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Coronation for Harris as rivals step aside

Vice-president likely to pick 'white man' as running mate to win over blue collar voters

By Tony Diver US EDITOR in Washington

KAMALA HARRIS is set to become the Democratic presidential nominee and is likely to pick a "white man" running mate to boost her chances in key battleground states.

The vice-president, 59, raised a record-breaking \$80 million in the 24 hours after Joe Biden stood down, as her potential rivals ruled themselves out of the contest and endorsed her.

Nancy Pelosi, a major powerbroker in the party, broke her silence to back Ms Harris yesterday, after working behind the scenes to end Mr Biden's run.

The former House speaker said she had "limitless optimism for our country's future" under a Harris administration and described her as a "champion for working families" and abortion rights.

Sources said last night that Ms Harris's campaign believed she could secure enough votes for her nomination by tomorrow.

Ms Harris is thought to be considering a male candidate from a battleground state as her vice-presidential candidate, amid concerns her background as a liberal Californian politician could discourage blue collar voters from supporting her.

Steve Schmidt, a Democrat-affiliated strategist, told Puck News: "It can't be two female candidates. It can be, but I don't think that's going to go. So it's going to be a white male candidate."

Polling shows that Ms Harris is behind Donald Trump in the key battleground states of Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and in all other swing states across the country.

Andy Beshear and Josh Shapiro, the governors of Kentucky and Pennsylvania, are thought to be under consideration to be her running mate. Pete Buttigieg, a former presidential candidate from Indiana now serving as Mr Biden's transportation secretary, is a third option.

One of the few women thought to be a possible vice-president candidate, Gretchen Whitmer, ruled herself out of the contest to be a running mate after she was appointed co-chair of Ms Harris's last-minute presidential campaign.

JD Vance, who was named Donald

Trump's running mate last week on the expectation he would perform well with blue collar midwestern voters, was set to deliver his first solo remarks on the campaign trail in Middletown, Ohio last night.

The battle for working-class voters, who contributed significantly to Trump's win in 2016, is set to become one of the main themes of the 2024 race, after Mr Biden's attempt to win back support over the past few months.

Ms Harris is considered more Left-wing than Mr Biden on some policy areas, including on immigration and healthcare. During her unsuccessful 2020 presidential campaign, she called for an "overhaul" of the immigration system to make it less "cruel".

Although the process for selecting a new nominee is technically open after Mr Biden dropped out, her path appears to be clear after she received the endorsement of more than 1,000 delegates to the Democratic National Convention, more than 180 congressmen and several key trade unions.

Future Forward, a political action committee that previously supported Mr Biden, said yesterday that it had raised \$150 million in support for Ms Harris in the previous 24 hours. A separate \$80 million was raised from small-dollar donors through the ActBlue fundraising platform, the organisation said. The speed of donations to Ms Harris is thought to be a record.

She will also inherit around \$91 million in leftover campaign funds donated to her joint ticket with Mr Biden.

Senior Democrats are considering running a "virtual roll call" that would install her as the party's nominee before the convention in late August.

Mike Bloomberg, a major Democratic donor, urged the party to take its time in selecting a replacement for Mr Biden.

"We don't need to get a resolution right away, but we do need to get it right," he wrote on Twitter. "The decision is too important to rush, because the election is too important to lose."

In her first speech since Mr Biden dropped out, Ms Harris praised his "unmatched legacy" in office and said he had "already surpassed" the record of many two-term presidents. Speaking about her friendship with the presi-



Kamala Harris, the US vice-president, praised Joe Biden's 'unmatched legacy' during a speech at the White House

dent's deceased son, she said: "The qualities that Beau revered in his father are the same qualities that I have seen every day in our president: his honesty, his integrity, his commitment to his faith and his family, his big heart and his love, deep love of our country."

"I am a first-hand witness that every day our president, Joe Biden, fights for the American people, and we are deeply, deeply grateful for his service to our nation."

Mr Biden, who is isolating with Covid at his home in Delaware, has not appeared publicly since his letter announcing the decision to stand down on Sunday afternoon. He has rejected calls from some Republicans to resign

and sexual exploitation which he denies. He is also being sued in the civil courts in the UK.

Ms Blyth also disclosed that senior police officers tasked with combating violence against women and girls were in contact with teams working in counter-terrorism to examine the risk of young men being radicalised and how to prevent it.

Ms Blyth said: "We know that some of this is also linked to radicalisation of young people online, we know the influencers, Andrew Tate, the element of influencing of particularly boys, is quite terrifying and that's something that both the leads for counterterrorism in the country and ourselves from a

Trump is a convicted felon." Ms Harris, who is more than 20 years younger than Mr Biden, also plans to attack the 78-year-old Republican's age.

Erin Wilson, her deputy chief of staff in the White House, told congressmen: "Her role as a prosecutor makes her the ultimate contrast to Trump, the convicted felon. She can make the issue of age and fitness a liability for Trump."

Trump's campaign released a statement describing Ms Harris as "Biden 2.0". It accused her of "defunding the police" while working as a district attorney and senator in California.

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Influencers blamed for 'epidemic' of attacks on women

By Robert Mendick CHIEF REPORTER and Alex Barton

VIOLENCE against women and girls has reached "epidemic levels", police have warned amid growing concerns that misogynistic influencers such as Andrew Tate are fuelling sex offences committed by teenage boys.

Police chiefs described the crisis as a "national emergency" after an official report found that more than a million violent crimes against women and children were recorded in the 12 months to March last year, equivalent to almost 3,000 crimes every day in England and Wales.

The average age of suspects accused

of the sexual abuse of girls is 15, while the average age of their victims is just 13.

Child sexual abuse and exploitation offences increased more than five-fold between 2013 and 2022 from just over 20,000 to nearly 107,000, according to police analysis.

The report issued by the National Police Chiefs Council said: "Violence against women and girls (VAWG) has reached epidemic levels in England and impact on victims."

It found violent crimes against women and children had risen by 37 per cent in just four years. In total, two million women every year will be a victim of a violent crime, equivalent to one in

'Andrew Tate and the element of influencing particularly of boys is quite terrifying'

12 of all women. The report said its estimates were "cautious" and "as we know much crime goes unreported".

Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth, national lead for policing VAWG, described the influence on young boys online by the likes of Andrew Tate, a "toxic" misogynist with millions of followers online, as "quite terrifying".

Tate is facing criminal charges in Romania for rape, human trafficking

and sexual exploitation which he denies. He is also being sued in the civil courts in the UK.

Ms Blyth also disclosed that senior police officers tasked with combating violence against women and girls were in contact with teams working in counter-terrorism to examine the risk of young men being radicalised and how to prevent it.

Ms Blyth said: "We know that some of this is also linked to radicalisation of young people online, we know the influencers, Andrew Tate, the element of influencing of particularly boys, is quite terrifying and that's something that both the leads for counterterrorism in the country and ourselves from a

VAWG perspective are discussing." She said the scale of the problem had reached "staggering levels", adding: "And it's only getting worse. One in 12 women are victims."

"We also know the police-recorded data is only the tip of the iceberg and that the numbers of victims and perpetrators in reality will be much higher." The report found violent crimes against women and girls accounted for almost one-in-five of all police-recorded crime, excluding fraud in England and Wales between April 2022 and March last year.

In a scathing attack on the criminal justice system, which police chiefs

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NEWS

Sunak to remain Tory leader until November

Rishi Sunak is to remain as leader of the Tory party until Nov 2, when he will be replaced by the victorious leadership candidate. The executive of the backbench 1922 Committee revealed a timetable to choose a new leader that will see the four final contenders take to the stage at the Tory conference to present their case to activists. It came as Robert Jenrick emerged as a frontrunner for the leadership among party members, according to a poll of activists.

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NEWS

Girl, 11, left an orphan after six die in crash

A girl of 11 has been orphaned by a crash that killed four members of her family as well as a motorcyclist and pillion passenger. Shane Roller, his partner, Shannen Morgan, and two of their daughters, Lillie and Rubie, died on the A61 near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, when their car collided with a motorbike on Sunday. A Gofundme page set up for the girl, who was not in the car, had reached over £45,000 by yesterday. The page said: "She has lost her whole world in an instant."

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...but he's still insisting that he'll run the 100m for USA at the Paris Olympics

NEWS

'Cocaine sharks' patrol the waters off Brazil

Cocaine has been found in the bloodstream of sharks off the coast of Brazil and may be changing their behaviour, scientists fear. Marine biologists tested 13 Brazilian sharpnose sharks taken from coastal waters near Rio de Janeiro and found that all 13 had high levels of cocaine in their muscles and livers. Scientists said the drug probably originated in drainage from illicit labs where cocaine is manufactured, or from the body waste of drug users.

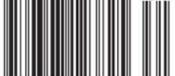
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BUSINESS

Microsoft blames EU rules for IT meltdown

Microsoft has blamed EU rules for enabling a faulty security update to cause the world's biggest IT outage. The software giant said an agreement with the European Commission meant it was unable to make security changes that would have blocked the CrowdStrike update that triggered travel and healthcare chaos. Microsoft, which has its own alternative system, allowed multiple security providers to install software amid a European competition investigation.

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Sunak to remain party leader until November

Tories' 1922 committee sets contest timetable as Jenrick garners most support among members

By **Charles Hymas and Nick Gutteridge**

RISHI SUNAK is to remain as leader of the Tory party until Nov 2, when he will be replaced by the victorious leadership candidate, it was announced last night.

The executive of the backbench 1922 Committee announced a timetable to

choose a new leader that will see the four final contenders take to the stage at the Tory conference to present their case to activists.

Nominations open tomorrow and close on Monday, with candidates required to have proposer, a seconder and eight nominations to proceed to the ballot. There will be a series of votes by MPs before the final four are chosen for a "beauty parade" at conference.

The parliamentary party will then whittle it down to the final two candidates, who will then be subject to a vote by Conservative Party members.

The committee announcement came as Robert Jenrick emerged as a front-

runner for the leadership among party members, according to a poll of activists.

The former immigration minister, who quit Mr Sunak's Cabinet in protest at his failure to take a tougher approach to stop the boats, emerged ahead of Kemi Badenoch, Tom Tugendhat, Dame Priti Patel and Suella Braverman. Conservative members were asked in a poll to rank their top four choices for next leader from a list of candidates who have signalled they will run.

Some 55 per cent of members listed Mr Jenrick as one of their top choices for next leader, more than the share of members who did so for Mr Tugendhat

(52 per cent), Mrs Badenoch (52 per cent), Dame Priti (47 per cent) or Mrs Braverman (45 per cent).

When asked to give a favourability rating of which candidate they felt most positive or negative about, Mr Jenrick also topped the rankings on 13 per cent, beating Mr Tugendhat by 1 per cent.

The poll of 1,002 members, the biggest yet of the grassroots, was carried out by Techne, a polling company that provided some of the most accurate forecasts for the last leadership race and the general election.

It uses telephone rather than online polling, which experts believe is less prone to distortions.

If there was a head-to-head vote tomorrow, the poll suggested Mr Jenrick would beat Mr Tugendhat, Dame Priti and Mrs Braverman, and would tie with Mrs Badenoch on 29 per cent each.

There were, however, up to 30 per cent undecided, suggesting the race is very open.

James Cleverly, the shadow home secretary, is seen as a potential candidate but was not included in the poll.

Mel Stride, the shadow work and pensions secretary, confirmed on Monday that he also was seriously considering whether to run for the leadership.

The shadow work and pensions secretary, who led Mr Sunak's benefits reforms, said fellow Tories had urged him to enter the contest.

The former prime minister will have to be consulted over the proposal and

55pc

Proportion of Tory party members polled who declared a preference for Robert Jenrick as next leader

has been under pressure to stay on until the contest is complete.

If he decides to go before then, the party will require an interim leader.

Some of the contestants are likely to fall at the first hurdle as they are expected to need the support of a dozen colleagues to take part in the contest. Candidates will be able to use the summer recess to tour the country.

NEWS BULLETIN

Nuclear sub sailor held in security breach check

A Royal Navy sailor is under investigation after an alleged breach of security related to Britain's nuclear deterrent submarines.

The submariner, in his 30s, is being held by military police on suspicion of breaking the Official Secrets Act after he was found to be in possession of classified material relating to the movements of the nuclear-armed submarine on which he was serving.

Police at HMNB Clyde, at Faslane in Scotland, allegedly found the classified information on his Huawei mobile phone while working on an unrelated investigation, according to *The Sun*.

The MoD said: "It would be inappropriate to comment."

Historic England backs heat pumps in its homes

Historic England has changed its advice to encourage the installation of heat pumps on heritage properties for the first time.

The body, a main reference for councils considering planning applications, has written new guidelines on making heritage buildings more green. It says systems such as heat pumps are "one of the best ways of enhancing a historic building's energy efficiency".

Ian Morrison, director of policy and evidence at Historic England, said: "It's really important for historic buildings to continue to adapt to meet the requirements of society as policy and personal tastes change."

British man, 35, found dead in Spanish resort

Spanish police are investigating the "violent death" of a British man in a holiday resort.

The 35-year-old's body was found in the resort of Mojacar, north of Almeria. The alarm was raised at about 11pm on Sunday after the discovery near picturesque Ventanicas beach.

The unnamed man was found dead in a house and not a hotel, although it is not yet clear whether he lived in the area or was on holiday. Blood is said to have been found on the wall and floor.

Pedro Fernandez, a Spanish central government representative for the southern Andalusia region, told local media: "Nothing is being ruled out. It could have been accidental."

Police should have 5pc pay rise, ministers told

Police should get a pay rise of just under 5 per cent, ministers have been advised - piling pressure on Rachel Reeves to unleash spending despite squeezed public finances.

The police remuneration review body is understood to have recommended the rise for 150,000 officers in England and Wales.

It is lower than the 5.5 per cent put forward for nurses and teachers by their pay review bodies but reflects police officers' higher salary awards in the past two years.

But it will add to the demands facing the Chancellor, who is expected to have to raise an extra £8 billion to fund above-inflation pay increases for millions of public sector workers.

Misogynistic content must be stopped, tech firms told

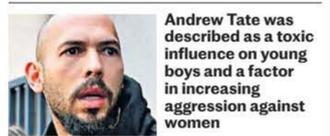
Continued from Page 1

described as "under-resourced and under-performing", the report said that it had become "overwhelmed" and in urgent need of government intervention in a plea for more cash from the new Labour administration.

However, Ms Blyth said that the scale of the violence meant "it cannot be addressed through law enforcement alone".

One in 20 adults or more than 2.3 million people in England and Wales are perpetrators of such violence every year, the report estimated, with the actual number thought to be significantly higher.

The NPCC said that police forces were seeing "ever more complicated types of offending" causing "significant



Andrew Tate was described as a toxic influence on young boys and a factor in increasing aggression against women

harm to victims and society as a whole".

Arrests for domestic abuse-related offences increased by more than 22 per cent in the year ending March 2023, compared with the previous period, with one in every six murders in 2022-23 being related to domestic abuse.

Women's Aid described the report's findings as "alarming", and warned that the real figures were "much larger than the data shows".

Clare Kelly, the associate head of policy at the NSPCC, said: "The scale of offending against girls is frightening and requires a society-wide response."

She added: "Tech companies must also step up to stop boys from being targeted with vile misogynistic content and put safety measures in place to prevent grooming and sexual abuse proliferating their platforms."



Land of the free Julian Assange with his wife Stella and their children Gabriel and Max enjoy a day at the beach in Australia. The 53-year-old Wikileaks founder was freed to return to his homeland last month after spending 14 years as a wanted man.

Police 'ambassador' for women wolf-whistled and bragged of sex prowess

By **Daily Telegraph Reporter**

A POLICE ethics champion, who acted as an "ambassador" for women and girls, wolf-whistled at female members of the public and bragged about his sexual prowess, a panel found.

Sgt James Endean, who worked for Thames Valley Police for 22 years, was sacked last month without notice for gross misconduct, following the hearing.

An independent panel heard how Sgt Endean bullied his colleagues and made a string of coarse remarks about his penis and sexual abilities.

It was heard that he would "rate" women's attractiveness while on patrols and said some were "asking for it".

Sgt Endean also told his colleagues how women enjoyed sex with him and that his fingers "should be on *Britain's Got Talent*", the hearing was told.

'Misogynistic and sexist comments are likely to deter victims of crime from reporting to the police'

This was despite him being made an "ethics champion" in January 2022 and being appointed a White Ribbon champion last year to act as an "ambassador" for women and girls.

Sgt Endean was moved from Reading to Bracknell and Wokingham, where he worked in a supervisory role, after a string of allegations were made against him last year.

Luke Ponte, representing Sgt Endean, suggested some colleagues "may have all colluded to exaggerate" claims. But the panel ruled he had abused his position as a sergeant, that his sexual remarks were "unwanted and grossly inappropriate" and that his

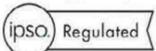
behaviour caused "reputational harm" to the force.

The panel said: "There is a significant public interest, particularly in recent years, in how male members of the police service behave towards women."

"This is because misogynistic or sexual comments, such as those the panel have found proved, are likely to deter victims of crime from reporting to the police because they lack trust or confidence in the police."

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Porridge to fuel TeamGB's medal prospects

Stodgy staple for British athletes but not a chicken nugget in sight as Olympics get Michelin star revamp

By Tom Morgan in Paris

TEAM GB may be heading to the culinary home of the croissant and the pain au chocolat, but there's one thing British athletes are insisting they cannot go without at this summer's Olympics: porridge.

The stodgy breakfast is a mainstay for the British team ahead of Friday's Opening Ceremony, Olympics chiefs revealed yesterday, as they unveiled an otherwise dramatic overhaul in the food on offer.

With countries as well as sport-specific venues able to submit their own requests, British fans will be warmed over the next three weeks knowing the nation's gold medal hopes will be fuelled on a hearty bowl of oats.

"There's the porridge, but this was the only one that I remember, actually,

from the British islands," said Philipp Würz, head of food and beverages at the Games.

Other specific requests include kimchi for the Koreans, sticky rice for the Chinese delegation and "skewers" for the Japanese, he added.

Appetites and tastes differ wildly not just between nations, but between sports too. Beach volleyball and taekwondo teams have requested cold meat, sandwiches and salads, while the rowing teams require "hot buffets". Badminton teams predominantly from Asia, he added, are "not big fans of bread" while sport "dominated by European delegations would then find a rather basic English, French or German style catering program."

The Olympics are attempting to shift from fast food to fine dining cuisine this year, with McDonald's replaced by Michelin stars in a food-focused French revolution of the athletes' village. Artichoke, shavings of sheep's cheese and truffle are being introduced to the menu, for example.

Amandine Chaignot - who has two Michelin stars - Alexandre Mazzia and



Emmanuel Macron, the president of France, meets French athletes in the Olympic Village yesterday

Akrame Benallal are among leading French chefs to inspire offerings that are a world away from previous Games.

At London 2012, one in five meals consumed by athletes was prepared by an on-site McDonald's. Usain Bolt, the fastest man in history, famously claimed he was powered to the first of his eight Olympic golds at Beijing 2008 on 100 chicken McNuggets a day.

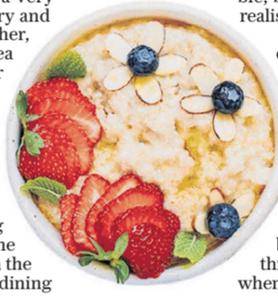
The fast-food chain's sponsorship deal with the Olympics has since expired, however.

"One very specific French feature that we have set up at the main village, also close to the bakery, is our Michelin-starred chef kitchen, so twice per day, the athletes can also go there and really discover very high level, high profile French cuisine cooked on site by our Michelin star chefs," Würz added.

"We have four of them, and they all do eight recipes, so we have a nice rotation as well. This has become a very popular spot because the bakery and the chef's corner are close together, which makes it a really nice area for the athletes to discover everything that is related to the French."

The city famed for being the centre of the culinary world will also put on the most healthy Olympics, Würz said. "It's definitely less junk food," he said. "The athletes are coming into the biggest restaurant in the world. They are amazed by both the architectural setup of the main dining

'The savoir faire of French cuisine has a reputation all over the planet'



hall, but also, and that is even more important for us, by the quality of the recipes and the food they are offering. We tried to come up with a very specific plan with French know-how, the savoir faire of French cuisine, which of course, has a reputation all over the planet."

An on-site boulangerie is producing 480 metres of baguettes per day, he said, "or 6km for the entire Olympics and Paralympics".

Athletes will be encouraged to eat plant-based alternatives where possible, but all food will feel as French as realistically possible, Würz said.

"Of course, the meat is 100 per cent French origin," he said. "The cheeses are high level and well known French cheeses such as comte and brie de meaux. Then we have very specific goat cheeses."

"A large variety of French pastries are offered to the athletes, and we have already had so much positive feedback, because this is definitely something that the athletes are not used to when they compare to past Games."



Tourists told to 'take back your drunks' in Majorcan mass protest

By Graham Keeley in Madrid

THOUSANDS of protesters have filled the streets of the Majorcan capital to demonstrate against mass tourism with posters apparently targeting British and German visitors.

One banner, written in English, read: "Take Back Your Drunks, Give Back Our Homes".

Another poster, mocking England's defeat to Spain in the Euro 2024 final, read: "The only thing coming home is

you", with a picture of one of the defeated England players.

A similar sign targeted Germany, also beaten by Spain in the Euro 2024 championships. Majorca attracts millions of German tourists every year.

Other demonstrators made elaborate paper models of planes and cruise ships and walked through the streets of Palma with signs reading "no cruises" and "stop private jets".

Anti-tourism activists have staged a series of protests this year in Barcelona,

Protesters hold a "Stop cruises" placard at a demonstration against overtourism

Palma, Malaga and the Canary Islands, claiming holidaymakers in tourist flats drive up housing costs and force the eviction of local people who cannot afford to live in their own cities.

Spanish police said around 20,000 people took part in the protest and the Melia Palma Hotel in the town put on its lights in support of the action. Pere Joan Femenia, of Menys Turisme, Mas Vida

(Less Tourism, More Life), which organised Sunday's protest, told *The Telegraph*: "What we want is to change the tourism model which is overwhelming the island. We cannot live here because house prices are so high. Beaches are swamped by tourists and public services are under incredible strain."

The 25-year-old student said protesters wanted a ban on foreign non-residents owning properties on the island because, he said, this made buying properties impossible for local people

as it raised property prices. Before the demonstration, a spokesman for the Balearic Islands' regional government appealed for no repetition of the behaviour at a protest in Barcelona earlier this month when tourists were squirted

'We cannot live here because house prices are so high and public services are under incredible strain'

with water pistols. At a demonstration in Majorca in May, which attracted 10,000 people, some tourists were jeered by demonstrators but organisers later apologised.

After Catalonia, the Balearic Islands region was Spain's second most popular region for tourists last year, attracting 14.4 million holidaymakers, according to the Spanish national statistics institute. Tourism generates 45 per cent of the Balearic Islands' GDP, according to Excetlur, an industry organisation.

Stilton under threat of extinction as Gen Z turn their noses up at speciality cheeses

By Daniel Woolfson

WHEN it comes to the king of the British cheeseboard, it is hard to look past stilton - strong and powerfully fragrant it may be, but few other types inspire as many devotees, with chefs chief among its admirers.

But stilton, inset, is now facing a battle for relevance as Generation Z shuns speciality cheeses, an award-winning British dairy has said.

Bill Mathieson of Long Clawson Dairy in Leicestershire, said makers of stilton were struggling to appeal to younger people. He said: "I think it's a bit of reluctance from younger shoppers. We've got a profile of consumers... the bulk of them would be 50-plus.

"That's the big challenge. My best way to describe it is: if you imagine a leaky bucket, we've probably got more people falling out the bottom at the moment than we're putting in the top."

The number of companies making stilton has declined over the last decade as producers grapple with the question of how to make strong cheeses appeal to the TikTok generation. Arla, the UK's

biggest dairy company, announced this year that it planned to stop production at its 244-year-old Tuxford & Tebbutt Creamery in Melton Mowbray, Leics. after failing to find a buyer, blaming a decline in demand for speciality cheese.

Mr Mathieson said: "If you go back 10 years, there would probably have been about eight stilton dairies operating and producing stilton. [Tuxford & Tebbutt] could close by the end of the year. With that, it will be down to four. It highlights the challenge the dairies are facing."

In an attempt to revive interest, Long Clawson has begun working with influencers and the celebrity chef Marco Pierre White to show how it can be used in a different context. The company even drafted in a mixologist to create cocktails utilising the cheese as an ingredient.

Mr Mathieson said: "I think one of the ways that we can [revive stilton] is by making it present in things like ready meals, so

they have an exposure to stilton. I'd love to see stilton on a Domino's pizza."

Long Clawson Dairy has made stilton near Melton Mowbray for more than a century. Its 1912 blue stilton was this year named supreme champion cheese at the International Cheese and Dairy Awards.

The cheese, known for its distinct "marbled" look and rich taste, is geographically protected and can only be made in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire using local milk.

Mr Mathieson added that a more casual approach to Christmas meals and other family celebrations had also contributed to flagging demand.

He said: "About 70 per cent of stilton is eaten on a cheese board but only about 20 per cent of households now have one. If you're not exposed to a cheese board as a younger consumer, you're not necessarily going to have a cheese board as you get older."



Jump in Durdle Door parking fees drives visitors to Jurassic Coast round the bend

By Emma Gatten

THE private estate that owns Durdle Door, the popular beauty spot, has raised its car parking charges by 66 per cent, *The Telegraph* can reveal.

Motorists expressed outrage on social media after discovering that the cost of parking at Lulworth Cove on the Jurassic Coast appeared to have risen dramatically since March.

The 12,000-acre Lulworth Estate, which runs the car park and facilities on the five-mile stretch of coastline and is owned by the Weld family, is charging £30 for caravans to park, £20 for all-day parking for cars and £5 for motorbikes.

Online posts from March show it was charging £20 for caravans to park, £12 for all-day parking for cars and £2 for motorbikes.

Durdle Door is one of Dorset's most popular attractions, with some 750,000 visitors to the area every year.

In 2021, Lulworth Estate called on the Government to impose a code of behaviour after it said visitors had mistreated the area. The council rolled out measures to curb anti-social behaviour in



Visitors to the south coast landmark face a steep increase in parking costs

Dorset the same year, including a ban on beach camping.

One user on TripAdvisor said the car parking charges for Durdle Door were "a rip-off".

"They've got you once you've planned your day and arrived," said the user, posting as "Caroline".

Another user said they had abandoned a short trip to the beach because

they were put off by the minimum £10 charge to park, which allows cars to stay for up to four hours.

The new charges put Durdle Door alongside some of the most expensive seaside areas for parking, including Brighton, where drivers can expect to pay around £24 to park all day.

Lulworth Estate was contacted for comment.

Harris lacks top team after 'bullying' led to staff exodus

Favourite to replace Biden as Democrat presidential candidate is dogged by criticism of leadership style

By Rozina Sabur DEPUTY US EDITOR

KAMALA HARRIS lacks a top team to steward her 2024 White House bid after she burned through staff as vice-president amid claims of "bullying".

Democrat insiders fear Ms Harris has few senior aides to rely on as she seeks to defeat Donald Trump in the election, which is little more than 100 days away.

The vice-president is primed to replace Joe Biden as the Democrats' nominee, after he withdrew from the race on Sunday.

Her small-scale political operation includes her communications director, Kirsten Allen, who is in her early 30s and worked on Ms Harris's previous presidential bid, Lorraine Voles, Ms Harris's chief of staff and a former aide to Al Gore, and Stephanie Young, who joined the team last year after working for an organisation founded by Michelle Obama.

Ms Harris, 59, has for years been dogged by criticisms of her leadership approach.

Some aides who worked under her in California have described her failing to read briefing materials, then blaming staff when it became apparent she was not across her portfolio.

One former staffer told *The Telegraph* they had experienced this first-hand.

"It's clear that you're not working with somebody who is willing to do the prep and the work," another told the *Washington Post* in 2021, describing Ms Harris's "constant amount of soul-destroying criticism and also her own lack of confidence".

The staffer added it amounted to "propping up a bully".

Symone Sanders, Ms Harris's former spokeswoman, told the *Washington Post* at the time: "We are not making rainbows and bunnies all day. What I hear is that people have hard jobs and I'm like, 'Welcome to the club'".

Ms Sanders left a few months later, which she insisted was unrelated to office morale, but because she wanted a new challenge after three years of advising Ms Harris and Mr Biden.

Analysis by news website Axios found that the high turnover in the past three-and-a-half years meant that only five of the 47 people listed as being in her employ in 2021 were still with her by spring this year.

The figure does not represent Ms Harris's full cohort of staff, which she is not required to disclose, but a substantial number of the total.

It is in stark contrast to the extremely loyal and experienced brains trust upon

US ELECTIONS 2024

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which Mr Biden relied, many of whom had worked with him for decades, making them adept at anticipating his thinking and reflecting his tone in their campaign messaging.

In Mr Biden's own first term as vice-president to Barack Obama, by way of comparison, 17 of his 38 aides remained with him, according to the Axios analysis.

Ashley Etienne, Ms Harris's former communications director, has disputed the suggestion she has been under-prepared while vice-president.

"Harris has been in the Oval Office, [Situation] Room, deeply immersed in domestic, foreign issues the last four years," she said recently.

Insiders also said multiple departures were prompted by finding working under Ms Harris "particularly difficult", despite aides being accustomed to demanding hours and difficult bosses.

Ms Harris's defenders concede that she is an exacting boss, but say the criticism is tainted with sexism, comparing her style to Trump's on *The Apprentice*, to stress the double standard.

Persistent doubts over her management style have prompted questions over her ability to lead the 1,300-strong Biden campaign team she is poised to take on, along with Mr Biden's roughly \$240 million campaign war chest.

Mr Biden himself was said to have been hesitant to quit the race because of his concerns about Ms Harris's abilities.

His private anxieties have been reflected by other Democrat figures.

Some West Wing aides have accused Ms Harris of failing to pull her weight and described her as overly cautious about accepting assignments.

One example given was Washington's high-profile Gridiron dinner, where politicians are skewered by comedians and deliver light-hearted roastings in return.

Senior White House aides reportedly requested Ms Harris attend on Mr Biden's behalf in 2022, but she declined, leaving the task to Gina Raimondo, the US commerce secretary.

Later that year, Ms Harris was reported to have been so anxious about attending a dinner hosted by media baron David Bradley, her staff staged a dry-run and played the part of her fellow dinner guests.

Others say this lack of confidence stems from her relative inexperience in Washington.

Ms Harris arrived in the US capital in 2017 as a first-term senator for her home state of California, with very few long-time staffers.

The trend continued when she entered the vice-president's office, just two - Rohini Kosoglu, her domestic policy adviser, and Josh Hsu, her chief legal adviser - accompanied her from her Senate office and had worked for her for more than a year. Neither are still in the vice-president's office.

Former aides say Ms Harris's staff struggles are nothing new, but a trait that has defined her lengthy career in public service, with some describing her as an "unpredictable" and "chaotic" manager.

Lenore Anderson, who worked under Ms Harris when she was San Francisco's district attorney, previously told *The Telegraph* she had "very high standards".

However, Ms Anderson, speaking ahead of Ms Harris' inauguration as vice-president, said her "meticulous attention to detail" was counterbalanced by her "ability to laugh [and] to have a good sense of humour".

Hakeem Jeffries, the Democrat's House minority leader, has not officially endorsed Kamala Harris. Joe Biden, above right, named his vice-president as his preferred successor



Inside the final 24 hours that changed Joe Biden's mind

By Nick Squires

FOR weeks, he had stonewalled increasingly strident calls that he abandon his faltering bid for re-election, but in the end it was damning new polling data that finally convinced Joe Biden to drop out of the race.

As if that wasn't enough, there was a stark warning from Democrat heavyweight Nancy Pelosi, the former speaker of the House.

She had orchestrated a behind-the-scenes campaign to convince Mr Biden to withdraw from the contest - and her patience was fast running out.

"Nancy made clear that they could do this the easy way or the hard way," one Democrat familiar with how events at the weekend panned out told Politico. "She gave them three weeks of the easy way. It was about to be the hard way."

The end, when it came, was swift and dramatic. Cracks in the president's resolve began to appear on Saturday, when he called in key advisers and

close confidants to his beach house in Delaware.

By lunchtime on Sunday he had announced to the world that he would not be fighting Donald Trump for the White House in November.

The latest polls were key to Mr Biden's decision. They were presented to him on Saturday at his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, by Steve Ricchetti, one of his closest advisers, and Mike Donilon, his chief strategist and long-time speechwriter. They remained at a discreet physical distance from the president, who was self-isolating with a bout of Covid.

The data, compiled by Mr Biden's campaign team during the week, suggested that there was no way he could win the election.

The numbers made for deeply depressing reading, showing that the president was trailing in all six critical swing states and that his support was collapsing in states such as New Mexico and Virginia, Democrat sources told Politico.

'Nancy made clear that they could do this the easy way or the hard way'

After weeks of insisting that his physical frailty, verbal gaffes and disastrous public appearances were nothing to worry about, the president changed his mind.

Not only were the polls bad, there were more senior Democrats waiting in the wings to publicly urge him to step down.

A powerful group of Democrats in the House and Senate were intending to call for his withdrawal from the race either yesterday or today.

"We were giving him the respect of the weekend to make his decision," one of them told Politico.

Some of the assessments from senior Democrats were withering. Seth Moulton, a congressman from Massachusetts, said that the president "didn't seem to recognise me" when they met last month during the D-Day commemorations in France.

The president finally accepted what many friends and allies had been saying, privately and publicly, for three weeks - that he was no longer up to the

challenge of seeking another four years in office.

He was up against an increasingly confident opponent and Trump had been further emboldened by his miraculous escape from a would-be assassin's bullet at a rally in Pennsylvania.

Mr Biden's family, including his wife Jill, his sister Valerie and his son Hunter, who had been urging him to stay in the race, also reportedly changed their minds, aware of the immense strain a re-election bid would put on a man whose frailties were increasingly evident.

But the change of heart was known only to a tiny clique of family and aides. Campaign officials were still insisting that Mr Biden was determined to stay in the fight.

As late as Saturday, plans were being made for him to hit the campaign trail in Georgia and Texas, as long as he was given the all-clear from Covid. That evening, members of the Biden inner circle said he was resolute about seeking re-election, "no ifs, ands or buts".

But having finally made the decision, the president and his inner circle were determined to control the narrative. The First Lady was particularly insistent that her 81-year-old husband's dignity be maintained. By Sunday morning, the die was cast. The Bidens communicated their decision to the two trusted aides who

were staying with them in their Delaware home - Annie Tomasini, the deputy chief of staff, and Anthony Bernal, assistant to the First Lady.

At 1.45pm, the president told a handful of other close aides that he was pulling out of the race.

Just one minute later, before White House staffers or members of the campaign were told, he posted on X, formerly Twitter, a letter informing the world of his decision.

"While it has been my intention to seek re-election, 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," the letter said.

While Kamala Harris, the vice-president had been informed of the decision, some in the White House only learned about it when it was posted.

The president resorted to social media to make the announcement rather than appearing on television because his Covid infection means he is still "sick and raspy", according to *The New York Times*.

Many senior Democrats were caught off guard. Some reacted with shock and disbelief, others with tears.

But for many in the party, the overriding emotion must have been relief that a President struggling with such evident physical and mental decline had finally seen sense.

'We were giving him the respect of the weekend to make his decision'



Trump wants refund for cost of fighting Biden

Donald Trump has demanded compensation for funds spent campaigning against Joe Biden after the US president pulled out of the race for the White House.

Republicans should be "reimbursed for fraud", Trump said, as the vice-president Kamala Harris emerged as the frontrunner to be the Democrat candidate. "So we are forced to spend time and money fighting Crooked Joe Biden, he polls badly after a terrible debate and quits the race," Trump wrote on social media. "Now we have to start all over again. Shouldn't the Republican Party be reimbursed for fraud in that everybody around Joe knew he was not capable of running for, or being, president?"

Vine's 'bad taste' post on leader's family is deleted

Jeremy Vine has come under fire for claiming that the death of Joe Biden's wife and daughter in a car crash "must have been worse" than his quitting the presidential election race.

The Radio 2 DJ and broadcaster wrote an online post that suggested the president's "bad day" on Sunday, when he announced that he was dropping out, was better than the fatal collision in the 1970s.

Mr Biden had only been elected as a Delaware senator the previous month when in December 1972 his wife Neilia, 30, and daughter Naomi, one, died in a car crash. The post was later deleted after being criticised for poor taste. Vine was contacted for comment.

Morgan: Trump wanted president to stay in race

Donald Trump said he hoped Joe Biden would stay in the US election race as long as possible after suggesting the president's cognitive decline was damaging his campaign, Piers Morgan has revealed.

Morgan said Trump made the comments during a phone call after the Republican candidate was shot in an assassination attempt earlier this month.

Telling him he would win the next US election, Morgan said Trump replied: "I hope so. But four months is a long time in politics. Look at the last three weeks. I just hope he stays in as long as possible."

Just hours after the phone call, Mr Biden quit the race.

Biden's decline 'covered up' by White House staff

The White House covered up Joe Biden's mental and physical decline, a BBC presenter has claimed.

Justin Webb, who hosts BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme and the *Americast* podcast, said it was clear that the Democrats had been untruthful about the state of the American president's health.

"What was going on behind the scenes was a cover up, and there's no question at all about it," Mr Webb told the *Today* programme yesterday.

"They knew that he was in decline, and other people who monitored the White House knew that he was in decline, but all of them decided not to tell the American people."

Manchin eyes return to party to challenge Harris

Joe Manchin is said to be considering returning to the Democrats to make a last-minute bid for the presidential nomination in the wake of Joe Biden's exit from the race.

Jonathan Kott, a key adviser to the West Virginia senator, said he was open to running as a moderate option, marking the first elected official to signal an openness to challenge Kamala Harris.

Mr Manchin, 76, a longtime Democrat who left the party in May to become an independent, had on Sunday called on his close friend Mr Biden to quit the race and "pass the torch" on to a younger, more electable candidate.

'Dishonest' secret service chief told to quit over agency failures

By Susie Coen US CORRESPONDENT

THE director of the US Secret Service was told she was "full of s---" during an excruciating congressional hearing in which she was told she should resign.

Kimberly Cheatle admitted that the agency failed in its mission to prevent the assassination attempt of Donald Trump during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

In a tense grilling in front of the House committee on oversight and accountability, she was chastised for refusing to answer specific questions and insisting she was the "best person" for the job.

She was asked if the Secret Service had handed over audio and video recordings related to the shooting.

Ms Cheatle said she would have to "get back" to the committee.

Nancy Mace, a South Carolina Republican, replied: "That is a no. You're full of s--- today. You're just being completely dishonest."

Ms Cheatle admitted during the hearings that the attack on Trump, whose ear was grazed by a bullet after Thomas



Kimberly Cheatle, departs after testifying at yesterday's congressional hearing in Washington

Matthew Crooks fired a volley of bullets at the former president, was "the most significant operational failure of the Secret Service in decades".

"On July 13, we failed," Ms Cheatle said. "As director of the United States Secret Service, I take full responsibility for any security lapse."

During the hearing Ms Cheatle, 53, admitted she had not visited the site of the shooting, said the investigation

would take 60 days and would not say when the Secret Service was made aware of the threat to Trump.

She also said the agency had communicated with police about a suspicious person "two to five times".

Tim Burchett, the Republican congressman, suggested Ms Cheatle only had the top job because she was a woman and branded her a "DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion) horror story".

Farage: It is potty to elect Harris simply because she is a woman

By Camilla Tominey

NIGEL FARAGE said it would be "absolutely potty" for Americans to vote for Kamala Harris on the basis she could be the first female president of the United States.

The Reform leader and Clacton MP, who is close to Donald Trump, told *The Daily T* podcast: "That would be a terrible basis upon which to make a decision."

Ms Harris, 59, whose mother is Tamil Indian and father is Jamaican American, is the first female vice-president and the first African-American and first Asian-American vice-president.

"The whole identity politics, that everyone must be divided up into different groups according to sexual preference or race, I'm not interested in any of that," said Mr Farage. "I think we should just judge people for who they are. Surely we should just pick people on ability?"

Mr Farage also suggested Kamala Harris cannot beat Donald Trump because she will not be able to win over blue collar workers in the Midwest.

He said Ms Harris looked as if she had a better chance of victory than Biden "on paper until the public actually see her".

He told Camilla Tominey and Kamal Ahmed, the podcast's hosts: "She's never been a good public speaker. She has this tendency to burst into a sort of hyena-like nervous cackle, which isn't particularly attractive."

'We should just judge people for who they are. Surely we should just pick people on ability'

"There isn't really much evidence of support for her within the Democrat Party, let alone more broadly in America, and in particular with that blue collar group."

"Sure, there are other states that matter enormously, you know, whether it's Arizona or Georgia, but basically whoever takes the Midwest takes the presidency."

Mr Farage also accused Joe Biden's

wife Jill and son Hunter of "elder abuse" and said the US president should "never" have been in the White House "in the first place".

He said he believed Mr Biden had "made the world a far more dangerous place". Citing the "catastrophic withdrawal" from Kabul, the Afghanistan capital, in August 2021, he added: "We lost exactly the same number of killed and wounded as the Americans."

"He didn't even tell us - just decided we're out of here and handed the country back to the Taliban, who we'd fought for 20 years."

"That led Putin into thinking, 'Well, the West is weak, Nato clearly isn't working.' He goes into Ukraine."

Mr Farage added that Trump's family are outraged about the Secret Service failures that led to the assassination attempt on the former US president in Pennsylvania.

The MP, who spoke to Trump and his family at last week's Republican National Convention in Milwaukee, revealed: "I spent quite a bit of time with the family, who are incandescent with rage."



Trespassing tortoise
A runaway reptile caused train delays when it was found roaming the tracks near Ascot in Berkshire. Engineers rescued the tortoise – named Solomon – and put it on a train to Staines-upon-Thames to be left with a vet. The owner collected the animal a few hours later, ending Friday evening's drama.

No 10 blocked purchase of Philby's spy files

Officials told British Library £68,000 deal would 'enrich a traitor's widow' and spark a public outcry

By Craig Simpson
THE Cabinet Office acted to stop the British Library buying the personal papers of Soviet spy Kim Philby, documents have revealed.
The Communist agent's widow offered to sell off his personal effects in 1994 for £68,000 and the British Library became interested in acquiring the collection.
Cabinet papers unsealed after 30 years reveal that the government moved to block any deal, in order to prevent a public body from helping to "enrich a traitor's widow".
Philby's betrayals as part of the Cambridge Five spy ring are believed to have led to the deaths of numerous Western agents at enemy hands.
To avoid any public outcry, a Cabinet Office representative was sent to persuade library leaders to drop their interest in the Sotheby's sale.
Details of the plans are contained in a

paper which has now been made public by the National Archives.
They reveal that the then cabinet secretary, Sir Robin Butler, doubted whether buying the Philby archive was a "a transaction that the British Library should promote or even whether they should agree to receive the papers".
Officials were given assurances by the publicly-funded library that it would not spend taxpayers' money on the Philby material and was instead seeking a "benefactor".
Civil servants nevertheless feared a backlash if the spy's fourth wife, Rufina, was helped by a public body to profit from the reputation of a disgraced agent.
In a note between Cabinet Office and the Department of National Heritage which oversaw the Library, one official

would not spend taxpayers' money on the Philby material and was instead seeking a "benefactor".
Civil servants nevertheless feared a backlash if the spy's fourth wife, Rufina, was helped by a public body to profit from the reputation of a disgraced agent.
In a note between Cabinet Office and the Department of National Heritage which oversaw the Library, one official

'Should not be helped by a public body to profit from the reputation of a disgraced agent'
warned: "I suspect there might be something of a public outcry if it became known that a public was involved even

in this indirect way in a transaction which would enrich a traitor's widow."
Officials went further, and arranged an informal meeting with philosopher and British Library board member Sir Anthony Kenny, bypassing the institution's chief executive, to alert him to the "potential political sensitivity" of a public body helping to raise money that would go to Philby's family. In the end,

the Library did not pursue the purchase of the Philby material which was sold off by Sotheby's.
Cabinet papers revealed that the auction house allowed government officials to look through the material prior to the sale, to ensure Philby's papers did not contain any information relating to national security.
Philby developed communist sympathies while at Cambridge and was recruited by the Soviets in the 1930s.
He worked for British intelligence during the Second World War and held posts in Istanbul and Washington DC while spying for the Russians.
After the CIA began to suspect Philby of being an enemy agent, he fled to the Soviet Union in 1963, where he lived until his death in 1988.
Among the personal possessions his widow sold in 1994 were a set of letters sent to Philby by the novelist Graham Greene in the 1970s, copies of which are contained within the unsealed Cabinet Office papers.
In one of the letters, Greene, who was a Roman Catholic, complains that Pope John Paul II, who opposed communism in Eastern Europe, was the "most political pope we have suffered for many generations".

National Archives Blair government told Israelis to act like a 'civilised nation'

Sir Tony Blair's government told Israeli ministers that their troops did not act in a manner befitting a "civilised nation", newly released papers have revealed.
Cabinet Office documents from the period of Israel's 2002 incursion into the West Bank have been made public. The papers

reveal heated exchanges between Israel's defence minister and Britain's ambassador in Tel Aviv, who accused IDF troops of being "out of control".
Sherard Cowper-Coles spoke with Israel's foreign policy adviser Danny Ayalon, telling him that some soldiers were "outraging international

opinion" through their actions in the West Bank.
He added that the IDF's conduct "was more worthy of the Russian army that of a supposedly civilised country".
The comments were made during Operation Defensive Shield, when IDF forces besieged Yasser Arafat in his compound in

Ramallah. Cabinet Office papers show that US president George Bush complained to Sir Tony, left, about how this action would turn Arafat into a "martyr". British diplomats expressed to Israeli officials the "folly" of attempting to force Arafat out of the West Bank.
UK officials on

the ground also compiled a report on the character of the IDF, which claimed Israeli troops "routinely use excessive force such as firing at the 'legs' of stone throwers or at 'car tyres' with the inevitable steady stream of ambulances ferrying youths to hospital with fatal bullet wounds".
Craig Simpson



£700m Rwanda flights scheme has removed only four migrants

By Charles Hymas HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR and Genevieve Holl-Allen
THE Rwanda scheme has cost taxpayers £700 million despite only four migrants voluntarily being sent to Kigali, Yvette Cooper said yesterday.
The Home Secretary described it as the "most shocking waste of taxpayers' money" she had ever seen as she confirmed that the scheme will be scrapped and the law will be changed so that nearly 90,000 migrants can seek asylum in the UK.
She told MPs that the Tories had budgeted to spend more than £10 billion over six years on the "Migration and Economic Development Partnership" with the east African country.
Ms Cooper said the £700 million already spent included £290 million upfront payments to Rwanda, chartering flights that never took off, detaining hundreds of migrants and then releasing them and paying for 1,000 civil servants to work on the scheme. Just four failed asylum seekers volunteered to go to Rwanda.
It had been thought that 90,000 migrants who arrived in the UK after March 2023 were covered by Rishi Sunak's illegal migration act.
This created powers to detain anyone arriving illegally and deport them to

Rwanda or send them back to their home country.
However, Ms Cooper said she had been "shocked" to discover that 60 per cent – about 54,000 – of them should have been allowed to claim asylum and have their applications processed in the normal way. This was because they had entered the country legally on visas then sought to claim asylum.
This meant only 36,000 of the 90,000 were eligible for deportation to Rwanda, but Ms Cooper told MPs that the Home Office had been unable to distinguish between the two cohorts so had not processed any applications.
"I have been shocked to discover that the Home Office has effectively stopped making the majority of asylum decisions...and as a result, the backlog of asylum cases is now going up.
"It is the most extraordinary policy I have ever seen. We have inherited Hotel California. People arrive in the

asylum system and never leave," she said. As revealed last week by *The Telegraph*, Ms Cooper said she would be introducing legislation – via a statutory instrument in the Commons – that would enable the Home Office to start clearing the backlog of 90,000 cases.
Labour is setting up a returns and enforcement unit, which will prioritise and fast-track the removal of failed asylum seekers from "safe" countries such as Bangladesh, India, Vietnam, Egypt and Albania.
Ms Cooper claimed that clearing the asylum backlog would save £7 billion over the next decade on top of £750 million that was set aside by the previous government to cover the cost of the Rwanda scheme this year and £220 million on further payments due to Rwanda in 2025 and 2026.
The money saved will be used to set up Sir Keir Starmer's new border security command, with National Crime Agency, Border Force and MI5 officers handed anti-terror-style powers to tackle the people-smuggling gangs.
James Cleverly, the shadow home secretary, accused her of using "made-up numbers" and accused Labour of showing "discourtesy" towards the Rwandan government.
And he said the Rwanda deal was scrapped on "ideological grounds".



Yvette Cooper said the Rwanda scheme had proved the worst waste of money she had seen

Starmer's new Commons: not a breath of fresh air, just a stifled yawn

Sketch
By Tim Stanley
JOE BIDEN once said: "America is a nation that can be defined in a single word. Asufutimaehfutbw." And that word could so easily be applied to the new Labour front bench, out in force for a statement on Nato. Rev Starmer, the Chancellor Dalek, Yvette from HR – but not Brother Rayner, for Angela has downed tools after being told to cut short a tea break.
The PM rose to his feet. Serious face. Sad voice. "I should like to pay a short tribute to Joe Biden," he said, as if the poor man had died. (If so, who would be brave enough to tell him?)
"He always put his country first," he continued as the coffin was lowered, and he leaves a legacy "far beyond America". Indeed, every nation he visited now has a Stannah Stairlift at its airport. A beacon of hope for mature men, Joe Biden is what it would look like if Roger Moore had refused to retire and filmed *Casino Royale* at the age of 81, requiring a stunt man to play roulette. On to Nato. The PM praised

Nato; David Lammy looked up the word on his phone; and Liam Byrne set the tone for the new parliament by congratulating Keir on a "flying start" in international diplomacy.
Yuck! Brace yourselves, and get your sick bags ready, for many years of sucking-up. The 8,000 new Labour MPs – most elected by surprise, cutting short a promising career at Specsavers – have been told to put on a tie, name-drop their constituency and flatter their leaders.
The opposition won't be much more interesting. The Tories remain in

scrap of paper with some illegible handwriting on. Even stranger, he consulted them every time he spoke.
Better value was Yvette, who has gone from being disgusted in opposition to outraged in government – and she gave a statement on Labour immigration policy that consisted almost entirely of bashing the Tories.
"Border security is being undermined... The asylum system is in chaos."
A few Conservatives gamely asked what the Home Secretary will do about it. The plan appears to be: get "serious" and do "the graft".
"May I congratulate my right honourable friend," squeaked one Labour MP after another – congratulating her for just two weeks on the job, in which time we've had an urban riot and criminals are being let out of jail early. The latter is presumably a core vote strategy.
Still, if you fear Britain has gone to the dogs already, I offer one happy piece of continuity. Fred Thomas, who beat Johnny Mercer, rose to say that he was in the army.
Plymouth Moor View must be constitutionally obliged to be represented by someone who mentions this admirable fact at every available opportunity.

'Most of them elected by surprise – cutting short their promising careers at Specsavers'

shock. Ed Davey praised Starmer and Nigel Farage declined to contribute (wiser to save it for Fox News). The new PM comes in not as a breath of fresh air but a stifled yawn, which is probably what the public wants.
Rev Starmer made no false promises for the future and, when a Tory asked if Nato might have prevented the First World War, refused to speculate on the past. His notes comprised a single

Harry's Invictus Games to be held in UK for the first time in 13 years

Event is now said to be 'coming home' after Birmingham triumphed over Washington DC

By Victoria Ward
DEPUTY ROYAL EDITOR

THE Duke of Sussex's Invictus Games is to return to the UK for the first time since its inception 10 years ago.

The event will be hosted in Birmingham in July 2027 after the city beat off competition from Washington DC.

It raises the prospect that the Duchess of Sussex might miss the event for the first time because of security fears.

In February, the Duke lost a High Court challenge against the government over his right to state-funded police protection and has since made only fleeting visits to the UK.

In his witness statement, he told the judge he did not feel able to bring his children, Prince Archie, five, and Princess Lilibet, three, to the UK, adding that he also felt he could not put his wife "in danger like that".

An appeal is pending but should he lose, it will present a dilemma for the couple, as the Games have become one of their most high-profile joint outings.

Prince Harry, 39, hailed Birmingham's "strong ties" with the Armed Forces community as he congratulated the city on its success. The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, home to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, has been the starting point in the recovery of scores of injured military personnel.

The Duke made many private visits to its predecessor, Selly Oak Hospital, which closed in 2011, chatting to soldiers who had suffered catastrophic injuries in Afghanistan.

He said: "Congratulations to Birmingham, UK, on winning the bid to host the Invictus Games 2027. Your city's strong ties to the Armed Forces community made it a formidable contender from the very start. Over the years, we've seen each city bring a unique spirit and vision to life for competitors, their families, and spectators.

"We have no doubt the people of Birmingham will join in celebrating the unwavering respect and admiration we have for our veteran and service community, showing the world how their courage ignites hope and unites us all something your city knows well."

The previous government threw its weight behind the bid, pledging £26 million in March to get it off the ground. John Healey, the Defence Secretary,

'We have no doubt the people will join in celebrating the unwavering respect and admiration for our veteran community'

said he was "delighted" the UK would be hosting the event. "I know the Ministry of Defence and the people of Birmingham will warmly welcome teams from around the world to support military personnel injured in conflict," he added. "The Invictus Games are an important chance to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our allies and support those who defend us."

The Invictus Games Foundation and the Royal British Legion, which supports Team UK, also expressed delight that the event will be "coming home".

British athletes said it was "awesome" that their family and friends would be able to turn out to cheer them on at Birmingham's NEC.

Stephen Hooper, who will lead Team UK at the 2025 Games in Canada, said it would "mean the world" to have the support of the British public.

"Birmingham is a special place for wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans, as they all come through here at some point," he added.

"As we prepare for Canada next year, it's great to know the Games are coming home in 2027!"

Organisers have promised to stage "the most cohesive, sustainable event in Invictus Games history" and to ensure that its legacy stretches well beyond the week-long event, benefiting communities nationwide.

There will be no financial input from Birmingham City Council, which went bust last year, so much of the funding will be offset by the private sector.

Since the inaugural event in London in 2014, the Games have been held in Orlando, Toronto, Sydney, the Hague and Dusseldorf. Next February, the first Winter Games will be held in Vancouver and Whistler.

But for Prince Harry, life has dramatically changed since he nervously addressed the athletes 10 years ago.

Then, the Duke was supported by his father, then Prince Charles, stepmother, then the Duchess of Cornwall, and brother, Prince William.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were closely involved in the early success of the Invictus Games, with their Royal Foundation – then jointly shared with the Duke – pumping large sums of money into the event.

Since then, familial relationships have disintegrated. Both the Sussexes and Invictus athletes are understood to feel frustrated at the lack of public support for the Games. If the status quo persists, it is unlikely that senior royals will appear at the Birmingham NEC in July 2027 to support the Duke and the British athletes.



Wrist watch Prince George celebrated his 11th birthday yesterday and has caused much chatter among royal watchers by sporting a friendship bracelet in his official portrait, which was taken by the Princess of Wales. The black and white image calls to mind the 21st birthday portrait of his father, the Prince of Wales, inset top.

Something is afoot, says Clarkson after butterfly numbers plummet

By Emma Gatten
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR

JEREMY CLARKSON has said "something is afoot" as he raised alarm over plummeting butterfly sightings this year.

The *Top Gear* presenter turned farmer said that he was "a bit alarmed by how few butterflies there are" on a walk around his farm in the Cotswolds.

The Butterfly Conservation Trust said there were notably fewer butterflies around so far this year, which it blamed on colder temperatures and heavy rain.

About 12 per cent of participants in the first week of its annual butterfly

count reported no sightings at all, the trust said. During the count, participants are asked to record the number and species of butterflies they see in a 15-minute period.

England had 97 per cent of its average July rainfall in just the first two weeks, following the wettest 18 months on record, and the summer has so far been cooler than average.

Tony Juniper, the chairman of Natural England, said the drought in 2022 may also have played a part in an overall drop in insect numbers this year. "A lot of food plants that insects relied on died during that very severe drought and heatwave, so there's probably some quite long-term factors in here," he said.

'A lot of food plants that insects relied on died during that very severe drought and heatwave'

He added that the drop in butterfly numbers was particularly noticeable because of a decline in insect populations which had been going back over decades.

About 80 per cent of butterflies in the UK have declined since the 1970s, the Butterfly Conservation Trust has warned, largely because of increased pesticide use and loss of habitat.

"This year's impact is hitting already depleted populations, and that's of concern, not only in terms of the insects themselves, but also the pollination services they provide," Mr Juniper said.

"They are also a critical food source for many birds and mammals, with bats now being reported as being under-

weight this year, as a result of having insufficient food. Insects are really the linchpin of ecosystems, I sometimes call them ecological glue."

He added: "I do hope that we can see a reversal of this trend going forward. But we're going to have to really think about the underlying issues here – lack of habitat and also the effects of pollution, including pesticides."

Mr Juniper said gardeners could do their best to boost insect numbers by "moving beyond our culture of tidiness".

"If you have a garden, having wild spaces with more native flowering plants and non-native nectariferous plants can be quite good," he said. "But

'Insects really are the lynchpin of ecosystems. I sometimes call them ecological glue'

also things upon which butterflies can lay eggs, like nettles."

Emma Butler of the Butterfly Conservation Trust said that the best time to see butterflies this year was "when the sun is shining between the main showers".

Clarkson has previously raised concerns over the lack of visible insects around his farm, but has talked about losing ten acres of crops when he cut down on the use of neonicotinoids, a pesticide known to be harmful to bees.

He has rejected using organic methods on his farm, arguing that the poor soil makes it a nonstarter, but has embraced the use of more regenerative methods, which reduce pesticides.

Strictly star says producers 'pushed him' to try jump that led to life-changing injury

By Alex Barton and Anita Singh

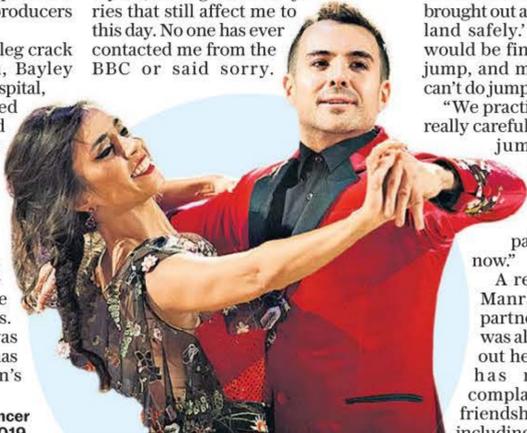
A STRICTLY COME DANCING star has said BBC producers were "pushing" him to perform a risky jump which resulted in a life-changing injury, marking the latest safeguarding incident to engulf the show.

Will Bayley, 36, the British Paralympic table tennis player, said he was encouraged to leap from a table as part of a dance routine despite telling producers it was too dangerous.

However, after hearing his leg crack and suffering horrific pain, Bayley claimed he was not taken to hospital, instead having his knee treated with ice in a hotel room. He said the BBC subsequently made him feel responsible for having torn his knee ligaments, which forced him to pull out of the series in 2019.

Bayley, who was born with a debilitating limb condition, claims bosses and Janette Manrara, his professional dance partner, ignored his concerns. He had earlier told them he was unable to perform leaps as he has no ankles. The Paralympian's

injury left him depressed and bedridden, as well as impacting his sports career. He told *The Sun*: "Now feels like the right time to speak up. I hope what I went through never happens to anyone else. I think the show thought they were being inclusive by casting me, but I actually felt pressured. I have got a serious disability and I don't think anyone was really looking out for me when I injured myself, leaving me with injuries that still affect me to this day. No one has ever contacted me from the BBC or said sorry."



Will Bayley and professional dancer Janette Manrara on *Strictly* in 2019

There was no duty of care. I should have been taken to hospital as soon as I had the accident, but all they cared about was trying to get me to dance."

Bayley was awarded an MBE in 2017 and made it to the Halloween episode of *Strictly* in week six. Speaking about the jump, he said: "The plan was for me to jump off a high table. In rehearsal all week, we hadn't jumped it... I just mimed it. A table for me to jump off was brought out and I said: 'I'm not sure I can land safely.' Everyone assured me I would be fine. I didn't want to do the jump, and my coach said before: 'He can't do jumps.'"

"We practised a few times and I was really careful. But then Janette said my jump was 'rubbish' and I needed to smile more and go for it and show a bit of passion. When I landed I just had the most horrific pain. I still have flashbacks now."

A representative for Janette Manrara said: "Her celebrity partner's safety and enjoyment was always the priority throughout her time on *Strictly*. Janette has never received any complaints and has maintained friendships with all her partners, including Will."

Dogs can sniff out our stress – and it makes them anxious

By Sarah Knapton
SCIENCE EDITOR

PET OWNERS often claim animals can sense their moods. Now scientists have shown dogs can smell when humans are stressed and it makes them gloomy.

Stress triggers a rush of adrenaline, cortisol and other hormones that have a unique odour which can be picked up by the sensitive noses of animals.

To test whether the scent of stress impacts the behaviour and emotional state of dogs, the University of Bristol devised an experiment involving bowls of food. During trials, 18 dogs were trained that when a food bowl was placed in a certain location it would always contain a treat, but when set in a different area, it was always empty.

Once a dog learned the difference between these two bowl locations, they were faster to approach the location with a treat than the empty location.

Researchers then tested how quickly the dog would approach a new bowl location positioned between the original two. When dogs smelled the scent of a relaxed human who had been listening to calming soundscapes, they approached the new bowl quickly and enthusiastically. But if they smelled a stressed human who had taken an arithmetic test they went to the dish more slowly, as if they were expecting to be disappointed.

Cricket club bans sixes to keep the neighbours happy

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

ONE OF Britain's oldest cricket clubs has banned players from hitting a six to prevent complaints from neighbours.

Southwick and Shoreham Cricket Club in West Sussex has been forced to amend the rules of the ancient game after damage to surrounding property.

House windows, parked cars, garden sheds and even people have found themselves in the firing line in the past.

Now the club has banned batsmen from hitting sixes altogether.

Cricketers playing on The Green in Southwick have been told that if they hit a six it will count as a 0. And if they are "unlucky" enough to hit a second six during their innings then they will be called out.

The move has caused consternation among traditional players. One batsman said: "For the batsman or woman, hitting the bowler for a six out is part of the glory of the sport. It is integral to the enjoyment of the game for both sides. "To take that away removes the joy of it. I don't agree that the rules should be tinkered with in this fashion."

Another said: "I don't think we should chop and change the rules like this. Everything is about health and safety these days and insurance companies are charging a fortune to indem-



Residents living near Southwick and Shoreham cricket club have complained

nify sports clubs against accidental damage or injury to bystanders. If you buy a house next to a cricket ground then you've got expect a few cricket balls in your garden."

The club was formed during the reign of George III and the team has traditionally played on The Green.

Neighbour Mary Gill, 80, whose family have lived in the Grade II-listed cottage alongside The Green for generations, said: "I've lived here all my life and I think the ban is a good thing. "It's a very small ground and can't accommodate the testosterone-fuelled young men who come along and just want to hit the ball as far as they can."

Editorial Comment: Page 15

Universities preparing to take over polytechnics

Funding crises lead to top institutions discussing possible mergers, says financial expert

By Poppy Wood, Melissa Lawford and Ben Butcher

TOP universities are preparing for potential takeovers of former polytechnics that are facing financial crises, *The Telegraph* understands.

Around 40 per cent of universities in England are expected to run budget deficits this year, with growing fears about those without the long-standing reputation of some of their peers.

Three universities are thought to be in serious financial peril and universities believe Labour will pressure the sector to manage their own financial problems rather than bail them out.

Matt Robb, a partner at Deloitte, suggested conversations about mergers and acquisitions between universities to remove duplicate costs have "become live in the UK". "There are definitely universities talking to each other about potential mergers. In my view, it is extremely likely to be part of the solution," he said.

Vice chancellors at "at least 20" universities are either looking at the numbers, instructing advisers, or making "various types of active exploration of what merger options might look like," Mr Robb said. However, industry sources said that takeovers would only provide a short-term fix, as universities call for an emergency rescue package from the Government.

Vivienne Stern of Universities UK suggested the Government could pro-

40

Percentage of universities in England that are expected to run budget deficits this year

vide financial assistance that fell short of a full-on bailout. "It's not a question of propping an unsustainable institution up in perpetuity," she said. "But if the alternative is an institution, perhaps a sizable one... where there isn't a lot of other provision and where that institution is the second biggest employer in the town... would you really stand back and let it go to the edge?"

The University and College Union (UCU) has already held two ministerial meetings with Labour since the general election to discuss increasing redundancies, including one with Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary.

It comes as Jo Grady, general secretary of the UCU, warned over the weekend that universities faced "catastrophe" without a bailout from the Government.

Labour is understood to be considering a range of options to ease pressure on universities without changing current rules. Sir Keir Starmer hinted yesterday that Labour will not scrap a Tory crackdown on student migration despite the university funding crisis.

The PM acknowledged the previous government's ban on foreign students bringing dependents to the UK had led to financial pressures on the higher education sector. But he signalled he did not have any plans to reverse the policy, insisting it is "right" to get migration levels down as they are currently "too high".

Speaking yesterday on BBC Radio 4's *Today*, Ms Phillipson said: "Universities are autonomous... there are expectations around how they manage their budgets, and I would expect them to do that without seeking any calls on the taxpayer."



Bucking the trend The full Buck Moon rises above The Needles on the Isle of Wight, viewed from Steamer Point Beach near Mudeford in Dorset 7.5 miles away.

Ministers have many options – none are good

Analysis

By Glen O'Hara

RECENT arguments about our universities have focused on politics: "wokeness"; censorship and cancellation. But in reality that's just knockabout and froth. What really shapes and irks them is much simpler. Money.

Home tuition fees in England rose to £3,000 in 2006, and then to a maximum of £9,000 in 2012. For a while, those numbers represented a one-off windfall. But for the last 12 years, fees have risen only once, to £9,250 in 2017.

The real value of home fees has now plunged by more than a third, and that dive accelerated markedly in the inflationary crisis that followed Russia's attack on Ukraine. Gradually, every course – however cheap – started to make a loss on home undergraduates. Universities ended up hemorrhaging £2.500 per home student, £1bn in total.

For a while, international students (whose fees are not capped) made up the shortfall. But even that market has gone into recession in the last year or so. The Tories withdrew the right for most of their dependents to come to the UK and the number of foreign applications is now plunging.

Several universities are rumoured to be on the brink of insolvency. That won't mean a big Closed sign hanging on their door, but it will bring in the formal regulator (the Office for Students) or the Government to either clean up the mess or dispose of the assets. Labour will then be faced with a huge problem. The cost of time and money to put things right

could be huge. The political fallout could overshadow anything they achieve in schools and colleges. Their own MPs and activists simply might not wear a rash of bankruptcies.

Bridget Phillipson and Jacqui Smith, the Ministers responsible, don't have many good options. The system needs a cash injection, and fast. They can raise fees, perhaps selling that as an emergency measure while they try to sort things out – but Ms Phillipson has indicated that they don't want to do that. They can restructure graduates' payments, though they've been made so eye-wateringly steep in recent years that there seems little mileage in that.

Then the options get tougher. Ms Phillipson and Ms Smith can try to convince the Treasury to stump up some cash to pay for future inflation. Chancellor Rachel Reeves would likely turn that down. Maybe they could pull some newer universities into a regional skills system, along with Further Education Colleges; but they don't have any money either. Which just brings us back to letting some universities go to the wall, an unpleasant and improbable surrender for a government that wants to spread opportunity and boost growth. Labour is in a cul-de-sac the Tories were happy to build for them. Getting out will be extremely tough, and probably very painful.

Glen O'Hara is Professor of Modern and Contemporary History at Oxford Brookes University. He is the author of a series of books and articles about Britain's recent history, and is currently completing a history of the Blair government's domestic policies.

Behaviour tsar: there is no need to panic

By Poppy Wood
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Government's behaviour tsar has urged ministers not to relax existing measures aimed at tackling pupil misconduct in schools.

Tom Bennett said Labour should not "press the panic alarm" over bad behaviour after pupil suspensions and exclusions hit a record high.

Writing on *The Telegraph* website, Mr Bennett said record numbers of sanctions on pupils last year "might not be such a problem after all".

Senior Labour sources have said Sir Keir Starmer's new Government is examining Conservative policies put in place to tackle pupil misconduct.

It comes after Labour voiced concerns over "shocking" numbers of suspensions, with official statistics published last week showing that they had jumped by 36 per cent in a single year.

The party denied reports that it is planning to stop repeatedly suspending chil-

dren with special educational needs, with sources saying suspensions play a vital role in discipline, but failed to rule out scaling back suspensions and exclusions.

But Mr Bennett said exclusions show discipline systems are working.

He said: "As a last resort, schools need to be able to suspend, or more rarely exclude when they have to. If they didn't, then we see classrooms and schools in chaos, victims and aggressors forced to share the same space."

"There's no need to look at this data and press the panic button."

"Because exclusions, when used legally and at the end of a long process of support, are a sign of a system [that's] working, not broken."

Bridget Phillipson said that reports Labour would ease pupil discipline in schools are "wrong". Asked on Sky News if claims that pupils repeatedly suspended from school would no longer be excluded were incorrect, the Education Secretary said: "Yes."

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ME patient begged GP to help her live after hospital 'did nothing'

By Patrick Sawyer
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A YOUNG woman who died from ME begged her GP to help her live after her hospital "didn't do anything to help", an inquest has heard.

Maeve Boothby O'Neill died from the illness myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), also known as chronic fatigue syndrome, in October 2021 at the age of 27. She was admitted three times to

Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (RD&E) over the course of 2021, but she refused a fourth admission because no treatment was available to alleviate her condition. The inquest into her death, which opened yesterday, heard that her condition left her so incapacitated that she was able to eat only fluids through a straw with her mother's help.

The first time she was admitted to the RD&E she was discharged the same day, with a doctor writing in his notes:

"They [hospital staff] can't find anything medical – feel it is functional, can drink if she wishes to, she is able to go home but mum not happy at all."

After being discharged from her second admission to RD&E on June 3 2021, she dropped from 8st 7lb to 7st 10lb in the space of a week. Shortly afterwards Ms Boothby O'Neill wrote an email to her family GP, Dr Lucy Shenton, begging for help with trying to eat and maintain weight. She wrote on June 18



Maeve Boothby O'Neill was desperate to get better

2021: "I know you are doing the best for me but I really need help with feeding. I cannot get enough calories from a

syringe. Please help me get enough food to live." Ms Boothby O'Neill subsequently refused to be fed by intravenous tube as she felt it was too painful.

In a note written four days before her death on Oct 3 2021, she texted Dr Shenton, saying: "I want you to know you are the first doctor who tried to help me get well." The inquest was told Dr Shenton was left so traumatised by her patient's death she is now suffering from PTSD.

A preliminary hearing was told about the lack of specialist services for those with severe ME that Dr Shenton had experienced in trying to find help for her patient.

Dr Anthony Hemsley, the medical director of the RD&E: "There is a lack of a commissioned specialist service for severe ME both locally, regionally and nationally. In order to rectify this situation, action is required at the highest level." The hearing continues at Exeter Coroner's Court.

Girl aged 11 left an orphan after family is killed in crash

Funding appeal launched after four members of one family and motorcycle couple die in collision

By Alex Barton

A GIRL of 11 has been left orphaned by a crash that killed four members of her family as well as a motorcyclist and pillion passenger.

Shane Roller, his partner Shannen Morgan, and two of their daughters, Lillie and Rubie, died in the accident on the A61 near Wakefield, West Yorkshire.

Their Ford Focus was in a collision with the motorcycle just before 4pm on Sunday, police said.

A Gofundme page set up for their 11-year-old daughter, who was not in the car and has not been named, had reached a total of more than £45,000 by yesterday afternoon.

The fundraiser page said: "We are reaching out to you with heavy hearts and a plea for help."

"On July 21 2024, a tragic car accident took the lives of [the girl's] entire family – her loving mum, dad, and two little sisters. At just 11 years old, she has lost her whole world in an instant."

Mr Roller's brother wrote on Facebook: "I'm absolutely heartbroken I'm gonna miss all of you."

"It's absolutely broken my heart and it's absolutely broken both sides of the family. You all had a heart of gold and gonna miss you all like crazy."

"My heart goes out to Shannen's side of family and mine. We are all in absolute shock."

The motorcycle rider and pillion passenger – a man and a woman – were also killed, police confirmed.

Photographs from the site showed the badly-damaged carriageway between Staincross, Barnsley, and Newmillerdam, Wakefield.

Supt Alan Travis, of Wakefield District Police, said: "This is an absolutely tragic incident which has resulted in the loss of six lives."

"Our thoughts go out to the families of those who have died who we are working with to provide support at this time."

Speaking to reporters, he said the road would remain closed for some time to come.

He thanked fellow police, fire and ambulance crews who worked at the

scene. Any witnesses or drivers with dashcam footage are asked to contact West Yorkshire Police by calling 101, the non-emergency number.

Security minister Dan Jarvis, who is MP for Barnsley North, said on social media: "Devastating news."

"My heartfelt condolences go to the family and friends of those who have tragically lost their lives."

He confirmed that all six people died at the scene, saying it was an "absolutely tragic incident" for the officers and emergency services who attended.

"I would also like to extend my gratitude to the emergency services for their swift response and dedication in the face of such a harrowing incident."

"It is heartening to see that the community has already rallied to support the family and my office and I am stood by to assist in whatever way we can."

Friends and family members paid tribute to the family on social media, as the community rallied round the orphaned girl.

One described herself as "heartbroken", adding "It's absolutely broken my

'This is an absolutely tragic accident which has resulted in the loss of six lives'

heart. We are all in absolute shock."

Another wrote: "They should all have grown old not have been taken so young. This has devastated us and is so heartbreaking I can't even believe it's real."

A former colleague of the father said: "It was a pleasure to work with Shane Roller. My heartfelt condolences go out to the whole family and friends."

Another social media user wrote: "My brain won't accept what's happened," adding: "Sleep tight my little Roller family, your memory will live on for eternity."

And another internet tribute, from Michael White, said: "Absolute gem of a family and good friends of mine will miss them dearly sending love to all family and friends xx."

The speed limit was 40mph but locals told Sky News that concerns had been raised because motorists often drove much faster.

Floral tributes were left near the site of the accident last night.



A family portrait of Shane and Shannen Morgan with their daughters Rubie and Millie. Their eldest child, whose identity is protected, was not in the car when the four died

Writer 'entitled' to believe Manchester Arena bombing was faked

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A WRITER who claims the Manchester Arena bombing was faked is "perfectly entitled" to his view, the High Court was told yesterday.

Self-described journalist Richard Hall is being sued by survivors Martin and Eve Hibbert for harassment and data protection breaches.

The father and daughter were at the Ariana Grande concert in May 2017 and

suffered life-changing injuries. Mr Hibbert was left with a spinal cord injury and Miss Hibbert, then 14, faced severe brain damage.

However, Mr Hall has claimed the attack, in which Salman Abedi detonated a rucksack bomb in a crowd of concert-goers, was faked by government agencies using "crisis actors".

He is being sued over several videos and a book in which he has made claims that the bombing was a "hoax", as well

as for "secretly filming" Eve and her mother at their house.

Mr Hall's lawyers said his actions were "pursued for the purpose of preventing or detecting crime" and that he had deleted the footage of the house.

Paul Oakley, for Mr Hall, claimed his client had formed his views after he "scoured the public domain".

He told the court: "My client is perfectly entitled to hold his views and he is willing to amend them if he is made

aware of evidence to the contrary." In written submissions, Mr Oakley said Mr Hall had the right to freedom of expression, adding: "However unpleasant Mr Hall's published views are considered to be, they are protected."

Mr Hibbert and Mr Hall were at the High Court for the first day of the trial yesterday. About 20 members of the public watched the proceedings.

Jonathan Price, for the Hibberts, said they were among those nearest to Abedi

when he detonated the bomb and "both suffered life-changing injuries from which they will never recover".

The court heard that Mr Hibbert received 22 wounds from shrapnel and Miss Hibbert suffered a "catastrophic brain injury" after a bolt from the bomb struck her in the head.

Mr Price added: "Martin, paralysed, saw Eve lying next to him with a hole in her head and assumed he was watching her die, unable to help. He saw others

lying dead or injured around him. Mr Hall does not accept any of this. His theory is that it is an elaborate hoax."

The barrister said Mr Hall had claimed Mr Hibbert was lying and that Miss Hibbert was disabled before the bombing. He added: "Mr Hall says her parents are invoking their daughter's catastrophic disability as part of a huge fraud on the general public."

The hearing in London is due to conclude on Thursday.

Bodybuilder is jailed for bogus illness claim

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A BODYBUILDER who claimed a surgeon's blunder left him too weak to lift anything heavier than an empty kettle has been jailed after Facebook posts showed him lifting massive weights and playing rugby.

Sean Murphy, 39, sued Wye Valley NHS Trust after claiming an operation on his bicep following a rugby injury left him so disabled he could no longer play the game, work or dress himself.

His claim unravelled after the NHS was tipped off that he was lying, resulting in the discovery of photos and videos showing him back on the pitch and pumping iron. A video posted online showed him grunting and lifting a three-stone kettle bell, while another showed him curling a barbell to Culture Club's *Karma Chameleon*.

His £580,000 damages claim was kicked out in 2022 and he has now been jailed for eight months for contempt of court at the High Court in London.

The married father also faces a bill of about £200,000, including the NHS's

costs of the original claim and the contempt case, plus interest, as well as the £40,000 in interim damages he received before his lies came to light.

Pointing out that Mr Murphy's ruse came at around the time of the pandemic, Mr Justice Mould said: "A more egregious act of selfish and self-serving deceit is hard to contemplate."

The NHS admitted that Mr Murphy, right, was entitled to some damages, but said the £580,000 claim was vastly inflated by "gross exaggeration" of his ongoing symptoms.

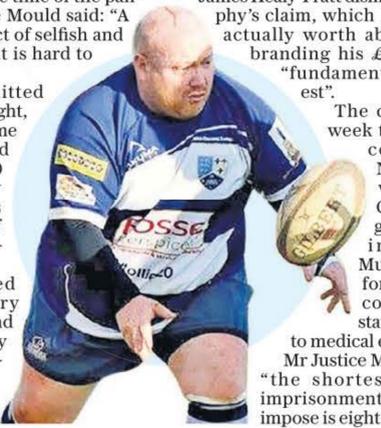
Images showed him lifting "very heavy weights" and back on the rugby pitch for Ross-on-Wye's second team. Local media reports even

mentioned him in a team line-up, with one suggesting that he and the rest of the front row "bullied their opposition numbers for the entire game".

Following a trial in 2022, Judge James Healy-Pratt dismissed Mr Murphy's claim, which he found was actually worth about £5,000, branding his £580,000 bid "fundamentally dishonest".

The case was last week taken back to court by the NHS Trust, with barrister Claire Toogood KC applying for Mr Murphy's jailing for contempt of court for false statements given to medical experts.

Mr Justice Mould said that "the shortest period of imprisonment I am able to impose is eight months".



Killer 'misled' police over search for McKay

By Max Stephens

THE search for the body of Muriel McKay has been called off by police as they accused her killer of misleading them over where her remains were.

Mrs McKay, the Australian-born wife of a newspaper executive, was kidnapped from her home in Wimbleton, south-east London, on Dec 29 1969 after being mistaken for the wife of Rupert Murdoch.

Two brothers, Arthur and Nizamodeen Hosein, were convicted of her murder in 1970 and given life sentences.

Scotland Yard said the case was now inactive after officers failed, for the third time, to find any trace of her remains.

The brothers held Mrs McKay for a ransom of £1million – the equivalent of £14million today – before murdering her at a farm in Stocking Pelham, Herts.

Police had previously unsuccessfully searched the site in 1970 and 2022.

Officers launched the final search last week after Nizamodeen, now living in Trinidad, where he was deported after

serving his sentence, told Mrs McKay's family in January she had been buried in or near a manure heap.

Officers interviewed Nizamodeen a for three days in March and subsequently launched a third search of the farm on July 15.

However, after eight days, and a search estimated to have cost upwards of £160,000 with 33 police officers, spe-

'There were clearly times where either he couldn't or wouldn't provide us with details of what happened'

cialist forensic teams and archaeologists, nothing conclusive was found. Det Supt Katherine Goodwin, who led the search, said much of the information provided by Nizamodeen was wrong or unreliable.

Det Supt Goodwin, defending the decision not to bring Nizamodeen back to the UK to help with the search, said: "There were a range of inconsistencies

such as which gate he went through on the farm, whether he turned left or right or straight on, how far he went into the land before he started digging."

"There were clearly times, in my opinion, where he either couldn't or wouldn't provide us with certain details of what happened on that night and also some occasions where he clearly had incorrect recall as to what had happened."

She also hinted that Nizamodeen may have also enjoyed the macabre process of recalling his crime.

The force have ruled out any possibility of returning to the farm again for another search.

Mrs McKay's family has criticised the force's latest investigation as "unprofessional, disorganised and in disarray", according to ITV News.

However, Commander Steve Clayman rejected the accusation, saying the search had been painstaking and that officers had been "absolutely committed to doing their very best to find Muriel. We're not there to fail, we're there to try and succeed".

Blood test can spot 67 major diseases up to decade early

Protein signatures act like fingerprints to flag early detection of illnesses such as cancer and dementia

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

A BLOOD TEST can predict 67 major diseases including cancer and dementia up to 10 years early, scientists have shown.

Experts discovered that dozens of diseases have distinctive protein signatures which act like fingerprints, flagging up the presence of conditions up to a decade before diagnosis.

Illnesses that can be spotted include motor neurone disease, diabetes, heart failure, leukaemia, cataracts, several cancers, gout, liver cirrhosis, arthritis and angina.

The discovery was made after studying the thousands of proteins in the blood plasma of more than 40,000 participants of the UK Biobank and comparing it with information on future diagnoses from electronic health records.

Machine learning was then used to search for groups of proteins which signalled the onset of certain diseases.

The protein markers were better at predicting disease than current testing such as blood cell counts, cholesterol levels, kidney function or blood sugar.

Prof Claudia Langenberg, lead author and director of the Precision Healthcare University Research Institute (PHURI) at Queen Mary University of London, said: "The protein panels we identified pick up people who are at high risk of developing a specific disease in the future."

"Measuring one protein for a specific reason, such as troponin to diagnose a heart attack, is standard clinical practice."

"We are extremely excited about the opportunity to identify new markers for screening and diagnosis from the thou-

sands of proteins circulating and now measurable in human blood.

"However, before any implementation, we first need to validate the proteins in different populations and develop clinical grade assays that measure these reliably, and cost effectively."

Spotting diseases early can allow patients to change their lifestyle or prevent medication to delay or ward off the condition.

The team tested 218 different diseases, and the proteins were able to predict 67 diseases better than current methods which often rely on medical records and clinical measurements.

The study also involved researchers from University College London, Cambridge University and GSK, the pharmaceutical company.

Dr Julia Carrasco Zanini Sanchez, a

'We are extremely excited about the opportunity to identify new markers for screening and diagnosis'

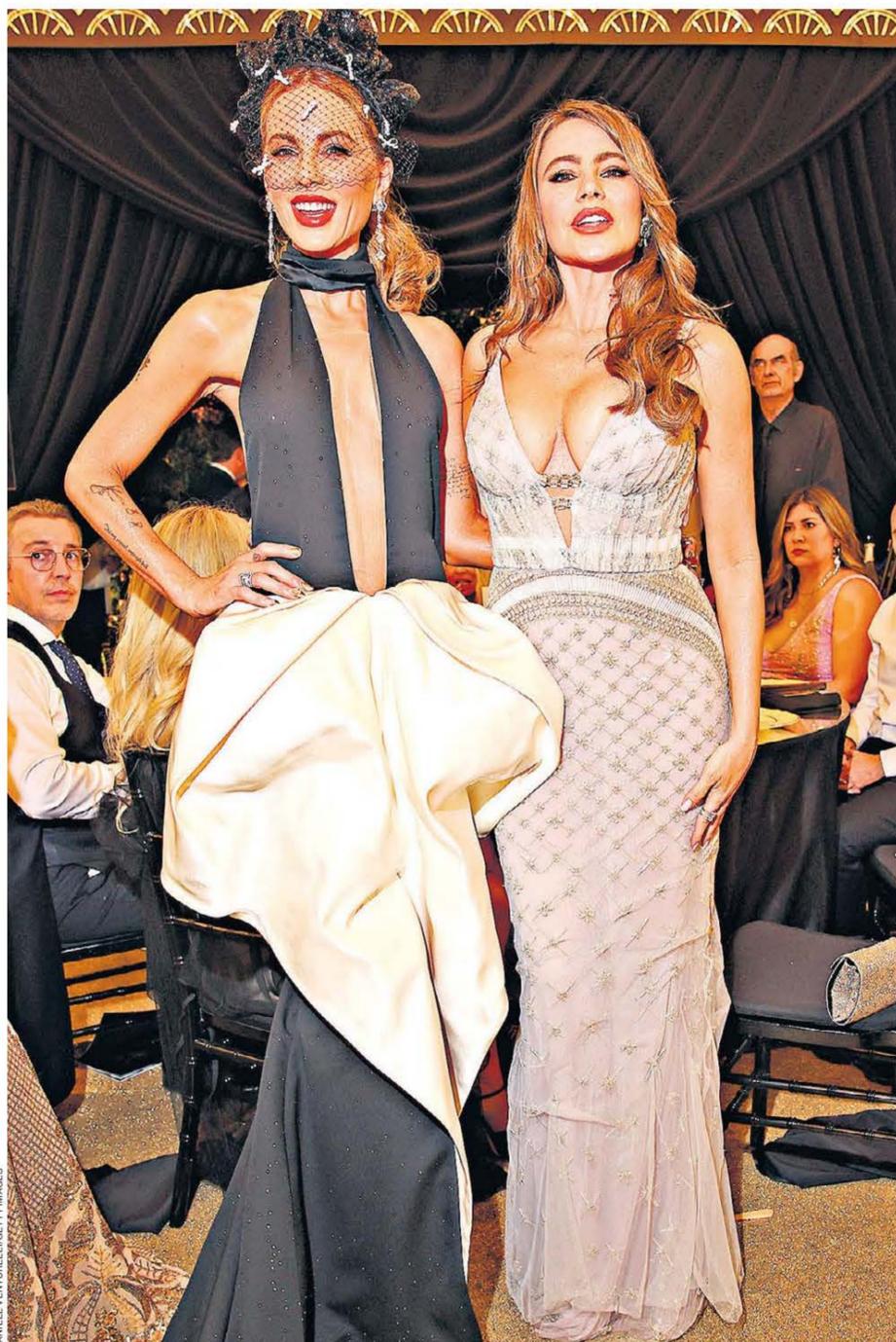
postdoctoral researcher at PHURI, said: "Several of our protein signatures performed similar or even better than proteins already trialled for their potential as screening tests, such as a prostate specific antigen for prostate cancer."

"We identified so many promising examples, the next step is to select high priority diseases and evaluate their proteomic prediction in a clinical setting."

Being able to spot high-risk patients early could help pharmaceutical companies recruit sooner for trials and identify people who should be treated.

The research was published in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

◆ Dementia diagnoses in England are at a record high, according to new figures from the NHS. The latest data show a record 487,432 people had a diagnosis in June. England has one of the highest dementia diagnosis rates in the world, for high-income countries.



Vintage performance Actresses Kate Beckinsale and Sofia Vergara dress to impress at The Fab Thirties, a party hosted by the Andrea Bocelli Foundation in Forte dei Marmi, Italy.

Prescriptions will be delayed after IT outage, say pharmacies

By Laura Donnelly HEALTH EDITOR

PHARMACIES are warning of delays in issuing prescriptions as they tackle backlogs in the wake of the global IT outage.

Patients waiting for medicines are being told that emergency cases will be prioritised. Nick Kaye, the chairman of the National Pharmacy Association, said: "As pharmacists recover from last week's IT outage and catch up on the backlog of prescriptions, we expect service in some community pharmacies to be slower than usual today."

"Please be patient with your local pharmacy team if you are visiting them, as they may still be prioritising emergency prescriptions from their local GP surgeries as well as experiencing increased demand as services return to normal."

The British Medical Association said doctors cancelled appointments on Fri-

'Doctors were forced to return to pen and paper to be able to serve their patients'

day, which would have an impact into this week. Dr David Wrigley, its deputy chairman, said: "Friday was one of the toughest single days in recent times for GPs across England."

"Without a clinical IT system, many were forced to return to pen and paper to be able to serve their patients."

"While GPs and their teams worked hard to look after as many as they could, without access to the information they needed much of the work has had to be shifted into the coming week."

"Even if we could guarantee it could be fully fixed on Monday, 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."

The outage was caused by a faulty software update produced by CrowdStrike, a cyber security company, for PCs running Microsoft Windows.

The problem is estimated to have affected 8.5 million devices worldwide. On Sunday, Microsoft released a recovery tool to aid the repair of computers that use Windows.

CrowdStrike has issued a fix for the bug although George Kurtz, its chief executive, said it would take "some time" for systems to be fully restored.

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Show of Forth HMS Queen Elizabeth passes beneath the Forth rail bridge as she heads back to sea following lengthy time at Rosyth dockyards for repairs and upgrades due to a mechanical fault. The aircraft carrier is the fleet flagship of the Royal Navy and was named in honour of the first HMS Queen Elizabeth, a First World War-era super-dreadnought.

No guarantee from PM over Tempest fighter

Defence industry fears the project could be scaled back as Labour reviews the state of the Armed Forces

By Tim Sigsworth and Jack Maidment

SIR KEIR STARMER has insisted Britain's next generation Tempest fighter jet project is "important" to Labour - but stopped short of guaranteeing it will continue.

Luke Pollard, the Armed Forces minister, last week failed to offer a firm commitment to the project while the strategic defence review ordered by the Prime Minister is ongoing.

The sixth-generation Tempest fighter, which is due to take to the skies by 2035, is being developed jointly by

Britain, Italy and Japan. But speaking at the Farnborough International Airshow in Hampshire, yesterday, Sir Keir failed to guarantee the project's future.

When asked if its future was "on the table" during the review, he replied: "It is an important programme and I know that people in the room will want to hear me say that.

"It is a programme on which we are making significant progress in my view and the Defence Secretary is holding a ministerial-level meeting I think next week in relation to this because of the significant benefits here in this country.

"That is my attitude to it. There is of course a review going on but it is important for me to put on record just how important a programme this is."

Jonathan Reynolds, the Business Secretary, later appeared to offer more concrete reassurances on the project's future, insisting that the Government

'We know these projects are expensive, which is why working in partnership with allies is so important'

was "strongly committed" to the scheme. "We see it as essential for the future, not just in terms of our defence needs but, obviously, our industrial needs," he said.

The multi-billion pound Global Combat Air Programme (GCAP), as Tempest is officially known, currently employs 3,500 people in Britain, a workforce that had been expected to double in the coming years.

But there are now worries within the defence industry that the programme could be scaled back as Labour reviews the state of the Armed Forces.

Leaders in Japan and Italy have pressed Sir Keir and his ministers about the project. BAE Systems, one of the firms involved in building the jets, has also issued a statement stressing that the programme provides "critical sovereign combat air capability".

Yesterday Charles Woodburn, BAE's

chief executive, described Tempest as "the future".

"GCAP is an incredibly important programme for the UK, in military air capability," he told Sky News. "There's in excess of 50,000 jobs, very high-quality jobs around the UK, in the military air sector. GCAP is the future.

"We know programmes such as GCAP are expensive programmes, which is why working in partnership with like-minded allies like Japan and Italy is so important because there you're able to share the cost and share the capabilities across multiple like-minded allies.

"And we've got a very strong partnership, which is really driving this programme forward." Engine-maker

The US F-35 Lightning II appeared at the airshow



Rolls-Royce is also working on the project alongside Italy's Leonardo and Japan's Mitsubishi.

The programme could be opened up to others at a later stage, Italy said in January, with Saudi Arabia among possible contenders to join the project.

Guglielmo Maviglia, Leonardo's GCAP chief, said expanding the partnership to Saudi Arabia was matter for the governments involved.

Sir Keir has not matched the Tory pledge to spend

2.5 per cent of GDP on defence by 2030, instead saying the target would be reached at an unspecified date in the future. Labour's strategic defence review is due to be published in the first half of 2025.

Domestic abuse victim traps stalker with UV spray used to prevent bicycle thefts

By Charles Hymas HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

A MAN was caught breaching a restraining order because his former partner sprayed him with a substance used to prevent bicycle thefts.

SmartWater, a forensic marking technology, is invisible to the naked eye but shows up clearly under UV light. And each canister has a unique chemical code, allowing police to link it to a suspect or a stolen item.

David Buen, a convicted domestic abuser who was subject to a restraining order, was caught out after going to his former partner's home.

She had been provided with a SmartWater kit and used it to mark Buen dur-

ing the prohibited visit. When arrested he was placed under ultraviolet light that revealed the SmartWater on his skin and clothing. He was shown the images in his police interview and admitted going to her home.

The 52-year-old, of no fixed address, appeared at Derby Crown Court where he pleaded guilty to the breach and to offending while serving a suspended sentence. He was jailed for 32 weeks and given a 10-year stalking protection order.

It is believed to be the first domestic abuse case in which SmartWater has been used to secure a conviction.

PC Oliver Swindell, who led the investigation, said: "Buen has shown a blatant disregard for both the woman's wishes to be left alone and for court

orders designed to prevent him from contacting her. His actions have left her terrified and even feeling unsafe in her own home, the one place where she should always be secure.

"This is now Buen's second stint in prison for breaching this order so it is hoped he will now understand the seriousness and consequences of his actions and will abide by the rules of the court upon his release."

Potential perpetrators are told that their victim's home is protected by SmartWater but not whether this is through a spray secreted in a doorway or as a handheld device. It has already been credited with reducing domestic abuse incidents by up to 69 per cent in the homes where it has been installed.

Postmistress who died trying to clear her name 'couldn't fight cancer and bosses'

By Fiona Parker SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

A POSTMISTRESS who died trying to clear her name amid the Horizon scandal could not fight both cancer and the Post Office, her children have said.

Fiona Watson ran a branch in Gainsborough, Lincs, with her husband from 1999 to 2003, during which time they won Post Office of the Year.

However, just a year later auditors contacted the family to say shortfalls had been recorded on their accounts.

Mrs Watson's son and daughter, Thomas and Katie, say she "was treated like a criminal" and died while trying to prove her innocence. She had been diagnosed with lymphoma during the

investigation. The siblings told their mother's story in *Surviving the Post Office*, a BBC documentary presented by actor Will Mellor, who played Horizon victim Lee Castleton in ITV drama *Mr Bates vs The Post Office*.

More than 900 postmasters were wrongfully prosecuted after Fujitsu's faulty Horizon software incorrectly recorded shortfalls on their accounts.

The bereaved son and daughter said their parents' post office had been filled with "love and happiness" after they moved there in 1999, when they were aged eight and 10.

Ms Watson said: "As far as I was concerned, everything was absolutely fine and then the next day my mum's being treated like a criminal. She was trying to

battle that at the same time as battling to prove her innocence and, you know, you're sat on the sofa trying to recover from having surgery and you've got strangers walking in your house, who look at you like you've done wrong.

"She couldn't do both - fight cancer and fight the Post Office. She tried. She really tried. But she couldn't do both."

A Post Office spokesman said: "We are truly sorry for the suffering caused to so many people by Post Office's past actions. We recognise that victims of the scandal and their families cannot move on until full redress has been paid."

A Department for Business and Trade spokesman said bereaved families were entitled to make a claim to the Horizon redress scheme.

Four men arrested after boy of 15 is shot dead during park fun day

By Albert Tait

A BOY of 15 shot dead at a family fun day in a park was named by police last night.

Paramedics were called to the Caribbean Music Association event in Ladbroke Grove on Sunday evening but could not save the life of Rene Graham.

Four men, two aged 21 and the others 20 and 25, have been arrested on suspicion of murder and remain in custody. The fatal shooting has prompted calls for extra security at next month's Notting Hill Carnival, which starts from the same location, Emslie Horniman's Pleasance Park.

Witnesses reported hearing three gunshots at about 7.20pm and said a crowd gathered around the victim as he lay dying. Aaron Mason, 43, who lives nearby and attended the event, told *The Telegraph* more security was needed for next month's carnival.

He added: "There will always be a death, there will always be a shooting, it

will always be the case. More money needs to be put into making it more safe."

Another resident, who asked not to be named, questioned whether the carnival should be called off: "I'm wondering whether they will have it on (the carnival). I'm not sure if they will. It's terrible."

While the carnival attracts millions of visitors, each year there are multiple stabbings with ten recorded last year. Joe Powell, Labour MP for Kensington and Bayswater, said it was "far too early to have that conversation" about carnival security.

Speaking about the shooting, he added: "It's obviously horrific and my thoughts are with the young boy's family and the community which is very much in shock at the moment.

"We need to get to the bottom of what's happened as soon as possible.

"We need to make sure there is justice for the family and that the community stays informed and engaged. Fortunately these are still quite rare occurrences but

'I heard three shots and then everyone was just scrambling away'

any shooting of this kind is one too many." The victim was killed allegedly amid rising tension between young people in the Ladbroke Grove area.

The park, which is known locally as "Teletubbies Park" because of its colourful playground, has a W10 postcode but is near W9. Residents told *The Telegraph* there were problems between the two zones, which are separated by a canal.

Mr Mason, who was just a few yards from Sunday's killing, said he heard three gunshots: "I heard 'pap, pap' and then another 'pap'. Everyone was just scrambling away. There's a rivalry between W9 and W10. It's not what it used to be but it's still there."

Jediah Ali, a youth worker who has lived in the Ladbroke Grove area for 15 years, said: "This is the border of two different communities, especially in the eyes of the youth.

"There seems to be tension and things of this nature will keep happening unless the root causes are dealt with."



Forensic officers at the scene of the shooting in west London

'Cocaine sharks' found off the coast of Brazil

Predators had illegal drug in their muscles and livers, but scientists unclear if it will affect their behaviour

By Nick Squires

COCAINE has been found in the bloodstream of sharks off the coast of Brazil and may be changing their behaviour, scientists fear.

Marine biologists tested 13 Brazilian sharpnose sharks taken from coastal waters near Rio de Janeiro and found that all 13 had high levels of cocaine in their muscles and livers.

In a paper for the journal *Science of the Total Environment*, they said the drug probably originated in drainage from illicit labs where cocaine is manufactured, or from the excrement of drug users via untreated sewage. It may even have come from the sharks feeding on bales of cocaine that are lost or dumped overboard by drug smugglers but that is less likely, scientists said.

The presence of cocaine in the sharks' bodies is a result of "chronic exposure due to human use of cocaine in Rio de Janeiro and the discharge of human urine and faeces by sewage outfalls, as well as from illegal labs," said Dr Rachel Ann Hauser-Davis, a British scientist and member of the research team

from the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation in Rio de Janeiro.

"We don't usually see many bales of coke dumped or lost at sea here, unlike in Mexico and Florida," so it was unlikely the sharks had been devouring discarded packages of narcotics, she told *The Telegraph*.

The cocaine is most likely harmful to the sharks' health, she said. As to whether it affects their behaviour, rendering them more aggressive and unpredictable or making feeding frenzies more likely, scientists do not yet know.

"This may be the case, as cocaine targets the brain, and hyperactive and erratic behaviour has been noted in

other animals. It's a possibility and further studies are required," said Dr Enrico Mendes Saggioro, an ecotoxicologist from the Oswaldo Cruz Institute.

'They may not be going nuts from the cocaine, but it could reduce their life expectancy'

The researchers acquired the small sharks after they were caught by fishing boats that ply the coastal waters off Rio de Janeiro.

After dissecting them and subjecting them to tests, they found that all 13 had

cocaine in their muscle and liver tissue, with concentrations up to 100 times higher than previously found in other marine animals.

The scientists described their findings as "worrying" for the marine ecosystem, suggesting that sharks and other creatures are being exposed to cocaine at chronic levels.

One way cocaine may damage sharks' health is by affecting their eyesight, thus affecting their capacity to hunt prey.

"You might start to see lower fecundity and growth rates," Dr Tracy Fanara, an expert in ecotoxicology and environmental engineer from the University of Florida, told *The Telegraph*.

She agreed that there is no evidence, as yet, to suggest that cocaine encourages crazed behaviour or feeding frenzies in sharks.

"They may not be going nuts from the cocaine but it could reduce their life expectancy," said Dr Fanara, who took part in a Discovery Channel film called *Cocaine Sharks* which explored whether sharks in the Gulf of Mexico were feeding on cocaine packages dumped by traffickers.

"This is representative of problems all over the world, whether it involves cocaine or fertiliser or herbicides. We are releasing these chemicals into the environment and the question is, how are we affecting the ecosystem?"

What a big baby Children get close to a young giraffe during celebrations to mark a relocation programme in Kenya. Giraffes are being moved to the Ruko Conservancy as a way of fostering peace between the Pokot and Ilchamus communities.



LUIS TATO/AP/VAUGHAN IMAGES

Ukraine army chief says West must wake up Murderer 'encouraged to kill black people'

By Roland Oliphant
SENIOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN powers must "wake up" and urgently prioritise the development of new military technology or risk World War Three, the former commander of Ukraine's armed forces has said.

Gen Valery Zaluzhny, speaking in London at the Royal United Services Institute's Land Warfare conference, said neither Russia nor Ukraine were likely to master the technological revolution taking place on the battlefield alone.

It fell on Western nations to provide the scientific research and funding for the kind of weapons that could transform the battlefield.

Over more than two years of conflict, the rapid expansion of drone war and electronic counter measures has had a profound impact on both sides' tactics and strategy.

Gen Zaluzhny did not specify what kind of weapons would be needed but said more development was needed to prevent Ukraine losing the war.

"Evil is here and it has come to kill," he said in his first public remarks since arriving in London. "In the last century alone two conflicts, the First and Second World Wars - separated by less than 20 years - killed more than 60 million people. Is humanity ready to accept the next war on this scale of suffering? This time the Third World War?" he asked.

'Who masters technologies quicker - the democratic world or the world of tyranny - will depend on us'

"Free and democratic nations and their governments need to wake up and think about how to protect their citizens and countries. The desire to survive on the battlefield is the main reason for the search to improve weapons. For various reasons neither Ukraine nor Russia will be able to master these technologies alone. But Whoever masters them will decide the global security challenge."

"Who will master these technologies more quickly - the democratic world or the world of tyranny - will depend on us."

Gen Zaluzhny warned that only by combining Ukrainian experience with Western resources could such breakthroughs be made and that "time is no longer on our side".

Gen Zaluzhny has previously called for a focus on weapon development, predicting in an article for *The Economist* before he left the army that only new technology would allow either side to make a decisive breakthrough.

The ubiquity of drones in particular has changed the nature of the war in Ukraine, making the battlefield transparent and difficult to concentrate forces in conventional ways.

Gen Zaluzhny was the commander in chief of the Ukrainian armed forces when Russia invaded in February 2022 and was credited with masterminding the successful defence of Kyiv and the shock counter-offensives that drove the Russians out of Kharkiv and Kherson in the autumn of that year.

By Ben Farmer in Cape Town

A KILLER who shot dead dozens of black men while working as a security guard in apartheid-era South Africa has claimed police sanctioned his actions.

Louis van Schoor, described as the country's most prolific murderer, said others should share the blame for the killings of people as young as 12.

He is said to have shot dead at least 39 victims, all black or mixed race, in a three-year period in the 1980s while employed to protect white-owned businesses in the city of East London.

The 73-year-old former policeman, who was later convicted of seven killings, has now told an investigation by the BBC that officers knew what he was doing and actively encouraged him.

He said: "Every officer in East London knew what was going on... all the police officers knew. Not once did anybody say 'Hey Louis, you're on the borderline or you should cool it or whatever'. They all knew what was happening."



Louis van Schoor is said to have shot at least 39 black or mixed race people

Van Schoor has always insisted he was not a serial killer and that he acted within the law.

He has maintained he shot criminals only if they were caught red-handed breaking into buildings and he said he was not racist and did not set out to shoot black people.

However, in interviews with the BBC, he appeared to acknowledge deriving a thrill from his work.

"Every night is a new adventure, if you want to put it that way," he said, and described tracking black people in the dark as "exciting".

As well as those he killed, Van Schoor shot and wounded others. Survivors have described being shot after they had surrendered and sometimes when they had their hands up. Others alleged Van Schoor toyed with them, asking if they would prefer to be arrested or shot, before shooting them anyway.

One 14-year-old who was shot in 1988 said he had been breaking into a restaurant when he saw the guard and hid in a toilet. He alleged Van Schoor called him out, told him to stand next to the wall and then shot him repeatedly. He said: "He told me to stand up, but I couldn't. While I was lying there, he kicked me in the mouth. He picked me up and propped me up against a table and then he shot me again."

Van Schoor said he had significant support from the white community in East London and he reported each killing to the police himself.

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Killer's life sentence reversed because of his 'Covid anxiety'

Italian court overturns jail term as judge 'did not take into account' guilty man's mental state at the time

By Josephine McKenna in Rome

ITALY'S highest court has overturned the life sentence of a man convicted of killing his girlfriend because it failed to take account of the "anxiety" caused by the pandemic.

Antonio De Pace strangled Lorena Quaranta, a 27-year-old medical student during the first wave of the pandemic in March 2020.

De Pace, a nurse, confessed to the murder, which took place during lockdown in a small villa in Furci Siculo, in the province of Messina.

The Court of Cassation said the life sentence imposed on De Pace did not consider the impact of Covid or its effect on "the state of anxiety of which he was prey".

The judges said the lower court failed to "examine whether the specific nature of the situation, the Covid period and the difficulty in remedying it, constituted factors affecting the extent of criminal liability".

While the conviction remains, the Court has ordered a regional appeals court in Calabria to review the life sentence. There was an immediate outcry at the decision. Vincenzo Quaranta, the victim's father, said the judges were "killing her again" and the family would continue to fight for justice. "It is unjust," he told the Italian daily, *Il Messaggero*. "Lockdown has nothing to do with it. The truth is De Pace had an inferiority complex in relation to my daughter. We didn't know he was a monster."

Politicians and women's activists also criticised the decision. Elisabetta Lan-

Lorena Quaranta, left, was killed by Antonio De Pace. He was said to be suffering from Covid anxiety at the time

cellotta, MP for the ruling Brothers of Italy party, said: "Covid cannot, and must not, become a mitigating factor, especially for cases of femicide. During the pandemic, we witnessed a considerable increase in domestic violence resulting in tragedy. Violence against women cannot have mitigating circumstances, out of respect for the victims and their loved ones."

Mara Carfagna, from the centrist Azione coalition and a former minister for equal opportunities, said: "If we open up to the idea that responsibility is less serious under stress, this is even more upsetting in a case of femicide."

Italy was one of the first countries in the world to feel the impact of the pandemic and in March 2020, Giuseppe Conte, the then prime minister, imposed a strict national lockdown.

Liliana Lorretu, president of the Italian Society of Forensic Psychiatry, said women had paid a heavy price for violence during the pandemic and the court's decision set a dangerous precedent by reducing the responsibility of the perpetrator. "A sentence like this seems to affirm that violence in that period was 'normal' and therefore not sanctionable," she said.

Antonella Veltri, president of the Donne in Rete network combating violence against women, said the suggestion that stress was a mitigating factor in the murder of Lorena was totally unacceptable.

"Our concern, in the best of hypotheses, is that there is a profound misunderstanding of what male violence against women is all about," Ms Veltri said. "Justice will take its course and we hope that it is done quickly."

Maria Gianquinto, a Messina activist from the CEDAV women's rights group, said the decision failed to recognise the gravity of femicide and the struggle to combat male violence against women.

Lockdown had nothing to do with it. He had an inferiority complex in relation to my daughter. We had no idea he was a monster'



Mexican police commander dies in suspected drug cartel shooting

By Simeon Tegel

THE head of intelligence and police operations in Mexico City has been gunned down in an apparent drug hit.

Milton Morales Figueroa, 40, is reported to have died instantly in a hail of bullets in the town of Coacalco, just

north of the Mexican capital, on a family day out on Sunday.

He was hit at least twice in the head when gunmen jumped out of two SUVs with darkened windows which had suddenly pulled up as the police commander and relatives stopped at a small supermarket in a residential street. Two

other people were reported injured. One is thought to have been a bodyguard and the other a family member.

Although it is common in Mexico for the drug cartels, who in recent years have taken de facto control of large chunks of remote parts of the country, to target provincial police, including

commanders, attacks on senior officers from the capital remain relatively rare.

The last time they did so was in 2020, when hitmen ambushed a police convoy carrying then Mexico City police chief Omar Garcia Harfuch in the upscale Lomas de Chapultepec neighbourhood. He was hit in the shoulder,

chest and knee but survived the attack, which he later blamed on the Jalisco New Generation cartel.

It vies with the Sinaloa cartel, of Joaquín "el Chapo" Gúzman, currently serving a life sentence plus 30 years in the United States, to be Mexico's most powerful – and trigger-happy – organ-

ised crime group. Both originated by smuggling cocaine and cannabis into the US. But they now have multiple revenue streams, including extortion, kidnapping and migrant-smuggling. They also routinely bribe and control local public officials and sometimes even important figures in national politics.

German spy service has too few staff to deal with Russian threat

By James Rothwell in Berlin

GERMANY'S equivalent of MI6 is reportedly struggling with staff shortages, low morale and sickly employees despite facing unprecedented challenges from Russia and other rogue states.

The Bundesnachrichtendienst (BND) is unable to fill 700 vacancies and its current team of spies is too short-handed to grapple with Russian espionage activities, according to the tabloid Bild.

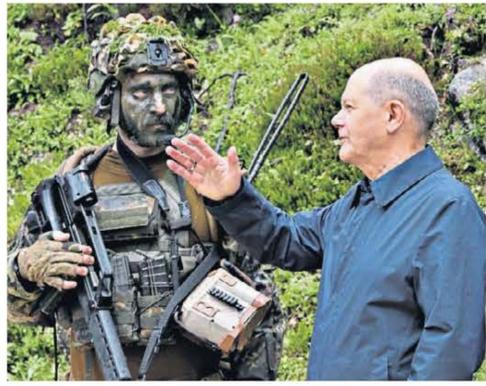
Citing sources in the agency, Bild also reported that the number of BND spies taking sick days was higher than the national average, with more than a thousand employees having 30 days off. It suggested that a work-from-home culture where spies are spending one day a week away from their office computers was contributing to the BND's problems.

There are also shortages in the agency's budget, which has forced spy chiefs to transfer agents from its Russia desk, a top priority, to handling concerns about South American drug cartels and North Korea's missile programme.

Bild noted that around 800 of the BND's 6,500-strong workforce are currently on secondment to the Bundeswehr, the German army, which is itself struggling with severe staffing shortages.

The BND's creaky bureaucracy is another source of concern, as applications to become a spy can take as long as 13 months to process despite the escalating tensions with Moscow.

The report will raise concerns among Nato allies that Germany is ill-equipped to handle the threat of Russia, following



Olaf Scholz, right, the German Chancellor, talks with a soldier of the mountain infantry brigades during combat exercises in Schneizlreuth

decades of complacency about its security services and a general lack of funding. It comes despite Chancellor Olaf Scholz radically changing Germany's foreign policy towards Russia in response to the February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

In a Feb 27 speech, he declared a "Zeitenwende", or turning point, in Germany's strategy as he announced a major funding boost for its armed forces.

However, critics feared that the new policy was too little too late, while some aspects of it – such as a proposal to bring back conscription – are expected to be watered down because of a shortage of funds and resistance from Left-wingers.

In recent months, Nato leaders have warned that Germany is a key target in Russia's ongoing "hybrid warfare"

campaign, which has sabotaged key infrastructure in Europe supporting the Ukrainian army. Russia is also suspected of having ordered a foiled assassination of Armin Papperger, the chief executive of major German arms firm Rheinmetall, which has been providing Kyiv with huge quantities of artillery ammunition.

Earlier this month Stephan Kramer, the head of domestic intelligence in Thuringia state, warned in an interview with *The Telegraph* that Moscow viewed Germany as a "classical battleground" for "hybrid warfare" against Nato.

"Germany ... as it is located in the middle of Europe, is a wonderful target for all types of logistical sabotage. Almost any supply for Ukraine has to go through Germany," he said.

Gunman shoots six at care home in Croatia

By James Crisp

A GUNMAN killed six people, including his elderly mother, when he opened fire at a care home in Croatia.

The unnamed man, who also wounded six others at the facility in Daruvar, fled the scene but was arrested when police caught up with him at a nearby cafe.

The murder victims were five residents of the care home, mostly in their nineties, and one employee, according to Nikola Milina, Croatia's police chief.

Officials said the shooter's mother had been a resident at the home for the last decade but it was too early to establish a motive for yesterday's attack.

Andrej Plenković, the prime minister, said the country was "shocked" at

the "monstrous act". "We need to see how this could have happened," he added.

The suspect is a retired military policeman who fought in the 1991-1995 war in Croatia. He was found to be in possession of an unregistered firearm when arrested, local media reported.

Such weapons are common in Croatia after the war, which followed the break-up of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Zoran Milanovic, Croatia's president, called for more rigorous gun laws after the "savagely, unprecedented crime".

"It is a frightening warning and a last call to all competent institutions to do more to prevent violence in society, including even more rigorous control of gun ownership," he added.

The private care home had about 20

residents and a good reputation locally.

"We hid under the bed, the boss escaped through the window," one employee told the HRT public broadcaster about the moment the gunman opened fire.

Relatives of the residents gathered outside the one-story house care home to inquire about their loved ones.

"We have my mum here, she is 90," Nina Samot told Nova TV. "We are waiting, we are all in shock. The whole town is in shock."

Daruvar resident Zlatko Sutuga said: "His mum was inside, he allegedly came to kill her."

Damir Lenicek, the mayor of Daruvar, said: "What is the cause, the trigger, it is difficult to say, that will be determined by the investigation."

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Monty Don is a green radical mugged by gardening reality

WILLIAM SITWELL



The garden guru has spoken and I can unshackle myself from the bonds of guilt. Actually that's me and several million like-minded folk. We leapt upon Monty Don's words over the weekend. "This spring and summer I have made a tightly mown and evenly green lawn," he said, letting slip a U-turn as monumental as Napoleon's retreat from Russia in 1812. "This is slightly surprising," he added, "because I have long been on the record for advocating replacing lawns with long grass, ideally filled with naturalised flowers."

blissful solace we find, undisturbed from our loved ones, subsumed under the roar of the engine, but the pleasure of lines, of light and shade and of the balance between the mown and the un-mown. That taste of joy, like the first sip of white Burgundy after a period on the wagon.

"Long grass fills a space to quite a surprising extent," he now says, "whereas mown grass takes the same area and expands it. Gardens need room for the eye and mind to drift and breathe."

Which is indeed the mower's defence. We who mow seriously see philosophy in our work, not simply a relentless attack on growth and weeds. The neat lawn becomes a greater entity when it compares with the long grass. And because we have deigned it to be such, we relish our little opportunity to play God. There is always a thrill to allow, say, grass to grow in an orchard, and then to cut a path through it.

So there is sympathy with nature here, while we disparage the fanatics. Of whom Don became one. Having led the charge with rants about male control and climate devastation, he now sees the light. And his recantation is a fabulous and simple morality tale. We mow because we just want the place to look nice, to show visitors that we care, that we're not scruffy, that we want pretty areas to sit out in and for children to run about in.

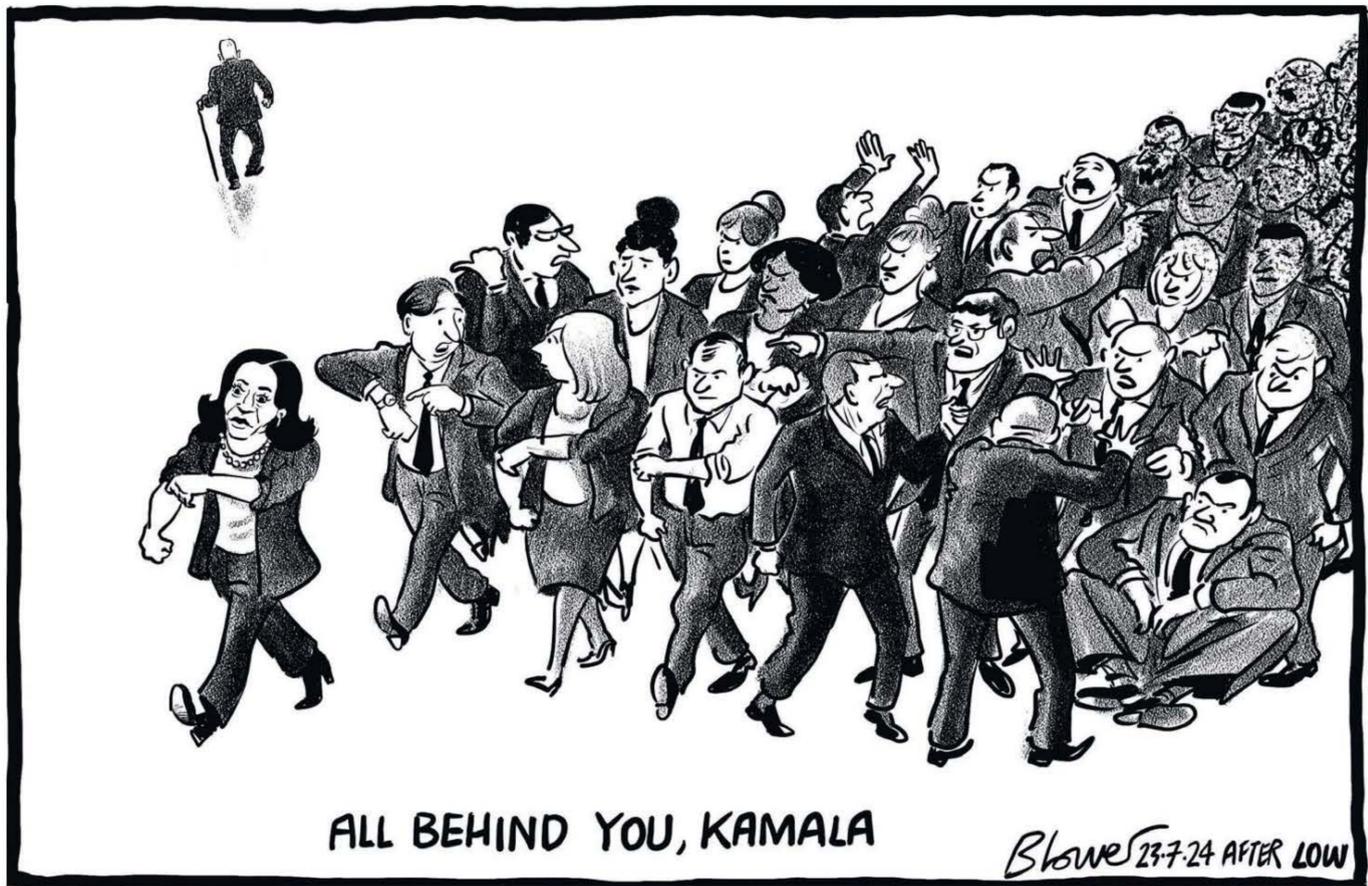
In a week in which Just Stop Oil disruptors are getting to know His Majesty's prisons, wouldn't it be sweet if other eco-fanatics also had a good, head-long collision with reality? I'll sit outside, feel my toes on the freshly cut grass and sip a glass of rosé to that.

But now Don has recanted, rediscovering the joy of mowing – not perhaps the peace that we seek, the

gentle tear.

And ever since we've had to mow with a heavy burden of shame, embarrassed by the roar of our engines and, dispensing fuel, casting a furtive eye over our shoulder as if we were mid-bank heist.

But now Don has recanted, rediscovering the joy of mowing – not perhaps the peace that we seek, the



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Kamala Harris will be a disaster for the Democrats – and for America

Biden was just about able to keep his party together. Now the Left's identity obsession will be unleashed

SHERELLE JACOBS



America's liberal elites are sighing with accomplished relief at the departure of Joe Biden. The increasingly scathing calls for the President to give up his re-election bid have ended in a ruthless victory. Now, in the ash of his political implosion, hubris builds. After a brief, pitying pause to take in the full operatic scale of Biden's agonies, momentum is building behind a Kamala Harris coronation, the "young" and "transcendent" leader with the "X-factor" to stop Donald Trump in his tracks. The vice-president may be no Obamaesque prodigy in metropolitan eyes. Still, the story arc in which she puts her "rocky" stint as VP behind her and prevails in becoming America's first black female president is gaining shape.

They couldn't be more wrong, of course. Far from being on the cusp of a titanic victory, the Democratic movement is tanking. The elephant in the room, overlooked by the new generation of the Left – which long ago gave up on Marxist history in favour of intersectionalist indie bookshop pulp – is that Biden was their Leonid Brezhnev. As with the Soviet leader, the President's fall is unlikely to be followed by a glorious revival. Instead, the Democrats' internal contradictions are set to become too glaring to ignore.

Until now, the old *vozhd* had just about managed to keep a lost and divided political party together. Indeed, with Biden's distinguished career ending in a puddle rather than a sunset, it's easy to overlook his crucial function. As an Irish Catholic boy done good, he had a genuinely broad appeal. As a statesman on the scene since Nixon, he was a familiar if mundane household name, the political equivalent of Campbell's tinned soup.

His style of politics – affably persuasive – was also cleverly adapted to the vanities that define internal Democratic politics. Brezhnev was the same, the consummate middle-rank *Homo Sovieticus*, as reassuring to an exhausted people as he was skilled at navigating communist politics' nasty and complex underbelly.

Still, the problem with linchpins is that they wear out. The metallurgical engineer Brezhnev – his skin puffed by medication, his words slurred – came to epitomise the rusting of the Soviet machine. Similarly Biden became a symbol of American entropy. Brezhnev barely held together a Soviet empire seething with rival strains of socialism. When he died, it all steadily unraveled. A noble but delusional bid for reinvention through *glasnost* only catalysed the USSR's fall.

There may be an ominous lesson in all this for the American Left, which boasts more shades of blue than a pantone colour chart. Factions range from the super progressives, the very progressives and the progressive new guard, to the progressive old guard, the moderates and the conservatives. If doubts build about Harris – as they may well do, given her dreadful record in office – there is a distinct danger that they will spend the weeks running up to the convention in August clawing each other's eyes out.

It is a civil war that is half a century in the making. And at its heart is a party that long ago stopped attempting to find coherent answers to any of the big questions underlying American decline that might unite voters, and instead retreated into the false comfort of identity politics. How does a superpower finance a welfare state that consumes a quarter of the federal budget given that it is no longer the world's factory and its productivity growth rate has been declining since 1973? How can the tragic collapse of the Rust Belt be sustainably reversed?

Yes, the party's moderates might still occasionally come up with a few ideas. But the energy is overwhelmingly on the progressive Left which, fixated by identity, thinks its main role is to fight for a larger slice of a shrinking pie on behalf of different voter blocs. It is not just a strategy for ignoring America's challenges. It creates an inherently unstable coalition that few politicians are talented enough to keep intact.

The moderates might have endorsed progressive pinup Harris in the hope that she can take the fight to Trump and hold the party together. But she is no Biden. She woefully lacks broad appeal. And the problem with playing the identity game is that, even once you have smashed the glass ceiling, you remain imprisoned in its rules. Someone who crafts a political career "as a woman", or "person of colour" – basing their brand on what sets them apart or what makes them a special envoy for particular groups – will struggle to be universally relatable. Nor can such politicians wipe from the internet every cringing video of them introducing their pronouns or praising BLM.

Harris does not seem well-placed to hold the party together. She sits awkwardly on the progressive end of the spectrum rather than in the middle.

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"Movement" identity politics is in her blood. The daughter of Berkeley academics, among her earliest memories was being taken to marches in her buggy. Her career features a pattern of her recoiling at the magnitude of difficult, important issues – not least the border. It is telling that Harris has made abortion rights one of her defining stances, a barely concealed bid to neutralise female opponents. So, too, that Barack Obama – the spiritual leader of the progressive old guard – has so far failed to endorse her.

But she may be the best they've got. Taking in the alternatives, you realise that the Democratic New Left is a graveyard of talent deformed by the disease of progressivism. Efforts by Gretchen Whitmer, the governor of Michigan, to present herself as "the right kind of white woman" in an anti-racist age have seen her witter about gallows humour while obsessing over progressive causes, all as her state continues to struggle economically.

Then there is Gavin Newsom – the California governor who has destroyed his credibility by indulging in silly virtue signalling in a desperate bid to appease liberals who revile him as a wealthy white snob. This is a man who took on several jobs to support his family before he ran his own firm. But in the new Left-wing America, white male success is downright offensive.

As the Democrats face up to an uncertain future, the Republican Party seems a paragon of unity. Not least since last week's assassination attempt, The Donald's irascible persona has acquired a patina of invincibility that a new Democratic candidate with no previous experience of debating him may well struggle to scrub away at. But that's only the half of it. The Democrats took a wrong turn some time ago. And they are about to finally hit a brick wall.

If doubts build about Harris, there is a distinct danger that the American Left will spend weeks clawing each other's eyes out

Way of the World Michael Deacon

Given the furore that erupted when the plan was announced, you might have thought the organisers would have abandoned it. But no. They went determinedly ahead. And so, last week, London's West End played host to a historic "Black Out" night.

That is: a performance intended explicitly for a black audience. The aim of "Black Out" nights, a phenomenon that originated in the US, is to "free" black theatre-goers from something called "the white gaze". In this case, the performance was of the Tony-nominated *Slave Play*, written by the American dramatist Jeremy O Harris. Mr Harris has dismissed all criticism of "Black Out" nights as a "moral panic".

We can of course only speculate as to the reaction there would be if a white dramatist proposed to hold "White Out" nights, in order to free white theatre-goers from "the black gaze". Since it seems somewhat unlikely that anyone would dare do such a thing, we can't be certain, but I'd be surprised if objections to it were waved away as a "moral panic". In

any case, the concept of a "Black Out" night prompts some intriguing questions. For example: what should you do if you're mixed race? Should you watch only half the play, and then leave at the interval?

Whatever misgivings some may have, however, last week's "Black Out" night in London received an effusive write-up from the favourite newspaper of America's liberal elite, *The New York Times*. "Black spectators praised producers for creating a safe space," wrote its reporter. What exactly the spectators had been made safe from, his report did not make clear. Still, it just goes to show what a fast-changing world we live in. Segregation used to be racist. Now it's woke.

Thankfully, the event passed off without incident. If the idea spreads, though, I worry it may lead to unrest and division. And then some poor theatre manager may find himself having to deal with a white Rosa Parks, refusing to give up her seat.

Oh to have been a fly on the wall inside the BBC newsroom on Sunday night. As the big story broke, you could just imagine all the BBC's most senior reporters, editors and executives leaping into action, as they urgently

sought answers to the most critical question of all: how would Joe Biden's withdrawal affect drag queens?

At least, I assume this is what they did. After all, it's how they seem to approach just about every other issue these days. Because, for reasons that remain shrouded in mystery, the BBC's news team has become utterly obsessed with drag. I've noted it before. But since then, the obsession seems if anything to have intensified.

Take, for example, the following news headline from the BBC website on Friday. It read: "Drag Queens Feel the Pinch of Rising Costs."

Well, yes. I've no doubt they do. But then, so has everyone else over the past two years, thanks to something that economists call "inflation". Why the financial travails of drag queens should be singled out, ahead of, say, dockers or dentists or dinner ladies called Doris, I don't know.

What makes the BBC's fixation all the more peculiar is that hardly any of its endless stories about drag queens are actually newsworthy. It's never "Drag Queen Finds Cure for Cancer" or "Drag Queen Wins Nobel Prize in Physics". It's always something bafflingly banal. For example (and these are all genuine headlines from the BBC's news website): "Drag Queen Retires to Spend More Time with Family." And: "London Marathon:

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Make-Up Artist Hopes to Be Fastest Drag Queen." And: "Derbyshire's First Drag Showcase Announced." And, still my all-time favourite, from September last year: "Drag Star 'Humbled' as Stolen Van Found."

Imagine if the BBC had always carried on in this fashion. "This is the Home Service. Following this morning's announcement by the Prime Minister that Great Britain and her colonies are now at war with Germany, we ask: how will the conflict affect drag queens? Will there be rationing of false eyelashes, silicone bra fillers and size 10 high heels? And could Nazi bombing raids disrupt Humber's first ever three-day drag convention?"

To be clear: I'm not saying this in order to make fun of drag queens. On the contrary, I feel sorry for them. Think how frustrating it must feel, to be unable to perform the most mundane everyday task without a BBC journalist reporting it to the nation in breathless detail. Swindon Drag Queen Takes Bins Out. Sheffield Drag Queen Mows Lawn. Norwich Drag Queen Pops to Corner Shop for Pint of Milk and 20 B&H.

Poor things. At this rate, the only way they'll be able to evade the BBC's attentions will be to go everywhere in disguise. By, say, putting on a pair of trousers.

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ESTABLISHED 1855

Labour is already giving in to the Left

It has not taken the new Labour government long to bend the knee to the public sector trade unions, continuing a party tradition dating back decades. Inflation-busting pay increases are set to be awarded to teachers and NHS staff at a cost of billions of pounds, despite promises during the election to stick to rigid financial constraints. The extra can be funded only by tax rises, more borrowing or spending cuts.

Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, will outline her plans later this month after indicating that she may look favourably on pay review body recommendations of rises of 5.5 per cent. She has developed a somewhat specious rationale for this largesse – that not to come up with more money would be more expensive in the long run.

Ms Reeves said: “We know that there is a cost to not settling – a cost of further industrial action.” This effective blackmail is dressed up by the Chancellor as her supposedly being prepared to take tough decisions neglected by the last government. But kow-towing to union demands is easy; standing up to them is the difficult bit.

Moreover, once Ms Reeves has allowed such a rise in one part of the public sector, she will invite similar claims from elsewhere, whether or not they are backed by pay review bodies. The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) estimates that a 5.5 per cent rise across all public sector professions would cost billions of pounds and place huge pressure on the Government’s tight fiscal rules.

Pay rises can be justified only if productivity goes up and yet it has been falling across the public sector. Why should taxpayers not represented by unions be required to pay more to enable teachers and health workers to “catch up” in a way that they cannot? The Government is also under mounting pressure from the Left to scrap the two-child benefit cap and is likely to cave in there, too.

Ms Reeves said she would “make sure the sums add up”. Yet UK national debt as a proportion of GDP is at its highest level since 1962 and the Government borrowed £2 billion more in June than expected, further restricting the Chancellor’s room for manoeuvre. Tax rises look inevitable.

Already the Government’s vaunted “growth at any cost” agenda is fraying at the edges. Britain’s notoriously poor productivity is the principal reason for low growth and one way of making it worse is to expand the public sector at the expense of the private. But that is precisely what Labour is about to do.

Lame duck Biden

The response of senior Republicans to Joe Biden’s decision to withdraw from the presidential election was that he should also stand down from the White House. Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House, said: “If Joe Biden is not fit to run for president, he is not fit to serve as president. He must resign the office immediately.”

Were he to do so, his vice-president, Kamala Harris, would step up for the coming months and challenge Donald Trump in November as an incumbent, albeit one briefly installed. That would also require her to secure the Democratic nomination which, although likely, is not yet sewn up.

Would Mr Biden’s resignation help or hinder Ms Harris’s ability to defeat Mr Trump? We are unlikely to find out because it took the President such an inordinate length of time to decide to pull out of the election. The chances of him leaving the scene entirely are slim. Yet it means America will have a lame duck leader for the next few months when key decisions need to be taken over help for Ukraine and the future of the Middle East, with Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli leader, in Washington for talks.

Mr Biden will say he has the experience to deal with these matters, but it is legitimate to question whether he is up to the task at all anymore and might be better advised to step aside. As head of state, he can delegate much of his work to his ministers and officials. But he also has a critical constitutional role to play as commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces.

If his faculties have deserted him, his advisers should be honest enough to admit it and not protect him as they have done for months now, with disastrous results.

No sixes in Sussex

Tom Denning, the late Master of the Rolls, must be turning in his grave. *Miller v Jackson*, Lord Denning’s lyrical 1977 judgment, opens:

“In summertime village cricket is the delight of everyone. Nearly every village has its own cricket field where the young men play and the old men watch”. Errant cricket balls landing in gardens remain a problem 47 years on, so West Sussex’s Southwick and Shoreham Cricket Club has decided to ban its players from hitting sixes – although as one local observed, “If you buy a house next to a cricket ground, then you’ve got to expect a few balls in your garden”. Still, at least cricket carries on. As Lord Denning opined, the alternative is too awful to contemplate: “The cricket ground will be turned to some other use. The young men will turn to other things. The whole village will be much the poorer.”



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If Joe Biden isn’t fit to fight an election, he should leave office now

SIR – If Joe Biden is not fit to stand in the US election in November (report, July 22) then he is not fit to be president now.

Those around him must have known about his failing cognitive abilities for some time, but they went along with the stories about travel fatigue, “bad days” and so on.

This dangerous deception has tarnished the whole White House team, including Kamala Harris. If the Democrats are unable to find a more capable candidate than the current vice-president, the free world had better start preparing itself for the chaos of a second Donald Trump presidency.

John Hicks
Manchester

SIR – According to Chris Learmont-Hughes (Letters, July 22), the only potential Democrat candidate who stands a chance of beating Donald Trump in the November presidential election is Michelle Obama. What

exactly are her qualifications for this role?

John Frankel
Newbury, Berkshire

SIR – Is this Joe Biden the same person who was described by our Prime Minister as “on good form”, and definitely not senile, after a recent meeting?

What does that assessment say about Sir Keir Starmer’s judgment?
John Hinchsliff
Longridge, Lancashire

SIR – Surely the one statesman who would add immediate stature to the Democrat ticket is Joe Biden’s secretary of state, Antony Blinken.
Hugh Foster
Farnborough, Hampshire

SIR – Any sympathy one might have felt for Donald Trump after the recent attempt on his life was swiftly dispelled by his graceless response to Joe Biden’s announcement that he

would not be fighting the next US election. Will Mr Trump ever learn to be a good sport rather than a keyboard warrior?

Tatiana Pole-Carew
London W12

SIR – Donald Trump described Joe Biden as “the single worst president in history”.

Compare this outburst to the good-humoured exchanges between Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer after the general election here. These illustrated the cultural differences between our two nations. In a mature democracy, such as Britain, people show respect to each other. Sadly this is lacking across the pond.

Rama Murthy
Basingstoke, Hampshire

SIR – Nothing strengthens my monarchist belief quite like an American presidential election.
Fiona Guest
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire

Tory centrists

SIR – If the Conservative Party follows Jeremy Hunt’s advice and continues to aim for what is referred to as the centre ground (report, July 22), the party will remain in the wilderness for many years to come.

David Vincent
Cranbrook, Kent

SIR – Steve Baker and Damian Green, who want Tom Tugendhat to be the next Tory leader, are mistaken (report, July 20).

Just as the Conservative Party needed to be rescued from the Edward Heath years by Margaret Thatcher, so it now requires a Right-of-centre – not “hard-Right” – leader such as Kemi Badenoch.

Tony Jones
London SW7

SIR – The Tories must get the selection of their next leader right. If they don’t, it could be the end of the party.

That leader should be someone who has not been involved in all the dreadful infighting of recent years. Ideally, they will have been in business, or another workplace outside politics. They must understand us, the British people.

They will also need great strength of character to unite the party and put forward a political programme without bickering and childishness.

Caroline Cornell
Winslow, Buckinghamshire

Shopping in comfort

SIR – I have an idea to help Peter Ruis revive the shopping experience at John Lewis (Business, July 22): seating.

This should be provided, arranged sociably, in most departments of the stores. Granny can sit with the baby while Mum gathers the Stanley Tucci pots and pans; Grandpa can sit and snooze while Sonny gets fitted for his interview suit. The baby equipment can be chosen from a sofa, with a helpful assistant doing the running around.

There is usually somewhere to sit in the women’s changing rooms, but this is not enough. Tempt buyers by making them comfortable.

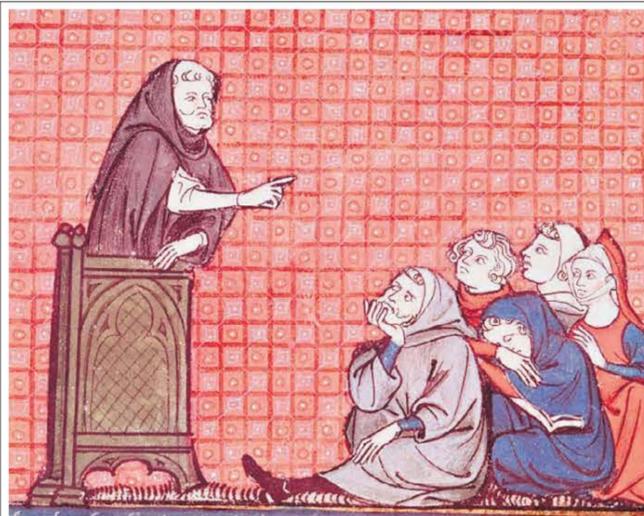
Lynette Craig
London N12

Fruit salad with a kick

SIR – Angostura Bitters (Letters, July 20) serve as a splendid addition to fruit salad.

Everyone who tastes ours marvels at it, then asks us for the secret.

Mik Shaw
Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex



An illustration in *Ovide moralisé*, a medieval French retelling of the *Metamorphoses*

Why are preachers abandoning their pulpits?

SIR – Is the use of the pulpit becoming a thing of the past in the Church of England?

It seems a long time since I last saw a preacher climb into one to deliver a sermon. Now we are spoken to from the floor via a crackling

sound system, as members of the ever-ageing congregation struggle with their hearing aids.

Bring back sounding boards – they worked far better.
Paul Loxton Edwards
Canterbury, Kent

Privatisation has failed to improve rail services

SIR – I suspect a great many people will be pleased that our railways are to be renationalised, especially as it will be at no cost to the taxpayer.

Apart from small new operators such as Hull Trains, which have introduced services where there were none before, privatisation can hardly be described as a success, with most rail companies running the minimum service they can get away with, and making it difficult to buy the cheapest tickets. Booking ahead becomes the only way forward, removing the spontaneity of a day out on the train and preventing one from getting an earlier train home. Accountants rule the roost.

My experience of Virgin’s West Coast operation was so awful that I vowed never to use Virgin trains again.

It is worth noting that John Major’s original privatisation plans were quite different, but the EU ruled that it had to be done the way it was. Needless to say, no one in public life would admit that they had had to submit to the EU, so they always claim that what was done was what they really wanted to do in the first place.

Andrew Rixon
Hertford

SIR – When Louise Haigh, the Transport Secretary, says, “Public ownership of rail, full steam ahead” (“More than half of trains to be state-run within a year”, report, telegraph.co.uk, July 18), I begin to doubt that she is the best person to run a rail system fit for the 21st century.

Policies that failed 50 years ago – and there are several examples in our new Government’s sights – will replay their inevitable trajectories for a new generation of politicians.

Anthony Cutler
Great Malvern, Worcestershire

SIR – When the new Government gets round to renationalising our railways, might I suggest it adopts the Swiss system?

I don’t know how they do it, but their (nationalised) trains are spotless inside and out, smooth-running and punctual, with good signposting for the befuddled traveller, helpful staff, and clear, undistorted announcements. There was even a decent restaurant car on one leg of a recent journey. The seating is comfortable, too.

Jeremy Nicholas
Great Bardfield, Essex

Could Biden’s exit turn out to be Ukraine’s gain?

CHARLES MOORE
NOTEBOOK



President Zelensky thanks Joe Biden for his “unwavering support” as the US President bows out of the forthcoming race. He is right to be generous. After all, without American missiles and arms, Ukraine could not have survived the Russian onslaught. “Unwavering” is not the right word, though. It was President Biden’s remarks about how he might permit a “minor incursion” by Russia that helped embolden Vladimir Putin early in 2022.

Throughout the ensuing conflict, the Biden administration has used a strange combination of the spur and the reins. Obsessed with the idea that no US missile can be accused of taking aim at Russian soil, it issues Ukraine with excellent kit but then restricts its use.

This is not really because of international law, which probably permits action against a blatant aggression such as Russia’s, but because of the “reflexive control” which Putin manages to exercise over opponents. The autocrat who happily dismisses all legal and moral restraint in his own actions nevertheless keeps warning of dreadful consequences if America permits attacks on his own country. His dark threats, not quite specific, about using tactical nuclear weapons seem to terrify the White House, particularly

Mr Biden’s National Security Adviser, Jake Sullivan.

When our newly-appointed Prime Minister met Mr Zelensky at the Washington summit two weeks ago, Sir Keir Starmer told him that he could use Anglo-French Storm Shadow missiles for strikes inside Russia. Mr Zelensky hailed this as a great breakthrough.

The following week, however, it was countermanded. No, mumbled an embarrassed Whitehall, that was not what Sir Keir had meant. The Ukrainians were welcome to have Storm Shadows but could not aim them into Russia except right by the border. Mr Sullivan is alleged to have rung No 10 in a panic and made Sir Keir back off.

Within Ukraine, it is not only the Republican congressmen who delayed a new aid vote for more than six months, but also Mr Biden himself, who incurs a good deal of criticism. Britain and Poland stand higher as staunch allies than does America. The contrast between Russian ruthlessness and American hesitation is painful.

This provides context for the phone conversation between Donald Trump and Mr Zelensky which took place last Friday night. Despite all the bad things Mr Trump has said against Ukraine, the latest exchanges have encouraged Kyiv. The two great political showmen, first made famous by their television shows, seem to have got on well. Until now, Mr Trump has felt the need to assail any Biden-associated policy. Now Mr Biden has left the electoral scene, one hopes he may see political advantage in taking a lead to help Ukraine.

How could President Biden’s Praetorian guard have concealed for so long the decline of his cognitive powers? Perhaps it is less surprising than one might think – and not only because it is natural, given the constant attacks on any US president, to over-protect the boss from criticism.

We British tend to read across from our system to the American one, but the parallels are inexact. In our parliamentary politics, no prime minister can for long be protected from scrutiny. If he or she cannot speak in clear sentences at Prime Minister’s Questions every Wednesday in the House of Commons, we know about it.

But a US president, being head of state as well as head of government, rarely gets into such situations. The president almost never has to debate anything with anyone – a point that Mr Biden’s advisers might have considered before pitching him into that unprecedentedly early television debate with Mr Trump last month.

A president can continue for a long time fulfilling the “dignified” aspects of his office, as Mr Biden did and does, pleasingly. Good bearing, a well-cut suit and a twinkle in his Irish eyes have got him a long way. If his powers wane, as happened a little in President Reagan’s second term, others can reduce his involvement in the “efficient” bits.

For that reason, Mr Biden is still capable of continuing his role, as he proposes, until his replacement is inaugurated in January. What he is

Self-defeating protest

SIR – I strongly agree with Jennie Naylor and strongly disagree with David Platts (Letters, July 22) regarding the actions of Just Stop Oil protesters and others who choose to take out their anger and frustrations on innocent people, works of art and important historical objects.

Any deliberate action that stops people getting to hospital should be severely punished and will only put people off the cause. Works of art and historical artefacts are ridiculous things to target.

Protests such as these are actually against people, and seldom achieve their aims.

Rosemary J Wells
Weymouth, Dorset

SIR – Climate change is real and most probably exacerbated by humans, but climate protesters are deluding themselves. It is well known that, if Britain were to cease all carbon emissions tomorrow, the effect on the climate would be immeasurably small. Activists would do better to demonstrate in China, the US and other countries where burning fossil fuels is on the increase.

Everyone in this country is aware of the climate “emergency” and many of us willingly do something to aid the journey to net zero; but the protesters deserve even longer sentences than they received for their acts of selfishness.

Gareth T L Kreike
Bury, Lancashire

SIR – Chris Packham and Extinction Rebellion protesters have described climate change as the most serious existential threat ever faced by humanity. Just because they believe that does not in itself make it true.

Willoughby de Broke
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire

Neglected verges

SIR – Here in Hampshire it is very obvious that the “no mow” initiative was adopted for all the roadside verges.

Its purpose was to encourage butterflies, but sadly this year’s spring had different ideas. The uncut verges allowed plants to flower, including ragwort.

This is highly poisonous to horses and ponies, irreversibly damaging their livers. In the New Forest, horses and ponies are numerous. The huge amounts of ragwort left to flower will sow seed along the verges of Hampshire, encroaching on grass fields used for keeping equines and for hay-making, and the management of this poisonous, invasive plant will be much harder than usual.

Sometimes the old way of land management is the best way, as this new idea has highlighted.

Tina Simmens
Lyndhurst, Hampshire

Bin on the go

SIR – Your report (July 20) about wheeie bins in Mousehole reminded me that, when they were first deployed here (around 30 years ago), our Boxing Day fundraising committee decided to repurpose them for a “chariot race”. The lady of the house would stand in the open bin and be pushed by her partner from the church to the village green in a race against other charioteers, with a bottle of champagne for the winner.

A week later we all received a stern letter from the council reminding us that bins should be used only for their designated purpose of holding household waste. As the good folk of Mousehole have now been given the green light to repurpose their bins, might they like to try chariot racing? I’d come and watch.

Roy Quilliam
Holt, Wiltshire

incapable of is dynamic political leadership. Under the American set-up, it is chiefly the imminence of an election which exposes this.

There is talk of a crisis in British universities so grave that perhaps three will have to close. Many have serious problems due to over-expansion and over-reliance on foreign students (the latter being a prime reason for craven university attitudes to the Chinese regime). But would slightly fewer universities be a disaster?

Ever since John Major’s mistaken decision to turn polytechnics into universities, there has been a rise in pseudo-academic studies. It would have been better to concentrate on improving vocational training.

The strange arrangements for tuition fees allow universities to pretend that they are all much the same. This is a deception of which students have become increasingly aware. There are more than 160 universities in Britain. If competition were allowed to do its work, several would fail, and more would develop their strengths and jettison their weak areas. Something similar happens in the independent school sector, for example, where the closure of a poor school is not usually seen as a sector-wide threat.

We have built a university “system” in this country, more uniform, more subject to government control, more financially fragile and often more political. Future generations would be better educated if there were less system and more independence.

Puzzles, Mind Games & Telegraph Toughie

TELEGRAPH TOUGHIE

KAKURO

To solve kakuro you must enter a number between 1 and 9 in the empty squares without repeating a digit. The clues are the numbers on the black squares and are the sum of the solution numbers. The clue pointers indicate the direction of the answers. A block of two squares with a clue of 3 will solve as 2,1 and a 5 will produce 4,1 or 2,3. A 4 can only be 1,3, never 2,2. *Solution tomorrow.*

GENTLE NO 5090

CODEWORDS

Numbers are substituted for letters in this crossword grid. In the smaller key grid some letters are solved. Use these as clues to complete your first word. This will solve more letters that you can then enter in the grids. *Solutions tomorrow.*

For today's right-hand codewords solutions call 0905 757 0131. For up to five extra letter clues call 0905 757 0130 or text DTCODE (leaving no spaces) to 64343. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Notes

NO 3309
DONNYBROOK

- Across**
- 1 Writer's apostle endlessly featured in Authorised Version (6)
 - 5 Jam is essential when making cream tea (3,5)
 - 10 Pressure on games at Wimbledon determined in advance (6)
 - 11 Halo with gravitational attraction can feature (4,4)
 - 12 Moscow's tyrant: run to stop believer in that barbarian (4,3,8)
 - 16 Poor here soon displaced (3-5)
 - 18 Official in uniform quietly sucked into bog (6)
 - 20 Atomic City - very good composition (6)
 - 21 Dish of Greek weed (not with bananas) (8)
 - 22 Hidden from public scrutiny with summer over? (5-3-7)
 - 27 Beer in the evening for silent winger? (8)
 - 28 Scots pass around heavy stick, which is deliberate (6)
 - 29 Made gloomy broadcast, tricked into it (8)
 - 30 Bond returns: gives way under pressure? (6)
- Down**
- 2 Copyist split with European in staff room (9)
 - 3 Mixed metaphors in one such as Timon (11)
 - 4 Double check for climbing plant (5)
 - 6 Pointedly secure in Old English, express opinion (5)
 - 7 Practise on river in punt (5)
 - 8 Digit hit at the end becoming black (5)
 - 9 Woman tempted to devour Whopper after dinner ultimately finds comfort (7)
 - 13 Fan of Spock or Kirk regularly served up by Puck? (11)
 - 14 Eighteen holes - drinks at nineteenth? (5)
 - 15 Unassailable chorizo perhaps served up by Puck? (11)
 - 17 Sailor in bunk to sleep as birds do (5)
 - 19 Staggered about etc when drunk returned to office (2-7)
 - 20 Old boy in defamation where case dropped by us? (7)
 - 23 Perhaps pointer before noon reverses belief (5)
 - 24 Relationship over, call for sailor's attention? (5)
 - 25 Yank in paradise not initially expelled (5)
 - 26 How swindler is selected for side? Not in the normal way (5)

KILLER SUDOKU

Your clues are the caged numbers that represent the sum of the numbers within the cage. As in standard sudoku, each 3 x 3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. *Solution tomorrow.*

GENTLE

SUDOKU

To solve this puzzle each 3 x 3 box, each row and also each column must contain all the numbers from 1 to 9. There are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. *Solutions tomorrow.*

REGULAR NO 6660 TOUGH NO 6660

Sudoku Solution For today's tough sudoku solution call 0905 757 0136. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri. SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390.

PANAGRAM

Create words of four letters or more, always using the centre letter. Proper nouns and plurals are not allowed, and you can only use each letter once per word. Can you find the nine-letter Panagram? *Solution tomorrow.*

Up to 6 words - Word Finder, 7 - Wordsmith, 14 - Word Wizard, 21 - Word Master, 28 - Word Genius, 35 - Word Perfect

Toughie No 3308

Help with clues
Single clues 0905 757 0126.
All Across/Down clues 0905 757 0127.
Calls cost £1/minute, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Service open Mon-Fri. SP: Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390.

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out a term relating to politics. *Solution tomorrow.*

ENRAGE PREP
NEUTRINO AD
INTO UNIT COST

MIND GYM

NO 4372
Start on the left with the given number and work your way across following the instructions in each cell. Target time: 30 seconds. *Solution below.*

12 x4.75 TRIPLE IT -115 HALVE IT 3/7 OF THIS X BY ITSELF -88 ÷8 x15

INTERMEDIATE 42 ÷3 X BY ITSELF x1.25 60% OF THIS -75 11/12 OF THIS TRIPLE IT -86 13/16 OF THIS

ADVANCED 189 8/9 OF THIS 225% OF THIS 3/7 OF THIS x4.5 -185 HALVE IT ÷16 X BY ITSELF -155

TRAIN TRACKS

Lay down tracks to allow a train to travel from A to B. Only use straight and curved rails and the track cannot cross itself. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each column and row. *Solution tomorrow.*

MINI SUDOKU

Fill in the grid in such a way that every row and column and every 2 x 3 box contains the numbers 1-6. *Solution tomorrow.*

GENTLE NO 4139

PLUSWORD

NO 793

Solve the crossword, then use letters in the shaded squares to complete the additional PlusWord. A letter in a green square appears in the same column in the PlusWord as it does in the crossword; a letter in a yellow square appears in the PlusWord, but in a different column than it does in the crossword. There is only one possible answer for the PlusWord; it may be that the PlusWord contains letters that aren't found in the crossword, but it can always be worked out logically without guessing. *Solution tomorrow.*

Across

- 1 Stalks
- 6 Dire danger
- 7 Haitham bin Tariq, e.g.
- 8 Of sight; topic (anag.)
- 9 Individual, as fruit

Down

- 1 Cylinder of thread
- 2 Musical speed
- 3 Muse of love poetry
- 4 Small cars, e.g.
- 5 Bad golf shot; piece of a fruit

WORD LADDER

Change just one letter to go from the top word to the bottom word. Each step must be a valid word and you cannot change the order of the letters. There are clues below for each rung, but they are not in order. For an extra challenge, try to complete the puzzle without using the clues. *Solution tomorrow.*

OBTAIN, ROUGH UP, BEAM, FASCINATE, KEY, POST

HAUL

TRIP

THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6659

1	8	2	5	4	3	7	6	9
9	5	6	7	2	1	3	8	4
3	4	7	8	9	6	2	5	1
6	9	5	1	3	8	4	2	7
7	3	4	9	5	2	6	1	8
2	1	8	6	7	4	5	9	3
4	6	3	2	1	9	8	7	5
5	2	1	3	8	7	9	4	6
8	7	9	4	6	5	1	3	2

PlusWord No 792

S	E	E	P	S
W	A	L	L	E
E	G	G	O	N
P	L	A	Y	S
T	E	R	S	E

Killer Sudoku

3	8	5	2	4	7	9	1	6
6	7	1	9	5	8	2	4	3
9	2	4	1	6	3	5	7	8
7	3	6	8	1	5	4	9	2
2	4	9	7	3	6	1	8	5
1	5	8	4	2	9	6	3	7
5	6	7	3	9	1	8	2	4
4	9	3	5	8	2	7	6	1
8	1	2	6	7	4	3	5	9

Codewords 1 and 2

1: L I K E N E S S 2: P O R T R A Y A L 3: R E N D E R I N G

Kakuro No 5089

6	8	3	9	7	9	6		
8	9	4	7	9	8	5	7	
3	7	1	7	1	5	3	2	
			2	1	4		1	5
1	4		8	9	6		2	1
3	8			8	5	9		
2	6	4	1	5		5	4	8
6	7	9	8		5	7	8	9
9	8	6		7	8	9	6	

Word Ladder: Draw, drat, brat, beat, bent, lent, lint, line.

Train Tracks: 2, 7, 8, 4, 3, 1, 3, 7

Mini Sudoku No 4138

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

Today's Mind Gym

Beginner: 105 Intermediate: 91 Advanced: 134

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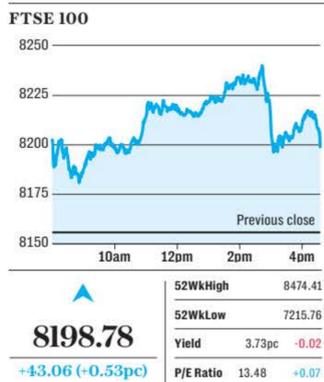
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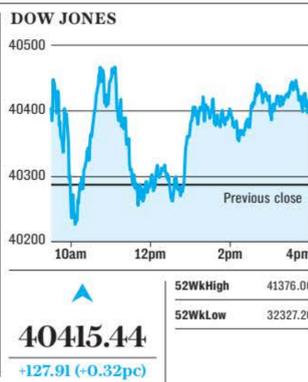
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MARKETS

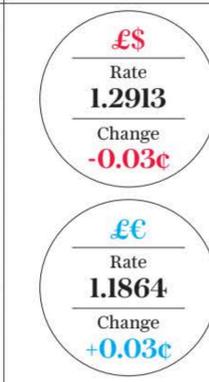


BIGGEST RISER
Rentokil Initia
482 7/8p
+34% (+7.77pc)
BIGGEST FALLER
easyJet
426 1/4p
-32% (-7.12pc)



FTSE 250	21138.68
▲ +71.00 (+0.34pc)	
FTSE All Share	4495.46
▲ -22.02 (+0.49pc)	
FTSE All Share Yield	3.66
▼ -0.02	
FTSE Eurotop 100	4061.11
▲ +42.81 (+1.07pc)	
Nikkei 225	39599.00
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CURRENCIES



COMMODITIES



Tax and spend?
Why Kamala Harris could be the most economically Left-wing president the US has ever seen

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Storm over Tempest
The world is too dangerous for Labour to start scrimping on defence

Ben Marlow

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Microsoft blames EU rules for IT meltdown

Tech giant says deal with Brussels stopped it from making changes that would have avoided outage

By James Titcomb

MICROSOFT has blamed EU rules for enabling a faulty security update to cause the world's biggest IT outage. The software giant said a 2009 agreement with the European Commission meant it was unable to make security changes that would have blocked the CrowdStrike update that triggered widespread travel and healthcare chaos.

CrowdStrike's Falcon system, designed to prevent cyber attacks, has privileged access to a key part of a computer known as the kernel. This meant that a faulty update last Friday resulted in millions of Windows computers and servers being unable to load at all, leading to flight cancellations, contactless payments not working and GP surgeries being unable to make appointments. Microsoft, which offers its own alternative to CrowdStrike, known as Windows Defender, agreed in 2009 to allow multiple security providers to install software at the kernel level amid a European competition investigation. In contrast, Apple blocked access to the kernel on its Mac computers in

2020, which it said would improve security and reliability. A Microsoft spokesman told *The Wall Street Journal* that it was unable to make a similar change because of the EU agreement. Microsoft said over the weekend that the CrowdStrike update had affected 8.5m Windows devices. This was less than 1pc of all machines operating the software but it had a major impact because CrowdStrike is widely used in businesses. The faulty update caused a blue error screen on many computers, rendering them temporarily unusable. CrowdStrike said yesterday that "a significant number" of the affected computers were back online and apolo-

8.5m
Windows devices affected by the CrowdStrike update - many of which were in travel and healthcare businesses

gised for the disruption. Figures from data company OAG showed that 9,650 flights had been cancelled between Friday and Sunday. While many airlines had recovered, 2,619 flights were cancelled on Sunday, with US airline Delta accounting for most of those. The NHS said yesterday that its systems were back online but that

"there still may be some delays as services recover". The European Commission pursued Microsoft in the early 2000s over concerns that the company's popular Windows software gave it an unfair advantage in other areas such as web browsers. In 2009, the company agreed to boost choice for computer users in browsers and other software. The move followed complaints by security companies Symantec and McAfee, which had warned that Microsoft was shutting off independent security companies. Matthew Prince, the chief executive of internet security company Cloudflare, claimed that Microsoft would use

the outage to argue that it should be allowed to restrict third-party security companies. It comes as new European laws are forcing Apple to open up its iPhone. Under the new Digital Markets Act, the company will have to allow alternative app stores and web browser engines on the iPhone. Apple has claimed the changes will make the iPhone less safe. CrowdStrike shares, which had fallen by 12pc on Friday amid the outage, dropped by a further 12.5pc yesterday. Shares in rival company SentinelOne rose by 8pc.

Analysis: Page 18



Laser vision
A high-powered laser weapon capable of shooting down aerial drones has been fired from a British military vehicle for the first time. Raytheon's high-energy laser weapon system (HELWS) was mounted on an Army Wolfhound armoured truck for the test-fire, which took place at the Porton Down science and defence technology campus in Wiltshire. James Gray, chief executive and managing director of Raytheon UK, said: "We have proven that the Raytheon high-energy laser weapon system can track and engage targets while mounted on a vehicle."

US orders UK decoy system to protect F-35s

By Matt Oliver

THE Pentagon is to buy British-made decoy devices to protect Navy F-35 stealth jets from incoming missiles, in a boost to the UK's defence industry. About 1,000 to 2,000 of the BriteCloud devices, which are produced in Luton by Leonardo UK, will be purchased per year to begin with. The expendable decoys, which are the size of a drinks can, are ejected from the back of an aircraft to draw away incoming missiles by mimicking the signals of the original target. They are fired out of the aircraft's flare dispenser in the same way as chaff or flares. BriteCloud is also used by the Royal Air Force's Typhoon fighter jets and has

been previously cleared for use with the F-16 fighter jet in the United States. According to the public notice published by the Pentagon, the US now wants to buy BriteCloud devices for use with the F-35, the West's most advanced stealth fighter. It added that Leonardo was "the only contractor who possesses the manufacturing technology, infrastructure, capacity and platform qualifications to complete all requirements".

'This is absolutely cutting edge, nobody else in the world has this capability'

Iain Bancroft, senior vice-president of electronic warfare at Leonardo, said BriteCloud protects an aircraft and its pilot "from any incoming missiles" using advanced jamming and signals technology. He added: "This is absolutely cutting edge, nobody else in the world has this capability." The device was designed and developed in Luton and we now have a large manufacturing facility there as well." About 1,000 people are employed at Leonardo's Bedfordshire factory. The F-35 "fifth-generation" jet is the most expensive weapons system in military history. The US defence department estimated that each F-35B, the vertical take-off variant used by the Royal Navy, had a 2015 cost of \$251m (£194m).

Starmer warned against wage-price spiral

By Tim Wallace

SIR KEIR STARMER risks driving up inflation with big public sector pay rises and increases to the minimum wage, economists have warned. Major settlements for teachers, doctors and other public sector workers could set off higher pay demands from the private sector, cementing Bank of England fears of a wage-price spiral. So far, the independent pay review bodies for teachers and NHS workers have recommended wage rises of 5.5pc, well above the current 2pc inflation. Similar board recommendations for other public sector workers are due. George Buckley, an economist at Nomura, said: "If you see ... the public

sector getting wage increases of a substantial amount, you might well be tempted to try to claw some back yourself - so it could influence expectations and wages in the private sector as well." There is also a risk that high pay offers will inspire public sector unions to ramp up demands next time around. All this could undermine the Bank of England's strategy of raising and maintaining interest rates at 5.25pc to crush inflationary pressures. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cautioned against big spending on public sector pay. Last year, it said "further increases in public wages and other social spending" have put UK debt on a "steeper upward trajectory". In a separate report last summer the

Bank also said jumps in public sector pay can have knock-on effects to push up private sector wages and inflation. Those effects are larger in economies with tight labour markets - as in the UK - and in nations with a large public sector. Britain's public sector has grown sharply in recent years, with almost 6m now working for the Government, the largest number for 12 years. Benefit fraud cost taxpayers a record £7.3bn last year, according to the Department for Work and Pensions, which blamed the surge on the public's growing willingness to commit fraud since Covid, particularly people seeking to cheat the benefits system.

Matthew Lynn: Page 21

Carpentright deal could see 200 stores close

By Hannah Boland

HUNDREDS of Carpentright stores will be shut and more than 1,000 jobs lost as part of a rescue deal by the troubled retailer's founding family. Tapi, a rival company founded by Martin Harris, the son of Carpentright founder Lord Harris of Peckham, said it was "desperately sad" that it was unable to save more of the business. Under the terms of the rescue, Tapi has agreed to buy the Carpentright brand, 54 stores and two warehouses. The deal will save more than 300 jobs.

However the deal does not include the remaining 200 Carpentright stores, which will be forced to shut. Administrators at PwC confirmed that 1,018 staff have been made redundant immediately and 1,590 jobs will be lost in total. Orders placed at stores due to close will not be fulfilled. PwC said affected customers should contact their card provider to try to get a refund. Jeevan Karir, managing director of Tapi, said: "Our goal, initially, was to try to save all of Carpentright." He said Tapi had quickly realised that this was unviable. "The business has been materially

loss-making for a number of years and it has significant debt held by the owner." Tapi, which was launched in 2015, has grown to become Carpentright's biggest competitor in the flooring industry. Estimates from GlobalData suggest that Carpentright has a 14.8pc share of the flooring market, compared with Tapi's 10pc. This has prompted concerns that the deal will attract scrutiny from the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA). Tapi said it was "mindful of how the CMA may view a larger deal", which influenced its decision to offer to buy just 54 stores.



Labour rejects 'Titanic' yard rescue

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE shipbuilder behind the ill-fated ocean liner Titanic has been left scrambling to secure a rescue deal from the private sector after the Government ruled out state funding to secure its future. Harland & Wolff will not receive emergency taxpayer cash because of the risk to the public purse, Jonathan Reynolds, the Business Sec-

retary, has said in a written statement to Parliament. Mr Reynolds said it was "not easy" to reject both a bailout for the yard and the Belfast shipbuilder's request for the Treasury to act as a guarantor on fresh lending. He warned neither action would "necessarily secure our objectives and there is a very substantial risk that taxpayer money would be lost". Harland & Wolff, which famously built Titanic, employs about 1,500 people at four sites - in Belfast, Methil on the Firth of Forth, Arnish on the Isle of Lewis, and Appledore, north Devon. In a statement confirming a Government loan guarantee had been rejected, the company said it would seek alternative new debt facilities from current lender Riverstone Credit Management. It is also engaging the investment bank Rothschild & Co to assess its options.

How the West became too dependent on Microsoft

The Chinese and Russians will have seen last week's IT meltdown and taken notes, says *James Titcomb*

Microsoft was not directly to blame for the computer bug that caused last weekend's IT meltdown but it did not take long for the software giant to become the face of the incident.

Huge screens at airports, hospitals and train terminals all flashed up with the "blue screen of death", the trademark error screen that displays when Windows computers fail to load correctly.

News bulletins carried reports of a worldwide "Microsoft outage" delaying flights and breaking cash machines, while staff at the company's Seattle headquarters rushed to issue guidance on fixing the issue.

Microsoft, the world's second most valuable company with a market value of more than \$3 trillion (£2.3 trillion), was quick to point at the root cause of the fiasco: the Texas security firm CrowdStrike.

CrowdStrike had issued an update containing faulty code to its Falcon cyber defence software that rendered Windows PCs and servers using it inoperable. "This was not a Microsoft incident," Microsoft wrote in an online post at the weekend.

The company said CrowdStrike's update had affected just 8.5m Windows machines, less than 1pc of the global total.

However, the bug affected Windows computers disproportionately and Microsoft's ubiquity among businesses and critical infrastructure providers meant the outage was more widespread than it might have been.

The company is the dominant IT provider to much of the public and private sector, both across PCs and the back-end servers on which databases and systems run.

The outage came at a time of increased scrutiny on the West's dependence on Microsoft for the computer systems that underpin daily life from payments to airline bookings

and doctors' appointments. "The reason the outage was so widespread is due to how ubiquitous the Windows operating system is across various industries. Airlines use it for check-in desks, retail use it for point-of-sales machines, and more," says Jamil Ahmed of IT consultancy Solace.

Cyber officials have raised concerns in recent months about dependence on Microsoft, which has faced questions about its own cyber credentials.

The company faced criticism over a cyber attack in 2020 that allowed Russian state-sponsored hackers to exploit a flaw in software from another company, SolarWinds, and gain access to thousands of corporate networks, including that of the United States' federal government. While Microsoft was also a victim, critics said it had been aware of the flaw before the hack and failed to raise the alarm.

In the past year, hackers linked to Russia and China have, in separate incidents, managed to bypass Microsoft's defences to gain access to thousands of US government emails. In the Chinese hack last summer, emails were stolen from Gina Raimondo, the US commerce secretary, and Nicholas Burns, the US ambassador to China.

A flaw in the company's Exchange server system was also used by Chinese hackers who obtained data from the UK's Electoral Commission last year, security researchers claimed.

Pressure on Microsoft culminated in April when an official US report into the Chinese email theft accused the company of a "cascade of security failures" and "avoidable errors" and said that its security culture "requires an overhaul".

Soon after, AJ Grotto, a former White House cyber policy director, claimed Microsoft's status as the US government's IT provider amounted to a national security issue, and said the company should be treated as such.

Last week, Lina Khan, the head of the US Federal Trade Commission, tweeted: "These incidents reveal how concentration can create fragile systems."

Microsoft itself has pledged to do better. It has tied bosses' bonuses to



'Partly because of that EU decision, Windows is configured so that one piece of buggy code can topple the whole'

their efforts to promote cybersecurity and promised to make security the company's top priority.

Although last Friday's global IT outage was caused by a CrowdStrike bug, Microsoft has faced questions about how the company's software was able to cause such havoc on Windows machines.

CrowdStrike Falcon is installed at the kernel, the highest level of system access, which means that when something goes wrong, it is not isolated to the software itself but can make the whole computer unusable.

Apple machines, by contrast, do not allow security software to run at the kernel level, preventing similar cases. While this could be seen as a security flaw in Microsoft machines, the company said it was required to allow third-party software high-level access due to a settlement with EU competition authorities in 2009.

"It turns out Windows is configured

in such a way that a piece of one piece of buggy code can topple the whole thing, partly because of that EU decision. There's nothing you could realistically expect Microsoft to have done about it," says one former cyber official. "But it is a reminder of that sheer dependence."

That EU settlement came in response to concerns raised that Microsoft had become too dominant in the commercial sector, squeezing out rival providers of antivirus and browser software. Now, the concerns are that too much critical infrastructure relies on it.

"This event certainly brings public attention to the problem of monoculture," Lukasz Olejnik, an independent cybersecurity researcher and consultant, says.

"When a specific software gains significant market and user share, it becomes important, and a potential risk point. In this case, since

'Since CrowdStrike is now so popular and Windows is extremely widespread, it leads to clearly visible IT chaos'

CrowdStrike software was so popular, and since Windows is extremely widespread, it leads to clearly visible IT chaos, and an availability breach."

Last weekend's IT fiasco did not affect everywhere equally. Russian state media boasted of the country being largely shielded from the outages, since sanctions mean it has developed its own homegrown alternatives to Microsoft and CrowdStrike. The impact in China was also less severe, although this was largely due to CrowdStrike being a rarity in the country.

However, for hackers lurking in those two countries, Friday's chaos will not have gone unnoticed. The outage demonstrated how a single point of failure can bring parts of Western economies to a standstill. Microsoft may not have caused the outage but our dependence on it means it is a target for those seeking to start the next one.

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TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

Bolloré to float Canal+ payTV business on London exchange

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

THE French billionaire Vincent Bolloré has confirmed he plans to float his pay-television business on the London Stock Exchange in a major boost to the ailing market.

Vivendi, the media empire controlled by Mr Bolloré, said Canal+ will list in London "to reflect the company's international dimension". Canal+ has a pay-TV operation in France and was behind blockbusters including *Terminator 2*, *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Paddington*.

It has more than 26m subscribers, close to two-thirds of whom are based outside France. The news comes as Mr Bolloré, who is a supporter of Marine Le Pen's hard-right National Rally, looks to break up Vivendi into three separate companies amid concerns that the conglomerate is undervalued.

Vivendi yesterday said that its advertising agency, Havas, will be listed in Amsterdam while Louis Hachette Group, a newly named company that brings together the group's publishing and distribution assets, will be listed in

Paris on the Euronext Growth market. The decision making and operations of all three companies will remain in Paris, Vivendi said.

In a statement, Vivendi said: "Canal+ would remain a company incorporated and taxed in France and would not be subject to mandatory stock market regulations on public offers in either the United Kingdom or France."

Canal+ listing in the UK is contingent on approval from shareholders, however it would be a boon to London markets, which have seen several companies either opt against listing in Britain, or move their listings abroad.

Notably, the Cambridge-based computer chipmaker Arm listed in New York last year, in a mammoth \$54bn

Canal+ was behind the Paddington films

(£41bn) flotation. Meanwhile, the betting giant Flutter, building materials company CRH and plumbing firm Ferguson have all left the UK markets for the US in recent years.

Vivendi's decision comes after the company started a feasibility study to split up its operations following a poor performance on the French stock market.

The company said that its status as a conglomerate is "substantially reducing its valuation, and thereby limited its ability to carry out external growth transactions for its subsidiaries".

After the break-up, Bolloré Group would hold about 30.6pc of the shares of Canal+, Louis Hachette Group and Havas respectively.

It will control more than 40pc of the votes in Havas however.



Zahawi assembling £600m Telegraph takeover bid

By James Titcomb

THE former Cabinet minister Nadhim Zahawi is leading a potential bid to buy *The Telegraph*, it has been claimed.

Mr Zahawi, whose jobs included a two-month stint as chancellor in 2022, has been approaching investors about a £600m bid for *The Telegraph* and *The Spectator*, according to Sky News.

Mr Zahawi has reportedly discussed funding a potential bid with the Reuben family, the property billionaires with a stake in Newcastle United Football Club.

He was a middleman in the Abu Dhabi-backed attempt to acquire the titles, which was blocked by the last government. He also chairs Very Group, the online retailer owned by the Barclay family, who technically still own *The Telegraph* but exercise no control.

RedBird IMI, a joint venture between Abu Dhabi and a US private equity firm, has put *The Telegraph* up for sale again in an auction after being prevented from taking control by new laws against

foreign state ownership of newspapers. However, Mr Zahawi is reportedly talking directly with IMI about a potential buyer, which provided most of the backing for RedBird IMI's £600m deal for the titles last year. Meanwhile, IMI became a major investor in Very Group in a complex deal to pay off Barclay family debts to Lloyds Banking Group.

Mr Zahawi served as chancellor in the final days of Boris Johnson's government. He briefly stood for the Tory leadership against Liz Truss and stepped down as the MP for Stratford-on-Avon ahead of the election.

The Telegraph revealed last week that the private equity giant CVC was preparing a bid. Other potential buyers include Lord Saatchi and National World, the owner of *The Scotsman* and *Yorkshire Post* newspapers.

DMGT, owner of *The Daily Mail*, has pulled out of making a bid citing arrival of Labour in government and new restrictions on foreign state shareholders.

Mr Zahawi did not respond to requests for comment.

Ladbroke's owner hires new boss to turn losses around

LADBROKES owner Entain has appointed Gavin Isaacs as its new chief executive as it seeks to bounce back from heavy losses.

Mr Isaacs, who was previously chairman of Games Global and was on the board of Entain's American rival DraftKings, will join the sports betting giant on Sept 2.

Entain, which also owns Coral and BetMGM, pledged earlier this year to carry out a review of its betting brands after posting an £879m loss in its most recent annual results.

Part of that was from a £585m penalty agreed with HM Revenue & Customs to settle charges related to alleged bribery offences in Turkey.

Jette Nygaard-Andersen, the former chief executive, resigned in December last year after the settlement agreement, following reports that shareholders were unhappy with her leadership. The group has been hit by increased scrutiny from regulators in the UK and other markets, while the cost of living crisis has also hit gambling revenues.

Harris could be most Left-wing president ever

Democrat's track record gives clear hints about how she may run the world's biggest economy, writes *Szu Ping Chan*

Kamala Harris has kept a low profile on economic issues over the past four years. The frontrunner to replace Joe Biden as the Democratic presidential candidate yesterday praised his "legacy of accomplishment" in a short speech that focused on sporting achievement.

While Harris had little to say about what would be in store for the world's biggest economy under her stewardship, Harris's track record and 2019 campaign pledges suggest she could be the most Left-wing leader the Oval Office has ever seen.

Speaking in May, the vice-president said she believed all Americans should have access to "the opportunity to compete, to succeed, and to thrive; the ability to achieve what I call financial freedom, which means having enough not just to get by but to get ahead – to be able to build a business, to own a home, to start a family and to create intergenerational wealth".

However, Republicans have repeatedly attacked Harris's record on immigration, branding her a "border tsar" who failed to stem a massive influx from the southern border.

She has championed Biden's \$369bn

Another radical Harris proposal was Medicare for All, paid for by tax on big earners and on asset sales

(£286bn) Inflation Reduction Act – a huge green subsidies plan that has driven a wave of investment in the world's biggest economy.

Just this month, she boasted of "dropping a trillion dollars on the streets of America over the next 10 years on the climate crisis, in resilience, in adaptation, and being a world leader on investment in a clean energy economy".

Harris is currently on an "economic opportunity tour" that she told an audience in San Francisco this month would be focused on young black men, particularly entrepreneurs and small business owners, although Paul Ashworth, chief North America economist at Capital Economics, describes her focus as "more on social rather than economic initiatives".

Here are some of the economic and regulatory policies previously championed by Harris, who could soon be the most Left-wing US president in peacetime.

Tax Harris has previously called for higher taxes on income, capital gains, inheritance and financial transactions to help fund various spending sprees. She backs returning the top rate of income tax to 39.6pc after Donald Trump reduced it to 37pc in 2018. Biden also wants to reintroduce it for people earning more than \$400,000.

One of her big proposals during the 2019 Democratic race was raising inheritance tax to pay for an average \$13,500 pay rise for all teachers. The cost was an eye-watering \$315bn – or just over 1pc of GDP. The federal estate



Kamala Harris has a 'focus on social rather than economic issues' and a Left-leaning instinct, as she showed, above, when she joined McDonald's workers marching in Las Vegas in a protest over pay back in 2019

tax threshold is currently \$13.6m and double that for couples.

Corporation tax was another big target for Harris. She criticised Trump's decision to slash the headline rate to 21pc and proposed raising it back to its previous level of 35pc. This is well above Biden's proposed 28pc. She also described Bernie Sanders' proposal to tax capital gains at the same rate as income as a "good option", although she stopped short of backing his proposal to slap an additional 4pc income tax on people who earn above \$29,000, preferring a \$100,000 threshold instead. Harris also called for a 0.2pc financial transactions tax on shares, with slightly lower levies on bonds and derivatives.

Biden's latest budget included proposals to raise income and corporation tax. However, they are unlikely to be considered while the Republicans control the House of Representatives.

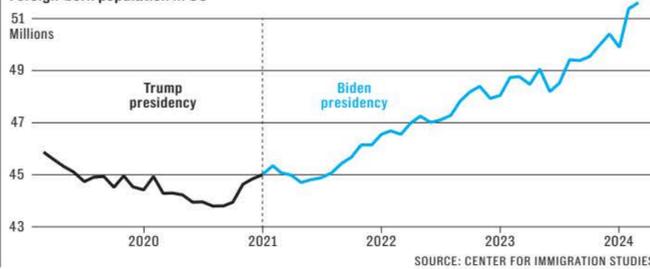
Nevertheless, the massive tax cuts introduced by Trump via the Tax Cuts

and Jobs Act (TCJA) expire at the end of 2025, which will force the next president to act.

What happens next depends on who controls the US Congress, with some now tipping a Trump red wave, where the Republicans control the House, Senate and White House.

Immigration has surged under Biden

Foreign-born population in US



Spending

Harris has previously backed a plan that comes very close to universal basic income.

Her Lift the Middle Class Act would have offered cash payments of up to \$6,000 a year for married couples, although the payments would start

being tapered for childless single people earning above \$50,000 and married couples once their earnings exceed \$100,000.

At the time, the Left-leaning Centre on Budget and Policy Priorities think tank said it would lift 9m people out of poverty, while Harris's team claimed it would benefit around 80m Americans.

But it also came with a hefty price tag of \$2 trillion over a decade.

Another radical Harris proposal was Medicare for All, also inspired by Bernie Sanders, which she suggested she would pay for with tax hikes for higher earners and people selling assets.

Sanders wanted to introduce a government-run health care programme that replaced most existing public and private plans. Harris did not want to cut out private insurers completely. Her plan was heavily criticised by Biden when he was her opponent for the nomination. He warned the cost would result in higher taxes for millions of families.

Regulation

Harris served as California's attorney general from 2011 to 2017, when she devoted a significant amount of time to consumer protection issues. She famously helped negotiate \$20bn relief from the country's biggest mortgage lenders after walking away from an initial compensation deal for homeowners hit hard by the 2007 mortgage crisis. Harris demanded more money and stronger protections, though thousands of people still lost their homes.

She also sued eBay in 2012 over alleged anti-competitive practices, resulting in a \$4m settlement in 2014. When Uber started testing its self-driving cars on California's roads without permission, Harris threatened legal action after the company declared it would defy state rules. At the time, just under two dozen companies had been approved to test self-driving cars in the state. Uber was not one of them. The ride-hailing company backed down after a week.

Bosses urged to dismiss staff ahead of reforms to workers' rights

By Lucy Burton

COMPANIES are being urged to sack underperforming staff and extend probation periods ahead of Labour's sweeping overhaul of workers' rights.

Lawyers are advising their clients to take action in anticipation of the Government's incoming Employment Bill, which is expected to include awarding workers' full rights from day one.

Labour's proposals have raised concerns about a wave of unfair dismissal claims, as staff will no longer

have to wait two years until they have to submit lawsuits.

This has led to lawyers urging bosses to review how they dismiss underperforming staff.

Nicholas Le Riche, an employment lawyer at BDB Pitmans, said: "We're definitely flagging the upcoming changes with clients and highlighting that now is the time to consider their workforce structures for the rest of the year."

One City solicitor said he has told companies to think about sacking work-

ers "sooner rather than later" if they are approaching two years in the job.

Already, this has prompted a rise in "quick-fire redundancies", says Charlie Thompson, a lawyer at Stewarts.

James Davies, an employment lawyer for Lewis Silkin, added that some companies are also considering beefing up their probationary periods.

He said: "The advice we are giving at present includes looking at contracts for new hires to make sure they have properly drafted probationary periods. Many employers have historically man-

'We're highlighting that now is the time to consider their workforce structures for the rest of the year'

aged them poorly as there was little legal significance to an employee failing a probationary period and an employer deciding a little later that it wasn't working out."

Caspar Glyn, chairman of the Employment Lawyers Association,

added that businesses will want to "set up and implement more rigorous systems to ensure that new staff who don't measure up can be fairly dismissed within their probationary period".

However, day-one workers' rights are not the only area making managers nervous, as the Government prepares for the biggest overhaul of employee rights in a generation.

This includes making flexible working the default for all staff members, which has led to some

City bosses seeking ways in which they can work around the proposed policy.

Andrew Taggart, head of employment at Herbert Smith Freehills, said the hope is that ministers consult with businesses early before enacting their legislation.

He said: "Businesses need to think about what changes might be needed. We're advising that clients to get ready to contribute meaningfully to the consultation because the devil is in the detail."

Ryanair second-quarter profits hit by ticket price cuts to lure frugal holidaymakers

By Christopher Jasper

RYANAIR's attempt to attract frugal holidaymakers by slashing its summer fares has hit its profits and sent shares tumbling.

Ticket prices fell 15pc in the three months to June after Michael O'Leary, the chief executive, was forced into a series of sales in order to fill the company's 500 planes.

The move helped boost passenger numbers 10pc during the quarter, but came at a cost.

Profit fell 46pc from a year earlier dropping to €360m (£303m). The company's shares plunged by more than 17pc after it warned that fares will remain materially lower for the rest of the summer as it battles to win passengers.

Neil Sorahan, the finance chief, said that Ryanair has struggled to make higher fares stick after it lifted prices more than 20pc last year.

Mr Sorahan said: "There's no shortage of demand, in fact it's as strong as I've ever seen it. However, people are

being more cautious about what they do with their money. They are happy to spend and they're travelling in numbers. They're just a bit more frugal and they're taking a bit of a breath."

Mr Sorahan said that while Ryanair's objective is always to fill the plane, it's not having to resort to the deep dis-

10pc

The rise in Ryanair's second-quarter passenger numbers after 15pc price cuts but year-on-year profits dived by 46pc

counting of the past, when it would advertise tickets at £9.99.

Fare promotions are now priced at £19.99 or £29.99, with the average ticket at around £49, £7 higher than before the Covid pandemic.

The Irish carrier's poor forecast hit airline shares across Europe, with FTSE 100 low-cost airline EasyJet dropping

7.1pc. Hungarian airline Wizz Air, another discount carrier and a member of the FTSE 250, plunged 10pc.

Ryanair said that continuing issues with the supply of aircraft from Boeing and Airbus will act as a brake on capacity and help bolster prices going into the end of the year.

Consolidation among European carriers including Lufthansa's takeover of the biggest Italian airline and British Airways owner IAG's bid for Spanish leisure carrier Air Europa will also push up fares, it predicts.

"The trend is downwards and weaker," Mr O'Leary told investors in an analyst call after the results. He said it was far too early to forecast the outlook for the year but there was no sign of an end to the weakness. "It could well be a double-digit [percentage] decline in pricing in Q2 [July to September] and at that stage... all bets are off in Q3 and Q4."

Mr O'Leary, who in May had forecast fares "flat to modestly up" for the summer, said the best case for July to September was now falls of 5pc.

Watchdog fines BT £18m for its 'woeful' failings after 999 calls system collapsed

By James Warrington

BT HAS been hit with a £17.5m fine after a "catastrophic" network outage on the 999 emergency call network.

Regulator Ofcom said the former telecoms monopoly was ill-prepared to respond to the failure of its emergency call handling system in June 2023.

The incident, which lasted more than 10 hours, affected nearly 14,000 calls to police, fire, ambulance and coastguard. BT connects 999 and 112 calls across the UK and provides relay services for deaf and speech-impaired people.

Ofcom's investigation found BT did not have sufficient warning systems in place for when an outage occurs, nor did it have adequate procedures for assessing the severity and cause and identifying mitigating actions.

The regulator also found BT's disaster recovery platform – a back-up system designed for use when the network goes down – had insufficient capacity and functionality for the incident.

While there were no reports of seri-

ous harm to the public, Ofcom said the potential harm was "extremely significant". It ordered BT to pay a £17.5m fine after taking into account its efforts to fix the error and improve its back-up.

Suzanne Cater, Ofcom's director of enforcement, said: "Being able to contact the emergency services can mean

'BT fell woefully short of its responsibilities and was ill-prepared to deal with such a large-scale outage'

the difference between life and death, so in the event of any disruption to their networks, providers must be ready to respond quickly and effectively.

"BT fell woefully short of its responsibilities and was ill-prepared to deal with such a large-scale outage, putting customers at unacceptable risk."

She said the fine sends a warning to all companies: "If you're not properly prepared to deal with disruption to your

networks, we'll hold you to strict account on behalf of consumers."

The outage began shortly before 6.30am on Sunday June 25, when BT's call handling system was disrupted by a configuration error in a file on its server.

This caused call handlers' systems to reboot as soon as a call was received, meaning some calls were dropped or disconnected or were put to the back of the queue.

BT was initially unable to determine the cause and attempted to switch to its disaster recovery platform. This was unsuccessful because instructions were poorly documented and staff were unfamiliar with the process and so an issue that started off only affecting some calls grew into a total outage.

A BT spokesman said: "We take great pride in underpinning the national 999 service and recognise the critical importance of our infrastructure plays. The level of disruption to the service on Sunday June 25 last year has never been seen before and we are sincerely sorry for the distress caused."

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AZORES TO BRITAIN

A voyage from Sao Miguel to Portsmouth aboard the MS Island Sky
2nd to 16th May 2025



This wonderful island hopping itinerary aboard the MS Island Sky explores the islands of the Azores, the Iberian Peninsula and the Channel Islands visiting some marvellously scenic and historic places along the way. We have chosen the perfect time of year for our voyage and can expect verdant gardens and landscapes awash with blossoms and moderate temperatures with the absence of high season crowds.

Our journey begins far out in the Atlantic in the islands of the Azores, some 800 miles from the Portuguese coast, which are known for their spectacular volcanic scenery, abundant flora and peaceful lifestyle. Every new day brings a different vista and we will spend eight days exploring the raw beauty and cultural vibrancy of this remote and unsophisticated archipelago. Their appeal is difficult to define in words, but if you appreciate dramatic scenery, exploring islands where time appears to be standing still, watching for passing whales and learning about the local people and their customs, this could be the voyage for you.

Following our in-depth exploration of the Azores, we spend a relaxing two days at sea before we arrive in the Iberian Peninsula where we will witness some splendid Spanish 'pazos' in their springtime glory and step into the pilgrimage cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Our penultimate call will be to the 'island of flowers', Guernsey, where we have a full day to explore before sailing to our final destination, Portsmouth. Our two-week voyage will be full of natural world and cultural highlights as we discover timeless islands, fabulous coastal scenery and the rich maritime history of the region in the company of just 100 or so like-minded travel companions.



THE ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 London to Sao Miguel, Azores. Fly by scheduled indirect flight. Arrive and transfer to the MS Island Sky.

Day 2 Terceira. This morning explore Angra do Heroismo, a charming UNESCO heritage town with a distinct Mediterranean flavour of cobblestone streets and a certain quiet charm. Enjoy a walking tour that takes in the Misericordia Church, Convent do Sao Francisco, the public gardens and museum. In the afternoon there will be free time to hike to Monte Brasil, offering wonderful views, or alternatively relax and wander the historic town at your own pace.

Day 3 Graciosa. Known as the 'White Island', Graciosa has a gentle rolling landscape, dotted with windmills and traditional whitewashed houses. Visit Furna do Enxofre ('Cave of Sulphur'), a geologically unique phenomenon and one of the original examples of the volcanic Azores, and take the winding staircase down to the magnificent volcanic cavern and lake. Also see the village of Santa Cruz and the charming Matrix Church. Return to the ship for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure to explore the small town of Vila da Praia.

Day 4 Flores & Corvo. Named after its abundant flora, Flores is often regarded as the prettiest of the Azores. A rugged terrain island with flowers growing in the deep canyons and waterfalls casting hues of blues and green as they splash down to the sea. Visit the vertical basalt cliffs of Rocha do Bordoos, formed by the cooling of lava. See a stunning array of natural features including calderas, fajas, rivers, waterfalls and valleys. This afternoon we will use our small ship to circumnavigate the tiny island of Corvo, the smallest island in the archipelago.

Day 5 Sao Jorge. This largely rural island is of geographical interest with its cliff shoreline marked with

flat fajas sweeping to the sea. We start our full day tour on the western part of the island, Ponta dos Rosais, visiting a Forest Park and cheese factory. As we move to the north we enjoy the view over the Fajas, an area of flat land at sea level resulting from the erosion of cliffs. As we make our way to the south side towards Calheta we will stop for lunch at a local restaurant before continuing on to Urzelina to visit the remaining tower of a church buried under lava from the eruption of 1808. Now it is surrounded by fruit trees and vegetation. Upon our return to Velas we will take a walking tour of this charming old-world harbour town. We remain moored overnight for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

Day 6 Pico. Explore distinctive Pico, home to Portugal's highest peak and numerous black lava flows. The UNESCO-designated Lajido Acros tells the story of early winemakers who used the volcanic soil for the grapes and, on a visit to a vineyard, we will enjoy a tasting of the local product. After a typical Azorean lunch we will learn about whaling life in the Azores at the Museum of Lajes returning to the ship via the Lagoa do Capitao offering views over the north of the island.

Day 7 Faial. Our day begins with an island drive where we explore the fairly recent volcanic activity at Ponta dos Capelinhos. See how a 1957-1958 volcanic eruption transformed the area and created a new land mass. Visit the Volcano Interpretation Centre before continuing to the impressive Caldera, now a nature reserve, which is 400 metres deep and nearly 1500 metres in diameter. This afternoon a walking tour of Horta will include the Scrimshaw Museum and Cafe Peter, a famous stopping point for sailors crossing the Atlantic.

Day 8 Sao Miguel. Enjoy a full day exploring the island of Sao Miguel, known as Ilha Verde, the green island and home to some of the most stunning viewpoints in the Azores. This morning we head west towards the Sete Cidades volcano from where we can enjoy excellent views

over the Lagos de Canarias. We will continue our drive along the attractive northern coast before arriving in the Furnas Valley, an enormous valley and luxuriant garden in the east of the island where we enjoy lunch. We will also visit the village of Furnas and the botanical gardens before returning to the ship and sailing this evening. For the keen hikers, if weather permits, we will arrange to walk the trail in Sete Cidades.

Days 9 & 10 At Sea. Relax on board as we sail to the Iberian Peninsula. Take in a lecture in the lounge or maybe find a spot on deck to watch for wildlife.

Day 11 Vilagarcia de Arousa, Spain. Arriving in Galicia over lunch we will discover the 'Rias Baixas' which translates as low estuaries. This afternoon we drive the short distance to the Pazo de Rubianes which was originally founded in 1411 and was one of the three official lordships in Spain. Enjoy a guided walk through the stunning gardens, famous for their thousands of camellias but also home to eucalyptus trees, sequoias and camphors. Also visit the Pazo's extensive vineyards to learn about the local Albarino wine production and enjoy a tasting before exploring the historical palace itself.

Day 12 La Coruna for Santiago de Compostela. Today we visit Santiago de Compostela, the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia. The city's cathedral is the destination of the important Medieval pilgrimage route, the Way of St James (in Spanish the 'Camino de Santiago'), which is still walked today. For those keen to walk some of the route there will be the opportunity to hike a short section towards Santiago. Otherwise transfer directly to the site where we will visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias. Enjoy lunch at a Parador and some free time before returning to the ship and sailing this evening.

Day 13 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we continue our journey north.

Day 14 Guernsey, Channel Islands. Arrive this morning on Guernsey, the 'Island of Flowers', and take a panoramic drive during which we will see the beautiful coastline and beaches and visit the Little Chapel, built in 1914 as a miniature version of the famous basilica at Lourdes. Return to the ship for lunch and the afternoon is free to explore the pretty town of St Peter Port or maybe join a walk along one of the cliff paths.

Day 15 Portsmouth, England. Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station and our London departure airport at a fixed time.

PRE-CRUISE ESTORIL EXTENSION 29th April to 2nd May 2025

For those who would like to spend some time in Portugal prior to embarking the MS Island Sky, we have arranged a three-night extension at the beautiful Palacio Estoril Hotel, located a short distance from Lisbon. Our stay will include a half day tour of Lisbon and a half day tour of Sintra and the remainder of the time will be yours to explore at leisure. Full details can be viewed online.



MS ISLAND SKY is one of the finest small ships in the world. With a maximum passenger capacity of only 118, the all-suite vessel has the benefit of unusually large accommodation, public areas and spacious outside decks. All suites feature a sitting area and some have a private balcony. The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a lounge, elegant bar, library and a single seating dining room. Outside there is a rear sun deck, a bar and comfortable deck furniture. The atmosphere on board is akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, talks from the onboard speakers, informative port briefings and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room, all contribute to making any voyage aboard the MS Island Sky a memorable experience.



PRICES & INCLUSIONS

Special offer prices per person based on double occupancy start from **£7895** for a Standard Suite.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Economy class scheduled air travel to Sao Miguel
- 14 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis
- House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Noble Caledonia onboard team
- Shore excursions
- Gratuities
- Transfers
- Port taxes.

NB. Ports and itinerary are subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations. Travel insurance is not included in the price. The vessel will be at anchor in the Channel Islands and the vessel's Zodiacs will be used to transfer ashore.



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It will be calamitous if UK doesn't build Tempest

BEN MARLOW



Scrapping fighter jet programme would leave Britain at the mercy of the 'deadly quartet'

Farnborough International Airshow is the aerospace and defence industry's Davos – a biennial jamboree where corporate big-wigs, world leaders, generals, air commodores and assorted hangers-on flock to an airfield in Hampshire.

For executives of major airlines, aircraft makers and arms manufacturers, it is about the most important day in the calendar – a chance to return to head office with billions of pounds worth of contracts in the bag.

On paper, this year's event should result in an unprecedented number of bumper orders. The grim truth is that war is a hugely profitable business and with several major conflicts taking

place across the globe, the world's major powers are rearming at a rate that experts are comparing with the run-up to the Second World War.

It is unfortunate then that Sir Keir Starmer threatens to spoil the festivities with Labour's newly announced strategic defence review, which won't conclude until next year. The fear is not just that it will mean a delay to orders in the pipeline, but that some existing projects will be scrapped altogether – chief among them the Tempest fighter jet programme.

The Prime Minister must ensure this doesn't happen. Scrapping Tempest would be nothing short of a disaster for our national security and foreign policy. Without it, Britain will be at the mercy of its enemies, who are not only investing vast sums of money in the latest weapons but increasingly working together to pose an even bigger threat to the West.

Indeed, Sir Keir would do well to heed the warning of none other than Lord Robertson, the former Nato secretary general, whom the Prime Minister has appointed to lead Labour's defence review.

Britain and its allies are facing a "deadly quartet" of China, Russia, Iran

and North Korea who are acting together against the West. Robertson said last week that we have "got to be able to confront that particular quartet". Military experts believe that the four are increasingly sharing arms, components and military intelligence.

To be able to meet this danger head-on, surely the sensible course of action would be for us to make sure Britain has the most cutting-edge hardware available, something the Tempest programme promises to deliver in spades.

The RAF jet is armed with hypersonic missiles and Star Wars-style "energy-directed" weapons. It is also kitted out to help pilots evade enemy radar, providing 10,000 times more data than current systems. Experts say it will revolutionise air-to-air combat, giving Britain a "world-beating" edge in warfare.

Yet the future of Tempest has never been more uncertain. Labour has sought to present itself as being serious about defence, chiefly with its commitment to honouring Rishi Sunak's pledge to up spending from 2.3pc of economic output to 2.5pc – Sir Keir has said it is a "cast-iron" commitment. The truth is, however,

that it is a heavily caveated promise that should be taken with a massive pinch of salt.

The first giant red flag is that Labour won't set out a timetable for doing so. John Healey, the Defence Secretary, hasn't ruled out waiting until the defence review has concluded, which could take up to a year. The Government has also said it will not increase spending on the military unless it is also able to grow the economy.

'The lack of urgency is terrifying, and will only fuel concerns that Labour cannot be trusted'

The lack of urgency is terrifying, and will only fuel concerns that Labour cannot be trusted to keep the country safe at a time when national security has never been more critical.

As Lord West, the former head of the Royal Navy and a Labour peer, has been quoted as saying: "When the situation allows is not really good enough – Putin will not wait for our

situation to be good enough before he attacks." In other words, the threat is very much upon us and any delay could come with extremely grave consequences.

On the Tempest programme specifically, the Government is no less vague. Farnborough was the perfect stage for the Prime Minister to put an end to growing doubts about the future of the jet but Sir Keir fluffed his lines.

Asked if Tempest was "on the table" during the review, the best he could muster was the following: "It is an important programme and I know that people in the room will want to hear me say that", which is about as meaningless a sentence as it is possible to conceive of.

The mood music coming from No10, then, is palpably bad. It demonstrates a worrying inability to see the bigger picture. Labour might want to spend money growing the state and public services, but scrimping on defence is not a choice we are in a position to make.

The Democrats are in complete turmoil and the prospects of Donald Trump being re-elected have never been higher, which means some

potentially far-reaching implications for foreign relations and international security.

Trump's scepticism towards Nato remains a concern for those who still believe in the alliance – and the views of his running mate JD Vance are even more of a worry.

The firebrand Ohio senator isn't just an opponent of foreign wars. He has said: "I don't really care what happens to Ukraine, one way or the other."

Having a proper independent Armed Forces that can defend Britain is more important than ever and the Tempest is key to that. China is developing its own advanced fighter jet with the J-20 "Mighty Dragon" and the advantage of air superiority has been demonstrated repeatedly during Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It might be uncomfortable for a Labour PM to commit money to defence that could be spent on social projects, but the party must also recognise the world we live in today and Britain's place in it.

Sir Keir should take lessons from Clement Attlee, who was a social reformer but also acutely understood the importance of a nuclear deterrent. The two things can go hand in hand.



High altitude talks Sir Keir Starmer chats with Tufan Erginbilgic and Guillaume Faury, the chief executives of Rolls-Royce and Airbus, during the opening of the Farnborough International Airshow yesterday. The five-day aviation summit is typically a platform for aircraft makers to rack up multimillion-pound deals.

Public sector workers don't deserve a pay rise – and Rachel Reeves is too weak to admit it

MATTHEW LYNN



In pleasing its base, Labour threatens to trap Britain in a high-tax doom loop with no possibility of escape

At least that has been settled, and very quickly as well. We learnt over the weekend that the Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, seems minded to give the public sector an inflation-busting pay rise. Yet it comes at a time when the latest figures show that the output of all the people who work for the Government is declining, and at an accelerating rate.

Reeves's plan, it turns out, is to give

public sector workers a pay rise that they don't deserve.

This is all very odd. It has sometimes been hard to work out what exactly the new Labour Government wants to do with its landslide majority but it has been absolutely clear on one thing: it will prioritise economic growth over everything else. It will clear away the planning rules that might prevent building, create partnerships with private industry, hustle the pension funds into putting more money into the UK and give Ed Miliband a few billion pounds of taxpayers' money to fund green energy projects that have been mysteriously classified as not worth the bother by the asset managers of the City and Wall Street.

We could all debate whether those measures would end up helping the economy expand, or simply end up creating lots of white elephants. Still, at least the intention was clear. However,

it turns out that Labour is not really interested in growth after all. Nothing could make that more dramatically obvious than its hints on public sector pay. Over the past few days, after some scratching around in the books, Reeves has heavily implied that teachers, along with many NHS workers, and perhaps other public servants, will be awarded a pay rise of 5pc or more. That's more than twice the rate of inflation.

There are two problems with that. As I mentioned, the first and most obvious one is that productivity is declining. According to the latest update from the Office for National Statistics, in the first quarter of this year output per person in the public sector declined by 0.6pc compared to the same quarter a year ago.

Initial estimates, it said, suggest it fell by 0.2pc over the whole of 2023, ending the bounce-back after the

pandemic. It is now 6.4pc below its pre-pandemic peak, and is in gentle decline once again.

It is worth keeping in mind how new this is. Productivity in the public sector seldom matches the private sector, in part because the services it provides are hard to mechanise. Between 1997 and 2019, however, it did at least rise modestly year-on-year.

The second problem is that it sends the wrong signals. We all know some of the reasons why output is declining. Working from home has been normalised, even though we now have plenty of evidence that, for many people, it is less effective than coming into the office.

Absenteeism is rife, with average days off sick in the Civil Service rising again in 2023 (from 7.9 days per year on average to 8.1). The unions are too strong and are often an obstacle to the kinds of reform that might enable staff

to work more efficiently.

Yet instead of tackling any of that and trying to work out how to fix it, Reeves is set to reward everyone with a pay rise of more than twice the rate of inflation. The message will be clear: results don't matter, because we will pay you more anyway.

True, the Labour Government probably has to do something to please its base. Public sector workers will have overwhelmingly voted for the party and will inevitably expect something in return. Yet the Nobel prize-winning economist Paul Krugman, a hero of the Left incidentally, once put it very simply: "Productivity isn't everything but in the long run it is almost everything."

Over the medium term, rising output per person is the only number that really matters for the economy overall. And yet, Reeves could be about to pay people 5pc more for 0.6pc less output. Multiply that by several years, and the economy will just get smaller and smaller with every year that passes.

In the past, the private sector was just about able to make up for essentially static output from government workers by increasing its productivity at an accelerating rate

but, among companies, productivity is now stagnant as well, and the state accounts for a larger share of total GDP, with the Institute for Fiscal Studies estimating it has already reached 45pc, or close to half, of national output.

It would take productivity growth of 7pc to 8pc plus in the private sector to overcome falling output in the half of the economy that the state controls.

Rachel Reeves keeps talking about growth. Sir Keir Starmer keeps lecturing us on how it will be the central mission of his administration, and the key to unlocking higher spending on public services. If they were serious about that, they would have made public sector reform central to their first year in office, offering higher pay if necessary but demanding higher output in return, as any manager in a company would do.

And yet their first major policy decision on public sector pay is likely to kill that stone dead.

Instead, we will be offered an endless series of tax rises to fund more generous wages for government workers who produce less and less with every year that passes. It will be a doom loop from which it will be almost impossible to break free.

Savers deal blow to Labour's growth hopes

By **Chris Price**

HOUSEHOLD savings have hit their highest level in 14 years, excluding the pandemic period, in what can be seen as a blow to Labour's hopes of stimulating growth in the economy.

Savers hoarded £338bn across Britain in the first three months of the year, squirrelling away 18.7pc of their total resources.

The value of excess savings increased rapidly during the pandemic as restrictions were placed on economic activity

and physical movement. Between the first quarter of 2020 and the last three months of 2021, excess savings reached £24.4bn, or 13.5pc of household total resources, as a result of diminished household consumption.

This figure has continued to grow in a blow to the new Government, which has made expanding the economy its number one mission over the next five years.

David Pye, of the Broadbent consultancy, said: "Households are clearly not rushing to spend the excess savings generated through the pandemic when

consumption was slashed because of the unprecedented restrictions.

"Unlike the United States, UK households appear to be an outlier as they focus on maintaining savings to protect against shocks such as the cost of living crisis and in bringing down their debt as the cost of borrowing has risen sharply.

"As we appear to be moving towards a more secure economic outlook, it will be interesting to see whether households are able to loosen the purse strings and increase consumption or whether caution rules."

Heathrow loses out to EU rivals, says IAG boss

By **Christopher Jasper**

HEATHROW is falling behind overseas airports as high passenger costs and a lack of investment strangle growth, the head of the company that owns British Airways has warned.

Luis Gallego, the chief executive of IAG, said Britain's largest airport was at risk of losing out to rivals such as Paris Charles de Gaulle and Frankfurt if it failed to cut fees and improve efficiency.

"What we want at Heathrow is to have a much more efficient airport

because passengers here pay two or three times what they'd pay in other hubs in Europe," he said.

Speaking at Farnborough International Airshow, Mr Gallego said Iberia, IAG's Spanish arm, is expanding capacity by 14pc this year – twice the pace of growth at British Airways.

Mr Gallego said that, unlike London, Madrid is "growing a lot" and becoming a "much more competitive hub for the south of Europe". To improve competitiveness, he said bosses should explore expanding capacity at Heathrow.

However, he stopped short of supporting a third runway, claiming he would only back that project if it was financially and environmentally sustainable.

He said: "I don't know if we're going to have a runway in the future but we always said that what we want is to have one that is sustainable."

"Not only from an environmental point of view but also from the financial point of view. It must be something that the customers don't have to pay a lot of money [for] because we have to compete with other big hubs in Europe."

Markets

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Government securities

Table with columns: High, Low, (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Treasuries and Government Bonds.

Index Linked Securities

Table with columns: High, Low, (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes various index-linked securities.

10-Year Government Bonds

Table with columns: Yield%, Spread vs 10Y, Spread vs 5Y. Includes France, Germany, Japan, etc.

Aerospace & defence +0.10%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes BAE Systems, Airbus, etc.

Banks +1.40%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Barclays, HSBC, etc.

Beverages +0.58%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Diageo, Heineken, etc.

Chemicals +1.01%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes BASF, Dow, etc.

Construction -0.13%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Balfour Beatty, etc.

Oil & Gas -0.01%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes BP, Shell, etc.

Transport -0.13%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes British Airways, etc.

Telecommunications -0.15%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes BT Group, etc.

Food producers -0.19%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Unilever, etc.

Travel & Leisure -0.40%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes TUI, etc.

Electricals +0.38%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Schneider, etc.

Household goods +0.96%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Unilever, etc.

Electricity +0.95%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes SSE, etc.

Engineering / Industrial +0.90%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Rolls-Royce, etc.

Food producers -0.19%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Unilever, etc.

Gas & Water +0.19%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Centrica, etc.

General financial +0.40%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes AstraZeneca, etc.

Healthcare +0.21%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes AstraZeneca, etc.

Household goods +0.96%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Unilever, etc.

Information technology +0.18%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes SAP, etc.

Insurance +0.75%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Aviva, etc.

Investment trusts +0.45%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, NAV. Includes various investment trusts.

Media +0.92%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes BBC, etc.

Retailers +0.53%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Next, etc.

Mining +0.12%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes Anglo American, etc.

Oil & Gas -0.01%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes BP, Shell, etc.

Pharmaceuticals +0.97%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes AstraZeneca, etc.

Property +0.56%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes various property trusts.

Tobacco +0.96%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes British American Tobacco, etc.

Transport -0.13%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes British Airways, etc.

Travel & Leisure -0.40%

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Travel & Leisure -0.40%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes TUI, etc.

AIM +0.61%

Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes various AIM-listed companies.

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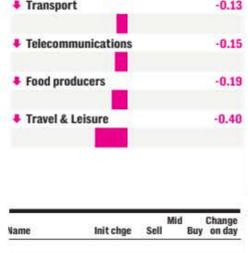
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Table with columns: High, Low (p) Stock, Price (p) +/-, Yld, P/E. Includes various AIM-listed companies.

Winners and losers (pc)



Major price changes FTSE 100

Table showing price changes for major FTSE 100 stocks like Rentshield, Burberry, etc.

Fallers 27

Table showing price changes for 27 falling stocks like easyJet, Int'l Cons Air, etc.

Guinness Global Investors

Table showing performance of Guinness Global Investors funds.

Janus Henderson Investors

Table showing performance of Janus Henderson Investors funds.

J.P. Morgan Asset Management

Table showing performance of J.P. Morgan Asset Management funds.

M&G Investments

Table showing performance of M&G Investments funds.

Yield Fund Services Limited

Table showing performance of Yield Fund Services Limited funds.

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited

Table showing performance of AXA Investment Managers UK funds.

BNY Mellon Fund Managers

Table showing performance of BNY Mellon Fund Managers funds.

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Yield Fund Services Limited

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Blue Whale Growth Fund

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Blue Whale Capital

Table showing performance of Blue Whale Capital funds.

Fundsmith LLP

Table showing performance of Fundsmith LLP funds.

Janus Henderson Investors

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Fundsmith LLP

Table showing performance of Fundsmith LLP funds.



Forget what you think you know, Greek banks are back after an extraordinary reinvention

MILES COSTELLO
QUESTOR
STOCK PICKS



The country's third-largest lender made €1bn profits last year and the outlook for shares in Alpha Bank is equally optimistic

From uninvestable to unmissable, the reinvention of the Greek banking sector has been nothing short of extraordinary.

When the International Monetary Fund (IMF) rushed to the rescue of Greece on three separate occasions between 2010 and 2015, the country was the sick man of Europe and its lenders were insolvent.

Of the close to €300bn (£253bn) channelled into Greece over those years, just under €50bn was used to bail out four lenders. Their balance sheets were recapitalised, and non-performing loans were restructured to enable them to start lending again.

After a painful period, including harsh rounds of austerity, a new picture of Greece and its banking sector has emerged. The country's economy is expected to grow by about 2.2pc this year, more than double the 1pc forecast for the EU.

Its banks, now profitable, are starting to burnish their growth credentials – they are even preparing to pay shareholders dividends again.

At the forefront of this renewed vigour is Alpha Bank, or to give it its official name, Alpha Services & Holdings. Greece's third-largest lender by assets is comfortably back in the black. It reported a pre-tax profit of €976.5m last year, up 55pc on 2022. The bank has cut its non-performing exposure ratio (essentially, the

Alpha Bank
BUY

After years of restructuring, the bank is now in a position to pay investors a dividend worth 20pc of last year's profits

percentage of non-performing loans) to roughly 5.8pc. In 2019, the ratio stood at 45pc.

At the tail end of last year, the state sold its 9pc stake in the lender to Italy's UniCredit. That marked the first investment in a Greek bank by a European peer since the financial crisis. The deal also involved a product distribution agreement and a merger in Romania. Alpha Bank is now also poised to pay a dividend, equivalent to 20pc of last year's profits.

The rejuvenation of Greece's banking sector, and Alpha Bank in particular, has attracted the interest of some of the world's most successful investors, six of whom hold stakes in the bank. Each of them is among the top 3pc of the more than 10,000 fund managers whose performance is tracked by the financial publisher Citywire.

Their backing has led Alpha Bank to receive an AAA rating from Citywire Elite Companies, which rates businesses based on their ownership by the world's best-performing professional stock pickers. One of them is Dominic Bokor-Ingram, who holds Alpha Bank as the largest position in two of his portfolios – Fiera Oaks EM Select and Magna New Frontiers. Bokor-Ingram said he first started buying Alpha, and other Greek banks, in early 2021, when double-digit percentage returns on equity started to look like a realistic



- Key numbers**
- ◆ Market value: €3.95bn
 - ◆ Turnover (Dec 23): €2.07bn
 - ◆ Pre-tax profit (Dec 23): €0.77bn
 - ◆ Yield: 2.99pc
 - ◆ Most recent year's dividend: €0.03
 - ◆ Loan to deposit ratio (Dec 23): 74.6pc
 - ◆ Return on equity (Dec): 8.36pc
 - ◆ Common equity tier 1 ratio (Dec 23): 14.4pc
 - ◆ p/e ratio: 6.7

possibility. As well as rating management highly, Bokor-Ingram was attracted by the price of the shares' low valuation relative to Continental peers despite increased certainty about the future.

"The banks' returns have been way beyond our, and the market's, expectations," he said. "We still believe there is a huge valuation discount."

The shares trade at about half tangible book value, which is a measure of the value of the bank's assets. With returns on tangible book value expected to be more than 10pc, it is not hard to understand why Bokor-Ingram and other top investors believe Alpha Bank is a bargain. The share price also represents just 5.5 times the next year's expected earnings and carries a prospective dividend yield of 7.1pc, according to consensus forecasts collated by FactSet.

Alpha Bank's US-listed American Depository Receipt (ADR) shares are available through most UK brokers,

'Returns have been way beyond ours and the market's expectations ... we believe there's still a huge valuation discount'

although interested investors should be sure to fill in the appropriate documents to minimise their exposure to dividend withholding tax.

The success of last year's results was followed by record first-quarter profits. The bank looks well placed to continue to capitalise on the improved Greek economy and has ambitious plans to grow earnings by 20pc a year until 2025. It also aims to generate almost €2.3bn in surplus capital over the period. With the lender also aiming for a return on tangible equity of above 12pc, while sporting a protective capital buffer among Europe's highest, the dividends outlook is also strong. Alpha may have been uninvestable only a few years ago, but that has changed and the shares now offer value.

Questor says: buy
Ticker: NYSE:ALBK
Share price: \$0.43 at 5pm

Miles Costello is a contributing journalist to Citywire Elite Companies

Buy-to-let mortgage deals shrink amid high interest rates

The volume of lending for buy-to-let house purchases more than halved last year, according to a banking and finance industry body.

UK Finance said the number of new mortgage deals being granted for buy-to-let fell from 25,280 in the fourth quarter of 2022 to 12,422 in the first quarter of this year.

Rapidly rising interest rates played a major role, making it harder to pass lenders' affordability tests for those looking to buy a property to rent out, according to UK Finance. It added that the stamp duty surcharge on second and subsequent properties and the progressive removal of higher-rate income tax relief on mortgage payments for rental properties also made being a landlord less attractive.

Abu Dhabi takes control of middle-class buggy maker

Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund has swooped on designer pushchair brand Bugaboo, seizing control of the business from its private equity owner.

Mubadala Capital, which is chaired by Manchester City owner Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, announced a majority stake in Bugaboo yesterday.

Famed for its popularity among Britain's middle classes, Bugaboo has been owned by Bain Capital since 2018. Under the terms of the deal, which is still subject to regulatory approval, Bain will retain a minority stake in the business.

Adriaan Thierry, the Bugaboo chief executive, said the company had almost doubled its revenues in the past five years, adding that the deal would help it grow into new markets.

Ocado boosted by American order for warehouse tech

Ocado jumped to top the FTSE 250 after it announced a new deal with its American partner Kroger.

The online supermarket and technology group was up more than 12pc after the US retailer placed an order for a "wide range of new automated technologies".

Ocado has staked its future on being a technology company that develops automated warehouses, rather than an online retailer, where it currently generates most of its revenues.

Tim Steiner, the chief executive, said it was delivering "a step-change" in warehouse automation and efficiency to meet ever-greater demand, cope with more complex global supply chains and rise to challenges posed by labour cost and availability issues.

Moneysupermarket provides boost from insurance switching

Moneysupermarket's parent company enjoyed an 8pc bump in its profits to £73m over the first half of this year, amid surging revenue from its insurance business.

Mony Group, which owns the price comparison website as well as Moneysavingexpert, saw 14pc growth in its insurance comparison segment, which brought in £120m.

It said insurance switching had seen "exceptional growth" in 2023 which has carried over into the first part of this year, but it expects the trend to taper off in the second half of 2024.

The insurance business made up for weaker results across other areas. Revenue in its home services arm, which includes energy switching and broadband, was down 10pc to £16.7m.

Porsche considers stake in German battery maker Varta

Porsche is considering taking a stake in troubled battery maker Varta to help it avoid insolvency and keep "key technology in Germany", the luxury car manufacturer said.

The German company had already been eyeing a majority stake in Varta's electric mobility unit, which makes lithium-ion battery cells. However, after Varta said it is looking at ways to restructure its debt to "avert a possible insolvency", Porsche said it was considering a larger commitment to "keep this key technology in Germany" and that it could take part in a financial reorganisation.

Talks were "still ongoing", it said, adding that Varta needed a "high double-digit million euro" injection of funds to stay afloat.

Hammerson sheds Bicester Village site in deal worth £1.5bn

Property investor Hammerson has sold its stake in the owner of the Bicester Village retail outlet in a £1.5bn deal.

Shares in Hammerson gained by 3.3pc after it announced the sale of its Value Retail business to the private equity firm L Catterton, which is backed by French luxury goods giant LVMH (Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy).

Hammerson, which also owns Birmingham's Bullring, said the sale will generate around £600m in cash. The company told investors it will be able to reduce its debts, invest in other assets and hand up to £140m to shareholders through a buyback as a result. Hammerson owned almost 40pc of the business, which has nine luxury shopping sites in cities including Barcelona, Paris and Milan.

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Court Circular



ST JAMES'S PALACE July 22nd The Princess Royal this evening departed from Heathrow Airport, London, for France and was received upon arrival later at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, by His Majesty's Ambassador to the French Republic (Her Excellency Dame Menna Rawlings).

For more details about the Royal family visit the Royal website at www.royal.uk

Today's birthdays

Dame Mary Tanner, European President, World Council of Churches, 2006-13, is 86; Prof Christopher Andrew, historian, 83; Mr David Essex, singer and actor, 77; Mr Tristram Jones-Parry, Head Master, Westminster School, 1998-2005, 77; Prof Sir Ross Cranston, former Labour MP and High Court Judge, 76; Prof Michael Wood, historian and broadcaster, 76; Mr Len McCluskey, general secretary, Unite, 2011-21, 74; Mr Steve Fenwick, former Wales and Lions rugby player, 73; Mr Graham Gooch, former England cricket captain; England batting coach, 2009-14, 71; the Rt Rev Julian Henderson, Bishop of Blackburn, 2013-22, 70; Air Marshal Chris Nickols, Contoller, RAF Benevolent Fund, 2012-16, 68; Miss Jo Brand, comedian, actress and writer, 67; Mr Martin Gore, musician and songwriter, 63; Mr Woody Harrelson, actor, 63; Ms Claire Oulton, Headmistress, Benenden School, 2000-13, 63; Slash (Mr Saul Hudson), guitarist, 59; and Ms Judith Polgar, chess grandmaster, 48.

Today is the anniversary of the opening of the Alexandra Palace in 1863.

Forthcoming marriage

Mr J. Chaplin and Miss T. Rowan Hamilton The engagement is announced between Jack, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Mervyn Chaplin, of East Carlton, Leicestershire, and Tamara, daughter of Mr Hamish Rowan Hamilton, of Somerset, and Mrs Venetia Rowan Hamilton, of Hertfordshire. Online ref: W0026742

Luncheon

Rotary Club of London Mr Armin Mahboobi was the speaker at a luncheon held yesterday by the Rotary Club of London at the Chesterfield Hotel, London W1. Ms Candy Liu, president, was in the chair.

Bridge news

The annual Welsh inter-area teams competitions have taken place at the University of Wales in Carmarthen, writes Julian Pottage. Bridge Correspondent. The winners were as follows:

Perry Shield 1st North Wales (Simon Edwards, Patrick Murphy, David Stevenson, Liz Commins, Barry Wynn and Wyn Williams) 121.44 VPs. 2nd East Wales (Gwynn Davis, Susan Ingham, Tony Ratcliff, Julian Pottage, Gilly Clench and David Birt) 106.91 VPs.

Spickett Bowl 1st East Wales (Ceri Pierce, Mia Deschepper, Helen Houston, Jenny Vaughan, Debbie Richards and Sophie Cunningham) 130.66 VPs. 2nd West Wales (Lee Collier, Margaret Lane, Linda Pinnock, Val Halford, Debbie Lee and Emer Disley) 98.54 VPs.

President's Cup 1st West Wales (Nigel Astley, Sarah Walters, Howard Goss, Rosie Preece, Martin Sheppard and John Gardener) 115.37 VPs. 2nd East Wales (Susan Biggin, Bev Cox, Keith Edwards, John Carroll, Sarah Wilcox and Johanna Hunt) 112.65 VPs.

Bridge Hand

Balkan horror show

By Tom Townsend

Dealer North Vulnerability All ♠ J 8 6 4 ♥ 8 5 2 ♦ 9 7 ♣ 10 3 ♠ 7 ♥ K Q 10 9 6 3 ♦ 17 ♣ 10 8 5 2 ♠ 6 4 3 ♥ 10 8 5 2 ♦ K 9 7 5 ♣ K 10 9 5 2 ♠ A 4 ♥ A K ♣ A 6 4

West North East South pass 3NT(2) pass 2NT(1) pass

(1) On the ♠109 and prime cards (2) No Stayman with 4-3-3-3

Contract 3NT Declarer South Opening Lead ♥Q

IN round four of the European Championships in Denmark, England faced Bulgaria. Matches featuring tourist teams aside, this has to be one of the worst-played sets ever seen at this level.

The IMP turnover was 117 over 16 boards, 63 of them scored by England. We took our 12.55 VPs and moved on. Yes, we'd have liked to have made our 7NT with 13 top tricks, but bridge is a game of mistakes. Bulgarian teams can be dangerous, and we'd have taken this result before the match.

Three boards from the end, to give you the flavour, the Bulgarian West held ♠1092 ♠A753 ♣J1053 ♣A7. Enraged at events on the previous board, on which his side had lost 800 in a ludicrous

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

The Daily Telegraph

LONDON, WEDNESDAY JULY 23, 1924

U.S. LINER RAMMED.

FOUR PASSENGERS KILLED.

THE REMAINDER RESCUED.

BOSTON, TUESDAY.

The passenger steamer Boston, bound from Boston to New York, has been in collision off Point Judith, Rhode Island, and is calling for assistance. All the passengers have been transferred to the boats. Four passengers were killed. Apparently the collision was due to fog. A number of vessels are rushing to the spot to render assistance.

The Boston is a new twin-screw boat. Her passenger list is not, for the moment, available, but on her previous trips this season she has been carrying about 1,000 passengers. The passengers and crew are being picked up by the tanker Swift Arrow, which rammed the Boston.

The fog was so thick that the rescue ships did not dare to approach the Boston, and drifted about, playing searchlights on the water and spotting the lifeboats coming within their rays. The steamers requested the Boston to blow her whistle and thus indicate her position, but she replied by wireless that she could not, as she had no steam.

Several hours after the collision the steamers had picked up a large number of passengers, but it is not known how many are still afloat in the impenetrable fog. That some passengers are still afloat is indicated by a wireless message from the Boston to near-by vessels saying, "Be careful, all boats to starboard." The message added, "Our condition is fair." Two tugs are now alongside the Boston, which is making water rapidly, but is trying to keep from sinking. The rescue boats are moving with the greatest caution through the fog, as some lifeboats crowded with passengers are still drifting near by.

The liner, according to the Exchange Telegraph Company, had 400 passengers on board and a crew of 175. The number of persons killed when she collided with the tanker is put at five.

The Boston is a twin-screw liner, of 5,100 tons gross, owned by the Eastern Steamship Lines. She was built in 1923, burns oil fuel, and has four geared turbines.

OLYMPIC GAMES: AMERICAN CRITICISM.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT. NEW YORK, TUESDAY.

The American Press predicts that the renewal of the Olympic Games will be postponed for a decade or more, and perhaps discontinued entirely, if the free fights and shameful disorder, as reported here occasionally, mar the contests between international teams. Gratification is expressed because Americans have won so many events, but victory, it is commented, is dearly bought if international prejudices and animosities are aroused. A great deal of comment is printed here along these lines, and the writers are disagreeably impressed with the fact that Americans are usually the targets of hostility. On this score there is no complaint against Great Britain, "a people long trained to self-control and good sportsmanship." But a similar compliment is not paid to some other countries competing. "If," says one journal, "the disagreeable incidents reported are characteristic of certain European countries, we can understand why the ancestors of the American contestants desired to leave the country of their origin." To stabilise peace and restore the prosperity of the world, it is urged by editorial writers, international bitterness must not be increased, but reduced. "If international peace is marred, rather than promoted, by the Olympic contests, America, certainly, is prepared to withdraw her co-operation."

A WEEK'S RAIN IN TWENTY MINUTES.

Between 2.30 and three o'clock yesterday afternoon, during one of the most concentrated and severe thunderstorms experienced in London, there fell 1.16in of rain or hail. During twenty minutes of that time the rainfall was 1.1in, which is more than the total fall recorded during a normal week, an average month's fall being under 4in. Indeed, a Daily Telegraph representative was informed by an official at the Meteorological Office, more rain fell yesterday in twenty minutes than during the four weeks immediately prior to last Thursday.

Two Northern suburban train services to and from the City had to be suspended in conse-

quence of the flooding of a tunnel between King's-cross and Farringdon-street Stations.

Very large hailstones came down with the torrential rain, some remaining half an hour after the deluge had ceased and given way to rain of the summer shower variety. In the Strand, near the Law Courts, and in other areas, wood paving blocks were to be seen floating.

It is estimated that during the twenty minutes yesterday's storm lasted over 40,000,000 tons of rain descended on London.

HAILSTONES LIKE MARBLES.

Moving from the south, where on Monday evening and during yesterday morning thunder and heavy rain had been experienced, the storm gave Londoners but short notice of its approach before it was directly overhead. There had been a little rain just after two o'clock, very large drops, few and far between, and the sky in the south grew darker and darker, until at last the day became almost as night, and in shops and offices it was necessary to use artificial light. City workers had, for the most part, regained their desks after the luncheon hour, but the streets were still thronged with people when, just before half-past two, the storm burst in fury - thunder, lightning, rain, and hail. There was a general stampede of pedestrians; shops, "buses, tram-cars, Tube stations, all served as places of refuge; and those who were compelled to remain in the streets were soon thoroughly soaked. The hailstones - some as large as marbles - beat down with great force, and soon one was able to see streets almost covered with a white mantle, which threw back in reflection the vivid flashes of lightning. The thunder crashed directly overhead, reminding one of the days of air raids and anti-aircraft barrages, and to those who were safely in shelter the scene was not without its wild appeal.

Soon the streets were almost empty of pedestrians, streams of water which the gutters were unable to carry away ran down the thoroughfares, and in many instances flooded the basements of shops and houses. For half an hour the flashes of lightning and peals of thunder were almost incessant, and the rain and hail descended from an almost black sky, and rebounded from the pavements. In that half-hour the temperature fell 19deg - from 74deg to 55deg. Horses, pounded by the hailstones became restive and difficult to control, dogs were frankly terrified, and ran into houses and shops to escape the fury of the storm.

A DEEP DEPRESSION.

At the Meteorological Office the rain measurement between 2.30 and 3 was 1.16in, 1.10in being registered in twenty minutes, and the heaviest part of the fall was estimated at about two-fifths of an inch in three minutes. Some of the older generation caught in the storm yesterday recalled the one in London on June 23, 1878, and considered yesterday's fall heavier, but official records show that 1.82in was measured at Camden-square in twenty minutes on that occasion. There was a heavier fall, too, at Preston on Aug. 10, 1893, when 2.09in was recorded in thirty-five minutes, and the observer estimated the severest part at 1.25 in five minutes.

The Meteorological Office was informed at about 3.30 that only 0.1574in of rain had fallen at Wembley. The official reason for the outbreak was that a deep depression had occurred over the London area, and the storm travelled from south to north, becoming more intense as it proceeded, both as to rain and thunder. Prospects were that south-east light variable winds would prevail, with a tendency to more thunder, and a rise in temperature.

DAMAGE BY FLOOD.

Among the large number of visitors to London a party of Americans went to St. Etheldreda's Church, Ely-place, Holborn, directly the storm abated to see the thirteenth-century crypt. They found a cascade flowing down the steps between the church entrance and the cloisters and another down the steps to the crypt. A house in the Mall, Notting-hill-gate, was struck by lightning and some stonework damaged. The huge hailstones stripped many hundreds of fruit trees in West Essex orchards and gardens.

THUNDERBOLT ON FARM.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Cole, of Penquite Farm, Landrake, Cornwall, had miraculous escapes during the thunderstorm. While they were milking cows a thunderbolt fell and shattered the gable of the byre. Mr. and Mrs. Cole were rendered unconscious, and four cows were instantly killed, while a fifth cow was panic-stricken but escaped injury.

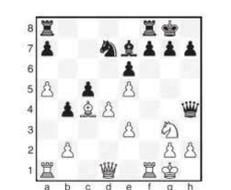
Chess

The beauty of Biel

By Malcolm Pein

THE Biel Chess Festival's future was in doubt earlier this year, but the top event in the Swiss tournament calendar looks in rude health. There are a wide range of events, including an elite section with 2024 Candidate Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa. The Masters Triathlon sees the players competing in Classical, Rapid and Blitz.

There was a surprise in the first Classical round, as Abhinav Mishra, formerly the world's youngest-ever GM, defeated Pragg, after the latter mishandled, what was at the outset, an excellent sacrifice of knight for two pawns on g5. Pragg's sister had better luck in the tournament, demolishing Alexander Donchenko.



R Vaishali - A Donchenko Caro-Kann Advance Le4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e4 Bf5 4. e4 e6 5. Nc3 Ne7 6. Nge2 dxc4 7. Ng3 b5 8. Be2 Bg6 9. a4 b4 (9...Nd5 looks more natural and if 10. axb5? Bb4 or 10. 0-0 Bb4 11. Nxd5 cxd5 10. Nce4 Bxe4 11. Nxe4 Nf5 12. Be3 (White will recover the pawn and retain a space advantage) 12...Qh4? 13. Ng3! Nxe3 14. fxe3 Be7 15. 0-0 (White can take on c4 and build up on the kingside. Black's queen is poorly

placed) 15...Nd7 16. Bxc4 0-0 17. a5? (17. Qb3 and if 17...Nb6 18. Bxe6) 17...c5? (See board left) 18. Rxf7! Rxf7 (8...Kxf7 19. Bxe6+! Ke8 20. Qa4 Rd8 21. Bxd7+ Rxd7 22. e6, or 18...Kxf7 19. Bxe6+ Kxe6 20. Qb3-c4 21. Qxc4#, but 18...Kxf7 19. Bxe6+ Kg6! 20. Bxd7 cxd4 lights on and if 21. Qd3+ Kh6 22. Nf5+ Rxf5) 19. Bxe6 Rxf8 (19...Nf8 allows 20. Bxf7+ Kxf7 21. Qf3+ Kg8 22. Qxa8, a consequence of Black's 17th move) 20. Qa4 (Or just 20. Bxf7+! Rxf7 21. e6; 20. Bxf7+ Kxf7 21. Qf3+ Kg8 (21...Ke8 22. Qa8+ Bd8 23. e6) 22. Qd5+ wins the knight and the game) 20...Bg5 21. Qxd7 Bxe3- 22. Kh1 Qxd4

Answer: ♖e8g8f8g7e7f7d7c7b7a7

Announcements

Email: announcements.ads@telegraph.co.uk Book online: announcements.telegraph.co.uk

Deaths

CAPEWELL.—Maureen Dorothy (née Rolfe Owen). Died on 30th June 2024 aged 93. Beloved mother of Amanda, Alex and Lucy, grandmother to Henry and George, and great grandmother to Ralph, Jack and Rex. Online Ref: W0026831

GILROY.—Angus Hugh died on 10th July 2024, aged 87. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth, father of Fergus and Margaret, and grandfather of Harry, Lara, Wilfred and Rose. Memorial Service at 2 p.m. on Thursday 5th September at St Mary's Church, Billingshurst. No flowers please. Online Ref: W0026782

KOCH.—Rosemary (née Sarra) died peacefully on 22nd July 2024, aged 103 in Zurich. Much loved by her children John and Marlies and her five grandchildren. Online Ref: W0026822

LAUDER.—John Alastair Lauder died on 14th July, peacefully and at home after a short illness. Husband of Irene, father of Rosie, he will be remembered with love by the whole family including son-in-law David Salkeld and grandchildren Joe and his wife Carys; Ben and Maddy. Service at Breakspear Crematorium, Ruislip on 25th July 2024 at 11.15 p.m. Donations to Diabetes UK via johnalastairlauder.muchloved.com Online Ref: W0026835

REES.—Michael John passed away on 8th July 2024. Michael's funeral will take place at Selmeston Church on Friday 2nd August. Private family and invite only. London memorial to be arranged. Donations to St Wilfrid's Hospice (Eastbourne) c/o Cooper & Son Funeral Directors, 42 High Street, Lewes, BN7 2DD. Tel: 01273 475 557. Online Ref: W0026738

RENDALL.—Adam passed away peacefully at home on 8th July aged 85. Much loved and greatly missed by his wife Gill, daughter Philippa and family. Funeral at St Peter's Church, Rauceby, Lincs, NG34 5QU on 15th August at 12 noon. Family flowers only and no black attire. Any donations to Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance and Cancer Research UK please via Robert Holland, Grantham, NG31 6TS. Online Ref: W0026804

SMEED.—Dorothy Ettie "Debbie". Passed away peacefully on 15th July 2024, aged 94. Now reunited with Gurney and her beloved son, Gavin. Much loved Mum to Nikki and son-in-law Alan. Devoted Grandma to Chris and doting Ggma to Zach and Oliver. At her request there will be a Celebration of her life at The Cromwell Arms, Romsey on Monday 29th July 2024 at 12.30 p.m. Donations in her memory to benefit the work of M.S Society may be sent to A.H. Cheater, 122 The Hundred, Romsey, SO51 5BY or online at www.ahcheater.co.uk Online Ref: W0026824

Memorial services

MADELEY.—A memorial service to celebrate the life of Richard R. Madeley will be held on Tuesday 17th September 2024 in London. Please email madeleyememorial@hotmail.com for further details. Online Ref: W0026826

Personal

Text for the day

THEN THE angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:1-2 (NIV)

Personal

The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph

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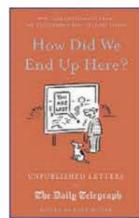
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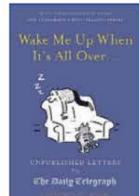
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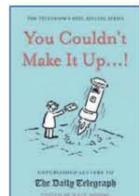
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Allan Orpin

Jeep driver who survived risky glider landings on D-Day and the Operation Varsity Rhine crossing

ALLAN ORPIN, who has died aged 98, was believed to be the last survivor of those who served with 6th Airborne Armoured Reconnaissance Regiment (6th AARR) in the glider-borne landings in Normandy and in the forced crossing of the Rhine.

On March 24 1945, Operation Varsity was launched with the aim of establishing a bridgehead across the Rhine for the main allied advance into Germany. Orpin, a Jeep driver with HQ Squadron, enplaned at RAF Tarrant Rushton, Dorset, and landed by Horsa glider near Wesel.

He said afterwards that his abiding impression was that of total chaos. Eight Locust tanks had flown in Hamilcar cargo-carrying gliders; several of these had smashed on landing. In the trees, hanging from the branches, were American paratroopers who had been shot. Many of their comrades had been killed on landing; the static line had failed to open their parachutes, and their torn tunics showed that they had made desperate attempts to pull the ripcords of their reserve 'chutes.

The preliminary bombardment had obscured the battlefield with dense smoke and glider pilots found it difficult to identify their zones. There was also intense anti-aircraft fire. In daylight, gliders made easy targets and many were shot down at a height of a few hundred feet. Orpin found the landing zones littered with burning gliders.

Troops disembarking from gliders found themselves under attack and sometimes overwhelmed from pockets of fierce resistance. There were heavy casualties and Orpin helped to collect the dog tags from many of the fallen. To the end of his life, he was deeply affected by what he had seen.

Allan Gordon Orpin, youngest of four, was born in Walthamstow on January 17 1926. One Sunday in September 1939, immediately after the declaration of war, the air-raid siren sounded. Young Allan was a choirboy in church at the time. The whole congregation panicked and rushed down to shelter in the crypt. It was a false alarm.

He left school at 13 and began working 12-hour days as a signwriter. At home during the Blitz he heard the whistle of bombs falling, and everyone in the family put their heads under the kitchen table.

One day, when an incendiary bomb fell by their front gate, his mother ran out and extinguished the flames by throwing sand on it. An ARP Warden appeared with a stirrup pump and sprayed the device with water, which set it alight once more. Allan's mother, furious, shouted: "I put the fire out. You've started it again. Push off and find your own bloody bomb!"

Orpin did not want to be a "Bevin Boy" and work in the coal mines, and he enlisted in the Army at the Romford recruiting office. In October 1943 he was just under 18 when he was sent to No 1 Infantry Training Centre at Warley Barracks, Brentwood, Essex, to begin his basic training.

He had been "trade tested" and demonstrated an aptitude for mechanics, so he was posted to the Royal Armoured Corps (RAC) Training Centre at Bovington in



Dorset, where he trained as a Jeep driver and mechanic. Having responded to a request for volunteers for airborne forces, he was posted to HQ Squadron 6th AARR at Larkhill, Wiltshire. He received an extra half-crown pay a day.

The basic role of the regiment was to crew and fight their light tanks after accompanying them by glider into battle. It was made up of volunteers from across the Army, mostly from the RAC, the Royal Tank Regiment and cavalry regiments. They were never granted their own cap badge, but retained the insignia of the regiment from which they had been drawn. As airborne soldiers, however, they all wore the maroon beret, airborne titles and Pegasus flashes.

On the evening of D-Day, June 6 1944, Orpin, a member of Jeep Troop, 6th AARR, took off from RAF Brize Norton and landed by Horsa glider near Ranville in Normandy. The undercarriage of the glider collapsed and the glider itself finished up half way into a hedge. He and his comrades unloaded the Jeeps and trailers and dug slit trenches. They then reverted to an infantry role: their immediate task was to be ready to repel a

counter-attack. Recce patrols were ordered to obtain information about the enemy's strength and dispositions, in difficult country with high banks, thick hedges and narrow lanes.

The Germans were well sited, and covered with a protective screen of machine gun and anti-tank guns which was hard to penetrate. In early September, 6th Airborne Division was withdrawn from Normandy and 6th AARR accompanied them to England for rest, retraining and reorganisation.

In mid-December, the Germans achieved complete surprise with an offensive in great strength through the densely forested region of the Ardennes between Belgium and Luxembourg (the Battle of the Bulge). All Christmas leave was cancelled.

On Christmas Eve, Orpin drove his Jeep to Tilbury in Essex, breaking regulations by visiting his mother at Walthamstow on the way. His absence was not missed, though, and at midnight the Jeep was loaded on to the deck of an LST (Landing Ship/Tank). Orpin spent the night in the vehicle, preferring that to sharing a bunk below deck.

At dawn, near the mouth of the Thames, the vessel ran into heavy fog and spent the next three days at anchor off Sheerness. To dispel the boredom, someone bet the colonel a bottle of whisky that he could not swim around the ship in the bitterly cold weather. The colonel dived into the water and won the bet.

Two days later the ship docked at Ostend. Orpin's squadron spent the night in a convent before pushing on to Villers-sur-Lesse in the Ardennes and subsequently to Sevenum in Holland. The regiment deployed in Cromwell tanks on the River Meuse. There was patrolling in heavy snow and freezing fog, low-level infiltration by the Germans and the constant danger of booby traps, but the real enemy, he said afterwards, was the weather. The unit then returned to Larkhill to regroup.

After Operation Varsity, he drove the second-in-command of HQ Squadron from the Rhine to Wismar on the Baltic, where 6th AARR linked up with the Russians at the end of the campaign. On the way they came up against fanatical resistance from members of the Hitler Youth armed with Panzerfaust anti-tank weapons.

Postwar, Orpin served in Palestine with 6th Airborne Division and was badly injured in Tel Aviv when he was hit in the chest by a rock thrown by a protester. In February 1946, the Regiment was disbanded and members of 6th AARR awaiting demobilisation were transferred to the 3rd Hussars.

As his demobilisation date drew near, he responded to a call for ex-servicemen in Palestine to join the Metropolitan Police. Having been accepted subject to passing the medical test, he returned to England. But to his dismay, he was failed. His health, after the earlier chest wound, rapidly deteriorated. One of his lungs collapsed and he was admitted to a civilian hospital in London as an emergency case.

After several months recuperating in a sanatorium in Bournemouth, in July 1947 he received a medical discharge from the Army, but he did not receive a full disability pension until a considerable time after the war.

Orpin worked as a trainee toolmaker before transferring to a time-management job. He subsequently worked on various engineering contracts overseas, which took him to Kuwait then to the Taikoo dockyard in Hong Kong, followed by projects in Zambia, Libya and Egypt. Aged 80, in 2006, he finally retired.

In 2014, after many years without any contact with fellow veterans, he attended the 70th-anniversary commemorations in Normandy and was thrilled to meet up with Bill Gladden, a veteran of 6th AARR. They had not met before, but had both landed on the same landing zone on D-Day. Gladden died in April, aged 100.

On June 18 2016, at a service of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum, Orpin was presented with the insignia of the Légion d'honneur by the French Honorary Consul.

In retirement he divided his time between East Sussex and Egypt. In Cairo, he became something of a VIP with the British and German embassies, regularly invited to attend commemorative events in the city as well as at Alexandria and El Alamein. A talented artist, poet and wood carver, Orpin was commissioned to paint a mural in the expatriates' club. He was also a keen fisherman and wrote for Cairo papers.

Allan Orpin married, in 1950, Patricia Bealin, who had been a Wren during the war. She predeceased him and he is survived by their son and daughter.

Allan Orpin, born January 17 1926, died June 1 2024



Orpin, above, and right, at the wheel of a Jeep alongside fellow veteran of 6th AARR, Bill Gladden, during a reunion in Normandy. Left, gliders being towed near Wesel in Operation Varsity, March 1945



John Apthorp

Founder of Bejam frozen foods who went on to establish Majestic Wine as a force on the high street

JOHN APTHORP, who has died aged 89, was the founder of the Bejam frozen foods chain and the force behind the emergence of Majestic Wine as one of Britain's leading high street wine merchants.

Majestic was founded in Harringay, north London, in 1980 by Sheldon Graner, a former merchandiser for John Lewis, and pioneered the concept of "warehouse" wine sales by the case, with tastings. The venture fell into receivership in 1981 but revived with changes of investors and strategic direction, including a short-lived acquisition in the US.

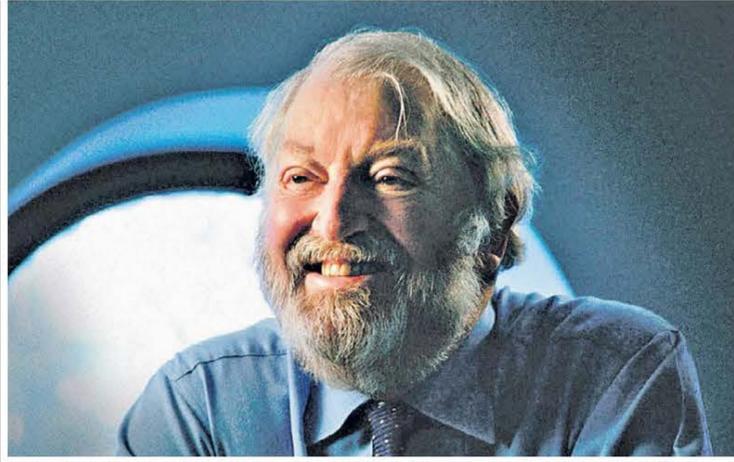
Meanwhile, John Apthorp reaped a substantial pay-out from the sale of Bejam to Iceland Foods – and proceeded, with partners, to buy Bejam's former subsidiary Wizard Wine out of the enlarged Iceland group. In 1991 Wizard bought the heavily loss-making Majestic, then on the brink of returning to receivership.

Having paid £4.2 million for Majestic but recouping most of it by liquidating the stock of one of its failing subsidiaries, Apthorp initially faced striking staff – but turned a £600,000 loss in the first year to a £1.6 million profit in the second, largely by screwing suppliers down on price in return for paying them more promptly.

He floated the company three years later and the brand went from strength to strength, introducing online sales in 2000 and opening outlets in Calais to serve the cross-channel trade – until Brexit-related personal allowance changes made them unviable (though Apthorp himself voted Leave).

Apthorp was chairman of Majestic until he was past 70 and was particularly engaged in finding new retail sites with adequate parking. Though he took part in extensive annual French wine-tastings visits, he left much of the wine-buying to expert managers.

One of his last involvements was in the 2009 acquisition of the upmarket wine merchant Lay & Wheeler. He



Apthorp: he introduced online wine sales in 2000 and opened Majestic Wine outlets in Calais

remained Majestic's biggest shareholder but gradually eased back to focus on philanthropy, notably in his home county of Hertfordshire.

John Dorrington Apthorp was born in London on April 25 1935, the eldest of three children of Eric Apthorp, a potato merchant, and Mildred (Milly), née Lewis.

After service in the Royal Navy, Apthorp's lifelong interest in wine began with a stint at Château Palmer in Bordeaux in 1955, where his work included picking grapes left on Fridays by local pickers intent on returning quietly on Saturdays to take the grapes to make their own wine.

In the 1960s he joined the October Club of City oenophiles who took it in turns to provide wines for monthly gatherings, originally at a limit of £1 a bottle.

Apthorp worked in his father's potato business until it was bought out in 1968 by the Ross Group from Grimsby, better known for its frozen seafood products.

Uncomfortable working for the larger firm, he left to open a frozen foods store in Edgware, naming it Bejam as an acronym of Brian (his brother), Eric, John, Milly and Marion (his sister). According to legend, it was also the name of the family's beach hut.

Less than one per cent of British households owned a freezer at that time but by 1973 there were two million of them, and Bejam (which also sold the appliances themselves) had grown to a national brand, with 72 outlets and a listing on the London stock exchange.

In 1980 the business celebrated its 200th opening (at Woodley in Berkshire by Princess Anne) but abandoned an unsuccessful venture in fast-food restaurants; it carried on growing to reach 400 stores, with 10,000 staff.

Apthorp continued to own 30 per cent of the business, but as an ebullient natural entrepreneur he eventually found himself "bored to death", and opened somewhat

fractious merger discussions with Malcolm Walker, owner of the Iceland supermarket group, which was then the smaller of the two businesses.

In the bidding war that followed, Apthorp "stood back, hoping to lose", and duly did so when Iceland prevailed by a narrow margin of shareholders' votes in 1988.

Finding himself "out of work at 55", Apthorp claimed to have been told by his wife: "I married you for better or worse but not for lunch: go find a job."

The solution was to venture into wine: as it happened, Bejam had recently bought a small business called Wizard Wine that was a competitor to Majestic – and in 1989 Apthorp and his business partners bought out Wizard Wine from Iceland as a platform from which to "stalk" Majestic.

As to his own tastes, Apthorp's guests at a Millennium dinner party were served Château Pétrus 1982 and Romanée Conti 1990 – the former supremely rated by the American critic Robert Parker but the latter, according to Apthorp, "so much better".

He also served as a councillor for Edgware from 1968 to 1974. Reckoned in 2015 to be the 10th richest person in the UK drinks trade with a fortune of £120 million, he was a generous donor to causes in his home parish of Aldenham in Hertfordshire, including the Radlett arts centre, as well as further afield.

His mother Milly, who died in 1989, used the proceeds of her Bejam shareholding to create her own charitable trust which gave millions to projects in Hendon and Barnet.

Apthorp was also a keen supporter of Walton & Frinton Yacht club in Essex; asked whether he might fund the purchase of a pair of training dinghies, he replied: "Why don't I buy three? It'll be much more fun."

Appointed OBE in 1998, he was raised to CBE for his philanthropy in 2014. He married Jane Arnold in 1959; she died in 2018. They had a daughter and three sons.

John Apthorp, born April 25 1925, died July 9 2024

Dominic Gwynn

Organ builder who was able to recreate historic instruments

DOMINIC GWYNN, who has died aged 70, brought new levels of scholarship and craftsmanship to British organ building; with his business partner and fellow organ builder, the late Martin Goetze, he determined in detail the practices of 17th- and 18th-century English organ builders.

Working from the slender evidence of two organ fragments dating from the 1530s or 1540s found in Suffolk, he was able to construct three organs that are the best realisations yet of instruments from the Tudor period that would have been familiar to Taverner, Tallis and Tye. They capture a sound and style lost since the enthusiastic destruction of organs during Cromwell's Commonwealth.

Dominic Leigh Denys Gwynn was born on August 18 1953 in London. He was brought up in Ealing and educated at Christ's Hospital, Horsham, then went to St John's College, Oxford, to read modern history.

One of his teachers at Horsham was Nicholas Plumley, the well-known writer on organs, who took a small group of pupils on a tour of Holland to see and hear the famous 17th- and 18th-century organs there. The trip awoke in Gwynn a fascination with old organs that never left him.

Leaving Oxford in 1976, he apprenticed himself to the organ builder Hendrik ten Bruggenecate in Northampton and married Antonia Cordy, whom he had met in the St John's chapel choir. One of his colleagues at the workshop was Martin Goetze, who shared his interest in old organs. They set up in business in 1980, moving in 1985 to a workshop near Worksop in Nottinghamshire.

Their purpose, as Goetze put it, was "making new organs in historic styles, and restorations to museum standards". Their first organ of public note was for the English Church in The Hague, built in the style of Richard Bridge, an 18th-century English builder whom Gwynn admired.

Difficulties arise when an 18th-century organ is put to modern congregational work, in particular the irregular manual compasses and lack of a pedal organ. Gwynn therefore devised the charming conceit of imagining a Bridge organ as if it had been subsequently reconstructed by the



With an organ reconstructed from the Tudor period

19th-century English builder, JC Bishop.

They carried out important restorations at St Botolph's, Aldgate, regaining the Harris/Byfield organ of 1744, and at St Helen's, Bishopsgate, where the Thomas Griffin organ of 1743 was recovered from various well-meant reconstructions and damaged by an IRA bomb in 1992.

Their work-list numbered some 130 projects, a third of which were new organs built in one specific historic style or other. The others included restorations of clock, barrel, house and church organs; their research was written up and made available to the public. Their work took in palaces, castles, stately homes, cathedrals and university chapels in Britain and abroad.

Gwynn was not only fascinated by the organs themselves, but by the craft of building them, both historically and currently: during restoration work he would delight in discovering "slight imperfections and irregularities [that] highlight the skills involved in the making".

He freely gave of his immense knowledge to apprentices, indeed, any in the craft who sought his advice. He was on the founding Board of the Institute of British Organ Building, set up in 1996. Self-effacing modesty notwithstanding, his erudite manner, elegant prose and rich, bass voice gave him a natural authority.

Despite suffering from cancer, earlier this year he was able to attend a ceremony to receive the Medal of the Royal College of Organists, awarded "in recognition of distinguished achievement in organ building and scholarship, in particular with respect to UK organ heritage".

Dominic Gwynn is survived by his wife Antonia and by their two daughters.

Dominic Gwynn, born August 18 1953, died May 24 2024

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Main channels

BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) 9.30 Rip Off Britain (R) (S) 10.15 Expert Witness (R) (S) 10.45 Close Calls: On Camera (R) (S) 11.15 Homes Under the Hammer (AD) (S) 12.15 pm Bargain Hunt (R) (S) 1.00 BBC News at One; Weather (S) 1.35 Regional News; Weather (S) 1.45 BBC News at One; Weather (S) 2.00 Rick Stein's Cornwall (AD) (R) (S) 2.30 Animal Park (AD) (R) (S) 3.00 Escape to the Country (AD) (R) (S) 3.45 The Repair Shop (AD) (R) (S) 4.30 The Finish Line (R) (S) 5.15 Pointless (R) (S) 6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather (S) 6.30 Regional News; Weather (S)

BBC Two

6.30 am Bargain Hunt (AD) (R) (S) 7.15 Escape to the Country (R) (S) 8.00 Sign Zone: The Great British Sewing Bee (AD) (R) (S) (SL) 9.00 News (S) 12.15 pm Politics Live (S) 1.00 Impossible (R) (S) 1.45 Make Me a Dealer (R) (S) 2.30 The Hundred Oval Invincibles Women v Birmingham Phoenix Women (start-time 2.45pm) (S) 6.00 The Hundred Oval Invincibles Men v Birmingham Phoenix Men (start-time 6.30pm) (S)

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) 9.00 Lorraine (S) 10.00 This Morning (S) 12.30 pm Loose Women (S) 1.30 News; Weather (S) 1.55 Regional News; Weather (S) 2.00 Cooking with the Stars (AD) (R) (S) 3.00 Tenable (R) (S) 4.00 Tipping Point (R) (S) 5.00 The Chase (R) (S) 6.00 Regional News; Weather (S) 6.30 News; Weather (S)

Channel 4

6.25 am Cheers (R) (S) 6.50 Cheers (R) (S) 7.15 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) 8.35 Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) 9.05 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 9.35 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 10.05 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 10.35 Frasier (AD) (R) (S) 11.05 Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (AD) (R) (S) 11.10 Undercover Boss USA (R) (S) 12.05 pm Channel 4 News (S) 12.10 A New Life in the Sun (R) (S) 1.10 Car S.O.S (AD) (R) (S) 2.10 Countdown (S) 3.00 A Place in the Sun (R) (S) 4.00 The Great House Giveaway (S) 5.00 A New Life in the Sun: Where Are They Now? (R) (S) 6.00 Come Dine with Me (R) (S) 6.30 The Simpsons (AD) (R) (S)

Channel 5

6.00 am Milkshake! 9.15 Jeremy Vine (S) 11.30 Storm Huntley (S) 12.45 pm Friends (AD) (R) (S) 1.10 Friends (AD) (R) (S) 1.40 5 News at Lunchtime (S) 1.45 Home and Away (AD) (R) (S) 2.15 FILM: When Mum Becomes a Murderer (2024, TVM) Premiere. Thriller starring Mireya Scarrowener (S) 4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (R) (S) 5.00 5 News at 5 (S) 6.00 Police Interceptors (R) (S) 6.55 5 News Update (S)



Town of Steel



The Hundred: Invincibles v Phoenix



Midsomer Murders



The Body Detectives



How Britain Saved the Olympics

7.00 The One Show Topical stories, presented by Alex Jones (S)

7.30 EastEnders Sonia and Reiss look for ways to make more money (AD) (S)

8.00 Sort Your Life Out with Stacey Solomon Stacey guides the Clark family through a life-changing declutter (AD) (R) (S)

9.00 Death in Paradise New DI Neville Parker (Ralf Little) is called in when a woman is found dead in a bathtub (AD) (R) (S)

10.00 News; Weather (S) 10.30 Regional News; Weather (S) 10.40 Town of Steel Tata Steel's plans to return to profitability in Port Talbot (S)

11.40 Paddy & Molly: Show No Mersey 12.10am Paddy & Molly: Show No Mersey 12.45 - 6.00am News

9.30 Mock the Week With Angela Barnes, Ed Byrne, Sean McLoughlin and Glenn Moore (R) (S)

10.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Jonny receives an ultimatum (AD) (R) (S) 10.30 Newswight (S)

11.05 FILM: Before I Go to Sleep (2014) Thriller starring Nicole Kidman See Film choice 12.30am Sign Zone: The Turkish Detective 2.10 Sign Zone: The Bidding Room 2.55 - 6.45am This Is BBC Two

7.30 Emmerdale Cain and Charity head to Wales in search of Belle and Tom (AD) (S)

8.00 Midsomer Murders A series of incidents surrounding a new bakery ends in a murder See What to watch (AD) (S)

10.00 News; Weather (S) 10.30 Regional News; Weather (S) 10.45 Goodwood Festival of Speed Highlights A celebration of motor racing (S)

11.40 Made in Britain 12.05am Shop on TV 3.00 The Best of Saint & Greavsie 3.50 Unwind with ITV 5.05 - 6.00am Ainsley's Taste of Malta

7.00 Channel 4 News (S)

7.55 Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes (S)

8.00 Worst House on the Street Scarlett and Stuart face one of their biggest challenges to date (AD) (S)

9.00 The Body Detectives New series. Following the work of an organisation dedicated to revisiting forgotten cases See What to watch (AD) (S)

10.00 Fugitive: The Mystery of the Crypto Queen See What to watch (AD) (S) 11.05 Women on Death Row See What to watch 12.05am Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes 12.10 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes 1.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 2.00 Car S.O.S 2.50 Becoming Elizabeth 3.55 Love It or List It Australia 4.50 Frasier 5.15 Frasier 5.45 - 6.25am Countdown

7.00 Our Great Yorkshire Life Julian Norton heads up Whenside with ranger Ian Colledge (S)

7.55 5 News Update (S)

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet: At Home with the Greens Jean gets to see her farm from above when Peter Wright takes her on a helicopter ride (S)

9.00 London '48: How Britain Saved the Olympics How the 1948 Olympic Games were organised and took place in London See What to watch (S)

10.30 The Cannibal Next Door (R) (S) 11.30 Crimes That Shook Britain 12.30am Police Interceptors: Pursuit and Capture 1.25 Play OJO Live Casino Show 3.25 Christmas Criminals: Caught on Camera 4.15 Inside the Balmoral: Scotland's Finest Hotel 5.05 House Doctor 5.35 Entertainment News on 5 5.40 Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures 5.45 - 6.00am Paw Patrol

Film choice



Mission: Impossible 2 (2000) Sky Showcase, 9.30pm ★★★★★

Tom Cruise reprises his role as IMF agent Ethan Hawke in this follow-up to the hit 1990s film Mission Impossible; there are now seven, with the eighth set for release next year. In a plot borrowed from Hitchcock's Notorious, we follow Hawke as he tries to prevent villain Sean Ambrose (Douglas Scott) from stealing a deadly virus by seducing his ex, played by Thandie Newton. John Woo directs.



Before I Go to Sleep (2014) BBC Two, 11.05pm; not NI ★★

Rowan Joffe's psychological thriller stars Nicole Kidman as a traumatised woman suffering from amnesia. Every morning, she meets her husband (Colin Firth) for the first time; her doctor (Mark Strong) tells her to keep a video diary to try to retain some memories. But all it does is document her deteriorating mental state. As in Big Little Lies and The Others, Kidman thrives in a dark, troubling role.



Sick of Myself (2023) Film4, 11.25pm ★★

Kristoffer Borgli's half-baked black comedy combines the body-horror shocks of David Cronenberg with the Scandinavian romantic angst seen in recent hit film The Worst Person in the World. Signe (Kristine Kujath Thorp) and Thomas (Eirik Sæther) are caught in a relationship that grows more toxic - they fake allergic reactions, get addicted to drugs - as time goes by.

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FV Freeview FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

BBC Four

FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 108 7.00 pm Coastal Path 7.30 Railway Walks with Julia Bradbury 8.00 Roy Clarke Remembers Keeping Up Appearances See What to watch 8.15 Keeping Up Appearances See What to watch 8.45 Butterflies 9.15 Britain's Forgotten Slave Owners 10.15 Attica: America's Bloodiest Prison Uprising - Storyville 12.05 am Art on the BBC: Constable - The Rural Rebel 1.10 Paris 2.10 - 2.40am Railway Walks with Julia Bradbury

ITV3

FV 10 FS 115 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117 11.35 am Heartbeat 12.40 pm Heartbeat 1.40 Classic Emmerdale 2.10 Classic Emmerdale 2.40 Classic Coronation Street 3.15 Classic Coronation Street 3.50 A Touch of Frost 6.00 Heartbeat 7.00 Heartbeat 8.00 Long Lost Family 9.00 Long Lost Family 10.00 Unforgotten 11.00 Unforgotten 11.50 The Royal 12.40 am Upstairs, Downstairs 1.35 Upstairs, Downstairs 2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118 11.25 am BattleBots 12.30 pm Dempsey and Makepeace 1.35 The Champions 2.40 Kojak 3.45 Minder 4.50 The Professionals 5.55 BattleBots 7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special 8.00 World Superbike Highlights 9.00 World Rally Championship Highlights 10.00 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage 11.10 pm FILM: High Plains Drifter (1973) Western 1.15 am Auto Mundial 1.40 Motorsport Mundial 2.05 The Protectors 2.40 Unwind with ITV 3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

FV 36 FS 147 SKY 130 VIRGIN 123 Noon Battle of the Bagpipes 1.00 pm Tales of the Unexpected 1.35 Freddie Mercury: Auction Special 3.00 Landscape Artist of the Year Canada 4.00 Discovering: Frances McDormand 5.00 The Joy of Painting 6.00 Tales of the Unexpected 7.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir 8.00 Dickens: Phantoms and Fictions 9.00 The Warhol Effect 11.00 Stephen King on Screen 1.00 am Wonderland: Gothic 2.40 - 4.00am The V&A Presents Alice: Curiouser and Curiouser

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108 11.10 am Gomorrah 12.15 pm Game of Thrones 1.20 The Sopranos 2.25 The Sopranos 3.30 Six Feet Under 4.35 Six Feet Under 5.40 Gomorrah 6.45 Gomorrah 7.50 Game of Thrones 9.00 True Detective: Night Country 12.05 House of the Dragon 11.45 Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty 12.50 am We Own This City 1.55 The Leftovers 3.00 - 4.10am Game of Thrones

Film4

FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428 11.00 am Arthur's Hallowed Ground (1986) Comedy drama starring Jimmy Jewel 12.35 pm The Man from Colorado (1948) Western starring Glenn Ford 2.40 Father Goose (1964) Comedy drama with Cary Grant 5.00 An Affair to Remember (1957) Drama with Cary Grant 7.20 Table 19 (2017) Comedy starring Anna Kendrick Jumanji: The Next Level (2019) Fantasy sequel starring Dwayne Johnson 11.25 1.20am Sick of Myself (2023) Premiere. Norwegian drama starring Kristine Kujath Thorp See Film choice

U&Drama

FV 20 FS 158 SKY 143 VIRGIN 116 11.40 am The Bill 12.40 pm Classic EastEnders 1.20 Classic EastEnders 2.00 London's Burning 3.00 Born and Bred 4.10 Howards' Way 5.20 Birds of a Feather 6.00 Waiting for God 6.35 Are You Being Served? 7.15 Last of the Summer Wine 8.00 Mrs Sidhu Investigates 10.00 New Tricks 11.20 Silent Witness 1.35 am Footballers' Wives 2.40 - 4.00am Classic Holly City

Variations

Northern Ireland

BBC One: 9.00 - 10.00pm Spotlight 10.40 True North - Rhys McClellanhan: Chasing Gold 11.10 - 12.10am Town of Steel 12.40am Paddy & Molly: Show No Mersey 1.10 - 6.00am BBC News BBC Two: 10.00 - 10.30pm Barra's Wild Days Out 11.05 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps 11.35 - 12.30am Sign Zone: Countryfile ITV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: 7.00 - 7.30pm River City BBC Scotland: 7.00pm Inside the Zoo 8.00 Island Crossings 9.00 The Nine 10.00 Children of the Devolution 11.00 Darren McGarvey's Class Wars midnight Close STV: 3.50 - 5.05am Night Vision

Wales

BBC One: 8.00pm Weatherman Walking: The Welsh Coast 8.30 - 9.00pm Britain's Busiest Mountain: Our Lives BBC Two: No variations ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITVI Regions

No variations

S4C

6.00am Cyw 9.00 Y Sioe 2024 12.00 Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 12.05pm Y Sioe 2024 2.00 Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 2.05 Y Sioe 2024 5.00 Stwnsh 6.00 Ffasiwn Drefn 6.30 Tanwen ac Ollie 6.57 Newyddion S4C 7.00 Heno o'r Sioe 7.30 Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 8.00 Pobol y Cwm 8.25 Pobol y Cwm 8.55 Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd 9.00 Y Sioe 2024 10.00 Dai Llanilar: O Sion a Sian i'r Sioe 11.00 Y Byd ar Bedwar 11.30 - 12.35am Y Sioe 2024

U&Dave

Noon Storage Hunters UK 2.00pm James May: My Sisters' Top Toys 3.00 Top Gear 5.00 Gordon's Great Escape 6.00 Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey 7.00 Would I Lie to You? 7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games 9.00 Battle in the Box 10.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You 11.00 Taskmaster 12.00 Mock the Week 12.40am Would I Lie to You? 1.20 Big Zuu's Big Eats 1.55 - 4.00am Whose Line is It Anyway? USA

ITV2

Noon Dress to Impress 1.00pm In with a Shout 2.00 Supermarket Sweep 3.00 Charmed 4.00 Dawson's Creek 5.00 Dress to Impress 6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase 7.00 In with a Shout 8.00 The Masked Singer US 9.00 Love Island 10.05 Extraordinary 10.35 Family Guy 11.35 American Dad! 12.35am Shopping with Keith Lemon 1.35 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.15 Unwind with ITV 3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at: Noon Worzel Gummidge 12.30pm A Case for PC 49 2.10 FILM: My Dear Secretary (1948, b/w) Romantic comedy starring Kirk Douglas 4.15 FILM: Lady in the Fog (1952, b/w) Murder mystery starring Cesar Romero 5.55 The Beverly Hillbillies 6.30 Scotland Yard 7.05 The Capone Investment 7.35 Dangerous Assignment 8.05 Rumpole of the Bailey 9.10 FILM: Man in Black (1994, b/w) A man fakes his death and assumes a new identity to expose his wife's scheme to disinherit his daughter. Thriller with Betty Ann Davis and Sid James 10.45 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 12.45 FILM: They Live (1988) A drifter discovers the population of Los Angeles is being dominated by aliens who control people through advertising. John Carpenter's sci-fi adventure starring Roddy Piper 12.40am Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 12.45 FILM: Don't Look in the Basement (1973) Horror starring Bill McGhee 2.20 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 2.25 - 4.25am

U&Yesterday

Noon Find It, Fix It, Flog It 1.00pm Antiques Roadshow 2.00 Bangers & Cash 4.00 WW2 - Battles for Europe 5.00 Secret Nazi Bases 6.00 Antiques Roadshow 7.00 Find It, Fix It, Flog It 8.00 Secrets of the London Underground 9.00 Bangers & Cash 11.00 Abandoned Engineering 12.00 Great British Railway Journeys 1.00am Secrets of the Railways 3.00 - 6.10am Teleshopping

Sky Sports Main Event

9.00am Live Tennis. Coverage of the day's action on the WTA and ATP Tours 2.15pm The Hundred Live. Oval Invincibles Women v Birmingham Phoenix Women (start-time 2.45pm) 6.00 The Hundred Live. Oval Invincibles Men v Birmingham Phoenix Men (start-time 6.30pm) 9.30 Sky Sports News 10.00 Sky Sports News at Ten 10.30 Back Pages Tonight 11.00 Sky Sports News 12.00 - 4.00am Live Tennis. The Atlanta Open

Sky Sports Premier League

Noon Gary Neville's Soccerbox 1.00pm Premier League Best Goals

Sky Cinema Premiere

24 hours, including at: Noon Mean Girls (2024) Musical adaptation of the 2004 cult classic starring Angourie Rice 2.00pm Uproar (2024) Drama starring Minnie Driver 4.00 Deep Sea (2023) Animated adventure, featuring the voice of Brian Fallow 6.00 A Sacrifice (2024) A social psychologist investigates a local cult connected to an unnerving event. Drama starring Eric Bana 8.00 Mean Girls (2024) Teenager Cady Heron is hit with a school clique when she makes the mistake of falling for Aaron Samuels. Musical adaptation of the cult classic starring Angourie Rice 10.00 Anyone But You (2023) After a first date, a duo's attraction turns chilly, until they are reunited at a wedding. Romantic comedy starring Sydney Sweeney 11.45 The Nun II (2023) Sister Irene is reacquainted with demonic Valak at a boarding school in France, and battles for the students' souls. Horror sequel starring Taissa Farmiga 1.40am Drift (2023) Drama starring Cynthia Erivo 3.20 - 5.00am Manodrome (2023) Thriller starring Jesse Eisenberg

TNT Sports 1

Noon AFL 4.00pm ABB FIA Formula E World Championship Highlights 6.00 Major League Cricket Highlights 6.30 Premier League Stories 7.00 Fight Night Live 9.00 WWE Monday Night Raw 11.30 MLB Lead Off 12.00 Live MLB. New York Yankees v New York Mets (start-time 12.05am) 3.00am MLB Closure 3.30 - 4.00am MLB Plays of the Week

Discovery

Noon Wheeler Dealers 1.00pm Treehouse Masters 3.00 Mystery at Blind Frog Ranch 4.00 Flying Wild Alaska 5.00 Salvage Hunters 6.00 Iron Resurrection 7.00 Fish or Die 8.00 Wheeler Dealers World Tour 9.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail 10.00 Gold Divers 12.00 Chasing Glory: Road to Paris 2024 1.00am Gold Rush: Parker's Trail 2.00 - 4.00am Gold Divers

Sky Cinema Premiere

underprivileged Memphis high school, and the coach trying to turn the players' fortunes around 2.10pm The Wimbledon Kidnapping 4.00 The Directors 5.00 Discovering: Emma Thompson 6.00 The 2010s 7.00 Lockerbie 9.00 Kings from Queens: The Run DMC Story 10.00 Ibiza Narcosis 11.00 Chernobyl: The Lost Tapes 1.00am Stasi FC 2.50 - 5.00am Trees and Other Entanglements

Sky History

Noon Secrets in the Ice 1.00pm Salvage Kings 2.00 Mountain Men 4.00 Pawn Stars 6.00 American Pickers 7.00 Forged in Fire 8.00 What on Earth? 9.00 History's Greatest Mysteries 10.00 Close Encounters 11.00 Close Encounters Down Under 12.00 Pawn Stars 2.00am The UnXplained: Mysteries of the Universe 3.00 - 4.00am What on Earth?

Sky Max

Noon The Flash 1.00pm MacGyver 3.00 Hawaii Five-0 4.00 S.W.A.T. 5.00 SEAL Team 6.00 Stargate SG-1 8.00 Agatha Raisin 10.00 The Walking Dead 11.00 The Force: Manchester 12.00 An Idiot Abroad 1.00am The Force: Manchester 2.00 Road Wars 3.00 - 4.00am Hawaii Five-0

Sky Documentaries

Noon FILM: Undeafened (2011) Documentary following three members of an American football team from an

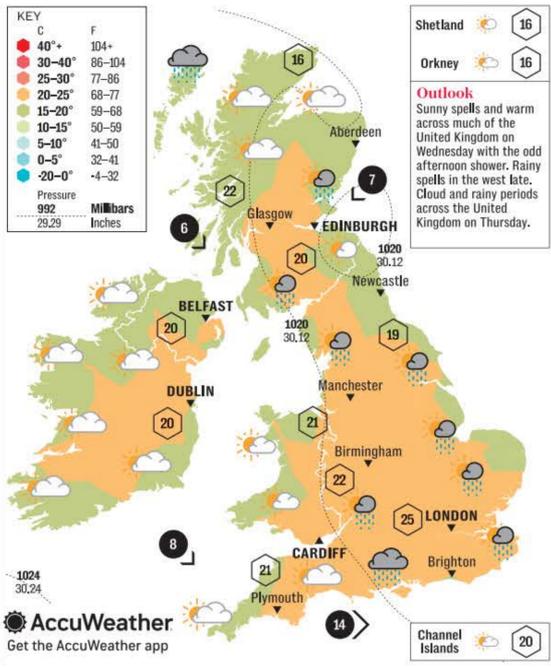
Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

Broken cloud and scattered showers across much of the United Kingdom today, but sunnier and drier in Northern Ireland. Feeling warm in many areas with light winds.

- ♦ London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands: Broken cloud and warm today with scattered showers. A light northwesterly wind. Max 66-77F (19-25C). Clear periods tonight with the odd shower early. Min 50-59F (10-13C).
- ♦ SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray, Firth, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny periods today with showers. A light and variable wind. Max 57-72F (14-22C). The odd shower tonight. Min 46-55F (8-13C).
- ♦ Wales: Sunny intervals and showers today. A gentle W to NW wind. Max

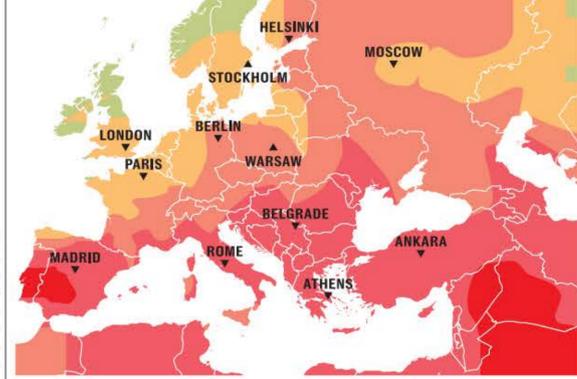


Four day forecast

- Wednesday**: Sunny spells and warm across much of the United Kingdom on Wednesday with the odd afternoon shower. Rainy spells in the west late. Cloud and rainy periods across the United Kingdom on Thursday.
- Thursday**: Sunny spells and warm across much of the United Kingdom on Thursday with the odd afternoon shower. Rainy spells in the west late. Cloud and rainy periods across the United Kingdom on Thursday.
- Friday**: Sunny spells and warm across much of the United Kingdom on Friday with the odd afternoon shower. Rainy spells in the west late. Cloud and rainy periods across the United Kingdom on Friday.
- Saturday**: Sunny spells and warm across much of the United Kingdom on Saturday with the odd afternoon shower. Rainy spells in the west late. Cloud and rainy periods across the United Kingdom on Saturday.

European readings

City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Akrotiri	34	26	windy	Frankfurt	27	20	rain
Alicante	30	25	sunny	Funchal	25	22	cloudy
Amsterdam	22	13	showers	Gdansk	29	16	showers
Athens	37	27	sunny	Geneva	25	18	showers
Barcelona	28	20	windy	Gibraltar	29	22	p/cldy
Bari	30	23	showers	Hamburg	24	18	rain
Belgrade	32	22	showers	Helsinki	25	15	sunny
Benidorm	30	25	sunny	Innsbruck	28	17	showers
Bergen	18	12	p/cldy	Istanbul	36	25	sunny
Berlin	27	19	showers	Kyiv	27	20	p/cldy
Biarritz	23	17	p/cldy	La Rochelle	23	17	cloudy
Bodrum	40	25	sunny	Lisbon	37	18	sunny
Bordeaux	24	17	cloudy	Locarno	31	18	sunny
Brest	20	16	rain	Luxembourg	22	15	p/cldy
Brussels	26	16	p/cldy	Madrid	37	17	sunny
Bucharest	35	20	p/cldy	Majorca	30	18	sunny
Budapest	32	19	p/cldy	Malaga	33	23	p/cldy
Cagliari	31	24	windy	Malta	33	26	sunny
Chamonix	21	15	showers	Marseille	32	22	windy
Copenhagen	23	18	showers	Menorca	30	21	sunny
Corfu	36	26	sunny	Milan	34	21	sunny
Cork	18	14	showers	Monaco	30	23	sunny
Corsica	31	23	p/cldy	Moscow	21	16	rain
Crete	33	25	sunny	Munich	25	17	rain
Dublin	20	15	showers	Naples	31	24	storms
Dubrovnik	31	23	showers	Nice	30	24	sunny
Faro	29	21	sunny	Nicosia	40	25	sunny
Florence	33	24	rain	Oporto	33	14	sunny



World readings

City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Accra	29	24	p/cldy	Damascus	39	21	haze
Addis Ababa	24	13	cloudy	Dar es Salaam	31	17	cloudy
Adelaide	17	8	p/cldy	Dhaka	33	27	showers
Alexandria	33	28	sunny	Dubai	43	35	haze
Algiers	30	23	sunny	Falkland Is.	8	4	windy
Amman	34	25	sunny	Harare	27	9	sunny
Anchorage	17	13	p/cldy	Havana	32	24	p/cldy
Ankara	34	19	sunny	Hong Kong	34	29	storms
Ascension Is.	27	23	sunny	Honolulu	26	25	p/cldy
Auckland	14	11	showers	Jakarta	32	26	p/cldy
Baghdad	46	32	haze	Jeddah	43	31	sunny
Bahamas	32	25	storms	Jerusalem	32	22	sunny
Bahrain	43	36	sunny	Johannesburg	20	7	sunny
Bangkok	33	26	storms	Kabul	37	22	sunny
Beijing	35	25	p/cldy	Karachi	36	31	p/cldy
Beirut	32	27	sunny	Kolkata	32	27	showers
Bermuda	29	25	p/cldy	Kuala Lumpur	34	26	p/cldy
Bogota	19	10	showers	La Paz	10	-2	sunny
Bridgetown	31	27	p/cldy	Lahore	39	29	haze
Brisbane	23	6	sunny	Lima	18	15	p/cldy
Buenos Aires	13	11	showers	Los Angeles	28	20	sunny
Cairo	41	28	sunny	Manila	33	28	storms
Canberra	13	1	p/cldy	Marrakesh	42	23	p/cldy
Cape Town	18	6	sunny	Melbourne	18	11	p/cldy
Casablanca	30	19	sunny	Miami	32	25	storms
Chicago	27	18	p/cldy	Montego Bay	31	28	windy
Christchurch	11	-1	rain	Mumbai	28	25	showers
Colombo	31	27	showers	Nairobi	26	13	cloudy

Nature Notes

Future is grim for 50pc of Kew trees

More than half of the 11,000 trees at London's Kew Gardens could be at risk by the late 21st century as the climate changes, a report by the Royal Botanic Gardens has found. The report was spurred on by the drought of 2022 which saw the loss of more than 400 trees at the 320-acre gardens - the average is 30 trees lost in most years. Climate change is bringing rising temperatures, more summer drought and other weather extremes, with London's climate in 2050 expected to be comparable to Barcelona today. In a scenario in which temperatures at Kew rise by 4C, more than 50 per cent of the garden's tree species could be vulnerable as the climate changes out of, or to the edge of, their known range by 2090 - within the lifetime of most trees. Alternative modelling, which combines moisture and annual temperatures more conservatively, suggests a third of Kew's trees may be vulnerable by 2090.*

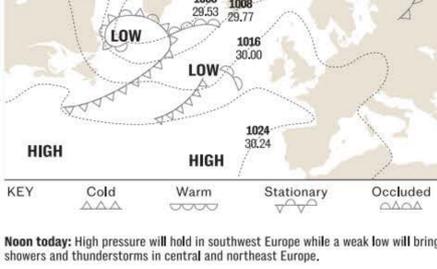
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British readings

City	Sun hrs	Rain	Max/Min	Daytime	City	Sun hrs	Rain	Max/Min	Daytime
			°C	weather				°C	weather
Aberdeen	0.0	0.01	18 12	cloudy	Chester	1.5	0.01	19 14	showers
Aberystwyth	0.0	0.08	19 15	showers	Coventry	0.8	0.01	22 13	cloudy
Antrim	0.6	0.13	18 13	showers	Doncaster	0.8	0.03	24 13	showers
Aviemore	0.1	0.00	18 11	cloudy	Dover	4.2	0.00	18 13	cloudy
Barnstaple	0.0	0.06	19 16	showers	Dundee	0.8	0.00	18 13	cloudy
Barrow-in-Furness	0.0	0.07	18 14	showers	Eastbourne	0.0	0.00	23 11	cloudy
Basingstoke	3.5	0.00	23 12	cloudy	Edinburgh	1.2	0.02	19 12	cloudy
Bedford	2.8	0.00	24 11	cloudy	Epsom	4.5	0.00	21 12	cloudy
Belfast	0.0	0.40	19 14	cloudy	Falmouth	0.4	0.11	18 16	showers
Berwick	0.1	0.06	17 12	showers	Farnborough	2.7	Trace	23 11	cloudy
Birmingham	3.9	0.00	22 13	cloudy	Fort William	0.5	0.01	18 10	showers
Bodmin	4.0	0.07	18 14	showers	Glasgow	1.4	0.13	15 12	showers
Bournemouth	4.1	0.03	22 16	cloudy	Great Malvern	1.4	0.00	22 15	cloudy
Braintree	3.9	0.00	23 11	cloudy	Grimsby	2.3	0.00	23 12	cloudy
Brecon	0.9	0.00	17 13	cloudy	Guernsey	0.1	0.00	18 16	cloudy
Bridlington	0.8	0.00	17 13	cloudy	Hereford	2.6	0.00	23 13	cloudy
Brighton	2.6	0.01	22 12	cloudy	High Wycombe	2.4	0.03	25 10	showers
Bristol	1.2	0.01	21 14	showers	Highland	0.2	0.02	17 15	cloudy
Cardarne	0.3	0.06	18 15	showers	Huddersfield	0.1	0.01	18 12	cloudy
Cardiff	0.1	0.04	18 16	showers	Ipswich	3.3	0.00	23 12	cloudy
Carlisle	0.0	0.02	17 13	showers	Isle of Man	0.1	0.36	17 13	cloudy
Catterick	0.7	0.01	21 13	showers	Isle of Skye	4.3	0.01	16 8	cloudy
Cheltenham	1.1	0.01	23 13	cloudy	Isle of Wight	1.4	0.00	19 16	cloudy

Atlantic front



Sun & moon

Sun rises 0513
Sun sets 2103
Moon rises 2229
Moon sets 0726
Last quarter July 28

Yesterday
Warmest Northolt 26C (79F)
Colest Loch Glasarnoch 4C (39F)
Wettest Ben Vorlich 0.45 in.
Sunniest Tain Range 8.5 hr.

Lighting up
Aberdeen 2140 to 0452
Belfast 2141 to 0523
Birmingham 2113 to 0516
London 2103 to 0514
Manchester 2119 to 0513
Penzance 2117 to 0541

High water

Aberdeen 0313 4.3m 1555 4.2m
Belfast 0046 3.5m 1319 3.3m
Cardiff 0917 11.5m 2137 12.3m
Dover 0055 6.5m 1317 6.7m
Falmouth 0731 4.9m 1945 5.3m
Harwich 0146 4.0m 1402 3.5m
Highland 0009 5.7m 1239 5.4m
Hull 0819 7.6m 2101 7.4m
Liverpool 0057 9.4m 1326 9.1m
London 0359 7.2m 1622 6.9m
Portsmouth 0110 4.6m 1349 4.7m
Southampton 0021 4.5m 0638 0.6m

Sea forecast

S North Sea: A moderate to strong northerly wind today. Seas will be rough. Visibility will be good.

Dover Strait, English Channel: A light to gentle westerly wind today. Seas will be rough on the east and the west. Visibility will be fair.

St. George's Channel: A light to moderate northerly wind today. Seas will be rough. Visibility will be good.

Irish Sea: A light to moderate northerly wind today. Seas will be very rough. Visibility will be good.

Crossword 30,673

1 lan drops bags off - this is required at check-in (8,4)
 9 Sad if site's changed content (9)
 10 Group of cats impertinently examined, by the sound of it (5)
 11 Ecstatic from hospital department restricting strike (6)
 12 Nice quiet lake - calming (8)
 13 Smirk from naughty child after second sign of hesitation (6)
 15 Son heartlessly longed for what rat did? (8)
 18 Moving prison gang (8)
 19 Gave worker bed but not breakfast, initially (6)
 21 System of communicating crime not working (8)
 23 Trump doesn't want this on the table? (6)
 26 One enters the force to get criminal (5)
 27 Blows up mine if gas explodes (9)
 28 Stomach-turning entertainers? (5,7)

Across
 1 lan drops bags off - this is required at check-in (8,4)
 9 Sad if site's changed content (9)
 10 Group of cats impertinently examined, by the sound of it (5)
 11 Ecstatic from hospital department restricting strike (6)
 12 Nice quiet lake - calming (8)
 13 Smirk from naughty child after second sign of hesitation (6)
 15 Son heartlessly longed for what rat did? (8)
 18 Moving prison gang (8)
 19 Gave worker bed but not breakfast, initially (6)
 21 System of communicating crime not working (8)
 23 Trump doesn't want this on the table? (6)
 26 One enters the force to get criminal (5)
 27 Blows up mine if gas explodes (9)
 28 Stomach-turning entertainers? (5,7)

Down
 1 With instrument, dentist oddly extracted canines (7)
 2 Vicar, at last, locks up table in church (5)
 3 Pa's despair surprisingly vanishes (9)
 4 Nothing goes round a collar (4)
 5 Selling last bits of ketchup, sausage and battered fish (8)
 6 Almost see island in *Father Brown* (5)
 7 What angler did touring Northern Ireland stopped (8)
 8 Book, for example, on golf editor requested (6)
 14 Support sea captain removing hat (8)
 16 Custom from India tutor misrepresented, ignoring university (9)
 17 Independent female, in general, is relaxed (8)
 18 Slippery - rather like a chemise? (6)
 20 Doctor regularly persisted with small bandages (7)
 22 Comb very little amount, scratching head (5)
 24 Brother who murdered English actor (5)
 25 Sausage dog somewhat elderly (4)

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

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Quick Crossword

Across
 1 Female chicken (3)
 3 Norm (3)
 5 Make fun of (5)
 8 Thespian (5)
 9 Beach (7)
 10 Poorly (4)
 11 Prison term (8)
 13 Save (6)
 14 Pressing (6)
 17 More attractive (8)
 19 Thought (4)
 22 As balmy (anag.) (7)
 23 Perfect (5)
 24 Woodland deity (5)
 25 Crimson (3)
 26 Female pig (3)

Down
 5 Farm vehicles (8)
 6 Extraterrestrial (5)
 7 Component (7)
 12 Client (8)
 13 Echoes (7)

15 Eternal (7)
16 Basement (6)
18 African country (5)
20 Permit (5)
21 Discover (4)

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 Newcastle, Blaydon Trade Park NE21 5TR
 Preston, 74-76 Blackpool Road PR2 6NY
 Sheffield, Unit 3 Burton Street S6 2JH
 Warrington, Gemini Trade Park WAS 7YF

SOUTH COAST
 Bournemouth, Vulcan Way BH21 7BU
 Brighton, 75 Upper Brighton Rd BN15 0BQ
 Eastbourne, Hillier Garden Cntr BN24 5BS
 Southampton, Roney Road SO16 9GL

SOUTH WEST
 Bristol, Tanus Road, Patchway BS34 6FB
 Cheltenham, Kingsford Rd GL51 9LX
 Exeter, Bradford Rd EX2 8QX