

My weird life as a Teletubby

Features



The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATION OF THE YEAR

Knifeman kills two children in holiday club horror

Boy arrested after 13 wounded in 'ferocious attack' at Taylor Swift-themed dance class

By Martin Evans, Max Stephens, Neil Johnston and Connor Stringer

TWO children were killed and nine others were stabbed yesterday after a hooded man launched a knife attack in a Taylor Swift-themed dance class.

The attack began just before midday in Southport, Merseyside, as the children, some as young as six, were enjoying the school holiday workshop.

Six of the wounded children remained in a critical condition last night and were being treated at hospitals across the North West. Two adults are also in a critical condition after trying to intervene.

Merseyside Police confirmed that a 17-year-old boy from the village of Banks, about five miles away from Southport, had been arrested and was being questioned on suspicion of murder and attempted murder. The youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons and is originally from Cardiff, moved to the Southport area with his Rwandan parents when he was aged six.

Chief Constable Serena Kennedy, of Merseyside Police, said that while the incident was not being treated as terror-related, colleagues from counter-terror policing had offered to assist with the investigation. She said the motivation behind the attack remained unclear.

Last night, the King sent a message of support to the families of the victims. He said: "My wife and I have been profoundly shocked to hear of the utterly horrific incident in Southport today.

"We send our most heartfelt condolences, prayers and deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones of those who have so tragically lost their lives, and to all those affected by this truly appalling attack."

Ms Kennedy said the children were subjected to a "ferocious attack", adding: "We believe the adults who were injured were bravely trying to protect the children." She went on: "As a mum and a nana, I can't begin to imagine the

pain and suffering that the families of the victims are going through."

Sir Keir Starmer offered his condolences to the victims, saying that "the whole country is deeply shocked".

The Taylor Swift-themed workshop had been organised by teacher Leanne Lucas and was intended to coincide with the start of the school holidays. About 25 children, aged between six and 11, signed up for the event, which was scheduled to end at midday.

Witnesses said that at 11.45am the alleged attacker pulled up at the dance studio on Hart Street in a taxi and got out without paying. One person claimed he had a black hooded top pulled up and was wearing a Covid-style face mask. He then walked into the studio through the front door, which was unlocked for fire safety reasons.

People living nearby described hearing piercing screams before blood-soaked children ran from the building. Businessman Jonathan Hayes, 63, was stabbed in the leg after running to the dance class in an effort to intervene.

Parents dashed to the scene desperate to find their children. One witness said she had seen a mother screaming "my daughter's been stabbed".

Colin Parry, the owner of a vehicle repair shop on Hart Street, called the police and said mothers were screaming as they arrived. He said: "It is like a scene from a horror movie."

Ryan Carney, who lives with his mother Hayley on Hart Street, said he rushed home from work to be with her after she saw the incident. He said his mother had gone into the street after hearing screaming and crying, adding: "All she said was she saw members of either police or ambulance, carrying out a few bodies of girls."

Victims were taken to Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Aintree University Hospital and Southport and Formby Hospital.

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Magic Monday for Team GB



Tom Daley and Noah Williams kicked off a day of medal-winning for Team GB yesterday by taking silver at synchronised 10m platform diving. Their success was followed by five other podium finishes, including golds for team eventing and mountain biking - in which Tom Pidcock defied a puncture to pull off a stunning comeback. Sport, Pages 1-12

Britain expected to suspend Israel arms sales

By Jotam Confino

THE UK is expected to suspend some arms exports to Israel in the coming days, *The Telegraph* has learnt.

Two Israeli sources said they believed Tel Aviv was braced for the announcement of a suspension, but that talks were ongoing.

The scope of the arms restrictions remained unclear last night but the change in policy would mark a significant shift in UK-Israel relations.

Israeli sources had expected an announcement as early as today, but the escalation in regional tensions after 12 Israeli children were killed in a Hezbollah strike on Saturday could affect the Government's timings. "A review of

Israel's compliance with international humanitarian law is ongoing," a government spokesman said.

Prof Philippe Sands, a lawyer who has represented Palestinians, said a ruling last month by the UN's top court on Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories should lead to a suspension of arms sales. The International Court of Justice found that Israel's settlement policies in the West Bank were in breach of international law.

The Telegraph understands that the prospect of a British arms suspension has prompted anger and concern within the Israeli government.

The Labour Government has signalled a toughening of its policy towards Israel. Last week, David Lammy, the For-

eign Secretary, announced a renewal of aid for UNRWA, a UN agency that is still investigating accusations about its members taking part in the Oct 7 massacre.

The Government also dropped a challenge to the International Criminal Court's looming arrest warrants for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, and Yoav Gallant, the defence minister.

One Israeli source said that the government viewed arms restrictions as a highly political move aimed at appealing Labour's voter base.

The UK has sold components for Israeli F-15, F-16, and F-35 fighter jets, as well as helicopters, submarines and body armour. Exports to Israel were estimated at £18.2 million last year.

Since 2008, Britain has exported arms worth over £576 million, issuing 108 export licenses following Hamas's attacks last year.

The previous Conservative government came under pressure to halt arms exports to Israel following the killing of three British aid workers in Gaza.

Lord Cameron, the former foreign secretary, announced in April that the government would not impose restrictions, saying Israel was acting within international law. The decision was met with criticism by Mr Lammy, the then shadow foreign secretary, who accused him of "hiding from scrutiny" after he

Continued on Page 2
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Reeves cuts off winter fuel benefit for millions of pensioners

By Szu Ping Chan and Ben Riley-Smith

RACHEL REEVES will scrap winter fuel payments for 10 million pensioners and ditch a cap on social care costs, it has been announced.

The decision by the Chancellor, who also signalled that more tax rises were on the way within months, leaves millions of retirees worse off and means that tens of thousands of elderly Britons face the prospect of selling their homes to pay for their care bills.

Ms Reeves announced she would make £5.5 billion in savings this year after claiming that the Tories had left a £22 billion hole in the public finances. The bulk of this is a £9.4 billion pay settlement that will be made to public sec-

tor workers this year. But it does not include a 22 per cent settlement for junior doctors announced yesterday.

Planned savings include restricting winter fuel payments to people already claiming means-tested benefits, which Ms Reeves said was "fair and right". Last month, a Labour spokesman insisted they had no plans to change the policy.

Scrapping the payments means almost 10 million pensioners will lose out for the first time. Currently, all 11.4 million pensioners receive an extra £200 to help heat their homes in winter, with over-80s receiving a blanket £300 payment.

Ms Reeves also opened the door to billions of pounds of additional tax rises this autumn when she delivers her maiden Budget on Oct 30, hinting that pensioners could face more pain. The

Chancellor reiterated that she would not raise taxes on "working people", which she defined as "somebody who goes out to work for their income".

The winter fuel allowance was first introduced by Labour in 1997 when Gordon Brown was chancellor.

Charities condemned Ms Reeves's changes, which will come into effect in November, warning that the two million pensioners on low incomes would be hit hardest. Age UK estimated that more than 800,000 older people living on "very low incomes" - under £218.25 a week for single pensioners and under £332.95 for couples - would be badly affected, as would the million pensioners whose weekly income is just above the poverty line.

Caroline Abrahams, the charity's

director, warned that pensioners would face a "horrible 'eating or heating' dilemma". Challenged at a press conference on whether she was "picking on pensioners", Ms Reeves said "in the circumstances I found myself... these are the fair and right decisions".

The move is expected to affect the majority of pensioners and save £1.4 billion this year and £1.5 billion next year.

It comes despite Sir Keir Starmer promising in April that his party would "always be on the side of pensioners let down by the Tories". In a video, he described meeting an 84-year-old woman in Dewsbury, West Yorks, and said it was awful that she was struggling to pay for heating.

Ms Reeves also announced that Labour would ditch social care reforms

recommended by Sir Andrew Dilnot more than a decade ago. Under the changes, proposed by Boris Johnson when he was prime minister, councils would have been forced to implement a lifetime cap of £86,000 on care costs from next October, while the threshold at which older people become responsible for paying their care costs would be raised from £23,250 to £100,000. Labour's decision to scrap the reforms will increase the chance of people having to sell their homes to fund care.

A 20-page document published by the Treasury said: "[These measures are] a significant down payment, but these decisions alone will not be sufficient." This suggests Ms Reeves is preparing the ground for a series of tax rises in the autumn, which could

include more pain for pensioners or increases to inheritance tax.

The announcement drew a backlash from Jeremy Hunt, the former chancellor, who described Labour's planned Budget tax rises as the "biggest betrayal in history by a new chancellor". He added: "[Ms Reeves] has caved in to the unions on pay, left welfare reform out of the King's Speech, soft-pedalled on our productivity programme, and that is a choice, not a necessity."

Labour will also bring forward a pledge to introduce VAT on private school fees from Jan 1 and will stop people making early down payments to avoid the tax.

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Pedro Paramo

The best novel you've never read

Arts



Suzanne Moore

Why are so many women in jail?

Features



MATT

The junior doctors got a pay rise. It's OK to have an accident again

NEWS

Reform opens door for Braverman to defect

Reform UK has courted Suella Braverman after the former home secretary announced her withdrawal from the Conservative leadership contest. Lee Anderson, who became a Reform MP after leaving the Tories, said Mrs Braverman would be welcome to join and would "probably take half the membership with her" if she did. Mrs Braverman said she would not run to be Tory leader because the party did not want to hear the truth about why it lost the election. Page 6

NEWS

Lettuce is a little gem for curing nettle stings

Dock leaves are the traditional cure for nettle stings, but scientists may have found a new remedy. Rubbing a lettuce leaf on a nettle rash appears to be just as good at taking away the pain as the age-old folk treatment, with the sap providing a cooling and soothing effect. In Britain, dock leaves often grow close to stinging nettles, so it has become the first port of call for anyone who has a brush with the plant. But research now suggests the juice from other leaves may be equally effective. Page 8



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Rayner: New homes need not be 'beautiful'

Labour drops planning requirement amid reset to fire up sluggish development rates

By Nick Gutteridge
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is expected to drop the requirement for new homes to be

"beautiful" as Angela Rayner unveils a major overhaul of planning rules today. The Deputy Prime Minister will announce sweeping changes to England's planning system as she attempts to kickstart sluggish rates of housebuilding.

Among the reforms she is anticipated to unveil is a ditching of rules brought in by the Tories which critics have said are blocking new developments.

Ms Rayner will announce that she is

reinstating local housebuilding targets, which were scrapped by Rishi Sunak, and increasing them by 50 per cent.

She is also poised to rip up Tory changes to the National Planning Policy Framework intended to force the construction of more "beautiful" homes.

The reforms were introduced to try and overcome local opposition to new developments, but have been criticised by builders and architects.

Michael Gove, the former housing

secretary, used them last April to block a 165-home development near Tunbridge Wells for being too "generic".

A month later, he called in another proposed 200-home development near Leamington Spa, prompting the builder to withdraw its planning application.

Industry bodies including the Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba) have criticised the rules for being too vague and failing to define what constitutes "beauty".

Riba said that making them so subjective meant they could be used as a "reason to refuse necessary and otherwise high-quality development".

Labour's manifesto used the word "exemplary", rather than beautiful, to describe the kind of developments it wants to become "the norm not the exception".

"We will take steps to ensure we are building more high-quality, well-de-

signed, and sustainable homes," the party's election pledge stated.

Ben Derbyshire, a former Riba president, told *Housing Today* it was "sensible...to drop the nebulous reference to 'beauty' and return to a requirement for high quality design".

Ms Rayner will unveil how she intends to boost building on brownfield and new "grey belt" land to achieve her target of 1.5 million new homes by 2029.

She will set out the definition of grey belt, which Labour has described as "ugly" land within the greenbelt like disused car parks and petrol stations.

Councils will be forced to prioritise building on such land once they have exhausted brownfield sites, but will also have to follow "golden rules". They include that developments on the grey belt must include at least 50 per cent affordable housing and be accompanied by new schools and GP surgeries.

NEWS BULLETIN

Woman with 'toxic' bag triggers city lockdown

Bath city centre is reportedly on lockdown after several shoppers fell ill after being approached by a woman with a plastic bag, police said.

Emergency services were called to an incident in Stall Street at around 2.30pm yesterday.

Avon and Somerset police said: "Emergency services are responding to an incident in Bath. At about 2.30pm a woman approached people with a bag in Stall Street, leading to some individuals then feeling unwell. The ambulance service made us aware at 3.08pm. We're not aware of any further reports of people feeling unwell."

One witness said they saw members of the public being treated at the scene. They said: "They took one woman off into some blue tarpaulin sheets and seemed to have hosed her down."

"She must have been told to remove her clothes, as she came out wearing a big orange suit covering her body."

Stick-wielding walkers brawl in Peak District

Police were called to a beauty spot in the Peak District after a fight broke out between people wielding large sticks.

Video footage of the incident shows onlookers watching as several men attack each other at the stepping stones in Dovedale National Nature Reserve on Saturday. Police said they received a call reporting that a child had been hit in the fight, and that an attempt had been made to steal a woman's purse.

The stepping stones, which allow walkers to cross the River Dove, were busy as temperatures rose on the first weekend of the school holidays. Onlookers told Mail Online that the fight broke out after a man attempted the crossing with a pram.

Puberty blockers ban is lawful, High Court rules

A temporary ban on puberty blockers introduced by the Tory government using emergency legislation was lawful, the High Court has ruled.

Justice Beverley Lang said a study found "very substantial risks and very narrow benefits" in administering the treatment. The ban restricts the NHS from providing the medication outside of clinical trials and prevents it from being prescribed by private suppliers.

TransActual, a campaign group, challenged the decision of Victoria Atkins, then health secretary, to impose the "banning order" on puberty blockers. The Labour Government is considering making the restrictions permanent.

Corrections and clarifications

An article "Police 'ambassador' for women wolf-whistled and bragged of sex prowess" (July 23) stated that Police Sergeant 3680 James Deane was a "White Ribbon Champion". This was in relation to his work during a time of focused activity for "White Ribbon week" for Thames Valley Police and is distinct from a White Ribbon Champion who is someone registered with the White Ribbon organisation. We are happy to clarify.

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Boarding pass
Passengers confronted by Just Stop Oil protesters sitting on the floor at the entrance to departures at Gatwick airport are given short shrift by travellers. Holidaymakers simply stepped over the activists, locked on to makeshift suitcases at the South Terminal, during yesterday morning's stunt.



UK pleads for EU to ease fingerprint checks Israel irked by arms debate

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

THE Government has asked the EU to water down border fingerprint checks on British tourists to avoid travel chaos and delays next summer.

Britons travelling to the EU from Nov 17 will have their fingerprints scanned and photos taken as well as showing their passport when entering the continent for the first time.

There are fears the new entry and exit system (EES) will cause long queues and delays at Dover when thousands of holidaymakers will each have to undergo the biometric checks in order to cross the Channel.

Seema Malhotra, the immigration minister, told the Commons the Government was lobbying the European Commission for extended emergency measures to allow French border Dover and other ports where there are guards to fast-track travellers at peak times. Under the plans, the border

guards will be able to adopt a "light touch", where they do not take fingerprint scans or photographs of all travellers when there are "excessive" queues.

However, these light-touch "precautionary" measures are only proposed for the first six months after the introduction of the EES system. Britain wants to extend them beyond the summer holiday period when queues will be at their longest.

"We believe that extending these beyond six months would improve throughput at the EU's external border if queues form during peak periods in early 2025 due to the additional processing time required for EES," said Ms Malhotra.

The Government has warned that disruption is "likely" when the scheme is introduced in November and has blamed the Tories for failing to prepare measures to allow French border Dover and other ports where there are guards to fast-track travellers at peak times. Under the plans, the border

The other two are London St Pancras

and Eurotunnel in Folkestone where French border officials operate on UK territory and travellers have to do their biometric checks before they leave the UK.

Ms Malhotra said EES would increase processing times at border crossings where UK travellers enter the Schengen Area.

"Insufficient progress has been made on ensuring that these impacts (as well as other potential impacts) are minimised - with disruption likely when the scheme is introduced," she said.

"This is particularly true for journeys involving travel through London St Pancras, Eurotunnel in Folkestone and the Port of Dover."

Yesterday, the Home Office also announced new legislation that will enable French border officials to operate within an expanded border control zone at Dover to avoid a build-up of queues as travellers undergo the fingerprint checks.

Continued from Page 1

refused to publish the legal advice. "If there is a clear risk that UK arms might be used in a serious breach of international humanitarian law, the Government must suspend the sale of those arms," he said.

The IDF's preparations for any all-out war with Hezbollah in the north have been hampered by the US restrictions, according to Israeli media reports.

Labour has found it challenging to avoid political backlash in the past 10 months as it has attempted to tread a middle path on the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Sir Keir was roundly criticised by Palestinians when, after the October 7 Hamas attack, he appeared to say Israel had "the right" to withhold water from Gaza.

He also suffered a rebellion in November over Labour's decision not to call for an immediate ceasefire which led to 10 frontbenchers either quitting or being sacked.

The backlash was seen at the ballot box earlier this month when independent politicians on pro-Gaza platforms stood against Labour politicians, and in some cases winning.

Jonathan Ashworth, who had been the shadow work and pensions secretary, suffered a shock defeat while Wes

'If there is a risk UK arms might be used in a breach of law... the sale of those arms must be suspended'

Streeting, the Health Secretary, held onto his seat by a few hundred votes.

Four pro-Palestine independent candidates won seats at the general election and are now able to make their case from the House of Commons, including criticising Labour's Gaza position.

Beatrice ditches the hats to get ahead in Tatler's best-dressed list

Duke of York's daughter is named the doyenne of female fashion after years of headwear mishaps

By India McTaggart
ROYAL CORRESPONDENT

PRINCESS BEATRICE has been crowned the best dressed person of 2024 by *Tatler* magazine.

The Princess, whom the magazine's editorial said was "once the subject of much jest" for her fashion choices, has now been hailed as the "pinnacle of sartorial splendour".

The crowning marks a turnaround for the royal from her younger years, where her bold sartorial statements at times drew negative attention.

However, gone are the days of her avant-garde fascinators, including the Philip Treacy number she wore to Prince William's 2011 wedding and the colourful butterfly ensemble she donned at the wedding of Peter Phillips and Autumn Kelly in 2008. Now, the Duke and Duchess of York's eldest daughter has been hailed "a beacon of sartorial elegance" by the fashion magazine.

In recent years, the Princess has become a royal style pioneer in her own right, dressing in brands also favoured by the Princess of Wales, including Beulah London, Self-Portrait and the Vampire's Wife.

When celebrating her style in an article for her 35th birthday last summer, *Tatler* said the Princess "reigns supreme as an undisputed queen of sartorial savvy".

It marked a departure from the coverage she faced in 2005 after wearing an unusual purple hat while attending church at Sandringham on Christmas Day.

Her transformation appeared to begin when stylist Olivia Buckingham entered the Princess's life almost six years ago. Buckingham was named in *Tatler*'s best-dressed list last year alongside the Princess's husband, the Italian British property developer Edo Mapelli Mozzi, with whom she shares a two-year-old daughter, Sienna.

The Princess has also attended what is typically hailed as the biggest night in

Beatrice reigns supreme as an undisputed queen of sartorial savvy



Lady in red A style manifesto

Barely a month after Lady Starmer stepped firmly into the spotlight after moving into No 10 her style has already made a statement.

After seeing only a few sartorial choices in her new role, she has appeared, aptly, at

number 10 on this year's society's best-dressed list by *Tatler*. She wore high street brands like The Kooples and Me+Em on the campaign trail while "flying

the red flag" to support her husband's party. Next to an image of Lady Victoria in a fluted-sleeved red dress by British

label Edeline Lee, the article states: "The prime minister's wife is injecting a dose of unfussy chic into Westminster. Championing local labels and flying the red flag in scarlet hues), Victoria is always impeccable."

DAVE BENNETT

the fashion calendar, the Met Gala, in 2018. For the high-profile event, she chose a modest purple dress by Alberta Ferretti with an embellished neckline and a matching headband.

Other names on *Tatler*'s 2024 list include Annabel Elliot, the Queen's sister, and Lord Will Gordon-Lennox, the 11th Duke of Richmond's son. However, this year's top 10 also moved away from high-society names to include football royalty such as David Beckham's son Cruz, who was ranked number three; Sasha Attwood, the girlfriend of Manchester City player Jack Grealish, at number seven; and Chelsea defender Ben Chilwell at nine.

In previous years, interesting outliers to have made the list included singers such as Cheryl Tweedy, Dua Lipa and Harry Styles.

Former winners include the late Princess Diana's nieces Lady Eliza and Lady Amelia Spencer in 2021; the Princess of Wales, then the Duchess of Cambridge, in 2022; and Akshata Murty, Rishi Sunak's wife, last year.

Ms Murty was hailed for her "masterclass [in] diplomatic dressing", while the Princess of Wales was described as looking "resplendent" in the Alessandra Rich polka-dot dress she wore to Royal Ascot the year before, a look that recalled Julia Roberts in *Pretty Woman*.

Elsewhere, Jade Holland Cooper, the fashion designer behind Holland Cooper, and Lucy van Straubenzee, a teacher at Thomas's Clapham who is married to Princess Charlotte's godfather Thomas, made this year's top 10 list.

Lady Starmer completes the line up less than a month after her husband became Prime Minister.

The Princess of Wales' brother, James Middleton, was described by the magazine as the "master of the undone-debonair look" as he was included at number 15 and the 78-year-old Lord Bamford was hailed as "dapper" at number 16.

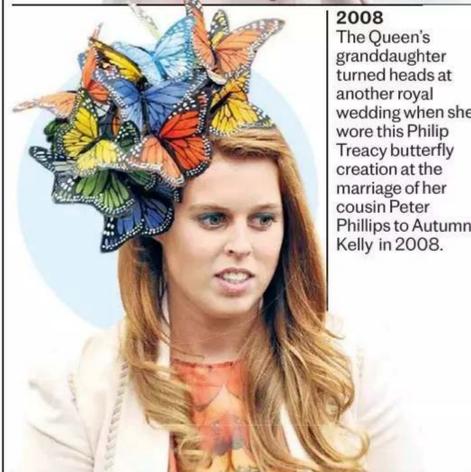
Keeley Hawes, the *Bodyguard* and *Scoop* actress, James Phoon, from *Bridgerton*, and Callum Scott Howells, the Welsh thespian, were also featured on the list.

See the full feature in the September issue of *Tatler*, which is available via digital download and on newsstands from this Thursday.



Turning heads Princess's headwear has made its mark on the public

2011 While the sculptural Philip Treacy hat Princess Beatrice wore to Prince William's wedding in 2011 became one of the day's most talked about sartorial moments, it did go on to raise £102,000 for charity after being auctioned on eBay.



2008 The Queen's granddaughter turned heads at another royal wedding when she wore this Philip Treacy butterfly creation at the marriage of her cousin Peter Phillips to Autumn Kelly in 2008.



2005 Princess Beatrice attends the Christmas Day service at the church in a purple Treacy creation at Sandringham, Norfolk Church on December 25, 2005

Don't protect children from Dahl's 'offensive' words, says Snicket

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

CHILDREN must not be protected from "offensive" words in Roald Dahl's books, author Daniel Handler has said.

The writer, who is better known by his alter-ego "Lemony Snicket", criticised the decision by publishers to rewrite Dahl's books to remove language that could be deemed "offensive" on issues of race, gender and weight.

The author of the *Series of Unfortunate Events* books said he understood the "urge" to remove such language but

condemned "tinkering" with the classic children's books.

Puffin sparked a backlash after making hundreds of changes to Dahl's original texts in books including *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Witches* and *James and the Giant Peach*.

The publisher later said it would produce uncensored versions of the stories following criticism.

Asked on Radio 3's *Private Passions* podcast about whether he supported the rewriting of Dahl's work, Handler said: "Well, I was against it. 'I mean, I understand that urge. You

know, if you're with a child and there's a strange noise in the middle of the night, what you want to say is that is nothing.

"If they see something from a news report, I understand that you want to be protectionist about it."

He continued: "You just can't, and you certainly can't do it by tinkering with Roald Dahl until his words are not offensive. His words are offensive.

"I mean, he was an offensive person in some ways, and his stories are full of really, really wretched things. That's a wonderful way to learn about wretched things."

Handler has previously said: "Roald Dahl is notoriously nasty on and off the page, and people can talk about that and

'His stories are full of really wretched things. That's a wonderful way to learn about wretched things'

have their own emotional reaction to it and make their own decisions about reading his work, but his [original] work should be available to read, rather

than some cleaned up, strange, truncated version."

The Telegraph previously revealed how Puffin had made hundreds of changes to Dahl's original texts, with the approval of the Roald Dahl Story Company.

Augustus Gloop is now described in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* as "enormous" instead of fat, while the Oompa-Loompas are no longer "tiny", "titchy" or "no higher than my knee" but merely small.

In previous editions of *James and the Giant Peach*, the Centipede sings: "Aunt

Sponge was terrifically fat/And tremendously flabby at that," and, "Aunt Spiker was thin as a wire/And dry as a bone, only drier".

Both verses were removed and replaced with underwhelming rhymes: "Aunt Sponge was a nasty old brute/And deserved to be squashed by the fruit," and, "Aunt Spiker was much of the same/And deserves half of the blame".

And Mrs Twit's "fearful ugliness" from *The Twits* is reduced to "ugliness", while Mrs Hoppy in *Esio Trot* is not an "attractive middle-aged lady" but a "kind middle-aged lady".

Paris organisers start Olympic ticket fire-sale with showpiece events still available for as little as £12

By Will Bolton in Paris

OLYMPIC tickets are still available for some of Team GB's best medal chances while other events are selling for as little as £15 (£12.50).

One of the big events for which there are still tickets is the athletics in the Stade de France on Aug 5, when Keely Hodgkinson will likely be competing in the 800m final.

There are also cheap tickets for football, basketball, rugby and handball available throughout next week.

Hodgkinson, 22, described as Britain's poster woman of the Olympics, is one of the favourites to take gold next Monday evening.

Her teammate, Phoebe Gill, 17, will be competing alongside her and could also be in with a chance of a medal.

Tickets are also still going for Monday's kayak cross final in which Joe Clarke could make the podium, although it is a particularly unpredictable

and chaotic event. There are tickets from as little as €85, albeit with a restricted view. For a full unrestricted view, however, tickets start at €385 and go as high as €1,000.

During the opening days of the Paris 2024 Olympics, most stadiums, particularly the indoor events, have been packed but some have had a noticeable number of empty seats.

Taxi drivers said the city was much quieter than normal, although yesterday morning drivers said the number of tourists did appear to be growing day by day now the Games had finally begun.

One driver, Hakin, said: "Hopefully more people will come as they see the Olympics on TV and get excited about the sport."

Andy Murray's dramatic tennis comeback on Roland Garros's court Suzanne Lenglen, which has a 10,000 person capacity, was watched by less than half that number.

Had the 37-year-old failed to go

Empty seats could be seen in stadiums during the opening days of the 2024 Paris Olympics

'Hopefully more people will come as they see the Olympics on TV and get excited about the sport'

through to the next round, it would have been a lacklustre end to his incredible career.

Yesterday, on the official Olympic Games website, a number of same day tickets for the men's and women's singles second round, the men's and women's doubles second round and the mixed doubles first round were made available.

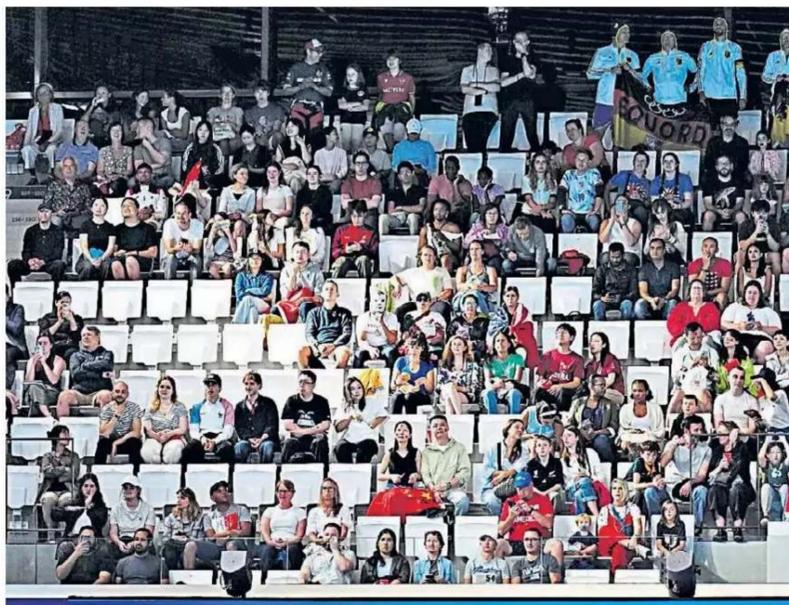
The tickets were selling for just €24 and were the second cheapest on the website.

Rugby and football fans could get tickets for just €15.

Tickets for the women's Japan vs Nigeria group stage game at the Stade de France on Aug 31 and the Australia vs USA were both selling at just €15.

Basketball games on Aug 31 were also going cheap with tickets for two games, Japan vs Germany, Australia vs Canada, were selling for €24.

The organisers of the Games have been contacted for comment.



Doctors and police handed bumper pay rises

Public sector workers to receive inflation-busting increases of up to 6 per cent, says Chancellor

By Daniel Martin and Laura Donnelly

MILLIONS of public-sector workers including doctors, teachers and nurses will receive inflation-busting pay rises, the Chancellor has said.

Rachel Reeves told MPs that she would accept the independent pay review body's recommendations in full.

It means teachers and nurses are to receive a 5.5 per cent pay boost, Armed Forces personnel will get a 6 per cent increase, prison service workers 5 per cent and the police 4.75 per cent.

Doctors and dentists will receive a pay rise of 6 per cent, while senior NHS managers receive a rise of 5 per cent.

Junior doctors will be given pay rises of around 22 per cent over two years in an effort to resolve their long-running pay dispute and end strikes.

These increases will cost more than £9 billion and the Chancellor demanded government departments find cuts of at least £3 billion in their budgets.

Unions welcomed the increases. Paul Nowak, of the TUC, said: "I hope this is the crucial first step in dealing with the recruitment and retention crisis blighting our schools and hospitals. It will need to be accompanied by a long-term plan for the public-sector workforce."

In her statement to MPs, Ms Reeves said the Tories had not held a spending review since 2021. Since this date, inflation has soared, meaning pay rises will be much higher than the budgeted-for 2 per cent.

"This has had a direct impact on budgets for public-sector pay," she said.

"The Government is expected to give evidence to the pay review bodies on affordability but extraordinarily the previous government provided no guidance on what could or could not be afforded to the pay review bodies.

"This is almost unheard of but that is exactly what they did."

She said Gillian Keegan, the former education secretary, had the recommendations on her desk but "instead of responding and dealing with the consequences, they shirked the decision that needed to be taken."

"I will not repeat their mistakes," she said. "We will be open about the decisions that are needed."

"That begins with expecting in full the recommendations of the independent pay review bodies and the details of these awards are being published today. Giving hard-working staff the pay rises they deserve while ensuring we can recruit and retain the people we need."

Ms Reeves said that in addition, NHS strikes cost £1.7 billion last year.

She said a deal had been agreed between the British Medical Association's (BMA) junior doctors committee and the health secretary. It will now go to a referendum of union members.

However, given junior doctors have been pushing for a 35 per cent rise, there is no guarantee that members will accept the offer.

The heads of the BMA's junior doctors committee said they would recommend the deal to their members, saying it was "the best offer available" but adding that there was "further to go yet" in meeting its pay demands.

Under the terms, junior doctors in their first year of training would receive a rise worth almost 25 per cent over two years. The boost of more than £7,000 increases starting pay from £29,384 in 2022-23 to £36,616 in 2024-25.

The most experienced junior doctors would see a £12,000 boost, taking annual pay to more than £70,000. Junior doctors in England have taken part in strikes 11 times in the past 20 months.



Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, in her office at No 11 Downing Street. She vowed not to 'repeat the mistakes' of the previous Tory administration: 'We will be open about the decisions that are needed'

'The previous government provided no guidance on what could be afforded to the pay review bodies. This is almost unheard of'

Should the deal be approved, the dispute will be concluded and the mandate for strike action in England will end.

If the deal is rejected by members, then industrial action could continue until at least September, when the junior doctors' latest mandate is due to expire, days before the Labour Party's annual conference in Liverpool.

The pay offer to doctors could fuel discontent among other workers.

Last night, the Royal College of Nursing said it would poll its members on whether they saw the 5.5 per cent rise they have been awarded as "enough of a start" on their journey.

The union abandoned its strikes last year after a low turnout in polls, but remains in dispute with the Government over previous pay rises.

Social Care

Tory plans to stop pensioners being hit with catastrophic social care costs which would wipe out the value of the family home have been scrapped by Ms Reeves.

The Chancellor disclosed she was getting rid of the commitment to bring in an £86,000 lifetime cap on the amount people have to pay for care. The decision will save more than £1 billion next year and even more in future years.

But it means elderly people will continue to be hit with sky-high bills for years to come, while their children will see much of their inheritance handed to

the state. Caroline Abrahams, of Age UK, said it was "bad news for all those older people who were hoping against hope for some relief from their sky-high care bills - in the short term at least it seems they are on their own."

A-level reforms

Rishi Sunak had promised to bring in a new qualification to replace A-levels and the vocational qualification T-levels. The new Advanced British Standard for 16- to 18-year-olds was meant to bring together the best of both into a new qualification framework.

The plan was to ensure that technical and academic education would be placed on an equal footing, with everyone studying some form of maths and English to the age of 18.

Ms Reeves is to scrap the new qualification, saving £185 million next year. An unfunded commitment to additional teaching hours is also being scrapped, saving almost £1 billion a year.

Transport

The Chancellor abandoned two transport projects, which she called "low-value, unaffordable commitments".

The controversial A303 tunnel under Stonehenge will not proceed - a decision which will please environmental campaigners and those who believed the archaeology could be harmed.

Schemes to relieve congestion on the A27, which links Portsmouth and East-

bourne, will also be scrapped. This will save £587 million.

New hospitals

Ms Reeves announced a review of Boris Johnson's commitment to 40 "new hospitals" by 2030.

The former prime minister promised the new buildings in his 2019 manifesto but there have been repeated delays, with many questioning whether many of the upgrades counted as new hospitals at all. The Treasury will review the commitment to "put it on a more sustainable footing", recognising "delivery and market constraints". No figure has yet been put on how much could be saved.

Rwanda

The decision to end the Tories' scheme to send many illegal migrants to Rwanda has already been announced.

Ms Reeves, however, said it would save £800 million and more in future years. It will create savings on flights and payments to the African country, as well as allowing the Government to speed up the processing of asylum seekers and reduce hotel use.

Business

The Chancellor has also cancelled an Investment Opportunity Fund introduced by Jeremy Hunt, her predecessor.

The fund would have been available over five years to secure investment in Investment Zones and Freeports across

'This is bad news for all those older people who were hoping against hope for some relief from their sky-high care bills'

the country. But it has now been scrapped, after Ms Reeves disclosed it had not yet funded a single project. Along with other small projects it will save £70 million this year.

Government cuts

Ms Reeves has also told government departments to cut spending by at least £3.2 billion a year to pay for salary increases for nurses and teachers. Much of this will have to come from the front line, but the Treasury wants a large amount to come from efficiency savings.

Stopping all non-essential government spending on consultancy in 2024-25 should save more than £1.2 billion over two years. The goal is to halve consultancy spending by lifting the Tories' cap on civil servant recruitment.

Cutting 2 per cent from government administration budgets will save £225 million, while communications and marketing budgets will be reviewed. Unused buildings will also be sold off.

Other potential savings

The Treasury has pledged to look at other areas for savings, although it does not put a figure on them.

These include reducing the cost of the House of Lords by getting rid of hereditary peers and potentially bringing in a retirement age. More HMRC staff will be employed to crack down on tax avoidance and ministerial severance payments will be reviewed.

Chancellor Dalek unleashes her plan to exterminate the middle classes

Sketch



By Tim Stanley

THE Chancellor Dalek glided into the Commons to deliver a statement on her long-term, mission-led plan to exterminate the middle-class.

"PENSIONER BENEFITS WILL BE CUT. YOU WILL PAY MORE TAX!"

The Labour benches looked stunned. The Tories went: "Oooo," and I felt a disturbance in my wallet.

Earlier that day, when the Tories officially launched their leadership contest on College Green, a street evangelist had shouted, "Armageddon is coming!"

I cheekily replied: "No it's not, Suella's pulled out." But now I wonder if he was right. Time to repent, Great Britain. We should've voted Conservative...

Our new Chancellor is an odd fish. The pantsuit says: "I know what I'm doing," but she read her speech with her finger, as if terrified of getting lost, and the thrust of her argument is that she is stunningly naive. Ms Reeves apparently skipped through the last

election as innocent as a lamb, assuming the economy was bad but there was still cash in the biscuit tin.

"There were things I did not know," she said darkly: "Things that the other side covered up." Tory throats tightened. Had she discovered David Cameron's hotel bill? He always did insist on an in-room massage.

Worse: the UK has a "projected overspend of £22 billion". Labour MPs cried shame - but at what? So, the Tories had been governing like socialists; that's their style. Now Reeves proposes governing like a fiscal conservative. She rattled off a list of cuts - her plunger zipping across the

page as she annihilated roads and railways - culminating in a savage raid on the winter fuel payment that will force millions of hard-pressed sons to

'There were things I did not know, she said darkly. Had she discovered David Cameron's hotel bill?'

cover their mother's gas bill (specifically, me).

Jeremy Hunt rose to squeak for England. Come on Rachel, he said, things aren't that bad! It is Labour that

is lying; inflating the scale of its troubles to justify future tax rises while it redistributes money to the trade unions.

The junior doctors are to get a 20 per cent pay rise. The GPs will be next; Angela Rayner, I'm told, is holding out for 35 per cent. You don't tell a woman like that to "please smoke outside" and not expect her to go on strike.

The debate moved onto X as Labour eagerly quoted a tweet by Paul Johnson of the IFS saying that some Tory funding plans had not been provided for. Nick Timothy pointed out that the rest of the tweet pinned "half" the spending on public pay and

concluded the "overall challenge for spending was known". I.e. more fake news. The issue is not just money but trust; the Chancellor Dalek is starting to look unreliable.

Rob Jenrick lifted the mood by comparing Reeves to a "dodgy car mechanic". You give her your Volvo for a week, she comes back with new problems and a higher price; "and you both know she planned this all along". It was an early win for Rob in the leadership race, though there's an even better candidate out there.

The Tories should ask Nicolás Maduro to run their party. That fellow hasn't lost an election yet.

Reeves to unveil tax rises in Oct 30 Budget

By Alex Singleton, Matt Oliver and Poppy Wood

RACHEL REEVES is preparing to announce a series of tax rises in her maiden Budget on Oct 30, after criticising the Tories for £22 billion of unfunded spending.

Announcing the results of a report by Treasury officials, which revealed the allegedly dire state of the public finances, she said: "They spent like there was no tomorrow because they knew that someone else would pick up the bill."

The new Chancellor paved the way for taxes to fill part of the hole.

She said: "That Budget will involve taking difficult decisions to meet our fiscal rules across spending, welfare and tax." It came as the Government announced a tax raid on North Sea oil and gas companies, and confirmed a

VAT assault on private schools. Ms Reeves followed through on Labour's election pledge to squeeze oil companies further by ramping up the so-called energy profits levy.

She said the levy, originally imposed

£22bn

The amount of unfunded spending under the Conservative government, according to the new Chancellor

by the Conservatives, will now run for two additional years, expiring at the end of March 2030, while the headline rate will rise from 75 per cent to 78 per cent.

She also scrapped an "unjustifiably generous" allowance that let companies deduct some of what they invested into

new oil and gas fields from the total they were required to pay.

Russell Borthwick, of the Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce, which represents a large chunk of the industry, said: "The new government is pushing the North Sea dangerously close to 'game over' territory and this will, in turn, put our energy transition at risk."

"Instead of seeing the energy sector as the solution to challenges in the UK's public finances, the Chancellor has taken the wrongheaded decision to tax the industry into oblivion. The consequence of that will be £20 billion lost in revenues to the Treasury."

The Chancellor also confirmed the Government will start charging VAT on private schools from Jan 1 2025.

Treasury documents published after the Chancellor's speech confirmed ministers expect the 20 per cent tax will drive some private school parents away.

Hunt's forecasts investigated by the OBR

By Tim Wallace

JEREMY HUNT'S spending forecasts are to be investigated by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) after the discovery of a £22 billion black hole in the public finances.

Richard Hughes, head of the spending watchdog, announced a formal review into the forecasts for the Spring Budget. It is the first time the OBR has introduced such a review. Mr Hughes said he was alerted to the "seriousness" of the issue at a meeting with the Treasury last week.

In a letter to the Treasury select committee, he said: "This would constitute one of the largest year-ahead overspend against Departmental Expenditure Limits (DEL) forecasts outside of the pandemic years."

"The review will assess the adequacy of the information and assurances pro-

vided to the OBR by the Treasury regarding departmental spending."

It comes after Rachel Reeves criticised the Conservatives' handling of the public finances in the House of Commons yesterday, during which she also

announced spending cuts.

Labour's audit of the Treasury's finances under Mr Hunt has prompted the OBR's investigation, although Mr Hughes said he had raised concerns over the Treasury's numbers in the past. He said: "The OBR has highlighted potential

overspending against the DEL plans set by the Treasury as one of the most significant risks to the fiscal outlook."

Responding to Ms Reeves's accusations, Mr Hunt said the alleged black hole was being used to justify tax rises, while also claiming the state of the public finances was clear before the election.

He said: "Those public finances were audited by the OBR just 10 weeks before the election was called. We are now expected to believe that in that short period a £20 billion black hole has magically emerged. She wants to blame the last Conservative government for tax rises and project cancellations she has been planning all along."

To ensure the OBR does not encounter similar issues in the future, Ms Reeves vowed to share more information with the watchdog. She also accused Mr Hunt of "trying to pass the blame" on to civil servants.



Jeremy Hunt said Rachel Reeves wanted to blame the Tories for tax rises and scrapped projects 'she had planned all along'



Screaming mothers scramble to find their girls as bleeding children flee masked killer

Residents describe the scene as like a horror film as attack shatters the calm in peaceful seaside town

By Martin Evans, Connor Stringer and Neil Johnston

WITH the school holidays in full swing, the Taylor Swift-themed yoga dance workshop was understandably popular among parents in Southport looking for something to occupy their children.

About 25 youngsters aged between six and 11 had signed up for the class hosted in a studio in a smart residential district of the Merseyside town.

But shortly before the class was due to end, the most unimaginable horror was unleashed when a masked knife man entered the building on Hart Street and began randomly stabbing children.

The attacker, who was wearing a black hoodie and a Covid-style mask, had allegedly arrived at the location in a taxi, got out without paying and then entered the studio through the unlocked front door.

Clutching a knife, once inside he began attacking the children and adults at will.

Two youngsters were killed, six others were left in a critical condition and a further three sustained stab wounds.

As the attacker lashed out, two adults who were present bravely intervened in an attempt to protect the children but were also injured.

The first locals realised what was happening was when terrified screams rang out just before midday, shattering

the normally peaceful streets of the seaside community.

One resident said she knew immediately the shouts were not those of children playing but of something truly terrible taking place.

"I was in the garden when I suddenly heard screaming. I knew something was seriously wrong by the pitch of the screams. It got louder and louder," she explained.

"You could hear parents screaming. Then we started hearing rumours that a man had started stabbing children."

Within minutes, dozens of police cars, ambulances, fire engines and even air ambulances descended on the area.

Another resident of Hart Street described panic and confusion as people tried to understand what was happening.

She said: "Messages started to go around the local WhatsApp groups saying 'lock your windows, lock your doors'. We were told a man was running around stabbing people. We are all absolutely terrified, panicking and sick with worry."

Those who dashed to help were met with the most horrific scenes as children as young as seven ran screaming from the studio covered in blood.

As news of the attack spread, parents who had dropped their youngsters off earlier came racing back to the scene, panic and fear etched on their faces.

One desperate mother was crying out amid the blood-soaked chaos that she could not find her child.

Another local described seeing a distraught mother arrive in her car.

"She was screaming 'my daughter's been stabbed'. The woman was in hys-



Tributes were left near Hart Street in Southport after multiple child stabbings

terics. Then two police cars rushed up the street the other way.

"It was a mum with her 10-year-old daughter who had been stabbed."

"I helped to get her back up to where the police cars and ambulances were. She didn't look great but my focus was on getting her back up the street to get help," they said.

"When I got back up the street there were a couple of kids on the floor being seen to by paramedics and, as I came back, more police cars were going down and more ambulances started to arrive."

A BBC reporter who was at the scene described seeing one child being carried on a stretcher covered in blood with her parents running after her.

Bare Varathan, 35, who owns a corner shop on Hart Street, said: "I saw seven to ten kids outside the nursery. They were injured, bleeding. They were in the road, running from the nursery. They had been stabbed, here, here, here, everywhere. They were all aged about 10. One of them was really seriously injured."

One parent said her daughter had escaped the attack. She said: "My daughter was in it and she was traumatised. She ran away and she's safe."

Another witness who arrived at the scene a few minutes after the incident said: "When I got there, there was a guy who was distraught, in a mess."

"He'd seen two children run out and

Knife horror on Merseyside



he thought they had got hit by a car because the car was just full of blood at the side of the car.

"But it was actually that the children who had been stabbed had fallen into the car."

Colin Parry, the owner of Masters Vehicle Body Repairs, just yards from the scene of the attack, said he could not believe the scale of the carnage.

He said: "It is like a scene from a horror movie. It's like something from America, not like sunny Southport."

Ryan Carney, who lives with his mother Hayley on Hart Street, said he rushed home from work to be with her after she saw the incident.

Speaking to reporters at the police cordon, he said: "She went out to see what was going on because she could hear screaming and crying."

"All she said was she saw members of, I don't know, either police or ambulance, carrying out a few bodies of girls. They were in white, but covered in red, covered in blood. She said she could see the stab wounds in the backs of the children."

Locals did what they could to help, with some attempting to comfort distraught parents.

But such was the scale of terror that even many of the firefighters and ambulance staff on duty were visibly shocked and upset, with some sitting on the floor with their heads in their hands.

In the afternoon, police cordoned off a street in the small village of Banks, a few miles outside of Southport thought to be where the attacker lives.

Police later confirmed that a 17-year-old youth had been arrested on suspicion of murder and attempted murder.

'It is like a scene from a horror movie. It's like America, not like sunny Southport'

Businessman, 63, stabbed in struggle to take knife from attacker

By Connor Stringer and Martin Evans

A BUSINESSMAN tried to disarm a knifeman who launched an attack at a children's dance class in Southport after hearing screams from his office, *The Telegraph* can reveal.

Jonathan Hayes, 63, was stabbed in the leg after running into the dance studio in a desperate attempt to intervene. His wife Helen, 57, told *The Telegraph* that the attacker, that he regrets he couldn't do more to stop the "ferocious attack" that left two children dead.

Asked if Mr Hayes had tried to put himself between the knifeman and the children, she said: "He did. He heard screams. Our office is in the same building as the dance studio, he heard screams and went outside, saw the attacker, saw that he had hurt a child and tried to take the knife off him and got stabbed in the leg."

"The dance studio is tucked away down a little alley, you wouldn't know that there was a children's dance studio there just by walking past - you would

have to of known it was there. I've been with him all afternoon at the hospital.

"He's very upset that he wasn't able to be more help. Physically he will be OK, mentally I don't know," she added.

The attack began just before midday in Merseyside as the children, some as young as six, were enjoying the Taylor Swift-themed workshop during the school holidays.

Six of the wounded children remained in a critical condition last night and were being treated at hospitals across the North West. Two adults were present at the dance and yoga class and tried to intervene. They were also being treated for stab wounds and were said to be in a critical condition.

Merseyside Police confirmed that a 17-year-old boy, from the village of Banks, about five miles away from Southport, had been arrested and was being questioned on suspicion of murder and attempted murder.

The youth, who cannot be named for legal reasons and is originally from Cardiff, in Wales, moved to the Southport area with his Rwandan parents when he



Jonathan Hayes is to have surgery today after being stabbed in the leg

was aged six. In a press conference, Chief Constable Serena Kennedy, of Merseyside Police, said that while the incident was not being treated as terror-related, colleagues from counter-terror policing had offered to assist with the investigation.

She said that her officers assisted to find children subjected to a "ferocious attack", adding: "We believe the adults who were injured were bravely trying to protect the children who were being attacked."

The workshop had been organised by Leanne Lucas, a local teacher, and was intended to coincide with the start of the school holidays. About 25 children, aged between six and 11, signed up for the event, which was due to last two hours from 10am until midday.

Witnesses described how, just after 11.45am, the attacker allegedly pulled up at the dance studio, which is situated in a small business centre behind a residential street, in a taxi and then got out without paying.

One witness claimed that he had a black hooded top pulled up and was wearing a Covid-style face mask. He walked into the studio through the front door, which was unlocked for fire safety reasons.

It was here that Mr Hayes - who was due to have surgery today - is said to have confronted the attacker, desper-

ately trying to disarm him before being stabbed himself.

"I understand from the news reports that [the alleged attacker] was arrested at the scene. Jon wouldn't know about that because by that time he had collapsed and didn't see what happened," Mrs Hayes told *The Telegraph*.

"I understand the attacker entered the building and went up the stairs and on the left-hand side at the top of the stairs is the dance studio. On the right-hand side is our office. It was on the landing."

"It's quite small. He didn't know but he just said it was a big knife, it made quite a big wound. Not a penknife certainly. Why you target little girls I don't know."

She added last night: "He's OK, he's having surgery tomorrow. He will recover, we hope."

People living close by to the dance studio described hearing shrieks and screams before blood-soaked children began running from the building.

Parents, hysterical with panic, dashed to the scene desperate to find

their children. One witness said she had seen a mother at the scene, adding: "She was screaming. 'My daughter's been stabbed'. The woman was in hysterics."

Colin Parry, the owner of Masters Vehicle Body Repairs, on Hart Street, called the police and said mothers were screaming as they arrived at the scene. He said: "It is like a scene from a horror movie."

Mr Parry added: "It's like something from America, not like sunny Southport."

Within minutes, a massive emergency response was under way, with dozens of ambulances, police cars, fire engines and helicopters arriving at the scene.

North West Ambulance Service said that the victims of the knife attack were taken to Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Aintree University Hospital and Southport and Formby District General Hospital.

Alder Hey declared a major incident and asked parents not to bring their children to the emergency department unless it was urgent.

Yellow cards for Tory candidates who bad mouth leadership rivals

By Daniel Martin
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

TORY leadership rivals will face a “yellow card” if they bad mouth other candidates, party chiefs said. Six senior Conservatives will battle it out to replace Rishi Sunak as the party seeks to rebuild after its worst-ever general election result, with the new

leader named on Nov 2. Bob Blackman, chairman of the backbench Conservative 1922 Committee which is organising the contest, has introduced a yellow card system to issue warnings if they cross the line in attacks on rival candidates. Those who receive a yellow card will be publicly named and shamed. Kemi Badenoch, the shadow housing

secretary, is the early favourite with bookmakers, while former immigration minister Robert Jenrick looks set to challenge her on the Tory Right. Shadow security minister Tom Tugendhat and shadow home secretary James Cleverly look set to compete for votes from centrist Conservatives. Former home secretary Dame Priti Patel and shadow work and pensions

secretary Mel Stride complete the field of candidates who received the support of 10 MPs in order to enter the race. There are no formal rules on what could trigger a yellow card, the hope being that its simple existence will help set the right tone. Mr Blackman said: “The situation with the yellow card is very simple. The constant backbiting and attacking col-

leagues in the last parliament was one of the contributory reasons as to why the party did so badly. “We are determined that we will not tolerate that happening.” Mr Blackman added that a public statement about bad behaviour would be “extremely detrimental” to a candidate’s chances. MPs will vote off two of the contend-

ers in September so the final four go to the party’s conference in Birmingham to make their leadership pitch. Tory MPs will then eliminate two more, with the final pair going to a ballot of Tory members with the winner announced on Nov 2. The backbench 1922 Committee confirmed the six candidates after nominations closed yesterday afternoon.

Reform courts Braverman after she quits Tory contest

Lee Anderson says ex-home secretary is welcome and would bring half the party’s membership with her

By Charles Hymas
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

REFORM UK has courted Suella Braverman after the former home secretary announced her withdrawal from the Conservative leadership contest. Lee Anderson, who became a Reform MP after leaving the Tories, said Mrs Braverman would be welcome to join Reform and would “probably take half the membership with her” if she did. Asked by *The Telegraph* what Mrs Braverman should do after withdrawing from the Tory leadership contest, Mr Anderson said: “Suella knows where the true Conservatives sit in the chamber, and she is quite welcome to join us.” In *The Telegraph* on Sunday, Mrs Braverman announced that she would not run to be Tory leader because the party did not want to hear the truth about

their fortunes without someone like the former home secretary playing a key role. “The very people capable of saving the Conservative Party have lost their seats, and the majority that are left are the reason they lost the election so massively. They are on a hiding to nothing,” he said. “The Conservatives are going to dole out two candidates that the membership don’t want. The membership don’t want any of them.” He said there was a 99 per cent match between Reform UK’s policies and those advocated by Mrs Braverman, adding: “I cannot think of any differences. There might be some economic stuff but on the whole she is pretty much on board.” Friends of Mrs Braverman said the departure of Mr Anderson had been a “real loss”. One said: “Look at how he was straight out of the gates on Manchester [the controversy over police use of force], for example, while we said nothing. Imagine being shadow home secretary, running to lead your party but being effortlessly outpaced by a party of half a dozen MPs. Someone like Lee should never have been driven to Reform. It’s had real consequences, and it would be fatal folly to drive any more MPs [Nigel Farage’s way].”

In her article on Sunday, Mrs Braverman said the “disastrous” election result was not “some freak, ‘loveless landslide’ for Labour” but had happened because the Tories “got things monumentally wrong”. She explained that was why she said sorry and “meant it”, both on election night and now. “It was predicted, preventable, deserved and, as yet, unaddressed,” she added. The “disaster” was down to the Tories’ failure to keep promises on cutting immigration, which rose to record levels and reducing taxes, which went to a 70-year high, she said. “It’s not comfortable accepting these truths. I’ve tried to set them out and been vilified by some colleagues. But it is what it is,” said Mrs Braverman. “I cannot run because I cannot say what people want to hear. I’ve been branded mad, bad and dangerous enough to see that the Tory party does not want to hear this. So I will bow out here.” Mrs Braverman warned that Nigel Farage’s Reform posed an “existential threat” to the Tories. “Nigel Farage destroyed us,” she added. “We have no hope of recovery until we win back the trust of the four million. Branding them as racists and comparing their events to Nuremberg rallies did not work during the campaign, and it won’t work now.”



Kemi Badenoch leaves her south London home yesterday after announcing she is to stand for the Conservative leadership

Badenoch tried to hire Gray as aide but ‘Case blocked move’

By Genevieve Holl-Allen
POLITICAL REPORTER

KEMI BADENOCH tried to recruit Sue Gray as her top aide but the move was blocked by Simon Case, the Cabinet Secretary, a new book claims. The shadow housing secretary, a Conservative leadership contender, reportedly wanted to hire Ms Gray, a senior civil servant, as permanent secretary to the Department of Trade in October 2022. But it is alleged that Mr Case did not allow her to be interviewed for the role, a move speculated to be a result of “bad blood” in the aftermath of Ms Gray’s partygate report, which contributed to Boris Johnson’s resignation as prime minister. She was appointed as chief of staff to Sir Keir Starmer in October last year, which proved controversial at the time. Lord Ashcroft, a Tory peer, writes in his unauthorised biography of Mrs Badenoch: “Word eventually got out she had tried to hire, as her Permanent Secretary in the Department for International Trade, Sue Gray, the senior civil servant who had conducted the inquiry

‘Case’s refusal to entertain Gray’s transfer contributed to Gray quitting the Civil Service altogether’

into the partygate scandal, which had proved to be Boris Johnson’s undoing.” He adds that a source had told him that “much to Kemi’s displeasure, Simon Case, the Cabinet Secretary, said that Sue Gray couldn’t be interviewed”. The source says: “Case blocked it. That was probably done because there was so much bad blood thanks to partygate.” Lord Ashcroft writes that “Case’s refusal to entertain Gray’s transfer contributed to Gray quitting the Civil Service altogether to take a job as Sir Keir Starmer’s chief of staff”. Mrs Badenoch is the bookies’ favourite to become the next Tory leader after declaring her candidacy on Sunday night. It is the second time she has stood for leader, after entering the race to replace Mr Johnson in summer 2022. The unauthorised biography also reveals details of Mrs Badenoch’s upbringing and personal life, including her relationship with religion. It says that although she grew up in a religious family, “her faith was broken by the gruesome case of Josef Fritzl”. Fritzl was jailed for life in 2009 for the murder by neglect of a newborn baby he fathered with his daughter Elisabeth while holding her in the purpose-built basement of his house. Alex Burghart, a Conservative MP and Badenoch ally, is quoted as saying: “She told me that she thought to herself: ‘There is no God. If there was, he would have answered her prayers before answering mine.’”

‘Suella knows where the true Conservatives sit in the chamber and she is quite welcome to join us’

why it lost. She said she had the required 10 MPs backing her candidacy but there was no point in running for the leadership “when most of the MPs disagree with my diagnosis and prescription” after the “disastrous” election defeat. Mr Anderson, who quit the Tories after rebelling over Rishi Sunak’s illegal migration plans, said that during his two years as Tory vice-chairman he had spoken to up to 100 constituency associations. “I would say she was probably one of the three most popular conservative MPs,” he said. “The party has lost all contact with the membership. They are just out of touch with the membership. If she did leave, she would probably take half the membership with her.” It is understood, however, Mrs Braverman has no intention of quitting the Conservative Party. Yesterday, she tweeted her *Telegraph* article and said she would “support the new leader from the backbenches for a Conservative revival”. However, Mr Anderson warned that the Conservatives would struggle to revive

Tories need a leader that reflects the vibrant diversity of modern Britain

Commentary



By Jesse Norman

WHO should be the next leader of the Conservative Party? Every MP will have their own take, of course. But for me it comes down to two key issues: the task and the person. No one can be in any doubt about the magnitude of the task. I doubt whether a government led by Jeremy Corbyn and Diane Abbott would have performed better in the past five years than the government we actually had.

But all this is now moot. Whatever the true merits of the case, whatever one thinks about the difficulties of dealing with the long-term impact of the global financial crisis of 2007-8, Brexit, the Covid pandemic, the global spike in energy prices or the war in Ukraine, the national mood on July 4 was “Anyone but the Tories”. The Conservative Party needs to get the message, and show the country that it gets the message. There has been a lot of talk about the need to bring the party together. But far more important is the need to undertake a thorough process of moral, intellectual and organisational reconstruction. The root issue is not one of political presentation, it is one of values and

legitimacy, of earning once again a measure of trust and belief that the Conservative Party is serious, competent and oriented towards the public good. That will take time, and it will involve hard choices, especially as regards fiscal matters. Labour has a huge majority. But the financial facts of life did not change on July 5, and the new government is already struggling to square the opacity of its mandate with the expectations it has raised, the demands of the unions and the internal contradictions of a top-down yet somehow decentralising administration. All this demands scrutiny and creates political opportunity. But this

will be as nothing if the Conservative party cannot earn itself a hearing. In seeking to do so, the party needs to rediscover its commitment to public service. Ever since ancient times, it has been thought that human beings are unique among animals in having the power – however sparingly exercised these days – to govern themselves. Politics is the messy, compromised and yet vital means by which they seek to do so. It is an activity, not a project, the necessary basis for the very possibility of human society. But, despite the fond imaginings of the Westminster village, politics has little or no intrinsic merit in itself. What matters is public service. That is the goal. Putting public service front

and centre means a lot less ego, and a lot more thought to the well-being of others, especially future generations. That is the task facing the next leader. What about the person? Young or old, a Conservative leader should have a record of commitment to open markets, individual responsibility, financial prudence and limited state intervention, together with a deep interest in history and policy. The new party leader will need to be adaptable and resilient, able to bring others together both inside and from outside politics, to draw on the biggest talents and put them to work. And they will need to be a highly effective communicator. But a really good leader does not simply articulate but

embodies the change they are seeking to make. The United Kingdom is more vibrantly diverse in its culture and identity now than ever before. Recognising that strength in diversity, and acknowledging its limits, will be a formidable task. The same is true of facing the twin challenges of Keir Starmer at the dispatch box, and Nigel Farage at the bully pulpit. And in my judgment the right person to take these challenges on, to draw the best from the past but galvanise fresh energies and set a new direction, is Kemi Badenoch. Jesse Norman is the MP for Hereford and South Herefordshire, and the author of books on Edmund Burke and Adam Smith.

Truss hits out at Whitehall ‘groupthink’ after mandarins criticise her time in No10

By Nick Gutteridge
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LIZ TRUSS has accused Whitehall of “groupthink” after a document drawn up by civil servants attacked her time as prime minister. Ms Truss said the paper, which accompanied the King’s Speech, showed a wider problem of hostility towards Conservatives within the civil service. She has written to Simon Case, the Cabinet Secretary, over the briefing note which referred to her September 2022 mini-budget as “disastrous”. The document was later amended to delete the reference after Ms Truss said that it represented a “flagrant breach” of the civil service code. Ms Truss said the fact the paper

would have been seen by “dozens” of civil servants without any flagging the error showed Whitehall is anti-Tory. The former prime minister is demanding answers from Mr Case over who was involved in preparing and signing off the controversial document. “The fact that such blatant attacks on me and my Government were included in what was supposed to be an impartial briefing that will have been prepared by dozens of civil servants certainly goes to suggest that Whitehall groupthink has a settled worldview that is hostile to conservative thinking,” she said. “When I wrote to Simon Case on the day of the King’s Speech pointing out that my name was being impugned in a document prepared, edited, proofed and signed off by civil servants, I had a

reply two hours later promising the egregious attacks would be swiftly removed from the online version. “However, I am yet to get a response to the letter I sent the following day asking a series of questions about how such a transgression had been allowed to occur in the first place and how those responsible will be held to account. “More than a week later and we still don’t know whether he is investigating how political material was allowed to be included in the document or the identity of the senior civil servant who gave final sign-off to the document. Was it Simon Case himself?” The row erupted over a note explaining Labour’s plan to make sure that the Office for Budget Responsibility scores every fiscal event.



Joking aside
Tweedy the Clown, real name Alan Digweed, hands in a petition for the Prime Minister on behalf of the Association of Circus Proprietors to highlight the Unesco treaty on intangible cultural heritage.

JEFF MOORE

Smugglers use rivers to dodge French police

Gangs pick up migrants inland and ferry them to the Channel to avoid heavily policed beaches

By Charles Hymas and Henry Samuel in Paris

CHANNEL migrants are being ferried down freshwater canals in their dinghies, unobstructed by French police en route to crossing the sea to the UK. People smugglers have found a major gap in the French defences that allows them to guide their boats down canals near Dunkirk.

They then either cross directly to England once they reach sea, or pick up more migrants in the shallow waters off the Dunkirk beaches before heading for the English south coast.

They have been forced into the new tactic because of the increasing violence and risks of launching the boats directly from the beaches where police can intercept them and puncture the flimsy dinghies before they reach sea.

The gendarmerie has succeeded in shutting down the inland waterway routes around Calais by placing chains of buoys, paid for by the UK Govern-

ENGLISH CHANNEL



ment, across the rivers and canals. But the French fishing and pleasure-boat community in Dunkirk has argued against the move, meaning no buoys have been deployed there to provide similar blockades.

Once in the water, whether inland or in the shallow waters off the north French beaches, the people smugglers know the French gendarmes or police will not intervene for fear of capsizing the boat and drowning migrants.

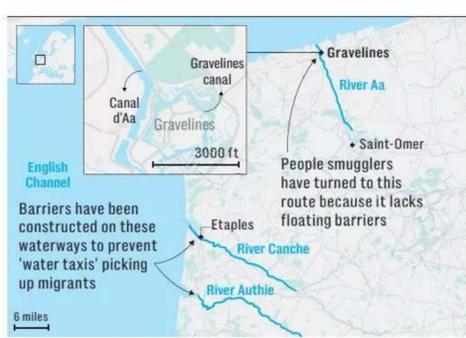
Yesterday, a group of some 20 migrants were filmed as they guided their black rubber dinghy down the Gravelines canal near Dunkirk. One shouted "This is for Rishi Sunak!" in apparent defiance at the scrapping of his Rwanda scheme.

At the mouth of the canal, the dinghy turned to the shallow waters of a nearby beach where men, women and young children, some wearing life jackets, appeared from sand dunes and walked

towards the boat. Just under 30 of them entered the water to their waists to clamber on board the dinghy before it headed for England.

The latest figures yesterday showed there had been a record number of crossings for the first seven months of a calendar year. Some 16,457 have reached the UK so far this year, including 255 on Sunday, beating the previous record of 16,420 in 2022 and 14,732 last year. Salomé Bahri, of the migrant char-

French river routes used by people smugglers



ity Utopia 56, said: "The problem is that at the moment, over the last year or so, there's been more and more violence on the beaches, particularly when it comes to inflating the boat, getting in, and so on. As a result, to avoid this kind of violence, people try not to set off from the beaches directly towards the Channel, but to set off from inland, via canals, rivers, et cetera to try to reach the Channel without going via the beaches." By contrast, Gen Frantz Tavart, in charge

of 130 gendarmes patrolling the Calais coast – including 90 reservists paid for by the UK – said they had closed off the inland routes by placing chains and buoys across the river Canche and river Authie near Calais.

"The idea is to dissuade [migrants] from getting onto the waterway by erecting barrages and it works very well. You can't get through," he said. Mathilde Potel, a Nord department deputy director charged with tackling illegal immigration, said talks were advanced between the UK and France to deploy chains and buoys in the canals around Dunkirk.

"But it takes time due to political, financial and structural reasons as we need to work precisely where to put these barriers. But I can tell you it is well underway," she said.

She told *The Telegraph* that people smugglers were probably using the canal more as beaches were now more heavily policed.

"It's also the length of the canal that makes it easier to leave from a town inland than from a beach as there are far more access points," she said.

"On a beach you can see for 10km [6 miles] with binoculars, whereas with a canal you have 15 potential access points so it's much harder to control."

GRAVELINES



A group of migrants leaves Gravelines in France, before picking up more passengers on the coast, above

'To avoid this kind of violence, people try not to set off from the beaches'

Anyone who attacks police should face full force of law, says MP after Manchester melee

By Max Stephens

PEOPLE who attack police should face "the full force of the law", the MP for Rochdale has said.

It comes after CCTV footage was circulated showing two men appearing to violently attack a group of police at Manchester airport.

The circulation of the footage followed another video of the same scene, which appeared to show an officer tasered one of the assailants and stamping on his head as he lay on the ground.

The latter half of the video, showing the alleged assault by police on the man, was released several days before the clip which appeared to show the attacks on police.

One officer had her nose broken in the melee.

The man who was tasered and held on the floor is allegedly suffering with a cyst on the brain after being stamped on, according to his lawyer.

The officers' response led to allegations of police brutality and a wave of protests in the city of Rochdale, where the two civilians involved in the video are from.

A police officer was suspended after the incident on July 23, and is under a criminal investigation for assault by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

Paul Waugh, the newly-elected Labour MP for Rochdale, said in a state-

ment yesterday that the alleged assault on officers and their response was "shocking".

Mr Waugh wrote on X, formerly Twitter: "When I met the Assistant Chief Constable of Greater Manchester

Police last Thursday, I made it very clear that any perpetrator of criminal attacks on our police should face the full force of the law.

"The force had reported that their officers had been subjected to a 'violent

assault' while trying to make an arrest at Manchester airport and that an officer had been left with a broken nose. I passed on my concerns for the female police officer and others injured in the incident, something I've consistently put on record.

"I have also repeatedly stressed that the police do a difficult job every day to keep us safe, and that they themselves know that their officers should be held to a high standard of conduct in carrying out their duty – and that none of their officers should be above the law."

He stressed it was important for the investigation to ascertain the "full facts" of the attack.

Greater Manchester Police Federation (GMPF) said the new footage cast the incident in "a very different light", adding that "we need to protect the protectors".

Richard Cooke, chairman of GMPF, said the footage gave a "different perspective altogether", adding: "We lost over 5,000 colleagues in the year to March voluntarily leaving."

"Assaulted repeatedly, poorly paid for the risks, slagged-off by clueless idiots. After this week that trend will only accelerate. I don't blame any of them."

Kevin Hurley, former Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, said the officer under investigation, who was locked in a chokehold and punched to the floor, had been "the hero" of the situation.

Brief engagement 'TikTok lawyer' steps aside

A lawyer for the brothers involved in the altercation at Manchester Airport has said he is "stepping aside", as the media have tried to sabotage him. Akhmed Yakob, right, claimed media attention was distracting from the incident itself and said he had put the family in touch with another lawyer. Mr Yakob has 200,000 followers on TikTok and stood as an independent candidate in Birmingham Ladywood on a pro-Gaza,

anti-Labour platform at the general election. He finished second with 33 per cent of the vote and has been the subject of

press reports over the last week for flaunting his wealth and posing next to luxury cars. The lawyer has been vocal on

TikTok about the incident, but claims he has helped to defuse tension in the community over his clients' treatment by police. A Greater Manchester Police officer was suspended on Thursday after the footage was shared widely on social media of a man appearing to be kicked in the head during the melee. The incident led to two nights of protests in Rochdale and Manchester city centre.



Three arrested over crematorium burials

By Daily Telegraph Reporters

THREE people have been arrested on suspicion of misconduct in public office as part of a police investigation into the burial of ashes at a Lincoln crematorium.

Angela Andrews, the City of Lincoln council chief executive, said she was "shocked and distraught" to learn of six alleged incidents where the burial of ashes had not been carried out "in accordance with the wishes of the families of the deceased".

The council, which operates the crematorium in Washington Road, Lincoln, notified Lincolnshire Police, who launched an investigation into one of the cases. The force said it was investigating a burial ceremony which went ahead, witnessed by family members, even though the ashes of the deceased could not be located. The exact circumstances of the burial were not yet known.

A 52-year-old man, a 38-year-old man and a 46-year-old woman were arrested yesterday on suspicion of misconduct in public office. The two men were also suspected of fraud by false representation.

Chief Supt Kate Anderson said: "We know what a distressing case this will be for the family affected, and they are the people we are keeping in our minds. They wish to deal with this matter as privately as possible, and we ask that those wishes are respected by media and others who might want to talk about the case online. We also realise how upset-

ting it will be for others who have lost loved ones to hear about this investigation, and we are doing everything we can to build the broader picture of understanding around what has happened, and our officers continue to examine all the circumstances around this case.

"While our detectives investigate, my ask of you is that you do not speculate about what has happened."

The City of Lincoln council requested

6

Number of alleged incidents where the burial was not carried out 'in accordance with the wishes of the families'

an urgent inspection of the facility by the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities and launched its own internal investigation. Ms Andrews said: "I am shocked and distraught to confirm that a small number of families did not receive the level of care and service they and their loved ones deserved, and rightly expected, in relation to the burial of their loved ones' ashes. I have personally visited or spoken to the six families identified as being directly affected by this situation, to work out how we can best help them through this difficult time and to offer our deepest apologies."

Lettuce can soothe nettle stings as well as dock leaves

Salad staple has same effect as traditional remedy, but researchers say sap from any large leaf may help

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

DOCK leaves are the traditional remedy for nettle stings, but scientists have found a new little gem.

Rubbing a lettuce leaf on a nettle rash appears to be just as good at taking away the pain as the age-old folk treatment, with the sap providing a cooling and soothing effect.

In Britain, dock leaves often grow close to stinging nettles and so it has become the first port of call after an unwitting brush against the treacherous plant tips.

But research suggests the juice from other leaves may be equally effective.

In an experiment, nine NHS emergency doctors agreed to rub stinging nettles on both forearms before being blindfolded and asked to put crushed dock leaves on one arm and little gem lettuce leaves on another.

The doctors were then asked to say which was the dock and which was the lettuce and asked to gauge their discomfort levels at five minutes, 10 minutes, 15 minutes and 20 minutes after the stings.

The term 'discomfort' incorporated various sensations provoked by nettle stings including burning, itching, and tingling.

The results showed that the doctors could not distinguish between the two plants better than chance, and the discomfort eased at the same rate for dock as for lettuce.

The average peak score was 27 for the dock treatment and 20 for the lettuce treatment, while the average time to peak discomfort was five minutes for both, neither of which was statistically significant.

Writing in the *Journal of Emergency Medicine*, the authors from NHS Fife said the sap from the leaf may be more important than the plant species.

"If so, any large, fresh and non-toxic leaf would do the job, and dock may

have become the leaf of choice simply because it grows in similar habitats to nettle," they wrote.

"It is possible that the same relief would have occurred with no treatment at all, and our study design does not permit us to conclude that either dock or lettuce is better than simply doing nothing."

"We conclude that dock leaf may work for nettle stings, but lettuce may be just as good, and relief comes quickly either way."

"Work from other studies suggests that children in particular do not consider doing nothing to be an acceptable option when they are in pain, and we feel this may well be applicable to nettle stings."

Lettuce was chosen because it is a similar size, shape and texture to dock leaves but has no anti-inflammatory or toxic properties.

'Our study design does not permit us to conclude that dock or lettuce is better than simply doing nothing'

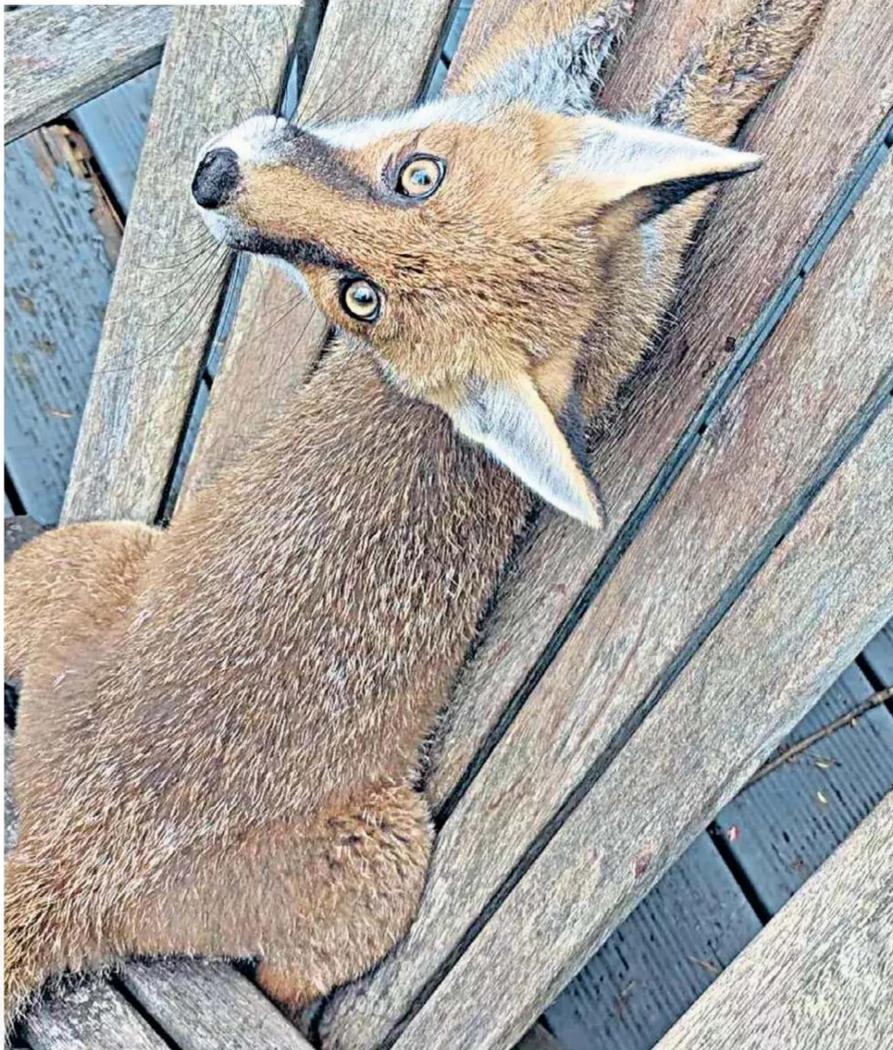
Nettles are a common native plant in the British Isles. Their stems and leaves are covered in stinging hairs - known as trichomes - with a brittle tip that snaps off when touched, releasing a mini jet of the chemicals histamine, formic acid acetylcholine, and serotonin into the skin.

Being stung can bring a burning and itchy sensation, white or red spots and red raised patches that can take several days to disappear.

Rubbing a dock leaf on a nettle sting was first mentioned 600 years ago by Geoffrey Chaucer in *Troilus and Criseyde*, but there is little evidence it contains special properties that make it more beneficial than other plants.

It has been speculated that dock may contain natural antihistamine that reduces irritation but none have ever been found.

The relief brought by dock leaves is generally believed to be derived from the cooling sensation as the sap evaporates coupled with a placebo effect.



Brush with danger A fox cub has been freed by the RSPCA after getting its front paws stuck in the slats of a wooden garden chair in Reigate, Surrey. The young vixen, who had been playing with another cub on the chair, was treated for cuts it received trying to get free.

Cutting sugar from daily cup of tea can make you younger

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

CUTTING out just over two teaspoons of sugar a day can make your body younger, research suggests.

The University of California found that removing 10g of sugar daily can reverse a person's biological clock by 2.4 months.

The study found that people who eat less sugar are biologically younger, despite their chronological age.

Researchers looked at the food records of 342 women aged 39 years old on average and took saliva samples to measure their biological age using an internal clock.

Over the course of a lifetime, chemical "tags" are added to a person's DNA which can be used to measure how well a body is ageing. More tags, means the clock is ticking faster and a person is biologically older.

The scientists found that the healthier people ate, the slower their internal clock was ticking, but sugar still had a detrimental effect. Each gram of added sugar was associated with an increase in their internal age.

Dr Barbara Laraia, professor in the food, nutrition and population health programme at UC Berkeley, said: "Given that epigenetic patterns appear to be reversible, it may be that eliminating 10 grams of added sugar per day is akin to turning back the biological clock by 2.4 months, if sustained over time."

"Focusing on foods that are high in key nutrients and low in added sugars may be a new way to help motivate people to eat well for longevity."

The NHS recommends that adults consume no more than 30g of free sugars a day, roughly equal to seven sugar cubes.

Women in the study were consuming more than double the recommended limit on average at 61.5g, although some ate as much as 316g daily.

A bar of milk chocolate has about 25 grams of added sugar, while a can of cola has about 39 grams. Cutting out 10g is the equivalent of abstaining from two chocolate digestives each day or about two and a half teaspoons of sugar.

For the study, researchers scored the women's diets to see how they compared to a Mediterranean-style diet rich in anti-inflammatory and antioxidant foods and then to a diet linked to lower risk for chronic disease.

They also looked at levels of important nutrients such as Vitamins A, C, B12 and E, folate, selenium, magnesium, dietary fibre and isoflavones.

Adherence to any of the diets was significantly associated with lower epigenetic age, with the Mediterranean diet having the strongest association.

The research was published in the journal *Jama Network Open*.

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Complex life on Earth could be 1.5bn years older than thought

By Sarah Knapton SCIENCE EDITOR

COMPLEX life began on Earth 1.5 billion years earlier than previously thought, scientists suspect.

Until now, it was believed that animals first evolved from single-celled life about 635 million years ago, when creatures similar to jellyfish and sea anemones began populating the oceans.

But fossils discovered in Gabon, central Africa, in the past decade, suggest similar animals had already evolved in the region 2.1 billion years ago, at a time when such life was thought impossible.

Now, scientists at Cardiff University, have discovered there was a period of violent underwater volcanic activity in the region as parts of ancient Africa and South America - known as the Congo and São Francisco cratons - smashed together creating a nutrient-rich crucible that triggered complex life.

Dr Ernest Chi Fru, of Cardiff School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, said: "We think that the underwater volcanoes, which followed the collision and suturing of the Congo and São Francisco cratons into one main body, further restricted and even cut off this section of water from the global ocean to create a nutrient-rich shallow marine inland sea."

"This created a localised environment where cyanobacterial photosynthesis was abundant for an extended period of time, leading to the oxygenation of local seawater and the generation of a large food resource."



Fossils of the early creatures that resemble jellyfish were discovered in Gabon

"This would have provided sufficient energy to promote increase in body size and greater complex behaviour observed in primitive simple animal-like life forms such as those found in the fossils from this period."

In the deep past, small one-cell organisms were prevented from growing any bigger because of a lack of nutrients - mainly phosphorus.

High levels of phosphorus cause vast algal blooms, which pump oxygen into the environment allowing larger, more complex types of organisms to thrive.

About 635 million years ago, geological upheaval released huge amounts of phosphorus, bringing oxygen to

near-present levels and sparking an explosion of life.

Scientists think the same processes occurred 2.1 billion years ago in the more localised context of the Francevillian sub-basin in south-eastern Gabon, where the unusual fossils were found.

Flying saucer-like creatures nearly seven inches in length appeared to be living in the region, 1.5 billion years earlier than they were thought to exist.

However, because the area was cut off, and surrounded by hostile conditions it prevented the life forms from spreading or evolving further.

The research was published in the journal *Precambrian Research*.

Weight-loss jab may help smokers quit

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A WEIGHT-LOSS jab may have the potential to help people who take it quit smoking, researchers have suggested.

Smokers with Type 2 diabetes who took semaglutide, which is sold under the brand name Wegovy, were less likely to need medical care linked to their smoking, a study found.

The findings indicate that the drug needs to be investigated for its use in helping people stop smoking, researchers say. When compared with seven other diabetes medications, new use of semaglutide was associated with a lower risk for medical care related to tobacco addiction (tobacco use disorder), the study found.

People who used the drug were less likely to be diagnosed with tobacco use

disorder, or prescribed medication to stop smoking, or smoking cessation counselling.

Writing in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*, the researchers wrote:

'This suggests the need for clinical trials to evaluate semaglutide's potential to treat tobacco use disorder'

"Semaglutide was associated with reduced smoking cessation medication prescriptions and counselling."

"Similar findings were observed in patients with and without a diagnosis of obesity."

They added: "These findings suggest the need for clinical trials to evaluate

semaglutide's potential for tobacco use disorder treatment."

In the past, there have been reports of a reduced desire to smoke in patients treated with semaglutide, which is also used to treat obesity, raising interest in its potential benefit for use in helping people stop smoking.

The researchers from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institutes of Health, and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine all in the US, said similar effects were observed in patients with a diagnosis of obesity and results were seen primarily within 30 days of prescription.

In the UK, semaglutide is prescribed as a weight-loss jab, and is approved for use to help reduce the risk of heart problems in people who are overweight or obese.

Pernice wants swift *Strictly* inquiry 'so I can move on'

By Craig Simpson

GIOVANNI PERNICE wants a swift BBC decision on the *Strictly Come Dancing* misconduct allegations so he can move on with his career, *The Telegraph* understands.

The Italian dancer, 33, has been accused of abusive behaviour in training sessions with former celebrity dance partners including the actress Amanda Abbington.

It is understood that the dancer's team are eagerly anticipating the result of a BBC review so Pernice, who has been adamant he will clear his name, can move on from the controversy "as soon as possible". The conclusion of the investigation may be available this week, insiders have said.

Sources close to the investigation said that there was uncertainty as to whether the BBC's conclusion will be made public, or if it will simply be shared with the legal teams representing the stars involved in the dispute.

Laura Whitmore, the TV presenter, posted messages on Instagram last week stating that she warned the BBC about Pernice's alleged behaviour early on during her own spell on *Strictly*.

This followed Abbington, 50, giving an interview on ITV's *Lorraine* on July 25, in which she said of her alleged treatment: "It was inappropriate; it was mean, it was nasty, it was bullying."

Pernice's team hope recordings of a training session with Abbington will help to clear his name. It was reported that in the audio clip recording, Abbington can be heard apologising for being a "nightmare", and the pair end their exchange by saying "love you".

Both parties were invited by the BBC to submit the evidence as the broadcaster investigated claims made by Abbington.



Linda De Sousa Abreu, 30, an OnlyFans star who appeared on a Channel 4 swingers show, admitted one charge of misconduct in public office at Isleworth Crown Court

Prison officer filmed having sex with inmate tried to flee UK

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A BRAZILIAN OnlyFans star who was filmed having sex with an inmate in a jail cell tried to flee the UK before she was arrested at Heathrow airport, a court heard.

Linda De Sousa Abreu, a 30-year-old prison officer, faces a jail sentence after the clip in HMP Wandsworth was shared on social media.

In the footage, Ms De Sousa Abreu – an OnlyFans star who appeared on a Channel 4 swingers show – is seen with convicted burglar Linton Weirich, 36, as her discarded radio constantly crackles with messages from colleagues.

Ms De Sousa Abreu, of Fulham, south-west London, admitted one charge of misconduct in public office when she appeared at Isleworth Crown Court.

Wearing a white blazer and black top, she showed no emotion after admitting the single charge.

Loise Marshall KC, prosecuting, told the court a police interview recorded with the inmate in the video "contains information that will be subject of further investigation".

Judge Martin Edmunds KC bailed Ms De Sousa Abreu before sentencing on Nov 7. He also ordered a pre-sentence report. Ms De Sousa Abreu's Portuguese passport must remain in police possession, she cannot apply for international travel documents and is barred from entering any UK travel ports. She is also subject to an electronically monitored curfew between 7pm and 9am each day.

Gayathri Yogarajah, her lawyer, earlier described her as a "young mother" and "a person of good character".

Ms De Sousa Abreu had telephoned the prison as she fled to Heathrow airport to say that she was not returning to work and that her husband would return her equipment.

Edwards charged over images of children

BBC presenter faces court hearing tomorrow accused of making indecent images shared on WhatsApp

By Martin Evans CRIME EDITOR

HUW EDWARDS has been charged with three counts of making indecent images of children, the Metropolitan Police has said.

The 62-year-old, who left the BBC last year, will appear at Westminster magistrates' court tomorrow, charged with three offences relating to images shared on WhatsApp.

Edwards, who was one of the BBC's most highly-paid stars, was arrested last November by detectives from Scotland Yard. He was charged last month.

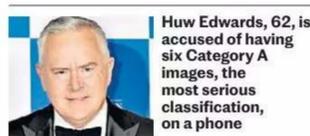
According to the charge sheet, Edwards is accused of having six category A images, 12 category B pictures and 19 category C photographs on WhatsApp.

The offences are contrary to sections 1(1)(a) and 6 of the Protection of Children Act 1978. If found guilty, he could receive a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.

A Met spokesman said: "The offences, which are alleged to have taken place between December 2020 and April 2022, relate to images shared on a WhatsApp chat."

"Edwards was arrested on Nov 8 2023. He was charged on Wednesday, June 26 following authorisation from the Crown Prosecution Service. He has been bailed to appear at Westminster magistrates' court on July 31.

"Media and the public are strongly reminded that this is an active case. Nothing should be published, including on social media, which could prejudice future court proceedings."



Huw Edwards, 62, is accused of having six Category A images, the most serious classification, on a phone

A Crown Prosecution Service spokesman said: "We remind all that proceedings are active, and the defendant has the right to a fair trial. It is extremely important that there should be no reporting, commentary, or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice these proceedings."

Edwards was suspended by the BBC last July following media reports that a high-profile presenter had been involved in an inappropriate relationship with a young man.

His wife later confirmed he was the presenter at the centre of the allegations, adding that he was being treated for serious mental health issues.

In April he resigned from the broadcaster on "medical advice".

A BBC statement said: "After 40 years of service, Huw has explained that his decision was made on the basis of medical advice from his doctors."

Earlier this month, the BBC annual report revealed that Edwards had been the BBC's best-paid journalist in the previous financial year, despite having been suspended for nine months.

He earned £480,000 a year, a pay rise of £40,000, making him the corporation's third-highest-earning presenter overall.

Teacher spared jail over attack on autistic boy in playground

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A TEACHING assistant was caught on CCTV violently attacking an 11-year-old autistic boy in a school playground.

The video footage shows William Kevin Clifford, 61, beating Tobie Orłowski, a disabled schoolboy, for 20 minutes at Tettenhall Wood School in Wolverhampton in April last year.

Clifford admitted child cruelty and abuse of trust while in a position of trust, but was spared jail at Wolverhampton Crown Court earlier this month after suffering "anxiety" during the trial.

The video shows Clifford pushing over Tobie and forcing his face to the ground at the school.

He then appears to punch and kick Tobie while he sits on the ground as other children play nearby.

Tobie tried to crawl away but the teaching assistant followed him, and knelt him in the back as he was crouching behind a small gate in the playground.

His mother, Charlotte, has now called for all special schools to have CCTV.

She told the BBC: "To see that man attack him in a place he thought was safe – it was just horrendous."

"I was devastated, I was horrified. For the life of me I cannot understand what would make a person want to do that."

"If that security camera had not



William Clifford was given a suspended jail sentence over the attack on Tobie Orłowski, 11, in a school playground

picked it up, then we would never have known what had happened to Tobie."

She added: "If this could happen in Tobie's school, with a formidable team of staff, it can happen anywhere."

"We are not calling for CCTV in all schools, only settings where there are vulnerable children. So many of our children can't speak, they can't tell us what happened. They're not credible witnesses."

"If something has happened, there's nothing, there's no cameras, there's no footage, no evidence. We cannot get justice without CCTV."

Charlotte said Tobie's whole world had changed and he now struggled to trust anyone but he was still "very resilient" despite what happened.

Clifford was handed a nine-month suspended jail sentence and ordered to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work.

Grand Designs-style eco house 'will spoil view'

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A DEVELOPER prompted a planning row over his attempt to build an eco-friendly *Grand Designs*-style home over fears that it would spoil the rural views.

David Marks wants to build a five-bed property in Smarden near Ashford, Kent across one level so he can move his wife out of her care home.

The new property, on two-and-a-half acres of land, would be completely off-grid, powered by solar panels and sheltered by bunds of earth.

However, the village's parish council has called the proposal an "overdevelopment" of the rural area and warned it would "urbanise" neighbours' views.

Mr Marks says he is saddened at the lack of support for the new home, adding: "I thought people would want to buy into this new technology and just to see if we can do this, which we can."

"We will produce a completely off-

grid development which I think is something that everybody would be proud of and it will provide accommodation without affecting the local infrastructure."

Plans submitted to Ashford Borough Council (ABC) show the home will come with a new pond to manage and recycle water and will be surrounded by orchards for food production.

Mr Marks is the managing director of development company DaVinci Properties, which he launched in 1989, but this is the first time he has taken on a project of this kind.

The site is part of what used to be Church Farm with industrial units converted by Mr Marks during the Covid pandemic into eight new homes.

The remaining two-and-a-half acres is where Mr Marks hopes to build his eco-home.

It will be made up of nine segments in a chain forming a crescent shape. All

windows and the roof will face south in a bid to make full use of solar energy and a pond will be created to take foul water via a treatment plant.

This is the second time Mr Marks has put forward plans for his dream home on the plot after the first proposals were rejected earlier this year.

Ashford council felt it did not meet the criteria to be classed as an "exceptional" design and believed it would "encroach" on the countryside.

Smarden Parish Council says it "strongly objects" to the new design as "the application has barely changed".

It adds: "If the proposed development was to go ahead, it would be allowing the development of green spaces and agricultural land with no benefit to the village or its surrounding neighbours."

Mr Marks insists the application has been updated with several aspects altered to address concerns.

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WOOD-FRAMED TOWER



Seawater is pumped over a 30ft-high tower, above, where thorn bushes, right and below, gather evaporated salt crystals, inset

INSIDE THE TOWER



BACKTHORN BUSHES



Seasoned pros Leading restaurants that use Blackthorn

Glenturret Lalique
Crieff, Scotland
Mark Donald (Two Michelin stars)

Moor Hall
Aughton, Lancashire
Mark Birchall (Two Michelin stars)

Cail Bruich
Glasgow
Lorna McNee (One Michelin star)

The Bonnie Badger
Gullane, Scotland
Tom Kitchin (One Michelin star)

Harrods Grill
London
Garret Keown

‘It took years to perfect how to harness the wind and sea to create a “salt of the world”’

Ancient salt back in season after 1,500 years

Couple create condiment to rival Maldon using 30ft tower of thorns inspired by traditional Scottish process

By Joe Pinkstone
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SIXTH-CENTURY technique for making salt has been revived in Scotland to produce premium flakes favoured by Michelin-starred restaurants.

The husband and wife team at Blackthorn Salt in Ayr have built a 30ft tall graduation tower with Douglas fir that was inspired by the traditional Scottish salt-making processes dating back 1,500 years.

Seawater from the west coast of Scot-

land is filtered and dripped through the tower where 54 wooden taps, in conjunction with adorning blackthorn bushes, take the seawater on a circuitous route to the tank below.

More than 90 per cent of the water is naturally evaporated by the sunlight and brisk coastal winds. The salty brown brine is then sent to a panhouse where a five-day process removes all excess liquid.

Gregorie and Whirly Marshall, owners of Blackthorn Salt, said the response to their gourmet product had been “phenomenal” and it is now used in restaurants including those of Tom Kitchin and Michel Roux.

The company was launched four years ago and has won two Great Taste stars. Mr Marshall, 48, is a former architect who has a background in the salt business as his family have been

involved with it for generations. “He is a real foodie and I’m quite eco,” Mrs Marshall said.

“Gregorie came across, when he was

working, these amazing salt towers in Germany and Poland and was inspired,” she added.

The European towers produce a dif-

ferent type of salt, but the pair were confident the same methodology could be applied to British seawater.

“We had to work out how to do it and how best to do it. [It was a] different core ingredient, but we worked out our own way of doing it,” she said

The couple, who live in Ayr, Scotland, started work on the project in 2005 and the tower was completed in 2019, with the first salt crystals produced in 2020.

The frame of the tower was created using local Douglas fir wood and it was then stuffed with blackthorn, a species of flowering plant in the rose family.

Seawater is pumped into the tower and dribbled through 54 wooden taps and a series of channels, which are checked and adjusted daily depending on the weather, the owners said.

The water trickles down and with the persistent coastal winds, the droplets

partially evaporate and leftover liquid becomes a more concentrated brine.

Blackthorn Salt has been used by Michelin-starred restaurants throughout the country, the couple say, with Mrs Marshall calling the response to their product “incredible”.

It has been used in Harrods Grill restaurant, as well as being a favourite of Michel Roux, Mrs Marshall said. Other chefs to have used the salt include Mark Donald, Lorna McNee and Tom Kitchin.

According to the owners of Blackthorn Salt, the first graduation towers in the sixth century were built of straw.

“These towers haven’t been used in 70 years – it’s a lost art,” Mrs Marshall said. “It took years to perfect our method of harnessing the wind and sea to create a ‘salt of the world’”

Editorial Comment: Page 17

How salt tower works

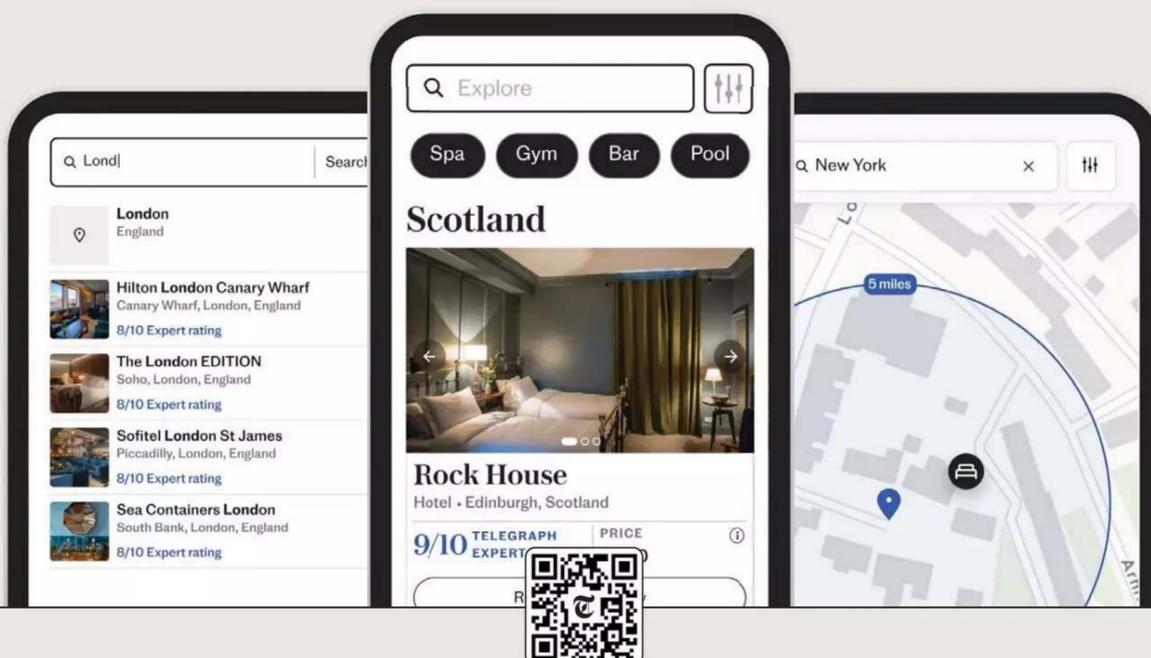


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Israel plays down 'all-out war' with Hezbollah

West engages in frantic diplomacy in an effort to prevent Saturday's attack spiralling into regional war

By Jotam Confino in Tel Aviv

ISRAEL is seeking to avoid all-out war with Hezbollah as it calibrates its response to a rocket attack that killed 12 children in the Golan Heights.

Two Israeli officials told Reuters that Israel wanted to "hurt" the Lebanese group, with the fighting expected to last several days. However, the plan is not for a full blown conflict, two others said.

"The estimation is that the response will not lead to an all-out war. That would not be in our interest at this point," one said.

The rocket strike on a sports field in a Druze town over the border with Lebanon caused carnage when it landed on Saturday night.

Western leaders have engaged in frantic shuttle diplomacy in an effort to prevent the attack spiralling into regional war. Yesterday, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, was heckled and called a "murderer" when he visited Majdal Shams. Residents had warned

politicians they were not welcome amid long-standing complaints the Arab ethnic group had been abandoned by the Israeli government.

Speaking yesterday, Mr Netanyahu vowed: "The State of Israel will not, and cannot, ignore this. Our response will come and it will be severe."

Two members of Hezbollah were killed in Israeli air strikes on southern Lebanon yesterday, but this was not thought to constitute Israel's retaliation.

As Lebanon waited anxiously for the full response from Israel, Hezbollah said that it had begun moving "smart precision-guided missiles" into place to respond to any attack.

An official from the terrorist group told the Associated Press that it was ready to "fight without limits" in the event a full-blown war breaks out, but that it too was seeking to avoid one.

Fighting between Israel and Hezbollah has occurred almost daily since the Hamas massacre of Oct 7. More than 100,000 Israeli citizens have been evacuated from the country's north amid regular rocket fire from the Iran-backed militant group.

Both Hamas and Hezbollah, which is supported by Iran, are united in their aim to destroy Israel and liberate the Palestinian territories it occupies.



Mourners comfort each other during the funeral of Guevara Ibrahim, 11, who was killed in the reported rocket strike, above, from Lebanon on Saturday, in the Druze town of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights

Iranian President-elect Masoud Pezeshkian warned Israel that an attack on Lebanon "could backfire and have severe consequences for the Zionists themselves."

Israeli residents who have yet to leave evacuated villages in the Upper Galilee were yesterday warned "to be alert and

attentive to instructions, to reduce gatherings and movement in the settlement."

As Washington engaged with both Beirut and Jerusalem, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken emphasised the "importance of preventing escalation" and finding a diplomatic solution in a phone call with Israeli President Isaac

Herzog. While Israel has every right to defend itself following nine months of daily attacks from Hezbollah, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the U.S. does not believe the situation needs to escalate further.

"Nobody wants a broader war, and I'm confident that we'll be able to avoid such

an outcome," Mr Kirby said in a call with reporters.

The US embassy in Beirut called on American citizens "to develop a crisis plan of action – and leave before a crisis begins," while Germany urged its citizens to "urgently" leave Lebanon.

German airline Lufthansa announced it was cancelling all flights to Beirut until Aug 5, as well as two nighttime flights to Israel yesterday.

Air France also suspended all flights to Beirut yesterday and today, saying the airline is "monitoring the situation in Lebanon in real time".

Hezbollah denied firing the missile that killed the Israeli children, but its account was widely disputed by western leaders.

The Iran-backed terror group announced the launching of the missile on its social media, and only moved to deny responsibility when it landed on the sports field.

David Lammy, the British Foreign Secretary, condemned the attack and said Downing Street held been clear "Hezbollah must cease their attacks."

Daniel Hagari, the IDF spokesman, said the rocket that was fired from southern Lebanon was manufactured in Iran, "a rocket with a warhead of over 50 kilograms of explosives".

Hamas support triples in West Bank after prisoner exchange

By Nicola Smith in Ramallah

SUPPORT for Hamas has more than tripled in the West Bank since the Oct 7 attacks led to a deal securing an exchange of Palestinian prisoners for Israeli hostages.

Three polls by the Ramallah-based Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research indicate Hamas has seen a measure of success in shifting public opinion – at least in the West Bank – in favour of its course of action during the 10-month conflict with Israel.

However, they also reveal that the majority of Palestinians split between the West Bank and Gaza remain unhappy with all of their current leadership options, reflecting long held political disillusionment.

The surveys, led by veteran pollster Dr Khalil Shikaki, 71, show a spike in West Bank support for Hamas from 12 per cent in September 2023 to 44 per cent in December. It dips in the second poll in March to 35 per cent before rising again in May to 41 per cent.

In an interview at his Ramallah headquarters last month, Dr Shikaki attributed Hamas' first leap in popularity to the November ceasefire, which saw 105 Israeli civilian hostages released and

swapped for 240 Palestinian prisoners. "All of the prisoners released were from the West Bank. And so if you are able to release prisoners through violence, you are able to demonstrate to Palestinians the efficacy of violence. Hamas did that in the first survey," said Dr Shikaki.

A second factor that contributed to support remaining higher than before Oct 7 was the belief that Israel did not want to negotiate an end to occupation.

'If diplomacy is out, then violence is the only alternative. Palestinians will not accept the status quo'

"Occupation can be changed either through diplomacy or violence. If diplomacy is out, then violence is the only alternative. Palestinians will not tolerate or accept the status quo," he said.

Thirdly, the Palestinian Authority had "never been as low in terms of legitimacy, credibility, support," with demand for the resignation of octogenarian president Abbas reaching 94 per cent. The same surveys show no major shift in support for Hamas in the Gaza Strip before and after the war began.

It has hovered at about 38 per cent, although it dipped to 34 per cent in March.

Palestinian politics has been defined over the past decade by bitter power struggles since Hamas expelled Fatah during its chaotic takeover of the Gaza Strip when it won the 2006 elections.

The rift left the Fatah-dominated Palestinian Authority governing only parts of the West Bank, which was captured by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Yesterday China said it had brokered an agreement between the two factions to form a unity government that would deliver a post-war Gaza administration.

However, Israel, which has vowed to crush Hamas, swiftly rejected the deal, and analysts warned the deep enmity between the two groups would be hard to paper over. Palestinian public opinion also differs starkly between the two territories.

In the latest PCPSR poll in June, conducted among 1570 people split almost evenly between the West Bank and Gaza, two thirds said they expected Hamas to win the war, although among these, fewer Gazans – 48 per cent – expressed this opinion. Nearly 80 per cent of Palestinians believe the Oct 7 attack has put the Palestinian issue at the centre of regional and international attention.

Hard-Right MPs storm Israeli army base after soldiers' arrest

By Jotam Confino in Tel Aviv

HARD-RIGHT Israeli MPs stormed a detention centre yesterday in protest at the arrest of nine soldiers over the alleged abuse of a Palestinian inmate.

The MPs from Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling coalition broke through the gate of Sde Teiman facility, in the Negev desert, alongside dozens of activists.

The detention site, run by Israeli Defense Forces, has been at the centre of controversy in recent months after reports of severe physical abuse of Palestinian prisoners since Oct 7.

Amihai Ben-Eliyahu, the minister of heritage from the Jewish Power party, and lawmaker Zvu Sukkot from the Religious Zionist Party participated in the crowd's forced entry into the base.

"The people of Israel live," protesters chanted as they broke through the gate.

Earlier in the day, masked military police clashed with some of the suspected soldiers, who had barricaded the facility and refused to submit to arrest. Government ministers and politicians lashed out at the military police for arresting the soldiers, Itamar Ben-Gvir, the national security minister, said that the arrest of Israel's "best heroes" is nothing less than "shameful".



Armed Israeli activists protest at the arrest of nine soldiers over abuse claims

Mr Ben-Gvir called on the defence establishment to support the suspected soldiers "and learn from the prison service: light treatment of terrorists is over. Soldiers need to have our full support."

Miri Regev, the transport minister, echoed Mr Ben-Gvir, calling the arrest of soldiers "a dangerous step in wartime" and adding: "The military justice system must focus on protecting our

soldiers, not pleasing our enemies." Yuli Edelstein, head of the Israeli parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee, called for an urgent meeting to discuss the incident at the detention centre. "I will not allow scenes such as were seen today at the Sde Teiman base. A situation where masked military police raid an IDF base is unacceptable to me and I will not allow it to happen again," he said.

Lt Gen Herzli Halevi, Israel's chief of army staff, said that soldiers were securing the base as he condemned the demonstrators. "The break-in at the Sde Teiman Base is extremely serious and against the law," he said. "Breaking into a military base and disturbing the order there is severe behaviour that is not acceptable in any way. We are in the midst of a war, and actions of this type endanger the security of the state."

Yair Lapid, the opposition leader, lashed out at the activists and lawmakers who broke into the facility, calling their actions "despicable and dangerous".

World news

US Air Force successfully tests new aircraft carrier-busting bomb

By Nicola Smith ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE United States has successfully tested a low-cost bomb that can sink ships the size of aircraft carriers, an innovation that could prove a potential game changer in a war with China, experts say.

In the test, dubbed Quicksink, a low-cost guided bomb was dropped by a US Air Force B-2 Spirit stealth bomber onto the decommissioned USS Tarawa, a 820ft-long, 39,000-ton amphibious assault ship, which is the size of a small aircraft carrier.

It showed that the B-2, the US military's most sophisticated aircraft, has the capability of sinking a large surface ship. The US Navy's 3rd Fleet,

which led the exercise, said in a press release: "This capability is an answer to an urgent need to quickly neutralise maritime threats over massive expanses of ocean around the world at minimal costs."

The test took place during the Rim of the Pacific (Rimpac) war drill off the shores of Hawaii, which is the largest international maritime joint exercise in the world.

This year's drill drew 28 partner nations, including the UK, France and Israel, to take part in a range of missions from natural disaster response to military training.

It featured 40 surface ships, including aircraft carriers, destroyers and frigates, as well as more than 150 air-

craft, three submarines and 25,000 personnel. The forces carried out two live-fire sinking exercises using the retired USS Dubuque and USS Tarawa.

While the US military did not mention China by name, experts such as Carl Shuster, a former head of the US Pacific Command Joint Intelligence Centre, told CNN the test was "very significant" for its potential to stop Chinese aggression against Taiwan or in the South China Sea.

"The B-2's demonstrated anti-maritime capability will constrain if not deter plan operations east of Taiwan or off the Philippines," he said, referring to the China's Navy. "You cannot ignore a weapon that can sink



The new Quicksink bomb was dropped by a B-2 Spirit stealth bomber, left, and destroyed USS Tarawa, a retired assault ship which was the size of a small aircraft carrier

a 25,000-plus-ton ship with one hit," he added.

China participated in Rimpac 2014 but is no longer invited as a

result of the growing power struggle and rising tensions with the United States in the Indo-Pacific. Yesterday Beijing warned the US and Japan to

"stop creating imaginary enemies" after the two countries lashed out against China's "destabilising actions" in the South China Sea.

After a meeting of the US and Japanese foreign and defence chiefs in Tokyo at the weekend, Lin Jian, a foreign ministry spokesman, said: "We strongly urge the US and Japan to immediately stop interfering in China's internal affairs and stop creating imaginary enemies."

China's state media already preempted the Quicksink exercise in late June, several weeks before it was carried out on July 19, saying that the sunken "outdated ship cannot be compared with modern military equipment".

Biden pledges to fix Supreme Court's lack of public trust

President proposes major reforms to reverse Trump immunity decision and tighten up ethics rules

By Benedict Smith US REPORTER

JOE BIDEN has proposed sweeping reforms to the Supreme Court accusing it of making "dangerous and extreme decisions" and losing the public's trust.

The US president, who has been a frequent critic of the conservative-leaning court's recent judgments, said its members should be subject to 18-year term limits and a "binding" code of conduct.

Writing in *The Washington Post*, he claimed the court was "mired in a crisis of ethics" and needed drastic reform to "restore trust and accountability".

Mr Biden also proposed a constitutional amendment that would reverse a July 1 ruling in which the court ruled that Donald Trump and other former presidents are immune from criminal prosecution for "official actions" during their time in the White House.

'What is happening now is not normal; it undermines the public's confidence in the court's decisions'

"What is happening now is not normal, and it undermines the public's confidence in the court's decisions, including those impacting personal freedoms," he said. "We now stand in a breach."

Earlier this month, the court split along partisan lines when it ruled that Trump could not be prosecuted for exercising his constitutional powers while in office, and had the "presumption of immunity" for his official acts.

Arguing that the decision turned presidents into "kings and dictators", Mr Biden called for a constitutional amendment to "make clear that there is no immunity for crimes a former president committed while in office".

"I share our founders' belief that the president's power is limited, not absolute," he added.

It marks Mr Biden's first major intervention since he dropped out of the presidential race and endorsed Kamala Harris just over a week ago.

Analysts said the president's proposals were largely aspirational. Term-limits and a code of conduct would need Con-

gressional approval, and are unlikely to pass the Republican-controlled House. A constitutional amendment would need two-thirds support in both the House and the Senate, or an even more far-fetched passage on state-level.

The president, a former chairman of the Senate's judiciary committee, accused the court of making "dangerous and extreme decisions" - such as ending the federal right to an abortion.

Six of the nine Supreme Court judges were appointed by Republican presidents. Three of them were put in place by Trump, while Mr Biden has appointed only one.

Members are not constrained by term or age limits, meaning their appointment is one of the most consequential decisions that a US president can make.

Mr Biden proposed that justices would spend a maximum of 18 years on the bench, with presidents appointing a new justice every two years.

"The United States is the only major constitutional democracy that gives lifetime seats to its High Court," he wrote.

"Term limits would help ensure that the court's membership changes with some regularity. That would make timing for court nominations more predictable and less arbitrary. It would reduce the chance that any single presidency radically alters the make-up of the court for generations to come."

Mr Biden also proposed a code of conduct following a series of controversies that he said had undermined public trust in the court.

"Scandals involving several justices have caused the public to question the court's fairness and independence, which are essential to faithfully carrying out its mission of equal justice under the law," he said.

"Justices should be required to disclose gifts, refrain from public political activity and recuse themselves from cases in which they or their spouses have financial or other conflicts of interest."

Clarence Thomas, a conservative justice and one of its oldest and longest-serving members, has been the subject of controversy after failing to disclose a series of trips provided by a Republican billionaire donor.

Samuel Alito, another long-serving and conservative justice, came under scrutiny this year amid reports that flags associated with supporters of Donald Trump had been flown at two of his homes. Thousands of constitutional amendments have been proposed, but only 27 approved in the history of the US.



Donald Trump's running mate, JD Vance, carries his daughter, Maribel, as he arrives to greet supporters at the Park Diner on Sunday in St Cloud, Minnesota

Shift in tone as Harris describes Trump and Vance as 'weird'

By Benedict Smith US REPORTER

KAMALA HARRIS has called Donald Trump and JD Vance "plain weird" in a new attack line that is being tested out by her campaign.

While Joe Biden's campaign focused on issues such as the threat to democracy, a noticeable shift in tone has taken place since Ms Harris - who is two decades younger than the US president - became the Democrat's presumptive presidential candidate.

"You may have noticed, Donald Trump has been resorting to some wild lies about my record," she told a fundraiser on Saturday. "And some of what he and his run-

ning mate are saying, well, it's just plain weird. I mean that's the box you put that in." The US vice-president did not specify which comments she had in mind, but her campaign has highlighted controversial remarks by Mr Vance referring to her and other Democrats as "childless cat ladies".

Chris Walz, the Minnesota governor who is on the shortlist for Ms Harris' running mate, also recently accused Trump of "weird behaviour", noting that he veers into stories about Hannibal Lecter, the fictional cannibal, and electrocuting sharks during his rally speeches. Chuck Schumer, the top Democrat in the Senate, said on Sunday that Mr Vance was "weird" and "erratic" and claimed that Trump

must be "scratching his head and wondering: 'Why did I pick this guy?'"

Memos sent out by the Harris campaign have labelled the Republican ticket "weird" four times in the last week. Trump is mocked as "old and quite weird", while Mr Vance has been called "weird" and "creepy".

Vivek Ramaswamy, a former rival turned supporter of Trump, argued that the attack was "dumb and juvenile".

"This is a presidential election, not a high school prom queen contest," Mr Ramaswamy, a friend of Mr Vance who is thought to be eyeing his Ohio Senate seat, said. "It's also a tad ironic coming from the party that preaches 'diversity and inclu-

sion.' Win on policy if you can, but cut the c--p, please."

It comes amid concern from Republicans about Mr Vance, whom Trump selected as his vice-presidential nominee this month, after a series of awkward campaign appearances.

The Trump campaign has spent several days dealing with the backlash to the Ohio senator's claim in 2021 that Ms Harris, who has two step-children, was one of a "bunch of childless cat ladies".

Senators, donors, conservative media personalities and other figures urged Trump to choose a different running mate in the 48 hours before the decision was announced.

First Henman Hill and Murray Mound - now Swiftie Summit

By Harriet Barber

FOR Taylor Swift fans who were either not quick or flush enough to get themselves a ticket to her concert in Munich, there was an alternative.

As the many who had paid hundreds of euros for tickets took their seats in the Olympic Stadium, others perched themselves on a grassy hilltop nearby to watch the show for free.

Fans braved the heat on Saturday, which reached 88F (31C), to claim their spots on the Olympic Hill, or Olympiaberg, hours before the concert began.

On Sunday, fans returned to the same spot. The concert organisers handed out water and emergency blankets for protection from the sun, local media reported.

According to the Associated Press, local police estimated that around 25,000 people gathered on the hill on Saturday, though other estimates have put the number as high as 50,000.

In a speech during Sunday's performance, Ms Swift thanked the crowds outside. "We are lucky enough to get to play this show for 74,000 beautiful people in this stadium, and if



Up to 50,000 people crowded on to the hillside in Munich to watch Taylor Swift perform over the weekend

the reports are correct, about 50,000 beautiful people outside the stadium," Ms Swift said.

"Thank you for coming to the Eras Tour, whether you're in the stadium or outside of the stadium," Ms Swift added. "We are so lucky to be here with you."

Sunday's concert was Swift's last in Germany as part of her Eras tour. She heads next to the Polish capital, Warsaw, before a show in Vienna.

On Aug 15, Swift will perform the first of a further five dates at Wembley Stadium, following on from her three gigs there in June, which attracted a swathe of VIP guests: from boyfriend

Travis Kelce to actresses Rosamund Pike and Nicola Coughlan, model Cara Delevingne and Sir Keir Starmer, the Prime Minister.

The Prince of Wales even decided to celebrate his birthday at the show with his children.

London welcomed the 34-year-old US superstar with a themed Tube map, a

special performance of *Shake It Off* during the Changing of the Guards at Buckingham Palace and, in typical British fashion, a spot of rain.

The Eras Tour is the highest-grossing concert tour of all time, according to data from live music trade publication *Pollstar*.

The tour became the first ever to gross at least \$1 billion last year, and in 2023 earned more than the next two highest-ranked tours - Beyoncé and Bruce Springsteen - combined.

Fans go Gaga on Paris streets for new music from singer

By Harriet Barber

LADY GAGA popped out of a limousine sunroof in Paris on Sunday to give fans a preview of her forthcoming seventh album.

The singer, who performed at the Olympic opening ceremony this week left her hotel with her laptop and played about 20 seconds of an electronic beat before laughing, blowing a kiss and disappearing back into the car.

Her fans - who she calls her Little Monsters - stayed put, chanting her name and lines from her other songs.

They knew they were in for a treat after Lady Gaga posted a message on Instagram saying: "I'm so deeply touched by French fans this week outside the hotel, I'm gonna come out and say goodbye tonight - with a few seconds of #LG7"

Wearing black shades and a black jacket, the singer reappeared from the top of the limo, telling the crowd that she would do "One more". She also mouthed a lyric that appeared to be "I've become what was holding me."

The 38-year-old posed for photographs before returning to her hotel with the message: "And for the rest, you have to wait!"

The singer is currently in France for the 2024 Olympics, where she

performed the cabaret song *Mon Truc en Plumes (My Thing with Feathers)* during Friday's opening ceremony.

She said her team had rented the pink pom poms used in the act from the Le Lido archive - a former Parisien cabaret theatre - and that she studied French choreography to put a modern twist on the classic.

"I feel so completely grateful to have

'I'm so deeply touched by French fans I'm gonna say goodbye tonight with a few seconds of #LG7'

been asked to open the Paris Olympics 2024 this year," she said. "I am also humbled to be asked by the Olympics organising committee to sing such a special French song, a song to honour the French people and their tremendous history of art, music and theatre."

Gaga's street performance came hours after she watched swimming and gymnastics events. She had earlier wished athletes taking part all the best, saying "Let the Games begin."

Her new album, which is currently untitled, will be her first solo record since 2020's *Chromatica*, which included the international hit singles *Stupid Love* and *Rain On Me*.

Putin praises Maduro after 'rigged' election

Autocrat claims victory in disputed Venezuela poll after intimidation and '132pc total vote' gaffe

By Simeon Tegel

VLADIMIR PUTIN has congratulated Nicolás Maduro on his victory in Sunday's presidential election, which is widely believed to have been rigged.

The autocrat won 51 per cent of the vote, according to official results, despite for months trailing behind his opponent Edmund González by up to 40 points in the polls.

Even as ballots continued to be counted early yesterday, reports flooded in of widespread irregularities and intimidating behaviour by Maduro supporters.

Some polling stations reportedly failed to open and election observers barred from entering others. There were also attacks, including several

shootings, on members of the Unitarian Democratic Platform, the opposition alliance, by "colectivos", pro-Maduro gangs that ride around on motorcycles.

Further doubts over the legitimacy of the election were sowed when official election results showed the total vote amounted to 132.2 per cent, with eight opposition parties gaining 4.6 per cent of the vote each. Another official count broadcast on state TV recorded 109 per cent of votes cast.

As the United States, EU and several countries in Latin America expressed serious concerns over the legitimacy of the result, Putin came out to praise his longtime ally.

"I am confident that your activities as the head of state will continue to contribute to [Russian-Venezuelan relations'] progressive development in all directions," the Russian president said in a message released by the Kremlin.

"I would like to confirm our readiness to continue our constructive joint work on topical issues on the bilateral and international agenda. Remember



Official election results showed the total vote amounted to 132.2 per cent

that you are always a welcome guest on Russian soil."

Venezuela is one of Russia's few remaining international friends, and a key partner in Latin America. The two sanctioned states have over the past two decades cooperated in areas such as oil,

weapons and military drills. Mr Maduro has echoed the Kremlin's line that the war in Ukraine was provoked by the US and the West.

Last month, a Russian frigate thought to be carrying hypersonic missiles docked at a Venezuelan port, days after

it manoeuvred within striking distance of Miami.

Mr Maduro and his rival Mr González, a 74-year-old moderate, each claimed victory yesterday in the election. One exit poll, by Edison Research, which surveyed voters at 100 polling stations, gave Mr González 65 per cent of the vote.

Mr Maduro won 31 per cent, according to the US polling company. Rob Farman, Edison's executive vice-president, dismissed the official preliminary results as "silly".

Mr González agreed: "Venezuelans and the entire world know what happened."

He added: "Our message of reconciliation and peaceful change still stands... our struggle continues and we won't rest until the will of the people of Venezuela is respected."

Anthony Blinken, the US secretary of state, warned that the "result announced does not reflect the will or the votes of the Venezuelan people".

Gabriel Boric, Chile's millennial,

Leftist president, added that it was "difficult to believe", stressing that his government "would not recognise any result that is not verifiable".

Uruguay's Luis Lacalle Pou said it was an "open secret" that Mr Maduro had decided he would win re-election "regardless of the actual results".

The condemnation came after Washington briefly suspended tough sanctions against Venezuela on the back of receiving assurances that it would hold free and fair elections.

But the Biden administration was soon forced to reimpose them after the repeated arrest and harassment of opposition figures.

Mr González, a retired diplomat, went from being virtually unknown to a household name after opposition leader María Corina Machado was barred from running in the election by the Maduro-controlled supreme court.

The opposition coalition, the Unitarian Democratic Platform, selected him in April as a last-minute stand-in for Ms Machado.

Kim 'training' teen daughter to be his successor

By Nicola Smith ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THE young daughter of Kim Jong-un is being trained to succeed him, South Korean intelligence sources have alleged, increasing speculation over the reclusive leader's health.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) briefed a parliamentary committee in Seoul yesterday that it had based its analysis on the frequency and nature of her public appearances as well as the North Korean state propaganda surrounding her position in the Kim dynasty.

Kim Ju-ae, who is believed to be about 11 years old, was revealed by her father in November 2022 at the test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile and has been seen mingling with senior generals at major military events.

She has been referred to as the "respected daughter" and "beloved child" by the state's media, and as a "great person of guidance" in March, a term typically reserved for top leaders and their successors.

The NIS concluded that a "significant successor structure" was forming, Lee Seong-kwon, a politician who attended the briefing, told the local media.

"Pyongyang is teaching Kim Ju-ae to be heir apparent," Mr Lee said.

The spy agency added a caveat that it had not ruled out the possibility that a brother could step forward to claim the Kim throne.

The question of Kim's successor has gained prominence after speculation about his poor health, with reports of his excessive drinking and smoking habits combined with high levels of stress. The NIS estimates the authoritarian leader, who is around 40 years old, weighs 140kg and is at high risk for heart disease, which runs in the family.

Some of Kim's stress may be related to the weather. North Korea has been hit again by record-breaking rain and major floods that have left thousands of people stranded and damaged farmland crucial for providing food for the malnourished population.

The heavy rains submerged homes and swamped Sinuiju city and Uiju county, bordering China. Kim was spotted in rare pictures apparently intended to show him leading the relief effort as he traversed flooded roads in his black Lexus, water lapping by the bottom of the vehicle's doors.



Kim Jong-un, North Korea's leader, was seen apparently directing flood relief efforts in the city of Sinuiju, North Pyongan, in a picture released by the regime's official news agency

EU embassies ordered to cut spending on chauffeurs and parties

By Joe Barnes BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Union's foreign embassies have been told to cut back on parties and chauffeur-driven cars after a massive overspend.

The "severe austerity measures" being enforced on the European External Action Service (EEAS), the bloc's foreign diplomacy arm, has also sparked security concerns, with no money to upgrade locks, reinforce windows or install cameras at some residences.

Eurocrats are mulling over the clo-

sure and sale of some of Brussels' 145 worldwide delegations as part of an effort to balance the books, the *Financial Times* reported.

The EU's de facto foreign ministry has been told it must cut €43 million (£36 million) - about five per cent - from its budget after breaching spending rules.

"We can no longer host and do outreach events," an official said, while another said the EEAS was in "dire straits".

A spokesman said: "We have reduced all the expenditure we possibly could -

we operate with reduced car fleets, security equipment and office supplies.

"The mission and representation budgets have been cut in half since 2023 despite the crippling effects on our global outreach."

The cuts have meant the EEAS' annual reception at the UN General Assembly, a key event for persuading developing nations to side with the bloc on issues such as Ukraine, has been shelved.

The *Telegraph* had previously reported that the bloc's UN delegation was hoping to spend €20 million on a

new residence in New York because its existing three-bedroom property was too small to host parties.

There have also been reports that diplomats posted overseas have been barred from buying stationery.

And while some embassies will be forced to close as a result of the cuts, some of the ambassadorial residences are being left empty because the EEAS cannot afford the necessary renovations, with top diplomats being forced to rent out properties elsewhere.

The EEAS' spending crunch has been made worse by a decision by Josep Bor-

rell, the EU's top diplomat, to organise the traditional twice-yearly informal meeting of foreign ministers in Brussels, instead of allowing Hungary to host the event as planned.

The bill for translation alone at the gathering will be more than €70,000.

"It is a big hole that we now have to fill," an official said.

In March, Stefano Sannino, the EEAS' deputy secretary-general, said it was "heavily under-budgeted".

He told the European Parliament that a 7.1 per cent increase in its budget to €880.2 million had failed to match infla-

tion. Its overspend was the largest in real-terms of any EU body, with all departments ordered to keep non-salary related spending increases within two per cent.

Between the end of 2021 and 2023, the EEAS' budgets have jumped 23 per cent, with higher costs for office rental, security, electricity and communications.

Officials at the EU's foreign arm have been lobbying Brussels to ensure it can "represent proudly and efficiently the values and interests of the EU worldwide".

Ultra-Left activist held after Olympic sabotage

By Henry Samuel in Paris

FRENCH police arrested an "ultra-Left activist" at a railway site on Sunday following "coordinated" sabotage attacks caused chaos and disruption ahead of Friday's Olympics opening ceremony.

The man, who was arrested in Oissel near Rouen, northern France, had "access keys to [the state rail operator] SNCF technical premises" in his vehicle, a police source told newspaper *Le Parisien*.

The source said there were also wire cutters, "a set of universal keys" and other items, as well as literature with links to the ultra-Left.

The arrest came amid reports that the fibreoptic networks of several telecommunications operators in six areas of France were sabotaged overnight on Sunday.

The departments concerned were

Bouches-du-Rhone, Aude, Oise, Hérault, Meuse and Drome. Paris has not been affected, security sources said.

The developments came as Gerald Darmanin, the French interior minister, said police had "identified a certain number of profiles who could have

'The question is whether they have been manipulated or are acting on their own behalf'

committed" the sabotage against high-speed TGV lines on Thursday night. It affected northern, eastern and western France, as well as the London to Paris Eurostar.

Speaking on France 2, Mr Darmanin said the sabotage "was deliberate, very precise and extremely well targeted",

adding: "This is the traditional mode of action of the ultra-Left."

Asked whether "the profiles identified" were close to the far-Left, he replied: "We have to be careful... the question is whether they have been manipulated or are acting on their own behalf. These are people who could be close to this movement."

Mr Darmanin said the investigation was "progressing very well and we will find the people who did it".

Over the weekend, several French and international media received a mysterious message, signed by an "unexpected delegation", claiming responsibility.

The message said: "They call it a celebration? We see it as a celebration of nationalism, a gigantic staging of the subjugation of populations by states." It also blasted the Games as "a testing ground for police crowd management".

One-legged shark victim vows to surf again

By Andrea Hamblin in Melbourne

A SHARK attack victim whose leg washed up on an Australian beach has vowed to surf again "in no time" despite efforts to reattach his leg failing.

Kai McKenzie, a pro surfer, lost a limb when he was bitten by a 9ft-long great white at Port Macquarie last Tuesday. The leg washed up on the beach and was put on ice before being taken to hospital.

"Spot something missing?" he said as he posted an image of his recovery, showing him standing on one leg.

Mr McKenzie described his brush with the "biggest shark I've ever seen".

"A few days ago I went through a crazy shark attack which was a very crazy scene and scared the living f--- out of me," the 23-year-old said.

"I can tell you now if you know my personality this means f--- all...I'll be back in that water in no time." Sharing a



Kai McKenzie, second from left, wrote: 'Spot something missing?'

separate photograph in an embrace with his partner, he added: "To be here right now, to be able to hold my beauti-

ful Eve and my family is everything to me." Mr McKenzie was surfing at North Shore beach when he fought off the predator as it bit his right leg.

Quickly losing blood, he paddled his damaged surfboard into a wave to ride back to shore where an off-duty policeman stemmed the bleeding by making a tourniquet out of his dog's leash.

The shredded calf washed ashore, sparking a race against time to reattach the limb. Passersby packed the leg on ice and put it on a ferry to travel across the Hastings River, before driving - with a police escort - to Port Macquarie hospital. Mr McKenzie, and his detached leg, were then flown to Newcastle where he underwent surgery.

Writing from hospital, the surfer said the reattachment had been unsuccessful. "Big f--- off to that shark and big thanks to Steve for saving my life," he wrote.

The war against military history is destroying our ability to fight

LEWIS PAGE

The RAF's 14 Squadron has been told to drop its nickname, "Crusaders", reportedly after a single complaint was made that this was offensive. Presumably, the Irish Guards can no longer be known as the "Micks" (they traditionally don't view the name as offensive, but someone is bound to). Similarly, the Third Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland will need to stop calling itself "the Black Watch". Obviously, 809 Naval Air Squadron can no longer be "the Immortals", as this is offensive to all of Western civilisation. The Persian empire's elite corps were known by the same name.

Now that the RAF has set the standard, other institutions can be expected to receive complaints. There's a Northern Irish football team called Crusaders FC, and a Crusaders rugby union side in New Zealand. And in all fairness, if no organisation can now be known as "Crusaders", the well-known Saracens rugby club will also need to find another name.

Obviously, I hope those last changes won't happen – because sport has not surrendered to the lunacy of wokery to the degree that the RAF clearly has. The unnamed senior officer who upheld the complaint and cancelled 14 Squadron's nickname should have considered that, yes, the Armed Forces should reflect the society they are drawn from, but in that society – ours – it is perfectly normal for respectable institutions to be called "Crusaders" without anybody thinking that this is some kind of attempt to insult Muslims.

Likewise, Saracens' name is not offensive to any sensible Christian, and 809 Naval Air Squadron's nickname does not glorify the bloody-handed aggression of the Achaemenid Empire.

No 14 is unusual for an RAF squadron in that its unit motto is in Arabic, meant to translate as "I spread my wings and keep my promise". Squadron tradition holds that this is a line from the Koran suggested by the emir of Transjordan, though that may not be accurate. The point is, this is clearly a unit with a rich history and its own mythology, and none of it is indeed to be antagonistic towards any particular group in British society.

All Armed Forces everywhere make at least some effort to build unit *esprit de corps* using nicknames and history. This is often overtly exclusionary rather than inclusive, and is meant to be so: as the US Cavalry like to put it, "if you ain't Cav, you ain't s---".

It's not about trying to make everyone happy, and it's not any sort of attempt to claim that a given unit – or its parent nation – has always been on the right side of history. The US Seventh Cavalry, best known as Custer's regiment at the Little Bighorn and later for the massacre at Wounded Knee, serves on today.

We're told that the erasure that started with the RAF's Crusaders is not finished, and with the bar set this low it's hard to see where it will stop. Some RAF squadrons traditionally refer to themselves using Roman numerals rather than Arabic ones: is that offensive too?

I'm acquainted with the current head of the RAF, Dicky Knighton. We were in the Cambridge University Air Squadron together long ago. If you're reading this, Dicky, it's time to get your senior officers in to have a bit of a collective sanity check.



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The Labour Party may have just doomed the Tories for a generation

Rachel Reeves has trapped the Conservatives in their failed record. There is only one way they can escape

SHERELLE JACOBS



Fair play to Rachel Reeves. She may have just spun the Tories into oblivion, while barely breaking a sweat. In her first major address to Parliament, the usually robotic Chancellor gave a masterclass in controlled, iron rage as she rapid-fired through a speech that shot the Tories to pieces. The Opposition could only look on – at first with cocky derision and then panic – as the Chancellor charged them with an egregious cover-up of the public finances. There were quite deliberate flashes of Mrs Thatcher. The Chancellor's crisp slogans ("where they presided over recklessness, I will bring responsibility" and "if we cannot afford it, we cannot do it") may well be ringing in the voters' ears for some time.

It is true that Labour, in claiming it has received the worst inheritance since the Second World War, is exaggerating the scale of its challenge. Britain is the fastest growing economy in the G7 and inflation is back to normal. Ms Reeves's spending decisions – scrapping infrastructure projects while giving the public sector a pay rise – make a mockery of her claims to be prioritising growth. The Chancellor also dodged the biggest question of all – namely the scale of the tax rises she is willing to push through in order to fund Left-wing spending

commitments. She has kicked the can down the road until the Budget in October.

But none of this matters. The Tory party threw away its right to critique the Left on tax rises when it let them rise to a peace-time high. It can hardly take umbrage at Labour mendacity when, in government, it took post-truth politics to a new level, notably by saying it backed lower immigration while letting numbers surge. Nor can it get on its high horse about the Left's spending priorities when it splurged enough money on HS2 and Rwanda to train tens of thousands of doctors. Jeremy Hunt's struggle to rebut Ms Reeves in the Commons, testily lecturing her to stop playing politics and get on with her job, said it all.

It may be starting to sink in among Tories that Labour is currently untouchable, having imprisoned the Conservatives in the narrative that every controversial decision the Government now takes is only necessary because the Right laid waste to the country. Labour's bid to strangle the Tory opposition at birth with tactics straight out of the Cameron-Osborne playbook is not just shrewd but biblically vengeful. Do unto your enemy as they do unto you.

Terrified to face the hopelessness of its situation, the Tory machine desolately whirrs on. Fending off its existential emptiness with unceasing activity, the party has launched itself full-throttle into a chaotic leadership contest. Yet in its eagerness to pick a new "unity" leader, and in its desperate attempts to attack Labour, the party is missing the bigger picture. Until it fundamentally rethinks what it stands for, it is denying itself the ability ever to escape Ms Reeves's trap.

Traditional conservatism – a moderating political force that

flourished in creative tension with liberalism over two centuries of breakneck Western progress – is withering away. It seeks to temper radicalism with moderation. But it is clear that moderation is inadequate in the face of Britain's challenges. As Labour will soon find out, it is not possible to stop the boats through technical solutions. Nor is it possible to scuttle the cash to slash waiting lists and reinvent the NHS without slashing welfare spending elsewhere.

Conservatism's other historic *raison d'être* is its advocacy of an approach to progress that is respectful of tradition – but that doesn't speak to the challenges of the age, either. The problem is no longer that the West is moving too quickly; the problem is that it has pretty much stopped.

There is hope for the Tories in the fact that Labour doesn't have the answers, either. For all Ms Reeves's claims to be reviving Britain, her strategy is a case study in post-growth decline, a barely concealed commitment to incremental tax rises and spending cuts, punctuated by half-hearted tweaks to planning rules and a bare-bones industrial plan.

And despite everything, there is also still a case to be made that only a conservative movement can save Britain from stagnation. The Tories are embarking on a heated debate over whether they should take on the "empire of law", epitomised by the European Convention on Human Rights. But there is mounting evidence that there is also a link between stagnation and the ever-expanding kingdom of the algorithm.

It is not artificial technology per se that is the problem, but rather the West's tilt towards a "new metaphysics", which boils down to the idea that order can be imposed on a messy, risk-laden and complex world by reducing it to



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a computational process, and that everything can be "modelled". Whereas the old "materialist" world was a dynamic one that left room for intuition, risk, hunches, creativity, and common sense, the new world isn't.

The fallout is everywhere. Corporate R&D has fallen off a cliff because it is not easily quantifiable (firms cannot simply count patents, for example). Science is trapped in the matrix, with academics favouring "me-too" research in established, trendy areas over high-risk research because they are judged by the metric of citations (science's equivalent to retweets). The Treasury can't pivot from bean counting to growing the economy because it refuses to set aside its failed models which cannot incorporate "unquantifiable" trends that explain the country's productivity "puzzle". The delusion that it is possible to eliminate risk and simulate the future through modelling lurks behind the biggest catastrophes of recent times, from the financial crash to lockdown.

Ultimately, conservatives are best placed to take this on. The Left is too utopian and captivated with the prospect of building a new all-powerful "strategic" state to comprehend it. Ms Reeves's grand plan to get around the problems inherent in central planning, by effectively merging big business and the state to create the blob's version of the "master algorithm", can only lead to a socialist's paradise of subsidies and regulation. It is fully automated luxury communism in the full hideous sense of the term.

The Tory impulse now is to ignore the bigger picture stuff and elect a "unifying" yet "charismatic" leader who can land a few blows on Labour. But this is pure delusion. Without a profoundly new approach to politics, the party that failed the country so profoundly will struggle ever to recover.

Until the Tory party rethinks what it stands for, it is denying itself the ability ever to escape Ms Reeves's trap

Hezbollah has exposed the West's fatal cowardice

Israel cannot win this war against Iran alone, but we are denying Jerusalem help in its hour of need

RICHARD KEMP



The massacre this weekend of 12 children playing football in a Hezbollah missile attack is a heartbreaking reminder of why we should be doing everything possible to support Israel. The Iranian-made rocket that exploded in Majdal Shams was one of over 150,000 missiles supplied by Tehran to its terrorist army in Lebanon. Since the October 7 attacks by Hamas, Hezbollah has been firing missiles and drones into northern Israel almost daily.

Lebanon and Gaza are the two most active arenas of a seven-front war, armed and directed from Tehran and intended to strangle Israel. I was in Tel Aviv a few days ago when a drone launched by Iran's Houthi proxies in Yemen exploded in the city, killing one and injuring others. I was in Jerusalem

in April when hundreds of missiles and drones were fired at that city and other locations in Israel by Iran itself.

The RAF, with counterparts from the US, France and Arab countries, helped defend against that bombardment. Although Israel has strong armed forces, it is not all-powerful and relies heavily on assistance from allies. But right now its most important backer, the US, is withholding supplies of some vital munitions, a matter Benjamin Netanyahu spoke of in his address to the US Congress last week. He echoed Churchill's appeal to America in the Second World War: "Give us the tools faster and we will finish the job faster". The UK, too, supplies Israel with critical equipment in a trade from which British defence benefits substantially. But now, in its hour of need, Labour is considering an arms embargo.

Such moves are strategically illiterate and damaging to our national interests. As we plan to undermine Israel's defences, Iran, backed by Russia and China, is sending advanced weaponry to Jerusalem's enemies. Like Ukraine, Israel is on the front line of an increasingly hot war against the West perpetuated by our enemies. Tehran has sent thousands of drones to Russia for its onslaught against Ukraine.

As Iranian terrorist contagion has infected Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Libya and

Yemen, it threatens to contaminate Egypt, too. Before this war, Cairo was already in dire economic straits. Now it has been pushed further towards the brink by Tehran's proxies attacking cargo vessels in the Red Sea, which have diverted significant volumes of shipping away from the Suez Canal, denying Egypt vital revenue.

Even though instability in Egypt would have catastrophic consequences, timorous US and UK military action against the Houthis has had almost no effect. For its part, Israel has shown the way with a devastating air strike against Hodaydah Port in Yemen in response to the Tel Aviv drone attack.

This is not a matter of retaliation but of deterrence. A strong Israel benefits us all. Jordan is also in Iran's sights, with Tehran actively seeking to destabilise the country using its militias in Syria and Iraq. Jerusalem plays a key role in bolstering Jordan against Iran, so any weakening of Israel will harm our wider interests in the region.



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warrants against Netanyahu and Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant. The Tory government recognised the gross injustice of this and applied to make formal objections to the court. Labour has now, shamefully, withdrawn them.

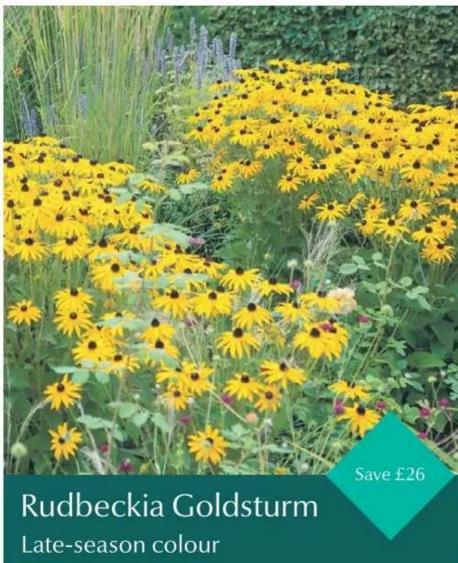
The political warfare campaign against Israel includes lies such as that it is an apartheid state. In reality, Israel is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious democracy, where minorities are far better treated than anywhere else in the Middle East. Arabs are represented everywhere, including in the Supreme Court and the Knesset, and many have joined the fight against Hamas.

The other day, I was briefed by a Druze colonel in Gaza, a member of the same community that was torn apart by Hezbollah's attack on Majdal Shams. He is responsible for co-ordinating humanitarian aid to the population in Gaza. Denial of aid is the central element of the ICC's case against Netanyahu and Gallant. Yet I and the group of former generals from Nato countries who accompanied me had never before seen such monumental efforts to get aid into a combat zone by an army fighting an active war.

The Government must see through the lies that are impairing its decision-making and fully support Israel in this fight. Like it or not, it is a fight for the West as well.

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ESTABLISHED 1855

The Chancellor's great fiscal gamble

In a statement to Parliament yesterday, Rachel Reeves presented figures which she claimed showed the Conservatives had "covered up" a £22 billion black hole in the public finances. She also said that a Budget would be held on October 30. But if the situation is really so serious, why leave the Budget so late? There is a suspicion that yesterday was less an exercise in fiscal management than it was in buying time.

While the Chancellor announced some changes to public spending, by her own accounting there is still a substantial gap to close, with only £5.5 billion in savings announced. Having repeated Labour's carefully worded pledge not to increase National Insurance, income tax or VAT, many will naturally fear that the Budget will bring a significant increase in the taxation of assets.

But Ms Reeves may be hoping that an improving economy comes to her rescue instead. Growth in May came in strongly ahead of expectations. Should this outperformance continue, higher government revenues and potentially lower spending pressures may reduce the scale of the task before her.

It is to be hoped that this is the case. On the evidence of Ms Reeves's statement to the Commons, the alternative is deeply unappealing.

The Chancellor announced several steps to cut spending, notably the means-testing of the winter fuel payment and the cancellation or delay of capital projects, including transport infrastructure and the construction of new hospitals. But these measures still leave a great deal of consolidation left to do, while other policy decisions will actively add to the strain on the public finances.

Even leaving aside the nebulous £3 billion in departmental savings, some £9 billion of the £22 billion "hole" in the public finances was the direct result of the Government's decision to unquestioningly accept recommendations for public sector pay rises.

No matter how strongly Ms Reeves insists otherwise, this cannot be fairly laid at the feet of the previous administration. The Chancellor and her colleagues have made the choice to award higher pay to public sector workers without demands for higher productivity; they must therefore take responsibility for the consequences.

This will also be the case if other policy measures backfire. It is true that the £6.4 billion of overspending on managing asylum seekers appears to be a genuine and unanticipated new pressure. But it is also far from clear that the Government has any realistic plan for dealing with this.

While cancelling the Rwanda scheme and resuming the processing of asylum claims from those arriving illegally will save some money this year, the longer term costs could turn out to be considerable.

Applicants will still need to be provided for until a decision is reached. Unless they are subsequently removed from the country, there is also a non-negligible chance that responsibility for their support could simply shift from one government spending pot to another.

A similar charge of myopic policy-making could be levelled at the decision to make further cuts to capital spending. Just a few months ago, in her Mais lecture, Ms Reeves told the world that "the stop-go cycle of capital investment... inhibits investment and drives up infrastructure costs". Weeks into her tenure as Chancellor, we find ourselves once again on the "stop-go cycle", with cuts to road and railway projects across the UK.

Ms Reeves made much of the virtues of economic growth when she was shadow chancellor. Now in office, she has decided to cast aside precisely those investments that might have boosted growth, in the pursuit of short-term fiscal gains. No mention, in contrast, was made of reining in the Government's costly, anti-growth net zero agenda.

None of this augurs well for the October Budget. A growing economy may well relieve some of the pressure on Ms Reeves, but it is unlikely to fix the public finances altogether.

The likelihood is that the Chancellor will once again be confronted with the reality of governance as a series of trade-offs, and that she will continue with the agenda she set out in yesterday's statement.

If taxes on investment were to rise, we would once again be sacrificing economic growth to reward Labour's voters in the public sector.

Antique salt's return

The story one usually expects to read about a British artisan endeavour is that it is in peril. The Heritage Crafts Association – the King is its patron – records that the skills of hand-stitching cricket balls, making lacrosse sticks and gold beating are dead in the UK. There are two professional hand-carved clog makers and up to four hat plaiters still hanging on. Thankfully, however, it is not a one-way street. A primordial salt-making technique, dating back 1,500 years but unpractised for the past 70, is being revived in Ayrshire. Gregorie and Whirly Marshall have constructed a 30-foot Douglas fir graduation tower to evaporate sea water and produce Blackthorn salt. The precious crystal is now employed in the kitchens of four Michelin-starred restaurants. Old customs and industries can have a future.



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The Chancellor's Commons speech should leave taxpayers worried

SIR – Surely by the time the Labour Party had won the general election, it would have been well aware of Britain's financial situation.

So how come Rachel Reeves, the Chancellor, has left it until now to tell us that we have a £22 billion black hole (report, July 29)?

I suspect we are in for five years of deceit, debt – and tax rises.

GT Higgins
Gravesend, Kent

SIR – The Government keeps talking about a black hole – but this is in its spending plans, not the economy. Labour always intended to increase spending but misled the nation by saying it would not increase taxation.

The Chancellor claims she is levelling with the British public as she attempts to blame the previous government for the forthcoming spending frenzy. It is a pity she wasn't more open earlier.

Mike Tickner
Winterbourne Earls, Wiltshire

SIR – I have not seen any justification for Labour's claim that the economic situation it has inherited is the worst in decades. Indeed, on the key indicators of inflation, growth and unemployment, the situation was worse in 2010.

Perhaps the Conservatives are too distracted by their leadership contest to challenge Labour more vigorously – but they need to. Otherwise, come the next election, it will play this card all over again.

Wesley Hallam
Batheaston, Somerset

SIR – At the same time as saying that the last government left a big hole in the nation's finances, the new administration appears able to come up with a generous pay rise for junior doctors (telegraph.co.uk, July 29).

Evidently it has located that elusive money-tree, missing since around 2008.

Andrew C Pierce
Bickington, Devon

SIR – How refreshing: a dose of common sense from the new Chancellor.

It has long been obvious that winter fuel payments should go only to those in need, not to the many millions who can afford to get by without.

May I suggest that the nonsensical and outdated £10 Christmas bonus is also thrown on the bonfire?

Steve Porter
West Kirby, Wirral

SIR – My 80-year-old wife, who suffers from Alzheimer's and spends most of her time at home in front of the fire during the colder months, must lose her winter fuel payment to subsidise the above-inflation pay settlement for already well-remunerated junior doctors (whose training has also been funded by the taxpayer).

An interesting choice by our new Government. What more might be in store for non-working people?

Fred Fearn
Burton Bradstock, Dorset

Standing with Israel

SIR – World leaders have urged Israel to show restraint in its response to the attack by Hezbollah (report, July 29), just as they have criticised its actions against Hamas since October 7.

Why don't these leaders focus instead on condemning Hamas and Hezbollah, and demanding that they desist?

Israel is fighting for its survival. We need to give it our full support.

Paul G Walters
Derby

Brexit and bottle caps

SIR – Does the introduction of tethered bottle caps really highlight the failure of Brexit, as Nick Wallin suggests (Letters, July 27)?

"Taking back control" should not mean rejoining the EU in order to have influence over such rules. That was the Remainners' fallacious argument. In truth Britain had little or no influence while it was a member, and any proposal we put forward was ignored.

If Brexit is failing, it is because our politicians are loath to properly untie us from Mother EU's apron strings and let us stand on our own two feet. So much for democracy.

Carole Doggett
Milford, Hampshire

SIR – The recycling instructions from my council clearly call for "plastic bottles without caps".

Ian Goddard
Wickham, Hampshire

Calling out Constable

SIR – Dr Mary McMahon of the National Gallery appears to suggest that John Constable was a snob because he didn't include any poorer workers in his painting *The Hay Wain* (report, July 25).

The truth is that few of Constable's landscapes contain many people – but *The Cornfield* certainly depicts farm hands.

I also suspect that the driver of the hay wain itself was not an upper-class landowner – more likely a less well-off tenant farmer or farm employee.

Alan Hall
Harpenden, Hertfordshire

Phone pioneers

SIR – Jane Shilling's article on the demise of the telephone (Comment, July 29) brought back memories.

Our first was installed in 1958. "Why do you need a telephone?" asked a relation. "Nobody you know has one."

Terry Thorneycroft
St Austell, Cornwall



Lap cat: Chat Bleu (après D'Ornellas), a 1937 advertisement for Dubonnet

On the trail of one lesser spotted aperitif

SIR – Like the late Queen Mother and Bobby Angelov (Letters, July 29), I enjoy a Dubonnet. It is indeed hard to find in supermarkets – with the exception of Waitrose. However, it can be easily purchased online.

Diana Robertson
Maidenhead, Berkshire

SIR – Bobby Angelov should come to Horwich. Our local wine merchant, Tommy Wright, always has a good stock of Dubonnet. Obviously it is best served as

Elizabeth II liked it: two parts Dubonnet to one part gin. Carol Kelly
Horwich, Lancashire

SIR – Once, in my twenties, I got very drunk in Rhodes. Amid fears I would miss my flight home, I was offered an Underberg. Like Graham Denman (Letters, July 29) with his Angostura bitters, I felt right as rain after 15 minutes. Duncan Rayner
Sunningdale, Berkshire

A classic British car – with one little flaw

SIR – During the 1970s, my wife rang me at work to tell me that the engine of our Austin Maxi had fallen on to the road (Letters, July 29).

At first I didn't believe her, having faith in British manufacturing. But then I went to the scene, where, sure enough, the engine was sitting nestled between the front wheels.

I wrote to the manufacturers, who merely stated that this sort of thing happened occasionally and I must accept it.

Peter Howard
London SW1

SIR – In 1978 I purchased my first car, an old Austin Mini, for the princely sum of £150. In those days, such vehicles were prone to corrosion.

I realised that my then girlfriend was the one for me when she agreed to a second (and third) date, despite the view of the road through the floor of

my car. We have now been married for 40 years.

Alan Tomlinson
Cheadle, Cheshire

SIR – In the late 1980s I owned a very second-hand Austin Allegro. A colleague at the school where I worked also had one – same colour, similar age and almost identical amounts of rust.

On separate occasions we unwittingly got into each other's cars, despite both being locked.

Rory Boyle
Girvan, Ayrshire

SIR – Gail Lees's friend (Letters, July 29) suggested that BMW stood for: "Bring Mechanic With". I recall that, some years ago, the Lotus earned itself the nickname: "Lots of Trouble, Usually Serious".

David Vincent
Hawkhurst, Kent

The biggest lie is the one Rachel Reeves is telling herself

Britain is heading towards bankruptcy. Nothing the new Chancellor set out yesterday will change that

MATTHEW LYNN



There is a "black hole" in the public finances. The Tories have left a far worse mess than the new Government had initially realised. And some spending will have to be cut (and later in the year, perhaps rather more taxes will have to go up) in order to balance the books. Yesterday, we were introduced to "straight-talking Rachel", the woman who will finally level with the public about what it will take to fix Britain, revive the economy, and plug the holes in the services the state is meant to provide.

It is easy – perhaps too easy – to criticise the new Chancellor, Rachel Reeves, for shameless dishonesty. She might claim that it is only now that she has had a chance to properly examine the books, to look at all the "unfunded" spending commitments, and to assess where the tax revenues will come from, that she is able to conclude that everything is far worse than she realised. But the Office for Budget Responsibility was already

meant to have laid out all the financial pressures on the government, and she promised during the election campaign that she had enough information to rule out any major tax increases. There ought to have been nothing in the "books" that should have come as a surprise, and especially not for someone like Reeves, who is constantly boasting of her financial expertise.

In fairness, however, she is at least being slightly more straightforward than the outgoing Conservative administration ever was. Some budgets might well have been overspent. It is also past time that someone made it plain to voters what a mess the country is in. Britain has grown used to being told that it can have both lower taxes and higher public spending, without any consequences. Ministers have become accustomed to pretending that the national debt will start falling at some point in the future thanks to spending cuts that nobody really believed would be possible.

It would, to put it politely, have been preferable, of course, if such straight talking had been done before the votes were cast instead of three weeks afterwards. But we are where we are.

The real problem is this. While claiming to be honest, Reeves is in fact perpetuating two far bigger lies.

The first is the idea that we can fix both the British economy and make the public finances sustainable with nothing more than a few

relatively minor tweaks to spending and taxation.

Seriously? The government currently spends about £1.2 trillion, or £17,000 per person every single year, an all-time record. Against that huge total, £22 billion a year is nothing more than a rounding error. If we are to stick with the physics metaphors, it is more of a "quark", the smallest particle that we know of, than a "black hole". Whether it is plugged or not will not make much difference to anything.

The second big lie is that the British welfare state is even remotely sustainable without major reforms. We already owe close to 100 per cent of GDP in debt, and the total has tripled over the past 20 years. We are still running a deficit of more than 3 per cent of GDP even though the economy is growing again, and taxes have already been raised to a 70-year high.

The Treasury takes about 37 per cent of everything we produce as a nation, again close to an all-time high. We have vast unfunded liabilities on the public balance sheet that no one wants to talk about, such as the £2.6 trillion in public sector pensions, or the £250 billion in outstanding student loans that may well never be repaid. The list goes on and on. To sum it up simply, we're broke.

If Reeves were really being honest about the situation she has inherited, she wouldn't be talking about black holes. She would be candidly explaining that almost everything the country has been told about public

Tory divisions

SIR – The Conservative Party in its current form is hopelessly and irrevocably divided. The idea that any of those standing for the leadership will be able to unite it is fanciful (report, July 29).

The Tories would be better off splitting into two separate parties: the anti-Brexit, One Nation faction on the one hand, and the pro-Brexit group opposed to uncontrolled immigration on the other.

This would provide clarity for voters and prevent yet more bitter infighting. **PA Gardner**
Ulverston, Cumbria

SIR – John Bloor (Letters, July 29) is correct that the Tory leadership contenders are all associated with the most incompetent Conservative government of modern times.

Through their reckless behaviour, they have together bequeathed the nation a socialist government that threatens to destroy the fabric of our society.

A fresh face with fresh ideas is required. The next Conservative prime minister might not yet even be a Member of Parliament.

David Miller
Chigwell, Essex

SIR – Suella Braverman (Commentary, July 29) is right about what the Tory party needs to do, but gets one thing wrong when she says that "hundreds of Conservative MPs" lost their seats in the general election.

MPs they were, but Conservatives they were not.

Philip Hall
Petersfield, Hampshire

SIR – In response to the news that Suella Braverman will not be running for the Tory leadership, I think I speak on behalf of compassionate conservatives everywhere when I say: thank goodness.

Liam Bruce
London SE1

SIR – The only person who could persuade me to return to the Tories is Penny Mordaunt.

She comes across as sensible and reliable. Sadly, in a fit of pique about the Conservative Party as a whole, the people of Portsmouth voted her out. No doubt many now regret it.

John Baker
Crayford, Kent

Against commentary

SIR – Was it any surprise that a BBC commentator had to apologise for talking over our national anthem before an Olympic event (report, July 25)?

Modern televised sport is wrecked by commentators talking too much, and ex-players are the worst. Whether it's Wimbledon, golf, football, swimming or athletics, they never stop. Viewers simply want to watch the action on their screens, but are constantly distracted by commentators chatting away as if they are at the pub. People say, "Well, just use the mute button" – but then the live sounds from the event are lost.

During the London Olympics, the BBC had quite a few channels, accessible via the red button, on which there was no commentary. It was wonderful – just like being there. All we could hear was what we could see happening.

Terry Lloyd
Darley Abbey, Derbyshire

SIR – I appreciate that the BBC may have paid a lot for the Olympics, but is it necessary to interrupt the news with yet more stories about the games?

We are watching before and after. Do we really need more?
Kevin Platt
Walsall, Staffordshire



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Puzzles, Mind Games & 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 5097

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 **DTCCODE** (leaving no spaces) to 64343. Calls cost £1 per minute, plus network access charge; texts cost £1, plus network access charge. You must be 18 or over and have the bill payer's permission. Services open Mon - Fri, 9pm - 5am. Helpline 0333 202 3390.

Notes

NO 3313 DHARMA

- Across**
- 1 Bad-tempered driver clipping rear of another (6)
 - 4 Knocking back the booze? Order Carol's round (8)
 - 10 Bandleader John possibly admitting uninitiated affair (9)
 - 11 Uber taxi's beginning to cut university student price (50 per cent off) (5)
 - 12 Stops car after stint sharing miles (7)
 - 13 Turned up hem in the middle and knitted (7)
 - 14 Trouble from appendix during puberty occasionally (5)
 - 15 Culmination of quarrel over daughter started by Oxford model? (4,4)
 - 18 Legitimate to claim jail not working as act of retribution (8)
 - 20 Unseats first character from contests with aim to unseat the other? (5)
 - 23 Disturbs pets (7)
 - 25 Attracted to that place, like to go back in May? (7)
 - 26 Create division with skilful or witty remark (5)
 - 27 Came out with or without medical supply? (9)
 - 28 What VAR could do with public order, taking time out (8)
 - 29 One holding Kindle say, changing hands to find article (6)
- Down**
- 1 Maybe saw scanner checking ambassador's head (8)
 - 2 Draws return game 50-50, inspired by host (7)
 - 3 Trains essentially went all over the place under British Rail (9)
 - 5 Secure title with scores engineered in period of low light? (6,8)
 - 6 Insect repellent's core requirement on river (5)
 - 7 Number one governor from the south promoting north (7)
 - 8 Organs of state entering case for governments (6)
 - 9 Material's clean and appropriate for the audience (9,5)
 - 16 Total of all he owes written off (9)
 - 17 Perhaps Cuban heels finally breaking near Lidl, virtually ruined (8)
 - 19 Cheer enthralling start to Manchester United match (7)
 - 21 Spirited horse pounding 1,000 metres should be checked (7)
 - 22 Facing workers' organisation, company boss ultimately superior (6)
 - 24 One putting up prices steeply in March meeting resistance (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 6667

			9	1	2			
1								5
9			4			1		
		8				2		
7	5				3		6	
	3	2			4			
4			7					2
8								3
	3	1		4	6			

TOUGH NO 6667

4				2		8	5	
			5		4			7
		9		8				6
							7	
7		3	4			9		5
	6							
8				1		5		
2			9		3			
	3	6		4				9

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, 9pm - 5am. Helpline 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 7 words - Word Finder, 8 - Wordsmith, 17 - Word Wizard, 25 - Word Master, 34 - Word Genius, 43 - Word Perfect

Toughie No 3312

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

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, 9pm - 5am. Helpline 0333 2023390.

ANAGRAMS

Each of the anagrams below spells out the name of a bird. *Solution tomorrow.*

PAY LAG HERE -----
BIN TOWN'S GUN -----
OWNS LECTURE -----

MIND GYM

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.*

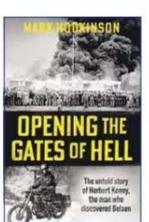
NO 4377

36	7/12 OF THIS	x5	-57	+6	X BY ITSELF	TRIPLE IT	-129	4/9 OF THIS	TRIPLE IT	ANSWER
9	x13	TRIPLE IT	-183	HALVE IT	175% OF THIS	-69	5/6 OF THIS	x2.2	+13	ANSWER
162	+9	x14.5	TRIPLE IT	-419	HALVE IT	4/7 OF THIS	-88	X BY ITSELF	375% OF THIS	ANSWER

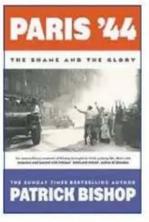
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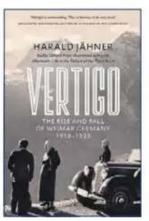
The Second World War from British commando raids to the liberation of Paris



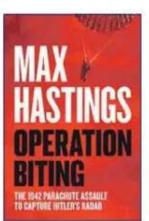
Opening the Gates of Hell
Herbert Kenny, an army dispatch rider, was the first Allied soldier to push open the gates at Belsen Concentration Camp, in April 1945. He kept his story from the world until an encounter with a trainee journalist brought it to light. Now, that reporter is ready to share Herbert's incredible tale with the world. Mark Hodkinson brings to life the harrowing conditions of Belsen and its eventual liberation. The book is a testament to the power of one person in the face of unimaginable darkness.
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Paris '44: The Shame and the Glory
The liberation of Paris in 1944 was a hinge moment of the Second World War, triggering an explosion of joy and relief. This fresh new account captures the suspense, danger and vengeance of the period, from the viewpoint of Americans, French and Germans; resisters and collaborators. There are famous names such as Ernest Hemingway, JD Salinger and Pablo Picasso, but also a medic turned Resistance gunwoman, and a French woman who helped to save art from Nazi looters.
£19.99 (RRP £25)



Vertigo: The Rise and Fall of Weimar Germany
Out of the ashes of the First World War, Germany launched its first democratic government: the Weimar Republic. The years that followed saw political extremism, economic upheaval, revolutionary violence and the transformation of Germany. Amid a frenzy of change came a backlash from those who did not see themselves reflected in the new Republic. Little by little, deep divisions began to emerge. These divisions brought devastating consequences, altering the course of the 20th century.
£19.99 (RRP £25)



Operation Biting: The 1942 Parachute Assault to Capture Hitler's Radar
In February 1942, RAF intelligence was baffled by a radar network on the coast of Nazi-occupied Europe, codenamed Würzburg. The scientist Dr RV Jones proposed an assault to capture key components. The nearest accessible enemy set stood on a steep cliff at Bruneval in Normandy. A team of fascinating personalities embarked on the mission, which became one of the most thrilling British commando raids of the Second World War. Bestselling author Max Hastings recounts this cliffhanging tale in a wealth of detail.
£19.99 (RRP £25)

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 4144

	5			1	
3	6				
			6	5	
				4	6
2			1		

PLUSWORD

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.*

NO 800

Across

- 1 Hardy tree of the genus *Betula*
- 6 Each and ___ one
- 7 Greatly enjoy
- 8 Battery terminal
- 9 Paula ____, presenter known for *The Big Breakfast*

Down

- 1 Secure, as a rope
- 2 ____, Trump, former wife of Donald
- 3 Move a plant, e.g.
- 4 Obnoxious, crass
- 5 Overly publicises

Notes

Play PlusWord for free online at telegraph.co.uk/pw or scan the QR code



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.*

SWAN

TERN

SIDE, JOIN, HIT, WORD, CHAIR

THE SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku Regular and Tough No 6666

8	5	4	7	9	2	3	6	1
9	7	1	5	3	6	4	2	8
6	3	2	4	1	8	7	5	9
2	4	6	3	7	9	8	1	5
1	8	7	2	6	5	9	3	4
3	9	5	1	8	4	2	7	6
4	1	9	6	2	3	5	8	7
5	6	3	8	4	7	1	9	2
7	2	8	9	5	1	6	4	3

PlusWord No 799

P	O	P	U	P
A	R	E	N	A
S	C	A	T	S
T	A	C	I	T
A	S	H	E	S

Killer Sudoku

1	6	9	8	5	2	4	7	3
7	5	8	3	9	4	6	1	2
2	4	3	7	6	1	8	9	5
3	8	2	4	7	5	1	6	9
9	7	6	1	2	3	5	8	4
4	1	5	6	8	9	2	3	7
6	9	7	2	4	8	3	5	1
5	3	4	9	1	6	7	2	8
8	2	1	5	3	7	9	4	6

Mini Sudoku No 4143

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

Codewords 1 and 2

T U V Z W I Y Q N E R H O B
C Y U D F A P L G K X M S
V X W N S P K B T A U D H
E Z F J C Y G M O R I O T L

Kakuro No 5096

5	9	8	6	5	8	1	9	
9	8	7	5	9	7	5	8	
			9	7	8	9	7	
3	1			2	9	6	8	7
7	3		9	6	8		6	2
9	8	4	7	5			2	1
	2	3		1	7	6		
7	4	2	1		9	5	6	8
9	5	1	3		8	3	2	4

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MARKETS		CURRENCIES		COMMODITIES	
FTSE 100 8292.35 -6.64 (+0.08pc)	BIGGEST RISER JD Sports Fash 128¼p +5% (+4.14pc)	BIGGEST FALLER Reckitt Benck 4093p -393 (-8.76pc)	£\$ Rate 1.2847 Change -0.07c	GOLD \$2382.13 (£1854) -4.78 (-0.20pc)	Energy bills Taxpayers are on the hook for cost of shutting down gas network as Miliband leads race to net zero Page 21
DOW JONES 40539.93 -49.41 (-0.12pc)	FTSE 250 21252.07 -104.23 (-0.49pc)	FTSE All Share 4542.18 -0.16 (-0.00pc)	€€ Rate 1.1878 Change +0.37c	BRENT CRUDE \$79.78 (September) -1.35 (-1.66pc)	Last picture show Cinema closures reflect film industry crisis and will plunge struggling high streets further into decline Ben Marlow Page 23
FTSE All Share Yield 3.61 No Change	FTSE Eurotop 100 4028.47 -17.07 (-0.42pc)	Nikkei 225 38468.63 +801.22 (+2.13pc)			
52WkHigh 8474.41 52WkLow 7215.76 Yield 3.67pc P/E Ratio 15.61	52WkHigh 41376.00 52WkLow 32327.20	EURO STOXX 50 4815.39 -47.11 (-0.97pc)			
		S&P 500 5463.54 +4.44 (+0.08pc)			
		Nasdaq 17370.20 +12.32 (+0.07pc)			

Labour's race to nationalise trains 'will cost £1bn a year'

Industry representative Rail Partners dismisses party's plans for steep savings as wildly unrealistic

By Christopher Jasper

LABOUR'S race to nationalise the railway system risks costing taxpayers more than £1bn a year as financial discipline breaks down, train operators have warned.

The party's plans for steep savings were dismissed as wildly unrealistic by Rail Partners, which represents nine passenger-train companies, because the cost cuts are based on Tory proposals. These include a tough pay deal for drivers that has now been torn up.

Rail Partners added that the private sector could be expected to deliver a 1pc gain in productivity over the long term when compared with public ownership, and about the same increase in revenue – equating to an additional £1bn a year within five years.

It came as a separate report showed Rishi Sunak's decision to scale back HS2 cost the taxpayer more than £2bn.

Labour has said nationalisation will save up to £150m a year in contract fees paid to private companies, or just 0.75pc of the overall cost of the railway.

Andy Bagnall, the chief executive of Rail Partners, said: "We think full nationalisation in the way that's being proposed will increase costs over time. You can see that in the current Bill, where the savings from fees are looked at but not the opportunity costs of what you lose by removing competition."

"You lose the grit in the oyster that drives improvement in the system. You don't get the investment, the innovation and the new ideas that international transport companies try to inject in order to win in the first place. You lose the customer focus in the system."

Labour is also pledging to deliver £2.2bn in annual savings. Around £1.5bn of this was inherited from the Conservatives, who had aimed to secure it through manpower cuts at stations – since abandoned – and pay deals with drivers, leading to the current strikes.

Mr Bagnall said: "Unless Labour pursues those with the trade unions, which from early signalling doesn't look likely,

it's very unlikely that these savings will be realised."

The Telegraph reported last week that train drivers are demanding a 10pc pay rise worth around £6,000 per person to end their walkouts, which is equal to five times the rate of inflation.

Taxpayers would have to fork out around £114m to cover the costs of such a demand.

Rail Partners said that the taxpayer will also lose out on payments of surplus earnings to the Treasury previously made by train operators.

Operators generated a surplus of £400m a year for the public coffers in the decade before the pandemic, as passenger numbers doubled, services increased by a third and thousands of new trains were introduced.

Once passenger numbers recover to pre-Covid levels, it would not be unrealistic to assume that similar levels of payment would be possible again, Mr Bagnall said.

He said: "The biggest dividend of the privatised model was paid to the taxpayer. We can show over the past 25 years that there was a deficit in British Rail and we closed that deficit, and can do so again."

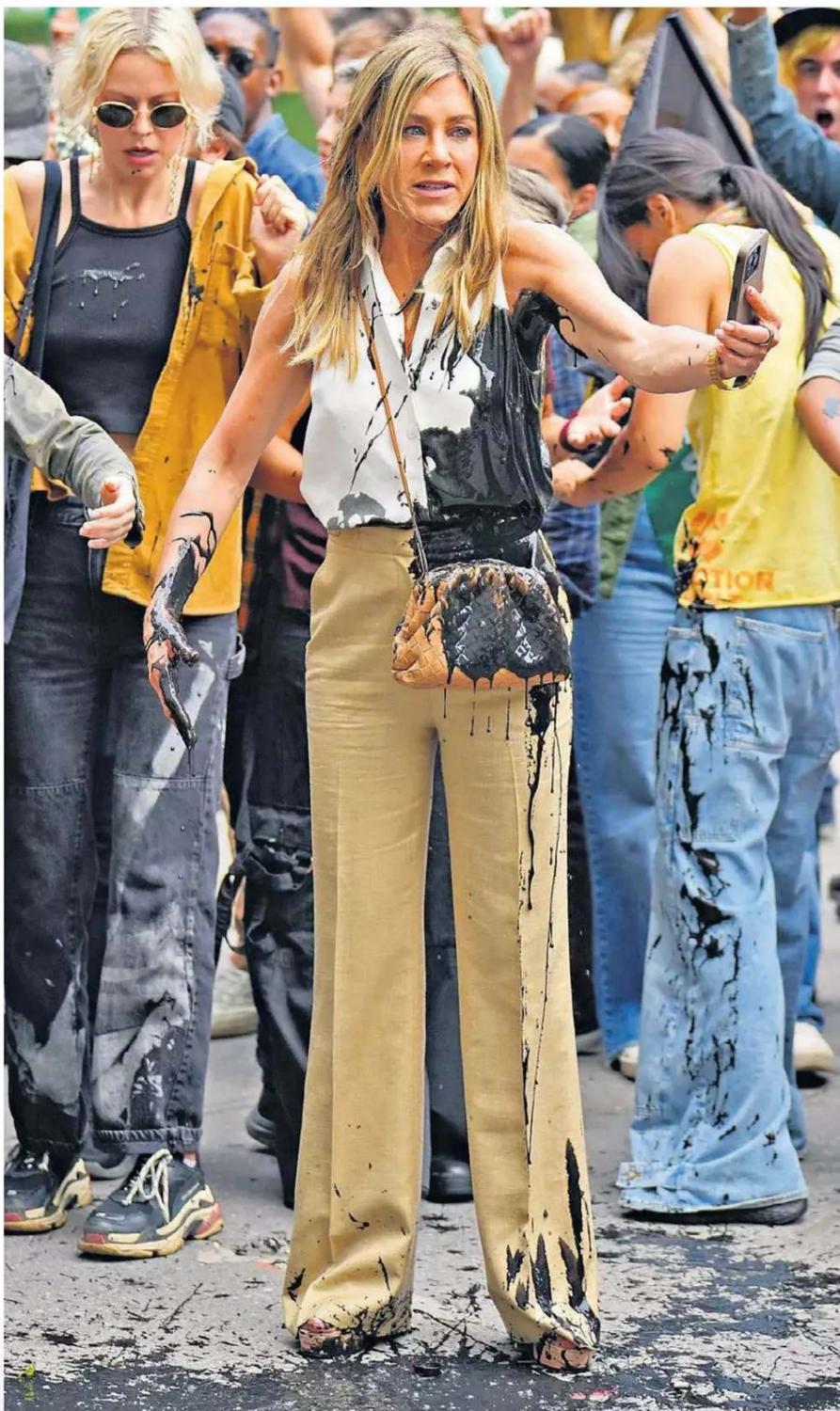
Train companies are not seeking a return to franchising, Rail Partners said, but favour new arrangements as an alternative to nationalisation, with networks under public control but deploying private sector train companies "to inject innovation, investment and commercial expertise".

Mr Bagnall said: "Nobody wants to go back to the old franchising system but it really isn't a binary choice."

Meanwhile, in the latest annual report for HS2, bosses have revealed the fees needed to cancel "Phase 2" of the project, between Birmingham and Manchester, topped £2bn.

This includes a £1.1bn writedown for work already carried out on the northern leg, as well as an additional £1bn in accountability charges.

A further £153m was also lost owing to design work for a 10-platform station at London Euston, as plans have since been downgraded to a six-platform terminus. Another £95m of remediation work was also set aside for safeguarding building sites that are no longer required, taking the total tally lost to £2.17bn.



Big oil Jennifer Aniston is under attack by protesters in a scene from Apple TV's drama *The Morning Show*. Apple reports fourth-quarter results, including streaming, on Thursday.

Legal woes see Reckitt's value fall by £2.7bn to 11-year low

By Chris Price

CONSUMER goods giant Reckitt Benckiser has lost £2.75bn of value after a court ruling in the United States stoked concerns about alleged risk associated with its baby formula.

Shares in the FTSE 100 company dropped by as much as 10pc to an 11-year low after an adverse ruling against its US rival, Abbott. It was ordered to pay nearly \$500m (£390m) over allegations that it hid the risk of its premature-infant formula. Abbott has denied the claims and said it plans to appeal.

Shares in Reckitt closed down 8.9pc following the verdict, which came on Friday after markets in London had closed. The slump knocked £2.75bn off the FTSE 100 company's value.

Reckitt, which makes Enfamil formula, has been fighting similar cases claiming it failed to flag up the risks associated with its products.

In March, an Illinois jury ruled that Reckitt had failed to warn about the risks of Necrotising enterocolitis (NEC) from its milk-based Enfamil brand products. NEC is an illness that damages the stomach and tends to affect premature babies.

Reckitt's US subsidiary, Mead Johnson Nutrition, had been sued by mother Jasmine Watson, whose premature baby was fed the company's Enfamil Premature 2+ product. Mead Johnson was ultimately ordered to pay \$60m (£47m) to Ms Watson.

More than 400 suits targeting Mead Johnson and Abbott are consolidated before a federal judge in Chicago for pre-trial information exchanges. About a thousand other suits are pending.

The legal woes have weighed heavily on both companies' share prices.

The \$500m award against Abbott was much higher than observers had expected.

Reckitt has said it stands by the safety of its products and "strongly rejects any assertion that any of our products cause NEC". It has said it will "continue to vigorously defend" itself.

However, the mounting legal cases represent a serious drag on the company's share price. Last week, Reckitt put its Mead Johnson division up for sale after judging the division "non core".

Monday's share price drop was the biggest single-day fall since March 15 when the Illinois jury verdict came.

◆ GSK has settled a US lawsuit that claimed its discontinued heartburn drug, Zantac, causes cancer.

The drugs giant said it had reached a "confidential settlement" with complainant Ronald Kimbrow without admitting liability. It is the latest in a series of settlements regarding Zantac, which was pulled from sale in 2019 after US watchdogs found "unacceptable levels" of probable cancer-causing ingredients in the medicine.

Obese cannot help it. Blame food producers, says Zoe diet app boss

By Daniel Woolfson

OBESITY has nothing to do with a lack of self-control, the boss of nutrition app Zoe has said, as it announced \$15m in new funding.

Jonathan Wolf, Zoe's chief executive, argued that losing weight should not be considered a matter of willpower alone and warned Britain's addiction to so-called "ultra-processed" food was having a serious impact.

He was speaking after Zoe – which offers users personalised diet data based on health tests – received a \$15m (£11.6m) cash injection from an American investment company, Coefficient Capital, to help it expand in the US.

Mr Wolf said: "[When] I was brought up ... I was told weight gain and obesity was all the individual's fault ... a lack of willpower ... all they had to do was eat fewer calories and they'd lose weight."

"All the science has proven that does not work," Mr Wolf added. "Eighty per cent of people are unable to lose weight through calorie restriction. The question is, why are we in a situation where there is such an epidemic of obesity, that [weight loss] drugs are the most valuable drugs in the world?"

He said: "It turns out that obesity is not anything to do with lack of control. It's about the profound damage done to people's appetite control, as a consequence of the food that they've been eat-

ing over the previous 10, 20, 30 years." His comments come amid rising concerns over health impacts of ultra-processed foods – a catch-all term used to describe mass-produced food with artificial ingredients, additives, flavourings and emulsifiers such as are found in ready meals and breakfast cereals.

He said: "I believe that large food manufacturers have a strong economic interest to slow down changes in government guidance as much as possible because they don't want to recognise that food which is very profitable for them ... is causing us serious harm."

More than a quarter of adults in England are classified as obese, according to NHS data from 2021, while a further



Tim Spector, a founder, along with Jonathan Wolf, of the popular Zoe nutrition app which at one point had a waiting list to join

37.9pc are overweight. Mr Wolf warned that without action, Britain's obesity rates could surge to US levels, where more than two in every five adults are obese, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Mr Wolf said: "We're on exactly the same curve. We're just a few years behind [the US]. And I think you can link

this to levels of ultra-processed food." As well as improving public health, it has been argued that tackling obesity could help fix Britain's productivity crisis by returning thousands to work.

In an interview with *The Telegraph* earlier this year, Henry Dimbleby, the founder of the restaurant chain Leon and a former food advisor to the Government, said: "We've got a situation where 2.8m people are out of work for four major conditions: muscular skeletal problems, Type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and mental health, three of which are directly caused by food."

The Zoe app, which was co-founded in 2018 by Mr Wolf with author and academic Dr Tim Spector and businessman

George Hadjigeorgiou, offers users detailed personal nutrition insight and advice based on a series of blood fat, blood sugar, and gut tests. It has proved popular with public figures including Davina McCall and Carrie Johnson.

Signing up can cost hundreds of pounds in advance fees followed by a monthly charge. However, the cost has not put off legions of potential dieters: at one point it was reported that more than 200,000 people were on the waiting list to join the app.

Company accounts show Zoe's revenues grew by almost 390pc to £28.7m in 2023. However, pre-tax losses jumped from £10.5m to £21m – spurring the company to lay off a number of staff.

Less than half of Asda staff back strategy

By Hannah Boland

ASDA bosses have been left bruised after a staff survey suggested that fewer than half of workers are confident in the strategy at the supermarket.

Only 47pc of respondents to the company's annual questionnaire, which was completed last month, said they felt confident in Asda's long-term strategic plan. Additionally, just 48pc of the

75,591 workers who filled in the survey felt they were able to explain the benefits of the "Future Programme", in which Asda is moving its IT systems away from former owner Walmart.

The IT changeover – overseen by the company's chief executive and billionaire co-owner Mohsin Issa – has been wracked with issues.

Thousands of staff received the wrong pay, meaning some were left out

of pocket while others had had to pay back the supermarket. Asda acknowledged that there had been some "short-term challenges".

Asda has been hunting for a replacement for Mr Issa, who has been managing the supermarket since 2021.

It said that the survey provided "colleagues with an opportunity to share their honest thoughts about Asda and we value this direct feedback".



Big price for Big Macs weighs on sales at McDonald's

By James Warrington

MCDONALD'S has suffered a drop in sales for the first time since Covid as customers shun expensive Big Macs.

The fast food chain reported a 1pc fall in global sales in the three months to the end of June – the first drop since the end of 2020, when stores were closed during pandemic lockdowns.

The price of a Big Mac has surged by around 60pc since

2020 from £2.99 to £4.69, while a Happy Meal now costs £3.59 compared with £2.99 four years ago.

Chris Kempczinski, the chief executive of McDonald's, said consumers were "more discriminating" with their spending as the cost of living crisis continues. McDonald's has previously warned customers were seeking better value amid rapidly rising prices. The burger chain has introduced a

number of discounts in an attempt to win over budget-conscious customers. A new \$5 (£3.90) meal deal, which was launched at US restaurants last month, will be extended until August.

McDonald's executives also pointed to the success of the chain's loyalty programme, which offers points to regular customers to be redeemed against future purchases.

Loyalty cards accounted for nearly \$7bn in digital

sales across 50 markets over the quarter – up from \$6bn in the previous three months.

McDonald's reported overall revenues of just under \$6.5bn, a rise of 1pc as price rises offset declining sales.

However, profits dropped by 12pc to \$2bn, driven in part by costs linked to a major restructuring plan that has seen hundreds of corporate staff laid off.

Excluding these costs, operating profit fell 6pc.

Bonfire of big projects risks another lost decade

With a £22bn gap in the finances, Labour is to cut public works. Where does that leave growth, asks *Tim Wallace*

A failure to invest has undermined the UK's growth and left the country trailing behind its rivals. This was the stance taken by Rachel Reeves at her Mais lecture last March, as the then shadow chancellor claimed weak investment had sapped Britain's economic growth. At the time, she attacked the Tories' "short-termist approach", describing it as a "disease" that "inhibits investment and drives up infrastructure costs". However, just five months on Reeves is in danger of falling into the same trap.

After unveiling a £22bn black hole in the country's finances yesterday, the Labour Chancellor promised cuts to balance the books. One key strand of this strategy will involve scrapping a series of public investment projects, with plans to redirect cash to higher salaries for public sector workers.

While this has been hailed as a breakthrough in some quarters, others fear it will create another decade of lost growth.

In her announcement yesterday to the Commons, Reeves's money-saving measures included axing the A303 Stonehenge tunnel and improvements to the A27. However, it wasn't only tarmac under threat. She also cancelled the Restoring Your Railway Fund, which had been billed as a scheme to reverse some of the Beeching cuts of the 1960s. She said all were "projects that the previous government refused to publicly cancel, despite knowing full well that they were unaffordable".

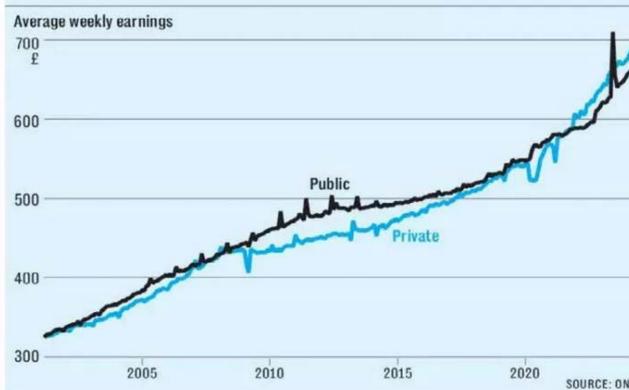
Elsewhere, around 40 hospitals promised by the Conservatives are also in doubt, as the Chancellor said "only six have started main construction activity". "It has become clear that the previous government continued to maintain its commitment to 40 hospitals without anywhere close to the funding required," she said. "That gave our constituents false hope. We need to be straight with the British people about what is deliverable."

"So we will conduct a complete review of the new hospital programme with a thorough, realistic and costed timetable for delivery."

Reeves argued radical action was the only choice because of the financial hole left by the Conservatives. "They promised solutions that they knew could never be paid for," she said. "Roads that would never be built,



Pay has risen sharply after period of stagnation



'They promised solutions that they knew could never be paid for'

Public transport that would never arrive. Hospitals that would never treat a single patient ... they spent like there was no tomorrow because they knew someone else would pick up the bill."

However, her plans to plug the £22bn gap may leave the economy in a worse condition. The volatile status of many infrastructure projects remains, while plans to scrap the Investment Opportunity Fund may also raise

questions given it was designed to crowd-in private sector investment. This will now be replaced by an untested National Wealth Fund.

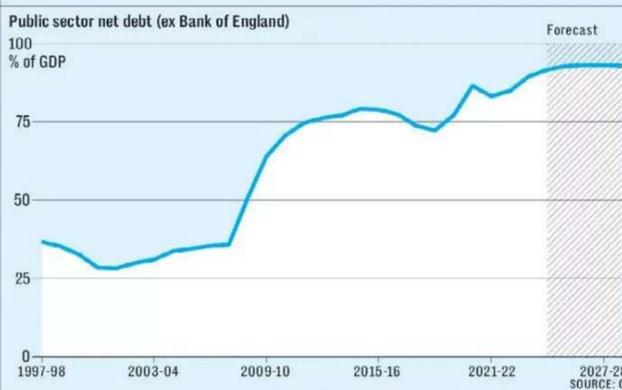
Long-term infrastructure planning also has a new face in the form of a National Infrastructure and Service Transformation Authority.

Overall investment in the UK, across the public and private sector, was already set to fall by 0.2pc next year,

according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). That makes Britain the only G7 country where investment is poised to go into reverse.

The United States is leading the pack on investment with a forecast at 3.2pc in 2025, followed by Japan at 2.1pc. At the other end of the table lies Britain and France (poised for 0.6pc next year). Ms Reeves defended the decision to scrap

National debt is at unsustainable levels



'To be a high growth country we need to be a high investment country'

a range of infrastructure projects, saying yesterday: "There is nothing pro-growth about abandoning a commitment to sound money. There's nothing pro-growth about making commitments to do things when the money simply is not there. If we cannot afford it, we cannot do it."

But James Smith, an economist at the Resolution Foundation, says Reeves's decision "flies in the face of the growth mission". He adds: "The UK's record on public investment is a poor one, we are half the OECD average over the past 50 years or so ... if we want to be a high-growth country, we need to be a high-investment country, and the Government should be leading."

The Left-leaning New Economics Foundation called the measures "veiled austerity at the expense of our public services" while Sam Richards, chief executive of pro-growth campaign group Britain Remade, welcomed the focus on value for money but warned that "cutting capital spending isn't risk-free".

"There are some projects in the Restoring Your Railway Fund - such as the Tavistock railway line - that are vital to delivering prosperity in parts of the country that don't get the same focus as London," he says.

There are arguments for boosting pay in the public sector, which has been falling behind in recent years. However, there are worries that the 5.5pc raise expected for most NHS and education staff is neither compatible with the Bank of England's goal of getting pay under control to help defeat inflation, nor with the Government's stated target of keeping the public finances in check.

Neil Shearing, of Capital Economics, says shifting spending from investment to workers' wages is likely to boost the economy in the short-term but hit growth in the long-term. Most significant, he says, is "what it potentially signals about priorities".

Instead of taking money out of future investment to boost current spending, Shearing wants Reeves to change the script altogether. "Redesign the fiscal rules," he says. "Give the Government a proper incentive to borrow to invest, keep a tight rein on current expenditure and try to meet the unions halfway on pay."

However, any fiscal revolution will have to wait - particularly after Reeves agreed to raise public sector pay rather than risk further strikes. While justifying her decision to spend £9bn on increasing wages for NHS and school staff, the Chancellor said: "That is the right decision, for the people who work in [the NHS] and most importantly the people who use our public services, [to give] hard-working staff the pay rises they deserve."

This may be laudable but it does not sound like a recipe for growth.

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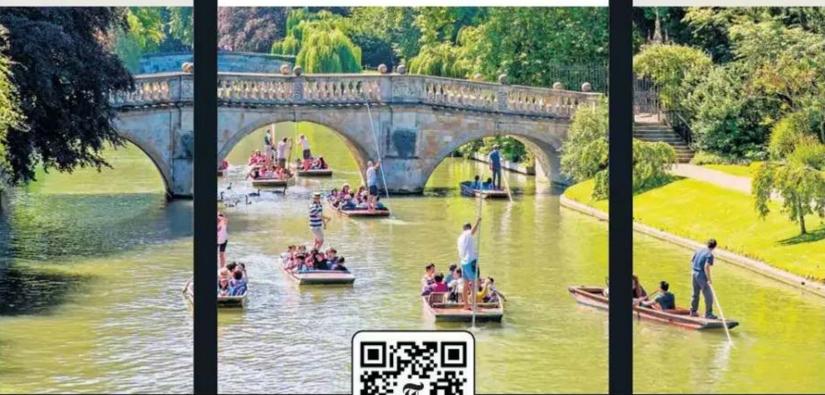
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US tech firms 'sucking air out' of market, says Terry Smith fund

By Michael Bow

AN INVESTMENT trust run by Terry Smith, the star fund manager, has complained that American tech companies are "sucking the air out" of the stock market by attracting huge amounts of money.

Smithson Investment Trust, a £2bn fund run by Mr Smith's eponymous manager Fundsmith, admitted its performance has been like "watching paint dry" after struggling to keep pace with the rally in US tech stocks. It said the rise of "glamour" US stocks such as Nvidia was "sucking the air out" of the smaller end of the stock market.

Smithson was founded six years ago to invest in companies that were too small for inclusion in Mr Smith's flagship Fundsmith Equity Fund.

However, the trust's performance has been strained recently, with results published yesterday showing net asset value declined by 1.8pc over the past six months. Simon Barnard, who runs

Smithson, admitted the sluggish performance had been "frustrating" for the trust's army of retail investors.

"As a colleague commented, our performance so far this year has been like watching paint dry, and I couldn't agree more; we are finding it as frustrating as you are," he told investors.

"There is no doubt that this is a tough time in the market for smaller companies. As has happened in the past, large and glamorous stocks have outperformed strongly this year while small and medium-sized companies, as an asset class, struggled ... we only need to look at certain individual companies to get a sense of the scale of this issue."

He pointed to stocks including the computer chip maker Nvidia which has increased by \$1.8 trillion (£1.4 trillion) in value over the past six months amid booming interest in AI.

Smaller stocks favoured by Smithson have failed to rise in value as investors plough their money into the likes of Nvidia instead. Smithson was the large-

est UK investment trust in history when it launched in 2018, having raised £800m from investors lured by Mr Smith's brand of fund management.

Fundsmith was set up by Mr Smith in 2010 and now has £36bn of assets under management.

The trust bought into five new companies during the period - HMS Networks, Inficon, Melexis Choice Hotels and Reply - and sold three companies.

Sales included exiting the trust's entire holding in Swiss banking software group Temenos.

Smithson's share price also trails the value of the stocks held in the fund, a common problem with many listed investment trusts.

Shares in the company have fallen from £14.15 to £13.78, and now trade at a 12pc discount to the net asset value per share.

To close the gap, Smithson is buying back shares to increase the price. It spent £206m on buybacks over the period to try to inflate the share value.

Consumer confidence hits three-year high as food inflation falls to lowest since 2021

By Melissa Lawford

CONSUMER confidence has hit a three year high as food inflation fell to a similar low, new data show.

Confidence rose from minus 5 over the Easter weekend to a neutral level of 0 in July, according to PwC figures.

They coincided with separate data from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) that showed annual food inflation slowed from 2.5pc in June to 2.3pc in July, the lowest level since December 2021.

Overall shop price inflation held steady at just 0.2pc, the slowest pace of annual growth since October 2021.

PwC's confidence figure was the highest it has been since September 2021 and was based on a survey of more than 2,000 people undertaken shortly after the general election.

The public is feeling more upbeat as the inflation crisis recedes, sparking hopes of interest rate cuts. Both the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of England meet this week to discuss rates.

Lisa Hooker, from PwC, said: "It is good to see the improvement in consumer sentiment this summer to the highest level in three years as this, together with more money in shoppers'



Falls in global commodity prices last year are now evident on the supermarket shelves

pockets from falling inflation and pay and benefit increases, means the outlook for spending should improve."

PwC said people were planning to spend more on holidays, fashion and groceries as their finances improve.

However, Helen Dickinson, the BRC chief executive, warned the slowdown in food inflation could go into reverse.

"With the outlook for commodity prices remaining uncertain due to the

impact of climate change on harvests, domestically and globally, and rising geopolitical tension, renewed inflationary pressures could be lurking," she said.

The slowdown in food price rises follows falls in global commodity prices across 2023, which are now filtering through on to shop floors.

Non-food deflation in the shops was also running at 0.9pc in July, the BRC said.

The £27bn gas bill that may soon land on Miliband's desk

Drive to move domestic heating away from gas by 2050 carries some colossal cost issues, reports *Matt Oliver*

When Macquarie took full ownership of Britain's main gas network in a £700m deal last week, it raised eyebrows for several reasons. The Australian investment bank is best known in the UK for its controversial stewardship of Thames Water, extracting huge dividends from the troubled water supplier. Macquarie's decision to back National Gas, however, was notable as a hefty bet on the future of gas pipelines.

Under the shift to net zero by 2050, the Government and others are encouraging households to ditch gas boilers in favour of electrified alternatives such as heat pumps. This is because heating currently generates almost two fifths of the UK's total carbon emissions. Such plans for tens of millions of households to disconnect from gas raises the risk that privatised systems such as Macquarie's will be "stranded assets", according to the energy regulator Ofgem. The question of who will pay, and how, is coming fast down the track towards Ed Miliband, the Energy Secretary, who says getting Britain off gas is his top priority.

"You can't use a gas boiler in a net-zero scenario, unless it's burning something else," says Richard Lowes, a heating researcher and senior associate of the Regulatory Assistance Project. But hydrogen, which has been touted as a clean alternative, appears to be increasingly unrealistic for heating due to high costs of producing, transporting and storing it, he says.

Britain's gas network was built up over more than a century and spans 187,000 miles of pipelines and pumps, delivering gas to about 23m homes.

It was privatised in the late 1980s by the Thatcher government, with the motorway-style transmission network currently owned by National Gas and regional distribution networks owned by SGN, Northern Power Networks, Cadent Gas and Wales & West Utilities.

All these companies are controlled by foreign investors, who have been guaranteed steady returns by the UK Government in exchange for keeping the system in good working order. Cadent is owned by a consortium

including Macquarie, the Qatar Investment Authority and German finance giant Allianz, while Northern Power Networks and Wales & West are both owned by CK Hutchison, the empire of Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing. SGN is owned by Toronto-based Brookfield Infrastructure Partners, the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan and New York-based Global Infrastructure Partners.

Under the regulated asset value (RAV) – also used to manage water infrastructure – the networks are collectively worth about £27bn. This total will depreciate naturally over time but must also be partly returned to investors, mostly through consumer bills. This month, however, Ofgem sounded the alarm about a significant dilemma. The Government's own plan intends 300,000 households per year to ditch their gas boilers for heat pumps by 2028. There is a risk that too few people will be connected to the gas network by the 2040s to ensure investors get all their money back. Ofgem warned the sums due per household, in the form of levies on bills,

'If everyone drifts away from gas ... there's a risk lots of money will be left in grids, basically stranded'

would eventually sky rocket from £200 per year to an impossible £2,000.

"If everyone switches away from gas – and that's the big if – then clearly there's a risk that there's lots of money left in the gas grids that is basically stranded," says Lowes. "How much will that be? We don't know yet. But it's at least a few billion pounds."

And there are other factors that complicate matters even further.

For example, gas networks are currently in the middle of a major programme to replace metal gas network pipes with plastic ones. This will make the network safer and less prone to leaks but it will also increase the value of the country's gas networks, keeping their value constant well into the 2030s and making the sum that needs to be returned to investors higher.

At the same time, new homes are still being connected to the gas grid – with a ban only due to come in next year. And there is still no official plan (or budget) for decommissioning the gas grid and making it safe. Some pipes will only need to be drained of gas, "capped" and left underground, others, particularly large pipes running underneath cities, will probably need to be dug up or

reinforced to prevent them corroding and causing road collapses.

There is also no switch-over plan for local areas to adopt alternatives and Miliband's guarantee that no one will be forced to rip out their boiler means disconnections will be patchy. If one home in a street of 20 sticks with gas while others adopt heat pumps, the local gas network would still have a legal duty to continue supplying them.

"The gas network hasn't had to manage any decommissioning, ever," says Angela Needle, director of strategy at Cadent Gas, which operates the network in the North West, the Midlands, eastern England and north London. "So it's a new thing that we would have to work out how to do

efficiently, with the least impact and least cost."

National Gas and other suppliers have argued that instead of scrapping the gas network it could be repurposed to carry hydrogen. Under most plans to reach net zero at least some hydrogen is required for industrial businesses or heavy transport. This means a "backbone" pipeline is likely to be needed though its size will depend on how hydrogen produced by electrolysis takes off.

Some, including Needle, believe hydrogen should remain an option for some homes. She said the gas network is "probably the only bit of the UK infrastructure that actually works right today. It is extensive and valuable". A

high-level study by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) last year appeared to support this but there was a big catch. It found that decommissioning would cost up to £74bn, compared to £46bn for repurposing to carry hydrogen.

However, the NIC warned making enough green hydrogen to heat everyone's home would require £385bn more electrical infrastructure to power the necessary electrolysis. Needle and Cadent dispute this analysis, arguing it was based on "flawed assumptions" such as every home being suitable for a heat pump.

The Government has promised a decision on whether hydrogen will be used for mass heating by 2026. In the

meantime, Ofgem's answer to the cost dilemma is to introduce "accelerated depreciation". If the gas networks are like a house, Lowes compares this to making extra mortgage payments.

Translated, this means slightly higher bills for consumers earlier on, in an effort to prevent more apocalyptic increases later.

Macquarie meanwhile has placed its bet, underlining the "critical role" it believes the gas network will continue to play.

Ultimately Lowes says it will fall to Miliband and the Government to make the really big decisions. "It needs political leadership, that's for sure ... the trouble is, I've not seen any just yet."



Labour's wind farm revolution is a 'real risk', warns British Gas chief

By *Chris Price*

LABOUR'S plans for a massive expansion of wind power poses a "real risk" to energy security, the head of British Gas has suggested.

Chris O'Shea, who runs the British Gas-owner Centrica, said there was too little scrutiny of the effectiveness of wind power and questioned whether intensifying investment is the best way to decarbonise the electricity system.

Writing on LinkedIn, Mr O'Shea said: "When we're looking at the energy sys-

tem of the future, we need to think carefully about whether focusing too much on ... wind generation will help, or will it simply mean the utilisation of the UK's wind generation fleet becomes worse?"

"And should we ask why subsidies are needed for wind farms in the form of a guaranteed price for the electricity produced? It's served us well in the past, and it may well serve us well in the future, but we should at least ask the question," he added.

The energy chief highlighted figures showing the UK's wind farms generated

only 15pc of their capacity on average last week. Britain has around 30GW of installed wind generation capacity but typically generated just 4.4GW.

The figures underline the dangers of relying on intermittent energy sources. Mr O'Shea wrote: "While wind power is great, we run a real risk if we focus too much on new wind as we look to decarbonise ... a net zero future requires a range of technologies and a balance."

The comments come a week after Labour launched Great British Energy, a new state-owned company that aims

30GW

Britain's wind generation capacity, however, it typically generates just 4.4GW owing to its intermittent nature

to decarbonise Britain's electricity system and, hopefully, deliver lower bills.

The new state-owned enterprise hopes to roll-out huge numbers of new wind turbines as part of efforts to decar-

bonise. GB Energy has partnered with the Crown Estate on plans to build thousands of offshore wind turbines on formerly worthless parts of the seabed.

Ed Miliband, the Energy Secretary, has also removed the de facto ban on constructing onshore wind farms.

Mr O'Shea's intervention comes weeks after Centrica backed a pioneering plan to build the UK's first commercial energy storage project, using liquid air, in a £300m fundraising push. Centrica is also part of a consortium supporting Highview Power's plans for a

50 megawatt energy storage facility in Carrington, outside Manchester.

Centrica, which supplies energy to 10m homes via British Gas, also backs plans to build a 12-mile tidal barrier, with inbuilt turbines, across the Wash.

The company confirmed last year its support for preliminary studies and was interested in buying any green power generated by the £3bn barrier from Skegness to Hunstanton in Norfolk.

The scheme is projected to have enough capacity to generate green power for up to 600,000 homes.

Google accused of burying information on Trump plot

By *James Titcomb*

DONALD TRUMP's son has accused Google of covering up the attempt to kill the former president after its autocomplete function appeared to omit news of the failed assassination.

Typing "assassination attempt on" into the Google search bar suggested results for Ronald Reagan, Charles de Gaulle and Vladimir Lenin but not Mr Trump, who narrowly escaped an assassin's bullet two weeks ago.

It would also decline to autofill searches such as "Trump assassination attempt". And when searching for "Assassination attempt on Trum...", it would suggest "Assassination attempt on [Harry] Truman".

The omission appeared to be the result of Google rules that block searches related to political violence. They were designed to discourage incitement and have not been updated since the attempt on Mr Trump's life.

However, it led to a backlash from prominent pro-Trump voices online. Donald Trump Jr wrote on X: "Big Tech is trying to interfere in the election AGAIN to help Kamala Harris. We all know this is intentional election interference from Google. Truly despicable."

Ted Cruz, the pro-Trump senator, wrote: "This ... is ... insane. @Google is engaged in active election interference.

They are gas-lighting the American people & trying to erase the attempted assassination of Trump."

Roger Marshall, a Republican senator from Kentucky, wrote: "I'll be making an official inquiry into @google this week – I look forward to their response."

Elon Musk, the owner of X who endorsed Mr Trump earlier this month, wrote: "Wow, Google has a search ban on President Donald Trump! Election interference?"

He posted a screenshot of Google's autocomplete failing to add the word "Trump" when searching "President Donald". The autocomplete bar instead suggested "president donald duck" and "president donald regan". However, Mr Trump was suggested when *The Telegraph* searched for "president donald" on Monday morning.

Google said the company was updating its autocomplete systems which "have protections against autocomplete predictions associated with political violence". A spokesman said they "were working as intended prior to this horrific event occurring". He added: "We're working on improvements to ensure our systems are more up to date."

The complaint appears related solely to the autocomplete feature. Searching Google for "Assassination attempt on Donald Trump" produced a full set of search results.



Golden opportunity A creation by Indian designer Amit Aggarwal at the FDCI India Couture Week in Delhi.

Phone companies ordered to crack down on scam calls

By *James Warrington*

MOBILE phone service providers have been ordered to block contact from spoof phone numbers in an effort to tackle an epidemic of scam calls.

Ofcom, the industry regulator, has told operators to identify and block calls from abroad that falsely display a UK telephone number amid concerns many people are still receiving suspicious calls and texts.

Fraudsters often imitate, or "spoof", phone numbers from a trusted person, organisation or government department in a ploy to deceive victims while criminals based abroad often use false UK numbers, knowing people are more likely to pick up than if an unknown international number is displayed.

Ofcom is now tightening its rules to require mobile service providers to block these calls, except in a limited number of legitimate cases.

The regulator has given the industry six months to make the changes and says they will make a significant impact on protecting the public from scams.

BT has already prevented up to 1m calls per day from entering its network within one month of implementing the measures on a voluntary basis.

Research by Ofcom found that while there has been a decline in the number of people receiving suspicious calls and

texts, scamming is still a major problem for telecoms customers.

The proportion of UK landline users reporting a suspicious call over the past three months was 48pc, down from 56pc for the same period in 2021. Mobile phone users also reported a drop in suspicious calls from 45pc to 39pc.

In addition to a purge on scam calls, the regulator is seeking evidence from providers to help disrupt mobile messaging scams. Under its new remit as online safety regulator, Ofcom will also look to tackle scams and fraud using online and app-based services such as WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger.

Lindsey Fussell, Ofcom's group director for networks and communications, said: "Criminals who defraud people by exploiting phone networks cause huge distress and financial harm. While there's encouraging signs that scam calls and texts are declining, they remain widespread and we're keeping our foot to the throttle to find new and innovative ways to tackle the problem."

"Under our strengthened industry guidance millions more scam calls from abroad, which use spoofed UK landline numbers, will be blocked, with similar plans for calls which spoof UK mobile numbers ... we're also challenging the industry and interested parties to provide evidence on the best solutions to mobile messaging scams."

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MADAGASCAR COASTAL ODYSSEY

Discover the wildlife & wonders of Madagascar aboard the MS Island Sky
2nd to 19th December 2025 & 16th December 2025 to 3rd January 2026*

The term 'unique' is an often-overused description in the travel world but certainly applies to the island of Madagascar. The animals, plants, landscapes and people that make up this thousand mile long island are unlike anywhere else in the world. This extraordinary country long remained obscure as a destination and is still relatively unknown amongst even the most serious of travellers. There is minimal infrastructure in many parts of the island and for those wishing to explore in some depth, doing so by small ship, especially one as well-suited as the MS Island Sky is far preferable to exploring by any other means.

Our voyage focuses on the wonders of the island of Madagascar with opportunities to explore forests full of wildlife including lemurs, chameleons and indigenous birdlife as well as witnessing the underwater world and village life. Our days will be spent exploring ashore, often traversing over rugged terrain and walking through spectacular forests and each evening we will have the benefit of returning to our comfortable ship to relax and look forward to the next adventure. With the vessel's fleet of Zodiacs for forays ashore, allowing access to some wonderful places denied to larger ships, you can enjoy encounters with fabulous endemic wildlife in this immensely rich and timeless corner of the Indian Ocean. Our onboard experts will greatly enrich your experience and ensure that we make the most of our time on the world's "eighth continent".

THE ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 1 London to Mauritius. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Mauritius. Arrive this morning and transfer directly to the MS Island Sky. Settle into your suite and spend a leisurely day on board. This evening enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we set sail this evening.

Day 3 Reunion Island. We arrive at breakfast in Reunion where we have a choice of excursions. On a full day tour we will visit the central highlands where the rich soil and mellow climate produce a lush and verdant landscape which is dotted with villages and towns with a uniquely French atmosphere. We will enjoy views from the Nez des Boeuf and see the Piton de la Fournaise crater. After enjoying a creole lunch in a local restaurant we will visit 'La Cite du Volcan' museum. Alternatively enjoy a morning tour to a vanilla plantation in Saint Andre where we learn about the history and culture of this integral part of Reunion's heritage. Continue to Salazie, a verdant landscape and home to many waterfalls including the 'Voile de la Mariee' before spending some free time in Saint Denis.

Day 4 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we sail towards Madagascar.

Day 5 Toamasina, Madagascar. Our first call in Madagascar is Toamasina, the country's main port and second largest city as well as the gateway to the Ivoloina Zoological Parc, a 282 hectare property combining a small zoo where we will see up to a dozen species of lemur as well as indigenous tortoises and chameleons. In the surrounding forest we can see free roaming wild lemurs and other wildlife along the various lakeside walking trails.

Days 6 & 7 Masoala National Park & Nosy Mangabe. We will spend two days exploring from our anchorage in Antongil Bay. We discover Nosy Mangabe, a 520-hectare island reserve and one of the most diverse areas of virgin rainforest in Madagascar which has also been an

important research centre since the mid-1960s when several aye-ayes and other lemurs were released into the forest. We will use our Zodiacs to land on the beach next to the forest and organise a series of nature walks. We will also explore Madagascar's largest National Park, the Masoala Peninsula, which comprises of coastal rainforest, flooded forests, marsh and mangroves.

Day 8 Domaine de Bobangira. After a morning at sea we arrive over lunch at the port of Voahemmar, our base for an afternoon at the Domaine de Bobangira. This reserve on the Indian Ocean has wild, unspoiled beaches and forests rich in biodiversity having about 40% of endemic flora to the region. Declared as a protected private nature reserve in 2017, it is home to fat-tailed dwarf lemurs, the diurnal whiteheaded lemur, Brookesia and various species of chameleons.

Day 9 Diego Suarez. This morning we will enter the dramatic harbour of Diego Suarez. You can choose from a city tour taking in the Commonwealth Cemetery, the faded colonial grandeur of Place Joffre, and a baobab viewpoint at French Mountain; or alternatively, drive up to Amber Mountain National Park at an elevation of 3,200ft, where we will divide into short and long walking parties to explore the pristine rainforest. In the towering vegetation, we may spot Sanford's brown and crowned lemurs, as well as chameleons and stunningly well camouflaged geckos.

Day 10 Nosy Hara. Having sailed around the northern tip of Madagascar we start our journey along the western coast of Madagascar where we will find a number of strangely shaped limestone islets that dot the aquamarine sea. The expedition team will decide on the most suitable island for landing, such as Nosy Hara with its abundant birdlife and great places to swim off the beach. We will spend the day exploring the island on foot or alternatively join a Zodiac cruise around the islands with a chance to snorkel over the coral.

Day 11 Nosy Tanihely. We spend the morning at the Nosy Tanihely Island Marine Reserve, an uninhabited island which offers snorkelling opportunities and

wonderful beaches. We will take the opportunity to either swim in the clear waters or snorkel over the corals keeping an eye out for reef fish, turtles and morays. Alternatively explore the island where we may see the resident lemurs, skinks, fruit bats and hermit crabs and enjoy fantastic views from the 1908 lighthouse on the island's highest point.

Day 12 Mahajanga. Mahajanga is a major port in northwest Madagascar situated on the Betsiboka River and is our base for a full day tour of the surrounding area. We will commence with a drive to Lake Mangatsa, a sacred site of many legends where we will learn about local traditions as we search for lemurs, chameleons and birds in the trees. Lunch will be served at the Antsanitia Resort, set in 22 hectare of grounds and located on a stunning section of coastline, and there will be an opportunity to swim or enjoy a walk along the beach and visit the village.

Day 13 At Sea. Spend a leisurely day on board as we continue our journey around the Madagascar Coast.

Day 14 Morondava. From our anchorage off the town of Morondava, capital of the Menabe region, we will use the Zodiacs to land on the local beach. From here there will be a choice of excursions to explore the local region. This morning we will explore Zazamalala Forest, a protected area that is home to a number of species of lemurs, birds, reptiles and plants, and also the base for a breeding centre for critically endangered species of turtles and tortoises. We will then head to the Avenue des Baobabs where we will learn about the trees and their spiritual significance. Alternatively, join a full day excursion to Kirindy Forest (subject to road conditions at time of visit), a 10,000 hectare, dry deciduous forest, one of the most endangered in the world where the flora and fauna includes many endemic species.

Day 15 Andavadoaka & Nosy Hao. Today we will anchor off the small fishing community of Andavadoaka, home to the Vezo fishing people. The area offers the most diverse marine ecosystem on the southwest coast. It is also the flagship project for Blue Ventures, a marine conservation



society that has helped the local villagers invest in their community. We hope to learn more about the local projects before sailing over lunch to Nosy Hao to discover the sandy white beaches where we can enjoy a swim in the warm waters.

Day 16 Tulear. Our final call will be at Tulear from where we have a choice of tours this morning. Maybe visit the Antsokay Arboretum which is entirely devoted to the conservation of the plants from the southwest of Madagascar. Alternatively, visit the Reniala Private Reserve, a small area of just 60 hectares but containing a spiny forest which is unique to southeastern Madagascar. The park is home to 200 plant species including baobabs as well as being a haven for birders.

Day 17 Tulear to London. Disembark and transfer to the airport for our specially chartered flight to Johannesburg. Connect here with our scheduled flight to London.

Day 18 London. Arrive this morning.



*Please note that the 16 December 2025 departure operates in the reverse direction to that shown, from Tulear to Port Louis and is a day longer. Full details can be viewed online.

PRICES & INCLUSIONS

Special offer prices per person based on double occupancy start from **£11295** for a Standard Suite.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

Economy class scheduled international air travel • Overnight hotel accommodation in Johannesburg with breakfast (16th Dec departure only) • Specially chartered flight between Johannesburg and Tulear • 15 nights aboard the MS Island Sky on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes • Port taxes.

NB. Ports and itinerary are subject to change. All special offers are subject to availability. Travel insurance is not included in the price. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservation.

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.



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Britain's manufacturing slump is overblown

BEN WRIGHT

Lessons from around the world must be heeded but the idea that UK factories are in crisis is exaggerated

Prepare your voices, teeth and garments for wailing, gnashing and rending respectively. A new report has shown that the UK has fallen to 12th in the global league table of manufacturers.

Make UK, the lobby group that compiled these figures, says they should act as a "seismic wake-up call" for the Labour Government.

Seismic snoozefest, more like.

The first thing to note is that – apart from the top four spots, which are (and long have been) occupied by China, the US, Japan and Germany – these rankings are pretty fluid because a handful of countries are quite tightly bunched. The UK ranked as low as 11th in 2012 and as high as seventh just three years later in 2015.

There's also quite a lot of weirdness going on in global trade at the moment. For example, Mexico has absolutely

shot up the rankings from 13th in 2020 to seventh in 2022 – the latest year for which there are figures. This is partly because the country has been the beneficiary of huge amounts of Chinese investment in factories designed to circumvent US tariffs.

Similarly, Russia has climbed the rankings because it is now spending so much money building tanks, planes and trucks to replace those being destroyed in Ukraine – hardly a cause for celebration.

Taiwan's ascendancy is the result of its chip manufacturing capability becoming ever-more sought after.

Short of moving closer to the US, starting a war or developing the world's best semiconductor foundry from scratch, there's not a huge amount the UK can do about these trends. Yes, manufacturing output as a percentage of national output has fallen from 28pc in 1970 to about 10pc in 2015. But that's not dissimilar to the US, where it fell from 24pc to 12pc.

And those countries in the global top 10 of manufacturing output as a share of GDP include Turkmenistan, Nauru, Swaziland and San Marino.

It is also worth pointing out that two of the big four manufacturing powerhouses – Japan and Germany – are hardly pictures of robust economic health. Many politicians believe that pump-priming

manufacturing jobs will help those workers and regions left behind by globalisation. Yet Germany, despite having more factories than you can shake a stick at, may well be the rich nation that has suffered most from the recent retreat from the high point of globalisation.

The UK is not the only country grappling with these issues – and getting it wrong. In his speech at the Republican National Convention, Donald Trump's vice-presidential pick, JD Vance, said: "We're going to build factories again, put people to work making real products for American families, made with the hands of American workers."

Indeed, this is one of the few areas on which Democrats and Republicans are not deeply divided. It may have been Trump who imposed tariffs on steel and aluminium produced by allies and adversaries alike – but Joe Biden didn't remove them.

In fact, he slapped one on Chinese EVs too. We don't yet know for sure whether Kamala Harris would roll back such protectionism if she became president but we can guess.

That's a shame because it's already clear those tariffs are hurting ordinary Americans to the tune of \$1,200 (£930) per household every year. The steel and aluminium tariffs have raised car prices by an average of \$250 per

vehicle, according to the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Following Vance's speech, Amy Goldstein, the author of *Janesville: An American Story* – which details what happened in the Wisconsin town after the General Motors plant shut down two days before Christmas in 2008 – was asked whether there was something uniquely special about manufacturing jobs that warranted protection from politicians.

"What Janesville illustrates is that you have a lot of jobs and people

'The UK is not the only country grappling with these issues – and getting it wrong'

re-employed without them necessarily being manufacturing jobs," she said.

"But that doesn't take away the kind of psychic role of manufacturing as connected with the American dream or how this country's economy 'ought to be'."

In other words, prosperity is being sacrificed for vibes. If the UK Government needs a wake-up call about the global economy, this is it.

That's not to say that we should simply let the UK's manufacturing industry wither on the vine. There's

certainly a debate to be had about whether a focus on comparative advantage – the idea that a country should specialise in what it is good at and import those things that others do better – has prioritised economic efficiency over national security.

A perpetual trade deficit can be funded with foreign investment but that's not cost-free. Most of the money tends to flow towards London and the South East, exacerbating regional disparities. There's also a danger that this money is more likely to be extractive than designed to boost productivity. But it would be a mistake to fetishise manufacturing, to assume that creating more jobs in the sector would solve the UK's stagnant wage problems or to believe that this Government might become the first in history capable of picking winners.

The UK's manufacturing industry has undoubtedly had a tough time recently. Brexit introduced years of uncertainty about the trading relationship with our nearest neighbours. Global supply chains then shut down during the pandemic before Russia's invasion of Ukraine led to a huge spike in energy prices.

The Conservative government cycled through different industrial strategies even faster than it did prime ministers. The axing of the Industrial Strategy Council in 2021, the watering

down of net-zero targets and the scrapping of HS2 all – regardless of what you think of those individual policies – pointed to a political environment that could hardly have been less conducive to medium-term planning and long-term investment.

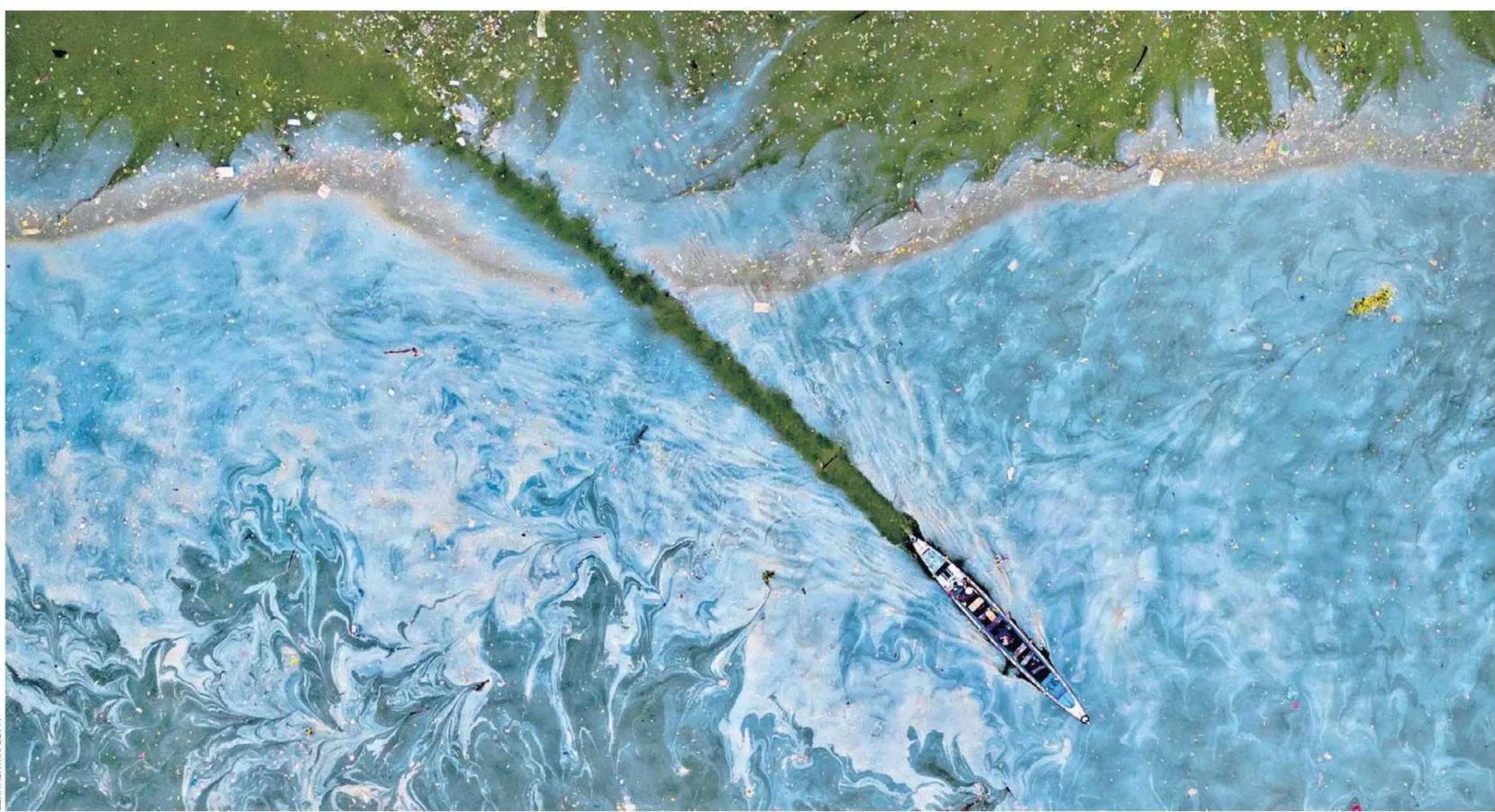
Nevertheless, the real lesson of the recent past is how robust UK manufacturing has been. Gross value added (a measure of output) per British manufacturing job rose by 37.3pc between 2007 and 2021, according to the OECD, compared with an average of 12.1pc among other rich countries. What's more, manufacturing jobs held steady over that time, meaning productivity gains led to higher wages across the sector.

The UK manufacturing industry encompasses everything from satellites to pre-packaged sandwiches. This makes broad brush generalisations about the industry pretty meaningless.

But it can fairly safely be concluded that the UK's manufacturers have managed to quietly get on with business over the past few years, despite the influence of politicians, rather than because of it. That is very likely to remain the case. The UK would do better to celebrate this fact than point to highly volatile global rankings as an excuse to hark back to an unrecoverable past.

Race against time

An oil slick from the stricken tanker MT Terra Nova in the Philippines. Industrial fuel oil from the vessel is leaking into Manila Bay, with the country potentially facing its worst oil spill disaster.



Cinema slump shows even Marvel superheroes cannot save the high street from oblivion

BEN MARLOW

Crisis for Cineworld risks turning into a horror show for city centres that are already on their knees

Comic book fans spend their lives geeking out, but it's a reminder of the sorry state of the film industry that Robert Downey Jr's return to the Marvel franchise is causing such a stir. Downey, who played Iron Man, had a long association with the Marvel Comic Universe films until 2019 when the character was killed off. Having departed as a hero – saving the universe no less – the Hollywood superstar is now returning as the villainous Doctor Doom in the forthcoming *Avengers*:

Doomsday film – to a decidedly mixed reception. Some fans are glad to see Downey back but others are calling it a "desperate move" to revive what they believe to be a flagging franchise.

Perhaps they should rename the character Doctor Doom Loop in honour of the fate that has befallen Cineworld. The company's decision to axe a handful of sites in provincial Britain may not seem like the end of the world but Cineworld is in crisis, and it threatens to quickly turn into a horror show for a high street that is already on its knees.

Of the six locations slated for the chop, I haven't been to Hinckley, Loughborough, Yate or Swindon, and I don't know Glasgow too well either. However, I have had the misfortune of visiting Bedford town centre on several occasions and I can safely say the air of abandonment hangs heavy like it does in towns and cities up and down the country. Cineworld's closures are part of an emergency plan to cut costs,

which could end in as many as 25 of its cinemas vanishing from a total of 100 that it operates in the UK. Yet to read the accompanying corporate spin, you would think the company has simply been unlucky. The reality is it largely sowed the seeds of its own demise.

The company blames "a background of increasingly high and unsustainable operating costs" for making the condemned venues "commercially unviable", which may technically be true but it's a bit of red herring.

The overhaul is part of a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) – a restructuring process overseen by insolvency experts that seeks to drastically reduce a struggling business's rent burden. Premises are either jettisoned entirely or landlords are expected to grant hefty concessions.

A CVA is the last refuge of a dying company – if the plan is rejected, the alternative is administration. But it often proves to be no more than a stay of execution, with the company in

question ultimately collapsing months or years down the line. It is why Cineworld's assertion that its remedial action will "ensure a sustainable long-term future... in the UK" should be taken with a pinch of salt.

The company has already been through bankruptcy protection in the US, delisted from the London stock exchange, ousted former owners the Greidingers, and completed a debt-for-equity swap that resulted in billions of pounds worth of borrowings being written off. In return, a group of hedge funds took control and pumped emergency funds into the business. After all that, this really does feel like a final attempt at survival.

Cineworld's woes are very much self-inflicted – the result of a rushed empire-building plan that left it buckling under a multibillion debt mountain that became increasingly hard to service as interest rates ratcheted higher. The failed land-grab was reminiscent of the ill-fated casual

dining boom that spawned scores of private equity-backed restaurant chains whose only discernible strategy was to turbo-charge growth by opening as many branches as possible.

Cineworld's expansion was ill-timed too, its balance sheet reaching breaking point just as the film industry was plunged into a spectacular downturn, first by the pandemic and then by the unrest sweeping through Hollywood. Strikes upended film and programme-making, torpedoed production, cleared the red carpet and cost billions in lost income and jobs. One estimate put the cost to California's economy at \$30m (£23.5m) a day.

Tim Richards, founder and chief executive of the cinema operator Vue International, recently said that 35pc fewer films were released in 2022 than in the pre-pandemic era and 20pc fewer in 2023.

Reports that Warner Bros Discovery is contemplating a break-up are firm proof that the big studios are struggling. It has emerged from the turmoil with a \$40bn debt load that is patently unsustainable in the face of a stock market value that has shrunk to just \$20bn.

Meanwhile, the hoped for post-pandemic bounce back has been devastatingly weak, held back mainly by the extraordinary rise of the

streaming giants. Some 99pc of American households now subscribe to at least one streaming service, while the average American spends more than three hours a day glued to Netflix or another of the countless providers that many of us spend a small fortune on.

In the face of this relentless onslaught, cinema box office revenue across the industry recovered to £978m last year from a low of £296m in 2020. However, that still represents the lowest takings since 2010. The number of screens has fallen by just 6pc to 825 from a Covid peak of 878. Cineworld borrowed against a wave that was always going to crash – something had to give.

Cinema buffs may rightly point out that the industry has come close to going bankrupt several times before and each time it has rebounded. In Stoke Newington, north London, there are as many as seven former cinemas from busts caused by the advent of radio, the outbreak of the Second World War, and the invention of television – several of which have been re-imagined as other major civic venues.

Bubbles in metropolitan London, however, are not representative of most tired UK towns. The current slump increasingly has the feel of the end of an era that even a Marvel character is powerless to prevent.

Heineken suffers £738m Chinese hangover

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

HEINEKEN has been left with a bad hangover from its investment in China after taking a £738m writedown on a key investment in the country.

The Dutch brewer revealed a one-off impairment charge of €874m (£737.5m) on its interest in Hong-Kong listed China Resources Beer, amid concerns about levels of demand on the mainland.

Heineken acquired a 40pc stake in the parent of China Resources Beer for \$3.1bn (£2.4bn) in 2018. The write down – effectively re-evaluating the asset – comes after a slump in its share price. Heineken blamed "concerns on the macro-economic environment in China and its impact on consumer demand".

The world's second biggest economy has encountered severe headwinds in recent years, as a heavily indebted prop-

erty sector, sluggish consumption and high youth unemployment hit home.

The large impairment sent shares in Heineken tumbling just over 10pc in Amsterdam where news of the writedown came alongside disappointing half-year results.

The brewery, which also makes Birra Moretti and Old Mout cider, reported revenues of €17.8bn (£15bn) for the first half of 2023, with 6pc organic net revenue growth. As a result, the world's second-largest brewer narrowed its forecast for full-year operating profit to between 4pc and 8pc.

Heineken said beer volumes across Europe came under pressure from wet weather in June but were still higher for the year. Volumes grew by 2.1pc.

Its eponymous Heineken beer brand saw particularly strong growth, with volumes up by 9.2pc. It said its premium

beer business saw 5pc growth as a whole. Meanwhile, the company said sales of low and no-alcohol beers jumped, with a 14pc increase for its Heineken 0.0 brand.

Dolf van den Brink, the chief executive, said: "We delivered a solid first half of the year. In the second half, we will materially step-up investment in market and sales."

Aaron Chiekrie, equity analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "Heineken's first-half results were slightly weaker than markets were hoping for, despite the Euros [football] drawing in plenty of thirsty supporters."

"Although the group gained share across most of its markets, amid increased competition, volumes were softer than expected. That meant price hikes had to do most of the heavy lifting in the first half."

House prices to rise by £5,000, says Zoopla

By Madeleine Ross

PROPERTY prices are set to rise by 2pc by the end of the year, Zoopla has predicted, adding more than £5,000 to the price of the average home.

Sellers are returning to the market following the Covid slump, with estate agents reporting 33 properties on their books on average – more than at any point since before the pandemic.

Agreed sales are 16pc higher than last year, according to the online estate agent Zoopla, with homes selling for approximately 97pc of the asking price.

Annual growth of 2pc would be a sharp increase from the 0.1pc rise in house prices over the past year and bring the price of a typical home to more than £270,000.

Richard Donnell, executive director at Zoopla, said: "The housing market is

'The market is starting to hot up after a stone cold 2023. There are clear signs of growing confidence'

starting to hot up after a stone cold 2023. There are clear signs of growing confidence among buyers and sellers with many more homes for sale and buyers paying an increased proportion of the asking price.

"We expect to see more sales but house price inflation will be kept in check by more supply and affordability pressures keeping a lid on buying power, especially across the South."

Nathan Emerson, chief executive of Propertymark, an estate agent trade body, said: "Now that the general election is out of the way and we have a

promise of 1.5m new homes across the next parliamentary term, we should start to see even more confidence and affordability across the sector.

"It is vital that the Government takes supply issues seriously, as this will help stabilise house prices in the long-term."

Rising values are likely to put more pressure on first-time buyers, many of whom have been priced out of where they had rented or grown up.

Just 44pc of workers earning over £71,250 – around twice the national average wage – could afford to buy a house where they currently live, a new home affordability index from Oxford Economics and Skipton Building Society has suggested.

More than two-thirds of recent first-time buyers did so in an area they hadn't been to before, according to a survey of 2,000 homebuyers by lender Santander.

Markets

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Government securities

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E
102.30	99.20	Treas 5% 25	100.20	-0.03	4.99
112.21	100.63	Treas 6% 28	108.59	-0.04	5.53
106.59	92.22	Treas 4% 32	102.39	+0.38	3.15
106.09	94.06	Treas 4% 36	100.87	+0.46	4.21
110.73	96.88	Treas 4% 38	104.78	+0.54	4.53

Index Linked Securities

352.43	328.96	Treas 4% IL 30	344.35	+0.56	1.20
243.64	239.45	Treas 2% IL 35	248.17	+0.82	0.81

10-year Government Bonds

Yield%	Spread vs Bunds	Spread vs Y-Bonds
3.03	-0.67	-1.15
2.36	-	-1.82
1.03	-1.33	-3.15
4.04	-1.68	-0.14
4.18	-1.82	-

The share prices, price-earnings ratios and dividend yields below are supplied by Interactive Data (Europe) Ltd. The yields are calculated using historic dividend payments divided by the closing share price multiplied by 100.

Aerospace & defence -0.04%

High	Low	Stock	Price (€) +/-	Yld	P/E
575	361%	Babcock Intl	508%	-4%	0.9
1415%	919%	BAE Systems	1277	+4%	2.3
482%	292%	QinetiQ	466%	+2%	1.8
488%	178%	Balls-Royce	439%	-2	-15.2
183	146%	Senlar	161%	-4%	1.4

Banks +0.65%

236%	128%	Barclays	232%	+1%	3.4
9%	27%	Close Bros	52%	-4%	8.4
725%	572%	HSBC	670	+4%	7.3
64%	39%	Lloyds Bk Grp	61%	+1%	4.7
372%	16%	NatWest Group	31%	+9%	4.7
423	285	Santander	379%	+4%	3.2
796	571	Standard Ch	726%	+3%	3.0

Beverages -0.70%

3509	2452	Diageo	2547%	-18	3.1
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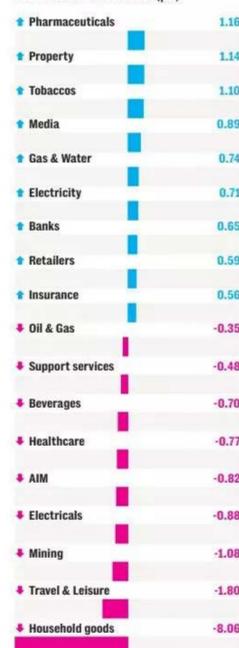
Chemicals +0.06%

5974	3849	Croda Intl	4104	-28	2.7
1917%	1428%	Johnson Mat	1640	-15	4.7
1632	1054	Victrac	1096	-4	5.4

Construction +0.53%

437%	291%	Balfour Beatty	416	-10%	2.8
582%	384%	Barratt Dev	527%	+7%	5.3
2898	1972	Bellway	2848	-32	9.9
5360	3832	Berkeley Grp	5050	-2	13.5
237	170	Booth H	228	+7	3.2

Winners and losers (pc)



52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (€) +/- Yld P/E

90%	44%	Costain	87%	-1%	1.4
1069%	737%	Grafton Grp	1051%	+1%	3.4
2875	1768	Morgan Sindal	2760	-70	4.1
1591	925	Persimmon	1580	-20	3.8
1750	434%	Redrow	743	-16%	3.4
161%	102%	Taylor Wimpey	159%	+5%	6.0

Electricals -0.88%

238	135	Dialight	181	-	-
842	586	discover+ Grp	61%	-33	1.8
2750	1802	Halma	2552	-11	0.8
4500	2823%	Renishaw	3500	-50	2.1
2489%	682%	XP Power	1396	-34	1.3

Electricity +0.71%

657%	395%	Drax Group	642	-3%	4.0
1052%	645	Nat Grid	979	+4%	6.0
1932%	1465	SSE	1858%	+25%	3.2

Engineering / Industrial +0.08%

89%	64%	Coats Group	87%	+5%	2.6
851	212	Copper J	274	+4	1.1
8860	4500	Goodwin	8340	-80	1.4
1911	1429	IMI	1896	-2	1.6
1738%	1304	Mondi	1544%	-4	1.0
1840	84%	Sverfild	82%	-1	4.5
1700	1517%	Smiths Grp	1750	+6	2.4
464	260%	Smith (DS)	456	-6	3.9
3950	2528	Smith Strick	3746	+4	2.5
11280	7900	Spirax Grp	8895	-45	1.8
2290%	1652%	Weir	1930	-15	2.0

Food producers -0.27%

2765	1907%	Ass Brit Fds	2480	-33	2.2
2856	2065	Coca-Cola HBC	2836	-18	2.8
4685	3158	Cranwick	4600	-60	2.0
957	630	Hilton Food	915	-16	3.5
99	48	REA Hldgs	84%	-	-3.3
4780	3680%	Unilever	4735	-6	3.1

Gas & Water +0.74%

173%	123%	Centrica	131	-	3.2
775	532%	Penmon Grp	621	+%	1.1
2801	2343	Severn Trent	2538	-31	4.6
1119%	896%	Utilities	10223%	+11%	4.9

General financials -0.22%

234%	156%	Ashmore	170	-3%	9.9
300%	164%	Bridgepoint Grp	277	+6%	3.2
1169	676%	Hargreaves L	1103%	+5	3.9
1945%	600%	IG Group	939%	+5	4.9
2448	1244%	Intermediate Cp	2306	-14	3.8
644	429%	Investec	599	-9%	5.8
66%	39	IP Group	40%	-%	3.2
865	519	Liontrust	648	-10	11.1
73%	30	Lon. Fin. & Inv.	64%	-	1.9
11080%	7784	Lon Stock Ex	9468	-10	12.2
241%	182%	M&G	230%	+2%	9.4
279%	200%	Man Group	246%	-13%	5.1

Major price changes FTSE 100

Risers 51	Volume	Close	Change
JD Sports Fash	10.10m	128%	+4.14pc
Airtel Africa	3.12m	113	+2.91pc
NatWest Group	22.05m	371%	+2.62pc
Segro	2.57m	910%	+2.04pc
Prudential	15.64m	696	+1.61pc
AstraZeneca	3.33m	12364	+1.51pc
Barratt Dev	10.17m	527%	+1.50pc
RELX	4.91m	3661	+1.47pc
SSE	2.54m	1858%	+1.39pc
M&G	4.43m	210%	+1.30pc
Persimmon	0.85m	1580	+1.28pc
Severn Trent	0.51m	2538	+1.24pc
Hikma Pharm	0.21m	1919	+1.21pc
Brit Amer Tob	6.38m	2762	+1.21pc
Tesco	10.44m	330%	+1.16pc
Frasers Group	0.24m	885%	+1.14pc
Utd. Utilities	1.45m	1023%	+1.14pc
BT Group	12.80m	141%	+0.98pc
Land Secs	1.74m	634%	+0.95pc
Convatec	3.91m	251%	+0.88pc
Next	0.86m	8888	+0.86pc
Legal&Gen	11.60m	231%	+0.83pc

Results Roundup

Company	Turnover (€)	Pre-tax (€)	EPS(p)	DIV(p)	Pay Day	XD
AIG	Int - (-)	-189k (-339k)	-0.300 (-0.500)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
CT Global Managed Portfolio Gwth	Fin - (-)	4.1m (3.9m)	-	n/a (n/a)	-	-
CT Global Managed Portfolio Inc	Fin - (-)	4.1m (3.9m)	8.060 (7.960)	2.000 (2.190)	Jul 05	Jun 13
Molten Ventures VCT	Fin - (-)	-168k (-1.0m)	-0.100 (-0.500)	1.500 (0.500)	Sep 26	Aug 22
Pearson	Int 1.8bn (1.9bn)	212.0m (236.0m)	23.100 (26.100)	7.400 (7.000)	Sep 16	Aug 08
Primorus Investments	Int 17k (40k)	2.8m (-512k)	0.000 (0.000)	-	-	-
Quartix Technologies	Int 16.1m (14.6m)	2.7m (2.4m)	4.490 (4.210)	1.500 (1.500)	Sep 30	Aug 29
Smithson Investment Trust	Int - (-)	9.2m (10.3m)	4.000 (2.910)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
TrakMD Holdings	Fin 16.1m (20.2m)	-1.5m (-1.2m)	-2.420 (-1.570)	n/a (n/a)	-	-
Trifast	Fin 233.7m (244.4m)	-789k (-2.7m)	-3.290 (-2.120)	1.200 (1.500)	Oct 11	Sep 12

Discretionary Unit Fund

Name	Init chge	Sell	Mid Buy	Change on day
Inflation-Linked Corp Bd	0%	115.48	-	-0.52
Long-Term Global Equity	0%	350.49	-	+4.80
Asian Income	0%	131.37	-	+0.70
Continental European	0%	256.84	-	-0.87
Global Dynamic Bd	0%	81.88	-	-0.22
Global High Yield Bd	0%	74.92	-	-0.13
Global Opportunities	0%	28.94	-	-0.53
International Bd	0%	93.35	-	-0.59
Multi-Asset Bal	0%	176.96	-	+1.76
Multi-Asset Div Return	0%	136.50	-	+0.90
Multi-Asset Growth	0%	254.94	-	+2.89
Oriental	0%	184.07	-	+0.11
Real Return A	0%	107.29	-	-0.63
UK Equity Fund	0%	151.33	-	+1.52
UK Income	0%	156.76	-	+1.76
UK Opportunities	0%	165.39	-	+2.14
US Opportunities	0%	360.11	-	+1.21
Emerging Income	0%	98.93	-	-0.48
Global Dynamic Bd Inc	0%	0.8434	-	-
Global Emerging Mkts	0%	202.02	-	-0.35
Global Equity Fund	0%	333.37	-	+4.25
Multi Asset Inc	0%	121.51	-	+0.93

52 week High Low (p) Stock Price (€) +/- Yld P/E

131	71%	Quilter	127%	-2%	4.1
2450	1750	S & U	1870	-5	6.4
469%	346%	Schroders	386%	+1%	5.6
185%	42%	Vauxhall Banking Grp	52%	-2%	11.5

Healthcare -0.77%

371%	308%	Haleon	348%	-4%	1.7
125%	887	Smith & Neph	1128	+0	2.7

Household goods -8.06%

225	680	Burberry	735%	-11%	-9.9
445	31%	McBrive	130%	-3	-19.8
169%	81%	P2 Cosmetics	107	-%	4.9
6006	4034	Reckitt Benck	4093	-393	4.8

Information technology +0.51%

390	224%	Apptitude Sftwre	379	+2	1.4
128%	913%	Sage Cp	1086%	+4%	1.8
205	78%	Sprint	176%	-2%	1.8

Insurance +0.56%

237%	134%	abrdn	167%	-1	8.7
2870	2044	Admiral	2671	+16	3.9
501%	366	Aniva	489%	+%	6.8
715	485%	Beazley	659	-9%	2.2
2402	146%	DirectLinkes	149%	-3%	2.1
1282	92%	Hiscox	1296	-5	2.4
690	527%	Lancashire Hldg	620	-7	2.6
259	203%	Legal & General	231%	+1%	8.8
564	436%	Phoenix	540	-2	9.8
1102%	668	Prudential	696	+11	2.4
1096%	393%	St. James's Place	556%	+3	4.3

Investment trusts +0.20%

This misunderstood clothing retailer's shares stand out from the crowd as a bargain

DAN COATSWORTH
QUESTOR
STOCK PICKS

Mike Ashley's Frasers Group has come a long way and trades at a 38pc discount to sector peer Next

Read Questor's rules of investment before you follow our tips: telegraph.co.uk/go/questorrules

It has been a tough year for UK retailers. Poor weather and high interest rates have deterred many shoppers from splashing the cash. As one of the biggest names on the high street, Sports Direct owner Frasers has not been immune to the tough backdrop but, unlike many of its peers, it has shown resilience and prowess.

The business has come a long way in recent years and the growth potential remains significant. Pre-pandemic it was ticking along nicely, making £143m pre-tax profit in the 12 months to April 2019. Since then, business has been great. It is expected to make four times that amount in the year to April 2025, at £576m. Just as Sports Direct shops are full of products at attractive prices, Frasers' shares also offer the ability to grab a bargain. They trade on a mere 8.9 times forecast earnings for the next 12 months, which is a 38pc discount to sector peer Next.

There are two reasons behind the cheap share rating. First is that founder Mike Ashley still owns 73.3pc of the business. Some investors aren't comfortable with one person owning so much of a listed business, arguing Ashley has too much power even though he is no longer in charge.

Michael Murray has done a solid job since taking over as chief executive two years ago. Keep it up and he might be judged on his own merits rather than simply being known as Ashley's

Frasers BUY

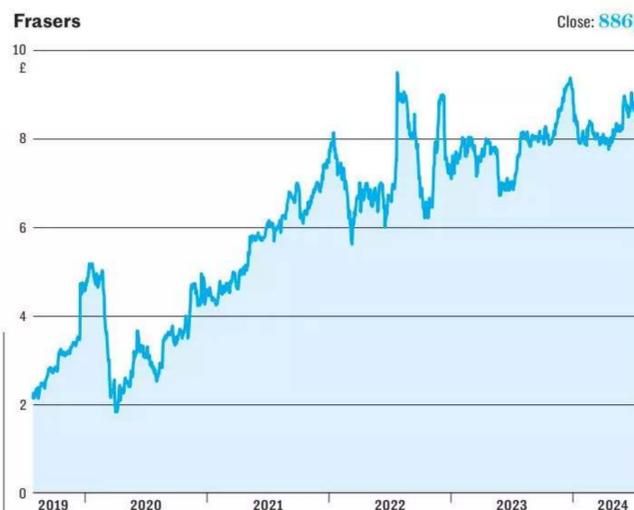
The company has strengthened partnerships with big brands and rolled out smarter stores and luxury products under the Flannels name

son-in-law. Second is that Frasers remains a misunderstood business. Most people believe its fortunes are entirely dependent on Sports Direct, selling cheap tennis rackets, tracksuits and giant mugs. That is no longer true.

Yes, Sports Direct remains central to Frasers' proposition but there are plenty of other areas that could become bigger contributors to earnings. It is feasible to suggest the stock could trade on a richer valuation if Frasers continues to execute its strategy with success. Murray is the driving force behind Frasers' "elevation strategy", which targets more affluent customers and broadens the group's reach. The company has strengthened partnerships with big brands and rolled out smarter stores and luxury products under the Flannels name.

This builds on earlier initiatives to make money from gaming, gyms, cycling and sofas, and the group now operates in the UK and overseas. This illustrates how a focused, ambitious company can spread its wings and become a bigger beast.

Frasers recently laid out plans to become a bigger player in the buy now, pay later market, both for its own shops and third-party retailers. Next makes a chunk of its profit from finance and that has clearly given Frasers a lightbulb moment. Frasers' service makes it easier for individuals to purchase products from brands including Nike,



Key numbers

- ◆ Market value: £3.94bn
- ◆ Forecast turnover (April 2025): £5.54bn
- ◆ Forecast pre-tax profit (April 2025): £576m
- ◆ Yield: 0pc
- ◆ Most recent year's dividend: 0p
- ◆ Net debt (April 2024): £447.6m
- ◆ Return on capital (April 2024): 15.6pc
- ◆ Cash conversion ratio (April 2024): 86pc
- ◆ p/e ratio (April 2025): 8.9

Adidas, Chanel, Gucci and Prada without upfront payment. Anyone who does not pay off the full amount within three months is charged a 29.9pc annual interest rate on the outstanding balance. Frasers says customers using this service spent £500 on average, with an approximate 5pc default rate.

Buy now, pay later is a competitive market and third-party providers such as Klarna and PayPal are already established partners for retailers around the world. Frasers might still have a chance to muscle in on the market as its service to retailers is free, unlike some of the big-name rivals. It recently signed up e-commerce group THG as its first external client in this area. Health and wellness continue to grow in popularity and the athleisure boom of the past decade has seen the public embrace sportswear as everyday clothing. However, fashions come and go, which means Frasers must be alert to shifting consumer tastes. The business is highly cash generative and

'The stock could trade on a richer valuation if Frasers continues to execute its strategy with success'

that money is used to buy back shares, make investments into other retailers and property, and reinvested to improve operational efficiencies. Dividends are not on the menu.

Equity stakes in the likes of AO and Boohoo are thought to have been made for strategic reasons, to gain insight into specialist areas and to potentially increase product distribution.

Interest rate cuts might create more favourable conditions for the retailer and boost consumer spending. That is not guaranteed to happen and prospective investors shouldn't assume Frasers' shares are an easy ticket to wealth creation. But if you had to pick a retailer to consider as an investment, Frasers stands out from the crowd for lots of good reasons.

Questor says: buy
Ticker: FRAS
Share price: 886p

Dan Coatsworth is an investment analyst at AJ Bell

Pearson sales dip as publisher aims to capitalise on AI

Educational publisher Pearson has revealed a dip in sales over the past six months as it said it plans to utilise advances in AI to help drive growth.

The FTSE 100 company told shareholders its sales slipped to £1.8bn for the half year to June 30, from £1.9bn a year earlier. It said it will now target growth opportunities linked to "shifts in demographic trends and the rapid growth in the power of AI".

Omar Abbosh, the Pearson chief executive, said: "Our good strategic and financial performance in the first half sets us up to achieve our guidance for 2024 and 2025. We expect thereafter to continue to deliver attractive growth with progressive improvements in margins alongside consistently strong cash generation."

FCA plans bonfire of red tape for banks and financial sector

The City watchdog is plotting a bonfire of red tape for UK banks and money managers to boost Britain's economic competitiveness.

The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) is asking firms to comment on which parts of its official handbook, a mammoth set of rules, should be ditched. New rules, known as the "consumer duty", have recently come into force and the two now overlap.

So, the FCA has asked firms how it can trim the rules. Nikhil Rathi, the chief executive, said: "We want to streamline our rulebook, lowering costs for businesses and supporting competitiveness and growth."

The old FCA handbook is available online but is so thick that it would tower over 6ft high if printed.

Entain's US gaming venture, BetMGM, on track for loss

Entain's US joint venture, BetMGM, said it expects to post a loss for the full year as it ramps up marketing spend.

BetMGM - the US-based sports betting and gaming group jointly owned by Ladbrokes owner Entain and MGM Resorts International - reported an underlying loss of \$123m (£96m) for the first half of 2024. Entain said it was expecting a similar result for the remaining six months of the year and added that investment in its iGaming business over the second half will be more than first thought.

Adam Greenblatt, chief executive of BetMGM, said: "The first half of this year has been very important in laying the groundwork for BetMGM's future. 2024 is a year of investment, focusing on improving customer experience."

Mortgage approvals hold firm as housing market stabilises

The number of mortgage approvals held steady last month in a sign that the UK's housing market is stabilising after being hit by high interest rates.

There were 60,000 new mortgages approved in June, according to the Bank of England, down just a fraction from the 60,100 in May. Borrowers took on £2.7bn of mortgage debt, up from £1.3bn in May.

Nathan Emerson, chief executive of estate agent body Propertymark, said the figures show the general election did not damage the confidence of mortgage borrowers in the way many anticipated. "Momentum has sustained itself, however, now we have a newly elected government that is ambitious about building new homes, we hope confidence will increase further."

JD Wetherspoon founder Martin in £10m share sale

The founder of JD Wetherspoon has sold almost £10m-worth of shares in the pub giant.

Sir Tim Martin, who is also chairman of the hospitality giant, sold 1.361 million shares in the business last Friday, the London Stock Exchange said. He has sold the shares at a price of about 739p, securing him £9.58m.

The sale cuts his stake from 25.68pc to 24.58pc, or 30.38 million shares. The company did not disclose a specific reason for the sale.

Sir Tim founded the chain in 1979 and has grown the business to 801 UK sites, employing 43,000 people.

Earlier this month, Wetherspoon revealed another improvement in sales in recent weeks as it continued selling off some venues.

GlaxoSmithKline in multibillion-dollar drug discovery deal

GSK has struck a multibillion-dollar drug development deal with the American company that helped to incubate Moderna.

GSK and Flagship Pioneering, which created the mRNA Covid-vaccine maker Moderna before spinning it out, have entered a partnership to develop as many as 10 new drugs. The two companies will jointly invest \$150m (£120m) in exploring new respiratory and immunology treatments.

The deal paves the way for as much as \$7bn in investment, should targets be met. GSK has allocated more than \$700m to each of the 10 programmes.

Tony Wood, GSK's chief scientific officer, said: "We will use science and technology to deliver best-in-class innovation at pace."

An exclusive interview with Nigel FARAGE



Join **Camilla TOMINEY**

and **Kamal AHMED**



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A Telegraph Podcast



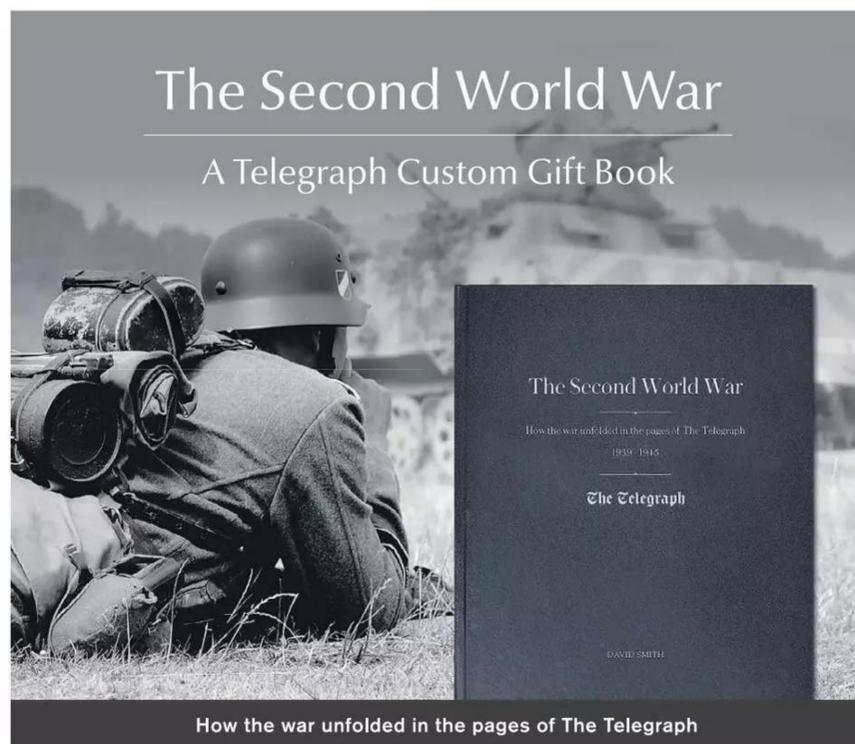
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Alastair Laing

Self-effacing art historian, National Trust curator and the world authority on François Boucher

ALASTAIR LAING, who has died aged 79, spent the vast majority of his professional career at the National Trust, where he was in charge of pictures and sculpture from 1986 to 2013.

It was an ideal employment for his immense – if undersung – gifts as a scholar with a rare capacity for combining an extraordinary breadth of knowledge in the fields of painting, drawing and sculpture across the centuries.

Crucially, his exceptional range was matched by an unrivalled depth of understanding of the work of a single artist, the 18th-century French painter and draughtsman François Boucher.

Yet all this might never have happened but for an early change of direction.

Alastair David Laing was born in Woking, Surrey, on August 5 1944, the middle child of Malcolm Laing, a civil engineer, and his wife Margaret (known as Clare).

From Bradfield College, Alastair read history at Corpus Christi College, Oxford, graduating in 1966. Oxford would not get round to offering an undergraduate degree in the history of art until the 1990s, but he stayed on at the university to undertake a postgraduate diploma in the subject.

An obvious next step might have been to proceed to the Courtauld Institute of Art, and he did move on there, but only after a year at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which ended unhappily. Diplomacy's loss, however, was art history's gain.

In those days, the Courtauld was still very much Anthony Blunt's kingdom, and it is a mark of his high regard for Laing that he was one of the three younger colleagues Blunt asked to join forces with him to write a substantial volume titled *Baroque & Rococo: Architecture and Decoration*, published in 1978.

Laing wrote the section on central and eastern Europe – an impressively authoritative book-length contribution, which was also the focus of his never-completed doctoral thesis on early South-German Rococo stucco (architecture represented yet another string to his bow).

In connection with his studies, he spent time in Munich in 1968, and visited Czechoslovakia, where he met Hana Novotná, a neuropsychologist, who was only able to join him in Britain a decade later. They married in 1979.



Laing and (r) *Allegory of Painting* by Boucher: he was honoured by France for his work on the artist

After taking various odd jobs to make ends meet, in 1976 Laing joined the Heim Gallery, Jermyn Street, as a researcher and remained there until 1983. He always insisted that it was at the Heim, under the guidance of Andrew Ciechanowiecki – affectionately known in the art world as Mr Chicken-and-whisky – that he truly learnt his trade.

In such an environment, he was inevitably called upon to get to grips with a whole array of works that could not be relied upon to inhabit his comfort zone, but ultimately had the effect of extending it in all sorts of directions.

Thus, within a year he was responsible for the impressively substantial entries on the Italian school in the catalogue of the exhibition, "The Finest Drawings from the Museums of Angers", a travelling show that started out at the Heim. Characteristically, he made sure that the fact that he had benefited from the advice of Philip Pouncey was clearly acknowledged.

But Laing's big break came when he was asked to join two other eminences, Pierre Rosenberg and Patrice Marandel, in organising a major Boucher exhibition in 1986-87 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Grand Palais, Paris. Crucially, he was given responsibility for writing the entries on paintings, which take up more than 200 pages of the catalogue.

With becoming modesty, in their preface the three authors stated: "None of us is an authority on Boucher". But that was nearly 40 years ago, and since then Laing's stature as a Boucher scholar grew until he came to be universally recognised as the leading authority on the artist.

The main step on the way was the 2003-04 exhibition "The Drawings of François Boucher" at the Frick Collection, New York, and the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth. The catalogue, with the exception of a foreword by Pierre Rosenberg, was entirely Laing's work.



At the time of his death, his long-awaited catalogue raisonné of Boucher's drawings was far advanced, and there is every hope that it will be completed by Laure-Aline Griffith-Jones (Démazure).

His distinction in this field was no doubt a major reason for Laing being made a Chevalier in the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 1988, and more recently in 2020 being awarded a prize by the Académie Française.

In his work for the National Trust, Laing's near-omniscience was to prove invaluable, and happily there are two lasting memorials to it. One is the catalogue of the exhibition "In Trust for the Nation: Paintings from National Trust Houses", which was held at the National Gallery in 1995-96, and reflected his taste for quirky pictures alongside masterpieces, while the other is represented by the six volumes devoted to *Oil Paintings in National Trust Properties*, material which is now freely available online via ArtUK.

Laing served on the Acceptance in Lieu Panel (1994-2005) and the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art (1996-2002), and similar bodies too numerous to list. He was also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and of the Society of Dilettanti.

Laing looked, dressed, and behaved much like an old-style Oxbridge don and was notable for his generosity, both as a scholar and as a person. In *Who's Who*, under Recreations he listed "Church- and tomb-crawling".

Alastair Laing is survived by his wife Hana and by their son Sam.

Alastair Laing, born August 5 1944, died June 29 2024

Jan AP Kaczmarek

Composer who won an Oscar for his *Finding Neverland* score

JAN AP KACZMAREK, who has died aged 71, won an Oscar for his charmingly nostalgic score to Mark Forster's *Finding Neverland* (2004), starring Johnny Depp, Kate Winslet and Julie Christie in an exploration of JM Barrie's friendship with the family who inspired *Peter Pan*.

Kaczmarek was a composer unhelpfully associated with erotica and horror. To demonstrate his lighter side, he wrote a three-minute work for symphony orchestra and boys' choir and recorded it at his own expense. The filmmakers were convinced.

His eventual score saw off competition from John Williams's music for *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* at the Academy Awards, and also picked up Bafta and Golden Globe nominations. Yet it was only one of more than 70 scores written by Kaczmarek.

He had already composed for the vampire film *Pale Blood* (1990), the Drew Barrymore horror flick *Doppelgänger* (1993) and the police action movie *Felony* (1994). But his big break came after meeting the Polish director Agnieszka Holland at Francis Ford Coppola's home.

She invited him to produce a delicate score for her erotic drama *Total Eclipse* (1995) starring Leonardo DiCaprio as the French poet Rimbaud. They also collaborated on *Washington Square* (1997) and *The Third Miracle* (1999).

Laing's erotic drama *Bliss* (1997) carried more risks. "Notions such as vagina or orgasm demand a very emotional music, emotional chords," he explained.

By contrast he brought a religious perspective to Janusz Kaminski's supernatural horror *Lost Souls* (2000), assembling members of the London Symphony Orchestra, the Sinfonia Varsovia and choirs from Poland, Ukraine and Britain at Abbey Road studios.

Back in his native Poland he wrote politically charged concert music including *Cantata for Freedom* (2005), celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Solidarity movement, and *Oratorio 1956* (2006), marking the 50th anniversary of the anti-communist uprising in Poznan.

Kaczmarek insisted that there was no formula to his music. "I go and hunt a music that floats invisible in many places. It doesn't get



Also scored horrors and erotica

out of my mind, it just penetrates into my irrational self."

Jan Andrzej Pawel Kaczmarek, who used his middle initials AP, was born on April 29 1953 in Konin, Poland, where he was schooled in classical piano until, despairing of his talent, his teachers encouraged him to pursue another calling.

After studying law at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, he intended to join the diplomatic service, but as he recalled, "I quickly understood that to be a diplomat in a Communist country was very unromantic."

Instead, he started composing for the avant-garde Teatr Laboratorium run by the director Jerzy Grotowski. He also formed the Orchestra of the Eighth Day, a jazz-folk duo that became part of the Polish anti-government movement. They performed at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, in 1988.

Arriving in Los Angeles a year later, Kaczmarek overstretched himself with *Tower of Babel*, a multimedia stage show dismissed by the *LA Times* as "a woolly disaster". Thereafter he stuck to composition, including for an off-Broadway revival of *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*.

In 2004 Kaczmarek founded the Instytut Rozbitek, near Poznan, to support film, theatre, music and new media. He continued to compose for the big screen, including music for the biblical drama *Paul, Apostle of Christ* (2018) and *Valley of the Gods* (2019) with John Malkovich.

His first marriage, in 1977 to Elzbieta Bieluszko, was dissolved and in 2016 he married the architect Aleksandra Twardowska. She survives him with their son and four children from his first marriage.

Jan AP Kaczmarek, born April 29 1953, died May 21 2024

Yvonne Furneaux

Actress whose work ranged from Hammer horrors to Fellini's *La Dolce Vita* and Polanski's *Repulsion*

YVONNE FURNEAUX, who has died aged 98, was an English actress born in France who appeared in films across Europe; the directors she worked with included Roman Polanski, Michelangelo Antonioni – and, most notably, Federico Fellini in *La Dolce Vita* (1960).

In the Italian director's flawed masterpiece she played the troubled Emma, the devoted fiancée of Marcello (Marcello Mastroianni); she makes her first appearance in the film having taken an overdose in despair at his serial infidelity. "You're a miserable worm, you'll end up alone like a dog," she tells him later, having survived her overdose to fight another day. "You always say I'm crazy... but you're the one who's off course."

She named Emma as her stand-out role, but when asked if she had any regrets, she replied: "Only that I didn't continue with the stage."

Elisabeth Yvonne Scatcherd was born on May 11 1926 in the French industrial town of Roubaix, near the Belgian border, to English parents. Her father Joseph, who worked at an overseas branch of Lloyds bank in the town, was from Yorkshire, while her mother Amy, née Furneaux, was from Devon.

The family moved back to England before the outbreak of war, and a few years later she went up to St Hilda's College, Oxford, to read modern languages; she left with "poor results", she said, but fluent in Italian as well as French. While there she had taken up acting, and she won a place at Rada, where her contemporaries included Joan Collins.

When she graduated in 1951, she combined her own middle name and her mother's maiden name to become the considerably more exotic-sounding Yvonne Furneaux. She later maintained that the name-change was a mistake, as it militated against her securing British roles.

None the less, she soon made her professional stage debut, making sufficient impression to feature in Norman Parkinson's photograph "The Young Look in the Theatre" in the January 1953 issue of *Vogue*.

By then she had also taken her first screen roles, in *Meet Me Tonight*, adapted from three one-act plays by Noël Coward, and the romantic drama *Affair in Monte Carlo*, aka *24 Hours of a Woman's Life*. She made several more films in 1953, including *The Beggar's Opera*, adapted from John Gay, directed by Peter Brook and starring Laurence Olivier.

In the same year she was Errol Flynn's mistress in *The Master of Ballantrae*, loosely adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's novel, and starred as the heiress of a rich widow murdered with a poison arrow in the thriller *The House of the Arrow*.

In 1955 she appeared in the Bristol Old Vic's production of Jean Girardoux's medieval romance *Ondine*. The same year she was back working with Errol Flynn, by now portly and over the hill, in *The Dark Avenger*, about Edward, the Black Prince, and she also had her first foreign outings: in Michelangelo Antonioni's first important film, *Le Amiche* (The Girlfriends), as Momina, who goes from affair to affair; and



Furneaux as the devoted fiancée in *La Dolce Vita*

in *Il principe dalla maschera rossa* (The Prince with the Red Mask), Leopoldo Savona's swashbuckler.

She spread her wings further in 1959 in the Spanish comedy *Carta al Cielo* ("Letter to Heaven") and the Italian wife-swap comedy *Lui, lei e il nonno* ("Him, her and the grandfather").

Of the latter, the critic Gary Allen Smith wrote: "Yvonne Furneaux has a striking presence which manages to transcend the meagre material on hand."

The same year, back in Britain, she co-starred with Christopher Lee and Peter Cushing in the dual role of an archaeologist's wife and an Egyptian high priestess in the Hammer horror *The Mummy*.

In the early 1960s she appeared in British, German and Italian films as well as the

French neo-noir *Le meurtrier* (Enough Rope, 1963), an adaptation of the 1954 Patricia Highsmith novel *The Blunderer* that the author, unusually, approved of, calling it "jolly good".

Then in 1965, in Roman Polanski's psychosexual horror film *Repulsion*, one of his finest works, she played Catherine Deneuve's sister – "dark and highly sexed" according to the *Telegraph's* Alan Stanbrook. Polanski, a relentless perfectionist, drove cast and crew hard, and on-set tensions often reached fever pitch.

He was, Yvonne Furneaux recalled, "a little bastard" who subjected them all to "psychological torture". When the executive director asked him why he was giving her such a hard time, he replied: "She's too bloody nice. She's supposed to be playing a bitch. Every day I have to make her into a bitch."

Repulsion was her last significant part; there were a few television appearances and one or two foreign films into the 1970s, and her last appearance was in the title role of the poorly received 1984 comedy *Frankenstein's Great Aunt Tillie*, with Donald Pleasence as her nephew, Victor Frankenstein.

In 1962 Yvonne Furneaux married the cinematographer Jacques Natteau, and for many years they lived in Lausanne; Jacques died in 2007 and she is survived by their son Nicholas, who became a film director.

Yvonne Furneaux, born May 11 1926, died July 5 2024

Colonel 'Bud' Anderson

American 'triple ace' fighter pilot who shot down three German aircraft over Leipzig on one mission

COLONEL CLARENCE "BUD" ANDERSON, who has died aged 102, was an American fighter "ace" and the last surviving pilot to have achieved three confirmed victories on the same mission.

On June 29 1944 Anderson was the leader of his squadron, tasked to escort a large bomber force of the USAAF Eighth Air Force to Leipzig. Over the target, eight Focke-Wulf 190s appeared and attempted to attack the bomber formation.

Anderson dived on the leader and started firing from 100 yards, hitting the enemy fighter, which rolled on to its back as the pilot baled out. He chased a second through some thin cloud, waited to fire until he was well within range and then put in a long burst which set the FW 190 on fire. As Anderson pulled away, another FW 190 flew across his front. He opened fire and gained his third victory in the space of a few minutes, making him a "triple ace".

Clarence Emil Anderson was born in Oakland, California, on January 13 1922 and gained his private pilot's licence at college before starting work as a civilian air mechanic at the Sacramento Air Depot.

He enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps (later United States Army Air Force) in January 1942, later training as a fighter pilot. After an initial assignment flying the P-39 Airacobra, he joined the newly formed 363rd Fighter Squadron of the 357th Fighter Group.

In November 1943, the 357th sailed for England where they were equipped with



the long-range P-51 Mustang. The unit was based at Leiston near the Suffolk coast.

Anderson flew his first mission, escorting a heavy bomber force, on February 5 1944. On March 5 he shot down a Messerschmitt Bf 109 that was attacking a straggling B-17 Flying Fortress near Hanover. On May 12 he downed his fifth enemy aircraft, making him an "ace". Before the end of May he destroyed three more enemy aircraft, two in a single sortie over Strasbourg.

After his triple success over Hanover, he returned to the US for a rest period. He had 12 confirmed successes and was the

first pilot of the 357th to complete his 300-hour combat tour.

He returned in November for a second tour of operations. He shot down two FW 190s over Magdeburg on November 27 and claimed his final two victories on December 5 when he escorted B-17s to Berlin. With 16 confirmed successes, he was the highest scoring pilot of the 363rd Fighter Squadron.

Anderson returned to the US in January 1945. In May 1948 he became a test pilot, evaluating jet fighters. He later commanded a fighter-bomber wing in Korea. He

returned to test flying in November 1957, becoming chief of the flight test operations division at Edwards Air Force Base. Later he was deputy director of operations and commander of the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing at Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.

In January 1970 he left for south-east Asia to command the 355th Tactical Fighter Wing at Takhli Air Force Base, Thailand, and flew the F-105 Thunderchief in operations over Vietnam attacking enemy supply routes. His last appointment before retiring was as chief of the aircraft division of Material Command at McClellan Air Force Base, California. He joined McDonnell Aircraft Company, served for 12 years as the manager of the company's flight test centre at Edwards Air Force Base, and retired from that in 1984.

Anderson's many decorations included the US Legion of Merit (twice), five Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star and 16 Air Medals. The French appointed him to the Légion d'honneur and awarded him the Croix de Guerre. In 2008 he was inducted into the International Air and Space Hall of Fame and received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015.

In retirement he led an active life, flying until he was 90, and giving talks at schools. In 1990, with Joe Hamlin, he published *To Fly and Fight: Memoirs of a Triple Ace*.

His wife Eleanor died in 2015. He is survived by their son and daughter.

'Bud' Anderson, born January 13 1922, died May 17 2024

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Television & Radio

Television reviews

Here be dragons – and thank goodness for that



Royal rumble: Emma D'Arcy's Princess Rhaenyra Targaryen is gearing up for war

House of the Dragon (Sky Atlantic) is not a show in which you can let your mind wander as you watch. Not because of its complex plots or labyrinthine family trees, but because it is, essentially, a very silly show. Like *Game of Thrones* before it, *House of the Dragon* has a superb cast of mainly British thespians bringing to life intelligent scripts of depth and subtlety, and a stonking great budget. It is the definition of prestige TV.

But it is also a show that is a fag paper away from *Dungeons & Dragons* or those fantasy novels that have an illustration of a beefcake warrior with a massive axe being fondled by a buxom wench on the cover. It has characters called Hugh Hammer, Humfrey Bracken, Hobert Hightower and Walys Mooton. It's just a bit embarrassing. Most of the time, it gets away with it, with sheer propulsion of plot and character depth. But once the pace slackens – and, boy, has this second series ambled – you begin to let in unhelpful thoughts such as "Is Christopher from *Phone Shop* really going to ride a dragon?" (spoiler: yes).

This penultimate episode certainly had its moments, mainly late on and mainly featuring dragons, but it was also ponderous and a bit hammy. Alicent (Olivia Cooke), fresh from being ousted by her son and jostled by

rioting peasants, decided to moon about the misty countryside like the Scottish Widows woman, throwing herself into glamping and wild swimming. Daemon (Matt Smith) is still doing his best moody teenager impression in the ruins of Harrenhal, though at least this week he got to cut someone's head off. Rhaenyra (Emma D'Arcy) mainly fretted about whether to let commoners ride her precious dragons, having run out of aristocracy to do it. She was soon giving out dragons willy-nilly.

We did at least get some dragons (hats off to the CGI team, you can really feel those behemoths breathing through the screen at you), though the scene in which one particularly enormous creature chose its rider from a gaggle of royal bastards was slightly farcical, seeing as of the gaggle only two of them had been given backstories. Lo, Hugh Hammer (Kieran Bew) and Ulf White (Christopher from *Phone Shop*, aka Tom Bennett) joined Addam of Hull (Clinton Liberty) as Rhaenyra's bastard dragon squadron.

All of which amounts to next week's finale, which promises to be an all-out dragonfest. Except, likely, it won't be, as we're only at the end of season two. And the show has been promising a dragonfest for weeks. Jam tomorrow, springs to mind. **Chris Bennion**

We don't get a lot of documentaries in a foreign language on our terrestrial channels. By this I don't mean films in the estimable *Storyville* strand. I mean the more formulaic hour-long ones stuffed with talking heads and graphics and some quite nice photography. Ones like **Eiffel Tower: Building the Impossible** (BBC Four).

All eyes being on Paris, the scheduling speaks for itself. Here was the timely story of the creation of Gustave Eiffel's sky-piercing iron icon, commissioned as a publicity stunt for 1889 Universal Expo Worlds Fair and knocked up by some miracle in just over two years. On time too, despite an early example of something that's become as Gallic as escargots, adultery and shrugs: stropky industrial action.

It's quite a story, with Eiffel as engineering superhero, and most of the people telling it did so, suitably, in subtitled French. It involved much talk of trusses and crosses and rivets, with various visits to the epic bridges he had previously knocked up elsewhere in France. Here too was the tale of Eiffel's contribution to the Statue of Liberty, and his involvement in the Panama Canal that landed him in prison for fraud.

In short, there was a carbo-load of facts about historical context and technical innovation and it was more or less efficiently conveyed. So why did it all feel oddly flat-packed for export, like one of the bridges Eiffel sent in boxes to the colonies? It has to do with the cast list of contributors. Among them was an American art historian who talked in her home in Berkeley about the 19th century's "yearning for the gigantic", but not before she was filmed, for context, stepping through her flowery front door. Why?

The closing credits were so punctiliously translated into English that there was a jarring nod to "The Orsay Museum". Even this side of the Eurotunnel, no one ever calls it that. What got lost, in bending over backwards to deliver globe-trotting infotainment, was a clear explanation of the technology. I still don't get how the tower's lift works. **Jasper Rees**

House of the Dragon ★★★
Eiffel Tower: Building the Impossible ★★★

What to watch

COOKING WITH THE STARS

ITV1, 8pm



The eight celebrities team up with celebrated chefs in this entertaining cookery competition

The last thing we need is more cookery on television; although, at least it's not more sport. However, this celebrity-driven competition, returning for a fourth run, has the saving grace of refusing to take itself seriously. That's thanks largely to the presenting style of Tom Allen and Emma Willis, who keep the emphasis firmly on fun. "Here's the twist: none of them can cook," quips Allen

at the outset. But it's also helped by some particularly good casting this time round. With the fairly laid-back likes of Carol Vorderman, Katherine Ryan and Christopher Biggins balancing out the more win-focussed approach of some of the other competitors (Olympian Linford Christie, model Abbey Clancy, *Strictly*'s Pasha Kovalev and influencer Harry Pinero). And, of course, the vested

interests of the eight star chefs with whom they're paired (Michael Caines, April Jackson, Michael O'Hare, Poppy O'Toole, Rosemary Shrager, Tony Singh, Shelina Permalloo and Jack Stein). Tonight's opening round sees Vorderman take on Clancy in a steak versus salmon challenge, while vegan Kovalev goes head-to-head with Pinero to see whether cauliflower can beat duck. **Gerard O'Donovan**

DOCUMENTARY

A Storm Foretold

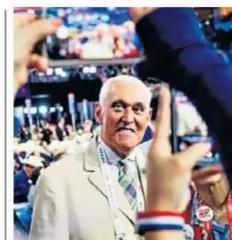
BBC Four, 10pm

There's never any doubt on which side of the Trump debate director Christoffer Guldbrandsen stands in this shocking profile of the former president's longtime ally, the conservative lobbyist Roger Stone. Still, the greed, nastiness and cynicism on display needs no enhancement. A repellent insight into the murky inner workings of US politics.

Women on Death Row

Channel 4, 11.05pm

The second in this series explores the case of US



A Storm Foretold: a look at Trump advisor Roger Stone

mother Sandi Nieves, who in 1998 was convicted of the first-degree murder of her four daughters and the attempted murder of her son. Although California's supreme court commuted

her death sentence in 2021, it upheld the convictions. Now, Nieves hopes a new trial might enable her to see her son again.

FACTUAL

Secrets of the London Underground

U&Yesterday, 8pm

In tonight's edition of the London Underground history series, Tim Dunn and Sidly Holloway explore the 1843 Thames Tunnel, which was the first in the world to run beneath a major river. They also delve into the history of Lambeth North station and look at new plans to extend the Bakerloo Line



to Lewisham in southeast London. Spoiler: it's very, very costly.

The Body Detectives

Channel 4, 9pm

The second episode in a gripping series featuring the vital work of Locate International, an organisation that investigates missing persons' cases, follows former detective Dave Grimstead as he turns the clock back 30 years to shed light on the identity of an unknown man found dead on a London street in 1994.

Your Kitchen: 60 Years of Fads & Gadgets

Channel 5, 9pm

Random celebrities – Janet Ellis, Danny John-Jules, Jenny Eclair (is it



Secrets of the London Underground: Siddy Holloway

a J-thing?) – road-test once-innovative electric whisks and carving knives, and a Kenwood Chef, in this two-parter reminding us how better design and technical innovation has improved life in kitchens since the laborious food-prep and laundry-mangling days of the 1950s.

On Assignment

ITV1, 11.35pm

More topical reports from ITV's team of foreign correspondents, as James Mates attends anti-tourism protests on the popular, luxurious Greek island of Santorini (locals are against rising rents and costs of living), Faye Barker learns about methods of sustainable cockle-harvesting in Spain, and Barnaby Papadopoulos reports on 50 years of stark division between Greeks and Turks in Cyprus. **GO**

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The Daily T

A new Telegraph podcast

Radio choice

Do Gooders

Radio 4, 6.30pm

"I'm of a generation that can't de-clench if there are ladies in the room," complains Frank Skinner's

RADIO 1

FM 97.5-99.8MHz

6.57am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **11.00** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat @ 12: 45 **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.32** Going Home with Vick, Katie and Jamie on Radio **1 5.45** Newsbeat @ 17: 45 **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Artists with Sian Eleri **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Martha **1.00am** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix **1.30** Radio 1's Drum & Bass Mix **2.00** Danny Howard's Club Mix **3.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00 - 6.57am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

RADIO 2

FM 88-90.2MHz

6.30am The Gaby Roslin Breakfast Show **9.30** Gary Davies **12.00** Jeremy Vine. Current affairs chat **2.00pm** Scott Mills. Music and chat with guest Greg Rutherford **4.00** Sara Cox. Music and chat **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower. Sara plays the biggest and best tunes to get listeners dancing **7.00** Jo Whitley's Shiny Happy Playlist. Jo plays her favourite album tracks and musical gems rarely heard on Radio **2 7.30** Jo Whitley. TV critic Natalie Jamieson reviews the latest releases **9.00** The Jazz Show with Jamie Cullum. Stevie Toddler runs down some musical inspirations in her Take **5 10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7. Uplifting tunes and essential throwbacks **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. Lupe Fiasco shares his Musical Youth **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Power of Jazz **4.00 - 6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

RADIO 3

FM 90.2-92.4MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **4.00**

ageing charity worker Ken, of gender-neutral office loos, in Garrett Millerick's enjoyable, woke-skewering comedy. In **Crossing Continents** (Radio 4, 9pm), meanwhile,

Composer of the Week: Musical Olympians – Ethel Smyth **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape. A sequence of music **7.30** BBC Proms 2024. The world premiere of Anna Clyne's The Gorgeous Nothings **10.15** Night Tracks. Sara Mohr-Pietsch presents a soundtrack for late-night listening **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30 - 6.30am** Through the Night

RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz; LW 198kHz

6.00am Today **9.00** The Life Scientific **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** Screenshot **11.45** Status **12.00** News **12.04pm** Call You and Yours. Consumer affairs with Winifred Robinson **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One. Presented by Sarah Montague **1.45** NatureBang. Becky Ripley and Emily Knight explore the art and science of medicine **2.00** The Archers. There's a frosty atmosphere at the Vets' surgery **2.15** Drama: Who Cares. By Matt Woodhead **3.00** The Gatekeepers. Jamie Bartlett asks if Silicon Valley's radical experiment is about to implode **3.30** Beyond Belief. Giles Fraser explores the place of wine in some religious traditions **4.00** The Lost Archives of James Baldwin. Tony Phillips meets the woman who owns the personal effects of James Baldwin **4.30** You're Dead to Me. Greg Jenner and his guests learn all about the Minoan civilisation **5.00** PM. Presented by Evan Davis **5.57** Weather **6.00** Six O'Clock News **6.30** Do Gooders New series. Workplace comedy set behind the scenes of the charity sector **7.00** The Archers. Alice follows her instincts and Chelsea's cutting with George **See Radio choice 7.15** Front Row. Arts programme **8.00** File on **4.8.45** Touch **9.00** Crossing Continents **See Radio choice 9.30** The Bottom Line **9.59** Weather **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Giovanni's Room **11.00** Jon Holmes

Tim Whewell travels into Israel to conclude his thoughtful journey to the root of the conflict in Gaza and the controversial slogan "from the river to the sea". From a Palestinian

Says the C-Word **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00** News and Weather **12.30am** Status **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45 - 6.00am** Farming Today

RADIO 5 LIVE

MW 693 & 909kHz

6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** 5 Live Olympics **3.30** 5 Live Olympics **6.30** 5 Live Olympics **10.00** Gordon Smart **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00 - 6.00am** Wake Up to Money

CLASSIC FM

FM 99.9-101.9MHz

6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Aled Jones **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Aled Jones **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings. Presented by Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00 - 6.30am** Early Breakfast

WORLD SERVICE

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8.00am News **8.06** People Fixing the World **8.30** Business Daily **8.50** Witness History **9.00** The Newsroom **9.30** Assignment **10.00** News **10.06** The Arts Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Global Story **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** In the Studio **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** World Business Report **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** Assignment **8.30** Tech Life **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** People Fixing the World **10.30** In the Studio **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** World



builder to an Israeli soldier. Whewell meets people on both sides of the conflict, offering a nuanced, vital take on the devastation. **Gerard O'Donovan**

Business Report **12.00** News **12.06am** The Arts Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Climate Question **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Six Billion Dollar Gold Scam **5.00 - 8.00am** Newsday

RADIO 4 EXTRA

DIGITAL ONLY

6.00am Lord Jim **6.30** Detective **7.00** Greywing **7.30** The Goon Show **8.00** Miracles R Us **8.30** The Sanest Guy in the Room: A Life in Lyrics **8.45** Shifting the Leaves **9.00** Yesterday in Parliament **9.30** Wow! How Did They Do That? **9.45** Daily Service **10.00** A Good Read **10.30** Does the Team Drink? **11.00** Lord Jim **11.30** Detective **12.00** Greywing **12.30pm** The Goon Show **1.00** Miracles R Us **1.30** The Sanest Guy in the Room: A Life in Lyrics **1.45** Shifting the Leaves **2.00** The Personality Test **2.30** Tickets Please **3.00** Summer Ghosts **3.45** The Lady of the Sea by Diana Hendry **4.00** A Good Read **4.30** Does the Team Drink? **5.00** Lord Jim **5.30** Detective **6.00** Greywing **6.30** The Goon Show **7.00** Miracles R Us **7.30** The Sanest Guy in the Room: A Life in Lyrics **7.45** Shifting the Leaves **8.00** The Personality Test **8.30** Tickets Please **9.00** Summer Ghosts **9.45** The Lady of the Sea by Diana Hendry **10.00** Henry Normal: A Normal Club Interview **10.25** The Comedy Club Interview **10.30** The Consultants **10.45** Warhorses of Letters **11.00** Clare in the Community **11.30** Dave Podmore's World of Cricket **12.00** A Good Read **12.30am** Does the Team Drink? **1.00** Lord Jim **1.30** Detective **2.00** Greywing **2.30** The Goon Show **3.00** Miracles R Us **3.30** The Sanest Guy in the Room: A Life in Lyrics **3.45** Shifting the Leaves **4.00** The Personality Test **4.30** Tickets Please **5.00** Summer Ghosts **5.45 - 6.00am** The Lady of the Sea by Diana Hendry

Main channels

FV Freewiew FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

Film choice



BBC One

6.00 am Breakfast (S) **6.45** Olympics: Paris 2024. The men's triathlon gets the fourth day's events under way in Paris (S) **11.00** Olympics: Paris 2024. Further coverage on day four in France (S)
1.00 pm **BBC News at One; Weather** (S)
1.30 **Regional News; Weather** (S)
1.35 **BBC News at One; Weather** (S)
1.45 **Olympics: Paris 2024** Including women's team artistic gymnastics, men's BMX freestyle and women's judo (S)
6.00 **BBC News at Six; Weather** (S)
6.30 **Regional News; Weather** (S)



Olympics 2024: triathlete Alex Yee

7.00 **Olympics: Paris 2024** Clare Balding presents coverage of the swimming finals at La Defense Arena, where a further three champions are set to be crowned, including in the men's 4x200m freestyle relay at 8.59. The British men dominated this race in Tokyo, finishing more than three seconds clear of the field to take gold. This time they are likely to face stiff competition from the likes of the USA and Australia, as a gallery of stars line up for one of the most eagerly anticipated races in the swimming calendar. The women's 100m backstroke final is at 7.57 and the men's 800m freestyle is at 8.03 (S)

10.00 **News; Weather** (S)
10.30 **Regional News; Weather** (S)
10.40 **Olympics: Paris 2024 - Tonight at the Games** Isa Guha and Mark Chapman look back at the biggest stories from day four (S)

12.00 **Kin 12.50am** **Kin 1.50 - 6.00am** News

BBC Two

6.45 am Breakfast (S) **9.00** Dom Does America (R) (S) **9.30** Wanted Down Under Revisited (R) (S) **10.15 A** Countryside Summer (AD) (R) (S)
10.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R) (S) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (R) (S)
12.15 pm **Politics Live** (S)
1.00 **Olympics: Paris 2024** Coverage of the table tennis mixed doubles final at the South Paris Arena (S)
1.45 **Bargain Hunt** (R) (S)
2.30 **The Customer Is Always Right** (R) (S)
3.00 **Escape to the Country** (AD) (R) (S)
3.45 **Ricky & Ralf's Very Northern Road Trip** (R) (S)
4.30 **The Repair Shop** (AD) (R) (S)
5.15 **Flog It!** (R) (S)
6.00 **Olympics: Paris 2024** Continued coverage of the women's team artistic gymnastics final (S)



EastEnders

7.00 **Richard Osman's House of Games** With Malorie Blackman (R) (S)
7.30 **EastEnders** Vinny kicks Priya out of the Panesar household (AD) (S)

8.00 **Inside the Factory** Gregg Wallace finds out how vegan sausages are made (AD) (R) (S)

9.00 **Kyle: The Gunman Who Divided America** Documentary about one of America's most controversial figures, Kyle Rittenhouse (AD) (R) (S)

10.00 **My Family** The Harper kids plan a party (R) (S)
10.30 **Newsnight** (S)

11.05 **FILM: On Chesil Beach** (2017) Romantic drama starring Saoirse Ronan **12.45am** **Sign Zone: The Turkish Detective** **1.40** **Sign Zone: The Turkish Detective** **2.25** **Sign Zone: The Bidding Room** **3.10** **Sign Zone: Surviving The Post Office** **3.40 - 6.45am** This Is BBC Two

ITV1

6.00 am Good Morning Britain (S) **9.00** Lorraine (S) **10.00** This Morning (S)
12.30 pm **Loose Women** (S)
1.00 **News; Weather** (S)
1.20 **Regional News; Weather** (S)
1.30 **ITV Racing Live: Glorious Goodwood** Coverage of day one of the festival (S)
4.00 **Tipping Point** (R) (S)
5.00 **The Chase** (R) (S)
6.00 **Regional News; Weather** (S)
6.30 **News; Weather** (S)



ITV Racing Live: Glorious Goodwood

7.30 **Emmerdale** Kim has set her sights on Caleb (AD) (S)

8.00 **Cooking with the Stars** New series. Carol Vorderman, Abbey Clancy, Pasha Kovalev and Harry Pinero compete **See What to watch** (AD)

9.00 **Vera** The body of a young woman is washed up on the banks of the Tyne (AD) (R) (S)

10.45 **News; Weather** (S)
11.20 **Regional News; Weather**
11.35 **On Assignment** **See What to watch**

12.05am **Turbulence: How Safe Is Your Flight?** **1.00** **Shop on TV** **3.00** **Celebrity Catchphrase** **3.50** **Unwind with ITV** **5.05 - 6.00am** **Ainsley's Taste of Malta**

Channel 4

6.25 am Cheers (R) (S) **6.50** Cheers (R) (S) **7.15** Everybody Loves Raymond (AD) (R) (S) **9.05** 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) **11.35** The Simpsons (AD) (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)



Women on Death Row

7.00 **Channel 4 News** (S)

7.55 **Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes** (AD) (R) (S)

8.00 **Worst House on the Street** A single mum in Bristol needs help transforming her house (AD) (S)

9.00 **The Body Detectives** The team investigate the death of an unknown man found in a London street in 1994 **See What to watch** (AD) (S)

10.00 **Gogglebox** (AD) (R) (S)
11.05 **Women on Death Row** **See What to watch**

12.05am **Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes** **12.10** **Ramsay's Hotel Hell** **1.00** **Come Dine with Me** **1.55** **Car S.O.S** **2.45** **Becoming Elizabeth** **3.50** **Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes** **3.55** **Love It or List It** **4.50** **Frasier** **5.15** **Frasier** **5.40** **Paris 2024 Paralympics: Meet the Athletes** **5.45 - 6.25am** **Countdown**

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: The Man with My Husband's Face** (2023, TVM) Thriller starring Koko Marshall (S)
4.00 **Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun** (R) (S)
5.00 **5 News at 5** (S)
6.00 **Amazing Railway Adventures with Nick Knowles** (R) (S)
6.55 **5 News Update** (S)



60 Years of Fads & Gadgets

7.00 **Our Great Yorkshire Life** Two Emmerdale actors investigate how Wensleydale cheese is made (S)

7.55 **5 News Update** (S)

8.00 **The Yorkshire Vet: At Home with the Greens** Jean takes the oldest of her 13 cats to Peter's surgery for a check-up (S)

9.00 **Your Kitchen: 60 Years of Fads & Gadgets** Two-part series, charting the transformation of the British kitchen over time **See What to watch** (S)

10.00 **Britain's Favourite Ads of the 70s & 80s** A celebration of British TV commercials (R) (S)

12.05 am **Crimes That Shook Britain** **1.00** **PlayOJO Live Casino Show** **3.00** **Great British Gardens** with Carol Klein **3.50** **Chronic Pain: How to Live With It** **4.40** **Wildlife SOS** **5.05** **House Doctor** **5.30** **Entertainment News** on **5.35** **Fireman Sam** **5.45 - 6.00am** **Paw Patrol**



Jerry Maguire (1996) Sky Cinema Greats, 8pm ★★★★★

It's Tom Cruise night! First up, Cameron Crowe's macho romcom, in which Cruise plays a sports agent who has an attack of conscience and urges his colleagues to consider their clients' welfare. This being capitalism-loving America, he's duly fired, but decides to start his own agency. A washed-up American footballer (Cuba Gooding Jr) and a sole colleague (Renée Zellweger) agree to go with him.



Mission: Impossible III (2006) Sky Showcase, 9pm ★★★

JJ Abrams made his first foray into feature film-making (pre-*Star Wars* and *Star Trek*) with this, the third instalment of an often mediocre franchise. The indefatigable Tom Cruise reports for duty, doing all of his impressive stunts, as special agent Ethan Hunt - called out of retirement to track down a ruthless arms dealer (played by a scene-stealing Philip Seymour Hoffman).



Tremors (1990) ITV4, 11.10pm ★★★★★

Ron Underwood's monster horror comedy is a pure slice of 1990s bombast. Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward play a pair of handymen who end up tasked with saving the world from ruin - and ginormous, terrifying monsters known as "Tremors". With the help of a seismologist (Finn Carter) and a survivalist couple (Michael Gross and Reba McEntire) they try to fight back.

with **CAMILLA TOMINEY**

and **KAMAL AHMED**

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FV Freewiew FS Freesat (AD) Audio description (R) Repeat (S) Subtitles (SL) In-vision signing

Variations

BBC Four

FV 9 FS 173 SKY 116 VIRGIN 108
7.00 pm Today at the Test
8.00 Keeping Up Appearances
8.30 Butterflies
9.00 Timeshift: The Nation's Railway: The Golden Age of British Rail
10.00 **A Storm Foretold** **See What to Watch**
11.30 The World's Most Photographed: John F Kennedy
12.00 Paris
1.00 am Timeshift: The Nation's Railway: The Golden Age of British Rail
2.00 Art on the BBC: Monet - The French Revolutionary
3.00 - 4.00am How to Build a Cathedral

ITV3

FV 10 FS 117 SKY 119 VIRGIN 117
11.30 am Heartbeat
12.35 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 Agatha Christie's Poirot
9.05 Martin Clunes: Islands of the Pacific
10.05 Unforgotten
11.05 Unforgotten
11.55 The Royal
12.45 am Upstairs, Downstairs
1.35 Upstairs, Downstairs
2.30 - 6.00am Teleshopping

ITV4

FV 26 FS 117 SKY 120 VIRGIN 118
11.30 am BattleBots
12.30 pm Dempsey and Makepeace
1.40 The Champions
2.45 Kojak
3.50 Minder
4.55 The Professionals
6.00 BattleBots
7.00 The Chase Celebrity Special
8.00 King of the Roads
9.00 Beat the Chasers
10.00 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage
11.10 pm **FILM: Tremors** (1990) Comedy horror starring Kevin Bacon **See Film choice**
12.55 am Auto Mundial
1.25 Motorsport Mundial
1.50 Minder
2.45 Unwind with ITV
3.00 - 6.00am Teleshopping

Sky Arts

FV 36 FS 147 SKY 130 VIRGIN 123
Noon The Joy of Painting
12.30 pm The Joy of Painting
1.00 Tales of the Unexpected
2.00 The Art of the Garden
3.00 Classic Literature & Cinema
4.00 Discovering
5.00 The Joy of Painting
6.00 Tales of the Unexpected
7.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir
8.00 Dickens in Italy with David Harewood
10.00 Rudyard Kipling: A Secret Life
11.00 Michelangelo: Saint or Sinner?
12.50 am Wonderland: Gothic
1.50 Discovering Film
3.15 - 4.10am Sky Arts Book Club

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108
11.15 am Britannia
12.20 pm Game of Thrones
1.30 The Sopranos
2.35 The Sopranos
3.40 Riviera
4.40 Riviera
5.40 Britannia
6.45 Britannia
7.50 Game of Thrones
9.00 The Staircase
10.15 House of the Dragon
11.35 Winning Time: The Rise of the Lakers Dynasty
12.35 am We Own This City
1.45 The Leftovers
2.50 - 4.00am Game of Thrones

Film4

FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313 VIRGIN 428
11.00 am Dunston Checks In (1996)
12.45 pm **Sister Act** (1992) Comedy
2.50 One Million Years BC (1966) Hammer prehistoric adventure starring Raquel Welch
4.55 The Call of the Wild (2020) Historical adventure starring Harrison Ford
6.55 Home Alone (1990) Family comedy starring Macaulay Culkin
9.00 The Sum of All Fears (2002) Action thriller starring Ben Affleck and Morgan Freeman
11.20 Flith (2013) Black comedy
1.15 - 3.45am Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (2016) Fantasy adventure

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 Waiting for God
6.00 Waiting for God
6.40 Are You Being Served?
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine
8.00 Mrs Sidhu Investigates
10.00 New Tricks
11.20 Silent Witness
1.45 am Footballers' Wives
2.40 - 4.00am Classic Holly City

Northern Ireland

BBC One: No variations
BBC Two: 10.00 - 10.30pm Barra's Wild Days Out
UTV: No variations

Scotland

BBC One: No variations
BBC Scotland: 7.00pm River City **7.30** Great Escapes with Colin and Justin **7.55** Beechgrove Reported **8.00** Island Crossings **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Rip It Up **11.00** Darren McGarvey's Class Wars **midnight** Close **STV: 1.30 - 3.59pm** STV Racing Live: Glorious Goodwood **12.05am** All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite **1.50 - 3.00** Shop on TV **3.50 - 5.05am** Unwind with STV

Wales

BBC One: No variations
BBC Two: 8.00pm Weatherman Walking: The Welsh Coast **8.30 - 9.00** SOS: Extreme Rescues **11.05** New Voices from Wales: I Am Igo **11.20** Today at the Test **12.30 - 1.40am** Coast
ITV1 Wales: No variations

ITV1 Regions

No variations, except:
ITV1 Anglia: No variations
ITV1 Border: No variations
ITV1 Central: No variations
ITV1 Channel: No variations
ITV1 Granada: No variations
ITV1 Meridian: No variations
ITV1 Tyne Tees: No variations
ITV1 West: No variations
ITV1 Westcountry: No variations
ITV1 Yorkshire: No variations

S4C

6.00am Cyw **12.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cwprdd Epic Chris **12.30** Heno **1.00** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Heno **3.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **4.00** Ffwr Fawr: Og y Draenog **4.10** Awr Fawr: Sali Mali **4.15** Awr Fawr: Fferm Fach **4.30** Awr Fawr: Pentre Papur Pop **4.45** Awr Fawr: Ahoi! **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Ffasiwn Drefn **6.30** Tanwen ac Ollie **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Awr **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Y Sioe **2024** **10.00** Taith Bywyd **11.00 - 11.35pm** Brwdd i Dri

U&Dave

Noon Storage Hunters UK **2.00pm** James May's Cars of the People **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **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** Room 101 **2.00-4.00am** Whose Line is It Anyway? USA

GOLD

Noon Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** Keeping Up Appearances **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Porridge **2.40** Dad's Army **3.20** Are You Being Served? **4.00** Last of the Summer Wine **5.20** Porridge **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Dad's Army **8.00** The Thin Blue Line **8.35** The Vicar of Dibley **9.20** Harry Enfield and Chums **10.00** Men Behaving Badly **10.40** The Royle Family **11.20** The Thin Blue Line **12.00** The Vicar of Dibley **12.40am** Harry Enfield and Chums **1.15** The Two Ronnies **3.00** Bottom **3.30-4.00am** The Fosters

Talking Pictures TV

24 hours, including at:
Noon **Worzel Gummidge** **12.35pm** **FILM: The Black Widow** (1951, b/w) **1.50** **FILM: The Second Time Around** (1961) Comedy starring Debbie Reynolds **3.45** **FILM: They Made Me a Fugitive** (1947, b/w) Thriller starring Trevor Howard **5.40** **Look at Life** **5.55** **The Beverly Hillbillies** **6.30** **Scotland Yard** **7.05** **Batman** **7.35** **Dangerous Assignment** **8.05** **Rumpole of the Bailey** **9.10** **FILM: Goldeneye: The Secret Life of Ian Fleming** (1989) Biopic of the James Bond author starring Charles Dance **11.15** **Cellar Club** with Caroline Munro **11.20** **FILM: The Vault of Horror** (1973) Anthology of horror stories starring Daniel Massey **1.05am** **Cellar Club** with Caroline Munro **1.10** **FILM: The Dark** (1979) Sci-fi horror starring William Devane **3.00** **Cellar Club** with Caroline Munro **3.05-4.55am** **FILM: 976-EVIL** (1989) Horror starring Stephen Geoffrey

Sky Sports Main Event

2.30pm The Hundred Live **6.00** The Hundred Live. Northern Superchargers Men v Southern Brave Men (start-time 6.35pm) **9.30** Live Tennis. The Mubadala Citi DC Open **11.00** Live Tennis. The Mubadala Citi DC Open **3.00-6.00am** Sky Sports News

TNT Sports 1

Noon TNT Sports Cricket Reload **12.15pm** T20 Cricket Highlights **2.15** Live T20 Cricket. Sri Lanka v India **6.00** Live MLB. Detroit Tigers v Cleveland Guardians (start-time 6.10pm) **9.15** Badminton Weekly **9.30** Major League Cricket Highlights **11.00** MLB Lead Off. A look ahead to tonight's MLB fixtures **11.30** Live MLB. Philadelphia Phillies vs New York Yankees (start-time 11.40pm) **2.30am** MLB Closer. A review of tonight's MLB matches **3.00** MLB Plays of the Week **3.30-4.00am** European Rally Championship Highlights

Discovery

Noon</

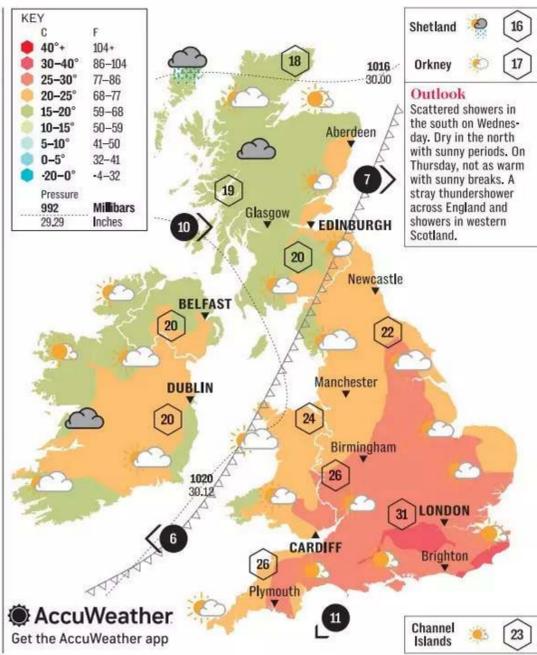
Weather & Crosswords

Forecast

General situation

Plenty of cloud today between Wales to northern England with a front in the region. Sunny spells and hot across southern England. The odd shower in Northern Ireland and western Scotland.

- ♦ **London, Cent S England, Channel Is, SW England, E England, SE England, E Anglia, Midlands:** Sunny spells and hot today. A light northerly wind. Max 71-88F (22-31C). Showery near the southern coast tonight and broken cloud elsewhere. Min 57-64F (14-18C).
- ♦ **NW England, Lake Dist, IoM, Cent N England, NE England:** Sunny spells and warm today. A light south-westerly wind. Max 56-81F (13-27C). Broken cloud and dry tonight. Min 45-57F (7-14C).
- ♦ **Wales:** Broken cloud and warm today. A light north-westerly wind. Max 57-81F (14-27C). Dry tonight. Min 46-62F (7-17C).
- ♦ **N Ireland:** The odd shower in the hills, otherwise sunny breaks. A light NW wind. Max 55-68F (13-20C). Dry tonight. Min 44-52F (7-11C).
- ♦ **SW Scotland, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, W Isles, SE Scotland, NE Scotland, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** The odd shower and largely cloudy in the hills, sunny breaks east. A gentle W wind. Max 45-69F (7-21C). Dry tonight. Min 38-54F (3-12C).



Four day forecast

Wednesday Sunny with some clouds. High 26, low 13.

Thursday Sunny with some clouds. High 26, low 13.

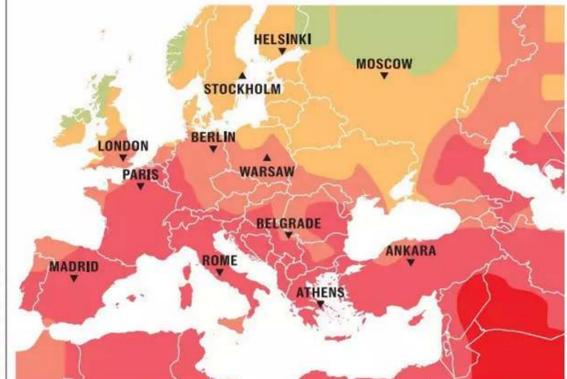
Friday Sunny with some clouds. High 26, low 13.

Saturday Sunny with some clouds. High 26, low 13.

European readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm

City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Akrotiri	35	26	sunny	Frankfurt	28	15	sunny	Oslo	22	10	p/cldy
Alicante	33	24	sunny	Funchal	25	20	p/cldy	Palermo	31	25	sunny
Amsterdam	25	13	p/cldy	Gdansk	24	16	windy	Paris	31	16	sunny
Athens	37	26	sunny	Geneva	31	18	sunny	Perpignan	32	20	sunny
Barcelona	30	23	sunny	Gibraltar	29	23	p/cldy	Prague	24	13	sunny
Bari	32	23	sunny	Hamburg	24	10	p/cldy	Reykjavik	15	12	showers
Belgrade	30	22	sunny	Helsinki	25	18	p/cldy	Rhodes	36	26	haze
Benidorm	33	23	p/cldy	Innsbruck	33	17	p/cldy	Riga	23	16	showers
Bergen	19	11	sunny	Istanbul	34	25	windy	Rome	33	21	sunny
Berlin	24	13	sunny	Kyiv	24	15	sunny	Saint Malo	28	17	sunny
Biarritz	34	22	p/cldy	La Rochelle	34	21	sunny	Salzburg	26	13	sunny
Bodrum	40	24	sunny	Lisbon	34	24	p/cldy	Santander	26	20	p/cldy
Bordeaux	39	24	sunny	Locarno	31	20	sunny	Santiago/Comp	33	18	p/cldy
Brest	25	15	sunny	Luxembourg	26	13	sunny	Sofia	33	16	sunny
Brussels	28	12	sunny	Madrid	37	24	p/cldy	St. Petersburg	27	17	showers
Bucharest	34	21	windy	Majorca	35	22	sunny	Stockholm	24	13	windy
Budapest	30	14	sunny	Malaga	34	25	rain	Strasbourg	30	14	sunny
Cagliari	37	22	sunny	Malta	35	24	sunny	Tenerife	26	19	p/cldy
Chamonix	28	16	sunny	Marseille	35	22	sunny	Tirana	39	19	sunny
Copenhagen	22	15	sunny	Moscow	35	24	sunny	Toulouse	38	23	sunny
Corfu	37	24	sunny	Milan	33	23	sunny	Valencia	34	23	sunny
Cork	19	11	showers	Monaco	31	24	showers	Venice	31	23	sunny
Corsica	32	21	sunny	Moscow	20	16	showers	Vienna	28	17	sunny
Crete	30	23	sunny	Munich	26	10	sunny	Vigo	34	22	p/cldy
Dublin	22	13	showers	Naples	37	25	sunny	Vilnius	20	12	showers
Dubrovnik	33	26	windy	Nice	31	24	sunny	Warsaw	24	15	windy
Faro	29	23	p/cldy	Nicosia	40	25	sunny	Zagreb	31	18	p/cldy
Florence	38	21	sunny	Oporto	33	18	showers	Zurich	28	14	sunny



World readings

City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime	City	Max	Min	Daytime
	°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather		°C	°C	weather
Accra	28	24	cloudy	Damascus	38	22	sunny	New Orleans	32	26	storms
Addis Ababa	24	14	showers	Dar es Salaam	30	19	p/cldy	New Delhi	38	30	storms
Adelaide	14	2	p/cldy	Dhaka	34	28	storms	New York	28	20	storms
Alexandria	32	27	sunny	Dubai	41	33	haze	Ottawa	25	16	p/cldy
Algiers	35	25	sunny	Falkland Is.	3	1	p/cldy	Perth	19	12	showers
Amman	33	23	sunny	Harare	28	11	sunny	Port-of-Spain	32	25	storms
Anchorage	13	12	rain	Havana	32	23	p/cldy	Rio de Janeiro	24	21	sunny
Ankara	30	14	sunny	Hong Kong	31	27	storms	Riyadh	42	31	haze
Ascension Is.	28	23	showers	Honolulu	25	24	showers	San Francisco	16	13	p/cldy
Auckland	16	10	rain	Jakarta	33	25	p/cldy	Santiago	18	2	p/cldy
Baghdad	46	28	haze	Jeddah	43	33	p/cldy	Seattle	17	14	rain
Bahamas	32	26	storms	Jerusalem	32	21	sunny	Seoul	28	26	cloudy
Bahrain	39	35	windy	Johannesburg	17	2	sunny	Seychelles	29	24	cloudy
Banako	29	22	storms	Kabul	41	21	sunny	Singapore	33	27	p/cldy
Bangkok	33	25	storms	Karachi	34	30	cloudy	Sydney	15	5	windy
Beijing	35	26	haze	Kolkata	33	28	p/cldy	Taipei City	36	27	p/cldy
Beirut	36	28	hazy	Kuala Lumpur	32	26	rain	Tangier	31	24	p/cldy
Bermuda	30	26	cloudy	La Paz	12	0	showers	Tel Aviv	36	27	sunny
Bogota	19	10	p/cldy	Lahore	34	28	storms	Tokyo	37	30	windy
Bridgetown	30	27	showers	Lima	17	15	p/cldy	Toronto	27	19	p/cldy
Brissane	22	3	sunny	Los Angeles	24	15	sunny	Tunis	36	22	sunny
Buenos Aires	10	6	sunny	Makives	33	28	storms	Vancouver	18	14	rain
Cairo	38	26	sunny	Manila	30	25	showers	Washington	31	24	p/cldy
Canberra	10	-5	sunny	Marrakesh	36	20	sunny	Wellington	16	10	rain
Cape Town	14	7	cloudy	Melbourne	14	5	rain	Winnipeg	26	16	p/cldy
Casablanca	29	20	sunny	Miami	33	25	storms				
Chicago	25	22	storms	Montego Bay	32	27	windy				
Christchurch	15	6	p/cldy	Mumbai	28	25	storms				
Colombo	31	28	storms	Nairobi	26	12	rain				

Nature Notes

Butterfly scarcity is nature warning

Record low numbers of butterflies this year may have been caused by the unusually wet spring coupled with colder than usual temperatures, a charity has warned.

People taking part in Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count, which ends on Sunday, are seeing just over half the number they were spotting this time last year, it said.

Numbers are the lowest recorded in the 14 years of the Big Butterfly Count.

Eighty per cent of butterfly species are declining in the UK since the 1970s, mainly due to habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change.

Dr Dan Hoare, the charity's director, said: "Butterflies need warm and dry conditions to be able to fly around and mate. The lack of butterflies is a warning sign to us all. Nature is sounding the alarm and we must listen. "They are a key indicator species. When they are in trouble, we know the wider environment is in trouble too."

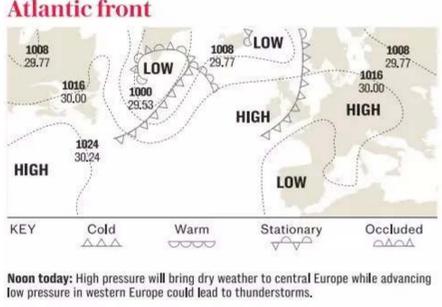
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British readings

Last night's report for 24 hours to 6pm - *estimated readings

City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime	City	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max/Min	Daytime				
			°C	weather				°C	weather				°C	weather				°C	weather				
Aberdeen	2.6	0.00	21	13	cloudy	Chester	11.5*	0.00	26	9	sunny	Isles of Scilly	7.0*	0.01	21	14	p/cldy	Ramsgate	11.0	0.00	24	14	sunny
Aberystwyth	11.4*	0.00	25	7	sunny	Coventry	12.6*	0.00	27	11	sunny	Jersey	10.4	0.00	26	16	sunny	Rhyl	12.3*	0.00	22	11	sunny
Antrim	1.2	0.00	22	13	cloudy	Doncaster	11.0*	0.00	27	13	sunny	Keswick	0.3*	0.00	22	13	cloudy	Rugby	12.7*	0.00	27	10	sunny
Aviemore	1.4	0.01	22	14	cloudy	Dover	12.7*	0.00	24	15	sunny	King Gardens	12.9*	0.00	27	15	sunny	Salisbury	13.0*	0.00	27	13	sunny
Barnstaple	13.0*	0.00	26	10	sunny	Dundee	2.3	0.00	22	13	cloudy	King's Lynn	12.5*	0.00	25	13	sunny	Scunthorpe	10.9*	0.00	28*	15	sunny
Barrow-in-Furness	8.4*	0.00	21	13	p/cldy	Eastbourne	7.5	0.00	28	14	p/cldy	Leek	10.1*	0.00	25	13	sunny	Sheffield	11.0	0.00	27	13	sunny
Basingstoke	10.9	0.00	27	12	sunny	Edinburgh	0.8	0.00	23	15	cloudy	Leeds	11.2*	0.00	24	14	sunny	Shetland	1.7*	0.00	19	12	cloudy
Bedford	12.4*	0.00	27	11	sunny	Epsom	13.1*	0.00	26	16	sunny	Leicester	10.5	0.00	26	6	sunny	Shrewsbury	9.8	0.00	26	8	p/cldy
Belfast	8.2*	0.00	21	14	p/cldy	Falmouth	12.9*	0.00	22	12	sunny	Lincoln	10.3	0.00	27	12	sunny	Skegness	12.0*	0.00	23	16	sunny
Berwick	0.8	0.00	22	12	cloudy	Farnborough	13.0*	0.00	27	10	sunny	Liverpool	13.0*	0.02	26	9	sunny	Southampton	12.3*	0.00	26	11	sunny
Birmingham	12.5*	0.00	27	11	sunny	Fart William	2.2	0.00	19	15	cloudy	London	9.3	0.00	28	15	sunny	Southend-on-Sea	10.9	0.00	24	12	sunny
Bodmin	13.0*	0.00	25	12	sunny	Glasgow	1.1	0.00	21	13	cloudy	Manchester	10.7	0.00	21	8	p/cldy	Stockport	9.7	0.00	21	8	p/cldy
Bournemouth	10.7	0.00	26	10	sunny	Great Malvern	12.6*	0.00	28	8	sunny	Middlesbrough	7.4*	0.00	26	14	p/cldy	Stornoway	0.0	0.02	16	13	cloudy
Braintree	12.8*	0.00	26	11	sunny	Grimsby	10.6*	0.00	23	14	sunny	Newcastle	11.5*	0.00	24	11	sunny	Swansea	12.6*	0.00	23*	10*	sunny
Brecon	11.7*	0.00	25	5	sunny	Guernsey	11.4*	0.00	26	17	sunny	Newquay	10.3	0.00	21	12	sunny	Swindon	12.8*	0.00	26	12	sunny
Briglington	10.6*	0.00	20	14	sunny	Hereford	12.6*	0.00	27	8	sunny	Nottingham	10.0	0.00	27	12	sunny	Thirsk	10.5*	0.00	27	12	sunny
Brighton	12.9*	0.00	26	13	sunny	High Wycombe	12.9*	0.00	28*	10*	sunny	Orkney	5.7	0.00	22	11	cloudy	Tiree	0.0	0.05	17	14	showers
Bristol	12.7*	0.00	27	12	sunny	Holyhead	8.2	0.00	19	12	p/cldy	Oxford	10.9	0.00	27	11	sunny	Weymouth	12.9*	0.00	21	17	sunny
Cambridge	10.3	0.00	21	12	sunny	Huddersfield	10.7*	0.00	24	16	sunny	Perth	1.1*	0.00	21	12	cloudy	Whitehaven	8.4*	0.00	18	14	p/cldy
Cardiff	10.6	0.00	22	12	sunny	Ipswich	10.8	0.00	25	14	sunny	Peterborough	10.2	0.00	27	11	sunny	Windermere	5.5*	0.00	21	12*	p/cldy
Cardishe	3.6*	0.00	20	13	cloudy	Isle of Man	3.2	0.00	17	13	cloudy	Plymouth	12.9*	0.00	25	13	sunny	Worcester	12.6*	0.00	28	8	sunny
Catterick	10.1	0.00	26	13	sunny	Isle of Skye	0.3*	0.00	18	12	cloudy	Portsmouth*	13.0*	0.00	25	14	sunny	Yeovil	10.7	0.00	27	9	sunny
Cheltenham	12.7*	0.00	28*	11*	sunny	Isle of Wight	12.9*	0.00	23	17	sunny	Prestwick	1.6	0.00	20	14	cloudy	York	9.4*	0.00	26*	14*	p/cldy



Sun & moon (Greenwich)

Sun rises 0523
Sun sets 2052
Moon rises 0003
Moon sets 1734
New moon Aug 4

Yesterday

Warmest Northolt 29C (84F)
Coldest Brecon SC 41F
Wettest Omagh 0.55 in.
Sunniest Wainfleet 13.2 hr.

Lighting up

Aberdeen 2126 to 0506
Belfast 2129 to 0534
Birmingham 2102 to 0527
London 2052 to 0525
Manchester 2107 to 0524
Penzance 2108 to 0550

High water

Aberdeen	0929	3.7m	2221	3.5m
Belfast	0659	3.1m	1945	3.0m
Cardiff	0227	9.9m	1454	9.5m
Dover	0703	5.5m	1930	5.6m
Falmouth	0045	4.3m	1332	4.2m
Harwich	0738	3.3m	1958	3.4m
Holyhead	0619	4.8m	1909	4.6m
Hull	0205	6.1m	1424	6.4m
Liverpool	0659	7.9m	1943	7.6m