up and down on their bikes or kick or hit balls without damaging the garden".

The comments marked something of a change of heart for Don, who has for years advocated that lawns should be unkempt, unmown and blended with wildflowers and wisps of long grass.

In an article in BBC Gardeners' World Magazine, he writes: "This spring and summer I have made a tightly mown and evenly green lawn. This is slightly surprising because I have long been on record for advocating replacing lawns with long grass, ideally filled with naturalised flowers."

He said that long grass could detract from flowers and make gardens seem cluttered. "Although this might seem a radical statement to most British gardeners, garden design is not really about plants. They are merely one of the tools at the designer's disposal."

Gardening was about getting "the space right", he said, as otherwise "it will not look or feel good regardless of what plants you use, be they ever so rare or horticulturally fascinating". He said that his own lawn at Longmeadow in Herefordshire was "long and quite narrow" and "busy and intense with planting" along the borders.

**The veteran Gardeners' World host said his grandchildren used the lawn**

"The simple strip of green lawn provides a breathing space between these two," he said.

Don said that although "every garden should encourage areas of long grass", he now recognised the need for "mown grass", adding: "It all has to work together — this is what makes gardening so endlessly fascinating and rewarding, and at times difficult. But mown lawns can and perhaps should be part of that complicated balance."

PEPYS LIBRARY/MAGDALENE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE; ALAMY

# French prints kept Pepys in fashion

**He was an MP, a famed lover of parmesan cheese, and the pre-eminent diarist of 17th-century London. Yet one thing about Samuel Pepys is often overlooked: he was a dedicated follower of fashion (Jack Blackburn writes).**

**A series of eight prints owned by Pepys, being published for the first time, shine a light on his fondness for French dress. New research suggests they might also be revealing about his relationships with two of the key women in his life.**

**The prints were the fashion magazines of their day. "It's very Vogue-adjacent, you could say," said Marlo Avidon, a PhD student who has researched in the Pepys Library at Magdalene College, Cambridge. Her research is published today in the journal The Seventeenth Century.**

**Pepys bought the prints between 1670 and 1696, after his diaries stopped, and they offer a glimpse into the life of the man when he was at the height of his career. The son of a tailor, Pepys grew up around the world of clothes and his diaries include mentions of the subject.**

**These include a 1669 faux pas when he bought a summer suit that was too fancy for a man of his social standing. When he went out in it, he was reprimanded by a superior. "It was too fine with the gold lace at the hands," Pepys explained.**

**The prints would have helped Pepys and his friends to keep up with what was *à la mode*, but it also seems likely that there is a sorrowful edge to his collection. The fashions call to mind his wife, Elizabeth, who was of French Huguenot descent. We have records of Pepys buying her dresses and viewing her appearance as a reflection of his taste. She died in 1669.**

**"The first wave of prints came almost directly afterwards," Avidon said. "There's maybe a memorialising function to the prints."**

**After his wife's death, it is believed that Pepys began an affair with his young housekeeper, Mary Skinner, and there is a suspicion that she coloured in some of the prints.**

**"Looking at quite how amateurish some of them are in terms of the way they are coloured in, I'm one to speculate that Pepys may have bought these for Mary Skinner to colour,"**

Prints of French fashions, bought by Samuel Pepys and possibly coloured in by him were found at the Pepys Library, Cambridge

**Avidon said. "She was quite young ... and he took a role in educating her and imparting these gentlewomanly, social skills on to her. But it is equally likely that he coloured them himself."**

# Readers tear a strip off magazine for creating an AI lifestyle editor

**Mark Sellman**
Technology Correspondent

A popular online fashion magazine has outraged its readers by developing an artificial intelligence editor.

SheerLuxe has become successful by providing styling tips and reviews on its website, social media and YouTube channel. However, its decision to create a "new AI enhanced fashion and lifestyle editor" called Reem has gone down very badly.

Reem, who was given a Middle Eastern appearance, has her own Instagram account where people can see the contents of her handbag and learn what she had for "lunch". Asked to describe her style, she says: "Elevated, polished, fashion-forward and a little bit extra. I like classic items combined with something a bit unexpected — like a big shoulder or a killer accessory."

SheerLuxe was criticised for not hiring a real person, trying to address staff diversity through AI and creating an idealised version of a woman.

"There is an abundance of real human women looking for jobs in fashion journalism and yet this is how sheerluxe opt to use their resources?!", one follower posted on Reem's account.

Another said: "Am I tripping or did you create an AI woman of colour as a staff member instead of ... hiring one?"

**Reem, left, with Charlotte Collins, editor-in-chief of SheerLuxe. The "AI-enhanced" character has a Middle Eastern appearance, which prompted criticism of its attempts to address diversity in this way**

Brands have previously created AI influencers with mixed experiences. Marks & Spencer and PrettyLittleThing released versions in 2022 but were forced to drop them within days.

Others have had commercial success, including Lil Miquela, who has 2.5 million followers on Instagram and can charge six figures for posts from major brands. The teenage avatar Noonoouri has starred in fashion campaigns for Dior, Balenciaga and Valentino and has released a single with Warner Music.

Experts said the backlash against Reem stemmed from SheerLuxe's failure to explain what the project was for. Sara McCorquodale, chief executive of Corq, which provides analysis of influencers, said: "SheerLuxe's AI influencer is being positioned as just another editor, which suggests that they have chosen to create this very idealised version of a woman rather than working with an actual human being. For a lot of people, that is a problematic message.

"Looking at the business that they've built, which is all driven by human opinion ... and thinking it can be replicated by an AI: those two things are completely at odds with each other.

"As a culture, we're not ready to follow an AI influencer. Reem posted what she was having for lunch, which seems a bit silly, and not in a fun way. If you're brand launching an AI influencer, you have to give them a very clear purpose."

Becky Owen, global chief marketing officer at Billion Dollar Boy, an influencer agency, said that racial issues had to be handled responsibly. "When any virtual influencer is an underrepresented group, you have to be very mindful. When your version of representation is a synthetic individual that likely was built by white people, you're doubling down on the issue that is underrepresented groups. When you announce 'She's going to be doing exactly the same as our human stylists, but guess what, she's fake' — why? How does that help me in any way?"

Virtual influencers have to follow the same rules in the UK as humans, by declaring adverts in their posts.

SheerLuxe initially defended the move, saying that it was "born entirely from our desire to experiment with AI, not to replace a human role". The magazine later apologised: "Since the start of SheerLuxe, innovation has been central to what we do. As we enter a new era of tech and AI, we wanted to stay at the forefront — it is clear we didn't explain it properly and we're sorry."

# Physicist, 98, gets PhD 75 years later

A physicist aged 98 who gave up her PhD 75 years ago to have a family has received an honorary doctorate from her old university.

Rosemary Fowler's findings at the University of Bristol in 1948 paved the way for discoveries that would rewrite the laws of physics. Her discovery of the Kaon particle helped lead to a revolution in the theory of particle physics and continues to be proven correct. However, she left academia when she got married to Peter Fowler, a fellow physicist, in 1949.

**Rosemary Fowler's findings continue to be proven right**

In a private graduation ceremony close to her Cambridge home, Sir Paul Nurse, the Nobel prizewinning University of Bristol chancellor, conferred an honorary doctor of science on her.

Fowler said she felt "very honoured", but added: "I haven't done anything since to deserve special respect."

Nurse praised her "intellectual rigour and curiosity", adding that she "paved the way for critical discoveries that continue to shape the work of today's physicists, and our understanding of the universe".

News

# First look at RAF Tempest jet that may get caught in political storm

**Larisa Brown** Defence Editor

With its sleek, stealthy design and Formula 1-style technology, this is the multibillion-pound combat aircraft under development for the RAF. The first realistic model of what the Tempest will look like in 2035 has been published by BAE Systems even as questions are raised over the programme's future.

The concept model will be on display at Farnborough air show this week. It has a larger wingspan than earlier iterations as experts seek to improve its aerodynamics.

Designers want the Tempest to behave like a fighter aircraft and have the capabilities of a bomber — able to shoot at targets in the sky and drop bombs on the ground — while providing an intelligence hub that can sweep up information from the battlefield.

Experts hope that it will be delivered in half the time it took for the Eurofighter Typhoon, which it will eventually replace. John Healey, the defence secretary, will attend the air show today and is expected to be asked whether he will make a commitment to Tempest. There are fears it could be axed as part of the defence review to save money.

The Times reported on Friday that the £12 billion UK-led collaboration with Japan and Italy could be scrapped in favour of buying more Lockheed Martin F-35s. Luke Pollard, the armed forces minister, declined last week to give assurances that the government would give a commitment on the Tempest's future.

One industry source said that General Dame Sharon Nesmith, deputy chief of the defence staff, was pushing for the Tempest to be axed and the money given to the army for its modernisation programme. Ministers will meet their international counterparts in London tomorrow to discuss the programme.

As far as BAE is concerned it is full steam ahead with its delivery, and on Friday a replica of the aircraft was shown at the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford in Gloucestershire.

Rather than stopping the programme, one option could be to delay it by five years, according to a second industry source, but that in itself would cost huge sums of money. Those working on the Typhoon programme expect the aircraft to be flying until at least 2040, five years after the Tempest should start coming into service.

Revealing the concept model, Herman Claesen, managing director of the programme at BAE Systems, said: "The new model shows notable progress in the design and concepting ... We'll continue to test and evolve the design as we move closer towards the next phase of the programme."

The Tempest will provide the RAF with a multirole capability: air defence, ground attack and also intelligence. The plan is for it to be one of the world's most advanced, interoperable and adaptable fighter jets, boasting an intelligent weapons system, a software-driven interactive cockpit, integrated sensors and a next-generation radar capable of providing 10,000 times more data than existing systems.

One expert said the aircraft looked like a modern Vulcan nuclear bomber, designed to carry conventional bombs but also nuclear weapons. It will use Formula 1-style engineering on its air intakes and exhaust to enable it to fly for longer more efficiently.

Japan, Italy and the UK are exhibiting the concept at the air show together, where they will showcase "the significant strides" they are making.

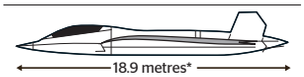
Tim Robinson, the editor of Aerospace, the magazine of the Royal Aeronautical Society, said the Tempest looked to be an "absolute beast of a combat aircraft, future-proofed with room for lots of additional growth".

He added that its latest configuration showed "some new intriguing features", adding that the "giant" wing suggested that there would be extra fuel capacity, providing increased range and potentially the ability to carry more weapons too.

Guglielmo Maviglia, chief global combat air programme officer at the Italian aerospace company Leonardo, said the pace of the programme was "extraordinary".

Designers want Tempest to behave like a fighter aircraft with the capabilities of a bomber, but it is under threat because the army wants more of the defence budget

### Tempest




| | |
|---|---|
| **Speed** | Classified — but supersonic |
| **Max altitude** | 15,500 metres* |
| **Combat radius** | 3,200km* |
| **Manufacturer** | BAE Systems and partners |
| **In service** | 2035 |

*Classified information estimated

# Cosmic disposal craft will track down and destroy dead satellites

**Kaya Burgess** Science Reporter

Almost 800 miles above the Earth, a satellite will soon reach the end of its life, leaving it whizzing round the planet at 17,000mph as a hunk of deadly debris.

In a world first, a British firm has plans to find, capture and destroy it.

Astroscale UK, a company with headquarters in Oxfordshire, will today receive £11.75 million in funding to launch a spacecraft fitted with a magnetic docking device as a form of cosmic waste disposal.

It will seek out the defunct satellite, connect with it, and drag it down towards the planet, jettisoning it to burn up safely in the Earth's atmosphere rather than remaining forever in orbit as a lethal man-made meteor.

The firm, due to receive funding from the European Space Agency which in turn receives funding from the UK Space Agency, has already demonstrated its technology. It launched a simulated piece of space debris into orbit and then launching a craft dubbed Elsa-d to find it, dock with it and drag it down to a fiery end in the atmosphere.

The first expedition is due to begin in 2026, when the Elsa-M craft will be launched to find a communications satellite operated by Eutelsat OneWeb. The dead satellite was fitted before launch with a special magnetic "docking plate" that Astroscale's craft will be able to dock with to "tow" it down for destruction.

It is hoped that by the end of the decade there will be a "fleet" of the craft operating to bring down space debris, Nick Shave, Astroscale's managing director, said.

Satellite firms are now expected to make plans for how to dispose of their products once they reach the end of their lives and fuel in space. After this point, they can no longer be controlled from Earth, meaning that they pose a risk of collision with other satellites or spacecraft.

Many smaller satellites tend to last for five years or less before they die, while larger satellites with more fuel can last as long as 15 years.

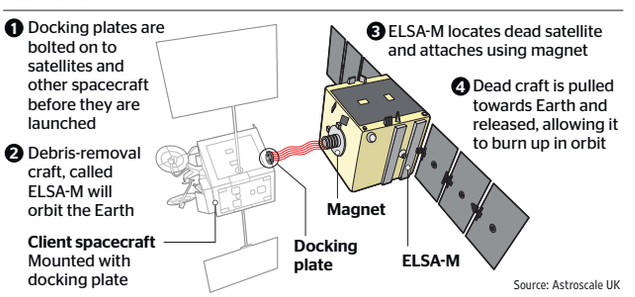
Other satellites in lower orbit will decay naturally over time, leading them to find their own way into the Earth's atmosphere, where friction causes them to burn up. Those in higher altitude orbits of about 700 miles or more will need to be moved at the end of their lives into a safe "graveyard" orbit, or will need to be retrieved and guided down to burn up in the atmosphere.

Astroscale is pioneering the latter process, Shave said. The disposal craft will spend the first few months in space visiting a satellite in lower orbit before travelling to the OneWeb satellite at higher altitude.

After docking it may have to perform "collision avoidance manoeuvres" to avoid other satellites as it drags the dead satellite down towards the atmosphere. It will not jettison it until it reaches an altitude that is lower than the International and Chinese space stations, to ensure there is no risk to astronauts.

It is expected that the 150kg satellite will burn up completely with no debris reaching the Earth's surface, Shave said, adding: "This mission is a world first."

### How it works




Source: Astroscale UK

# Muriel McKay killer offers to help at farm dig

**James Beal** Social Affairs Editor
**Ben Ellery** Crime Editor

Muriel McKay's killer has said that he would get on an aeroplane "tomorrow" to help the search for her body and claimed that it would be "more or less impossible" to find without him.

Nizamodeen Hosein, 76, who lives in Trinidad after being deported at the end of his sentence, said that he was prepared to help "every which way" in locating the burial site.

He and his brother Arthur kidnapped and murdered McKay, the wife of the news executive Alick McKay, in 1969, after mistaking her for Rupert Murdoch's wife, Anna.

Last week the Metropolitan Police started a dig at Stocking Farm in Stocking Pelham, Hertfordshire, after receiving new information from Hosein.

**Muriel McKay's body has never been found**

Speaking in a series of videos, Hosein said: "I'm quite willing to come to England tomorrow. To help the search for the body." Asked how he would help, he added: "Every which way." He also said that a successful search without him present was "more or less impossible".

The brothers had intended to kidnap Anna Murdoch and hold her for a ransom of £1 million but in a case of mistaken identity, they abducted McKay instead. They held her at the farm where Arthur lived and killed her before being caught by police. Both men refused to say what happened but were jailed in what was one of the first convictions for murder without a body. Arthur died in prison in 2009. It was once thought that the body was fed to pigs. But when McKay's daughter Dianne, 84, visited Hosein in Trinidad in January, he told her he remembered where she was buried.

Dianne's brother, Ian, 82, flew over from Australia, where he now lives, as the new search began last Monday. It will continue until Wednesday.

Police have searched the farm twice before. Officers had previously told the family that it was open to the idea of Hosein co-operating with the dig but that it was up to the Home Office because he had been deported.

Ian McKay said on Sunday that the family was frustrated that Hosein had not been brought over. He said: "The whole thing is a no-brainer. You wouldn't go and dig for treasure [without] the person who buried the treasure telling you where it was. It doesn't make sense. It's almost pigheadedness. We keep on being fobbed off."

Mark Dyer, Muriel McKay's grandson, added that the dig was like the "blind leading the blind" and that Hosein could be brought over on the next flight. He said: "The whole thing is very kind but pointless without the perpetrator. He is a plane ticket away from ending the misery for ever. Is she there or isn't she there?"

The Met said yesterday that it was discussing Hosein's position with the McKay family. A spokesman said: "Bringing Hosein to the UK was carefully considered prior to the search and we did not believe it would provide us with any further or useful information. Therefore, we did not formally approach the Home Office who would be required to grant permission.

"We understand the family believe Hosein attending the search would be useful and we continue to liaise and discuss this with them."

# 'Illegal school' aims to take pupils on Moscow road trip

**Tom Ball**

The Russophile founder of a suspected illegal school is planning to take pupils on a road trip to Moscow at the start of the next academic year.

Matt Single, who runs Hope Sussex with his wife, Sadie, has announced that he will be driving a group of children in a camper van to the Russian capital in October for the purpose of an "educational trip".

He said that they would set out from the village of Netherfield, East Sussex, where the school is based, and drive through France, Belgium, Germany, Poland and Belarus.

The Foreign Office warns against all travel to both Russia and Belarus because of the security risks posed by the war in Ukraine and the limited consular support available. Since last year, Kyiv has launched drone strikes against Russian cities, including Moscow.

Earlier this year, Moscow also suffered one of Russia's worst terrorist attacks in decades when Islamist gunmen killed 145 people at a concert hall.

Hope Sussex was founded in 2021 by a group of antivax and anti-lockdown activists. It denies that it is a school and describes itself as an "autonomous community" that supports home-educating parents. Ofsted, the inspectorate, believes it is an illegal school and has taken steps to investigate it.

Last year The Times revealed that the Singles, who are both former members of the British National Party, encourage parents to remove their children from mainstream state education and send them to their site for lessons, while telling councils that the children are being home-educated.

A full curriculum is taught, albeit through the prism of conspiracy theories, with history lessons teaching that the American government knew in advance of the 9/11 attacks.

Mr Single, 52, frequently expresses his admiration for the Russian state, recently hailing the mutual security pact signed last month between President Putin and the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, as "brilliant for us and those that love freedom".

Recent photographs released by the school show Mr Single teaching young children how to fire air guns at a target. He has also been conducting "science" lessons with the children involving acid and his homemade flamethrower.

PETER TARRY FOR THE TIMES

**Service charge** Participants in the Soho Waiters Race, which dates back to the 1950s, must carry a napkin and tray bearing a bottle of prosecco and glasses around the streets one-handed and can steady the items for no more than three paces

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News

# Atlantic trip couple found dead in a raft

Louise Callaghan, Katie Gibbons
Brendan McFadden

A British woman and her Canadian husband have been found dead on a life raft off the coast of Canada after embarking on a mission to sail across the Atlantic Ocean.

Sarah Packwood, 54, and her "soulmate" Brett Clibbery, 70, were found after their raft washed ashore on Sable Island, about 108 miles southeast of mainland Nova Scotia, from where they set off.

The couple set sail on a 42ft sailing yacht, Theros, from Dartmouth Yacht Club on June 11. In a video posted to their social media page, Clibbery said that they were starting a great "adventure".

That was the last anyone heard from them and the couple were reported missing on June 18. On July 10 two bodies were found in a ten-foot long inflatable boat that had washed ashore on Sable Island.

Clibbery's son, also called James, wrote on Facebook: "The past few days have been very hard. My father James Brett Clibbery, and his wife, Sarah Justine Packwood, have regrettably passed away. There is still an investigation, as well as a DNA test to confirm, but with all the news, it is hard to remain hopeful."

He said that the couple would be forever missed, adding: "There isn't anything that will fill the hole that has been left by their, so far unexplained, passing."

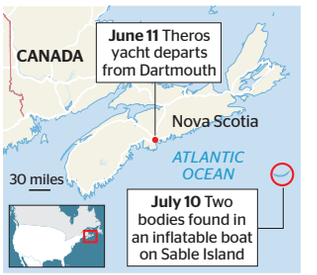
Lieutenant Commander Len Hickey, spokesman for the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre Halifax, told the Times Colonist newspaper that there had been heavy fog and mist, with visibility reduced to only 200ft around the area where the couple were thought to have encountered problems. Theros has not been found.

Packard, a former humanitarian aid worker who was born in Warwickshire, met Clibbery at a bus stop by Trafalgar Square in 2015. The next year they were married in British Columbia, on board Theros, and held a late celebration at Stonehenge. The couple then lived in Canada. Together they had sailed more than 5,000 nautical miles on Theros and had attempted to cross the Atlantic before, but called off the effort after facing adverse weather conditions.

Brett Clibbery and Sarah Packwood set sail for Portugal on June 11 aboard Theros, the boat on which they had married

This time they hoped to complete the journey to Portugal via the Azores in a "green odyssey", after removing the boat's diesel engine and converting it to solar power, the couple wrote on social media.

A spokesman for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said that Parks Canada and the coastguard were assisting the investigation. DNA testing is continuing to confirm the identities of the bodies. The British Foreign Office said that it had not been asked to support the investigation.




On her blog, where Packwood wrote about her life with Clibbery, she described the immense satisfaction and happiness in their lives on board Theros. "We have everything we need onboard and we now take pleasure in the simple things in life. The sunrise that greets us in the morning, the breathtaking scenery that we can explore from the sea, being outdoors close to nature, making music and so on," she wrote in 2018. "There are so many moments when living aboard has eclipsed my land-based life in days gone by. From watching the stars and wolf moon come out at night, where there is no light pollution, to hearing the sounds of the waves lapping against the hull, lulling me to sleep.

"From feeling the ocean spray on my face in the peak heat of the day to racing pods of dolphins; revelling in the warm tropical rain saturating my skin and experiencing unique sunrises and sunsets with the one I love."

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# ‘We fear that the only way this ends is if someone firebombs the place’

Rising migration and misinformation are creating new tensions in Ireland, writes **Tom Ball** in Dublin

NIALL CARSON/PA; BRYAN MEADE

Rioting in Coolock last week has left residents such as Brida Sweetman and Trish Kelly ashamed. Malachy Steenson, below, who was elected as a councillor on an anti-immigration ticket, was present at the unrest despite not representing the area

Had the wind been blowing the other way, Andy Johnson’s bungalow may no longer be standing. From his window he watched the flames rise higher and higher, like a wave that threatened to break at any moment and engulf his home.

Over the course of 12 hours last Monday he had looked on in disbelief and with growing panic as his front garden became the scene of a pitched battle between riot police and protesters.

For more than three months a group of local residents had been encamped on the side of the Malahide Road in Coolock, north Dublin, blocking the entrance to the old Crown Paints factory, which the Irish government wants to turn into accommodation for asylum seekers.

Early last Monday, when gardai arrived to try to dismantle the camp, there were violent clashes reminiscent of those last November after the stabbing in central Dublin of three schoolchildren and a teacher by an Algerian man.

About 200 gardai with riot shields were deployed to face down protesters hurling fireworks and bricks. A garda car was set alight, as was an excavator intended for reconstruction work.

Eventually, order was restored and the camp cleared, but tensions remain high. On Friday night there were further skirmishes and an attempt to start a fire inside the factory, which firefighters were able to extinguish. Three gardai were injured, one of whom was taken to hospital after a rock hit him on the forehead.

Now three-metre tall concrete barriers surround the factory, the sort more commonly seen outside police stations in west Belfast. Alongside photos of Michael Collins, the Irish revolutionary leader, the protesters have affixed more menacing signs: “Close our Border” and “Get P***s Out”.

“I can’t see the government backing down on this. So our fear is that the only way this ends is if someone firebombs the place,” said Johnson, 65, whose house abuts the factory site. “It’s a scary time for us and I really never thought it would come to this. We’ve never had a problem with immigration before, it’s a totally new experience for us. After all, we were the ones who always went abroad.”

Once a country whose only export was its people, as John F Kennedy put it, today Ireland is arguably just as much a nation of immigrants as America, with one in five now born outside the country.

The rate of change has been staggering. Twenty years ago Ireland had a mostly monocultural population of 3.5 million people. That figure has grown to 5.3 million, driven in large part by strong multinational-led economic growth during the Celtic Tiger years.

More recently the country has taken in 100,000 Ukrainian refugees, but it is the comparatively much smaller number of asylum seekers arriving recently that has led to the tensions that are roiling the streets of Dublin and may well also do in the Dail come the general election in a few months’ time.

More than 20,000 people, mostly from Nigeria, Jordan and Pakistan, are expected to claim asylum this year, up from about 10,000 in 2021. Last year 80 per cent of those new arrivals came from Britain under threat of being sent to Rwanda.

It is an issue that the government, a coalition between Fianna Fail and Fine Gael, is very visibly failing to contend with. All over central Dublin, from the quaysides to Phoenix Park, migrants are to be found living in tents with nowhere else to go. But in trying to work out a solution, the government only seems to make matters worse when imposing accommodation sites on communities that are already suffering from a shortage of housing due to a failure to have invested in construction since the 2008 crash. In Coolock, this has inflated the price of a small family home to €400,000, according to the local residents’ association, far out of reach of most people in the area.

“The economy is doing very well and unemployment is essentially zero,” said Gail McElroy, professor of political science at Trinity College Dublin. “There’s a story of progress and prosperity, but then there’s a group of people left behind, and within that the housing crisis and immigration are being conflated.”

And yet paradoxically, it is Sinn Fein, the main opposition party, that has suffered the collateral damage. This time last year the party was polling at 33 per cent and was tipped to form the next government. Now it is down to 19 per cent, below Fine Gael and on a par with Fianna Fail.

As a party of the left, and with a growing constituency among young graduates, Sinn Fein has avoided the sort of anti-immigration rhetoric promulgated by other nationalist parties around Europe. But its grassroots support still resides in urban working-class communities, in places such as Coolock and East Wall, where the government has tried to set up refugee accommodation.

Mary Lou McDonald, Sinn Fein’s leader, has now acknowledged that she had “failed to reflect” the public’s concerns on immigration, but not before a number of far-right and populist figures made political hay from the party’s hesitation. At Ireland’s local and European elections, held simultaneously on June 7, candidates running on anti-immigration tickets were elected for the first time.

Malachy Steenson was one of three newly elected anti-immigration councillors to Dublin city council, all of whom, despite not representing the area, were at the Coolock riot.

One, Patrick Quinlan, was filmed standing in front of a police line berating officers.

As a former Republican socialist, Steenson has been on something of a political journey. In his office hangs a photograph of Martin Luther King. Now more often labelled “far-right”, he has said that immigration threatens to bring about the “annihilation of Ireland”.

“[Sinn Fein] abandoned the working-class base they had in order to pursue the woke liberals,” he said. “They’ve tried riding two horses and now they’ve lost on both fronts.”

The ascendance of Steenson, Gavin Pepper [the third of the three anti-immigration councillors] and Quinlan to elected office bestows a level of respectability to a movement that has otherwise been undermined by its links to violence and criminality.

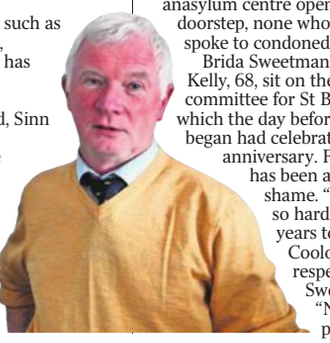
The gardai has charged a man who last week made a death threat against McDonald. The threat was made in a video address by a man wearing a balaclava who ended his speech by saying: “Gavin Pepper for president”.

It is clear too that many of the protests against asylum accommodation centres have been whipped up by far-right activists, said Paul Murphy, a TD for the People Before Profit party, who has received death threats against his family.

“The state has been very poor at engaging with local people about new accommodation centres, which allows these activists to fill the void with their misinformation, saying that 3,000 ‘unvetted’ men are coming to live in their community, when in fact it is only 300 women and children,” Murphy said.

The Times saw several social media posts with similar false claims regarding Coolock, including warnings that young girls would not be safe to walk the streets. The claims replicated those spread by Patriotic Alternative, a British far-right organisation, in the days before a riot outside an asylum centre in Merseyside in February last year. According to Shane O’Curry, director of the Irish Network Against Racism, British and Irish far-right activists communicate regularly, sharing information and tactics.

Though many in Coolock spoke of their unease over the prospect of anasylum centre opening on their doorstep, none whom The Times spoke to condoned the violence.



Brida Sweetman, 74, and Trish Kelly, 68, sit on the parish committee for St Brendan’s, which the day before the riots began had celebrated its 50th anniversary. For them, this has been a week of shame. “We’ve worked so hard over the years to make Coolock a respectable area,” Sweetman said. “Now what will people think?”

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# Farmers and climate blamed for huge fall in insect numbers

**Lottie Hayton**

The abundance of insects in Britain has fallen dramatically over the past half a century as a result of climate change and farming policies, a study suggests.

Research by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT) found that from 1970 to the end of 2019 there was a 37 per cent decline in insects in the project's sample area, a cereal crop field in Sussex.

The GWCT said: "The view is likely to be the same or worse across the country ... The study is a robust indication of the national picture and is unique in that it samples invertebrates on the same area of farmland, at the same time of year, using the same methods."

Some invertebrates fared worse than others. Ground beetle numbers dropped by 80 per cent, ladybirds by 78 per cent and aphids – the base of many food chains – dropped by 90 per cent.

Julie Ewald of the GWCT, who manages the Sussex study, said the decline in insects also explained the loss of 73 million wild birds in the UK since 1970. Farmland bird species have shown the biggest overall decline, with 63 per cent of species decreasing. Many of the invertebrates studied provide food for chicks.

Steve Moreby, an entomologist who has worked on the Sussex study since 1981, said the use of pesticides was a major factor.

"While we have seen a decrease in insecticide use in the past 15 years, herbicide usage continues to increase and this has resulted in a decline of 'chick food' insects with a knock-on effect on red-listed species such as partridge, skylark and yellowhammer."

Ewald said that while "farmers get a lot of bashing" they were often "responding to government policies" to boost crop yields.

The study identified climate change as another cause for the decline, with the average mean daily temperature from April to June in the area studied increasing by more than 1C since 1970.

The GWCT has created guidance for farmers looking to create insect-rich fields. It advises cultivating wildflowers or rare species in margins, replanting hedges and creating "beetle banks" and other species-specific habitats.

Ewald said: "Government policy needs to be directed towards providing funding and advice to help farmers, and it would help a lot if big supermarkets didn't push farmers to have everything grown the right shape or size.

"I would also advise the public to make choices about the provenance of the food they buy, to favour farms which help wildlife."

ALAMY

**The Warren in Hay on Wye is Wales's first official river bathing site but people have been warned to stay out of the water after tests showed high sewage pollution**

# Every single river is polluted, says minister for environment

Clean it up
CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

**James Beal** Social Affairs Editor
**Will Humphries**
Countryside Correspondent

The environment secretary has warned that every river in England is polluted and claimed that water companies have been covering up the true scale of sewage spills.

Steve Reed, 60, said he was "not surprised" people were worried about swimming in the sea, lakes and rivers as there was no "guarantee" that the water was not contaminated.

"Every single river in England today is polluted ... the public quite rightly are furious that they have to worry about letting their kids splash about in the river, for fear of what they might catch."

Reed, the Labour MP for Streatham & Croydon North, said that he would introduce a system to monitor sewage spills, and independently scrutinise the data, which would stop water companies from "massaging the figures".

The Environment Agency is conducting the largest-ever criminal investigation into potential law breaking by water and sewerage companies.

Sewage was spilt 464,056 times last year, totalling more than 3.6 million hours, a record high since monitoring began, according to the latest data published by the public body.

Water companies are permitted to release sewage into rivers and seas during exceptional circumstances, such as extreme wet weather, to stop it backing up into homes. However, the regularity of spills has led to criticism that the industry has failed to invest in infrastructure to cope with changing weather and a growing population. The Times has demanded greater transparency over sewage releases as part of its Clean It Up campaign.

Under the present regime, water companies are fined by the regulator for sewage spills. However, Reed said that the financial penalties were so low that bosses priced it in. He told The Sunday Telegraph: "The company treats it as a cost of doing business. It's cheaper for them to pollute Windermere than it is to fix the sewage pipes that are pumping that filth into the most iconic lake in our country — that cannot be allowed to continue. It's cheaper for them to pay the fine than to invest in fixing the broken infrastructure. That creates a perverse incentive for them not to fix what's gone wrong."

**Campaigners are demanding an end to discharges into bathing waters**

He said his department's new Water Bill would ensure that utilities faced "automatic and severe fines for illegal pollution incidents".

Meanwhile, a public health warning has been put in place on Wales's first official river bathing site after tests revealed "elevated" levels of harmful bacteria associated with sewage. Wild swimmers have been advised to stay out of the River Wye at The Warren, a popular pebble beach near Hay-on-Wye, Powys, following the first tests on its water quality after it was granted bathing status a month ago.

The Welsh environment watchdog, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), is monitoring water quality. Results from the first round of tests carried out on July 10 show *E. coli* and intestinal enterococci bacteria at five and seven times higher than the lowest quality standard considered "sufficient".

Warning signs were erected by Powys county council at the site on Thursday. It said in a statement: "Powys county council is advising the public not to swim in the River Wye at The Warren, near Hay-on-Wye."

NRW said it had investigated to establish the bacteria's source, but "no direct cause was found". It said: "This water sample is the first in a schedule that will take place throughout the bathing water season which ends on September 30. We will continue to monitor the results of each sample and make the information available on our Bathing Water Explorer."

# Labour: Let's build houses now, protect nature later

**Chris Smyth** Whitehall Editor

Developers will be able to start building housing projects that risk polluting rivers and work out how to deal with the problem during construction, under plans to unblock 160,000 homes.

Labour has begun the process of changing environmental protections after blocking Tory attempts to rip up "nutrient neutrality" rules.

Angela Rayner, the deputy prime minister, and Steve Reed, the environment secretary, have said that the rules are "not working" and they want to find ways of restarting housing developments that had been put on hold.

Natural England, in effect, imposed a moratorium on a string of projects two years ago by ruling that developments in designated areas would be allowed only if the builders could show they would not increase phosphorus or nitrogen in waterways. These can reduce the oxygen, killing the invertebrates on which protected birds feed.

Last year Labour defeated the Conservative government's attempt to allow councils to set aside these rules, saying it would mean the loss of environmental protections. That prompted Tory accusations that the party would struggle to take the decisions needed to hit its target of 1.5 million new homes.

Now Reed and Rayner have written to environmental groups saying the rules need to change. "When it comes to the planning system's role in providing the nature and housing we need, we know that the status quo is not working," they said. "We want to use the value gained from enabling development to proceed quickly and smoothly to support nature recovery."

Under the proposed model, developers would be allowed to begin work and agree mitigations during construction. This could mean, for example, agreeing to fund new wetland areas elsewhere.

Labour said new homes could be occupied only after the mitigations were in place, saying that this would speed up development without compromising the environment. "We will only legislate if we are confident that it achieves these outcomes," Rayner and Reed wrote.

Changes to the nutrient neutrality rules are expected to come in the planning bill announced in last week's King's Speech. When it becomes law Labour hopes it will remove the block placed on an estimated 160,000 homes.

"Nature recovery remains a top priority alongside the need to overhaul the planning system, grow the economy and reach net zero," Rayner and Reed wrote. "This is not a matter of choosing one of these priorities over another. Sustained economic growth depends upon a healthy natural environment."

News

# Glad rags, glitterballs and sounds of the Seventies in all their glory

**Proms** Clive Davis

**Everybody Dance! The Sound of Disco**
Royal Albert Hall
★★★★☆

ANDY PARADISE

Many of the disco hits that electrified the dance floor borrowed extensively from orchestral traditions

Here comes Ludwig again. Beethoven's Fifth had already been heard on the opening night, and now it cropped up again, albeit in a funkier form. If you remember the Seventies, you may recall hearing Walter Murphy's breezily syncopated orchestral hit *A Fifth of Beethoven* in the era when Studio 54 was the world's hippest nightclub.

Disco, when drum machines and assorted technology began to eclipse the human element, isn't remembered with affection by every musician — you could argue that we've been paying the price since. Still, this performance by the BBC Concert Orchestra and an array of singers dressed the hits up in seductive party colours. Glitterballs spun, the light show dazzled. If the Studio 54 ethos was all about exclusivity — even Nile Rodgers and Bernard Edwards, who went on to create hits for Chic, couldn't get in one night — this Prom offered an intelligent celebration of the music's universal appeal.

The San Francisco Symphony conductor Daniel Bartholomew-Poyser made an engaging host; the four main vocalists, Vanessa Haynes, Vula Malinga, Cedric Neal and Elisabeth Troy, all soared effortlessly, and most of the arrangements were in the hands of Callum Au, the young trombonist who is one of our most resourceful orchestral writers.

It comes as a shock that the songs we heard at the Albert Hall are half a century old. In this setting even a number as kitsch as Boney M's *Daddy Cool* can acquire respectability. *Disco Inferno* provided the perfect statement of intent at the start. The rest of the programme struck a balance between symphonic colour and propulsive dance rhythms. Au added a ripe fanfare to *I Will Survive* before Malinga segued into a dynamic version of *Never Can Say Goodbye*. If Bee Gees fans might have hoped to hear more of their favourites, *Night Fever* at least provided a potent climax to the second half. One of Britain's most versatile songwriters, the late Rod Temperton, got his due on a setting of *Boogie Nights* with a jazz-tinged introduction courtesy of the arranger Scarlet Halton. Benjamin Woodgates added a silky veneer to Odyssey's *Native New Yorker*. Proof, all in all, that you can create a groovy atmosphere without the help of a DJ. *Available on BBC Sounds. The concert will be broadcast later on BBC2*

# Sausage firm buys bus to help lonely

**Constance Kampfner**
Northern Correspondent

A family-run sausage maker has bought a bus to transport elderly people to markets to combat rural isolation and boost local trade. Heck will ferry people in a pink minibus from villages near its factory in Bedale, North Yorkshire, to Northallerton every Friday.

The idea stemmed from the time of the Covid pandemic when the company began door-to-door deliveries. Many people explained how they struggled to get around with so few bus routes in the area, according to Jamie Keeble, Heck's co-founder. "It's really good that we can give back a little bit to the community that has supported our business since we first started," he said.

"It's quite an isolated area where we are. There's not much public transport or many taxis and once people get to a certain age they can't drive anymore, they might have mobility issues."

Before the pandemic, Heck used to run weekly lunches at its headquarters for elderly people, an initiative it plans to reboot. However its new scheme, Keeble said, was also about "helping out other small companies".

"The great thing about North Yorkshire is that there's so many great food businesses around who tend to these local markets," he said.

Heck, which was established in 2013 by Andrew and Debbie Keeble and their adult children, has focused on healthy and meat-free options. It reported an operating profit of £238,753 last year. It is also supporting young people in the area through its training scheme, modelled on the TV show *The Apprentice*. The company was trying to "inspire more people to go into the industry", Keeble said.

"Farming is going through a tough period at the moment, especially livestock farming," he continued, adding that he would have liked to see "a little bit more detail" from Labour about how the new government intended to help.

Daniel Zeichner, the farming minister, used a speech to the National Farming Union last week to lay out how the government would "boost rural economic growth and enhance Britain's food security with a new deal for farmers".


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**Hand of God rests easier on this England**
Tomiwa Owolade
Page 24

# Comment

# Saintly quest of eco-zealot will lead more astray

## The apocalyptic views of Extinction Rebellion co-founder Roger Hallam are shared by rising numbers of green supporters

**Will Lloyd**

@WILL__LLOYD

Those who set themselves up for sainthood ought to be judged by harsher standards than the rest of us. In the case of the Extinction Rebellion co-founder Roger Hallam, sentenced last week to five years in prison after his involvement in a conspiracy to shut down one of our busier motorways, two standards can be applied.

To what extent is Hallam motivated by personal vanity — by a sense of himself as a bruised, flinty, oracular man with a ponytail telling British society hard truths; such hard truths, in fact, that its only response is not to listen to them but to bang him up in prison?

Second, do Hallam's positions — that a global carbon elite is planning to kill billions of people, that western political "regimes" will be swept away within ten years after revolutionary action, and so on — represent a significant, even mainstream current of thought in Britain?

On the vanity count, the verdict is surely in. Hallam suffers from a full-blown sainthood complex, a desire to be the British Gandhi. You might forgive him his (sadly accurate) self-description during his latest trial that he is the "most influential environmentalist in the country apart from David Attenborough".

But other claims made by Hallam down the years are less persuasive and hint at a peculiar egotism. He once compared Extinction Rebellion to the White Rose movement. The latter were students who protested against the Nazis inside Germany during the Second World War. Some of its members were beheaded.

Climate protesters like Hallam usually receive fines and small custodial sentences, not one-way trips to the guillotine presided over by jackbooted Nazis. Hallam is always loud-mouthing like this. His public statements are intensely preoccupied with Nazis, gas chambers, gang rape and genocide. These will all become part of our lives, Hallam argues, should his climate activism fail. It must be a heroic burden to shoulder.

There is also the extraordinary account he gives of his own life story. Hallam tells us his path was decided at the age of 13. He began obsessing over the "question of political effectiveness", he wrote in a 2019 letter called "Advice to Young People, as You Face Annihilation". How, he wondered, could politics make the world a better place?

> Hallam believes society will collapse, leading to roving bands of killers

From this early age, Hallam says he never changed. Yes, he worked for a while as an organic farmer, and yes, he tells us an academic at King's College, London, told him that he was the "best PhD student he had ever supervised" while he studied there. But Hallam says he never stopped thinking about the "question of political effectiveness" from the moment he hit puberty.

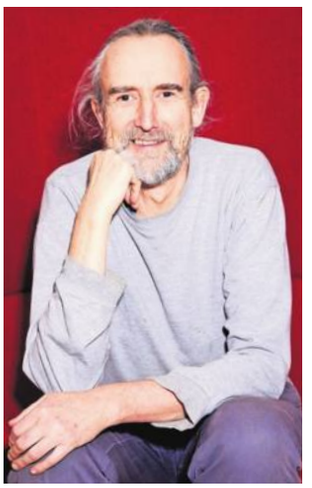
Even Gandhi, who transformed from a top hat-wearing lawyer in South Africa to a half-naked spiritual leader in the Raj, underwent a kind of personal development. Hallam tells us that he knew society was sick, sought out the means to transform it, and never second-guessed this insight. This is a straightforward, revealing admission of authentic long-range fanaticism. It's also the crude heart of his appeal. If you never change you are unlikely to become a hypocrite.

How wide is that appeal? Christopher Hehir, the judge who sentenced Hallam at Southwark crown court last week, described him as a "fanatic" who, along with four other defendants, had appointed themselves the "sole arbiters of what should be done about climate change, bound neither by the principles of democracy nor the rule of law".

Yet Hehir was forced to admit something else as he sent the group to prison: "I acknowledge that at least some of the concerns motivating you are," he said, referring to the scientific and social consensus around the hard fact of climate breakdown, "at least to some extent, shared by many."

It's worth teasing out what those concerns are. Within our lifetimes, and certainly within our children's, Hallam and his followers believe we will end up in a reality no different from Cormac McCarthy's 2006 novel *The Road*. Social collapse, roving bands of killers, human life reduced to the nasty, brutish and poor factory setting of pre-civilisational *Homo sapiens*.

In Britain these are no longer eccentric concerns. Thousands and thousands of people believe that *The Road* reality is coming at us, fast. At the Restore Nature Now rally last month, a much bigger political gathering than anything the mainstream parties could muster during the general election, this doom mood was everywhere. Sure,



**Roger Hallam seems preoccupied with the Nazis, gang rape and genocide**

there were men walking around central London with flowerpots on their heads and smiling women dressed up as bees. But whenever I spoke to marchers, the conversation usually drifted towards Hallam-esque places.

British environmentalists, the sort who are members of the RSPB and have family recipes for lemon drizzle cake, genuinely think their children may end up being eaten by cannibal gangs unless we build more onshore wind turbines and ban cheap short-haul European flights.

"When the shit hits the fan, I'll be dead," one 68-year-old retiree told me, before warning that maize will be the first crop to die out and plunge us into food riots. A bloke who taught "slow yoga" told me western societies were too driven and brutal, before cheerfully explaining why we needed a new Guy Fawkes to "give parliament a shake up".

When Roger Hallam was a 13-year-old fantasising about social and political change, these were fringe positions. They no longer are. Surveys repeatedly show that the majority of British adults "worry" about climate change. At Restore Nature Now, attended by about 60,000 people, including celebrities like Chris Packham and Dame Judi Dench,

> Most of this feeling is being mopped up by the rising Green Party

those worries were expressed: not only that dolphins, whales and barn owls were dying out. The worry is bigger — that life as we know it will soon completely change for the worse. This is a genteel British apocalypticism, the soft underbelly of the more extreme views that have helped to put Hallam in prison.

At the moment, most of this feeling is being mopped up by the Green Party, with their four new MPs and expanding roster of local councillors. It may not be contained there for too long. The Greens won almost 7 per cent of the vote at the general election, which translated to 0.6 per cent of MPs. Without equitable representation, it does not take much imagination to see how some of those voters will end up on their own Hallam-like quests for sainthood.

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Comment

# Hand of God rests easier on this England

## Embrace of religion by young footballers with a black African heritage reflects a societal shift

**Tomiwa Owolade**

@TOMOWOLADE

'We don't do God," the spin-doctor Alastair Campbell once said, to discourage his boss Tony Blair from publicly talking about his Christian faith in 2003. Footballers in the past didn't do God either. It is impossible to imagine Bobby Moore praying before a game; one can't imagine Gary Lineker praising God after a good performance.

How things have changed. Footballers now very much do God — and football is one of the few areas in British public life where expressions of religious faith are common.

Consider the recent Euros in Germany. As the Brentford striker Ivan Toney came on in the last minutes of the final against Spain, he did something conspicuous: he made the sign of the cross. This was not unusual for him. He prays before every game. Toney is a devoted Christian. The same is true of so many of his England team-mates who have also publicly expressed their Christian faith, from the centre-back Marc Guéhi and his Crystal Palace team-mate Eberechi Eze to the star winger Bukayo Saka.

This partly reflects the changing nature of British (or English) society. Black English people are more religious than their white counterparts. Saka, the son of immigrant Nigerian parents, reads the Bible every night before bed. "Religion is a big part of my life," he told GQ magazine in a 2022 interview. On his Instagram profile is the hashtag "#GodsChild".

Britain is becoming a more secular society. But this is shaped by white British people. Religion is still a fundamental part of the identities of many ethnic minority people in the UK. In terms of Christianity, it is especially true of the particular group to which Saka, Guéhi and Eze belong: the black African population, a group even more explicitly religious than the black Caribbean population. The year Saka was born (2001) the decennial United Kingdom census found that 1 per cent of the population in England and Wales came from a black Caribbean background and 0.8 per cent came from a black African background. The two wide clusters of black British identity were almost neck and neck in terms of their population size.

> Christian players are ambassadors for their nation and role models

Fast forward 20 years to the 2021 census and we see a remarkable shift: the share of the black Caribbean population is exactly the same, 1 per cent, that it was in 2001 but the share from a black African background has grown threefold to 2.5 per cent.

The religiosity of modern footballers is not simply about race. Saka's captain at Arsenal, the Norwegian Martin Odegaard, is also a Christian who is comfortable talking about his faith. And Christianity is not the only religion that players in the Premier League practise. One of the most iconic images for Arsenal fans from the past decade was Mesut Özil, a devout Muslim, praying before each game. Last season Everton had a starting midfield that consisted of three players — Amadou Onana, Idrissa Gueye and Abdoulaye Doucouré — who are all Muslim, all come from a Francophone African family background and pray together before games.

For many players, their religious belief contributes to the rituals that characterise so many professional athletes (religious or secular) as they try to navigate the stress of competitive sport — the way that they wear their kits, what they eat and don't eat, what they mutter to themselves just before they go out to perform.

Many players who have never expressed explicit religious faith nevertheless follow superstitious rituals. Before every game, Gary Neville would sit on the toilet in full kit for 15 minutes reading the match programme. John Terry would listen to the same Usher CD. Terry and his Chelsea team-mate, Frank Lampard, would use the same urinal at Stamford Bridge.

The need for such rituals, whether expressed through religious affirmations of faith or secular habits, comes from taking part in an activity in which so much is at stake and so much is down to fine margins. Without Jude Bellingham's exceptional goal against Slovakia in the round of 16, this tournament would be one of humiliation rather than lost triumph for England.

Taking a penalty, Toney's speciality, requires both skill and nerve. Out of such tension, it is no surprise that so many footballers are openly religious; that so many of them feel they need to take a leap of faith to succeed in a game where so much can rest on the single kick of a ball. And where the rewards for winning are so extraordinary — not simply winning a trophy, in the case of the final in an international tournament, but redemption and national glory.

Arrigo Sacchi, the great Italian coach, once said that "football is the most important of the least important things in life". England's Christian players are not simply professional sportsmen, they are ambassadors for their nation and role models for young people. They are comfortable with their faith in a nation where public figures who talk about God are seen as embarrassing and cringeworthy.

But then again, the language with which we frame something like football is often saturated with religious significance. We invest the England national team with the responsibility of redeeming the past glory of 1966. When Toney entered the field in the dying moments of the final against Spain, he had a chance to be the saviour of England. Football could finally come home. With glory and salvation at stake, it's no wonder he made the sign of the cross.

## Sathnam Sanghera Notebook

# Perhaps my mother was right about the 'evil eye'

I was raised to be wary of "nazar", a concept that translates roughly as "the evil eye" and which you can apparently contract if you receive any kind of admiration. Lots of cultures harbour the superstition beyond us British-Indian Punjabis, and they have various ways of warding it off, from anti-evil-eye bracelets to my mother's preferred method, waving red chillies around your head before setting them alight on a gas stove.

When I was growing up, I thought it anti-joyful: my mother is never more anxious than at a celebration or if one of her children has bought a new house or won an award, hovering with red chillies to frighten away evil spirits, pleading with us not to publicise the good news. But as I get older, I regret that the concept isn't more popular.

If people were more concerned about attracting envy, they would be more nervous about grotesque displays of privilege and wealth. More specifically, there would be fewer men wearing those ludicrous gigantic watches that only seem to attract muggers. Fewer people would be inclined to "wrap" their Ferraris in gold or to adapt motorbikes so they're as loud as fighter jets. No one would agree to have publicity when they won the lottery. And that interminable Ambani wedding would have passed without the family spending the equivalent of the annual GDP of Mauritius on proceedings. What a grotesque spectacle in a nation where 1 per cent of people own 40 per cent of the wealth.

Enjoy your money if you want, buy as many beautiful things as you like, but do you need to make such a display of it? Do you really need to post that photograph from your business-class seat or invest in that private number plate? Do you need to rub it in everyone's face?

### Weather woes

We need a new way of measuring British summers. The woeful weather this year is bad enough for those of us sensitive to such things, but making it worse are all those meteorologists and forecasters forever insisting that, actually, conditions are not that abnormal for the time of year. Are you serious? I've not watered my garden plants a single time in 2024! The heating is on every other night! I'm taking vitamin D tablets in July!

At the risk of sounding like a climate-change denier, it seems to me that you can prove anything with statistics, and we need new criteria beyond average temperatures and rainfall. What might these include?

Well, how about the average number of nights Britons have actually managed to eat outside? Or the average number of times they've worn a sweater or hoodie? Or considered booking a last-minute summer holiday just to experience some warmth on their skin? Or how often convertible owners have actually had their hood down?

Needless to say, as I write this, I'm sitting in a sweater, with the heating on, and lastminute.com open on a browser.

### Triggered

Trigger warnings are pathetic, of course, but having found myself wasting tens of hours watching a TV series recently that suddenly went in directions which grated and annoyed, I think Netflix, Apple TV and Disney need to experiment with woo-woo warnings. These would be applied to dramas that begin conventionally and seem to be outlining real-life scenarios but suddenly venture into the field of the supernatural.

I know I began this column arguing for the popularisation of an Indian superstition, but it's maddening when you've put work into following a plot and identifying with characters only for the drama to suddenly drag you into the world of utter fantasy. As a start, I would (spoiler alert) attach woo-woo warnings to *Stranger Things*, *Lost*, *The OA* and *The Leftovers*. All of them with plot developments more annoying than anything *Dallas* dreamt up for Bobby Ewing. And then I'd attach woo-woo warnings to any TV interviews with Liz Truss or any coverage of the Republican National Convention.

### Windows workhouse

Social Media Post of the Month — @MartinPilgrim1 on Twitter/X: I restored my laptop to Victorian factory settings and now it's working 20 hours a day despite being less than four years old.

@SATHNAM

THUNDERER

## Starmer can restore trust by protecting right to free speech

**Caroline Kean**

On June 19, Sir Keir Starmer was asked if his government would recognise the problem of strategic lawsuits against public participation (Slapps). Our soon-to-be prime minister confirmed that he absolutely understood the need to address anything that inhibits the ability of people to criticise, but said his government's "intense focus" would be on the "most pressing issues of the day".

In his first speech as leader of this nation, Sir Keir highlighted the need to rebuild trust. Trust cannot be built without transparency. One of his "most pressing issues" should be to protect those who share information in the public interest.

Under the last government, reform of the law received cross-party support: an anti-Slapp bill, presented by the former Labour MP Wayne David, was due to go to report stage before falling victim to the decision to call the election. Sir Keir doesn't need to start from scratch: there is no excuse for failing to pick up this particular ball immediately, even if it didn't make the King's Speech.

"Slapp" is shorthand for legal threats brought to gag public interest speech. Slapps aren't exclusive to oligarchs: claimants as diverse as men accused of sexual violence and cosmetic surgeons quashing negative reviews online resort to them. The common feature of Slapp claimants is that they use the threat of legal proceedings to intimidate defendants into not publishing or withdrawing true stories that the public has an interest and right in knowing.

In this country protection of free speech is not prioritised by law. A defamation claimant does not have to prove anything is untrue: the burden of proof is on the publisher, which is how the law is weaponised by claimants. The threat of a claim against one person has a ripple effect, gagging other publishers in a way that ordinary litigation, such as a contract dispute, does not. So Slapps claimants typically pick on the publishers least able to defend themselves, such as a bookseller or social media users who amplify media reporting. This is why Slapps are such a powerful tool in "reputation management".

Every public interest story that is suppressed is an assault on your right to transparency. The "chilling effect" of our legal system on the publication of public interest journalism, by citizen journalists as much as the mainstream press, has been recognised for years. Yet nothing has been done. Public trust is damaged when the law can be used to whitewash malpractice and corruption. Sir Keir says that lack of trust can only be healed by actions, not words. If he is committed to rebuilding trust, ending Slapps is where he should start.

Caroline Kean is a media law consultant

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# Talking up teen suicide risk is sick opportunism

## Claims that gender-questioning children will take their life if deprived of puberty blockers has no foundation in fact

**Libby Purves**

@LIB_THINKS

Don't wince away, bored from gender wars and Wes Streeting's restriction on puberty blockers that suppress hormonal changes in physically normal children. Focus on one serious wickedness: the moral blackmail of troubled parents, a reckless and cruel spreading of lies. As to sexuality and gender itself, its private mysteries offer plenty for philosophical debate, and a civilised country should respect idiosyncrasy and the right to be unusual. As for the privacy of woman's spaces, plenty has been written in these pages in defence of that. Rather, I want to talk about a particularly despicable propaganda foisted on frightened parents of children who, out of the blue, declare themselves "trans", either spontaneously or pressured by absurd social expectations.

The biologically essential changes of puberty are rarely a smooth ride for any family but there is an evil campaign to tell parents that if deprived of a medication which risks bone, brain and future fertility, their child will kill themself. This message is out there, inflated through a million screens, banners and false statistics. Some propagandists are careful, talking only of "an increased risk" of suicide. But many, like Clive Lewis MP, claim to know young people for whom the drug "probably saved their life". Wilder adherents shout "stop killing trans kids!" and parents are asked by committed therapists: "Do you want a happy little girl or a dead son?" The charity Mermaids has claimed that 50 per cent of children questioning their gender attempt suicide.

So it was more than welcome last week that Professor Louis Appleby, a leading authority on mental health and a government adviser, confirmed

> The ideologues rant on while they are backed by 'cool' stars and MPs

that there is no evidence whatsoever of this. No surging rise in suicide by gender-questioning children. "The way this issue has been discussed on social media," he said, "has been insensitive, distressing and dangerous," and risks imitative self-harm, to which adolescents distressed for any reason are famously prone.

But ideologues rant on, blind to data and sense, shamefully backed by celebrities and MPs wanting to be cool. Some families who "transed" their own children, especially once they have moved on to irreversible surgery, inevitably double down and speak of it as an act of wisdom and compassion. It would, after all, be horrifying to any parent to think otherwise. Again and again, organisations like the "Good Law Project" and Stonewall reiterate such talk, that social acceptance and waiting for adulthood are not enough because without a life-changing assault on their hormonal development hundreds of children will die by their own hand.

The sick opportunism of it should repel anyone, even those (I am one) who have long sympathised with the ancient but rare phenomenon of craving a sex-change. To read Jan Morris's description of feeling the armour of adolescent male muscle as imprisonment is touching, and I am glad she had a long and happy life after treatment as an adult (without, unlike some recent public trans women, embracing extreme sexualised self-styling: it is that drag fetish of show-offs like Dylan Mulvaney that tells teenage boys they need to dodge puberty if they're ever to pass as a hot girl). It is good that society has evolved to tolerate and affirm the rights of adults who live modest lives in a sex they were not born to, but predicting child self-slaughter is no decent weapon.

Suicide always carries a special horror because the animal instinct for self-preservation is intense: we cannot help but snatch our hand from the fire or flinch from an attack or abyss. Reverence for life is a powerful morality; medicine cherishes even the frailest. And remember that until 1961 in England and Wales you could still be prosecuted for attempted "self-murder": the last jailing was 1959.

The actual moment of taking your

> I've probably had more conversations with survivors than most

life remains deeply personal: the subject's mind has moved to areas incomprehensible to most of us. Having lost an adult son this way I have probably had more conversations with survivors of this catastrophe than most, and seen the struggle to understand, the acceptance that we can't, and the determination not to become collateral damage. And not — this is vital — ever to allow our lost one to become some sick, romantic "Young Werther" example. Moreover, threatening suicide as a ploy is a particularly low form of blackmail. Spurned lovers sometimes deploy it, but "if you leave me I'll kill myself" is a despicable (and probably wholly inaccurate) threat. It is useful to talk openly about mental health, and maybe admit to that psychiatric weasel-phrase "suicidal ideation" (not unusual, we all do it sometimes, recognising it as a mental escape-valve with no real intention). But talking about that ideation should always frame it as something to be defeated. Threatening it is deeply wrong.

So it is infinitely more unforgivable to threaten it by proxy against strangers with young children who get nervous about burgeoning womanhood or manhood, or flinch at silly social expectations to be a fighting superhero or a hot Disney princess. How dare campaigners with a bossy cultural (or pharmaceutical) agenda throw about false statistics threatening the worst of all parental nightmares?

Suicide is a complex mystery, child suicide even more. Though we campaign with good anger against cyberbullying, exam pressure and self-harm websites, the deed is unlikely to be rooted in one cause. It could be serious unrecognised neurodiversity, family stress, alcohol, drug or sexual abuse, cult capture or just a performative cry for help that accidentally succeeds. Suicide is awful, complicated; not something to fling about, larded with lying statistics, to promote a fashionable ideology. Cease and desist.

# Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

## Leeds riot policing

Sir, After the riot in Harehills (news, Jul 20), West Yorkshire police and their officers were criticised for "running away" and not returning as the disorder continued. Retired officers, however, still remember the Broadwater Farm riot in 1985, when outnumbered officers were isolated by a mob, resulting in the murder of PC Keith Blakelock. The simple fact is that if relatively few officers are facing a crowd of hundreds or even thousands, there is little option but to withdraw or risk being overwhelmed, with potentially tragic results. It is likely that the response officers seen "running away" in Leeds had initially rushed to assist their colleagues before being ordered to withdraw for their own safety.

Not re-entering an area where there is serious disorder focused on the police, even when sufficient resources are available, is an accepted tactic and seemed to be successful in this case. It is fraught with peril because a mob could turn on vulnerable groups or indulge in mass looting. Monitoring via air-support units, as occurred in Harehills, is one method of mitigating this risk.

Those who accuse officers of cowardice need to look at the alarming statistics on the number of officers assaulted and injured as a result of dealing with incidents. Critics should also be made aware of the numerous acts of police bravery, kindness and compassion that take place daily.

**Chris Hobbs**
Ret'd Met Police officer, London

## Meddling in justice

Sir, Ray Bowden ("Just Stop Oil protesters jailed", letters, Jul 20) is constitutionally correct. It is a fundamental part of our democracy that parliament makes the law and the courts interpret it, enforce it and resolve disagreements about it. There is a right of appeal and such matters are heard in the Court of Appeal and ultimately the Supreme Court.

The parliamentary decision to correct the miscarriages of justice in the Post Office scandal by way of an act of parliament was and remains the start of a journey down a very slippery and dangerous slope. There can be no doubt the wrong needs to be put right but it is not a matter for parliament; it is a matter for the courts in accordance with our constitution. The same applies to the Just Stop Oil sentences.

**Christopher Patridge**
March, Cambridgeshire

## Corrections and clarifications

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# Lessons to be learnt from global IT mayhem

Sir, A fault in the software of one IT supplier has led to global chaos (news, Jul 20). In parallel, the first report of the Covid inquiry has identified inadequate healthcare data systems as a contributory factor in the mishandling of the pandemic, and Sir Ed Davey has given his account of the government's involvement in the Horizon IT scandal ("Post Office bosses lied to me about IT glitches", Jul 19). There is a common thread here. Pervasive and mission-critical software infrastructure has an increasingly wide-ranging societal impact, and must be made less vulnerable to the vagaries of opaque products that serve inadequately framed and governed interests.

You also report on Mariana Mazzucato making the case for collaboration between the private and public sectors, which she describes as for the common good ("Starmer is too soft on business, says economist who inspired him", Jul 19). It is in this context that the mayhem exhibited by the CrowdStrike fault must be recognised, understood and tackled.

**David Ingram**
Emeritus professor of health informatics, University College London

Sir, The global IT failure involving CrowdStrike, Microsoft and others has thrown the UK's dependence on Big Tech into sharp relief. We put all of our eggs in too few baskets and will be counting the cost for a long time.

The Competition and Markets Authority's investigation into the dominance of Microsoft and Amazon in the cloud infrastructure market is a welcome but long overdue step. The two companies enjoy a combined UK market share of about 70-90 per cent, according to the CMA's own research, and the public sector's heavy reliance on Microsoft and Amazon WorkSpaces for critical services — from the NHS and HMRC to the MoD and intelligence services — poses a national security risk.

A robust national cloud strategy is needed to mitigate risk and foster a more resilient IT infrastructure. We need a clear plan that encourages competition and ensures essential public services are not reliant on a handful of foreign companies.

**Simon Hansford**
Former CEO of UKCloud,
Effingham, Surrey

Sir, As an adviser to a number of police forces on business continuity and data recovery, I was shocked that so many organisations had failed to follow a key rule: do not deploy anything that is a single point of failure. End users tend to think of business continuity in terms of off-site back-up, strong passwords and not clicking links in emails. All of these are vital to ensure the probity of computer systems but the unseen engineers who design, implement and manage corporate computer systems seem to have ignored a crucial mantra. CrowdStrike had less than 25 per cent of the market so there were plenty of alternatives to avoid that single point.

**Jeff Maynard**
Ascot, Berkshire

Sir, The worldwide shutdown of most digital systems should cause a rethink to those who advocate a cashless society. I would have been unable to make basic purchases without the coin of the realm.

**Gordon Abington**
Angmering, W Sussex

Sir, I hate to say "I told you so" but as someone who insisted on maintaining a paper diary and notebook in the workplace, and who a few times was the only one who could function when systems went down, I am feeling somewhat smug (if acutely sorry for all those adversely affected by the latest IT debacle). Having a back-up, even in old-fashioned paper form, is surely a sensible measure.

**Sarah Richards**
Poole, Dorset

## No-fault evictions

Sir, The government has pledged to ban no-fault evictions ("How Labour hopes to fix past failures", Jul 18). Elderly lawyers such as myself recall with a shudder having to advise landlords and tenants on their respective rights and liabilities under the old Rent Act regime. Obtaining possession was costly and time-consuming and landlords were reluctant to let properties, knowing that they would face a legal steeplechase when trying to recover their properties.

The repeal of those acts and the introduction of assured leasehold tenancies encouraged landlords to offer properties for rental knowing that by serving a section 21 notice they could normally recover their property without legal hassle.

Abolishing the section 21 provision will make landlords much more cautious about letting property and would exacerbate further the shortage or private rental properties.

It is to be hoped that those involved in modifying the existing legislation will avoid the traps of the old Rent Acts by consulting those with memories of their horrors and by ensuring that while tenants are given more security there is a fair balance with the interests of landlords.

**A Pugh-Thomas**
Oxford

## Predicted grades

Sir, Lee Elliot Major (Thunderer, Jul 19) is right: a move to post-A level university applications would benefit both students and teachers.

I applied to university after my A levels precisely because it avoided the pressure of a conditional place dependent on future grades while allowing the attractive prospect of a gap year. I later became a teacher and did not enjoy the annual ordeal of predicted A level grades, often submitted very early in the student's sixth-form career. Far better for both to reform the admission system and allow post-A level application, with or without a gap year.

**William Lawrence**
Kidlington, Oxon

Letters to The Times must be exclusive and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

## Lords reform

Sir, The new Labour government wishes to reform the House of Lords by making it more representative, and also to reduce centralisation by delegating more powers to the regions (letters, Jul 19 & 20).

I wonder whether it has considered including the elected mayors among the groups entitled to sit in the new second chamber. Their right to do so would be limited to their term of office, they would all have the legitimacy of having been directly elected and they would represent all four of the home nations, ensuring that all of the regions felt they had a say in any new legislation.

**Robert Jenkyn Bedford**
Milton Keynes

## OLYMPICS A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE

**FROM THE TIMES** JULY 22, 1924

The message we publish today on the subject of the Olympic Games was evidently written under a profound sense of disappointment. Even those who went to Paris most full of hope are completely disheartened. In the opinion of our special correspondent, the Games have shown that the world is not yet ripe for the ideal which was the object of their revival — creating a brotherhood of sport to reflect the improvement of international relations. The experiences of the present Olympiad have confirmed the long-felt misgiving that the tendency of these Games is to inflame international animosities rather than to allay them. Both the actions of individual competitors and the behaviour of spectators have given rise to "disagreeable incidents" of a provocative and volcanic character.

Even the judging has not been free from reproach. In a boxing match last week one of these "incidents" was so flagrantly unsportsmanlike, and the verdict of the judges so questionable, that it was agreed that unless the decision was reversed all the English-speaking contestants, including the Americans, would withdraw in a body. Yesterday the British Olympic Committee found it necessary to take more decided action. The Olympic boxing came to an end amid scenes of such disorder that they have notified the International Committee that British boxers will not compete at future Olympic meetings.

Shameful disorder, storms of abuse, free fights, and the drowning of National Anthems by shouting and booing are not conducive to Olympic calm. Disturbances of this kind, with open expressions of national hostility, could end in worse trouble than the duel which it is feared may take place after a quarrel between a Hungarian and an Italian fencer. The peace of the world is too precious to justify any risk of its being sacrificed on the altar of international sport. Noting the loss of self-control to which national partisanship can give rise, French newspapers suggest that the Olympic Games do more harm than good in international relations. Our correspondent says that no one will feel justified in again appealing to the public to support the sending of a full team to another Olympiad, and that the death-knell of the Games has, in fact, been sounded.

THETIMES.COM/ARCHIVE

## Voting at 16

Sir, Janice Turner, in discussing the propensity of young voters to make capricious choices, overlooks the core argument against schoolboys and girls being given the vote ("Teen voters could kick Labour in the ballot box", Jul 20). A 16-year-old who is charged with a crime cannot be named except by order of the judge, usually where murder or something very serious is involved. Under-18s are also sentenced differently. As minors, they have other protections in law. They are thus not subject to the full force of the law, and should not have a say, however remote, in making it.

**Jacqueline Castles**
London W2

## Mind and body

Sir, It was heartbreaking to read about the tragic early death of Sean O'Neill's daughter, Maeve, after years of suffering from ME ("Patients with ME have been failed by dismissive doctors, says Javid", Jul 20) It is also sad to hear of countless others who feel let down by the medical profession. The objection to the notion that conditions such as long Covid or ME are "all in the mind" always gives me pause for thought. I don't think I have ever come across a physical health condition that is all in the body or a mental health condition that is all in the mind. This Cartesian dualism has done modern medicine (and our patients) no end of harm.

**Dr Rachel Turner**
Overton, Hants

## Leaving it too late

Sir, Women, says the Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority, are "leaving it too late" to have IVF at the age of 35 (news, Jul 18). But not only is their warning unhelpful, it makes no sense. If there is any failure, it's one of inadequate provision.

The average age to make it to the altar is 31. Then it takes a year before an NHS doctor will refer you, so 32. Then (for us) there are three years of tests, chasing and waiting before you're even in front of an IVF doctor. That's 35 — and silly old you, you're the one who's "left it too late".

We are the lucky ones, with two beautiful children. But to tell those who aren't that they were at fault adds insult to lifelong heartbreak.

**Elizabeth Murray**
London E4

## Cathedral cats

Sir, Your report (Jul 19) regarding the cat trapped in a shaft in St Paul's Cathedral, reminded me of the time when, as a schoolboy in Dublin, I took great delight in visiting the crypt of Christ Church Cathedral, where there is a mummified cat. It became stuck in the pipe of an organ apparently having chased after a rat (also mummified). Mentioned by James Joyce in *Finnegans Wake*, they are known locally as Tom and Jerry.

**Anthony McGibney**
Stickney, Lincs

## So help me God

Sir, Many of us, including Donald Trump, are old enough to remember the words of *With God on Our Side* as written and first performed by Bob Dylan in 1963. When I heard him use that expression after the assassination attempt I felt a shiver down my spine.

**Nicholas D Hart**
Morden, Surrey

## Daily Universal Register

**UK:** Nominations period for MPs seeking to become a Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons; the Royal Welsh Show begins in Llanelwedd, Powys.

## Nature notes

Leopard slugs are, as their name suggests, patterned all over with smart spots, but they lack their namesake's turn of speed. However, they share with big cats a predatory instinct: these large slugs — reaching 10cm to 15cm long and with lifespans of up to four years — have a taste for other, smaller slugs, as well as for their eggs. These they use to supplement their usual diet of fungi, lichen, decaying organic matter and animal faeces. Also known as great grey slugs, in spring and autumn a pair will climb a tree or shrub and then hang suspended from it on a thick rope of mucus while they mate. Their eggs are laid in large clusters under stones or in the soil. MELISSA HARRISON

## Birthdays today

**Prince George**, *pictured*, 11; **Marcus Agius**, chairman of trustees, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (2009-19), 78; **Albert Brooks**, actor, writer and comedian, *Broadcast News* (1987), 77; **William Buick**, flat jockey, winner of five British Classic Races, 36; **Barbara Cassani**, chairwoman, London 2012 Olympic bid (2003-04), 64; **George Clinton**, funk singer and band leader, *The Cinderella Theory* (1989), 83; **Prof Sir Philip Cohen**, biochemist, Royal Medal recipient (2008), 79; **Willem Dafoe**, actor, *Platoon* (1986), *At Eternity's Gate* (2018), 69; **Danny Glover**, actor, the Lethal Weapon film series (1987-98), 78; **Louise Haigh**, transport secretary, Labour MP for Sheffield Heeley, 37; **Don Henley**, musician, a founding member of the Eagles, *Hotel California* (1977), 77; **Nigel Hess**, composer, *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates* (Novello award, 1997), 71; **Andrew Holness**, prime minister of Jamaica, 52; **Bonnie Langford**, actress, *Doctor Who* (1986-87), 60; **Mireille Mathieu**, French singer, *La dernière valse* (1967), 78; **Alan Menken**, composer, scores for Walt Disney films, *Beauty and the Beast* (1991), 75; **Adolfo Orive**, president and chief executive, Tetra Pak (food packaging and processing), 61; **Alistair Phillips-Davies**, chief executive, SSE (energy company), 57; **Nick Prettejohn**, chairman, TSB bank, Reach (media group), 64; **Carolyn Quinn**, presenter, *PM* (2000-23), BBC Radio 4, 63; **Rathna Ramanathan**, head, Central Saint Martins, and pro vice-chancellor, University of the Arts, London, 53; **Harold Rhodes**, cricketer, England (1959), 88; **Steve Rowe**, chief executive, Marks & Spencer (2016-22), 57; **Terence Stamp**, actor, *Billy Budd* (1962), 86; **Rufus Wainwright**, singer-songwriter, *Poses* (2001), 51.

## On this day

In **2004** the Old Bridge of Mostar in Bosnia and Herzegovina reopened after it was destroyed by Bosnian-Croat forces in 1993 during the Balkans war. The area was designated as a Unesco world heritage site in 2005.

## The last word

*"Old friends is always best, 'less you can catch a new one that's fit to make an old one out of."* Sarah Orne Jewett, American author and poet, *The Country of the Pointed Firs* (1896)

# Paying for Welfare

## The case for awarding above-inflation pay rises to public-sector employees, while plausible, must be combined with far-reaching structural reforms

No one doubts the contribution to welfare made by teachers and health professionals. It does not follow, however, that the salary levels of these and other public-sector employees should be pinned to subjective assessments of the value of their jobs rather than what the taxpayer can afford. Rachel Reeves, the chancellor, indicated this weekend that the new government may agree to pay increases above inflation for these workers in order to settle industrial conflict. There is a plausible, but conditional, case for this. Higher pay must have the quid pro quo of structural reform.

Pay awards for about 45 per cent of public-sector employees are decided by ministers, based on recommendations by independent review bodies. These workers include teachers and NHS staff. Pay settlements on average amounted to between 5 and 7 per cent in the past two years, in conditions of high inflation. The chancellor has not denied reports that the government might accept increases of about 5.5 per cent for this financial year, though annual inflation is now back to the Bank of England's target of 2 per cent. Ms Reeves has said, on the contrary, that there is a "cost to not settling" current pay negotiations.

The chancellor makes an ostensibly fair point. The review body is, by design, independent of government and its decisions take into account requirements to recruit and retain skilled staff in public services. But the new government cannot reasonably affect neutrality on the outcome.

The independent Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that public-sector pay represents about a fifth of all government spending. As governments have no money of their own, this is funded by taxpayers, who already have numerous other demands on their largesse. And it is notoriously hard to measure gains in productivity in public-sector employment. Rewards and incentives are typically based on subjective managerial assessments rather than empirical measures of output.

The risk of waving through an above-inflation increase is that the government will thereby establish a benchmark for the rest of the public sector, without reference to value for money for the taxpayer. This would give ballast to the absurd and unaffordable demands of the junior doctors' section of the British Medical Association for a 35 per cent pay increase. But more particularly it would reinforce the notion that health and educational outcomes are purely a function of how much money is put in, rather than of the contributions of the workforces themselves.

This will not do. The private sector, in industries including finance, retailing and communications, has changed beyond recognition in this century. The public sector is still doing very similar functions without discernible changes in working methods. This is not a synonym for reducing headcount, but merely a reasonable expectation that restrictive practices will be overhauled.

Few NHS trusts use electronic patient notes, for example, despite the potential savings by doing so. An aversion to conveying patient data to any but a narrow audience has no benefits for public health but merely serves to reinforce the insider status of NHS staff. Better management practices, along the lines of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS trust conducting operations in parallel rather than sequentially, could also extract efficiency savings.

It is a damaging superstition that public services, owing to their founding ethos, are beyond improvement. A Labour government ought in principle to be well placed to demand change as a precondition of monetary rewards. As Sir Tony Blair, the most electorally successful of all Labour leaders, said last year: "The NHS now requires fundamental reform or, eventually, support for it will diminish. As in the 1990s, the NHS must either change or decline." The new government should heed this message and swiftly act on it.

# Community Cohesion

## Demagogues exploiting the violence in Leeds last week discredit themselves

It is more than 20 years since urban riots in Oldham, Burnley and Bradford in the north of England prompted sober commentators to speculate that British cities were increasingly experiencing "ethnic segregation". An official report suggested communities were living "parallel lives". These fears proved unfounded. They thereby provide an instructive background to disgraceful scenes of violence in the Harehills district of Leeds last week. Demagogues depict Britain as a broken and fractious society; it is in truth a successful and pacific instance of community relations. And it is the duty of elected officials and pundits to keep it that way.

Its causes are still disputed, and the police have discouraged speculation, but the rioting appears to have been at least coincident with protests about children from a Roma family being taken into care. Video footage shows attacks on police officers, arson and the destruction of vehicles.

Yvette Cooper, the home secretary, has rightly described these scenes as shocking. There may be good reason for Leeds city council to review child protection cases, as it has announced it will do. Yet enforcement agencies, courts and municipal authorities must have no compunction in cracking down on the perpetrators. It is essential that any rioters identified and convicted be awarded stiff exemplary sentences.

Equally, individual criminality should not be interpreted though the prism of xenophobic politics. It is to the credit of a local Green councillor, Mothin Ali, that he confronted rioters and urged calm. For his pains, he was lambasted by extremists who were not on the scene at all. Tommy Robinson, the anti-Muslim campaigner whose real name is Stephen Yaxley-Lennon, posted on social media: "Let me introduce to the newly elected councillor for the area rioting tonight in Leeds."

Lamentably, Nigel Farage — from his vantage point at the Republican National Convention in the United States, despite being a newly elected MP in Essex — posted that the "politics of the subcontinent are currently playing out on the streets of Leeds". It is noticeable that the leader of Reform UK instantly assumed the national origin of the rioters without troubling to check it.

No responsible politician should behave that way, and such inflammatory invective has no part to play in policymaking. Contrary to populist campaigners on both wings of politics, Britain is an overwhelmingly peaceful country that has achieved success in communal integration.

Official surveys suggest that the great majority of people in Britain, at 84 per cent, believe their area is a place where people from different backgrounds get along well together. The most recent census, in 2021, indicates that more than 98 per cent of residents of England and Wales speak English (or English or Welsh, in Wales) as either a main language or with proficiency. There are undoubtedly pockets of deprivation and inequality in Britain, but the notion that society is divided between mutually uncomprehending ethnic groups is without foundation.

It is vital that residents of Britain feel a common identity, as citizens of a pluralist society under the rule of law. The surest way to create that sense of belonging is to ensure demagogues do not prosper. Those who depict this country as a place of persecution and prejudice, or as a society under assault from alien cultures, perform no service whatsoever to community cohesion and the public good.

# Culture Shock

## No meal is more satisfying than one concluded with cheese

It is a stubborn myth that the British are indifferent to the quality of what they eat. The French gastronome Grimod de La Reynière wrote in 1806 that "English cooking is limited to boiled chickens of extreme insipidity". In truth, there is a long history of food appreciation in this country but, partly owing to the rigours of austerity and economic crises, its focus narrowed in the postwar era.

In no foodstuff was this effect more obvious than cheese consumption. Till around 40 years ago, the staples of a cheeseboard in this country were Cheddar, Stilton, Cheshire and Red Leicester. Household tastes have since blossomed, and the evidence is shown in supermarket sales. Retailers report that customers are branching into stronger and softer cheeses. And dairy farmers increasingly are diversifying into cheese manufacture in order to cater to this burgeoning market.

This is a trend to be encouraged. British cheeses encompass a range of sharp and mild tastes, but there is much for aficionados to appreciate beyond them. The British diet has been supplemented in recent years by large sales of such cheeses as halloumi, feta and Comté. These have diverse merits of taste and texture, but aroma also counts.

In a celebrated article *The Culinary Triangle*, the anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss related that American troops advancing through the Normandy countryside after D-Day in 1944 occasionally razed dairy farms in error owing to the pungent smell of the cheese. It was of course not the stench of decay but the aroma of creativity.

They may not appeal to everyone, but washed-rind cheeses such as taleggio and époisses deserve discovery. They are counterparts to the modern English cheese known, without understatement, as Stinking Bishop. It is hard to conceive of a more satisfying end to a meal than a mix of cheese, in which the joys of discovery are legion.

# World

# Democracy is not our tradition, says Hong Kong chief

China
**Richard Lloyd Parry** Hong Kong

Hong Kong must be governed by supporters of the Chinese Communist Party rather than by popular mandate, one of its leading politicians has said, in a clear confirmation that the era of representative democracy in the territory is over.

Regina Ip, convenor of the executive council, Hong Kong's de facto cabinet, said democracy had failed in the territory and was alien to "Chinese tradition". She spoke during the trials of democracy campaigners who have been prosecuted under national security laws that have criminalised many peaceful expressions of political opposition.

"People don't vote for the common good," Ip told The Times in her office in Hong Kong's Legislative Council (LegCo), a parliament from which all opponents of the government are excluded. "People vote for whatever serves their interests. Just following the popular will is dangerous."

In 2019 there were tumultuous demonstrations against Hong Kong's pro-Beijing government involving two million people. The protests were provoked by proposed changes to the law that many Hongkongers believed would undermine the "one country, two systems" arrangement intended to preserve its freedoms and autonomy after the handover from Britain in 1997.

The following year the protest movement was quelled by the coronavirus pandemic, and by Beijing's imposition of a national security law, whose broad terms have been used to arrest 300 people. They include Jimmy Lai, owner of the Apple Daily newspaper, which was forced to close in 2021, and 45 activists and former democratic politicians convicted in May after holding elections to choose candidates for LegCo.

Others have been jailed for singing the protest song *Glory to Hong Kong* or wearing T-shirts with pro-democracy slogans. On Friday Chan Pak-yui, 22, who has autism, was convicted for booing and plugging his ears during the national anthem at a volleyball match.

**Regina Ip: "following the popular will is dangerous"**

A second security law was enacted this year, although John Lee, Hong Kong's chief executive, has warned of the dangers of "soft resistance", an undefined term that appears to refer to expressions of discontent and defiance that are not illegal.

Ip, who studied literature at Glasgow University, said there was no need for new laws, but that political opposition would not return to Hong Kong "for a long time".

Even with the support of the majority of voters, pro-democracy parties never held a majority in LegCo, thanks to the majority of "functional" seats reserved for representatives of professional groups, who largely supported Beijing. But opposition MPs did use their power to challenge and delay legislation.

They have been eliminated thanks to rules allowing politics to be participated in only by "patriots", possessors of a "love" defined by the Chinese Communist Party. Ip indicated that there would be no return by those she dismissed as "directly elected rabble-rousers ... the long hair and mad dog of our council".

She added: "You cannot have a one-size-fits-all model, and our experiment with democracy failed in the past 20 years. It's in China's constitution that they are a one-party state. We were never asked to support the CCP. But as the ruling party, it's a ... political reality that you have to accept and support the CCP.

"Your model, the western model ... you have to have competition, you have to have pluralism, you have to have diversity. That's never the Chinese concept. That's never part of the Chinese tradition."

Emily Lau, former leader of the Democratic Party, and a long-time opponent of Ip, said: "There is nothing wrong with people voting for candidates who serve their interests, but they can also recognise political parties which serve the public interest.

"Beijing promised Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy and [that it] can elect the government by universal suffrage. That is an undertaking that Beijing has made to the Hong Kong people, hence they feel distressed and frustrated."

# Houthis warn of 'significant retaliation'

Yemen
**Oliver Marsden**

Iranian-backed Houthi militias have warned of a "large and significant" response to the Israeli military attack on the Yemeni port city of Hodeidah.

The rebel group, which controls swathes of northern Yemen, including Hodeidah, claimed to have launched ballistic and cruise missiles at Eilat, southern Israel, in response to Israeli airstrikes, but added that this did not amount to "significant" retaliation.

Israeli jets killed six and wounded more than 80, the Houthi-affiliated al-Masirah channel reported yesterday. In a statement, the health ministry said "six people were martyred, three remain missing and 83 others were wounded" in the strikes on Saturday that hit a power plant and fuel storage facilities at the port.

Mohammed Abdulsalam, the Houthi spokesman, told Al Jazeera that the group would not keep to any rules of engagement in its response to the strike, launched a day after the militia sent a drone to Tel Aviv, killing a civilian when it exploded. "All sensitive institutions will be a target for us," he said.

**Columns of flame rose above the city of Hodeidah after the Israeli airstrike**

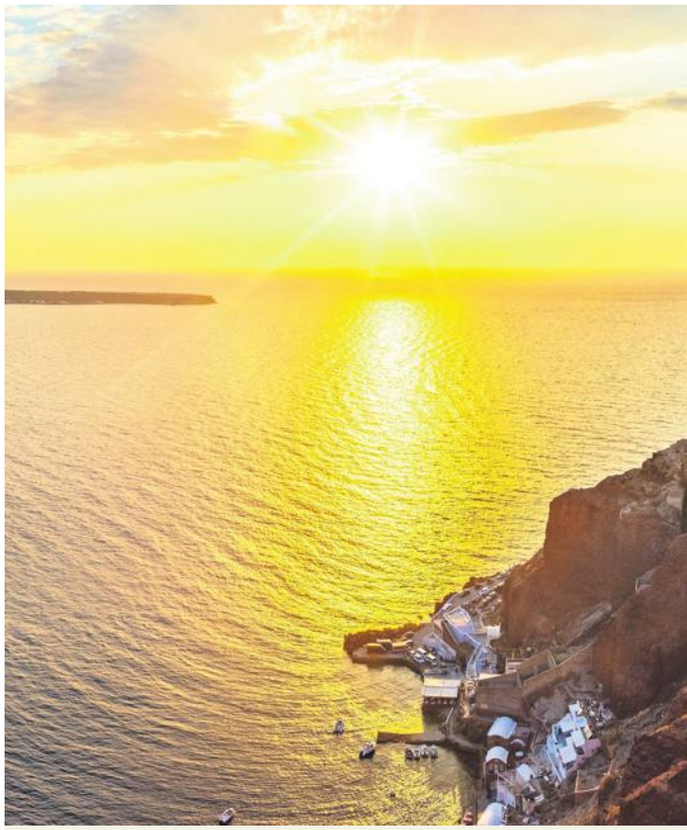
The Israeli military said that its Arrow 3 missile defence system had shot down a surface-to-surface missile launched from Yemen yesterday. Before the interception, sirens sounded in the Red Sea port city of Eilat, sending residents running for shelter.

Separately, US Central Command said on Saturday that it "successfully destroyed" a Houthi drone over the Red Sea.

Ali al-Qahoum, a member of the Houthi political bureau, stated that the group's response was imminent. "We tell the Zionists not to celebrate too much," he said. "Yemen's response is coming and it will be painful. You will not escape punishment; you will regret and wail. Your choices will be either migration back to where you came from or staying in shelters."

Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defence minister, and Lloyd Austin, the US defence secretary, discussed the Houthi attack on Tel Aviv and Israel's retaliatory strike on Saturday, and Austin reaffirmed that the United States was committed to Israel's security and supported its right to defend itself.

António Guterres, the United Nations secretary-general, released a statement calling on "all concerned to avoid attacks that could harm civilians and damage civilian infrastructure".



# Greek island fights tragedy of explosive growth in tourism

**With their whitewashed villages, dramatic hillsides and bright blue seas, the Cycladic islands are among the best-known symbols of Greece's pristine beauty — but the façade is beginning to crack (Alex Spillius writes).**

**Record numbers of visitors are expected this summer, with some residents and local officials are warning that tourism is out of control. They have had enough of luxury hotels and villas with their private swimming pools draining the water supply, sewage seeping into the water table, illegally built roads, traffic jams around ports and towns, rubbish being dumped on quiet beaches, rising prices — and inaction from Athens.**

**Nicolas Stephanou, 40, a resident of Paros, is taking a stand. Last summer he helped to co-ordinate protests at beaches so packed with loungers and umbrellas hired out at up to €50 a day that locals had nowhere to lie on a towel in the way they're accustomed to.**

**"We wanted to reclaim the beaches because the beach bars are out of control. But the biggest threat to the island is the scale of construction, which is irreversible," said Stephanou, a co-founder of the Network for a Sustainable Cyclades and manager of an IT company. He and other activists run a website cataloguing the many high-end hotels and villa complexes under construction that have left swathes of hollow concrete boxes across the island. "It's very frightening because if over-tourism continues like this our identity will be lost, and the identity and cultural heritage of the Cyclades is our strongest asset," he said. "We will become a luxury destination that could be Dubai or wherever else, a theme park for tourists."**

**Tonia Pantelaiou, a retired teacher on Paros, said: "I am in despair at what is happening to my island. Already Paros has lost 70 per cent of its beauty and authenticity. It's like living in a big city. The villages are full of cars, there is rubbish on the beaches. But still they want more people to come. It's crazy."**

**Her once quiet village of Kamari is now surrounded by villa complexes. "We are not against all tourism, of course not. I rent out an old family house, but it's 50 square metres. These villas are 400 square metres, all have pools and they all want to look at the sea. The amount of water and energy they use is incredible, when water is very precious to us." They are routinely priced at €10,000 a week to rent.**

**Located in the Aegean Sea between Greece and Turkey, the Cyclades are home to some of the country's most precious**

**German spy agency hit by recruitment crisis**
Page 30

Campaigners say islands all across the Cyclades are being overwhelmed by tourists and blighted by building projects

archaeological sites and hold a special place in the hearts of many Greeks. Campaigners are determined to prevent Paros and smaller islands such as Milos, Serifos and Folegandros going the way of Mykonos and Santorini.

The best-known islands of the group, they each attract two million visitors a year, drawn by the Instagram-perfect scenery and sensational sunsets.

"On those islands there has been so much building that you can't speak of a local culture anymore," said Yannis Palaiologos, an author and co-editor of the Sustainable Cyclades reporting initiative. "For the ordinary Greek family, a week's summer holiday in the Cyclades was almost like a right, it was a holiday almost everyone could afford. That is no longer the case. We are losing our paradise."

The National Bank of Greece is predicting that 2024's visitor numbers will exceed last year's record of 35 million, almost certainly bringing in more tourist revenue on top of a 10 per cent increase last year from 2022.

That is good news for a country that relies on tourism for 20 per cent of its economy. But Greece is already suffering its second heatwave of the summer, with several older tourists dying of heat exhaustion, large crowds forcing the partial closure of the Acropolis, and warnings that climate change will make episodes of extreme heat more common. The impression sometimes is of a country and industry at breaking point.

"Over-tourism of this kind is just not sustainable," said Ioannis Spilanis, professor of social and environmental sciences at the University of the Aegean in Lesvos. "In the 1970s, 80s and 90s tourism on the islands was generally positive, it benefited small producers and hotel owners. But now the profile of developer has changed. It's bigger companies, both Greek and from overseas, and revenues by and large are not staying in the country." His surveys on the islands show that locals are divided among those doing well from tourism and a growing number saying they can't tolerate more development.

Like other campaigners, he is deeply frustrated with successive governments that say the right things but "essentially pursue a policy of growth without limits".

They would like to see rational, sustainable tourism planning on the islands, but the local authorities lack the wherewithal to monitor or admonish developers who build outside permitted zones, while corruption and intimidation of officials remains a concern.

"This is a global issue, not a just a Greek issue — low-cost flights, short stays, over-development. But it's a tragedy for the Greek islands. We need to switch to something different," Spilanis said.

# Revealed, story of the women who resisted tyranny of the Nazis

Germany

**David Crossland** Berlin

A day after the assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler on July 20, 1944, Gerda Boenke was putting on her work overalls in a changing room of a Berlin factory when she told colleagues it was a shame the "dog" had survived and that she would have downed a bottle of Schnapps if he had not.

The divorced mother of three young children and member of a banned communist group, was denounced by two colleagues, prosecuted and sentenced to death for treason and "undermining military morale". She was guillotined four months later.

Elfriede Scholz, a dressmaker and the sister of Erich Maria Remarque, who wrote *All Quiet On the Western Front*, described German soldiers as "livestock for slaughter" while working in her Dresden tailors' salon, and said she wished Hitler would be killed.

She was reported by the husband of a customer and executed. Remarque, who had moved to the US before the outbreak of war, did not learn of her fate until 1946, and dedicated his 1952 novel *The Spark of Life* to her.

Boenke and Scholz are among thousands of women whose role in speaking out against the regime has been ignored for decades and is now being honoured with an exhibition in the German Resistance Memorial in Berlin.

Since the end of the war, public attention and historical research into the tiny proportion of Germans who resisted Hitler has focused on men, especially the officers surrounding Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, who tried to blow up Hitler with a briefcase bomb in the Wolf's Lair, his East Prussian command centre, 80 years ago.

The bomb went off during a conference and killed three people, but Hitler survived, emerging with "dishevelled hair and his black trousers fluttering around his legs as if torn into strips", one witness said. He was well enough to eat lunch two hours later and meet the Italian leader Benito Mussolini.

Stauffenberg, who had escaped to Berlin, was shot with three fellow plotters in the courtyard of the Wehrmacht's command headquarters that night as their coup collapsed. Hundreds of suspected conspirators were later arrested and more than 100 of them were executed.

A statue marks the spot where Stauffenberg was killed. Each year on July 20, wreath-laying ceremonies honour the plotters and flags are flown at half-mast on government buildings as Germany celebrates him as one of its few legitimate heroes of the Third Reich.

However, with the exception of Sophie Scholl of the White Rose group, who was executed with her brother, Hans, and a fellow activist, Christoph Probst, in 1943 for distributing anti-regime leaflets in Munich, the role of women has been overlooked. In part it was because historians did not interview women, but also because women refrained from speaking out in a post-war climate in which resistance to Hitler was still seen by many as treachery, said Professor Johannes Tuchel, director of the Resistance Memorial.

Marlene Dietrich helped Jews and the politically persecuted to flee Germany

The memorial centre devised the exhibition after being asked by parliament in 2019 to research and acknowledge the "courage and the achievements of women in the resistance".

It tells the stories of 300 female activists and illustrates that women were involved in all areas of resistance, including in communist groups, trade unions and the Social Democratic Party, with the exception of the military from which they were barred.

That said, those who opposed the regime amounted to a "minuscule minority", Tuchel said. "Germans fervently supported Hitler from the time he came to power until 1945. Denunciations [of opponents] increased as the war progressed. It's always attributed to the Gestapo, but it wasn't the Gestapo. In many cases the Gestapo was tipped off by informers from within the immediate circle of regime critics."

The exhibition shows how the role of women in the Third Reich changed radically from the Nazi ideal of mothers and housewives rearing healthy Aryans to that of factory workers during the latter war years as virtually all men of fighting age were sent to the fronts.

By 1943, after military setbacks on the Eastern Front and in North Africa, the regime grew increasingly worried that the mood on the home front could turn against it as women bore the burdens of factory work, housework and childcare. That year it imposed a judicial crackdown on dissent through more rigorous prosecutions and tougher sentences that routinely included the death penalty.

The exhibition also features Marlene Dietrich, the film star who emigrated to the US in 1930 and became involved in helping German Jews and politically persecuted people who had fled in 1933.

In 1937 she rejected Hitler's offer to return to Germany and applied for US citizenship, which she was granted in 1939. After the US joined the war in 1941 she performed for US soldiers and German prisoners of war in North Africa, Italy, France, Belgium and Germany. After 1945 she was defamed in Germany as a "traitor".

Tuchel said the resistance during the Third Reich had increasing relevance today, given support for groups such as the Alternative for Germany.

World

# Recruitment and sickness crisis at German spy agency

Germany
**Oliver Moody**

Germany's foreign intelligence agency is unable to fill roughly a tenth of its posts and is struggling with a sick leave rate that is more than double the national average.

The Federal Intelligence Service (BND) has haemorrhaged credibility with its western partners in recent years after misjudging situations on the ground in Ukraine and Afghanistan and allegedly suffering a high-level infiltration by a Russian mole. Two of its own former heads have also argued that it has been reduced to a "toothless watchdog with a muzzle and an iron chain" by bureaucracy and legal constraints on its powers.

In a tight labour market, it also appears to be confronted with much the same recruitment difficulties as many other employers facing a limited pool of skilled, reliable staff.

More than 700 of its 7,200 jobs are vacant, Bild newspaper reported, citing internal figures from the agency. The BND has itself tacitly acknowledged its difficulties, producing a glossy online advertising campaign that seeks to present it as a modern, accessible and exciting employer.

Alongside a stylised logo and thumping basslines, videos promote the potential for teamwork, on-the-job qualifications and equal-opportunities career progression. "We are looking for terrorists (male/female/other)," one poster said. "Find them with us."

The agency has also been fairly transparent about pay, which starts at about €18,600 a year for those who train part-time under its auspices while simultaneously at university.

Annual pay for full-time staff on the lowest service grade, such as drivers, starts at €31,200. Mid-level workers, such as geographical data analysts, earn at least €34,800 a year, a cryptographer gets at least €57,600, and those at the highest administrative levels earn more than €168,000.

Although more than 10,000 people are reported to have applied after seeing the campaign, it may be some time before the recruitment problems ease. An application typically takes 13 months to process and about 40 per cent of candidates fail the background security checks.

DMITRI LOVETSKY/AP

**Neva on a Sunday** Russian warships traverse the Neva river through St Petersburg in rehearsals for next week's Navy Day parade


TIMES Travel Offers

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# 'Iron curtain' falls in Paris ahead of Olympic Games

**From our correspondent**

**ADAM SAGE**
PARIS

The 2024 Paris Olympics got off to a bad start for Miguel Garcia when he found himself behind the iron curtain. "It's as though we were in prison," he said, standing on an empty pavement outside Fajitas, his Mexican restaurant, which lies in the security zone that has been set up along the Seine in readiness for the opening ceremony on Friday evening.

The zone is protected by about 44,000 2m-high metal barriers, which were swiftly nicknamed the iron curtain by Parisians. They were put in place on Thursday, instantly turning the centre of the City of Lights into "something like Guantanamo prison", according to Garcia, 67, who has lived in Paris for 40 years.

Officials say the barriers are a necessary evil to ensure the safety of the 100 heads of state and government who will be present on Friday, along with 326,000 spectators, for what the organisers are promising will be a ceremony to remember.

Instead of holding the event in a stadium, as has been the case with previous Olympics, President Macron has chosen to stage it on the Seine. Up to 7,000 athletes are due to be carried in boats along the river and about 3,000 musicians, dancers and actors will perform on the banks.

The organisers say the show will be something special but it is proving a headache for security chiefs, who decided to cordon off the heart of Paris beforehand to limit the risk of a terrorist attack and to prevent anyone hiding weapons there.

Since Thursday central Paris has been divided into two zones under a plan of extraordinary bureaucratic complexity that has flummoxed residents and visitors alike. There is a red zone in which cars are banned but pedestrians allowed, and a grey zone, marked out by the controversial iron curtain, from which even pedestrians are prohibited unless they possess a QR code delivered by the police to people whose homes, hotels and businesses are inside. The iron curtain itself will be removed after the opening ceremony.

Garcia has one of the 500,000 or so QR codes that have been handed out — but most of the diners who usually eat his quesadillas, nachos and enchiladas do not.

"On Thursday we got four customers," he said. "In normal times we'd expect to get between 80 and 100 on a Thursday in July."

Garcia is by no means alone in the realisation that the Olympics could prove bad for business. "We had takings of about €150 on Thursday," said Tom Rouffignac, 34, joint owner of Le Cavern, a bar which, although a little outside the iron curtain, is still suffering from a loss of custom because regulars can no longer reach it by crossing the Seine. "Usually, we'd get between €500 and €1,000. I understand the need for security but I really think we could have had an opening ceremony in a stadium like all the other cities do. It would have avoided all these problems."

There are similar complaints from bar, hotel and restaurant owners across central Paris, with many saying takings were down even before the barriers went up. Alain Fontaine, chairman of the French Association of Master Restaurateurs, said that although 15 million sports fans are expected to attend the Olympics, the tourists that Paris usually attracts at this time of year have tended to stay away. As for locals, they had fled, he said, with the result that restaurants expecting a profitable summer have had an unpleasant surprise.

"The situation is very complicated and unexpected. For the past month we have had no tourists and no Parisians," he said.

In Rue Dauphine, central Paris, on Thursday, half a dozen of the 30,000 police officers a day who will be on duty during the Games were guarding a gap in the barriers. Their job was to let through only pedestrians with the QR code.

An officer with a limited grasp of English was trying to explain to a Brazilian holidaymaker with even less English that she could not walk across the Pont Neuf to get to her hotel. "No, no, no," he said. "You need the QR code."

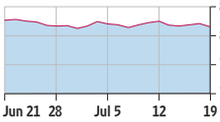
"I don't understand," the holidaymaker said, a look of utter incredulity on her face.

"Nobody understands," another police officer muttered. "This whole thing is a pain in the arse."

# Business

**WORLD MARKETS** (Friday's close. Change on the week)

**FTSE 100**
8,155.72 (-97.19) ▼

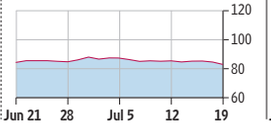



**Dow Jones**
40,287.53 (+286.63) ▲

**COMMODITIES**

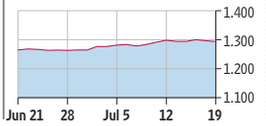
**Gold**
$2,402.13 (-12.77) ▼

**Brent crude**
$83.12 (-2.41) ▼

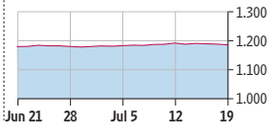



**CURRENCIES**

**£/$**
$1.2920 (-0.0064) ▼




**£/€**
€1.1867 (-0.0043) ▼




# More than half of high earners cannot afford to buy first home locally

**Tom Howard**

Not even half of people earning more than £70,000 a year can afford to buy their first home in their local area, a new affordability index shows.

The index, published by Skipton, the building society, and Oxford Economics, the advisory firm, lays bare the "stark reality of the scale of the challenge facing first-time buyers", Stuart Haire, the chief executive of Skipton, writes in today's Times. Only one in eight people hoping to buy their first home in the UK can afford a typical first-step home in their local area on their own without resorting to the bank of mum and dad or finding someone to buy with them.

For those earning less than £22,850 a year, the chances of getting on the ladder are remote. Skipton and Oxford Economics estimate that only 1 per cent of prospective first-time buyers in that wage bracket are able to buy a home in their local area.

Even higher earners are finding it difficult. Of those with annual salaries above £71,250, only 44 per cent can afford to buy their first home in the area where they live at present.

The index, which will be updated and republished every six months, demonstrates the struggles facing those trying to take their first step on the property ladder, especially for single people or those who cannot rely on financial help from their families.

"Being able to have somewhere to call home is widely recognised as one of the most important issues facing millions of people up and down the country," Haire, 50, said. "For some, our findings paint a bleak picture. The combination of high housing costs, insufficient savings and significant regional disparities underscores the urgent need for collaborative and targeted interventions to support aspiring homeowners."

London, with the highest house prices in the country, is particularly bad for first-time buyers, but so, too, are the West Midlands, where people generally have low savings relative to house prices, and Wales, where lower income levels restrict buying potential.

In today's newspaper, Haire calls on the new government to find a solution

Continued on page 34

# Kretinsky to meet Mail union chief

## Czech bidder rejects call for workers' trust

**Robert Lea** Industrial Editor

The billionaire would-be owner of Royal Mail will meet the leader of the postal workers' union for the first time tomorrow in what is likely to be a standoff over the future of the nationwide parcels and letters delivery group.

Almost two months after the board of International Distribution Services, Royal Mail's parent company, recommended a £3.6 billion takeover by interests controlled by Daniel Kretinsky, the Czech energy tycoon is scheduled to meet Dave Ward, general secretary of the Communication Workers Union.

Kretinsky has conceded that he would struggle to succeed with his bid if Royal Mail's 130,000-strong workforce opposes him. The meeting is unlikely to reach an accord as Kretinsky is understood to have rejected out of hand the union's proposals to create an employee "collective trust". This would hold a stake on behalf of the workforce and would have a say in governance. The plan was supported in the Labour government's election manifesto.

In takeover filings last month, the offer document said Kretinsky, 49, was "exploring, following completion of the acquisition, potentially offering a form of employee participation model in the business, including, without limitation, by way of a profit-sharing mechanism, to all employees".

However, that and a guarantee only to the end of next year that there will be no compulsory redundancies are known to fall short of the pledges that the union is trying to secure.

The Times revealed last month that Ward, 65, wants to open talks on the creation of an employee collective trust if the union is to support Kretinsky's takeover. Kretinsky is believed to regard such a vehicle as an "abstract structure". It is understood that he is unwilling to offer a collective shareholding for workers or to give them any rights over governance or management of the lossmaking company.

The meeting is to take place at Royal Mail's Mount Pleasant sorting facility in London. After preparatory meetings with Kretinsky's representatives, Ward said: "We laid out our concerns that the offer of contractual obligations are not broad enough, do not go on for long enough and aren't strong enough."

The union has no formal mechanism to stand in the way of a takeover of Royal Mail, but it is a powerful voice in the Labour Party. Even if shareholders in International Distribution Services agree a deal, the final decision will rest with the government. Ministers have the power to block takeovers of strategically important companies and assets under the National Security and Investment Act.

The new government was elected on a manifesto that stated it would explore business and governance models "so that workers and customers who rely on Royal Mail services can have a stronger voice in the governance and strategic direction of the company".

Shares in International Distribution Services closed at 343¼p on Friday, below the offer price of 360p plus 10p in dividends.

Kretinsky's interests already own 27.6 per cent of the group. His offer needs the support of 75 per cent of shareholders, or a little under two thirds of the shares that he doesn't already own.

LONGCHAMP

Longchamp called on the new government to restore VAT-free shopping for tourists who are "shunning" the country

# Tourist tax means UK is 'losing out'

**Isabella Fish** Retail Editor

Britain is losing out on high-spending tourists, the boss of Longchamp warned as he called for tax-free shopping to be reinstated.

Jean Cassegrain, chief executive of the French handbag brand, said the return of tourism since the pandemic had been "less strong in London than on the Continent" after duty-free shopping was scrapped following Brexit.

"For many, the No 1 reason for travelling is shopping," he said. "If tourists can get a better deal in Paris than in London, then they will go there instead." The scheme, which allowed international visitors to reclaim 20 per cent VAT on purchases made in Britain, was withdrawn in 2021. Since then luxury goods brands such as Burberry, Mulberry and Watches of Switzerland have warned that wealthy tourists are travelling to cities such as Paris and Milan rather than to London and elsewhere in Britain.

Caroline Rush, chief executive of the British Fashion Council, said this month that the so-called tourist tax was not only affecting luxury retail businesses but also having "an impact on the sector at large, all the way through the supply chain, right the way through to tourism and hospitality. It's making it really difficult for the UK."

Analysis by the Centre for Economics and Business Research has suggested that the removal of tax-free shopping has deterred two million tourists a year from visiting the UK and is costing the economy £11.1 billion a year. Jeremy Hunt, when he was chancellor, launched a review but decided not to bring the scheme back after the Office for Budget Responsibility estimated that it would cost £2 billion.

Cassegrain, 59, said he would "very much" like the new government to consider restoring VAT-free shopping. "That would put London on an even playing field again with the Continent," he said.

The French leather goods company was founded in Paris in 1948 by Cassegrain's grandfather, also called Jean Cassegrain. The label is synonymous with its Le Pliage canvas bag. The company, which is tight-lipped about its financial results, reported a 44 per cent increase in revenue last year.

## Need to know

1 Nine in ten chief executives regularly work from home, suggesting that hybrid working is set to stay. A survey of more than 500 bosses found that 90 per cent split their time between head office, flexible workplaces and home, with only 7 per cent working from a central office five days a week. Page 13

2 An online fashion magazine has outraged its readers by creating an AI editor. SheerLuxe offers styling tips and reviews on its website, social media and YouTube.Its "new AI enhanced fashion and lifestyle editor", called Reem, has gone down very badly. "Looking at the business that they've built, which is all driven by human opinion ... and thinking it can be replicated by an AI: those two things are completely at odds with each other," an expert said. Page 15

3 Developers will be able to start building housing projects that risk polluting rivers and will work out how to deal with the problem during construction, under Labour's plans to unblock 160,000 homes. Page 19

4 Daniel Kretinsky, the would-be owner of Royal Mail, will meet Dave Ward, leader of the postal workers' union, for the first time this week in what is likely to be a stand-off over the future of the group. Page 31

5 Not even half of people earning more than £70,000 a year can afford to buy their first home in their local area, a new affordability index shows. The index, published by Skipton, the building society, and Oxford Economics, the advisory firm, lays bare the "scale of the challenge facing first-time buyers". Page 31

6 Britain is losing out on high-spending tourists, the boss of Longchamp warned as he called for tax-free shopping to be reinstated. Jean Cassegrain said the return of tourism since the pandemic had been "less strong in London than on the Continent" after duty-free shopping was scrapped. Page 31

7 Fears of a tax raid by Labour have prompted business owners to bring forward plans to sell up, research suggests. The number of mergers and acquisitions of public and private companies in Britain reached a total of 855 deals by the end of the first quarter, a jump of 71 per cent.

8 The government must provide greater clarity over its offshore wind budgets if Britain is to hit an ambitious target to quadruple output from the green energy source by the end of the decade, Siemens, one of the world's largest builders of wind turbines, has warned.

9 Expectations for dividends from London-listed companies are being scaled back after payout cuts by miners and amid a harsher outlook for oil companies. Page 34

10 Sosandar, the online clothing retailer aimed at "fashion-conscious" women over 30, plans to put its faith in Britain's high streets by opening 50 stores. Page 37

# Vertical Aerospace sees sunnier

A crashed prototype has done nothing to dim the ambitions of the British company, writes **Robert Lea**

Vertical Aerospace hopes that its battery powered "flying taxi" will be making dummy runs into Heathrow

Its first prototype crashed in testing a little under a year ago. Rolls-Royce, its early shareholder and key technology supplier, pulled out three months ago. And its New York-quoted shares, which once valued the company at more than £2 billion, are bombed out. So, as the aerospace industry descends today on Hampshire for the largest Farnborough Air Show to date, the question is: will Vertical Aerospace, Britain's big hope for the future of advanced air mobility, better known as electric flying taxis, ever get off the ground?

Vertical Aerospace won't be showing its VX4, eight-rotor, battery-powered vertical take-off and landing vehicle at this year's Farnborough. That's mainly because its first prototype is in bits in various laboratories after unmanned testing last August ended abruptly in an unplanned 30ft rapid descent and collision with the tarmac of Cotswold airport. A second prototype is in a hangar at the airfield in Gloucestershire being prepared for an imminent new round of testing, this time with a pilot.

Nevertheless, despite a low-key presence at Farnborough, Vertical Aerospace is, at least metaphorically, back in take-off mode. Its scheduled testing and regulatory certification regime should mean that it flies its first dummy runs into Heathrow along existing helicopter flight corridors by the end of the year. The departure of Rolls-Royce has been dismissed as more of an internal issue with that company than a commentary on Vertical. And it is preparing a capital markets day to attract new investors and money to drive the business to industrialisation.

Vertical Aerospace is a Bristol-based start-up founded in 2016 by Stephen Fitzpatrick, the Ovo Energy billionaire, who committed to the sci-fi ambition of flying electric cars while he was stuck in an interminable, polluted traffic jam in São Paulo. Eight years on, Vertical is still planning to get the VX4, capable of flying at 150mph and with a stated range of 100 miles on fully charged battery stacks, into commercial production and to first deliveries in 2027.

Fitzpatrick, 46, initially envisaged a future of electric vertical take-off and landing vehicles, so-called eVTOLs, to be commonplace enough to be as easy to use as, say, dialling up an Uber. That, though, is decades away. At an initial price of $4 million apiece for a VX4, the first users will be the super-wealthy. They might, for instance, use one on a shuttle between the vertiport (a heliport, but for eVTOLs) under construction at Bicester in Oxfordshire to Heathrow.

In time, eVTOL flights could be used for tourism or sightseeing or between key business locations where existing transport infrastructure does not exist or is poor or slow. In Britain, travelling between Manchester and Leeds is cited as an obvious example.

The hurdles remain high for eVTOLs in general and for Vertical, in particular. They need rigorous testing to prove their battery and powertrain technology. It must be proved that they can be commercially viable in production. It must be shown, too, that the vehicles are safe, with all the myriad obstacles that throws up in certification with multiple agencies worldwide, starting with Britain's Civil Aviation Authority.

Michael Cervenka quit as the head of future technology at Rolls-Royce to become chief technology officer of Vertical in 2019. On the question of public acceptance of eVTOLs, the

# Race to sell firms before tax rises

**Jessica Newman**

Fears of a tax raid by Labour have prompted business owners to bring forward plans to sell up, research suggests.

The number of mergers and acquisitions of public and private companies in Britain reached a total of 855 deals by the end of the first quarter, a jump of 71 per cent, according to accountants at Lubbock Fine. The firm said the rise in deals had been driven in part by entrepreneurs preparing for a Labour government and looking to sell their businesses before taxes rose. Rachel Reeves, the new chancellor, will announce her first budget in the autumn.

Stephen Banks, a partner at Lubbock Fine, said business owners feared Labour might raise the capital gains tax they would have to pay after selling up.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics last week revealed that the government had borrowed £14.5 billion last month, £2.9 billion more than expected, highlighting the tough choices on tax and spending that Reeves will face in her budget, which is likely to be announced in September or October.

Another reason businesses may be rushing to sell, Banks said, was because of worries that Labour could reduce business asset disposal relief, which allows people who own more than 5 per cent of a company to sell their stake and pay a lower tax rate on their profits. Entrepreneurs lost out in 2020 when the relief was cut.

"It's clear that business owners who were planning to sell have accelerated their timelines," Banks said. "Deals that are already in negotiation are being pushed faster into completion as no one wants to be hit by an unexpected tax bill from a new government. Many entrepreneurs are basing their retirement income on the post-tax earnings they make from selling their business."

Lubbock Fine listed other reasons why entrepreneurs had been selling up, including that the accessibility of finance from banks had enabled more bidders to pursue deals.

Separate research by UHY Hacker Young, the accountancy group, shows that the number of companies on London's junior stock market has fallen to its lowest level in more than two decades. The exodus from Aim, which turns 30 next year, resulted in 80 companies delisting in the 12 months to the end of June, shrinking the total number of small-cap companies to 722, the fewest since 2002 and well below the peak of 1,694 in June 2007.

Colin Wright, partner and group chairman at the accountancy business, conceded that Aim had been forced "to battle with the idea that growth companies would be better off listing in the United States or elsewhere in Europe", adding that there was an "increased acceptance that some of the red tape" around listing on both London's junior and main market "needs to be relaxed".

The shrinking number of listed companies comes amid a dearth of initial public offerings, falling to only eight last year. There had been 58 the previous year.

# Wizz Air's plans to turn east stalled

**Robert Lea**

Wizz Air has been dealt a blow in its plan to turn east and take advantage of burgeoning demand for budget travel.

After losing business because of the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, the London-listed, Budapest-based Wizz had aimed to set up a base in Saudi Arabia and to gain an operating licence to fly to, from and within the kingdom, which has huge ambitions for economic and tourism growth.

Wizz also planned to begin flights to India, the fastest-growing aviation market in the world, from its base in Abu Dhabi. However, before Wizz's quarterly results next week, the airline said that governments in Riyadh and Delhi had blocked its plans.

Last year the Saudi government,

# skies for its flying taxis

VERTICAL AEROSPACE

by the end of the year. The company was founded by Stephen Fitzpatrick of Ovo

argument is that essentially they are helicopter replacements. Their zero-emission powertrains replace gas-guzzling air pollution, while, instead of the wup-wup-wup noise pollution of helicopters, there will be (it is claimed, especially important in urban areas) a hum no greater than that of a kitchen fridge.

On levels of demand, Cervenka, 49, argues that Vertical has a $6 billion order book for 1,500 aircraft throughout Britain, Europe, North and South America and the Far East. Launch operators will include Virgin Atlantic, American Airlines and Japan Airlines. Avolon, the aircraft leasing company, has an order for 500.

He admits that Vertical has suffered "reputational damage" in the past year and that the crash of the first prototype was demoralising for the company's 350 staff. But he argues, too, that any aeronautical engineer will have recognised "the gold dust" of lessons learnt and data captured from the failed propeller blade and subsequent power distribution outage that caused the failure.

The second prototype is said to be far more sophisticated, with a third aircraft in production considered to be even more so, boasting new propellers and electrical power units, sized-down batteries and overhauled avionics from Honeywell, the American industrial conglomerate, and a lightweight fuselage from Leonardo, the Italian helicopter maker, and Britain's own GKN. Vertical also has had to design and engineer its own battery system.

Any damage from the decision in the spring by Rolls-Royce to walk away from the programme was more optical than actual, according to Cervenka. It was a corporate decision by Tufan Erginbilgic, the new Rolls chief executive, to scale down a commitment to electric aviation because of the cost of investment and projected years of losses at a time when the FTSE 100 company is trying to get its investment-grade credit rating back and to make money.

In any event, Rolls will pay compensation to Vertical. It is not a material amount for Rolls, but it is significant (albeit as yet undisclosed) for Vertical, which in its last filings reported cash reserves of only £49 million.

After its listing in New York in 2022 via a "blank-cheque" company, or Spac, a special-purpose acquisition vehicle, Vertical's market valuation hit $2.3 billion. However, investors soon fell out of love with the armada of newly floated, technology-based blank-cheque businesses and Vertical's shares plummeted. Today it is valued at less than $200 million.

Vertical has been burning through £90 million to £100 million a year and has been relying on cash injections from Fitzpatrick, who retains a 72 per cent stake, and taxpayer grants from the UK Aerospace Technology Institute. If initial test pilot sorties prove blip-free in the weeks ahead, it will seek new money from new investors.

The prospect of a successful fundraising maintains Vertical's dream of making the journey to industrialisation and commercialisation. It will require hundreds of millions of dollars, says Cervenka, who believes that there will be production of only a few dozen VX4s in 2027 but of the "low thousands in the early 2030s" from multiple assembly lines worldwide to be close to customers in the Americas and Japan. "We may not be the first to market [a nod to competition from the likes of Volocopter, Lillium, Joby, Archer and Eve], but we won't be far behind."

wanting to tap into a tourism boom in the Gulf, encouraged Wizz to apply for an air operator certificate in the country. However, with Riyadh now investing instead in its own domestic operators, Jozsef Varadi, 58, the founder and chief executive of Wizz, said that he had been knocked back.

"We are not moving on Saudi," Varadi said before a trading update due at the start of August. "This is not for geopolitical reasons. It is internal Saudi reasons.

"They had been running various processes, requesting airlines to bid for an internal air operator certificate, but they have abandoned those processes three times so we have said, 'This is not the time to waste time and energy. You have to make up your mind.'"

The airline had planned to launch flights next year from Abu Dhabi to India, the third biggest domestic aviation market in the world, but the Indian government prefers to support IndiGo and Air India, its indigenous airlines.

"It is a regulatory issue," Varadi said. "You need their permission to enter those markets. They are protected markets and the decision has been not to let us in."

# Wind industry powerhouse wants government clarity

**Emma Powell**

The government must provide greater clarity over its offshore wind budgets if Britain is to hit an ambitious target to quadruple output from the green energy source by the end of the decade, one of the world's largest builders of wind turbines has warned.

The UK boss of Siemens Energy, which has produced more than half of the offshore wind turbines operating off Britain's coasts, has called on the government to set out how much support it will provide for new wind projects over multiple years, rather than on an annual basis.

Under the existing subsidies regime, developers bid for annual contracts to build additional wind capacity in exchange for a guaranteed maximum price for the power they will produce.

"If we are to quadruple offshore wind, we need that level of predictability because we also need to see what enhancements we have to do at home to support that sort of growth," Darren Davidson, the head of Siemens Energy UK and Ireland, said.

Greater clarity over the level of support the government was willing to provide for new projects over a five or ten-year period would help manufacturers to overcome supply chain challenges and could encourage more factories to be built in the UK, Davidson, 51, said.

"If we're doubling or tripling and quadrupling the number of megawatts that we're installing in the North Sea, we need to sustainably do it over a long-term period, so we've got the right level of confident resources and a strong supply chain to deliver that over a longer term, rather than building up a supply chain that does it over a two or three-year period, which isn't sustainable."

# The week ahead

The closely watched second-quarter earnings season for big technology companies kicks off tomorrow with Alphabet, the owner of Google, and Tesla. It comes against a backdrop of investors' concerns about whether the frenzy around artificial intelligence stocks has driven valuations to unsustainable levels.

Alphabet is expected to report strong results, with analysts citing optimism around revenue upside from the integration of AI technology in the Search business. Analysts at BofA Securities, which issued a "buy" rating for the stock last week, said advertising checks suggested that AI integrations were aiding search engine usage and advertising spending, while the company's staffing cuts were likely to help margins. Analysts expect quarterly revenue of $84.3 billion, up 13 per cent on the same three months last year.

Tesla is facing concerns about its robotaxi operations after Elon Musk, the carmaker's chief executive, confirmed that the launch date had been pushed back from August until October. Investors will look for optimism around Tesla's development of AI-powered autonomous driving technology to offset concerns about a global slowdown in demand for electric vehicles. Analysts expect revenue of $24.1 billion, down from $24.9 billion a year ago.

Elon Musk has said that the launch of Tesla's robotaxis is delayed

## TOMORROW

For those with long memories, Compass Group's recent return to acquisition mode is likely to spark modest concerns. Eighteen years ago Mike Bailey and Sir Francis Mackay, respectively chief executive and chairman of the contract caterer, both hung up their chefs' whites after a debt-fuelled spree went slightly awry. Dominic Blakemore, the present boss, has adopted a more cautious line. While $1 billion was spent on two big deals in the first half, it is still peanuts for a company of Compass's size. In a third-quarter update, Morgan Stanley is forecasting organic sales growth of 9 per cent, a slight decline on the second quarter.

**Finals** James Cropper
**Interims** Sthree
**Trading updates** Compass, JTC, Luceco, Mitie

## WEDNESDAY

Kris Licht will be seeking to reassure investors at Reckitt's half-year results as the chief executive of the FTSE 100 consumer goods group grapples with problems on multiple fronts. They include, most recently, tornado damage to an important warehouse for its Mead Johnson infant nutrition business in the United States. Reckitt said last week that its sales were likely to be weakened in the short term, but argued that it had insurance coverage that would largely offset the profit hit.

Reckitt is already facing headwinds in its Mead Johnson business as it defends lawsuits concerning the safety of its Enfamil premature baby formula brand. Adding to the pressures, Eminence Capital, an activist investor, was reported in May to have built a stake in Reckitt. With shares in Reckitt down by a quarter in the past 12 months, Licht, who has been in the role since October, is under pressure to deliver an encouraging trading update.

**Finals** FRP Advisory
**Interims** Aston Martin Lagonda, Breedon, Centaur Media, Heathrow, Nichols, Primary Health Properties, Reckitt Benckiser, RHI Magnesita, Unite
**Trading updates** Fresnillo, easyJet, Hochschild Mining, PensionBee, Volution

## THURSDAY

Lloyds Banking Group and NatWest kick off the earnings season for Britain's big listed lenders when they release half-year figures. Sharply higher interest rates drove a big rise in profits at banks last year, but this boom is now fading as they grapple with competition in the mortgage market and pressure on margins. Lloyds is expected to report a fall in six-month pre-tax profits to £3.2 billion, down from £3.9 billion a year earlier. Results from NatWest are expected to show that its profits declined to £2.6 billion from £3.6 billion in 2023. Impairments for potential bad loans are expected to remain at relatively low levels.
**Finals** Cambridge Nutritional Sciences, IG Group

**Interims** Anglo American, Aptitude Software, AstraZeneca, BAT, Centamin, Centrica, Getlink, Hammerson, Howden Joinery, Indivior, ITV, Lloyds Banking, Relx, Rentokil Initial, Unilever
**Trading updates** Airtel Africa, BT, Vodafone
**Economy** US first GDP reading for second quarter

## FRIDAY

**Interims** Co-operative Bank, Drax, IMI, Jupiter Fund Management, Man Group, NatWest, Rightmove, Segro
**Trading update** Record

Business

# Dividend payouts come under pressure

**Patrick Hosking** Financial Editor

Expectations for dividends from London-listed companies are being scaled back after payout cuts by miners and amid a harsher outlook for oil companies.

Total dividends are expected to grow by only 3.8 per cent to £93.9 billion this year, down from a previous forecast of £94.5 billion, which would have reflected a growth rate of 4.5 per cent.

Growth will be even more pedestrian after stripping out special or one-off dividends. Underlying dividends will rise by only 0.1 per cent, according to the quarterly monitor from Computershare, the share registrars group that tracks all quoted company payouts.

Dividends from miners were likely to be even lower than expected, it said, after the dividend cut announced by Glencore, the commodities powerhouse, for the third quarter, which was larger than forecast.

The lower price of crude oil, compared with levels in 2022 and 2023, would crimp the largesse of energy companies later in the year, Computershare said. Heavy share buybacks by many listed companies, which reduce their share counts, also were said to be putting downward pressure on the total value of dividends.

GLENCORE

Total dividends from UK-listed companies peaked at £104.5 billion in 2019, slumped in the pandemic year of 2020 and then recovered.

In the three months to the end of June, traditionally the most fruitful quarter in the dividend-paying calendar, total payouts amounted to a record £36.7 billion, up by 11.2 per cent. However, the headline number was flattered by special dividends, notably a £3.1 billion bonanza from HSBC, which distributed the proceeds from selling its Canadian business. It was the fourth biggest "special" recorded in 17 years of the survey. Removing specials, regular dividends grew by only 1 per cent in the quarter to £32.5 billion.

Miners, hit by lower commodities prices, notably of iron ore, nickel and coal, have cut their payments. Housebuilders have also done so, in response to a tougher housing market. In contrast, strong regular dividend growth from banks and pharmaceuticals companies offset reductions in the quarter. Insurers, including Direct Line, which restored its payout, and supermarkets, also helped. HSBC topped the second-quarter payers' table for the second year running.

Computershare expects third-quarter payouts to total £26 billion, which would be down by 5.7 per cent. Its prediction for fourth-quarter payments of £15.7 billion would be up by 3.7 per cent.

The average regular dividend yield for London-listed companies is 4 per cent. That compares with a 4.28 per cent yield on benchmark government bonds and up to 4.9 per cent from the top-paying instant access savings account.

Dividends are highly valued by pension schemes with retirement incomes to pay and by income funds bought by private investors for their yields.

"Higher profits mean most sectors are paying more in dividends and spending a lot of cash on share buybacks, although this might not be obvious, given that the gravitational pull of mining companies on UK dividends is hard to escape," Mark Cleland, 47, chief executive of issuer services at Computershare, said.

"Our figures for the second quarter show that most sectors are delivering growth and we expect that to continue in the second half of the year."

**The dividend cut by Glencore reflected the tough times miners are suffering. HSBC rewarded investors with a special dividend**

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

First-time buyers are locked out

# Affordable home is a fundamental right

## Stuart Haire Comment

**Being able to secure a safe, affordable home should be a fundamental right. Whether you are renting, saving-up to buy your first home, or looking to move up the ladder perhaps when your family grows, we see it all at Skipton across our building society and estate agency businesses.**

**That view is often not a pleasant one. We can see how securing a home of your own has been too difficult for too long, for far too many people.**

**Skipton has teamed up with Oxford Economics to build a new home affordability index. It doesn't just analyse the affordability of buying a property, but the affordability of running one too.**

**The buying affordability pillar of the index takes into account the property price, stamp duty, conveyancing, estate agent fees, mortgage arrangement fees, home survey costs and even the removal van. The living affordability pillar measures monthly mortgage or rent payments, council tax charges, utility bills, insurance, maintenance, repairs — all those every day, unavoidable costs. The index examines these rich data sets across household type, geography, income, and age, pulling it all together into a single metric.**

**As we publish the first iteration of our affordability index, the stark reality of the scale of the challenge facing first-time buyers is abundantly clear. Only one-in-eight potential first-time buyers can purchase the average first-time house in their area, based on their own financial situation. Even among households earning over £71,250, only 44 per cent can afford to take that initial step towards ownership.**

**The index also lays bare the catch-22 facing renters. Almost 80 per cent of potential first-time buyers don't have enough savings to afford the deposit needed to buy the average first-time buyer house in their area, and it's incredibly difficult for them to save when nearly four-in-ten are spending 45 per cent of their income on essential housing costs.**

**When the odds are stacked against renters and potential first-time buyers to this extent, it is a risk to everyone. First-time buyers are the lifeblood of the housing market.**

**With my colleagues, I am committed to playing an integral role in solving an issue that afffects millions of people and our nation as a whole, but given the scale of the challenge, it's not something we can do alone.**

**As we enter a new era of government, we are calling on the deputy prime minister and the chancellor to harness the full power of Whitehall to co-ordinate a cross-sector, cross-industry collaboration that will really start to solve an issue that impacts millions of people and our nation as a whole.**

**We stand ready to work with the government and lend our expertise to the collective problem-solving. Together, we must reverse the odds of securing a home of your own in Great Britain today.**

***Stuart Haire is group chief executive of Skipton Group***

to the housing crisis. The problem has become particularly acute since the pandemic, as the lockdown-induced "race for space" triggered a rapid increase in house prices that far outpaced wages growth.

House price growth has cooled and wages are now rising faster, but the sharp jump in mortgage rates means that affordability remains stretched. Data from Nationwide, the third largest mortgage lender, shows that, outside of the pandemic and the run-up to the financial crisis, it has never been more difficult to own a home in the UK.

During the race for space, the average house price was equivalent to almost seven times the average annual salary. Since then it has retreated from that record high to about six times, but it remains ahead of the historical average of four and a half times.

While banks have been trying to ease mortgage affordability, such as by extending loan terms, raising a deposit remains especially tough for first-time buyers.

Haire says that renters trying to save up for their first home are facing a barrier. Almost 80 per cent of would-be first-time buyers have insufficient savings for the deposit needed to buy a home in their local area, but about four in ten are spending close to half their income on essential housing costs including rent, utility bills and council tax, "compounding their inability to save".

# Paul Johnson

## There are good reasons to reverse the two-child limit on benefits

STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA

**Sir Keir Starmer is already under pressure from some backbench Labour MPs who are demanding an end to the two-child limit on child benefit payments**

It didn't take long for the first rumblings of discontent to be heard on the Labour back benches. Within days of the election, a number of MPs are already putting pressure on the new government to end the two-child limit, the rule that means most benefit recipients don't get any extra money for third and subsequent children. While the Liberal Democrats and Greens went into the election pledging to abolish the limit, Labour has said it will do so only when fiscal conditions allow.

It has spent much of the past couple of weeks emphasising the fact that fiscal conditions are very tough indeed. And with good reason. When Rachel Reeves' public spending audit is published, perhaps this week, no doubt we will be told more about the challenges. Not that we should have been in any doubt about them. Waiting lists, overflowing prisons, a crumbling justice system, overwhelmed local authorities, all have been well-documented by independent observers.

Therein lies the eternal problem facing governments. How to prioritise within limited resources. Ask the Scots. One of the reasons they are really struggling with funding their public services is that they have decided to be much more generous in their benefit payments to poor families with children.

The long-term cost of reversing the two-child limit would be about £3.4 billion a year. That is not a trivial amount of money, but nor is it huge. It is equal to roughly 3 per cent of the total working-age benefit budget. Merely managing to slow down the increase in spending on disability benefits could pay for it. It is less than a fifth of the cost of recent cuts to national insurance contributions. If reversing it were a top priority, it would be affordable. The trouble is there are a lot of top priorities.

So what actually is it? And what is its effect? Low-income families typically receive an additional £3,455 a year of universal credit for each child they have. Historically, the welfare system has always paid an amount for each child, but the two-child limit means that claimants do not receive an additional amount for third or subsequent children born after April 5, 2017. For those of us not directly affected by the system, it is worth illustrating the effect with an example. Take a lone parent with three children. Let's ignore their housing costs and assume that those are covered by benefits, although often that is not the case. In the absence of the two-child limit, this family of four would have about £350 a week to live on. The two-child limit reduces that to about £283 a week. That is the difference between an income that takes them just above the official poverty line to one that takes them below it.

That is why the two-child limit has been pretty much laser-focused on increasing the measured rate of child poverty. While relative poverty rates have actually declined somewhat for families with one or two children since 2015, they have increased for families with three or more children.

One thing that I like to try to get across in these columns is the extent to which decisions on benefits affect more people than many of us might imagine. Don't forget that more than one family in four will be entitled to universal credit at any one time. When fully rolled out, the two-child limit will affect about one in ten of all families with children and about one in five children. That is nearly three million children living in households whose income will be less than it would have been in the absence of this policy. More than two in five children living in families of Bangladeshi or Pakistani heritage will be affected. Not all will see the scale of loss in the illustration above because, remember, the majority of those affected will be in a working family, but the effects will be bigger in bigger families.

Doing nothing is an active decision in itself. The policy is not yet, by any means, fully rolled out. It affects only families where the youngest child was born after April 5, 2017, so at the moment it can't affect any family whose children are all over the age of seven. Taking no action will result in a big increase in the number of families and children affected. That's about 670,000 more children by the end of the parliament, according to estimates from my colleagues at the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Somewhat surprisingly amid all the furore over this, there is another dog that hasn't barked. The two-child limit itself would be even more targeted at the poorest households if it were not for a separate policy: the benefit cap. This limits the total amount that a family with no adults in work can claim. That mostly affects bigger families and more than another 100,000 of them would be affected by the two-child limit if their benefits were not already capped by this separate limit. Nevertheless, simply removing the two-child limit would, by itself, reduce relative child poverty by approximately half a million. Per pound spent, that would be well-targeted at reducing child poverty, a fact that will not be lost on the newly formed child poverty task force.

There are arguments, beyond cost, that point in the other direction. The most powerful, and the one that seems to cut through, is about a different form of fairness. If middle-income people have to make financial trade-offs and sacrifices when it comes to deciding how many children to have, is it really fair to have an open-ended commitment to poorer families who decide to have more children? Maybe, maybe not. The consequences of this decision, though, will be with us for a long time. Growing up in poverty can scar for life.

***Paul Johnson is director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Follow him on @PJTheEconomist***

# Mid-sized companies set sights on growth

**Jessica Newman**

More than half of Britain's medium-sized companies are planning to invest millions of pounds to expand their businesses in the next five years, according to a report.

In a sign of growing optimism about prospects for such businesses, research by BDO, the accountancy and business advisory firm, found that 51 per cent of the companies it surveyed were gearing up to invest more than £3 million over five years to increase their operations.

The findings, from a bi-monthly poll of 500 companies generating revenues of between £10 million to £300 million each, showed that nearly two fifths of respondents were planning to make the bulk of their investments in the UK. Twenty-four per cent said that a top focus was securing new investment capital this year, including from private equity firms, venture capital investors and bank lending. A quarter of businesses said they were upbeat about the future, while 18 per cent were pessimistic about the outlook.

The optimism is a fillip for the new Labour government and Rachel Reeves, the chancellor, who has said that driving economic growth is central to her plans. Soaring inflation and moves by the Bank of England to rapidly lift interest rates to contain price rises have piled pressure on households and businesses alike over the past two years.

The annual rate of inflation hit a 41-year high of 11.1 per cent in October 2022, but since then has fallen back to the Bank's target of 2 per cent. This has raised hopes the Bank will soon cut its base interest rate, which stands at a 16-year high of 5.25 per cent.

"With a new government in place and inflation hitting the Bank of England's 2 per cent target in May, it looks like businesses may have some reason to be optimistic after years of challenging economic conditions and uncertainty," Richard Austin, a partner at BDO, said.

He believed the desire from mid-sized businesses to invest was "good news for the new government", adding that policymakers would "need to follow their lead and create an environment where they can flourish and achieve their ambitions for growth".

Forty-seven per cent of respondents said they wanted ministers to take steps, including revamping the apprenticeship levy, to bolster their ability to recruit.

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EVAN VUCCI/AP

Donald Trump's lead in the polls has widened since his attempted assassination

# Investors try to ride 'Trump trade' wave

The former president seems set for re-election. **Lauren Almeida** looks at what action punters should consider taking

The "Trump trade" is starting to build momentum in the stock market. Investors can no longer ignore the increasing likelihood of Donald Trump returning to the White House, with the attempt on the Republican's life thought to have bolstered his chances of success in the presidential election in November.

The decision last night by Joe Biden to abandon his bid for a second term as president only adds to the turmoil among the Democrats. The market is already bracing itself for the return of "Trumponomics", which the former president says equates to low interest rates and taxes. Trump has promised, among other things, to cut the top rate of corporate tax from 21 per cent to as low as 15 per cent. He has pledged to drill more oil and to regulate less. He has said that he will push for better trade terms overseas, will open up regulation in the cryptocurrency industry and will rein in Big Tech.

Decisions made in the White House will reverberate far beyond the United States. For European companies, the prime concern is higher tariffs. Trump has pledged to impose a 10 per cent tariff on imports to the US. Economists at Goldman Sachs estimate that this policy alone could take out one percentage point of GDP in the euro area, which in turn would feed through to a 10 per cent drop in earnings per share among European businesses.

Meanwhile, worries about trade tensions over Taiwan, which China claims as a province, have hammered semiconductor stocks listed on Wall Street after Trump suggested he would not pay for America to defend Taiwan, where most of the world's microchips are manufactured. Shares in Nvidia, the chip manufacturer and New York stock market darling, slumped by 7 per cent when the news emerged, wiping roughly $200 billion off its market capitalisation in a single day.

Overall, though, Trump's recipe of lower rates and lower regulation should benefit America's stock markets. So far investors appear to agree: the S&P 500 is up 15 cent in the past six months, despite concerns about bloated valuations. Much could still change before the election, but, as polls move ever more convincingly in Trump's favour, investors should prepare for a new regime in the world's biggest economy.

### OIL

One of Trump's key messages has been: "Drill, baby, drill." He has advocated drilling for hydrocarbons in areas marked as nature reserves and he told Bloomberg that the US had "more liquid gold than anybody". Indeed, reports suggest that Trump told oil and gas executives in May that he would pursue regulatory rollbacks in exchange for $1 billion in campaign contributions. Bulls are betting that this will translate into bigger profits for the US fossil fuel industry. Some of the leaders in the sector, the likes of **ExxonMobil** and **ConocoPhillips**, have helped the S&P 500 to reach record highs.

### DEFENCE

Trump has threatened not to support Nato nations that have been underspending on defence in the event of an attack and has suggested that he could increase the target for defence spending for Nato members from 2 per cent to 3 per cent of GDP. Member countries deal frequently with European defence businesses, including **BAE Systems**, **Thales**, **Leonardo** and **Rheinmetall**.

### GOLD (AND "DIGITAL GOLD")

The Republican candidate has insisted that one of the biggest problems facing America is the strength of the dollar, which he argues has made it harder for its manufacturers to sell their products to foreign buyers dealing in weaker currencies. Devaluing the dollar would be a tall order, given that it is the world's reserve currency, but a lower dollar, higher spending and a central bank with wiggle room to cut interest rates together are likely to prove inflationary. High inflation typically increases the appeal of **gold**, widely considered one of the most stable of safe havens.

Some investors also may be watching the so-called digital gold. **Bitcoin**'s dollar value rose by roughly 8 per cent in the two days after the attempt on Trump's life and the cryptocurrency now trades at about $65,550. The former president has not always backed crypto. In 2019 he said that cryptocurrencies were based on "thin air" and only two years later he called bitcoin a "scam against the dollar". This changed in 2022 when Trump launched his own line of non-fungible tokens and in the past two months he has stepped up his efforts to charm the industry. He is the first significant presidential candidate to accept donations in crypto assets and is headlining a bitcoin conference in Nashville this month, the biggest gathering of cryptocurrency fans in the US. Crypto backers are hoping that Trump may open up regulation in the sector.

Bitcoin's value has risen as backers expect Trump to open up regulation

### US TREASURIES

Trump's potential impact on America's bond market is less clear. The price of the two-year treasury is rising as recent economic readings have shown a slower pace of inflation and rising unemployment, which have lifted hopes the Fed could cut interest rates this year.

At the other end of the market, some pundits have warned that if Trump's tax cuts and tariffs prove inflationary, it could create a bigger fiscal deficit that would require more long-dated bonds to be issued. This could weigh on their price and drive the yield higher. That being said, long-dated US treasuries are widely viewed as the best-quality debt on the market and investors flock to them during periods of uncertainty.

### AMERICA'S SMALL-CAPS

Pursuing a lower corporate tax rate and interest rate cuts should work in the favour of smaller American companies. The Russell 2000 index, which tracks US small-caps, has lagged the benchmark S&P 500 for a long time, but it has rallied by as much as 9 per cent in the past month as investors hope that a lower cost of borrowing and less tax will help smaller American businesses to grow faster.

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# Sosandar senses fashion change in plan for stores

**Isabella Fish** Retail Editor

An online clothing retailer aimed at "fashion-conscious" women over 30 plans to put its faith in Britain's high streets by opening 50 stores.

Sosandar, whose dresses are worn by Fearne Cotton and Holly Willoughby, the television presenters, is opening its first two physical shops in September. One will be on Bond Street in Chelmsford, Essex, and the other will open on Marlow's High Street in Buckinghamshire.

Julie Lavington, its co-chief executive, said the company had a pipeline of store openings planned for the next three to five years. "We're targeting around 50 in total."

Demand for online-only fashion is slowing. Asos and Boohoo have struggled since the pandemic boom, while Next and Marks & Spencer have reported a resurgence as shoppers return to physical stores.

Sosandar was founded in 2016 by Alison Hall, a former editor of Look magazine, and Lavington, Look's former publishing director, who believed that the high street was not providing what women wanted to buy. The business was listed on Aim, London's junior stock market, in 2017 after an unusual move to reverse into the cash shell of Orogen, a former goldminer.

The foray into bricks-and-mortar retailing comes after a successful partnership with Sainsbury's, which last year became the first physical chain to stock Sosandar's wares in its stores. M&S, Next and Freemans are also third-party partners. Lavington, 59, said the business, which is based in Wilmslow, Cheshire, was targeting stores in affluent market towns and cities.

The store openings will offer a much-needed boost to the UK high street, which has struggled amid the collapses of The Body Shop, Wilko and Paperchase. More store closures are likely to be on the horizon after Carpetright lined up administrators.

Hall, 49, said Sosandar was venturing into physical shops because figures showed that about 60 per cent of British fashion purchases were now made in stores. "It makes sense for us now not to just play in the 40 per cent that's online," she said.

Lavington said the company had asked its customers if they wanted the brand to open shops and "virtually 100 per cent of them want us to because they like being able to do both".

Revenue at the brand rose by 9 per cent to £46.3 million in the year to the end of March, thanks to strong demand for partywear, dresses, tailoring and knitwear. Sosandar returned to the black in the second half of the year, to £1 million, having made a loss of £1.3 million in the first half. Shares in Sosandar, which peaked at 34p in August 2021, closed last week at 10¼p.

**Julie Lavington, left, and Alison Hall founded the business in 2016**

SOSANDAR

**Sosandar is turning to bricks and mortar after finding 60 per cent of fashion purchases are now made in physical stores**

# Renault says taxi-hailer Karhoo ran out of road

**Alex Ralph**

Renault has pushed through a pre-pack administration of Karhoo after investing more than £130 million in the business. It is the British taxi-hailing technology company's second insolvency in eight years.

Flit Technologies, which traded as Karhoo, has been backed by the French carmaker since 2017, when it came out of its previous administration. Karhoo had burnt through millions of dollars and spent lavishly in the run-up to its initial failure under Daniel Ishag, 50, its flamboyant founder.

The business has now entered administration for a second time, with Renault reacquiring assets as part of a pre-pack sale handled by FRP Advisory.

Karhoo, which operated out of a WeWork shared office space in London, connected ride-hailers with car fleets. It had 58 full-time employees and 26 contractors and staff have been made redundant. Karhoo has "consistently underperformed against budget projections" and has failed to hit its revenue targets, insolvency filings show.

The revenue and cashflow underperformance was said to be "too severe" for Renault to continue funding, while a lack of clarity over Karhoo's "direction", diversification into unprofitable areas and high staff costs had added to the underperformance.

Renault's lack of confidence in a turnaround of Karhoo, which suffered combined losses of £61.1 million over the past three years, led it to halt funding and to the appointment of administrators. Bird & Bird, the carmaker's legal adviser, introduced Renault to insolvency practitioners at FRP, who were engaged in January and were formally appointed at the end of May.

A pre-pack administration was deemed to be the preferred option, in part to protect Karhoo's intellectual property and contracts with ride-hailers. After a sales process, Renault, advised by EY, was the only party to formally submit a bid and it bought assets of Karhoo, including software and source code, for £11.2 million at the end of May.

There is a deficit of £79.7 million to unsecured creditors, mostly owed to Renault, with less than 12 per cent expected to be recovered. Company creditors, owed £1.9 million, include the House of Fraud, an "invite-only community" for fraud experts, which is owed £292.

Renault said: "Karhoo's growth has not met our expectations and business objectives. For this reason we have decided to refocus our investment strategy and efforts on other projects."

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Source: YouGov, April 2024

# Savile Row career suits female tailors just fine

THE TIMES ENTERPRISE NETWORK WOMEN IN BUSINESS

Traditionally men ruled the roost in the Mayfair home of high fashion. Not any more, finds **Caroline Bullock**

Her name may be above the door of the Savile Row tailor in London's Mayfair, but on the shop floor Caroline Andrew's presence can still confuse those who are in the market for a handmade suit. "I've been mistaken for the PA and even the wife of an older male cutter, one who is in his seventies. I remember another shocked customer saying to me, 'My doctor is a woman and now my tailor is, too. I can't believe it.' It's a reminder that women who succeed in this industry have had to really prove themselves."

Female influence is increasingly conspicuous on the traditionally male-dominated Savile Row, rooted in centuries of tradition and renowned as the home of bespoke menswear. Last month Henry Poole, the street's oldest tailoring house, appointed its first female cutter, while a select group of women-run businesses are attracting high-profile clients and international reputations.

For Andrew, 35, trading here is some way from her flat in Vauxhall, central London, where her business started in 2018 with £10,000 of savings. Apprenticeships with traditional tailoring houses cemented her passion for the craft, but also a desire to strike out on her own rather than being confined to an existing house style.

"I wasn't really seeing what I wanted to create, which was a less structured and military style than the typical Savile Row suit." The graduate of the London College of Fashion designs for both genders, with suits starting at £4,200. "For many of my female clients, this is their first experience of a tailor, so there's a lot of trust involved, while men really value my perspective on what suits them because, as a woman, you're not imposing your own personal style on to them."

A slick social media presence underscores the traditional methods of cold-calling and word of mouth that have established a core client base that runs to almost 1,000. Lord Rose of Monewden, the former chairman and chief executive of Marks & Spencer, remains a loyal customer and is typical of the high-profile patronage that can help to get such a business to the next level.

It's a similar story for Alexandra Wood, whose eponymous business focused on menswear snowballed after Chuka Umunna, the former Labour MP and businessman who is a client, topped the best-dressed list in GQ, the men's magazine, three times.

Unfazed by being in a man's world ("I never gave it a second thought"), Wood, who honed her skills at Shanghai Tang, the luxury fashion house, recalls dismissive fabric suppliers in the early days as an example of rare sexism. "I think they assumed I wasn't going to achieve much and it wasn't worth their while [supplying me]. But it's like many areas of life. There will be those wanting to put you down and others willing to give you a shot."

These days, with more than 1,000 clients comprising mainly fortysomething lawyers and financiers and a £1 million turnover, it's a very different scenario. Manufacturers regularly approach Wood, 43, although she tends to stick with the same trusted suppliers, despite rising prices. For example, vicuña wool, at £500 a kilo, is an expensive but necessary investment in a field where the devil is in the detail.

"Clients would notice if there was any change in standards and would rather pay more than less for something that was inferior." That's a nod to a cohort of customers that increasingly buy entire collections of custom smart and casual wear for between £15,000 and £100,000.

Like Andrew, Wood owns 100 per cent of her business. As an investment opportunity, tailoring can be a hard sell as people struggle to see the potential to increase in scale. She has spent about £1 million of her own money to get to this point.

Indeed, further burdened by an expectation of lengthy unpaid apprenticeships in long-established tailoring houses, the profession can be cost-prohibitive to enter. Rory Duffy, a fifth-generation, Savile Row-trained tailor who runs The Handcraft Tailor Academy in Ireland, believes that alternatives to a traditional Savile Row apprenticeship are overdue.

"I wouldn't be here today doing what I am without the [traditional] training I received, but it was hard work," he said. "Bullying has always been a problem. I know of many trainees who have been dismissed for being too slow and women who left the industry because they couldn't get along with their [training] master."

Women outnumber men two to one

Women who succeed in tailoring have

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Source: YouGov, April 2024

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE

really had to prove themselves, says Caroline Andrew. She started her business in 2018 with £10,000 of savings

at his academy, which has attracted attendees from the United States, Iceland, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea and Japan. It offers online and in-person classes covering everything from pattern-drafting to trouser-making. Duffy can recall the days when young women wanting to be tailors were directed to "finishing" roles, such as hand-sewing buttonholes; now they are "pouring into the industry" as bespoke tailoring tuition becomes more accessible and reaches a broader demographic with the rise of online classes and tutorials.

Nevertheless, Kimberley Lawton, 31, from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, believes that training in Savile Row still holds the key to credibility. With a base in Walthamstow, northeast London, she cites her stint at Huntsman, a 170-year-old tailor, for giving her the confidence to set up her own venture. "It's one of the biggest tailors in Savile Row, so just the sheer turnaround and quantity of work we got through meant I learnt so much on the job and I've taken it with me," she said.

"It's strange, because I see myself first and foremost as a craftsperson, but I'm also an entrepreneur; I've had to learn accounting, marketing and to become very business-minded, as it's not an easy industry to break into."

Much has been made of the decline of suits and formal attire since Covid and the subsequent boom in working from home, with the UK Office for National Statistics even removing the traditional men's suit from the consumer prices inflation "basket" in 2022. Lawton, though, is unconvinced. She is seeing a rise in younger customers investing in bespoke tailoring and a growing appetite for suits to be worn for leisure as well as work, all of which plays to her advantage as a young, new tailor with a more experimental style.

"I still make a lot of traditional classic navy and grey double-breasted suits, but also styles in neon pink, bolder fun pieces for those who want to make a statement," she said, adding that it's the "psychology of tailoring" that fascinates her most. "When you get feedback, particularly from women who traditionally haven't had their clothes tailored saying how their suits made them feel really confident and empowered at work, it's great to hear."

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# What is holding digital transformation back?

New tech has huge potential but firms need to address the skills gap, research by News UK and Barclays Corporate Banking reveals

Businesses across the UK are determined to embrace digital transformation, new research from Barclays Corporate Banking and News UK shows, but many are struggling to achieve their ambitions.

While the shift to remote and hybrid working has led many to implement new technologies, the bigger challenge lies in taking the next step – to secure competitive advantage from innovation in areas such as AI and data analytics.

Across the UK, 61 per cent* of companies are engaged in a digital transformation programme or have completed one, according to the research. But the picture varies from one region to another: in the South East 66 per cent of firms have begun or completed their digital transformation programmes, compared to only 59 per cent and 53 per cent in the South West and the West Midlands respectively. But investment is increasing rapidly.

"Many more businesses are now looking at the likely cost of transformation – and the potential payback," says Andrea Delay, head of mid corporate at Barclays Corporate Banking. Indeed, 44 per cent of them now believe digital transformation is very important to their growth priorities.

Organisations are most likely to have made progress on innovation for new ways of working, with 64 per cent having embraced digital transformation that enables remote and hybrid work. In other areas, adoption is less widespread. Only 58 per cent of companies are using more data to inform business decisions; only 49 per cent have implemented digital technologies to drive automation; and only 36 per cent have adopted or enhanced ecommerce platforms.

ANDREA DELAY
HEAD OF MID CORPORATE, BARCLAYS CORPORATE BANKING

How, then, to accelerate change? "The key is to think about what you want to achieve as a business, and then look at how new technology might help you get there," says Delay. "Start small, with pilot projects that deliver some quick wins, but also help you refine and improve your processes."

Those early experiments can also help staff acquire expertise; this is key, because many firms worry that a lack of digital prowess threatens to hold their innovation back. With regard to AI, this skills gap is seen as the biggest barrier to adoption.

Inhouse training and development can certainly help, but organisations are working with third parties to boost skills too. Educational institutions and apprenticeship services can provide support, and there may be opportunities to work with partners such as suppliers or specialist technology consultants.

On AI, many companies are only just beginning to realise what might be possible – just 13 per cent of those taking part in the Barclays-News UK research have already started making use of such tools.

That will grow rapidly, predicts Delay. "AI has the potential to contribute to growth across all industries in the UK," she says. "This technology will also change the relationship with customers by enabling businesses to offer them better choices and more personalised experiences."

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*Source: YouGov, April 2024

# Business Equity prices

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 833.25 | PatriaPrivEq‡ | 544 | -9 | | 13.7 |

## Automobiles & parts

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,208.12 | Aston Martin Lag | 146½ | -16½ | | -3.9 |

## Banking & finance

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,980.17 | Abrdn | 167⅛ | +⅜ | 8.4 | ... |
| 4.95 | Acuity RM♦ | 3¼ | ... | | -0.4 |
| 7,605.82 | **Admiral** | 2566 | -43 | 2.8 | 23.1 |
| 6.02 | ADVFN♦ | 13 | ... | | -3.2 |
| 1,760.64 | AJ Bell | 427 | +32½ | 2.7 | 21.7 |
| 49,971.90 | Aon Corpn | 22982⅞ | -98¼ | ... | 22.7 |
| 164.83 | Arbuthnot Bkg♦ | 1010 | +7½ | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| 1.56 | Argo Group♦ | 4 | ... | | -0.1 |
| 1,128.76 | Ashmore | 170 | -9⅞ | 9.5 | 11.7 |
| 46,332.55 | Aus New Z | 1539⅝ | +19⅛ | ... | 13.2 |
| 12,803.89 | **Aviva** | 481½ | -8 | 6.8 | 12.9 |
| 56,448.18 | Banco Santander | 364½ | -6 | 4.0 | 6.3 |
| 1,967.90 | Bank of Georgia‡ | 4390 | ... | 5.1 | 4.9 |
| 33,754.83 | **Barclays** | 228⅝ | +6⅛ | 3.5 | 8.8 |
| 1.17 | Blue Star Capital♦ | ... | ... | | -0.1 |
| 196.70 | BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦‡ | 532½ | +12½ | 2.0 | 14.6 |
| 2.87 | Braveheart Inv♦ | 4½ | ... | | 1.8 |
| 1,564.20 | Brewin Dolphin | 515 | +1 | ... | 28.1 |
| 2,178.86 | Bridgepoint | 274¾ | +21⅜ | 3.4 | 30.5 |
| 16.44 | Cenkos Secs♦ | 29 | +2 | ... | 5.9 |
| 381.66 | Chesnara | 253 | +3 | 9.5 | 20.5 |
| 11.94 | City of Lon Gp♦ | 10 | -14 | ... | -0.6 |
| 193.59 | City Lon Inv Gp | 382 | +6 | 8.7 | 13.2 |
| 795.33 | Close Bros | 528½ | +42 | 8.5 | 5.5 |
| 878.62 | CMC Markets‡ | 314 | -6 | 2.6 | 84.8 |
| 15,216.77 | Commerzbk | 1284⅜ | +61½ | ... | 8.3 |
| 25,243.03 | Deutsche Bk | 1265½ | -24¾ | ... | 5.1 |
| 2,437.08 | Direct Line Ins | 187¾ | -1¼ | 2.1 | 11.9 |
| 485.91 | EFG-Hermes Hldg | 66½ | ... | | 7.6 |
| 50.49 | EPE Special Opps♦ | 169 | ... | | ... |
| 453.81 | FBD‡ | 1117½ | +17 | ... | 6.7 |
| 8.87 | Fiske♦ | 75 | ... | 0.3 | 15.0 |
| 54.07 | Frenkel Topping♦ | 44 | +1 | 2.3 | 33.8 |
| 450.11 | Georgia Capital | 1084 | -6 | | 2.4 |
| 451.54 | Gresham House♦ | 1100 | +5 | ... | 30.5 |
| 176.08 | H&T Group♦ | 406 | +33 | 4.2 | 8.3 |
| 64.91 | Hansard Global | 47½ | +½ | 9.2 | 9.9 |
| 5,260.02 | **Hargreaves Lansdown** | 1110 | +6 | 3.7 | 19.7 |
| 131.01 | Helios Under♦ | 177½ | +1 | 3.3 | 8.5 |
| 122,238.21 | **HSBC** | 660 | -11 | 7.3 | 7.1 |
| 3,153.55 | IG Group | 851 | -½ | 5.3 | 11.5 |
| 517.61 | Impax♦‡ | 404½ | +14 | 6.8 | 13.0 |
| 6,074.21 | **Intermed Capital**‡ | 2090 | -196 | 3.7 | 27.0 |
| 297.02 | IPF | 131 | -1 | 7.9 | 6.4 |
| 2,449.96 | International Public P'ship | 129 | -1½ | | 88.3 |
| 3,738.72 | Investec | 579½ | -19½ | 5.6 | 7.8 |
| 16.94 | Investment Co | 355 | ... | | 44.1 |
| 423.07 | IP Group | 41½ | -1⅛ | 1.2 | -2.5 |
| 28.18 | Jarvis Securities♦ | 63 | +3½ | 9.0 | 7.0 |
| 430.84 | Jupiter Fund Mgmt | 84¼ | -3½ | 7.9 | ... |
| 1,161.27 | Just Group | 111¾ | +3¾ | 1.8 | 9.9 |
| 1,467.69 | Lancashire Holdings | 614 | +4 | 2.5 | 5.9 |
| 13,375.15 | **Legal & Gen** | 226⅞ | -5½ | 8.9 | 31.1 |
| 1,438.66 | Liberty Group | 502⅝ | -50034⅜ | ... | 16.2 |
| 419.87 | Liontrust‡ | 657 | +3 | 10.8 | 8.2 |
| 61.18 | Livermore Invs♦ | 37 | -1⅝ | | ... |
| 36,867.45 | **Lloyds Banking Group** | 59⅛ | ... | 4.6 | 8.4 |
| 14.17 | LMS Capital | 17½ | -1¼ | | -3.8 |
| 50,056.74 | **Lond Stk Ex Gp** | 9422 | -6 | 1.2 | 68.2 |
| 4,865.47 | **M&G** | 204⅜ | -4¼ | 9.4 | 16.4 |
| 2,925.49 | Man | 252½ | -7 | 5.1 | 16.6 |
| 22.70 | Manx Fin♦ | 19 | ... | 2.4 | 5.4 |
| 1.75 | Marechale Cap♦ | 1⅝ | -⅛ | | -4.0 |
| 414.75 | Mattioli Woods♦ | 797 | ... | 3.3 | 41.5 |
| 15.35 | Metal Tiger♦ | 9 | +1 | ... | -2.0 |
| 256.31 | Metro Bank | 38 | +1 | | 2.8 |
| 59,695.16 | Nat Aust Bk | 1929⅞ | +53⅞ | ... | 16.9 |
| 27,935.76 | **NatWest** | 335½ | +11⅞ | 5.0 | 7.2 |
| 377.31 | Numis♦ | 343 | +1 | ... | ... |
| 1,871.61 | Onesavings Bank | 484 | +5¾ | 6.6 | 7.4 |
| 480.75 | PayPoint | 662 | +14 | 2.8 | 15.5 |
| 3.17 | PCF Group♦ | ⅞ | +¼ | ... | -0.4 |
| 5,353.38 | **Phoenix** | 534½ | -7 | 9.7 | ... |
| 19,240.05 | **Prudential** | 701⅜ | -30½ | 2.3 | 14.4 |
| 9.36 | Quantum Blockchain♦ | ⅝ | ... | | -2.2 |
| 1,704.84 | Quilter | 122¾ | +1 | 4.2 | 39.6 |
| 0.28 | Randall & Quilter♦# | ... | -1¾ | | ... |
| 1,901.38 | Rathbone Grp | 1756 | -36 | 4.8 | 34.5 |
| 1.71 | RiverFort Global Opps♦# | ⅛ | ... | 1.6 | -1.8 |
| 87.25 | Rockwood Strategic | 271 | +5 | | 7.0 |
| 230.86 | S & U | 1900 | +40 | 9.4 | 9.0 |
| 3.21 | Sancus Lending Grp♦ | ½ | ... | | -0.1 |
| 228.90 | Schroder REIT | 46¾ | +1⅜ | | -4.2 |
| 6,076.40 | **Schroders** | 391⅛ | +7 | 5.4 | 16.1 |
| 3,069.44 | St James Place | 563 | -1½ | 4.2 | ... |
| 18,296.79 | **Stand Chart** | 725 | +1½ | 2.9 | 8.1 |
| 6.82 | Starvest♦ | 11⅝ | -¼ | ... | -1.9 |
| 30.33 | STM Group♦ | 52½ | ... | 1.1 | 54.1 |
| 22,291.41 | Sun Life Can | 3844⅞ | -21⅜ | 4.5 | 12.4 |
| 16.25 | Tavistock Inv♦ | 2⅞ | -⅛ | 2.4 | ... |
| 1,621.10 | TBC Bank Group‡ | 2990 | +45 | 6.7 | 4.7 |
| 9.52 | Tern♦ | 2⅛ | ... | | -0.6 |
| 76.35 | Thames Ventures VCT‡ | 43 | ... | | -5.5 |
| 48.57 | Time Finance♦ | 52½ | +2⅛ | | 12.4 |
| 125.29 | Vanquis | 48¾ | -2⅞ | 12.5 | ... |
| 32.17 | Volvere♦ | 1450 | -50 | | 17.9 |
| 7.67 | WH Ireland♦ | 3¼ | ... | | -0.4 |
| 9.37 | Walker Crips Grp | 22 | ... | 2.2 | 17.4 |
| 160,326.86 | Wells Fargo | 4598¾ | +221⅜ | ... | 12.1 |
| 50,640.11 | Westpac | 1462½ | +30½ | ... | 15.8 |
| 9.95 | Worsley Investors Ltd | 29½ | -1½ | | 11.1 |
| 60,253.59 | Zurich Fincl | 41169¼ | -819 | 5.4 | 17.6 |

## Investment companies

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Forecast Yld% | Forecast P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29,658.48 | **3I Group** | 3047 | +218 | 2.8 | 40.6 |
| 3,066.81 | 3i Infrastructure | 332½ | +5½ | 3.3 | -7.9 |
| 1,371.96 | Aberforth Smlr | 1630 | +264 | 3.2 | -12.8 |
| 3,447.33 | Alliance | 1214 | -10 | 1.9 | -3.4 |
| 651.71 | Asia Dragon Tr | 409 | +52 | 1.5 | -16.1 |
| 3.99 | Athelney Trust | 185 | +2 | 5.0 | -6.5 |
| 1,083.84 | AVI Global Trust | 241½ | +11½ | 1.4 | -10.2 |
| 115.96 | Baillie Gifford Ch Gr | 188¾ | -4¼ | 0.8 | -10.8 |
| 336.37 | BaillieGifford Eu Gr | 94½ | -2⅜ | 2.3 | -14.6 |
| 667.98 | Baillie Gifford JpnTr | 748 | +16 | 1.1 | -12.7 |
| 354.20 | Baillie Gifford SN | 117 | ... | ... | -16.3 |
| 258.04 | Baillie Gifford UK Gr | 175½ | +12½ | 1.9 | -15.1 |
| 585.09 | Bal Comm Prop | 83⅜ | +4⅜ | 4.6 | -27.7 |
| 1,365.19 | Bankers Inv Trst | 115 | +3 | 2.0 | -10.8 |
| 1,310.20 | BH Macro | 364 | +28 | ... | -13.5 |
| 344.25 | Biotech Growth | 1028 | +37 | ... | -5.2 |
| 147.23 | BlckRck Com Inc | 117 | -3 | 3.4 | -10.8 |
| 276.42 | BlckRck Fro Inv | 146 | -9 | 3.8 | -8.1 |
| 604.22 | BlckRck Grt Euro | 603 | -22 | 1.0 | -5.6 |
| 37.69 | BlckRck Inc & Gwth | 187 | +5 | 3.5 | -12.2 |
| 729.10 | BlckRck Smlr | 1548 | +190 | 2.7 | -11.7 |
| 152.45 | BlckRck Sustain Amer | 196½ | -4½ | 3.5 | -10.1 |
| 605.09 | BlckRck Throgmorton | 654 | +69 | 2.2 | -10.3 |
| 1,061.07 | BlckRck Wld Min | 555 | -13 | 5.9 | -6.3 |
| 159.55 | Brown Adv US sm | 1345 | +30 | ... | -11.9 |
| 576.35 | Brunner | 1350 | +50 | 1.6 | -4.9 |
| 1,935.39 | Caledonia Inv | 3550 | +120 | 1.2 | -35.4 |
| 2,165.88 | City of Lon IT | 434 | +27 | 4.9 | -2.2 |
| 68.90 | Crystal Amber Fd♦ | 90 | +13 | 22.6 | -31.2 |
| 326.48 | CT Priv Eq Ord | 455 | +12 | 3.9 | -35.8 |
| 3.58 | CT Property | 73½ | +73½ | 4.1 | -14.5 |
| 341.57 | CT UK Cap&Inc | 335 | +15 | 3.6 | -3.5 |
| 26.56 | CT UK HIT B | 86½ | +2½ | ... | -8.7 |
| 73.95 | CT UK HIT | 88¾ | +4¾ | 5.9 | -4.9 |
| 27.44 | Dunedin Entp | 498½ | +8½ | 5.7 | -22.3 |
| 1,132.20 | Edinburgh IT | 749 | +48 | 3.6 | -9.5 |
| 603.22 | Edin Wwide | 157⅜ | +12⅜ | ... | -11.7 |
| 85.33 | EP Global Opp | 292 | +8 | 1.3 | -21.6 |
| 310.02 | European Assets | 86 | +1 | 5.6 | -11.7 |
| 580.50 | European Opp Trust | 881 | +17 | 0.3 | -10.6 |
| 5,213.20 | **F&C Invest Tr** | 1036 | +44 | 1.3 | -10.8 |
| 356.20 | Fidlty Asian Val | 500 | -16 | 2.6 | -9.6 |
| 1,004.12 | Fidelity China Sp | 191½ | -14⅜ | 2.7 | -10.9 |
| 548.46 | FdltyEmrgMkt | 716⅛ | +40⅛ | 2.0 | -11.9 |
| 1,596.09 | Fidelity European Trust | 390½ | +3½ | 2.0 | -4.9 |
| 213.48 | Fidlty Jap Tru | 175 | -3 | ... | -10.5 |
| 1,038.74 | Fidlty Spec Val | 320½ | +31½ | 2.8 | -9.5 |
| 1,527.85 | Fins Gwth & Inc | 825 | -2 | 2.0 | -7.4 |
| 698.59 | GCP Infrastructure | 80½ | +8½ | 6.3 | -35.8 |
| 29.50 | Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl | 34½ | -1½ | ... | -18.7 |
| 3,235.07 | Greencoat UK Wind | 141 | +2 | 6.3 | -16.9 |
| 86.40 | Hansa Investment | 216 | +4 | 0.8 | -43.2 |
| 162.80 | Hansa Inv Co 'A' | 203½ | +4½ | 0.8 | -45.9 |
| 1,997.35 | Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq | 2595 | +305 | ... | -42.8 |
| 400.00 | Hend Euro Foc | 188 | +8 | 2.1 | -11.7 |
| 279.73 | Hend High Inc | 162½ | +5½ | 6.0 | -8.2 |
| 683.73 | Hend Smlr | 916 | +136 | 2.9 | -14.4 |
| 1,222.18 | Herald | 2240 | +140 | ... | -12.4 |
| 2,329.84 | HgCapital Trust | 509 | +22 | 1.3 | -4.6 |
| 2,592.18 | HICL Infra | 127½ | +1½ | 5.2 | -22.6 |
| ... | Highbridge Tactical | ... | ... | ... | 61.1 |
| 869.05 | ICG Ent Tr | 1304 | +58 | 1.6 | -38.7 |
| 1,031.87 | Impax Env Mkts | 386 | -12 | 1.0 | -11.0 |
| 215.56 | Invesco Asia Tr | 326 | +15 | 4.2 | -12.3 |
| 331.30 | Invesco Bond Inc | 171½ | -1½ | 6.9 | 2.1 |
| 0.08 | IPST Bal# | 140½ | -2½ | 2.5 | -9.4 |
| 171.51 | IPST Gbl Eq | 272 | +4 | 2.3 | -9.8 |
| 0.03 | IPST Managed# | 103 | -3 | 0.9 | -6.6 |
| 0.57 | IPST UK Eq# | 164½ | +½ | 3.7 | -13.3 |
| 1,815.73 | JPM American | 993 | +15 | 0.7 | 1.7 |
| 309.24 | JPM Asia Gro & Inc | 365 | +11 | 3.9 | -9.3 |
| 172.23 | JPM China | 207 | -8 | 5.2 | -10.6 |
| 414.87 | JPM Claverhs | 725 | +31 | 4.8 | -4.7 |
| 3.42 | JPMorgan Emerg E & ME & Africa | 648 | +520 | 1.0 | 158.6 |
| 1,217.62 | JPM Em Mkts | 108½ | +4½ | 1.4 | -11.7 |
| 688.43 | JPM Euro disc | 469 | +7 | 2.0 | -10.4 |
| 393.91 | JPM GEMI | 134½ | +1½ | 3.5 | -11.2 |
| 2,636.26 | JPM GG&I | 561 | +3 | 3.2 | 1.3 |
| 724.83 | JPM Indian | 1020 | +94 | ... | -19.4 |
| 161.44 | JPM Jap Sml Co | 297½ | -12½ | 3.8 | -12.8 |
| 804.28 | JPM Japan | 551 | +19 | 1.1 | -8.7 |
| 3.24 | JPM Mid Cap# | 1220 | +1220 | 2.9 | -14.6 |
| 0.90 | JPM Multi-asset G&I# | 101¾ | +101¾ | 5.7 | ... |
| 486.51 | JPM Smllr Co | 354 | +55 | 3.3 | -13.4 |
| 133.84 | Keystone Positive Change Inv plc | 222 | -5 | 0.1 | -11.5 |
| 1,157.56 | Law Debenture | 883 | +66 | 3.9 | -1.0 |
| 348.54 | Lowland | 129 | +10 | 3.5 | -12.5 |
| 125.61 | Majedie | 237 | -11 | 2.6 | -9.0 |
| 251.08 | M Currie Port | 363 | -16 | 1.0 | -1.7 |
| 52.99 | Marwyn Val In | 95½ | +5½ | 4.9 | -52.2 |
| 1,928.63 | Mercantile IT | 248½ | +25½ | 3.0 | -12.1 |
| 870.67 | Merchants | 587 | +40 | 5.3 | -0.2 |
| 407.31 | Mid Wynd | 779 | +7 | 1.2 | -1.6 |
| 2,507.61 | Monks Inv Tst | 1166 | +26 | 0.2 | -11.1 |
| 266.15 | Montanaro Eur Sml | 140½ | +1½ | 0.6 | -13.9 |
| 924.93 | Murray Income Trust | 873 | +30 | 4.3 | -9.7 |
| 1,569.82 | Murray Int | 255½ | +9½ | 4.1 | -10.8 |
| ... | Nb Global Floating | 57½ | -3⅛ | 5.4 | -9.6 |
| 456.01 | Pacific Assets | 377 | +13 | 0.5 | -12.6 |
| 1,454.12 | Pantheon Int | 310 | -17 | ... | -32.6 |
| 7,750.18 | **Pershing Sq** | 4212 | +20 | 0.5 | -26.7 |
| 1,666.36 | Personal Assets | 485½ | +½ | 1.5 | -0.7 |
| 3,804.99 | Polar Cap Tech | 3150 | +145 | ... | -9.8 |
| 19.52 | Prem Glb & Inf | 107 | +14 | 6.7 | -14.9 |
| 2,510.00 | Renewables Inf | 101 | +3 | 5.7 | -24.0 |
| 2,758.36 | RIT Cap Ptnr | 1884 | +102 | ... | -28.0 |
| 221.26 | Riverstone | 815 | -105 | ... | -26.9 |
| 435.67 | Schroder TotRt | 454 | +9 | 2.3 | -7.8 |
| 805.24 | Schrd Asia Pac | 534 | +31 | 2.1 | -12.3 |
| 200.64 | Schrod Inc Gwth | 289 | +17 | 4.5 | -10.9 |
| 310.35 | Schrod Jap Gwth | 262 | +2 | 1.8 | -9.9 |
| 223.05 | Schrod UKMid | 645 | +83 | 3.1 | -14.8 |
| 96.20 | Schroder UK PP Tr | 11½ | -1½ | ... | -47.6 |
| 912.98 | Scot American | 512 | -4 | 2.7 | -5.0 |
| 11,904.07 | **Scot Mtge** | 863½ | +2½ | 0.4 | -9.1 |
| 300.06 | Secs Tst Scot | 217 | +3 | 3.0 | -0.4 |
| 1,318.48 | Sequoia Eco | 81½ | -⅜ | 7.4 | -13.5 |
| 786.49 | Temple Bar | 274½ | +26½ | 3.6 | -7.9 |
| 1,833.98 | Tplton Emg Mkt | 165⅛ | +11⅛ | 2.7 | -15.2 |
| 814.61 | The Glbl Smaller | 163½ | +4½ | 1.3 | -9.8 |
| 0.88 | Tiger Royal and Inv♦ | ⅛ | +⅛ | ... | 122.2 |
| 1,069.47 | TR Property | 337 | +23 | 4.4 | -6.1 |
| 2.59 | Troy Inc&Gth# | 79¾ | +79¾ | 3.7 | -0.3 |
| 87.20 | Utilico Ord | 104 | -4 | 3.2 | -42.5 |
| 430.36 | Utilico Emerging Mkt | 226 | +3 | 3.1 | -18.5 |
| 1,170.34 | Vietnam Ent Inv | 591 | -10 | ... | -16.9 |
| 1,650.09 | Witan | 270½ | +18½ | 2.2 | -8.4 |
| 1,963.07 | Ww Health | 361½ | +27½ | 0.8 | -9.5 |


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## Construction & property

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 78.23 | Alumasc♦ | 216½ | +23 | 4.5 | 9.8 |
| 10.52 | Aseana Props | 6½ | ... | | -1.9 |
| 1,248.41 | Assura | 41⅝ | -⅝ | 7.8 | -7.4 |
| 5.71 | Aukett Swanke♦ | 1⅝ | +⅛ | | 41.8 |
| 2,123.35 | Balfour Beatty | 412⅜ | +6¾ | 2.7 | 11.8 |
| 4,837.88 | **Barratt Devs** | 496⅜ | -1⅜ | 5.6 | 22.0 |
| 3,224.99 | Bellway | 2718 | +56 | 4.0 | 15.0 |
| 5,205.11 | **Berkeley**‡ | 4924 | +74 | 1.3 | 11.6 |
| 2,350.94 | Big Yellow Group‡ | 1204 | -12 | 3.6 | 11.8 |
| 62.95 | Billington Hldgs♦ | 510 | +15 | 4.0 | 6.4 |
| 301.99 | Boot (Henry) | 226 | +7 | 3.1 | 11.7 |
| 1,418.89 | BREEDON | 413 | -2 | 3.2 | 13.3 |
| 3,737.44 | Br Land‡ | 402¾ | -14 | 5.5 | -3.5 |
| 15.32 | Caledonian Tst♦ | 130 | ... | | ... |
| 151.18 | Cap & Regnl | 65 | +⅜ | 8.8 | 34.2 |
| 23.87 | Cardiff Prop | 2300 | ... | 0.9 | 20.2 |
| 10.44 | Carecapital♦# | 1⅞ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 88.39 | Clarke T | 159 | -¼ | ... | 11.5 |
| 1,148.53 | Countryside Partner | 229¾ | +11 | ... | 16.7 |
| 0.66 | Craven House♦ | 17 | -1⅝ | | -0.1 |
| 2,519.81 | Derwent London | 2244 | -74 | 3.4 | -5.2 |
| 44.33 | Dolphin Capital♦# | 4⅞ | +⅜ | | -5.1 |
| 20.73 | First Prop♦ | 18⅝ | ... | | ... |
| 4.72 | Fletcher King♦ | 46 | ... | 1.6 | 21.1 |
| 200.32 | Foxtons Group | 66 | +⅜ | 1.3 | 38.8 |
| 316.09 | Galliford Try | 304 | -3 | 3.7 | 22.0 |
| 1,210.97 | Genuit Group | 486 | +3 | 2.5 | 31.5 |
| 345.04 | Gleeson (MJ) | 591 | -20 | 2.1 | 20.3 |
| 2,040.88 | Grafton | 1020 | -3¾ | 3.5 | 11.8 |
| 1,789.93 | Grainger | 242½ | -6½ | 2.7 | 69.2 |
| 1,390.18 | Great Portland | 343 | -6 | 3.4 | -3.3 |
| 1,448.88 | Hammerson | 29 | -⅛ | 5.1 | ... |
| 563.67 | Harworth Gp | 174 | +9½ | 0.8 | 15.1 |
| 7.86 | Heath (Samuel)♦ | 310 | +25 | 4.1 | 9.2 |
| 289.62 | Helical PLC‡ | 236 | -2½ | 2.0 | -1.6 |
| 30.59 | Highcroft Invs | 587½ | -42½ | ... | -2.5 |
| 730.05 | Ibstock | 185¾ | -6⅛ | 3.7 | 35.0 |
| 805.00 | James Halstead♦ | 186 | -½ | 4.3 | 17.3 |
| 1,073.55 | Keller | 1482 | +84 | 3.0 | 12.3 |
| 11,306.01 | Kingspan Group | 6214⅛ | -162⅛ | 0.3 | 20.5 |
| 4,752.42 | **Land Sec**‡ | 638 | -9 | 6.1 | ... |
| 119.00 | Life Science Reit | 34 | -1⅜ | | -5.4 |
| 8.96 | Lon & Assoc | 10½ | -1 | | -2.3 |
| 4,092.26 | **Londonmetric Property**‡ | 200¾ | -1 | 5.0 | ... |
| 21.77 | Macau Prop Op | 35⅛ | -¼ | | -1.7 |
| 879.98 | Marshalls | 348 | -3½ | 2.3 | 47.6 |
| 92.27 | Michelmersh♦ | 98½ | ... | 4.5 | 9.7 |
| 3.84 | Mindflair PLC♦ | 1⅜ | +½ | | -1.3 |
| 1,281.28 | Morgan Sindall | 2745 | +30 | 4.1 | 10.9 |
| 377.23 | Mountview‡ | 9675 | +100 | 5.6 | 14.1 |
| 244.88 | NewRiver REIT‡ | 78⅞ | +⅜ | 8.4 | ... |
| 65.86 | Palace Capital | 228 | -6 | 6.6 | -4.2 |
| 53.90 | Panther Securities♦ | 309 | ... | 3.8 | 12.2 |
| 4,853.59 | **Persimmon** | 1517½ | +21½ | 3.9 | 19.0 |
| 2.74 | Plaza Cent | 40 | -10 | | -1.1 |
| 1,265.51 | Primary Health Properties‡ | 94¾ | -1½ | 7.1 | 47.3 |
| 59.29 | Real Estate Invs♦‡ | 34 | -2 | 6.9 | -6.2 |
| 2,313.74 | Redrow | 699½ | -5 | 3.5 | 10.9 |
| 1,762.10 | Safestore‡ | 806½ | -2½ | 3.6 | 8.7 |
| 1,687.48 | Savills | 1246 | +38 | 1.6 | 43.2 |
| 5.17 | Secure Property♦ | 4 | ... | | ... |
| 12,282.20 | **Segro** | 908⅛ | -30⅜ | 3.0 | ... |
| 307.84 | SIG | 26⅝ | -¼ | | -7.0 |
| 769.25 | SigmaRoc♦ | 69 | +2½ | | 36.3 |
| 1,424.07 | Sirius Real Estate‡ | 94⅝ | -1¼ | 5.4 | 12.8 |
| 49.30 | Smart (J) | 125 | ... | 2.5 | ... |
| 32.85 | Steppe Cement♦ | 15 | ... | | 5.3 |
| 5,524.00 | **Taylor Wimpey** | 156 | -1 | 6.1 | 15.7 |
| 70.21 | Town Centre | 145 | +7½ | 3.5 | 5.7 |
| 1,937.63 | Travis Perkins | 919 | +20 | 1.9 | 51.6 |
| 4,021.18 | Tritax Big Box Reit | 162 | +⅛ | | 43.5 |
| 539.75 | Tritax Eurobox | 66⅞ | -½ | | ... |
| 763.26 | Tyman | 391½ | +20½ | 3.5 | 20.0 |
| 4,108.54 | **Unite** | 937 | -5½ | 3.7 | 38.0 |
| 4,443.30 | **Vistry Group** | 1320 | -16 | | 20.7 |
| 365.38 | Warehouse REIT‡ | 86 | +½ | | -3.2 |
| 1,184.66 | Workspace Grp‡ | 617 | -8 | 4.4 | -5.3 |
| 18.61 | Wynnstay Props♦‡ | 690 | +10 | 3.7 | 15.9 |

## Consumer goods

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0.59 | Agriterra♦ | ¾ | ... | | -0.1 |
| 11.19 | Airea♦ | 29 | ... | 1.9 | 14.5 |
| 249.57 | Anglo-Eastern | 632 | -10 | 3.7 | 6.2 |
| 147.31 | Animalcare♦‡ | 244 | +9 | 2.1 | ... |
| 18,579.06 | **AB Foods** | 2506 | +2 | 2.1 | 16.2 |
| 885.28 | Bakkavor Group | 154 | -2 | 4.7 | 16.7 |
| 686.97 | Barr (AG) | 619 | -8 | 2.4 | 18.0 |
| 2.93 | Bidstack Group♦# | ⅛ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 8.10 | Brand Architekts♦ | 29 | ... | | -1.4 |
| 56,766.87 | **Brit Amer Tob**‡ | 2565 | +58 | 9.1 | -3.9 |
| 3,121.22 | Britvic | 1265 | +3 | 2.5 | 24.8 |
| 2,501.48 | **Burberry**‡ | 697½ | -189 | 8.1 | 9.4 |
| 597.16 | C&C Grp‡ | 155⅜ | -8 | 3.1 | -9.2 |
| 5.86 | Capital Metals♦ | 1⅝ | ... | | -9.8 |
| 134.08 | Carr's Grp | 142 | -½ | 4.3 | ... |
| 56.53 | Character Grp♦‡ | 303 | +7 | 6.2 | 10.7 |
| 128.67 | Churchill China♦ | 1170 | -45 | 3.0 | 16.6 |
| 10,029.47 | **Coca Cola HBC** | 2756 | +34 | 2.8 | 18.3 |
| 53.53 | Colefax♦ | 860 | -20 | 0.6 | 10.0 |
| 2,414.72 | Cranswick‡ | 4500 | -115 | 2.0 | 19.1 |
| 562.20 | Devro | 329 | +½ | ... | 17.8 |
| 55,292.78 | **Diageo** | 2490½ | -49 | 3.2 | 16.9 |
| 4.07 | Distil♦ | ⅜ | ... | | -5.6 |
| 452.36 | Evans (M.P.)♦ | 854 | -12 | 5.1 | 11.2 |
| 143.42 | Finsbury Food♦ | 110 | +½ | ... | 13.1 |
| 3,357.80 | Games Workshop | 10190 | -490 | 4.1 | 24.0 |
| 3,975.18 | Glanbia | 1529⅜ | -5 | 1.9 | 15.1 |
| 810.32 | Greencore | 177 | -1½ | | 16.8 |
| 113.70 | Headlam | 140¾ | -1¼ | 6.9 | 14.6 |
| 812.69 | Hilton Food | 907 | -3 | 3.4 | 22.5 |
| 41.61 | Hornby♦ | 24½ | +4½ | | -4.7 |
| 16,460.74 | **Imperial Brands** | 2093 | +8 | 7.0 | 8.3 |
| 2.62 | J Lewis Hford♦ | 1¼ | +⅛ | ... | 7.9 |
| 11,332.06 | Kerry Gp | 6601½ | +193⅞ | 1.4 | 18.5 |
| 229.93 | McBride | 132½ | -6½ | | 13.1 |
| 58.58 | Mulberry Group♦ | 97½ | -5 | 1.0 | 31.5 |
| 370.78 | Nichols♦ | 1015 | -35 | 2.7 | 20.1 |
| 219.59 | Norcros‡ | 245 | +7 | 4.2 | 14.6 |
| 279.26 | Origin Ents♦ | 261¼ | -8⅜ | 5.2 | 8.2 |
| 0.77 | Pittards♦# | 5⅜ | -1 | ... | 2.5 |
| 32.68 | Portmeirion♦ | 237½ | +20 | 2.3 | -3.8 |
| 12.45 | Provexis♦ | ½ | ... | | ... |
| 431.29 | PZ Cussons | 103 | -1⅛ | 4.8 | ... |
| 38.24 | REA | 87¼ | -½ | | -3.4 |
| 1.44 | Real Gd Fd♦# | 1⅜ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 8.89 | Tandem♦ | 162½ | ... | | -7.1 |
| 277.20 | Treatt‡ | 456½ | +17 | 1.7 | 24.6 |
| 1.33 | Ukrproduct Gp♦ | 3¼ | ... | | 27.9 |
| ... | Unilever (NV) | ... | ... | 3.1 | ... |
| 112,027.81 | **Unilever** | 4495 | +61 | 3.2 | 20.2 |
| 176.13 | Victoria♦ | 155 | -12 | | -1.1 |

## Engineering

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0.31 | Ass Br Eng# | 15 | ... | | -6.2 |
| 383.36 | Avon Rubber | 1278 | -16 | 1.8 | ... |
| 2,505.74 | Babcock | 495½ | -36⅜ | 0.3 | 78.6 |
| 38,481.17 | **BAE** | 1270 | +2 | 2.3 | 21.0 |
| 14.40 | Braime A N/V♦ | 1000 | ... | 1.4 | 6.3 |
| 28.80 | Braime Group♦ | 2000 | ... | 0.7 | 12.6 |
| 12.54 | Caffyns‡ | 460 | ... | 2.1 | 9.7 |
| 11.49 | Cap XX Ld♦ | ⅜ | ... | | -0.7 |
| 163.40 | Castings‡ | 376 | +2 | 5.0 | 10.6 |
| 2.06 | Chamberlin♦# | 1⅛ | ... | ... | 5.0 |
| 27.54 | Checkit♦ | 25½ | +½ | | -6.0 |
| 329.94 | Cohort♦ | 820 | +10 | 1.6 | 25.1 |
| 112.50 | Crestchic Plc♦ | 399 | ... | ... | ... |
| 100.55 | Dewhurst♦‡ | 1300 | ... | 1.2 | 20.8 |
| 87.26 | Dialight | 218 | +11 | | ... |
| 1,843.36 | Electrolux 'B' | 670½ | +18¼ | ... | -4.1 |
| 8.07 | Feedback♦ | 60½ | -2 | | -2.3 |
| 117.69 | Gooch Hsego♦‡ | 470 | -4 | 2.7 | 92.1 |
| 606.78 | Goodwin | 8080 | +40 | 1.4 | 38.7 |
| 9,772.94 | **Halma**‡ | 2591 | -80 | 0.8 | 41.2 |
| 1,738.78 | Hill & Smith | 2165 | +40 | 1.9 | 25.4 |
| 2.13 | Holders Tech♦ | 50½ | ... | ... | -3.9 |
| 2.53 | Image Scan♦ | 1¾ | ... | | ... |
| 4,722.18 | **IMI** | 1818 | -35 | 1.5 | 19.9 |
| 0.74 | Inspirit Energy♦ | ... | ... | | -1.8 |
| 763.75 | Judges Scientific♦ | 11500 | +500 | 0.8 | 80.1 |
| 8.99 | LPA♦ | 66½ | +1 | 1.5 | ... |
| 7,220.89 | **Melrose** | 548¾ | -38 | 0.9 | ... |
| 927.67 | Morgan Advanced | 326 | -5 | 3.6 | 20.0 |
| 102.37 | Mpac♦ | 500 | -2 | | 38.1 |
| 184.71 | MS Intl♦‡ | 1150 | +20 | 1.7 | 27.5 |
| 1,410.36 | Oxford Inst‡ | 2435 | -150 | 0.8 | 23.6 |
| ... | Philips El nv | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 0.65 | PipeHawk♦ | 1¾ | -⅜ | | -0.4 |
| 13.73 | Pressure Tech♦ | 35½ | -½ | | ... |
| 2,639.72 | Renishaw | 3630 | -165 | 2.0 | 27.1 |
| 115.87 | Renold♦ | 55⅜ | -7½ | | 7.5 |
| 37,940.35 | **Rolls-Royce** | 446 | -3⅞ | | 15.5 |
| 1.63 | Ross Gp# | ⅝ | ... | | -1.6 |
| 2,989.92 | Rotork | 350½ | +3½ | 2.0 | 26.5 |
| 71.09 | SDI Group♦ | 68 | -1½ | | 43.8 |
| 666.03 | Senior | 161⅜ | -5¾ | 1.4 | 22.0 |
| 249.13 | Severfield | 81¾ | +1 | 4.2 | 15.9 |
| 3.39 | Six Hundred♦# | 2⅝ | ... | ... | 15.5 |
| 6,144.55 | SKF B | 1442 | -125⅛ | ... | 14.2 |
| 3.26 | Slingsby (HC)♦ | 310 | ... | | 13.9 |
| 5,894.97 | **Smiths** | 1716 | -64 | 2.4 | 25.8 |
| 171.11 | Solid State♦ | 1505 | +40 | 1.3 | 22.8 |
| 189.90 | Somero Enter♦ | 345 | +10 | 7.1 | 8.8 |
| 3,095.69 | Spectris | 3076 | +22 | 2.5 | 22.0 |
| 6,222.25 | **Spirax-Sarco** | 8450 | -500 | 1.7 | 33.9 |
| 26.37 | Surface Trsfms♦ | 2 | +⅝ | | -0.6 |
| 6.53 | Tanfield♦ | 4 | ... | | ... |
| 419.65 | Thorpe FW♦ | 357½ | +12½ | 1.8 | 18.9 |
| 17.14 | TP Group♦ | 2⅛ | ... | ... | -3.3 |
| 22.07 | Transense Tech♦ | 145 | +17½ | | 13.6 |
| 2,513.35 | Ultra Electrncs | 3500 | +8 | ... | 37.4 |
| 1,238.40 | Vesuvius | 470½ | -5½ | 4.8 | 10.7 |
| 641.93 | Volex♦ | 355½ | +1 | 1.1 | 20.9 |
| 4,971.57 | **Weir** | 1915 | -89 | 1.9 | 21.7 |
| 343.39 | XP Power | 1450 | -76 | 1.2 | ... |
| 5.89 | Zytronic♦ | 58 | ... | | -4.5 |

## Health

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,810.87 | Abcam♦ | 1226 | -41 | ... | ... |
| 507.13 | AdvancedMedical♦ | 236½ | +9½ | 1.0 | 32.6 |
| 266.92 | Allergy Therap♦ | 5½ | ... | | -0.9 |
| 48.40 | Angle♦ | 15 | -¼ | | -1.7 |
| 50.74 | Anpario♦‡ | 300 | -25 | 3.5 | 22.3 |
| 187,675.45 | **AstraZeneca** | 12106 | -154 | 1.8 | 37.7 |
| 5,108.08 | **Convatec** | 249⅛ | +3¾ | 1.9 | 50.4 |
| 18.13 | Creighton | 26½ | +8 | | 16.8 |
| 4,403.60 | Dechra Pharma | 3866 | +4 | ... | 57.7 |
| 2.84 | Deltex Medical♦ | ⅛ | ... | | -1.3 |
| 52.59 | e-Therapeutics♦ | 9 | -¾ | ... | -5.0 |
| 77.23 | Eco Animal Hlth♦ | 114 | -13 | | ... |
| 141.56 | EKF Diagnostics♦ | 31⅛ | ... | 3.9 | 60.0 |
| 104.60 | Futura Medical♦ | 34⅝ | -2 | | ... |
| 1,089.54 | Genus | 1650 | -198 | 1.8 | 32.6 |
| 62,089.74 | **GSK** | 1522½ | +5½ | 3.8 | 13.9 |
| 0.70 | Gunsynd♦ | ⅛ | ... | | -0.3 |
| 30,940.24 | **Haleon** | 338¾ | +1¾ | 1.7 | 28.9 |
| 4,142.60 | **Hikma Pharms** | 1867 | +30 | 3.0 | 28.0 |
| 2,501.48 | Hutchmed China♦ | 293 | -4 | | 31.1 |
| 7.86 | ImmuPharma♦ | 1⅞ | -⅛ | | -2.0 |
| 1,061.79 | Indivior | 793 | -21½ | | ... |
| 12.28 | Inspiration Health♦ | 18 | +½ | 3.4 | ... |
| 3.38 | IXICO♦ | 7 | ... | | -1.8 |

# Equity prices Business

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3,693.59 | Mediclinic | 501 | + 1 | ... | 31.3 |
| 1.78 | N4 Pharma♦ | ⅜ | ... | | -0.8 |
| 282.41 | NIOX Group♦ | 66½ | - ⅛ | 1.4 | 31.5 |
| 179,743.23 | Novartis | 8207⅝ | - 510½ | 3.4 | 23.5 |
| 5.23 | Omega Diags♦ | 2⅛ | ... | | -1.6 |
| 0.88 | Ovoca Bio♦ | 1 | + ⅛ | | -0.4 |
| 355.93 | Oxford Biomedica | 338 | - 6½ | | -2.0 |
| 1.47 | Physiomics♦ | ⅝ | ... | | -1.8 |
| 10.07 | Proteome Scies♦ | 3⅜ | ... | | -4.1 |
| 30,649.60 | **Reckitt Benckiser** | 4391 | + 28 | 4.3 | 19.3 |
| 6.83 | RUA Life Sciences♦ | 11 | + ⅛ | | -1.3 |
| 37.24 | Sareum Hldgs♦ | 34½ | ... | | -5.5 |
| 9,517.34 | **Smith & Neph** | 1091½ | - 8½ | 2.7 | 46.2 |
| 989.36 | Spire Hcare | 245 | + 5 | 0.8 | 37.1 |
| 9.35 | Synairgen♦ | 4⅝ | - ⅛ | | -0.9 |
| 49.15 | Tissue Regenix♦ | 69 | - 2½ | | ... |
| 20.64 | Totally♦ | 10½ | + 1¾ | 1.1 | ... |
| 214.00 | Tristel♦ | 450 | ... | 2.9 | 35.9 |
| 3.24 | ValiRx♦ | 2⅜ | - ¼ | | -1.2 |

## Industrials

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 131.63 | Accsys Tech♦ | 55 | ... | | -2.4 |
| 33,181.13 | BASF | 3717⅝ | - 47⅛ | ... | ... |
| 21,750.86 | Bayer DM50 | 2214 | - 56⅞ | ... | -8.1 |
| 1.23 | Biome Tech♦ | 32½ | ... | | -0.7 |
| 0.45 | Byotrol♦ | ... | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 4.98 | Camb Gbl Timber♦ | 6¾ | ... | ... | -9.0 |
| 1,394.32 | Coats Grp | 87½ | + ¼ | 2.5 | 21.7 |
| 5,623.12 | **Croda** | 4027 | - 47 | 2.6 | 32.9 |
| 28.86 | Cropper (James)♦ | 302 | + 4 | 2.3 | 8.8 |
| 864.83 | Elementis | 146¾ | - 4½ | 1.1 | 39.8 |
| 6.08 | Hardide♦ | 7¾ | ... | | -3.1 |
| 3,075.83 | Johnson Math‡ | 1686 | - 6 | 4.5 | 17.4 |
| 6,910.30 | **Mondi** | 1567½ | - 18½ | 3.9 | 15.8 |
| 19.27 | Robinson♦ | 115 | + 5 | 4.7 | ... |
| 6,173.55 | **DS Smith** | 447⅜ | + 26½ | 4.0 | 13.3 |
| 5,704.10 | Swire Pacific | 687⅜ | - 13⅜ | ... | 3.4 |
| 5.06 | Symph Environ♦ | 2¼ | ... | | -1.6 |
| 436.72 | Synthomer | 267 | - 7½ | | -2.2 |
| 33,114.75 | Takeda Pharm | 2081⅜ | - 40¼ | ... | 33.2 |
| 4.51 | Velocys♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 957.38 | Victrex | 1100 | - 46 | 5.3 | 15.6 |
| 80.48 | Wynnstay Group♦ | 350 | - 5 | 4.9 | 11.5 |
| 242.52 | Zotefoams | 499 | + 19 | 1.5 | 26.9 |

## Leisure

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 383.53 | 888 Hldgs | 85⅜ | - 2 | | -6.7 |
| 288.26 | Accesso Tech♦ | 710 | + 10 | | 48.4 |
| 44.85 | Best of the Best♦ | 530 | ... | ... | 5.9 |
| 16,421.89 | Carnival | 1296 | + 2 | | 51.2 |
| 163.49 | Celtic♦ | 172½ | - 2½ | | 23.2 |
| 1,284.62 | Domino's Pizza | 320 | - 4 | 3.2 | 11.4 |
| 4,116.17 | **Entain** | 644⅛ | - 32⅛ | 2.6 | -4.5 |
| 27,300.82 | Flutter Ent | 15365 | - 560 | | ... |
| 108.79 | Gaming Realms♦ | 36⅞ | + ⅞ | | 18.8 |
| 12.90 | Heavitree♦‡ | 265 | ... | 2.1 | 8.5 |
| 7.79 | Heavitree A♦‡ | 160 | ... | 3.5 | 5.1 |
| 1.22 | Hermes Pacific♦ | 52½ | ... | | ... |
| 13,253.55 | **InterContinental Hotels** | 8216 | - 100 | 1.5 | 23.7 |
| 4.86 | Minoan Gp♦ | ½ | ... | | -8.2 |
| 1,766.41 | Mitch & Butlers | 297½ | - 4½ | | 40.2 |
| 247.47 | On The Beach | 148⅛ | + 1⅜ | 0.6 | 15.7 |
| 326.03 | Rank Grp | 69½ | - 3 | | -3.4 |
| 499.23 | Restaurant Gp | 64¾ | ... | ... | ... |
| 19.54 | Rotala♦ | 63 | ... | ... | ... |
| 8.40 | Sportech♦ | 84 | + 16 | ... | ... |
| 1,451.66 | SSP | 181¾ | + 4⅜ | 2.0 | ... |
| 2.16 | Tasty♦ | 1⅜ | ... | | -0.2 |
| 5.76 | Tintra♦# | 32½ | - 12½ | ... | -1.7 |
| 2,859.37 | Tui | 563½ | - 10 | ... | 3.1 |
| 5.51 | Webis Holdings♦ | 1⅜ | ... | | -7.1 |
| 922.22 | Wetherspoon JD | 746 | - 26 | | 23.1 |
| 5,192.68 | **Whitbread** | 2897 | - 36 | 3.3 | 18.1 |
| 610.08 | Young & Co - A♦‡ | 988 | - 10 | 2.1 | 20.6 |
| 435.95 | Young & Co - N/V♦‡ | 706 | + 2 | 3.1 | 14.7 |

## Media

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5.58 | Aeorema Comms♦ | 58½ | ... | 5.1 | 20.3 |
| 31.02 | Altitude Group♦ | 42¾ | - ⅛ | | 59.4 |
| 11.83 | Arcontech Grp♦ | 88½ | - 2½ | 3.9 | 10.3 |
| 746.11 | Ascential | 370⅜ | + 20⅛ | | ... |
| 7,174.32 | **Auto Trader** | 802⅛ | - 20 | 1.1 | 31.6 |
| 566.81 | Bloomsbury Pub | 696 | - 14 | 1.9 | 26.8 |
| 0.79 | Bonhill Group♦ | ⅝ | + ⅛ | ... | -1.5 |
| 17.88 | Catalyst Media♦ | 85 | ... | 31.7 | 5.8 |
| 0.31 | Catenae♦ | ½ | ... | | -0.2 |
| 2.54 | DCD Media♦# | 100 | - 50 | ... | 5.0 |
| 52.59 | Ebiquity♦ | 38½ | - ½ | | ... |
| 1,196.74 | Future | 1050 | - 32 | 0.3 | 13.7 |
| 1,743.05 | GlobalData♦ | 216½ | + 1 | 2.1 | 56.9 |
| 351.72 | Hyve Group | 120½ | ... | ... | ... |
| 201.47 | IG Design Grp♦ | 205 | + 4 | | -9.1 |
| 11,213.80 | **Informa** | 843⅛ | - 13⅜ | 2.1 | 28.2 |
| 3,324.40 | ITV | 84 | + ¾ | 5.9 | 16.1 |
| 1.35 | Jaywing♦ | 1⅜ | ... | | ... |
| 0.78 | Live Company Gp♦# | ¼ | - ⅛ | | ... |
| 692.92 | ME Group | 184 | + 2⅛ | 4.0 | 13.8 |
| 1.44 | Mediazest♦ | ... | ... | | -2.1 |
| 17.37 | Merit Grp♦ | 72½ | - 13½ | | -6.2 |
| 0.14 | Mirada♦ | 1½ | - 1⅜ | ... | ... |
| 23.62 | Mission Group♦ | 26 | + ½ | 6.4 | -2.0 |
| 1,223.11 | Moneysupermarket | 227½ | - 4⅛ | 5.1 | 16.8 |
| 8,080.80 | News Corp A | 2130⅞ | - 16⅝ | ... | 72.7 |
| 4,192.62 | News Corp B | 2198⅝ | + 2¼ | ... | 75.0 |
| 837.00 | Next 15 Group♦‡ | 832 | + 10 | 1.8 | 32.3 |
| 6,790.42 | **Pearson** | 1019 | + 5½ | 2.2 | 19.3 |
| 4.54 | Primorus Inv♦ | 3¼ | ... | | -1.9 |
| 57.24 | Quarto | 140 | + 10 | ... | 5.3 |
| 320.59 | Reach | 100¾ | + ½ | 7.3 | 14.8 |
| 16.00 | REACT Grp♦ | 74¼ | + ¼ | | ... |
| 64,592.38 | **Relx** | 3470 | - 106 | 1.6 | 36.8 |
| 4,531.62 | **Rightmove** | 572⅛ | - 10⅛ | 1.6 | 23.4 |
| 1.57 | SpaceandPeople♦ | 82½ | ... | | 11.6 |
| 122.30 | STV Group | 268½ | - 1½ | 4.2 | 28.5 |
| 91.36 | System1 Group♦ | 720 | - 10 | | 73.4 |
| 6,610.65 | 21st Cent Fox Inc A | 2859⅞ | + 93⅝ | ... | 11.4 |
| 6,266.81 | 21st Cent Fox Inc B | 2660⅛ | + 78⅛ | ... | 10.6 |
| 1.49 | Vela Tech♦ | ... | ... | | 4.5 |
| 331.41 | Wilmington | 370 | + 5 | 2.9 | 18.2 |
| 8,020.79 | **WPP** | 744 | + 9½ | 5.2 | 73.6 |
| 16.50 | Zinc Media♦ | 72½ | ... | | -8.0 |

## Natural resources

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2.67 | ADM Energy♦# | ⅜ | ... | | -0.7 |
| 2.67 | Advance Energy♦# | ⅛ | ... | | -0.1 |
| 138.32 | AFC Energy♦ | 16⅛ | - 1¾ | | -6.8 |
| 123.93 | Afentra PLC♦ | 54¾ | - 2⅜ | | ... |
| 3.33 | Alba Mineral Res♦ | ... | ... | | ... |
| 9.05 | Alien Metals♦ | ⅛ | ... | | 2.5 |
| 2,270.71 | Alumina | 78¼ | - 9 | ... | ... |
| 65.82 | Aminex | 1½ | ... | | ... |
| 1.25 | Amur Mins Corp♦# | ... | - 14¼ | | ... |
| 6,862.93 | Anglo Amer Plat | 2586⅞ | + 2560⅜ | 3.5 | 12.1 |
| 27,228.98 | **Anglo American** | 2246 | - 150 | 3.3 | ... |
| 102.25 | Anglo Asian Mng♦ | 89½ | + 2½ | 3.4 | -5.4 |
| 18,948.17 | **Antofagasta** | 1922 | - 303 | 1.5 | 28.9 |
| 24.94 | Arc Minerals♦ | 1⅝ | + ¼ | | -6.8 |
| 46.77 | Ariana Res♦ | 2½ | + ¼ | | 17.0 |
| 1.41 | Arkle Resources♦ | ¼ | ... | | -2.6 |
| 2.06 | Armadale Cap♦ | ¼ | ... | | 8.7 |
| 22.70 | Asiamet Rsrcs♦ | ⅞ | ... | | -4.8 |
| 523.62 | Atalaya Mine‡ | 372 | - 62½ | 1.8 | 21.3 |
| 20.92 | Baron Oil♦ | ... | ... | | -9.1 |
| 10.29 | Beowulf Mining♦ | 26½ | - 7 | | -2.5 |
| 2.62 | Bezant Res♦ | ... | ... | | 1.1 |
| 109,037.91 | BHP Group | 2150 | - 138 | 5.5 | 18.8 |
| 18.34 | Border & Sthn Pet♦ | 2½ | ... | | ... |
| 97.69 | Bougainville | 24¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 4.24 | BowLeven♦ | ⅛ | ... | | -0.4 |
| 75,608.49 | **BP** | 457¼ | + 3¾ | 4.9 | 6.7 |
| 5.45 | Cadence Min♦ | 2¾ | + ⅛ | | -2.0 |
| 5.25 | Cadogan Petrol | 2⅛ | ... | | 5.4 |
| 169.92 | Caledonia Mining♦‡ | 885 | + 70 | 5.0 | ... |
| 112.75 | Caspian Sunrise♦ | 5 | + 1¾ | | ... |
| 1,528.28 | Centamin | 131⅝ | + 1⅞ | 2.3 | 21.4 |
| 342.03 | Cent Asia Metals♦ | 196½ | - 3⅜ | 9.3 | 12.7 |
| 1.45 | Chaarat Gold♦ | ⅛ | - ⅝ | | -0.1 |
| 77.06 | Chariot Oil & Gas♦ | 7⅛ | - ½ | | -4.5 |
| 4.97 | China Nonferr Gold♦# | 1¼ | ... | ... | ... |
| 7.55 | Clontarf Energy♦ | ... | ... | | 1.5 |
| 48.04 | Condor Gld♦ | 23½ | + ¼ | | ... |
| 3.32 | Corcel♦ | ⅛ | ... | | -0.9 |
| 661.51 | DRD Gold | 76½ | + 75¾ | 4.6 | 9.0 |
| 5.39 | ECR Minerals♦ | ¼ | ... | | -1.9 |
| 3.84 | Empyrean Energy♦ | ¼ | ... | | 0.8 |
| 4,355.04 | **Endeavour** | 1779 | - 32 | 3.6 | ... |
| 250.64 | EnQuest | 13⅛ | ... | | -1.1 |
| 66.03 | Eurasia Mining♦# | 2¼ | ... | | -4.5 |
| 11.03 | Europa Oil&Gas♦ | 1⅛ | ... | | ... |
| 326.58 | Ferrexpo | 54½ | - 4⅝ | | -4.8 |
| 4,539.26 | **Fresnillo** | 616 | - 4 | 0.7 | 24.7 |
| 43.86 | G3 Exploration# | 28 | ... | | -2.6 |
| 10.33 | Galantas Gold♦ | 9 | ... | | -1.9 |
| 13.82 | GCM Resources♦ | 5 | - ¼ | | -8.3 |
| 17.67 | Gem Diamonds | 12⅝ | - ⅛ | | ... |
| 1.92 | Getech♦ | 2¾ | ... | | -0.4 |
| 53,717.15 | **Glencore** | 441⅞ | - 36⅜ | 5.0 | 16.5 |
| 1.23 | Global Petrol♦ | ... | ... | | -0.7 |
| 11,437.00 | Gold Fields | 1277¾ | + 1265⅜ | 2.4 | 20.6 |
| 11.07 | Goldplat♦ | 6½ | + ⅛ | | 4.9 |
| 10.01 | Goldstone Res♦ | 1½ | ... | | -2.1 |
| 402.14 | Greatld Gld♦ | 7⅞ | + ⅜ | | ... |
| 273.83 | Griffin Mining♦ | 149 | - 1 | | 23.8 |
| 297.06 | Gulf Keystone‡ | 136½ | - 6⅝ | 3.8 | ... |
| 14.49 | Harland & Wolff Gp♦# | 8⅜ | - ⅞ | | -0.1 |
| 940.43 | Hochschild | 182¾ | - 7 | | ... |
| 0.88 | Horizonte Minrls♦# | ¼ | ... | ... | -0.1 |
| 703.47 | Hunting PLC | 426½ | + 15 | 1.8 | 7.7 |
| 0.87 | Independ Res♦ | ... | ... | | ... |
| 14.27 | Indus Gas♦ | 7¾ | ... | | 0.5 |
| 1.97 | Ironveld♦ | ... | ... | | -5.0 |
| 323.91 | ITM Power♦ | 52½ | - 13 | | -5.1 |
| 198.37 | Jubilee Metals♦ | 6½ | - ¼ | | 13.7 |
| 2.19 | Karel Diamd Res♦ | 1⅝ | ... | | -7.3 |
| 41.20 | KEFI Gold and Copper♦ | ⅝ | ... | | -4.0 |
| 291.33 | Kenmare Res | 326½ | - 3½ | 13.6 | 3.0 |
| 37.60 | Lamprell# | 8⅞ | ... | ... | -0.7 |
| 14.47 | Landore Res♦ | 4⅝ | + ⅝ | | -2.2 |
| 1.23 | Lansdowne O&G♦# | ... | ... | | ... |
| 1.78 | Leeds Group♦ | 6½ | - 1½ | | -1.9 |
| 13.56 | Lexington Gold♦ | 3⅜ | + ⅜ | | ... |
| 31.57 | MC Mining♦ | 7⅝ | + ⅛ | ... | -4.0 |
| 97.43 | Metals Explorn♦ | 4½ | + ⅛ | | 1.0 |
| 1.02 | Nostra Terra♦ | ... | ... | | -3.7 |
| 9.39 | Nostrum O&G | 5½ | + 1 | | ... |
| 4,549.45 | Oil Search | 218⅞ | + 5⅜ | ... | 60.3 |
| 13.60 | Oilex♦# | ⅛ | ... | | 0.1 |
| 12.35 | Oriole Resources♦ | ¼ | ... | | -4.5 |
| 3.54 | Ormonde Mining♦# | ¾ | ... | ... | -3.4 |
| 7.92 | Orosur Mining♦ | 3¾ | + ⅛ | | -7.1 |
| 505.00 | Pan African Res♦ | 26¼ | - ⅜ | 2.8 | 8.6 |
| 189.30 | Pantheon Res♦ | 19⅝ | - 1⅝ | | ... |
| 14.20 | Parkmead Grp♦ | 13 | + ¾ | | -0.5 |
| 2.91 | Pathfinder Mins♦# | ¼ | ... | | -3.4 |
| 67.78 | Petra Diamonds | 34⅞ | + ½ | | -0.9 |
| 1.75 | Petrel Resources♦ | ⅞ | ... | | -5.7 |
| 42.66 | Petro Matad♦ | 2⅞ | + ⅛ | | ... |
| 67.35 | Petrofac | 12¾ | + ⅜ | | -0.1 |
| 0.91 | Petroneft Res♦# | ... | ... | ... | -0.2 |
| 181.13 | Phoenix Global♦ | 6½ | - ½ | ... | -1.6 |
| 12.91 | Plexus Holdings♦ | 12¼ | - ½ | | 49.0 |
| 1,018.30 | Polymetal Intl# | 215 | ... | ... | 2.4 |
| 307.29 | Porvair‡ | 670 | + 28 | 0.9 | 19.2 |
| 27.60 | Prospex Energy♦ | 8¼ | + ¾ | | ... |
| 33.24 | Proton Motor Power S♦ | 2 | - ⅛ | | -1.8 |
| 34.84 | Providence Res♦ | 3¼ | - ⅛ | ... | 29.0 |
| 34.09 | Quadrise♦ | 1⅞ | ... | | ... |
| 8.71 | Rambler Met&Min♦# | 5⅜ | ... | ... | 0.1 |
| 6.83 | Reabold Resources♦ | ... | ... | | -0.8 |
| 2.25 | Red Rock Res♦ | ... | ... | | -0.3 |
| 21,929.62 | Rio Tinto Ltd | 5907½ | - 291¾ | ... | 12.2 |
| 79,826.07 | **Rio Tinto** | 4916 | - 344 | 6.8 | 10.1 |
| 74.24 | San Leon Energy♦# | 16½ | + 4 | ... | 6.1 |
| 2.25 | Scirocco Energy♦ | ¼ | ... | ... | -1.3 |
| 52.64 | Serabi Gold♦ | 69½ | + 3½ | | 7.6 |
| 509.94 | Serica Energy♦‡ | 130½ | - 5⅜ | 17.3 | 4.8 |
| 155.20 | Shanta Gold♦ | 14¾ | ... | ... | 14.6 |
| 174,991.02 | **Shell** | 2793½ | - 19 | 3.7 | 12.9 |
| 4.67 | Shuka Minerals♦ | 7¾ | - ¼ | | -1.1 |
| 20.02 | Sound Energy♦ | ⅞ | ... | | -2.5 |
| 10.01 | Star Energy♦ | 7⅝ | + ⅛ | | -2.2 |
| 2.74 | Sunrise Resources♦ | ... | ... | | -7.1 |
| 3.09 | Tertiary Minerals♦ | ... | ... | | -6.0 |
| 3.75 | Thor Mining♦ | ⅞ | ... | | -0.9 |
| 122,781.47 | Total Eng SE | 5324⅛ | - 147½ | 4.8 | 7.5 |
| 2.14 | Tower Resources♦ | ... | ... | | -0.5 |
| 467.43 | Tullow Oil | 32 | - ⅞ | | -5.3 |
| 0.67 | UK Oil & Gas♦ | ... | ... | | ... |
| 0.82 | URU Metals♦ | 50 | ... | | -1.0 |
| 1.27 | Vast Res♦ | ... | ... | | ... |
| 9.99 | Victoria Oil&Gas♦# | 3¾ | - ⅛ | ... | -1.8 |
| 3.89 | W Resources♦# | 2⅝ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 2.02 | Westmount Engy♦ | 1⅜ | ... | | -0.3 |
| 1,420.35 | Wood Grp (J) | 206½ | + 7⅝ | | ... |
| 14.01 | Woodbois♦ | ¼ | ... | | 1.3 |
| 7.71 | Xtract Resources♦ | ⅞ | ... | | -6.1 |
| 88.41 | Zephyr Energy♦ | 5 | + ¼ | | ... |

## Professional & support services

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1,669.95 | 4imprint Grp | 5930 | - 280 | 2.7 | 26.5 |
| 228.13 | Andrews Sykes♦ | 545 | - 12½ | 4.6 | 12.9 |
| 23,056.99 | **Ashtead** | 5284 | + 62 | 1.4 | 18.2 |
| 1.26 | Asimilar Group♦ | 1 | - ¼ | ... | ... |
| 49.87 | AssetCo♦ | 35 | - 1 | | -3.8 |
| 78.70 | Avisen♦ | 71 | ... | | ... |
| 164.51 | Begbies Traynor♦ | 104 | + 2½ | 3.7 | ... |
| 174.54 | Blancco Tech♦ | 225 | + 3 | ... | 80.6 |
| 10,821.07 | **Bunzl** | 3220 | + 32 | 2.1 | 20.6 |
| 346.90 | Capita | 20½ | + ⅝ | | -1.9 |
| 4.10 | CEPS♦ | 19½ | ... | | 6.3 |
| 30.51 | Christie Group♦ | 115 | - 6 | 0.8 | -7.7 |
| 37,329.99 | **Compass**‡ | 2195 | ... | 2.0 | 28.0 |
| 14.47 | CPPGroup♦ | 163½ | + 2½ | | -1.6 |
| 9.95 | Croma Security♦ | 72½ | + ½ | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| 5,339.25 | **DCC** | 5400 | - 250 | 3.6 | 17.8 |
| 190.84 | De La Rue | 97⅜ | + ⅜ | | -4.3 |
| 5,722.85 | **Diploma** | 4270 | - 38 | 1.3 | 49.4 |
| 705.17 | Discoverie‡ | 735 | - 14 | 1.6 | 32.6 |
| 13.75 | Driver Group♦ | 26 | + ½ | 5.7 | ... |
| 469.26 | Essentra | 163 | - 2 | 2.2 | 81.5 |
| 31,935.94 | **Experian**‡ | 3497 | - 211 | 1.3 | 38.0 |
| 32,293.96 | Ferguson‡ | 16030 | + 470 | 1.5 | 21.9 |
| 30.30 | FIH Group♦ | 242 | - 18 | 2.7 | 15.1 |
| 183.72 | Hargeaves Serv♦ | 560 | - 10 | 4.2 | 14.6 |
| 389.32 | Impellam Grp♦ | 875 | + 32½ | ... | 25.0 |
| 18.90 | Ince G♦# | 5⅛ | ... | ... | 2.9 |
| 7,472.50 | **Intertek** | 4638 | - 222 | 2.3 | 25.2 |
| 1,749.76 | IWG | 172⅞ | - 2 | 0.5 | -8.0 |
| 664.87 | Johnson Srvce♦ | 160⅜ | - 2⅜ | 1.7 | 25.0 |
| 37.64 | Journeo♦ | 228½ | - 3½ | | 12.7 |
| 709.85 | Kier Gp | 157 | + 5½ | 1.0 | 17.4 |
| 273.17 | Latham (J)♦ | 1355 | + 30 | 2.0 | 9.3 |
| 355.09 | Lok'n Store♦ | 1100 | ... | 1.2 | 87.7 |
| 465.88 | Lon Security♦ | 3800 | + 150 | 3.2 | 20.0 |
| 352.12 | LSL Prop Services | 339 | + 4 | 3.4 | 43.4 |
| 208.28 | Macfarlane | 130½ | + 2½ | 2.7 | 13.9 |
| 34.90 | Maintel Hldgs♦ | 243 | - 2 | | -6.5 |
| 5.13 | Malvern Intl♦ | 21 | ... | | ... |
| 357.04 | Mears Group | 371½ | - 12½ | 3.4 | 11.6 |
| 1,513.31 | Mitie Gp‡ | 120⅜ | - ¾ | 3.2 | 17.4 |
| 2.87 | MobilityOne♦# | 2⅝ | - 1⅜ | | -9.1 |
| 8.91 | Newmark Sec♦ | 95 | - 2½ | | ... |
| 4.52 | Norm Broadbent♦ | 6¾ | ... | | 17.3 |
| 8.25 | Northern Bear♦ | 60 | - 1½ | 6.6 | 6.5 |
| 85.78 | NWF Grp♦ | 173½ | + 6 | 4.5 | 6.6 |
| 1,286.32 | PageGroup | 410 | - 12½ | 3.9 | 16.8 |
| 48.16 | PCI-PAL♦ | 66½ | ... | | ... |
| 4.40 | Petards♦ | 7¼ | ... | | 34.5 |
| 2.57 | PHSC♦ | 25 | ... | 7.0 | 11.4 |
| 51.41 | PowerHouse Egy♦ | 1⅛ | ... | | ... |
| 126.57 | Record‡ | 65¾ | - 1¾ | 6.7 | 12.9 |
| 843.61 | Renew Hldgs♦ | 1066 | - 14 | 1.7 | 17.2 |
| 544.52 | Renewi‡ | 681 | - 17 | 0.7 | 15.0 |
| 11,254.21 | **Rentokil** | 448 | - 15⅞ | 1.9 | 29.7 |
| 360.82 | Restore♦ | 264 | - 3½ | 1.9 | ... |
| 308.59 | Ricardo | 496 | ... | 2.5 | ... |
| 274.96 | Robert Walters | 380 | - 2 | 6.1 | 20.0 |
| 6.46 | Roebuck Food Grp♦ | 13 | ... | | -2.2 |
| 613.30 | RPS Group | 221 | ... | ... | ... |
| 3,775.30 | RS Group‡ | 797 | + 13 | 2.7 | 15.9 |
| 16.81 | RTC Group♦ | 115 | ... | 4.7 | 9.0 |
| 660.01 | RWS Hldgs♦‡ | 179 | - 7⅛ | 6.7 | ... |
| 189.73 | Science Group♦‡ | 415 | - 3 | 1.9 | 34.5 |
| 1,989.53 | Serco | 188 | - ½ | 1.8 | 10.4 |
| 142.73 | Smiths News | 60⅛ | - ½ | 7.4 | 6.4 |
| 9,545.63 | Smurfit Kappa | 3656 | + 126 | 3.6 | 14.4 |
| 68.26 | Software Circle plc♦ | 17½ | - 1 | | -8.3 |
| 54.48 | Staffline Gp♦ | 38¼ | ... | | -7.2 |
| 557.78 | SThree | 419 | - 18½ | 3.8 | 10.1 |
| 33.36 | Synectics♦ | 187½ | - 10 | 1.5 | 14.6 |
| 27.30 | Thruvision Group♦ | 17 | ... | | ... |
| 122.09 | Tribal♦ | 57¼ | - ¾ | 1.1 | 23.8 |
| 38.68 | Vianet♦‡ | 131½ | - 4½ | 0.5 | ... |
| 9.92 | Westminster♦ | 3 | ... | | -6.3 |
| 951.91 | ZIGUP plc | 421½ | - 2½ | 5.8 | 7.3 |

## Real estate

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2,932.85 | Shaftesbury Cap | 150⅜ | + ¾ | 2.1 | 3.3 |

## Retailing

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 666.44 | AO World | 115 | - 2½ | | 23.8 |
| 4,593.79 | **B&M European**‡ | 458 | + 9¾ | 3.1 | 13.2 |
| 94.34 | Brown (N)♦ | 20⅜ | + 1⅜ | | -1.5 |
| 346.86 | Card Factory | 100 | - 1 | 4.4 | 6.9 |
| 751.18 | CVS Group♦ | 1048 | + 8 | 0.7 | 21.1 |
| 276.76 | DFS Furn | 118⅛ | + 7½ | 3.5 | 15.5 |
| 2,440.56 | Dunelm | 1207 | + 77 | 3.5 | 16.3 |
| 3,985.30 | **Frasers Group** | 885 | + 10 | | 7.8 |
| 2,886.09 | Greggs | 2844 | - 58 | 2.1 | 20.4 |
| 317.45 | Halfords | 145 | - 1 | 6.7 | 9.8 |
| 5,132.45 | **Howden Joinery** | 934 | + 4½ | 2.2 | 20.1 |
| 3,434.01 | Inchcape | 833½ | + 13½ | 4.0 | 12.8 |
| 2.77 | IQ-AI | 1¼ | + ⅛ | | -3.6 |
| 6,072.04 | **JD Sports** | 117⅛ | + 1⅜ | 0.7 | 11.2 |
| 5,014.98 | **Kingfisher** | 274⅛ | + 1 | 4.5 | 15.2 |
| 6,449.89 | **Marks & Spencer** | 319¾ | + 10⅛ | 0.9 | 15.3 |
| 26.08 | Mothercare♦ | 4⅝ | - ¼ | | 25.4 |
| 44.92 | Naked Wines♦ | 60⅝ | - ¼ | | -1.5 |
| 10,724.77 | **Next**‡ | 8940 | - 168 | 2.3 | 13.6 |
| 3,102.43 | Ocado | 378 | - 1⅞ | | -9.8 |
| 619.39 | Pendragon | 35½ | ... | | 0.5 |
| 1,411.43 | Pets at Home | 306¾ | - ⅛ | 4.0 | 18.2 |
| 157.96 | Saga | 110¾ | - 3 | | -1.3 |
| 6,363.95 | **Sainsbury's** | 272¾ | + 7½ | 4.8 | 47.8 |
| 1,669.13 | WH Smith‡ | 1275 | + 63 | 2.4 | 26.1 |
| 25.44 | Sosandar♦ | 10¼ | - ¾ | | 93.1 |
| 100.06 | Studio Retail# | 115 | - 6 | | 2.4 |
| 22,350.26 | **Tesco** | 326 | + 7⅝ | 3.7 | 16.6 |
| 84.57 | Topps Tiles | 43 | - 2¼ | 8.7 | ... |

## Technology

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5.56 | Aferian plc♦ | 5 | + ½ | | -0.2 |
| 543.21 | Alfa Financial | 184 | - 2 | 0.6 | 23.2 |
| 32.89 | Allied Minds | 13¾ | + 4¼ | ... | -1.2 |
| 219.24 | Aptitude Software | 385 | + 12 | 1.4 | 54.2 |
| 113.29 | Bango♦ | 147½ | - ½ | | ... |
| 90.73 | BATM Adv Coms | 20¾ | + ½ | | ... |
| 74.67 | Berkeley Res | 16¾ | - 2¾ | | ... |
| 30.00 | Blackbird♦ | 7¾ | + 2 | | ... |
| 100.56 | Celebrus Tech PLC♦‡ | 255 | ... | 1.2 | 27.7 |
| 1.24 | CloudCoCo Group♦ | ⅛ | ... | | -0.5 |
| 3,106.92 | Computacenter | 2722 | - 122 | 2.5 | 15.7 |
| 100.20 | Concurrent Tech♦ | 117 | + 14 | 0.8 | 24.1 |
| 102.53 | Corero♦ | 20⅛ | + ⅝ | | ... |
| 872.38 | Craneware♦ | 2470 | + 150 | 1.1 | ... |
| 11.51 | Crimson Tide♦ | 175 | ... | | ... |
| 26.38 | CyanConn Hldgs♦ | 8⅛ | + ¼ | | ... |
| 1.77 | Dillistone Group♦ | 9 | ... | | ... |
| 3.28 | EQTEC♦ | 1¼ | ... | | -1.6 |
| 445.70 | FDM Group | 408½ | + 14½ | 8.8 | 10.9 |
| 163.88 | Filtronic♦ | 75 | - 2 | | ... |
| 395.07 | First Derivts♦ | 1400 | - 34 | | ... |
| 860.15 | GB Group♦‡ | 341⅛ | - 11⅜ | 1.2 | -4.9 |
| 136.57 | GreshamTech | 162½ | + ½ | 0.4 | 45.7 |
| 45.17 | Ilika♦ | 27 | ... | | -7.4 |
| 18.14 | Ingenta♦‡ | 125 | + 9½ | 3.4 | 7.8 |
| 88.05 | Intercede♦ | 150 | + 1 | | 55.5 |
| 146.06 | Iomart♦ | 130 | + 6¼ | 4.2 | 22.4 |
| 293.85 | IQE♦ | 30⅜ | - 3 | | -9.2 |
| 39.12 | K3 Business Tch♦ | 87½ | - 7½ | | ... |
| 4,823.48 | LG Electronics‡ | 1339¼ | ... | 2.0 | 11.4 |
| 0.01 | Location Sciences♦ | ⅛ | - 134⅛ | | ... |
| 34.84 | MTI Wireless♦ | 40 | + 1 | 6.4 | 10.9 |
| 30.47 | Nanoco Gp | 15⅞ | + ⅜ | | 3.5 |
| 157.49 | Netcall♦ | 95½ | + 2 | 0.8 | 30.3 |
| 9.59 | Northamber♦ | 35 | - 3½ | 1.5 | ... |
| 2.22 | Online Blockchain♦# | 15½ | + 2 | ... | -2.0 |
| 126.84 | Oxford Metrics♦ | 96½ | + ½ | 2.8 | 22.3 |
| 0.85 | Parity♦# | ¾ | ... | | -0.3 |
| 9.94 | Pennant Intl♦ | 23½ | - 1 | | ... |
| 1,675.81 | Playtech | 550 | + 20 | | 18.8 |
| 102.80 | Pulsar Group♦ | 80½ | - ½ | | ... |
| 2,676.38 | QinetiQ | 468½ | + 1½ | 1.6 | 36.6 |
| 66.19 | RM | 79½ | - 4¼ | | -1.3 |
| 10,439.75 | **Sage** | 1045 | - 18½ | 1.8 | 40.5 |
| 189.10 | Seeing Machines♦ | 4½ | ... | | -8.7 |
| 10.13 | Shearwater Grp♦ | 42½ | + 4 | | -1.3 |
| 26.05 | Smartspace S'ware♦ | 90 | ... | ... | -9.4 |
| 3,152.16 | Softcat | 1578 | - 52 | 1.6 | 28.1 |
| 1,019.03 | Spirent Comms | 178⅛ | - 3½ | 1.1 | 53.3 |
| 66.57 | SRT Marine♦ | 29⅞ | + 2⅜ | | -8.3 |
| 15,766.35 | Tele. Ericsson | 510¾ | - 3⅜ | ... | -9.0 |
| 8.00 | Touchstar♦‡ | 97½ | ... | 2.5 | 12.8 |
| 218.32 | Tracsis♦ | 720 | ... | 0.3 | 47.1 |
| 4.25 | Trakm8♦ | 8½ | - ½ | | 3.8 |
| 47.48 | Triad Grp | 285 | - 20 | 2.1 | ... |
| 72.97 | Wandisco♦ | 63½ | - 3¾ | | -1.9 |
| 71.33 | Water Intel♦ | 410 | - 7½ | | 23.5 |
| 111.47 | Xaar | 141 | - 7½ | | ... |
| 16.45 | Yourgene♦ | ½ | ... | ... | -0.3 |
| 61.67 | Zoo Digital♦ | 63 | - 1 | | ... |

## Telecoms

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50.21 | AdEPT Technology♦‡ | 200½ | + 1½ | ... | ... |
| 4,307.85 | **Airtel Africa**‡ | 115⅝ | - 2¾ | 4.0 | ... |
| 13,874.97 | **BT Group** | 141¾ | + ⅝ | 5.4 | 7.5 |
| 875.62 | Currys plc | 77¼ | - ½ | | 3.6 |
| 1,391.28 | Gamma Comms♦ | 1446 | + 2 | 1.1 | 27.5 |
| 1,360.17 | Helios Towers | 129⅜ | + ⅜ | | ... |
| 1,884.49 | Just Eat T'away | 915 | - 56 | | -1.2 |
| 2.63 | Mobile Streams♦ | ... | ... | | -0.6 |
| 7.73 | Mobile Tornado♦ | 1¾ | ... | | -6.1 |
| 1,405.24 | Telecom Plus | 1784 | - 36 | 4.5 | 45.7 |
| 18,746.83 | **Vodafone**‡ | 70½ | ... | 10.8 | 18.5 |

## Transport

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 95.50 | Braemar Ship | 312½ | + 5½ | 3.8 | 24.4 |
| 3,456.71 | **EasyJet** | 459 | - 33⅛ | 0.9 | 10.7 |
| 0.71 | Esken Limited# | ... | ... | | ... |
| 1,038.52 | FirstGroup‡ | 172 | - 1½ | 3.2 | ... |
| 168.29 | Fisher (James) | 334 | + 15 | | -3.3 |
| 8,316.25 | **International Airlines** | 170 | - 4 | | 3.8 |
| 3,284.72 | IDS | 343⅛ | + 13⅛ | | -3.2 |
| 786.19 | Irish Cont Uts | 478 | ... | 2.6 | 15.4 |
| 3,108.62 | Jet2♦ | 1448 | + 26 | 0.8 | 7.9 |
| 342.35 | Mobico Group | 55¾ | + ½ | 2.9 | -1.8 |
| 465.02 | Ocean Wilson | 1315 | + 10 | 5.0 | 8.8 |
| 13.32 | Sutton Harbour♦ | 10¼ | ... | | -5.6 |
| 744.08 | Wincanton | 605 | + 4 | ... | 28.8 |
| 2,331.84 | Wizz Air | 2256 | + 86 | | -5.1 |

## Utilities

| Mkt cap (million) | Company | Price (p) | Wkly +/- | Yld% | P/E |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7,270.77 | **Centrica** | 138⅝ | + ⅞ | 2.8 | 2.0 |
| 1,658.27 | ContourGlobal | 251 | + ½ | ... | 28.3 |
| 2,181.86 | Drax Group | 563½ | + 3½ | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| 141.56 | Jersey Electricity | 462 | - 18 | 4.1 | 12.5 |
| 44,970.52 | **National Grid**‡ | 934½ | - 16⅛ | 6.0 | 12.6 |
| 42.08 | OPG Power♦ | 10½ | ... | | 3.8 |
| 1,874.99 | Pennon | 655½ | - 10½ | 6.5 | ... |
| 2.39 | Rurelec♦# | ⅜ | ... | ... | 42.5 |
| 7,577.83 | **Severn Trent** | 2527 | - 132 | 4.5 | 60.7 |
| 19,987.39 | **SSE** | 1839½ | - 29½ | 4.7 | 34.5 |
| 6,914.35 | **United Utilities**‡ | 1014 | - 43 | 4.8 | ... |

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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The Ryobi 18V ONE+™ Patio Cleaner features an innovative telescopic height adjustment handle, which means easy upright cleaning for any user.

The two-handled design ensures it is ergonomic and easy to use, while the wire brush guard protects the user from any debris. Plus, with the tool-less brush changing mechanism, you can quickly and easily switch between different types of cleaning brushes for hard or delicate surfaces, even with gloves on.

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Trustpilot 4.6/5

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- Ryobi ONE+ 2.0A Charger
- 3-Year Warranty*
- Free Delivery (GB mainland only)

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**Historian who became head of war studies at Sandhurst**
Duncan Anderson
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# Register

Obituaries

# Ray Reardon

Six-time world snooker champion dubbed 'Dracula' who worked as a miner and policeman before dominating the sport in the 1970s

Ray Reardon was one of Britain's best-known sportsmen in an era when snooker regularly attracted some of the biggest television audiences in the country. Not everyone was paying attention, however. When Reardon was honoured at Buckingham Palace in 1985 with an MBE for services to snooker, the Queen inquired: "And what do you do?"

In his prime, Reardon seemed to do nothing but win. He was the dominant player in the Seventies. His six World Championships comprised four successive titles between 1973 and 1976 and victories in 1970 and 1978. Yet he did not become a professional until 1967, the year he turned 35.

His experiences away from the green baize made the pressure of potting balls in front of an audience seem relatively trivial. Especially formative in developing resilience and cool-headedness was the accident that almost cost him his life.

In 1957, Reardon was a 25-year-old miner trying to break a boulder as he worked a Saturday-morning shift at Florence Colliery, Stoke-on-Trent, when the roof collapsed, leaving him trapped deep underground alone for three hours in a space so cramped he could only kneel. Reardon kept calm during the ordeal by imagining he was playing games of marbles with his younger brother, Ron.

"Could only breathe very gently through my nose or I would have suffocated because of all the loose particles.

## Contests between Higgins and Reardon were a publicist's dream

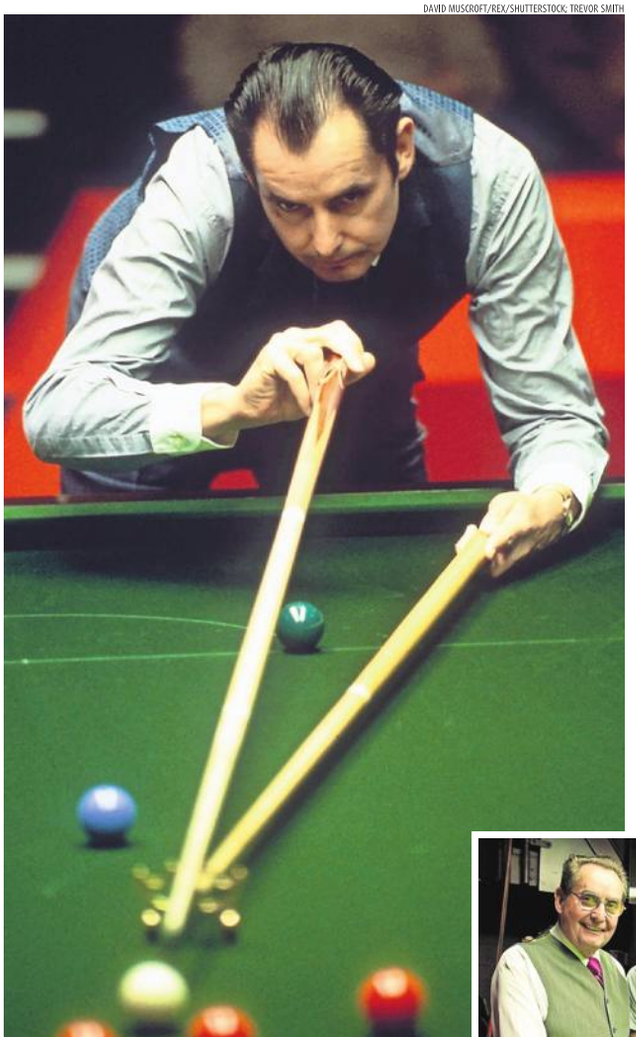
Couldn't move. Bent over double and numb from the waist down," he told The Telegraph in 2019. "It actually stood me in good stead. Changed me. When I heard people talk about getting nervous while playing snooker, I would think, 'About what? You want to try being buried'."

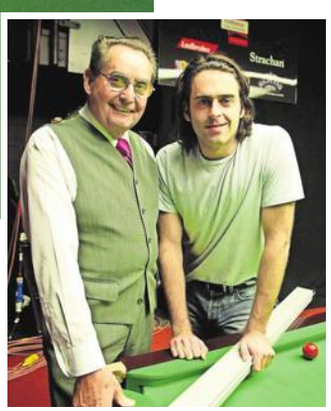
He insisted upon immediately returning to the coalface to prove to himself that he had not lost his nerve. Still, the incident persuaded Reardon he needed a career change and he applied to join the police in Stoke. "There was still no money in snooker then and I needed a job," he said in 2017. Though his arms were strong, he lacked the stamina for the three-mile run required of new recruits but compensated with creativity for what he lacked in fitness. "I could barely run 200 metres after being in the pits so long," he recalled. "I remember explaining to the sergeant, 'Let's say there is a bar fight. I'll walk down and they will have time to knock holy hell out of one another and I can just scoop them up'. The sergeant liked that."

He received two commendations for bravery during his seven years with the force: for clambering over roofs to arrest a robber and for disarming a man with a shotgun.

Born in 1932 in the industrial town of Tredegar, south Wales, he played billiards on the kitchen table using marbles as an eight-year-old and followed his father, Ben, down the pits aged 14. Reardon played snooker in the evenings, enduring mockery from fellow miners during his day shifts because he wore gloves to protect his hands while he worked with a pick and shovel. He won the Welsh amateur title six times in a row from 1950 to 1955 before the family moved to Staffordshire when work dried up in Wales.

DAVID MUSCROFT/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; TREVOR SMITH





Reardon was the oldest World Championship winner until his former mentee Ronnie O'Sullivan, right in 2004, won in 2022

In 1959 he married Sue Carter, a relative of a businessman in Staffordshire who organised an exhibition game between Reardon and Joe Davis, the venerable "Emperor of Pot". The couple had two children, Darren and Melanie, before divorcing in 1986. Reardon told *Daily Mirror* reporters that Sue had been "fully informed" of his eight-year affair with Carol Covington, whom he married in 1987.

He won the 1964 English Amateur Championship with an 11-8 victory over John Spencer, the Lancastrian who would become his chief rival in the Seventies along with Alex Higgins.

This triumph, allied with a successful exhibition tour of South Africa and subsequent sponsorship offers, persuaded Reardon to make snooker a full-time pursuit in 1967. Making ends meet involved frequent trips to play exhibition matches at faraway Pontins holiday camps, but his timing was good, as snooker was about to soar in popularity and become more lucrative. David Attenborough, then the controller of BBC2, wanted suggestions for programmes that could benefit from new colour cameras at the channel's disposal. Snooker, with its bright green playing surface and multicoloured balls, was proposed as an ideal showcase. Attenborough was enthusiastic and the *Pot Black* tournament was born.

The one-frame knockout format featuring eight leading players proved a hit with viewers. Reardon was the first champion, beating Spencer in the final. The tournament was broadcast in the summer of 1969 but filmed months earlier, with the players sworn to secrecy. It was a milestone in Reardon's career. "Everyone who took part in it was gambling really, because it was the main snooker on television," he said. "Your reputation was determined by a one-frame match. You could do yourself more harm than good entering it. The guys who lost often struggled to get exhibition work. I was lucky because it was a great thing for me winning the first one." Another key success came in London in 1970 when he beat John Pulman by 37 frames to 33 in the World Championship, setting up a decade of success and celebrity status.

Higgins, 17 years his junior, first took the world title in 1972, the year before Reardon embarked on his four-year winning streak. This included a 27-16 victory for the cool-headed veteran over the tempestuous Northern Irishman at Wythenshawe Forum, Manchester, in 1976.

With personalities informing snooker's popularity as much as performances, contests between Higgins and Reardon were a publicist's dream: the bad boy of the baize versus the one-time long arm of the law.

Higgins was nicknamed "Hurricane" because of his fast play; Reardon, with his pale skin, toothy smile, jet-black hair and widow's peak, was dubbed "Dracula". Possessed of a strong sense of humour, with a gift for sharp quips, and a conviction that sport is a branch of the entertainment industry, he embraced the moniker, sometimes wearing a cape and fangs for guest appearances on light entertainment shows.

That he had entered mainstream popular culture was underlined in 1976 when he was the subject of an episode of *This Is Your Life*. Three years later he became the first snooker player to be invited on *Desert Island Discs*, choosing Symphony No 5 in C Minor by Beethoven among his favourite tracks because it reminded him of the tempo changes of a high-stakes snooker match.

Also in 1976, world rankings were introduced, with Reardon holding top spot for five successive years. Not much fazed him: he faced Doug Mountjoy in the Welsh Professional Championship in 1977, winning after a delay when a light from the overhead television lighting rig crashed on to the table, scattering broken glass over the baize.

In 1978, aged 45, he reclaimed the world title with a 25-18 victory over the South African Perrie Mans. He was the oldest winner of the World Championship until 2022, when his former mentee Ronnie O'Sullivan triumphed at the age of 46 and surpassed Reardon's tally.

Reardon's form declined in the Eighties. Faltering eyesight made him try contact lenses (which were prone to drying up), the sort of large-framed spectacles famously sported by Dennis Taylor and a visor to shade his eyes from bright lights. Another setback came when his trusty cue fell victim to old age. Still, his confidence renewed after finding a suitable replacement, Reardon came within three frames of winning a seventh world title, losing to Higgins, 18-15, in the 1982 World Championship final. He reclaimed top spot in the rankings that year, aged 50, becoming the oldest player to be ranked as world No 1.

A heavy semi-final World Championship loss at the Crucible in 1985 to the new force, Steve Davis, was something of a last hurrah at the highest level (though a 5-0 whitewash of Davis in the last 64 of the British Open in 1988 evoked the old magic). Reardon slipped out of the top 16 in 1987 and retired in 1991, aged 58.

From 1996 to 1999 he served as vice-chair of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association.

At the request of the incarcerated father of O'Sullivan, who telephoned Reardon from prison, he acted as a coach to the mercurial talent and was credited with instilling self-discipline as "The Rocket" took the world title in 2004. (O'Sullivan celebrated by wearing a set of Dracula fangs in honour of his coach during the trophy ceremony.) Reardon considered O'Sullivan to be the most gifted player he had ever seen.

For his part, O'Sullivan wrote in *Running*, his 2013 autobiography, that Reardon "is my hero ... a father figure", whose coaching style was somehow both rigorous and relaxed. "Ray knew what shot he'd be playing in four shots time, whereas I'd just go bang red, split 'em open, make a mistake, game over. Ray taught me how to play snooker like chess," O'Sullivan wrote. Their partnership ended abruptly after 18 months when O'Sullivan began to feel that Reardon was too demanding and Reardon walked out of the venue during a match in which O'Sullivan was playing badly and recklessly. But both continued to speak warmly of their relationship, with Reardon remarking last year that O'Sullivan had "put ten years on my life".

## He was credited with instilling self-discipline in Ronnie the Rocket

In later life Reardon moved to Torquay, Devon. He recovered from a pulmonary embolism suffered in 2018.

While he received £7,500 in prize money for winning the world title in 1978, today the victor collects £500,000. He nursed a degree of nostalgia for the days when the stakes were lower and it was routine for players to smoke and drink, even during matches.

"I went to the Welsh Open recently and in four hours none of the players interacted with the crowd," he said in 2017. "It's sad, really. It's still showbusiness, isn't it? Now the players are so insulated — you go through a manager to speak to them. When I played, Terry Griffiths had been a bus conductor and I was a miner, a bluecoat in Pontins and a policeman."

**Ray Reardon MBE, snooker player, was born on October 8, 1932. He died of cancer on July 19, 2024, aged 91**

Register

# Judy Belushi-Pisano

## Widow of John Belushi whose defence of his legacy led her to establish a charity helping those struggling with addiction

At the age of 17, Judy Jacklin fell in love with the charismatic son of an Albanian immigrant — a football star in the year above who worked behind the cash register of his family's Chicago diner. His courtship of her was romantic and relentless. "He hit me in the arm with an oar when we were having a water fight," she said. "Then he phoned every night for a week to ask how my arm was."

Life with John Belushi would only grow more intense. Early on in the relationship he explained that he had dreams of being a star — "Don't stay with me," he warned, "or you'll always have to support me" — and the marriage was overshadowed by his fame as one of the most talented comic actors of the Seventies and his struggles with addiction, culminating in an overdose at the age of 33.

Although Belushi-Pisano, as she became, paved the way for her husband's eventual success — as a producer on the *National Lampoon Radio Hour* she had got him a shift on a comedy programme alongside Christopher Guest and Bill Murray, leading to his break on *Saturday Night Live* — her star was ultimately eclipsed by his. "During the 15 years we shared our lives, I helped John pursue his dream, letting it become our dream," she said. "I wanted to be an artist and I pursued that as well, but John's work quickly became the first priority. His struggles, his disappointments, his successes — these too became mine."

She helped to scout locations and design costumes for *Animal House* (1978), the frat house comedy which made Belushi's name as a big screen actor (she also starred in two scenes as Belushi's dance partner during the toga party). She designed the logo and two album covers for the Blues Brothers, Belushi's two-man revue band with Dan Aykroyd, and she was the producer on the 1980 *Blues Brothers* film in which she starred as a cocktail waitress. On set she was known as "the Blues wife".

After *Animal House*, Belushi's heavy use of cocaine had become an open secret within the industry, and in 1981 she gave him an ultimatum: get clean or she would leave. He escaped to a bungalow at the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles, where he was found dead, aged 33, on the morning of March 5, 1982. Cathy Smith, a musician, was later convicted of involuntary manslaughter after admitting that she had injected him with a lethal dose of cocaine and heroin.

"It was like a gut punch," Belushi-Pisano recalled. "And then it was like I was thrown into the centre of a tornado. Everything made me think of John. An old Volvo: that was his car. A man with a beard: he was so huggable with a beard."

She arranged for a traditional Orthodox Christian service conducted by an Albanian priest and buried him in a cemetery on Martha's Vineyard, where they had bought a house. His gravestone, which had the inscription "I may be gone but rock and roll lives on", became a tourist attraction and after fans littered the grave site with bottles and beer cans, she had his coffin moved to an unmarked one.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES/ALAMY

**With John Belushi in Animal House, 1978. She played his dance partner during the film's toga party scenes**

**They developed 'a common ego of sorts, an intense interdependency'**

The intrigue only grew around the murky circumstances of Belushi's death and there was more fire fighting to come as his wife tried to protect his legacy. In 1984, Bob Woodward, an investigative journalist from The Washington Post, decided to write his biography. Belushi-Pisano agreed to be interviewed but said she had assumed it was for a series of articles and that she was unaware Woodward had signed a book deal with Simon & Schuster. She gave Woodward access to her diaries and his closest group of celebrity friends including Aykroyd and Jack Nicholson. When she read an advance copy of *Wired: The Short Life and Fast Times of John Belushi*, which focused heavily on his drug use, she tried unsuccessfully to sue.

Her husband, she said, was a "warm" and "very likeable person". Woodward had "missed all that" and she said his methods had been manipulative. "My mental image of John — which was very strong — was stolen and used as the main character in Bob Woodward's novel." The biography was widely panned by the critics. Aykroyd called it "exploitation, pulp trash".

In 1990 Belushi-Pisano decided to write her own memoir, *Samurai Widow* (the title is a reference to one of her husband's best-known characters on *Saturday Night Live*). "John wasn't perfect," she wrote. "But he was a full human being — caring and adventurous and kind. And he not only made people laugh. He made them feel."

She was born Judith Victoria Jacklin in 1951 in Oak Park, Illinois, to Les, a salesman for a tool and parts company, and Jean Marsel Buchanan, a secretary. At Wheaton Central High School, where she met Belushi, Judith was a straight-laced student — president of her senior class with ambitions on becoming "the first woman president" — and yet halfway through a political science degree at the University of Illinois she dropped out to study art. Belushi, meanwhile, had started a three-man comedy troupe and in 1973 they moved to New York where she got a job in the art department of the National Lampoon magazine (at their house on 16th Street they played heavy metal music so loud, one neighbour complained, that it made "your teeth hurt").

Belushi-Pisano was shy and lean, but she was no shrinking violet. "A first-class fidgety maverick and free spirit," wrote one journalist, "she bounced back and forth in her chair in wacko clothes like electro-lavender socks and a lavender pinstripe, tab-collar shirt. Not to mention white, lace-up jazz-baby shoes."

She and Belushi married in 1976 after living together for five years and developing "a common ego of sorts, an intense interdependency".

After Belushi's death, she settled in Martha's Vineyard, where she founded the Second Chance Foundation, a charity that helps people struggling with addiction, and partnered with Aykroyd to run the Blues Brothers brand.

She married Victor Pisano, a film producer, in 1990. They divorced 20 years later. She is survived by their three daughters, Jessica, Rebecca and Vanessa, and son, Lucas.

She was sanguine when asked about life with Belushi in later years. "I went along on that wonderful and exhilarating and sometimes infuriating ride," she said. "And I have lived to tell it."

**Judy Belushi-Pisano, producer and widow of John Belushi, was born on January 7, 1951. She died of endometrial cancer on July 5, 2024, aged 73**

# Duncan Anderson

## Maverick head of war studies at Sandhurst who set up teaching programmes at military academies in Iraq and Afghanistan

As a young academic in Australia, Duncan Anderson was determined to escape what he saw as the narrow anti-intellectualism of his native Queensland culture. Having graduated in 1969 with a first in history at Brisbane, he moved to Kingston, Ontario, Canada, for his MA, and then to Linacre College, Oxford, for his doctorate on the English militia, which he completed in 1981. In 1987, he joined the war studies department of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the year after its most illustrious teacher, the late Sir John Keegan, left to become defence editor of The Daily Telegraph.

Sandhurst was more than usually in transition at the time, the commissioning course having been progressively reduced from two years to one as the proportion of graduate cadets increased. This posed a challenge for the academic department. The old two-year course had mirrored and, in some respects, equalled the first-degree courses at many a university. In a single year, however, the department could only do so much — and it showed.

Conversely, the graduate cadets had to be taught at master's level. Both types of cadet usually turned up to class exhausted from drill, physical training, battle exercises or social exertions. Anderson soon proved to be an engaging lecturer whose audiences were notably more alert. If Keegan's patrician style engaged cadets with its old-world charm, Anderson's Queens(land) English managed equally well — in part because, like Keegan, his knowledge was not confined to his subject, nor preoccupied with the arcane details of past military glories. He quickly rose to become deputy head of the department and then in 1997 unexpectedly took over as head. John Pimlott, the previous head, had died after two grenades he picked up during a battlefield tour in France exploded in his study at home. The accident may have contributed to Anderson's growing belief that academics teaching future practitioners must make themselves au fait with operational reality — actually visiting active war zones. He soon began shifting the focus of study to the wars of the 21st century — those after the fall of the Berlin Wall, in the Balkans, Iraq, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

**Anderson as a Brisbane Grammar cadet in 1963. Below, at Fallujah railway station, Iraq, in January 2005**

With military reform in Iraq and Afghanistan a key part of postwar nation building, Anderson was called on increasingly for advice, not least as some of the senior officers in the reforming armies had trained at Sandhurst, and even passed through his own hands. In 2005, after the invasion of Iraq, he became the founding academic mentor at the Iraqi Military Academy at Ar Rustamiyah — nicknamed Sandhurst in the Sand — training a new generation of future officers, a post he held on secondment for a year. Its chief of staff, a colonel, had entered Sandhurst the same year as Anderson and they had met again in 2004 when Anderson was visiting British troops on the ground. Soon afterwards, explained Anderson, the colonel "was murdered in Baghdad [and] a few weeks after this tragic event I was invited to come over to the academy in Iraq to investigate what was needed to set up an academic department".

On arrival, Anderson was shocked by the devastation he found: the library had been thoroughly looted. He spoke with academics at the University of Baghdad and at the end of his visit wrote a report detailing what was needed. However, with potential Iraqi lecturers few and far between and a lack of books on military history, he decided to give lessons himself. But, he said, "copying the syllabus of Sandhurst is not enough. Military history must provide role models that have appeal to the cadets. And the lessons must be applicable to the situation today. So I am writing a lot about the early Islamic military history, with great generals such as Abu Bakr. Those men also provide an example of combining military skills, ethics, and values."

He was convinced that cadets' pride in their country and in their army would become a unifying force for the new Iraq. In 2013 he was seconded for 20 months to do the same at the Afghan National Army Officers' Academy in Qargha, near Kabul, another Sandhurst in the Sand. He took the same approach to historical example: "Instead of looking at Wellington's leadership qualities — what relevance has he to an Afghan cadet? — they could look at Shah Massoud's leadership credentials. How did Massoud manage to hold the Panjshir Valley against the Russians? What better example can there be to set for junior officers?"

For his work in Kabul he was appointed MBE. However, he came increasingly into conflict with British military and civil administrators, who considered him a maverick. It did not help that he showed little regard for technology or personal organisation.

Duncan Anderson was born in Brisbane in 1946, the eldest of three. His father, also named Duncan, a political agent who had served in the Second World War, had been born in Dunbar, Scotland: he and his mother (Anderson's grandmother) emigrated to Australia after she was war-widowed.

Anderson's mother, Hazel (née Ruska), a secretary, was a native of Brisbane. Anderson was educated at Brisbane Grammar, an independent, fee-charging school founded in 1868.

In 1971, he married Berenice Dickson, whom he had met at the University of Queensland. The marriage was dissolved in 1984, and in 1987 he married Christine Gerrard, now professor of English literature and interim principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, whom he had met while completing his DPhil. She survives him, along with two children of his first marriage (Tarrant is a company director and professional musician and Imogen is a BBC journalist) and two from his second (Theodor is a research chemist and businessman and Tobias is a master at Wellington College).

Being a solidly built six-footer with antipodean cred, Anderson was an occasional TV contributor and the author of many books of military history, mainly 20th-century and mainly narrative. In his later years at Sandhurst he took particular delight in developing the new course for "late entry officers" — seasoned NCOs commissioned direct from the ranks.

**Duncan Anderson MBE, military historian, was born on July 21, 1946. He died of cancer on June 4, 2024, aged 77**

## Law Report

# Statutory compensation scheme not violating presumption of innocence

**European Court of Human Rights**
July 22, 2024

**Nealon and Hallam v United Kingdom**

Before S O'Leary, President and Judges G Ravarani, M Bošnjak, G Kucsko-Stadlmayer, P Pastor Vilanova, A Bårdsen, C Ranzoni, M Mits, T Eicke, P Paczolay, L Chanturia, I Jeli , G Felici, E Wennerström, R Sabato, S Yüksel and M Gnatovskyy
Deputy Grand Chamber Registrar: S Prebensen
(Applications Nos 32483/19 and 35049/19)
Judgment: June 11, 2024

The refusal to award compensation, pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act 1998, to a person whose criminal conviction had been quashed following the emergence of new evidence did not have the effect of imputing criminal liability to that person and therefore did not breach the presumption of innocence guaranteed by article 6.2 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights so held, by 12 votes to five (Judges Bošnjak, Chanturia, Felici, Ravarani and Yüksel dissenting), when finding that there had been no violation of the article 6.2 rights of the applicants, Victor Nealon and Sam Hallam, in proceedings brought against the United Kingdom.

Nealon had been convicted in 1997 of attempted rape and sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum term of seven years. In 2013 his conviction was quashed after further analysis of the clothes the victim was wearing on the night of the attack revealed DNA of an unknown male. He served a total of 17 years and three months of his sentence.

Hallam was convicted of murder, conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm and violent disorder in 2004. His convictions were quashed after new evidence came to light casting doubt on some of the evidence that had formed part of the case against him. He served seven years and seven months.

Both applicants applied for compensation for a miscarriage of justice. Those applications were considered under the new section 133(1ZA) of the Criminal Justice Act 1998 that had been inserted following the Grand Chamber judgment in *Allen v United Kingdom* (Application No 25424/09) (The Times July 30, 2013; 36 EHRR 10).

Section 133 of the 1988 Act provided for compensation where a new or newly discovered fact showed beyond reasonable doubt that there had been a miscarriage of justice. Prior to the insertion of section 133(1ZA), the meaning of "miscarriage of justice" had not been settled by the courts and there had been no statutory definition.

Under the new section, there would be a miscarriage of justice if and only if a new or newly discovered fact showed beyond reasonable doubt that the person had not committed the offences. Nealon's and Hallam's cases failed to pass that test and their applications for compensation were rejected.

Both applicants sought judicial review of the decisions. They argued that the statutory test for compensation was incompatible with article 6.2 because it required them to "prove" their "innocence" in order to be eligible for compensation. Those applications were rejected: see *R (Hallam) v Secretary of State for Justice; R (Nealon) v Same* ([2015] EWHC 1565 (Admin)). The Court of Appeal ([2017] QB 571) and the Supreme Court (The Times February 4, 2019; [2020] AC 279) dismissed their appeals.

On their applications to the European Court of Human Rights, the Chamber to which their cases had been allocated relinquished jurisdiction in favour of the Grand Chamber.

THE GRAND CHAMBER reiterated that article 6.2 of the Convention safeguarded the right to be "presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law" and acted as a procedural guarantee in the context of a criminal trial. Over time, however, the European court had developed a "second aspect", which came into play after criminal proceedings had been concluded, either with an acquittal or a discontinuance.

The second aspect had developed incrementally and now made clear that following the discontinuance of criminal proceedings the presumption of innocence required that the lack of a person's criminal conviction be preserved in any other proceedings of whatever nature.

Regardless of the nature of the case, the principal aim of the presumption of innocence in the second aspect was to protect individuals who had been acquitted of a criminal charge, or in respect of whom criminal proceedings had been discontinued, from being treated by public officials and authorities as though they were in fact guilty. Those persons were innocent in the eyes of the law and had to be treated in a manner consistent with that innocence.

However, the Grand Chamber did not consider it necessary or desirable to maintain the distinction between acquittals and discontinuances which had been developed in cases concerning costs issues and claims for compensation by former accused, and which afforded a higher level of protection under the second aspect of article 6.2 of the Convention to persons who had been acquitted.

While at first glance a discontinuance might not appear to have the same exonerating effect as an acquittal, on closer inspection the reality was less clear-cut.

Consequently, henceforth, regardless of the nature of the subsequent linked proceedings, and regardless of whether the criminal proceedings ended in an acquittal or a discontinuance, the decisions and reasoning of the domestic courts or other authorities in those subsequent linked proceedings, when considered as a whole, and in the context of the exercise which they were required by domestic law to undertake, would violate article 6.2 in its second aspect if they amounted to the imputation of criminal liability to the applicant.

To impute criminal liability to a person was to reflect an opinion that he or she was guilty to the criminal standard of the commission of a criminal offence, thereby suggesting that the criminal proceedings should have been determined differently.

Before turning to the present case, it was important to reiterate that article 6.2 did not guarantee a person whose criminal conviction had been quashed a right to compensation for a miscarriage of justice.

Consequently, there would only have been a violation of article 6.2 if the refusal of compensation, by reference to the test in section 133(1ZA) of the 1988 Act, itself imputed criminal liability to the applicants.

Under the new section 133(1ZA) it fell to the justice secretary to decide whether the new or newly discovered fact, which resulted in the quashing of the conviction, showed beyond reasonable doubt that the person had not committed the offence.

That test did not require the justice secretary to comment, on the basis of the evidence as it stood at the appeal, on whether the applicant should be, or would likely be, acquitted or convicted or on whether the evidence was indicative of the applicant's guilt or innocence, but only on whether the new or newly discovered fact showed beyond reasonable doubt that the applicant did not commit the offence in question.

Therefore, it could not be said that the refusal of compensation by the justice secretary imputed criminal guilt to the applicant by reflecting the opinion that he or she was guilty to the criminal standard of committing the criminal offence, thereby suggesting that the criminal proceedings should have been determined differently.

To find in the negative that it could not be shown to the very high standard of proof beyond reasonable doubt that an applicant did not commit an offence – by reference to a new or newly discovered fact or otherwise – was not tantamount to a positive finding that he or she did commit the offence.

It should be emphasised that in its second aspect article 6.2 protected innocence in the eyes of the law and not a presumption of factual innocence as suggested by the applicants. The justice secretary was not required by section 133(1ZA) to comment on an applicant's innocence in the eyes of the law, and the refusal of compensation under that section was not inconsistent with his or her continuing innocence in that legal sense.

The refusal of the applicants' claims for compensation under section 133(1ZA) of the 1988 Act, in the context of a confidential civil and administrative procedure, did not breach the presumption of innocence in its second aspect.

In reaching that conclusion, the Grand Chamber was not insensible to the potentially devastating impact of a wrongful conviction. However, its role was not to determine how states should translate into material terms the moral obligation they might owe to persons who had been wrongfully convicted.

Rather, in the present case it was tasked solely with determining on the facts before it whether there had been a breach of article 6.2 of the Convention due to the operation of a compensations scheme established domestically which was clearly conceived and operated in restrictive terms. In light of the foregoing considerations, that was not the case.

## Call to the Bar Gray's Inn

**The following have been called to the Bar this Trinity term:**
Gregory Berno Leon Chilson, Raiyan Binte Rafiq, Daniell Sebastian Randell, Leonnie Louiselle Coveney, Francesca Sonia Carpos-Young, Feride Husseyin Ibrahim, Jakub Mikulski, Alexander Walter James Feetham, Orinda Tamara Kathleen Wiltshire, Curtis James Crowley, Hannah Elise Lancaster, Divya Behl, Ken Quay Chiu, Anton Martin Doyle, Afifa Muddiser, William Marsden Knatchbull, Devika Vir, Akshita Kirti Karia, Anika Tasneem, Anjelica Xenia Smerin, Isabella Margaret Taylor, Miah Lilly Nath, Mira Marie Yann Fern Wong, Charlene Penelope Jayasuriya, Talia Ellen Wharton Meer, Daniel James Mosey, Wasif Farhan Shaer, Louisa Rhiannon Chapman, Hamza Lone, Prem Anand Sakar, Jesse James Mattinson, Alia Antonnette Vaz-Heaven, Henry Jerome Screaton, Sarah Wendy Maria Taylor-Warner, Michael James Nix, Muhammad Modupeola Ayinde, Nia Catrin Moseley-Roberts, Imogen Cara Newton, Sophie Jessica Townsend, Chittkrishna Amit Thakkar, Charlotte Christine Roberta Hopper, Indy Queency Bliss, Dorcas Kwatemaa Baah, Ellen Caroline White, Ranya Lamani, Jonathan Murray Malyan Waghorne, Christina Kartali Andriopoulou, Nicholas Hugh White, Suneeta Patel, Jessie Jay Swift, Sean Low, Darcie Anna Clampitt, Ioanna Avraamidou, Vanessa Ya Ven Ang, Cameron McDonald Byrne, ASM Sazzad Haider, Muhammad Danial Bin Raba'ai, Munish Gowriah, Carla Maria Fischer, Cason Kwan Xhen Yong, Matilda McDermott-Krasker, Eleanor Ruth Shephard, Evita Robert Mangharam, Alexandra Chin Wai Wong, Yi Ren Tey, Mathilde Holleufer Soerensen, Emily Jayne Kettell, Katharine Harriet Marlow, Allison I-Shan Wu, Ella Lydia Sides, Chrysda Marlee Azure Woods, Rishna Bhadain, Imogen Mae Ryan, Jakob Fletcher-Stega, Melissa Rose Jarvis, Olivia Hanna Mould, Sali Bethan Harmes, Sami Saeed Heron Allan, Sophia Margaret Rolt, Justin Probert Evans, Michael David Williams, Gemma Louise Neath, Simon Terence Yates Ridding, Jennifer Coxon Close.

## Births, Marriages and Deaths

To book a Birth, Marriage or Death announcement in the Register, visit: **newsukadvertising.co.uk** for help, please call 020 7782 7553 or email **BMDs@thetimes.co.uk**

**WE GIVE** thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.
1 Thessalonians 1.2-3 (AV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

### Births

**HENDERSON** on 14th July 2024 to Katie (née Grimshaw) and George, a son, Sidney Bernard Hope, brother to Percy and Merlin.

### Deaths

**KARGER**
**Cyril George (LLB) passed away peacefully on 29th June 2024, aged 94. Such a wonderful husband, Dad and Granddad. He will be missed. Love Jane, Carlos, George and Luis.**

**APTHORP** John died peacefully on 9th July 2024, aged 89, after a short illness. Serial entrepreneur and Guardian young businessman of the year. John founded Bejam frozen food and turned Majestic Wine into the national success it is today. A generous philanthropist, he was appointed CBE in 2014 for his charitable work. There will be a memorial service in the autumn to celebrate his life.

**JOHNSTON** T Alan passed away peacefully on Wednesday 10th July 2024. Much-loved husband of Anne, a wonderful Dad to Kirsty, Rod, Fiona and Moira and adored father-in-law, Grandad, G'dad and G'da. An esteemed engineer and true gentleman who will be greatly missed by so many. Anne and her family invite you to join them in giving thanks for and celebrating his life at 3.45pm on Friday 26th July at Glasgow Crematorium, Maryhill G23 5AA. No flowers please. No dress code.

**WALSTON** Oliver died peacefully on 14th July 2024, aged 83, after a short illness. He is survived by his wife Anne, children Rose, Florence and David, and grandchildren Ali, Lilah, Sebastian, Elyse and Maddie. He was buried at Thriplow Church on 20th July and a memorial service for friends and family will be held in Thriplow this autumn.

**There is no Court Circular for July 20 and 21, 2024**

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7782 7553

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## Legal Notices

**CR-2024-003239**
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**
**BUSINESS**
**AND**
**PROPERTY COURTS OF**
**ENGLAND**
**AND**
**WALES**
**COMPANIES COURT (Ch D)**
**IN THE MATTER OF**
**OCTOPUS TITAN VCT PLC**
**AND**
**IN THE MATTER OF**
**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Claim Form was on the 5 July 2024 issued in His Majesty's High Court of Justice seeking the confirmation of the cancellation of the share premium account of the above named Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Claim Form is directed to be heard before the Insolvency and Companies Court Judge at the Royal Courts of Justice, The Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Building, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NL on Tuesday 30 July 2024 at 10.30am.
Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Claim Form will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 22nd day of July 2024
Howard Kennedy LLP
No. 1 London Bridge
London SE1 9BG
Ref: SH3
Tel: 020 3755 6000
Fax: 020 3650 6847
Solicitors for the above-named Company

**CR – 2024 –003769**
**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE**
**BUSINESS**
**AND**
**PROPERTY COURTS OF**
**ENGLAND**
**AND**
**WALES**
**COMPANIES COURT (ChD)**
**IN THE MATTER OF**
**WHEATLEY ASSOCIATES**
**HOLDINGS LIMITED**
**(COMPANY NUMBER 06796661)**
**AND**
**IN THE MATTER OF**
**THE COMPANIES ACT 2006**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 8 July 2024 a Claim Form was issued in His Majesty's High Court of Justice seeking confirmation of the reduction of the issued share capital of the above-named company by cancelling and extinguishing 1,000 C Ordinary Shares of £0.001 each formerly held by Lisa Norris.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the final hearing of the Claim is directed to be heard before the Insolvency and Companies Court Judge at the Royal Courts of Justice The Rolls Building, 7 Rolls Buildings, Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1NL on 30 July 2024 at 10.30am or as soon thereafter as the Claim can be heard.
Any Creditor or Shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the Claim Form will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated 22 July 2024
Sean Kelly
BDB Pitmans LLP
4 Grosvenor Square
Southampton
SO15 2BE
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

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## 24 NIGHTS DEPARTING 25TH NOVEMBER 2025 & 1ST MARCH 2026

Day 1 **Fly from London to Miami, Florida, USA**
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Day 2 **Miami, Florida, USA**
Spend time exploring at your leisure. Miami is home to beautiful beaches, vibrant art galleries and a bustling nightlife, so there will be plenty of things to capture your attention during your two night stay here

Day 3 **Miami, Florida, USA**
Transfer to the port and embark the iconic *Queen Elizabeth* for your 21 night voyage

Day 6 **San Juan, Puerto Rico**

Day 7 **St. John's, Antigua**
St. John's, the capital city of Antigua, is laden with hotspots of natural beauty and historical intrigue. The island itself is bordered by 95 miles of glorious coastline and 365 soft, sugar-white sandy beaches, and is a true jewel in the Caribbean

Day 8 **Castries, St. Lucia**

Day 9 **Bridgetown, Barbados**
Whilst sailing to Barbados, you'll encounter a land where relaxation and adventure go hand in hand. Sailing through the warm, blue waters of the Caribbean, when you arrive at Barbados you'll dock at the capital city of Bridgetown – a veritable feast of breathtaking scenery, delicious cuisine, and exceptional hospitality

Day 11 **Philipsburg, St. Maarten**

Day 12 **Road Town, Tortola**

Day 15 **Miami, Florida, USA**

Day 17 **Grand Turk, Turks & Caicos**

Day 19 **Montego Bay, Jamaica**

Day 21 **Belize City, Belize**
Coastal capital Belize City mixes its world-famous, mystical Mayan heritage with an exciting Creole culture that ensures tasty food and lively music all year round

Day 22 **Cozumel, Mexico**

Day 24 **Miami, Florida, USA**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London

Day 25 **Arrive in London**

Days not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea. Itinerary is based on 25th November 2025 departure and ports may vary on other date

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**Today** Patchy cloud and sunny intervals with scattered showers further west and north. Max 25C (77F), min 6C (43F)

## Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

| | Temp C midday | yesterday | Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm | Sun hr* yesterday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 18 | C | 6.8 | 0.9 |
| Aberporth | 15 | PC | 0.8 | 0.0 |
| Anglesey | 15 | C | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Aviemore | 15 | C | 15.6 | 0.3 |
| Barnstaple | 18 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Bedford | 20 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Belfast | 14 | R | 0.2 | 1.1 |
| Birmingham | 17 | PC | 1.0 | ** |
| Bournemouth | 19 | C | 6.6 | 0.3 |
| Bridlington | 19 | S | 0.0 | ** |
| Bristol | 19 | C | 2.4 | 0.0 |
| Camborne | 17 | C | 5.2 | 0.0 |
| Cardiff | 17 | PC | 2.0 | 0.0 |
| Edinburgh | 15 | B | 10.4 | 1.2 |
| Eskdalemuir | 13 | C | 13.6 | 0.9 |
| Glasgow | 16 | C | 7.6 | 0.6 |
| Hereford | 18 | S | 0.6 | ** |
| Herstmonceux | 19 | B | 0.0 | 3.6 |
| Ipswich | 19 | PC | 0.0 | 10.2 |
| Isle of Man | 15 | C | 5.6 | 0.1 |
| Isle of Wight | 20 | C | 0.2 | ** |
| Jersey | 17 | PC | 9.6 | 1.7 |
| Keswick | 15 | R | 8.6 | ** |
| Kinloss | 17 | PC | 14.8 | 0.2 |
| Leeds | 15 | PC | 1.4 | ** |
| Lerwick | 13 | C | 28.6 | 2.0 |
| Leuchars | 16 | C | 4.8 | 1.2 |
| Lincoln | 19 | S | 0.0 | 5.2 |
| Liverpool | 17 | C | 10.0 | ** |
| London | 21 | C | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Lyneham | 17 | C | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Manchester | 17 | C | 6.2 | 0.3 |
| Margate | 20 | D | 0.0 | 11.9 |
| Milford Haven | 18 | PC | 0.6 | ** |
| Newcastle | 15 | PC | 2.0 | ** |
| Nottingham | 18 | M | 0.0 | 0.9 |
| Orkney | 15 | C | 13.6 | 4.6 |
| Oxford | 19 | C | 0.0 | ** |
| Plymouth | 19 | B | 1.2 | ** |
| Portland | 17 | C | 2.0 | ** |
| Scilly, St Mary's | 17 | PC | 1.0 | ** |
| Shoreham | 20 | C | 0.0 | 1.9 |
| Shrewsbury | 16 | C | 1.8 | 0.1 |
| Snowdonia | 15 | C | 4.4 | ** |
| Southend | 21 | R | 0.4 | 12.5 |
| South Uist | 14 | C | 2.2 | ** |
| Stornoway | 15 | PC | 1.4 | 0.5 |
| Tiree | 15 | C | 1.0 | 3.0 |
| Whitehaven | 14 | C | 6.2 | 1.0 |
| Wick | 16 | C | 19.6 | ** |
| Yeovilton | 18 | PC | 3.4 | 0.2 |

## The world

All readings local midday yesterday

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Alicante | 30 | S | Madeira | 29 | PC |
| Amsterdam | 22 | PC | Madrid | 29 | S |
| Athens | 34 | S | Malaga | 36 | S |
| Auckland | 15 | B | Mallorca | 30 | PC |
| Bahrain | 42 | S | Malta | 34 | PC |
| Bangkok | 33 | PC | Melbourne | 15 | PC |
| Barbados | 31 | PC | Mexico City | 22 | B |
| Barcelona | 25 | PC | Miami | 33 | PC |
| Beijing | 31 | S | Milan | 29 | PC |
| Beirut | 32 | PC | Mombasa | 28 | PC |
| Belgrade | 25 | PC | Montreal | 26 | PC |
| Berlin | 31 | S | Moscow | 23 | B |
| Bermuda | 30 | PC | Mumbai | 25 | R |
| Bordeaux | 25 | PC | Munich | 28 | S |
| Brussels | 22 | B | Nairobi | ** | ** |
| Bucharest | 30 | PC | Naples | 31 | PC |
| Budapest | 27 | B | New Orleans | 26 | T |
| Buenos Aires | 11 | S | New York | 26 | C |
| Cairo | 37 | S | Nice | 27 | B |
| Calcutta | 32 | ** | Nicosia | 36 | PC |
| Canberra | 10 | S | Oslo | 24 | B |
| Cape Town | 14 | PC | Paris | 24 | B |
| Chicago | 27 | B | Perth | 16 | SH |
| Copenhagen | 24 | S | Prague | 29 | S |
| Corfu | 34 | PC | Reykjavik | 12 | B |
| Delhi | 36 | ** | Riga | 21 | PC |
| Dubai | 40 | S | Rio de Janeiro | 24 | PC |
| Dublin | 16 | SH | Riyadh | 45 | S |
| Faro | 24 | S | Rome | 31 | S |
| Florence | 33 | PC | San Francisco | 19 | PC |
| Frankfurt | 27 | SH | Santiago | 13 | ** |
| Geneva | 26 | S | São Paulo | 20 | S |
| Gibraltar | 29 | PC | Seoul | 28 | B |
| Helsinki | 22 | B | Seychelles | 29 | PC |
| Hong Kong | 30 | T | Singapore | 32 | B |
| Honolulu | 31 | PC | St Petersburg | 22 | SH |
| Istanbul | 34 | S | Stockholm | 22 | PC |
| Jerusalem | 34 | S | Sydney | 17 | S |
| Johannesburg | 16 | S | Tel Aviv | 34 | S |
| Kuala Lumpur | 31 | PC | Tenerife | 29 | PC |
| Kyiv | ** | ** | Tokyo | 33 | PC |
| Lanzarote | 28 | PC | Vancouver | 24 | S |
| Las Palmas | 27 | PC | Venice | 29 | S |
| Lima | 16 | DU | Vienna | 29 | S |
| Lisbon | 25 | PC | Warsaw | 29 | S |
| Los Angeles | 22 | PC | Washington | 28 | B |
| Luxor | 41 | S | Zurich | 25 | S |

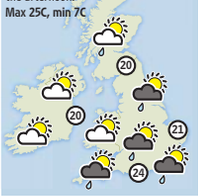
## Five days ahead

Mainly dry with some long spells of sunshine. Turning more unsettled later in the week

### Tomorrow

A mostly dry day with long sunny spells. Showers across southern areas of Britain will clear eastwards during the afternoon.

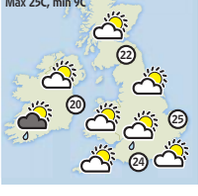
Max 25C, min 7C



### Wednesday

A day of sunny spells and patchy cloud with the chance of an isolated shower in southern Britain and southern Ireland in the afternoon.

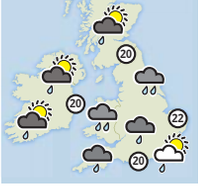
Max 25C, min 9C



### Thursday

A band of showery rain will spread in from the west, heavy at times across western and northern Britain.

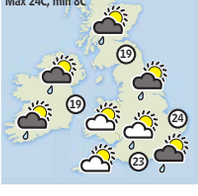
Max 23C, min 7C



### Friday

A cloudy day across Ireland and Scotland with widespread scattered showers. Drier further southeast with sunny spells.

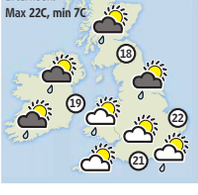
Max 24C, min 8C



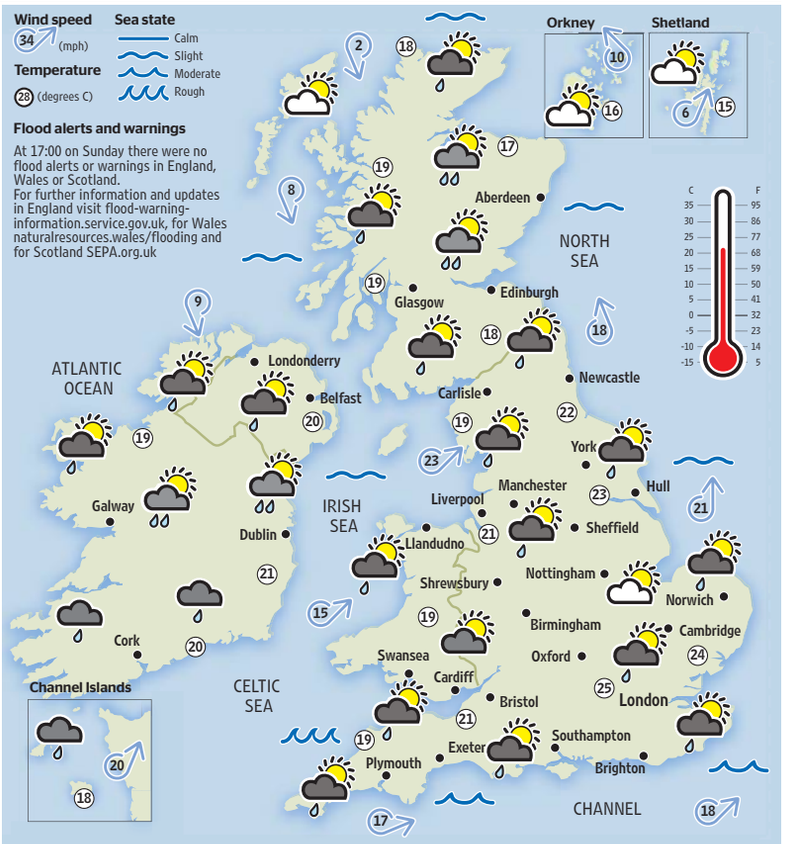
### Saturday

A largely dry day with the longest sunny spells further southeast. Scattered showers will spread into northern and western areas in the afternoon.

Max 22C, min 7C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest




**General situation:** A day of patchy cloud and sunny intervals with outbreaks of rain and showers heaviest across western and northern areas.

**Republic of Ireland, N Ireland:** A cloudy day with scattered light showers further north in the morning. Heavier showery rain will spread in from the west later. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 21C (70F), minimum 9C (48F).

**Argyll, NW Scotland, NE Scotland, N Isles:** A largely dry day with sunny spells. The chance of an isolated shower further east in the afternoon. Light variable winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 6C (43F).

**Moray Firth, Cen Highland, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Borders, Lake District:** An unsettled day with showery rain spreading eastwards, heaviest across southern areas during the morning. Light variable winds. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 9C (48F).

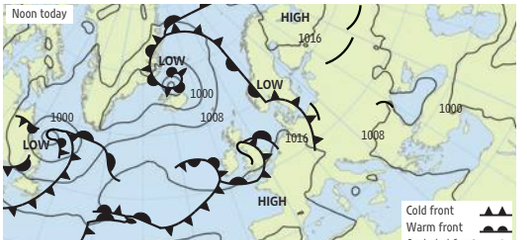
**NE Eng, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, W Mids, IoM, Wales, Cen S Eng, Channel Is, SW Eng:** Scattered light showers will spread eastwards, heaviest further west in the morning. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 23C (73F), minimum 12C (54F).

**E Eng, E Mids, E Anglia, London, SE Eng:** A mostly dry day with patchy cloud and sunny intervals. The chance of a few isolated showers in the afternoon. Light to moderate southwesterly winds. Maximum 25C (77F), minimum 13C (55F).

## Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

| Today | | Ht | | Ht |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 02:32 | 4.2 | 15:11 | 4.2 |
| Avonmouth | 08:44 | 12.6 | 21:05 | 13.1 |
| Belfast | --:-- | -- | 12:35 | 3.3 |
| Cardiff | 08:31 | 11.7 | 20:52 | 12.2 |
| Devonport | 07:19 | 5.1 | 19:33 | 5.5 |
| Dover | --:-- | -- | 12:34 | 6.6 |
| Dublin | 00:24 | 4.1 | 13:04 | 3.9 |
| Falmouth | 06:42 | 4.9 | 18:58 | 5.2 |
| Greenock | 01:37 | 3.4 | 13:58 | 3.2 |
| Harwich | 01:00 | 3.9 | 13:18 | 3.9 |
| Holyhead | 11:55 | 5.3 | --:-- | -- |
| Hull | 07:37 | 7.4 | 20:16 | 7.3 |
| Leith | 03:51 | 5.4 | 16:23 | 5.5 |
| Liverpool | --:-- | -- | 12:41 | 9.0 |
| London Bridge | 03:13 | 7.1 | 15:39 | 6.8 |
| Lowestoft | 10:49 | 2.5 | 23:32 | 2.5 |
| Milford Haven | 07:41 | 6.7 | 20:02 | 7.0 |
| Morecambe | --:-- | -- | 12:51 | 9.0 |
| Newhaven | --:-- | -- | 12:44 | 6.6 |
| Newquay | 06:31 | 6.7 | 18:52 | 7.0 |
| Oban | 07:19 | 3.7 | 19:41 | 4.0 |
| Penzance | 06:04 | 5.2 | 18:26 | 5.6 |
| Portsmouth | --:-- | -- | 13:06 | 4.6 |
| Shoreham | --:-- | -- | 12:49 | 6.1 |
| Southampton | 02:32 | 4.1 | 12:07 | 4.4 |
| Swansea | 07:45 | 9.0 | 20:06 | 9.4 |
| Tees | 04:54 | 5.4 | 17:32 | 5.4 |
| Weymouth | 08:21 | 1.9 | 20:41 | 2.2 |




### Synoptic situation

A rather slack pressure pattern with a slow moving area of low pressure over northern Britain. This low pressure will push a series of fronts across the British Isles today from the west. These fronts will bring areas of thick cloud and showery rain, heaviest across western and northern Britain. A following occluded front will bring heavier rain into Ireland.

### Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

**Warmest:** Wiggonholt, West Sussex, 23.6C
**Coldest:** Cairngorm, 2.2C
**Wettest:** Lerwick, 28.6mm
**Sunniest:** Shoeburyness, Essex, 12.5hrs*

### Sun and moon

**For Greenwich**
**Sun rises:** 05.10
**Sun sets:** 21.02
**Moon rises:** 22.11
**Moon sets:** 07.24 Tue
**Third quarter:** July 28

### Hours of darkness

| | |
|---|---|
| Aberdeen | 22:11-04:20 |
| Belfast | 22:11-04:50 |
| Birmingham | 21:44-04:44 |
| Cardiff | 21:45-04:54 |
| Exeter | 21:43-04:59 |
| Glasgow | 22:11-04:36 |
| Liverpool | 21:53-04:44 |
| London | 21:33-04:42 |
| Manchester | 21:50-04:41 |
| Newcastle | 21:56-04:31 |
| Norwich | 21:32-04:31 |
| Penzance | 21:48-05:09 |
| Sheffield | 21:47-04:38 |

## Weather Eye

Jeremy Plester

Eastern Europe and the Balkans have suffered extreme rounds of heat so far this summer and, last month, way-above-average temperatures have been endured across South America, a large swathe of central and western Asia, eastern Canada and the Middle East. A brief scan of air temperature anomaly maps, where seasonal normals are compared against actual temperatures, also show February, March, April and May with extreme heat entrenched across the planet.

Berkeley Earth, which provides a running commentary on the state of the globe's temperatures, estimates that 63 countries set a new national monthly average record last month and that since 1850, when its records began, it will be the hottest month on record globally. Its latest update says that the rolling temperature anomaly across the past 12 months paints an even more alarming picture, and that during the period July last year to June this year, it has been the warmest period on record for a 138 countries. Over the past 12 months, the only area on the planet where it has been cool is the eastern Antarctic.

While the steady creep of global warming has contributed enormously to these high temperatures, last winter's El Niño has undoubtedly exacerbated this recent spike. The latest El Niño cycle stayed with us for the best part of the past year and compared with other events it was a powerful one, sending a vast streak of warm water across the equatorial Pacific. The high temperatures the globe has experienced during the past 12 months are a direct consequence of El Niño warmth working its way from the oceans back out into the atmosphere. With so much warmth released over such a long period of time, it is highly likely that the current temperature spike is going to last for several months yet.

It might only be July, but given how warm it has been so far this year, it is very difficult to envisage a scenario where this year does not end up as the warmest on record.

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# Sport

## Ayr

**Rob Wright**

**2.30** Ravenscraig Castle
**3.05** Hammer The Hammer
**3.40** La Boo
**4.15 Eternal Sunshine** (nap)
**4.50** Concert Boy
**5.25** Helter Skelter

**Going:** good, good to firm in places
**Draw:** no advantage — Racing TV

### 2.30 Apprentice Handicap (£4,187: 1m 5f) (7)

1 (6) -6405 **RAVENSCRAIG CASTLE** 14 (T,V,CD) I Jardine 6-9-9 — **Shay Farmer (5)**
2 (5) -2423 **IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU** 13 (P) J Candlish 4-9-8 — **S Feilden**
3 (3) 32000 **AYR POET** 14 (C) J Goldie 9-8-13 — **Lauren Young (7)**
4 (1) 0/05- **KONDO ISAMI** 357 R M Smith 6-8-11 — **R Kavanagh (5)**
5 (7) 0-435 **TILSITT** 7 (T,BF,C) R M Smith 7-8-11 — **Rhys Elliott (5)**
6 (2) -3656 **GLASSES UP** 14 (C) R M Smith 9-8-9 — **Archie Young**
7 (4) 56223 **DESERT QUEST** 39 (CD) Ewan Whillans 6-8-5 — **Liam Wright**

9-4 It's All About You, 10-3 Desert Quest, 4-1 Tilsitt, 11-2 Glasses Up, 6-1 Ravenscraig Castle, 12-1 Ayr Poet, 33-1 Kondo Isami.

**Wright choice: Ravenscraig Castle** goes well here; can make the most of a drop in class **Danger** It's All About You

### 3.05 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,860: 5f) (5)

1 (5) 4 **HAMMER THE HAMMER** 11 K Ryan 9-7 — **T Eaves**
2 (4) **LEXINGTON BLITZ** R Cowell 9-7 — **P J McDonald**
3 (2) 53 **MANAGING DIRECTOR** 16 B Smart 9-7 — **H Russell**
4 (1) 20 **MOTAWAHIJ** 30 K R Burke 9-7 — **Doubtful**
5 (3) **STRONG WARRIOR** R Fahey 9-7 — **Oisin Orr**

6-5 Hammer The Hammer, 15-8 Managing Director, 11-2 Strong Warrior, 7-1 Lexington Blitz.

**Wright choice: Hammer The Hammer** shaped well when fourth on his debut at Doncaster **Danger** Lexington Blitz

### 3.40 Handicap (3-Y-O: £3,664: 5f) (8)

1 (1) 06310 **ZAPHEA** 9 (BF,D) I Jardine 9-11 — **A Mullen**
2 (7) 26-00 **CLASSY CLARETS** 16 R Fahey 9-11 — **Oisin Orr**
3 (2) 34504 **LA BOO** 31 (V) M & D Easterby 9-9 — **Joanna Mason**
4 (5) -6606 **TAYGAR** 16 (D) M Dods 9-6 — **P Mulrennan**
5 (8) 13200 **PINPOINT** 11 (P,CD) Ewan Whillans 9-3 — **P J McDonald**
6 (3) 05400 **BETTER** 16 P Midgley 9-1 — **D Nolan**
7 (6) 60260 **LADY OF THE GARR** 16 T Waggott 8-5 — **A Elliott**
8 (4) 005- **SHATIN VENTURE** 321 Miss L Perratt 8-4 — **Rhys Elliott (7)**

9-4 La Boo, 5-2 Zaphea, 5-1 Taygar, Pinpoint, 12-1 Classy Clarets, 16-1 others.

**Wright choice: La Boo** came back to form at Redcar; she is well handicapped **Dangers** Pinpoint, Shatin Venture

### 4.15 Handicap (£3,664: 6f) (10)

1 (1) 05150 **NEWYORKSTATEOFMIND** 13 (D) R Carr 7-10-3 — **T Eaves**
2 (5) 60002 **ROSENPUR** 10 (H) J Candlish 4-10-2 — **C Lee**
3 (6) 4-100 **JKR COBBLER** 7 (C,D) I Jardine 5-10-1 — **A Mullen**
4 (9) 0-331 **NOVELLO LAD** 24 (D) P Midgley 3-9-13 — **D Nolan**
5 (10) 44032 **RAMON DI LORIA** 7 (BF,D) Ewan Whillans 6-9-10 — **P J McDonald**
6 (2) -0411 **ETERNAL SUNSHINE** 14 (CD) J Goldie 4-9-9 — **P Mulrennan**
7 (3) 43415 **PIPER'S FORT** 26 (D) K Scott 3-9-4 — **S James**
8 (7) 0-060 **WILD MOUNTAIN** 31 (B,D) P J McKenna (Ire) 5-9-3 — **Oisin Orr**
9 (8) 05210 **NAZCA** 61 (D) Miss L Perratt 5-8-12 — **J Fanning**
10 (4) 5-046 **EARN YOUR STRIPES** 7 (P,CD) R M Smith 6-8-11 — **P Mathers**

11-4 Eternal Sunshine, 10-3 Novello Lad, 4-1 Ramon Di Loria, 8-1 Rosenpur, 12-1 Piper's Fort, Nazca, 14-1 Wild Mountain, 16-1 others.

**Wright choice: Eternal Sunshine** has landed both starts at this trip; more to come **Dangers** Novello Lad, Ramon Di Loria

### 4.50 Handicap (£3,664: 7f) (13)

1 (10) -0040 **END ZONE** 30 (B,CD) R Fell & S Murray 7-10-1 — **C Lee**
2 (5) 00000 **TARJAMAH** 24 (P) T Waggott 4-9-13 — **T Eaves**
3 (4) 36624 **PEMBROKESHIRE** 14 (H,D) I Jardine 4-9-13 — **A Mullen**
4 (2) 40541 **THE GAY BLADE** 4 (H,D) I Jardine 5-9-13(5ex) — **Archie Young (5)**
5 (1) 03U00 **GOBI SUNSET** 19 (P,C,D) I Jardine 7-9-11 — **Shay Farmer (7)**
6 (11) 00302 **CONCERT BOY** 7 (D) K Scott 4-9-9 — **S James**
7 (8) 10000 **ZEBRA STAR** 7 (CD) R M Smith 4-9-9 — **P Mathers**
8 (9) 05213 **DRAKEHOLES** 113 (D) Mrs A C Hamilton 5-9-7 — **D Nolan**
9 (12) -2234 **BRAES OF DOUNE** 7 (P,C) J Goldie 6-9-5 — **P Mulrennan**
10 (6) 00000 **RHASIDAT** 17 (D) P J McKenna (Ire) 3-9-0 — **Oisin Orr**
11 (7) 32300 **DARKER** 30 (B) R Carr 5-9-0 — **Joanna Mason**
12 (13) 00000 **ONTHEBUNNY** 7 (E) Miss L Perratt 4-9-0 — **T Jakes (5)**
13 (3) 66044 **ZACHARY** 7 (H) C Johnston 3-8-13 — **J Fanning**

4-1 Braes Of Doune, 5-1 The Gay Blade, 11-2 Concert Boy, Pembrokeshire, Drakeholes, 15-2 Zachary, 10-1 Gobi Sunset, 16-1 Darker.

**Wright choice: Concert Boy** ran a cracker when second here last time **Dangers** Braes Of Doune, Pembrokeshire

### 5.25 Handicap (£4,187: 1m) (7)

1 (2) 54610 **HALE END** 26 (P,D) M Dods 4-9-11 — **S B Kirrane**
2 (3) 40606 **WILDFELL** 11 (B,D) R Fell & S Murray 4-9-9 — **C Lee**
3 (1) 60-10 **HEY LYLA** 32 (C,D) C Johnston 4-9-8 — **J Fanning**
4 (5) 40022 **HELTER SKELTER** 9 (V) R Menzies 4-9-4 — **D Nolan**
5 (4) 30060 **TRAIS FLUORS** 24 (D) Miss L Perratt 10-9-2 — **T Jakes (5)**
6 (6) -0354 **ALPINE SIERRA** 15 (H,CD) J Goldie 6-9-1 — **P Mulrennan**
7 (7) 6-005 **CISCO DISCO** 16 (V,D) R Fahey 6-9-0 — **Oisin Orr**

2-1 Helter Skelter, 4-1 Alpine Sierra, 9-2 Hey Lyla, 6-1 Hale End, 15-2 others.

**Wright choice: Helter Skelter** has his quirks but did well when second at Hamilton **Danger** Alpine Sierra

## Beverley

**Rob Wright**

**6.00** Sensorium
**6.30** Variety Island
**7.00** Gressington
**7.30** Alextrician
**8.00** Marton Heads
**8.30** Chicago Gal
**9.00** Cakewalk

**Going:** good to firm, good in places
**Draw:** 5f-7f, low numbers best — Racing TV

### 6.00 Restricted Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,050: 5f) (12)

1 (1) **BONNIE'S BOY** R Fahey 9-7 — **Ryan Sexton**
2 (2) 303 **SENSORIUM** 23 D Cunha 9-7 — **R Clutterbuck**
3 (9) 6 **ANDALPROFIT** 37 N Tinkler 9-5 — **R Scott**
4 (12) 0 **CAUSIN A COMMOTION** 26 K Ryan 9-5 — **S Gray**
5 (4) 50 **SOLAR BIRICZ** 68 B Ellison 9-5 — **B Robinson**
6 (11) **THE VOOMINATOR** Craig Lidster 9-5 — **J Hart**
7 (5) **OCEAN FALLS** T Easterby 9-3 — **D Fentiman**
8 (3) 024 **STIRRUP CUP** 19 T Easterby 9-3 — **D Allan**
9 (10) 6 **INDY'S ANGEL** 21 P Kirby 9-2 — **B Garritty**
10 (6) **KENSINGTON HOPE** K P De Foy 9-2 — **David Egan**
11 (7) **JEANY MAY** N Tinkler 9-0 — **F McManoman**
12 (8) **NOVAMAY** M Dods 9-0 — **C Beasley**

13-8 Sensorium, 3-1 Stirrup Cup, 5-1 Bonnie's Boy, 8-1 Kensington Hope, 12-1 Novamay, 14-1 Causin A Commotion, 16-1 The Voominator, 20-1 Andalprofit.

### 6.30 Handicap (£4,004: 5f) (12)

1 (6) 01311 **GOLDEN RAINBOW** 16 (T,V,D) R Menzies 5-9-9 — **C Rodriguez**
2 (1) 12513 **TOPTIME** 39 (D) S Bowring 6-9-7 — **R Clutterbuck**
3 (10) 36021 **JACK OF CLUBS** 6 (CD) M Dods 4-9-7(5ex) — **C Beasley**
4 (4) 23555 **LOTUS ROSE** 25 (D) R Fell & S Murray 5-9-6 — **J Peate (3)**
5 (3) -0045 **REFUGE** 34 (T,D) M & D Easterby 7-9-5 — **B Garritty**
6 (11) -2002 **EXCEED** 16 (T,D) N Tinkler 4-9-5 — **R Scott**
7 (9) RRR-0 **IMPERIOUSITY** 13 (D) S A Harris 4-9-4 — **Laura Pearson**
8 (12) 16122 **MRS TRUMP** 25 (BF,D) P Midgley 4-9-3 — **Mark Winn (3)**
9 (7) -4426 **OPAL STORM** 32 (T,D) B Rothwell 4-9-0 — **A Brookes (3)**
10 (2) 000- **GIMCRACK WARRIOR** 437 D Carroll 4-8-13 — **Z Wheatley (3)**
11 (5) 65422 **VARIETY ISLAND** 6 (V) S Whitaker 5-8-9 — **A Breslin (3)**
12 (8) 60002 **GOLDEN PROSPERITY** 19 (P,D) Tony Coyle & Kaine Wood 5-8-7 — **JP Sullivan**

9-2 Golden Rainbow, 11-2 Toptime, 6-1 Mrs Trump, Jack Of Clubs, Variety Island, 8-1 Exceed, 12-1 Refuge, Lotus Rose.

### 7.00 Handicap (£6,621: 7f) (11)

1 (4) -0500 **MASTER RICHARD** 10 (D) Mrs A Duffield 5-10-3 — **O McSweeney (3)**
2 (7) 01100 **ENOLA GREY** 16 (D) G Tutty 4-10-0 — **R Scott**
3 (1) 15332 **TROPEZ POWER** 19 (V,D) J & S Quinn 5-10-0 — **J Hart**
4 (6) 320-0 **GOLDEN SANDS** 44 (H,P,C) M Appleby 5-9-11 — **A Rawlinson**
5 (5) 0-000 **CAPITAL GUARANTEE** 17 (D) D O'Meara 4-9-10 — **Jason Watson**
6 (11) 10100 **CLIFFCAKE** 44 (CD) S Bowring 6-9-5 — **R Clutterbuck**
7 (8) 2-356 **GRESSINGTON** 44 (D) E Bethell 3-9-3 — **C Rodriguez**
8 (9) 0-244 **PARK STREET** 6 (BF,CD) Miss T Jackson 5-9-3 — **B Garritty**
9 (3) 01151 **DISTINCTION** 13 (V,C,D) J Mackie 6-9-1 — **C Beasley**
10 (2) 4-002 **UGO GREGORY** 6 (P,T,CD) T Easterby 8-9-0 — **D Allan**
11 (10) 30030 **SECRET WORLD** 16 (D) C Johnston 3-8-11 — **F Norton**

11-4 Tropez Power, 5-1 Master Richard, 6-1 Distinction, Ugo Gregory, 13-2 Gressington, 7-1 Park Street, 14-1 Secret World, 16-1 Cliffcake.

### 7.30 Handicap (£4,004: 7f) (10)

1 (9) 0-646 **GORDONSTOUN** 77 (V,D) L Bailey 6-9-12 — **Doubtful**
2 (10) 010-5 **ELETTARIA** 17 (P,D) J Wainwright 5-9-9 — **Ryan Sexton**
3 (2) 40061 **RUM RUNNER** 17 (CD) G Harker 9-9-6 — **C Beasley**
4 (3) 0500- **TIMELY CHANCE** 270 Steph Hollinshead 3-9-5 — **D Costello**
5 (6) -5425 **CLOTHERHOLME** 17 (H,P,C,D) Mrs A Duffield 7-9-4 — **R Scott**
6 (8) -5640 **CHAT UP LINE** 14 (H) T Easterby 3-9-1 — **D Allan**
7 (1) 0000- **ENTRECASTEAUX** 276 (T) R Fell & S Murray 3-9-0 — **Jason Watson**
8 (4) 00-04 **ALICE'S IMPACT** 36 J & S Quinn 3-8-12 — **J Hart**
9 (5) 00450 **BATTLEOFBALTIMORE** 7 (T) D Cunha 3-8-11 — **R Clutterbuck**
10 (7) 04240 **ALEXTRICIAN** 65 Mrs Stella Barclay 3-8-10 — **Z Wheatley (3)**

5-2 Rum Runner, 11-4 Alice's Impact, 7-2 Clotherholme, 13-2 Elettaria, 10-1 Battleofbaltimore, 14-1 Alextrician, Chat Up Line, 33-1 others.

### 8.00 Handicap (£4,004: 7f) (9)

1 (7) 00044 **KING SHARJA** 17 R Carr 4-9-12 — **JP Sullivan**
2 (5) 00001 **TWILIGHT JAZZ** 17 (CD) P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 4-9-7 — **D Allan**
3 (9) 25225 **CUBANISTA** 37 (D) Olly Williams 5-9-6 — **Morgan Cole (5)**
4 (3) 0/060 **PENNY GHENT** 14 S Whitaker 4-9-5 — **B Sanderson (3)**
5 (1) 00004 **MISS BILLIE** 14 M Wigham 4-9-4 — **J Hart**
6 (4) 34530 **BESTIE** 28 B Haslam 3-9-2 — **A Breslin (3)**
7 (8) 0-505 **PAPAGREY** 16 (P) T Easterby 3-9-1 — **C Murtagh**
8 (6) 04065 **MARTON HEADS** 17 (B,T) T Easterby 3-8-12 — **D Fentiman**
9 (2) 0006- **TIGLA** 279 N Tinkler 3-8-10 — **F McManoman**

9-4 Twilight Jazz, 7-2 Cubanista, 5-1 King Sharja, 8-1 Bestie, 10-1 Papagrey, Miss Billie, 12-1 Marton Heads, 14-1 Tigla, 16-1 Penny Ghent.

### 8.30 Handicap (£4,004: 1m 2f) (11)

1 (3) /5P-2 **CHICAGO GAL** 37 M & D Easterby 5-10-0 — **B Garritty**
2 (5) -5330 **THREE PLATOON** 6 (B,T) R Menzies 6-9-13 — **David Egan**
3 (4) 44644 **DANDY'S ANGEL** 6 (CD) J Wainwright 7-9-12 — **Ryan Sexton**
4 (7) 05644 **DR RIO** 34 (CD) D Carroll 8-9-9 — **Z Wheatley (3)**
5 (8) -5054 **SEAHORSE SYD** 17 (B,D) O Pears 3-9-5 — **J Hart**
6 (11) 00/6 **LADY'S CHARM** 17 B Rothwell 4-9-3 — **F McManoman**
7 (2) -0260 **JAMIH** 24 (P,D) Miss T Jackson 9-9-3 — **D Allan**
8 (10) 45406 **TIBERIO FORCE** 17 (V,D) S Whitaker 5-9-3 — **B Sanderson (3)**
9 (9) 0-060 **QUOTELINE DIRECT** 82 (D) M Hammond 11-9-3 — **A Brookes (3)**
10 (6) 05-00 **ODETTE'S BEAU** 63 M Dods 3-9-0 — **C Beasley**
11 (1) 00-03 **LINCOLN ROYAL** 9 (H,T) I Furtado 3-9-0 — **J Haynes**

7-2 Chicago Gal, 4-1 Dandy's Angel, 5-1 Seahorse Syd, 7-1 Dr Rio, 8-1 Lincoln Royal, Three Platoon, 10-1 Jamih, 14-1 Tiberio Force.

### 9.00 Handicap (£4,527: 1m 2f) (9)

1 (3) -1404 **WHERE'S JEFF** 27 (P,CD) M & D Easterby 9-10-1 — **B Garritty**
2 (8) 4540- **CASILLI** 287 (CD) M & D Easterby 7-10-0 — **Lewis Chalkley (7)**
3 (1) 40503 **BOHEMIAN BREEZE** 33 (P,D) C Johnston 4-9-13 — **F Norton**
4 (6) 04004 **MOUNT KING** 11 (P,T) T Easterby 4-9-9 — **D Allan**
5 (5) 12-60 **BIGTIME BRIDGET** 41 (H,T) M Bell 3-9-9 — **C Rodriguez**
6 (4) 66003 **DR FOSTER** 17 (V,BF) M Appleby 3-9-8 — **Jason Watson**
7 (2) 05350 **SONNING** J22 (P,T,CD) D Brooke 6-9-7 — **A Rawlinson**
8 (9) 00652 **PRINCESS NIYLA** 24 A Brown 4-9-7 — **R Scott**
9 (7) 500 **CAKEWALK** 13 S & E Crisford 3-9-3 — **H Davies**

5-2 Princess Niyla, 4-1 Bohemian Breeze, 5-1 Where's Jeff, 7-1 Dr Foster, 8-1 Casilli, 10-1 Cakewalk, Mount King, 14-1 Sonning, 16-1 Bigtime Bridget.

## Windsor

**Rob Wright**

**5.18** Bretton Wood
**5.50** Dark Sorceress
**6.20** Calumet
**6.50** Raheen Rode
**7.20** Bona Fortuna
**7.50** Star Jasmine
**8.20** Caballo De Mar
**8.50** Adace

**Going:** good to firm
**Draw:** 5f-6f, low best — Sky Sports Racing

### 5.18 Handicap (2-Y-O: £4,397: 6f) (10)

1 (5) 041 **BALZARINI** 21 (C) S C Williams 9-11 — **S M Levey**
2 (3) 51 **RAN AMOK** 35 (T,D) H Palmer 9-10 — **O Murphy**
3 (4) 2015 **SPIRITED DANCER** 60 (D) J Channon 9-9 — **C Bishop**
4 (6) 01 **COUNTESS CIARA** 33 (D) A Watson 9-9 — **H Doyle**
5 (8) 01 **RUFF JUSTICE** 24 (D) W Greatrex 9-8 — **E Greatrex**
6 (1) 5550 **BRETTON WOOD** 33 James Owen 9-7 — **S De Sousa**
7 (7) 426 **BANTZ** 26 W Haggas 9-7 — **T Marquand**
8 (2) 430 **HAVANA DANCE** 18 J Portman 9-7 — **R Hornby**
9 (9) 053 **TOLERANCE** 32 G Boughey 9-5 — **Billy Loughnane**
10 (10) 51 **JOHN'S DRAGON** 35 (C) T Dascombe 9-4 — **P-L Jamin**

11-2 Ran Amok, 6-1 Ruff Justice, Balzarini, 7-1 Spirited Dancer, Countess Ciara, Tolerance, John's Dragon, Bantz.

### 5.50 Fillies' Restricted Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,672: 6f) (16)

1 (3) 0 **CASTRO AURUM** 24 Darryll Holland 9-2 — **J F Egan**
2 (7) 0 **DUBAI MAGIC** 21 J Tate 9-2 — **N Callan**
3 (9) **HANDLE WITH CARE** M Botti 9-2 — **H Doyle**
4 (15) 0 **HEAVEN KNOWS** 24 R Guest 9-2 — **C Shepherd**
5 (2) 40 **KYLIE OF LOCHALSH** 31 G Kelleway 9-2 — **H Turner**
6 (4) **MAGNA** A Carroll 9-2 — **L Morris**
7 (13) 00 **PUGLIA** 26 E De Giles 9-2 — **P Cosgrave**
8 (16) 50 **RIDGEWAY REDWING** 23 D Coakley 9-2 — **G Bass (3)**
9 (14) **STAR OF MEHMAS** R Hughes 9-2 — **O Murphy**
10 (12) **YESTERDAY'S GONE** M Bell 9-2 — **H Crouch**
11 (5) 3 **DARK SORCERESS** 20 C Hobson 9-0 — **M Ghiani**
12 (6) 0 **FLAINE** 14 (P,T) T Dascombe 9-0 — **P-L Jamin**
13 (10) 3 **FLEETWATER** 11 J S Moore 9-0 — **Billy Loughnane**
14 (11) 0 **LA MER GRISE** 10 A Carroll 9-0 — **W Carson**
15 (8) **LITTLE SHE** M Tregoning 9-0 — **T Whelan**
16 (1) 0 **NANNA WESTERN** 21 G Nicholls 9-0 — **A Keeley (3)**

3-1 Fleetwater, 9-2 Dark Sorceress, 5-1 Star Of Mehmas, 6-1 Castro Aurum, 12-1 Yesterday's Gone, Kylie Of Lochalsh, Handle With Care, Dubai Magic.

### 6.20 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 1m 2f) (10)

1 (3) 40- **LION WAIT** J26 B Lund 4-10-2 — **Taylor Fisher (3)**
2 (1) 22 **CALUMET** 159 M Botti 3-9-7 — **O Murphy**
3 (10) **CELTIC JOHN** P Phelan 3-9-7 — **P Bradley**
4 (5) 32 **GLENDOWER** 26 W Muir & C Grassick 3-9-7 — **L Edmunds**
5 (4) 53- **SCOTTISH REEL** 300 C Johnston 3-9-7 — **Billy Loughnane**
6 (8) -6220 **THE HUN** 16 R Eddery 3-9-7 — **S D Bowen (3)**
7 (2) 6 **ADMIRED HOPE** 105 W Haggas 3-9-2 — **T Marquand**
8 (6) 2-02 **IZIPIZI** 39 J & T Gosden 3-9-2 — **K Shoemark**
9 (7) 60 **LIVEALITTLECRAZY** 60 (T) A West 3-9-2 — **T Whelan**
10 (9) 00 **UPTON** 21 (H) A Balding 3-9-2 — **R Hornby**

5-2 Izipizi, 3-1 Calumet, 9-2 Glendower, 5-1 The Hun, 8-1 Admired Hope, 14-1 Scottish Reel, Lion Wait, 25-1 Upton.

### 6.50 Maiden Stakes (£4,320: 1m 2f) (9)

1 (6) 0-0 **DUBAI HARBOUR** 13 P Phelan 4-10-2 — **P Bradley**
2 (5) 00 **BE LIKE PUMPKIN** 31 (H) Miss S West 3-9-7 — **W Cox**
3 (2) 0 **GREY MOON** 47 Harry Charlton 3-9-7 — **T Whelan**
4 (7) 0-0 **HOMME DE FER** 28 A Carroll 3-9-7 — **W Carson**
5 (4) 024-5 **HOUSTONN** 66 (BF) R Hannon 3-9-7 — **P Dobbs**
6 (3) 00 **KING AFFECTION** 26 A Balding 3-9-7 — **C Hutchinson (3)**
7 (1) 3-6 **RAHEEN RODE** 66 W Haggas 3-9-7 — **T Marquand**
8 (8) 3 **ROYAL COLLEGE** 25 C Johnston 3-9-7 — **Billy Loughnane**
9 (9) **GLORIOUS LANDSCAPE** E J-Houghton 3-9-2 — **C Bishop**

5-4 Houstonn, 3-1 Raheen Rode, 5-1 Royal College, 8-1 Glorious Landscape, 12-1 Grey Moon, 16-1 Dubai Harbour, 25-1 others.

### 7.20 Handicap (£5,653: 6f) (16)

1 (5) 12311 **SIXTIES CHIC** 39 (CD) J Channon 4-10-2 — **C Bishop**
2 (10) 41300 **SUPREME KING** 23 (D) P Evans 4-10-0 — **O Murphy**
3 (15) 60002 **WATCHYA** 11 (D) G Baker 5-9-13 — **P Cosgrave**
4 (4) 413-0 **KIT GABRIEL** 18 (P,D) D Loughnane 5-9-13 — **Rossa Ryan**
5 (16) 61100 **CINQUE VERDE** 15 (D) A Carroll 4-9-11 — **Jack Doughty (5)**
6 (8) -2005 **CAPOTE'S DREAM** 11 (B,T,CD) T Ward 7-9-11 — **S M Levey**
7 (13) 3-300 **ASHWIYAA** 10 (T) G Boughey 3-9-10 — **Billy Loughnane**
8 (14) 05020 **TREMBLANT** 24 (H,P,T) Miss A Murphy 4-9-9 — **T Marquand**
9 (12) -0205 **SKY WARRIOR** 35 (D) C Cox 3-9-9 — **R Kingscote**
10 (1) 0-422 **NOGO'S DREAM** 18 (P) R Hughes 4-9-9 — **G Rooke**
11 (2) 02134 **GRENHAM BAY** 96 (D) A Balding 4-9-8 — **C Hutchinson (3)**
12 (3) 60005 **BETTIES BAY** 19 (P,D) G Nicholls 3-9-6 — **J Bryan**
13 (9) 35-1 **BONA FORTUNA** 27 (T,D) M Appleby 3-9-6 — **F Marsh**
14 (11) 50345 **GLAMOROUS EXPRESS** 18 (T,D) A Carroll 5-9-4 — **L Morris**
15 (6) 400-0 **TOUSSAROK** 18 (D) A Carroll 6-9-3 — **W Carson**
16 (7) -0421 **LAHINA BAY** 21 (CD) R Cook & J Bridger 4-8-11 — **S D Bowen (3)**

11-2 Sixties Chic, 7-1 Watchya, Nogo's Dream, 8-1 Bona Fortuna, 10-1 Sky Warrior, Supreme King, Grenham Bay, 12-1 others.

### 7.50 Fillies' Handicap (£8,505: 1m 2f) (6)

1 (5) 2/1-0 **NAAEY** 13 J & T Gosden 4-10-2 — **K Shoemark**
2 (3) -0040 **MOTHER MARY** 33 (P) R Hughes 4-10-0 — **Taryn Langley (7)**
3 (6) 41-44 **WARREN HILL** 164 (D) R Varian 4-9-11 — **A Keeley (3)**
4 (2) 22130 **STAR JASMINE** 37 G Boughey 3-9-8 — **Billy Loughnane**
5 (1) 0-21 **SEEK AND DESTROY** 21 (CD) R Beckett 3-9-5 — **H Crouch**
6 (4) 3-10 **SEA REGAL** 17 (BF,D) W Haggas 3-9-3 — **T Marquand**

5-2 Naaey, 3-1 Seek And Destroy, 10-3 Sea Regal, 6-1 Mother Mary, 7-1 Warren Hill, 10-1 Star Jasmine.

### 8.20 Handicap (£3,768: 1m 2f) (13)

1 (1) 10001 **SHALFA** 49 (V,D) Mrs L Richards 5-10-4 — **N Callan**
2 (13) -4402 **NEW DAYRELL** 28 (D) W Muir & C Grassick 4-10-3 — **L Edmunds**
3 (10) 00030 **SILASTAR** 26 (D) G & J Moore 7-10-2 — **T P Queally**
4 (6) -5112 **GOLDEN PHASE** 27 (P,D) D Coakley 4-10-0 — **H Doyle**
5 (2) 5103- **MR ZEE** J54 (CD) M Blake 7-9-13 — **L Catton (3)**
6 (9) 50-54 **PLEDGE OF HONOUR** 30 (P,D) D Ivory 8-9-12 — **L Keniry**
7 (12) 00205 **GALLIMIMUS** 20 (B,D) J Gallagher 4-9-11 — **D Keenan**
8 (3) 5-504 **LAWN RANGER** 11 (CD) M Attwater 9-9-9 — **R Havlin**
9 (11) 30/06 **RIVER ALWEN** 11 (V,D) Craig Benton 6-9-9 — **C Bennett**
10 (4) 060 **CABALLO DE MAR** 30 (P) G Scott 3-9-7 — **C Shepherd**
11 (8) 0-000 **HOPE RISING** 39 C Hills 3-9-6 — **Billy Loughnane**
12 (7) 0-606 **GOLDEN ARC** 16 A Perrett 3-9-2 — **S M Levey**
13 (5) 05600 **PLATINUM PERFECT** 20 (P) A Perrett 3-8-2 — **Jimmy Quinn**

4-1 New Dayrell, 9-2 Golden Phase, Shalfa, 7-1 Mr Zee, 8-1 Lawn Ranger, 10-1 Pledge Of Honour, 12-1 Silastar, Caballo De Mar, others.

### 8.50 Handicap (£3,768: 1m) (14)

1 (13) 01050 **ALWAYS FEARLESS** 5 (B,D) R Hannon 7-10-2 — **Tyrese Cameron (7)**
2 (14) 04200 **NASIM** 42 (D) M Pattinson 5-10-0 — **W Carson**
3 (8) -3156 **CAREY STREET** 33 A Carroll 8-9-12 — **H Doyle**
4 (1) 24520 **MANILA MIST** 23 K Jewell 4-9-11 — **L Morris**
5 (10) 06-50 **LUNA QUEEN** 13 (D) Miss S West 5-9-10 — **J Gilligan**
6 (12) /P035 **BOLD SUITOR** 12 (B,T,D) Craig Benton 7-9-9 — **C Bennett**
7 (2) 25023 **ADACE** 21 (P,CD) D Ivory 6-9-9 — **Jimmy Quinn**
8 (3) 35/0- **VILLEURBANNE** 320 A Irvine 6-9-6 — **A Keeley (3)**
9 (11) 0-00 **WOOF** 14 M Rimell 3-9-4 — **R Hornby**
10 (7) 32332 **SALAAMAAT** 27 (BF) R Guest 3-9-4 — **C Shepherd**
11 (9) -6000 **BEAUTIFUL SURPRISE** 85 (T) R Ingram 5-9-3 — **R Havlin**
12 (6) 00106 **ON THE NOSE** J27 (B,D) A West 6-9-1 — **D Keenan**
13 (4) 000-4 **BREAK THE SPELL** 177 (P) D J Jeffreys 4-9-0 — **Doubtful**
14 (5) -0666 **NASNEEN** 48 I Williams 3-8-11 — **Billy Loughnane**

9-4 Salaamaat, 3-1 Adace, 8-1 Luna Queen, 12-1 On The Nose, Bold Suitor, Nasneen, 14-1 Carey Street, Manila Mist, others.

## Cartmel

**Rob Wright**

**1.40** Belles Benefit
**2.10** Natchez Trace
**2.45** Cavern Club
**3.20 Starlyte** (nb)
**3.55** Carcaci Castle
**4.30** Ilikedwayurthinkin
**5.00** Grand Soufle

**Going** soft, good to soft in places
**Racing TV**

### 1.40 Handicap Hurdle (£3,248: 2m 6f) (10)

1 64P-1 **BELLES BENEFIT** 24 (P,CD) B Case 8-11-10 — **H Bannister**
2 33-00 **DEFENCE WITNESS** 29 A M Thomson 5-11-10 — **R Mania**
3 /0-23 **SKYJACK HIJACK** 24 J Candlish 6-11-8 — **Sean Quinlan**
4 4-310 **PATEEN** 22 (T,V,CD) J Bedi 12-11-5 — **A Anderson (5)**
5 25-33 **BALKOTIC** 22 (T,V) M Hammond 8-11-5 — **J Thompson (7)**
6 000-2 **JIMLI'S CAVE** 22 R K Watson (Ire) 6-11-4 — **G Sheehan**
7 14-54 **SECRET SECRET** 22 (H,T,CD) J Moffatt 8-11-3 — **Charlotte Jones (3)**
8 3-154 **BELLBIRD** 31 D McCain 4-11-3 — **B Hughes**
9 55-03 **PALM BEACH** 18 J E Dixon 7-11-2 — **Mr John Dixon (7)**
10 P-003 **AGILULF** 15 A Nicol 5-11-2 — **B Lynn (3)**

7-2 Belles Benefit, 4-1 Jimli's Cave, 11-2 Skyjack Hijack, 13-2 others.

### 2.10 Handicap Hurdle (£3,248: 2m 1f) (10)

1 F3-35 **ARTISTE D'AINAY** 46 (T,BF) T Ellis 6-11-10 — **Mr J Andrews (3)**
2 /10-P **SHUIL DONN** 39 (H,T) Paul Collins 8-11-10 — **B Hughes**
3 223-1 **TRAILBLAZER** 8 (P) A Nicol 5-11-10 — **D R Fox**
4 0-042 **RESTANDBETHANKFUL** 24 (T,D) Lizzie Quinlan 8-11-10 — **Sean Quinlan**
5 44123 **MALANGEN** 8 (D) Miss L Harrison 9-11-9 — **P J Kavanagh (3)**
6 0/43 **NATCHEZ TRACE** F9 D Carroll 7-11-8 — **R T Dunne**
7 3-613 **FLASHTHELIGHTS** 17 (P,T) N C Kelly (Ire) 8-11-6 — **Mr Oran McGill (7)**
8 3-610 **LUCKY LOVER BOY** 33 (P,T,D) O Greenall & J Guerriero 9-11-3 — **H Brooke**
9 -12F0 **FOR THREE** 29 (P,T,BF,D) S England 10-11-3 — **J England**
10 3R60- **THE NAVIGATOR** F12 (D) D Sayer 9-11-2 — **D McMenamin**

5-2 Trailblazer, 7-2 Flashthelights, 11-2 Restandbethankful, 13-2 Malangen, 15-2 Natchez Trace, 10-1 Artiste D'ainay, 14-1 For Three, Lucky Lover Boy.

### 2.45 Maiden Hurdle (£3,921: 2m 1f) (12)

1 **FAIRMAC** F140 (W,T) L Russell 6-11-4 — **D R Fox**
2 4-4C **REACH FOR THE MOON** 20 (BF) J Snowden 5-11-4 — **G Sheehan**
3 P- **THUNDER GAP** 215 (W,T) M Barnes 7-11-4 — **Conor Rabbitt (5)**
4 52U **A DAY TO DREAM** 20 (P) O Pears 4-11-0 — **B Hughes**
5 **CAVERN CLUB** F9 James Owen 4-11-0 — **H Cobden**
6 06U **INOUE** 13 (H) Paul Robson 4-11-0 — **Craig Nichol**
7 PF5 **BABY EVIE** 22 (T) J Moffatt 5-10-11 — **Charlotte Jones (3)**
8 /050- **FLEXI LADY** 209 G Boanas 5-10-11 — **D McMenamin**
9 333-6 **JOLIE COEUR ALLEN** 55 (H,BF) B Haslam 5-10-11 — **R McLernon**
10 0-4 **READY TO SHINE** F18 (P) J Camacho 5-10-11 — **Doubtful**
11 20/3- **STORM SPIRIT** F30 (H,T) M Hammond 5-10-11 — **J Thompson (7)**
12 P-4 **RAINCLOUD** 22 M Chapman 4-10-7 — **P J Kavanagh (3)**

11-8 Jolie Coeur Allen, 9-4 Cavern Club, 6-1 A Day To Dream, 7-1 Reach For The Moon, Fairmac, 25-1 Storm Spirit, 50-1 Baby Evie, 100-1 Inoue.

### 3.20 Handicap Hurdle (£4,146: 3m 1f) (14)

1 141-1 **TOWNHILL** 27 (P,T,D) T Lacey 6-12-0 — **Doubtful**
2 3-111 **SAINT BIBIANA** 22 (T,CD) G Nicholls 7-11-13 — **L Williams**
3 P-221 **BOOMSLANG** 24 (C) R Menzies 7-11-11 — **R Chapman**
4 2-P52 **DYNAMITE KENTUCKY** 24 (B,D) Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-11-9 — **L Scott (5)**
5 4P-44 **OUR LAURA B** 58 B Haslam 6-11-8 — **R McLernon**
6 3235- **SHANTOU SUNSET** 241 J Moffatt 10-11-7 — **L Norcei (10)**
7 4-211 **CITY DERBY** 22 (P,C) Lizzie Quinlan 8-11-6 — **Sean Quinlan**
8 4-123 **DALILEO** 8 Miss L Harrison 9-11-0 — **P J Kavanagh (3)**
9 -0532 **STARLYTE** 24 (T) L Russell 7-11-0 — **P W Wadge (3)**
10 32-34 **LADY MENDOZA** 8 (P) R Menzies 7-10-13 — **N Moscrop**
11 20-05 **NATIVE FIGHTER** 22 (V,CD) J Moffatt 10-10-11 — **Charlotte Jones (3)**
12 22/44 **SHANTOU CHAMPAGNE** 24 P & M Bowen 7-10-7 — **S Bowen**
13 5PP0/ **MONTICELLO** F11 N Mechie 10-10-2 — **William Maggs (5)**
14 U-PP0 **ROBERT D'ORES** 29 (P) G Bewley 7-10-2 — **J Bewley**

10-3 City Derby, 4-1 Boomslang, 9-2 Saint Bibiana, 13-2 Dynamite Kentucky, 10-1 Starlyte, Dalileo, 16-1 Shantou Champagne, Our Laura B, Lady Mendoza.

### 3.55 Novices' Limited Handicap Chase (£6,205: 2m 1f) (6)

1 F1-1U **LIPA K** 48 (BF,D) O Greenall & J Guerriero 6-11-10 — **H Brooke**
2 3P-51 **CARCACI CASTLE** 29 (P) A M Thomson 8-11-9 — **R Mania**
3 PP-51 **FORCING BULL** 13 (T) D McCain 7-11-1 — **B Hughes**
4 1-332 **THE GYPSY DAVEY** 18 E Williams 6-10-12 — **A Wedge**
5 434-0 **TORONET** 14 L Morgan 5-10-6 — **G Sheehan**
6 015-6 **CUZCO DU MATHAN** 24 (V) J Moffatt 6-10-5 — **Charlotte Jones (3)**

2-1 Carcaci Castle, 9-4 Lipa K, 5-2 Forcing Bull, 15-2 The Gypsy Davey, 20-1 Cuzco Du Mathan, 25-1 Toronet.

### 4.30 Handicap Chase (£4,832: 3m 1f 107yd) (10)

1 54-50 **COQOLINO** 22 B Haslam 9-12-2 — **N F Houlihan**
2 0-031 **ILIKEDWAYURTHINKIN** 24 (P,CD) B Haslam 10-11-12 — **R McLernon**
3 20-03 **WASDELL DUNDALK** 8 Miss L Harrison 9-11-11 — **D McMenamin**
4 320-1 **NO REGRETS** 75 (V) N Richards 10-11-9 — **Sean Quinlan**
5 2PP-2 **MOTION IN LIMINE** 51 (B,T) Dr R Newland & J Insole 9-11-6 — **L Scott (5)**
6 44-20 **WHERE'S BUNNY** 2 J Moffatt 9-11-1 — **P J Kavanagh (3)**
7 01133 **ELLEON** 24 (P,T) S England 9-11-1 — **J England**
8 0-612 **CARDAMON HILL** 18 (P) D Sayer 7-11-1 — **B Hughes**
9 66-30 **JELSKI** 24 (P,CD) J Moffatt 10-11-1 — **Charlotte Jones (3)**
10 4-122 **HAPPY DU MESNIL** 24 (P,BF) O Greenall & J Guerriero 7-10-13 — **H Brooke**

4-1 Ilikedwayurthinkin, 9-2 Happy Du Mesnil, No Regrets, 13-2 Where's Bunny, Cardamon Hill, 8-1 Motion In Limine, Elleon, 12-1 Wasdell Dundalk.

### 5.00 Handicap Chase (£3,617: 2m 5f) (12)

1 -3413 **DR SANDERSON** 2 (BF,CD) B Haslam 10-12-0 — **R McLernon**
2 4/6-4 **ANIMORE** 29 H Burns 11-12-0 — **R Mania**
3 /40-0 **GRAND SOUFLE** 54 J Moffatt 8-11-12 — **Charlotte Jones (3)**
4 -2312 **SEAN OG** 2 (BF,CD) D Sayer 6-11-11 — **Sean Quinlan**
5 PP-P2 **BREAKING THE ICE** 2 (P,C) G Bewley 9-11-9 — **J Bewley**
6 4-61D **GOING MOBILE** 29 (P,T,BF) S England 9-11-5 — **J England**
7 60-05 **THE KING OF MAY** 22 (P) B Ellison 10-11-5 — **Craig Nichol**
8 -5141 **OVER MILK WOOD** 37 (D) G Hanmer 8-10-13 — **J Hogan (3)**
9 4-U64 **INTO THE SUNSET** 13 D McCain 7-10-12 — **B Hughes**
10 24-U0 **BENSINI** 31 (V) R L Llewellyn 8-10-11 — **Charlie Price (3)**
11 /050- **JUDICIAL REVIEW** 191 (W,P,T) J Moffatt 6-10-4 — **D McMenamin**
12 P4-4P **KARAPIRO DOUG** 71 (P) D Brooke 8-10-3 — **Miss P Brown (7)**

15-8 Dr Sanderson, 7-2 Over Milk Wood, Sean Og, 13-2 Going Mobile, 12-1 Into The Sunset, 20-1 Grand Soufle, Bensini, The King Of May.

**Blinkered first time**: **Cartmel** 3.20 Native Fighter. 5.00 Bensini. **Ayr** 3.40 La Boo. 5.25 Wildfell. **Beverley** 7.00 Tropez Power. 8.00 Marton Heads; 8.30 Three Platoon; Tiberio Force. 9.00 Dr Foster. **Windsor** 8.20 River Alwen

## Yesterday's racing and other results

### Newton Abbott

**Going:** good to soft

**2.05** (2m 167yd) 1, **Final Entry** (Jack Tudor, 11-2); 2, Kalkaroo (7-2); 3, Golden Path (8-13 fav). 5 ran. ½l, 29l. D Pipe.
**2.35** (2m 2f 110yd) 1, **Karannelle** (J Bowen, 12-1); 2, Outback Frontiers (9-2); 3, Good Impression (11-2). 12 ran. 1½l, ¾l. D A Rees.
**3.05** (2m 2f 110yd) 1, **Konigin Isabella** (Sam Twiston-Davies, 4-1 fav); 2, Get The Value (10-1); 3, Ryder's Rock (11-1). 12 ran. 1l, 5½l. A J Honeyball.
**3.35** (3m 2f 105yd) 1, **Grove Road** (S Bowen, 11-4 fav); 2, Saint Bibiana (9-2); 3, Crossing The Bar (10-1). 10 ran. NR: Mourzouk. Hd, 3l. James Owen.
**4.10** (2m 167yd) 1, **Zhang Fei** (Fern O'Brien, 10-3); 2, Bravewhenineedtobe (12-1); 3, Kilcummin (25-1). 12 ran. 12l, 5l. F O'Brien.
**4.45** (3m 1f 170yd) 1, **Hold Your Fort** (James Best, 7-2); 2, Dripsey Moon (3-1); 3, Glynn (14-1). 6 ran. Hd, 1¼. Mrs D A Hamer.
**5.20** (2m 4f 216yd) 1, **Noah's Light** (Lewis Stones, 18-1); 2, Radharc Na Slaine (20-1); 3, Layerthorpe (50-1). 14 ran. NR: Holerday Ridge. 8l, 4l. Mrs R Ford.
**Placepot: £486.80. Quadpot: £50.20.**

### Redcar

**Going:** good

**1.47** (7f) 1, **Brastias** (D Tudhope, 9-4 fav); 2, Bellator Bullet (13-2); 3, Treble Winners (33-1). 11 ran. 1½l, 1¾l. D O'Meara.
**2.17** (7f) 1, **What's She At** (Hollie Doyle, 2-1); 2, Ezdaan (6-4 fav); 3, Caledonian Dream (22-1). 9 ran. NR: Smithy. 3l, 2¼. A Watson.
**2.52** (7f) 1, **Havana Prince** (D C Costello, 11-1); 2, Sir Garfield (9-2); 3, War Memorial (17-2). 14 ran. ½l, sh hd. Tony Coyle Kaine Wood.
**3.22** (7f) 1, **Flight Radar** (Pierre-Louis Jamin, 13-8); 2, Pinsent (11-1); 3, Longhaired General (11-10 fav). 8 ran. 3½l, 1½l. K R Burke.
**3.52** (7f 219yd) 1, **Coppull Hall Lane** (Callum Rodriguez, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Savvy Exchange (7-1); 3, Swift Salian (7-1). 5 ran. NR: Cerulean Bay, Magico. Nk, 3¾l. E Bethell.
**4.27** (5f 217yd) 1, **Garifullina** (Sean Kirrane, 16-5 fav); 2, Gunnerside (33-1); 3, So Grateful (5-1). 14 ran. NR: Urban Dandy. Nk, hd. J J Davies.
**5.02** (1m 1f) 1, **Jez Bomb** (O J Orr, 9-2); 2, Whatwouldyouknow (17-2); 3, Imprint (4-1). 12 ran. NR: Gregorianna, Strike Rate. ½l, 1¼. S England.
**5.37** (1m 5f 218yd) 1, **Gastronomy** (Rhys Elliott, 5-2); 2, Bulldog Spirit (7-4 fav); 3, Mythical (8-1). 7 ran. NR: Gibside. 1¾l, nk. P A Kirby.
**Placepot: £39.40.**
**Quadpot: £16.70.**

### Stratford

**Going:** good (good to firm in places)

**1.50** (2m 6f 7yd) 1, **Royal Pretender** (Tom Cannon, 11-2); 2, Honneur D'Ajonc (15-2); 3, G A Henty (5-2 jt-fav). 8 ran. NR: Gwash, Lunar Power. 5l, 1¾l. A King.
**2.25** (3m 2f 83yd) 1, **Fine By Me** (Jamie Brace, 5-1); 2, Propelled (4-1); 3, Bright Sunbird (11-1). 9 ran. 8½l, 18l. N A Twiston-Davies.
**2.55** (3m 2f 83yd) 1, **Catuaba** (Elizabeth Gale, 5-2 fav); 2, Dancingontheedge (11-4); 3, Moro Rock (8-1). 8 ran. NR: Hollow Ron. 6l, 17l. C E Longsdon.
**3.25** (2m 213yd) 1, **Matterhorn** (N de Boinville, 7-4 fav); 2, In This World (15-8); 3, Only Money (17-2). 7 ran. 8l, 5l. P F Nicholls.
**4.00** (2m 70yd) 1, **Brave Knight** (Harry Skelton, 8-15 fav); 2, United Front (18-1); 3, Jo's Rainbow (66-1). 12 ran. NR: Mutley Crew. 9½l, 1¼l. P F Nicholls.
**4.35** (2m 2f 148yd) 1, **Malina Ocarina** (Jack Hogan, 25-1); 2, Northern Rose (9-1); 3, Fashionelle (15-2). 14 ran. Hd, ½l. G Hanmer.
**5.10** (2m 3f 98yd) 1, **Soir De Gala** (N de Boinville, 5-2 fav); 2, Climbing (12-1); 3, Almost Gotaway (14-1). 11 ran. 4½l, 4l. P F Nicholls.
**5.45** (2m 70yd) 1, **Ronnies Rules** (Mr Ben Sutton, 10-11 fav); 2, Lady Henrietta (9-1); 3, A Little Something (14-1). 9 ran. NR: Believe A Little, O'Malley. 4½l, 12l. D Skelton.
**Placepot: £31.50. Quadpot: £9.10.**

### Cricket

**Minor One-Day**
Worcestershire beat Wales National County by nine wickets (Worcestershire 183-1; Wales National County 182, 41.2 overs)
Surrey beat Cambridgeshire by 15 runs, DLS (Surrey 223, 50 overs; Cambridgeshire 45-2, 14 overs)
Oxfordshire beat Middlesex by 118 runs (Middlesex 333-8; Oxfordshire 215, 38.2 overs).
Somerset beat Cornwall by 95 runs (Somerset 272-9; Cornwall 177, 37.5 overs)
Warwickshire beat Staffordshire by 122 runs (Warwickshire 316-7; Staffordshire 194, 47.1 overs)
Cheshire beat Derbyshire by four wickets (Derbyshire 242, 49.3 overs; Cheshire 243-6, 35.2 overs)
Glamorgan beat Wiltshire by seven wickets (Wiltshire 236, 49.4 overs; Glamorgan 238-3, 39.1 overs)
Durham beat Northumberland by three wickets (Northumberland 192, 48 overs; Durham 193-7, 46.3 overs)
Yorkshire beat Shropshire by 247 runs (Yorkshire 382-5; Shropshire 135, 32.5 overs)
Hampshire beat Dorset by 140 runs (Hampshire 336-8; Dorset 196, 45.4 overs)
Essex beat Suffolk by 28 runs (Essex 347, 49.3 overs; Suffolk 319-4)
Lincolnshire beat Nottinghamshire by five wickets (Nottinghamshire 331, 49.3 overs; Lincolnshire 334-5, 49.5 overs)
Sussex beat Hertfordshire by 58 runs (Sussex 340-6; Hertfordshire 282, 49.3 overs)
Lancashire beat Cumbria by 39 runs (Lancashire 231-8, 43 overs; Cumbria 192-9, 43 overs)
Northamptonshire beat Norfolk by 58 runs (Northamptonshire 312, 48.3 overs; Norfolk 254-8)

### Rugby league

**Betfred Super League**
Castleford 24 Catalans Dragons 18

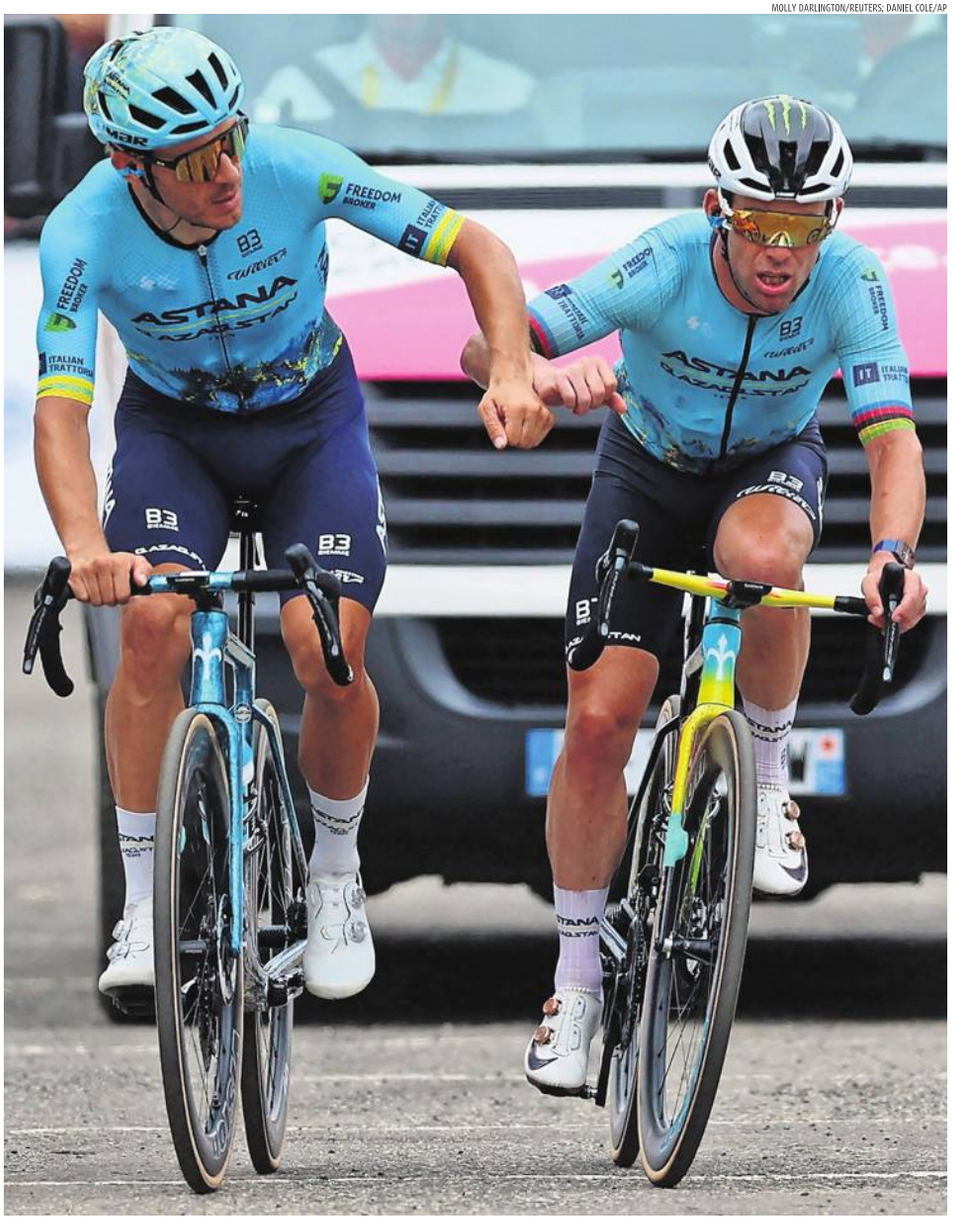
### Tennis

**ATP 500: Hamburg Open** Germany
**Final** (5) A Fils bt (1) A Zverev (Ger) 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-1).
**ATP 250: Nordea Open** Bastad, Sweden
**Final** (7) N Borges (Por) bt R Nadal (Sp) 6-3, 6-2.
**WTA 250: Hungarian Grand Prix,** Budapest
**Final** (1) D Shnaider (Russ) bt A Sasnovich (Russ) 6-4, 6-4.

# ‘I tried to show Tour love it showed me’

Mark Cavendish, after his final Tour de France, tells **David Walsh** of life lessons it has given him

MOLLY DARLINGTON/REUTERS; DANIEL COLE/AP



The race ended with one final flourish from an extraordinary athlete. Five mountain stages and then his sixth victory in the concluding time-trial into Nice. Tadej Pogacar may be the world’s greatest athlete. Certainly no bike rider has ever won the Tour de France with the panache and brilliance that he showed at pretty much every important moment in the race.

Some said he should have backed off, conferred gifts on those beneath him, as if somehow he wasn’t entitled to take so much. To have done so would have diminished Pogacar and indeed those to whom he offered crumbs from the table. Most of all that kind of benevolence would have demeaned the Tour de France. This would have been the crime.

If you scroll down the classification there are many who got something from Pogacar’s Tour. Jonas Vingegaard, the most noble of challengers not quite himself because of a horrible crash in the spring, showed the resilience that lies at the heart of his greatness. Second was anything but nowhere. Rather it was the best he could do in the circumstances. Utterly admirable.

There was Remco Evenepoel, the kid riding his first Tour who says more than his prayers but brought the exuberance of youth. Before the Tour began, he said Pogacar “was unreachable” and, boy, he wasn’t wrong. Neither was he daunted. For the previous three Tours there was Pogacar and Vingegaard. This time there were three. For Evenepoel, what happens from here is going to be interesting.

Further down the list you will find the names of Richard Carapaz and Biniam Girmay. From a small village in northern Ecuador, Carapaz rode his best ever Tour; winning a stage and also the polka dot jersey awarded to the man who gets to the top of the climbs before the others. Girmay is from Eritrea and he became the first black African to win at the Tour de France, which he said was a matter of some pride to him. In all, he claimed three stage victories and the Green Jersey given to the most consistent sprinter in the race.

If you scroll all the way to the bottom of the general classification, there lies the name Mark Cavendish and he, too, had a hugely successful Tour. Towards the end of his last day riding the Tour de France, knowing he was safely inside the time limit, he touched the hands of fans reaching out to him, enjoyed seeing the cardboard sign that said: “Thanks Cav” and, finally, blew a kiss to the tens of thousands at the finish, and to the Tour itself.

Cavendish spent 6hr 23min 11sec more in the saddle than Pogacar. That, my friend, did not make his Tour one bit easier. In ten of the 21 stages, he and others were left behind by the peloton; cut adrift to make their own way to the finish. Like a mosquito, the time limit buzzed in his ear and he suffered. How he suffered. But he had a brilliant Tour.

At 39 he came back, like an ageing gunslinger still believing he could be fastest on the draw. On the fifth day into the small town of Saint Vulbas, Cavendish just flew away from the young man everyone thought was the fastest, Jasper Philipsen, and claimed his 35th stage victory. He’d had the record at 34, shared it with the great Eddy Merckx, and Cavendish believed he could get one more. It seemed a long shot, but his whole career has been a long shot.

What happened after the 35th may have been even greater than Saint Vulbas. Cavendish fought every day to stay in the race. What other 39-year-old, with the outright record taken, would not have gone home and left the suffering to those young enough to bear it more easily. Pogacar, Vingegaard, Evenepoel, Carapaz and Girmay were all telling their stories after the conclusion of the time-trial. Cavendish was the one I most wanted to speak to.

“Why was it so important to you to finish the Tour?”

“This race,” he said, “has given me the most incredible memories, it has given me an incredible life. It has taught me life lessons. Above all, this race has given me love. The Tour itself, the fans, the people who’ve lived the journey with me. My family who have sacrificed as much as I have. When you factor in all that, it was then about basic respect and the need to try and finish.

“I owe the race so much. So, so much. It’s been my life for so long as a professional. It was my life before I became a professional, you know.”

**Pogacar accepts Vingegaard’s hand at the finish in Nice, left, while, main image, Cavendish gets a fist pump from his teammate Davide Ballerini. Far left, Cavendish beats Merckx’s record of stage wins on the fifth day**

**141**
**Cavendish finished 141st out of the 141 riders to complete this year’s Tour de France — 6 hours, 23 minutes and 11 seconds behind the winner Pogacar**

“You’ve always said that by finishing inside the time limit you gave yourself the chance to win another day,” I said to Cavendish. “But there were four mountains at the end, without the possibility of a bunch sprint to come.”

“Just because there was no sprint,” Cavendish replied, “I couldn’t say, ‘That’s it.’ It’s not my race. It’s the world’s race, the Tour de France is for the world and I give it the respect that it deserves. I show the love that it’s shown me.”

Every hilly or mountain day, they had a plan. Three or four Astana-Qazaqstan team-mates would stay with Cavendish and they would ride at the speed they estimated would keep them in the race. “We put a plan together on all these days. OK, we need to ride this climb at this watts per kilo and we’ll have a problem if the watts per kilo is too high because people are feeling good,” he said. “If you blow on this climb because you’ve ridden too fast on the previous one, you’re out.

“You have to balance things and look at every factor; the gradient of the climb, the length of the climb, the length of the valleys in between. But if you can stick to the plan, knowing what we can do in training and knowing what my body can do, knowing what the boys can do in the valley, then you can know what you’re going to do on the climb. So when we got to Plateau de Beille, we could just go all out to get up there because we’d stuck to the plan. It takes us as much effort with data to get it right on a mountain stage as it does to plan the perfect bunch sprint.”

In latter years he has spoken about what the Tour has taught him. How it has changed the way he sees the world. What exactly does he mean by this?

“Fifteen times I’ve ridden the Tour de France,” Cavendish said. “I have done something like 250 stages. I won 35 of them, I have probably been in a small group struggling to make time limits in half of those. I have spent far more time suffering at the Tour, trying to make it to the next day, than I have winning. When you see my time at the race in this way, it makes you understand why the Tour means so much to me.

“It’s nice to win but when you battle against adversity, when you have a group of people around you that are living the adversity with you, that are sacrificing themselves for you, that’s the thing that teaches you about life. These are the things you want to pass on to your children. These are things that are important.”

You gave so much to the Tour but all you see is what it has given you?

“So many life lessons I’ve got from the Tour. How to be in moments of success. How to be in defeat. How to be with people around you. What true perseverance is. What dedication is. And it has shown me there can be something in your life that gives you a reason to get up and work every morning.

“The Tour has made me the man I am.”

## How they finished

**Monaco to Nice** (33.7 km): time-trial: 1, T Pogacar (Slovenia, UAE Team Emirates) 45min 24sec; 2, J Vingegaard (Den, Team Visma Lease a Bike) at 1min 3sec behind; 3, R Evenepoel (Bel, Soudal-Quick-Step) at 1:14; 4, M Jorgenson (US, Team Visma-Lease a Bike) at 2:08; 5, J Almeida (Por, UAE Team Emirates) at 2:18; 6, D Gee (Can Israel Premier Tech) at 2:31; 7, M Landa (Sp, Soudal Quick-Step) at 2:41; 8, H Tejada (Col, Astana Qazaqstan Team) at 2:50; 9, S Buitrago (Col, Bahrain Victorious) at 2:53; 10, A Yates (GB, UAE Team Emirates) at 2:56.
**Final overall standings** 1, Pogacar at 83hr 38min 56sec 2, Vingegaard at 6min 17sec behind; 3, Evenepoel at 9:18; 4, Almeida 19:03; 5, M Landa (Sp, Soudal-Quick-Step) +20:06; 6, A Yates (GB, UAE Team Emirates) +24:07; 7, C Rodriguez (Sp, Ineos Grenadiers) +25:04; 8, M Jorgenson (US, Team Visma-Lease a Bike) +26:34; 9, D Gee (Can, Israel-Premier Tech) +27:21; 10, S Buitrago (Col, Bahrain Victorious) +29:03; 11, G Ciccone (It, Lidl-Trek) +30:42; 12, S Yates (GB, Team Jayco-AlUla) +39:04.

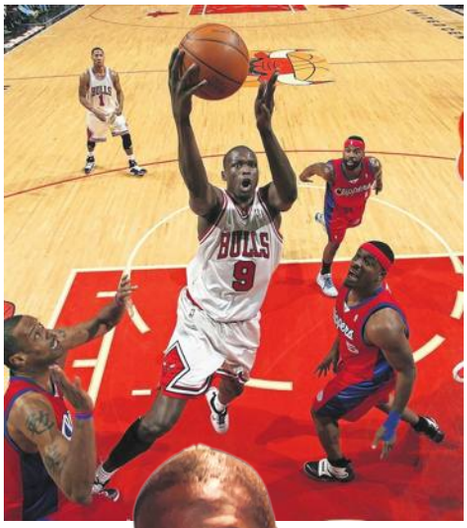
KETTLE X BRITISH CYCLING

# OFFICIAL SUPPORTER OF GRASSROOTS CYCLING

Sport Paris 2024

# War-torn 13-year-old nation out

Luol Deng, who played for GB at London 2012, is guiding rise of team from land of his birth, writes **Ian Whittell**



South Sudan before their USA friendly, main. Deng, left, set up the country's basketball federation

Twelve years removed from his first Olympic Games experience in London, the basketball legend Luol Deng found himself experiencing a keen sense of déjà vu as he prepared for his second, representing the "newest" country on earth.

The crucial difference for the president of South Sudan's basketball federation this time, however, is his determination to ensure that Paris 2024 has a far greater impact on the sport, and society, in his homeland than it did after his appearance, as a player, for the hosts at London 2012.

And the evidence, based on a narrow 101-100 friendly defeat by the mighty USA team at a sold-out O2 arena on Saturday, is that his team's and his country's incredible journey is far from complete.

A child refugee from the brutal Sudanese civil war, Deng relocated to South Norwood, south London, as a political asylum seeker, before discovering basketball in Brixton and going on to fame and fortune in an 18-year NBA career.

That also included a starring role in the 2012 Olympics for a newly formed Great Britain team, although, with South Sudan having been officially recognised a year earlier, it was always likely that for Deng — who

has helped support hundreds of Sudanese "Lost Boys" worldwide — his future was always going to lie back home.

The London Games proved a missed opportunity for basketball in Britain, in no small part due to UK Sport withdrawing funding because of poor medal prospects. For South Sudan, Deng, 39, is determined to ensure there are no similar mistakes after Paris.

"For all of us, it's a journey that's bigger than basketball, not just for all the refugees but the whole country," Deng said. "We're a young nation, we're trying to show people, with the opportunity we're given, how far we can go. Basketball gave me a lot, it gave a lot of our players opportunities that opened a lot of doors.

"The London Olympics were kind of similar to this journey and I've learnt a lot from that. Now being president of the federation, the role is totally different but it's exciting at the same time that I get to share with these guys. This is something that for us is the first time and these guys will be remembered for ever. But we also want to use this to elevate the game even more in South Sudan.

"With GB we took a different direction. Our high was 2012. I don't want that to be the case with South Sudan. I want it to be part of our journey and we want to keep on climbing. So I learnt from that and tried to implement it in what we're going to experience in Paris."

4 days to go
Paris 2024
July 26 to August 11

One of Deng's frustrations with his British experience was the lack of support offered by basketball governing bodies in the UK when he reached out for backing for his highly successful London basketball camps.

The contrast in South Sudan — the world's newest sovereign state and a country whose GDP per capita is the fourth-lowest on the planet, ahead of only Syria, Burundi and Afghanistan — could not be starker.

Basketball is a natural fit in the country, given that Deng's Dinka tribe is the tallest in Africa. "When I went back home to my home village, I saw people who were like 7ft tall herding cows," the former NBA player Wenyen Gabriel joked last week.

But Deng's astonishing achievements in starting the South Sudan Basketball Federation in 2019 have made it an easy "win" for the new government and outside sponsors to offer financial backing for a team that, in their early years, were funded entirely out of the former NBA player's own pocket.

The government has even promised to build the country's first indoor basketball court, a new 4,000-seat facility, next year.

With Deng as president and, at one stage, coach, South Sudan qualified for AfroBasket, the African championship, in 2021 and reached last year's World Cup, where they finished 17th, with three wins in five games. Crucially, they were the highest-ranked African nation, earning one of 12 coveted places in this month's Olympic basketball tournament.

The progress continues, with the South Sudanese coming close to a staggering upset, missing two shots in the final eight seconds that would have defeated the USA at the O2 on Saturday.

"The reaction has been amazing, the whole country has been behind us, not just everyone in the country but I think the continent itself," Deng said. "I think all our diaspora and the refugees, everyone outside the country, has been motivated by seeing the positive direction. The rest of the diaspora is watching, the rest of the world is watching and the rest of the African countries are watching. It's motivating others.

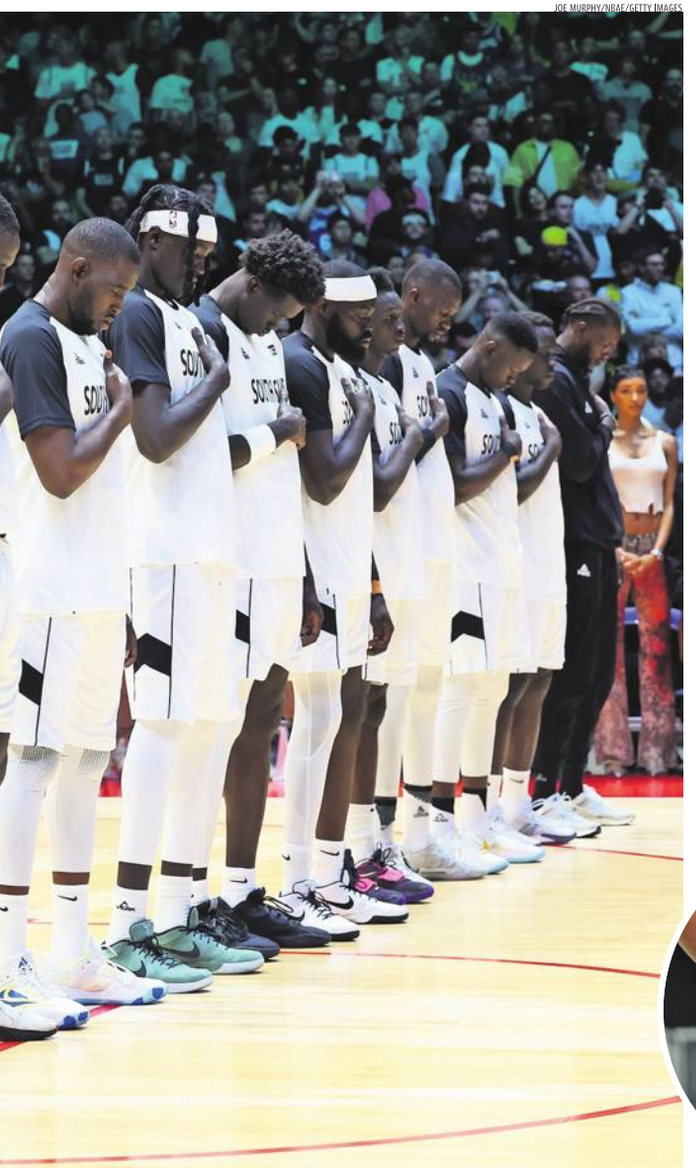
"It changes the narrative and we're very thankful for the opportunity and that's what we're doing, using the platform as a messaging to change the narrative.

"Our young kids will know about these players growing up. Now if you go back to South Sudan, they're all on posters and for us, especially as such a

**South Sudanese soldiers in Juba last year. "It changes the narrative of war, poverty and being oppressed, being in civil war for so long," Deng says of the basketball team's success. "This is a huge thing"**

# to shock NBA stars

JOE MURPHY/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES



five years ago, having previously starred for Chicago Bulls, top left, and GB, right

young nation, it's very different to see athletes being 'posterised' in the street.

"We grew up with the narrative of war, poverty and being oppressed, being in civil war for so long. And these are things that all these young kids are picking up and it affects them now.

"So this is such a huge thing and it's different to every other country. For these guys to be at this stage right now, they know what's more important is what they're leaving behind. That's why the way we play and the way we carry ourselves really matters."

Preparation for Paris brought Deng back to the scene of the 2012 Games in Stratford last week, for a narrow 84-81 win on Thursday over a Great Britain side that featured six players who had, in part, developed at his London basketball camps.

South Sudan will face the USA again in group play at the Olympics, along with Serbia and Puerto Rico, and the USA coach, Steve Kerr, is one new, unashamed fan. "You think about what that team has had to overcome to qualify for the Olympics; the violence, the strife in their country, all the obstacles, it's an incredible story and I'm really happy for them," he said.

The USA game was particularly poignant for Deng's family, who now live in West Norwood, and were in attendance. His father, Aldo, a retired politician, was part of a committee that wrote South Sudan's constitution in 2011. In his own way, Deng's work could have just as great an impact.

"He's super-excited. Him and my mum being there and coming to the games, it means a lot for them, seeing all the South Sudanese kids, that's all they talk about," Deng said. "I have some of the players I've known since they were eight or ten. Some of them from when I did camps in Australia, Canada."

The impact of the Sudanese diaspora is reflected in those youngsters Deng has followed. Of his squad, most were born in South Sudan or Sudan; others in refugee camps in Kenya, Ethiopia, Egypt and Uganda. None were raised in Africa, with pretty much the entire squad being relocated as children to the United States, Canada or Australia.

That alone tells the tragic story of the region and its various civil wars — the one in South Sudan alone having accounted for a reported death toll of nearly 400,000 by April 2018, more than 10 per cent of them children.

Sport pales into insignificance when faced with such statistics but, thanks to Deng, many of South Sudan's nearly 13 million people were able to pause this week to watch the friendlies against GB and the USA, which were shown live at public screenings.

"For African countries, the most important thing is peace," he said. "Everything else is a struggle but with leadership and learning, things get better.

"For the majority of people, the No1 thing is peace. Second thing is opportunities, creating jobs. In South Sudan right now, the population is increasing, people are going back, as long as we have that we will be fine.

"Other things will come in time but peace is the most important thing. We've kept it now. We had a few conflicts in 2016 but since then it has been very peaceful."

### Men's basketball in Paris

- Starts on Saturday and runs until the final on Saturday, August 10.
- Since 1992, when the USA began sending active NBA players as part of their team, they have won every Olympic gold bar one, when Argentina won the 2004 competition.
- The 12 qualified teams are divided into three groups, with the top two and two best third-placed teams advancing to the quarter-finals, from which it becomes a knockout format.

**The groups**

| | World rankings |
|---|---|
| **Group A** | |
| Australia | 5 |
| Greece | 14 |
| Canada | 7 |
| Spain | 2 |
| **Group B** | |
| France | 9 |
| Germany | 3 |
| Japan | 26 |
| Brazil | 12 |
| **Group C** | |
| Serbia | 4 |
| South Sudan | 33 |
| Puerto Rico | 16 |
| USA | 1 |

# KJT: I'm in good shape to be Paris gold-medal hope

**John Aizlewood**

On the surface, Saturday was not one of Katarina Johnson-Thompson's better days. Having pulled out of last month's European Championships in Rome after three heptathlon events, she chose to compete only in the long jump at the London Diamond League, the last stop before Paris.

Finishing fifth out of eight was not quite what she was hoping for, but she emerged physically unscathed. In Rome, Johnson-Thompson was undone by her troublesome achilles, but all seems well now.

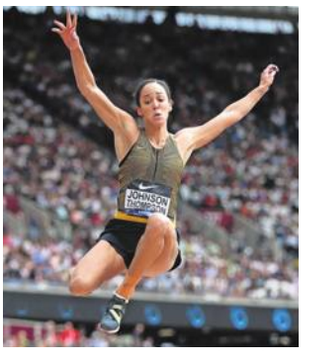
"I had a couple of weeks off, had some injections and things seem to have settled down," she said. "Tendinopathy or tendinitis is an ongoing thing, it comes and goes. It's something I have to keep an eye on, but I'm on top of it now."

Johnson-Thompson's Olympics record is patchy at best: 14th at London 2012, sixth at Rio 2016, a calf-induced withdrawal at Tokyo 2020 — but Paris is another city, another opportunity, and she remains sanguine.

"You have to recognise your past in order to move on to your future," she said. "Each Olympics has given me different mental and physical challenges. Before Tokyo I was trying to get ready post-achilles rupture. I felt under a lot of pressure in 2016. In 2012 I was just here to have fun. For Paris I'm the most mentally and physically prepared I've been for an Olympics. I just hope I can get a performance out. I'm in good shape. All the signs are there."

The seven heptathlon events (in order: 100m hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200m, long jump, javelin, 800m) will take place on Thursday, August 8 and the following day. As the world champion, Johnson-Thompson is among the strongest of the 24-woman field, if she can overcome her customary weakness in the throwing events.

"I don't think there's [one] person to beat as such," she said. "There's four people capable of getting gold and it just depends on the day. Nafi is probably the strongest contender of us all."



KJT came through the long jump in London on Saturday unscathed

Nafi is Nafissatou Thiam, the Belgian geography graduate who won gold in Rio and Tokyo and is desperate to become the first athlete, male or female, to win combined-events gold in three Olympics. Thiam missed Johnson-Thompson's World Championships win in Budapest with her own achilles issue, but she won in Rome, which, ominously, was her first heptathlon since 2022.

Knee surgery in January meant Denver's Anna Hall missed the early part of the season, but she finished second to Johnson-Thompson in Budapest and excelled at this year's US Olympic trials.

Anouk Vetter, from Amsterdam, finished second in Tokyo, but like all her rivals, seemingly, she has suffered with a smorgasbord of injuries. For Johnson-Thompson, though, a podium place in Paris would be the missing link in a career in which she has won Commonwealth gold (twice) and two world titles — but no Olympic medal.

"The joy in athletics for me is having a chance," she said. "A lot of the time that's taken away by injury or pressure. I feel like I've found joy in a different way leading into these Olympics. I just want to be on the 800m starting line with a chance. Budapest has given me peace in that I've come back and done it. I am worth a medal if I'm in one piece."

# Athletes (and horses) given private Eurostar carriages

**Martyn Ziegler**
Chief Sports Reporter, Paris

More than 90 per cent of the 1,100 British athletes and officials heading to Paris for the Olympics — and their horses for the equestrian events — will travel by train with Eurostar, which is arranging private carriages for Team GB.

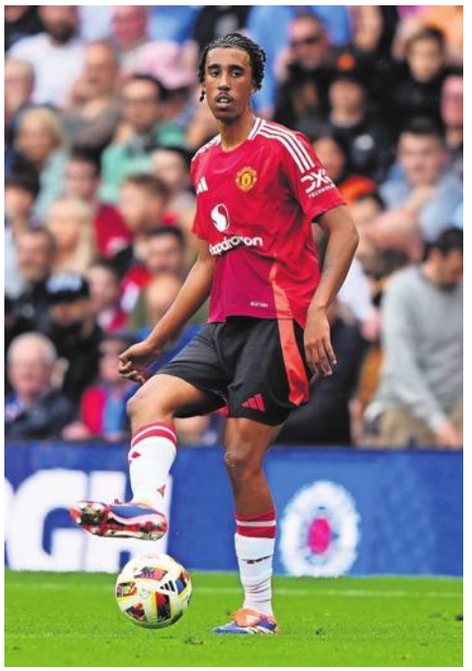
The British Olympic Association is encouraging all athletes and support staff to reduce its carbon footprint, although it accepts that those based a long way from London, or travelling from abroad, will have to fly.

Some sports' performance directors have insisted that their athletes should fly to reduce travel time — for example, sailing events are based in Marseille, which would require a more gruelling train journey.

Many of the British athletes have already arrived at the Olympic Village in the Paris suburb of St Denis, near the aquatics centre and the Stade de France. More than a dozen horses for the equestrian and modern pentathlon events have also been transported.

As part of Team GB's partnership with Eurostar, athletes and staff will have access to an executive lounge before they travel with a private premium carriage on the train. They will be met by a police escort at the Gare du Nord, with transport arranged to take them to the village or training bases.

Meanwhile, Tony Estanguet, the head of Paris 2024, said that Paris was "ready" for the Games. The biggest security operation for a sports event will involve more than 30,000 police officers being deployed in Paris, including 1,700 from 43 overseas countries, including Britain. Anti-drone systems provided by the RAF and sniffer dogs from the British police and army will be part of the Paris operation. Estanguet said: "There is an unprecedented system of security, but we also worked to make sure that it will be very festive."



Yoro, left, played the first half in the win against Rangers and impressed Ten Hag, below, with his maturity. Sancho, right, also featured at Murrayfield after returning from his loan spell at Dortmund

IAN MACNICOL/GETTY IMAGES; ANDREW MILLIGAN/PA

# Only Pep has done better than I have, says Ten Hag

**Michael Grant**

Erik ten Hag has insisted he is stronger as a manager after winning the FA Cup with Manchester United and should be considered second only to Pep Guardiola in terms of the impact he has made since coming to English football.

The Dutchman was widely tipped to be sacked towards the end of last season but instead United won the FA Cup and in July the club triggered a one-year extension which tied him to Old Trafford until 2026.

Having lost to Rosenborg in Norway last week, United beat Rangers 2-0 at Murrayfield on Saturday in their second pre-season friendly. Amad Diallo and Joe Hugill scored as the new £52 million defender Leny Yoro made a composed and impressive debut. The 18-year-old played the first 45 minutes alongside Jonny Evans in central defence before Ten Hag made ten half-time substitutions.

United finished a disappointing eighth in the Premier League last season, 31 points behind champions Manchester City, and came bottom of their Champions League group. But Ten Hag highlighted his winning record — United lifted the Carabao Cup in his first campaign and then the FA Cup against City in May — and said he felt stronger as a manager after triumphing again at Wembley.

Since he arrived in English football he has won two trophies, Jürgen Klopp and David Moyes one each, and Guardiola four. "Of course [I feel stronger]. This club didn't win trophies, before I came, for six years. In two years, after Guardiola, we won the most trophies in English football. So we are in a strong position.

"Look, we can beat every opponent. Not one time, more than one time against City and also against Liverpool. But the truth is that there is a long way to go and we have to be more consistent and we need to create a winning culture. It's not only a dressing-room winning culture, higher standards should be delivered across the whole club."

United have also bought striker Joshua Zirkzee from Bologna for £35.8 million but Ten Hag acknowledged that players will have to be moved on to generate additional funds. "That is also obvious, but we want to have a strong squad. As strong as possible and I think at this moment the football leadership is on the front foot. That's what clubs like Man United should do and so we are very pleased that we have done business. We have Yoro in, we have Zirkzee in. We have two highly big assets with big potential for the future. But when I say future, the future starts today. The next game is always the most important.

"You need competition and you need quality players, but you also need quantity. The season is even tougher than last season so we have to be ready for that."

Ten Hag wants to keep Scott McTominay despite reported interest from Fulham and Tottenham Hotspur in the Scotland international midfielder. "We have very good players so there will always be an interest from other clubs. He scored ten goals last season and also performed very well for Scotland so there will be an interest. But we want to keep him because he is a very important player for our squad. He can contribute, as we saw last season. He can play in a more advanced role and he is a highly interesting player for our team."

Jadon Sancho made his first United appearance since last August having returned from his loan at Borussia Dortmund and been given another chance by Ten Hag. André Onana, Aaron Wan-Bissaka, Casemiro and Mason Mount also started against Rangers in Edinburgh on Saturday. Ten Hag was delighted with Yoro's display.

"For the first time, with only one training session, it's a very mature performance. That's the way we saw him when we scouted him. It's great to have him and he's very young for a centre back.

"There is a lot to come but you can see already that he has great potential. He is here and we think he can play but there are so many games to come and he will be in a group of four or five."

# Spurs agree Marseille loan deal for Hojbjerg

**Tom Allnutt, Gary Jacob**

Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg is set to sign for Marseille as Ange Postecoglou continues to remodel his Tottenham Hotspur squad. The Ligue 1 club have agreed to sign Hojbjerg initially on loan for a year, with an obligation to make the transfer permanent in a deal worth €20 million (about £17 million). Tottenham have also inserted a sell-on clause into the deal, meaning they will take a portion of the midfielder's next transfer fee.

Hojbjerg has attracted interest from several clubs, including Napoli and Atletico Madrid. Marseille's new head coach, Roberto De Zerbi, has spoken to the 28-year-old personally to convince him to move to France.

Hojbjerg joined Tottenham from Southampton for about £15 million in 2020 and was at his best under Antonio Conte. But he has been an awkward fit in Postecoglou's more attacking system and started only eight times in the Premier League last season. Tottenham wanted to wait until after the European Championship to sell Hojbjerg in the hope that good performances would increase his price. He was man of the match for Denmark in the draw against England in the group stage.

But Marseille have managed to agree a relatively modest fee by capitalising on Hojbjerg's contract at Spurs, which was due to expire next year.

Hojbjerg is the latest player to be shown the exit door by Postecoglou this summer after Eric Dier and Ivan Perisic joined Bayern Munich and Hajduk Split respectively on permanent deals, and Joe Rodon moved to Leeds United. Ryan Sessegnon and Tanguy Ndombele were both released, along with Japhet Tanganga, who has joined Millwall.

Tottenham have signed Lucas Bergvall from Djurgarden and Archie Gray from Leeds, as well as extending Timo Werner's loan from RB Leipzig for another season.

Meanwhile, Arsenal have confirmed the signing of the 18-year-old English goalkeeper Tommy Setford from Ajax for about £840,000. Setford will join Arsenal's academy, with the club hoping he can take part in the pre-season tour to the United States. David Raya and Aaron Ramsdale, whose future is uncertain, have been given time off after the European Championship. Arsenal flew out yesterday and face Bournemouth in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Amadou Onana is undergoing a medical with Aston Villa to complete a £50 million transfer from Everton. The midfielder made 72 appearances for Everton, including 37 last season in all competitions after joining from Lille for £30 million in 2022. Onana played for Belgium at Euro 2024.

Antonio Conte has stepped up his efforts to re-sign Romelu Lukaku from Chelsea, who want as much as £40 million for the forward. Napoli have been willing to pay about £20 million for Lukaku, who played under their new coach Conte at Inter Milan, scoring 47 league goals across two seasons and helping them to win their first Serie A title in 11 years in 2021.

Lukaku has spent the past two seasons on loan at Inter Milan and Roma, scoring a combined 23 league goals. He has two years left on his deal at Stamford Bridge. Napoli have in principle agreed a contract with Lukaku, worth £100,000 a week plus bonuses, and the Italian club hope to sell Victor Osimhen to Paris Saint-Germain.

# Brook is still in an era of fidgeters

Yorkshireman looked composed during first Test century in England, says **Steve James**

It was, surprisingly, the first, but it won't be the last. Harry Brook's first Test century in England was an absolute joy, but, at 25, he has crammed so much into a short career of just 14 Tests that it left you wondering why he had not made one before, having made four overseas.

The answer is that his only full series at home previously was the Ashes last year, in which he made four fifties. Yes, you could argue that his style of play — always aggressive and positive — is better suited to pitches abroad that do not provide as much seam movement, but that is not the reason for that seeming statistical anomaly, and, anyway, that is why he bats at No 5 for now to mitigate against any small susceptibility early on against a darting ball.

He will score plenty of Test runs in England, don't worry about that, and the truth is that, had he not been dismissed for 109 before lunch, England would have set West Indies an even more daunting target and done so even more quickly. Thereafter Joe Root went on to his own typically busy and equanimous century, but no one else could bat with Brook's fluency.

Brook did gift his wicket occasionally last summer, and indeed he did so in the first Test at Lord's when essaying an ill-advised hook having made 50. And again in the first innings here when attempting to paddle-sweep the off spinner Kevin Sinclair on 36 he allowed West Indies off the hook, but not in this second innings. Resuming on 71 after an important partnership of 108 with Root on Saturday evening, he was utterly ruthless in recording his hundred.

No matter that the milestone came in a rather scruffy manner, scampering a sharp single to a dozing Jayden Seales at mid-on, and that he had missed out on a full toss on 99, the essence of his innings was probably best encapsulated in the four to wide third man that took him to one short of the landmark.

The ball from Alzarri Joseph had been perfectly respectable, pitched on a good length on or around off stump, but the Yorkshireman had played it so late with a slightly open face that it raced to the boundary. It was the classiest of strokes.

Few players can combine power and touch as easily as Brook, courtesy of the simplest of methods. The introduction of a small trigger movement, slightly back and across, has long been credited with transforming Brook's career, but it is his stillness at ball release — head forward and eyes level — that sets him apart from the pack in an era of theorists and fidgeters. With his hands starting high — and barely moving from there — and wrists cocked and ready, he can attack and defend with equal alacrity.

One quibble is that occasionally he does not move at all from that trigger when defending, and there is a continuing uneasiness now and again against the short ball, but it was noticeable here how often he preferred to stay leg side of the ball and uppercut to third man rather than attempting the hook shot that brought his downfall at Lord's.

Readying himself to do that before the ball is bowled by stepping to leg can be dangerous, though, and he did do that here, although it has to be said that Root sometimes takes up a baseball-like stance, with front leg out of the way, when he knows a bouncer is coming.

There was one shot after Brook had passed 100 that stood out. It was a lofted drive over extra cover off Sinclair, a devilishly difficult stroke, particularly for the more stiff-wristed English batsmen, but one Brook has been able to play since a young man. It was honed further by his coach, Martin Speight, at Sedbergh School when not allowing Brook to move his feet in practice and hitting over extra cover just with his super-fast hands after a slight tilt of the head in the direction of the shot.

The running between the wickets between Brook and Root was also quite superb, full of intent and anticipation, with Brook clearly having replaced Jonny Bairstow as Root's favourite Yorkshireman with whom to run.

It has been well documented that Brook was a little "tubby" at school, but hard work, particularly last winter when, sadly, he had to return from India to be with his beloved terminally ill grandmother, has paid off. And it shows in his fielding too, especially his catching in all positions, which is now quite brilliant.

Brook has enjoyed a remarkable start to his Test career. After 14 Tests only Wally Hammond had scored more than his 1,376 runs for England, and of those in a top six that also includes Len Hutton, Andrew Strauss, Jonathan Trott and Herbert Sutcliffe, none made as many scores over fifty as Brook's 13 (five centuries and eight half-centuries).

As Root passed Shivnarine Chanderpaul's 11,867 runs to go eighth in the all-time list of Test runscorers and continue his hot pursuit of Sir Alastair Cook as England's best, it was hard not to imagine where Brook might end up before he is done, because he really is that good.

BEN WHITLEY/ALAMY

Brook unfurled a full range of shots on his way to reaching his century, below, but it is his stillness and poise that will have caught the eye of batting afficionados

### Lehmann's top five

**Former Australia coach Darren Lehmann said he would put Brook among the top five batsmen he has worked with around the world**

**Steve Smith** Australia
9,645 Test runs*

**Rohit Sharma** India
4,137 Test runs*

**Harry Brook** England
1,231 Test runs*

**AB de Villiers** South Africa
8, 765 Test runs

**Kumar Sangakkara** Sri Lanka
12,400 Test runs

*Still active in Tests

# Five-wicket haul reward for trusting Bashir's potential over Leach

Ben Stokes has made another correct call in bringing 20-year-old off spinner into team, writes **Simon Wilde**

Shoaib Bashir's performance in the second Test match — seven wickets in the game at a notoriously difficult ground for spin bowling and a venue he had not visited before — ranks as another great success for England's selectors. They were vindicated over the inclusion of Gus Atkinson at Lord's, and they have made the right call with Bashir as well.

Atkinson's match return was the best by an England player on Test debut since the 1890s and Bashir's second-innings figures of five for 41 are the best by an England spinner at Trent Bridge since Bernard Bosanquet, the inventor of the googly, took eight for 107 against Australia in 1905. No spinner from any country had taken a five-for here since Muttiah Muralitharan in 2006.

Last month, when Bashir was named as the sole specialist spinner in a squad covering the first two matches against West Indies, it was a decision that raised eyebrows in some quarters.

He was not even the first-choice spinner for his county, Somerset, and had been obliged to go out on loan to Worcestershire to get more cricket. In his one championship appearance for his surrogate team, he returned figures of two for 162 against Surrey at New Road, leaking what was at the time a record-equalling 38 during an over to Dan Lawrence, who struck five sixes.

Moreover, his selection by England overturned a pecking order in which Jack Leach had been No1. Leach was ruled out of the winter tour to India after one game due to injury, creating an opening for Bashir, which he took with both hands. But Leach had a lot of credit in the bank within the Test set-up, as well as a special relationship with the captain, Ben Stokes, dating back to their heroics together with the bat at Headingley in the 2019 Ashes series.

But in Bashir's three Tests in India, which brought him five-wicket hauls in Ranchi and Dharamsala, England had seen something they liked — something Rob Key, the managing director of England men's cricket, alluded to when he announced the squad. They could see that Bashir, though he is only 20 years old, had a higher ceiling than Leach at 33 — and it is becoming increasingly hard to dispute this view.

"The thinking [behind Bashir's inclusion] is what we saw in India," Key said. "You're looking at character. They are both very good bowlers, but we take a lot on how Shoaib did out there... he just looks like he's going to get better and better. If this is the point he's at now, where is he going to be in years to come? The environment we try to create will let him thrive."

Bashir bowled with variety and skill to take five wickets yesterday

After Bashir had walked off the field with a stump in hand, Stokes was full of praise for the off spinner's skills — his changes of pace, his top spin, over spin and seam position. "That wicket hardly offered anything for a spinner but his intent was always to take wickets, not just hold an end up," he said.

Stokes has articulated how he intends to shape everything towards next year's tour to Australia, where finger spinners need bucketloads of mental resilience to survive, and he believes that Bashir, for all his youth, has the strength to cope with the pressure a standalone spinner will face there.

It was hard work in the first innings when there was little in the pitch to help him. It would be easy to say that his two wickets were down to poor shots and that he did not record a maiden, but this is a fast-scoring ground on which maidens are typically in short supply.

Graeme Swann was once advised to bowl more stump-to-stump on flat pitches in the first innings, and only bowl a more attacking line — wide of off stump to invite the drives that might bring nicks or leave a gap between bat and pad — for later in the game.

That is essentially what Bashir did here: straighter first innings, a bit more width in the second on a pitch now showing some variation in bounce; he produced a beauty to have Alick Athanaze caught by Joe Root at slip. He remains a work in progress of course — this was only his 15th first-class appearance — but he will refine such things as the angle of his run-up as time goes on. This was a big day for Bashir, and a big day for England's rebuild.

Sport England v West Indies: second Rothesay Test

# England mix pace, spin and pain

**Mike Atherton**

Chief Cricket Correspondent

## England v West Indies

**Trent Bridge** (day four of five): England won by 241 runs

Midway through the fourth afternoon, Nottinghamshire announced they would throw open the doors on the final day, offering free entry for a lucky cohort. It was a generous act but little did they know that the most dramatic final-session collapse from West Indies lay ahead, handing England their first series win since December 2022 in Pakistan.

The club could not be blamed for a lack of foresight. No one really saw it coming. After three scores of over 400 on a benign pitch, West Indies were bowled out for 143, crumbling in the face of pressure applied by the accuracy of Chris Woakes, the pace of Mark Wood and Gus Atkinson and some probing off spin from Shoaib Bashir, who took his third five-wicket haul in Tests.

The openers posted a stand of 61, and so the collapse was a classic of its kind, ten wickets falling in 23 overs for 82 runs. Ben Stokes had no need to bowl himself and turned the screw with the enduring combination of pace and spin. Extreme pace in the case of Mark Wood, who bowled as quickly as any England bowler can surely have bowled across the course of a match, and who sent Kevin Sinclair back nursing hand and forearm after a brute of a bouncer that kicked off the pitch and thudded into the sweat band attached to Sinclair's glove.

Such pain was once inflicted by West Indies, of course, but it was Bashir who caused most havoc with his height and accurate off spin from the Radcliffe Road End. Not since Muttiah Muralitharan bamboozled England to defeat in 2006 has a spinner taken a five-for in Test cricket here and, with seven wickets for the match, Bashir could be delighted with his efforts across both innings. The selectors can give themselves a pat on the back.

In the first innings he had done a holding job, but there was a little more on offer for him in the second and so he adjusted his line intelligently, bowling more aggressively outside off stump. Even so, there were few footmarks in which to bowl and so the problems he posed augur well. He was aided by some good close fielding too, one low catch by Jamie Smith off an under-edge from Kirk McKenzie being the pick.

Bashir was too good for the heroes of the first innings, Alick Athanaze and Kavem Hodge, caught at slip and leg-before respectively. Both these batsmen had shown great character and resilience first time around and with their departure, went West Indies' hopes of taking the game into the final day. Jason Holder provided some resistance but he was sent on his way by the old one-two, beaten on inside and outside edge, and it was left to Shamar Joseph to gift Bashir a fifth and final wicket.

The margin of victory was a huge one but until the final collapse this was a highly competitive game and, therefore, England will have taken far more from it than the facile win at Lord's. They really had to earn their winning position on the fourth day and the partnership between Harry Brook and Joe Root, just as West Indies sniffed an opportunity on the third afternoon, was the key to that.

Those who dipped into their pockets to spend their hard-earned will feel blessed, having watched England's best make brilliant hundreds. Brook went to his fifth Test century in the morning and celebrated his first on home soil with both arms raised. Root followed in the afternoon session, bringing up his with an exquisite square drive and a triumphant punch of the air with his right fist. A great player and one who may become so had made up for sloppy dismissals first time around.

They had come together for the fourth wicket on the previous day with the match in the balance, the lead a fragile 99. Their partnership of 189, then, was forged under plenty of pressure and was a vital one in the context of the game. By the time they were parted the pendulum had swung very firmly England's way, a lead of 288 at that point, which was eventually stretched to 384.

Brook had done most of his groundwork the day before and gave further demonstration of how badly he had been missed in India during the first hour. He had pulled out of that tour to be with his grandmother during her final days, but had worked on his fitness in the meantime — his fielding and catching in this series has been a visible reward for that — and his absence has done nothing to diminish his hunger for runs.

The initial aim was to get through the opening thrust and the first hour went perfectly, the rate a healthy four runs per over, no wickets falling and not a chance created. West Indies tried most things, including changing the ball (again) and changing the bails around, in homage to the master trickster Stuart Broad, looking on from the commentary box. Nothing worked.

The nearest West Indies came to a wicket was when Brook flapped at two short balls from the Josephs, Alzarri and Shamar, but that apart, his bat looked about three feet wide, especially when on the vertical plane. Two early drives off Jayden Seales flew to the cover boundary — an ominous sign — and his first hundred on home soil came just before morning drinks, with a push and a scurried single to mid-on.

Root's half-century followed two balls later with a flick to leg, a shot that brought him a double milestone as he moved to eighth in the all-time Test run-makers list, ghosting past Shivnarine Chanderpaul, with Brian Lara in his sights. Brook's dismissal shortly after drinks, when he wafted outside off stump to Seales, was unexpected but heralded a second hour that belonged firmly to West Indies.

The visitors' resilience had been much in evidence, and their bowlers kept at it. Stokes fell on the hook 40 minutes after drinks and Smith edged the off spin of Sinclair on the point of lunch, the wickets due reward for their persistence. Seales finished with four, the pick of the attack.

Root's hundred arrived shortly after the break and with 32 Test hundreds now he is in elite company, alongside Kane Williamson, Steve Smith and Steve Waugh. It was his fifth at Trent Bridge, a ground he enjoys. It was a mature hundred containing only seven boundaries but not a slow one, coming as it did in 158 balls. Beautifully judged, in other words, according to the demands of the situation.

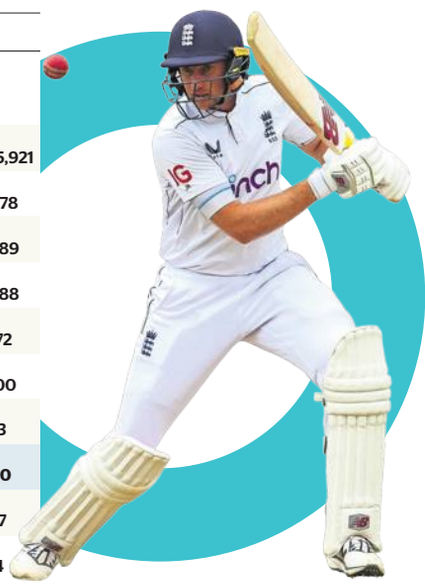
Nobody was surprised when he unfurled the reverse-scoop immediately afterwards. It is a shot that is testament to his desire to buy into the philosophy espoused by Brendon McCullum and Stokes, but was a source of angst in the winter when he was dismissed in Rajkot by Jasprit Bumrah. When he unveiled it this time, with the lead a handsome one, and the tail for company, he picked his moment wisely.

Stokes, above, applauds England's first Test series win since 2022 after West Indies collapsed in the second innings thanks to Bashir's five-for, which included the wicket of Holder, main. Below, Bashir does Cole Palmer's trademark "cold" celebration

## Leading Test run-scorers

Joe Root scored his 32nd Test century against West Indies and moved eighth in the list of all-time Test run-scorers

| | Average | Centuries | Runs |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sachin Tendulkar (200 Tests for India,1989-2013) | 53.78 | 51 | 15,921 |
| Ricky Ponting (168, Aus,1995-2012) | 51.85 | 41 | 13,378 |
| Jacques Kallis (166, SA, 995-2013) | 55.37 | 45 | 13,289 |
| Rahul Dravid (164, India, 1996-2012) | 52.31 | 36 | 13,288 |
| Alastair Cook (161, England, 2006-18) | 45.35 | 33 | 12,472 |
| Kumar Sangakkara (134, Sri Lanka, 2000-15) | 57.40 | 38 | 12,400 |
| Brian Lara (131, West Indies, 1990-2006) | 52.88 | 34 | 11,953 |
| **Joe Root (142, Eng, 2012-24)** | **49.95** | **32** | **11,940** |
| Shivnarine Chanderpaul (164, West Indies, 1994-2015) | 51.37 | 30 | 11,867 |
| Mahela Jayawardene (149, Sri Lanka, 1997-2014) | 49.84 | 34 | 11,814 |



# in their ruthless dash to victory

DAVID ROGERS/GETTY IMAGES; MATT WEST/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK; JOHN SIBLEY/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS

## Scoreboard

| ENGLAND: first innings | R | B | 6/4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Z Crawley** c Athanaze b A Joseph | **0** | 3 | 0 |
| **BM Duckett** c Holder b S Joseph | **71** | 59 | 14 |
| **OJD Pope** c Hodge b A Joseph | **121** | 167 | 16 |
| **JE Root** c A Joseph b Seales | **14** | 29 | 2 |
| **HC Brook** c McKenzie b Sinclair | **36** | 34 | 6 |
| ***B Stokes** c sub b Hodge | **69** | 104 | 8 |
| **JL Smith** c Holder b Hodge | **36** | 54 | 4 |
| **CR Woakes** c Holder b Seales | **37** | 48 | 3 |
| **AAP Atkinson** c Hodge b Sinclair | **2** | 5 | 0 |
| **MA Wood** not out | **13** | 29 | 0 |
| **S Bashir** c Holder b A Joseph | **5** | 4 | 1 |
| **Extras** (nb 5, w 2, lb 5) | **12** | | |
| **TOTAL** (88.3 overs) | **416** | | |

**Fall of wickets** 1-0, 2-105, 3-142, 4-201, 5-281, 6-342, 7-367, 8-370, 9-408
**Bowling** A Joseph 15.3-1-98-3; Seales 15-1-90-2; Holder 14-0-60-0; S Joseph 11.2-2-44-1; Sinclair 22-0-73-2; Brathwaite 0.3-0-2-0; Hodge 10-0-44-2

| WEST INDIES: first innings | R | B | 6/4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***KC Brathwaite** c Pope b Atkinson | **48** | 72 | 8 |
| **M Louis** c Brook b Bashir | **21** | 41 | 2 |
| **KSA McKenzie** c Stokes b Bashir | **11** | 27 | 2 |
| **AS Athanaze** c Brook b Stokes | **82** | 99 | 11 |
| **KAR Hodge** lbw b Woakes | **120** | 171 | 19 |
| **JO Holder** c Smith b Woakes | **27** | 76 | 4 |
| **JM Da Silva** not out | **82** | 122 | 13 |
| **K Sinclair** c Brook b Atkinson | **4** | 14 | 0 |
| **AS Joseph** c Smith b Woakes | **10** | 29 | 1 |
| **JNT Seales** b Woakes | **0** | 1 | 0 |
| **S Joseph** c Atkinson | **33** | 27 | 7 |
| **Extras** (nb 8, w 4, b 4, lb 3) | **19** | | |
| **TOTAL** (111.5 overs) | **457** | | |

**Fall of wickets** 1-53, 2-78, 3-84, 4-259, 6-355, 7-362, 8-386, 9-386
**Bowling** Woakes 28-1-84-4; Atkinson 24.5-4-107-2; Wood 20-4-71-1; Bashir 25-0-108-2; Stokes 12-0-61-1; Root 2-0-19-0

| ENGLAND: second innings | R | B | 6/4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Z Crawley** run out | **3** | 4 | 0 |
| **BM Duckett** lbw b A Joseph | **76** | 92 | 11 |
| **OJD Pope** c Sinclair b A Jospeh | **51** | 67 | 6 |
| **JE Root** c McKenzie b Holder | **122** | 178 | 10 |
| **HC Brook** c Da Silva b Seales | **109** | 132 | 13 |
| ***BA Stokes** c A Joseph b Seales | **8** | 19 | 1 |
| **JL Smith** c Da Silva b Sinclair | **6** | 7 | 0 |
| **CR Woakes** c Holder b S Joseph | **12** | 23 | 1 |
| **AAP Atkinson** not out | **21** | 26 | 3 |
| **MA Wood** b Seales | **0** | 7 | 0 |
| **S Bashir** b Seales | **0** | 3 | 0 |
| **Extras** (nb 4, w 1, b 4, lb 8 ) | **17** | | |
| **TOTAL** (92.2 overs) | **425** | | |

**Fall of wickets** 1-8, 2-127, 3-140, 4-329, 5-341, 6-348, 7-378, 8-419, 9-421
**Bowling** A Joseph 20-0-103-2; Seales 22.2-1-97-4; S Joseph 19-0-75-1; JO Holder 15-1-78-1; Sinclair 15-1-78-1; Brathwaite 1-0-6-0

| WEST INDIES: second innings | R | B | 6/4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***KC Brathwaite** c Smith b Woakes | **47** | 48 | 8 |
| **M Louis** c Smith b Woakes | **17** | 40 | 2 |
| **KSA McKenzie** c Smith b Bashir | **1** | 5 | 0 |
| **AS Athanze** c Root b Bashir | **1** | 12 | 0 |
| **KAR Hodge** lbw b Bashir | **0** | 4 | 0 |
| **JO Holder** b Bashir | **37** | 42 | 6 |
| **K Sinclair** c Crawley b Wood | **1** | 17 | 0 |
| **JM Da Silva** lbw b Atkinson | **14** | 26 | 2 |
| **AS Joseph** b Atkinson | **0** | 2 | 0 |
| **JNT Seales** not out | **8** | 10 | 1 |
| **S Joseph** b Bashir | **8** | 11 | 1 |
| **Extras** (w 1, lb 8) | **9** | | |
| **TOTAL** (36.1 overs) | **143** | | |

**Fall of wickets** 1-61, 2-66, 3-74, 4-75, 5-82, 6-91, 7-113, 8-113, 9-129.
**Bowling** Woakes 8-0-28-2; Atkinson 9-1-49-2; Wood 8-2-17-1; Bashir 11.1-2-41-5.

**Umpires** A Holdstock (SA) and R Tucker (Aus) **Man of the match** O Pope (Eng).
World Test Championship points: England 12, West Indies 0

# Youthful selection pays off as Stokes says: I told you so

CONTINUED FROM BACK

overs. Bashir, who has become England's preferred frontline spinner instead of his Somerset team-mate Jack Leach, did not bowl in the first Test at Lord's. However, he finished this match with figures of seven for 149, taking five for 41 in 11.1 overs in the second innings.

At 20 years and 282 days, he is the youngest England bowler to take a five-wicket haul at home, surpassing James Anderson, who had set the record against Zimbabwe in 2003. Bashir bowled with guile and got excellent drift and rip on a flat pitch to register his third Test five-wicket haul, having made his debut in India in February.

Put under pressure by West Indies, Stokes hailed his team's ruthlessness. "It was amazing, the comeback we showed after their opening partnership was remarkable," he said. "Taking ten wickets for 80 runs was exceptional. That wicket didn't offer hardly anything for a spinner, but Bash was so aggressive, and his intent was always to take wickets and not just hold an end up. He is class, the way he can change his pace, his top spin, his over spin — the ball he got [Jason] Holder with was a great sign, you could see the seam was sideways. He has such a desire to get better and works constantly with Jeetan Patel [England's spin coach]. It is really good for a young guy to put in a performance to win a Test match. He was pretty emotional there at the end — a cool day for him.

"In team sport, you want a few to stand up but that partnership between Brook and Root, it was definitely the toughest part of the game to bat under the lights, they soaked it up but also kept the scoreboard ticking."

Bashir, whose height gives his bowling an extra dimension, was savouring the moment after an incredible first visit to Trent Bridge. "It was special," he said. "First time I've bowled in England for England and special to finish it off in a session. It's the first time I've been to Trent Bridge. I watched [Kevin] Sinclair bowl, he wasn't getting much spin, so I wasn't hopeful. But things can happen quite quickly in cricket.

"I'm the youngest in the group, everyone gets around me. I'm still trying to soak everything in, that innings went so quickly." When asked about his height, Bashir said: "I'm 6'4 and still growing."

Stokes was pleased with how this team, with some inexperienced players, was coming together. "Gus [Atkinson] last week and Bash this week. That's just what we want to see. It's really satisfying to know that with young players, they will progress so quickly." On the decision to select some new faces over the old hands, Stokes said: "I don't want to sound like it's an, 'I told you so,' but it kind of is.

"It wasn't easy to take wickets out there," he added. "There were 1,500 runs in the game, it was a good batting wicket and West Indies fought back well after we posted a big score."

# Boycott treated for pneumonia

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for the worse and my father has developed pneumonia and is unable to eat or drink, so is back in hospital on oxygen and a feeding tube for the foreseeable."

Speaking before his operation last week, Boycott said that scans had revealed another tumour. "I realise that to overcome cancer a second time I will need excellent medical treatment and quite a lot of luck, and even if the operation is successful every cancer patient knows they have to live with the possibility of it returning," he said.

Boycott made his international debut 60 years ago at Trent Bridge, and his career spanned three decades until his retirement in 1986.

He then became a broadcaster and pundit with BBC *Test Match Special* before retiring from the corporation in 2020. He continues to write a column in The Daily Telegraph.

# Norris fumes as he is forced to gift win to team-mate

**Molly Hudson**

Motor Racing Reporter, Budapest

As the perspiration built up on the brows of the McLaren staff on the pitwall during a searingly hot Hungarian Grand Prix, Andrea Stella, the team principal, was focusing on a safety-first approach to securing a first one-two since the 2021 Italian Grand Prix.

In attempting to protect it from his rivals — giving second-placed Lando Norris the preferential first pitstop in the final stint, overtaking his team-mate, Oscar Piastri — he inadvertently caused a dilemma of almighty proportions, which lasted for several laps until Norris, finally and unhappily, yielded to team orders to hand back the position.

In doing so, he gave Piastri his first Formula 1 victory, but also surrendered seven points in the title race against the championship leader, Max Verstappen.

"I didn't give up the race win, I lost the race win off the line," Norris said, once his helmet was off and his emotions calmed. "I was put in this situation [by the team] and it's not my fault I was leading the race. Simply, the team should have just boxed Oscar first, and we wouldn't even be having this discussion.

"It's hard when you're in that position to give it back, because you're there and of course that went through my mind, seven points that I'm going to lose. But I think the real fact is that I almost shouldn't have had them in the first place, I shouldn't have had them in my hands, so the team were right."

During the final stint of this race, the McLaren engineer Will Joseph pleaded with Norris to give up his race lead. Formula 1 race engineers are specifically trained to calmly deliver the most complex messages to their drivers at high speed. They are often close friends of their drivers beyond the track and communicate thousands of messages a season.

Few will have sounded like these, which were littered with expletives and complaints from Norris, and so too were the soundwaves emanating from Verstappen's Red Bull, as he took his frustration out on Gianpiero Lambiase.

Joseph played on Norris's heartstrings. "I know you'll do the right thing," he said. Then came a sterner warning, telling Norris that championships are not won by individuals but the team. Then: "Please. Do it now." The nature of the interaction, though, took some of the shine off Piastri's win.

Piastri, 23, has long been tipped for success after an impressive rookie season last year, and he coped well despite the nerve-jangling finish when, at one stage, it looked as if Norris would simply keep driving and refuse to switch places.

"This is the day I've dreamt of as a kid standing on the top step of an F1 podium," Piastri said. "The longer you leave [the swap back] of course you get a bit nervous, but it was well executed by the team, it was the right thing, I put myself in the right position at the start."

Stella explained that part of the reasoning behind the decision to bring in Norris ahead of Piastri was to alleviate pressure on the pitcrew were Lewis Hamilton to have closed the gap, and said that he did not doubt Norris would give back the position. "The interest of the team comes first," Stella said. "If you mess up on this matter, you cannot be part of the McLaren Formula 1 team. That's the principle."

Verstappen began the weekend 84 points ahead of Norris and, in the 13th race of 24, this was a moment for the McLaren driver to show his title credentials. This undoubtedly contributed to Norris's reluctance to give up the lead.

The problems began before Norris had even reached the grid, as he reported that he felt an issue with his throttle. His McLaren mechanics were working to fix the problem in the Hungarian heat, with track temperatures rising to 43C.

Those conditions meant tyre degradation would be crucial at a circuit where it is difficult to overtake, and the first corner was vital too. McLaren had achieved their first one-two in qualifying since Brazil 2012 and Norris managed to get a good launch off the line, moving his car to the left of the track to prevent his team-mate from overtaking him. Verstappen, who qualified third, went around the outside of them both, and they were three abreast at the first corner. Norris was forced wide to avoid Piastri, and Verstappen left the track to avoid contact.

Norris dropped to third but was given the position back after Verstappen was told he was required to do so, having gained an advantage. By lap 15, Norris was told his race was with Verstappen, rather than his team-mate.

The undercut is particularly powerful at the Hungaroring and Hamilton was the first of the leaders to pit, leapfrogging Verstappen, which was the key factor in his eventual third-place finish, his 200th career podium.

The collision between Hamilton and Verstappen came on lap 63, locking up his tyres when driving up the inside of the British driver, dropping Verstappen to fifth. His Red Bull flew into the air and he was lucky to avoid race-ending damage, with stewards later concluding neither driver was predominantly at fault.

Piastri enjoyed a relatively relaxed first half of the race, but it was rather more stressful for his mum, Nicole, who posted on X: "Longest race ever." In his unfamiliar leading role, he made his first error running wide, allowing Norris to close to within just over a second, before McLaren's team orders. They have made questionable strategy calls in recent races, but reassured Piastri, while Norris was told: "We'd like to re-establish the order at your convenience." He ultimately did, having made it crystal clear that it was not convenient at all.

Sergio Pérez, who qualified 16th, and the Mercedes of George Russell finished seventh and eighth respectively.

Piastri celebrates his first grand prix victory, main, after his McLaren team-mate

## How they finished

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | O Piastri | McLaren | 1:38:01.989 |
| 2 | L Norris | McLaren | +2.141 |
| 3 | L Hamilton | Mercedes | +14.880 |
| 4 | C Leclerc | Ferrari | +19.686 |
| 5 | M Verstappen | Red Bull | +21.349 |
| 6 | C Sainz | Ferrari | +23.073 |
| 7 | S Pérez | Red Bull | +39.792 |
| 8 | G Russell | Mercedes | +42.368 |
| 9 | Y Tsunoda | RB | +77.259 |
| 10 | L Stroll | Aston Martin | +77.976 |
| 11 | F Alonso | Aston Martin | +82.460 |
| 12 | D Ricciardo | RB | +1 lap |
| 13 | N Hülkenberg | Haas | +1 lap |
| 14 | A Albon | Williams | +1 lap |
| 15 | K Magnussen | Haas | +1 lap |
| 16 | V Bottas | Kick Sauber | +1 lap |
| 17 | L Sargeant | Williams | +1 lap |
| 18 | E Ocon | Alpine | +1 lap |
| 19 | Zhou Guanyu | Kick Sauber | +1 lap |
| 20 | P Gasly | Alpine | DNF |

**Overall standings**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | M Verstappen Red Bull | 265pts |
| 2 | L Norris McLaren | 189 |
| 3 | C Leclerc Ferrari | 162 |
| 4 | C Sainz Ferrari | 154 |
| 5 | O Piastri McLaren | 149 |
| 6 | L Hamilton Mercedes | 125 |
| 7 | S Pérez Red Bull | 124 |
| 8 | G Russell Mercedes | 116 |
| 9 | F Alonso Aston Martin | 45 |
| 10 | L Stroll Aston Martin | 24 |

**Fastest lap** G Russell 1:20.305

**Constructors**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Red Bull | 389pts |
| 2 | McLaren | 338 |
| 3 | Ferrari | 322 |
| 4 | Mercedes | 241 |
| 5 | Aston Martin | 69 |
| 6 | RB | 33 |
| 7 | Haas | 27 |
| 8 | Alpine | 9 |
| 9 | Williams | 4 |
| 10 | Kick Sauber | 0 |

# We will have discussions

CONTINUED FROM BACK

driver had pushed too hard on his medium set of tyres in the final stint, he received an expletive-laden response: "You guys gave me this shit strategy, OK? I'm trying to rescue what's left."

Verstappen had been awake until 3.20am, having taken part in a three-hour stint in a team 24-hour simulator race at the virtual Spa-Francorchamps circuit. Nico Rosberg, the former race driver and Sky Sports pundit, called that "disrespectful" to Formula 1, as Verstappen was also criticised for his continued frustrations in the race. "They can all f*** off," the Dutchman responded.

Horner admitted they had underestimated how difficult it would be to pass the car in front because of the dirty air produced, meaning Verstappen was delayed by his struggles behind Hamilton.

"Sometimes you press in the radio to voice your opinion and that's what I did today," Verstappen said. "I was hoping that maybe the second pitstop would be

FERENC ISZA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Norris eventually followed team orders to seal a one-two finish, top left. Hamilton, inset left, came home third for Mercedes

# behind closed doors, says Horner

a better call. But it wasn't." The Red Bull driver was sending increasingly irate messages about the lack of balance in his car, complaining he could not make the front-wing alterations he wished to because of the effect that would then have on degradation. "[This is] the only way I can survive," he complained.

Red Bull brought a significant upgrade to this race, but it had little effect, with McLaren the faster car all weekend. Verstappen's lead has been cut to 76 points in the drivers' championship, and Red Bull's to 51 in the constructors'.

"Everybody sees that we need to find more performance, and everybody's working hard to do that. We'll have whatever discussions [are needed] behind closed doors," Horner said.

There will be no easy exit from Red Bull for Verstappen, regardless of his frustrations. He is contracted until 2028, but it emerged this season there was an exit clause for the reigning world champion if Helmut Marko, the Red Bull Austria special adviser, departed.

This fuelled speculation that Verstappen could join Mercedes, but it is understood Marko has now signed a contract to remain with Red Bull until the end of 2026. It was initially unclear where Red Bull would stand with Verstappen if the 81-year-old Marko was too unwell to work, but that loophole has closed.

That leaves Mercedes with a difficult decision over whether to gamble on the highly rated 17-year-old Andrea Kimi Antonelli, who won his first main race in F2 yesterday.

# Links golf may be torture but it's also sport at its best

## The Open brought tales of chaos and misfortune as players grappled with high winds and tough lies, says **Tom Kershaw**

"Links golf is nature in all its unforgiving force" was how the Open's official website previewed the week at Royal Troon. The broken souls come yesterday night would testify to that. Soaked and windswept, the hermetically sealed bubbles PGA Tour players exist in for 51 weeks of the year were prised open one by one and plundered by the conspiratorial elements in Ayrshire. Those who survived all four days stumbled off the 18th green in a stupor. At times it felt like sporting torture. Boy, was it beautiful.

Of the 157 players that journeyed to Troon with dewy-eyed dreams, only nine survived the rude awakening and bettered par for the tournament. The glory of this Open was not in the suffering, though, but the vicissitudes. It trawled the wardrobe of all four seasons and stretched extremes in scoring rarely witnessed on behemoth yet benign American courses.

Justin Thomas played the front nine in 45 on Friday and 31 on Saturday. Joaquin Niemann made an eight at the 120-yard Postage Stamp, the 8th hole. Robert MacIntyre was forced to hit a full shot right-handed. It was a gripping test of golf — aside from when the club threatened to slip from players' hands — and demanded imagination and all-round consistency in almost equal measures.

When Xander Schauffele won the US PGA Championship in May, he made only two bogeys and one double in 72 holes. It was a high-class procession of target practice into soft greens that coughed up a record-breaking low score in major championship history.

The winds were slightly milder in Troon yesterday, only tipping 15mph as the leaders entered the closing stretch, but the brilliance of Schauffele's round of 65 bore little resemblance to the monotony of Valhalla. It tested every aspect of his game and sinew of nerve, not least the deft pitch off a tight, hard lie over the greenside bunker at the 16th to a flag tucked just a few paces behind, that sealed his victory. Only one other player, Russell Henley, went bogey-free yesterday.

"I don't know if it's true or not [that winning the Open makes you a complete player], but I'm definitely going to believe it," Schauffele said, laughing. "It's a completely different style of golf. It makes you play shots and have different ball positions. There's so much risk-reward when the wind's blowing 20 miles an hour and it starts raining. There are so many different variables that come into play. It truly is an honour to win this."

Some will lament the vagaries of the weather as unfair, and the late-morning wave on Thursday and Friday undoubtedly bore the brunt of the gusts of winds. But as Jack Nicklaus always attested: "Golf is not a fair game" — never more so than on links courses.

There are blind shots, impossible stances and luckless bounces. Take the 18th on Saturday when Daniel Brown's chain-smoking was inconvenienced by the need to hit a seemingly fine drive into the howling winds that had wreaked more havoc on the Englishman's lighter than his impervious score. His ball kicked off a small gradient in the fairway impossible to discern from a distance and defied gravity to cling to the lip of the bunker, leaving Brown to play a shot with the ball above waist-high. A double bogey meant he lost the lead and the nearest corner-shop owner in Troon might have begun smacking his lips in anticipation of Brown's latest restock.

But one of the beauties of this Open was that it gave back what it stole, albeit minus a pound of flesh. The unheralded South African Thriston Lawrence had an unglamorous 4.05pm start on Friday as the gusts gathered in might, but he scrambled and putted brilliantly and the sole birdie of a gritty round confirmed he would make the cut.

His reward was an early start in the initially gentle conditions on Saturday, and Lawrence played brilliantly to shoot 65 — the joint-lowest round of the tournament — and earn a place in yesterday's final group. That might have invited a frantic uptick in visitors to the 27-year-old's scant Wikipedia page, but it was far from an unworthy aberration.

It is not just name value but narrative that dictates the excitement of a tournament. Along with Brown and Lawrence, this final round had Justin Rose seeking a second major 11 years after his first, Billy Horschel attempting to break his torrid record in them, and Scottie Scheffler and Schauffele, both major champions already this year, vying alongside them.

Shane Lowry was there too, attempting to revive the sodden memories of Royal Portrush with four birdies on the front nine, but his grumblings about the "brutal" set-up late on Saturday evening after a round of 77 illustrated how such a maddening gauntlet could briefly relieve a good-hearted man of his warmth. What's more, it always carried the threat not just of constant change on the leaderboard but outright capitulations, although the three putt from inside 7ft that cost Scheffler at the 9th hole was a demon all of his own.

"I think this has been a fantastically fair test this week," Matt Fitzpatrick, who had good reason to complain after finishing nine over par for the tournament, said, before conceding it is a "fine line".

But the blips of chaos added to the viewing experience for those in the comfort of their living rooms, and the less hardy dispersed by the weather on Saturday had returned in full force. It was a 72-hole tightrope complete with thrills and spills, slumps and spats, and delivered a formidable champion about whom nothing was a fluke. Golf really gets no better.

MacIntyre had to play a shot right-handed on Saturday

# Peerless Schauffele proves to

Rick Broadbent

In the Firth of Clyde by the edge of Royal Troon, a hardy bare-chested supporter held up a homemade sign with the words "Good Luck Justin Rose" daubed on cardboard. Shivering in the iced waters, the ink on his soggy placard had started to run. It was a sign of things to come as all challengers slowly faded and the name at the top of the huge yellow leaderboard, Xander Schauffele, had become a permanent fixture long before the end.

Rose, 43, was trying to set the record for the longest gap between major triumphs at 4,053 days, but Schauffele has now won two in 63. He is the man of the golfing year and one for all seasons. He set a low-scoring major record at the US PGA Championship in May but had to show grit and guile in this

**A Rose super-fan goes to extreme lengths in the Firth of Clyde to support his man but could do nothing to stop Schauffele**

triumph of endurance. A by-product of his success means Americans have won the past seven majors and have completed a sweep of all four for the first time since 1982, when Tom Watson won at Troon. The Scots have scores of words for rain, but after the *smirr*, *uplowsin* and *goselet* lifted and the winds dropped, nothing could rain on this parade. "He's such a calm guy out there," Rose said. "I don't know what he's feeling but he makes it look very easy." Stellar approach play and a bogey-free display provided a potent combination.

**3**
**Xander Schauffele is the third American to win the Open and US PGA in the same year after Walter Hagen (1924) and Tiger Woods (2000, 2006)**

**2**
**Schauffele is the second player to shoot 65 or lower more than once in the final round of a major win. The other is Jack Nicklaus (1967 US Open and 1986 Masters)**

The facts are Schauffele's round of 65 took him to nine under par and a two-stroke advantage over Rose and Billy Horschel. The latter had led six men by a shot at the start yesterday, but failed to make ground after the turn. A hat-trick of birdies to finish for the Florida branch of the West Ham United fan club was a happy ending and gave him his best major result, but Schauffele had separated himself from the rest by the run-in.

His father confirmed they would be filling the Claret Jug with claret, which sums up his son's straightforward methodology. Schauffele is a phlegmatic figure, but he clearly has hidden depths. "Everyone in my family knows how competitive I am," he said. "I may not be the guy running around fist pumping but that's just who I am." Snapping clubs would take him too long to re-adjust before the next shot, he explained. "I've embraced this sort of SoCal laid-back kid, but there's obviously a fire burning deep within or I wouldn't have a couple of majors sitting by my side." And he craves more. Halfway to the career grand slam, he said: "It's something I've always wanted. If you don't see yourself doing it, you're never going to."

Thriston Lawrence, the South African who did little wrong and also led on the back nine, was fourth. The destabilising gusts that had wrought so much pain over the first three days finally softened to herald scoring opportunities, but fast starts faded, notably from Shane Lowry and Jon Rahm, although they finished sixth and tied seventh respectively.

Rose had climbed to the top after opening with old-time intent, but when Schauffele overhauled all, the outcome seemed inevitable. Nevertheless, Rose will reflect that he had a great Open and came close to adding to his US Open from 2013, but one poor chip at the 12th ultimately killed the momentum.

Lest we forget, he had to qualify for this championship some 26 years after he burst into the public consciousness with his showboating turn as a teenage amateur at Birkdale. It matched his best Open finish from Carnoustie in 2018, and leading a major on a Sunday will whet his appetite for more dream-chasing.

It felt fitting that he made one last birdie on the 18th. A round of 67 with one bogey was worthy of appreciation, and while teenage dreams are hard to beat, this middle-aged one was special too. There may be diminishing opportunities these days, but this was not a squandered chance, merely an unfulfilled one. He was not about to die wondering as he pulled out his driver on the 16th fairway and bullied his ball to the green. Schauffele, though, was playing a game to shed all hopes of an implosion. Asked where the round stood in his personal pantheon, he said: "The very tip top. Best round I've played."

And what of Dan Brown? The world No272 was one of the first Sunday hopefuls to stumble, but he kept grinding to make the top ten. He dropped a shot at the 1st, bounced back at the 2nd and then took two shots to get out of a bunker on the 4th. A mixed bag was not going to be enough with so many people still involved, but the son of the pig farmer had given the Open some welcome colour. You can't start a fire without a spark and his result means he will be back for another go next year, along with his compatriot Matthew Jordan, who started last year's Open at his home club at Hoylake.

In truth, Schauffele's metronomic game meant the final day did not match the drama of what had gone before, and he had to wait impatiently for the final two groups to finish, but this Open has thrown up some treats. Some of the elite do have a grating tendency to make the back nine at Troon sound like Dante's nine circles of hell, but if there are no Fuzzy-Felt PGA Tour greens here, the need to shape shots, plot routes, gauge the wind and test heart and nerve made for compelling competition.

Brown also got to play with Scottie Scheffler. We knew the American was good at escapology after he managed to play a round at Schauffele's PGA Championship not long after being handcuffed on spurious assault charges, but the artistry of his drives and approaches were too often preludes to putts sliding by. It irks him that people say it is his Achilles' heel, but he missed one putt from 2½ feet on the 9th just as he was making his move. This may be deemed McIlroy-esque after the world No2's US Open demise. Nevertheless, Scheffler also made another top ten on a day when his putter was as cold as the estuary swimmers.

## 'I had to hold back tears' – Rose proud but gutted

**Justin Rose admitted he was "choking back tears" on the walk to the 18th green after falling agonisingly short to an inspired Xander Schauffele in the final round of the Open (Tom Kershaw writes).**

**The Englishman, who turns 44 this month, had edged into a share of the lead as he made the turn after three birdies on the front nine and as he sought to end the 11-year wait for a second major triumph.**

**But Rose stuttered when a flared approach at the 12th resulted in his first bogey of the day, just as Schauffele embarked on a brilliant run of birdies.**

**"Well, I won second place, I won points, I won prizes, FedExCup points, all that stuff too. At that point, you're being a professional," Rose said.**

**"Then I walk ten steps later, and I'm choking back tears, so that's the shift. Yeah, just personal, and enjoying 18 with the fans too. It's such an amazing stage. That's the best look in golf, those two long grandstands that you walk down and the big yellow leaderboard. That's what I associate as a magic moment.**

**"Two emotions: gutted when I walked off the course, and it hit me hard because I was so strong out there. I really played the way I wanted to. I got off on the front foot. I played my way right into the tournament early doors. I did a lot of the hard things really well today. Just a critical moment midway through the back nine momentum-wise.**

**"Obviously Xander got it going. I hit a couple of really good putts that didn't fall, and then suddenly that lead stretched. In terms of how I played and the execution of my emotions, my mindset, I left it all out there. I'm super proud of how I competed."**

**Schauffele celebrates with the Claret Jug after becoming the first player since**

## Top-ten finish and £246,000 – Brown earns boozy party

Stuart Fraser

The eventual outcome was not what Dan Brown and his friends had hoped for when he walked up the 18th fairway on Saturday with a one-shot lead in the Open, but his hard-earned consolation of a place in next year's championship was still worth throwing a party at their nearby rented house last night.

"I can get on the drink now," the 29-year-old Yorkshireman said, minutes after he had completed his 72nd and final hole of the week.

Despite being nine shots short of the champion, Xander Schauffele, Brown's three-over-par round of 74 was enough to finish tied for tenth at Royal Troon. Not only does it earn the world No 272 the biggest cheque of his career — £246,000 — but a top-ten finish secures him an exemption in the field for Royal

# be a man for all seasons

OISIN KENIRY/R&A/GETTY IMAGES; ROBERT PERRY/EPA

2018 to win two majors in a year. Rose, right, shot 67 but it was only good enough for tied-second while world No1 Scheffler, far left, shanked a 150-yard drive at the last

Portrush in 12 months' time. Understandably there was some disappointment at the end of this memorable week for Brown that he had failed to capitalise on prime position during his third round. A slack double bogey on the 18th to leave him one shot behind Billy Horschel's overnight lead will still take some recovering from.

Brown was then in danger yesterday of freefalling down the leaderboard at three over par for the day after eight holes. Desperately needing a steady finish to have a chance of edging back into the top ten, he knuckled down and scored level par in his last ten holes to sit alongside Australia's Adam Scott and England's Matthew Jordan.

"At the minute it's probably a little bit more disappointment," Brown said. "But when I reflect on it, I'll be very pleased, I would have thought. If you would have told me that [he would finish in the top ten] at the start of the week, obviously I would have been very pleased.

"Portrush was in my head a little bit towards the back nine. Obviously I took myself out of contention quite early, so that was playing on my mind a little bit. But it still didn't really affect me in terms of hitting shots."

Brown's story as the unheralded qualifier in his first major captivated spectators and viewers throughout the week. Before he arrived in Edinburgh two weeks ago for the Scottish Open — where he finished 61st — he had posted six missed cuts and one withdrawal in seven tournaments. His parents, Mick, a pig farmer, and Kay, a mortgage broker, had not even booked accommodation in Troon beyond the first two days.

Brown already has a title under his belt, having won the ISPS Handa World Invitational on the DP World Tour last year, but his efforts in Troon have propelled him into the consciousness of the wider golfing world. Footage and photographs of him lighting a cigarette during his rounds have also proved popular on social media.

Brown secured an exemption in the field for Royal Portrush

Most importantly, Brown has given himself the opportunity to push on up the rankings during the second half of this year. For a man who was applying for supermarket jobs in 2019 after coming close to giving up on his misfiring professional career, it would be quite a tale if he were to go on and secure a PGA Tour card as one of the DP World Tour's top-ten non-exempt finishers in the Race to Dubai rankings. His next event is the Czech Masters, starting on August 15.

"This is quite big for my confidence," Brown said. "I had seven weeks out with an injury with my knee not long ago, and then I haven't really got firing since. It's nice to have a good result under my belt again."

There is also a useful learning experience to take away from his pairing alongside the world No1, Scottie Scheffler, on the final day. This is the sort of company he would like to be keeping on the course in the coming years, and he did not disgrace himself here, scoring only two shots more in the final round than Scheffler did.

"He's a really nice guy," Brown said. "We had a good time and it wasn't quite how we both wanted it to end, but it was fun."

With that, it was off to a chauffeured car back to the house he is sharing with three friends and his 19-year-old brother, Ben, who also had cause for celebration after securing a standard 10 per cent cut (about £24,000) for his caddying duties. "He's getting a nice little payday," Brown said. "Not too bad for a 19-year-old lad."

## Leaderboard

**Final scores from Troon**

| | | R1 | R2 | R3 | R4 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| X Schauffele | -9 | 69 | 72 | 69 | 65 | 275 |
| B Horschel | -7 | 72 | 68 | 69 | 68 | 277 |
| J Rose | -7 | 69 | 68 | 73 | 67 | 277 |
| T Lawrence | -6 | 71 | 74 | 65 | 68 | 278 |
| R Henley | -5 | 69 | 75 | 66 | 69 | 279 |
| S Lowry | -4 | 66 | 69 | 77 | 68 | 280 |
| Sung-jae Im | -1 | 76 | 72 | 66 | 69 | 283 |
| S Scheffler | -1 | 70 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 283 |
| J Rahm | -1 | 73 | 70 | 72 | 68 | 283 |
| D Brown | E | 65 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 284 |
| M Jordan | E | 71 | 71 | 71 | 71 | 284 |
| A Scott | E | 70 | 77 | 66 | 71 | 284 |
| An Byeong-hun | +1 | 75 | 71 | 68 | 71 | 285 |
| A Noren | +1 | 69 | 75 | 71 | 70 | 285 |
| J Day | +1 | 73 | 68 | 76 | 68 | 285 |
| J Catlin | +2 | 76 | 70 | 69 | 71 | 286 |
| C Morikawa | +2 | 73 | 70 | 72 | 71 | 286 |
| M Hughes | +2 | 69 | 74 | 75 | 68 | 286 |
| D Hillier | +3 | 76 | 71 | 68 | 72 | 287 |
| S Sharma | +3 | 76 | 72 | 67 | 72 | 287 |
| D Burmester | +3 | 71 | 69 | 76 | 71 | 287 |
| P Harrington | +4 | 72 | 73 | 71 | 72 | 288 |
| E Ferguson | +4 | 74 | 73 | 70 | 71 | 288 |
| S Straka | +4 | 70 | 74 | 73 | 71 | 288 |
| L Canter | +5 | 71 | 74 | 70 | 74 | 289 |
| C Conners | +5 | 71 | 70 | 80 | 68 | 289 |
| J Dean | +5 | 69 | 77 | 71 | 72 | 289 |
| P Cantlay | +5 | 73 | 68 | 75 | 73 | 289 |
| R Fox | +5 | 73 | 73 | 76 | 67 | 289 |
| J Spieth | +5 | 71 | 74 | 74 | 70 | 289 |
| E Cole | +6 | 72 | 73 | 72 | 73 | 290 |
| D Johnson | +6 | 74 | 69 | 72 | 75 | 290 |
| M Manassero | +6 | 73 | 73 | 70 | 74 | 290 |
| C Kirk | +6 | 70 | 76 | 69 | 75 | 290 |
| S Burns | +6 | 76 | 69 | 65 | 80 | 290 |
| M Kim | +6 | 73 | 71 | 72 | 74 | 290 |
| J Thomas | +6 | 68 | 78 | 67 | 77 | 290 |
| G Migliozzi | +6 | 73 | 75 | 71 | 71 | 290 |
| B Todd | +6 | 73 | 73 | 70 | 74 | 290 |
| C Young | +6 | 73 | 73 | 71 | 73 | 290 |
| K Kitayama | +7 | 77 | 69 | 74 | 71 | 291 |
| M Wallace | +7 | 70 | 77 | 71 | 73 | 291 |
| J Campillo | +8 | 80 | 68 | 73 | 71 | 292 |
| E Grillo | +8 | 71 | 74 | 72 | 75 | 292 |
| M Homa | +8 | 76 | 72 | 70 | 74 | 292 |
| S W Kim | +8 | 76 | 71 | 71 | 74 | 292 |
| B Koepka | +8 | 70 | 73 | 78 | 71 | 292 |
| C Scott | +8 | 71 | 75 | 70 | 76 | 292 |
| T Olesen | +8 | 72 | 73 | 76 | 71 | 292 |
| H English | +9 | 76 | 71 | 72 | 74 | 293 |
| M Fitzpatrick | +9 | 70 | 78 | 73 | 72 | 293 |
| R MacIntyre | +9 | 72 | 75 | 72 | 74 | 293 |

**Other scores**
**+9** R Mansell 75, 71, 74, 73; A Meronk 73, 72, 73, 75; M Pavon 72, 72, 77, 72; S Crocker 72, 74, 69, 78; G Woodland 76, 68, 72, 77. **+10** A Ancer 73, 75, 70, 76; J Niemann 71, 71, 76, 76. **+11** B Harman 73, 73, 72, 77; R Hojgaard 74, 72, 74, 75; P Mickelson 73, 74, 72, 76; T Morrison 75, 73, 74, 73; J S Olesen 76, 71, 72, 76; J H Wang 72, 72, 77, 74. **+12** A Eckroat 73, 73, 72, 78; N Hojgaard 69, 75, 75, 77; H Matsuyama 75, 72, 75, 74; T McKibbin 73, 72, 77, 74; D Thompson 74, 73, 71, 78. **+13** R Fowler 79, 69, 74, 75. **+14** T Hoge 74, 70, 74, 80; M Siem 73, 71, 77, 77; Y H Song 71, 76, 77, 74. **+15** A Cejka 73, 74, 72, 80; D Clarke 77, 71, 76, 75; L Masaveu 73, 75, 78, 76. **+19** A Ogletree 75, 72, 79, 77. **+22** D Fichardt 77, 71, 80, 78.

**Prize money**
1, Schauffele: $3.1million (about £2.4m) **T2** Rose, Horschel: $1,443,500. **4th** Lawrence: $876,000. **5th** Henley: $705,000. **6th** Lowry: $611,000. **T7** Rahm, Im, Scheffler: $451,833. **T10** Jordan, Brown, Scott: $317,533. **T13** Noren, Day, Hun An: $248,667: **T16** Catlin, Morikawa, Hughes: $202,700. **T19** Burmester, Hillier, Sharma: $176,367.

# Sport

## Schauffele just too good

American holds off Rose to win his second major of year

The Open, pages 59-61

Verstappen's back wheels leave the track after a collision with Hamilton

# Verstappen loses the plot

● Car lifts off after Hamilton clash ● Rants at team over strategy ● Tells critics to 'f*** off'

**Molly Hudson**
Motor Racing Reporter, Budapest

An angry and frustrated Max Verstappen has told his critics that "they can all f*** off" after an eventful Hungarian Grand Prix in which he collided with Lewis Hamilton and saw his lead in the title race cut.

Verstappen eventually finished fifth after the crash. Frustrated that he could not get past Hamilton, having earlier been stuck behind the Mercedes, he drove up the inside before locking his tyres, and the two cars collided. Verstappen's rear wheels lifted off the ground and he ran off the track. Stewards investigated the incident but found no driver to be predominantly to blame.

Hamilton agreed that it was merely a racing incident,

while Verstappen, inset, accused him of moving under braking, both on team radio and in interviews after the race. The stewards found that Hamilton's movement was similar compared with other laps he had completed, though said that he could have done more to avoid the collision.

"Childish" was the response from Gianpiero Lambiase, Verstappen's race engineer, after the driver mentioned Hamilton's movement under braking. Lambiase appeared as exasperated at Verstappen as he ever has been — although Christian Horner, the Red Bull team principal, insisted that comment was directed at their rivals. When Lambiase suggested the

Continued on page 58

# Bashir five-for seals victory

**Elizabeth Ammon**

Ben Stokes hailed Shoaib Bashir's aggression and potential after the 20-year-old became the youngest England bowler to take a five-wicket haul at home and the first spinner to take a five-for at Trent Bridge since Muttiah Muralitharan in 2006.

The Somerset off spinner led England to a 241-run victory over West Indies in the second Test and "showed the world what he's about" according to Stokes, his captain.

England's comprehensive victory, which also sealed a series win and reclaimed the Richards-Botham Trophy, was set up by centuries from the Yorkshire duo of Joe Root and Harry Brook. They helped the hosts set a target of 385 and although the chase began with an opening partnership of 61, West Indies then lost all ten wickets for 82 runs in 23

Continued on page 57

# Boycott back in hospital

**Elizabeth Ammon**

Sir Geoffrey Boycott, the former Yorkshire and England opening batsman, has been taken back into hospital to be treated for pneumonia after his recent surgery for throat cancer.

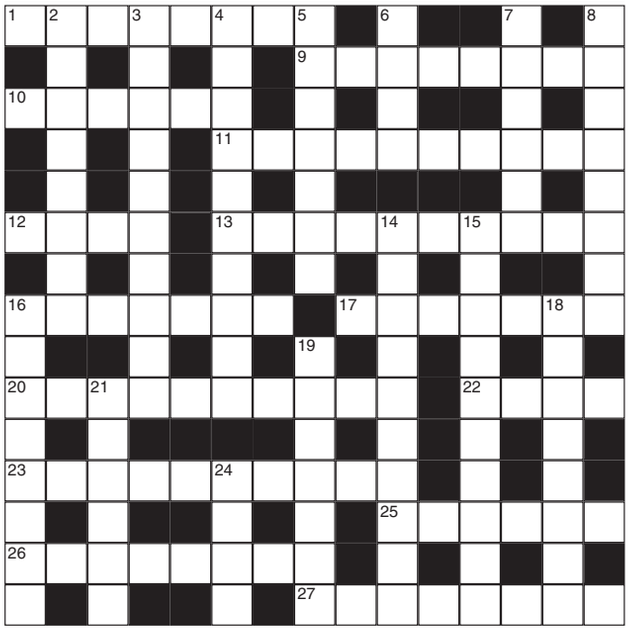
Boycott, 83, had a three-hour operation on Wednesday to remove the cancer and was released two days later, but in a statement released by his family on Sunday afternoon it was confirmed that he had "taken a turn for the worse".

This is the second time Boycott has been treated for throat cancer, having first been diagnosed and successfully treated for it in 2002.

Boycott's daughter, Emma, wrote on social media on Sunday: "Thank you for all the well wishes, we've been blown away by the sheer number of them! Unfortunately things have taken a turn

Continued on page 57

## Times Crossword 28,975



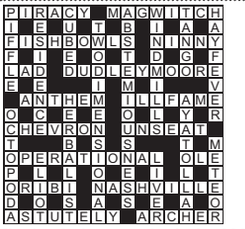
**ACROSS**

1 Lay out papers, receiving pound: great! (8)
9 In full gear he commonly told a joke (8)
10 Climb awkwardly missing large raised curve (6)
11 Throaty sound on apple heard, a bird (10)
12 Thoughtful character (4)
13 Do better to speak formally after email fails (10)
16 Father lacking in delicacy and nimbleness (7)
17 Most painful infection just starting in a breast (7)
20 Who's suggested an outdoor arena? (10)
22 One endless hoo-ha about devout Muslim (4)
23 One turning over dough is very rich and secure (7,3)
25 Finally without appeal, he had paid a percentage (6)
26 Supports us with cheers during lapses (8)
27 Anti-communist union lacks a Republican firmness (8)

**DOWN**

2 Smoothing round knot, not missing floorboards (8)
3 Fan wobbled badly in alternating motion (3,3,4)
4 Much of the universe not seen to be important after nightfall (4,6)
5 Loved to hold me up and put down (7)
6 A slander upset assembly (4)
7 Ancient kingdom, not all in South Africa (6)
8 Next US prosecutor turns judge with a little money (8)
14 Subordinate working as detective, talent almost wasted (10)
15 Put back in control over situation, died (10)
16 Swearing about regular instalments of satire not being easy to get (8)
18 Peter to install something reliable for party (4,4)
19 Excel, almost certain to involve a teammate (7)
21 Solemn and old, want to keep lucid in the head (6)
24 Type of film that doesn't use infrared? (4)

**Prize solution 28,968**



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

*The winners of Prize Crossword No 28,968 are*
**P Clark**, Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire
**D Fricker**, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex
**P Hamilton**, Wigan, Greater Manchester
**C Stroud**, London N7
**L Thuringer**, Wraysbury, Berkshire

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# Get set for Paris 2024

Don’t miss our Olympic Games preview supplement, with expert insights from Olympian Michael Johnson and chief sports writer, Owen Slot.

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# Yikes, no 5G!

## Whatever happened to the do-nothing, switch-off holiday?

# Congrats, Rufus, but here's why I wouldn't marry a Gen Zer

## Kevin Maher

SPLASH NEWS

I have always liked Rufus Sewell. Loved him in the 1990s sci-fi *Dark City*, thought he was fabulous as Sidney Luft in the biopic *Judy* and was floored at how he elevated the Netflix drama *Scoop* with his nuanced portrait of Prince Andrew. My admiration for Sewell, however, has skyrocketed after it was revealed that the 56-year-old actor has officially tied the knot with the 27-year-old American actress Vivian Benitez.

Yep — 29 big ones in between. And, I know, it's just one of those things that famous actors do when they reach a particular moment — marry a woman who's at least 20 years younger. Think of Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart (22 years), Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones (25 years) or Warren Beatty and Annette Bening (21 years). But 29 is pushing the envelope. It's not Mick Jagger territory (he has 43 years on his girlfriend, Melanie Hamrick), but it violates that French rule of "half your age plus seven". That's so French. So inappropriately amorous that they had to make a rule to contain it. Apparently Maurice Chevalier was a proponent of the half-your-age-plus-seven rule. You know, Maurice Chevalier? Best known for the entirely healthy and definitely not creepy tune *Thank Heaven for Little Girls*?

And so why the admiration for Sewell? Because, speaking as someone in his (very!) early fifties, I cannot imagine what it's like, or what it takes, to bridge that yawning age gap. The thought of it makes me feel vaguely queasy. Don't get me wrong, I love twentysomethings as a collective, but equally, no. For me it's like a horror movie, to imagine waking up next to a twentysomething wife. The chat alone would kill me. Pretending that I cared about the dull Gen Z role models Tom Holland and Zendaya and what brave artistic endeavour they're tackling next. And then skulking around the house and watching aghast as she shares every single detail of our newly married lives on social media and forces me to do a TikTok dance (#HilariousOldFartHusband) before I've even had breakfast.

And then, naturally, I can't say anything because of her incipient anxiety and incessantly foregrounded mental health journey, which has been exacerbated by the apocalyptic reality of climate change and because I refuse to give up the diesel car for a tandem ebike. And even though she has several degrees and a PhD in semiotics, she doesn't have an actual job but makes side money from the product placement on her glossy Instagram posts and is hoping for sponsorship for her podcast about civic engagement, health care reform and the true meaning of Kylie Jenner's recent pedicure.

Point being, I don't know why I'm married to this person. She's clearly wrong for me in every way and my every utterance must turn her stomach. I have nothing to offer her but the so-called wisdom of life experience, which, honestly, is pretty minimal. In fact I'm quite boring. If you don't like dog walks, occasional swims and talking about the production history of *The Searchers* I would avoid me. But we soldier on, nonetheless, and then she reveals that we have tickets to tonight's Taylor Swift concert, and all her friends are coming, and we're going to post selfies from the gig that will show us living our best lives and shouting along to *Shake It Off* and that's when I walk out the door and file for divorce.

So, yes, in short, to Sewell, Ford, Douglas, Beatty and anyone else who bridges that double-decade age gap, I say chapeau, good sir, chapeau!

## Summer in Biden's Delaware

**Poor Joe Biden. Politically embattled, gone from the presidential race and recuperating from Covid, he has apparently retreated to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Good choice, Joe. I spent my final university summer working in a Rehoboth Beach "T-shirt and tourist tat" store. Part salesman, part security guard, I was charged with keeping the store's front section safe from light-fingered rascals. And sure enough, one day in August, right under my nose, a young teen grabbed a handful of T-shirts and ran. I gave chase, a-hollerin' and a-whoopin' (hey, it's America) while also thinking, "I really hope he doesn't stop, because I have no idea what happens next!" Thankfully he didn't and instead kept going, just yards ahead of me, while I, full of adrenaline, kept following. No matter what I shouted, he simply would not stop running. And that, until recently, was also very Joe Biden. The pursuit climaxed with the teen suddenly swerving left and charging into the sea. He swam out to the other bathers and, with the run finally abandoned, blended into inevitable anonymity. Or, as Team Biden now calls it, 2025.**

## What Ann gets wrong on Strictly

**The backstage *Strictly* crisis continues, this time with pushback from the former contestant Ann Widdecombe, who has suggested that the show's celebrity accusers need to stop "whingeing". Widdecombe, however, belonged to the "joke" category of contestants (see also John Sergeant and Tony Adams), which is not the same as the young women and men — often cricketers, presenters, or sports people — who arrive on stage with a genuine shot at the glitterball. The best analogy is a horse race. The young colts appear to be matched with respectful female riders whereas the fillies are there, seemingly, to be harried into shape by their male jockeys. And, sorry Anne, nobody is going to harry a nag. Why? Because a nag has no chance of winning!**

# The sound guy put a mike down my bra without asking

## TV chef Rachel Khoo on being treated badly as a woman in kitchens — and on cooking shows. By Charlotte Lytton

It is 12 years since Rachel Khoo's 226 sq ft Parisian apartment made her a household name, and her empire, along with her kitchen worktop, has grown exponentially. The little Paris kitchen that gave Khoo a BBC2 series and bestselling book of the same name has since been traded for Skane, Sweden's "version of Kent". She was a judge on the BBC's *Great British Menu* in 2021, has fronted Netflix and Discovery+ series about sweet treats and is about to spend seven weeks filming her third season as a judge on *The Great Australian Bake Off*.

Before she goes, she is tackling something far less palatable: the treatment of female chefs in professional kitchens. She also has quite a lot to say about behaviour behind the scenes on cooking shows. While her experiences don't reach *Strictly* levels, there were times she felt uncomfortable and was treated differently as a woman.

Starting out, Khoo learnt quickly that female chefs "deal with [bad behaviour] not just in the food world, but in the TV world as well". When pitching what would eventually become her BBC2 show to production companies, one suggested they name it *Queen of Tarts*. On another occasion, "I had a sound guy just stick his hand down the back of my bra to put the mike pack on. And I turned around and said: 'You stop that right now. First of all, if you ever need to touch me or touch any woman or any person in general, you ask beforehand.'"

Then there were the constant judgments on her appearance from those within the industry and outside, which she can still recall, but she acknowledges that "I look a certain way and that's partly why I'm on TV. If I were really ugly and fat I don't think I'd have had the same chance."

In all that was written about the show's success, "none of my qualifications were listed. It was just always how you looked. Sometimes I was, like, OK, I want to be shown with a really big knife and really ugly clothes. I want to be grumpy on camera. And [producers would] say: 'That's not going to sell.'" It was "very frustrating that I was taken at face value".

The winged eyeliner and red lipstick of that time remain, but her willingness to bend to networks' whims is gone. With age "comes a certain security in who you are". Her confidence does have limits, but she is now "more vocal when people say something which I don't think is correct". It hasn't always worked in her favour. She was "classed as a bitch" on set in Sweden for chastising an unprofessional food stylist and has since concluded that "women get branded 'difficult' too quickly".

And so Khoo has gone on a career curation mission, picking only projects that allow her, finally, to be in the driver's seat. That includes *Bake Off*, which she hadn't seen before landing the gig (think shed instead of a tent, and fewer ruminations on soggy bottoms). "I can't believe I got that job, just to eat cake," she says. Not that it's all sugar-dusted uplands. Filming takes place five or six days a week for the best part of two months. She will have her two-year-old on set while her five and seven-year-olds are at school on the other side of the world. But it is worth it for the fact that show execs "let me just be me and I don't have to shape myself in any way", Khoo says. "I'm 43. I can't do cutesy any more."

Khoo moved to Paris on a whim in 2006, in her mid-twenties. "When I started off cheffing I found that very intimidating because there were no other women in the kitchen." The isolation was "really, really hard", she says. Ditto the sexist jokes and being incessantly looked down upon.

It is a grim indictment of an industry in which fewer than one in five chefs are female that she considers herself "fortunate" not to have been abused. There has been no shortage of horror stories from her peers,

JACK LAWSON FOR THE TIMES

**Rachel Khoo. Right: at the Pem restaurant in London**

including "a lot" of women instructed to pick up pans with scalding handles. One friend interned at a bakery. "She had to sift the mouse poo out of the ground almonds. Sometimes you're, like, I can't believe I'm hearing this. It sounds like something out of a movie or *The Bear*. I still have to say, this cannot be happening."

We meet before dinner at the Pem restaurant at the Conrad hotel in London — Pem was the nickname of the suffragette Emily Wilding Davison — and the location is no accident. Last month its consultant chef, Sally Abé, published *A Woman's Place is in the Kitchen*, detailing how she was dubbed "tit rat" by male colleagues, had a chef pour boiling oil over her and spent her first day at work avoiding going to the loo "for fear of seeming weak". Khoo applauds Abé for having "the guts" to speak out. "I'm sure there are a lot of people who won't want to work with her any more because of that."

> **Sometimes you're like, I can't believe I'm hearing this**

Khoo calls the abundance of tales such as Abé's "horrendous". So this week she launches the Kettle Khoo Academy, a mentoring programme for women in the food industry (in collaboration with the crisp brand), designed to stem the female drain from professional kitchens. It will offer a six-month period of one-to-one sessions with Khoo and others to its five successful applicants, plus £4,000 in financial support to cover equipment, training or childcare.

Having a family has shifted Khoo's desire to pad around set kitchens in Fifties-style dresses and plaits. "My life is more about being a mum at the moment," she says. "That's why I've dialled back my work. I realise at the end of the day what's more important."

She and her Swedish husband, Robert, moved to Stockholm in 2017. Now her days involve riding her kids along the beach in a cargo bike in "athleticwear, hoping I'll work out later on in the day". They pick up veg from a little red shack at the end of their road, where a farmer drops off produce and they leave him cash to collect.

It sounds idyllic — cutesy, even — and about as far from her former flat in Hackney, east London (where she moved from Paris), as you can get. Would she bring her kids back to Britain? "I don't think I could," Khoo says. She wrote another book while Robert took nine months of parental leave with their first son (he happily joined the ranks of Sweden's "latte pappas"). "I'm very appreciative that Sweden has such a fantastic set-up in terms of parental leave, nursery care, affordable childcare, after-school clubs." Without that, "I don't think I could have the career I have now."

She is grateful too for the nature on their doorstep, which provides her children with at least some diversion from tech (she concedes that she too would like to spend less time scrolling before bed). "You're not going to keep them off screens. Screens are everywhere. But what I hope to impart to my children is, these are part of your life but you need to understand that there are other things on offer."

The same logic goes for unhealthy food. She is all for indulgence — her Instagram, which has almost 400,000 followers, is awash with recipe videos for brownies, fudgsicles and lemon loaf. "If you're going to eat something, really enjoy that pleasure of eating it, but then maybe you eat less of it because you're really present," she says. (A nice idea, but do they have share-sized Dairy Milk in coastal Sweden?)

Perhaps unsurprisingly for a woman who hosted a series called *Chocolate* and who has partnered with a crisp behemoth, Khoo says: "There's been a lot of hype over ultra-processed food. Like, huge. It feels like it's the next *thing*. Obviously it is a big problem because the obesity rates are going higher but I also feel like there's so much scaremongering, you know? I think, keep calm, no point getting anxious about it."

While she sees some value in the junk food ad bans announced in the King's Speech on the day we meet, they are "not going to solve it all. You've got to equip kids with the means to know how to cook eventually and I think, like basic reading and writing is essential, basic cooking is essential too."

Khoo's message is still the one with which she began: good, simple food made for sharing — something eating habits appear to be crying out for more than ever. She is unsure whether *The Little Paris Kitchen* would be commissioned today. "I would need mega millions of followers on Instagram or something, be huge on TikTok maybe," she says. "I'm just thankful that I got that chance, and it changed everything."

**Applications for the Kettle Khoo Academy open on July 24. Apply at kettlechips.co.uk**

# The reading arms race: I've got through more books than you

By Claire Cohen

How many books have you read this year? If that sounds like a loaded question, well, it is. Competitive reading has become the latest trend in friendship circles (mine), book clubs (mine) and, of course, on Mumsnet.

Just how much we enjoy keeping track was apparent recently when The New York Times published its list of the 100 best books of the 21st century. My Instagram feed was awash with people boasting about having got through 30 or 40 of those deemed most "worthy". A friend messaged to say that she'd read 14, putting my tally of 13 in the shade, although I didn't hesitate to remind her that I'd avoided one book after she'd given it a stinking review, so really she'd deprived me of a tick.

And make no mistake, we are keeping lists. Mine lives in the Notes app on my phone. Lady Pamela Hicks, 95, who was a bridesmaid and lady-in-waiting to Queen Elizabeth II, keeps a well-worn handwritten diary in which she records every single book she has read. Many use the website Goodreads, which allows you to set an annual target. Plus you can check up on your friends if you're so inclined.

Which we are. Let's be honest, there's an unmistakable whiff of rivalry about the whole thing. After all, is there anything more satisfying in 2024 than being able to say you're well read?

I've not stopped basking in a smug glow since posting that I'd read 30 books last year, after which a friend texted to express her astonishment that I'd found the time. I *made* the time, darling.

"I don't really feel competitive with other people," one friend who keeps a tally says. "But I did decide to share my list on Instagram, partly so people might be impressed at how erudite I am."

At this time of year people start posting their book stacks on social media — the "summer reading pile" beside their bed or the carefully curated selection that's going into their suitcase. As with anything seemingly harmless there's a darker side, with reports of book clubs ganging up on members who claim to have read an "unrealistic" number, insisting they must be lying.

> **Is there anything more satisfying in 2024 than saying you are well read?**

Certainly some bending of the truth goes on, whether that's choosing volumes with larger print or — highly controversial — counting audiobooks.

And while there are some who challenge themselves to read at least one "monster" each year — think *Ulysses*, *War and Peace* or *Middlemarch* — many are deliberately picking slimmer volumes to push up their totals.

As for me? My Notes app shows that I've managed a measly 12 books in 2024, well below where I should be to hit my target of 50. Ouch. I don't suppose anyone can recommend a few good summertime novellas?

# Emails, work calls, admin: are you a holiday denier, ruining it for others?

**Can't go to that beach because there's no signal? Won't have dinner until you've messaged the office? You are the reason no one can relax, says Shane Watson**

Here we go. It's July, peak time for the most annoying out-of-office messages (take your pick but "I'm on annual leave" gets my vote. It's not leave, is it? You're not in the Marines. You're on holiday, having normal and necessary time out. Get over yourself.) Anyway, call it what you like but the point is that everyone's off somewhere, taking a break from their normal routine. Yet for a large number of us a holiday no longer means switching off completely and lying on a sunlounger, Ray-Bans on, while letting your mind go blank.

That sort of holiday — the one that involves you and your chums or family lolling around, padding about, reading water-saturated bonkbusters on the beach, having long rosé-fuelled lunches and indefinite siestas before losing track of time altogether (and once actually missing the appointment of a new PM) — is endangered in 2024.

For a lot of us, being on holiday now means only a slight change of gear. You're out of the office, yes, but you could be working if you need to, or you're working a bit, or you just have to check in now and then (explains the person crouched over their laptop at 8pm), or you're working on *something*. You're not doing nothing, that's for sure. There are calls to be made to people you really need to call. There are a ton of things that might not get done in your absence that need to be followed up on. At breakfast there will be iPads on the table, someone on their phone giving the new work experience a bollocking, someone talking very loudly to someone else about spreadsheets. It's like the spin room at the BBC on election night.

There's a lot of it about, it's getting worse and it's certainly not improving my holidays — very much the reverse, in fact. Just let them get on with it, you might say. Ignore it. Well, fine, but that doesn't work in practice. It's not relaxing being party to a high-stress work call at breakfast with a slight Metaxa hangover (via old-school holiday rules). It's nothing like as much fun lying by the pool with old friends, in classic gossip and catch-up mode, only to discover that one of them is proofreading, one of them is "doing a quote" and one of them is checking her Instagram feed and preparing to go and photograph the tiles in her bathroom. Then — what a relief — the lazy one arrives (hooray!) and settles in ... only to rummage in her bag and get on her phone.

Urgh, the phone calls. I'd humbly suggest that in a holiday environment (noise is more exaggerated poolside) no one wants to hear your long, loud and animated conversation with your slightly famous friend who is very generously offering tips on places to eat in the area (no thanks, we're not on a *White Lotus* budget). Even less do I want to hear your tense exchange with your boss ("I didn't consider the time difference"), the dogsitter or the person who might give you a job or might not have fixed the downpipe or might have seen your car getting broken into.

This is holiday normal now: preoccupied people, eyes down, frowning at their phones then tip-tapping, then sighing, then announcing that they "just have to deal with something" and promptly dealing with it in front of you (rude, in old money) while you're simply trying to relax and not think about the real world. Or they're delighted, euphoric, laughing like mad and you think, ooh, breakthrough, maybe we're playing a game, maybe Joe has made one of his not-too-strong-because-it's-lunchtime cocktails, but no: they've seen something on TikTok and are now busy sharing it.

Anyway, it's not too late to save the old-style "do nothing" holiday but we must first identify the holiday deniers in our midst who are ruining it for the rest of us. Here are the worst offenders:

### The Can't Let Gos

This lot divide into those who are scared that they won't be missed at work and those who are way beyond caring about that and just need to keep pulling the strings because they're control freaks/working with a very average skeleton staff. They're liable to pull out their phones during any lull in proceedings and on all car journeys, while in four out of five conversations they will suddenly break off, fish in their pocket and say, "Hold on, sorry, I've just got to sort this out."
**Most likely to say:** "We're on the tarmac waiting to take off but I've got five minutes."

### The Smartphone Neurotics

They're always running out of battery, or searching for a charger, or moving their charger. It reminds you a bit of when you were 18 and were scared to leave the house in case your boyfriend rang (this was pre-answering machines). Naturally the Smartphone Neurotics are also very anxious about reception ("Can you get reception there? I'm expecting a call"). But the thing is, as we all know, they're not actually expecting a call. What they are is expecting to feel very insecure if they're not immediately available, quite possibly for one of the following reasons: 1) They're having an affair. 2) They left during a very busy time at work and feel a bit discombobulated because New Guy Geoff looked as if he was really looking forward to taking the reins. Hmmm. 3) In normal life they're on their phones a lot and, if they're not buzzing, they feel as though their hearts have stopped beating.
**Most likely to say:** "Can I just ask one thing? Please can no one move my charger (prayer hands)?"

### The Look at Our Lovely Lives Lot

Perfectly reasonable to send the kids a picture of the view from the lovely villa you're staying in, but not so reasonable if you're taking pictures in the spirit of a Peroni commercial from the minute you arrive. The frangipani by the pool; the table under the vines

> **It's not relaxing being party to a high-stress work call at breakfast**

with the fig tree in the foreground; my feet plus the cat and the view. OK, but whatever happened to three sunburnt bodies crammed on a lilo and now let's get on with being on holiday.
**Most likely to say:** "Can you get me

COVER AND BELOW: GETTY IMAGES

with the jug and a bit of the open shutter?"

### The Scrollers

This one feels like the most harmless (it's me) because you're just dabbling in between doing stuff. Your concentration can be 99 per cent on the conversation around the table, the ordering or the view — OK, not so much the view — while you're just dipping in to do inconsequential things such as checking out the Me +Em sale. It feels innocent enough but it's a gateway: you may find yourself watching the *Gladiator II* trailer and then quite a long clip (was it an episode?) of that new thing ...
**Most likely to say:** "I'm not doing anything, I'm just looking at earrings."

### The Take Back Controllers

At home they can't go near a bus stop without checking when their bus is due, make an outdoor plan without checking the weather app or buy a wine without the aid of Vivino. Get them abroad, then, and they need to find ways and means of app-controlling their environment. That's fine but if you're over 50 you feel that some things must be left to chance or else your time on holiday feels like a gigantic treasure hunt test. Did you find the place where they filmed the wedding in *The Godfather* where they do the most amazing pasta? No. Shut up. I relaxed.
**Most likely to say:** "We can get petrol in five km."

### The Worried Disorganised

Also me, the Worried Disorganised board the plane and immediately start to remember all the important things they forgot to do — empty the kitchen bin, lock the side return door, turn off the water (it's been leaking), give the eye drops to the dog sitter. This starts on the runway and, once they arrive, develops into a more general anxiety about not having seen friends, organised Christmas etc. It may involve quite a bit of damage limitation texting.
**Most likely to say:** "Do you think you should unplug everything before you leave the house, ideally?"

### The Wish You Were Heres

The other side of fomo is finding a great place but secretly fearing you are not with the right people. The Wish You Were Heres may not actually feel this but they behave as if they do by frenziedly contacting everyone they have ever known and shouting down their phones about the place and the food and the markets and the sights and how they really want to come back here with you two. "Can't you just settle for us and relax?" you want to say. But then you would sound 12.
**Most likely to say:** "I can't wait to come back here with the Whatsits, they would love it."

### The Person Who Has the Really Serious Job

So naturally they have to be connected at all times because ... ha, gotcha, that was a trick one. Everyone, even the leader of the free world (especially the leader of the free world), needs a switch-off-and-no-contact (bar Armageddon) holiday. Sir Keir Starmer has said he's knocking off at 6pm on Fridays and so he's setting an example. Next we want to see him in some trunks, lying on a Lilo with a Jackie Collins open on his chest. Holidays are coming home.

# A 300-day Duolingo streak, yet I still can't talk German to my in-laws

## Chris Stokel-Walker asks what he's doing wrong

It was a gorgeous October when I first visited Austria, where my partner Angelika's mother and her husband live, for their wedding on the outskirts of Vienna. Austria was everything you could hope it would be but I struggled to make myself understood. Had I known as a 16-year-old that, nearly 20 years on, I'd have a German-speaking partner, I might have chosen to do GCSE German rather than French.

Nevertheless, I wowed the in-laws at the post-wedding breakfast by grabbing the bottles of bubbly and working the room, offering refills in my cut-glass English accent. It gave the event an air of exoticism to have an English waiter and served a second, selfish purpose: if I'm busy filling up people's glasses, I won't have to stand awkwardly, unable to make conversation.

As I left I said, "Tschüss! Next time I'm here, I'll be fluent." How hard could it be? That was six years ago. Turns out it's harder than I thought.

Since then my German has improved somewhat — I can chip in when talking with family and understand interactions Angelika has in restaurants. But I am still far from fluent.

I'm not alone, of course. As a nation, we are complacent about our language. Just 34 per cent of us know one or more foreign languages, compared with 78 per cent of Germans and 96 per cent of Swedes.

I feel guilty that every time I visit Vienna, everyone chooses to speak English to assuage my feelings of ignorance. When I had to stop a family friend this year from racking his brain for his classroom English with a "Nein, Deutsch bitte", it felt time for a change.

I had downloaded Duolingo a year before and was the proud owner of a 327-day streak, an ability to talk about train tickets and a false confidence that had landed me in awkward situations. There was the time, for example, when Angelika quietly took me aside and asked me to stop saying "Na, bitte" (which I thought meant "Please, no") to her mother when she offered me more food. It turns out this verbal tic, which I picked up from her grandmother, actually means something like "Jesus Christ, no".

A combination of Duolingo, eavesdropping on family interactions and listening to our three-year-old goddaughter's adorable babbling have given me a brief phrasebook. "Es regnet" (it's raining); "der Stern" (the star — because our goddaughter goes everywhere with a cuddly toy star); "genau" and "jawohl" (good, bluffing fillers to express agreement). But truthfully I'm as bad at forming sentences and speaking German in 2024 as I was in 2018.

So I vow to change and, having bought a year two German language workbook, give Stefan Oloffs, who runs the London-based German Language Coach company, a call.

**Chris Stokel-Walker and his partner, Angelika**

> **I feel guilt that every time I go to Vienna they all switch to English**

My issue, Oloffs says, is thinking that Duolingo is enough. "All that online stuff isn't really the answer because people tend to be in light reading mode, rather than deep reading mode," he says.

Oloffs agrees to give me a lesson, while also offering tips to learn German through osmosis, such as watching German television with subtitles and turning my phone's default language to German.

Beforehand, Oloffs had asked me to take an online test to ascertain my proficiency level. I scored 86 per cent, but my reading in context is fine because I can guess what's going on. It's speaking that is the problem.

Oloffs starts with a simple question: how are you? There's silence as I freeze, trying to figure out what to say. I can see him panic as he rapidly retools what he wants to teach this English simpleton.

My second lesson is better, even if I put my foot in it by missing off an all-important word ending, asking "Wo kommen Sie?" rather than "Woher kommen Sie?" Oloffs drolly explains that I've just asked "Where do you climax?" rather than the intended "Where do you come from?"

Oloffs has some words of reassurance. "Having an Austrian girlfriend helps. She probably won't sit down with you and do homework," he points out, but suggests we speak an hour of German once every week when we go for a walk.

I'm determined to try it and to work through those textbooks. Though Oloffs has a warning: being fluent could take years. His longest-running student has been taking classes with him since 2009.

I don't know if I'm quite that dedicated, but I'll happily work harder to ensure I don't insult the in-laws.

life

# Ask Professor Tanya Byron

## My brother's lazy parenting style is having a negative impact on his autistic son. It upsets me

**Q I would welcome advice on a family issue. My younger brother has one child, now five, who is on the autism spectrum. Even before that diagnosis we differed on parenting styles as he has been very free-range (his son was breastfed until four, doing toilet training near five and is co-sleeping still) but I've approached it as live and let live.**

**My challenge now is on two issues. One is that his son lives on the iPad and I find it incredibly depressing. I see him proactively given this so don't see it as linked to his autism and more a case of lazy parenting that keeps him from engaging with the world (he has some issues on verbal skills too, so to me this isn't helping).**

**Second, he eats only about three to four core foods, most of which are ultra-processed. They travel with these foods to accommodate him. He doesn't sit at meals nor is he able to go out to them unless he has the iPad. My brother jokes that he is strong-willed, whereas I see him being utterly spoilt and with no limits, and think that this won't help him ultimately. We usually have short periods of time together but when we go on holiday for a proper amount of time, as we will this month, I find it increasingly depressing. I'd really like some advice.**
***Greta***

**A** You are clearly concerned that your nephew, who has an autism spectrum condition (ASC), is not being parented in the right way. You feel that he was breastfed for too long, toilet-trained too late, is on his iPad too much and shouldn't be sleeping with his parents. Clearly you feel that your brother and his wife are lacking in boundaries and overindulgent, leaving their son to be "utterly spoilt".

While I understand that your concerns come from a good place, when I read your letter the saying "before you judge a person, walk a mile in their shoes" came to mind. Yes, it is not healthy for a child to spend hours on their screens and eat a diet only made up of three ultra-processed foods, but there are a number of other issues that need to be considered before being critical of their parents.

An ASC is a lifelong neurodevelopmental disability that affects communication, social interaction and behaviour. More than 1 in 100 people are on the autism spectrum, with about 700,000 adults and children with autism in the UK. ASCs are typically diagnosed in childhood (although some diagnoses occur later in life) and some common signs include repetitive behaviours and routines, delayed speech and language skills, and difficulty with social interactions and non-verbal communication.

Expressive and receptive communication can be affected including problems with understanding facial expressions, gestures, tone of voice, irony and sarcasm, often taking what is being said literally. There are also problems with imagining what others are thinking and feeling (this is called theory of mind), as well as play and storytelling especially when among others. Often avoiding eye contact and struggling socially, children and adults with an ASC can easily get judged, which creates significant anxiety. These social interaction challenges can lead to difficulties making and maintaining relationships.

Alongside this, a child or adult with an ASC may struggle with sensory sensitivities, for example issues with noise, taste and textures, making diet limited and certain environments distressing. Changes to routines and transitioning can be extremely hard and all these challenges can create so much stress and anxiety that an emotional meltdown occurs. However, people with an ASC also have many strengths: hyperfocus on specific interests, detailed pattern recognition, significant attention to detail and exceptional problem-solving abilities. All these skills are the reason there are recruitment agencies dedicated to placing neurodivergent people in jobs with employers seeking their strengths and talents.

As with your nephew, there are often developmental delays in reaching social, emotional, communication, cognitive and physical milestones. Children with autism learn and behave differently from neurotypical peers, such as learning to use the toilet later: research indicates that almost 50 per cent of autistic children aged 4-5 are not toilet-trained. This is because they learn new skills more slowly than others and can also be a result of sensory problems or learning disabilities. Similarly, breastfeeding may continue later for those with an ASC because it soothes a child who can find the outside world unsettling, confusing and difficult to navigate.

Many autistic children's development will continue like their neurotypical peers' until it slows down and they miss milestones. These differences can be obvious — for example, not speaking or making eye contact — or less so, such as not pointing at things (the assessment of pointing is used in many autism screenings). This would mean that your brother and his wife would have noticed delays or differences over time, eventually leading to an assessment where they would learn that their son had an ASC. This can often be a shock, leading to a huge adjustment for parents who need to process and understand how their child will develop and be different from their peers. There are also understandable anxieties about whether they can parent well and navigate the challenges ahead, including whether their child will be judged and excluded and what kind of quality of life they will have.

**If you would like Professor Tanya Byron's help, email proftanyabyron@thetimes.co.uk**

> "Autistic children often avoid eye contact and struggle socially

Alongside worrying that their children will be judged, they will also fear and even experience judgment themselves. A study of parents of children with an ASC asked them about their biggest challenges. They ranked dealing with judgments from others second only to actually dealing with their child's behavioural problems. As there are often no outward signs of autism, children with an ASC may experience greater judgment than those with more visible disabilities.

When you see your nephew, the way his parents choose to manage him may reflect a number of these complex issues. A change in routine, a new environment, new or less familiar people around — these will all potentially unsettle their son, so they provide distraction (the iPad), familiarity (his preferred foods) and comfort (co-sleeping). As his aunt, however, you can provide this little boy with experiences that would be developmentally stimulating. For example, active play to understand and learn to name feelings, role-play to develop understanding of social communication and problem-solving, and also social stories, which are narratives designed to illustrate specific situations and problems and how to deal with them.

Developed in the early Nineties by the paediatrician Carol Gray, social stories help children with autism to understand social norms and gain communication skills that do not develop naturally for them because they struggle to learn by imitation on their own. Using gentle, positive and supportive language, descriptive and coaching sentences as well as fun illustrations, the stories focus on a specific topic and will answer six questions: where, when, who, what, how and why? You could write some fun, goal-specific, positive and engaging stories around specific behaviours for your nephew — eating new foods, for example.

You and he can enjoy them together and they can enable him to develop an understanding of ideas, skills and behaviours; see the "communication tools" section on autism.org.uk.

Additionally you could support your brother and sister-in-law by discussing, with empathy, some of the challenges they face and suggesting that they get some support, as would be normal for parents of children with additional and complex needs (ie not indicating a failure of parenting). See the "family support" section on autism.org.uk. I wish you well.

I knew Mum had it tough. I knew because I remembered some of it, though being young at the time these memories were fragmented, confused, unreliable and often influenced by stories recounted by interested parties with their own agendas.

The bald facts are these: Mum left home in London at 16, married and gave birth to me in Manchester at 18, separated from my father soon after and, after years of housing trouble, purchased a run-down property on the Yorkshire Moors. She then met my violent stepfather, who threw me out when I was 16. Mum divorced him a few years later, then met someone with whom she had a daughter, when her life improved considerably.

I knew it was hard for Mum because my first memory is of some yob attacking this 4ft 11in slip of a girl, barely out of her teens. As I tried to comfort her he sent me flying. This is the narrative that informed my life, influenced my relationships and made me, in a sense, who I was. It was an excuse for my dreadful behaviour, an excuse for the execrable.

Except all was confused, as is Mum (she has late-stage Alzheimer's). Dad, meanwhile, has dementia, while few others remain who know what really happened to Mum and, by extension, mini-me.

Eighteen months ago, Mum was moved to a care home in Halifax. One of my jobs was to empty her flat and return the keys to the housing association (due to her chaotic management of money, she received little from the sale of a house she had owned outright in her twenties). The process took longer than expected because Mum had retained so many books, photographs and letters to and from lovers, family members, me, my half-sister. Stuffing everything into boxes, I took Mum her most precious belongings and returned to London.

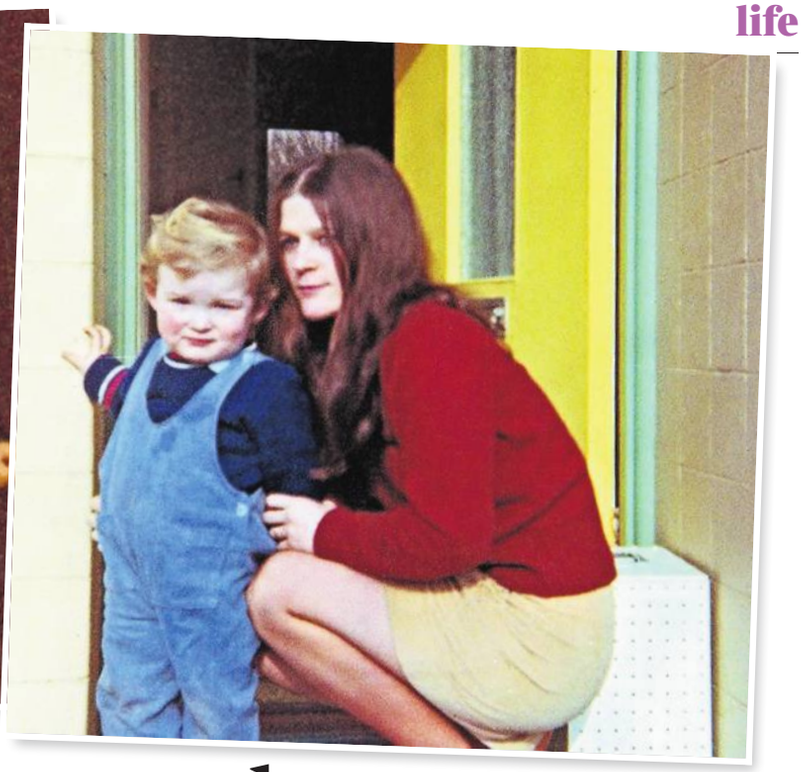
Recently I began sorting through the old papers. As I did I came across several items including a letter written in 1984, months after I was ejected from home. I picked it up: four pages of close-lined A4 in Mum's unmistakable handwriting. Curious, nervous, I began to read.

When I had finished I stared up at the wall then closed my eyes, shaken, saddened, disturbed. It contained a great deal of fresh information about Mum's life, and my own. Some of it I half-knew but much I did not.

For instance, I knew that Mum's childhood — she was one of six raised in a small flat by a grouchy Stalinist father and an Irish mother — had been hard, but not this hard: "The rows between myself and my father were physically violent and I was often witness to violent rows between my mother and father."

I knew that Grandad booted Mum out of home; that she met my dad, with whom she fled north. According to the letter, I didn't live with Mum at all and her access to me was limited: "I moved with my son to a poky bedsitter in the seedier part of Manchester. As I was not supposed to have any children in the flat I let my son live in the commune for a year. This was a desperate time for me as they restricted my visiting to twice a week which made parenting very difficult."

Having apparently won me back, Mum took me on the road. Again, residual memories: as we camped on a Cornish beach, Mum suggested I ask a passing boat for fish. A man hopped



# What really happened to me as a child? Mum's lost letter told me

## Clearing out his mother's house, Mark Liam Piggott was able to learn the truth about his past

into the water in his waders, handing me a sack of fish we cooked on a campfire in the dunes.

As a small child, it was all great fun. Yet according to the letter we lived in the tent for six weeks, having nowhere else to go. Then the café in which Mum waitressed burnt down and we returned to Manchester. There, she wrote, "I met a man who offered to take me away to a flat in Ipswich and foolishly I said yes and left with my son to live with him and as it turned out several other men in a small flat. I got a job in the evenings as a waitress and my boyfriend looked after my son.

"I came home one night to find he had made a bed in a cupboard for him and I think he may have shut the door on him. I don't know and probably will never know if he was cruel in this way but I was furious at what he had done."

Other memories now. Strange, sweary men pushing a toy speedboat around a washing-up bowl in a garden. I have no memory of being shut in a cupboard but the next part I dimly recall: "We left that flat and went to live in London. He now started to knock me around and one evening I saw my son turn his back to us both as he started to hit me and just could not stand anymore. I walked out with my boy, penniless now but determined never to return to this maniac."

Was this my first memory? If so, I had it all wrong. I'm also sure this man hit me — but was that my fevered imagination or had Mum edited her past and, if so, to what purpose? To whom, I wonder, had she written the letter? To me? It was never addressed, never sent. Mum was then taken advantage of by yet another charmer:

"Unfortunately [this] man was very violent towards me and I lived in fear of him for about a year. I don't remember feeling there was anyone to turn to and endured it because there was nowhere else to go. He would take objection to something I said and pick me up and smash me against anything in the room. He tried to strangle me once and then he finally took a massive overdose and nearly killed himself."

And so it goes on: more unsuitable violent men, one of whom "smashed his fist into my solar plexus so hard I couldn't breathe". She goes into detail about her desperation and loneliness. One memory of childhood that never left me was lying in bed at night, hearing her sob through the wall. Is it any wonder that when the "right" man came along she snapped him up?

"It was really only at this time I finally came to my senses and vowed I was going to settle down to being on my own with my son (I was 30 now) and just get on with the job of surviving on my own. Four months later I married my second husband."

It soon became apparent that my new stepfather was a violent, drug-dealing sociopath. By the time he threw me out I had run away from home once, and this time I never went back. The incident created a temporary rift between Mum and me; I felt she had taken her husband's side over mine. In fact, she carries his surname to this day; perhaps he wasn't as bad as I recalled. And yet among Mum's papers I found her handwritten divorce testimony, from 1987:

"When unable to purchase cannabis or other drugs he became 'paranoid', exhibiting extreme hostility to people in general and myself in particular. This manifested itself in a variety of ways, one of which was the purchase of weapons, an air pistol and later a gun for which he needed a licence. He would fire the air pistol in the bedroom of the house we lived in, leaving holes in a piece of chipboard that was placed above the pillow on the bed where we slept.

"I perceived this as threatening behaviour and there were numerous occasions when I felt intimidated and extremely frightened by his bizarre personality that amounted, on one occasion, to him threatening to kill me and on another pushing me up against a wall, smashing his fist into the wall beside my head.

"During a family row he dealt my son (by a previous marriage) a karate kick in the face which led to my son's leaving home and becoming estranged from me for nearly two years causing me a lot of grief."

In a strange way this testimony brought some relief. So I hadn't imagined it: the unhappiness, the constant screaming rows. Now everything makes more sense — including the reason she remained with him so long. It was because she was more afraid of being alone, again, being homeless, again.

Now, too, I understand my personality better: why my relationships were fraught, why I chose oblivion and chaos, lashed out at those who loved me, a warped form of impostor syndrome. "If you had a motto, Mark," a friend said, "it would be, 'I love you, f*** off'."

Though I wasn't physically violent towards women or children, I placed myself in dangerous situations, culminating in an incident aged 32 when I almost died as I was arrested.

**Mark Liam Piggott by Rochdale Canal in 1982 and with his mother as a child**

> **"We camped on a Cornish beach for six weeks. Now I discovered we had nowhere else to go**

I had used my past as an excuse but now it dawned on me that these excuses wouldn't wash; many others had worse childhoods than mine. Mum was always there for me; Dad remained a regular part of my life, and his parents were loving and wonderful.

Nevertheless, it took years to wake from the nightmare of my history. I was determined to break the cycles, not to have children until I was "better" and, unlike Mum, had the luxuries of time and choice.

I married at 34, fathering two wonderful kids, now 20 and 17. Thankfully they have grown up without the violence, trauma and loneliness I thought was uniquely mine but which, I now realise, was experienced first, and worse, by my mum. If I have learnt one thing, it's this: listen to your loved ones, even if you don't want to hear what they say. Also, of course, tell *them* how you feel — before it's too late.

Recently I helped to move Mum from a care home in West Yorkshire to one in East Sussex, closer to family. The move was stressful. After a ten-hour trip, much of it spent trying to reassure, cajole and restrain my increasingly hysterical mum, we arrived. Once the documentation had been completed everyone left the room, leaving me and her: all alone, again. From outside I heard seagulls. I studied Mum as she sipped hot chocolate, calm. She had never looked so small or, of course, so old.

Then she looked up and unexpectedly smiled. "Thank you for helping me." Leaning, in, eyes filled with tears, I kissed the top of her head. "No," I said hoarsely, "thank *you*, Mum."

# arts

## pop

### Underworld
On the Beach, Brighton
★★★★☆

Dancing on pebbles is not as easy as it looks. It's best attempted by planting both feet firmly on the stones to avoid toppling over and then swaying the hips, the result of which was several thousand people on the Brighton shingle who appeared to be spinning invisible hula hoops.

The On the Beach festival has a peach of a location, with the Channel on one side and Volk's Electric Railway, transporting holidaymakers since 1883, on the other. Carl Cox and the Libertines are among the visitors over coming weeks, but today it was headlined by Underworld, the kings of live electronic music, and they were magnificent.

Karl Hyde and Rick Smith are both closing on 70, three times the age of some of the audience and a few of the DJs supporting them. The latter were often disappointingly one-note, with Boys Noize hammering out relentless, funk-free EDM as if he was playing Miami in spring break, and relying on plumes of fire to provide the excitement — some of which almost fried the patrolling seagulls. Eats Everything was better, even playing JX's pneumatic house classic *Son of a Gun*, a Nineties favourite at the nearby, much loved but now defunct Zap Club. When Underworld took the stage, however, it felt like the big boys had seized control of the playground.

They front-loaded the anthems, opening with the radiant synth chords of *Two Months Off* and segued straight into *Rez*, their masterpiece from 1993, expertly interweaved with *Cowgirl*. Then came the brooding remix of *Dark & Long*, which accompanied Renton's cold turkey sequence in *Trainspotting* but here was the soundtrack to euphoric scenes. The hollering crowd raised their invisible hula hooping to frenzied levels.

Hyde, the singer, was on top shamanic form, combining his unique dadaist chants with ecstatic, arms-aloft dancing while Smith, behind banks of equipment, piloted them through an extended, freeform *Shudder/King of Snake*. Hyde paid another tribute to the Zap, where they played an early gig, dedicating the emotional finale of *Born Slippy* to it. He gazed through the dusk at the bonkers crowd and gave his traditional parting words, "You are beautiful," before gesturing to Smith, his musical partner of 40 years. "And this is my mate Richard."

**Ed Potton**

JOHAN PERSSON

**Swimming with sharks: Parker Lapaine as Lydia and Finn Cole as Ray in Red Speedo**

# Olympic doping drama is sure to make a splash

**This dark comedy about a ruthless swimmer is a creepy hit, says Rachel Halliburton**

## theatre

### Red Speedo
Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond (90min)
★★★★★

Reptilian, repellent and ruthless — in the real world you wouldn't want to spend more than a few minutes with Ray, the Olympic swimmer at the heart of this drama, but thanks to *Red Speedo*'s taut, muscular humour he becomes compelling. Lucas Hnath's superb play puts the microscope on a man who is so devoid of morals he's closer to pond life than pool life. He's a fascinating example of how stupidity can play as significant a part in evil as Machiavellian intent can.

Matthew Dunster's production has the speed and menace of a shark as it circles the venal, vapid debates that Ray has with his lawyer brother Peter about why Ray has staked his future on performance-enhancing drugs. The darkly comic set-up is that his drugs have been discovered in the swimming club's fridge, but Ray — who is on the point of signing a big promotional contract with Speedo — would rather destroy his nearest and dearest than confess.

Finn Cole, familiar to many as Michael Gray from *Peaky Blinders*, is compelling as Ray, not least because of the emotional honesty he brings to portraying a man cocooned in his own stupidity. He never succumbs to the temptation of hamming it up; what we see is an individual who is convinced that even when he damages others it's for the greater good — as long as he emerges triumphant.

On Anna Fleischle's compact set — all chlorinated blues with a genuine pool to one side — the action kicks off with the equally repellent Peter, played by an impressively oleaginous Ciarán Owens. His monologue has the rhythm and black humour of a Neil LaBute play, as he boasts about how Ray has "made himself into a swimming machine" at the same time as confiding in a derisory way that "he has no life outside swimming".

Performance-enhancing drugs will no doubt hit the headlines when the Olympics start at the end of this week. We may see some careers ruined, but there will be nothing quite like this fictional scenario. Hnath gives us an ingenious twist in which Ray is simultaneously tripped up and made triumphant by his idiocy.

As his ex-girlfriend Lydia, Parker Lapaine puts in a poised performance of splintered anger, while Fraser James introduces necessary moral high ground as Ray's coach. The result is poisonous perfection, and for my money it's every bit as enjoyable as what you'll see from Paris over the next month.

**To Aug 10, orangetreetheatre.co.uk**

## theatre

### The Hot Wing King
Dorfman, National Theatre (170min)
★★★☆☆

Watching Katori Hall's Pulitzer-winning, all-male drama about a group of friends working on their entry for a Memphis cookery competition is like being dropped into the third series of a sitcom you've never seen before. In-jokes hurtle past, and you spend the first hour trying to make sense of all the relationships. Not to mention the slang: "Cordell gone split yo' wig you come for his boo-thang-thang" is one line I had to look up in the script.

Hall is best known over here for *The Mountaintop*, the 2009 play portraying Martin Luther King on the night before his assassination. She co-wrote the book for *Tina: The Tina Turner Musical* and songs play a role here too. The amateur chef Cordell and his lover, Dwayne, don't just worship at the shrine of Luther Vandross, they break into a convincing *Never Too Much* with the help of a backing track. The piano that sits near the door of Dwayne's comfortable suburban home gets put to good use as well.

It's a pity that the skeletal plot keeps veering into soap-style homilies, because Hall is addressing some weighty themes. Cordell and Dwayne (compellingly played by Kadiff Kirwan and Simon-Anthony Rhoden) represent a modern alternative to the traditional family: these gay men are churchgoers who offer a refuge to a youngster, EJ (an assured Kaireece Denton), who wants to escape from a father who is a small-time hustler. Besides, Cordell isn't your usual footloose adventurer: he has left a wife and children behind in St Louis.

Hall glories in the richness of southern dialect. Olisa Odele gets many laughs as Isom, the mischievous friend who has Little Richard's louche mannerisms. Jason Barnett, as the bluff barbershop fixture Big Charles, wanders around with an afro comb in his hair, trying to keep an eye on the football game playing on the TV. Dwane Walcott brings menace to the underdeveloped character of EJ's dad.

Roy Alexander Weise oversees a production that trundles along merrily enough without justifying its ample running time. A pivotal scene in the kitchen where excess spice is added to Cordell's chicken recipe unleashes some of the creakiest comedy since a loo brush became a key prop in Steven Moffat's debut play, *The Unfriend*.

**Clive Davis**

**To Sep 14, nationaltheatre.org.uk**

## dance

### London City Ballet
Theatre Royal, Bath (95min)
★★★★☆

**Ellie Young and Álvaro Madrigal Arenilla, right**

London City Ballet could be deemed a kind of sleeping beauty. Founded in 1978 by the late dancer-choreographer Harold King, the company toured the UK and abroad and, in its heyday, generated attention by securing Princess Diana as its patron.

Now, nearly three decades after the troupe's closure, LCB is back in business under the artistic directorship of another erstwhile dancer, Christopher Marney. The inaugural tour includes visits to Cambridge, Cheltenham, Windsor and York, prior to a stint at Sadler's Wells, where Alina Cojocaru will be a guest artist.

Marney's initial programme, an astute mix of revivals and recent work, spans more than half a century. Created in 1993 for a Tchaikovsky gala at the Royal Opera House, Ashley Page's *Larina Waltz* is a buoyant classical curtain-raiser lasting only seven minutes. Here five fleet-footed couples dash on and off stage to a sweeping instrumental from the opera *Eugene Onegin*.

Next comes Kenneth MacMillan's *Ballade*, a quartet performed just once in Lisbon in 1972 and not seen since. Taking his cue from the romanticism of Fauré's *Ballade* for piano and orchestra, MacMillan produced a slight but not unappealing exercise for three men ardently manipulating a lone, often splay-legged woman most willing to be adored. Credit to Ayça Anil for submitting to this with such aplomb.

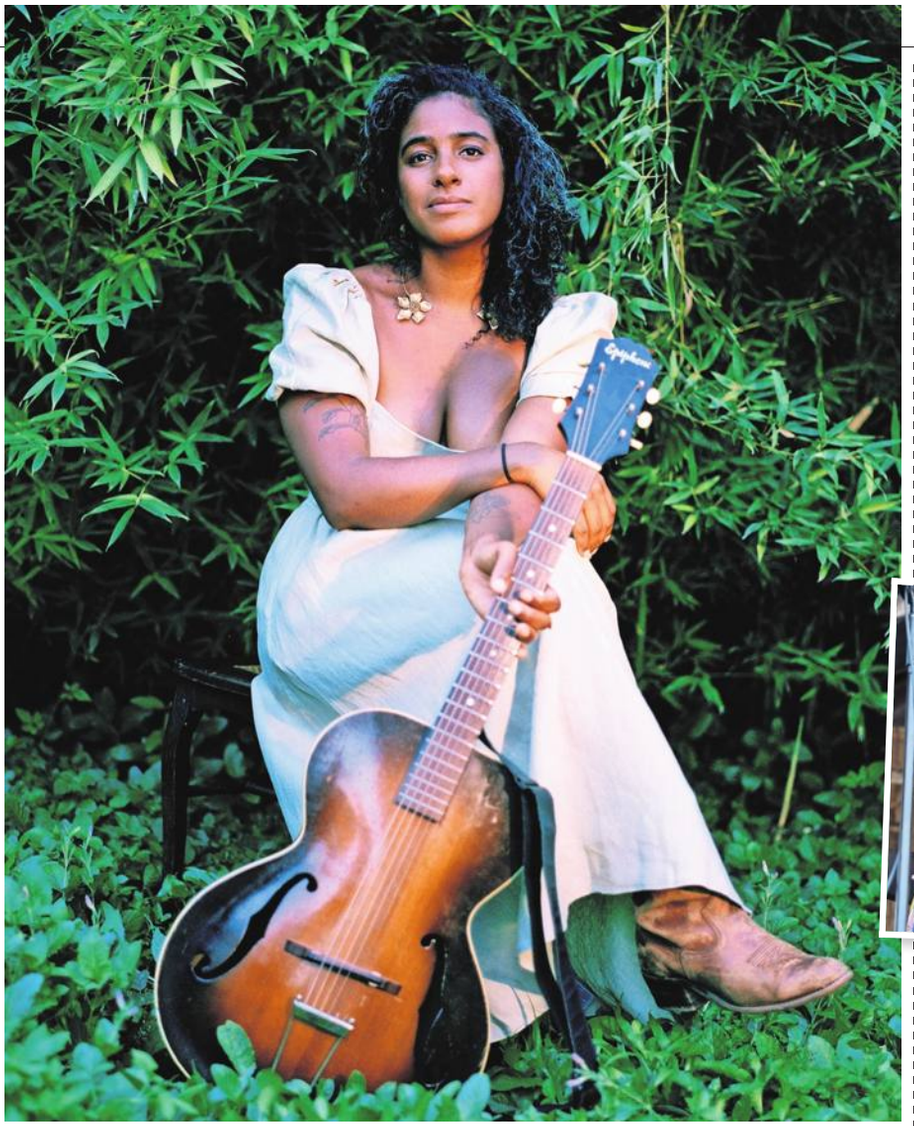
Springboarding off half of the ten "dances" in John Adams's string quartet *John's Book of Alleged Dances*, Arielle Smith's new work *Five Dances* is a rigorously sensual showcase for a cast of six clad in Emily Noble's vibrantly coloured costumes. For me Álvaro Madrigal Arenilla's lush muscularity and Arthur Wille's lithe expressivity stood out.

Neither *Five Dances* nor Marney's *Eve* featured pointe shoes. His fresh take on the biblical "first woman" (the eloquent Kate Lyons) relegates Adam to the background, focusing instead on Eve's relationship with the slinky Serpent (Madrigal Arenilla) and her own sense of self-discovery. Set to Jennie Muskett's ominous score, Marney's semi-narrative ensemble dance benefits from strong stage imagery and a hope-infused ending.

**Donald Hutera**

**Touring until Sep 14, londoncityballet.com**

CHRISTOPHER SCHEURICH



# Why Leyla McCalla is the dish of the day at Womad

## The maverick singer loved by Barack Obama will be cooking New Orleans specialities on tour as well as playing three instruments, she tells Clive Davis

Leyla McCalla knows all about the challenges of being a mother and a touring musician. The last time I saw her, seven years ago, she was queueing late at night at an airport in Cape Verde, her two-year-old daughter, Delilah, asleep on her back. Now she has two more children, twins Zade and Zaya. When we begin our conversation, McCalla, who is now divorced, is still in her car after dropping the kids off at camp in her adopted home of New Orleans.

"I am constantly figuring out how to cope," she says with a wry laugh. "There's definitely a lot of juggling. I'm still trying to understand what it means to be raising children in this time. You know, it's intense. I just thought I wanted to have a baby and then I realised, oh my God, it's like I am passing on this very messed-up world."

> **"The cello can be like melting dark chocolate all over everything**

She lives in a world that bears little resemblance to the A-list celebrity music circuit with its flocks of personal assistants and deluxe hotels. Not that she ever seems interested in conventional ideas of material success. Now 38, she is without question not only one of the most interesting artists to come out of the States in the past ten years or so, but also one of the most uncategorisable.

A cellist who sings and plays the electric guitar and banjo, she has earned herself a place on Barack Obama's personal playlist and released albums that fuse past and present, blending folk melodies with poetry, protest songs, blues and celebrations of the cultural history of Haiti, her parents' homeland. Besides gracing one of the main stages at Womad this month, she will showcase another of her talents, as a cook, when she serves a recipe in the festival's Taste the World tent, where artists prepare and discuss their favourite food. McCalla has chosen New Orleans barbecue shrimp in homage to the city she moved to a decade and a half ago.

Her music is an idiosyncratically spicy stew. Raised in the New Jersey suburbs (her Scottish surname comes from a Jamaican grandfather), she studied chamber music at NYU but began to shift direction after seeing a Haitian band playing roots music. Eager to explore her heritage, she eventually left the Big Apple and settled in the Big Easy, busking on the streets, where passers-by enjoyed her take on JS Bach, and exploring the Creole culture of a city that has Caribbean rhythms in its bloodstream.

In 2014 she released an acclaimed debut album, *Vari-Colored Songs*, inspired by the poetry of the Harlem Renaissance luminary Langston Hughes. Her latest release, *Sun Without the Heat*, is another typically eclectic affair. While the title song draws its inspiration from a speech by the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass, the album's palette ranges from Brazilian tropicalia (McCalla is a huge admirer of those Latin American giants Gilberto Gil and Caetano Veloso) to traditional blues and the modal traditions of Ethiopia.

There was a marked improvised element to the recording process. McCalla gave her California-based producer, Maryam Qudus — who has worked with Alanis Morrisette and the Kronos Quartet — about 36 hours of workshopped material, which formed the basis of sketches that were taken into the studio.

"It was a bit of a spirit quest for me," McCalla says. "I was really trying to figure out what I wanted to say, what I had to say and how to really have fun with music. I'm always looking for someone to help me come up with a structure for how to build songs. Maryam was really excellent in that way. She was really strategic. I'm very emotional. I have a lot of feelings that I have to process or think about it. It's hard for me to sometimes just sit down and record something.

"She was kind of a taskmaster. When we had all the basic tracking down, she'd say, 'You gotta go and write a couple of verses. That's your job right now.' You know, I'm the boss, but I actually like being bossed around."

McCalla learnt lessons about collaboration during a brief spell as a member of that loose-limbed African-American bluegrass band the Carolina Chocolate Drops, a group that championed the unfashionable banjo as an authentic vessel of black creativity. Rhiannon Giddens, one of the founder members (and another performer with a classical grounding), has gone on to enormous solo success since then — she played an inspired set at the Barbican in London just a few months ago. She and McCalla have continued to work with each other in, for instance, the acclaimed quartet Our Native Daughters.

McCalla's classical background still informs her approach to music-making. ("You know, just the way I'm sitting on a chair is part of my training.") She explains that she had been listening to a lot of Debussy, along with Duke Ellington, when she was making the record. Yet it's the guitar that's the dominant instrument on the new release. How does she gravitate towards one or the other?

"That's a very intuitive thing," she says. "Sometimes I'll write something on guitar and it sounds way cooler on cello. Those instruments have very different emotional energies. The cello is so beautiful and intense. And sometimes it's like melting a piece of dark chocolate all over everything. That's not always the flavour that you want.

"The banjo has a very different kind of feel. It really evokes dance music. It's kind of ancient but modern. And I think I played a lot of guitar on this record because I was really exploring ideas around what it means to feel totally free in our bodies and in our minds. For me, guitar has always been this very liberating instrument."

She is looking forward to connecting with the crowds at Womad. One other highlight of her year so far was playing alongside that ultimate craftsman, Marc Ribot, at the New York Guitar Festival. Ribot, who once studied with the Haitian guitarist-composer Frantz Casseus, had previously made a guest appearance on McCalla's glorious 2016 album, *A Day for the Hunter, A Day for the Prey*.

"There are some gigs where I just feel like I'm the student," McCalla says. "It was just really beautiful to play with someone who's really a master of his instrument. You know, we discovered when we were talking on the phone one time that we actually graduated from the same high school 30 years apart. He is so focused and so open. I want to be that way. I aspire to that. I love not fitting into any boxes."

**Leyla McCalla. Above right: performing at New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival in April**

**Leyla McCalla appears at the Cambridge Folk Festival, Sat, and Womad, Charlton Park, Wiltshire, Sun. She also plays the Greenbelt Festival, Kettering, Aug 24; Shambala Festival, Northampton, Aug 25; and Moth Club, London, Aug 26**

**times2**

# Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles Pages 14-16

## Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

## Samurai easy

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

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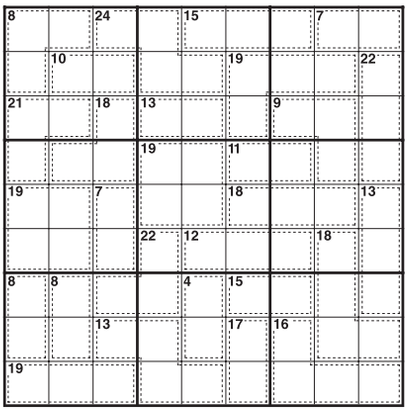
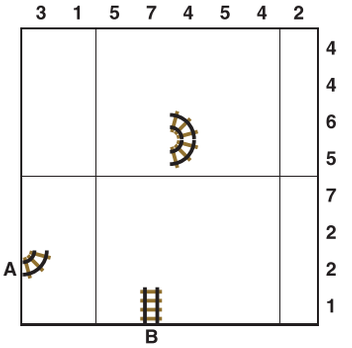
## Killer deadly

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



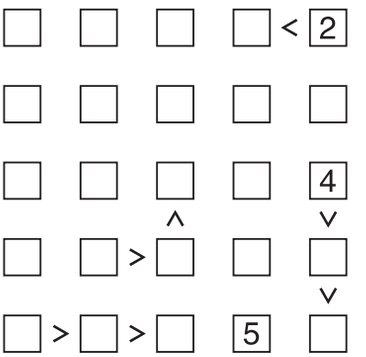

## Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

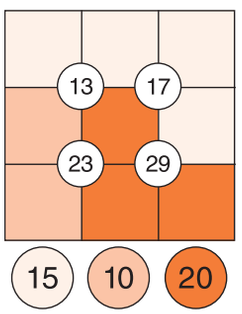



## Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.




## Suko




Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.com

## Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 11 | 26 | 6 | 19 | 26 | ■ | 23 | ■ | 7 |
| ■ | 18 | ■ | 19 | ■ | 25 | ■ | 9 | ■ | 5 | 8 | 9 | 8 |
| 14 | 7 | 25 | 14 A | 21 | 20 | 15 | 19 | ■ | ■ | 17 | ■ | 10 |
| ■ | 25 | ■ | 9 | ■ | 12 | ■ | 24 | 11 | 25 | 9 | 19 | 25 |
| 15 | 19 | 2 | 8 | ■ | 12 | ■ | 2 | ■ | ■ | 19 | ■ | 8 |
| ■ | 26 | ■ | 11 | 6 | 9 | 16 | ■ | 24 | 11 | 25 | 20 | 8 |
| 19 | ■ | ■ | 21 | ■ | 19 | ■ | 13 | ■ | 18 | ■ | ■ | 1 |
| 15 | 20 | 18 | 16 | 9 | ■ | 4 | 11 | 12 | 12 | ■ | 5 P | ■ |
| 14 | ■ | 19 | ■ | ■ | 24 | ■ | 20 | ■ | 20 | 24 | 19 | 26 |
| 24 | 11 | 24 | 3 | 8 | 8 | ■ | 9 | ■ | 5 | ■ | 9 | ■ |
| 11 | ■ | 2 | ■ | ■ | 24 | 14 | 2 | 14 | 5 | 11 | 9 | 2 |
| 19 | 10 | 14 | 1 M | ■ | 8 | ■ | 19 | ■ | 19 | ■ | 19 | ■ |
| 19 | ■ | 25 | ■ | 24 | 14 | 18 | 26 | 20 | 26 | 14 | 2 | 19 |

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 M | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 P | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 A | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |

## Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | | | | 3 |
| 5 | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | 1 | |
| | | | 6 | 4 | |
| | | 1 | 5 | | |
| 6 | | | | | |

## Thursday's solutions

SAMURAI

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 2 |
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 8 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 9 | 4 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 9 |
| 8 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 7 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 2 |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 |

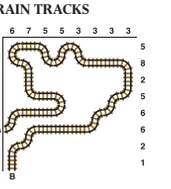
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 |

SUKO

MINI SUDOKU

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 |
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |

TRAIN TRACKS




FUTOSHIKI

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | > 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 4 | 3 | 2 | > 1 | 5 |
| 3 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 2 | > 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 1 | 4 < | 5 | 2 | 3 |

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 1 |
| 8 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 5 |
| 4 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 9 |

KILLER

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 6 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 9 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 3 |
| 5 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 9 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 2 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 1 |
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 7 |

CODEWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | L | S | E | ■ | G | I | M | M | I | C | K | Y |
| X | ■ | W | ■ | S | ■ | N | ■ | U | ■ | A | ■ | O |
| P | R | E | Q | U | E | L | ■ | S | H | R | U | G |
| O | ■ | A | ■ | B | ■ | A | ■ | I | ■ | A | ■ | A |
| S | E | R | U | M | ■ | I | N | C | O | M | E | ■ |
| U | ■ | ■ | I | ■ | D | ■ | ■ | E | ■ | A | ■ | ■ |
| R | E | F | U | T | E | ■ | G | A | L | L | O | N |
| E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | L | ■ | ■ | ■ | D | ■ | B | ■ | ■ | ■ | I | ■ |
| ■ | F | A | S | C | I | A | ■ | L | O | C | U | M |
| S | V | ■ | A | ■ | H | ■ | A | ■ | R | ■ | A | ■ |
| C | H | O | I | R | ■ | L | A | Z | I | E | S | T |
| U | ■ | U | ■ | G | ■ | I | ■ | E | ■ | P | ■ | O |
| M | A | R | J | O | R | A | M | ■ | S | T | T | R |

# A Green Wing for cops: weird, funny and filthy

**Ben Dowell**
TV review

**Piglets**
ITV1
★★★★☆

Comedy is an expensive and risky business, and for years ITV, our main commercial channel, has done it either reluctantly or badly. With **Piglets** there are signs that things may have changed for the better. It's made by the people behind the superbly surreal Channel 4 comedy *Green Wing*, and the feel is similar, which many comedy fans will see as a good thing. Instead of a hospital we are at a police recruitment centre, and the quickfire script is sharp, elastic, occasionally filthy and sprinkled with a few voguish references to the challenges of policing in the modern world of pronouns and protected characteristics.

But fear not. In case you think this might sound slightly earnest, po-faced or serious, it couldn't be less so. Because however much the Police Federation hated the title (before it was broadcast it complained that it was "disgusting" and "highly offensive"), this is a profoundly unserious world where most of the characters are — there are no other words for it — irredeemable imbeciles wholly untethered to reality.

First among equals on the witless front is Superintendent Bob Weekes, played by Mark Heap, who was brilliant as absurdly neurotic and dim Dr Alan Statham, his similarly broad and buffoonish role in *Green Wing*. That character needed a foil, and here Heap has two. They are Sarah Parish's no-nonsense Superintendent Julie Spry, who is baffled to be in the same room as Bob, let alone to discover that he is her colleague. And then there is the clerical assistant Melanie (Rebecca Humphries), who is so neurotically deranged she seems to be in love with Bob. She too should not really be walking free in the world, let alone be in any form of employment.

The recruits are a lively bunch in briskly edited scenes that make good use of split screens. They include Paul (Jamie Bisping), whose criminal family, we soon learn, want him to get inside intelligence on the rozzers — although intelligence is not, and never will be, his forte. He thinks "racisity" is a word and sports a medieval pudding bowl haircut. He spars amiably with Leggo (Sam Pote), one of the other, more sentient characters, whose parents are senior police officers and who doesn't want to be there.

RICKY DARKO/ITV

**Mark Heap as the buffoonish Superintendent Bob Weekes**

I also enjoyed the world-weary Geeta (Sukh Ojla), who has signed up to get away from her kids, although I'm not sure how much mileage there is in Steph (Callie Cooke). She is there because she is obsessed with the police trainer Mike (Ukweli Roach), who seems to be in a permanent state of sexual arousal.

Minor gripes aside, this is a proper sitcom, a sign of renewed faith in funny from ITV as well as a general industry move away from emotional journey shows led by comics on rollerskates or with mascara streaming down their face.

At times the jokes feel a little forced, and you can see some of the punchlines coming, if not a mile off, certainly a few feet away. Yet that's a teething problem, one that in this context we can perhaps blame on the overenthusiasm of the new recruits. Mostly this is clever, rude, decidedly weird and sharply funny. Very like *Green Wing* and very unlike a lot of recent ITV comedy. Oink, oink!

## Radio choice
Ben Dowell

**A Walk of One's Own**
Radio 4 Extra, 9.30am

**A welcome repeat of the 2015 programme in which Virginia Woolf biographer Alexandra Harris takes us on walks that inspired and shaped the writer. Harris is in southern Spain for part one, seeking out the paths where Woolf, *above*, would have tramped with her husband Leonard; she also visits the remote mountain village of Yegen where the Bloomsbury-ite spent time with the British writer Gerald Brenan. It is an immersive journey that feels in keeping with Woolf's writing. Harris also meets fellow writer Chris Stewart, rock drummer and author of the book *Driving Over Lemons*, who has made this region his home**

OUR TV NEWSLETTER
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## Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
**5.00am** James Hanson with Early Breakfast **6.00** Rosie Wright and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley. A full primer on the political week **1.00pm** Ed Vaizey **2.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Live discussion on the day's news **4.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive. In-depth discussion of today's news **7.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation **10.00** Darryl Morris. A first look at Sunday's newspapers **1.00am** The Story **1.30** Highlights from Matt Chorley **2.00** The Best of Times Radio

## Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
**6.30am** The Gaby Roslin Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies. Gary Davies sits in for Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews. A selection of music from the blues scene **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Uplifting tunes and essential throwbacks **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. A mix of R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders with OJ Borg **3.00** Class of '84 (r) **3.30** Class of '84 (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

## Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
**6.30am Breakfast**
Petroc Trelawny and guests explore the cultural and natural history of Lindisfarne
**9.30 Essential Classics**
Georgia Mann presents music and features
**1.00pm Classical Live**
Tom McKinney presents another chance to hear Friday's First Night of the Proms, featuring the BBC Symphony Orchestra performing music by Handel, Bruckner and Beethoven. The programme also includes a complete concert given by the violinist Gil Shaham in Tokyo. Grace Williams (Concert Overture); Mozart (Rondo in C, K 373); Avner Dorman (Violin Sonata No 3, Nigunim); Scott Wheeler (*Isolation Rag*); Fauré (Violin Sonata No 1 in A, Op 13); BBC Proms — The First Night (first broadcast live on Friday). Handel (*Music for the Royal Fireworks* — overture); Bruckner (Psalm 150); Clara Schumann (Piano Concerto in A minor); Ben Nobuto (*Hallelujah Sim*); and Beethoven (Symphony No 5 in C minor, Op 67)
**4.00 Composer of the Week: Silvestre Revueltas (1899-1940)**
Kate Molleson is joined by Harvard University professor Alejandro Madrid to explore the life and music of the Mexican composer, violinist and conductor Silvestre Revueltas, who lived through a time of great political and creative upheaval in Mexico. Over the course of this week of programmes, Kate Molleson tries to shed some light on this forgotten composer, guiding us through the rhythms of Revueltas's colourful life with the help of Professor Alejandro Madrid of Harvard University. They begin by exploring Revueltas's early years in Mexico, which was in the midst of revolution, and his formative years studying in prohibition-era Texas and Chicago. Revueltas (Toccata — sin fuga; *Esquinas; Tierra p'a las macetas; Pieza para doce instrumentos*; and *La Noche de los Mayas* — Suite — 1st & 2nd mvts)
**5.00 In Tune**
Music and arts news
**7.00 Classical Mixtape**
A sequence of music
**7.30 Live BBC Proms 2024**
Penny Gore presents a live concert from the Royal Albert Hall with Ryan Bancroft conducting the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Zemlinsky's *The Mermaid* and Schoenberg's *Pelleas and Melisande*. At a concert in Vienna on January 25, 1905, two new contrastingly impactful orchestral works were heard for the first time. In his response to Maurice Maeterlinck's drama on the doomed love between Pelleas and Melisande, Arnold Schoenberg pushed a colossal symphony orchestra to its limits, while Alexander Zemlinsky wasn't going to let his brother-in-law Schoenberg steal the show, and wore his broken heart on his sleeve in his orchestral response to the Hans Christian Andersen story *The Little Mermaid*. Schoenberg (*Pelleas and Mellisande*, Op 5); and Zemlinsky (*The Mermaid*)
**10.00 Night Tracks**
A soundtrack for late-night listening
**11.30 'Round Midnight**
The saxophonist Soweto Kinch presents new music from the pianist Raffy Bushman, while the tuba player and composer Theon Cross takes part in the Flowers feature
**12.30am Through the Night** (r)

## Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
**5.30am News Briefing**
**5.43 Prayer for the Day**
**5.45 Farming Today**
**6.00 Today**
With Mishal Husain and Nick Robinson
**9.00 Orwell vs Kafka**
Examining how the writers explored the idea of alternative facts (3/6) (r)
**9.30 Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics**
Natalie and guests discuss the goddess Aphrodite, and reflect on her stress-busting routine of going to Cyprus for a bath (3/7)
**10.00 Woman's Hour**
Nuala McGovern presents the magazine
**11.00 Policing Protest**
Mark Easton explores the history of policing protests in Britain, from the Peterloo Massacre to the present day, considering where the future of protest lies (1/3)
**11.45 Child**
India Rakusen explores why it is so hard to discuss pregnancy loss (6/27) (r)
**12.04pm You and Yours**
**1.00 The World at One**
**1.45 Escape from the Maze**
Knowing they have strength in numbers, the Prison Officers seize their chance (6/10)
**2.00 The Archers** (r)
**2.15 Ed Reardon's Week**
Ed decides to dust off his woodworking skills and enters the growing world of making things with pallet wood (2/6) (r)
**2.45 Gambits**
*The Queen* by Eley Williams. The mother of the local chess prodigy has some of her own startling revelations (8/10) (r)
**3.00 A Good Read**
Sarah Phelps and Irenosen Okojie discuss their favourite books (8/9)
**3.30 God Next Door**
Darryl Morris meets a Manchester man who believes he is God (r)
**4.00 Donald Trump and Black America**
Investigating why black voters in the US are increasingly backing Donald Trump (r)
**4.30 Alexei Sayle's Strangers on a Train**
The stories of passengers on a train journey from Nottingham to Skegness (1/5) (r)
**5.00 PM**
**6.00 Six O'Clock News**
**6.30 Mark Steel's in Town**
The comedian visits Coleraine in Londonderry and creates a stand-up show (5/6)
**7.00 The Archers**
There's a shock at the vets
**7.15 Front Row**
**8.00 The Briefing Room**
The significant rise in mental health disorders among 16-24 year-olds (2/16) (r)
**8.30 BBC Inside Science**
Victoria Gill reports on the impact of tourism on Antarctica's ecosystem (r)
**9.00 History's Secret Heroes**
Shining a light on thrill-seeker-turned-spy Christine Granville (3/10) (r)
**9.30 To Catch a Scorpion**
Sue Mitchell and Rob Lawrie hear transcripts of police surveillance tapes (2/8) (r)
**10.00 The World Tonight**
**10.45 Book at Bedtime: Yellowface**
By Rebecca F Kuang (6/10)
**11.00 The System**
By Ben Lewis. Last in the series (r)
**11.30 Today in Parliament**
**12.00 News and Weather**
**12.30am Child** (6/27) (r)
**12.48 Shipping Forecast**
**1.00 As BBC World Service**

## Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
**8.00am** In and Out of the Kitchen **8.30** Dark Matter **8.45** Why Mummy Swears **9.30** A Walk of One's Own: Virginia Woolf on Foot. Recreating one of four Andalusian walks from 1923. ***See Radio Choice*** **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** Radiolab **10.55** Inheritance Tracks **11.00** Julie Enfield Investigates — Terminus **11.30** Keep on Running **12.00** Anything Legal **12.30pm** Stop Messing About! **1.00** In and Out of the Kitchen **1.30** Dark Matter **1.45** Why Mummy Swears **2.00** Just a Minute **2.30** Snap **3.00** It's Your Movie **4.00** Radiolab **4.55** Inheritance Tracks **5.00** Julie Enfield Investigates — Terminus **5.30** Keep on Running **6.00** Anything Legal. Two city gents admit they've been sacked, and decide to take action **6.30** Stop Messing About! A paralytic stuntman and a group of war prisoners outwit the Nazis **7.00** In and Out of the Kitchen. Anthony is asked to be an old school friend's best man **7.30** Dark Matter. By Michelle Paver **7.45** Why Mummy Swears. By Gill Sims **8.00** Just a Minute. With Stephen Fry, Paul Merton, Jenny Eclair and Charles Collingwood **8.30** Snap. Comedy by Paul Mendelson **9.00** It's Your Movie. By John Gradwell **10.00** Comedy Club: Mark Steel's in Town. The comedian visits East Grinstead in West Sussex **10.30** Goodness Gracious Me. The Kapoors visit a stately home **11.00** The News Quiz. Andy Zaltzman hosts the topical comedy panel game. Last in the series **11.30** The Ape That Got Lucky. Comedy with Chris Addison

## Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
**5.00am** Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Chris Warburton **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Gethin Jones **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Olympics. Building up to the start of the 2024 Olympics **8.00** 5 Live Olympics. A chance to relive the evening of Super Saturday at the London 2012 Olympic Games **9.00** 5 Live Sport: 5 Live Cricket. A review of the first Test match between England and West Indies **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

## talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
**5.00am** Early Sports Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Jeff Stelling **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off. Debate **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time with Paul Ross

## Talk
Digital only
**5.00am** James Max **6.30** David Bull **10.00** Julia Hartley Brewer **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Jeremy Kyle **7.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **10.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

## 6 Music
Digital only
**5.00am** Nathan Shepherd **7.30** Nemone **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq's Teatime Session **7.00** New Music Fix Daily **9.00** Riley & Coe. With a live session by Cyn Cwsg **11.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence: Wolf Alice. With Ellie Rowsell **12.00** In Their Own Words: The Prodigy **1.00am** The Prodigy Live **2.00** The Prodigy at the BBC **4.00** The Prodigy Playlist

## Virgin Radio
Digital only
**6.30am** Nick Grimshaw on The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** The Ryan Tubridy Show **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Olivia Jones **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

## Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
**6.30am** Classic FM Breakfast with Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Aled Jones **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics. With Ritula Shah **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

# television & radio

## Viewing Guide
Ben Dowell

### Horizon: The Battle to Beat Malaria
BBC2, 8pm

Top pick

When it comes to thinking about the greatest living threats to humans in the natural world we might think of wolves, sharks, lions or crocodiles. The biggest danger, however, is the tiny mosquito. The size and weight of a grape pip, it infects more than 200 million people with malaria every year (and kills 600,000), the vast majority of them children under five. It is a disease that generally affects poorer countries, in what is now called the "global south", but it hasn't been many years since it also affected the West. It was a killer in this country in the 20th century and during the Second World War. The name malaria originates from medieval Italian for bad air ("mal aria") and it was present in the swamps that encircled ancient Rome, meaning that the mosquito was a good repellent for invaders camped outside the city. This *Horizon* film is good on the history, but it is principally a look forward to what is essentially another British success story: the development of the R21/Matrix-M vaccine pioneered by many of the same team behind the groundbreaking Oxford/AstraZeneca Covid vaccine. Up to now, just one malaria vaccine has previously been approved for use. But unlike R21/Matrix-M it is expensive and has extremely limited supply. This takes us into the laboratories and follows the often emotive, hugely dramatic search for something that could save millions of lives.

### House of the Dragon
Sky Atlantic/Now, 2am/9pm

In last week's episode meat was a key motif. Dragons need it and humans become it when noble houses go to war. And Rhaenyra is now in danger of becoming a lifeless corpse, holed up at Dragonstone. Will her consort, Daemon (Matt Smith), get his act together? He has ambitions of his own. Even worse, the wrong'un Aemond is now regent with King Aegon II lying prone, bloodied and burnt after his mishap. Rhaenyra's last hope was to find more dragon riders in the Targareyn bloodline. But from where?

## BBC1

**Early**

**6.00am** Breakfast **9.30** Rip Off Britain. How scammers were able to remotely control one woman's phone (r) **10.15** Expert Witness. A facial reconstruction expert helps to identify a dismembered body (r) **10.45** Close Calls: On Camera. A dad performs CPR on his toddler with help from a 999 call handler (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Coventry, Folkestone and Maidstone (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Izzie Balmer and David Harper assist the teams in Wetherby **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.35** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** BBC News at One; Weather **2.00** Rick Stein's Cornwall. Rick visits a deer farm near Bodmin Moor (r) (AD) **2.30** Animal Park. A pygmy goat unexpectedly goes into labour (r) (AD) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Briony May Williams helps a retired couple who live just outside Belfast move closer to their family in Herefordshire, **3.45** The Repair Shop. The experts restore a barber's chair, a roulette machine and a carousel horse (r) (AD) **4.30** The Finish Line. Quiz contest hosted by Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene (r) **5.15** Pointless. Alexander Armstrong is joined by co-host Gyles Brandreth (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

**7PM**

**7.00 The One Show** Live magazine hosted by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

**7.30 EastEnders** Reiss comes up with a new plan as his money troubles continue to mount, and Kat and Alfie try to discipline Tommy (AD)

**8PM**

**8.00 Panorama** Current affairs report

**8.30 Surviving The Post Office** The actor Will Mellor meets some of the real-life sub-postmasters who were wrongly accused of theft. *See Viewing Guide*

**9PM**

**9.00 The Jetty** Ember is forced to confess to her family human bone fragments were found in the boat hut, but Hannah can't believe her dad was responsible. When a new development propels Ember into dangerous territory, the truth is finally revealed. *See Viewing Guide* (4/4) (AD)

**10PM**

**10.00 BBC News at Ten**

**10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather**

**10.40 We Hunt Together** Haunted by visions from her past, Freddy makes a deadly confession that leaves her with no way out. Lola and Jackson investigate a shocking new lead, which throws up more questions (5/6) (AD)

**11PM**

**11.25 We Hunt Together** With the Birdman in their sights, Freddy, Jackson and Lola race to unmask the killer once and for all. Last in the series (AD)

**Late**

**12.10am The Weakest Link** Romesh Ranganathan hosts an Olympic and Paralympic special. Contestants Greg Rutherford, Sally Gunnell, Pete Reed, Sam Quek, Tessa Sanderson, Will Bayley, Jade Jones and Rhona Martin will be competing to win £50,000 for their chosen charity. Last in the series (r) **1.00-6.00** BBC News

## BBC2

**Early**

**6.30am** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Food Stories (r) (AD, SL) **8.30** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible. Rick Edwards hosts the quiz (r) **1.45** Make Me a Dealer. Paul Martin teaches two would-be antiques dealers the tricks of the trade (r) **2.30** The Customer Is Always Right. More products are put to the test with consumers unboxing, trying out and giving their feedback on a gadget for wheelie bins, a measuring tool and dry shampoo for children (r) **3.15** Coastal Defenders. The dive team try to clear shellfish that are blocking a ship's pipes (r) (AD) **3.45** B&B by the Sea. Shirley Ballas checks in to the Victorian villa (r) **4.15** Cornwall: This Fishing Life. Britain's departure from the EU brings changes for Newlyn, Cornwall's biggest fishing port. The harbourmaster oversees a redevelopment of the fish market. Last in the series (r) (AD) **5.15** Flog It! From Powderham Castle near Exeter (r) **6.00** Robson Green's Weekend Escapes. Sara Davies takes Robson gorge-walking in Teesdale (r) (AD) **6.30** Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from Stockholm to the Arctic Circle (r) (AD)

**7.00 Today at the Test** England v West Indies. Action from day five of the second Test in the three-match series, held at Trent Bridge. The last time these two teams met in a Test series was back in 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic meant that the series had to take place behind closed doors

**8.00 The Battle to Beat Malaria** Documentary telling the inside story of the development of a new malaria vaccine that could change the very nature of the fight against the disease. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

**9.00 The Turkish Detective** Suleyman goes undercover as a rubbish collector to try to find the serial killer before they strike again. Meanwhile, Ayse turns to an unlikely old acquaintance for help (6/8) (AD)

**9.45 QI XS** Clips of the comedy panel show on the theme of travel (4/6) (r)

**10.00 Spent** Mia struggles to keep a roof over her head using a high-end hustle, but a welcome distraction comes in the shape of the rabbi's brother (3/6) (AD)

**10.30 Newsnight** With Victoria Derbyshire

**11.05 The Apartheid Killer** An investigation into a series of shootings in 1980s South Africa, when private security guard Louis van Schoor killed at least 39 people, all of them black. Van Schoor was arrested in 1991, but many of his killings signed off by police as justifiable homicides (AD)

**Late**

**12.20am Sign Zone: Countryfile** Charlotte Smith and Sean Fletcher present from Hengistbury Head in Dorset (r) (SL) **1.15** The Bidding Room. People try to sell items to five dealers (r) (SL) **2.00-3.00** The Jetty. Ember offers to help Riz investigate the Amy Knightly case in the hope of finding out what Riz knows (2/4) (r) (AD, SL)

## ITV1

**Early**

**6.00am** Good Morning Britain. News, current affairs and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Cooking with the Stars. Emma Willis and Tom Allen host as Jason Watkins, Chris Eubank, Joanna Page, Samia Longchambon, Peter Andre, Matt Willis, Claire Richards and Indiyah Polack take part (r) (AD) **3.00** Tenable. Five golfing friends from Shropshire answer a series of Top 10 list questions for the chance to win £125,000 in the quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot (r) **5.00** The Chase. Contestants from Rotherham, Cheshire, south London and one originally from Haverfordwest take part in the quiz hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

**7.30 Emmerdale** Billy finally confesses to Dawn, Rose's behaviour alarms Billy, and Charity is concerned (AD)

**8.00 Coronation Street** Leanne tackles Rowan about his past, Nick joins Toyah at a nerve-wracking appointment with her consultant, Stu encounters a bloodied and battered Mason, Joel ushers Lauren out of his flat, and Paul hopes that his heartfelt plea will mend his fractured family (AD)

**9.00 Long Lost Family** Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell present the story of a woman who was teenager when she became pregnant and whose mother was so ashamed she would not allow her to keep her son, and a woman who was adopted and learnt her mother had twins before she was born (AD)

**10.00 ITV News at Ten**

**10.30 Regional News**

**10.45 Goodwood Festival of Speed Highlights** A celebration of motor racing from its beginnings to the present from Goodwood Estate in West Sussex, focusing on the drivers of yesterday and today

**11.40 Love & Death** Fact-based crime drama starring Elizabeth Olsen and Jesse Plemons (1/7) (r) (AD)

**Late**

**12.35am Shop on TV 3.00** Family Fortunes. Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show, with clans from Liverpool and Nottingham competing for a chance to win the £30,000 prize (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** Jimmy's Taste of Florida. Jimmy Doherty embarks on a culinary tour of the Sunshine State (r) (AD, SL)

## Channel 4

**Early**

**6.25am** Cheers (r) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **9.05** Frasier (r) (AD) **11.05** Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (r) (AD) **11.10** Undercover Boss USA. YouTube star and internet sensation Bethany Mota goes undercover (r) **12.05pm** Channel 4 News Summary **12.10** A New Life in the Sun. There are DIY disasters in Bulgaria for two former singers (r) **1.10** Car SOS. Tim and Fuzz work on a 1929 Rolls-Royce Doctors Coupe (r) (AD) **2.10** Countdown. Katharine Merry is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Ben Hillman helps find a holiday home in Pollenca, Mallorca (r) **4.00** The Great House Giveaway. New series. A joiner and a lettings agent are paired up to transform a three-floor period terrace in Llanymynech **5.00** A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? In France, gîte owners cook up a new idea, and a Bristolian's water sports activity company tries to keep up with current trends. Last in the series (r) **6.00** Come Dine with Me. The first host in Swansea is a postal worker and yoga enthusiast, who is hoping to wow her guests with an evening dedicated to nutritious home cooking (r) **6.30** The Simpsons. Bart feels neglected when Homer and Lisa start spending quality time together (r) (AD)

**7.00 Channel 4 News**

**7.55 Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes** Boccia player Claire Taggart talks about her love of the game

**8.00 Jamie: What to Eat this Week** Jamie Oliver picks the first of the season's tomatoes, combining them with some early potatoes and chorizo in a sauce to make a delicious sticky chicken traybake. His son Buddy joins him for his next dish, rice pudding with quick strawberry jam (2/3) (AD)

**9.00 Sophie Morgan's Fight to Fly** Documentary in which Sophie Morgan sends a group of disabled travellers undercover to expose the shocking service they can experience when flying. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

**10.00 Celebrity Gogglebox** A rolling cast of famous faces watch *Five Star Kitchen: Britain's Next Great Chef*, *The 1% Club*, *Hijack*, *Antiques Roadshow*, *The Yorkshire Vet*, *90 Day Fiancé UK* and *This Morning* (r) (AD)

**11.05 The Great** Catherine must decide what to do about unrest in the regions, but Velementov is in no state to help her. Peter is tormented by his failure to continue his father's legacy. Starring Elle Fanning (5/10) (AD)

**Late**

**12.10am The Great** Catherine tries to persuade Peter to come home (6/10) (AD) **1.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A bistro in Chicago (r) (SL) **1.55** The Simpsons (r) (AD) **2.45** Becoming Elizabeth (r) (AD, SL) **3.45** Grand Designs (r) **4.35** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free (r) **4.55** Frasier (r) (AD) **5.45-6.25** Countdown (r)

## Channel 5

**Early**

**6.00am** Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and Storm Huntley discuss the latest news and get your views and opinions of the day **11.30** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm, who takes viewers' calls on the biggest stories **12.45pm** Friends. Phoebe and Mike's wedding day arrives (r) (AD) **1.10** Friends. Joey tries to learn French (r) (AD) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Mackenzie battles trust issues, a mystery illness grips the Bay (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Stolen Baby — The Murder of Heidi Broussard (12, TVM, 2023)** A woman is murdered by a friend who then tries to pass off her victim's baby as her own. Fact-based drama starring Anna Hopkins and Emily Osment **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Entertainer Rocking Stephanie is a huge fan of music legend Shakin' Stevens, and has a new look to debut at her gig. There is also love in the air at a speed-dating event (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Police Interceptors. The work of road and motorway police, including a 20-mile cross-border pursuit. The suspect heads onto the M1 motorway, weaving all over the road at more than 120mph (r) **6.55** 5 News Update

**7.00 Traffic Cops** A look at incidents involving alcohol or drug abuse, with an officer called to investigate reports of a woman suspected of drink-driving at 10am (11/11) (r)

**7.55 5 News Update**

**8.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders** Outside Newcastle, a PC stops a car with suspected cloned number plates, with the driver claiming to have bought the car that morning for cash — with no receipt. But a search of the car reveals a set of number plates and accessories (5/10)

**9.00 Police: Suspect No 1** Hull detectives investigate when people are terrorised at home by a knife-wielding intruder, before the same victims are targeted again less than 24 hours later

**10.00 999: Police Hour of Duty** Officers finally track down a man suspected of carrying out a series of terrifying armed robberies, but face a race against time to secure the evidence needed to charge him (1/8) (r)

**11.05 Police 999: Clear & Present Danger** Following an assault, armed police chase down a gun-wielding suspect. Officers urgently need to capture a murder suspect, and a police officer is brutally attacked with a machete (r)

**Late**

**12.05am Traffic Cops** (r) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** Riot in the UK: Caught on Camera (r) **3.50** Inside the Balmoral: Scotland's Finest Hotel (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.10** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.35** Entertainment News **5.40** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.45-6.00** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

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# television & radio

## Surviving the Post Office
BBC1, 8.30pm

**One sensed that some BBC executives were rather jealous that *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*, the ITV drama that was a ratings hit, managed to change national perception of a terrible scandal — and resulted in the victims of this shameful story getting proper recognition of their suffering. Now that is what you call public service TV. Still, Auntie Beeb has been able to get in on the act by recruiting Will Mellor, one of the stars of the drama, to journey across England and meet some of the real-life subpostmasters whose lives have been torn apart.**

## The Jetty
BBC1, 9pm

**The final part of Cat Jones's involving and atmospheric drama about sexism and exploitation in a pretty Lancastrian town finds our heroine, Ember Manning (Jenna Coleman), unmasking a killer and facing some harsh truths about her husband, Mack. While at times this four-parter has threatened to show masculinity as an entirely toxic and destructive force there is some softness here as various characters face up to the fact that not all the men in the show are entirely bad. Some are, of course. Some are just imperfect.**

## Sophie Morgan's Fight to Fly
Channel 4, 9pm

**Paralympics presenter Sophie Morgan sends a group of disabled travellers undercover to expose the shocking service they can experience when flying, from wheelchairs being broken to a passenger having to drag himself on the floor to use the toilet. However, Morgan, who is paraplegic, discovers an invention that could allow passengers to stay in their wheelchairs while flying, and also becomes the first British female paraplegic to take a zero-gravity flight. If space is accessible, she suggests, aviation should be too.**

## Film The Bedford Incident
Film4, 4.50pm

**Richard Widmark stars as an obsessed American destroyer captain in a thrilling Cold War drama adapted from Mark Rascovich's 1963 novel, which was loosely based on a real-life incident in 1962. (PG, 1965)**

## Sky Max

**6.00am** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **7.00** SEAL Team (r) (AD) **8.00** The Flash (r) **9.00** Stargate SG-1 (r) **11.00** NCIS: New Orleans (r) **12.00** The Flash (r) **1.00pm** MacGyver (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** SEAL Team. Brett Swan continues to struggle (r) (AD) **6.00** Stargate SG-1. Chaka is imprisoned (r) **7.00** Stargate SG-1. The team searches for missing soldiers in a Babylonian temple (r) **8.00** Flintoff: Lord of the Fries. The duo end their adventure in Lancashire (6/6) (r) (AD) **9.00** Mr Bigstuff. Comedy starring Danny Dyer and Ryan Sampson (r) (AD) **9.30** Mr Bigstuff. Kirsty pushes Glen to organise a Chinese meal to impress his boss Ian (r) (AD) **10.00** The Walking Dead. Rick leads a dangerous rescue mission to Atlanta (r) **11.00** The Walking Dead (r) **12.00** Warrior. There is a grisly murder in an alley (r) (AD) **1.00am** The Force: North East (r) **2.00** Road Wars (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

## Sky Atlantic

**6.00am** Fish Town (r) **7.55** Six Feet Under (r) **10.05** Gomorrah (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.25** The Sopranos (r) (AD) **3.35** Six Feet Under (r) **5.45** Gomorrah (r) **7.45** Game of Thrones. Tyrion defends King's Landing against Stannis Baratheon's naval assault in a battle that will determine the fate of the seven kingdoms (r) (AD) **9.00** House of the Dragon. Fantasy drama set 200 years before the events of *Game of Thrones* and telling the story of House Targaryen. Starring Matt Smith. *See Viewing Guide* **10.20** The Last of Us. After escaping the QZ, Joel and Tess clash over Ellie's fate while navigating the ruins of Boston (2/9) (r) (AD) **11.25** House of the Dragon. Fantasy drama set 200 years before the events of *Game of Thrones* and telling the story of House Targaryen. Starring Matt Smith and Emma D'Arcy (r) **12.45am** Succession. Starring Brian Cox (r) (AD) **1.55** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **2.55** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **4.05** Fish Town (r)

## Sky Documentaries

**6.00am** 100 Foot Wave (r) (AD) **7.05** Discovering: Jeremy Irons (r) (AD) **8.00** The Directors (r) (AD) **9.00** The 2010s (r) **10.00** Lockerbie (r) (AD) **12.00** Be Water (r) **2.00pm FILM: Seve (PG, 2021)** The story of the golfer Severiano Ballesteros (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) (AD) **5.00** Discovering: Jeremy Irons (r) (AD) **6.00** The 2010s. Barack Obama's presidency (r) **7.00** Lockerbie. An investigation into the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 (r) (AD) **8.00** Lockerbie. Investigators find a link to a Palestinian terror cell (r) (AD) **9.00** Music Box. The story of the music festival, Woodstock 1999 (1/6) (r) (AD) **11.00 FILM: The Armstrong Lie (15, 2014)** Documentary about the cycling champion Lance Armstrong's fall from grace **1.30am FILM: Missile from the East (U, 2021)** A motorcycle racer who risked his life defecting to West Germany (AD) **3.30** Premier League Legends (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) (AD) **5.00** Discovering: Jeremy Irons (r) (AD)

## Sky Arts

**6.00am** Andrea Bocelli: The Journey **7.15** The South Bank Show Originals **7.45** The Joy of Painting (AD) **8.55** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Brad Pitt **12.00** The Joy of Painting (AD) **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **2.00** Brunelleschi's Impossible Dome **4.00** Discovering: Matt Damon **5.00** The Joy of Painting. Double bill with Bob Ross (AD) **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected (AD) **7.00** Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir. The couple create art in Northumberland (AD) **8.00** Battle of the Bagpipes (3/3) (AD) **9.00** André Rieu: Romantic Paradise **10.45** André Rieu: Welcome to My World **11.45** Classic FM Live: Classical Anthems **1.45am** Academy of Ancient Music: Vivaldi's Four Seasons **3.15 FILM: Janine Jansen — Falling for Stradivari (U, 2021)** The musician plays 12 of the world's greatest violins in 10 days (AD) **4.10** Cheltenham Literature Festival **5.10** The Art of Architecture

## Sky Main Event

**6.00am** Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **8.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **9.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** Test Cricket Bitesize. England v West Indies. Brief highlights of day four of the second Test in the three match series, held at Trent Bridge **10.15** Live Test Cricket: England v West Indies. Coverage of day five of the second Test in the three-match series, held at Trent Bridge **7.00pm** Live Tennis. Coverage of the day's action on the WTA and ATP Tours, as the season continues with a number of clay- and hard-court tournaments around the world **10.00** Sky Sports News at Ten. A round-up of the day's sports news, featuring interviews **10.30** Back Pages Tonight. A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers **11.00** Sky Sports News **12.00** Sky Sports News **1.00am** Sky Sports News **2.00** Sky Sports News. Round-up of the sports news **3.00** Sky Sports News **4.00** Sky Sports News **5.00** Sky Sports News

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## BBC3

**7.00pm** Celebrity MasterChef. The finalists serve up pies and dishes inspired by sweet shops **8.00** Gavin & Stacey. Hapless uncle Bryn tries to organise a surprise for Gwen's birthday **8.30** Ghosts US. Trevor's brother Jeremy checks into Woodstone after discovering a loophole in the rewards points programme **8.50** The Catch Up. A round-up of the day's news **8.55** Ryan Tricks on the Streets **9.00** Paddy & Molly: Show No Mersey. Mixed martial artist Paddy tries to find out if having a baby is as tough as fight camp by getting wired up to a contraction machine (7/8) **9.30** Paddy & Molly: Show No Mersey. Molly and Ellis visit a fertility clinic. Last in the series **10.00** The Instagram Effect. Telling the story of the social media giant and how it became the dominant force it is today **10.50** Pobl Bachyn **11.00** Him & Her **11.30** Him & Her **12.00** Gavin & Stacey **12.25am** Paddy & Molly: Show No Mersey **1.25** Hunting the Catfish Crime Gang **2.25** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond **2.55-3.55** Him & Her (SL)

## BBC4

**7.00pm** Coastal Path. Paul Rose walks 630 miles of the South West Coast Path **7.30** Railway Walks with Julia Bradbury. The presenter explores the streets of Weymouth as she begins to trace the route of a short Dorset line that once ran south from the town and across Chesil Beach and Portland (AD) **8.00** Art of France. Examining the history of French art, revealing how it emerged from a struggle between tradition and revolution, and rulers and citizens (AD) **9.00** Rebuilding Notre-Dame. Rebuilding the world-famous cathedral in Paris (AD) **10.00** Paris. The art historian Sandrine Voillet presents a guide to Paris (AD) **11.00** Private Life of a Masterpiece. Rodin's sculpture The Kiss (AD) **11.50** Art on the BBC: Michelangelo: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly. Sona Datta explores how television has influenced our understanding of Renaissance giant Michelangelo **12.50am** Coastal Path. Walking the South West Coast Path **1.20** Railway Walks with Julia Bradbury (AD) **1.50** Rebuilding Notre-Dame (AD) **2.50-3.50** Art of France (AD, SL)

## Talking Pictures

**6.00am** Stagecoach West (b/w) **7.05 FILM: Identity Unknown (U, 1960)** Drama starring Richard Stapley and Pauline Yates (b/w) **8.25 FILM: Inquest (PG, 1939)** Courtroom drama starring Elizabeth Allan (b/w) **9.40 FILM: The Dark Light (PG, 1951)** Drama starring Albert Lieven (b/w) **11.00** Time to Remember **11.35** The Outer Limits (b/w) **12.40pm FILM: Vengeance Valley (PG, 1951)** Western starring Burt Lancaster **2.20** A 1950s Love Story Set in Salzburg **3.00** The Saint (b/w) **4.05 FILM: The Thief (PG, 1952)** Cold War spy thriller with Ray Milland (b/w) **5.50** Look at Life **6.00** For the Love of Ada **6.30** Out of Town **7.00** The Footage Detectives **8.00** Enemy at the Door **9.05 FILM: Ten Little Indians (PG, 1989)** Agatha Christie murder mystery starring Donald Pleasence and Brenda Vaccaro **10.55 FILM: Nightbeat (PG, 1947)** Crime drama starring Anne Crawford (b/w) **12.50am** Reel Stories: The Projectionists **2.00** Maigret **3.50** Look at Life **4.00** Justice **5.00** The Lloyd Bridges Show (b/w) **5.30** Tell Me Another

## Film4

**11.00am Against the Wind (PG, 1948)** Second World War thriller starring Jack Warner (b/w) **12.55pm The Wrong Box (U, 1966)** Black comedy starring John Mills and Ralph Richardson **3.05 Barnacle Bill (U, 1957)** Ealing comedy starring Alec Guinness (b/w) **4.50 The Bedford Incident (PG, 1965)** Cold War thriller starring Richard Widmark (b/w). *See Viewing Guide* **6.55 Gifted (12, 2017)** A man tries to raise his child prodigy niece, but his mother ruins his plans. Drama starring Chris Evans (AD) **9.00 Top Gun: Maverick (12, 2022)** Pete "Maverick" Mitchell gets called back to the Top Gun academy, where he must train a new band of recruits for a deadly mission. Action drama starring Tom Cruise and Jennifer Connelly (AD) **11.35 The Hunt (15, 2019)** A group of elites gather hunt ordinary Americans for sport. Horror thriller starring Betty Gilpin **1.20am-3.50 Bandits (12, 2001)** A bored housewife joins two escaped convicts on a bank-robbing spree, Crime comedy starring Bruce Willis, Billy Bob Thornton and Cate Blanchett

## More4

**8.55am** Food Unwrapped (AD) **9.30** A Place in the Sun **10.25** A New Life in the Sun **11.25** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **12.30pm** Come Dine with Me **3.10** Four in a Bed **5.50** Château DIY (AD) **6.55** Car SOS. A 1971 Fiat Dino coupé (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the conversion of a cowshed in Somerset into a three-bedroom home (6/9) (AD) **9.00** Help! We Bought a Hotel. The transformation of an Italian palazzo into a classy hotel starts to pay off, and a couple turn some dilapidated houses in the Tuscan countryside into a diffused hotel complex (3/6) **10.00** Jobs from Hell: Caught on Camera. Documentary presenting real-life footage of challenging situations in the workplace, featuring contributions from the employees featured and analysis from psychologists (AD) **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E. A patient is brought in having broken his leg playing American football, and a man experiencing dizzy spells (4/8) (AD) **12.10am** Help! We Bought a Hotel. Transforming an Italian palazzo **1.10** Jobs from Hell: Caught on Camera (AD) **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** Food Unwrapped (AD)

## ITV2

**6.00am** CITV **9.00** World's Funniest Videos **9.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **10.00** Love Bites (AD, SL) **12.00** Dress to Impress (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Supermarket Sweep **3.00** Charmed **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dress to Impress (AD) **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) **7.00** The Masked Singer US. Past and present contestants get in the festive spirit **9.00** Love Island. After eight weeks, the finish line is now in sight for the couples **10.05** Family Guy. Joe and Quagmire are suspicious of Peter's new friend Mahmoud (AD) **10.35** Family Guy. Lois has an image change, while Stewie finds a turtle at the park (AD) **11.05** Family Guy. Meg becomes infatuated with a popular boy at school (AD) **11.35** American Dad! Roger pretends to be Jeff's imaginary friend (AD) **12.05am** American Dad! Hayley fails to keep Steve house-bound while babysitting (AD) **12.35** Shopping with Keith Lemon **1.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.35** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

## ITV3

**6.00am** Classic Emmerdale (AD) **7.00** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.05** Agatha Christie's Poirot (AD) **10.30** The Royal (AD) **11.35** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale (AD) **2.40** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.50** Inspector Morse. Final episode (AD) **6.00** Heartbeat. A teenager arrives in the village asking for directions to Ashfordly Hall — and claims to be looking for her father (AD) **7.00** Heartbeat. When armed robbers hold up the night mail train, Joe is forced to work with DI Ludlow to catch the perpetrators (AD) **8.00** Vera. Investigating the death of a pensioner found stabbed on a busy train, Vera follows the trail to a coastal town where clues appear to lead to a particular street (1/4) (AD) **10.00** Unforgotten. A dismembered body is found in a scrapyard (1/6) (AD) **11.00** Unforgotten. Cassie and Sunny identify four potential suspects (2/6) (AD) **11.50** The Royal. Goodwin and Makori admit a toddler diagnosed with meningitis (3/12) (AD) **12.40am** Upstairs, Downstairs. Double bill of the drama series **2.30** Teleshopping

## ITV4

**6.00am** World of Sport **6.10** Minder (AD, SL) **7.10** The Professionals (AD) **8.15** Dempsey and Makepeace (AD) **9.15** The Champions **10.20** Kojak **11.25** The Protectors **12.00** Tour de France Highlights **1.00pm** Made in Britain (AD) **1.35** The Champions **2.40** Kojak **3.45** Minder (AD) **4.50** The Professionals (AD) **5.55** BattleBots. Eight hopefuls led by Gruff and a transformed Gemini set off on a quest **7.00** The Chase Celebrity Special. With Dane Baptiste, Nigel Owens, Anita Rani and Mark Pougatch. Presented by Bradley Walsh **8.05 FILM: The Living Daylights (PG, 1987)** James Bond helps a KGB agent with knowledge of a secret arms deal to defect to the West and protects him from an assassin. Action adventure with Timothy Dalton (AD) **10.45 FILM: The World's End (15, 2013)** Five childhood friends reunite for a pub crawl, only to stumble on a threat to the entire human race. Sci-fi comedy starring Simon Pegg (AD) **12.50am** Motorsport UK. From Snetterton **1.45** Auto Mundial **2.15** Motorsport Mundial **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

## U&Drama

**6.00am** Teleshopping **7.10** London's Burning **8.00** Doctors **9.15** Classic Holby City **10.35** Classic Casualty **11.40** The Bill **12.40pm** Classic EastEnders **2.00** London's Burning **3.00** Born and Bred **4.10** Howards' Way **5.20** Birds of a Feather. Chris gets weekend leave from prison **6.00** Waiting for God. Tom has prostate trouble **6.35** Are You Being Served? Grace Brothers is forced to lay off staff as sales figures and profits are low. Starring John Inman **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Wesley finishes his off-the-road motorised scooter, while Barry longs for a taste of the dangerous life **8.00** The Brokenwood Mysteries. Kristin leads the inquiry into a 1970s-themed party where several partygoers turn up dead (6/6) (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. A dead girl's voice on a cassette tape prompts the team to reopen her murder investigation (10/10) (AD) **11.00** Silent Witness. The apparent suicide of a DJ leads Nikki to question her judgment in a strikingly similar case from her past (AD) **1.15am** Footballers' Wives. A holiday turns sour **2.50** Classic Holby City **4.00** Teleshopping

## U&Yesterday

**6.10am** Space Shuttle: Triumph and Tragedy **7.10** Underground Worlds **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **10.00** The Buildings That Fought Hitler (AD) **11.00** Secret Nazi Bases **12.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** The Buildings That Fought Hitler (AD) **5.00** Secret Nazi Bases. A sprawling complex in France **6.00** Antiques Roadshow. At Piece Hall, Halifax **7.00** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. An old bureau gets a makeover in Yorkshire **8.00** Abandoned Engineering. Exploring the Polish city of Wałbrzych (7/8) (AD) **9.00** Agatha Christie: Lucy Worsley on the Mystery Queen. The historian explores Agatha Christie's haunted, unconventional early life to discover the origins of her talent for murder **10.00** Bangers & Cash. A rare 1980s Sierra Cosworth draws in a crowd of admiring Ford fans and Sarah takes a shine to a caravan (2/10) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering. An infamous pirate city in Jamaica (1/11) (AD) **12.00** Great British Railway Journeys **1.00am** Secrets of the Railways (AD) **3.00** Teleshopping

## Variations

### BBC1 N Ireland
**As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** True North — Rhys McClenaghan: Chasing Gold. The pommel horse gymnast faces the toughest year of his career (r) **11.10** We Hunt Together. Haunted by visions from her past, Freddy makes a deadly confession (AD) **11.55** We Hunt Together. Freddy, Jackson and Lola race to unmask the killer. Last in the series (AD) **12.45am** The Weakest Link. Romesh Ranganathan hosts an Olympic and Paralympic special. Last in the series (r) **1.30-6.00** BBC News

### BBC1 Wales
**As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Elis James: Funny Nation. The history of Welsh comedy on radio, film and television output. Last in the series (r) **11.10** We Hunt Together. Haunted by visions from her past, Freddy makes a deadly confession (AD) **11.55** We Hunt Together. Freddy, Jackson and Lola race to unmask the killer. Last in the series (AD) **12.40am** The Weakest Link. Romesh Ranganathan hosts an Olympic and Paralympic special. Last in the series (r) **1.25-6.00** BBC News

### BBC2 N Ireland
**As BBC2 except: 10.00pm-10.30** Peata! Dog behaviourist Paula has her hands full with two cockapoos who are prone to barking. Last in the series (r) **11.05** Spent. Mia struggles to keep a roof over her head using a high-end hustle (AD) **11.35** The Apartheid Killer. An investigation into a series of shootings in 1980s South Africa (AD) **12.50am-1.15** Weather Watchers with Barra Best. The weatherman examines how climate shapes people's lives (r)

### STV
**As ITV1 except: 10.30pm-10.45** STV News **12.35am-3.00** Shop on TV **3.50-5.05** Night Vision. News, sport and weather

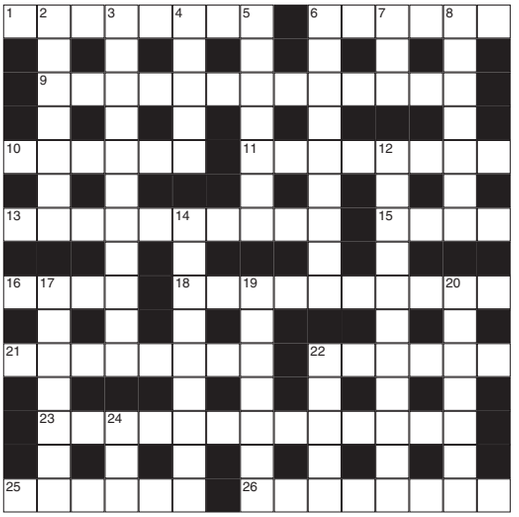
### BBC Scotland
**2.00pm** Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Scotland's Home of the Year (r) (AD) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Scotland's Sacred Islands with Ben Fogle (r) **7.00** Paramedics on Scene. A serious mountain-bike crash (r) (AD) **8.00** Life on the Bay (r) **8.30** Janey and Ashley Get a Real Job (r) (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City (AD) **10.30** Martin Compston's Norwegian Fling (r) (AD) **11.00-12.00** The Agency: Unfiltered (r) (AD)

### BBC Alba
**6.00am** Alba Today **5.00pm** Treubh an Tuathanais (Big Barn Farm) (r) **5.10** Na Clangairean **5.25** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.35** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.45** Daolag-bhreac is Seillean (r) **5.50** Meaban is Moo (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Belle agus Sebastian **6.15** Bogaisean is Gumbalan/Bottersnikes and Gumbles (r) **6.25** An Sgoil (r) **6.40** Pròiseact Plòigh (r) **7.00** Turas a' Bhradain (The Salmon's Journey) (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Fuine (Home Baking) (r) **9.00** Trusadh (Compelling Stories) (r) **10.00** An Clò Mòr (r) **10.30** Hugh Dan (r) **11.30** Seòid a' Chidsin — The Kitchen Coves (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

### S4C
**6.00am** Cyw: Odo (r) **6.05** Dreigiau Cadi (r) **6.15** Guto Gwningen (r) **6.30** Tomos a'i Ffrindiau (r) **6.40** Cacamwnci (r) **6.55** Timpo (r) **7.05** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **7.15** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **7.30** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **7.40** Dal Dy Ddannedd (r) **8.00** Olobobs (r) **8.05** Ysbyty Cyw Bach (r) **8.20** Patrol Pawennau (r) **8.35** Digbi Draig (r) **8.45** Ben Dant (r) **9.00** Y Sioe 2024 — Bore Iau o'r Sioe. The Royal Welsh Show is back **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Y Sioe 2024 — Dros Ginio Iau o'r Sioe. Further coverage from the Royal Welsh Show **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Y Sioe 2024 — Prynhawn Iau o'r Sioe **5.15** Byd Rwtsh Dai Potsh (r) **5.25** Y Stadiwm. New series. Physical and silly challenges **5.40** Cer I Greu (r) **6.00** Cegin Bryn (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) (AD) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno o'r Sioe **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Y Byd ar Bedwar **8.25** Garddio a Mwy **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Y Sioe 2024 — Uchafbwyntiau Dydd Llun. Highlights from the first day at the Royal Welsh Show **10.00** Rafio+. The Rally Latvia **10.30** Ras yr Wyddfa 2024 **11.30-12.35am** Y Sioe 2024 — Uchafbwyntiau Dydd Llun (r)

# MindGames

## General Knowledge Crossword No 243



**Across**

1 Epic Stephen King novel published in 1978 (3,5)
6 Wide tie-like garment usually worn by men (6)
9 BBC show in which faded items of sentimental value are given new life (3,6,4)
10 Temporary inability to breathe, typically during sleep (6)
11 Writ summoning a person to appear in court (8)
13 Environmental organisation founded in 1971 (10)
15 --- 100, UK stock market index (1,1,1,1)
16 Swirling current creating a small whirlpool (4)
18 Cow character in the classic children's TV series *The Magic Roundabout* (10)
21 Severe form of food poisoning caused by a toxin used in beauty treatments (8)
22 Family name of the Irish actress sisters Sinéad, Niamh and Sorcha (6)
23 British singer whose No 1 hits include *Burn* and *Miracle* (5,8)
25 Building material made from limestone and clay (6)
26 Khaled ---, Afghan-born author of *The Kite Runner* (8)

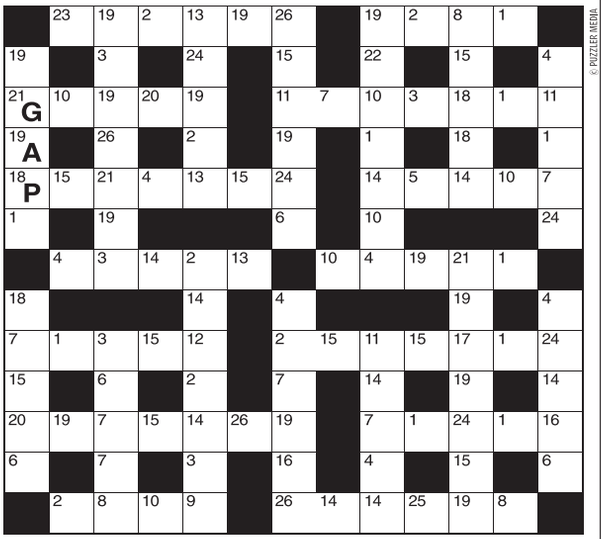
**Down**

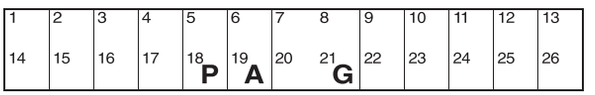
2 Epithet given to Henry Percy, the rebel knight immortalised in *Henry IV, Part One* (7)
3 The Beatles' biggest-selling UK single (3,5,3)
4 Place for gladiatorial battles (5)
5 --- Scrolls, cache of ancient biblical manuscripts (4,3)
6 Geographical area including the Antilles archipelago (9)
7 Deciduous tree recently afflicted by dieback disease (3)
8 Plants that grow in mountain conditions (7)
12 County of the towns Bicester, Abingdon and Banbury (11)
14 Title typically given to a republic's head of state (9)
17 Ecclesiastical district also known as a see (7)
19 Large extinct animal with huge curving tusks (7)
20 Shape with ten sides (7)
22 Ancient inhabitants of Britain, Ireland and parts of Europe (5)
24 Side sheltered from the wind (3)

**Last week's solution**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | E | T | E | R | B | L | A | K | E | | S | P | U | R |
| I | | E | | E | | A | | U | | | R | | E | |
| S | L | A | N | D | E | R | | W | E | S | T | E | N | D |
| A | | L | | B | | Y | | A | | H | | S | | C |
| | D | E | C | L | A | N | R | I | C | E | | T | A | U |
| S | | A | | O | | X | | T | | I | | O | | R |
| T | E | F | L | O | N | | A | I | R | L | I | N | E | R |
| R | | | | D | | A | | S | | A | | | | A |
| I | N | V | I | C | T | U | S | | S | H | A | M | A | N |
| N | | A | | E | | R | | S | | A | | E | | T |
| G | E | L | | L | I | E | U | T | E | N | A | N | T | |
| B | | A | | L | | V | | A | | C | | T | | S |
| E | R | N | E | S | T | O | | T | R | O | C | H | E | E |
| A | | C | | | | I | | I | | C | | O | | X |
| N | O | E | L | | G | R | A | C | E | K | E | L | L | Y |

## Codeword No 5273



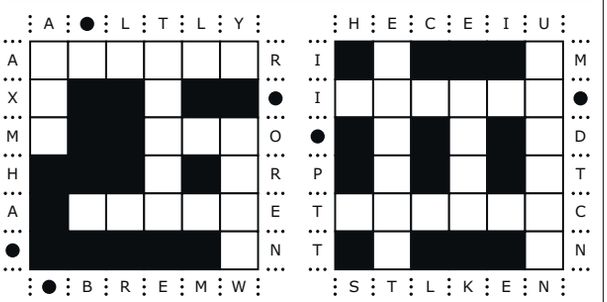




Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Saturday's solution, right*

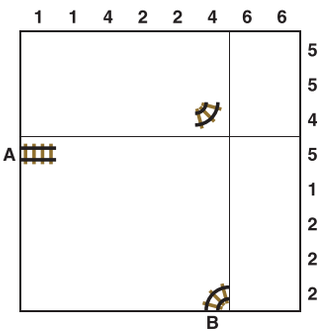
**Cluelines** **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

## Lexica Easy No 7547 Hard No 7548



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

## Train Tracks No 2301



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

## Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

**1** Trivia test not completed before noon, getting one out of five? (4)

_ _ _ _

**2** Sent back egg at start of dinner, with label attached! (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

**3** Crash into section in defensive structure (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**4** Cheat on twit, becoming involved with Moe (3-4)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

**5** Flying south, and in large number (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | A | A | A | D | D | E | E |
| G | G | H | I | I | M | M | N |
| N | O | O | P | Q | R | R | S |
| T | T | T | T | T | U | U | W |

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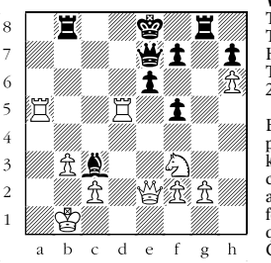
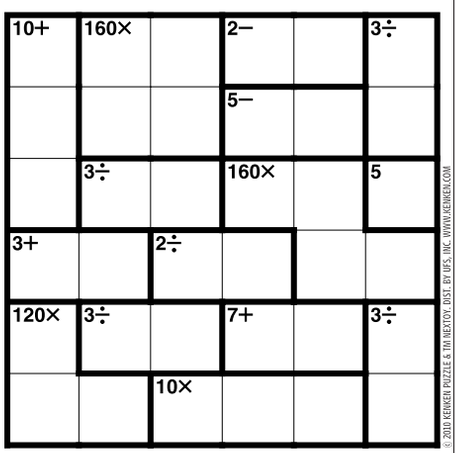
## Winning Move



**White to play.** This position is from Timerkhanov-Hovakimyan, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2024.

Black's rather obvious problem here is that his king is stuck in the centre. This is almost always a negative feature and White quickly crashed through. Can you see how?

## KenKen Easy No 6265



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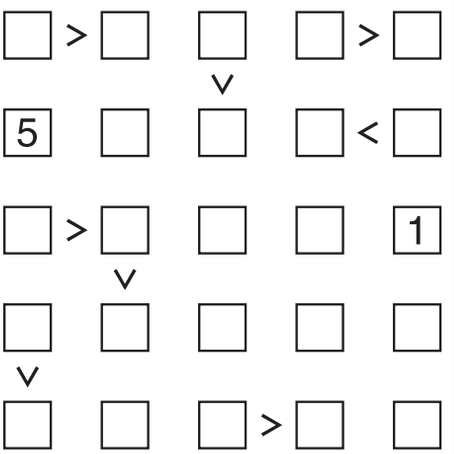
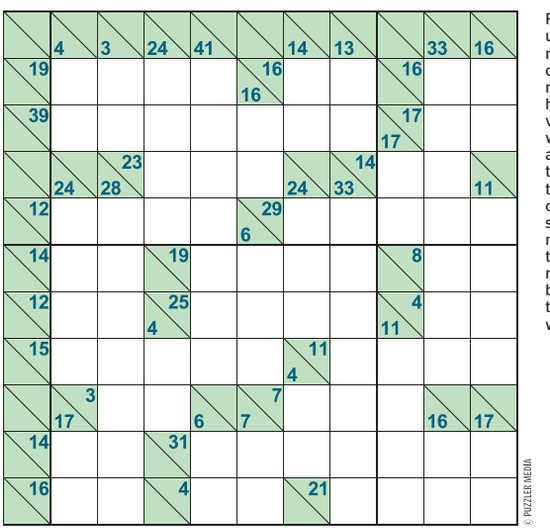
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

## Futoshiki No 4813



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

## Kakuro No 3772



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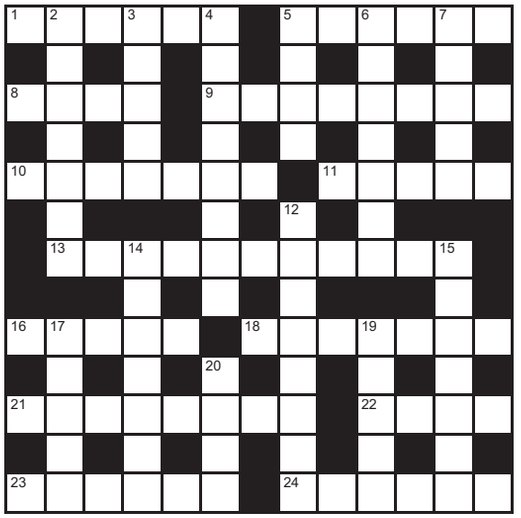
Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

# MindGames

## times2 Crossword No 9589



**Across**

1 Picnic basket (6)
5 Piece of meat (6)
8 Sign of things to come (4)
9 Temporary laying off of staff on full or partial pay (8)
10 Three-pointed hat (7)
11 Malice, venom (5)
13 Senior naval rank (4-7)
16 Humped desert mammal (5)
18 Alcohol's technical name (7)
21 Run-of-the-mill (8)
22 Operatic song (4)
23 Solicitor or barrister (6)
24 Oil-conveying ship (6)

**Down**

2 One who respects or is attracted to another (7)
3 State of fearful confusion (5)
4 Sending of a patient to see a consultant (8)
5 Innermost part (4)
6 Private cavalry soldier (7)
7 Number of pints in one gallon (5)
12 Purple gemstone (8)
14 Useful local service (7)
15 Resembling a large feline creature (7)
17 Main artery of the body (5)
19 Once more (5)
20 Catherine ---, Tudor queen (4)

**Solution to Crossword 9588**

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | I | N | T | E | R | M | I | X | E | S |
| I | | N | | A | | I | | O | | N | |
| T | U | T | T | I | | T | S | U | N | A | M | I |
| A | | E | | L | | U | | | | C | | D |
| L | O | G | | G | U | A | R | A | N | T | E | E |
| I | | E | | A | | L | | N | | | | A |
| C | U | R | A | T | E | | H | A | N | D | E | L |
| I | | | E | | O | | R | | R | | I | |
| S | O | P | O | R | I | F | I | C | | Y | E | S |
| E | | L | | | | F | | H | | N | | T |
| D | E | A | D | S | E | A | | I | C | E | N | I |
| | | I | | I | | I | | S | | S | | C |
| | I | N | E | X | T | R | E | M | I | S | | |

**Need help with today's puzzle?** Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

## Bridge Andrew Robson

Today, we travel to Herning in Denmark, the delightful venue for the 56th European Team Championships. I was pleased to be a member of the England open team (of six players, of which four play and two rest), hoping to finish in the top eight (out of 30) countries, and so qualify for the World Championships (Bermuda Bowl) next year. The event was played along round-robin guidelines, each country playing the other 29 over 11 days.

This deal, from round two, pitted the two joint-favourites against one another — Norway v Switzerland (and, spoiler alert, they both lived up to their billing). It was Norway who came out on top in the match — and this was the biggest swing, a 21-count 3NT rolled in by Geir Helgemo, the Trondheim magician.

Having received no spade support, West led a diamond, East inserting the jack (for defensive fluidity) and declarer winning the king. Prospects were poor to say the least. It appeared from the bidding and lead that West was 5♠-4♦, so held only four cards between hearts and clubs. Declarer needed to bring in clubs without loss and also required two heart tricks. The most probable winning layout was West with ♥Ax and ♣Qx.

At trick four, declarer led a low heart to the queen (West ducking). Turning now to clubs, he cashed the king (noting West's eight, although this could have been a random false-card) and led a second club to his ... ace.

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Both

Teams

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ♠AJ109 ♥Q1084 ♦1093 ♣K10 | |
| ♠Q8652 ♥A7 ♦Q742 ♣Q8 | N W E S | ♠K3 ♥J965 ♦AJ6 ♣7432 |
| | ♠74 ♥K32 ♦K85 ♣AJ965 | |

| S(Helgemo) | W | N(Grude) | E |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1♣(1) | 1♠(2) | Dbl(3) | Pass |
| 1NT(4) | Pass | 3NT(5) | End |

(1) Geir Helgemo will open most 11-counts, backing his card-play skills in tight contracts.
(2) Scary, vulnerable, but top players hate to miss spade fits.
(3) Negative, showing hearts.
(4) Partner rates to have four spades given that East has not supported. Within the Strong Notrump structure that N-S were playing, this rebid shows 11-14.
(5) Tor Eivind Grude knows this is a thin game but look at all those intermediates.

Contract: 3NT, Opening Lead: ♦2

Although declarer had not played clubs in the best percentage fashion considering the suit in isolation, the point is that if West has no more than two clubs, his only chance to bring in the suit is West holding ♣Qx. And his luck was in as the queen was felled.

Declarer now cashed ♣J96 then led a low heart. West's bare ace appeared and declarer could claim nine tricks via five clubs, two hearts, a diamond and the ace of spades. Game made.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

## Brain Trainer

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| EASY | 44 | x 2 | – 6 | ½ OF IT | – 13 | ¼ OF IT | SQUARE IT | + 9 | ÷ 2 | – 15 | ANSWER |
| MEDIUM | 109 | + 25 | + ½ OF IT | x 3 | + 75 | +½ OF IT | – 114 | ⅔ OF IT | 50% OF IT | + 88 | ANSWER |
| HARDER | 248 | + 876 | x 3 | + 418 | 80% OF IT | – 888 | +½ OF IT | + 774 | x 2 | 90% OF IT | ANSWER |

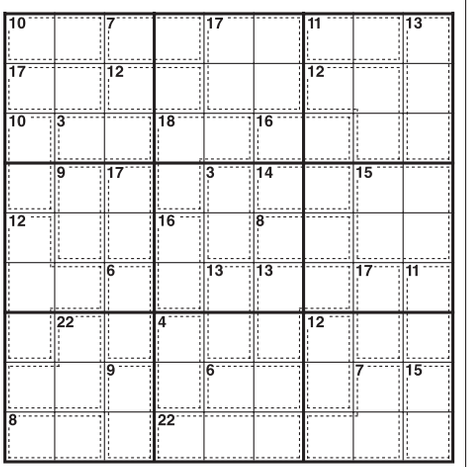
## Polygon

From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
**How you rate** 13 words, average; 18, good; 23, very good; 29, excellent

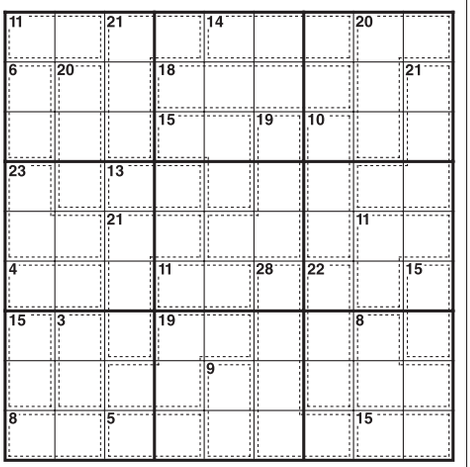
**Saturday's answers**

fern, fete, fetor, fetter, foehn, föhn, font, fore, fort, forte, forth, fortune, fouetté, fount, four, fourteen, **fourteenth**, fourth, free, freon, fret, froe, front, froth, futon, heft, hereof, often, orfe, reef, refute, theft, thereof, toft, tofu, tuft, turf, unfetter, unfree

## Killer Gentle No 9584



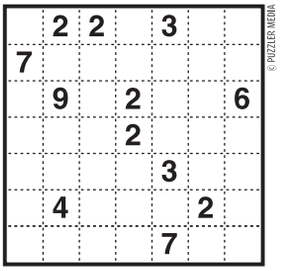
## Killer Tricky No 9585



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

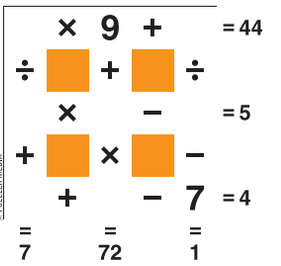
**Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen?** Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

## Cell Blocks No 5156



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

## Set Square No 3775



Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

**Please note, BODMAS does not apply**

## Solutions

**Quick Cryptic 2732**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | I | E | T | ■ | D | ■ | G | ■ | K | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | G | ■ | R | O | O | S | E | V | E | L | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| F | L | E | E | ■ | C | ■ | M | ■ | E | ■ | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | O | ■ | A | F | I | C | I | O | N | A | D | O | ■ | ■ |
| P | O | R | T | ■ | L | ■ | N | ■ | ■ | ■ | D | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | I | N | E | V | I | T | A | B | L | E | ■ | ■ |
| R | ■ | S | ■ | I | ■ | N | ■ | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| R | E | C | E | P | T | A | C | L | E | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | M | ■ | ■ | H | ■ | R | ■ | C | H | A | P | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| W | O | N | D | E | R | L | A | N | D | ■ | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| T | ■ | O | ■ | I | ■ | V | ■ | O | N | L | Y | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | B | U | L | L | I | E | N | T | ■ | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | R | ■ | L | ■ | N | ■ | E | A | S | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |

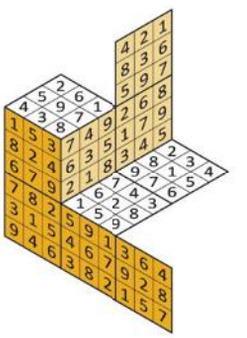
**Codeword 5272**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | A | D | H | E | R | E | ■ | A | R | C | H | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | ■ | I | ■ | L | ■ | N | ■ | C | ■ | L | ■ | S | ■ | ■ |
| V | A | L | I | D | ■ | R | E | Q | U | I | E | M | ■ | ■ |
| I | ■ | E | ■ | E | ■ | I | ■ | U | ■ | N | ■ | I | ■ | ■ |
| C | A | M | B | R | I | C | ■ | I | N | G | O | T | ■ | ■ |
| T | ■ | M | ■ | ■ | ■ | H | ■ | R | ■ | ■ | ■ | E | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | B | A | N | J | O | ■ | T | E | M | P | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| S | ■ | ■ | ■ | U | ■ | U | ■ | ■ | ■ | L | ■ | E | ■ | ■ |
| C | R | O | S | S | ■ | P | H | A | R | Y | N | X | ■ | ■ |
| O | ■ | P | ■ | T | ■ | K | ■ | L | ■ | W | ■ | C | ■ | ■ |
| O | U | T | L | I | V | E | ■ | O | Z | O | N | E | ■ | ■ |
| P | ■ | I | ■ | F | ■ | E | ■ | N | ■ | O | ■ | L | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | S | C | R | Y | ■ | P | A | G | O | D | A | ■ | ■ | ■ |

**Kakuro 3770**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ■ | 1 | 2 | ■ | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | ■ | 8 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| 6 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | ■ | 1 | 3 |
| ■ | 3 | 1 | ■ | 1 | 5 | ■ | 3 | 5 |
| ■ | ■ | 3 | 1 | ■ | 7 | 9 | ■ | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 7 | ■ | 2 | 4 | ■ | 7 | 3 | ■ | ■ |
| 6 | 4 | ■ | ■ | 5 | 1 | ■ | 1 | 3 | ■ |
| 8 | 6 | ■ | 1 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | ■ | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 2 | ■ | ■ | 2 | 1 | ■ |

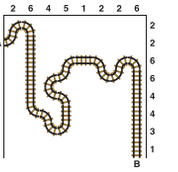
**Tredoku 1847**



**Square Routes 280**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | L | F | Y |
| S | W | R | I | N |
| C | H | E | S | S |
| A | R | E | T | T |
| H | K | S | P | E |

**Train Tracks 2300**



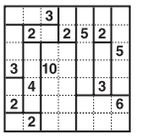

**Set Square 3773**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | – | 2 | × | 9 |
| + | | × | | × |
| 5 | × | 8 | ÷ | 1 |
| ÷ | | × | | + |
| 3 | + | 7 | – | 6 |

**Lexica 7541**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | O | O | K | E | R | |
| A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | O |
| N | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | C |
| C | R | A | B | ■ | ■ | K |
| E | ■ | ■ | I | ■ | ■ | |
| L | O | B | B | Y | ■ | ■ |

**Cell Blocks 5155**



**Futoshiki 4811**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | < | 5 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| | | | ^ | | |
| 5 | 2 | 3 | < | 4 | 1 |
| | | | ^ | | |
| 1 | 3 | 5 | > | 2 | 4 |
| | | | v | ^ | |
| 3 | < | 4 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| | | | | | |
| 2 | 1 | < | 4 | 5 | > | 3 |

**KenKen 6264**

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 |

**Lexica 7542**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | U | S | P | I | D | |
| O | ■ | ■ | U | ■ | E | |
| T | ■ | ■ | B | ■ | P | |
| ■ | C | I | L | I | A | |
| ■ | U | ■ | I | ■ | R | |
| ■ | D | ■ | C | A | T | |

**Sudoku 15,086**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 7 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 6 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| 8 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
| 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| 4 | 5 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 |

**Killer 9583**

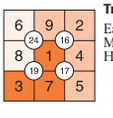
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 4 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| 7 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| 6 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 |

### Today's solutions

**Concise Quintagram**
1 Jammy
2 Summit
3 Dimmed
4 Summing
5 Commerce

**Cryptic Quintagram**
1 Quin
2 Tagged
3 Rampart
4 Two-time
5 Thousand

**Suko 4174**



**Brain Trainer**
Easy 14
Medium 389
Harder 7,182

**Word watch**

**Langlauf** (a) Cross-country skiing (*Chambers*)
**Periotic** (c) Situated around the ear (*Collins*)
**Inuktitut** (c) The language of the Inuit (*Collins*)

**Chess — Winning Move**

1 Qb5+! leads to a decisive material gain after 1 ... Rxb5 2 Ra8+ Qd8 3 Rdxd8+ Ke7 4 Rxg8 when White has an extra rook

**Quiz**

**1** Wax **2** Moses **3** Sinéad O'Connor **4** Christopher Columbus **5** *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* **6** Toblerone **7** 13 **8** Marks and Spencer **9** *Longitude* **10** John D Rockefeller, Sr **11** *The Sorcerer* **12** Harry Rawson **13** Ertzaintza **14** Rugby **15** Geoffrey Rush

THE TIMES

22.07.24

# MindGames

For extra puzzles
See page 10

## Word watch
**David Parfitt**

**Langlauf**
**a** Cross-country skiing
**b** A German variety of baguette
**c** A passionate yearning

**Periotic**
**a** Pertaining to a pale green gemstone
**b** Occurring at regular intervals
**c** Situated around the ear

**Inuktitut**
**a** An extinct fishlike animal
**b** A military drumroll
**c** The language of the Inuit

*Answers on page 15*

## Sudoku

**Easy No 15,087**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 9 | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | 7 | 5 | | 4 | |
| | | | | 1 | | 7 | 9 | 3 |
| 6 | | | | 3 | 1 | | 8 | |
| | 4 | 1 | 6 | | | | | 5 |
| | 3 | | 7 | | | | 6 | 4 |
| | | 9 | | | | | | |
| | 1 | 4 | 5 | | 2 | | | 6 |
| 8 | | 2 | | 4 | 6 | | 1 | |

**Difficult No 15,088**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 2 | | | |
| 4 | | 2 | | | | 5 | |
| | | | 6 | | 1 | 9 | 7 |
| | 6 | | 5 | 7 | | 8 | |
| | | | | | 2 | | 9 |
| | 1 | | 3 | | 8 | 7 | |
| 1 | | | | | | | 3 |
| 8 | | | 7 | | 3 | | |
| | 3 | 5 | | | | | 8 |

**Fiendish No 15,089**

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 2 | | 3 |
| | 5 | | | | | 9 | |
| 2 | | 8 | | | | 6 | |
| | 6 | | 4 | | 9 | | 1 |
| | | 2 | | 5 | 3 | | 8 |
| | | | 9 | | | | 5 |
| 5 | | 9 | 3 | | 7 | | |
| | 1 | 3 | | | | | |
| 9 | | 1 | 8 | 7 | | | |

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

## The Times Daily Quiz
**Olav Bjortomt**

RICH FURY/GETTY IMAGES

**1** Figures sculpted from which material are traditionally displayed at Madame Tussauds?

**2** Which Hebrew prophet was played by Charlton Heston in the 1956 film *The Ten Commandments*?

**3** Which late Irish singer is the subject of the 2022 documentary *Nothing Compares*?

**4** The Plaza de Colón in central Madrid is named after which Italian explorer?

**5** In which Douglas Adams novel do the Vogons demolish Earth to make way for a hyperspace bypass?

**6** In 1920, the eagle on which Swiss chocolate bar's wrapper was replaced by the Bernese bear?

**7** Which number comes next in the Fibonacci sequence: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8 ...?

**8** In 2022, Stuart Machin took over as the chief executive of which high street retailer?

**9** Michael Gambon played the 18th-century clockmaker John Harrison in which 2000 TV miniseries?

**10** Which Standard Oil founder is the subject of Ron Chernow's 1998 biography *Titan*?

**11** Which 1877 Gilbert and Sullivan opera is sometimes given the alternative title *The Elixir of Love*?

**12** Which British rear-admiral (1843-1910) led the punitive Benin Expedition of 1897?

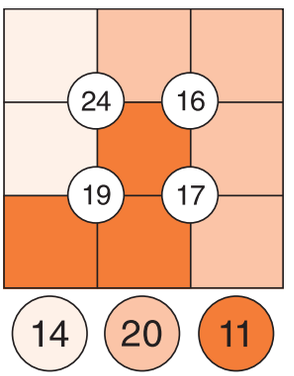
**13** Meaning "People's Guard", what name is given to the autonomous police force in the Basque Country?

**14** The French bi-weekly newspaper Midi Olympique specialises in which sport?

**15** Who is this Oscar-winning Australian actor?

*Answers on page 15*

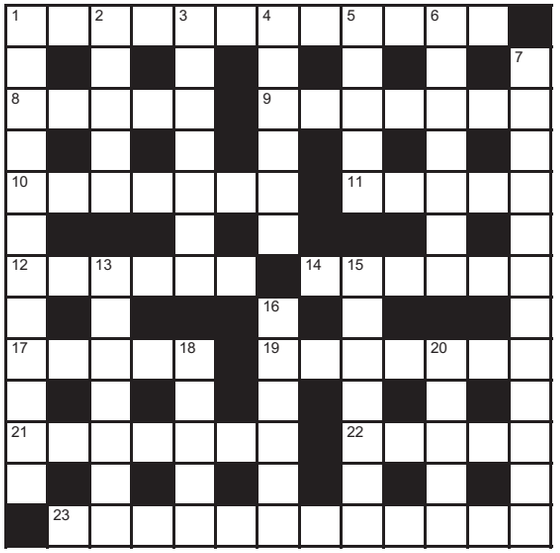
## Suko
**No 4174**




Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

**For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.com**

## The Times Quick Cryptic
**No 2734 by Orpheus**



**Across**

1 More benevolent general framing painting in young kids' school (12)
8 Restriction illuminated across motorway (5)
9 Food for a violinist? Only partly (7)
10 Live in, dressed like a monk (7)
11 See soldiers crossing island in French river (5)
12 Mollusc primarily encountered in fanciful story (6)
14 Portion of aspic, nice to eat outside (6)
17 Tease husband in popular eating-place (5)
19 Liqueur drunk at a fair (7)
21 Kitchen wizard introducing a supposed cure-all (7)
22 Good entertainer, one who writes for others (5)
23 A French writer is newspaper boss? That's not permitted (12)

**Down**

1 Optical toy from space I looked around (12)
2 Politician in New York initially hugging a beautiful maiden (5)
3 Cheese finally placed on a board, suitable for a meal (7)
4 Extremely giddy speed to revolve! (6)
5 Merrymaking in which bar gets overturned (5)
6 Key topic for debate, producing strong feeling (7)
7 Fed up, as the Sleeping Beauty was, eventually? (12)
13 Quiet girl on Irish river (7)
15 A number, for example, visiting Bury? (7)
16 German composer ringing about opening (6)
18 Woman's shawl originally found in centre of Manchuria (5)
20 Dental silk sometimes used after candy (5)

*Friday's solution on page 15*

Let's talk about money with *Bread & Honey*

How much money would you need to make you happy? Are couples always better off financially? Why don't we all just escape to the country? And is the second wine on the menu really the worst?

Join hosts Georgie Frost and Martyn James, plus special guests, as they delve into the thornier money issues for the brand new video series from Times Money Mentor – where nothing is off the table.

**To watch our *Bread & Honey* series go to the Times Money Mentor YouTube channel or scan the QR code**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH wealthify

THE TIMES money mentor